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NEXT IAS

MAINS TEST SERIES 2.0 - 2025 (FLT)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : FLT2503

Name of Candidate: Aditi Arora Mobile No. [redacted]

Roll No. : AIM25GCA2043 Start Time 5:00 End Time 8:PM

Date of Examination: 08/08/2025 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: .....

.....

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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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

Next IAS Test Centre Location

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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

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Q6.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q7.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q8.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q9.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q10.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

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Q11.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q12.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q13.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q14.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q15.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

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Q16.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q17.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q18.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q19.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q20.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

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1. सरकारी बजट में जेंडर बजटिंग की ओर हाल ही में किए गये प्रयास महिला सशक्तिकरण के लिए इसके महत्व को दर्शाता है। भारत में जेंडर बजटिंग की दिशा में हालिया पहल और उनके महत्व क्या हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

The recent push towards gender budgeting in the Government Budget reflects its importance for women empowerment. What are the recent initiatives towards gender budgeting in India and their importance? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Candidates must no write on this margi

Gender Budget in this Budget 2025-26 saw a increased expenditure from 6.4% (2024-25) to 8.4% in FY26. This shows the importance of women empowerment.

Recent Initiative for gender Budgeting

(1) NITI Aayog push for increased allocation towards gender based schemes.

(2) Part A of the Budgeting scheme — receive 100% expenditure for women

(a) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

(3) Inclusion of the expenditure in certain department and ministry's budget.

(4) Awareness among employees to assess the outcomes and form mitate plans.

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Candidates must not write on this margin

Importance of Gender Budgeting

(1) Improve coordination between different Ministries.

(2) Use of technology to increase participation (ex) E-Samvaad portal

(3) Empowerment of women → with increased Intervention (ex) >50% of account holders in Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana are women.

(4) ~~Economic~~ Livelihood Promotion and ~~ally~~ empowered (ex) >70% loans in PM MUDRA towards women

(5) Diverse fields presence (ex) Drone Didi scheme in agriculture.

(6) Increase income of women (ex) Lakhpati didi scheme

Gender budgeting should be supplemented with awareness and attitudinal change to achieve SDG-5

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2. बंदरगाह आधारित विकास को भारत में आर्थिक विकास और क्षेत्रीय एकीकरण के प्रमुख चालक के रूप में देखा जाता है। चर्चा कीजिए कि सागरमाला पहल किस प्रकार बंदरगाह आधारित विकास और तटीय अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा दे सकती है।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Port-led development is seen as a key driver of economic growth and regional integration in India. Discuss how the Sagarmala initiative can promote port-led growth and the coastal economy.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Candidates must write on this marg

Port led development is crucial for economic growth as 90% of trade and 80% of oil imports is through ports in India.

How Sagarmala initiative can promote port led growth

(1) Port modernisation → helps to increase infrastructural capacities at port. (Ex) 98 projects have been completed under it (PIB)

(2) Port connectivity to inner areas and with roads, railways to decrease logistics cost
(Ex) 91 projects completed (PIB)

(3) Port led industrialisation → to form industrial clusters near the port for easy transport
(Ex) 9 projects completed (PIB)

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Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Community development - such as fishing community and boost to local economy.

(5) Coastal area connectivity & Inland waters connectivity

(6) Development of new ports

Ex) Vadhvan port has been commissioned.

Sagarmala 2.0 has been recently initiated by government which aims to boost shipping industry and help India become

~~5~~ top 5 ~~5~~ five ship building nation in the world.

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3. गैर-कृषि अर्थव्यवस्था में पशुपालन के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। पशुपालन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हाल ही में प्रस्तावित पशुधन जनगणना की क्या आवश्यकता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the importance of livestock farming in a non-farm economy. What is the need for the recently proposed livestock census in promoting animal husbandry?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Candidates must write on this mar

Livestock means all the animal husbandary related activities. It constitutes nearly 30% of agricultural GVA in the economy.

Importance of livestock farming

(1) Circular economy — as waste of agriculture can be used as fodder for livestock (ex) Punjab sent rice stubble to kerala for fodder

(2) Increase income (ex) it contributes ~16% of rural families income

(3) Export potential and processing of the products (ex) paneer, ~~to~~ yogurt, curd.

(4) Hedge against climate vulnerabilities in agriculture

(5) local products capability — (ex) push for milk processing → cooperatives - Amul

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Candidates must not write on this margin

Need of livestock Census

(1) Helps to identify the exact numbers of the livestock present.

