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Name of Candidate : AVINASH CHOUDHARY

Roll No. : PTTP220283

Registration Number : PTTP220283 Date of Examination : 14-8-2023

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☑

Test - 3 **Code : TC073**

MTS IGP Batch 2023

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This Question-cum Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 56 pages. Immediately on receipt of the 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.

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Question paper will be provided separately and can be taken by the candidates after conclusion of the exam.

.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....

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(For filling by Examiners only)

Evaluator Code :

Q.No	Pg No.	Maximum Marks	Marks	Total
1	1			
2	3			
3	5			
4	7			
5	9			
6	11			
7	13			
8	15			
9	17			
10	19			
11	21			
12	24			
13	27			
14	30			
15	33			
16	36			
17	39			
18	42			
19	45			
20	48			
Grand Total				

Signature

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MACRO COMMENTS

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6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

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Q.1 अप्रत्याशित कर (विंडफॉल टैक्स) से आप क्या समझते हैं? क्या आपको लगता है कि अप्रत्याशित करों से संपदा का प्रभावी ढंग से पुनर्वितरण हो सकता है और अधिक आर्थिक समानता को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What do you understand by Windfall tax? Do you think that windfall taxes can effectively redistribute wealth and promote greater economic equality?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Windfall tax is a tax imposed on a company when there is an unexpected increase in the profits or income of the company

India has recently levied windfall tax on crude oil producers

Features of the tax:
- Profits typically are outcome of an unprecedented or external event (e.g.) Higher fertilizer prices due to Russia-Ukraine war
- It is usually an one-off tax
- levied over and above the ~~to~~ usual tax rates.

Windfall taxes can effectively promote equality and redistribution

(i) Greater revenue with the government
→ which government can use for welfare and capital expenditure

(ii) Levied on profits which are not result of investment or business expense, rather

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on "by-chance" profits

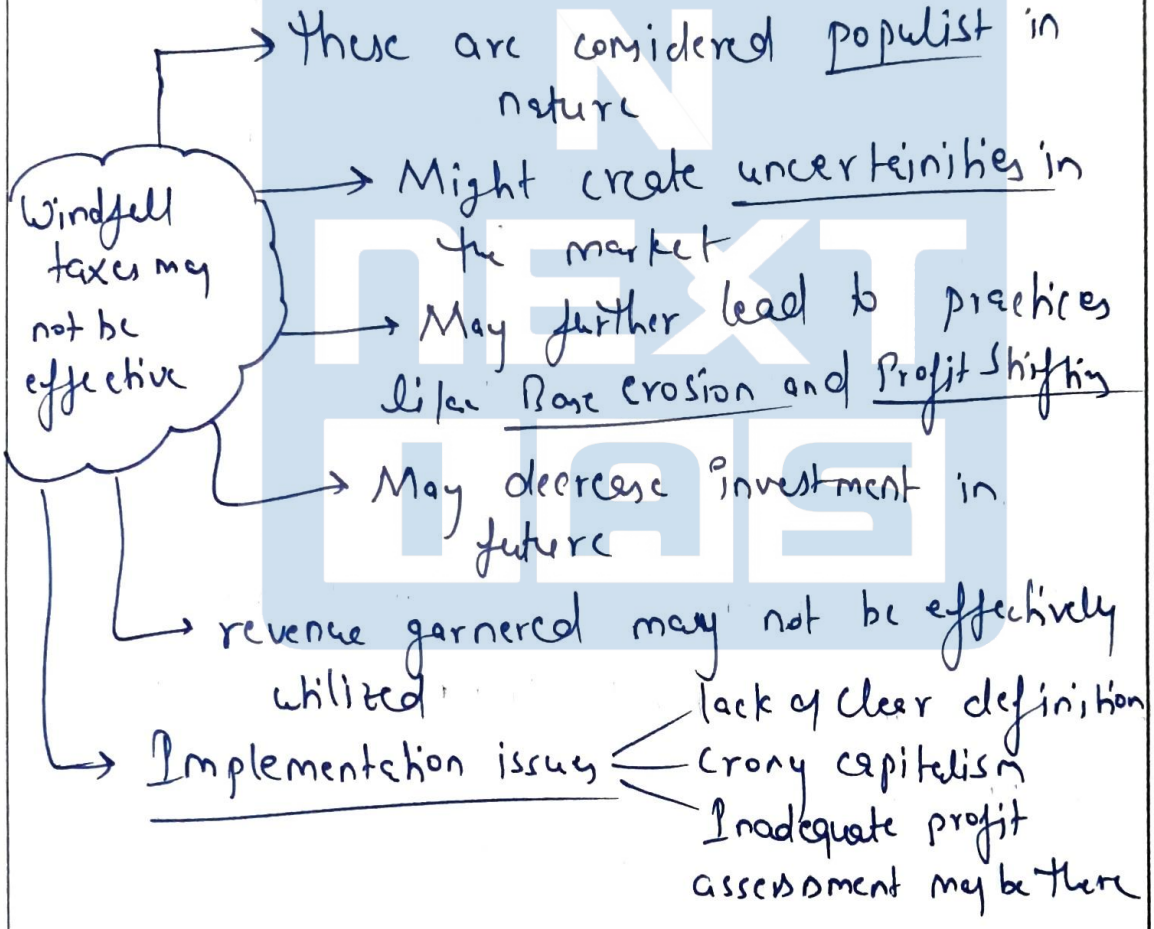
→ Hence, does not disincentivize business expansion

(iii) Provide relief to consumers in the period of exigencies - high inflation

(iv) Creates level playing field

→ between ~~small~~ MSMEs, and large companies

→ between domestic and MNCs



Post-liberalisation era, inequalities in India increased significantly as highlighted by Oxfam Report, Windfall tax is a step forward towards redistribution. However, a stable and predictable tax regime and its proper implementation is necessary to ensure inclusive growth.

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Q.2 नई मौद्रिक नीति समिति (एमपीसी) व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत मुद्रास्फीति लक्ष्यीकरण को क्रियान्वित करने की कथित सफलताओं और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the perceived successes and challenges of implementing inflation targeting under the new Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) regime. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a 6 member committee established by the government, chaired by the RBI governor.

