NEXT IAS

GRADED ASSESSMENT TEST

— (To be filled by candidate) —

TEST CODE : GATB02-2501   **TEST NO. : 01**

Name of Candidate: SHUBHAM SINGH

Roll No.: .... Start Time .... End Time ....

Date of Examination: 17.11.2024 .... Mobile No. ....

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10		6	15	
2	10		7	15	
3	10		8	15	
4	10		9	15	
5	10		10	15	
Total Marks : 50			Total Marks : 75		

GRAND TOTAL - ..../ 125   EVAL CODE: .... GRADED DATE: ....

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 10 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.
8. **Only those copies that are submitted on the date of exam till 5 pm will be graded.**

REMARKS: ....
....
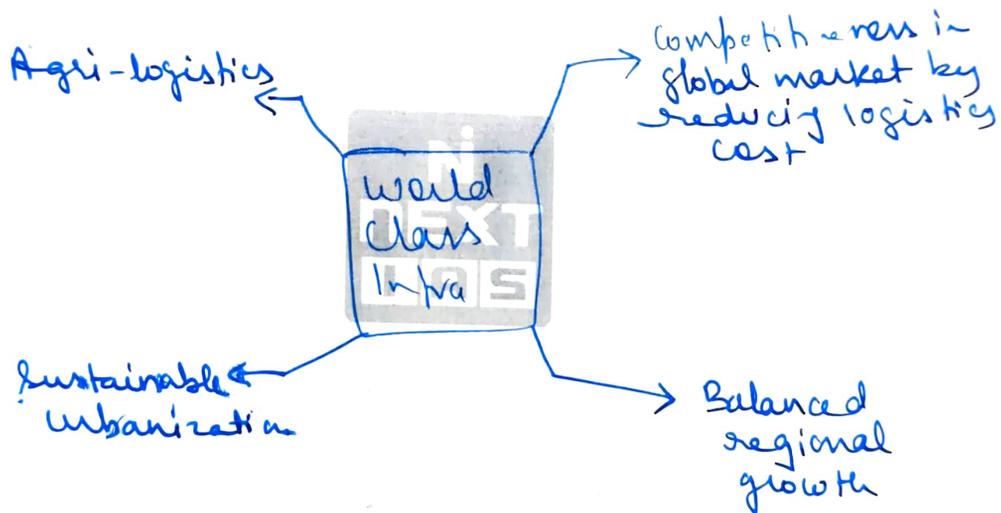...

1. India's aspiration to be a developed nation by 2047 hinges on massive investments in infrastructure. In light of this, discuss the challenges India faces in developing infrastructure and various initiatives taken by the government to address these challenges.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Investments in infrastructure has potential to set in motion virtuous cycle of investment, employment and GDP growth thereby helping in the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047 (Eco. Survey).

Agri-logistics → Competitiveness in global market by reducing logistics cost

World class Infra

Sustainable urbanization ← Balanced regional growth

Challenges faced by India

① Financing : <u>long gestation period</u> of infra projects require long term finance

② Planning in silos as infra is handled by multiple ministries such as Road, Railways, Shipping etc.

③ <u>Poor quality</u> of construction reflected in falling of bridges in <u>Bihar</u>

④ Lack of capacity in undertaking project management at large scale

⑤ Time & cost overruns due to slow clearances, land acquisition, litigation, protests

Various Initiatives undertaken are:

① PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan to break silos, ensure last mile connectivity

② For long term financing ⇒ NIIF, NaBFID have been set up

③ National Logistics Policy to ensure seamless flow of goods

④ Liberalization of Capital bonds market.

UK Infrastructure Authority is the right model to follow to build capacity for large scale infra projects management

Candidates must write on this mar

2. What do you understand by job loss growth? In this context discuss the need for internship to ensure Indian youth is gainfully employed. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Job loss growth is a phenomenon whereby economic growth and growth in productivity due to technology and automation causes losses of jobs rather than increments in job availability.

Job loss growth is a serious threat if :

① Youths do not have desired skill sets ⇒ companies tend to prefer automation

② Mismatch between educational institutions curricula and industry requirements

③ Developed countries start automating and reduce their dependency upon outsourced jobs

