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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1236)

Name of Candidate	SHAUTI SRIVASTAVA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	30591
Center	online	Date	30/7/19

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
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20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- 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. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

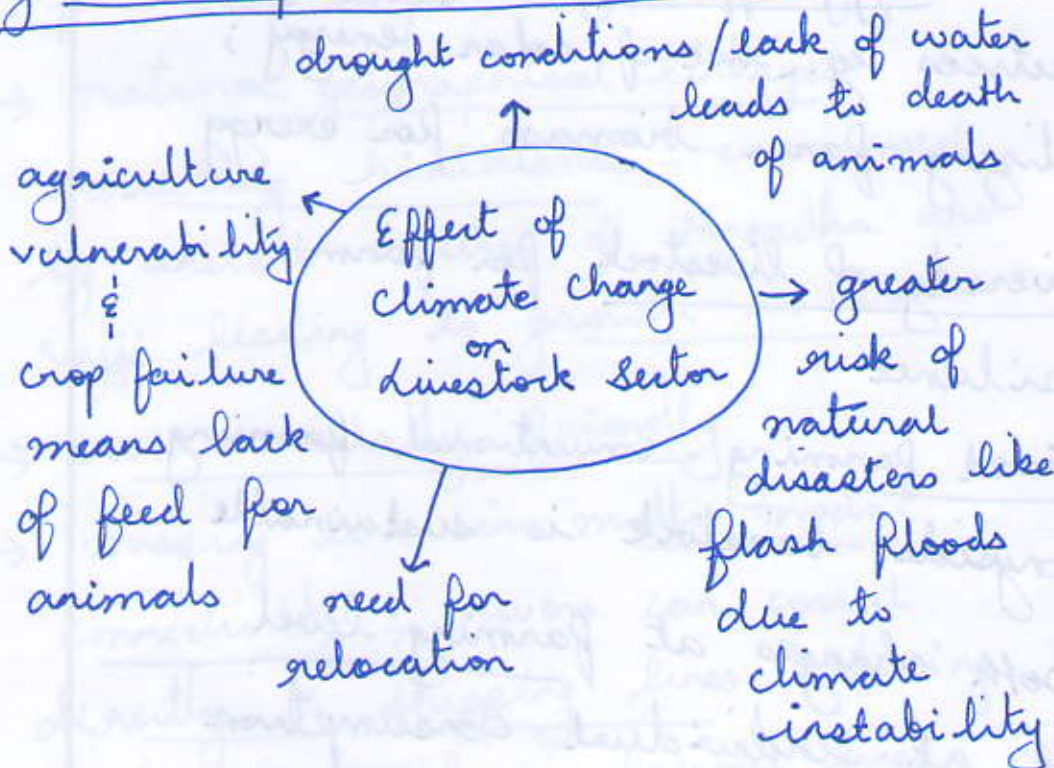
16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

1. Livestock farming not only contributes to climate change but is also affected by it. Elaborate the statement and discuss some measures that can be taken to make livestock farming more sustainable as well as resilient. (150 Words) 10

पशुधन खेती (लाइवस्टॉक फार्मिंग) न केवल जलवायु परिवर्तन में योगदान देता है, बल्कि इससे प्रभावित भी होता है। इस कथन का सविस्तर वर्णन कीजिए और पशुधन खेती को अधिक संधारणीय के साथ-साथ लचीला (रिज़िलियंट) बनाने हेतु उठाए जा सकने वाले कुछ कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

IPCC Report, 2018 warns against methane emissions from livestock farming (cow flatulence → high in CH_4 → high global warming potential). This is a major cause behind increasing global temperature.



SUGGESTED MEASURES

* In developed countries high per capita

income of meat is unsustainable. IPCC recommends local meat products rather than imports; reducing beef / red meat consumption

- avoiding 'factory' approach to livestock farming viz. en-masse meat production
- new innovations → ^{eg:} ~~stem~~ meat grown out single celled bacteria
- energy efficiency in farming practices eg. use of solar energy; utilizing farm biomass for energy
- diversity of livestock for farm resilience
- mixed farming - conventional farming alongside livestock is sustainable

Both changes at farming level and at individual consumption level is must.

2. A developed Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) will not only augment the overall transport capacity of the country, but also help correct the multi-modal transport mix. Discuss. (150 words) 10

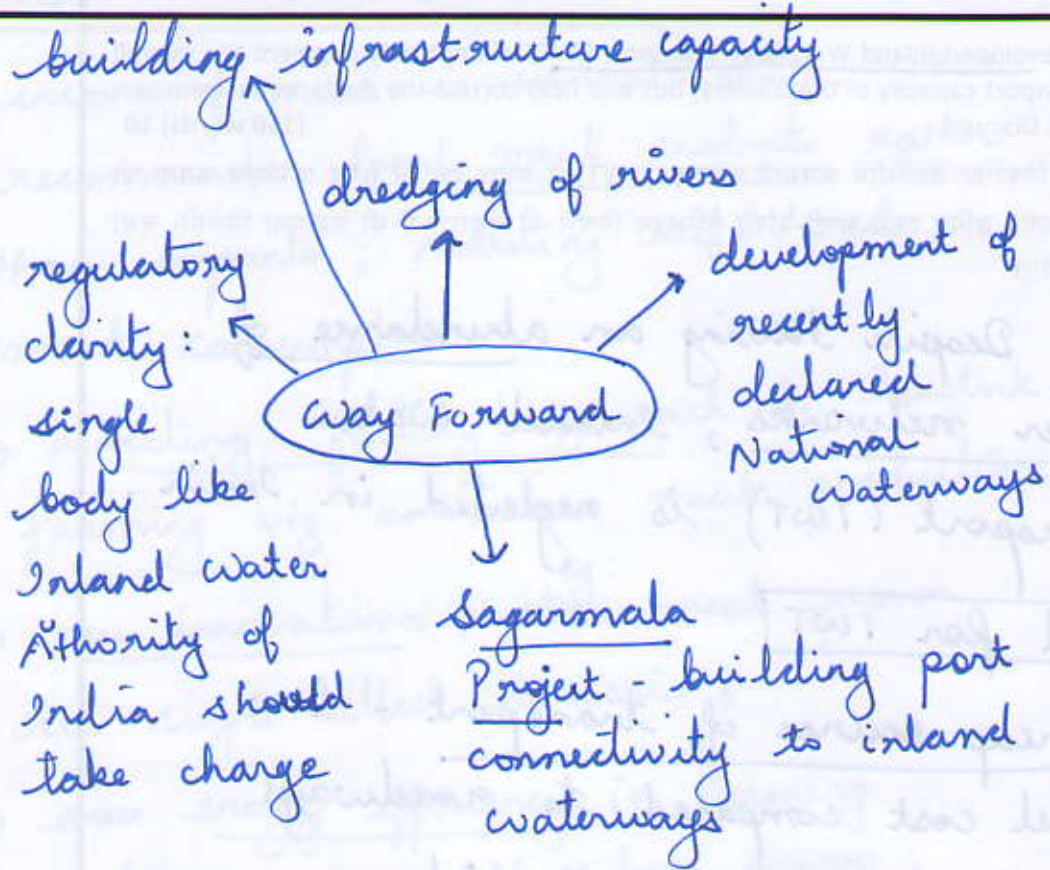
एक विकसित अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग परिवहन (IWT) न केवल देश की समग्र परिवहन क्षमता को बढ़ाएगा, अपितु इससे मल्टी-मॉडल परिवहन मिश्रण को सुधारने में भी सहायता मिलेगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

