Test Code: GS 1/2/3

Generic Booklet

FIAS – 2019 – GSOT1/2/3

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MGPQ023725

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ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	CHANDRIMA ATTRI		19100 41591
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Mobile No.		Date:	09.09.2019

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: **250**

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
1		
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Total Marks:		

INSTRUCTION

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile).
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. 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.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.

Remarks:

Start Time| 9:30 am	**End Time|** 12:30 pm
Mode Of Examination :	**Online** ☐ **Offline** ☑
ECN CODE:	**Evaluation Date:**

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This is a Generic Answer Booklet that can be used to attempt GS Paper 1, 2 and 3. It will be accepted by ForumIAS Academy for its Mains Guidance Program (MGP) if question text is written by the candidate at the beginning of every answer. Candidates are requested to leave space for question and write answers in designated space in the designated time. They can later write the questions in the space left.

Q.1) India is at present grappling with unemployment crisis with Periodic labour force survey showing unemployment at an ~~all time~~ 45 year high.

Our growth has long been described as 'JOBLESS' as our manufacturing sector has remained underperforming. Despite this, we have increased jobs in service sector especially IT industry but the growing unviability of agriculture is another concern.

CAUSES for the current crisis :-

1) Inadequate skills due to academia industry dysfunction.
2) Theoretical focus of our education system
3) Disruptive technologies like AI & automation.
4) Poor growth in infrastructure &,
5) Twin balance sheet syndrome leading to poor MSME growth & NPA crisis

All the above factors have led to low investment and hence demand remains sluggish.

There is also a new phenomena of 'EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED' as more Phds, masters degree holders are waiting for more desirable jobs.

SCOPE OF CREATION -

1) Govt has started various schemes such as PM Kaushal Vikas, apprenticeship scheme etc
2) Focus on innovation & self employment like Startup India, Stand up etc.
3) Reviving rural economy through allied activities and MSME push.
4) Investment in R&D in latest technology.

Thus, the goal of $5 trillion can be achieved only when youth is adequately employed.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.2) Disinvestment is transferring government's shares to private shareholders. It was carried out on a large scale post 1991 liberalisation, privatisation & globalisation reforms.

ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE -

1) To increase competitiveness of economy.
2) To bring efficiency in operations.
3) To diversify the financing.
4) To involve private sector in growth of economy.

Though reducing government's burden & eliminate red tapism, corruption and bringing professionalism were the initial goals, currently these considerations are being relegated to the margins

Increasingly, government is resorting to disinvestment to finance its fiscal deficit which is

harmful in the long run —

1) It will create sluggishness in the economy.
2) Will infuse negative cycles such as more debt burden of government and affecting economies of scale.
3) Financing fiscal deficit through this means does not add positive stimulus to economy

For ex— Air India disinvestment is a case in point. Many CPSEs have also gone for disinvestment to ease their financial burdens.

Though it can provide temporary relief, the need of the hour is to go for strict implementation of FRBM act, 2003 and exercising prudence and look for innovative solutions.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.3) India's 12th FYP has 'Inclusive growth' as the main objective. Even PM's focus on "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Vishwas" has put the spotlight back on the need of taking everyone along on the economic growth journey.

In the last two decades, India has emerged as a bright spot in the global sphere. It has consistently grown at an average rate of 7-8% starting from Hindu rate of growth of pre-1990 era.

The picture is still incomplete as we see ——

1) Rising inequalities especially in urban areas
2) Inter-sectoral uneven development as agriculture and manufacturing remain below par.
3) Women labour participation rate is meagre 23% as compared to more than 70% for men.

4) Women also possess low skill level leading to low wages and pay gap.

5) Many institutional barriers hinder career progression such as lack of creche, sexual harassment and discriminatory treatment.

India also ranks low in global gender gap report of WEF which also includes political representation which stands at just 14% in 17th Lok Sabha.

Thus, we must address these challenges & focus on education, skilling, self employment as well as nutrition (poshan) and safety.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.4) Blue economy refers to leveraging aquaculture, mariculture and fisiculture to promote growth, employment as well as social development.

As per Meenakumari committee, India has a huge potential in becoming the world leader in blue economy due to its 7500 km long coastline & 14,500 km long internal waterways.

