



दृष्टि मेंटरशिप टेस्ट
DRISHTI MENTORSHIP TEST
GENERAL STUDIES (Test-15)
FLT



निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time allowed: Three Hours

DTVF/25 (D-A)-M-GSM (M)-2515

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

Name: RUPAM ARORA.

Mobile Number (as registered on DLA):

Reg. Number: DKBG 6850

Medium (English/Hindi): English

UPSC Roll No. (If allotted): 0803879

Center & Date: Karol Bagh.

10/8/25

प्रश्न-पत्र के लिये विशिष्ट अनुदेश

कृपया प्रश्नों का उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें:
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं तथा हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न के अंक उसके सामने दिये गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहियें जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुख-पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिये। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ बिनिरिदिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिये।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर-पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ वा उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिये।

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

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

There are TWENTY questions printed both in HINDI and ENGLISH.

All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.

Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.

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.

केवल मूल्यांकनकर्ता द्वारा भरा जाए (To be filled by Evaluator only)

Question Number	Marks	Question Number	Marks
1.		11.	
2.		12.	
3.		13.	
4.		14.	
5.		15.	
6.		16.	
7.		17.	
8.		18.	
9.		19.	
10.		20.	
Grand Total (सकल योग)			

मूल्यांकनकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)

Evaluator (Signature)

पुनरीक्षणकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)

Reviewer (Signature)



Feedback

1. Context Proficiency (संदर्भ दक्षता)
 2. Introduction Proficiency (परिचय दक्षता)
 3. Content Proficiency (विषय-वस्तु दक्षता)
 4. Language/Flow (भाषा/प्रवाह)
 5. Conclusion Proficiency (निष्कर्ष दक्षता)
 6. Presentation Proficiency (प्रस्तुति दक्षता)
-



1. भारत की जीडीपी संरचना में सेवाक्षेत्र के महत्त्व पर चर्चा कीजिये। आर्थिक आघात-सहनीयता और वैश्विक व्यवधानों के प्रति सुभेद्यता के संबंध में इसके क्या निहितार्थ हैं? (150 शब्द) 10
- Discuss the significance of the services sector in India's GDP composition. What implications does this have for economic resilience and vulnerability to global shocks? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

(Candidate must not
write on this margin)

According to NSO (MoSPI), Service sector contributes about 53%-55% to India's GDP composition & employs about 30% of the workforce.

Implications for
Significance

- 1) Largest sector to contribute to India's GDP, making India a service hub of the world.
- 2) Growth of IT industry which service globally with companies like TCS, INFOSYS etc
- 3) Need for skilled & highly skilled labour with skills like AI & Machine Learning, Data Analytics etc.
- 4) High ROI sector as many clients are situated abroad - hence increased Forex.
- 5) High job providing and high paying sector.



Signature

Vulnerability to Global Shocks

- 1) Recent TCS layoff of 12000 employees show India's service sector's vulnerability to global shocks.
- 2) Global recession will mean slowdown in India's service sector.
[or slowdown]
- 3) Post covid slow demand leading to stagnation and slow growth in service sector.
- 4) Competition by South East Asian nations like Malaysia & Philippines for BPO & call centres due to cheap workforce.

India's service sector provides rigidity to economy but it must transform to keep up with new advancements like AI & ML to become not only service providers but technology developers as well.

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चाहिये।

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2. हालिया वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों के अनुसार, एरोसोल उत्सर्जन में गिरावट का वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है? भारत को वायु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण और जलवायु शमन लक्ष्यों में किस प्रकार संतुलन स्थापित करना चाहिये।

(150 शब्द) 10

Examine the impact of declining aerosol emissions on global warming, as highlighted by recent scientific studies. How should India balance air pollution control with climate mitigation goals? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Aerosol emissions have both natural & anthropogenic causes, with later exceeding the former.

Impacts of aerosol emission are two fold:

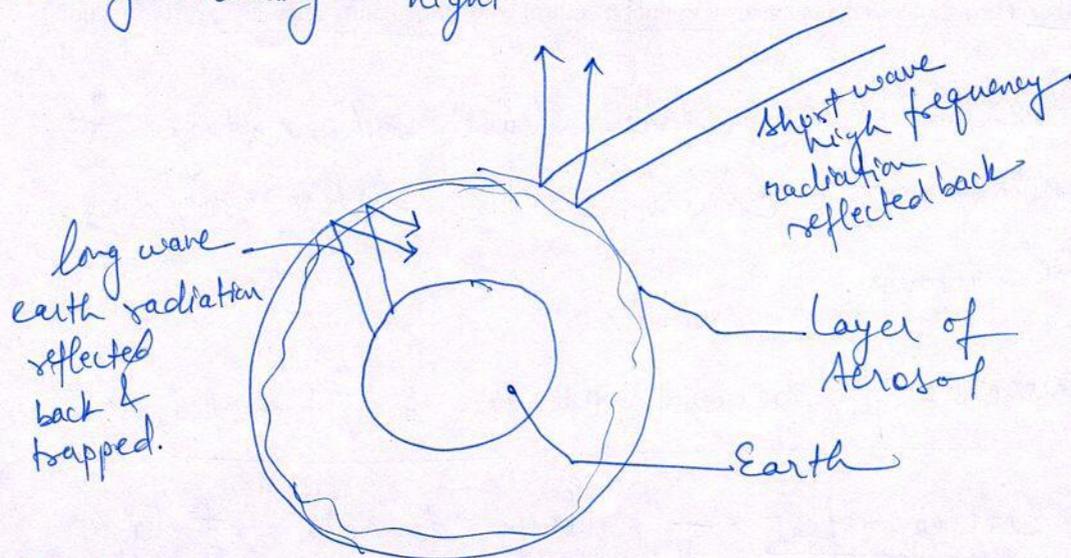
1) Cooling effect - They do not let high frequency cosmic rays to enter earth's atmosphere. (X rays, UV rays).

