

TEST CODE 8 3 3 2 2 0

ATS 2025

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

Forum IAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

Geography/ भूगोल

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Rohin Kumar		
Roll No./ अनुक्रमांक	1910139147	Medium/ माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/ परीक्षा केंद्र	1901	Date/ दिनांक	11/08/2025

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile). उत्तर पुस्तिका में उपयुक्त विवरण (जैसे नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर, मोबाइल) प्रस्तुत करें।
1			2. There are EIGHT questions divided in two Sections in the question paper. Question 1 and 5 are compulsory. You can attempt any THREE out of the remaining, Choosing at least ONE Question from each section. प्रश्न पत्र में आठ प्रश्न दो खण्डों में विभाजित हैं। प्रश्न 1 और 5 अनिवार्य हैं। आप प्रत्येक खंड से कम से कम एक प्रश्न चुनकर, शेष में से किसी भी तीन का प्रयास कर सकते हैं।
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. किसी प्रश्न/भाग द्वारा किए गए अंकों की संख्या उसके सामने दर्शाई गई है।
3			4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर प्रवेश प्रमाण पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जिसका उल्लेख इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (QCA) पुस्तिका के मुखपृष्ठ पर दिए गए स्थान में स्पष्ट रूप से किया जाना चाहिए।
4			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।
5			6. Content is more important than content length. विषय-सामग्री लंबाई की तुलना में विषय-सामग्री अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है।
6			7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा गया कोई भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ का भाग स्पष्ट रूप से काट दिया जाना चाहिए।
7			
8			
Total/ कूल अंक	250		

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Examiner's Discretion/ मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक:	Start Time/ प्रारंभ करने का समय : 03:08 hrs	End Time/ समाप्त करने का समय:
Total Marks/ कूल अंक :	Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ ऑफलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का दियेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।	ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

1. **AWIS = Answered What is Asked.** This means whether you have addressed the core demand of the question or not. Addressing the core demand of the question gets you an objectively fair score. It is examiner's perception if you have understood the question and if you know the answer in the first place. Creative answer writing, sometimes missing the core demand, may fetch very high or very low scores, and exposes your answer to the subjectivity of the examiner.
2. **CD & VA = Content Density & Value Addition.** Examiner will evaluate the quality and quantity of your content in the answer. In the same word limit and space limit have you (a) written what is asked (b) gone beyond what is asked (c) enriched answers through combination of (but not all!) suggestions, ideas, quotes, flowcharts, diagrams, facts and figures, data etc. This affects objective components of assessment.
3. **S & F = Structure & Flow =** Whether you have structured your answer properly or not. Whether the answer has been broken into parts and sub-parts and each part has been addressed appropriately or not. Whether the flow of the answer is maintained. Affects both subjective and objective components of assessment.
4. **P. & R =** How your answer performs on the criteria of presentation, ease of read, clarity and apparent effort in writing the answer. This affects the subjective components of assessment.

Section- A

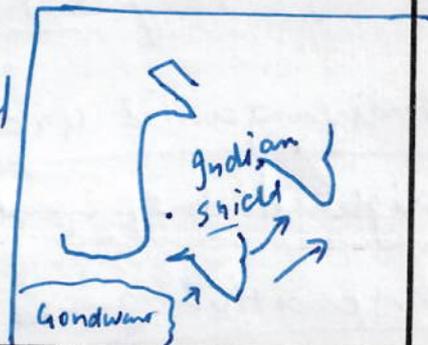
Q.1) Answer the following questions in 150 words.

a) Explain the geomorphic evolution of the Western Ghats and their significance in biodiversity conservation. (10 Marks)

Western Ghats are escarpment mountains along the western coast of India along Arabian Sea. They extend from Maharashtra till Nilgiris and called as "Sahyadris".

Geomorphic evolution

- (i) part of Archean shield which formed part of Gondwanaland.
- (ii) Breakaway from Gondwanaland around ~160 myr ago in cretaceous period
- (iii) Reunion hotspot impacted int with the deccan traps.

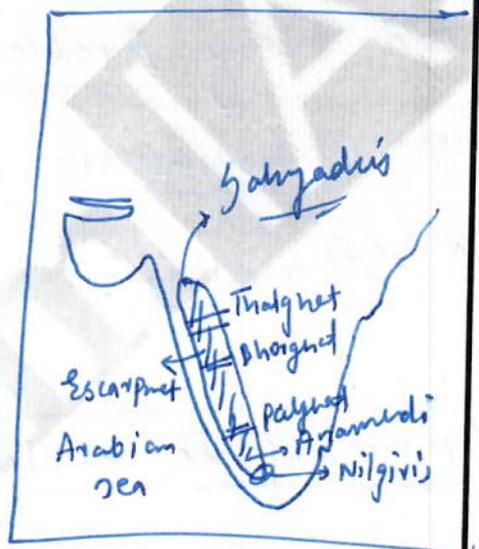


(iv) The escarpment are formed on breaking of landmass. With subsidence of Arabian Sea west.

(v) Tilting towards southeast as isostatic rebalancing.

Biodiversity conservation

(i) Rainfall due to windward side effect to the SW monsoon, that sustains tropical evergreen vegetation.



(ii) Protected areas along the Satyadri → more than 50 as it being "biodiversity hotspot".

(iii) Marine terrestrial ecosystems interaction e.g. along estuaries, backwaters,

Kasturivangan & Gadgil committees, have highlighted the need to protect them with eco sensitive zones

Feedback

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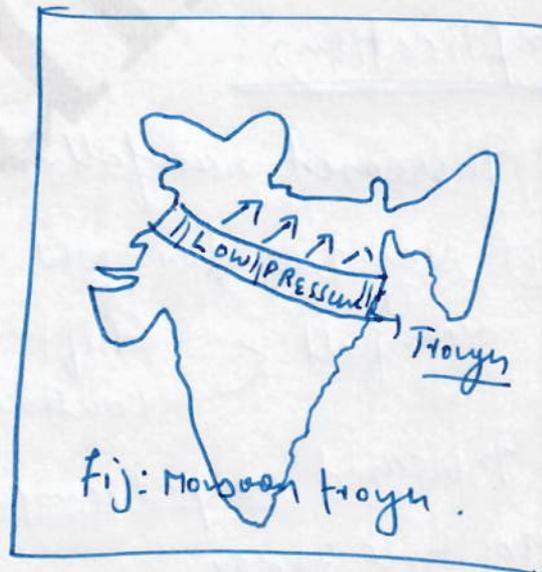
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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

b) Examine the factors responsible for the north-eastward shifting of the monsoon trough in recent years. (10 Marks)

Monsoon trough is the low pressure belt extending from west to east. It is the remnant of LTCZ that moved to South Asia with northern solstice.

Factors for northward shifting

(i) Weakening of the Jet streams (subtropical) caused by the phenomena like arctic amplification.



(ii) Increasing temperature of the alluvial plains as cited by IMD in last century, that creates conducive situation for northward march.

(iii) Warming of Bay of Bengal region faster & its physical proximity to North East region - caused by global Warming & climate change.

(iv) Increasing temperature in the Himalayan region & foothills.