Despite having an abundance of river networks, Inland Water Transport (IWT) is neglected in India.

Need for IWT

- cheap source of transport - low fuel cost compared to roadways
- natural geographical linkages connecting hinterland - were used by ancient empires of Magadha and Vajji leading to growth in trade
- environmentally friendly
- missing link in multi-modal connectivity; rivers can connect directly to shipping lines reducing burden on railway freight lines





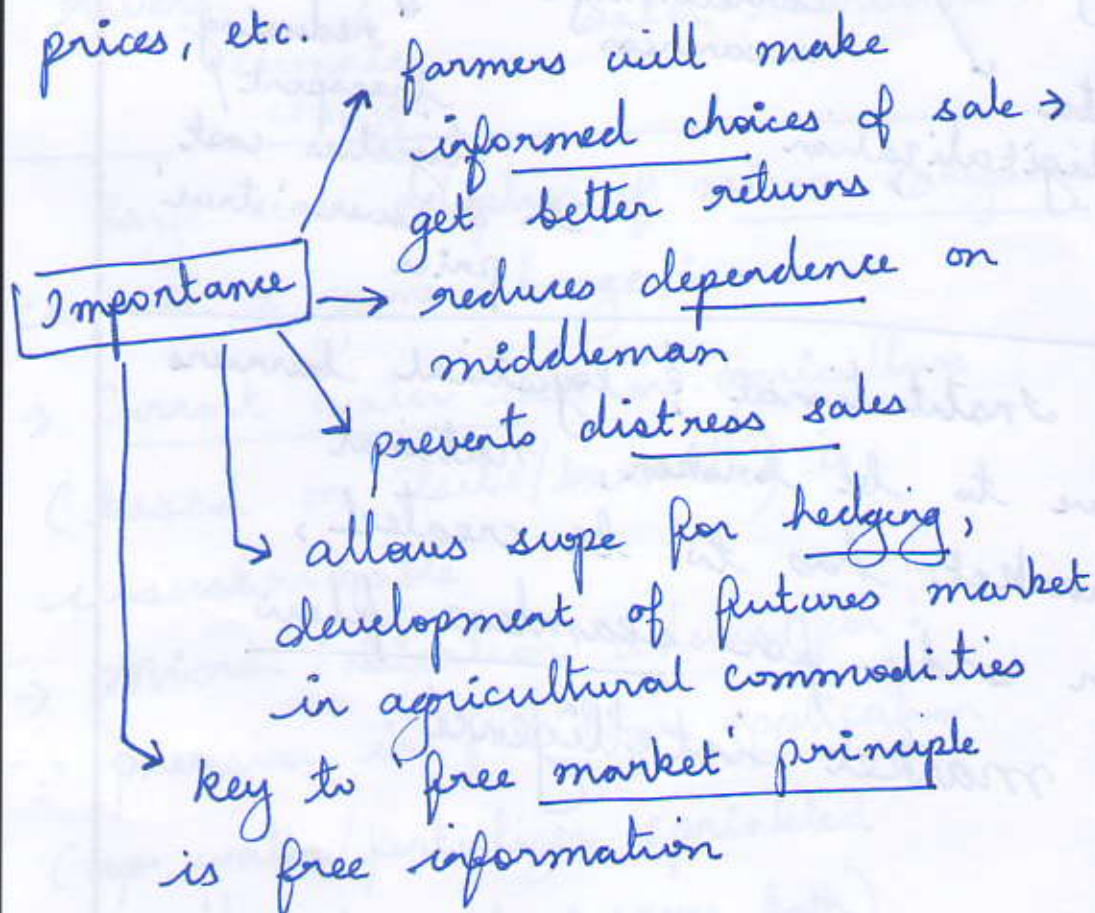
European nations have used IWT to boost trade and connectivity. Similarly, inter-state trade can be boosted in India.

