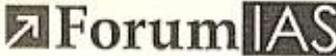


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FIAS - MGP 2022 (C-12) - GS Paper # 3



GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate

SRIGIRIRAJU VPS SAI KRISHNA

Roll No.

1910104049

Date:

20/8/2022

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained		
1			1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.	
2			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.	
3			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.	
4			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.	
5			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.	
6			<p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p><i>Hi Sir, added previous suggestions</i></p> <p><i>1) Structuring 2) Intro-conclusion</i></p> <p><i>3) Multiple dimensions</i></p> <p><i>Please comment.</i></p>	
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Total:	250			
Evaluator's Discretion:			For Student Only	
			Start Time 3:55 pm	End Time 7:00 pm
Total Marks:			Mode Of Examination:	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluator's Discretion: This is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator 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.			For Office Use Only	
			ECN CODE:	EG:
			Evaluation Date:	

Note: You can discuss your evaluated copy with the Mentor. Raise a ticket from your portal to schedule a mentor call or visit the offline centre to meet mentor (all 7 days, Timings - 11 AM to 6 PM). Further if you are unsatisfied with the evaluation, you can seek re-evaluation of the copy.

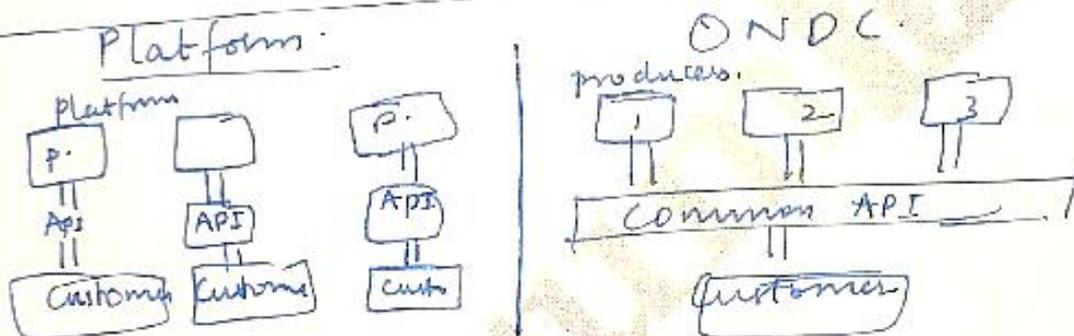
Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Q. 1

Ans. ONDC refers to a common API based producer-customer connection for sales and outreach activities.

It differs from platform centric model in the below manner



Issues with platform centric e-commerce

- The limited reach of small players posing inequities
Ex: Amazon, Flipkart dominating the e-commerce landscape.
- Too much power, data in too few hands

↳ no uniform standards posing risks to data privacy and ethical conduct
 Ex: data sale like phone numbers led to proliferation of Unsolicited Commercial communication (UCC)

→ Effects on local businesses.

ONDC counters these

- 1) uniform standards ensuring visibility, data privacy etc. forming a level playing field.
- 2) Coupled with awareness campaigns can lead to digitization of businesses.
- 3) Econ boost make in India and insulate economy from 'indirect transfers'.

If effectively implemented ONDC can achieve huge success in poverty alleviation, MSME well-being and value for money of customers

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.2

Ans. WB report states that if it takes 2 days from Shanghai to Mumbai, it takes 9 days from Mumbai to Delhi.

This shows the dismal state of India's logistics infrastructure despite spending 14% of GDP.

Bottle necks:-

- Multimodal connectivity lacking hence to limit the transport options
- Port turnaround times are huge compared to Singapore and other examples
- multiple level clearances affecting timely delivery
- lesser private sector participation

Role of PMGATI SHAKTI

It is a portal connecting 11 ministries to enhance coordination of various

departments for multi-modal connectivity

- ↳ Can help in holistic planning to improve efficiency in implementation
- ↳ Ready joint working possibilities on issues
- ↳ Can emerge as a digital backbone to infrastructure of India
- ↳ faster implementation of the delayed Bharatmala
 - ↳ port connectivity
 - ↳ peripheral connectivity
 - ↳ Feeder roads.

Moreover, an approach towards single window clearance systems recently introduced (interstate trade), tax slab rationalisation, opening up ports to PPP should be coupled with government's efforts to achieve this feat

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.3

Ans: Recent Farmlaw repeal protests, point to the fear psychosis in agricultural sector over MSP regime.

