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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1244)

Name of Candidate	ARANYAK SAIKIA	Registration Number	41166
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Date	24/7/19
Center	ONLINE		

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
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8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुरितका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized 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 authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुरितका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Discuss the need of an Independent Fiscal Council (IFC) in bringing about transparency and accountability in fiscal processes in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में राजकोषीय प्रक्रियाओं में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही का समावेश करने हेतु एक स्वतंत्र राजकोषीय परिषद (IFC) की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

India's fiscal and budgetary processes suffer from a number of problems

→ It is not outcome or performance based.

→ The road towards fiscal consolidation is patchy. Every year, the 3% Fiscal Deficit target of the FRBM Act is breached by a simple amendment to the Act.

→ Part of the Fiscal Deficit target is met by reducing capital expenditures which affect long term growth.

→ Off-budget financing, like ~~to~~ FCI borrowing from ~~the~~ Public Sector Banks, hides the actual fiscal deficit.

→ Many schemes are announced

without making an assessment of the resources.

→ There has been a proliferation of centrally-sponsored schemes that put extra burden on states.



~~It is in this context that~~

→ Many fiscal decisions are taken based on political exigencies rather than sound public finance. eg- loan waivers.

It is in this context that an ~~an~~ independent fiscal council (IFC) is required. The IFC will help in -

- 1) Rule-based transparent fiscal decisions
- 2) Ensure equitable distribution between centre and states.
- 3) Help in raising revenue.
- 4) Commit to fiscal consolidation to prevent crowding out of private investment.

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The FRBM Review Committee

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This document is personalised for Aranya Sankhyans has also

by NK Singh recommended an IFC.

2. Recognizing the potential of exports in generating employment, a number of steps need to be taken to address India's weakening export competitiveness. Analyze. (150 words) 10

रोजगार सृजन हेतु निर्यात क्षेत्र की क्षमताओं की पहचान करते हुए, भारत की कमजोर होती निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धा को संबोधित करने हेतु कई कदम उठाए जाने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

As the Economic Survey, 2018-19 notes, exports are the key-driver in the virtuous cycle of growth in the economy.

Potential in generating employment

→ Labour-intensive sectors have a comparative advantage in India such as textiles and leather.

→ Given the largest market size (world), demand deficiencies cannot arise. So, investments and job creation can continue.

Reasons for weakening export competitiveness

→ Rising protectionism, with US-China trade war

→ Withdrawal of Generalized System of Preference by US.

- Lack of skilled labour
- Rigid labour laws and regulatory environment
- Weak export infrastructure.

Steps to address this issue

- (1) Focus on global value chains (GVCs) that have large markets, like textiles.
- (2) ~~Rebuild~~ Improve export infrastructure and logistics, like ports, railways, etc.
For this, schemes like SAGARMALA, BHARATMALA, LEEP need to be converged.
- (3) Focus on skilling of labour through Skill India mission.
- (4) Labour-intensive export sectors need to be given access to affordable credit through schemes like MUDRA and Make-in-India.
- (5) Improving trade policy to

3. Highlighting the main features of National Mineral Policy, 2019, discuss how it can help in ensuring sustainable and responsible mining. (150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 2019 की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि यह संघारणीय और उत्तरदायित्वपूर्ण खनन मुनिश्चित करने में कैसे सहायता कर सकती है।

The National Mineral Policy 2019

provides for -

- (1) Faster clearances for mining permits
- (2) greater entry of private sector
- (3) greater collaboration with states, and fostering competitive federalism.
- (4) Steps to be taken to ~~press~~ ensure environmental damage from mining is minimized.
- (5) Research and development.

Ensuring sustainable and responsible mining

→ By greater participation of civil society.

- Regular audits
- District Mineral Foundations to undertake food and development works in the affected areas.
- Research ~~to~~ and use of technology to minimize environmental damage.

