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NEXT IAS

MAIN TEST SERIES 2024 (AIM)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : AIM2405

TEST NO. : 05

(Please write test code printed on Question Paper)

Name of Candidate: RITIKA CHITLANGIA Mobile No. [REDACTED]Roll No.: AIM24GCRA075 Start Time 9:20 End Time Date of Examination: 14/8/24 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 : /250EVAL 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

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

<u>IMPORTANT QR CODES</u>	
 Topper's Copy	 Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB
 Copy Scanner App	 Next IAS Test Centre Location

MACRO COMMENTS

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

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT



IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Q.1

भारत में उच्च राजकोषीय घाटे में योगदान देने वाले कारकों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, ऐसे घाटे के संभावित परिणामों पर चर्चा कीजिए और राजकोषीय समेकन सुनिश्चित करने के उपाय सुझाएँ। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Highlighting the factors contributing to a high fiscal deficit in India, discuss the potential consequences of such deficit and suggest measures to ensure fiscal consolidation.

(10 marks, 150 words)

According to the Union-Budget 2024-25, India's fiscal deficit has reached 5.6% reducing from an all time high of 9.2% in 2020-21.

Factors contributing to high fiscal deficit

- 1) High revenue expenditure $\Rightarrow$ constituting nearly 18% of the total expenditure.
- 2) Low direct tax realisations $\Rightarrow$ only 11% of the population forms a part of the tax base, as compared to 33% in OECD countries.
- 3) High levels of populist spending $\Rightarrow$ 1.4% of GDP on loan waivers.
- 4) Geopolitical supply shocks $\Rightarrow$

high trade deficit.

Consequences

- crowding out of private investment
- high indirect tax burden
- Poor credibility ratings by global firms
- Increase in off-budget borrowings
- low capital expenditure

Measures

- Re-legislating the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act.
- Establishing the Fiscal Stability & Deficit Council
- Exploring the prospects of taxing agriculture in come.
- Rationalising subsidies and tax concessions.

Thus, as per the NK Singh committee, fiscal deficit needs to touch (2%) by 2028, and the government needs to make reforms.

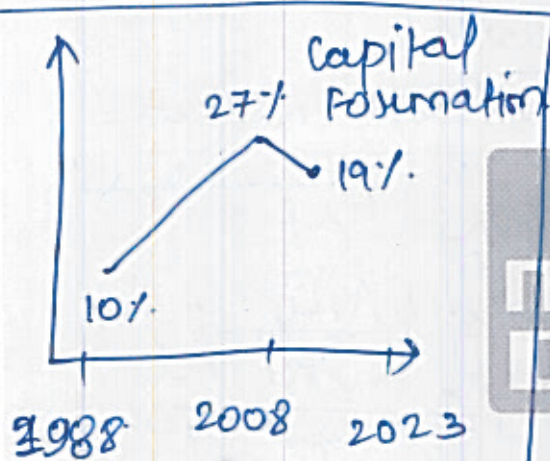
Q.2

वर्ष 2047 तक विकसित राष्ट्र बनने की भारत की आकांक्षा महत्वपूर्ण पूँजी निवेश पर निर्भर करती है। इस आलोक में, इस दृष्टि को प्राप्त करने में पूँजी निवेश की क्षमता पर चर्चा कीजिए। इस संबंध में भारत के समक्ष क्या चुनौतियाँ हैं?

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India's aspiration to be a developed nation by 2047 hinges on significant capital investment. In light of this, discuss the potential of capital investment in achieving this vision. What are the challenges India faces in this regard? (10 marks, 150 words)

Capital investment forms part of the gross fixed capital formation in the 'Expenditure' method of GDP calculation.



It refers to the addition of capital assets, that increases the productive capacity of the economy.

Potential

1) Multiplicative effect $\Rightarrow$ with every 1% increase in capital investment, GDP increases 2.5 X.

2) Self sufficiency in production
 $\Rightarrow$ boosts the resilience of the economy to global supply

shocks.

- 3) Employment generation $\Rightarrow$
As per RBI, 11.11 lakh more in capex
will generate 14 million new jobs.
- 4) Indicator of market confidence
 $\Rightarrow$ strong macroeconomic stability
- 5) Inflow of foreign direct investment $\Rightarrow$ \$84.5Bn in 2022.

Challenges

- 1) Nearly 60% of the capital investment in real estate & fixed assets were held by the household sector. $\Rightarrow$
No increase in productivity.
 - 2) High fiscal and primary deficit $\Rightarrow$
crowding out of private investment.
 - 3) Global recessionary trends $\Rightarrow$
fall in exports and output.
 - 4) Infrastructural bottlenecks
 - 5) Outflow of investment $\Rightarrow$
drain of wealth.
- Schemes like PLI make in India, Shareatma are a step in right direction.

Q.3

केंद्रीय बजट 2024-25 में दीर्घकालिक पूंजीगत लाभ (LTCG) और प्रतिभूति लेनदेन कर (STT) के संबंध में महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तनों पर टिप्पणी कीजिए। भारत की बचत और निवेश व्यवस्था पर ऐसे परिवर्तनों के प्रभावों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Comment on the important changes with respect to the Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) and Securities Transaction Tax (STT) in the Union Budget 2024-25. Evaluate the impact of such changes on India's savings and investment regime. (10 marks, 150 words)

The Union Budget 2024-25 has introduced several changes in the financial market transactions to improve the tax base.

Changes in LTCG and STT

(A) The budget has increased the long-term capital gains to 12.5%, from the previous 10%.

→ Long term capital gains tax is paid on the asset returns of more than 1 year maturity.

→ Moreover, the indexation benefit i.e. the inflation protection has also been removed.

(B) The Securities Transaction Tax is a kind of direct tax paid during financial transaction in the stock exchange.

→ The budget has doubled the STT from 0.01% to 0.02%.

