

Educrat IAS Academy
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GENERAL STUDIES

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INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS	
Q.No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained		
1			1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No. and Mobile in the answer sheet.	
2			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory.	
3			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.	
4			4. 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.	
5			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be struck off.	
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10			<i>Any specific messages for Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write here.</i>	
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19			Start Time: 1:30 PM	End Time: 4:30 PM
20			Mode of Examination:	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Marks:			ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date:
Remarks:				
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Q.1) Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone. (10/100)

The Circum-Pacific zone is the area, including and on the rim of the Pacific Ocean, the largest ocean in the world. This area sees multiple and diverse geophysical features and includes many countries and islands.



Geophysical characteristics →

- 1) Pacific Ring of Fire - Circumscribes the Pacific Ocean, a region of high tectonic activity
- 2) Island countries - Apart from the bigger islands of Japan, Taiwan, etc hundreds of islands in Micronesia, Melanesia, Polynesia, etc
- 3) Garbage belt - Due to ocean currents, a deposition of garbage exists in the middle of the ocean

majority
volcanism.
EQ
hotspots

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convergence
zone
edge of
continental
plate

- 4) Glaciers of Alaska - Continental glaciers flow into the sea from Alaska and Kurl islands
- 5) Coral reefs, trenches - Submarine features include deep trenches, guyots, reefs, etc.
- 6) Mid-ocean ridge - runs north-south along the middle of the Pacific Ocean

The Pacific Ocean is one of the most relatively unexplored oceans and has huge biodiversity. The UNESCO Marine Heritage Project needs to recognize its importance and resolve to rid it of issues like pollution.

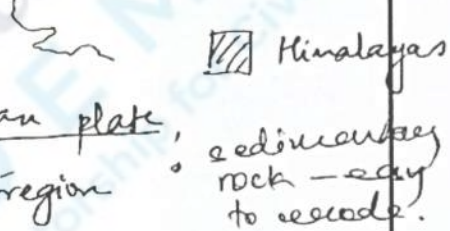
6.5

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Q.2) "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.
(10 100)

The Himalayas are the largest mountains in the entire world. They span through areas of India, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, etc. As a young fold mountains, they are unstable and prone to landslides - movement of rocks, boulders under the effect of gravity along a slope.

Causes of landslides →

- 1) Tectonics - The Indo-Australian plate is pushing into the Eurasian plate, leading to instability in the region.  Himalayas
 sedimentary rock - easy to erode.
- 2) Deforestation - It loosens the soil, leading to movement of rocks.
 young rivers.
- 3) Construction of dams -- It requires blowing rocks using dynamite, destabilizing the entire region.
- 4) Glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) - Sudden outburst of water and release of pressure leads to landslides.
- 5) Land use change - Activities like shifting agriculture, house construction, etc.

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c) Global warming - Melting of glaciers lead to pressure release and eventually landslides.

Measures for mitigation | →

- 1) Hydrological analysis - Using GIS, remote sensing, to detect presence of glacial lakes.
- 2) EIA (environment impact assessment) - Proper assessment before construction of dams
- 3) Afforestation - Building settlements, to attract agricultural activities and afforestation using seed bombs
- 4) Government assistance - Schemes such as National Mission for conservation of Himalayan Ecosystem to be fasttracked.

The Himalayas are the 3rd pole of the world. Like the North and South poles, global warming is affecting the Himalayas as well and consequently, endangering the millions of people depending on it and living downstream. The Disaster Management Authority should be empowered to remain proactive to deal with such situations

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Q.3) There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the Western Ghats. Why?
(10, 100)

Deltas are areas of deposition of silt around the region where the river meets the sea. Deltas are usually found in most rivers of India, except in the rivers of the Western Ghats ✓

Importance of deltas →



- 1) Human settlement - Most major cities are located along the deltaic region. Eg - Kolkata, New York, etc
- 2) Fertility - The river deposits huge amount of silt for alluvial soil around the delta, which is very fertile
- 3) Wetlands - Wetlands, found in the deltaic region, are among the most productive ecosystems globally
- 4) Biodiversity - huge & biodiversity found in deltas, and so an important area for fisheries ✓

Reasons for absence of deltas in Western Ghats →

- 1) Steep slope - The west-flowing rivers slope rapidly into the Western Ghats submerged slope ✓
- 2) Short course - These rivers mostly rise in the Western Ghats and do not carry enough silt to deposit

not asked
reduce
points
here.