The Policy also needs to integrate the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), Kham Pravaasi App and geological survey of India's monitoring systems to improve overall ~~the~~ responsible mining.

4. Highlighting the salient features of the PM JI-VAN Yojana, analyze how it can assist in achieving the vision and goals of the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018. **(150 words) 10**

"प्रधानमंत्री जी-वन योजना" की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, विश्लेषण कीजिए कि यह जैव ईंधन राष्ट्रीय नीति, 2018 की दृष्टि और लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में किस प्रकार सहायक हो सकती है।

The PM-JI-VAN Yojana is aimed at generating biofuels from agricultural waste.

The objective is to incentivise farmers to use their agricultural and solid wastes to

- Produce biofuels
- Achieve energy sufficiency
- Focus on clean energy.

The National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 provides for -

- generation of 2nd generation of biofuels
- Use agricultural and crop residue as a source of biofuels.
- Use surplus food or waste as a feed for biofuels

The PM JI-VAN Yojana is expected to aid in these ~~3~~ three objectives of the National Policy on Biofuels.

This would help in -

- Reducing imports of crude oil
- Provide revenue and employment to farmers
- Source of clean fuel, especially cooking oil.
- Help in co-generation
- Help India ~~to~~ achieve its INDCs under Paris Agreement.

5. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) provides an alternative to capital and chemical intensive agriculture currently being practiced in India. Analyze. (150 words) 10

जीरो बजट प्राकृतिक कृषि (ZBNF), भारत में वर्तमान समय में प्रचलित पूंजी और रसायन गहन कृषि का एक विकल्प प्रदान करती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

ZBNF is a farming technique that relies on locally available materials as inputs in farming. These inputs, being derived from the ecosystem itself, do not have to be procured from market. Thus, the budget for inputs is zero.

Components of ZBNF

- Using cow urine to disinfect seeds
- Covering soil with leaves to protect moisture
- Developing soil-microbe base from humus.

Benefits

- (1) ZBNF requires very little capital. In fact, there are no input costs.

Even organic farming has ~~very~~ high cost of compost procurement.

(2) No use of fertilizers or pesticides protects the soil ecosystem.

(3) Research has shown that it has yields above 11% more than traditional farming.

(4) It is more resistant to droughts and pests.

(5) It ~~is~~ helps in diversification of crop systems.

Hence, ZBNF has emerged as a better alternative to other farming methods.

Andhra Pradesh has brought out a ZBNF policy. The need now is to incorporate ZBNF in Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.

6. Marine life is facing 'irreparable damage' from the millions of tonnes of plastic waste which ends up in the oceans each year. In this context, examine the implications of plastic pollution on marine ecosystem and suggest some measures for addressing this problem. (150 words) 10

समुद्री जीवन, प्रति वर्ष समुद्र में पहुँचने वाले लाखों टन प्लास्टिक कचरे के कारण 'अपूरणीय क्षति' का सामना कर रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए और इस समस्या के समाधान हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

Every ^{year}, some 11.2 million tonnes of plastic are dumped into the oceans.

This has caused irreparable damage to the marine ecosystem.

→ ~~The~~ Fishing nets and toys kill turtles, sharks and dolphins.

→ Being non-biodegradable, they bio-magnify across the marine food chain. Some of them even reach humans when we consume marine fish.

→ ~~They~~ Plastics leach harmful chemicals and heavy metals, poisoning oceans.

~~The~~ The great Pacific Garbage Patch that can be seen from the

space is a case in point.

Measures to address the problem

- (1) Banning plastics, especially microplastics, which are used in cosmetics.
- (2) Using technology to reduce plastic use. For eg - Adidas will now ~~use~~ produce nylon plastic from PET Bottles using a technology developed by an Indian firm named Polygenta. This will reduce virgin plastic use.
- (3) Raising awareness among people to -
 - Reduce plastic use
 - Segregate their wastes into dry, wet and hazardous for better recycling.
- (4) Incentivising paper and jute industries.

