

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT 2024

GENERAL STUDIES

Full Length Test

Test - 7 (GS 3)

Time allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

ADMIN. NO.: NAME: MOBILE NO.: EMAIL.: SUBMISSION DATE: **UPSC IFS 2024
AIR-46****QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS**

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

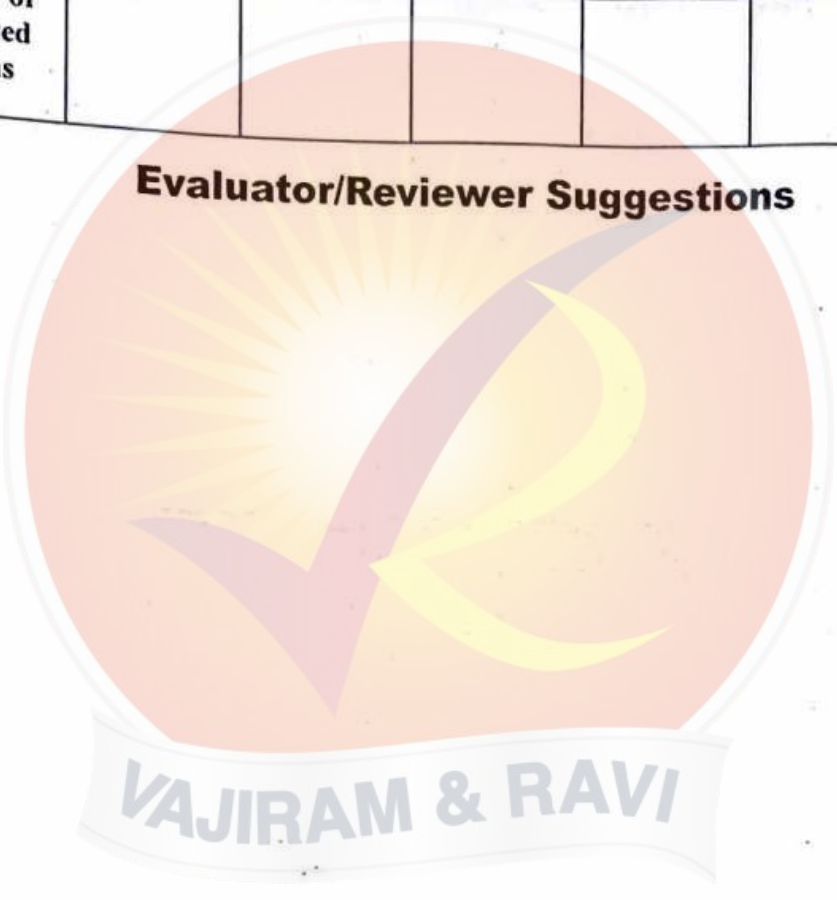
Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –

1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call 9717565805 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language and Articulation						
Structure and Presentation						
Conceptual clarity and Content						
Number of Attempted questions						

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

1. What are the factors influencing imported inflation in India? Suggest measures to mitigate its impact on the domestic economy. (10 marks, 150 words)

Imported inflation refers to the rise in prices of the imported goods and has been a major factor for inflation above target level of 4%.

Factors influencing imported inflation -

- 1) Supply chain vulnerabilities
• Eg. prolonged lockdown in China.
- 2) Crude and gas price fluctuations
• Eg. production cuts by OPEC in 2022.
- 3) Interrelated global value chains
• Import is vital for export (production).
- 4) Black economy: raises demand for imported visible goods.
- 5) Food inflation based on import
Eg. dependence of 60% oilseed needs for

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on import.

6) Geopolitical conflicts

- Eg. Russia - Ukraine war, fertilizer inflation.
- Red sea crisis → insurance & container prices double.

7) Currency fluctuations.

Measures to mitigate -

1) Focus on manufacturing sector

- Boost internal capacity (eg.) as in cellphones → 97.2% → domestic now.

2) Geopolitical and FTAs measure

- Smoother supply chain.

3) Trade in domestic currency

- Eg. Rupee - rouble trade → checks currency fluctuation related inflation.

4) Integrate into value chains deeper

5) Diversify import sources.

- Eg. oil → Russia: biggest importer now.

These measures will help to ~~and~~ achieve stability in economy and make RBI's monetary policy effective

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
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2. Discuss the potential of impact investments in improving the social sector outcomes in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Impact investments refer to the targetted investments that seek social and environmental benefits other than financial gains.

Potential in improving social sector outcomes -

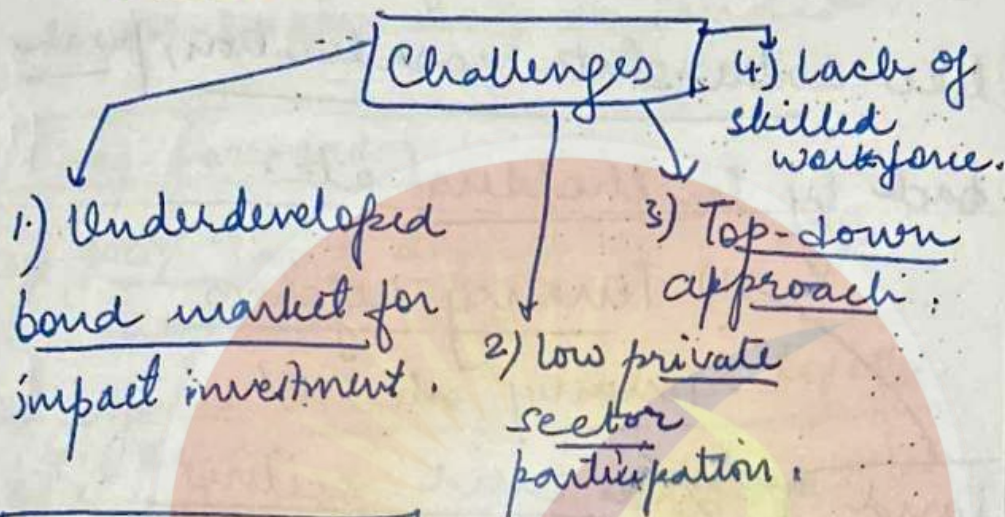
- 1) Poverty alleviation
 - Eg. labour intensive industries
- 2) Health gains → Eg. investments in Digital Health initiatives (PM ABDM).
- 3) Employment → focus on bottom up industrialisation or agricultural efficiency.
- 4) Sustainable development
 - Eg. investments in water use efficiency or waste & wealth plants.
- 5) Educational and skill outcomes.

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6) Nutrition, sanitation and drinking water challenges could be tackled.

7) Urban housing issues

Eg. redevelopment of Dharavi on PPP model.



Way forward -

1) Initiatives like social sector enterprises to be promoted.

2) Viability gap funding by union and states.

3) Build capacities of 3rd tier of government.

Impact investments can help us achieve the goals under ~~SDGs~~ all SDGs.

