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MGP 2024

Test Code 713304

Date → 30/08

Time → 3:30 - 6:30

Name - Shwami

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Q.1

Free trade agreements are between two or more countries to enhance international trade and reduce regulatory burden.

Recently, India signed FTA with EFTA - TEPA, UAE - CEPA and Australia - CECA, while UK-India, and EU-India FTA are under negotiations.

Reason for increased focus -

- ① To enhance India's participation in global value chain..
- ② To improve market access for Indian manufactured products.
- ③ To provide stimulus to

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manufacturing sector - with
stagnant GVA at 16-17%.

④ To generate employment
for workforce.

⑤ To reduce costs for imported
inputs and ease transfer
of technology.

⑥ Improve FDI inflow in
country eg: EFTA - TEPA has
FDI commitment.

⑦ Promote policy of
"Make in India for the
World"

⑧ Reduced efficiency of WTO

Thus, free trade agreements

allow India to push for

trade led growth achieving

target of \$ 2 trillion exports

by 2030 as given in FTP-2023

Q.2.

Fiscal policy in the policy of government regarding taxation and government expenditure.
Keynes in his "General Theory" propounded use of fiscal policy to stabilize business cycle and growth fluctuations.
for equitable distribution of resources.

L. ① Progressive taxation on income can ensure canon of taxation according to ability to pay. $\text{Tax Rate} = 11.7\%$ of GDP

L. ② A higher direct tax rather than indirect tax $\rightarrow$ promote equity.

③ Tax on luxuries ~~more~~ more than necessities.

④ Tax on "Bad goods" eg. tobacco to generate resources

These ensure that people with higher income pay more taxes
⇒ Just distribution.

Ensure welfare of all sections -

① Government expenditure on social welfare schemes eg. PDS, PM Awas Yojana, etc.

② Provision of public goods eg. healthcare, basic education, road construction, infrastructure

Enables people to ~~into~~ achieve higher standard of living.

Thus fiscal policy - Revenue, capital expenditure and taxation can provide a multiplier effect on growth for reaching \$7 trillion by 2030.

Q.3-

India is one of the world's largest importers of edible oils - including soyabean, palm oil, etc. importing over 50% of domestic needs.

Primary factors behind significant import reliance →

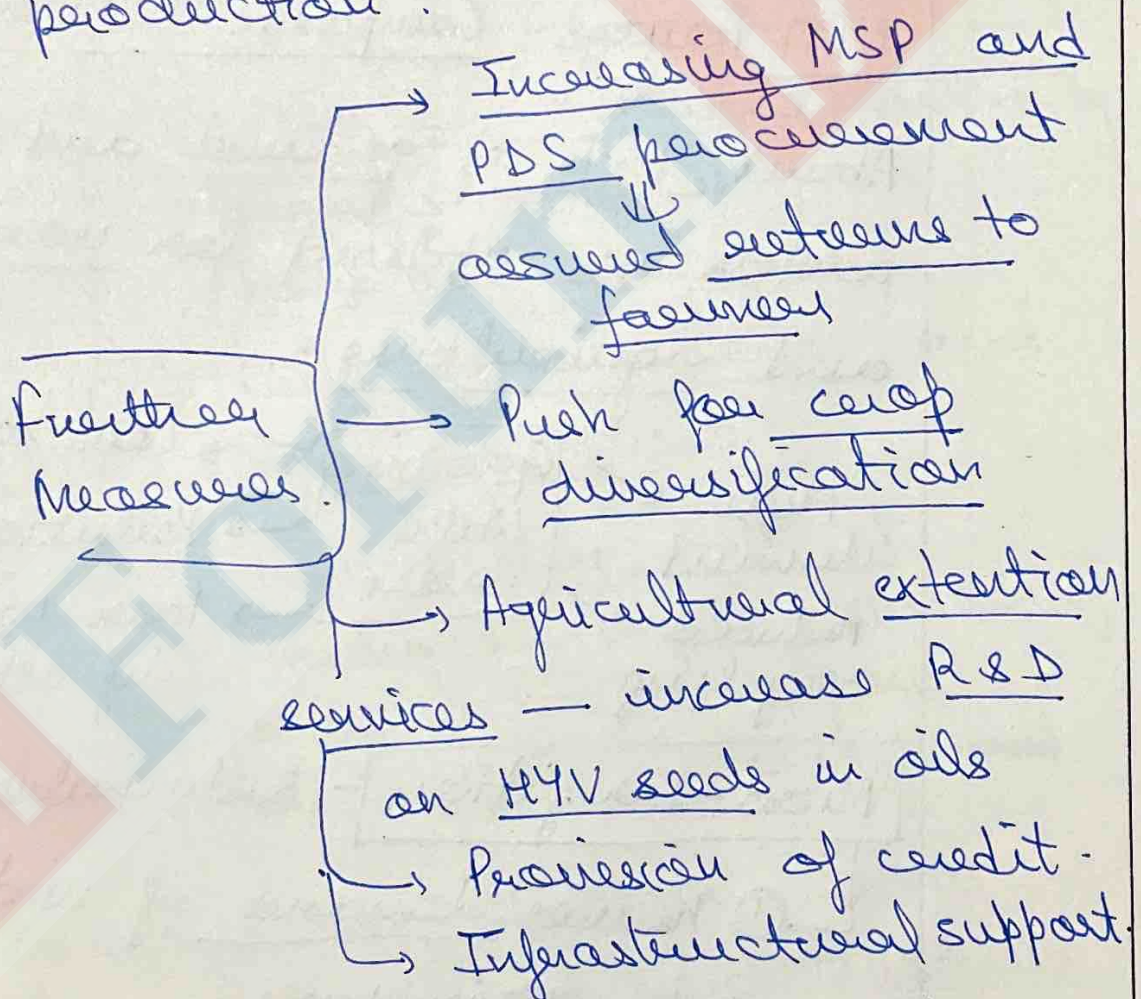
- ① High domestic consumption
- ② Shift in food patterns towards rice-wheat due to MSP regime.
- ③ Long gestation period, high capital requirement, high risk — prevents Indian farmers from sowing oilseeds.