Main purpose of MPC is inflation control through monetary policy instruments

- Reporate
- Reverse repo rate

Inflation target in India = 4 ± 2 % → CPI

Successes under new MPC regime

(i) Inflation in the last few years, inflation has been within target limits barring few exceptional circumstances like pandemic.

(ii) Good performance against odds

→ In ~~year~~ FY 2022-23 when whole world economy was witnessing very high inflation, India could control inflation to a little upwards of 6-7%.

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(iii) Helped in post-pandemic recovery
↳ reducing Repo Rate to lowest during pandemic
(iv) Eased pressure on households
(v) 6 member committee ensures effective deliberations and discussions

(vi) **Challenges under the new MPC regime**

(i) Pandemic of covid placed a huge challenge
(ii) Disruption of supply chains → Russia-Ukraine war, food and fertiliser shortage, high oil prices
(iii) Cobweb phenomenon and high vegetable prices (eg tomato prices recently)
(iv) Less scope for maneuvering → due to fixed target of 4±2%
(v) Increased government role in the functions of RBI
(vi) Settling disagreements within MPC → No clarity

Way forward → mechanism to resolve disagreements
→ Effective data collection mechanisms of inflation

Inflation targeting and MPC regime has largely been successful in controlling inflation and easing pressure on household amid the scenario of rising prices globally.

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Q.3 भारत में सतत् कृषि को बढ़ावा देने और खाद्य सुरक्षा में सुधार के लिए मोटे अनाज उत्पादन की क्षमता का आकलन कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Assess the potential of millet production in promoting sustainable agriculture and improving food security in India.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, with the efforts of India, UN declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets, signifying their importance

Millets are coarse grained cereals like Bajra, Jowar, Ragi etc.

Potential of millet production in sustainable agriculture

(i) Water saving (agriculture consumes 85% of groundwater in India)
→ Millets are drought resistant crops and require very less water for their growth
→ Solving the issue of water stress in India

(ii) Millets require less amount of fertilizers
→ reduced runoff, reduced eutrophication
→ reduced emissions (Agri → 20% of total emissions)

(iii) They can be grown through Organic farming and ZBNF (Zero Budget Natural Farming)

(iv) They are gluten free crops
→ good for people with gluten allergy

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(v) Helps in improving land quality → by diversifying the crops grown

Potential of millets in food security

(i) Bringing more land in agriculture
→ since they can be grown in irrigation deficient regions

(ii) Very nutritious crops
→ help in reducing malnutrition, anaemia (which is >50% in women, children as per NFHS 5)

(iii) Provides income support to farmers → which can be utilized for further increasing production

Govt steps
- → IIMR Hyderabad as Centre of Excellence
- → Increasing MSP for millets
- → Promoting at international stage (UN)

Way forward
- → Increasing food processing and making available packaged millet items
- → Improving awareness among farmers
- → Better seed quality
- → Incentives in form of high MSP

Millets are highly significant in ensuring sustainable agriculture and have been rightly named 'Shri Anna' by the government

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Q.4 जल जीवन मिशन में पेयजल की उपलब्धता और घरेलू नल तक पहुँच में क्षेत्रीय विषमता को समाप्त करने का सामर्थ्य है। मिशन के महत्त्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, वांछित उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति में अंतर्निहित बाधाओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Jal Jeevan Mission has the potential to end the regional disparity in the availability and accessibility of drinking water. Highlighting the significance of the mission, discuss the underlying impediments in achieving the desired objectives.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Jal Jeevan mission was announced and started in the year 2019 with the objective of providing household tap water connection to every rural household in the country by 2024

Significance of the mission

(i) Increasing accessibility and availability of safe drinking water to all rural household in the country.

(ii) Improve awareness among people about water saving methods

(iii) India is facing water stress currently (<1700 litre percapita water availability)

	1951	2011	2030 (Projected)	m^3 per capita
water availability	~5000	~1500	1300	

(iv) India has 4% of world water resources and 17% of the world population

(v) Encouraging participatory water management through techniques like greywater management, rainwater harvesting.

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(vi) Significant progress achieved under the mission (JJM dashboard)

	total	tap connection in 2019	tap connection now
rural households	~19.5 cr	~3 cr	~12.5 cr

Impediments in achieving objectives

(i) Lack of water responsible behaviour among people

(ii) Lack of water resources

(iii) Depleting levels of groundwater (eg: Rajasthan, Punjab)

(iv) 7 cr households are still left to be covered. (JJM dashboard)

(v) Water quality is not monitored under the scheme

(vi) Inter departmental and inter governmental coordination (centre - state)

govt steps → Govt has increased $ allocation to JJM in Budget 23-24

Way forward
- → awareness campaign regarding water saving (taking cue from SBM)
- → Monitoring water quality

JJM is a significant scheme towards solving the water crisis and will help in achieving the objectives of SDG 6 of clean water and sanitation.

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Q.5 बैटरी ऊर्जा भंडारण प्रणाली (बीईएसएस) से आप क्या समझते हैं? इसके अनुप्रयोगों पर चर्चा कीजिए और यह भारत के ऊर्जा कार्यक्रम में किस प्रकार क्रांतिकारी बदलाव ला सकता है। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What do you understand by Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)? Discuss its applications and how it can revolutionize the energy program of India. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) refers the use of a battery as a device to store the electrical energy which can be then used as and when required.

eg → devices like mobile, laptop use battery for energy

→ Electric vehicles that run on energy stored in battery

~~Applications of BESS~~ There are various types of batteries like → Nickel Cadmium battery
→ Lead acid battery
→ Lithium battery
→ Sodium ion battery

Lithium battery is currently the most popular

Application of BESS

(i) in Electric vehicles

(ii) Consumer products like ~~temp~~ laptop, smart watches, etc

(iii) To store electrical energy in power plants

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BESS can revolutionalise energy program of India

(i) Can solve the "intermittency issue of renewable energy power plants

→ If a viable and ~~cost~~ cost effective BESS can be developed, solar energy, wind energy can be stored and used as per requirement

(ii) GHG emission reduction

→ by promoting electric vehicles
→ decarbonising transport

(iii) Available reserves → recently about 6 million tonnes of Lithium was discovered in Kashmir
→ can be utilised for India's BESS program

(iv) Help in faster achievement of the Panchamrita goals → 50% Renewable energy
→ 500 GW from non-fossil

Govt steps → Production linked Incentives for battery prod-
→ FAME 2.0

Support to research and development in BESS is critical for dual objectives of reducing dependence on Chinese imports and revolutionising energy program so that we can achieve the target of net zero emissions by 2070

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Q.6 इसरो के गगनयान मिशन में हुए विकास और उपस्थित चुनौतियों पर संक्षिप्त चर्चा कीजिए। समाज के लिए मिशन के संभावित लाभ क्या हैं?
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss in brief developments and challenges in the Gaganyaan mission of ISRO. What are the possible benefits of the mission for the society?
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Gaganyaan Mission of India aims to send 3 Indian vyomnauts to space in the lower earth Orbit (LEO) by 2024.

