

TEST CODE

7 1 3 3 0 3

MGP 2024

Time Allowed : Three Hours

समय : तीन घंटे

Forum IAS

Maximum Marks : 250

अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate

परीक्षार्थी का नाम

Devansh Sarsawat

Roll No./अनुक्रमांक

1910091774

Medium/माध्यम

English ☒हिंदी ☐

Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र

Date/दिनांक

02-09-2024

*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		
2		
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20		
Total/कुल अंक	250	

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 (QCA) 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।

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।

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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :

Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :

9:30

End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :

12:30

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 इन्हीं 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 feedback 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. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

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) Achieving inclusive growth requires a multidimensional approach that goes beyond economic growth. Discuss in context of India. (10 marks, 150 words)

समावेशी संवृद्धि को प्राप्त करने के लिए बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता होती है जो आर्थिक संवृद्धि से परे हो। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Inclusive Growth is defined as growth which generates equitable benefits and "equal opportunities" for all (World Bank).

Facets of
Inclusive
Growth

→ Reducing inequalities
: Bottom 50% own just
2-3% of wealth (Oxfam)

→ Employment (Productivity)
- underemployment rate : 7.4%
(CMIE)

→ Regional Equality
Top 5 states have 335% higher
per capita income than bottom 5

→ Gender Equality
↳ 34% income gap between
men and women (IMR)

→ Climate and Environmental
Sustainability

multi-dimensional approach to inclusive growth

1. Reducing inequalities and ensure Financial inclusion
e.g. PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- 56 Cr. amounts (55% of women);
2. Gender Parity in workforce
- can lead to 27% increase in GDP (IMR);
3. Boosting MSMEs and Rural
employment; their job density
is high;
4. Climate technology and environment
led growth e.g. national Action Plan
on climate change: potential of 5mn jobs;
5. Skill development: As per ECo's survey,
PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana led to
15% increase in income;
6. Regional development: Specific sector
based cluster approach (KC Pant
committee);
7. Education and Health infrastructure
(Raghu Bhalla committee)

This can go a long way in
ensuring "Case of living for all".

Feedback (For OFFICE use)

#	Ⓢ	Ⓐ
AWIS		
CD & VA		
S & F		
P & R		

Please put tick
marks in the above
table.

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

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.2) Examine the implications of the expansion of gig workforce on economic growth and employment scenario in the country. (10 marks, 150 words)

देश में आर्थिक विकास और रोजगार परिदृश्य पर गिग श्रमबल के विस्तार के निहितार्थों की परीक्षण कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Gig economy is the modern form of work wherein traditional employer-employee relationship is changed into contractual relationships leading to "Platformisation of society".

Expansion of
Gig
workforce
on economic
growth and
employment
scenario

→ As per World Bank,

77mn people are employed in gig economy;

→ Gig work will contribute to 56% of all new jobs;

→ 48% of these jobs are "medium-skilled" (Niti Aayog)

→ Significant contribution in economic growth: rise of technology startups like ola, zomato as unicorns

Challenges associated with
Gig economy expansion

1. lack of job security;
2. 'Employment' status not recognised;
3. No social security for gig workers;
4. lack of transparency: simple log-out to remove from job;
5. Inequality in bargaining power;
6. wages are irregular and underpayment is a big issue
7. lack of access to insurance, healthcare etc.

Way Forward

Rajasthan model

1. Unique 'ID' to gig workers
2. Formalized contract

Karnataka Model

1. collective bargaining;
2. Transparency and access to information;
3. Social Security Board

these must be replicated to ensure gig economy ensures equitable benefits for all stakeholders.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
S & F			
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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			

Q.3) What is precision agriculture? How can precision agriculture help in optimizing crop production and resource management? (10 marks, 150 words)

परिशुद्ध/प्रिसिजन कृषि क्या है? परिशुद्ध कृषि फसल उत्पादन और संसाधन प्रबंधन को अनुकूलित करने में कैसे मदद कर सकती है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Precision agriculture is defined as targeted methods of agriculture at micro-level so as to increase productivity, economy and efficiency in agricultural practices.

Precision Agriculture:

- micro-irrigation
e.g. drip system
- use of nano-technology
e.g. Nano Urea, Nano DAP
- micro-level interventions in soil productivity
- soil testing, mapping of nutrients
- checking crop viability
- Individualised methods for different crops
- Use of IoT e.g. Agro star in Andhra Pradesh

Role in optimizing crop production

1. Targeted interventions leads to focus on specific needs of crops;
2. Usage of micro-irrigation has proven to increase yields by 40%. (ICAR);
3. Usage of nano-urea, nano-DAP has led to substantial improvement in crop productivity;
4. Reduced pesticide usage, water for irrigation i.e economies of scale.

[Resource management]

1. Prevents wastage of inputs
2. Economy and efficiency
3. Reduced labour cost

Way Forward : Integration with Agri-stack to ensure widespread adaptation of precision agriculture to ensure Agriculture becomes 1 Agri business.

