



# दृष्टि मेंटरशिप टेस्ट DRISHTI MENTORSHIP TEST



## GENERAL STUDIES (Test-19) FLT

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे  
Time allowed: Three Hours

DTVF/25 (D-A)-M-GSM (M)-2519

अधिकतम अंक: 250  
Maximum Marks: 250

Name: Rupam Aroza Mobile Number (as registered on DLA): \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium (English/Hindi): English Reg. Number: DKBG-6850  
Center & Date: Karol Bagh UPSC Roll No. (If allotted): \_\_\_\_\_  
12/8/25

### प्रश्न-पत्र के लिये विशिष्ट अनुदेश

कृपया प्रश्नों का उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें:  
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं तथा हिन्दी और अंग्रेज़ी दोनों में छपे हैं।  
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न के अंक उसके सामने दिये गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहियें जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुख-पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिये। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिये।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर-पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिये।

### QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

*Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting questions:*

*There are TWENTY questions printed both in HINDI and ENGLISH.*

*All the questions are compulsory.*

*The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.*

*Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.*

*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.*

केवल मूल्यांकनकर्ता द्वारा भरा जाए (To be filled by Evaluator only)

Question Number	Marks	Question Number	Marks
1.		11.	
2.		12.	
3.		13.	
4.		14.	
5.		15.	
6.		16.	
7.		17.	
8.		18.	
9.		19.	
10.		20.	
Grand Total (सकल योग)			

मूल्यांकनकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)

Evaluator (Signature)

पुनरीक्षणकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)

Reviewer (Signature)



## Feedback

1. Context Proficiency (संदर्भ दक्षता)
  2. Introduction Proficiency (परिचय दक्षता)
  3. Content Proficiency (विषय-वस्तु दक्षता)
  4. Language/Flow (भाषा/प्रवाह)
  5. Conclusion Proficiency (निष्कर्ष दक्षता)
  6. Presentation Proficiency (प्रस्तुति दक्षता)
-



2. भारत में महिला सशक्तीकरण को बढ़ाने में एकीकृत भुगतान इंटरफेस (UPI) की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिये। सभी महिलाओं के लिये समान डिजिटल पहुँच सुनिश्चित करने में कौन-कौन सी चुनौतियाँ बनी हुई हैं? (150 शब्द) 10
- Discuss the role of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in advancing women's empowerment in India. What challenges remain in ensuring equitable digital access for all women? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

UPI is India's indigenous real time payment system developed by NPCI. Its effectiveness has drastically increased digital payments, proliferation & international acceptance.

↳ in both men & women  
↳ rural & urban.

### UPI's role in Women Empowerment

- 1) Encouraged opening bank accounts through Jan Dhan Yojana — linked to UPI Account.
- 2) Reduced dependence on males of family.
- 3) Direct cash transfer schemes — through e-Rupay  
Scanned through UPI Apps. ↙
- 4) Many small businesses like Papad and Achar started from home by women, receiving nationwide payment through UPI.
- 5) Increased financial literacy by developing easy use UI & UX of UPI Apps.



6) Self help groups using UPI to link many women.

7) Real time payments — suitable for farmers & small businesses with cash crunch.

### Challenges for equitable digital access for all women

1) Digital divide — men & women  
rural & urban.

2) No parity in earning opportunity as compared  
to men  
& educational  
situation is improving.

3) Lack of digital funds to new unaware users  
creating fear of accessing & using technology.

4) Patriarchy — financial & digital departments are  
considered as male's departments

UPI has played a vital role in providing financial independence to all including women. More advancements like UPI Circle for SHGs & women FPOs will further strengthen their position.

उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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write on this margin)



3. भारत के आर्थिक विकास में अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिये। इस क्षेत्र को औपचारिक बनाने में कौन-सी प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ हैं? (150 शब्द) 10

Discuss the role of the informal sector in India's economic development. What are the key challenges in formalizing this sector? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

NSO by MosPI reports that around 75% of India's non-agriculture enterprise fall under informal sector.

- no job security / social security
- no payroll — informal hiring.
- small & micro enterprises like vendors, hawkers, shops.
- less than 10 working employees.

Significance in India's Economic Development

- 1) Most imp. significance is that informal sector absorbs India's unskilled and semi-skilled workforce in economy.
- 2) Provides buoyancy to India's further slipping of jobless growth & low per capita income.
- 3) self employment & small businesses.
- 4) Exports ~~are~~ by MSMEs (both formal & informal) are at its peak.  
↳ e.g. Textile & leather products.



5) Services and low skilled work — like plumbing, electrician, house help gives flexibility to middle class.

### Key challenges in formalisation

- 1) Lack of credit access — now improved by Priority sector lending, & PM SVANIDHI schemes.
- 2) Abundance of ~~skilled~~ & semi-skilled & unskilled labour — unfit for changing nature of work in formal sector
- 3) Low formal manufacturing base in labour intensive sectors like textiles & tannery.
- 4) Poverty cycle — migration to urban centres
- 5) Less STEM seats & opportunities.
- 6) mismatch b/w qualification & job description. Many overqualified people are forced to do under qualification / informal jobs — and take up Schemes like PM MITRA & PM SVANIDHI are a step in right direction to formalise ~~and attract~~ labour intensive sectors along with payment support from OPI.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)



4. देश के केंद्रीय बैंक के रूप में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) के प्रमुख कार्यों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिये तथा उनका संक्षिप्त वर्णन कीजिये।

(150 शब्द) 10

Enumerate and briefly explain the major functions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the central bank of the country.

(150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

RBI is India's central bank, established under by provisions of RBI Act, 1934.

RBI's major mandates & functions

- 1) To issue currency notes & coins on behalf of government of India.
- 2) To use monetary policy tools to ensure inflation targeting of  $4\% \pm 2\%$ .
- 3) To come up with short term, medium term & long term monetary Policy & Targets
- 4) To regulate banking sector
- 5) To be a banker to banks  
↳ Repo, Reverse Repo.
- 6) To arrest depreciation of INR by buying and selling Forex reserves in open market  
(Management of Exchange rate within floating exchange rate system)



- 7) To issue bonds to generate revenue for government of India.
- 8) To coordinate with banks & payment agencies like NPCI for smooth functioning of banking sector.
- 9) To represent India's stand in international forums and channels of banking system (like Basel norms)
- 10) To raise awareness of users against digital frauds, and other money matters.  
(eg: Mobile Aided Note Identifier  
RBI Kehta hai Jaankar Banaye Campaign)

RBI has been performing well in the recent (post-covid) global turbulence by proactively changing interest rates. But it must ensure inflation comes down below 6% as MPC target indicates → (CPI)

उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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write on this margin)

5. इस बात का परीक्षण कीजिये कि किस प्रकार कृषि जैवविविधता को बढ़ाकर जलवायु-अनुकूल कृषि प्रणालियों का निर्माण करते हुए भारत की खाद्य सुरक्षा चुनौतियों का समाधान किया जा सकता है। (150 शब्द) 10

Examine how enhancing agrobiodiversity can address India's food security challenges while building climate-resilient agricultural systems. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Green revolution was a success of its time but created over production of rice & wheat while creating food security challenges for other crops. — Can be solved by

### Enhancing Agrobiodiversity — Significance

- 1) Proportionate division of sown area to a variety of crops like cereals, millets, fruits, vegetables.
- 2) Use of various Highyield crops & seeds to enhance production.
- 3) Species diversity & resilience — using drought resistant millets to address climate change
- 4) Ecosystem Diversity — selecting crops based on ecosystem suitability.
- 5) ~~Use of~~ → use of bacteria to increase qualities  
Research on GM crops — and considering field trials of GM Brinjal and Mustard to not get out of global race.



## Benefit to India's food security

- 1) Variety of crops - nutritional security
- 2) Increased production.
- 3) Climate resilience - addressing agricultural response to climate change by suitable crops.

Nitrogen fixation  
microorganisms

## Building climate resilient systems

- 1) Water efficiency systems - drip irrigation, sprinklers etc.
  - 2) Zero Budget Natural Farming - w
  - 3) Using natural soil enhancers - like manure, Jeevamrit & beejamrit, principles  
↓  
earthworms      mulching
- Agrobiodiversity ie - using variety of living organisms in agriculture has evolved from manures to GM crops. It is necessary to use traditional knowledge along with modern science like GM crops.

उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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write on this margin)



6. Axiom-4 मिशन के परिणाम गगनयान कार्यक्रम और भारत के अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र के विकास में किस प्रकार योगदान देंगे ?

(150 शब्द) 10

How will the Axiom-4 mission's outcomes contribute to the Gaganyaan programme and the development of India's space sector? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

ISRO's ambitious Gaganyaan Mission plans to a human spaceflight to Low Earth Orbit. (India's first) by ISRO by 2026.

ISRO selected Shubhanshu Shukla for a collaboration with ~~the~~ USA's Axiom 4 mission to gain spaceflight experience by an Indian astronaut.

How will Axiom-4 contribute

- 1) Shubhanshu Shukla's personal experience of training, and real spaceflight can help ISRO develop its own microgravity training & research centres
- 2) Experiments conducted by ~~Shukla~~ Axiom-4 including Shubhanshu like breeding seeds in zero gravity will further research.



3) Research on changes on body of astronauts to further improve spacesuits & spacecrafts.

4) India's heightened image in space sector, as an Indian Astronaut gained spaceflight experience.

5) Training of protocols of ~~the~~ other Indian Gagannauts.

6) Experience of going to ISS (imp for Bhartiya Antariksha Station)

The recent Axiom 4 mission's collaboration with ISRO proved to be a push for India's space ambitions of first human spaceflight and constructing Bhartiya Antariksha Station, before 2040.

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उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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write on this margin)

7. ग्रीन माइनिंग क्या है? भारत किस प्रकार नीतिगत एवं प्रौद्योगिकीय प्रयासों के माध्यम से ग्रीन माइनिंग को बढ़ावा दे रहा है?

(150 शब्द) 10

What is Green Mining? How is India advancing green mining through policy and technology efforts?

(150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Green Mining refers to sustainable mining practices that use resources sustainably throughout a mine's lifecycle. (making it more ecofriendly and not just economic friendly).

### Objectives

- using less energy to mine — sustainable fuels.
- low carbon intensity.
- appropriate post-mining practices like <sup>CCS</sup> afforestation,
- appropriate rehabilitation of displaced

### Policy & Technology efforts

- National Mineral Policy, 2019 → promotes sustainable development, environment protection.
- Env. Impact Assessment — for sustainable mining
- Mines & Minerals (Dev. & Regulation) Act
  - ↳ rehabilitation, penalties, violations of displaced.



## Tech efforts

- 1) Renewable Energy - Hydrogen & CNG & electricity. powered vehicles.
- 2) Automation and use of AI - for precision mining
- 3) Carbon Capture & Storage - in closed mines.
- 4) Recycling of e-waste - new forms of urban mining by extracting minerals like lithium from e-waste scrap.
- 5) Water Recycling & Bioremediation - to reduce and manage pollution.

India's focus on ~~on~~ Atmanirbharata in minerals will see increased mining in future. Hence greenmining techniques become an important Sustainable Development matter to ensure mining (economics) & environment friendliness.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)



8. भूमि सुधार अपने इच्छित लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में क्यों विफल रहे और बाद के दशकों में कृषि क्षेत्र पर इसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ा? (150 शब्द) 10

Why did land reforms fail to achieve their intended goals, and how did this impact the agricultural sector in subsequent decades? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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India's hierarchical and fragmented social structure pre-independence led to many landless farmers. Land reforms were tried & intended to reduce this disparity. However it was a partial success only.

### Why Did Land Reforms Fail

- 1) Political factors — lack of will.  
politicians belonged to landed elite community.
- 2) Weak enforcement — due to inadequate and complex pre-independence land records.
- 3) Land under state subject — difference in laws & opinions of states.
- 4) Fragmentation after inheritance — led to very small lands.
- 5) Benami Transactions — to avoid land transfers & ceiling laws.



6) Division of land among family members to avoid land ceiling act

7) Inadequate compensation for acquired land.

### Impact on Agri. Sector

- 1) Small & Marginal Farmers in large number. — dependence on loans — vicious cycle.
- 2) Less modernisation & tech use, due to small farms.
- 3) Reduced efficiency & productivity — due to small land parcels.
- 4) Rural stagnation.
- 5) Migration to urban centres — increase in informal economy  
↳ feminisation of agriculture

Land reforms were partially successful in states like West Bengal & Kerala. New land policy initiatives like land pooling via FPOs can be the need of the future to modernise agriculture

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

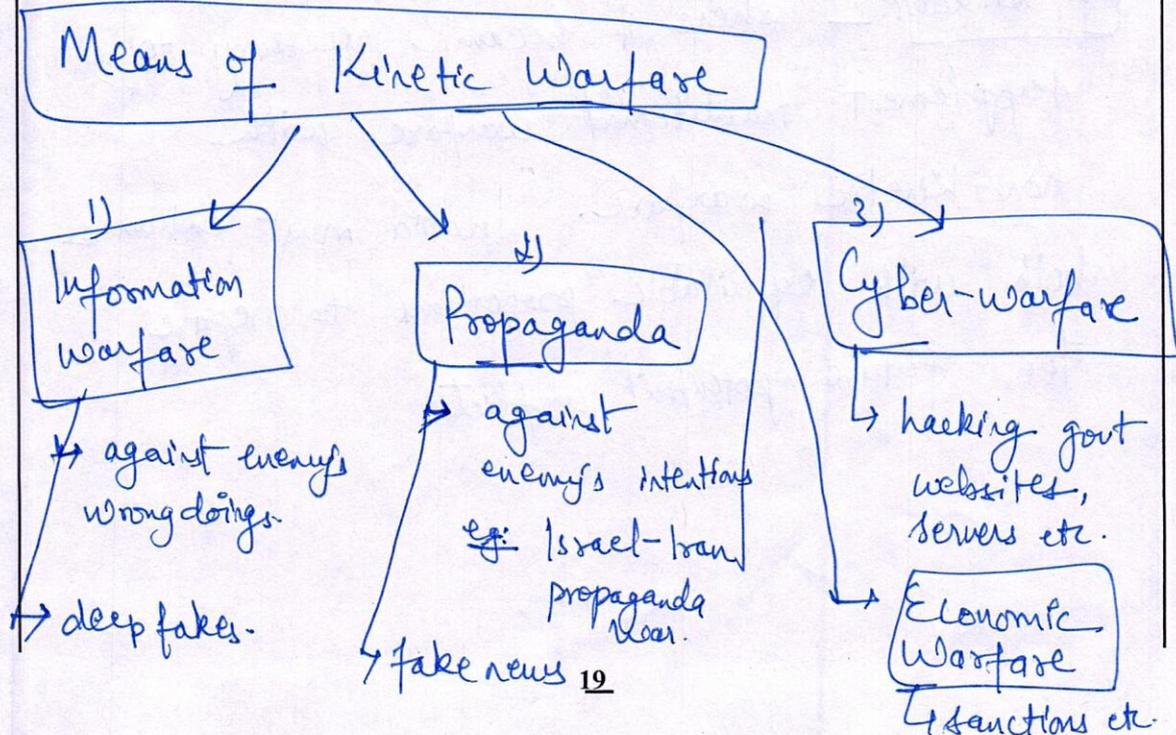
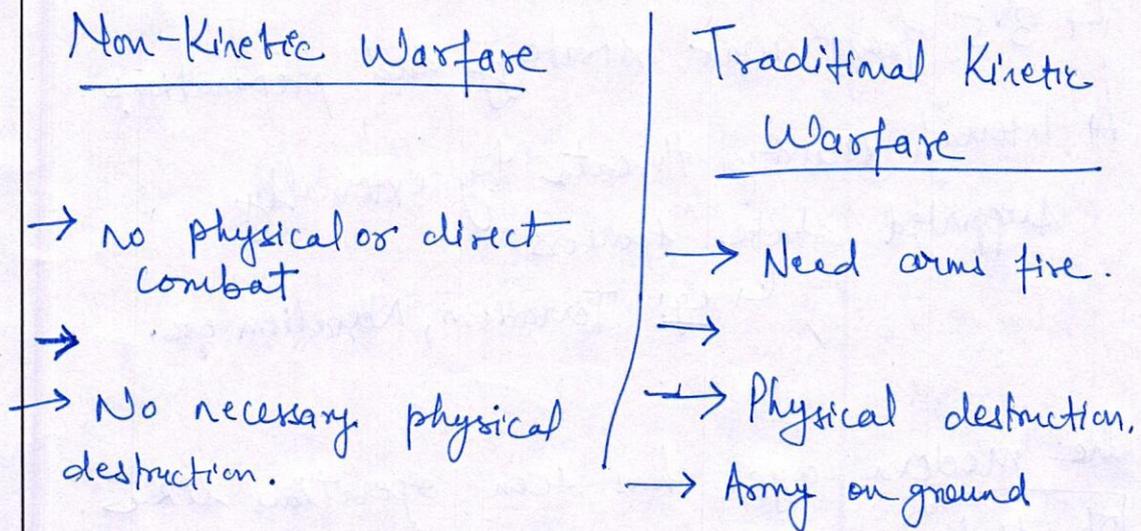
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9. नॉन-काइनेटिक वारफेयर से आप क्या समझते हैं? यह आधुनिक संघर्षों में यह पारंपरिक काइनेटिक वारफेयर से किस प्रकार भिन्न है? (150 शब्द) 10

What do you mean by Non-kinetic warfare? How it is different from traditional kinetic warfare in modern conflicts? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।  
(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Non-Kinetic warfare refers to military & diplomatic strategies that aim to achieve objectives of weakening the adversary without using arms & physical combat operations.





