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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1836)

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Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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11	15	
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17	15	
18	15	
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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.

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 Aashata Saye
Sankalpan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)
Scheme was launched in 2018 to
improve procurement mechanism and
ensure remunerative prices for
farmers.

Its Components

① Price Support Scheme

↳ Under this, central nodal agencies, in coordination with state governments, will procure 25% of surplus oilseeds, pulses and copra from farmers.

↳ NAFED and FCI are implementing agencies.

② Price Deficiency Payment Scheme -

Under this, farmers will be given the

difference between the MSP and market price (below MSP) as compensation.

→ No procurement will take place.

→ All oilseeds are covered.

③ Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist scheme - Private agencies will procure oilseeds at MSP, when market prices fall below MSP, and when asked by the government.

Associated Concerns

↳ Makes no changes in the food procurement infrastructure

↳ There is a lack of awareness amongst farmers about MSP (70% farmers)

↳ Acc. to NITI sayog's evaluation report, 79% farmers are dissatisfied with the MSP regime.

Thus, more steps like PM-AASHA need to be taken to double farmers' income by 2022.

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 model of financing involving participation of both public and private sector in financing and accumulating capital for investment.

eg. under the Build-Operate-and Transfer Model of highway construction - Private sector brings source of finance.

Role of blended finance in mobilizing capital for infrastructure in developing countries :-

↳ Prevents crowding out of bank credit by government.

↳ Addresses inability of state to invest in infrastructure due to rising

Fiscal deficit

- ↳ Involves private sector in the task of development - Prime Minister's idea of 'Team India'
- ↳ Foreign capital (FDI) can also enable fast development.
- ↳ Private finance also brings with it expertise and managerial skills of the private sector
- ↳ Will leave ~~with~~ funds with the government to invest in social welfare sectors like healthcare

Thus, blended finance is the need of the hour to make India a \$5 trillion economy.

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।

90% of India's internal non-bulk
bulk movement happens by
Roadways, with ports contributing
only 5% in internal trade (nonbulk)

There is a need to revive and
revamp India's defunct dry
ports

Challenges -

- ① Lack of infrastructure at these
ports.
- ② Over focus of government's
policy on major ports - leading
to saturation
- ③ Lack of interest of private sector
in a defunct government port -
doubts of financial sustainability.

④ Lack of FDI in the development of these ports - eg unfavourable government regulations.

Measures that can be adopted

↳ Adoption of a short term and long term policy to revive them

↳ Giving infrastructure status to them - for easy credit available - city.

↳ Integrating them and reviving their interlinkages with major ports

↳ Ensure interoperability and last mile connectivity with roads and highways.

Thus, these steps can help in their revival

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 large plantations of the same plant/crop species in large tracts of land for commerce.

eg. large tracts of banana plantations or sugarcane plantation (same species).

Threats posed by Monoculture for food security and sustainability of agriculture :-

- ① Lack of genetic diversity can lead to pest attacks.
- ② lead to depletion of resources
ie. over-stress on the same resource
- ③ Monoculture crops like sugarcane

lead to groundwater depletion.

④ Any pest attack or fall in prices for the particular crop can cause financial hardship to the farmer.

⑤ Over use of fertilizer and pesticides - harmful for sustainability

Thus, monoculture is a threat to India's sustainable agricultural ecosystem.

There's a need of -

→ crop rotation

→ multi cropping

→ Government to give MSP for diverse crops, need to reduce over emphasis of rice and wheat.

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।

From July 2020, single use plastic like straws, plates, spoons & forks, made of plastic have been banned across India.

Impact of single-use plastic on health and environment

↳ Take thousands of years to decompose.

↳ Micro-plastics - dangerous for human health, can cause cancer.

↳ Plastic consumed by animals like cow can be deadly.

↳ Harmful for marine ecosystem.

↳ Burning plastic leads to release of

harmful gases.

Efforts taken by government to curb plastic pollution -

↳ Under Plastic Waste Management Rules, rules for re-use and safe disposal of plastic waste are given

↳ Extended Producer Responsibility for manufacturers to collect back plastic

↳ Theme of Environment Day of 2021 - Fight Plastic Pollution

↳ creation of awareness, and promotion of use of jute - eg for storing sugar.

There is a need for citizens and government to come together to stop using single use plastic

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.

