

Time Allowed : Three Hours

समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250

अधिकतम अंक : 250

## GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Gaurav Chopra		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	191011207	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1901	Date/दिनांक	10-09-25

\*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. 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।	
1			2. There are <b>TWENTY</b> questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।	
2			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।	
3			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।	
4			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।	
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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :
			9:30 AM	12:00 PM
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
*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।			<b>For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु</b>	
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
			① ② ③ ④ ⑤	

**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.

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## EXAMINER'S REMARKS

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### 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) What is a 'Census'? Discuss the importance of Census for the economy and policy making. (10 marks, 150 words)

'जनगणना' क्या है? अर्थव्यवस्था और नीति निर्माण के लिए जनगणना के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Census, in India, refers to Dicennial practice of enumeration of citizens and their various socio-economic indicators. The last census happened in 2011 with the upcoming in 2026.

Census is under the Union List and is done by Registrar General.

Features of upcoming Census

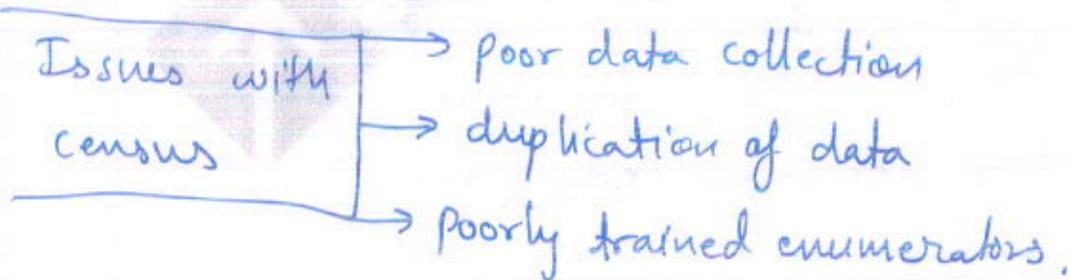
- First fully Digital census
- Contains Caste Census
- Provide for Self-enumeration.

The upcoming census is designed to overcome the limitations faced in the Socio-economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011.

Importance of Census → Economy & Policy Making

① Data Driven Policy making: census provides the micro-data → needed for effective design.

- ② Provides information for socio-economic indicators of citizen → help in better **tax** planning and expanding Tax base.
- ③ Determine demography of the country - age structure, spatial distribution for policy making.
- ④ Helps in Expenditure Planning and Budgeting for different regions and groups of citizens.
- ⑤ Social Sector Planning : is undertaken with the help of census → information about health, education, etc.



To combat the above issues, upcoming census would be participative and digitally enabled census.

**Feedback**

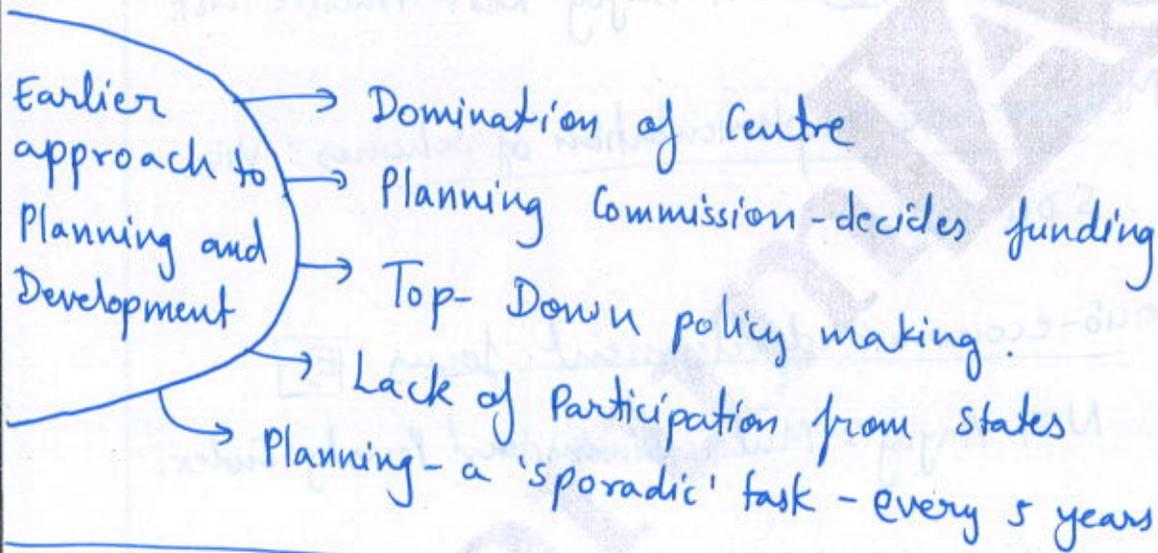
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#	G	A	P
AWIS			
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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.2) Assess the role of NITI Aayog over the past decade in transforming the country's approach to planning and development. (10 marks, 150 words)

देश के नियोजन और विकास के दृष्टिकोण को बदलने में पिछले दशक में नीति आयोग की भूमिका का आकलन करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NITI Aayog was made in 2015 by a government notification to replace the erstwhile Planning Commission.



## Transformation by NITI Aayog

- ① Enabled Participative planning: Team India Hub consisting of PM, CM of all states.
- ② Horizontal and Vertical integration: creation of various verticals to enable specialisation and coordination.

- ③ Development of schemes such as Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- ④ Bottom up approach with sharing of best practices. [Eg] NITI Aayog Best Practice List.
- ⑤ Monitor the implementation of schemes : Via SDA Index.
- ⑥ Socio-economic development focus : [Eg] NITI Aayog's Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index.
- ⑦ Long Term strategy and vision [Eg] Niti Aayog's India at 75 vision.
- ⑧ Enable Competitive federalism : [Eg] Composite Waste Mgmt Index (CWMI) and Ease of Doing Business - State Rankings.

