

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.	
6			Any specific messages for Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write here.	
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19			Start Time:	End Time:
20			Mode of Examination:	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Marks:			ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date:
Remarks: 1. To be in reports, schemes. 2. Quality in mind of Q. 3. Not eliminating what is asked. 4. Keep the quality uniform in all 20 Qs.				

Checked
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Q.1) The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region. (10 150)

The North-Eastern region includes the states of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and to some extent ~~Mizo~~ Meghalaya has been the centre of insurgency for many years.

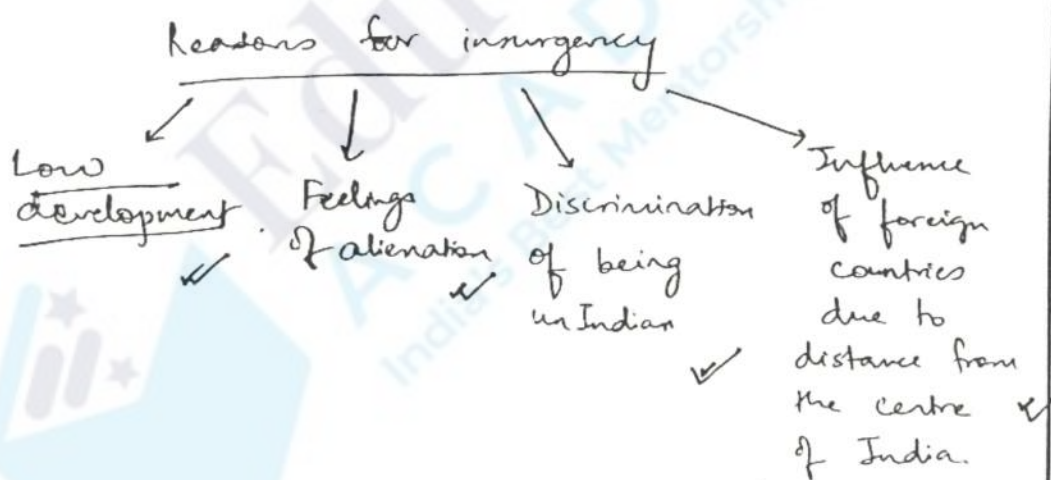
→ Define Insurgency in 20 words.

This region has seen major armed attacks over the years. such as by Bodo groups, NSCN-IM, NSCN-K, etc

→ North East Map.

→ Data

- Good connecting paragraph.



The govt has intervened multiple times, implemented AFSPA, signed agreements with insurgent groups yet insurgency has prevailed in these regions.

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Reasons for prevailing insurgency

- Govt/Army behavior - The govt has been accused of implementing AFSPA and using it as a tool to justify violence ✓
- Displacement of people - For strategic reasons, tribals have lost their inherited lands ✓
- Govt is viewed suspiciously for attempting to change the demography of the region.

CAA, NRC protests in Assam

Accusations of dilution of 6th schedule

Interference of govt in customs and traditions of tribals.

The govt should engage with insurgent groups and provide assurances to ensure peace and stability in the region for the development of the jewel of the country ✓

geographical/territorial challenges.

Mountain vs. dominant

Political will
→ lack of political representation in govt.

→ border areas prone to international influence.

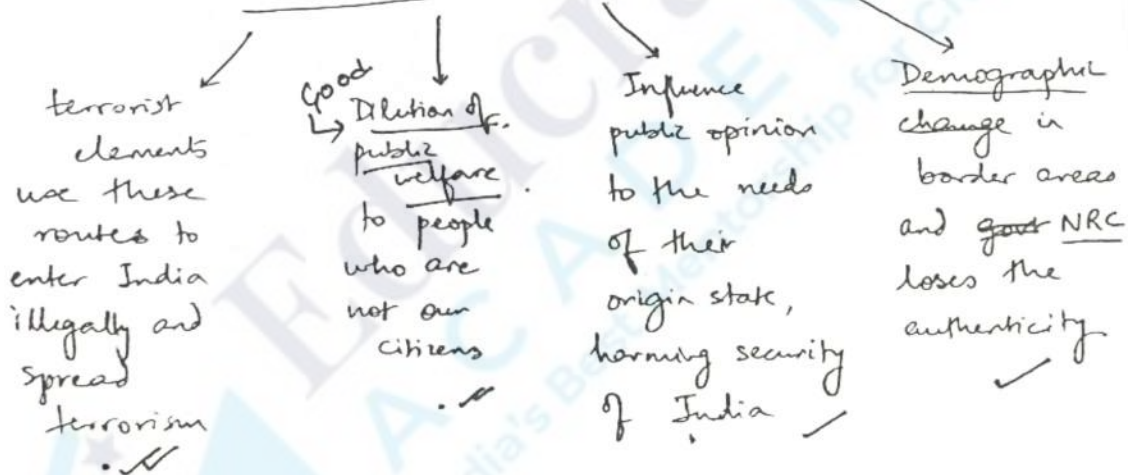
sovereignty

1. Reason written in two parts, both can be clubbed and be written in points alongwith some data/schemes.
2. Solutions are missing. ✓
2. Content can be more insurgency specific. ✓

Q.2) How illegal transborder migration does pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this. (10 150)

Illegal transborder migration can be described as attempts to cross international boundaries to travel from one country to another illegally. India shares its borders with many countries such as Pakistan, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and the borders are porous, at places providing scope for illegal border transfers.
 Unscrupulous elements, terrorism, Human Trafficking, Counterfeit currency, Drugs, Arms, Demographic change.

Issues with illegal border transfer



Because of the presence of forests, mountains, along the borders, the borders are porous and as such there is immediate need to curb this

Strategies to curb

→ Awareness in border villages - The DM can initiate

Counterfeit currency
Drugs
Arms
Demographic change

on both sides

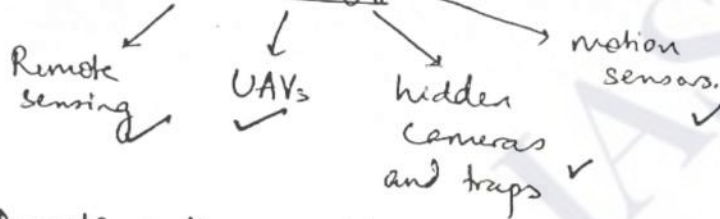
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Organised Institutional Crime → Govt, NGO, Civil society, External state actor

campaigns to make residents of border villages as source of intelligence against illegal border migrants.

