

RECEIVED

TEST CODE 6 1 3 3 0 2

FIAS - MGP 2023 - GS DATE 2023 FLT #7

Time Allowed : Three Hours

समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

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Maximum Marks : 250

अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate

परीक्षार्थी का नाम

AYUSH SHROTRIA

Roll No./अनुक्रमांक

1910101465

Medium/माध्यम

English हिंदी

Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र

1902

Date/दिनांक

19-Aug-2023

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक
1		
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1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.

कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।

2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.

उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।

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 (OCA) Booklet in the space provided.

उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।

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.

प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।

Total/कुल
अंक

250

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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :

Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :

2:35

End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :

6:00

Total Marks/कुल अंक :

Mode Of Examination/
परीक्षा की विधि :Online/ऑनलाइन Offline/ऑफलाइन

*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.

मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हें तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।

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ECN CODE/
ईसीएन कोड :

EG/ईजी :

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Evaluation Date/
मूल्यांकन तिथि :

Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the solution provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Asks specific questions, to get specific answers.



EXAMINER'S REMARKS

ForumIAS

CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

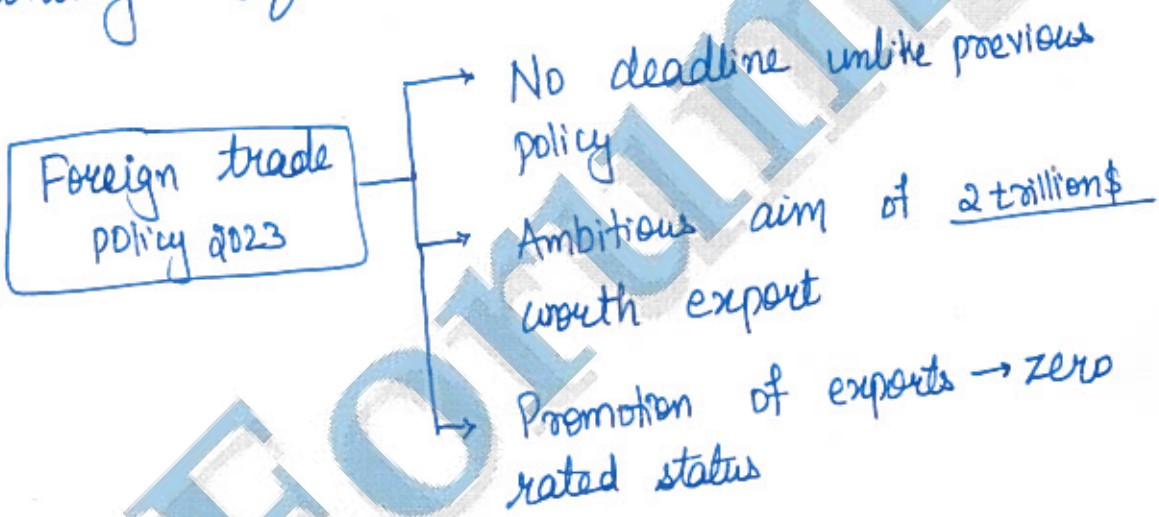
1. **AWIS = Answered What is Asked.** This means whether you have addressed the core demand of the question or not. Addressing the core demand of the question gets you an objectively fair score. It is examiner's perception if you have understood the question and if you know the answer in the first place. Creative answer writing, sometimes missing the core demand, may fetch very high or very low scores, and exposes your answer to the subjectivity of the examiner.
2. **CD & VA = Content Density & Value Addition.** Examiner will evaluate the quality and quantity of your content in the answer. In the same word limit and space limit have you (a) written what is asked (b) gone beyond what is asked (c) enriched answers through combination of (but not all!) suggestions, ideas, quotes, flowcharts, diagrams, facts and figures, data etc. This affects objective components of assessment.
3. **S & F = Structure & Flow =** Whether you have structured your answer properly or not. Whether the answer has been broken into parts and sub-parts and each part has been addressed appropriately or not. Whether the flow of the answer is maintained. Affects both subjective and objective components of assessment.
4. **P & R =** How your answer performs on the criteria of presentation, ease of read, clarity and apparent effort in writing the answer. This affects the subjective components of assessment.

Q.1) Foreign trade is an important milestone on the path of becoming a 5 trillion USD economy. In this context, analyse the potential of the recently released Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 in revamping India's participation in global trade. (10 marks, 150 words)

5 ट्रिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर की अर्थव्यवस्था बनने की राह में विदेशी व्यापार एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है। इस संदर्भ में, वैश्विक व्यापार में भारत की भागीदारी को पुनर्जीवित करने में हाल ही में जारी विदेश व्यापार नीति, 2023 की क्षमता का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India's trade to GDP ratio is 45.3 which is lower than the world average - 56.2. (Economic Survey)

The ambitious milestone of 5 trillion\$ economy requires increase in this ratio.



Potential of policy

- (1). It will synergise the efforts in improving export competitiveness -> Gabishakti, Logistics policy
- (2). WTO compliant policy - Instead of

remission-based policy is designed to be incentive-based.

(3). Strengthening domestic capabilities → Augments effects of PLI, make in India through proposal of Development Enterprise and Service Hub (DESH)

(4). Ease of doing business → Facilitates ease of getting license, clearance, etc.
 ↳ Policy promotes digitization of import-export industry.

Challenges →
 Implementation of policy
 Recent ban on import of phones, computers
 Incentive-based policy may not strengthen greater value addition.

Foreign trade policy, 2023 is a progressive step in making predictable policy and pro-investment environment. Well implementation is the key.