Electronic Warfare

→ GPS spoofing,  
disrupting radars

Diplomatic Warfare

→ raising ~~institution~~ issues  
to international institutions.  
to isolate the enemy.

Relevance for India

- ↳ 3.5 front war strategy and preparations.
- ↳ Internal security threats by externally supported state sponsors
  - ↳ eg: Terrorism, Naxalism etc.

The modern age has seen operations like Op. Sindoor — where it became necessary to supplement traditional warfare with non-kinetic warfare. India must enhance both with equitable proportions to prepare for future potential conflicts.

उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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10. कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) एवं डीपफेक जैसी उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियाँ भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा के समक्ष किस प्रकार नई चुनौतियाँ प्रस्तुत करती हैं? प्रतिरोधात्मक उपाय सुझाइए। (150 शब्द) 10

How do emerging technologies like AI and deepfakes pose new challenges to India's internal security? Suggest countermeasures. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Emerging technologies often outpace rule making by government to regulate them. AI & Deepfakes are such technologies that pose a risk to India's security.

### Challenges to India's Internal Security by Emerging Technology

→ 1) Use of AI — for data analytics & precision by naxalites, terrorists.

→ 2) Deepfakes → to spread misinformation, a kind of non-kinetic operation.  
eg: Pakistan's propaganda against India.  
during Op. Sindoor.

→ 3) Increased Terror Financing — by using cryptocurrency platforms for Havalas transactions.



उम्मीदवार को इस  
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चाहिये।

(Candidate must not  
write on this margin)

4) In Game Transactions — video game  
currency transactions used to fund terror

5) Dark Net → to procure arms, recruit cadre  
→ to propagandise against enemy  
→ to communicate with fellow  
cadres.

6) Use of Encryption & Blockchain — to evade  
authorities.

### Suggestions

→ To strengthen R & D on latest technologies of  
AI, ML, Quantum computing in ethical manner.

→ Increase cyber security framework across India  
↳ eg: CERT-In

→ Policy framework & Enhanced Cyber Security Act,  
for 21<sup>st</sup> century risks.

→ Coordination between cyber defence authorities  
of armed forces, centre & state govts.

→ Cyber traps to identify and catch cyber criminals.

India must try to become proactive in new age tech &  
not play the reaction game to enhance its capabilities.

11. भारतीय किसानों के लिये मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों (FTA) से संबंधित लाभ और जोखिम क्या हैं तथा उनके हितों की रक्षा हेतु किन उपायों को अपनाया जाना चाहिये? (250 शब्द) 15

What are the benefits and risks associated with Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) for Indian farmers and what measures should be taken to safeguard their interests? (250 words) 15

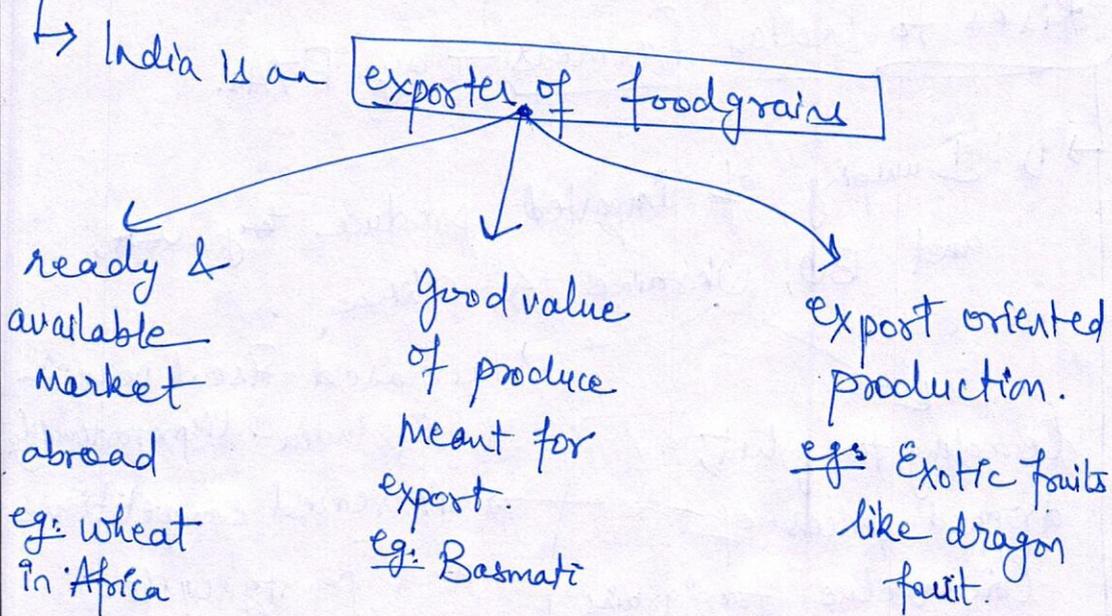
उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

FTAs are a worldwide accepted and exercised economic instrument to enhance trade between two parties by reducing or eliminating Tariffs of exported items.

The current USA-India trade deal delay & President Trump's 50% Tariff on India has highlighted India's sensitivity towards its farm sector with respect to FTAs.

