

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-8

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.

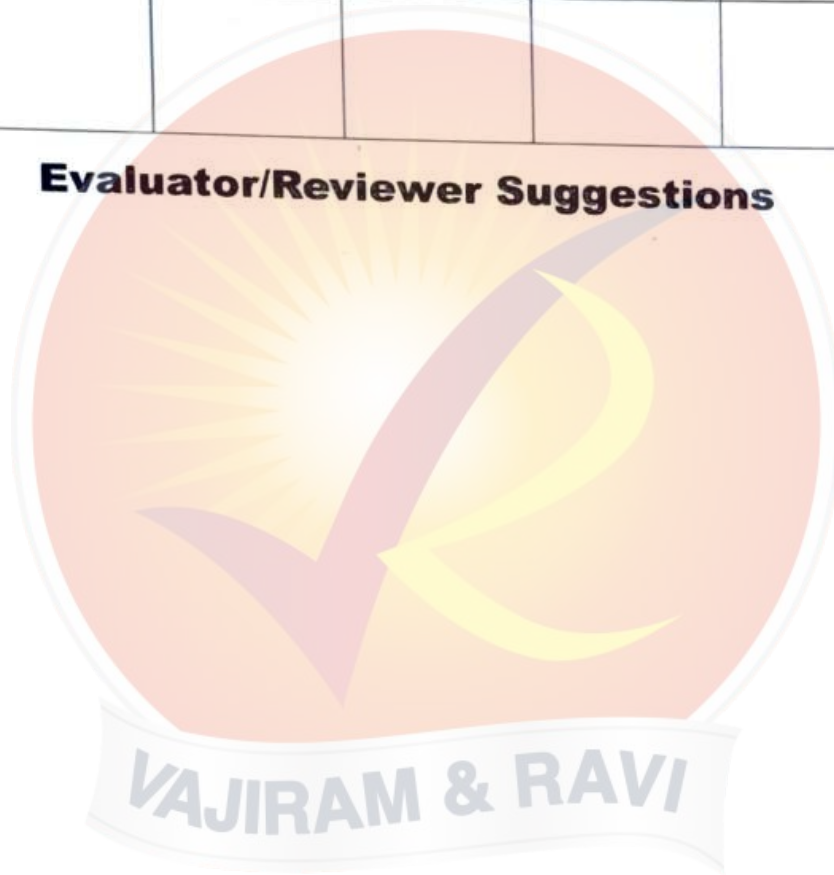
Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

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 denotes increase in prices of domestic goods due to external market environment.

⇒ Recent time → Inflation have been more than 5% for sustained period.

Factor Influencing Imported Inflation

- 1) Middle East crisis (Gaza - Israel war), Yemen, Sudan
↳ leading to global oil prices increase
(India - 80% Import oil)
- 2) Ukraine Russia conflict pushed vegetable oil prices higher
(eg - India - imports 55-60% of vegetable oil)

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- 3) Supply chain disruption post COVID - due to China complete lockdown
- 4) Global Inflation → pushing interest rate higher → flight of capital from India (eg - FPI outflows)

Measures by India to mitigate

- 1) long term arrangement with Russia for oil supply at reasonable prices
- 2) Interest rate hike by RBI to contain inflation & Reduce purchasing power
- 3) Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme
↳ domestic production of vegetable oil (NM - oil & allied production)

Thus, inflation

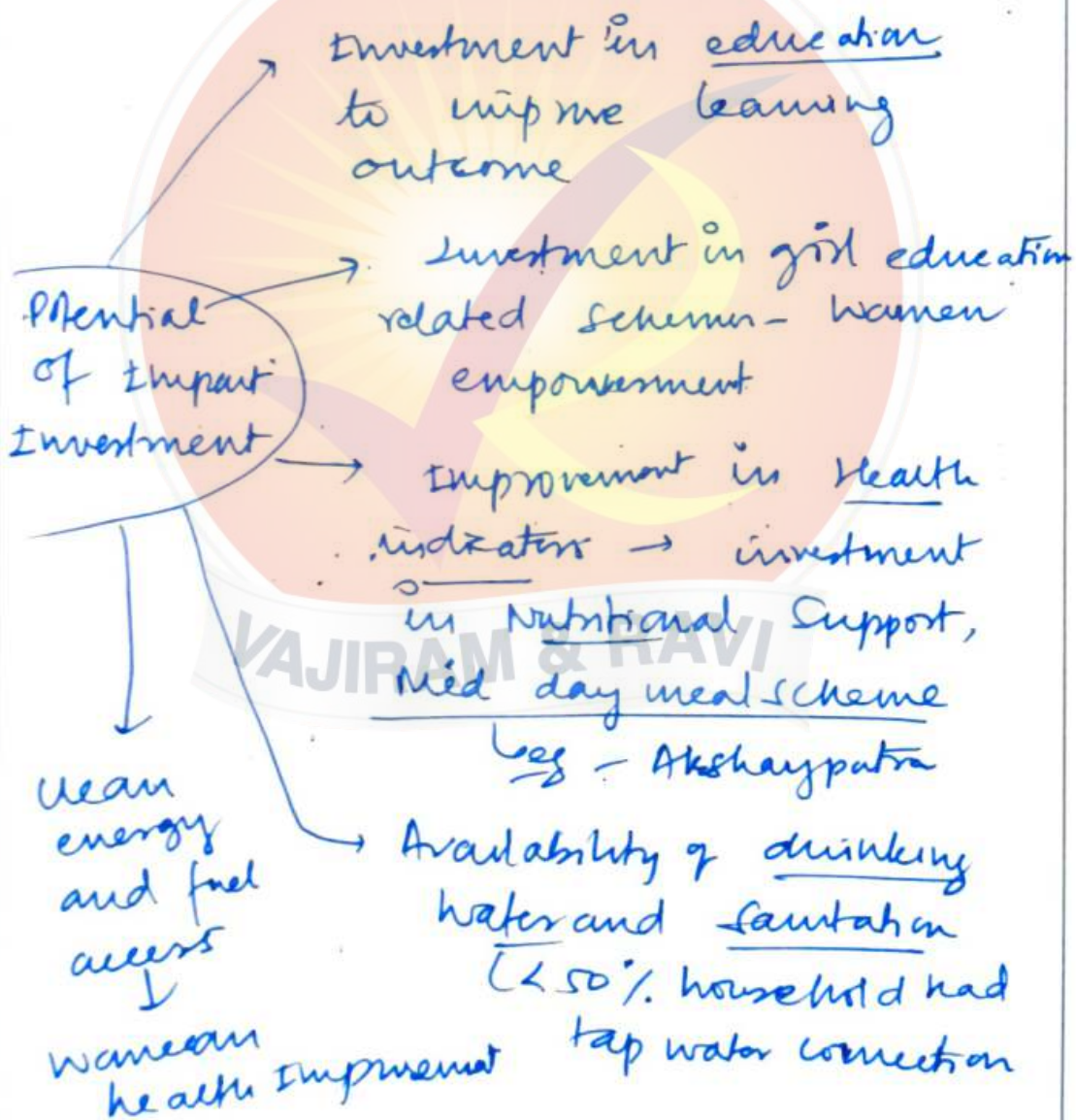
need to be tamed for sustained economic growth.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
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Marks:	

2. Discuss the potential of impact investments in improving the social sector outcomes in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Impact Investment is a tool to attain social changes through focussed investment strategy.