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• some
sediments
deposited in
frenches or
rift valley

3) Rocky coast - In these rivers, natural ports

are more plausible than deltas.

4) Non-perennial - These rivers remain dry mostly,
except monsoon and hence do not carry enough silt

Rivers like Narmada, Tapi, Pennar, etc are
some of the west-flowing rivers in India.

In spite of the absence of deltas, the
west-flowing rivers are equally important. Some
of the biggest natural ports of India are found
in the Western Coast. Also, this area supports a
unique ~~at~~ biodiversity. Proper conservation of the
region must be done according to the principles of
the Rasthvirangam report

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Q.4) Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples. (10, 150)

Global warming, or the rise in global temperatures, has been all-pervasive in its effect. From the loftiest mountains, to the depths of the ocean, it has been challenging for the biodiversity and all ecosystems. Similar issues are being faced by the coral reef ecosystem.

Coral reefs →

1) They are a symbiote, where zooxanthellae, an algae, lives in the calcareous skeleton of the living corals

2) Zooxanthellae is responsible for the unique colors of the corals

3) However, the algae is very sensitive to its environment — water temperature, salinity, turbidity, etc

4) With any change in temperature, the algae is expelled out of the coral. The coral then loses its source of nutrition and eventually dies

Impact of global warming on coral life →

1) Coral bleaching — Corals lose their zooxanthellae, and become bleached. Mass coral bleaching has

became an annual phenomena in the Great Barrier Reef, Australia

2) Reproduction - Corals reproduce using spores and

global warming has reduced spore formation.

Corals are disappearing faster than they are generating

3) Biodiversity - Coral reefs are shelter to various flora and fauna, which are disappearing.

4) Humans - Humans also depend on coral ecosystem mainly for tourism, which is taking a hit.

5) Conversion into deep sea corals - The colorful corals are converting into the fully bleached deep sea corals. Eg - on the coast of Indonesia, Andaman Sea, etc

Corals are one of the most unique ecosystems on the planet. ~~It is shocking that the~~ The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) should ensure global collaboration to conserve them.

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Q.5) Tropical cyclones are largely confined to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why? (10, 150)

Tropical cyclones are a category of cyclones formed in the tropical regions due to winds blowing around a low pressure centre. Although found around the world, they are mostly limited to the South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico

these are general conditions

Reasons for such localization of cyclones

presence of ITCZ
shallow bays
warm ocean currents

- 1) Low pressure - A temperature of around 27°C is required, which is possible only in the tropics
- 2) Absence of vertical winds - Due to trade winds, this region has negligible vertical winds.
- 3) Coriolis force - These areas are located between 10°-20° north ~~and~~ of the equator, providing sufficient Coriolis force
- 4) Moisture - These are huge water bodies, which provide sufficient moisture for cyclones
- 5) Absence of inland seas - The winds lose moisture as they go inland and cannot take more moisture due to no large inland seas

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Mitigation and adaptation →

- 1) Weather forecasting - Proper forecasting and dissemination of information
- 2) Mangroves - can protect against storms and cyclone
- 3) Infrastructure - resilient infrastructure to tolerate annual cyclones
- 4) Quick action - to evacuate and relocate people.

Tropical cyclones are an annual phenomena in these seas. However, due to global warming the frequency of cyclones in other areas, like the Arabian Sea is increasing. The government should implement best practices on these coasts as well for adaptation.

add samples

4-5

Q.6) Interlinking of Rivers Has Little Scientific Basis Along With Meagre Social and Environmental Optimality. Critically Analyse in View of The Recent Push for Ken-Betwa Project. (10, 150)

Interlinking of rivers can be described as the linking of two rivers — a water-surplus basin to a water-deficient basin — to improve living conditions and water availability. Through the National Perspective Plan, India is inter-linking numerous rivers.