→ Increase border check posts to maintain stricter vigilance

→ Use of technology



→ Diplomatic action - Neighbouring countries can be convinced to implement stricter border checks to dissuade migration.

Illegal cross border migration is a major security threat and requires immediate focus in the current scenario of a threat of a two-front war with China and Pakistan.

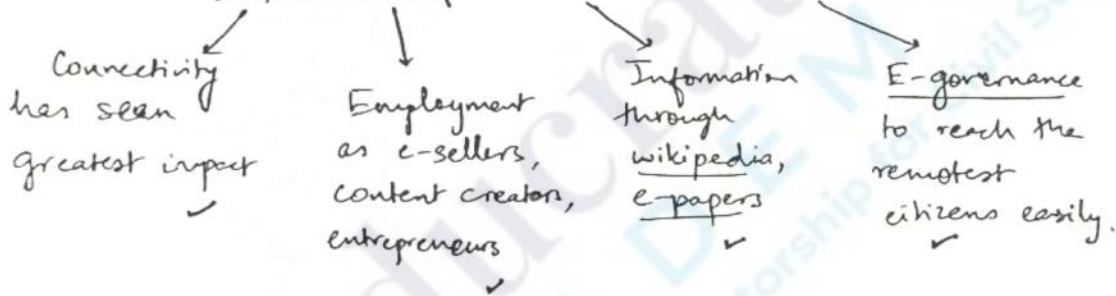
1. No specific data, schemes on border crime.
2. No data on border length with mention of which one is most porous & prone to crime.
3. Effective & innovative solutions lacking.

Q.3) With suitable examples discuss the internal security challenges caused by the social media and internet in India. Suggest measures to tackle this problem. (10, 150)

The age of digitization is upon us and the influence of social media and internet in India is widespread. India has one of the largest number of smartphone users in the world and internet penetration and accessibility is on a high with very cheap data charges in India.

Data?
Cyber attacks.

Importance of social media and internet



However, this has brought certain security challenges as well.

Internal security challenges



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Measures to tackle this issue include -

- Data privacy laws should be implemented to bolster data security ✓
- Amend IT Act to improve increase responsibility of social media platforms for instances of fake news
- Fact check websites, such as PIB fact check ✓
- Stricter cybercrime laws to punish cyber harassment, cyber bullying → Recent changes in Cyber security pol
↳ Hyderabad police
- Banning of unethical websites, games continuously

The internet and social media is a boon as compared to the world past. It should not be misused and amendments should be introduced immediately to check any misuse

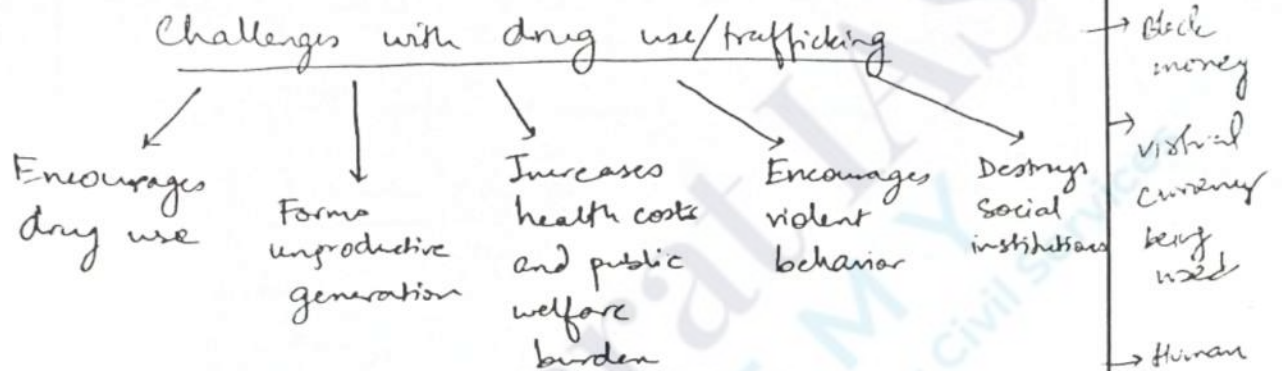
1. No mention of recent bills on Data Protection

2.

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Q.4) Drug trafficking is a problem for youth. Highlight the challenges. What reforms are needed to control this? (10, 150)

Drug trafficking is a major problem, mostly affecting the youth. It can be described as the ^{illegal} supplying of drugs and its movement to cater to the demand for drug consumption.



According to a survey by AITMS, cannabis is the 2nd most-highly consumed ^{intoxicant} drug in India. There is a need to immediately disrupt drug trafficking supply chains.

Suggested reforms -

- Increased penalties on drug traffickers
- Awareness generation for the negative impacts of drug use
- Use help of intelligence cells / INTERPOL to disrupt transnational drug supply chains.

→ Associated aspects
 → counterfeit currency
 → Black money
 → virtual currency being used
 → Human trafficking
 → Major transfer issue.
 → Prostitution

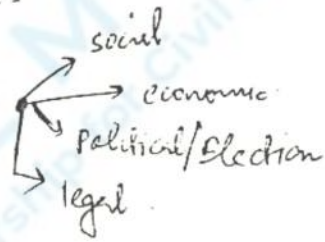
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- Focus on targeting the kingpins and not just the smaller players
- Rehabilitation of drug-addicts to bring them back as productive members of society.

India is surrounded by the major centres of opium trade — the Opium Crescent and the Opium Triangle. It is very important for India to introduce laws to stop the products of these regions to getting trafficked in our country and affecting our youth.

Measures

1. Increased surveillance at borders
2. NCB role need to be enhanced for inter-branch drug trafficking
3. Cases under drug trafficking to be brought under PMLA.
4. Involvement of
5. Corbett (Drugs) - listing.



Q.5) There is a link between organised and unorganised crime. How far can legislations like UAPA help in controlling these crimes. Analyse. (10, 150)

Organised crimes are those crimes which are pre-planned meticulously and have the backing of certain criminal organizations. Ex - drug trafficking, state, non state actors

~~Unorganised~~ Unorganised crimes are mostly individual criminal activities and do not have any backing from criminal organizations.

