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19 AUG 2022

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1836)

Name of Candidate	NEEPA MANOCHA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1253004
Center	OLD RAJINDER NAGAR	Date	19/08/2022

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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18	15	
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20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**.
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- 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.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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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.

All the Best

1. The PM-AASHA scheme is aimed at improving procurement mechanism as well as ensuring remunerative prices for farmers. In this context, highlight the various components of the scheme and discuss the concerns associated with it. (150 words) 10

पीएम-आशा योजना का उद्देश्य खरीद तंत्र में सुधार के साथ-साथ किसानों के लिए लाभकारी मूल्य सुनिश्चित करना है। इस संदर्भ में, योजना के विभिन्न घटकों को रेखांकित कीजिए तथा इससे जुड़ी चिंताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The PM-AASHA scheme was introduced to tackle the issues of a skewed procurement mechanism and ensure security of non-paddy & wheat growing farmers.

Encouragement of oilseeds, pulses production thus ensuring nutritional security. → crop diversification
Need → Bring down the cost of centralised procurement

components of the scheme :-

① Price support system

↳ To counter excessive production of wheat & rice and no procurement of other crops

↳ Provisions for procurement of Oilseeds, Copra, Pulses.

② Price deficiency system

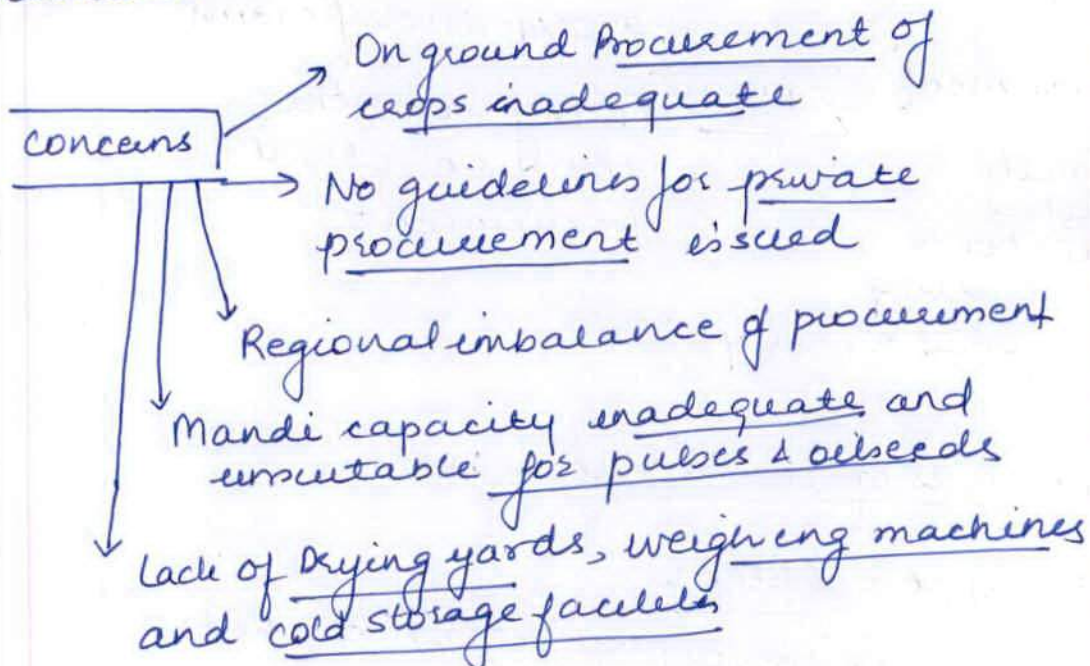
↳ Provision of direct payment of deficiency between MSP of oilseeds, copra & pulses and actual sale price in open market

- ↳ Deficiency given as subsidy - directly credited through DBT
- ↳ Avoid cost of transport, storage associated with govt procurement

③ Pilot of ~~Public~~ Private Stockist and storage scheme

- ↳ Private individuals to procure at MSP on behalf of government.

Although, well intentioned it faces certain concerns :



Way forward

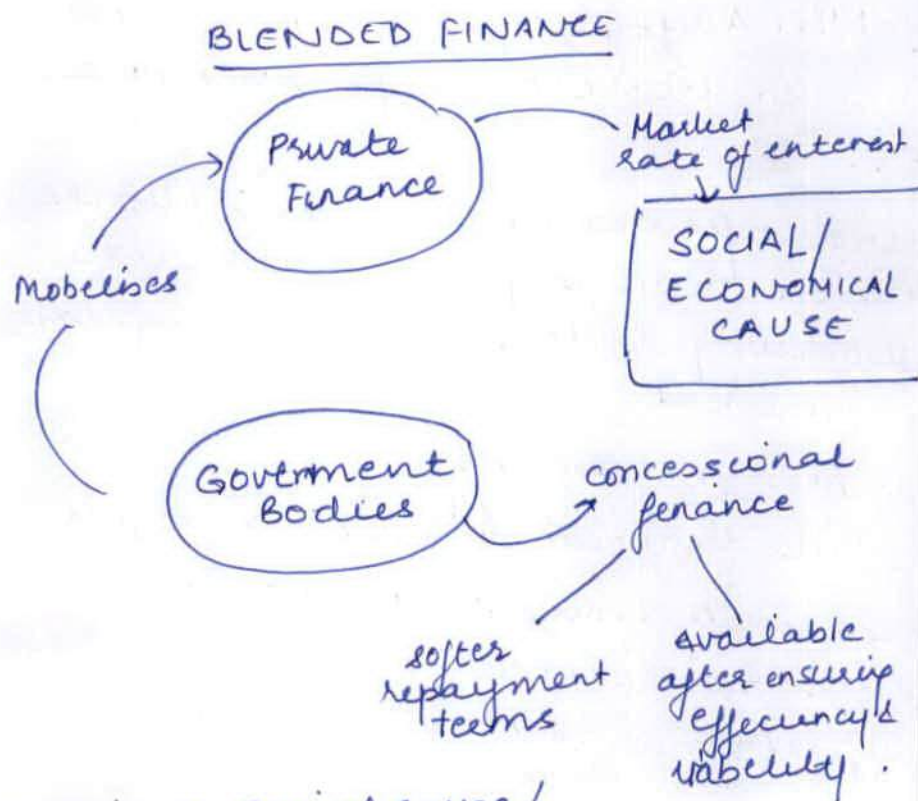
- ↳ Inhibiting the efficiency of process from parent scheme of Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana (MP)
- ↳ White papers and specific guidelines for private procurement

2. Explaining the concept of blended finance, discuss the role it can play in mobilizing capital for infrastructure development in developing countries like India.

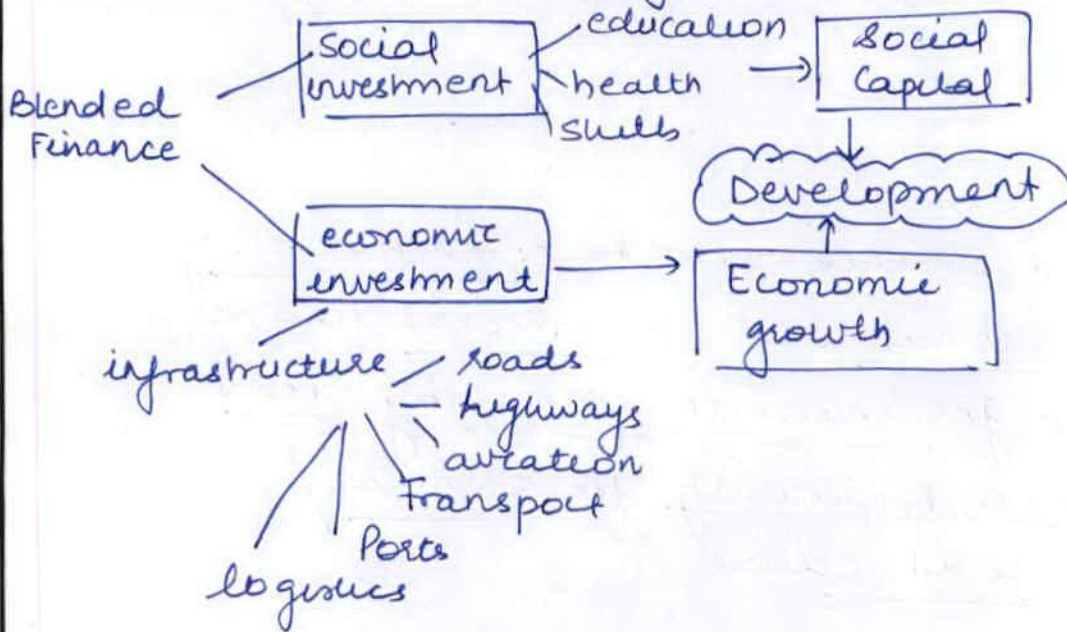
(150 words) 10

मिश्रित वित्त की अवधारणा की व्याख्या करते हुए, भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों में अवसंरचना विकास हेतु पूंजी जुटाने में इसकी भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Blended finance refers to combination of concessional and commercial finance wherein government financing crowds in private financing for a social/economical cause.



on completion of social cause/
attainment of predetermined
threshold, returns offered at market rate to
private companies & at concessional rate to government
bodies.

