

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT MAINS REHEARSAL 2025

General Studies FULL LENGTH TEST (GS - 3) Test Code - VR1053511	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:
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NAME:	INDHUJA . U . S	Time allowed: 3 Hours
STUDENT ID.:	2 1 V R 3 2 8 9 2	Email:
UPSC ROLL NO.:		Submission Date:
MOBILE NO.:		10/08/2025

Adm No : 24200021

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 - 10:00 am	End Time - 1:00 pm
Mode of Examination	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>

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



Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



(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)

Food processing Industry contributes to 2.2% of GDP and guarantees employment to 3.5 lakh workers in India.

Alignment with Make-in-India:

- (1) Contributes to 11% of manufacturing GDP - Addresses 'Missing middle'.
- (2) Labour intensive sector - 12% of employment in India
- (3) Promotion of high value and innovative products: Eg: Ready to cook products, Marine Products and Mozzarella Cheese.
- (4) Increase the investment in food

Processing infrastructure → Increase in food processing capacity

(5) Export promotion and reduce import dependence.

(6) Promotion of Indian brands

abroad - 50% of branding expenditure abroad reimbursed under the PLISFPI

Alignment with Atma Nirbhar Bharat:

(1) Self sufficiency and food security:

Reduction in post harvest losses

(2) Indigenous capacity for processing

(3) Reduced import dependence

Being a sunrise industry, food processing can accelerate Make-in India and Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiatives with PLIFPI.

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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)

FII are foreign investments made by foreign institutions like foreign banks, governments and corporation. The investment consists less than 10% in equity.

Reasons for outflow:

- (1) Depreciation of Indian currency -
Low returns on investments
- (2) Interest rate hike by the Federal US Bank in USA - Better returns on US investments
- (3) US-China Trade War: Global instability and weakening global trade
- (4) Tariff imposition by US Government:
Weakening of exports and depreciation of currency

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Impact on domestic market :

- (1) Gold Price Hike : safer alternative investments
 - (2) Inflation due to weakening rupee
 - (3) Low foreign investments into critical sectors
 - (4) Depleting forex reserves
 - (5) Decrease in household expenditure due to rise in price
 - (6) Diminishing returns from bonds
- Corrective actions have to be taken to ~~take~~ tackle the adverse impacts of FII outflows on domestic market.

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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 refers to the protectionist trade policies justified on the basis of environment protection and sustainability.

Eg: EU Carbon Border Tax

Altering trade and sustainability debates:

(1) More restrictions on Global South -

Lack of adequate infrastructure or technology to reduce emissions

(2) Trade Balance in favour of developed countries - More exports

to developing countries of global south

(3) Reduced competitiveness of exports from global south.

(4) Unfair imposition of non tariff barriers like sanitary and phytosanitary standards on exports on global south.

Eg: Minimum Pesticide residue limit in Rice from India to EU.

(5) Dumping of goods by developed ~~for~~ countries in poor countries of global South

(6) Against fair trade and climate justice

(7) Unfair trade balance based on historic climate injustice

Green Protectionism has the potential to further impoverish the already poor global south. International collaboration is necessary to resist such one-sided trade policies.

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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)

FPOs and rural cooperatives are the corner stone in the goal to achieve the doubling of farmer's income. These organisations can improve bargaining power of the farmers.

Role in economic diversification:

- (1) Better access to credit and infrastructure
- (2) Aids in the mechanisation of Agriculture - Eg: FPOs provide tractors on rent
- (3) Better marketing and remunerative prices for the farmer's produce.
FPOs improve bargaining power due to collective bargaining.

(4) Cooperatives aid in diversification of agriculture to include poultry and fishery

Mixed farming enhanced incomes and provides alternate livelihood

(5) Better technology infusion to improve productivity and management.

(6) Microcredit to rural entrepreneurs leading to growth of rural MSMEs

(7) Food processing infrastructure and reducing post harvest loss.

Along with FPOs and cooperatives, adequate capacity building and funding, the rural economy can flourish and diversify to realise complete potential

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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)

Integrated farming systems involve more sustainable agriculture integrating agroforestry, livestock, aquaculture and horticulture. This sustainable system can improve climate change resilience of Indian agriculture.

