



APSC Mains 2023 TS - 17 (GS Paper 3)

Duration – 3 Hrs

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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium:

English ☒

Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	
1	10		Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: - There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. - All questions are compulsory. - The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. - The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 20 marks. - Content is more important than the number of words. - Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one. - Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
2	10		
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14	15		Remarks: Signature of the Student: <i>Lintu Gohain</i>
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19	15		
20	15		
TOTAL:	250		



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Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

Detail Feedback

Q1. Gig economy represents a fundamentally regressive future for employment with modest pay, long working hours, ephemeral jobs and no social security. Analyze? (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: Gig economy represents a kind of informal economy where the employees work on tech platforms which ^{have} ~~are~~ flexible in terms of work.

Examples → freelancing, Swiggy, Fiverr etc.

[Regressive future for employment]

- ① Long work hours.
- ② No social security
- ③ No fixed payments.
- ④ High transportation charges.
- ⑤ High competition
- ⑥ Low skill of workers.

Changes required in big economy

- ① Implementation of labour code bill
 - ↳ Social security
 - ↳ fixation of wages
 - ↳ Good tenure of employment.
- ② Assured employment
- ③ Protection → against accidents, health insurance.

Currently India has about 23 millions workers in the big industry and the numbers are going to rise in future upto 30 million by 2030.

Way Forward

- Social security for big workers
- SDG 7 → decent work and Economic growth.

Q2. Inclusive growth is both a process and an outcome. Discuss in Indian context.
 (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: According to World Bank, Inclusive growth is a process where pace and pattern of development matches.

(Need of Inclusive growth) → Process

1) Upliftment of Marginalised sections -
 eg: Women, Children, Aam Aadmi etc

2) Alleviation of Poverty

3) Reducing Inequality.

4) Reaching the last mile.

Inclusive growth → Outcome

1) Increasing level of Education
 eg: Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

② Addressing Hunger and Malnutrition
 eg:- PM POSHAN

③ Improvement of Health Status

India's rank in Human Development Index is 132 out of 146 countries.

This signifies the poor quality of inclusive growth.

Challenges

- ① Low education.
- ② Lack of awareness.
- ③ High Burden of diseases.

To achieve inclusive growth is SDG 11 which is pertinent for SDG 10 - Gender Equality.

Q3. At the time of introduction, Goods and Services Tax (GST) was hailed as the biggest indirect tax reform since independence. Has the GST lived up to this expectation? Examine. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans. GST was introduced in 2017 to subsume all other taxes such as VAT, Excise duty, Octroi etc.

Success of GST

① One Nation One Tax

② Five levels of progressive taxation — 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.

③ Compensation to States

④ High Tax Collection

⑤ Subsuming all other taxes.

⑥ Created a single national market.

Setbacks of GST

- ① Petroleum products continue to remain under excise tax regime
- ② GDP did not increase
- ③ Low cooperation to the states
- ④ GST Council → Centre has got veto-power.
- ⑤ States tax base suffered.

GST have live short of expectations but it is a process which will give fruitful results in future.

Q4. Examine the significance of National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) in improving the ease of living and propelling growth rate in the country. (10 marks/150 words)

- Ans. National Infrastructure Pipeline is a 110 lakh crore infrastructure development scheme.
- Components of NIP
- ① PM Gati Shakti
 - ↳ boost to infra projects.
 - ↳ Subsuming Sagarmala, Bharatmala etc under one scheme.
 - ↳ Co-ordination of 16 ministries.
 - ② Disinvestment
 - ↳ of Strategic and Non-Strategic PSU

Significance of National Infrastructure Pipeline

- ① Boost connectivity.
- ② Boost in logistics and transportation
- ③ Growth of smart cities
- ④ Ease of doing business.
- ⑤ Establishment of dedicated freight corridors.

NIP if ~~when~~ implemented properly
can propel growth of
economy and prosperity of the
Country.

