

Test Code: 21096

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FIAS - 2019 - GS3G/7E/19C/27B

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GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate

ANUSHE JAIN

Email Id.

Roll No.

1910034383

Mobile No.

Date:

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
1		
2		
3		
4		
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INSTRUCTION

- Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
- There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.

Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.

Total Marks:

Remarks:

Start Time | 01:15

End Time | 04:19.

Mode Of Examination :

Online Offline

ECN CODE:

Evaluation Date:

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q.1) India needs an effective minimum wage policy that targets the vulnerable bottom rung of wage earners to help in driving up aggregate demand and building and strengthening the middle class, and thus spur a phase of sustainable and inclusive growth. Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Economic Survey 2018-19, talks about minimum wage for the selected sections of the society. The Minimum wage Act of India needs to be amended to address the emerging issues.

Minimum wage \Rightarrow drive up aggregate demand:

- ① Give money in the hands of the public.
- ② Increase consumption expenditure.
- ③ Increasing demands of consumer products in the market.
- ④ Incentive producers to produce more.
- ⑤ Increase health and nutrition conditions thus increasing their work potential.

Minimum wage \Rightarrow building & strengthening the ~~new~~ middle class.

- ① Their basic needs of food, health etc will be fulfilled to a certain extent.
- ② Increase their participation in the economy.
- ③ Give them opportunity to compete by getting chance of good health and education.
- ④ Uphold their dignity and self-esteem.
- ⑤ Give rise to small businesses and industries.

Minimum wage \Rightarrow sustainable and inclusive growth

- ① Redistribution of wealth will take place
- ② Lower segments of the society will be assisted.
- ③ Sustainable change of development will be provided.
- ④ Give promotion to traditional businesses.

The reflection of it can be seen in PM-KISAN scheme where each farmer is provided Rs 6000 every year. There are concerns related to minimum wage, which also need to be tackled.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.2) Improved efficiency of livestock, with its various commodities and service products, is crucial to achieving sustainable agricultural development and food security. Discuss.
(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Livestock commodities like cattle's milk, sheep's fur, goat's milk and flesh etc are a source of earning for the farmers and some business of the country -

For sustainable agricultural development

- ① Decreasing load on the land for produce
- ② Livestock products can supplement the agricultural produce.
- ③ The mixed farming practices can help in better and efficient usage of resources
for example: Rice cultivation and aquaculture
Sunflower and bee keeping
- ④ Helps in recovering the depleted land
for example: Manure from cattle excreta
(eg: COVARAHAN scheme)

For food security

- ① In dryland agriculture, 20% food is by cultivation while 80% is by their allied activities.
- ② They tackle hidden hunger and other nutritional deficiency.
- ③ Eggs, meat etc provide protein to the poor people.
- ④ They provide subsistence means for their survival.
for example: Bathual pastoralist of Jammu sell skin and fur of goat & sheep for their food needs.

Therefore, improved efficiency of livestock community → by better technology, newer breeds etc will be a boon. Rashtriya Gokul Mission is a welcome step in this direction.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.3) The Make in India, stuck in the judicious mix of economic prudence and administrative reforms, is yet to take off. Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Make in India program was launched to increase India's manufacturing capability and to decrease its dependence on imported product, therefore ~~also~~ increasing its Growth.

Stuck in mix of economic prudence and administrative reforms:

- ① Foreign Investments are still not allowed in some fields 100%.
foreg: 100% FDI in Defence ~~is~~ not allowed
foreg: No FDI in inventory based e-commerce.
- ② Ease of doing business is hurting due to
(i) ▶ Increasing judicial pendency
(ii) ▶ CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT is lacking.
- ③ Infrastructure development is lacking
- ④ Policy Uncertainty is recognized as a major obstacle in February 2018-19.

- ⑤ Tax reforms such as Goods and Services Tax and the frequent amendments
- ⑥ Strict adherence to legal hurdles like Industrial Disputes Act 1948.

To expedite its take off →

- ① Cluster-based infrastructure provision
for example: As done by China for its SEZ development.
- ② Greater push to industrial clusters.
- ③ Decreasing judicial tendency and slamlen contract enforcement.
- ④ Increasing Ease of doing business by structural reforms.

India to become a manufacturing hub, must first eliminate major hurdles like institutional rigidity, infrastructure bottleneck etc.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



7 Mins 9 Mins

Apt Time Allocation

ForumIAS

(Don't Write anything in this Ar

Q.4) Discuss the 10-point vision presented in Union Budget 2019 - 20. Why it is important for Ease of living? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The budget 2019-20, provided a 10 point vision to make India a ~~# \$5 Trn~~ "# \$5 trillion Economy" by 2024-25.

The 10-point Vision and how it will help in Ease of living :->

- ① Sustainable Development along with high growth
=> It will help in providing good environment for citizens to live in.
- ② Industrial and manufacturing growth
=> will provide impetus to economy and higher per capita income => better chances of Ease of living.
- ③ Growth of MSMEs
=> Will help in protecting the cottage industries and secure employment to a large section of population.

