

OVERVIEW of GENERAL STUDIES (GS) PAPER 3:

Overall, the General Studies Paper 3 this year was moderate considering last year's paper, except for three-four technical questions which an aspirant would have found it difficult to answer in those 3 hours. Also, the questions are not lengthy, which is an added advantage to finish this paper in three hours.

Indian Economy (1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13 and 14): Questions 13 & 14 are based on agriculture which are easy to moderate. Questions 1, 2, 11 and 12 are based on economic situation of country and are more on the analytical side. Questions 3 and 4 are based on food grain distribution and food processing. Both these questions are about the steps taken and policy measures by the Government. These questions are easy in nature.

Science and Technology (5, 6, 15 and 16): Question 16 is on the easier side, whereas question 15 is a difficult question because of its specificity. Question number 6 can be considered an easy to moderate level question.

Environment (7, 8 and 17): Three questions have been asked from this part. While one of them is based on a static concept, the other two are based on one of the current threats (Jal Shakti & Air Program) to environment. These questions can be easily answered by the aspirants.

Disaster Management (18): Only one question has been asked from this part. The question on Disaster Management is a specific question.

Internal Security (9, 10, 19 and 20): Four questions have been asked from this part. One of them on Cyber-crimes can be considered as a difficult question as it is very specific and one can answer only if they have prior knowledge about that question. The other three questions are of moderate.

Q.1) Explain intergenerational and intragenerational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable growth. (Answer in 150 words.)

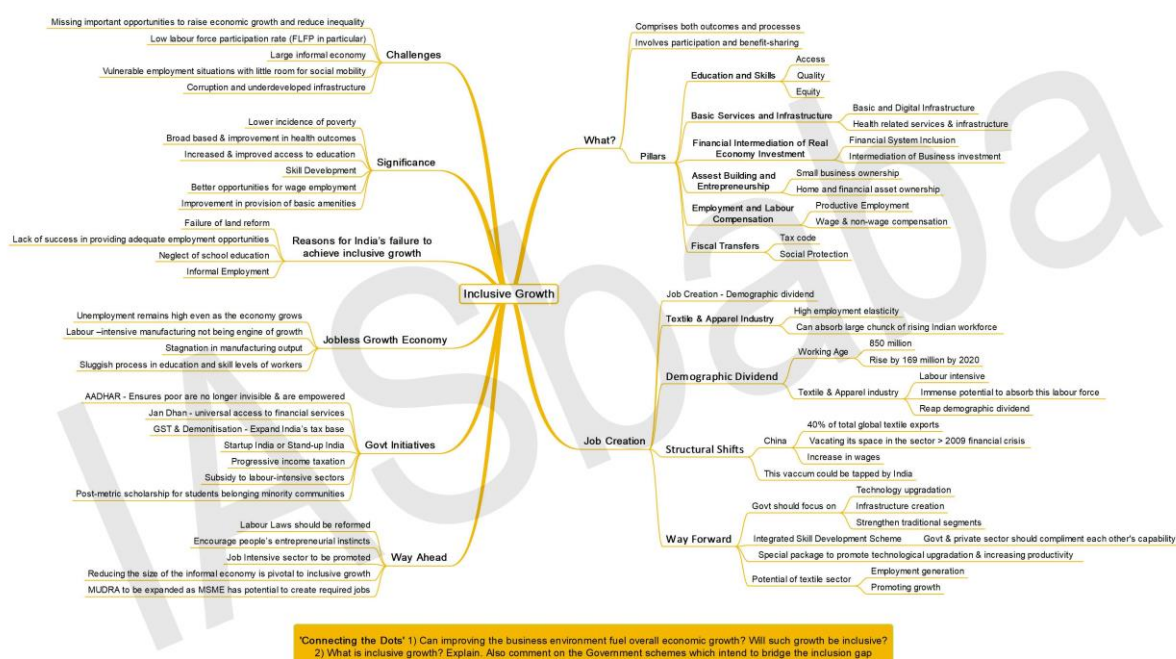
LINE OF THOUGHT / APPROACH:

This question demands clarity of concepts like equity, inclusive growth. The introduction can be with definitions of the above concepts. Need to write issues of intergenerational, intragenerational like access and use of resources, opportunity, etc. Also here you need to write what needs to be done in this direction and measures taken so far. The conclusion can be optimistic that disparity is reducing with the above steps

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2018/12/day-29-q-1-what-do-you-understand-by-inclusive-growth-what-are-its-dimensions-discuss/>

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2019/10/day-11-q-3-inclusive-growth-has-always-been-a-key-priority-for-the-government-however-the-difference-today-is-not-in-the-objective-but-the-manner-in-which-inclusive-growth-is-sought-to-be-achieved/>



Q.2) Define potential GDP and its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP? (Answer in 150 words.)