Feedback

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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			

Q.4) While MSMEs are the backbone of the Indian economy, they encounter various hurdles in their operation and expansion. Discuss. Also, suggest steps to support the growth of the MSME sector. (10 marks, 150 words)

MSMEs भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की रीढ़ हैं, लेकिन उन्हें अपने संचालन और विस्तार में कई तरह की बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, MSMEs क्षेत्र के विकास को समर्थन देने के लिए कदम सुझाएँ। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

MSMEs are the nerve centres of economic growth in India owing to their labour density, productivity and entrepreneurship potential

MSMEs are backbone of Indian economy

→ 1. GDP contribution

: nearly 30% of GDP (Eco. survey)

→ 2. Exports contribution

→ 3. Sunrise industries

like food processing: 98% run by small and medium industries

→ 4. employment potential
- nearly 13% of all employment

Hurdles Faced by MSMEs

A. operation

1. limited adoption of technology;

2. lack of access to formal credit
- only about 16% of MSMEs have
access to formal credit;
3. High interest rate;
4. inadequate mechanism on
insolvency;
5. availability of skilled labour;

B. Expansion → Benefits and subsidies
reduce as MSME grows:

- no incentive to expansion
- Compliance burden: GST, bureaucratic hurdles
- inadequate processing, value addition and marketing infrastructure

Steps to support

1. sector specific clusters (SFURTI scheme);
2. Tax breaks and reducing compliance burden;
3. Marketing infrastructure
e.g. Kudambashree - meesho tie up
for marketing
4. Skill development e.g. Indus Ind Bank's
Skill on wheels

when MSME grows, India grows,
MSME reforms, India transforms.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.5) Explain the significance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in transforming India into a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy. Also, mention various government initiatives aimed at strengthening the protection and enforcement of IPRs in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत को ज्ञान-आधारित और नवाचार-संचालित अर्थव्यवस्था में बदलने में बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकारों (IPRs) के महत्व का वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में IPRs के संरक्षण और प्रवर्तन को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से विभिन्न सरकारी पहलों का उल्लेख कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) are rights associated with someone's inventions and innovations and are in line with principles of TRIPS.

Significance of IPRs in transforming India into a knowledge-based an innovation-driven economy

1. encourages continuous innovation and research;
2. boosts investors confidence and increases FDI;
3. Further knowledge economy: research and innovation in educational institutions
e.g. Agrikul startup incorporated under IITs
4. boosts innovation with societal impacts e.g. machine to reduce menstrual cramps.

5. Reduces the gap between
industry and higher education
(Subramanian Committee)

Government Initiatives

1. IPR Laws in India :
 - ↳ Copyright Act, 1957
 - ↳ Patents Act, 1970
 - ↳ Trademarks Act, 1998
2. Compulsory licensing provisions
under Sec-3(d) to prevent abuse
of monopoly
3. IPR Policy → to increase
industry-academia
linkage
4. Incentives for innovations with
societal impact (RAISE)

Being forward, need of the
hour is to increase spending
on R&D to 2.5% of GDP
(PM-STIAC)

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.6) Gaganyaan mission is a landmark endeavour for India, marking significant advancements in space exploration and contributing to broader national objectives; however, overcoming the associated technical and safety challenges is crucial for its success. Analyse. (10 marks, 150 words)

गगनयान मिशन भारत के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक प्रयास है, जो अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति को दर्शाता है और व्यापक राष्ट्रीय उद्देश्यों में योगदान देता है; हालाँकि, इससे जुड़ी तकनीकी और सुरक्षा चुनौतियों पर काबू पाना इसकी सफलता के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। विश्लेषण कीजिये। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Gaganyaan mission is ISRO's Flagship mission to make a human spaceflight across the Karman line.

Significant advancement in space exploration → Increased opportunities for space tourism (₹ 5 bn market by 2025)

→ Atmanirbhar Bharat capabilities in space sector e.g. Vikram-S launchpad

→ Technology and innovation e.g. Vyomitra robot to be taken in Gaganyaan

→ Space exploration in a cost-effective manner

Contribution to broader national objectives

1. Currently, India's space sector is only 2% of world market, it can go up to 9%;
2. Space diplomacy ~~and~~ - like collaboration with NASA etc.
3. Technology transfer and skill sharing
e.g. Training of India's Astronauts by ROSCOMOS
4. Significant soft power

Challenges

1. meeting the deadlines;
2. meeting the cost effectiveness goal;
3. ensuring safety and security of astronauts;
4. Requirement of safety testing and protocols

collaborations and following the principles of Artemis Accords will help in realising PM's vision: "Space is the space to be in".