Feedback
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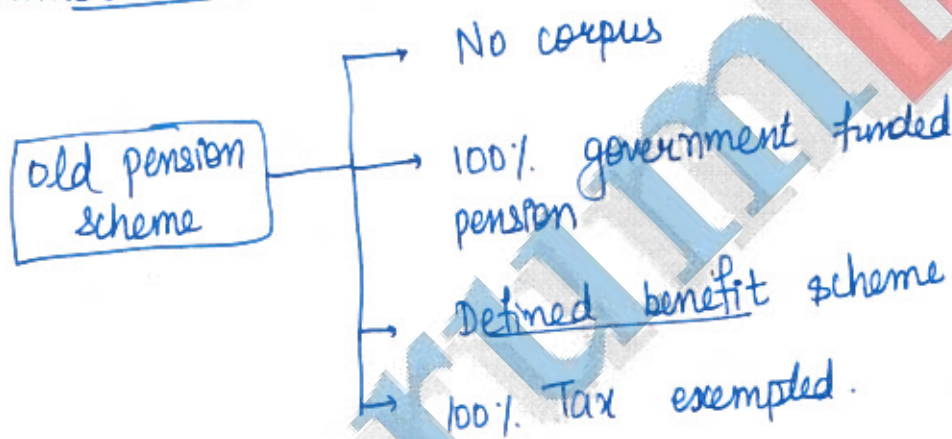
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 Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.2) Social protection schemes are an integral aspect of a welfare economy; however, the principles of fiscal prudence cannot be ignored. Discuss, with special reference to Old Pension Scheme (OPS). (10 marks, 150 words)

सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाएं कल्याणकारी अर्थव्यवस्था का एक अभिन्न पहलू हैं; हालांकि, राजकोषीय विवेक के सिद्धांतों को नजरअंदाज नहीं किया जा सकता है। पुरानी पेंशन योजना (ओपीएस) के विशेष संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Social security are the measures that enables welfare economy by providing support in vulnerable times.



Importance of social protection scheme

- (1). Enables people to meet contingency demands e.g. Education of children, marriage
- (2). Support in meeting needs like housing e.g. Loan against provident fund
- (3). Tiding over vulnerable times e.g. pension

during old age when there is no income source

Significance of fiscal prudence

- (1). Higher pension burden constraints capital expenditure \rightarrow Pension forms 51% of defense ministry budget
- (2). Continuous rising burden due to increase in dearness allowance \rightarrow No corpus fund in DPS
- (3). Intergenerational equity \rightarrow Future generation bearing burden of pensions
- (4). It may lead to higher fiscal deficit along with stagnant revenue generation
 \rightarrow Himachal Pradesh - pension burden forms 59% of state revenue.

DASIS Report and NK Bhattacharya panel report led to New Pension Scheme. For more effective social protection, a hybrid system can be looked upon instead of reverting to old pension scheme.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.3) What do you understand from Agristack? To what extent can it become a panacea for the problems plaguing the farm sector. (10 marks, 150 words)

एग्रिस्टैक से आप क्या समझते हैं? कृषि क्षेत्र की समस्याओं के लिए यह किस हद तक रामबाण बन सकता है। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Agristack is the initiative of government of India based on blockchain and digital technology.



Agristack as panacea

(1). It can democratise the information available to farmers e.g. cultivating tomatoes on raised bed for productivity

(2). Brings stakeholders consensus → Promotes formation of Farmer Producer Organizations → increase bargaining power

(3). Streamline agriculture investment by private sector → Improved technological footprint, production, income.

(4). Data-driven agriculture : Sustainability, precision-agriculture ^{PD} use of drip irrigation, right use of fertilizers

(5). Agrichain based on AgriStack can digitize the land record transaction - modern-day land reform

Challenge → Data security and framework
 → Digital divide - only 33% in rural area have smartphones
 → Digital illiteracy and lack of know-how

AgriStack can be the tool to digitize and ensure data-driven agriculture. Concerns like digital literacy and digital divide needs to be addressed.

Feedback

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Q.4) The objective of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to provide a long term and equitable solution to the dilemma between free trade and food security has remained unfulfilled. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

मुक्त व्यापार और खाद्य सुरक्षा के बीच दुविधा का दीर्घकालिक और न्यायसंगत समाधान प्रदान करने के लिए विश्व व्यापार संगठन (डब्ल्यूटीओ) का उद्देश्य अधूरा रह गया है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Recently 12th ministerial conference of WTO was held. Still no consensus on public stockholding program and Doha Agenda was reached.

Objective of WTO remaining unfulfilled

- (1). Developed nations continue to oppose food security programs based on amber box subsidies e.g. India's MSP and PDS
- (2). Free trade: Objection on subsidies which distorts market and hinders free trade.
 - ↳ Meanwhile, developing nations continue to provide high subsidies under the garb of green box regime.
- (3). Failure of WTO appellate board: US

has refrained from electing members to it.

(4). Other issues:

- Tilt of WTO towards environmental concerns
- e-commerce moratorium continuation → Huge exchequer loss to developing nations

Suggestions

(1). Reviewing the de-minimis level which has become redundant

(2). Balancing food security concerns by accommodating it within free trade architecture.

(3). Making WTO focused upon trade concerns and further objectives like service trade

Doha agenda non-fulfillment does not augur well for WTO. WTO needs to encourage dialogue and negotiation to restore its credibility.

Feedback

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	G	A	P
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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.5) Even after five decades of the Stockholm conference, narrowing the gaps between the targets and actions remains one of the biggest challenges towards reversing climate change. Discuss. Also, recommend measures for building a coherent actionable strategy to tackle climate change.

(10 marks, 150 words)

स्टॉकहोम सम्मेलन के पांच दशकों के बाद भी, लक्ष्यों और कार्यों के बीच अंतर को कम करना जलवायु परिवर्तन को उलटने की दिशा में सबसे बड़ी चुनौतियों में से एक है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, जलवायु परिवर्तन से निपटने के लिए एक सुसंगत कार्रवाई योग्य रणनीति बनाने के उपायों की भी सिफारिश कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Recently, Stockholm +50 conference was held. ~~to~~
Stockholm conference 1972 was the first major
conference on Man and Environment.

Gaps between targets and actions

- (1). Targets of Kyoto protocol remained unfulfilled.
↳ US never ratified it.
- (2). The Nationally Determined Contributions have remained on letter ~~to~~ per capita carbon footprint of US is 16 tonnes.
- (3). Climate finance: ~~was~~ Copenhagen COP had the target of 500 bn \$ mobilization by 2020 which remained unfulfilled.
- (4). Unabated emissions have continued despite national promises ~~to~~ Europe using more of fossil fuels.