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Measures taken to increase Social impact investment

- 1) SEBI brought Social stock exchange platform → to bring transparency and outcome oriented investment in social startup.
- 2) Social Impact Bond use by state government to raise fund at nominal rates
- 3) Many philanthropist pledged their wealth → eg - Azim Premji pledged - \$2 Billion for social cause
- 4) Now getting Support from government to collaborate to improve social outcome. (eg Helpage India)

Thus, to achieve inclusive India, we must ^{tap} synergy of all stakeholders.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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

Land Reforms have been agenda for social improvement since pre-Independence period

Unfinished Agenda of Land Reforms
Sustain Socio-economic disparities

- 1) Agri-Census → 85% of farmer have less than 2 hectares of land
↓
Marginal farmer lesser access to finance and investment in land productivity
- 2) Tenancy Reforms have also failed except in Kerala & West Bengal to some extent
↳ lands are fallow, yet not given to tenant farmer due to fear of losing
- 3) Land Collectivisation to improve productivity has failed → people resist to change.

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4) Big landowners pocketing maximum profit due to economies of scale and
→ small and marginal farmer going for subsistence farming → further socio-economic disparities.

Recent Measures in Land Reform

- 1) Digitalisation of land records and allocation of Blue Aadhar to owner
- 2) Land Mapping through SVAMITVA scheme → will be helpful in access to finance.
- 3) Unified registration system throughout India (Recent Budget 2023-24 support)
 - ↳ Helpful in resolving land dispute faster

thus, Land reforms are urgent necessity to make income of farmer double.

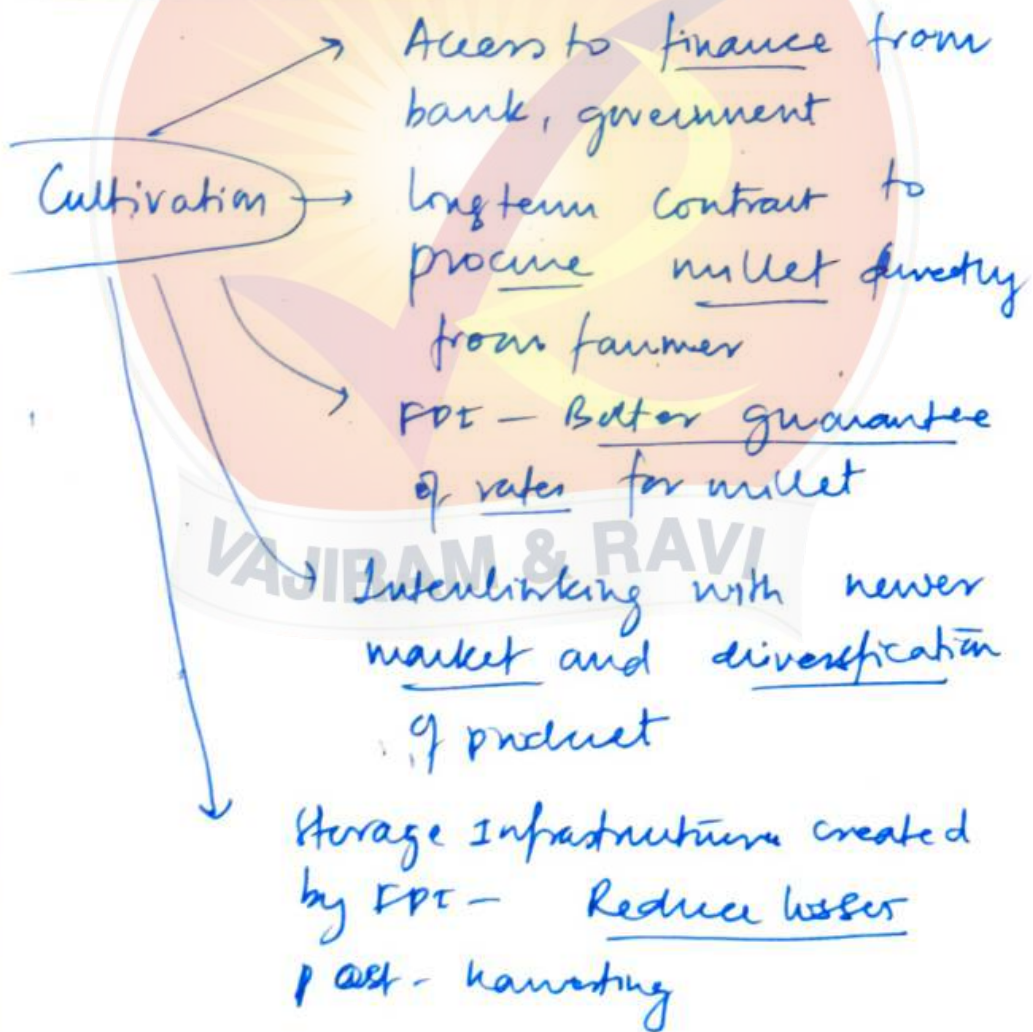
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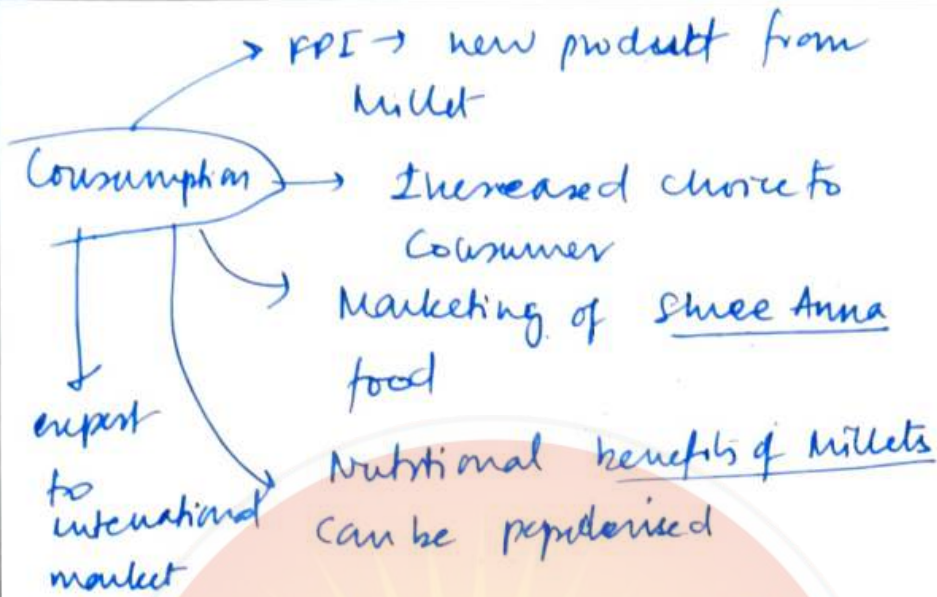
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Conclusion	
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Marks:	

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

Food processing Industries are growing at 8% CAGR in last five years.