Benefits of river-interlinking →

- 1) Availability of drinking water - Water deficit regions can recharge their wells and get safe drinking water. According to CEEW, only 45% Indians get access to safe drinking water ✓
- 2) Economy - Irrigation water for agriculture and water for industries
- 3) Biodiversity - It will improve biodiversity in the water-deficit region. ✓
- 4) Reduce flooding - Water-surplus basin will get an outlet instead of flooding its embankments
- 5) Hydroelectricity - Dams and reservoirs along the link will generate hydroelectricity for local villages

Challenges of river interlinking →

- 1) Submergence - In the Ken-Betwa project, tracts

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of the Panna reservoir is about to be flooded.

2) Relocation -- Tribes and villages of the route, will be relocated

3) Biodiversity -- Local biodiversity may be submerged as well, as has been the case in various dam-projects in India

4) Misuse of water -- There are no checks on misuse of water in the water-deficit basin

5) Expensive -- The Ken-Berwa project is one of the most expensive projects undertaken by the govt.

6) Non-perenniality -- The Ken river is itself not perennial and becomes surplus mostly during monsoon

7) Impact -- There is little research to show any positive impacts of such projects around the globe.

River inter-linking has many challenges. The govt should adopt this strategy only after proper assessment and only if other rainwater conservation measures fail.

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Q.7) The Planet Is Losing Species At Unprecedented Rates, With Thousands Likely To Go Extinct Within Decades". In This Context, Discuss the Phenomenon of 6th Mass Extinction. (10, 150)

A mass extinction is an event in which a large percentage of population of biodiversity of the world gets eradicated. Since the inception of life on earth, scientists have pointed 5 extinction events. It is being claimed that we are moving towards another mass extinction event. ^{Loss of more than 3 quarters of its species}

Reasons for loss of species →

- 1) Global warming - It is leading to increase in global temperatures and vulnerable species are the first to disappear. [Eg] - Corals.
- 2) Anthropogenic exploitation - With the population boom, forests are being cut, leading to loss of biodiversity. ~~and~~ [Eg] - Brazil's Amazon rainforest has recently turned into a carbon-source.
- 3) Consumption - The consumerist lifestyle leads to massive waste, animal deaths, water pollution, etc.
- 4) Disease - Zoonotic diseases, such as Covid-19, has led to massive death and disaster.
- 5) Extreme weather events - Unprecedented rise in natural hazards and extreme events. [Eg] → Uttarakhand cloudburst

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Measures →

- add data
- 1) Behavioral change - Most important. It is time we realize our impact on the planet
 - 2) Global collaboration - The 6th Mass extinction will affect not only a few countries, but the whole world
 - 3) Carbon tax - Measures such as carbon tax and carbon pricing to reduce GHG emission
 - 4) Empowerment of global bodies - The INDCs of the Paris Agreement should be made legally-binding
 - 5) Research - Apart from financial assistance for adaptations, govt must focus on research to reduce our impact on environment. Eg - electric vehicles, solar energy, etc.

(7)

The doomsday clock is almost at midnight, heading towards a mass extinction event. However, we still have time to amend our ways and be the change we want to see in the world

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Q.8) "In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development". Discuss (10, 150)

Coal mining is one of the major primary sector industry for any country, more so for developing countries like India. India has huge deposits of condwana tertiary coal and most of it is used in thermal power plants for electricity, inspite of the various ill-effects of coal use ✓

Importance of coal →

1) Electricity - Around 50% of India's power is sourced from coal. ✓

reduce
add these
as reasons 2) Steel production - Coal is one of the most important raw materials for steel

3) By products - Such as methane, natural gas, fly ash, etc. is useful in different sectors

4) Export - Coal is exported to many coal-deficit countries and India earns foreign exchange

However, coal use generates tremendous amount of greenhouse gas emissions and leads to pollution and global warming.

