ANUDEEP DURISHETTY
AIR 1, CSE 2017

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 words each. Content is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

($12^{1/2} \times 20 = 250$ Marks)

1. As the country with the largest arable land acreage, India can not only ensure its own food security, but can also become a source of food for the entire planet. What is ailing India's agriculture sector? Suggest remedial measures.

India has over 200mha of area under cultivation with 140mha of irrigation potential. These are essential for ensuring food security ~~and~~ within and outside India.

India & food Security

Food Security exists if all people at all times have physical, economic access to safe and nutritious food.

India has produced more than 350 MT of food grain last year. Thus this is more than enough quantity to ensure food security if distributed well. But problems persist in → storage, → distribution

India as source of food for planet

India has many advantages such as
- → large untapped potential.
- → govt policy support (FCI, PDS etc)
- → agricultural credit availability
- → soil health card etc.

Thus these advantages can help in not only ensuring food security within country, but for entire world

What's Ailing Agriculture ?

1. High input costs – farm equipment, cost of seeds, fertilisers
2. Lack of agricultural credit to farmers
3. Overdependence on Monsoon → Variability
4. No agricultural insurance penetration
5. Problems in marketing : Flawed APMC act in states

⑥ Fragmentation of land : avg land holding on 2.5 acres.

Remedial Measures

Ashok Dalwai committee has suggested following recommendations :

① Enhance farm credit
② Amend APMC act to allow direct selling (Rythu Bazaars)
③ Technological intervention (Eg: eNAM, Soil Health Card)
④ Agri-insurance ⑤ Enhance irrigation

By these steps we can ensure food security and also double farm income by 2022-23.

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2. Antibiotic resistance is a crisis on the level of climate change. Comment.

Antibiotic resistance means when a microbe is no longer susceptible to an antibiotic. Recently, antibiotic resistance seems to have been observed against power antibiotics such as Carbapenem etc.

Reasons for A. resistance

1. Flawed use of antibiotics
2. over the counter selling without prescription
3. Overdosage, under dosage, not completing the course
4. Lack of awareness, weak law enforcement on chemist shops.

Antibiotic resistance & Climate change

Both these challenges are on the level of a global crisis because:

① Both threaten very existance of humankind

② Both challenges require solutions from global co-operation and no one nation can tackle.

③ Both adversely affect the livelihood of especially vulnerable and the poor.

④ In India we are already witnessing rise of MDR-TB (Multi-drug resistance TB) along with adverse climate change affects of desertification, acidification of seas, ground water depletion. Both require urgent action.

What needs to be done?

① Chennai Declaration in 2012 called for a concerted action via Information, Education and Communication Strategies

② Strictly banning over-the-counter sale of antibiotics without prescription

③ Strengthening red line campaign on tablets to identify antibiotics

④ Regulation, licensing of chemist shops strictly

⑤ Work with global agencies such as UN, WHO, UNDP for holistic action at a global level.

Article 47 of Constitution mandates State to ensure health for all. By these above steps we can ensure that.

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3. (a) Black money at best can act as a steroid which gives temporary boost to economic growth. Critically examine.

(b) Does the setting up of the Monetary Policy Committee bring into question the independence of the central bank? Give arguments in support of your answer.

Black money refers to money that is either illegally earned or which has been hidden from authorities for the purpose of evading tax.

Sources of black money
- real estate
- corruption
- bullion
- money laundering
- Havala etc.,

Black money as a Steroid

Some experts say Black money improves growth temporarily because:

① It puts cash in people's hand ⇒
- more purchasing power
- higher aggregate demand

② It helps in driving production of goods since high demand

③ It "greases" the administration and ensure faster decision making in infra projects etc.,

But this is a temporary phenomenon and in the long term it destroys the economy because:

① B. money pushes inflation (tax on poor)
② It finances terrorism, insurgency → loss of Law & order
③ Leads to collusive corruption (Eg: 2G Scam)
④ Encourages tax evasion ⇒ low revenue for govt to spend on social sector

Govt took many steps to solve this menace such as

① GST
② Benami prohibition act
③ Money laundering act etc,

We need effective implementation of these to curb black money.

(b) MPC is mooted as 6 member committee to decide on monetary policy. It is responsible for containing inflation within 4% ± 2% band.

MPC violates independence of RBI	Doesnot violate
① 3 experts by govt can influence decision making	② RBI has equal representation in MPC

② Govt may push towards low rates in urge for growth	② Broad based body can always be sensible and reasonable
③ RBI governor plays limited role	③ By distributing the power, inflation policies will be consistent
④ Reduces RBI's discretion as independent body	④ As the minutes of meeting are public, ensures transparency

Thus, it can be seen that despite some negatives, MPC is a good step forward in line with developed nations such as UK, Singapore etc.,

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4. India today has the twin challenges of economic growth - (to meet the development aspirations of a large population, and cutting emissions) Elaborate. How can India balance her commitments to economic growth and environmental preservation?

India's future growth trajectory must adequately balance between growth and sustainable development

Twin challenges

Economic growth challenge	Cutting Emissions challenge
① To ensure rapid industrialisation	① Climate change is posing threat to agriculture, Coastal communities
② To create jobs for the youth (Economic Survey → 10.6 million workforce enters every year)	② Poor are especially affected by climate change
③ To raise revenues & fund social sector schemes & inclusive growth	③ Our Obligation at INDC to reduce emissions by 30% of ~~2005~~ 2004-05 level
④ To raise education and health standards as mandated by Constitution	④ To meet the challenges of sustainable development goals SDG 7 – Stop global warming SDG 15 – biodiversity protection

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How can we balance climate preservation and growth

① Switching to electric mode of transport can curtail vehicular emissions

② Sustainable agricultural practices (Organic farming, National Mission on Sustainable Agri)

③ Incentivising clean energy by → National clean Energy fund
→ Renewable Purchase Obligations

④ Boosing Solar and hydro power. National hybrid solar, wind policy is a right step.

⑤ Switching to BS-V emission norms

⑥ Encourage startups in renewable energy sector

⑦ Contain biodiversity loss, clean rivers by adopting "polluter pays" principle.

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India's commitment of INDC at Paris deal and SDG 7, 15 can be achieved by effective implementation of these policies.

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5. Write a short note on the reasons behind implementation of Goods and Services Tax in India. Evaluate its impact on the unorganised sector of the economy. What are the intended economic benefits of GST implementation?

