

# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1248)

Name of Candidate	Sampada Trivedi		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	341959
Center		Date	

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	<div>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).</div> <div>2. There are <b>TWENTY</b> questions printed in <b>ENGLISH</b></div> <div>3. <b>All questions are compulsory.</b></div> <div>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</div> <div>5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.</div> <div>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</div> <div>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</div>
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Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Name - Sampada Tevedi

Centre - Online

Date - 31-08-2019

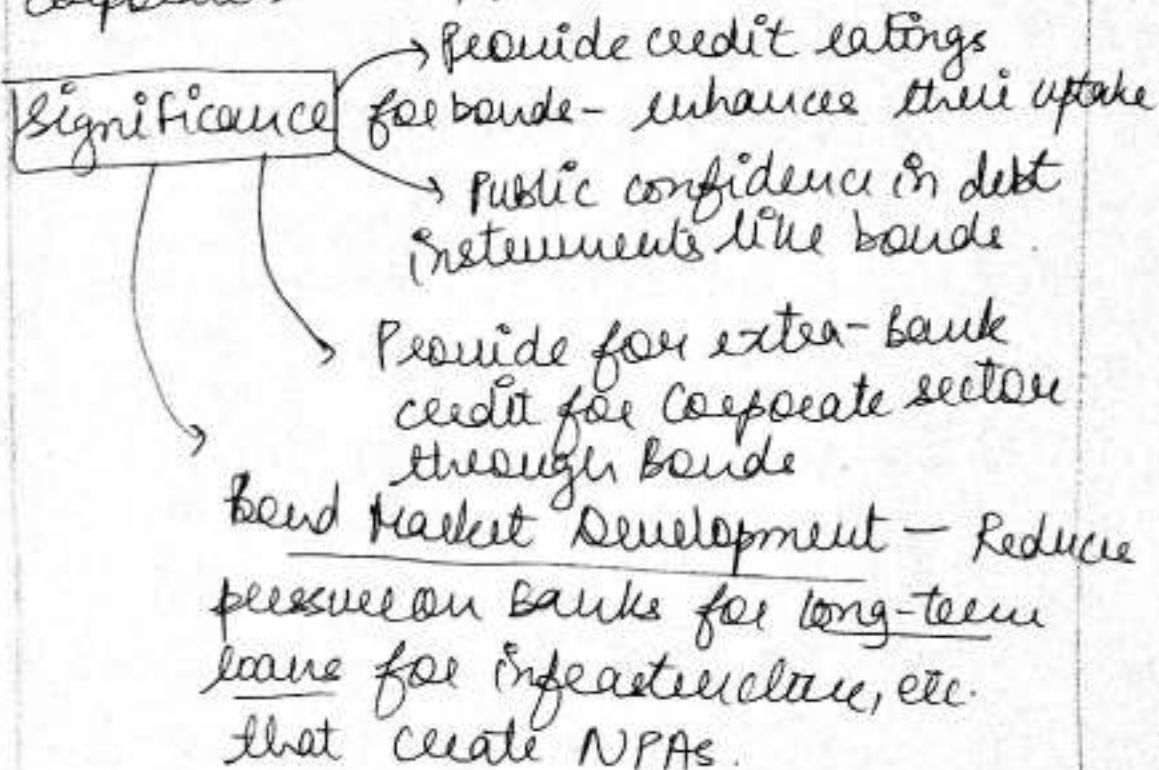
Regis No - 341959

Test No. - 1248

1

Explain the significance of Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) in India and highlight the issues in their working.

Credit Rating Agencies are corporate bodies registered under SEBI Act 1992. They work to provide ratings to corporate bonds, debentures, shares, etc.



In India, eight credit Rating Agencies are approved by SEBI - like CARE Ratings, Crisil, etc.

Their role however came under criticism due to recent failure in giving accurate liquidity forecasts for IL & FS firms.

## Issues

- (i) Work on issuer-pays model - that promotes rating-shopping - ~~the~~ bond issuer can choose the CRA for the bonds.
  - (ii) Conflict of interest with other functions such as providing consultancy services to firms, etc.
  - (iii) Competition is less in rating market due to strict norms of entry.
  - (iv) Issuer of bond can refuse to give certain information - which leads to dependence of CRAs on market information and poor reports.
  - (v) CRAs are not rotated - hence a company can have long term relations with a CRA.
- Noting the significance of CRAs, it is necessary to regulate them properly. Increasing competition, providing for regulator-pays / customer-pays model, etc. can be important steps.