Implications

- ① Increased rainfall in NE regions.
- ② Negative for NW India with reduced rainfall → Shift → continentality effect already.
- ③ Increased evapotranspiration thus moisture index.
- ④ Extreme weather events like cloudbursts.

Thus, shifting pressure system need to tackled with better preparedness (agro economic planning) & fulfilling climate goals of Paris deal.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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c) Discuss the distribution and economic importance of Laterite soils in India. (10 Marks)

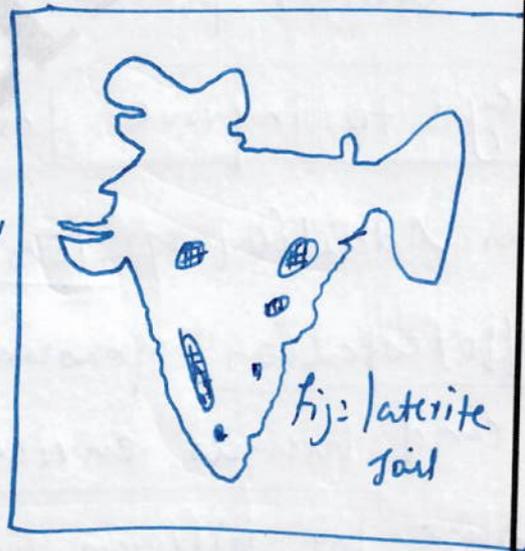
Laterite is derived from Greek "lateri" meaning 'brick'. These are par infertile acidic soils formed in the humid & moist regions formed by the process of laterisation (pedogenic regime).

Distribution of laterite soil

(i) Eastern Indian states like Odisha (bauxite belt), Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh.

(ii) Central interiors → in parts of Maharashtra & MP.

(iii) Western interior plateau interiors → the Karnataka, Mysore belt along the iron belt.



Economic importance

- ① Construction industry that contributes to infrastructural development.
- ② Crops & agriculture → largely millets, pulses that are semi arid & poor nutrient requirement crops.
- ③ Lie along the bauxite belt of the eastern plateau region.

ways to improve fertility

- With Addition of lime into the soil.
- Afforestation measures to prevent erosion and humus enrichment of soil.
- utilise for nitrogen rich pulses farming like chickpea.

Thus to achieve the ambitious goal of Land degradation neutrality (LDN) by 2030 there is need to restore these soils.

Feedback

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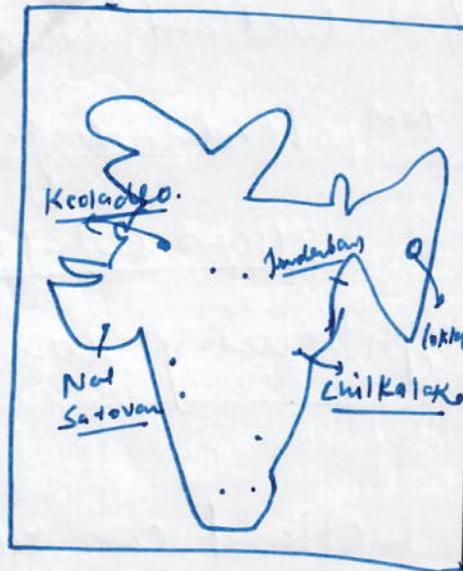
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TOTAL MARKS			

d) Assess the implications of Ramsar wetland sites in India's environmental policy. (10 Marks)

India has more than 90 wetlands under the Ramsar convention 1971. Expanding over an area of ~4.86% of country India is home to > 7 lac wetlands.

Implications on Environmental policy

- (i) Policy focus :
 - ↳ Wetland conservation and management rules, 2017.



- (ii) Institutionalisation → with National wetland conservation plan & strategy to streamline the efforts for wetland management, e.g. Chilika lake management.

(iii) Conservation & preservation

with Amrit Dharohar scheme that calls for over the board cooperation b/w various government agencies & citizens.

(iv) Integration with National Environment Policy, 2006 to highlight the importance for wetland conservation.

(v) cross border cooperation of wetlands b/w various states, and with neighbouring countries like Bangladesh.

Thus, wetland can acts as ~~sinks~~ sinks of carbon & other pollutants, their mangment can help India fulfil its climate goals of UNFCCC INDCs.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

e) Evaluate the role of natural vegetation belts in influencing agricultural patterns in India. (10 Marks)

ICAR have divided India into 15 agro ecological zones spanning across the physiographic divisions, which consider vegetation as one of the determinants.

Role of vegetation & agricultural patterns

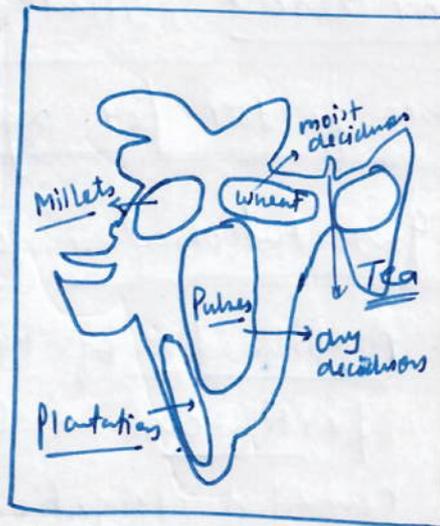
(i) Tropical evergreen

Vegetation in NE states, Jangals & Islands →

↳ crops → horticultural crops in these regions

due to high moisture availability but poor soil due to intense leaching.

↳ generally plantations like coffee, tea are observed



(ii) Deciduous vegetation → are regions with adequately fertile soils.

↳ (a) Dry deciduous → part of region of Central India plateau → with pulses grown in MP, Maharashtra (cotton).

(b) Moist deciduous → in the semi arid Gangetic plains → wheat paddy sugarcane.

(iii) Dry vegetation → in desert areas of 'thar desert', suitable for millets (Ragi).

Other factor for agripatterns

- ↳ (1) Institutional → land reforms (NW Punjab Haryana)
- ↳ (2) Mobilisation of modern inputs as HYVs, fertilisers in Green revolution belt.
- ↳ (3) canal & irrigation → western Rajasthan

Thus, agricultural patterns are a result of multitude of factors, with modern & smart farming these can be made more sustainable.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.2) a) Analyse the causes and impacts of land subsidence in Himalayan towns with special reference to Joshimath.

(20 marks)



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TOTAL MARKS	
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b) Examine the role of Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) in modulating rainfall over India. (15 marks)

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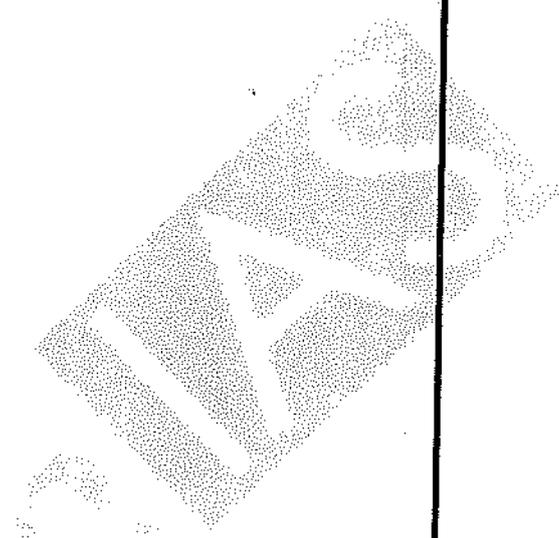
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c) Explain the locational factors of Bauxite mining in Eastern India.