- ④ Digital India Mission to be expedited.
 ⇒ Will make the service delivery seamless.
- ⑤ Space programs to be promoted, along with programs like CAGANYAAN.
 ⇒ Will provide work opportunities in space related sectors.
- ⑥ Impetus to Artificial Intelligence sector
 ⇒ Will help in providing state-of-the-art services through IOT etc
- ⑦ Impetus to IT and ITeS services
 ⇒ Greater employment opportunities to work in the sector.
- ⑧ Impetus to agricultural development.
- ⑨ Agriculture sector to be promoted
- ⑩ Moving towards sustainable economy.

The 10 point Vision thus will help in all around development of India and will help in becoming a world leader

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.5) "India needs a clear intellectual property rights regulation to attract foreign investment." Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Are the rights provided to an individual, group or firm, related to any unique invention or discovery done by them

Clear IPR regulation \Rightarrow attract Foreign investment

- ① Add to policy certainty related to innovation.
- ② Assurance of protection of innovation of the investors
for ex the medicine sector investors
- ③ Impetus to innovation and ideas, which will in turn attract investment.

- ④ Litigations related to DPR issues will be decreased.
- ⑤ Time and cost occurring due to DPR conflict will be reduced.
- ⑥ Give a Standard operating procedure to follow in such cases.

Solution

- ① Bringing out a law on the international lines
- ② Promoting Indian scientists to innovate and get patent.
- ③ North East region to be included in the biotechnology sector.
- ④ Promoting India as an invoking destination at forums like World Economic forum.

Awareness should be generated at all levels to make it a success.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



7 Mins 9 Mins 3 Mins
Apt Time Allocation

ForumIAS

(Don't Write anything in this An

Q.6) The anti-satellite mission has put India in a minimum league of nation that possesses the technique. Explain anti-satellite technology and India's Mission Shakti test.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Anti-Satellite Mission (ASAT) which is part of India's Shakti Mission which aims at India having deterrence technologies to stop all kinds of attacks.

India is the 4th country after USA, Russia and China to test this technology.

The ASAT and Shakti Mission:

- ① It's a technology helping in destroying a satellite in space.
- ② It was a collaboration between DRDO (Defence) and ISRO.
- ③ DRDO created the satellite which was then blown off.

- ④ The missile was launched from Abdul Kalam Island.
- ⑤ The satellite will not create Keissler effect as it will burn in the atmosphere in a month.



Fig: ASAT satellite

Significance

- ① Deterrence creation to enemy nations
- ② Capacity development
- ③ Defence empowerment of India.

It is a good sign in the growing proficiency of India in the defence sector in these modern fields as well.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



7 Mins 9 Mins

Apt Time Allocation

ForumIAS

(Don't Write anything in this An

Q.7) Blockchain is a global, shared, incorruptible and hence trusted ledger of economic transactions. Elaborate in context of its application in governance.

(10 Marks, 150 Words):

Blockchain refers to the stack-line digital ledger which keeps track of transaction in the order they were done, thus providing a precise details of the order of transaction.

for example: The digital currency Bitcoin use blockchain as its backbone.

Application in governance:

① Global ledger

- (i) Covers the entire globe
- (ii) Turn around time is less.

Usage: Can be used in targetted delivery of services by the government

② Shared ledger

- (i) It can be linked to other ledger.
- (ii) But it can't be ~~dis~~ erased.

Usage: Can be used in defence operations where many teams cooperate and the data doesn't erase.

③ Incorruptible and trusted

(i) Can't be manipulated or changed

(ii) keep the track always

Usage: Can be used in business and administration operations as used by Japan in keeping track of its solar panels.

Thus, Blockchain is a great technology which can help highly in governance, its ~~to~~ ~~at~~ anonymity must not be exploited ~~for~~ ~~the~~ against the interests of citizens.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.8) India has moved ahead from disaster mitigation to risk reduction in disaster management. Analyze .
(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The recent Cyclone Fani in June 2019, the disaster management done by Orissa Government was commendable and was praised even by UN agencies.