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।

(150 words) 10

Aapda-Mitra, represents participation of people and civil society in preventing and mitigating disasters in India.

It's a force of volunteers from across India trained in disaster management

Its role in becoming a game changer in the field of disaster management :-

① First Response Force - eg. spread across India to ensure quick response by volunteers.

② Makes security an initiative of both citizens and the state.

③ Contributes in creating awareness about disaster risk reduction - by working with local people

④ People have greater faith in voluntary leaders and more reliability than bureaucrats.

⑤ Creates group solidarity and supports initiatives of the governments - eg. flood relief.

Thus, Sapda-Mitra is an appropriate example of civil society activism in ensuring safety and security of all from disasters.

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-wolff attacks are terrorist attacks by a single person, eg using his own body as a reserve of bombs to kill civilians

They have become serious challenge for security agencies around the world as -

↳ Hard to catch a terror mission by a single person

↳ They often disguise themselves as a commoners, eg in the UK bridge attack

↳ ^{May} Not be associated with any terrorist organisation, thus harder to track - eg instances of gun firing in USA.

Role of internet in exacerbating such attacks :-

↳ Role in radicalisation due to its vast spread and reach

↳ Youth are active on social media, and can fall prey to terrorist organisations recruiting militants eg. recruiting militants from countries like New Zealand

↳ lack of proper policies to regulate social media enables its misuse

↳ A lot of such attacks are also by people facing depression and alienation (by using social media - virtual world leading to loneliness)

Thus, security agencies need to revamp themselves to deal with such 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।

To strengthen India's security and defence capabilities, there is a need to address the fundamental inefficiencies embedded in our military structures and processes, like :-

- ↳ Surplus manpower - leading to high defence expenditure (payment of salaries and perks)
- ↳ Obsolete military and defence infrastructure - eg instances of failures/crash of defence helicopters
- ↳ lack of revamps to tackle unconventional threats - eg cyber attacks, espionage.
- ↳ lack of coordination between Army, Navy and Air Force

Defence reforms undertaken
to address these challenges :-

- 1) Office of Chief of Defence Staff
created - to ensure inter-operability and coordination between the three forces.
- 2) Research and Development by DRDO - to develop indigenous military weapons.
- 3) Cyber Security Coordinating Centre of the Navy - set up in Guwahati, Assam.
- 4) Agnipath scheme - new policy to recruit personnel for the defence forces amongst the youth.

Thus, government has taken various steps to ensure the security and defence of India.

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 unconventional form of healthcare based on India's civilizational knowledge related to human health - it includes Sowa Rigya, Ayurveda, Unani, Homopathy.

Advantages of mainstreaming traditional medicine in the country:

↳ Will address shortage of doctors - India has only 1000 doctors per 1 lakh population, as opposed to 1200 per 1 lakh recommended by WHO.

↳ Will make healthcare accessible to all - especially in rural areas and tribal districts.

↳ Can supplement Allopathic treatment - eg Yoga is recommended by several doctors

Challenges in mainstreaming it

↳ Lack of faith / trust of people on non-allopathic treatment

↳ Lack of standardization and adequate policy support

↳ Funding bias - 95% of government -ent fund (budget for healthcare) goes towards allopathy.

↳ The Recent step - to establish WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India will encourage research, create awareness and strengthen traditional medicine health ecosystem in India.

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 liquid is an innovation in Indian agriculture sector - to ensure efficient and cost effective use of urea as a fertilizer by farmers.

Benefits of using Nano urea liquid in farming :-

↳ Efficiency - Unlike conventional use of urea fertilizer, this is more efficient and reduces wastage

↳ Cost-effective - less requirement of urea per hectare

↳ Prevents soil pollution and underground water pollution

↳ Better protection from pest attacks

↳ Reduces environmental pollution - eg overuse of urea by Indian farmers leading to soil infertility.

↳ Can contribute in reducing government's fiscal deficit

↳ Can help in doubling farmers' income by 2022

Thus, Nano urea liquid has promising benefits, and must be adopted in Indian agriculture through government's support.

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।

India spends across \$88 billion annually to import its crude oil needs (over 80% oil is imported).

With the COVID pandemic, global supply chains got affected, and the recent Russia - Ukraine war resulted in prices of crude oil shooting up.