(2) streamlining of resources (ex) financial, human to bolster livestock capabilities.

(3) customized approach for management tailored to local need.

(4) Disease control → (ex) livestock health and prevention and development initiative

(5) Regional disparity → can be reduced.

livestock is the major part of primary activities and India is the world's largest livestock owner, therefore for informed decision making and boosting nutritional and food security, census is necessity.

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4. न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य किसानों की आय को बढ़ाने में कैसे मदद कर सकते हैं? न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य का लाभ प्राप्त करने में किसानों को किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

How can minimum support prices help in promoting farmers' income? What are the challenges faced by farmers in accessing the benefits of minimum support prices? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Candidates must write on this side

Minimum support price is the (MSP) remunerative prices paid to the farmers for their crops grown and is announced before harvesting.

How MSP help in promoting farmers income

(1) Assured Buying of the produce by the government.

(2) Minimum price marker for market prices.

(3) As Income and Price changes with respect to demand is less inorganic, MSP helps secure farmers of such fluctuations

(4) Assured payment of increase productivity in farm. (ex Income of surplus)

(5) Demand manipulation → By announcing it before harvesting

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Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges faced by farmers in availing the benefits of MSP

(1) Lack of legal status to it → hence puts the farmer at the discretion of government.

(2) low procurement agencies -

(a) Shanta Kumar committee - only 13% of paddy farmers sold it to any procurement agency.

(3) Rising fees and other costs in APMC mandi - cartelization and monopoly.

(4) Small farmers - distress sale due to poor storage - hence costs the product.

MS Swaminathan committee called for differentiating between support price and remuneration, provide 50% MSP at the cost of production.

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5. कृत्रिम तंत्रिका नेटवर्क क्या हैं? मशीन लर्निंग और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता में उनके महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

What are artificial neural networks? Discuss their importance in machine learning and artificial intelligence.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Candidates must write on this mar

Artificial Neural Networks are the networks created that can mimic the brain functions and give responses like the functions of Brain.

Importance of Artificial Neural Networks in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence

(1) Provide the correct data.

(2) No delay in processing as data is connected to the network.

(3) Expand the knowledge Base of the machine - leads to SMART machines.

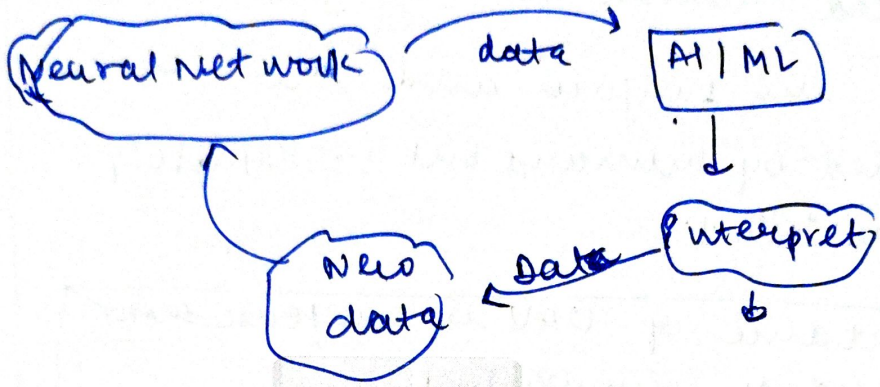
(4) Emotive component and behavioural regulations can also be integrated into ML.

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Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) Future technologies ~~of~~ ~~is~~ such as Brain computer Interface

(6) Two way traffic and communication



Challenges → (1) Behavioural modelling

→ (2) Hacks Privacy

→ (3) Potentially can result in spill over effects

Artificial neural networks are the New Age innovation ~~and~~ are should be used with proper insights and human oversight.

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6. रक्षा क्षेत्र और आधुनिक युद्ध में मानव रहित हवाई वाहनों (यूएवी) के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the importance of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in the defense sector and modern warfare.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Candidates must write on this margin

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are the devices which have zero contact with the surface and are not guarded by humans but is remotely controlled.

Importance of UAV in defense sector and modern warfare

(1) Surveillance and information provide - (a) drones can fly and provide exact location of the enemy ~~bird~~ deployment.

(2) Wide ranging applicability (b) used in SEAD operation Suppression of enemy air defenses.

(3) can help in guarding the border area and provide real time information.

(4) Drone swarms → which can help in neutralising ~~the~~ and

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Candidates must not write on this margin

assessing the potential threat.

(5) ~~Drones~~ Is a tool for preventing of full fledged war and direct confrontation.