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In India, AP and Telangana are major oil seeds producers. Yellow revolution (1990s) and National Mission on oil seeds were introduced to enhance production.

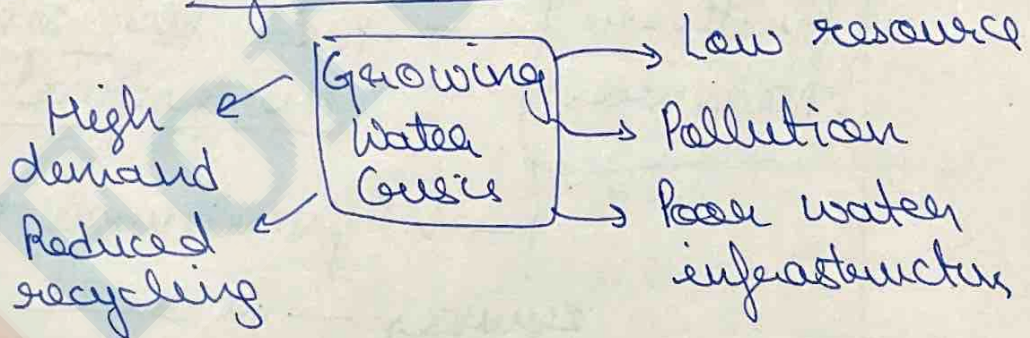


Budget 2024-25 has increased focus in agricultural research in edible oils to provide better quality seeds for higher yields

Q.4 -

India has 17% of world population
and only 4% of world ~~fresh~~ water
resources creating acute water
crisis potential - as highlighted by
NITI Aayog's Composite Water Index.

About 90% of ground and surface
water is utilized for irrigation
and agriculture.



Micro-Irrigation - sustainable solution

① Reduces demand of water
by agriculture.

② Allows better implementation
of fertilizer and pesticides

- ③ Reduce water pollution
- ground water and
surface run-off.

Skewed and Below Potential Adoption

- ① Free and nominal electricity
charges $\Rightarrow$ invest. in
bore well and pumps.
- ② Lack of knowledge and
low awareness.
- ③ Low policy support
eg. inadequate implementation of
PM Kishu Suichai Yojana
- ④ Availability of credit ~~and~~

Measures like PM Kishu Suichai -
~~Deep~~ Deep Mass Gap and NABARD's
Micro irrigation fund need to be
pushed ~~for~~ more to achieve full
potential of micro-irrigation.

Q.5-

Recent train accidents —
 Balasore, Ranchingunga train
 etc have highlighted the need
 to improve rail safety.

