

FGST3-17

VAJIRAM & RAVI

MAIN EXAM TEST SERIES (Oct 2021)

GENERAL STUDIES

Free Test - 3 (GS Paper III)

Full Paper - 3

Time allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

ADMIN. NO.: 4700147

NAME: SAKSHAM GOEL

[Redacted]

@

(compulsory)

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**. All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	4.5 /10	Q8	3 /10	Q15	8 /15
Q2	4.5 /10	Q9	1.5 /10	Q16	7.5 /15
Q3	4.5 /10	Q10	3.5 /10	Q17	4 /15
Q4	4 /10	Q11	1.5 /15	Q18	5.5 /15
Q5	5.5 /10	Q12	5.5 /15	Q19	7 /15
Q6	5.5 /10	Q13	8 /15	Q20	5 /15
Q7	4.5 /10	Q14	7.5 /15	Total	100.5

Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –

1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call 96672-73133 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

LCY-120

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IAS STUDY CENTRE LLP

20 DEC 2021

FOR EVALUATION

VAJIRAM & RAVI
IAS STUDY CENTRE LLP

20 DEC 2021

REVIEWED

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language and Articulation						
Structure and Presentation						
Conceptual clarity and Content						
Number of Attempted questions						

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions

Dear Saksham,

You have very good grasp on Conceptual and factual knowledge. Structuring of answers is very good. presentation is also good. you try to draw flow charts whenever needed and it is appreciable.

→ Though you have to work hard on —

Try to ~~frame~~ your introductions and conclusions more specific to the question satisfying demand of the question. you can fetch good extra marks in these parts. for more suggestions refer to the questions' comments.

→ In body part all you have to do is try to be consistent in putting in examples, data illustrations. In some questions (e.g. 11) you did not identify demand of the question so improve on that.

Best of Luck

Please go through all the micro and macro comments. All the best!



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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Q1

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, discuss the significant challenges hindering India's goal of achieving a 5 Trillion dollar economy by 2024-25 (10)

The COVID-19 crisis was a "total social fact" (Samuels and Mukherjee, EPW 2020) which was a "once in a century crisis" (Economic Survey 2021) that affected health, education, economy, sociology, politics and every aspect of public and personal lives.

Challenges thrown

1. Stress on health sector - infrastructure, frontline workers, mental health, biomedical waste, etc

2. Stress on banking sector - surmounting non-performing assets, SMAs, etc

3. Stress on Infrastructure Sector

(a) Road Construction halted due to lack of access to finance due to banking crisis

(b) Steel and Aluminium industry collapsed due to collapse in demand and sudden fall of commodity prices rendering firms unviable

(c) Electricity sector and DISCOMs crisis due to failure of sector reforms etc, exacerbated by COVID crisis.

4. Stress on Human Resources and Skilling Sector

For an economy to grow, human resources, education and skilling is a

You should have addressed the 5 Trillion economy target with COVID-19 in the introduction

These points are written with stress on crisis in COVID times. Try to write in connection with the hurdles faced for the realization of

5 Trillion economy till 2024-25

Though points are generic and relevant

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इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
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in this part)

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

→ pre-requisite. Post COVID-induced lockdown reduced education to a screen.

5. Demand Side Effects: Demand collapse, precautionary savings rocketed - leading to fall in GDP.

6. Supply Side Effects - The supply chain broke down, service sector largely closed and firms became unviable → again leading to banking crisis creating a vicious cycle

What Way Forward

Vaccination-led opening of economy, infrastructure-led growth model, green policy-led recovery of governance, recapitalisation and Bad Bank-led banking reforms, along with huge expend investments in health and education is the way forward for Atma Nirbhar Bharat realising the aspiration of \$5 Trillion economy through a V-shaped recovery.

Intro.	0.5
Body	3.0
Concl.	1.0
Marks	4.5

This is a valid point

Valid points but could have elaborated more on this

Very good conclusion with a way forward. Good keywords used

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इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

2. Critically examine the performance of the IBC in the last five years since it was adopted. (10)

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was adopted to streamline the exit of firms from market space and resolution of bankruptcy.

The performance of IBC in the last 5 years can be judged in comparison to other previous mechanisms:-

① Whereas Dist DRTs took 12-15 years for resolution and SARFESI took 8-10 years, average time taken by IBC is 2.5 years.

② Whereas the recovery rate of DRTs was 6-7% and that of SARFESI was 12-18%, recovery rate of IBC is more than 30%.

③ IBC has been fine-tuned to plug loopholes relating to :-

- (a) prevent criminal suits against bidders
- (b) pre-packs for MSMEs with swiss challenge
- (c) moratorium during COVID-19.
- (d) 4th sec provision of "not readily saleable" assets.
- (e) Raising default limit to ₹1000 crs.

introductions
could
be
better:
discussing
creditors
and
other
stock-
holders
and
the
benefit
it
provide
to
those
stockhold

Good
connecting
sentence

Good
that
you
used
proper
data
to
subst
antiate

Keep
it
up

Use
of
keywords
is
good

Keep
it
up-

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However, concerns regarding IBC mechanism still remain:-

all points are relevant

- ① The time taken is still high
- ② The number of resolutions is low
- ③ Moratorium during COVID-19 has only kicked the can down the road.

Try to briefly explain

④ The definition of "readily saleable assets" is vague

many other important concerns could be enumerated

⑤ NCLT benches are very few and inaccessible

⑥ Way Forward is to have more staffing and more benches of NCLT for faster disposal of cases coupled with banking sector reforms in light of the COVID pandemic.

more comprehensive way forward could be written.

e.g. address ARC, Fraud loans etc.

Intro	0.5
Bodys	3.5
Concl.	0.5
Marks	4.5

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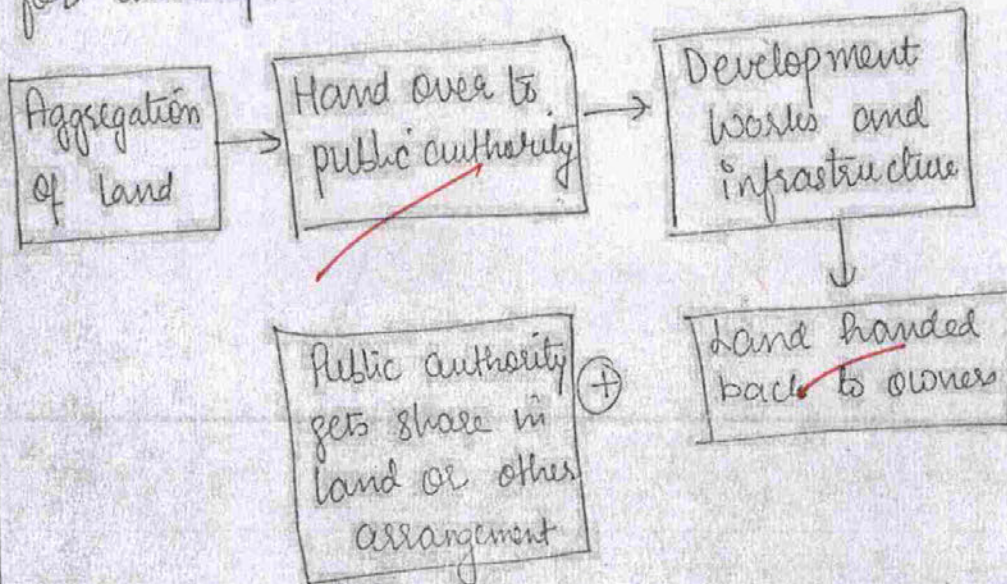
प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