LINE OF THOUGHT/APPROACH

It is a direct question. Students here need to address all demands. Write what potential GDP, Determinants are. Also, with equal weightage to an answer write the last part - inhibiting factor. Here clarity in thoughts, concepts should reflect in an answer. The conclusion can be done with measures needed for achieving potential GDP.

Q.3) What are the main constraints in transports and marketing of agricultural produce in India? (Answer in 150 words.)

LINE OF THOUGHT/APPROACH:

Students need to apply here the application of content/ knowledge they have. Introduce an answer by writing important factors in good agricultural production or supply chain in agriculture. Constraints in transportation and marketing specifically need to be written. The conclusion can be in short, any recent measures by the government in this regard.

IASBABA APPROACH:

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/07/day-29-q-1-what-are-the-major-bottlenecks-in-creating-an-efficient-nation-wide-agricultural-market-discuss-what-recent-measures-have-been-taken-to-address-these-bottlenecks/>

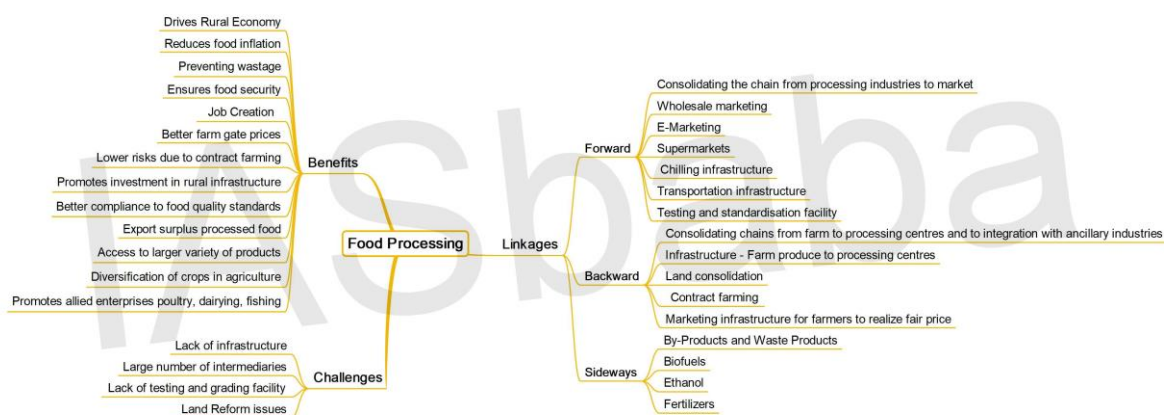
Q.4) What are the challenges and opportunities in food processing sector in the country? How can income of the farmers can sustainably be increased by encouraging food processing? (Answer in 150 words.)

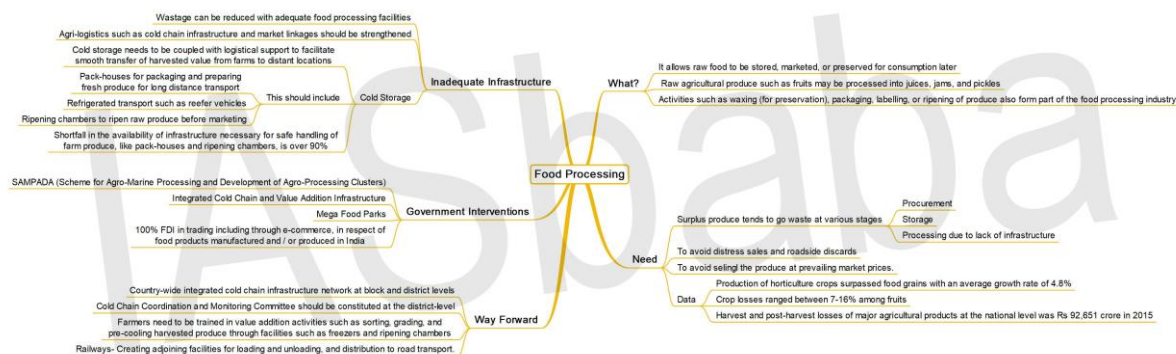
LINE OF THOUGHT / APPROACH:

Students are expected to write all parts distinctly. Write challenges- infrastructure, skilling, etc. Opportunities- India is the leading producer of many agricultural produces. Also need to write- ways of encouraging food processing- Initiative like SAMPADA can be mentioned.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2019/01/day-48-q-2-do-you-think-the-food-processing-industry-has-enough-potential-to-create-jobs-for-the-burgeoning-labour-force-in-india-critically-comment/>