Role it can play in mobilising development

For eg: NITI Aayog's report on Blended finance in healthcare points out, that :-

- 1) Blended finance can encourage private participation in projects with higher gestation periods & intensive capital requirement
- 2) Promotes risk sharing
- 3) Reduces financial burden on exchequer
- 4) Precursor to synergistic PPP projects
- 5) Unlocks the real values of assets, leads to efficient resource allocation.

3. Discuss the challenges faced in the revival and revamp of dry ports in India and state the measures that can be adopted in this regard.

(150 words) 10

भारत में शुष्क पत्तनों (ड्राई पोर्ट्स) के पुनरुद्धार और सुधार में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा इस संबंध में अपनाए जाने वाले उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Dryport refers to the inland container depots which reduce the workload and congestion at major ports by providing space & time utility for cargo storage.

Dryports are a crucial link to port development however out of 300+ dryport only about half of them are operational.

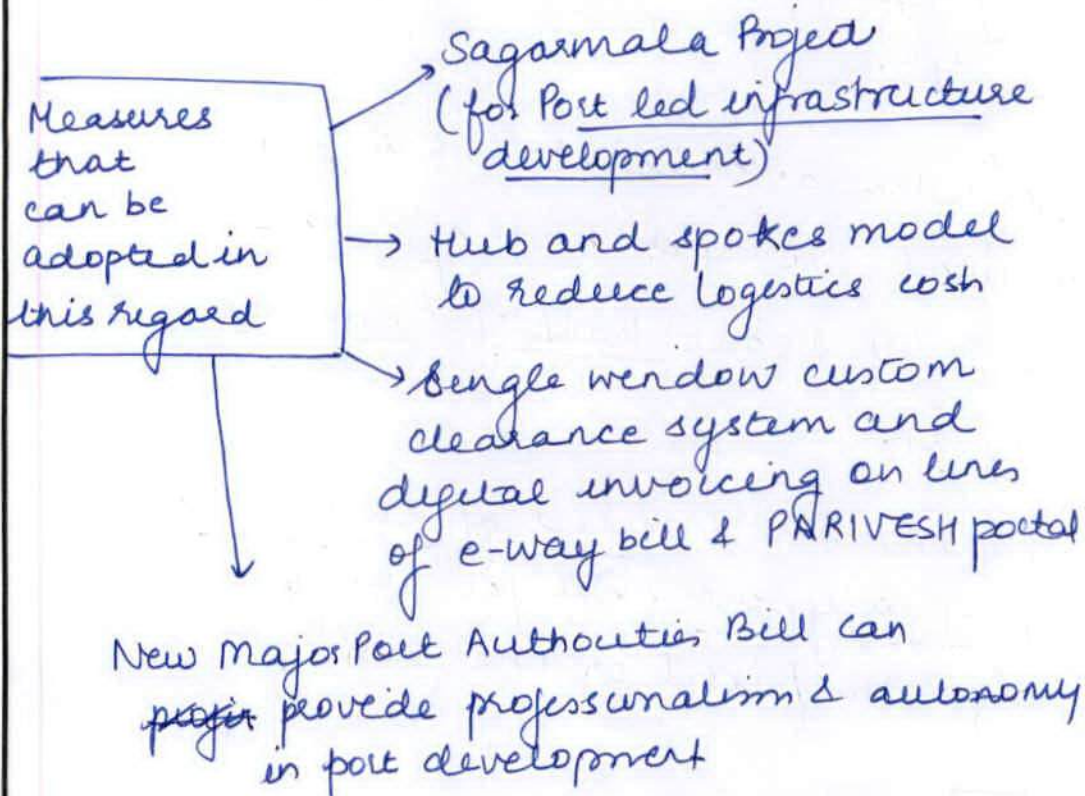
Thus there is a need of revival & revamp of dryports. The following challenges are faced in the same:-

Challenges

- ① Requirement of large swathes of land (problems in land acquisitions, displacement issues)
- ② Lack of adequate finance due to hesitancy of private sector to participate

③ Capacity limitations :- Tedious bundling & unbundling provisions due to lack of containers (India had to import containers in year 2021)

④ Huge logistics costs (14% of GDP) and custom department's redtapism and delay in clearances.



Thus, the new programmes like PM - GATI SHAKTI which focusses on economic infrastructure development can include revamping of Dryports for efficient trade & transport in India.

4. Monoculture is one of the major threats to ensuring food security and sustainability of Indian agriculture. Discuss. (150 words) 10

एकल कृषि (मोनोकल्चर) खाद्य सुरक्षा और भारतीय कृषि की संधारणीयता सुनिश्चित करने के समक्ष विद्यमान प्रमुख खतरों में से एक है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Monoculture refers to growing a single crop in the soil over and over each cropping season.

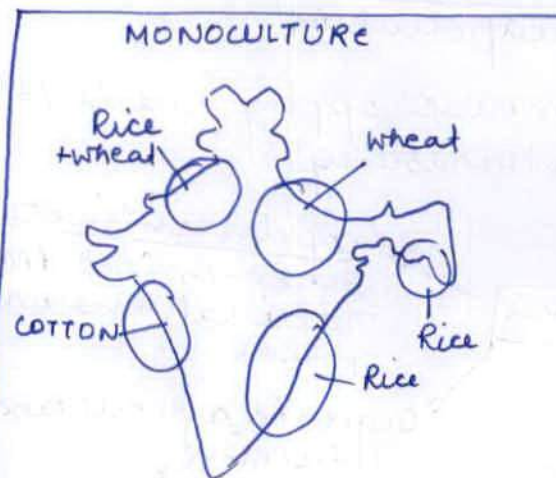
Skewed procurement incentives, imbalances created by green revolution and punitive state of agriculture have led to increased cultivation of rice & wheat in India.

Monoculture is a threat to :-

① Food security

② Preference of farmers to grow the same crop would lead to excesses and deficiencies of nutrients.

[eg] Excessive Rice and Wheat Capacities have lead to micronutrient & protein deficiency (HIDDEN HUNGER) and higher carbohydrate diet which may lead to obesity



⑥ Excessive production may cause lack of storage facilities which lead to wastage of grains causing shortages.

⑦ Excessive production may impair soil fertility which may lead to soil degradation & cause food insecurity.

② Sustainability

① Rice & wheat production → Lack of pulses → No natural nitrogen fixation (caused by legumes) → Soil degradation + sustainability impaired

② Rice & wheat are water guzzling crops → dependence of agriculture on groundwater (80%) through canals & tubewells → virtual water trade → water scarcity

③ Rice also produces methane in environment (transplantation)

④ Stubble burning cause of PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀ leads to air pollution

