

FLT-3

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05 AUG 2025

NEXT IAS

~~MTS PRELIMS TO MAINS (P-M) - 2025~~

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : PM2533

Test No. : 03

Name of Candidate: Raghav Thun Thunwala Mobile No .....Roll No. : GSMACT24A1055 Start Time ..... End Time..... +20minDate of Examination: 5 Aug 2025 Medium : English  Hindi 

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1.	10	
2.	10	
3.	10	
4.	10	
5.	10	
6.	10	
7.	10	
8.	10	
9.	10	
10.	10	
TOTAL MARKS - 100		

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
11.	15	
12.	15	
13.	15	
14.	15	
15.	15	
16.	15	
17.	15	
18.	15	
19.	15	
20.	15	
TOTAL MARKS - 150		

GRAND TOTAL - ...../ 250

EVAL CODE: ..... EVAL DATE: .....

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 12 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.

## सामान्य निर्देश

1. QCA पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर कृपया तुरंत जांच लें कि इस QCA पुस्तिका में कोई पृष्ठ या सामग्री आदि गलत छपी हुई या फटी हुई या गायब तो नहीं है। यदि ऐसा है, तो इसे एक नई QCA पुस्तिका से बदल लें।
2. अभ्यर्थियों को सभी प्रासंगिक विवरण जैसे नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर, मोबाइल नंबर आदि का आवंटित स्थान पर उल्लेख करना होगा।
3. अभ्यर्थियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह आवंटित समय-सीमा के भीतर ही सभी 12 प्रश्नों के उत्तर-लेखन का प्रयास करें।
4. प्रत्येक उत्तर, प्रवेश के समय चुनी गयी भाषा के माध्यम में ही लिखे जाने चाहिए।
5. अभ्यर्थियों को विशिष्ट प्रश्न के उत्तर संबंधित प्रश्न के नीचे ही लिखने होंगे। आवंटित स्थान के बाहर लिखे गए किसी भी उत्तर को क्रेडिट नहीं दिया जाएगा।
6. कृपया साफ-सुथरा लिखें। अपठनीय लेखन से बचें।
7. QCAB में अप्रासंगिक तथ्यों को न लिखें / न ही चिह्नित करें।

REMARKS: .....

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

**Student Concerns / Query**

1 .....

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2 .....

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3 .....

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**Evaluator's Feedback / Response**

1 .....

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2 .....

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3 .....

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**MARKING SCHEME \***

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 3.00	3.00 - 3.75	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.50	4.50 - 5.75	6.00 and above

\* Subject to change without prior notice.

**IMPORTANT QR CODES**



Topper's Copy



Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB



Copy Scanner App



Next IAS Test Centre Location

**MACRO COMMENTS**

*The Purpose of MTS 2.0 Score Improvement Program (SIP) is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.*

Q1.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q2.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q3.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q4.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q5.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q6.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q7.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q8.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q9.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q10.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q11.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q12.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q13.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q14.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q15.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

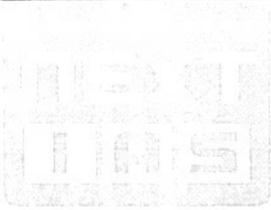
Q16.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q17.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q18.

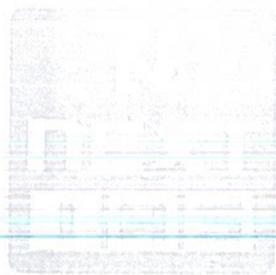
Introduction	Body	Conclusion
		

Q19.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q20.

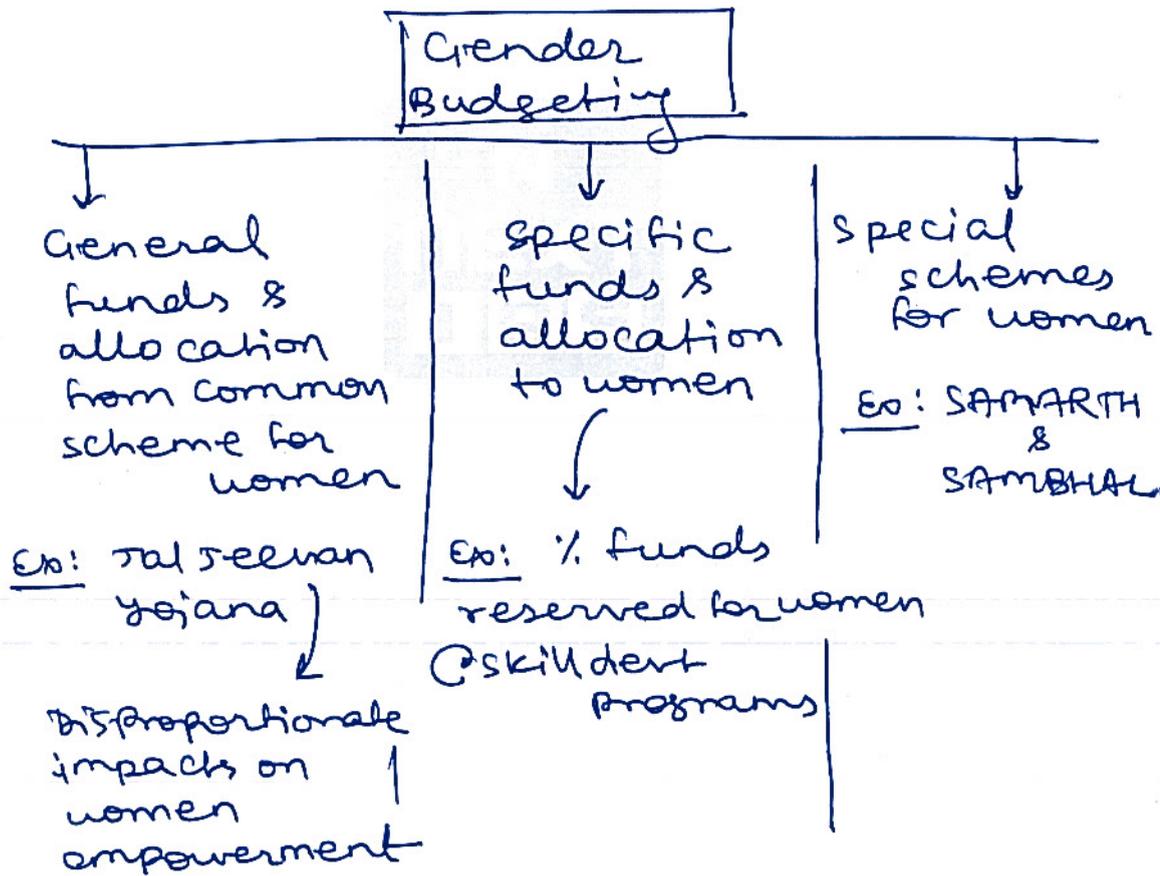
Introduction	Body	Conclusion





1. सरकारी बजट में जेंडर बजटिंग की ओर हाल ही में किए गये प्रयास महिला सशक्तिकरण के लिए इसके महत्व को दर्शाता है। भारत में जेंडर बजटिंग की दिशा में हालिया पहल और उनके महत्व क्या हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक  
 The recent push towards gender budgeting in the Government Budget reflects its importance for women empowerment. What are the recent initiatives towards gender budgeting in India and their importance? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The govt is guided by the idea of women led development that is reflected in recent strides to Gender Budgeting.



Importance for women Empowerment

- ① Shows dedicated policy focus and govt. commitment
- ② Funding should never be a constraint for progress.

③ capability development (sen)  
(via skilliy, SHG & Entrepreneurship)

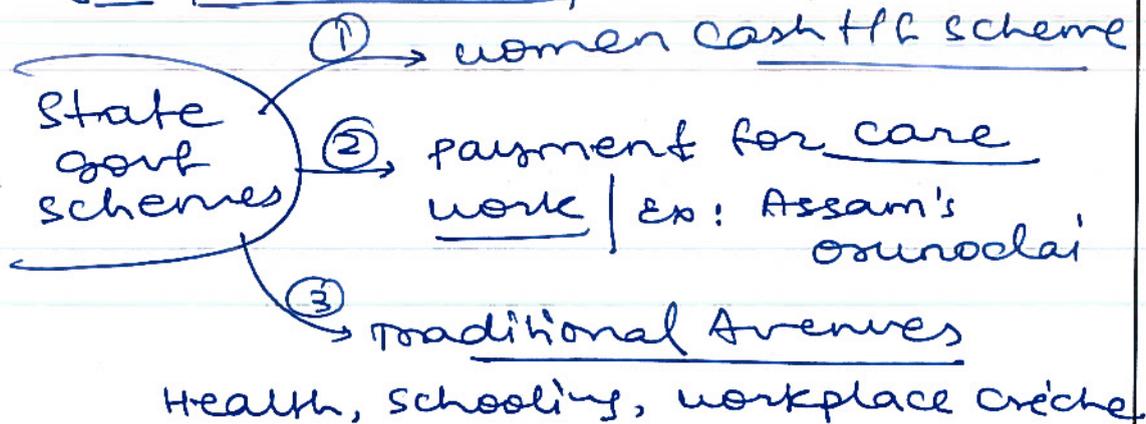
Recent Initiatives towards  
Gender Budgeting

① Rationalization of all schemes for mowSED into 2: SAMBAL & SAMARTH

② Enhanced Budgetary Allocation as 1% of GDP and 1% of Budget.

③ Dedicated Investment @ Gender friendly Infra: Pink Booth Public toilets

④ Increased avenues for long term approach over short term benefits  
(Ex: MADAM CURIE scholarship)



Thus, gender budgeting remains a critical tool to forge Gender Empowerment and women led growth.



2.

