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# Daily Mains Answer Writing

**(Day - 56)**

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## Covid-19 Pandemic Accelerated Class Inequalities and Poverty in India. Comment.

The coronavirus pandemic is unprecedented in our lifetimes, infecting millions and killing thousands of people. Its aftershocks will be reflected even years after in the form of inequalities. While we are all floating on the same sea, it's clear that some are in super-yachts, while others are clinging to the drifting debris.

### Growing Inequalities and poverty - (You can mention any single point of these 3)

- Global per capita income is expected to fall four percent. The World Bank has warned that the virus could push between 40 and 60 million into extreme poverty this year, with sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia hardest hit.
- ILO estimates that half of working people could lose their jobs within the next few months, and the virus could cost the global economy.
- The World Food Programme says, 265 million people will face crisis levels of hunger unless direct action is taken.

### Impact in India -

- Pew Research report suggests middle class may have shrunk by 30% and number of poor risen by 7.5 crore.
- World Bank projected estimate the impact of COVID-19 on Indian incomes: The lockdown triggered by the pandemic resulted in shut businesses, lost jobs and falling incomes, plunging the Indian economy into a deep recession.
- The middle class in India is estimated to have shrunk by 3.2 crore in 2020 as a consequence of the downturn, compared with the number it may have reached absent the pandemic,"
- Meanwhile, the number of people who are poor in India (with incomes of \$2 or less a day) is estimated to have increased by 7.5 crore because of the COVID-19 recession. This accounts for nearly 60% of the global increase in poverty," the report added, estimating an increase from almost 6 crores to 13.4 crore poor people. It also noted the record spike in MGNREGA participants as proof that the poor were struggling to find work.
- There are people who can't be home-stayers when it comes to livelihoods viz. a) migrant workers b) gig economy workers c) fruit & vegetable street vendors d) daily wage earners and others. The CMIE approximates job losses of about 140 million people then.
- Even not a third of total school goers could access online education. The class inequality reveals the deep digital divide.
- Women negatively influenced by class are facing increasing violence and struggling against inequalities. The unemployment rate among women rose from an already high 15% before Covid to 18%.
- Beyond income and job losses, poorer women also suffered health-wise because of the disruption in regular health services and Anganwadi centers.

In order to combat this alarming scenario, Today Governments all around the world need to take welfare measures, In India PM Garib Kalyan Yojana is a welcome step in the same direction.