Disaster Mitigation to Disaster reduction

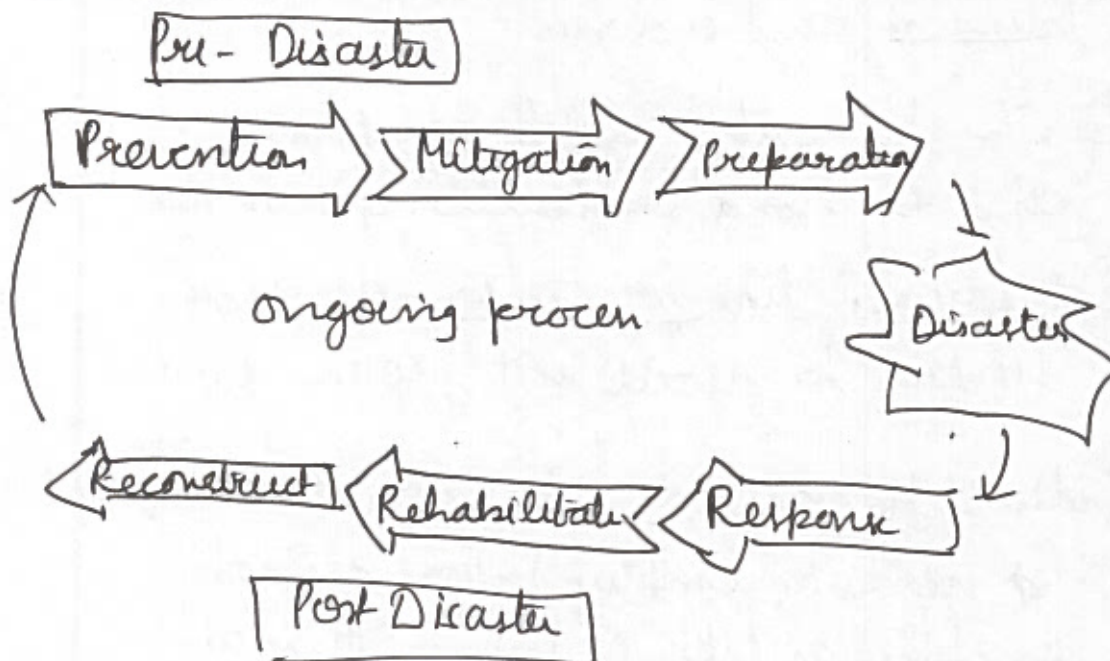


Fig. Disaster management

① Mitigation

- ① Early Warning system (INCOIS)
- ② Community participation
- ③ Technological Advancement
eg: Indian Tsunami Early Warning system.
- ④ International cooperation

② Reduction

- ① Creation of physical barriers at coastal regions to reduce effect of Tsunami and cyclones.
- ② To do vulnerability mapping and to avoid construction of those sites.
- ③ Measures like forestation at sloopy surface to avoid soil erosion incidents.

India still needs to do more technologically and needs to employ International best practices as like Indonesia to make India tsunami disaster resilient.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.9) There is an urgent need for climate-smart agriculture due to global environment and climate change situation. Comment. Also, discuss how climate-smart agriculture can be made affordable to farmers in India. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The changing climate is bringing extreme weather events as mentioned in Economic Survey 2017-18, and climate smart agriculture can be a boon in this situation.

Urgent need →

① Increasing saline water intrusion
due to sea level rise

eg: In Kuttinad, they ^{cultivate} ~~employ~~ saltwater tolerant rice

② Dry land farming

eg: Maize, barley, oats etc can be cultivated.

③ Micro Irrigation techniques

eg: drip irrigation to avoid wastage of water.

Can be made affordable →

- ① Using traditional agricultural methods
- ② Using old methods of water conservation
eg Bal-Bhal method in Himachal Pradesh
for ground water recharge
- ③ Using salt water tolerant species.
- ④ Using species of plants which can tolerate water scarcity.
- ⑤ Technology transfer from countries like Israel.



Climate smart agriculture is the need of the hour.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

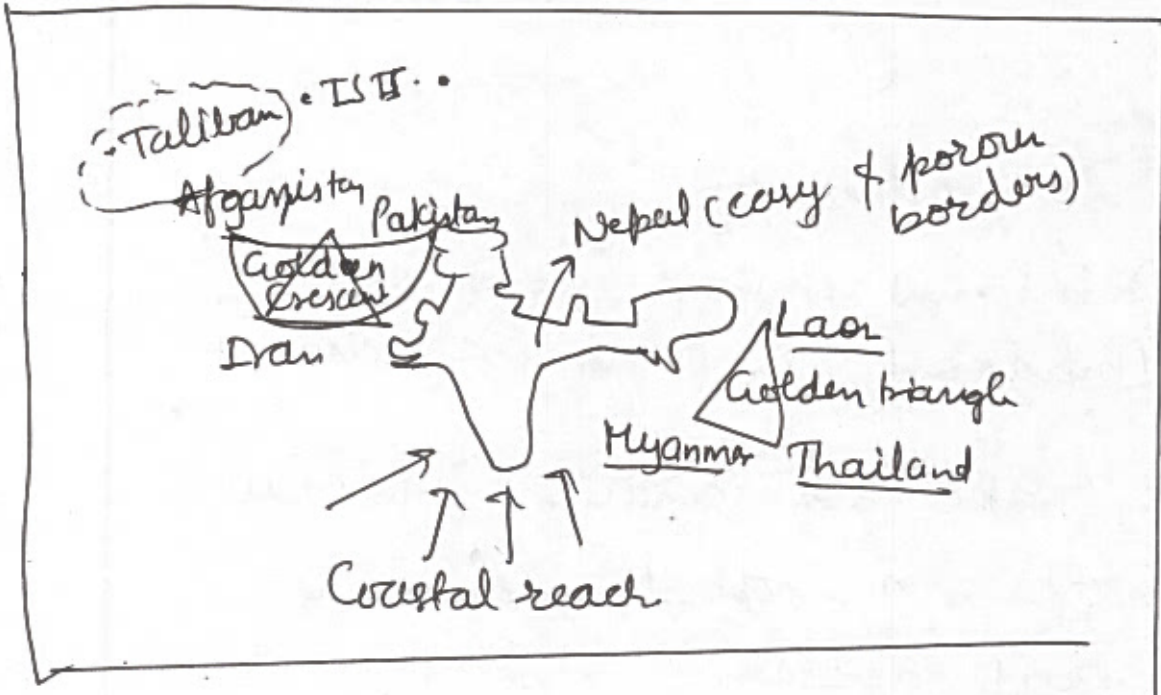
Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.10) The world's geo-economic pivot may have shifted to Asia, but terrorism continues to be one of the core impediments in the realisation of the Asian Century. Analyse.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The geo-economic importance of Asia is realised by the ongoing inclination towards Indo-Pacific region in the strategies of world leaders like USA, France, Australia, Japan etc