MSP - responsible for agricultural mahadies

↳ MSP is the minimum support price guaranteed by government to farmers for seasonal produce.

→ The incentivisation of limited basket of items led to mono-cropping tendencies.

ex: rice amounts to $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of whole Gross Cropped Area, reducing pulses and millets cultivation post Green Revolution

↳ Also, the water intense nature of rice & sugarcane (1 kg rice \approx 3367 lit of water) impacting efficiency of irrigation

2) waterlogging 3) salinity

4) loss of soil fertility owing to less time given b/w subsequent crops. \Rightarrow Kharif-Rice, Rabi-Wheat

However the same MSP regime can handle these problems

MSP-remedies:

- \rightarrow diversification of MSP basket to millets, more pulses and other nutri cereals.
- \rightarrow crop diversification incentives like single season MSP can try to push the cultivation of other
- \rightarrow The microirrigation practices by subsidy of MSP channelled to PMKSY can help financial barrier.

Hence, MSP can both be a worry and a remedy, the behavioural change on lines of Swachh Bharat is needed to counter the opposition effectively

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
Total	

Q. 4.

Ans. India is the 3rd largest producer of fish with 2nd largest inland aquaculture.

Yet the coastal fishing communities live in poverty and a disincentivised profession.

Role of fisheries for coastal development.

→ 1) PMMSY recently announced aims for an integrated approach for coastal communities.

→ 2) As a main economic activity of coastal habitants, sufficient infrastructure like cold storage chains, Food Processing Ex: Canned fish can mitigate losses and efficient returns.

→ 3) Export Promotion and quality control aspects can boost exports and quality of living of coastal areas.

Ex: CRZ's to be coupled with SEZ on lines of Baba Kalyani Committee

WTO - 12th ministerial conference outcome

↳ Although, India faced unfavourable outcomes from other sectors like e-commerce, Agriculture,

Fisheries - illegal fishing, bottom trawling are opposed, no relaxation of Sanitary-Phyto-sanitary measures (SPS) are discussed

Impact → Japan, US affecting Prawns and shrimp exports owing to SPS

↳ Market access difficulties of stringent non-tariff barriers affecting the export growth.

→ However, FPOEDA on lines of APEDA and other Quality assurance measures, RoDTEP, can help in mitigating the drawback. Besides, India should rise a collective voice in WTO for the asymmetry.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
Total	

Q.5

Ans. The recent government's regulations of neem coated urea; Partnerships of IFFCO and dept-of fertilizers are a guiding light towards sustainable agriculture:

Advantages of 'liquid nano' urea

- ↳ Better absorption due to already liquified
- ↳ lesser requirement of water
- ↳ nano - better efficiency and lesser washing away during rain
- ↳ lesser emissions; ease of handling and flexibility of methods

But, the farmer friendly equipment

- ↳ concerns of nano pollutants
- ↳ affordability to small farmers are concerning

Applications of nanotechnology in Agriculture

Nanotechnology refers to the operations of objects at nanoscale (10^{-9} m) where the properties of objects are different from normal size.

→ Besides nanoscale, nanotechnology is used in pesticides for

↓
Better absorption unaffacting helpful soil microbes

→ nano technology can help to record soil health with help of small devices placed in proximity

→ seed treatment using nano-technology aided materials can lead to effective yields

→ Nanotechnology is an emerging sunrise sector which if utilized can lead to landscape changes in multiple sectors like agriculture, biotechnology, space etc

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/
PresentationQuestion
Interpretation

Content

Value
Addition

Total

Q.6

Ans. Anti-microbial ^{resistance} threat is flagged by WHO recently as a matter of concern

Anti Microbial resistance refers to the inability of drugs to work on the microbes due to 'adaptation' and genetic mutations.

