

E. Sai Shiwani

Time taken : 3 hrs

Cohort 12

Forum IAS

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें!

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1)

India's trajectory in the global trade and economy has been on a tremendous rise over the past few years. In this light, the govt is pushing towards more FTA's. Integration

Increased Focus On Negotiating FTA's

- To Increase Investments :- Recent ECTA with Australia reflects the renewed focus in
- Integrate India's services powers with the world :-
 - EPA of UAE
 - With services,
 - Duty free imports, RoO.

Increased Focus on re-negotiating FTA's

- Capitalising The divergent & Emerging global economic conditions
Ex. Renegotiations of Indian-ASEAN FTA
- India-UK FTA finalisation & re-negotiation
post Brexit opportunity

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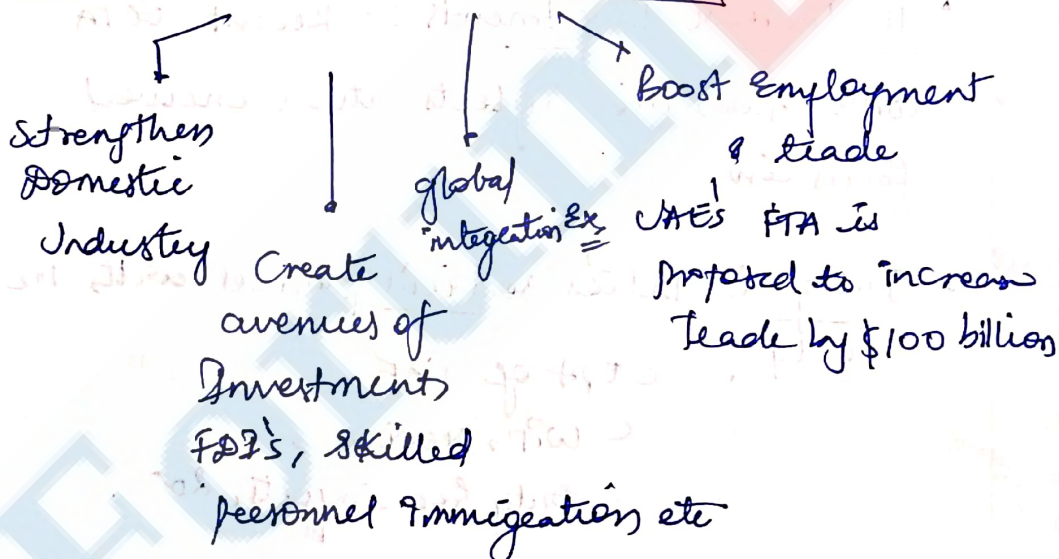
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Concluding Free Trade Agreements

→ BTIA with EC has been long pending and the Commerce Ministry is heavily involved in Early Harvest Agreements

Importance of govt's proactive involvement in FTA's



Hence, India is travelling on a right path in finalising FTA's for achieving \$5 Trillion economy

2)

India's fiscal policy strikes a continuous balance between addressing the welfare needs of the citizens with improving the economic growth of the country.

A well designed fiscal policy
vital instrument

1) In equitable distribution of resources

⇒ Inclusive growth is achieved through tailor made policies focusing on labour intensive growth

Ex. Increasing labour productivity
(ES 2022)

⇒ Reduce Inequalities :- in growing India

Ex. Oxfam :- top 1% Indians hold
22% wealth

⇒ Skewed distribution of benefits is observed
in the regional imbalanced development

Ex. Southern states perform high on
Socio-economic indicators

3) Ensure the welfare of all sections of society

1) Tribal welfare:- also placed at the forefront
Ex. Budget 2024 - PM JANMAN scheme
outlay ₹25000 cr

2) Women Empowerment:- through increasing
female labour force participation rate (FLFP),
formalising care economy
Ex. FLFP - 37% ; global average (40%)

3) Industry friendly policies can aim/provide
multiplier effect.

Ex. World Bank 1% increase in
competition leads to 10% increase GDP.

Hence, govt always under the pressure
to maintain the fine balance to benefit
all sections of society

3)

India though being a net food exporter,
relies heavily on edible oil imports due
to various constraints. 70% of edible oil
needs are fulfilled through imports (ES 2023)

Primary factors contributing to heavy
import reliance on oil.

- 1) Low acreage ∴ of oil seeds in Indian
agriculture coupled with lower productivity
Ex. Sporadic regions of Rajasthan, Andhra,
etc
- 2) High monocropping & cerealisation ∴ Kelkar
committee pointed out heavy cerealisation
in Indian Agriculture
- 3) MSP and Rice wheat systems ∴ MSP towards
Rice-Wheat provide higher finances to
farmers compared to oil seeds
- 4) Climatic conditions ∴ are not particularly
favourable across Indian landscape for
oil seeds. Ex. Few belts only available

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- 1) Lack of Skilled Personnel & technology for better management of oilseeds

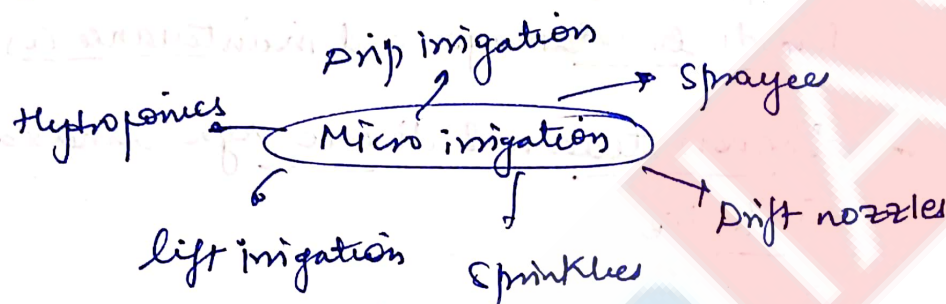


Measures to Increase Domestic production

- 1) National Mission on Edible oil palm to be strengthened
- 2) Advanced Research needs to be done on oil seeds on the lines of Rice Wheat varieties
- 3) Explore the possibilities of suitable agro-geo-climatic conditions in Indian Agriculture
- 4) Collaboration & cooperation in terms of Information sharing from other countries
- 5) Rejuvenating AATMA for better agro-extension services

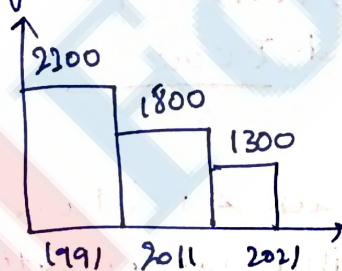
4)

Dalwai panel on Doubling farmers Income noted that micro irrigation aids in increase of 50% in farmers income.