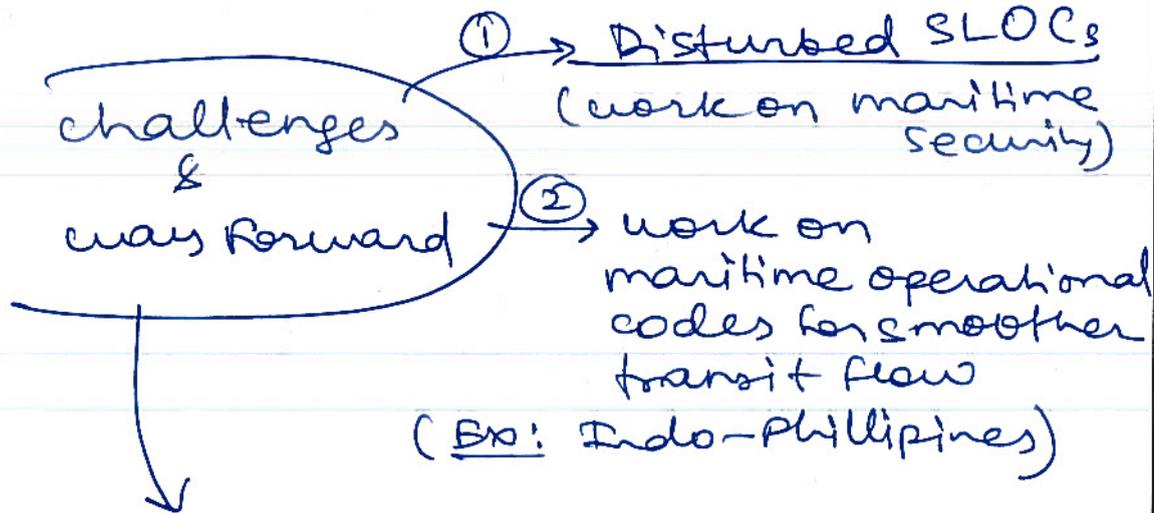
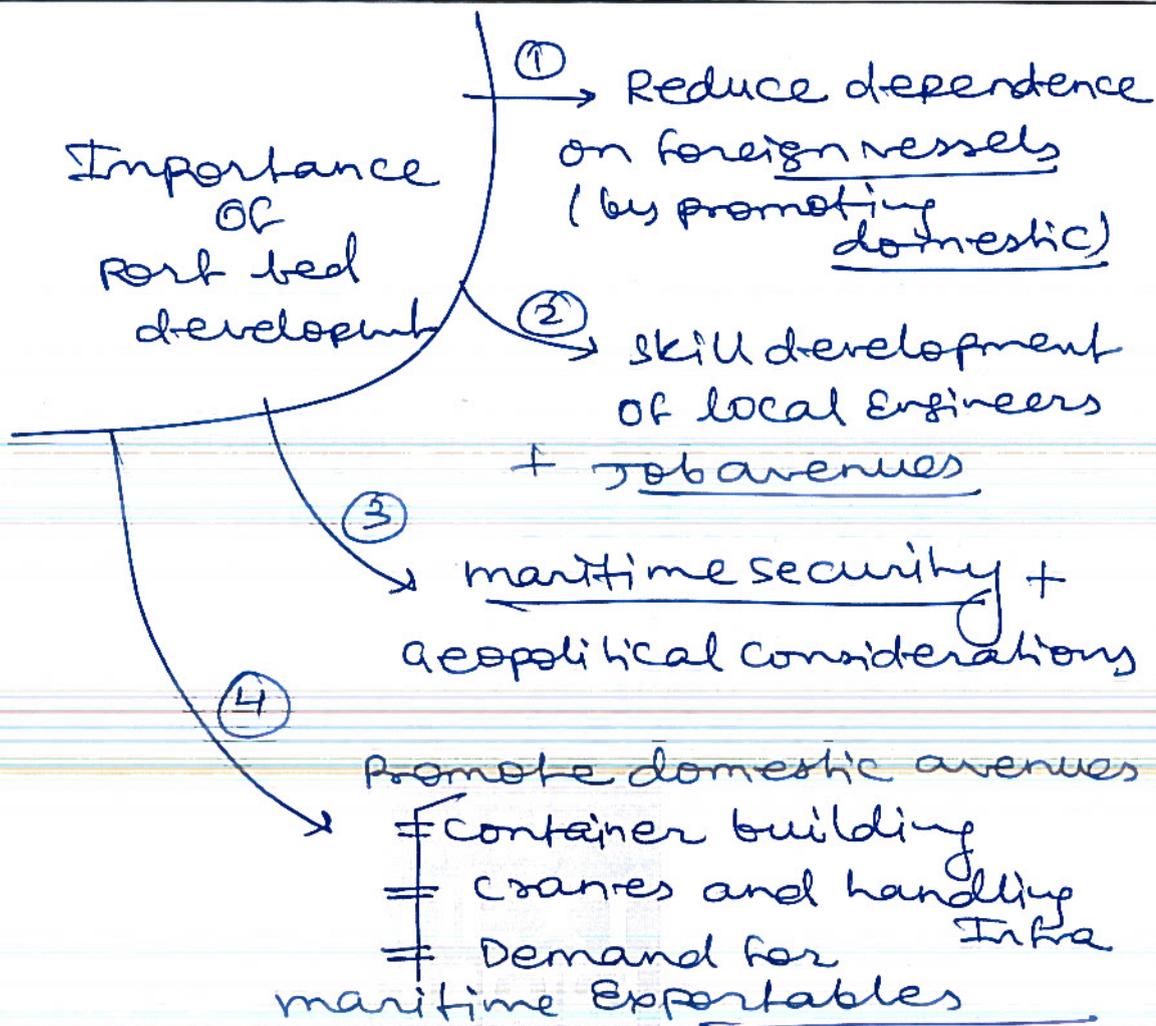
बंदरगाह आधारित विकास को भारत में आर्थिक विकास और क्षेत्रीय एकीकरण के प्रमुख चालक के रूप में देखा जाता है। चर्चा कीजिए कि सागरमाला पहल किस प्रकार बंदरगाह आधारित विकास और तटीय अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा दे सकती है।  
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Port-led development is seen as a key driver of economic growth and regional integration in India. Discuss how the Sagarmala initiative can promote port-led growth and the coastal economy.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

India recently clocked \$825 Bn.  
in overall Exports, thanks to its  
budding and resilient coastal  
economy.

Sagarmala Initiative: port led  
growth & coastal Economy

- ① Infra development: To reach  
ports + within port premises.
- ② focus upon multi modal transport  
and logistics hubs.
- ③ focus on reducing logistics cost  
to enhance Exports competitiveness
- ④ Encourage prt. sector investment  
and participation  
Ex: vizhinjam Port, Kerala
- ⑤ policy primacy and operational  
priority.
- ⑥ Dedicated Budgetary support  
(₹20,000cr. Maritime Fund)
- ⑦ Improve inter ministerial co-op.  
(via GATISHAKTI)



Thus, maritime sector posits an untapped potential for Port led Growth for Viksit Bharat 2047.

3. गैर-कृषि अर्थव्यवस्था में पशुपालन के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। पशुपालन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हाल ही में प्रस्तावित पशुधन जनगणना की क्या आवश्यकता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the importance of livestock farming in a non-farm economy. What is the need for the recently proposed livestock census in promoting animal husbandry?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

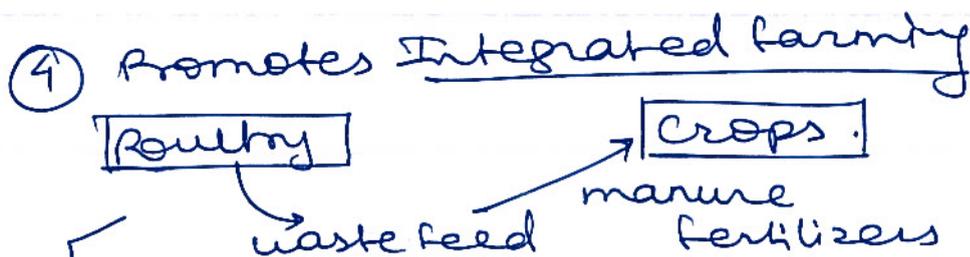
Livestock and Dairy now contributes over 30% to Agri GVA and registered better performance than cultivation growth.

Importance In non-farm Economy

① Additional Income Support  
(Currently ₹74,000 Avg. Farm H/H debt)

② Income support even if crops fail due to monsoon.

③ Better price realization:  
Eggs, meat and dairy as compared to crops.



⑤ Reduces Input demand and reduces cost of production.

⑥ Better resilience to adverse impacts of climate change.





4.

न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य किसानों की आय को बढ़ाने में कैसे मदद कर सकते हैं? न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य का लाभ प्राप्त करने में किसानों को किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

How can minimum support prices help in promoting farmers' income? What are the challenges faced by farmers in accessing the benefits of minimum support prices?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, India witnessed severe farm protests over MSP coverage and demands to strengthen it

MSP; Help to promote farmer income

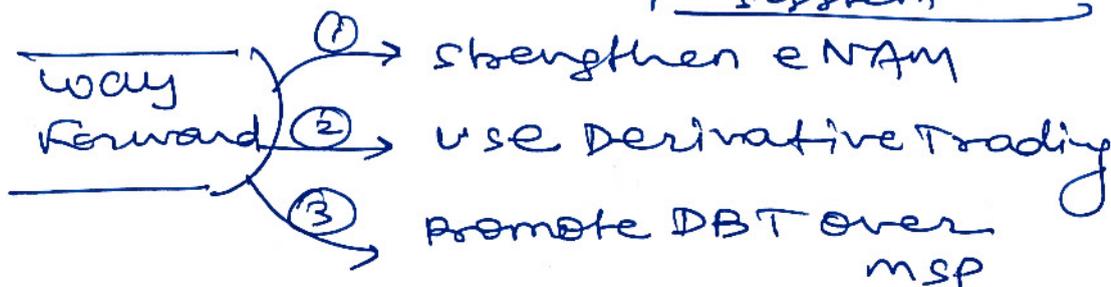
- ① Prevent distress sales when price collapses.
- ② Promotes crop diversification and encourages HVC: High value crop production.
- ③ Encourages farmer to invest as they are assured of minimum returns.
- ④ Helps to maintain cash flows and repay older debts.
- ⑤ Stronger revision of MSP by Centre!  
past 8 yrs: > 4.6% p.a.  
 Agri growth
- ⑥ Helps undertake other avenues of non farm employment  
Ex: Funds for Animal Husbandry.

Challenges faced by farmers in accessing MSP benefits :

- ① Rahwai committee : Small and marginal farmers are mostly unaware
- ② Regional divide  

West India	vs.	East India
(High coverage)		(Low coverage)
- ③ Corruption by middlemen @ APMCs (Ashatiyas)
- ④ Poor storage and transport facilities ; difficulty to reach mandi/APMC.
- ⑤ Poor capacity of MSP  
 (Drying, storage, packaging & grading)  
 → low price realization.
- ⑥ monotonicity of crops :

Wheat, Rice : Open Procurement system



Ashok Gulati vouches for complete transfer to MSP and promotion of rural Agri investment.

