

## GENERAL STUDIES (Test Code : 304)

Name of Candidate  Registration No.

Schedule  Module

Place  Time  Date

Classroom  Distance Learning  Classroom & Distance Learning

### INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1.(a)	20	
1.(b)	20	
1.(c)	20	
1.(d)	20	
1.(e)	20	
2.(a)	15	
2.(b)	15	
2.(c)	15	
2.(d)	15	
2.(e)	15	
2.(f)	15	
3.(a)	10	
3.(b)	10	
3.(c)	10	
3.(d)	10	
4.(a)	5	
4.(b)	5	
4.(c)	5	
4.(d)	5	

### EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, ID Number and Test Code).
2. Candidates should attempt answer to the part/sub-part of a question strictly within the pre-defined space. Any attempt outside the pre-defined space shall not be evaluated.
3. The candidate need not write anything in his/her answer that derogates the dignity of an individual or an organization.
4. Candidates should attempt all questions strictly in accordance with the instruction given under each question.
5. The candidate should respect the instructions, given by the invigilator.

Maximum Marks : 250

/250

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

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13/11/13

**GENERAL STUDIES (Test Code : 304)**

**Overall Macro comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**All The Best**

1. Answer the following in about 250 words each: 20 x 5 = 100  
 (a) According to a recent WTO agreement, Least Developed Countries need not comply with IPR protection for pharmaceutical patents till 2021. Explain how these countries can use this opportunity to promote access to drugs, vaccines and diagnostics?

Ans-

Least developed countries are having major burden of the diseases worldwide. This problem is further aggravated by the fact that they have limited economic resources to deal with this public health challenge.

Recent decision by the world trade organisation to exempt the least developed nations from compliance with IPR protection for pharmaceutical patents can go long way in overcoming present health challenges.

This ruling will help least developed nations by providing better access to drugs specially generic drugs which are much cheaper and hence can be easily affordable and accessible.

The least developed nations can import vaccines from other countries

and also can provide impetus to the production of healthcare requirements indigenously be it drugs, vaccines or diagnostics.

To fully exploit this opportunity, the least developed nations have to set up systemic institutions (financial as well as regulatory) and appropriate policies. Investment in human resources in health care will also help them to ~~also~~ build ~~also~~ good quality health care professionals who can use this opportunity.

Better coordination ~~between~~ between national efforts and international efforts for example world health organisation and various international donor agencies is required for this purpose to streamline channel of flows and use it more efficiently and effectively.

Thus the recent WTO agreement provides an opportunity to the

least developed nations which can be fully exploited using better policy, regulation, coordination to improve access to drugs, vaccines and diagnostics.

1. (b) "The root causes of the Naxal problem in the tribal areas are the loopholes in the Forest (Conservation) Act, the Mines Act, and land acquisition laws, among others." Comment. 20

Ans:-

Large majority of India's forests, mines and minerals lie in tribal areas particularly in states like Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra-pradesh etc. These mineral and energy resources have contributed significantly to the growth of India.

However the effect of growth has not reached to these areas particularly. During the growth process, tribals residing in these areas have been

displaced, exploited without any alternatives. These tribals have suffered in the hands of forest officials also who have continuously harassed the tribals because of loopholes in forest act.  
(conservation)

These tribals depended on minor forest produce for their livelihood, thus ~~not~~ denial of it has caused many problems.

Along with <sup>it</sup> forced land acquisition have also ~~provided~~ generated grievances among the tribal population residing there against government, administrative machinery, police as well as political leaders.

These grievances provide fertile ground for exploitation by the naxal movement. Thus the problems created because of loopholes in forest laws, Mines act and land acquisition act are being exploited by naxals to attract tribal people towards their movement.

In this light, it is important

that any strategy to tackle the rural problems should first aim at eliminating these loopholes and redressing the grievances of tribal people.

The government of India has taken several steps to reduce these grievances.

- 1) Panchayati Raj extension to scheduled areas act to empower local institutions.
- 2) Mines and mineral acts have been amended to provide tribals some share in profits.
- 3) Forest rights act providing land rights to tribals and giving them opportunity to participate in forest conservation.
- 4) Recently passed right to compensation, rehabilitation, resettlement and transparency in land acquisition.

One of major cause of ruralite movement is government apathy towards grievances of tribals and their exploitation. Thus, the confidence of winning of tribals is necessary for effective anti-rural strategy.

1. (c) The issue of allowing GM crops in the country is a subject matter of debate. Critically examine various aspects of this issue in the light of recently submitted SC-appointed Technical Expert Committee report. 20

Ans:-

Genetic modified crops have been issue of debate recently. GM crops are the plant varieties prepared using genetic engineering techniques. These techniques use mutually benefiting genes from different species to produce a new variety.

