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ASSESSMENT TEST-30**

(To be filled by candidate)

Test Code : TC331**Name of Candidate :** RITIKA CHITLANGIA**NEXT IAS Roll No. :** AIM24GCRA 075 **Date of Examination :** 14/1/24**Exam Centre :** Old Rajinder Nagar ☒Bhopal ☐Online ☐**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

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SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES**Invigilator's Sign. :**

[To be filled by the STUDENT]

Student's Queries for the Evaluator (if any write them below)

[To be filled by the EXAMINER]

Evaluator's response

(For filling by Examiners only)

Evaluator Code :

Q.No	PgNo.	Maximum Marks	Marks	Total
1	1			
2	3			
3	5			
4	7			
5	9			
6	11			
7	14			
8	17			
9	20			
10	23			
Grand Total				

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS

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1. "The recent radical trends in Punjab show that the Khalistan issue is still simmering." Discuss the statement with respect to recent developments and suggest measures to handle it.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Radical trends of Punjab, including terrorist killings, separatist movements etc. have been simmering, demanding a dynamic understanding of khalistani issue.

Radical trends of Khalistan issue

- ① Bitter memories of 1984 killings by separatist elements $\Rightarrow$ radicalisation of punjabi youth.
- ② External support to khalistani movement $\Rightarrow$ sustained by agencies in USA - Canada $\Rightarrow$ outmigration of youth and involvement in fueling separatism.
- ③ Dedine of agri-productivity and environmental resources $\Rightarrow$ increase in poverty $\Rightarrow$ increase in attractiveness of separatist movements.
- ④ International issues leads to involvement in domestic politics.
eg: sikh outrage on killings of

Khalistani leaders.

Measures to handle issues

- ① strengthening and re-structuring of Punjab's agro-economy to reduce poverty, unemployment and illiteracy among the youth.
- ② International dialogue between India-USA/Canada to respect the internal sovereignty of India.
- ③ Stopping the funding for Khalistani separatism through drug elimination.
- ④ strict action against incitement and radicalisation of youth.
- ⑤ Use of technology to identify Khalistani hideouts and elimination.

Therefore, the elimination of Khalistani separatism is necessary to ensure the internal unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country.

2. The anonymity and ease of drone operation contribute to the challenges of India's border security. Elaborate and give suggestions to tackle the drone problem in border areas.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The use of precision warfare i.e. use of drones in attacks has gained prominence, demanding dynamic updation of combat readiness.

Challenges of Drone Warfare

- ① Ease of mobility and difficulty to track.
- ② Increases vulnerability of remote areas of border due to increased precision of attacks.
- ③ Anonymity $\Rightarrow$ drones are increasingly used for proxy attacks.
- ④ Difficult to track and anticipate the threats.
Eg: use of drones by Nouthi rebels in Indian Ocean Region.
- ⑤ Lack of capacity building of armed forces and technological

sophistication to handle drone warfare.

Suggestions to tackle drone warfare

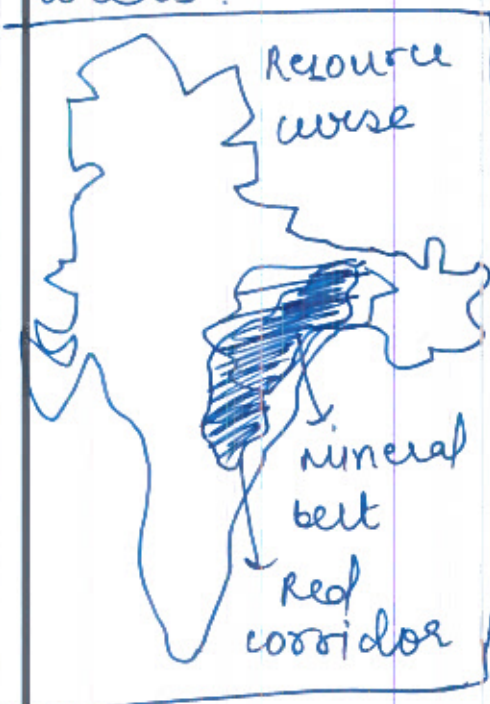
- ① Upgradation of technology in defence $\Rightarrow$ use of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning to counter drones.
- ② Increasing the capacity building of army, navy and air force to neutralise drone targets.
- ③ Identification of terrorist drone operating areas through exchange of international geo-spatial data. Eg. India - USA - BECA.
- ④ Ramping up border security infrastructure to ensure ease of mobility to respond to drone attacks.

