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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1248)

Name of Candidate	Anupriya choudhary		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	491283
Center	ORN	Date	

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
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।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

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. Explain the significance of Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) in India and highlight the issues in their working. (150 words) 10

भारत में क्रेडिट रेटिंग एजेंसियों (CRAs) का महत्व स्पष्ट कीजिए और इनकी कार्यप्रणाली से संबद्ध मुद्दों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) are domestic/international agencies tasked with determining creditworthiness of companies, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) etc.

SIGNIFICANCE

- ① Inform the investors of the health of the company
 - ② Help in retaining faith of retail investors, lenders etc in company's financial credence
 - ③ Help the concerned company take timely corrective measures to ~~prevent~~ prevent insolvency situation
 - ④ Assist investors in taking informed decisions, thereby protecting finances
- Recently, post the IL&FS crisis, the CRA's functioning came under scanner

and following issues were highlighted in Issues:

- ① Suspect objectivity:
often credit rating agencies have a
nexus with corporate counterparts to
secure future contracts.
- ② Inadequate assessment standards:
such that favoured 3rd party CRA
continued to assess financial health.
- ③ Lack of robust corporate governance.
- ④ Flawed model of credit rating
such that company itself used CRA to rate it.

WAY FORWARD:

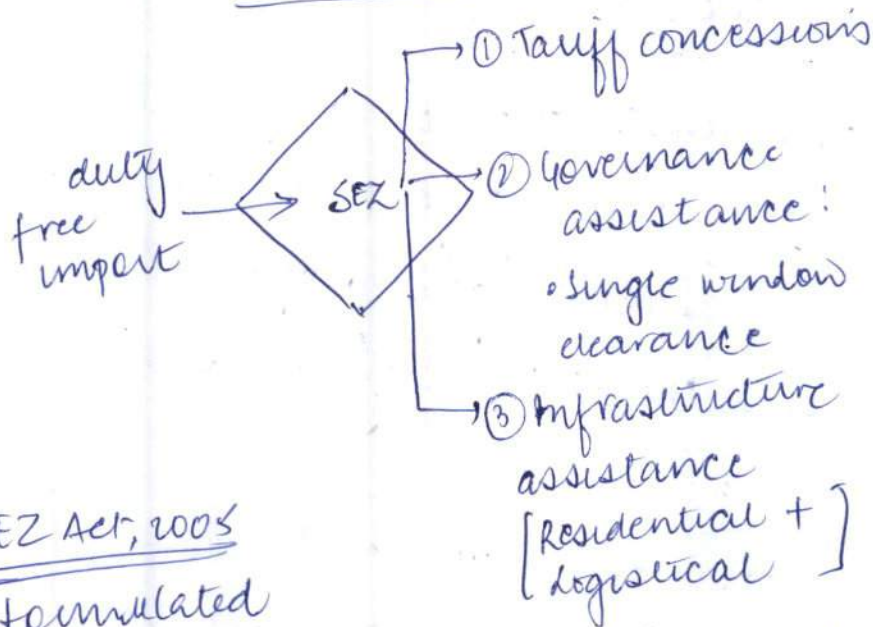
- ① Shifting to independent assessment model
(such that regulator decides CRA)
- ② Adherence to recent SEBI guidelines
on CRAs.
- ③ Periodic revision of credit rating
standards.
- ④ Alignment with international standards
these steps can ensure objectivity
and fair functioning of CRAs to prevent
IIEFS like crisis in future.

2. What are the issues that have limited the success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India? Mention some steps that can be taken to address them. (150 words) 10

भारत में विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र (SEZs) की सफलता को सीमित करने वाले मुद्दे क्या हैं? इन्हें दूर करने के लिए उठाए जा सकने वाले कुछ कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were established in 2000 post the revocation of limitation of Export Promotion Zones (EPZs).

SEZ Architecture



The SEZ Act, 2005 was formulated

to ensure hindrance free export promotion. However, the SEZ policy got crippled with certain issues:

- ① Domestic sell-out is prohibited (this limits avenues for sale).

- ① Delay in approval from SEZ approval committee
- ② Skewed interest from private sectors especially in sectors like electronics, hardware etc
- ④ Governance hurdles such as delay in getting land clearances, multiple labour legislations -

This limits the SEZ's capabilities in terms of earning foreign exchange & boosting employment.

Thus, the SEZ policy needs a revamp wrt :-

- ① Decreasing compliance burdens.
- ② Adhering to the recommendations of recently established committee on:

- renaming SEZs as E³ (exports, employment, economic zones)
- Allowing domestic sales

These will assist in boosting exports & employment at a time when they are at 45 year high.

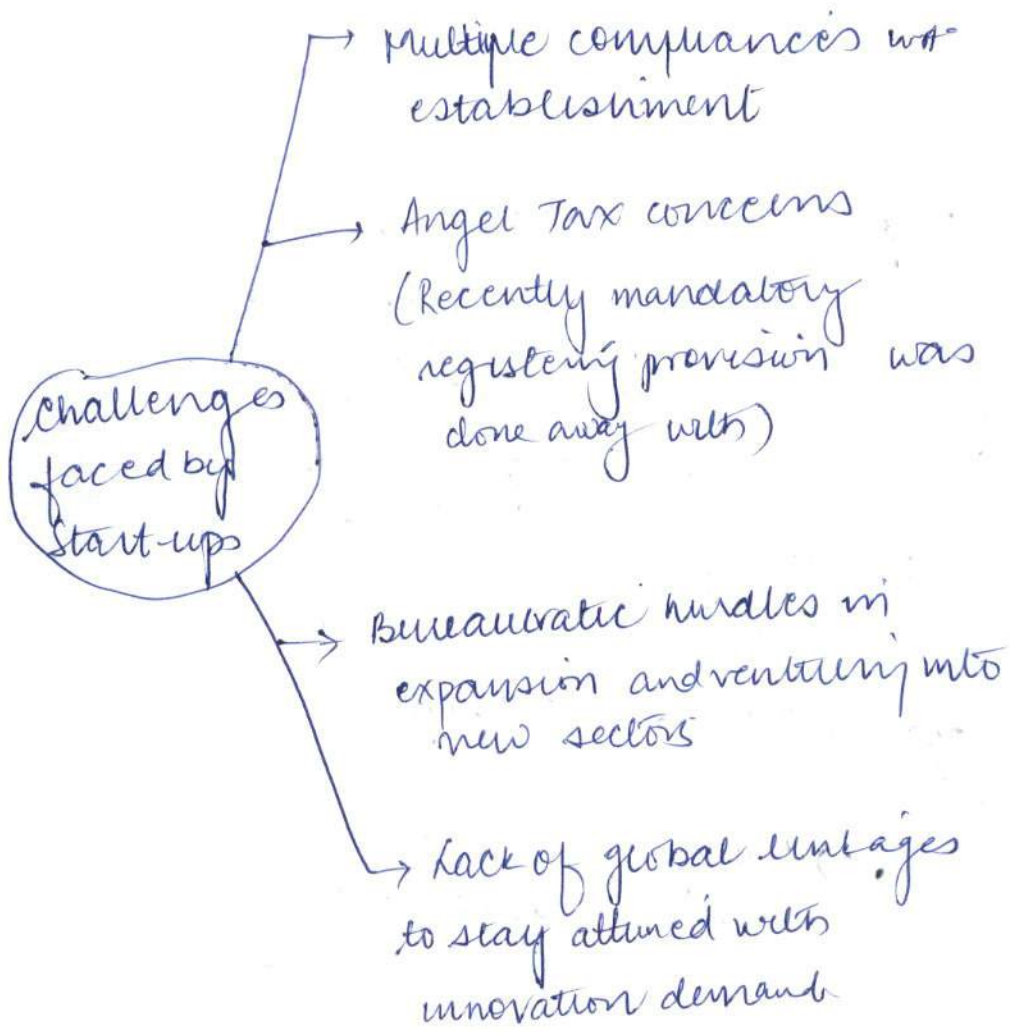
3. The opportunities for start-ups in India are immense, but so are the challenges. Discuss. (150 words) 10

भारत में स्टार्ट-अप्स के लिए असीमित अवसर हैं, लेकिन चुनौतियां भी उतनी ही हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Startups culture in India received immense boost post the reform era. They have a multi faceted presence in various sectors ranging from food-processing, manufacturing, agriculture to innovation.

