Prelims Qualified
1480616

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MAINS TEST SERIES 2.0 - 2025 (FLT)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : FLT2507

Name of Candidate: PRATEEK YADAV Mobile No. [redacted]

Roll No. : MT25FLTRA038 Start Time 1:00 PM End Time 4:00 PM

Date of Examination: 20/7/2025 Medium : English ☑ Hindi ☐

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
TOTAL MARKS - 100		

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
TOTAL MARKS - 150		

GRAND TOTAL - ...../ 250 EVAL CODE: ..... EVAL 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 20 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.

सामान्य निर्देश

1. QCA पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर कृपया तुरंत जांच लें कि इस QCA पुस्तिका में कोई पृष्ठ या सामग्री आदि गलत छपी हुई या फटी हुई या गायब तो नहीं है। यदि ऐसा है, तो इसे एक नई QCA पुस्तिका से बदल लें।
2. अभ्यर्थियों को सभी प्रासंगिक विवरण जैसे नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर, मोबाइल नंबर आदि का आवंटित स्थान पर उल्लेख करना होगा ।
3. अभ्यर्थियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह आवंटित समय-सीमा के भीतर ही सभी 20 प्रश्नों के उत्तर-लेखन का प्रयास करें।
4. प्रत्येक उत्तर, प्रवेश के समय चुनी गयी भाषा के माध्यम में ही लिखे जाने चाहिए।
5. अभ्यर्थियों को विशिष्ट प्रश्न के उत्तर संबंधित प्रश्न के नीचे ही लिखने होंगे। आवंटित स्थान के बाहर लिखे गए किसी भी उत्तर को क्रेडिट नहीं दिया जाएगा।
6. कृपया साफ-सुथरा लिखें। अपठनीय लेखन से बचें।
7. QCAB में अप्रासंगिक तथ्यों को न लिखें / न ही चिह्नित करें।

REMARKS: .....

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Student Concerns / Query	Evaluator's Feedback / Response
1	1 .....
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2	2 .....
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3	3 .....
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MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 3.00	3.00 - 3.75	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.50	4.50 - 5.75	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

IMPORTANT QR CODES

Topper's Copy

Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB

Copy Scanner App

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MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of MTS 2.0 Score Improvement Program (SIP) is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

Q1.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q2.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q3.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q4.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q5.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q6.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q7.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q8.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q9.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q10.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q11.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q12.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q13.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

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Q14.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q15.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q16.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q17.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q18.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q19.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q20.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion


NEXT
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Candidates must not write on this margin

1. मेक इन इंडिया के एक दशक बाद भी, भारत का विनिर्माण क्षेत्र इसकी विकास गाथा में एक कमजोर कड़ी बना हुआ है। भारत जीडीपी वृद्धि और रोजगार सृजन में अपनी क्षमता का उपयोग करने के लिए अपने विनिर्माण क्षेत्र को मौलिक रूप से कैसे नया रूप दे सकता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Even after a decade of Make in India, India's manufacturing sector has remained a weak spot in its growth story. How can India fundamentally reset its manufacturing sector to utilise its potential in GDP growth and job creation? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Manufacturing's contribution to GDP hovers around 12-14% for the past decade despite Make in India.

How to reset manufacturing sector?

① Shift focus on labour-intensive sectors - textile - ~~tot~~ leather

② Incentivise value addition in PLI scheme, not mere assembly

③ Promote sectors of comparative advantage (eg) Food processing

④ Adopt ~~Lewisian economy~~ approach → shift to agriculture-related manufacturing sectors - textiles, dairy, poultry, food processing

⑤ Integrate MSMEs into Global Value Chains

Candidates must not write on this margin

(6) Promote startups in manufacturing sector ⇒ Drone Startups etc

(7) Alleviate cashflow issues of MSMEs ⇒ TReDS Platform expansion

(8) Export-driven manufacturing be promoted ⇒ Solar Cells

(9) Address Inverted Duty Structure to promote cheaper raw material import, competitive exports

(10) Industry-academia linkage for better-lab-to-market R&D

(11) Promote GST Rationalisation

(12) Logistics efficiency enhancement through digital seamlessness, wider containerisation, multi-modal parks

(13) Focus on futuristic sectors like Robotics for future-proof manufacturing

(14) Sign FTAs with EU, GCC, AU, EAEU, MERCOSUR for greater market

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2. भारतीय स्टार्टअप्स ने अपार संभावनाएं दिखाने के बावजूद नवाचार को आगे नहीं बढ़ाया है। चर्चा कीजिए। भारतीय स्टार्टअप को मूल्य श्रृंखला में ऊपर जाने के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Indian startups, despite showing great potential, have not scaled up on innovation. Discuss. Suggest measures for Indian startups to go up the value chain.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

India has 3rd largest startup ecosystem. But most startups remain startups, handful few become MNCs & unicorns. Just 19 out of 117 Unicorns work on patented research

Why Startups not scaled on Innovation?

① Funding crunch ⇒ Chinese investors blocked after Galwan

② Long Gestation period in Deep-Tech startup

③ Risk Aversion of startup founders to invest in R&D

④ Regulatory Cholesterol pushes startups to service-driven sectors

⑤ Lack of government - support to innovative R&D in startups

⑥ Lack of traditional corporate houses (TT, Reliance, Adani) to support to

Candidates must not write on this margin

deep-tech startups

(7) Weak Industry - Academia linkages

(8) Weaker lab-to-startup connect

(9) Lack of incubation centres in India's colleges (to scale up innovative startups)

(10) Technological denial by foreign jurisdictions ⇒ 3rd i Tech did not get access to AI chips till 2023.