Challenges related to safety -

- ① Development and maintenance
 of infrastructure — of tracks,
 etc
- ② Over capacity utilization
- ③ Rail over Unmanned level
crossings
- ④ Violations of Standard
operating procedures
- ⑤ Overworked rail staff —
of loco pilots
- ⑥ Lack of training and
communication

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⑦ Slow adoption of safety technology - eg Karack only on about 2-5% of track (Economic Survey 2024)

Measures to address -

- Latest technology eg AI for track maintenance
- outsource non-core jobs
- Improve training and fill vacancies
- Regular infrastructure maintenance
- Formation of Rail Infrastructure Authority (Birek Debroy Committee)

There is urgent need to address safety gaps - Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh and Mission Zero
Accidents are step in right direction

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Q.6-

Indian space agency ISRO and
US's agency NASA recently
collaborated in launching
NISAR

International cooperation →

- ① NISAR jointly built by
NASA and ISRO
- ② While NASA has provided
with S-band radars,
ISRO provided L-band

↓
showcasing jointness in
operations and scientific
research.

for climate change monitoring
and natural hazard management →

- ① NISAR will "scan" earth

surface twice every 12 days

↳ ② It will map changes
in earth surface; ice caps,
land forms over its lifetime
of 5 years.

↳ ③ Under open data policy,
this will be available
to researchers.

↳ ④ It has capacity to
scan beyond cloud cover
i.e. uninterrupted data about

Earth surface.

⇒ Able to map changes in
Earth surface due to climate
change + data used for
better planning against natural
hazards.

Thus, NISAR mission will push
frontiers of science and human
knowledge.

Q.7.

India is one of the largest producers of food in world yet ranks 111 out of 125 countries in Global Hunger Index.
⇒ Need to enhance food security and agriculture sustainability.

Role of Nuclear Technology -

① Use to enhance shelf life of food eg. onions with radiation that can delay decay process.



Balance demand - supply in agricultural markets



Income security for farmers and low, stable food prices



food security.

L② Use of Nuclear technology
for pest management
eg- radioactive soil used
instead of pesticides -

⇓
Improved yields
+
Reduced use of chemicals
that pollute soil

L③ Reduced food wastage

⇓
less ~~emissions~~ emissions from
food decay.

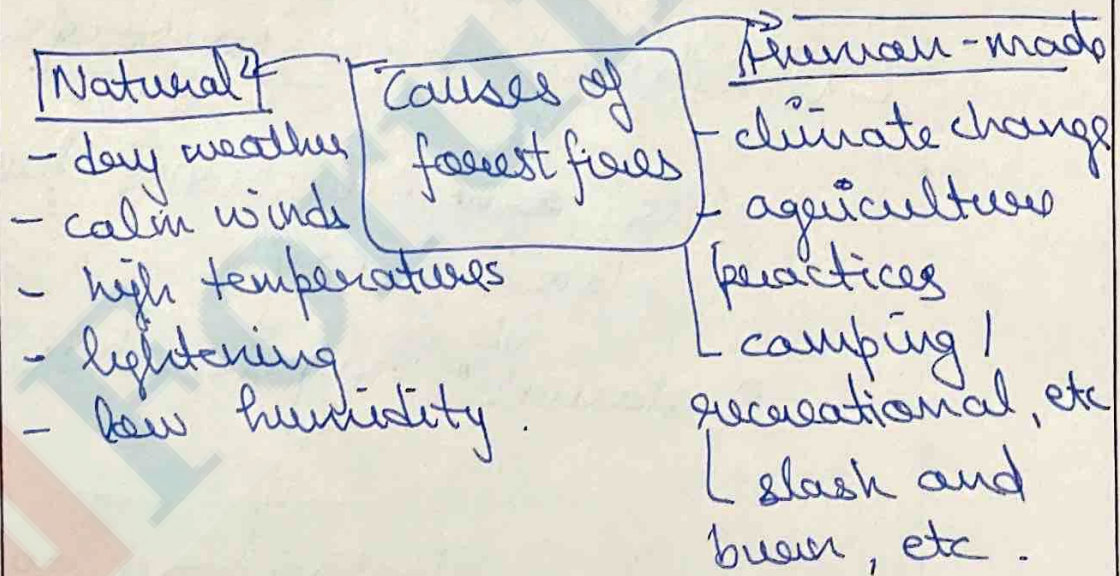
⇓
Sustainable agriculture

Thus, nuclear technology can
revolutionize agricultural
production, enhance food
security and reducing agricultural
emissions.

Q8-

Report by FSR - 2019 shows
that over 13% of Indian
forests is vulnerable to forest
fires.

