UPSC CSE GS (MAINS) 2019
PAPER-III

Q1. Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017.

Ans:

APPROACH
INTRODUCTION • Give a brief introduction about the GST in India **THE BODY** • List down the indirect taxes subsumed in the goods and services tax. • Mention the impacts on revenue post GST **CONCLUSION:** Show how proper implementation of GST is vital for the economy in times to come.

The introduction of the Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill in December, 2014, made way for nationwide implementation of GST.GST is a destination based indirect tax which is considered to be on the biggest tax reform India has ever implemented. A number of direct and indirect taxes were subsumed with the implementation GST:
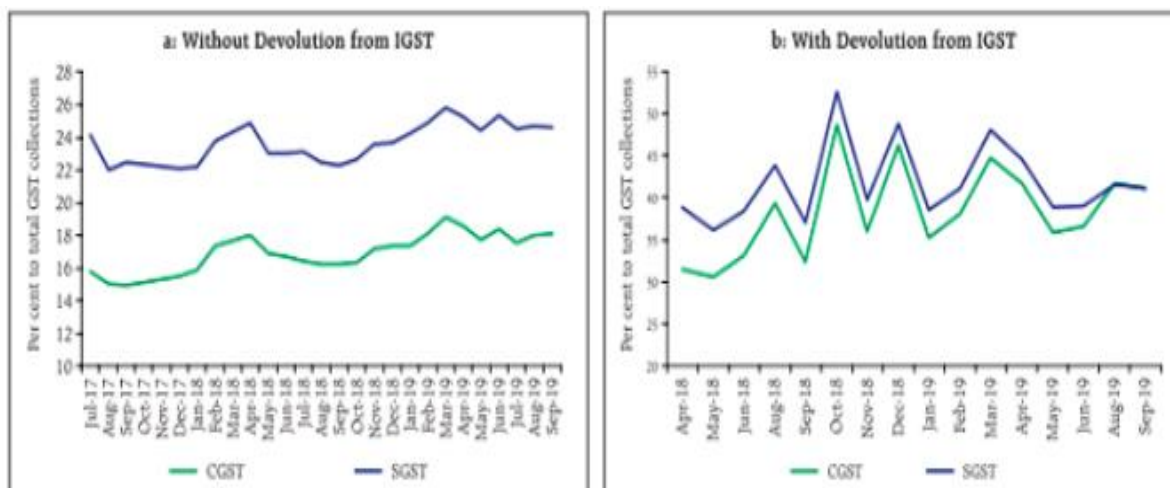
At the State level	At the Centre Level
1. State Value Added Tax/Sales Tax 2. Entertainment Tax (Other than the tax levied by the local bodies) 3. Octroi and Entry Tax 4. Purchase Tax 5. Luxury Tax 6. Taxes on lottery, betting, and gambling.	1. Central Excise Duty 2. Additional Excise Duty 3. Service Tax 4. Additional Customs Duty (Countervailing Duty) 5. Special Additional Duty of Custom

Revenue implications of GST Implementation:
- **Tax buoyancy:** As various technological and operational measures (like GSTN) are in place for GST implementation, tax evasion is nearly impossible. Hence, there is greater tax compliance and in turn greater revenue for the government. However, the growth of indirect taxes slowed to 5.80 per cent in 2017-18 compared to a growth of 21.33 per cent in 2016-17 according to CAG Report on GST.
- **Story of revenue collection:** The government's revenue collection has gone up. The average revenue collection per month in the eight months of 2017-18 was Rs 89,700 crore per month. This propelled the annual revenue collection by about 12 per cent.
- **Fiscal federalism:** It has been seen that after more than 2 years of GST implementation, the share of central revenues has overwhelmed the revenues of individual states. This enhances the

dependability of States on Centre. Thus, the states are approaching the 15th Finance Commission for increased financial devolution.

- **Distress to small-scale manufacturers and traders:** The compliance to GST reforms has been cumbersome especially for the small-scale manufacturers and traders. For example, the inclusion of e-way was initially marked with operational friction. However, now the online system of compliance has made the process easier for the traders, thus more renumeration at the end.

Share of CGST and SGST

Conclusion: The triumph of GST lies in the fact that while it has successfully subsumed several state and central indirect taxes, reduced cascading and credit blockages, created a common market and brought uniformity of indirect tax law and rates across the country. However, if the implementation efficiency is not upto the mark, the final aim could not be achieved.

Q2. Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments.

Ans:

> **APPROACH**
>
> **INTRODUCTION**
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> • Discuss India's growth story in past few years
>
> **THE BODY**
>
> • Show how major financials reforms like Demonetization and GST have somewhat left the overall stability of the economy in question
>
> **CONCLUSION** show some way outs by collaborations at various levels to revive the economy.

The economic survey (2018-19) quotes that India, continues to remain the fastest growing major economy in the world in 2018-19, despite a slight moderation in its GDP growth from 7.2 per cent in 2017-18 to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19. The past decade saw steady GDP growth and inflation rate following the global financial recession. However, the succeeding years of major financials reforms like Demonetization and GST have somewhat left the overall stability of the economy in question.

- **Jobless growth:** The recent Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) (by NSSO) showed that unemployment rate in the country in FY18 was at 5.3% in rural India and 7.8% in urban India, resulting in overall unemployment rate of 6.1%. This is said to be an unprecedented rate of unemployment taking into consideration the last 4o years.
- **Fiscal challenges:** Although the GST promised reduced taxes to the end users, the corresponding outcomes haven't been achieved in the broader sense. The government is still unable to address the issue of fiscal deficit. In fact, even the fiscal federalism seems to be under question with reduced income shares to the states post GST.
- **Banking sector crisis:** The crisis in banking and NBFC sector is evident from the recent cases like that of IL&FS and PMC bank. Since banking and finance are considered to be a core aspect of any economy, we can't take an absolute stand that Indian economy is in a good shape.
- **Fiscal stimulus:** The government in the period of August-September 2019, has announced a series of fiscal stimulus measures, which shows that the economic slowdown is for real.
- **Monetary policy:** Although the RBI has reduced the repo rate by an unprecedented 1.35 per cent to 5.15 per cent, the end result isn't coming out effectively in terms of reduced lending rates for common people. This follows an up to 8 per cent reduction in the corporate tax by the government and a withdrawal of the controversial enhanced surcharge on foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).
- **Automobile and infrastructure:** The primary reason for the recent fiscal stimulus is said to be the slowdown of the automobile industries. Further, even the infrastructure sector hasn't shown significant growth in the past 3-4 years.
- **Low inflation:** Low inflation is a sign of a weak demand in the economy. Moderately high inflation signals growing consumption and spurs investment.

Conclusion: Thus, we can say that, although post subprime crisis, India had enjoyed a stable GDP growth coupled with an efficiently regulated inflation bracket, the current situation of the economy can't be referred to as 'in good shape' in the literal sense. However, it can be said that various direct and indirect measures undertaken by the RBI and the government will be instrumental in bringing back the economy in good shape.

Q3. How far is the Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?

Ans:

> **APPROACH**
>
> **INTRODUCTION**
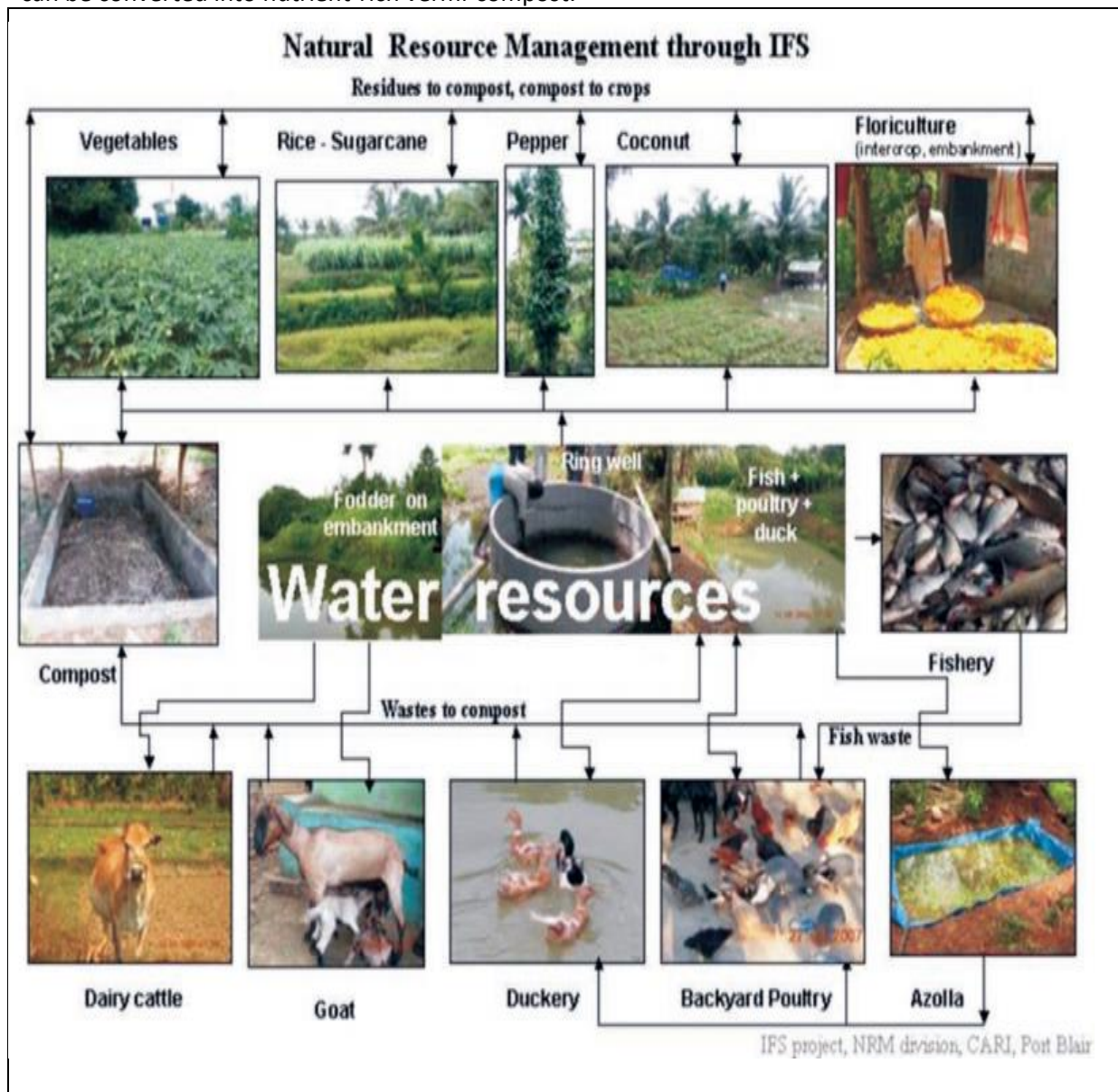> • Discuss in short, the concept of Integrated Farming System (IFS)
> **THE BODY**
> • give some examples of IFSs and their impact
> **CONCLUSION** show how this could help in improving the on-farm income of small holders