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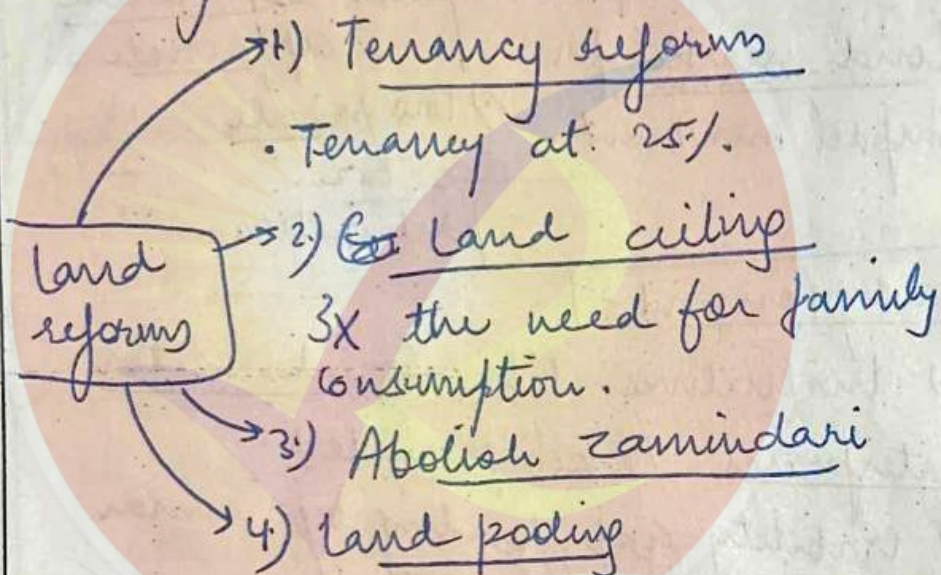
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3. 'Unfinished agenda of land reforms sustains the socio-economic disparities in rural India.' Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Land reforms started in 1950s but were stalled for several reasons like centre-state coordination, push back by landholders etc.



Unfinished land reforms → Socio-economic disparities in rural India-

- 1) Disparity in capital (land)
• Average landholding ~ 1.02 hectares.
- 2) Credit issues as no guarantee to offer to banks.
• Dependence on moneylenders.

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- 3) Caste reinforcement → landed castes reinforce supremacy.
- 4) Social Security issues for landless.
- 5) Lack of government benefits.
Eg. PM-KISAN → only for landed.

Way forward-

- 1) 100% land digitisation → 94% completed.
- 2) Enforce tenancy norms legally.
Eg. Kerala.
- 3) Focus on forgotten welfare delivery for landless.
- 4) Centre-state coordination
• Land is state subject.
- 5) Credit inclusion for landless
• Curb informal lending.
Land reforms will help achieve PM's focus on GYAN, especially Gareeb and Anudata.

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4. Analyze the importance of food processing industries in promoting millets cultivation and consumption in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Food processing sector contributes nearly 13% of exports and ^{have} potential to rejuvenate vicious cycle for millets, on which govt. is focussed.

~~For~~ Significance of FPIs for millets -

(I) For millet farmer -

- 1) Better price actualisation
- 2) Better productivity due to technological and extension facilities.
- 3) Enhance area under production
- 4) Soil and water sustainability.

(II) For consumers -

- 1) Nutritional enhancement.
 - Millets rich in Vit A, iron, Calcium; low in glutamate and glycolic acid (causes diabetes).
- 2) More availability of millet based products. Ep. Multi grain flour.

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3) Awareness about millets + advertisements.

(III) for FPIs

1) Enhance growth → relatively untouched sector.

2) Government support → Eg. PM FME

Challenges

Way forward

1) Negative tagging of millets + coarse grains.

2) low R&D

3) Unutilised export potential.

1) Persist with outreach, globally and domestically. (eg. G20 dinner).

2) Focus on R&D, extension etc.

3) Enhance component under NFSAI, Mid day meals

Millets coupled with FPIs will help us achieve nutrition & food security and adapt to climate change

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5. 'NISAR' is a flagship partnership between India and the USA. Elaborate its role in studying climate change and efficient resource management.

(10 marks, 150 words)

NISAR stands for NASA
ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar
is ~~used~~ a LEO satellite to study
gases earth's atmosphere.

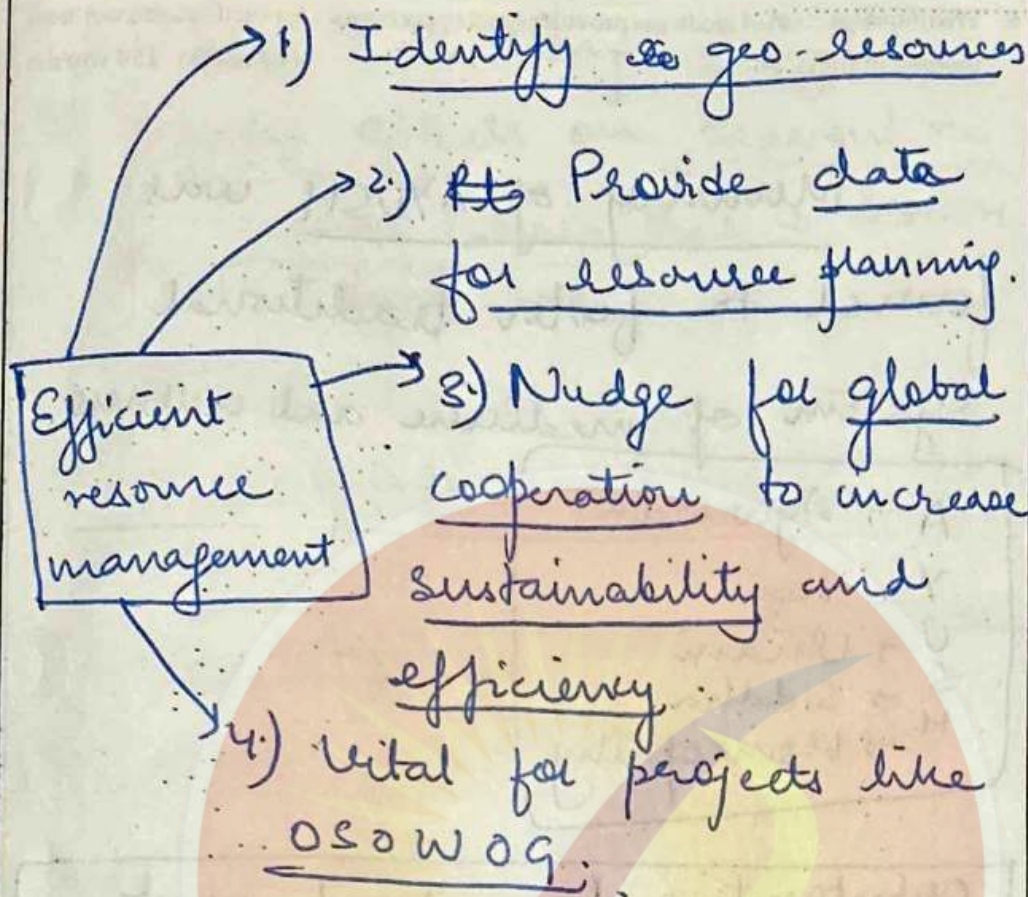
Roles-

- 1) Identifying GHG proportions
Eg CH_4 , CO_2 , N_2O etc
- 2) Spot climate bombs
Eg. Sources with more than 1 billion tonnes of CO_2e .
- 3) Help climate planning
- 4) Preserve cryosphere by recognising changes in CH_4 levels
- 5) Also track air pollution levels.

