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NEXT IAS

GS MAINS ADVANCED COURSE 2024

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : GSMAC2403 **Test No. : 03**

Name of Candidate: ANUPAM YADAV Mobile No. .....

Roll No. : GSMACT24A1279 Start Time 07:00 End Time 10:00

Date of Examination: 08/08/2024 Medium : English [Y] 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
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
TOTAL MARKS - 100		

GRAND TOTAL - ...../ 250 EVAL CODE: ..... EVAL DTE: .....

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 10 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: .....

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Student Concerns / Query	Evaluator's Feedback / Response
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MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 3.00	3.00 - 3.75	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.50	4.50 - 5.75	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

IMPORTANT QR CODES

Topper's Copy

Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB

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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

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Q.01

Fiscal deficit situation arises when government expenditure is more than its revenues. India has been facing ~~the~~ of fiscal deficit issue since ~~since~~ independence

Factors contributing high fiscal deficit

1) High subsidy burden — food, fertilizer, fuel

2) High social security measures cost. Eg: Ayushman Bharat pension to government employees.

3) High interest payment of ~~last~~ debt previous

4) Big push theory: India need massive expenditure for removing development hurdles
Eg: Infrastructural spending

5) Election freebies

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Potential Consequences

Positive consequences

1) High capex leading to higher growth
2) Human resource development ↑ used to spend on education & training
3) Attract industries

Negative Consequences

1) Macro economic instability
2) Inflation issues
3) High debt - to GDP ration
4) High interest payment & high future borrowing cost

Measures to ensure fiscal consolidation

1) Following FRBM mandates
2) Cut down on subsidies & freebies
3) Promote macroeconomic Stability for good sovereign rating & low cost of borrowing

Government has targetted 4.5% fiscal deficit for next fiscal, & is on fiscal consolidation path.

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Q.02

Capex essential to sustain long term growth. Goverment has ensured 11 lakh crore capex since last two fiscal years

Role of capital investment

1) It enhances infrastructure and, thus, crowding in of investment

2) It reduces the logistical cost, thus, improving exports

3) It has potential to increase labour productivity, thus, enhancing our GDP.

4) Attracts FDI in various sector

5) Job creation

6) Enhanced manufacturing

7) Mega food parks & PM MITRA scheme

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Challenges

1) Limited budgetary capacity to spend due to competing demand from revenue side of budget
2) High borrowing cost due to discriminatory rating by rating agencies
3) Challenge of high cumulative interest payment (largest component of budget)
4) Inflationary impact.
5) If investment in machines only, then less job creation.

India should ensure high growth trajectory, so that we can sustainable use capex & pay-off national debt

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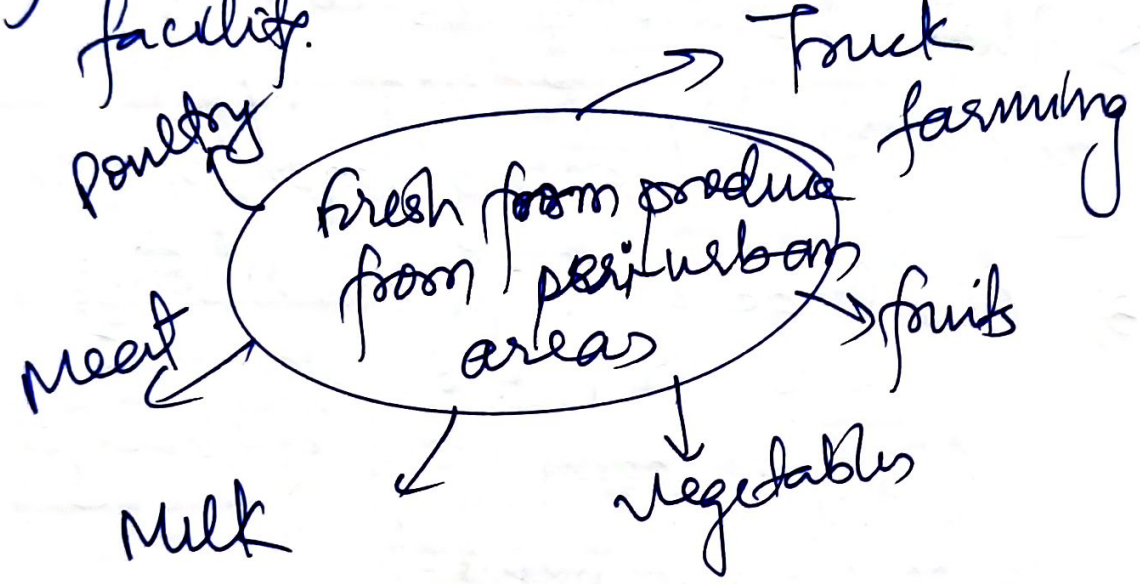
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Q.03