21 What are the issues that have limited the success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India? Mention some steps that can be taken to address them.

Special Economic zones are industrial clusters - based on cluster based development Model of China. They were setup under SEZ Act of 2005.

However, their contribution to exports for which they were setup has remain limited - contributing only \$4bn on exports and 4mn jobs in the country.

Issues :- (i) Appeared SEZs were small in size. Also, approval of more than 300, of which very less became operational.

(ii) ~~so~~ Linking Infrastructure - like roads, railways, etc. for ports not developed.

(iii) Free Trade Agreements with countries like ASEAN hampered competitiveness.

(i) Introduction of MAT tax reduced competitiveness.

(ii) Selling of products in Internal market not allowed - which led to moungout of industrial units from these areas.

[Steps] that can be taken for improvement :- (i) Removal of MAT tax (ii) Allowing selling of products in Internal market

(iii) Development of Linking Infrastructure.

(iv) New approuals only when existing become operationalised.

(v) Sign FTAs only when it results in market access growth.

(vi) Decentralisation - power to local bodies for project clearances, like in Chinese model.

→ SEZs can prove game-changer for export-led growth especially when Ruppee is depreciating - to achieve export targets of Foreign Trade Policy (2015).

3 → The opportunities for startups in India are immense, but so are the challenges. Discuss.

Start-ups have no common definition in India, but Income Tax Act defines them as companies that are registered for less than 10 years, with total turnover not exceeding ₹ 2 crore in any of these years.

India is a young country with average age of 29 years - thus there is immense potential of entrepreneurship.

Opportunities :- (i) Large educated workforce - in IT skills etc.

(ii) Policy push by government by improving ease of doing business, Start Up India Programme, etc.

(iii) Tax rebate, huge potential for exports - especially in pharma, IT, electronics sector.

(iv) ~~the~~ Population in rural areas can be tapped for non-agriculture employment - in agri-processing based startups etc.



(v) Push for Innovation - with policies like Make In India, etc.

However, to tap all the benefits, there are several challenges also:-

(i) Linkages to markets, export supply chains, etc.

(ii) Bank credit (iii) logistics cost is very high (14% of GDP)

(iv) Tax issues - like Digital Tax on startups

(v) Issues of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) - almost 2 years taken by Patent Office to clear an application.

(vi) Cost of electricity, raw materials, labour laws, clearances, etc. - economies of scale not achieved.

→ India has immense potential for Start-up development - to become a Knowledge Economy from Agricultural Economy. Economic Survey (2019) says that incentives should not be provided on size - promote Innovation & economies of scale directly.

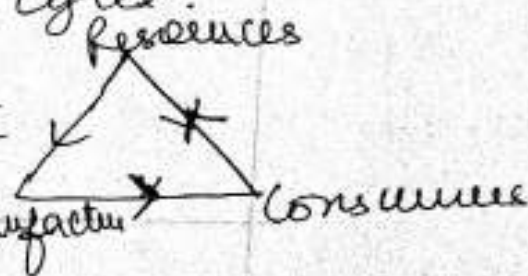
- 4 The term 'Circular Economy' is often seen in news. What are the principles that it is based on? Bring out its relevance for India.

Circular Economy is a concept that involves using and reusing the resources again and again, In contrast to linear economy which is based on Use & Throw model.

Circular Economy is based on '5 R' principle :-

- (i) Reduce :- Reduce extraction of resources.
- (ii) Reuse :- Reuse old, used products.
- (iii) Recycle :- Recycle discarded products into something useful.
- (iv) Restore :- Restore discarded & damaged items.
- (v) Remanufacture :- Make something new from the resources already present. Ex - Iron & steel industry using carbon from scrap tyres.

India is one of the most populous countries of the



would with increasing pressure on our natural resources. Concept of Circular Economy have immense significance :- (i) lesser extraction of rare minerals like copper - would prevent money spent on imports.

(ii) Would increase efficiency of usage of scarce resources like water. NITI Aayog report says 600mn people live in water stress.

