

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटेMaximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES /

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Mayank Purohit		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910182418	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	—	Date/दिनांक	

*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 /	
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 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।	
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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Total/कुल अंक	250		For Student Only /	
Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 2:00 PM	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 5:00 PM
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input 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।			For Office Use Only /	
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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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.

Instructions: All questions are compulsory. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. Quality of the answer is more important than the length of the answer.

निर्देश : सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। प्रत्येक प्रश्न द्वारा धारित अंकों को उसके सामने इंगित किया गया है। उत्तर की गुणवत्ता उत्तर की लंबाई की तुलना में अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है।

Q.1) Explain the significance of the recent changes made to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) with respect to labour market data estimation in the country. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

देश में श्रम बाजार डेटा आकलन के संबंध में आवधिक श्रम बल सर्वेक्षण (PLFS) में किए गए हाल के परिवर्तनों के महत्व को समझाइए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.2) Discuss the implications of the rising trend of protectionism and tariff wars in global trade for India's macroeconomic stability. (10 marks, 150 words)

वैश्विक व्यापार में संरक्षणवाद और टैरिफ युद्ध की बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति के भारत की व्यापक आर्थिक स्थिरता पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.3) "Genome-edited crops have the potential to strengthen food and nutritional security in the country." Examine. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

"जीनोम-संपादित फसलों में देश में खाद्य और पोषण सुरक्षा को सशक्त करने की क्षमता है।" परीक्षण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.4) Assess the role of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in expanding irrigation coverage and improving on-farm water use efficiency. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

सिंचित क्षेत्र का विस्तार करने और खेत पर जल उपयोग दक्षता में सुधार करने में प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना (PMKSY) की भूमिका का आकलन करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.5) Starlink, a satellite internet service provider, has recently been granted a license to operate in India. What is satellite internet? How does it work? What are its advantages and limitations? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

सैटेलाइट इंटरनेट सेवा प्रदाता, स्टारलिनक को हाल ही में भारत में परिचालन का लाइसेंस मिला है। सैटेलाइट इंटरनेट क्या है? यह कैसे काम करता है? इसके क्या लाभ और सीमाएँ हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.6) 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? (10 Marks, 150 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? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.7) What are the salient features of Mission Mausam launched by the Government of India? Why is such a mission needed? What are the likely challenges in its effective implementation? (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत सरकार द्वारा शुरू किए गए मिशन मौसम की मुख्य विशेषताएँ क्या हैं? ऐसे मिशन की आवश्यकता क्यों है? इसके प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में संभावित चुनौतियों का वर्णन करें? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.8) Highlight the key provisions of the Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025. How would the amendment help strengthen the disaster management framework in the country?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

आपदा प्रबंधन (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2025 के प्रमुख प्रावधानों पर प्रकाश डालिए। यह संशोधन देश में आपदा प्रबंधन ढाँचे को सुदृढ़ करने में किस प्रकार सहायक होगा?

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.9) 'Operation Sindoor' signals a strategic evolution in India's approach to cross-border terrorism. Analyze.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

'ऑपरेशन सिंदूर' सीमा पार आतंकवाद के प्रति भारत के दृष्टिकोण में एक रणनीतिक बदलाव का संकेत देता है। विश्लेषण करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.10) 'Cyberspace has emerged as a distinct domain of warfare, posing serious threats to national security.' Discuss this statement and suggest counter-measures.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

'साइबरस्पेस युद्ध के एक विशिष्ट क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है, जो राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए गंभीर खतरा पैदा कर रहा है।' इस कथन पर चर्चा करें और सुरक्षात्मक उपाय सुझाएँ।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.11) What are the key objectives of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016? To what extent has it been successful in achieving them?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

दिवाला और शोधन अक्षमता संहिता (IBC), 2016 के प्रमुख उद्देश्य क्या हैं? यह उन्हें प्राप्त करने में किस हद तक सफल रहा है?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.12) Despite phenomenal growth in recent years, India's startup ecosystem lags in innovation across strategic sectors. Identify the factors responsible for this inadequate focus on deep-tech and suggest strategies to bridge this gap.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

हाल के वर्षों में अभूतपूर्व वृद्धि के बावजूद, भारत का स्टार्टअप पारितंत्र रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों में नवाचार के मामले में पिछड़ रहा है। डीप-टेक पर इस अपर्याप्त ध्यान के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों की पहचान करें और इस अंतर को पाटने के लिए रणनीतियाँ सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.13) What is floriculture? How is it helpful in enhancing farm income and boosting agri-exports?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

फूलों की खेती क्या है? यह कृषि आय बढ़ाने और कृषि निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने में कैसे सहायक है?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.14) "Women play a crucial role in Indian agriculture, yet continue to face systemic exclusion." Discuss with reference to land ownership, access to credit, and agri-extension services. What initiatives has the government taken in this regard?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

