INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

IPM - 2026

GENERAL STUDIES MAINS TEST 15

Duration : 1.5 Hour **Total Marks: 125**

All questions are compulsory and answer within the mentioned word limit:

Q1. What are the major sources of radioactive pollution in the environment? How can its monitoring and remediation be effectively carried out? (10 M)

Q2. Explain the formation mechanism of ground-level ozone and discuss the major precursors responsible for its rise. What measures are needed to control it? (10 M)

Q3. Identify the key challenges that constrain effective implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment in India. How can these challenges be addressed to improve environmental governance? (10 M)

Q4. Explain the major sources of e-waste in India. Evaluate the effectiveness of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 in ensuring sustainable disposal. (10 M)

Q5. "The future of wildlife conservation in India lies as much outside reserves as within them". Examine how the Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves (TOTR) Project reflects this paradigm shift. Evaluate its potential for reducing human–wildlife conflict. (10 M)

Q6. Write a review on India's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement (2015) and mention how these have been further strengthened in COP26 (2021). In this direction, how has the first Nationally Determined Contribution intended by India been updated in 2022? (15 M) (CSE PYQ-2025)

Q7. Define bioremediation and explain its major types. What are the key challenges in its effective implementation? What measures are required to scale it up as a sustainable pollution-control approach? (15 M)

Q8. "Microplastics represent a silent pollutant, microscopic yet ecologically massive". Explain the major causes of microplastic pollution and its implications for the ecosystem. Also outline measures to address this emerging environmental threat. (15 M)

Q9. Discuss the contribution of biofuels in addressing air-quality degradation in India. Examine the challenges of large-scale ethanol deployment. Suggest a roadmap for cleaner mobility transition. (15 M)

Q10. What is eutrophication and how does it develop in aquatic ecosystems? Evaluate its ecological and economic impacts and enumerate the strategies required for its prevention and ecological restoration. (15 M)

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SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

IPM 2026

SUBJECT :GENERAL STUDIES MAINS TEST 15

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Date:	05	02	2026	**Total No.of pages uploaded:** 29

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Q.no	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1.	10	04
2.	10	04
3.	10	04
4.	10	04
5.	10	04.50
6.	15	06
7.	15	06.50
8.	15	06
9.	15	06
10.	15	06
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		
Total Marks Obtained:		51

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting the questions:

- **All Questions are compulsory**
- **The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.**
- **Keep the word limit indicated in the questions in mind.**
- **Any page or portion of the page left blank in Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.**

(EVA0391)

10 Q

Remarks: Overall a good attempt. Presentation can be improved.

EVALUATION PARAMETERS	
	RATING ON A SCALE OF 10
1. Introduction Effectiveness	08
2. Demand of the Question	08
3. Context	08
4. Conceptual Clarity	08
5. Dimensionality & Interdisciplinary Linkages (Linking with Current affairs & Issues)	07
6. Examples & Illustrations	07
7. Language Competence	08
8. Presentation & Creativity	06
9. Structure	08
10. Objectivity	07

Overall Feedback & Suggestions by the Examiner:

Dear Student

1. → Overall you have given a good attempt. Improve on suggestions.
2. → Introduction and Conclusions — are largly good in all the questions. intro could have been better in (Q6) to suit the context and Conclusion could have been better in (Q8). Try to improve.
3. → Content — Overall your content is nice, examples are also good. but always mention authentic data/facts and mention source of data.
4. → Context — You have understood context well in all the questions.
5. → Structure — is overall good in all questions. Keep it up!
6. → Presentation — Can be improved. Write more neatly and clearly. Always number your points, improve spacing, maintain uniform line length, avoid scratches and give headings in a box always.
7. → Handwriting and language — language is overall good. But at places your articulation could have been better. Handwriting is also fine but increase font size and try not to make Spelling and minor grammatical mistakes. All the best!

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Test 15

Q What are major sources of radioactive pollution in the environment? How can its monitoring and remediation be effectively carried out? (10M)

Recent radioactive contamination of Cesium-137 in Indonesia region raise concern on radioactive pollution and its remediation.

Good contextual intro given.