Importance of FPI in promoting Millet Cultivation & Consumption





Way Forward

- 1) GOT announcement of Indian Institute of Millet Research in Hyderabad
- 2) Increased MSP on millet to provide better income and assured price
- 3) PM - Formalisation of Micro-enterprise
- 4) Budget (2024-25) announcement of food irradiation centre & testing lab

Thus, Millet are superfood and must be harnessed.

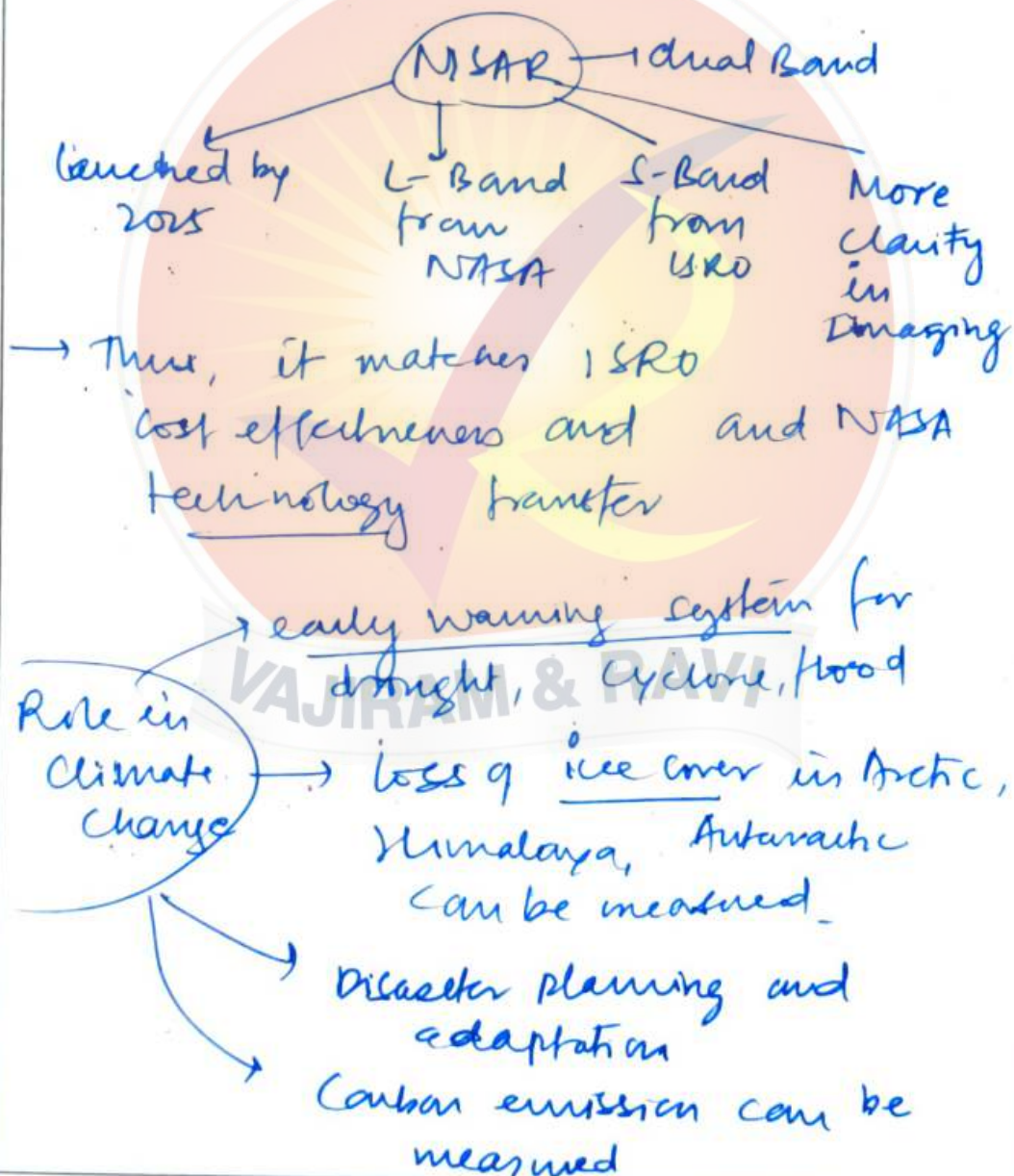
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5. NISAR is a flagship partnership between India and the USA. Elaborate its role in studying climate change and efficient resource management.

(10 marks, 150 words)

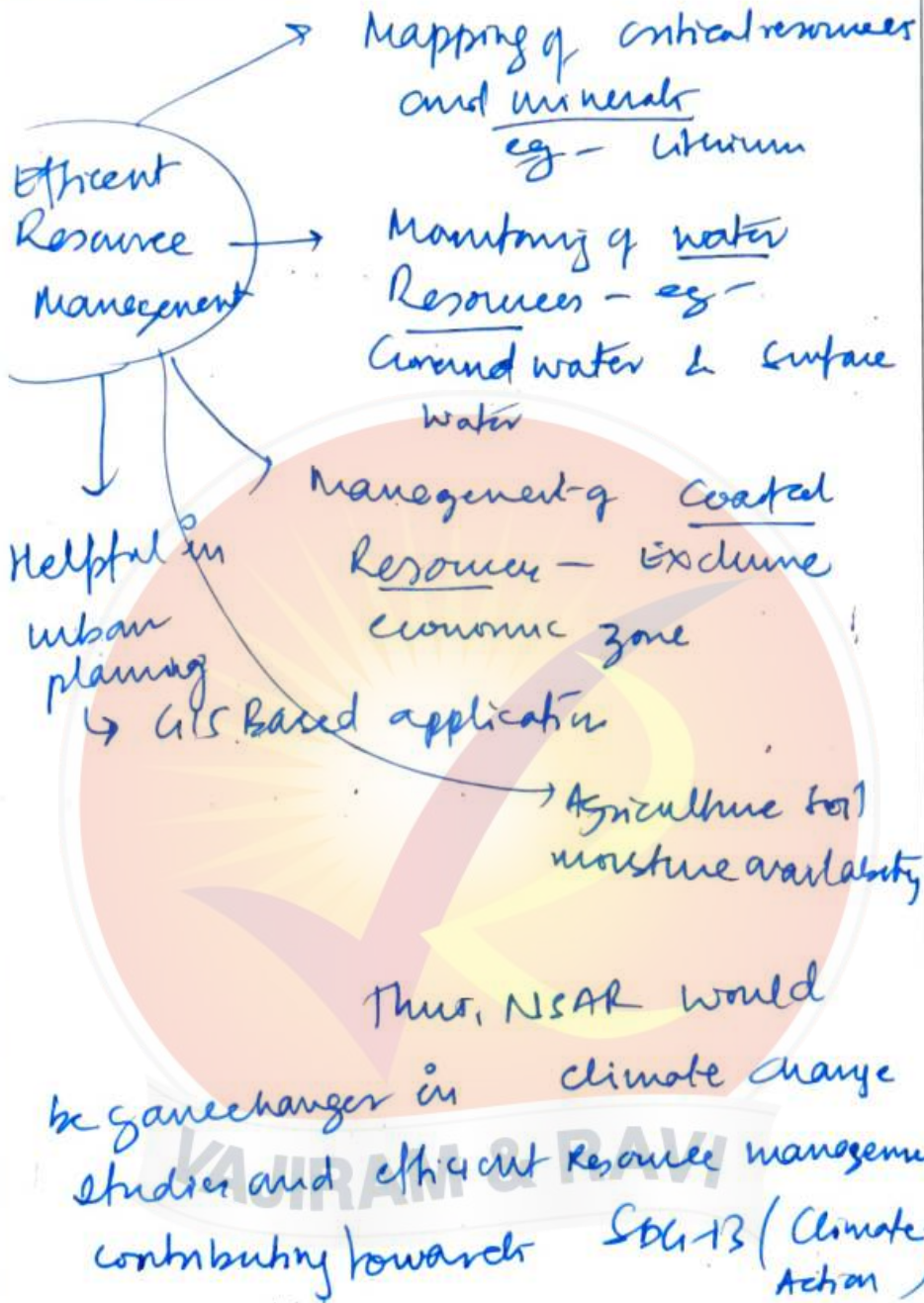
NISAR is NASA and ISRO collaboration for Synthetic Aperture Radar



