NEXT IAS

MAIN TEST SERIES 2024 (FLT)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : FLT011 **Test No. : 11**

Name of Candidate: Himanshu Singh Mobile No. .....

Roll No. : MT24FLTONO05 Start Time 9.45 End Time 12.55

Date of Examination: 05-09-2024 Medium : English ☑ Hindi ☐

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

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
11.	15	
12.	15	
13.	15	
14.	15	
15.	15	
16.	15	
17.	15	
18.	15	
19.	15	
20.	15	
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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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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.

NEXT IAS

IMPORTANT QR CODES

Topper's Copy

Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB

Copy Scanner App

Next IAS Test Centre Location

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

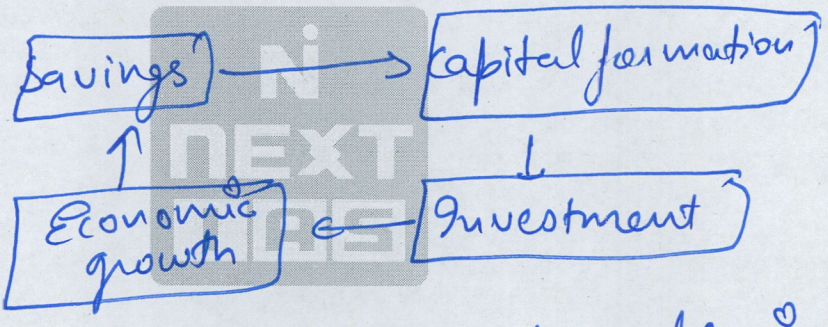
IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

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1. घरेलू बचत भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की संवृद्धि में किस प्रकार योगदान देती है? क्या आपको लगता है कि घरेलू बचत दर में गिरावट भारतीय परिवारों में ऋणग्रस्तता और संकट में वृद्धि का संकेत देती है?(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक
How do household savings contribute to the growth of the Indian economy? Do you think that the recent fall in household savings rate marks a rise in indebtedness and distress among Indian households? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Household savings are one of the greatest contributor to Indian economy. Household savings stands at 60% of National savings in FY 24. (ecosurvey)

Household savings contributing to growth of Indian economy

(1) 

(2) Enhances human capital and social capital by increased spending on education, health, skill development.

(3) Rise in aggregate demand for various services.

Recent fall in household savings rate marks rise in indebtness and distress

(1) Increase in loans and indebtness

household loans grew by 73% (year on year) in 2023 comparison to 2022.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Increased financialisation of economy i.e speculative activities instead of real economy.

(3) Rise in Interest rates due to increase in CRR and Repo rate.

Recent fall in household savings rate not marking indebtness and distress

(1) Persistant food inflation is touched 9.4% in July 2024 ie more spending on food items.

(2) Increased spending on education and health

(3) HDI reports as uncertainity complex / uncertain times in contemporary period.

(4) Increased festive spending and compulsive consumption.

Hence, household savings decline is due to global polycentric crisis and food inflation, not due to distress or indebtness.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. भारत के एफडीआई (FDI) क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय गिरावट देखी जा रही है। वे कौन से कारक हैं जो विदेशी निवेशकों के बीच भारत में निवेश करने के प्रति आशंका उत्पन्न कर रहे? सरकार द्वारा इस गिरावट की प्रवृत्ति को उलटने/रोकने के लिए कुछ सुधरात्मक उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

India's FDI sector is seeing a significant downward trend. What factors are causing apprehensions among the foreign investors to invest in India? Suggest some corrective measures that must be taken by the Government to reverse the falling trend.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

FDI (foreign direct investment) is generally categorised as >10% investment in a company for long term goals. FDI in India stands at ≃ 83 lakh crores (in FY 23).

Factors causing apprehensions among foreign investors to invest in India

(A) Internal factors →

(1) Regulatory cholesterol → SEBI's ineffectiveness to curb corrupt practices.
eg Post poll market crash.

(2) Policy uncertainity in certain sectors.
eg Govt banned agricultural exports.

(3) India's low sovereign credit ratings (even after not defaulting on any payments)

(4) India's high public debt to GDP ratio ≃ 81% (ecosurvey 2023-24)

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) India's low participation in Global value chains (≈ 233 lakh crores) and stagnant manufacturing sector (≈ 14% of GDP)

(B) External factors

(1) Global polycentric crisis → Russia Ukrain
↳ Israel Hamas
↳ Trade wars

(2) Global synchronised tapering
eg Fed tapering sucking out excess funds.

(3) uncertainty and political crisis in South Asia.

(4) Lucrative investment opportunities in south East Asia, Africa etc.

Corrective measures that can be taken

(1) Full capital account convertability.

(2) FSLRC committe recommended — unification of Regulators — SEBI, IRDA etc into one regulator.

(3) NK Singh committee → Reducing Public debt

(4) India to embrace market and sign FTA's.

FDI not only brings managerial skills and investment but also technologies. Hence should be incentivised to realise full potential of India's GDP growth.

Candidates must not write on this margin

3. कृषि सब्सिडी भारत में फसल विविधता, फसल प्रतिरूप और कृषि संधारणीयता को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करती है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

How do farm subsidies impact crop diversity, cropping patterns and agricultural sustainability in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Farm subsidies are provided to farmers to reduce input cost, protect them from uncertainties etc.

Farm subsidies
- Centre
  - Fertiliser subsidy
  - Price support subsidy etc.
- State
  - Power subsidy
  - Loan waivers
  - Insurances etc

Farm subsidies impacting crop diversity and cropping patterns

(1) Price support subsidies - cereal centric nature reduced crop diversity.
eg Cereals ≃ 43%, Pulses ≃ 15-18%
Millets ≃ 10% of the area.

(2) Fertiliser subsidy ⇒ Over use of fertilisers.
N : P : K = 8 : 3 : 1 (Real)
4 : 2 : 1 (Ideal)

(3) Increased pesticide content, reducing climate resilience and soil health.