(iii) Conservation of forests. India aims to increase 2.5-3bn tn of additional carbon stock in its INDC target.

(iv) Employment generation in circular economy sector - like recycling units.

(v) Manage of waste disposal - India produces around 7mn T e-waste/year, 60bn litres sewage daily - all this can be recycled or used for electricity, raw materials, etc.

→ Circular Economy concept holds immense significance for achieving SDGs and becoming green economy with balancing economic growth.



5) Assess the performance of 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna' in achieving its stated objective of financial inclusion.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY) was launched in 2014 to achieve financial inclusion of unbanked sections - with focus on at least 1 bank account per household.

PMJDY has become one of the most successful schemes of government. It has following achievements:-

- (i) 15 crore new bank accounts were opened, with 60% of women.
- (ii) Jan Dhan Accounts have amassed total 1 lakh cr. of balance - thus reducing zero balance accounts.
- (iii) Linked major subsidies & transfers payments - like MGNREGA, LPG, etc. directly to Jan Dhan Accounts.
- (iv) Rupay Cards have been issued - to provide ~~additi~~ accident insurance cover.
- (v) Overdraft facility increased to 10,000 Rs.



However, several challenges remain in securing objectives:-

- (i) ~~Low~~ Usage of bank accounts is limited.
- (ii) Banking Infrastructure has not reached rural areas - thus declining usage.
- (iii) Financial literacy is low.
- (iv) Loans, etc. not issued to rural areas.
- (v) Significant unbanked population remains.

→ PMJDY is a significant scheme to ensure Inclusive development and channelise savings in the economy. focus must now shift to increasing bank reach in rural areas & including all unbanked population in scheme rather than focus on 1 member per family.

69 How does pollution in rivers impact the surrounding ecosystem? Explain why such pollution has not shown signs of improvement, despite various government initiatives.

River pollution has become one of the major ecological issues in India. CPCB data shows almost 150 rivers are heavily polluted in India - beyond human use.

River pollution has detrimental impact on surrounding ecosystems:-

- (i) River pollution generates foul odour - impacting human habitation.
- (ii) Breeding ground for vectors-like flies, mosquitoes, etc.
- (iii) Ecological value of nearby landscape decreases - decreasing tourism potential - ex- Ganga in Kanyakumari.
- (iv) River water pollution leads to damaging soil quality - with exchange of toxins, etc. damaging crops.

River pollution problem has not shown signs of improvement

even after government efforts -  
like National Lake Conservation Plan,  
etc. because :-

- (i) Point sources - like sewage is  
disposed untreated from industries  
as pointed out by NGT in State of the Env.
- (ii) Non-point sources - like agricultural  
runoff that brings fertilisers, pesticides,  
etc. is currently not regulated.
- (iii) Human usage of river water - like  
washing clothes, bathing, etc. not  
regulated.
- (iv) Rituals like bathing in holy rivers,  
throwing dead flowers, leaves, ashes,  
etc. harm river ecology.
- (v) Minimum ecological flow - not  
maintained due to Dam construction,  
- thus hampering self-cleaning ability of  
rivers.

→ Government should ~~of~~ adopt  
basin-level approach for River management  
- as recently done by National Ganga  
Conservation Authority - to improve  
quality of river water and reduce  
pollution.



7. What is project MANAV launched by the Department of Biotechnology? Highlight the significance of this project.

Project MANAV of Department of Biotechnology is concerned with making a genetic database of Indian population.



2. Highlighting the properties and applications of superconductors, discuss the constraints related to their practical use.

Superconductors are materials that achieve zero resistance to passing of electricity or heat.

Properties :- (i) zero Resistance to heat and electricity — leading to zero wastage of energy.

- (ii) Achieved at sub-zero temperatures.  
(iii) substance becomes like conduit for transfer of energy with no consumption by it or its own.

Applications :- (i) Use in electric wires to transmit electricity — leading to zero losses to generation and distribution companies.

- (ii) Can be used in devices like computers, supercomputers, etc. — used in weather-prediction to reduce usage of electricity.

Constraints :- (i) Only occurs at very low temperatures and pressure - very difficult to maintain in practical situations.

(ii) Need to overhaul complete infrastructure of generation and distribution.