Link between organized and unorganized crimes

- Reinforcing each other - They encourage each other ✓
- Unorganized crimes are often a stepping stone ✓ to enter the world of organized crime
- Unorganized crime is often a sort of test to see efficiency and possibility of forming an unorganised criminal institution

Importance of UAPA to stop them

- Disrupt illegal associations
- UAPA can also declare individuals as terrorists ✓
- UAPA allows for preventive justice and stops ✓

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the development of unorganized criminals into an organized activity.

The VAPA has been very helpful in tackling instances of organized crime. ✓

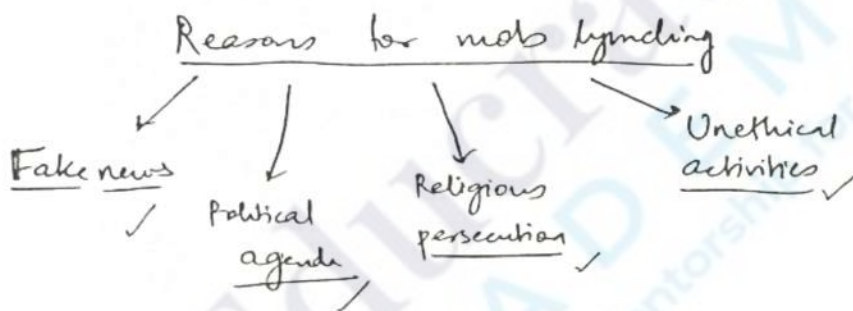


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Q.6) In recent years incidents of mob lynching have been increasing. How far can the Supreme Court guidelines work in this regard? (10, 150)

Mob lynching is when a mob/ unruly crowd of people instigated for some reason against an individual or a group of individuals, engage in beating up said individual(s) in anger. India has seen multiple instances of mob lynching in recent years, such as the Muzaffarpur mob lynching case in 2014.



The SC has released guidelines to reduce instances of mob lynching. However, these guidelines have not been able to completely stop such instances.

Suggestions -

- Punish political parties - who might be responsible for instigating people
- Empower police to take urgent action

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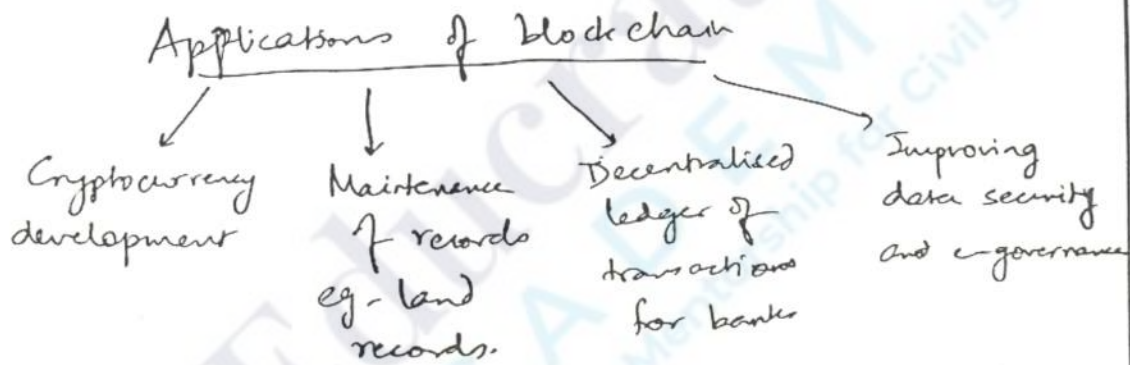
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Q.7) What is blockchain technology? What are its potential applications?
(10, 150)

Blockchain is a recent technological innovation that is often associated with cryptocurrency.

In blockchain, a ledger is maintained. The ledger records information of all/any transactions and is decentralized. As a result, the ledger cannot be edited and is entirely secure.



Blockchain can be very useful in implementing Web 3.0 and the announced Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in India.

Hemant

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Q.8) World countries are guided by telescope missions. What are their benefits? Elaborate some of the international missions in science and technology and their objectives. (10, 150)



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Q.9) Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country?
How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma? (10, 150)



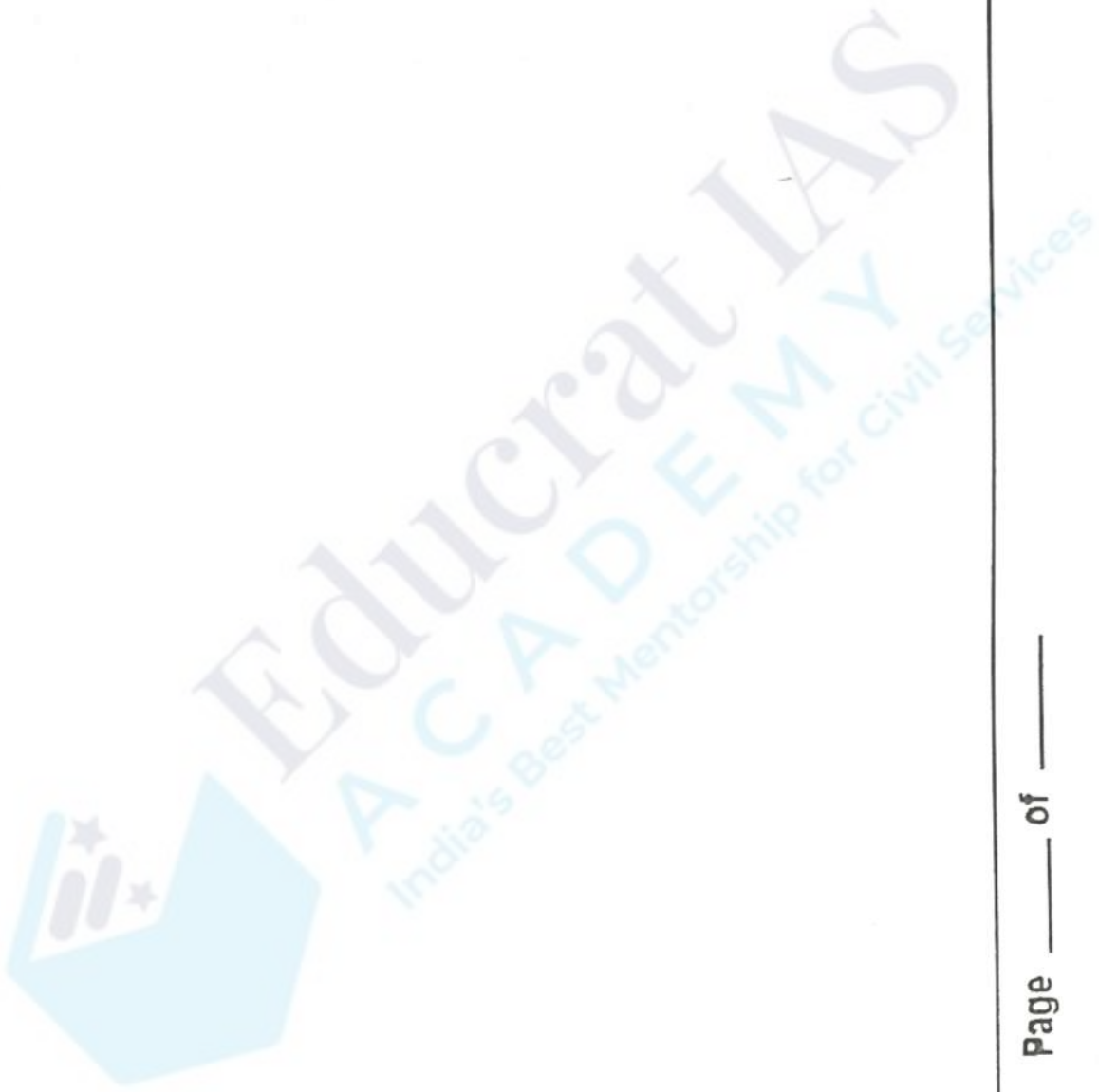
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Q.10) What is metaverse? Discuss the potential applications of metaverse.
(10, 150)