'महिलाएँ भारतीय कृषि में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं, फिर भी उन्हें व्यवस्थागत बहिष्कार का सामना करना पड़ता है।' भूमि स्वामित्व, ऋण तक पहुँच और कृषि-विस्तार सेवाओं के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या पहल की हैं?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.15) Launched on 25th June 2025, the Axiom-4 (Ax-04) mission has been much in the news since then. What are the key features of the mission? What significance does it hold for the Gaganyaan project and India's long-term space ambitions? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

25 जून 2025 को लॉन्च होने वाला एक्सओम-4 (Axiom-4; Ax-04) मिशन तब से ही काफी चर्चा में है। इस मिशन की मुख्य विशेषताएँ क्या हैं? गगनयान परियोजना और भारत की दीर्घकालिक अंतरिक्ष महत्वाकांक्षाओं के लिए इसका क्या महत्व है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.16) Energy storage technology is one of the major components of renewable energy integration and decarbonization of world energy systems. Briefly discuss any three such technologies, citing their key merits and demerits. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

ऊर्जा भंडारण तकनीक, विश्व ऊर्जा प्रणालियों के नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा एकीकरण और कार्बन-मुक्तिकरण के प्रमुख घटकों में से एक है। ऐसी किन्हीं तीन तकनीकों की संक्षेप में चर्चा कीजिए और उनके प्रमुख गुण-दोषों का उल्लेख कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.17) Global Pandemic Agreement (2025) recognizes the 'One Health' approach as critical to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. Highlight the key features of the agreement and elaborate on how the One Health approach can help in preventing future pandemics. What steps are needed to integrate this approach into India's environmental and health governance? (15 marks, 250 words)

वैश्विक महामारी समझौता (ग्लोबल पैडेमिक एग्रीमेंट, 2025) महामारी की रोकथाम, तैयारी और प्रतिक्रिया के लिए 'वन हेल्थ' दृष्टिकोण को महत्वपूर्ण मानता है। इस समझौते की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालिए और विस्तार से बताइए कि वन हेल्थ दृष्टिकोण भविष्य की महामारियों को रोकने में कैसे मदद कर सकता है। भारत के पर्यावरण और स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन में इस दृष्टिकोण को एकीकृत करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.18) The frequency and intensity of heatwaves, particularly in urban centres, have increased in recent years. Describe the various causes and effects of heatwaves. What policies and frameworks have been adopted in India towards extreme heat risk management? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

हाल के वर्षों में, विशेष रूप से शहरी क्षेत्रों में, हीटवेव की आवृत्ति और तीव्रता में वृद्धि हुई है। हीटवेव के विभिन्न कारणों और प्रभावों का वर्णन कीजिए। भारत में अत्यधिक ऊष्मा के जोखिम प्रबंधन के लिए कौन सी नीतियाँ और ढाँचे (फ्रेमवर्क) अपनाए गए हैं? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.19) Discuss how emerging technologies and globalization contribute to terror financing. Elaborate measures to tackle the menace of terror financing both at national and international levels. (15 marks, 250 words)

चर्चा कीजिए कि उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियाँ और वैश्वीकरण किस प्रकार आतंकवाद के वित्तपोषण में योगदान करते हैं। राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय दोनों स्तरों पर आतंकवाद के वित्तपोषण के खतरे से निपटने के उपायों पर विस्तार से चर्चा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.20) Explain the key components of the National Policy and Action Plan (2015) that have contributed to the significant decline of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE). What additional steps would you suggest to eliminate LWE in the near future? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

राष्ट्रीय नीति एवं कार्य योजना (2015) के उन प्रमुख घटकों का वर्णन कीजिए जिन्होंने वामपंथी उग्रवाद (LWE) में उल्लेखनीय गिरावट में योगदान दिया है। निकट भविष्य में वामपंथी उग्रवाद को समाप्त करने के लिए आप कौन से अतिरिक्त कदम सुझाएंगे? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अनिश्चित कुछ न लिखें।

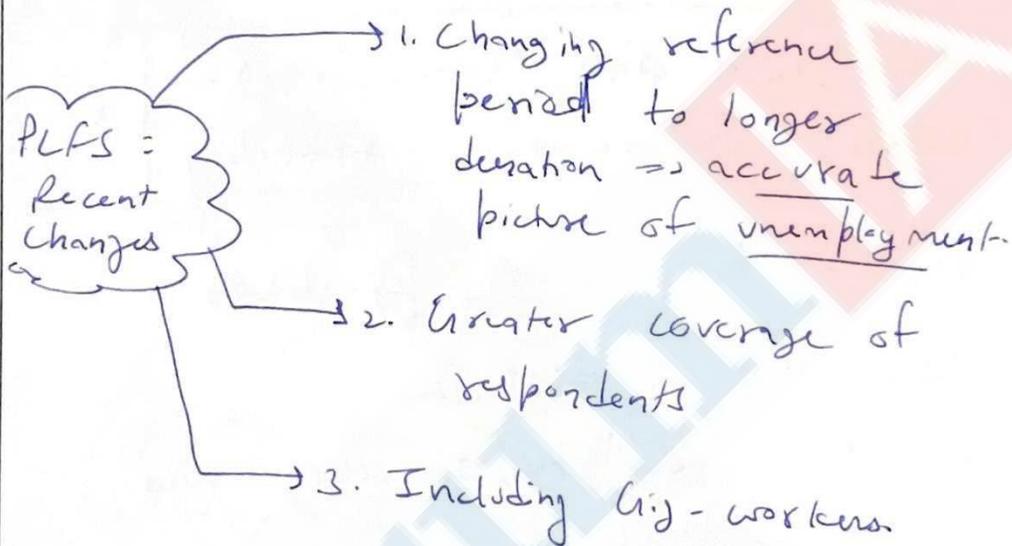
UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस छात्रिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
Candidates must not write on this margin