Reasons for rising AMR

- ↳ unverified prescriptions by doctors
Ex:- during pandemic, antibiotics were indiscriminately prescribed despite COVID-19 being a viral fever
- ↳ Incomplete dosage → not completing the routine
- ↳ Pharmaceutical untreated effluents
- ↳ Veterinary drugs Ex: diclofenac, typh
- ↳ untreated medical- organic and inorganic wastes

Traditional medicine - AMR

↳ Traditional medicine can fight AMR

Reasons:

- ↳ Focus on diet Ex: Ayurveda, rather than symptoms treating
- ↳ Existence of antibiotics in traditional medicine
- ↳ natural remedies can counter diseases although slowly but effectively

Challenges:

- ↳ limited AYUSH practitioners
- ↳ unverified local 'doctors' posing threat to trust on traditional medicine
- ↳ nascent stage of mainstreaming AYUSH courses in medical universities
- ↳ slow action owing to risk of fatality

Hence, a thoughtful and integrated approach is needed to counter this dangerous emerging threat of AMR

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q. 7

Ans. Recent Climate Tracker Portal places India as an over achiever in 'emerging' economic category in the context of Renewable Energy Transition

Initiatives:

- Working:
- 1) Renewable Purchase Obligations slowly seeping in renewable energy
 - 2) Solar parks. Ex. Gujarat, Telangana
 - 3) PM-KUSUM → agricultural usage as well as roof top solar
 - 4) Push on small hydel projects.
 - 5) General Accessibility for Inter State Transmission of Power (GNA-ISTES) helping surplus renewable energy to be utilised
 - 6) Green day ahead market for better price realisation and next day delivery

Challenges → Solar power equipment shortage

Ex Almost 90% is imported

- installation costs of wind and solar.
- solar-waste problem upcoming
- Insufficient awareness of PM-KUSUM and DISCOM not-able to focus on greening power sector

Energy Conservation (Am) Bill, 2022

- Recent relaxations in punitive measures and tightening RPO obligation can push the Energy Transition
- Power sector priorities set for increasing solar, non-solar renewables can help in faster transition

However, backward linkages absence lead to ripple effects of installation & cost challenges to be approached holistically

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
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Q. &

Ans Coastal erosion is named as one of the major threats to coastal communities as a result of Climate Change by IPCC-report 6

Sea incursions- coastal erosion.

Sea incursion refers to the taking over the continental landmass under water accelerated by coastal erosions.

Impact on environment:

- ↳ increased silting on coastlines
- ↳ increased turbidity due to sediments from coastal erosion \rightarrow less penetration of light affecting coastal biodiversity
- ↳ more nutrient influx from coastal lands \rightarrow algal blooms and dead zones.
- ↳ Coastal habitat ex: tortoise nesting, mollusc's nesting will be affected

↳ mangroves get submerged leading to disappearance of cyclone and tsunami shock absorbers.

Corrective measures:-

- ↳ limiting coastal sand mining
- ↳ strictly adhering to CRZ regulation

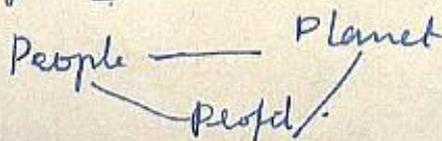
Ex:- constructions in No development Zones to be strictly opposed & penalised.

- ↳ Awareness campaigns in coastal communities about environmental fragility

- ↳ Coastal embankments - structured
- Ex: Recent Kozhikode tetrahedral stone structure

- ↳ Regulating dredging activity and administering impact assessment properly

The rhetoric of One Health is more important than ever.



Feedback

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Structure / Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q-9

Ans. The new age internal security threats are posing a great challenge to the community as well as deterring preventive measures. Ex: Pandemic saw 350% increase in cyber attacks according to ITU report.

Need for modern, efficient, responsive force

↳ Police are the front line to any crisis as

↳ < 7% of police are on field trained.

↳ The sophisticated nature of new age threats Ex: hacking, online assault, abuse, hate speeches need proactive and an evolved approach.

↳ The investigative infrastructure is currently centralised with limited entities like NIA, handling such equipment.

Reforms:

- ↳ The intermittent technology training to specialised cells in local police can help tackle the menace
- ↳ Investigation standards & methodologies need to be evolved to match the violators capabilities
- ↳ 24x7 helplines are more than a necessity now given the urgency of acting upon cases.
- ↳ Sensitisation of police on wrongful detentions is also a need to avoid mishaps.

Overall, the archaic Police procedure, colonial inheritance, traditional approaches need an overhaul on the lines of Police Reforms Commission Report and also supreme court judgement in Prakash Singh case

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.10

Ans. Recent Supreme court upholding PMLA amendments, 2019 has cast a debate around the constitutional correctness.

Money Laundering:

Refers to the legalising of illegally earned money often through unethical means like trafficking, tax evasion.