Impact on savings and investments

Positives

- ① Deepened the tax base
- ② Removing strain on fiscal deficit, by increasing the tax revenue.
- ③ Careful trading and investment selection as the tax liability is higher.
- ④ conscious and informed voter base.
- ⑤ Removal of indexation benefits will improve the quality of the securities.

Negatives

- ① Discourage the retail investors in long-term capital assets due to heavy tax liability.
- ② May reduce investments in equities, and bonds.
- ③ Household becomes vulnerable to inflation losses.
- ④ May lead to investments in wealth, instead of stocks.

Q.4

भारत की एक कल्याण योजना "कोई भी व्यक्ति पीछे न छोड़े" की कहावत के साथ आगत-आधारित दृष्टिकोण से परिणाम-आधारित सशक्तिकरण में परिवर्तन आया है। उपरोक्त कथन के आलोक में, चर्चा करें कि सरकार के दृष्टिकोण में इस परिवर्तन ने समावेशी विकास को किस प्रकार बढ़ावा दिया है। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)
 India's welfare scheme has undergone a shift from an input-based approach to outcome-based empowerment with the maxim of "no person left behind". In light of the above statement, discuss how this change in the approach of the government has fostered inclusive growth. (10 marks, 150 words)

The government is focussing on an 'empowerment-based approach', with focus on outcome-based skill and human empowerment.

Change in welfare schemes

Input-Based

→ In the early 2000's, focus was on 'right' and 'needs' based approach:

- Right to free education
- MG NREGA
- National Food Security Act.

These schemes were 'input-heavy' i.e. revenue expenditure of more than 1 lakh crore for alleviating hunger, poverty etc.

Outcome-Based

→ Focus on empowerment and development of capability through

skill-building, revenue generating capability, entrepreneurship etc.

Eg: Stand Up India, Start Up India, National Skill Dev. Mission etc.

Inclusive Growth

1) 'leaving no-one behind' ⇒

Antyodaya approach:

- a) e-governance ⇒ SNAYAM, DIKSHA.
- b) Women entrepreneurs ⇒ MUDRA Yojana, Stand Up India etc.
- c) Transgender ⇒ Gaurima Yojna, Sweekriti etc.
- d) Elderly ⇒ PM-Maandhan Yojana, Vayoshree Yojana.
- e) Child ⇒ ICDS, POSHAN, Mid-day meal etc.

However, challenges like poor implementation, corruption, freebie culture needs to be tackled through social audits etc.

Q.5

"बढ़ते शहरीकरण के साथ, पेरी-अर्बन कृषि ताजा कृषि उपज की जरूरतों में महत्वपूर्ण योगदानकर्ता के रूप में उभर रही है"। इस संदर्भ में, पेरी-अर्बन कृषि को संधारणीय तरीके से बढ़ावा देने से जुड़े अवसरों और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

"With growing urbanization, peri-urban agriculture is emerging as a significant contributor to fresh farm produce needs". In this context, discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with promoting peri-urban agriculture in a sustainable manner. (10 marks, 150 words)

Peri-urban agriculture has significantly established itself as an interface between rural and urban transitional economy.

Opportunities

- 1) Reflects the changing consumption patterns $\Rightarrow$ HCE $\Rightarrow$ Urban areas spend more than 40% of income on milk, fruits, vegetable etc.
- 2) Urban employment $\Rightarrow$ handles the unemployment in urban areas (5%) $\Rightarrow$ migrant jobs.
- 3) Serving the nutritional needs of the city.
- 4) Easing food inflation in urban areas (9%).
- 5) Push to food processing industries $\Rightarrow$ farm-gate processing of 'value'

added urban eateries like ragi puffs etc.

6) Mitigating climate change uncertainties $\Rightarrow$ low transport cost.

Challenges

- 1) land and water requirements $\Rightarrow$ huge vertical and horizontal encroachment of urban lands.
- 2) Quality issues $\Rightarrow$ polluted water and pesticide use.
- 3) Difficulty in access to credit to peri-urban farmers.
- 4) Polluted urban cities $\Rightarrow$ decrease crop yields.
- 5) Raw materials like fertilizers, livestock feed etc. $\Rightarrow$ rural predominance.

Nevertheless, peri-urban agriculture can increase the sphere of urban influence, ease urban poverty, and increase food and nutritional security.

Q6

दलहन और वनस्पति तेलों में आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करने के लिए भारत के कृषि क्षेत्र के समक्ष कौन सी प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ हैं? इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के उपाय सुझाएँ। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)
What are the major challenges faced by India's agriculture sector to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses and vegetable oils? Suggest measures to address these challenges. (10 marks, 150 words)

India spends \$14 billion on oilseed and palm oil ~~exports~~ ^{imports} annually, constituting a major chunk of trade deficit.

Challenges in Pulses & Vegetable oils

Pulses $\Rightarrow$ 27 MT. Oilseeds $\Rightarrow$ 30 MT.

- ① Land fragmentation $\Rightarrow$ small landholdings $\Rightarrow$ more than 70% of landholdings are less than 1 Ha.
- ② Water availability $\Rightarrow$ only 48% irrigation, with 38% irrigation efficiency
- ③ Monocropping culture of wheat-paddy $\Rightarrow$ less crop diversification
- ④ Poor MSP incentives.

- ⑤ Lack of credit for pulses and oilseeds $\Rightarrow$ cheaper to import due to 90 day credit period.
- ⑥ climate varies $\Rightarrow$ palm oil cultivation is ecologically intensive.

Measures

- 1) land enlargement enforcing by cultivating culturable fallows.
 - 2) Incentives to diversify production from rice & wheat.
 - 3) Tapping non-conventional sources like jatropha, cotton-seed.
 - 4) Pulse & Oilseed Infrastructure Development Fund.
 - 5) Reducing the import credit period to 45 days to discourage imports.
 - 6) Technological revolutions $\Rightarrow$ high productivity, pest resistant seeds.
- Thus, National Edible Oil Mission, pulse incentives, NABARD credit, MSF changes can make India self-sufficient.