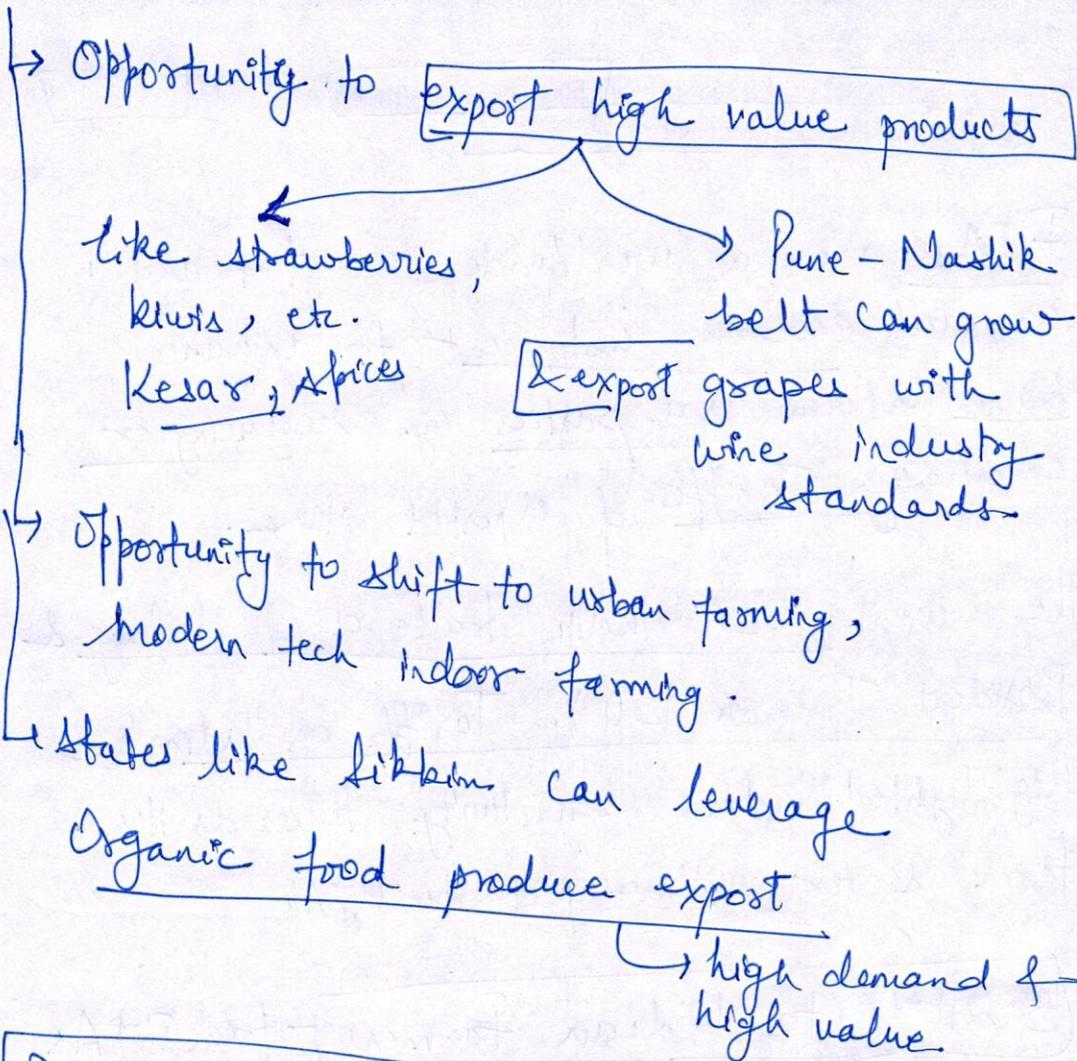
Benefits to Indian Farmers from FTAs



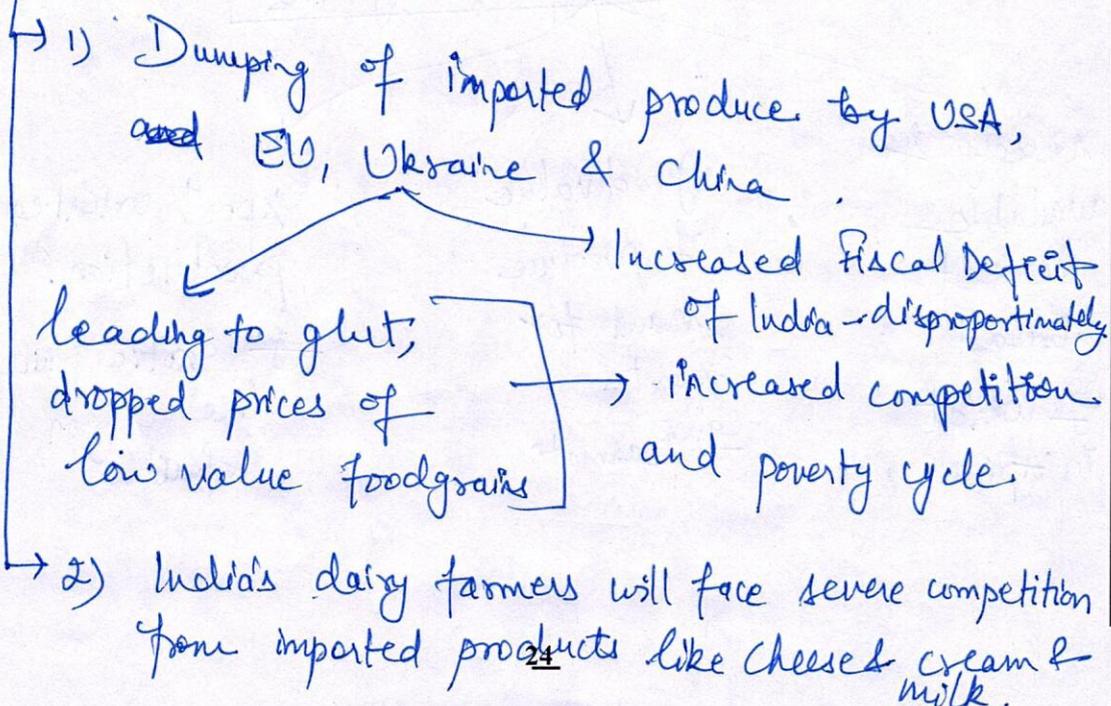


उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

(Candidate must not  
write on this margin)



### Risks to Indian Farmers — by FTAs.



1. घाटे का वित्तपोषण क्या है? भारत में लोक वित्त के संदर्भ में इसका महत्त्व स्पष्ट कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10  
 What is deficit financing? Explain its significance in the context of public finance in India.

(150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Deficit Financing refers to the practice where government of a country or state spends more than it earns through revenue and makes up the balance amount by printing more money or borrowing.

### Types of Deficits

→ Revenue Deficit  
 → Fiscal Deficit  
 → Primary Deficit

⇒ used for deriving various calculations, analysis & strategy for deficit finance.

### Methods of Deficit Finance

→ Quantitative easing — printing more money  
 → Borrowing

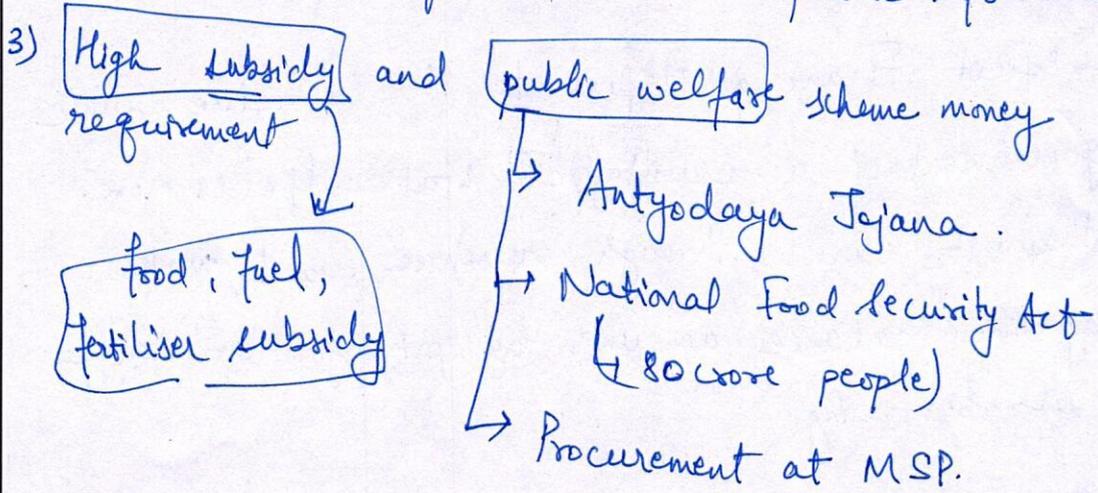
External } By Government  
 Internal }  
 — using small savings & PPF money.  
 — Bonds issued by RBI  
 — off budget borrowing.

### Significance of Deficit Financing in India

1) Keynesian approach — spend more than a country earns to sustain development & welfare.



2) High Capex required to build public infrastructure



4) Low per Capita income — generates less income tax for government than future potential.  
↳ Hence need to borrow.

5) High development & ~~Capex~~ demand to increase HDI & Multidimensional Poverty enhancement

Government's target to adhere to FRBM Act by bringing down medium term fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP from current 5.1% by 2026 is a step in right direction of fiscal management & responsibility.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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- 3) India's farm sector is majorly based on sustenance & not export due to high no. of Small & Marginal Farmers.
- 4) Fishery sector will face severe competition from imports of high tech ~~fishery~~ fishery sector countries of the west

### Way forward — safeguarding interests

- Using India → UK FTA as a model FTA for future negotiations
  - zero duty import quota on few identified positive items
  - time bound tariff reductions ( & not immediate)
- Uniting strongly with global south (G77) to raise demand of  $\&$  legitimate protection of farm sector.
- limiting limited FDI, with mandatory FPO & SHG integration in farm sector. on pilot basis — ( & not 78% FDI)

India's response of not compromising on its farmer's interest has reiterated its stance and significance to protect India's farm sector.

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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12. भारतीय वस्त्र उद्योग के समक्ष विद्यमान प्रमुख संरचनात्मक चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिये तथा इसकी वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्द्धा क्षमता को बढ़ाने के लिये आवश्यक सुधारों के साथ नीतिगत उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Identify the key structural challenges facing the Indian textile industry and discuss the reforms and policy measures needed to enhance its global competitiveness. (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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India's textile industry is significant for both growth & to absorb low & semi skilled labour into work force as it is a labour intensive sector. Hence resolving structural challenges becomes a topmost priority

### Structural Challenges

- 1) Fragmentation - dominated by MSMEs with limited scope of expansion
- 2) Need of infrastructure adoption & updation in processing looms & machinery
- 3) Competition from Textile Major Countries which have zero duty export to India.
  - ↳ like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia
  - ↳ to lose LDC status in 2026.



उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
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- 4) Lack of Large Textile Parks..- in India,  
recent push through PM MITRA scheme
- 5) Weak global branding of Indian textile  
products — remain low value products
- 6) GST issues — raw cloth — 5%  
— finished cloth — 18%.

### Reforms & Policy Measures Needed

- 1) To create a 'Brand India' by  
leveraging Indian traditional textile  
designs — like Bloc print & Kanchivaram  
— Saree.
- 2) Converting Indian textiles into high notional  
value demand product worldwide.  
— eg: Saree & Gancha as a fashion  
statement in the west.  
— leveraging Indian diaspora.



- 3) Fast-tracking & proper implementation of PM Mitra scheme &  
↓
- 4) Timely construction of Textile Parks.
- 5) Invite FDI (78% to 100%) in FDI sector
- 6) Technology upgradation — new age power loom  
↳ R&D — Indian specific machines like saree loom & embroidery loom
- 7) Subsidy to counter imports from Bangladesh & Vietnam.
- 8) Skill development — PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana  
↳ Samarth scheme
- 9) Levaging high demand items like Pashmina shawls.

Textile as has since ancient times, has the potential to increase India's significance in the global supply chain given that a strong image value supplemented with world class quality is generated in India.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

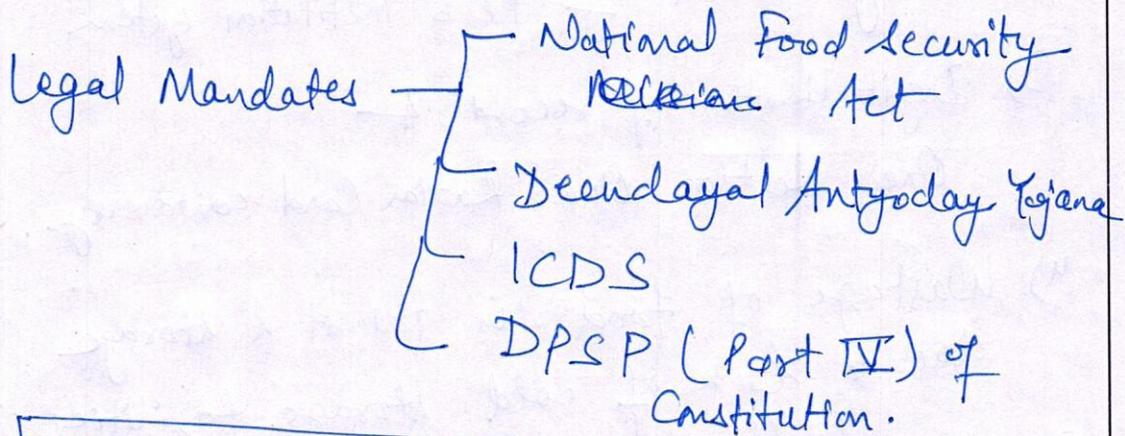
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13. भारत में खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) की प्रभावशीलता का मूल्यांकन कीजिये। इसकी दक्षता एवं समावेशी पहुँच को बेहतर बनाने के लिये कौन-से संरचनात्मक सुधार आवश्यक हैं? (250 शब्द) 15
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in addressing food security in India. (250 words) 15
- What reforms are necessary to improve its efficiency and reach? (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

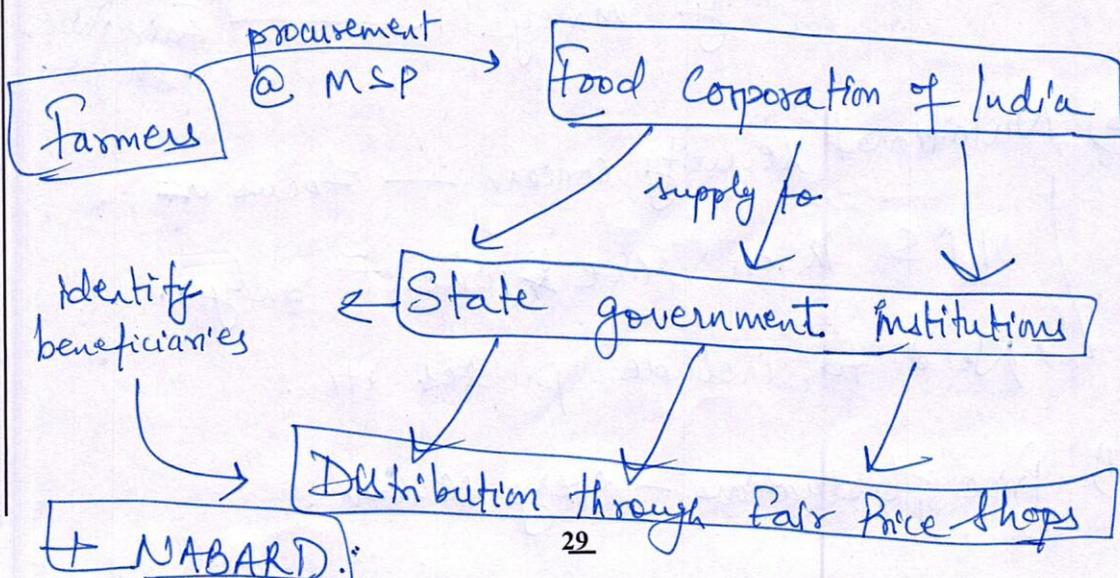
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India's P.D.S system, the largest in the world secures ~~po~~ distribution & hence food security to 80 crore Indians which receive subsidised ration from fair price shops.



### Effectiveness of PDS - Analysis

→ Strong visualised structure.





Working in general is satisfactory as every month 80 cr people receive ration from FPSs.

But, some concerns are as follows-

- 1) Lack of sufficient MSP procurement
- 2) Long chain of PDS institution system
- 3) Digitalisation of record & One Nation One Ration Card controversy
- 4) Wastage of food in transit & storage due to lack of cold storage facilities.
- 5) Corruption & implementational lags.
  - ↳ not giving full quota of ration at demanding money
  - ↳ at Fair Price Shops
- 6) Nutritional security concern — focus of PDS is on rice & wheat only.
  - ↳ Need to include pulses etc.
- 7) Price fluctuations — every season

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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## Suggestions → Necessary Reforms

- Nutritional security
  - fortification of grains on larger scale  
eg: Golden rice.
  - Include pulses in PDS structure
- Enhance cold storage & minimise storage loss
- Direct Beneficiary Transfer like system for PDS
  - to reduce corruption & leakages.
- ICDS linked to be procured through FPS.
  - 1 fruit per day.
  - 1 glass milk per day.
  - 8-10 gm protein per day.
- Extra quota for
  - Anaemic girls.
  - Pregnant women.

PDS system of India needs a next-gen revolution by linking it to quality of service delivery, voluntary withdrawal from beneficiary list & 'Swabhimaan' in food production & receiving.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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14. सोडियम-आयन बैटरियों के कार्य सिद्धांत की व्याख्या कीजिये। भारत में लिथियम-आयन बैटरियों की तुलना में उनके लाभों और सीमाओं पर चर्चा कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Explain the working principle of sodium-ion batteries. Discuss their advantages and limitations in comparison to lithium-ion batteries in India. (250 words) 15

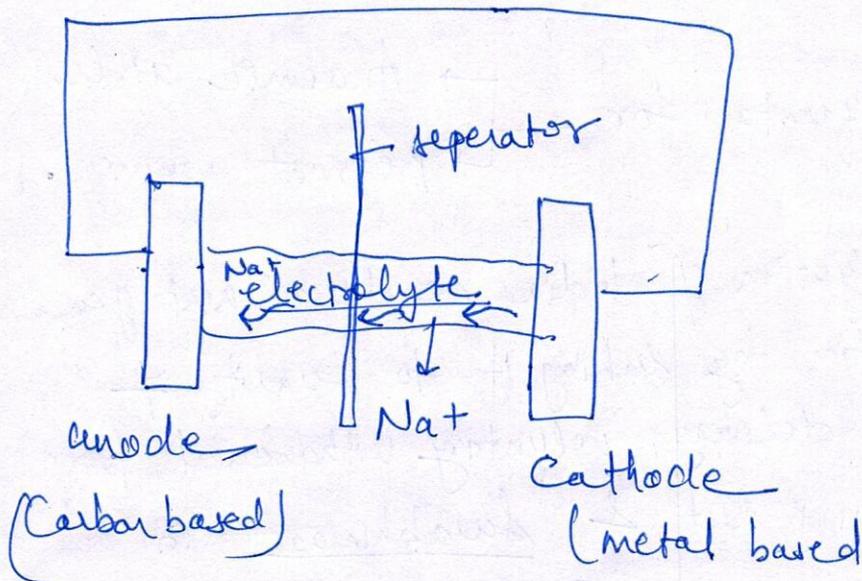
उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Sodium-ion batteries have come up as an alternate to expensive lithium ion-batteries in India & the world.