(iii) Lab conditions are suitable - not tested for outside use.

(iv) Metals/Materials used to achieve superconductivity like Tellurium, etc. not easily available/expensive.

7. Discuss the reasons behind India becoming a major destination as well as a transit hub for drug trafficking in South Asia. How does this affect India's internal security?

India is one of the countries as a greatest consumer and transit hub for drugs in South Asia.

Reasons :- (i) In vicinity of largest opiate producing regions - like Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent (Myanmar-Laos-Thailand) (Iran-Pak-Afghanistan)

(ii) smuggling promoted by Pakistani deep state to produce instability in India.

(iii) Porous borders with Myanmar - for tribal regions connectivity upto 16km of border area.

(iv) Difficult terrain, especially in North-East India that prevents border management and security.

(v) collusion of drug traffickers by local police, politicians etc. (ex - in Punjab)

(vi) Weak law-enforcement ~~by~~ under Narcotics & Drugs Act.



It has serious implications for security in India :-

- (i) Funding for terrorist organisations like ~~A~~ J-eh, Lashkar-e-taiba, etc.
- (ii) Instability in areas like Punjab due to heavy drug abuse. Almost 30% youth addicted to drugs.
- (iii) Drug smuggling lanes - also provide safe passage for entry of terrorists.
- (iv) Money pumped to fuel insurgency in North East, Kashmir etc. from drug business.

⇒ Thus, law and implementation of ~~NPT~~ NDPSA should be strengthened with focus on surveillance and effective border management - using systems like CIBMS, etc.



- 10 The development of border areas is an important element in border management. In this context, discuss how the Border Area Development Programme (BAPDP) seek to Ameliorate the problems faced in border areas.

Border Area Development Programme is flagship programme of Ministry of Home Affairs.

It ensures two objectives:-

- (i) Basic amenities provision to local population.
- (ii) Border management.

Border Area Development is essential for border security and management as:-

- (i) Provision of all weather roads - ensure easy force mobilisation.

- (ii) Prevents Instability / dissatisfaction in border provinces / areas.
- (iii) Provision of electricity, water, food, etc. to border-out posts.
- (iv) To ensure people act as Hands & Eyes of Border Police.

Border Area Development Programme (BAP) seeks to ameliorate the problems faced by border areas:-

- (i) convergence of schemes of state & central ~~govt~~ government.
- (ii) Additional funds for road & rail development under Border Roads Organisation.
- (iii) Basic amenities like 24x7 electricity, transport, etc. available in difficult terrain, to ease movement of people, etc.

→ Border Area Development Programme should focus ~~on~~ equally on border security and development.  
- use of modern technology like CBMS, solar electricity, etc. can be used.

114 Examine whether fixed Term Employment will be able to achieve the objectives of ease and doing business, achieving labour welfare and job creation.

Fixed Term Employment refers to contract-based employment that terminates after a fixed interval. It was suggested in NITI Aayog 3rd Action Agenda and is also part of labour law codes.

Fixed term employment has following advantages:-

- (i) It would help industries like textiles - that are seasonal to cut their labour costs and become competitive.
- (ii) It would reduce disputes regarding labour law violations under Industrial Disputes Act.
- (iii) It would promote job growth.
- (iv) It would promote export-competitiveness.
- (v) It would allow large industries to achieve economies of scale.



thus becoming more productive.

- (ii) Adequate safety provisions - like limiting grounds of removal ~~etc~~ before contract ends, etc. can ensure labour welfare.
- (iii) would also reduce compliance burden of labour laws.
- (iv) easy retrenchment - would enhance industrial sector growth.

These advantages would ensure welfare of labour, increased job creation and ease of doing business.

However there are certain drawbacks :-

- (i) It would reduce bargaining power of trade unions.
- (ii) Service conditions of workers would become poor - as there is no job security.
- (iii) social safety nets are absent &



India to protect in case of unemployment.

(iv) It would also lead to easy firing of temporary workers during time of distress - & recently seen in Automobiles sector.

⇒ Thus, Fixed-Term Employment should be allowed only in those industries that are seasonal in nature. Also adequate social security benefits - like unemployment allowances, etc. must be ensured before rolling-out.

127 A growing livestock sector augurs well for the low income household augment their income and escape poverty. Discuss. Further suggest some strategies for ensuring sustainable live stock sector growth in India.