Opportunities for Start ups

- ① Policy incentivisation through
 - START UP India scheme
 - tax concessions during initial years.
- ② Innovation ecosystem as demonstrated by spike in India's rank in World Competitiveness index.
- ③ Boost in Industry-Academia collaborations, actively assisting Startups.



However, government has introduced a series of measures to boost start up culture -

(1) Revamp of startup definition
• to include companies established (upto 10 yrs)

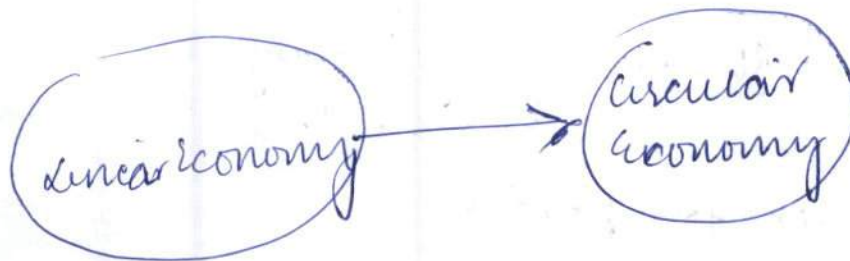
(2) MUDRA loan provisioning

These measures along with enabling environment can allay concerns of startups

4. The term 'Circular Economy' is often seen in news. What are the principles that it is based on? Bring out its relevance for India. (150 words) 10

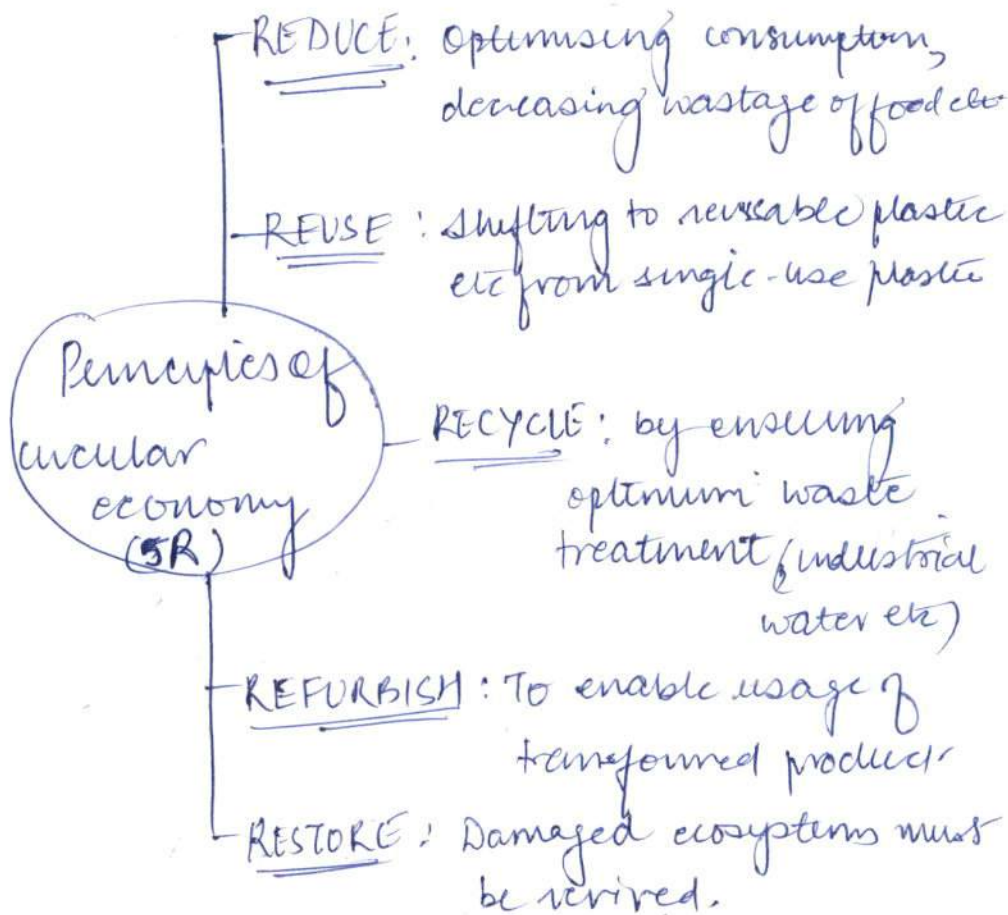
'चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था' (सर्कुलर इकॉनमी) पद प्रायः सुर्खियों में रहता है। वे कौन-से सिद्धांत हैं जिन पर यह आधारित है? भारत के लिए इसकी प्रासंगिकता स्पष्ट कीजिए।

With waste management issue attaining epidemic proportions and threat of climate change looming over India's development strides, experts have recommended a shift from linear economy to circular economy.



- 'Use and throw' culture
- Generates enormous quantities of waste
- Aggravates climate change concerns.

- Based on principles of R^S
 - Reduce
 - Reuse
 - Recycle
 - Refurbish
 - Restore
- Sound waste treatment and management
- Aligned with Sustainable Development



Relevance for India

I. Economic Compulsions:

- limited resources (4% freshwater for 19% population)
- Developmental needs increasing with population, upscale

(UN world population prospects: India to become most populous by 2029)

II. Sustainable development:

III. Mitigation of climate change

The recent ~~document~~ Resource use policy, 2019 of MoEFCC is a step in the right direction.

5. Assess the performance of Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana in achieving its stated objective of financial inclusion. (150 words) 10

वित्तीय समावेशन के अपने निर्धारित उद्देश्य को प्राप्त करने में प्रधानमंत्री जन-धन योजना के प्रदर्शन का आकलन कीजिए।

Financial inclusion, encompassing from credit inclusion, to insurance inclusion to banking services access is a pre-cursor for financial empowerment and independence.