Growing water crisis in India

Reducing availability of water per capita



(Falkenmark Index)

Net export of water through

water guzzling crops

Ex: Sugarcane, Rice etc

Water usage

due to Agriculture (EY 2023)



Micro irrigation offers a sustainable solution

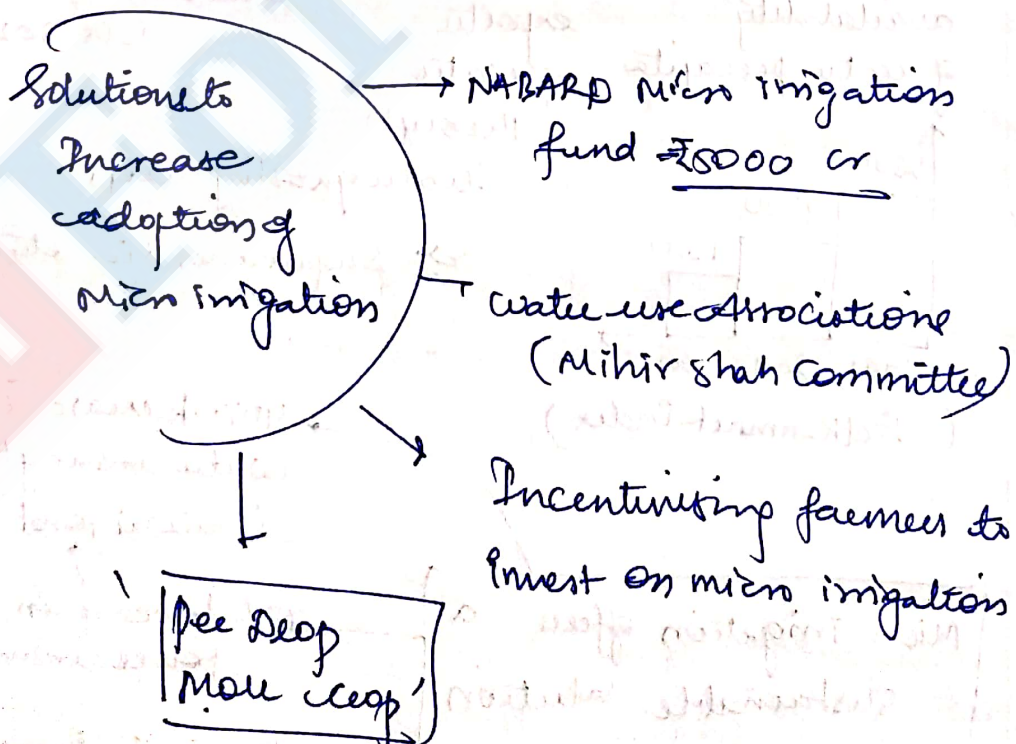
40% decrease in water consumption (Dalwai panel)

45% decrease in power consumption

Precision farming can be adopted.

Challenges in adoption of micro Irrigation

- Capital Intensive nature of technology
- Trampling by animals (desert animals)
leads to damage and maintenance cost
- uneven terrain & diverse agro landscapes
in India
- Fragmented landholdings
 - ≈ 86% Small & Marginal farmers
with less than 2 Hectares



5

Indian Railways has long been a growth wagon and National carrier, being 4th largest network in the world. The recent incident of rail accidents throw a grim picture

Rail accidents highlighting the issues of

① Safety

- a) Overcrowded trains with full capacities and severely clogged railways tracks
- a) Manned crossings, combined tracks for both freight & passenger trains pose a severe security threat
Ex. Balalore train accident
- a) Lack of adequate infrastructure:- Intensification of foot over bridges, signalling lacunae present a safety threat.

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② Undercapacity

- Increased burden on Railways, with lack of private participation
- Less subsidisation and incurred losses

③ Lack of Modernisation

- Still, electrification of Railways is not yet completed
- Signalling disturbances, locomotive errors are being frequent

Solutions

- privatisation / ppp model can be explored (Bibek Debroy committee)
- Rail advanced signalling, elimination of manned crossings, separation of freight (Kakodkar committee) & passenger routes
- computerisation & modernisation of Railways (Sam Pitroda committee)

Q)

NISAR mission exemplifies the space
cooperation in international domain. The
partnerships of NASA and ISRO in building
NISAR forays new era of space partnerships

NISAR mission exemplifying International
space cooperation

Knowledge sharing
platforms and
technical know-how

Ex. ISRO scientists
collaboration with
NASA

Scientific
Research

on diverse
sectors using the
best of both the
organisations

Foray
into
humanisation
of space

Through advanced scientific
information sharing and
combined expertise

Ex. Synthetic Aperture Radar's
applications

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NISAR help in climate change monitoring
& Natural hazard management

1) Continuous space based monitoring and
Real time surveillance

Ex. Early warning systems for
hazard preparedness

2) Mitigation measures can be planned
before hand

3) Monitoring of emissions - such as Methane,
No₂, Black carbon for better evidence
based planning

4) Research based planning & monitoring of
global commons

Ex. Antarctic Ice sheet melt

Technology can come to aid to
humanity when harnessed with cooperation
and excellence in International side

7)

Nuclear technology has wide range of applications for a better future. Notwithstanding its capabilities in power sector, Nuclear technology can be harnessed in diverse sectors

Nuclear technology - transformative role in food security & Agri sustainability

1) Energy security for food security:

Nuclear based power can be a sustainable source for continuous, reliable, predictable energy

Ex. (TERI → 37% Increase in power
2023 Subsidies for Agriculture)

2) pest management - Through advanced nuclear technologies

3) perishability of the food products can be reduced and enhanced shelf life be promoted

Ex. BARC 'Litchi'

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1) Input rationalisation theory's extensive
research on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides etc

2) Food Fortification

However challenges remain in harnessing
Nuclear technology in Agriculture

① Radioactive waste of Nuclear materials
is a cause of concern

② Capital intensive technology and
lack of skills in farmers

③ Lacunae in agri extension services

Ex. BARC, AATMA extensions to farm level
is miniscule

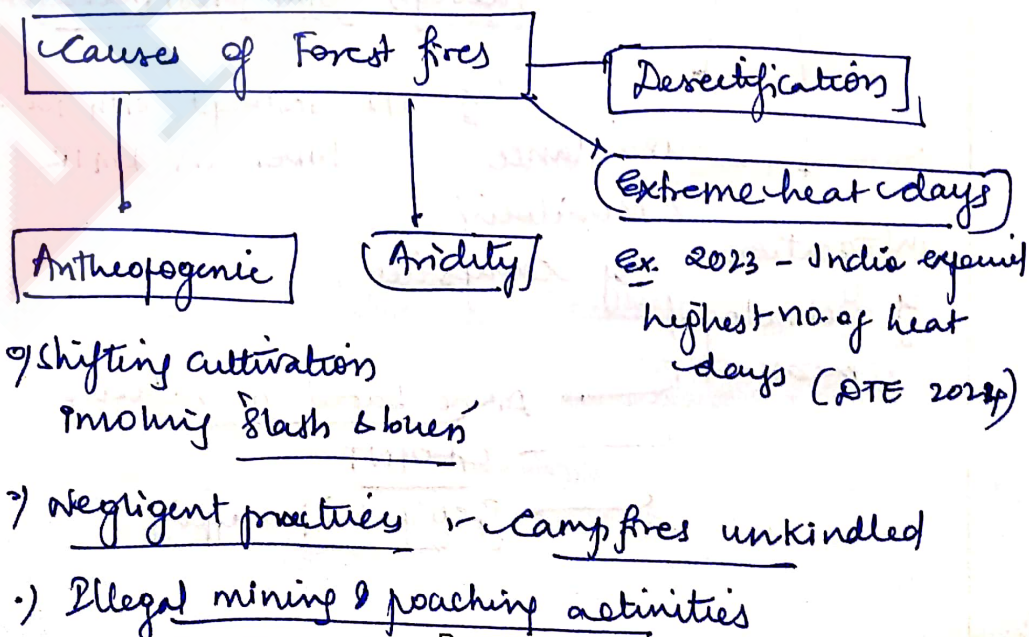
Agriculture needs to be harnessed
with technology to realise the objective
of Doubling farmers' income

8)

India's state of forest report (ISFR) 2021
notes 24% of India's forest land as fire prone
This suggests the severity and vulnerability
of Indian forests