ECONOMICAL BENEFITS -

1) It will help in achieving the goal of doubling farmers income by 2022 as it would provide alternative source of livelihood.
2) It would also help in exploration of mineral resources and energy nodules including offshore oil & gas & polymetallic nodules.
3) It would reduce logistic cost and help India in achieving

efficiency and thus revitalising infrastructure sector

ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS :-

1) Being a renewable resource available in abundance, blue economy will have minimum ecological impact.

2) Internal waterways also use less fuel as compared to roads & rails.

3) Fish rearing emits less Green house gases such as CH_4 as compared to animal rearing.

WAY FORWARD

- Promote fisheries development & new technology.
- Revitalisation of ports under Sagarmala
- Fast-tracking Jal Marg Vikas project. (NW-1)
- Research & development in offshore exploration.

We must act swiftly towards these goals.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.5) Prevention of Money laundering Act, 2002 is aimed at preventing transfer of illicit and unidentified money to gain unlawful advantage.

It aims at —

1) Eliminating black economy or underworld.
2) Identifying offshore accounts of Indians in tax havens such as mauritius and carribean.
3) Punishing defaulters.
4) Investigate various channels such as hawala, packeting of amount into different small accounts to avoid being caught.

Recently, the act has been amended as many fraud cases have come to light. It started with Panama papers leak and then many offenders such as Nirav Modi & Mehul Choksi were caught in illegal transaction. To deal with such cases, the act

was amended —

1) Stricter vigilance of transactions by coordinating with emergency response bodies such as CERT-in and SWIFT.
2) Strengthening bodies such as ED, Department of revenue intelligence.
3) More emphasis on signing double taxation avoidance agreement & mutual information sharing agreements.

Thus, we need a stricter implementation of law alongwith international cooperation with financial watchdogs such as FATF and multilateral groups such as G-20.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.6) India comprises of a network of rivers forming 14,500 km of navigable waterways. There is a huge potential to capitalise on this asset.

BENEFITS -

1) Will reduce logistics cost.
2) Less fuel usage
3) More efficient and freight charges are less as compared to rail-ways.

POTENTIAL -

1) Recently, 111 waterways have been identified for future development
2) Jal Marg Vikas project on NW1 - Pepsico recently ferried from Hoogly to Varanasi.
3) Ro-Ro services are being introduced for easy loading and unloading.
4) Technical support is needed along with dredging of rivers as many rivers carry large amount of silt and gravel.

Thus, we need to keep in mind ecological impact in terms of affect on aquatic life.

Government is also focusing on SAGARMALA which focusses on port-led development and port modernisation and cluster development. Inland waterways can be an addition to such a model—

1) Will reach hinterland, thus leading to more economic integration.
2) Will create more employment
3) Increase economic activity.
4) Reduce burden on other modes.
5) Reduce logestics cost and less pollution.

We, thus, have to come out with an integrated policy taking ports and waterways together

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.7) India remains the largest tobacco consuming country in the world as reported by WHO's global burden of disease report. 85 % of the consumption is smokeless tobacco

ENDS (electro- nicotine delivery system) is being regarded as a substitute for cigarette smoking which is less harmful and can be used to fight addiction.

ENDS uses has been a controversial topic as its efficacy is still not validated by scientific research. Though it is less harmful ~~for~~ than cigarettes which leads to direct inhalation of smoke, it still contains nicotine which is a dangerous carcinogen. Many countries around the world have halted the introduction of ends due to its ambiguous affect on human health.

Government of India, too, has

gone for a ban on ENDS as it is under scientific investigation.

Many have criticised the ban also —

1) Limits freedom of choice.
2) Better than cigarette smoking
3) Many developed countries have allowed this.
4) Will lead to black marketing and price rise.

Thus, a comprehensive detailed study on its health impacts must be carried out. A right ban if needed, must be backed by careful, accurate evidence and not on whims and fancies.

Implementation of programmes such as Tobacco control programme, warnings on packets, awareness drives must be resorted to in the meantime.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.8) Genetic engineering has brought a revolution in the world with vast applications in health industry, agriculture and industrial sector.

India's agricultural sector was first aquainted with this technology in 1960s green revolution. Today, as farmers income are deteriorating and yields are falling, we need to increase PRODUCTIVITY and RESISTANCE of agriculture against crop losses due to pests, climate etc.

Why we need genetic engineered crops?

1) They increase yields and are resistant to pest attacks.
2) We have only Bt cotton and no food crop has been grown due to health and environmental concerns.
3) Many developed countries are growing them without any harm ex- corn in USA.