Peri- urbanisation is the growing ~~the~~ phenomenon along our large metropolitan cities due to sub- urbanisation & migrationary trends. It is further facilitated by increasing transportation facility.



Opportunities

1) India currently have 377 million urban population (2011 census), which will double by 2050, thus

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there is going to massive demand.

2) Metropolitanisation phenomenon (60% urban population in less than 50 metro cities) creates huge potential for fish farm produce

3) High price realisation to farmer

Challenges

1) Costly land rent & competitive demand from other sectors for land (for housing, manufacturing & services etc).

2) Land pollution in such areas. (Ghazipur waste dump site).

3) Water issues (Eg: Surrounding Bengaluru, Delhi & Chennai).

There is need of smart & precision farming to produce more with targeted inputs in sustainable ways.

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Q.4

Despite India being agriculturally surplus production country, we rely on import of pulses and vegetable oils. (~~Top~~ part of our top-5 imported items).

Challenges faced

(1) MSP regime on rice and wheat coupled with open procurement promotes Rice wheat at expense of oil seeds & pulses
Eg: Punjab, Haryana tradition area of mustard shifted to rice wheat

(2) The High yielding varieties lack in pulses & oil seeds.

(3) Even if R&D is there, regulatory

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issues. Eg (Dhara-II Mustard)

4) More vulnerable to pest attacks
5) less mechanisation in growing of these crops
6) Cropping area concentrated in rainfed regions.

Measures

1) Enhanced MSP
2) High price realisation
3) R&D for HYVs.
4) Promotion of Irrigation facility
5) Easy credit & crop insurance
6) Awareness campaigns

The farmers must be nudged to grow these crops. This should be done with concerted efforts to proper market linkage & price realisation.

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Q.2

Bio manufacturing and Biofoundry refers to use of biological raw materials to produce goods

Eg: Ethanol manufacturing

Potential

1) India is agri-based economy, thus, supply of raw material could be ensured.

2) Vast climatic conditions facilitate all types of manufacturing & raw materials

3) Suitable government policy

Eg: National Biofuel policy & Biofuel Alliance

4) ~~Youth~~ ~~Young~~ Young workforce

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Challenges

1) Lack of awareness and absence of entrepreneurship training

2) Regulatory environment yet to mature

3) Intellectual rights regime is not favorable to corporates

4) Less ~~expenditure~~ on R&D.

India by taking timely step could put its mark on this sector.

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Q.06

Reusable Launch Vehicles (RLV) was first tested & used by Space-X. Isro has been working on this technology & has achieved significant progress. (few successful trials).

Principles

1) Try to recover major parts of rocket and refurbish it and use for next launch

2) Rocket should be designed to land safely.

3) Whole process should lead some less cost than normal launches.

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Potential Benefits

1) It will bring down the cost per launch.
2) We can prepare launch vehicle at short notice.
3) It will earn us forex, as we will be able to launch satellite at competitive prices
4) Further helpful in R&D and innovation.

RLV are landmark technology. This when cheaper cost leading to space-based servicing being cheaper, unraveling new potentials for Indian Economy.

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Q.07

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) 2023 is market based mechanism to reduce Green House Gases (GHGs) emmissions

Key features

1) Under CCTS, the companies will be alloted carbon quota

2) If they underutilise their quota, it will lead them to earn carbon credits for unutilised potion

3) This carbon credit could be purchased from exchang from company that overutilise their quota

4) The carry forward of carbon credits

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has been allowed.