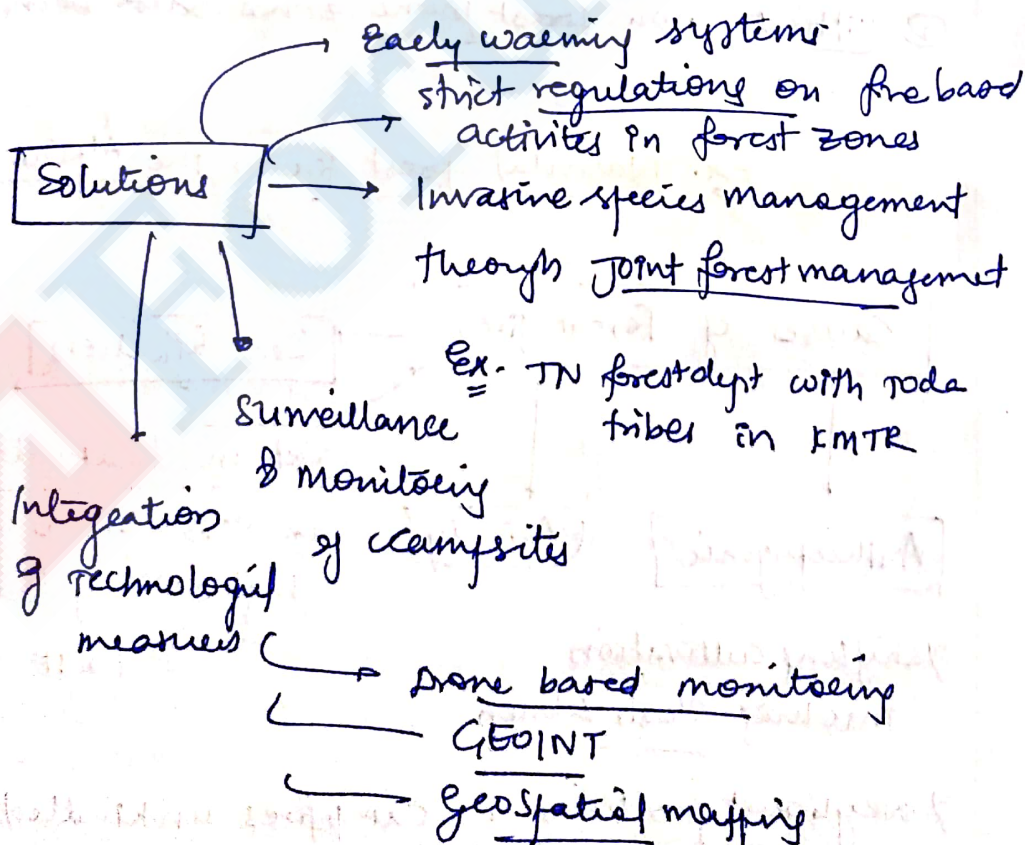
Increasing frequency of forest fires
— need for sustainable forest management

- ① Climate change and extreme heat days
contributing to increase in forest fires
- ② Hitherto non forest prone zones also being
caught on fires
Ex. Nainital forest fire in the Alpine zone



Multi dimensional impacts of forest fires

- ① Economic loss :- Forest fires burn away millions of hectares of forest land & resources resulting in severe economic losses
- ② Environmental degradation & biodiversity loss resulting in habitat loss, increased human animal conflicts
- ③ Psychological impact on tribes and other forest dwelling communities



9)

The recent rise in terror related violence, especially on civilians and local administration paints a grim picture of security and sovereignty in the Kashmir valley.

Reasons attributed to the surge in terror attacks in Jammu & Kashmir

1) Abrogation of Art 370:- sent a danger signal to the militants, thus risking their ire on civilians

2) Increased bonhomie of China and Pakistan through the CPEC passing through Gilgit Baltistan

↳ Ex. provision of arms, ammunition through the project

3) Radicalization through online platforms

↳ Ex. Negative misinformation on govt policies in Kashmir

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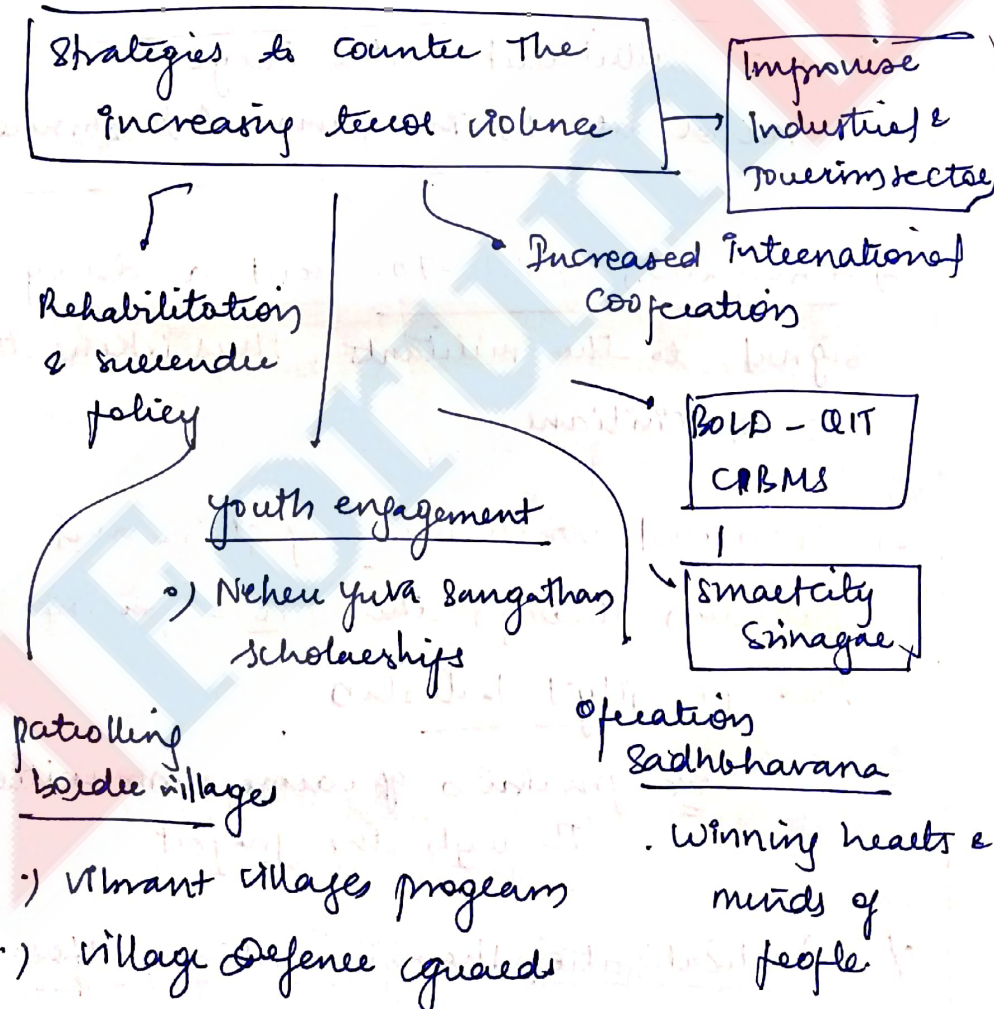
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1) India's Global outreach :- Though hosting international summits in Kashmir triggered the Kashmir debate -

ex: CIO in Kashmir



10)

'Cyber slavery' has been on the rise in the recent years with increased cyber threats and espionage. It essentially means to enslave an organisation, individual or a country through critical information theft.

