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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1836)

Name of Candidate	SAYEM RAZA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1122829
Center	ONLINE	Date	29/8/2022

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. 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)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. 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।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. 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।

Pradhan Mantri - Annadata Aay Sansankshan
Abhiyaan (PM-AASHA) is a scheme to improve upon the current procurement policies and ensure fair remuneration to the farmers.

Major components

↳ Price Deficiency Payment - farmers can sell in open market and government will provide the deficient amount if prices are lower than the MSP offered by government.

↳ Government procurement - through FCI and other agencies such as Small Farmer's Agriculture consortium (SFAC) at Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Concerns

- ↳ Price deficiency payments make the markets distortive and put burden on the government
- ↳ A similar ~~of~~ scheme "Bharantari" failed in Madhya Pradesh as traders cartelised to suppress the prices.
- ↳ Procurement on MSP will further increase the distortion issue of agri-markets in India.

Way forward

- 1) Resort to income support as much as possible - they have least distortive effects
- 2) Shanta Kumar committee recommendation on government procurements should be implemented
- 3) APMC reforms are required

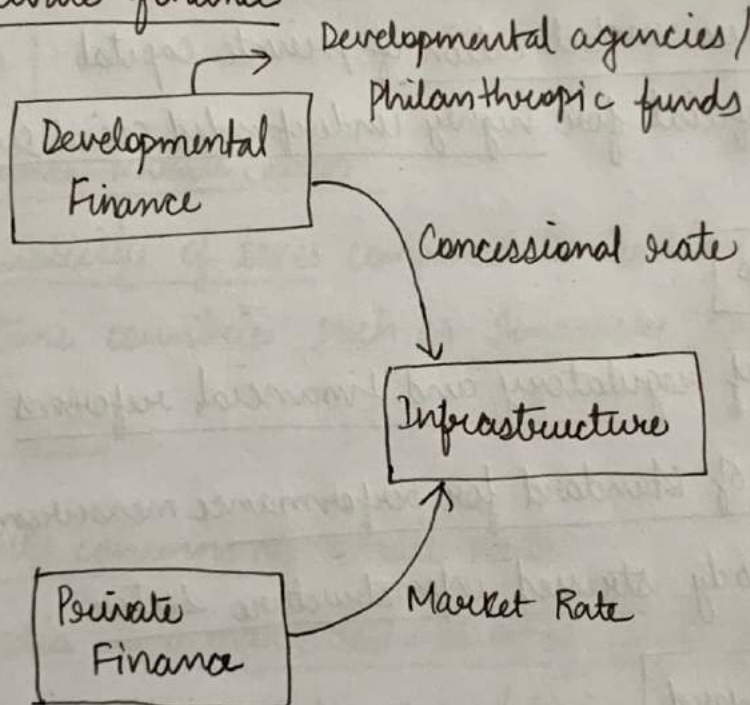
Therefore, PM-AASHA scheme should be supplemented with structural reforms.

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 the use of developmental finance (from developmental agencies) to mobilize private finance.



Blending of Developmental and Private finance to fund infrastructure development

Benefits

- 1) For private investors
 - ↳ Reduces the risk of investment
 - ↳ Increases investor confidence
- 2) For infrastructure development
 - ↳ Easier mobilization of private capital
 - ↳ Beneficial for highly underfunded social sector

Challenges

- 1) Lack of regulatory and financial reforms
- 2) Lack of standard for performance measurement
- 3) Already stressed infrastructure sector

Way Forward

- 1) A national policy for blended finance
- 2) Regulatory measures for infrastructure projects

Therefore, through appropriate reforms, blended finance can play a positive role in India.

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।

India has 7,500 km of coastline with 90% of trade by volume and 70% by value through ports.

In this context, it is extremely important to revive and revamp dry ports in India.

Challenges

- 1) Resource mobilization
- 2) Multiplicity of taxes compared to leading maritime countries such as Singapore, China and UK
- 3) Security concerns at small ports
 - ↳ India is a major destination of opiate trade as per UN Office on Drugs and Crime
 - ↳ India lies between golden triangle (Myanmar, Laos and Thailand) and golden crescent of drug trade (Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan)

4) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has noted the lack of inter-agency coordination

5) Ecological concerns → Coastal erosion
→ Dredging
→ Impact on marine life

Corrective measures

1) Effective implementation of Sagarmala project on the lines of Ati Shakti

2) Coastal community development

3) Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)

4) Enhancing coast guard capability and mobilization

Therefore, a sustainable port development can boost India's EXIM trade to a great extent.