Developments
- training of the vyomnauts going on
- Spacecraft for the mission developed
- Vyom Mitra, a humanoid robot to be sent to space as part of 2 test flights has been developed
- testing of various modules ongoing

Challenges in the mission

(i) Creating a habitable environment
→ for the crew members for the mission duration of 3 days

(ii) Safe launch, journey and re-entry of spacecraft back to the earth

(iii) Training of the crew members

(iv) Dealing with the health impacts of going to space → transition of gravity

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(v) Exposure to radiation

(vi) Zero room for error → all three ; test flights and human spaceflight need to be foolproof

Possible benefits of mission to society

(i) Study of the effects on body in space

(ii) It will boost the scientific temper of the nation

(eg) Chandrayaan II mission encouraged a lot of attention of young generation towards science

(iii) It will enhance technology levels of the country for undertaking further exploration.

(iv) Can be utilized to setup space station in future that will boost further research

(v) Generate interest in research → lead to industry - academia linkage

(vi) International collaborations

~~Gaganpaan~~ Gaganyaan Mission will make India only the 4th country with human spaceflight capability and will be a big stride for the science & technology advancement in the country.

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Q.7 "जलवायु परिवर्तन और प्रदूषण से निपटने की हमारी खोज में हरित हाइड्रोजन एक सरल और जादुई समाधान हो सकता है"। भारत के राष्ट्रीय हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन के आलोक में कथन का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Green hydrogen can be the silver bullet in our quest to tackle climate change and pollution". Critically analyze the statement in light of India's National Green Hydrogen mission.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

India has recently announced the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an outlay of around ₹19000 crore to make India a global leader in Green Hydrogen production.

Objectives of NGHM
- → take India's production capacity of Green Hydrogen to 5 MMT by 2030
- → providing 6 lakh jobs
- → Reduce import dependence and increase exports

Green Hydrogen as silver bullet to tackle climate change and pollution

(i) High Calorific value of Hydrogen
→ will lead to higher energy production per unit

(ii) Higher usage of Renewable Energy
→ Since Green Hydrogen uses RE for Hydrogen production

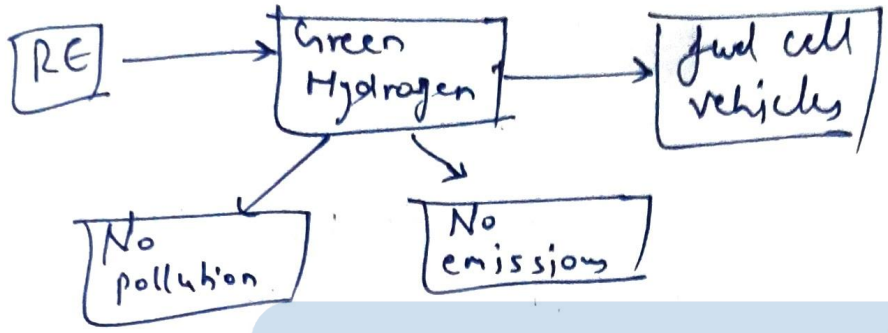
(iii) Use in transport → reduced pollution
→ GH will utilize fuel cell to

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power vehicles which has virtually no pollution

(iv) Decarbonising the whole energy segment



(v) Even use of Hydrogen in CNG buses reduces pollution (eg) H-CNG buses in Delhi (reduces 20% pollution)

Concerns / Challenges with GH

- Green hydrogen production is technology and capital intensive
- High cost of installation of GH production systems
- Storage of GH a concern
- Research still going on on use of Green Hydrogen for Fuel Cell Vehicles
- Intermittent nature of Renewable energy

India has taken a step in the right direction with NGHM. Along with production, India also needs to focus on research and developing storage systems for GH so that it can be effectively utilised for achieving India's Panchamrita and net zero goal by 2070.

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Q.8 हाल ही में जोशीमठ, उत्तराखंड में आई आपदा के आलोक में, हिमालय क्षेत्र में आपदा प्रबंधन और पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए मुख्य सबक क्या हैं?
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What are the key lessons for disaster management and environmental conservation in the Himalayan region, in light of the recent disaster in Joshimath, Uttarakhand? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently the town of Joshimath in Uttarakhand witnessed land subsidence under buildings and housing forcing government to relocate the residents.

Key lessons in disaster management and environmental conservation in Himalayan region

(i) Hill ecosystem is fragile
→ overburdening it with infrastructure is a threat to it

(ii) Excessive tourism can be a ~~th~~ concern, responsible tourism need to be promoted
→ Joshimath also a tourist destination

(iii) Proper and pucca drainage system is necessary in hilly town
→ it was missing in Joshimath

(iv) Proper study before carrying out ~~infr~~ developmental projects and there implementation should be such that it does not harm the Himalayan region

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→ Vishnugad and Tipoven power projects in Joshimath

(v) Expert committees should be setup for region sustainability and recommendations should be adhered to

→ Mishra Committee 1976 said that Joshimath is on an ancient landslide material and recommended limited infra

(vi) Infra projects should not harm ecology

(a) Char Dham Yatra projects

(vii) Capacity building of people

(viii) Utilising knowledge of local people as they are most well versed with the ecosystem of the region

(ix) Research and continuous study of fragile regions → for hazard zonation mapping

(x) Focus on afforestation, saving aquifers

Holistic and integrated approach towards DM and env conservation in Himalayan region is necessary so that incidents like Joshimath are not repeated again.