Major Sources of Radioactive Pollution

You can also give: a) Volcanic emissions, b) Geothermal emissions etc

(a) Natural sources

(1) Low level terrestrial radiation release thorium, uranium etc. Good

(2) cosmic rays generate radionuclides like Carbon-14 Valid

(b) Man-made Sources

(1) Routine discharge and leakage from nuclear power plants (eg. Nuclear discharge (Tritium) from Tarapur Atomic Station) Fair! when mention it.

(2) Weapons testing and mock defence research. eg. Pokhran site under long-term DRDO monitoring Fair

You have given good points

Always give your headings in a box for better presentation

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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(a) Effective Monitoring for pollution

(1) Establish effective radioactive monitoring network eg. BARC's IERMON Good

(2) Establishment of Environmental Survey laboratories (ESL) to test soil, air, water etc. Fair

(3) Integrate remote and aerial surveillance technology. eg. HYSIS satellite for mapping uranium mapping zone.

You can also quote a) Satellite Surveillance b) Use of dosimeters etc

(b) Remediation method for radio-active pollution.

Valid Points given with examples. Good!

Give headings in a box

(1) Radioactive waste is immobalised in engineering repositories.

(2) Phytoremediation and decontamination and soil removal.

eg. Strontium-90 absorbed by mustard (BARC) Fair

Fair Points added.

(Try to improve handwriting and spacing)

OK

Radioactive pollution seems less visible but can cause irreversible loss hence breach SDG Goal 13. (Good to use SDG's in conclusions)

Nicely concluded.

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Always start your introduction from middle of the page.

Q2. Explain formation mechanism of ground-level ozone and discuss the major precussors responsible for its rise. What measures needed to control it. (10M)

(O_3) Ozone is a double faced gas — good in stratosphere but harmful when reaches ground, it provide shield from harmful UV rays.

Valid introduction given.

Formation Mechanism of ground level Ozone

Also Mention a) Role of Sunlight b) Try to give examples from current context (Delhi) etc

(1) Photochemical reaction with Volatile organic compound and Nitrogen oxides (NOx). Good

(2) Nitrogen oxides absorbs solar radiation and dissociate to release $O_3 \rightarrow O_2 + O$ Fair

(3) Hot temperature accelerate photochemical reaction hence Ozone

(4) Regional transport mainly from Urban to rural areas.

You have mentioned good points.

(Write neatly and increase font size)

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Always Number your Points.

Good Points given here.

Major Precursor

1. Vehicular emission like hydrocarbons
2. Industrial activities like power plants, petrochemical industry
3. use of kerosene in domestic
4. Biogenic emissions from trees, wetlands etc

Measures to control Ground-level Ozone

You can also add

1. Enforce BSVI norms, promoting CNG, EV etc. Good Avoid Swatches
2. Install low NOx and VOX compound in industries (eg) CEMS catalytic converters, and continuous emission Good
3. Planned urban development protecting from urban heat islands, and green buffers. (eg) Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan for green infrastructure

a) Controlling biomass and Waste burning.

b) Green buffers in Urban areas

Good Conclusion

Ground-level Ozone is a man-made poison that impact

Economy | Employment | Environment

Good Points added with examples.

Try to write neatly and improve Spacing

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Q3 Identify the key challenges that constrain effective implementation of EIA in India. How can these challenges be addressed to improve environmental governance. (10M)

Environmental Impact Assessment is a preventive tool for unsustainable Environmental Practise that saves Ecology from damage.

Key challenges Constraining Effective Implementation

1. Frequent amendment and discretion result in dilution
   eg: EIA notification 2020 → removing public consultation
2. Misrepresentation and poor quality of reports eg: CAG Audit (2016) found 50% with inaccurate data
3. Limited public participation due to lack of Awareness and manipulation
4. Understaffing and weak Institutional autonomy of State Assessment Board.

(Increase the font size)

Fair intro given.

Fair

Fair

Fair

You have given valid points. Write neatly and improve spacing for better presentation.