Climate Change Adaptation:

(1) Agroforestry: Growing trees along with crops improves soil fertility and productivity. This prevents soil erosion and provide stability against landslides

(2) Aquaculture: Fish cum Paddy cultivation used by Apatani tribes of Arunachal - Fish kills weeds and fish excretes serves as natural fertiliser to paddy

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This method reduces methane emission in wet paddy cultivation

(3) Livestock : Alternative source of income & in case of crop failure due to extreme climate event like droughts

Climate Change mitigation :

(1) Sea weed cultivation in IFS - 2% sea weed mixed with animal fodder reduces methane emission by 80 %.

(2) Natural Farming methods : Climate resistant agriculture .

(3) Precision agriculture : Reduction in Green house emissions from agriculture .

IFS ^{is} the need of the hour due to adverse impacts on climate change on agriculture and food security

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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)

Ports contribute roughly to 22% of India's GDP by reducing the logistics cost by 40%. Waterways provide the cheapest mode of transportation.

Achievements of Sagarmala Programme:

- (1) Improvements in Port capacity by 40% over last 5 years
- (2) Reduced Turn around time : Turn around time has reduced by 30% since 2000.
- (3) Improvements in Port infrastructure and automation : Landlord port model provides infusion of private capital and technology.

(4) Desilting of ports and harbours

(5) Indian Maritime Heritage Complex
opened recently in Lothal

Measures to enhance Port led economy:

(1) Public Private Partnerships (PPP)
in Port development

(2) Improvement of technology and port infrastructure to global standards

(3) Improve the share of waterways

in transportation - Currently less than 10% of total logistics

(4) Desilting of rivers to
promote inland waterways

(5) Promote Automation of all Port

operations like the Vizhanjam Deep
Water Port in Kerala.

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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 refers to artificially fabricated biological molecules that possess specific special properties to handle pathogens or pollutants.

Role in Environment:

(1) To tackle water pollution - Eliminating harmful pollutants in water bodies

(2) Consuming micro plastics in marine ecosystems - Eliminate marine pollution

(3) Can be used in carbon capture technologies - Biomolecules capable of capturing green house gases from atmosphere or industrial outlets

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Role in healthcare :

- (1) Targetted drugs for specific diseases
- (2) Enhancing the effectiveness of vaccines and diagnostics
- (3) Clinical trials and disease modelling
Eg: Organ on Chip

Biosafety hazards:

- (1) Improper waste disposal
 - (1) Soil degradation
 - (2) Water pollution
- (2) Ethical issues in clinical trials of synthetic drugs

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Careful handling of the synthetic biomolecules is necessary to ensure its optimal sustainable use.

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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)

AI has immense potential to enhance disaster preparedness and minimize loss of life and property to natural disasters

AI in Disaster Management:

Preparedness:

(i) Development of early warning systems

(ii) Simulations of real disasters

to ensure preparedness

(iii) Effective disaster modelling and impact analysis

(iv) Visual presentation for spreading awareness and capacity building

Response:

(i) Aid in rescue efforts - Detection of victims

- (ii) Analysis of impact of disaster
- (iii) Customized relief and rehabilitation plan based on input data

Challenges:

- (1) Lack of adequate data for model training
- (2) Data privacy concerns
- (3) Digital divide and digital illiteracy
- (4) Inadequate technology infusion
- (5) Algorithmic Bias - Inaccurate AI model and results

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

AFSPA was enacted to ensure peace and security in the insurgency-hit areas of North East India. It provides extraordinary powers to armed forces to maintain peace in the region.

Relevance of AFSPA:

(1) North East India:

(1) Revoked from many regions due to improvement in security

(2) Imposed in insurgency hit areas of Nagaland and Assam

(3) Manage refugee crisis in Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

(4) Necessary to curb cross border terrorism

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(2) Jammu and Kashmir:

- (1) Counter terrorism
- (2) Counter separatism by Azad Kashmir movement.

Demerits:

- (1) Misuse of Power by armed forces personnel
- (2) Human rights violations
- (3) Botched operations due to intelligence failure
Eg: 2021 - Mon district of Nagaland.
- (4) Legal immunity clause provides unbridled powers to armed forces

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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)

NTRO is the nodal agency dealing with researches related to cyber threats in India

Significance:

- (1) Cyber ^{space} threats Awareness - Cyber safety
- (2) Managing the database of cyber threats
- (3) Research and suggestions to improve cyber security infrastructure
- (4) Capacity building to cyber security professionals
- (5) Inputs to improve cyber security related legislations
- (6) Coordinating cyber threats with other agencies like CERT-In

11. 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)

India's GDP in 1991 was \$ 270 Billion whereas right now in 2025 India's GDP stands at \$4.2 Trillion. Despite this growth, employment rates are poor. In 2023, unemployment rate stands at 3.2%.

