



GS Advanced Program 2023

Generic Booklet

Test Name/Code/No. : 693032

Name

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Roll No.

Mobile No.

Date

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes

Instructions to Candidates -

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard -
<https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on -
<https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
Overall Grade/Score	

Q.1)

PM Modi often refers to the Northeastern states as "Ashta Lakshmi" because of the various opportunities and significance held by the 8 states like:-

①. Geo-strategic location

↳ Gateway to ASEAN

②. Economic significance

↳ Resource rich in fossil fuels, HEP, timber, bamboo, etc.

↳ Tea plantations

↳ Tourism potential

③. Biodiversity hotspot

④. Ethnic and cultural diversity → home to > 200 tribes with different customary practices, better HDI indicators, living in symbiosis with nature e.g. Hornbill festival.

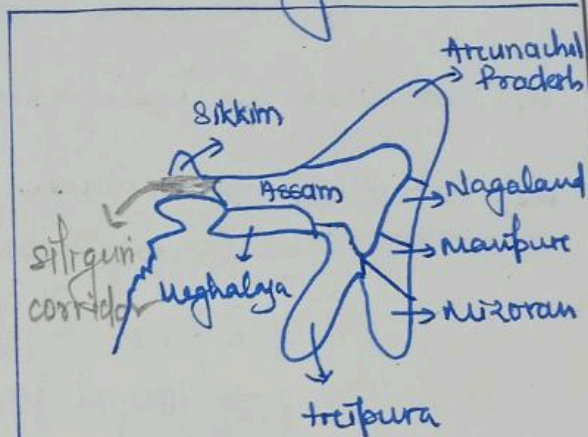


Fig: 8 Northeastern states

However, the challenges posed in leveraging their potential are:-

- ①. Security challenges -
 - 1.1) Internal → insurgency.
 - 1.2) External → Chinese expansionism
eg. Recent border skirmishes at Yangtze
→ illegal immigration, trafficking, smuggling etc.
- ②. Sense of isolation from mainland India
- ③. Some areas have been under AFSPA for >60 years → causes psychological distress
- ④. Low infrastructure development

The region thus requires a comprehensive nation building approach with investments in economic development alongside good governance.

Q2)

Naxalism and Insurgency are among the major security challenges India faces.

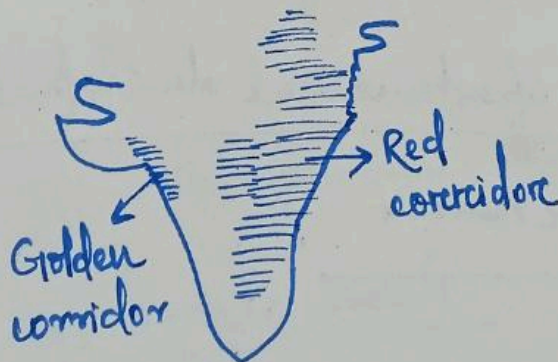
Difference between them :-

Naxalism

1) It refers to 'armed insurgency' against state being inspired by far-left ideology.

2) They are based on extremist ideology.

3) Regions affected:-

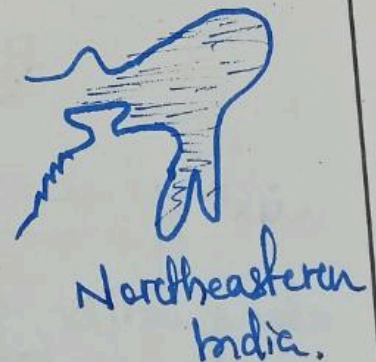


Insurgency

1) Any armed struggle by a section of population against the state.

2) Basis of insurgency ~~is not~~ can be - ethical, ideological, fundamentalism, etc.

3)



While both pose a threat to security, territorial integrity and unity of India,

Insurgency is a bigger threat because:-

1. It has affected sensitive areas like northeastern India which shares borders with belligerent neighbours like China.
2. They receive direct support from external state actors thus challenging India's sovereignty.
3. The region is already ethnically, mainland geographically isolated from India.

Resolving the issues require a mix of economic and infrastructural development along with good governance.

Q.3)

India is sandwiched between world's two biggest opium growing regions — Golden triangle and golden crescent.