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The persistence and further enhancement of global cooperation to tackle climate and resource management issues is vital for Sustainable development.

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6. Traditional system of medicine provides great opportunities for medical and wellness tourism in India. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ministry of AYUSH was formed to foster traditional system of medicine and wellness.

A → Ayurveda
 Y → Yoga
 U → Unani
 S → Siddha
 H → Homeopathy

Opportunities of medical and wellness tourism due to traditional system of medicine

- 1.) Rising popularity of Indian system of medicine
- 2.) Sustained government efforts
 Eg. International Yoga day
- 3.) Rising amenities and infra for AYUSH
 • Urban centres of rehab

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• Due to changing lifestyles.

4) Proven effects on prevention of health issues. due to AYUSH.

• Empirical proof

Challenges-

- 1) Low scientific evidences for cure aspects.
- 2) Poor adoption rate, even in India
- 3) Largely underdeveloped and unregulated sector.

Way forward -

- 1) Cohesion → Modern medicine for critical care
Indian → preventive & moderate care.
- 2) Promote research in AYUSH.
- 3) Sustain the focus on awareness.

It will also help us to develop sustainable lifestyle and global soft power.

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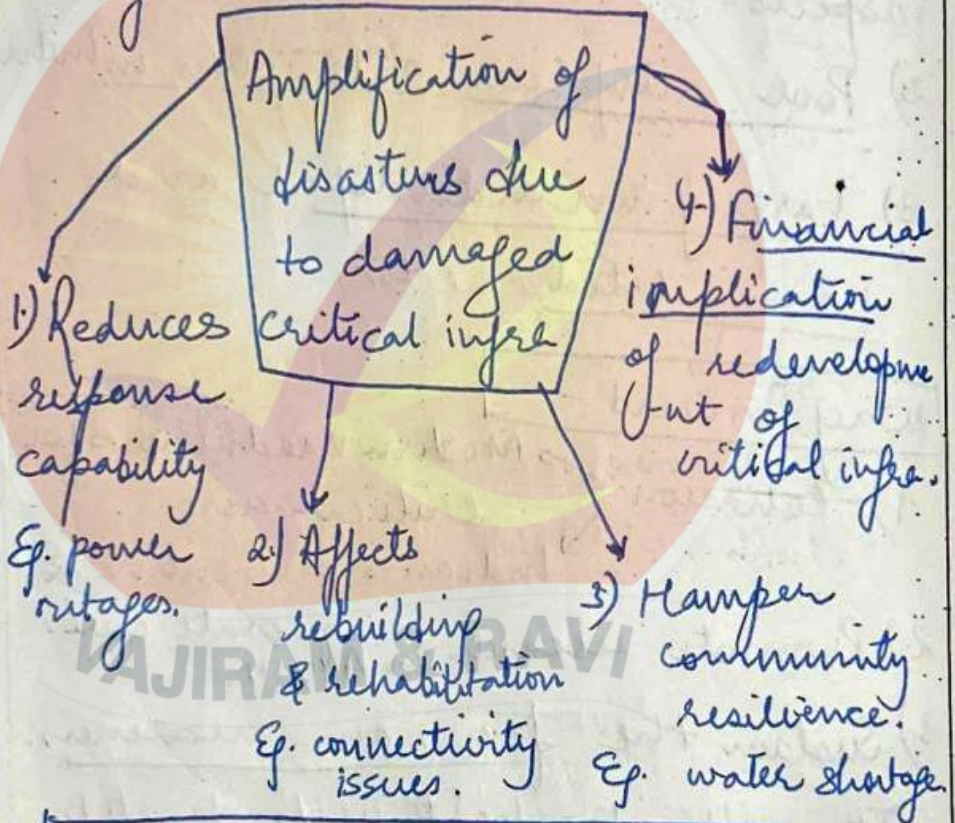
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7. Damage to critical infrastructures amplifies the impact of natural disasters. Discuss the significance of building disaster resilient infrastructure in India.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Critical infra includes telecoms, connectivity, power etc. and it slows down disaster response when damaged.



Significance of building DRI -

1) India is highly vulnerable to natural disasters.

• 59% → earthquake ; 7516 km coasts → Cyclones & Tsunami

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- 2.) Enhanced natural disasters due to force multiplication by climate change. Eg. cyclones in Arabian sea.
- 3.) Critical infra is old and needs rejuvenation.
Eg. 227 large dams more than 100 years old.
- 4.) ~~It~~ Will help in pre disaster planning and preparedness.
• Eg. ~~mitigation and evacuation~~
- 5.) Will build capability of response forces. → Swift response by NDRF in Orissa due to DKI.
- 6.) Global cooperation will foster.
• India → leader of CDRI.

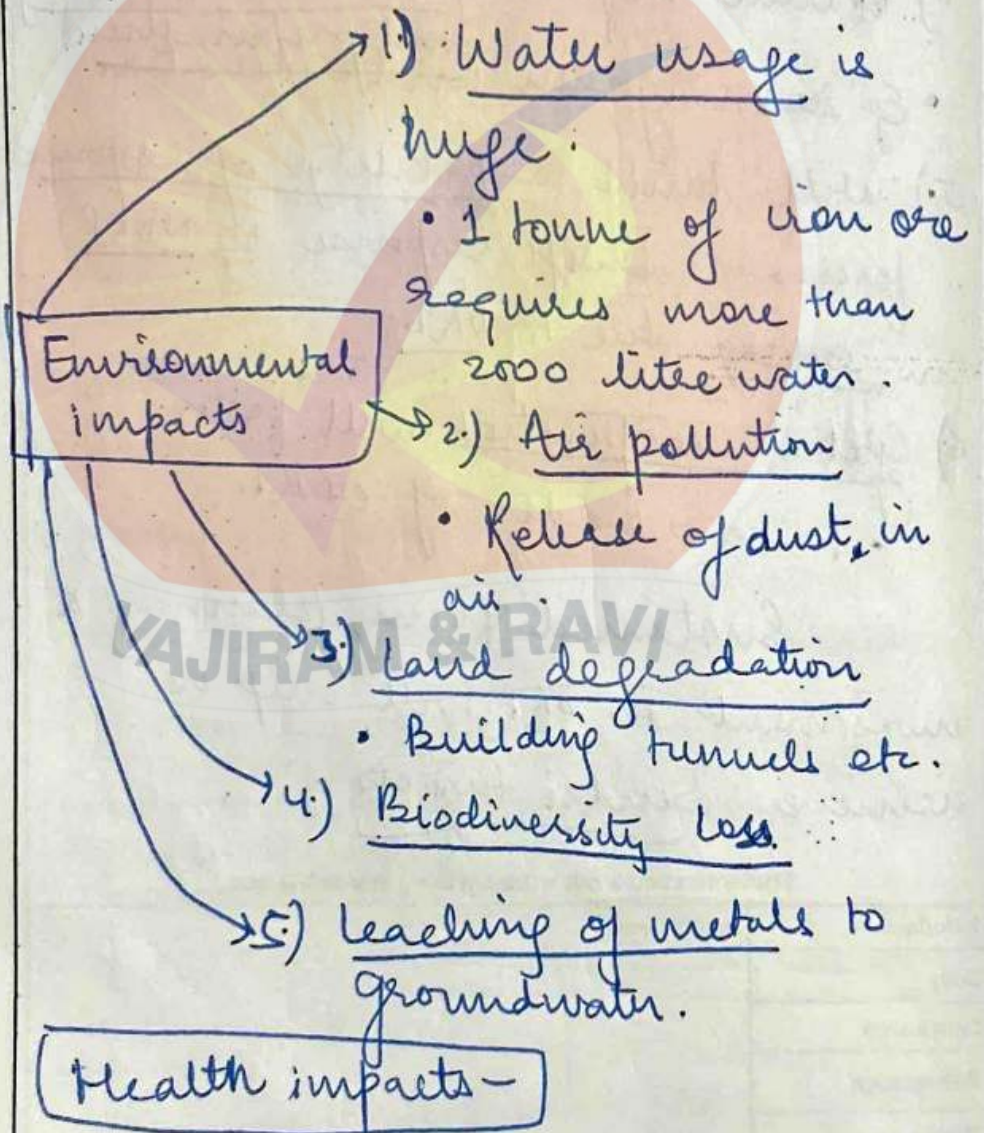
Sustained focus, planning & investment in DKI will help us achieve Sundai targets.