(15 marks)





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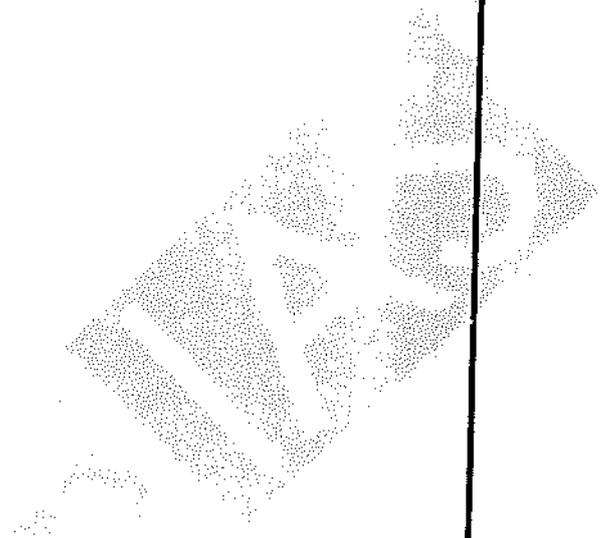
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Q.3) a) Discuss the geomorphic and climatic factors responsible for the formation of Thar Desert.

(20 marks)

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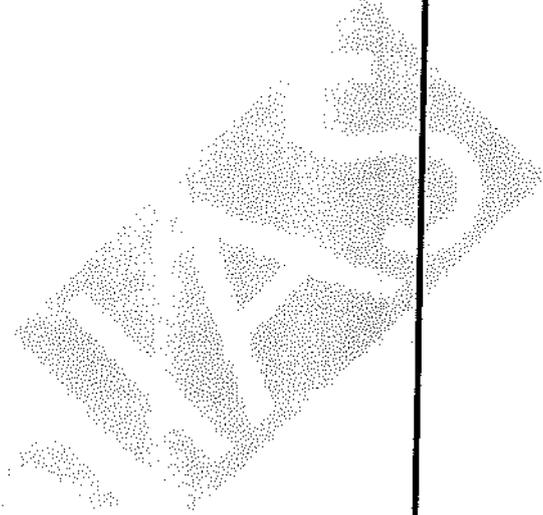


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TOTAL MARKS			

b) Analyse the challenges in managing river interlinking projects in India.
(15 marks)



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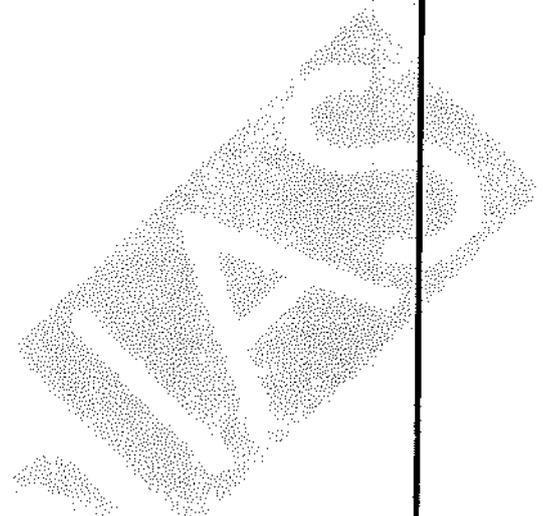
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TOTAL MARKS			

c) Examine the geographical factors responsible for the location of space launch centres in India. (15 marks)





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Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.4) a) Examine the regional disparities in the distribution of thermal power plants in India. (20 marks)

India derives ~70% of its electricity needs from thermal power plants and majority (~90%) of them are powered by coal. They are distributed in various parts of the country.

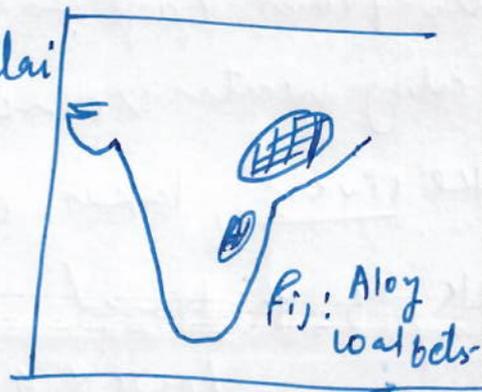
Distribution of thermal power plants

Causes :

(i) Availability of raw material → mainly coal, that leads to heavy concentration in the coal belts of eastern India.

e.g. Raniganj, Bokaro, Dindai with mainly Gondwana coal seams

(Weberian logic)



(ii) Proximity to consumption areas which are mainly urban centres & industrialised region (western parts of the country as Maharashtra, Gujarat,

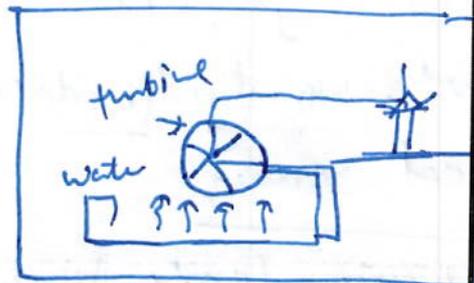
Karnataka.

↳ In southern parts the industrialised states of Tamil Nadu.



(iii) Transmission lines & power infrastructure is a determinant.

(iv) Availability of water resource → which is required to steam the coal water from coal to move the turbines. So along water sources like rivers, lakes, etc.



⊗ Lack of national power grid.

(v) Low concentration in the front desert, Kutch belt, Rainshadow interiors, North eastern & himalayan states due to topography, other sources like hydropower.

Implications of disparity

- (i) Reinforce economic development along the industrialised states of west & south, causing regional disparities & lopsided development.
- (ii) Lower employment opportunities due to lack of investments for infra & industrialisation.
- (iii) Poor social indicators of health, education - Issues of outward migration (Rural urban divide)

Measures to improve

- ① Grid integration → "one nation one grid" of power for better outcomes of transmission.
- ② power sector reforms to bailout DISCOMS & GENCOMs.
- ③ Enhance energy diversification and energy mix with renewable sources to boost local growth.
- ④ Enhance solar power mobilisation
PM Surya Ghar bijli yojana for 100GW
- ⑤ Establish plants with lower emission technologies, fuel gas desulphurisation

Thus, achieving the goal of balanced economic development & environmental conservation, there is need to fulfil the "Panchamrit goals"

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

b) Evaluate the success and limitations of the Desert Development Programme (DDP).