In India, Bt cotton & Bt brinjal and recently DHM-11 mustard variety were proposed to be grown. But there have been concerns —

1) Terminator seeds as every season requires new set of seeds.
2) Many varieties have grown vulnerable to pests such as pink ball worm is now resistant to Bt cotton.
3) Expensive inputs, high irrigation requirements.
4) Lack of health and environmental studies.
5) Threat to biodiversity

Recently, farmers in Haryana were found to be growing illegal Bt brinjal & Bt-ht cotton in Maharashtra. Government must avoid these instances in future by allowing sowing after comprehensive studies. Thus, any decision must be backed by scientific evidence.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.9) Environmental Impact assessment was officially made a part of Environmental Protection Act, 1985 in 2005 owing to deleterious impact of unplanned development.

Under this, provisions sought are —

1) Screening committee - A preliminary analysis is made of project site, nearby areas etc.
2) Detailed project report - This is formulated for easier decision making.
3) Consultation with people - In tribal areas, gram sabha is empowered under Forest rights Act, 2006 and also land aquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation Act, 2013 to voice its concerns.
4) Afterwards final nod is given by environmental ministry.
5) There is also a provision for rehabilitation and compensation to displaced people.

* Concerns in implementation -

1) Many times, compensation takes years to reach. eg - Narmada Bachao Andolan regarding Sardar Sarovar dam.
2) Fake consultation, information asymmetry and all details are not divulged to affected people.
3) The professionals employed to draft detailed project report are biased and motivated for profits
4) Lack of understanding of ecological makeup and hence technical loopholes.
5) Political inference.

Thus, while the intent of EIA, 2005 is sound which is sustainable development, its implementation needs sincerity. Government needs to address these issues in a holistic manner.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.10)

National Investigation agency was constituted after 2008 terrorist attacks in mumbai to streamline and coordinate the investigation machinery, thereby increasing accuracy and effectiveness.

Its aims are —

1) Timely intelligence inputs.
2) Faster communication.
3) Technology upgradation
4) Training of manpower
5) Eliminate redundancies and ensure timely and effective response in times of emergencies.

Recently, NIA (amendment) act, 2019 has been passed. Without changing the framework, it has sought to vest more powers in the hands of central government in determining the personnel induction and operative functioning of the agency.

Many have criticised this move as widening scope of political interference but the government has justified the decision citing internal and national security imperatives.

Thus, it must be ensured that the agency stands up to its true mandate and delivers efficient response without fear or favour.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

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Q.11) India has a long coastline of approximately 7500 km, supporting a large population and livelihood of many coastal dwellers.

It is thus utmost important to address unique challenges facing coastal areas —

1) Vulnerability to disasters like tsunami, cyclones etc.
2) Threat of terrorists using oceanic way such as ~~mob~~ 26/11 attacks.
3) Economic concerns such as sustainability of fisheries sector.
4) Economic industrial clusters which could leverage ports for export growth and trade.
5) Ecological balance as tourism is increasing day by day.

Thus, given the above challenges, we need a coastal zone protection act but it must not overlap with existing laws giving rise to more confusion. If backed by integrated approach, such an act could lead

to effective policy making.

CRZ notification, 2018 brought the following changes —

1) It demarcated ecologically sensitive areas which are recognised under EPA, 1986. These include mangroves, corals, salt pans etc.

2) It has diluted the limit for tourist shacks and facilities such as toilets, changing rooms etc to promote sustainable tourism economic growth and employment for locals.

3) It has also promoted cooperative federalism as the areas are now divided into 4 zones — I, II, III, IV. Only with respect to 2 zones i.e I & IV, central clearance is needed. Rest of the areas are under state's control.

4) No development zone has been reduced to 100 metres.

This notification has some positives as well as negatives. While declaration of ESAs is good for environmental conservation at the same time reducing No development zone undermines the same philosophy.

Recently, the government has started with adopting blue flag standards which promote sustainable coastal development. Chandrabhaga beach of Odisha has been selected for the first round.

Government needs to continue with this approach so that our coastal communities can take their share in overall development.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.12) Cyberspace is a wide domain including many physical systems connected by internet. It promotes inclusive sharing of data and integration of users.

Cyberspace includes the following —

1. Cloud computing
2. Internet of Things
3. Artificial intelligence
4. Data grids
5. Networking platforms
6. Private domains

In the light of increasing threats such as ransomware, malware and trojan attacks, we need a sound cyber security framework. Indian cyberspace is also vulnerable to foreign cyberattacks as the most no. of attacks on government systems are traced back to China or Russia.