Integrated Farming means to integrate crop production with livestock management which in a way complement each other with a nice symbiotic relationship and at the time is economically viable and profitable, environmentally suitable, and benefit giver of diversification of production. Sustainable agriculture means an integrated approach to increasing farm yield and managing resources in order to address all three critical aspects of sustainability: economic, environmental and social.

The IFS approach has multiple objectives of sustainability, food security, farmer security and poverty reduction. It involves output of one enterprise component as inputs for other related

enterprises wherever feasible, for example, cattle dung mixed with crop residues and farm waste can be converted into nutrient-rich vermi-compost.

Natural Resource Management through IFS

Small farm agriculture (up to 2 ha) holds the key to ensuring food and nutritional security of India and nurturing them in right perspective with sustainable farming systems are essential for rural prosperity. Holistic and innovative approaches of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) provides ample opportunities for the farmers which are as follows-

- **Productivity enhancement:** Increase yield and economic time by virtue of intensification of crop and allied enterprise.
- **Income enhancement:** IFS as a whole provide opportunity to make use of recyclable waste material of one component as input for other at the least or not cost at farm level. Thus, there is a possibility for reduction of production cost of enterprises from one to another. Recycling also reduces market dependency on inputs.
- **On farm employment generation:** Integration of other components with cropping increases the labour requirement and thus provides scope of employ family labour round the year without much lean and peak demand for labour.

- **Soil health improvement through recycling:** Residue recycling is an integral part of the farming systems. Considerable quantity of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium besides micro nutrients can be generated within farm through recycling.
- **Multiple uses of resources:** Multiple uses of water for household, irrigation, dairy, poultry etc. is best example. Small and medium sized water bodies can be brought under multi-component production systems using in and around areas which will ultimately lead to improved income, nutrition and livelihood and livelihood of small farm holdings.
- **Risk reduction:** IFS helps to reduce risk involved in farming especially due to market price crash as well as natural calamities.
- **Effective Self-reliance:** The IFS model helps a farm-based household in becoming self-reliant in **6F's- Food, Fodder, Feed, Fuel, Fibre and Fertilizer.**

However, there are certain **challenges** too, associated with the IFS model. As majority of the farmers in India are small and marginal, the **financial crunch** for effective IFS implementation will be felt, at least in the short run. **Religious perceptions**, especially in the hinterland, may hinder poultry our fisheries due to social norms. Further the present farming sector **lacks adequate skill sets** to harness extension services required in IFS.

Conclusion: Diversification of existing farming systems with change in crops, cropping systems, addition and improvement of livestock components, inclusion of horticulture, kitchen garden, primary and secondary processing, boundary plantations are essential to **improve the on-farm income of small holders** in India. This could well be a game changer in actualizing the goal of **doubling the Farm Income by 2022**. This also paves way for meeting the household demand of balanced food, improved recycling of nutrients and water besides increasing the on-farm employment for family. Hence it can be said that it will provide a better path to sustainable agriculture.
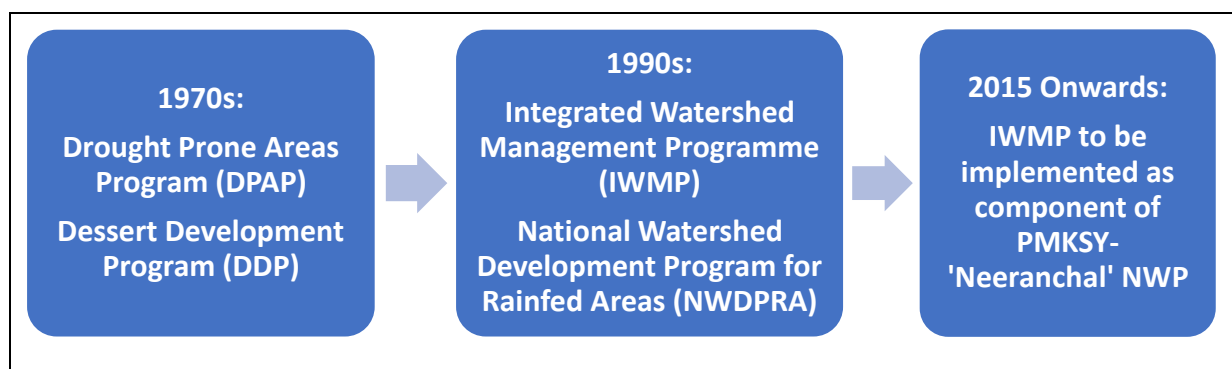
Q4. Elaborate on the impact of the National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas.

Ans:

APPROACH
INTRODUCTION • Discuss the concept of Watershed management in short. **THE BODY** • Explain the National Watershed Management Project and show its impacts in the agricultural sector. **CONCLUSION** show how this could become a learning for universal use of clean energies.

Watershed management is the process of guiding and organizing the use of land and other resources in a watershed to provide desired goods and services without adversely affecting soil and water resources. The process includes the storage and recharge of ground water by methods like percolation tanks, recharge wells, and artificial ponds.

Timeline of National Watershed Project:

1970s:
Drought Prone Areas Program (DPAP)
Dessert Development Program (DDP)

→

1990s:
Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)
National Watershed Development Program for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