India has agreed to phase out single-use plastics by 2022. This will

7. Write a short note on the evolution of Bharat Stage norms in India. Also discuss the significance and challenges posed by the planned introduction of BS-VI norms in India from the year 2020. (150 words) 10

भारत में भारत स्टेज मानकों के विकास पर एक संक्षिप्त टिप्पणी लिखिए। साथ ही, वर्ष 2020 से भारत में BS-VI मानकों को योजनाबद्ध रूप से लागू किए जाने के महत्व और उसमें आने वाली चुनौतियों की भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Bharat Stage ^(BS) ~~norms~~ norms provide for reduction in particulate and SO_x, NO_x emissions reductions from vehicles.

- They were introduced in 2000 and based on Euro stage norms
- Every stage, like BS I, BS II, etc were first introduced in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, etc before introduced in other cities.
- Currently, BS IV norm is prevalent all over Indian cities.
- India plans to directly jump to BS VI, bypassing BS V from 2020, in line ~~to~~ with Euro Stage VI.

Significance of BS VI

- Help in ~~so~~ significant reduction of SO₂, NO_x and particulate matter emissions. This will reduce air pollution.
- 2 new technologies will be introduced — Diesel particulate filter (DPF) and Selective Catalytic Reduction Technology (SCR)..

Challenges

- Most firms find the time-frame to shift to be too narrow.
- Lead to significant escalation in costs, dampening vehicle sales.
- The DPF and SCR require special fuel to work. The oil companies have not yet upgraded their fuels to meet those standards.

Thus, these challenges need to be addressed to help India achieve a Clean environment.

8. What are black holes? Highlight the challenges in imaging a black hole? How were these challenges overcome by the Event Horizon Telescope project?

(150 words) 10

ब्लैक होल क्या है? ब्लैक होल के चित्रण (इमेजिंग) में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इवेंट होराइजन टेलीस्कोप प्रोजेक्ट द्वारा इन चुनौतियों को कैसे दूर किया गया?

A black hole is a collapsing star under its own weight. As it collapses, it begins to suck in any matter in its vicinity due to its extremely high gravitational field. Nothing can escape a black hole.

Challenges in imaging a black hole

- Since even light cannot escape a black hole, no image of the black hole can be seen.
- Stephen Hawking predicted some radiations to emerge out of ~~the~~ black holes. But this has not been found yet.

What the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) did.

Event Horizon is the border of the black hole beyond which no information escapes out of the black hole.

→ The EHT assembled a set of 8 telescopes across 4 continents to create one large telescope.

→ This telescope then pointed its lenses towards a galaxy M87. The black hole was in this galaxy.

→ ~~By~~ Since light and matter can be seen in the event horizon, the EHT mapped and imaged the event horizon.

In this way, the outer border of the black hole could be seen, while the centre remained black.

9. While mentioning the objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), discuss the challenges which are hindering the utilization of the ATT to its full potential. (150 words) 10

शस्त्र व्यापार संधि (ATT) के उद्देश्यों का उल्लेख करते हुए, उन चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए जो ATT को इसकी पूर्ण क्षमता में उपयोगित किये जाने में बाधक हैं।

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a UN based treaty to regulate the sale of conventional weapons and arms including tanks, machine guns and small arms.

Objectives of ATT

- (1) To restrict the sale of weapons to regimes with a poor human rights record.
- (2) To ensure ~~#~~ weapons do not fall into hands of terrorists.

Challenges

- (1) US has withdrawn from ATT on the grounds that it affects its sovereign rights to trade in

weapons.

It also, ~~is~~ allegedly, violates the right to carry arms by US citizens.

(2) India has not signed the treaty on the grounds that it already has a robust arms trade regulation regime.

(3) Many other countries have not signed the treaty on similar grounds.

→ This makes the whole treaty ineffective as US is the biggest seller, and India the biggest buyer of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ arms.