Try did not remove it, but reduce the number of lags

Eg. MOEFCC reported only 50.1% employees are available

Good

Ways to Improve Environmental Governance

Add

1) Third Party Auditing

b) Effective Post-clearance (compliance etc

(1) Strengthen legal powers of Enviroment protection authority.
Eg. Replace ad-hoc notification (TSR subramanian committee)

(2) Publish data legible by locals.
Eg use regional languages, voice feature using AI Valid

(3) continuous skilling of employees
Eg. satellite based monitoring of ISRO-MOEFCC

(4) Engage private players in protecting from misuse.

(5) Empower NGT for robust implementation and monitoring.

Good to mention committees.

Overall Valid Points given.

Good

Conclusion adder

OR

The EIA should not be used as a Formality but attaining Life-lifestyle for Environment

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Q4 Explain the major sources of e-waste in India. Evaluate the effectiveness of e-waste (Manage) Rules, 2022 in ensuring sustainable disposal (10M)

India generate approximately 01.75 mmT of e-waste in (2023-2024) making it a highlighted issue for Environment safety.

Aim into always mention source of any data you work.

Major Sources of e-waste in India

1. Consumer electronics products like mobile phones, laptops and IT devices like television. (eg) largest source with 60% share (MOEFCC)
2. Discarded and unusable household devices like Microwave
3. Industrial e-waste and corporate IT turnover like hardware in banks, offices etc. (eg) corporate waste contribute 25% of waste (Nasscom).
4. Repair hubs and reselling markets (eg) Seelampur (Delhi) famous for reselling e-devices.

Good

Aim

Aim

You have good Points. Try to write more neatly

Improve Spacing for better Presentation

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Effectiveness of e-waste Management Rules, 2022

Write headings neatly in a box.

(a) Success

Good

(1) Birth of Extended producer Responsibility [EPR] eg. over 700 producers registered on CPCB portal

(2) Digitalisation and formalisation of recycling sector eg. integration of Recycler, Producers and dismantlers

Nice Points added. Good!

(b) Limitations

You can also quote

(1) Theory-oriented, less effective in ground reality eg. over 90% e-waste recycling handled by informal sector (ESE Field study)

Again Valid Points Mentioned. Good!

(2) Lack of incentives like subsidy, security, discourage disposal sustainably. Valid

(3) Limited recycling technology and infrastructure. Valid

Weak enforcement of

Capacity Constraints

etc

(Also try to add a brief way forward)

The success of e-waste management require [credit System], [Polluter Pay Principle] and [e-tax].

Nicely Concluded

04

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

U.P.S.C.

for practice use only सिर्फ अभ्यास के लिए

Q5 The future of wildlife conservation in India lies as much outside reserve as within them. Examine how the Tiger Outside Tiger Reserve (TOTR) project reflect this paradigm shift. Evaluate its potential for reducing human-wildlife conflict. (10M)

The recent rising case of Human-wildlife conflict (eg. Sundarban Tiger straying, impact co-habitation of both.

Good contextual intro given.

Paradigm shift in Conservation Approach

1. Broader implementation of reserves and Outside reserve. Good (eg. 35% tiger dies outside Tiger Reserve)
2. Isolation to co-existence model (eg. "Bagh Mitras") → align with SDG 2030 agenda
3. Link conservation with livelihood, tourism and awareness.
4. More decentralised and scientific approach (eg. Predictive mapping, cameras, technological monitoring etc.

You can also quote, a) Socio-ecological integration b) Landscape level management etc

You have added good points. Improve Presentation with neat writing and proper spacing

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Potential for Reducing Human-Wildlife conflict

(1) Focus on Preparedness more than prevention response Eg. AI-based alert system in Kaziranga National Park

(2) Community sensitisation to foster coexistence.

(3) Data integration and performance monitoring using smart techno Eg. NTCA-ISRO mapping project track tiger movement

(4) Promoting eco-tourism, crop insurance and social coherence.

Eg. Eco-development committees in Uttarakhand link local income to wildlife safety.

The TOTR project when coupled with Project Tiger, IBCA, IUCN, and CITES can make Environment more resilient.

Y.S

You have given nice points with proper examples.

Good example

Valid

Poor example

Nice conclusion given

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

U.P.S.C.