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

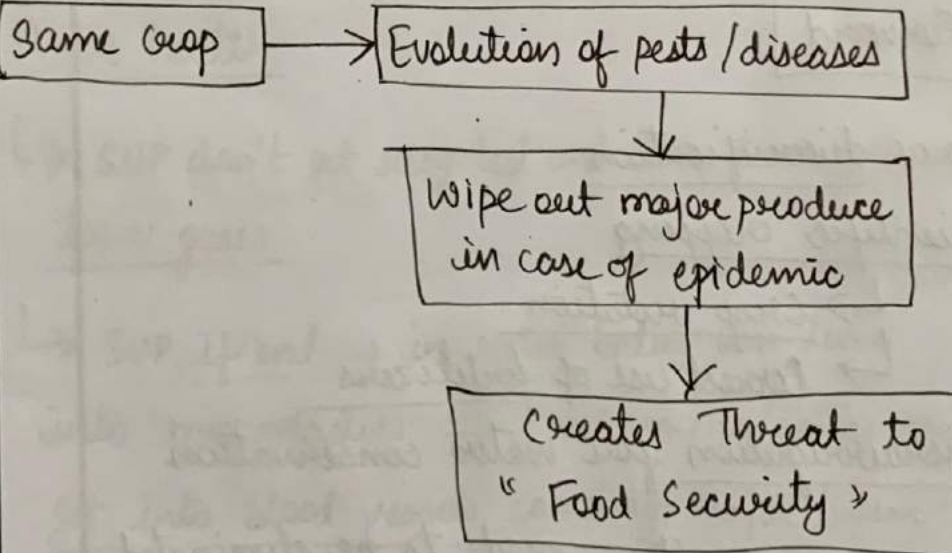
एकल कृषि (मोनोकल्चर) खाद्य सुरक्षा और भारतीय कृषि की संघारणीयता सुनिश्चित करने के समक्ष विद्यमान प्रमुख खतरों में से एक है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Monoculture refers to the agricultural practice of growing ~~one~~ ^{same} crop in a land every cycle.

India has been suffering from monoculture due to excessive cultivation of a few crops such as rice, wheat and sugarcane.

Threats of monoculture

1) Food security



2) Sustainability

- ↳ Deteriorates soil health
- ↳ Excessive use of ground water
(Wheat, rice, sugarcane are water guzzling crops)
- ↳ Overproduction leads to suppression of prices
- ↳ GHG emission \Rightarrow Rice cultivation is a major contributor to GHG emission in India

Way Forward

- ↳ Crop diversification
- ↳ Scientific cropping
 - ↳ Crop rotation
 - ↳ Correct use of fertilizers
- ↳ Microirrigation for water conservation

Therefore, monoculture needs to be eliminated in India for ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture.

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 Plastics (SUP) are plastic based commodities that are used once and thrown away and does not get into recycling process.

Examples of SUP are - plastic straws, lids, packaging, etc.

Impacts

1) On health

↳ SUP don't get recycled and over time release toxic gases

↳ SUP if end up in water bodies can turn into microplastics ⇒ These microplastics can get into blood vessels causing major harm
⇒ Microplastics in blood samples have been recently found in Netherlands

2) Environment

- ↳ Blocks drainages
- ↳ Affects animals
- ↳ End up as marine litter harming marine biodiversity

Government Initiatives

- 1) Complete ban on SUP with low utility from June 2022
- 2) Minimum prescribed thickness for plastics to be 70 μ m and to be raised to 120 microns by Dec 2022
- 3) Mandatory packaging of sugar in jute bags

Therefore, government initiatives are positive regarding SUP. At the same time behavioural changes in people are needed to eradicate the problem.

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।

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has raised a local volunteer force for disaster management and disaster risk reduction.

Need for Apada Mitra

- 1) lack of local awareness regarding disaster management
- 2) Scarcity of resources
- 3) Need for quick response during disasters
⇒ Requires a decentralised approach
- 4) National Disaster Management Plan (2016) and PM 10 point agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction focus on improving local participation.

Significance

- 1) Will create a trained human resource at local level

- 2) Local and indigenous knowledge can be effectively combined with modern disaster management techniques
- 3) Will create a trickle down effect in educating common people regarding disaster management

Therefore Apada Mitra can be a game changer in India's disaster management and fulfil its obligations under the Sendai Framework.

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 a person who is not backed by any organization. Such attacks have happened quite recently in the United States where a lone gunman did shooting in a school.

Challenges

- 1) There is no organised form of such attacks
↳ security agencies can only capture the attacker
- 2) In absence of any organizational form, it is difficult to prevent such attacks
- 3) Many of these lone wolf attackers are ordinary citizens suffering mental health issues
- 4) The attackers live among common people and have no identifiable markers to distinguish them.

Role of internet

- 1) Access to combat information
- 2) Dark web provides access to weapons which may not be available in regular markets
- 3) Organisations can use internet to radicalise individuals through propaganda, who then act in individual capacity.