Measures

- (1). Implementing the climate finance targets and technological sharing ^{eg} loss and damage fund is a positive step.
- (2). Bottom-up approach to bring lasting change
^{eg} Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)
- (3). Focusing upon green growth - one of the 'saptarishi' as per Budget 23-24. ^{eg} Decarbonizing transportation, power sector
- (4). Stakeholder approach towards sustainability program
^{eg} India's LeadIT for industry transition
- (5). Distributive Justice - Global consensus on allocating more carbon space to developing world.

Barack Obama - "We are the first generation to feel impacts of climate change and last generation to do something about it". A renewed effort to bridge target-action gap is required.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.6) What are the impediments in management of E-waste in the country? In what ways can the trinity of citizens, businesses, and the government tackle this menace? (10 marks, 150 words)

देश में ई-कचरे के प्रबंधन में क्या बाधाएं हैं? नागरिकों, व्यवसायों और सरकार की त्रिमूर्ति/त्रयी किस तरह से इस खतरे से निपट सकती है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

E-waste refers to the electronic waste generated by end-of-life materials like phones, computers, etc. India generates more than 4.3 mn tonne e-waste annually (4th largest).

Impediments in management of e-waste

- (1). Informal collection, dismantling and treatment economy - only 26% waste is recycled
- (2). Lack of e-waste treatment plants - only 754 such facilities.
- (3). Unskilled workforce, ^{engaged} in dismantling and collecting step.
- (4). Use and dispose economy - lack of awareness in consumers

Trinity Role

- Citizens:**
 - Depositing end-of-life product ^{back} to the producer.
 - Nudging the producers towards circular economy by using recycled products.
 - Businesses:**
 - Following the Extended Producer Responsibility regime.
 - Devolving adequate funds to e-waste processing sector.
 - Government:**
 - Effective implementation of rules and regulator → E-waste (Rules), 2022.
 - Policy formulation to strengthen circular economy → eg Right To Repair portal.
- Renewables like solar ~~pane~~ will lead to increase in e-waste. The trinity's role and goal needs to be on same page to effectively deal with it.

Feedback

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Q.7) How does nuclear fusion differ from nuclear fission? Assess the relevance of nuclear energy in resolving the global energy security dilemma? (10 marks, 150 words)

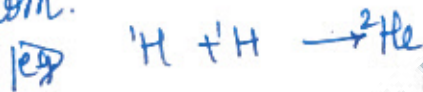
परमाणु संलयन परमाणु विखंडन से किस प्रकार भिन्न है? वैश्विक ऊर्जा सुरक्षा दुविधा के समाधान में परमाणु ऊर्जा की प्रासंगिकता का आकलन कीजिए? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Nuclear energy refers to harnessing the potential of nucleus (energy-mass conversion) to produce electricity.

Nuclear Fusion

Nuclear Fission

(1). Small atoms combine to form a larger atom.



(2). Produces 4 times energy as compared to fission.

(3). Requires difficult condition to start the reaction → In stars

eg International Thermonuclear Energy Reactor - Tokamak

(1). Larger atoms disintegrate into smaller



(2). Lesser energy plus release of radioactive particles and energy

(3). Relatively easier → self-decay of uranium atoms

eg 22 nuclear plants in India - 6780 MW

Relevance of nuclear Energy

- (1). Cleaner fuel - No major carbon emissions
- (2). Requires less resources like land as compared to solar, wind, etc. in producing same amount of electricity.
- (3). Not an intermittent source: can operate at high base load & factor → grid stability
- (4). Fission requires less amount of raw material. For fusion → we have water electrolysis producing hydrogen

Challenges → Fusion still not energy-surplus
 → Fission: Disaster chances, radioactive waste

India has promised tripling of nuclear energy by 2032 in LT-LEDS strategy.

In this light, nuclear energy becomes more relevant especially SMALL MODULAR REACTORS

Feedback

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Q.8) What are run of the river hydroelectric projects? How far can run of the river hydroelectric projects balance ecological conservation with socio-economic development?

(10 marks, 150 words)

नदी जलविद्युत परियोजनाएँ क्या हैं? नदी जलविद्युत परियोजनाएँ सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास के साथ पारिस्थितिक संरक्षण को किस हद तक संतुलित कर सकती हैं?

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Run of the river hydroelectric projects are small scale electricity projects (< 25 MW) which utilize the kinematics of water flow to generate power.

Potential of such projects

(1). Socio-economic development:

- ↳ energy security in nearby areas
- ↳ Increases opportunities for livelihood, economies of scale for nearby industrial sector

(2). Ecological conservation:

- ↳ Unlike bigger dams it does not lead to submergence of forests
- ↳ Minimal disruption of local ecosystem

↳ As it does not displace local population, community protection to local biodiversity continues.

Limitations

- ↳ It generates low power which is not sufficient to sustain grid voltage.
- ↳ Even run of the river projects have been delayed due to geopolitical tensions
eg Indus Water Treaty
- ↳ Though less, it still disrupts the local flora-fauna

Run of the river hydro-projects are more suitable for a low population area and eco-sensitive regions. They incorporate the ideals of sustainable development