Therefore, there is a need to understand the growing threat to border areas through drones and cohesive policy and technology approach to counter them.

3. "The resource curse of Eastern and Central India has been a crucial driver of LWE". Elaborate and suggest measures for sustainable and inclusive development of the region.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The Eastern and central India are the storehouse of minerals, fossil fuel sources, hydropower sources, and unfortunately, overlap with the Red corridor i.e. LWE affected areas.



Resource curse as the driver of LWE

① Economic drainage of resources $\Rightarrow$ influxion of MNC's, industries etc. which leads to mining and exportation of mineral wealth.

② Ecological desertification $\Rightarrow$ caused by deforestation, pollution etc. $\Rightarrow$ especially affects forest-dependent tribals.

③ Lack of access to forest rights and weak implementation of rehabilitation $\Rightarrow$ alienation of tribals $\Rightarrow$ Naxalism.

④ lack of distributive justice and disconnectedness from fruits of development $\Rightarrow$ tribal unemployment, education etc.

All these lead to propagation of left-wing extremism in C&E India.

Measures for Development

- ① Greater autonomy on natural resources of region $\Rightarrow$ FRA, 2006 and land Rehabilitation, 2013.
- ② Mandatory EIA and SIA of economic projects of mining and industrialisation.
- ③ Employment to tribal youth to avoid illiteracy, poverty $\Rightarrow$ equitable and inclusive development.
- ④ Elimination of LWE groups and rehabilitation of members through 'SAMADHAN' and unlaid assistance schemes.

Therefore, LWE can be further sustainable, reduced by ensuring equitable and inclusive development at the region.

4. In light of the declining trend of violence in the North East and J&K region do you think that AFSPA has lived its utility? Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

As per Ministry of Home Affairs, the instances of violence in North-East have come down by 58% since 2012 and abrogation of Art. 370 has led to relative stability in J&K.

Utility of AFSPA, 1958

- (i) Yes, AFSPA has outlived its utility
- 1) Instances of violence in N.E have reduced due to infrastructure, organic farming etc. $\Rightarrow$ development.
 - 2) The continuation of AFSPA can lead to trust deficit between locals and armed forces.
 - 3) The schemes of development like TEJASWINI, lavender revolution, Mission Youth has increased integration of J&K into the mainstream $\Rightarrow$ no need for AFSPA.
 - 4) signing of numerous peace accords in NE $\Rightarrow$ Bodo Accord, Bru-Reang accord etc.

(ii) No, AFSPA is still necessary

① Recent, violent ethnic-tribal conflicts in manipur shows that tribal differences necessitate AFSPA for quick response by armed forces.

② Terrorism has reduced in J&K, but certain districts like sopore and Rajouri are plagued with challenges. $\Rightarrow$ recent killings of army in Dec 2023.

③ AFSPA is necessary to maintain peace and stability and protection of civilian infrastructure.

④ The Chinese-pakistan nexus in J&K and North-east leads to criticality of AFSPA in border security.

Therefore, the decision to repeal AFSPA should be adequate discussed, with multiple stakeholders and be implemented in a phased manner.

5. Ethnic conflicts and cross-border migration along India-Myanmar and India-Bangladesh borders impact India's internal security. Comment (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

India shares the largest land boundary with Bangladesh, and nearly 4 states share border with Myanmar, making it ~~an~~ integral part of India's internal security.

India - Bangladesh

(A) Ethnic conflicts

- ① Bengali culture becomes a source of conflict between the hindus of West Bengal and muslims of Bangladesh.
- ② Tribal conflicts between the areas of Assam and Tripura, over Bangladesh.

(B) Cross-border Migration

① Migration from east to west
East Pakistan $\Rightarrow$ demography of
Assam threatened $\Rightarrow$ emergence
of groups like United Liberation
front of Assam.

② Internal security gets threatened
due to porous borders $\Rightarrow$ Bangladesh
used as safe haven for Indian
extremist groups.

(2) India - Myanmar(a) Ethnic conflict

1) Greater Nagalism $\Rightarrow$ includes
part of Myanmar as well $\Rightarrow$
sovereignty and territorial
integrity gets affected.

(b) Border Movement

4) Free Movement Regime $\Rightarrow$
allows the movement of tribal
communities $\Rightarrow$ lesser checks
against anti-India activity.

Therefore there is a need for smart security
along borders, use of technology like Night
vision, border security infrastructure,
border security cooperation.