Way Forward

- 1) Strict monitoring of internet propaganda
⇒ Needs collaboration of security agencies, social media platforms and vigilant citizens
- 2) Crackdown on black market on dark web
- 3) De-radicalization through counselling
- 4) Focus on mental health

Therefore, a multi-dimensional approach is required to deal with the security threat of lone wolf attacks.

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।

Military structures and processes in India have been carrying colonial legacy since decades. After the recommendations of several defense reforms committees, many reform measures are being taken.

Inefficiencies present

- 1) Lack of structure to counter emerging challenges in Indo-Pacific
- 2) Inadequate equipments
- 3) High reliance on imports
- 4) Lack of resources to engage in new forms of warfare - cyber warfare, space warfare
- 5) Less focus on R&D capabilities
- 6) No uniform border management policy
- 7) Not adequate to counter multiple threats on borders - China and Pakistan.

Reforms Introduced

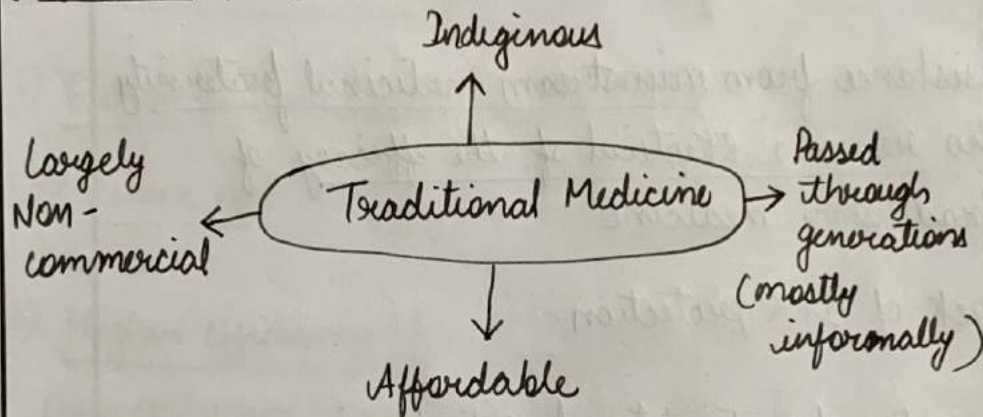
- 1) Office of Chief of Defense Staff (CDS)
- 2) Integrated Theatre Commands (ITC)
- 3) Integrated Battle Groups (IBG)
- 4) Agnipath Scheme - to increase teeth to tail ratio
- 5) Improve self reliance in defense manufacturing
 - ↳ Technology Development Fund
 - ↳ Negative list for defense imports

Therefore, a slew of defense reforms are being undertaken to address the inefficiencies in the army structures and processes.

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।

Traditional medicine refers to medicinal knowledge, practices and skills existing in indigenous local cultures and passed down through generations.
(Ayurveda, Greek medicine, Naturopathy, etc.)



Advantages

- 1) Can be better suited to local needs given its indigenous nature
- 2) Usually have no adverse effects
- 3) Affordable for economically backward groups

4) Indigenous Knowledge can provide solution to many problems which remain unresolved by mainstream medicine

Challenges

1) Lack of resources

↳ Institutes

↳ Research facilities

2) Resistance from mainstream medicinal fraternity who remain skeptical of the efficacy of traditional medicine

3) Lack of IPR protection.

WHO centre for Traditional Medicine is an important step as it will

↳ Help generate more awareness

↳ promote research in traditional medicines

↳ Create a repository of various indigenous medicinal knowledge

Therefore, traditional medicine can contribute to development of various therapies and cures.

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।

Nano Urea is a version of urea fertilizer whose particle size is in the range of nanometers.
It has been developed by IFFCO.

Benefits of nano Urea

1) Economic - Cheaper than conventional urea

↳ lower cost ⇒ Higher income for farmers

2) Higher efficiency (~80%) compared to conventional urea (~50%)

⇒ Better yield

3) low wastage ⇒ Environmental Benefits

↳ less leaching

↳ lesser run off from farms

4) More nutritional value in crops due to higher efficiency

Concerns

- 1) long term effects are still unknown
- 2) Though tested for bio-safety, many latent side effects can be discovered later

Way Forward

- 1) longer field trials required
- 2) More research on impact on human healths and environment

Therefore, prudent approach should be adopted in commercialising nano urea. With right approach, it has the potential to transform agriculture sector.

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 ऊंची कीमतों के डोमिनो प्रभाव की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत द्वारा इस संदर्भ में अपनाए जा सकने वाले उपायों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Crude oil is naturally occurring, unrefined petroleum oil used to make petroleum based fuels. India has a huge reliance on import for crude oil which is the most imported commodity by value.

Due to distribution of crude oil only in a few regions of the world, the prices remain volatile creating a domino effect in India's domestic economy.