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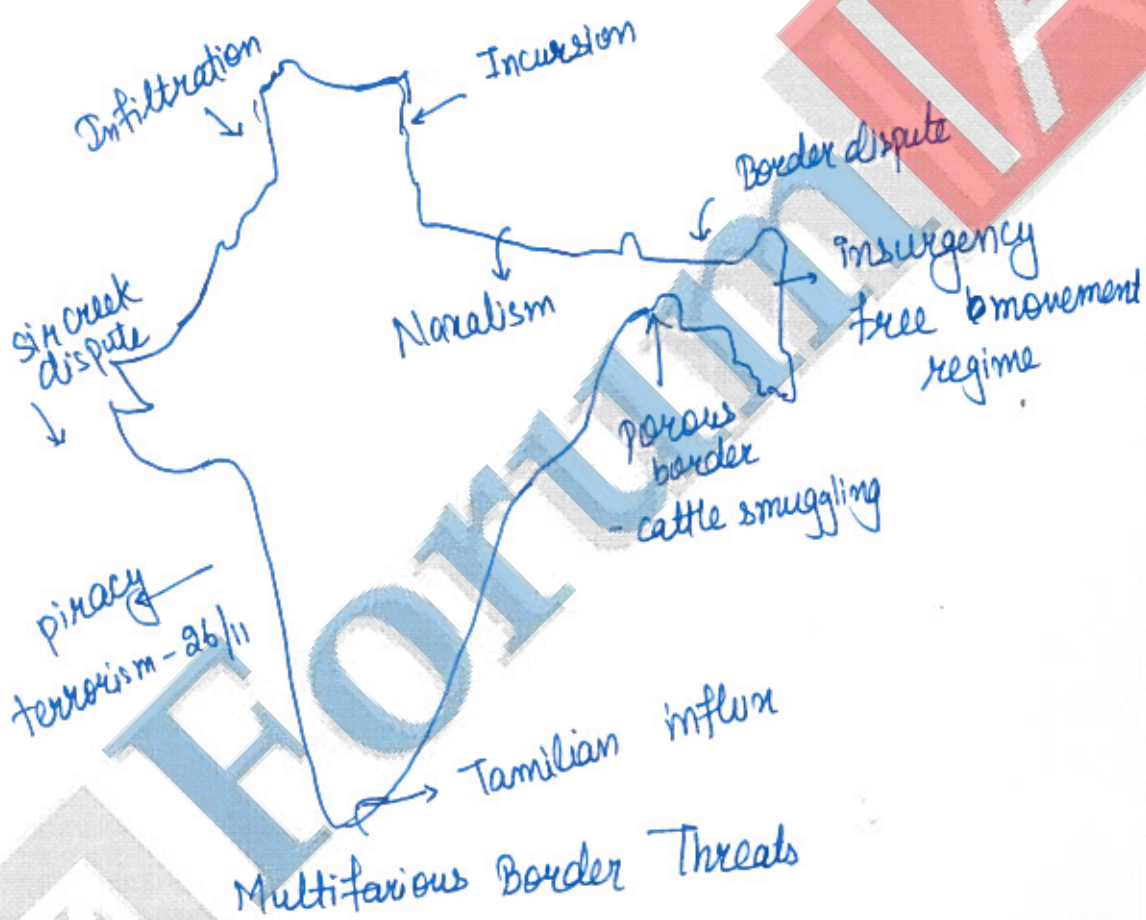
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Q.9) A robust border infrastructure is the surest way to counter multifarious threats emanating from inimical actors. Discuss, in light of Vibrant Village Programme. (10 marks, 150 words)

एक मजबूत सीमा बुनियादी ढांचा शत्रु तत्वों से उत्पन्न होने वाले विविध खतरों का मुकाबला करने का सबसे सुरक्षित तरीका है। वाइब्रेंट विलेज प्रोग्राम के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India has a land border of 15,000 kms and maritime coastal border of 7500 kms.



Significance of robust border infrastructure

- (i) Prevents incursion and infiltration
eg BOLD-BIT interception technique

(2). Handles the threat of porosity of borders

↳ geo-fencing of borders

(3). Border infrastructure acts as a force multiplier for capabilities of personnel

vibrant village program promises to build border infrastructure and prevent ghost village formation.

(4). It will aid the reconnaissance and local intelligence inputs

(5). Vibrant Village Program will develop the local village and ensure their integration with India → counters militancy esp Rajouri-Poonch region - Kashmir.

PM Modi - "Border village is the first and not last village". Presence of it acts as a symbol of India's sovereignty, hence, the vitality of robust border infrastructure becomes more significant.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.10) How far can a clearly articulated National Security Strategy help in tackling challenges to national security? (10 marks, 150 words)

स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा रणनीति राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा की चुनौतियों से निपटने में किस हद तक मदद कर सकती है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Shekhar committee recommended articulation of a National Security Strategy based on the US model to ensure national security.

Role of NSS - National Security Strategy

- (1). Significant for Theaterization of armed forces: It will help in integrating all 3 forces.
- (2). Fixes the accountability of different units and enhances coordination eg Assam rifles operational control under defence which original control under home ministry
- (3). Capacity - augmentation through rationalized

resource allocation to different security agencies.

eg Procuring different missiles

(4). It will improve defense indigenization.

(5). Streamlines intelligence-gathering agencies

and will ensure collaboration between different sub-units from RAW to local ~~units~~ ^{state} police.

(6). It will define the role and goal of CDS and chiefs unambiguously.

Challenge in National Security Strategy articulation collaboration

- Parochial service-based duty in 3 armed forces
- coordination between ministries
- lack of resources

National Security Strategy can add lethality and potency to operations of CAPF and armed forces
It is a crucial element in outlining a clear framework

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
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Please put tick marks in the above table.
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.11) What are the factors that influence the inflation trends in the country? Highlighting the impacts, discuss the institutional measures in place to check inflation. (15 marks, 250 words)

वे कौन से कारक हैं जो देश में मुद्रास्फीति की प्रवृत्ति को प्रभावित करते हैं? प्रभावों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, मुद्रास्फीति को रोकने के लिए संस्थागत उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Inflation refers to the general price rise across different sectors in economy over a period of time.

Factors influencing inflation trends

- (1). Base year effect : A corresponding higher inflation in ^{month of} previous year can result in downward trend of inflation.
- (2). Global economic condition ~~for~~ a 10% rise in per barrel results in increase of 49 basis points in CPI (RBI).
- (3). Supply-side issues - Fall in domestic production, High indirect taxes ~~can~~ can lead to high inflation.

(4). Skewflation (As per prof. Golder):

- certain sectors like food experiences inflation due to growing population
- constancy in prices in certain sector like textiles
- deflation in certain sector (e.g. Dhamaka Sales by e-commerce).

Impact

- Impacts poor disproportionately
- widens income inequality
- Depreciation of currency
- Lenders lose out while borrowers benefit
- High inflation → less savings
↓
less investment → Low growth
- Moderate inflation → Lower unemployment (Phillips curve)

Institutional measures

- Legislations like Essential Commodities Act, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, etc. to check artificial inflation
- RBI Act 1934: RBI is the prime (2-6%) regulator of inflation (through instruments like open market operation, Repo/Reverse Repo) and needs to submit statement in case of failure for two quarters

Inflation in moderate range (2-5%) as can empower the growth. Check on imported inflation, artificial hoarding, etc is needed for fair market economy.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.12) Though a cornerstone of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is not without its own challenges. Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

हालांकि उत्पादन से जुड़ी प्रोत्साहन (पीएलआई) योजना आत्मनिर्भर भारत की आधारशिला है, लेकिन यह अपनी चुनौतियों के बिना नहीं है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

PLI scheme provides 4-6% incentive of additional sales or investment.