Even in infrared radiation, a significant amount is reflected back.

2) Warming effect - They trap long wave radiation from earth's surface within the atmosphere and hence keep the climate warm.

Therefore, ~~increase~~ decline of aerosol emissions will lead to dissolution of the insulation layer & ~~causing~~ extreme heating

of climate during the day and extreme cooling during night



Balancing Air Pollution with Climate Mitigation Goals

- 1) BS 6 norms for motor vehicles to be further developed and made more efficient.
 - 2) Ethanol blending renewed target of 30% and to eventually match standards of USA & France (30-50% Ethanol blending) in petrol.
 - 3) Flue gas desulphurisation - of all thermal power plants to curb air pollution.
 - 4) GRAP, Construction licenses and ban on stubble burning with alternatives provided to farmers.
- These will enable India to achieve targets of Paris Agreement & move towards Net Zero by 2070

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

3. केंद्रीय बजट 2025 में MSME की परिभाषा का विस्तार किया गया है और ऋण गारंटी सीमा बढ़ाई गई है। चर्चा कीजिये कि ये सुधार MSME के लिये वित्तपोषण और विकास चुनौतियों का समाधान किस प्रकार कर सकते हैं।

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(150 शब्द) 10

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

The Union Budget 2025 has widened the definition of MSMEs and increased credit guarantee limits. Discuss how these reforms can address funding and growth challenges for MSMEs. (150 words) 10

Union Budget 2025 has revised the turnover and ~~profit~~^{investment} limits of MSMEs, widening the scope for availing benefits to many more enterprises.

in ₹	Turnover Investment	Profit Turnover
Micro	1 cr	5 cr
Small	10 cr	50 cr
Medium	50 cr	250 cr
<u>old values</u>		

in ₹	Investment	Turnover
Micro	2.5 cr	10 cr
Small	25 cr	100 cr
Medium	125 cr	500 cr
<u>new values</u>	<u>x 2.5x</u>	<u>x 2x</u>

The credit guarantee limits have been increased from 5 cr ₹ to 10 cr ₹ by the Credit Guarantee Trust for MSME. (CGTMSME)



growth challenges

Reforms beneficial to address funding & r

- 1) Significant more no. of enterprise can avail MSME grants and loans with guarantee by government fund (CGT MSME)
- 2) Easy availability of loans via Priority sector lending
- 3) Increased turnover limit leads to easy business transmission & expansion without complying with rules of a large company & hence improved growth.
- 4) Relief from mindset of not growing beyond particular MSME limit to not compulsorily adhere to PF & labour norms.
- 5) Export promotion through CBD with zero duty.

Way Forward

- 1) Improved labour norms for MSME employees.
- 2) Hierarchical / incremental loan availability based on past track record.
- 3) Social security institutionalisation for MSME sector with government support.

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चाहिये।

(Candidate must not
write on this margin)



4. "वर्ष 2050 तक नेट-जीरो CO₂ उत्सर्जन प्राप्त करना एक अवास्तविक लक्ष्य है।" इस कथन का वर्तमान वैश्विक तथा भारतीय ऊर्जा प्रवृत्तियों के आलोक में मूल्यांकन कीजिये तथा सतत् विकास के वैकल्पिक मार्गों का सुझाव दीजिये।

(150 शब्द) 10

"Net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 is an unrealistic target." Evaluate this assertion in light of current global and Indian energy trends, and suggest alternative pathways for sustainable development.

(150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Net Zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 has been a target set by European Union & USA. For India the target is 2070 as announced by PM. Modi at COP 26 (Glasgow)

For EU & USA, the target is ambitious and might seem unrealistic although work is being done in the right direction:

- 1) France → focus on nuclear energy
International Solar Alliance started with India.
- 2) EU → Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism as a non-tariff barrier.
- 3) USA → focus on solar & nuclear energy (although trend towards fossil fuel energy is seen to return by current government)

Indian Context

- 1) In 2025, Renewable Energy capacity has surpassed Traditional / Thermal Energy capacity.



→ 2) Commitment to Paris Agreement & Panchamrit Principles by focus on solar energy (PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana), Carbon trading, Carbon Credits,

→ 3) International Solar Alliance.
Floating Solar Parks in Omkareshwar.

→ ④ . → to complete target of installed capacity of 500 GW by renewables.

Other features for CO₂ reduction

↳ National Action Plan for Climate change.

Way forward / Alternatives for Sustainable Development

→ 1) Zero Budget Natural Farming

2) Nuclear Energy to be taken to 2nd stage by using Plutonium & Thorium based ~~Fast~~ Breeder Reactors and Small Modular Reactors

3) Urban farming, vertical gardens.

4) BSG to be developed further to ~~more~~ increase mileage and reduce fuel consumption.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

5. भारत की आर्थिक सुरक्षा एवं तकनीकी प्रगति के लिये क्रिटिकल खनिजों का क्या महत्त्व है? नेशनल क्रिटिकल मिनेरल्स मिशन इस क्षेत्र की चुनौतियों का समाधान किस प्रकार कर सकता है, चर्चा कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10
 Discuss the importance of critical minerals for India's economic security and technological advancement. How does the National Critical Minerals Mission seek to address the challenges in this domain. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Critical Minerals are a list of minerals identified by each country which are crucial for future development & security of the country.

India has identified 30 critical minerals including Lithium, Zirconium, Titanium, Cobalt etc.

Importance of Critical Minerals in Economic Security

- 1) Important feed stock - for Industrial & defence and space manufacturing (Cobalt, Titanium) etc.
- 2) Import dependence - as India lacks resources of many critical minerals.
- 3) Supply chain security - as China has monopolised critical mineral supply chain.
- 4) Technological Advancement - as silicon, nickel, lithium are important for semi-conductors, and GPU chips which will fuel tech advancements in AI, ML, Quantum Computers.



5) Nuclear Energy - requires feed ~~as~~ fuel as Uranium and Thorium and Plutonium.