(11) Lack of policy & support & vision on incentivising & identifying futuristic startups

(12) Weak IPR regime in India

Measures suggested for Startups to go up Value Chain

(1) Utilise RDI Fund for Startups specially

(2) Integrate startups with IITs

(3) Foreign collaboration b/w iCET, INDUS-X to support Indian startups mentoring & networking

(4) Inculcate risk-taking culture from school days

(5) Incentivise innovate R&D by big corporate houses

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3. एक मजबूत सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (पीडीएस) के बावजूद, खाद्य सुरक्षा भारत की जनसंख्या के लिए एक चुनौती बनी हुई है। वर्तमान पीडीएस प्रणाली में क्या कमियां हैं? प्रणाली में सुधार के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Despite a robust Public Distribution System (PDS), food security remains a challenge to the Indian population. What are the deficiencies in the current PDS system? Suggest reforms to improve the system.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Despite PDS system, India still ranks 105 in Global Hunger Index, showing food security issue.

Deficiencies in Current PDS System

① Inclusion & Exclusion errors

② Leakages & Pilferage at storage & transportation level

③ Lack of monitoring of disbursal at Fair Price Shop level

④ Fragmented governance structure – Centre's FCI, State's distribution

⑤ Lack of nutritious food component in PDS – just wheat, millet, rice

⑥ Centralised procurement by FCI adds to cost & fiscal burden

⑦ Adulterated & poor quality food

⑧ Rotting of food at FCI storage due to

Candidates must not write on this margin

grain overflow & Cover & Plinth Storage

Reforms suggested to improve the systems

1. Digitalisation end-to-end ⇒ from procurement, storage, transportation to distribution at Fair Price Shops
2. 100% Aadhaar Seeding to reduce ghost beneficiaries
3. Food fortification at Fair Price Shops needed
4. Decentralised procurement (as suggested by Shanta KUMAR COMMITTEE)
5. GPS tracking & Colour-Coding of Trucks as done by Chhattisgarh
6. Increase prices of grains to reduce black-market differential
7. Include more products like Milk, Oil, fruits etc.

India today needs to address not hunger but HIDDEN HUNGER, Apart from grain-based PDS, horticulture &

Candidates must not write on this margin

4. हाल ही में शुरू किए गए डिजिटल कृषि मिशन के प्रमुख घटकों पर चर्चा कीजिए। यह मिशन किसानों के कल्याण में सुधार करने में कैसे सहायता करेगा? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the key components of the recently launched Digital Agriculture Mission. How will this mission help in improving farmers' welfare? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Digital Agriculture Mission aims to integrate digital technologies into farming processes to double farmers' income.

Key Components of DAM →

① **Agri Stack**: Digital land records, overlapped with Cropping pattern, insurance coverage, farmer's credit status

② **Kisan Decision Support System (KDSS)**

↳ integrates Satellite imagery, remote sensing, AI, market analytics, soil & climate conditions, weather forecasting to suggest most remunerative crops, timely sowing, harvest etc.

③ **Agriculture / Soil Analytics** ⇒ builds upon Soil Health Card Scheme

Candidates must not write on this margin

How DAM will improve farmer's welfare?

(1) Pull farmers out of "Cobweb Trap" through Market Intelligence

(2) Expand market access & better price discovery of harvest

(3) Credit Access increases based on Agri Stack

(4) Reduces debt-trap risks of farmers

(5) Helps targeted interventions for penetration of insurance coverage

(6) Reduce input costs by aligning crops with agro-climatic conditions

(7) Reduce post-harvest losses by expanding market access & quicker logistical access

(8) Reduce land disputes on farmer's land

(9) Integrates technology into agriculture

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5. एक्सिऑम-4 मिशन क्या है? एक्सिऑम-4 मिशन में भारत की भागीदारी भारत के मानव अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम को कैसे सशक्त करेगी? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

What is the Axiom-4 mission? How will India's participation in the Axiom-4 mission help in bolstering India's human space programme? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Axiom-4 mission is a human spaceflight mission to ISS, undertaken by a private USA company through SpaceX Dragon Spacecraft

Objectives :

① To take citizens of other countries to Space (Poland, Hungary, India)

② Conduct scientific experiments in ~~gravity~~ free conditions

③ Share knowledge of spaceflight missions with partner countries

④ Helps in building towards larger goal of human settlements at Moon (Artemis) & Mars

India's Shubhanshu Shukla participated in Axiom-4

How it will help ~~to~~ bolster India's human Space program? —:

Candidates must not write on this margin

① First-hand experience of Shubhanshu

② He can give great insights in astronaut training, psychological aspects

③ Experiments like growing Cowpea, diabetes-related experiment etc will help in advancing or India's proprietary research

④ Gaganyaan's launch is very close to Axiom-4 ⇒ so fresh experience helps

⑤ ISRO's team involved in troubleshooting before Axiom-4 went to space

⑥ ISRO's first-hand experience as ground staff for human spaceflight helps in design, command control systems of Gaganyaan

⑦ Axiom-4's successful landing at ocean surface ⇒ learning for ECLSS of ISRO

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6. परिशुद्ध औषधि की अवधारणा का परिचय दीजिए। दुर्लभ एवं विशिष्ट रोगों के उपचार में परिशुद्ध औषधि की भूमिका पर टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Introduce the concept of precision medicine. Comment on the role of precision medicine in the treatment of rare and specific diseases. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Precision Medicine are those medicines that precisely target the harmful / disease cells & minimise side-effects.