There have been both sides of the arguments for allowing GM crops in country. The major argument in favour of GM crops are-

- ① India is a vast country with fastly increasing population. Feeding this large population presents a considerable challenge which can be overcome by use of genetically modified high yielding varieties, varieties which are pest resistant, drought resistant etc.
- ② Climate change and vagaries of monsoon presents scenarios like drought in some part and flood in others. Drought and flood resistant varieties of crops can cope with this.

③ On one hand there is increased pressure on land and on other hand a lot of land ~~has~~ degradation in form of salinity, alkalinity, water logging is taking place. Varieties that can thrive in those environment can help a lot.

However these are arguments against the allowing of GM crops-

- ① Once introduced these GM crops can not be taken back and any adverse effects on environment will be irreversible.
- ② GM crops present considerable dangers to biodiversity of crops and micro-organisms.
- ③ It is argued that GM crops lead to genetic mutations in the pests thus requiring more pesticides.

Recent ~~submit~~ submitted report by the technical expert committee appointed by the Supreme court recommended moratorium on all GM crops in the country till a proper regulatory regime in the country is established.

Thus, although GM crops can help achieve food security and help fighting climate change, there is need of going carefully. Government has prepared Biotechnology regulatory authority - bill to established regulatory authority. Thus proper regulatory regime and careful consideration of all facts is necessary before allowing GM crops.

1. (d) The National Spot Exchange Ltd. crisis has been in news recently. Discuss the crisis, its causes and suggest a way forward. 20

Ans- ~~Para~~

National spot exchange limited is (NSEL) an exchange for spot trading in the commodities. The recent crisis in the NSEL happened. This was payment default crisis. It had impact on various stakeholders who had fear of loosing money. Thus the government intervened.

Q In the spot market the commodities should be delivered at the end of the day. However in

NSEL trading was taking place without proper commodities. As the payment had to be settled but commodities were not present, this led to payment crisis. This indicates towards lack in regulation. Government has asked forward markets commission to investigate the case.

To avoid such cases in the future is very important to retain the confidence of the investors. For this purpose proper regulation is required. And these must be brought under forward markets commission by enlarging its jurisdiction.

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

1. (e) Examine the causes of rupee depreciation and its impact on the Indian economy. Also discuss the steps taken by the Government and RBI to stem its slide. 20

Ans:-

Recent depreciation and volatility in the value of rupee has attracted the attention of not only government and RBI but also all the stakeholders of the economy. Various causes of rupee depreciation are as follows.

① Internal causes → These include India's rising inflation, increasing current account deficit, delay in clearances of projects, burden of subsidies and high fiscal deficit, adversarial tax regime particularly in light of general anti avoidance rules. These all have led to low investor confidence. Thus the demand for dollar has increased, depreciating the value of rupee.

② Import of gold in huge quantity has also put burden on rupee.

③ External factors → Major external factor is the expectation that US united states federal bank can taper off its bond programme. It has led to flow of FDI's from Indian markets.

All these scenarios have been further exploited by the speculators to bring currency down. Many of the impacts of depreciating rupee are -

- ① Depreciation of currency leads to increase in exports and decrease in imports. However as India's imports are largely insensitive to exchange rate specially petroleum. This ~~can~~ can ~~also~~ lead to higher import bill and use of precious forex.
- ② Extreme volatility in the market affects the economic activity and investor confidence negatively.
- ③ loans taken in dollar terms by Indian companies become dearer because of rupee depreciation.
- ④ Some sectors like IT, textile can be positively affected because of increase in export competitiveness. However as ~~most~~ many exports depends on value addition on imported goods, eg. gems and jewellerys, refined petro products. The effect on such sectors is not much positive.

More than the rupee depreciation, the volatility and speculation has

been the target of RBI and government initiatives. Various initiatives can be classified in ~~two~~ categories decreasing money supply for speculation, restricting the import of gold by qualitative and quantitative measures. Also foreign investment limits in various sectors has been raised as well as routes have been liberalised. Also the government is taking measures to boost exports to finance the current account deficit.

The steps taken by the government and RBI have worked to some extent and helped curbing speculations.

2. Answer the following in about 200 words each:

15 x 6 = 90

(a) "Indian cyber laws lack teeth to bite data hackers." Analyze.

15

In the era of information revolution, cyber security is of paramount importance not only to achieve the goal of information protection but also defending the cyberspace against attacks.

Hackers are people who hack (enter into somebody's else's computer system) to steal or modify sensitive information. Hacking is also done for the purpose of financial

and credit card frauds by the process of identity thefts.

Indian cyber laws are not very effective against hackers. There are various reasons for this lack of bite.

① Lack of awareness among people —  
and knowledge

People are not very aware of the cyber crimes and how to fight them. ~~Thus they~~

② Inability to trace the hackers

Inability to trace is a big problem in bringing the culprits to justice.