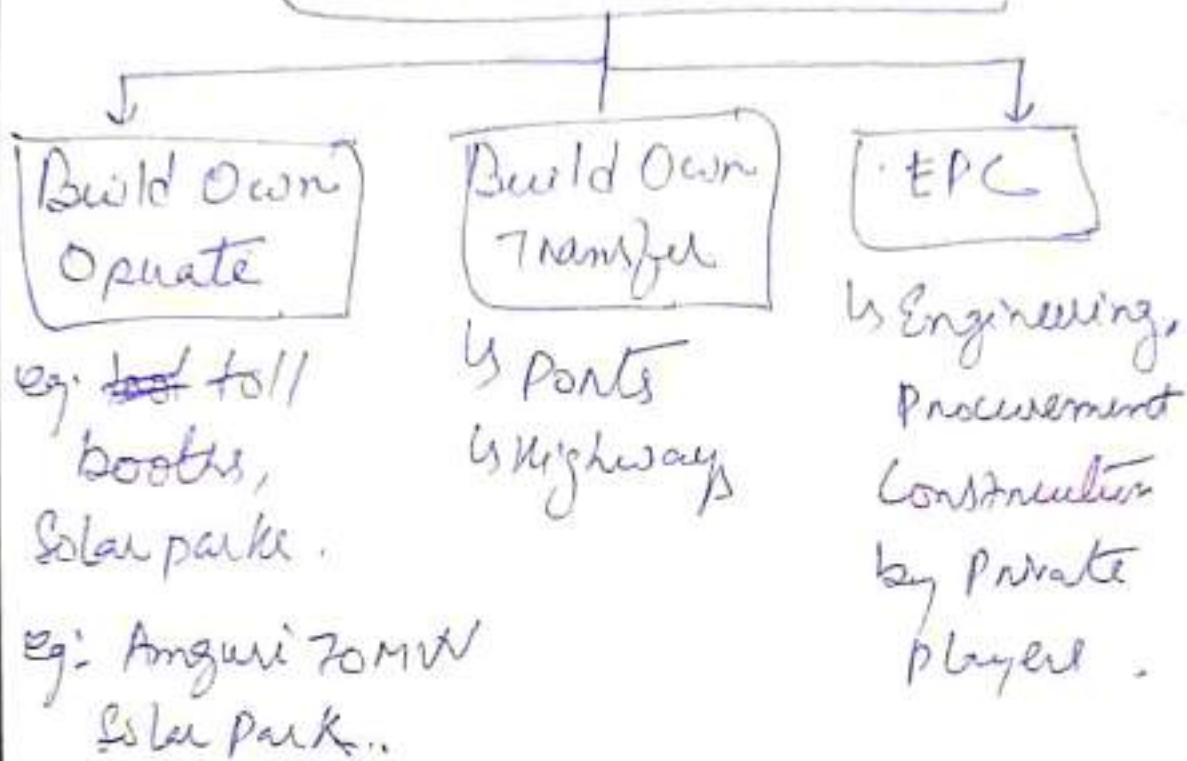
Q5. Why has Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), which was earlier proposed as a game-changer in Public Private Partnerships (PPP), received lukewarm response from private developers? What are the alternate PPP models that can be pursued for encouraging private investments? (10 marks/150 words)

Ans Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)
 is a kind of PPP model where the government funds upto 40% of the projects through annual installments for a period of 5 years.

Reasons for lukewarm response from private developers

- ① Projects not commercially viable
- ② Funds not released on time
- ③ Transportation bottlenecks
- ④ High gestation period of projects

Alternate PPP Models



The above PPP models can be suitably implement as it gives ample scope for private players to run business profitably.

Q6. The 1991 economic reforms provided a leap forward and lifted millions out of poverty; however, comprehensive structural reforms remain incomplete resulting in sectoral imbalances and heightened inequalities. Comment. Also, discuss the key areas which should be the focus of reform 2.0. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: The 1991 economic reforms of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation have propelled the Indian economy to the 5th spot and recently overtaking UK.

(Positives of 1991 reforms)

- ① Economic development.
- ② Rise in GDP: Clocking at 9% in the year 2004-05.
- ③ Rise of service sector.
- ④ Upliftment of Poor.
- ⑤ Rise in Per capita Income.

Challenges that remain

- ① Premature deindustrialization
- ② Rising inequality
- ③ Low female labour force participation
→ Economic Survey 2022-23 → 25%

Key areas to focus on reform 2.0

- ① Manufacturing
↳ Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat
- ② Increase labour force participation
- ③ Skilling of population
eg: Skill India Mission.

Reforms should be inclusive and development oriented to achieve (Amrit - Kall) objectives.