5. कृत्रिम तंत्रिका नेटवर्क क्या हैं? मशीन लर्निंग और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता में उनके महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

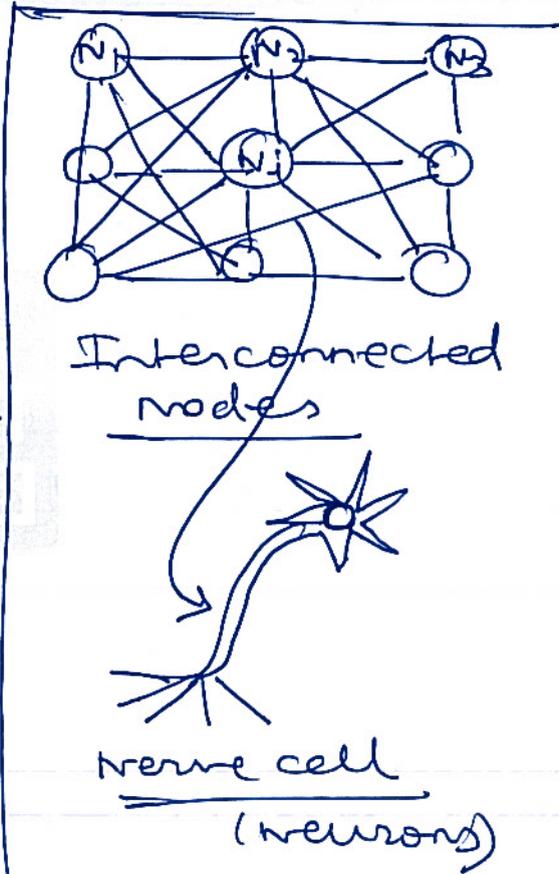
What are artificial neural networks? Discuss their importance in machine learning and artificial intelligence. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks



Artificial neural networks (ANN)

try to mimic the electromagnetic pulse and communication system as done by natural nerve cells of body.

Different nodes of a systems are so connected as to transfer the data as done by mimicking closely the neurons of human body

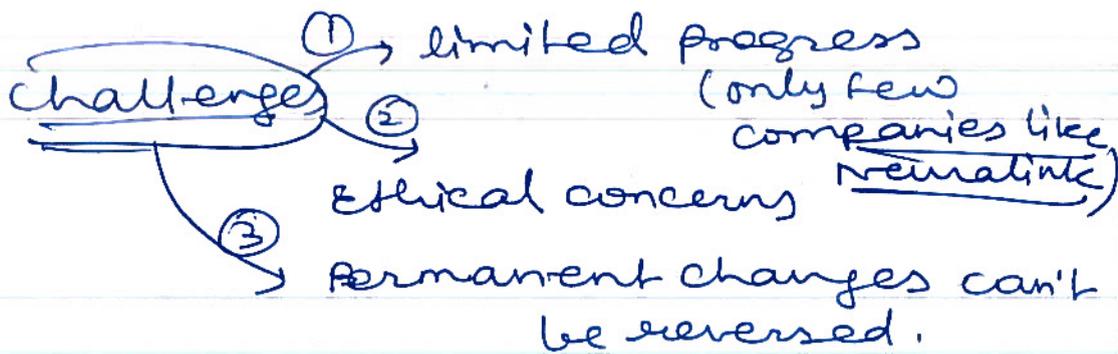


- Aim) ① Hyper Computing Speed  
 ② Augmented neural capabilities.

Importance @ ML and AI

- ① neural computing: Expected to rival supercomputing.  
 ② BCI: Brain Chip Interface  
 (Help Divyans to communicate)

- ③ Development of LLMs & GPTs  
(large language models)  
↳ Interactive method.
- ④ Help in personalized Education  
& personalized Training.
- ⑤ Research & Innovation by  
Quick Peer Review  
↳ Literature cobasis, etc.
- ⑥ Artificial limbs and prosthetics  
integration (& reduce organ  
sejection)
- ⑦ Reduce dependence on  
semiconductor chips.



Thus, along with R & D promotion,  
a strong ethical-regulatory  
framework is need of the  
hour to propel efforts into  
right directions.

6. रक्षा क्षेत्र और आधुनिक युद्ध में मानव रहित हवाई वाहनों (यूएवी) के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।  
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक
- Discuss the importance of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in the defense sector and modern warfare.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks



Ukraine's recent op. Spiderweb  
saw importance of UAVs in  
modern warfare

Importance @ Defence, modern war

- ① Easier Production
  - 1.1 Limited capital required
  - 1.2 lesser space
- ② Asymmetric Powers  
Cheap Drones → destroy multi Billion Radar
- ③ overwhelm enemy Air Defence,  
(swarm Drones)
- ④ low traceability and RCS  
(Radar cross section)
- ⑤ Precision strikes & Accuracy
- ⑥ Reduces manpower needs & overall collateral damage
- ⑦ Promotes R&D and Exports

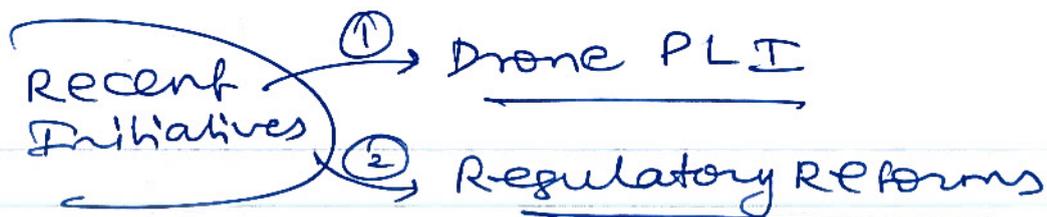
## India's Preparedness

### A. Attack

- ① op. Sindoor: Bhargavastra drone used to destroy Pak A/D.
- ② loitering munitions + swarm capability
- ③ kamikaze / suicide drones

### B. Defence

- ① IACCS: AI laced Air Defence multi-layered.
- ② DRDO's [DY] mechanism
- ③ multi-tech options  
(radar/EM jam, net capture, drone to drone, etc.)



Thus, Drones are redefining modern warfare and overall strategic defence thinking...



7.

समुद्री और तटीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर तेल रिसाव के पर्यावरणीय प्रभावों की जांच कीजिए। तेल रिसाव की सफाई के लिए इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली विभिन्न विधियाँ क्या हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Examine the environmental impacts of oil spills on marine and coastal ecosystems. What are the various methods used for cleaning-up of oil spills?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

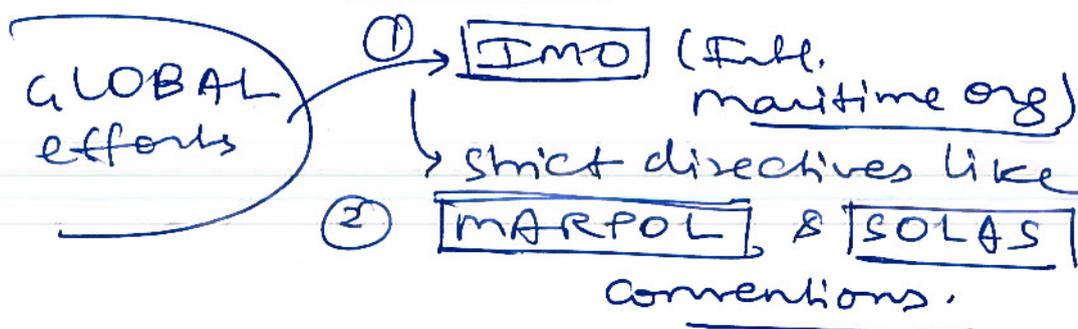
Recent oil spill near Kerala coast led to massive environmental repercussions.

Impact on marine & coastal system:

- ① Coral Bleaching due to pollution.
- ② mangrove die back due to uptake of oil
- ③ Eutrophication of lakes & dead zones.
- ④ loss of sunlight and disastrous impact on ecosystem productivity.
- ⑤ Halting of Air Exchange at interface of ocean & Atmosphere
- ⑥ severe harm to coastal community livelihood (in short & long term)
- ⑦ spread of pollution to distant zones via currents.

## methods to clean up oil spills

- ① oil zipper bacteria : developed by (TERI)
- ② Direct sucking of oil from pumps and motors.
- ③ crude oil binding agents being sprayed to negate impacts of oil pollution.
- ④ Burning and Incineration of oil (combustion) is layer is thick enough.



Thus, oil spills have disastrous impacts on ecosystem and more technological R&D must be undertaken with strict liability based on Polluter pays principle.

8.

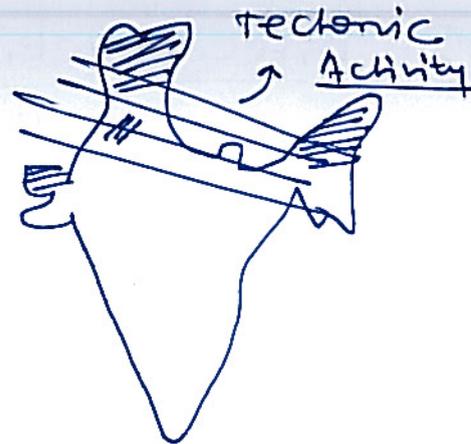
भूकंप संबंधी आपदाओं के प्रति उत्तरी भारत की संवेदनशीलता पर चर्चा कीजिए। उनके प्रभावों को कम करने में भारत की तैयारियों पर प्रकाश डालें।  
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में कीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the vulnerability of northern India to earthquake-related disasters. Highlight India's preparedness in mitigating their impacts.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks



Recent 2015 Nepal Earthquake

and Recurring E/Q  
at Delhi and  
Himalayas  
make north India  
highly vulnerable.



FACTORS for high vulnerability

Fig: Zone V as per [BIS] (E/Q zonation)

- ① tectonic Active (ex! <sup>Indo-</sup> Australian plate & Eurasian plate)
- ② sedimentary nature of Himalayas
- ③ High population density than south.
- ④ frequent landslides → roll down into Earthquakes.
- ⑤ loss of vegetation due to unchecked over construction.
- ⑥ Fault lines and Plate Stitches (maps, etc)

## India's Preparedness to E/Q

- ① Attempts ongoing to improve EWS: India Quake App
- ② Hazard zonation mapping by BIS
  - ③ NDMA guidelines being implemented by Building code + Retro fits
  - ④ mock Drills and preparedness  
Ex: August 2025 (NDMA + DDMA)
- ⑤ Rapid Rescue and Response teams of NDRF & SDRF
- ⑥ community engagements  
(Ex: Aapda MITRA)



Thus, although less predictable, damage reduction can be certainly implemented, by learning from Japan's Resilience



9. चर्चा करें कि क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी और अन्य उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियां मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग और आतंकवाद के वित्तपोषण के खतरे में कैसे योगदान करती हैं। इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss how cryptocurrency and other emerging technologies contribute to the menace of money laundering and terror financing. What steps have been undertaken by the Government of India to tackle this issue? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

As per UNODC, money laundering amounts to over 2-5% of global GDP on per Annum basis.