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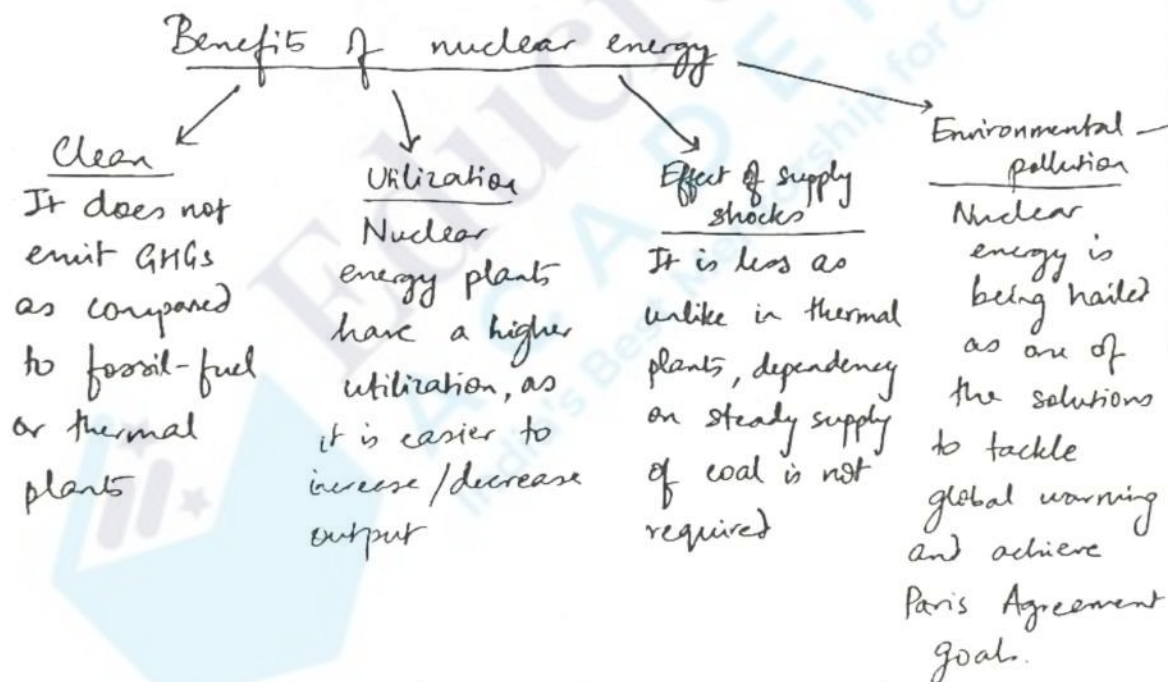
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Q.11) 1) The nuclear power sector has the slowest growth rate amongst fuels despite ambitious targets, strong protection, and generous budgetary allocations due to the risks associated with it. Examine (15, 250)

With the focus on renewable and non-conventional sources of energy, the global share of nuclear energy in the energy mix is on the rise. Nuclear energy is a relatively cleaner form of energy generated by the fission of atoms.

India, too is focusing on decreasing its dependency on fossil fuel and take the benefits of nuclear fission



In India, nuclear energy forms about 5% of the energy mix at the moment and the share is rising slowly, but steadily. In the

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→ intro

pipeline are multiple international projects like the Kudankulam Nuclear Project in Tamil Nadu, the French Nuclear Energy Project, etc.

Challenges with Nuclear Energy Plants

- Study
- 1) Research and Development - With India's GERD (Gross Expenditure on R&D) being 0.7%, research and studies on improving efficiency of nuclear energy is limited.
 - 2) Nuclear Hazards - With nuclear hazards like Chernobyl, Fukushima, the entire world is being extra-cautious. Local people in Kudankulam are protesting against nuclear radiation.
 - 3) Inputs - Nuclear plants require expensive inputs like U-235 isotopes and heavy water, which are a burden on the fiscal deficit.
 - 4) Discharge of waste - Removal and storage of nuclear waste is a big challenge and the half-life of waste material is too long to be sustainable.

To implement net-zero by 2070 and achieve the targets for SDG 13, nuclear energy will play an important role. However, India should focus on studying possibilities of nuclear fusion as well to achieve an even cleaner, safer form of energy.