Q.1

Periodic Labour force Survey (PLFS) is the premier survey for labour market and employment.



PLFS changes: Impact

1. Accuracy of figures

↳ usual status approach missed employment in longer term.

2. More representable data

↳ including greater participants

These changes will ensure PLFS continues to be relevant in changing labour market

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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उम्मीदवारों को इस स्थान में नही लिखना चाहिए।
Candidates must not write on this margin

Q2

Recent policies of USA under Mr. Trump have created ripples in global trade.

Protectionism and Trade wars:
India's macroeconomic stability

1. Threat to exports \rightarrow ex. USAs
25% penalty on India.
 \rightarrow May reduce guns, Jewellery and pharma exports.
2. Outflow of capital \rightarrow 5 year Net low, FDI of 0.5 billion \$.
3. Slowdown in growth \rightarrow possible impact of 2-3% on GDP growth (IMF)
4. MSMEs : vulnerability to shocks
 \rightarrow 45% of exports share

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

5. Re-shoring of firms to host countries \Rightarrow will lead to destruction of jobs.

6. Impact on internationalisation of rupee (Foreign Trade Policy 2023)
 \rightarrow Protectionism will discourage rupee use.

7. Inflation due to counter-tariffs
 \rightarrow affect disposable incomes \rightarrow less savings
 \uparrow Low GDP \leftarrow low investment \leftarrow

8. Dumping of goods (eg. steel) leading to unfair competition.

Way ahead ① Bilateral deals without compromising national interests.

② Diversity export basket

These will ensure the trade wars have limited impact on India's economy.

Q.3

Genome-edited or GE crops are crops whose genes have been altered through removal, modification or addition without introducing foreign genes.

GE crops: potential

1. Enhance field rates of crops
eg. GE rice by ICAR.
2. Produce drought tolerant crops
↳ overcome effects of climate change.
3. Enhance nutritional profile
eg. Golden rice containing vitamin A
4. Resistance to herbicides and pesticides
↳ prevent impact due to pests.
5. Better absorption of nutrients
↳ increase efficiency of meats.

6. Enhance Shelf-life \Rightarrow suitable for production and processing

eg: Ready to eat meals

However, there are some concerns:

1. Speedy trials risk exposure to potential toxins.

2. Reduction in Biodiversity
eg: Bee Pollination reduced in sterilized plants

3. Gene pollution \rightarrow due to breeding in nature \Rightarrow may have adverse consequences.

Way ahead

1. Timelines for trials \rightarrow fines for violation

2. Awareness about benefits and risks.
 \hookrightarrow demonstration drives on fields.

There is a need to reap the benefit of GE crops to combat hunger (both visible and hidden).

Q4

PMKSY was launched to increase coverage of irrigation (only 52%) and increase water use efficiency (only 37%).

PMKSY: expanding irrigation

1. Covering rain-fed region
↳ introducing water harvesting
2. Drought tolerant crops in arid regions are promoted
3. Targeting rice fallow areas in Rabi season → adequate soil present.

PMKSY: increasing water use efficiency

1. Promoting micro irrigation through subsidies → 45% water savings (Balwari Panel)
2. Pani-panchayats to manage existing sources using bwarabandi system

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3. Assessment of water table and depletion levels \Rightarrow data based decisions and targeting.

However, there are limitations

1. Low penetration of micro-irrigation \Rightarrow only 14 Mha against 70 Mha potential
2. Lack of draught tolerant seed varieties.
3. Poor yields in ~~rain~~ areas due to poor soil \Rightarrow discourage irrigation costs.
4. Low capital subsidy \Rightarrow replacement of equipment & repair is costly.
5. Subsidised rates for electricity and surface water \Rightarrow poor investment in micro irrigation.

These measures needs to be tackled by partnering with Israel which has expertise in micro-irrigation.