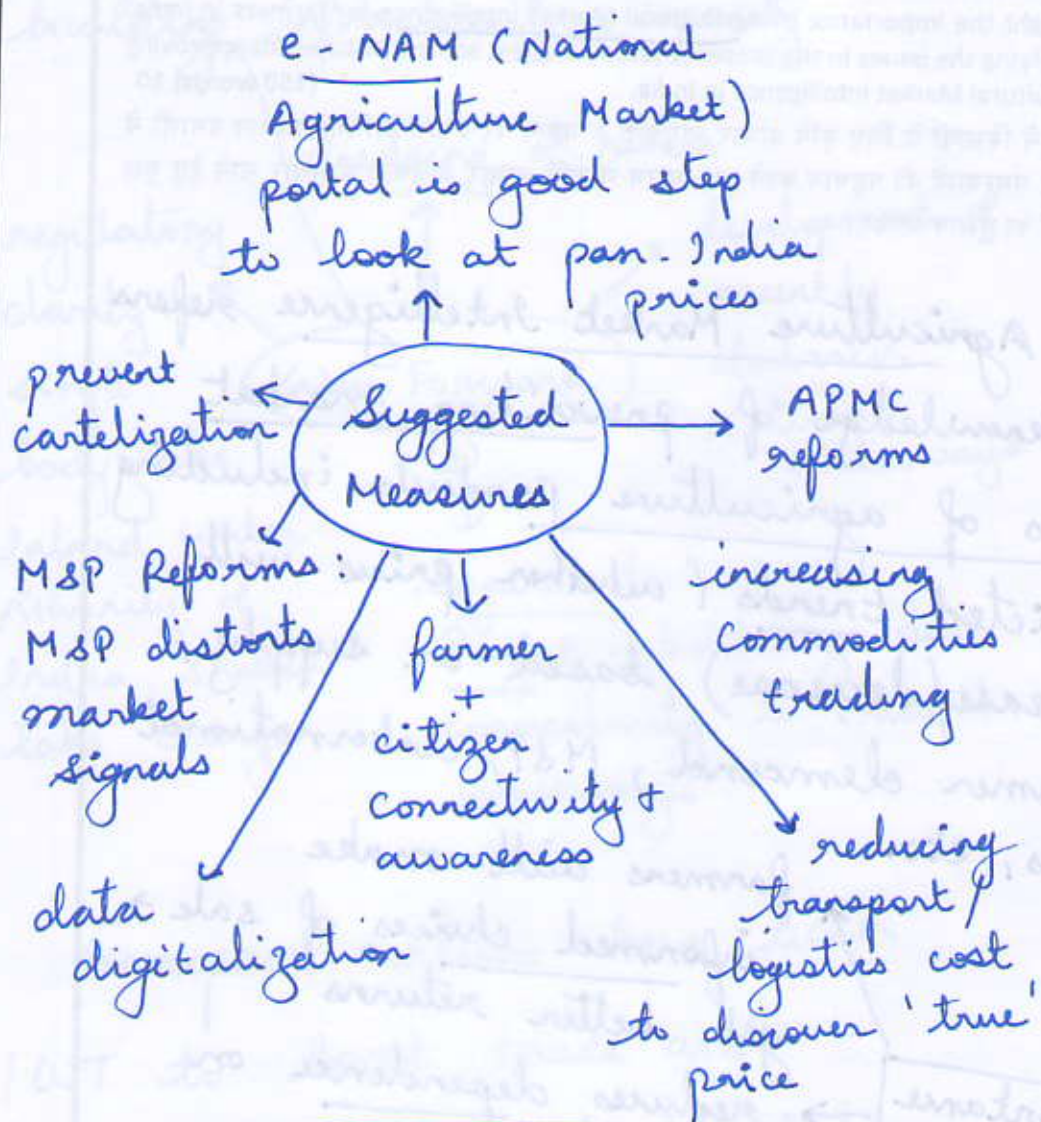


3. Highlight the importance of Agricultural Market Intelligence for farmers in India. Identifying the issues in the present system, suggest some measures for improving Agricultural Market Intelligence in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में किसानों के लिए कृषि बाजार आसूचना के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्तमान प्रणाली में निहित समस्याओं की पहचान करते हुए, भारत में कृषि बाजार आसूचना में सुधार लाने हेतु कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Agriculture Market Intelligence refers to knowledge of prevailing market prices of agriculture products including predicted trends (whether prices will increase/decrease) based on supply, consumer demand, MSP, international prices, etc.



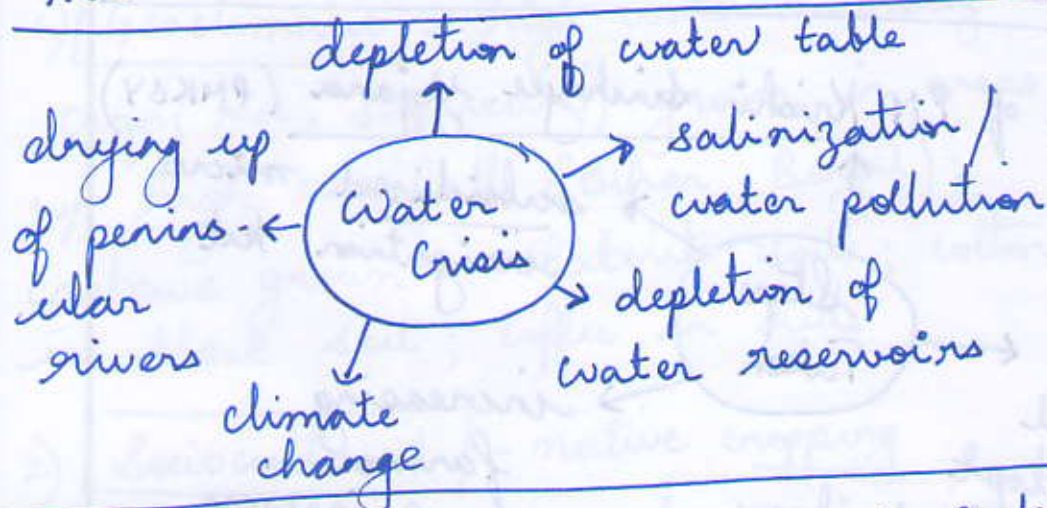


Institutional & logistical barriers have to be broken, national market has to be created, in order for seamless flow of market intelligence

4. With water increasingly becoming a scarce resource, large scale adoption of micro irrigation techniques could prove to be a game changer in India. Analyse. Also enumerate various steps taken by the government to promote micro irrigation in India. (150 words) 10

जल के उत्तरोत्तर दुर्लभ संसाधन बनते जाने के कारण भारत में सूक्ष्म सिंचाई तकनीकों का व्यापक पैमाने पर अंगीकरण निर्णायक सिद्ध हो सकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में सूक्ष्म सिंचाई को बढ़ावा देने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए विभिन्न कदमों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