Domino effect of high crude oil prices on Indian economy :-

↳ leads to increase in prices of commodities - eg agricultural produce like grains - due to high transportation cost.

↳ Increase the Current Account Deficit of the government

↳ Affects the expenditure of a common man negatively

↳ discourages investment and affects the automobile sector

Measures that India can take

↳ Promote Renewable energy

↳ Invest in Electric Vehicle infrastructure

↳ shift to CNG in mobility

↳ Exploare oil

resources within India

Thus, there is a need to invest in alternate energy resources, keeping in mind needs of the country, and sustainability of environment.

↳ Develop new reliable partnership for importing oil - eg India's import of cheap oil from Russia despite sanctions by the West.

↳ Research on unconventional energy resources and their exploration - eg. coal bed methane and shale gas.

↳ Innovations like buying oil in Indian currency - eg with Iran.

Thus, there is a need for strong diplomacy and focus on alternate sources of energy to ensure an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

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।

Despite India having the longest
Railways network, reaching nooks
and corner of the country,
Indian Railways has been incapable
of generating operational surplus.

Only [Reasons behind this trend]

↳ Inefficient management of
Railways' resources of surplus
land lying unused.

↳ Subsidized tickets as a populist
measure

↳ lack of adequate revenue
generation through freight
transportation - eg. only 18% of

freight in India is transported through railways.

↳ lack of upgradation of infrastructure - eg thus, upper middle class and elite still prefer flights

↳ slow speed and long halts make railways an unattractive alternative.

Remedial measures taken by the government

↳ Dedicated freight corridors are being established, two of them will be operational by 2022 end.

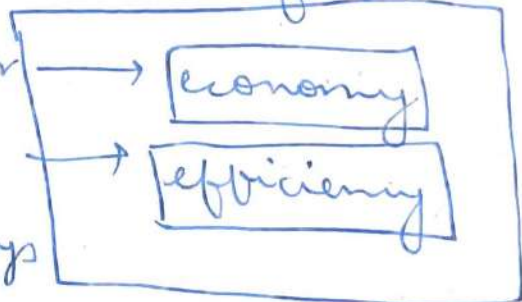
↳ Monetization of surplus land of railways under Asset Monetization Pipeline (scheme).

↳ Promotion of technology in
all activities - e-ticketing to
quittance redressal.

↳ Allowing private sector to
contribute and participate - eg
in outlets in Railway stations
∴ source of revenue.

Thus, government has taken
various such steps.

There is a need to adopt
the best practices of the
Private sector
to make
Indian Railways
a profitable venture.



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 is a sun rise sector and is involved in converting agricultural produce into processed marketable commodities, with longer shelf life.

It's a key driver of growth in Indian economy as it forms the bridge between the agriculture sector and the manufacturing sector. eg. use of ripe mangoes to make pickles and sell in retail market.

↳ It is successful in absorbing surplus labour from agriculture sector

Challenges faced by the sector

① Lack of adequate infrastructure.

eg manufacturing infrastructure

testing infrastructure

② Lack of funding - lack of PSU's involved in food processing

③ Lack of skilled manpower.

④ Poor standardization norms-making commodities unfit for exports

⑤ Issues like lack of storage and high cost of logistics.

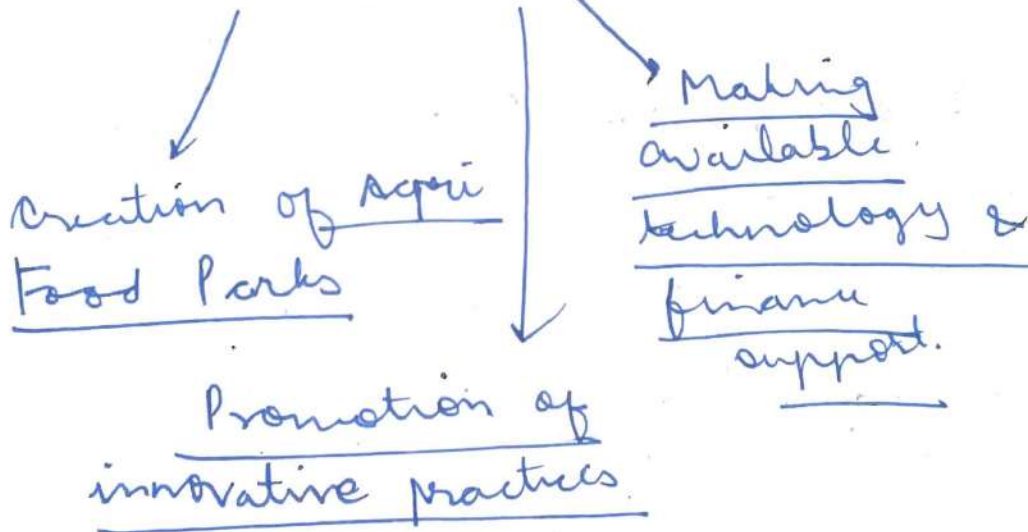
(13% of India's GDP is spent on logistics cost).