Thus, these issues need to be addressed.

10. Threats to internal security of India may be posed both through the communication networks and also to the networks. Discuss. Also, highlight the steps taken by the government in making the networks more secure.

(150 words) 10

भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा को खतरा संचार नेटवर्कों के माध्यम से एवं स्वयं संचार नेटवर्कों को खतरा होने, दोनों ही प्रकार से हो सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, नेटवर्कों को अधिक सुरक्षित बनाने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Communication networks include the telecom providers' networks, internet, banking and electronic transaction networks, etc.

~~Threats~~

Threats to internal security

(1) Through communication networks

→ ~~for~~ Cyber-espionage

→ Cyber crime

→ Hate speech and radicalization

→ Cyber bullying

→ Ransomware, like Wanna Cry, that spread through the internet.

(2) To the networks

→ Dismantling or bombing networks can cripple the

economy.

- Ransomware can essential encrypt the system and prevent it from being used.
- Most networks are in private sector, with very little protection. They can be easily taken down.

Steps taken by government

- (1) National Critical Infrastructure Information Protection Centre (NCIIIPC) set up to protect critical network infrastructure.
- (2) CERT-In to monitor and respond to cyber security threats.
CERT-Fin for the financial sector.
- (3) National Telecom Policy, 2012 provides for setting up labs to test security of phones.
- (4) National Cyber Security Policy, 2013
- (5) ~~Also~~ National Cyber Crime Coordination Centre being set up -

11. Highlight the importance and challenges related to integration of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) in India. Mention some steps that can be taken for its smooth integration with the synchronized Indian grid. (250 words) 15

भारत में परिवर्तनीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (VRE) के एकीकरण के महत्व और इनमें संबंधित चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। ऐसे कुछ कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए जो समक्रमिक (सिंक्रनाइज्ड) भारतीय ग्रिड के साथ इसके सहज एकीकरण के लिए उठाए जा सकते हैं।

Renewable Energy (RE) ~~is~~ output varies with the availability of wind and sun in a particular month or year. That is why it is called Variable RE (VRE).

Importance of VRE

- Reduction in carbon emissions
- Meeting India's INDC targets under Paris Agreement
- Reducing import dependence on crude.
- Development of infrastructure
- Growth of domestic manufacturing in areas like Solar PhotoVoltaics (SPV)
- Creation of jobs.

Challenges to integration

- Given its variable nature, it is less reliable, especially for industrial areas.
- Tariffs have fallen due to increasing competition, thereby, reducing returns on investment.
- Issues over allocation of land for building wind mills, SPVs, etc.
- Issues over high-maintenance costs of SPVs, imports of parts and cases filed by US in the WTO over domestic content requirements.

Steps for smooth integration

- ~~Creating~~ Having Payment Guarantee Mechanisms (PGMs) to producers.

- Linking ~~to~~ VRE power producers directly with DISCOMS.
- Having a battery back-up system to increase reliability.
- Power surplus states like Karnataka can have a direct purchase agreement with a power-deficit state to sell its ~~its~~ VRE power.
- ~~VRE can be~~ A national regulator needs to be set up for better coordination across states.

These steps are crucial in India meeting its target of 40% non-fossil fuel based power generation by 2030

12. There have been arguments that India could fall into a 'middle income trap'. Explaining the phenomenon, highlight the reasons behind such arguments. How can India avoid it? (250 words) 15

ऐसे तर्क दिए गए हैं कि भारत 'मध्यम आय पाश' में फंस सकता है। इस परिघटना की व्याख्या करते हुए, ऐसे तर्कों के लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। भारत इससे किस प्रकार बच सकता है?

'Middle Income Trap' refers to a situation when-

- Country does not fully industrialize.
- But its wages increase fast enough to lose competitiveness
- Yet it does not have the human capital or institutions to transition to a high income services-led industrial economy.