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Q.9 "पंजाब में हालिया कट्टरपंथी रुझानों से पता चलता है कि खालिस्तान का मुद्दा अभी भी उबल रहा है।" हालिया घटनाक्रम के संबंध में कथन पर चर्चा कीजिए और इससे निपटने के उपाय सुझाएँ।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"The recent radical trends in Punjab show that the Khalistan issue is still simmering." Discuss the statement with respect to recent developments and suggest measures to handle it.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

In the recent times, separatists tendencies in the form of demand for Khalistan have re-emerged in Punjab

Recent developments

(i) Emergence of the Pro-Khalistani preacher Amritpal Singh

(ii) Amritpal Singh and his followers threatened the functioning of a police station in Punjab

(iii) Arrest of Amritpal Singh

(iv) Attack on Indian embassy by ~~Khal~~ pro-khalistani people in London.

(v) Anti-India demonstrations in Canada by Pro-Khalistani preachers.

Other factors aiding khalistani issue:

- Cross border supply of arms and drugs from Pakistan
- spread of hate through social media
- Inaction on part of UK, Canada Government, to deal with incidents

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Measures to handle khalistan issue

(i) Stern action and immediate arrest of Pro khalistani preachers under UAPA, Sedition Act, etc.

(ii) Equipping Punjab Police with resources to deal with law and order issues

(iii) Effective regulation and monitoring over social media to keep a check on such activity

(iv) Diplomatic efforts → to persuade countries to deal with Pro-khalistani threats

(eg) UK recently set aside funds to deal with them

(v) De-radicalisation efforts

(vi) Intelligence gathering mechanisms → Capacity building of state police

(vii) Strengthening border infra to stop drugs and arms infiltration

(viii) Dealing with organised crime to break link and money supply to pro-khalistanis

It is necessary to effectively deal with the khalistan issue to ensure unity and integrity of India.

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Q.10 ड्रोन संचालन में आसानी और साथ ही इसके संचालक की अनामिता, भारत की सीमा सुरक्षा की चुनौतियों में वृद्धि करती है। विस्तारपूर्वक वर्णन कीजिए और सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में ड्रोन समस्या से निपटने के लिए सुझाव दीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The anonymity and ease of drone operation contribute to the challenges of India's border security. Elaborate and give suggestions to tackle the drone problem in border areas.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, the Indo-Pakistan border in Punjab state has been witnessing high influx of drones from Pakistan carrying arms and drugs.

Challenges of drone problem in border areas

(i) They are operated from ground and do not require pilot

(ii) They are easy to procure and accessed by terrorist groups since cheap

(iii) They are small in size and hence difficult to detect

(iv) They fly at low altitude and easily escape the radar systems

(v) Inadequate methods to deal with drones

(vi) It is difficult to know who and from where they are being operated

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Challenges to border security
- → Cross border supply of arms ammunition
- → Militant support
- → Huge resources need to be diverted to tackle them

Suggestions to tackle drone problem in border area

(i) Using AI-enabled swarm of drones for regular monitoring on borders

(ii) Training of people in border villages to expeditiously report drone sightings
(eg) being done in Punjab

(iii) Research on ways to tackle drones
(eg) DRDO working on a anti-drone gun

(iv) Use of jammers in border areas to disrupt frequencies of drones

(v) Technological upgradation of border forces

(vi) Deploying CCTVs in border area

(vii) Identify/surveillance of people inside border who collect supplies from these drones to break the link

(viii) Drone capturing through net

Tackling the threats of drones at border area is important ~~is necessary~~ as they could become an internal security problem soon.

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Q.11 विद्युत संशोधन विधेयक, 2022 उपभोक्ताओं, डिस्कॉम के साथ-साथ पर्यावरण के लिए कई लाभ प्रस्तुत करता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही इसकी कमियों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए और उन्हें दूर करने के लिए कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Electricity Amendment Bill, 2022 brings several advantages for consumers, DISCOMs as well as the environment. Elaborate. Also, list out its shortcomings and suggest some measures to overcome them.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Government of India recently brought the Electricity Amendment Bill to improve the health of electricity sector, and increasing access and affordability of electricity to people.

Advantages for consumers:

- provides for multiple DISCOMs in an area → choice to consumers
- provides for tariff regulation → increase afford. ability of electricity to people
- focusses on increasing access to electricity

Advantages to DISCOMs:

- reduces burden of DISCOMs of pre-purchase agreements
- DISCOMs are allowed to operate in multiple states
- aims to improve the financial condition of DISCOMs

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Advantages to environment:

→ Strengthens RPOs (Renewable Purchase Obligations)

→ aims at efficiency thus leading to reduced power wastages

Shortcomings

→ Sharing of networks with other DISCOMs could lead to conflict of interest

→ Encroachment on federal ~~sta~~ powers, electricity in Concurrent list

→ May lead to higher tariff on consumers

→ does not adequately address transmission and distribution Losses

Measures to overcome

(i) Consultation with States

(ii) Proper implementation

(iii) Focus on improving condition of DISCOMs

→ with other schemes like UDAY

(iv) Provide for infra for renewable energy system in country

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Q.12 भारतीय प्रतिभूति एवं विनिमय बोर्ड (सेबी) शेयर बाजार के नियमन और निवेशकों के हितों की सुरक्षा में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। दिये गए कथन के आलोक में, सेबी के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इस संबंध में सुधारों का सुझाव दीजिये। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) plays an important role in the regulation of the share market and safeguarding the interests of investors. In the light of given statement, highlight the challenges faced by the SEBI and suggest reforms in this regard. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

SEBI was established as a statutory organisation by the SEBI Act 1992. to regulate and oversee the financial market in India.

SEBI functions:
- checking on insider trading
- framing rules and regulations for share market
- safeguarding interests of investors
- Imposing penalties on violators
- Undertaking research to improve the financial market mechanism in India

Challenges faced by SEBI

(i) Market distorting practices undertaken by certain companies

(ii) Prevalence of shell companies and difficulties in identifying them.

(iii) Insider trading

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(iv) Interference by the government

(v) It has disproportionate powers with itself
→ those of rule framing, adjudicator, and executioner of those rules
→ goes against the Principle of Natural Justice

(vi) Not an independent body as RBI
→ expenditure not charged on CFI
→ No security of tenure

(vii) Very high workload
→ huge Indian share market
→ scams

(viii) OTCEI (Over the Counter Exchange of India) not under its purview.

Suggested reforms regarding SEBI

(i) Rationalise the powers of SEBI, adjudicatory powers could be given to NCLT / NCLAT

(ii) Ensure independence and non-~~int~~ interference in functioning.