3. What do you understand by Land Pooling? Can it be an alternative to the current land Acquisition framework employed in India by the government? (10)

Land pooling method refers to a participative consensual & self-aggregation of land (citizen initiated or otherwise) and consequent handing over to public authority for development.

well defined



Good flow chart drawn

Merits of the method

- ① Citizen-initiative possible
- ② Consensual decision making
- ③ Simple procedure
- ④ No coercion of property-owner
- ⑤ Faster and holistic area-development

all points are relevant but could give some examples to substantiate

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

Points
are
valid
but
could
give
some
examples
to
substantiate

- ⑥ Minimal disturbance
- ⑦ No ~~issues~~ relating to rehabilitation as restoration back to original owners
- ⑧ Government gets land for further usage and development

Possible Demerits

Instead
you
could
have
put in
problems
in
current
land
acquisition
framework
to
address
the
demand
w.r.
the
question

- ① ~~the~~ possible dispute over compensatory formula.
- ② Piece meal and non-strategic i.e. plans of ~~governmental~~ usage post-facto
- ③ Slow development → till then rehab facilities need to be provided
- ④ ~~Need~~

Way Forward

The recent DDA measures regarding land pooling are commendable as COMPLEMENTARY and not substitution of current land Acquisition framework.

Further, there is a need for proper and quick grievance redressal mechanism.

Good
that
you
touch
on
the
demand
w.r.
the
question
in
the
end.

Intro	1
Cont	1
Body	2.5

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

4. PPP in agriculture can be the lynchpin of agricultural growth in India. Examine (10)

well defined

PPP refers to the contractual agreement between public and private-sector to pool resources and share risks to provide public goods and generate profits/revenue.

Need for Agri PPP in agriculture - Issues at present

1. Stagnant capital investment in agriculture since 1980s (Pulapre Balakrishnan)

2. Lack of innovative technology that is affordable and available i.e. need for Agri Tech Startups

3. Fragmented land, perverted incentives, over-regulation leading to very low productivity and vicious cycle of sustenance and poverty (Ashok Gulati)

What can PPPs do in agriculture

1. Better quality inputs, world class infrastructure and better services/capital like seed drilling, tractors, etc for increasing productivity and quality.

You should address PPP in agriculture as per the demand of question

Good and valid points but you could have combined these two heads to give a clear picture why PPP in agriculture is needed

InH40	0.5
Bodys	2.5
Comp	1
marks	4

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

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इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

2. Formalise the sector and better agri-industry relations
3. Agri Tech Startups - for services like "Uberisation of Tractors" (Ashok Gulati)
4. Help in food fortification

Models of PPP in agriculture

1. Contract eg Model APMC Act provided for it. with option
2. The repealed law also provided for it but failed to come up with model contract
3. Agreement with multi-brand stores, food chains, etc. with public services combined.

Issues

1. Low bargaining power of farmer
2. Concern of farmers reduced to land labourers
3. Concerns regarding corporate greed.

Way forward

1. Formulate model contract
2. Fast grievance redressal and dispute settlement mechanism.

For doubling farmers' incomes and a food-secure and nutri-safe country, PPP in agriculture is a good method.

It is appreciable but there is no need of this in this answer

You should have given more space to answer to satisfy the demand of the question

Very good way forward and conclusion.

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

5. "Precision agriculture is an innovative technology to accelerate sustainable agriculture production" Critically examine (10)

Precision agriculture refers to the agronomic practice of using technology modern and traditional - to maximise quality crops with minimal resources - land, water, fertiliser, etc - to minimise pollution and maximise sustainability.

well defined
Good
introduction

Merits with respect to sustainability

Precision agriculture includes seed drilling, drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, aerial seeding. The merits are:-

① Per drop more crop i.e. maximising water utilisation leading to:-

- 1.1. Less dependence on ^{erratic} monsoon
- 1.2. Less dependence on irrigation
- 1.3. Bettering of water table
- 1.4. Better quality of water
- 1.5. Less runoff → less river water pollution → better riverine biodiversity.

points and sub-points are appreciable well structured and valid points.

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

different technological applications could also be mentioned in the points

- ② Lesser and organic fertiliser, pesticide, etc herbicide, etc
- 2.1 Better soil health
 - 2.2 Better crop quality regarding nutritional value
 - 2.3 Lesser runoff pollution

Those points are well written but some more concerns could be mentioned e.g. fragmented landholdings etc.

③ Potential Concerns

- ① Energy intensive → indirect impact on environment
- ② Capital intensive → expensive, therefore need for governmental intervention
- ③ Labour replacing → Potential for increase in unemployment and uncovering the disguised unemployment

Way forward

Very well written conclusion, good that you mentioned Dalwai Committee

For sustainable agriculture, government programmes like Per Drop More Crop, Soil Health Health Card and Agri-Infrastructure Fund (AIF) must be promoted and Dalwai Committee recommendations revisited.

intro	1
body	3.5
concl	1
marks	5.5

6. What role does agroforestry play in mitigating the effect of climate change? (10)

Agroforestry refers to the practice of crop cultivation and forest maintenance in ~~close~~ spatial proximity, inclusion of waste patches.

Role in mitigating Climate Change

a. ~~Sim~~ Utilize waste patches, marginal- and sub-marginal land

b. ~~Provide~~ space for pastures

c. Control water pollution and wind erosion

d. Simultaneous production of food, fooder, fuel, timber, fruit

e. Sustainable agriculture as forest provides various ecosystem services eg pollination by bees.

f. Role in improve soil health.

g. Neodeterminism (Griffith Griffith Taylor) balancing need for expansion of agriculture land with need to preserve forests

Introduction
could have been more comprehensive
with identification of concerns of traditional agricultural methods

all points are good satisfying demand of the question

h. Expanding green cover (under National Mission for green India)

i. Limit the deforestation and land degradation

j. Diversify agricultural portfolio from agriculturally unsustainable wheat system to horticulture, etc

k. Better water table leading to less dependence on irrigation and erratic monsoon.

Concerns

a. Land availability

b. Wildlife (eg tigers, elephants) entering fields and ruining crops.