Crypto & Tech: menace of ML & terror fundiy

① Rapidly Evolving tech

- = Crypto mixers.
- = DMTs (Digital micro Transactions)
- = distributed control tech.

② minimal traceability due to decentralized control.

③ lack of sovereign control on asset + platforms (Deep web)

④ Other Emerging methods

- a) video Games transactions
- b) Drop shipping & E-commerce
- c) Digital Assets & Frauds online.

steps undertaken by C&T

① Strong legislation:

PMLEA, 2002 & ED

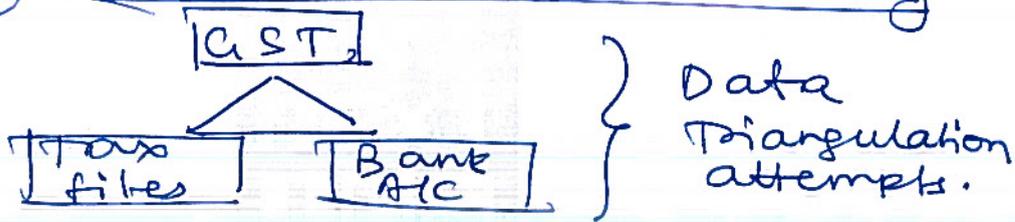
② Global cooperation

NMFI conference, 2022.

③ Strong policies & SOPs

Ex: FIU-India to collate data points.

④ Formalized Digital Economy



⑤ Strong Border controls

ICBMS underway

W/F → ① consider signing PALERMO convention (cross border forensics)

→ ② Improve Intelligence

capability      coordination  
Ex: DNI (USA)

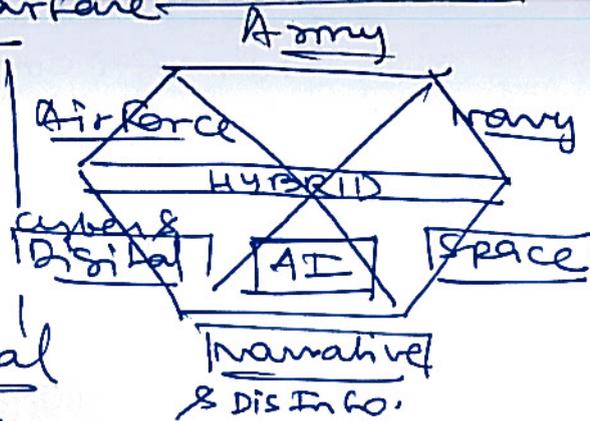
Thus, m/L and terror funding must be comprehensively dealt with, for national security objective.



10. हाइब्रिड युद्ध क्या है? यह पारंपरिक युद्ध से किस प्रकार भिन्न है? भारत हाइब्रिड युद्ध की चुनौतियों का सामना किस प्रकार कर सकता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक
- What is hybrid warfare? How is it different from conventional warfare? How can India navigate the challenge of hybrid warfare? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Hybrid warfare goes beyond the conventional warfare

challenges by incorporating latest and multidimensional engagements to



gain 'Asymmetric Advantage' over opponent.

India's efforts towards Hybrid warfare

① post of CDS: uniform command flow.

② Impetus to Threat command for 'jointness' of operations.

③ Engaging & preparedness @ diff verticals:

③ | Space: mission SHAKTI (A-SAT) capabilities.

3.2 narrative warfare : DRDO's NetRA

3.3 AI Integration:  
 Ex: IAACS  
 (Air Defence)

3.4 Cyber readiness  
 (NTRO, CERT-In)

way forward to Hybrid Threats

<u>CONVENTIONAL</u>	<u>Emerging domains</u>
① overall ↑ se Budget to <u>2.5-3%</u> (Shekatkar co.)	① Academia - Industry - collab (Build upon <u>i-DEX</u> )
② <u>Hardware compatibility</u> Ex: India lacks 5th Gen Aircraft	② <u>AI penetration</u> to pre-empt threat perception & potential
③ <u>Promote Defence Indigenization</u>	③ <u>Escalation ladder.</u>

Thus; due to hostile neighbours and ongoing geopolitical churn, it is imperative to invest @ Hybrid capabilities.

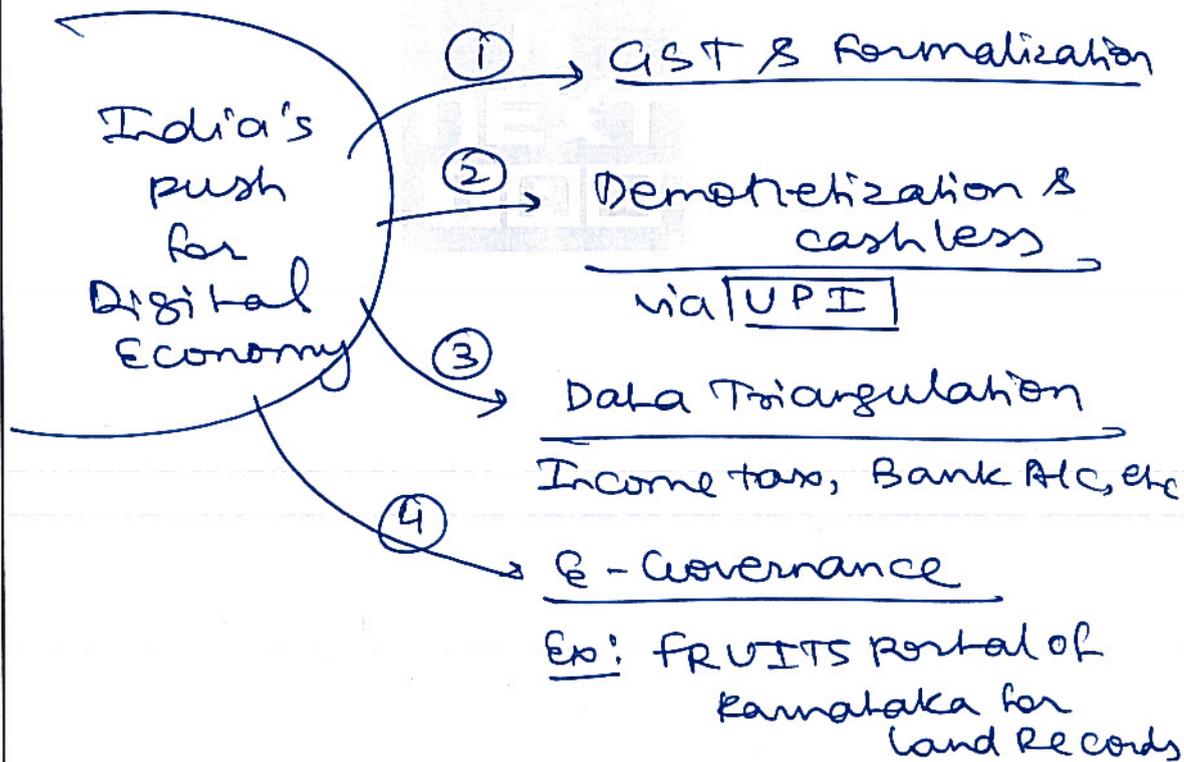


11. भारत द्वारा मजबूत डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए प्रयास करने के बावजूद, भारत को डिजिटल समावेशन के संबंध में चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। डिजिटल संसाधनों तक समान पहुँच सुनिश्चित करने के उपाय सुझाएँ।  
(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Despite India's push for a robust digital economy, India faces challenges with regard to digital inclusion. Discuss. Suggest measures to ensure equitable access to digital resources.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

India has now over 100 cr +  
Internet users and over 80 cr +  
smartphone users; with 20%  
GDP coming from digital space  
(- MEITY)



Challenges faced in Digital Inclusion :

- ① Rural-urban divide
- ② Gender level divide (women as less targeted).

- ③ Emerging challenges of E-waste  
(India: 3<sup>rd</sup> largest E-waste producer)
- ④ Digital Piracy & Theft/Scams  
Ex: Digital Assets
- ⑤ Data Privacy & Breach  
Ex: Spieswares (Pegasus)
- ⑥ Poor data speed and penetration  
(as global comparison)
- ⑦ Tech backwardness  
(Ex: China: 6G deployment)
- ⑧ Recent price hikes in data packs.
- ⑨ Limited Capacity of PSU:  
BSNL and MTNL (still not deployed 5G)
- ⑩ Regulatory Bottlenecks  
Ex: Vodafone - Idea case.

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### measures to ensure Equitable Access

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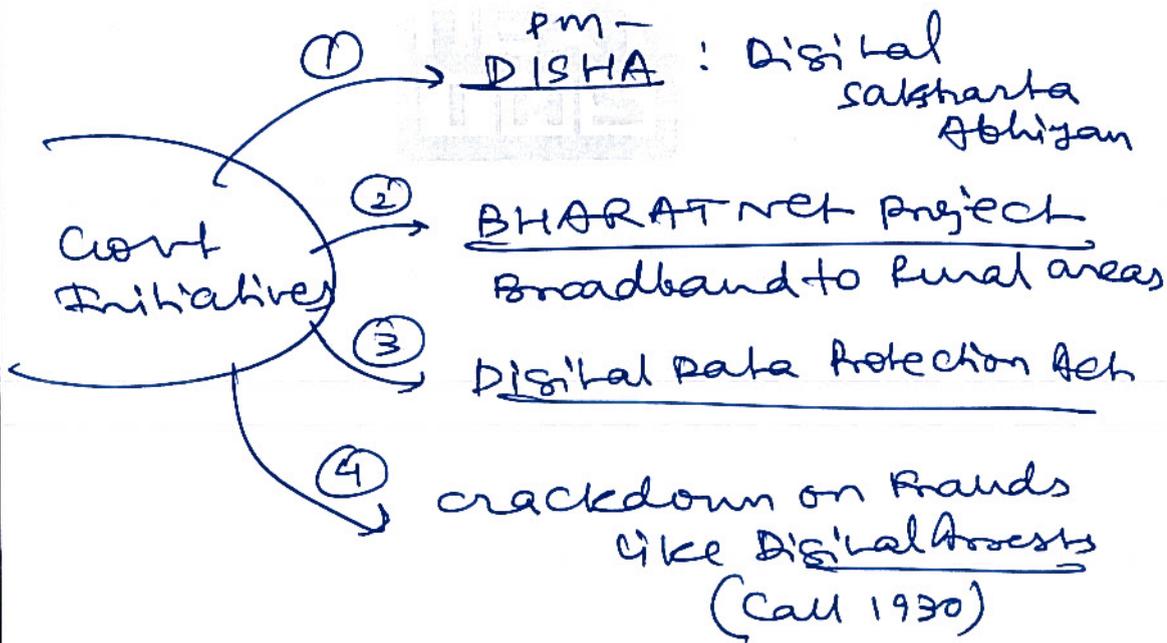
- ① Technology
  - a) → Satellite based Internet for Remote Areas
  - b) → Develop local Area networks (LAN)

② UTILIZE CSCs: Common Service Centres of villages acts as one-stop solution to all internet needs.