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.7) What are the challenges in the safe management of e-waste in India? How can collaboration among multiple stakeholders help in sustainable e-waste management? (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत में ई-अपशिष्ट के सुरक्षित प्रबंधन में क्या चुनौतियाँ हैं? विभिन्न हितधारकों के बीच सहयोग से धारणीय ई-अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन में किस तरह मदद मिल सकती है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

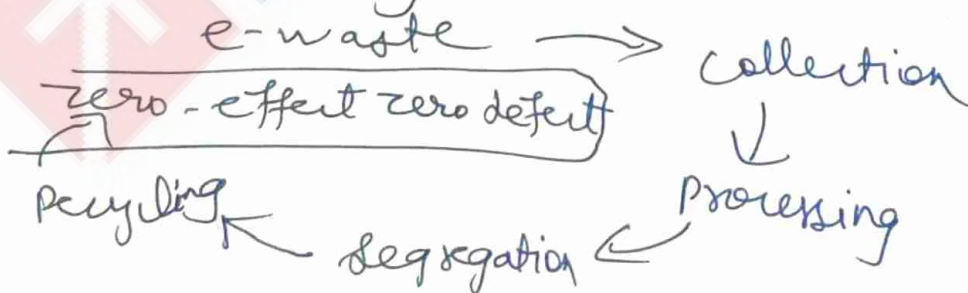
Rising generation of e-waste due to proliferation of technological devices is a serious challenge for health security and environment worldwide;

Challenges in safe-management of e-waste in India

- Inadequate collection and sorting infrastructure
- Informal economy: 90% of e-waste is handled by informal workers
- Toxicity hazards
- Skilled workforce
- Limited urban mining
- Ineffective extended producer responsibility norms
- Lack of well-developed recycling infrastructure

Collaboration among stakeholders
for sustainable management of
e-waste

1. Producer - processor linkage :
Can increase propensity of collection,
processing and recycling;
2. Involvement of NGOs to increase
awareness
3. Ecosystem of scrap dealers
and skilled e-waste handlers
- will ensure segregating of precious
metals from e-waste (urban mining)
4. Increased investments and
funding for safety and protection
infrastructure;
Incentivising recycling and
urban mining are key to circular
economy;



Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.8) Define Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and mention its various stages. Also, highlight the significance of EIA in balancing developmental needs with environmental conservation in the country. (10 marks, 150 words)

पर्यावरण प्रभाव आकलन (EIA) को परिभाषित कीजिए और इसके विभिन्न चरणों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, देश में विकासात्मक आवश्यकताओं और पर्यावरण संरक्षण के बीच संतुलन बनाने में EIA के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was introduced in 2006 under the Environment Protection Act. It is the process of analysing the potential impact of a development project on environment in furtherance to the goals of sustainability.

Stages of EIA

I. Scoping - defines the scope of public project and potential harm to environment

↓
II. Public Hearing

- objections and grievances of citizens

↓
III. Draft EIA Report

IV. Examination of Report by project officer

V. Approval → changes

Significance of EIA in balancing developmental needs with environment conservation

1. Upholds Precautionary Principle
 - to ensure development in consonance with environment falls under 'balancing' and development beyond it under 'balancing'
 - (MC Mehta v. Union of India)
 2. Addresses concerns of the general public: livelihood, rehabilitation is ensured;
 3. Minimizes impact on environment
 4. Upholds Public Trust Doctrine
 5. In line with vision of Green-infrastructure
 6. Polluter Pays principle is furthered in case of significant damage to environment.
- "Limits to Growth Principle" must be kept in mind in ensuring development for present and future.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.9) Integrated Theatre Commands shall bring jointness in operation, synergy of resources and enable armed forces in carrying out swift, effective, and decisive actions. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (10 marks, 150 words)

एकीकृत थिएटर कमांड संचालन में संयुक्तता, संसाधनों के तालमेल और सशस्त्र बलों को त्वरित, प्रभावी और निर्णायक कार्रवाई करने में सक्षम बनाएगा। क्या आप इस दृष्टिकोण से सहमत हैं? अपने उत्तर का औचित्य परीक्षण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Integrated Theatre commands are a step to create a Joint force involving officers across the three forces so as to provide a unified and integrated response to external threats.

India's plan of Integrated Theatre commands

Adversary based:

1. China
2. Pakistan
3. Cyber security

(A) Jointness in operation

- ↳ unified command structure
- ↳ cooperation among the three forces
- ↳ utilizing each other's strengths
- ↳ a well-rounded response to a threat

(B) Synergy of Resources

1. sharing of know-how
and technical knowledge;
2. sharing of resources like
weapons, defense base
3. Effective utilisation of existing
resources and infrastructure

(C) Swift, effective and decisive
actions :

1. Since one officer would be
commanding the operation
i.e. no confusion in hierarchies
2. Prompt and timely action
3. Swift assembling and
readiness in response to a threat
4. Clarity in decision-making
and strategies

Indian army recently placed
some of its officers in inter-
agency posting to increase
camaraderie and synergy going
forward towards idea of
Integrated Theatre commands.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
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Please put tick
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table.