Thus, its growth rate stagnates and the country is trapped in the middle income bracket.

The Economy Survey 2017-18 considers this possibility for India.

Why India is believed to fall
into such a trap

- India's share in manufacturing has stagnated at 17% of GDP.
- Rigid labour laws raise the costs of labour and make our industries uncompetitive.
- At the same time, our investments in health and education do not cross 6% of GDP. ~~to~~ Our labour force is not adequately skilled.

Bibek Debroy has ruled out such a possibility for India

How India can avoid it?

- Focus on investments in human capital.
- It needs to implement the

National Health Policy 2017 and National Education Policy 2019 in letter and spirit.

(2) Reform land and labour laws, and improve infrastructure to gain export competitiveness.

(3) Increase the role of the private sector through disinvestment in PSUs and monetizing assets.

(4) Raise revenue through lowering tax rates and widen tax base. This can be spent in social sector.

The recent steps by the government like Make-in-India, Start-up India, BHARATMALA and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan are in the right direction.

13. Highlighting its importance, discuss the major issues that plague effective monetary policy transmission in India. Also, mention the steps taken by RBI to improve it. (250 words) 15

भारत में मौद्रिक नीति संचरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उन प्रमुख मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए जो इसकी प्रभाविता को बाधित करते हैं। साथ ही, इसमें सुधार के लिए RBI द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Monetary policy transmission refers to the responsiveness of banks and other financial intermediaries' interest rates to the RBI's benchmark repo rates.

Major issues plaguing transmission

(1) Most banks have high NPAs. They are reluctant to reduce interest rates further, as it can worsen their balance sheets.

(2) Repo transactions of the RBI make up only 1% of banks' overall assets. So, ~~the~~ repo rates have no impact on banks' costs of lending.

- (3) Proliferation of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and ~~differentiated banks~~, that have limited impact on repo transactions.
- (4) Low financial inclusion — Most firms still borrow from informal lenders, where they do not get benefits of rate reduction.
- (5) Financial repression — Pre-emption of banks' investible resources by the government through SLR, and Priority Sector Lending (PSL).

As a result, while the RBI has lowered rates by 75 basis points (bps), banks have, till now lowered their rates, by only 55 bps.

Steps taken by RBI

- (1) RBI made banks move from the bank rate to MCLR rate — Marginal Cost of funds-based lending rate — to better reflect the costs of lending and help in transmission.
- (2) It has reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4% and SLR to 19.5% (as in 2018).
- (3) Differentiated banks like Payments Banks have been introduced.
- (4) Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) set up to facilitate mis-matches in bank liquidity.

The RBI needs to further implement the recommendations of Vijit Patel Committee for a better result.

14. Highlight the constraints faced by rainfed agriculture in India. Discuss some agronomic practices that can be adopted for stabilizing agricultural production in rainfed areas.

(250 words) 15

भारत में वर्षा सिंचित कृषि में आने वाली बाधाओं पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्षा सिंचित क्षेत्रों में कृषि उत्पादन को स्थायित्व प्रदान करने हेतु अपनाई जा सकने वाली कुछ कृषि-वैज्ञानिक पद्धतियों की चर्चा कीजिए।

With just 45% of net cropped area under irrigation, Indian agriculture is mostly rainfed.

Constraints faced by rainfed agriculture

- High volatility in output, as water input dependent on rain.
- Per-capita water availability being low, high yielding cash crops cannot be grown.
- This translates to low income.
- Low income reduces the surplus to invest and raise productivity.
- Thus, yield remains low.

- Given low revenue, access to formal credit and insurance is low.
- Access to warehouses, cold storage is low. So, bumper crop leads to distress sale.
- Most rainfed agriculture areas are faraway from large Mandis. So, farmers do not get good prices for their crops.

Some agronomic practices that can be adopted

- Incentivising dryland farming
- System of rice intensification (SRI) to reduce water intake
- Introducing micro-irrigation techniques to increase water-use efficiency.