Thus monocropping leads to environmental unsustainability

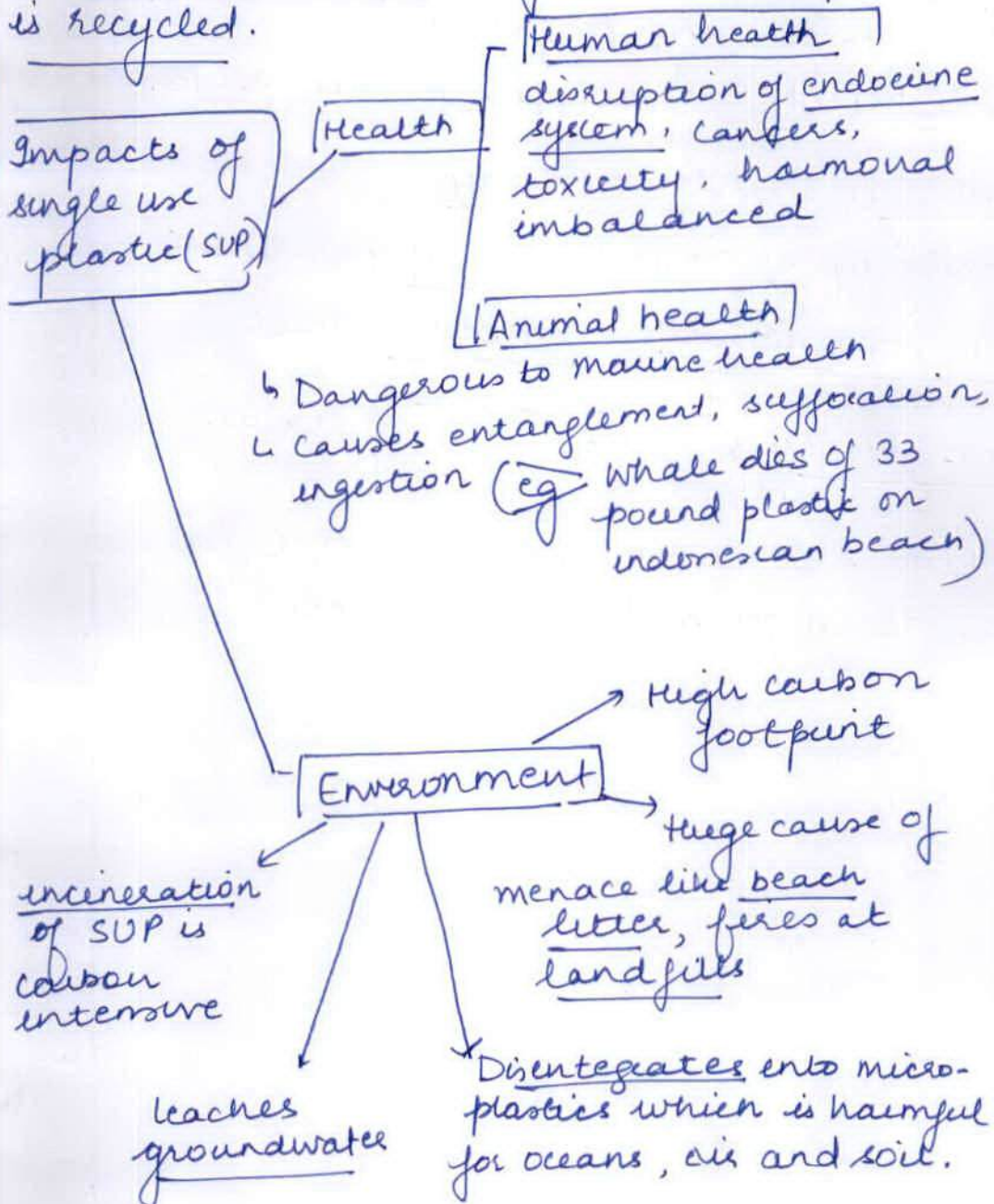
Measures → Crop diversification through schemes like PM-AASHA, national mission on oilseeds & pulses
→ Organic agriculture and natural farming

Thus, multicropping will help to double farmers income.

5. While highlighting the impact of single-use plastic on health and the environment, state the recent efforts taken by the government to curb plastic pollution in India. (150 words) 10

स्वास्थ्य और पर्यावरण पर एकल-उपयोग वाले प्लास्टिक के प्रभाव को रेखांकित करते हुए, भारत में प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में किए गए प्रयासों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Single use plastic is the globally most produced plastic out of which only 20% is recycled.



Efforts taken to curb plastic pollution

- ① Banning of production, manufacture, stockpile and sale of single use plastic in certain commodities (straws, cutlery, plastic bags)
- ② Community efforts for plastic collection (Eg: Swachh Sagas, Suralshit Sagas beach cleaning programmes)
- ③ Project REPLAN :- Reducing plastic wastes
- ④ Impetus to circular economy
- ⑤ Setting up of waste to energy programme
- ⑥ Plastic waste management rules that prescribe extended producer responsibility for end of use life of plastic.

Thus plastic free economy is essential for India's clean, green, & blue economy

6. Aapda Mitra – a force of volunteers from across India trained in disaster response – is becoming a game changer in the field of disaster management in the country. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

आपदा मित्र-आपदा प्रतिक्रिया हेतु प्रशिक्षित भारत भर के स्वयंसेवकों का एक बल-देश में आपदा प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में एक गेम चेंजर के रूप में उभर रहा है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Aapda mitra is a cohesive force of volunteers from vulnerable groups (prone to hazards & disasters) that are trained in disaster management.

This has been a game changer in field of COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER MANAGEMENT.

Aapda mitras are involved in:-

- ① Acting as Quick Response team to supplement efforts of NDRF
- ② Ensuring dissemination of early warning systems and manage evacuations from hazard prone areas.
- ③ Ensuring rescue of people due to their prior knowledge about affected area.

- ④ Provision of essential services of food, water, medicines to affected areas.
- ⑤ For eg:- During COVID-19, Aapda mitras handled grain distribution and ensured lockdown was being followed. They also led the immunisation drives.
- ⑥ Help in recovery efforts by monitoring physical capital, social conflicts & mental health of victims.

Thus, through their spirit of volunteerism, prior knowledge, resource base and government training Aapda mitras can build COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, prevent disasters and if it happens, help to build back better.

7. Why is the rise in lone wolf attacks considered as a serious challenge for security agencies around the world? Highlight the role of the internet in exacerbating such attacks. (150 words) 10

विश्व भर में लोन वुल्फ हमलों में वृद्धि को सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के लिए एक गंभीर चुनौती क्यों माना जाता है? ऐसे हमलों की वृद्धि में इंटरनेट की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Lone wolf attacks refer to attacks by single perpetrators instead of a collaborated attack by a gang of terrorist.

Lone wolf attacks are considered serious challenge for security agencies because:-

- ① Difficult to detect due to lack of intelligence gathered through framing planning & collaboration calls
- ② cannot be prevented due to lack of information on location time and mode of attack

Role of internet in exacerbating such attacks

- ① Radicalisation - easy & internet has mass reach

Difficult to distinguish from internet banters: - eg (clash of ISIS game)

③ Increased exposure to internet gives simplicity to logisticians
(eg) DIY Bomb kits - Youtube)

Solutions

- ↳ Deradicalisation
- ↳ Street vigilance control
- ↳ Stronger ammunition & dual use chemical sale laws

Thus, lone wolf attacks can be stopped ~~the~~ using a comprehensive National Counter Terrorism Doctrine

8. The fundamental inefficiencies embedded in our military structures and processes are now being addressed through a slew of defence reforms in the country. Discuss. (150 words) 10

हमारे सैन्य ढांचे और प्रक्रियाओं में अंतर्निहित मूलभूत अक्षमताओं को अब देश में विभिन्न रक्षा सुधारों के माध्यम से दूर किया जा रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Indian armed forces and military is suffering from increased technological obsolescence of equipment, dependence on foreign technology, gender bias and lack of synergies.

Defence Reforms

- ① Modernisation :- Increased research and academia linkage, lab to lines (Mission Gyan Raksha Shakti) and Defence Industrial corridors
- ② Indigenisation - Through introduction of negative import list, reservation for MSME's, and changes in defence procurement Policy (Indian-Buy, Make)
- ③ Professionalism :- Through corporatisation of Ordnance factory Board, increased private sector participation and forming

Project Management Units

④ Exports :- Defence Diplomacy and
changes in offset policy &
line of credit for defence
exports.

⑤ Inclusive - Through permanent
Commission to women

⑥ Synergy :- Through CDS (Chief
of Defence staff)
and formation of
Theatre commands.

⑦ Tech savvy - Agnipath
Hence, the Indian armed forces
are on path to become upgraded
tech enabled and more responsive
to emerging threats

9. In light of the recent establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India, discuss the advantages and challenges in mainstreaming traditional medicine in the country. (150 words) 10

हाल ही में, भारत में डब्ल्यू. एच. ओ. ग्लोबल सेंटर फॉर ट्रेडिशनल मेडिसिन की स्थापना के आलोक में, देश में पारंपरिक चिकित्सा को मुख्यधारा में लाने के लाभों और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

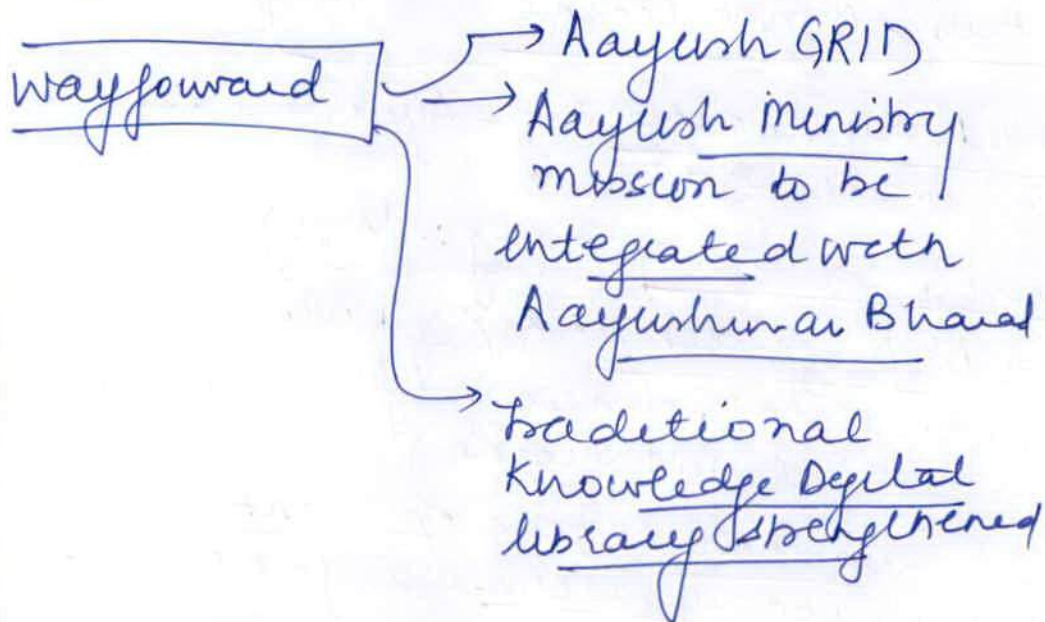
The culture of traditional medicine in india goes beyond healing, it is a life force and includes sustainability, mental health, lifestyle changes & boosting immunity