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Q6 Write a review on India's climate commitment under Paris Agreement (2015) and mention how these has been further strengthen in COP26 (2021). In this direction how was 1st NDC intented by India in 2022 (1SM)

Paris Agreement is breached due to certain issues like ~~temperat~~ -ure ~~rise~~, glacial melting, Green -washing etc.

Direct into given.

You can improve it to suit the content more effectively.

India's climate commitment under Paris Agreement

Try to improve Spacing and write more matter to improve presentation

(1) Emission reduction intensity to GDP of 33-35% by 2030.

(2) Committed to non-fossil fuel energy target by 40% (2030) (cop) India met this goal early 9 years before (CEA, 2021) Good

(3) Targeted 2.5-3 bn tonnes of CO_2 equivalent by 2030 (cop) since 2019, India's tree cover sequestration was about 1.97 bn tonnes. Good

You have mentioned good points.

(b) Strengthening at COP26

→ Always write headings in a box and give headings on top of the page or in the middle.

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Valid points. Also mention Emissions intensity reduction to 45%.

How mention Panchamrit 4 for more weightage.

(1) Declaring net zero target, 2070

(2) 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 mainly 50% from renewable source. (Exp 180 GW target achieved (MNRE) Good

(3) Life initiative and carbon emission pledge to cut by 01 bn tonnes CO_2

Updated Nationally Determined Contribution

(1) Higher emissions intensity reduction of 40% by 2030. 45%;

(2) Afforestation goal reaffirmation aligning with Bonn challenge Good

(3) ~~Para~~ Prioritising climate-resilient agriculture, water, Health systems

(4) Reiterated demand for climate finance highlighting (CBDR)- common but Differentiated Responsibility.

Write authentic data only

Avoid scratches.

(Maintain uniform line length)

Valid Points added.

Do not leave space like this.

(Be mindful of minor grammatical errors)

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Challenges in Achieving these

(1) Global — south and North divide (developing Vs developed)

eg. Need of $10 Trillion till 2070 but $100 bn annually still unfunctional

(2) Energy dependence majorly on fossil fuels like coal

eg. coal generated 55% power shifting to renewable completely can create supply crack

(3) Implementation gaps and over centralisation of processes

eg. Underutilisation of CAMPA fund (CAG Report 2022).

India's commitment to COP 2030 is commendable which can help [make India Great Again] MIGA.

Fair

Good

Fair

Good

Good Points added here with examples to validate them. (Try to write neatly)

Fair Conclusion added

06

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Q7) Define bioremediation and explain its major types. What are key challenges in its effective implementation? What measures are required to scale it up as sustainable pollution control approach? (15 M).

Bioremediation is a process of using microorganism, plants, fungi or enzymes to degrade, detoxify or transform pollutants into less harmful forms.

Good intro given.

(a) Types of Bioremediation

Always write your headings in a box neatly

1. In situ :— Treating contaminates directly at polluted site without excavation (eg. Bioventing (Air use), Biosparging (O_2 concentration), Bioaugmentation and Biostimulation.

2. Ex-situ :— Removing contaminated material at controlled environment (eg. Biopiles (aeration and heaping), Landfarming (spread soil over beds), composting (polluted soil mix with organic waste) and Biofiltration (use of filter as a medium for passage)

You have covered all the types. Good!

Number them properly

Improve handwriting

Can be presented more neatly in point format

Key challenges in Effective Implementation

1. site specific nature dependency on soil, water, temperature etc. Valid
   eg soil pH imbalance reduce microbial activity
2. Agriculture is highly informal sector hence low R and D Linkage Good
   eg only 12% of sanctioned remedy process used due to talent gaps (CPCB)
3. Slow and long-term process as natural.
4. Lack of monitoring and quality Valid control mechanism eg Lack of pollutant removal in Ganga clean-up program
5. No unified framework or institution exist eg Hazardous waste rules mention remediation Good but no bioremediation guidelines.

You can also quote
a) Lack of trained man power
b) Awareness
etc

Nice Points given with Good Example to Validate them.