Precision Medicines can use novel technologies like:

1. Nanobots
2. Molecular Scissors
3. Chimeric Receptors for targeted action
4. Targeted Drug Delivery pathways

Role of Precision Medicine in Treating Rare & Specific Diseases

A. 1. They are more potent
2. Can be personalised

Candidates must not write on this margin

to target rare diseases like Spinal Muscular Atrophy

(3) Can prevent complications by reducing side-effects

(4) Capable of genetic targeting hence rare genetic diseases like Downs Syndrome can be potentially targeted

(5) Allows for precision monitoring & body response to targeted interventions

Combined with traditional & novel diagnostic tools, integrated medicine; the precision medicines offer new hope to patients with rare & specific diseases

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7. चर्चा कीजिए कि जैव विविधता अधिनियम, 2002 और हाल ही में अधिसूचित जैविक विविधता (पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण) विनियमन, 2025 पारंपरिक उद्योगों की वृद्धि सुनिश्चित करते हुए पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण को कैसे बढ़ावा देते हैं। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss how the Biodiversity Act, 2002, and the recently notified Biological Diversity (Access and Benefit Sharing) Regulation, 2025, promote access and benefit sharing while ensuring the growth of traditional industries. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Biodiversity Act 2002 & 2025 Regulations promote Access & Benefit Sharing —

(1) Mandatory ABS (Access & Benefit Sharing) Proposal to be submitted to NBA.

(2) Involvement of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in negotiating Access & Benefit Sharing

(3) Criminalises Biopiracy

(4) Encourages R&D on local biogenic resources & shares benefits with local communities

(5) Recognises Traditional Knowledge

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through People's Biodiversity Registers

⑥ Encourages Autonomy to local practitioners

Ensures Growth of Traditional Industries :-

① Has differential provisions for foreign companies & local companies vis-à-vis NBA approval

② Allows local practitioners of AYUSH, Hakim, Vaid to practice without permission, just intimation

③ Local Researchers do not need to have NBA approval before commercialisation stage

④ Brings legal clarity on biodiversity as a resource ⇒ thus promotes domestic investment in Biodiversity-based sectors ⇨ Dabur, Patanjali,

Candidates must not write on this margin

8. "आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण की दिशा में तैयारी (तत्परता) पहला कदम है।" इस संदर्भ में, भारत में आपदा तैयारी और पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणालियों को सुदृढ़ बनाने में भारतीय मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) की भूमिका का आकलन कीजिए।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Preparedness is the first step towards disaster risk reduction". In this context, assess the role of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in strengthening disaster preparedness and early warning systems in India.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, IMD launched Mission Mausam for hyperlocal forecasts such steps greatly strengthen disaster preparedness

IMD's role in Strengthening Disaster Preparedness & Early Warning Systems in India -

(1) Cyclone forecasts allow timely interventions by local administration

(2) Rainfall alerts on SMS by IMD lead to mitigation measures & community awareness

(3) Drought detection through moisture measurement can

Candidates must not write on this margin

enable preparedness of administration for food relief etc.

④ Flood events are forecasted by IMD based on rainfall intensities

⑤ Cloudburst preparedness enhanced through hyperlocal weather stations of IMD in hills

⑥ Storm Surges, Tidal surges are all analysed based on IMD data

⑦ Monsoon strength & forecast allows administration to prepare for food security/ surplus / deficit

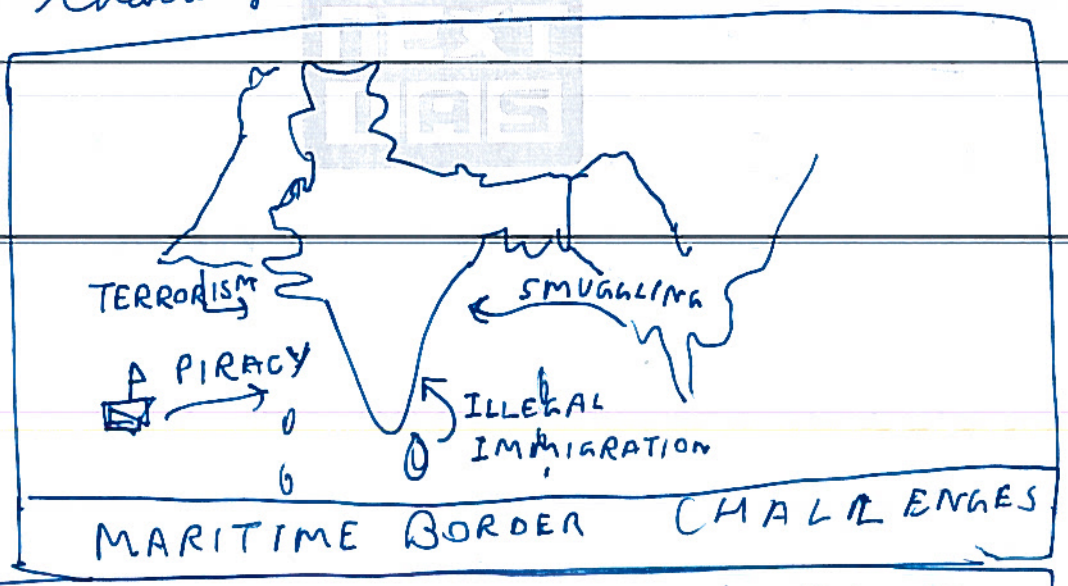
Thus, IMD's predictive models have benefitted in disaster preparedness for floods, cyclones, storms, droughts, landslides