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8. What are the environmental and health impacts of metal mining pollution? Suggest measures to mitigate the same. (10 marks, 150 words)

Metal mining say barite, haematite etc. lead to detrimental effects on people (hugs) and environment (air).



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- 1) Lung diseases to miners
Eg. silicosis
- 2) General air degradation → lung & heart diseases
- 3) Unfit ground water → CWC reports mining districts (95%) have unfit groundwater for human use.
- 4) Mine collapse → disasters for workers.
- 5) Noise pollution → Dynamite blast (hearing loss)

Measures →

- 1) Proper EIA before licensing.
- 2) Use of efficient technologies
- 3) Reduce technical and operational losses.
- 4) Proper safety to workers.
- 5) Health & life cover to workers.

Sustainable metal mining will help us achieve goals of SDG-13, 14, ~~15~~ and SDG-3 (Health).

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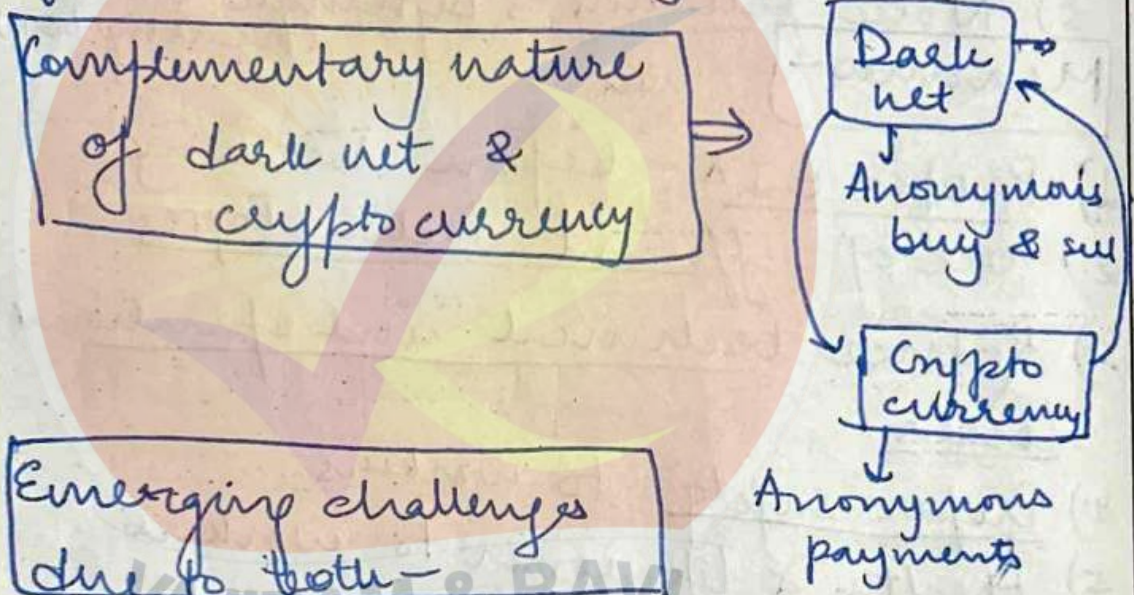
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9. 'Dark net and crypto currency have emerged as a major internal security challenge to India'. Examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

Indians hold 7th largest crypto assets (WEF) and dark net is rampant due to no practical control over it, thus challenges for internal security.



- 1) Illegal arms trade
 - ~~to~~ legal weapon ~~to~~ industry in Bihar & UP is flourishing.
- 2) Rise of organised crime groups
 - ^{hard} Eg., drugs delivery at home (eg. LSD etc)
- 3) • Challenge of demography due to this.

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3) financial security challenge

• Eg. rise of easy channel for ~~terror~~ money laundering.

4) terror financing challenge

5) Usage of these tech. by left wing groups, north east insurgents.

6) Not practical control over both

Way forward -

1) Develop global cooperation for the same under FATF, G-20 etc.

2) Employ ethical hackers.

3) CBDE → may curb crypto holdings

4) Specialised force → to tackle the emergent threats.

5) Curb the source → illicit money, arms factories etc.

These challenges need to be addressed on war footing.

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10. In light of recent attacks on merchant vessels in the Arabian Sea, examine the vulnerabilities in India's maritime security framework. (10 marks, 150 words)

Attacks on merchant ships in Arabian sea and Red sea led to rise of inflation, container and insurance costs, crippling the trade.

India's vulnerabilities in maritime security framework

- 1) large maritime boundary
→ 7516 km.
- 2) porous, swampy and undermarked boundaries along Gujarat with Pakistan → Sir Creek area.
- 3) lack of technology deployment for automated checking of container ships.
- 4) Ship dismantling industry
• Informal & lack of proper checks.
- 5) Rising drug menace through

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maritime routes -

Eg. seizure of 3000kg. of drugs
at Mundra port.

6) Use of maritime route for terror
attacks. Eg. Mumbai-26/11.

7) Rise of China in Indo-Pacific
• String of Pearls.

8) Non-state actors - Houthis, Al-
Shabab etc

Way Forward

- 1) Capability development and
coordination of forces - marine
police, coast guards, navy - real time
coordination.
- 2) Global cooperation - Eg. QUAD.
- 3) Collaborations in Indo-Pacific.
Eg. Seychelles
- 4) Teer deployment to check
container ships & dismantling industry.

Maritime focus will help us
achieve the status of blue water
navy and free & democratic Indo-Pacific

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11. Discuss the impact of disinvestment programmes on improving the efficiency of the Indian economy with suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

Disinvestment refers to the sale of government's stake in the public sector enterprises to a private entity and it brings opportunities as well as challenges.

