Test Code: 21100

FIAS – 2019 – GS 3H/7G/11E/13D

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ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

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Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
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	End Time| 12:30
Mode Of Examination :	Online ☑ Offline ☐
ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date:

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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q.1) "No major country has managed to reduce poverty or sustain economic growth without a robust manufacturing sector." In this context, discuss the need for a new industrial policy in India.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Industrial policy in any country seeks to achieve certain objectives like growth, employment generation, efficient resource utilization, etc.

Experiences of other nations gives an indication that 'manufacturing sector' growth is one of the crucial aspects in economic policy. This is true for nations like USA as well as less developed ones like South Korea.

Importance of manufacturing : - Increases productive capacity
- generates sustainable employment, which boosts income and hence, reduces poverty
- boosts technological innovations in production process

Situation in India: - Manufacturing growth has stagnated.
- unable to generate employment (more than 1/2 in agriculture)
- economic growth led by service sector.

Thus, there is a need to boost manufacturing sector in India, by formulating a new economic policy, which

will focus on : - Simplification of laws (Eg: Environmental clearance, labour) & procedures (single window)

- Rationalization of taxes
- focus on emerging areas (Eg: EV)
- aid in boosting export potential of manufacturing Industries
- skilling workforce, etc.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.2) What is Land Degradation Neutrality? In what ways it can act as a centrepiece in achieving the goals of Sustainable Development Goal by India. Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The UN defines 'land degradation neutrality' (LDN) as a concept where the quantity and quality of land resources are maintained (and even increased) so that the demands from it can be reasonably met.

LDN's main components can be:

- prevent degradation of land
- conserve quality land (Eg: prevent deforestration)
- reverse degration (Eg: scientific afforestation).

India's status: As per recent reports, almost 30% of the Indian land faces degradation. The causes are mostly water erosion, land use changes, pollution (Eg: Uranium contamination) etc. Thus, LDN is an urgent requirement for India

LDN as Centrepeice for SDG:

- SDG1 : Zero poverty - LDN can enhance the incomes and livelihood of those communities which are dependent on land (Eg: farmers, tribals)

- SDG 2: Zero hunger - LDN is essential to maintain the long

farm fertility and agricultural productivity of the land, which can strengthen food security for the country

- SDG 3 – LDN provides various ecosystem services (pollution abatement, for eg) which can help in maintaining overall health of the people.

Apart from these, LDN also contributes to SDGs like sustainable production patterns, inclusive society, etc. Thus, India must invest in LDN to meet its SDG targets. (CAMPA, National Green Mission, etc)

Q.3) "Quality of India's human capital is the major impediment in reaping the benefits of demographic dividend." Examine. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

'Demographic dividend' (DD) is understood as a situation where the country has a substantial % of its population in the working age, thus increasing the possibility of enhanced production and economic growth.

In India, such a situation does exist and is expected to continue for a few years. However, to reap off the benefit, following steps / conditions are necessary: education, skill development, job opportunities, conducive economic environment, etc.

It is said that India has been unable to reap the true potential benefit of DD because of 'quality of human capital. This is evidenced by:

- low learning outcomes (ASER Reports)
- low uptake of higher education
- lack of focus on skill development & vocational training

The impact of this has been: - lack of skilled workforce
- inefficient production processes
- lack of innovation in the economy.

But, its not just 'human capital' which is acting as an impediment. There are other challenges to DD too:

- global economic slowdown (protectionism & trade wars)
- Reduced export growth opportunities
- overall national economic slowdown (reduced private investment, low job creation, etc)

Thus, quality of human is a major challenge to DD in India, but needs to be looked at in the context of broader economic conditions.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.4) "Despite bringing in new crops, technologies and markets for farmers, contract farming excludes the smallholder farmers." Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Contract farming is a system wherein a farmer produces a particular crop for another party (Company, in most cases) at pre-determined rates. Such company provides the inputs like seeds, and ensures that it will buy the produce.