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9. भारत की लंबी समुद्री सीमा किस प्रकार आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए गंभीर चुनौतियाँ प्रस्तुत करती है? इन चुनौतियों से निपटने हेतु सुझाव प्रस्तुत कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

How does the long maritime border of India present immense internal security challenges? Suggest measures to address these challenges. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

India has a 11,600+ kms long coastline. The diverse habitats, urban centres, terrains, open ocean down south ⇒ all make this long maritime border vulnerable to Internal Security challenges



Internal Security Challenges

(1) Piracy threat from Somalian pirates in Arabian Sea

(2) Terrorism threat from Pakistan-Sponsored terrorists ☞ 26/11 terrorists entered through maritime route

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Smuggling of contraband substances ⇒ Drugs worth ₹3000 crore at Mundra Port caught; FICN at Vizag Port.

(4) Arms Smuggled through Sea
⇒ ARSA smuggles arms through Bay of Bengal, Chittagong Port route

(5) Illegal Immigration & human trafficking goes Unchecked from Sri Lanka to Tamil Nadu route

Measures to Address these Challenges Suggested:

(1) Deeper coordination between ~~Army~~, Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police & Land Police

(2) Satellite imagery to detect activities at maritime border

(3) Cooperation ~~to~~ with IOR countries through IORA, Colombo Security Conclave etc

(4) De-radicalisation measures at Maldives, Sri Lanka to be supported by India

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10. जम्मू और कश्मीर में आतंकवादी गतिविधियों में कमी के बावजूद, ओवर ग्राउंड वर्कर्स (OGW) और छद्म (परोक्षी) आतंकवादी समूह भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए गंभीर खतरा बने हुए हैं। इन खतरों को निष्क्रिय करने के लिए क्या रणनीतियाँ अपनाई जा सकती हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Despite decline in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and proxy militant groups continue to pose a serious threat to India's internal security. What strategies can be adopted to neutralize these threats? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Terrorist activities in Jammu Kashmir has been supported by OGWs, Proxy Militant groups (who support terrorists but don't intermingle in common public afterwards)

Serious Threat by OGWs, Proxy Militant

(1) Difficult to detect, identify & track OGWs

(2) Tough terrain provides several hiding places to OGWs

(3) OGWs may be Indian citizens
⇒ this complicates the matter for Army during Combing Operations

Strategies to be adopted to neutralise OGW threats :-

(1) De-radicalisation initiatives

Candidates must not write on this margin

involving Community leaders eg Operation Sadbhavna of Kerala

(2) Identifying suspicious online activities of OGWs to detect, track them eg Kerala Police used social media monitoring to identify 15 sympathisers

(3) Community engagement by Army to develop goodwill eg Operation Sadbhavna

(4) Utilise emotional techniques like phone call to a loved one to motivate OGW surrender eg Operation Maa in Kashmir

(5) Speed up developmental activities in J&K to prevent alienation of youth.

Winning Hearts & Minds (WHAM) must be the ultimate strategy

Candidates must not write on this margin

11. "अवसरंचना का विकास त्वरित और समावेशी आर्थिक विकास का एक प्रमुख चालक है"। दीर्घकालिक विकास को प्राप्त करने में अवसरंचना में निवेश के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, अर्थव्यवस्था में अवसरंचना के नेतृत्व वाली वृद्धि को प्रोत्साहित करने में भारत की सफलताओं और विफलताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

"Infrastructure development is a key driver of accelerated and inclusive economic growth". Highlighting the importance of infrastructure investment in achieving long-term growth, discuss India's successes and failures in stimulating infrastructure-led growth in the economy.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Infrastructure - led growth is ~~one~~ one of the pillars high-lighted in NITI Aayog's Strategy@75

Importance of Infrastructure Investment in Achieving Long-Term Growth :-

(1) Enhances logistics efficiency
   ⇒ Reduced logistical expenditure from 14% to 9% of GDP in last decade
(2) Promotes Construction sector
(3) Gives employment to labourers
(4) Cement industry gets boost
(5) Steel, Aluminium & other core industries get boosted by demand
(6) Investment by Government
(7) Boosts Capex ⇒ sustains GDP

Candidates must not write on this margin

growth for long-term ⇒ ₹11 lakh crore capex in Budget FY25

(8) Boosts export competitiveness

(9) Efficiency of processes increased through Digital Infrastructure
⇒ through UPI, ONDC

(10) Human Resource built through Social infrastructure
- Schools, Hospitals.

(11) Reduces inequality ⇒ promotes inclusive growth by connecting remote areas ⇒ Chenab Rail Bridge

Successes of India in Stimulating Infra-led growth

(1) Airports infrastructure boosted - from 74 in 2014 to 200+ in 2025

(2) PPP projects have been more efficient in project delivery

(3) Infrastructural giants like Adani Group, L&T Group are fostered

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Financial fund flows maintained through NABFID creation

⑤ NIIF acts as fund of funds for infrastructural investments

⑥ Corporates of InvITs as financial instruments is rising

⑦ Success of DPIs ⇒ over $32 billion value created by DPI as per NASSCOM

Failures of India in stimulating Infra-led growth

① Poor upkeep & maintenance
eg Morbi Bridge Collapse, Bhavnagar Bridge Collapse

② Corruption allegations eg Dwarka Expressway

③ Infrastructure investment is boosting imports (like Steel), not domestic industries

④ Intergenerational inequity if over-

Candidates must not write on this margin

12. मौद्रिक नीति समिति (एमपीसी) की जिम्मेदारियाँ क्या हैं? एक स्थायी मुद्रास्फीति दर बनाए रखते हुए आर्थिक सुधार को व्यापक बनाने के लिए आरबीआई की मौद्रिक नीति पहल कितनी प्रभावी रही है?