Reasons for the Paradoxical relationship between GDP and employment :

(1) Jobless Growth : While ^{GDP} jobs kept growth, job creation was poor.

(2) Skill gap : Lack of industry relevant skills and skill development programmes by the government.

(3) Infrastructural limitations : Lack of state-of-the-art infrastructure

(4) Excessive reliance of Agriculture : 45%.
Of the workforce is involved in agriculture
and this leads to seasonal unemployment

(5) Poor ^{educational} curriculum : Rote learning
based education system that does not
encourage innovation.

(6) Poor human capital formation. Due to
inadequate healthcare facilities and poverty.

(7) 'Missing middle' : Inadequate
investments and growth of labour intensive
manufacturing sector

Strategy to reap demographic dividend:

(1) Adequate Job Creation : Investments
into manufacturing sector

Eg: Make-in-India Scheme, PLI

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- (2) Skill Development Programmes for youth
Eg: PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- (3) Promotion of MSMEs - Job creation for rural youth
Eg: Schemes like RAMP, SFURTI
- (4) Revamped education system providing adequate skills
Eg: New Education Policy, 2020 includes coding in the school curriculum
- (5) Healthcare facilities and mental health awareness among youth → Human Capital formation.
Eg: TeleMANAS, PM Jan Arogya Yojana

To reap the demographic dividend, adequate skill development and job creation is necessary, to prevent the demographic dividend from becoming demographic disaster

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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)

DBT refers to the indirect subsidies given to the poor in the form of voucher or in kind to ease the economic burden on them.

Benefits of DBT:

- (1) Poverty reduction - Reduces household expenditure
- (2) Fiscal support to the poor
- (3) Inclusive growth and development
- (4) Addressing the problem of hunger - DBT through PDS system

DBT - Improved Targetting and fiscal efficiency:

- (1) Coverage of poor (BPL) households

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(2) Special benefits to the poorest of poor

(3) Clean fuel and food grains to the BPL households

(4) Minimises exclusion of deserving beneficiaries

(5) Reduces health expenditure due to household air pollution (LPG subsidy) and malnutrition (Food subsidy through PDS)

Inefficiency and improper targetting:

(1) 40% of household of obtaining PDS subsidised food grains are not BPL families

(2) Exclusion-Inclusion Error: Includes non-poor households leading to undeserving beneficiaries

(3) High fiscal cost for the Government - Limited results

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(4) Despite food subsidy, malnutrition and anemia are prevalent leading to higher health expenditure of state

(5) India ranks 105th out of 125 countries in Global Hunger Index despite a large PDS system ~~in the world~~.

(6) Leakages in DBT
Better targetting while reducing inclusion exclusion error and reducing leakages in the system can improve efficiency of DBT system.

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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 Treaty seeks to improve the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the world to ensure innovations are safeguarded against piracy and misuse.

India's domestic Initiative for IPR protection:

(1) Patents Act, 1970 : Provides protection to patented products for a duration of 20 years. Any violation or misuse attracts stringent penalties

(2) Geographical Identification Tags (GI) : Protection to specific products which are indigenous and produced only in a specific location in the country.

Eg: Kanchipuram Silk, Arakke Valley Arabica coffee.

GI tags recognise and provide protection to traditionally produced goods in India.

GI tagged goods have received global appreciation and recognition. Eg: Madhubani painting

(3) Copyrights Act : Protection to the literary works produced ~~and~~ in the country.

(4) Berne Convention : Adhering to the Berne convention, IPR protection is also available to artistic works of great Indian artists and sculptures.

Adequacy:

(1) Despite the safeguards, there are frequent

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Violation of the IPR laws

(2) Plagiarism being a major threat to literary and artistic authenticity

(3) Lack of strict enforcement and implementation of the IPR laws

(4) Illegal smuggling and trading of patented goods

Strict implementation of IPR laws and stringent penalties can strengthen IPR protection in India in line with the WIPO treaty.