Thus, NITI aayog's advisory role has shifted India's planning and development to role-focused.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.3) Discuss various measures taken by the Government to strengthen the Cooperative movement and ensure "Sahakar Se Samridhi". (10 marks, 150 words)

सहकारी आंदोलन को सशक्त करने और "सहकार से समृद्धि" सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए विभिन्न उपायों पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Year 2025 was declared as International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) by UNCTAD, in recognition of the role of cooperatives in pursuing inclusive growth and development.

## Various Measures taken to strengthen Cooperatives

- ① Fundamental Right: formation of associations and cooperatives is a fundamental right under Article 19 (1).
- ② Ministry of Cooperation: separate ministry to promote cooperatives, headed by the Home Minister.
- ③ Regulatory Measures: Cooperatives Bank under the dual supervision of RBI and Registrar of cooperatives.

④ Multi-State Cooperatives Act : by the union to promote democratic functioning of the multi-state cooperatives.

⑤ Promotion to Dairy Cooperatives and FPOs :  
 [Eg] Operation Flood and AMUL.

⑥ Creation of large Cooperatives for farmers like seeds based, etc.

## Analysis of the above measures

### Positives

- enabled growth of cooperative movement.
- India among the countries with largest no. of co-op.
- Better regulation of cooperative Banking.

### Negatives

- Cooperative Banks scam : Aardash Cooperative
- Politicisation of cooperatives
- Lack of inner democracy → controlled by few.

India must holistically upgrade its cooperative structure to combat the above negatives.

### Feedback

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#	G	A	P
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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.4) India remains significantly dependent on imports to meet its pulses demand. Examine the key challenges in achieving self-reliance in pulses. Also, mention the major government initiatives taken in this regard. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत अपनी दलहन की माँग को पूरा करने के लिए आयात पर काफी हद तक निर्भर है। दलहन में आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करने में आने वाली प्रमुख चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में उठाए गए प्रमुख सरकारी कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India is the largest producer, consumer and importer of pulses in the world, with its importing 20-30% of its annual demands.

Major imports and nations

- Tur : China.
- Gram : South Asia
- Moong : Egypt

## Key Challenges in Achieving Atmanirbharta

- ① Cereal-Centric Agriculture System : largest acreage towards production of Wheat and Rice.
- ② Lack of higher MSP : MSP is geared towards the rice-wheat system, disincentivise pulses.
- ③ Poor Storage and connectivity from farm to fork : lack of warehousing, cold-storage.

- ④ Muge wastage of Pulses : Shantakumar Committee : 30% of pulses wasted.
- ⑤ Lack of production : due to more competitive profits in horticulture, oilseeds.
- ⑥ Irrigation : 50% of agriculture is rainfall dependent. Major producers like MP, Rajasthan suffer from rain-deficit.

Government initiatives to promote Pulses

- ① Budget 2025 : Mission for Atmanirbharata in Pulses.
- ② Schemes like Kisan Rail, World Largest Storage Plan → for infrastructure and connectivity.
- ③ Higher MSP year-on-year for pulses.
- ④ Inclusion in PDS and Mid-Day meals by various states - Orissa, Jharkhand, etc.

Pulses are significant contributors towards overcoming Protein-deficiency and thus need to be promoted.

**Feedback**

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.5) What is a 'Black box'? Explain its significance in flight safety and airplane crash investigations. (10 marks, 150 words)

'ब्लैक बॉक्स' क्या है? उड़ान सुरक्षा और वायुयान दुर्घटना परीक्षण में इसके महत्व का वर्णन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Black Box has recently become prominent due to its role in uncovering the incidences of Ahmedabad Aircraft crash, 2025.

A Black Box refers to a data collector and preserver under which all the data related to flight is stored.

Data within Black Box

- sound recordings of Pilot
- data about flight control.
- State of flight and aircraft → fuels, motors, etc.

Role in Flight Safety and airplane crash investigations

① Aircraft crash sometimes obliterate complete airplane. Blackbox can provide clue to the reasons behind it.

- ② Lack of Survivors : Aircraft tragedies sometimes leave no survivors. Black box help as a reliable tool.
- ③ Contain information about flight control movement.
- ④ Help in establishing timeline of the events.
- ⑤ Help in preventing further crashes by providing information about reasons.
- ⑥ Ensure data based policy making for aircraft security.

Thus, Black Box provides pivotal role in protecting aircraft safety and preventing crashes.

**Feedback**

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.6) How does NISAR mission exemplify international cooperation in space exploration and scientific research? In what ways will it help in climate change monitoring and natural hazard management? (10 marks, 150 words)

NISAR मिशन अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण और वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग का उदाहरण कैसे प्रस्तुत करता है? यह जलवायु परिवर्तन की निगरानी और प्राकृतिक आपदा प्रबंधन में किस तरह से मदद करेगा? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NISAR Mission (NASA-ISRO Aperture Radar) refers to the satellite jointly developed by NASA and ISRO to study earth's climate.

## International Cooperation in exploration & research

- ① Joint Development
  - NASA → L Band
  - ISRO → S Band.
- ② Assembled and manufactured in USA but sent to space by ISRO.
- ③ Most expensive and technologically advanced exploration and observation satellite.
- ④ Operates in twin frequency → acquire even smallest detail upto 10 cm on earth's surface.