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(iii) Empanelling trained and skilled manpower to deal with workload

(iv) Adoption of technology

(eg) 'T + 1' settlement

(v) A new body can be created to identify and curb shell companies

Reforming and strengthening SEBI is crucial in context of India's expanding share market, higher FDI & FPI flows so that interests of all the stakeholders are protected and stability of the Indian financial market is ensured

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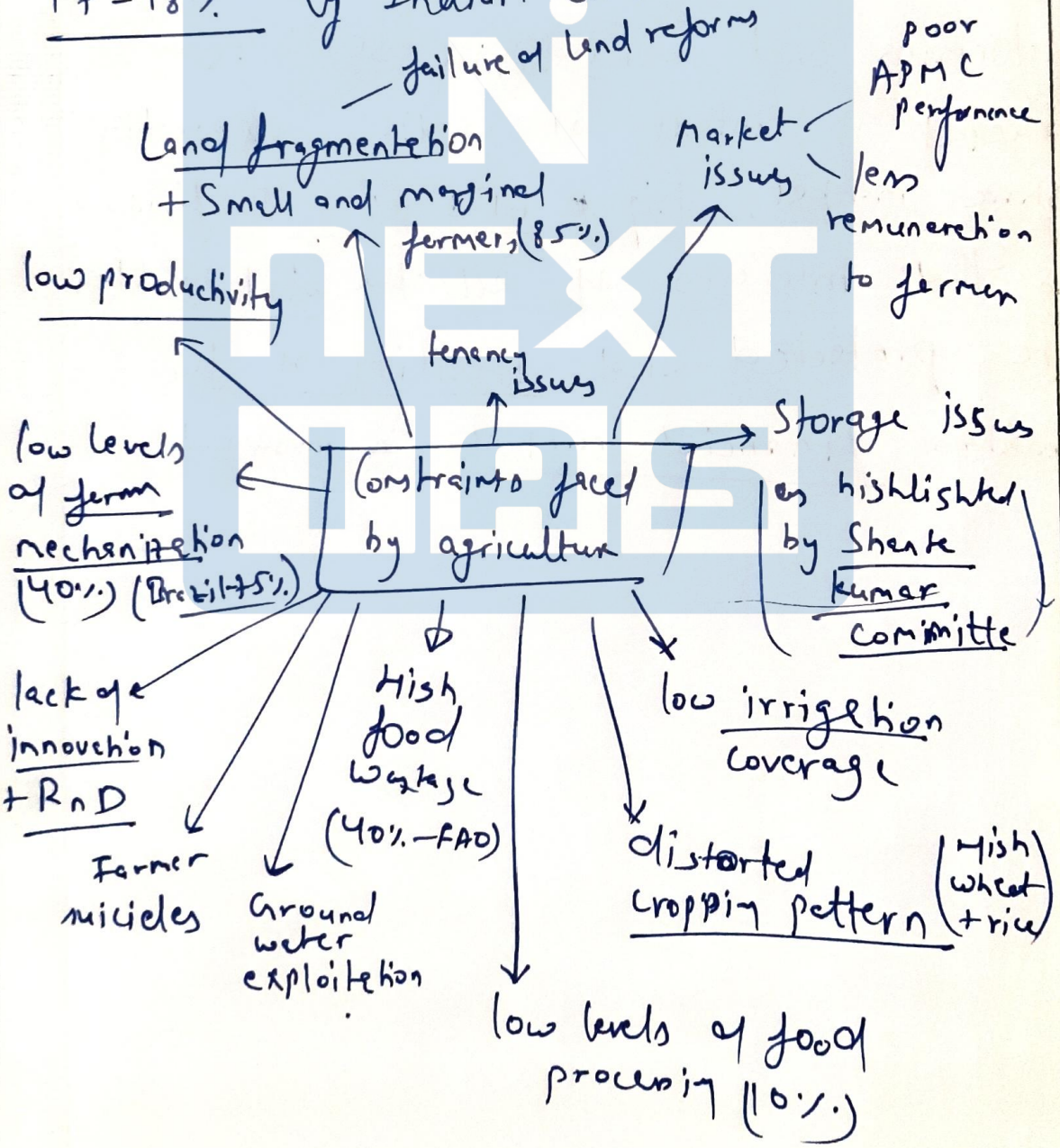
Q.13 भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में एक प्रमुख योगदानकर्ता होने के बावजूद, कृषि क्षेत्र कई बाधाओं से ग्रस्त है जो इसकी वृद्धि और विकास में बाधा डालते हैं। इन बाधाओं पर काबू पाने में प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Despite being a major contributor to the Indian economy, the agriculture sector is plagued by several constraints that impede its growth and development. Discuss the role of technology in overcoming these constraints.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Around 45% of the Indian workforce is employed in agriculture (PLFS 2021-22) and it contributes to around 17-18% of Indian GDP



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Role of technology in overcoming these constraints

(i) Backward linkages

→ Seeds → HYV seeds for increased productivity

→ Fertilizers → Neem coating of Urea
→ use of AI to determine optimum fertilizer requirements
Nano-Urea
→ AI enable pesticide and fertilizer spraying machines

→ Irrigation → technology can help in water saving and increasing irrigation coverage
(eg) (drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, fertigation)
– Israel is a leader in using tech in irrigation

→ Farm mechanization → tractors, harvesters, happy seeder machines, automation through GPS and AI enabled machines
– US has 90% levels of farm mechanization

→ Credit availability : mobile banking, computerisation of land records to be used for disbursing credit
(eg) Kisan Credit Card, DBT

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(ii) Market → for creating a unified market and increasing remuneration to farmers.
→ for proper price discovery
(eg) e-NAM, a real time price information portal can be built

(iii) Increase in food processing

(iv) Extension services → Research and development in agriculture

(v) Storage → innovation in storage system could help in reducing food wastage
→ computerization of food grain movement for reducing leakages (Shanta Kumar Committee)

Way forward
- → promoting startups in agriculture sectors
- → Incentives for farmers to adopt technology
- → Increase expenditure on research in agriculture
- → Capacity building of farmers to utilise Technology

Along with utilising technology, other reforms such as those recommended by Ashok Dalwai Committee are necessary to improve the conditions of agriculture in India.