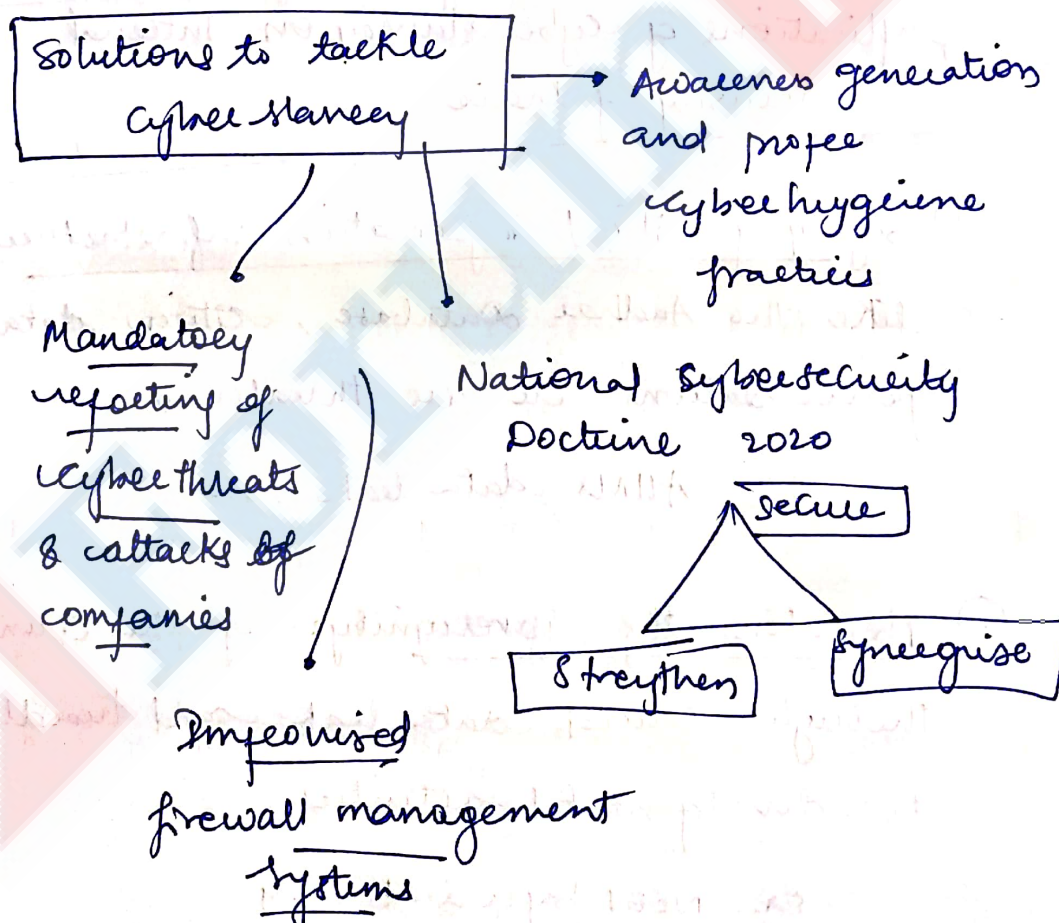
Implications of cyber slavery on internal security of India

- ① safety of critical information infrastructure like the Aadhar Database, citizen data, power stations etc are threatened.
Ex. AIMS data leak 2022
- ② Threatens the sovereignty:- of the country through critical data leak and hurdles to developmental activities.
Ex. NEET paper leak 2024
- ③ political instability : caused by misinformation, socially engineered attacks.
Ex. Cambridge Analytica case

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1) Economic repercussions:- In the light of Digital India, when economy is running on Digital transactions.

Ex. RBI reported 200% ↑ in online frauds & ransomware attacks.



11)

1991 marked a paradigm shift in the Indian economy through LPG reforms. They converted India into a services leader in the 21st century.

Liberalisation policies - significantly enhanced India's economic dynamism

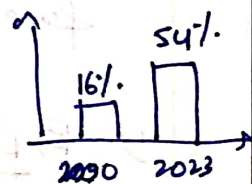
1) Boost to services sector - with abundant skilled, english speaking youth.

2) Aligning with the 'global demand' -

Ex. Border process outsourcing
IT/ITES services

3) Increased economic growth -

Ex. services sector contribution



4) Automation and tech leverage through global impacts

5)

However, evolving global & domestic
landscape necessitates Reforms 2.0.

Need for Reforms 2.0

- 1) Fourth Industrial Revolution - necessitates
Pneasured global integration, tech penetration
Ex:- Bigdata, AI based economic
activities
- 2) Laggard manufacturing growth - at 16%
of GDP for fast 3 decades
↳ To provide employment opportunities
to vast India's populace
- 3) To become global leader - in services with
focus on Knowledge economy
- 4) Export led growth through port led
infrastructure development
- 5) Job less growth :- Indicating rising
inequalities
Ex:-

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Challenges

- Rigid labour markets and non implementation of labour codes
- Lower FLFP & large informal economy
(37%) (80%)
- Lack of skilled personnel. (India Skills Report only 5% have formal skilling)
- Infrastructure bottlenecks
- Regulatory Cholesterol (Eco Survey 2020)
- Address global geopolitical tensions

The challenges need to be
overcome to make India a truly industrial
ready and global super power

17

\$1 investment in infrastructure leads
to \$10 return in economic growth
- (World Bank)

Infrastructure development
essential for economic transformation

1) Boosting trade : - Infrastructure act as a
force multiplier in enhancing trade

Ex: DMIC proposed to increase
export & trade by 300%.

2) Employment generation - through ancillary
industrial development

3) Reduction in commutation/ transit time
reflects in increased economic productivity

4) Investments : - Influx of foreign companies,
FDI in Infrastructureally strong regions

Ex: Foxconn deal in Tamil Nadu

Infrastructure essential for sustainable development & social wellbeing

- ① Inclusive growth:- through employment generation and access to services
- ② Digitisation of economy:- leading to direct benefit transferee
- ③ Reduction in Bureaucratic Redtape and corruption in governance
- ④ Increased ease of doing business
- ⑤ Increased FLFP through safe access to workplace
- ⑥ Investments in physical Infrastructure of schools, hospitals ensure increased human capital
- ⑦ Poverty alleviation:- through tailored policies and interventions
Ex:- Rurban mission
Urban Infrastructure keeping in mind rising urban poverty.