③ UTILIZE CIVIL SOCIETY

- For smartphone training
- Usage and avenues for marketing

④ Global collaboration: Ex: Bam (BIU & Melinda Gates Founde) trains women & Rural Artisans



Thus, to attain Digital Economy of 20%, India must focus on Digital Empowerment to achieve Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas & Sabka Prayasa.



12. जैसे-जैसे कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता अर्थव्यवस्था के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रवेश कर रही है, वैसे-वैसे नौकरियों का खत्म होना एक वास्तविकता बनती जा रही है। रोजगार पर एआई के प्रभावों का विश्लेषण करते हुए, इस चुनौती से निपटने और रोजगार वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के उपाय सुझाएं।  
(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक
- As artificial intelligence penetrates into various sectors of the economy, job losses are becoming a reality. Analysing the impacts of AI on employment, suggest measures to navigate this challenge and promote job growth. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

As per latest McKinsey 2050  
outlook report, over 30% of jobs  
in short run and 65% jobs in  
long run are estimated to  
become redundant.

### AI and job losses :

- ① Hardest hit jobs are low skilled,  
entry level jobs like Typists, etc.
- ② Automation & Robotics : to  
hurt Industrial Employment.
- ③ LLM and GPTs : to reduce  
need for human chat Agents  
& customer support.
- ④ Professionals : Microsoft's  
Co-pilot has reduced demand  
for PM (Project managers)
- ⑤ 3-D printing + 4-D printing :  
Reducing worker & Artisan  
demands.

⑥: AI generated Tutorials :

Reduced demand for teachers & Instructors.

AI and rise in jobs :

① Distinct demand boost for AI coders and programmers.

② Entertainment arena :

↳ Demand for luxury, tourism and entertainers to rise.

③ Digital creators & Influencers

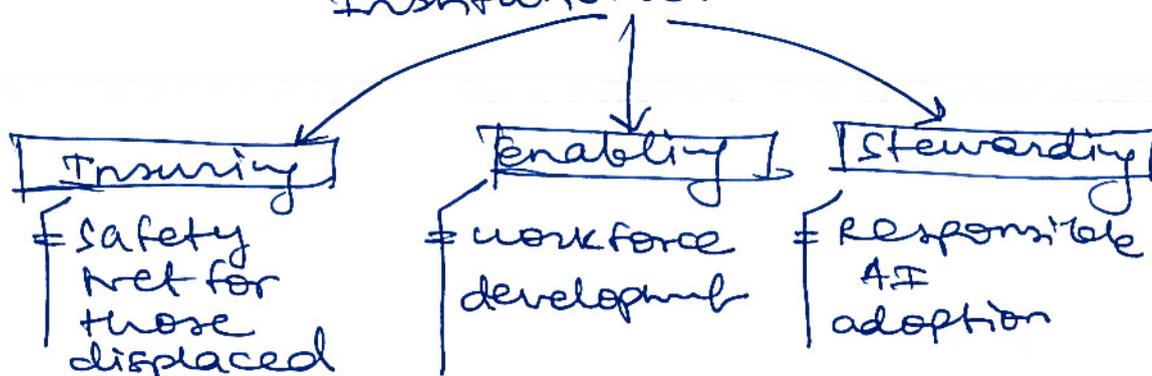
↳ newer avenues for non-traditional Employment

④ Highly skilled workers trained in AI : High demand

as they use AI to improve efficiency.

measures to navigate challenges

① NITI Aayog has recommended Institutional Framework



- ② Rapid and massive coverage of skill development is need of hour.
- ③ Promotion of Entrepreneurial Avenues so to reduce dependency on Employment.
- ④ Focus on low end and low skill manufacturing; something which
  - M.1 = India has comparative Advantage
  - M.2 = Economic non viability for AI to capture & replace.
- ⑤ Deliberate upon future needs of UBI: Universal Basic Income
- ⑥ Educational Reforms (NEP, 2020)
  - Begin training at school level
  - mandatory @ college level.

Thus, if used rightly, AI revolution can lead to overall prosperity and even employment boost as seen by computer Revolution of past.

13. भारत में फसल-उपरांत होने वाला नुकसान प्रतिवर्ष लगभग ₹1,52,790 करोड़ है। भारत में फसल-उपरांत होने वाली हानियों के लिए किस हद तक कृषि उत्पादों के परिवहन और विपणन में आने वाली बाधाओं को जिम्मेदार ठहराया जा सकता है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

India's post-harvest losses amount to approximately ₹1,52,790 crore annually. To what extent can post-harvest losses in India be attributed to the constraints in the transport and marketing of agricultural products? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

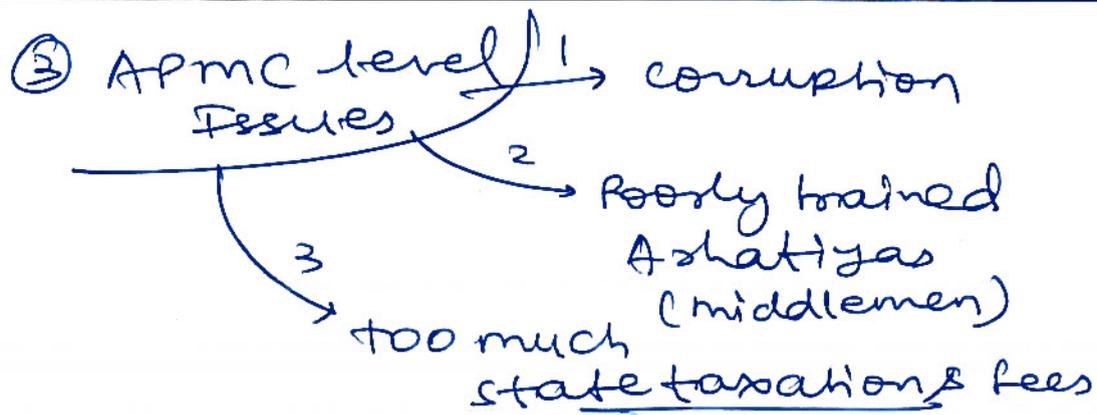
India's Post Harvest losses are its Achilles Heel to its Agronomy as per Dalwai committee (SDFI)

ROLE OF Transport deficit :

- ① Disproportionate Impact on Perishable items
- ② unsanitary conditions of transport : consignment Rejection.
- ③ lack of All weather & metalled Rural roads
- ④ lack of farm gate procurement.

Role of marketing Deficit

- ① Dalwai committee : Farmers receive only 15-40% of all Payment by Retail customer.
- ② Limited opportunities for farmers beyond APMC

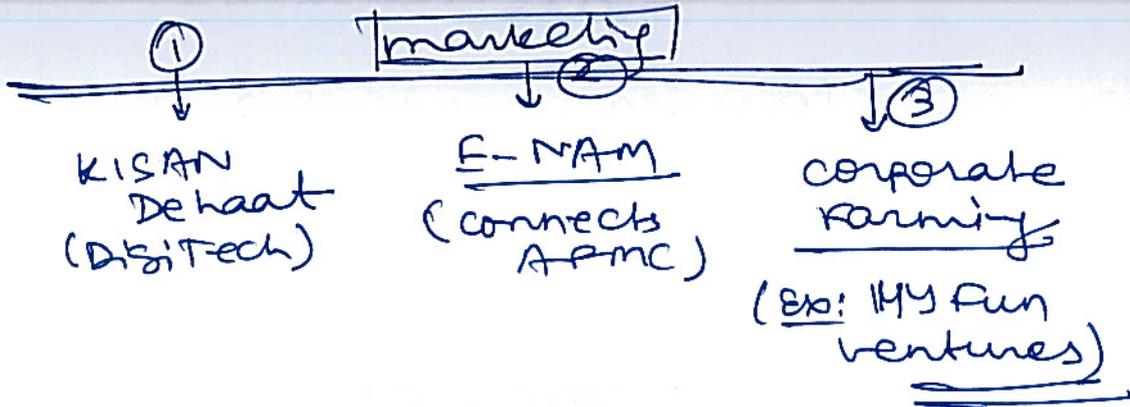
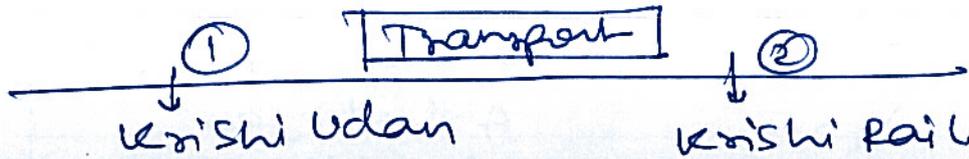


④ Poor farmer awareness with e-NAM or other platforms.