Benefits of contract farming: - Price and income stability for the farmers.

- Introduction of quality inputs in agricultural production
- Facilitates usage of new technology
- assures quality produce to the company, boosting agro-based industries (Eg: Food processing.

Limited impact for small farmer: The companies are generally reluctant to enter into contracts with small farmers because of: - small landholdings produce smaller quantity of produce. Not enough for company.

- Increased investment required, as need to deal with many farmers

- Management hassles, as need to monitor, test and procure from multiple farmers
- Overall increase in costs.

To undo some of such problems, the Government has been incentivizing cooperative farming and dealing with FPOs. (effective land consolidation, single point of contact, etc).

Thus, contract farming can immensely benefit small farmers, but to achieve that, the system must be made viable for companies too.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.5) "Plant Variety Protection law regulating intellectual property rights in seeds is considered indispensable for seed sovereignty and thus food sovereignty." Examine.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Plant Variety Protection law (PVP) is framed by India to meet its obligations under TRIPS and lays down the following rights:

- Seeder's rights (Eg: exclusive production, marketing)
- Researcher's rights
- Farmer's rights.

Now, the PVP law balances the rights of various stakeholders in granting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in seeds.

Impact on seed sovereignty i.e. independence in terms of seed production & development:

- Incentivizes research in seeds by granting special rights to breeders
- Such seeds are then available to stakeholders in Indian economy
- facilitates government control and regulation over seed technology
- After the protection period, seed information available for use by others
- farmers' control over seed use, selling, etc has been retained (s. 39)

(Don't anythin

Impact on food sovereignty :- Improved seed varieties can :

- boost agricultural production
- increase climate resilience (droughts, floods, etc)
- reduce costs for agriculture, which can check food inflation

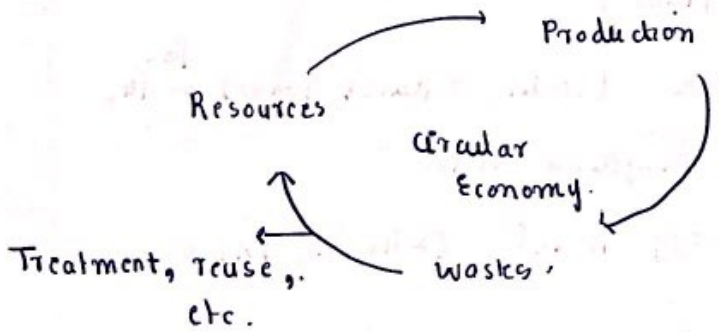
Thus, PVP law facilitates seed innovation in India, so as to incentivized seed and food production w/i India under regulatory supervision.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.6) What do you understand by Circular Economy? Describe the role of Circular Economy in increasing productivity and sustainability. Discuss the steps taken by India towards being a circular economy. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

'Circular economy' is an environmentally sustainable way of economic production, where the wastes generated are re-used as resources. Unlike a linear economy, where new resources are used at every stage



Role in increasing productivity: - Easy accessibility of inputs. (Eg: metals from e-waste)

- Reduced costs, as recycling may be cheaper than renewed extraction
- New industries may emerge around recycling/treatment waste.

Role in increasing sustainability: - Reduce pressure on existing resources of raw materials.

- Control pollution due to mining activities (Eg: Ground water pollution)

- Reduce the menance of waste management (dumpsite, river pollution, etc)

Steps taken by India: - Sectoral guidelines for using certain waste products in production processes (Eg: fly ash in construction sector, waste to energy plants)

- financial incentives (credit, reduced taxes) for the industries in recycling sector.
- Emphasis on Energy efficiency (NMEEE, PAT scheme etc)

Thus, India has been promoting circular economy but there is a need to frame an over arching policy for the same, with adequate institutional & financial support.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.7) Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) could fill a real gap at a time when climate change-induced floods, cyclones and fires have multiplied in destructive force. Analyse.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

India has recently unveiled the coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure ((DRI) in New Delhi. This is in acknowledgment of the fact that with increasing climate change, natural disasters (like floods, cyclones) are increase.

