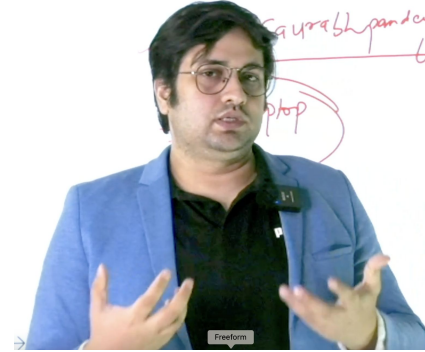


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- **Rapa Nui (Easter Island)**
- **Victim-Centred Reforms and Abolition of Death Penalty**
- **Climate Action in India: A Critical Five-Year Period**
- **U.S. Thermal Coal Exports to Africa in 2024**
- **Ammonium Nitrate Import Increase in India**
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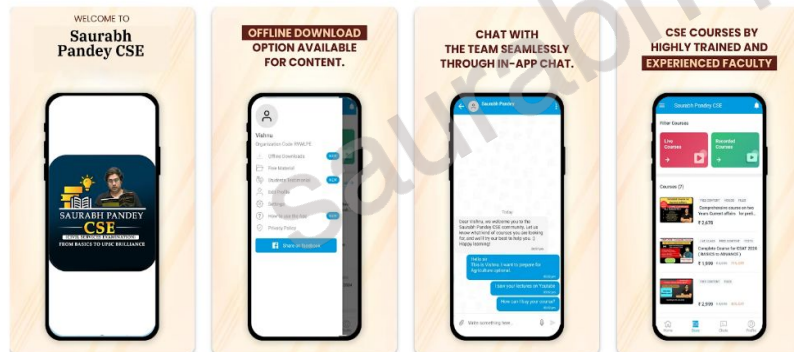
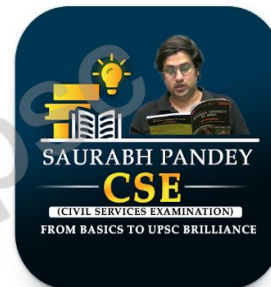
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Topic → Rapa Nui (Easter Island)

Overview of Rapa Nui

Location: Southeastern Pacific Ocean

Significance: Known for its unique Moai statues and volcanic landscapes.

History: Home to early Polynesian settlers.

Key Points:

Volcanic origin and geological features.

Cultural heritage and archaeological importance.

Environmental challenges and recent studies.

1. Historical Insights

Ecocide Theory: Debunked by recent genetic evidence 

Population Dynamics: New findings suggest no societal collapse 


2. Cultural Significance

Moai Statues: Iconic symbols of the Rapa Nui culture 

Language: Rapa Nui language and its preservation 

3. Current Research

Genetic Studies: Provide insights into ancient populations 

Environmental Adaptation: How early inhabitants survived despite challenges 

4. Tourism and Economy

Attractions: UNESCO World Heritage Sites, cultural tours 🌍

Sustainable Practices: Efforts to balance tourism and environmental conservation ♻️

Recent Discoveries

DNA Analysis: Challenges previous notions about ecological collapse 🧬

Research Trends: Increasing academic interest in Rapa Nui history 📖

-
- In the book **Collapse**, it was proposed that the population collapsed after overexploiting resources.
 - The idea found acceptance and became an example of the importance of sustainable living.
 - But some scholars called into question the feeble evidence provided. According to a study, the Rapa Nui population grew until Europeans arrived, followed by two catastrophic events: Chilean slave traders abducted a third of the population, and then there was a smallpox outbreak.
-

- Numbers dwindled to one hundred or so The study concludes that the pre-modern Rapa Nui didn't overexploit the resources of their small island.
- In fact, they may have been living responsibly, only to be decimated by the apathy of other peoples

Topic→Victim-Centred Reforms and Abolition of Death Penalty

Abolition of Death Penalty in India

Overview

Current Status: Death penalty still exists in India.

Public Opinion: Divided views on its necessity and morality.

International Trends: Growing global movement towards abolition.

Key Points:

Human Rights Concerns: The inhumanity of capital punishment.

Deterrence Debate: Lack of evidence that it deters crime.