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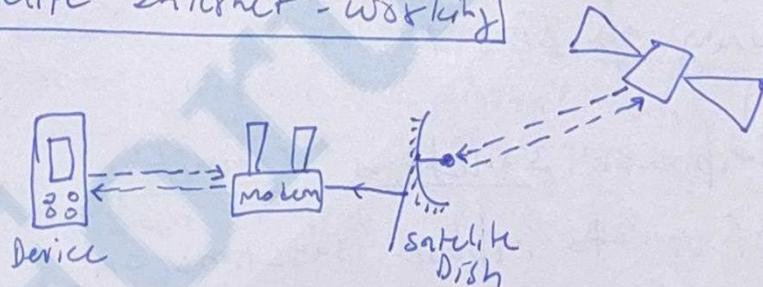
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Q.5

Starlink, owned by billionaire Mr. Elon Musk, will soon start operations in India after govt. approval.

Satellite Internet : Internet which is based on communication with satellites instead of ground based wired networks.

Satellite Internet : working



→ A ground based station sends and receives data from satellite.

→ This is linked to a modem which provides internet connection to the device such as mobile.

Satellite Internet : Advantages

1. No need of pre-existing infrastructure

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→ Suitable for remote regions.

2. Military use: Difficult to Jam by enemy due to proximity of satellite to earth (GPS can be jammed)

↳ Used by Ukraine against Russia

3. Reliability in event of disasters

↳ not dependent on ground infrastructure

Satellite internet: Limitations

1. Lower bandwidth and higher latency than fibre networks and 5G.

2. Prone to disruption by clouds.

3. High costs on per user basis
↳ not Affordable in rural regions.

4. Dependency on limited vendors
↳ near monopoly of Starlink.

India should take measures to use these services in sustainable use cases such as during disasters

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Q.2

Geographical Indication refers to the identification of a product based on its geographical origin.

GI is given to ~~protect~~ safeguard authenticity of the product and its unique production methods.

Legal Frameworks for GI

- ① GI (Registration) Act lays down procedures regulating GI tags.
- ② All the matters are dealt with by Registrar general of patents at Chennai.

GI vs trademark

GI

① Associated with location

Trademark

① Associated with a brand or logo.

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- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. No exclusive rights of use to people
(Can be used by anyone in the region) | 2. <u>Exclusive rights</u> to use by brand. |
| 3. Given by govt. on discretion | 3. Applied for by a the brand, No govt. discretion |
- ⇒ Both are renewable after every 10 years.

Tackling GI infringement

1. Using e-reporting of infringement.
 2. Awareness creation. eg. IP vani and IP chhotu on youtube.
 3. Increase punishment and finer for violation
 4. Use barcodes for verifying authenticity.
- These measures will ensure unique heritage of products is safeguarded.

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Q.7

Mission Mausam is launched by govt. of India to better predict the weather in the subcontinent.

Mission Mausam: features

1. Developing India based weather prediction models
2. Increasing no. of ground based doppler radars.
3. Better monitoring through state-of-the-art ground stations.
4. Satellite based inputs for long-term prediction.

Mission Mausam: Need

1. Effect of weather prediction on agriculture \Rightarrow affects sowing of crops
2. Used by fisherman for navigation

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3) Disaster management and prediction
of cyclones.

4) Citizen services related to weather
organising open-ground events need
predictions.

Misson Mausam : likely challenges

1) Limited data collection in ground
Stations.

2) Low infrastructure and radars

3) Limited no. of skilled human
resources.

4) Low academia collaboration on
weather research

5) Will require global collaboration
↳ effect of el-nino, la-nina etc.

Thus, there is a need to develop
a pool of skilled human resource along
with global collaboration for effective
implementation of project mausam.

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Q.8

Disaster Management (Amendment) Act has been recently passed by parliament under its residuary powers as per VIIth schedule.

Key Provisions

1. Statutory status to National Crisis management committee (NCMC)
2. Broaden role of NDMA → can prescribe minimum standards of relief.
3. Included man-made disasters in definition of disaster (terrorism, law and order is included)
4. Permits members of NDMA to undertake day-to-day decisions (without vice-president)
5. Mandatory SDRF in states

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Amendment: Strengthen Disaster Management

1. Better coordination of bodies → NDMA, NMC and NCC due to Statutory Status.
2. Enable uniform standards of relief by NDMA
3. Swift disaster response by states
↳ many states do not have SDRF
↳ Rely on NDRF → leads to delays.
4. Recognises anthropogenic effect on nature eg. Disasters caused by Infrastructure projects (eg. Flooding by Dams)
5. Continuous functioning of NDMA
↳ No vice-president in NDMA in recent years

Thus, the amendment will ensure focus shifts to prevention of disaster rather than cure

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Q.9 Op. Sindoor was ~~was~~ started by India in response to brutal terror attack of Pahalgam.

Operation Sindoor: Strategic evolution

1. Change in India's policy
(PM statement on op Sindoor)

a.) No distinction between terrorism and its state sponsors.

b.) No tolerance for nuclear blackmail

c.) Blood and water would not flow together → suspension of IWT.

2. Lowering threshold for confrontation

↳ may Action against Pakistan

for terror attacks.

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3- Mobilize international support for
India's stand → All party groups
in countries holding press conferences.