Impact
Significance in enhancing efficiency

1) Bring private sector expertise

Eg. Hindustan Zinc (Vedanta) = enhanced production capacity by 3x in 20 years.

2) Generate capital for social sector expenditure.

Eg. ~~sale~~ privatisation of Air India for ₹ 19,800 crore.

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3.) Fiscal consolidation

• Meet fiscal targets of 5.4.5% deficit by 2025-26.

4.) Achieve end to end production capacity.

Ep. HPCL merger with ONGC
 ONGC → downstream
 HPCL → upstream

5.) Enhance utilisation of idle assets

Ep. private freight trains to be allowed.

6.) Crowding-in effect → Motivate private sector

7.) Technological upgradation

8.) Shape govt's role in laissez-faire economy. Govt → ~~from~~ Regulator.

9.) Cover up for losses of PSEs.

Challenges/shortfalls-

1.) Dis investment targets never met.

2.) No follow up by government after

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releasing strategic sectors list,
under Atmanirbhar Program

3) Valuation challenges of public sector assets.

Eg. some argue that Air India was sold at undervalued price.

4) Social security of workers

5) Lack of private sector enthusiasm

Way forward

1) Precise valuation → Proper consultancy through top audit firms.

2) Rejuvenate the company before selling.

3) Legal provision for worker safety.

4) Bring long term vision for disinvestment.

Effective disinvestment will catalyze the growth and help achieve 'Viksit Bharat' dream.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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12. Demand-driven and future-ready skill development is essential to leverage the demographic dividend. Discuss the statement in the context of the skill development initiatives announced in the Budget 2024-25. (15 marks, 250 words)

India has 68% population under working age but skill India report says only 52% graduates are employable, thus the dichotomy.

1) Changing industry nature

Eg. Automation.

Demand driven & future ready skill development

2) Bridge skill-industry gap.

↓
leverage demographic dividend

3) Actualise emerging opportunities

Eg. Green jobs

4) Readiness for 4th Industrial revolution

5) Tackle unemployment, under-employment & job-less growth.

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Under 2024-25 budget, ~~demands~~ skill development is focussed in following ways -

1) Bio foundry and bio manufacturing

- Potential for growth in biotech sector.

- To develop skilled professionals.

2) Sustenance of PLI

- Demand driven e.g. FPI. (12% industrial labour).

- Future ready → Semi-conductor (2 lakh youth to be trained).

3) PM Skill India Mission 4.0

- Continued focus.
- Focus on emerging sunrise sectors → solar mitras, drone operators etc.

4) Internship at school stages

- Future ready children.

5) Agriculture sector → Agri Stack

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• Deployment of skill & technology in agriculture → enhance efficiency.

6.) Skill development under several schemes like:-

- PVTG scheme
- Urban bodies
- National Rural livelihood Mission (Deone didis).
- PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

Challenges

Way Forward

1.) Poor implementation.

1.) Regional growth to be balanced.

2.) Automation & needs to be ^{upskilled} ~~tech~~

2.) More funding for next-gen tech like

3.) Poor infra to utilise the schemes

Semi-conductors, Quantum, nano tech etc

These are steps in right direction and will help us achieve the goal of "Developed India by 2047"

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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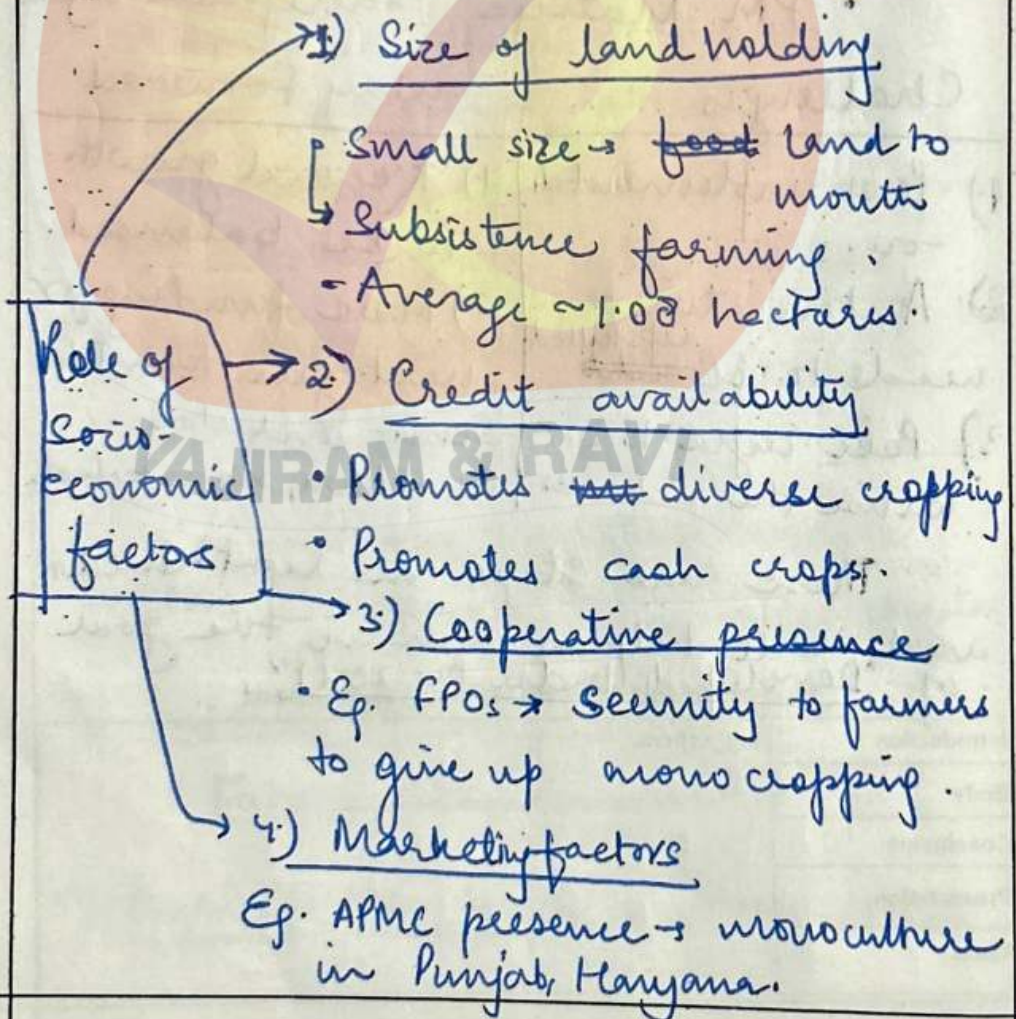
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13. Examine the influence of socio-economic factors on cropping patterns across different regions. Discuss the potential trade off between economic viability and ecological sustainability in crop selection. (15 marks, 250 words)

Cropping patterns are influenced by factors like climate, soil, government focus but socio-economic factors do play a large part, this in turn ~~be~~ may lead to environmental challenges.