Agroforestry and social forestry in

Rural India and urban forestry (eg Miyawaki method) in cities is the way forest for greening a climate

Resilient India.

Intro	0.5
body	4
concl.	1
marks	5.5

Good and valid arguments.

though points are good but. It would have been ok if you didn't mention

Very well written conclusion

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

7. Deepfakes have emerged as a new tool to spread disinformation at scale and speed. Analyse the advantages and concerns posed by deepfakes.

Deepfakes refers to the electronically tinkered / manipulated pictures/videos with undetectable and convincing changes using frontier technology.

eg. A video of a public officer saying something offensive can be manufactured and circulated. — spreading mis-/dis-information

Advantages of deepfakes

1. Editing cinematic movies
2. Comedians like Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Kimmel, Trevor Noah, Hasan Minhaj, and others use it for "ridicule" and "sarcastic" comedy.

3. Barack Obama in his farewell speech deepfaked his own speech for self-deprecating himself.

4. Safeguarding identity of witnesses in cases

Disadvantages and Concerns

1. Spreading misinformation, dis-information

good but role of AI could be mentioned

example is good.

points are relevant and good

This is a good example

Some more points could be added e.g. anonymity, Research etc.

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Prints
are
valid
but
try
to
provide
with
examples
to
substantiate.

You
missed
a part of
the
question
i.e. deepfakes
as a new
tool to
spread
dis-information.

You should
also have
addressed
this
as a part
of
the
answer.

Very
good
suggestions
and
good
summing up
line.

- and fake news
- 2. Create environment of unreliability of every information
- 3. Hijack entire governance structure
- 4. Foment communal tension, etc
- 5. Lead to DISTRUST IN INSTITUTIONS, in journalism and so on
- 6. Increasing indoctrination with extremist ideas and ideologies.
- 7. Reversal of gains made in electronic communications for inclusivity and transparency

Suggestions

- 1. Explore Quantum Communications technology
- 2. Strict vigil on deepfakes
- 3. Accountability of platforms like YouTube, facebook, twitter, etc
- 4. Speedy grievance redressal, especially regarding dignity of woman

66 "A lie travels the world three times before the truth has put on its shoes".

int 50/1
mark 2.5

concl 1
mark 4.5

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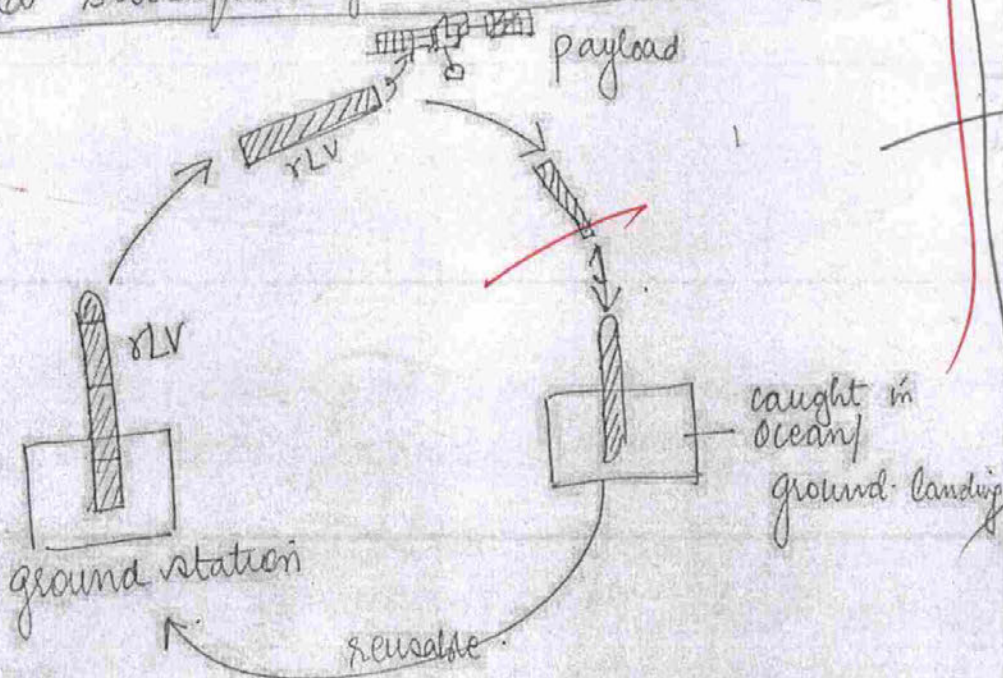
इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
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in this part)

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

8. Reusable launch Vehicles have the potential to revolutionise access to outer space. Right highlight the steps taken by ISRO to develop a RLV. (10)

Reusable launch Vehicles^(RLVs) refer to the LVs which, upon delivery of original payload to outer space / Karman line, ~~do~~ have return-to-ground capabilities and subsequently deliver further payloads.

well defined
good introduction



Good flow chart drawn

Fig. Reusable launch Vehicle

Potential to revolutionise outer space access

- ① Reduce cost of operation
- ② Step forward in more space stations
- ③ Important for progress in sample

could have addressed space debris, environment friendly etc.

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Return mission

- ④ Critical for vision of space-internet of SpaceX, OneWeb and so on.

Government Steps taken

- ① FDI liberalisation in 2019
- ② Establishment of NSIL and ANTRIX for productionisation of SSLV/PSLV/sats
- ③ Promotion of private sector for end-to-end production
- ④ Creation of InSPACE as one-stop center for private sector, ISRO and NSIL.
- ⑤ Liberalisation of geospatial data
- ⑥ Leasing out of ISRO facilities to private sector

Space is the next frontier of exploration of minerals, exploitation of Fourth Industrial revolution and defence sector. and must be a priority sector.

inter	1	conc.	0.5
Body	1	marks	3

This point is less relevant here.

These points are not relevant here you should have given specific steps taken by ISRO

These are relevant but not the specific steps taken.

Concluding could be around ISRO and its efficiency

9. What is the "CYBER AASHVAST" Project? Examine its role in addressing the problems associated with India's cyber security system. (10)

Cyber AASHVAST (literally, assured cyberspace) project is an initiative to check and prevent cyber crimes by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

check the full form

Cyber Police

Role in addressing cyber security issues

1. Move towards digitisation and synergistic convergences between the various security apparatus systems like NATGRID, Police data, etc

There are different units employed to tackle different type of cyber problem

2. Address cybersecurity issues like:

- (a) Human trafficking deals
- (b) Smuggling of narcotics, gold and other valuable items on the DARK NET.

these can be said to be role of this project

(c) The challenges posed by Crypto currencies and Blockchain technology

(d) The safety of CRITICAL

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INFRASTRUCTURE of India from
cyber threats

It is a public centric programme and not for this purpose.

