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ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate			
Email Id.		Roll No.	19100
Mobile No.		Date:	

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION							
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile)</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH.</p> <p>3. All questions are compulsory.</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p>							
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Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q.1) Blue economy presents India with an unprecedented opportunity to meet its national objectives, strengthen connectivity with neighbours and exert influence in the surrounding regions. Analyse.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Blue economy refers to the use of marine resources for economic, human and environmental development.

It presents India with an opportunity as seen by:

(A) Economic:

- (1) Indian Ocean carries about 90% of India's trade by volume.
- (2) Ocean will play a crucial role in increasing exports.
- (3) Energy security → 2/3rd oil from IO.
- (4) Marine fisheries → India is the 2nd largest exporter.
- (5) Sagarmala → port-led industrialisation, coastal community development, port upgradation, multimodal transport → will help reduce logistics cost which is high at 14%. (China 8%).
- (6) Deepsea bed mining → rare earth minerals, precious metals, gas hydrates.

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anything)

Ⓑ Connectivity:

- (1) Ensures gateway to both East and West → ASEAN, Afghanistan, Maldives
- (2) Bab-al-Mandeb, Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Malacca are choke points
→ free and open SLOC are imp.
- (3) With Chabahar, INSTC, Ashgabat Agreement, India can use blue resources to connect to Central Asia

Ⓒ Diplomatic influence:

- (1) India to be the net security provider for IOR.
- (2) SAGAR → security and growth for all
- (3) Project Mausam → to revive the old spice route, cultural ties
- (4) India has been providing hydrographic data, HADR assistance in IOR.

Thus, blue economy can together help India achieve economic, social, ecological and diplomatic goals.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
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Total	

Q.2) India's internal security problems are a manifestation of internal weaknesses and external attempts at waging a proxy war. Analyse

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

India's internal security problems present a two-fold challenge due to the source of these issues.

(A) Internal Weaknesses :

- (1) Poor intelligence gathering
- (2) Outdated weaponry, technology, multiple vacancies and low service motivation among CRPF, police, states
- (3) Poor inter-state coordinations
- (4) Bureaucratic quagmire due to multiple agencies → CBI, NIA, IB, ED
- (5) CRPF headed by IPS on deputation → less understanding of ground realities and low promotion for CRPF
- (6) Increasing unemployment, alienation which makes fertile ground for radicalization. Lower literacy.
- (7) Poor law and order, economic development in LWE areas → Maoist hold remains strong.
- (8) FICN, drug, human trafficking → source of funds for extremists

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③ External attempts at waging war

- (1) Pakistan's strategy of bleeding with 1000 cuts.
- (2) Navals are being trained by ISI, funding nexus with terror groups
- (3) Porous borders → infiltration
- (4) FICN is being smuggled from Nepal border → also hawala funds.
- (5) Foreign trained terrorists.

Hence an all round approach is needed to fight these challenges:

- (1) Border security → CIMBS, ↑ manpower
- (2) Internal surveillance, technology upgradation, training in new faces of war like cyber crime
- (3) Economic development, mainstream vulnerable sections, skill training for youth, infra development in backward areas → to reduce isolation from rest of India.

~~Such~~ A multi-agency effort, without turf wars is the way forward.

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
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Q.3) Examine the basic tenets of green agriculture. How is it useful in protecting agro-biodiversity?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Green agriculture is the practice of farming without using or very low usage of any chemicals or artificial inputs.

The basic tenets of green agri:

- (1) Saved seeds, cross-fertilization by natural methods
- (2) Using cow manure, wet waste and other natural fertilizers
- (3) Water retention to be improved by gypsum, drip irrigation, etc.
- (4) Natural pesticides like neem, allelo

gevamrit

Bijamrit

Bhapsa

This method is useful in protecting agro-biodiversity as:

- (1) Focuses on pulses, oilseeds too and not just cereals.
- (2) Retains seeds → hence protects the indigenous seed varieties which may disappear under commercial agriculture.