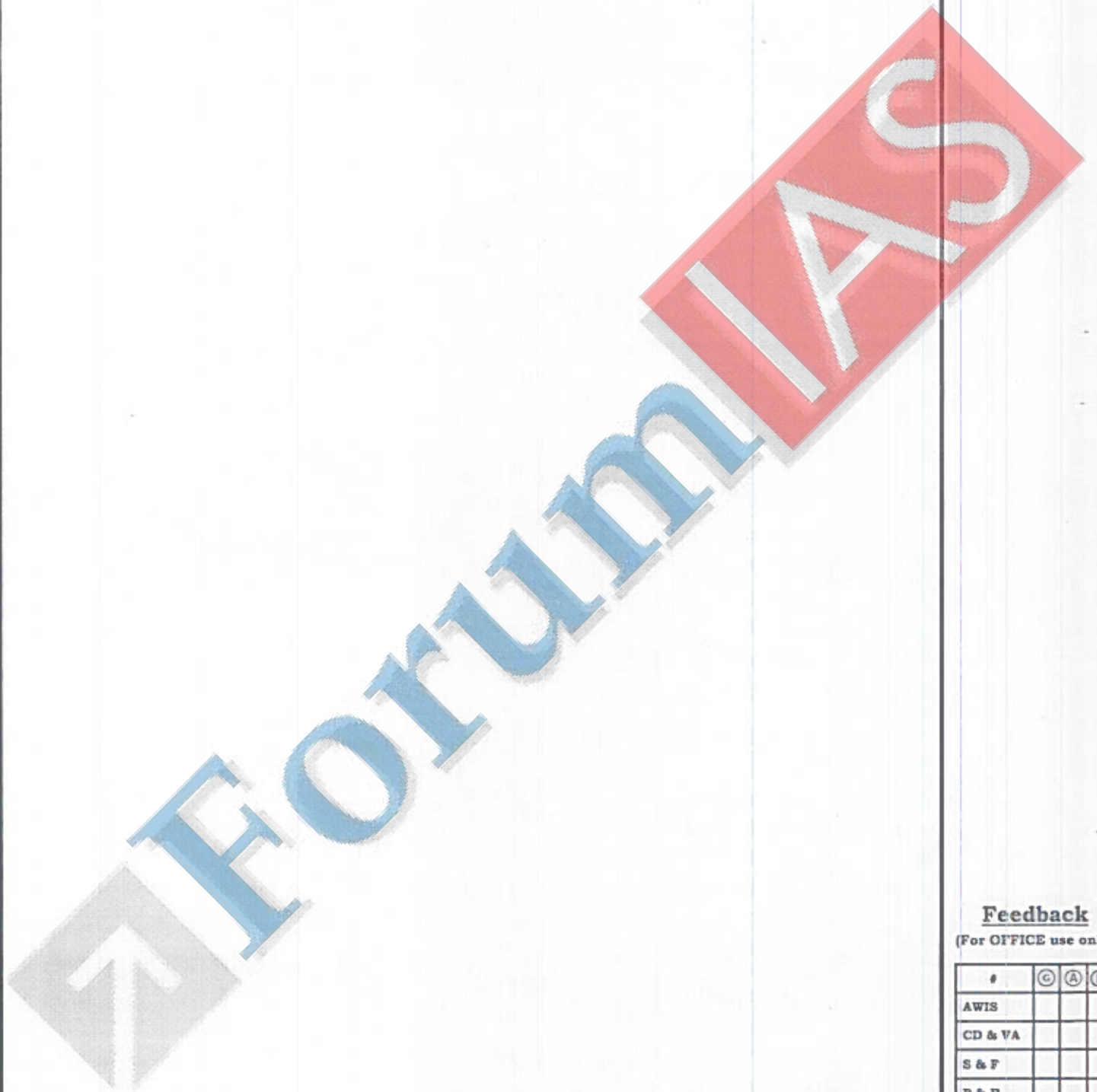
Cornerstone of Atmanirbhar Bharat

- (1). Promotes domestic manufacturing by complementing make in India.
- (2). It enables FDI and investments by domestic industrialists in the 14 sectors it covers.
- (3). It attempts to benefit from "first movers advantage" by incorporating domains like drones, advanced chemistry cell, etc.
- (4). Promotes export-oriented industries.

Challenges

- (1). PLI scheme has a fixed total outlay which is insufficient for covering 14 sectors.
- (2). Implementation : Requires ^{data on} growth in sales or investments of each firms.
- (3). Certain industries like Semiconductor requires heavy investment in setup itself.

PLI is a well-suited scheme for self-reliant India but needs to be augmented with ^{cheap} credit, credit guarantee, timely disbursement of incentive and skill upgradation of workforce.



Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.13) How is internationalisation of rupee different from De-Dollarisation? Highlighting the benefits of internationalisation of rupee, discuss the challenges associated with the same.

(15 marks, 250 words)

रुपये का अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण डी-डॉलरीकरण से किस प्रकार भिन्न है? रुपये के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के लाभों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Weaponization of dollar (exclusion of Russia from SWIFT) has led to de-dollarization phenomenon.

Internationalization of ₹	De-dollarization
<p>(1). It implies promoting ₹ as a stable currency, and a currency in which trade can be settled.</p> <p>↳ NOSTRO - Vostro setup</p>	<p>(1). Moving away from using dollar.</p> <p>↳ Russia's cum system for financial message settling trade in local currency</p>
<p>(2). It is an attempt to promote further integration of economy with global economy.</p>	<p>(2). It is to insulate economy from global headwinds.</p> <p>↳ Taper Tantrum</p>

Benefits of Internationalization of ₹ :

- (1). Reduction in need of holding large forex reserves.
- (2). Reduce current account deficit and prevent depreciation of rupee.
- (3). India can become an important stakeholder in shaping global economic direction & IMF negotiations.
- (4). It will complement domestic macroeconomic stability.
- (5). Easy access to foreign loans. Cheap cost of credit.