Domino effect of high crude oil prices

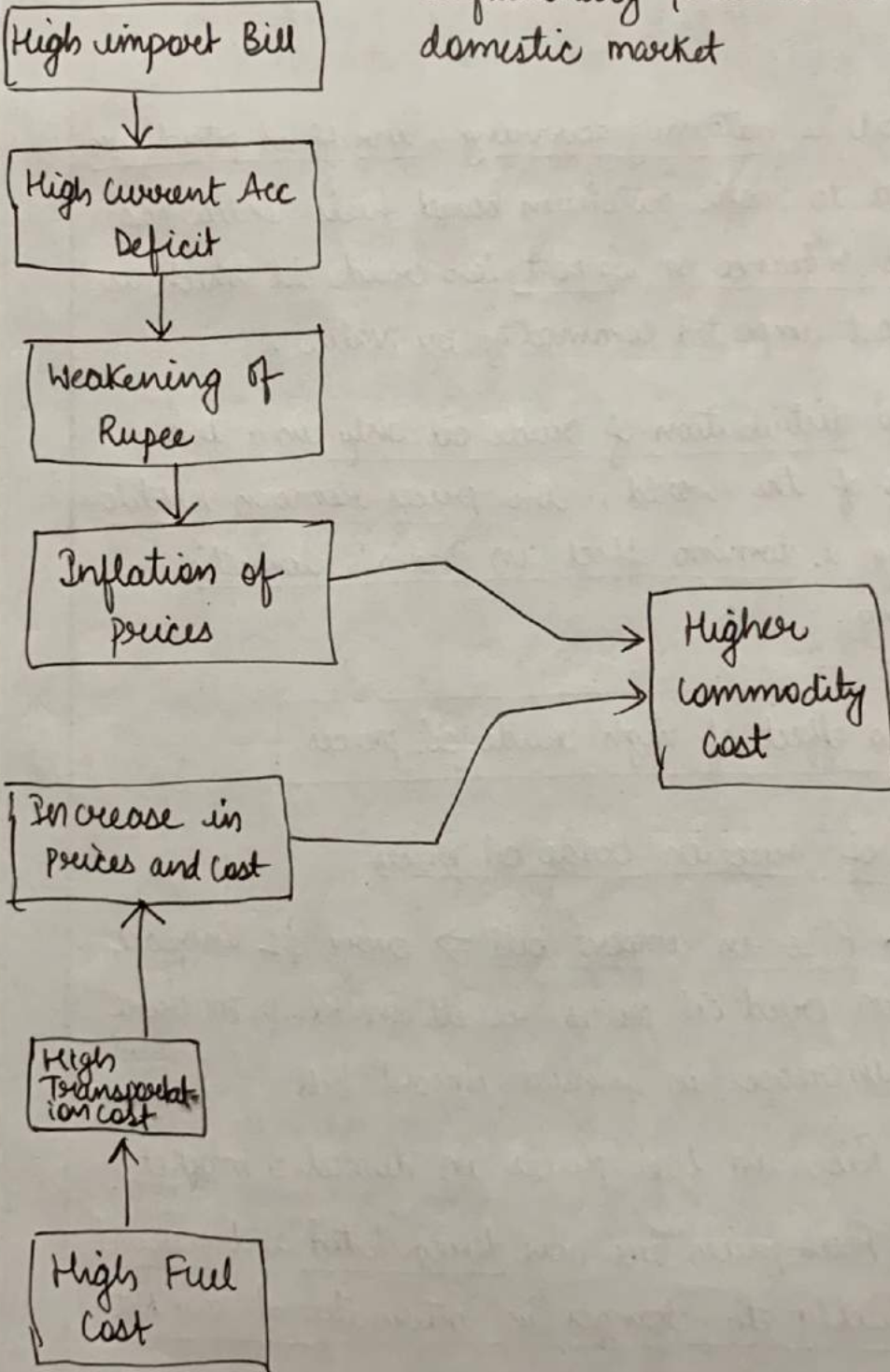
Effects of rise in crude oil prices

↳ Rise in import bill ⇒ every \$1 increase in crude oil prices result in Rs. 10,700 crore increase in annual import bill

↳ Rise in fuel prices in domestic market

⇒ Fuel prices are now deregulated and respond quickly to changes in international market

Domino effect - higher crude prices put inflationary pressure on domestic market



Reform measures

- 1) Diversify the sources of import
⇒ ONGC Videsh should invest overseas to
Secure India's oil interests

- 2) Invest on alternative energy resources
 - ↳ Boost investment in renewable resources
⇒ Schemes such as PM-KUSUM can be
extended to other sectors which are
energy intensive
 - ↳ Promote Electric Vehicles
 - ↳ Adoption of biofuels

- 3) Behavioural changes
 - ↳ Responsible consumption and production
(SDG 12)
 - ↳ Prevent energy wastage

Therefore, the domino effect of crude oil can
be controlled through strategic reforms.