### Working Principle

↳ very similar to lithium ion battery but it uses sodium ions instead of lithium ions. ~~batter~~



$\text{Na}^+$  ions move from cathode to anode during charge cycle & oppositely during



discharge cycle.

### Advantages over Lithium-ion battery

- 1) Easy availability of raw materials.  
(Sodium v/s Lithium)
- 2) Lithium is very expensive compared to sodium. — Cost effective
- 3) Can Make in India without much trouble for lithium sourcing & geopolitical maneuvers.  
↳ good for rising battery requirements.
- 4) Can work better than lithium battery in extreme heat conditions.
- 5) Less prone to battery fires than lithium — less dangerous.

उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
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## DfE advantages

- Lower energy density than lithium wafer & gran.
- Large battery size.
- Low forget potential than lithium & hence smaller battery life.
- Early commercialization stage.
- Less export potential — due to world's demand of lithium batteries.
- Less integration with EVs.

## Way forward

↳ Continued R&D in both lithium & sodium ion batteries. Sodium batteries can provide sustainable alternatives, focusing and cheap better on energy security & lithium sourcing challenges.

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15. भारत में जल प्रबंधन के समक्ष प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं तथा दीर्घकालिक जल सुरक्षा और स्थायित्व सुनिश्चित करने के लिये किन एकीकृत नीतिगत सुधारों की आवश्यकता है? (250 शब्द) 15

What are the major challenges facing water management in India, and what integrated policy reforms are needed to ensure long-term water security and sustainability? (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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India having one of the best rainfall patterns in the world gets abundant rainfall (& hence water) but is moving towards being one of future severe water stressed countries of the world.

More than half districts have reported reduced water availability (NITI Aayog Report)

### Water Management Challenges

- Agricultural runoff — & unlimited use of groundwater through tubewells are still prevalent in Punjab & Haryana region.
- Stress on Groundwater — India extracts 25% of global groundwater of the world.
  - reduced water tables.
  - Inadequate implementation of submersible ban laws in urban centres like Delhi



उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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↳ Water Pollution — untreated sewage & affluent discharge by both government & industries.

↳ Irrigation Practices → surface irrigation is still most prevalent  
↳ ~~no~~ less penetration of micro-irrigation practices

↳ Weak Policy Implementations

↳ Difference in approach — water being a state subject  
↳ poor enforcements  
↳ policy lags due to inter-state water disputes

↳ Climate change → flash floods & droughts.  
↳ changed rainfall pattern.

↳ Urban water stress



## Policy Reforms

### Existing

- AMRUT scheme for waterbody management in each district
- Atal Bhojal Yojana
- Har Ghar Nal se jal
- Jal Droop Nose Crop.
- Jal Teeran Mission
- National Water Policy

### Way forward

- Fast track I's Water Dispute redressal mechanism
- Mandatory rainwater harvesting in plots above 200 sq. m.
- National guidelines to be followed by state.
- Good implementation

The situation is still not out of hand if a wholesome approach against pollution & in favour of modern irrigation technology & rainwater harvesting is undertaken keeping in mind development needs of next 100 years.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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16. सेंडै फ्रेमवर्क भारत में आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण (DRR) को किस प्रकार बढ़ाता है? (250 शब्द) 15  
How does the Sendai Framework enhance Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in India? (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is an outcome of UN conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Target Years — 2015 to 2030

India is a pioneering signatory.

How it helps in India's DRR.

1) Readymade framework & targets for India to follow.

- Identification of risks.
- Zero deaths from disasters by 2030.
- Disaster resilient infrastructure.
- build back better.
- assessment post disaster.

Sendai Framework Action Plan



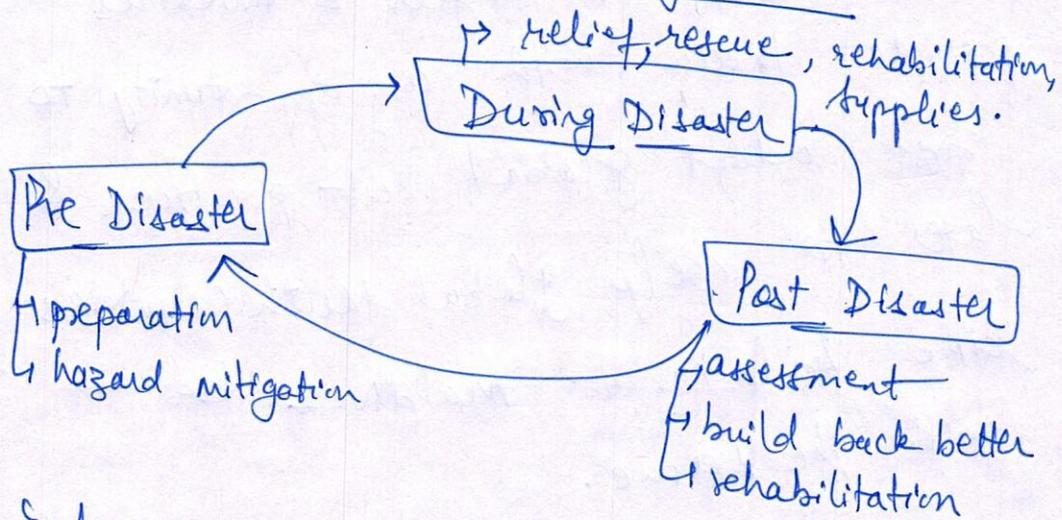
उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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2) Collaborations for exposure to best practices of the world with countries like Japan, USA, Korea.

3) Investment in Disaster Resilient Infra.  
↳ cyclone resistant  
↳ earthquake resistant.

4) Enhancing India's DM Cycle



5) Enhancing Early Warning Systems & Operations  
↳ eg: IMD cyclone classification

6) Coordination of NDRF & SDRFs.

7) Protection of critical infrastructure on global standards.



## 8) Enhancing Cooperation

↳ India & UK launched

Coalition for Disaster Resilient  
Infrastructure (CDRI)

during Sendai framework targets

Sendai Framework targets & timelines provide India with an opportunity to first adopt global best practices & later to help global south countries like Sri Lanka & Maldives to with the same.

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
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17. तेल रिसाव के पर्यावरण पर प्रमुख प्रभाव क्या हैं, तथा भारत अपनी प्रतिक्रिया और प्रबंधन तंत्र को किस प्रकार मजबूत कर सकता है? (250 शब्द) 15

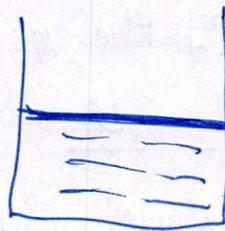
What are the key impacts of oil spills on the environment, and how can India strengthen its response and management mechanisms? (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Oil spills refer to spillage of oil in water bodies during extraction process, transfer to ships & transportation via ships.

It negatively impacts the climate by forming a layer over water & hence blocking oxygen & nutrient exchange



oil floats on water restricts O<sub>2</sub> exchange.

