

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES 2024 - FULL VERSION

GENERAL STUDIES

Sectional Test

Test - 8 (GS 3)

Time allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

ADMIN. NO.: 1 6 0 0 0 3 8 9

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SUBMISSION DATE: 27-08-2024

UPSE CSE 2025

AIR - 393

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

Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –

1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call 9717565805 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language and Articulation						
Structure and Presentation						
Conceptual clarity and Content						
Number of Attempted questions						

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. What are Quantum dots? Discuss their unique properties and practical applications. (10 marks, 150 words)

Quantum dots are semiconducting particles of nanosize which are used in various applications like LCDs, detection devices etc.,

Unique properties of Quantum dots

1. Unique optical properties :- They emit different colours when irradiated using different wavelengths.
2. Semiconducting Properties - As they are nanosized (1 to 100 nanometers) these materials exhibit unique semiconducting properties.
3. They also show some magnetic properties.

Practical applications

1. Can be used in light emitting

diodes (LEDs), LCD screens as they have unique optical properties.

2. Can be used in sensors, detection devices.

3. They can be used in communication satellites because of their semiconducting properties.

4. Can be used in Electric vehicles, other related applications.

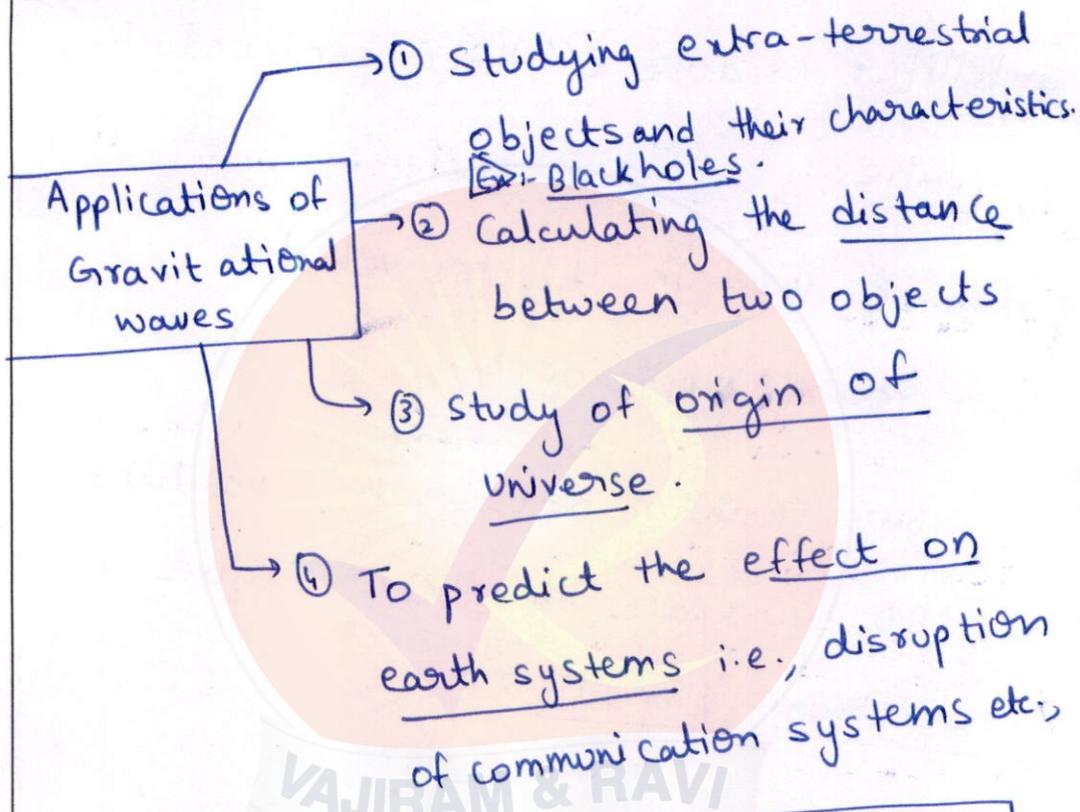
Thus Quantum dots can revolutionize the LED, LCD space by their unique opto-electronic properties.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

2. What are gravitational waves? State the significance of LIGO-India in the study of cataclysmic cosmic events. (10 marks, 150 words)

Gravitational waves are unique cosmic waves emitted by extra-terrestrial objects due to changes in space-time fabric.



Significance of LIGO-India in the study of cataclysmic cosmic events

1. LIGO-India is a part of global network of LIGOs which help in

Study of cosmic events.

2. LIGO-India enhances the capacity to study black holes, star formations, neutron stars etc.,

3. It boosts the Prediction capability of extraterrestrial events.

4. It increases international collaboration of India's space sector.

LIGO-India has capacity to boost India's position in space sector and help in studying nature and phenomena of outer space.

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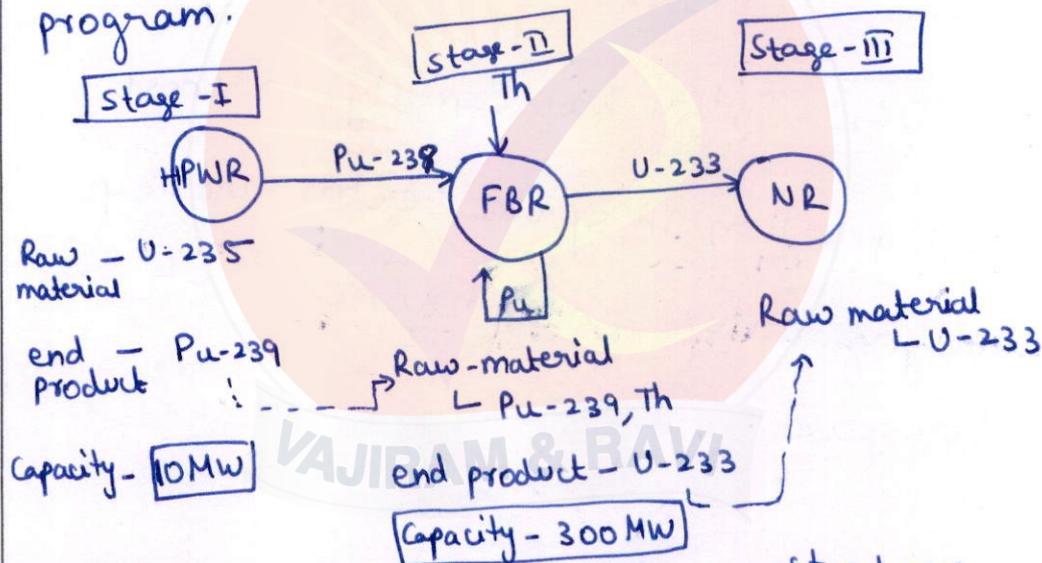
Introduction	Suggestions:
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3. Explain the significance of the Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) in achieving the goals of India's Nuclear energy program. (10 marks, 150 words)

Successful operations of Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) at Kalappakam nuclear power plant, Tamil Nadu has made India the 2nd country in the world to have operational FBR.

Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR)

1. It is the second stage in the nuclear program.



2. It uses the Pu-239 from 1st stage

3. It produces more fuel than it consumes \Rightarrow hence called fast breeder reactor.

Significance of FBR in India's Nuclear programme

1. Enhances the capacity of production of nuclear power upto 8000 MW. Currently India's nuclear power contributes only 1.8% to total power produced.
2. Non-fossil fuel based energy capacity enhancement → Inline with panchamerit targets (50% energy from Non-fossil fuels)
3. Will help in implementing India's 3 stage nuclear programme.
4. Boost's India's energy generation potential helps in meeting growing demand.

Fast Breeder reactor helps in achieving clean-energy targets and meeting National determined contributions (NDCs) of Paris deal.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

4. Discuss several ways in which biotechnology can help in ensuring food security in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

As the most populous country in the world, Food security comes as the 1st priority which can be enhanced by using biotechnology.



Biotechnology in ensuring food security

1. Availability

① Biotechnology can enhance the food productivity by producing drought resistant, pest resistant varieties.

Ex :- DMH II (Mustard)

② Enhances food production by modifying seeds. Ex :- BT cotton

2. Affordability

① As production increases, the price decreases.

3. Nutrition

① Biotechnology decreases the use of chemical pesticides, fertilisers and hence increases nutrition.
 Ex:- BT Brinjal.

② Bio fortification of rice helps in improving micro nutrients.
 Ex:- Decreases Anaemia (57% women are anemic as per NFHS-5)

Challenges

- ① Regulatory challenges - hard to get approvals.
- ② Ethical challenges.
- ③ Poor research and development.

Way forward

- ① Robust regulatory framework to increase compliance.
- ② Improving research and development.

Thus, Biotechnology can revolutionise the food security potential in India.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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5. Public awareness is primary in inculcating environmental consciousness. How does the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) promote environmental awareness?

(10 marks, 150 words)

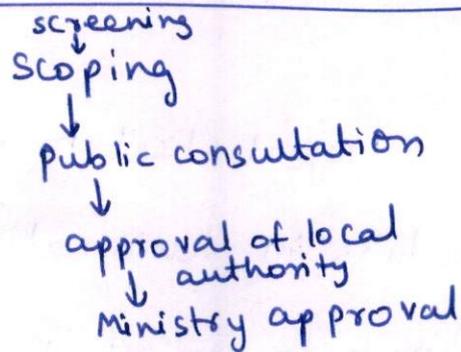
Environmental Impact assessment (EIA) is a process of obtaining ^{environmental} clearance for projects like mining, construction etc. It contains a clause of public consultation which can help in increasing awareness.

Need for public awareness

- ① First responders (or) first victims are general public hence awareness becomes important.
- ② fosters collective participation and collective efforts.
- ③ Helps in environmental sustainability by promoting practices like waste disposal mechanisms, ^{reducing} threat of pollution etc.

EIA in promoting environmental awareness

Process of EIA -



- The public consultation component helps in increasing awareness about the project.
- If there are any concerns from the public they can be resolved during public consultation stage.
- EIA helps in minimising threat to environment.
- Voice to public to oppose certain projects.

Public awareness forms the bedrock for environmental sustainability.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

6. What are the ecological challenges associated with reintroducing cheetahs in India? Suggest measures to reduce the mortality of cheetahs in their new habitat.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Project cheetah reintroduced african cheetahs in Kuno national park, madhya pradesh.

Though the project was successful to some extent it led to death of many cheetahs.

Ecological challenges

Challenges

- ① Different climate increased stress on cheetahs
- ② Habitat variation - led to ill adaptability of some cheetahs
- ③ Difference in prey base - In India prey base was mostly restricted to chitahs.
- ④ Reduced interactions between cheetahs as they were under stress.
- ⑤ Threat of viral diseases.

Measures to reduce mortality of cheetahs

- ① Increased monitoring of cheetahs for any illness and immediate isolation from the rest of cheetahs.
- ② Recruiting experts from Africa to study the reasons for deaths.
- ③ Reducing stress on cheetah by increasing the habitat space and prey base for cheetahs.
- ④ Focus on baby cheetahs born in India for any irregularities or abnormalities.

Project cheetah largely proved successful and hence paved way for future reintroductions of other species.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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7. How does the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 strike a balance between economic development, border security, and forest conservation?

(10 marks, 150 words)

Forest (conservation) amendment act, 2023 has reduced the restrictions on use of forest land for border security, economic development.

Changes in Forest (conservation) act, 2023

1. reduced restrictions on use of forest land upto 100kms in border areas.
2. Use of upto 5 hectares of forest land in Left wing extremism areas for various purposes.
3. Changed meaning of forest → against 1996 Godavarman judgement on definition of forests.

Issues

1. Diluted provisions in border areas may lead to deforestation and reduced forest cover.
2. Exploitation of forest resources without proper compensation & afforestation.

India has 24.62% of geographical area covered with forests and targets to achieve 33% forest cover.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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8. Disinformation has become a serious threat to internal security.' In the light of the statement, mention the role of the State in prevention of fake news.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Rise of social media and internet penetration has posed challenges like spread of fake news, online radicalisation etc.,

Disinformation as a serious threat to internal security

Disinformation

① leads to proxy warfare by propoganda spreading.

Ex :- Spread of fake news on prosecution in Jammu and Kashmir

② leads to assymetric warfare

③ Use of fakenews, deepfakes is increasing.

④ Online radicalisation by social engineering — Religious indoctrination

Ex :- ISIS using social engineering to recruit youth.

- ⑤ Cyber frauds using social media
- ⑥ Honey trapping of important officials using social media.

