

UPSE CSE 2025

VAJIRAM & RAVI

AIR - 851

SURE SHOT MAINS REHEARSAL 2025

General Studies
FULL LENGTH TEST
(GS - 3)
Test Code - VR1053511

Evaluator Code:
Date of Assignment:
CQ:

NAME: Ayush Senual
STUDENT ID.:
UPSC ROLL NO.: 1410458
MOBILE NO.:

Time allowed: 3 Hours
Email:
Submission Date: 10/08/2025

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**.

All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

Instructions:-

- Legible Scanning:** Exercise due diligence in scanning your scripts for clear legibility
- Submissions** marred by poor scanning, notably those with illegible sections or blackened pages due to improper scanning, risk being excluded from the evaluation process.
- Non-Adherence Consequences:** Failure to comply with the aforementioned instructions may lead to the disqualification of your submission.

For Student Only

Start Time - 9:00am

End Time -

Mode of Examination online

Online

Offline

Receiving date -

Dispatch date -

Parameters		Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding				
Understanding Demand of Question				
Structure	Introduction			
	Body			
	Conclusion			
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.				
Language and Handwriting				
No. of Questions Attempted				
Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No				

Mentor's Feedback

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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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☺ All the Best ☺

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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☺ All the Best ☺

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(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

1. Discuss how the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) aligns with the broader goals of 'Make in India' and Atmanirbhar Bharat. (10 marks, 150 words)

Production linked Incentive
scheme to reward incremental (PLI) production
and sales with capital rewards. Food
processing which contributes 1.6% to GDP and
accounts for >10% to export potential aims to
transfer through PLI initiative.

- PLISFPI aligning with Make in India and
Atm
- 1) Make India manufacturing hub to accelerate
its stagnant (~17% GDP) manufacturing base.
 - 2) Boost employment potential with direct
and indirect jobs.
 - 3) Value addition with standardisation and
branding.

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- o) Integration into global value chains and diversify export potential.

PLIFPI with Atmanirbhar Bharat

- o) Self-sufficiency with rising consumer base and demands amid rise in per capita income

- o) Reduce import of value added products to prevent from geopolitically induced market fluctuations -

- o) Focus on innovation and entrepreneurial spirit
eg Ready to cook / Ready to eat, marine products, Mozzarella cheese.

- o) Social empowerment - skill development, financial inclusion of FPI involves ~40% of unorganised workforce.

PLIFPI is a six year programme with a budget of ~10,000 crore to make India roadmap towards Viksit Bharat 2047 and achieve Panch Pran

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2. What are the major factors driving the recent surge in Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) outflows from Indian financial markets? Analyze their impact on domestic market sentiment. (10 marks, 150 words)

Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) are overseas / foreign registered investors taking part in Indian financial markets through equity, bonds and derivatives

Major factors that drive FII outflow India

- i) Economic uncertainty to depression tendencies, inflation driven by geopolitical risks of Russia-Ukraine war.
- ii) Rising US federal rates making US economy attractive

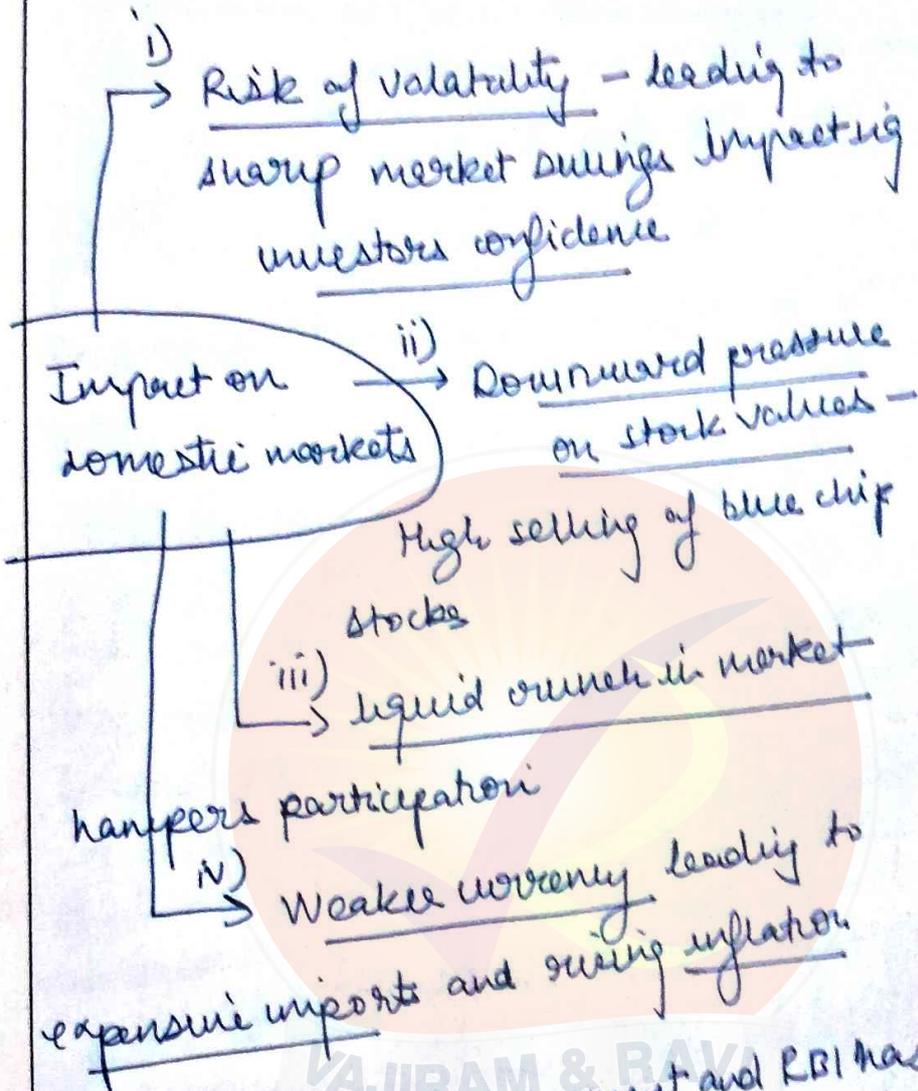
Restriction

- iii) Repatriation of Indian rupee due to falling reserves.
- iv) Uncertain regulatory environment due to complexity companies despite better ranking. [WB - 63/190]

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Government and RBI has taken active measures - RBI conducting variable repo rate operations, cutting down OCR by 50 basis points and government fiscal discipline by shifting to debt to GDP parameter

Introduction	
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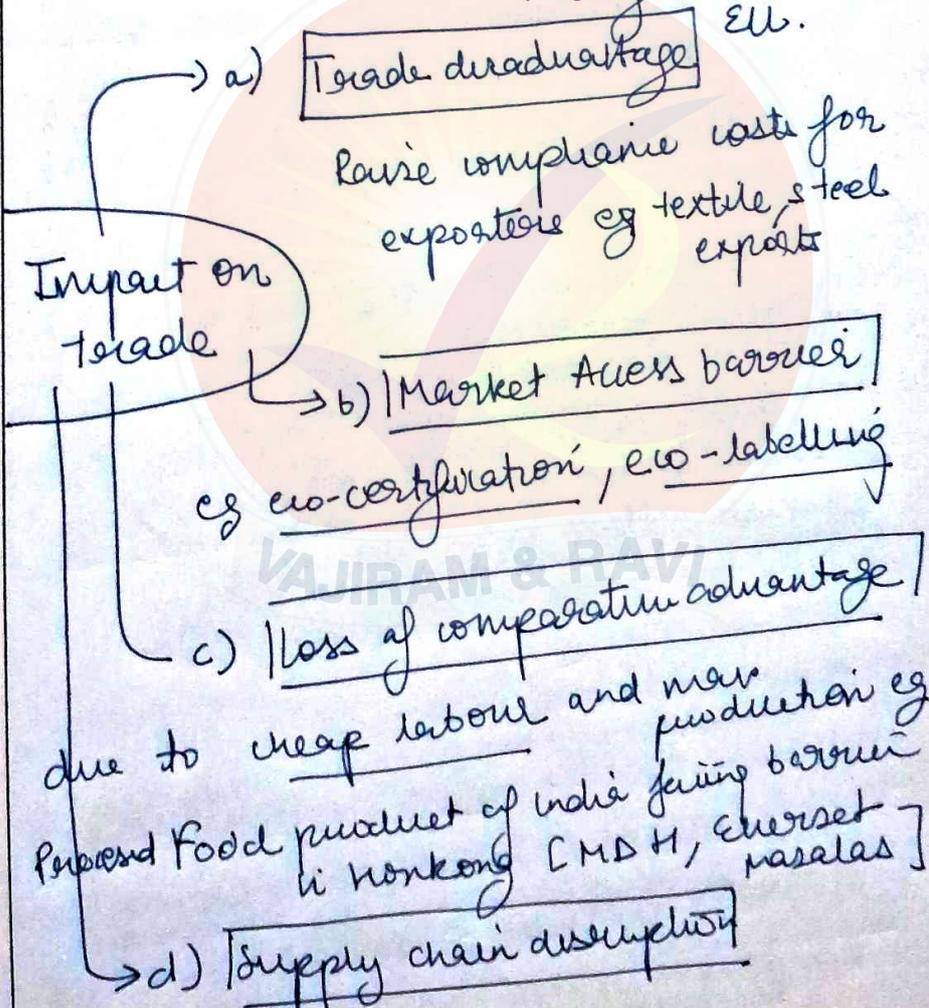
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3. What is 'Green Protectionism'? How does it alter the dynamics of trade and sustainability debates, particularly for the Global South? Illustrate with examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