(6) To prevent ~~the~~ and guide the infrastructure of the country

(ED) can be ~~can~~ used to guide airbase.

UAV has emerged as the new form of warfare tactics and it is used ~~to~~, Recently by Russia-Ukraine war and gave strategic edge to India in Operation Sindoor.

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7. समुद्री और तटीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर तेल रिसाव के पर्यावरणीय प्रभावों की जांच कीजिए। तेल रिसाव की सफाई के लिए इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली विभिन्न विधियाँ क्या हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Examine the environmental impacts of oil spills on marine and coastal ecosystems. What are the various methods used for cleaning-up of oil spills?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Oil spills has been becoming an emerging trend due to increase trade by sea water. Recently kerala coast experienced oil spill.

Environmental impacts of oil spills

(1) Reduces dissolved oxygen as it forms an inert layer over water.

(2) Forms an area of dead zone - due to reduced oxygen - marine animals gets harmed.

(3) Leads to proliferation of oil on coastal beaches → hence can hurts mangroves and saltpans near the coast.

(4) Increases turbidity of water and opaqueness - can reduce sunlight penetration.

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Methods for cleaning up oil spills

(1) Use of hairs to absorb the oil from the water.

(2) Use of absorbing materials such as cloth or biofilms.

(3) Use of microorganisms that can disintegrates the oil particles into smaller particles.

Oil spill has become a major hazard due to accidental slippage, regular oil dripping from ships. Checks should be done to ensure that ships and countries hold maximum responsibility and accountability for such disaster.

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8. भूकंप संबंधी आपदाओं के प्रति उत्तरी भारत की संवेदनशीलता पर चर्चा कीजिए। उनके प्रभावों को कम करने में भारत की तैयारियों पर प्रकाश डालें। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the vulnerability of northern India to earthquake-related disasters. Highlight India's preparedness in mitigating their impacts. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

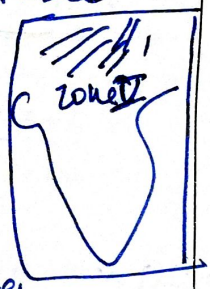
Candidates must write on this mar

Earthquake is the sudden release of energy along fault lines.

The most devastating earthquakes recently occured in Myanmar (lost 5000 lives), Delhi, Russia, Taiwan etc.

Vulnerability of Northern India to Earthquake

(1) 59% of total area is vulnerable to earthquake (EDRI).



(2) ~ 82% of population lives in earthquake prone areas.

(3) ~ 11% of area comes under zone V which includes Himalayas, Delhi NCR, and nearby areas.

(4) High population density in the northern area - therefore more vulnerable (eg) Ganga river - 572 people square km.

(5) Lack of adequate earthquake design structures and inadequate

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Candidates must not write on this margin

retrofitting of high rise buildings in the region.

India's preparedness

(1) Building codes - which define the structural aspects

(2) Earthquake disaster Risk Index by which continously monitors the area.

(3) Early warning system - "IndiaQuake" App.

(4) National Retrofitting and design programme.

(5) Earthquake Resilience innovation.

India should regular to ensure audit of its structure and follow the BIS codes as guided by NDMA to reduce the vulnerability of the destruction.

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9. चर्चा करें कि क्रिप्टोकरेंसी और अन्य उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियां मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग और आतंकवाद के वित्तपोषण के खतरे में कैसे योगदान करती हैं। इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss how cryptocurrency and other emerging technologies contribute to the menace of money laundering and terror financing. What steps have been undertaken by the Government of India to tackle this issue?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Cryptocurrency and technology used has increased ~~not~~ in proliferation of criminal ~~technolog~~ activities due to its Black Box Nature of functioning

How they contribute towards rising money laundering & Terrorfinancing

(1) Increased ~~cash~~ financing via bitcoin and other coins via Blockchain platform.

(2) Led to increase confluence between organised crime groups who uses these platforms and terrorist groups.

(3) Erode the traditional security architecture.

(4) Proliferation of Black funds in the market.

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Candidates must not write on this margin

Steps by GOI to tackle the issue

① Training to the employees and police agencies to keep an eye on this

② NIA - giving capacity building programmes to handle the terror financing via these channels.

③ PMLA Act → which finds for any technological associations.

④ cybersecurity measures to prevent its ~~prof~~ ~~pf~~ proliferation into terrorist financing.

cryptocurrency and other emerging technologies evade the traditional architecture and hence capacity building be done and regular monitoring to prevent this menace.