(4) Crops that are not agro-climatically suited for that region are cultivated eg Sugarcane in Maharashtra.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Farm subsidies impacting agricultural Sustainability

(1) Over-exploitation of ground water
usage ≈ 25% of ground water is used by India

(2) Increased salinisation and desertification
eg Punjab, Haryana.

(3) Aid curse → loan waivers have not increased agricultural productivity.

(4) Regressive nature of subsidies
used more by rich farmers
defeating whole purpose of subsidies.
eg fertiliser subsidy.

(5) Reduced funds for capital expenditure
due to huge fiscal burden
(fertiliser subsidy ≈ 1064 lakh crores in FY24)

measures to be taken

(1) Mahesh Kumar Jain committee → Phasing out unsustainable subsidies.

(2) Direct Benefit transfer - income support

(3) Price deficiency system → eg MP's Bhavantar Bhugtaan Yojana

Hence, subsidies should be used as a tool to enhance crop diversification and agricultural productivity.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4. "परिशुद्ध कृषि" के सिद्धांतों पर चर्चा करते हुए, परिशुद्ध कृषि में "इंटरनेट ऑफ थिंग्स" के उपयोग को विस्तार से समझाइये। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

While discussing the principles of "precision agriculture", elaborate on the uses of "Internet of Things" in precision agriculture. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

"Precision agriculture" is a technique based on principle of resource efficiency by using cutting edge technology so that nothing on farm goes to waste.

Principles of precision agriculture

(1) use of satellite imaginery → for developing swales, better prediction of monsoon etc.

(2) Smart fencing and resource application by use of drones, robots etc

(3) Developing a circular economy in agriculture eg Manure from livestock can be used in farm.

Uses of Internet of things in Precision agriculture

(1) Soil health monitoring using big data analytics and sample monitoring.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Fertiliser use efficiency ⇒ by realising correct usage of fertilisers and their absorption.

(3) water use efficiency ⇒ using internet for developing bio-swales for water conservation.

(4) Pesticide application by predicting pest attacks and correct use efficiency.

(5) Information management systems
⇓
To manage agricultural derivatives and realise the demand of customers.

(6) Addressing adverse effects of climate by planting climate resilient varieties.

(7) Application in food processing industry
↙ Logistics ↓ Transport ↘ labour management

"Precision agriculture" provides a window of opportunity to achieve SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (No hunger) while also enhancing climate resilience of Indian agriculture

Candidates must not write on this margin

5. लघु मॉड्यूलर नाभिकीय रिएक्टर (SMR) क्या हैं? लघु मॉड्यूलर नाभिकीय रिएक्टरों को पारंपरिक नाभिकीय ऊर्जा संयंत्रों का सुरक्षित विकल्प क्यों माना जाता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

What are Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs)? Why are SMRs considered a safer alternative to conventional Nuclear Power Plants? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Small modular Nuclear reactors are portable and mobile reactors generally < 10 MW capacity.

SMR's considered safer alternative to conventional Nuclear plants

(1) Smaller radius of damage if in case of failure.

(2) Generally setup away from cities and habitated places.
eg use in factories for clean power
Iron industry

(3) Enhanced regulatory mechanisms and low maintenance.

(4) use of less fuel for consumption.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Candidates must not write on this margin

6. विश्व भर में जूनोटिक रोगों की घटनाओं में अकस्मात वृद्धि में किन कारकों का योगदान है? जूनोटिक रोगजनकों के कारण होने वाली महामारियों के हालिया उदाहरणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

What factors have contributed to the sudden rise in the incidences of zoonotic diseases across the globe? Highlight the recent examples of pandemics caused by zoonotic pathogens. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Zoonotic diseases are diseases caused by bite or interaction with animals.

Factors that contributed to sudden rise in incidences of zoonotic diseases

(1) Changes in dietary patterns globally has impacted this
eg Pangolic → Corona virus.

(2) Climate change ⇒ melting of glaciers
eg Zombie viruses

(3) Increased movement of people due to globalisation ⇒ close interaction enhancing the risk.

(4) Increased man-animal conflict due to habitat fragmentation.

(5) Increasing global temperature has also provided conducive environment for growth of zoonotic bacterias.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Recent examples of Pandemics caused by zoonotic pathogens

1. Zika virus
2. Nipah virus
3. Monkey pox
4. Ebola virus

Measures that can be taken

1. Adhering to WHO's declarations on AMR (anti-microbial resistance)
2. Capacity building by proactive approach.
3. Mandatory testings in crowded places.

Zoonotic diseases possess a serious threat to human life, hence global consensus is needed to check its spread and achieve SDG 3 (Good health & wellbeing)

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7. भारत में बड़े सामाजिक-धार्मिक समारोहों और समागमों में भीड़ नियंत्रण की प्रमुख चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। एनडीएमए के "सामूहिक समारोहों के आयोजन स्थलों के लिए भीड़ प्रबंधन योजना की तैयारी हेतु सुझावात्मक रूपरेखा" के आलोक में, भगदड़ की घटनाओं को रोकने के उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the major challenges of crowd control in large socio-religious gatherings and congregations in India. In the light of NDMA's "Suggestive Framework for Preparation of Crowd Management Plan for Events Venues of Mass Gathering", suggest measures to prevent stampede incidents. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Crowd stampedes in recent times such as world cup winning parade, Hathras incident has highlighted the threat it possesses to cause social-disharmony and human life.

Major challenges of crowd control

(1) Fixing accountability ⇒ Diffusion of accountability due to multiplicity of authorities → committees → Temple authorities → Police

eg Ganesh festival committees

(2) In-groupism ⇒ A crowd can be easily mobilised to undertake violent activities

eg Kanwar Yatra flow in UP.

(3) ~~Huge~~ Misinformation, pessimism bias can cause huge damage to public life and infrastructure

Candidates must not write on this margin

NDMA's "suggestive framework for preparation of crowd management"

(1) Oversight mechanism — in form of socio-religious committees, organisers and Police to fix accountability

(2) Ambulance and emergency services on a call away for rescue operations

(3) use of technology for crowd management.