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

TOTAL MARKS	
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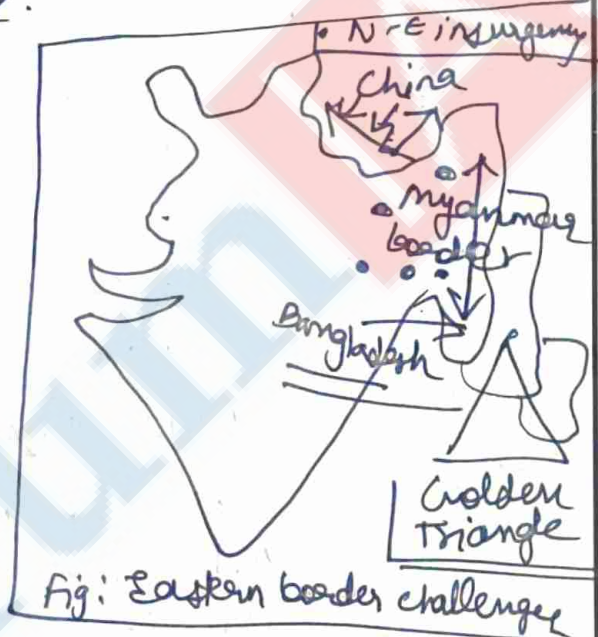
Q.10) India's internal security dynamics is inextricably linked with the peace and stability in the neighbourhood. Explain with special reference to instability on the eastern border. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा गतिशीलता पड़ोस में शांति और स्थिरता से अभिन्न रूप से जुड़ी हुई है। पूर्वी सीमा पर अस्थिरता के विशेष संदर्भ में समझाइए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Internal security encompasses peace, safety and stability in a country.

Linkage with peace and stability in neighbourhood:

1. To ensure security of borders



- North-East border is very sterile and difficult terrain

2. To prevent support for insurgency across borders
e.g. UFAA's linkages with Myanmar

3. To prevent organized crimes

like : → human-trafficking : Nepal
 ↳ smuggling : Bangladesh border
 ↳ Illegal immigration : Myanmar border

4. To prevent arms trafficking

5. Shielding from drug trafficking

• proximity to Golden Δ
 (Myanmar-Thailand - Laos)

Way to ensure Peace and stability.

1. Regional cooperation

2. Infrastructure and connectivity
 e.g. IMT highway

3. Border Haats

4. Border security : CIBMS

5. Intensify "Act East" to
 "Think and Relate East!"

Peace in India can't be secured until there is peace in neighbourhood, hence proactive steps in this regard are of paramount importance.

Feedback

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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			

Q.11) The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) was hailed as a transformative fiscal reform; however, the journey of GST has been a mixed bag of successes and challenges. Analyse.
(15 marks, 250 words)

वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST) की शुरुआत को एक परिवर्तनकारी राजकोषीय सुधार के रूप में सराहा गया था; हालाँकि, GST की यात्रा सफलताओं और चुनौतियों का मिश्रित मिश्रण रही है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।
(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced via 101st Constitutional Amendment Act and it was a watershed movement in India's taxation policy with its vision of "one Nation one Tax".

Transformative fiscal reform → Goal of rationalization of tax structures
(Ashok Lahiri committee)
→ Reduce cascading effect of indirect taxes
→ Improving ease of doing business
→ Increasing exports
→ Smooth inter-state trade
→ Cooperative fiscal federalism

Successes of GST

1. Substantial reduction in cascading effect of taxes;

2. Increased share of indirect tax revenue (highest contributor in India revenue basket)
3. Improved Ease of doing business
- Rank - 63 (World Bank)
4. Increased transparency in inter-state trade via e-way bills;
5. As per Economic survey, prices of various goods and services has fallen due to rationalisation of multiple indirect taxes;
6. Increased access to credit for small businesses;
7. Reduced corruption, red tapism at local and state level;
8. Boosted exports of India which crossed \$ 770 bn as per Economic survey

Challenges of GST

1. Lack of coordination between centre and states

2. Reduced consensus in GST council decisions;
3. Disrupted Fiscal federalism balance in favour of centre;
4. State's revenue gap as premised has not been covered so far
(Reliance on central Government's support)
5. Inverted duty structure in cases of various products
e.g. Pizza base and Pizza
6. Tax brackets are high especially the 28% one;

Way Forward

1. Reduces tax brackets to 5%, 12% & 18%.
 2. Tangible support in reducing state's Fiscal gaps;
 3. Consensus based decision making in GST council;
 4. Rationalization of inverted duties;
- These can go long way in realization of vision of 'One Nation, one Tax and one market.'

Feedback

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Q.12) Discuss the potential of food processing sector in addressing the issues of low value addition, high post-harvest losses and disguised unemployment plaguing Indian agriculture. Also, explain why the sector has underperformed despite its significant potential. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारतीय कृषि में व्याप्त कम मूल्य संवर्धन, कटाई उपरांत उच्च हानि और प्रच्छन्न बेरोजगारी के मुद्दों को हल करने में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र की क्षमता पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, यह भी वर्णन कीजिए कि अपनी महत्वपूर्ण क्षमता के बावजूद इस क्षेत्र ने खराब प्रदर्शन क्यों किया है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Food-Processing sector is a sunrise industry which involves value addition in agricultural produce to increase its shelf-life, benefits, nutrition etc. It is one of the go-to sectors to boost India's economy (Nat. Mfg. Policy);

Potential of Food Processing Sector

A. Low value Addition

1. Due to low value addition, farmers end up getting only 25-30% of the value of final produce;
2. Can increase the shelf life of products hence increasing its value;
3. value addition by simple additions like converting tomatoes into tomato puree can increase price realisation;
4. Diversification of agricultural products

like Jams, Jellies, Biofortified products
e.g. millet Amma startup's value
addition in millet based products;

B. High- Post-harvest losses

1. As per FAO, in case of fruits and vegetables, there is 18-20% wastage due to lack of Food processing;
2. The losses in produce during transit to market and low quality storage amount to 25-30% which can be tackled by Food processing;

C. Disguised unemployment

Agriculture employs 42% of population yet contributes to only 14% of GDP.