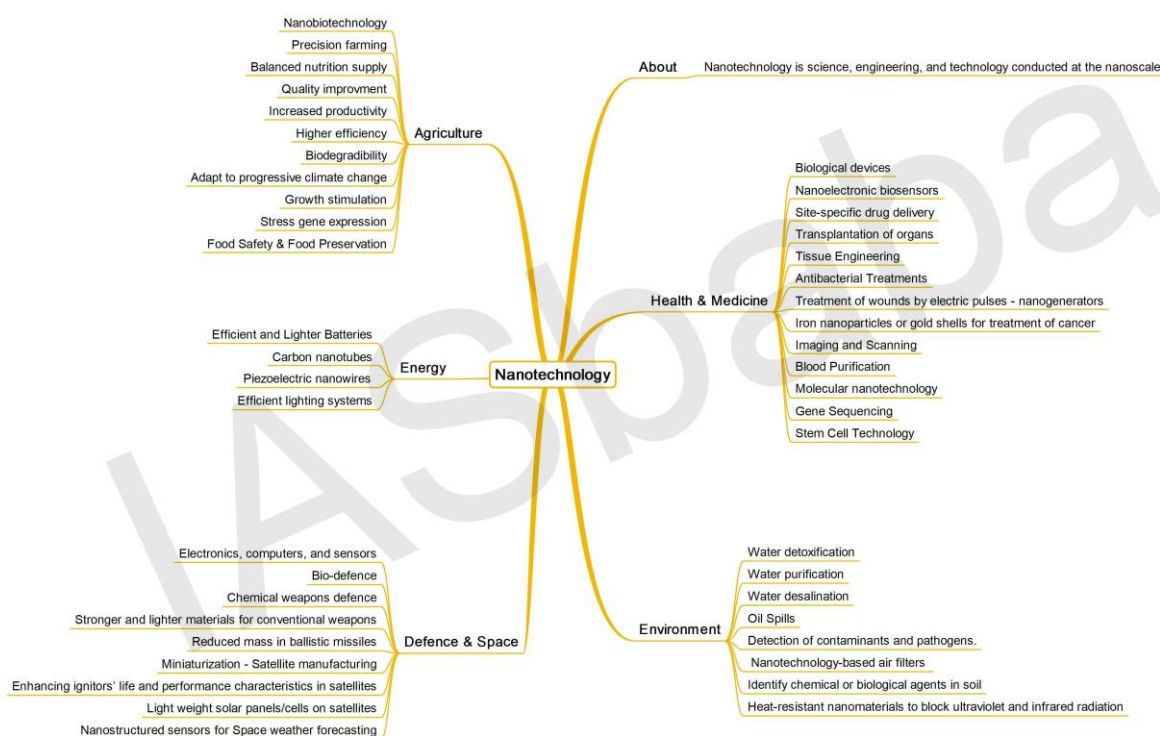
Q.5) What do you understand by nanotechnology? And how its helping in health sector? (Answer in 150 words.)

LINE OF THOUGHT/ APPROACH:

Again, a very direct question where students need to write about nanotechnology. The introduction can be defining or briefly writing about nano technology. Distinctly write benefits in the health sector. Here specific application/points are expected, like - diagnosis, medications, etc.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2019/07/day-33-q-3-what-are-the-applications-of-nano-technology-in-the-medical-field/>



Q.6) How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by the science-based technologies? (Answer in 150 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/APPROACH:

This is a direct question on how science & technology is shaping our lives.