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

What are the responsibilities of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)? How effective has the RBI's monetary policy initiatives been to broaden economic recovery whilst maintaining a sustainable inflation rate?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Monetary Policy Committee is a Statutory Committee under Section 45ZA of RBI Act 1934.

Responsibilities of MPC -

1. Inflation-targeting framework
2. Coordinating with RBI, Central government to manage inflation
3. Periodic review of repo rates to manage inflation
4. Balancing inflation with growth
5. Declaring the benchmark rates (Repo Rate) based on status of economy & global conditions
6. Aligning Monetary Policy with Fiscal

Candidates must not write on this margin

How effective has RBI's MPC been?

(I) MPC has been EFFECTIVE —:

(1) Managed to bring down inflation to 3% - 4% range through tweaking rates

(2) CPI inflation, headline inflation have been in control

- Goldilocks Zone ⇒ to promote growth without reducing consumer confidence in economy

(3) Accountability is fixed at MPC for overshooting inflation

(4) Aligned Monetary Policy well with Fiscal Policy ~~by~~ Repo Rate reduction to foster growth simultaneously with Budget's liberal ~~taxation~~ taxation regime in FY26.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) MPC has been INEFFECTIVE

(1) Inflation could not be within 6% range for nearly 2- years

(2) Supply-side inflation cannot be managed by MPC

⇒ Geopolitical disruptions, Crop failures

(3) CPI basket is outdated so mis-targeting of repo rates

(4) Delay, lag in transmission

⇒ leads to Policy mismatch between Fiscal & Monetary Policy

As CEA Anantha Nageswaran said, there is need to update CPI basket, relook at mechanisms to tackle supply-side inflation & better data collection for

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. भारत में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग के अवसर और चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं? अपार संभावनाओं के बावजूद इस उद्योग में कुल निजी निवेश कम क्यों रहा है? उपाय सुझाएँ। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

What are the opportunities and challenges of the food processing industry in India? Why has the overall private investment remained low in the industry despite immense potential? Suggest measures. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

India's food processing industry has a CAGR of 9% & expected to be a $530 billion industry by 2030

Opportunities of Food Processing Industry

(1) Agro-Climatic diversity allows for diverse products

(2) Labour abundance in India gives comparative advantage

(3) Changing Diet patterns to "Ready-to-Eat" foods holds market potential

(4) 45% of workforce employed in agriculture with first 17% GDP output ⇒ Food processing can absorb disguised unemployed youth

Candidates must not write on this margin

⑤ Cultural diversity of India
Eg Idli in South, Dhokla in Gujarat, Samosa in North etc

Challenges of Food Processing in India

① Fragmented landscape

② Most food processing units are small, informal, cottage industry-type

③ Risks of Food Contamination

④ Lack of adherence & compliance to FSSAI standards Eg "Analog Paneer"

⑤ Poor Farmgate infrastructure leads to expensive procurement of raw materials

⑥ Poor Branding & Marketing.

Why has Private Investment been low in Food Processing?

① Lack of Organised Retail Chains (like Reliance Fresh) makes marketing difficult

② Changing food habits risks uncertainty

Candidates must not write on this margin

in investment in a particular product

③ Challenge from successful cooperative models like AMUL, Lijjat Papad, Nandini Dairy

④ Lack of Reefer Trucks, Transport & Storage infrastructure in Country

⑤ Poor R&D in food processing sector ⇒ Most units have low value addition ⇒ Private investment only come when potential of high value addition

Measures to boost Food Processing & Private Investment

① Conduct national surveys on food habits of Indians

② Formalise Food processing units

③ Integrate these units with Food R&D institutes like IIPBT Kanpur

④ Market Access abroad through FTAs will attract greater private investment

⑤ Strengthen Food quality control infrastructure (labs, testing, etc.)

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. सूक्ष्म-सिंचाई प्रणालियाँ भारतीय कृषि में क्रांति ला सकती हैं, किन्तु इसे अपनाना सीमित है। इस संदर्भ में, चर्चा कीजिए कि सूक्ष्म-सिंचाई सतत जल प्रबंधन में कैसे सहयता कर सकती है। इसके व्यापक रूप से अपनाए जाने में क्या बाधाएँ हैं? उन्हें दूर करने के उपाय सुझाएं।
(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Micro-irrigation systems can revolutionize Indian agriculture, but adoption remains limited. In this context, discuss how micro-irrigation can help in sustainable water management. What are the barriers to its widespread adoption? Suggest measures to overcome them.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

How Micro-irrigation can help in Sustainable Water Management?