How does disaster resilient infrastructure help?:

- Increases the ability of the infrastructure (buildings, communication networks, etc) to withstand disasters.
- Reduces life loss of people & their vulnerability
- Reduces economic loss (Reconstruction costs, etc).

But, what are the gaps existing?

- lack of definite standards for constructions
- lack of knowledge among stakeholders
- lack of finance
- lack of institutional coordination.

How can CDRI help?

- Information sharing platform where countries can exchange best practices, standard setting procedures, etc.

- facilitate development of globally accepted standards
- attract finance in the field
- provide technical capacity building and train institutional authorities for a coordinated response.

Thus, CDRI can be a platform where the countries can plug the gaps in their national strategies to promote disaster resilient infrastructure.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.8) Discuss the contribution of Vikram Sarabhai in the advancement of space technology in India. Also, enumerate challenges faced by Indian Space Research Organisation in the commercialisation of its Space programme.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

"Vikram Sarabhai" is one of the most respected names in the field of Indian space and is heralded as one of the first few visionary leaders in this area.

Contribution made by him:

- Advocated the need for development in space technology
- Created awareness about the potential benefits of space for human development
- Established a centre for same in Ahmedabad, which is now named as the Vikram Sarabhai Institute
- Undertook research at the centre and promoted the same by providing opportunity to other scientists and researchers

Owing to his clear vision, space sector in India got support at a very early stage. ISRO has now emerged as one of the most successful organizations and pioneer of initiatives like chand rayaan, GSLV, etc.

Despite this, the commercialization by ISRO is facing challenges like:

- lack of finances
- lack of linkages with the private sector (due to reservation of space solely for government)
- Competition in the International market with NASA, ESA, etc
- lack of professional management in marketing, increasing market access, etc

Thus, the Government has provided certain autonomy to its commercial arm's (Eg: ANTRIX) to help ISRO realize its commercialization prospects.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.9) What is a cyborg? Enumerate different application of cyborg in humans. Also, discuss various concerns arising out of it. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

'Cyborg' is understood as a robot which is operated through cyber means. It can infiltrate any system and can provide functional utility like information gathering, attacks, repairs, etc.

Application in Humans:

- Medical technology: Cyborgs can be used to better detect illnesses, effective delivery of treatment, etc due to their small size and precision
- Develop energy efficient systems like smart metering, automatic switching off of appliances, etc
- Develop offensive and defensive security infrastructure, especially in the context of cyber security
- Enhance the production process as a cyborg can reduce human errors, less vulnerable to accidents, etc

Concerns around cyborgs:

- Interference in human systems: inadequate research in this regard.

- Can be used to facilitate security infiltrations against critical infrastructure
- How to establish control in case of malfunctioning?
- Ethical concerns - how will cyborgs make complex human decisions?

Thus, before any largescale deployment of cyborgs, it is necessary that proper research is carried on and definite SOP are laid down.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.10) What are the different challenges arising out of social media? Also, suggest additional measures to tackle the menace of social media. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Social media is the use of platforms like Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, etc by the people to share and exchange news / information, both public and private.

As the social media usage in the world is increasing (internet & smartphone penetration), it has thrown open challenges like:

- Fake news circulation, especially altered videos, pictures, etc
- Incites people to commit violence, like, mob lynching. Eg: In Karnataka, a professional was lynched due to rumours of child abduction by him on social media
- Societal disharmony, as communally provocative messages may be circulated in large numbers
- Glorification of illegal activities. Eg: live streaming bombings
- Secure network for terrorist organizations to coordinate
- Increased vulnerability of certain groups like women, children (bullying) etc

Additional steps suggested:

- Involvement of social media platforms to disseminate 'good uses'. (Eg: As was recently done by EC during elections)
- Design changes - Eg. providing fact checking mechanisms
- Strengthen laws against practices like cyber-bullying
- Creating awareness among people, promotion through role models, etc.
- Capacity building of institutions (Eg: State police) to monitor social media.