Q7. Vaccines have become a very important component in fight against various diseases. What are the different types of vaccine? Also, discuss various steps involved in clinical development of a new vaccine. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans. Vaccines provide passive immunity from various vector borne diseases such as Typhoid, Hepatitis, Rubella, Mumps etc.

Vaccine programmes of GOI are Mission Indrakhanas.

Different types of vaccine are —

① Injectable: where the dead strains of the pathogens are inserted through inoculation.

eg: Covid 19 vaccine

② (Nasal): Here, the vaccine is provided through nose.

Various steps involved in clinical development of vaccines :

- ① Research : Finding suitable vectors.
- ② Analysis : Suitability and efficacy of vaccine.
- ③ Development : Producing in mass numbers.
- ④ Clinical Trial : To check efficacy.

Vaccines are life savers and therefore government should focus on immunisation of all citizens.

Q8. Bring out the environmental consequences of poor e-waste management. Why has recycling of e-waste been abysmally low, even though e-waste management policies are in place since 2011 (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: E-waste are the waste generated by electronic equipments towards their end of life.

Environmental consequences of poor e-waste management

- ① Increased levels of pollution.
- ② Release of toxins from electronic equipments.
- ③ Damage to the ecosystem.
- ④ Non-biodegradable

Reasons for low recycling of e-waste :

- ① Lack of awareness
- ② No proper disposable mechanism,
- ③ Producers not taking responsibility.
- ④ Uncontrolled production
- ⑤ low concern for environment

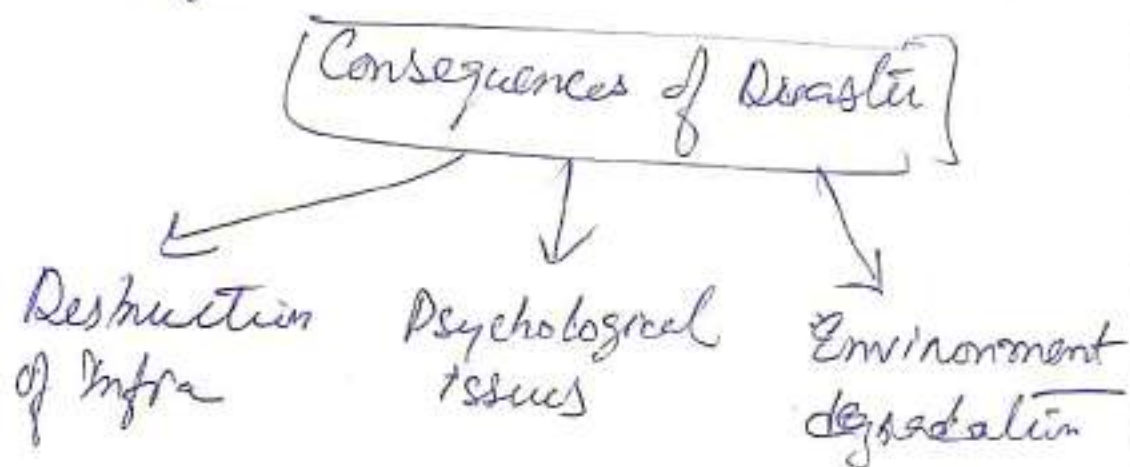
Way Forward

- ① Enhancing Producer responsibility
- ② Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- ③ Imposing fines.
- ④ Proper implementation of E-waste management rules.

E-waste should be handled properly to minimise effects on environment.

Q9. Efficient Disaster risk management action is based on a trinity of prospective, corrective and compensatory strategies. Elaborate with reference to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: Disaster management is necessary for ~~leading~~ reducing the risk of damage.



[Prospective Disaster Management]

- ① Finding vulnerable infrastructures
- ② checking signs for damage

[Corrective Disaster Management]

- ① Retrofitting of structure.
- ② Adherence to Building code

Compensatory Disaster Management

- ① Provide relief and rehabilitation
- ② Work to build more resilient infrastructure.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives -

- ① Building disaster resilient infra.
- ② Proactive action
- ③ Disaster management fund
- ④ Co-ordination and cooperation
- ⑤ Increased awareness.

Q10. The misuse of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967 to label protests as terrorist acts can put democracy in peril. What sections of UAPA make it a threat to democratic rights? Critically analyze the issues related to UAPA while evaluating the requirement of such a stringent law? (10 marks/150 words)

Ans

UAPA, 1967 is used to deter criminals ~~to~~ and terrorist ~~to~~ prevent from doing crimes.