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।

Operating ratio is defined as the amount of money spent to earn one rupee of revenue. Railways has currently the worst operating ratio among all government enterprises.

High OR in Railways

↳ Various estimates have pegged the railway OR at around 97-98%.

↳ CAG Report notes that the true estimate will be around 115% if pensions are factored in ⇒ Railway is spending Rs. 115 to earn Rs. 100

↳ Revenue surplus have constantly declined over past few decades (CAG report)

Reasons for high OR

- 1) Cross subsidization of passenger trains
 ⇒ Revenue from freight service subsidises the passenger train services
- 2) Over-reliance on coal transportation
 - ↳ Coal contributes about 90% to the freight revenue
 - ↳ Any major shift in energy source will have an extremely adverse impact on railways
- 3) Outdated infrastructure
 - ↳ Lack of private investment in railways
 - ↳ Budgetary support and debt is not enough for infrastructure modernization
- 4) Safety issues - repeated railway accidents
- 5) low quality of service, delays in operation

Government initiatives

- 1) Dedicated Freight corridors (DFC) to create a world class freight service
- 2) National Rail Plan
 - ↳ Aims to reduce overall cost by 30%.
 - ↳ To increase modal share of railways upto 45%.
- 3) Vision 2024
 - ↳ 100% electrification
 - ↳ Multi tracking of congested routes
 - ↳ upgradation of speed
 - ↳ Removal of level crossings
- 4) Promote privatization
 - ↳ Tejas Express by IRCTC is a quasi-privatization

Therefore, railways have been suffering from high operating ratio and with right implementation of government initiatives, it can become a profitable enterprise

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।

Micro Food Processing Sector refers to micro enterprises involved in food processing and value-addition of agricultural products. India has a large potential of MFPS because of small localised food production culture.

Significance of MFPS

- 1) Promote many local specialities that remain under appreciated due to backwardness
⇒ Saffron of Kashmir, Makhana in Bihar, etc.
- 2) Potential to generate huge employment at local level ⇒ Reduces need for migration
- 3) Promotes indigenous innovation in food industry

- 4) Create opportunities for local farmers
- ↳ Promote crop diversification
 - ↳ Better prices for farmers
- 5) Micro Food Processing industry has high export potential

Government Initiatives

1) PM- ~~Micro~~ Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises

- ↳ Holistic scheme to develop micro food processing industry covering all aspects from input to marketing of products
- ↳ NAFED has implemented One District One Product scheme ⇒ Selects a speciality from each district to promote it

2) Mega Food Parks - provide plug and play services to micro food processing units.

Challenges faced

- 1) Technological backwardness
- 2) Low capital, not scalable
- 3) Informal credit
- 4) Compliance with labour laws

More reforms required

- 1) Ease of credit
- 2) Ease of regulations
- 3) Incentivise adoption of new technology
- 4) Subsidised electricity

Therefore, with right reforms, MFPE can be a significant contributor to economic growth of the country.

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।

According to World Inequality Report 2022 by the World Inequality Lab, India is one of the most unequal countries in the world with richest 1% population holding more than 20% of national wealth.

This inequality persists despite constitutional mandate and various programmes of successive governments since several decades.

Reasons for inequality

1) Historical reasons

↳ Traditional inequality of caste system continues to exist in various forms

↳ A strong caste and class overlap exists in the upper and lower strata of society

↳ Many historically marginalised communities never got the benefit of affirmative action
(Justice Rohini Commission Report)

2) Gender discrimination

↳ Deeply entrenched patriarchal norms

↳ Low female participation
in work

(LFPR = 25%)

↳ Poor Health

⇒ 56% women are
anaemic (NFHS-5)

3) Failed land reforms ⇒ A huge population
has remained landless while few large landowners
could evade reforms through legal loopholes
or Benami transfers

4) Overcrowding of agriculture ⇒ This is due to
very low employment intensity of industries

↳ Disguised ~~emp~~ unemployment exists in
agriculture

5) Lack of focus on human capital

↳ Government spending
is very low compared
to developed countries

↳ Health - 2% of GDP

↳ Education - 3% of
GDP

Reforms required1) Economic reforms

- ↳ Reforms in agriculture ⇒ Improve farmer's income
- ↳ Land reforms
- ↳ Support MSMEs which can generate more employment

2) Social reforms

- ↳ Reforms in patriarchal norms
 - ↳ Focus of women's education and health
 - ↳ Better participation in work
- ↳ Emphasise children's health and education

3) Policy reforms

- ↳ Healthcare spending ⇒ 6% of GDP
- ↳ Education spending ⇒ 5% of GDP

Therefore, inequality exists in India due to a combination of Structural and historical reasons.