③ Lack of cyber forensics capacity

This is necessary for evidence generation and tracking and collection.

Also unauthorised access to someone's system is treated not as cyber crime but as general fraud, which creates problems with regard to submission  
ad

of evidences etc. ~~for example -~~  
~~A security person~~

There is need of a proper  
and comprehensive cyber law to  
bring the data hackers and others  
committing cyber crimes to justice.

2. (b) India has been granted the status of 'Authorizing Nation' under the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA). Explain how it can be beneficial for India in the international Electronics & IT Sector. 15

Ans →

India has recently been granted the status of authorizing nation under the common criteria recognition arrangement. What this means is that Indian labs can certify ~~etc~~ electronics and IT products. ~~on time~~

Certification by Indian laboratories will be acceptable to international community. This can have following positive effects on Indian electronics and IT sector.

① It will lead to better acceptance

of Indian electronics and IT products, thus increasing the exports and earning foreign exchange.

- ② It will lead to development of electronics manufacturing industry in the country, which will ~~have~~ generate employment.
- ③ Indigenous manufacturing of electronics equipment will help in achieving goals of cyber security because presently India imports most of electronics products which may have implications on cyber security.
- ④ Authorising nation status will help in attracting foreign investment in electronics and IT sector.
- ⑤ It will help establish laboratories in different parts of the country for certification of IT & electronics products.
- ⑥ System of certification will help improve the quality of Indian IT and electronics products.

Thus authorising nation status

can provide impetus to Indian IT and electronics sector. Recent steps taken by government like national electronics and IT policy will help in realisation of this goal.

2. (c) What is global climate change vulnerability index? Also provide its indicators and calculation methodology. 15

Ans- global climate change vulnerability index represents the vulnerability towards impact of climate changes. Various impacts of climate change are rise in level of sea water, adverse weather phenomenon, more frequent El-Nino, attack of pests, impact on agricultural output etc.

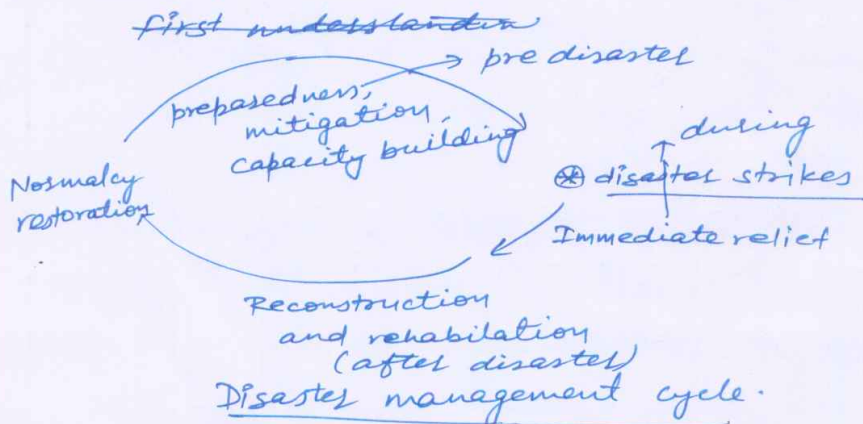
All these factors are taken into consideration for calculating global climate change vulnerability index. For example - coastal and

*island states are more vulnerable  
to the impact of climate change.*



2. (d) Geospatial technologies have an important role in developing strategies for disaster reduction as well as disaster management. Explain. 15

Ans: → Disaster present great threat to human life and property. Disaster management is necessary for better and sustainable socio-economic development. Geo-spatial technologies can play an important role in this.



Thus the role of geo-spatial technologies can be understood in pre-disaster, during disaster and post disaster phases.

① Pre-disaster :- Pre disaster phase includes preparedness, mitigation and capacity building. Geo-spatial technology can help in disaster forecast as well as the communication and information dissemination to affected populace. Satellite and space technology can also be used for capacity building through tele-education to increase awareness among the people. It can also be used for training.

② During disaster :- Geospatial technologies during disaster can help in search and rescue operation, identifying trapped people, delivering of essential things to affected. It can also help in communication through satellite use and increase coordination among various stakeholders.

③ Post disaster :- In post disaster phase assessment of the disaster

is necessary for rehabilitation. geo-spatial technology can help in assessment and evaluation through satellite imagery etc.

Thus role of geo-spatial technologies is indispensable in the disaster management. It can not only help in reducing risk but building capabilities.

2. (e) The national policy should reflect a paradigm shift in disaster management from a short term to long term perspective. Discuss. 15

Ans:

Disaster management policy in India in the past has been short term and reactive. It has been mostly focussed on providing relief and rehabilitation from short term perspective.

