

scientific capacity for climate change assessment and establishing appropriate institutional framework.

- **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:** It aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.
- **National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change:** It supports concrete adaptation activities for the States/UTs that are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

However, in the absence of concrete elevation data of land from the sea, there are uncertainties in the projects of SLR along the India coast. Also, SLR is not a part of the national climate conversation on an equal footing as melting glaciers.

The government's focus must be preventive planning, adaptive management techniques and allocation of future land use, keeping in mind the probable inundation zones. A cue can be taken from Netherlands, which has responded to SLR with high-tech seawalls. The development of database management system making climate data accessible to different departments should be done.

6. ***What are the challenges faced by the jute industry in India? Highlight the steps taken by the government to address these challenges.*** (150 words) 10

**Approach:**

- Giving a brief overview of the jute industry in India.
- Briefly discuss the challenges faced by the sector.
- Mention the steps taken by the government to tackle the challenges.
- Conclude with a way forward.

**Answer:**

India is the largest producer of jute in the world (around 60%) followed by Bangladesh and China. Jute plays a dominant role in the industrial economy of eastern India supporting nearly 40 lakh farmers.

**Challenges faced by the jute industry in India include:**

- **Shortage of raw material:** India is not self-sufficient in raw material and imports it from countries like Bangladesh. The problem is further aggravated by **import of finished jute products** both legally and illegally.
- **Obsolete mills and machinery:** The sector remain still primitive and involves labour-intensive cultivation methods and retting (drenching raw jute in water to extract the fibre). The mills and machinery and technology in the jute sector are also obsolete.
- **Competition:** Indian jute industry faces stiff competition in the global market from countries such as Bangladesh, Philippines, South Korea, Japan, etc.
- **Decrease in demand:** Jute products are fast losing market to plastic, synthetic fibres and similar substitute products. Further, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent decrease in demand, there are fears of over-supply of raw jute, which may drag down the price.
- **Low support price:** With raw jute prices remaining below the support price, area-under-cultivation is expected to further stagnate.
- **Less research and development:** Less research and development is conducted on jute related products and product diversification is also done at a poor pace.

To overcome the above challenges, following are the **steps taken by the government:**

- The **Jute Technology Mission (JTM)** was launched in 2006 to strengthen agricultural research and technology, develop efficient market linkages for raw jute, modernise the sector, improve product diversification and develop human resource for the jute industry.
- The National Jute Board and the Jute Corporation of India unveiled the **I-CARE programme** to address the retting issue by introducing a pilot project on retting technologies aimed at increasing farmers' returns.