The PM-Jan Dhan Yojana was launched in 2015 with the aim of universal financial inclusion and getting unbanked population in the folds of financial access:-

Features:

- limited KYC requirements
- overdraft facility
- Accidental and life insurance cover
- Zero balance accounts

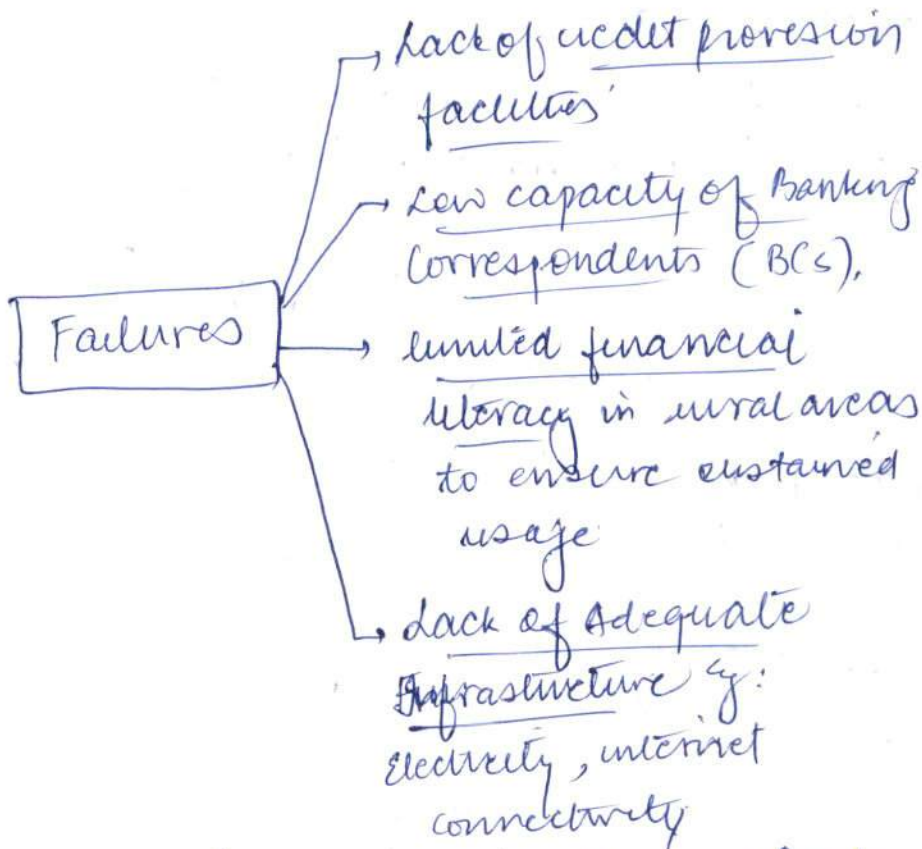
Assessment of success performance

SUCCESS

- ① between 2014-2017, 55% of new bank accounts opened worldwide belonged to Indians (World Bank study)

(2) Decrease in no. of dormant accounts (post integration with DBT (Direct Bank transfer) of subsides)).

(3) Progressive resolution of issue of DUPLICATE ACCOUNTS :-
(that limited financial access).

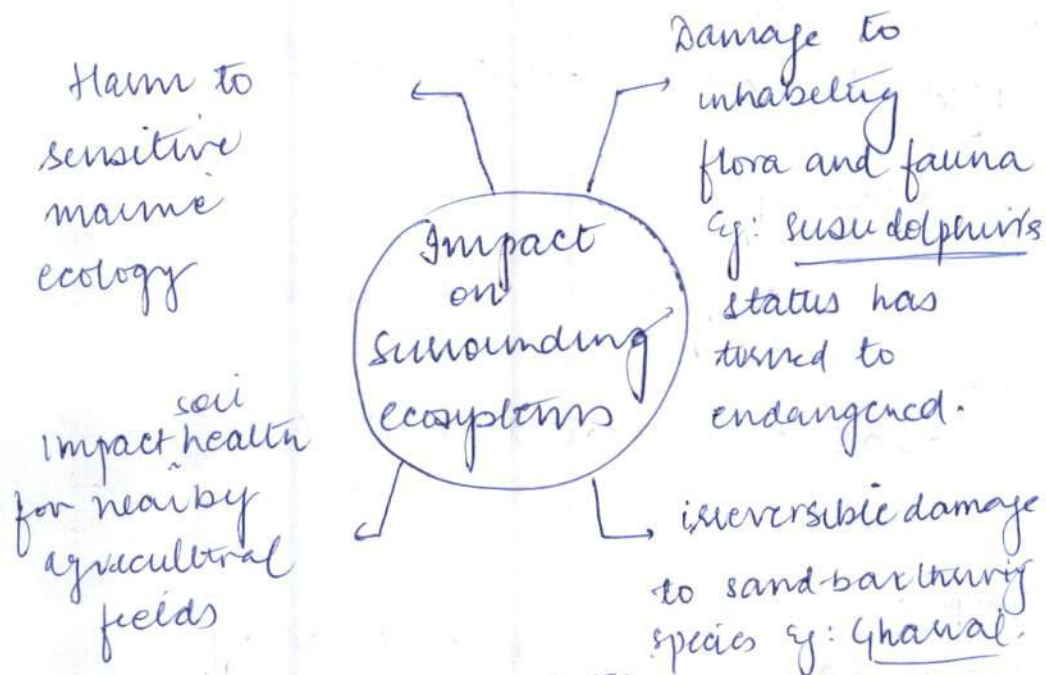


However, with integration of Payment Banks etc, the scheme's success in bringing about a JAMN revolution will be sustained.

6. How does pollution in rivers impact the surrounding ecosystem? Explain why such pollution has not shown signs of improvement, despite various government initiatives. (150 words) 10

नदियों के प्रदूषण से आसपास का पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र कैसे प्रभावित होता है? समझाइए कि विभिन्न सरकारी पहलों के बावजूद इस प्रकार के प्रदूषण में सुधार के संकेत क्यों नहीं हैं।

Recent CPCB study revealed presence of heavy metal contamination of Lead, Nickel in Ganga and its tributaries.



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:-

- ① Ganga Action Plan:
in order to ensure 'Nirmalta' and 'Aviralta' of Ganga river and its tributaries
- ② Maintaining e-flow: guidelines

have been stipulated to ensure environmental flow in various seasons

③ National River Conservation Plan

- for other pollution prone rivers.

eg: Recent CPCB report: no. of critically polluted stretches has increased from 300 to ~350.

Yamuna is the most polluted river.

Limitations of initiatives.

① Enforcement of initiatives remains poor :-

such that CPCB reported blatant non-compliance in stretches near Kanpur.

② Ritual bathing, agricultural runoff continuing unabated

③ Proliferation of leather industries in vicinity of Ganga

Thus, holistic water conservation and pollution prevention plan is the need of the hour.

7. What is project MANAV launched by the Department of Biotechnology? Highlight the significance of this project. (150 words) 10

जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग द्वारा आरंभ की गई मानव (MANAV) परियोजना क्या है? इस परियोजना के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Project MANAV, a human genome sequencing project has been launched by Department of Biotechnology in 2018.