① Reduced water intake (eg) in Sprinkler system 80% less water used than flood irrigation

② Enhances Water-use efficiency of crops (eg) Rhizosphere application of water

③ Targeted application of water Reduces wastage (eg) Drip irrigation

④ Reduces fertilizer usage (eg) Fertigation
⇒ this reduces water pollution due to agricultural runoff

⑤ Water application can be Regulated based on weather, Crops etc. through IoT, AI integration in Micro-irrigation Systems

Candidates must not write on this margin

Barriers to Adoption of Micro-irrigation :-

1. Expensive equipments (eg Rifles, Sensors)
2. Lack of farmer awareness to these systems
3. Farmer's resistance to adopt new technologies
4. Lack of Internet & digital connectivity for India ⇒ (Many micro-irrigation systems need IoT integration)
5. Import dependency on major micro-irrigation systems like sensor-based drip irrigation
6. Cropping pattern dominated by Rice ⇒ Rice needs flood irrigation
7. Electricity & Water subsidies by governments distort in favour of tubewells, canals

Candidates must not write on this margin

Suggested Measures to overcome these barriers -:

① Gradually reduce electricity subsidies

② Use Water Meters to measure & collect water usage charges

③ Subsidize Micro-irrigation systems

④ Promote startups to innovate cheaper solutions eg AARISURE

End of Government incentivises it contains

⑤ Digital literacy of farmers

⑥ Awareness drive on benefits of Micro-irrigation eg in Andhra Pradesh through Rythu Bandhu Scheme

⑦ R&D on less water-intensive varieties of Rice, Sugarcane etc

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. 'मेजोराना 1 और विलो जैसे उन्नत चिप के विकास के साथ, क्वांटम कंप्यूटर अब केवल एक सिद्धांत नहीं, बल्कि वास्तविकता बन चुके हैं।' क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग के सिद्धांत क्या हैं? भारत में क्वांटम प्रौद्योगिकियों के विस्तार (वर्धन) में राष्ट्रीय क्वांटम मिशन कैसे सहायक है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

'With the development of advanced chips like Majorana 1 and Willow, quantum computers are no longer a theory but a reality'. What are the principles of quantum computing? How does the National Quantum Mission help in scaling up quantum technologies in India?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Majorana I & Google Willow have shown humanity is closer to breakthrough in quantum domain

Principles of Quantum Computing

① Quantum Superposition ⇒ allows simultaneous storage of multiple values in Qubit beyond binary 0, 1

② Quantum Entanglement ⇒ allows instantaneous data transfer

③ Quantum Parallelism ⇒ quantum computers are thousand times ~~fast~~ faster than parallel computers

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Quantum Decoherence induces errors in Qubit storage

⑤ Logical Qubits rectify errors that have crept in by decoherence

National Quantum Mission is an 8-year (2023-2031) long Mission of Government of India to develop "application-based technologies" in 4 domains:

① Quantum Computing

② Quantum Communication

③ Quantum Metrology & Sensing

④ Quantum Materials & Devices

How does NQM help in scaling up technologies of quantum?

① Nurturing Quantum Technology Hubs in IISc, IIT Bombay, Delhi, Madras

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Provides foundation for Indo-USA collaboration on Quantum under iCET / TRUST initiative

(3) Supports startups in Quantum sector (eg) Bengaluru startup demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) ~~based on~~ backed by NQM funding

(4) Pilot projects on quantum technologies will be undertaken under NQM.

(5) Will attract private investment to scale up Quantum R&D
(eg) Tata Electronics plans Quantum R&D

(6) Will foster ~~and~~ mentoring, networking, funding support & market linkages to Quantum startups of India

(7) NQM works alongside AICTE's QuEST to nurture human resources in quantum.

Candidates must not write on this margin

16. कार्य सिद्धांत, पहुँच, विस्तार क्षमता और सीमाओं के संदर्भ में फाइबर ऑप्टिक संचार के साथ उपग्रह संचार की तुलना कीजिए एवं अंतर बताइए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Compare and contrast satellite communication with fiber optic communication in terms of working principles, accessibility, scalability, and limitations.

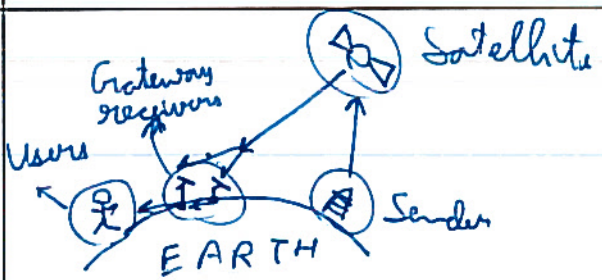
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Satellite Communication uses Satellite signals (radiowaves, microwaves) whereas fiber optics communication is terrestrial system that uses light signals for data send/ receipt

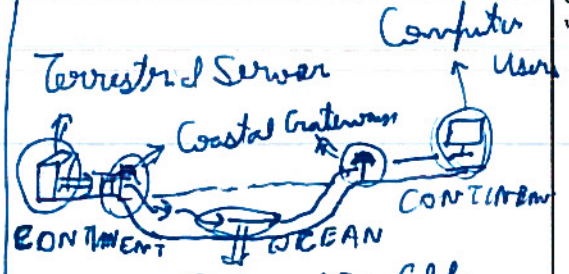
Working Principles

Satellite Communication	Fiber Optic
(1) Uses Satellite to send & receive signals	(1) Uses towers & terrestrial hubs, terrestrial servers
(2) Uses techniques like Beamforming, Phased Arrays systems	(2) Uses the concept of Total Internal Reflection within fiber optic cable
(3) Needs gateway on earth to route satellite signals	(3) Needs Gateways near Coastlines to cater to Submarine Cables

Candidates must not write on this margin



SATELLITE COMM.