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Reasons for coal use despite environmental pollution →

power
generation
and
iron
steel
industry
- cheap

- 1) Cheap - At present, thermal power is cheaper than most other non-fossil fuel sources
- 2) Reliable - It is a time-tested process and reliable as we do not depend on sunlight, tides, etc.
- 3) Technology - Technology such as PV panels, wafers, etc are not so easily and cheaply available.
- 4) Fall back option - Due to global supply chain issues due to Covid-19, even the developed countries of the world reduced renewable energy consumption and switched to thermal energy.

7.5

In light of present conditions, it seems that the world will continue to use coal until the fossil-fuel gets depleted. However, this possibility does not keep global temperature rise limited to 1.5°C. The recent agreement to phase-down coal use, in the Glasgow Summit, is a commendable effort in the right direction.

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Q.9) What is a wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India. (10, 150)

A wetland is described as an area that is on the confluence of terrestrial/grassland and aquatic ecosystem. Wetlands are one of the most productive ecosystems in the entire world. eg.

The Ramsar Convention of 1971 or the Convention for the Protection of Wetlands is an international agreement for the protection of wetlands. It maintains a List of Protected Wetlands, which the respective governments have to protect and conserve. India joined the Convention in 1982.

[Ramsar concept of wise-use] →

- 1) Limited use - Wetlands have to be conserved in primitive state with limited human impact
- 2) Conservation - The wetland's biodiversity has to be conserved. There should be no drain outlets in and around the wetlands.
- 3) Economic use - Wetlands can be used as fisheries or for agricultural purposes. However, the disturbance should be kept to a minimum.

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Wetlands in the Ramsar list, which ~~has~~ are at risk due to not-use use are maintained separately in the Montreux Accord.

India's Keoladeo National Park and Loktak Lake find mention here ✓

2 examples of wetlands from India are —

(a) Chilka Lake, ^{Odisha} — the second largest lagoon in the world.

(b) Sur Sarovar, Agra ✓

Wetlands act as kidneys of the world, where groundwater is recharged and impurities are filtered.

As such, it becomes immensely important to conserve them. Wetlands day (2nd February) is celebrated annually to remind us of the role ~~wetlands~~ wetlands play in our lives.

2/5

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Q.10) Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world. (10, 150)

Heat islands are described as areas where due to certain conditions, heat gets trapped in a region, raising the local temperature compared to surrounding areas and leading to unbearably hot conditions. This phenomenon is getting more and more frequent and mostly found in urban areas.

Causes for formation of heat islands →

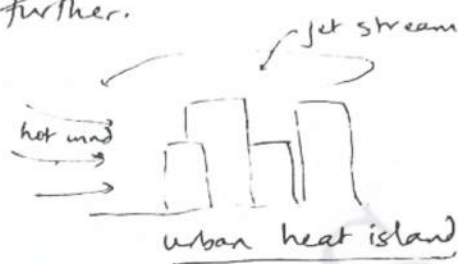
- 1) Hot temperatures - Due to summer heat, the entire area gets heated. Low pressure is formed and ^{hot} wind blows from high-pressure areas.
- 2) Geography of the area - Urban areas, mostly ^{growing population and industries, transport base} are located in a depression, entrap the hot wind.
- 3) Jet stream - Often the jet stream traps the heat from above like a lid, leading to formation of heat bombs.
- 4) Deforestation - In urban areas, lack of cooling effect due to lack of forests or trees.
- 5) Disappearing wetlands - Concretization of wetlands in urban areas leads to absence of cooling effect.

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c) Concrete heat - The numerous buildings get heated up more and cause a domino effect raising the temperature further.