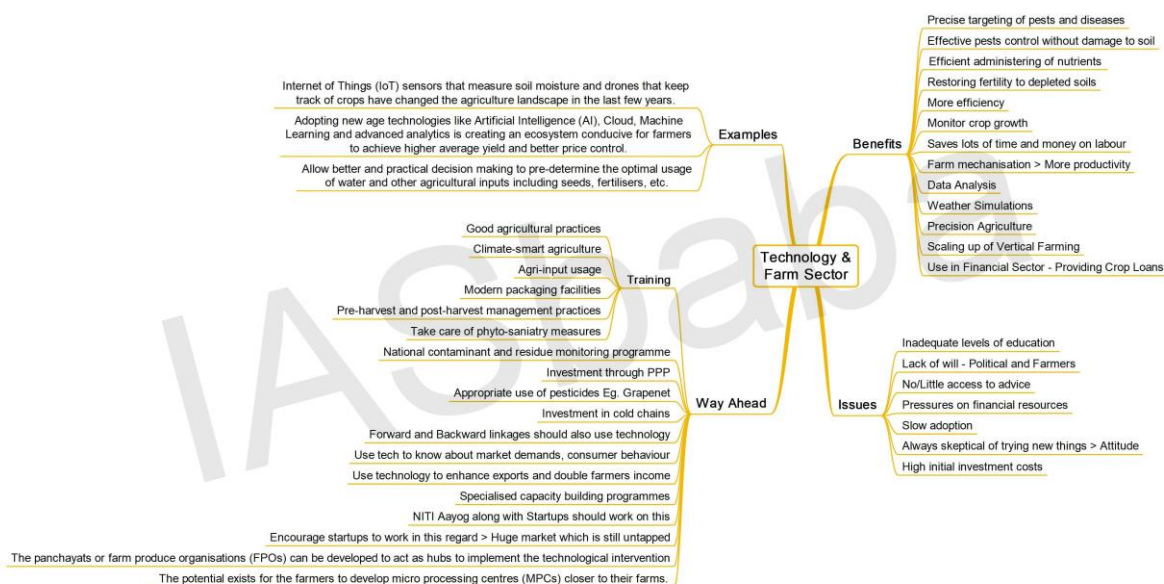
In the first part of answer, one can elaborate on technology is playing a crucial role in all aspects of lives – Political (e-governance), Economical (digital payments simplified transactions), Social (interactions via email, social media), health (diagnostics), education (MOOCs), transport (driverless cars), communication (satellite technology) and Culture (usage of green crackers)

The second half of the answer has to specifically deal with technology's intervention with agriculture. Here you can use how technology is being used at all three stages of agricultural activity – Input stage (GM seeds, Soil Health Card, Kisan Credit cards, digitisation of land records), farming stage (weather forecasting using satellite technology, usage of modern equipments, drip irrigation, fertigation) and Post-harvest Stages (e-NAM, price prediction technologies, smart warehouse management etc.)

Conclude by mentioning in brief the pitfalls of technology (affordability, accessibility, corporate capture) and mention that Indian agriculture still has a long way in fully embracing technology.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/07/day-29-q-2-how-is-technology-adoption-transforming-agricultural-efficiency-in-rural-india-illustrate/>



Q.7) How does the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006? (Answer in 150 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/APPROACH:

This is a straightforward question directly sourced from Current Affairs. First mention what is EIA and the significance of having it.

Then, mention about the changes that were brought in EIA, 2020 notification (you can find it in below links)

Conclude the answer by mentioning the criticism of 2020 notifications and steps that can be taken to overcome it.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/06/environment-impact-assessment-eia-part-2/>

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/08/eia-notification-2020-what-are-the-key-changes/>

Q.8) What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched by the Government of India for water conservation and water security? (Answer in 150 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/APPROACH:

This is also a straightforward question about government schemes & policies. Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) was launched in mid 2019 that aims at making water conservation a Jan Andolan through asset creation and extensive communication.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan strives for water conservation and water resource management by focusing on accelerated implementation of five target intervention.

- Water Conservation and rain water harvesting
- Renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks
- Reuse and Recharge structures
- Watershed development
- Intensive afforestation

Along with these targeted areas, it also has Special area intervention areas like

- Block and district water conservation plan
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra Mela
- Urban Waste water reuse
- 3D Village Contour mapping
- Use of Scientists and India's premier Institutes

The answer can also mention in brief about the water problems faced by India (using flowchart) before beginning with the elaboration of the JSA.

Finally conclude by saying that implementation by authorities and civic participation is the key to achieve success

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://iasbaba.com/2019/07/all-india-radio-air-ias-upsc-significance-of-jal-shakti-abhiyan/>

Q.9) Discuss different types of Cybercrimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace. (Answer in 150 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/APPROACH:

This question in the light of increased cybercrimes across the world including that in India (ex: Pegasus attack)

Start your answer by mentioning the various types of Cybercrimes like Phishing, spamming, virus dissemination, credit card hacking, software piracy, cyberstalking, cyber terrorism, identity theft, hacking, pornography, denial of service etc.