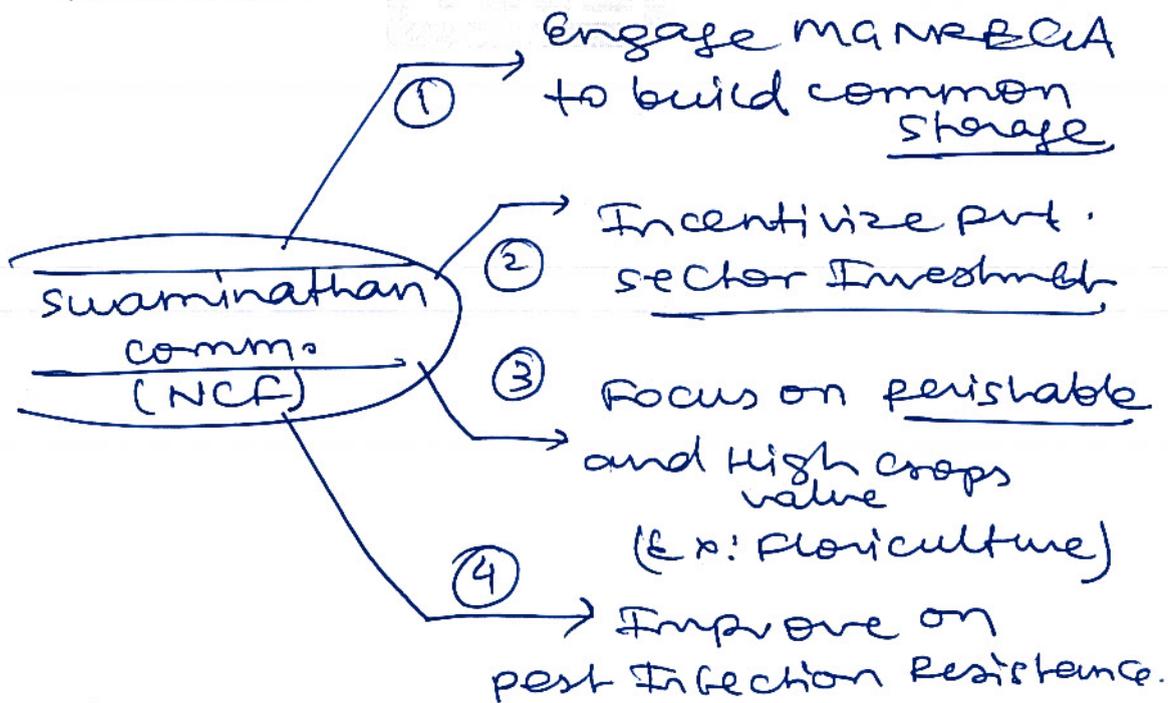
### Other factors at play

- ① Frequent Export Bans and MEP imposition (minimum Export Price)  
— Ashok Gulati
- ② Poor agreements & challenges of non tariff barriers to Exports (Ex: Sanitary & Phytosanitary)
- ③ Poor storage infra, esp. cold storage godowns.
- ④ Limited pub sector investment and startups.
- ⑤ Climate change impacts

Recent Interventions :



Way Forward



Thus, along with above challenges, we must need to be ready with climate change threats.



14. भारतीय कृषि में प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष सब्सिडी क्या हैं? इन सब्सिडी ने देश की फसल विविधता और कृषि अर्थव्यवस्था को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है?

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

What are the direct and indirect subsidies in Indian agriculture? How have these subsidies impacted the cropping diversity and farm economy of the country?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

As per Agri Economist Ashok Gulati,  
 India spends ₹30,000 per ha.  
 on Farm subsidy @ Punjab and Haryana.

DIRECT SUBSIDIES

① Directly given to farmers.

Ex:

→ DBT (PM KISAN)

Explicit mention

② and thus, easier to calculate

③ less Distortionary Effects on Economy.

INDIRECT SUBSIDIES

① via channels; ultimately reach end goal farmer;

Ex: { power subs.  
Fertilizer subs

② may be diff to quantify.

③ more distortionary and not lets reflect Input prices.

## Impact on crop Diversity

- ① Indirect subsidy pre-dominance in India (Ex: MSP)
- ② monoculture of wheat & Rice (open procurement system)
- ③ Reduced incentive for Energy efficiency Ex:  $\begin{matrix} \text{Fertilizer} \\ \text{Ideal NPK } 4:2:1 \\ \text{current } 12:2:1 \end{matrix}$
- ④ Traditional & nutrient rich crops  
pulses & millets: reduced cultivation

## Impact on Farm Economy

- ① Reduced Soil productivity (over use fertilizers & Irrigation)
- ② WTO disputes over Amber Box (MSP)
- ③ Reduced crop Diversity and thus, constrained Farm Income
- ④ Household Farm Debt (Due to expensive inputs)

- ⑤ Budgetary Pressure : > 6%.  
Budget to  
subsidies.

### Recent Improvements

- ① Punjab & Haryana: ₹ 17,500 per ha.  
Explicit subsidy to move  
away from paddy crop.
- ② PM-KISAN (DBT)
- ③ nutrient based subsidy (P, K)

### Way Forward & Recommendations

- ① Promote PM PRANAM :  
Reduced use of chemical  
fertilizers.
- ② PM KUSUM : solar panel  
for Green Energy  
Annadata → Ujjadana
- ③ Shift maximum subsidies  
to DBT basis (Surjit Bhalla)
- ④ Promote micro Irrigation  
Thus, pertinent need to shift  
perverse subsidies into  
good subsidies. But, need  
to promote overall rural  
Investment & Farm Employment



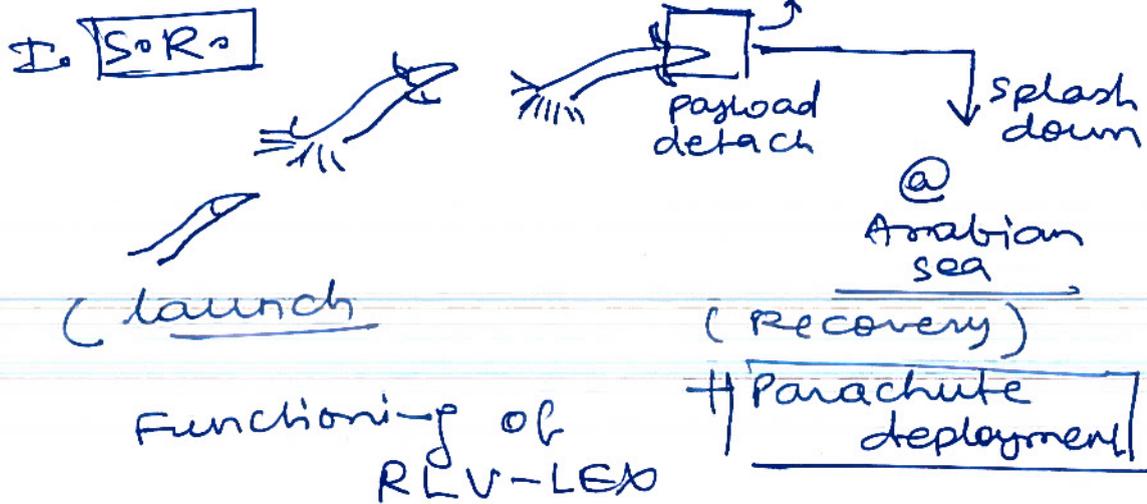
15. भविष्य के अंतरिक्ष संचालन और मिशनों में पुनः प्रयोज्य प्रक्षेपण वाहनों की क्षमता पर चर्चा कीजिए। पुनः प्रयोज्य प्रक्षेपण वाहनों के विकास की दिशा में भारत की क्या पहल है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक
- Discuss the potential of reusable launch vehicles in future space operations and missions. What are India's initiatives towards the development of reusable launch vehicles? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Recently, India completed early trials of our RLV : Pushpak carrier, making important progress.

Potential of RLV

- ① Reduced space and overall Debris.
- ② Reduced manpower & efforts into launch vehicles.
- ③ cost reduction and overall financial viability.
- ④ focus towards improving Satellites and payloads over launch vehicles.
- ⑤ more missions with ltd. funds
  - ↳ Space Dominance & market capture + strategic Implications.

India's initiatives : Pushpak



II. LOR

↳ making conventional carriers (PSLV, GSLV and even next gen NCLV)  
 ↳ to be reusable after discarding thrusters and

Potential challenges :

- ① limited private sector participation
- ② Tech. backwardness as compared to NASA, SpaceX
- ③ lack of Independent Regulator (ISRO! Itself a PSU)

- ④ Limited domestic R & D
- ⑤ Limited skilled personnel

### Way Forward

- ① Improve tech transfer &  
cross country collaborations
- ② Encourage public sector particip.  
(Atvikul, etc.)
- ③ Development of skilled talent  
(VIAKANDHARA, etc.)

Thus, it is very imperative to  
ensure space sustainability  
in LoR along with strides  
@ space Exploration.



16. हाल ही में शुरू की गई BioE3 नीति के लक्ष्यों और उद्देश्यों की व्याख्या कीजिए। यह नीति अर्थव्यवस्था के "हरित विकास" को सुनिश्चित करने में किस प्रकार सहायक हो सकती है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक
- Explain the aims and objectives of the recently launched BioE3 policy. How can the policy help in ensuring "green growth" of the economy? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

BioE3 policy aims to develop \$300 bn. Industry by 2030 by focussing Envt, Economy & Employment

### I. BioE3: Economy

- ① Promote Invest. and FDI into Green manufacturing
- ② Focus upon sectors like Biofuel, Biopolymers, etc
- ③ Circular Economy; minimal leakages of Resource.
- ④ Focus on clusterization

### II. BioE3: Environment

- ① Focus upon reducing non-Biodegradable wastes.
- ② Biopesticides & Biofertilizers over chemical ones.

③ Bio Compost for Residue  
mgmt @ Agri.

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### Bio E 3: Employment

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- I. Skill development @  
relevant opportunities.
- II. Sharing of International Best  
Practices and cross-country  
visits for talent exchange prog.
- III. Focus upon External mobility
- IV. Enhance domestic Entrepreneurial  
avenues in E 3 sectors.  
(Ex: Bio pesticides)

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### Transition to Green Growth of Economy:

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- ① Reduced extraction of natural  
Resources upon availability of  
Bio alternatives.
- ② Global competitiveness of  
Indian Industry.

③ Exports Potential and capturing global market.