Impact on Financial System

- ↳ loss to exchequer due to tax evasion
- ↳ Proliferation of tax-havens and diversion of tax payers money
- ↳ raising NPA's due to transformation of assets and credit usage different than requested

National Security:

↳ ~~the~~ Money Laundering is often linked to terror funding, illicit activities like trafficking, shell companies etc.

PMLA - Effectiveness

- Stringent measures leading to criminalising Money Laundering has countered this to some extent
- Also the related activities recently came under purview of PMLA, thus acting on social havens as well ex: Terrorism, trafficking
- Confiscation of property → efficiency in operation
- Moreover, some issues still exist investigative procedure

Challenges:

- low conviction rates, < 20%.
- political embarrassment tool to act on opposition parties
- Recent amendments negating constitutional rights of (Art 22) -
- Enforcement Directorate → technical expertise limited to identify the crime.

However, the recent amendments equip the state with more powers to take swift and swift (confiscation without notice) actions to counter this demonic threat.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.11

Ans: GST was introduced in 2017 under GST Act to rationalise the tax structure in India.

→ It solved the regressive tax problem caused by multiplication of various taxes at Central, state and local level.

→ Since the start GST collections have been increasing with few exceptions i.e., compliance increased, revenue increase.

A cause of Celebration:

→ Various taxes subsumed leading to ease of compliance as well as collection. Ex: ~~excise~~ VAT, sales tax etc.

→ led to the creation of GST Council an upkeeper of fiscal federalism with proportionate 'say' to states.

- Reduced burden on consumers owing to multiplication of taxes
Ex: Sales tax, VAT need not be paid now.
- Uniformity led to better identification of flaws and addressing effectively
- Various tax slabs - a sigh of relief to lower and middle class
Ex: least or no tax on food items and essential commodities
- An effective tool to deter sin goods.

However, its implementation is not free of problems

Cause of worry:

- Timely disturbances of Centre-State relations - Ex: Compensation Cess issue.
- Transition initially led to Revenue foregoing of many firms especially MSME's
- Tax slabs are not so scientific and

Announced with insufficient deliberation

Ex: Recent reforms in basic food items like Jaggery - poor man's sugar

→ Petrol, Liquor not under GST ⇒ less effective rationalisation

→ Limited tax base for states Ex: State's own revenue funded expenditure decreased to ~21% after GST; multiplied by higher borrowing costs.

→ GST council is mere recommendatory

What now?

→ The framework created by GST, ^{that} is the answer.

→ giving more powers to GST Council

→ lessening complexity of tax states

Ex: Canada model

→ Sufficient states with sufficient tax base since state Capital expenditure is the victim (2/3rd of national Capex)

We can go a long way to make GST a success as envisioned by 'integrating best practices and allowing sufficient deliberation'

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
Total	

Q.12.

Ans. Recent trends show a reduce in Gross as well as Net NPA's to around 8% and 4% respectively - RBI FS - report

→ However these figures are still worrisome given the size of Indian Economy and the final victims - the tax payers.

Reasons for High NPA's

- Fugitive offenders Ex: Mallya,
- inefficient risk provisioning
- Lack of domain expertise to lending banks Ex: infrastructure projects leading to NPA's
- Inadequate Asset Quality Review (2015)
- unsatisfactory performance of IBC, NARCL.
- Crisis situations Ex: Pandemic, 2009
- Loan waivers/moratorium expectations

Government has taken many measures to counter this problem.

Utility of IBC

- ↳ Although Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 lessened the turnaround time from 4 years to 650 days acc to ICRA report.
- ↳ ~~the heavy haircut~~
- ↳ Eased the process of insolvency by separating commercial and judicial aspects ex. Recent PIRP, CIRP
- ↳ placing experts ex: Insolvency Professionals (IP) in the business
- ↳ pro creditors thus prioritizing non-conversion to NPA's.

Issues: → The less availability of Insolvency Professionals.

- ↳ only 20-30% ending up effectively rescued. others having hair cut amounting to 90%. ⇒ feeble appreciation of assets.
- ↳ the often creditor controlled process takes the owners out of the scenario where owners are the experts of domain.

Besides. Recently enacted NARCL Act is a hope to coordinate with IBC

In efficient reconstruction.

NARCL → positive → 1) Specialised agency to carry on asset reconstruction
2) s copc of experts handling the job.

But → the government ownership is a set back for efficient innovation
→ Even NARCL is prone to NPA's in the absence of experts.