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10. हाइब्रिड युद्ध क्या है? यह पारंपरिक युद्ध से किस प्रकार भिन्न है? भारत हाइब्रिड युद्ध की चुनौतियों का सामना किस प्रकार कर सकता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

What is hybrid warfare? How is it different from conventional warfare? How can India navigate the challenge of hybrid warfare? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Candidates must write on this margin

Hybrid warfare is the use of technologies and of conventional methods together to subside the traditional warfare tactics.

Difference between Hybrid warfare and Conventional warfare

Hybrid warfare	Conventional warfare.
(1) Is a grey zone warfare. Do not involve direct confrontation.	(1) It is a direct confrontation between armies.
(2) Use of technology such as Biological methods, chemical technology, UAVs, Space warfare, Cyber warfare.	(2) Uses weapons, missiles, guns, Bombs
	(3) Aim is to win and take side.

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Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Aim is not to directly win, but create deterrence and maintain hegemony.

④ It is silent attack (Ex) CERT in reported state sponsored attack on technology

④ Can be initiated with or without warnings.

(Ex) 1965 - Indo - Pak war.

How India can navigate

① Technological revolution

② Increasing R&D to ensure supply chain.

③ Training & capacity Building.

Hybrid warfare is an emerging warfare tactics and therefore require advanced methods to offset its impact.

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11. भारत द्वारा मजबूत डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए प्रयास करने के बावजूद, भारत को डिजिटल समावेशन के संबंध में चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। डिजिटल संसाधनों तक समान पहुँच सुनिश्चित करने के उपाय सुझाएँ।
(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Despite India's push for a robust digital economy, India faces challenges with regard to digital inclusion. Discuss. Suggest measures to ensure equitable access to digital resources.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Indian economy has been revolutionized with the technological revolution. This can be evidently assessed by that more than 50% of transactions in India is via digital tools according to RBI.

India's Push for a Robust digital Economy

(1) JAM trinity → Jan Dhan accounts
↳ >55 crore Bank accounts total
Aadhar - more than 1.2 billion people registered.

(2) Push for Digital public infrastructure
(ex) recent Agristalk

(3) digital revolution (ex) UPI more than 1000 crore transactions per month (RBI)

(4) Equitable distribution push
↳ rural >30% uses mobile phones

(5) Social sector reach has ↑
(ex) e-technology in education.

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Challenges with regard to digital inclusion

(1) Poor financial literacy - with only ~30% of users having it.

(2) Urban rural divide - Urban - more than 60% uses mobile phones.

(3) Gender bias - with only ~29% of women owns mobile phones.

(4) Mis use of technology - (ex) only 3% of children uses mobile phone for study.

(5) Rising threat → (ex) digital data breach on Kudankulam power plant

(6) Vulnerabilities in devices (ex) Botnets in the devices

(7) Huge data → and storge problem

(8) Data localisation issue and privacy concern

(9) Low usage → (ex) Black money via cash is risky

(10) Black box nature of AI and cyber security issues.

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Measures for equitable access

1. Financial literacy programme
   - (Ex) RBI strategy on financial inclusion (2025-30)
2. Policy and regulatory reforms →
   - (Ex) recent push of financial literacy in Employment Incentive scheme.
3. Use of grassroot leaders to spread awareness
   - (Ex) recent ASHA worker registration of citizens via face assessment.
4. Decreasing the price of Internet.
5. Push for Broadband connectivity
   - (Ex) in recent Budget 2025-26 connectivity in Public Health Care centre in rural areas.

Digital economy is expected to rise and we must ensure that it does not increase existing inequalities.

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2. जैसे-जैसे कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता अर्थव्यवस्था के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रवेश कर रही है, वैसे-वैसे नौकरियों का खत्म होना एक वास्तविकता बनती जा रही है। रोजगार पर एआई के प्रभावों का विश्लेषण करते हुए, इस चुनौती से निपटने और रोजगार वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के उपाय सुझाएं। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

As artificial intelligence penetrates into various sectors of the economy, job losses are becoming a reality. Analysing the impacts of AI on employment, suggest measures to navigate this challenge and promote job growth. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Artificial intelligence is the use of Machine learning and Big data Analytics to help process the human intelligence in machines alike.

How AI has penetrated various sectors

(1) Health → tele medicine, use of ML for diagnosis etc.

(2) Agriculture (ex) use of Nanoyantra, Yes Tech, CORPEC, WINDS, Blockchain technology (Karnataka for seed tracing) to ease farmers load.