Thus, social media's challenges must be met through a multi-pronged approach.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.11) What is gene editing technology? Also, enumerate the ethical and biological concerns associated with the gene editing in humans. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Gene-editing technology is understood as the scientific method of altering the structure of the DNA of any living organism.

This may involve either simply deleting a part of the DNA strand, or ~~it~~ replacing it with another gene. Such gene may belong to the person / organism himself or may be procured from another organism (Eg: the introduction of genes of another species is mostly seen in the GM crops).

Now, CRISPR - Cas is one such technology, which allows deletion and replacement of DNA. Recently, it created a controversy when a chinese scientist claimed that he had successfully edited the genes of a human baby using the technology.

Biological concerns: - Accuracy of the technology may not be a 100%. This means that there could

be unintended effects

- Introduction of other genes may adversely impact the physiology / behavioural patterns of an organism
- Identification of site of deletion /replacement is a complex process.
- Disturb overall biological balance due to gene exchange between species

Ethical concerns:

- Human interference with the order of nature can have unintended and adverse impact
- Creates a divide, as the technology is expensive and may be accessible to only a few.
- Issues of designer babies where certain traits like intelligence, beauty, etc can be significantly enhanced
- Ethically wrong to use a technology whose exact consequences are unknown, especially on humans.

Thus, Gene-editing is a breakthrough technology but its usage in humans must only be done after sufficient research and safeguards.

(Don't Write anything in this Area)

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.12) "Investment, especially private investment, is the "key driver" that drives demand, creates capacity, increases labour productivity, introduces new technology, allows creative destruction, and generates jobs." Examine. Also, bring out the factors inhibiting the flow of private investment in India in recent past and suggest measures to address them. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Now, the economy of any country is sustained by factors of private consumption, government investment & consumption & private investment.

Of these, private investment is the most important.

- It showcases the confidences in the economy as private investors expect to reap benefits in the future
- It adds to the productive capacity of the economy
- For this, new establishments may be set up. Here, new job opportunities are created for people, which generates employment.
- Such establishment may also boost forward & backward industries (Eg: Automobile plant will demand steel). This spurs overall economy due to spillover effects.
- They may also invest in new technology to increase production, reduce resource efficiency and hence, overall labour productivity.

However, the decision to invest is based

on considerations - the policy environment, household demand, export potential, etc. So, when it is low, there may be a requirement to boost government expenditure or local demand.

In India, recently, the private investment is seeing a slowdown due to factors like:

- Credit shortage (NPA, NBFC crisis, etc)
- Global economic slowdown and uncertainty (US-China trade war, protectionism, loss of export markets)
- subdued local demand
- Regulatory barriers (Environmental clearances, land clearances)
- Economic environment impacted by policy changes like GST (problems being addressed), demonetization, etc

Suggested Measures:
- Regulatory overhaul of problematic laws like labour (4 labour codes), land, etc.
- Sector specific policies and packages, especially in the emerging areas (Eg: EV, AI)
- Rationalization of taxes and procedure simplification
- Timely resolution of stressed assets (IBC, FRDI Bill) to boost credit

Thus, these may boost private investment in India, to act once again as a 'key driver' of the economy.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.13) Discuss the [illegible] and salient features of FAME II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid Electric Vehicles) Scheme. Also, evaluate the impact of the FAME II scheme on the promotion of electric vehicles in India.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

The Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Hybrid Electric vehicles (FAME II) is an initiative of the Government of India to promote Electric Vehicles (EV) in India. It is a part of the larger of NEMMP, which aims to have 30% of EV in India by 2030.