Challenges

- ₹ is viewed as an unstable currency
- Russian firms asking to settle in yuan
- Internationalization requires sound macroeconomic credentials → inflation, fiscal deficit, etc.
- It will require 100% capital account convertibility.

Internationalization of ₹ is being promoted by government (Vostro accounts, UPI - PayNow link, ₹ - dirham trade, etc.). Fulfilling the mandate of Taxpayers committee can ensure the objective realization

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.14) What are Primary Agricultural Credit Societies? Can the cooperative push alone help in achieving the twin targets of boosting rural economy and mainstreaming small and marginal farmers? (15 marks, 250 words)

प्राथमिक कृषि ऋण समितियां क्या हैं? क्या केवल सहकारी प्रयासों से ही ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा देने और छोटे एवं सीमांत किसानों को मुख्य धारा में लाने के दोहरे लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में मदद मिल सकती है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The cabinet approved the program of digitizing 63,000 PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies). PACS are the lowest level cooperative credit societies promoting formal agricultural credit and financial inclusion.

Importance of cooperative - push

- (1). Social capital formation - by organizing small and marginal farmers. social capital is a precursor of economic capital.
- (2). It will allow small and marginal farmers to practice cooperative farming by pooling the land → Increased production → Increased income.

(3). Cooperatives enables better bargaining power

- ↳ Access to formal credit through PACS
- ↳ Access to machinery through custom hiring centre
- ↳ Contract farming for food processing industrial sector.

(4). Cooperatives boost rural economy through self-employment, livelihood opportunities creation & AMUL in dairy sector.

Shortcomings

(1). Unbalanced growth → Cooperatives are successful largely in southern states.

(2). Dormant - Dominant membership sidelines the small and marginal farmers.

(3). Lack of professionalism in cooperatives. State-control turns these democratic bodies into bureaucratic bodies.

(4). Cooperatives are largely concentrated in agriculture, thus, limits their diverse growth.

"Sahkaar Se Samriddhi" is a powerful tool to promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth. However, it requires adequate state-support in incorporating professionalism, new ventures, etc along with autonomy.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.
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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.15) Farm policies in the country have inadvertently led to undesirable consequences. Do you agree? Giving emphasis on PM PRANAM, discuss ways to enhance soil health and farm productivity. (15 marks, 250 words)

देश में कृषि नीतियों ने अनजाने में अवांछनीय परिणामों को जन्म दिया है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? पीएम प्रणाम पर जोर देते हुए मृदा स्वास्थ्य और कृषि उत्पादकता बढ़ाने के तरीकों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

"Agriculture is the only riches, a country can call its own" - Benjamin Franklin. Several farm policies have been launched to improve agriculture of which certain schemes have led to undesirable consequences:

(1). Green Revolution: Excess chemicals use, rice-wheat bias, limited production of pulses and oilseeds.

(2). Power subsidy: Excess groundwater usage → 89% of groundwater is used in irrigation.

(3). Fertilizer subsidy: Canalization of urea declining soil response ratio.

(4). Farm-loan waiver: Fiscal imprudence, deters long term investment.

Indian agriculture is suffering from soil fatigue, technological fatigue, stagnant production and income / 77th NSSO → ₹ 10,218/month

PM-PRANAM scheme promotes natural farming, regenerative and sustainable agriculture.

→ It will improve the soil biodiversity, hence, increasing productivity

→ Focusing on regenerative aspect, it can ensure that soil is relieved from exhaustion.

→ Improved soil health, less reliance on artificial inputs will increase crop production and income.

Ways to enhance soil health and farm productivity

(1). Hanumanth Rao committee suggested ratio of 4:2:1 (N:P:K) which is currently 8:2:1.

Bringing urea under nutrient-based subsidy

(2). Shift from farming to agro-pastoral-farm-forestry agriculture to harness benefits of productivity.

(3). ZBNF (Zero Budget Natural Farming) can complement PM-PRANAM in enhancing soil health and productivity.

Soil brota health is directly linked to farm productivity. In this light, PM PRANAM is a way out from the clutches of inorganic chemical-heavy agriculture.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS



Q.16) What do you understand by heat waves? Highlight the reasons and impact of the rising frequency of heat waves across India. Also, recommend some measures to mitigate its impact.

(15 marks, 250 words)

उष्ण तरंगों (heat waves) से आप क्या समझते हैं? पूरे भारत में उष्ण तरंगों (heat waves) की बढ़ती आवृत्ति के कारणों और प्रभाव पर प्रकाश डालिए। इसके अलावा, इसके प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए कुछ उपायों की सिफारिश कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Heat wave is a condition of prolonged high temperature.

IMD defines heat wave as

coastal - Temperature $> 47^{\circ}\text{C}$ or rise of $4.5^{\circ}\text{C} - 6.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ above normal

Hill station - $> 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ or rise of $4.5^{\circ}\text{C} - 6.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ above normal

Plain region - $> 45^{\circ}\text{C}$ or rise of $4.5^{\circ}\text{C} - 6.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ above normal

Reasons of heat waves

(1) Delay in arrival of western disturbance was the reason of heat waves during March 2023.

(2) Climate change \rightarrow Global warming : Temperature has increased by 1.1°C above

pre-industrial ~~area~~ era.

- (3). Monsoonal vagaries - Intense rainfall + prolonged dry period \rightarrow i/c rise increases water holding capacity by 7% (Clausius-Clapeyron Hypothesis)
- (4). Urban Heat island effect which results in formation of heat dome.
- (5). Encroachment upon wetlands, pollution of water bodies especially in vicinity of urban area.

Impact

- (1). Loss of lives - Human as well as animal. \rightarrow Heat stroke.
- (2). Loss of productivity leading to low economic production eg wheat production declined in 2022 due to heat waves.

(3). Heat waves lead to change in ecosystem e.g. sea urchin migrating towards Tasmania at the expense of kelp forests due to heat waves.

(4). Increased cyclogenesis → disasters related to cloudburst, cyclones, etc.

Suggestions

(1). Timely dissemination of information to wider public by IMD

(2). Adequate shelter-homes creation.

(3). Improving local hydro-geo landscape
 e.g. 75 Armit savannas.
 Restoring degraded land.