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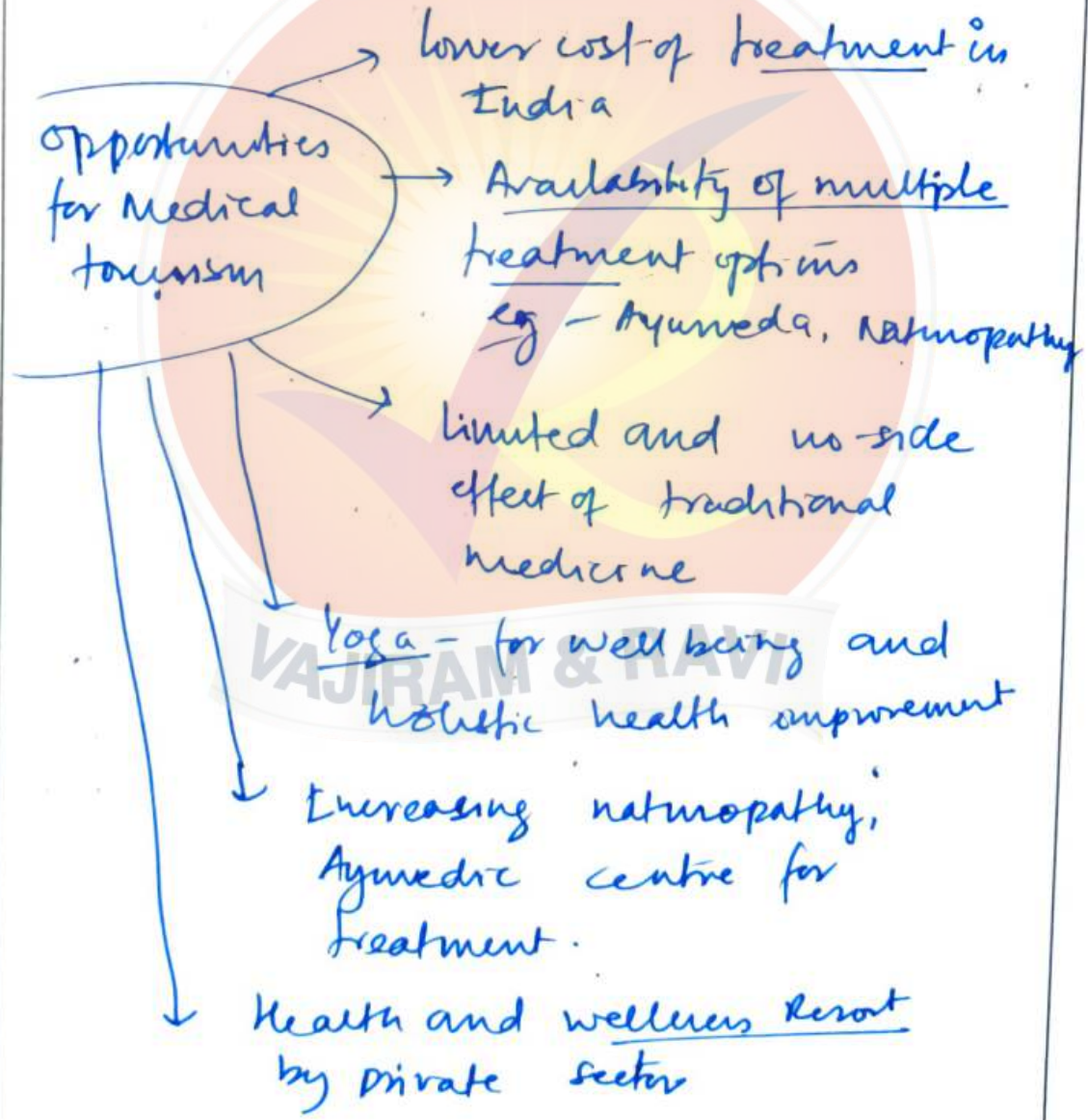
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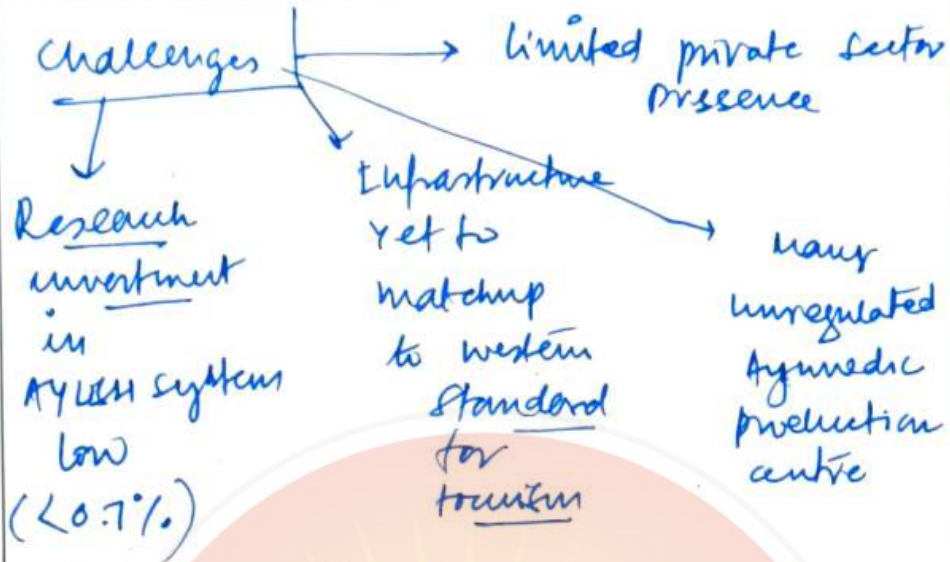
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6. Traditional system of medicine provides great opportunities for medical and wellness tourism in India. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

India is a land of many traditional ^{medicine} system → Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rispa, Yoga etc.





