

Test Code: 21092

FIAS – 2019 – GS3E/23B/15C

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ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	CHIRAG JAIN		
Email Id.		Roll No.	1910033127
Mobile No.		Date:	12/8/2019

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION		
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory.</p> <p>3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>4. 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.</p> <p>5. 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.</p> <p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>		
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			Mode Of Examination :		Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
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Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q.1) United Nations had promulgated the UN Decade of Action targeting to reduce road accidents by 50% by the year 2020. In this light, evaluate how far can the recent amendments in the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 be able to prevent accidental deaths on Indian roads? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Between 2005-2015, the number of road accidents in India has increased by 44%.

Realising the gravity of road safety challenge, UN promulgated UN Decade of Action targeting to reduce road accidents.

In this context, Parliament recently passed Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to amend 1988 Act.

Salient Features

1. Compulsory insurance.
2. Compensation to Road Accident victims
3. Protection to good Samaritans.

4. Recalling of faulty vehicles.
5. Enhanced penalties.
6. Automation of processes.
7. Regulation of taxi aggregators
8. Road Safety Boards Centre
State

Evaluation

Positives

1. Reduces corruption in granting of driving licences & vehicle registrations.
2. Effective deterrence against violations.
3. Good Samaritans Protection → emergency care for victims.
4. Compensatory fund for victims will help accident victims.

Challenges

1. Enforcement at ground-level.
 2. Road Safety Boards not given power to lay down standards (Sunder Committee recommendation)
- Way ahead: implement Sunder Committee recommendations.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.2) Examine recent changes in the E-commerce policy of the government of India and its impact on e-commerce space. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

In the size of e-commerce market currently stands at \$ 37 billion and is expected to increase up to \$ 200 billion by 2025.

Recent changes in E-commerce Policy

~~Changes~~

1. Data-localisation norms.
2. No FDI permitted in inventory model.
3. Sumat period of two years to phase out deep discounts.
4. Entity in which e-comm. company has equity stake, cannot sell on that platform.
5. E-commerce players will not

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directly or indirectly influence the price of products

Impact on e-commerce space

Positive

1. brings level-playing field.
2. ~~data~~ Data protection of customers.
3. benefit retail traders.
4. Effective regulation of sector.

Negative

1. leads to policy uncertainty
2. Discourage investment in sector.
3. No fair competition (unlike advantage for domestic inventory models)

Way Forward

1. E-commerce should focus on investments rather than deep-discounts (Amityabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog).
2. Learn from China's Shaji phenomenon (inclusively of e-comm)

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.3) "If APMCs do not reform themselves, they will soon become obsolete." Comment. Also, highlight the government interventions in this regard.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

As per the State APMC Acts, farmers have to sell their produce at Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs).

APMCs: becoming obsolete

1. No real returns to farmers (farmers get less than 25% of ~~the~~ remuneration / price paid by customer)
 - ↳ against the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022.
2. Hinders value-addition of farm produce
3. lead to fragmentation of agricultural market (ex:- against one nation one market principle)
4. Involve lot of intermediaries

(against minimum government - minimum governance.)

5. Use out-dated technologies
(against the spirit of innovation)

Government interventions

1. Creation e-NAM (National Agricultural market)
2. Model Contract Farming Act.
3. Model Agricultural Produce & Livestock Marketing Act.
4. Creation 22,000 G.M.s (Green Agricultural Markets)
5. Strengthening Farmers' Producer Organisations

Way Ahead

~~The~~ Implement Arshok Dalwai Committee recommendations.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

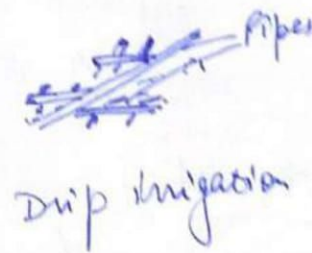
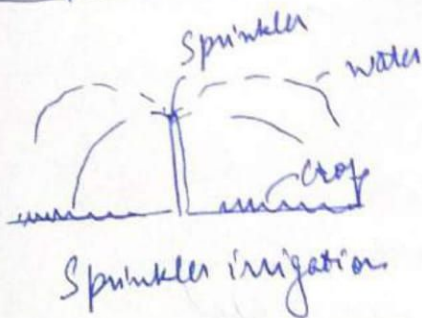
Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.4) Discuss the importance of micro irrigation in enhancing water use efficiency in agriculture in India with special focus on dryland agriculture.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The area under micro-irrigation in India is 10 MHA as against the potential of 70 MHA.

Micro-irrigation comprises of techniques such as drip irrigation & spinkler irrigation.



Importance of micro-irrigation

1. It can increase water-use efficiency up to 85% from less than 40% at present.

2. It can lead to improved fertilisation use efficiency.
3. It can particularly be useful in dry regions (e.g. Bundelkhand & Vidharba).
4. It can add to increased crop yields particularly in irrigated areas of eastern India.
5. It can provide an insurance against weather risks.