NISAR → Climate Change Monitoring & Hazard Management

- ① Provide information about ~~cryogenics~~ cryosphere glacial melting, snow and albedo.
- ② Information about Land use change, deforestation, desertification, etc.
- ③ Provide data about oxygen levels in ocean, phytoplankton growth, etc.
- ④ Atmospheric composition → change in gases, pollutants, etc.
- ⑤ Monitoring storms via focusing on cyclone formation.
- ⑥ Oversee changes in weather phenomena.
- ⑦ Guide resources management during disasters.

Thus, NISAR plays an important role in boosting international collaboration for climate change.

**Feedback**

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.7) While oceans are considered among mankind's best allies in the fight against climate change, they are themselves heavily impacted by the same. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

जबकि महासागरों को जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई में मानव जाति के सबसे अच्छे सहयोगियों में से एक माना जाता है, वे स्वयं भी इससे बहुत प्रभावित हैं। चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

70% of the earth's surface is covered by the ocean - making them our ally as well as the issue in mitigating climate change.

Ocean → best ally in Climate change

- ① Carbon dioxide absorption → 90% of excess CO<sub>2</sub> in atmosphere is absorbed by CO<sub>2</sub>.
- ② Contains repository of methane hydrates locked below ocean surface.
- ③ Source of Polymetallic nodules → important for critical minerals for renewable tech.
- ④ Renewable energy → solar panels on ocean, offshore wind turbines, OTEC plants provide renewable and green energy.

Heavily impacted by Climate Change

- ① Ocean Acidification → due to greater absorption of Carbon dioxide.
- ② Ocean Heatwaves → leading to damage to ocean's ecology.
- ③ Marine Pollution → microplastics, eutrophication, fertiliser runoff.
- ④ Ice melting → leading to sea level change and changes in oceanography.
- ⑤ Marine species → like corals → more sensitive to climate change.
- ⑥ Extreme weather events → coastal surges, storms on oceans, etc.

Thus, need to make ocean a partner in climate change and to mitigate its impact, to achieve SDG 14.

**Feedback**

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.8) "Disasters cannot be managed by a single agency, department, or ministry on its own. It requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach." Elucidate. (10 marks, 150 words)

"आपदाओं का प्रबंधन किसी एक एजेंसी, विभाग या मंत्रालय द्वारा अकेले नहीं किया जा सकता। इसके लिए संपूर्ण सरकार और संपूर्ण समाज के दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता होती है।" स्पष्ट करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Disaster Management Act has created the management architecture for Disasters by putting NDMA at its central role.

Cannot be managed by single agency, department or ministry on its own

- ① Inter-sectoral linkages : disasters impact society, economy, governance → need holistic approach
- ② Huge geographic size of India necessitates coordination between different states.
- ③ Lack of Capacity : a single agency will be overburdened by the volume and variety of disasters.
- ④ Huge cost in managing disasters require coordinated push to manage resource efficiency during disasters.

Disaster Management → Require whole-of-Govt approach

- ① Coordinated efforts of all ministries → overseen by Ministry of Home affairs.
- ② Creation of different departments to oversee specific disasters.
- ③ Coordination between centre, state and local govt to coordinate resources.
- ④ Convergence of efforts of NDMA, SDMA and DDMA to pursue management strategy.

Disaster Management → Whole-of-Society Approach

- ① Participation of Corporate stakeholders [Eg] Tata AID.
- ② Community engagement → as per NDMA, 60% of rescue in earthquake is done by locals.
- ③ Creating a culture of safety in society via mock drills, etc.
- ④ Teaching disaster management in schools.

Disasters cost 8% of GDP and thus require whole-of-country approach to counter them.

### Feedback

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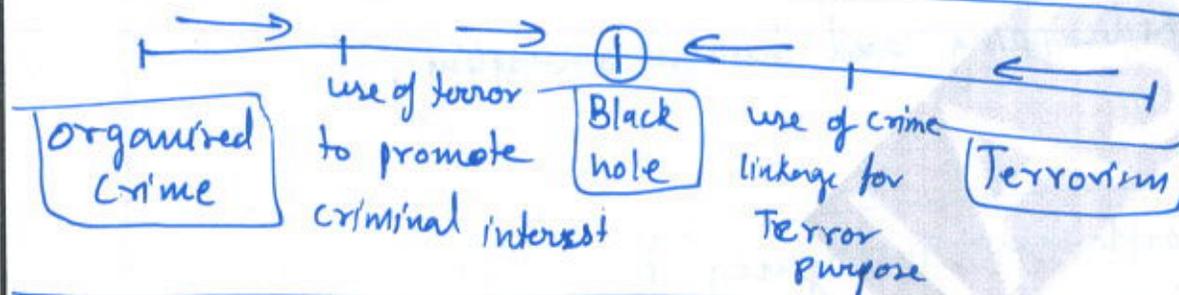
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS

Q.9) The convergence of organized crime and terrorism presents a formidable challenge to the country's internal security. Analyse. (10 marks, 150 words)

संगठित अपराध और आतंकवाद का संमिलन देश की आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए एक विकट चुनौती प्रस्तुत करता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Organised ~~crime~~<sup>Crime</sup> and Terrorism are converging to form a singular identity.



## Factors behind linkages

- Similar activities and methods → violence
- Require similar conditions to sustain → unemployment
- Convergence of interest → weak law & order

Convergence → formidable challenge to security.

## ① Jammu & Kashmir

- use of Fake currency notes by terrorism
- Drugs and smuggling by ISI-backed groups.
- explosives and intelligence by criminal groups.
- providing arms and ammunition.

## ② Left Wing Extremism

- Mawala networks and extortion by Naxals
- Gun-running and poppy-farming.
- Kidnapping and human smuggling.

## ③ North-east insurgency

- facilitating cross-border infiltration.
- acting as mules for drug smuggling.
- security to opium farmers.