Role of state in prevention of fake news

- ① Fact checking awareness -
↳ Ex:- PIB factcheck, Facebook zero.
- ② Social media regulations and rules.
↳ Ex:- Social media management rules, 2023.
- ③ Separate task force to monitor social media news spread.

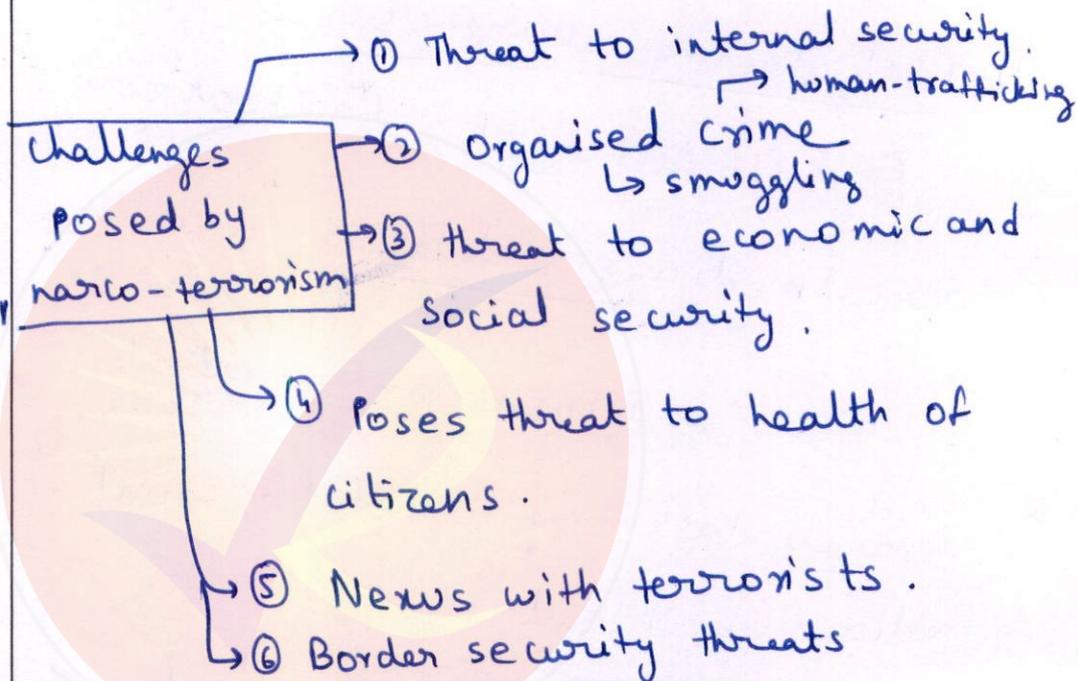
Fake news can disrupt the internal security and national security and hence, has to be tackled by state.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
Presentation	
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9. Analyse the challenges posed by narco-terrorism, with a focus on its implications for national security. Discuss the role of international cooperation, intelligence sharing and counter-narcotics strategies in mitigating the threats associated with the convergence of drug trafficking and terrorism. (10 marks, 150 words)

Narco-terrorism refers to the use of drugs, smuggling of drugs which poses a threat to internal and national security.



Role of international cooperation

- ① To keep an eye on borders and mutual cooperation in guarding borders.

Ex India - Myanmar.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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② International collaboration like tech against terrorism to monitor narco-terrorism across borders.

③ Counter-narcotics operations across countries.

India's target of Nasha Mukht Bharat needs international collaboration and cooperation to tackle narco-terrorism.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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10. Though drones have multiple applications in various sectors, they have opened a new dimension of internal security threat for the country. Discuss the statement. Also, explain how to balance the utilisation of drone technology for developmental purposes and safeguarding internal security interests. **(10 marks, 150 words)**



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Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
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Marks :	

11. The Indian Space sector exhibits huge growth potential. Analyze the opportunities for the private sector in the Indian space industry. (15 marks, 250 words)

India's space policy 2023 has highlighted the role of private sector in space and has given an institutional framework to increase private sector participation in space.

Growth potential of Indian Space sector

1. Projected to grow from current valuation of \$20bn to \$400bn by 2040.
2. To make India a pioneer in space sector.
3. Export potential of India's space sector has seen a sharp increase.
↳ launching satellites of countries like Singapore.
4. Space tourism - seeing an increasing trend
↳ SpaceX, Blue Origin
5. International space station of India by 2047.

Opportunities for private sector in Indian Space industry

1. Satellite based services :-

Providing satellite based services to various industries like telecom, broad casting etc →

↳ also has service export potential.

2. Supply driven to Demand-driven space sector by producing more satellites, launch vehicles.

3. Small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV) production

↳ ISRO has outsourced SSLV production to private sector.

4. New technology in space vehicles, rockets, launch vehicles.

▶ :- sky-root aerospace 3D-printed rocket launch.

5. space Startups increased from 1 in 2020

to 200 in 2024.

6. Increase in foreign direct investments in space sector.

Challenges

ISRO - Research & Development
Inspace - Industry linkage
NSIL - Commercial arm.
Institutional Framework

1. Complex institutional framework with overlapping functions.
2. lack of adequate hand holding to the private sector.
3. lack of investments in research and development.

Way forward

- ① ISRO's hand holding to private sector.
- ② Clear division of functions
- ③ Providing adequate launch facilities, incentives to startups.

India's space sector has potential to increase the exports of India and achieve \$5 trillion dollar economy.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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12. What do you understand by hydrogen fuel cells? Explain the bottlenecks in large scale commissioning of hydrogen fuel cells in current energy infrastructure.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Hydrogen fuel cells are chemical cells used in production of energy with water as byproduct. Hydrogen fuel cells are used in producing green energy.