Recent incidents of forest fire -
in Kerala and Nainital highlight
vulnerability.



Multidimensional impact -

- ① Loss to biodiversity
- ② Impact on forest animals,
specially reptiles are highly

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vulnerable -

- Loss of life and impact on infrastructure $\Rightarrow$ economic loss
- Pollution - impact on Ozone, releases stored CO₂

Prevention:

- strict implementation of laws against starting fire
- fire watchers
- IMS - Excess heat factor
- fire lines - to prevent spread

Measures
for
management
and
prevention

Bamhi bucket
method

Management - desilting of
water bodies

→ Fire safety equipment.

Thus, Measures like using satellite technology and addressing human-caused climate change can reduce incidents of forest fires

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Q.9-

Recently, there has been a surge in ~~terror~~ attacks - Kathua, etc - in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reasons for recent surge -

- ① Security forces deployed on China - border
- ② Attempts to disrupt upcoming elections in J&K.
- ③ Use of modern technology eg. drones, VPN, etc to evade security forces.
- ④ Increased infiltration from border.
- ⑤ Improper following of SOP and botched security operations $\Rightarrow$ reduced trust.

with locals

Strategies to counter -

- ① Increased forces deployment
eg. Assam rifles deployed in Jammu area.
- ② Increased focus on intelligence gathering
- ③ Building networks with locals - eg. Sadbhavana.
- ④ Community - level support
eg. Village defence councils.
- ⑤ Improve border surveillance
- eg. CBIMS, infrared technology, AI, etc.

These measures along with ensuring democratic engagement can address the issue of surge of terror attacks.

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Q10 =

Recently, Telangana police registered first case of cyber-slavery, ie where Indian workers were trafficked and forced to commit cybercrimes in countries like Laos, Cambodia, etc.

Implications of cyber-slavery →

- ① Threat to people due to human trafficking concerns.
- ② Rise in cyber-crimes and frauds.
- ③ Increased vulnerability due to low digital literacy.

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- ④ Economic loss due to
frauds, black mail, theft, etc
- ⑤ Limited control of
police and agencies since
not location-specific
- ⑥ Can pose threat to
critical digital infrastructure
- ⑦ Requires international
cooperation — eg Interpol
Operation Thunderstorm.

Raising awareness and adopting
precautionary approach alongside
strengthening cybersecurity (CERT-In)
can enable India to deal with
growing threat of cyber slavery.

Q.11-

India introduced Liberalisation
Privatisation and Globalization
reforms in 1991 pushing
economy on higher growth
path.

Enhanced Economic dynamism -

① India was able to
achieve its highest growth
rate of over 8% during
2003-08

② Services sector grew at
over 8% post 1991 —
forming over 50% of GVA

③ Increased inflow of FDI

④ Improvement in manufacturing
— eg. capital intensive sectors, cars

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- L ⑤ Growth of Telecom services
- L ⑥ India ~~forex~~ reserves
grew to over \$600 b. at
present - 9 months of import
cover.
- L ⑦ Growth in financial and
business services.

Evolving landscapes →

- L ① High young graduate
unemployment at 27% (PLFS -
2022)
- L ② Low female labour force
participation (37% - PLFS)
- L ③ Casualization of labour
(90% - contract workers)
- L ④ Stagnant share of Manufacturing
(16-17% of GVA)
- L ⑤ Vulnerability to supply chains
due to disasters, COVID-19, wars.
- L ⑥ Unable to join Global Value
chains



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Reforms 2.0 - for sustained growth

L① Address policy delays and
seed stage of one window
clearance; online approvals.

L② Education and Health -
improve social infrastructure
and skill level (eg. S. Korea and
Japan)

L③ Land and Labour reforms

L④ labour-intensive manufacturing
eg. textiles, etc → employment
generation

L⑤ Reduce logistics cost -

sank 38th in Logistics Performance
Index - world Bank

L⑥ Improve innovation ecosystem.

Schemes like PLI scheme, PM MITRA,

PM Sampada Yojana are steps in
right direction to achieve target of
Viksit Bharat by 2047

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Q.12.

Recent budget 2024-25 has increased capex to 3.5% of GDP at ₹ 111,111 crore - highlighting importance of infrastructure development.

For Economic transformation -

① Increased infrastructure -
eg roads, highways.

↓
reduce logistics costs

↓
enable firms to participate
in Global Value Chain.

② Improved internet access

↓
develop digital market

↓
enable growth of firms from
Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities

③ Improved ease of doing

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business for firms.