Features of Project MANAV:

- Sequencing of genomes of all Indians
- Preparing an accessible database
- Assisting pharma companies in customised medicines preparation
- Upscaling research in 'pharmacogenomics'

The project has been launched along the lines of the Human Genome Project by Celera Genomics.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ① Will help establish a genome database of Indian citizens
- ② After establishment of proper protocols, can assist in customised diagnosis
- ③ Can inspire similar genome sequencing of livestock etc

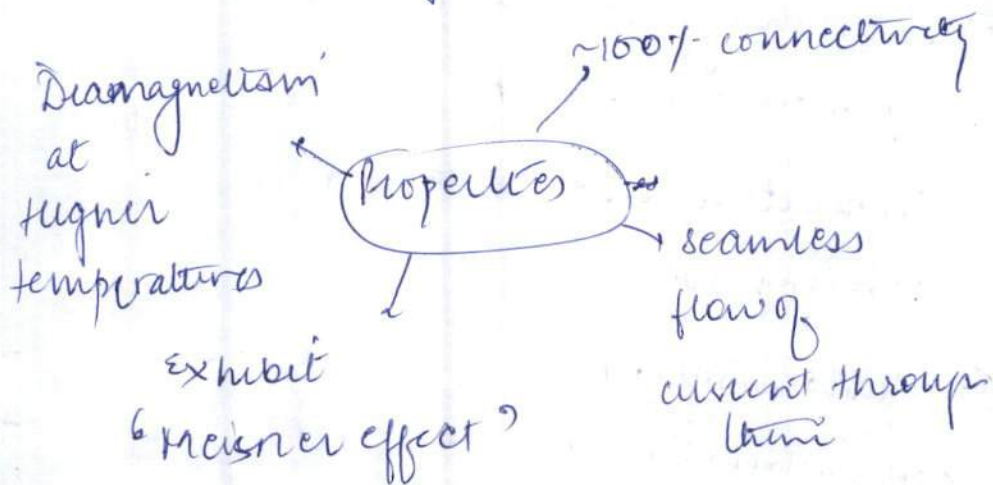
(Amount of junk DNAs in livestock is less than in humans (97%))

Thus, Project Manav is a step towards genomic revolution to aid in precise and timely diagnosis.

8. Highlighting the properties and applications of superconductors, discuss the constraints related to their practical use. (150 words) 10

अतिचालकों के गुणों और अनुप्रयोगों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इनके व्यावहारिक उपयोग से संबंधित बाधाओं की विवेचना कीजिए।

Superconductors are conducting devices, generally made of silicon and Germanium that show ~~low~~ 0% resistivity at high temperatures by allowing seamless flow of current through them.



Applications:

- ① In thermo-electric devices
- ② In electronic appliances where high-temperature

application is leveraged.

Recently, IISc Bengaluru
successfully created Air-based
superconductors that exhibit
conductivity at ambient temperatures.

However there are certain
constraints in their practical use:-

- ① Extremely high ~~temp~~ service
temperatures required
- ② Prohibitive costs involved in
development
- ③ Customisation for use in diverse
applications is ~~too~~ difficult

Thus super-conductors' field holds
promise in accelerating research,
provided above constraints are
addressed.

9. Discuss the reasons behind India becoming a major destination as well as a transit hub for drug trafficking in South Asia. How does this effect India's internal security? (150 words) 10

दक्षिण एशिया में भारत के मादक पदार्थों की तस्करी के प्रमुख गंतव्य स्थल के साथ-साथ पारगमन केंद्र बनने के कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए। यह भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा को कैसे प्रभावित करता है?

India's geographical positioning poses huge threats in terms of increasing drug trafficking.



The sandwiched presence between

- Golden triangle
 - Golden crescent
- } drug trafficking hubs.

increases India's vulnerability to substance Abuse.

Other Reasons: -

(1) Impact of social media :-

A negative influence in terms of proliferation of abusive content increases vulnerability of youths

(2) Societal alienation and unemployment :-

(3) Fragile borders :-

- India-Pakistan (stretch in vicinity of Punjab)

- India-Bangladesh (infiltration issues)

making India a transit hub from Mexico, Europe till Pacific stretch

(4) Dark Net menace :-

where cryptocurrency backed illegal drug peddling prevails -
effect on internal security

- Increases vulnerability to cross-border smuggling and ~~terror~~ crime

- Terror-funding exploiting 'Havala' connections

- Imposes threat of ORGANISED CRIME

- Jurisdictional conflicts make prosecution difficult

10. The development of border areas is an important element in border management. In this context, discuss how the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) seeks to ameliorate the problems faced in border areas. (150 words) 10

सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों का विकास वस्तुतः सीमा प्रबंधन का एक महत्वपूर्ण घटक है। इस संदर्भ में, चर्चा कीजिए कि सीमा क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम (BADP), सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों की समस्याओं में कैसे सुधार लाना चाहता है।

India shares land borders with 8 countries, making border management a crucial issue in India's developmental paradigm.

Significance of Border area development:

- ① To accelerate inclusive development
- ② Border areas often suffer from developmental deficit owing to absence of 'last mile outreach'.
- ③ Vulnerable to cross-border shelling

Features of BADP :-

- ① Saturating border areas with developmental infrastructure
- ② Phase-based approach
Phase I: 1st 50 kms. in the vicinity of international border

Phase II: next 50 kms.
and so on.

- (3) Mission - based implementation
of road connectivity and
social infrastructure

How it seeks to solve problems?

- (1) Proactive developmental outreach
to alleviate issues of :-
- historical neglect
 - unemployment
 - inadequate civic infrastructure
- (2) channelising youth energies to
prevent:
- Radicalisation
 - arms smuggling and gun-running.

Thus, BAPD along with comprehensive
Integrated Border Management (IBM)
seeks to boost development and
border security simultaneously.

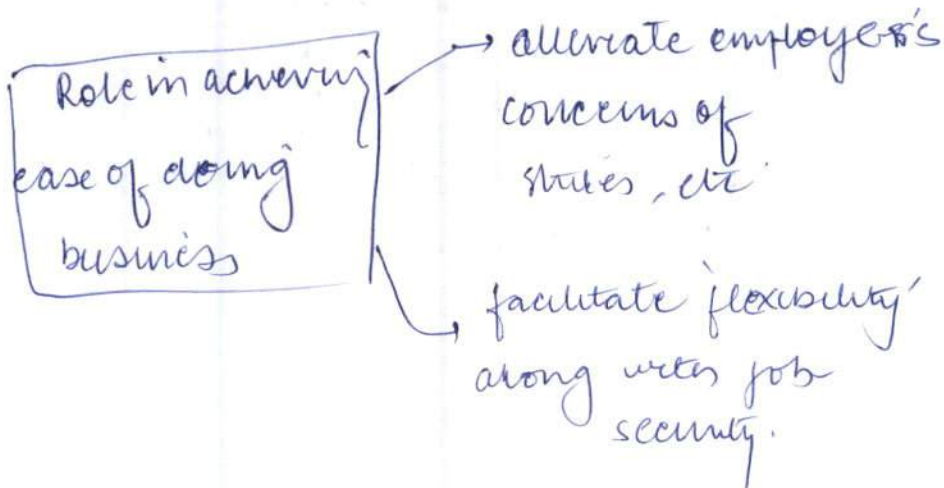
11. Examine whether Fixed Term Employment will be able to achieve the objectives of ease of doing business, achieving labour welfare and job creation. (250 words) 15

