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INSPS/TDD/I/23

00471

ENGLISH

Paper—I

Full Marks : 100

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics : 30
 - (a) Artificial Intelligence and its impact in education
 - (b) Atmanirbhar Bharat : Its challenges and prospects
 - (c) Plastic pollution in Earth's oceans
 - (d) Digital economy and its prospects in India's industrial and commercial growth
2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

Forests and humans share a unique relationship. "Forests are important from an ecological, climate change and socio-economic and livelihood perspective in India", says Varghese Paul, forestry specialist and Deputy Director, General Development Office, at the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in New Delhi.

To help improve the management of forests, USAID and India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the Forest-PLUS 2.0 as a five-year program in three forest divisions—Medak in Telangana, Gaya in Bihar and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. The program uses a variety of tools and livelihood interventions to enhance forest management and engage local communities.

One important tool is Van, an integrated system for collection of forest inventory and ecosystem data through a mobile app and automation of data analysis through a web portal. The Van system uses satellite images and geo-analytics to improve forest management and to collect data that is uploaded to a cloud-based data repository. The data analyzed informs forest management projects. The system has not only increased the accuracy of data collection but has also significantly decreased the time and effort required for collecting and analyzing data.

Increasing economic opportunities for local communities is also an important aspect of the Forest-PLUS 2.0 program. "Ecotourism projects have been implemented in the Dungeshwari and Barabar hills", says S. Sudhakar, conservator of forest at the Gaya Forest Circle in Bihar. Other livelihood interventions include Moringa Value Chain products and the manufacture of incense sticks from recycled flowers

from the Mahabodhi and Vishnupad Temples. Wild honey and pickles are manufactured as well. This will be upscaled and sold through outlets in Bodh Gaya where tourists will be major customers. Developmental programs like these help Forest Officers work closely with village communities. This, in turn, helps to create an understanding through which they can address issues like human-wildlife conflict more comprehensively.

Questions :

- (a) Why was the Forest-PLUS 2.0 program launched? Describe in your own words. 5
- (b) What is the Van system? What are its uses? 5
- (c) How is the Forest-PLUS 2.0 program helping local communities? 5
- (d) What are your views on forest management in India? 5
- (e) Do you think developmental programs, like the ones mentioned in the above passage, help in effective forest management? Give a well-reasoned response. 5

3. Write a précis of the following passage within one-third of its length and provide an appropriate title :

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There was a young boy who came regularly to soccer practice but never made it to the starting team. While he was practising, his father would sit at the far end of the field, waiting for him. The matches began and for four days, the boy did not show up for practice or the quarter or semi-finals. He appeared for the final game, went to the coach and said, "Coach, you have always kept me in the reserves and never let me play in the games. But today, please let me play." The coach said, "Son, I am sorry, I can't let you. There are better players than you and besides, it is the finals; the reputation of the school is at stake and I cannot take a chance on you." The boy pleaded, "Coach, I promise, I will not let you down. I beg of you, please let me play." The coach had never seen the boy plead like this before. He said, "Okay son, go and play. But remember, I am going against my better judgement and the reputation of the school is at stake. Don't let me down." The game started and the boy played like a house on fire. Every time he got the ball, he shot a goal. Needless to say, he was the star of the game. His team had a spectacular win.

When the game finished, the coach went up to him and said, "Son, how could I have been so wrong? I have never seen you play

like this before. What happened? How did you play so well? The boy replied, "Coach, my father is watching me today." The coach turned around and looked at the place where the boy's father used to sit. There was none there. He said, "Son, your father used to sit there when you came for practice, but I don't see anyone there today." The boy replied, "Coach, there is something I never told you. My father was blind. Just four days ago, he died. Today is the first day he is watching me from above."

4. You are a field officer in the Department of Agriculture. You are assigned to do a field survey and examine various problems faced by the small farmers in cultivating summer crops.

Draft a report of your field survey and its findings to place it before the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.

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