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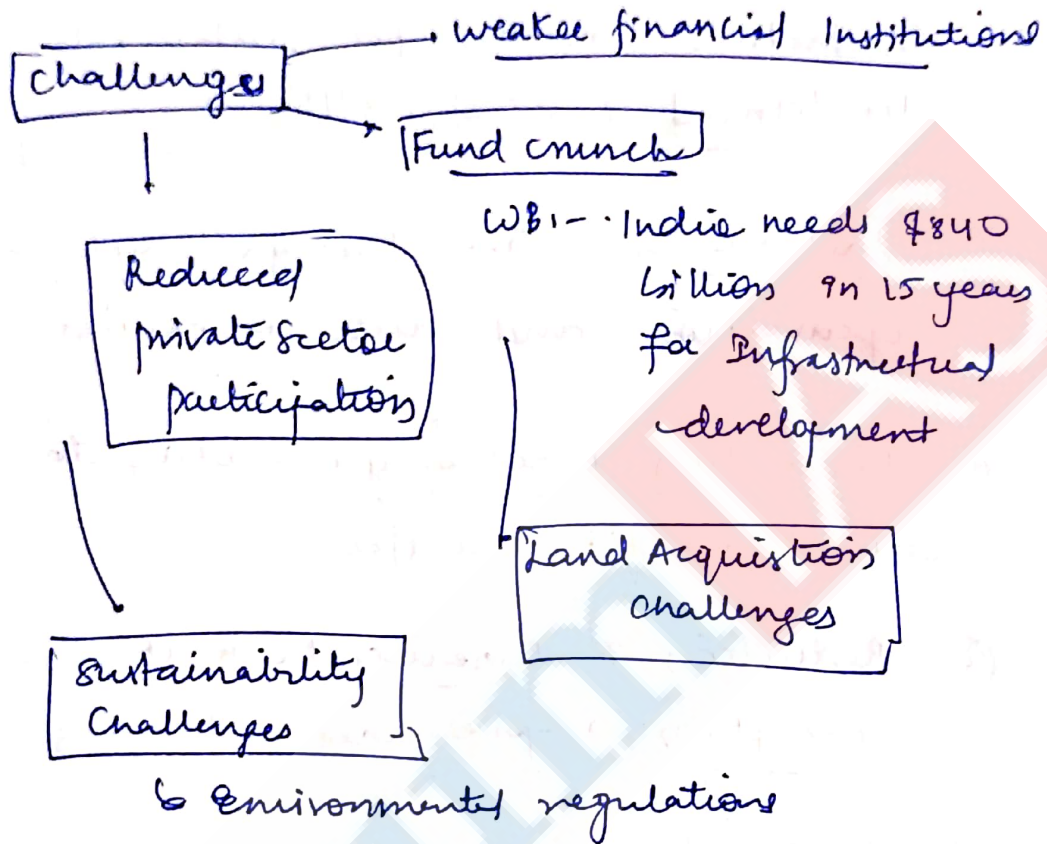
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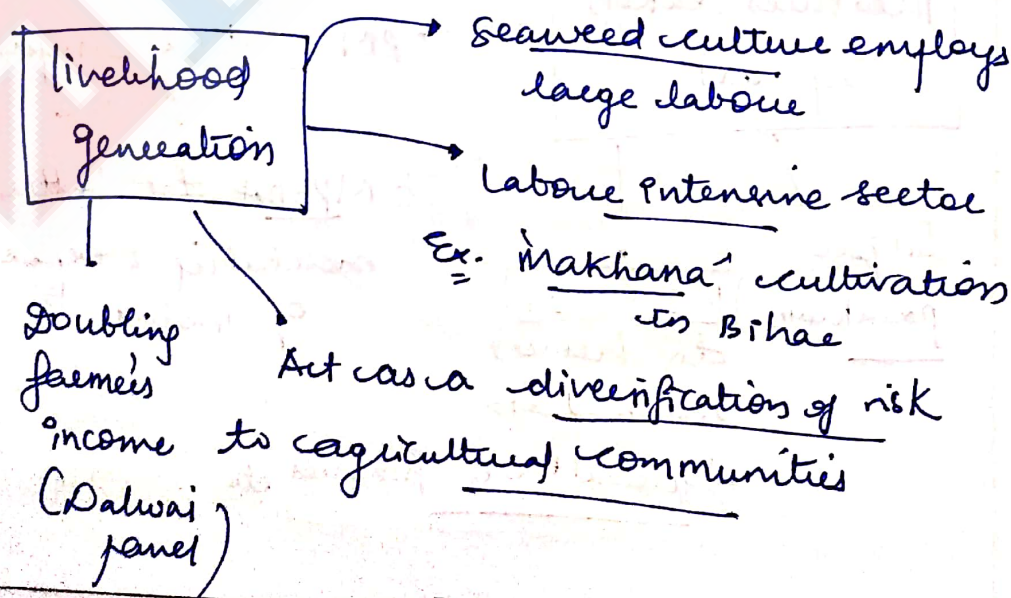
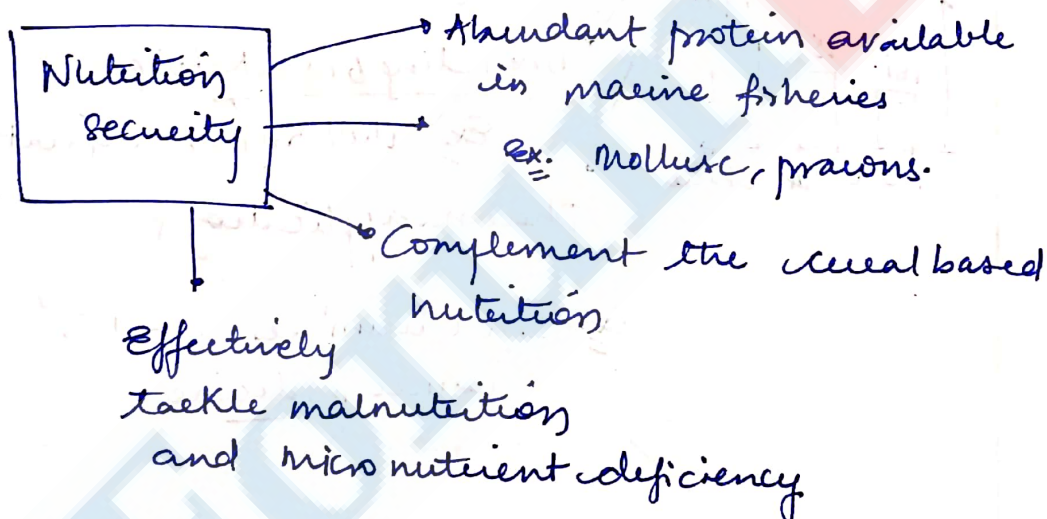


The Challenges need to be addressed to foster Inclusive growth and economic transformation through infrastructure growth.

13)

Aquaculture involves culturing of fisheries, seaweeds, aquatic plants, organisms in a artificially created water medium or natural water bodies.

Significance of aquaculture



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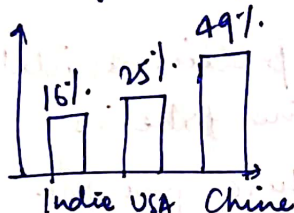
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Economic growth

→ Through Inclusive livelihood opportunities
 Ex: women labour

Value addition

through Food processing



→ Export led growth

Ex: India's current share of 8% in global market

→ Branding & marketing

Ex: choi fish in curry

→ Pharma applications

Ex: Sea cucumbers used in 'cancer medicine'