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- 5) Awareness, education & skill
 - leads to adoption of agroforestry, multi cropping etc.
- 6) Proximity to urban areas
 - Periurban agriculture → Horticulture
- 7) Irrigation availability (sugarcane) cropping

Other dominant influences of cropping patterns

- 1) Soil → eg. cashew farming on laterite soil.
- 2) Monsoon → lack of rainfall
eg. millets, pulses in Rajasthan.
- 3) Government initiatives
eg. higher MSP on oilseeds → promotion.
- 4) Market forces
eg. rising demand of organic food. (Largest no. of organic farmers in the world → India)
- 5) Historical factors → eg. Jute in West Bengal.

Potential trade off between economic viability and ecological

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sustainability in crop selection -

- 1) leads to monoculture
Eg. ~~salt~~ rice and sugar in Punjab
• Causes soil salinity.
- 2) Demand driven selection of crops.
Eg. sugarcane in West UP → fall of water table.
- 3) Expansion of land for farming
• Leads to deforestation.
- 4) Over utilisation → Degradation of soil nutrients.

Way forward

- 1) Promote intercropping, mixed farming's ^{practices}.
- 2) Climate sensitive agriculture.
- 3) Soil & water considerations (soil health card scheme)

Climate smart agriculture will help achieve food security as climate issues ^{worsen}.

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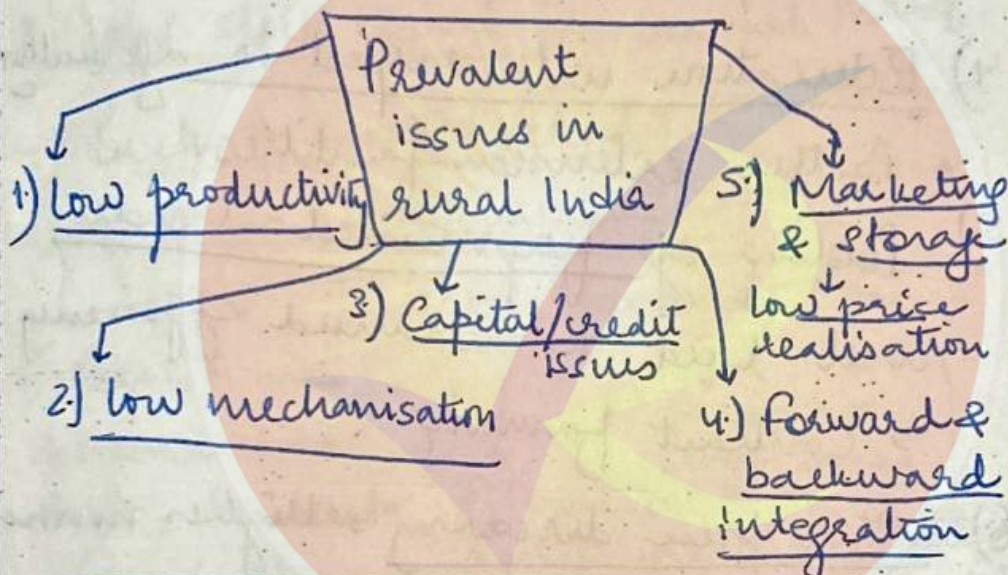
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14. Agri-startups have huge potential for socio-economic transformation in rural India. Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

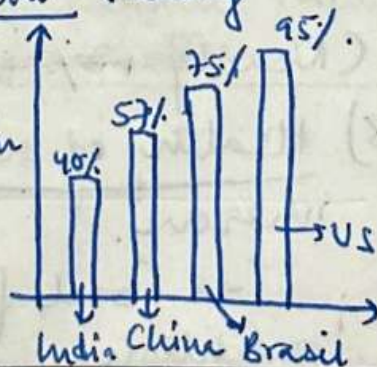
Government announced Agricultural accelerator fund to support Agri-startup to catalyse rural and agrarian ~~startups~~ growth.



Potential of agristartups for Socio-economic transformation -

1) Productivity enhancement through mechanisation.

→ low mechanisation
thus low productivity



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- 2) Better inputs
 - Quality of seeds, chemical inputs etc.
 - Higher growth.
- 3) Bottom up approach
 - Labour intensive nature of agr. startups.
- 4) Education with respect to agriculture
 - Better extension facilities.
- 5) Pooling of fragmented lands
will lead to enhanced efficiency
→ Contract farming.
- 6) Better price discovery → Higher income
 - Reducing chains of middle-men.
- 7) Stop check distress sale through investment in post harvest infra.
(Nearly 12% loss in value post harvest).
- 8) Health of rural India may improve.
→ Food fortification or value addition.

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- 9) Reducing dependence on agriculture
e. → Presently 46%.
- 10) Boost to manufacturing.

Challenges may however persist -

- 1) Heavy dependence on govt. for subsidies → Deterrent for agri startups.
- 2) Lack of rural infra → Physical & digital.
- 3) low skill level in rural India.
- 4) lack of capital/credit for startups.
- 5) Behavioural/inertia issue.

Way forward

- 1) Persist with schemes like AIDF, Accelerator Funds etc.
- 2) focus on rural infra (PM Gram Sadak Yojana)
- 3) Digitization (Agri Stack)
- 4) Better credit facility

Agri startups will help in achieving an efficient rural socio-economy and double farmers income as under Palanisami Committee.

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15. Quantum computers provide great technical breakthroughs in the field of computing while opening new security threats. Assess the preparedness of India for the quantum era. (15 marks, 250 words)

Quantum computing utilises the quantum mechanical properties of superposition and interference to utilise qubits (any state between 0 & 1) thus have huge potential.

- Technical breakthroughs
- 1) Enhanced computational power (order of 10^6 times higher than normal computers).
 - 2) Space communication
 - 3) Applications in health, semiconductors etc.
 - 4) Basis of 4th industrial revolution

Security threats -

- 1) Data threat → Cyber threat
- 2) Energy threat → Large cooling demand

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3) Uncertainties with its understand
-ing.

India's preparedness

1) National Quantum Mission

- Rs. 8000 crore

2) Undertaking research at
premier institutes like IISc.

3) Global collaboration - Japan is
the leader in quantum tech.

4) Exploring its applications

- Secured data connectivity.
- Enhanced MRI - Health etc.

5) focus on skilled professionals
for quantum tech. under
NQM.

Lacunas in India's preparedness -

1) Inefficient budgeting

- China's Quantum Mission budget is
12x of ours, as per report by TIME.

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- 2.) IPR laws → Deter R&D.
- 3.) Lack of private sector R&D in Quantum Mission.
- 4.) Dependence of Quantum tech on nano tech. → Both needs to be taken together. Eg. Q-dots → nano-semiconducter particles

Way forward -

- 1.) Evaluate NAM outcomes regularly.
- 2.) Global collaboration
 - Define techno-legal regime for Quantum tech.
- 3.) Reform IPR governance
- 4.) More funding

Quantum development will help us achieve growth by leaps and bounds and be ready for next gen jobs.

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16. Deepfakes blur the line between reality and illusion, transforming pixels into convincing lies that challenge our perception of truth. Comment.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Deepfakes were widely used in recent elections of India as well as elsewhere (eg. UK) thus challenging the perception of truth.

Video/Audio is trimmed and implanted on another audio/video to make it look real → Deep fakes.