However, with minor reforms like
↳ Time bound processes
↳ recent / recommendations by Parliamentary Panel to rationalise haircut and encourage entrepreneurship
can show some hope in reducing financial stress on banks

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
Total	

Q. 13

Ans: Nutrition security, famously called "hidden hunger" is still a problem plaguing especially lower SES of population - NFHS report although shows reduction in numbers of malnutrition (wasting and stunting), the numbers are still worrisome.

Post independent policies:

↳ Initial capital intensive rhetoric

Ex: Ports, roads, logistical betterment

↳ Focus on population measures to reduce burden of food security

↳ Green revolution → a change over.

to feed the entire population above and beyond

↳ Export promotion policies post 1991

Ex: APEDA, Export Policy 2015. et

and many more minor measures led us to the net exporter of agricultural commodities

Nutrition Security

Problems → narrowed down diet basket due to green revolution

Ex: rice-wheat

- the adulteration of food
- Inefficient FCI godown management
 ex: lot of stock lying idle.
 even increasing the operational cost
- Urban livelihood changes.
- Ration shops capitalising on cross / subsidization
- Excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides, HYV seeds with lesser nutritional content

Measures to mitigate nutrition security

→ Efforts are underway like food fortification ex: rice-Iron. to counter anaemia.

→ Millet promotion → UN declared 2023 as international year of millet crop diversification effort.

→ Anganwadi - local produce of millets and (nutri-cereals) nexus can make the nutrition reach the needy.

→ Direct Benefit Transfers - to an extent help the scarcity of financial resources.

However, as NFHS survey's figures throw an optimistic picture on malnutrition, we are faced by obesity as a new problem.

Continued and balanced efforts can improve the situation further.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q. 14

Ans. = Food Corporation of India, FCI was set up under NFSA Act, 2013. Holds the storage of all procurements to be distributed under various food security schemes. (NFSA, AAY etc.)

Role of FCI :

- functions as a store house of grains to be distributed under subsidies
Ex: NFSA, Antyodaya Anna Yojana
- Pandemic efforts can be lauded when hunger didn't overtake the virus.
- Act as a store of surplus and even feeds the world Ex: recent wheat exports were partly provisioned from FCI stocks with WTO's consent
- Income security to many farmers dependent on MSP

However

Challenges to FCI

- The overflowing - more than stipulated amount
- Operational costs addition to already stressed government expenditure.
- Hunger deaths still happen pointing to inefficient functioning. even surplus can't suffice hunger.
- WTO's against procured grain exports except in crisis and govt-govt aids. narrowing window of clearing extra stock
- Wastage of grain (~30%) pointing to incompetent storage infra structure

Despite these challenges, this existing setup can be capitalised upon by trying reforms like

Possible Reforms:

- localising storage Ex: devolution to States' control for better reach solving the problem of hunger - the real purpose of creating st
- Channeling surplus to clustered Food Processing Industries at subsidised prices or market prices based on suitability.
- Quality check of godowns and trying PPP model improving infrastructure of storage
- Rep WTO's platform to be effectively used to tackle the surplus problem

Hence, suitable measures can solve multiple aspects of 1) efficiency 2) nutrition 3) Industrial growth (FPI) and even ^{as} a helping hand to international crises

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.15

A/w Artificial Intelligence is growing at ~31% CAGR as per the ^{findings} report of International Data Report (IDR) in India

→ Artificial Intelligence:

The ability of a machine or a set of machines to take decisions, and other cognitive tasks based on fed data. Can be understood as Artificial Intelligence

Ex: auto correct in android keypad. Predicting the next word.

Predictive applications - Governance

→ Disaster: can be used to process immense data and take predict outcomes of GLOF, Cyclone etc which are complex patterns

→ Law & Order: Face recognition;

data based vulnerability
prediction

→ Social security: Prediction of
crisis impact Ex:- Pandemic,
epidemiological studies

→ Technology: can be used in
EPAC, ; IMAC (to predict
maritime threats),

→ Miscellaneous: Judiciary, fiscal
variables' prediction aiding policy

Prescriptive

→ After the event, suggestive measures
same disaster, pandemic post-occurrence
mitigation measures

Ex:- Facebook mobility data
used effectively by Philippines in
planning vaccination drive.