(15 Marks)

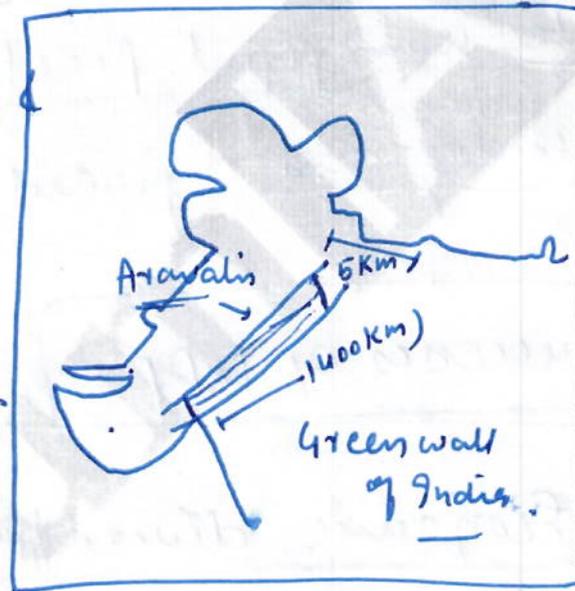
DDP involves the mobilisation of capacities for comprehensive development of the desert regions - by means of land & water management practices. With 430% of country's land degraded (ISRO ATLAS).

Successes of DDP

- (i) Economic diversification promoted among the backward regions with livestocks, & cash crops, millets etc.
- (ii) Water conservation measures by building the khadins, tohads with integration of MGNREGA in the western part of country.

(iii) Green India mission and agroforestry social forestry measures to improve the shelter belts in the desert regions.

↳ e.g. Prosopis juliflora & Acacia senegal in Western Rajasthan.



(iv) Prevent soil erosion & wind erosion with Green wall initiative along the Aravalli mountains to check desertification.

Limitations

(i) Lax implementation of policy measures → reflected in the increasing degradation & desertification (ISRO - 496 Mn ha degraded)

- ② Lack of evidence based policy implementation with top down approach.
- ③ Lack of cooperation due to multiplicity of agencies & departments at state level.
- ④ Lack of effective citizen participation for a grassroot level development.

Way ahead

- ① Enhance structural measures like Chaukhas, Khadis for water harvesting.
- ② Integration of schemes like PMKSY, Jal Jeevan, state schemes.
- ③ Technological usage - for soil/moisture vegetation assessment.
- ④ Public & CSO like Tarun Bharat Sangh in Rajasthan.

With mobilisation of capacities from local level (Hirschman's bottomup approach) we can check expanding deserts.

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TOTAL MARKS			

c) Discuss the role of smart cities mission in shaping India's urban morphology.

(15 marks)

Indian cities have expanded in ~31% of country's area with presurised & heavy urbanisation (~32% of population) which need smart solutions.

Role of Smart Cities Mission

Smart cities Mission (SCM) was launched for comprehensive planning and growth of the urban centres:

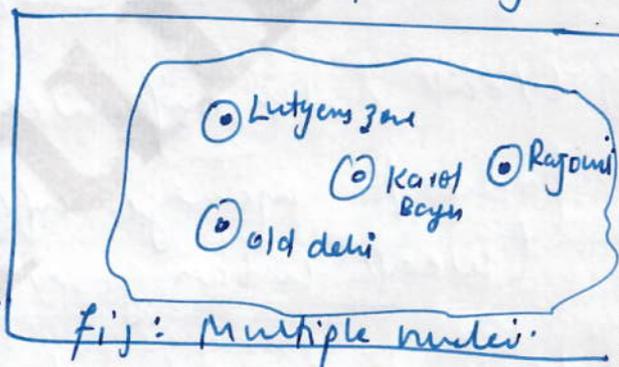
- (i) Decongesting the urban centres or CBDs (Burgees) with affordable & less congested working spaces fulfilling the climate goals.

(ii) functional segregation or Zonation (Burgess, Harris, Ulman 1945)

with specified zones for better management like industries
↳ Green belt.

(iii) Multi nuclei model (Harris, Ulman)

with Indian urban centres fulfilling their functional capacities at multiple nodes like -



(iv) Periurbanisation & rural urban
integration with smart multimodal
connectivity by public sector transport,
EVs for effective commuting.

(v) Preserving heritage with modernity
 ↳ heritage sites (PRASAD scheme) with modern CCTV, smart signalling, e-challan.

Challenges persist

- ① Diversity in the morphology of cities across country thus no single Policy.
- ② Weak & unempowered local bodies to manage affairs of waste management. (Weak urban governance)
- ③ Lack of investments from private sector & public sector.
- ④ Weak linkages with rural areas (RP Mishra)

Thus, with effective integration of the cities with adjacent regions can help in sustainable mgmt. of cities.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Section- B

Q.5) Write short notes on the following in 150 words.

a) Discuss the geographical basis of Indian federalism.

(10 Marks)

India is a mosaic of diverse physiography which impinge upon its politico-administrative structure of federalism due to diverse terrain, climates etc. with "asymmetric federalism".

Geographical basis

(i) Physical attributes : of topography & climate that impacts the economic development & social integration.

↳ "art 371" for NE & hilly states
↳ special administration for UTs of A&N Islands, Leh Ladakh.

(ii) Resource endowment :

↳ with rich eastern states of Bihar, Bengal, Jharkhand & Chota

Nagpur belt. Though underdeveloped leads to special protection for tribals regions

- 5th schedule - Central regions
- 6th schedule - North East.

(iii) Water governance (with rivers

flowing across the states & ensuing conflicts.

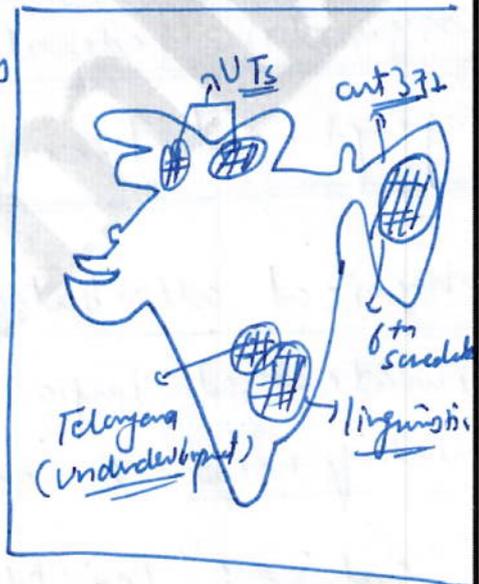
e.g. Krishna, Cauvery conflict.

(iv) central attributes:

Linguistic basis of state

formation - State reorganisation Act 1956 (Tamil Nadu, Andhra)

(v) Underdeveloped → Telangana (resource rich).



Thus, Nation federation reflects the ideas of "Compagnie" & "Pays" along with Tocqueville's experience as the basis of development & political organisation

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
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TOTAL MARKS			

b) Analyse the role of cross-border trade corridors in India's economic growth.

(10 Marks)

India shares its borders with 7 countries as land borders and 2 with maritime borders as part of the South Asian region (with less than 5% economic integration).