4. Response to terror on India's
own terms → No cumbersome
investigations as in 2011 attacks
↳ thwarted by Pakistan's lies and
cover ups.

5. Using policy of maximum pressure
↳ JNT remains suspended.
↳ Trade ties revoked.
↳ Visas of Pakistan nationals
cancelled.

These efforts will ensure a swift
reply to Pakistan sponsored terror
in our territories.

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Q.10 According to a report by Symantec, India is the 3rd most vulnerable country to cyberattacks.

Cyber-space - distinct domain of warfare

1. Rise in cyber-attacks ⇒ eg: AIIIMS attack of 2023.
2. Use in warfare ⇒ eg: Pakistan Sponsored attack during op. Sindoor.
3. Targeting critical infrastructure
⇒ wanna-cry worm in Kundankulam power plant.
4. Affect economic security
⇒ Attack on Mumbai local trains system.
5. Use of non-state actors
↳ low cost but high ^{damage} ~~effective~~ to target

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Cyber-space ⇒ counter measures

1. Develop offensive capabilities
↳ to build deterrence.
2. Securing existing infrastructure
↳ using private enterprise (PPP mode)
3. Separate cadre of Indian Cyber services for renewed focus.
4. Coordination between agencies
Such as CERT-in, NCIIPC, IUC, etc.
5. Integrate cyber warfare in all three armed forces
6. Investment in R&D eg. Quantum key Distribution technology

These measures are needed in the times of hybrid warfare → spanning across all forms of communication.

Q.11

IBC, 2016 was introduced to streamline insolvency proceeding under SARFAESI Act which were cumbersome and time consuming.

IBC = objectives

1. Reduce delays in insolvency and bankruptcy cases. \Rightarrow strict timelines (330 days)
2. Greater say of creditors in proceedings through Committee of Creditors.
3. Free up productive assets and recycle them back to economy.
4. Promote Ease of Doing Business in India.
5. Address 'Chakravarty challenge' (Economic survey) \Rightarrow Easy to get in, difficult

to get out of business.

~~However~~ IBC : Successes

1. Increased resolution rate to around 47%.
2. Reduced time taken for resolution to less than 400 days.
3. Higher recovery rate of assets \rightarrow due to ~~an~~ oversight by Committee of Creditors.
4. Pre-packed insolvency for MSMEs
 \hookrightarrow owner-in-charge model during proceedings
5. Solved huge amount cases such as ILPS, Bhushan Steel, etc.

However, there are concerns,

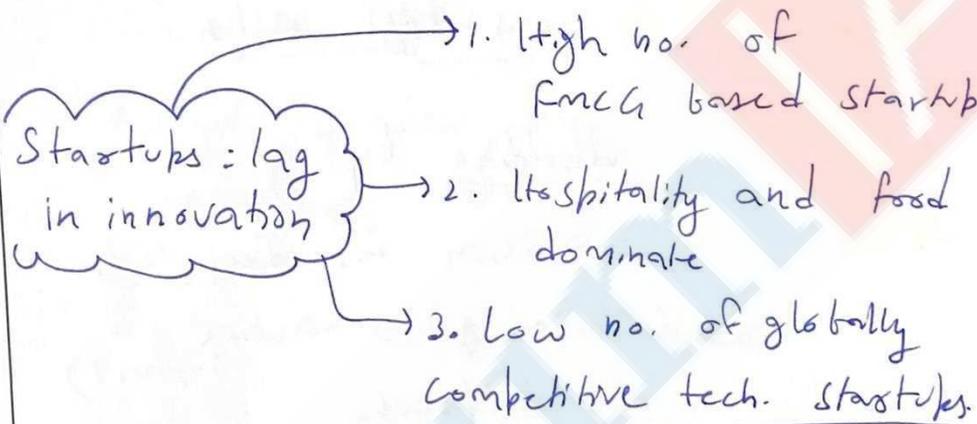
IBC: Limitations

- ① Lower recovery rate if large cases are removed only 30-32%
- ② frequent appeals leading to stay on proceedings (EJ Bhushan steel case in SC.)
- ③ low number of Insolvency Professionals available \Rightarrow banks resort to SARFAESI \Rightarrow more time taken.
- ④ Losses to banks \Rightarrow high undercutting of loans in resolution.

Way ahead

- ① Separate board for cases above a threshold \Rightarrow less time but high impact.
 - ② Penalty on debtor and creditors in case of delays.
- These will ensure timely resolution of Assets

Q.12 India's startup ecosystem has grown exponentially with more than 1 lakh startups and 100 Unicorns (> 1 billion \$)



Startups limited innovation : factors

1. Low differentiation → many startups initiate existing ideas by failure of Dunzo.

2. Low survival rate → only 10% survive for more than 5 years.

↳ Deep tech requires high gestation of invested capital

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- 3) Lack of diverse funding sources
→ eg. Bond market → only 17% of GDP
- 4) Low support by incubators →
deep tech involves high risks
- 5) Lack of handholding by govt
↳ No specific mission for deep tech.
Startups (China gives active support)
eg- deepseek
- 6) Low R&D ecosystem
→ low expenditure (only - 0.64%
S. Korea - 4.67%)
→ limited Industry academia
collaboration.