3. Cyber security also becomes critical in view of national security:-
a. Indoctrination by bot-led echo-chamber formations eg Russia's involvement in US elections meddling
b. Surveillance of key personalities in the alleged Pegasus scandal.

Good example to substantiate the statement.

4. Cyber Aarvath contributes to an "assured" governance architecture protecting the state's cyber infrastructure including websites. eg PM's twitter handle was briefly compromised recently.

check the facts

5. Help in National Automated Facial Recognition System (NAFRS), NATGRID, IC4, etc

Good but could be more specific to the question

As the data becomes new oil, ^{cyber} has become a strategic space that needs to be protected.

intro	0	concl	0.5
body	1	marks	1.5

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

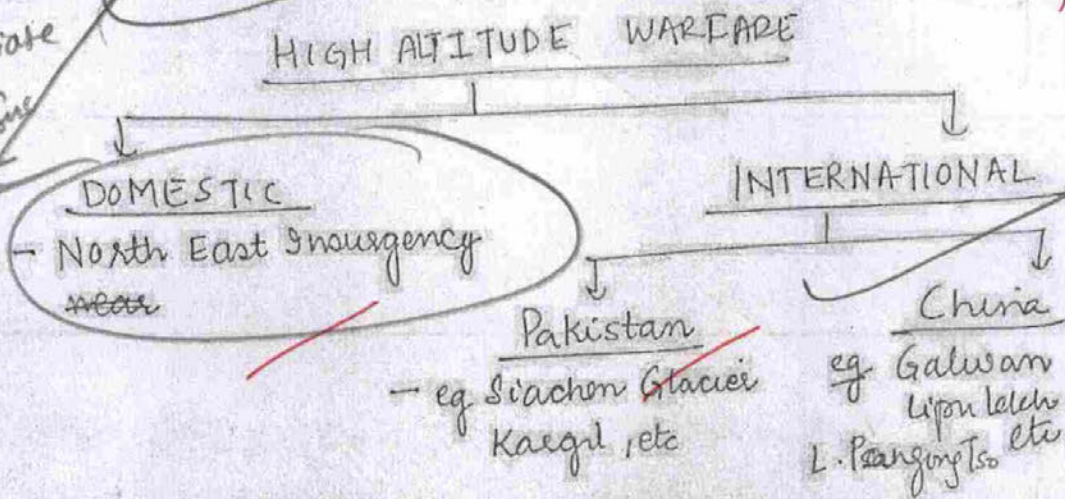
10.

Discuss the critical challenges involved in High Altitude Warfare. Examine the level of India's preparedness for this kind of warfare

Himalayas are the Third Pole of the world. India's Himalayan border area poses multiple arenas of High Altitude Warfare both domestic and international

Could be more relevant describing high altitude warfare require ment

Substantiate with illustrations



Challenges posed

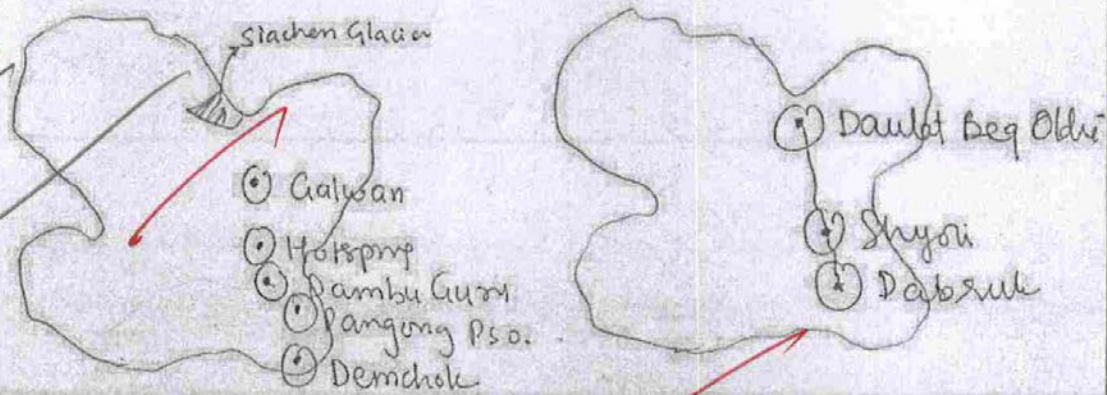
- ↳ Extreme weather
 - ↳ low temperature
 - ↳ low pressure
 - ↳ rough terrain
 - ↳ snow storms
 - ↳ low oxygen level
- ↳ low visibility
- ↳ high cost advanced garment/gear required
- ↳ freezing of diesels
- ↳ differential height command means disadvantageous position eg Kargil conflict

4 points are relevant but other problems could be mentioned
e.g. technology, supply, combat, R&D etc.

India's preparedness

1. Dabruk Shyok Daulat Beg Oldie road
2. Sassa ram- Sassaoma road Imli
3. High altitude non-freezing diesel
4. Capture of Siachen

↳ Requisite training and protocol
↳ Proper advance combat gear.



Locations of conflict DSDBo road

Way Forward

Given LAC being neither delineated nor demarcated and LoC being a hot line of peace and North East insurgency - high level of investment in Research and Development is required.

These are only examples of India's Infrastructure Preparedness
could give some generic points i.e. skilling capacity building etc.
good depiction

Grand but conclusion could be about our soldiers' capabilities to fight this type of war and what needs to be done for them.

INTRO	0.5	Present	0.5
Body	2	Concl.	0.5

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प्रश्न संख्या
Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
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in this part)

11. What is the difference between fiat currency and digital currencies? Analyse the risks associated with digital currencies in context of India. (15)

Currency refers to a medium of exchange of value and store of value used for accounting, transactions, etc.

Fiat Currency refers to the currency which does not have any innate value per se (unlike gold, silver) but derives its value from the fiat order of the state/government. As Niall Ferguson says - "In the Fed, we trust"

Digital Currency on the other hand is an intangible currency, not backed by value of commodity but operating on digital scarcity bounded by "mining capacity".

FIAT CURRENCY

1. Backed by:

(a) State eg £ by India
US\$ by US

(b) often by Gold.

2. Scarce i.e. limited

DIGITAL CURRENCY

1. Backed by nothing but trust in blockchain. But China has come up with digital renminbi e-CNY.

2. Can be limited (eg. Bitcoin) or unlimited (eg. Dogecoin)

good but could give background of digital currency in india i.e. RBI's proposal verify the facts please

this is definition of Crypto-currency and not digital currency

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3. Usually stable

3. Very unstable and
subject to high
speculation

4. Nationally used
internationally recognised

4. Borderless currency
but rarely recognised
as currency.

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DIGITAL CURRENCY

① ~~Cyber~~ threat of hacking, malware, etc

② The undermining of the authority of the state

③ Crime

Blockchain
+
Digital Currency
+
Dark Net

less
regulation

Crime
- Smuggling
- Terrorism
- Trafficking
- Narcotics
- Child Abuse

Parallel Economy
La économie de la
debroulardes
(Joshua Klein)

This
can't
be
risk
to
digital
currency

This is
related
to
crypto-
currency
and
not
state backed
digital
currency.