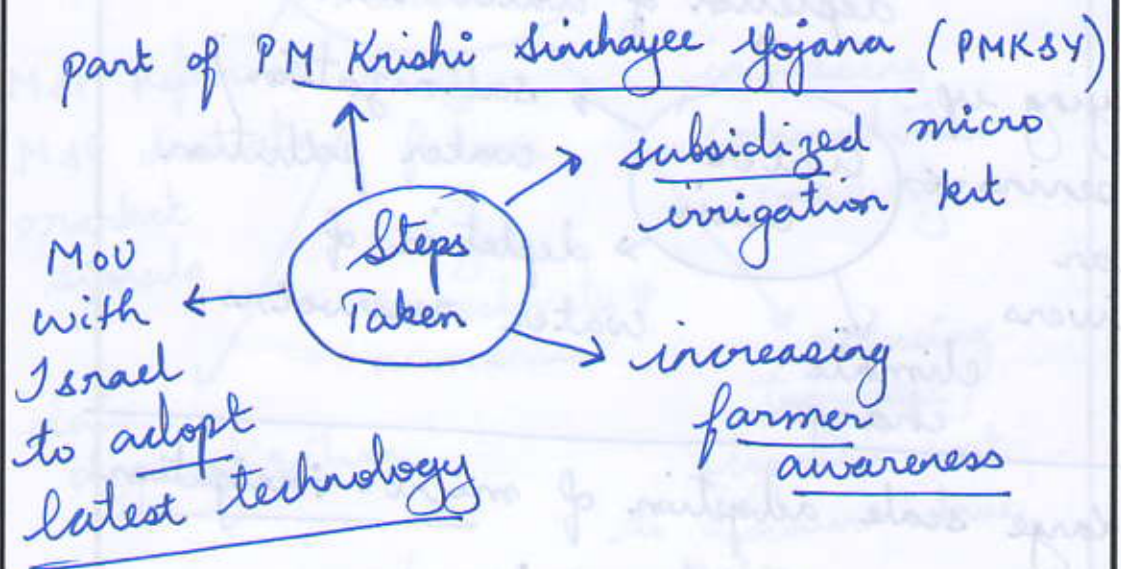
NITI Aayog Report, 2018 has shown that India is in severe water crisis.



large scale adoption of micro-irrigation can be a game-changer:-

- Current water use in agriculture (based on tube/borewells) is unsustainable
- micro-irrigation allows for:
 - precision in fertilizer application
 - (as water/fertilizer sprinkled directly at root → saves both)

- 'per drop, per crop' agriculture $\rightarrow$ maximizing outputs, with minimum input
- $\rightarrow$ Successful use of micro-irrigation in Israel $\rightarrow$ transformation of desert



Adoption of micro-irrigation should be based on suitability of land/crop to the same.

Providing loans to meet initial capital costs will help.

5. The cropping pattern of a region is influenced by geo-climatic, socio-cultural, economic, historical and political factors. Substantiate with relevant examples.

(150 words) 10

किसी क्षेत्र का शस्य प्रतिरूप भू-जलवायविक, सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक, आर्थिक, ऐतिहासिक और राजनीतिक कारकों से प्रभावित होता है। प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों के साथ पुष्टि कीजिए।

Cropping Pattern affected by various factors :-

- 1) Geoclimatic - high water intensity crops (rice, sugarcane) grown in areas w/ high rainfall (Bihar, Bengal); cashews grown in laterite soils; cotton in black soil; coffee in hills
- 2) Sociocultural - native cropping varieties (aus, aman, boro rice in Bengal); food habits → jowar in Maharashtra; bajra and wheat in UP; rice in TN, Kerala; traditional practices
- 3) Economic - commercial cropping (tobacco plantation in Gujarat, tea plantation in Darjeeling); farmers increased guar production due to demand of guar gum in shale industry

➤ farmers attentive to market demand for crop

4) Historical - coffee plantations in Karnataka / tea plantation in Darjeeling since colonial times; cotton cultivation since third millennium BCE

5) Political

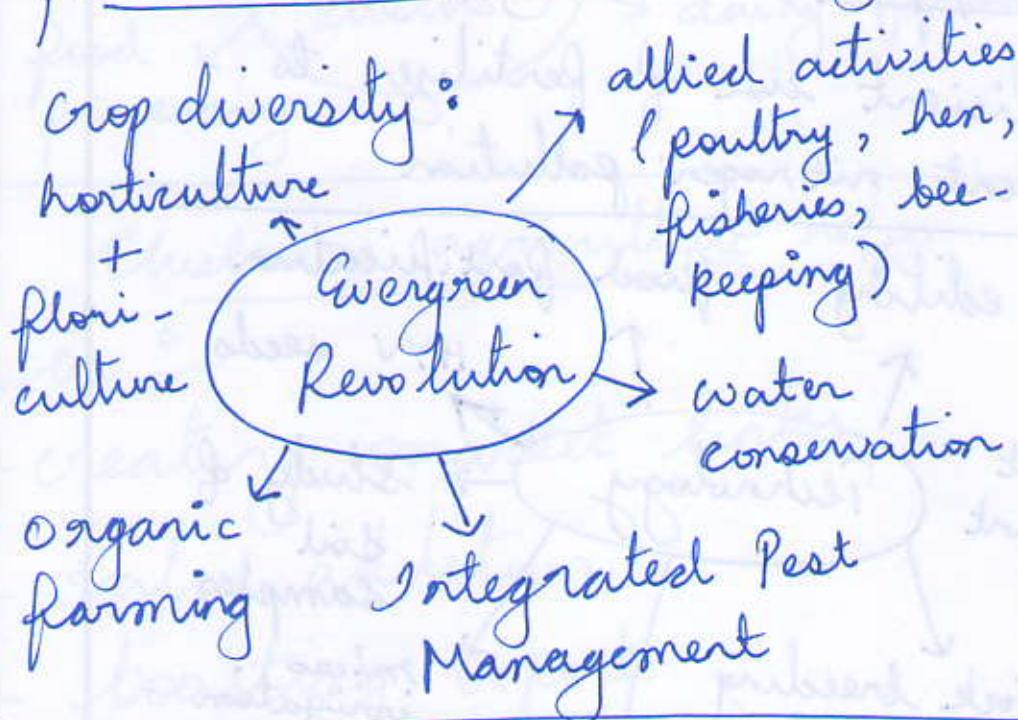
- high MSP for rice increased rice cultivation in Punjab; cereal bias in PDS led to decline in pulse production; state sugarcane incentives + lobby → high sugar production in UP & Maharashtra

Care has to be taken to ensure cropping patterns are viable & ecologically sustainable

6. Integrating ecology and technology is the way forward towards achieving Evergreen Revolution in India. Discuss. (150 words) 10

पारिस्थितिकी और प्रौद्योगिकी का एकीकरण भारत में सदाबहार क्रांति की प्राप्ति की दिशा में आगे की राह है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Evergreen Revolution learns from mistakes of Green Revolution and aims at sustainable, productive & inclusive agriculture.