Efforts by National Critical Minerals Mission

- 1) To secure critical minerals from varied geographies and to reduce dependence on China.
- 2) Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) has been working to secure mineral mine blocs in South America & Africa.
 - ↳ successful - in Lithium bloc (Argentina)
- 3) To increase mining contribution to GDP of minerals available in India.
- 4) To ~~be~~ transform India into a hub of new tech advancement linking NCMM to Semicon India ~~and~~ & Semiconductor Mission.
- 5) Recycling of e-waste, extracting minerals like Nickel & Cadmium.

As Coal & Iron defined the pace of 20th century development, critical minerals will do so for 21st century and India must secure its requirements by strengthening efforts further.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)



6. हाइपरटेंशन एवं कार्डियोवैस्कुलर रोगों को प्रायः "साइलेंट किलर" कहा जाता है क्योंकि ये लक्षणहीन रूप से बढ़ते हैं तथा इनकी मृत्यु दर बहुत अधिक होती है। भारत को इन रोगों की प्रारंभिक पहचान और उपचार में किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, इसका समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10
- Hypertension and cardiovascular diseases are often termed 'silent killers' due to their asymptomatic progression and high mortality. Critically analyse the challenges India faces in early detection and management of these conditions. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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WHO has identified India to be the rising hub of deaths by Non Communicable diseases (NCDs) like Hypertension and Cardiovascular.

There has been a recent significant rise in young deaths due to heart attacks, especially since 2020s.

Reasons

- 1) Dietary imbalances [high carbohydrate & fats
low proteins & fibre.
- 2) Lack of exercise post covid.
- 3) Stress
- 4) Asymptomatic at first

Challenges in Early Detection & Management

- 1) low income population in majority whereas tests and diagnosis is expensive and beyond reach.
- 2) Inadequate state of government hospitals.
- 3) Asymptomatic at first & hence easily ignored.



- 4) Lack of awareness among citizens.
- 5) Management ^{faces} critical issues as patient is identified at later stages.
- 6) Expensive protein nutrition in India..
- 7) Lack of adequate health insurance penetration.

Way forward.

- Compulsory health checkups to be linked with insurance policies.
- Deepening of insurance penetration via LIC and private players.
- Regulating indiscriminatory pricing by hospitals
- Awareness
 - on checkups
 - on balanced nutrition
 - on fitness (Khelo India)
(Yoga Day)
- To promote a healthy lifestyle through personalities like Baba Ramdev
- Improved backend of government health facilities especially in rural areas.

उम्मीदवार को इस
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चाहिये।

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write on this margin)



7. भारत-यूरोपीय संघ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते को भारत के व्यापारिक और रणनीतिक लक्ष्यों की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम माना जाता है। इस समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने में प्रमुख अवसरों और लगातार बनी रहने वाली चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10
- The India-EU Free Trade Agreement is seen as a crucial step for India's trade and strategic ambitions. Examine the major opportunities and persistent hurdles in finalising the agreement. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

India - EU FTA has been in discussion since long and not yet finalised. The various disagreements and roadblocks must be cleared with mutual trust, faith, strategy and viability.

Major Opportunities

For India

- Automobile sector export can be increased.
- Service sector to get major boost with reduced tariff.
- Manufacturing sector to get a boost due to FTA & China+1 strategy adopted by Europe
- MSMEs can be a centre for growth by exporting Indian textiles & designs.

For EU.

- Wine industry to get significant boost with reduced tariff in India.
- Luxury goods like cars to have a huge market in India.
- Cheaper goods availability with diversified market
- India is a large market.



Persistent Hurdles

- 1) EU has not given India a data secure country status and hence impacts India's demand for data localisation.
- 2) EU wants India to open up its agriculture & dairy market which is under heavy government influence to secure food security of Indians.
(Antyodaya Yojana, government procurement)
- 3) IPR issues as EU accuses India of IPR theft & producing generic drugs not only for consumption but export.
- 4) India's increased trade deficit after every FTA.
- 5) Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism & Sanitary & Phyto Sanitary Measures as non-tariff barriers.

Way forward

India-EU FTA can take inspiration from the recent India-UK FTA which provides for timelines to reduce tariff in sequential manner for areas of concern but goes ahead with maximum positive list items.

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8. अनेक दशकों के विधि निर्माण और प्रमुख नदियों के संरक्षण कार्यक्रमों के बावजूद, भारत में नदी प्रदूषण एक गंभीर चुनौती बनी हुई है। इसके मुख्य कारणों की पहचान कीजिये और विधिक तथा नीति संबंधी ढाँचों की प्रभावशीलता का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Despite decades of legislation and major river rejuvenation programmes, river pollution remains a critical challenge in India. Identify the main causes and critically assess the effectiveness of legal and policy frameworks. (150 words) 10

The state of Indian rivers is often highlighted in news ~~due~~, and also became an election ~~is~~ issue in recent delhi elections.

In this age of awareness of climate change & sustainable development, it becomes an important issue

Causes of River Pollution

- 1) Garbage dumping by locals ~~near~~ & nalas (drains) in rivers.
- 2) Effluent discharge by factories & industries in rivers.
- 3) Religious processions involving plastics & synthetic paints dumped in rivers.
- 4) Lack of enforcement of effluent treatment system on industries.
- 5) Historical exploitation of rivers by squatter settlements along temporarily dried river channels, polluting it in monsoons.



Legal & Policy Framework - Assessment

- 1) Namami Gange Project — has been extended till 2030, has seen improved quality of water till western UP.
- 2) Yamuna river cleaning — taken up by Delhi government on mission mode.
- 3) Effluent discharge and Sewage Treatment policies & rules not implemented strictly.
- 4) Topics raised during elections, implementation delayed throughout government tenure.
- 5) Lack of awareness of civic duties for cleanliness.