Measures →

1) Wetland conservation in urban areas ✓



2) Afforestation - Urban parks through schemes like Nagar Van scheme ✓

3) Planned development - to allow a free way for wind to blow ✓

4) Reflectivity of buildings - white-painted buildings have a cooling effect ✓

5) De-cluster and reduction of emissions - Relocating industries to city outskirts and reducing cluster in cities ✓

Urban heat islands are developing into a major menace. It increases air-conditioning use, which further leads to hot air discharge and electricity consumption, which leads to more thermal power requirement. Mitigation measures for these must be adopted on priority.

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Q.11) Rehabilitation of human settlements is one of the important environmental impacts which always attracts controversy while planning major projects. Discuss the measures suggested for mitigation of this impact while proposing major developmental projects. (15, 250)

Rehabilitation of human settlements includes relocation of villages or tribal settlements which are located on the site of major projects. It is one of the major concerns of ^{such} projects and has been one of the backbones for major movements like Narmada Bachao Andolan.

Issues with rehabilitation → Developmental refugees

- 1) Forced rehabilitation - Villagers often refuse relocation and find themselves on the receiving end of forced rehabilitation.
- 2) Religious issues - Tribes and villagers are often tied to their land for emotional and religious reasons.
- 3) Delayed compensation - Compensation suffers from leakages as well.
- 4) Dissimilar land provided - At times, villages are relocated to unfit tracts of land, which hinders their livelihood.
- 5) Rehabilitation concentration camps and diseases - People are often kept in camps, where diseases are spread.

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Measures for mitigation | →

→ Transpare

1) Negotiation - The rehabilitation must be done only after negotiation with all stakeholders in the presence of civil society.

2) Transparency - Complete transparency to generate Trust.

3) Compensation - It should be provided at the earliest. Also, the govt should be responsible for well-being of the villagers for the first few years.

4) Comparable land - Similarly fertile land should be provided, along with any other amenities.

5) CANPA funds - These can be used on priority for quick rehabilitation.

6) Committee - Separate rehabilitation committee should be formed with representatives of the govt and villagers and civil society to air out grievances.

Since independence, various projects have been carried out which necessitated rehabilitation. The govt must ensure proper rehabilitation to reduce the negative connotations associated with it, while honoring the right to life and liberty of these people, as per Article 21 of the Constitution.

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Q.12) As the severity of India's water issue worsens year after year, all stakeholders must employ a variety of strategies to address the problem. Comment (15, 250)

India is a land of rivers, drained by some of the longest rivers of the world. However, India faces water scarcity which worsens year after year. According to UNICEF, 600 million people in India will face extreme water crisis in the next few years.

Strategies to be employed →

A) Citizens -

1) Reduce water wastage - Behavioral change such as closing taps to reduce flow

2) Irrigation - Reduce using surplus water for irrigation. According to UNESCO, India is the largest extractor of groundwater in the world.

3) Community participation - Different water conservation techniques like construction of wells, practicing drip irrigation, etc

B) Local governments -

1) Play leadership role - Generate awareness about water scarcity and invite public participation. Organize Jal Kranti Abhiyan

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c) State Government -

1) State issue - Water is in the state list and so, the state govt must lead in water conservation.

2) Water meters - Smart water meters should be installed to track water usage.

3) Global warming - According to WMO, ^{water use} India has one of the largest rate of loss of Terrestrial water storage (TWS). Industrial use of water must be monitored.

4) Hydrological analysis - With help from National Hydrology Project, use data of water distribution to deploy teams for water conservation.

D) Central Govt - The government should support the state and provide any assistance through schemes like interlinking of rivers, Jal Jeevan Mission, etc.

Water is an important human right and conservation of water is instrumental to achieve SDG 6. The features of the National Water Policy, 2012 must be adhered to improve the situation.

Grey water treatment
Recharging
aquifers & wells
national repository
for best practices
showing

(8.5)

performance based
incentive
- composite water
management
index

Q.13) Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our Government for this purpose? (15, 250)

Electricity is one of the most important requirements for economic development. On track to achieve the target of becoming a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2025, India's electricity consumption is bound to see a substantial jump. As ~~and~~ such, the source of electricity and its impact must be studied.