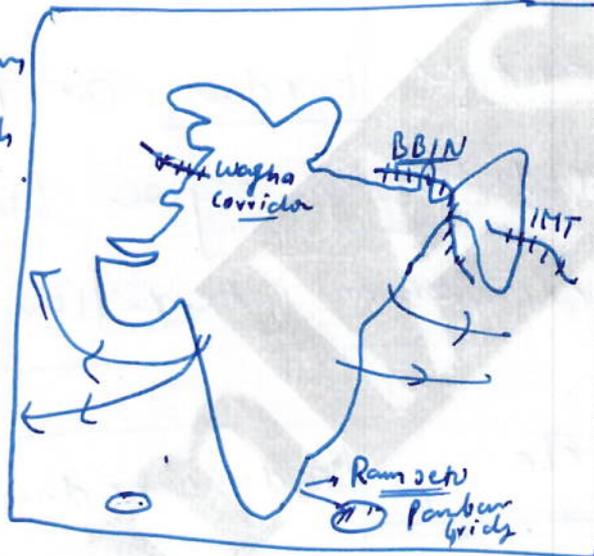
Role of trade corridors in economic growth

- (i) Regional integration for economic complementarity e.g. IMT highway, BBIN project for trade activities.
- (ii) Connecting to North east to bypass the Jilijuri corridors via Bangladesh e.g. Akhaura-Agartala corridor for regional economic development of NE regions.

(iii) Resource exchange & energy security
with electricity from Bhutan & coal

exports to Nepal, Bhutan
↳ Tute with Bangladesh

(iv) Economic union:
with signing of SAFTA
for region economic
potentials:



(v) Connect to central Asia & Europe

Via - INSTC, IMEC, Chabahar port etc.

Issues → delayed projects of connectivity.

- (1) unstable & shaky politics in neighbourhood.
- (2) China's rise with CPEC & other.

Thus, for India to leverage from the regional economy, need to enhance its cooperation bilaterally (FTAs) & multilaterally (SAFTA) for meaningful integration.

Feedback

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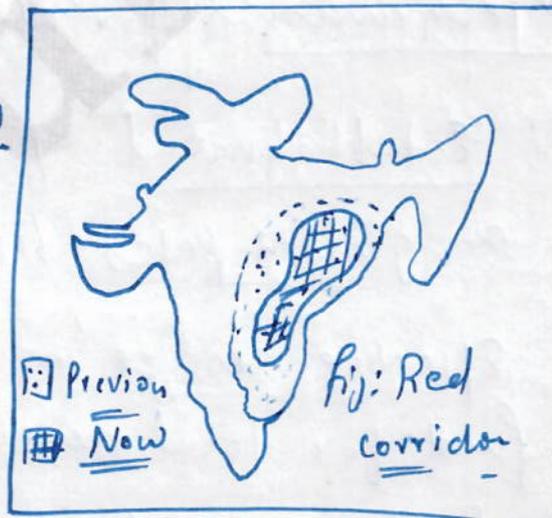
c) Examine the impact of naxal-affected regions on developmental geography.

(10 Marks)

According to Home ministry data the no. of districts affected have been reduced below 40 in recent areas in the eastern parts of the country called as the "Red corridor".

Impact on developmental geography

(i) Lack of investments due to incidents of agresion (Bauxite Odisha)



(ii) Weak governance & institutional mechanisms in the remote regions e.g. Killing of mil servants

(iii) Development disparity caused due to improper mobilisation & equitable

distribution; that leads to illegal extortions from industrialists.

(iv) Industrial complexes are targeted with collateral damage to investments.

Ways to Promote Inclusive deupt

(i) Strengthen local governance mechanisms for effective outcomes.

(ii) Establishment of industries to act as "growth poles" for regional employment.

(iii) Effective usage of District mineral fund for local development.

(iv) Better connectivity & mainstreaming of locals.

For effective regional development, local capacities need to be mobilised for with "Jabka Jaati, Jabka Vikas".

Feedback

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d) Assess the implications of India's Look East Policy from a geographical perspective.

(10 Marks)

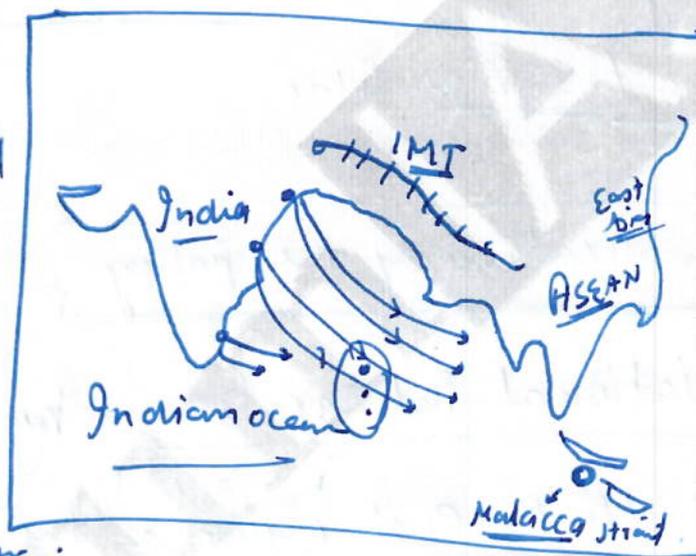
India's look east policy is a strategic move to interact with India's extended neighbourhood in East & South East Asia eg: ASEAN bloc.

Implications of the Policy

- (i) National integration → by bridging the North East region as the strategic theatre for connectivity beyond.
e.g. India Myanmar Thailand trilateral highway.
- (ii) Sea board connectivity to be enhanced with ports like - Haldia, Kolkata & Vishakhapatnam becoming crucial for integrating.

(iii) Integration with the Indo-Pacific vision for effective usage of its Maritime domain awareness (BAGAR)

(iv) Andaman & Nicobar Islands will act as the strategic stopover or transshipment hub for eastern integration.



- Issues →
- ① India's backout from RCEP.
 - ② Misuse of ASEAN FTA by China.
 - ③ Rise of China in south china sea & Indian ocean.
 - ④ India's domestic developmental priorities.

for India to enhance its partnership for mutual benefits & shared prosperity there is need to enhance economic & other convergences (greentech, cyber etc-)

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e) Explain the challenges in floodplain zoning in India.

(10 Marks)

Flood plain zoning is the demarkation or delimitation of flood plain areas along its rivers. India has 14 major & numerous minor river basins.

Challenges in zoning

- (i) Institutional challenges - lack of focus,
 - ↳ poor technological means - outdated surveying equipments.
 - ↳ outdated toposheets
 - ↳ lack of manpower & resources at disposal.
- (ii) Geographic & with changing river courses like Kosi it becomes difficult to quantify.

(iii) Developmental → driven by the anthropogenic - industrialisation & settlements along the flood plains by encroachment.

(iv) Political will → sensitive issues of rehabilitation of populace.

Ways to improve

① utilisation of geospatial technologies - Satellite, RS images & toposheets to assess river behaviour.

② Governance reforms with Capacity building & human resource development.

③ factoring in : climate change, development extent.

With zonation there can be better disaster preparedness under the "Sendai framework principles".

Feedback

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Q.6) a) Analyse the causes of coastal erosion along India's eastern seaboard, with recent examples.