Goods & Service Tax refers to single indirect tax that subsumes earlier VAT, excise duty and other such taxes

Reasons for GST

1. to ease tax compliance burden by subsuming myriad taxes
2. Promote Co-operative Federalism
3. To Remove cascading of taxes
4. To create one nationd market, thereby promote ease of doing business
5. Eliminate border checks
6. increase tax compliance & tax revenue
7. Reduce Corruption, black money (via Invoice matching, GSTN technology)

Impact on the unorganised Sector

Negative

1. GST may initially increase tax burden

② It prevents unorganised sector from easy cash based trade

Positive

① It forces them into the tax net

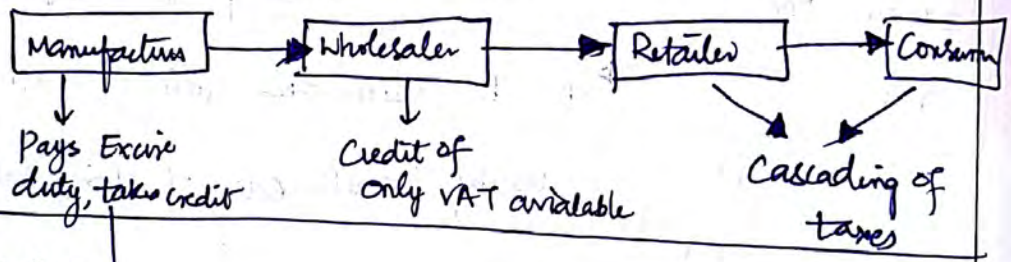
② Will enable them to claim input credit

③ Lessens burden that is invisible now

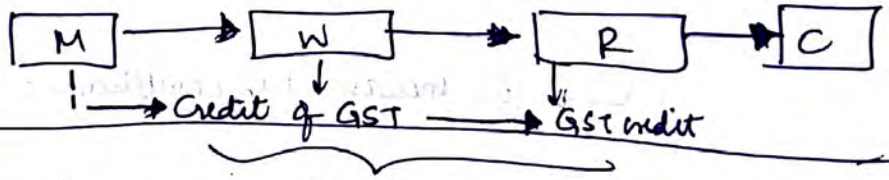
④ Promotes culture of honesty

Benefits –

Earlier



After GST



GST credit available in whole chain

Thus → lower burden on Consumer

Thus from the above figure we see that GST will

① Ease tax burden

② Removes Cascading of taxes

③ Self policing: Buyer ensures tax is paid so that input Credit is available

④ One nation, one tax ⇒ national economic integration

⑤ Technology based tax (GSTN) ⇒ less discretion to tax officers

⑥ Promotes Exports → more forex

⑦ Reduces tax evasion, formalises economy, benefits all

Thus GST benefits consumers, govt and also the businesses thus bringing huge benefits to economy

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6. Briefly examine the rationale behind the formation of International Solar Alliance (ISA). How can ISA help bring down the cost of solar energy?

International Solar alliance is a consortium of like-minded ~~ont~~ countries who pledged to promote, design and improve use of solar energy among member nations. India is a major partner of ISA.

Rationale behind ISA

- To promote international Co-operation in clean energy
- By collaboration, we can accelerate switch towards ~~climate change~~ clean energy.
- Solar power is 175 W/m² annually. This is 7000 times more than global power consumption
- Technological co-operation between members
- Tackling global warming requires international co-operation

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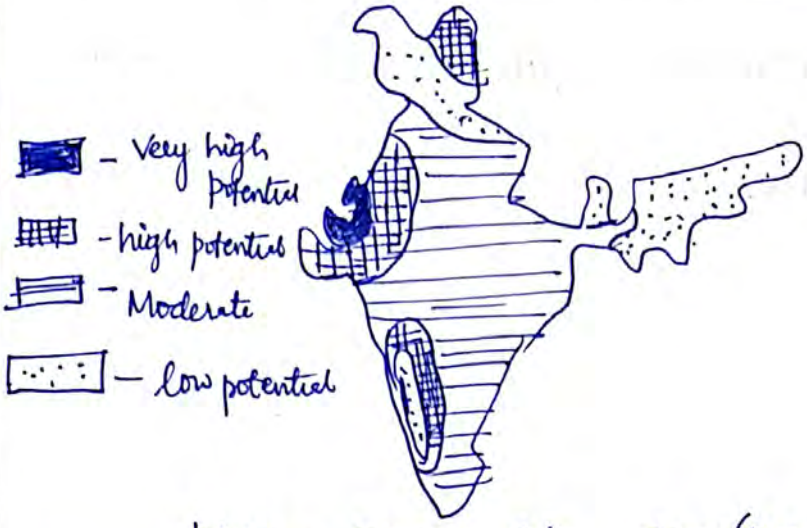

INDIA - Potential Solar Sites (Based on irradiance level)

ISA brings down Solar energy cost by:

① ISA promotes tech transfer between member states.

This will bring economies of scale.

② Promoting trade between nations

③ Access to high solar potential sites thus can harness energy easily.

④ Voltaic cells, inverters can be bought & sold.

⑤ Promoting R&D & cutting edge technology

Thus ISA has huge potential to promote clean energy and help India achieve its

INDC commitments of Paris deal & also sustainable development goals.

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7. (a) Demonetisation intended not just to clean and streamline the economy but also to boost electoral reforms. Critically examine.

(b) Demonetisation has not only done what it sought to do, but also done what it did not seek to do. In the light of the given statement, list the unintended consequences of demonetisation.