→

2015 Onwards:
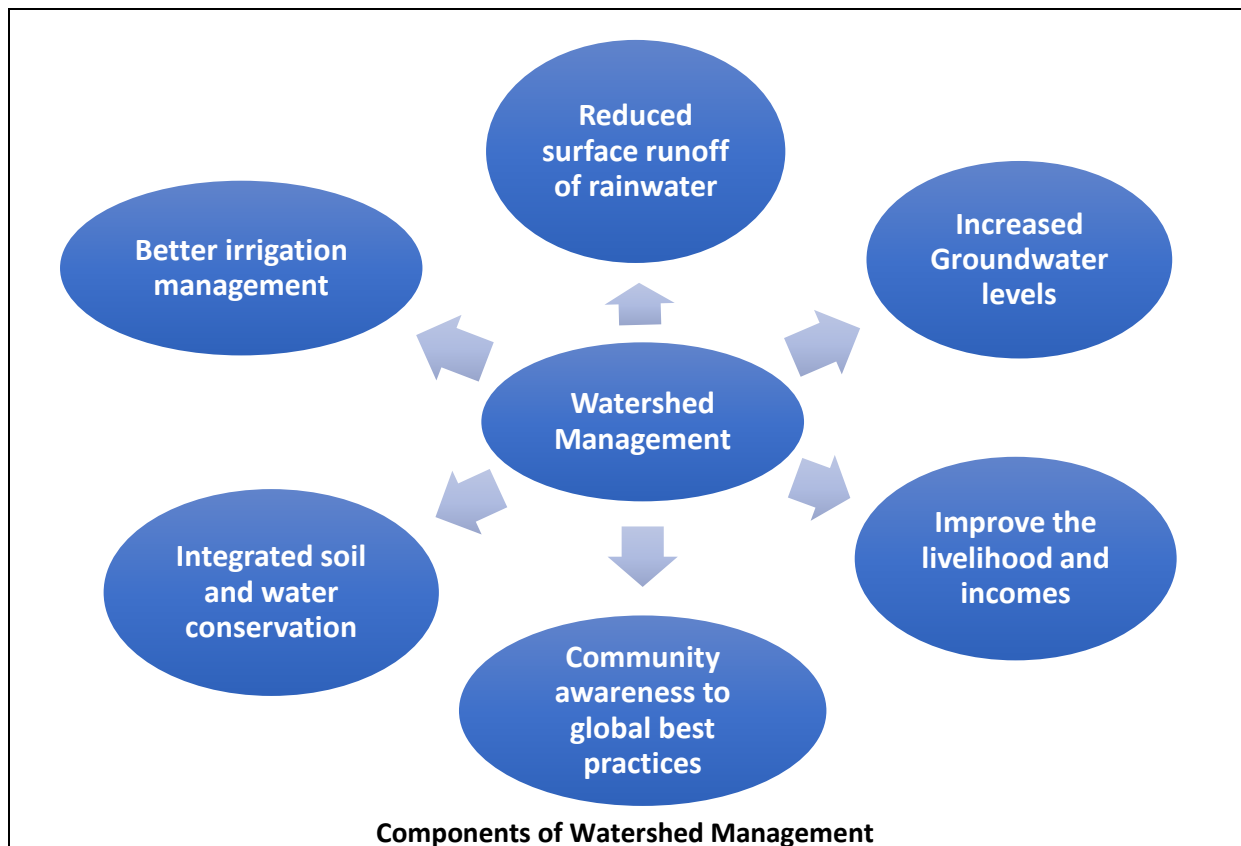**IWMP to be implemented as component of PMKSY- 'Neeranchal' NWP**

About the NWP:
- To be implemented by the World Bank assisted (50%) National Watershed Management Project 'Neeranchal'.
- To be implemented at the National level as well as in the nine States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana which are primarily drought prone states.
- It will create watershed assets for the PMKSY by ensuring access to irrigation to every farm (Har Khet KoPani) and efficient use of water (Per Drop More Crop).
- The watershed 'plus' approach which includes local participation, skilling and employment opportunities.
- Scientific planning of the projects by using IT, remote sensing techniques, GIS facilities for planning and monitoring & evaluation

Impact of the National Watershed Project (NWP):
- **Demand crunch:** While India houses about 18 per cent of world's total population, it inhibits only about 4 per cent of total fresh water resources. Thus, Indian agriculture is largely rainfed.
- **Fluctuations in rainfall:** Considering the erratic climatic patterns coupled with Climate change, there couldn't be complete dependence on rainfall for sustaining agriculture. No

wonder, our agricultural growth isn't reaching double digit growth, water scarcity being one of the prime concerns.

Components of Watershed Management

How NWP will boost agricultural production:

- It will bring about **institutional changes** in watershed and rainfed agricultural management practices in India.
- It will build systems that ensure watershed programmes and **rainfed irrigation management** practices are better focused, and more coordinated, and have **quantifiable results**.
- By devising **strategies for the sustainability** of improved watershed management practices in programme areas, even after the withdrawal of project support.
- Through the watershed plus approach, support **improved equity, livelihoods, and incomes** through forward linkages, on a platform of inclusiveness and local participation.
- It is said to convert about 12% of **wasteland into arable land**. Thus, it could be a game changer for regions facing deficit of large dams or irrigation systems.
- Further, there would **convergence of other schemes** like KUSUM solar-irrigation pumps for better and multiple cropping opportunities over the year.

Conclusion:

There should be enhanced community participation like that showed by the local populace towards efforts like 'Paani Foundation'. Even international experiences like that of Israel could be taken as role model for future implementation of NWP. Only then, the NWP can be instrumental in achieving multiple sustainable development goals along with enhanced agricultural productivity in India.

Q5. How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M.Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively?

Ans:

APPROACH
INTRODUCTION • Give a brief introduction about both Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan. **THE BODY** • Discuss their roles in their respective field and the how they have left a huge impact in India. **CONCLUSION:** Show how their efforts has helped India in becoming self-sufficient in various sectors.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan are two prominent personalities which are remembered in India due to the revolutionary efforts they have put in their respective fields.

Sir M Visvesvaraya	Dr. M S Swaminathan
• Every year, India celebrates Engineer's Day on the birth anniversary of M Visvesvaraya, considered to be the engineering pioneer of India. • He played a major role in revolutionizing water availability in India. He spearheaded the invention of 'automatic sluice gates' and 'block irrigation system' which proved to be crucial in future. These are considered to be important inventions in providing regulated irrigation along with effective flood control. • He played an instrumental role in the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Lake and dam in 1924. This dam not only became the main source of water for irrigation for the nearby areas, but was also the main source of drinking water for several cities. This model became the bedrock in construction of other dams in the future. • Thus, he was awarded the prestigious 'Bharat Ratna' award in 1955 for his unmatched efforts in water engineering in India.	• Dr. M S Swaminathan is considered to be a pioneer in maneuvering India to sustainable development, especially using environmentally sustainable agriculture, sustainable food security and the preservation of biodiversity, which he calls to be 'evergreen revolution'. • MS Swaminathan along with Norman Borlaug, came up with the revolutionary 'High Yield Variety' (HYV) seeds when India was grappling with acute food crisis during the 1960s. These HYV seeds of rice and wheat were then introduced to farmers under the historic 'Green Revolution'. • Thus, he played a crucial role in making India self-sufficient in food grain production. No wonder, he is called as the "Father of Green Revolution in India". • Further, as the head of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), he also guided aspiring young scientists, thus expanding the extent of Krishi Vigyan Kendras. • For his unprecedented efforts in the field of agriculture, he was conferred with the 'Padma Vibhushan' award in 1989.

Conclusion: Today, India is self-sufficient in food grains. In fact, India also exports food grains to drought prone nations as a goodwill gesture. Although still, the aspect of food grain diversification and 'per drop more crop' is a work under process, the contributions of Dr. MS Swaminathan have formed the bed rock for such unprecedented growth in food grain production. Similarly, India has taken long strides in attaining world class Dam infrastructure (like run of the river, hydropower, etc.) over the years. This development in providing perennial irrigation couldn't have been achieved without the valuable contributions of M Visvesvaraya.

Q6. **What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?**

Ans:

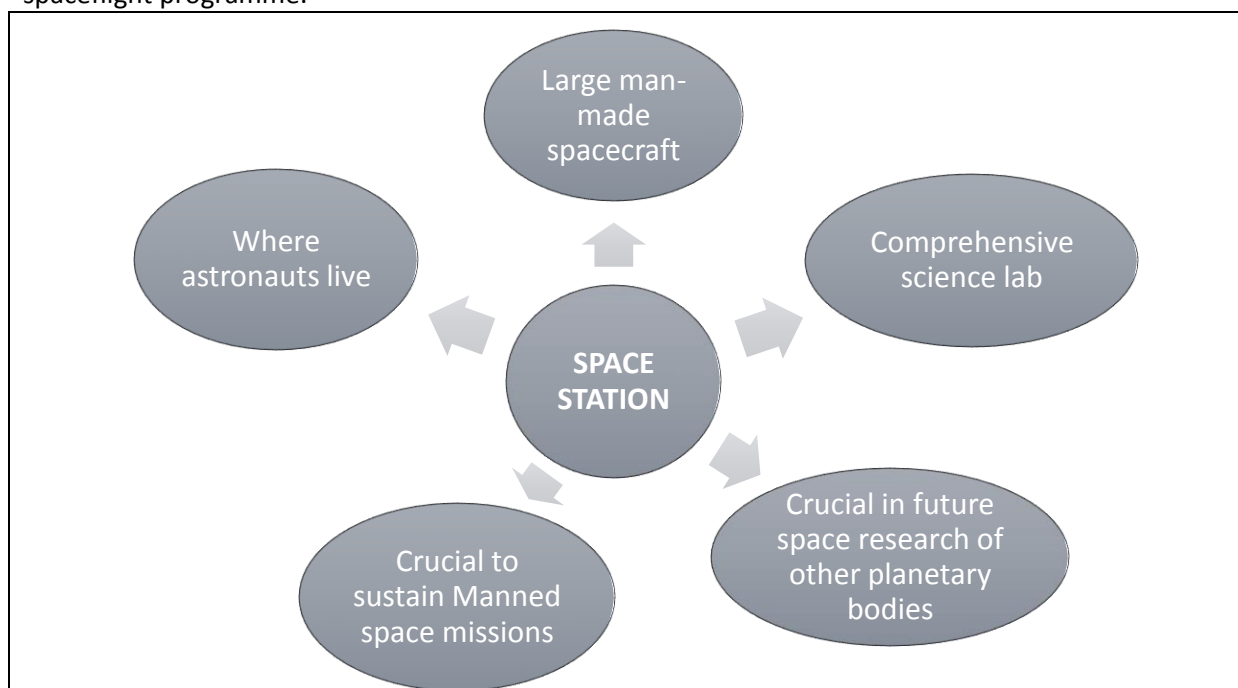| APPROACH |
|---|
| **INTRODUCTION** |
| • Discuss about ISRO's plan to have its own space station |
| **THE BODY** |
| • Show some benefits of space station |
| **CONCLUSION** show how this could become a bedrock for future of space research in India. |

A space station is a spacecraft capable of supporting crew members, designed to remain in space for an extended period of time and for other spacecraft to dock.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief Dr Sivan, recently said that ISRO plans to set up its own space station. The announcement comes as an intent to sustain the capabilities and the capacity being built in the country as a part of the Gaganyaan mission, the indigenous human spaceflight programme.

Benefits of space station:

- **Ground for future missions:** ISRO's Gaganyaan programme will establish mature capabilities in India, like having a human-rated rocket, the ability to train crew and the capacity to sustain life and safety of the crew on orbit and return them. The Indian Space Station could be gamechanger for such projects in coming future.
- **Continued human presence and research:** A space station can make it possible for people to have an ongoing presence in space. Further, space station's laboratories allow crew members to do research that could not be done anywhere else. This scientific research benefits people on Earth.