(20 marks)

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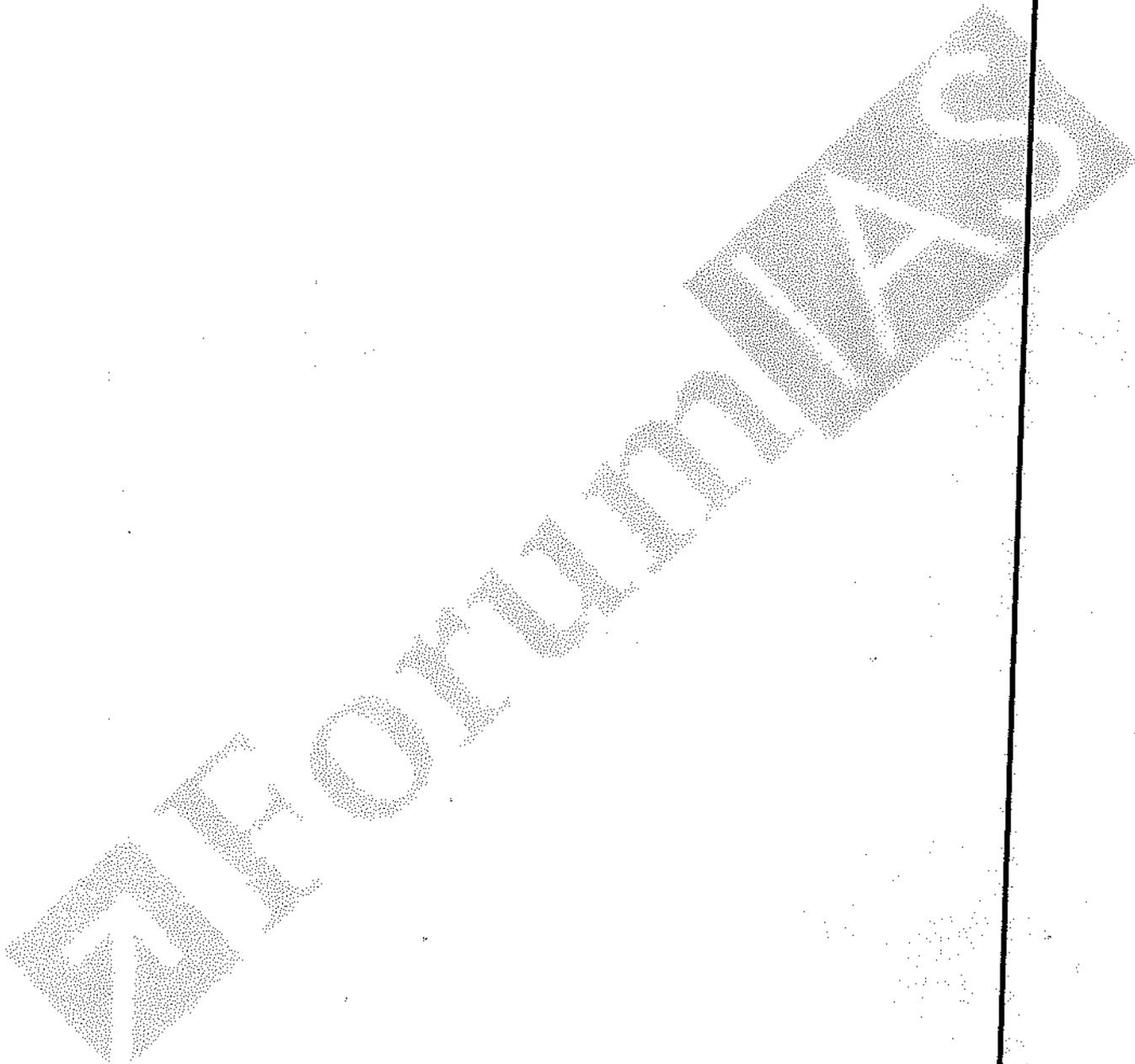
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b) Discuss the significance of Andaman & Nicobar Islands in India's maritime strategy. (15 marks)





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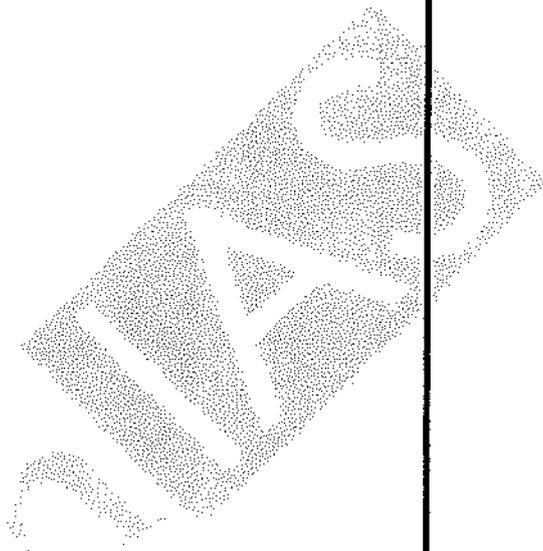
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c) Examine the impact of urban floods with reference to cities like Chennai and Bengaluru. (15 marks)



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Q.7) a) Critically evaluate the progress of the Inland Waterways of India as an alternative mode of transport. (20 marks)

National waterway act 2016 have outlined a total of 111 Inland waterways in the country. To enhance multimodal connectivity & economic development.

Progress assessment

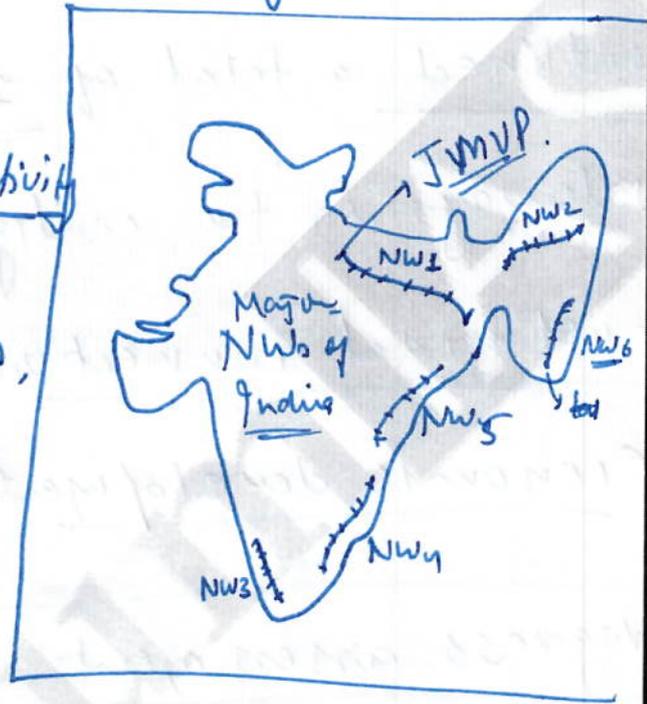
(i) Positives

- (i) Diversification of the transportation mediums → with deburdening of roads & railways freight movement.
(National Highways account for ~ 65% of freight movement).

(ii) Cost effective source of transportation with water being a relatively economic medium.

(iii) Multimodal connectivity

with ports, terminals, shipment hubs under Sagarmala initiative.



(iv) Enhance regional development :

↳ (a) Regional infrastructure & extension services development - warehouses, depots etc.

↳ (b) Regional tourism . eg. NW1 - Varanasi local tourist

↳ (c) Integration & connectivity for local economic activities.