## Other Challenges due to convergence

- support to bomb blasts by D company.
- Piracy operations → supported by terrorists.
- Organised crime facilitate access to routes.

## To counter above

- require stringent Laws → BNs on organised crime
- coordinate approach → NATGRID, MAC, NIA.
- information sharing → Interpol, CBI, etc.

### Feedback

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Q.10) In an era of complex security challenges, examine the ways in which the private sector can contribute to strengthening India's internal security. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

जटिल सुरक्षा चुनौतियों के इस युग में, उन तरीकों का परीक्षण कीजिए जिनसे निजी क्षेत्र भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ बनाने में योगदान दे सकता है। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

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**Feedback**

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.11) Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a transfer of surplus to the Union Government for the financial year 2024-25. What does 'surplus' mean in this context? How does the RBI generate it, and what is its significance for the country's fiscal policy? (15 marks, 250 words)

हाल ही में, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए केंद्र सरकार को अधिशेष राशि हस्तांतरित करने की घोषणा की है। इस संदर्भ में 'अधिशेष' का क्या अर्थ है? RBI किस तरह इसका सृजन करता है, और देश की राजकोषीय नीति के लिए इसका क्या महत्व है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Recently, RBI transferred the largest 'surplus' to the government of India for the year 2024-25.

## Meaning of Surplus

- Surplus refers to the higher profits accumulated by RBI. RBI performs various functions like printing of currency, giving loans to commercial banks, etc.
- These activities generate profit, which is deemed as 'surplus'.
- As the Union government owns the RBI, as its shareholders, RBI transfers the excess surplus to govt after making provisions.

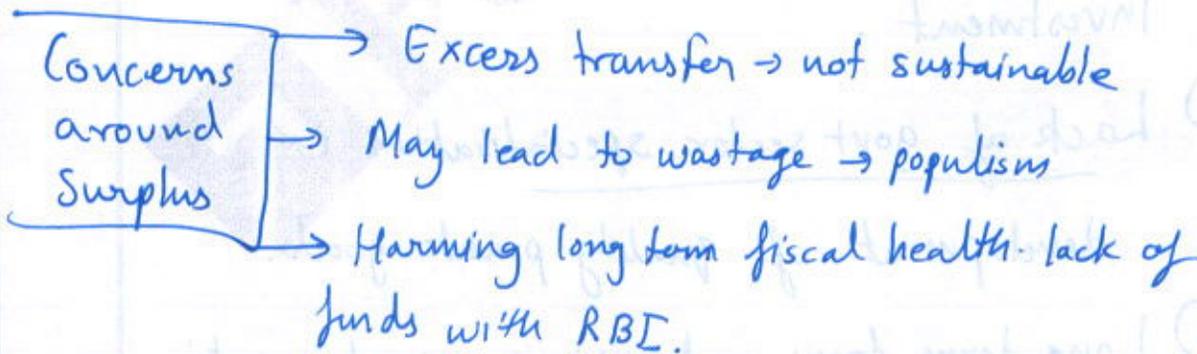
## Generation of 'Surplus' by RBI

- ① Seigniorage: Currency printing cost for ₹ 2000 is 1-3, so the excess value of currency accumulates with RBI.
- ② Loan given to Commercial Banks via Repo Transactions - generate Interest.
- ③ Loans given to foreign institutions, banks, etc.
- ④ RBI's deposits with other nations → Interest.
- ⑤ RBI's Loans to union government and state governments.

## Significance of Surplus for fiscal Policy

- ① Expand the fiscal capacity of Centre: through more funds from RBI.

- ② Greater expenditure for infrastructure and social sector spending via surplus
- ③ Reducing fiscal deficit of the government.
- ④ Reduces debt to GDP and ensures fiscal sustainability of govt.
- ⑤ Reduces dependence of loans for the govt and prevents crowding-out by privates.
- ⑥ In line with achieving targets of FRBM Act.



The RBI Act 1934 contains stringent provisions to protect RBI's autonomy and prevent the above concerns.

### 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.12) Examine the role of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in the development of ports in India. (15 Marks, 250 words)

भारत में बंदरगाहों के विकास में सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (PPP) मॉडल की भूमिका का परीक्षण करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Public Private Partnership (PPP) refers to the agreement of supply of public goods or facilities by the private parties or corporates. [Eg] Mundra Port developed by PPP - Adani.

### Need of PPP model in Port development

- ① Huge expenditure needs : high capital investment.
- ② Lack of govt sector specialisation in development of quality private goods.
- ③ Long term focus and mission mode work: private is more suitable → need profits to survive.

## Significance of PPP Model in Port Development

- ① Private Sector Efficiency : reducing the turnaround time at ports : [eg] Adani's Mundra Port.
- ② Increasing quality of service : via incorporating the latest technology available to the private sector.
- ③ Reputational need of Private sector leads them to provide best work.
- ④ Economical : private sector pursuing port development at economic cost.  
[eg] Development of JNPT.
- ⑤ Minimum Govt, Maximum governance : requires Ease of doing business → greater role of private sector.

Concerns with PPP model for Ports.

- ① Profit Maximisation strategy leads to compromise with ~~cost~~ quality.
- ② Rising costs due to project overruns.
- ③ Poor quality of services due to lack of effective check.
- ④ Allegations of Crony Capitalism: acquisition of ASPEZ by Adani.
- ⑤ Issues with PPP contract: long term lease, etc.

To tackle above challenges:

① Clarification of Public Sector role

- Designing Broad plan
- getting EIA clearance
- Ensure long term sustainability.

② Focus on Private Sector role

- Maintaining cost competitive
- Producing quality service
- Timely completion.

Sagarmala Scheme also promotes role of

PPP in port development.