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Q.14 पर्यावरण एवं प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर सिंचाई के प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन कीजिए, और कृषि में सिंचाई पद्धतियों की संधारणीयता और समता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Evaluate the impact of irrigation on the environment and natural resources, and suggest measures to ensure the sustainability and equity of irrigation practices in agriculture.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

85 % of the groundwater in India is used for irrigation purposes in agriculture.

Impact of irrigation on env, natural resources

(i) Overexploitation of groundwater

→ as highlighted by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

→ 76 % blocks in Punjab over-exploited (CGWB data)

(ii) Higher methane emissions

→ due to waterlogged conditions and excessive irrigation in rice.

(iii) Higher power/energy consumption

→ subsidy is provided for electricity for irrigation by states/ centre

→ leads to irresponsible electricity use

→ Higher emissions in power generation

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(iv) Soil salinization, land degradation
→ due to overlogged conditions and excessive irrigation
→ reduced productivity of soil

(v) Eutrophication, river pollution
→ runoffs from fields to rivers
→ harms biodiversity in rivers

(vi) (eg) as per CPCB, there are more than 300 polluted river stretches in the country

(vi) low penetration of micro-irrigation in India → only around 5%

(vii) Contamination of water
(eg) Arsenic, Uranium concentration found increased in groundwater in Punjab

Measures to ensure sustainability and equity of irrigation practices

(i) Diversification of food crops
→ promotion of millets

(ii) adopt Alternative and water saving methods of irrigation
→ Drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation

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(iii) Adopt SRI (System of Rice intensification)
→ as recommended by Swaminathan Committee

(iv) ~~Establish~~ Establishment of National Water Commission
→ as recommended by Mihir Shah committee
→ for a holistic approach

(v) Nudge behaviour of farmers towards water responsible irrigation
(eg) → Use of rainwater harvesting, greywater, responsible use of electricity

(vi) Employ techniques like fertigation for increasing water, fertilizer efficiency.

(vii) Move away from land productivity to water productivity (NITI Aayog)

(viii) Promote sustainable farming → organic, ZBNF, Natural farming

Govt steps:
- PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana ("Per drop more crop")
- Pramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
- promotion of Millets
- PM KUSUM

Success of Israel in irrigation and particularly micro irrigation can be taken as example to make irrigation practices more sustainable in India, which is the need of the hour.

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Q.15 परमाणु ऊर्जा और अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में क्रमशः डॉ. होमी जहाँगीर भाभा और डॉ. विक्रम अंबालाल साराभाई के योगदान से भारत को रणनीतिक रूप से किस प्रकार लाभ हुआ? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How India benefitted strategically from the contributions of Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha and Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai in the fields of atomic energy and space technology respectively?
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Various Indian scientists contributed immensely to India's growth story, two most notable of them being Dr. Homi J. Bhabha and Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.

Contribution of Homi J Bhabha in the field of atomic energy

(i) He was a student under Neils Bohr and played important role in development of quantum theory

(ii) He convinced the Indian leadership to start a nuclear program

(iii) He is widely considered the father of the Indian nuclear program.

(iv) Since India had low availability of Uranium, he devised a method to use thorium in the nuclear program

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(v) He was the first Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission of India

(vi) He was instrumental in setting up of various institutes and laboratories
- Indian Physics Research Laboratory (IPRL)
- Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)
- TIFR

(vii) His work was instrumental in India developing a nuclear weapon and gaining a strategic edge

Contribution of Dr Vikram Sarabhai in field of space technology

(i) He ~~was~~ ~~to~~ convinced the Indian government to start a space program, not to compete with the advanced nations but for the betterment of lives of people with use of technology

(ii) He was instrumental in setting up of ISRO

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(iii) He is known as the father of India's space program.

(iv) He played an important role in India's first launch station at Thumba in Kerala

(v) Today the strides India is making in space program and ISRO's achievements, and among the world leaders, could be attributed to his initiatives

Thus, Dr Homi J Bhabha and Dr Vikram Sarabhai contributed significantly to the strategic fields of atomic energy and space technology which is visible in the India's scientific progress.

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Q.16 जेनरेटिव एआई निकट भविष्य में नवाचार की सीमाओं को आगे बढ़ाने का सामर्थ्य रखता है, फिर भी इसका सामाजिक प्रभाव पर्याप्त चुनौतियाँ खड़ी करता है। सविस्तार उत्तर दीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Genreative AI holds the potential to push the boundaries of innovation in the near future, yet its societal impact raises substantial challenges. Elaborate. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Recently, a company OpenAI launched its Generative AI platform ChatGPT, which is now the buzzword in the AI world and has garnered significant interest around the world.

Generative AI
- It is different from receptive AI, in the sense that it can generate new content on its own instead of only classifying it
- New content can be in form of text, image, video, audio, or any other format
- Example → Dall-E (Images), ChatGPT (Text)

Generative AI has potential to push boundaries of innovation

(i) The unveiling of ChatGPT has kickstarted a race among big companies to research and develop generative AI tech
eg Google's Bard

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(ii) It is the first step towards General AI (AI with human like cognitive intelligence)

(iii) Scope for innovation in plethora of fields

Medical → Robotic doctor
→ Robotic surgery

Education → personalised teachings for every student as per their needs

Art → innovative film making
→ ease in creating art

Military → automatic weapons
→ intelligent drones

Challenges of generative AI on society

(i) Education → plagiarism
→ Students have started using ChatGPT to write their assignments / essays

(ii) training data related concerns
→ biases in training data will lead to inherent biases in decisions of generative AI machines
→ It will deepen the already huge divides in society

(iii) Health → 100% accuracy is required otherwise use of AI in

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health could be disastrous

(iv) Misinformation
→ generative AI may not provide correct facts, prone to misuse

(v) Cybercrimes / cyberbullying
→ with help of generative AI, deepfakes images and videos can be generated
→ Menace like revenge porn emerging

(vi) Deepfakes can also be used to polarize society (hate speech)

(vii) Intellectual property concerns → since generative AI uses existing dataset (Art) for new content, who should have a right on it

(viii) Opacity in algorithms and decision making of AI systems

Way forward
→ Companies should collaborate instead of competing
→ Make AI systems that support transparency
→ Intergovernmental cooperation for future ready regulation
→ Solve IPR related concerns
→ Aligning value system of AI with that of humanity

AI turning sentient is far in future, however need of the hour is cooperation and better regulation so that generative AI can be utilized for human welfare.