Thus ~~blurs~~ blurring the line between reality and illusion.

Challenges due to deepfakes -

- 1) Privacy challenge → Fundamental right.
- 2) Economic challenge
 - Tackling deepfakes has a cost.
 - Manipulating capital markets.

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- 3) Social challenge
 - Harmony may be disturbed due to rise of fake hate speeches
- 4) Political challenge
 - Election interference.
- 5) Security challenge → Deepfakes of leaders to raise radicalisation.
- 6) Technological challenge
 - Automating it through AI use.
- 7) Cyber challenge → large volume of data generation.
 - Lack of cyberhygiene
- 8) Institutional challenge
 - Lack of bodies to tackle it.

Way forward -

- 1) Regulate Big-Tech
 - To ensure that platforms don't

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circulate deep fakes. (Facebook etc.)

2.) Legal solution

- Mandatory AI tagging on AI generated videos.

3.) Reform IT Act, 2000 and cyber security Policy, 2012 & Emerging threats.

4.) Awareness about cyber hygiene

- Always verify, never trust appro addr.

5.) Develop specialised bodies to tackle the same.

(Lack of coordination due to multiplicity of bodies).

6.) Global collaboration → Ethics of AI
The challenge to perception of

truth is certain and due steps will safeguard the people, security and economy of the country.

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17. Legacy landfills need immediate attention to mitigate the multiple environmental hazards in Urban spaces. Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

Delhi's Ghazipur landfill site, has height of nearly 200 no feet in height and causes health issue for locals and environmental hazards ~~for~~ in general.

Issues due to ~~various~~ legacy landfills

- 1) Soil degradation → The soil loses its water retention capacity.
- 2) Groundwater pollution → leaching of waste.
- 3) Impact on biodiversity → lack of niche.
- 4) Air pollution → due to fires in landfills → common.
- 5) Heavy metal pollution → e-waste dumping in landfills.

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- 6.) No segregation of waste.
- 7.) Health impacts
 - ↳ Enhanced disease burden
 - ↳ Zoonotic diseases
 - ↳ Polluted air quality.
- 8.) Economic cost of low occupancy around waste areas &
- 9.) Vulnerability of poors and workers handling the waste:

What needs to be done? :-

- 1.) 100% waste collection and source segregation.
 - Indore model.
- 2.) Promote waste to wealth plants
 - 500 plants under Budget 2024-25
- 3.) Recognise the stakeholders and their role.
 - Extended Producer responsibility laws (plastic & e-waste) don't find mention of informal sectors.

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- 4) Treatment of waste
- 5) long term cascaded urban planning for waste.
- 5-10-20-50 years' plan
- 6) Circular economy Reuse
Reduce
Recycle Recover
- 7) Technological upgradation
- Eg. incineration facilities.
- 8) Population aversion from hazardous localities.
- 9) Ultimately awareness of people about waste is needed.
- Eg. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- Such steps will help achieve goals under SDG-11, SDG-15 (life on land) and SDG-6.

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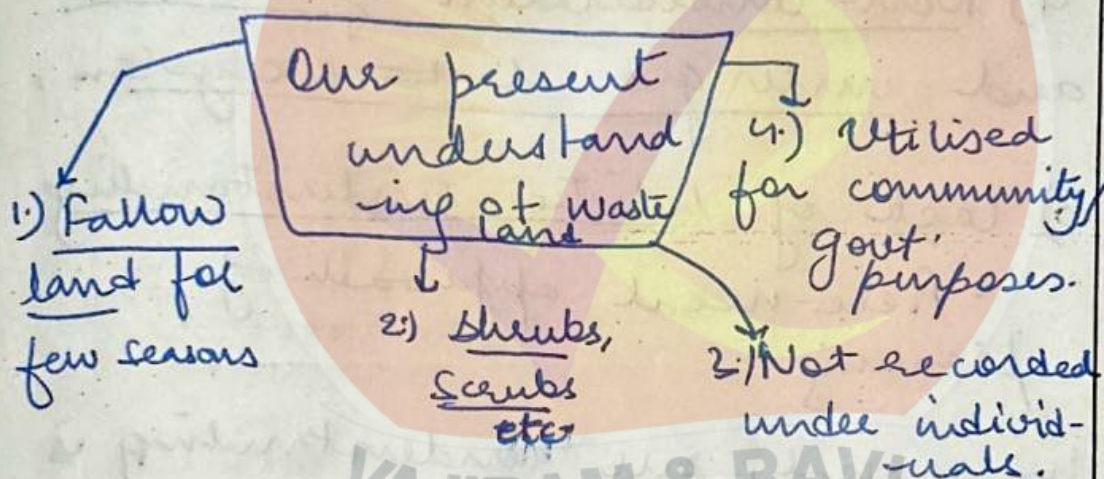
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18. Do you agree that our understanding of wastelands is limited? Substantiate your opinion with reference to the solar parks in the habitat of Great Indian Bustard.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Waste lands are uncultivated lands and solar parks in that region has led to death of critically endangered state bird of Rajasthan, Great Indian Bustard (GIB).



Limitations with our understanding-

1) Non-consideration of biodiversity

- ~~that~~ Eg. GIB thrives in Thal as major habitat, which is considered wasteland.

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- 1) ~~Land~~ Utilisation for.
 - 2) land use change of wastelands distracts migration routes and niche.
 - 3) Human and infra expansion damages habitat.
Eg. birds death due to wind turbines.
 - 4) Non-consideration of microbial and underground ecosystem.
 - 5) Lack of holistic understanding
 - Piece-meal approach of planning.
- In general, our understanding is fair enough as it has also led to rejuvenation of wastelands for afforestation, ◦
Eg. Great Green Belt from Porbander to Panipat.
- These also enhance biodiversity potential.

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Way Forward -

1.) Eco centric approach rather than anthropocentric.

2.) Integrate environmental planning into developmental planning → No piece meal approach.

3.) Research & collaboration on global levels. Eg. UNCCD.

4.) Reverse desertification

Eg. Bonn challenge → 20 million hectare rejuvenation.

Further enhancement of understanding will help us achieve targets of UNCCD (Kunming Montreal Protocol).