Advantages of mainstreaming traditional medicine

- ① Immunity booster (eg - Ayurveda & Unani medicines)
- ② Ensure good lifestyle (Eg :- Yoga)
- ③ cater to huge demand (Eg WHO estimates 80% of demand for traditional medicine)
- ④ Ensure research & development and generate awareness in fields of Sowa Rigpa - etc
- ⑤ Complementing allopathy with no side effects
- ⑥ Help in formation of human capital.

Disadvantages :-

- ① No proven benefits :- Considered to be a pseudo science
- ② Lack of qualified professional (46% Only qualified - rest quacks)
- ③ Long time taken for healing
- ④ low demand (8.6%) in outpatient care.
- ⑤ Difficult to change lifestyle in growing urbanisation.

Way forward

Thus there is a requirement of cross learning between modern & traditional science of medicine

10. Nano Urea Liquid has the potential to transform farming in India and across the world by improving productivity while reducing environmental pollution and input cost. Discuss. (150 words) 10

नैनो यूरिया लिक्विड में पर्यावरण प्रदूषण और इनपुट लागत को कम करने के साथ-साथ उत्पादकता में सुधार करके भारत और विश्व भर में कृषि कार्य को रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Due to its higher surface area to volume ratio, nano urea liquid can revamp the farming practices by :-

- ① Improve Productivity
 - * Overuse of fertilisers can be avoided (maintain N:P:K ratio to 4:2:1 as compared to present 7:4:1)
 - * Direct root zone application prevent runoff.
- ② Reducing pollution
 - * No leaching of urea to groundwater
 - * No harmful chemical emissions due to applications
- ③ Reduce input cost :-
 - * Efficient & Targeted Usage

* No diversion to industrial usage

However

→ Lack of technology
(in nascent stages)
to steady impact
on crop quality &
food security)

→ Finances to fund
research, make
farmers aware and
encourage the switch.

Wayforward

→ Awareness through
KVK's

→ Subsidise introduction
and usage.

→ Creation of FPO's
to enable the switch

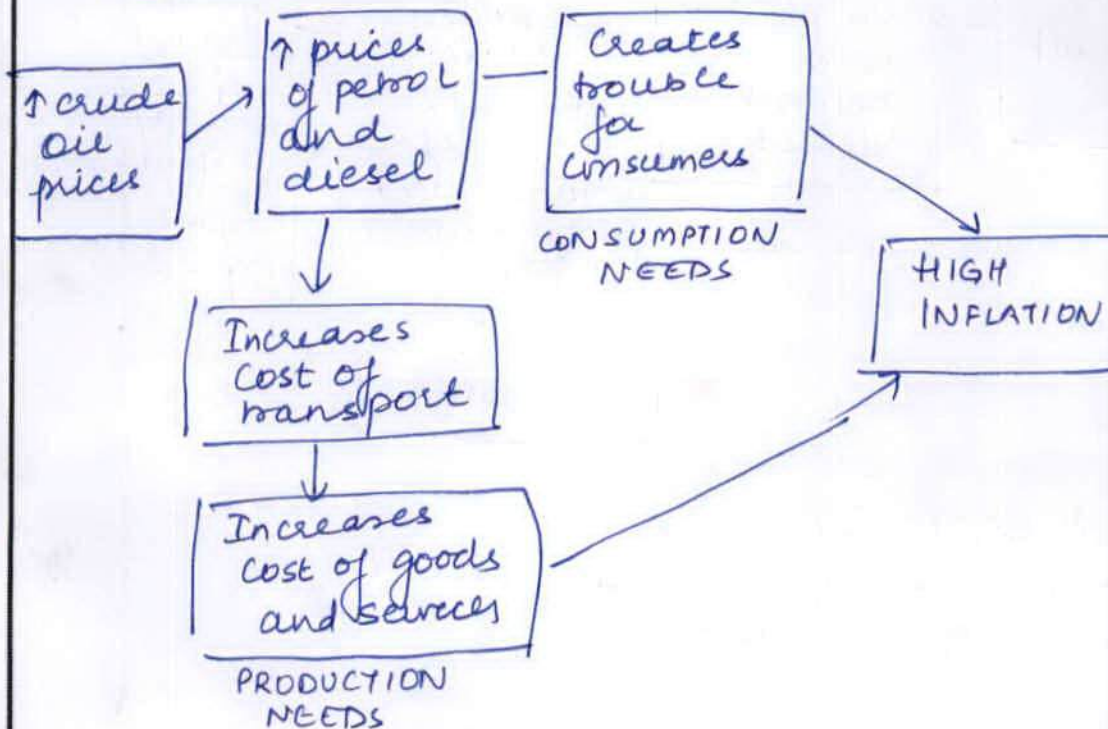
11. Discuss the domino effect of high crude oil prices on the Indian economy. Also, enumerate the measures that India can take in this context.

(250 words) 15

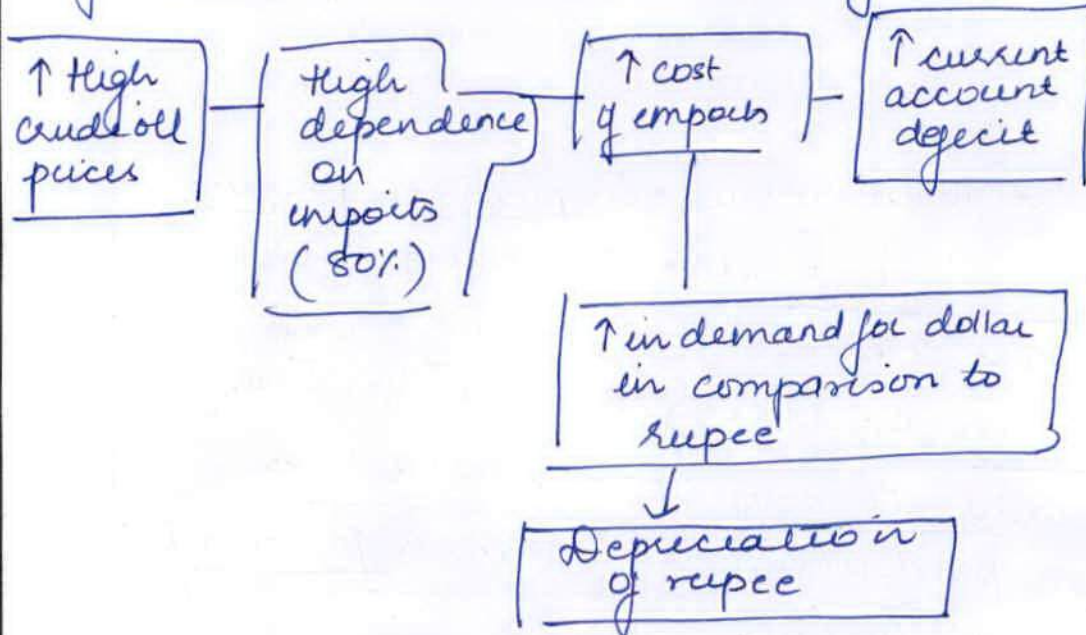
भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर कच्चे तेल की ऊँची कीमतों के डोमिनो प्रभाव की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत द्वारा इस संदर्भ में अपनाए जा सकने वाले उपायों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

India has been witnessing severe current account deficit due to rising crude oil prices caused by geopolitical volatilities including Russia Ukraine War, inhibition of OPEC countries to increase production & scramble for energy resources by Europe.