Recent initiatives taken by
the government

↳ Creation of a dedicated
Ministry for Food Processing

↳ PM SAMPADA YOJANA

umbrella scheme to address
issues of the sector.



↳ 100% FDI through automatic

↳ route of NAFED and APEDA.

Thus, Government has taken
steps. More needs to be done
to reduce logistics cost and
improve testing standards.

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।

Equitable growth refers to
inclusive growth, wherein
fruits of development are shared
by all sections of the society.

In India, top 1% of wealthy
people own over 50% of India's
wealth (WEF data, 2021).

Thus, equitable growth and
remains elusive and income
inequality continues to persist.

↳ Agriculture sector continues
to stagnate - average growth
of only 3% per annum

↳ 80% of farmers own less
than 1 hectare of land.

↳ 90% of Indian workers are employed in the informal sector.

↳ lack of job opportunities leading to unemployment (10% is the current unemployment rate according to PLFS).

↳ Inequitable growth has given rise to forces like Maoism - threat to India's unity.

↳ Policies like reservation have seen poor implementation - benefitted the well off amongst the SCs and STs.

Thus, inequality and lack of sustainable growth continues to be a challenge.

Steps taken by the government -

↳ subsidies given to farmers
 food electricity
 fertilizer

(almost 2% of India's GDP)

↳ Policies like Minimum Support Price and implementation of National Food Security Act

↳ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

↳ Skill Development Mission

↳ PM kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana - to provide free food grains to the poor during COVID.

While steps have been taken, more needs to be done to make India closer to Gandhi's dream

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 rate in India has reached 10-11%, according to recent Periodic Labour Force Survey.

Several factors determine the employment situation of an economy in the long term :-

① Shift of surplus agricultural workforce to the manufacturing sector : This requires a strong Industrial sector.

② Skills of the workforce - they are decisive in ensuring employability.

③ Cooperation between Industry.

and academia - so that
educated people are adept
to meet job requirements.

④ Integration with the global
economy - It can create
both opportunities and challenges
eg. opportunity for IT sector in
India.

⑤ Healthcare and capabilities
of the workforce - as highlighted
by economist Amartya Sen.

To become a \$5 trillion economy
India needs to address its
unemployment crisis.

Steps that can be taken :-

- ① Strengthen Manufacturing sector
↳ should contribute atleast 25% of India's GDP. - to absorb workforce.
- ② Skilling of the Youth -
eg. through PM Kaushal Yojana.
- ③ Promotion of vocational education in schools.
- ④ Change in mindset - from job seekers to job creators
- ⑤ Industry - Academia ties
↳ to guide higher education.