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Q.17 नवंबर 2022 में मिस्र में COP27 संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु परिवर्तन सम्मेलन में लॉन्च किये गए "जलवायु के लिए मैंग्रोव गठबंधन" के उद्देश्य को स्पष्ट कीजिए। उष्णकटिबंधीय देशों की तटीय पारिस्थितिकी को बनाए रखने में मैंग्रोव के महत्त्व पर विस्तार से प्रकाश डालिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Explain the purpose of the "Mangrove Alliance for Climate" launched at the COP27 UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt in November 2022. Elaborate on the importance of mangroves in maintaining the coastal ecology of tropical nations. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Mangroves are coastal ecosystems and constitute about 5000 sq km of India's area with highest area being in West Bengal followed by Gujarat and Andaman Nicobar as per India Forest Report 2021.

Purpose of "Mangrove Alliance for Climate"

(i) To conserve the ecosystem of mangroves and increase their area

(ii) To tackle threat to the mangroves

(iii) International cooperation for conservation of mangroves

(iv) Consere the mangrove biodiversity

(v) Sustainable use of Mangrove resources

Importance of mangroves in mainteining coastal ecology

(i) Act as first line of defence

→ against any storm surges, cyclone

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or tsunami)

(ii) Harbour coastal biodiversity
→ various species of flora, alligators, etc.

(iii) Prevents soil erosion in coastal area

(iv) They are salt tolerating plants, can thrive in extreme condition

(v) Source of livelihood
→ for the coastal economy through plant and fish resources

(vi) Critical for blue economy

(vii) They are a very productive ecosystem

(viii) Carbon sequestration → mitigate climate change

Concerns related to mangroves:
- → unsustainable use and exploitation of mangroves
- → Sand mining in coastal area threatens mangroves
- → Increasing frequency of cyclone and storm surge
- → Increasing ocean pollution / acidification and eutrophication is threatening them
- → Inadequate government attention and
- → lack of international collaboration

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Government steps
- India joining "Mangrove Alliance for Climate".
- MISTHI announced in Budget 23-24 for sustainable use and conservation of Mangroves
- As per the latest Forest Report, area of Mangroves in India has increased

Governments should ensure that there is fruitful use of "Mangrove Alliance for Climate" for international cooperation since they are very critical to coastal ecology and can help in both mitigating and adapting to the impacts of Climate Change.

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Q.18 आपदा प्रतिरोधी बुनियादी ढाँचे के लिए गठबंधन का गठन भारत में आपदा प्रबंधन दृष्टिकोण को और अधिक मजबूती प्रदान करता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। भारत में आपदाओं से निपटने के लिए एक नई रणनीति की आवश्यकता के औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The Formation of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure brings more robustness to the Disaster Management approach in India. Comment and justify the need for a new strategy to tackle Disasters in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Coalition for Disaster Resilient ~~(CDRI)~~ Infrastructure (CDRI) is a collaboration of over 100 countries for cooperation on disaster management. It was initiated by India and is headquartered in New Delhi

Need for a new strategy to tackle disasters in India

(i) India is one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters

(ii) Large area of India is vulnerable to various disasters (NDMA)

- Earthquake → 60% area prone (11% area in very high risk zone
- Tsunamis/cyclone → 75% of the coastline
- Landslide → 12% of land area
- Draught → 65% of cultivable area prone
- Floods → 12% land area prone to floods
- Forest fires → 36% of forest area prone

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(iii) India has largely followed a reactive approach to disasters than a proactive approach

(eg) Inadequate hazard zonation mapping of various disasters

(iv) Ineffective coordination between various government levels during disasters

Centre ⟷ State ⟷ local

(v) Effects of climate change are only going to exacerbate disaster frequency

(vi) ~~Inadequate~~ Inadequate availability of funds with state and local government

(vii) Lack of awareness and capacity building of citizens

(viii) Ignoring traditional knowledge of community

(eg) Andamanese tribals predicted the onset of Tsunami

(ix) Non-availability of certain disaster specific plans of action (eg) Heat wave

(x) New forms of disasters are not adequately dealt with under existing laws

(eg) ~~biodet~~ epidemics, bio disasters

(xi) ~~Disa~~ Infra is not disaster resilient

(eg) Building codes not followed frequent fires in

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CDRI brought robustness in DM in India

(i) International cooperation and information sharing

(ii) Best practices from other countries can be utilised

(iii) Strengthen infrastructure and make it resilient

Other government steps:
- NDMA, 2005 provides for framework to deal with disaster
- National Disaster Management Plan
- Capacity building of NDRF
  - (eg) Operation Dost by NDRF for Turkiye and Syrian earthquakes
- Zero casualty approach in cyclones → very successful
- Various bodies for prediction, early warning & hazard Mapping ((eg) Landslide Atlas by ISRO, INCOIS, IMD, NDMA, etc.)

Way forward:
- Capacity building of citizen on awareness
- ~~Acti~~ Block level Action plans for various disaster
- Effective centre state collaboration is seen during covid

Casualties related to disasters in India has significantly reduced. Need of the hour is effective implementation of existing laws.

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Q.19 महत्त्वपूर्ण बुनियादी ढाँचे (क्रिटिकल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर) और प्रमुख निगमों को लक्षित करने वाले रैंसमवेयर हमलों में हुई हालिया वृद्धि ने मजबूत साइबर सुरक्षा उपायों और नीतियों की तत्काल आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डाला है। इस प्रवृत्ति में योगदान देने वाले प्रमुख कारकों पर चर्चा करते हुए, विभिन्न क्षेत्रों पर इन हमलों के प्रभाव का विश्लेषण कीजिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The recent rise in ransomware attacks targeting critical infrastructure and major corporations has highlighted the urgent need for stronger cybersecurity measures and policies. Discussing the key factors contributing to this trend, analyze the impact of these attacks on various sectors.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

As per the Ransomware Report, 2022 released by CERT-In, Ransomware incidents in India have gone up by 50% in 2022 as compared to 2021

A ransomware is a computer malware operated by malicious hackers that locks the files on the system by encrypting them Hackers then demand a ransom for decrypting the files

Factors contributing to rise in ransomware attacks

(i) With the advancements in technology and AI, ability of ~~Hacki~~ people with malicious intent has increased

(ii) However, the systems in India have not been upgraded to deal with such threats.