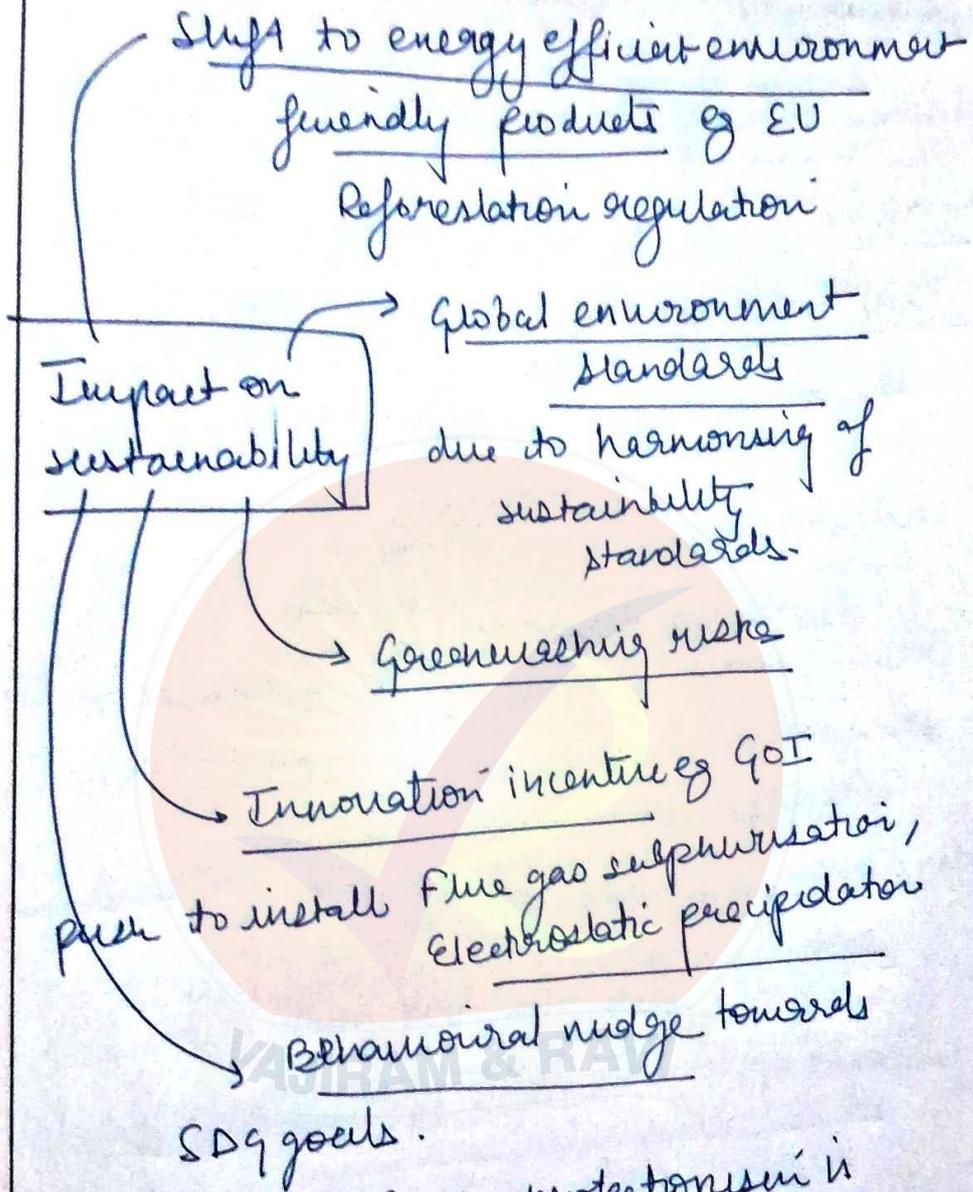
Green protectionism is a non-tariff mode of import substitution measure to overcome carbon rich imports in the economy of Carbon Adjustment management plan of EU.



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Green protectionism is important given rising environment challenges however standardisation is required to prevent developing countries excess to market and prevent global supply chain disruption

Introduction	
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4. Evaluate the role of farmer-producer organisations (FPOs) and rural cooperatives in driving economic diversification in rural areas. (10 marks, 150 words)

Farmer producer organisation (FPO) and rural cooperatives are local agglomerations of farmers to integrate synergy in capacity and enhance bargaining power.

- Role in economic diversification
- a) wide credit access potential through collateral benefits which could be streamlined towards ancillary activities eg aquaculture, vermiculture
 - b) Market access and value addition eg Sahyadri FPO exports processed grapes and tomatoes
 - c) Crop diversification ex Korla kudumshree promotes horticulture with farm production.

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~ skill improvement and entrepreneurship

~ packaging, marketing and livelihood

~ Allied activities eg Beekkeeping, poultry production (Amul model).

~ Risk mitigation due to risk diversification further impetus to expand

Government has taken active measures - Central sector

scheme to transfer 10,000 FPOs (2020-27)

Agricultural Infrastructure Fund,

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (organic certification) and Organic

Value chain development for NE India
These are steps in right direction to enhance Farmers income to 2x.

Introduction
Body

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5. Elucidate how the adoption of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) can significantly contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. (10 marks, 150 words)

Integrate farming system (IFS)

aims to maintain diverse sets of activities -
poultry, fish production, agro forestry,
and other allied activities in complementary
manners optimising resources and generating

outcomes

IFS :-
Climate change
adaptation

→ Diversification of risk
through varied investment

eg AR6 IPCC report -
every 1°C rise could
alter yield by 15-20%.

→ Localisation of resources -

create productive cycle of fodder, water
availability and manure.

→ Soil fertility resilience through
mixed farming methods and calibrate
irrigation eg sprinkler.

— Varied income source to prevent fluctuations in production eg 2023 monsoon drought affected paddy yield in east India by ~30%.

Climate Mitigation

— Carbon sequestration - Agroforestry and perennial crops store CO₂.

— Reduced GHG emission

due to less reliance on synthetic

— Renewable energy - solar induced pumps

— Reduce reliance on thermal electricity

— Use of manure (composting zero budget) reduce surface runoff

(Circular bioeconomy)
— Nutrient recycling

— IFS models like Kerala's coconut farming with horticulture, Sunderban's - paddy fish farming are great examples to take shift.

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6. "Port led development can significantly contribute towards India's economic growth." Discuss the achievements of Sagarmala Programme in this context. What measures can be taken to enhance the port-led economy in India?
(10 marks, 150 words)

Port led development
are integrated model of coastal economic
growth with hinterland connectivity
and rise of industrial clusters along
coasts