**Feedback**

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.13) "Legalizing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) would create more challenges than it resolves." Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

"न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) को वैध बनाने से समाधान की अपेक्षा अधिक चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न होंगी।" टिप्पणी कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Minimum Support Price (MSP) refers to the provision of setting minimum price by the government below which a trader cannot acquire farmers' produce.

### Working of MSP

- Determining MSP via CCAC based on  $A_2 + FL$
- CCAC gives suggestion to Union government.
- Govt announces MSP before sowing season.

### Benefits of Legalizing MSP → resolve challenges

- ① Increase Farmers' income : NSSO says farmers' average income is ₹10000.
- ② Statutory Backing : ensure guarantee of remunerative price during bumper harvest.
- ③ Protects Farmers : from making distress sale.

- ④ Ensure sustainability of MSP regime : present adhoc system → raising MSP to suit political interests.
- ⑤ Ensure Judicial oversight : by giving legal force to MSP.
- ⑥ ~~Deter~~ Deter Traders and APMC to coercive distress sale to farmer.

## Legalising MSP → create more challenges

- ① Unsustainable : legalising MSP would entail creation of provisions by govt → huge cost.
- ② Low procurement capacity of govt : FCI godowns and stocks are in surplus.
- ③ Wastage of farmers' produce : due to lack of warehouse by govt.
- ④ Increase cost of agriculture → harmful to consumers.

- ⑤ Violates WTO : MSP itself is a Red Box subsidy → distort agricultural market.
- ⑥ Increase inequality : [Eg] Ashok Kumar committee says only 6% of farmers get MSP benefits.
- ⑦ Delay in procurement due to greater judicial oversight.
- ⑧ Does not increase farmer income holistically as MSP benefits only limited basket of commodities like cereals and pulses

## The Way Ahead:

- ① Implementing 'Doubling the Farmer Income' report of Ashok Dalwai.
- ② focusing on infrastructure → warehouse, cold storage
- ③ Improve connectivity → [Eg] Kisan Rail, PMGSY.
- ④ Promote livestock farming, horticulture, mariculture

Above steps would go a long way in increasing farmers income.

### Feedback

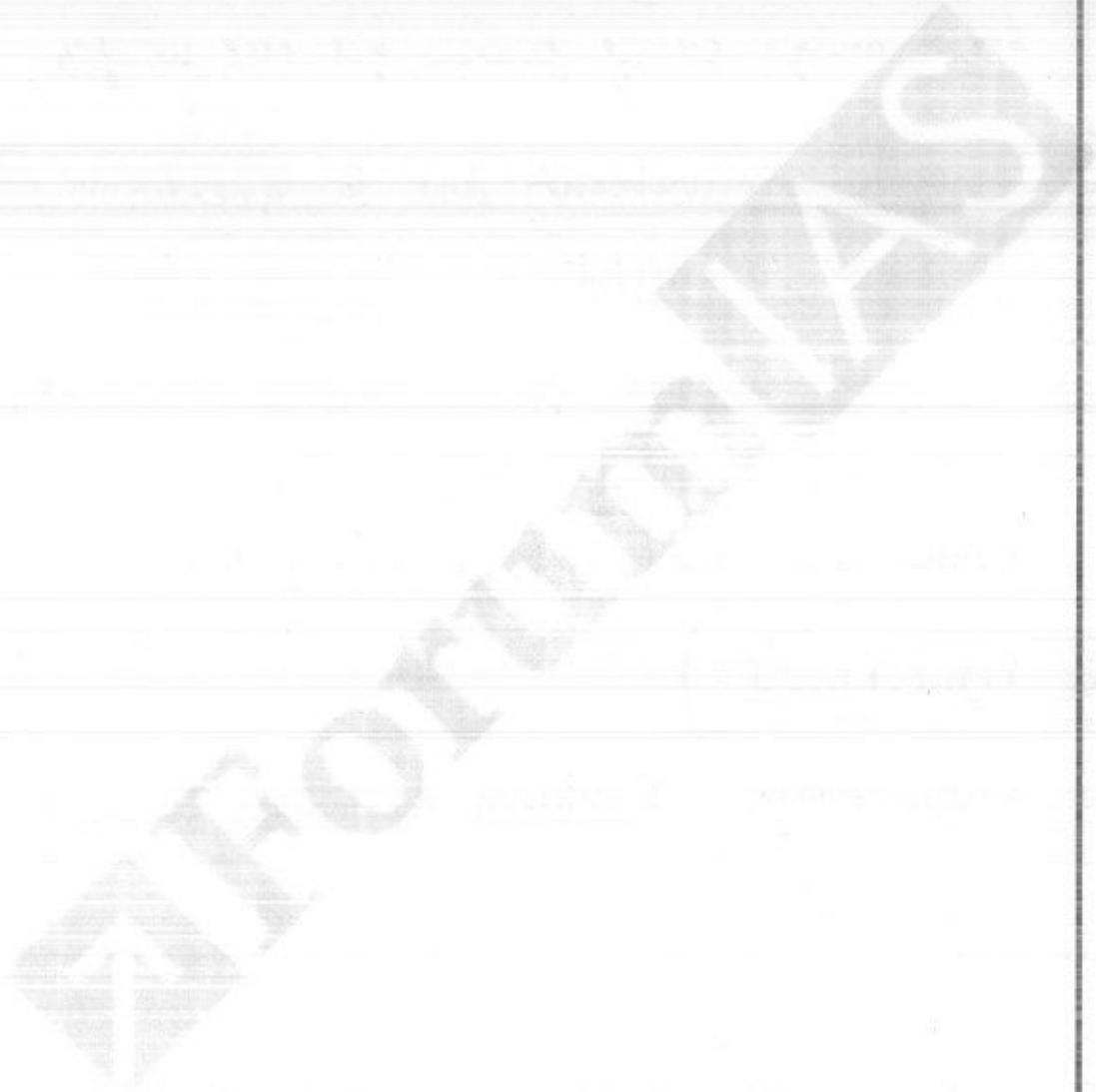
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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.14) Why does India's agricultural export performance remain weak despite high production levels? What measures would you suggest to improve agri-export competitiveness? (15 marks, 250 words)