Measures taken by govt

→ PM KISAN SAMPAADA

→ PM matruya sampad yojana

→ MPEDA for better marketing & export of produce

Sagar pakeam

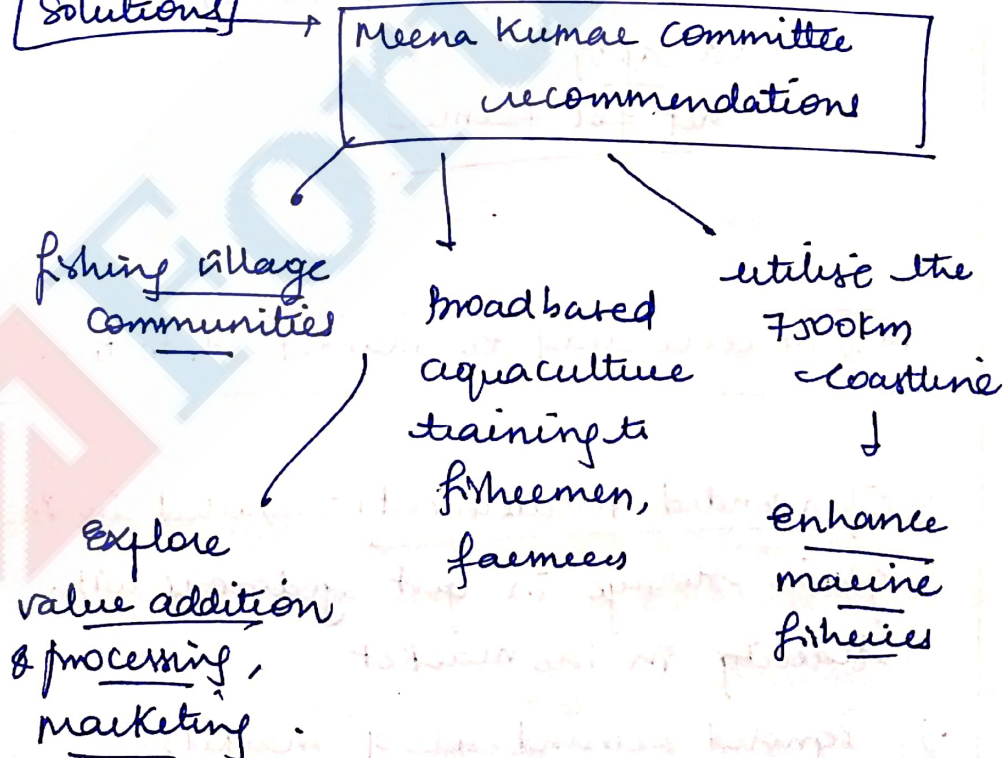
→ PSL loans to farmers involved in

Aquaculture fisheries etc

Challenges

- 1) Low level of tech integration
- 2) Untapped potential
- 3) Unsustainable fishing practices
Ex: Blast fishing
- 4) Heavie reliance on inland fisheries and aquaculture
- 5) Zones mapping and real time monitoring
lacunae

Solutions



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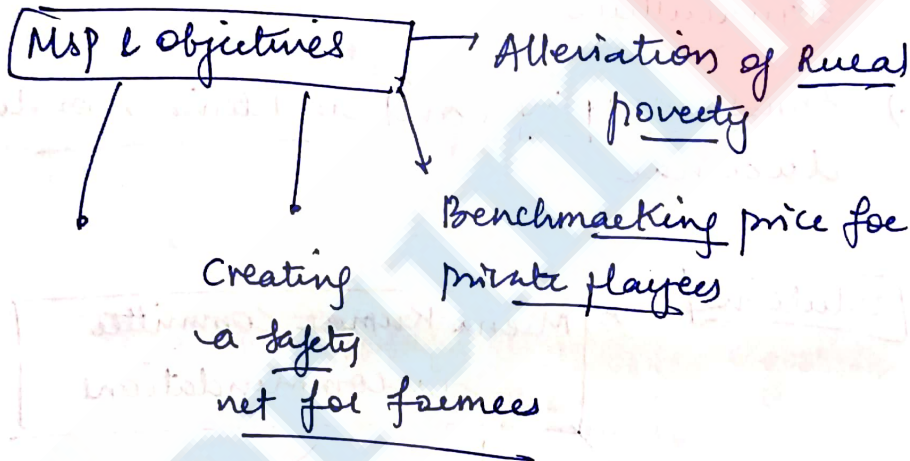
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44)

The Minimum support price (MSP) offered by the govt to farmers on notified agricultural commodities (23). played key role in ensuring farmers' welfare



MSP however lead to market distortions

- 1) Open Ended procurement - resulted in increased grain storage in govt godowns with scarcity in the market
- 2) Ignored Demand side of market.
- 3) Rigid Liquidation policy under NFSA

1) Artificial scarcity - through collusion and hoarding of foodgrains between farmer and the merchant

2) Burden on consumer - The higher MRP on the agri. commodities resulted in inflated prices

Ex. Rice inflation in 2023.

3) Cobwebb phenomenon - and scarcity of essential vegetables and pulses

Ex. onion, tomato scarcity

MRP lead to ecologic stress

1) Desertification in Punjab, Haryana region due to intense water guzzling crops like rice, wheat

Indiscriminate use of pesticides, fertilisers

1) Increase in soil salinity, barrenness

2) Groundwater depletion

Ex. Dalhousi - 60% of districts have severely low on groundwater

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Reforms to make MSP more inclusive & Efficient

- NAFI Ayog in India @ 75, recommended MRP (Minimum Reserve Price) in place of MSP
- substitution of MSP with price deficient payment systems ex. PM AASHA
- Farm based procurement through Contract farming
- cluster based export plans, cagei machine Banks to promote hassle free transport

MSP should now become MRP in the view of Agriculture becoming Agri-entrepreneur.

15)

Biotechnology involves scientific interventions through harnessing the biological knowledge of the systems around us.

Significance of Biotechnology in Sustainable food production

→ High yielding seeds.. varieties can effectively increase the yield resulting in food security

→ Research on elongation of shelf life of perishable products reduces wastage of food

Ex. WRI - a third of produced food is wasted globally annually.

→ GM crops.. can withstand the adverse climatic conditions and strengthen against pest attacks

Ex. GM cotton.

→ Food Fortification using Vitamins B₂, B₁₂, Folic acid to reduce anaemia

Biototechnology in Efficient waste management

- 1) Bioremediation using bacteria, microbes
results in effective grey water management
- 2) oilzapper in case of oil spills
- 3) phytoremediation, mycoremediation
- 4) Sanitary landfills creation
- 5) Ethanol production through feedstock,
agricultural waste
- 6) production of compressed Natural gas
Ex. GOBAR-DHAN

Biototechnology in advancement in healthcare

- 1) Targeted drug delivery
- 2) Gene editing and Genetic counselling
Ex. CRISPR

1) Advanced medical care in life
threatening diseases

Ex CAR-T cell therapy

2) Transplantation of human organs
and graft acceptance

3) Treatment of cancers through
combination of nano-nuclear and
Biotechnology

4) Vaccine development

Ex HPV vaccine against cervix cancer

Thus Biotechnology acts as force
multiplicie in humanity's stride towards
Sustainable future

16)

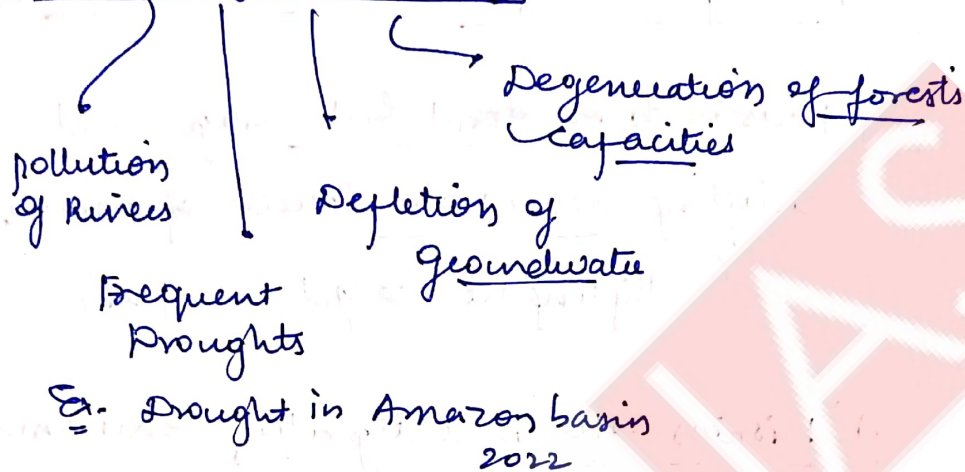
climate change has frayed its ill
effects into every walk of life; leading to
significant alterations in ecosystems