These concerns require
holistic strategy

- 1) Separate pillar for Deep Tech,
in ANRF with dedicated team
of experts.

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2. Incentivise deep-tech => enable contracts by govt. (eg: Agnikul) making 3D printed engine.
3. Streamline IPR regime
↳ single window mechanism with safeguards.
4. Global collaboration under initiatives such as iCET with USA
↳ utilize dominance of USA in AI.
5. Initiate govt.-backed - private driven research => funds by govt., enterprise by private.

These measures will ensure India's startup ecosystem becomes the next silicon valley of the world.

Q.13

Floriculture refers to cultivation of floral plants for ornamental and industrial purposes.

Floriculture is a significant part of horticulture, having great potential.

Floriculture : enhancing farm income

1. Reduce input use and costs

↳ requires less water than wheat and rice.

2. Better yield and cropping intensity

3. Higher prices for produce

↳ not regulated or affected by MSP (like wheat & rice)

4. Demand by Processing industry

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→ ~~ex~~ Pharma industry uses flowers for chemicals

5. Less restrictive than ~~AA~~ foodgrains (APMCs of states do not include floriculture)

Floriculture = boosting agri-exports

1. Demand in developed markets

~~ex~~ EU, UK, USA.

2. Less prone to Phytosanitary and Sanitary measures (unlike food)

3. Diversification of ~~food~~ export basket \Rightarrow Dominated by Rice and Marine products -

4. Higher value addition possible

\rightarrow only 16% products are currently value added (in agri-exports)

5) Tap trade opportunities → Tariffs
by USA ⇒ more markets for India.

Floriculture → Case Study

- 1) Krishnanagar district administration backed floriculture in Karnataka.
- 2) Micro-Irrigation → used to reduce Input use.
- 3) Processing clusters for value addition.
- 4) e-Auction of flowers through bidding.

Result → Increase in income of farmers with higher exports.

→ Many women found employment.

Such initiatives need to be replicated in other regions to reap the potential of floriculture.

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24

Due to migration of labour to urban areas, India is witnessing feminisation of agriculture in recent times.

Women : Systemic Exclusion

I. Land ownership

- ① ~~only~~ 30% rural households have no land \Rightarrow only 13-14% women have land in their name.
- ② Lack of awareness on inheritance laws.
- ③ Social and familial pressure to avoid ownership claims.

II. Access to credit

- ① Lack of collateral \Rightarrow No land \downarrow
lower income \leftarrow NO credit \leftarrow No collateral

② Poor financial literacy → prevents financial inclusion.

③ Limitations of SHGs ⇒ Dominated by few members

III. Agri-extension

① Focus ~~are~~ of services on mechanisation
↳ not women friendly

② Does not account for gender patterns.

Govt. Initiatives for inclusion

① Lakshmi Didi scheme ⇒ rural women to earn livelihood (eg. Drone Didi and Salar Didi in agriculture).

② Changing status quo ⇒ eg. women as head of household in National Food Security Act.

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3. Promoting secondary agriculture
↳ employment to women

4. PSL norms for small and
marginal farmers → includes
women.

5. Support to Agri-startups led by
women eg. Jashkare in Jash Chatisgarh.

These initiatives needs to be backed
by sensitisation of people towards
women farmers.

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Q.

Arion-4 mission is part of NASA's Axtemis program for global cooperation in space exploration

Arion-4 mission

1. Team of Astronauts from various countries such as India, Hungary etc.

2. Target to reach International Space station for experiments.

3. Country-specific experiments launched.
Eg. Experiment on cowpea by ISRO with Shubhanshu ~~Shukla~~ Shukla.

Arion-4 → Significance for Gaganyaan

1. knowledge of human space flight and technology

2. Identify hazards of space
eg. High radiation exposure.

3. Training of crew for Gaganyaan

4. Studying and coping with micro-gravity

eg. Body loses 10% mass every month.

5. Collaboration with NASA for Gaganyaan.

Amir-4 = Long term ambitions

1. India's goal to have own Space station by 2035

↳ Studying viability and technology.

2. Goal of sample return mission from moon (Chandrayan-4)

→ need to have docking - undocking tech. (in Amir-4)

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- 3) Studying long-term exposure of human bodies in space
↳ needed for human mission to moon
- 4) Attract private sector players and buyers ⇒ Shubhankshu Shukla as face of space based economy.
- 5) Build soft-power of nation
↳ needed for efficient collaboration in future.

Thus, Anam-4 mission paves way for India's ambitions in the space sector.

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High variability of ~~non~~ renewable energy makes it difficult to use for continuous supply and grid integration

Energy storage solution offers a solution to this.