The security challenge for India becomes pronounced because of following

Linkages:

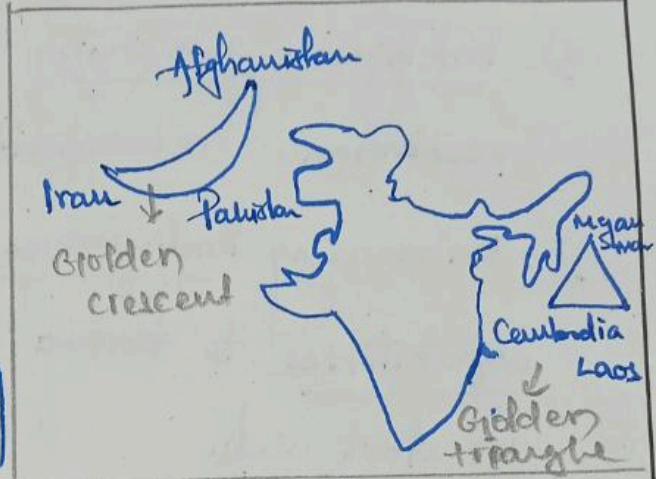


Fig: opium growing regions

①. Opium trade is means of finances for Taliban. They use the proceeds for gun-running human trafficking etc.

②. Human trafficking is done as drugs are transported sometimes through hiding them in human body parts.

③. The proceeds are laundered to create legitimate assets.

They can be ~~can~~ countered by :-

- 1) Smart border management - CIBMS, BOLD-GIT etc.
- 2) Intelligence gathering by means of ~~reconnaissance~~ reconnaissance drones, etc.
- 3) Enhancing indigenous cybersecurity capabilities to ~~tackle~~ thwart operations in dark web.
- 4) Sensitising border population.

As the crimes are global in ^{and regional} nature, they require global cooperation like FATF, UNODC, SCO, etc. as well.

Q.4)

The NER of India has been infested with insurgency since independence. It refers to armed rebellion by a section of population against the state.

Reasons for NE insurgency :-

- ①. Geography → Separated from mainland India by narrow isthmus corridor → Porous

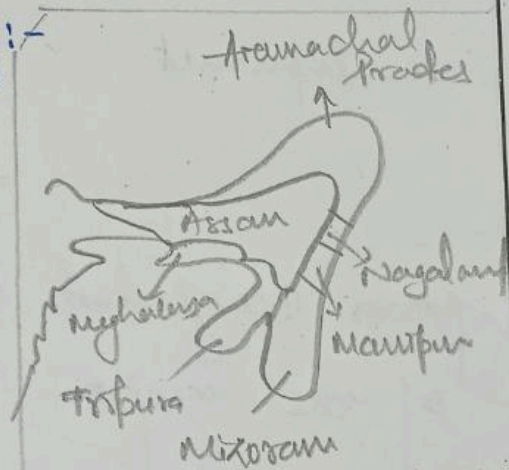


Fig. NER of India

international borders due to transboundary rivers, valleys etc.

- ②. History → Isolationist and non-interference approach of British colonial rulers. eg. Bengal Eastern Frontier Act, 1873 restricted movement of others into the region.

U.P.S.C.

→ Post independence, the political borders were drawn without due regard to ethnic ties between tribes

③. [socio-economic] → Lack of infrastructure

development

→ Inter-tribal rivalry

→ Illegal immigration

from Bangladesh changing the demography of the region.

Thus, to resolve the insurgency in NER - smart borders management (CIBMS), economic development and good governance with democratic legitimacy is needed.

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Q.5)

Threats like terrorism, money laundering, cyber attacks, etc. are essentially transnational in nature. The actors & their supporters, sympathisers and financiers collaborate from different jurisdictions while organising acts anywhere in world.

The various security challenges posed by different actors are:-

①. By state actors :-

1.1) State sponsored terrorism - when terror is used as a foreign policy tool.
eg. US support for Mujahideen in Afghanistan

1.2) Cyber warfare - attack on critical information infrastructure of adversary
eg. China's role in vandalising AIMS website

1.3) Emergence of Afghanistan as a Narco state

1.4) Rise of surveillance state

eg. allegations in Pegasus case of state snooping on citizens

1.5) Revisionist China

eg. Border skirmishes as a outcome of Chinese 'salanu slicing' techniques

②. By non-state actors :-

2.1) Cyber terrorism and conventional

terrorism

eg. ISIS and United Cyber Caliphate

attacks.

2.2) Money laundering through charitable organisations like NGOs.

2.3) Data monopolisation by Big Tech companies poses threat to nation's digital sovereignty and citizens' informational privacy.

while national efforts like - modernisation and indiginization of ~~armed~~ defence sector, legal framework like - UAPA, IT Act ~~etc.~~ etc. are necessary, global collaboration is a must.

In this regard, international counter terror financing (FATF) mechanisms, Budapest convention (for harmonising cyber law), SCO - RATS (countering terror), etc. should be strengthened.

However, a reformed multilateralism with a reformed UN at its centre is the need of the hour to give effect to global collaboration.

Q.6)

AFSPA is an Act of Parliament that gives special powers to the armed forces to ensure public order in disturbed areas. Enacted in 1958, it still prevails in parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur.