Benefits of solar energy over conventional energy →

- 1) Pollution - Thermal energy generates high amount of GHG emissions, which lead to global warming
- 2) Import cost - India imports 85% of its crude oil requirement and 53% of natural gas requirement.
- 3) Global pressure - The INDCs agreed to by India must be adhered to and for that dependency on conventional energy must be reduced
- 4) Depleting fossil fuels - As these resources reduce, their costs will increase
- 5) Supply shocks - Due to the Covid-19 crisis, in 2021, crude oil price skyrocketed due to OPEC net

increasing supply.

6) Clean energy - Solar energy is clean energy and India can be a global leader to usher in clean energy economy.

Benefits offered by Govt of India →

- 1) KUSUM scheme - Assistance for installing solar pumps and solar-plants for off-grid supply of electricity to farmers
- 2) PLI scheme for solar devices - The Govt has launched production-linked incentive scheme for manufacturers of PV panels, solar wafers, etc
- 3) Net metering - This encourages people to install rooftop solar panels and sell the surplus on exchanges.
- 4) International Solar Alliance - Headquartered in Gurugram, this is an international initiative led by India to implement the vision of One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)

The global shift to solar energy is critical to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C. India can demonstrate its leadership by walking the talk and increasing solar energy generation

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Q.14) Despite Having Extensive Uses Across Various Industries, India is Not Realizing its Potential of Rare Earth Industry. Examine. (15, 250)

Rare earth elements are those critical elements which are used in various new-age industries for developing high-tech devices. They include lithium, cobalt, graphite, etc.

Diff
rare
critical
minerals

Importance of rare earth elements →

- 1) Technology - They are associated with development of processors, batteries, etc which are the fuel of the modern world
- 2) Rarity - These are extensively found, however they are rare as their extraction is difficult.
India can gain global importance by becoming a top processor of rare earth elements
- 3) Supply chain resilience - Today, China dominates the rare earth element supply chain. It produced 90% of global cobalt and >50% global lithium in 2021
- 4) Strategic importance - India can counter China if it develops the capacity for rare-earth elements
- 5) Foreign exchange - India can generate considerable

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foreign exchange by exporting high-tech devices, built using rare earth elements.

Measures →

1) Supply of raw material - India needs

to utilize the capabilities of Khanij
India
Bridesh Ltd (KABIL) to get access to
critical elements

2) Rare earth element industry - Like the
Semi-conductor Mission, the Govt needs to
launch flagship missions for critical elements

3) Technology transfer - By tying up govts in
Taiwan and USA.

4) Organize hackathons - Utilizing the demographic
dividend of India. Deep-tech skill training
centres should be set up.

The recent India - Australia Critical
Elements Investment Partnership is a step in
the right direction. India should realize the
potential of rare earth elements at the earliest.

Give
earrow
India
realize
potential
why
desert
its
- govt attitude
- financial,
tech, out
challenges
- no clear
body/org
to oversee
- puts on
few R&E
- no ser
policy

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Q.15) Drought has been recognized as a disaster in view of its party expense, temporal duration, slow onset and lasting effect on various vulnerable sections. discuss the mechanism for preparedness to deal with this disaster while bringing out its causes (15, 250)

Drought can be described as a period of low availability of water in a particular region. It is a natural hazard, and India is one of the most drought-prone countries in the world.

[Impact of drought] →

- 1) Loss of life - human, animal as well as plant life are at stake.
- 2) Immediate relief - Drought can be tackled only by immediate relief, as any mitigation efforts are very long-term.
- 3) Failure of crops - When crops do not get enough water.
- 4) Lasting effect - Salinity of soil might increase. Productivity of soil might decrease.