### Key Impacts

- 1) Restricts O<sub>2</sub> exchange
- 2) Oil attaches itself to marine organisms, eventually not letting them swim & die
- 3) Oil spills often lead to fires on the surface of ocean, further heating ocean surface temperature

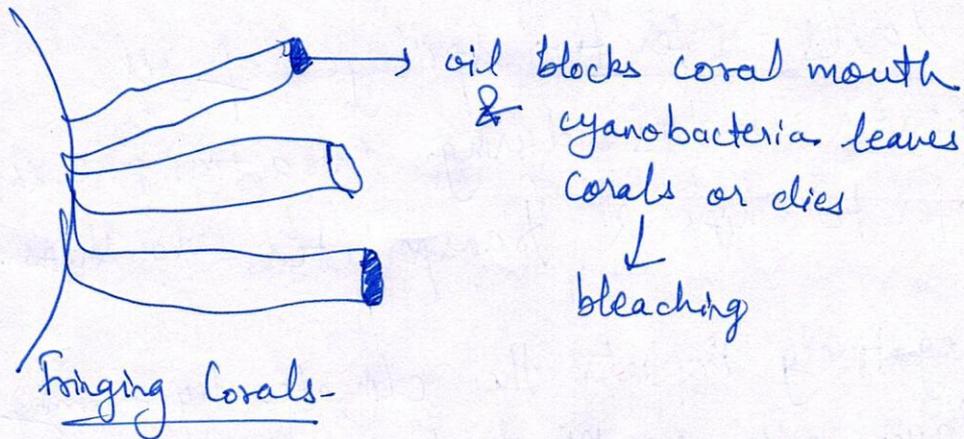
Threat to marine biodiversity.



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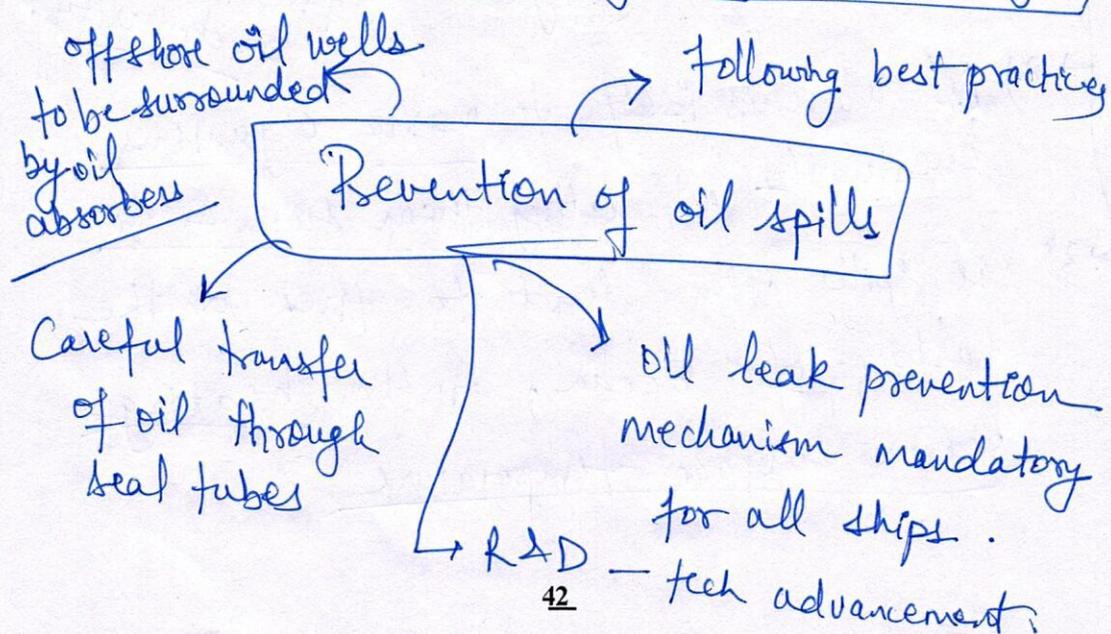
4) Oil spills lead to mass coral bleaching by attaching to corals



5) Loss of Resources of the ocean by pollution caused by oil.

6) Water pollution ocean

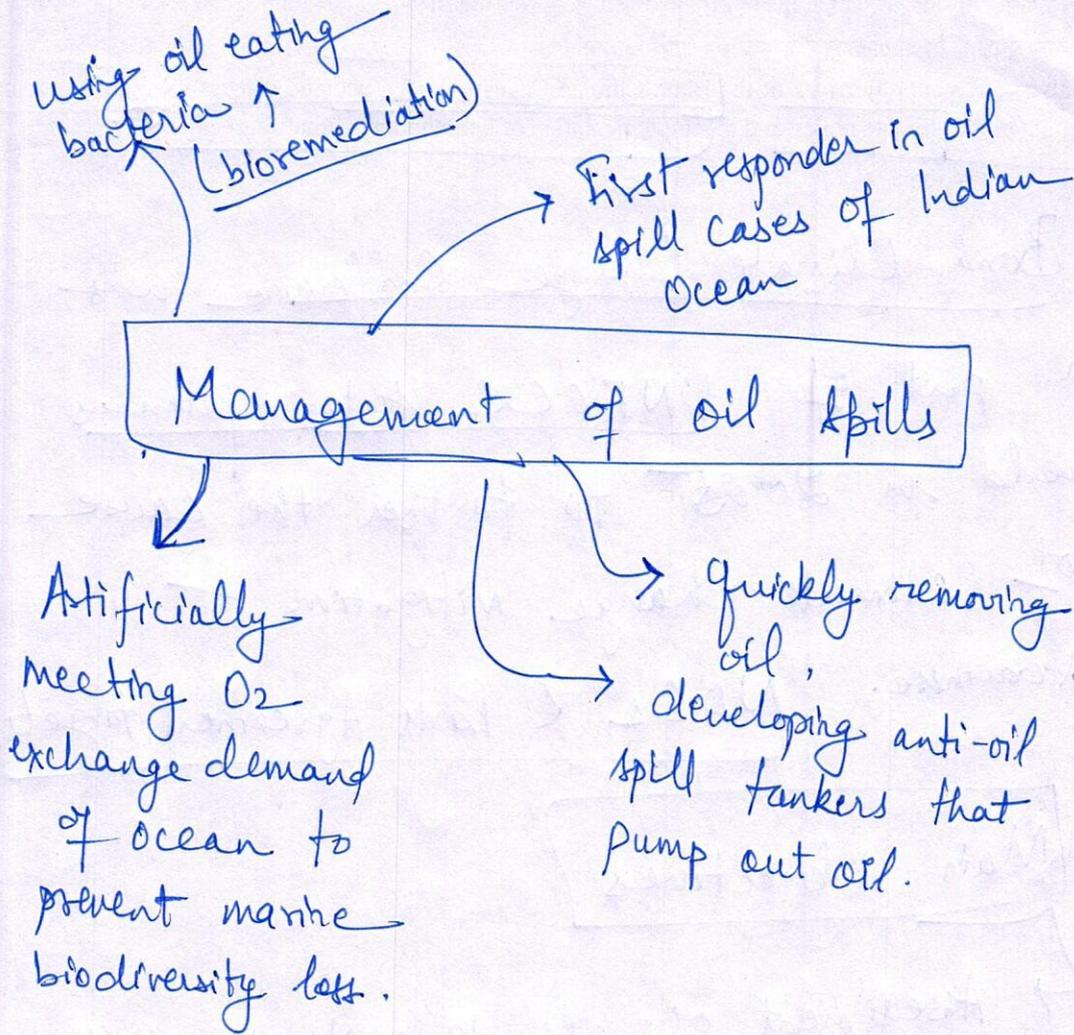
How Can India strengthen response & mgmt





उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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IPCC reports on oil spills indicate 30%.

oil spills are preventable and caused due to human ignorance. Strong institutional mechanisms with globally agreed solutions are the need of the hour.

India can call for an Indo-Pacific Conference on Oil Spill Prevention & Management.



18. बॉन जलवायु परिवर्तन सम्मेलन के मुख्य उद्देश्यों का विश्लेषण कीजिये तथा वैश्विक जलवायु नीति को आकार देने एवं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जलवायु समझौतों के कार्यान्वयन में इसकी महत्ता पर चर्चा कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Analyze the main objectives of the Bonn Climate Change Conference and discuss its significance in shaping global climate policy and the implementation of international climate agreements.

(250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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Bonn Climate Change Conference was a part of UNFCCC sub conferences held in 2025 to further the cause of climate change mitigation & ~~to~~ outline NDCs & Paris Agreement targets.

### Main Objectives

- Assessment of climate mitigation efforts.
- Assessment of NDC targets.
- Assessment of ~~Paris Climate Conference~~ Paris Agreement clauses.
- To discuss on climate finance & tech transfer by developed world.
  - support to developing countries.