- **Studying the Space:** Scientists can also study what happens to the body when people live in microgravity for a long time. This can be instrumental in future ambitions like **'space tourism'.**

Conclusion: ISRO's vision is to harness space technology for national development, while pursuing space science research and planetary exploration. India's own Space Station would certainly provide the building blocks to successfully actualize future endeavors of ISRO.

Q7. Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indians coasts, citing specific examples.

APPROACH

Introduction: Introduce sand mining.

The Body

- How sand mining is a threat to environment.
- The impact of the sand mining with examples.

Conclusion: Conclude with the suggestions.

India's beaches are being mined for sand for a variety of uses (aggregate in concrete, fill, beach re-nourishment). The practice is often very destructive and poorly managed (or unmanaged).

In India, the theft of beach and dune sand is a direct cause of erosion along many shorelines.

- It is very damaging to the beach fauna and flora, ruinous to beach aesthetics, and frequently causes environmental damage to other coastal ecosystems associated with the beach such as wetlands.

- This has caused major habitat disruptions that favoured some species over others and caused overall declines in biological diversity and productivity.

- Another major impact of beach sand mining is the loss of protection from storms surges associated with tropical cyclones and tsunamis. In 2004, T-sunami in the Indian Ocean had higher storm surges probably due to beach sand mining resulting in fatalities. Sometimes it is difficult to tell that a beach has been mined.

- Sand extraction becomes difficult to recognize as the beach readjusts to a new profile after a few storms.

- Depletion of sand in the streambed and along coastal areas causes the deepening of rivers and estuaries, and the enlargement of river mouths and coastal. Any volume of sand exported from the streambeds and coastal areas is a very big loss to the system.

- It affects the adjourning ground water system and the uses that local people make from the river.

- Factors that increase or decrease sediment supplies often destabilize bed and banks and result in dramatic channel readjustments.
- Apart from it, sand mining transforms the riverbeds in large and deep pits as a result the groundwater table drops leaving the drinking water wells on the embankments of these dry rivers.

Mining is particularly senseless in a time of rising sea level when sand is sorely needed as a storm energy buffer. At the time of Sand mining there are many factors like, its impact on environment and vulnerability of areas should be considered.

Q8. Vulnerability is an essential element for defining disaster impacts and its threat to people. How and in what ways can vulnerability to disasters be characterized? Discuss different types of vulnerability with reference to disasters.

> **APPROACH**
>
> **Introduction:** What is disaster vulnerability?
>
> **The Body**
> - Characteristics of disaster vulnerability.
> - Different types of disaster vulnerability with reference to disasters.
>
> **Conclusion:** End with a note.

Vulnerability describes the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. There are many aspects of vulnerability, arising from various physical, social, economic, and environmental factors.

Characteristics of vulnerability to disaster:

- Poor design and construction of buildings,

- Inadequate protection of assets,

- Lack of public information and awareness,

- Limited official recognition of risks and preparedness measures, and

- Disregard for wise environmental management.

There are mainly four types of vulnerability with reference to disaster:

1. Physical Vulnerability may be determined by aspects such as population density levels, remoteness of a settlement, the site, design and materials used for critical infrastructure and for housing. For Example: Wooden homes are less likely to collapse in an earthquake, but are more vulnerable to fire.

2. Social Vulnerability refers to the inability of people, organizations and societies to withstand adverse impacts to hazards due to characteristics inherent in social interactions, institutions and systems of cultural values. For example, when flood occurs some citizens, such as children, elderly and differently-able, may be unable to protect themselves.

3. Economic Vulnerability: The poor are usually more vulnerable to disasters because they lack the resources to build sturdy structures and put other engineering measures in place to protect themselves from being negatively impacted by disasters.

4. Environmental Vulnerability. Natural resource depletion and resource degradation are key aspects of environmental vulnerability. For Example, Wetlands are sensitive to increasing salinity from sea water.

Disaster vulnerability is like a torch bearer for better disaster preparedness and at the time of disaster preparedness such think should be considered with scientific manner.

Q9. The banning of 'Jammat-e-Islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize influence of OGWs.

APPROACH

Introduction: Start with the ban on Jammat-e-Islami.

THE BODY

- What are over-ground workers?
- How they assist the terror organisations.
- Measures to neutralize their influence.

Conclusion: Conclude with the future perspective.

In March 2019, the central government banned Jammat-e-Islami for five years due to its alleged pro separatist activities and support to terrorist organisation. It was alleged that the organisation is helping terror organisation through its network of over ground workers. After this development, the issues of over-ground workers came into the focus.

The over-ground workers:

Over ground workers do not the active members of terror organisations but their supporters. They organisations use them for proxy. They work as a informer, funder and organizer for terror activities. In case of Jammu and Kashmir the issue is more serious.

Role played by OGWs in assisting of terror organisations

1. Financial support

- They provide the financial support for terror activities and in case of Jammu and Kashmir they terrorists need monetary support to carry out their activities. This is provided through various sympathizers including the groups which function in the guise of social organisations.

2. Political support

- Many groups have strong political base and they use it to influence official authorities They also provide immunity against arrest.

3. Social sympathy

- They organises meeting and try to create social sympathy for terror organizations.

4. Logistic support:

- Provides logistic support for terror activities.

4. Recruitment for terrorists: They recruit the youth for terror organizations.

5. Mobilizing stone pelters: They mobilize the stone pelters.

Measures to neutralize their influence:

- Awareness
- Strong local intelligence
- Active involvement of local police for better coordination.
- Stoppage of terror funding, which is the mains cause of such activities.
- To avoid such activities, need to cleanness in Institutions.

In the fight against terrorism, the issue of over-ground workers has become very serious and to stop such activities in future, government needs to tackle the issue very carefully otherwise, it can spread more radicalization in sensitive areas.

Q10. What is Cyber Dome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.

APPROACH

Introduction: Start with the recent development in Kerala.

THE BODY

- What is Cyber Dome project.
- How this project is helpful in controlling the internet crime.

Conclusion: End with the suggestions.

The Cyber Dome is a Centre of Excellence for Kerala Police, to meet the long term security challenges in the digital arena of the modern world, by bridging the gap between the latest changes and innovations in the cyber space and the skill set development of Kerala Police, in combating the emerging cyber threats. It is envisaged as a collaboration Centre for both the public and private fraternity to converge and share information, as well as resources, which will escalate the safety of our cyber space.

Objectives and aims

- The primary objective of Cyberdome is to prevent cyber crimes and ensure that our cyber resources are secured.
- It is to prevent cybercrimes through developing a cyber threat resilient ecosystem in the state to defend against the growing threat of cyber attacks by synergizing with other departments and nodal agencies of the state.

THE PROJECT CAN BE HELPFUL IN FOLLOWING MANNERS:

- It has developed cyber-surveillance tools to detect and convict those responsible for industrial espionage.
- It has used **social engineering** as the lynchpin of its policing strategy to snoop on radical groups that use the net for extremist activities.
- It has also launched a **covert cyber-surveillance** and infiltration programme to crack down on **child pornography.**
- o The entities have cobbled together an international alliance that entails transfer and development of the latest artificial intelligence-powered cyber tools to crack down on a wide range of crimes.
- o The Interpol has granted the State police access to its latest cyber investigation tool, the Internet Crimes Against Children and Child Online Protective Services (ICACCOPS) programme.
- ▪ It helps law enforcers conduct targeted surveillance of persons who share and trade child pornography on peer-to-peer user networks.
- In 2017, Cyberdome notched up a remarkable victory when it forewarned the Kerala government of a possible ransomware attack.
- It got praise from the state government for its successful propaganda war against online games such as Blue Whale, which encourages youngsters to engage in death-defying daredevilry, which had caused a few deaths in the country and spawned concern among parents.

Cyber crimes have become the most challenging task in present era. The project like Cyber Dome can control/minimize such activities. So, the project like Cyber Dome should be implemented at pan Indian level.

Q11. It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement.

Ans:

APPROACH
INTRODUCTION • Discuss the concept of Inclusive growth. **THE BODY** • Show with the help of some facts the story of inclusive growth in India • Also show some positives in the end show some measure to be undertaken **CONCLUSION** show how inclusive growth complemented by the SDG's are essential for India.

Inclusive growth emphasizes that the economic opportunities created by growth are available to all particularly the poor, to the maximum possible extent. We may thus define inclusive growth as growth that not only creates new economic opportunities, but also ensures equal access to the opportunities created for all segments of society, particularly for the poor. The UN's Brundtland Report defined Sustainable Development as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

India and inclusive growth:

- **Inclusive employment opportunities:** The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released on Friday showed the unemployment rate in the country in FY18 was at 5.3% in rural India and 7.8% in urban India, resulting in overall unemployment rate of 6.1%. Thus, although India has achieved sustained economic growth over past few years, it would be termed as a 'jobless growth'.
- **Increased inequality:** According to the recent Oxfam inequality report, India's top 1% bag 73% of the country's wealth. Thus, although we can say that although there is a private boom over the years in India, the desired income equality isn't visible.
- **Gender inequality:** India has a dismal performance in terms of global gender equality indexes. Whether it be inequality in wage or the society as a whole, inequality with women is still present. For example, India performed poorly in the overall gender gap ranking by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2018 (India scored a low 108 out of the 149 countries). However, given that women in India are now part of important domains like defence, entrepreneurs, etc. we can say that things are changing.
- **Environmental degradation:** Although India has undertaken enormous infrastructural projects ranging from bullet trains to multi-modal transport corridors, the forest cover has been constantly under stress. This can't be termed as a sustainable development. However, India's commitment in the INDCs establishes the fact that India is working to compensate the damages it is currently inflicting on the environment.