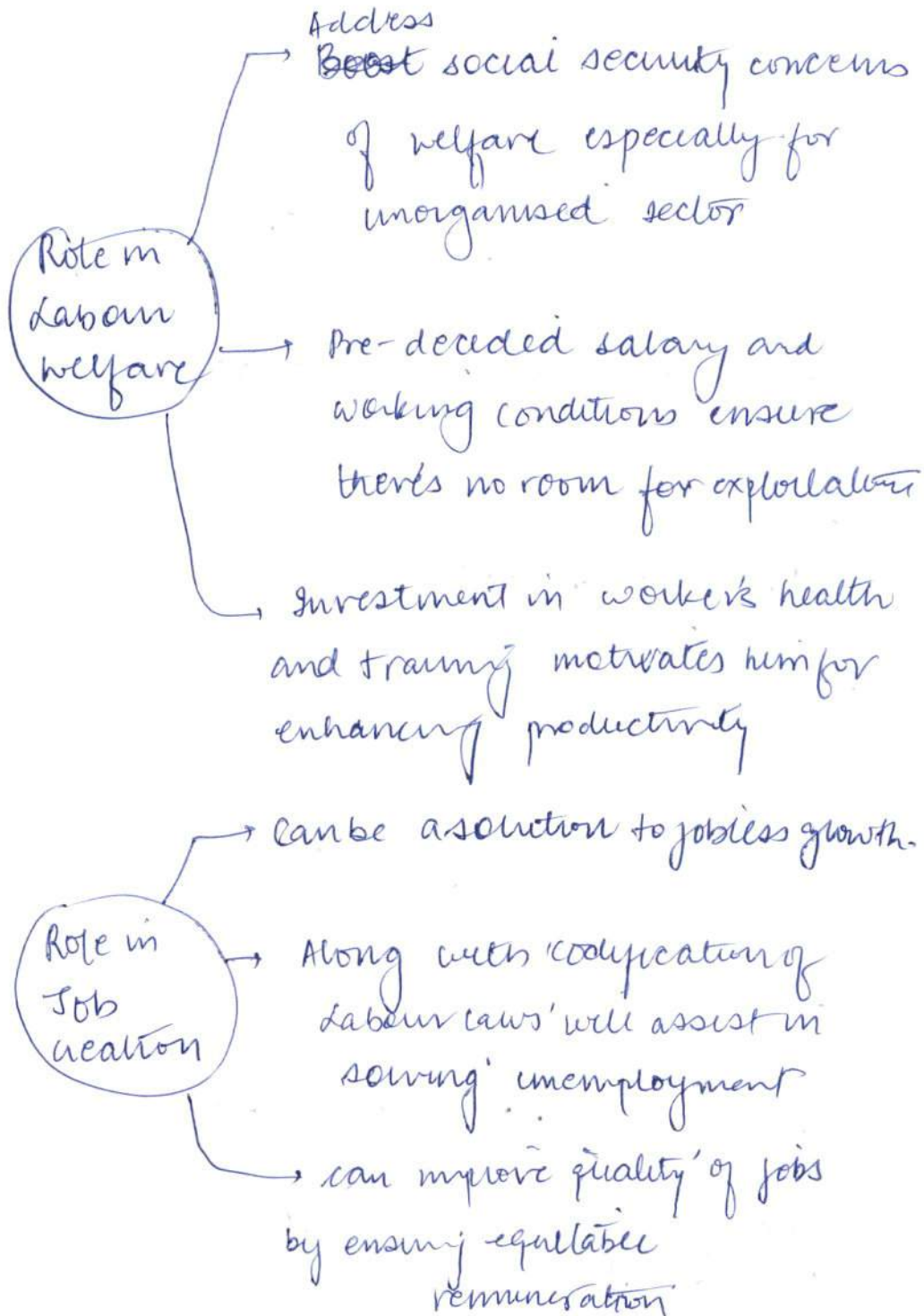
परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या नियत अवधि का रोजगार, ईज ऑफ़ डूइंग बिज़नेस, श्रम कल्याण और रोजगार सृजन के उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में सक्षम होगा।

Fixed term employment refers to hiring of employees by a company for a specified tenure such that

- conditions of service
- salary and other remunerations are pre-determined.

At a time when India faces 45-year high unemployment rate of 6.1% (PLFS survey 2019), fixed term employment holds immense opportunities.





Thus, fixed term employment
holds promise in terms of addressing
unemployment and labour
welfare concerns, ~~the~~ propelling the
economy to achieve \$5 trillion
mark by 2024-25.