Way Forward

- 1) Joint working groups by all riparian states of a river (eg: Yamuna — Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, UP,
- 2) Strict enforcement of STP and discharge norms with heavy penalty.
- 3) Increased water recycling & capacity in urban centres like Delhi, Bhopal, Meerut (Industrial towns)
- 4) Public movement — by participation of public & industry players.

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चाहिये।

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write on this margin)



9. भारत NHEV पहल के तहत संधारणीयता को बढ़ावा देने के लिये इलेक्ट्रिक हाईवे का प्रभावी विकास किस प्रकार कर सकता है? (150 शब्द) 10

How can India effectively develop electric highways under the NHEV initiative to boost sustainability? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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उम्मीदवार को इस
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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write on this margin)

10. भारत को 3.5 फ्रंट सुरक्षा चुनौती का निवारण करने हेतु अपनी रक्षा नीति को किस प्रकार उन्नत बनाना चाहिये?

(150 शब्द) 10

How should India upgrade its defence policy to address the 3.5-front security challenge?

(150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

The recent Pahalgam terrorist attack and Operation Sindoor (& subsequent conflict) initiated a debate of India's 3.5 front security challenge

Constituents of 3.5 front

- 1st front — Pakistan
- 2nd front — China
- 3rd front — Internal security & Insurgency.
- 3.5th front — Information warfare, support by Turkey & Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Cyberattacks ..

This has led to a need for transformation from traditional to modern and next gen security systems & warfare techniques.

India's upgradation of defence policy

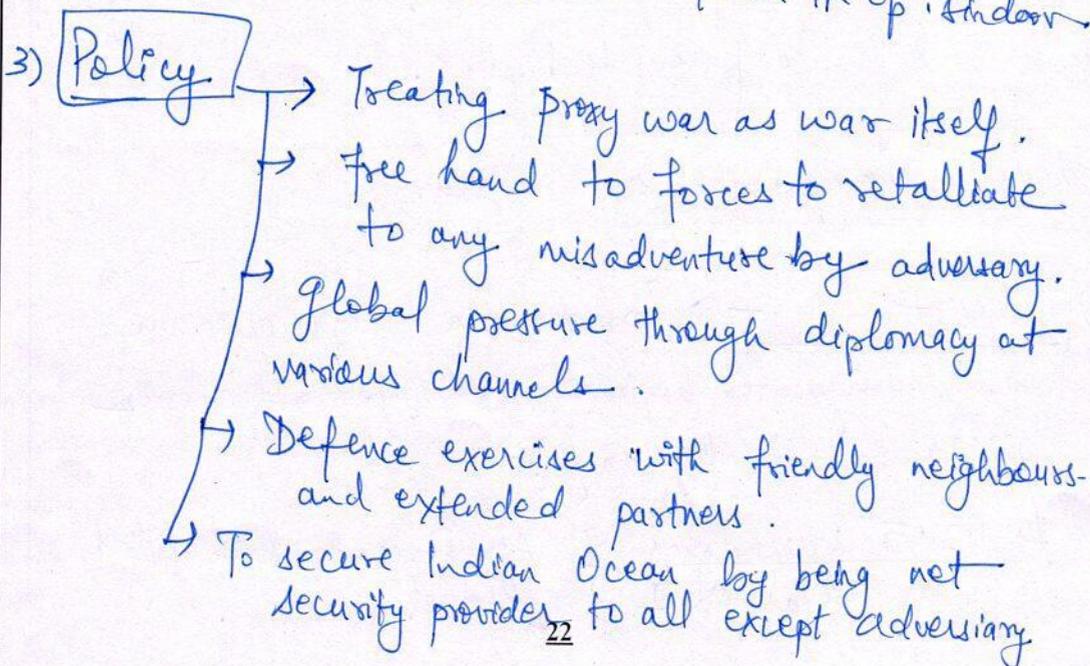
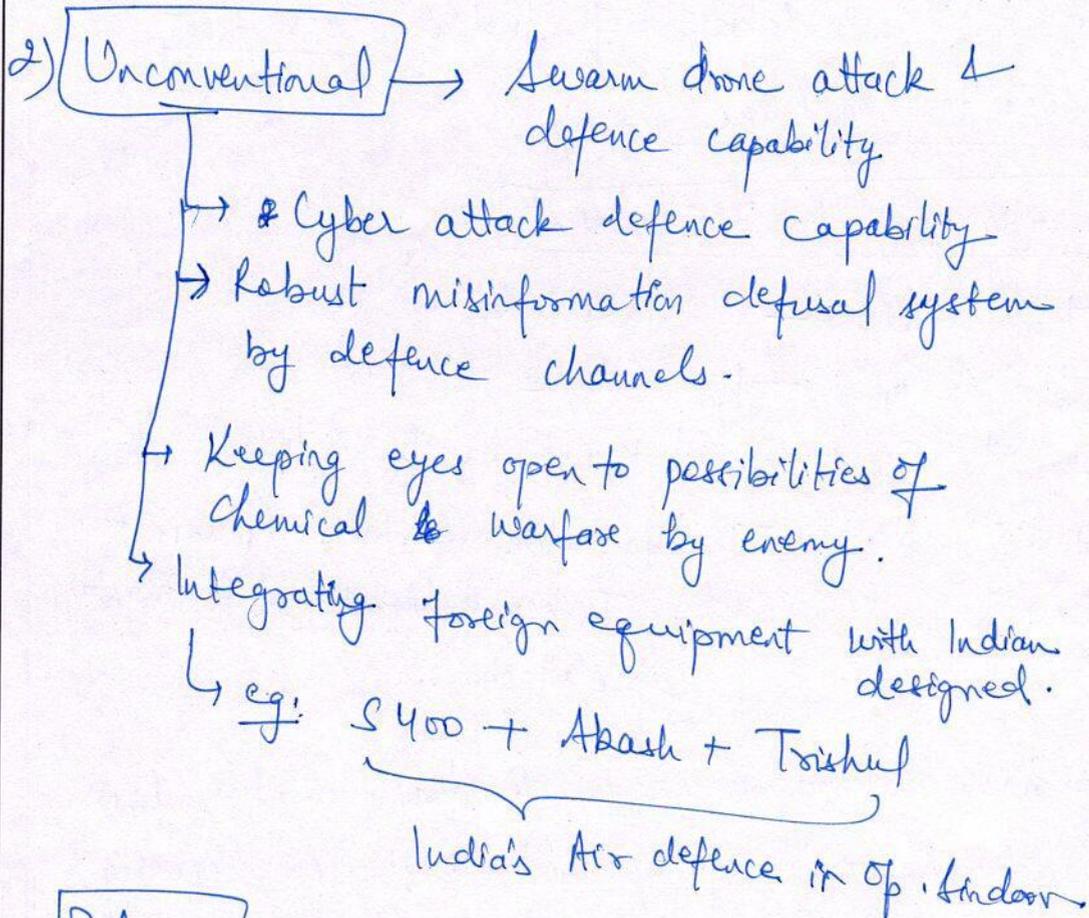
- 1) Conventional → to have a medium term vision to approve 3rd Aircraft carrier as asked by navy.
- 42.5 squadrons of Air Force to be filled with Tejas Mk II & Rafael