(4) Maintaing human right standards by providing adequate environment.

other measures that can be undertaken

(1) Emotional intelligence can be used by leaders and authorities to manage crowds.

(2) use of open and ventilated spaces.

(3) Training and capacity building of crowd to prevent themselves during Stampede

Hence these measures can be undertaken to manage crowd effectively.

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8. 'संयुक्त राष्ट्र हाई सी ट्रीटी 2015 के पेरिस समझौते की महत्ता और सार्थकता के बराबर है।' इसके संदर्भ में, समुद्री जैव विविधता के संरक्षण और निष्पक्ष व न्यायसंगत संसाधन-साझाकरण के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र हाई सी ट्रीटी के महत्त्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

'The UN High Seas Treaty is comparable to the 2015 Paris Agreement's importance and significance'. In the context of this, discuss the importance of the UN High Seas Treaty for the conservation of marine biodiversity and fair and equitable resource-sharing.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

UN High seas treaty also known as BBNJ treaty (Biodiversity beyond ~~under~~ National jurisdiction) was signed under UNCLOS

Importance of high seas treaty for marine biodiversity

1. Declaration of global common and everyone's responsibility to protect marine life
2. Technology transfer for state of art protection measures to reduce plastic pollution, oil pollution in seas.
3. Mandatory Environment impact Assessment.
4. Pledge to reduce sea surface temperature ($\simeq 0.7^{\circ}C$ increase in temperature since 1850's - IPCC AR6)
5. Also realised emerging threats such

Candidates must not write on this margin

as deep sea mining, over-exploitation of resources.

Importance of high seas treaty for equitable resource sharing

(1) Sustainable use of marine and fish resources → reducing over-exploitation

(2) Engagement of stakeholders such as local communities.

(3) Setup a fund to oversee implementation of the scheme.

(4) Illegal wildlife trade also to be checked.

(5) Disproportionate impact of climate change on small island states were also undertaken.

Hence, UN high seas treaty can be compared to 2015 Paris agreement as it recognises everyone's responsibility to protect and achieve SDG 14 (life below water)

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9. जनरेटिव एआई (Generative AI) के अवैध प्रयोग से उत्पन्न नए साइबर खतरे क्या हैं? हाल ही में हस्ताक्षरित बैलेचले घोषणा के आलोक में, भारत एआई द्वारा उत्पन्न खतरों के विरुद्ध अपनी साइबर सुरक्षा ढाँचा को किस प्रकार मजबूत कर सकता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

What are the new cyber threats posed by the illicit use of Generative AI? In the light of recently signed Bletchley Declaration, how can India beef up its cybersecurity structure against threats raised by AI? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Generative AI used machine learning tools to undertake various functions such as simulation, ~~large~~ big data analysis etc. However, un-regulated AI has potential to disrupt security infrastructure.

Cyber threats posed by Illicit use of Generative AI ⇒

(1) Deepfakes ⇒ Deepfakes can cause multiplier effects in the society.
eg Hon'ble PM's deepfakes during elections.

(2) Misinformation, disinformation ⇒ AI can cause infodemics
eg Global risk report 2023 - highlights misinformation and fake news as one of the 5 most serious Threats India possesses.

(3) Racism ⇒ AI can learn discrimination and cause racism
eg Google old AI was shut down due to this.

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④ Ethical issues ⇒ The line of accountability and transparency is blurred.

Bletchley declaration ⇒

① Recognised transformative power of AI and also threats possessed by Frontier AI.

② Global responsibility to check use of AI.

③ Established Global AI Safety summit every year.

India to beef its cybersecurity structure

① Indegenisation of technology and data localisation.

② Leveraging technology such as quantum technology and computing

③ Capability building and training to develop a skill chain.

Digital India act 2023 provides a ray of hope to lead India in Amrit kaal and its digital transformation.

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10. पड़ोसी देशों में बढ़ते राजनीतिक संकट के कारण भारत की सीमा सुरक्षा गंभीर दबाव में है। विस्तार से समझाइये।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

India's border security is under severe pressure due to the rising political crisis in neighbouring countries. Elaborate.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

India's borders span over 15000+ km (land) and 7500 km+ (Maritime border) encompassing deserts, swamps, trans boundary rivers, hills, forests etc.

India's border security under severe pressure

(1) Illegal immigration ⇒ mass and mixed immigration
eg Myanmar Rohingya,

(2) Cartographic aggression
⇊
eg China's Salami Slicing technique

(3) Cross-border terrorism
⇊
eg J&K militancy supported by Pakistan.

(4) Drug trafficking ⇒ Proximity to golden triangle and golden crescent
eg NCRB reported highest drug in 2022.