(3) Manufacturing → to reduce the workload and increase productivity (ex) use in automation and repeated task.

(4) Banking – to help asses the data and give the result (ex) e-kuber.

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Impact of AI on employment

Negatives

(1) Increased job losses as automated work may be replaced.

(2) Higher productivity with respect to employees - chances of replacement

(ex) companies laying staff
TCS layed 12000 employees

(3) Automation of the work.

(4) Reduce stress on employers to pay huge sums, as they do not work on salaries.

(5) Low skilled mainly at job losses
ex labourers, website managers, software engineers.

Positives

(1) New opportunities (ex) Swiggy, Blinkit is based on data analytics to assign workers.

(2) New job opportunities - (ex) high skilled workers required to develop these technologies.

(3) Economy push (ex) NITI Aayog
1-1.2% ↑ economic GDP would arise due to technology integration

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How to navigate the challenge and ensure job growth

(1) Skilling and reskilling of the workers is the solution to keep pace with demand

(2) Human oversight over use of AI in sectors.

(3) Using it to supplement the work not supplant it.

(4) Using AI for strategic uses (ex) in digital knowledge dissemination, education (ex) recently Padhai with AI initiative in Rajasthan.

(5) A dedicated body should be setup up to assess the challenges and reform accordingly

(6) Regulatory regimes with keeping in pace with changes.

AI has the potential to revolutionise but it should be used with caution to protect the vulnerable sections.

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13. भारत में फसल-उपरांत होने वाला नुकसान प्रतिवर्ष लगभग ₹1,52,790 करोड़ है। भारत में फसल-उपरांत होने वाली हानियों के लिए किस हद तक कृषि उत्पादों के परिवहन और विपणन में आने वाली बाधाओं को जिम्मेदार ठहराया जा सकता है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

India's post-harvest losses amount to approximately ₹1,52,790 crore annually. To what extent can post-harvest losses in India be attributed to the constraints in the transport and marketing of agricultural products? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Post harvest losses in India cause a huge jolt to the agricultural produce having ripple effects in farmers income, increasing wastage and rising government's subsidy bill.

Reason for post harvest losses

Due to Transport and marketing

(1) Low cold storage facility in APMC mandis only 10% of them have it.

(2) Poor transportation practices → no customised storage.

(3) Huge logistics cost - 13-14% delay and makes costly for transportation.

(4) Poor price realisation of the produce due to low marketing practices → results in losses ~~there~~ in APMCs.

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(5) Black marketing raises cost of it
↳ (ex) PDS food grains over 40-60%.
diverted off (Shanta kumar committee)

(6) Rising interstate taxes and policy regulations → raises the time.

(7) Low use of Inland Waterways and Air routes.

(8) Lack of dedicated corridors.

Other factors for Post Harvest losses

(1) Inadequate storage system - "Cover & Plinth system"

(2) Poor management of cold storage infrastructure near the farm.

(3) Rising climate change and temperature
↳ early rotting of food.

(4) No prompt liquidation of excess stock - leads to storage losses.

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Measures that can be taken

(1) Promote contract farming to reduce post harvest marketing issue

(2) Use reefer trucks for transportation

(3) Dedicated corridors for perishable horticulture produce

(ex) Andhra Pradesh recently flagged off 1st fruit train to Mumbai

(4) Village storage scheme → (ex) recently ~~started~~ by women managed.

(5) Decentralised procurement - as suggested by NITI Aayog.

(6) ENAM facility → (ex) recent study → farmers in Punjab using e-NAM resulted in ~ 5-9% ↑ in profit

(7) Cold storage facilities to be increased

(8) Food processing facilities (ex) PM Kisan Sampada Yojana

Post harvest losses should be minimised to ensure food security of the Nation and achieve SDG-2

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14. भारतीय कृषि में प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष सब्सिडी क्या हैं? इन सब्सिडी ने देश की फसल विविधता और कृषि अर्थव्यवस्था को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

What are the direct and indirect subsidies in Indian agriculture? How have these subsidies impacted the cropping diversity and farm economy of the country? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

According to Economic Survey 2024-25, the subsidy bill of the government was more than 4 lakh crore.

What are direct and indirect subsidies

Direct subsidies - which are credited directly to the farmer's bank account, and there is NO resultant product exchange in return. It eliminates the administrative middlemen and reduces chances of corruption

(ex) PM-KISAN - 6000 to farmers

Indirect subsidies - These subsidies are given in exchange of the product and aims to realise the objectives of the government. It is given on the price of the product.