Q.7

भारतीय कृषि की वर्षा आधारित प्रकृति इसे जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील बनाती है। कृषि की जलवायु-अनुकूलता में गुणवत्तापूर्ण सिंचाई के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए। भारत में उपलब्ध सिंचाई पद्धतियों की समग्र दक्षता में सुधार के लिए क्या-क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The rainfed nature of India's agriculture makes it more susceptible to climate change. Highlight the importance of quality irrigation in the climate-adaptability of agriculture. What measures can be undertaken to improve the overall efficiency of the available irrigation practices in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Nearly (52%) of Indian agriculture is rainfed, which decreases the overall productivity of agriculture.

Importance of Quality Irrigation in Climate-Resilient Agriculture

1) Tackling the erratic precipitation of monsoon due to climate change.

2) Quality Irrigation improves the water use efficiency (at present 38%), and reduces water loss.

3) crop protection of droughts and soil moisture loss.

Eg: Bubbler Irrigations discharges water at the root zone.

4) Improves crop yields due to targeted and timely application.

Eg: Drip irrigation.

5) Expansion of crop diversification

Eg: Command areas of Rajasthan
⇒ cultivating paddy, wheat.

Measures

- ① Increasing the agro-economic potential by expanding irrigation channels.
- ② Use of raised-bed, fish-bone channels for reducing water wastage.
- ③ Watershed development $\Rightarrow$ 'Saagu-Baagu', Mission Kakatiya in Telangana $\Rightarrow$ rainwater harvesting in fields.
- ④ Adoption of precision and micro-irrigation. $\Rightarrow$ increases water use efficiency to 40%.
- ⑤ cheap credit for irrigation infrastructure, as it costs nearly 40% of input cost.

Schemes like PM-Krishi Sinchayi Yojana, NABARD agri-infra development fund, bamboo drips etc. are steps in right direction.

Q.8

भारतीय कृषि में पशुधन के महत्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए, विश्लेषण करें कि पशुपालन में निवेश भारतीय कृषि को प्रोत्साहित करने में किस प्रकार मदद कर सकता है। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Considering the importance of livestock in Indian agriculture, analyze how investment in animal husbandry can help in incentivizing Indian agriculture. (10 marks, 150 words)

India hosts the largest population of livestock, with the potential of increasing rural incomes by 35% (FAO).

Importance of livestock

- 1) Milk production $\Rightarrow$ 25% of global supply, 5% of agri- GDP and employs 8 crore farmers.
- 2) Meat and eggs $\Rightarrow$ India is the 8th largest and 3rd largest producer resp.
- 3) Rural empowerment $\Rightarrow$ 70% of livestock is managed by females.
- 4) Supplementing farm incomes $\Rightarrow$ protection against indebtedness due to crop failures.
- 5) Employment generation.

Investments in Animal Husbandry

- 1) Animal Husbandry Infra Dev. Fund
 $\Rightarrow$ increases the capability of farmers

in livestock breed management, fodder procurement etc.

2) Rural industrialisation $\Rightarrow$ farm gate processing of milk, meat etc. $\Rightarrow$ rural incomes $\uparrow$.

3) Digitisation investments in animal husbandry.

Eg: stellaps solution in diseases efficiency by 50% and reduces cost by 20%.

4) Integrated mixed farming $\Rightarrow$ support to peri-urban agriculture $\Rightarrow$ high value-added milk and meat products.

5) Climate resilient livestock management by strengthening indigenous breeds $\Rightarrow$ investments in R & D.

Thus, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Livestock Mission, and the Indigenous Breed Development centres, are essential components for invigoration of rainbow revolution in agriculture.

Q.9

कार्बन क्रेडिट ट्रेडिंग स्कीम (CCTS) 2023 की प्रमुख विशेषताओं की जाँच कीजिए भारत में ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन को कम करने की इसकी क्षमता का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)
Examine the key features of the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) 2023. Analyze its potential for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

The Carbon Credit Trading scheme 2023 was launched under the Electricity Conservation Act, 2021, managed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

Features of CCTS, 2023

- 1) Development of carbon markets in India, for trading of carbon credits.
- 2) Implementation of 'Perform, Achieve, Trade' scheme $\Rightarrow$ generating tradeable certificates for excess assigned Account units (AAU).
- 3) Reducing the overall generation of CO₂ emissions, by commercialisation of the carbon trade.
- 4) Integration of the Indian carbon markets, with global markets, formed under Kyoto Protocol.

Potential for Mitigating Carbon Emissions

- 1) CCTS incentivises the business to invest in carbon sequestration and energy efficiency ↑ infrastructure.
- 2) Carbon markets will generate competition and investments for adopting renewable sources.
- 3) Renewable Purchase obligation will complement CCTS.
- 4) Increased inflow of foreign investments in development of clean energy.

Limitations of CCTS

- 1) Commodification of carbon ⇒ free licence to release carbon and then buy carbon credits.
 - 2) Reduced the legal effect for mandatorily reducing CO₂ emissions.
 - 3) Carbon leakages ⇒ out shifting of manufacturing processes to countries with weak environmental norms.
 - 4) Lack of institutional and regulatory depth to manage carbon markets.
- Nevertheless, CCTS can be an attractive tool for corporate concessions to invest in green & renewable initiatives.

Q.10

लोक लेखा समिति ने हाल ही में प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के बढ़ते खतरे के बारे में चिंता व्यक्त की है। इस संदर्भ में, प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में प्रारम्भ की गई पहलों पर प्रकाश डालिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)
The Public Accounts Committee has recently flagged concerns about the rising menace of plastic pollution. In this context, highlight the recent initiatives taken by the Government to curb plastic pollution. (10 marks, 150 words)

Plastic pollution is increasingly becoming one of the biggest menace for India, with micro-plastics hanging from peak of Himalayas to depths of Indian ocean.