The Indian agricultural sector is marked by mixed-agriculture → that is food and non-food options like cattle farming, poultry, etc.

India has one of the largest livestock population in world — according to recent Livestock Census.

Livestock sector is essential for low income households as :-

- (i) Supplements reducing farm income especially with agricultural growth stagnating at 2-3%. ~~gdp~~.
- (ii) It provides additional proteins in form of eggs, milk, meat, etc. to farm households.
- (iii) Provides natural manure — that is good for soil conservation also.
- (iv) Livestock farming also provides

measure to deal with farm waste - such as crop stubble that acts as feed for livestock.

Thus, livestock farming is an effective strategy to augment farm income and reduce poverty.

To realise full potential, some strategies can be adopted :-

(i) Breeding of high quality livestock - like Sindhi, Bhargwal, Jersey, etc. - that yield more milk. Cross-breeding techniques should be disseminated to farmers through krishi Vigyan Kendras.

(ii) Use of disinfectants - to control infections like foot and mouth diseases - that lower yield.

(iii) Controlled use of antibiotics - also leads to Anti-microbial Resistance.



- (i) RPD in developing new seeds with improved varieties like <sup>yields</sup> through gen-technology, etc.
- (ii) Heat-processing clusters in rural areas.
- (iii) Linkage with global supply chain.
- (iv) focus on pigeons - high demand in export market.
- (v) steps to ~~take~~ tackle climate change impacts.

⇒ the livestock sector is a major game-changer for rural economy. The Rurban Mission can include development of this sector to provide new - green employment. National Yakul Mission (2010) is government's step in this direction.

13. Examine whether the time has come for India to usher in full liberalisation of the Capital Account.

Capital Account refers to long term account in Balance of Payments Account. India currently has partial Capital-Account convertibility.

~~Benefit~~ Capital Account convertibility has both plus and minus :-

[Benefits] :- ① ease of inflow of FDI's & FPI in India - increased investment in economy - especially when national savings have reduced (17% of GDP)

- (ii) Allow Indian investors easy access to foreign security markets.
- (iii) Would also stop/reduce the flow of foreign investment through illicit channels.

[Issues] :- ① outflow of money in crisis situations would increase.

Ex - In least Asian economies during 2008 global crisis.

- (ii) Would reduce RBI's control over rupee value - increase in volatility of currency.
- (iii) Would also increase FPIs through shell companies, etc. - for money laundering.

Tapscott Committee was established by RBI to look into issue of Capital Account Convertibility.

It suggested that macro-economic indicators should be stable before allowing, such as:-

- (i) Inflation (ii) Fiscal deficit.
- (iii) Banking sector

Banking sector is currently facing issues of NPA's & thin balance sheet



crisis. Thus, ~~to~~ Capital Account  
convertibility should be allowed  
partially only for meanwhile -  
with easing regulations slowly.

Recently, RBI has eased regulations  
on Investment of FPIs on government  
securities, tenure of investment,  
etc.

Well-calibrated steps - with  
supervision on impacts should  
be the way forward.

14 Highlighting the challenges to agriculture extension in India, discuss how ICT can help in addressing them.

Agricultural sector is facing many challenges - mostly due to faulty traditional practices. Agricultural extension and research - could prove to be the panacea for this sector.

Agricultural extension itself faces several issues :-

- (i) Low budgetary allocations for research and still lower for its extension. Less than 2% of agricultural GDP spent.
- (ii) Reach of extension centres is poor. Many states have not established Kishikigyan Kendras - for knowledge dissemination in all villages.
- (iii) Last-mile reach is low. Farmers not aware of new seed varieties, technologies in irrigation, etc.

(iv) Role of gram panchayats in case of extension is not defined.

Agricultural extension could solve issues of soil degradation, wastage of irrigation water, increase productivity, use of machines, etc.

ICT can play a game-changing role for Agriculture Extension: -

- (i) Dissemination of information to last mile - through mobile apps, messages, etc. m-kisan app, pusa-krishi app, etc. work for this.
- (ii) ICT can also be used to strengthen network of KVKe - by linking them to state Agricultural Universities and each other - for flow of latest information & research.
- (iii) To provide weather-based information. ex- farmers portal, etc.



