

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHOPAL

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Course: B.Tech, Semester 1

Section: D, E

Subject: Oral and Written Communication Skills (HUM24106)

Max. Marks: 20

Date: 23/11/2024

Time: 60 mins

Note: All questions are compulsory.

I. Read the passage given below and answer the questions which follow: (5 marks)

Three catastrophic global events—the corona virus pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, and the climate crisis—have exposed the fragility of India's rural economy. Now as India grapples with rising food inflation and slowing rural demand, policymakers must design a durable policy that goes beyond ad-hoc export bans.

Amid the pandemic induced economic crisis, the rural economy was a site of resilience. In 2020- 2021, agriculture was the only sector of the economy that remained strong, growing at 3.3%. Crucially it provided the country with its most resilient safety net. A slew of policy measures enhanced Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement kept granaries well stocked, ensuring basic food security. Moreover, a good monsoon and two successive bumper harvests coincided with rising global prices which created a perfect condition for robust agri-commodity exports.

Along with the provision of basic foodgrains, agriculture was also India's primary employer. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy recorded that between 2019 and 2022 agriculture added 11 million new jobs while the rest of the economy shed 15 million jobs. Agriculture, long considered the employer of last resort for policymakers emerged as the only employer and primary safety net for millions of Indians amid the pandemic.

However, for most, India's agriculture offers subsistence employment rather than a robust substitute for non-farm income. Far from being insulated, the largely informal rural economy was devastated by Covid-19. Rural wages, particularly non-farm wages declined sharply during the pandemic and are yet to recover.

India's agriculture policy has incentivised overproduction of cereals and sugarcane while discouraging diversification. Ironically, this perverse policy ensured food security during the pandemic. However, after the pandemic global supply chain disruptions and climate shocks like the heat wave of March caused a steep rise in commodity prices. While cereal and sugar prices remained insulated from international price fluctuations, inflation was driven mainly by edible oils.

Policy-making needs to balance between food security needs and the need to diversify in order to increase farm income. A strong rural economy is the backbone of India's food and

climate security and the only way for crisis management in an increasingly vulnerable global economy.

Questions:

- (a) Which global events have affected our rural economy and in what way? (1 marks)
- (b) What shows that our rural economy is by and large resilient? (1 marks)
- (c) Which policy regarding agriculture is talked about in the passage and what is the author's suggestion about policy making? (1 marks)
- (d) What are the strong and weak points of our agricultural policy? (1 marks)
- (e) Find words from the passage which convey similar meanings as given below: (1 marks)
 - (i) a situation of serious problems
 - (ii) a harmful or undesirable practice

II. Write the differences between verbal communication and non-verbal communication. What role does non-verbal communication play in our daily communication? Give examples. (5 marks)

III. What are various reading techniques? Discuss with examples how a reading technique depends on the purpose of reading. (5 marks)

IV. Write a paragraph in about 125 words on "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity". (5 marks)