Terrorism continues to be a major impediment



① ISII Reason

① West Asia → ISII disturbance

② Civil war \Rightarrow accentuating terrorism

II Afghanistan - Pakistan

① Taliban issue.

② Other small terrorist organisations
Emerging

III Pakistan - State sponsored terrorism

IV Presence of Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle

Being

- Loss of life & property

- Impediment in stable governance

- Impediment in economic development

To make Asian century, Asia must work in a cooperative manner to tackle terrorism.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.11) "Improving the efficiency of the logistics sector is of high importance for country's". Discuss. Write about the challenges faced by India's logistics sector and how to improve logistics in India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

To achieve the vision of "#5 trillion Economy by 2024-25", India needs to encourage its industrial sector for that logistics sector is of prime importance. The creation of "LEADS" i.e., Logistics ranking for states is a welcome initiative.

High Importance because:

- ① Streamlining the supply chain management system.
- ② Improve Ease of doing business.
- ③ Ensure on-time supply of raw materials and also access to the market.
- ④ Employment opportunities to the growing working age population. As Economic Survey 2018-19 tells us that around 9.7 mn working age population grow every year till 2030.

- ⑤ Other potential factors like → cheap labour, poverty etc will also be tackled.
- ⑥ To make India an industrious nation.

Challenges faced:

- ① Lower investment in the sector.
- ② Infrastructure is lacking.
- Physical Infrastructure
- roads, ports etc
 - Social infrastructure
- skilled manpower
- ③ Lack of budgetary support to the sector.
- ④ Reliance more on road network (85%)
Other mediums like waterways remain underutilized.
- ⑤ The cost of transportation remains huge.
- ⑥ The storage facilities are not good
↳ Cold storage facilities are lacking.
- ⑦ Less use of technology i.e, using GPS and sensing technique to track the containers etc.

How to improve logistics sector:

- ① Increasing investment into the sector
 - ▶ Allowing easiness in foreign investment.
- ② Skilling the human resource for the employment in the sector.
- ③ Cluster based approach, to specifically target a cluster for logistics development.
- ④ Creation of physical infrastructure on a large scale.
- ⑤ Newer concepts like:
 - Multi Modal transport (eg: in Varanasi)
 - Dry ports must be utilized.

India must use internationally best practices like in USA (Cluster based, river transport) for logistics efficiency.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.12) The MSME sector in India is not only a key engine of growth but also a true reflection of economics where people really matter. Examine also, discuss the steps taken by the government to bolster the MSME sector. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

MSME sector, which is a highly labour intensive sector constitute around 85% of the industries in India (Economic survey 2018-19).

Key Engine of growth:

- ① Dependency of a large population of the country.
- ② Dependency of the most vulnerable sections of the country like rural and poor people.
- ③ Including the traditional skills and practices.
- ④ Helpful in reaping poverty because of its inclusion of lower sections.
- ⑤ Key for sustainable development as it includes less polluting cottage industries.
- ⑥ Requires less capital.
- ⑦ Helpful in promoting the SHG culture.

True reflection of Economy

① It connects the population dependent to the contribution in GDP.

85% of industries \implies 27% of the GDP.

② Give an idea about skewed economic growth.

③ Give a picture of Inequality in income.

④ They are the backbone of Export sector

for example: In 2017-18, nearly 80% of the manufacturing export is from MSME sector.

⑤ Grassroot level economy is expressed by its performance.

Steps taken by the Government:

① Tax-liability

(i) Government provides lower tax rates

(ii) Tax holiday for some very small industries

(iii) Composition scheme for the industries having ~~very~~ turnover less than 1.5 Crore

- ② Priority sector lending to the small industries.
- ③ Credit Guarantee Fund scheme for the industries small in number of employees.
- ④ Preferential purchase scheme, that around 25% government procurements to be made from them (3% from women MSMEs)
- ⑤ GeM portal (Government e-market place) to connect these MSMEs to the potential government buyers.
- ⑥ MSME samadhan: for payment related delays.
- ⑦ MSME sambandh: for procurement by government agencies.

MSMEs contribution must be enhanced by giving technological support, infrastructure impetus, skilling programme, thereby making them more competitive to have an inclusive economic development.