- Encouraging cultivation of millets. They use less water and ~~are~~ are nutritious in micro-nutrients.
- Million Wells Recharge Programme of Swaminathan, to have a regular supply of water.
- Even the practices of Ralegan Siddhi led by Anna Hazare are ~~important~~ ~~to~~ worth emulating.
- Encouraging Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)
- Diversification to livestock, dairying and fisheries.

~~All these are~~
The government also needs to look into the Dalwai Committee recommendations for doubling

15. Despite the steps taken by the government in recent years, a number of problems continue to persist in the urea sector in India. Discuss. What reforms should be taken to address the persisting problems?

(250 words) 15

हाल के वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों के बावजूद, भारत में यूरिया क्षेत्र में कई समस्याएं निरंतर बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। मौजूदा समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु क्या सुधार किए जाने चाहिए?

Urea is an important fertilizer
and is ~~an~~ a major component
of NPK fertilizers in India.

A number of problems persist
in the sector

- Urea production is constrained by availability of raw materials, part of which is imported.
- Overdose of urea, leading to nutrient imbalance in the soil.
- Firms are not getting timely payment from the government.
- Questions over the quality of

Urea manufactured.

~~The~~
Reforms introduced by the
Government

- Neem-Coated Urea to prevent misuse, and reduce nitrogen pollution
- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to urea companies, after enrolling farmers ~~in~~ through Point of Sale (PoS) machines.
- Soil Health Cards (SHCs) to get ^{nutrient} Reforms that can be taken ^{inputs}
- ~~to~~ ~~allow~~ Deregulate the sector and allow more private players.

- Withdraw urea subsidy to ~~for~~ farmers, and give DBT to farmers.
- SHCs need to give full information on amount of urea required.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) need to do research on finding better alternatives ~~to~~ cheaper methods to urea production.

16. What is Access and Benefit Sharing? Explain how it aids in sustainable use of biodiversity. Also, mention the different global and national level mechanisms for ensuring Access and Benefit Sharing. (250 words) 15

पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण (एक्सेस एंड बेनिफिट शेयरिंग) क्या है? यह जैव विविधता के संधारणीय उपयोग में किस प्रकार सहायक है, स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण सुनिश्चित करने हेतु वैश्विक और राष्ट्रीय स्तर की विभिन्न प्रणालियों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Access and Benefit Sharing

(ABS) provides for -

- (1) Access to biodiversity resources in a region.
- (2) Equitable sharing of benefits arising from exploitation of that biodiversity among the inhabitants of that region

ABS is an important concept under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

How it aids in sustainable use of biodiversity

→ In the absence of ABS, many

large foreign firms (MNCs) exploit biological resources in a region, get patents for their products and prevent local inhabitants from using these resources. This is called biopiracy.

→ With ABS, local communities are participants and beneficiaries in biodiversity use and products. Thus, they have an incentive to conserve and sustainably use them.

→ ABS also protects the traditional knowledge of local communities from being patented by MNCs. This knowledge is crucial in conserving and sustainably using biodiversity.

ABS mechanisms

At international level

- Nagoya Protocol to CBD provides for ABS
- Aichi Targets also strengthen CBD.

At national level

- Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) under CSIR.
- Even the Geographical Indications Act provides for GI protections to certain biological products like turmeric, betelnuts, etc.

These ABS mechanisms need to be strengthened.

17. Stating the significance, discuss the challenges in achieving disaster resilience of infrastructure. Suggest some ways for mainstreaming it in the development paradigm. (250 words) 15

अवसंरचनाओं का आपदाओं के प्रति सुनम्य (रेजिलिएंट) होने के महत्व को स्पष्ट करते हुए, इससे संबंधित चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए। इसे विक्राम प्रतिमान की मुख्यधारा में लाने हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

Disaster resilience is the ability of infrastructure to withstand and minimize the costs of a disaster.