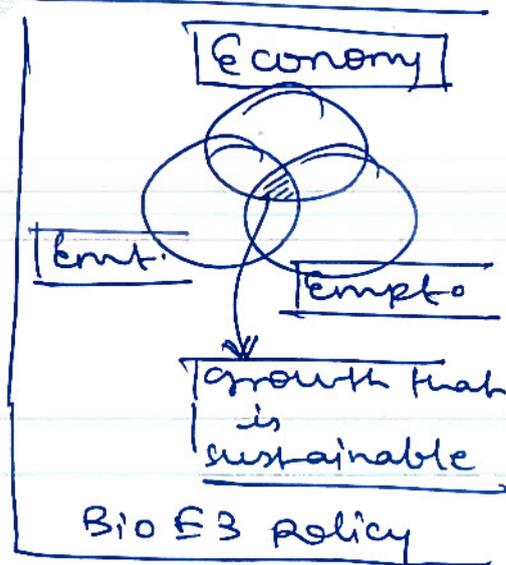
④ Reducing Imports dependency (Ex: CRUDE OIL)

⑤ Ensures sustainability by  
 - Reduced Emission (Net zero 2070) target  
 - Policy Advocacy  
 - Awareness generation.

⑥ Encouraging new age Green Business;

Ex: Banana leaf to Textile, et

⑦ Promote R&D and global flow of scientific knowledge.



Thus, Bio E 3

is a crucial step of

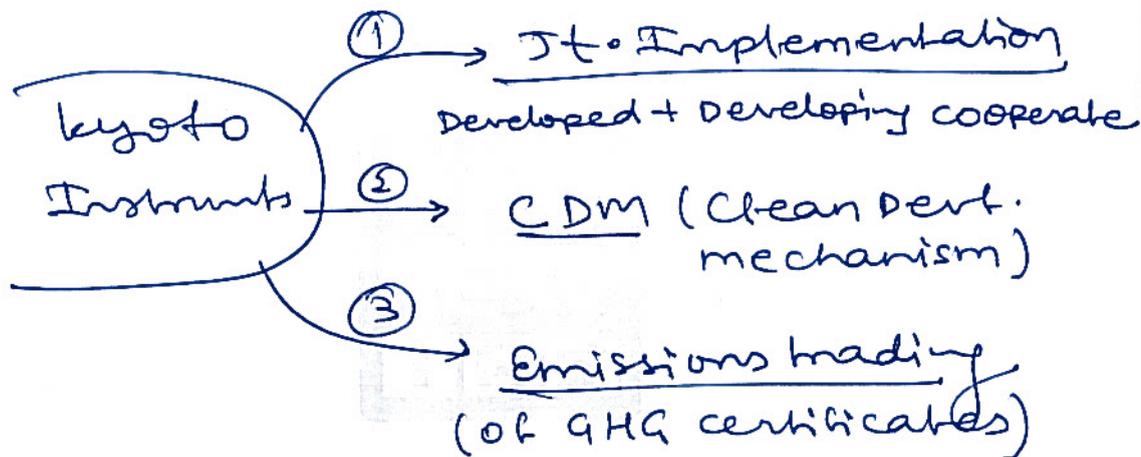
Environmental Sustainability

& green growth today & tomorrow.



17. क्योटो प्रोटोकॉल के अंतर्गत विभिन्न बाजार तंत्र क्या थे? पेरिस जलवायु परिवर्तन समझौते का अनुच्छेद 6 क्या है? नेट-शून्य लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में वैश्विक कार्बन बाजार के महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक  
 What were the various market mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol? What is Article 6 of the Paris Climate Change Agreement? Explain the significance of the global carbon market in achieving net-zero targets. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Kyoto Protocol was first ever binding agreement to reduce GHG emissions via well defined instruments.



Article 6 | : Paris Deal (COP-21)

- ① Builds upon Kyoto Instruments towards markets based approach.
- ② Focus: From GHG to carbon ( $CO_2$ )
- ③ Recently finalized @ COP 29 with further details TBD at Baku meet (2026).

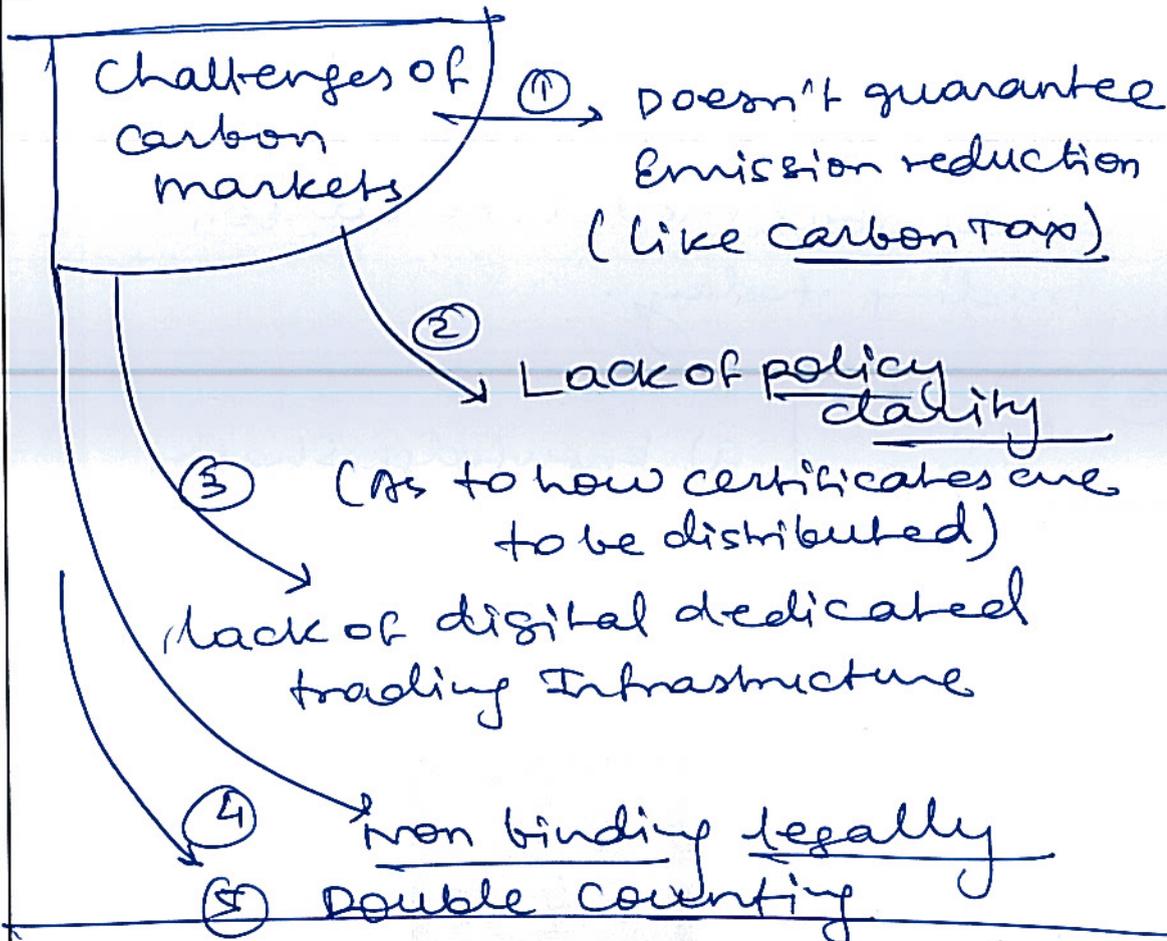
④ Encourages cross country deliberations over ongoing successful models of carbon trading today.

⑤ New mechanisms planned  
(in addition to non market approaches)

- a) Knowledge sharing
- b) Tech Transfer
- c) Financial support

### Significance of Global carbon markets:

- ① Preserves Autonomy of Industries
- ② Incentivizes, rather than penalizes.
- ③ Rewards the low emitter by  
(certificate gain & sale)
- ④ Promotes innovation into  
Low Emission Technologies.
- ⑤ lets market's Price discovery  
by mutual trade
- ⑥ limits govt over presence



### M. S. Ahluwalia recommendations

- ① Initially, give more permits & gradually reduce it for just Energy transition.
- ② Inter-ministerial cooperation
- ③ Take Industry Inputs before Policy Forming.

Thus, Carbon markets although not widespread, are expected to play a greater role in Green Future tomorrow.



18. जलवायु परिवर्तन और तेजी से हो रहे शहरीकरण ने भारत में गर्मी की लहरों के प्रभाव और आवृत्ति को तीव्र कर दिया है। चर्चा कीजिए। हीट एक्शन प्लान (एचएपी) भारत में हीटवेव प्रबंधन को कैसे बेहतर बना सकते हैं?

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Climate change and rapid urbanization have intensified the impact and frequency of heat waves in India. Discuss. How can Heat Action Plans (HAPs) improve heatwave management in India?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

2024 and 2025 saw the maximum continuous heatwaves days in history of India.

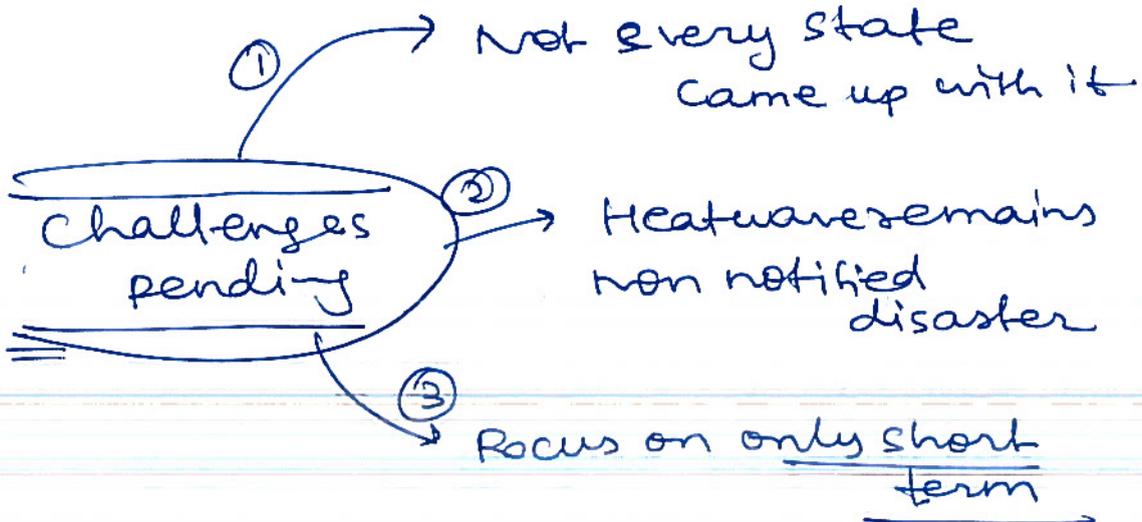
Intensification by climate change & Rapid urbanization

- ① encroachment upon natural streams & lakes.  
Ex: Bangalore
- ② Deforestation et al.  
Ex: Hyderabad controversy
- ③ overly concretized landscape
- ④ Glass pane buildings and heat trapping effect.
- ⑤ top soil removal and loss of soil < moisture  
organic carbon
- ⑥ loss of traditional water storage  
Infra Ex: Baolis & Bunds.