And WHY cybersecurity should be an ongoing debate?

1) Largest number of internet users in India.
2) Emergence of digitisation of services such as digital India campaign & good governance relating e-service delivery.
3) Increasing sharing of data especially personal data by users.
4) Rumour mongering and hate speech rampant in Indian society leading to mob violence.

Government's efforts :-

1) National cyber security policy 2013 was formulated.
2) Cert-In or emergency response body mandated with inter-agency coordination.
3) New data protection law is being formulated for data privacy.
4) Focus on data localisation norms
5) Intermediary guidelines for traceability of unlawful information on platforms such as facebook, whatsapp etc.

As the government is pushing for digital payments & meghraj cloud computing, data analytics and internet coverage with Bharat Net programme, it becomes almost crucial that the 'security' of these systems is ensured.

Hence, a multipronged strategy is the need of the hour. Awareness of users and strengthening security architecture and investigation machinery would do great service to this cause.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.13) Land degradation is a global phenomena owing to natural as well as anthropogenic factors. Recently, the IPCC report has highlighted the that around 23% of the land is degraded in India.

In this context, the concept of land degradation neutrality is emerging. It envisages that any land degradation is compensated by requisite land reclamation and land development. This negates the overall effect and the losses are balanced by the gains.

To achieve the goal of sustainable development, land degradation neutrality can be a game changing factor —

(1) It results no relative loss or gain thus balancing the needs of present and future generations leading into intergenerational equity.

(2) It restores the fertility of land

by taking dependent communities along therefore increasing employment and livelihood. This reduces poverty.

3) The reclaimed land can be put to agricultural use and hence creates a positive spinoff leading to reduced poverty, increased food security and more development.

Thus, land degradation neutrality is an effective way to attain sustainable development envisaged in 17 goals of SDG 2030.

(*) Challenges of land degradation:-

(1) Land degradation affects wildlife, plant life as well as human activities.

(2) It puts additional burden on remaining land thus increasing the frequency of land losing fertility.

(3) It creates negative effects on water bodies and nearby communities

had to migrate to other areas leading to social conflicts and drain on resources.

India will host the united nation convention to combat desertification, we must join hands with like minded countries to save our planet from such phenomena.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.14) In a recently released report, it was claimed that India is a net exporter of water. The report takes into account all the imports and exports and their water usage and then calculates the relative import and export of water.

NITI aayog in its report highlighted that Indian cities such as Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai will suffer from acute water stress by 2030. India is also a the largest user of groundwater.

In this regard, agriculture sector remains the largest user of water and irrigation makes up the biggest chunk.

[Reasons] →

1) Inefficient irrigation systems such as canal irrigation with high evaporation rate and wastage of water.
2) Water pumps extracting water

deeping the recharging capacity.

(3) Waterlogging which leads to wastage

(4) Harvesting of water intensive crops such as rice and sugarcane in rain-deficit areas.

Thus, to address the looming water crisis, agriculture reforms must be the first step —

(1) Agroclimatic crop production — dry regions should produce more millets, pulses, coarse grains etc

(2) River interlinking can be explored such as Ken - Betwa etc.

(3) Micro irrigation such as drip, sprinkler etc.

(4) Rainwater harvesting using natural sources such as johads, ponds etc.

(5) Water recycling and preventing contamination of water by pesticides and fertilisers.

Recent government schemes -

1) PM Krishi Sinchai yojana with focus on "Har Khet ko pani", "per drop, more crop".
2) Ncrauchal project in association with World bank.
3) Jal Shakti Abhiyan which focuses on revitalisation of traditional water sources in water stressed blocks.
4) Micro irrigation systems promotion.

Along with this, government has created "Jal Shakti ministry" for integrated approach towards water management. The need of the hour is to adopt bottom-up approach taking all stakeholders along, especially farmers.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.15) Economic Survey 2018-19 suggests that there is a need to transform dwarfs (old but lagging MSMEs) with giants (relatively young and vibrant SMEs).

This is to take the economy forward and create job opportunities for the youth. The dwarfs have been stagnating with no real growth over the years and thus acting as a drag on the upward trajectory of the economy.

Recently, the government has announced many reforms in the manufacturing sector particularly MSMEs —

1) Samadhan portal
2) Loan under 60 minutes
3) Credex index for MSMEs
4) Tax incentives etc.