Heat waves reflect the onslaught of anthropogenic climate change. Deployment of safeguards along with mitigation of emissions is the need of the hour

Feedback

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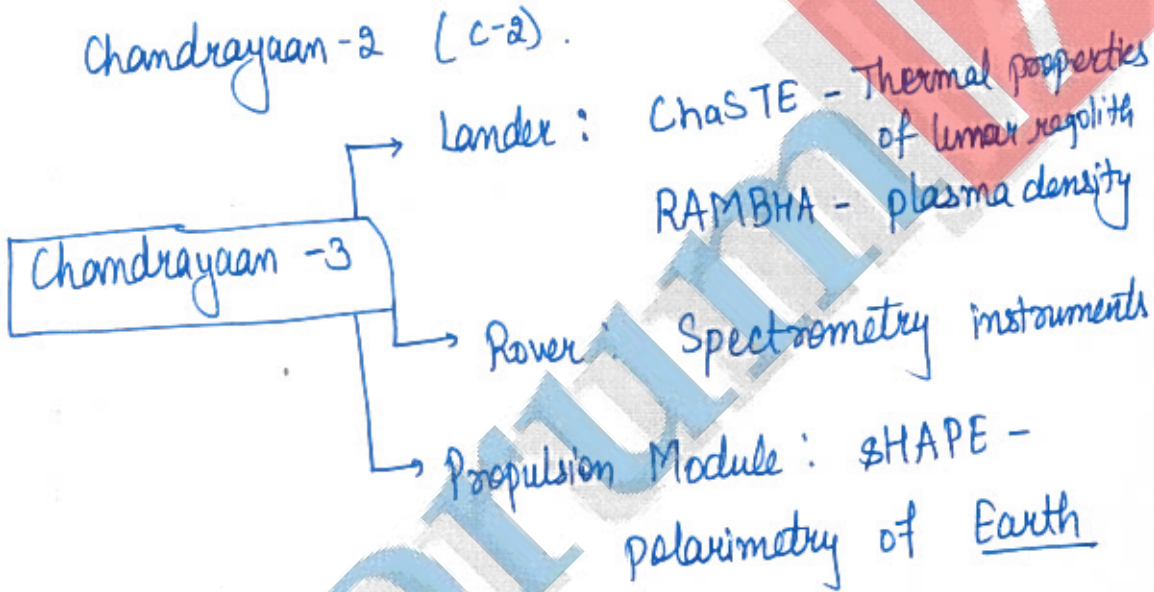
TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.17) How is Chandrayaan-3 different from its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2? To what extent can India's presence in Artemis Accords help in furthering the exploration of lunar surface?

(15 marks, 250 words)

चंद्रयान-3 अपने पूर्ववर्ती चंद्रयान-2 से किस प्रकार भिन्न है? आर्टेमिस समझौते में भारत की उपस्थिति चंद्र सतह की खोज को आगे बढ़ाने में किस हद तक मदद कर सकती है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Recently Chandrayaan-3 was launched to attempt the soft landing that failed in Chandrayaan-2 (C-2).



Chandrayaan-3

- It consists of Pragyan rover and Vikram lander
- Based on "fail-safe" mechanism → As per overcoming any failure condition

Chandrayaan-2

- Vikram lander + Pragyan rover + orbiter
- Based on success mechanism as per Chandrayaan-1.

- Lander has 4 solar panels
- Additional instruments like velocimeter, more fuel, higher surface area.
- Had only 2 solar panels
- No such instruments
limited surface area
(500×500) metre^2

India recently signed Artemis Accord.

Significance

- (1). It will facilitate joint collaboration between different ^{space} agencies.
- (2). Accelerate efforts of exploring lunar surface → India can get access to data collected by other agencies and research on lunar sample.

(3). It will enable India to access state-of-art space technology and develop it indigenously.

(4). Improve Indian space ^{economy} contribution (currently 2% of global)

The launch of Chandrayaan-3 and its success will determine the technological competency, vital for deep space exploration and sustained human presence in space.

Feedback

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Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.

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Q.18) Research and Development is the key to unlock the potential of 'knowledge economy.' In this perspective, analyse the role of the National Research Foundation Bill, 2023 in democratizing the research ecosystem in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

अनुसंधान और विकास 'ज्ञान अर्थव्यवस्था' की क्षमता को अनलॉक करने की कुंजी है। इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में, भारत में अनुसंधान पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को लोकतांत्रिक बनाने में राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान फाउंडेशन विधेयक, 2023 की भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Knowledge economy implies where knowledge and innovation drives the economy. India's research and development spending has stagnated at 0.7% of GDP constraining potential of 'knowledge economy'.

Research and Development (R&D) - key to unlock 'knowledge economy'

- (1). R&D brings the efficiency in current processes for GM crop improving production
- (2). Reduces poverty by Every 10 lakh spent on agricultural research brings 382 people out of poverty.

(3). R&D is essential to promote new sectors and startups → High nitrogen steel for defense ; Technical textiles

(4). R&D is crucial for overcoming climate change challenge → ITER project working upon nuclear fusion.