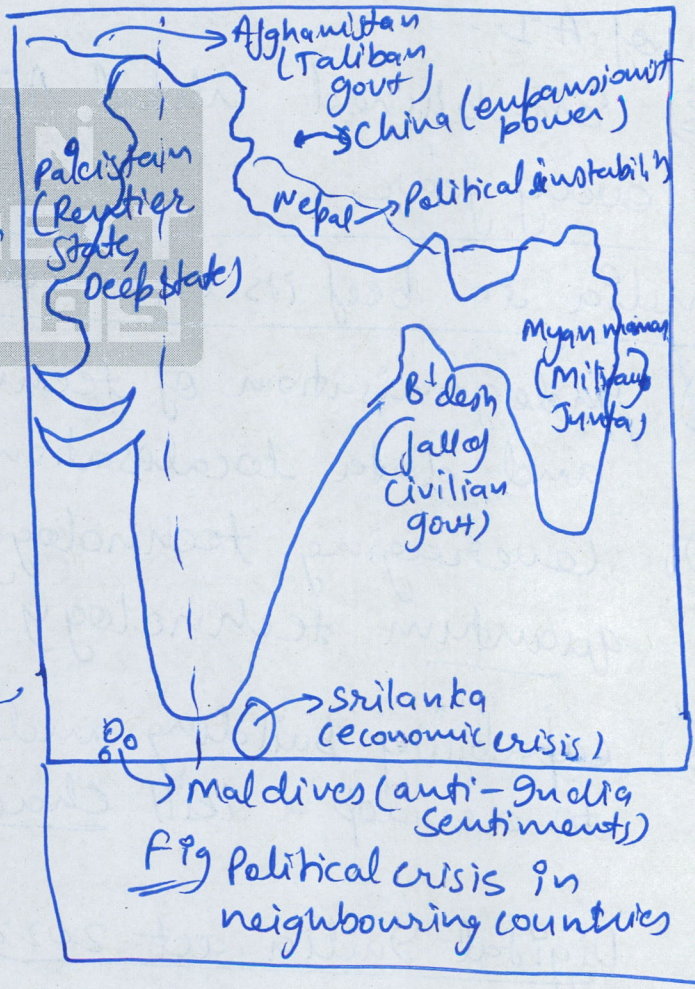


Fig Political crisis in neighbouring countries

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(5) Maritime border issue → Sir-Creek
↳ Katchatheevu Island.

(6) Human trafficking, Fake Indian Currency notes by Nepal border.

(7) Piracy and gold smuggling in Indian Ocean.
eg Houthi Rebels.

(8) Radicalisation and over ground workers
= Hybrid militants, sleeper cells in J&K.

Govt. efforts to tackle this

(1) Border area development programme, vibrant village programmes - for development -

(2) Operation Sadbhavna by Army
↳ for de-radicalisation.

(3) Theatrisation of command of armed forces.

(4) Operation Samudragupta for busting drugs.

(5) NATGRID, NC3I, NCIIPC

Furthermore, Shekatkar committee recommendations can be applied for strengthening border infrastructure.

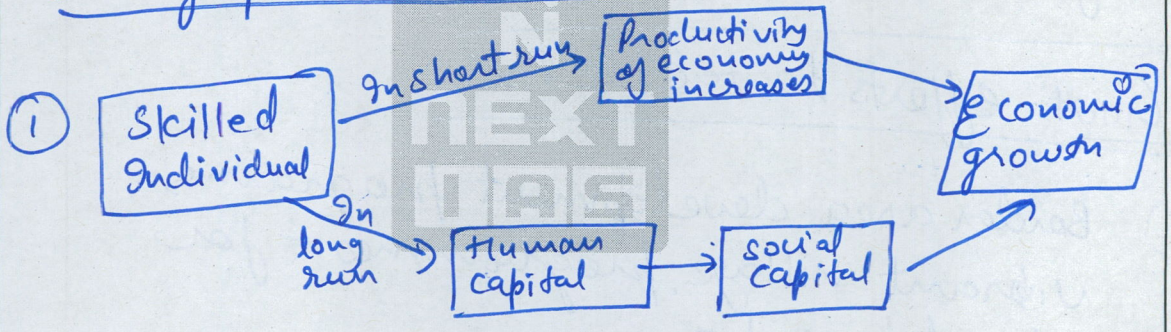
Candidates must not write on this margin

11. "कौशल के बिना व्यक्ति संपत्ति नहीं बल्कि राष्ट्र के विकास पर एक दायित्व है"। प्रासंगिक कौशलों का समावेश भारत के जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश में किस प्रकार योगदान देता है? युवाओं में कौशल अंतर को कम करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में कौन सी पहल की गई हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

"A person without skill is not an asset but a liability on the nation's growth". How infusion of relevant skills contribute to the demographic dividend of India? What recent initiatives have been undertaken by the Government to reduce the skill gap among young Indians? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

India skills report highlighted only ≃ 60% of Indians in working population are formally skilled (compared to S. Korea ≃ 96%)

Infusion of relevant skills contributing to demographic dividend



(2) Skill begets skill ⇒ when an individual is skilled, capability to gain another skill increases.

(3) Entrepreneurship ⇒ skill development enhances individuals capacity to take risks and foster economic growth.

eg India has over 1 lakh startups and >100 unicorns.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Self employability ⇒ Skill generates capacity to self employ and creates jobs for others as well

eg Development of food processing industry - a labour intensive industry.

⑤ Innovation ⇒ Skills generates innovations and cutting edge technology

eg Semiconductor designing.

Initiatives taken by Government to reduce skill gap

① National skill development mission - for better industry academia linkage.

② PM kaushal vikas Yojana ⇒ To foster skills while setting up kaushal vikas kendra's.

③ Stand up India and Skill India ⇒ To foster risk taking ability of individual.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Others → DAY-NULM
↳ PM employment guarantee scheme

Critique ⇒

(1) Challenge of low quality of education
↳ only ≈ 50% of graduated youth are employable (Skill India report)

(2) Declining quality of jobs – as highlighted by PLFS

(3) Low female LFPR ≈ 37%

Measures to be taken ⇒

(1) Sharada Prasad committee ⇒
↳ mandatory Internships
↳ Setting up central universities of Skill development.

(2) Learning from best practices – such as Japan, Korea to harness demographic dividend into longevity dividend.

Hence, Skill development is required to raise human resource capital and achieve goal of Vikshit Bharat 2047.

Candidates must not write on this margin

12. भारतीय विमानन क्षेत्र में देश में परिवहन का प्राथमिक साधन बनने की अपार संभावनाएँ हैं। भारत के विमानन क्षेत्र में संवृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने वाले कारक क्या हैं? इस क्षेत्र के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इसमें सुधार के उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

The Indian aviation sector has immense potential to become the primary mode of transportation in the country. What are the factors propelling growth in India's aviation sector? Highlight the challenges that the sector faces and suggest measures for improvement. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Indian aviation sector is seeing tremendous growth and pent up demand in recent years.