Ecological Sustainable :-

→ increasing irrigation via tubewells → depleting ground water (esp. Punjab)
→ salinization
→ poor soil quality

hence crop patterns should be based on natural water resources + rainfall pattern

eg: rice/sugarcane in high rainfall areas; drought resistant bajra/pulses in dry areas

→ efficient use of fertilizer to prevent nitrogen pollution

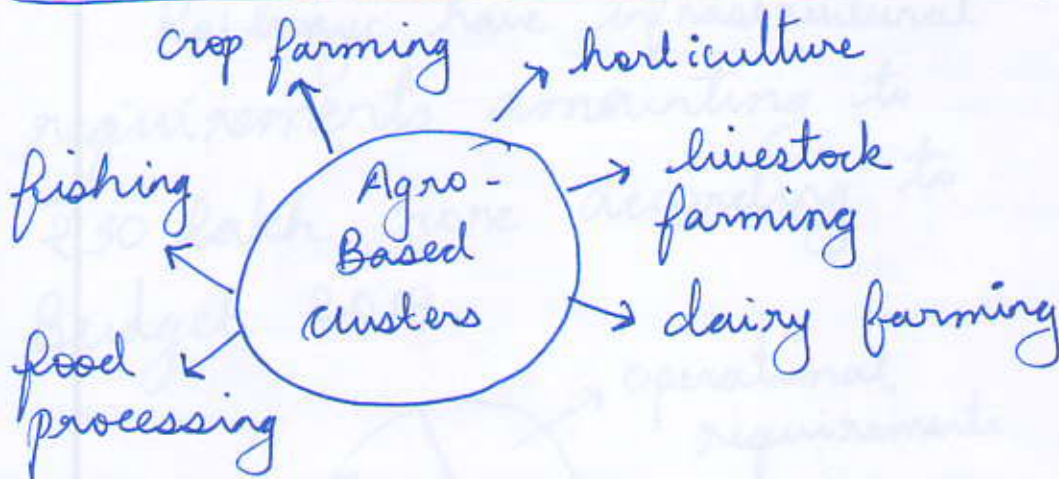


Collaboration of government, farmers, agricultural universities must.

7. The adoption of agro-based clusters can generate positive spill-over effects on agricultural and rural development. Discuss. (150 words) 10

कृषि आधारित संकुलों (क्लस्टर्स) को अपनाना कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास पर सकारात्मक अधिप्लावन प्रभाव उत्पन्न कर सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

'Clustering' multiple areas :-



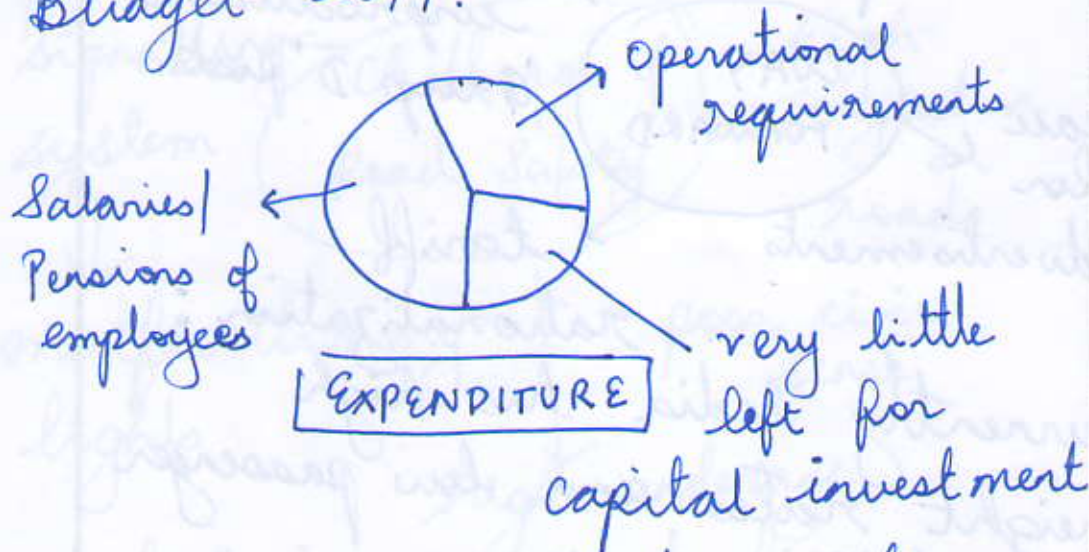
Clustering agriculture helps
in :-

- creating market links
- value addition
- boosting exports
- commercialization of agriculture
- income security to farmer

8. Reliance on borrowings for capital expenditure in railways reflects a weakening financial position. Comment on the statement and discuss ways in which better resource generation and utilisation can be achieved therein. (150 words) 10

रेलवे में पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए उधारी पर निर्भरता कमजोर होती वित्तीय स्थिति को प्रतिबिंबित करती है। इस कथन पर टिप्पणी कीजिए और उन उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए जिनसे इसमें बेहतर संसाधन सृजन और उपयोगिता प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

Railways have infrastructural requirements amounting to ₹50 lakh crore according to Budget 2019.