Hydrogen fuel cells

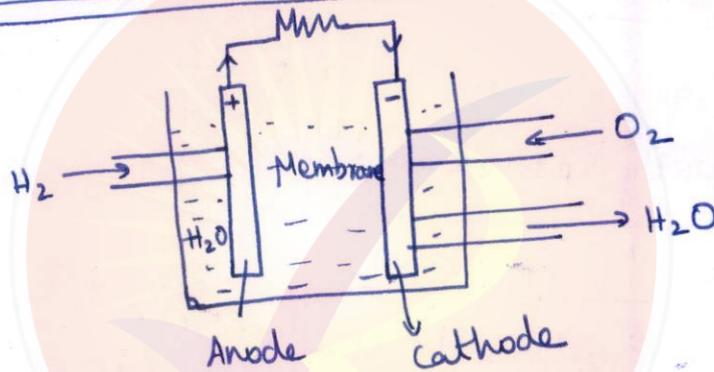
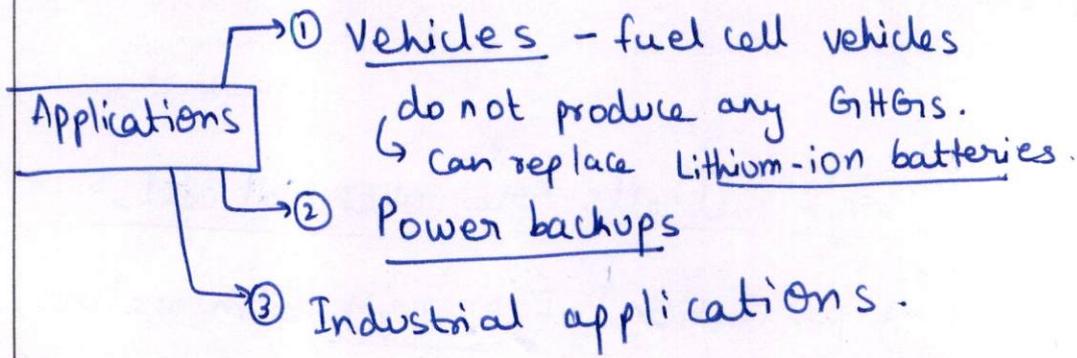


Fig:- Hydrogen fuel cell

1. Hydrogen at anode, Oxygen at cathode combine to form energy and water.
2. Clean energy generation and high efficiency.



Bottlenecks in large scale commissioning of hydrogen fuel cells

1. Production of hydrogen

- ↳ requires huge amount of energy
- ↳ costly process.

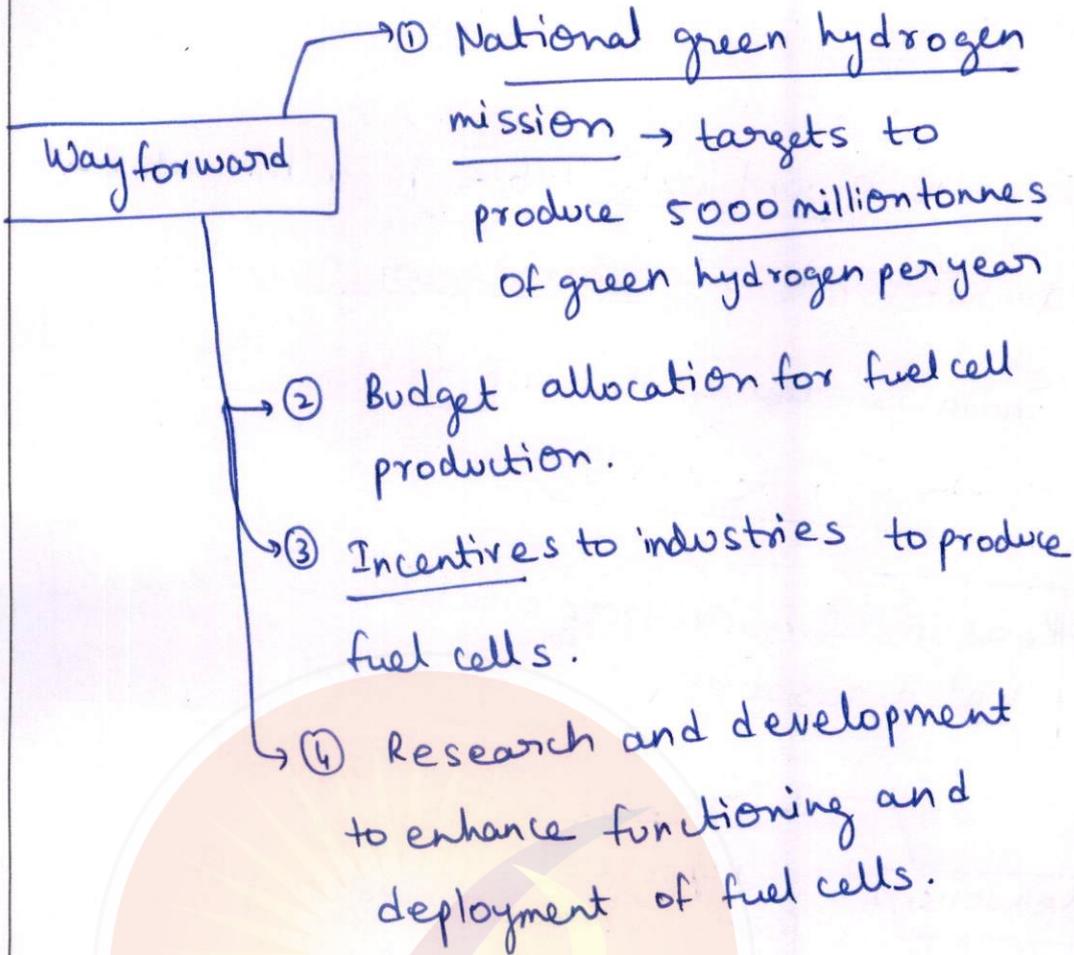
2. Storage of hydrogen

- ↳ difficult to store
- ↳ requires low temperatures

3. Initial installment of fuel cell plant
requires huge budget.

4. Maintenance of plants is extremely difficult.

5. Life of fuel cell needs to be enhanced for its usage in industries.



Hydrogen fuel cell bus was commissioned recently in National capital which helps in reducing GHG emissions and increases the potential to achieve Paris climate targets.