• Food processing:

↳ CAHR of 8-9%.

↳ SMEs based growth: 98% involved in food processing are SMEs

↳ Employment density is high

- employs 13% of workforce;
- Potential of 10mn jobs (Eco survey)

Reasons for underperforming

1. Skewed storage infrastructure
- mostly located in certain states only
2. Lack of cold storage infrastructure;
3. Lack of know-how and awareness;
4. Rural connectivity: only 40% of rural roads are paved;
5. Inadequate packaging infrastructure;
6. lack of cheap credit;

Way Forward

1. Packaging infrastructure
- it can reduce upto 30% of wastage (ITP)
 2. Storage at village level (Eco. survey)
 3. Access to credit (PM FME);
 4. creation of mini food parks
in linkage with one nation one product
 5. Best practices sharing e.g. millet Anna
- Food processing is key to doubling farmers' income (Dalwai comm)

Feedback

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Q.13) Despite the government's ambitious targets, rooftop solar installations in India are hindered by multiple factors. Elaborate. How far do you think that PM Surya Ghar Yojana can incentivise the adoption of rooftop solar installations? (15 marks, 250 words)

सरकार के महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्यों के बावजूद, भारत में छतों पर सौर ऊर्जा लगाने में कई तरह की बाधाएँ आ रही हैं। विस्तार से वर्णन कीजिए। आपको क्या लगता है कि प्रधानमंत्री सूर्य घर योजना छतों पर सौर ऊर्जा लगाने को बढ़ावा देने में किस हद तक सहायक हो सकती है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India has taken an ambitious target of generating 100 GW of solar energy by 2030 in furtherance to Panchamrit commitments;

Government's
ambitious
targets

→ 100 GW solar energy
↳ out of which 20 GW
would be from rooftop
installations;

Potential As per MNRE, if 25 crore households deploy rooftop solar energy, then overall potential exceeds 630 GWs in aggregate;

However, despite the significant potential and initiatives like PM KUSUM, rooftop solar

energy remains underwhelming:

Out of 73 GW solar capacity only about 13% is from rooftop energy;

Hindrances to growth of rooftop installation

1. High upfront capital cost: on an average ₹ 5 - ₹ 6 lakhs investment is needed initially;
2. Lack of options with consumers - companies offering such services are limited hence less competition and bargaining powers
3. Maintenance costs and maintenance infrastructure is lacking;
4. Damage due to natural forces like storms, rainfall
5. Lack of Grid integration;
6. Incentive to replace existing power mechanisms is not enough for consumers;
7. Lack of availability of credit;

Role of PM Surya Uhar Yojana in incentivising Rooftop installations

1. Reduced electricity tariffs :
As per MNRE, solar tariffs are as low as ₹ 2 Kw/h.
2. Extension of rooftop installation to 1 cr households i.e. network effect, one connection will yield another;
3. upto 60% subsidy will be provided in installations;
4. Support in maintenance and providing warranties;
5. Increasing grid connectivity;
6. Further net metering policy as an incentive to earn money;

Way Forward : model villages like Madhura must be replicated throughout India to ensure widespread implementation of the scheme

Feedback

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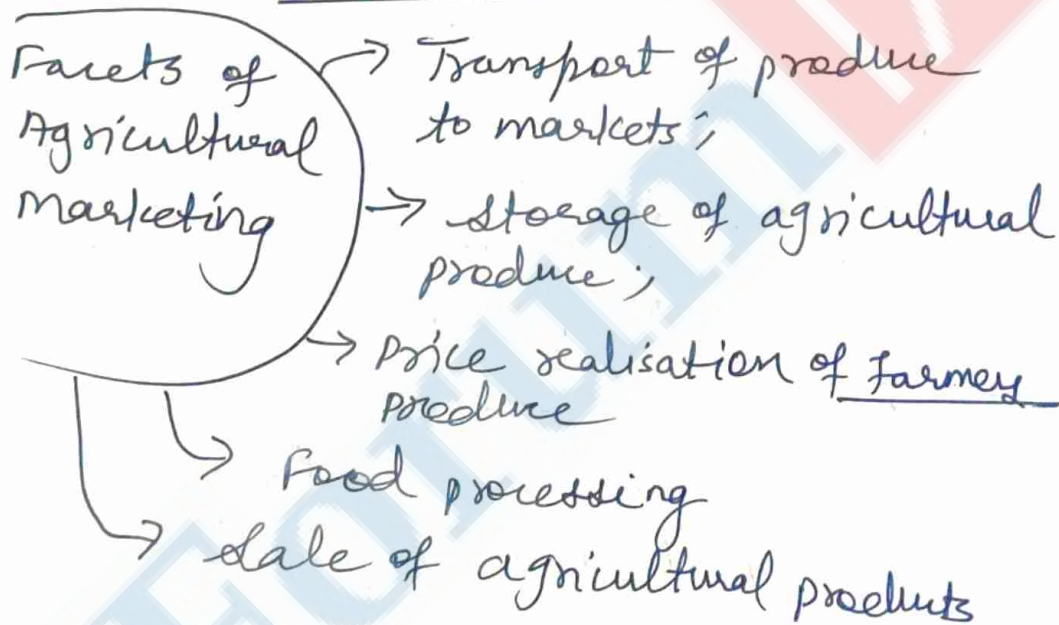
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Q.14) Agricultural marketing reforms are imperative for addressing market inefficiencies and boosting farm incomes. Analyse. (15 marks, 250 words)

कृषि विपणन सुधार बाज़ार की अक्षमताओं को दूर करने और कृषि आय को बढ़ाने के लिए अनिवार्य हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Agricultural marketing refers to the processes involved in transport of agricultural produce to markets till it arrives on consumer's plate i.e. "Farm to fork".