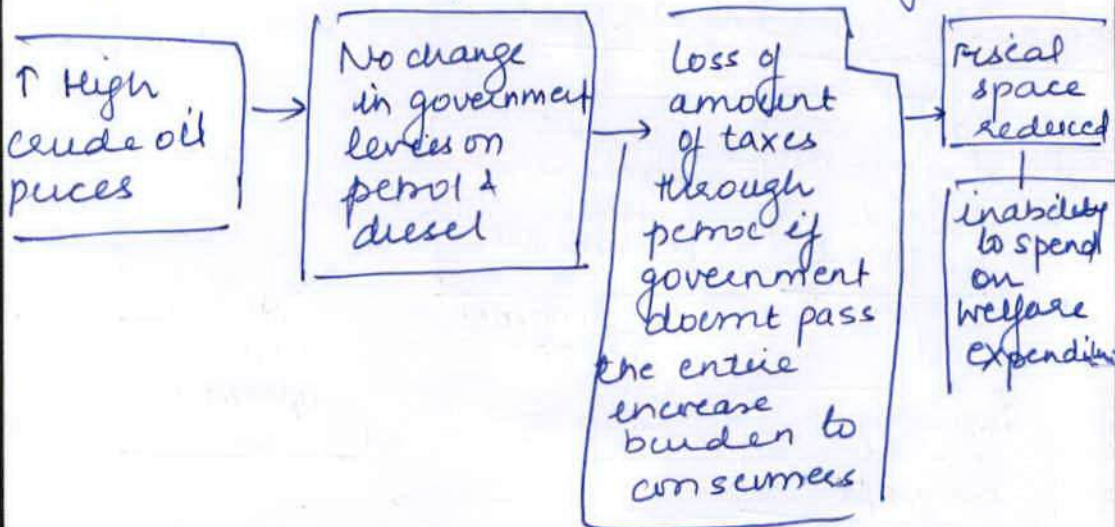
Contagion effect of high crude oil prices in Indian context.



Thus, high crude oil prices causes inflation in domestic economy



Thus, high crude oil prices cause depreciation of rupee & High current account deficit



Thus, high crude oil prices also leads to limited fiscal space & decrease in government expenditure

Measures that can be taken by India in this regard :-

- ① Alternative of buying cheaper oil from Russia (eg. Use of VOSTRO Accounts)
- ② Building up strategic petroleum reserves for contingencies
- ③ Use of technologies like Ethanol blending (eg. 20% target by 2025), methanol use and carbon alternate fuels like H-CNG etc.
- ④ Self reliance through " Explore in India " (New India@75 strategy) for oil surveying & extraction in offshore fields
- ⑤ Use of open market operations by RBI to ensure stability of Rupee.

Thus, india must ensure resilience through self reliance and strategic investments.

12. The consistent high operating ratio of the Indian Railways is indicative of its incapability to generate high operational surplus. Explain the reasons behind this trend. Also, highlight the remedial measures taken by the government in this regard. (250 words) 15

भारतीय रेलवे का लगातार उच्च परिचालन अनुपात उच्च परिचालन अधिशेष सृजित करने में असमर्थता का संकेत है। इस प्रवृत्ति हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों को स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपचारात्मक उपायों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

The operating ratio of Indian railways according to a CAG report was 98.36%. In addition to this, the cumulative losses of railways amount to 28,000 crore.

~~Thus this goes~~

Reasons for inability of railways to generate high operational surplus

- ① Service motive of railways → (Exemptions for students, disabled, employees etc)
- ② Cross subsidisation → ^{Fare to} Freight ratio of Indian railways is 0.3, this is lesser than many developed countries (Ratio = 1)
- ③ Cost overruns due to incompleted projects on account of delays in land acquisition & environmental clearances
- ④ Lack of growth in infrastructure - Overpast 5 years 200 new trains have been added

but the tracks have increased only by 12% and most of them are narrow

⑤ This leads to accidents (76% caused due to derailment)

⑥ Target of protests during (Farmer Agitation, Bihar Railway Recruitment & Agnipath scheme)

⑦ Lack of private sector participation

Remedial Measures
Taken by
government
in this regard

① Private participation
through tejas
express and invitation
to operate on 109
routes

② National Rail plan
which seeks to increase
freight proportion in
total revenue from 27%
to 45%.

③ Dedicated freight
corridors to ensure
seamless cargo movement
and WAG 21 engines to
ensure speed through
transportation of perishable
commodities (KIRAN RAIL)

- ① Infrastructure improvements through change in tracks - (narrow → Broad) and revamping all level railway crossings.

efforts
in Budget
2022-23

→ A/e-KAVACH - Automated
early warning &
collision prevention
system

→ One Nation, One Product
One Station -
seeks to improve the
infrastructure of railway
stations

Thus, railways are most treasured assets of the country.

Way forward

→ Behavioural change in
protestors - destroying
public property causes
huge losses to economy

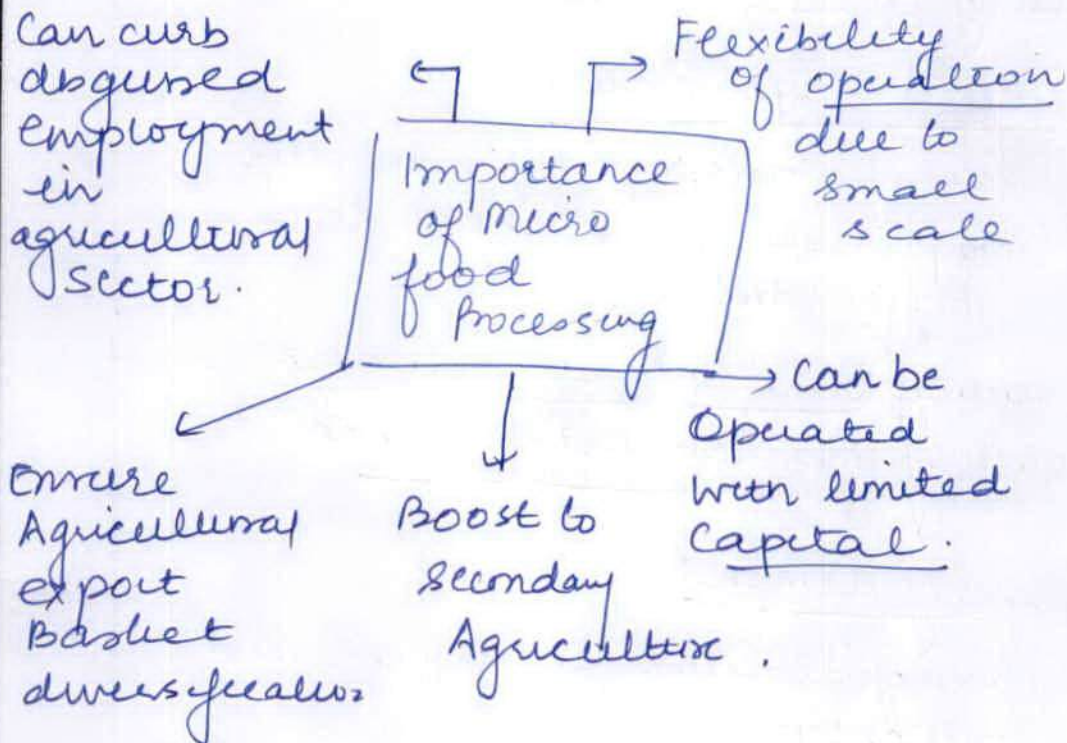
→ Expediting Ahmedabad
Mumbai Bullet train
after feasibility studies

13. Micro food processing sector is the key driver of growth in the Indian economy as it encourages food processing innovation. In this context, state the challenges faced by the micro food processing sector and discuss how the recent initiatives taken by the government aim to address them.

(250 words) 15

सूक्ष्म खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में संवृद्धि का प्रमुख चालक है क्योंकि यह खाद्य प्रसंस्करण नवाचार को प्रोत्साहित करता है। इस संदर्भ में, सूक्ष्म खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए और चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में प्रारंभ की गई पहलों का उद्देश्य इनका समाधान करना है।

Food processing can enable value addition, export competitiveness, reduction of food wastage and doubling farmer income.



this would lead to village entrepreneurship and food processing innovation

Challenges faced by the micro food processing sector :- (MFP)

① Problems of disaggregation

(Due to their small scale, they encounter problems of Lack of marketable surplus)

② Problems of adequate finance for setting up MFP units - due to low credit taking ability & lack of credit worthiness.

③ Market linkages issues

- * Lack of transport infrastructure
(No provision of cold storage & Reefer vans)
- * Lack of Quality certification labs
- * Lack of market intelligence

④ Problems of demand

- * Lack of awareness about processed food options
- * Preference towards natural products

Initiatives taken to address these challenges:-

- ① Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Microfood processing units - through infrastructure provision, credit facilities etc.
- ② ~~KIS~~ SAMPADA Yojana ← Cold storage
Mega Food Parks
Backward
forward linkage
- ③ Priority sector lending for food processing industries
- ④ TOP to TOTAL / Operation Greens :- To increase shelf life of products by increasing food processing component

Thus, best practices of Amul, Liffat Papad etc can be scaled for ensuring innovation in food processing

14. Despite efforts by successive governments, equitable growth remains elusive and income inequality continues to persist in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

क्रमिक सरकारों के प्रयासों के बावजूद, न्यायसंगत विकास दुष्प्राप्य बना हुआ है और भारत में आय असमानता निरंतर बनी हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए।

From various "Garibi hatao" poverty alleviation programmes to targetted and more rights based approaches including Public Distribution of foodgrains through NFSA and MNREGA, India has witnessed several initiatives for inclusive growth.