L④ Support for growth of
MSME and startups
⇓ eg. electricity -
prevent voluntary disruption -

L⑤ Agriculture infrastructure
and cold chain storage.

↓
stable prices
and inflation better returns
to farmers

Sustainable development -

L① focus on energy transition
→ adoption of EV by
building charging infrastructure

L② Achieve Paris Agreement
targets — by increased
capacity of renewable energy.

L③ Improved farmer support -
eg. PM KUSUM.



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प्रदान किया
गया है।

Societal well-being

L① Improved internet connectivity

Health outcomes
eg. e-Sanjeevani,
Digital Health Mission

→ online
Education
- SWAYAM
platform -

L② Development of public transport - metro, buses, etc

→ reduce cost of
commute

→ Transit-based
cities

L③ Provision of Public goods
- eg. investment in vaccination,
public education, etc
⇒ improved human capital.

Thus, infrastructure has a
multiplier effect ensuring
sustainable development and
inclusive growth

Q13 -

India is the second largest aquaculture nation after China and third largest producer of fish in the world.

Significance of aquaculture -

① Nutrition security -

↳ Products like shrimp, fish, etc contain vitamins help in addressing nutritional gaps.

↳ Sea weeds - excellent source of nutrients

② Livelihood generation -

↳ allow farmers to diversify income sources eg. rice - fish farming.

↳ Major income source for coastal fishing communities

L generates employment in food processing sector.

③ Economic growth -

L fishery sector rate of growth at 8.9% (2014-15 to 2022-23) at more than twice agriculture growth rate.

L Provides employment opportunities in coastal areas -

L Development of Blue Economy

L fisheries sector forms 11% of agriculture GVA -

Measures taken for aquaculture

L PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

— as centrally sponsored scheme for development of aquaculture.

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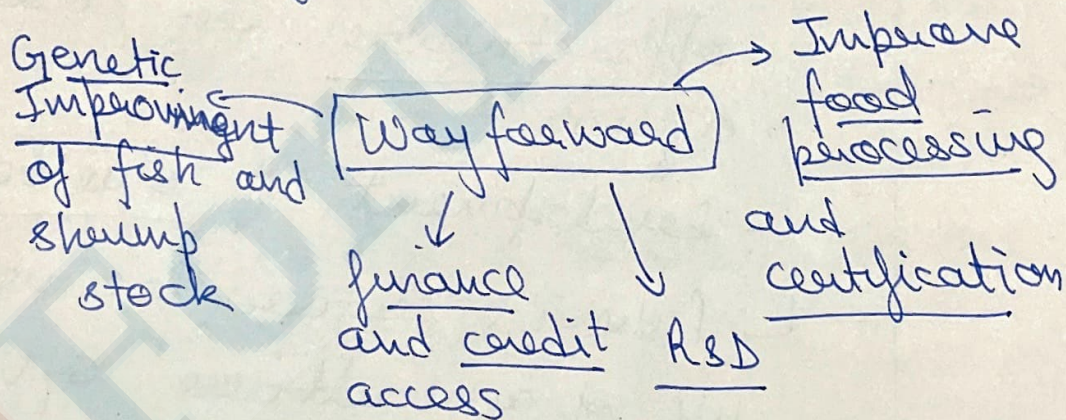
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and Blue Economy 2.0

L MPEDA - for export
promotion

L Extend KCC to fisheries
and aquaculture for credit.

L SAIME scheme - Sustainable
aquaculture in Mangrove
Ecosystems.



Aquaculture holds key to unlocking
benefits from ocean and water
resources achieving target of

SDG 1 - Zero Poverty and

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger

Q14-

MSP - Minimum Support Price
is announced for 22 crops by
CCEA on recommendations of
CACP - as the price floor.

Aim of MSP → Provide income support to farmers
→ Prevent food inflation
→ Provide food security to consumers by PDS

Negative impact of MSP regime

① Market Distortions -

→ disconnect between demand and supply as consumer preference shift to high valued food.

→ Government as emerged as biggest procurer ⇒ crowding out private players.

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- Rice-wheat system pushed regardless of consumer demand
- Biased in procurement
 - ↓ mainly from Punjab, Haryana
 - ↓ major crops - Rice and Wheat
- High wastage due to limited storage capacity.
- Produced over 300 MT and Storage about 145 MT.