Achievements of
Sagarmala
programme

Project completion - 272
project with outlay of
1.4 lakh crore

Varied direct and
indirect jobs -

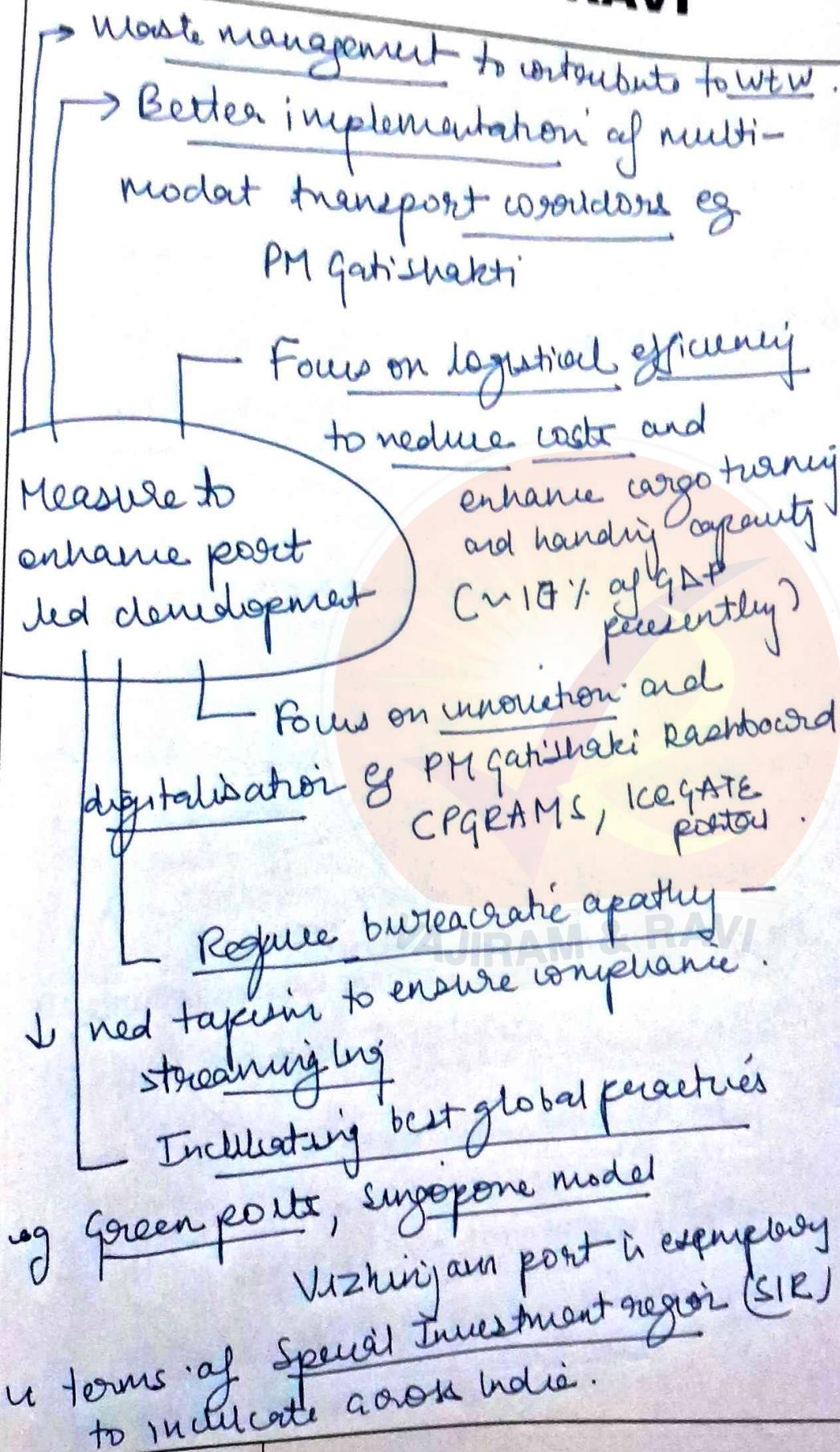
contributing to coastal livelihood.

International recognition - 9
ports in top 100 with Vishakhapatnam port
in Top 20

Inland waterway - surge of
700% in cargo movement

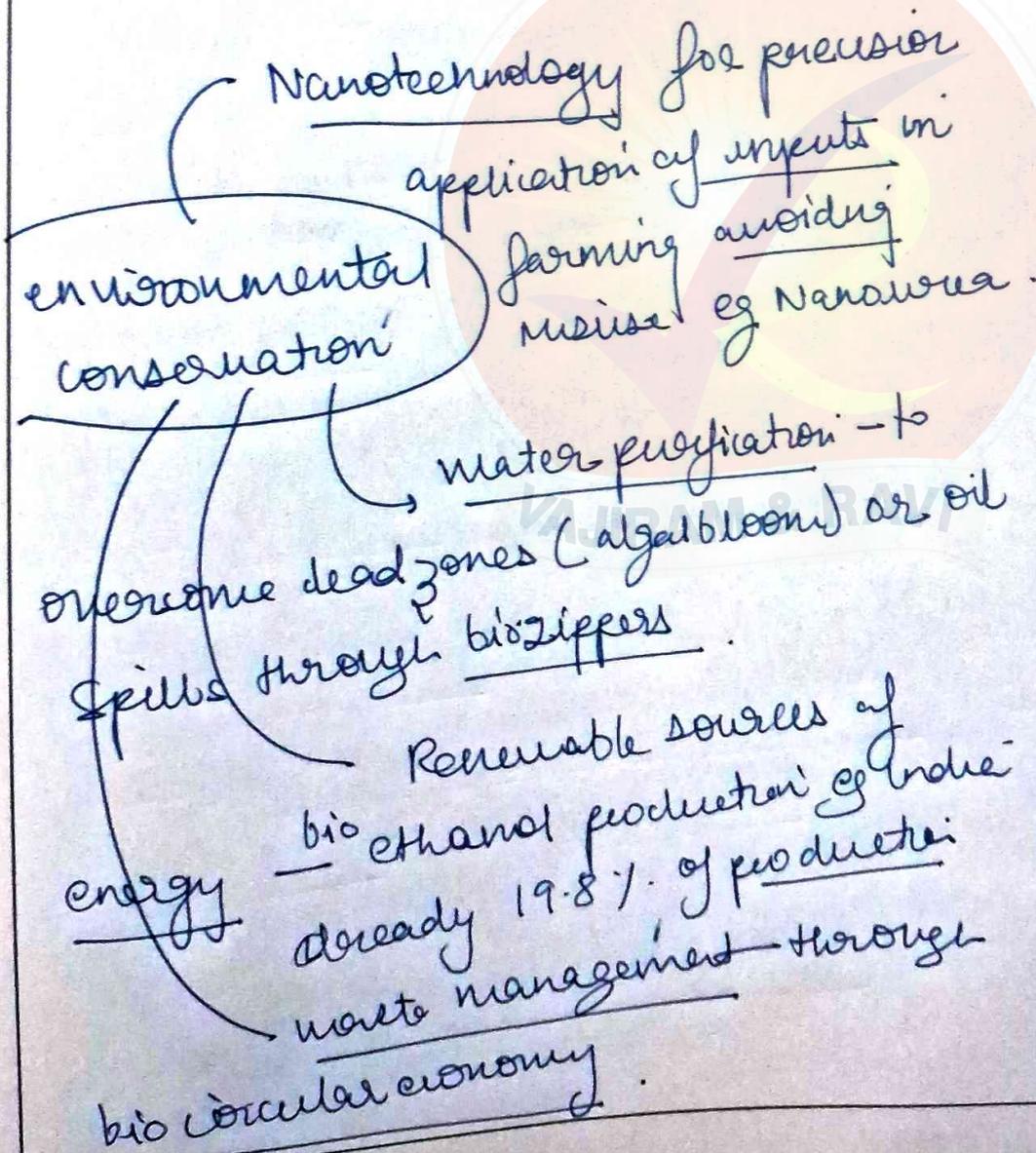
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7. Discuss the role of synthetic biology in environmental conservation and healthcare innovation. What are the associated biosafety risks? (10 marks, 150 words)

Synthetic biology is the emerging arm of biotechnology which varied application across different sectors eg education, health, environmental conservation etc.



Healthcare innovation

- vaccine development eg mRNA

- prosthetic development for disabled

- nanotechnology - nanotubes; Carbon tubes for efficient drug delivery

- Overcoming genetic disorders eg Crisper Cas9 gene editing

- Genetic data for DNA sequence Genome India Indigen

- Health promoters - carcinogens in nature

Potential risks

- Bioethical challenges of gene editing

- Agriculture challenges - bioaccumulation, biomagnification

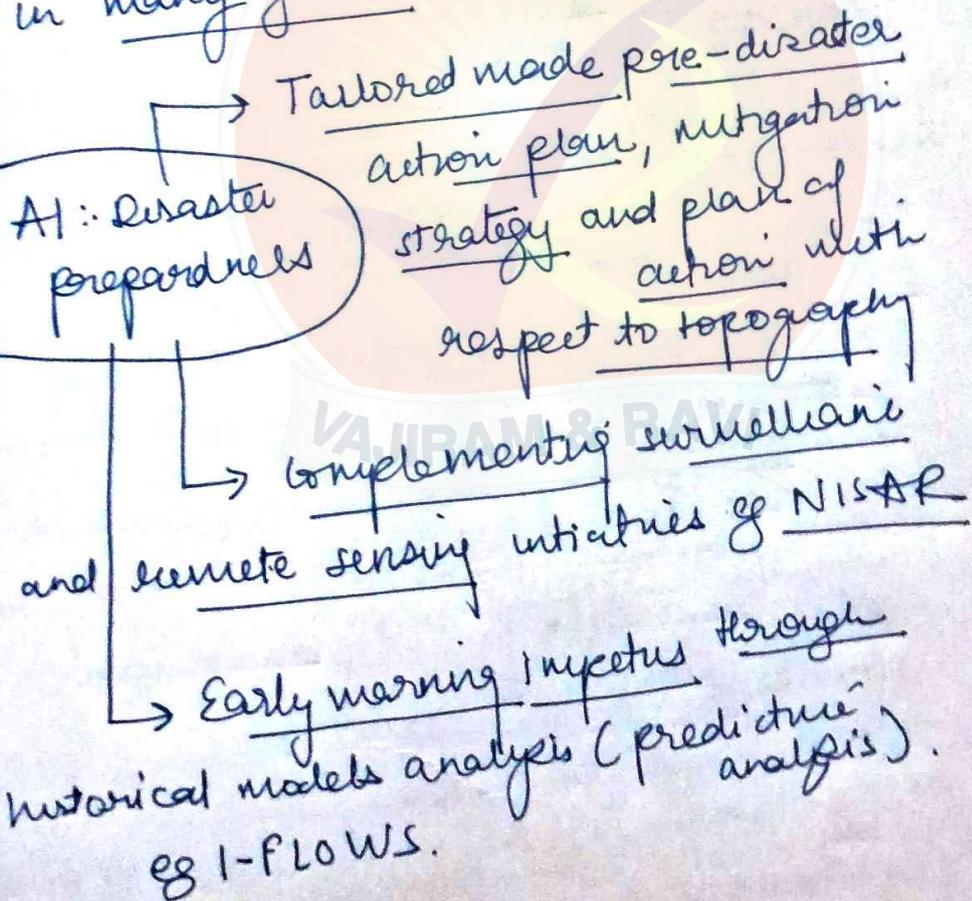
- Unintended consequences and

risk of consent.
Synthetic Biology have huge potential
National Bioethic policy needs to include all stakeholders.