Addressing market inefficiencies

1. Intermediaries: on an average 80% of agricultural produce has to pass through intermediaries;

2. Lack of effective price realisation for farmers;
3. Farmers are 'price takers' not 'price makers' (Dr Ashok Gulati)
4. Inadequate storage infrastructure;
5. Lack of testing, weighing infrastructure;
6. Different prices in different markets;

Boosting Farm Incomes

1. As per FAO, due to inefficiencies in Agricultural marketing, farmers only realise 25-30% of value of final product sold;
2. Goal of doubling farmers income (Ashok Dalwai committee)
3. Reducing post-harvest losses (25-30% of produce as per Go-survey)
4. Increasing value addition;

Proposed reforms in Agricultural marketing

A. From / Farm to market

1. Increasing rural roads infrastructure
(can reduce costs by 40% for farmers)
2. Storage facility in the markets;
3. e-warehouse receipts
(Negotiable warehousing receipts
so that physical procurement is
not needed)

B. From market to Household

1. Integration of state mandis;
(model APMC Act).
2. Promoting and boosting trade
via e-NAM;
3. Using Digital technology :

Bharatpur Bharpai Yojana (Karyana)

- Farmers register on a portal with
details, based on that procurement,
payment without procurement
(via market) happens;

so models like these can go a
long way in realising the vision
of 'one nation, one market'!

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.15) Discuss the contribution of livestock sector to the rural economy and the empowerment of women. Also, highlight main challenges faced by the livestock sector in the country and suggest strategies to overcome these challenges. (15 marks, 250 words)

ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था और महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण में पशुधन क्षेत्र के योगदान पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, देश में पशुधन क्षेत्र के सामने आने वाली मुख्य चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालें और इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए रणनीति सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Livestock sector is one of the significant contributor to India's GDP as it contributes nearly 30% to Agricultural GDP (Eco. survey);

Contribution of livestock sector to rural economy

→ Increased household income by selling milk; (cooperative model like Amul)

→ Diversification of farm income

→ Increased productivity

Via Integrated farming practices;

→ Employment for 8 crore of population (ICAR);

women empowerment

→ Since women constitute 80% of farming community

in rural India, hence they are the primary beneficiaries of livestock;

- opportunities for skilling and training e.g. Pashu Sakhis
- contribution in family income i.e. reducing time poverty
- entrepreneurship via self help groups e.g. SEWA in Gujarat

Challenges Faced by livestock sector

1. Inadequate knowhow and agriculture extension services;
2. Low productivity and milking potential of cows;
3. Unorganised collection, sampling and processing system;
4. Inadequate veterinary care for livestock;
5. Lack of nutritious fodder for animals;
6. outbreak of diseases e.g. Foot and Mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, Bird Flu
7. Unhygienic conditions in

animal rearing

8. Inadequate mechanisms and infrastructure for value addition.

Strategies to overcome these challenges

1. Health and wellness extension under National Animal Disease control programme;
2. Replicating Pashu Sakhi model for veterinary care and raise a veterinary workforce;
3. Promoting Integrated Farming practices e.g. Andhra Pradesh model of integration of Agriculture and livestock;
4. Proper storage infrastructure, sampling and processing;
5. Availability of quality feed;
6. Using Krishi Vigyan Kendras to increase know how;

This can transform Agriculture into Agribusiness i.e. rural transformation.

Feedback

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Q.16) Generative AI holds immense potential to transform various aspects of daily life, offering both benefits and challenges. Elaborate. What policy measures do you suggest to maximize its benefits and mitigate its risks? (15 marks, 250 words)

जनरेटिव AI में दैनिक जीवन के विभिन्न पहलुओं को बदलने की अपार क्षमता है, जो लाभ और चुनौतियाँ दोनों प्रदान करता है। विस्तार से वर्णन कीजिए। इसके लाभों को अधिकतम करने और इसके जोखिमों को कम करने के लिए आप कौन से नीतिगत उपाय सुझाते हैं? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Generative AI is the advanced version of Artificial intelligence which can generate content based on the ~~end~~ input given by a user.