Demonetisation is the process whereby the govt declared erstwhile ₹500, ₹1000 notes as not a legal tender anymore. Intention of demonetisation is 2-fold → clean economy, boost electoral reforms

Clean Economy	Electoral Reforms
① Demonetisation wanted to flush out excess black money	① Political funding is the single biggest source of black money
② It was aimed to choke terror financing	② Govt step to reduce anonymous donation from ₹20,000 to ₹2000 is a step in this direction
③ It boosted digital transactions and curbed illegal cash based economy	③ Demonetisation was also intended to boost digital funding, check cash distribution to
④ Raised govt revenue also	

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However, govt's step to introduce anonymous political bonds may be counterproductive. Complete auditing of pol. account of parties, digital funding is the way ahead

(b) Demonetisation : intended consequences

① Checked terror and Naxal financing (M'y of Home Affairs report)

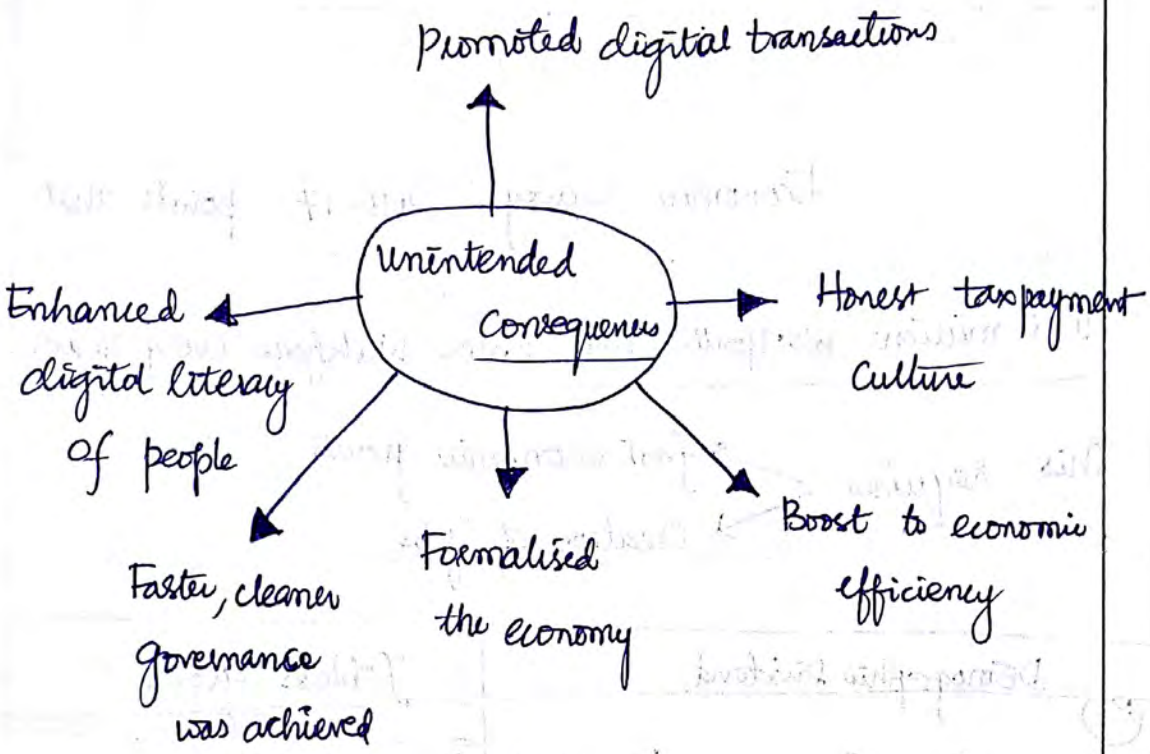
② Collected Black money (PM Garib Kalyan Yojana – ₹5000 cr collected)

③ Enhanced culture of honesty (Tax revenue will raise)

④ More income tax after demonetisation (26% rise)

However it also had unintended consequences

Such as: —



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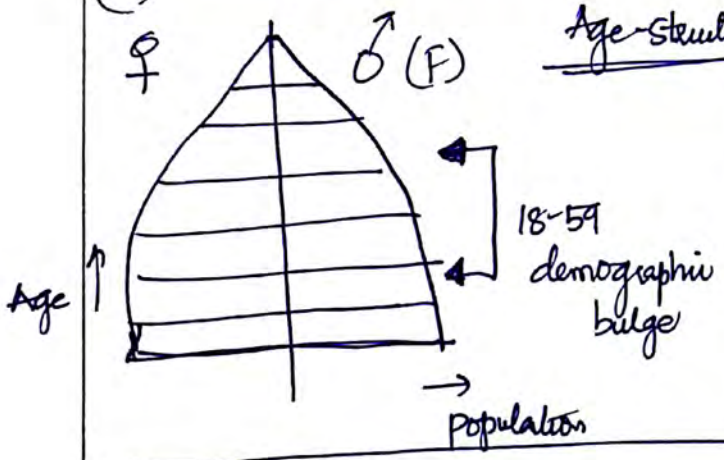
8. "India's rate of employment has declined and job creation has not kept up with the growing working-age population." What ails job creations in India? What are the government interventions for the same? Suggest measures needed to leverage the growing working age population in India.

Economic Survey 2016-17 points that

10.6 million youth will enter workforce every year.

This requires → fast economic growth
→ Creation of jobs

Demographic Dividend	Jobless growth
	Year: 2000-2010; Avg growth rate: 7.5%; Employment G. Rate: 2%

gap

Problems of job creation :

① Rigid labour laws restrict hiring
(Eg: Industrial disputes act etc)

② Lack of human resources
(only 5% of Rural youth skilled
(NITI Aayog report)

③ Problems in land acquisition leads to stalling industries

④ Problem of administrative corruption, red tape
(EoDB - World Bank ranked India 130/189)

⑤ Non-enforcement of contracts

⑥ Adequate power supply to industries

⑦ Excessive focus on Service Sector - which is not labour intensive

⑧ Poor health & education also leads to poor employment.
(as argued by Amartya Sen)

Govt steps

Executive measures
- Make in India mission (100 million jobs by 2022)
- Abolished FIPB to cut red tape
- Centre-State investment agreement to attract FDI
- GST to boost tax compliance ease tax burden
- Startup India, Stand-up India
- Skill India Mission (to skill 40cr by 2022)

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Legal Measures
- IPR policy to ease patents & increase investment
- Mudra Bank,
- Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code to ease exiting business
- ICDS, RTE, etc to promote health, Education

Remedial measures, As economic survey points out, we need to concentrate on Apparell, leather & textile, poultry industries along with effective implementation of above Schemes to create more Jobs.

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9. How are disasters intertwined with development? How can the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Accord along with the Sendai Framework help aid disaster management in India?

Disaster is defined as any catastrophic incident that disrupts the normal functioning of a society in a way that makes society unable to cope with it. Eg: Earthquake, Cyclone etc.,

Disasters → destroys infrastructure → loss of lives, loss of property, loss of development → Chaos in society

World Bank estimates that loss caused by disasters annually is around 3% of GDP.