④

[Measures for preparedness] →

1)

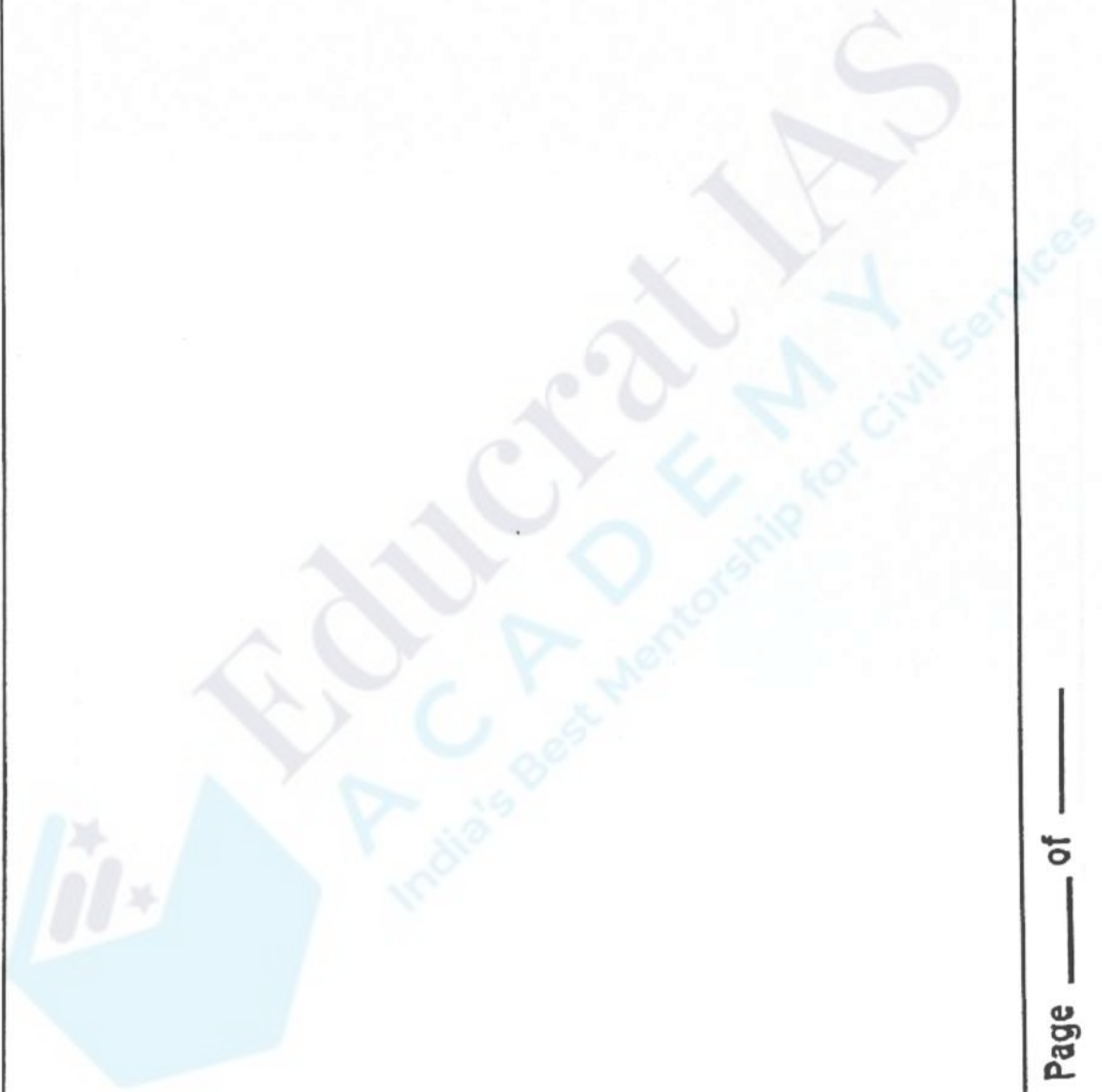
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Q.16) South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment (15, 250)



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Q.17) Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India. (15, 250)



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Q.18) Discuss The Ramifications of the World's Uneven Distribution of Mineral Oil
On A Multi-Dimensional Level. (15, 250)



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Q.19) The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are reaching the limits of their ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate. (15, 250)