They need to be addressed on economic, social and policy front.

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 दीर्घावधि 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।

Unemployment stood at 7.9% in India in December 2021. Current crisis of employment demands a thorough review of factors affecting employment and measures needed to improve.

Long term determinants of employment

1) Prosperity of industry

- ↳ Industrial growth is extremely crucial
- ↳ Labour intensive sector such as manufacturing needs good growth (growth in manufacturing has remained stagnant in India since almost a decade)

2) Ease of compliance

- ↳ Makes it easier for firms to formally hire more labour
- ↳ Complicated labour laws in India hurt the MSMEs most

3) Skilled labour

↳ Formally skilled labour get jobs easier and has better job security

↳ Only 5% of India's workforce is currently formally skilled

↳ In the US \Rightarrow 56%

↳ Japan \Rightarrow 80%

↳ S. Korea \Rightarrow 95%

↳ Low employability of graduates

\Rightarrow Only 46% graduates are employable

(Skills India Report 2021)

4) Development of agriculture

↳ Move the surplus labour from agriculture to industry \Rightarrow Removes disguised unemployment
 \Rightarrow More workforce available in industry

↳ Prosperous agriculture \Rightarrow Prosperous rural India \Rightarrow Better education and skilling of children \Rightarrow More employability

Improvement measures required

1) Promotion of MSMEs

↳ Highest employment generator outside agriculture (11 crore)

↳ Rural led industrialization ⇒ will facilitate smoother movement from agriculture to industry

2) Invest on human capital

↳ More focus on primary education

↳ Convergence of various skill development programs to make them effective

3) Invest on women's education and health

↳ To increase women LPPR from current 30% to at ~~least~~ least 45%.

It is extremely crucial for India to resolve its employment crisis before the window of demographic dividend closes.

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।

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) refers to proactive strategy of disaster management which seeks to identify and minimise various risks associated with disasters through preparedness and adaptation processes.

Stakeholder engagement for DRR

It has become very important to ~~eng~~ identify and engage various stakeholders for DRR.

↳ Sendai Framework for DRR emphasises on involving local community

↳ National Disaster Management Plan (2016) envisages building capacity at various levels for effective DRR. Inter-agency coordination is a major focus.

- ↳ PM's 10 point agenda on DRR talks of developing community awareness as well as women leadership
- ↳ Apada Mitra volunteer force prepared by NDMA seeks to raise local volunteer force and through them educate wider community
- ↳ Various NDMA guidelines have emphasised on adoption of disaster management policies by all sectors
- ⇒ PM's 10 point agenda asks everyone from household and small enterprise to MNCs to generate awareness and adopt DRR principles
- ↳ Disaster Management Act, 2006 has been a game changer in this regarding by bringing stakeholders from all three tiers of government in a single DM policy framework.

Need for improvement

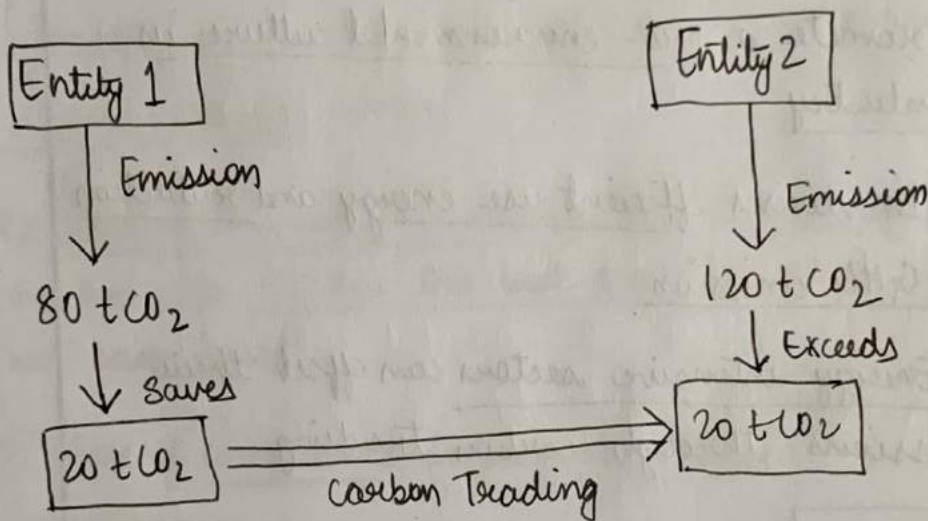
- 1) Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction through awareness
- 2) Regulation and enforcement of guidelines
- 3) Financial mechanisms to deal with the issues of rebuilding and rehabilitation
- 4) Promoting technology to engage various stakeholders such as through mobile applications

Therefore, stakeholder engagement has become a crucial aspect of disaster risk reduction and with some improvements it can be a very effective model of disaster management.