(ex) LPG subsidy, PDS, MSP, fertilizer subsidy.

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How have these subsidies impacted cropping diversity

→ Cropping intensity in India has increased to ~ 146% (Economic survey of 2024-25)

1) → Increased MSP on other products has resulted in diversification

(ex) 98% more MSP on rapeseed,

2) → Push towards nutrients and soil based cropping fertilizer use

(ex) Nutrient Based subsidy - toward zinc, potash.

3) → Increased self empowerment of farmers - led to innovative practices of cropping

(ex) rice - floriculture practiced.

4) Farm economy → has resulted in increase farmer's income (110,218) Agriculture census

However there are certain challenges

1) Misuse of fertilizers subsidy -

(ex) excessive use of urea →

NPK - 8:4:1 Ideal 4:2:1

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(2) Wastage of irrigation subsidy — excessive water pumping

(3) Low use of drip and sprinkler irrigation methods despite 55% subsidy on it (Micro-Irrigation Fund) ~ 30%

Measures Kelkar committee

(1) Rationalisation of subsidy

(2) Reduce subsidies on petrol, diesel.

(3) No farm loan waivers

(4) Increased focus on capital infrastructure

Subsidies increases the burden of the states, but also has positive effect on farmers livelihood, therefore evidence and research based study be conducted to reduce its misuse

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15. भविष्य के अंतरिक्ष संचालन और मिशनों में पुन: प्रयोज्य प्रक्षेपण वाहनों की क्षमता पर चर्चा कीजिए। पुन: प्रयोज्य प्रक्षेपण वाहनों के विकास की दिशा में भारत की क्या पहल है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the potential of reusable launch vehicles in future space operations and missions. What are India's initiatives towards the development of reusable launch vehicles? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Candidates may write on this

India recently conducted the test and launch of its reusable launch vehicle via RLV-Technology demonstrator.

What are Reusable launch vehicle

(1) The vehicles which can be used to send and recive the payload onto the space.

(2) It can help reduce the cost of operations.

Potential of Reusable launch vehicle

(1) Increases the efficiency of launch vehicles as cost is reduced.

(2) Helpful in conducting research operations in space.

(3) Multiple payloads can be sent via same launch vehicle

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(4) Useful in Bharatiya Antariksh station - as reusable material will help increase frequency of operation

(5) Potential for increase private sector participation.

(6) New technology integration

(ex) use of 3D technology

(ex) Recently rocket of Agnikul Cosmos

(7) Decreases the space junk and threat to ~~to~~ global space objects.

(8) Global power house → of innovation in India

↳ Launch vehicle can be used to launch satellites of other countries.

India's initiatives towards development of Reusable L.V.

(1) POEM experiment - will need to use the last stage of PSLV ~~ex~~ vehicle for experiments.

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(2) Experiments such as technology demonstrator test

(3) Increasing private participation and foreign entry

(4) 74% FDI allowed in launch vehicle.

India with reusable launch vehicle has the potential to become global hub of space Technology and revolutionise the economic gain from it.

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16. हाल ही में शुरू की गई BioE3 नीति के लक्ष्यों और उद्देश्यों की व्याख्या कीजिए। यह नीति अर्थव्यवस्था के "हरित विकास" को सुनिश्चित करने में किस प्रकार सहायक हो सकती है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Explain the aims and objectives of the recently launched BioE3 policy. How can the policy help in ensuring "green growth" of the economy? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

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BioE3 policy means Biotechnology for economy, environment and employment. It aims to use the technology for inclusive and equitable sharing of benefits.

Aim of BIOE3 policy

1) → To increase biotechnology use in various sectors → economy

2) Increase skilled workforce for increasing employment.

→ (3) Technology to be used so that it is environment friendly and is in goal of sustainable development.

Objectives of BIO E3 POLICY

→ (1) Increase the economic growth by use of bio based products.

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(2) Ensuring nutritional security →

(Ex) use of iron fortified rice for reduction in Anaemia

(3) Reduce the introduction of foreign products (Ex) by using SDN1 and SDN2 technology.

(4) Increase energy security by using bio based economic and energy harnessing

(Ex) By using Biochar.

(5) Is in consonance with environment protection

(6) Protect humans from diseases by introducing technology to reduce pests spread (Ex) recently used in Malaria spreading mosquito.

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How can BioE3 ensure green growth

1. Pushing for energy diversification from microorganisms based energy harnessing.
2. Increase agricultural productivity & innovative practices to reduce waste (ex) conversion of rice stubble into organic fertilizers.
3. Reducing environmental impact of the harmful products
4. Inclusive growth by sharing the results with local people.