Feedback (For OFFICE, use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.13) Critically examine how East Asian model can help India to achieve \$5 trillion mark. What are the other challenges in this regard suggesting ways and means to achieve the same? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Japan, the 1st Asian country to reached the developed country status. It indicates that Japan, South Korea etc. can guide India's march toward \$5 trillion economy mark.

Points to be utilized from East Asian model

- ① Utilization of available resource in an efficient way.
eg: Japan being a resource scarce country, used its available resource strategically.
- ② Developed specific industries
for eg: Korea (South), is a home to some of the best electronic industries like SAMSUNG.
- ③ Sustainable development
Japan and South Korea use traditional and sustainable methods of agriculture
- ④ Disaster management despite being on the Pacific ring of fire

Negatives of the model

- ① Reliance on a few industries, will not be good for a pluralist economy like India.
- ② Population and size of India is not compatible with their economic model.
- ③ Heterogeneity of culture in India will not allow a uniform model of development.

Other Challenges:

- ① Infrastructural bottlenecks:
 - (i) Road and rail transport to be expedited.
 - (ii) Wayways to be used more.
 - (iii) Port-led development to be promoted.
- ② Technological ~~restriction~~ bottleneck
 - (i) Storage facilities in agricultural sector.
 - (ii) Geomapping of clusters of industries.
- ③ Agricultural sector
 - (i) Improper backward and forward linkages.
 - (ii) Lack of agricultural education.
 - (iii) Lack of market facilities and land reutilization.

Q C-NAM.

④ Basic human development like drinking water, sanitation, education, health, vocational education is still missing at many places.

Ways and means to achieve it:

① Human resource development

(i) Education and vocational training.

eg: Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

(ii) Health and sanitation

eg: Swachh Bharat Mission

② Infrastructure development

(i) All means of transportation - Road, Rail, Water

eg: Golden Quadrilateral.

eg: Sagarmala

(ii) Logistics development.

(iii) Industrial clusters development

eg: Delhi Mumbai Industrial corridor.

To reach the \$5 trillion mark, India must aspire for Inclusive development. Otherwise it will not be very fruitful in India's interest.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.14) "The digitization of Public distribution system has caused more problems than curing it." Critically Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Public Distribution system (PDS) is a way to fulfill Indian citizens Right to food under Article 21 of the constitution. Digitization of PDS, aimed at making the process seamless, but the results are mixed.

Created more problems:

① Awareness of the poor people:

(i) They don't have proper documentation required for it.

(ii) They don't know Aadhaar for its receipt.

② Fingerprint issue in registration

for example: The daily wage labourers have their fingerprints erased due to heavy work.

③ Starvation deaths due to Aadhaar issue

eg: In June 2019, Budhini Birjia (Birjia + PVTG) died due to denial of ration as she didn't know Aadhaar.

④ Internet connectivity in interior areas is missing for example: In the Sunderbans.

Solved many problems:

- ① Targetted delivery of the supplies.
- ② Leakage of the food products reduced.
- ③ Accountability has increased.
- ④ Process has been fastened as no physical registers are required to be maintained.
- ⑤ Better tracking of the supplies.
- ⑥ Exploitation by the distributor decreased.
- ⑦ Transparency in the process has increased.
- ⑧ In line with Government's Digital India Mission.
- ⑨ Middlemen have been replaced.
- ⑩ Decrease in corruption in PDS.

Resolution for a better system:

① Universal PDS.

for example: As started by the Delhi Government where one can buy supplies from any PDS outlet in the union territory.

② Inclusion of specific choices

for example: Chattisgarh government includes pulses and other Region specific food.

③ Provide other supplies

for example: Telangana government includes "Village malls" at the PDS outlets.

④ Digital literacy of the people.

⑤ Including civil society organisations in the process.

PDS can help in reducing the malnutrition menace, we must try to fill the loopholes in Digital PDS so as to achieve SDG 2 (No Hunger) by 2030.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.15) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was introduced to create a robust framework to deal with distressed assets and transform the face of commercial insolvency in India. How far has IBC been successful in its objective after 3 years of it coming into force? What are the new measures proposed by the government to mitigate the difficulties in the implementation of IBC? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Insolvency and Bankruptcy code

Introduced in 2016, to make the insolvency process quicker and easier and to increase India's Ease of doing business

Introduced a robust framework:

- ① It created a mechanism to go through for insolvency purposes.
- ② A time frame is dedicatedly defined for the process.
- ③ 'Authorities' are required to function according to the SOP and in a transparent manner.
- ④ Commercial insolvency is now not an ongoing process.
- ⑤ Methodology is well defined to decide who is an insolvent.

How far has it been successful:

- ① Billing procedure is made easy.
- ② Freeing up of investments:
 - ▶ The stalled investments are now freed
 - ▶ New investments are promoted.
- ③ Increased "Policy Certainty"
India's rank in "Economic Policy certainty" has increased to 100.
- ④ Government's push to newer industries has increased.
- ⑤ Banking sector performance has increased
 - ↳ (i) Helped in tackling NPA issues.
 - (ii) Allow them to give new loans.
 - (iii) Help in cleaning their Balance sheets.
- ⑥ For industrialists
 - (i) They can close their bad investment
 - (ii) Can quickly start a new venture.
- ⑦ Grant a new mobility to the commercial sector.