Way Forward

- 1) National policy to promote Ayurveda and allied services
- 2) Ministry of AYUSH must collaborate with private sector to promote tourism
- 3) Increase Academia-Industry

Linkage
Thru, AYUSH

Systems would give great impetus to project our civilizational strength to world.

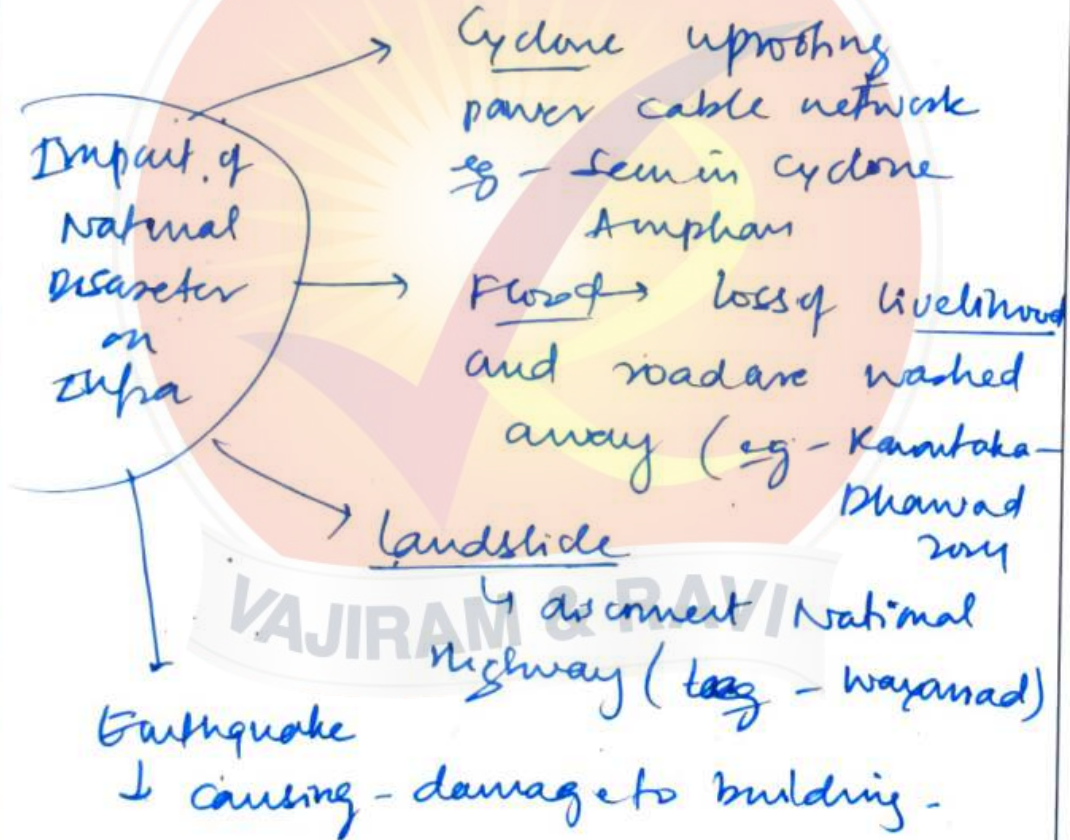
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Introduction	Suggestions:
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7. Damage to critical infrastructures amplifies the impact of natural disasters. Discuss the significance of building disaster resilient infrastructure in India.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Critical infrastructure are those components like power, security, health, etc which are critical to modern economy



Significance of Building Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

1) Quick Restoration of Infrastructure
↳ power, communication tower made with 'proper design'

2) Preparedness is the key to lessen the impact
eg - odisha - cyclone
Role model -



3) Following Building Code in Earthquake prone zone → eg Bhuji → seismic zone II

Thus, Sendai

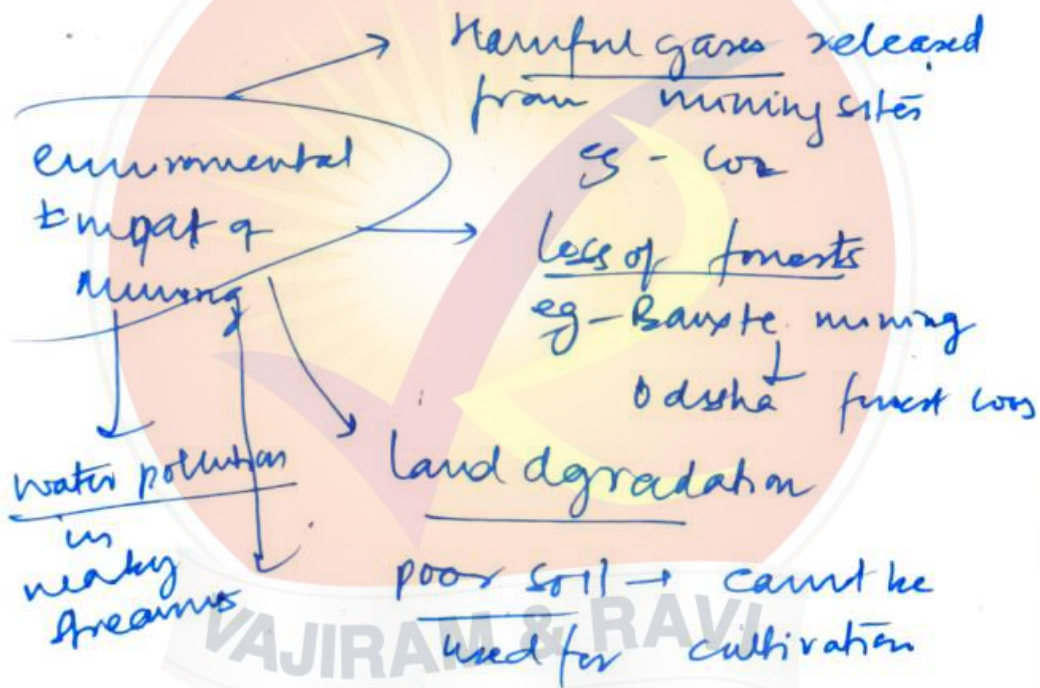
Framework focussed approach to minimise loss of life should be taken to reduce damage.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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

Mining is a economic activity to take resources from earth to further production



Health Impact → worker in mines → faces disease - asbestosis,
 → Reduce life span of worker due to hazardous condition

Impact on local people / tribal living in the area
 ↳ eg Consumption of contaminated food and water

Measures

- 1) Recycling of metal to reduce demand
- 2) EIA must be done to protect loss to forest
- 3) District Mineral Foundation fund must be utilized for livelihood of people / rehab