BioE3 policy will help in realisation of goals of government such as net zero by 2070 and ensuring Panchamrit and clean environment.

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17. क्योटो प्रोटोकॉल के अंतर्गत विभिन्न बाजार तंत्र क्या थे? पेरिस जलवायु परिवर्तन समझौते का अनुच्छेद 6 क्या है? नेट-शून्य लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में वैश्विक कार्बन बाजार के महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए।(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक
What were the various market mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol? What is Article 6 of the Paris Climate Change Agreement? Explain the significance of the global carbon market in achieving net-zero targets. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Kyoto Protocol was signed by the countries to reduce the emission of certain Green house gases and it initiated the mechanism of carbon trading and green development.

Various Market Mechanism under Kyoto Protocal

① Clean development mechanism between Annex and Annexure countries. To develop environmental friendly mechanism in each other countries and earn trading ~~mechanism~~ credits.

② Joint implementation → is a non emission trading mechanism, where countries develop jointly the environment friendly measure and receive credit.

③ Between Non Annex and Annex countries. →

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Article 6 of Paris Climate Change Agreement

→ Establishes a global carbon market, where carbon credits can be traded and push for achieving net-zero benefits.

→ (1) Article 6.2 → Bilateral or multilateral carbon trading mechanism can be established.

(2) Article 6.4 – Mechanism under UN supervised.

(3) Article 6.8 – Non-market actors can also participate.

Significance of Global carbon market in achieving Net Zero target

(1) Increases cost for the companies who emit excess carbon – As they will have to buy credits.

(2) Motivation and boost to the actors working for reduction in carbon emit (Green House gases).

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(3) Global Push towards net zero
Is the Pressure on nations to establish and monitor such initiative (ex) India recently came out with National carbon market.

(4) Centralised database of how much carbon is produced.

(5) Intervention by international bodies become effective (ex) IUCN.

(6) Increases income and thus democratise the effect (ex) farmers can also receive credit → for adopting sustainable practices.

Global carbon Market has the potential to achieve the net zero targets and incentives those companies who are pursuing greener technologies.

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18. जलवायु परिवर्तन और तेजी से हो रहे शहरीकरण ने भारत में गर्मी की लहरों के प्रभाव और आवृत्ति को तीव्र कर दिया है। चर्चा कीजिए। हीट एक्शन प्लान (एचएपी) भारत में हीटवेव प्रबंधन को कैसे बेहतर बना सकते हैं?

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

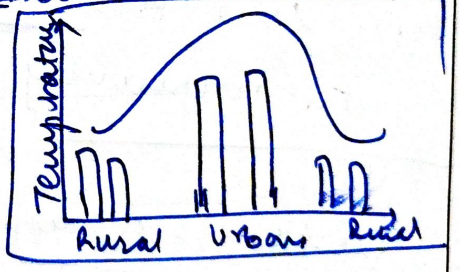
Climate change and rapid urbanization have intensified the impact and frequency of heat waves in India. Discuss. How can Heat Action Plans (HAPs) improve heatwave management in India?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Heat wave is defined as the phenomenon where the maximum temperature of any area exceed 45°C for consecutive 2 days or deviation of on average (4-5%) from mean temperature of that area.

How has climate change and urbanisation intensified the impact & frequency of heat waves

(1) Urban Heat Island effect →



(2) capacity of air to hold more ~~than~~ vapour — hence reduction in rain → intensified heat waves.

(3) Poor and unplanned urbanisation → leads to haphazard construction → concretisation → trap heat.

(4) Ex Bengaluru has ~~lost~~ 87% of its pavements concretised.

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(4) Loss of natural greening →

(Ex) Loss of wetlands - which helps cool the environment.

(Ex) Bengaluru has lost 80% of its wetlands.

(5) It has led to increase in marine heatwaves.

(6) Presence of industrialised units - release green house gases. → traps the heat.

(7) Loss of trees → acts as natural cooling agent.

How can Heat Action Plan helps in improving the management

(1) Customised approach - tailored to local needs.

(2) Helps in hazard mapping and vulnerable areas.

(3) Resource management (Ex)

~~Pres~~ Increased presence of ORS and cooling sheds be increased in heat vulnerable areas.

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(4) Dissemination of information → and early warning system can be given in local language.

(5) Proactive approach → Ex: Increases medical treatment facilities for potential heat strokes and cases of hyperthermia.