6. The recent rise in ransomware attacks targeting critical infrastructure and major corporations has highlighted the urgent need for stronger cybersecurity measures and policies. Discussing the key factors contributing to this trend, analyze the impact of these attacks on various sectors.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

As per National Crime Records

Bureau, there has been an uptick of 24% in cyber-crime cases in past 2 years.

Rise of Ransomware Attacks

⇒ Ransomware attack on AIIMS in 2023 ⇒ public health data at risk

⇒ Mumbai National Electric grid attack ⇒ impact on economy & energy security etc.

Factors for rising cyber crime cases

① Increased digitisation of all spheres ⇒ financial, economic, education, health etc ⇒ wider scope for ransomware attacks.

② Weak data security infrastructure ⇒ unable to protect critical infrastructure.

③ lack of regulatory and legislative standardisation in dealing with ransomware attacks.

④ Weak digital literacy among the masses $\Rightarrow$ vulnerability increase to ransomware attacks.

Impact of ransomware Attacks

① Economy $\Rightarrow$ disruption of supply chain, manufacturing losses, economic losses in terms of cash, demand for ransoms etc.

② Technological $\Rightarrow$ breakdown of operational systems, delays in day to day functioning of corporations.

③ Political & Governance $\Rightarrow$ administrative breakdown, threat to sovereignty of the nation, political misinformation $\Rightarrow$ chaos and instability.

④ social $\Rightarrow$ targetting of certain vulnerable communities like women, children, elderly, LGBTQ+ etc.
Need for cybersecurity measures

① Standard legal framework to effectively deal with ransomware attacks.

② Digital awareness campaigns regarding safety, Botnet cleansing, malware identification etc.

③ stronger data security infrastructure
Eg: NCC, ITC, CERT-IN etc.

④ Deeper research on the dynamic cases of cyber attack. Eg:
ransomware etc.
Phishing,

Therefore, there is a need to adopt a multi-pronged strategy towards effectively tackling the growing menace of digital security.

7. Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors, to the internal security of India. Also, discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

External state actors refer to sovereign agents, while non-state actors refer to foreign non-sovereign authorities, having a deep influence on internal security of India.

Challenges posed by External states

- ① State-sponsored terrorism ⇒ funding to non-state actors to fight proxy wars.
Eg: Pulwama attack 2020.
- ② Bilateral adversaries and military clashes ⇒ Eg: growing role of China to influence LWE groups, along the Red corridor of India.
- ③ Ideological terrorism and support by sovereign nations.
Eg: Canada's response to Khalistan movement against India.

④ Domestic unrest $\Rightarrow$ the policy support is influenced by external states $\Rightarrow$ chances of instability and unrest.

Eg: LTTE's radicalisation of Tamil youth.

Challenges posed by Non-state Actors

① Terrorism $\Rightarrow$ JEM, Lashkar-e-toiba, ISIS, Boko Haram, Houthis etc. $\Rightarrow$ frequent terror attacks against India.

② Drug Nexus $\Rightarrow$ India wedged between Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle $\Rightarrow$ most drug cartels run by non-state actors.

③ Lack of accountability and hidden warfare $\Rightarrow$ using drones, social media etc. $\Rightarrow$ difficult to identify and combat.

④ Money laundering and black marketing $\Rightarrow$ threatens to

de-stabilise the economy.

Measures to combat multi-dimensional challenges

① Global consensus and cooperation to eliminate terrorism, terror funding etc. Eg: No money for terror conference (Delhi 2022)

② Information sharing → Eg: using INTERPOL, mutual legal assistance treaty.

③ Technological sharing by developed countries. Eg: India - USA defence agreements like CONCASA, BECA etc.

④ Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. Eg: reviving of Panchsheel diplomacy.

⑤ Stronger border security infrastructure and digital preparedness.

Therefore, the combination of challenges require cross-sector, global coordination.

8. The transformation of terrorism through the use of new and emerging technologies like metaverse and virtual assets is a matter of concern. How can we counter the Use of New and Emerging Technologies for Terrorist Purposes and Elucidate the importance of the "Delhi declaration" in this regard?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Terrorism refers to use of violence against civilian non-combatants, rooted in ideological, political or religious causes.

Transformation of terrorism due to technology

① Cyber terrorism $\Rightarrow$ attack on critical infrastructure of the country.

② Drone warfare $\Rightarrow$ difficult to identify, anticipate and eliminate.

Eg: Houthi's drone attack on MV Chem Pluto.

③ use of social media for radicalisation of youth and dissemination of hate propaganda.