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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)

Jal Jeevan Mission is aimed at providing clean drinking water to all rural households in India

Objectives of JJM:

- (1) Tap water connections to all rural households
- (2) 100% drinking water availability by 2025
- (3) Minimum 55 litres of potable water per person per day
- (4) Improving ground water levels and prevent ground water depletion
- (5) Water conservation and ground water aquifer recharge

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Progress of JJM:

- (1) Only about 80% of the households have been covered
- (2) Functional tap water connections are ^{not} available in 30% of households
- (3) Less supply of water : Less than 40 litres per person per day
- (4) Unclean and poor quality of water
- (5) Irregular supply of water - Not available everyday

Bottlenecks:

- (1) Lack of adequate funding to the JJM
- (2) Lack of adequate infrastructure
- (3) Poor centre - state coordination - Water is a state subject
- (4) Poor tracking of progress - Irregular ~~or~~ audits

(3) Lack of water harvesting techniques
implementation

Reforms:

(1) Better targetting based on regular
survey and auditing

(2) Good quality of pipes and taps to
be used

(3) Increasing funds for the mission

(4) Special attention to water harvesting
and water conservation

(5) Public awareness campaigns to ensure
public participation

Addressing the bottlenecks and improving
the coverage of JJM is crucial for water
security in India.

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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)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an important decision making tool to balance environmental sustainability and infrastructure development in the country.

EIA and Environment Protection:

- (1) EIA ensure infrastructure projects causing adverse impacts on environment are not allowed
- (2) Involvement of general public in the decision making through public hearing
- (3) Imposes a moral and legal responsibility on the project proponents to conserve the environment.

(4) Public scrutiny to prevent any harm to the ecosystem and the people attached to it

(5) Sustainable and Inclusive development as the ultimate goal

EIA and Economic Growth:

(1) EIA does not act as an obstruction to economic growth. It seeks to minimise the damage on environment

(2) Promotes sustainable infrastructure development

(3) Economic growth which includes environment protection on its agenda

(4) Striking the balance - Minimising environmental damage while ensuring infrastructure development

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(5) Careful planning and implementation of infrastructure in ecologically sensitive zones

EIA seeks to protect the environment without compromising on the development of infrastructure in the country.

Loopholes in the EIA guidelines are misused to develop infrastructure without adequate environmental safeguards.

Eg: Char-Dham project divided into multiple small projects to avoid EIA.

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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 those pathogens that are highly potent and are resistant to many certified drugs and treatments.

Causes of emergence of Superbugs:

(1) Lack of environmental sanitation -
Breeding grounds for superbugs

(2) Anti-microbial Resistance -

Too much consumption of antimicrobial drugs making the pathogen develop resistant to the drug

(1) Self medication

(2) Over the counter sale of antibiotics

(3) Over-dosage of antimicrobials beyond prescribed levels

Concerns:

- (1) Drug-resistant microbes and pathogens
Eg: Multi Drug Resistant - TB
- (2) Difficulty in treating diseases
- (3) Need for newer drugs
- (4) Reduced immunity in human beings
- (5) Rapid disease outbreak without adequate treatments
- (6) Costly drugs and treatments

Mechanisms to control spread:

- (1) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Clean environment and improved sanitation prevents breeding of drugs
- (2) Scheduled Drugs: Not available without prescription - ∇ Reduces anti microbial resistance

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(3) operation AMRITH in Kerala - To regulate over-the-counter sale of antibiotics

(4) Sero surveillance to monitor the spread of super bugs in the environment and among the population.

Regulating the sale of anti-microbials and ensuring ^{proper} sanitation in the environment are sureshot ways to control the emergence and spread of super bugs.

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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)

With the high inflow of tourists, the Himalayan region is reeling under the grave impact of plastic pollution. This causes soil pollution and solid waste management issues.

Impact of plastic pollution in Himalayas:

(1) soil pollution and soil degradation due to dumping of plastic waste

(2) Threats to the wildlife: Animals consumption of plastic → Death and disease

(3) Water pollution: Micro plastics clog the system of aquatic beings and reduces productivity of aquatic ecosystem

(4) Air pollution: Burning of plastic at low temperature causes smog formation

Challenges in managing plastic waste:

(1) Lack of adequate collection or processing infrastructure

(2) Unavailability of land to establish landfills.