Significance of FAME II: - Conducive market environment for EV adoption, thus boosting the potential of EV industry

- Reduced import dependence on oil for running vehicles
- Meeting the NDC for curbing climate change (reduced emissions of GHG)
- Sustainable cities, with clean air quality

Salient features of FAME II: - financial incentives for the manufacturers of Hybrid EV

- Promotion of make in India for EV components like battery
- focus on public transport systems to adopt to EV

so as to boost demand for EV and promote the creating of supporting infrastructure

- focus on developing charging infrastructure, including fast/slow charging lanes, battery swaps
- Promoting skill development, including repairs, in the EV field.

Impact of FAME II:

Positive impact:
- Many car manufacturers have announced the plans to establish EV plants in India
  - States like Maharashtra, etc have setup their own EV policies to complement and support the national policy
  - Awareness about EV in consumers has increased
  - Public transport in some cities (Eg: Nagpur) has adopted EV.

Shortcomings:
- Cost of EV still remains high
- Import dependence for lithium ion batteries
- Consumer perception is still largely negative
- Inadequate charging infrastructure
- lack of capacity of local bodies (Eg: Municipalities) to complement FAME II

Thus, FAME II has important achievements to its credit

but must be supported with robust infrastructure & institutional support to reap full benefits

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.14) "Revival of Inland Waterways in India is a new step towards economic development." Bring out the factors that hamper the progress in the development of inland waterways in India? Discuss initiatives taken by the Government of India in this regard. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

'Inland waterways' is the usage of a nation's rivers, creeks, canals, etc to establish waterways for the transportation /movement of people and freight.

It is considered to be an important contributor to economic development as: - It boosts connectivity between region, thus, incentivizing creation of value chains

- Reduces logistics cost in transportation
- Is a cheaper and environmentally sustainable mode of transportation.

However, in India, the development of such Inland waterways hasn't reached full potential due to factors like:

- overreliance on roads and railways, where majority of government resources and policy focus was concentrated
- lack of investment in developing them
- backward technology used
- Waterway depth and width may not be adequate

to support modern vehicles / vessels

- lack of policy focus of the states
- lack of skilled manpower / technical expertise.

So, to tackle some of these challenges, the Indian Government has undertaken initiatives like:

- Jal Vikas Marg project along with World Bank to develop National Waterway 1 on Ganga, with modern infrastructure and technology.
- Declaration of 111 national waterways under a central law
- Using finances from the Road cess fund to meet the requirement of developing waterways
- Setting up of River Information system to provide information about depth and vessel capacity. This can ensure smooth movement /regulation of traffic
- Multimodal clearance houses established to facilitate use by private commercial entities

Thus, the Government is promoting Inland Waterways as means of sustainable transportation in India. ~~but for the~~

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.15) What do you mean by Environmental Impact Assessment? Discuss the major reasons that have limited the success of EIA. Suggest measures that can be taken to make EIA an effective tool.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Whenever a developmental project is undertaken in the country, it is usually assessed on the basic of economic parameters (growth potential). But it may also have certain impact on environment (say deforestration, for setting up a mining operation).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is thus a tool to predict, evaluate and mitigate such impact of an economic activity. In India, it is mandatory for certain categories of activities as per the directives of Environment Ministry.

Though EIA has a huge impact on ushering in sustainable & inclusive (Eg. reducing tribal displacement) development, its success in India has been limited due to reasons like; - It is not mandatory for every project, large number of exceptions (Eg. strategic

projects have been carved out

- Ineffective monitoring and implementation by the Ministerial / governmental authorities
- lack of skilled manpower to carry out the assessments, thus reducing the efficacy
- lack of local level participation (locals may lack knowledge, skills too)
- Negative perceptions (reducing Ease of doing business)

Suggested Measures:

- Rationalize the category of projects for which it is required (Eg: hazardous)
- Skill development of environmental auditors and laying down globally accepted standards
- Use of technology like Geo-tagging to constantly monitor the sites
- Decentralization to local bodies (Eg: Gram Panchayats) to monitor and regulate EIA

Thus, this can enhance the efficacy of EIA to promote sustainable development in the country.