- ↳ Promotion of advancement of Kaveri Engine
↳ AMCA (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft)
to reduce dependency on west for engine
& fighter planes.

उम्मीदवार को इस
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
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11. हाल में हुए ड्रोन घुसपैठ से भारत की सीमा प्रबंधन प्रणाली की कमियाँ उजागर हुई हैं। मौजूदा रणनीतियों का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन करते हुए सीमा सुरक्षा बढ़ाने के लिये संक्षिप्त प्रौद्योगिकी और नीतिगत सुधारों का सुझाव दीजिये।

(250 शब्द) 15

Recent drone incursions have exposed gaps in India's border management. Critically assess current strategies and suggest concise technological and policy reforms to enhance border security.

(250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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The India - Pakistan conflict after of. Sindoor saw swarm drones by Pakistan sent to Indian Skies, ~~many~~ most of which were neutralised by India's air defence system.

Nevertheless, there were some gaps exposed in India's Border Management (with respect to drones) & aerial defence)

Exposed Gaps

- 1) Swarm drone defence preparedness for long term war is a matter of further concern as it's intention was to saturate Indian defence mechanism.
- 2) suicide drones are sure to blast in Indian land or sky — need to minimise loss by eliminating or dysfunctioning them.
- 3) Mapping of Indian territory & surveillance possible even from beyond the border via drones.



Current Strategy Assessment

- 1) To deploy S400 Triumph along LOC and LAC helped India neutralise many drones and aircrafts from Pakistan.
- 2) Integration of S400 with Indigenous technology like Akash & Trishul surface to air missiles enhanced levels of India's air security.
- 3) Saturation of India's air defence is a highlighted concern for the future.
- 4) S-400 missiles are very costly against used against ~~very~~ cheap suicide drones.
- 5) Both India & China use same S-400 system. In case of conflict, will be used against each other.
- The integr

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Way Forward - Tech & Policy Reforms

- To enhance air defence system further than what was displayed in op. Abdoor.
- Made In India S-400 missiles - policy level push.
- To envision development of an Indian Iron-Dome like Israel with cost effective Indian missiles as first line of defence.
- Drone jammers, infrared heat strikes & using domes against drones
 - ↳ Indigenous tech development
 - ↳ policy push by ~~mutual~~ co-development with Israel.
- To isolate Pakistan on global level, to reduce its access to latest technology.

Op. Abdoor was a success, however it displayed India's capability to not only ~~at~~ Pakistan but China as well. Hence India must double its future preparedness as a risk has not decreased but increased.

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12. खाद्य और ईंधन की कीमतों में हाल ही में हुई बढ़ोतरी से भारत की खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति RBI की लक्षित सीमा से अधिक हो गई है। भारत में परिवारों के कल्याण और बचत प्रवृत्ति पर मुद्रास्फीति के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिये। नीति निर्माता मुद्रास्फीति नियंत्रण को आर्थिक विकास के साथ संतुलित करने हेतु क्या उपाय कर सकते हैं? (250 शब्द) 15
- Recent spikes in food and fuel prices have pushed India's retail inflation above the RBI's target range. Examine the impact of inflation on household well-being and savings behaviour in India. What steps can policymakers take to balance inflation control with economic growth? (250 words) 15

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Former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das described India's food and fuel as "Imported Inflation having domestic implications"

as it had been ~~aff~~ caused majorly due to COVID ~~&~~, Ukraine war & West Asia disturbances supply chain disruptions of oil, natural gas & necessary imports.

Apart from this, domestic causes like weather ^{A monsoon} & disruptions also play a role.

Impact of Inflation on Household well being & savings behaviour

↳ Angels Law - less income means more expenditure on food.

↳ holds true in India as pulses, fruits & dairy are very expensive for most.

- Reduced disposable income left after food & fuel expenditure leading to reduced social security expenditure on insurance, etc. [health]
- Impact of fuel inflation on automobile sector as demand is reduced.
- Reduced savings ~~and~~ due to reduced disposable income.
- Reduction in deposits in bank → reduced liquidity & capital
- ↑
inflation
- ↑
stagnation
- [vicious cycle]
- ↓
reduced loan outlay
- ← reduced economic growth

Steps to Balance Inflation & Growth.

- Quantitative measures by RBI — balancing repo and reverse repo rate to around 5 to 6% (currently 5.5%)
- using new methods like Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio, Variable Rate of Repo & Reserve Repo to control inflation without changing repo rate.



↳ Open market operations by RBI.