In wake of securing inclusive growth, various measures can be implemented:

Job growth	• Integrated Farming System to be devised for alternative source of income. • Need to focus on labour intensive industries like apparel and textiles (like Khadi, handloom) as they are sustainable and environmentally safe.
Sustainable use of resources	• The NITI Aayog had mentioned the concept of 'Circular Economy' which promotes efficient use of raw materials coupled with sustainable reuse. • Use of Agricultural waste in biofuel is a good example. • Similarly, waste can be recycled or used like plastic used in road making, promotion of community awareness like 'Garbage Festival' in Chhattisgarh.
Sustainable mobility	• The conventional energy sources are increasing Climate Change impacts on earth. Further, we need to move towards sustainable green mobility before we exhaust all the conventional resources. Thus, alternatives like water and electric mobility is the way to go. • Even the aspect of accessibility to 'Divyang' can be included like present in the Delhi Metro.
Improved skill India	• Especially to the rural populace which can provide alternative job opportunities.

SDGs associated with inclusive growth

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

• Over the past 25 years the number of workers living in extreme poverty has declined dramatically, despite the lasting impact of the 2008 economic crisis and global recession. In developing countries, the middle class now makes up more than 34 percent of total employment – a number that has almost tripled between 1991 and 2015.

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

• More than half of us live in cities. By 2050, two-thirds of all humanity—6.5 billion people—will be urban. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces.

• Making cities sustainable means creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies. It involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways.

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

• Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater for human use.

• A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs. Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy.

Conclusion: Providing equal opportunity to disadvantageous section of society, in growth story of India will not only help achieve welfare state as enshrined in economic philosophy of constitution

but also, will be impetus to growth. It will improve human indicators which will help convergence of developmental goal to Economic growth one.

Q12. The public expenditure management is a challenge to the government of India in the context of budget-making during the post-liberalization period. Clarify it.

Ans:

APPROACH

INTRODUCTION

• Discuss the concept of Public expenditure management

THE BODY

• Show some challenges in Public expenditure management

• Discuss why the budgetary allocations always face the dilemma between entitlement and empowerment

CONCLUSION: Show how Budget plays an important role in fulfilling the aspirations of people in India. Thus the allocations must be planned carefully.

Public expenditure management includes allocation of government's economic resources into channels like administration, economic growth and welfare schemes. In the aftermath of the LPG reforms of 1991, the management of public expenditure is facing challenges.

Public expenditure challenges:

- **Awareness of Rights:** Right to education, right to food, right to work (MGNREGA), etc. have become legal rights. Globalization led to increased intensity of demands like 24/7 electricity, clean water, internet and so on.
- **Defence stronghold:** India's Defence expenditure stands at a whopping $ 61.96 billion in 2019.
- **Agrarian inclination:** Major budgetary allocations are concentrated towards poverty and food/agriculture sector.
- **Legal turbulence:** The concepts of 'economic slowdown' and FRBM act have forced governments allocations towards fiscal stimulus rather than welfare schemes.
- **Private boom:** Difficult for government to keep stronghold on PSUs (e.g. Formation of DIPAM to secure disinvestments). Government amongst the largest employers (e.g. Indian Railways). However, jobs not multiplying. So, Indian railways moving towards privatization.

Other challenges:

The budgetary allocations always face the dilemma between entitlement and empowerment because:

- **Fiscal constraints:** The government faces fiscal burden every year on account of both entitlements as well as empowerment. however, empowerment related welfare measures lead to reduction in entitlements in near future. therefore, the government with agenda of 'Minimum government and maximum governance' (such as present government) faces dilemma between entitlement and empowerment.
- **Populist policies:** The government tries to adopt entitlement approach whenever the elections are to be held in near time. e.g. present government announced PM-KISAN scheme, in interim budget in February 2019, just before general elections 2019. While, in general the focus of the government is on empowerment approach.
- **Antodaya approach:** Though the government may largely focus on empowerment approach in welfare schemes, it has to protect the vulnerable and marginal sections of society. for them, government has to adopt Antodaya approach based on entitlements.

Way forward: Empowerment over entitlement
- Sensible rationalization requires a coherent strategic framework; one that aligns schemes with welfare goals and specific developmental needs of states.
- The World Bank calls for developing a national social protection strategy with a core basket of welfare schemes that states can adapt to their needs.
- Women experts have pointed out that in terms of gender budgeting for women and children budgets allocated by the central government for the implementation of laws and schemes benefiting women and children continue to be low and inadequate. This needs to change in coming times.

Conclusion: Budget plays an important role in fulfilling the aspirations of people in India. After the representatives of the people form required laws and policies for public welfare, it is the budget that provides the monetary fuel to the concerned ministries for implementation of these schemes. Instead of farm loan waivers, focus should be on making the farmers capable enough to generate sustainable growth in income and productivity

Q13. What are the reformative steps taken by the government to make food grain distribution system more effective?

Ans:

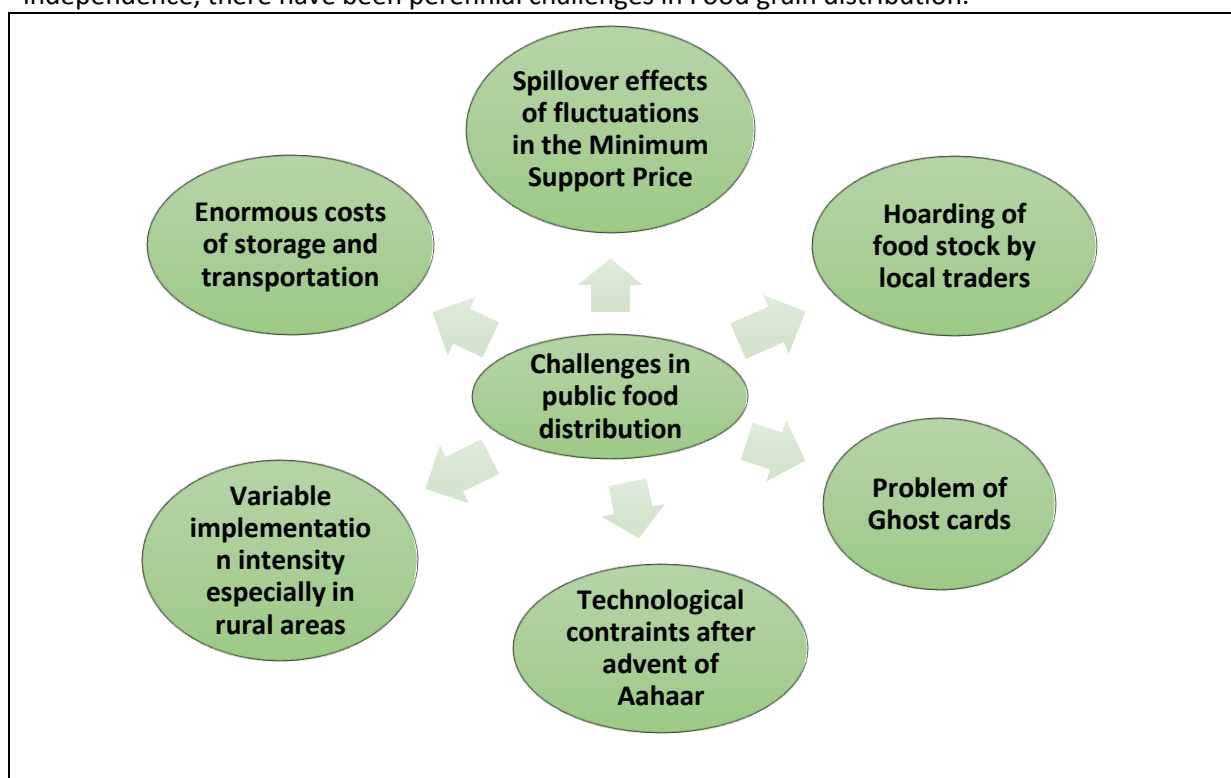| APPROACH |
|---|
| **INTRODUCTION**
• Discuss the process of food distribution in India.
<div align="center">**THE BODY**</div>
• Give some reformative steps taken by the government to make food grain distribution system more effective
CONCLUSION show the need for effective food distribution in India. |

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution along with its statutory arm, Food Corporation of India (FCI) are responsible for food grain distribution in India. Ever since the independence, there have been perennial challenges in Food grain distribution.