Introduction	
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8. How can AI technologies be leveraged to enhance disaster preparedness and response in India? What key challenges must be addressed for their effective implementation? (10 marks, 150 words)

Artificial Intelligence is the reality of modern times aggregating, processing and streamlining infinite amount of data within few seconds. This could be leveraged in disaster management in many forms.



AI: Disaster response

→ converging various stakeholders

through information streamline

→ Realtime monitoring and impact assessment helping authorities
prioritise relief and rescue operations
supply chain optimisation of

essentials, medicines etc.

Key challenges to be addressed

① skill training among authorities (NDRF, SARF, district administration)

② uniform adoption

across departments

③ Multilingual models to integrate response
community participation and

④ economically friendly concerns
through localisation of data.

Google's flood mitigation AI was a successful model. Government through India AI mission an AI for All imperative need to streamline ethical AI applications.

9. Critically examine the relevance of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 in contemporary internal security management. (10 marks, 150 words)

AFSPA 1958 is an extraordinary legislation to overcome instability and insurgency in disturbed areas { section 3 }

- Relevance of AFSPA
- ① To meet challenges of internal disturbances and armed rebellions eg Nagaland insurgency
 - ② Stability across borders to check illegal infiltration and drug trafficking of NE porous borders.
 - ③ To overcome separatist tendencies (secessionist) eg Bodoland movement, Kashmiri issue
 - ④ Strategic assertion to impart unity across varied sections of India.

Human Rights violations case by armed forces eg NHRC has flagged repetitive concerns

However these are various concerns.

Unambiguous discretion to armed forces eg free encounters, howe swadhikari

Creates trust deficit further accelerating secessionist tendencies eg Manipal violence

Civilian casualties due to intelligence negligence

Gradual, Area specific withdrawal

May forward "Disturbed area" review mechanism by

[Justice Tejvan Reddy committee]

Periodic review and sunset clause
Accountability mechanism (NHRC)

AFSPA is a double edged sword which needs stakeholder approval and recalibration.

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10. In the light of increasing technological complexity of national threats, discuss the significance of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) in India's internal security domain. (10 marks, 150 words)

National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) holds an imperative space in national security framework amid rising shift in security paradox:

High powered body - NSA and ^{under} direct contact with PMO

Significance - Technical research ecosystem - recalibration with emerging dynamic threats eg Mumbai power grid cyber ransomware attack.

→ Cyber security framework enhancing cyber infrastructure to tackle malicious cyber attacks eg A11M Delhi cyber attack on health data.

↳ Intelligence gathering and synergy
eg convergence across IB, RAW, NIA.

↳ Interoperability and avoidance
of siloed response.

Challenges

- vacancies across departments
- over centralisation
- ICT adoption lagging
as compared to global standards.
- skill upgradation required
with regular training module.

National Technological
Research Organisation (NTRO) is
strategic tool to transform India's
security architecture overcoming
lethargic siloed approach.

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II. Analyse the paradoxical relationship between GDP growth rate and employment elasticity in India. Also, suggest strategies to be adopted to create more jobs to reap the demographic dividend.
(15 marks, 250 words)

IMF has predicted India's GDP growth rate $\approx 6.8\%$ in coming years. However India faces the persistent problem of unemployment, underemployment and disguised employment across domains (CMIE $\approx 6.1\%$ unemployment 2025).

→ low manufacturing base (17% of GDP) in contrast to other developing economies (e.g. China)

Paradoxical relationship → leap from agriculture to service domain economy

→ low productive agriculture sector despite $\approx 45\%$ of employment

→ Weak skill base of India's skill 2025 report $\approx 51\%$ of India's youth skilled.

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Information ~ 85% of jobs in urban area are informal

New platform oriented employment

(Platformisation)

inducing further informal ecosystem of gig economy

Globalisation and outsourcing

Skill enhancement eg

PM Kaushal Yojana +

skill india Mission

Strategies to reap demographic dividend

Impetus to Micro, small industries eg Union budget

recalibrating the definition to overcome "missing middle syndrome"

Apprenticeship programme

to give leeway to skill match with changing market dynamics.

Capital investment led employment
of National Infrastructure pipeline
(1.1 lakh crore) having
ripple effect on labour market

labour intensive industries - PLI
schemes for 12 sectors - textiles
Steel, automobiles

Digital and Technological advancement
giving leeway to startup ecosystem and
entrepreneurial spirit eg KIRAN
scheme,

global chain integration -
Vigyan yatri
giving leeway to Industry 4.0 base
of fabrication unit of chips

India has the golden
age of demographic dividend which would
give it the necessary acceleration
towards Vision 2047.

12. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in India has not only improved targeting but also enhanced fiscal efficiency. Critically examine this statement in light of the findings of the Welfare Efficiency Index.
(15 marks, 250 words)

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is the governance reform that directly delivers pensions, income, subsidies into person's (beneficiary) account leveraging technological connectivity.

DBT:-
Better targeting

- Aadhaar based authentication
 - Removed fake PAAHAL users (4.4 lakh)
 - Bogus MNREGA cards in thousands
- Better Targeted beneficiary - 8 crore users under PMKAY
- Better identification - PM-KISAN using SECC 2011 data to ensure efficiency.

→ last mile delivery - Nandan

Milekani emphasizes how DBT would ensure 1 lakh crore public savings.

Fiscal efficiency

→ Reduced leakages - PAHAL

and PM Ujjwala saved 14,000 crore annually

→ Output linked disbursement

eg PM Matsru Vandana Yojana

→ Cross scheme verification avoid

duplication of subsidies

→ Elimination of middlemen

ensures fiscal discipline is maintained

Welfare efficiency index is a metric of determining welfare delivery system

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particular DBT

Imperative findings

Misuse efficiency index

should improved from 0.31 to 0.93 between 2004 to 2023.

Cumulative saving of

₹ 3.23 lakh crore through leakage prevention

subsidy allocation has been valued 16% to 7% of total government expenditure.

Beneficiary coverage has been enhanced from 11 crore to 176 crore

DBT has been called logistical marvel by IMF with 1.85 stars earned in food subsidies and 22,000 crore by deleting 2 crore eligible beneficiary. However persistent challenges could be over come by ICT integration.

Introduction

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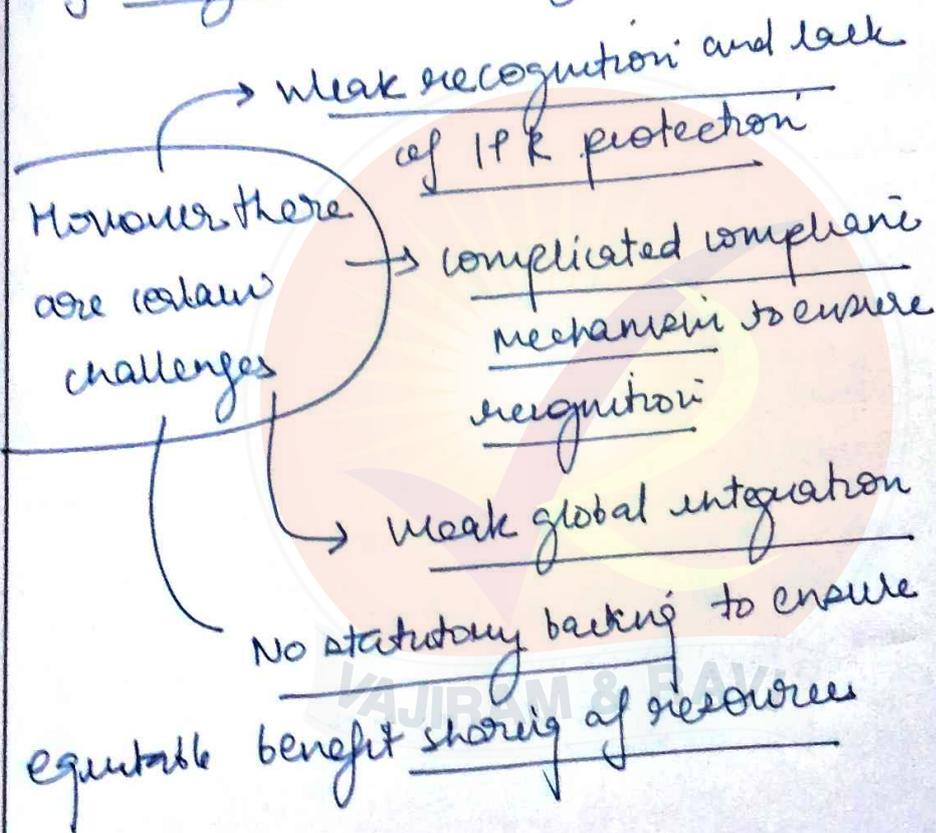
13. With reference to the recent WIPO treaty on genetic resources, assess whether India's domestic initiatives are sufficient to safeguard its traditional knowledge on the global stage.
(15 marks, 250 words)

WIPO new treaty of genetic resources aims to strengthen global recognition of traditional knowledge and aims their preservation.