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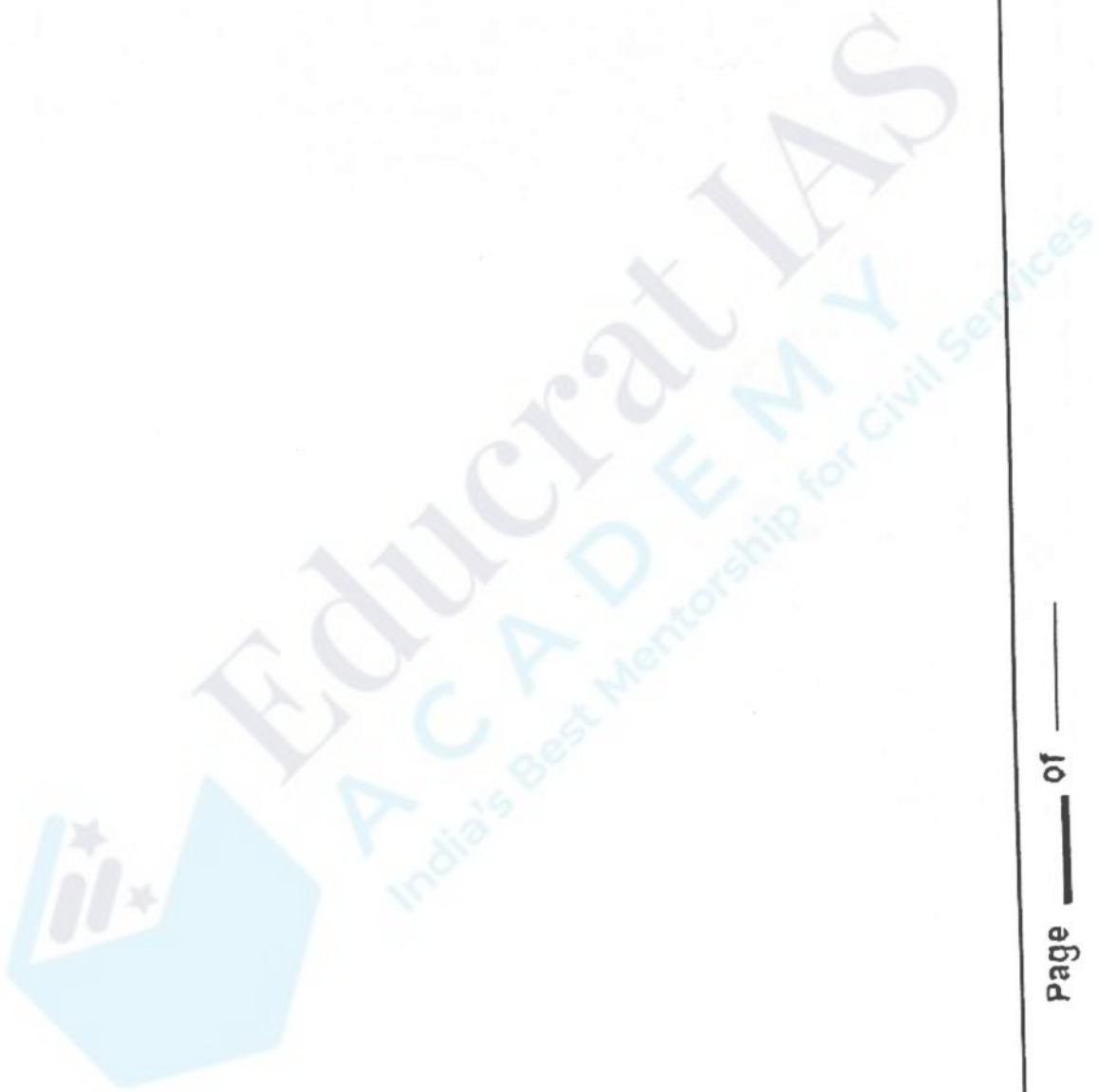
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Q.20) Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions.
Discuss. (15, 250)



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