Menace of Plastic Pollution

- 1) India produces nearly 1000 MT of plastic waste annually.
- 2) Plastic pollⁿ $\Rightarrow$ health hazard for humans, animals, agriculture etc.
- 3) Weak waste management potential adds to the menace $\Rightarrow$ plastic management is largely informal.
- 4) clogging of drains and rivers $\Rightarrow$ waterlogging, flash floods etc.
- 5) swirling of plastic $\Rightarrow$ release of PM_{2.5} & 10.
- 6) release of micro-plastic $\Rightarrow$ bioaccumulation and bio-magnification.

Initiatives for Plastic Management

- 1) Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 have increased the penalties (user fees) and introduced extended producer responsibility for plastic waste.
- 2) Ban on single use plastics, of less than 5mm thickness $\Rightarrow$ spoons, plates, polythene bags etc. $\Rightarrow$ most difficult to degrade and reuse.
- 3) Promotion of circular plastic economy (₹ 218 000) $\Rightarrow$ through 'Khabadi wali connect' and 'Saras Zero Waste'.
- 4) #Beat the Plastic Pollution campaign and cleanliness drives for cleaning up plastic waste.
- 5) Govt., along with civil society organisations have introduced 'Plastic Plogging' campaigns.

Thus, plastic menace needs to be tackled for the economic, health, environment and social development of India.

- Q.11 भारत की आर्थिक विकास कहानी प्रायः बेरोजगारी की लगातार चुनौतियों से प्रभावित होती है। संरचनात्मक बेरोजगारी की अवधारणा का विश्लेषण कीजिए और भारत की वर्तमान आर्थिक स्थिति के संदर्भ में इसकी प्रासंगिकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। समावेशी नौकरी वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के लिए नीतिगत उपाय सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)
India's economic growth story is often overshadowed by the persistent challenges of unemployment. Analyze the concept of structural unemployment and discuss its relevance in the context of India's current economic situation. Suggest policy measures to promote inclusive job growth. (15 marks, 250 words)

According to Periodic Labour force survey, the unemployment is at 3.9%, falling from a high of 4.2% during the COVID pandemic.

Structural Unemployment

It refers to the unemployment generating due to structural nature of economy.

- 1) Post liberalisation growth was majorly driven by service sector (55% of GDP) $\rightarrow$ failed to generate productive jobs $\rightarrow$ only 27%
- 2) manufacturing, which is labour intensive, only 14% of GDP and 23% of employment.
- 3) 45% of labour is engaged in non-monumentative agriculture, contributing only 17% of GDP.

Relevance in current Economic situation

- 1) Unemployment has led to poor growth of per capita income $\Rightarrow$ $\$2500$ as compared to $\$5000$ in Chile, $\$10,000$ in South Korea etc.
- 2) Poor supply chain localisation as manufacturing is not labour-intensive.
- 3) Widespread poverty $\Rightarrow$ 25% (NPI, Niti Aayog)
- 4) Moreover, unemployment $\Rightarrow$ low productivity $\Rightarrow$ low levels of literacy & skill development. (only 5% of Indians have formal job training).
- 5) AI threat $\Rightarrow$ 40% jobs in service sector endangered.
- 6) Left behind in 4th Industrial revolution.

Measures for Inclusive Growth

- 1) Labour-intensive rural

industrialisation in consumer goods industries like clothes, footwear, small electronics etc.

2) Investing in skill training to reach 15% formal job training (objective of NSDM).

3) Investing in higher education and bridging mobility gap between higher academic and vocational training.

4) Female employment through SHG's, FPO's.

5) peri-urban agriculture to increase self-employment.

6) Food processing industries to have capability to generate 6 lakh more employment.

Thus, schemes like Atmanirbhar, Rozgar yojana, PM-Vishwakarma, svanidhi, employment-linked incentive are steps in right direction.

- Q.12 भारत में क्षेत्रीय विकास को बढ़ावा देने में सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (MSME) की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। औद्योगिक विविधीकरण और तकनीकी उन्नति को प्राप्त करने में MSME कैसे योगदान दे सकते हैं?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Discuss the role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in fostering regional growth in India. How can MSMEs contribute to achieving industrial diversification and technological advancement?

(15 marks, 250 words)

Micro-small, and medium enterprises comprises (80%) of the production capacity in India, having the potential to make India the 3rd largest economy.

Regional Growth

1) Bridging the rural-urban gap by opening small-scale rural industries like food, processing, garment, light electronics etc.

2) Bridging the East-west divide $\Rightarrow$ North-east and states of WB, Odisha can MSME growth in horticulture, fisheries, mineral development etc.
Eg: Pig-Iron Small Industries in

Chattisgarh.

3) Developing supply chains throughout the country $\Rightarrow$ transportation and logistics enhancement.

4) Digitisation and e-commerce of MSME can help in alleviating regional disparities.

Industrial Diversification & Technological Advancement

1) MSME's can invest in local and regional resource mobilisation.

Eg: Rajasthan & Gujarat $\Rightarrow$ Wheels Processing.

2) Consumer goods industries $\Rightarrow$ employment generation $\Rightarrow$ nearly (40%) of potential for jobs.

3) Integration with global supply chains $\Rightarrow$ technology transfer.

4) Investments in new technologies like AI/ML, robotics etc. to decrease cost and increase optimisation etc.

Challenges of MSME.

- 1) Infrastructural bottlenecks $\Rightarrow$ power supply, roads etc.
- 2) Lack of access to credit, especially for rural MSME's.
- 3) Lack of integration with supply chains.
- 4) Income shocks vulnerability etc.