Alternatives: Life imprisonment as a viable punishment

Procedural and Institutional Reforms

Victim-Centred Approach

Focus on survivor needs

Support systems for healing

Beta Padhao, Beti Bachao Initiative

Education for gender equity

Awareness campaigns on patriarchal norms

Addressing Patriarchal Notions

Cultural Norms

Societal pressure on women

Abolitionist Perspectives

Critique of superficial reforms

Need for genuine accountability

Policy and Research

Evidence-Based Policymaking

- Use of existing research

- Avoidance of populist reactions

Judicial Background Research

- Impact of judges' socio-religious background

- Influence on death penalty decisions

Social Change Through Legal Reform



Support for Survivors 🤝

Care and safety initiatives

Accountability of the state

Socio-Economic Constructs 🧳

Impact of laws on marginalized communities

Distribution of wealth and power

Complexity of Abolition

Understanding Sexual Offenses 🔗

Power dynamics over mere sexual acts

Critical engagement with laws

Public Awareness Campaigns 📢

Debunking myths around death penalty

Promoting gender equity in private and public spheres

Topic→ Climate Action in India: A Critical Five-Year Period



Overview

India aims for 2030 climate targets 🌍

Significant advances in solar and renewable energy ☀️

Coal dependency remains a concern, with only 22% clean energy in the mix ⚡

Urgent focus on:

Reducing heat stress 🌡️

Improving air quality 🌬️

Managing waste 🗑️

Enhancing energy efficiency 💡

Climate Action in India: 2030 Targets 🌍

Current Situation

Heavy reliance on coal ⬤

Clean energy accounts for only 22% of electricity mix ⚡

Urgency in addressing environmental issues 🌱

Key Environmental Issues

Heat Stress

Vulnerable to extreme temperatures

Need for mitigation strategies

Air Quality Improvement

Reducing pollutants for better health

Year-round air pollution problem

Waste Management

Efficient waste handling systems

Energy Efficiency Enhancement

Adoption of low global warming potential refrigerants

Mitigating Pollutants

CO2 Emissions ❌

Essential to reduce alongside super pollutants

Super Pollutants 🌀

Methane, black carbon, and hydrofluorocarbons

Greater impact on near-term warming than CO2

Tailor-made Treaties

Fair agreements for rich and poor countries

Integration into the Paris Agreement

Montreal Protocol

Successful model for future treaties

Focus on methane to reduce warming

Economic Opportunities

Viewing Climate Action as Opportunity 

Encouraging businesses to adapt

Acting swiftly on carbon markets

Critical Changes for Air Quality

Collective Responsibility 🤝

Investment in Clean Initiatives 💰

Sustainable Development Integration 🌿

Data-driven Interventions 📊

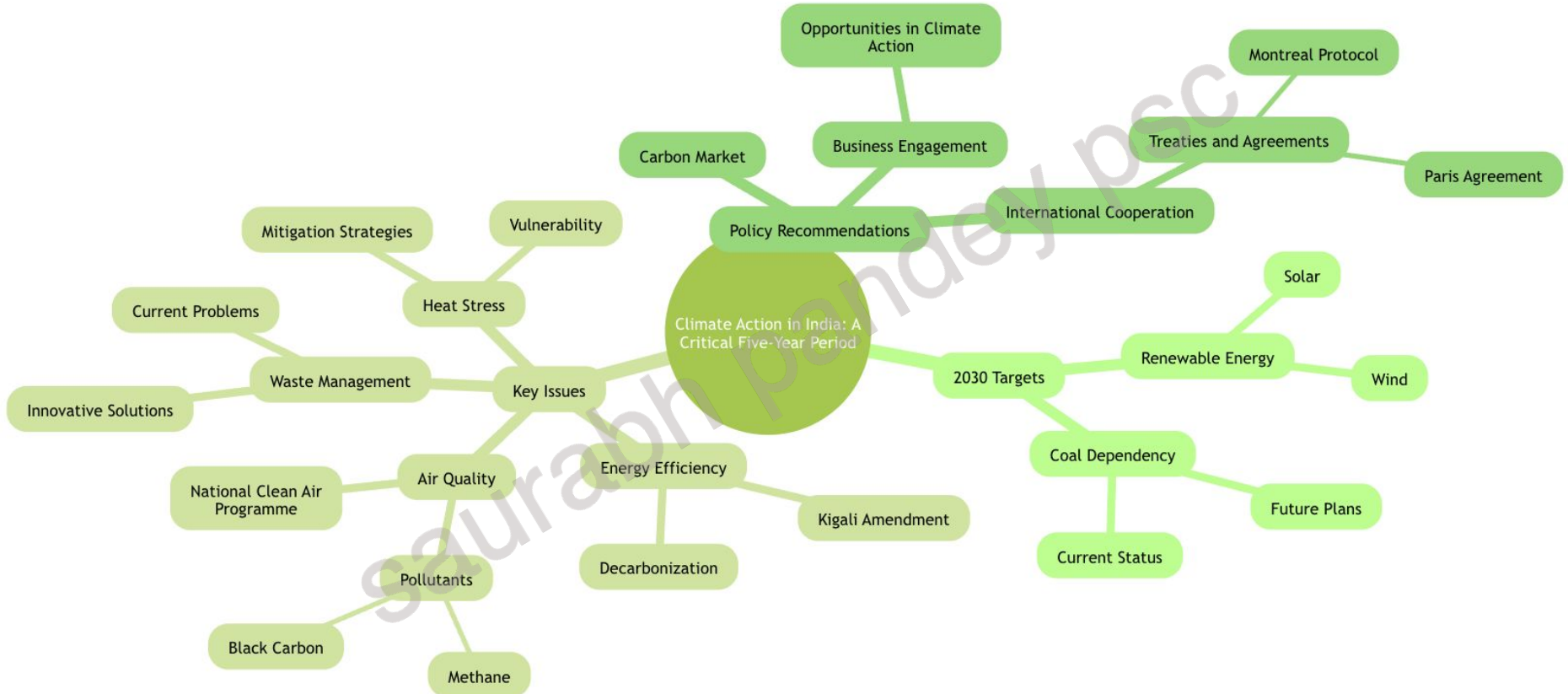
Recognition of Clean Air as Economic Driver 💵