FIBER OPTIC COMM

Accessibility

Satellite Comm	Fiber Optic Comm
① Accessible in remotest areas	① Accessible only in areas where fiber optic cable network exists
② Rain fade effect reduces speed	② No such thing as rain-fade. Speed is weather-independent
③ Just need a small transceiver at home	③ Need Tower, Back-haulling & more physical infrastructure
④ Very expensive data rates	④ Cheap data rates

Scalability

① Limited by geosynchronous	① Scalable based on cable-laying capacity

Candidates must not write on this margin

& Geostationary orbits	in oceans & on land
② It is more potent at temperate zones due to less weather disturbance	② Scalable even to harshest of climates
③ Satellite bandwidth remains fixed	③ Dark Fibers enhance scalability

Limitations

Satellite Comm.	Fiber Optic Comm
① High latency	① Risk of geopolitical intended damage
② Energy-intensive	⇒ Fiber Optics near Finland cut
③ Risk of Space Crowding & "Kessler Syndrome"	② Not reachable to remote areas, ships, Glacial regions
④ Less suited to equator & tropics due to rainfade, dust	③ Expensive physical infra

NEXT IAS

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. आर्द्रभूमि पारिस्थितिक संतुलन बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं, फिर भी उन्हें कई मानवजनित और जलवायु संबंधी खतरों का सामना करना पड़ता है। चर्चा कीजिए। आर्द्रभूमि के संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Wetlands play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance, yet they face several anthropogenic and climate-related threats. Discuss. What steps have been undertaken by the Government of India to conserve and promote wetlands? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Wetlands play crucial role in maintaining ecological balance →

① Act as "kidneys" of earth
② Absorb pollutants
③ Act as Storm Barriers
④ Host rich biodiversity ⇨ migratory birds at Keoladeo Ghana
⑤ Help in Aquifer Recharge
⑥ Balance local weather, temperature, humidity
⑦ Mitigate flood, cyclones impact

Yet, they face several Anthropogenic & Climate threats

Anthropogenic Threats →

① Encroachments on Wetlands ⇨ in Bengaluru
② Over-dumping of Waste reduce

Candidates must not write on this margin

the ecological health of wetlands
Ex Bellendur Lake, Bengaluru

(3) ~~Dams~~ River Dams restricts water flow & wetland recharge

(4) Invasive Species threat (Ex Water Hyacinth)

(5) Pumping out water for land reclamation risks its existence

(6) Chemical discharge from agricultural fields

(7) Industrial effluents, urban pollution runoff

Climate - related threats :-

(1) Erratic rainfall leading to drying up of wetlands

(2) Biodiversity loss leading to Hypoxic lakes & wetlands

(3) Risk on Wetland Sustainability due to glacial melting face

(4) Salinization of Wetlands due to Sea-level rise

Candidates must not write on this margin

Steps by Government to Conserve & Provide Wetlands

(1) National Wetland Conservation Program ⇒ promotes "sustainable use"

(2) Wetland Rejuvenation Program
↳ identifies 1000 wetlands, does baseline assessment & rejuvenation plan

(3) Wetland ~~(Conservation)~~ Rules, 2017
↳ aligns with Ramsar Convention

(4) Wetland mapping by NRSC, ISRO

(5) AMRIT SAROVAR for urban wetlands conservation

(6) Wetlands conservation under MGNREGA works

(7) Increased push towards Ramsar sites ~~designation~~ Recognition to Indian wetlands

(8) River Conservation Programs like Namami Ganga supports Wetland conservation

Candidates must not write on this margin

18. अनुचित भीड़ नियंत्रण तंत्र के कारण होने वाली भगदड़, जो कि रोकी जा सकती है, भारत में लगातार लोगों की जान ले रही है। ऐसी आपदाओं के अंतर्निहित कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए। कुशल भीड़ प्रबंधन के लिए कौन-से संस्थागत और प्रौद्योगिकीय उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

In spite of being preventable, stampedes due to improper crowd control mechanisms continue to claim lives in India. Discuss the underlying causes of such disasters. What institutional and technological measures can be taken for efficient crowd management?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Stampedes like Mathras, Maha Kumbh, Delhi Railway Station, & Bengaluru IPL Stadium incidents ⇒ all show that India is prone to such preventable disaster if crowd control mechanisms are not in place;

Causes of Stampedes -:

① Structural causes
- ↳ Barrier infirmity in Mahakumbh
- ↳ Overcrowding at Delhi Station
- ↳ Improper Stadium Entry & Exit gates at Bengaluru stadium

② Incidental causes like fire, or fall of any structure

③ Lack of Crowd surveillance measures like Drones were not present in Mathras Stampede case

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Poor coordination between ground teams (police, medical, fire, organizational staff)

⑤ Poor public announcement systems eg in Delhi Railway Station.

⑥ Improper Route planning causing congestion at specific points eg in Maha Kumbh Pontoon Bridge

⑦ Lack of adequate understanding of Crowd behaviour eg Superstition crowd in Hathras; over-excited crowd in Bengaluru stadium

⑧ Poor predictive analytics on volume of expected crowd

Measures to be taken for Effective Crowd Management

(I) **Institutional Measures** :-

① Strong Barricading for guiding

Candidates must not write on this margin

crowd

② Proper Communication & Coordination between police, event staff, medical teams etc.

③ Continuous Public Announcement for constant directions

④ Guidelines of Crowd Movement to be given at ticket entry level

⑤ Route Planning, Evacuation Routes, Ticketing Systems ⇒ all can help.

Technological Measures :-

① Drone-based surveillance

② AI-based alert system to alert on growing crowd concentration

③ AI-based Crowd sentiment analysis

④ Big Data to integrate crowd inflow & outflow, road/rail/air traffic towards event city etc.

⑤ IoT-based systems to direct crowd through Maps.