Energy Storage technologies

1. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Merits

- ① High efficiency of storage.
- ② Mature technology
- ③ Safe to use
- ④ Scalable according to needs
- ⑤ Can be used in varied Environments

Demerits

- ① Issue of REEs → limited supply
- ② High costs.
- ③ Geopolitical control over technology (e.g. China)
- ④ Some batteries prone to fire
- ⑤ Environment pollution

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2. Pumped storage hydro-power → water moved up the dam when surplus power, released when deficit to generate electricity.

Merits

① High storage capacity.

② Sustainable (no pollution)

③ Low long term costs.

④ Can be integrated into existing projects.

Demerits

① Not scalable

② Location specific potential.

③ Flooding of nearby areas

④ Silting and maintenance may enhance costs.

3. Sand Batteries → Energy storage as heat in sand ⇒ extracted when deficit.

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Merits

- ① Suitable for deserts \Rightarrow lower costs
- ② High storage capacity
- ③ Need minimal infrastructure.

Demerits

- ① Location specific nature.
- ② Less efficient
- ③ Require large tracts of land.
- ④ Low use cases in India

Way ahead \Rightarrow investing in technology according to the regional needs:

- ① BESS in populous areas with low land availability.
- ② Pumped storage in existing dams
- ③ Sand Battery in western Rajasthan (with solar plants)

These will bridge the India's need of 210 GWh storage to realise 500 GW of renewable energy. (CERC)

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Q.17

Global Pandemic Agreement (2020) was finalized by member states of WHO to prevent future pandemics.

Pandemic Agreement: key features

1. Permanent mechanism for sharing data on pathogens.
2. Global database for pathogens
↳ Collaboration from research labs of all countries.
3. Reporting framework of new diseases and pathogens.
4. Agreement includes sharing of vaccines during the pandemic.
↳ also includes other resources such as medicines and DRG kits
5. Funding by member states as per economic capacity.

~~2/2~~

One-health → preventing future pandemics

1. Prevent zoonotic diseases
↳ reporting of animal to human transfers
2. Includes Anti-microbial Resistance
↳ potential superbugs can cause next pandemic.
3. Integrates resource deficit countries in health framework
4. Covers entire pathogen lifecycle
↳ Reduces risk at all stages
5. Resilience of food systems
↳ covers overuse of medicines in agriculture.
6. Accountability of companies → for discharge of bio-hazard chemicals.

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Steps needed by India

I. For Environmental Governance

- ① Include one-health in Environment Protection Act.
- ② Empower CPCB, SIPCB, NGEC etc. to integrate pathogen specific guidelines.
- ③ Amend Biodiversity management act
↳ Empower local communities in identifying diseases ⇒ utilize traditional knowledge.

II. For Health Governance

- ① Integrate in Ayushman Bharat
↳ funds and insurance for zoonotic diseases.
- ② RSD in health care to reduce risks.
- ③ Transparent reporting on national database for notified diseases

These will ensure that pandemics & like Covid-19 are limited in impact and loss of lives.

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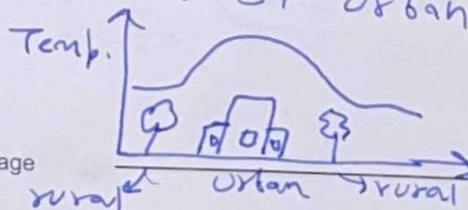
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Q.18

Heat wave refers to sustained increase in temperatures in a region.

Heat wave = Causes

1. Global warming and Climate Change \rightarrow Avg. 1.07°C increase since pre-industrial times (IPCC)
2. Atmospheric stability and Heat dome \rightarrow prevents warm air from rising \Rightarrow higher temperature.
3. Low precipitation and variability in monsoon.
4. Deforestation \Rightarrow reduces humidity and raises temperatures.
5. Urbanisation \Rightarrow creation of urban heat islands =



Effect of Heatwaves

1. Health of people \rightarrow heatstrokes and dehydration \Rightarrow can be fatal if untreated.
2. Drought and reduction in water table. \Rightarrow affects agriculture.
3. Distressed migration of humans and animals
4. Livestock health \rightarrow low fodder and high incident of diseases.
5. Effect on ecology \rightarrow reduction in green cover.
 \rightarrow expansion of deserts.
6. Livelihoods \rightarrow low economic productivity
 \rightarrow 1°C increase leads to 10% productivity loss (ILO)

Heat risk : frameworks

1. NDMA guidelines on heat waves

↳ Comprehensive pre and post heat wave guidelines

↳ Rooftop cooling by paints.

2. IMD Criteria for heatwaves

Heatwave if — $\begin{cases} \text{temp.} > 40^\circ\text{C} : \text{plains} \\ \text{temp.} > 37^\circ\text{C} : \text{hills} \\ \text{temp.} > 30^\circ\text{C} : \text{coastal areas} \end{cases}$

3. Heat wave action plan by govt. ⇒ mitigate long term risks.

4. Crop insurance under Fasal Bima Yojana for Heatwaves.

5. Distort level plans for reducing impact and responding to heat waves.

These frameworks ensure heat wave does not affect people and animals to large extent.