Disasters & Development

1. Unplanned Development raises risk of disaster
2. Disaster threatens livelihood
3. ~~Development~~ Disasters derails industry, agriculture thus threatens development

Sustainable development (SD) & disaster management

→ SD helps plan development in a environment friendly way

→ S.D. reduces the vulnerability risk from disasters

Paris deal & disaster management

- Paris deal plans to reduce emissions by 20-25% of 2005 level ⇒ less global warming
  more productive agriculture
  less occurence of climate phenomena such as cyclone, drought

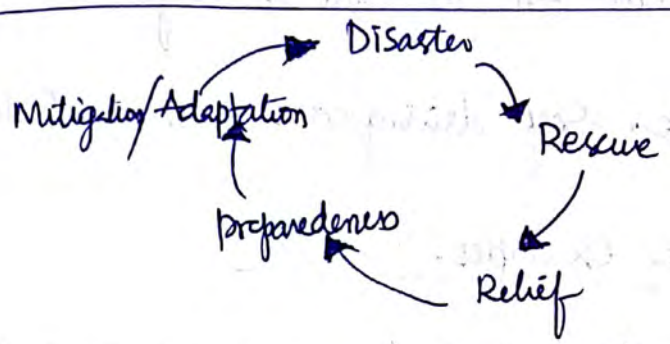
Thus it helps in reducing the risk.

Sendai framework & disaster management

Sendai guidelines plan to
- → build climate resilience
- → train people to cope with disaster
- → empower local bodies to take multi-faceted efforts

→ promote global co-operation.

Thus all the 3 tools helps in effective disaster management



Disaster Management cycle

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10. What do you understand by (Autonomous Vehicle Technology?) Outline the benefits and the challenges of the ATV technology.

Autonomous vehicle means the ability of a vehicle to drive on its own or very minimal human interference. Self-driving cars such as Tesla, Waymo (Google) are examples.

Benefits of A.T.V

1. Better safety on roads, democratisation of travel
2. Reduces scope for human error
3. lesser no. of accidents from the data we have. Only 1 accident of Waymo in 2yrs of operation
4. No scope of drunken driving
5. makes commute hassle free
6. multiplier effect on economy as it helps business, efficient transfer of goods
7. Can ply 24x7

Challenges of ATV:

1. Job loss: Drivers may lose employment
2. Social distress resulting from widespread unemployment
3. Not a fool proof ~~fo~~ technology
4. Waymo, Tesla vehicles had crashes recently
5. Very difficult to navigate in tight streets & lanes
6. May not be suitable to Indian roads.

Thus ATV has both benefits and potential challenges.

Way Ahead

- Promote ATV on a pilot basis in India
- Skill training of drivers to check Job Losses
- ~~Testing on~~ Rigorous prior testing to ensure road safety.

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11. ISRO is a stellar example of what Indian organisations can achieve. Discuss the reasons why other scientific organisations have not been able to achieve the same zenith in their respective fields. What measures can be undertaken to achieve the same?

ISRO is the premier space organisation in India under Dept. of Space. It had stellar achievements to its name such as

1. SAARC Satellite launch
2. Indigenous Kavei Cryogenic engine
3. NAVIC – indigenous navigation satellite system
4. INSAT, PSLV, GSLV systems
5. Mars Orbiter Mission, Chandrayaan etc.,

The same success of ISRO ~~cannot~~ has not be achieved by other similar organisations such as DRDO.

Reasons are:

1. More autonomy given to ISRO. When scientists are given freedom they shine
2. Good liberal funding by govt

③ Culture of technology, space exploration in India ever since independence (Eg: INCOSPAR under S.Swarup Bhatnagar)

④ Excellent human resource of budding scientists

Other organisation such as DRDO, CSIR, CCMB have not achieved similar success because:

① Excessive bureaucratic regulation (M.of Defence control over DRDO)

② Often funding was not enough.

(India spends - 0.7% of GDP on R&D
China - 1.7%
S.Korea - 3%
(NITI Aayog report)

③ Project delays and inefficiency

④ ISRO had excellent leadership such as S.S Bhatnagar, Kalam etc, lacking in other organisation

Remedial Measures:

① Enhance recruitment of young budding minds out of College

② Conduct National level scientific competition and

Secondary, higher education Students

③ Increasing R&D expenditure to atleast 1.5% of GDP

④ Strengthen IPR regime to incentivise innovation

⑤ Revamped Sci Tech policy is needed

⑥ Increase autonomy and reduce bureaucratic control

⑦ Industry - academic linkage (International best practices such as of Germany can be emulated)

By these steps we can replicate success of ISRO.

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12. The threat from ransomware has been soaring in the past few years. What do you understand by ransomware? Do you think that public institutions and citizens in India are prepared to deal with them? Analyze.

Ransomware is a type of malware that infects computer systems secretly locks it and allows it to function only after extracting ransom.

Eg: Recent ransomware attack on British National Health Service demanded $1.2 mill in Bitcoins.

Threat of ransomware
- → Infects public systems
- → distorts public services such as health, education
- → money can be used for further attacks, cyber terrorism
- → chaos in law & order

India & Ransomware : Challenges

① Public institutions

→ CERT-IN is the nodal agency that guards against cyber attacks in India.

→ But public institutions are not adequately prepared because of → poor awareness and lack of training

→ no standard operating procedures in case of attacks

→ Firewall systems are not robust

Eg, Recently 19 public sector banks were attacked by cyberbots. They can be used to infect ransomware

Ransomware & Citizens

→ Low awareness among citizens

→ Cyber Security practices are not given adequate attention

→ Passwords are often shared with others

⇒ increased risk.

Way Ahead — What needs to be done?