Potential to mitigate GHGs

1) It will cap maximum emmission possible, thus, bringing down over all emission
2) It will learning to less emmission companies, thus, incentivising to invest on low GHG emmission technologies.

Challenges

1) The ~~carbon~~ carbon credits earned will be finally released by other firms that purchase them. Thus, it is zero-sum game, eventually no effective reduction.

Nevertheless, it incentivise to reduce GHGs emmission. Progressively we should bring down allowed emmission limits.

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Q.08

Heat weave is the ~~elevation~~ of normally more than 4°C temperature from average temperature in a region.

IMD declares heatwaves if temperature is more than 40°C in plain areas, 35°C in hilly areas and 37°C in costal areas.

~~Eg~~ Each year since last few year, we are experiencing ~~last~~ ~~to~~ hottest summer & increased frequency of heat & waves.

We should declare heat waves as notified disaster under NDMA, 2005.

1) Heat wave have massive negative impact on agriculture sector Eg Reduced wheat production ~~than last~~ last year

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2) It could lead to reduced soil moisture and cause droughts

3) Human death toll is common phenomenon (Especially in urban areas).

4) Working hours are lossed, reduced productivity leading to negative impact on economy

However, declaring heat wave as natural disaster has certain challenges, as every death caused by it has to be paid some compensation, which will increase fiscal burden.

Nevertheless, if declare as disaster, we will nudge governments to take appropriate steps to deal with it. Eg Heat Action Plans.

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Q. 09

Indian armed forces have recently released 'joint doctrine for cyberspace operations' aimed at countering conventional and grey zone warfare.

Significance

1) Today's times have witnessed cyber warfare being treated as another dimension of warfare, and not only stand alone phenomenon.

2) Cyber warfare could cripple nation's economy, electricity, communication and transportation, ~~and~~ nuclear installations etc.

Thus, to protect critical infrastructure this is vital

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more

2) As per an International report, India is 5th most vulnerable country to cyber attacks.

4) The non-State actors are using cyber world as medium to radicalise, recruit, train and conduct attacks.
Such lone wolf attack are increasing

5) It is difficult to establish accountability, even if emerges from foreign soil, not possible to prove conclusively of State sponsored or by some fringe elements.
In these contexts, the new doctrine is vital more
There is need to capacity building for defensive & offensive capabilities.

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Q. 10

Recently, government of India has increased the BSF jurisdiction related to policing powers in the border areas.

Necessity

1) This will enable BSF to deal with drone based drug delivery, arms delivery and illegal migration.
2) BSF will be able to carry out search operations
3) It will facilitate operation flexibility.
4) Smuggling etc organised crimes can be kept in check by proper vigilance of forces.
5) It will bring uniformity in BSF jurisdiction in different States

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Potential issues

1) It could lead to federal issue as 'Policing' is State subject
2) It could led to excesses on the lives of border communities.
3) The Clash of BSF and State police might increase
4) BSF will need more man power to fullfill responsibilities in larger areas.

This was much needed move in the light of changing border dynamics and internal security issues in both of our neighbours ie. Bangladesh & Pakistan.

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Q.11

India post 1991 reforms registered ~~upon~~ higher growth rate (7 to 8%) on an average for long but this growth story has been largely jobless.

Today, out of every 1% of GDP growth 0.8% comes from enhanced labour productivity (fueled by capital expenditure & technological adoption) and only 0.2% comes from new job creation. This has enabled economists to conclude India's growth as jobless growth.

However, this is only one side of picture. Many argue that India's unemployment problem is mainly structural.

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Structural Unemployment

It refers to a phenomenon, where there is mismatch between the skill sets of the individuals (job seekers) and the requirement of skills in the economy.

Industries require higher and emerging skill, but our educations institutions are imparting rudimentary and obselet skills.

Relevance in Indian context

The proper diagnosis of the structural unemployment would enable us to identify industry relevant skills and train our workforce in the same to energise

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the Industrial sector and boost employment prospects.

Policy measures for inclusive job growth

1) India should emphasize on the industry relevant skill and re-skilling initiative.
2) Industry - Academia fusion. (NEP promotes this).
3) Anticipation of future skills and transform our upcoming workforce accordingly
4) for time being, focus on labour intensive industries, which have less chances to be disrupted by automation.