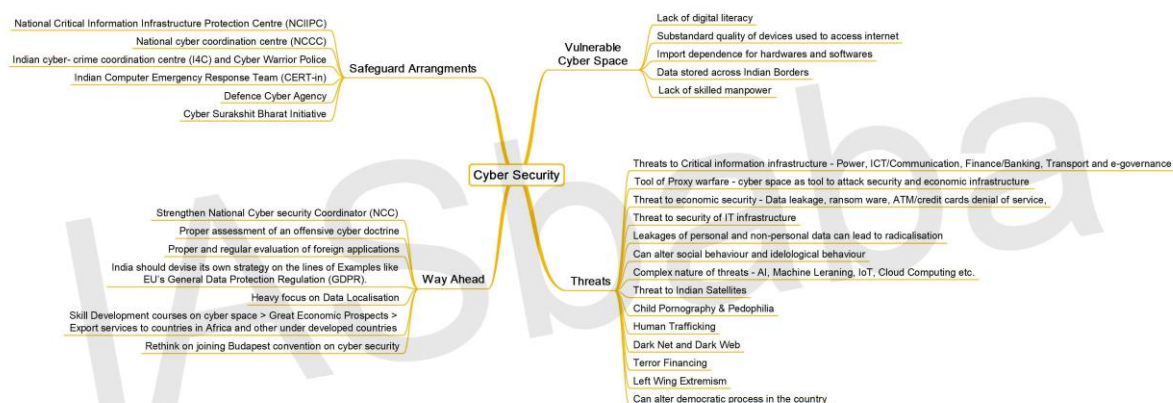
Later you can mention in brief (maybe using flowchart) about challenges in India's cybersecurity strategy- lack of coordination, delay in National Cyber Security Strategy, lack of proactiveness, inadequate modernization of computer systems, dependency on foreign players for cybersecurity tools i.e. capabilities issue, lack of awareness etc.

In second half of answer mention the steps that needs to be taken to fight the menace – regulatory (legislation), administrative (effective monitoring & oversight), federal (dedicated cadre, training of personnel & smooth coordination between different levels), infrastructural (modernisation of cyber infrastructure), economic measures (incentives for cyber security players), public awareness (about cybercrimes) etc.

Conclude by mentioning the significance of Cyber security for India's dream of achieving a \$5 trillion economy.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2019/08/day-54-q-1-what-are-the-most-potent-cyber-security-threats-in-the-age-of-digital-economy-discuss-also-comment-upon-indias-preparedness-to-avert-cyber-security-threats/>



Q.10) For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals. (Answer in 150 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/APPROACH:

This is a question about the interlinkage of society and security.

First mention the reasons as to why local people support militants:

- Historical -Kashmir militancy, Naga issue
- economic factors: lack of jobs, poverty, imbalance in regional development, inequality in society
- Political - lack of local people representatives in decision making of management of border areas, vote bank politics
- Social factors - feeling of alienation due to weak integration with mainstream India ex North East Insurgency
- Inefficient Governance: Corruption at local level leading to feeling of looting of resources, also lack of effective communication with locals by those in Power (failure to interact regularly)

The second half of answer should deal with measure to overcome negative perception among locals

- Political- Grassroots democracy i.e. involving locals to decision making; exposing the identity politics that try to reap benefit of anti-national sentiments
- Economic- Providing jobs and bridging developmental gap in the region
- Public Diplomacy – persuading celebrities and apolitical social leaders to convey the message & policies of government
- Crackdown on corruption at local level
- Regular interaction with mainstream India (Ek bharat Shrest Bharat campaign)

Conclude by saying that managing locals will go a long way in managing border areas as intelligence network will be strengthened and issues of militancy will be nipped in the beginning stage itself by community support.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2020/02/day-94-q-3-examine-the-significance-of-border-infrastructure-for-managing-security-challenges-in-the-border-regions/>

Q.11) Explain the meaning of investment in an economy in terms of capital formation. Discuss the factors to be considered while designing a concession agreement between a public entity and private entity. (Answer in 250 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT / APPROACH:

Students here needs sound understanding of investment and capital formation. Link is Gross Capital Formation. In the second half of the answer write what the concession agreement is. Factors in it - Terms of the agreement, dispute resolution, Risk-sharing, etc.

Q.12) Explain the rationale behind Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to states) act of 2017. How has COVID-19 impacted the GST compensation fund and created new federal tensions? (Answer in 250 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/ APPROACH:

Briefly introduce GST - rationalized one nation one tax.

With a distinct heading write rationale. Application-based addressing of the second part is required. New federal tensions- central failed or lacked in giving GST compensations to states. Federal strains in financial fields surfaced. The conclusion can be done in an optimistic way, yes the central government has taken measures with the world bank and came up with a dedicated fund.

IAS BABA REFERENCE:

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/10/centre-to-borrow-on-behalf-of-states-to-meet-the-gst-shortfall/>

- GST subsumed several taxes, including those which were the preserve of the States, such as sales tax, and therefore required an amendment to the Constitution of India.
- Prior to GST, States exporting goods to other States collected a tax. GST is a destination-based tax, i.e., the State where the goods are sold receive the tax.
- This implies that manufacturing States would lose out while consuming States would benefit.
- In order to convince manufacturing States to agree to GST, a compensation formula was created.
- The modalities of the compensation cess were specified by the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017. This scheme is valid for five years, i.e., till June 2022.
- A compensation cess fund was created from which States would be paid for any shortfall.
- An additional cess would be imposed on certain items and this cess would be used to pay compensation. The items are pan masala, cigarettes and tobacco products, aerated water, caffeinated beverages, coal and certain passenger motor vehicles.
- The Act states that the cess collected and "such other amounts as may be recommended by the [GST] Council" would be credited to the fund.