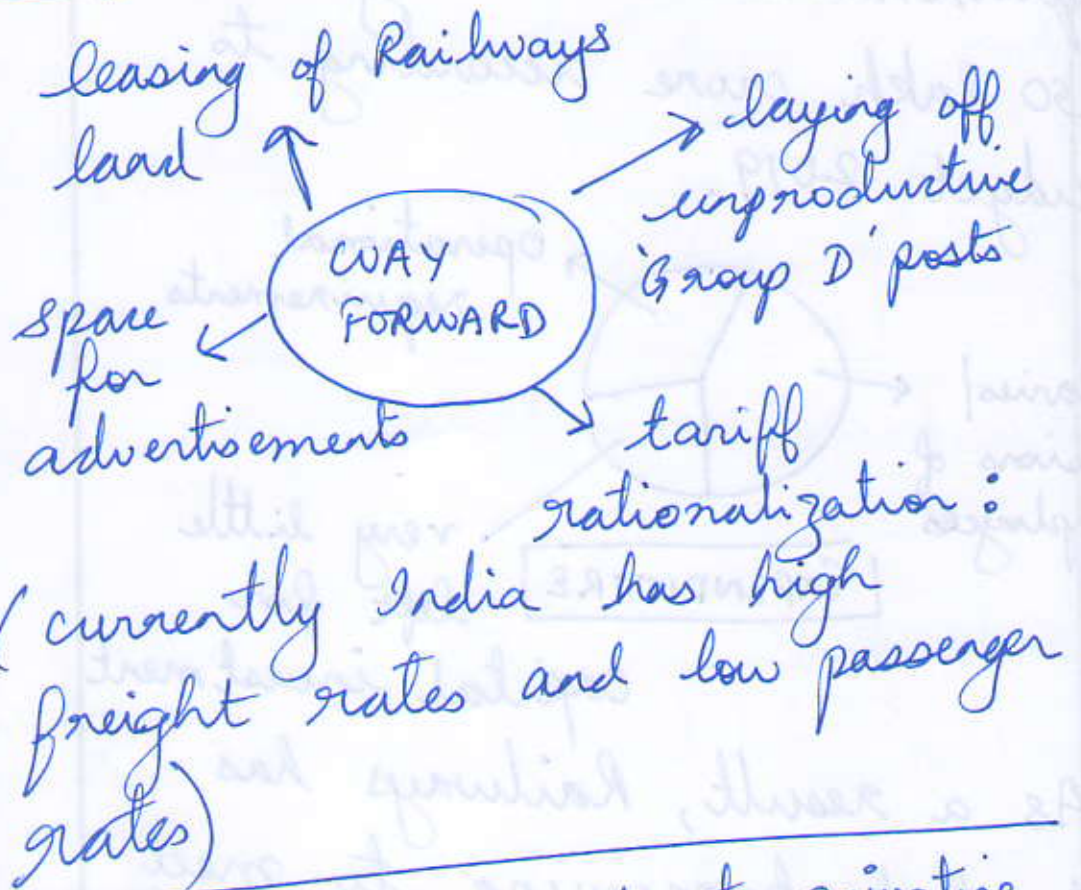


As a result, Railways has started borrowing to meet capital requirements.

WEAKENING FINANCIAL POSITION

→ loss of autonomy → (also seen in merger of Railway Budget)

with ~~get~~ General Budget)
 → can lead to bankruptcy in
future → eg: Pakistan Railways
 suffered from debt

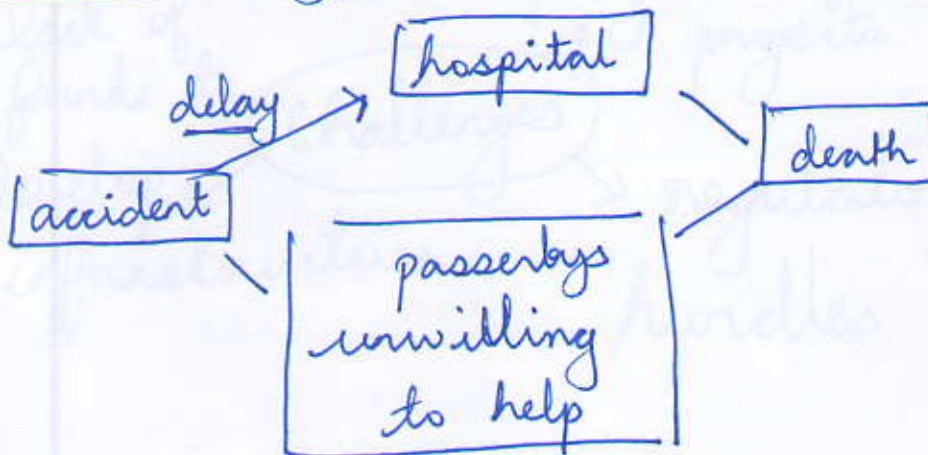
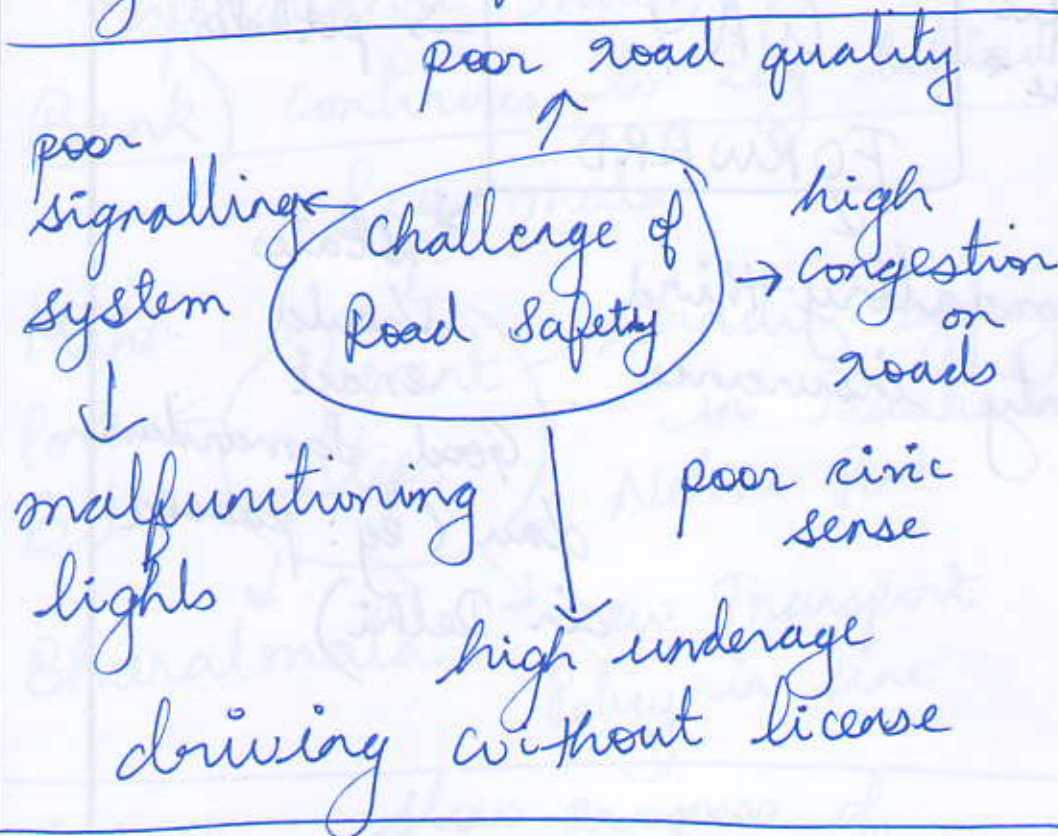