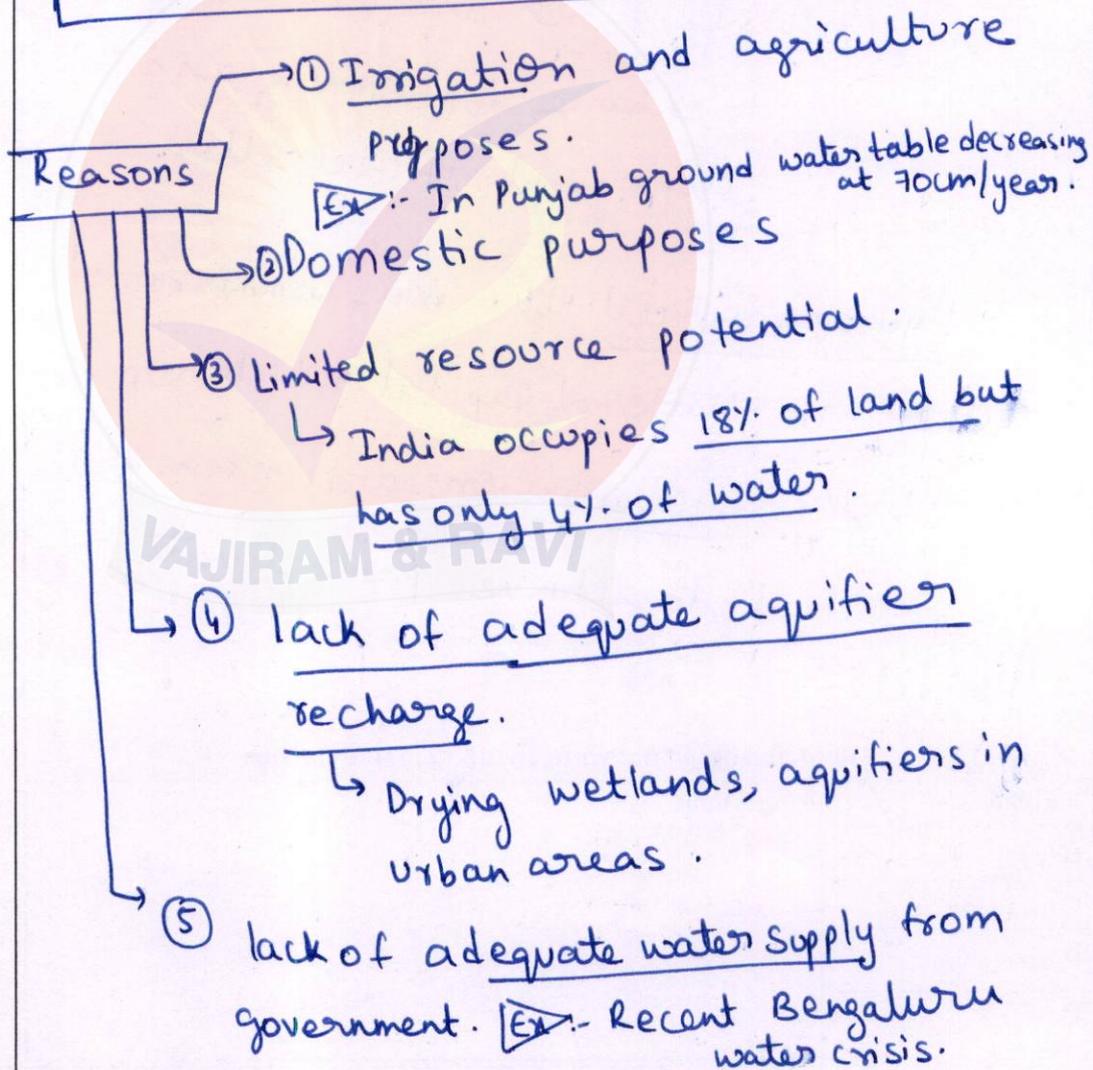
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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

13. Overexploitation strains the quality as well as the quantity of our groundwater resources. Analyze. (15 marks, 250 words)

The ground water table is falling at an average rate of 30cm/year in India and India is among the top most waterstressed countries in the world.

Reasons for overexploitation of ground water resources



Overexploitation strains quality of ground water resources

1. Ground water contamination due to discharge from landfills, industries.

Ex:- Uranium pollution,
Arsenic pollution.

2. Salinization of ground water due to capillary action.

3. Heavy metals in ground water due to lack of dilution and permeation.

Overexploitation strains quantity of ground water resources

1. As the ground water potential is limited overextraction leads to decreased quantity available.

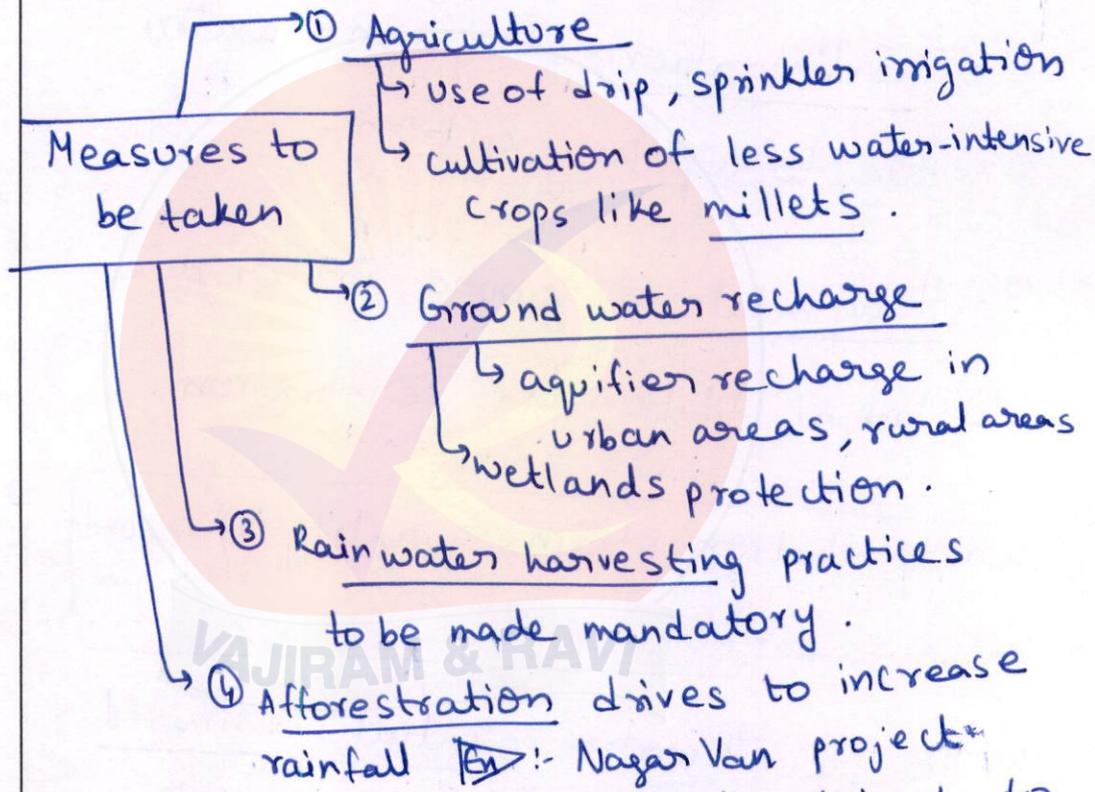
↳ fall in ground water table.