① Digitial India needs exclusive cyber security component

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(2) Ethical hacking be utilised to check vulnerabilities in Systems

(3) Training of professionals. Awareness generation among Schools, public

(4) Building effective "firewall System"

(5) Regulation of Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Ether must be undertaken to prevent misuse as Ransomware

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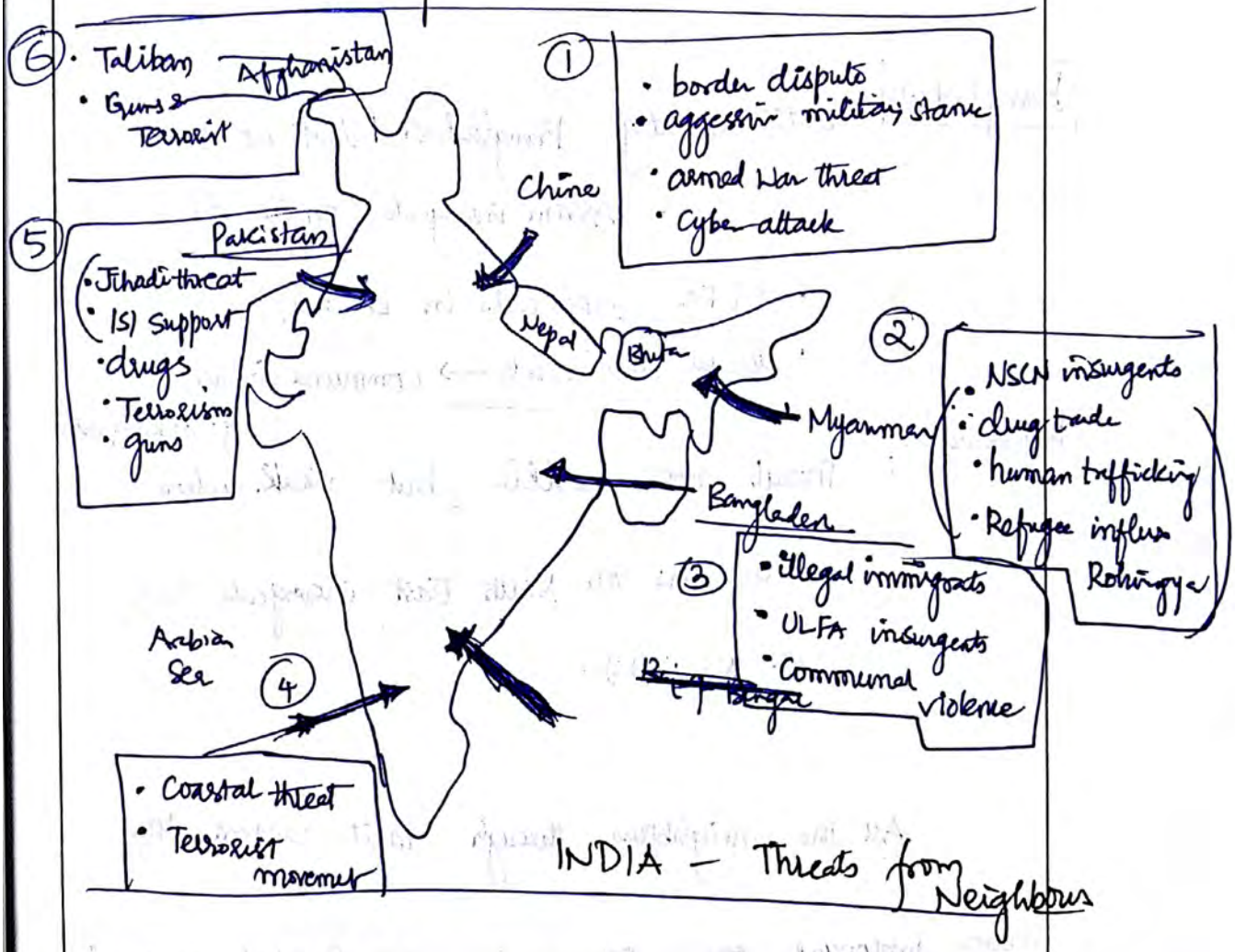
13. "The presence of hostile neighbours enables internal conflicts to get external support and prolongs them." Elaborate with examples.

India is geographically placed with hostile neighbours and thus it poses direct challenge to nations security.



INDIA – Threats from Neighbours

Threats:

- Pakistan:
  - ISI supported terrorists
  - Military Jihadi complex
  - ISI support to Khalistani movement in 1980s

· China : ① Tacit support to Maoist insurgency

② Use of cyber attacks on India

③ Border dispute leading to confrontation (Eg: Doklam crisis)

Bangladesh: Until recently Bangladesh didnot act on

· Assam insurgents on its soil

· ULFA sleeper cells in Bangla

· Illegal immigrants → Communal violence (Eg: Kokrajhar)

Myanmar : Though not hostile, but weak action until now on North East insurgents such as NSCN (K).

All the neighbours through tacit support thus have prolonged the insurgency, & ignited communal conflicts in India thus far. Hence peace is essential for thwarting the threats.

Way forward:

① Use SAARC, ASEAN, SCO, BIMSTEC forums to engage bilaterally

② Connectivity via road, rail can bring development (BMIC corridor, IMT highway etc)

③ B2B relations, Track-2 diplomacy

④ Strengthening of border checks, cyber security, firewalling can go a long way in ensuring peace & stability.

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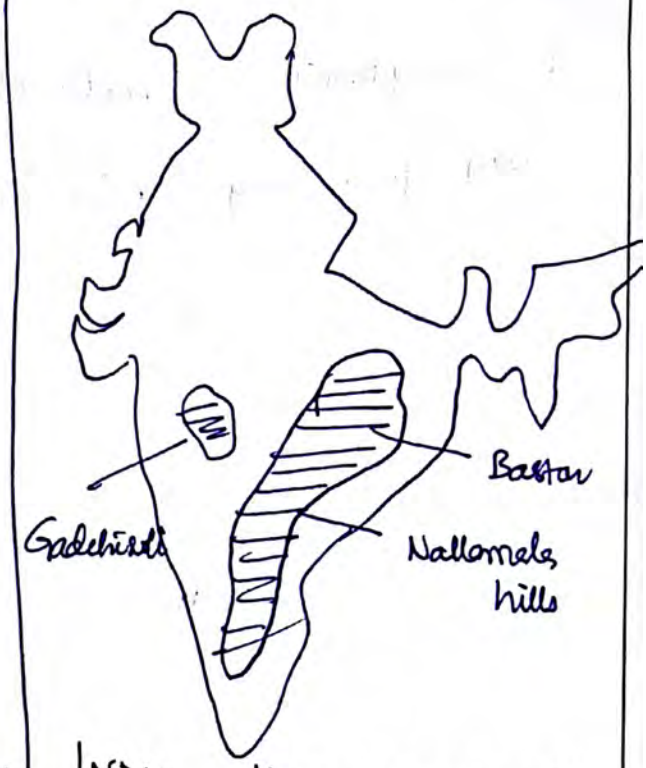
14. How is development, or the lack of it, linked to the spread of Left Wing Extremism? Discuss the steps undertaken by the government to tackle it.