India has taken various proactive measures to secure genetic resources.

- a) Biodiversity Act 2002. gives statutory backing biodiversity preservation with local level Biodiversity management committee.
- b) Plant varieties and farmer's Rights Act to preserve indigenous local seed varieties and traditional farming methods.

c) Traditional knowledge digital library (TKDL) serving as a repository of indigenous knowledge



WIPO treaty serves as an opportunity to have global standardisation of indigenous rights preservation ensuring equitable benefit sharing

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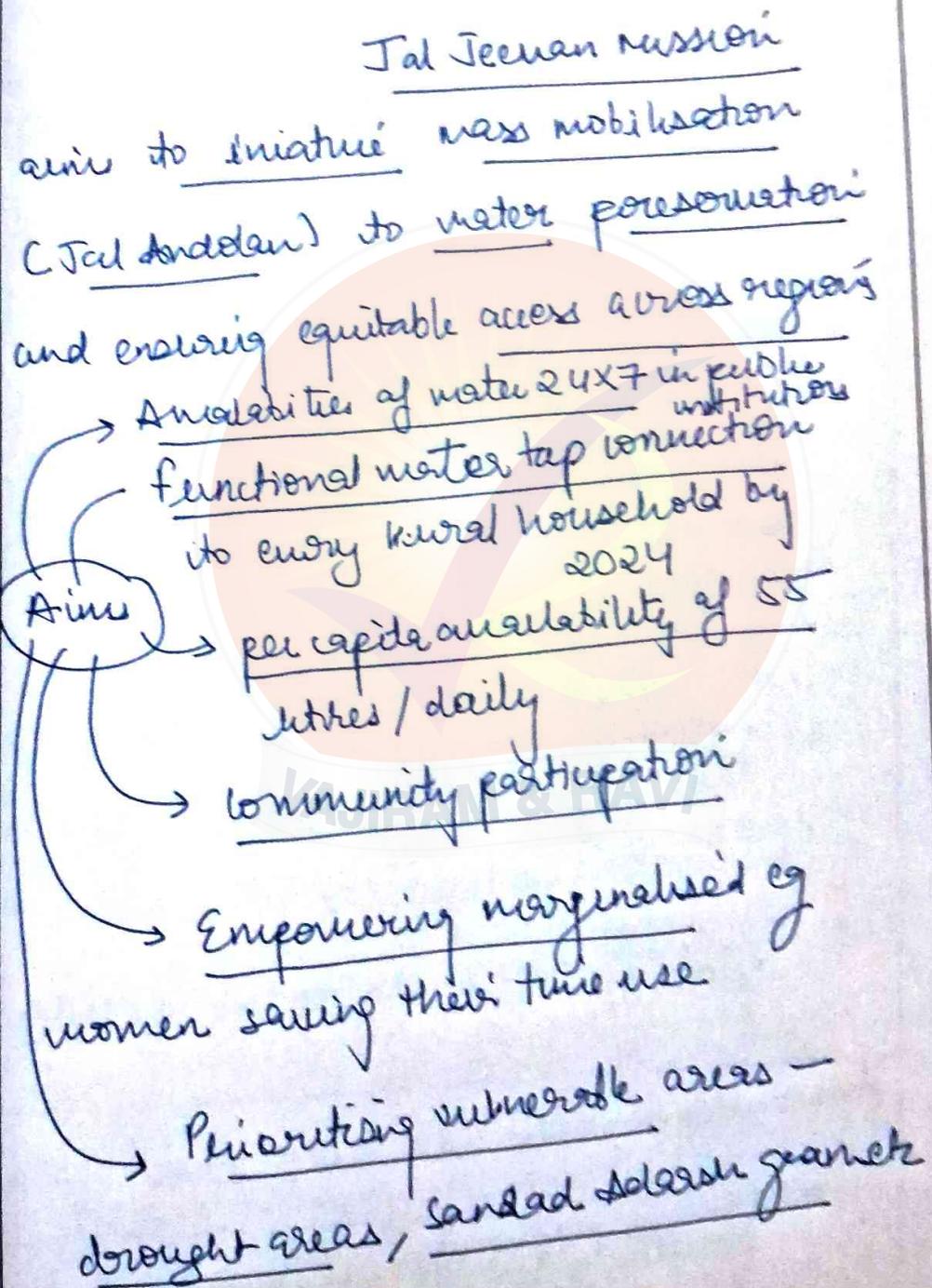
The combined effect of
India's domestic initiatives and WIPO
treaty will be crucial in safeguarding
India's traditional knowledge ecosystem

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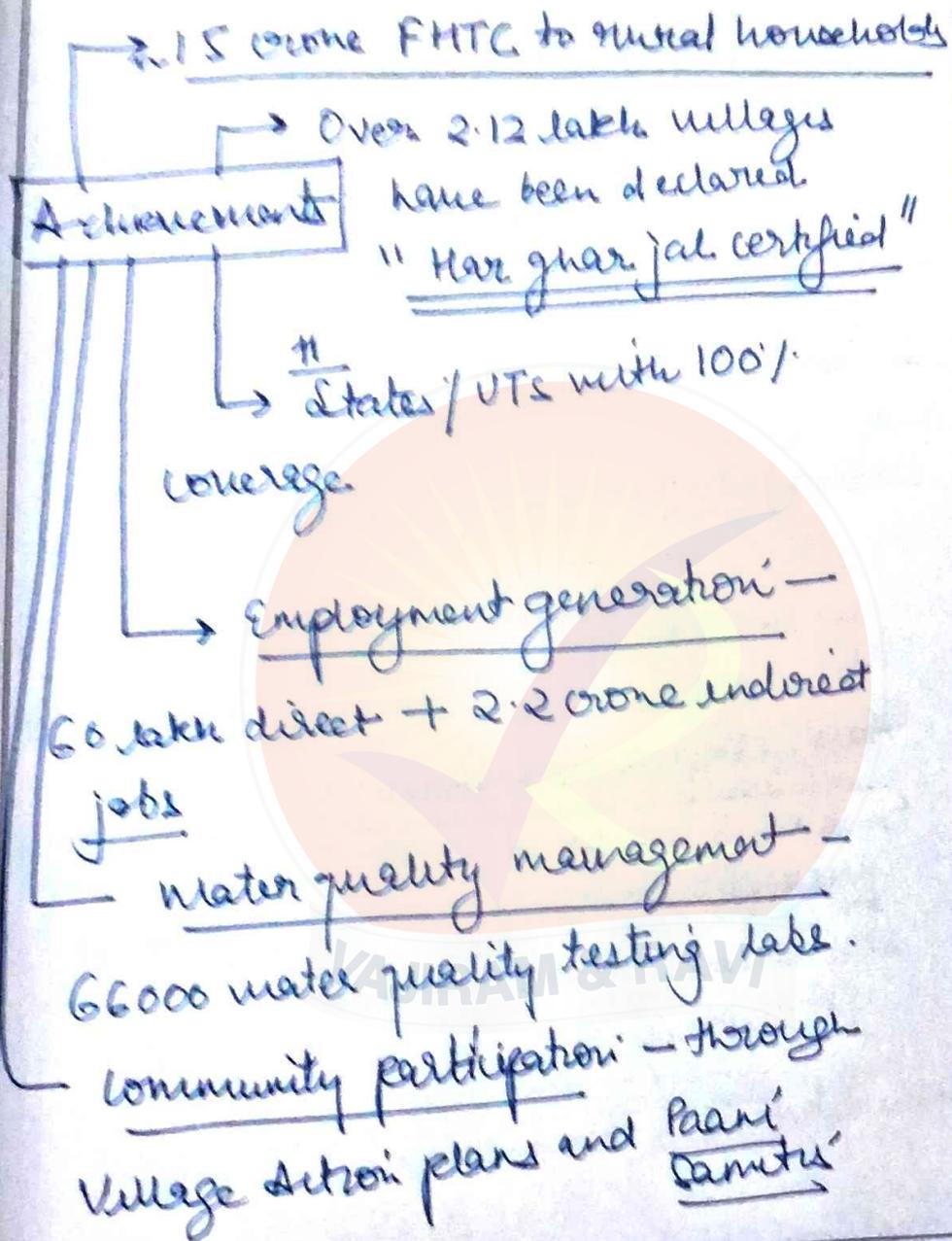
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14. Discuss the key objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Evaluate its progress in achieving water security. What are the key bottlenecks in achieving universal access? Suggest reforms needed to overcome them. (15 marks, 250 words)



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Bottlenecks associated with implementation

a) Infrastructure deficit & lack of iron galvanized pipes

b) Limited reach due to difficult terrain eg hilly and mountainous regions of J&K, Himachal.

c) Lack of integration at grassroots level due to weak local self government

d) Lack of fund or late release of funds

e) Limited technical capacity

Measures needed
Empowering panchayats with ZFs to improve functional efficiency

Answer driven to educate people effects of safe water access

ITC assessment and independent third party audit

Drawing parallels with SDG goals - SDG 1, 2, 3, 11 etc.