2. Overexploitation for agricultural purposes

↳ Ex:- Water-intensive crop production, use of powerful motors.

3. "Zero Day" - no water left to be extracted

↳ Ex:- Bengaluru zero Day (2024)
Chennai zero Day (2022)



Ground water needs to be used judiciously to reduce overexploitation.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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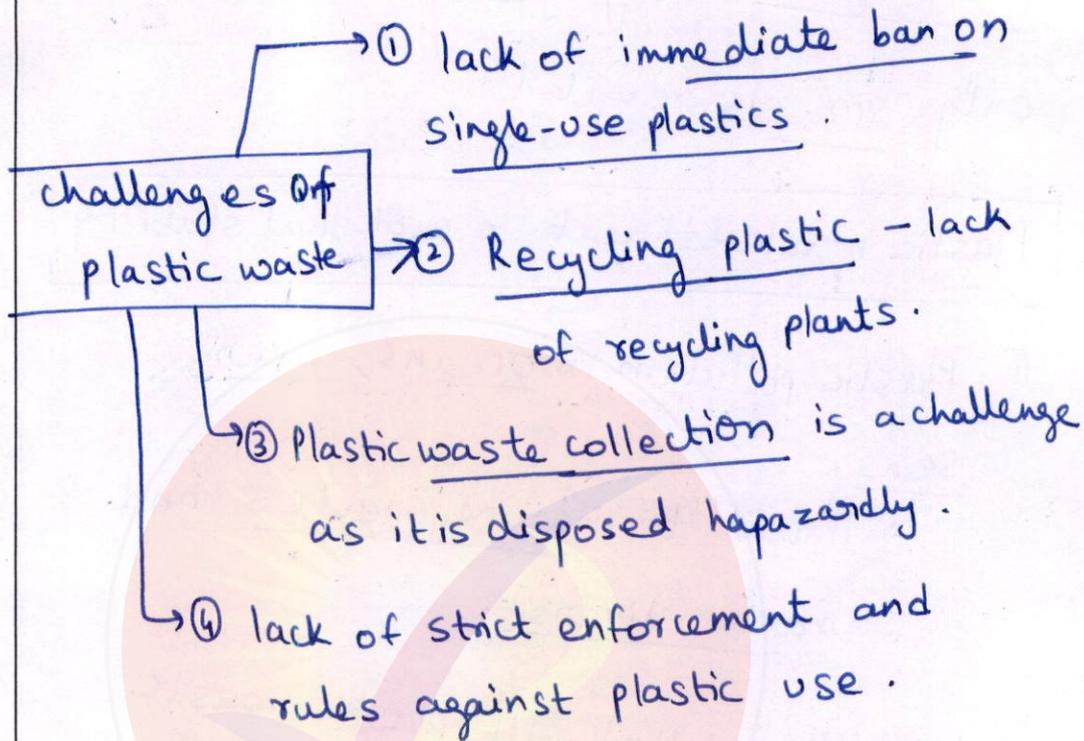
14. Plastic waste has become near ubiquitous, threatening ecological stability. Explain. Also, discuss various measures taken by the government to contain further environmental degradation by plastic wastes. (15 marks, 250 words)

India produces 1 million tonnes of plastic waste every year out of which only 20% is recycled.

Plastic waste - "threat to ecological stability"

- ① Plastic pollution in oceans, rivers, seas.
↳ Threat to marine species and marine diversity.
- ② landfills - filled with plastic waste which is non-decomposable and hard to recycle.
↳ poses threat to environment as it leads to soil pollution.
↳ threat to cattle, land animals as they consume plastic on roads.
- ③ Poses threat to air quality if incinerated.

④ Microplastics in water, cosmetics leads to various diseases like Cancer, lung diseases etc.,



Measures taken by government to contain environmental degradation

① Plastic waste management rules :-

- ↳ Extended producer responsibility (EPR)
- ↳ Ban on single-use plastics
- ↳ Collection guidelines for plastic waste.

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- ② Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0
↳ Different ^{colour} bins for different wastes helps in improved plastic waste collection.
- ③ Incentives to plastic waste recyclers.
- ④ Impetus to startups working in the recycling field.

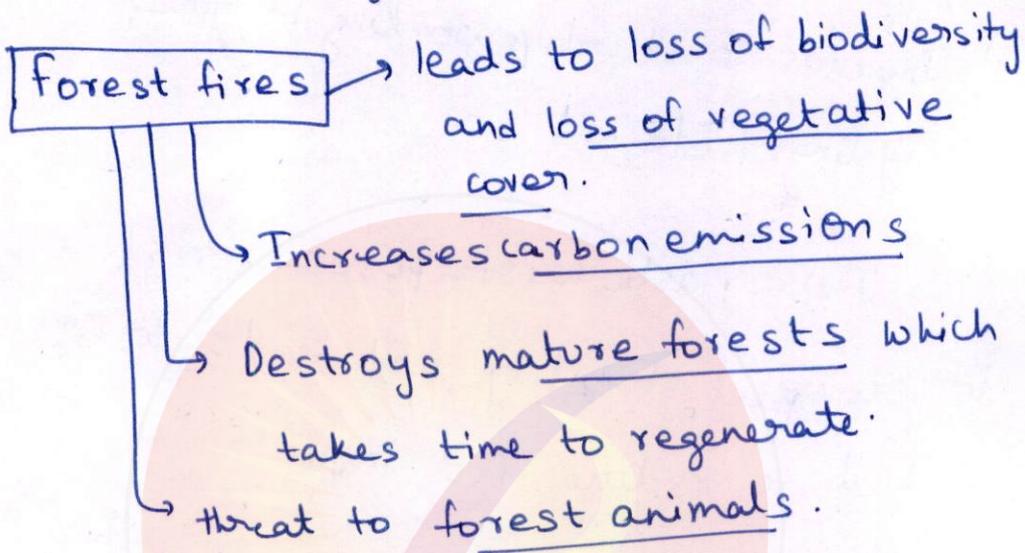
Thus plastic waste poses a risk to ecological stability and needs to be tackled to reduce its impact.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

15. Forest fires amplify climate change and loss of biodiversity. Explain the vulnerability of Indian forests to fire. Discuss the ways for effective prevention and control of forest fires in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Forest fires though contribute to emissions, climate change, also help in regeneration and increasing soil fertility.