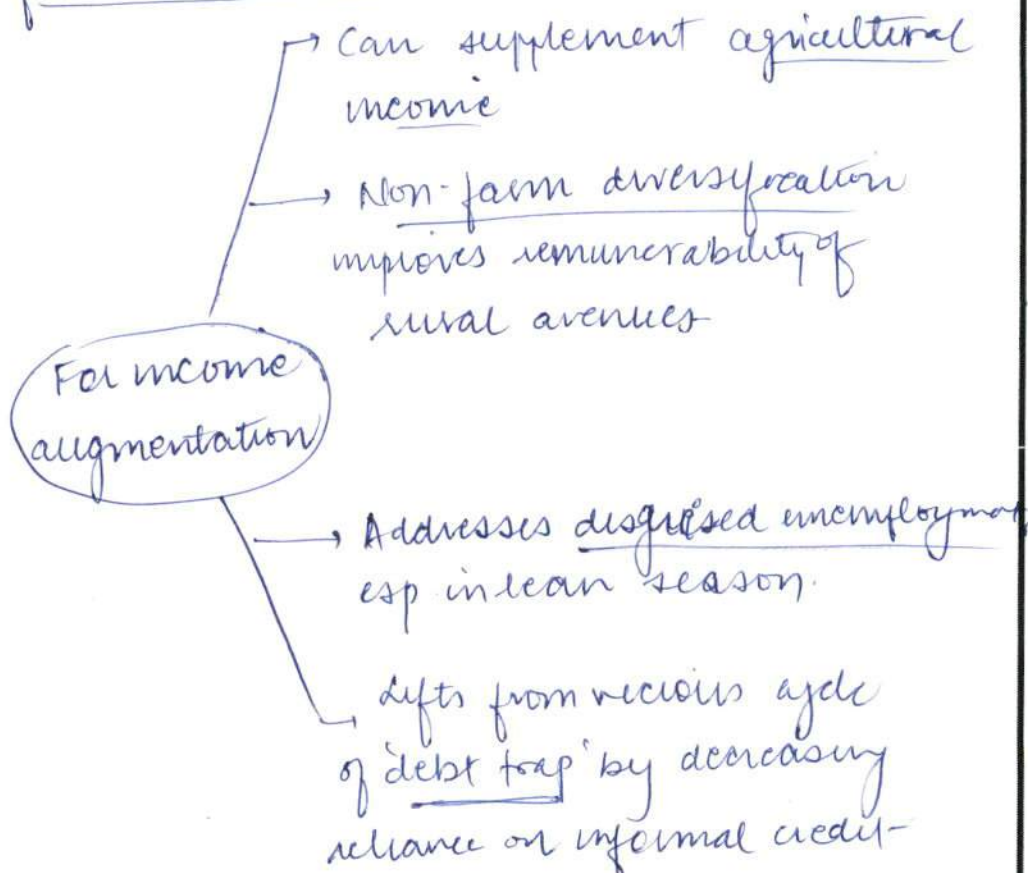


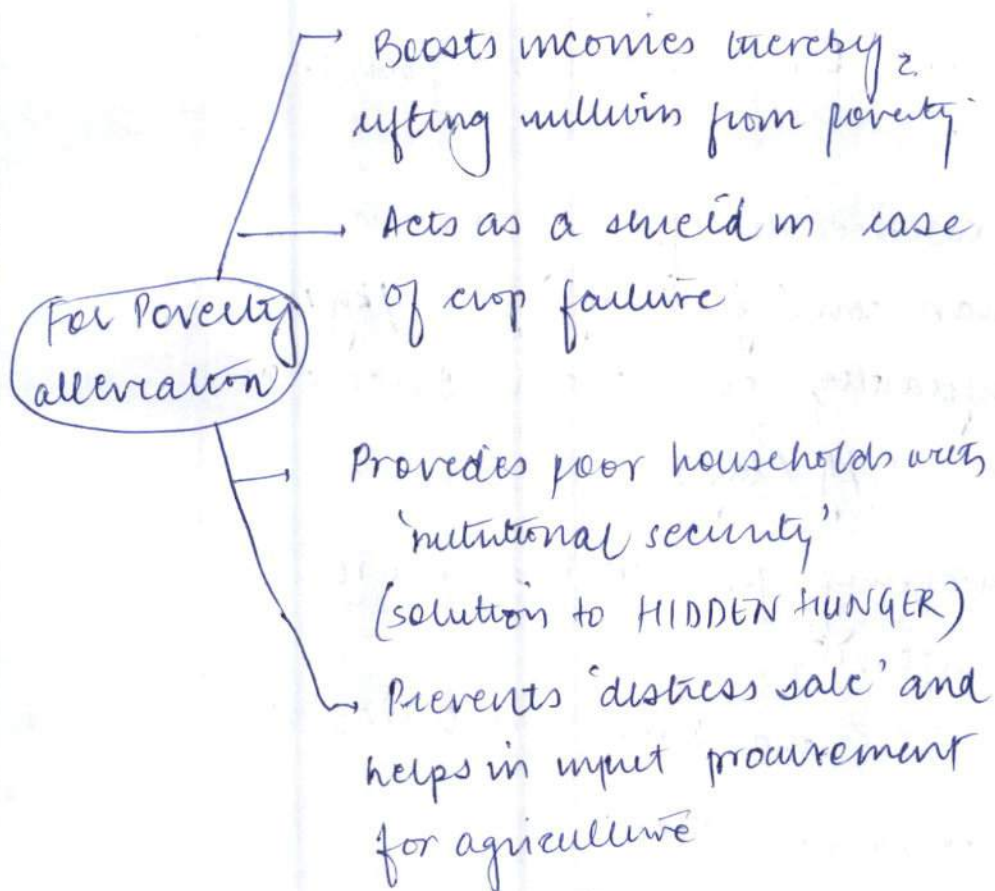
12. A growing livestock sector augurs well for the low income households to augment their income and escape poverty. Discuss. Further, suggest some strategies for ensuring sustainable livestock sector growth in India. (250 words) 15

एक वृद्धिशील पशुधन क्षेत्रक निम्न आय वाले परिवारों के लिए अपनी आय में वृद्धि करने और गरीबी से बाहर निकलने हेतु शुभ संकेत है। चर्चा कीजिए। इसके अतिरिक्त, भारत में पशुधन क्षेत्रक का संधारणीय विकास सुनिश्चित करने हेतु कुछ रणनीतियों का सुझाव दीजिए।

In India, the white revolution (Operation Flood) spearheaded by Verghese Kurian heralded an era of focus on livestock sector

Significance of livestock sector for low income households :-





Government initiatives to boost livestock sector:

- ① Rashtriya Gokul Mission:
to boost indigenous breeds' productivity
In Budget 2019-20, GOI established
Rashtriya Kamadhenu Ayog in order
to assist research on livestock development
- ② Encouraging 'cooperative' culture esp. among women eg: recent Sreeja dairy cooperative (of AP) has lifted thousands from poverty

Measures for sustainable growth of
Sector :-

- ① Cross-breeding of indigenous livestock
Indian cows' yield of avg. 308 kg/day is
significantly lower than Israel's cows
yield (25kg/day)
- ② Conserving gene-pool to boost
productivity
- ③ Forward and backward linkages :-
 - Access to market
 - logistical support
- ④ Boosting value-addition facilities
to increase remuneration for
poor households.

To in order to lift rural poor
and ensure 'income security',
sustained focus on livestock sector
is a must

13. Examine whether the time has come for India to usher in full liberalisation of the Capital Account. (250 words) 15

परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या भारत के लिए पूंजी खाते के पूर्ण उदारीकरण की शुरुआत करने का समय आ गया है।

Capital account convertibility refers to enabling liberalised conversion of any amount of foreign currency into Indian rupees and vice-versa.

Experts have been calling to usher in capital account liberalisation as it exists for current account only at present

Has the time come?

PROS

- Will boost Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) owing to greater investor confidence
- Economic growth will receive a big boost

CONS

- may lead to volatility of financial sector
- Rumours of crisis, too may trigger crisis

◦ might improve prospects for Indian investors wishing to invest abroad.

◦ Will link Indian economy with global financial markets.

Eg: 1997 East Asian crisis - full capital account convertibility aggravated the crisis

◦ Independence of monetary policy may be affected

In view of various concerns, a committee was established to look into feasibility and desirability of full capital account convertibility.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TARAPOKE COMMITTEE:

→ Capital account convertibility must be looked at only if robust state of financial market is assured in terms of:

- (1) Robust ~~finance~~ fiscal deficit situation
($< 3\%$ GDP)
current ~~GDP~~ fiscal deficit hovers around
3.5%.
- (2) Healthy current account deficit ($< 1\%$
GDP)
- (3) Inflation stability
- (4) Robust banking sector
(Present NPA comprises 11% of total assets).

Thus, capital account convertibility
is desirable after addressing the
above pre-requisites in order to boost
economy along with ~~health~~ stable
health of financial sector

14. Highlighting the challenges to agriculture extension in India, discuss how ICT can help in addressing them. (250 words) 15

भारत में कृषि विस्तार के समक्ष चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि इन्हें दूर करने में ICT से कैसे सहायता मिल सकती है।

Agricultural extension refers to the support infrastructure and research required to boost agricultural productivity and rural incomes.

~~More~~ Significance of
Agricultural Extension:-

- ① Aids in efficiency enhancement in agriculture
- ② WTO compliant - the investment in agricultural extension forms part of 'Green-Box' subsidies under Agreement on Agriculture, 1994.
- ③ Multiple positive spin offs in terms of crop diversification, poverty alleviation and boost to processing sector.

Challenges faced :

- ① Subdued investment and government interest
- ② Emphasis on MSP, Direct Income transfer etc causing neglect of extension services-
- ③ Lack of private sector ~~invest~~ interest
- ④ Absence of unicorn startups in the sector

Thus in order to boost agricultural

sector's productivity and remuneration at a time when non-agricultural workers income is 3.8 times agricultural workers, there's a strong need to focus on extension

Role of ICT.

- ↳ can provide technology based tools to aid farmers in decision making.

↳ with the help of NAVIC based gadgets, these can help in making timely decisions wrt :-

- o crop sowing
- o fertilizer spraying
- o harvesting
- o pest management etc

↳ Emerging technologies like Artificial intelligence, ~~IoT~~ IoT, Big Data Analysis etc can be harnessed to move to Precision farming and agri-mapping

Thus, agricultural extension holds immense promise in improving lives of 46% segment of Indian population, especially in view of threat of climate change on the sector's prospects.

15. Now that it has been two years since introduction of GST in India, do you think the system is on the path to achieve its intended objectives? Support your answer with relevant facts. (250 words) 15

अब जबकि भारत में GST को लागू हुए दो वर्ष हो गए हैं, क्या आप मानते हैं कि यह प्रणाली अपने अपेक्षित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के पथ पर अग्रसर है? प्रासंगिक तथ्यों से अपने उत्तर की पुष्टि कीजिए।

GST has been hailed as the biggest indirect tax reform since independence owing to the establishment of a common market and improving ease of living of citizens

Intended objectives:-

- Reduction of cascading burden on citizens
- Formalization of economy.
- Improving tax compliance through ease of collection
- Integrating India into a common market and seamless flow of goods across states
- Leveraging technology to fast-track Input-Tax Credit Refunds
- Securing state revenues (as per GSTera).

through the use of GSTN (network).