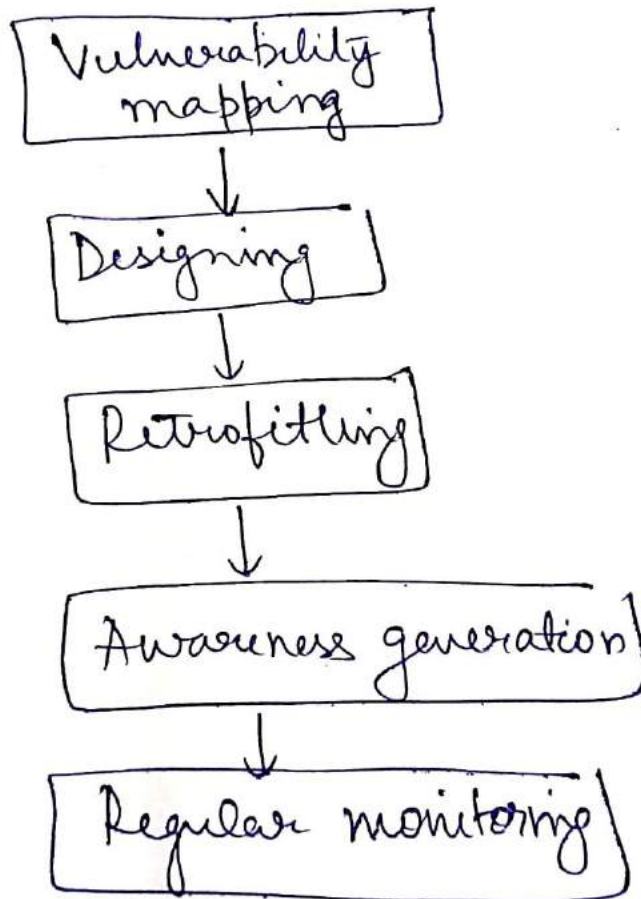


Fig : Steps in creating disaster resilient infrastructure

Significance

- Minimize and mitigate the costs of disaster
- Make the community better prepared to face disaster.
- Creation of such infrastructure is also a source of jobs.

Challenges

- Most cities are overcrowded and grow in an unplanned manner.
- It is not possible to remove old dilapidated infrastructure
- ~~#~~ Absence of mandatory laws.
- Lack of awareness among people and policymakers
- Absence of good data for vulnerability mapping.

Ways to mainsteam it

- Introduce it in urban renewal programmes like SMART CITY, AMRUT etc
- ~~Introduce~~ Introduce mandatory legal provisions.
- Awareness generation among people.
- Training of ~~architects~~ architects and engineers in such infrastructure.
- Urban planning should incorporate that.
- Use BIS techniques to ~~use~~ map vulnerable infrastructure.
- Look for innovative financing mechanisms like infrastructure bonds.

India needs to implement the Sendai Framework, recommendations

18. Highlighting the significance of data localization for India, discuss various challenges associated with data localization. (250 words) 15

भारत के लिए डेटा के स्थानीयकरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, डेटा के स्थानीयकरण से जुड़ी विभिन्न चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए।

Data localization is the step of ensuring that the data generated by users in a country remains in that country.

The Justice Sri Krishna Committee has recommended data localization in India. Recently, RBI made it mandatory for digital payment service providers to store their data in India servers located in India.

Significance of data localization

→ Data is the new oil. Who ever controls data, he controls economic and political might. Thus, countries want to have sovereign control over

their data.

→ As most tech giants ~~do~~ like Amazon store their data in USA, it provides a level-playing field for Indian companies if they can store their data in India.

→ National security concerns associated with data can be better addressed.

→ If data is localized, privacy issues can be better addressed ~~by~~ when firms violate privacy standards.

→ ~~It~~ Opens up the possibility of taxing data.

Challenges

→ Opposition from developed countries, especially US.