Reformative steps taken by the government to make food grain distribution system more effective:

- **Automation of Fair Price Shops:** Department of Food & Public Distribution prescribed the guidelines and specifications for use of PoS at FPS.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (Cash):** "Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015" under which food subsidy is directly credited to the account of the beneficiaries. At present Chandigarh, Puducherry and Dadra & Nagar Haveli are implementing this scheme.
- **Aadhaar Seeding in PDS:** To weed out duplicate/in-eligible/bogus ration cards and to enable rightful targeting, about 77 per cent ration cards have been Aadhaar seeded.
- **Deletion of ration cards:** As an outcome of digitization of Ration Cards/beneficiary records, de-duplication due to Aadhaar seeding, transfer/migration/deaths, change in economic status of beneficiaries and during the run-up to and implementation of NFSA a total of 2.33 crore ration cards have been deleted/cancelled. Based on this the Government has been able to achieve Rightful Targeting of Food Subsidies of about Rs 14,000 Crore per annum.
- **Digital/Cashless/Less-cash Payments in PDS:** To promote the use of less-cash/digital payment mechanisms, the government has issued detailed guidelines for use of UPI, USSD, Debit/Rupay Cards and e-Wallets.
- **Use of web-based citizens' portal** publicises grievance redressal machinery, such as toll-free number for call centres to register complaints or suggestions like the one implemented in Chhattisgarh
- **Integrated management of PDS (IM-PDS)/ One Nation One Ration Card** to connect all ration cards to a centralized server. This will be especially useful for migrant workers.

FCI Reforms

- **Use of modern technology in storage and Depot Online System:** To bring all operations of FCI Godowns online and to check leakages and automate operations at depot level.
- **Use of Global Positioning System (GPS)** technology to track movement of trucks carrying food grains from state depots to FPS.

CONCLUSION: Given that India ranks at a dismal position in the Global Hunger Index, as close to 21 per cent Indians live below poverty line, the Public Distribution System remains the most credible source to ensure food security and human development. These steps by the government should be implemented in letter and spirit for securing the SDG goal number 2 of eradicating Hunger by 2030.

Q14. Elaborate on the policy taken by the government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.
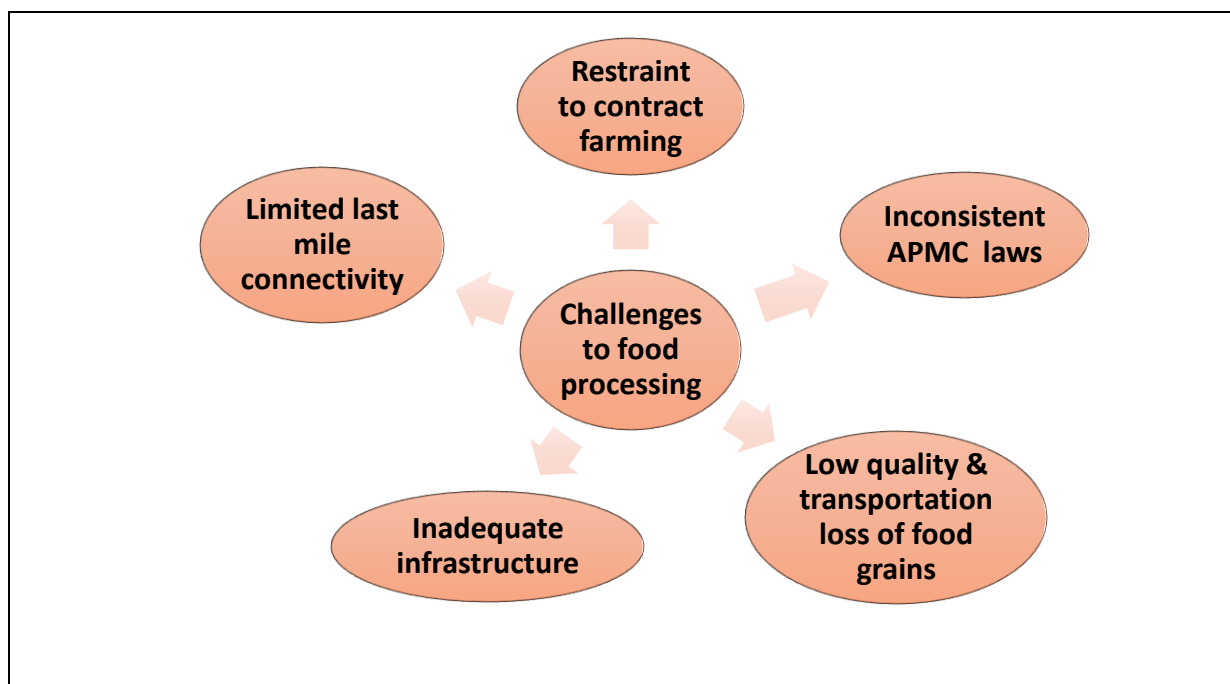
Ans:

APPROACH

INTRODUCTION

• Give a brief introduction about the concept of Food processing

THE BODY

- Enumerate some GOI policies to revive food processing

CONCLUSION show that food processing sector in inevitable if GOI has to reach the ambitious target of doubling farm income by2022.

Food processing is the transformation of agricultural raw materials into food through chemical and mechanical processes. In India, food processing is considered to be a 'sunrise sector' considering the enormous prospects it has in India. However, due to several infrastructural and supply chain problems, the desired results haven't been achieved yet in this sector.

GOI policies to revive food processing:

➢ **Mega Food Parks:** The Scheme of Mega Food Park aims at providing a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers so as to ensure maximizing value addition, minimizing wastage, increasing farmers income and creating employment opportunities particularly in rural sector.

➢ **Including all processing sector under one scheme 'SAMPADA':**PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is a comprehensive package which will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. It will not only provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country but also help in providing better returns to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers income, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

➢ **Operation Greens:**
  • Enhancing value realisation of TOP farmers by targeted interventions to strengthen TOP production clusters and their FPOs, and linking/connecting them with the market.
  • Price stabilisation for producers and consumers by proper production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties.
  • Reduction in post-harvest losses by creation of farm gate infrastructure, development of suitable agro-logistics, creation of appropriate storage capacity linking consumption centres.
  • Increase in food processing capacities and value addition in TOP value chain with firm linkages with production clusters.
  • Setting up of a market intelligence network to collect and collate real time data on demand and supply and price of TOP crops

➢ **Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana:** Local resources and locally available skill sets will be utilised using S&T under the scheme for substantial value addition for local produce and services which can sustain rural population. The areas selected under these clusters will process and add value to milk, honey, horticulture and local crops, herbal tea, mushroom, forest produce, medicinal & aromatic plants and traditional craft and handloom.

➢ **Agriculture Export Policy:** It aims to double the agricultural produce by 2022 by a holistic approach to boost exports which includes development of forward and backward linkages and value addition through processing. It aims to boost investment in food processing sector.

➢ **APEDA:** It assures quality of the processed agricultural produce to make it export oriented. Along with it FASSAI, ICAR, etc. are investing in R&D to achieve better fortification and quality.

CONCLUSION: To conclude, if GOI has to reach the ambitious target of doubling farm income by2022, tapping full potential of food processing industry remains an imperative.

Q15. How is the government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies?
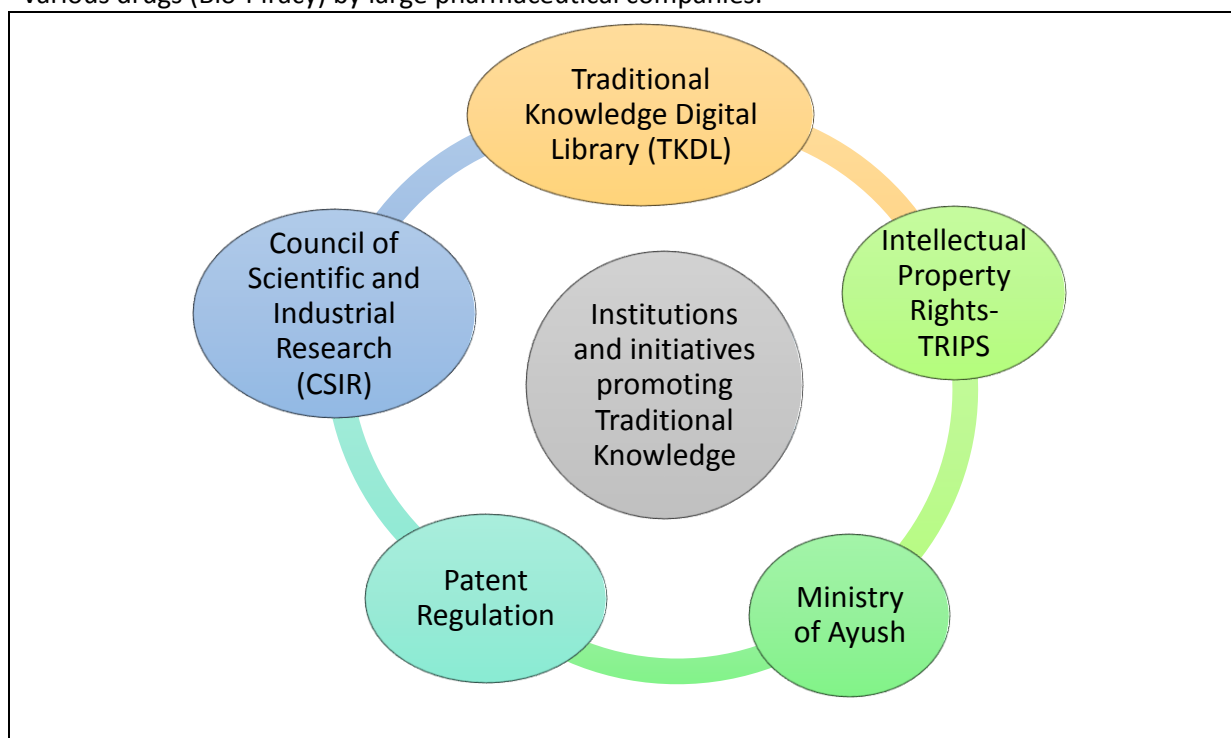
Ans:

APPROACH

INTRODUCTION

• Discuss the concept of Traditional knowledge

THE BODY

• Enumerate initiatives taken by government to prevent use of its traditional knowledge base from patenting

CONCLUSION show the importance of protecting traditional knowledge

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Traditional knowledge refers to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities developed from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment. Rapid bio-prospecting in modern era as led to unethical patenting of various drugs (Bio-Piracy) by large pharmaceutical companies.