New measures proposed by the Government:

- ① Including all levels of industries be it small, micro or large ones.
- ② Asset recovery companies can be promoted to tackle issue before insolvency.
- ③ A time period to be decided before which a company can't insolvent.
- ④ Bringing insolvency rules for all the stakeholders in the process.

Insolvency and bankruptcy code

is a big boon in the corporate and commercial sector and will help in achieving the goals as mentioned in Niti Aayog Agenda@75.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.16) Artificial Intelligence may concentrate power over information in the hands of a few, or it may empower the many. Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The Economic Survey 2018-19, talks about "Data-of the people, by the people, for the people". Therefore, Artificial Intelligence (AI) which delivers on data, must propel to empower the many.

Artificial intelligence, refers to the capacity of computers to do tasks, which requires intelligence if done by a human.

How it can leave information in the hands of a few →

- ① Only corporates like Microsoft, TESLA have the capital to invest in AI.
- ② Only Government can sponsor such huge projects other than corporates.
- ③ Research institutions like IITs with

huge investment, can delve into the sector.

④ Leave public only the provider of the data.

Nearly around 53% of the global big companies like Facebook, Amazon etc work on data provided by the customer.

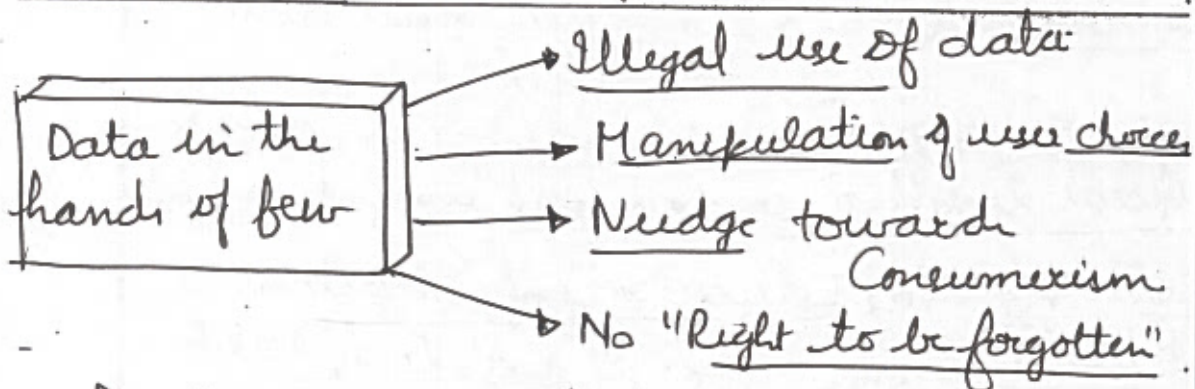


Fig. AI with centralization of data lead to:

Need to empower many :

① AI to create open database

for example: Transport for London (TfL)
 creates database free of cost accessible, help in:

- Usage by smaller applications.
- Real time warnings
- Certainty of time of arrival
- Better service delivery.

② Help in ground level development:

for example: Telangana Government's

"Samasta Vedike Initiative" use AI to connect data of around 25 datasets.

③ Gives an opportunity for others to develop

for example: Open data will encourage Smaller start-ups.

④ Artificial intelligence can help in administration

for example: The Education infrastructure database on the basis of real time toilet construction data, help in tackling girl drop rates, by telling where toilets are not present.

"In 20 years, AI will surpass human mind. Make sure, the interests of AI are in the line of that of the human kind." Steve Jobs

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.17) Discuss the implications of desertification as a major environmental challenge facing India. Analyze the effectiveness of steps taken by the government to combat it. Also, evaluate the role played by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) so far in addressing the concerns posed by desertification. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Desertification refers to the process of degradation of land that it is no longer fertile and ultimately will lie barren. ~~ISRO's~~ ISRO's land degradation Atlas is a welcome initiative to tackle this issue.

Implications of desertification :

① On Agriculture

- (i) Land becomes less fertile.
- (ii) The produce from land decreases.
- (iii) Poverty and impoverishment of farmers.

② Ecological balance of the region gets disturbed.

③ The biodiversity of the region will reduce.

- ④ The availability of water decreases.
- ⑤ The trees and other plantation vanishes.
- ⑥ Other health related issues emerge.