उच्च उत्पादन स्तर के बावजूद भारत का कृषि निर्यात प्रदर्शन कमजोर क्यों है? कृषि-निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता में सुधार के लिए आप क्या उपाय सुझाएँगे? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)



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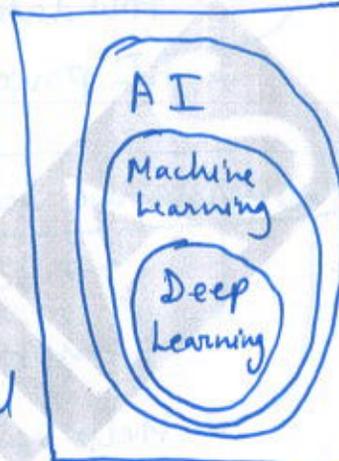
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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.15) How the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) can help India in its socio-economic development? Identify the hurdles in its large-scale adoption and suggest corrective measures. (15 marks, 250 words)

कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) का अनुप्रयोग भारत के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में किस प्रकार सहायक हो सकता है? इसके व्यापक पैमाने पर अपनाने में आने वाली बाधाओं की पहचान कीजिए और सुधारात्मक उपाय सुझाइए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the ability of the computer to think and process information like humans do. [Eg] Chat-GPT generates Artwork.



AI → is based on Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) → capacity to think like humans.

Applications of AI → socio-economic development

- ① **Health Sector** → pre-diagnostic tools.
  - ↳ decoding protein structures. [Eg] Alpha fold.
  - ↳ personalised health plans.
  - ↳ Vaccine discovery and anti-biotics.

- ② **Education Sector** → enable digital education.
  - ↳ Personalised e-education.
  - ↳ improve learning outcomes [Eg] Bhasini → AI translation.

- ③ **Economic Sector** → promote automated manufacturing
  - Increase GDP by 8-10% (NASSCOM).
  - improve productivity of labour.
  - Foundation of IR 4.0, big data analysis.
  - AI powered Kisan drones.
- ④ **Governance Sector** → identify tax avoidance
  - Better resource management.
  - Improve supply chain-logistics.
  - Help in decision making → processing large data.
- ⑤ **Skill Development** → personalized gamification of training.
  - AI workforce → greater resilient.

### Hurdles in large-scale adoption

- ① Poorly trained workforce : exposing workforce to job loss [eg] Infosys fired 14000 employees.
- ② Lack of indigenous LLM : western centric AI → lack of effectiveness in Indian context.

- ③ High Cost of GPU, AI professional, and AI infrastructure.
- ④ Lack of data to train AI on. AI requires huge amount of data.
- ⑤ Informalisation : 85% of workforce is engaged in informal sector → hurdle in adoption.
- ⑥ Limited Start-ups in deep tech sector like AI.

## For Corrective Measures:

- ① Invest into Indigenous AI development → India AI Mission (₹15000).
- ② Training and skill development → Future Skills Prime by NASSCOM.
- ③ Suitable AI governance → NITI Aayog's AI for All paper
- ④ Digitisation push : DILRMP.

Data is the oil of AI. Need to generate data of Indian-context to develop AI for socio-economic development.

### 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.16)** What is a Geographical Indication (GI)? What are the legal frameworks governing it? How does it differ from a trademark? How can GI infringement be tackled? (15 marks, 250 words)

भौगोलिक संकेतक (GI) से क्या अभिप्राय है? इसे नियंत्रित करने वाले विधिक ढाँचे को स्पष्ट करें? यह ट्रेडमार्क से कैसे भिन्न है? GI उल्लंघन से कैसे निपटा जा सकता है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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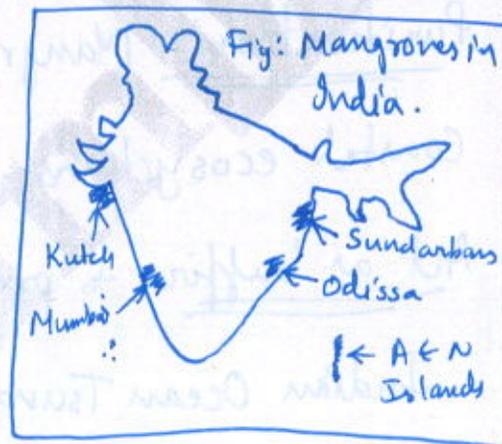
TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.17) "Mangroves contribute significantly to the coastal economy and ecology, but they are threatened by numerous factors". Elaborate. Also, state the measures taken by the government for mangrove conservation and restoration. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

"मैंग्रोव तटीय अर्थव्यवस्था और पारिस्थितिकी में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देते हैं, लेकिन वे कई कारकों से खतरे में हैं"। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, मैंग्रोव संरक्षण और बहाली के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए उपायों के बारे में भी बताएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

6% of India's region is composed of Mangrove forests. Mangroves refers to salt-tolerant species of trees ~~grow~~ growing in Tidal region.



## Contribution to Coastal Economy

① Provisioning Service: produce

food, fibre and fuel for communities.

[Eg] Sundari Trees in Sundarbans.

② Provide avenues for Fishing: Mangrove areas are breeding grounds of fishes.