## Heat Action Plans: Improving (HAPs) management

(Recently UP govt. was lauded for comprehensive HAP)

- ① Clearly defined targets  
(Ex: mitigation & adaptation Focus areas.)
- ② Focus upon vulnerable sections  
Ex: Street vendors
- ③ Coordination b/w state & Central & local bodies
- ④ Focus upon adequate short term Relief measures.  
Ex: water points.
- ⑤ Preparedness  
Esp. Health Aspects (Hospital beds & meds)
- ⑥ Awareness generation  
(To reduce outdoor activity @ Peak Afternoons)
- ⑦ Local community & civil society Engagement  
Ex: COON'S NGO & Akshay Patra.



### way forward :

- ① sustainable urbanization.  
Ex: sponge cities (China)
- ② mandatory rainwater harvest and percolation  
Ex: Tamil Nadu.
- ③ Retooling and Building design  
(Building code by BIS)
- ④ Innovative models  
Ex: cool roof project (TN)

Thus, Heatwaves have extreme repercussions for productivity loss and Health dangers that requires immediate intervention..



19. बाह्य सरकारी एवं गैर-सरकारी तत्वों द्वारा भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए उत्पन्न खतरे क्या हैं? इन खतरों से निपटने के लिए आवश्यक रणनीतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक  
What are the threats posed to India's internal security by external State and non-state actors? Discuss the strategies necessary to tackle these threats. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Recent op. Sindoor saw India's uncharted crackdown upon the nexus of both state & non state challenges to our security.

### External state actors: challenges

- ① Creeper zone warfare  
(salami slicing, cyber warfare, etc.)
- ② Fake news narratives
- ③ Dehumanization campaigns on social media  
(China AI bots)
- ④ Border standoff crisis  
(Doklam, etc.)
- ⑤ Cartographic Aggression  
(5 fingers policy)
- ⑥ support non state actors ↗

Non state Actors: challenges

① Infiltration & Terrorism  
 Ex: JEM

② organized crimes

- = Drugs
- = Fake ID
- = Extortion & kidnap

③ support Domestic Insurgents  
 Ex: NER

④ Radicalization of vulnerable population

⑤ OGW (Over Ground worker)  
 supports to Terrorists.

# STRATEGIES TO TACKLE THESE THREATS

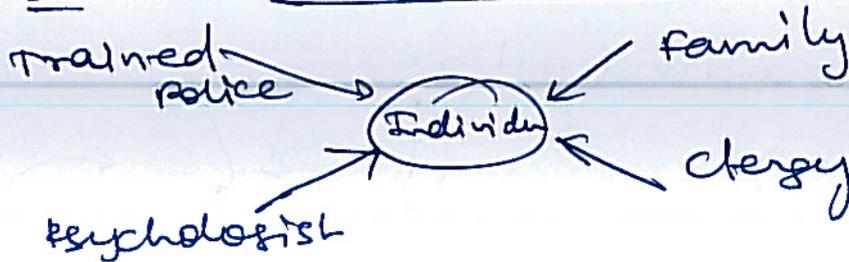
① Border security based on CIBMS tech (Shekatkar comm.)

- = 24x7x365
- = AI based; Errorless
- = Thermal sensors

② Armed Force coordination & Role clarity

③ De Radicalization (to prevent domestic Insurgency)

Ex: maharashtra model



④ Border Area Infra Devt

Ex: BAP, NVP, Project varak (BRD)

⑤ cross border military cooperation

Ex: Op. Sunrise (myanmar)

⑥ Economic opportunities to affected regions & mainstream integration.

⑦ Bezbaruah Commo :

working upon marginalized population.

Thus, a comprehensive yet multi-pronged strategy as discussed above needs to be further bolstered.



20. वामपंथी उग्रवाद (एलडब्ल्यूई) भारत को आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए चुनौती बना हुआ है। देश में वामपंथी उग्रवाद के मुद्दे को हल करने के लिए भारत सरकार के दृष्टिकोण पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक  
 Left-wing extremism (LWE) continues to remain a challenge to India's internal security. Discuss the Government of India's approach towards solving the issue of LWE in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Indian govt has recently launched op. kargil in order to eradicate LWE by march, 2016.

LWE : Remains a challenge

① Governance deficit & Bureaucratic apathy

② Economic backwardness  
 & poor connectivity  
 & opportunities

③ Land Issues { failed land reforms  
 & Devt Induced displacement

④ Socio-cultural :  
 Tribals, women : disproportionately affected

⑤ Role of state & non state actors  
 { Chinese Ideology & Funding  
 { North East Militia

## Govt approach to counter LWF

### A. Soft measures

#### ① Governance Reforms

- = PESA Act ( & empowering Gram Sabha )
- = Fund use certificates

#### ② Economic

- = special grants for LWF
- = mobile tower connectivity scheme
- = Skill development and Entrepreneurship  
( Ex: Drone DIDI )

#### ③ socio-cultural

- SHG promotion ( DAY-NRLM )
- Tribal Health ( sickle cell disease )
- Tribal education ( EMRS )

#### ④ De Radicalization Efforts

#### ⑤ Amnesty & surrender scheme

Ex: chhattisgarh's lone varatu

### ③. Hard measures

1. Spl. forces (Greyhounds)
2. Special ops. (Op. Kagar)

way forward to overcome  
present challenges

- ① focussing more on Reducing  
radicalization over Trigger  
Happy culture (Bandhopadhyay  
committee)
- ② Improve Community Policing  
to improve Trust deficit.
- ③ crackdown intensification on  
arms supply from north eastern  
Insurgent forces.

Thus, Red rockets (from Red corridors)  
have now shrunk to below  
15 districts and soon to become  
Growth corridors.

# NEXT IAS

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*Space for Rough Work*

(Handwritten notes)

(Handwritten notes)

(Handwritten notes)

# NEXT IAS

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*Space for Rough Work*

3

4

6

7

# NEXT IAS

## IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.

### **DONT'S**

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question-cum-Answer Booklet.
2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any pages from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

### **DO'S**

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

## SPECIAL REQUEST FOR CANDIDATE AVAILING ONLINE FACILITY

1. Scan the QCA booklet properly. We suggest the uses of the app CAM scanner (Scan QR code in page 2) based on our previous experiences.
2. Please scan the QCA booklet in ample light. Copies scanned under moderate light can hamper evaluation quality.
3. Any page/pdf having shadow needs to be rescanned. Please make sure that the pdf that you upload is as clean as possible.
4. **Candidates not using the QCA booklet** must mention their details on the front page. And leave the next page blank for the macro comments. It must be understood that the answer should start from Page no. 3 in of the scanned pdf.
5. Candidates not using the QCA booklet must follow the sequence of the answer as per the question paper.
6. Please check the sequence of the answer and total number of pages in the scanned version. Make sure it is in consonance with the physical version of the same.

## NEXT IAS

<b>महत्वपूर्ण निर्देश</b>	
अभ्यर्थियों को निम्नलिखित निर्देशों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ना चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर दण्डित किया जा सकता है।	
<b>क्या न करें-</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका के भीतर कहीं भी अपना नाम या पंजीकरण संख्या न लिखें।</li> <li>2. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तरों के अलावा कुछ भी न लिखें।</li> <li>3. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका से कोई भी पृष्ठ न फाड़ें, यदि आपको कोई पृष्ठ गायब लगे, तो पर्यवेक्षक/निरीक्षक को सूचित करना न भूलें।</li> <li>4. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका को अपनी टेबल पर न छोड़ें, परीक्षा समाप्त होने के पश्चात इसे निरीक्षक को सौंप देना चाहिए।</li> </ol>	<b>क्या करें-</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए निर्देशों को ध्यान पूर्वक पढ़ें और उनका सख्ती से पालन करें।</li> <li>2. QCA पुस्तिका के कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए स्थान पर अपना पंजीकरण नंबर और अन्य विवरण लिखें।</li> <li>3. स्पष्ट और पठनीय तरीके से लिखें। खराब/अपठनीय लिखावट में न लिखें।</li> <li>4. रफ नोट्स या गणना के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंतिम दो खाली पृष्ठों का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। रफ नोट्स को बाद में क्रॉस कर देना चाहिए।</li> <li>5. यदि आप किसी कार्य को रद्द करना चाहते हैं, तो उस पर अपना पेन चलाएं या उस पर "रद्द" लिखें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है।</li> <li>6. परीक्षा हॉल छोड़ने से पहले अपनी QCA पुस्तिका व्यक्तिगत रूप से निरीक्षक को सौंप दें।</li> </ol>

<b>ऑनलाइन सुविधा का लाभ उठाने वाले अभ्यर्थियों के लिए विशेष अनुरोध</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. QCA पुस्तिका को ठीक से स्कैन करें। हम चाहेंगे कि आप स्कैनिंग के लिए कैमस्कैनर ऐप (CAM SCANNER) का प्रयोग करें। (यह कोई प्रमोशन नहीं है)।</li> <li>2. कृपया QCA पुस्तिका को पर्याप्त रोशनी में स्कैन करें। कम रोशनी में स्कैन की गई पुस्तिकाएं, उनके मूल्यांकन की गुणवत्ता को बाधित कर सकती हैं।</li> <li>3. स्कैन के दौरान छाया वाले किसी भी पृष्ठ/पीडीएफ को फिर से स्कैन किया जाना चाहिए। कृपया सुनिश्चित करें कि आपके द्वारा अपलोड की गई पीडीएफ यथा संभव स्पष्ट हो ।</li> <li>4. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को अपना विवरण पहले पृष्ठ पर देना चाहिए और मैक्रो टिप्पणियों के लिए अगला पृष्ठ खाली छोड़ दें। यह समझना चाहिए कि उत्तर स्कैन की गई पीडीएफ में पृष्ठ नंबर 3 से शुरू होना चाहिए।</li> <li>5. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को प्रश्नपत्र के अनुसार उत्तर के अनुक्रम का पालन करना चाहिए।</li> <li>6. कृपया स्कैन किए गए संस्करण में उत्तर के अनुक्रम और कुल पृष्ठों की संख्या की जाँच करें। सुनिश्चित करें कि यह उसी के भौतिक संस्करण के अनुरूप है।</li> </ol>