Thus, schemes like Emergency credit line guarantee, Stand Up India, Ministry of MSME etc. are important to give structural push to MSME growth.

Q.13

जबकि भारत में स्टार्टअप्स ने अर्थव्यवस्था में उद्यमशीलता और नवाचार को बढ़ावा देने में उल्लेखनीय सफलता हासिल की है, भारत में स्टार्टअप्स की स्थिरता को चुनौती देने वाले कुछ संरचनात्मक मुद्दे हैं। स्टार्टअप्स के सामने आने वाली इन चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालें और समस्याओं के व्यावहारिक समाधान सुझाएं। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

While startups in India have achieved notable success in fostering entrepreneurship and innovation in the economy, there are certain structural issues challenging the sustainability of startups in India. Elucidate upon these challenges faced by startups and recommend practical solutions to the problems. (15 marks, 250 words)

In last one decade, start ups have dominated India's growth story, with nearly 78% increase in start-ups from 2010, upto 2022.

Success of start-ups

1) Diversifying the industrial and service sectors.

Eg: more than 800 start ups in space industry.

2) female empowerment $\Rightarrow$ nearly 20% of start ups are owned by women.

Eg: Nykaa $\Rightarrow$ 1st decacorn with female CEO.

3) Employment generation $\Rightarrow$ especially handling the low employment generation by poor

manufacturing sector.

- 4) Global supply chains integration
⇒ start ups contribute to 23%
of the India's role in global
Value chain.

Structural challenges

- 1) Funding challenges ⇒ start-ups
are undergoing a 'winter'
period in accessing funds. ⇒
closure of more than 500 start-
ups in 2023.
- 2) low levels of market demand
due to recessionary and pandemic
induced weak economic growth.
- 3) Lack of indigenisation in
product development ⇒ dependent
on imported raw materials.
- 4) slow and inconsistent government
referrals.
- 5) Weak performance of the
insolvency & Bankruptcy code ⇒

recovery rates reduced from
45% to 32%.

Practical Solutions

- 1) Government credit support
and viability gap fundings.
- 2) Developing start up infrastructure
development fund $\Rightarrow$ for initial
investments in capital growth.
- 3) Focussing on problem solving in
rural areas $\Rightarrow$ untapped market
potential.
Eg: Nyishi Tribe $\Rightarrow$ 3D printed
animal parts startup.
- 4) Integration of Indian start
ups with global supply
chains $\Rightarrow$ localising critical
parts manufacturing.

Thus, schemes like start up
India, stand up India, AIM
Mission of NIH Aayog are steps
in the right direction.

- Q.14 भारतीय रेलवे के बुनियादी ढांचे के आधुनिकीकरण में सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी की प्रभावशीलता का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए। सुरक्षा क्षेत्र को रेलवे के लिए प्रमुख चुनौतियों में से एक मानते हुए, भारतीय रेलवे के समग्र सुरक्षा मापदंडों में सुधार के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)
Critically evaluate the effectiveness of public-private partnerships in the modernization of railway infrastructure in India. Considering safety as one of the major challenges for railways, what measures can be taken to improve the overall safety parameters of Indian Railways? (15 marks, 250 words)

Railways constitute the second-largest share of the transport bulk, with nearly 2.4 lakh crore outlay for railway development in union-budget 2023-24.

Public-Private Partnerships in
Railway

(A) Positives

- ① Improvement of efficiency in railway infrastructure.
Eg: PPP in the Vande-Bharat trains.
- ② catering to the different class segments. $\Rightarrow$ luxurious service development.
- ③ Development of railway tourism $\Rightarrow$ swadesh darshan train units.

④ Enhancing technological integration in railways $\Rightarrow$ Japanese PPP in bullet trains; use of AI/ML in safety infrastructure.

(B) Negatives

1) Poor private participation in improving Indian Railway infrastructure $\Rightarrow$ tracks, train infra etc.

2) Railways are 100% GOI India owned subsidiary $\Rightarrow$ state controls become challenging.

3) High incidences of train accidents $\Rightarrow$ more than 30 train derailments in past 2 years.

4) Lack of diversification in railway logistic transportation.

5) Poor multi-modality partnerships.

Safety of Railways

Nearly 750+ people have lost their lives in train accidents since 2019, due to train derailments, fires, collisions etc.

Eg: Balasore Train Accident 2023.

Measures to Improve Safety

① Retro-fitting of train infrastructure

Eg: Track renewal, bogey enhancement etc.

② Integrating of cutting edge technology in railway management.

Eg: Kavach $\Rightarrow$ anti-collision

③ Institutional accountability management $\Rightarrow$ commission of Railway safety.

④ Including prospects for disinvestment in train safety mechanisms

Thus, railways are the backbone of Indian economy, and need to be structurally reformed.

- Q.15 भारत में खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (पीडीएस) में भारतीय खाद्य निगम (एफसीआई) की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। एफसीआई की कार्यकुशलता और प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के लिए इसके कार्यप्रणाली में आवश्यक सुधारों का सुझाव दीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)
Discuss the role of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the Public Distribution System (PDS) to ensure food security in India. Suggest necessary reforms in the functioning of FCI to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness. (15 marks, 250 words)

Food Corporation of India is a statutory body, that is responsible for the implementation of National Public Distribution Scheme, largest public stockholding programme in the world.

Role of FCI

⇒ Dual role in the PDS Network.