(6) Stakeholder involvement → to aware citizenry and ensure active participation

Heat Action plan as recommended by NDMA also helps in tackling the severe heat crisis. With increase in climate change and rising temperatures, the plan becomes imperative.

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19. बाह्य सरकारी एवं गैर-सरकारी तत्वों द्वारा भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए उत्पन्न खतरे क्या हैं? इन खतरों से निपटने के लिए आवश्यक रणनीतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

What are the threats posed to India's internal security by external State and non-state actors? Discuss the strategies necessary to tackle these threats. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

India's external security challenges has increased multifold with the increase in rising involvement of external state and Non state actors.

Threats posed by external state and Non state actors are:

(I) External state

Pakistan
- State sponsored terrorism
- counterfeit currency
- drug trafficking
- arms trading
- LOC violations

Bangladesh
- Cattle smuggling
- Human trafficking
- counterfeit currency
- Migration
- Arms trade

Myanmar
- Drug trafficking (golden triangle)
- Arms trading
- Insurgent training (ex ULFA recently)
- Human trafficking

Sri Lanka
- Fisherman issue
- Human rights violation of Tamilians in Srilanka

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(II) Non state Actors

(1) Use of arms and ammunition to ~~[illegible]~~ inflict violence.

(2) support by external state for increased terrorism.

(3) organised crime increases

(ex) lone wolf attacks by ~~[illegible]~~ terrorists

(4) Infiltration - changes demography

(5) Use of technology to spread ideology

(ex) social media

(6) spying and surveillance

(ex) Jyoti Malhotra was recently arrested for breaking official secrets Act.

Strategies to tackle these challenges

(1) Intelligence sharing - common platform and database (ex) 'No Money for Terror' intelligence sharing.

(2) Smart Border management

(ex) use of drones, CCTV cameras to guide the border areas.

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(3) Bilateral agreements to keep an eye on these actors
(ex) Bhutan-operation flush.

(4) Comprehensive Integrated Border management.
Is local communities to serve as 'eyes' and 'ears' of armed forces.

(5) Coordination between different agencies (ex) between NIA, IB, financial Intelligence unit.

(6) local development and training to boost capacities of civilian police.

(7) Training and new infrastructure upgrades to police personnel.

(8) Comprehensive Integrated → Push for security (ex) check for link between external and non-state actors.

ext Indian security faces a formidable challenge and it can be countered by collective and proactive approach.

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20. वामपंथी उग्रवाद (एलडब्ल्यूई) भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए चुनौती बना हुआ है। देश में वामपंथी उग्रवाद के मुद्दे को हल करने के लिए भारत सरकार के दृष्टिकोण पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Left-wing extremism (LWE) continues to remain a challenge to India's internal security. Discuss the Government of India's approach towards solving the issue of LWE in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Left wing extremism ~~has~~ was fueled by the agrarian distress and further ignited by lack of development which turned into a violent revolution with today 38 districts affected by it as said by ministry of home affairs.

How it is a challenge

(1) Increase attacks on economic development measures (ex) in 2023 Maoists revolted against construction in "Maoists liberated Zone".

(2) Attack on security personnels

(ex) in Chhatisgarh 2024 22 personnel died - Sukma Bastar massacre.

(3) Death of civilian population

(ex) 21 civilians died in Gadchiroli in 2021.

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(4) Use of ICT and technology to further spread the propaganda

(5) New forms — (Ex) now rising cases of "Urban Naxalism"

(6) Link with organised crime and affiliation increases the survival of naxalism.

(7) External state harbour → (Ex) ULFA, personnel was trained in Myanmar

Government's Approach to solve it

Law & order measures

→ (1) AFSPA — (Ex) recently it was reimposed in Manipur, violence affected areas.

→ (2) SAMADHAN scheme for long term eradication

(3) Training of police forces

(4) Modernisation of police forces
→ civic Action Program

(5) Aggressive media campaigns.

(6) Anti Naxal force — COBRA-CFIA

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Socio economic development measures

1. Forest Rights Act 1980
2. Eklavaya Model Residential school, and Chodo Asman campaig
3. Skill development → Roshni scheme
4. Technological Interventions
   - Bhuvan portal by ISRO
5. Infrastructural development
   - Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

State intervention

1. Andhra Pradesh Greyhounds (Anti Naxal forces)
2. Telangana state cum Rehabilitation Policy
3. West Bengal special village development Team

LWE should be eradicated by long term measures, trust building, and socio economic development.