Energy Solutions

Faster Decarbonisation ▶▶

Regulatory Reforms 🏢

Figure 1.1: Mind map



Overview

Incentivizing Reductions in GHGs 🌍

Financial rewards for emission cuts 💰

Aim for 43% reduction in global GHG emissions to prevent global temperature rise above 1.5-2°C

India's Carbon Market Initiative 🇮🇳

Launch in 2026

Goal: Largest emissions trading system by 2030

Potential to avoid \$35 trillion in climate-related costs over 50 years

Nuanced Approach to Carbon Trading

Develop financial 'carrots' for faster climate action

Separate metrics for long-lived pollutants (e.g., CO₂) and SLCPs (e.g., methane)

Governance and Coordination

Need for a nodal authority with constitutional powers

Ensure accountability and collaborative action among stakeholders

— Topic→ U.S. Thermal Coal Exports to Africa in 2024



Overview of Thermal Coal Exports

Record Export Volume: 6.1 million metric tons to Africa in the first eight months of 2024.

Percentage Increase: 83% more than the same period in 2023.

Top Supplier: U.S. accounted for 64% of total African thermal coal imports.

Key Markets

Asia: 11.1 million tons exported; India is the largest importer (7.3 million tons).

Africa: Morocco (3 million tons) and Egypt (2.9 million tons).

— Environmental Concerns



Emissions Impact: High coal exports challenge global efforts to reduce coal use.

Backlash Risk: International climate advocates may criticize U.S. coal policies.

Export Trends

High Export Levels: On track for the second or third highest year for U.S. coal exports.

Comparison with Past Years: Previous record was 39.1 million tons in 2018.

African Thermal Coal Imports Growth

Overview

Total Imports: 9.48 million tons from January to August 2024.

Trend: 0.5% decrease compared to 2023; Third highest on record.

Growth Rate: 12% increase over the past two years.



Overview of the Coal Market in North Africa

Key Players: Morocco and Egypt as primary markets

U.S. Suppliers: Strategic advantage due to proximity to ports

Market Dynamics:

Morocco's thermal coal import: 750,000 tons/month

Egypt's thermal coal import: 400,000 tons/month (30% growth in 2024)

(U.S. exporters can deliver coal faster to Morocco compared to other regions, including South Africa.)

Key Insights



Sailing Time:

-Baltimore to Casablanca: < 11 days

-Baltimore to Egypt: 17 days

Market Trends:

Morocco's coal needs may have peaked, indicating potential market saturation.

Egypt's appetite for coal is growing, representing opportunities for exporters.

Strategic Opportunities

Growth Potential:

Egypt as a new entry point for coal exporters targeting North Africa.
Fast-growing economies needing inexpensive fuels.

Challenges:

Conflicting U.S. climate ambitions vs. international coal demand.

—Topic→Ammonium Nitrate Import Increase in India



Overview of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) Imports

Significant Import Rise: Imports increased to 2.39 lakh tonne in FY23 from 91,236 tonne in FY22.

Domestic Impact: Domestic capacity utilization dropped to 72% from 91%.