(iv) Can lead to pro-active role of Gram Sabhas by connecting them to PUSA research Institute or Agriculture Universities of States - to act as nodal points for awareness generation in farmers. Ex - Bharat Net project aims to provide ICT connection to Gram Sabhas.

→ ICT can address issues related to extension services in agriculture, thus boosting agricultural productivity and aim to achieve target of Doubling Farmers Income by 2022.

153) Now that it has been two years since introduction of GST in India, do you think the system is on the path of achieving its intended objectives? Support your answer with relevant facts.

GST has been rolled out in 2017-18 to replace all indirect taxes - like excise duty, VAT, etc. and achieve objective of "One Nation, One Tax"

### Intended Objectives :-

- (i) Convert complex indirect tax structure to uniform structure with one or few tax rates.
- (ii) Ease of movement of goods and services across states - making seamless trade possible.
- (iii) Ease of IT returns thus increasing tax compliance.
- (iv) Increasing tax base - by including small & medium industries also in tax system and preventing evasion of taxes.

## What has GST Achieved?

- (i) Tax rates have not reduced to one uniform rate. There are 4 operational rates - 5%, 0%, 18%, 28%.
- (ii) Several products like alcohol & petroleum products are not under GST net - that makes up 40% of state indirect tax revenue.
- (iii) It has increased indirect tax revenue - close to 1 lakh crore/quarter <sup>roughly</sup> as envisaged.
- (iv) Ease of filings - by using ICT infrastructure called GSTN. However, issues of server failures, etc. remain.
- (v) Composite tax of uniform rate adopted by most services - thus remaining outside the net of GST effectively.
- (vi) Input tax credit issues for exporters remain.
- (vii) Difficulty in filing returns for



small enterprises - who are coerced by their buyers to enter GST network to get input tax credit.

(iii) Inter-state movement of goods through e-way bills not facilitated completely.

(ix) Recently, CAG in its report has also criticised GST's implementation, especially its IT structure.

→ Though several issues remain, GST has stabilised and has overcome several challenges. It also remains an effective example of cooperative-federalism - with major decisions taken in consultation of states. Also, tax burden has reduced for consumers with most products of daily use on 0% rate.

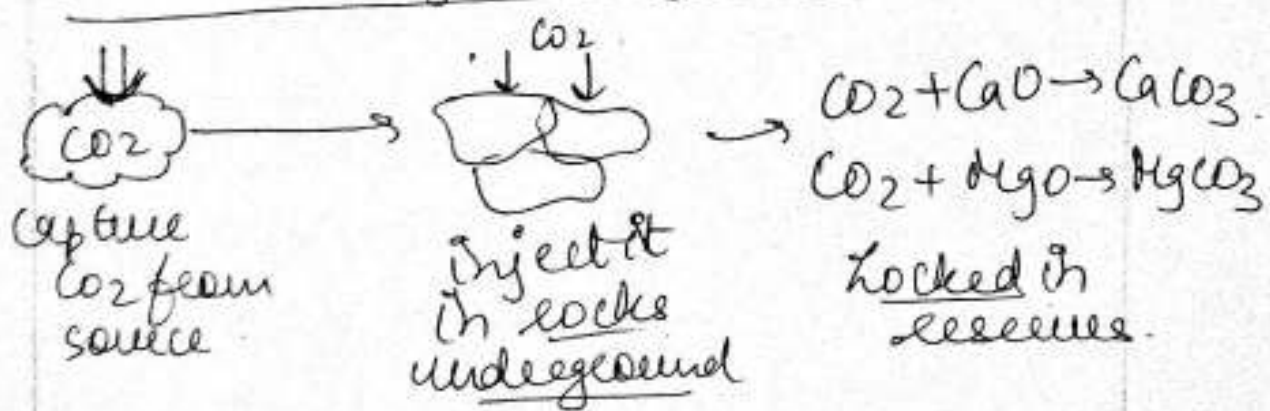
should work to strengthen IT infrastructure, and reduce number of rates to at most 2. Also, bring petroleum products under GST net.

16 → Write a brief note on Carbon Capture and Storage. Mention its potential benefits and discuss the challenges that need to be addressed for its wide scale deployment in India.

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is a new technology for carbon mitigation.