Policy

- Better and diversified MSP procurement of pulses & dairy and not focused only on rice & wheat.
- ~~National Palm oil~~
- Promotion of production of millets, palm oil & cereals.
- Outsourcing cereal production to Africa & S.E Asia on contract basis (and not just import at market rates)
- Exploring offshore and river basin oil sources in India to increase oil manufacturing & reducing import.
- Diversify sources of imports
- Fiscal Policy → Deficit budget & Keynesianism
→ controlled borrowings.
- Ease of Doing Business policy to be furthered
- Improved Public Distribution System & social security will translate to less expenditure & more savings.

A blend of monetary & fiscal policy along with National Missions for pulses, millets & Oil Palm will help towards reduced inflation & atmanirbhar.

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13. प्रधानमंत्री धन-धान्य कृषि योजना (PMDDKY) तथा राष्ट्रीय उच्च उपज बीज मिशन की भारतीय कृषि में जलवायु आघात-सहनीयता और उत्पादकता बढ़ाने की क्षमता का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिये। इनके सफल क्रियान्वयन में आने वाली संभावित चुनौतियों की भी विवेचना कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15
- Critically examine the potential of the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) and the National Mission on High Yielding Seeds to enhance climate resilience and productivity in Indian agriculture. What challenges might impede their effective implementation? (250 words) 15

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14. निजी क्षेत्र की बढ़ती भागीदारी के बीच भारत की अंतरिक्ष अर्थव्यवस्था के विस्तार में इसरो (ISRO) की क्या भूमिका है? (250 शब्द) 15

What role does ISRO play in expanding India's space economy amid increasing private sector participation? (250 words) 15

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With the launch of Chandrayaan 3 and recent NISAR satellite ISRO has solidified its place as the most efficient and high cost success rate major space agency in the world.

Depiction of ISRO as the same has helped leverage its image for opening up India's space economy to private sector & FDI as follows & global players

→ INSPACE — by ISRO has been instrumental in receiving orders from abroad for satellite launches.

→ NewSpace India Limited — Private player promotion arm of ISRO which promotes Indian startups in space

→ Small satellite Launch Vehicle and POEM stage of satellites
↳ enables private sector & student satellites



to be launched and conduct experiments
in the orbits

eg. Kalaam SAT.

Gaganyaan Mission → collaborating with
USA's Axiom (private space company) as
India's Shubhanshu Shukla went to space
via Axiom 4.

↳ to open up opportunities,
↳ experience for future
space travel.

Collaborating & Supporting Private Players

↳ like Agnikul. cosmos, a chennai based
startup

↳ Having its own private launch
~~vehicle~~ pad called
Agnibaan

many services provided by ISRO.

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Along with ISRO's efforts, it has also received policy support by government by allowing 100% FDI in space equipment manufacturing, which has led to a growth in startup ecosystem through FDI's, technology enabled partnerships & increased R&D.

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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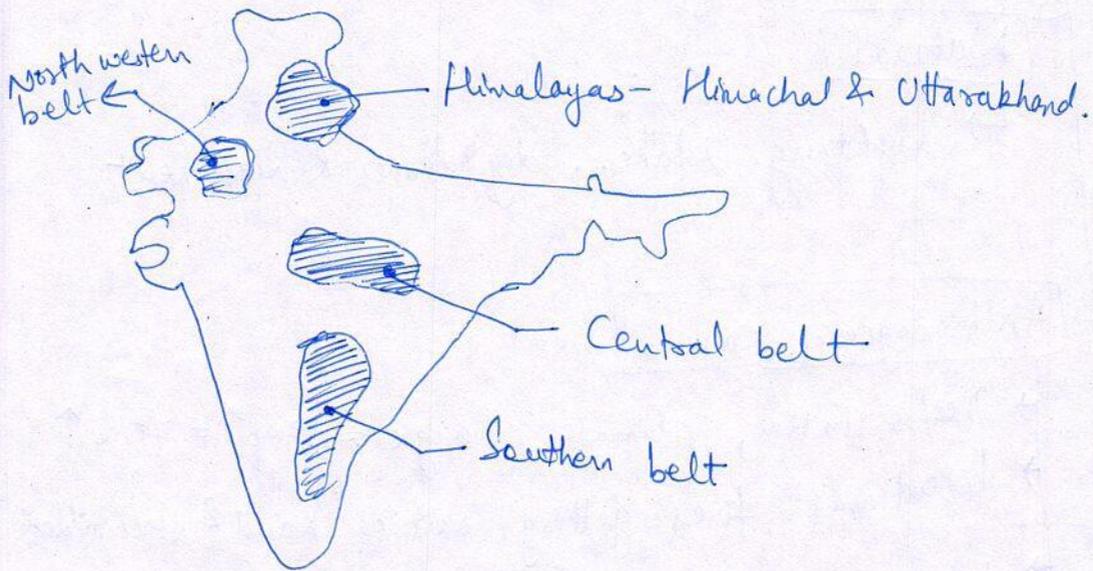


15. भारत में शहरी भवनों, संस्थानों और वनों में आग लगने की घटनाएँ बढ़ गई हैं। अग्नि सुरक्षा एवं विनियमन में प्रमुख कारणों एवं प्रणालीगत चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Fire incidents in India have risen across urban buildings, institutions, and forests. Analyse the key causes and systemic challenges in fire safety and regulation. (250 words) 15

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।
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Both urbanisation & climate change has caused increased instances of fires in buildings & forests, often in big cities like Delhi, Mumbai & forests of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and interiors of south India.



Forest Fire Prone Areas of India - Figure.

Causes of Fire in Urban (Buildings)

- overload in electricity wiring & during summers & systems.
- Excessive usage of electrical appliances & thus heating & sparking.



↳ Inadequate adherence to National Building Code and Fire Safety Norms.

↳ Illegal constructions like squatter settlements with very close proximity of residents & open circuit wires.

Causes of fire in Forests

Natural

↳ Lightning strike, dry leaves & high heat

Anthropogenic causes

- ↳ Deforestation, climate change = temp ↑ = fires ↑
- ↳ Intentional fires getting out of hand & uncontrolled
- ↳ Irresponsible behaviour like leaving an ignited camp fire & cigarette buds.