(v) Major waterways :-

- ↳ NW 1 → Prayagraj to Haldia (Ganga)
- NW 2 → Dhubri to Sadia (Brahmaputra)
- NW 3 → Kollam to Kottapuram
- NW 4 → Kakinada to Pundicherry
- NW 5 → West Bengal to Talcher
- NW 6 → Lakshipur to Bagha (NC)

Limitations & challenges

- (i) Nature of rivers & river regimes
With inconsistent flow due to seasonality of rivers.
- (ii) Issues of siltation & dredging
in the course with shallow depth.
- (iii) High upfront cost & lack of private sector investment
- (iv) Ecological costs involved → dolphin sanctuary (AMGs)

(v) Lack of transshipment hubs & supporting infrastructure for connectivity.

Way ahead

- ① Mobilisation of sustainable investments e.g. Jal Marg Vikas Project along NW1 with World Bank.
- ② Instead of all ILU Efforts towards major water ways effectiveness.
- ③ Integration with other modes seamlessly.
- ④ Curbing ecological cost by sustainable transport & travelers.

Nws can act. as the medium to reduce India's logistics cost help to become the third largest economy & equitable regional development.

Feedback

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b) Analyse the reasons for the uneven development of horticulture in India. (15 marks)

Horticulture sector contributes ~33% to India's agri GDP with occupying only ~15% of the gross cropped area (GCA)

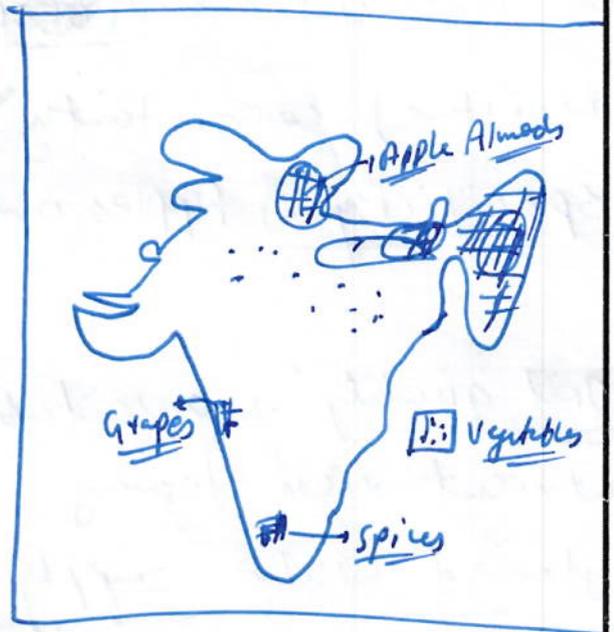
Reasons for uneven development

① Geographic : climatic factors as horticulture needs precipitation (moisture) consistently.

↳ specificity → Apples only in temperate regions like Himachal J&K

② soil quality → availability of nutrient rich loamy soil with sustained water supply.

- ② Over emphasis on cereals & food grains crops - e.g. Green revolution belt in NW parts.
- ③ Poor connectivity & market linkages leads to loss of crops as perishable.
- ④ Risk aversion by farmers → not covered under MSP, no insurance under PMKasal Bina Yojana.
- ⑤ Fragmented & small landholdings dedicated for Intensive activities.
- ⑥ Plantations have long gestation periods thus less profitable in short term.



Ways to promote horticultures

(i) Cluster based approach , with tailored approaches keeping in mind local physical conditions

(ii) Institutional measures →
 ↳ Land pooling models (FPOs)
 ↳ MSP & price procurement
 ↳ Institutional insurance (PMFBY)

(iii) Connectivity & linkages with modernisation of APMCs, e-NAM
 ⇒ Kisan Rail.

(iv) Technological interface → for soil moisture, disasters for informed decisions

Horticulture can help in fulfilling the income enhancement (Dalwai committee) & regional development.

Feedback

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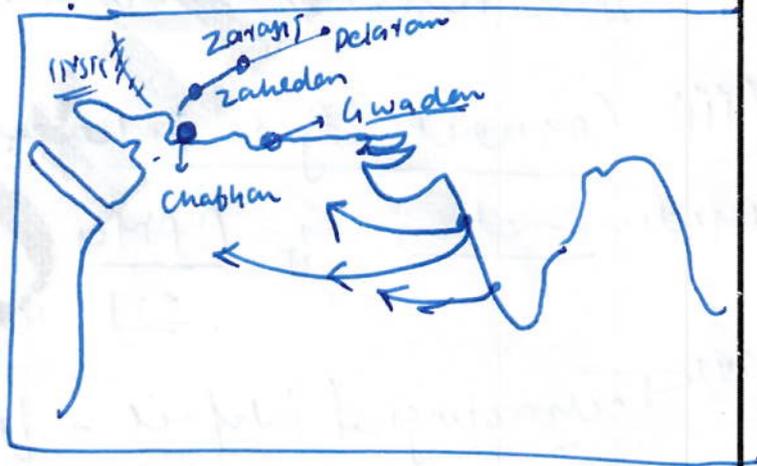
c) Examine the geopolitical significance of Chabahar Port for India.

(15 marks)

Chabahar port is located in Iran along the Gulf of Oman. It has emerged as a strategic theatre for India in recent times.

Geopolitical significance

(i) Gateway to Central Asia & Afghanistan



Via land route bypassing uncertainties of Pakistan.

(ii) Eurasian integration with INSTC, IMEC, Eurasian Economic Union.

- (iii) Countering the influence of china in neighbourhood (Gwadar & CPEC) by counteracting via the Diamond Necklace strategy as response to string of pearls of china.
- (iv) Energy security with cooperation in the middle & Indian diaspora.
- (v) Geo economic advantages with west Asia being its extended neighbourhood thus fulfilment of "Look west policy"

Issues persist

- (i) Slow & sluggish development of port terminals raised by Iran.
 e.g. The Bhishti terminal

- (ii) USA sanctions that impedes timely completion & meaningful cooperation & trade with Iran.
- (iii) Chinese footprints in Iran: with support in Natural Gas (farzán-B gasfield) ~~recent conflict~~
- (iv) Bilateral hedging with Iran & Israel.

Way ahead

- (i) Strategic autonomy of India to engage bilaterally.
- (ii) Decoupling the USA influence with improved trade.
- (iii) Countering Chinese influence with timely completion.

Thus, Chabahar can become India's lynchpin in securing national interests & balancing geopolitical vicarities!

Feedback

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Q.8) a) "Regional consciousness in India has deep geographical roots." Examine with examples.

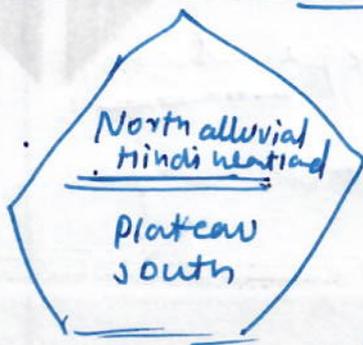
(20 marks)

"Regional consciousness" is the feeling of love & belongingness to a particular region. (Tuan's - place belongingness) giving rise to son of soil doctrines & regionalism.

Deep geographical roots

(i) North v/s South divide seen in socio-economic development & disparities & political rivalries.

e.g. Central highlands -> Jatpura Vindhyas with plains v/s plateau.



(ii) Variations in resource distribution
 With Eastern mountain belt
 v/s other parts of plateau interiors
 leading to issues like Naxalism & sepratism.