② Ecological Stress —

- Groundwater depletion — as water intensive rice grown in water scarce regions - Punjab
- Pollution due to increased use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Promoting monocropping — increased farmer vulnerability

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Reforms for MSP regime -

- ① Improved targetting under PDS system $\Rightarrow$ prevent wastage
- ② Expand MSP to cover only small and marginal farmers.
- ③ Shift focus from rice-wheat to millets, oilseeds, etc.
- ④ Improve agriculture infrastructure and cold chain storage $\Rightarrow$ to reduce farmer dependence on MSP
- ⑤ MSP provided according to Cost of production in the region instead of All-India

Recommendations of MS Swaminathan Committee need to be implemented to improve performance of MSP and ensure stability in returns to agriculture

Q.15.

Biotechnology means use of technology in enhancing productivity or efficiency of biological systems.

For food production -

- ① Use of Genetically modified GM crops to increase yields
eg. GM Brinjal
- ② Develop capacity to address diseases and pest attack eg. GM Cotton.
- ③ Develop resistance to adverse weather patterns eg. droughts
- ④ Increase nutritional value of food eg. Golden rice with Vitamin A.
- ⑤ Increase carbon capture capacity reducing agriculture emissions

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Waste management :

- ① Develop bioplastics to replace regular non-decomposable plastics.
- ② Use of microbes to increase efficiency of decomposition

Human Health -

- ① Detection of diseases
eg- AIDS detection ELISA test, or PCR for COVID-19.
- ② Genetic Therapy for curing diseases - cancer, sickle cell anaemia
eg- CRISPR Cas 9, NexCAR19.
- ③ For data analysis to prepare better medicines
- ④ For faster manufacture of vaccine to address

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health crisis eg. Coronavirus for
COVID-19, ~~or~~ Mosquitoes for

⑤ Management of pests and
diseases if Mosquitoes developed
against dengue-causing mosquitoes

Thus, Biotechnology has multilevel
impact on human lives with
immense potential.



Q 16.

Climate change is long term
changes in Earth's weather
pattern and systems due to
human-caused emissions.

According to UN Report, Earth
temperature has increased by
1.1°C from pre-industrial revolution
levels leading to significant
impact of climate change.

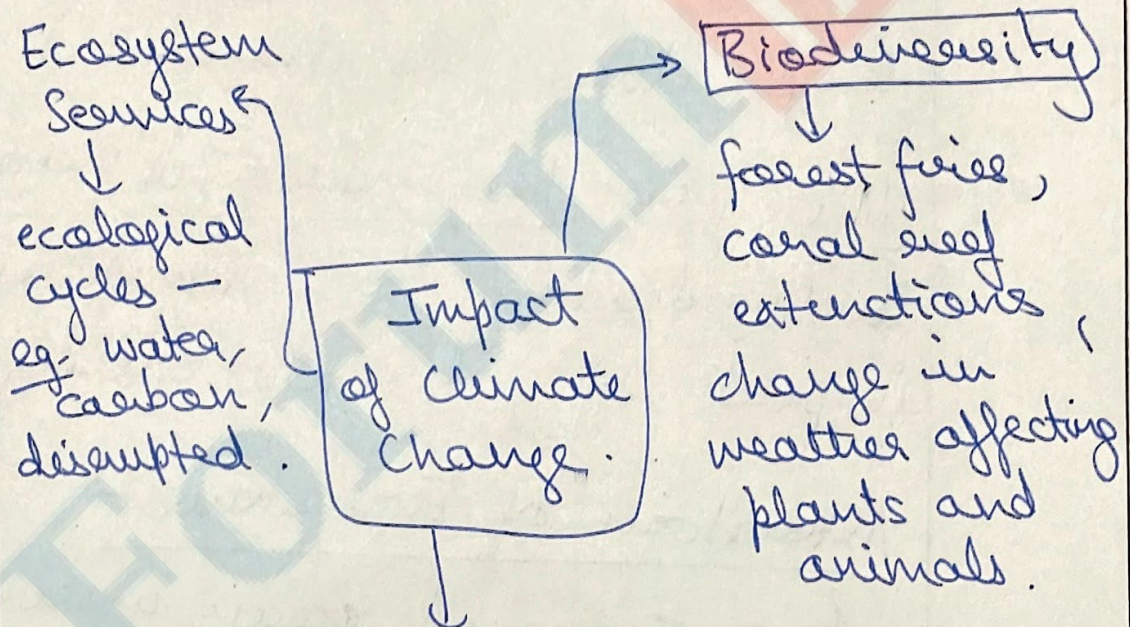
Alteration of Ecosystems -

① Increased ocean-warming
and rise in sea surface
temperatures.