(iii) Threat from state actors like China backed hackers

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(eg) Redecho campaign that led to power outage in India was caused by China hackers (Reports)

(iv) ~~India is the 3rd~~ Lack of cybersecurity professionals in the country, low cybersecurity awareness among people

(eg) India is the 3rd most vulnerable country to cyberattacks (Symantec Report)

(v) Improper Network segmentation

(eg) AIIMS ransomware attack recently could happen because of this vulnerability

(vi) Multiplicity of central bodies → No overarching body to holistically deal

(vii) Underreporting by corporates due to image issue.

(viii) Dependence on imports for hardware + software

Impacts of such attacks:

→ It threatens critical infrastructure of the country

(eg) Kundankulam Nuclear Plant attack

→ Essential services may be harmed → threat to lives

(eg) Health sector → AIIMS attack

→ may lead to malicious actors accessing

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- sensitive and classified information
  - hampers government functioning, work
  - Creates trust deficit on corporate and govt agencies with stakeholders

Government steps

- National cybersecurity Policy 2013
- Bodies like CERT-IN, NCCC, NCIIPC
- Cybercrime investigation cells in Police
- Cyber Suraksha Campaign
- Ministry of defence recently onboarding indigenously made Maya OS

Way forward

- A comprehensive ransomware, cyber security policy
- Recommendation of Gulshan Rai Committee (cyber professionals, servers within country, Apex authority to deal with cyberthreats, etc.)
- Developing indigenous cyber products
- Getting rid of legacy infrastructure
- Network slicing

Dealing with ransomware attacks is a must to protect the critical infrastructure and information of the country.

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Q.20 सीमा सुरक्षा के संदर्भ में, तटीय और स्थलीय सीमाओं के प्रभावी और कुशल प्रबंधन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए विभिन्न सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के बीच सहयोग और समन्वय को कैसे बेहतर बनाया जा सकता है?

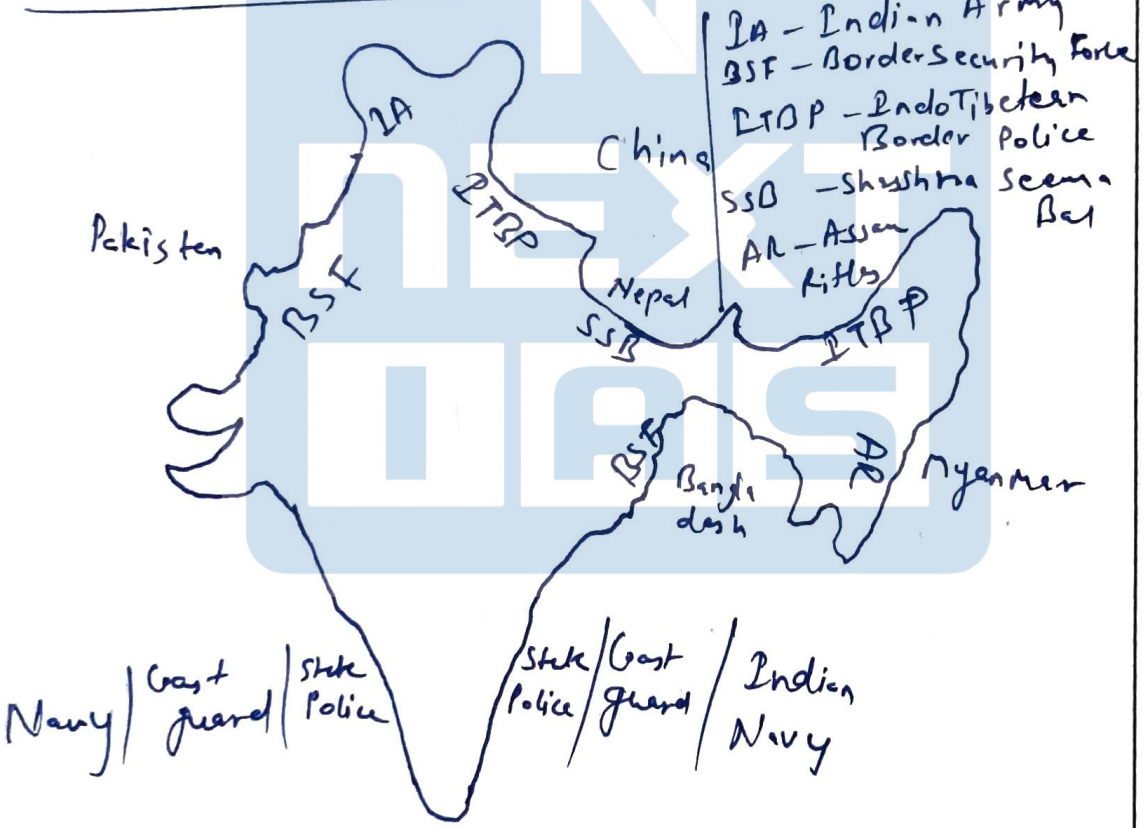
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

In the context of border security, how can cooperation and coordination between different security agencies be improved to ensure effective and efficient management of coastal and terrestrial borders?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

India has land boundaries with 7 countries and its coastline is 7500 kms long which possess a challenge in efficient border management.

Need of cooperation and coordination



Different forces guarding India's borders

How to improve coordination and cooperation between different security agencies

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(i) Utilizing CDS (Chief of Defence Staff) → for better communication

(ii) Establishing theatre commands for better coordination in times of crisis

(iii) Technology augmentation of border forces

(iv) Effective implementation of CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System)

(v) Putting border forces under one ministry

(eg) Now Army, Navy under Ministry of Defence, whereas BSF, AR, etc under MoHA

(vi) ~~Ensuring~~ Clarity outlining spheres of operation and responsibilities of Indian Coast Guard & State Police for coastal security.

(vii) Rationalising the structure and number of border forces.

(viii) Creating a unified portal for intelligence sharing and gathering

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India faces multifold challenges on its border, — porous borders, militant influx, organised crime linkages, illegal migrants, skirmishes with PLA, fishermen issue, etc. In this context, it becomes prudent to ensure effective communication and coordination between different border agencies to safeguard the internal security of India.