Potential to transform various aspects of daily life

→ Increasing work productivity and efficiency;

→ Helps in generating new ideas;

→ Education: Short stories, specific and targeted learning material based on individual needs of children;

→ Healthcare

↳ predictive analysis;

↳ guidelines and suggestions for health and wellness;

→ Law → can help in researching

Various case laws in no time;

- Job search: accurate mapping of skills, cv refinement
- Refinement in E-mails, communication and other business strategies

Challenges associated with
Generative AI

1. "Bletchley Park" Declaration categorised Generative AI into "Frontier AI" which can potentially disrupt the Knowledge Economy;

2. Threat to white collar jobs
↳ like copywriting, legal research, underwriting

- As per IMF: It can take up 135 mn jobs in India alone in 5 years;

3. Plagiarism and unethical copying
↳ recent New York Times case

against hoogle;

4. Reducing critical thinking skills among students:- can just get their assignments done via chat GPT;
5. Threat to creative economy like creative writing, poetry etc.
6. Deep fakes and threat of mis information;

Policy measures to maximise benefits

1. Regulation based on different thresholds
2. Upskilling of workforce to make AI a supplement to their work
e.g. NASSCOM's PRIME Future Skills Programme
3. Regulating Plagiarism, copyright violations to detect; set up internal mechanisms
4. Global collaboration: e.g. Bletchley / Park Declaration

AI transcends humanity, future depends on how well we adapt to it rather than becoming its slave.

Feedback

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Q.17) Describe the major outcomes of the 28th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What were the major engagements of India in this conference? (15 marks, 250 words)

जलवायु परिवर्तन पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र फ्रेमवर्क कन्वेंशन (UNFCCC) के पक्षकारों के सम्मेलन (COP) के 28वें सत्र के प्रमुख परिणामों का वर्णन कीजिए। इस सम्मेलन में भारत की प्रमुख भागीदारी क्या थी? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

28th session of COP to UNFCCC
was conducted in Dubai in 2023
which set forth a new era towards
climate equity, climate justice
and climate financing.

Agenda of 28th COP → To bring consensus
on climate finance

→ conducting review and
audit of climate performance
post COP 27;

→ ensuring climate justice
for the most affected stakeholders

→ specific commitments,
promises and engagements among
the members in climate advocacy;

major outcomes of COP 28I. Performance Analysis

: Global stocktake report was adopted by the parties;

II. Climate Finance

: operationalization of Loss and Damage Fund to ensure climate justice for the most affected;

III. Operationalization of the Santiago networkIV. Lead IT 2.0

for leadership ⁱⁿ climate technology and collaboration with private sector;

India's engagementsI. Bilateral engagement:

India - UAE agreement in carbon credits and transfer;

II. ~~Double~~ Tripling its renewable energy commitments by 2030;

III. Adoption of climate justice in national legislation;

IV. Reaffirming India's Panchamrit commitments;

Way Forward

1. Reemphasizing CBDR-RC
: Common But Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities

2. climate leadership
- eg. ISA, osowoc,
Biofuel Alliance

India is the torchbearer in climate justice and can set up example for the world to follow.

Feedback

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Q.18) Explain the causes and impacts of landslides. Also, discuss the various measures to mitigate their impact, with a special emphasis on National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines. (15 marks, 250 words)

भूस्खलन के कारणों और प्रभावों का विवेचन कीजिए। साथ ही, राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (NDMA) के दिशा-निर्देशों पर विशेष जोर देते हुए, उनके प्रभाव को कम करने के विभिन्न उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

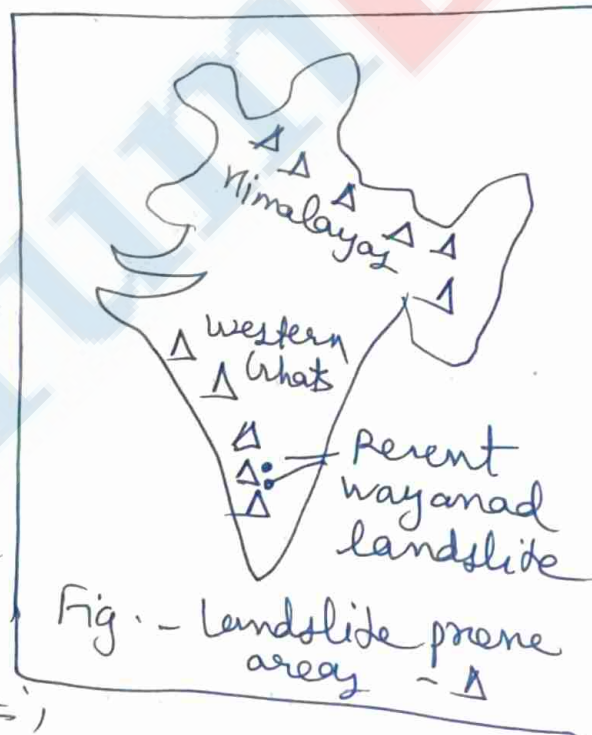
Landslides are defined as the sudden and rapid movement of soil surface, rocks, consolidated and un-consolidated deposits under the influence of gravity.