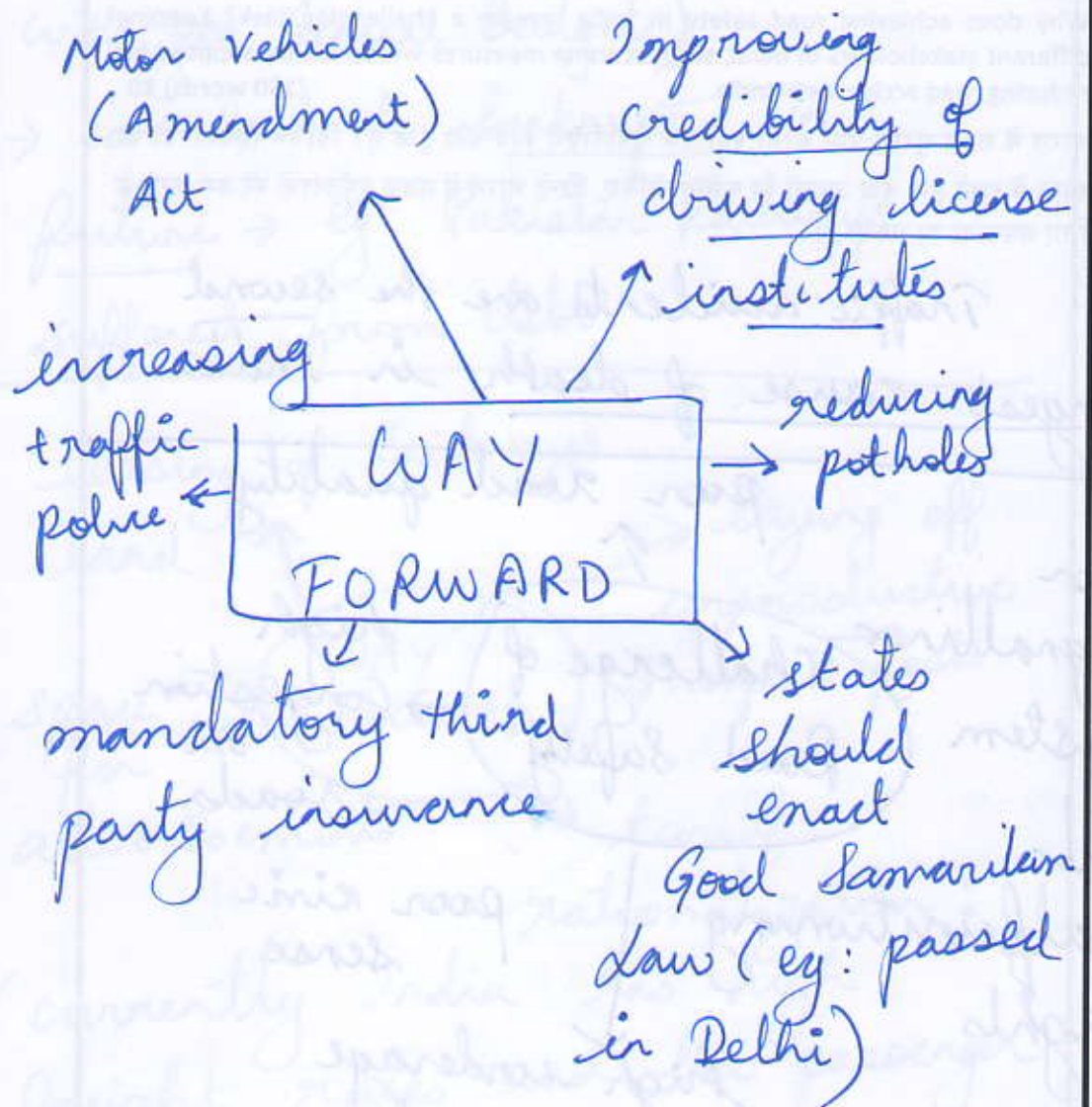
Budget proposal to privatize rolling stock production can help reduce financial pressure on Railways.

9. Why does achieving road safety in India remain a challenging task? Keeping different stakeholders in mind, suggest some measures which can be adopted for reducing road accidents in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में सड़क सुरक्षा प्राप्त करना क्यों एक चुनौतीपूर्ण कार्य बना हुआ है? विभिन्न हितधारकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए, जिन्हें भारत में सड़क दुर्घटनाओं को कम करने के लिए अपनाया जा सकता है।