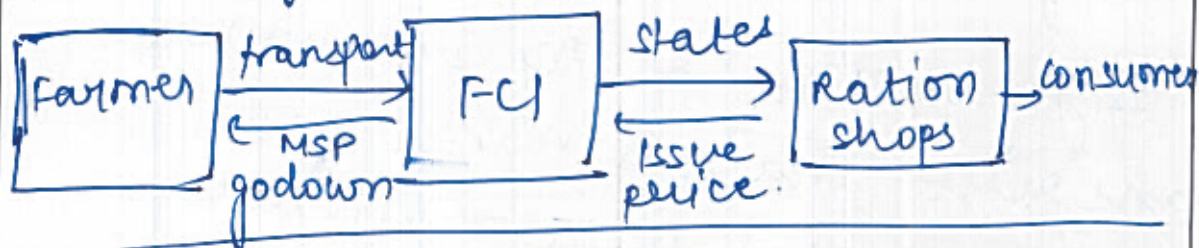
① Procurement from the farmers and APMC markets ⇒ FCI procures the grains from the farmers at the minimum support price.

② Maintenance of buffer stocks in FCI godowns ⇒ handles the transport and stocking of grains.

③ Distribution of grains from the FCI godowns to the state

government controlled ration shops, at the issue price.

- ④ FCI also handles the open market sale scheme (OMSS) for excess grains.



Challenges of FCI in PDS system

- ① opaqueness in procurement process
- ② Lack of demand-supply equilibrium management in procurement process
Eg: nearly 1000 more grains are wasted in FCI godowns.
- ③ Poor upkeep and maintenance of FCI godowns.
- ④ Heavy off-budget borrowing ⇒ indebted FCI.
- ⑤ Poor staff efficiency ⇒ corruption leakages etc.

Measures to Improve Efficiency of FCI

- 1) legal changes to the FCI Act,
to bring its audit process under
CACI $\Rightarrow$ financial scrutiny of nearly
2% of GDP outlay.
- 2) Digitisation of FCI procurement,
transport, maintenance and
disbursement process $\Rightarrow$ transparency,
accountability and fairness.
- 3) Localised small FCI storages,
with local village participation
to avoid centralised wastages
and transport cost.
- 4) Ensuring institutional accountability
- 5) Diversification of MSP's to
increase coverage of pulses,
millets etc. through PDS scheme.

Thus, as per the Ashok Dalwai
Committee, the FCI's process
should be completely transparent
and fair to ensure food security.

- Q.16 भारत में कृषि उत्पादकता और खाद्य सुरक्षा बढ़ाने में नैनो प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। नैनो-उर्वरकों और नैनो-कीटनाशकों के उपयोग के हाल के विकास और संभावित लाभ और जोखिमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Discuss the role of nanotechnology in enhancing agricultural productivity and food security in India. Highlight recent developments and potential benefits and risks of the use of nanofertilizers and nano-pesticides.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Nanotechnology refers to the use of atomic and sub-atomic particles, which has multitude of benefits, especially in the agricultural sector.

Role and Benefits of Nanotech in Agriculture

- ① Nano-fertilisers ⇒ Recently, IFFCO has launched urea nano-fertilisers, with benefits:
 - a) greater nitrogen uptake efficiency
 - b) better soil productivity due to targeted application.
 - c) limited run-offs ⇒ limited eutrophication of the water-bodies.
 - d) cheaper than heavily subsidised

conventional urea

For eg: Nano-Urea $\Rightarrow \text{₹ } 300/\text{kg}$
 conventional urea $\Rightarrow \text{₹ } 870/\text{kg}$ (after subsidies)

② Application of nano-silica on leaves reduced the transpiration
 $\Rightarrow$ greater moisture retention and drought-prone crops.

③ Nano-pesticides $\Rightarrow$ ensures bio-security of the crops, while eliminating weeds.

Risks of Nanotechnology

1) As the size of particle reduces, its environmental degradation capacity also reduces $\Rightarrow$ greater danger to fields and produce.

2) Nano-toxicity from the overuse or unscientific application of nano-fertilisers.

- 3) Lack of adequate R&D on the ill-effects of farmer's health.
- 4) consumption of nano-urea in food products $\Rightarrow$ neuro-toxicity, respiratory and cardio-vascular diseases.
- 5) limited diversification of nano-fertilisers $\Rightarrow$ limited to urea $\Rightarrow$ conventional DAP & MoP with nano urea can cause risks to crops.

Measures

- 1) Adequate research & development in nano-tech in agriculture.
- 2) Prevention of bioaccumulation & bio-mag etc.

Thus, nano-technology can usher in improvements in crop productivity, but ill-effects need to be managed.

- Q.17 "अगर उपज समय पर हमारी थाली तक पहुंच जाए तो खेती लाभकारी हो जाती है।" इस संदर्भ में, भारत में कृषि विपणन और परिवहन क्षेत्र के समक्ष आने वाले अपस्ट्रीम और डाउनस्ट्रीम मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इस क्षेत्र की समग्र दक्षता में सुधार के लिए कौन-सी पहलें प्रारम्भ की जा सकती हैं? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)
- "Farming becomes remunerative if the produce reaches our plates in time". In this context, highlight the upstream and downstream issues faced by the agriculture marketing and transport sector in India. What initiatives can be undertaken to improve the overall efficiency of the sector? (15 marks, 250 words)

Agriculture is the interface between industry and consumptive goods, providing raw materials. It has rich upstream and downstream linkages.

Upstream linkages in Agricultural Marketing

① Upstream linkages refers to the channels of raw materials procured from the farms.

Problems :

1) subsistence agriculture with little surplus $\Rightarrow$ more than

(45%) of indian agriculture is intensive subsistence agr.

2) small size of landholdings
 $\Rightarrow$ more than (80%) of landholdings are less than (2 Ha)

3) Insufficient agricultural mechanisation
⇒ only (40%), as opposed to 95%
in USA.

4) crop failures and low yields
due to climate ⇒ rainfed farming
diseases, pests etc.

5) Exploitation by APMC mandis

Downstream challenges ⇒ refers
to the storage and transportation
challenges.

1) Poor extension services ⇒
low levels of marketing penetration,
R&D etc.