It not only allows to capture carbon, but also store it in reservoirs, locking it for hundreds of years.

It is very effective to achieve Climate Change Mitigation.



Carbon Capture and Storage - can take place through various strategies such as injecting carbon into basalt rocks, or deep seafloor, etc.

Benefits :- 1. Climate Change Mitigation

with strong impact on Global Warming, by significantly reducing greenhouse gases in atmosphere (410ppm currently)

- (i) It can also be used to exploit oil resources from wells that have depleted / low reserves.
- (ii) Make biochar - used for soil amendment.
- (i) Can convert to fossil resource for future use.

However, use of this technology in India faces several challenges:-

- (i) Very modern and less developed technology - with high costs involved.
- (ii) Currently industries do not follow capturing norms of MoEFCC - like using dry solvent injections, etc.
- (iii) Policy push by government not present.
- (iv) Regional dependence on carbon to extract oil - as coal is the major source of energy in India.



→ seeing immense potential of  
CCS technology to achieve  
mitigation - India should  
focus on R&D of this technology  
indigenously. Global collaboration  
with countries like China that  
suffer from similar problems of  
air pollution, carbon emissions,  
etc. can be made.  
Also, it would help to achieve  
INDC targets under UNFCCC -  
of increasing carbon stock to  
2.5-3bn tonnes additionally.

17 Highlight the gender specific challenges faced during disaster management. In this regard discuss how the disaster management cycle can be made more gender sensitive.

India is one of the countries with highest vulnerability to disaster—according to Global Disaster Reduction and Relief Network (GDRRN).

Disaster management includes specific gender-related challenges

as :- (i) Women are more vulnerable to disasters due to their confinement in homes.

(ii) Vulnerable to exploitation post disaster. Ex- Women trafficking increased after Nepal earthquake.

(iii) Capacity-building of women is low to cope with challenges of disaster.

(iv) Special needs of women—like sanitary pads, toilets, etc. not taken care of in Relief centres.

(v) Effective Rehabilitation not provided - leading to poverty, due to absence of skills for employment.

this vulnerability of women was also highlighted by 2nd ARC

in its report on Disaster Management in India.

several steps can be taken to make DM cycle more gender sensitive :-

(i) Mitigation → • Capacity building of women - including participation in disaster drills, etc.

• Also, women-centric development of mitigation plans - like structures of relief centres, etc.

(ii) <sup>Response</sup> ~~Relief~~ → • focus of relief activities on early evacuation of women - who are more vulnerable and less prepared to ensure their safety.



(iii) Relief → • Relief camps should make basic provisions of sanitary napkins, mobile toilets, etc. for use by women.

(iv) Rehabilitation → • Focus on skill development, linkage with SHGs or NGOs — for self-employment opportunities, so that women-headed families are not forced to poverty.

- Also, women-homes for disaster-affected single women, or women with small children, etc.

→ These steps along all the steps of Disaster Management Cycle would reduce vulnerabilities and enhance capacities —  
In accordance to Sendai Framework  
(2015-2030).

18 Though there are some notable individual achievements, the overall participation of women in scientific research has been abysmally low. Examine what steps have been taken by the government in this regard?

Women workforce in field of scientific research (STEM) is around 23% in India - which is very low compared to world standards.

Except some examples in different fields - like women team of ISRO. In Mangalyaan mission, etc., achievements have been very few.

Participation of women is low due to following reasons:-

- (A) Societal - (a) stereotypical gender roles - with confinement of women in certain professions - pink collared jobs.
- (B) Women have sole responsibility for childhood care - accentuated by governmental measures like Maternity Benefit Act - that prevents employer from hiring

married women.

(i) Migration - due to marriage, studies of children, etc.

(ii) Educational opportunities - for girl students are limited. Only 20% girls opt for science-based graduation.

(iii) Work environments - such as security concerns, low appreciation at work, misogynistic attitudes, etc.

Since CSIR has instituted Bhatnagar Awards for excellence in science research - only 20 women have been awarded since 1960s.

To tackle this situation, Government has taken several steps :-

(i) KIRAN scheme - with components of migration-related issues, better infrastructure availability for women scientists, mobility issues, etc. taken care of.



(ii) U DAAN scheme - of MHRD focuses on providing free resource to girl students who take engineering courses.