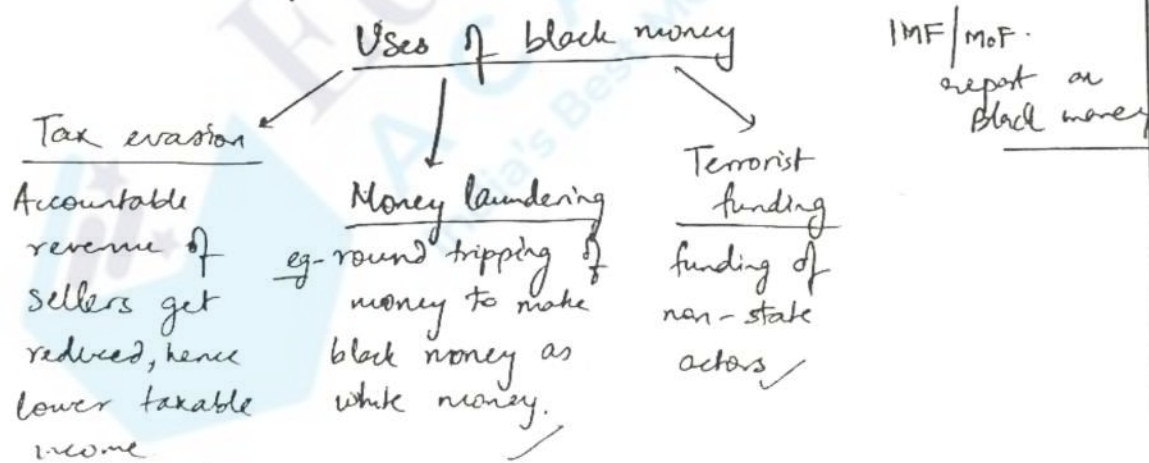
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Q.12) Despite multiple efforts to end the menace of black money, it has remained a 'unsolvable problem' for India. How does black money impact the country? Discuss the measures that are needed to put an end to it. (15, 250)

Black money can be described as money attained through such means that the government or central bank is unable to track. Black money is often used for unscrupulous goals and is a major point of concern for all governments.

→ escapes govt tax net

The Govt of India introduced a massive demonetisation exercise in 2016 to reduce black money in the economy. Although its achievements have been questionable, no doubt the govt is focused on eradicating this menace.



Impact of black money -

- 1) Reduces tax revenue - It reduces taxable income and increases free-riders in the economy.

2) Anti-government activities - It gives a boost to activities which aim to harm governance, such as Hawala networks to launch terrorist attacks in India

3) Consumer distress - Black money is behind various scams and adds to consumer woes.

4) Loss of public welfare - It leads to reduced resources for public welfare and demoralises the public.

Measures needed to reduce black money -

1) Digital payments - Further integration of tools like UPI, DBT, etc to ^{reduce} ~~stop~~ cash transactions

2) Financial inclusion - It can reduce the activities of unscrupulous money lenders

3) Expand TCS/TDS - Expansion of scope of tax deductible at source/destination.

4) Awareness - Increase awareness of the benefits of digital transactions.

5) Introduction of a central bank digital currency can go a long way to improve fiscal and monetary prudence

The issue of black money is very challenging and has an international impact. Groups like G-20 should come together and form a global framework like BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit shifting)

Reduce tax burden

720 framework on black money

BEPS

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The benefit of company the nation net should be less than the rest of the coming under the net

Q.13) What is 'critical information infrastructure'? There is a need for a more integrated and strategic approach to securing critical information infrastructure, as they are so crucial to the economic, social and political wellbeing of the country.
Examine (15, 250)

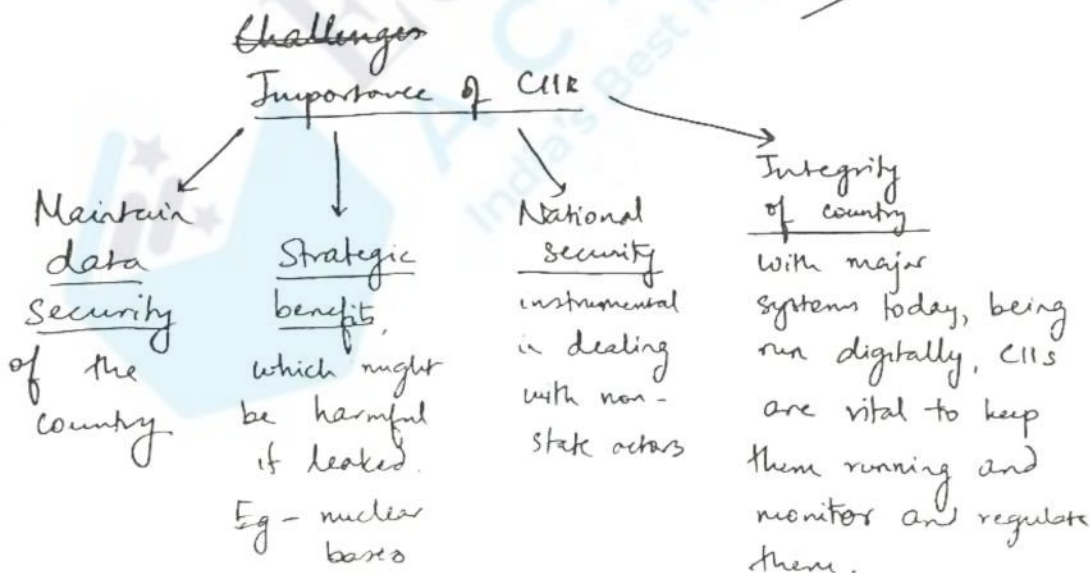
Critical information infrastructure are described as the infrastructure which supports the information network in the country. Today, data is the new currency and as such the maintenance and robustness of critical information infrastructure is very vital. They include service providers, data centres, corporate bodies which

Examples of CII

- Ex
1. Covid data on COWIN
 2. DigiLocker
 3. Aadhaar
 4. Nuclear
 5. Space (ISRO)
 - 6.

The destabilizing of CII's can lead to a major breach in the security, stability and integrity of a country.

Body NCI

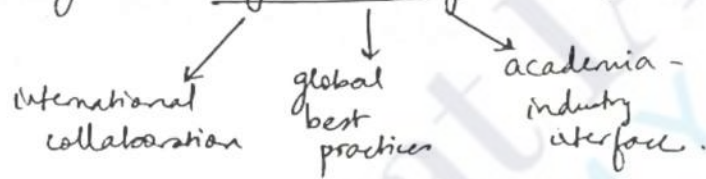


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Impact of CII breach may hamper economic, social and political well-being. An example was the recent cyber attack on the National Energy Grid.

Solutions for strengthening CII -

1) Cyber security - Improving protection of CII by investing in cyber security through



2) Skilling - People dealing with CII's must be sensitized with Do's and Don'ts which itself has a huge impact on reducing leakages.

3) Empowering CERT-IN - CERT-IN is a response organization. To protect CII's, more proactive approach is needed.

4) Innovation - NITI Aayog can organize Hackathons to find best solutions to protect CII's.