Factors propelling growth of India's aviation sector

① Accessibility ⇒ Increased number of airports and flight services even in hinterlands.
eg Ayodhya international airport

② Increasing demand ⇒ Rise in standard of living and incomes has increased aggregate demand in the sector.

③ PPP projects ⇒ Public private partnership has led to flow of managerial skills, timely completion of projects eg Delhi's airport.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Other sectors uncompetitiveness has also lead to growth of aviation sector
eg Railway sector security issues and low quality of sevice

(5) Services a variety of services offered by aviation sector also attracts customers.
eg skydiving, air-lifts.

(6) Push to green energy using solar power, wind power has also enhanced competitiveness of aviation sector.

(7) Demand of items (perishable) abroad has also lead to this increase
eg flowers, jewellary, fruits etc.

Challenges in aviation sector

(1) Duopoly situation → spice jet
→ Tata airlines.
eg Air India.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Multiplicity of regulators leading to uncertainity and diffusion of responsibility.

(3) lack of sensitization in staff.
eg Sonu Nigam's case of forceful singing.

(4) Problems in PPP projects → quality issue → Recently airport in Delhi's roof collapsed due to heavy rains.

(5) Lack of indeginisation and competition from ~~xxx~~ international companies.

Measures to be taken

(1) National oversight committee (as suggested by Vivek Debroy committee) to see quality issues of PPP projects.

(2) Simplification of regulatory structures.

(3) Sensitization of staff and quality measures.

(4) Indegenisation of technology and production.

~~Civil~~ Aviation sector offers a window of opportunity for India to be a global player.

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. किसान उत्पादक संगठन (एफ.पी.ओ.) कृषि-नवाचार के इंजन हैं। इस संदर्भ में, कृषि में विखंडन और आधुनिकीकरण के अभाव की समस्या के समाधान में एफ.पी.ओ. के भूमिका की चर्चा कीजिए। कृषि में एफ.पी.ओ. की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा की गई पहलों पर प्रकाश डालिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Farmer Producers' Organizations (FPOs) are engines of agri-innovation. In this context, discuss the role of FPOs in addressing the issue of fragmentation and lack of modernization in agriculture. Highlight the initiatives the Government took to promote the participation of FPOs in agriculture. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Farmer producer organisation (FPO's) are democratically setup organisation with aim to further farmer's interest by fostering innovation and sharing best practices.

Role of FPO's in addressing issue of fragmentation ⇒

(1) Bargaining power ⇒ Enhancing small and marginal farmers bargaining power

eg 86% of Indian farmers are small and marginal.

(2) Cooperatives ⇒ setting up cooperatives to share best practices and undertake innovations.

eg use of indigenous knowledge & modern technology by FPO in Sahyadri.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Enhanced capability to climate shocks, bumper crop and cobweb phenomenon.

(4) Forward and backward linkages to market and customer feedback. Since agriculture is information driven.

(5) Gender justice ⇒ Women as agent of change

eg 70% of rural women are engaged in agriculture.

(6) Reducing input cost → Seed procurement
→ fertilisers
→ water use efficiency.

Role of FPO's in addressing issue of lack of modernisation

(1) Cooperatives will enhance farmer's ability for technology adoption

eg 40% of Indian farms are mechanised.

(2) Green energy such as solar panels, wind energy can be better adopted.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Enhanced storage and logistics support ⟹ Increase in competitiveness of agricultural products.
eg Custard apple FPO in Nagaur.

(4) Micro-irrigation ⇒ awareness and share of best practices.
eg Yantradoot app in M.P. to show use of technology (drip irrigation) to farmers.

Govt. Initiatives to promote FPO's

(1) PM Kisan Sampada Yojana and PM Matsya Sampada yojana — for setting up cold chains.

(2) UP govt. MoU with Israel to share best practices in Bundelkhand region.

(3) SVEP, National horticulture mission, National beekeeping mission etc.

(4) PLI scheme for food processing industry.

Thus, FPO's ~~provide~~ are engines of agri-innovation by engaging small and marginal farmers.

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के सबसे मजबूत विकास इंजनों में से एक होने के बावजूद, कुछ अपस्ट्रीम और डाउनस्ट्रीम मुद्दे हैं जो भारत में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों के विकास को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। भारत में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों के समग्र विकास को मजबूत करने के उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Despite being one of the strongest growth engines of the Indian economy, there are certain upstream and downstream issues ailing the growth of food processing industries in India. Discuss. Suggest measures to strengthen the overall growth of food processing industries in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Food processing Industry (FPI) contributes 11% to agricultural GDP and provides employment to 7 million people in the country, emerging as sunrise sector.

upstream challenges of FPI

① Input stage problem ⇒ High fertiliser content, high pesticide content in the products
eg MDH and everest masala's.

② Fragmented land holdings (≃1.08 hectare - agricultural census) decreasing the competitiveness of the products.

③ lack of market information system
↓
Low awareness about demands.
↓
Cobweb phenomenon.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Low level of mechanisation (≃ 40% of India farms) ~~are needs~~ enhancing risk to climate change

eg extreme climate impacts (eco-survey 2020) → 4.3% decrease in productivity (Rabi season) → 4.1% decrease in productivity (Kharid season)

(5) Huge post harvest losses due to lack of storage and cold storages

eg NITI aayog estimates ≃ 90,000 crore post harvest losses.

Downstream challenges of FPI

(1) High logistics cost ≃ 14% of the GDP ⇓ decreasing competitiveness

(2) Lack of grading systems, branding reputation etc.

eg Patanjali's misleading advertisements.

(3) Policy uncertainity → Ban of exports (agriculture exports) by govt. due to persistant food inflation.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Lack of awareness in customers about branding and ingredients.

Measures to strengthen growth of FPI

(1) High powered committee setup by 15th FC
- identified 22 crops that needs to be promoted
- India market economy i.e Govt. to be facilitator, private to be the driver

(2) Professor Ashok Gulati
- Enhance research and development i.e from 0.5% of agriculture GDP → 1% of agricultural GDP.
- Not banning agricultural exports.