Misuse of UAPA can ~~de~~peril democracy

- ① UAPA used to silence genuine ~~prop~~ protest.
- ② Right to life denied.
- ③ Can paralyze democracy ~~leads~~ - freedom of speech and expression.
- ④ Rise of surveillance state

Need of UAPA

- ① To prevent terrorist activities.
- ② To maintain sovereignty and integrity of India
- ③ To protect the incumbent Government.

Thus UAPA is necessary but it should not derail democratic ideals.

Q11. Why has fake news on the Internet emerged as an internal security challenge? How can we identify a fake news? Also, throw light on legal and institutional arrangements to tackle fake news. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans: Fake news is a kind of misleading information that has the capability of evoking Public reaction.

Sources of fake news

- social media including facebook, twitter
- whatsapp messages etc.

Reasons for emergence of fake news as a threat to internal security

- ① Proliferation of social media.
- ② Rise in Communalism.
- ③ Vigilantism - eg. Cow vigilantism
- ④ Rise of Post Truth Society
- ⑤ No agency to check news and information on social media.
- ⑥ No Central agency to deal with misinformation

Ways to identify fake news

- ① Check for authenticity
eg:- Google search about facts
- ② Distortion of facts
eg:- Communal coloured news.
- ③ Fake news only one sided view.
- ④ Source of news not credible enough.
- ⑤ News not circulated in Traditional Media houses

Legal and institutional arrangements to tackle fake news

- ① IT Act of 2000,
↳ Provisions to deal with fake news like Section 66A
- ② Digital Intermediary Rules, 2021
↳ Appointment of nodal officer by

Social media companies

Constitutional Provision

- (1) Restraint Reasonable restriction to freedom of expression and speech.
- (2) Protection of rights of individuals according to Arts 21.

Fake news have recently emerged as a internal security challenges in recent days giving rise to incidents like mob lynching, communal attacks etc.

Way Forward

- ① Strict implementation of IT Act of 2000.
- ② Bringing stringent laws.
- ③ Create awareness among public.

Q12. Use of drones for terror attacks underlines an emerging threat as well as a need to build capacity in this field. How is India placed in drone technology and what counter measures can be adopted to tackle such attacks in future.

(15 marks/250 words)

Ans Drones are unmanned aerial aircraft that can be remotely controlled.
Drones can be used for productive purposes as well as destructive purposes.

Use of drones in terror attacks have emerged as a threat to public safety and security. Measures taken to address this challenge are —

- ① Anti-drone guns.
- ② Increased security and vigilance in border area.
- ③ Bringing drone regulations

Examples where drone used in terror attacks.

- ① Bombing of ^{oil} Arabian facilities
in Saudi Arabia.

② Attack on Venezuela President in 2019.

India Position in Drone Technology

- ① Largest market for drones.
- ② Drones being used in security and surveillance of border areas.
eg:- Guarding Indo-Bangla Border and Indo-Pak Border.
- ③ DRDD → Manufacture of kamika Drone.

Peaceful uses of Drone

- ① Mapping of Agricultural field
- ② Spraying of Pesticides.
- ③ Monitoring of Traffic.
- ④ checking wild fires.

Counter measures to be adopted by India to prevent drone attacks :

- ① Building laser walls in border areas
- ② Use to satellites to monitor hostile drones.
- ③ Licensing of all drones
- ④ Penalty measures for non-compliance of law.

Thus, drones when used in a positive manner can increase public safety and security but misuse can lead to terror related incidents.

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Q13. Solar power sector is not only leading the mitigation efforts against climate change, but the innovations in solar power can also accelerate adaptation of agriculture to a new reality of changed climate. Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans: Solar power is the most freely harnessable renewable source of energy.

Solar power can help in mitigation of climate change effects such as -

- ① Reduce carbon emission.
- ② Clean electricity.
- ③ Standalone source of power.
eg:- Solar lights.
- ④ Solar grids → transfer excess supply of electricity to traditional power grids.

Solar energy can help us to achieve SDG goal 6, which talks

about Affordable and Clean Energy.

Innovation in Solar power leading
to adaptation in Agriculture.