Way Forward

1. There is a need to have "per drop more crop" principle as highlighted under Radhakrishna Mawri Kushi Sinchai Yojana.
2. Technologies such as Precision Agriculture can further enhance water use efficiency.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.5) The food processing industry is affected by logistical challenges. How can the contract farming provide a sustainable solution to this problem?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The food processing sector has been growing at an annual rate of 8% and contributes 4% to GDP.

Logistical challenges in food processing sector : with contract farming as a solution

<u>Challenges</u>	<u>Contract farming as a solution</u>
- Lack of <u>processable varieties</u> ↳ poor shelf life	- Companies can provide good quality seeds to farmers.
- <u>Infrastructure deficit</u> ↳ 90% cold storage deficit ⇒ wastage & losses ↳ inadequate grading & sorting facilities	→ Companies have their own cold storage infrastructure → Direct procurement can reduce wastage & post-harvest losses.

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- Procedural challenges
 ↳ compulsion to sell at APMCs (APMC monopoly)

- Model Contract Farming keeps contract farming out of APMCs ambit.

→ Difficult business environment
 ↳ labour issues
 ↳ regulatory cholesterol
 ↳ sanitation issues

- Model ~~APMC~~ Contract Farming Act ~~is~~ aids in ease of doing business.

Last mile challenges
 ↳ weak retail network
 ↳ consumer preference for fresh food

- Contract companies can tie-up with retail stores
 ↳ Investment in advertising
 ↳ Procure fresh products (ex: Country Delights fresh milk)

Way Forward

As recommended by Amoke Dalwai Committee, there is a need to adopt fork-to-farm approach, in which contract farming can play a big role.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.6) Highlight the advantages and limitations of lithium ion battery. Discuss the environmental concerns associated with lithium ion batteries.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Lithium ion batteries can play a big role in increasing energy storage & also in e-vehicle technology.

Advantages

1. Long shelf-life
2. Long discharge time
3. ~~Return~~ low charging time.
4. Low ~~to~~ toxicity compared to lead batteries.

Limitations

1. Low availability of lithium in India.
↳ reaching out to lithium triangle (Chile, Argentina & Bolivia).
2. Problem of safe disposal.

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Environmental concerns

1. May add toxic waste in environment.
2. e-waste handled by informal sector => health hazards.

Way Forward

1. Build domestic manufacturing capacity.
2. Effective enforcement of e-waste management Rules, 2016.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.7) What is GDP deflator? Should GDP deflator be the anchor for inflation rather than CPI and WPI ? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

GDP deflator is a measure of inflation in the economy.

$$\text{GDP deflator} = \frac{\text{Nominal GDP (at current prices)}}{\text{Real GDP (at base year prices)}}$$

~~Should GDP be~~

Should GDP deflator be inflation anchor?

Yes

1. Better inflation accounting
2. Simple to understand.

No

1. CPI & WPI are time-tested measures
2. No real advantage of GDP deflator.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.8) What do you understand by Kessler effect? What is its effect on Low Earth Orbital objects? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Kessler effect means the damage caused by space debris to useful space objects such as satellites, space stations.

Effect on Low Earth orbits

- ~~1. May dates~~
- 1. Interference with satellite communication.
- 2. Reduce the quality of earth-observation.
- 3. Damage the low-earth orbit satellites.

Way Ahead

- 1. Use re-usable technologies in launch vehicles → reduce space debris.

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- 2. Clean up space debris.
- 3. Have international framework to clear ~~space~~ & reduce space debris.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.9) Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), although an agent of financial inclusion at the grassroots level, increases systemic vulnerabilities many fold. Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

~~Natural~~ NBFCs are the financial institutions that are outside commercial banking sector and are registered under Companies Act.

Recent IL & FS crisis has highlighted the vulnerabilities in NBFC sector.

NBFCs: agents of financial inclusion

1. Flexible in approach
2. Offer diversified products
(ex:- gold loans).
3. Provide long-term loans.
4. Address last-mile challenges in financial inclusion.
5. Have liberal KYC norms.

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NBFCs: systematic vulnerabilities

1. Asset-liability mismatch
→ borrow for short-term from banks & lend for long-term.
2. Weak regulatory oversight
3. Weak corporate governance
4. Creative accounting (ex:- IL&FS transferred losses to its subsidiary companies to appear clean).
5. Poor role of credit-rating agencies (ex:- in IL&FS case).

Way Forward

1. Strengthen regulatory oversight over NBFCs (ex:- Vikash 2022 by RBI)
2. Develop corporate bond market (ex:- elephant bonds as recommended by Dr. Surjit Bhalla Committee)

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	