These reforms are promoting dwarfs and as a result crowding-out giants from having a pie of the cake.

Even the recent merger of banks as being criticised as it punishes good performing banks by asking them to share the burden of bad loans.

Thus, the economic survey argues that there should be more focus on giants which promote —

1) Innovation
2) New skills and technology
3) New startup culture
4) More growth in profits
5) More professionalism.

Thus, government should formulate a nuanced policy which includes better targeting and at the same time catapults dwarfs into becoming giants by issuing growth incentives.

There is also a need for new industrial Policy which has been pending since last 2 decades. As manufacturing sector is credited for "Jobless growth", there is a need

to revive it as it offers a vast potential —

1) Economic clusters and industrial corridors must be implemented on fast track basis.

2) Reviving virtuous investment cycle by solving "Chakravyuha challenge" (exit problem) and twin balance sheet syndrome (Bad loans).

3) Strengthening "make in India" and improving "Ease of doing business" by ensuring effective contract enforcement.

4) Industrial policy must also leverage new areas such as data analytics, artificial intelligence.

5) It must also incorporate provisions for MSMEs, SMEs and look into their financing models.

6) Thus, inter functional interlinkages and sectoral collaboration must be the guiding principles of industrial policy.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.16) Huge use plastics com in the category of "USE & THROW" plastics and they are often non-biodegradable posing huge challenge to environment.

These items include straws, plastic cups, plastic bags, packaging etc India, being a large market, generates more than 10 tonnes of plastic waste annually.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES :—

(1) They harm the ecosystem by choking water bodies, drains, soil etc

(2) Their presence hinders natural water cycle, Soil water filteration as well as nutrient recycling.

(3) Huge threat to plant and animal life. Many ruminants eat them up and die of poisoning.

(4) Plastic in human body is known to cause cancers if long term exposure

is then.

5) Water bodies such as pacific already have big garbage spots called as "dead zones".

Thus, plastic waste can exist for centuries and its burning also poses health risks due to harmful smoke containing many poisonous gases.

The government recently came out with Solid waste (management) rules which contains various guidelines regarding disposal. From 2nd Oct '19, single-use plastic will be banned pan-India as declared by PM from ramparts of red fort.

Other measures can be —

1) Penalties for vendors who distribute such bags.
2) Plastic waste (management) guidelines should be brought.
3) Extended producer responsibility should be extended from e waste to plastic waste as well.

(4) Recycling for present waste and reusing can lessen danger.

(5) Segregation at source so that it doesn't enter into food chain.

(6) Promotion of alternatives such as paper bags, jute bags and offering incentives.

Recently, Amazon declared that it will eliminate plastic packaging from its products, in response to clarion call of PM.

We need to make public awareness and include behavioural change tactics to eliminate this state of affairs and promoting sustainable living.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.17) Cryptocurrencies are digital currencies based on blockchain technology which is an automated ledger system. Some cryptos are bitcoin, ethereum etc.

Features –

1) Anonymous
2) Easy to use
3) Flexibility
4) Network updation of transactions.

CONCERNS –

1) Illegal usage such as drug trafficking, money laundering etc.
2) Usage in dark web and deep web
3) No regulatory oversight.
4) Hard to identify the source of transaction

Recently, the government has banned the cryptocurrencies by an act of parliament. This outright ban has led to mixed responses –

1) some have suggested that it will push such activities further out of control of government agencies leading to crimes.

2) They are inevitable in growing digitalisation of economy and should not be banned.

On the other hand, government has justified such a ban given the ambiguous nature of such currencies.

→ they want RBI to conduct feasibility studies before giving green signal.

→ Government wants to introduce its own cryptocurrency but the timeline is not yet clear.

→ Cryptocurrency usage can have price fluctuations to a drastic extent and hence there is a need to exercise caution.

While the concerns are legitimate, government should try

to accomodate the interests of users and the growth potential such cryptocurrencies offer.

Thus, the need is to balance the positives and negatives and conduct feasibility studies alongwith developing a regulatory framework for the same.

India should not be seen as technology averse in the global community. We must increase our preparedness levels and conduct research and development in the area.

× × ×

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.18) With the growing weaponisation of space and space becoming a new domain for geopolitical competition, it is imperative that India rises up to this challenge.

Needs of space law :-

(1) Dependence on satellites for defence, intelligence gathering and reconnaissance.

2) Recently, India tested anti-satellite missile which requires further integration with defence forces

3) Resource exploration requires land mapping for energy security.