It has been criticized as regressive by human rights activists like Irom Sharmila & Human Rights Watch because :-

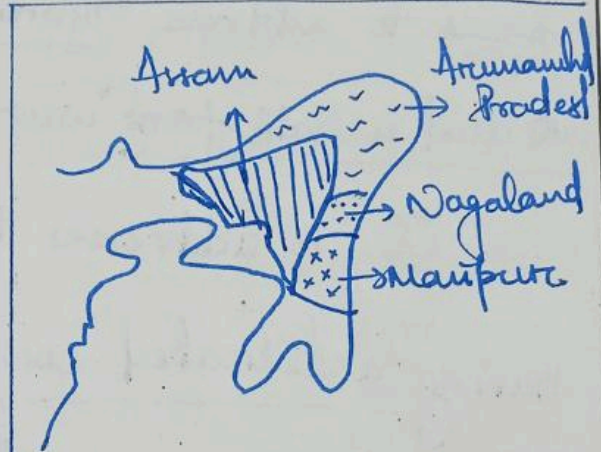


Fig. States with AFSPA in operation

- ①. 'Sec 3' of AFSPA doesn't objectively define 'disturbed area'.
- ②. violations of human rights as confirmed by Justice Hegde Committee (SC).
eg. Mom killings in Nagaland by security personnel
- ③. Seen as colonial legacy as the Act was first enacted during Quit India Movement.

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④. Detracts military from its principal function of 'guarding borders'

But some see it as progressive as :-

①. Provides enabling environment to forces to address hybrid security threats like 'two and a half front' war

②. It addresses the lacunae of not having a dedicated counter-insurgency force

③. Ensures unity and integrity of India.

Because of the 'necessary evil'

that AFSPA is ^{has to} ~~it cannot be repealed as of~~ ~~now~~ but, be reformed as per following suggestions :-

①. Justice BP Jeevan Reddy committee and 2nd ARC had recommended repeal

of AFSPA.

- ②. In Naga Peoples Movement of Human Rights case (1998), [SC gave directions] that :-
- it was desirable to consult states before declaration of disturbed area,
 - implementation for limited duration,
 - minimal use of force should be adopted

In ~~200~~ 2016, Supreme court also ruled that armed forces cannot escape investigation for excesses.

To demilitarize the region in long run, the Tripura model can be adopted where counter-insurgency operations are now handled by local police. Also, there is a need to adopt 'heart and mind's' strategy like celebration of 'Maitri Diwas' by armed forces in Arunachal Pradesh to build confidence among citizens.

Q.7)

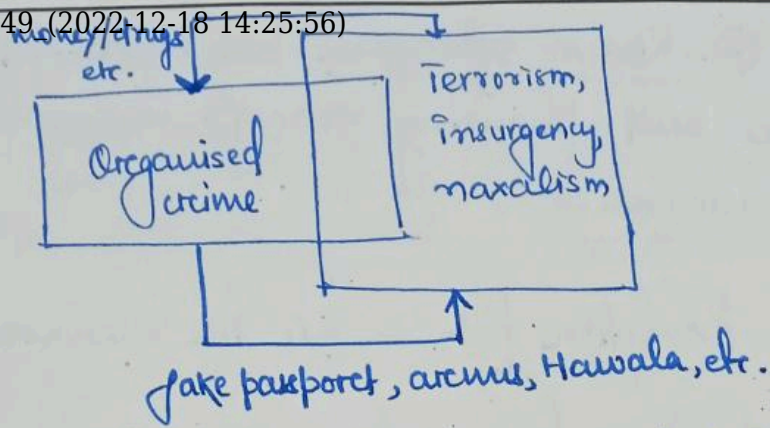
Organized crime is a category of transnational, national or local groupings of highly centralized enterprises run by criminals. Their primary objective is gaining pecuniary benefits.

The Mumbai blasts of 1993 clearly showed the obnoxious linkages between organized crime and other acts like terrorism. e.g. Dawood Ibrahim graduating to terrorism and siphoning off millions earned from film piracy etc.

The linkages between ~~org~~ organized crimes and terrorism, naxalism and insurgency are at three levels :-

①. Activity appropriation - use of similar methods without working together

②. Nexus - reliance on each other for finances, etc.



③. Symbiotic — cooperating and defending each other.

This nexus increases the challenges faced in tackling organized crime which involve:

- ①. Multiple legislations like Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Act, UAPA, etc. IPC
- ②. Lack of coordination between central & state agencies
- ③. Transnational presence
- ④. Criminal-politician-bureaucratic nexus
- ⑤. Lack of regulation of organised environmental crimes eg. smuggling of HFCs undermining Montreal Protocol.

⑥. Rise of cyberspace has increased crossborder linkages and financing through unregulated cryptocurrencies

Solutions to tackle the menace are: -

- ①. Clear demarcation of crime
- ②. Central legislation for coordinated action - harmonising and integrating existing laws.

SDG-16 explicitly talks about Organised crimes. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirms on "there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development".