

General Studies: Paper IV

Total questions: 20

Maximum Marks: 250

Time: 3 hours

1. Even though the share of GDP has grown spectacularly for the service sector, its contribution to employment generation has been modest in India. Why? Discuss.
2. Expenditure control and expenditure switching, from consumption to investment should be the key fiscal philosophy for the government. Why? Discuss by keeping in view the current macro-economic outlook.
3. Mobile money and post offices offer two alternative financial delivery mechanisms that can quickly and efficiently meet the objective of financial inclusion in India. Comment.
4. What are the progressive elements of the model APMC act? What benefits would accrue if a single national market is created for the agricultural produce? Why reforms in agricultural marketing have not been taken seriously in most states? Discuss.
5. Productivity, convergence, alignment with comparative advantage and tradability are few of the essential characteristics that have prompted policy makers to give the much needed thrust to the manufacturing sector reflected well in the 'Make in India' initiative. Elucidate.
6. What do you understand by cross subsidization? What are its impacts on the economy? Explain by taking examples of the railways and the agricultural sector.
7. Stalled projects are big dampeners of economic take off in India. What reasons do you attribute to the installing of projects? How it can be rectified? Discuss.
8. Negotiations of mega-regional trading agreements like the TPP or the TTIP pose serious challenges to the Indian trading environment. Comment. Also discuss whether India should focus more upon regional trade agreements or pursue harder for participating in the mega-regional trading agreements?
9. A smart city is not only a livable, enjoyable and sustainable city but also an inclusive city that caters to the needs of all the sections of the society. However, the current discourse on smart cities in India seems to have ignored this aspect of 'smartness'. Do you agree? Examine in detail.

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10. Even though public investment is essential to crowd in private investment in the long run, there is an urgent need to rethink and redesign the PPP model, especially so in the infrastructure sector. Comment.
11. There has been increasing emphasis on constructing small ports and airports in India. Why? What is their importance for the economy?
12. What do you understand by bio-remediation? Discuss its technology, effectiveness and suitability.
13. Examine the concept of three-parent baby and the technologies involved therein.
14. Discuss the effects of sand mining on the river ecosystem. What policy measures can be taken to address this problem? Discuss.
15. What do you understand by 'intended nationally determined contribution' with respect to global negotiations on climate change? How far India can benefit from this approach? Critically examine.
16. Examine the significance of more crop per drop for Indian agriculture. What role can the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana play in this regard?
17. Disaster preparedness in the event of a tropical cyclone can save lives and property to a considerable extent. What measures can be taken for tropical cyclone mitigation? Discuss.
18. The spread of fundamentalist groups like the ISIS is a serious security threat for the world. Although, India seems to have fared well in mitigating the ideological radicalization of its youth, there is no room for complacency. Do you agree? Examine.
19. Insurgency in the North East poses one of the most complex security threats to the Indian state. Discuss.
20. The ambitious Digital India initiative must have an embedded cyber security ecosystem that can thwart any security threat in the future. Do you agree? Analyze.