JJM is ambitious measure which needs community engagement with strong administrative and political will.

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15. Do you think that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process strikes a balance between economic growth and environmental protection? Justify with examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

EIA is a proactive measure to assess ecological effects of a project being undertaken eg railway line, hydroelectric to ensure the imperative of sustainable development.

EIA process in India

- Screening
- Scoping
- Impact Ass.
- Monitoring
- Public Consult
- Appraisal
- Decision
- Monitoring

Striking balance between growth and ecology

Monitoring pre-development to ensure possible consequence

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Public consultation to ensure active stakeholder approach is being followed.

Ensuring carrying capacity is not transgressed eg Konkan railway project was modified

Give room to dissent eg Protest against Kerala's silviculture project

Proper demarcation to give space for development of Rangarajan committee to ensure certain percentage of western ghats are not transgressed.

However certain challenges

o) lack of implementation

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due to profit motive eg Vishakapatnam
L9 polymer leakage indicating weak
EIA

1) Bureaucratic apathy and weak political will to meet development narrative of Assam forest protest.

2) EIA amendment guidelines - weak public consultation and provides many exemptions.

3) Slow or avoiding stakeholder engagement hampering traditional rights of indigenous communities.

EIA needs a recalibration to enforce the narrative of sustainable development. Recent cloud forest impact in 'Uttarakashi' and urban/rural forests in Assam is indication of practical approach.

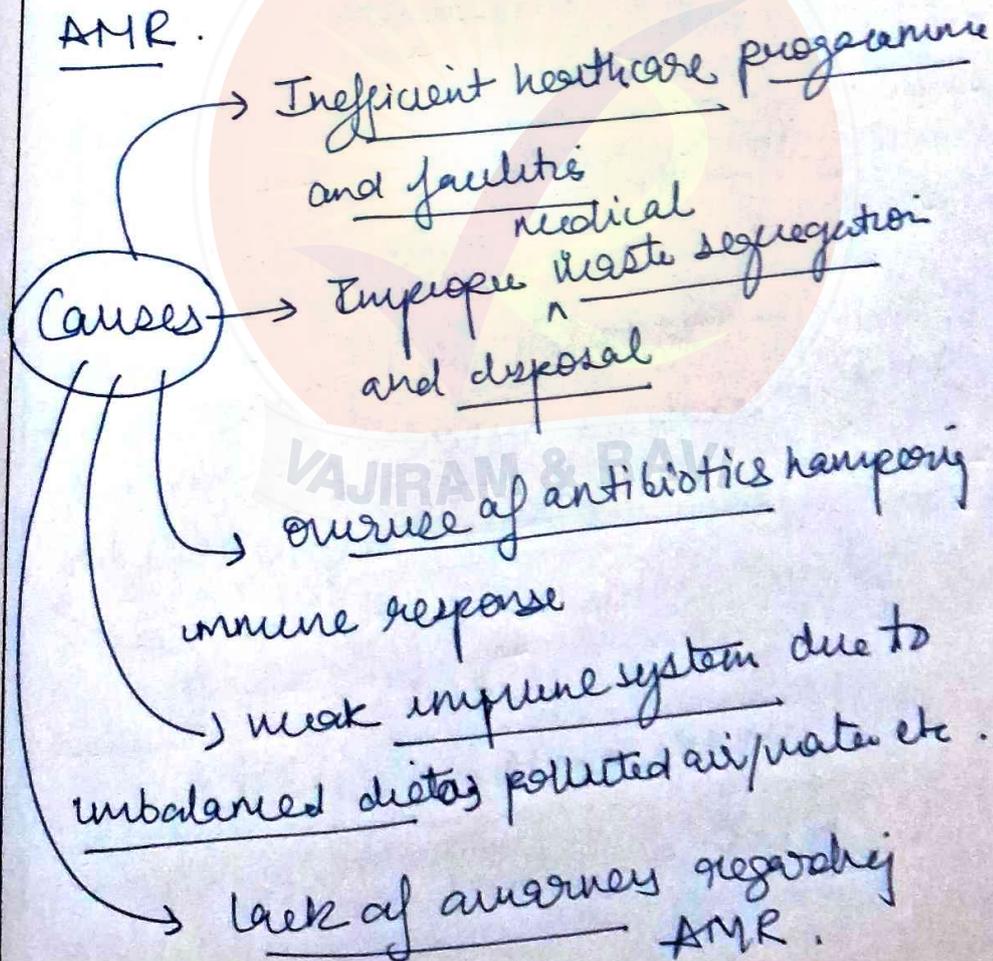
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16. What are superbugs? Explain the causes for their emergence and concerns surrounding them. State the available mechanisms for monitoring and controlling their spread?
(15 marks, 250 words)

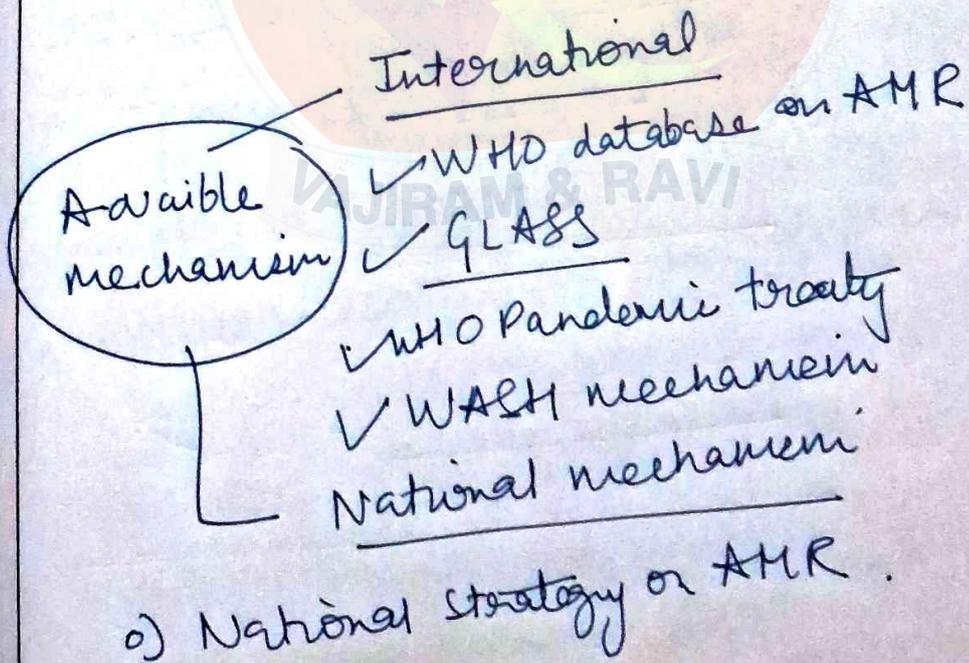
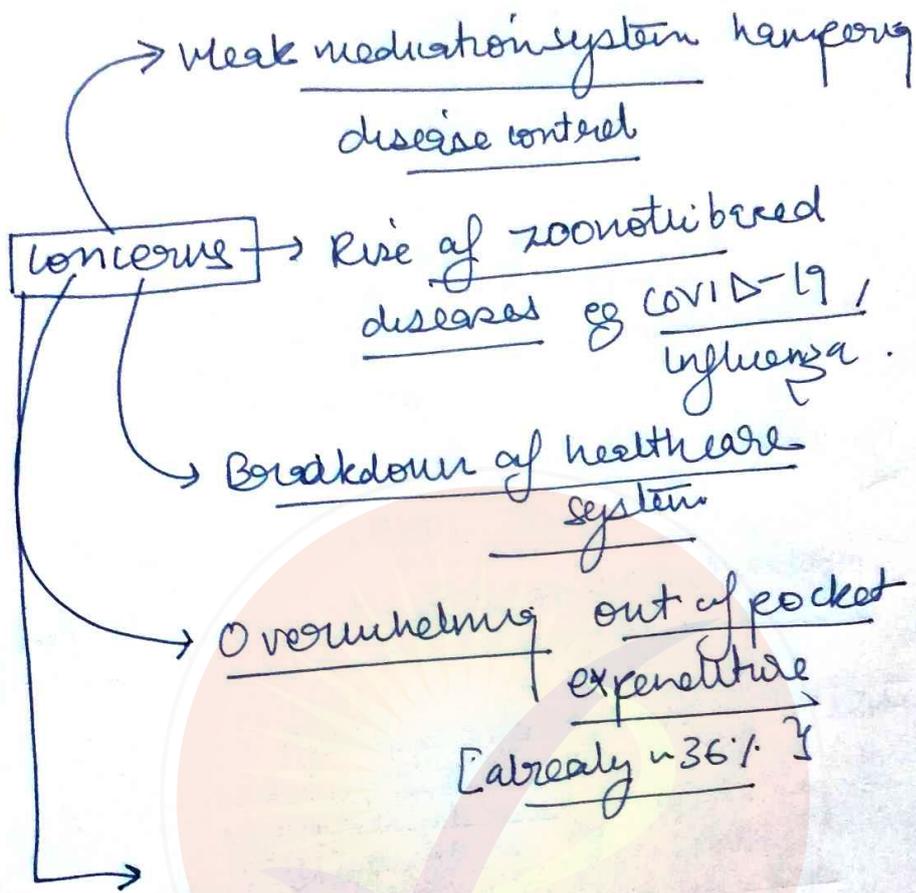
Superbugs are fungi, bacteria, viruses that have developed the tendency to overcome antibiotic/medication resistance giving rise to phenomena of AMR.