5) Legal route - Strengthening features of IT Act, 2000 to increase punishment for activities that are detrimental to ~~CII's~~ CII's.

In today's world, the importance of CII's and their security cannot be stressed enough. All of the government's schemes, plans, targets are incident on the correct functioning of CII's.

Q.14) Military exercises establish India's military capabilities and is also a great way of securing allies, which will help in times of need. Analyse. (15, 250)

Military exercises are exercises conducted by a country or between countries, regularly.

One or the other

Elements of the armed forces may be included in such exercises. With increasing alliances and groupings in today's world, the importance of these military exercises are on the rise as a sign of solidarity and cooperation.

Military exercises can be either Army-based, Naval, Air-Force based, or even include all 3 sections and/or the Coast Guard.

Military exercises of India -

- Himvijay, Milan, (intra-country military exercises to boost confidence and show capabilities) ✓
- Tropex
- Malabar exercise (with Quad countries) ✓
- Surya Kiran (with Nepal) ✓
- Bangosagar (with Bangladesh) ✓
- Hand in Hand (with China) ✓
- Varuna, ~~Garud~~ (with France) ✓
- Indra Khanush (with UK) ✓
- Beld Kurukshetra, SIMBEX (with Singapore). ✓

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Importance of military exercises

- 1) Solidarity - It shows solidarity with allies
- 2) Cooperation and collaboration - It is a way of keeping the armed forces of allied countries able to work together in cases of -
 - HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief)
 - Piracy and maritime security
 - War
- 3) Improves capabilities of armed forces by providing them a way to learn
- 4) Boosts confidence of armed forces and the public by the show of offensive and defensive capabilities
- 5) Diplomacy - Many of the exercises are not an annual feature and show the diplomatic inclinations of India.

The Indo-Pacific area is becoming a major area of global interest. In 2019, the Dept of Defense (DOD) in USA said that the Indo-Pacific region is the most important region for America in the 21st century. India should use this renewed interest and become a major player by securing more alliances by means of such military exercises.

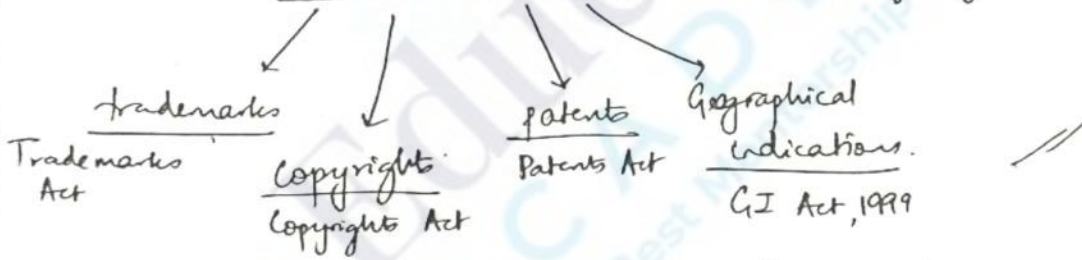
Q.15) What are the different types of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)? Examine the various issues in administration of IPRs in India and suggest reforms to have a thriving IPR regime in the country. (15, 250)

IPRs are rights of the innovators to protect their innovations from being used or developed by anyone without his/her permission.

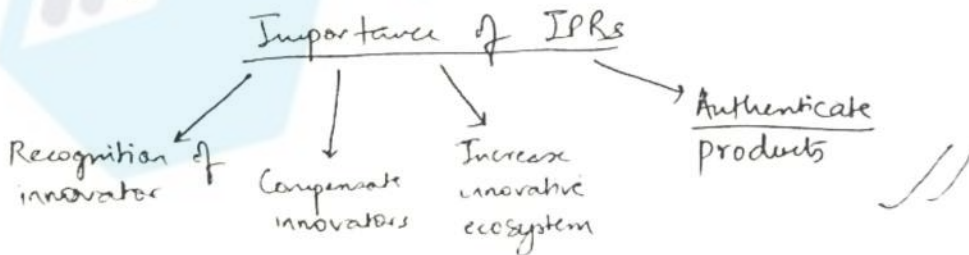
IPRs secure rights of innovators to gain royalties from his innovation and are a source of compensation for the invention. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the WTO are major global bodies monitoring IPRs in countries

World Innovation Index
↓
Rank of India

IPRs can be of the following types



India has passed laws for protection of each of these IPRs



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Challenges with IPRs in India -

- 1) Petty patents - Indian laws allow petty patents, but do not allow evergreening of patents. There is a very fine line between the two.
- 2) Disputes - There are multiple GI-related disputes. Eg - India and Pakistan both claiming basmati rice
- 3) Piracy - India is a major global hub of piracy of movies, software, with groups like TamilRockers
- 4) International issues - Countries like USA often accuse Indian laws of being unfair to American pharma firms
- 5) Patent applications - Too many patent applications, which include some frivolous applications lead to delay in patent

Suggested reforms -

- 1) Review of patent laws - To make them more easier to file patents and give more protection
- 2) Global best practices can be looked at to form internally internationally acceptable laws
- 3) Punishment for piracy - Increase punitive measures
- 4) Nodal agency to monitor IPR guidelines in India
- 5) Permanent tribunal for grievances redressal.

Secure IPR laws in a country increases its ease of doing business. However, India must not bow to international pressure and stand by its doctrine of public welfare, compulsory licensing.

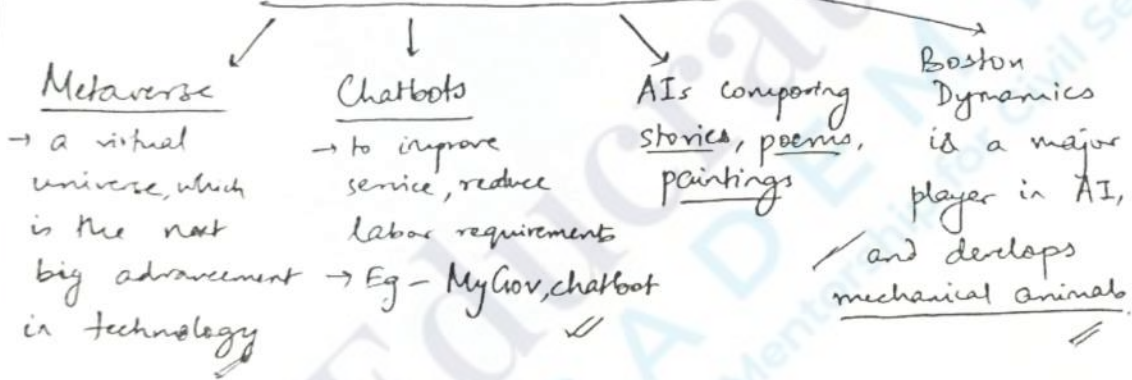
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Q.16) Despite significant scientific advances made by Artificial intelligence (AI), there are concerns associated with it which needs immediate addressing. Analyse (15, 250)

Artificial intelligence is a recent innovation. It can be described as making artificial systems intelligent and giving them the thinking capacity like humans. The focus on AI globally is on the rise, with public and ^{private} sector investing heavily on R&D.