Q. 2
19

Terrorism has been a persistent disease for the world, funded by State and non-state actors.

Terror-funding : emerging technologies

1. Crypto-currency → not traceable; used for cross border transfers.
2. Dark-web → used for anonymous transactions; not accessed by govt. agencies.
3. AI & Machine learning → large no. of Autonomous transactions used to hide sources.
4. Social Media → Propoganda to attract donors.

Terror-funding - Globalisation

1. Illegal use of NGOs for laundering terror funds.

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2. Use of MNCs and corporates
Eg. Role of David Leadley linked firms in 2011.
3. State-sponsored finances through drug and weapons trade
Eg. holden triangle and coscent.
4. Use of religious contributions
Eg. misuse of zakat

Measures needed : National level

1. Strengthen PMMLA to include newer technologies eg. blockchain.
2. Separate cell for cyber-terrorism to check use of online mediums
3. Strengthen FERA → mandatory audit and reporting of sources by NROs.
4. Blacklist MNCs and corporates

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linked to terror financing.

Measures needed: international level

1. Objective criteria for blacklist by FATF → strict implementation of 40/11 recommendations.
2. Limit aid to state sponsors of terrorism ex. IMF 1 billion \$ aid during op. Sindoor.
3. Empower Sanctions Committee of UN to impose sanctions on States.
4. Intelligence sharing using Interpol, IMOLIN group, Egmont group, etc.

These measures will ensure terrorism and its threats are reduced for India.
Terrorism is not a threat to a single country. It is a threat to entire humanity!

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Q. 20

LWE affected districts have declined from 72 in 2015 to 38 in 2024 (MHA) due to prompt implementation of National policy and action plan (2015).

National policy components & contribution

1. Dual strategy of SAMADHAN
↳ Aggressive posture + surrender and rehabilitation.
2. Focus on infrastructure creation
eg. 55 mobile towers since 2015 installed in LWE hotspots.
3. Implementation of land rights
↳ eg. FRA and PESA acts in tribal belts
4. Coordination with state police

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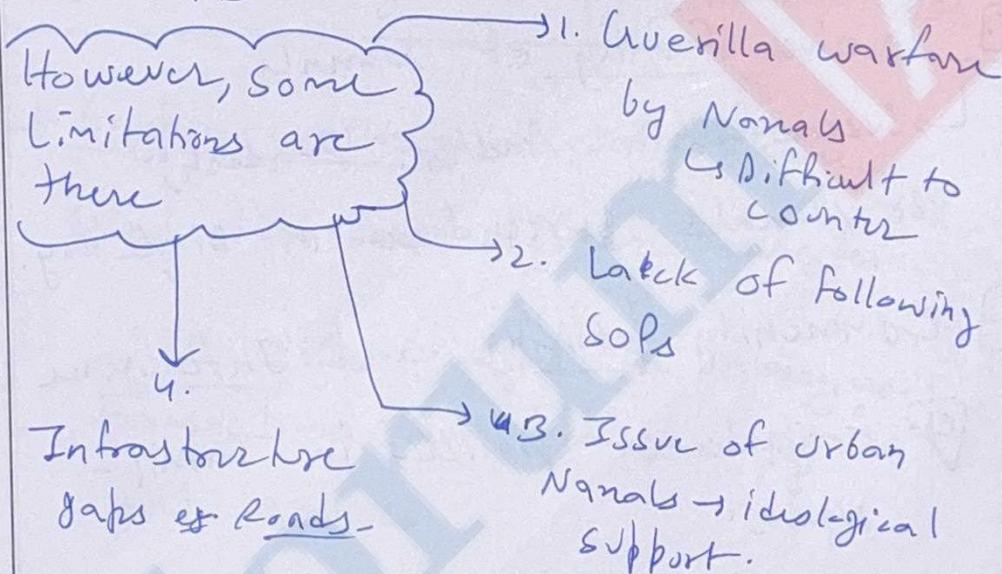
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→ counter cross border movement across states.

(5) Special focus and expertise

(e.g. Grey hounds and Black Panther units.



Additional steps needed

1. Create more specialised units such as Grey hounds
2. Choke Funding → prevent entry of people and businesses → provide protection.

3. Use of technology (e.g. Drones for

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Surveillance

4. Separate officer in all states for coordination. \Rightarrow reduce delays and enable joint operation

5. Involve Family of Naxals
 \hookrightarrow Successful in Andhra Pradesh;
66 Naxals surrendered in single day.

6. Community policing and Intelligence
 \hookrightarrow Friends of police in Tamil-Nadu.

7. Saturation of Infrastructure and Social Services \hookrightarrow Mobile schools

Case Study: LWE ① Bamboo chicken in Marudeni, Andhra Pradesh was promoted.

② Attracted Flourishers and foolies
Low Naxal \leftarrow Development \leftarrow
Footprint.

Such initiatives need to be adopted in LWE hotspots to achieve end of LWE by March 2026 deadline.