① PM KUSUM

- ↳ Solar pumps in rural areas.
- ↳ Agriculture benefitted.

② International Solar Alliance.

- ↳ Developing and harnessing solar energy around the world.
- ↳ Green electricity generated benefits agricultural lands.

③ Solar powered drones

- ↳ Monitor agricultural fields
- ↳ Check pest attacks
- ↳ Use for spraying pesticides and fertilizers.

Challenges in harnessing solar power.

① High cost . initially .

eg:- Coal power plant 4 cr/MW
Solar power plant 18 cr/MW

② Lack of technology .

③ High import cost .

↳ Most of solar photo voltaic cells
(imported from China)

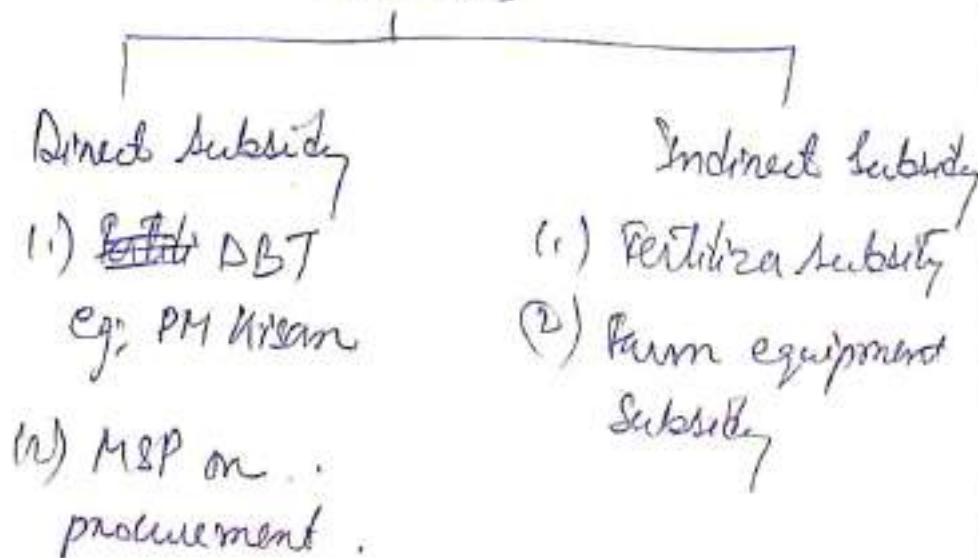
④ Lack of Awareness .:

To overcome the challenges National Solar Mission should be implemented in letter and spirit.

Q14. Agricultural reforms must begin with reforms in subsidy regime. Discuss the statement, highlighting the impact of subsidies on the growth and sustainability of agriculture.
(15 marks/250 words)

Ans. Subsidy is a scheme followed by Government to provide rebate to various input and output materials required in agricultural production.
eg: Input Subsidies - Fertilizers,
Output Subsidies - MSP.

Types of Subsidies



Impact of subsidies on growth and sustainability of agriculture.

- ① Rise in Production
- ② Abating hunger crisis
- ③ Farmers encourage to produce more.
- ④ Alleviation of Poverty
- ⑤ Less stressful situation of farmers

Negative Impact of Subsidy

- ① MSP Subsidy.

↳ Cultivation of more wheat and Rice.

↳ Negligence of other crops such as millets - Ragi, bajra, jowar etc.

- ② Environmental degradation.

↳ Overuse of ground water.

↳ Increase incidence of Pest attacks

③ Distortion of Market

↳ Foreign products becomes uncompetitive.

④ Monoculture of crops.

