

UPSC 2024 – MAINS
GENERAL STUDIES III

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks 250

QUESTION PAPER

1. Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent this has been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth? (Answer in 150 words) 10
2. What are the causes of persistent high food inflation in India? Comment on the effectiveness of the monetary policy of the RBI to control this type of inflation. (Answer in 150 words) 10
3. What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate (Answer in 150 words) 10
4. Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India (Answer in 150 words) 10
5. What is the present world scenario of intellectual property rights with respect to life materials? Although, India is second in the world to file patents, still only a few have been commercialized. Explain the reasons behind this less commercialization. (Answer in 150 words) 10
6. What is the technology being employed for electronic toll collection on highways? What are its advantages and limitations? What are the proposed changes that will make this process seamless? Would this transition carry any potential hazards? (Answer in 150 words) 10
7. Industrial pollution of river water is a significant environmental issue in India. Discuss the various mitigation measures to deal with this problem and also the government's initiatives in this regard (Answer in 150 words) 10

- 8.** What role do environmental NGOs and activists play in influencing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) outcomes for major projects in India? Cite four examples with all important details. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- 9.** Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- 10.** Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- 11.** Discuss the merits and demerits of the four 'Labour Codes' in the context of labour market reforms in India. What has been the progress so far in this regard? (Answer in 250 words) 15
- 12.** What is the need for expanding the regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- 13.** What are the major challenges faced by Indian irrigation systems in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- 14.** Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? Discuss (Answer in 250 words) 15
- 15.** The world is facing an acute shortage of clean and safe freshwater. What are the alternative technologies which can solve this crisis? Briefly discuss any three such technologies citing their key merits and demerits. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- 16.** What are asteroids? How real is the threat of them causing extinction of life? What strategies have been developed to prevent such a catastrophe? (Answer in 250 words) 15
- 17.** What is disaster resilience? How is it determined? Describe various 15

elements of a resilience framework. Also mention the global targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) (Answer in 250 words)

- 18.** Flooding in urban areas is an emerging climate-induced disaster. Discuss the causes of this disaster. Mention the features of two such major floods in the last two decades in India. Describe the policies and frameworks in India that aim at tackling such floods. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- 19.** India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- 20.** Social media and encrypting messaging services pose a serious security challenge. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of social media? Also suggest any other remedies to address the problem. (Answer in 250 words) 15