Initiatives taken by government to prevent use of its traditional knowledge base from patenting:

Legislative	Administrative

• National Biological Diversity Act
   ○ Regulates access by a foreigner/ NRI/ body corporate having foreign participation
   ○ Prior permission required by any entity seeking IPRs "based on knowledge/resource
	• TKDL: Digitalization of the traditional medicinal knowledge- available in public domain in the form of existing literature related to codified systems of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga.
	   ○ **Objective** - protect the ancient and traditional knowledge of the country from exploitation through bio-piracy and unethical patents.

obtained from India."
• State Biodiversity Board (SBB)
    o Regulates access by Indian citizen/ body corporate controlled by Indian citizens
• Biodiversity Management Committees (at local level)
    o Preparation of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers
    o Respond to requests from NBA and SBB
• Patents Act (Section 3(p))
• Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act
• Geographical Indications Act
• Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006
	o Access to around 3,30,044 Traditional Medicinal Formulations is available to 10 Patent Offices in patent compatible format in five international languages under TKDL Access Agreement. (EPO, USPTO, JPO, CIPO, UKPTO, IP Australia, IPO, DPMA-German, Chile and Malaysia).
	
	 To date the TKDL has enabled the cancellation or withdrawal of a large number of patent applications attempting to claim rights over the use of various medicinal plants. Example, Neem Case, Turmeric Case, Basmati Case, etc. all won by India against other countries.
	
	• TKRC (Traditional Knowledge Resource Classification)
	• Community level databases- PBRs (People's Biodiversity Registers)

Other initiatives:

    o Besides setting up of TKDL, Yoga has since been inscribed in UNESCO's representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

    o Indian Patent Office has also brought out Guidelines for processing Patent Applications relating to Traditional Knowledge and Biological Material to help Patent examiner to analyze what constitutes novelty and inventive step in Traditional Knowledge (TK) related invention.

Conclusion: India's medical tourism industry is ever increasing. Thus, the ancient and indigenous 'traditional knowledge' needs to be preserved, so as to maneuver India's role in curing the world with traditional remedies.

Q16. How can biotechnology improve the living standards of farmers?
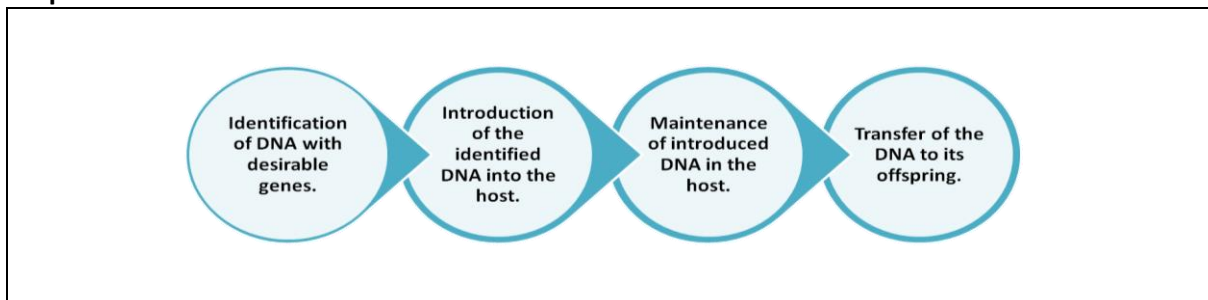
Ans:

APPROACH

INTRODUCTION

• Discuss the concept of biotechnology and its role in agriculture.

THE BODY

• Give Steps of Genetic Modification
• Applications of Biotechnology in agriculture

CONCLUSION give a futuristic conclusion about use of biotechnology.

The practice of converting living organisms into more efficient products and processes by means of 'genetic modification' for specific use can be termed as Biotechnology. Such modification in genes is possible by altering the chemistry of DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid), which is pivotal in development, functioning, growth and reproduction of all known organisms. Biotechnology has widespread applications in diverse fields like agriculture, human health, food processing, waste treatment and so on.

Steps of Genetic Modification:

Applications of Biotechnology in agriculture:

The DNA of plants used in agriculture are modified using genetic engineering techniques. Plants, bacteria, fungi and animals whose genes have been altered by manipulation are called Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO).

In recent times, the impacts of genetic engineering have been largely felt and discussed in the field of agriculture:

	IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE
Positives impacts:	• We could get enhanced nutritional value of food, e.g., increased Vitamins, proteins, etc. • Made crops more to various conditions (cold, drought, salt, heat). • It could help in reduced use of chemical pesticides (pest-resistant crops) and longer plant life. • Increased food production for perennial food security (e.g. GM Mustard). • Helps in reducing carbon footprint indirectly by producing plants capable of climate resilience. • Can help in producing disease resistant livestock breed. For example, transgenic cattle breeds can provide fortified and more nutritious milk.
Negative impacts:	• Cross pollination could lead to 'super weeds' • May have negative impact on biodiversity of local area due to increased competition amongst local species. • Psychological fear among people for use of GM Crops.

Prospects of Biotechnology in Indian agriculture:

- Farming of water intensive crops such as sugarcane in drought prone regions such as Marathwada and paddy in Punjab often leads to water scarcity and soil salinity respectively.
- Thus, biotechnology can help in producing **climate resilient crops.**
- Although India has the largest population of cattle and livestock, still there is scope for increasing overall productivity of dairy products, given the ever-increasing population.
- This could also provide a big boost to the prospects of Integrated Farming System (IFS).

Further, India has dedicated department named Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) under the Ministry of Science and Technology which looks after different types of genetic modification which can be helpful in farming practices.

Conclusion: Thus, although India has a huge scope for integrating biotechnology with agriculture, there exists certain challenges. However, given that India has the world's second largest population to be fed, along with various regional aspirations like doubling farm income, there is a need to look upon biotechnology as an opportunity rather than a challenge.

Q17. Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to an environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of a region.

APPROACH

Introduction: What is carrying capacity of an ecosystem.

THE BODY

- How Carrying capacity is relevant to an environment.
- Why the concept is helpful in the sustainable development in any region.

Conclusion: End with the suggestions.

Carrying capacity describes the maximum number of individuals or species an specific environment's resources can sustain for an indefinite period of time without degrading it. The concept is very important to the providing of food, water and other necessities to the species in a particular ecosystem. For example, Earth is an ecosystem which has its own carrying capacity and beyond that capacity it will not be able to sustain human population.

The concept of carrying capacity is very helpful in the sustainable development in many terms:

1. For Food Availability

Food and water availability in any habitat is paramount to survival of a species. If there is balance between the availability of food/water and population of species, they usually do not suffer from food stress. If the food stress occurred due to the unsustainable planning, the wildlife will come out from that area and there will be the condition like Human-wildlife conflict.

2. To save the Ecological Conditions

Conditions within or adjacent to an environment affects its carrying capacity. For example, if the environment is located close to a human population, this may affect its carrying capacity. The other example is hilly areas, which have their own ecological conditions but unsustainable tourism in recent time is affecting them. The flood in Kashmir or disaster in Uttrakhand was the result of this unsustainable planning.

3. Needed Space for species

Animals need a place to shelter from poor conditions, and to provide a place for reproduction. Sufficient space within a habitat allows the animals that inhabit it better opportunities to find adequate food and water. Without sufficient space, animals can become stressed and it impacts their health.

So the concept of carrying capacity should be kept in mind while there is planning for sustainable development of any ecological area otherwise it will be the result of ecological/environmental disaster.

Q18. Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help disaster mitigation in the case of landslides.

APPROACH

Introduction: Define the term Disaster preparedness

THE BODY

- Why disaster is first step in disaster management.
- What is Hazard zonation mapping?
- How zonation mapping is helpful in the mitigation of landslide disaster?

Way forward: How zonation mapping can be better.

Disaster preparedness refers to measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters. That is, to predict and, where possible, prevent disasters, mitigate their impact on vulnerable populations, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.

Its provides a platform to design effective, realistic and coordinated planning, reduces duplication of efforts and increase the overall effectiveness of National Societies, household and community members disaster preparedness and response efforts. Disaster preparedness activities embedded with risk reduction measures can prevent disaster situations and also result in saving maximum lives and livelihoods during any disaster situation, enabling the affected population to get back to normalcy within a short time period.

Hazard zonation mapping?

- Landslide hazard zonation is an important step in landslide investigation and landslide risk management. Landslides are natural events, but may turn into hazard and cause loss of lives and damage to man-made and natural structures. It is very difficult to predict the landslide but based on the past experience with the factors like geology, slope, land use and human activities we can divide the landslide prone areas that is called Hazard zonation mapping. So, hazard zonation mapping at regional level of a large area provides a broad trend of landslide potential zones.

How zonation mapping is helpful in the mitigation of landslide disaster?