(3) Ashok Dalwai committee
- setting up cold chains.
- Capital expenditure on grading mechanism, logistics.

A barbell strategy → agile approach by increasing capex → facilitating private investment can be adopted by government to realise the potential of food processing sector.

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. कृषि विज्ञान व सांख्यिकी के क्षेत्र में क्रमशः डॉ. एम.एस. स्वामीनाथन और डॉ. सी.आर. राव के योगदान से भारत को क्या लाभ हुआ? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

How was India benefitted from the contributions of Dr M.S. Swaminathan and Dr C.R. Rao in the fields of agricultural science and statistics respectively?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently Bharat Ratna was awarded to Dr M.S Swaminathan for his contributions to Indian agriculture.

Contributions of Dr. M.S Swaminathan and benefits to India

(1) High yielding variety seeds → Introduced and developed HYV seeds
⇓
Assured food security of India.

(2) Spread awareness among farmers about modern technology
⇓
Increase in standard of living of farmers.

(3) Research on Impact on climate change on Indian agriculture
⇓
Enhanced climate resilience of agriculture.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Developed drought resistant, short duration crops eg Rice varieties.

(5) Responsible for spreading green revolution to every part of India.

(6) Participated in various committees setup by Govt. of India to enhance agricultural system in India.

Hence, Timeless wisdom of M.S Swaminathan has contributed to Indian agriculture and food security.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Candidates must not write on this margin

16. कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) समग्र बौद्धिक संपदा प्रतिमान को किस प्रकार चुनौती दे रही है? नवप्रवर्तन को बढ़ावा देने और कृतियों एवं आविष्कारों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता को बौद्धिक संपदा के साथ कैसे संतुलित किया जा सकता है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

How is Artificial Intelligence (AI) challenging the overall intellectual property paradigm? How can AI be balanced with intellectual property to foster innovation and incentivize creations and inventions? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a computer software capable of simulating human conscience to undertake tasks like big data analytics, translations, solving complex problems etc.

AI challenging Intellectual property Paradigm ⇒

(1) Diffusion of responsibility ⇒ AI being capable of functioning on its own has blurred the lines of accountability.

(2) AI can modify original patents using advance machine learning tools. eg Hollywood writer's strike over use of AI for writing.

(3) Deepfakes — also challenges identity and patents.

eg Simulating voice of singers to sing any song.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) lack of transparency in AI functioning due to surveillance capitalism.

(5) Trade secrets and copyrights are most prone to exploitation by AI
eg Elon musk warned about AI and delayed spacex's programme for few months.

AI to balance intellectual property to foster innovation and incentivizing creations and innovations

(1) Digital signature ⇒ mandatory Counter signing by artists and patent holders for identification.

(2) Accountability ⇒ Accountability should be fixed on companies to foster transparency.

(3) Adhering to principles of Bletchley declaration and GPAI.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(7) Promoting ethical use of AI
- medical
- agriculture
- Educational etc. content

(8) A killswitch to turn off AI, if it goes rogue by identifying kill-chain.

AI's transformative power should be channelized for human benefit while also recognising the threat it posses to humanity.

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. भारत की जैव विविधता को परिरक्षित और संरक्षित रखने में "पश्चिमी घाट" के महत्त्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इस नाजुक और पारिस्थितिक रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्र के सामने आने वाले खतरों पर चर्चा कीजिए। पश्चिमी घाट पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की सुरक्षा के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों को विस्तार से समझाइये।(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Highlighting the significance of "Western Ghats" in preserving and conserving the biodiversity of India, discuss the threats faced by this fragile and ecologically sensitive Region. Elaborate on the measures taken by the Government of India to protect the Western Ghats ecosystem. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Western ghats is one of the 4 hotspots of biodiversity in India spanning over Gujrat, Maharastra, Goa, Karnatka, Kerala etc.

Significance of western Ghats in preserving and conserving the biodiversity of India

(1) Habitat → Provides habitat to various phyla's of animals and plants.
eg Hornbill, Nilgiri Tahr etc.

(2) Regulates Indian climate — i.e Indian monsoon hits perpendicularly to westernghats.

(3) western Ghat encompasses tropical evergreen forest, moist deciduous forest eg Mollem National Park (Goa) Billigiri Rangaiswamy National part (Karnatka)

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Provides services like → Provisioning
→ Supporting
→ Regulating. etc.

Threats faced by fragile and ecologically sensitive region

(1) Habitat destruction ⇒ By anthropogenic activities like mining, quarrying, habitat fragmentation by development projects.

(2) Over-exploitation of forest resources and animal resources.
eg Timber

(3) Poaching and hunting for illegal wildlife trade.
eg Indian Pangolin, elephant tusks.

(4) Man-Animal conflict
eg Elephants killed over 1500 people between 2020-2023.

(5) Climate change induced erratic weather events.
eg Bipanjoy cyclones recurvature.

Candicates must not write on this margin

(6) Invasive alien species destroys biodiversity of the region (184 invasive species in India)
eg Vilayati keekar, congress grass etc.

Govt. measures taken

(1) Species specific programmes
- Project elephant
- Project Tiger

(2) Declaration of Ramsar sites, National parks, Bio sphere reserves.
eg Nilgiri Bio sphere reserve

(3) Declaration of ecological sensitive zones
- Core → ESZ (zone I, II, III)

(4) Environment impact assessment rules (2020)

Other measures suggested by Kasturi Rangan committee (Blanket ban on mining) and Madhav Gadgil committee can be applied to protect UNESCO heritage site of western ghats.

Candidates must not write on this margin

18. जलवायु परिवर्तन पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र फ्रेमवर्क कन्वेंशन (UNFCCC) के पक्षकारों के सम्मेलन (COP) के 28वें सत्र के प्रमुख निष्कर्षों का वर्णन कीजिए। COP-28 के दौरान भारत द्वारा शुरू की गई ग्रीन क्रेडिट पहल की क्या विशेषताएँ हैं?