[Challenges] before Indian youth

① Low employability e.g. India Skills Report 2024 ⇒ only 48% graduates

② Only 4.4% youths have acquired formal skill training

③ Large no. of Not in Education, Employment and Training youths

④ High unemployment rate among youths (10%) vs overall ~3.2% (PLFS 22-23)
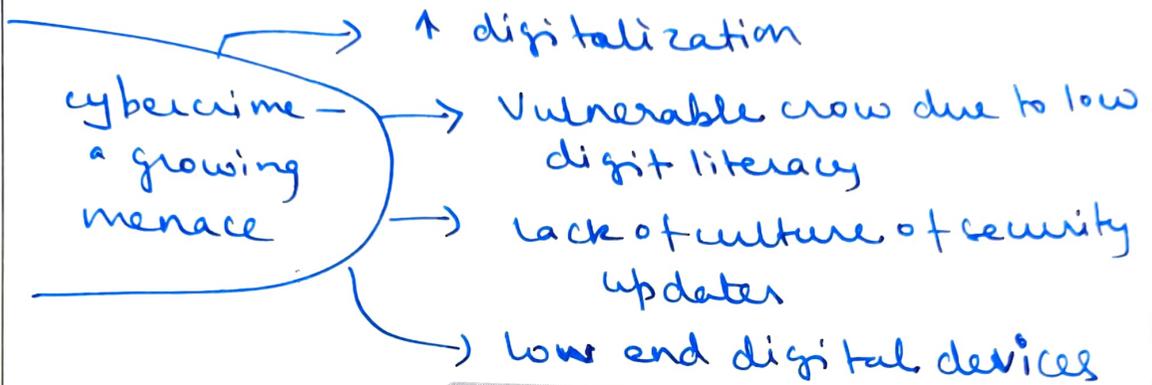
In this context, [PMIS can help] by:

① Improving collaboration between govt., pvt. sector, and Higher Education

② Opportunity for application of theory in real life

③ To broaden availability of talent pool across socio-economic strata

④ Reducing industrial inertia in providing internship opportunities

UGC Chairman M. Jagdish kumar has recommended Credit framework for PMIS and enabling internships in social organization, govt., research labs as well.

Candidat
write on

3. Discuss the various types of cyber scams that have evolved recently with special emphasis on Digital arrest. How can we combat such cyber crimes?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Cybercrime is the fastest Category of crime which is rising in India.

Cybercrime —
a growing
menace

→ ↑ digitalization
→ Vulnerable crow due to low digit literacy
→ Lack of culture of security updates
→ low end digital devices

Various types of Cyber scams that have emerged are:

① Phishing
② Ransomware :- malware infects devices to demand ransom
③ DDOS
④ Cyber trolling, cyberstalking etc.

Apart from these, Digital Arrest has become particularly concerning as:

① Perpetrators pose as law enforceme-nt officials and threaten penal actions

② Use social media such as whatsapp, skype etc.

③ Ask for money or other sensitive details such as <u>bank details</u>

[Digital Arrest] is <u>concerning</u> because:

① Financial loss

② Loss of public trust on law enforce-ment

③ Shows <u>lack of social capital</u> b/w LEAs & public

We can [Combat] by:

① <u>Awareness</u> among people through TV ads, <u>social media</u> campaigns

② Helpline no. for reporting such crimes

③ National Cybercrime Reporting portal should be used better

④ District level <u>cyber thanas</u>

⑤ Prompt response by <u>CERT-IN</u>

Safe, hygienic cyberspace is critical for Digital India and for Viksit Bharat.
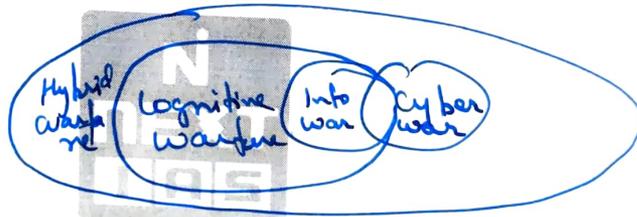
5. What is Hybrid Warfare? Highlighting its features discuss India's preparedness for hybrid warfare.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Hybrid warfare involves usage of both military and non-military means against an adversary to over-whelm it. It is based on Sun-Tzu philosophy of best war is to subduing an adversary without fighting a war

Features of Hyberid warfare

① Plausible deniability ⇒ difficult to attribute responsibility [e.g.] Nord Stream attack

② Involvement of non-state actors [e.g.] Iran's proxies such as Hezballah

③ Multiple theatres [e.g.] Weaponization of supply chain, maritime militias by China in south china sea

④ Grey zone i.e. remains below conventi-onal threshold and muddies boundary between peace or war [e.g.] Cross-border terrorism by Pakistan

India's Preparedness

① Challenges such as →
- External Support to insurgency
- Cross-border terrorism
- LAC stand off
- Social media as tool of info war
- Cyber warfare eg. AIIMS attack

② __Laws,__ to handle : IT Act ⇒ traceability on internet;

PMLA : to counter source of funding

UAPA : to ban individuals & orgs involved in submersive activities e. → PFI ban

③ __Institutions__ such as NTRO, NATGRID, __NSCS__, __NIA__ for Intelligence gathering, and enforcement

④ Global cooperation eg. Plurilateral arrangements such as __Quad__ @ Sea mission against Chinese maritime militias

__What more__ is required is a comprehensive __National Security Strategy__, __Hybrid threats__ assessment and more __synergy__ between different institutions.