(Don't Write anything in this Area)

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.16) Illustrate with examples the menace of plastic pollution. With reference to Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, discuss the measures to be adopted to mitigate the impact of the plastic wastes in India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

'Plastic', due to its low cost and flexibility, ~~ha~~ is being used in almost all spheres of production today. Inspite of such benefits, it has emerged in the recent times as a pollution menance.

Impact of plastic pollution:

Non-
- Biodegradable in nature, Resulting in accumulation in large quantities, which can then choke out drains, rivers, etc. (Eg: Pacific Ocean garbage patch)
- Release of toxins, either on burning which results in air pollution. It may also leach out toxic materials to the ground water.
- Impact on biodiversity & animal health: When ingested in animals, it bioaccumulates, increasing toxic materials in such animals. This is true even for the marine organisms, who are worst affected by microplastics.
- Host for vector borne diseases as plastic provides breeding grounds for insects
- Challenge of waste management, resulting in large landfills

(Eg: Ghaziabad)

Suggested Measures to mitigate this menace: Some of these have been included in the 2016 rules as well

- Collection and seggregation of waste, so that plastic can be suitable disposed. 2016 rules place such an obligation on the waste generator
- promoting alternate uses of plastic, - 2016 Rules suggest plastic usage in the construction sector
- Phasing out certain categories like multi-layered plastics (as given in 2016 rules) and single use plastics
- Building institutional capacity to collect and process plastic waste (In 2016 rules, local bodies have been given such a responsibility)
- Reduce the use of plastic. (Eg: 2016 rules put an obligation on shopkeepers to do so)

Thus, with concentrated measures, the menace of plastic pollution can be reduced.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.17) "Despite India's outstanding growth in the last two decades, low pay and wage inequality remain serious obstacles towards achieving inclusive growth." Comment. Also, suggests the way forward for rationalising and streamlining the policy for minimum wages. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

'Inclusive growth' is understood as a process wherein all people / groups participate in economic production processes and reap the benefits in an equitable manner.

India, today, is the fastest growing economy and the 6th largest economy in the world. However, despite such growth, it has faced issues with respect to 'low pay' and 'wage inequality'.

Why has this happened? - mismatch of skills required

- Highly valued skills are concentrated in few people (low access to education, etc)
- Economic growth is concentrated in some sectors But labour force is concentrated in agricultural sector, where growth has been limited.

How does this impact inclusive growth?

- Increased inequality, leading to concentration of wealth

In few people (Thomas Piketty Report)

- low pay prevents people from investing in their education and skill development. This limits their participation in the economy.

- Certain groups (Eg: women, tribals, etc) are more vulnerable to such conditions of low pay. and thus, effectively excludes them from growth process.

To overcome this, the Government has taken steps like: - minimum wages Act
- Equal remuneration act
- Skill development (~~NSDA~~) (Skill India Mission)
- Support to entrepreneurs of SC, ST, women (Start up India)

But, to be effective, minimum wages policy must be streamlined. currently, more than a 1000 benchmarks exist, as per region & skill. This creates confusion and increases compliance costs. Also, there are variations across regions

Instead, as suggested by Labour code:

- A national minimum wage must be declared
- clear benchmarks of skills must be laid down

- Monitoring, including self declarations, must be strengthened.

Thus, this can ensure a simple minimum wage policy, which can ensure higher wages for the workers

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.18) The space war would destroy the intrinsic trust and cooperation necessary to maintain the systems deployed in space for peaceful purposes. Examine. Also, discuss the concerns related to space debris with respect to India's mission Shakti.
(15 Marks, 250 Words)

'Space War' is understood as a scenario where space is utilized for wars between nations. This could take the form of :

- deploying missiles / weapons in the space
- attacking the space assets (Eg: telecommunication technologies) of other nations
- carrying out surveillance, spying and other such operations through satellites.