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

4) Environmental Concerns: Total amount of pollution caused by data mining to procure bitcoins is more than total vehicular emissions of Asia.

5) Vulnerable financial system
Like the dot com bubble, housing sub-prime crisis, Asian financial crisis, this bubble caused by overvalued cryptocurrencies and digital currencies is prone to bursts.

6) Digital Divide

- personal → lack of access, lack of understanding
- national - US, China having "first mover's advantage" (daibson, Syndicate Project 2020)

Digital currencies are here to stay. They need to be regulated and their flow monitored for financial, ~~and~~ and internal security.

intro	0.5
body	1.5
conc	0
marks	11.5

Please read on digital currency

all points are not relevant to digital currency

U.P.S.C.

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

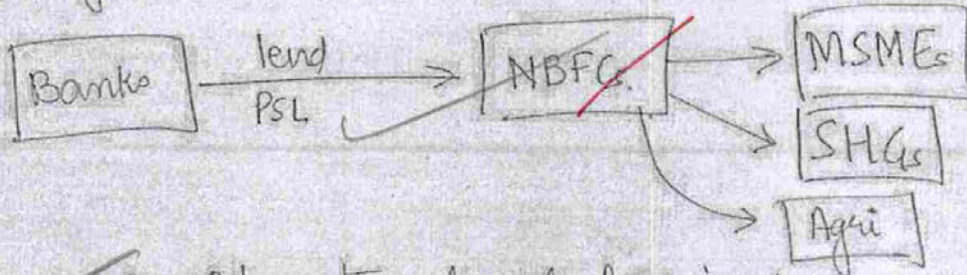
12. "The stress in NBFCs has ramifications on nation's economic recovery" In this context, highlight the issues faced by NBFCs in India and also suggest measures for their revival. (15)

Introduction
could be
more
comprehensive
describing
importance
of
NBFCs

In light of the IL&FS crisis and consequent COVID-19 crisis, the NBFC sector is under severe stress.

Role of NBFCs

1. Specialised and differentiated sector serving underserved sectors and regions
2. Key in on-lending to MSMEs



3. Key in infrastructural project financing (eg in PPP projects in roads).

Issues faced by NBFCs

- ① IL&FS crisis leading to credit crunch.

This can be said to be an instance of an issue

Flow chart drawn

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2. The on-lending-~~is~~ related credit from banks has dried up due to banking crisis

3. COVID-19 related moratorium has led to now, sudden rise in NPAs and SMAAs (0, 1, 2).

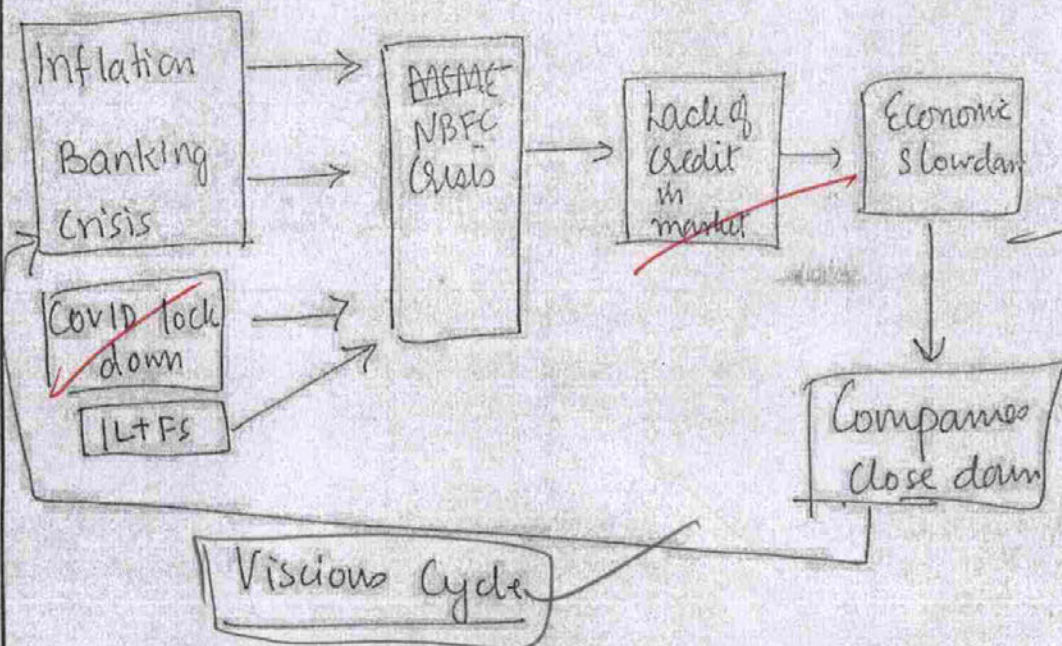
4. ~~Slowdown~~ in economy means a poor return to NBFCs which reinforces the crisis

5. Many MSMEs are shutting down

6. Loss of public confidence

7. High inflation rendering operations untenable.

points are relevant but some more points could be enumerated



very good presentation

Suggestions

all points are valid but try to substantiate consistently with some reports committees etc.

1. Recapitalise NBFC
2. Follow RBI's proposal of 3 tier regulatory structure for NBFCs
3. Merge NBFCs for increased viability
4. Revisit idea of a Barda Bank (PARA) solely for NBFCs.
5. Make on-lending to NBFCs arrangement a permanent one.

explain a little bit

6. Banking reforms.
7. Continue MSME reforms, DISCOM reforms.

Try to sum up the answer in the conclusion. could be more comprehensive in 15 marks.

NBFC is a niche sector important for inclusive growth (eg Micro-finance Institutions) and must therefore get requisite assistance to revive itself.

Intro	0.5
body	4
persens.	0.5
concl.	0.5
Marks	5.5

17) The private players' participation in Indian Railways will have a detrimental effect on the welfare approach of the railways. Critically evaluate (15)

Recently, the government identified 109 busy routes across India to run 151 private trains for 35 years — 5% of total trains; in 12 clusters. This comes as 70% freight trains shall be shifted to Dedicated Freight Corridors and the recommendations of EGOS headed by Amitesh Kant

Very good and factual introduction

Welfare approach of the railways

1. National integration
2. Seamless transfer of goods.
3. Cheap medium of travel
4. Highest employment generator
5. Foreign assignments eg in Iran during 1980s.

It is nice that you point in points to state the welfare approach

Merits of Private participation in Indian Railways

① Better Quality of services

- 1.1. Contractually obligated services.
- 1.2. Punctuality obligated in the proposed formula.