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- 1) Mission Indradhanush
(Immunisation programme)
- 2) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to
achieve hygiene and sanitation
- 3) Non state actors - ^{eg} Red Cross
- 4) National Mission on Biotechnology

challenges that have the tendency to
overpower healthcare system. A
well driven policy framework with
awareness measures are need of hour.

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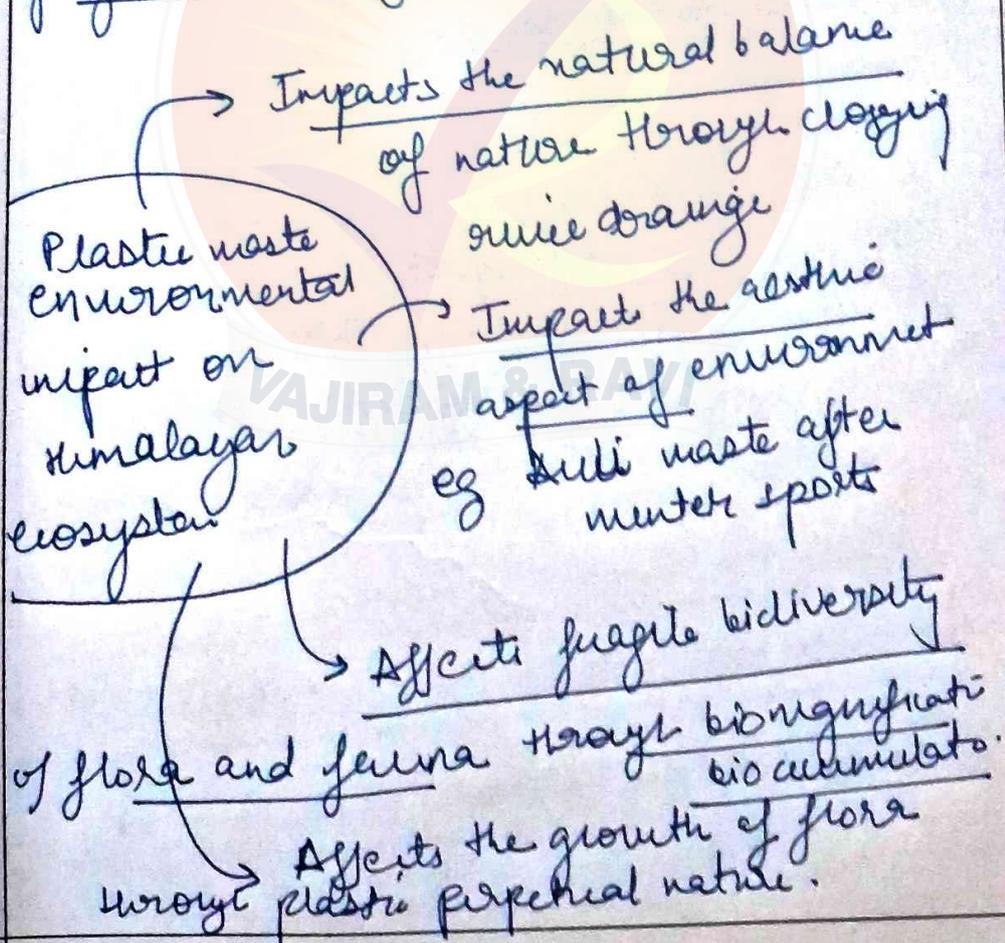
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17. Examine the environmental impact of plastic pollution in the Himalayan region. Discuss the challenges in managing plastic waste in high-altitude areas. Suggest measures to improve waste management in these ecologically sensitive regions. (15 marks, 250 words)

India produces 9.5 million/annual tonnes of plastic waste contributing ~20% of global production.

The impact is even more severe in fragile Himalayan ecosystems



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- Challenges in ^{plastic} waste management in Himalayan areas
- a) Over use of single use plastic eg packaging material in chips, chocolate, soda drinks in inaccessible areas
 - b) Weak enforcement of regulatory mechanism eg waste collection and segregation
 - c) Administrative paralysis due insufficient infrastructure
 - d) Policy negligence
 - e) Low awareness and weak community participation
 - f) Handicapped local self government of Panchayati raj

Measures to overcome challenges in EoZ

- 1) Penalizing norms - strict regulatory

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- norms with strong penalising powers to create deterrence.
- 1) Promoting eco-tourism through community participation
 - 2) Equipping local self government (gram sachas) with adequate training, awards and funds.
 - 3) Shift towards use of eco friendly disposable material
eg jute products
 - 4) Active participation of non state actors eg Zero waste Himalayan Alliance
 - 5) Use of satellite data and monitoring for garbage patches through remote sensing

The activities like the Himalayan cleanup, National Mission on sustainable Himalayan ecosystem are steps needed however awareness and capacity building is needed.

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18. Discuss the challenges involved in integrating tsunami risk into India's coastal disaster risk reduction framework. What institutional mechanisms and preparedness strategies are in place to mitigate the risk and enhance resilience to such events in India? (15 marks, 250 words)

Tsunami are geologically/meteorological hazard phenomena caused by seismic activity under ocean water that have transcending impacts across coastal waters of 2004 Tsunami engulfing many region of South Asia.

Challenges involved in integrating tsunami risk into Coastal DRR

- Unpredictability of seismic data that causes Tsunami
- Insufficient data and poor quick response towards Tsunami Disasters
- Technological measures like various doppler radars, sensors hard to achieve.
- Cross jurisdictional impact requires

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Active collaboration across littoral
States

Present institutional mechanisms and preparedness strategies

- 1) National Disaster Management Act 2005 and NDMA plan encompassing plan to mitigate risks
- 2) Multi hazard Early warning system covering floods, cyclones, earthquake, heatwaves
- 3) National Building Code (NBC) and disaster resilient infrastructure
- 4) National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Project
- 5) India Quake mobile app.

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- 1) Sagar Vani mobile app - disseminate ocean related information
- 2) National centre for polar and oceanic research (NLPOR)
- 3) INCOIS (Indian national centre for ocean information services)
- 4) Awareness drives across coastal ecosystem and ecological barriers initiatives eg MISHTI programme.

The current regulatory programme needs to be upgraded with adequate monitoring foresight for better implementation of plans.
The need of hour is to follow CRZ regulation in true spirit to avoid casualties and drive efficient building code.

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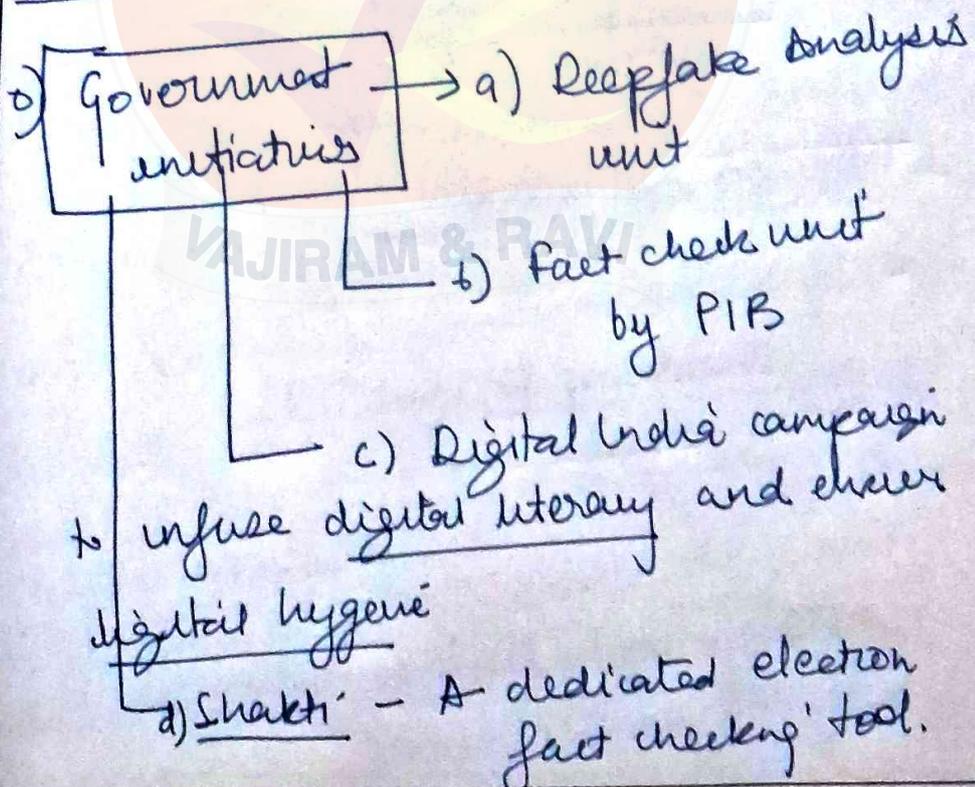
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19. The spread of misinformation and disinformation, amplified by emerging technologies, poses a serious threat to national security. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of it? Also, suggest any other remedies to address the problem. (15 marks, 250 words)

Misinformation (fake news) and disinformation (fabricated news) are challenge of modern era due to rise of social media and overload of information dissemination.