## Significance in shaping global Climate policy

- Paris Agreement target year is only 4 years away.
- Earth overshoot day is coming closer to mid year (June). — Currently in August
- $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  heating of earth arresting target has been breached many times -  $1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  already permanent.



- Global policies are required in unison.
- Bonn climate change conference's main achievement is to enhance climate mitigation targets, acknowledge lack of efforts of many countries and viability gaps of upwards of 20 Tn\$ per year as now required.

उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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## Implementations suggestions in Conference

- policy to be developed by updating NDCs
- Tech transfer and climate finance clauses to be solved as soon as possible
- helping the developing world in both finance & policy.
- Creating new institutions
  - ↳ CDRI, Int'l Solar Alliance -

While Bonn Conference was significant, there are only promises but no consensus between developed & developing world over historical responsibility. A major conference with binding targets acceptable to all is required.

उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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19. भारत की सीमा सुरक्षा पर पार-देशीय संगठित अपराधों के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिये तथा अंतर-एजेंसी एवं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग को सुदृढ़ करने के उपाय सुझाइए। (250 शब्द) 15  
 Examine the impact of transnational organized crime on India's border security and suggest ways to strengthen inter-agency and international cooperation. (250 words) 15

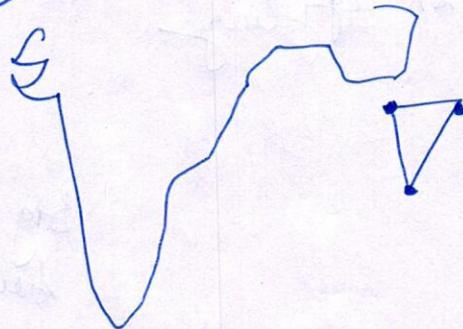
उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Transnational organised crime refers to organised crime networks like drug & human trafficking, Money Laundering, smuggling of items, operating from support bases in two or more countries.

India having infamous neighbours for lack of control on organised crime & geographical location between golden triangle & golden crescent badly affects India's border security.

Iran - Pakistan  
 - Afghanistan

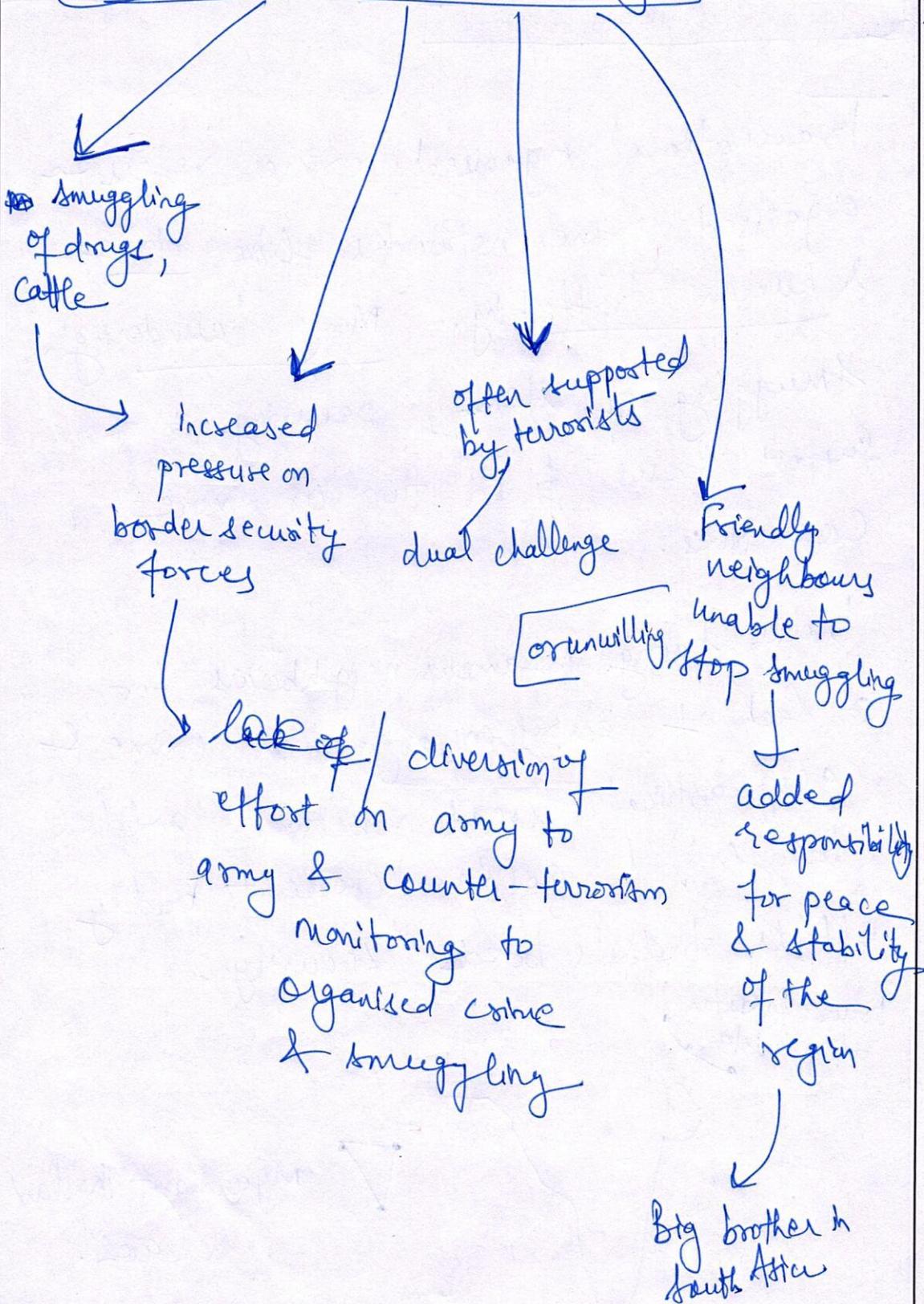


Myanmar - Thailand  
 Laos

India: in between golden  $\Delta$  & crescent.



# Impact on Border Security



उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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## Strengthening of Inter-agency & Intl Cooperation

- ↳ Integrated Command & check post centres for anti drug trafficking & organised crimes
  - ↳ BSF & State Police
  - ↳ BSF & FATF & Egmont Group.
- ↳ Use of AI & Technology like thermal lasers to identify infiltration.
- ↳ Crackdown & operations on internal handlers by police + army
  - ↳ Intel + operation.
- ↳ Linking OCI to terrorism.

A joint approach is the way forward to secure borders of both enemy misadventures & Transnational Organised Crimes.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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20. भारत में हाल के नक्सल-विरोधी अभियानों की प्रभावशीलता का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिये। नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में दीर्घकालिक शांति एवं विकास सुनिश्चित करने में कौन-सी चुनौतियाँ अब भी विद्यमान हैं? (250 शब्द) 15
- Critically examine the effectiveness of recent anti-Naxal operations in India. What challenges remain in ensuring long-term peace and development in Naxal-affected regions? (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Home Minister Amit Shah announced India's target of ending Naxalism from India by 2026.

Naxalism - has been reduced to a limited area in the past decade and seems to be in its last stage however CRPF bus blast and more recent cases ~~make sure~~ raise necessity to be more vigilant for any relapses.

Effectiveness of Anti-Naxal ops

↳ Recently a high level Naxal leader was neutralised

↳ announced by HM Amit Shah



↳ SAMADHAN Doctrine has led to → reduced finance to naxals

- ↳ Proper actionable intel
- ↳ chance of surrender to locals
- ↳ development & of infrastructure, integrating into mainstream economy

In naxal areas → roads  
→ schools  
→ hospitals etc

↳ COBRA batallian — specifically for naxal-operations.

→ Naxal affected districts have reduced from 120+ in 2014 to less than 40 in 2024.

→ Red corridor has shrunked to only 3 states (Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra & Jharkhand).

→ Reduction in ideological support to naxals in east India.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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## Challenges Remained

- New types of activities — link with organised crime — new activity.
  - ↳ use of media & social media for propaganda
- New urban naxal sprawling in Kerala & west Bengal.
- Relapse & targeting army vehicles etc.

## Way Forward

- SAMADHAN Doctrine to be linked with social security schemes to encourage locals to join mainstream
- Interlinking of agencies (Army + Police)
  - ↳ in intel & operation.

Former

PM Manmohan Singh termed Naxalism as biggest 21st century problem for India.

As it is in its last stage, we must ensure its complete ideological finish as well.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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