Issues

- Central government is constitutionally bound to compensate States for loss of revenue for five years. The assumed rate of growth of a State's GST revenue is set at 14% by Parliament through the 2017 Act.
- As indirect taxes are levied on the nominal value of transactions, this is likely to result in significant shortfall for States from the assured tax collection.
- 14% target was too ambitious to start with. Given the government's inflation target at 4%, this implied a real GDP growth plus tax buoyancy of 9%.

Way Ahead

- Centre could borrow on behalf of the cess fund. The tenure of the cess could be extended beyond five years until the cess collected is sufficient to pay off this debt and interest on it.

Q.13) What are the major factors responsible for making the rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success, how has this system become a bane in India? (Answer in 250 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/ APPROACH:

In the introduction, students need to briefly write about what is the rice-wheat system. It's a highly practiced cropping pattern. Factors being - climate, result, and easy practicing of this cropping pattern. Shortcomings of this system can be more water requirements among others. The conclusion can be how to improve this particular system- diversifying cropping pattern on a sustainable basis.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

Think Learn Perform (TLP) Plus Test-13 Synopsis

2020

9. What are the issues related to sustainability of cropping pattern in different parts India? Critically analyze.

Approach – It expects students to write about issues related to sustainability of cropping pattern in different part of India and critically analyze the same.

| Related concepts: | Keyword in the answer: |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cropping mechanism • Cropping system • Cropping pattern • Sustainable cropping pattern | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop intensification • Nutrient imbalance • Monoculture • Water degradation • Soil degradation |

Question asked in TLP test 13 2020 Question 9.

Q.14) Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario. (Answer in 250 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/ APPROACH:

It is again a direct question with possibly open-ended dimensions. Here students have to make specific analysis with content, facts and case studies. Introduction can be what is the

status of depleting scenario. By 2025 India can be water stressed country from water scarce status. In this regard need of reforming the water storage and irrigation system. Irrigation measures like precision irrigation can be suggested.

Conclusion - SDG goal can be mentioned here.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/07/day-29-q-3-what-are-various-decentralised-irrigation-techniques-why-are-they-beneficial-for-indias-agro-climatic-conditions-explain/>

Q.15) COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crises. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid the management of the Pandemic. (Answer in 250 words)

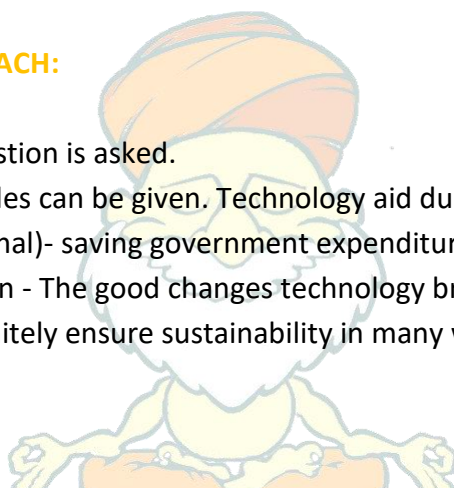
LINE OF THOUGHT / APPROACH:

Good application-based question is asked.

Many and diversified examples can be given. Technology aid during a pandemic- Video summit (international, national)- saving government expenditure unnecessary.

Telemedicine. Etc. Conclusion - The good changes technology brought should be continued in the future which will definitely ensure sustainability in many ways.

IASBABA REFERENCE:



Think Learn Perform (TLP) Plus GS3 Synopsis

2020

14. What are the various strategies to combat pandemics? What strategies has India adopted in its fight against COVID-19? Discuss.

Approach – A straightforward question where in the first part, you need to highlight the various strategies to combat pandemics while in the second part, you need to discuss the strategies that India has adopted in its fight against COVID-19.

Related concepts:

- Herd Immunity
- Pandemic protocols
- Global Health Security Index
- Testing rates
- Case fatality rates(CFR)

Keywords in the answer:

- Rapid response
- Per million infections rate
- Lockdowns and quarantine
- Swedish Model
- Intelligent Testing strategy

Q.16) Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our government for this purpose? (Answer in 250 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/ APPROACH:

There are two parts in the question; the first part asks to provide the advantages of deriving electric power from solar energy. Second part is a direct one it demands to provide the government initiatives for the effective harness of solar-electric power.

For the first part we can bring in facts like the amount of solar power incident in India, and the cost saved in manufacturing solar cells over hydel or thermal power plants so on. We can also mention the advantages for the environment i.e. reduction in pollution etc.