- Fears of creation of a surveillance state.
- Most servers require a cool climate to work. Temperate countries are better suited. Tropical countries like India will need more energy to keep the servers cool.
- Indian companies can lose out if all other countries ~~to~~ resort to data protectionism.
- WTO negotiations on e-commerce further hinder data localization.

The way forward is to make a proper cost-benefit analysis before taking any ~~the~~ decision.

19. Money Laundering as a socio economic offence is a menace especially for developing countries like India. Comment. What measures have been taken at the domestic and international levels to deal with this menace?

(250 words) 15

एक सामाजिक आर्थिक अपराध के रूप में धन शोधन विशेषकर भारत जैसे विकसित देशों के लिए एक खतरा है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस खतरे से निपटने हेतु घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर क्या उपाय किए गए हैं?

Money laundering is the process of converting illegal black money obtained through evasion or illegal means into white money that appears to come from legitimate sources. This is done through cash transfers, structured deposits, hawala operators and ground tripping through tax havens like Mauritius.

Money Laundering as a socio-economic offence

→ Perpetuates a culture of corruption in governance,

eroding values.

→ Exacerbates economic inequalities.

→ Affects development activities as less funds are available due to tax evasion.

→ Increases the role of money power in elections.

→ Denigrates institutions

- Police & investigations lax
- Judges corrupt, etc.

This happens as easy money becomes available to compromise integrity of officials.

→ Fuels terrorism and organized crime, as we saw in Punjab and Kashmir.

Measures taken ~~at~~→ At domestic level

- Enactment of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
- Benami Transactions Act.
- Setting up Enforcement Directorate (ED)
- Setting up SIT on Black Money
- Demonetization
- Introduction of GST to curb evasion.
- Operation Clean Money by IT department.
- Inclusion of terror funding as an offence under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

→ At international level

- Financial Action Task Force
- Asia Pacific Group
- Wolfsberg Group
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime.

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Visit us : www.visionias.inThese steps ~~has~~ helped

This document is personalised for Aranya Sankar
in ~~cut~~ reducing the menace
of money laundering.

20. The primary motive of terrorism differs from that of organised crime but there exists a symbiotic relationship between the two. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

आतंकवाद का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य संगठित अपराध के उद्देश्य से भिन्न होता है, किन्तु दोनों के मध्य एक सहजीवी संबंध पाया जाता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Organized crime (oc) is a system of criminal activity characterized by presence of a hierarchical organized group, with a leader.

This is prevalent especially in drug trafficking.

Terrorism and organized crime

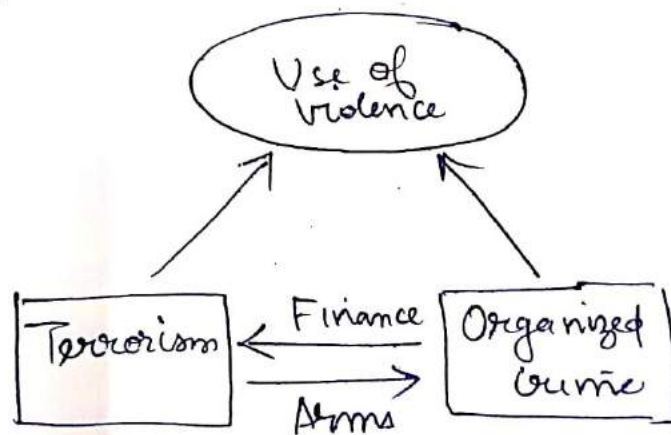
The primary motives of the two differ.

Terrorism → ~~Overthrow~~ To support an ideology and overthrow a regime going against that ideology by the use of violence

against people and the state.

Organized crime → The objective is to undertake an economic activity (eg- selling of drugs), ~~by~~ not driven by any ideology. The objective is to stay away from law enforcement agencies.

Symbiotic relationship



→ Terrorism is usually funded by the proceeds of organized crime.