Cascading effects of climate change
on :-

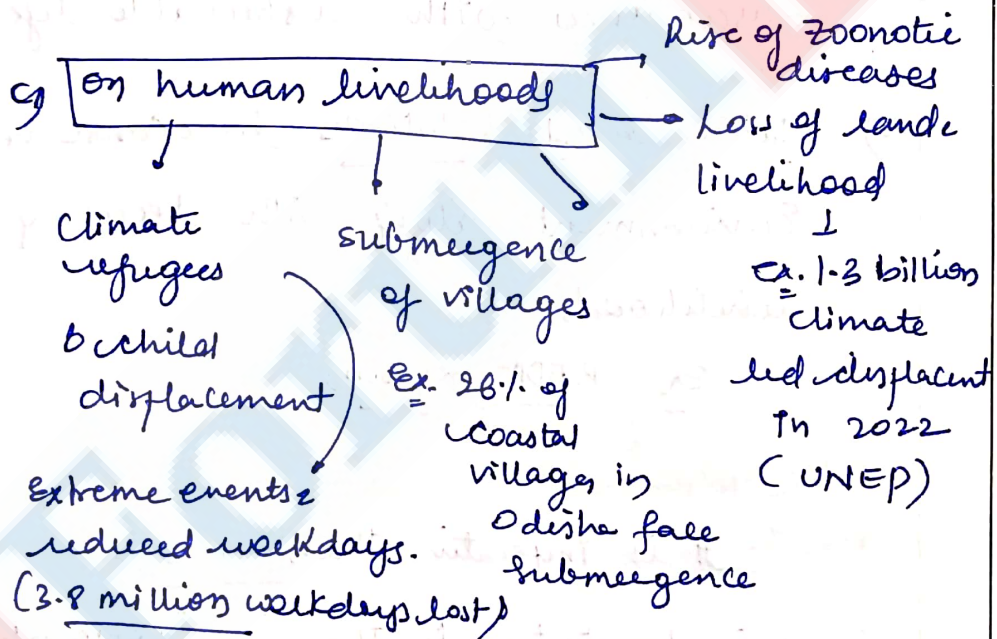
a) Biodiversity

- 1) Co-extinction :- Many species have bore the
brunt of extinction with increase in temperature
Ex. Rise in Female turtles & ↓ in male turtles
- 2) Rise of Invasive alien species :- In the
new geographies presenting threat to the
native species ex. Prosopis juliflora
- 3) Increased Extreme weather events
resulting in forest fires, sea water
ingression and flash floods
Ex. Australian Bushfire 2019

h) On Ecosystem Service

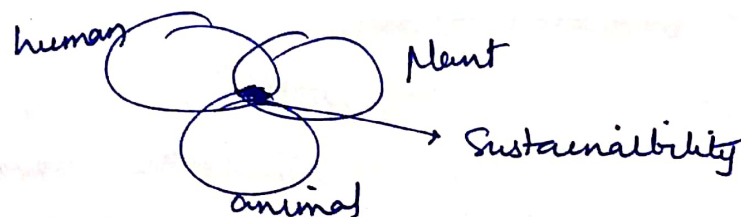


g) On human livelihoods



Integrated Approach - need of the hour

1) one health and one planet approach



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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें!

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
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1) Management of Environmental resources

1) Phasing down fossil fuel usage and adopting renewable sources of energy
(Tripling RE target - COP 28)

2) 'Mission LiFE' :- integrating Environmental Consciousness with sustainable lifestyle

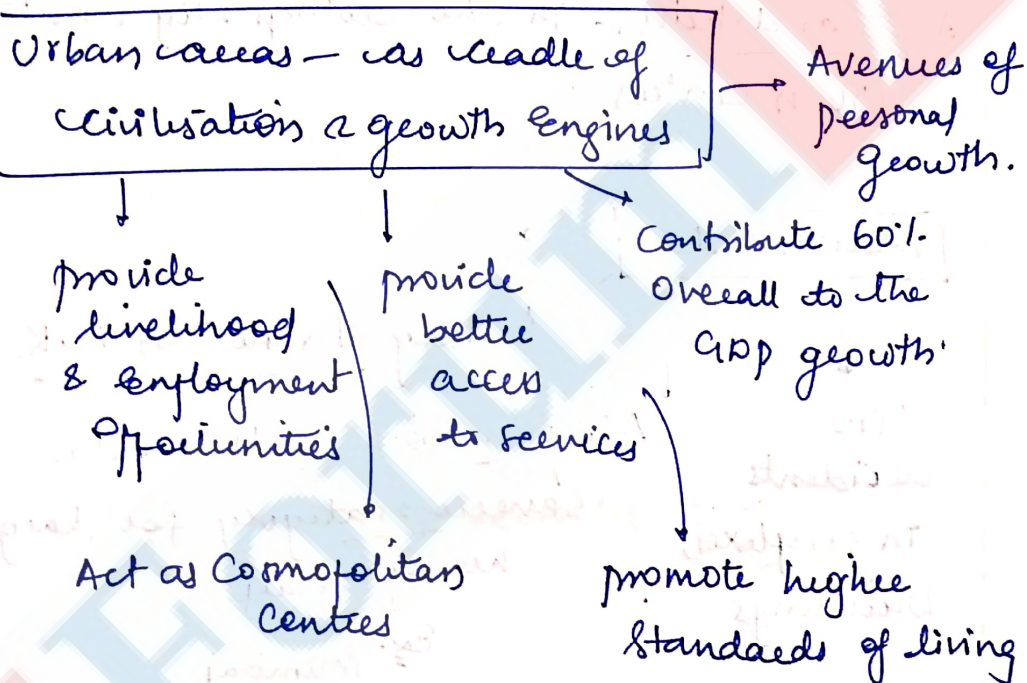
3) Nature based solutions to conserve Environment along with securing livelihoods

Ex. REDD program

It is imperative than ever to Consciously integrate the Environmental Conservation into our lifestyle

17)

India's 38% of population today live in urban areas. By 2050, it may rise to 50%. (UNFPA). In the view of cities as Centres of economic growth, resilience & paramount



Urban areas increasingly facing disasters

Natural disasters

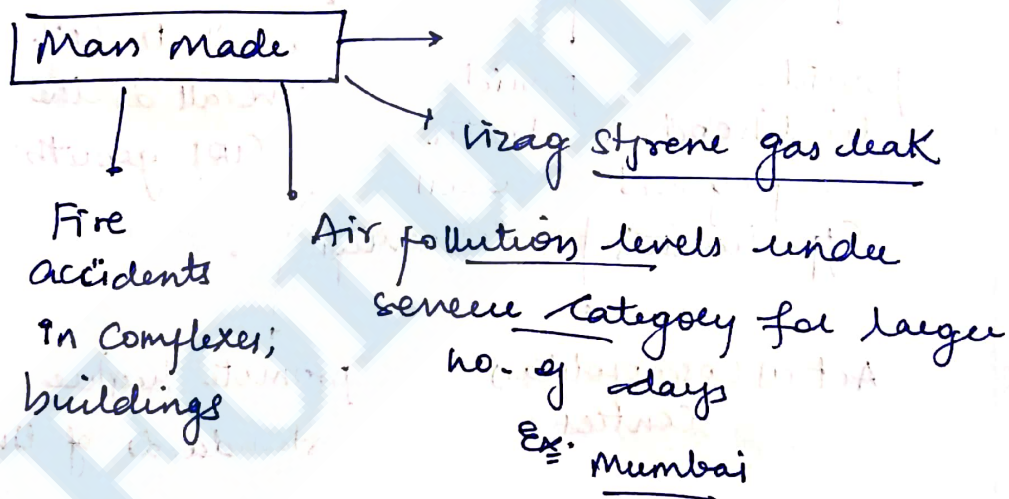
1) Urban floods have been ravaging the Indian cities with great economic and human loss

Ex. Bangalore Floods 2021.