Vulnerability of Indian forests to fire

- ① presence of chir pine trees in deciduous forests.
↳ Increases vulnerability to forest fires.

② lack of adequate rainfall

- ↳ leads to drying of forests.
- ↳ concentrated rainfall in only 100 days of a year.

③ High temperatures

- ↳ Increasing temperatures leads to forest fires increased occurrence.

Ways for effective prevention and control of forest fires

① Hazard vulnerability

mapping of zones prone to forest fires.



② Plantation of fire resistant varieties in areas with less rainfall and high temperatures.

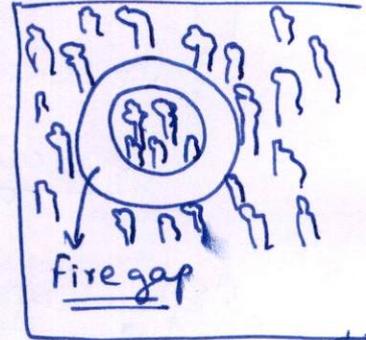
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3. Creating a gap in the form of circle to prevent spread of forest fires

4. Community participation in managing forest fires.



5. Early evacuation of animals by forest forces.

Forest fires can be prevented by following measures and hence can be safeguarded.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

16. Elaborate the disaster vulnerability of Indian coastal cities with examples. Examine the relevance of Sendai Framework in disaster management of coastal regions.
(15 marks, 250 words)

India has a vast coastline of 7500kms in which 5700 kms are prone to disasters like floods, cyclones.

Disaster vulnerability of Indian Coastal cities

① Floods and cyclones

12% land is prone to them.
(Ex) - Chennai floods.

② land slides

↳ Western ghats

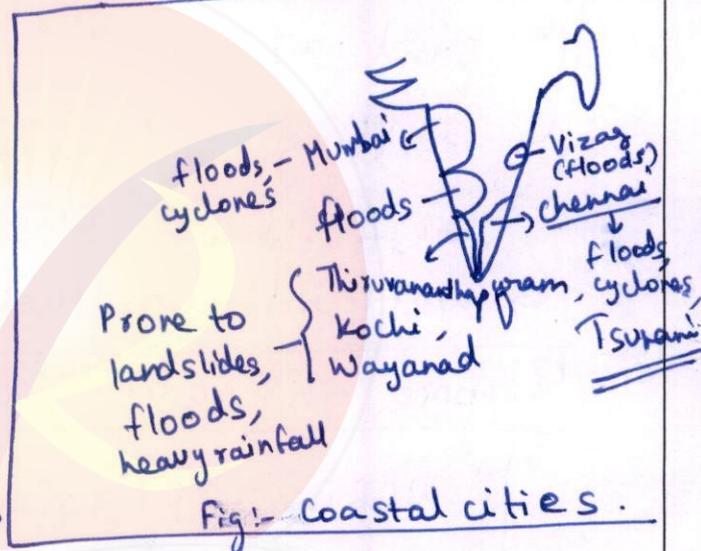
are prone to land slides

(Ex) - Wayanad landslide (2024)

③ Coastal flooding and urban flooding

↳ Chennai floods (2015, 2020)

Mumbai floods (2023)



Relevance of Sendai Framework

① Disaster preparedness

- Construction of embankments
- flood, cyclone shelters
- Disaster response forces.
- Walls to reduce landslides.

② Mitigation

- sand bars, levees
- desilting of rivers
- construction of bioshields
- wetlands construction, restoration

③ Response and relief operations

- NDRF, SDRF stations
- National disaster response fund.

④ Decreasing mortality by immediate evacuations.

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⑤ Deployment of early warning systems.

↳ (En) - I-flows

⑥ Disaster education and awareness building.

Coastal cities are becoming increasingly vulnerable due to increase in extreme weather events, climate change triggered sea level rise.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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17. Evaluate the multifaceted challenges posed by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) in India. Analyzing the socio-economic and political factors contributing to the persistence of Naxalism, examine the effectiveness of the government's strategies in addressing its root causes. (15 marks, 250 words)

Left wing extremism (LWE) or naxalism is an act of violence against government originated in 1967 after Naxalbari event in West Bengal.

Multi faceted challenges posed by LWE

Challenges

- ① Security challenges - LWE poses threat to peace and security of the country.
- ② Threat to lives and property
- ③ Detrimental to progress and development of the country.
↳ stalling of developmental projects in LWE affected districts.
- ④ LWE and organised crimes linkage
↳ Ex :- Drugs trafficking, arms smuggling, wild life smuggling.
- ⑤ Increased use of technology poses difficulty in identifying extremists.

Socioeconomic factors contributing to persistence of Naxalism

1. Lack of adequate employment opportunities → forces youth to join extremist forces.



2. Lack of inter-regional and intra-regional parity in development.

Ex :- LWE districts being backward in social-economic indicators.

3. Forced practices to join LWEs by radicalisation.

Political factors

1. Lack of political will for development of the LWE struck regions.

2. Lack of political representation.

3. Elections disruption in LWE struck districts.

3. Lack of adequate decentralisation of power.

Government's strategies and effectiveness in uprooting LWE

1. State specific strategies like Greyhound were effective in tackling LWE in Andhra Pradesh.
2. SAMADHAAN strategy for multi-faceted approach towards Naxalism.
↳ Decrease in LWE struck districts from 73 to 58 in 2023 (MHA report)
3. Bastariya Battalion in CRPF to tackle LWE has proved to be effective.
4. Operation double bull, operation octopus to reduce LWE.
5. Social media campaigns against LWE has gained prominence — "Bastar maange hinsa se azaadi".

There has been a 73% decline in instances of LWE from 2010 according to MHA report due to government's actions.