4) Information broadcasting and new age 5G technology.

All these needs require consolidation of space laws and developing a robust space regulatory framework

(1) Recently, a new space authority has been created for promoting partnership

between ISRO and private companies.

(2) The new space law must also promote student participation as well as university linkages in satellite development.

(3) To promote scientific temper, programmes like YUVIKA (yuva vigyan Kahyakram) must be promoted through an integrated policy.

(4) Financing models must be incorporated as private companies are still at nascent stage. Such space startups need angel investors and venture capitalists backing them.

Thus, a new space law must address these gaps and increase coordination among stakeholders to create a vibrant space entrepreneurship culture.

International exposure should be sought such as tieups with companies such as Tesla which has

done pioneer work in space technology.

India must also leverage OUTER SPACE TREATY, 1964 and use it as a platform for international collaboration and partnership. India should also increase linkages on the lines of ~~As~~ recent partnership with Russia regarding Gaganyaan.

Thus, as a responsible power, India must promote space economy at the same time ensuring peaceful use, non-aggression and reducing space debris as well as other negative ~~att~~ eventualities.

x x

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.19) "Disaster resilience" is one of the major goals of Sendai framework 2015-30 of which India is a party.

In this context, infrastructure forms the basis or the building block as the disasters cause huge collateral damage in the vulnerable areas.

"Disaster resilient infrastructure" is about tweaking the construction and design rules to ensure that the infrastructure withstands the impact of any disaster.

The government of India has included this as one of the components of disaster management envisaged in National disaster management authority Act, 2005. It has taken various steps under it —

(1) Building construction codes in most vulnerable areas, seismic zones etc. The design component as well as the material component

must be suited to the unique climatic conditions.

Thus, it is logical to avoid high rise buildings in earthquake prone areas.

(2) 'Fire guidelines' for public places and standard operating procedure for fast evacuation and response.

(3) Prevention of encroachment in areas which are vulnerable to landslides and floods. For this, environment impact assessment, 2005 has been introduced.

(4) Cyclones mitigation project has been launched which mandates design component in vicinity areas.

The recent Kerala floods, Uttarakhand cloud burst disaster and Chennai floods have highlighted how unsustainable infrastructure development can aggravate disasters and cause huge loss of life and

property. Multipurpose dam building as well as tourism pressure is leading to ecological deterioration as more and more poor designed tactics are used for profit generation.

India's disaster preparedness thus requires

- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Rehabilitation

As it is better to be prepared than being sorry, we must increase the resilience of our economies, societies and people. In this picture, infrastructure resilience forms the backbone of any preparedness strategy.

Thus, the time has come to address infrastructural bottlenecks and incorporate disaster-proofing as a mandatory requirement.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.20) Cross border terrorism has been a historical problem since independence in 1947 and is a result of geopolitical rivalries in the region.

Factors causing cross border terrorism :-

I INTERNAL
- Alienation among people
- Power interests of political elites
- Ineffective government strategy

II EXTERNAL
- geopolitical rivalries such as between India & Pakistan
- desire to fuel separatist tendencies
- Drug and human trafficking (Pb from golden crescent)

India has been a victim of Pakistan's policy of "bleeding by thousand cuts" which has deteri-

rated the security situation in Kashmir.

Challenges →

1) Alienation and suspicion
2) Lack of development
3) Lack of national integration
4) Expenditure on force deployment
5) Human rights violations and restrictions on freedom of speech & expression
6) Loss of life of citizens and army personnel.
7) Atmosphere of fear & trepidation

Government's steps to tackle these challenges have been on two fronts :—

I SECURITY front :- Deployment of army, coordination with bordering states such as Rajasthan, Punjab etc, AFSPA enacted, internet shutdowns.

Recently, government has nullified article 370 taking away special

states of Jammu & Kashmir and carving out 2 union territories of Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh. India has also upped the ante by conducting Balakot airstrike in February in response to Pulwama attack.

II DEVELOPMENT- Government has evoked the spirit of "Kashmiriyat, Insaaniyat and Jamhooriyat" given by Vajpayee. It has also sanctioned various hydro-electric projects. Chenani - Nashri tunnel has been inaugrated. Many scholarships and skilling programs have been extended to students & youth of J & K.

The effectiveness has been marred by mixed results. It remains to be seen how the recent developments would affect the security situation. Till then, all effort must be made to local kashmiris.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

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