2) Poor infrastructural connectivity
⇒ lack of all-weather roads
to rural areas.

3) lack of storage facilities ⇒
(92,650) more losses due to
inadequate storage.

4) lack of value-addition to agri-
produce ⇒ limited scope
for marketing start-ups.

Initiatives

- 1) connecting farmers to the marketing linkages pre-harvest $\neq$ demand oriented agriculture.
- 2) Increasing insurance penetration for increasing risk-taking crop diversification.
- 3) reform of APMC Mandis.
- 4) development of storage facilities for the grains.
eg: e-Kisan upay nidhi.
- 5) connecting the rural farms with multimodal means of transports.
eg: Krishi rail & Krishi Udan.
- 6) contract farming for increasing remunerative capacity of agr.

Thus, upstream and downstream linkages are essential for the overall improvement of agriculture

UDP.

- Q.18 भारत की कृषि संबंधी निर्यात-आयात की नीतियां किसानों के बजाय उपभोक्ताओं की ओर अधिक झुकी हुई हैं। दिए गए कथन के आलोक में, किसानों पर आयात और निर्यात नीतियों के प्रभावों का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। किसानों को आयात-निर्यात संबंधी मूल्यों के दहशत से बचाने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)
India's agriculture export-import policies are tilted more towards the consumers rather than the farmers. In light of the given statement, critically analyze the impact of import and export policies on farmers. What measures can be undertaken to shield farmers from import-export price shocks? (15 marks, 250 words)

As per ICRIER, nearly 45000 more losses were experienced by farmers due to sudden export ban on basmati rice (2023-24).

'Consumer-orientation' of policies

- dealing mainly with the demand-side inflation of food and allied products.
- To curtail demand price shocks:
 - (i) MSP changes
 - (ii) stocking limits
 - (iii) Export bans
- ⇒ This adversely affects the remunerative capacity of agriculture, for the farmers.

Impact on Farmers

- 1) Export bans leads to loss of revenue $\Rightarrow$ ₹45000 crore.
- 2) MSP allocations are more demand-sensitive $\Rightarrow$ boom-bust phenomena for farmers.
Eg: 2017 pulse production.
- 3) Low revenue realisation in APMC markets by setting upper limits.
Eg: Sugarcane farmers.
- 4) Food inflation measured from demand side, not taking it account raw material inflation.
- 5) Geopolitical arbitrary import-export policies negatively affects the farmers.
Eg: Russia - Ukraine war $\Rightarrow$ sudden export increase of wheat.

Measures to Protect Farmers

1) The food policy should consider the supply-side impacts as well:

- a) Farmer-centric and poverty alleviation $\Rightarrow$ MSP should be increased and wide coverage of crops.
- b) Inflation subsidy on the raw-material and agri-inputs.
- c) Incentivizing farmers for livelihood diversification $\Rightarrow$ apiculture, sericulture, animal husbandry etc.
- d) development of pension funds for farmers.
- e) Arbitrary export-import bans should not hurt farmer's interests.

Thus, farmers constitute 45% of the workforce and needs to be equipped with adequate support measures.

Q.19 भारत में जैव विविधता संरक्षण में संरक्षित क्षेत्रों की भूमिका का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। भारत की जैव विविधता को संरक्षित करने में राष्ट्रीय उद्यान, वन्यजीव अभ्यारण्य और जैव-मंडल आगार (बायोस्फीयर रिजर्व) कितने प्रभावी रहे हैं?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Evaluate the role of protected areas in biodiversity conservation in India. How effective have national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and biosphere reserves been in preserving India's biodiversity? (15 marks, 250 words)

The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 provides the legal basis for the creation of wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves, national parks etc.

Role of Protected Areas in Biodiversity conservation

1) Preservation of the keystone and flagship species.

Eg: 53 tiger reserves ⇒ increased tiger population to 3600 in 2022.

2) Ecosystem stability and conservation ⇒ management of trophic stability and diversified food webs.

Eg: National Parks conserve the whole ecosystem from human encroachment.

- 3) stringent anti-poaching measures.
- 4) wildlife corridor creation for metapopulation interaction.

Eg: Kanha-Kisli corridor.

- 5) Inclusion of tribal and indigenous repositories in bio-diversity conservation.

Eg: Soliga tribe in Karnataka learned livelihood rights in forest management of protected areas.

Effectiveness of Protected Areas

Positives

- ① Regeneration of tiger population from near 75 in 1955 to 3600+ in 2022.
- ② Asiatic lions of Gir had fallen to less than 35 post independence
⇒ Gir and Barda Wild life sanctuary ⇒ 674 lions.
- ③ Protected areas have helped in the implementation of

species-specific projects like Project Cheetah, Rhino, Crocodiles, Elephants etc.

4) Protection of forest cover and ecosystem services. $\Rightarrow$ (24%) of land area.

Limitations

1) Continuation of poaching in core zones.

Eg: tigers were killed due to illegal logging in Namdapha Park.

2) Expulsion of nearly 2 lakh indigenous people from protected areas.

3) Increasing commercialisation of protected areas $\Rightarrow$ wildlife safaris, nature resorts in core zones etc.

4) Increasing human-animal conflict.

Eg: Karnataka highway passes through Siligiri Park.

Thus, strict legal penalties, inclusion of local population, increasing awareness about conservation measures can improve efficiency.