⇒ __EU Countering Hybrid Threats centers of Excellence__ is the need of the hour

6. While unemployment in India is taking different forms and emerging forms of employment are reshaping the labour market, how is the government measuring and tracking employment-related data in the country? What improvements can be made to these methodologies to adequately capture the employment data?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

With working age population of ~100 Cr, availability of quality jobs for all becomes imperative for <u>human development</u>, <u>equitable growth</u>, and reaping <u>demographic dividend</u>.

<u>Different forms of Unemployment</u>

① <u>Structural</u> : due to transitioning of economy from <u>agriculture</u> to service and manufacturing

② <u>Seasonal</u> : in sectors such as <u>construction</u>, <u>textiles</u>

③ <u>Disguised</u> unemployment in agriculture as <u>45% of workforce</u> is producing only <u>17% GVA</u>

④ <u>Cyclical</u> unemployment due to temporary downturn in economic activities
e.g. Mass IT sector layoffs.

Emerging forms of employment

① Contractualization of labour force

② Gig economy, Platform workers/ partners [ef] ▷ Zomato delivery partner

③ Care economy : entails underpaid/ unpaid care work

④ Freelancing without conventional employee-employer rel^n

⑤ Self-employment, Entrepreneurship [e.f] ▷ 27% of work force is self-employed

How is government measuring & tracking employment data ?

① Since, 2017 PLFS survey has replaced early 5-yearly Employment-Unemployment Survey (EUS)

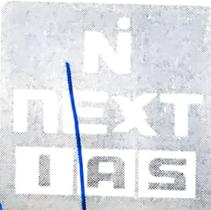② PLFS survey collects annual data for rural areas and annual & quaterly data for urban areas

③ PLFS uses :

   ↳ Current Weekly Status : activity period of 1 hr

   ↳ Current Monthly ~~data~~ Status : activity period of 1 day

   ↳ Current usual Status : activity period of 30 days

④ Govt. also tracks EPFO data to track formalization

Issues	Suggestions
① Does not track Skill level / deficit at current work	① Skill census periodically
② Under-measures unemployment level	② Adopt ILO Standards on definition of employment
③ Lack of sync with other surveys such as HCES Survey	③ Data integration, Data Analytics

Employment data should be comprehensive to enable deft policy making.

7.

What is the role of frontal organizations and Maoist sympathizers in the spread of left-wing extremism in urban areas? Also, suggest a way forward to address such internal security challenges.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

National Policy and Action Plan to address Left Wing Extremism (LWE) seeks to address LWE in all its manifestations including in urban areas.

LWE is an Mao (Chinese leader) inspired ideology which seeks to overthrow state through armed struggle to usher in revolution through the powers of barrel of the gun

Role of frontal orgs & sympathisers in urban areas

① Expansion of social base to urban middle class in urban centers

② Recruit new sympathisers, and supporters in academic campuses

③ Provide logistical support of money, arms to naxals

④ Acting through NGOs, pressure groups

to thwart government actions

⑤ To access foreign funding under the garb of civil liberties, environ- -mentalism

⑥ To provide ideological support by widening agendas of naxalism

⑦ To fight legal battle for naxalites

This is why CPI (maoists) ~~National~~ Perpective Document in 2007 called urban centers as locus of power and called for setting up 'secret cells'.

(Way forward)

① Security

↳ Intelligence gathering through NATGRID, NETRA, NTRO etc.

↳ Use of legal tools such as UAPA, MH Public security Bill

Candidates must not
write on this margin

Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

↳ Intelligence sharing among various police organizations

2. Ideological

↳ Countering fake propaganda, fake news on social media

↳ Active discussions on academic campuses + Sensitization about the issue

3. Flow of funding

↳ Using FCRA, PMLA, NIA ⇒ stop terror funding

4. Surrender cum Rehabilitation policy of Naxalites

↳ who can expose false propaganda behind the violence

To achieve the goal of ending scourge of Naxalism by March 2026, it is important to stem its growth in urban centers.

Candidates
write on this n...

8. The logistics sector is one of the important components in ensuring the growth of the Indian economy. In light of this, discuss various issues with the Indian logistics sector and how the National Logistics Policy 2022 will help address these issues.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Logistics is about seamless flow of goods from point of origin to destination and entails pick up, packaging, transportation, containerization, unloading, distribution and tracking.

Important components in ensuring growth of Economy

① Competitiveness in global market
eg. Indian logistics cost – 12-13% of GDP
Developed countries – 8-10% of GDP

② Market access, for MSMEs, craftsmen etc.