Fire Safety Norms & Measures

↳ National Building Code.

↳ fire safety norms — requiring licenses & NOC from authorities.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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- 4 Fire hoses, sprinklers, alarms, exits.
- 4 Auto-trip MCBs.

Systemic Challenges

- irregular implementation
- corruption in NOC & license provisions without actual checks.
- overburdened fire safety units & brigades.
- outdated Byelaws & NBC.
- lack of automation in congested urban areas
- lack of awareness of what to do to prevent & in case of fires.

Way Forward

- Fire mock drills in each institution & area & School.
- Updated NBCs & Byelaws.
- Mandatory fire safety license for Commercial or residential plots above 200 sq.m.
- Adopting best practices of the world.
- Fire extinguishers must in all buildings of 3 floors & above.

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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16. भारत में सामूहिक समारोहों में बार-बार होने वाली भगदड़ जन-समूह एकत्रण के प्रबंधन और आपदा तत्परता संबंधी निरंतर बनी कमियों को उजागर करती है। मौजूदा दिशा-निर्देशों की प्रभावशीलता का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिये और भविष्य में इस प्रकार की त्रासदियों के निवारण हेतु व्यापक कार्यनीति का सुझाव दीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15
- Recurring stampedes at mass gatherings in India highlight persistent gaps in crowd management and disaster preparedness. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of existing guidelines and suggest a comprehensive strategy to prevent such tragedies in the future. (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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The recent stampede at Mahakumbh & New Delhi Railway Station highlight the inefficiency of existing infrastructure to handle large crowd in times of exigencies & haphazard movement.

Stampedes - refer to large scale haphazard panic movement by a large crowd often leading to overburdened paths & injuries & deaths of many people.

Effectiveness of existing guidelines of crowd management & disaster preparedness

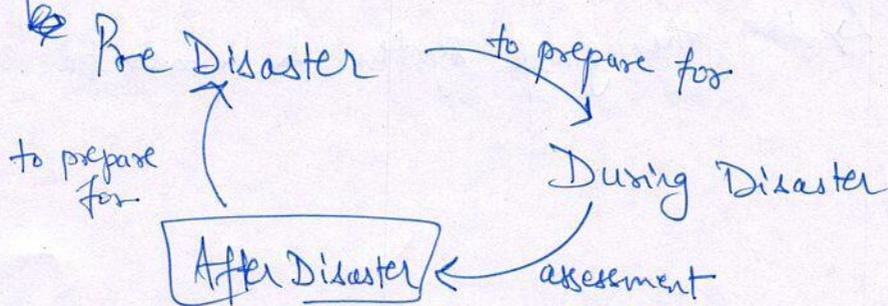
- Regular announcements in crowded areas
- Crowd managers as volunteers and police in areas like railway station & Mahakumbh.

- Emergency exits in buildings.
- Emergency lights & guide lights at floor level.
- Floor markings with sodium illuminating material to guide way even in dark.
- Police booths and helpline numbers for support.

Analysis

- Functions well till the time a tragedy sparks.
- Very low ~~per~~ volunteer to crowd control.
- Insufficient police resources for crowd management
- lack of adherence to above said norms by the public.
- overcrowding in places ^{public}

Way forward — Comprehensive Strategy





Pre-Disaster

- Crowd control & management
- Crowd as per limit.
- announcements in mother tongue
- Visual guidelines at many places
- security officers in adequate number
- preparing infrastructure with 5x Margin of safety

During Stampede

- Crowd evacuation & control.
- announcements of caution.
- root cause must be addressed as soon as possible (fire etc).
- ~~to~~ giving direction to crowd towards an open space.

After Stampede

- assessment of loss
- reporting to authority to further calculate margin of safety.
- ex gratia payments for loss
- strengthening of system & infrastructure.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।
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17. भारत में किफायती CAR-T सेल थेरेपी की शुरुआत एवं आगामी HPV टीकाकरण अभियान स्वास्थ्य सेवा में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति को दर्शाते हैं। भारत के रोग भार और न्यायसंगत पहुँच सुनिश्चित करने में चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिये ऐसे नवाचारों की क्षमता का आकलन कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15
- India's launch of affordable CAR-T cell therapy and the upcoming HPV vaccination campaign mark significant advances in healthcare. Assess the potential of such innovations to address India's disease burden and the challenges in ensuring equitable access. (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Cancer and Human Papiloma Virus have become a leading cause of healthcare burden and death in India (and the world).

As the world researches a permanent cure to both, India has also advanced with CAR-T cell therapy & HPV vaccine.

Potential of CAR-T Cell Therapy & HPV vaccine

- CarT cell therapy uses human cells (T cells) to kill cancer cells and is not dependent on chemotherapy.
- Can significantly reduce cost
- Uses own immunity to fight cancer, which may reduce post-treatment immuno-deficiency.



HPV Vaccine - developed indigenously

↳ boost to India's existing strong Pharma R&D.

→ to further R&D for vaccine tech development of virus related diseases.

Benefits & Potential

- To boost the cause & research of Indian pharma sector.
- Make in India → Make for world.
 - ↳ medical tourism.
- Cost effective
- Collaboration with developed countries to further research.
- Reduce deaths from Cancer & HPV.
- Reduced dependence on chemotherapy

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Challenges in Equitable Access

- High cost of CAR T cell in initial years. ^{therapy}
- associated costs like plasma isolation & hospitalisation is high.
- HPV vaccine's introduction to all rural & backward districts of India.
- High amount of patients need treatment in a short span. → manufacturing time

Way forward

- Govt subsidy to Car T cell therapy
- Including HPV in Mission Indradhanush.
- Radio & TV ads to spread awareness for these tech.