- With the help of zonation mapping ewe can identify the high to very high vulnerable areas.
- Areas of intense human activities such as construction of road, dams high rainfalls regions with steep slopes.
- We can prepare the landslides zones for individual areas, districts for special attention.
- We can use the information in rainy season, which is very prone to the landslides, in many terms such as:
  - ➢ Better management of traffic.
  - ➢ Spread awareness.
  - ➢ Ban on construction and new projects.
  - ➢ Sifting the people in safe zones
  - ➢ Keeping NDRF and SDRF personnel on standby

Hazard zonation mapping is very helpful to minimize the human lives loss and better disaster preparedness. For the enhancement of zonation mapping, the disaster management agencies should take the help of different organizations such as for mapping it can seek the help from ISRO.

Q19. Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the unlawful activities (Prevention) act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations.

Ans:

APPROACH
INTRODUCTION
• Give a brief idea about both the acts
THE BODY
• list the provisions of NIA and UAPA acts
• comment on the credibility of both the amendments
CONCLUSION show that although preserving national/internal security is of prime importance for India, it should be ensured that the law doesn't punish innocent people.

Recently, the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha. The Act provides for a national-level agency to investigate and prosecute offences listed in a schedule (scheduled offences).

Also, on the sidelines, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 (UAPA) was introduced in Lok Sabha. The Act provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things. Some prominent provisions of both the acts are as follows:

National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill	Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill
Scheduled offences: The NIA would be having investigating and prosecuting powers regarding offences related to the following Acts/Provisions: • Explosive Substances Act, 1908 • Human trafficking • Counterfeit currency or bank notes • Manufacture or sale of prohibited arms • Cyber-terrorism **Jurisdiction and Powers of the NIA:** Additional authority to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India in accordance with international treaties and domestic laws of other countries. Power to Central Government to direct certain cases to the NIA which have been committed in India.	**Who is a terrorist?** The central government can now designate individuals as terrorist on similar grounds by means of the **'Fourth Schedule'** to the original Act, which will include such names. **Who will give approval for seizure of property?** Investigating officer **(**of NIA) is required to obtain the prior approval of the **Director General of NIA** to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism. **Who can investigate?** Officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above

Issues with the amendments:

Issues with the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill	Issues with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill
➤ **Possible encroachment of Constitutional Provisions:** • **Schedule VII:** Maintenance of public order and police forces are matters upon which state governments could legislate, and not the Union. • Criminal law and procedure are matters, which may be legislated upon by both the Union as well as state governments. • For ordinary criminal investigations and prosecutions, the state governments have the authority to prosecute such crimes. ➤ **Threat to Cooperative Federalism:** National Investigation Agency (NIA) empowered to seize property as part of investigations into terror cases, with prior approval of the Director General of NIA. ➤ **Alterations in power structure:** Earlier, officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above could conduct investigations. However, the proposed	➤ **Rights Issue:** Opposition outrage regarding misuse of act on certain individuals. Possible restriction of rights to social activists. Constitution of India provides for fundamental rights to the individual, which may be misused. ➤ **The Basic Structure:** Possible impact on the ideal of cooperative federalism due provision of seizure of property by lower rank NIA officials. ➤ **Empowering the Empowered:** Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment act already quite powerful (e.g. allowing up to 180 days' custody without filing charge sheets and incarceration during trial). ➤ **Conflict of interests:** The United Nations Special Rapporteur, to which India is party is itself not in tandem with the proposed law. It holds that to call an offense a 'terrorist act', three elements must be cumulatively present: ➤ The means used must be deadly

amendment additionally empowers the officers of the NIA of the rank of Inspector or above with the same powers. ➢ **More power to the Central Government:** NIA already being a completely central government appointed body, is entitled with numerous powers. Further adding up to the authority of NIA could lead to arbitrations. ➢ **Expansion of Schedule:** Section 66F of the Information Technology Act which deals with cyber terrorism has been put in the schedule. However, in absence of Data Protection law in India, this could lead to encroachment of privacy of individuals. ➢ **Vague Provisions:** The term "affecting the interest of India" which provides additional powers to the NIA is undefined. Further, even the laws/offences added in the schedule don't mention "affecting the interest of India" as an offence to be punished. There could be possible attempts to curb freedom of speech and expression.	➢ The intent behind the act must be to cause fear among population or to compel a government or international organisation to do or refrain from doing something; ➢ The aim must be to further an ideological goal. ➢ **No right to legal remedy:** The amendments do not provide any legal consequence in case an individual is designated a terrorist. Mere designation will not lead to any conviction, imprisonment, fine, disqualifications or any sort of civil penalties. Thus, experts have termed this act as mere instrument of 'defaming' an individual which even overrides the ideals of natural justice. **Thus, the human rights organizations have enough reasons for opposing the UAPA amendment bill as introduced by the GOI.**

Conclusion:

- GOI claims that the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 are introduced to send a strong message to various organizations/individuals associated with terrorism, that India will no longer apply a 'soft power' approach towards terrorism.
- However, in the process, the GOI must not encroach upon Constitutional provisions like the Fundamental Rights or the cooperative federalism as administered by the VIIth Schedule.
- Although preserving national/internal security is of prime importance for India, it should be ensured that the law doesn't punish innocent people.

Q20. Cross-Border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.

APPROACH
Introduction: Present scenario of India-Myanmar border. **THE BODY** • The challenges on India-Myanmar border • Step to counter these challenges. **Conclusion:** End with the future perspective.

North-East border is very challenging task for Indian security forces. The management on this side has remained a crucial and complex issue. In an age of increasing interdependence, threats from unconventional sources pose a greater challenge to the country's security. An unmanaged border accentuates such threats by providing easy points of ingress and egress.

The challenges on India-Myanmar border:

1. The normality of crossing the border

- Since the inception of insurgency in the Northeast in the 1950s, the Naga, Mizo, Meitei, and Assamese insurgents have been crossing over into Myanmar to set up bases, especially in the Chin state. The shelter and support that the Indian insurgent groups receive from across the border have been one of the most important factors which has helped them in sustaining their rebellion even when faced with the superior might of the Indian security forces.

2. Gun running and drug trafficking across the India-Myanmar border

- Rampant gun running and drug trafficking are other significant security challenges. The Indian insurgent groups have been procuring arms from the black markets of Southeast Asia as well as from Myanmar-based rebel groups such as the United Wa State Army (UWSA).

3. Narcotics and the 'Golden Triangle'

- India-Myanmar border is vulnerable to trafficking of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) produced in Myanmar. These narcotics are trafficked into India through the states of Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland

4. Free Movement Regime (FRM)under the 1967 boundary agreement

- The FMR permits the tribes residing along the border to travel 16-km across the boundary without visa restrictions to continue maintain their age old ties but its provisions are exploited by the Indian insurgents to cross over to Myanmar unrestricted and establish safe havens. It also been misused to smuggle in drugs, weapons and other contraband.

5. The terrain of the India-Myanmar border

- The terrain of the India-Myanmar border adds to its vulnerability. High mountains, deep river channels together with lush forest characterise the borderland. Such a terrain does not lend itself easily to the construction of means of transportation and communication, and as a result, the border area remains sparsely populated with depressed economic development. Absence of roads, communication links and other border guarding infrastructure also adversely affect policing as they hamper the easy and rapid movement of the border guarding forces along the border.

6. Inadequate attention by Indian government

- Attention accorded to the India-Myanmar border by the Indian government has been woefully inadequate. Efforts to build a 10 km fence to prevent cross-border movement of insurgents have also been stalled because of protests by local residents. More importantly, the Indian government's efforts to garner Myanmar's help in addressing the insurgency issue by jointly managing the India-Myanmar border have not produced desired results in the past.

Step to counter these challenges

it is imperative that India strengthens security of the border and redoubles its efforts to meaningfully engage Myanmar to effectively manage this border. To begin with,

- Needs to give the Assam Rifles the sole responsibility of guarding the India-Myanmar border and strengthen it with adequate manpower and equipment.

- Through sustained community interaction programmes, the border community should be sensitised to participate in the nation building project.

- International borders are best managed when neighbours cooperate to secure their mutual borders. For such cooperation to materialise, a political and diplomatic initiative requires to be carefully crafted.

India has been constructively engaging Myanmar so that it remains sensitive to India's security concerns. In fact, the latest crack down on Indian insurgent groups by the Tatmadaw is a successful outcome of such engagements. India should maintain this momentum of cooperation with Myanmar for better managing their shared border.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS CSE - 2020

COURSES	DATE
GS FOUNDATION	14TH OCT.
PUBLIC ADMN. FOUNDATION	14TH OCT.
PUBLIC ADMN. TEST SERIES	19TH OCT.
ETHICS REGULAR BATCH	30TH OCT.
ETHICS TEST SERIES	01ST NOV.
GS PAPER - II (POLITY)	14TH OCT.
GS MAINS TEST SERIES	20TH OCT.
POL. SCI. & IR TEST SERIES	01ST NOV.
ESSAY TEST SERIES	18TH OCT.
LAW OPTIONAL	14TH OCT.
LAW TEST SERIES	19TH OCT.
SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL	14TH OCT.
SOCIOLOGY TEST SERIES	18TH OCT.
PRELIMS TEST SERIES	16TH NOV.
GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL	14TH OCT.
GEOGRAPHY TEST SERIES	18TH OCT.
ED CLASSES	03RD NOV.
PRELIMS CRASH COURSE	11TH NOV.