→ Judiciary- Case history, criminal
history based prescriptive approach

- Investigation aids:- face-recognition; personality traits based prescription of likelihood of crime commitment.
- ONDC - Open Network for digital commerce applic^{ns}
- Health care → metrics like Medical Waste management tracking; Oxygen supply shortages prediction and prescription
- Economic policy prescription based on fiscal data fed into the system etc all using Public domain data

However ~31% CAGR is a huge burden on policy framework to tackle challenges

↳ Absence of a regulatory framework

- ↳ Data privacy, PDP bill is yet to be passed
- ↳ The vulnerabilities are yet not efficiently sketched.
- ↳ Bigtechs regulation Ex: Google, Fb, Amazon.
- ↳ Infrastructural, human resource gap.

However mission mode projects like Atal Innovation mission can take this up to make the youth future ready

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.16

Ans: 5G⁺ the 5th generation connectivity regime is making headlines world over. Ex: US's aerodrome interference.

Difference from previous generations

Technologically: the range of bandwidth is different from other.

Ex: 4G's wavelengths are higher than 5G

Penetration: Can't penetrate solid objects due to lower wavelength

Speed: as high as 10Gbps can be attained

Transformation Applications:

↳ IoT devices → for efficient management systems in industries, households and governance too

- Better speeds aiding remote work possibly leading to deurbanisation
- Impetus to other technological growth Ex: supercomputing, faster govt decision making;
- More employment and an impetus to start up growth, upskilling and many more.

However, with benefits come the challenges.

Challenges:

- increased rural-urban, Rich-poor inequalities due to costs
- higher infrastructural costs - set up
- higher spectrum prices Ex recent spectrum by telecom companies
- yet nascent backward linkages Ex: semiconductors etc

- The health effects are not yet decisively looked upon.
- The complexity of multiple bandwidths Ex: hi, low, middle. complicating implementation
- The capture network model may lead to shortage of bandwidths and traffic congestion.
- Shortage of expertise.

However, → rationalising spectrum prices - on par: with global prices

→ suitable policy ecosystem.

→ Backward linkage focus.

can effectively leverage 5G to the coming amritkaal (demographic dividend) to head towards \$5 trillion economy.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q. 17

Ans. Recent revised EIA, 2020 has raised concerns on favouring development at the cost of environment.

Environment impact assessment.

- ↳ refers to the assessment of environmental impact of a particular project, policy, initiative by comparing with existing baseline
- ↳ It is carried out systematically from scoping, scoping right till approval and then post assessment

Regulatory hurdle to development?

- ↳ EIA is often seen as regulatory hurdle to development due to the plethora of clearances required
- Ex: almost 7-different departmental

Clearances are required for Ken-Betwa
River Linking project

→ Many projects implementation
delays amount to cost over runs
owing to bureaucratic hurdles

→ Political vested interests often lead
to approving other projects over
more essential ones still being stuck

→ Judicial pendency - delay in justice
for litigations raised by victims
as well as intentional activist
groups

More reasons to call it a developmental
hurdle

However EIA is integral to developmental
planning → 1) Environment comes first

→ 2) scope for voices to raise against
faulty projects

→ 3) to avoid environmental disasters
Ex: GLOF

→ 4) Coexistence of Environment- Development
needs regulatory oversight

Recently proposed ranking system

↳ as a part of EPA (Amendment) ²⁰²² Bill,
Ranking of states promotes competitive federalism in the following ways.

- 1) Local needs - local governments, states can dispose off the concerns effectively than a centralised system.
- 2) State level clearances can be speeded up removing the time delay.
- 3) 2/3rd of infrastructural investments are by state governments ⇒ Stakeholders can be involved effectively to speed up the process.

Moreover, the recent amendments of liberalising EIA further can be counter productive along with countering a "Regulatory Hurdle" perception.

Hence, the awareness campaigns and stakeholder capitalism can be used rather than succumbing to perceptual challenges.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.18

Ans. The trek-trails of Himalayan mountains have plastic filled valleys, the traffic jam on mount creest amounting to ambitious deaths, forest clearances to accommodate tourists in Western Ghats. all that amount to unscientific, unmindful and unregulated tourism in ecologically fragile areas

Tourism - Vulnerabilities of tourist areas

- ↳ Poor tourist environmental awareness
Ex: throwing plastic, polluting water falls
- ↳ local economic needs satisfied by capitalising on free forest resources.
clearing for homestays, farm houses.
misused by hospitality sector
- ↳ Rising tourism \rightarrow increased demand for connectivity \Rightarrow clearance for roads

affecting animal migratory routes

Ex:- Bandipur National Park - inferior performance in tiger reserves

↳ construction in ecologically & even seismically fragile areas. Ex: Kedarnath floods carried loose mud mostly

↳ Noise pollution affecting sleep cycles, hunting cycles of local fauna.