The skilling and employment will enable us to reap the limited demographic dividend window that is available with us.

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Q. 12

MSMEs are small scale industrial enterprises that account for 45% export of India. They are large scale employer in both formal and informal sector.

Role in fostering regional growth

1) MSMEs requires less inputs and capital, thus, has potential for decentralised location as compared to large industries.

2) They give employment to rural and local persons in region, which further boosts local demand. Thus, fueling economic activity in region.

3) Many MSMEs from agri-food

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processing sector are raw material oriented, prefer to locate near raw material. Thus, they provide economic diversification, backward and forward linkages in the region.

MSMEs role in Industrial diversification

1) MSMEs exists in almost all the sectors and all type bussiness.
2) In rural areas, they help in agri-food processing units.
3) Various MSMEs are operating in textile and handloom sector.
4) Retail services are dominated by MSMEs.
5) Service sector is seeing the emergence of MSMEs wave. Thus, they ensure widespread

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economic diversification.

MSMEs and Technological Advancement

Today, real innovation is coming from risk taking small & medium firms.

1. Ather Energy powered world class electric scooter.
2. Solar industries is providing innovation in defence industry.
3. Agnikul, the new startup made world's first 3-D printed launch & rocket in India.
4. MSMEs are leading socially relevant innovations like affordable masks and sanitary pads.

Thus, MSMEs are also agents of innovation. There is need of suitable policy regime to enhance the prospects of MSMEs contribution to our growth story.

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Q.13 MSP regime was introduced to incentivise farmers to invest in agriculture during green revolution days in the context of shortage of food grain.

MSP act as promise to protect farmers from sudden price shocks and they will be inclined to grow food crops.

Legalisation of MSP & protection from sudden price shocks

1) Legalisation will ensure, the guaranteed procurement happens through the various means for all crops for which MSP has been declared.

2) This will give some income

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certainty to farmers.

3) However, this will lead to destruction of market mechanism in long term and could harm agriculture

4) On the other hand MSP will not cover other crops (other than 23 crops) and allied sector, which will further damage agri-produce and market mechanism in these sectors and crops.

So, legalised MSP may appear to protect farmer in short run, but in long run it will be harmful.

Measures to make MSP led procurement effective

1) Government agencies like NAFED, FCI should

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procure as per NFSA and Buffer Stock needs.

2) Bhavantar Bugtan (Deficiency payment) can be opted for other crops.

3) The private sector could be nudged to procure value add and export.

4) Thus, export linkage and consumer demand feedback of agri-supply chain is must. This will lead better price-realisation.

5) Contract farming & other means to reduce intermediateries in agri-supply chain.

We should also build suitable storage infrastructure to ensure farmers is not compelled to sell in adverse market conditions.

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Q.14

Successful function of PDS requires adequate procurement of crops and timely availability, distribution to States and last mile reach through fair price shops.

In this whole supply chain of PDS, FCI plays crucial role

Role of FCI

1) FCI is key agency to procure the food grains and store
2) It maintains buffer stock as well keeping in mind future need in time of crop failures
3) It allocates quota of food grain for States and all

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avail them.

4) It ensures grains reaches to states godowns.

Thus, FCI plays crucial role in ensuring all time availability of food, ensuring food security.

Reforms needed in FCI

1) FCI should develop proper adequate storage systems. So, the procured grains are safely stored, not wasted and neither there is deterioration in quality.

2) It should have leverage e-technology in inventory management and transport and movement of food grain

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3) There is need of not only food security but nutritional security.

In this context, FCI could work on procurement of pulses, and other nutri-cereals (millets).

4) There is need of decentralised procurement to reduce transportation & other logistical cost.

FCI should re-imagine its role in the wake of impending climate threats on Indian agriculture and consequent impact on food security issues.

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Q15

~~Not~~ Nano technology is concerned with understanding the behaviours at micro and nano levels and leveraging them for better human use.

In this context, nano technology is seen to bring another significant technological intervention in the agriculture sector.

Role in enhancing agricultural productivity & food security

1) Nano technology could usher a new era of targetted fertilizer and pesticides delivery leading to enhanced productivity and reduced cost to agriculture

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along with maintaining ecological sustainability.