Recent advancements in AI



Niti Aayog's National Strategy for AI aims at AI for All and is boosting AI innovation the country. Through organizing various hackathons, the first ever fintech open hackathon, the RAISE (Responsible AI for Social Empowerment) meeting, Niti Aayog is the front runner for AI advancement in India. ✓

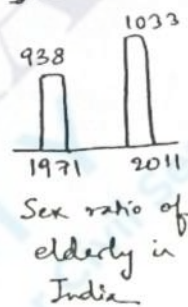
Concerns associated with AI --

- 1) Data security - Advancements in AI brings advancements in hacking attempts
- 2) Rogue AI - Dangers of an AI getting rogue are present in the minds of people
- 3) Over dependency - There are concerns regarding job-losses due to such technological advancements and over-dependency on a sedentary lifestyle
- 4) Mistakes - The confounding question remains that if a self-driving car hits a pedestrian, how can an AI be blamed and compensated.
- 5) Rural-urban divide - The current digital divide will translate into a rural-urban AI divide with benefits largely reaching urban areas.

The Govt has shown focus on AI research. Yet, the formulation of laws regarding AI is a difficult task. AI laws must be made and compatible with data privacy laws to ensure security and integrity of critical information infrastructures. India should display leadership in forming a global AI framework so that the global race for AI does not become a global war between AIs

Q.17) What is assistive technology? Discuss its role in lowering barriers faced by People with disabilities. What steps are required to ensure that this technology is available to the masses with minimal cost? (15, 250)

Assistive technology can be described as hardware or software that is used to provide assistance to the physically disabled and elderly people. India's elderly population share was 8.6% in 2011 census and is going to be 19% by 2050. At the same time, India is going through a feminization of aging.



Hence, India needs to focus on the silver economy as well as assisted technologies.

Importance of assisted technology - A solution to barrier faced by PwD



Assisted technology has helped physically disabled / Divyangjan to reach newer limits.

They participate in the Paralympics, become leaders, lead fruitful and happy lives, without feeling like a

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lesser person

However, these technologies are very expensive and affordability is a major concern.

Suggestions to improve affordability -

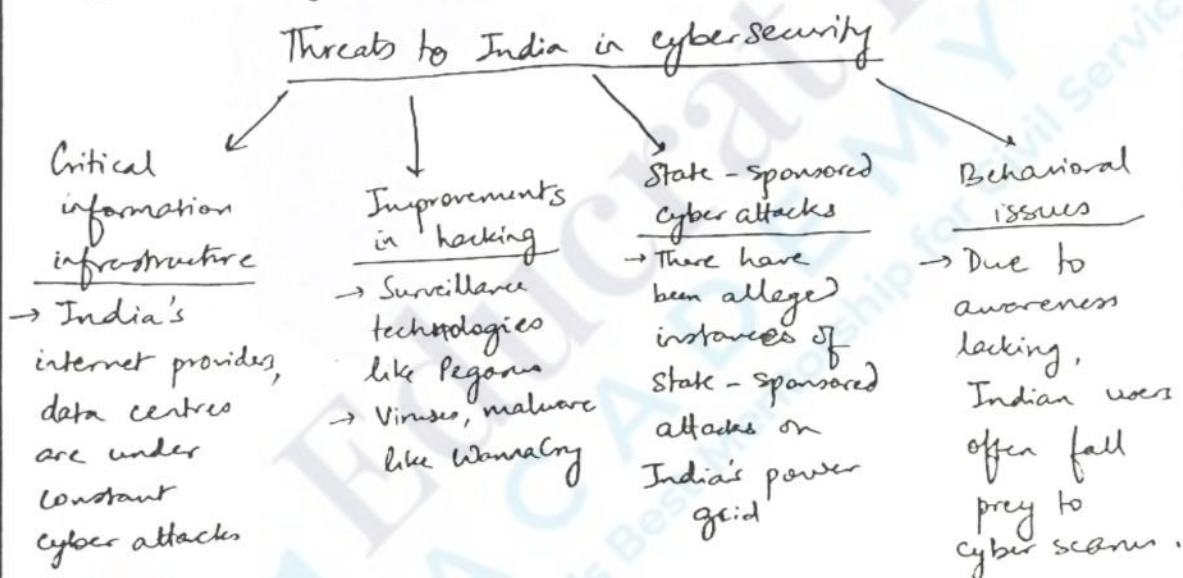
- 1) Decrease input costs - The govt can reduce import barriers and provide tax incentives to manufacturers for import of raw materials, like steel, tyres, software
- 2) Crowdfunding - This has seen huge success in developed countries and can be implemented in India
- 3) Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana - It provides aids and devices for assisted living. Its reach should be improved.
- 4) Amendments in Jan Arogya Yojana to provide subsidies for assisted technology devices, at least for the economically weaker section.
- 5) Price regulation - The govt can set prices of these devices, and keep checks on profit of manufacturers.

Through Accessible India, the Govt aims to provide a life of dignity to the physically disabled people. On our 75th Independence Day, we must pledge to make our India an all-inclusive India in the next 25 years.

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Q.18) What do you mean by cyber security? Highlight some major threats to India in this regard. What are India's policies to tackle this? (15, 250)

Cyber security is the security of digital ecosystems of an individual, an organization or a country. With increasing digitization of the world, there is renewed focus on robust cyber security. EU was the first major group of countries to pass a major legal framework for cyber security and data security.



A breach of cyber security can affect the life of individuals and the integrity of nations.

India has already taken up this challenge and is strengthening cybersecurity regime.

India's policies to tackle cyber security

1) Sensitization - India has launched campaigns

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in Govt Offices on the do's and don'ts of online behavior, such as not clicking on phishing links.