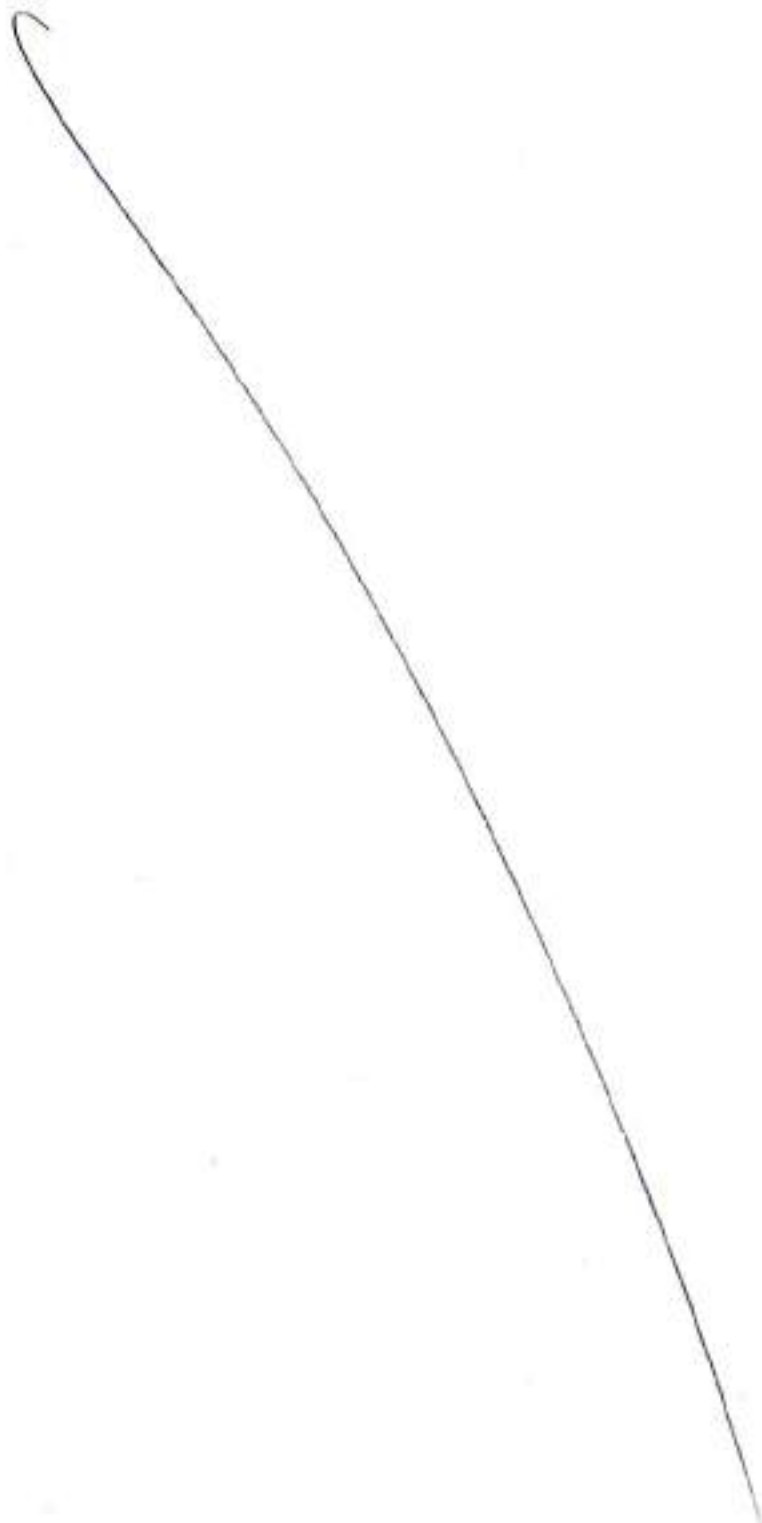
Due to increased infrastructure in the North Western Region of India the farmers of there are more benefitted from subsidy regimes regimes compared to other parts of India ..

Subsidies have help India to become Self Sufficient in food production through Green Revolution.