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Describe the major outcomes of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the features of the Green Credit Initiative launched by India on the sidelines of COP-28?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Conference of parties (COP28) to UNFCCC was held in Dubai in 2023. COP is highest decision making conference of UNFCCC.

Major Outcomes of COP 28 ⇒

(1) Global stocktake ⇒ first ever global stocktake was convened to assess the Nationally determined commitments.

(2) Global cooling pledge ⇒ was undertaken to cooperate on cooling technology and its impact on climate.

(3) Loss and damage fund ⇒ Loss and damage fund was established to fund adversely effected countries.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Global methane pledge ⇒ to check methane emission at global level (methane is short lived (12-13 years) but high global warming potential - 22 times CO_2)

⑤ Developed countries promised for better technology transfer.

⑥ Mobilising more adaptation and mitigation funds to fight climate change.

Critique ⇒

① Still did not accept CBDR-RC (common but differentiated responsibilities - Respective capabilities)

② Slow pace of mobilising funds under Global climate fund.

③ Loss and damage fund is under world bank (which already is dominated by developed countries).

Candidates must not write on this margin

Green credit initiatives

Green credit initiative was launched by India on sidelines of COP-28.

1. It is out of market initiatives to fight climate change.
2. mobilising investment to fight climate change by investing in Green bonds for renewable energy and sustainable projects.
3. Technology transfer by developed countries
4. will help in achieving net-zero.
5. Identifies and accepts disproportionate impact on different communities.

Thus, COP 28 greatest achievement this year is Global Stocktake and loss and damage fund. But CBDR-RC should be embraced to recognise historical contributions to climate change.

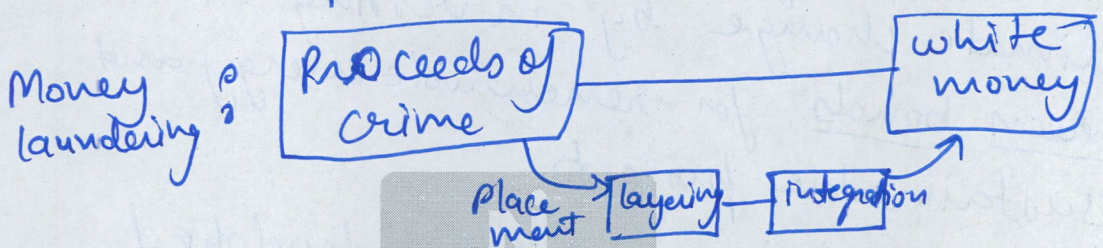
Candidates must not write on this margin

19. शेल कंपनियों ने भारत में धन-शोधन (मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग) के खतरे में किस तरह योगदान दिया है? क्या धन-शोधन रोकथाम अधिनियम, 2005 में हाल ही में किए गए संशोधनों से ऐसी शेल कंपनियों के साथ ग्राहकों की लेन-देन संबंधी प्रकृति की समस्या का समाधान करने में सहायता मिलेगी? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

How shell companies has contributed to the menace of money laundering in India? Do you think recent amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2005 will help address the problem of the transactional nature of clients with such shell companies?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Shell companies are companies that merely exist on paper without any real output.



Shell companies contributing to menace of money laundering

① Tax evasion ⇒ Shell companies evade taxes by exploiting legal loopholes.
eg Cyprus papers.

② Tax havens ⇒ Tax havens are used by shell companies for layering and placement stage
eg Singapore, cayman islands

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Round-tripping ⇒ Shell companies facilitate integration by round tripping
eg Mauritius continuous to be one of the largest FDI investors in India.

(4) Terror financing ⇒ shell companies finance terror, drug trafficking and organised crimes (transnational & national)
eg FATF estimates it to be 2~3% of global GDP)

Recent Amendments to PMLA, 2005 helping to curb shell companies

(1) Definition of Money laundering is further widened to encompass various other crimes.

(2) Enhanced power of Enforcement directorate to attach and seize property.

(3) Greater power to ECIR of ED to investigate in such crimes.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ SC in Vijay Madanlal Choudhary case upheld these amendments and realised the threat money laundering possess.

other measures required

① Global minimum tax should be finalised to curb menace of Tax havens.

② Signing up double taxation avoidance agreements with other countries to curb round tripping and tax evasion

③ Global cooperation for intelligence sharing (eg Vienna convention 1993) should be done.

Money laundering possesses a serious threat to country's economy and shell companies have only enhanced its threats. Hence, a wholistic strategy should be devised with whole of Nation approach to curb money laundering.

Candidates must not write on this margin

20. चर्चा कीजिए कि अपराध-उग्रवाद गठजोड़ ने पूर्वोत्तर भारत में जातीय संघर्षों और उग्रवाद की वृद्धि में किस प्रकार योगदान दिया है। इस चुनौती से निपटने के लिए कौन से संस्थागत उपाय किए जा सकते हैं?

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss how the crime-insurgency nexus has contributed to the rise in ethnic conflicts and insurgencies in North-East India. What institutional measures can be undertaken to address this challenge?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recent insurgency and ethnic conflict in Manipur has highlighted the crime-insurgency nexus in North East India.

Crime-insurgency nexus contributing to ethnic conflicts and insurgency

(1) Splinter groups of erstwhile insurgent groups have transformed themselves into organised criminal groups

- Drug trafficking
- Poppy cultivation
- human trafficking.

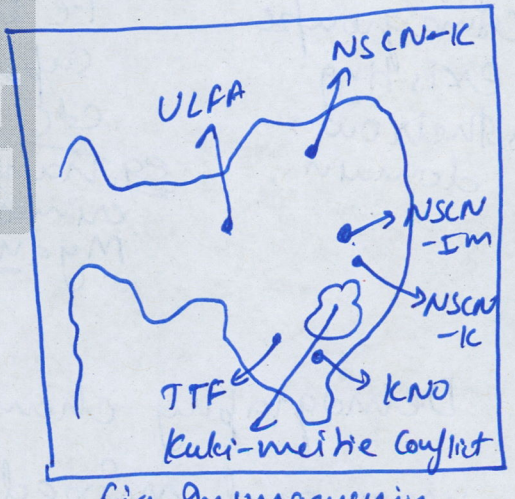


Fig: Insurgency in North East.