↓
impact on marine biodiversity.

② Rising temperatures ⇒
barelization and tropicalization
⇒ Impact on food systems and

biodeversity
 ↳ Melting of glaciers
 +
Arctic warming and wild fires
 ↳ Increased extreme weather
events — cyclones, landslides,
etc.



Human livelihoods

- increased disasters threat
- agriculture and fisheer industry
- Rise in cooling emission
- vulnerability to diseases.
- Reduced productivity eg:
heatwaves

Need for Integrated Approach -

- ↳ International Cooperation
 in reducing emissions
 eg. Paris Commitments and
 nationally determined contribution
- ↳ Behavioural change
 eg. Life system for creating
 pro-planet people
- ↳ Adaptation measures -
 eg. Climate smart agriculture.
- ↳ Mitigation measures -
 eg. developing CDR technology,
 renewable energy
- ↳ Just transition - eg. Loss and
 damage fund for SIDS

Coordinated actions can help in
 achieving target of SDG 13 -
sustainable climate action

Q17

According to Census 2011, about 35% of India's population stays in urban areas — and they contribute over 60% to GDP = hence becoming cradle of civilisation and growth engines.

Increase in disasters →

- ① Urban flooding - eg. Delhi in 2023, 2024, Mumbai-2024
- ② Water crisis - Bangalore-2024
- ③ Urban heat island effect and extreme heatwaves.
- ④ Man-made disasters - eg. recent basement flooding in Delhi; Bhopal gas tragedy, fire in urban dumps eg. Chennai, oil spill disasters, pollution

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Causes

- Increase migration pressure
- Poor urban infrastructure eg
Delhi water plan is 30 years old -
- unplanned construction
- Increase in slums,
- Poor waste disposal and processing system
- lack administrative controls
- Poor urban governance structures - weak power decentralization to ULB

Mitigation and Management Strategy

- ① Empower ULB and municipalities with devolution of funds and functions



- ② Land use planning -
with regular maintenance
of pipelines, drains, etc
 - ③ Push for rainwater harvesting
adopting renewable energy, etc.
 - ④ Climate appropriate buildings
to reduce cooling needs.
 - ⑤ Proper implementation of
Building code, zoning laws
 - ⑥ Develop emergency response
services - eg. fire hazard.
 - ⑦ Blue-green infrastructure and
"soak cities"
 - ⑧ Use satellite data and AI -
for creating city wise plans
 - ⑨ Sustainable waste management
- These measures can help in addressing
vulnerability. Further creating
awareness, early warning systems
and community involvement can
enhance coping capacity of urban areas

Q18-

India introduced disaster
Management Act in 2005
moving from a response-based
to mitigation based approach for
managing disasters -

Disaster Management framework

L① Disaster response infrastructure - use

L National level - NDMA
under PM.

L State level - SDMA under
CM.

L District level - DDMA
under district magistrate

L② Capabilities -

L National disaster management
plan 2019 -

L Plans for particular disaster
of landslides, heatwaves, etc.

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L③ Resources —

- L National disaster and State
disaster response force (NDRF SDRF)
- L National disaster response
fund and State level funds

L④ Research — National Disaster Management Institute to develop management plans and R & D for better mitigation

L⑤ International Coordination —

- L Sendai Framework
- L CDRI — by India
- L G20 Disaster risk reduction
working group

Resistant challenges →

- ① Lack of clarity in roles —
ie. disaster management not in
7th Schedule

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- ② Low devolution of power to front end functionaries
⇒ delays in response.
- ③ Use of disaster funds for other purposes
- ④ Lack of community and Panchayats involvement.
- ⑤ Poor early warning systems
of Wayanad 2024 landslide.
- ⑥ Poor cooperation between Centre and State eg. TN at SC for release of disaster funds.
- ⑦ Lack of awareness and preparedness measures.
- ⑧ Lack of implementation of mitigation plans.

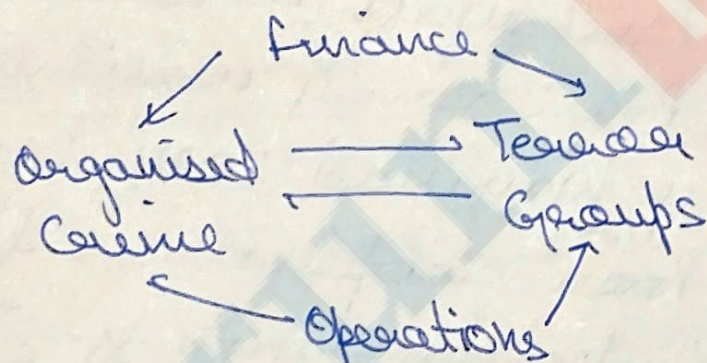
Improving regional level cooperation with higher community level participation ~~and~~ can reduce vulnerability and impact of disasters.