Left wing extremism or Maoism is a violent insurgent movement in India that seeks to overthrow democratic govt violently and establish proletariat dictatorship. Former PM Singh called it 'gravest threat' to internal security.

Reasons for rise of Maoist insurgency is both because of development and lack of development



INDIA – 'RED CORRIDOR'
Major Maoist strongholds

LWE & ~~lack of~~ development

① Mining and industrialisation led to land

alienation among tribal lands (Xaxa committee observation)

② As seen in Vedanta mining case, Dhongria Khond tribals were forcefully evicted before Supreme Court intervention

③ Lack of health, education among maoist lands

④ Poor employment opportunities leads to frustration, makes youth prey to maoist ideology

⑤ Poverty among maoist lands also a cause of LWE extension

Govt steps
- Development based
- Security based

Security based:

a) SAMADHAN – based on technology, training of CRPF and modern arms

b) Satellite systems to monitor movement etc

c) Banned Maoist unit under UAPA act

Development based – Roshni scheme to improve skills

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② Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana to improve life of tribals

③ RTE, ICDS Scheme effective implementation in Bastar, etc

④ PESA act, FRA act to ensure tribal rights

As Andhra pradesh example has shown, Maoism is a challenge that can be solved by effective combination of security measures (Eg: Greyhound) and development (FRA, PESA etc).

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15. Different modes of transportation in India are often competitive rather than being cooperative. Comment. Also, bring out the consequence of the same.

Indian transportation systems include road, rail, air, inland waterway, sea based etc.,

All are Competitive :because:

① Lack of proper planning didnot result in integrated transport systems

② Rail, inland water are not developed holistically

Eg: Inland → only 0.2% of total transport

③ Air based connectivity is still rudimentary

④ Cross - Subsidisation of rail results in high freight costs and thus prevents effect transport

~~No they are~~.

Consequences

① Overcapacity & burden :
Eg:- National Roads constitute 2% of total but carry 40% of goods

② High cost of business – since goods are costly

③ Loss to the economy

④ Inefficient border checks & delays

⑤ Leads to job losses etc.,

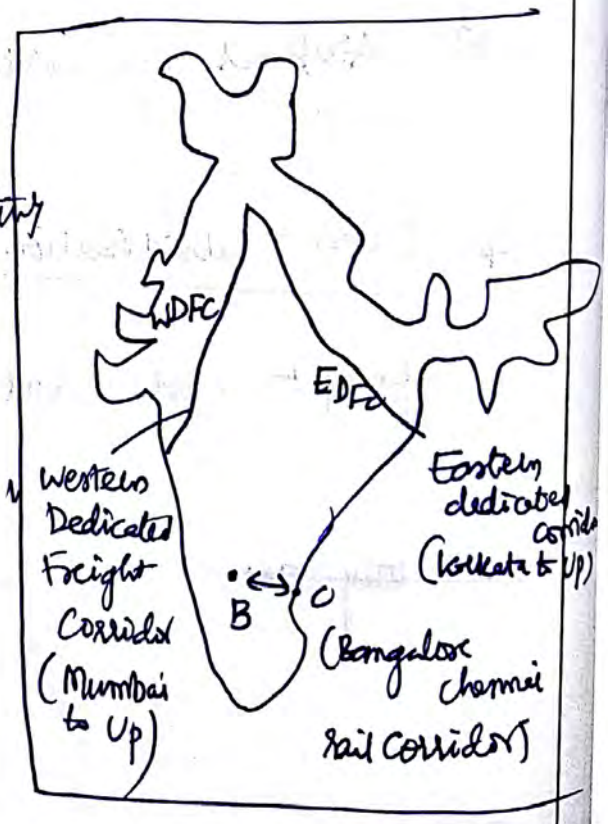
Govt steps

① UDAAN Scheme to promote air connectivity

② scrapping 5/20 scheme in civil aviation policy

③ Dedicated Freight Corridors

④ National Waterway Bill declared 111 new national waterways



(5) Sagarmala project to improve port infra

(6) National Infra Investment Fund set up.

These steps go a long way in boosting connectivity and improving trade.

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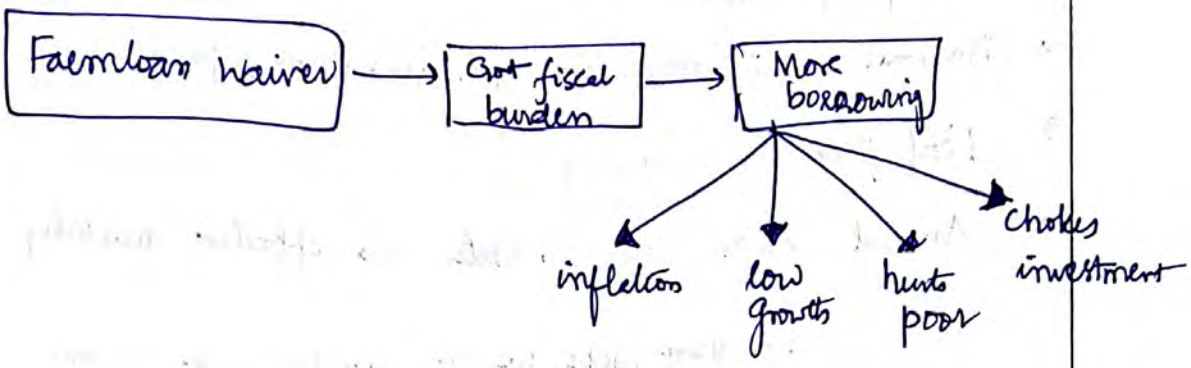
16. There has been a recent series of farm loan waivers by different state governments. Critically examine the impact of such waivers on fiscal health as well as on the farmers. Do farm loan waivers meet their intended goals?

Farm loan waivers means Scrapping of all outstanding debt of farmers held with banks. Recently UP, Punjab and Karnataka gave farm loan waivers.

Negative impact of farm loan waivers

- increases NPA burden on banks
- destroys honest credit culture
- leads to more defaults, creates moral hazard
- lending system, repayment suffers
- fiscal health deteriorated. Rise in fiscal deficit
- Borrowing by govt leads to crowd out of private investment
- leads to inflation, low growth.