- Q.20 भारत में पार्टिकुलेट मैटर (पीएम 2.5 और पीएम 10) और ओजोन प्रदूषण के उच्च स्तर के क्या कारण हैं? पार्टिकुलेट मैटर (कणीय पदार्थ) और ओजोन प्रदूषण को कम करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए विभिन्न पहल कितने प्रभावी हैं? (15 अंक, 250 अंक)

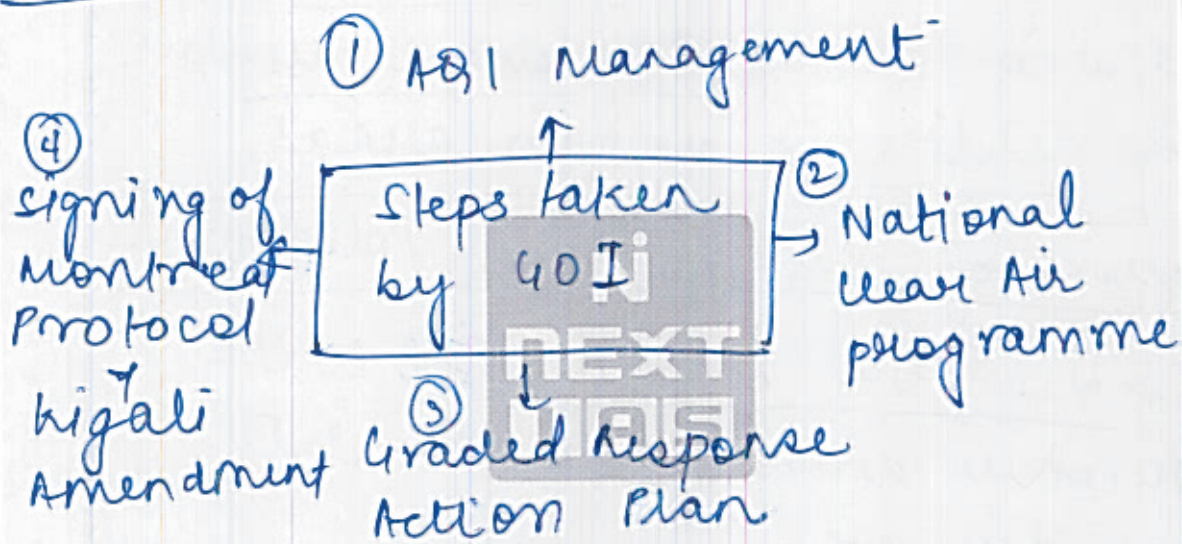
What are the causes of high levels of particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) and ozone pollution in India? How effective are the various steps taken by the government to mitigate particulate matter and ozone pollution? (15 marks, 250 words)

PM2.5 and PM10 are dangerous particulate matter particles, that can penetrate into the lungs and enter the blood stream, causing the and highest number of death in urban areas.

Causes of PM & Ozone Pollutions

- 1) Industrial emissions of CO , CO_2 , sulphur dioxide, particulate matter etc.
- 2) Vehicular emissions $\Rightarrow$ SOx and NO_2 emissions.
- 3) Formation of tropospheric ozone pollution under sunlight and reaction of NOx with volatile organic compounds.
- 4) Refrigerators, AC's, cleaning agents $\Rightarrow$ bruno-fluorocarbons, HCFC's etc. $\Rightarrow$ ozone pollution.

- 3) waste burning $\Rightarrow$ toxic compounds including $PM_{2.5}$
- 4) burning of agricultural residue $\Rightarrow$ crop residue in Northern India $\Rightarrow$ winter pollution in Delhi NCR.



Effectiveness of programmes

Positives

- 1) NCAP has identified PM_{10} and CO_2 as the metrics $\Rightarrow$ resulted in decline in 56 attainment cities, out of 132.
- 2) AQI metrics and colour-coded categories has increased

awareness and consciousness among
citizens.

3) Delhi's Odd-Even scheme and
cloud-seeding proposal have
temporary solutions.

4) Montreal Protocol:

- 100% ratification
- HCFC's have been completely
phased out by India.
- HCF's ⇒ non ODS but CH4 ⇒
phasing out by 2020, as per
Kigali amendment.

Limitations

- 1) Inadequate funds for NCAP has
reduced efficiency. ⇒ Fund gap
of (45%) in most cities.
- 2) Lack of structural reforms like
fossil-fuel burning ban, EV
adoption etc.
- 3) Release of ODS from e-waste,
furnitures etc.
- 4) Garbage burning ⇒ release
of PM 2.5 & 10.

Thus, the need is to ensure strict
implementation and the cause-oriented
measures to tackle air pollution.

NEXT IAS

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS

Space for Rough Work

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महत्वपूर्ण निर्देश	
अभ्यर्थियों को निम्नलिखित निर्देशों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ना चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर दण्डित किया जा सकता है।	
क्या न करें- 1. इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका के भीतर कहीं भी अपना नाम या पंजीकरण संख्या न लिखें। 2. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तरों के अलावा कुछ भी न लिखें। 3. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका से कोई भी पृष्ठ न फाड़ें, यदि आपको कोई पृष्ठ गायब लगे, तो पर्यवेक्षक/निरीक्षक को सूचित करना न भूलें। 4. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका को अपनी टेबल पर न छोड़ें, परीक्षा समाप्त होने के पश्चात इसे निरीक्षक को सौंप देना चाहिए।	क्या करें- 1. कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए निर्देशों को ध्यान पूर्वक पढ़ें और उनका सख्ती से पालन करें। 2. QCA पुस्तिका के कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए स्थान पर अपना पंजीकरण नंबर और अन्य विवरण लिखें। 3. स्पष्ट और पठनीय तरीके से लिखें। खराब/अपठनीय लिखावट में न लिखें। 4. रफ नोट्स या गणना के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंतिम दो खाली पृष्ठों का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। रफ नोट्स को बाद में क्रॉस कर देना चाहिए। 5. यदि आप किसी कार्य को रद्द करना चाहते हैं, तो उस पर अपना पेन चलाएं या उस पर "रद्द" लिखें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है। 6. परीक्षा हॉल छोड़ने से पहले अपनी QCA पुस्तिका व्यक्तिगत रूप से निरीक्षक को सौंप दें।

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