Assessment of performance: -

Success:

- ① Ease of compliance under GST has led to inclusion of erstwhile informal economies within the fold of formal economies, especially MSME sector.
- ② Widening of tax base, owing to ~~the~~ reduced burden on final consumers.
- ③ IT-enabled infrastructure improved timely return filing.
- ④ States' revenues have stabilised owing to Composition to States Act implementation.

However, there are still numerous concerns regarding scheme's seamless implementation.

Concerns that remain :-

- ① Multiple tax slabs (0%, 5%, 12%, 18%) that question the relevance of 'One nation - one Tax nation'.
- ② Inadequate integration such that alcohol, petrol, real estate etc remain out of GST ambit
- ③ Multiple compliances w.r.t. registration of a new firms.
- ④ Technical glitches in the GSTN architecture

Ways, WAY FORWARD.

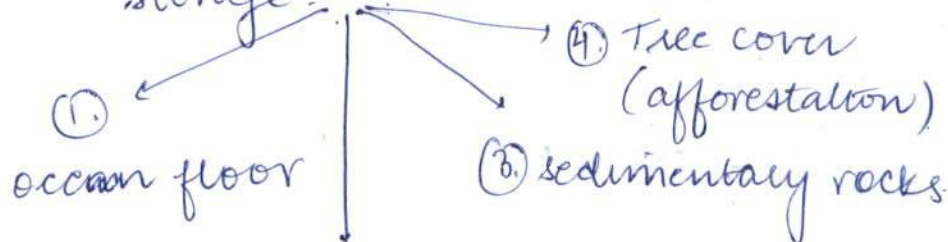
- ↳ Rationalising the no. of slabs by facilitating :
 - zero rating of exports
 - cess on sin goods
- ↳ Harnessing private sector expertise in ensuring a robust GSTN -
- ↳ Facilitating annual-return filing to help in ease of doing.

16. Write a brief note on Carbon Capture and Storage. Mention its potential benefits and discuss the challenges that need to be addressed for its wide-scale deployment in India. (250 words) 15

कार्बन अभिग्रहण और भण्डारण पर संक्षिप्त टिप्पणी लिखिए। इसके संभावित लाभों का उल्लेख कीजिए तथा भारत में इसके व्यापक पैमाने पर परिनियोजन में आने वाली उन चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए जिन्हें दूर किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

Carbon capture and storage is a novel climate change mitigation technique aimed at decreasing human ecological footprint.

Avenues for Carbon Capture and Storage:-



(2) abandoned oil and gas fields.

with accelerated use in green house gas emissions as demonstrated below there's a need to supplement adaptation measures like climate resilient farming, drought resilient crops etc with mitigation measures.

Year.	1950s	2016	2019
CO ₂ concentration	250 ppm	400 ppm	410 ppm

Potential of Carbon Capture Technologies:-

(1) can assist in arresting the upscale of extreme weather events.

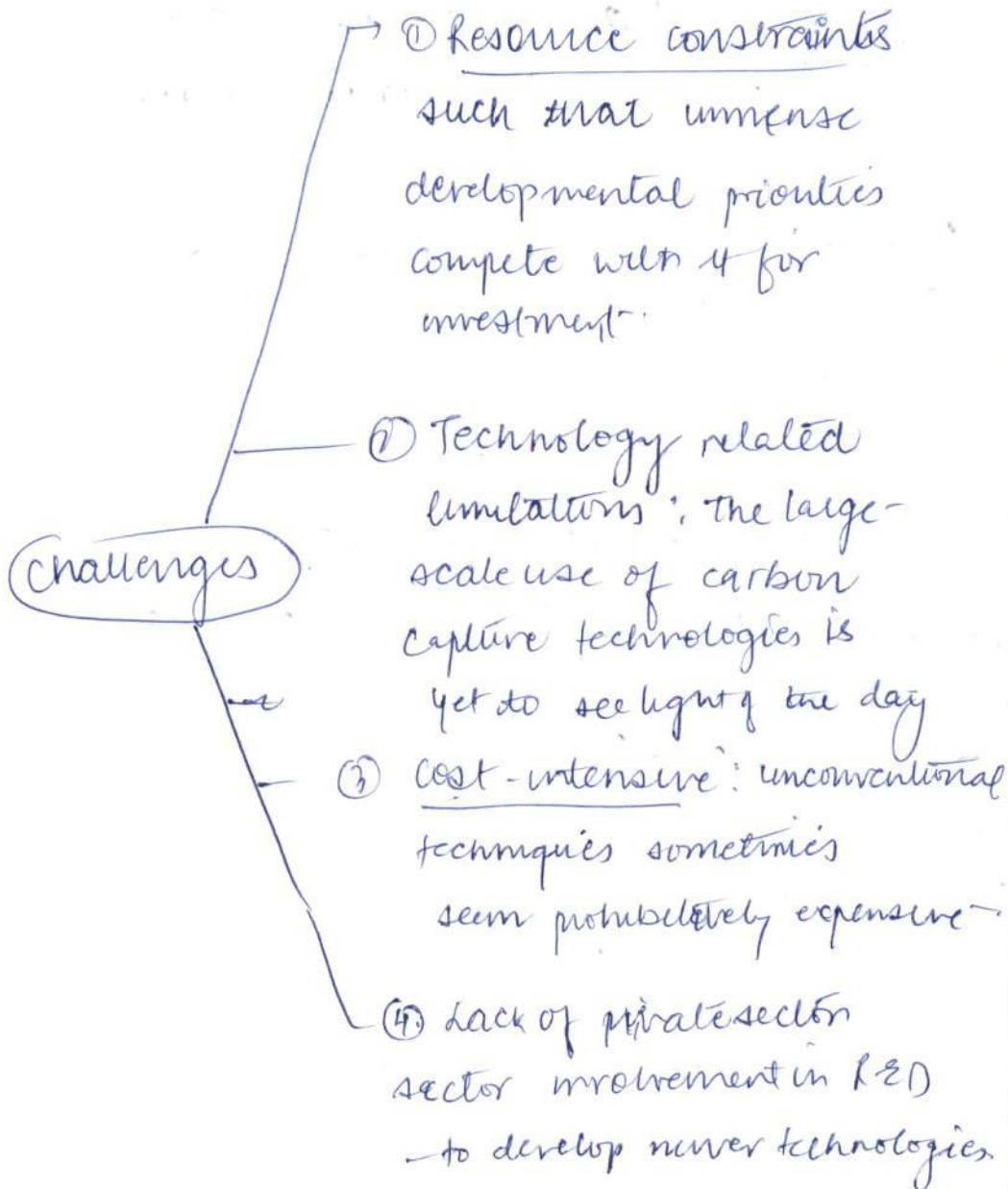
(2) can help arrest biodiversity loss.

The WWF's Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas, 2018 puts India among high risk countries facing accelerated loss of soil biodiversity.

(3) can alleviate woes of agricultural sector that faces risk of intense rainfall and droughts.

(4) can prevent coastal areas submergence by decelerating sea level rise and ocean water expansion.

Challenges still persist in its wide-scale deployment in India that hinder its prospects.