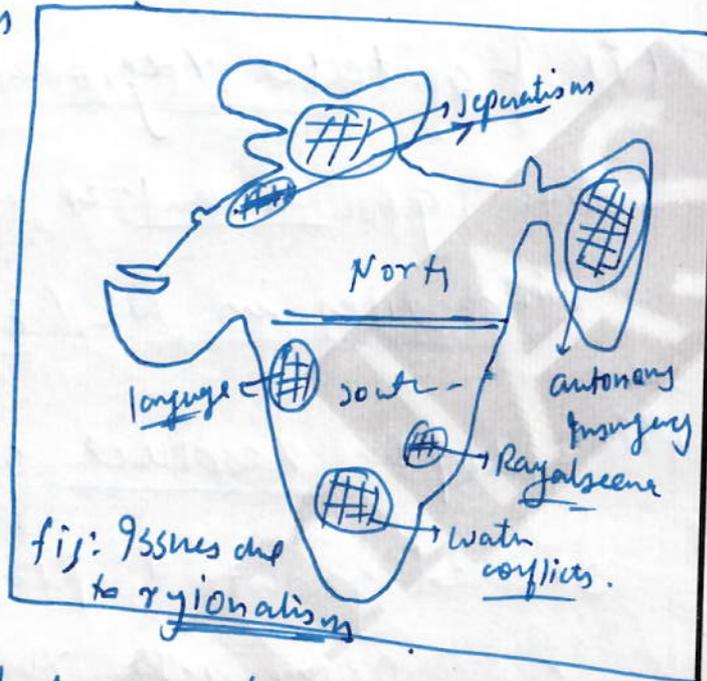
(iii) Claims & utilisation of resources →
Telangana state formation as its
 resources were usurped by Andhra people.

(iv) ↳ giving rise to Mulki rules of reservation.

(iv) Geographical isolation: of the
NE states & Himalayan states/UTs
 leads to consciousness of sepratism,
insurgency, demands for
autonomy.

(v) Green revolution belt with fertile alluvial tracts

thus economic development leading to issues of resource sharing.



e.g.: Haryana's Job reservation bill

(vi) cultural attributes → like food & cuisines (Rasgulla conflict b/w Odisha & West Bengal)

↳ clothing (Hijab controversy)

↳ linguistic issues (Marathi Manus)

⇒

Ways to address

- (i) Equitable regional development with growth centres at local level, industries in NE, (Ecotourism)
- (ii) Proper resource sharing for shared growth & prosperity.
e.g. River water sharing.
- (iii) Countering separatist forces by state apparatus (LWE by March 2026)
- (iv) Economic integration by connectivity (digital, physical) of remote areas.

Thus with "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat", & constitutional values, & equitable deupt. can help in countering regional consciousness.

Feedback

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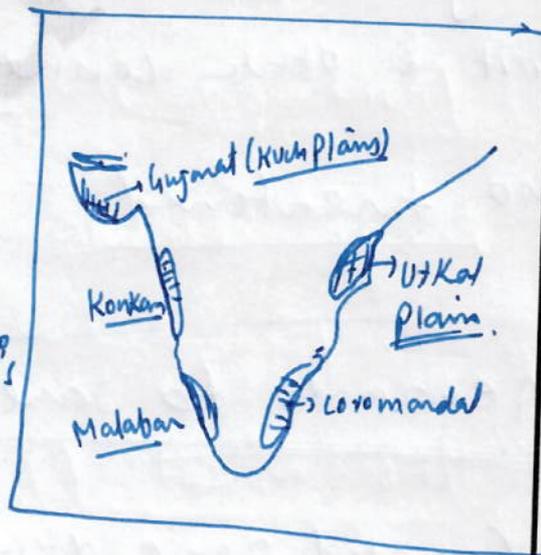
b) Discuss the implications of sea level rise for the coastal plains of India.

(15 Marks)

IPCC AR-6 warns of 0.28-0.55 metres increase in sea level by 2100. India with coastline of 11008 km (revised) looms as big crisis

Implications for Coastal plains

(i) Submergence & Inundation →
 With IMD warning
 ↳ 27% of Mumbai's land under threat by 2050



(ii) Coastal areas like Kuttanad in Kerala are already below sea level.

- (iii) Coastal floods frequently with
majority of coastal islands under
threat of partial or submergence.
- (iv) Agricultural depletion with salt
water intrusion.
- (v) Coastal communities & habitations
along have to be rehabilitated.
- (vi) Port & other connectivity infrastructure
also threatened.

Measures to save

- (i) Coastal zone regulation implementation
for settlement & developmental
regulations.

- (ii) Building breakwaters & coastal walls or embankments like in Netherlands (claiming the land under sea)
- (iii) Innovative ways & traditional knowledge like - Kuttanad below sea level farming.
- (iv) Robust hydromet disasters prediction with doppler radar networks.
- (v) Prospective planning in infrastructure development of ports & shipments keeping in mind future needs.

Thus, with Global climate change mitigation measures & preparedness the effects could be mitigated

Feedback

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c) Evaluate the success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in reducing regional imbalances. (15 marks)

SEZs are economic enclaves which acts as a foreign territory for the purpose of economic activities. They were institutionalised under SEZ Act 2005.

Evaluating Success

I. Positives :

- (i) Large scale land acquisition for implementation of SEZs.
- (ii) Increased FDI's & investments in the SEZs, like Gurgaon GIFT City.

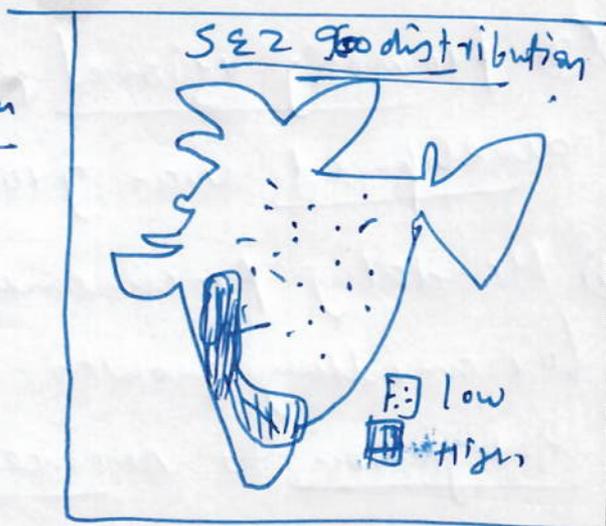
(iii) Enhancement of exports from these SEZs with increased manufacturing capabilities.

(iv) Economic growth & employment to locals. ~~has~~ (region per capita)

(v) Improved infrastructure thus enhancing regional connectivity.

Limitations

(i) Regional concentration in the erstwhile industrialised region of west & south India



(Backwash effect of Myrdal!)

(ii) Lopsided development with majority FDIs in western parts.

(iii) Misuse of loopholes with only using these for tax & duty evasion.

(iv) Along the industrialised corridors leaning behind the resource rich Eastern & less industrialised Northern States.

Ways to improve

① Policy overhaul to decentralize the development to underserved regions.

② Promoting regional connectivity & development via- growth corridors.

③ Mandating Procurement from MSMEs for ancillary growth.

④ Integration to resource poor regions.

Thus SEZs can act as centres of growth (Poox) to mitigate regional imbalances.

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