2) It can help to develop new varities of crops.

3) It can help to understand how inputs impact to crops in laboratory settings.

4) It can lead to further maturing of new agri-innovations like fertigation.

Benefits of nano-fertilisers & nano pesticides

1) Targetted delivery
2) Reduced cost
3) Environmental benefits (less nutrient pollution to water bodies)

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4) Ease of carrying (reduced logistical cost).

5) Ease of application (reduced labour cost).

Potential risks

1) The recent field trials questions their efficacy.
2) Might lead to bio-magnification and bio-accumulation.
3) Long term impacts will be known later.

IFCCO should rigorously work to further perfect the technology. It will not only fulfil our domestic demands, but also has great export potential.

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Q.16

Quantum dots are important discovery in the Quantum physics.

They will enable us to not only under the phenomenon at the quantum levels but also pave a new phase of using this understanding for the applied purposes.

They will enable us to figure out how the particles behave at the quantum levels.

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Q.17 Protected areas have legal status under Indian forests Act, ~~and~~ Environment protection Act and Wildlife protection Act.

They are ~~with~~ methods of conservation and protection of biodiversity.

Protected Area's role in Biodiversity conservation

1) They ensure a large viable piece of natural area is protected from human interference

2) They ensure landscape based protection, thus, holistic in nature

3) ~~B~~ Due to large area and large number of species and

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their mutual interaction, they maintain proper genetic & species diversity.

4) They let natural process take their own course

2) They reduce human-animal conflict.

Effectiveness of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves

They have been effective in following ways:-

1) Arrested declining number of various species and enhanced their numbers

Eg Gir national park (Asiatic lion), Kaziranga (one horned rhino) etc

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2) The ensure pristine nature habitat is preserved (which is most important cause for extinction of species).

3) They protect these landscape from human intervention.

However, certain failures are also there, such as:

1) Highways and Railways passing through these areas lead to habitat fragmentation

2) Death of animals due to hit by transport vehicles

3) Reduced genetic variation (Eg. Gir Lion)

4) Great India Bustard is critically endangered in Desert National Park.

Biodiversity is essential for ecosystem integrity hence, due consideration is sine qua non

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Q. 18

Indian cities are ranked among most polluted cities. Recent world bank report showed 17 out of 20 most polluted cities were Indian.

Particulate Matter pollution (PM 2.5 & PM 10) are major pollutants. Ozone is secondary pollutant, more predominantly found in urban areas.

Causes of PM 2.5 & PM 10 and ozone pollution

1) High amount of emissions from vehicular exhausts (especially PM 2.5 & PM 10).
2) NOx released from vehicles when reacts with volatile organic compound in

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presence of sunlight produces ground layer ozone.

3) ~~Em~~ Emmission from industrial and ~~carpo~~ construction sector (particulate matters & NO_x, SO_x).

4) Volatile organic compounds released from indoor.

2) Dryness in environment lead to high dust (particulate pollution).

Effectiveness of government steps

1) Government have introduced Bharat Stage norms and hastened implementation of (BS-VI), by bypassing BS-V. This guide effective in controlling vehicular emmissions