(Improve your handwriting to present more neatly)

Measures to scale up as Sustainable Pollution-control Approach] Q ②

① Establish a national bioremediation ~~and~~ standard and accreditation authority.

② Integration with Government clean-up program like Namami Gange, Swachh Bharat etc.

③ Promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with adoption of Global best practices. Eg. ONGC-TERI joint project for oil-spill bioremediation.

④ Enhance research and biosource banks along with green innovation and training.

The Bioremediation technique of India should align with

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity,

Global Bioeconomy Alliance etc.

Avoid Scratches

Good Headline given.

White neatly and improve Spacing.)

Valid

Good

Good Conclusion added

6.5

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Q8) Microplastic represent a silent pollutant, microscopic yet ecologically massive. Explain major causes of microplastic pollution and its implication for the ecosystem. Also, outline measures to adress emerging environmental threat. (15M)

Improve articulation

India contribute to 391,879 tons of microplastic globally that raises concern on environment.

Major causes of Microplastic Pollution

1. Fragmentation of larger plastic via sunlight and mechanical stress eg: High micro plastic load in chennai coast (MIOT) Good
2. synthetic textiles like polyester, nylon clothes etc Valid
3. Road wear due to tires friction letting rubber enter into soil. Valid
4. Toothpaste and other cosmetic products eg: Microbeads in beauty product led to global bans. Good

Fair intro. But mention source of your data always.

You have added good points

While writing
- Maintain Uniform line length.
- Improve Spacing

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(5) Industrial discharge as well as mismanaged waste. Valid

Implication of this on (E)cosystem

(1) Lead to marine ecosystem degradation [eg.] biotoxicity and biomagnification — Bioaccumulation

(2) Disruption to soil aeration, permeability and porosity hence degradation [eg.] Reduced earthworm activity in fungals mulch soil (ICAR study) Good

(3) Bioaccumulation and downward contamination in food chain. Fair

(4) Chemical leaching leading to toxicity in animal organ. Good

[eg.] BPA traces in bottle water samples (AIIMS Delhi)

(5) Atmospheric contamination > low oxygen > Chronic disease

[eg.] Delhi has Air Quality Index to severe in 2025. Fair

You have covered nice points. Good!

Presentation can be improved

Be mindful of simple grammatical aspects.

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Measures to address this threat

(1) Ban on microbeads and single use plastic like Polyethylene
eg. Microbead company penalised by Maharashtra government Fair

(2) Installation of advanced filter technology for wastewater treatment. Good

(3) Focus on biodegradable and natural materials eg. Biogenic bags used by Zepto. Fair

(4) Mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Polluter Pay Principle. eg. 90% compliance by FMCG companies under EPR (CPCB) Good

(5) Launch Public Awareness campaign and research expansion Good

Micro-plastic seems not to big pollutant but affect enviroment in long-term. Fair conclusion

Improve articulation

You have given nice measures here

06

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

U.P.S.C.

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Q9) Discuss the contribution of biofuels in addressing air-quality degradation in India. Examine the challenges of large-scale ethanol deployment. Suggest a roadmap for cleaner mobility transition. (15M)

Biofuels are renewable fuels derived from biomass. Recent (Isobutanol-Petrol mix) success shows reduction in fossil-fuel debate.

(Increase the font size)

Valid intro given.

Contribution of (b) Biofuels in (a) Addressing

(a) Air quality / (b) Degradation

(1) Reduction in vehicular emission as clean-energy. hood

Eg: E20 fuel drop 20% CO (Niti Aayog)

(2) Reduction of stubble burning and unhealthy environment practise

Eg: Paddy straw to Ethanol in Panipat

(3) Decrease dependence on fossil fuel hence achieve 40% non-fossil target 2030. (Mention Source, Convention etc)

(4) Bio CNG and biodiesel blending help in clean transport fuel.

Maintain Uniform line lengths

Valid Points Mentioned

Valid

(Try to mention different generations of biofuels 01, 02, 03, 04

(Improve your presentation)

(5) Lower Lifecycle carbon footprint reducing emission (net zero 2070) target

Good

challenges of large-scale Ethanol deployment

(1) Feedstock constraints and regional dependency

Eg. states producing sugarcane will get more revenue Good

(2) Limited technology and Infrastructure Eg. Blending challenge in hilly-areas. Good

(3) Low yield for 2nd generation methodology (non-food crops).