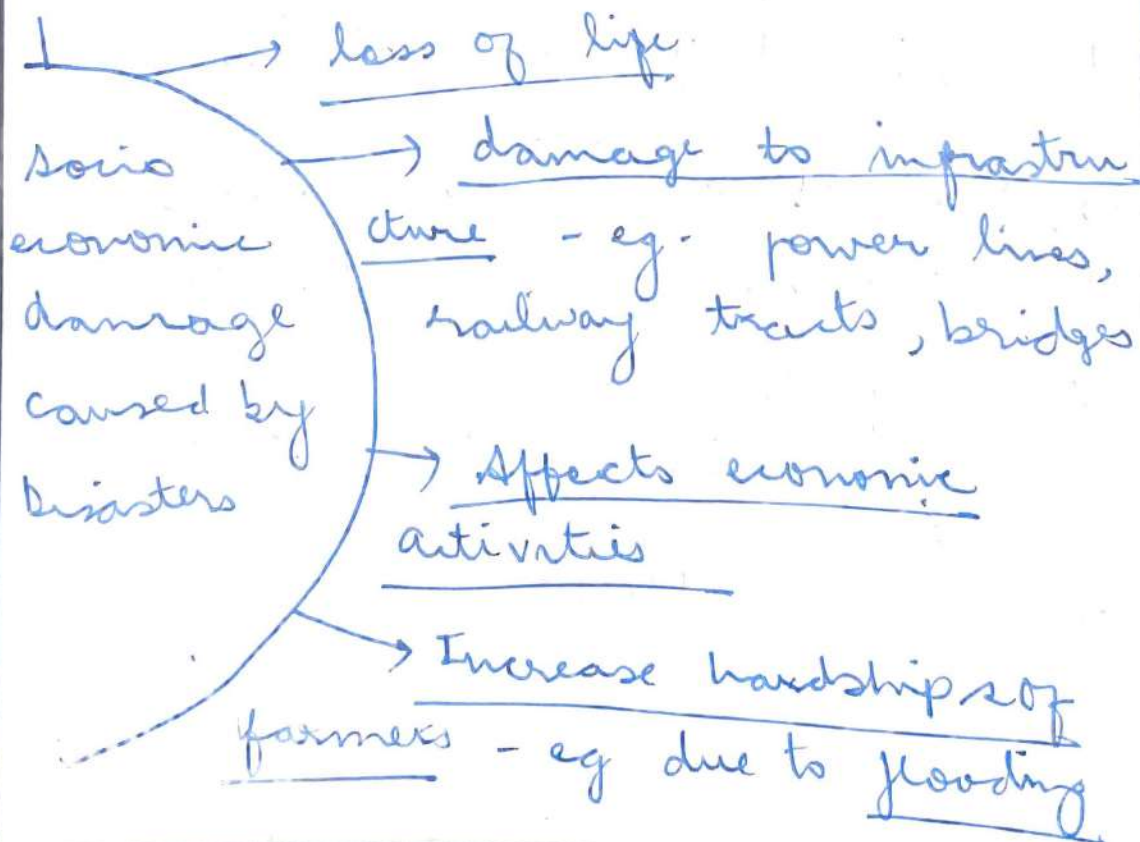
Thus, the above steps, along with emphasis on health-care and capabilities, can ensure that % Indian youth become more employable.

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.
(250 words) 15
Discuss.

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।

Disasters - both man made and natural have proved to be fatal for any country, and its socio-economic development.

(In 2021, Natural disaster costed damages worth 11% of India's GDP)



Thus, there is a need to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning.

Disaster Risk Reduction refers to building infrastructure and best practices to reduce vulnerability of infrastructure and human life to disasters.

Effective stakeholder engagement mechanism needed for the same :-

At National level :-

↳ Implementation of building codes to make buildings earthquake proof.

↳ Proper hierarchy of accountability needed - eg. involvement of states,

local administration and awareness creation amongst people (eg - through residential societies).

→ Involvement of expert institutes and professionals in the domain of disaster management.

At International level -

↳ eg co-operation with regional countries - eg SAARC members in Disaster Risk Reduction

↳ steps like Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Thus, there is a need to focus on disaster reduction, and not just mitigation, and loss of human life to prevent

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 buying and selling of limits of carbon emissions by corporates and industries. eg. an industry which has ~~released~~ less than permissible CO₂, can trade his surplus emissions in return of money.

Existing carbon trading mechanisms in India involve industries like Thermal power plants, steel manufacturing plants etc in a carbon trading mechanism based on Carbon trading norms.

It's important to meet India's targets under the Paris agreement to reduce emissions intensity of India's GDP by 25% by 2030.

Significance of an efficient Carbon trading mechanism :-

↳ To meet India's climate goals, as stated above.

↳ To make an accountable and efficient growth model - equitable availability of emission rights

↳ To reduce air pollution and improve living standard of Indian cities (15 of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India).

↳ To encourage reduction in carbon emissions through incentives

Challenges in ensuring an efficient carbon trading regime -

↳ Difficulty in implementation -
eg. in ensuring that industries abide by emission norms.