Impact on trust & cooperation:

- In such a scenario, every country would be under a threat of attack / disruption by another.
- In self-defense, they may also deploy weapons. This could entail an arms race
- They may also do for protection of their space assets

Thus, this can shift away focus of using space for common development of mankind (outer space treaty) to defence / war purposes.

Such concerns once again gained limelight after India's mission Shakti, where it destroyed one of its own satellite. However, India has clarified that it doesn't support arms race in space.

Another issue was that of 'space debris' of the satellite intercepted.

Why is it a concern? - It can damage existing satellites in space:

- With increasing number of satellites, space debris is bound to increase.
- As satellites provide important services (Remote sensing, communication), their damage can have far reaching impact.
- No viable technology to decrease debris.

However, India has clarified that because satellite was in the low-earth orbit, its debris will mostly fall back on Earth, without threatening space assets.

Thus, India was able to showcase its status as a responsible space power.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.19) Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is the stepping stone for tri-services integration in India. In this context, discuss the significance of CDS and outlines the challenges faced in its appointment. Also, discuss further reforms required to make Indian military a modern force. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Recently, Indian government has approved the appointment to the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) who is a 4-star rank officer. and acts as the principal means of communication & advice to the government.

Significance of CDS:

- Ease of communication between armed forces and government as CDS acts as a single point of contact
- Integration of the concerns of all 3 armed forces (army, navy, air force) to the CDS, who can then provide a balanced view to government
- Cooperation between the 3 armed forces
- Quick decision making in defence matters

Challenges faced in appointment:

- Resistance from the navy and the air force, who feared subordination under army.. (Post may be given to army officer)

- Resistance from the army chiefs who feared a loss in their autonomy
- Transparent selection process must be put in place
- Ambiguity about the exact powers and responsibilities of the CDS.

Despite such challenges, CDS is one of the important reform undertaken in armed forces architecture. But it must be supplemented with other measures to make Indian military, a modern force, like:

- procurement and deployment of latest defence technology, streamlining procedure for that
- capacity development in the emerging arenas like cyber, space, etc.
- Rationalization of teeth-to tail ratio (fighting vs non-fighting troops) (Shekatkar Committee Report)
- Reducing expenditures on items like military farms, so as to boost resources for core operations
- Modern Information & surveillance systems.

Thus, the Indian army can better meets its objective to protect the nation, with such reforms

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Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Q.20) In an era when cybersecurity is increasingly becoming a grave threat to nations, 'Digital India' cannot sustain without a 'Digitally Secure India.' Discuss. Also, critically evaluate the interventions by the Government of India in creating a digitally secure India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

'Digital India' is one of the flagship schemes of the government where Internet access is to expanded, so as to improve communications as well as enable effective service delivery.

However, it can face under challenges of cyber security like :
- disabling service (Eg. Recent attack at Nhava sheva port
- Cyber frauds, especially in e-banking
- Identity and Information theft.
- Privacy violation.

Thus, there is a need to complement digital India with digitally secure India, which focuses on:
- Digital literacy and awareness about cyber threats
- Capacity building to fight against cyber attacks
- Robust protection mechanisms (Eg: Authentication)
- Grievance Redressal mechanisms in case of a cyberattack/malpractice

Government interventions:

- IT Act lays down criminal and civil liability for misuse of information, cyber attacks, etc
- RBI has asked e-banking / wallets companies to put in place security mechanisms
- Creation of CERT-In to ward off cyber attacks
- Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan to educate people about such problems.

Though these are laudable, the cyber security infrastructure in India still faces certain issues like:

- No data privacy law (though Sri Krishna Committee has provided recommendations)
- Inadequate capacity of authorities, including local police to enforce law
- IT Act must be upgraded to address issues of phishing, government surveillance, etc
- lack of awareness among people still, especially in remote & rural areas.

Thus, the steps must be further strengthened by the Government

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Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		**Total :**	

Mentor Feedback Questions

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

Test Goal	Outcomes
1 ..... ☐	.....
.....	.....
2 ..... ☐	.....
.....	.....
3 ..... ☐	.....
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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.