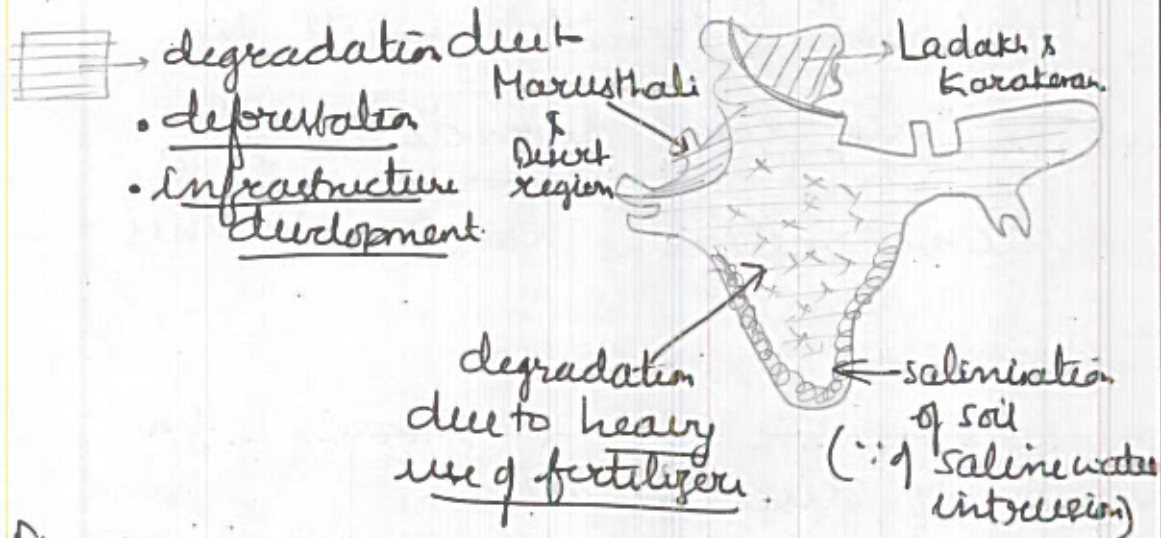


Fig.: Desertification of Indian land

Steps taken by Government:

- ① Desertification is monitored by BHUVAN satellite application.
- ② ISRO: 'land degradation Atlas' to find out the extent of degradation.
- ③ Accession to UN Convention to combat desertification.

- ④ Soil health cards to reduce irrational use of fertilizers.
- ③ Schemes like GOBARDHAN, Compost and manure promotion to promote organic fertilizers.

Role played by UNCCD :

- ① An international mechanism to guide world countries.
- ② Gave a Standard Operating procedure for countries to follow.
- ③ Gave a push for national laws for this purpose.
- ④ Exchange of international best practices to tackle desertification.

The China's initiative to restore KUBUQI DESERT region in Mongolia is a good step to be horizontally implemented in other countries.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.18) Provide an appraisal of the vulnerability of the coastal cities to natural disasters. What can be done to strengthen the resilience of the cities in order to reduce the impact of such disasters? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Indonesia is planning to shift ~~the~~ its capital city 'Jakarta' to some other island, due to high risk of submergence as a result of sea level rise and increasing frequency of hurricanes in the region.

Vulnerability of coastal cities to natural disasters:

① Cyclones and hurricanes

- Effects mostly the East-Asian, South Asian African countries.
- American continent is also affected by cyclone ~~like~~ hurricanes like Catrina.

eg: Cyclone Fani in India in 2019.

② Tsunami

- because of some seismic activity, fall of any cosmic object or breaking

of any sheet

for eg: 2004 Tsunami occurred in India, Indonesia, Phillipines etc.

- ②③ "Pacific ring of fire"
the entire coastal region of North Pacific is prone to earthquake and volcanic activities

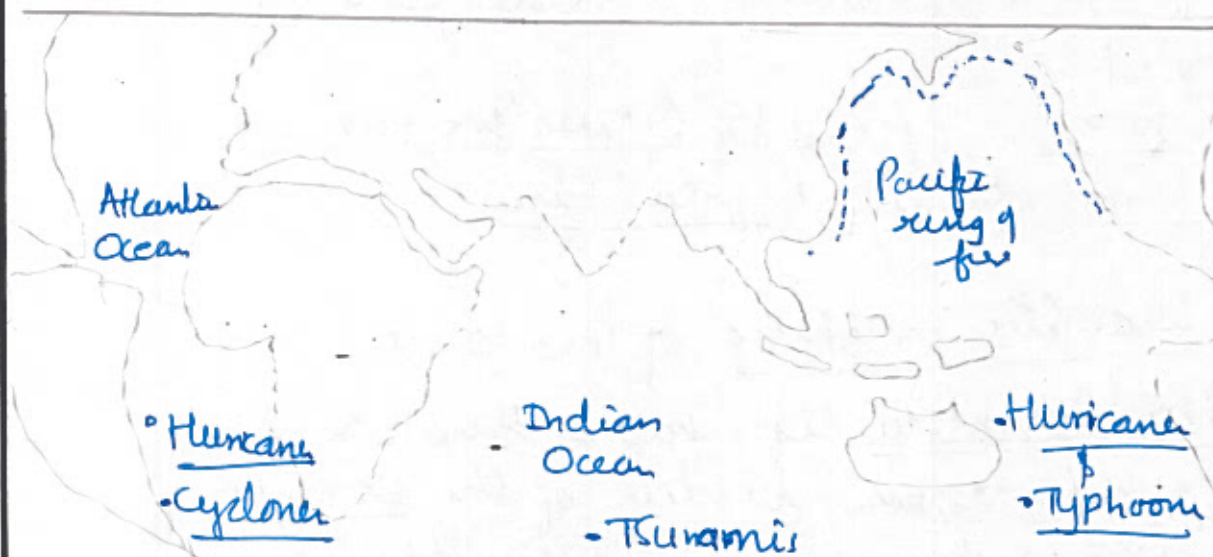


Fig. Coastal regions of the world.