Eg: ISIS recruiting youth through social media

- ④ Terror funding through unregulated use of crypto-currency and Non-fungible tokens.
- ⑤ Easy access to arms, ammunition drug delivery etc. through use of dark web.

Countering the use of technology for Terrorism

- ① stronger digital security infrastructure to protect digital assets from cyber terrorism.
- ② Increasing the research and development of AI, ML etc. to track dark web patterns.
- ③ strict regulation on use of crypto-transactions.
- ④ Upgrading the capacity and combat readiness of armed forces to enable countering precision attacks through drones.

Delhi Declaration - against funding and tolerance for terrorism.

- ① Information sharing between authorities and global coordination.
- ② Use of FATF grey and black list to discourage state-sponsored terrorism.
- ③ Use of UN resolutions 1373 for placing travel and arms restrictions on certain terrorists.
- ④ Civil society participation for increasing awareness against terror outfits.

Therefore, evolving nature of terrorism demands dynamic coordination at multiple levels i.e. global, national, regional and societal.

9. India needs to update its Information Technology Act of 2000 to deal with emerging internal and external communication security and to make the cyber ecosystem more safe and secure. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Information Technology Act, 2000 governs the IT and communication sphere, which is undergoing dynamic changes, demanding constant upgradation to respond to newer challenges to security of the country.

Emerging Internal & External communication security challenges

- ① Emergence of deepfakes ⇒ potential to destabilise the economy, polity, society.
- ② Increasing use of generative AI in communications sphere ⇒ challenges of internal and international implication.
- ③ interconnectedness of global data bases ⇒ questions of

data security, privacy, sovereignty
and localisation.

- ④ increasing threat of ransomware
attacks on the critical
infrastructure. Eg: Stuxnet worm
on Iran's nuclear programme.
- ⑤ Growing potential of precision
warfare and cyber warfare.

Need to update IT Act, 2000

- ① Fragmented approach in
dealing with newer challenges.
Eg: only section 66D & 66E of IT
Act deal with deepfakes,
with no strong penalisation
framework.
- ② the amendments have not
kept pace with technological
advancements ⇒ No provision
to deal with AI in communication.
- ③ IT Act does not provide a

strong digital security framework
⇒ increases vulnerability to deal
with growing cybersecurity attacks.
Eg: Ransomware attack on AIIMS
software in 2023.

- ④ Balance between regulation and
promoting international free
flow of data for economic
growth ⇒ NOT met by IT Act.

Thus, there is a need to revamp
IT act, 2000 to ensure it
adequately addresses all the
emerging challenges of technology
and maintains flexibility
between safety, security and
economic growth.

10. Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Naxalism originated as an extreme left-wing ideology, led by Communist Party (Marxist), in the form of violent overthrow of government, in Naxalbari area of West Bengal.

Causes for Naxalism

① Social

- 1) Alienation and marginalisation of tribal areas of Central & Eastern India.
- 2) Denial of adequate forest rights and land rights under FRA, 2006.
- 3) Unemployment, illiteracy, disillusionment amongst the youth.
- 4) Lack of societal development,
⇒ disconnected from mainstream.

② Economic

① Low levels of per capita income.
⇒ extremely high poverty in areas
of red corridor ⇒ aggression against
the state.

② Resource wise and economic
drainage of resources, followed
by economic and environmental
desertification.

Eg: compels the people to adopt LWE.

③ Development Deficit

① Lack of infrastructure like
schools, hospitals, manufacturing
etc. due to violence by LWE
groups.

② Regional disequilibrium and
developmental disparities ⇒
isolation and feelings of
animosity against state.

Internal security Threat from
Naxalism

- ① De-stabilisation of constitutional democracy and government.
- ② Threat to infrastructure, lives of people etc. due to violence.
- ③ Radicalisation of tribal youth.
- ④ Exacerbation of disconnectedness from mainstream.

Multi-layer strategy for development

- ① Use of technology $\Rightarrow$ drones, remote sensing, GIS etc. to counter guerrilla warfare. Eg: SAMADHAN.
- ② Bridging development gap through construction of infrastructure, employment etc.
- ③ Dialogue between naxal groups and government to negotiate peace. Eg: Buu-Keang Accord.
- ④ Penetration of sports to counter the forces of naxalism.
- ⑤ Protecting the forest rights and land rehabilitation of tribals affected by naxalism.

Therefore, multi-stakeholder involvement, participation and consensus can ensure the complete elimination of violent naxalism.

Space for Rough Work

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