Yet, equitable growth remains elusive and income inequality continues to persist :-

① According to Oxfam Report

Top 10% own
57% of wealth

Bottom 50%
own 13% of
wealth

India added
12 billionaires
during COVID

STARK
INEQUALITY

86% of people
experienced
a decline
in income

concentration of wealth in
hands of few → 8.6% projected
economic growth yet 25% multidimensionally
poor.

Reasons

- ① Lack of capability approach
- ④ High illiteracy, ^⑥ low health indicators
(More than 25%) (highest percentage of wasted, stunted children)
- ⑤ lack of nutrition (101st/160 countries in Global Hunger Index)
- ④ lack of skill formation
(only 2.5% population formally trained)
- ② Lack of opportunity
- ④ Problem of jobless growth [stagnant manufacturing sector, disguised unemployment in agriculture and low jobs in unskilled service sector]
- ⑥ Problem of missing Middle - Dwarfism in MSME's
- ④ Lack of focus on labour intensive formal industries (85% engaged in lowpaying informal jobs)
- ③ Governance lacunae
 - ↳ corruption
 - ↳ Policy paralysis
 - ↳ Lack of social accountability

Solutions① Focus on capacity building

① Education → Skilla Shiksha Abhiyan
→ Vocationalisation of education
→ Competency based learning

② Health → Universal health coverage
→ (Aayushman Bharat)
→ Provision of social security Nets

③ Skill Development → Prepare for IR4.0
- PM Kaushal Yojana

② Focus on opportunity

① Manufacturing
 MSME's
 entrepreneurship
 PLI scheme
 Atmanirbhar Bharat

Make in India

② Infrastructure development → NIP, NMP, PM Gati Shakti

③ Labour codes to be implemented

③ Governance Reforms

↳ Use of progressive taxation (redistribution of wealth)

↳ schemes like MGNREGA, PM-KISAN,] to receive greater

↳ ensuring social mobility through alternative livelihoods opportunity = NAMASTE
Budgetary allocation

Thus focus of New India should be Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas

15. Stating the factors that determine the employment situation of an economy in the long-term, discuss the measures that are needed for India to address its unemployment problem. (250 words) 15

किसी अर्थव्यवस्था की दीर्घवधि में रोजगार की स्थिति को निर्धारित करने वाले कारकों का उल्लेख करते हुए, उन उपायों की विवेचना कीजिए जो भारत में बेरोजगारी की समस्या के समाधान हेतु आवश्यक हैं।

According to the periodic labourforce survey, the unemployment rate in India is 7.8%. This jobless growth witnessed by India, jeopardised the demographic currency.

Determinants of Employment situation in India :

- ① Demographic dividend :- This refers to the population of working age people in total population.

↑ Demographic dividend → ↑ workforce → ↑ consumption = ↑ Investment
↓ dependants → ↑ employment

- ② Women labourforce :- Proportion of women in workforce (In 2022 → 25% women working)

↑ women labourforce → ↑ investment on social & economic services
↑ employment (social services)

- ③ Occupational structure of economy :- presence of a manufacturing base and number of people employed
(eg) Presence of labour intensive industries
↑ employment)
- ④ Skill capital (Presence of technical & soft skills required to do the job)
(eg) Skill Requirement for IR 4.0

Other than the above, government policies including

- ↳ Budgetary allocations to employment guarantee schemes (eg MGNREGA)
- ↳ Attitude towards foreign investment
- ↳ Taxes on startups
- ↳ Financial enablement of entrepreneurship

also determine the level of employment

Measures required to deal with the issue of unemployment in India

- ① Solving presence of MSME drawdown & missing middle through MSME involvement in defence production, labour reforms, exclusive government procurement etc.

- ② Skill development through programmes like PM Kaushal Vihar Yojana,
- ③ Agricultural diversification to absorb disguised unemployment through food processing industries, secondary agriculture
- ④ Encouraging foreign and private investments in PII scheme, PM-GATI Shakti
- ⑤ Providing financial assistance for self employment through MUDRA-Startup, Standup India
- ⑥ Converting SEZ into employment enclaves through DESH Bill, 2022
- ⑦ ~~Way~~ Inducing self reliance through PM Garib Rozgar Botsahan Yojana, PM Swanidhi plan etc.

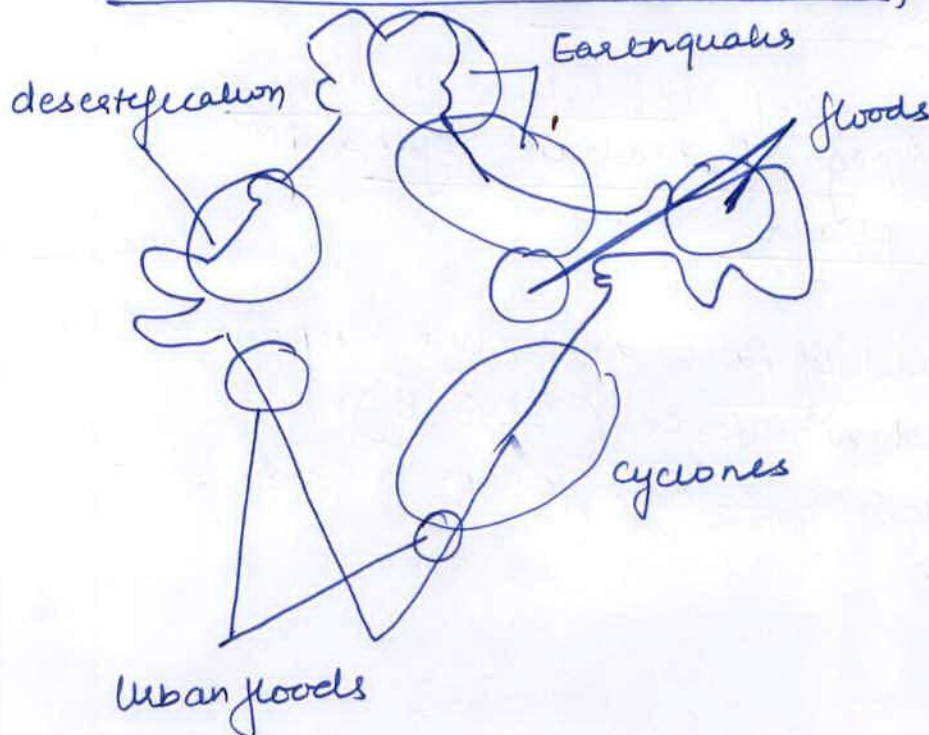
Thus, the need of hour is decent, empowered, formalised workforce (SDG-8) which are not job seekers but job creators.

16. In view of the rapidly increasing socio-economic damage caused by disasters, integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning requires an effective stakeholder engagement mechanism. Discuss. (250 words) 15

आपदाओं के कारण तेजी से बढ़ रही सामाजिक-आर्थिक क्षति को देखते हुए, आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण (DRR) को विकास योजनाओं में एकीकृत करने के लिए एक प्रभावी हितधारक जुड़ाव तंत्र की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

About 86% of the Indian landmass is prone to disasters. Disasters like cyclones, floods, droughts, fires, earthquakes and more recently COVID have reversed the socio-economic gains of the country.