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- (3) Natural cross breeding → safer than GM, also no legal issues about their usage.
- (4) Will develop natural resistance → no need of excess fertilizers, pesticides
- (5) Improves soil quality
- (6) Prevents monoculture
- (7) Better water utilization → prevents runaway, wastage.
- (8) Does not harm biodiversity.

Green agriculture is being promoted through schemes like Paramparagat Krishi Protsahan Yojana and can help achieve sustainable economic development. However issues of low yield, pest-proneness and poor extension services needs resolution.

Q.4) The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018 lacks effective safeguards against its misutilization. Critically examine.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018 aims to usher in new advances in the area of forensic investigation.

The bill calls for:

- (1) DNA database of suspects, crime scene prints, missing persons or unclaimed dead bodies.
- (2) DNA banks in each state
- (3) National agency to control the data collection, usage and deletion
- (4) Data will not be used for any profiling activity.

However, it lacks effective safeguards against misutilization as:

- (1) No SOP mentioned about who and how to collect DNA → may lead to tampered samples.
- (2) No timeline as to when a suspect's DNA can be deleted,

- once he is proven innocent.
- (3) No SOP as to who can demand the samples → which agencies, for what reasons.
- (4) DNA itself is not 100% error free. False alarms possible.

Safeguards to protect the privacy and data security are:

- (1) Only certain rank and above officers can demand usage.
- (2) Warrant needed to collect sample of suspect, but can collect even without his/her consent.
- (3) Database privacy and cyber security will be focussed on.

DNA will help support criminal investigation but should not be viewed as the only panacea.

Q.5) Scientific management of forest fires requires holistic understanding of its ecological utility. Comment giving examples.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Forest fires are a natural occurrence, but in recent times they have been increasing due to anthropogenic factors.

Scientific management of forest fires requires holistic understanding of its ecological utility as:

- (1) Forest fires can help get rid of old foliage and prepare the ground for new trees
 - (2) Seeds get dispersed and germinated due to such fires
 - (3) Invasive species get destroyed.
 - (4) Diseased trees, infested with insects get rid of them.
 - (5) Excessive shrubs, grass are destroyed
 - (6) Climbers which may halt tree nutrition are destroyed.
- Hence, keeping all these

factors in mind, for management of forest fires, the approach is to be:

- (1) Do not try to prevent or stop all forest fires → some are natural and needed.
- (2) Do not use fire for clearing land for commercialization
- (3) Protection of wildlife is needed → in case of forest fire, adequate veterinary support for animals, birds
- (4) Invasive species should not be introduced.
- (5) Monoculture should be avoided
- (6) Accidental fires to be prevented by ensuring no inflammable objects near forest area.

Nature, when left to its own resource can restore balance rapidly, as seen in forest fires.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	

Q.6) What do you understand by Fintech? How can it be used for ensuring financial inclusion?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Fintech is a combination of 'Finance' and 'technology'. It is the usage of technology for financial activities.

It can be used for ensuring financial inclusion as follows:

(A) Accessibility:

- (1) Micro ATMs, bank correspondents
- (2) Post office smart cards with biometric authentications, payment banks

(B) Ease of usage:

- (1) By using BAPU → even non-literate and old people can use.
- (2) Avail from comfort of home.
- (3) Rupay Card, Kisan credit cards can be used at all possible POS locations due to Bharatpay.

(C) Financial products:

- (1) JAM trinity can be used to ensure subsidy reaches the deserving

(2) Data analytics and Big Data can be used to design customized loan, insurance products depending on paying capacity.

(3) Patterns of consumption can be analyzed and saving habit can be encouraged by using nudge economics → Example: SMS

to remind deposit in monthly RDs
(4) Overdraft facility based on usage

(5) MSMEs → their GST records can be integrated to generate their CRISIL score rating and they can accordingly access loans, working capitals.