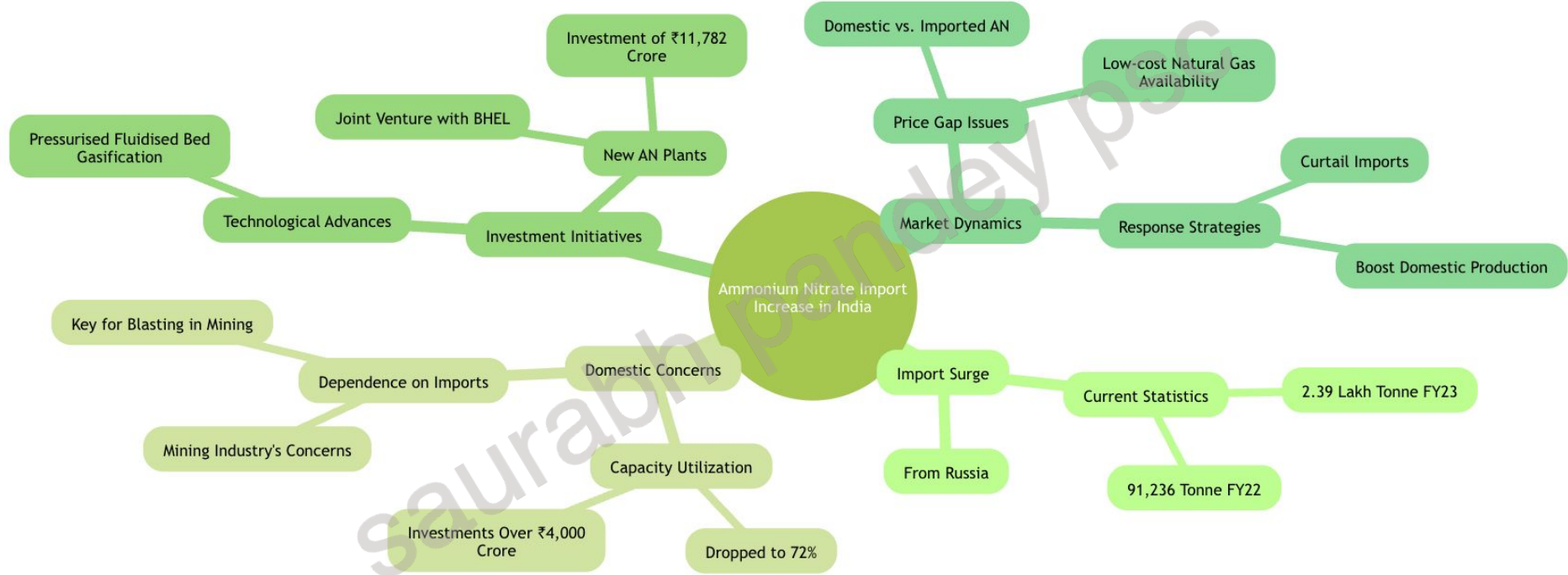
Investment in Capacity: Over ₹4,000 crore invested by domestic firms to ramp up AN capacity.

Key Concerns:

Dependency on imports for sourcing AN.

Price gap between domestic and imported AN.

Urgent need to curtail imports to utilize domestic capacity fully.



Topic→Cocoa in Bolivia



Overview

Cocoa Production: Bolivia is known for its high-quality cocoa beans.

Sustainable Farming: Initiatives are in place to promote sustainable cocoa farming practices.

Economic Impact: Cocoa farming contributes to the livelihoods of many Bolivian farmers.

Key Themes

Cultural Significance: Cocoa has historical and cultural relevance in Bolivia.

Environmental Aspects: Cocoa farming impacts biodiversity and conservation efforts.

Market Trends: Growing demand for organic and fair-trade cocoa products.____

Challenges

Drug Trafficking: The influence of coca cultivation and its implications.

Climate Change: Effects on cocoa yields and farming sustainability.

Market Access: Barriers faced by local farmers in reaching international markets.

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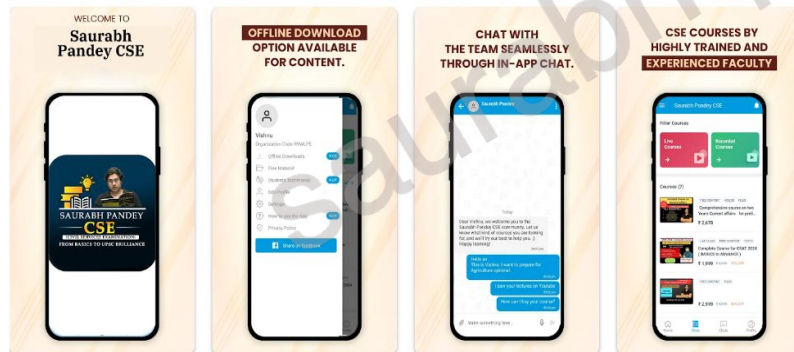
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