Measures to overcome challenges



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Regulatory measures

ITC Intermediary guidelines and Digital Ethics Rules 2021

Grievance Appellate Committee next to compliance of social media intermediaries.

Measures of collaboration with Tech giants - fb, whatsapp to curb such challenges

International

Budapest convention on cybercrimes

UN Convention Against Cybercrimes

EU Code of practice on Disinformation

Other remedies

i) Civic education - Digital literacy and develop

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Critical mindset to segregate data of misinformation since young age.

1) Reexamining the exemption clause in IT Rules w.r.t to responsibility of social media intermediary to remove hate speeches, misinformation.

2) Social media audit mechanism enforcement to overcome algorithm bias eg. Tahangirpur quota caused by misinformation.

3) Strong international collaboration to prevent cross border cyber crime and building judicial eg. Misinformation during operation sudan.

Misinformation and disinformation need collaborative stakeholder approach - government, social media, community.

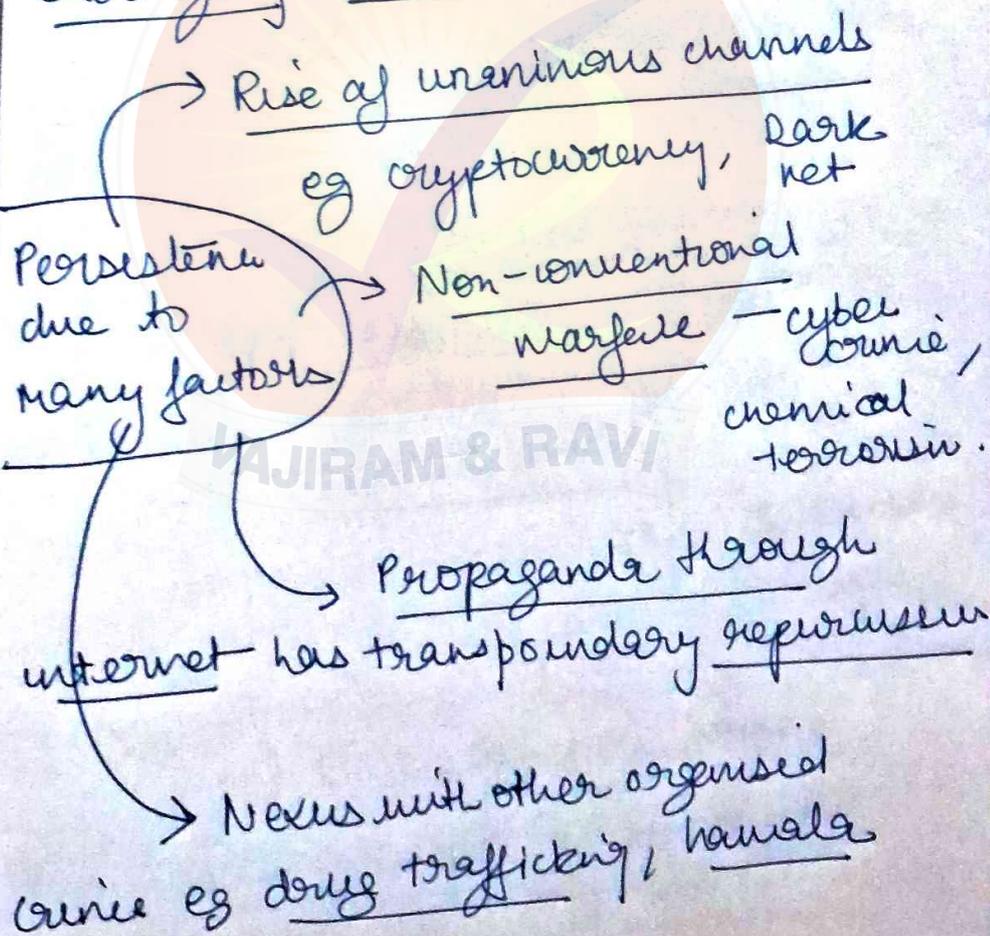
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VAJIRAM & RAVI

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20. Despite sustained global efforts, cross-border terrorism remains a persistent threat to India's security. Critically analyse the effectiveness of international cooperation mechanisms in addressing this challenge. (15 marks, 250 words)

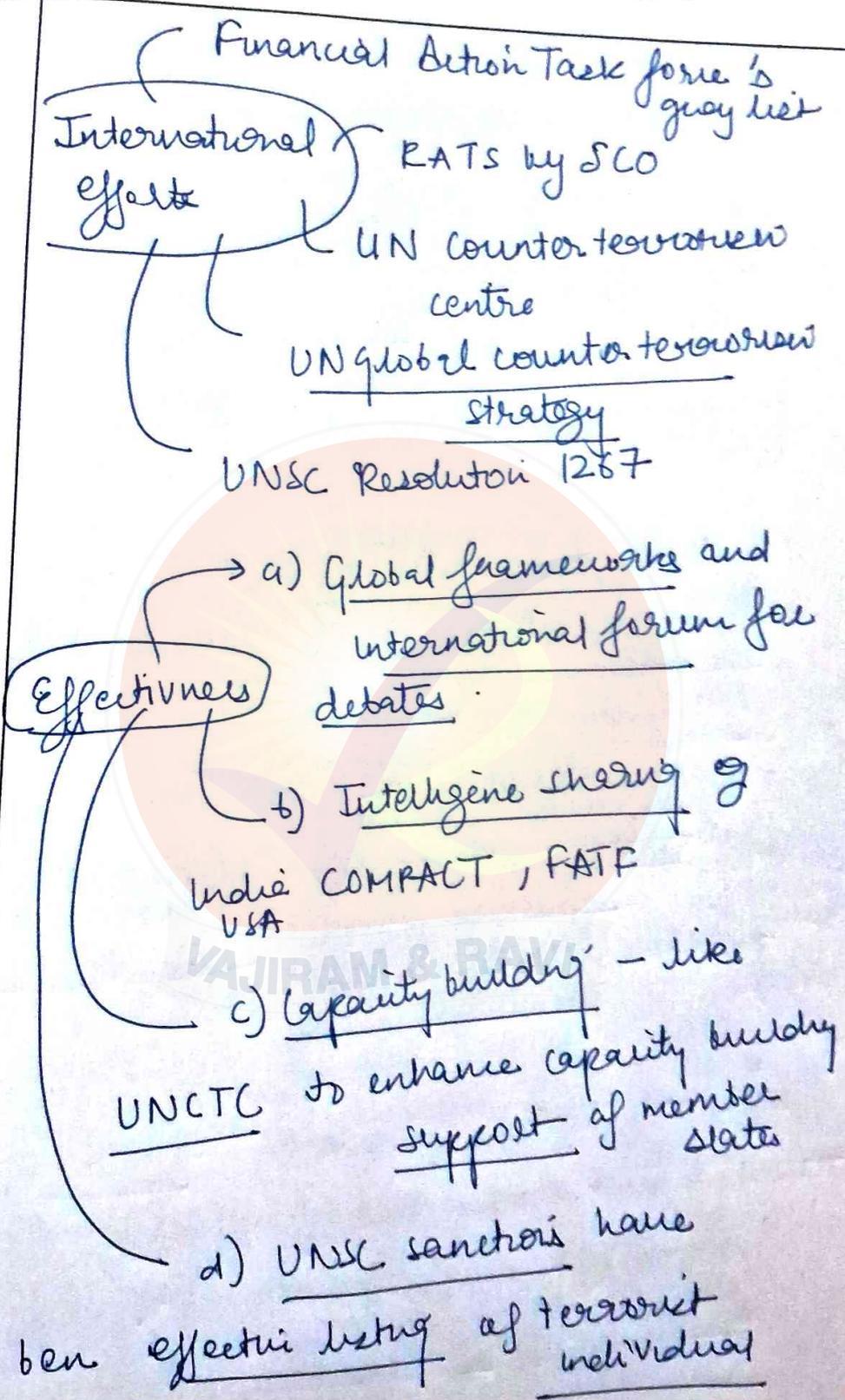
Cross border terrorism
are extrajudicial operational of terrorism impacting national and international security framework eg Insurgency in Kashmir.



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VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)



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VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

Homenee challenges persist

Lack of collaboration - China repeatedly obstructing India's attempt to designate individuals as terrorist in UNSC

No uniform definition of Terrorism creating ambiguities

Limited capacity and capabilities eg SCO RATS.

Geopolitical rivalry and divergent interest

Difference in intelligence sharing protocols

Nonenee certain measure like UNSC 1373 and India's own diplomatic efforts like "No money for Terror" are positive outcomes.

Space for Rough Work



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