A combination of financial expertise and technical capacity can together ensure that no Indian remains outside financial inclusion.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
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Q.7) Marred by myriad challenges, the push to Clean Ganga is not delivering results. Critically analyse.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Namami Gange was launched in 2014 to ensure a Normal and Aerial Ganga. 5 years down the line, much has not changed.

The challenges in this are:

- (1) Population pressure in the areas on the banks and catchment.
- (2) Industries waste → lack of technology support to reduce the effluents discharged in river.
- (3) Employment → over 1 million are directly/indirectly employed in industries that are polluting → hence shutdown is not an option.
- (4) Piece-meal approach → due to focus on some areas only instead of holistic plan.
- (5) Inter-state coordination lacking.
- (6) Poor surveillance and monitoring of the completed projects.
- (7) Religious significance of the river conflicts with cleanliness goal.

However, partial success has been seen as under:

- (1) Most villages on the banks have been declared ODF
- (2) Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been established in most polluting areas like Kanpur.
- (3) Tanneries have been shifted
- (4) Electric crematoriums, biodegradable waste disposal for flowers and other offerings have been made.

(5) 'Ganga Gram', 'Ganga Brahmins'
 → bottom up initiatives with local community participation

(6) No pollution zone on the banks for 200 m between Unnao and Haridwar, on NCT orders.

Ganga is the lifeline of Indian heartland and dedicated efforts can ensure it retains its prowess

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Question Interpretation	
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Q.8) Discuss the role of CRPF in India's security apparatus. In the wake of recent attacks, highlight the new threats and challenges faced by these forces.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

CRPF is responsible for internal security in India. It is the foremost force in tackling Naxalism and Maoism.

Its role in security apparatus:

- (1) LWE area security
- (2) Deployed in cases of riots or other law and order issues in stat
- (3) Supports during natural disasters
- (4) Election time security.
- (5) Any other issue as needed.

The recent times have seen attacks on CRPF camps like:

- (1) Dantewada
- (2) Gadchiroli

Hence there are new threats and challenges being faced by the force as under:

- Threats**:
- (1) Ambush, Gurrella attack
 - (2) Sophisticated weaponry and usage of land mines.

- (3) Poor on-ground intelligence
- (4) Increase in violent attack scale to create 'big impact'.
- (5) Violent retaliation to top brass being killed, arrested.

Other Challenges include:

- (1) Less UAVs, mine detecting vehicle
- (2) Low pay scales, promotions, harsh service conditions
- (3) IPS occupy top spots, ignoring in-house talent and experience.
- (4) Deployed for reasons apart from security too - hence distract from a dedicated fighting force.
- (5) Poor coordination with state police

SAMADHAN strategy to fight Maoism has been devised, and can help CRPF fight these threats and challenges.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Q.9) What is beekeeping? Highlight the importance of beekeeping in agriculture and rural development.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Beekeeping is the rearing of bees for honey and beekeeping. It is one of the allied activities of agriculture.

The importance of beekeeping in agriculture is :

- (1) Complementary to horticulture and floriculture as they support best honey creation.
- (2) Additional income to farmers.
- (3) Retention of non-cereal crops, prevents monocropping.
- (4) Bees are pollinators and can help disperse seeds in new locations.

It also aids rural development as:

- (1) Promotes agro-forestry and fruits, flowers farming
- (2) Tribal empowerment → as the honey has been classified as MFP

and tubals have right to procure and sell it.

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- (3) Van Dhan Yojana aims to develop SHGs to value add to MFP → can help in beekeeping by marketing honey and beewax.
- (4) TRIFED label for organic honey, can also be exported.
- (5) women empowerment as the work of MFP collection is maximum done by women. (6) Nutrition ↑

Recent survey showed that less than 50% income of rural households comes from farming. Such allied activities like beekeeping can help increase farmer income and aim of doubling the same.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
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Content	