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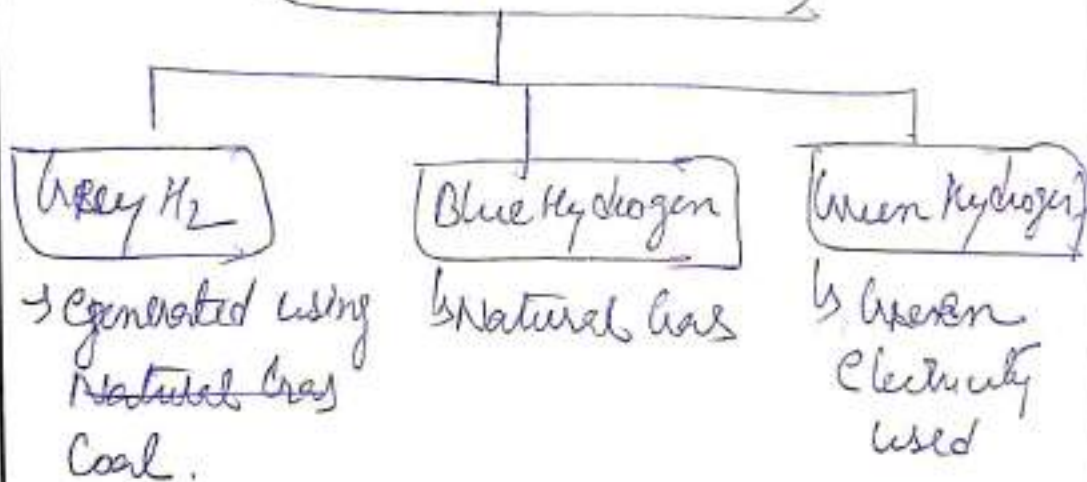
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Q15. Green hydrogen can be the engine of a sustainable economy, but it would require crossing financial and technological barriers. Discuss the reasons for increasing interest in green hydrogen and challenges in its adoption as the fuel of the future. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans: Green Hydrogen is generated using electricity from renewable ^{and clean} sources.
eg: Solar Power, Wind Energy etc.

Types of Hydrogen



Green Hydrogen as sustainable energy for sustainable economy.

- ① Used in Mobility: eg: Buses, etc
- ② used as Rocket Fuel
- ③ Used in steel manufacturing Plants

Financial and Technological barriers in obtaining Green Hydrogen

- ① High cost initially
- ② Non-availability of clean source of energy.
- ③ Lack of Technology
↳ Cathode and Anode Manufacturing problems
- ④ Less investment from Government
- ⑤ Lack of manpower.
- ⑥ Newer Technology.
- ⑦ Low rate of adoption by Public.

Reasons for increasing interest in Green Hydrogen:

- ① Climate change.
- ② Increasing cost of Fossil fuels.
- ③ Depletion of fossil fuels.
- ④ Requirement of standalone source of energy.
- ⑤ Rising Current Account Deficit due to high imports.

Challenges on the adoption as the Fuel of future?

- ① Non-availability of Hydrogen Combustion engine.
- ② High ~~cost~~ Cost of Purchase.

③ Non-availability of Hydrogen
fuel at all times

Hydrogen can be a good alternative
to Clean fuel provided the
constraints are overcome. It can
help in attaining SDG goal 6 -
Clean and Affordable Energy.

Q16. Persistence of various cross-border threats and absence of robust intra-regional trade with neighboring countries have forced India to employ a unilateral approach to border management. Highlight various cross-border threats faced by the country and explain how they can be managed in an effective manner.

(15 marks/250 words)

Ans. Cross border threats such as terrorism and limited trade have threatened the security of India.
 eg: Uri Attack, Pathankot Attack etc

Various cross border threats faced by India are :

① Terrorism :

- ↳ In 2001, 5504 lives were lost due to various terrorist attacks.
- ↳ It creates fear in the minds of people.

② Counterfeit Currency

- ↳ Give rise to black economy.

↳ lowers GDP of the country

③ Hawala funding

↳ Rise in terrorist financing,

↳ Destabilises the economy.

Management of Cross border threats by India :-

① Multiple force in Action

Key: BSF guarding Indo-Pak and Indo Bangla Border.

Other forces:- ISB, ITBP, Assam Rifles etc

② Strict vigilance and monitoring of border areas.

③ Co-ordination with Financial Action Task Force.

- ④ Co-ordination with Interpol.
- ⑤ Collecting intelligence from neighbouring countries.

Reasons for cross border ^{threat} ~~threat~~:

- ① Indo-Pak Rivalry
- ② Rising economic power of India.
- ③ Religious asymmetry.

Thus effective and actionable steps should be taken by government to reduce cross border threat. Civil society cooperation is a must.

Q17. Micro-irrigation has tremendous potential in transforming farming into a profitable and sustainable venture. Discuss the given statement in the context of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchali Yojana? (15 marks/250 words)

Ans:

Micro-irrigation is process in which there is reduced use of water but ensuring productivity.

Types of Microirrigation

Surface

eg: Sprinkler
irrigation

Sub-surface

eg: Drip irrigation

Benefits of Micro Irrigation

- ① More productivity
- ② less use of water
- ③ Reduced salinity of soil
- ④ Reduced surface Runoff.