Eg. Baraunni ethanol plant face delay.

(4) Fluctuation of price with agriculture output Eg. sugarcane price hike may rise Ethanol cost hence economic inequity. Fair

Again you have covered good points.

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(5) Emission trade offs Eg> Ethanol combustion may deplete O_3 layer.

Good

Roadmap for Cleaner Mobility Transition

(1) Diversification of feedstock base (including 2g and 3g). Good

(2) Develop Ethanol pipeline, storage depots etc. Eg> BPCL building Ethanol logistics hubs in Madhya Pradesh

Fair

(3) Incentivise local innovation and research Eg> National Bioenergy Emission focussing on Enzyme technology etc

Good example

(4) Integration with EV and hydro -gen ecosystem.

(5) Policy transparency and market stability.

You have given good measures here.

(Improve handwriting)

Biofuels can act as India's push for Clean Energy Transition.

Fair Conclusion added.

06

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Q10) What is Eutrophication & how does it develop in aquatic ecosystem? Evaluate its ecological and economic impact & enumerate strategy for its prevention & ecological restoration (15M)

Good introduction given.

Eutrophication is a excessive nutrient enrichment of water body mainly nitrate and phosphate. It can lead to uncontrolled algal growth and oxygen depletion.

Always write headings in a box neatly.

Development In Aquatic Ecosystem

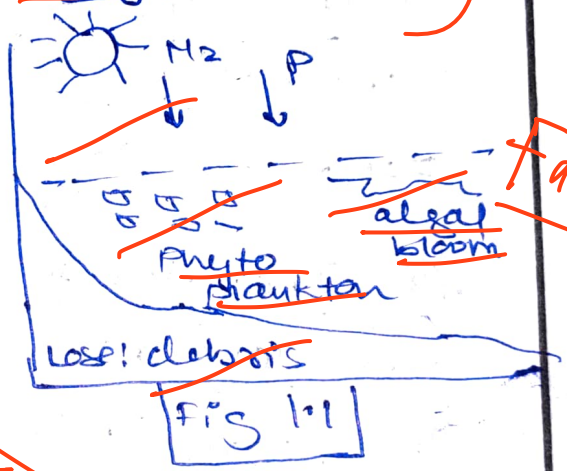

Fig 1.1

Fair!

(1) Increase in nutrient loading harmful for algae and phytoplankton.

(2) Excess nutrient lead to more oxygen?? hence Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB).

(3) Decomposition of organic matter by bacteria resulting hypoxic or anoxic condition.

Fair Points

You can also add

a) Decline in water quality

b) Sediment accumulation etc

White your point properly

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(4) Biodiversity loss and Ecosystem collapse (eg) death of fish, aquatic plants etc.

Impacts of Eutrophication

(a) Ecological

(1) loss of aquatic biodiversity collapsing food web (eg) large scale fishmortality in Bellandur lake Valid

(2) Habitat degradation of marine organism and oxygen depletion. Fair

(b) Economic

(1) Decline in fisheries and livelihood (eg) seasonal losses to fishermen in Loktak lake Good

(2) High cost raising municipal expenditure.

(3) Loss of tourism and recreational values (eg) Foul smell, algal scum. Valid

You have covered Valid Points.

Try to write more neatly and maintain proper linelength.

Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Strategy for Prevention and Ecological Restoration

(1) Enforce zero discharge norms for sewage and effluents.

Eg: Nutrient load monitoring via Namami Ganga Mission.

(2) Advanced wastewater management via wetlands use (wisely) and phosphate removal.

(3) Protect vegetation via Riparian buffer and green belts.

(4) Artificial aeration and biomanipulation. Eg: oxygen diffuser deployed in Hussainnagar Lake

(5) Public awareness and community stewardship.

Preventing Eutrophication require integrated approach combining Process, People and Planet.

(White Mein Neatly and Clearly)

You have added Big Points. Good. (Maintain Uniform line length)

06

Good Conclusion added.