2) Data Privacy Bill - The govt is discussing elements of the data privacy bill with relevant stakeholders

3) Skilling - Through hackathons and incentives to academia and industry, the govt is trying to build an arsenal of cyber security talents.

4) Digital media rules - The recent Digital Media Rules aim to allow the govt to identify those indulging in cyber-harrasment and spreading pornography.

5) Countering cyber attacks - The govt is investing heavily on improving capabilities of CERT-IN and Cyber Swachhita Kendras to build a robust digital ecosystem.

In today's world, data is the new oil, and a data leakage is detrimental to the stability of the country. Greater public-private partnership, is required to improve hardware manufacturing, like telecom hardware, to not provide backdoor access to enemy states.

Q.19) Enumerate the unique characteristics that are common to the districts affected by the Left Wing Extremism (LWE). Discuss the challenges faced by the security forces in combating the LWE in these districts. (15, 250)

Left Wing Extremism / Naxalism is a major challenge faced by India. The number of LWE incidents have reduced by 77% in 2021 as compared to 2015, but it remains a security challenge nonetheless.

LWE can be described as extremist and anti-govt behavior displayed by a certain section of population to voice their mistrust and lack of faith in govt policies. Today, LWE activities are mostly centred around Chattisgarh.

Unique characteristics of LWE-affected districts

→ Low development - There is limited govt intervention seen in the areas of

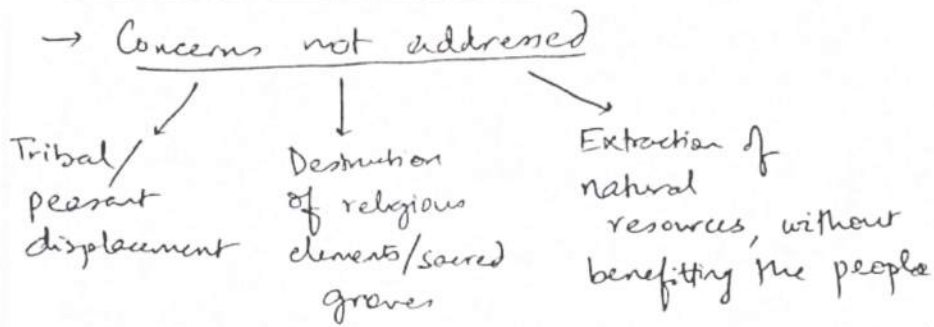
education health employment security.
standard of living

→ Violence and propaganda - These districts have people living in ~~minimum~~ subsistence.

→ Anti-govt propaganda has gained influence due to limited govt developments

→ People have fallen prey to violent activities of non-state actors.

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All these reasons have led to development of mistrust in the govt

Challenges faced by security forces

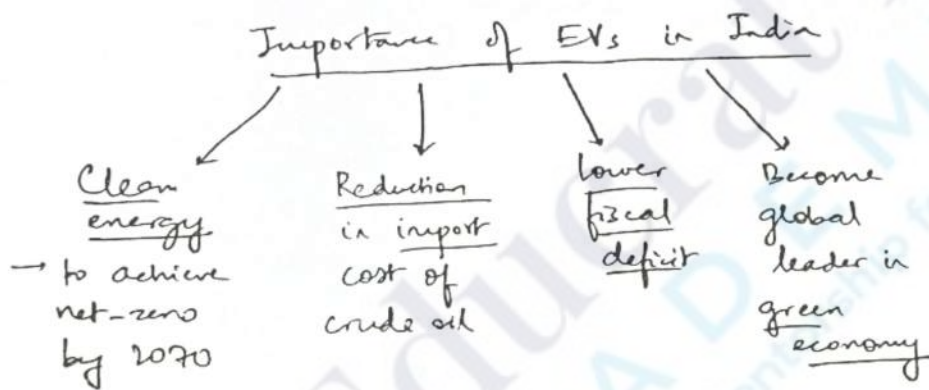
- Guerrilla attacks by local people led to death of many security personnel in 2021
- Brainwashed generation of people who associate the govt with atrocities
- Political will - Lack of development in areas freed of Naxalites, because of state govt's considering Naxalism as a central Govt issue
- Anti-social elements ensure continuous supply of arms and ammunition to the Naxalites
- Lack of communication infrastructure - Since Naxalite villages are mostly in dense forested areas

The Naxalite issue is on the decline, yet the issue will have a chance of resurgence unless ripped in its entirety.

The govt should ensure the principles of SANADHAN are being followed to tackle LWE.

Q.20) The progression to electric vehicles is important for India because such vehicles are sustainable and profitable in the long term. Evaluate the growth of electric vehicles in India and the various measures taken by the government to promote it. (15, 250)

Electric vehicles are a class of vehicles that use electricity as fuel to operate and do not emit any greenhouse gas emissions. With the recent movement towards green and clean energy, there has been global focus on the introduction and adoption of Electric vehicles.

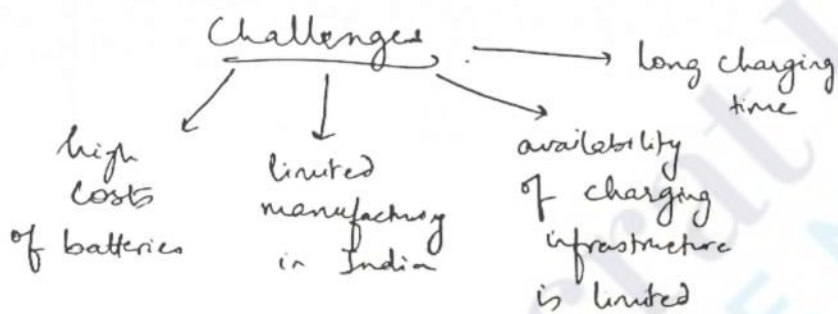


The govt has introduced measures to decarbonize transport in India through the following—

- Tax rebates on purchase of EVs
- Draft battery swapping policy of Niti Aayog
- EV charging infrastructure plan, by developing charging infrastructure in highways as well as urban roads through PPP model
- Green number plates to highlight the users of EVs in India.

- Invited global manufacturers such as Tesla, Ford, etc to manufacture EVs in India
- Fast toll-lanes for EVs in India
- Introduction of e-buses for urban mobility.

The EV sector has seen a major jump in recent years. Yet there is huge potential for further improvement



The govt should embark on a campaign to promote clean vehicles, starting with ensuring 100% adoption of electric vehicles for public transport