VULNERABILITY OF INDIA TO DISASTERS



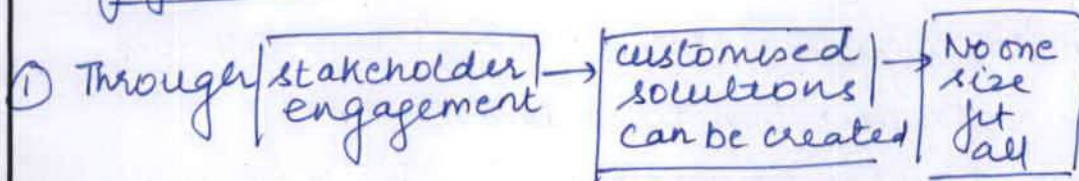
Damage caused by Disasters① Social

- ↳ Loss of life and Property
- ↳ Land degradation
- ↳ Interruption of Education
- ↳ Diseases & Disabilities
- ↳ Crimes, Conflicts

② Economic

- ↳ Infrastructure & crucial lines of connectivity & communication destroyed
- ↳ Financial loss of savings
- ↳ High cost of rebuilding
- ↳ Rescue efforts

Thus, this calls for integrating Disaster Risk reduction into development planning for effective stakeholder engagement:-



(Eg:- Mangroove plantation in coastal areas require participation of community
[Odisha - community Disaster mitigation programme])

② Better Response to early warning signals
[Eg:- conducting mock drills in earthquakes]

③ Community knows best, use of stakeholder traditional knowledge in relief and rehabilitation missions

(eg) AASHA workers during COVID-19 lockdown
ensuring regular antenatal tests and immunisation)

④ Stakeholders when made aware can act as first responders

(eg) Assam neighbours saving an old lady from saving funds)

③ Stakeholder engagement can help in Building Back better -

(eg) Latur women SHG - financial assistance after drought)

Thus

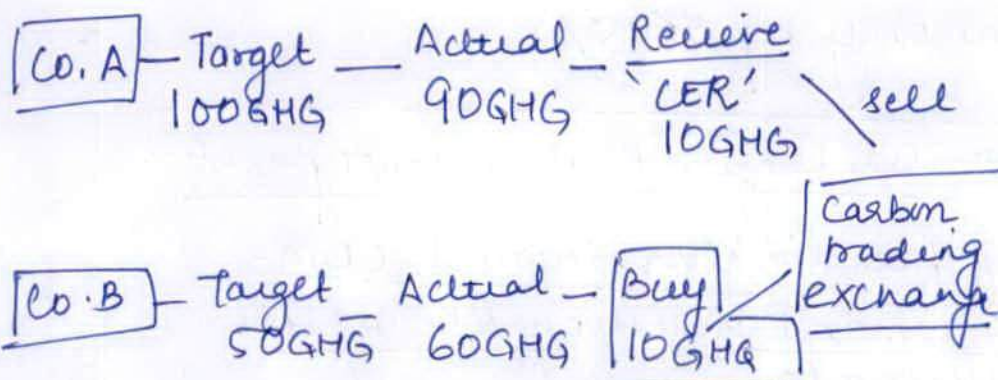
Developmental planning must create space for stakeholder engagement through decentralisation (in form of District Disaster management plans) greater awareness and participation of vulnerable population in relief, rescue & recovery efforts.

17. Provide an account of the existing carbon trading mechanisms in India. Also, discuss the significance of an efficient carbon trading market in the country and state the challenges that currently exist. (250 words) 15

भारत में मौजूदा कार्बन व्यापार तंत्र का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, देश में एक कुशल कार्बन व्यापार बाजार के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए और वर्तमान समय में विद्यमान चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Carbon trading mechanism seeks to work on the principle of 'cap and trade' wherein quotas for emission are set for each producer, those who achieve a reduction in their carbon emission target receive a reduction certificate which can be ~~exchanged~~ sold to producers who exceed their target.

The carbon trading mechanism in India is managed by the Bureau of Energy efficiency and is called Perform Achieve and Trade scheme.



Significance of an efficient carbon trading market :-

- ① Based on concept of polluter pays. therefore brings in environmental consciousness in corporates
- ② Incorporates value of clean environment in business reporting and accounting
- ③ Is in line with CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) of Kyoto Protocol
- ④ Encourages companies to invest in carbon emission reduction technologies through increased research
- ⑤ Will help India to fulfil its enhanced Paris NDC's (Glasgow's Panchamrit promise - to remove 1 billion tonnes of carbon by 2030 and reduce carbon intensity of economy by 45%)

However challenges that currently exist

- ① May face similar doom of CDM - no demand for Carbon Reduction certificates

- ② Lack of uniform guidelines for emission reporting - difficulty of qualitative measurement
- ③ Lack of third party environmental audit and monitoring mechanism for actual emission reduction
- ④ Inefficiencies in carbon certificate exchanges - No scalability

Way forward

Investor awareness about environmentally conscious practices which will force companies to adhere to emission reduction

Importance to non financial environmental positive externalities created.

The government has brought the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to ensure efficiency of carbon trading.

18. The menace of drug trafficking in India has been on a rise due to a mix of factors, both internal and external. Discuss. Also, state the challenges posed by drug trafficking to India's national security. (250 words) 15

भारत में ड्रग ट्रेफिकिंग का खतरा आंतरिक और बाह्य दोनों कारकों के समन्वय के कारण बढ़ रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के समक्ष ड्रग ट्रेफिकिंग से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Drug trafficking in India is influenced by both ^{internal} demand and ^{external} supply factors.

Internal Factors

- ① Weak laws and Regulations
 - Narcotic & Psychotropic substances Act.
 - Inefficiency of investigative agencies
- ② Demand for drugs created by
 - social factors - peer pressure, unemployment glorification by media
 - biological predisposition
 - psychological - family problem, stress, childhood trauma

External factors

- ① Geographical proximity to Golden Crescent (Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan) and golden triangle (Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar)
- huge quantity of opioids, cocaine, heroine smuggled into India

Challenges Posed due to Drug Trafficking

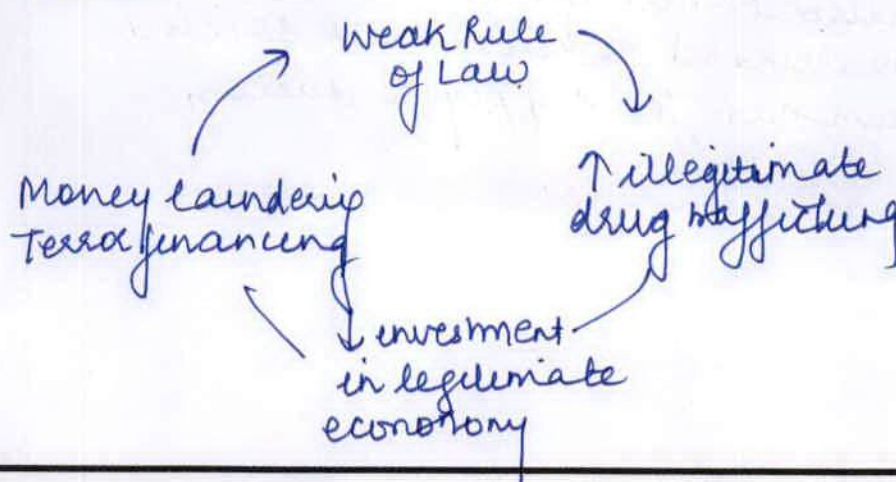
① Security Challenges

- ↳ Leads to terror financing
(2015 Pathankot blasts due to terror financing created by drug trafficking)
- ↳ Leads to encouragement of insurgency in border states (eg ULFA)
- ↳ Precursor to Arms trafficking
(Arms traffickers check routes through drug trafficking)

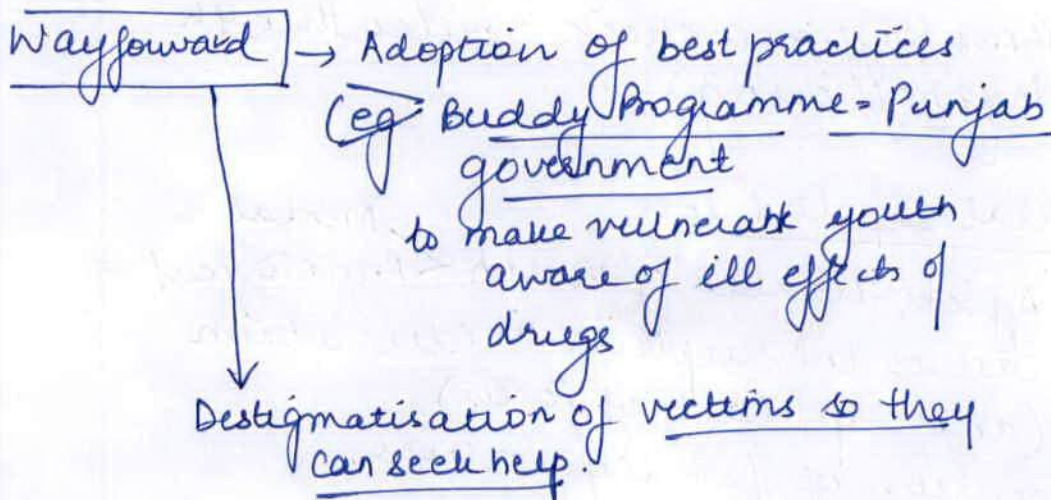
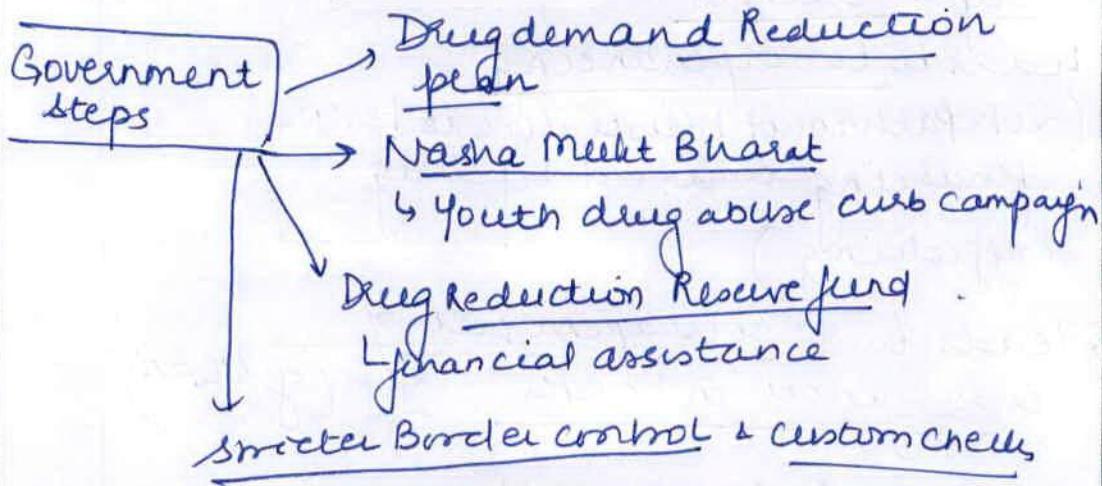
② Social Capital loss