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 refers to trading of emission rights provided to each entity under an emission control mechanism. The idea was adopted under the Kyoto protocol of UN Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC)



Carbon trading in India

↳ India has mechanism for energy trading to reduce emissions ⇒ Perform, Achieve, Trade
(PAT Mechanism)

↳ PAT is a market based mechanism under which Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) provides Energy Saving Certificates which are then traded on India Energy Exchange (IEX)

↳ Energy Conservation Act is also being amended to create a wider carbon market in India.

Need for a carbon market

↳ Promote a pro-environmental culture in industry

↳ Incentivises efficient use energy and reduction of GHG emission

↳ Energy intensive sectors can offset their emissions through carbon trading

Challenges

↳ Political interference can distort the process
⇒ EU ETS mechanism has been suffering from this problem

↳ Difficult to develop a mechanism of trade in something having no intrinsic value
⇒ Need to create scarcity of carbon through strict regulations

↳ Emission measurement and accounting is a challenge

Way Forward

- 1) Need for a wider carbon market in India beyond energy sector
- 2) State of the art measurement and accounting method ⇒ EU has the best practices which we can adopt.
- 3) Ease of compliance to prevent political interference
- 4) Adoption of environmental ethics by all sectors
⇒ Carbon trade should be used as a means and not an end in itself.

Hence, with right implementation, carbon trade can be very effective in curbing GHG emissions.

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 has become a huge menace in India in recent times. World Drug Report 2022 by UN Office on Drugs and Crime notes that India is one of the world's single largest opiate markets in terms of users.

Factors driving drug problem



Internal Factors

1) Rising consumption culture

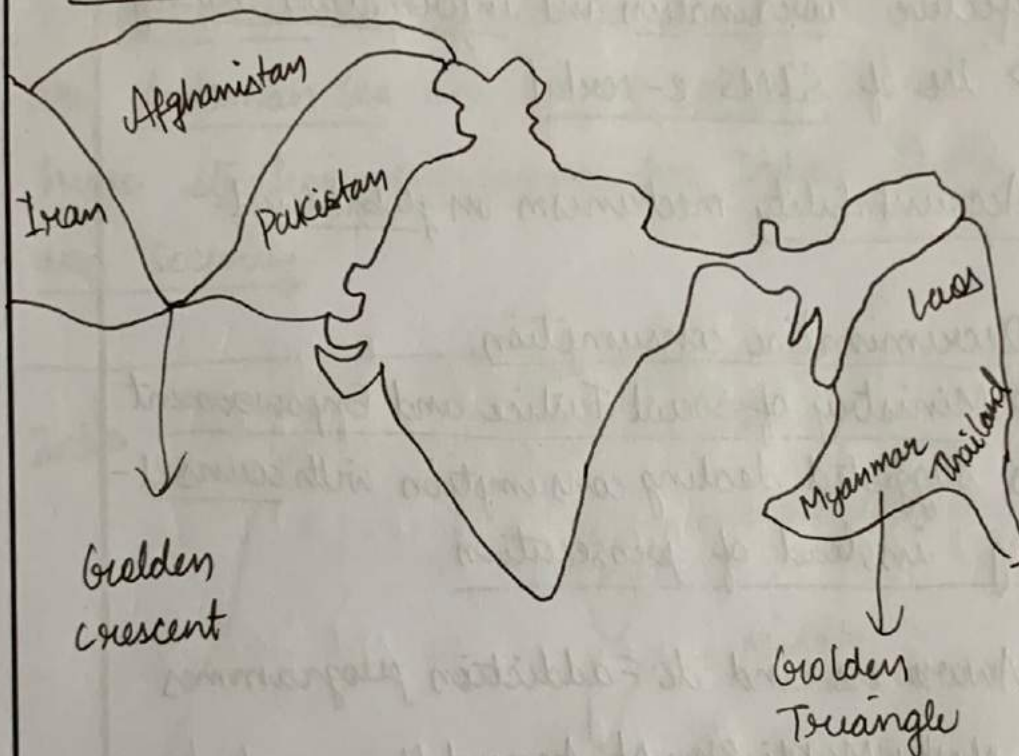
- ↳ Due to mental health issues
- ↳ To cope up with stressful modern life
- ↳ Breakdown of traditional values and kinship relations

2) Technology aid

- ↳ Internet banking, cryptocurrencies, dark web has made transaction easier
- ↳ Created innovative ways of money laundering

External Factors

↳ India lying between "Golden Crescent" and "Golden Triangle" ⇒ Makes India a destination as well as transit hub for hashish and heroin.