In the second part we can provide National Solar Mission, encouragement by the government to the assemblage of solar cells and panels in India, KUSUM project, Rooftop solar projects, etc. Further, we can provide some examples like Narmada canal top solar power plant, setting up of largest solar power plant in Karnataka and others.

Lastly, we can conclude with the Government of India's target in the solar energy sector and the International solar alliance.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

IASbaba TLP PLUS Test 16

Q.15. India's energy future is highly dependent on renewables. In this light, examine, the progress made and current impediments towards the realization of an entry secure future.

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/08/indias-solar-energy-push-the-big-picture-rstv-ias-upsc/>

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2020/01/day-65-q-2-how-is-india-placed-globally-in-terms-of-renewables-what-initiatives-have-been-taken-recently-to-tap-the-potential-on-this-front-examine/>

Q.17) What are the features of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) initiated by the government of India? (Answer in 250 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/ APPROACH:

A direct question, it asks to list out the features of the National Clean Air Programme, here we need to provide precise features with specific targets and statistics in order to get the maximum marks.

Examples like: the program aims to attain 20 to 30% reduction in particulate matter by 2024, by taking 2017 as the base year.

We can conclude by mentioning some initiatives like the SAFAR, Water sprayers in Delhi, etc.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/09/national-clean-air-programme-to-be-modified/>

<https://iasbaba.com/2019/02/daily-current-affairs-ias-upsc-prelims-and-mains-exam-30th-january-2019/>



139 polluted cities not on clean air plan: report

Part of: GS Prelims and Mains III – Environment and Ecology; Pollution; Health Concerns

In news:

According to Greenpeace report –

- There are 139 Indian cities that breach air pollution standards but are not included in the Centre's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- Greenpeace report analysed air pollution data of 313 cities and towns for the year 2017.
- Of these 313 cities, 241 (77%) had PM10 levels beyond the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- While 102 of these cities were included in the NCAP, the remaining 139 cities were left out.
- Even if the NCAP were to be able to reduce pollution by 30% by 2024, 153 cities would still be left with pollution levels exceeding the NAAQS, the report added.

Do you know about National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)?

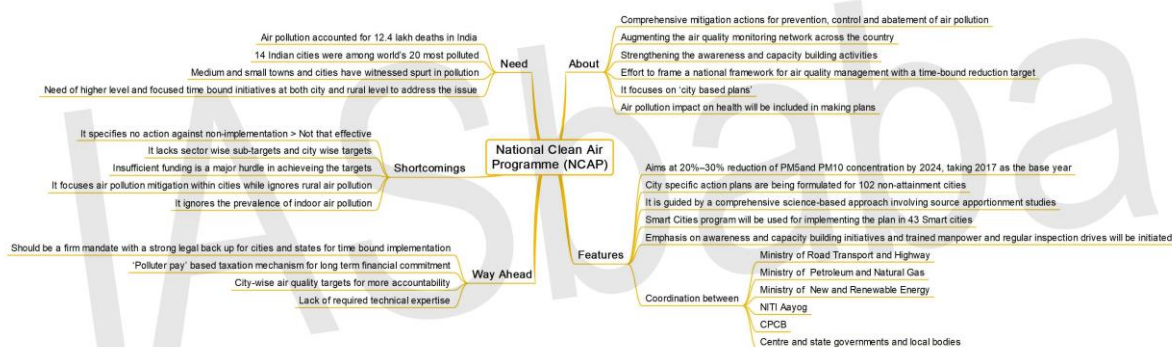
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is the latest initiative taken by the government of India to create strategies for reduction in air pollution levels at both regional and urban scale.
- The Goal of NACP is to meet the prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards at all locations in the country in a stipulated timeframe.
- It is a five-year action plan with a tentative target of **20-30% reduction** in concentrations of **PM10 and PM2.5 by 2024**, with 2017 as the base year.



The plan covers 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 states and Union territories, which were identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015.

IASbaba TLP PLUS Test 18

Q. 3. Should air pollution be considered a 'disaster'? Comment. What mitigative measures would you suggest to address the problem of worsening air quality in Indian cities?



Q.18) Discuss the recent measures initiated in the disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach. (Answer in 250 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/ APPROACH:

The question puts forth a demand to provide those measures of Government of India regarding the disaster management which is different from earlier conventional measures. In other words, the earlier disaster management strategy of India involved rescue, relief and rehabilitation; how the recent measures propound the ethos of prediction, prevention and protection.

Here we can include some of measures like:

Amending the National Disaster Response Framework to include the mitigation as one of the strategies.