Refer to next page

well
structured
points

1.3. Coordinated price with associated services like hotels

1.4. Ease of Doing Business

2. Better Pricing

2.1. According to Indian Railway estimates, profits ~~are~~ are $22 \pm 5\%$ which could actually reduce pricing

2.2. Competitive Bidding.

3. Advantageous for Exchequer

3.1. Cross-subsidisation of funds from freight trains stops

3.2. Indian Railways losses reduced

3.3. Profits from private players shared

4. Possibility of Innovative Methods

4.1. eg. Bundling profitable routes with underserved areas

4.2. eg. Multi-party investment

5. Increased FDI and international best practice

6. Synergise with National Monetisation Pipeline and

Good
factual
knowledge,

Good
structuring
of
answer.

Points
and
sub-points
are
appreciable.

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Gati Shakti Master Plan.

Potential Concerns :

1. Increase in prices
2. Privatisation of only profitable routes
3. Poor past experiences in the UK
4. Major concerns regarding laying off of workers and labour conditions.
5. alter backward/forward linkage
6. Hinder regional development.
7. Need to explore IRCTC role instead of private sector

all points are relevant and valid

Way Forward

1. Very comprehensive COU model contract with bundling of profitable and underserved regions
2. Revisit [Pibek Debroy Committee] on Railway Reforms

avoid overwriting

few more points briefing about welfare approach of railway could be made.

Thus, private participation is a requirement for Atma Nirkhae Bharat but the welfarist role of railways must also not be compromised.

Good closing line

intro	1.5
body	5.5
concl.	1
marks	R

14. One Nation One Ration Card can address the fundamental structural issues of the public distribution system. Still, its efficient functioning require the entire value chains to be closely monitored and backed by infrastructure. Elaborate (15)

Could have given recent developments in this regard

One Nation One Ration Card is the scheme whereby the PDS ration PDS systems aims to integrate PDS ration availability across states (IM-PDS) and within states (annavitan).

Addressing fundamental structural issues

Very good and valid facts. Put in

1. In 2011, there were 4.1 crore inter-state migrants, 90 lakh people migrate within India per year. They remain unserved by PDS system

Nice flow chart drawn

2. A majority of migrants are
↓
vulnerable, needy.
→ married women
→ poor labourers from states like UP, Bihar.

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3. Lack of "INTEROPERABILITY" i.e. Seamless nationally integrated ration system.

4. According to State of Aadhaar Survey 2017, 6.5% of ration card holders were denied food grains in Rajasthan due to lack of food grains.

5. Lack of choice of which shop to go to - i.e. not reaping benefits of "local-choice effect".

Need to monitor and provide adequate infrastructure

① Interoperability functions only when:-

(a) Seamless transfer of e-POS data

(b) Adequate monitoring of need for grains

(c) Real-time and quick response

arguments are good and valid

But you should have described ONDC as a solution for these issues

this can be an example of an issue

Good that you mentioned keywords like e-POS etc.

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Digital
Connectivity
dedicated
portal,
Grievance
redressal
etc.
Could
have
been
also
mentioned
though
valid
and
good
points

- ② For this, grains need to reach the shops quickly as and when needed i.e. SMOOTH VALUE CHAINS.
- ③ At the "back-end", reimbursement and coordination among states is critical.
- ④ Further, transport services, shops infrastructure (Brick and mortar and e-POS) need to be updated.

Way Forward

Good
well
written
factual
and
summing
up
conclusion

Given around 20% ration cards holders are still out of ONORC, they must be brought into its fold to prevent a migrant crisis in wake of future COVID-like crises and in pursuit of inclusive growth and food security.

intro	1
bodys	5
concl	1.5
mask	7.5

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

15. "Agri-Export Policy 2018 is bold in its objectives of doubling agricultural exports by 2022". In this context, discuss the key factors hindering the achievements of these objectives. Also, suggest some measures to achieve the same. (15)

Agri-Exports is a sunrise sector critical in doubling farmer income and diversifying markets.

AGRICULTURE EXPORTS POLICY 2018

① Aim: - \$30 Bn → \$60 Bn + → \$100 Bn +
2018 2022 later.

② Promote novel indigenous organic goods

③ Intra-policy synchronisation

④

Focus on

Strategic
infra, logistics, etc

Operational element
"Brand India",
clusters approach

⑤ Nodal agency: APEEDA.

KEY FACTORS FOR HINDERING AGRI-EXPORTS

① Droughts in 2015, 2016

② Supply chain crisis due to COVID pandemic

Some factual inputs could be stated about agri-export sector's contribution and its position in comparison with other countries.

Good and valid points

Very Good Conceptual and factual knowledge

- ③ Lack of value added products
(food processes)
- ④ Non-Tariff Barriers like Phytosanitary Barriers
- ⑤ ≈ 30% wastage (Dalwai Committee)
- ⑥ High infrastructure cost
- ⑦ Lack of diversification (wheat system)
- ⑧ Low mechanisation, small farm size ⇒ low productivity
- ⑨ High logistical cost
- ⑩ Lack of private participation

SUGGESTIONS

According to High Level Expert Group on Agri Exports (HLEG):-

- ① targetted approach to Export-markets

all points are valid, its nice that you have put in factual information in the points

keep it up

nice that you quoted HLEG

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② 7 "must-win" sectors — buffalo, spices, rice, vegetable oil, wood, etc.

③ Solve value chain clusters (VCC)

④ Enable private sector

⑤ Robust institutional mechanism

Other suggestions:-

① More diversification of crops.

② Promote food processing industry

③ Revive and Revamp PM-Sampada
for robust supply chain

④ Better foreign trade agreements to solve
Non Tariff barriers.

all points are relevant and valid

nice use of keyword e.g. VCC etc.

good conclusion but could be more comprehensive in 15 marks.

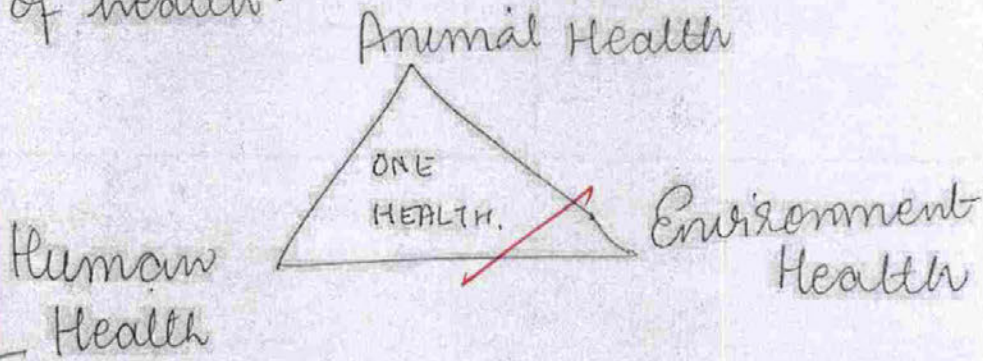
Agri-Exports are a key to the doubling of farmers income and increasing India's forex reserves.

intro	1
body	5
conc.	1
marks	8

16. The convergence of biological factors, disasters and natural hazards has severe implications on lives, livelihoods, and economic systems. Critically examine (15)

Good but should have included biological disasters e.g. Covid and natural hazards in introduction

The "One Health" approach championed by India at WHO ^{takes} integrative approach of health.