(3) Fragile ecosystems affected by plastic pollution

(4) Lack of recycling facility

Measures to improve waste management:

(1) Complete prohibition of use of plastics in highly ecologically sensitive zones

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- (2) Creation of collection and processing infrastructure
- (3) Strict enforcement and penalties under Plastic Waste Management Rules.
- (4) Recycling plants in crowded tourism attraction spots.
- (5) Declaration of plastic-free zones

Plastic pollution poses grave threat to the ecologically sensitive ecosystem of Himalayas. Effective plastic waste management and ensuring circularity in plastic waste is crucial.

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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)

With a coast line of 7500 km, India is always at the risk of Tsunami in the Indian ocean. Tsunami risk management has to be central to coastal disaster risk reduction framework

Challenges in integration :

(1) Tsunami - Rare event with extreme adverse impacts. The low frequency diverts attention away from its seriousness

Eg: 2004 Tsunami once in many decades

(2) High investments required in the mitigation infrastructure - lack of adequate funding

(3) Technological Obselence - Lack of advanced technology to accurately design an early warning system

(4) Resistance from the coastal population to relocate or modification to coastal environment.

(5) Lack of mainstreaming disaster management into development planning

Institutional Mechanisms:

(1) National Disaster Management Act 2005 provides for National and state level authorities and response force to deal with Tsunami

(2) NDMA issued guidelines for Tsunami preparedness.

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(3) National and state level Disaster Risk management Fund under the NDMA and SDMA under the DM Act.

(4) Under the Amendments to the DM Act, state government allowed to constitute Urban Disaster Response Force to tackle tsunami in coastal cities

Integrating Tsunami risk into coastal disaster risk reduction framework can go a long way in saving life and property along coastal areas.

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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)

The growth of media has been both boon and bane to the society. Though it helps to spread awareness, the spread of misinformation and disinformation is destabilising the national security.

Measures to address security implications:

(1) Information Technology Act, 2000:

(i) Regulating the content and information circulation on media.

(ii) Empowers the central government to issue to Content blocking and take down order

(2) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023:

(i) Misinformation causing instability to internal and national security are

punishable under the criminal law.

(ii) Incitement to violence, affecting Indian' sovereignty or friendly relations with other nations are punishable under the law.

(3) Telecommunications Act: Allows internet shutdown by the Central Government to prevent spread of misinformation

(4) CERT-In: Nodal agency dealing with cyber threats in India - Coordinates management of cyber terrorism in the critical information infrastructure of India

(5) National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) - Protection of critical information infrastructure like AADHAR, Voter ID etc

Other remedies to curb misinformation :

(1) Provision for general public to report misinformation

(2) Transparency in government activities acts as natural inhibitors of disinformation

(3) Self regulation by social media platforms.

(4) Effective government engagement with media and public to dispell misleading news

Adequate safeguards against misinformation and disinformation are crucial to ensure law and order and to protect the stability in the society.

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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)

A major downside of globalisation, has been cross-border terrorism which requires sustained international collaboration to tackle it.

International Cooperation Mechanism:

MERITS

(1) UNSC designated terrorists:

Global sanctions on specific terrorist organisations and individuals

Eg: Al-Qaeda, Haggani

(2) SCO - Regional Anti-terrorism Structure (RATS)

Regional cooperation mechanism to ensure peace and stability in the Asian region and effectively tackling cross-border terrorism. Eg: For India, cross border

Terrorism by Pakistan.

(3) Financial Action Task Force: Financial sanctions on countries for terror financing.
Limits access to funding and international boycott

Eg: Iran - Black List of FATF
Turkey - Grey List of FATF

(4) INTERPOL: Cross border intelligence sharing platform to effectively prevent terrorism and coordinate efforts against cross border attacks

DEMERITS
Non-Effectiveness of the cooperation mechanisms

(1) Limited terrorist listing by UNSC - Veto powers of Permanent members.

Eg: China vetoed the listing of JEM leader Azhar.

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(2) Limited success and outcomes of SCO-RATS due to China - Russia - Pakistan nexus

(3) FATF has removed Pakistan from Grey list despite the recent Pahalgam Terrorist Attack.

(4) INTERPOL - Limited Coordination and intel sharing

International Cooperation and Coordination in the form of intel sharing, diplomatic pressure and sanctions are necessary to counter cross-border terrorism

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