Thus, mining must be done sustainably and meet the SDG Goal - 12 (Sustainable production & Sustainable consumption)

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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

Cybersecurity threat is increasing to India -

Threats

Dark net

- 90% of data / systems is on darknet
- Confidential data
- government communication
- citizen data
eg- Aadhar data of citizens
↳ find on dark net

Crypto currency

- Financing to terror groups eg. LeT
- Money laundering
- Identity undisclosed
- operation from beyond border
- no worldwide regulation

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Measures

- 1) Global collaboration → Intelligence agencies
- 2) No money for terror, Conference
↳
- 3) Strengthening research on crypto currency and darknet
→ cyber security policy update required

Thus, we must
Build Digital Shakti Bharat.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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)

India maritime trade → 90% of volume & 65% by value → Thus important for Security

Vulnerabilities

1) Terrorism
eg - Mumbai Attack of 2008

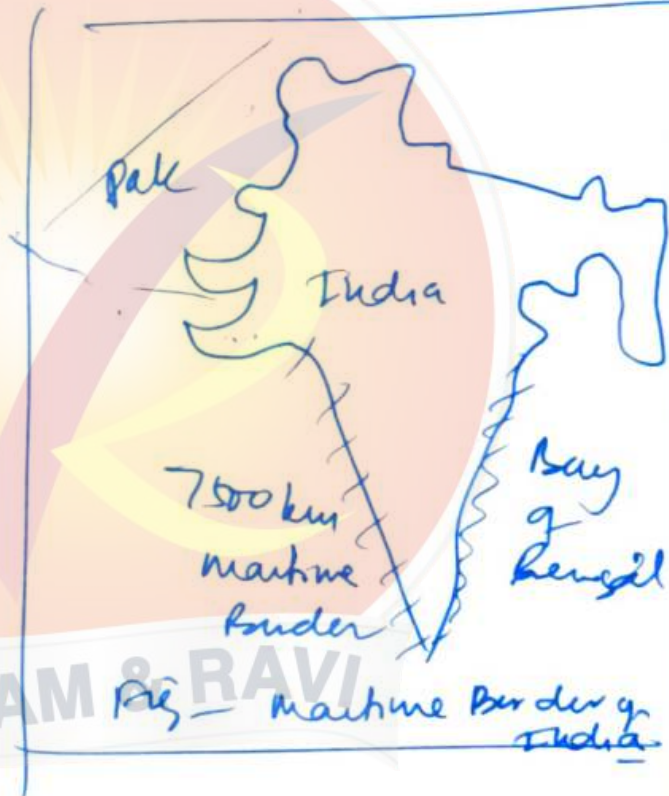
2) Piracy in the sea

↳ of the Somalia coast

↳ eg Recent piracy attack on merchant ship

3) Disaster - oil spill

eg - Ennore (2023)



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- 4) Drug and Human Trafficking
eg Region of Gulf.
- 5) Attack by Non-state Actors on
Ships → eg - Houthis attack on Red Sea

India Action

- 1) Maritime collaboration with littoral navies
- 2) Colombo Security Conclave
- 3) Deployment of submarine, MAKROS Commando, Destroyer ship

Thus, maritime security is paramount for national security, energy security of India.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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Presentation	
Marks:	

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

Disinvestment means reducing government share in ownership of public sector entities

Impact of Disinvestment Programme on improving efficiency of economy

- 1) Government exiting non-essential business eg - Hindustan Zinc Limited
disinvestment
- 2) Free up government debt creating Businesses.
eg - AIIR India - losses were accumulating over time.
- 3) Greater space to private sector
↳ which can have more prudent management skills

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4) Government getting extra fund from disinvestment to invest in PSU which can be reinvigorated and profit making.

eg National Investment fund
created - non-lapsable pool of funds

5) focus will shift on private - public partnership → get the best out of both → Risk management + Regulatory clearance
↓
greater efficiency [Vijay Kelkar Committee Recommendation]

Yet, certain challenges in disinvestment

1) disinvestment targets were not met in last 5-year. Budget

2) Government assets are sold at very low prices → overall loss to govt eg - AIR India - 1200 crore.

- 3) lots of employment for employees in restructuring process.
- 4) PSU also perform public welfare
eg - Distribution of gas cylinder under UJJAWALA scheme.

Measures

- 1) only exit from business which can be handled better by private sector
- 2) More ETF (exchange trade fund)
↳ Bhavat - 22 should be floated to gather resources.

Thus, disinvestment in itself is not silver bullet, must be done strategically to kick in 6 annual sprints of economy.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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)

Presently, India has 63% population in age group of 15-59 years, which provides it window of opportunity till 2055-56 (NITI Aayog Report)

Demand Driven & Future Ready skill development essential to leverage demographic Dividend

1) Nature of Industry is changing

↳ growing focus on AI ^{5G/6G}
Automation
3D Manufacturing
IOT

↳ It require future ready skill such as knowledge of AI, IOT,

Big data, Automation.

2) Demand driven

→ Many platform based / Aggregator model startup like Zomato, Swiggy, Uber etc providing

impetus to Gig economy

(NITI Aayog → 2019 - 77 lakh gig workers
↓
Reach 2.3 crore by 2030

Budget 2024-25 have announced several initiatives such as

1) 1000 more ITIs to be established for new - industry

based skills

2) Collaboration with Industry for training and apprenticeship
↳ Target of skilling 5 lakh youths

3) employment linked incentive (ELI) scheme to incentivise job creation by MSME / Industry

4) Promotion of Future Skill Prime initiatives → to focus on skilling in AI, ML, Big data along with NASSCOM

Further Budget Supports

- 1) Space based startup by earmarking 1000 crore fund of fund
- 2) More focus on Agro-processing industry → by creating 10000 - Bio Resource Centre

Thus, Skill India

Mission in tandem with new requirement of Industrial Revolution 4.0 is the way forward.

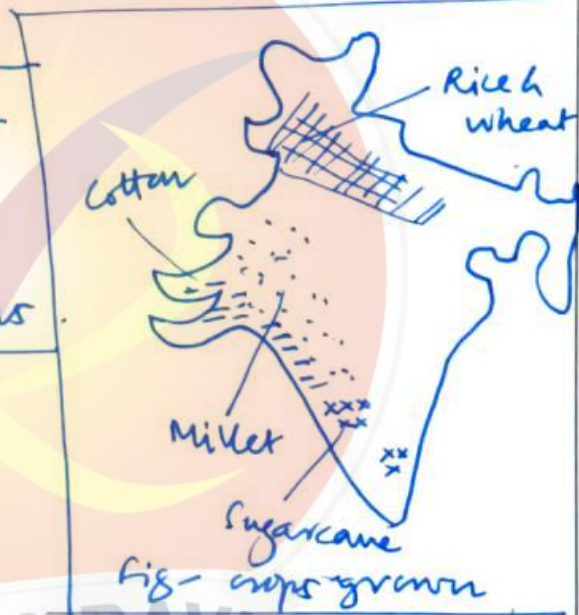
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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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 denote the pattern in which crops are sown, harvested from season to season

Influence of socio-economic factors on cropping pattern in regions.