To strengthen resilience:

- ① Shifting to the interior regions

↳ Moving away from the vulnerability prone area

for eg: Japan moves its cities interior after every Tsunami.

- ② Make barriers to the coastal region
 foreg: The stone structures at the coast in Pondicherry after Tsunami 2004.
- ③ Not to encroach the mangroves, corals etc of the coastal region.
- ④ Early Warning system to be efficient and correct
 for example: As used by Orissa Government during cyclone Fani.
- ⑤ Vulnerability mapping of the cities.
 foreg: Mumbai is highly prone to submergence because of the sea level rise, encroaching of river flood plains.
- ⑥ Human capital development.
 Countries must take measures to save the coastal cities from natural disasters by a multi pronged approach.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.19) "To have an effective anti-money laundering regime, India has to think regionally, nationally and globally." Analyse. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Money laundering refers to the illegal activity of converting the black money into white using illicit sources like HAWALA etc.

Steps taken by India, so far:

- (i) Prevention of money laundering Act
- (ii) Income disclosure scheme
- (iii) Demonetisation
- (iv) Goods and service Tax.
- (v) Source of Financial Intelligence Unit.
- (vi) Use of Technology in Tax management
eg: Project Drought
G: Aaykar Setu.

Still, the money laundering activity is prevalent. It requires measures at all levels :

Steps required at global level:

- ① Double Taxation Avoidance ~~Rule~~ Agreement (DTAA)
 - to be rationally made
 - revised with countries which are 'tax havens'
- ② Financial Action Task force to be cooperated with for greater details.
- ③ Scrutiny of the leaked documents like
 - ▶ Panama Paper leak
 - ▶ Swiss paper leak
- ④ Agreement with banks like Swiss bank
- ⑤ The international concern of privacy must be tackled with required laws.
- ⑥ Deportation Agreements to be made on a bilateral basis.

Nationally, steps to be taken:

- ① Stringent laws in the matter.

- ② Intelligence collection and monitoring.
- ③ Following of international best practice for auditing of accounts.
- ④ Uniform database management for proactive issue detection.
- ⑤ HAWALA transactions to be curbed.
- ⑥ Digital currency to be promoted.

Regionally, what to be done:

- ① Awareness about illegality of the activity
- ② Financial literacy to be imparted
- ③ Use of 'Behavioural Economics (Nudging) to pay taxes.
- ④ Community led attack on the activity.

With the coming of the digital currencies like Ethereum, Bitcoin, Sovereign etc the moneylaundering has become even more easy.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.20) India with its fast-growing economy is vulnerable to many types of cyber threats. Do you think existing laws and amendments made to them are effective to ensure a cyber-threat-free environment in the country? Critically examine. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Cyber threats are the threats caused to data, money, privacy etc by networked medium through computing devices like mobiles, computers etc
for example: The ransomware attack "Wannacry" is one such attack.

Vulnerable to many types of cyber attacks:

① To the corporates:

(i) Man-in-the-middle attack which acts as a middle man between two communicating parties without their knowledge.

(ii) Revelation of trade secrets and formula

(iii) Artificial lead creation on website

(i) Hacking of websites

② To the Government

(i) Vulnerability to overall sovereignty and security of the country

(ii) Attack on websites

foreg: The GST website was attacked during the initial days of its launch.

(iii) Defence sector

foreg: satellite communication intrusion

foreg: intrusion in VoIP (voice over internet protocol)

③ To the citizens

(i) Privacy of their data

(ii) Money related attacks

foreg: Magstripe strip ATM (Hitachi) issue in 2016-17

foreg: Ransomware → PETYA, WannaCry

(iii) Botnets → they act as bots by the attacker to target other sites

④ Black Hat hacker ⑤ Adventure hacking

Existing laws and amendments:

- ① NCIIA (National critical information infrastructure protection)
- ② IAC (Internet ~~Critical~~ Cyber Coordination Centre)
- ③ Cyber Surakshit Bharat Program.
- ④ CERT-IN (Computer Emergency ^{Response} ~~Task~~ team)
- ⑤ CERT-Fin (for the financial sector)
- ⑥ Cyber Swachhata Kendra.

They are not much successful

- ↳ Awareness among people are less.
- ↳ Still the attacks are persisting.
- ↳ Critical infrastructure is missing
- ↳ Antivirus is still considered an additional expenditure.

The accession to Budapest Convention can be a good step. The Paris Call to be accepted by India. in order to work with international countries to handle it.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Test Goal

- 1
- 2
- 3

Outcomes

-
-
-
-

Marking Scheme

Marks	Good	Average	Below Average
10 Marker	3.75 – 5.0	3.0 – 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 – 7.0	4.0 – 5.5	< 4.0

*Subject to change without prior notice.

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