Government of India have
undertaken Pradhan Mantri Kishi
Sinchai Yojna to implement
micro irrigation in India.

Objectives

- ① Kas Khet ko Pani.
- ② Per Drop More Crop.
- ③ Year round production.

Scheme Benefits

- ① Farmers are ~~not~~ provided
subsidy to procure equipments
for micro irrigation.
- ② Solar Pumps set up.

Potential of Microirrigation

- ① Decreased cost of Production
- ② less weeds.
- ③ less use of Pesticides and Fertilizers.
- ④ More Productivity.
- ⑤ Rise in incomes of farmers

Microirrigation as a method can help in achieving SDG 12 - responsible consumption and production.

Q18. It is being argued that India is struggling with overflowing foodgrains in warehouses. Discuss the statement in view of the existing buffer stock policy of India. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans: India has a ~~open~~ ended procurement of Rice and Wheat under MSP. This has ~~also~~ caused over procuring while capacity to store is limited.

(Need for Procurement)

- ① MSP policy
- ② Farmers assured of procurement
- ③ No alternative market
- ④ For supply through PDS.

(Existing Buffer Stock Policy)

- ① Need to store for future exigencies.

② Building of more warehouses to store food grains.

③ Storing for strategic reasons.

Challenges

① No proper scientific storage.

② Wastage of food grains.

③ Storage centres in limited areas of North West India.

Thus, the food grains produced should be stored in a scientific manner and reduce the wastage.

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Q19. Establishing linkages between globalisation and money laundering, discuss the initiatives taken at the national and international levels to combat it.
(15 marks/250 words)

Ans: Globalisation is a phenomenon where there is increased contact among the countries of the World.

eg:- More People to people contacts
- Set of MNCs, food chains - KFC etc.

Money laundering is a process by which illicit or ill gotten wealth is placed in the financial system to claim as untainted money.

Stages of Money laundering

Placement → layering → Integration

Linkage between Globalisation and Money Laundering

- ① High taxation in some countries force people to launder money to tax free havens.
- ② Criminal and terror elements uses Money laundering to conduct terror attacks.
- ③ Frequent movement of people among countries → get knowledge about loopholes in the Global Financial System.
- ④ Weak enforcement of laws by some countries.
eg: Cayman Islands.

⑤ Safe havens for perpetrators
of financial criminals.
eg. UK, Singapore etc.

Initiatives at the national and
international level to ~~combat~~
Combat Money laundering:

① Financial Intelligence Unit

↳ Keep track of high financing
activities

② Prevention of Money Laundering
Act, 2002.

③ Foreign Exchange Management
Act, 2010

④ Financial Action Task Force

↳ Maintain Grey list and Black list.

⑤ Other organisations such as
WTO, UNCTAD etc devise mechanisms
to control money laundering.

Thus, Efficient co-ordination and
Co-operation required among countries
to combat Money Laundering:



Q20. What is blue economy? How can it be equitably and sustainably harnessed as a lever for economic growth? Present India's strengths and weaknesses in this regard. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans. Blue Economy means utilizing the potential of our Ocean and rivers in increasing our GDP..

Example :

- ↳ Rise in fish production
- ↳ Shipping of goods etc.

India's direct access to Indian Ocean provides a host of oppor-
tunities to enhance the potential of Blue Economy.

- ① Extraction of Polymetallic nodules
- ② Controlling shipping lanes.
- ③ Monitoring vulnerable choke points eg:- Mallac strait etc.

Ways Blue Economy can equitably and sustainably harnessed for economic growth :-

- ① Increasing the production of Fishes.
- ② Shipping of goods in timebound manner
- ③ Extraction of Oil and Gas from Ocean basin
- ④ Cultural contacts among littoral states of Indian Ocean.
- ⑤ Projects such as Kaladan Multimodal Transport.
- ⑥ Developments of ports and harbours.

India's Strengths

- ① Direct access to Indian Ocean.
- ② 2nd in fishes Production globally.
- ③ Indian Ocean basin consist of Poly Metallic nodules.
- ④ Huge number of population.
↳ Consumption power.

Weakness of India

- ① Challenge from China in Indian Ocean
- ② Indian Navy not blue water Navy.

Thus, proper implementation of National Maritime Vision can propel economy size upto 26 trillion dollars by 2047