The disaster management policy should emphasize on ~~ongoing~~ <sup>continuous</sup> process of disaster management. This requires capacity building, mitigation, preparedness, rehabilitation and resettlement. The following things need to be taken

case of in a disaster management policy-

- ① The socio-economic development process should give due consideration to disaster risk reduction in the projects.
- ② Disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction should take care of disaster risk and the standards during rehabilitation phase should be higher than previous taken in account the learnings from disasters.
- ③ Socio-economic development processes should not aggravate the risk of disasters.
- ④ Needs of women and vulnerable sections should be taken care of during rehabilitation.
- ⑤ Emphasis on capacity development should be there in national policy this includes human resource capacity, material capacity as well as institutional capacity.
- ⑥ Disaster management is an inter-disciplinary field, thus various stakeholder's views must be considered.

7) It should focus on community participation

8) forecasting capabilities should be developed.

Thus there is a need to turn to proactive policy framework from the reactive policy. Proactive long term disaster management policy can help achieve the goal of sustainable development.

2. (f) What is National Investment Fund? Discuss its salient features and changes incorporated in its recent restructuring. 15

National investment fund is the fund formed from the proceeds of disinvestment of the public sector ~~enter~~ enterprises. This fund is managed by the ~~can~~ union government. This is outside the consolidated fund of India.

The money of the fund is used partially for the modernisation and revival of public sector undertaking and also for social sector spending like health and education.



3. Answer the following in about 150 words each: 10 x 4 = 40  
(a) List out the major recommendations of HLWG headed by Kasturirangan.

Ans-

The high level working group headed by Kasturirangan gave its recommendations about Western Ghats. Major recommendations of the HLWG are as follows-

- 1) It recommended about  $\frac{1}{2}$ rd area of Western Ghats in state of Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa etc to be declared as ecologically sensitive area.
- 2) Certain activities like mining, thermal power plants and other

polluting industries must be prohibited in the area.

3) Other activities like hydropower projects can be carried out after taking into consideration its effects.

4) It recommended participation of local communities for the protection of ecology of western ghats.

The recommendations of the working group will go a long way in preserving the bio-diversity of western ghats particularly the high degree of endemism present there.

3. (b) What are the various ways of Money Laundering?

10

Ans- Money laundering is a process of hiding the source of money earned from illegal activities and present it as if it is from legitimate activities.

The money laundering is done through the process of placement, layering and integration. During placement the money is introduced in the financial system. Various approaches like smurfing (breaking the amount in smaller values) etc are used. Layering is about concealing the source of money. This stage may include property transactions etc. Finally the money is integrated in the financial system as legal money. At this stage it is very difficult to trace the origin.

To launder money various methods are used.

- ① Hawala transactions are used to launder the money. This is particularly prevalent in Asian countries.
- ② Investment in legal business  
Various legal businesses specially

casino's, ~~rest~~ restaurants, etc are used.

③ Through secret banks - Investment in banks with very tight banking security laws is used to launder the ~~proc~~ money.

④ Making shell companies - These are used to invest in various stocks and other instruments.

Money laundering processes take place at international level with various activities taking place in various countries thus requiring international cooperation.

3. (c) Enumerate the main features of Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

10

Ans-



3. (d) What are the aims and objectives of Mangalyaan?

10

Ans → Mangalyaan ~~project~~ by Indian space research organisation was successfully launched using PSLV-XL launch vehicle. The aims and objective are as follows-

- ① Technological objectives - This project will provide technological guidance and starting point for further projects. Also it will be a test of Indian capabilities to conduct research in space.
- ② Scientific objective - The Mangalyaan will try to find methane in the atmosphere of Mars. It will also try to find any evidence of life on Mars.

Other than technological and scientific objectives and aims, other aims include establishing India among few nations having space exploration capabilities. Also it establishes efficiency of our scientists that they have achieved

this project in 1/10th amount spent by western countries. Also it brings national pride.

4. Answer the following in about 50 words each:  
(a) Global Dimming

5 x 4 = 20

4. (b) In Vitro Meat

5

In vitro meat is the meat which is called manufactured meat. It is prepared in the ~~laboratory~~ laboratory conditions. In vitro meat in future can help in the goal of food and nutrition security. However various ethical and moral considerations should be assessed. Also detailed clinical trials are required to find its effects on humans before allowing for human consumption.

4. (c) Xaxa Committee

5

## 4. (d) Mandate of Tax Administration Reform Commission

5

Ans- Tax administration reform commission under chairmanship of Parthasarathi shome has been ~~established~~ constituted with following mandate.

- 1) Recommend steps to be taken for ~~the~~ widening tax base and increasing the revenue.
- 2) Recommend steps to increase coordination between various agencies like CBDT, CBEC, ED etc.
- 3) Recommend steps to increase tax compliance and simplifying the tax administration. <sup>strategy for</sup>
- 4) Recommending a non-adversarial tax regime to attract investment.