INSTANCES OF CONVERGENCE OF BIOLOGICAL DISASTERS WITH NATURAL HAZARDS

Valid argument drawn

① Anthrax

As permafrost thaws, diseases and pathogens long gone like Anthrax (2015) will re-emerge.

Natural hazards like cyclones, floods during Covid should also be mentioned

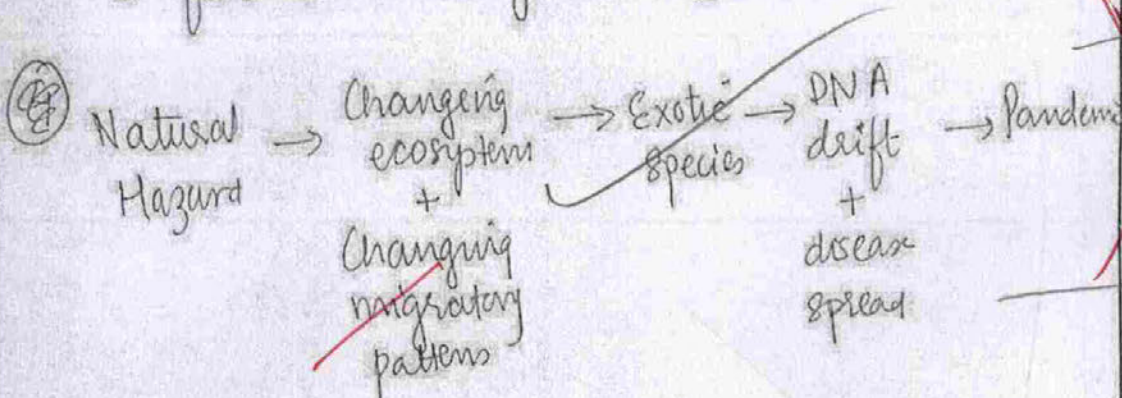
② COVID-19

Wet markets, climate change and natural hazards culminated

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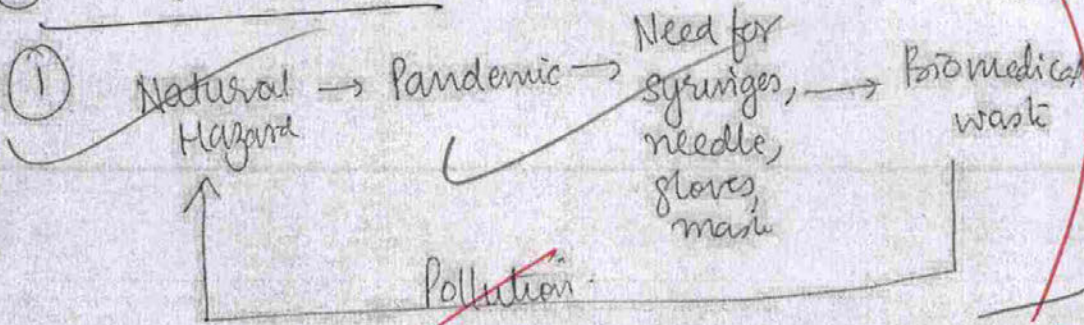
in this pandemic

③ As climate changes, migratory patterns get ~~disturbed~~ leading to further biological hazards.



Very good flow chart drawn.

④ Implications



Very good flow chart drawn

② Economies have to shut down to prevent spread (Rs) value.

③ Mental health crisis, domestic violence (ps shadow pandemic), hunger follows

④ Education sector is disrupted

good and valid points

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good that
you
quoted
newspaper

⑤ Social life:- "We are all socially awkward now" — Kate Murphy
(New York Times, 2021 October)

all
are
valid
points

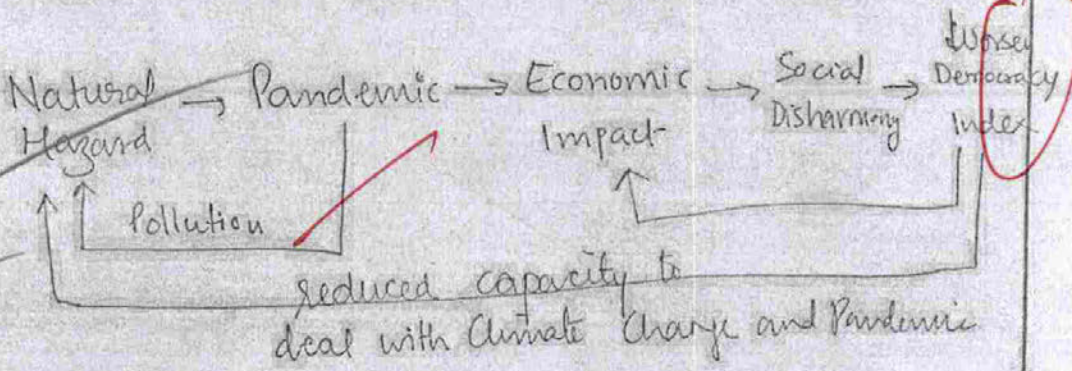
⑥ Supply chains break down
(eg US facing shortages recently)

good
substantiation
with
examples

⑦ The services sector comes to a total
halt

⑧ Social tension leads to conspiracy theories, communal disharmony, etc

very
good
flow
chart
drawing



a
way
forward
would
have
been
more
suitable

It is high time for global
cooperation on natural and biological hazards through integrative approach

very
good
presentation

intro	1
Body	5
Present	1
Concl.	0.5
total	7.5

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न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

17. Discuss the significance of environmental nanotechnology and its potential contribution to a sustainable envt. with suitable substantiation (15)

Environmental nanotechnology is the utilisation of nanotechnology (technology of differential observable behaviour of material in nano-dimensions) for addressing (adapting and mitigating) climate change.

well defined
good
introduction

① Nanophotonics - Atomic Force Microscopy
It is a rising discipline that attempts to "bend light" (photons) for better communication technology, thereby reducing need for mining of mineral and is energy saving through miniaturisation.

points
are
good
but
could
substantiate
with
an
example
or
application

② Use of graphene for solar cells, LEDs, nanotransistors.