Candidates must not write on this margin

19. भारतीय समाज के तेजी से डिजिटलीकरण के साथ, डिजिटल गिरफ्तारी जैसे साइबर अपराध में भी वृद्धि हुई है। साइबर सुरक्षा के प्रमुख तत्त्वों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत की साइबर सुरक्षा अवसंरचना को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए आवश्यक उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

With the rapid digitalization of Indian society, cyber crimes like digital arrest have also increased. Highlighting the major elements of cybersecurity. Discuss the measures needed to strengthen India's cybersecurity infrastructure. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Digital arrest & cyber frauds have stolen over ₹ 7000 crores from Indians since January 2025.

Major Elements of Cybersecurity

(1) Infrastructure security ⇨ Securing servers from physical damage

(2) Informational security ⇨ Data protection, firewalls

(3) Algorithmic security through softwares like firewall

(4) Internet security through Cyber-Hygiene practices, firewall, anti-DDoS services

(5) Critical infrastructure security like Banking, Power, Energy

Candidates must not write on this margin

grid - related servers

(6) Financial security ⇒ preventing financial frauds like Digital Arrest

(7) Identity security ⇒ against identity theft, deepfakes etc

Measures needed to Strengthen India's Cybersecurity Infrastructure

(1) Cooperation with trusted partners ⇒ USA - India - Japan cooperate on Cyber Security (QUAD)

(2) Indigenous critical elements
⇒ Chips must be indigenous to prevent backdoor entry through hardware gaps

(3) Coordination within all law enforcement agencies
⇒ Bharat Pol - type system needed for Cybersecurity.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Strengthen R&D on Cyber-security algorithms

⑤ Ethical Hacking training for Human Resource capabilities

⑥ Detect bugs, vulnerabilities in systems & immediately apply patches

⑦ Track down cybercrime perpetrators eg Cambodia, Myanmar hosting Cybercrime fraudsters

⑧ Awareness drives for Citizens eg PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat against Digital Arrests

⑨ Redressal mechanisms for victims of Cybercrime

Cybersecurity is since qua non of India's ambitions to be a $1 trillion digital economy

Candidates must not write on this margin

20. अवैध आव्रजन भारत के लोकतंत्र, संप्रभुता और आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा उत्पन्न करता है। इस कथन के आलोक में, चर्चा कीजिए कि हाल ही में पारित आव्रजन और विदेशी अधिनियम, 2025 अवैध आव्रजन के मुद्दे से प्रभावी ढंग से निपटने में कैसे सहायता करता है। इस अधिनियम से संबंधित संवैधानिक और संभावित मानवाधिकार संबंधी चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं?

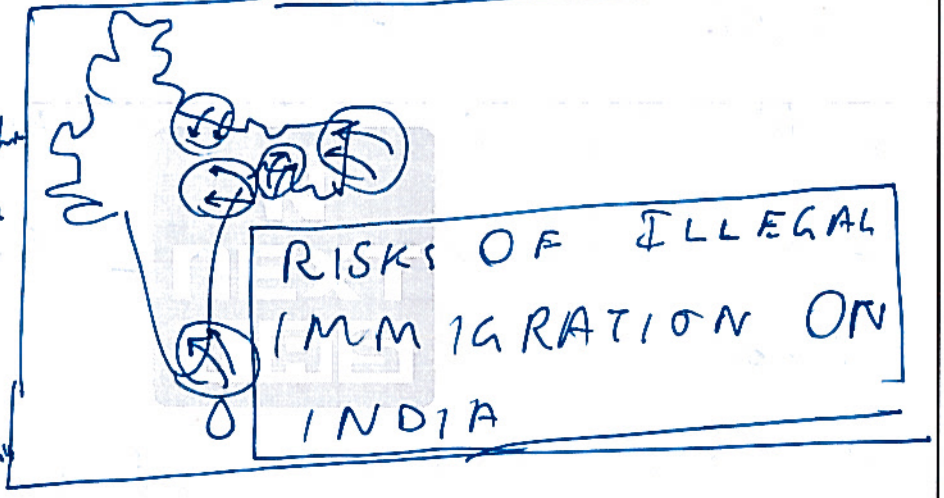
(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Illegal immigration poses a threat to India's democracy, sovereignty, and internal security. In light of this statement, discuss how the recently passed Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, helps in effectively addressing the issue of illegal immigration. What are the constitutional and potential human rights challenges associated with the Act? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Illegal immigration threats for India are on the rise

Threats:

1. Demographic imbalance
2. Social unrest
3. Economic burden
4. Pressure on job market
5. Smuggling & Trafficking



Immigration & Foreigners Act 2025

How it helps to address Illegal immigration?

1. Brings legal clarity
2. Combines laws like Foreigners Act 1946, Passports Act 1955

Candidates must not write on this margin

into this Act

③ Empowers State governments to set up Foreigners Tribunal

④ Registration of foreigners now mandatory at all hotels / resorts etc.

⑤ Better tracking of foreigner's stay & his/her activities in India

⑥ Provides imprisonment clause in case of violation.

⑦ Also clarifies grounds of violation on which an immigration will be considered illegal

Constitutional Challenges to this Act?

① Right to liberty (Art 21)

② Potential violation of Privacy

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Misuse possibilities against genuine citizens lacking documentary proof

④ May violate Article 14 (Equality) (discriminates between different types of foreigners)

⑤ Article 19(1)(e) (freedom of movement & residence) may be violated if Act is misused against ~~Govt~~ genuine citizens

Human Rights Challenges -:

① Custodial torture

② Inhuman conditions at Detention Centres

③ Potential religious discrimination → violate cultural rights

Immigration & Foreigners Act 2025 remain landmark in redefining the legal structure in changing

Space for Rough Work

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS

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