↳ lack of adequate clean technology - eg. technology to wash coal is still expensive

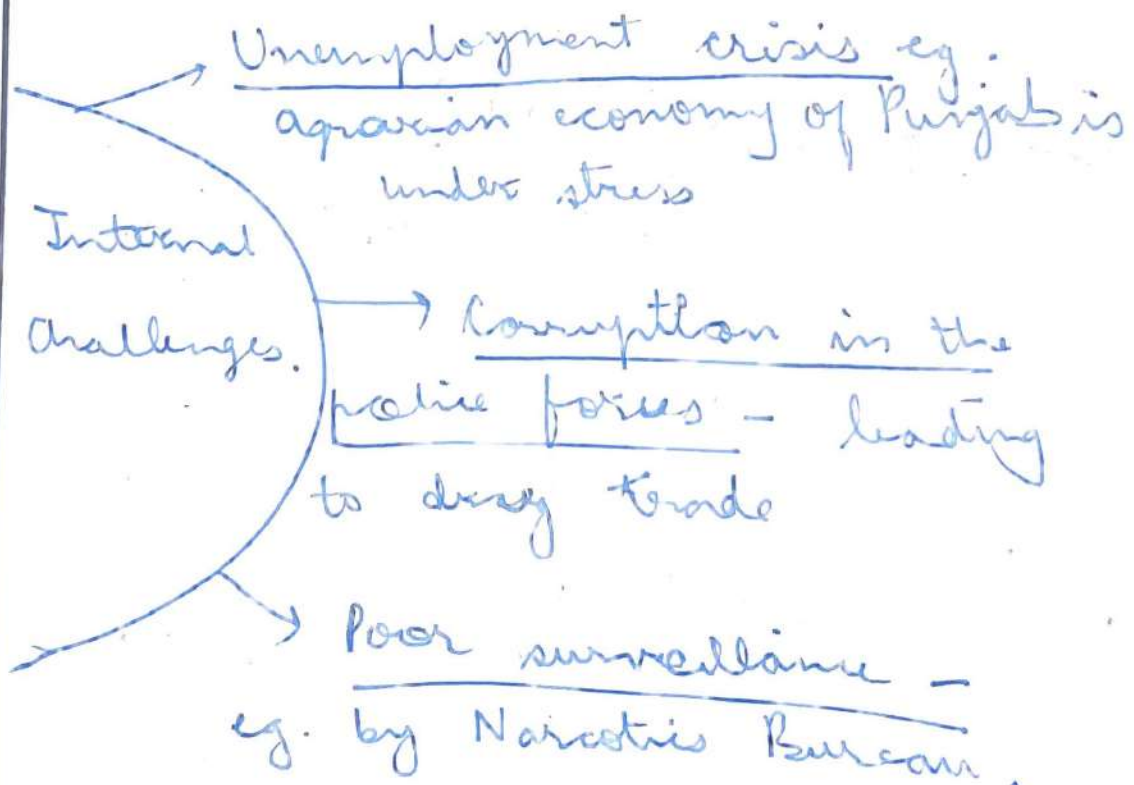
↳ lack of political will - due to culture of wrong capitalism.