Causes of landslides:

A. Natural

1. Plate tectonics
- movement of plates past each other;
2. Preceding disaster like earthquake, volcanic eruption;

3. Excessive rainfall, Floods etc. which increases lubrication on the rock surface;



B. Anthropogenic

1. Deforestation - reduces barriers;
2. plantation agriculture: roots are not very deep;
3. Unplanned urbanisation (Madrass Committee)
4. encroachment and incessant infrastructure like tunneling, hydro power plants;

Impacts of Landslides

A. on Environment

- ↳ loss of biodiversity - fauna
- ↳ widespread mortality of animals, livestock;

B. on Humans

- ↳ 1. loss of lives and property;
- ↳ 2. Damage to agriculture;
- ↳ 3. significant damage to infrastructure;

C. Cascading effects

1. can trigger forest fires;
2. can cause breach of glacial lake - GLOF e.g. Sikkim - Lhonak lake

NDMA's National Disaster Risk Mitigation Plan

1. mapping and hazard zonation:
As per ASI, 12% of area is landslide prone - prepare micro-level zonation;
2. sustainable infrastructure creation;
3. Removing encroachments and following EIA
4. Disaster Response
↳ training of local workforce
e.g. Aapda Sakti Mitra
5. SOPs and local hierarchies
6. Technology like drones for surveillance and relief work
7. Build Back Better (Follow Gadgil committee recommendations)

landslides and other disasters are inevitable.
It is upto us to ensure mitigation
so as to protect lives and livelihoods.

Feedback

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Q.19) Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Highlighting the reasons for the continuance of LWE in certain pockets, suggest strategies to deal with this menace. (15 marks, 250 words)

वामपंथी उग्रवाद (LWE) में गिरावट का रुख देखने को मिल रहा है, लेकिन यह अभी भी देश के कई हिस्सों को प्रभावित कर रहा है। कुछ इलाकों में वामपंथी उग्रवाद (LWE) के जारी रहने के कारणों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इस खतरे से निपटने के लिए रणनीति सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Left wing extremism manifested by Naxalism is an ideology which doesn't believe in the idea of democracy and challenges public authority.

Downward Trend → As per Home minister's statement in Rajya Sabha, post the National Action Plan, LWE related activities and violence has reduced by 73%.

Still Affects many parts!

As per Home ministry, it is still prevalent in 90 districts across 11 states;



Fig. → LWE affected areas

Reasons for continuance of NKE in certain pockets

1. Socio-economic causes :
- lack of infrastructure, health
and education facilities creates
marginalisation;
2. External Funding and support
- e.g china, Pakistan
3. Linkages with insurgents
in North-East (ID Report)
4. Support by over-ground workers
in carrying out operations
5. Guerrilla warfare strategy
6. Lack of unified security
strategy :
→ Local police
→ CAPF
→ Army } Lack of
unified vision
7. Inadequate Centre-state
cooperation
8. Inadequate confidence
building measures
9. Continuance of organized
crime networks.

Strategies to deal with LWE

1. Development
 - creation of social infrastructure like PM Gram Sadak Yojana
 - Health and medicine e.g. Ganjam district in Odisha
 - Tele-medicine model
2. Job creation via MGNREGA;
3. Unified security mechanisms e.g. operation Asraam by Chhattisgarh Police
4. Deradicalisation and counter narrative e.g. Project Salwaam in Maharashtra
5. Regional cooperation
6. Effective surrender and rehabilitation policy (Borbaruah committee)
7. Local intelligence

A Nations projects its external strength in exact proportion to its internal security and stability, for it to so happen, Naxalism has to be nipped in the bud; (Prakash Singh)

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.20) Analyse how the adoption of emerging and disruptive technologies for money laundering is adding new layers of complexity to an already intricate issue. Also, highlight the measures taken to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels. (15 marks, 250 words)

विश्लेषण कीजिए कि मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग के लिए उभरती और विघटनकारी तकनीकों को अपनाने से पहले से ही जटिल मुद्दे में जटिलता की नई परतें कैसे जुड़ रही हैं। साथ ही, राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दोनों स्तरों पर मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग की समस्या से निपटने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Money laundering is a global menace, it is the process of channelizing black money via illicit sources and converting it into white money.

Role of emerging and disruptive technologies in increasing complexity of money laundering:

→ Placement	Stages
→ Layering	
→ Integration	

Emerging technologies → Blockchain
→ AI, IoT
→ Dark web

Increasing complexity:

1. Increased anonymity

- usage of dark web (Tor browser) to conduct money laundering
- 2. Defying Jurisdiction
 - technologies create a jurisdictional barrier
- 3. Dealing in cryptocurrency for money laundering takes it beyond the reach of Banks and security agencies;
- 4. usage of online payments mechanisms for hawala transactions
- 5. escaping surveillance mechanisms adopted by financial systems
- 6. use of cyber espionage and cyber terrorism as a linkage for money laundering
- 6. Increasing complexity of organised crimes like drug trafficking,

illegal arms trade, terror financing
etc. via money laundering.

Measures taken

A. National level

1. Law: Prevention of money laundering Act;
2. Attachment and Forfeiture of property
3. Financial intelligence via FTU-IND
4. Surveillance and reporting mechanism for banks;
5. Enforcement directorate

B. International level

1. Curbing terror financing via FATF black, grey list
 2. Compliance and reporting norms
 3. Extradition support
 4. Sanctions for organized crime networks and state-sponsored terrorism
- money laundering transcends jurisdiction
hence global and regional cooperation
is the key to tackle the same.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
S & F			
P & R			
Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			