- ↳ Affects health of youth ← Mental
- ↳ Causes interruption in education ← Psychological
- ↳ (anxiety, lack of focus)
- ↳ erosion of family values.

③ Economic loss



Thus legitimate economy suffers due to drug trafficking.

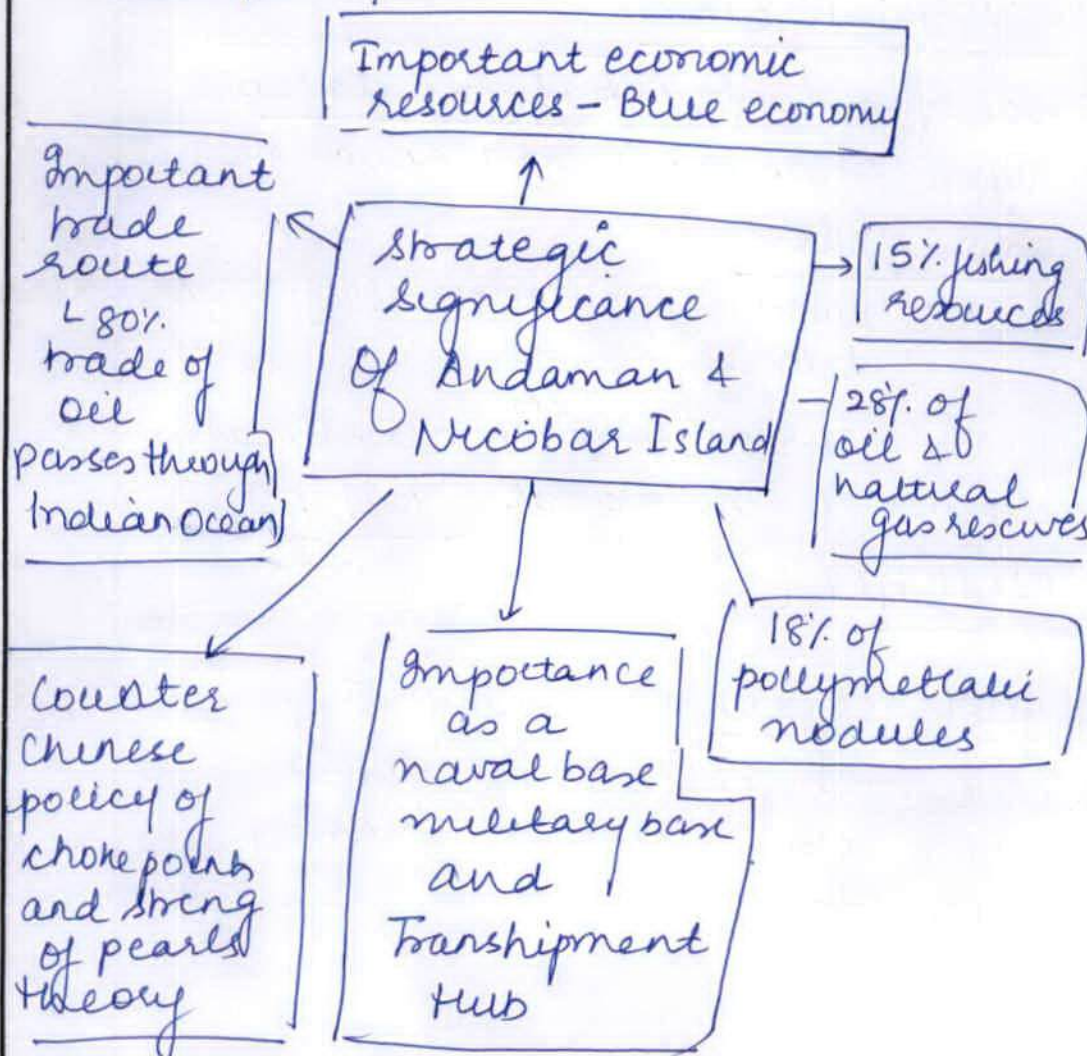


Thus, the looming terror of drug trafficking must be curbed through behaviour change for demand reduction & strict law enforcement for supply reduction.

19. The Andaman and Nicobar islands' strategic significance in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) has been underplayed by India's policy of 'masterly inactivity and benign neglect'. Critically discuss. (250 words) 15

हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र (IOR) में अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह के रणनीतिक महत्व को भारत की 'कुशल अकर्मण्यता और सौम्य उपेक्षा' की नीति के तहत कम करके आंका गया है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The Andaman and Nicobar islands are inseparable part of India's heritage but their strategic significance have not been realised due to India's distorted policy.



However, Indian policy has been that of :-

① Masterly Inactivity

↳ PRISON ISLAND during colonial era have not received fruits of development.

↳ Lack of connectivity with mainland remained aloof from infrastructure connectivity

② BENIGN NEGLECT

↳ Presence of a large tribal population
(Eg:- Onge, Shompen, great nicobarese
Sentinelese)

↳ instance of attacks with foreign tourists)

↳ No effort to integrate ^{them} with mainstream society due to ~~Panchsheel~~ TRIBAL PANCHSHEEL

↳ Rugged Terrain and Harsh Tropical Rainfall with thick dense forests have not evoked much government attention

However, certain reforms have been undertaken: -

- ① INFRASTRUCTURE - Construction of Auship (BAAZ) and a naval port (INS Kolhassa) to counter Chinese influence in the region.
- ② Construction of Chennai - Andaman Optical fibre network
- ③ INSTITUTIONAL - Establishment of Island Development Corporation to oversee development in the region
- ④ POLICY - Policies like Blue Economy, Sagar policy give due emphasis to islands in engine of development

⑤ However, a lot more needs to be done,

Wayforward → Andaman & Nicobar Islands can ensure economic & geopolitical security through development of a TRANSHIPMENT PORT HUB

(Replicate the growth story of Chittagong port)

20. India has recently commissioned the world's first large International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT). How will the newly commissioned telescope aid in India's astronomical observations and research? (250 words) 15

हाल ही में, भारत ने विश्व का पहला विशाल इंटरनेशनल लिक्विड-मिरर टेलीस्कोप (ILMT) स्थापित किया है। यह नवनिर्मित टेलीस्कोप खगोलीय पर्यवेक्षणों और अनुसंधान में भारत की किस प्रकार सहायता करेगा?

The International Liquid Mirror Telescope of India commissioned in Devasthal is the world's first large ILMT and a proof that India has arrived in the arena of astronomical observation and research.

The newly commissioned ILMT will aid the astronomical observation & research in the following way:-

- ① Provide scientific impetus and infrastructural boost in space observation - new discoveries on phenomena like supernova, black holes, big bang, Quasars, gravitational lensing etc.
- ② This will help to gain practical proof of concept for some scientific theories and will give a push to interplanetary exploration

- ③ It will supplement India's effort of LIGO, Project NETRA and Hesis for neutrinos, and other space particles
- ④ Aid missions like Gaganyaan & Mangalyaan Chandrayaan-2
- ⑤ Empower leadership in early warning system about hazardous space debris or flyby asteroids.
- ⑥ will also ensure continuous surveillance of India's space assets against malicious attacks
- ⑦ This will lead to more such international collaborations between India & UK, France Belgium etc.

However, ILMT must also be complemented with adequate enticement of curiosity from Indian students, The ISRO's YUVIKA programme can pave way for genuine interest in space research.