(iii) Women scientists Programme - to increase participation of women, especially married and out-of-employment, to rejoin scientific research field.

→ These steps must be complemented by increase in overall participation of women in all spheres - political, social, economic. It would remove gender-bias in society and promote inclusive development envisaged in SDG-5.

19 Discuss the significance of the recent amendments made in the NSA and UAPA Act for countering terrorism.

NSA and UAPA - leading legislations to deal with terrorist related activities in India have been recently amended.

National Investigation Agency :-

- (i) NIA is the chief agency that deals with terrorist activities in India. It was formed after 2008 Mumbai blast.
- (ii) NIA has been amended - to remove the clause of 'state' permission to investigate any terrorist related / other activities in schedule of NIA Act.
- (iii) Schedule of offences has been enlarged - to deal with cases of extradition also, of terrorists - like David Hadley.
- (iv) NIA can now declare a person as terrorist, earlier only an organisation could be designated.

Significance → It would improve extradition rates of persons associated with these activities in India.

- ~~Curb~~ Curbs on these activities - as earlier organisations banned under NIA changed names to continue their work.

UAPA :- It is related to Preventive Detention (Aizwa) - In these cases.

- (ii). Detention period increased to 6 months - without appeal of ~~Designated~~ Competent Authority, in certain cases in national interest.

Significance → • Would provide extra control on secessionists like in Kashmir that misuse the lacuna in Preventive Detention Law.

⇒ These amendments should balance between National Security and Individual Rights as provided under Art 19 of Constitution.



20 The national security architecture needs to be robust enough to deal with present and evolving threats. Elaborating on the statement discuss the recent steps taken for modernisation of the national security architecture.

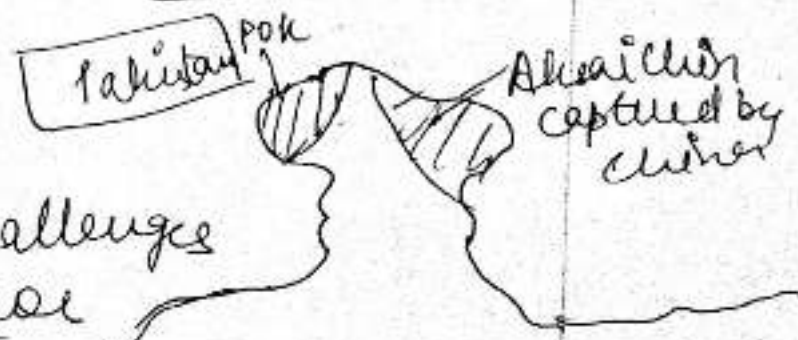
### The National Security Architecture

needs to be robust to deal with ever increasing challenges of internal and external security threats.

India border hostile neighbourhood with two nuclear powers China and Pakistan having border disputes.

Internal security threats include - challenges of home-grown terrorist

outlets like JEM, SIMI, Indian Mujahideen, etc.; insurgent groups - ULFA, NSCN-IM, etc.; recent threat of Maximalism and recent threat of cyber warfare.



Thus, NSA must be capable enough to deal with evolving challenges, especially from emerging leak of space, cyberspace and secret agencies as pointed out by Joint Military statement of Joint Chief of Defense Staff.

Recently, several steps have been taken to improve NSA, especially after failure of Mumbai Attacks, Uti & Pathankot Attacks, etc.

- (i) Coastal Security Architecture - revamped, with three-layer security by Marine Police, Coast Guard and Indian Navy.
- (ii) Readiness drills - like Tat Kalshak, etc. undertaken.
- (iii) Partial Operationalisation of NATGRID.
- (iv) CCTNS network being developed - to ensure quick investigations.
- (v) Intelligence Infrastructure being

upgraded with NTRO functionalisation,  
MIAC - Multi-Agency Centre to collaborate  
Intelligence inputs

- (ii) Overhauling of the Office of National Security Adviser - with shift towards PRIO, and
- (iii) Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System - for Border security.
- (iv) CERT-in formed under Meity - to work to protect critical information infrastructure from cyber-threats.

→ More steps such as complete operationalisation of NATGRID and formation of a central agency for dealing with security threats for both Centre and States - can be the step forward.