Security challenges

- ↳ Compromise of maritime security due to infestation of narco-terrorism
- ↳ Generates corruption in the system creating security vulnerabilities

↳ Narco-money is a major source of funding for terrorist groups

Way Forward

- 1) Effective coordination and information sharing
⇒ Use of SIMS e-portal
- 2) Accountability mechanism on global level
- 3) Decriminalise consumption
⇒ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has suggested dealing consumption with counselling instead of prosecution
- 4) Awareness and de-addiction programmes
⇒ Nasha Mukti Bharat Annual Plan needs to be revived

Therefore, drug trafficking pose a major threat to security of the country and needs to be effectively countered.

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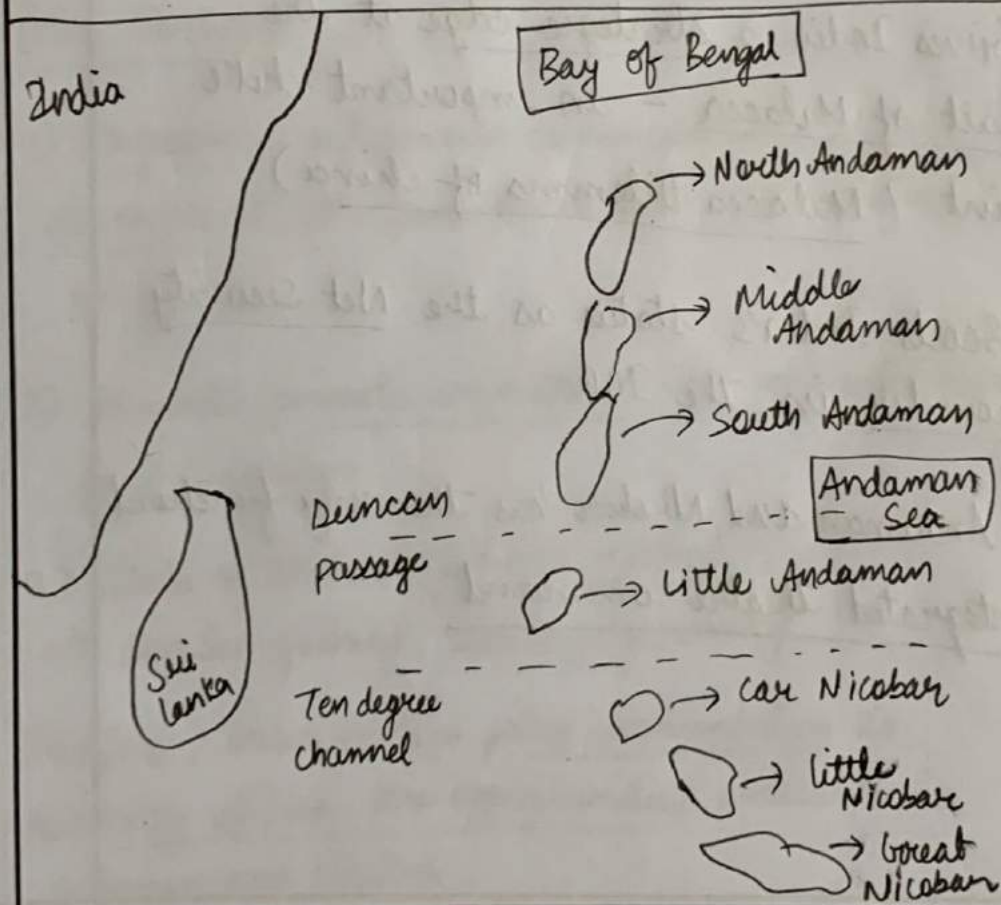
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19. The Andaman and Nicobar islands' strategic significance in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) has been underplayed by India's policy of 'masterly inactivity and benign neglect'. Critically discuss. **(250 words) 15**

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।

Andaman and Nicobar is an archipelago consisting of 265 islands, situated at the junction of the Andaman sea and Bay of Bengal. It has huge strategic significance for India's trade and security.



Strategic importance1) Trade

↳ 70% of India's trade by value and 90% by volume goes through sea

↳ 90% of India's oil trade is through the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

2) Security

↳ Gives India a strategic edge at the Strait of Malacca - an important choke point (Malacca Dilemma of China)

↳ Boosts India's status as the Net Security provider in the IOR

↳ Andaman and Nicobar has the only functional integrated theatre command

Historical neglect

- ↳ Lack of development of indigenous community due to the attitude of "masterly inactivity"
- ⇒ The policy promotes isolationism with regards to the indigenous people
- ↳ Human Development Indicators are very poor due to "~~benign~~" benign neglect"
- ↳ Lack of investment in infrastructure

Way Forward

- 1) Empower indigenous communities to self development ⇒ Development with preservation of culture
- 2) Promote private investment in infrastructure and tourism
- 3) State of the art fishing methods
⇒ Deep Sea fishing, Sea cage farming

Therefore, India needs a policy reorientation to effectively utilise the opportunities available in Andaman and Nicobar.

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?

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Page 49 of 50

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