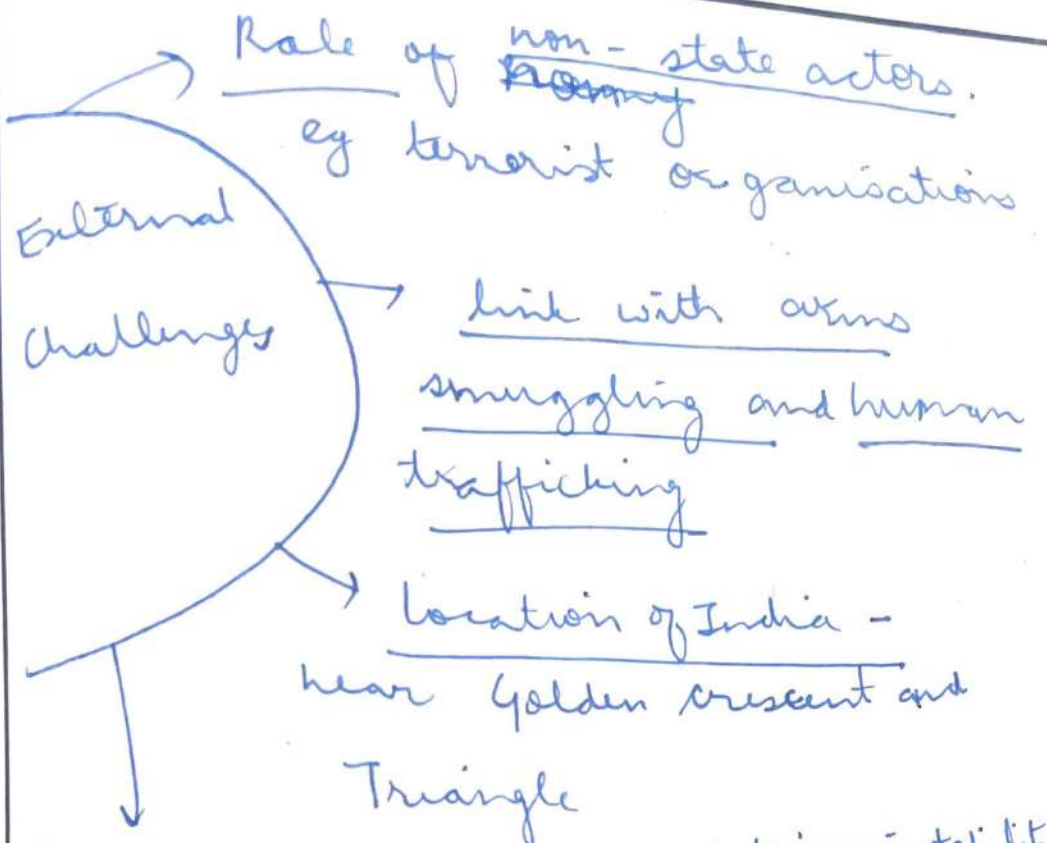
Thus, steps need to be taken to ensure an efficient carbon trading market to meet climate goals.

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 continues to be a grave challenge for Indian youth - especially in border states like Manipur and Punjab.

Both internal and external challenges are responsible for this menace.





Role of Pakistan in creating instability in Punjab - eg. Khalistani movement

Challenges posed by drug trafficking to India's national security :-

↳ Drug trafficking encourages related crimes like arms trade - eg recent murder of actor Siddhu Anusavala.

↳ Youth engaged in drug addition can lead to demographic disaster for India.

↳ Can encourage secessionist forces - eg Khalistan Movement.

↳ Harms the developmental goals of India - by ^{One} Health Policy

↳ leads to money laundering and black marketing

↳ erosion of faith of people in the government

Thus, drug trafficking can pose a serious threat to India's security and proactive steps need to be taken.

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 islands are strategically located in Indian Ocean and are important for India to realise its goal of becoming net-security provider for the region.

According to some scholars, the strategic significance of these islands has been underplayed by India's policy of 'masterly inactivity and benign neglect'. According to them:

↳ India has neglected these islands from strategic point of view.

↳ Their role in ensuring
restraint of China's incursions
in Indian ocean region
have been underplayed.

↳ Rather than being net security
provider, India has adopted
the policy of 'wait and watch' -
leading to erosion of trust of
regional countries.

However, this perspective is
not entirely right. In
recent times, government
has taken steps like -

↳ Converting India's Far
East Naval Command in
Andaman and Nicobar islands
into a full pledged Far-East

Command - also involving
Army and Air Force.

↳ Various maritime exercises
have been conducted,
keeping in mind their strategic
importance of these islands -
eg Malabar exercise with
USA & Japan.

However, more needs to be
done - build partnerships
with countries like Indonesia
and Malaysia, to better
utilise the strategic location
and importance of Andaman
and Nicobar islands.

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?

India's newly commissioned world's first large International liquid - Mirror Telescope is the result of the genius of Indian scientists and it will aid in astronomical observations and research, like:-

- ↳ Observing space phenomena - like Comets, astronomical bodies like asteroids.
- ↳ Observing Indian satellites - like INSAT, IRNSS satellites

↳ Studying space and the expansion of the universe.

↳ Its role in research -

- ① It will enhance space research in India
- ② It will lead to greater co-operation between India and leading space states in space research - eg. USA's NASA and Europe's ESA.
- ③ It will inspire youth to take interest in space science
- ④ It reflects the rise of India's soft power in space science and studies.

⑤ It will help ISRO in
ensuring better awareness
of space, for safe launch
of its missions.

Thus, the large International
Liquid Mirror telescope
will help India to observe
space phenomenon and
increase its domain awareness.