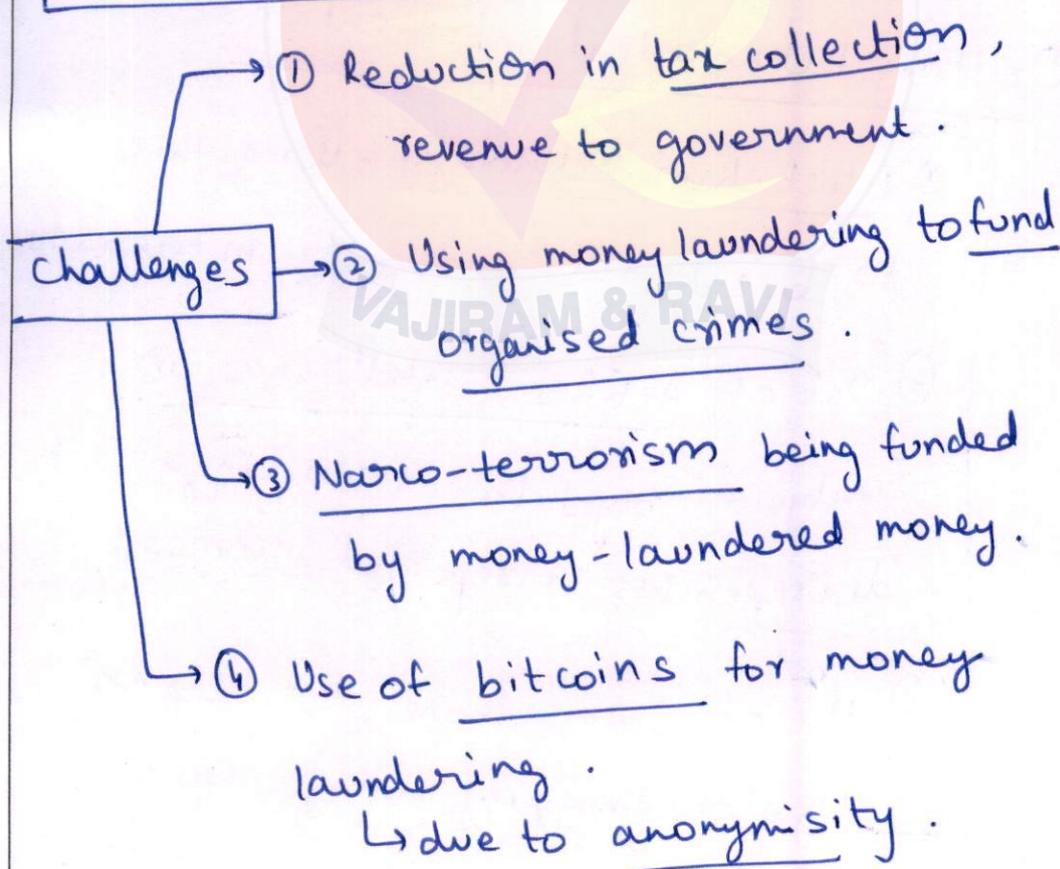
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Introduction	Suggestions:
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18. Examine the challenges posed by money laundering to the Indian economy and national security. Also suggest ways to curb this menace, with a focus on technological interventions. (15 marks, 250 words)

Money laundering refers to the process of making illegitimate money integrated into financial system (Black to white money). IMF estimates that 2-4% of GDP is lost due to money laundering.

Challenges posed by money laundering to Indian economy and national security.



- ⑤ Urban narualism - being funded by money laundering.
- ⑥ Increased use of technology posing threat as it is becoming hard to discover.
 - ↳ Ex:- Hawalas using digital currencies.

Ways to curb money laundering

- ① Using technological interventions
 - a) Block chain technology - Using this to break the anonymity in transactions.
 - b) Use of Artificial intelligence in analysis, big data in finding discrepancies in reported incomes.
 - c) Use of UAVs, drones to keep an eye on smuggling money through borders.

② Policy and institutional arrangements

- PMLA, 2002 (Prevention of money laundering act) - effective implementation.
- Role of enforcement directorate to be strengthened.

Money laundering if not tackled can pose a threat to India's economy and national security in this era of digital currencies.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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19. Alarming rising trend in cyber attacks endangers national security. Explain with examples. Elaborate the need for establishing a dedicated cyber security force to deal with the issue. (15 marks, 250 words)

The recent AIIMS data attack (ransomware cyber attack) highlighted the vulnerability of cyberspace. The financial frauds in cyberspace has been doubled since COVID-19 pandemic.

Rising trends in cyber attacks - a threat to national security

- ① Cyber attacks poses a threat to critical information infrastructure.

Ex:- Shadowpad attack on Mumbai electricity grid.

- ② Poses a threat to data security and privacy of citizens.

Ex- Aadhaar data leak.

↳ According to report by resecurity, 815 million Indian citizen's data is available on darknet.

- ③ Poses a threat to information regarding military operations, capabilities.
- ④ Economic security threats - Increasing financial frauds.
↳ Ex :- Identity threats, Phishing attacks, ATM's hijack etc.,
- ⑤ Maritime security and border security threats. Ex :- Threat to border area ^{cyber} infrastructure
- ⑥ Online radicalisation, religious indoctrination by international organisation.
↳ Ex :- Social engineering by ISIs.
- ⑦ Propoganda warfare - by deepfakes, use of Artificial intelligence etc,
↳ by attacking government websites like MHA, PMO etc,

Need for establishing dedicated cyber security force

1. To tackle attacks on critical information infrastructure.

↳ Gulshan Rai Committee's recommendation of establishment of NCIIPC.

2. Need to safeguard individual's privacy and security.

3. Safeguarding economic security by reducing cyber frauds,

↳ National cybersecurity force can enhance awareness.

Thus, cyber security is needed to ensure national security and ^{hence} should be ensured using security force.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

20. Socio-economic functions across the Indian border makes its management more complex. Discuss with suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

Indian borders are vulnerable as India shares its borders with 7 different countries which includes enemy nation's like china and pakistan.

Socio economic functions across border makes border management complex

1. Building border roads for enhanced connectivity and security.

↳ poses threat of occupation and Standoff.

Ex :- In Arunachal Pradesh, china opposing for development.

2. Building hydro-electric projects for fulfilling needs → may trigger standoff between two countries.

Ex :- India - Pakistan disagreement on Indus river projects.

3. Border villages construction.

↳  :- Arunachal pradesh.

4. Providing employment and education opportunities by vibrant villages programs.

↳ threat to security

 :- Jammu and Kashmir terror attacks.

Wayforward

↳ Shaktikan Committee recommendations on border management

↳ implementation of strategies like CIBMS on border areas.

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VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)



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Marks :	

Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work