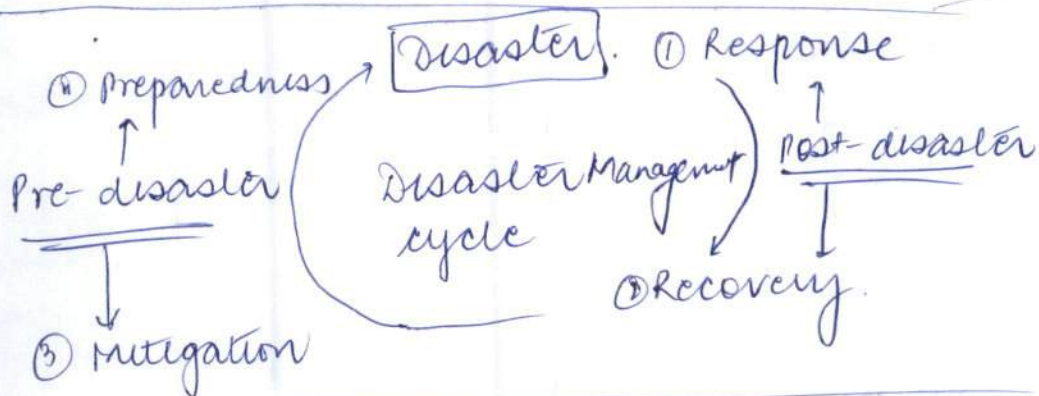
WAY FORWARD:-

- ① Global collaborations to leverage expertise.
 - ② Investing in R&D
- The carbon-capture and storage is in line with India's INDC commitments of reducing emission intensity of GDP by 30-33% of 2005 level by 2030.

17. Highlight the gender specific challenges faced during disaster management. In this regard, discuss how the disaster management cycle can be made more gender sensitive. (250 words) 15

आपदा प्रबंधन के दौरान सामने आने वाली लैंगिक विशिष्ट चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इस संबंध में, चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार आपदा प्रबंधन चक्र को लैंगिक रूप से और अधिक संवेदनशील बनाया जा सकता है।

As per National Disaster Management Plan, 2016, Disaster Management is a continuous, integrated and systematic process of that encompasses response, recovery and mitigation and preparedness.



Gender-specific challenges
during disaster management:-

- ① Aggravated vulnerability of gender-based minorities, owing to:

- higher exposure to risk
- Reduces capacity to cope

② Exclusion in rescue and relief operations owing to:

- non-prioritisation by NDRF in planning rescue operations
- marginalisation of their specific needs

③ Exclusion in pre-disaster decision making

- due to lack of decentralisation
- Absence of voice and participation channels

As such, there's a need to make disaster management gender-sensitive.

MEASURES:

① Community based disaster assessment

- (2) Sensitization of Relief forces (NDRF, SDRF) wrt specific needs of women, and LGBTQ community
- (3) Increasing say in ^{pre-} disaster planning to mainstream their concerns.

Thus, the gender sensitivity in disaster management must be included at both

- pre-disaster stage
- post-disaster stages

Gender sensitive disaster management is in line with the 10 point agenda of disaster management that calls for 'socially inclusive' disaster management as reaffirmed in 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction.

18. Though there are some notable individual achievements, the overall participation of women in scientific research has been abysmally low. Examine. What steps have been taken by the government in this regard? (250 words) 15

भले ही, कुछ उल्लेखनीय व्यक्तिगत उपलब्धियाँ हों, लेकिन वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान में महिलाओं की समग्र भागीदारी अत्यंत निम्नस्तरीय रही है। परीक्षण कीजिए। इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

Inclusive scientific research ecosystem forms the foundation of a developing country wth boosting scientific temper of future generations -

Individual achievements of women in scientific research: -

- ① Marie Curie in discovering Radium.
- ① Benjamin Franklin in discovering X-rays.

However, Indian women's participation in the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics

Sector remains low.

REASONS:

① Lower education and skills levels:
STEM requires higher-order skills which most women lack; lower literacy rates (75%) than men (87%) further impede any progress

② Absence of enabling/gender-inclusive research environment:

- Patriarchy restraining active participation of women in research
- Gender stereotyping and 'role expectations' which confine her as a home-maker.

However, in this regard Government has taken several initiatives as illustrated below:-

- ① Stand up India scheme.
to boost entrepreneurship and
venturing into research fields.
- ② Creating an inclusive
ecosystem in premier research
institutions like IITs, IISc. etc.
- ③ MOOCs to help women gain
 requisite skillset and knowledge set

WAY FORWARD:

- ① Societal moral overhaul - to
encourage women participation in STEM
fields.
- ② Women friendly infrastructure ~~and~~ at
schools and ~~in~~ universities

Thus, women's participation in STEM
is must to ensure growth of sector, as well
as empowerment of women.

19. Discuss the significance of the recent amendments made in the NIA act and the UAPA Act for countering terrorism. (250 words) 15

आतंकवाद का मुकाबला करने हेतु NIA अधिनियम और UAPA अधिनियम में हाल ही में किए गए संशोधनों के महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

The recent ^{terror} Pulwama attack, causing death of ~40 CRPF personnels has put the spotlight back on the growing menace of cross-border terrorism.

NIA Act Amendment:-

- Authorises NIA to investigate into a broader range of offences.
- Special NIA courts will be able to fast-track prosecution of terrorists.

UAPA amendment

- Includes individual terrorist activities within the ambit of UAPA Act.
- Will aid in quick detection and prosecution of terrorist elements.

especially in sensitive areas like
the J&K.

• will curb the menace of
growing radicalisation of youth
into Terrorism through banned
organisations like SIMI.

SIGNIFICANCE?

- ① India being a victim of state-sponsored terrorism needs proactive investigation agencies with sound legislative backing.
- ② ~~The~~ with the status changed into Union Territory, seamless investigation can result.
- ③ Terrorist hideouts can be searched with actionable intelligence support and individuals nabbed under UAPA (Amd) 2019.

With terrorism posing multi-faceted threats in terms of:-

- risk of reversal of developmental gains.
- Holding back development of I&K.
- Achieving inclusive growth along with threatening security and integrity ~~is~~ becomes imperative to look at the issue holistically.

20. The national security architecture needs to be robust enough to deal with present and evolving threats. Elaborating on the statement, discuss the recent steps taken for modernisation of the national security architecture.
(250 words) 15

वर्तमान और भावी (उभरते) खतरों से निपटने के लिए राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संरचना को पर्याप्त सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता है। इस कथन का सविस्तर वर्णन करते हुए, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संरचना के आधुनिकीकरण हेतु हाल ही में उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

National security architecture
comprises communication and
defense infrastructure and human
resources aimed at security external
and internal security of India.

Issues with present national
security architecture :-

- ① Fragmented in terms of :-
 - Regions
 - Forces such that inter-operability
remains poor
- ② Slow pace of investigation -
impeding timely arrests and
prevention/deterrence.

③ Interagency coordination suffers from multiple hurdles like:-

- communicational delays.
- lack of synergised operations.

④ Weapon equipment of forces remains poor.

⑤ Training and capacity building in terms of guerrilla warfare remains poor (with COBRA battalion being an outlier)

Step taken for Modernisation:-

① Fast-tracked procurement of defense equipments with 'Defense Procurement Procedure' as updated in 2016.

② Accelerated technology transfer to boost indigenisation :-
'Strategic Partnership Model' as proposed by Dharendra Singh committee is yielding results.

- ③ Tri services command established at Andaman and Nicobar
- ④ Announcement of the post of Chief of Defense Staff who is expected to aid in inter-service coordination.
- ⑤ Joint exercises along with the shift to Tri-service Exercises with major developed countries like USA, France etc
- ⑥ Sharing of best-practices.

Thus, national security architecture is seeing modernisation at an unprecedented rate and the momentum must continue