Q1A

FICCI report on Hidden Economy
highlights presence of connection
between illicit financial flows,
organised crime, terrorism, etc

Symbiotic relationship →

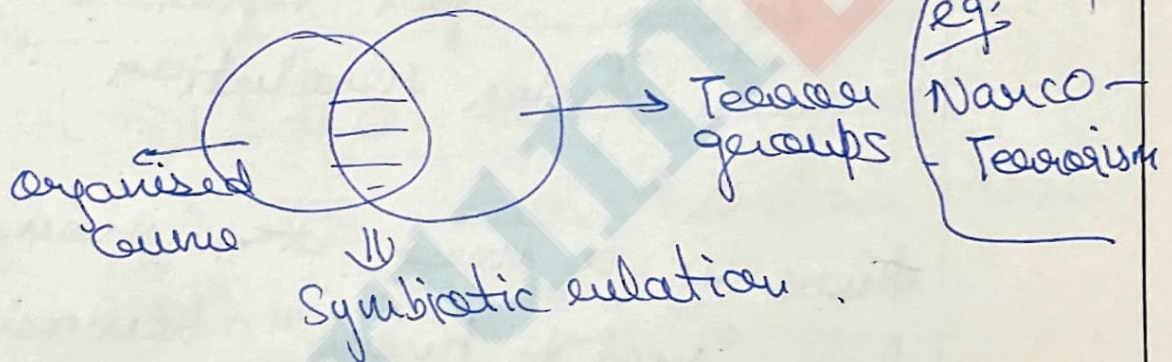


① Financial Connection —
Organised crime like blackmail,
kidnapping, trafficking allows
Terrorists to diversify sources
of finance.

② They act as customers and
clients for each other & →
Organised Crime — arms → Terrorist Organisation
← guns ←

③ They both operate in areas of weak government control
eg: Afghanistan has highest rank on terrorism index.

④ Both utilize modern technology and internet - eg: cybercrime, dark net, cryptocurrency.



Measures to address linkages →

① Increase information sharing and cooperation between agencies - ED, NIA, CBI, etc

② Increase centre-state and inter-state cooperation.

③ Improve cybersecurity infrastructure (CERT-In)

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

- eg. Cyber Security Kendera .
- L④ Address financial flows
 - L PMMLA - for money laundry
 - L⑤ International Cooperation
 - with Interpol, FATF, etc
 - L⑥ Improve criminal justice
 - System - for higher conviction and faster resolution

There is a need to move from "Need to know" towards "Duty to share" to enhance capabilities to address threats emerging from organized crime and terrorism

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उपरी दिए गए
प्रश्न का उत्तर
नहीं लिखें।
क्या है
प्रश्न का उत्तर
आपका उत्तर
न लिखें।

Q20

India has an over 14,000 km long border with different terrain and weather - that is essential in maintaining internal security of country.
Strengthening security apparatus

① Border specific forces

g. BBF with Pakistan border,
SSB with Nepal border.

② Improve border infrastructure

{ smart fencing
integrated border
check posts

③ Develop infrastructure in border areas for increased efficiency in movement of resources -



UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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eg. Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh.

L④ Roads development - BRO
foreign developmental partnerships

L① Vibrant Villages Program
to develop infrastructure,
internet connectivity,
tourism in border villages

L② Border Area Development
program for improving
connectivity

L③ Winning Hearts and Minds
strategy eg. Operation Sadhbharna

L④ Utilising local level
intelligence network and
developing defense capacity

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवार
इस शांति
नहीं लिखें
चाहिए
Candida
must not
write on
margin

eg Village defence council

Further Measures → diplomatic solution
to border issues
eg Bangladesh Land
Border Agreement
2015

→ Armed forces reforms
• Theatre Commands,
Integrated Battle Troops,
etc.

Thus, implementing recommendation
of Shetkatkar committee can
improve internal security -

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question number
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में प्रश्न संख्या के
आंकड़ों को न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवार
नियत शब्दसंख्या
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Candida
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