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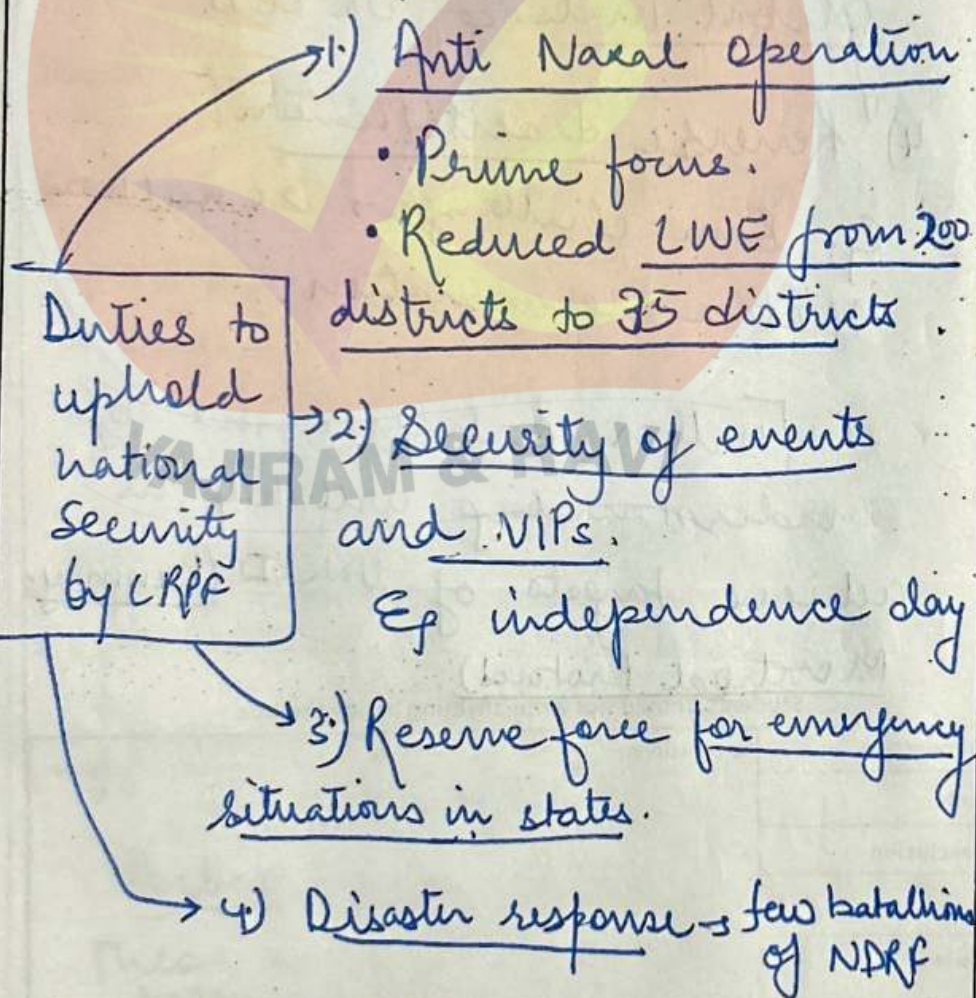
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19. The CRPF performs a variety of duties to uphold our national security. Comment on the diverse challenges that CRPF has to navigate while performing its duties.

(15 marks, 250 words)

CRPF is a specialised paramilitary force formed before independence, has been largely successful but faces challenges of efficiency.



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Challenges faced by CRIF -

- 1.) Tough terrain → eg. forested trails of Dantewade.
- 2.) Local resistance from tribals in Chotanagpur belt.
- 3.) Technological challenge →
 a) lack of superior weaponry.
- 4.) Information & intelligence issues.
 - leads to ambush attacks.
 - Eg. Sukma ambush, 2021
- 5.) Personnel issues
 - a) Non-parity with defense forces
 - b) Promotion of IPS officers to top posts.
 - c) leave or related issues.
- 6.) Funding challenges for modernisation.
- 7.) Centre-state conflicts of jurisdiction at times.

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Way Forward

1) Technological boost

- Eg. night vision goggles, GIS etc.

2) Amenities & infra boost

- Eg. usage of shielded vehicles, helicopters etc.

3) Connectivity development

in areas of their operation.

4) Better promotional and perks avenues :

- Provides motivation

5) Develop community driven intelligence networks.

The efforts of CRPF have been plausible and these measures will further help them serve national security interests.

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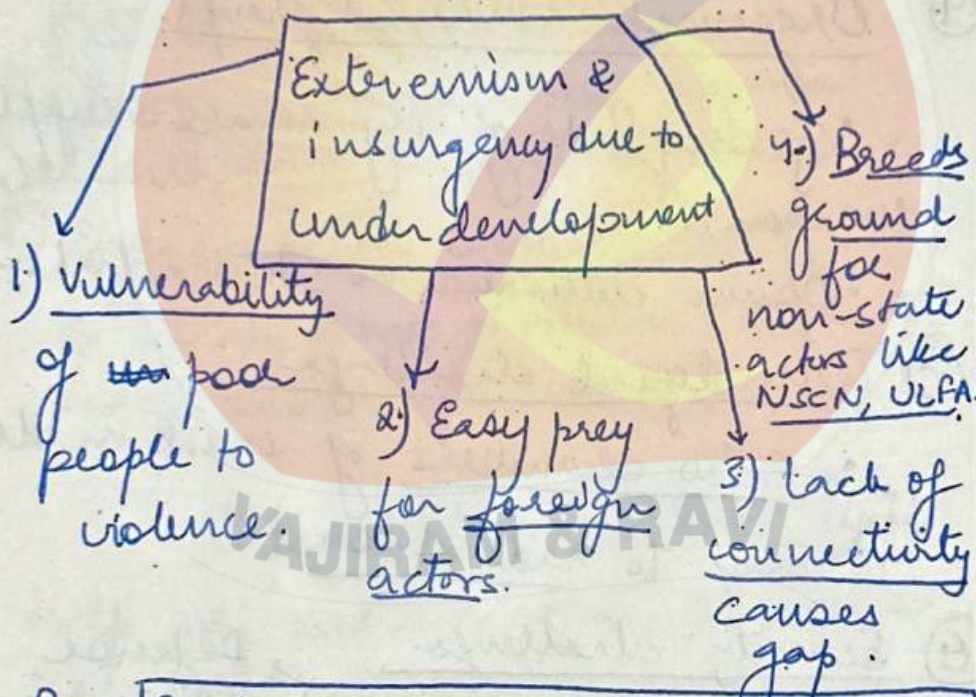
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20. The presence of extremism and insurgency goes beyond the reason of under development. Analyze the statement with reference to North East states of India.

(15 marks, 250 words)

The reducing extremism in North East (NE) faced a slow with sustained Manipur violence which has reasons beyond underdevelopment.



Factors beyond underdevelopment

① Social factors

- Huge diversity on ethnic lines.
- Tribal wars → Kuki vs Meitais in Manipur.

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② Migration issues

- Insider vs Outsider
- Changes demography.
- E.g. in Tripura's native population is in minority now.

③ Geopolitical challenge

- Support by China to insurgents in North East.

④ Organised criminal groups

- E.g. drug lords of Myanmar supply weapon.
- Opium cultivation in Arunachal.

⑤ Technological challenge

- Echo chambers of social media
- Easy to radicalise.

⑥ Security challenge

- (Double command of BSF) → Defense (Operations)
- Home (Personnel)

⑦ Civil societies' reducing influence

⑧ Governance deficit

Possible solutions-

- ① Address connectivity issue
Eg. BBIN, ~~IMT~~ IMT
- ② Economic development on war footing.
- ③ Border management
Eg. border fencing of Myanmar border.
• CIMBS (like Pak border) is needed.
- ④ Tackle radicalisation and promote constitutionalism.
- ⑤ Peace accords like Assam accords, Naga accord to continue.
- ⑥ Engage with civil societies.
Eg. library groups of Assam sealed peace deal with ULFA

A peaceful north east will help us achieve the success in "Act East Policy" as well.

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