1) Urban Heat Island effect :- Increased concrete structures making Urban Centres 'hot motten' all day & night

2) Drought :- Increased water shortages and scarcity due to uneven rainfall

3) Landslides :- In the ecologically sensitive Urban Centres.



Mitigation Measures & management strategies

① Resilient Infrastructure

↳ Retrofitting buildings with Earthquake resilient structures

① Advanced warning systems and temporary management of shelter homes

② Structural measures

- Equipping the local bodies with disaster preparedness
- Technological monitoring → ex. GADINT URO NAVIC.

③ Non structural measures

- Identification, mapping and risk based vulnerable zones.

④ Inter agency coordination

- among citizens, local administration and NDRF to counter such situations

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न लिखें!

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(18)

India's disaster management framework
began in 2005 with the NDMA 2005.
It has been achieving the objectives of
securing lives & livelihoods from its inception

Progress of India's Disaster management Framework

- ① Effective settling of mitigation, adaptation and rehabilitation measures
- ② Disaster specific mitigation measures outlined
Ex: 'Code on Earthquake Resue'
- ③ Deployment of forces Increase of exigencies
- ④ Rescue through technological measures
- ⑤ Advanced early warning systems and Rescue relief

Challenges in India's Disaster Management Framework

- Lack of synergy & coherence among the local administration and the rescue forces
- Heavy reliance on NDRF forces
- Ill-equipped local bodies
- Lack of community preparedness due to voluntary provision
- Rescue - Relief are taken higher priority over Rehabilitation
- More tuned towards reactive measures than proactive measures
- Compensation to the victims is not effectively provided
-

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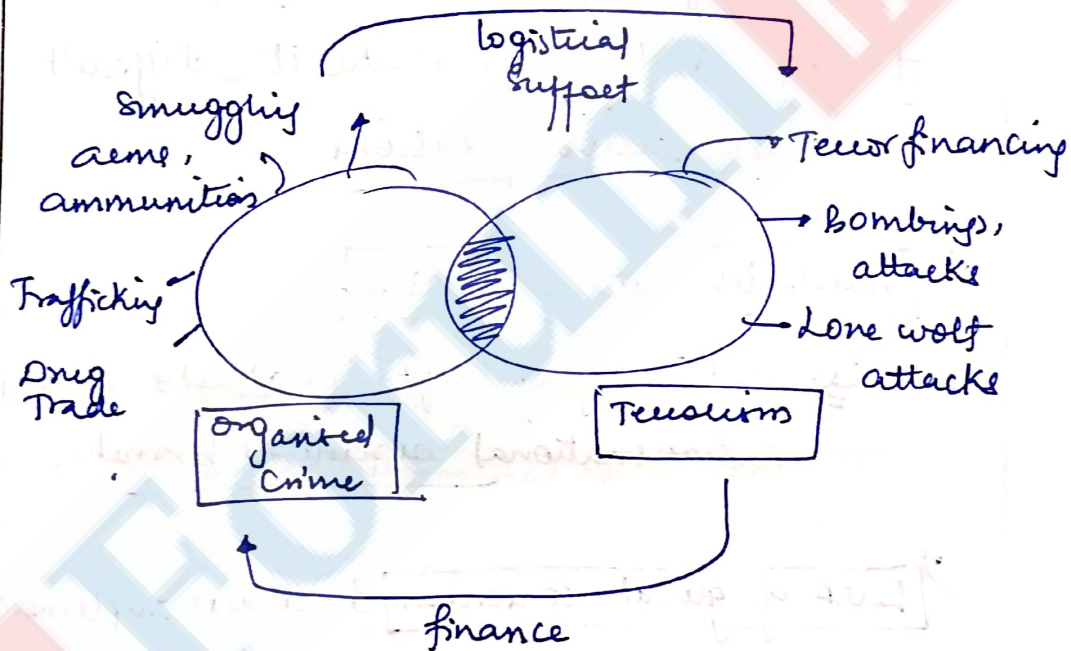
Solutions to make a robust
Disaster management framework

- ① on The lines of yokohama strategy
and sendai framework
- ② Hazard zone mapping, periodic review
& assessment of zones
- ③ Veerappa mōli committee's recommendation
on strengthening local bodies in
effective disaster management
- ④ community based awareness and
preparedness

(9)

The symbiotic relationship between organised crime and terrorism sustains the threats to internal security

Relationship between Terrorism & Organised Crime



• logistical support - from the organised criminal groups, strengthens the reach of these channels

Ex: WTC attack 2001.

*) Aggravation of internal security concerns

1) Double jeopardy of fighting the organised
crime and terrorism

Ex. Money laundering & terror financing

2) Anonymity & faceless nature of operations
of organised groups make it difficult
to track terror operations

3) Borderless nature of crime

Ex. online cyber thefts & attacks through
transnational organised branches

4) Lack of global consensus & robust implementation
of security measures

Ex. UNSC → China's roadblock in
designation of terrorists

5)

Measures to address this linkage & threats emerging from it

① Global Cooperation and integration of intelligence sharing mechanisms

② Stricter enforcement of UNSC 1267 sanctions to deter terror financing

③ Collaboration with global investigative agencies

Ex. INTERPOL with CBIP operation
Meghchaker against CSAM

④ Effective border management to counter organised criminal networks

Ex. BOLD QIT
CIRMS. etc.

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20)

India's vast borders face continuous threats from state and non state actors. In this light, Border management becomes a matter of paramount importance.

Strengthening security apparatus & forging developmental partnerships with locals - in BM

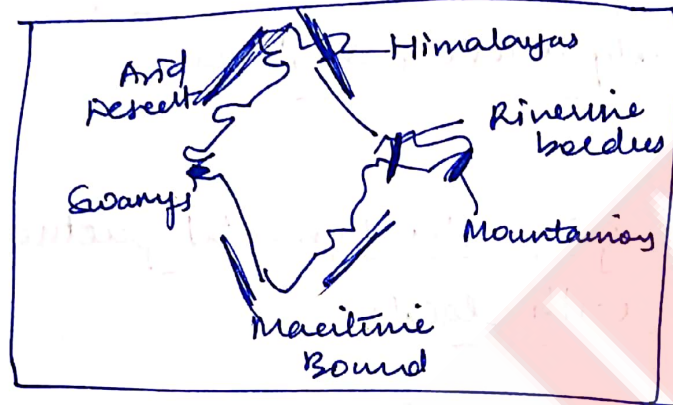
① Locals as eyes and ears of the security forces, respond in the golden hour Ex: 1965 war with Pakistan

② Security measures let the Border to safeguard the territory and the locals

Ex. specialised guarding forces
technological measures

→ BOLD RIT
CIBMs

- ③ peculiar terrain conditions persist across the Indian border.



- ④ Diverse nature of issues across different borders

Ex. Myanmar - Death triangle
Pakistan - Opium, Drug, narcotics
Nepal
Bangladesh > cattle, contraband, F&EN smuggling etc -

Initiatives taken by govt in effective border management

- ① strengthening security apparatus

→ Border Area Development program

→ Border Infra upgradation

└ floodlights
└ checkpoints
└ Radaes & UAV's

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margin.

⇒ Technological measures like
Integration of command systems,
Early warning systems

② Forging developmental partnerships
with locals

⇒ Vibrant villages program

⇒ Village defence guards

⇒ Modernisation of Border infrastructure
through self industrial development

⇒ Special govt expenditure

⇒ Employment opportunities

Ex: Mission AROMA in Kashmir

⇒ Operation Sadhbharana

Thus, Border management continues
to be a key priority in India's
Internal security