1) Punjab and Haryana

having large farm holdings was conducive for implementation of Green Revolution

→ So, wheat and Rice produced.

2) Wet Rainfed areas like Rajasthan (Millet production) Jwar, Bajra

Karnataka - Ragi (Maumum)

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3) Plantation Agriculture

Coffee (Karnataka) }
Tea (Assam) } mainly for
Rubber (Kerala) } export market,

4) Smaller landholding farmer

↳ Mainly grow for Subsistence Agriculture → their own consumption.

→ According to Agric Census:

85% of Indian farmer < 2 hectare of land.

Due to ignorance of Agroclimatic Zone based Agriculture

Tradeoff b/w economic viability and ecological sustainability

1) Punjab - Haryana - West UP -

over extraction of Ground water Resource ⇒ Salinity in soil due to

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over-irrigation

2) Ignorance of dryland farming and reduced ^{growth of} Millet is almost all over India since Green Revolution

↳ creates financial burden, debt and nutrition challenge.

Measures

- 1) Crop pattern must be according to Agri climatic zone.
- 2) More Climate Resilient Agriculture must be focus
- 3) Recent Budget (2024-25) Support to Natural farming / Reduce reliance on fertiliser.

Thus, cropping pattern must balance ecological Sustainability

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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

Agri-startup are those startups which are bringing innovation to agriculture sector

Agri startup potential for social-economic transformation

- 1) New way of farming → precision farming → More productivity
- 2) Use of Agri-stack → more data analysis, suitability of soil for crops
- 3) optimisation of value-chain of farm produce -
eg - Ninjakart → doing it.
- 4) More Boost to Rural economy
↳ livelihood opportunities.

- Linkage with wider market through e-commerce platform
- 5) Better price discovery through information gathering from commodities market (NEX exchange)
 - 6) Bring in private investment to agriculture (currently private capital < 20% of total)
 - 7) Farm to fork → leading to more choices to urban consumer and better direct prices to farmer

Challenges Remain

- 1) less no. of startup in Agriculture domain → long gestation period for profit
- 2) Decentralised data records regarding production, soil health of any region.

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- 3) people (famer) resistance to change and adopting new measures
- 4) High wastage of foodgrains (25-30% of total loss)

Way forward

- 1) Government support in the form of venture capital fund
- 2) Agri-startup must be opened to startups - to gather data responsibly
- 3) Government must reduce entry barriers → licensing, etc.

Thus, Agristartup have great potential to provide flip to agriculture sector.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction
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Conclusion
Presentation
Marks:

Suggestions:

- 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 technology is based on superposition and entanglement of different atomic particles.

Quantum Computer great technical breakthrough in field of computing

- 1) Computing → Higher level of problem solving capacity
↳ Take less time than supercomputer (eg - Google has built one)
- 2) Communication → secure & encrypted communication can be achieved through quantum key distribution
eg (China is taking lead) (QKD)
- 3) Recently discovered Quantum dot
↳ helpful in semiconductor
↳ nanoparticle - use.

- 4) Huge potential to support Research and development and its linkages in other areas (AI, Medical Big data)

Quantum Computing - Security Threats

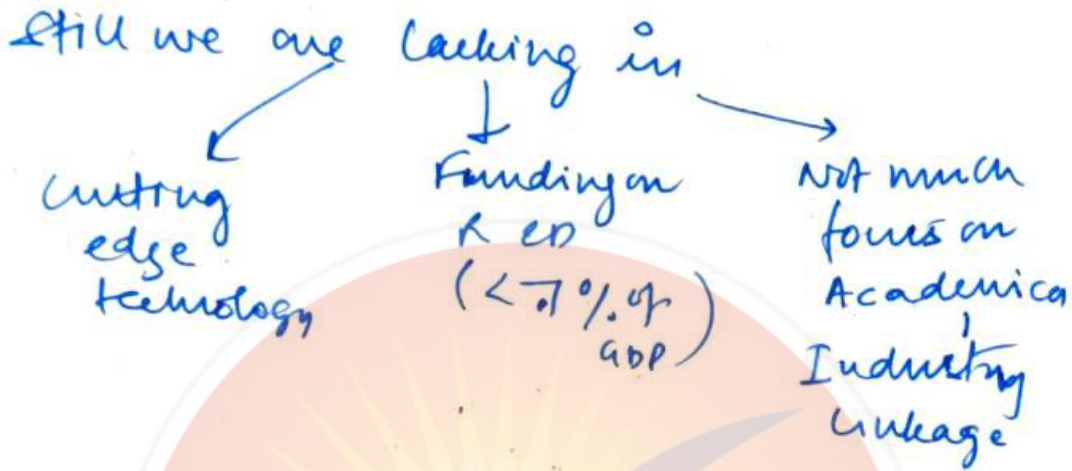
- 1) chances of cybersecurity threat
↳ due to interconnected of network
eg - Hacking, malware
- 2) Interception of data packages
used in Quantum communication
by non-state actor & State Actor
(China)
- 3) Non-availability of fabrication related resources → create economic security

Preparedness of India

- 1) National Quantum Mission
launched by India to take lead in development of quantum computing capabilities.
- 2) National cyber physical system Mission
to research on interlinkage

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of AI, Supercomputer & Quantum Mechanics.



Thus, Quantum computing can transform new aged research, and India must take lead to meet its goal of Jai Vigyan, Jai Aansandhan!

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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)

Deepfake is editing of image/video through AI tool to resemble the real person/object.

Deepfake blurs the line between reality and illusion

1) The video that is created is exactly similar to original person
↳ creates problem of Identification which is real & which is illusion

2) Image processing done through generative AI tool, which reads the real traits of person and transform \Rightarrow into picture, which is used for spreading fake news.

Deepfake Challenges our perceiving truth

- 1) It seems so real, that we cannot (normal eye) cannot distinguish
- 2) Creates problem of identity theft
- 3) Use of voice of celebrity to convince people of the argument
(Signature voice misused)
- 4) Can be problematic for social harmony → creating communal violence.
- 5) Affects international relations with countries → use of propaganda by some countries.

Measures to tackle Deepfake

- 1) Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Rule), 2021 → must

held platform accountable for spread of deepfake

2) Strengthening Data Protection Regime

↳ Digital ^{Data} Protection Act, 2023

is a good start → penalise the platform

3) Spread cyber awareness among people (through cyber Swachta Kendra)

4) National cyber security policy need to be regularly updated to tackle everchanging form of threats.

5) Platform like GPAS, Hiroshima process must be used. Thus, deepfake

must be tackled through global collaboration on ^{Building} AI ethics & for betterment of our society.

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

Landfills are spaces generally in outskirts of urban area where garbage collected from city is dumped.

According to CPCB, only 80% of garbage is collected & merely 35% is treated, rest lie in landfill.