↳ Elite hunting, man-animal conflicts heightened

↳ Power requirements \Rightarrow insufficiently surveyed hydro power constructions and state govt vows \Rightarrow dam induced landslides and floods Ex: Ridhiganga

Hence, tourism sector especially, eco-tourism has spelled a bad light on ecological well being.

Measures:- Strategies for Sustainable Tourism

↳ Firstly, Tourist awareness is necessary

↳ Constructions / permits to be strictly regulated. Recent relaxations in EIA, 2020 pose more fears on ecological sustainability

↳ The timelimits can be imposed
Ex: Bandipur 7pm-7am.

↳ The vulnerability assessment to be properly adhered to using technology Ex: Synthetic Aperture Radar as recommended by NOMA.

Moreover, Sustainable tourism is more of a behavioral change rather than a legal pursuit. Hence multipronged approach with active local involvement is needed for harmonious human environment coexistence.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
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Q.19.

Ans. Recent cases of majority of recruitments from social media, the narratives of sleeper cells have brought attention to hybrid-militants.

Hybrid militants :-

↳ those who pose as normal citizens and involve in violent acts can be termed as hybrid militants.

'hybrid' refers to multifunctionals.

Differences :

↳ compared to OGW and normal militants the hybrid militants can be found in

- 1) disguised appearances
- 2) a lot of 'alias'es
- 3) assimilated in local population

so that when they're caught and acted → they can engage local

Population - allying of false accusations

Hybrid militancy - J&K concerns

↳ Recent Kupwara capture gives us a lot of picture about changed landscape of militancy

- 1) Local support is sought through hybrid militants
- 2) Covert propoganda of secessionist tendencies and 'state-hatred'
- 3) Impacting the identified 'most vulnerable' sections i.e., Youth leading to more recruitment
- 4) They even aspire to cause local demographic changes.

These pose higher threat than conventional militancy due to

- 1) Difficulty in identifying
- 2) 'local misogyny' - opposing state faces to carry out operations

3) safe havens possible

Strategies:

- The local campaigns through local forces can act as trustworthy sources.
- The PRI or block level records time to time cross verification is necessary.
- Improving the efficiency of Aadhar enrolment needs to be done.
Ex: Recent Electoral amendments can give such militants voter Id merely based on Aadhar which is a citizen proof.
- Active involvement of youth in campaigns, employment and nation-building activities.
- Transparent procedures using Gram Nyayalayas etc in adjudicating the accused to improve public trust.

With evolving state, the militancy evokes demanding more engagement. Hence technological, creative pursuits are a necessity in public governance.

Feedback

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Q. 20

Ans: The recent report by UNODC gives a surprisingly common correlation between drug trafficking - terrorism - fragile government regime.

Linkages:

- Mutual aid of drug trafficking and terrorism. Ex: Pathankot strikes revealed the terrorist insurgency taking the tried & tested routes of drug traffickers.
- kids and women who were drug-addicts are used and trafficked. here, drug addiction acts as prelude to human trafficking.
- The illicit drug trafficking funds terrorism in return to arms leading to gun running.

Manipur and Mizoram examples can effectively describe the gun-running and drug trafficking - insurgent nexus

Human trafficking:

↳ Illegal transport of humans in form of selling or gifting for exploitative purposes can be called human -
-trafficking

Measures:

↳ As recent draft Trafficking in Persons Bill, 2021 points to the

- 1) setting up of interstate investigative framework
- 2) increased. penal measures can to some extent help this

↳ Besides, Railway mission recently lauded has brought about a change since majority of trafficking takes place through trains

- ↳ Drug addiction - Luring forms an opportunity to risky behaviour thus making prone to trafficking
- Community awareness campaigns can help this Ex: STEP programme by UNODC
- ↳ stringent checking mechanisms at check posts can act as deterrent

Moreover this is a community issue since the local support is necessary, police-politician nexus is also a cause. Hence a multi faceted approach is needed to counter these interlinked problems

Feedback

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