Chief Economic adviser called farm loan waivers destructive to economy.



Farm loan waivers achieve goals only temporarily by reducing debt burden. But in the long term it hurts farmers more because:

→ Banks reluctance to give future loans. Poor credit

→ May fall into ~~a~~ moneylenders trap

→ Farm mechanisation, marketing suffers

→ low growth, inflation creats job losses

→ UnEmployment is also result of farm loan waivers

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What needs to be done:

MS Swaminathan & Ashok Dalwai Committee recommendations

Such as

→ Boosting agri credit

→ Improve agri insurance (PM Fasal Bima Yojana)

→ Food processing industry

→ Amend APMC act in state → effective marketing

By these steps we can double farm income by 2022-23

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17. Trace the history of land reforms in India. Do you think they have been able to achieve their purpose? Justify your answer.

Land reforms refer to the changes that were taken in legislative, institutional spheres to promote
- equitable land distribution
- promote agri productivity
- help tenants and labourers.

History of Land Reforms

Pre-independence

British introduced Ryotwari, Permanent Settlement system that destroyed land markets.

Post-independence

3 reforms
- Zamindari Abolition act
- land ceiling act
- Tenancy reforms.

2004: Central Land Reform Commission -

Purpose of these reforms was to equitably distribute land and improve agri productivity.

Evaluation

Positive	Negative
① States like W. Bengal, Kerala effectively implemented them Eg: operation Barga	① Many states had large ceiling limits Eg: KTK - 200 acres
② It led to effective land ceiling	② Courts were used to delay land reforms
③ Forest Rights Act, 2005 restored land rights to tribals	③ Many Tenants evicted
	④ Tribal forest rights are yet to be settled
④ Land Acquisition Act introduced Social Impact assessment to ensure rehabilitation	⑤ LARR act is seen as a hindrance to industrial development

Way Ahead

→ Digitize land records (Eg: MP)

→ Ensure Tenancy reforms

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→ Model Land Leasing act of NITI Aayog is a good step

→ Ensure full tribal rights are settled

→ This will ensure equitable development and effective antidote to Naxalism as well.

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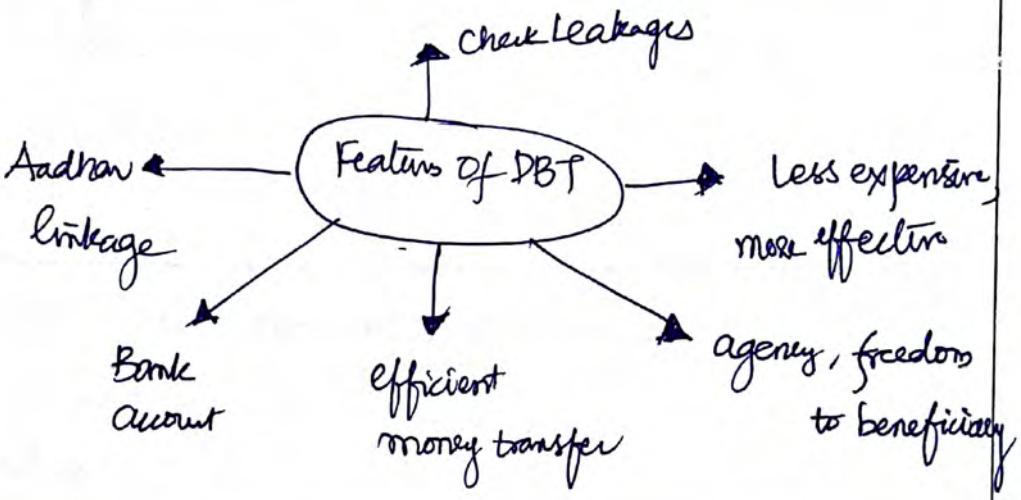
18. Critically analyse the suitability of direct benefits transfer as an alternative to the existing Public Distribution System.

Direct benefit transfer means to put subsidy money in the bank account of the beneficiary in lieu of in-kind transfer



Current PDS is saddled with problems

procurement	Storage	Distribution
① Flawed MSP leading to mono culture	① Mandi infrastructure is deplorable	① Beneficiary identification
② Wastage of grain	② Grain losses due to rain	② Transport challenges
③ Price collapse	③ No value addition - Filth, rodents	③ Corruption & leakage in ration shops
④ Lack of awareness of MSP		

Thus DBT is seen as effective antidote to PDS flaws.

DBT is beneficial	DBT is harmful
① Efficient transfer of money	① Might fuel inflation
② Leads to money savings. WB report says ₹80000 cr saved till now due to Aadhar	② Men may use money to buy sin goods (alcohol)
③ Agency to the poor to invest money	③ Huge financial burden on State
④ Checks corruption & leakages	④ Technological challenges such as flawed Aadhar biometric can lead to denial of benefits
⑤ Efficient markets	⑤ DBT means abdication of state responsibility towards marketisation
⑥ No wastage in Mandis	⑥ No Financial inclusion

Thus DBT has both positives & Negatives.

As E-Survey points out, DBT must be introduced in a pilot basis, ~~and~~ and financial inclusion be strengthened ~~to~~ for it to be beneficial to all

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19. Transforming the food processing industry will not only generate employment and result in better realizations for the farmers, but it will also earn us better foreign exchange. Examine.

Food processing industry has immense benefits (FPI)

Such as:

Employment

① ASSOCHAM report suggest FPI can ~~em~~ potentially employ 35 million people

② NIFTEM, Rural Tech institutions will enhance skill training

③ Rising income levels → creates demand → more employment

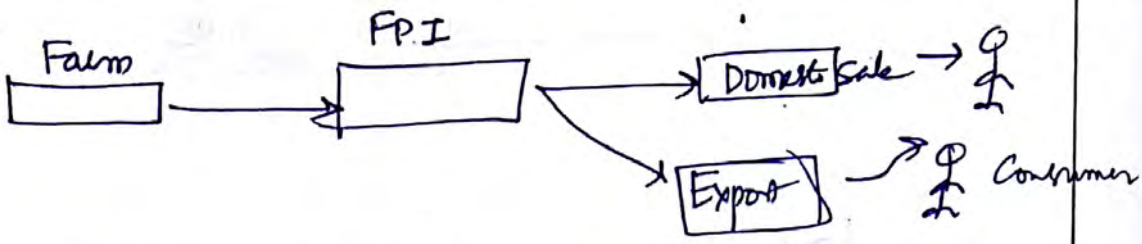
④ Benefits especially rural youth

Farmers

① Creates efficient forward & backward linkages

② Farm to Fork transfer

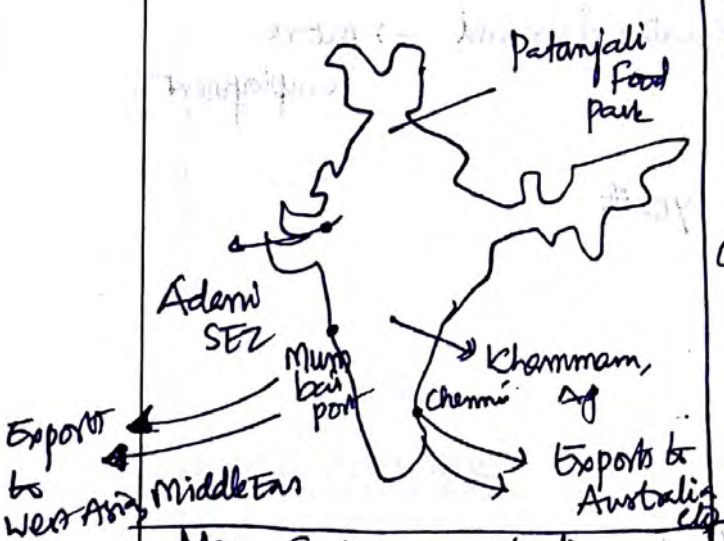
③ Mega Food Park scheme helps in better price discovery for farm goods



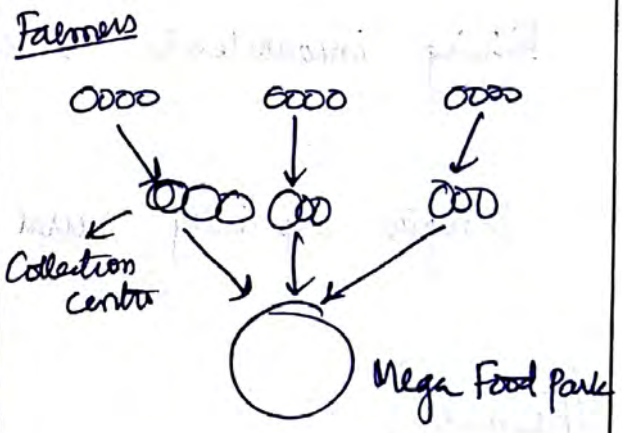
Efficient linkages from farm to consumer

Exports

- FPI can help in meat, poultry exports
- Indian port infrastructure can effectively connect to foreign markets



Mega Food parks - India



MFood Park Scheme

Thus as seen from figures FPI holds lot of potential to earn forex.

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Way Ahead

- Govt must → improve Cold storage chain
  → attract FDI
  → build ~~connecting~~ roads for more Connectivity to ports
  - Promote Ease of Doing business.

FPI holds key to doubling farm income by 2022-23.

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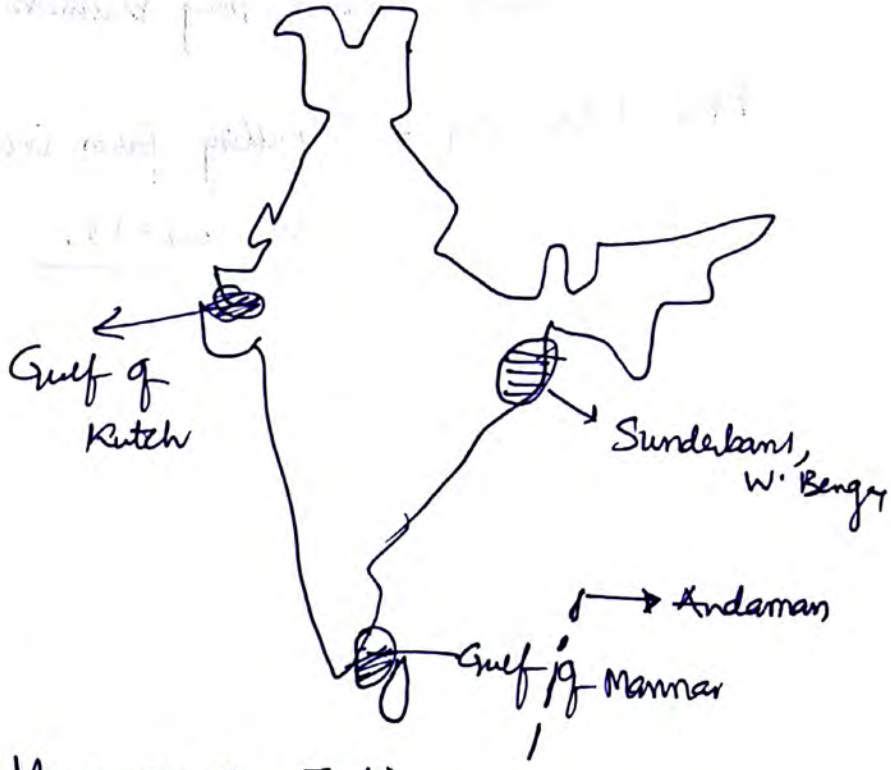
20. What role do mangroves play in coastal ecosystem? Discuss the reasons behind the depletion of mangrove forest cover in the Sunderbans. What measures would you suggest measures to mitigate the loss of mangrove forest cover in Sunderbans?

Mangroves refer to wetland forest ecosystems that are usually prevalent near coastline.



Mangroves in India

Role of Mangroves:
- Purifies land water
- Creates wetlands, protects them
- check against cyclones
- Biodiversity
- hydrological, biological cycles are maintained

Reasons for depletion in Sunderbans

- indiscriminate waste water effluents
- industrialisation
- land encroachment
- plastic, harmful chemicals
- rise in temperatures, global warming
- Eutrophication, pesticide contamination, etc.

Measures needed

- Coastal economic Zone
- Joint forest management to safeguard ecosystems
- Polluter pays principle
- prevent effluent flow by constructing water treatment plants
- Utilize funds of National Clean Energy fund to restore ecological balance

By these steps, we can safeguard mangrove ecosystems.

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