③ Tourism: Mangrove forests acquire tourists.

④ Energy: 'Forest fuels' such as timber, etc.

⑤ Provide Coastal resilience during cyclone.

## Contributions to Coastal ecology

- ① Protection of species. [Eg] Tigers live in forests of Sunderbans.
- ② Ecological balance: integral part of Coastal ecosystem → home to keystone species.
- ③ Purification: Mangroves are the kidneys of Coastal ecosystems.
- ④ Act as buffer to protect ecology. [Eg] 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

## Threats to Mangroves

- ① Deforestation: felling of trees for fuels.
- ② Coastal Encroachment: for creation of infrastructure.
- ③ Rising sea level due to global warming → submerge low-lying mangrove forest.

④ Dumping of harmful waste : in mangrove forests → leeching of metals.

⑤ Invasive species : [Eg] L. Camera can displace mangrove supporting species.

## Measures taken by Govt.

① MISMTI Initiative : to promote mangrove forests → finance and support.

② NAPCC : to counter climate change and prevent global warming.

③ Reforestation initiatives : to prevent degradation of forests, mangrove regions.

④ Creation of Bio-barriers : to prevent pollution in mangrove forests.

Mangrove forests in India hold immense potential for protecting coastal economy and ecology. (SDG-14).

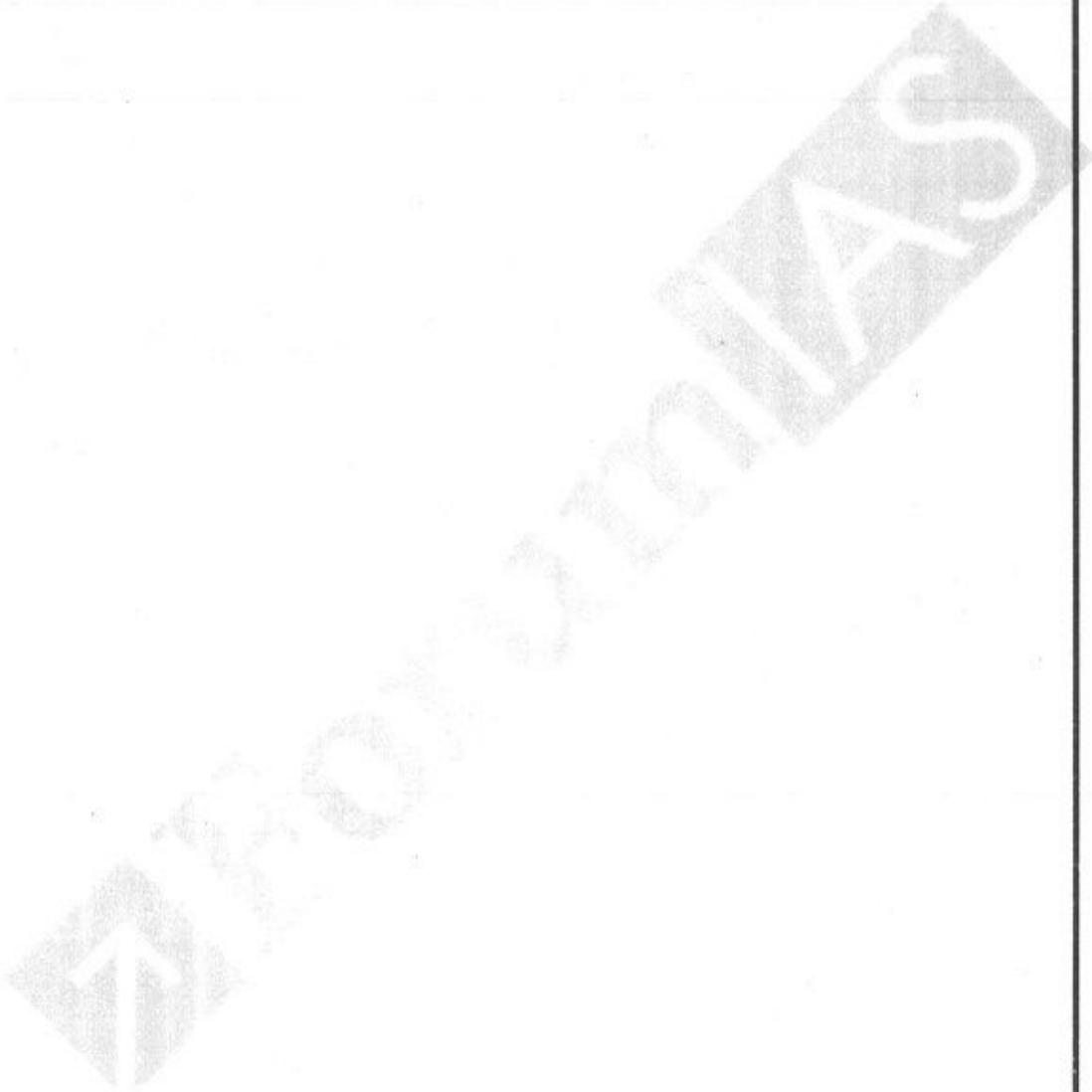
### Feedback

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

Q.18) What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is oil pollution particularly harmful for a country like India? (15 marks, 250 words)

तेल प्रदूषण (ऑयल पोल्यूशन) क्या है? समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर इसके क्या प्रभाव हैं? भारत जैसे देश के लिए तेल प्रदूषण किस प्रकार विशेष रूप से हानिकारक है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)



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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.19)** Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have become an integral aspect of modern conflict and warfare, employed by both state and non-state actors. Discuss its implications for India's security architecture and state the measures being taken to address them. Also suggest other steps to tackle the threats emanating from UAVs. (15 marks, 250 words)