Finance Commission's recommendation of National Disaster Mitigation Fund.

We can also include the seismic zoning map in Assam.

Involvement of home guards and civilians rather than depending on the military personnel can also be quoted.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2020/01/day-74-q-2-what-are-the-most-essential-components-of-disaster-preparedness-explain-with-the-help-of-suitable-examples/>

Day 74 – Q 5. What is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction? What are its objectives? Discuss.

16 Jan, 2020 Day 74, Disaster Management, GS 3 30 Comments

5

5. What is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction? What are its objectives? Discuss. आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण के लिए सेंडाई फ्रेमवर्क क्या है? इसके उद्देश्य क्या हैं? चर्चा करें। Introduction: The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is a 15-year, voluntary, nonbinding agreement. It recognizes that the State . . . Read more

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Q.19) What are the determinants of left -wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (Answer in 250 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/ APPROACH:

There are two parts in the question, the first part asks to bring out the determining factors for the rise of left-wing extremism in the Eastern part of India.

Here we can mention failure of land reforms - Naxalbari incident, underdevelopment, tyranny by the military personnel - AFSPA, etc.

In the second part we need to suggest strategies of action for the given 3 bodies of governance.

Government of India - proper funding and implementation of National Policy on Left Wing Extremism -2007

Civil Administration - profound percolation of government benefits under Integrated Action Plan, to come up with innovative schemes like MITANIN, etc.

Security: to use powers with restraint, come up with battalions like Greyhounds, CoBRA, etc.

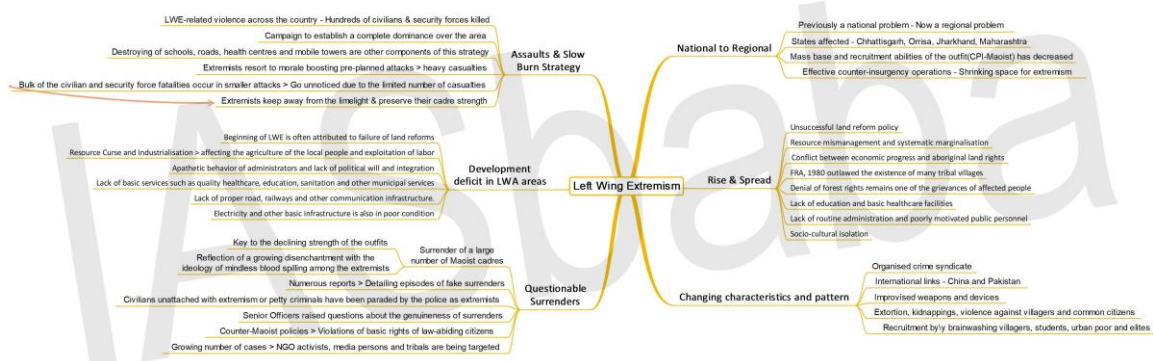
IASBABA REFERENCE:

IASbaba TLP PLUS test 6

Q. 19. Regional connectivity and cultural identification are imperative for assuaging the feeling of alienation in the Northeast. Analyse.

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2019/08/day-52-q-1-what-strategies-do-left-wing-extremists-adopt-to-destabilise-the-democracy-what-has-been-the-governments-strategy-to-thwart-such-threats-examine/>

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/12/day-62-q-1-is-lack-of-development-the-real-cause-for-the-spread-of-left-wing-extremism-lwe-critically-comment/>



Q.20) Analyse internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also, discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. (Answer in 250 words)

LINE OF THOUGHT/ APPROACH:

There are two parts in the question;
Structure the 1st part into 3 sections - Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan; and provide transborder threats and crimes specific to those regions. Here we need to provide good statistics and examples. Ex: increase in the counterfeit currencies at the borders after the oncoming of new currency notes, etc.

In the second part we need to mention examples of CIBMS, Bold QUIT, Integrated Check posts, Operation Meghdoot, etc.

IASBABA REFERENCE:

IASbaba TLP PLUS test 2

Q. 20. India has to walk the diplomatic tightrope for balancing its domestic priorities with the need to have stable relations with the neighbours.

IASbaba TLP PLUS test 8

Q. 11. Expansion of physical infrastructure in the Northeast has huge local and regional (in terms of India's cross border ties) significance. Comment. In this light, examine the initiatives taken by the central government.

<https://iasbaba.com/2020/12/day-64-q-3-how-do-cross-border-linkages-amongst-terrorist-and-insurgent-organisations-create-security-threats-examine/>

<https://tlp.iasbaba.com/2020/02/day-94-q-1-how-is-illegal-movement-of-goods-and-people-across-the-border-a-security-threat-illustrate-with-the-help-of-suitable-examples/>