③ Agriculture

(a) for waste management

Please substantiate as per the demand of the question

(b) nano sensors
(c) ~~water~~ purification (using graphene)

(d) Nano-agri products

(4) In infrastructure

eg. nanomaterials - nanosteel, nanowood

Should have mentioned instances of application in real life

(5) ~~Energy~~ dissipation in self organised nanostructures under electronic fields.

(6) Thus, nanotechnology can significantly ~~contribute~~ to addressing climate change.

Should have added more lines in conclusion is 15 marks

Question has demanded to write in two parts i.e. 1. significance
2. potential contribution
of environmental nanotechnology

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Intro	1.5
Body	2
Conc.	0.5
Marking	4

18. What are the potential challenges associated with alternative medicines? Discuss the recent reforms introduced by the government in this direction (15)

Could be defined more precisely

Should have also mentioned Siddha medicine

Alternative medicine refers to the systems of medicine outside mainstream medicine system, including Ayurveda, Yunani, etc (AYUSH).

You should elaborate more on this

Challenges associated with alternative medicines

Should explain a little bit on this

1. Lack of scientific evidence of effect

2. Moral question on Randomised Control Trials given the Principle of Essentiality.

Good and valid points

3. Problem of training the professionals:-
(a) Training pedagogy
(b) Acceptable limits eg Shalya and Shalakhya issue of surgery

in Ayurveda

(c) Differentiating between genuine practitioners and quacks.

(4) Problem of certification and regulation

(5) Placebo effect due to frequent perceived backing of sacred authority

Should be substantiated with specific reports or research studies.

(6) Homeopathy in multiple studies has proven to be of only placebo value.

Substantiated with specific report or data.

Potential Merits

(1) Collective wisdom of people from time immemorial

(2) Potential of longer-term cause-addressing solution.

(3) Natural and organic - less stress on body and increased body acceptability.

good and relevant points but could add some more e.g. stress or holistic improvement

Recent reforms

Valid points mentioned but some measures are missing e.g. AYUSH health and wellness centers, institute of teaching, Research in Ayurveda act 2020. etc.

Grand conclusion could be summed up more comprehensively

1. Setting up of National Commission for Indian System of Medicine as a statutory body

2. Amendments to Indian Medicine Central Council Regulations 2016 to allow 'Shalya' and 'Shalakhya' Surgery to Ayurveda students

3. Provisions for education, training, Certification of professionals

4. Protocol for RCT certified Randomised Controlled Trials

~~Thus~~, Alternative medicine is a complementary system has wide social acceptance and requires governmental regulation and formalisation.

intro	1
body	3.5
concl.	1
total	5.5

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

19. Terror financing is called as "lifeline of terrorism".
Enumerate the steps taken by India to combat
money laundering and terror financing (15)

According to Special UN Rapporteur,
terrorism consists of 3 elements: - deadly
means, intent to create terror and a
purpose of furthering a goal/ideology

well
defined
quoting
UN

Major sources of terror financing
and steps taken :-

① Hawala, Dark Net, Smuggling, fake
currency

a) ECN Coordination Group for
Intelligence Sharing

b) Terror funding and fake currency
cell under NIA.

② State-sponsored terrorism

a) Smart Walls and Smart Border
Management

b) NIA as federal agency.

③ Domestic sources - indoctrination,
narcotics money, etc

all
points
are
valid
but
you
should
have
divided
question
in
two
parts
i.e.
money
laundering
and
terror
financing

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good that you mentioned UAPA NDPS

- a) ~~NDPS Act~~ and establishment of ~~Narcotics Bureau~~
- b) ~~Amendment to UAPA Act~~ in 2020.

You have to mention steps already taken

④ Fake currency

- a) ~~Use of hologram and other technologies in currency notes~~
- b) ~~Digitisation~~
- c) ~~Demonetisation~~

good valid points

⑤ Foreign Trusts like Al-Rashid and Rabita Trust of Islam and

↓
2 approaches

friendly countries like Bangladesh

↓
Bilateral engagement
eg. North East Insurgency.

in adversarial countries like Pakistan

↓
Pursue international efforts

Good flow chart drawn

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

International efforts include:-

- ① Membership of SCO - 3 evils - extremism, terrorism and separatism
- ② Membership of FATF (^{Action} Financial Task Force) Against terror funding, money laundering and Weapons of Mass Destruction
- ③ Efforts at UN and other fora against terrorism eg
- ④ UNSC Resolution 2322
Institutional mechanisms back home:

- ① Revamped Multi Agency Centre (R-MAC)
- ② NATGRID
- ③ Amendments to VAPA, NIA Act
- ④ FIC XI Coordination Group
- ⑤ Terror funding cell in NIA
- ⑥ NIA, National Security Guard
- ⑦ Coast

Thus, terror funding is the lifeblood which if choked will be the biggest blow to terror activities.

intro	1.5
body	4.5
concl.	1
marks	7

These
are
valid
and
relevant
points

avoid
reiteration
of
same
points
again.

Closing
line
is
good
but
conclusion
should
have
been
more
comprehen
sive

20. Analyze the primary reasons for the increase in ceasefire violations along the LOC. Also, suggest the steps that need to be taken to minimize these violations (15)

Recent developments in this regards could be mentioned though its good that you have good factual knowledge.

Line of Control is the effective border between India and Pakistan from N 19846 till Siachen Glacier.

Whereas the ceasefire was re-emphasised in 2021, there have been frequent violations as:-

good argument as you quoted eminent personality

① The Pakistan military is invested in conflict with India for its bloated existence

"In India, ~~the~~ state has a military
In Pakistan, the military has a state"

- Shashi Tharoor

② Pressures of domestic politics of hate against each other due to the past

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"The experience of partition is a fading family memory, but as a historical fact, it remains charged with potential emotional value"

- Krishna Kumar (Sept 2021)

it is appreciable as you quoted a personality

③ Pincer Strategy i.e. perceived or real dual threat of Pakistan and China with India stuck in between thereby increasing confidence of Pakistan.

All points are valid but you could have mentioned some more reasons

④ Tensions due to Aug 5 2019 decision.

Steps that can be taken

I. Principle

1.1 Blood Terror and talks can't go together.

1.2. Principle of territorial sovereignty

1.3 You can't choose your friends
(^{AB} Vajpayee, former PM).

1.4. Kashmiriyat, Jammuaniyat, Insaaniyat

Try to elaborate more on these points

2. Steps

2.1 Talks with Pakistani Civil Society

2.2 Strong border Infrastructure

2.3 Technology - Smart Walls, Smart Border Management

2.4 Use of other deterrents like

Water supply within India
Water Treaty

You could also have added more points e.g. Joint SOP, high level meetings, Govt-to-Govt talks etc.

You should have elaborated more on this

It can't be taken as deterrent outrightly

"It is now a settled fact that India's Pakistan policy is a subset of India's China policy"

— C. Raja Mohan

Good quote used but could have added some lines

to conclude more comprehensively

intro	1
body	3
concl	1
marks	5