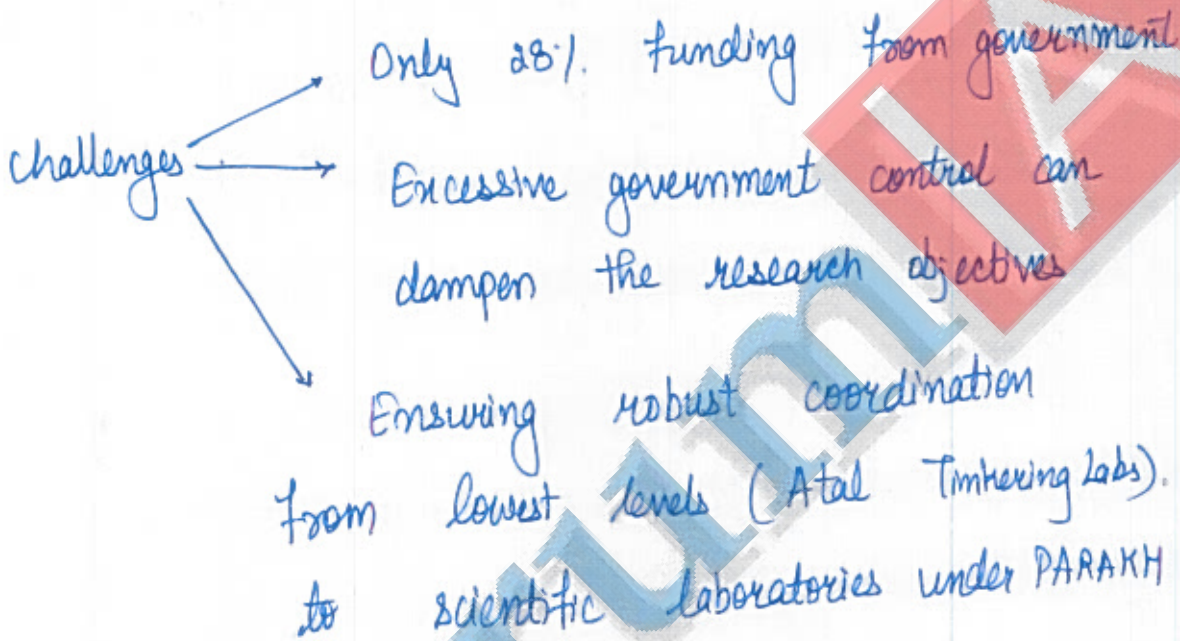
Role of National Research Foundation

(1). Secure the much-needed finance - It promises 50,000 cr ₹ in next 5 years

(2). Streamline research → prevent duplication of research efforts, makes public research available to others for further improvements

(3). Vehicle of Industry - Academia collaboration
↳ Improve STEM participation especially of females.

(4). It will facilitate a research ecosystem through easy access to funds, knowledge, journals, IPR rights, etc



National Research Foundation is modelled on its USA counterpart. It is a much-needed step to make India a 'knowledge economy'.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.19) What do you understand by the term 'Hybrid warfare.' Highlighting its implications for India, recommend measures to develop a comprehensive ecosystem to counter the same.

(15 marks, 250 words)

'हाइब्रिड वॉरफेयर' शब्द से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत के लिए इसके प्रभावों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसका मुकाबला करने के लिए एक व्यापक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र विकसित करने के उपायों की सिफारिश कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Hybrid warfare implies use of non-conventional and multiple strategies of warfare against adversary like cyber-attack, militancy, terror-support, ideological propaganda.

Implications for India

(1). Rise in terrorism - overground workers, (OGW) hybrid militants, sleeper cells
 like 350+ OGW arrested in J&K

(2). Hinders development of economy - like foreign-funded activism against Kudankulam power plant.

(3). Fake news, propoganda leading to radicalization ^{Recent} ~~197~~, Ban on Popular Front of India

(4). Disrupts societal fabric and democracy by fuelling separatism ~~197~~ Khalistani protests in other nations.

Measures

(1). Oversight on social media
~~197~~ Meta-data analysis - NETRA

operationalization of regional monitoring centre to aid CCTNS.

(2). Updating the cybersecurity framework
 ↳ Recent Digital Data Protection Act is a progressive step.

- (3). Ensuring robust border infrastructure to check Infiltration plus Incursion.
- (4). Strengthening capabilities of domestic intelligence units

Russia - Ukraine war has seen further evolution of hybrid warfare. India needs to take pragmatic steps to ensure application of knowledge gained from it.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.20) How are internal security challenges related to peace in neighboring countries? Explain with special reference to instability on India's eastern frontier. (15 marks, 250 words)

आंतरिक सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ पड़ोसी देशों में शांति से कैसे संबंधित हैं? भारत की पूर्वी सीमा पर अस्थिरता के विशेष संदर्भ में व्याख्या कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

National internal security is linked with peace in neighbouring countries due to geographical continuum and shared ties.

Internal security relation with peace in neighbour

- (1). Peace in neighbouring landscape ensures a check upon extremism and radicalization.
- (2). Instability in neighbourhood has a spill-over effect. Rise in militancy in Kashmir after Taliban takeover.
- (3). Instability in neighbourhood leads to refugee crisis which can become a internal security challenge. Insurgency

in Assam due to Bangladeshi migrants

- (4). Instability fallout due to porous border and shared ethnic relations ~~is~~ Free Movement regime with Myanmar → Rohingya crisis
- (5). Absence of peace is a fertile ground for terrorism, organized crime activity which infringes upon national sovereignty
 eg. Military Junta in Myanmar → Increased smuggling of arms in N-E India due to vicinity with golden triangle

Suggestions

- (1). Diplomatic collaboration with neighbours and global platform to strengthen security
 eg. Palermo convention against organized crime.

(2). Robust border infrastructure is of utmost importance → fencing, increasing number of patrolling units

(3). Utilizing vibrant village program and village defence committee to counter insurgency.

(4). Diplomatic aid to ensure peace in nations ~~FF~~ India's 3.1 bn \$ aid to Sri Lanka recently.

Essential supplies to Afghanistan

Recent ~~manipur~~ conflict had a root in crackdown of poppy cultivation by kuki.

~~Peace~~ Conflict anywhere is a threat to peace everywhere. Hence, due global coordination is warranted.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS

Mentor Feedback Questions

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Test Goal

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2

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Outcomes

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Marking Scheme

Mark	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
✓✓	Key / Relevant Point		
✗	Vague / Irrelevant		

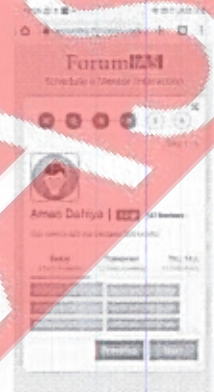
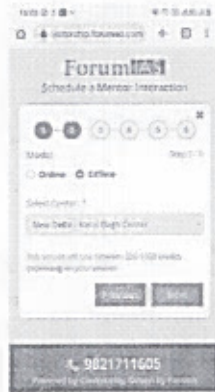
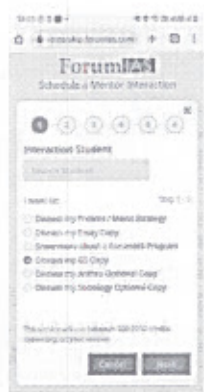
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