मानव रहित हवाई वाहन (UAVs) आधुनिक संघर्ष और युद्ध का अभिन्न अंग बन गए हैं, जिनका उपयोग राज्य और गैर-राज्य दोनों ही प्रकार के अभिकर्ता करते हैं। भारत की सुरक्षा संरचना के लिए इसके निहितार्थों पर चर्चा करें और उन्हें संबोधित करने के लिए किए जा रहे उपायों का वर्णन करें। UAVs से उत्पन्न होने वाले खतरों से निपटने के लिए अन्य कदम भी सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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*This has the contour of 200 km  
 various threats  
 challenges  
 Maritime  
 Conventional threat  
 Infiltration & illegal  
 External State Actors : Pakistan  
 with 20 tanks  
 security challenges  
 China in Indian Ocean*

**Feedback**

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Q.20) Maritime security challenges are complex, driven by both conventional and non-conventional threats. In this context, discuss the key maritime security challenges in India. Also, highlight the measures taken by the government in this regard. (15 marks, 250 words)

समुद्री सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ जटिल हैं, जो पारंपरिक और गैर-पारंपरिक दोनों तरह के खतरों से प्रेरित हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में प्रमुख समुद्री सुरक्षा चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए उपायों पर प्रकाश डालें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India has the coastline of 7500 KM opening it to various threats and marine security challenges.

## Maritime security Challenges

### Conventional Threat

- ① Infiltration & illegal immigration: [Eg] 26/11 attackers entered via marine route.
- ② External State Actors: Pakistan's ISI ~~sends~~ sending terrorists.
- ③ Marine Conflicts: [Eg] Fisherman conflicts with Sri Lanka.
- ④ Security Challenge: [Eg] Naval ships of China in Indian Ocean.

## Non-conventional Threats

- ① Piracy Operations : [Eg] Houthis in Red Sea region.
- ② Smuggling and contrabands : to escape customs → organised crime.
- ③ Drugs smuggling : [Eg] £40000 cocaine impounded in 2023 via sea route.
- ④ Spying : [Eg] Chinese spy-ship at Hambantota port.

## Measures taken by Government

- ① Triple Security Architecture
  - ①.1 Police → at Coastal Areas.
  - ①.2 Coastal Patrols → near ~~Coast~~ Coast
  - ①.3 Indian Navy → High-seas.

- ② Deploying of Satellite for Indian Navy Needs.
- ③ NATGRID, MAC → to facilitate inter-agency communication about security challenges.
- ④ Modernisation of Patrol Vehicles : for Coastal Guards.
- ⑤ Aircraft Carriers : Induction of INC Vikrant.
- ⑥ Project 15-A, B : to develop frigates, Corvettes.
- ⑦ ID cards for farmers and fishing boats.

India's maritime boundary is a source of economic opportunities as well as security challenges → need to protect it.

### Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

### Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

#### Test Goal

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....

#### Outcomes

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....

### 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
20 Marker	7.75 - 10	6 - 7.5	< 6
	Key / Relevant Point		
	Vague / Irrelevant		

\* Subject to change without prior notice.

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Mentor Supported Test Series based  
Self Study Program for CSE Mains

MGP has helped thousands of Students in achieving their dream of clearing the Civil Services Examination through a robust test taking and feedback mechanism. At ForumIAS, you get the very same mentors who have mentored Aditya, Ishita, Shruti, Anudeep.

With MGP worksheets in MGP 2026, you will know *exactly* what to *study* for the exam and how to make notes that will help you ace the Mains examination. These worksheets will provide the much needed *hand holding* needed for freshers and beginners.

BATCH - 12

## PTS 2026

PRELIMS TEST SERIES

BATCH STARTS

24

AUGUST

ONLINE & OFFLINE

ENGLISH &  
हिंदी माध्यम

The most comprehensive Test based  
plan to learn and evaluate for CSE Prelims

The ForumIAS Prelims Test Series 2026 aims to prepare you for Civil Services Prelims 2026 in a structured, relaxed and comprehensive manner. It seeks for gradual and incremental progress over multiple levels coverage of static through NCERTs and recommended textbooks as well as coverage of current affairs for a period of 2 years. Different pattern & difficulty levels provide for sufficient practice to develop problem solving skills for prelims.

# FACTIFY

2025

Extra Miles  
for those  
Extra Marks..

Scan to Order



## Enhance Your Optional Performance in CSE Mains 2026

### Optional Answer Writing Focus Group (O-AWFG)

Coverage of syllabus through **36 answer writing tests** → Incremental study plan on **day-day** basis with **mentorship** → Test Discussion, Model Answers & Copy Evaluation

#### YOU SHOULD JOIN THE COURSE IF YOU

- ◆ Have Completed the Syllabus
- ◆ Need help in conceptual clarity & note making
- ◆ Seeking disciplined preparation

### Augmented Test Series (ATS)

Total 10 Tests (4 Sectional & 6 Full Length Tests) → One to One Mentorship with Faculty → Test Discussion, Model Answers & Copy Evaluation

#### YOU SHOULD JOIN THE COURSE IF YOU

- ◆ Want to attempt UPSC- level, full-length papers under the time limit
- ◆ Have completed the syllabus
- ◆ Want 300+ answers, fine-tuned speed, structure & value-addition

#### Faculty Recommends

For starters

- Write small, learn fast (O-AWFG) → then go full-scale (ATS)

Already confident with Optional basics and PYQs?

- You may enrol directly in ATS and jump straight into UPSC-level full-length mocks.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

PSIR

SOCIOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY

PUB AD

हिंदी साहित्य

O-AWFG (Batch-5)  
**11 AUGUST**

ATS (Batch-5)  
**17 AUGUST**