③ Balanced regional growth eg. Dedicated freight corridor for U.P.

④ Agri-logistics to reduce agri-waste (~40%)

⑤ Fast movement of goods, raw materials ⇒ X supply shocks ⇒ inflation manageable

Various Issues with Indian logistics

① **Modal mix** skewed in favour of road (>60% of freight) when railways in the cheapest mode

② **Slow movement** — on road: congestion, State border checks
     rail: slow freight Speed

③ Unorganized sector > 60% logistics is handled in unorg. sector

④ Lack of mechanical handling at wareh ouses

⑤ Lack of container capacity & specialized Containers

⑥ Issue of last mile connectivity of Ports, rail networks

⑦ Procedural delays at ports, State borders due to poor document ation and lack of digitalization

⑧ Lack of private interest in warehousi -ng, container production etc.

NlP 2022 will help by:

① Digitalization of processes across logistics through ULIP

② Multi-modal logistics parks to ensure seamless flow across various modes

③ Comprehensive logistics Action Plan (CLAP) to ensure last mile connectivity, integrated planning

④ Digital System to ensure tracking, detection from end-to-end

However, NLP will also require:

① Smooth implementation of PM Gati Shakti NMP, NIP etc. ⇒ hard infrastructure

② Promotion of inland waterways, coastal shipping etc.

③ Skill development

Improvement in ranking Logistics Performance Index shows India can become Top 25 by 2030

9. Discuss the significance of the Supreme Court's recent judgement upholding Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, in the context of the Assam Accord. What is its larger implication for the region?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Section 6A was inserted into Citizenship Act 1955 as a result of Assam Accord which was signed in 1985 between Rajiv Chandhi Govt., Assam Govt. and leadership of AASU & AAGSP to address the issue of illegal immigration in Assam.

SC verdict on Section 6A

① Does not violate A.14 despite having specific cutoff date for Assam only as it is a specific legisla-tion to address specific problem

② Does not violate A.29 of indigenous Assamese as mere presence of other ethn-ic groups does not prevent Assam-ere from preserving their culture & heritage

③ On violation of A.326 : SC has held that adult franchise under

A. 326 does not give right to any community to maintain electoral majority

> [Significance of the verdict]

① Clears the way for NRC which was held recently with 1st Jan 1966 and 25th March 1971 as cutoffs

② Can tone down the resentment against the Assam accord ~~of~~ among certain segments such as ULFA.

③ Admits that illegal immigration is a menace

[Implication]

[+ve]

1. NRC process would move forwa-rd

2. Benchmark to address the issue of illegal immigration state-wise

Candidates must not
write on this margin

Intro	:
Body	:
Conc.	:
Total	:

3. Address the issue of demographic shift in certain pockets.

-ve

1. No deportation agreement with Bangladesh may create diplomatic issue

2. Lack of detention centers, foreigner's tribunal

3. Clash with the cutoff date of December 2014 in Citizenship Amend-ment Act 2016.

4. Large no. of "Stateless people"

Addressing the menace of illegal immigration also requires comprehensive border management to address "flow".

10. Demographic Dividend do not ensure growth, it only generates potential. Discuss the steps made by the government to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the demographic bulge. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

India is currently experiencing a demographic bulge with 27% of its population between the age of 15-29 yrs and median age is 28 years.

Demographic dividend generates potential by :

① Large size of working age population

② More savings for long term ⇒ long term capital

③ More fiscal space to spend on infra-structure as working age share is > than non-working age

However it may fail to generate growth if :

① ~~Not~~ Poor skill level, poor employability

② Bulge is beret with <u>malnourish-ment</u> and poor health

③ Gender divide

④ Rural – urban divide

⑤ Lack of jobs

Steps taken by the government :

① <u>Skill India</u> :   PM kaush Vikas Yojana has trained 1.4 cr youths so far

② <u>NEP 2020</u> : to transfer education sector and make it more industry relevant

③ <u>Production linked Incentive Schemes</u> across 14 sectors with outlays of Rs 1.97 lakh cr to generate jobs

④ <u>Employment liked incentives</u> to improve employability of first time job seekers

⑤ Bridge gender gap in STEM education through <u>KIRAN</u>, <u>20% reservation</u> in IITs & NITs

However, (challenges persist) as:

① > 50% graduates not employable

② < 25% placement rates in NSDC courses

③ High unemployment rate among youths (10%) vs overall -3.2% (22-23)

To [address] these :

① Sharda Prasad Committee : recommended industry participation in skill curricula through SSCs

② Kriti Sommaiyya panel recommended accreditation framework for ITIs

③ Industry led training through tax incentives, CSR funding

Reaping Demographic dividend is a must for achieving goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.