Legacy landfills → environmental hazard to urban space

- 1) Seepage from landfill - affects the groundwater (aquifer)
↳ eg Contamination of Arsenic, Fluoride & Toxic substances
- 2) Landfills release various harmful gases, which affect the air quality of urban areas

- further, deteriorate the health of people.
- 3) Landfills are prone to fire hazard
eg - Mumbai (Vikhili - landfills)
and can release harmful gases.
- 4) Poor odour due to continuous reaction among substance in landfills.
- 5) Spread of diseases → chances of epidemic

Thus,
Landfills require Attention - Measures

- 1) Segregation of waste at source
 - ↳ Bio Hazard
 - ↳ Bio-degradable
 - ↳ Non-Bio-degradable
- 2) Legacy landfills must be have concrete lining to reduce the seepage to groundwater
- 3) waste treatment through waste to energy plants -

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Recent Budget proposed 500 waste to energy plants near urban areas

4) Move the landfills sites away from urban areas

⇒ Bangalore → announced to have it 50km far from city centre.

5) More focus on resource recycling in decentralised form so as to reduce the waste load.

6) Proper implementation of Solid waste management Rules, 2016

Thus, we must built urban spaces which are more hospitable and increase quality of living for the denizens

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
Presentation	
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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)

Wasteland are areas which are not suitable for cultivation of crops and left it for natural growth.

→ Recent ^{SC} judgement in Mk Ranjitsingh and others vs UOI (2024) → SC recognised the importance of Right to be free from adverse effects of Climate change

⇒ SC allowed the construction of Great Solar Park in wasteland area for renewable energy resource.

This above case represent the dilemma of understanding of wasteland

It is limited → Ignorance of niche area of Great India Bustard in

Rain of Kutch, Desert National park

- ⇒ Ignorance of right of person living in wasteland
 - ↳ tribals - which take care of Great Indian Bustard and other species
- ⇒ Since, land acquisition is not much problematic in wasteland as ~~to~~ almost negligible resistance due to low habitation
- ⇒ It disturbs the natural ecosystem, food chain & food web
eg - Large solar park can limit the area of movement for wildlife species (GIB)

Thus, we need to Balance our interest along with greater environmental sustainability

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⇒ Proper Environmental Impact Assessment must be done taking into account the endangered species like Great Indian Bustard:

⇒ Alternate location must also be found for solar park.

⇒ Decentralised solar power scheme such as PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna → must be promoted which have least effect on natural ecosystem

Thus, our action must meet the sustainable development and fulfillment of SDG-13 (Climate Action)

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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 central
Reserved police force under command and control of Central government to assist states in making Law & order situation stable.

Variety of duties performed by CRPF to uphold national security

- 1) Anti-terrorism actions in Jammu & Kashmir, along with state police & Indian Army
- 2) Anti-Naxal action in dense jungles of Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, → protect left wing
- 3) extremism to spread to other part
- 3) Assist state government on demand for extra mobilisation to tackle

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internal security challenge

eg - Deployment in Manipur

- 4) Duty accorded by Election Commission of India to uphold security situation during time of election and have neutral stand.
- 5) Intelligence gathering on human trafficking, arms trafficking, drug trafficking.

Diverse challenges that they have to navigate while performing duties

- 1) Difficult terrain → eg jungle / in J&K, Chhattisgarh
eg - Pulama ambush by Naxal (> 200 casualties)
- 2) Being an uniformed soldier, easy target for terrorist
eg - J&K - cow Pulama attack (2019)
- 3) Difficult condition for food, Barack - eg - temporary shades

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Created due to regular movement
 4) Frequent postings and transfer
 ↳ Difficult to stay with family
 ↓
 leading to anxiety → stress

Measures that can be taken

- 1) Strengthening intelligence network to gather inputs before actions
- 2) Inter-agency coordination for joint / tactical action
- 3) Salary and pay like at par with Indian Armed Forces - would go long way in reducing attrition

Thus, CRPF plays critical role in security of nation and we must pay our respect for their duties.

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Conclusion	
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VAJIRAM & RAVI

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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)

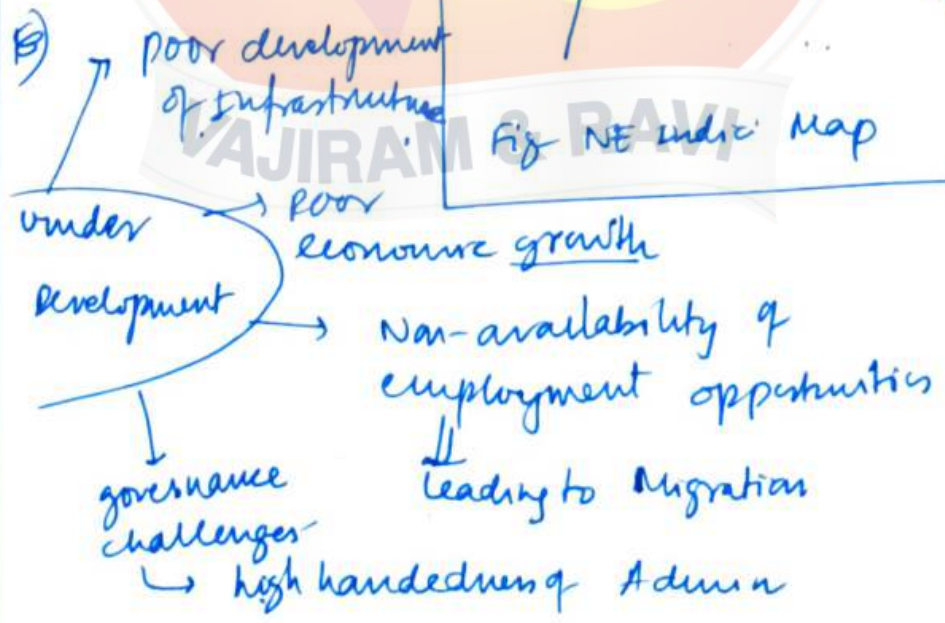
North East insurgency

and extremism is big security threat for our country, perhaps threat to sovereignty.

Reason for presence of extremism & Insurgency



Fig NE India Map



Other challenges

- 1) Presence of secessionist forces like NSEN(IM) - NSEN(K)
↓
demand for autonomy to Naga People
- 2) porous border with Myanmar
eg - Movement of kuki-chin across border
↓
Recent demand of separate hill state in Manipur
- 3) Drug trafficking through Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand)
- 4) Linkage between arms trafficking smuggling with drug cartels
- 5) external support from China to fuel insurgency in North east to destabilise India.
- 6) Illegal 'Immigration from Bangladesh eg - through Tripura.

7) Many tribal belt and different culture create problem in assimilation
 eg - Manipur ← Meiteis → demand for
 Kuki Reservation

Measures taken by India

- 1) Cancelling FMR (Free Movement Regime) with Myanmar
- 2) Strengthening Border Security Infrastructure → CIBMS and BOLD-DIT
- 3) Infrastructure development (Recommended by Sheltkar Committee)
- 4) Collaboration with neighbouring nations eg - Myanmar to destroy terrorist hideout

Thus, Northeast ~~best~~ development must be prioritised, security must be strengthened for Better India.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
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