(2) Economic reasons such as relative deprivation, lack of connectivity, high incidence of poverty.

⇓

fertile ground for insurgents to flourish

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Lack of media time on their issues, racism in mainland India also realised their ethnic consciousness.

(4) Parallel Institutions setup by insurgents for radicalisation, training of criminal groups.

(5)

Co-existence
- ethnic insurgent groups and crime groups existing in their own domain

Confluence
- Nexus helping each other i.e logistics support, intelligence etc
- eg Transnational crimes in Myanmar

Convergence
- Blackhole Syndrome
- Insurgent groups undertaking criminal activities
- eg Poppy cultivation in hill districts of Manipur.

(6) Demography changes → due to mass and mixed illegal immigration also aggravated the issues.

Institutional measures that can be undertaken:

(1) Empowering North Eastern council for developing welfare schemes and their implementation.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Proposed industrial corridor should be completed as soon as possible.

(3) Coordination between state police forces and intelligence agencies.

(4) Community policing - by engaging local communities.

(5) Cautious use of AFSPA as suggested by Jeevan Reddy committee.

(6) Technology adoption for fencing borders.

Govt measures taken
- → NATGRID - for intelligence sharing
- → Integrated check posts → trade facilitation
- → PM-Devine, BhRINEI for development
- → BSF notification for patrolling
- → NC3I
- → Theatrisation of armed forces.

A 3 ~~prong~~ pronged approach (Regional cooperation, institutional reforms, development initiatives) can be undertaken to break crime-insurgency nexus and create virtuous cycle of development.

Space for Rough Work

Space for Rough Work

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CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.

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2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any pages from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR CANDIDATE AVAILING ONLINE FACILITY

1. Scan the QCA booklet properly. We suggest the uses of the app CAM scanner (Scan QR code in page 2) based on our previous experiences.
2. Please scan the QCA booklet in ample light. Copies scanned under moderate light can hamper evaluation quality.
3. Any page/pdf having shadow needs to be rescanned. Please make sure that the pdf that you upload is as clean as possible.
4. **Candidates not using the QCA booklet** must mention their details on the front page. And leave the next page blank for the macro comments. It must be understood that the answer should start from Page no. 3 in of the scanned pdf.
5. Candidates not using the QCA booklet must follow the sequence of the answer as per the question paper.
6. Please check the sequence of the answer and total number of pages in the scanned version. Make sure it is in consonance with the physical version of the same.

महत्वपूर्ण निर्देश

अभ्यर्थियों को निम्नलिखित निर्देशों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ना चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर दण्डित किया जा सकता है।

क्या न करें-

1. इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका के भीतर कहीं भी अपना नाम या पंजीकरण संख्या न लिखें।
2. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तरों के अलावा कुछ भी न लिखें।
3. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका से कोई भी पृष्ठ न फाड़ें, यदि आपको कोई पृष्ठ गायब लगे, तो पर्यवेक्षक/निरीक्षक को सूचित करना न भूलें।
4. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका को अपनी टेबल पर न छोड़ें, परीक्षा समाप्त होने के पश्चात इसे निरीक्षक को सौंप देना चाहिए।

क्या करें-

1. कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए निर्देशों को ध्यान पूर्वक पढ़ें और उनका सख्ती से पालन करें।
2. QCA पुस्तिका के कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए स्थान पर अपना पंजीकरण नंबर और अन्य विवरण लिखें।
3. स्पष्ट और पठनीय तरीके से लिखें। खराब/अपठनीय लिखावट में न लिखें।
4. रफ नोट्स या गणना के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंतिम दो खाली पृष्ठों का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। रफ नोट्स को बाद में क्रॉस कर देना चाहिए।
5. यदि आप किसी कार्य को रद्द करना चाहते हैं, तो उस पर अपना पेन चलाएं या उस पर "रद्द" लिखें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है।
6. परीक्षा हॉल छोड़ने से पहले अपनी QCA पुस्तिका व्यक्तिगत रूप से निरीक्षक को सौंप दें।

ऑनलाइन सुविधा का लाभ उठाने वाले अभ्यर्थियों के लिए विशेष अनुरोध

1. QCA पुस्तिका को ठीक से स्कैन करें। हम चाहेंगे कि आप स्कैनिंग के लिए कैमस्कैनर ऐप (CAM SCANER) का प्रयोग करें। (यह कोई प्रमोशन नहीं है)।
2. कृपया QCA पुस्तिका को पर्याप्त रोशनी में स्कैन करें। कम रोशनी में स्कैन की गई पुस्तिकाएं, उनके मूल्यांकन की गुणवत्ता को बाधित कर सकती हैं।
3. स्कैन के दौरान छाया वाले किसी भी पृष्ठ/पीडीएफ को फिर से स्कैन किया जाना चाहिए। कृपया सुनिश्चित करें कि आपके द्वारा अपलोड की गई पीडीएफ यथा संभव स्पष्ट हो ।
4. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को अपना विवरण पहले पृष्ठ पर देना चाहिए और मैक्रो टिप्पणियों के लिए अगला पृष्ठ खाली छोड़ दें। यह समझना चाहिए कि उत्तर स्कैन की गई पीडीएफ में पृष्ठ नंबर 3 से शुरू होना चाहिए।
5. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को प्रश्नपत्र के अनुसार उत्तर के अनुक्रम का पालन करना चाहिए।
6. कृपया स्कैन किए गए संस्करण में उत्तर के अनुक्रम और कुल पृष्ठों की संख्या की जाँच करें। सुनिश्चित करें कि यह उसी के भौतिक संस्करण के अनुरूप है।