2) Catalytic convertors & RDF

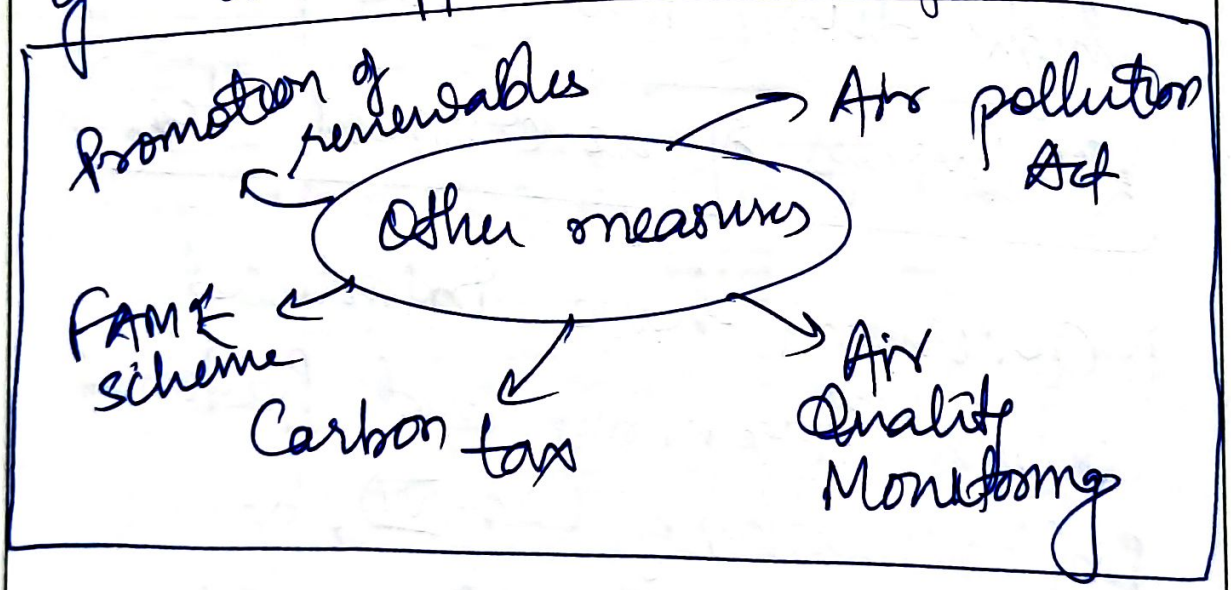
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installations have reduced NOx emissions.

3) Graded Action Plan kick in when pollution crosses certain threshold levels

However, these measures have been not very effective in long run and need overhauling of an approach to air pollution



We need a long term master plan to deal with the issue promoting green sustainable development

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Q.17 India being sandwiched between Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent, is major transit hub for illegal drug trade. This is further facilitated by the demand of drug within our own country by addicted population.

Dimensions of Drug Menace in India

1) It leads to addiction and wastage of youth energy.
2) Further, State has to spend on health infrastructure to further deal with negative effects.
3) Drug induced crime rates are increasing (NCRB report).

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4) Organised criminal groups dealing with drug trade are also involved in arms smuggling and human trafficking

2) It poses to severe threat to internal security and externally aided internal security.

3) It becomes channel to divert black money and money laundering

Approach to address drug menace

1) First we need proper awareness and deadiction campaign to reduced the demand & engage our youth productively.

2) There is need of strong intelligence to bust the drug network

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3) Our borders need comprehensive border management system to stop cross border drug trade

4) Technological measures to spot and neutralise the drones across border, engaging in drug delivery

5) Strong check on Black money operations.

6) Drug addicts should be treated as patients rather criminals. They could provide significant lead about drug networks.

7) We need international cooperation to systematically dealing with issue

There is need of strengthening NDPS Act and deploy enough manpower to counter the drug menace. The portugese experience could suggest viable measures.

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Q. 2.

Left wing extremism issues emanates from development and governance deficit coupled with State-led deprivation, which had spiraled into violent movement aided by ideology and extern actor supports.

In this context, we need a combination of soft and hard approaches to root out the issues from Indian soil.

Need of socio-economic policies and dialouge

1) This will hit hard on the very root cause why naxal movement has gained

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2) It will incentivise various young men & women to return to normal life and re-integrate with society.

In this regard government has taken legal measures like PESA Act, FRA Act, implementation of constitutional provision like Schedule V and schedule VI.

The developmental policies like Tribal sub-plan, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, health policies etc are crucial.

The path of development coupled with preservation of traditional livelihood (Jal, Jangal, Jameen) will go long way in dealing with the issue.

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Need of Hard Security Measures

To neutralise the hardliners, who are danger for developmental efforts and common civilians, hard security measures are must. There should be zero tolerance to violence on any condition. Government on this regard has adopted SAMADHAN Strategy, raising special battalions (Eg. Bastar ~~is~~ a battalion, greyhound force), State police modernisation and conducting targetted operation.

A strategic balance of soft and hard measures will enable us to deal with the naxalism menace in long run sustainably. However, development once gained should not be lost. This has to be ensured,

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