Such modern tech are a stepping stone to finding complete cures to cancer & finding vaccine perfection to virus related diseases, but distribution must be equitable.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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18. प्रस्तावित न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी मिशन तथा स्मॉल मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर (SMRs) के क्रियान्वयन की भारत की स्वच्छ ऊर्जा संक्रमण प्रक्रिया में क्या महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है, इस पर चर्चा कीजिये। परमाणु ऊर्जा के विस्तार के समक्ष विद्यमान तकनीकी, नियामक तथा वित्तीय चुनौतियाँ कौन-सी हैं। (250 शब्द) 15
- Discuss the significance of the proposed Nuclear Energy Mission and the operationalisation of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) for India's clean energy transition. What are the technical, regulatory, and financial challenges in scaling up nuclear power? (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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India's Nuclear Energy Mission is a key constituent of India's Net Zero vision by 2070.

HM Amit Shah publicly announced India's vision to increase share of nuclear energy to 30% by 2047.

Significance of NEM & Small Modular Reactors

- Energy tech of the future — with clean, long lasting & efficient energy production
- To use India's thorium reserves in long term.
- Small Modular Reactors — will allow
 - a minimum of 300 MW power generation
 - decentralisation of power generation in small units for industrial areas.



→ cost efficient in operation & manufacturing
(in long run) (prefabricated).

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Technical, Regulatory & Financial Challenges

- Development of nuclear technology to make India reach stage 2 & 3 of its Nuclear programme is a challenge.
- High cost of R&D and manufacturing.
- Dependence on import for Uranium.
- India's Civil Nuclear Liability Act ^{is} ~~has~~ very stringent laws - which demotivates FDI & private sector.
- High risk of radiation emission like in Chernobyl (Ukraine) & Bhopal Gas Tragedy (not nuclear)
- Long time till Thorium based reactors are developed.



Way Forward,

- Amendment in India's Civil Nuclear Liability Act - with global standard clauses.
- PPP model to ensure private expertise & government regulation.
- 100% FDI from automatic route possibility to be explored in cases of Joint Venture with Indian Companies & technology transfers.
- Better R&D on reduced risk of emissions
- Operating existing Nuclear Power plants to enhanced efficiency.
- Prototype SMRs to be set up with private sector.

Nuclear Energy has great potential for transforming clean tech & energy. Security if the given concerns are tackled with global standard

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19. अवैध गतिविधियों के लिये डार्कनेट और एन्क्रिप्टेड प्लेटफॉर्मों के बढ़ते उपयोग के संदर्भ में, इन तकनीकों द्वारा भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा पर पड़ने वाली चुनौतियों का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिये। प्रभावी नीतिगत और तकनीकी अनुक्रियाओं का सुझाव दीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

With the increasing use of the darknet and encrypted platforms for illegal activities, critically analyse the challenges these technologies pose to India's internal security. Suggest effective policy and technological responses. (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Darknet and encrypted platforms are unregulated parts of internet which encrypts the identity of users & hence are used for illegal activities.

Challenges to India's Internal Security

- Used for drugs, human & illegal material smuggling & trafficking.
- Payments in cryptocurrency (encrypted platform enabled) have enabled easy availability of illegal items.
- Can be used by terror outfits to source men, money & material.

→ Everyday evolving technology makes it hard to control & keep track.

→ Use of blockchain to decentralise encryptions, making it hard for authorities to catch.

India's Cyber Security Network & Responses

- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre. (NCIIIPC)
- CERT-In
- Defence Cyber Agency
- National Cyber Coordination Centre
- RBI's Cyber security cells.
- Cyber Swachhata Kendra
- Ban on illegal darknet activities.
- Cryptocurrency regulations.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Way forward - Policy

- Promoting cyber related ethical courses as a course of future in STEM fields.
- Use of AI in cyber security platforms.
- Developing India's sovereign AI to help ~~protect~~, identify & catch illegal activity causing IP addresses.
- Use of AI for cyber defence.
- Integration of state - centre & Centre - defence cyber security cells.
- Working on global best practices.
- Cyber defence exercises with friendly nations.

Modern threats require a combination of traditional + modern solution to work in coherence. Cyber security forms the main sovereign threat of the future.

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20. सोशल मीडिया में हेरफेर और मिथ्या सूचना अभियान चरमपंथी समूहों एवं बाह्य तत्वों के लिये प्रभावशाली साधन बन गए हैं। भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिये डिजिटल खतरों से निपटने की तत्परता का मूल्यांकन कीजिये और समुत्थानशक्ति बढ़ाने के उपाय प्रस्तावित कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Social media manipulation and misinformation campaigns have emerged as potent tools for extremist groups and external actors. Evaluate India's preparedness to counter digital threats to internal security and propose measures to strengthen resilience. (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Today's world is a world of information, social media has reduced the world to a small village.

With many positive uses are also threats of misuse by manipulation & misinformation campaigns by extremist groups & external actors.

Examples

- Khalistanis using instagsam to promote ideology.
- ISIS recruiting from Maldives & Kerala through social media campaigns (Kerala Files movie).
- Spread of anti-government campaigns in Naxal areas via social media.



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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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write on this margin)

Recent of. Andoor Law a misinformation
Campaign by Pakistan against India.

→ Use of AI & publishing on social media
(Deepfake controversies).

→ Banking frauds through social media (links)

India's Efforts to Counter Digital Threats

→ IT Rules

↳ Digital Personal Data Protection Act.

→ 5 million followers/users + platform to
be termed as significant intermediaries
which must adhere to government guidelines
of rules of origin.

→ Campaign by RBI against digital arrest.

↳ Efforts for Data Localisation are ongoing

→ CERTIN.

↳



Way Forward

- Use of AI + ML to integrate with current systems.
- ↳ Hierarchy of significant intermediaries into ~~to~~ small, medium & large intermediaries
- self regulation by social media platforms
- Ethical ad services (to be checked & regulated)
- ↳ Banning of accounts of extremist groups.
- ↳ Positive content
- ↳ Awareness against digital manipulation.

Social media in today's times can be countered only through digital means as misinformation campaigns have spread as ~~equ~~ fast as its positive uses.

उम्मीदवार को इस
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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