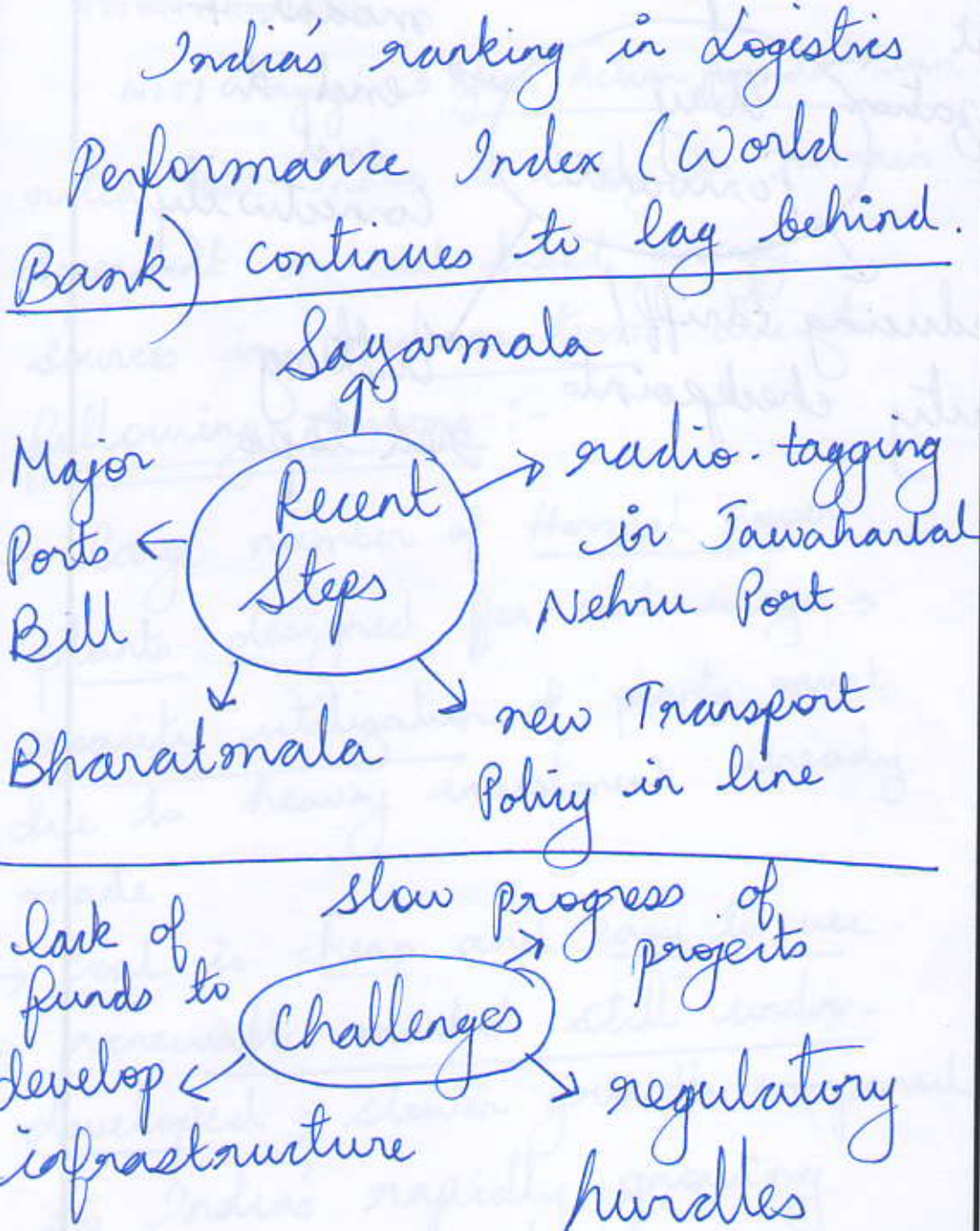
Traffic accidents are the second largest cause of death in India

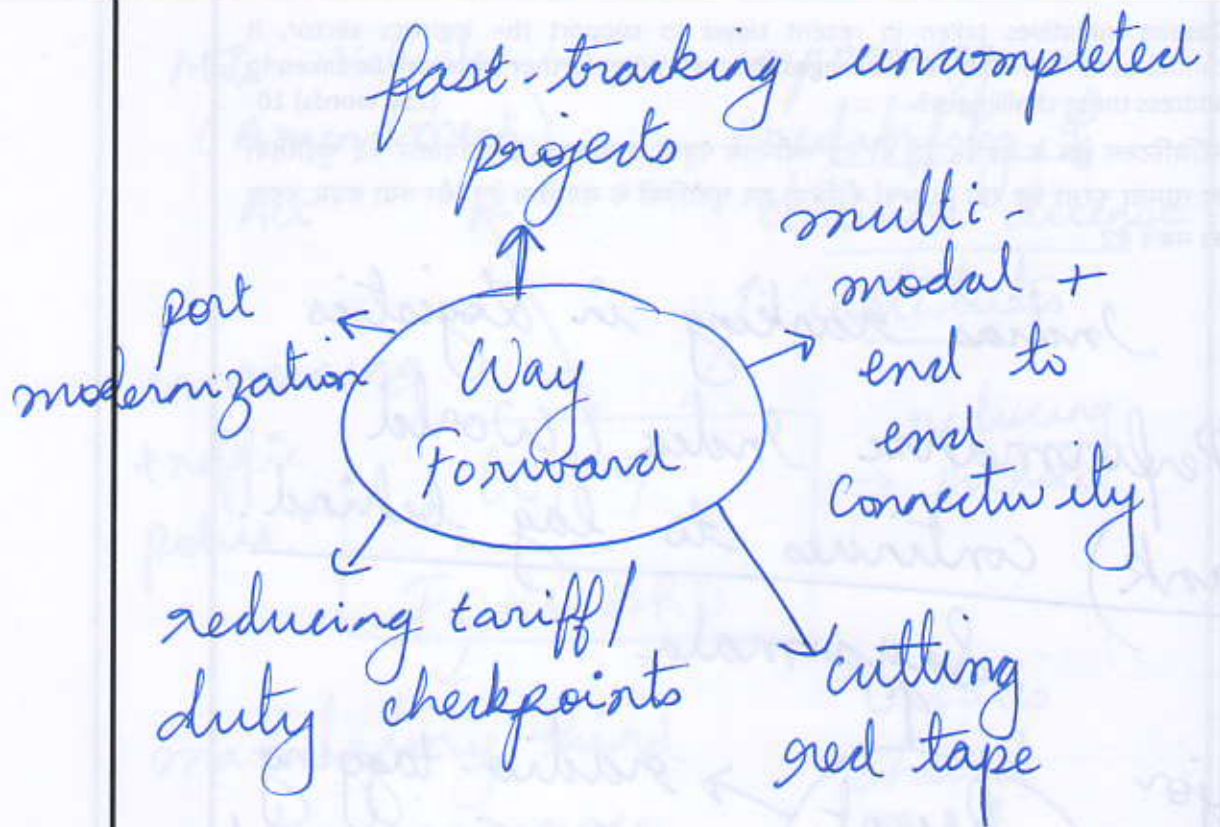




10. Despite initiatives taken in recent times to support the logistics sector, it continues to face multiple challenges. Discuss. What further steps can be taken to address these challenges? (150 words) 10

लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र के समर्थन हेतु की गई नवीनतम पहलों के बावजूद, इसे लगातार कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। इन चुनौतियों के समाधान हेतु और क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?





11. The contribution of coal based power generation is not expected to substantially go down in the next few decades, despite growing importance of renewables. Comment on the statement in light of increasing demand for power in India.

(250 words) 15

नवीकरणीय संसाधनों के बढ़ते महत्व के बावजूद, कोयला आधारित विद्युत उत्पादन के योगदान में अगले कुछ दशकों में मूलतः कमी आने की उम्मीद नहीं है। भारत में विद्युत की बढ़ती मांग के आलोक में इस कथन पर टिप्पणी कीजिए।

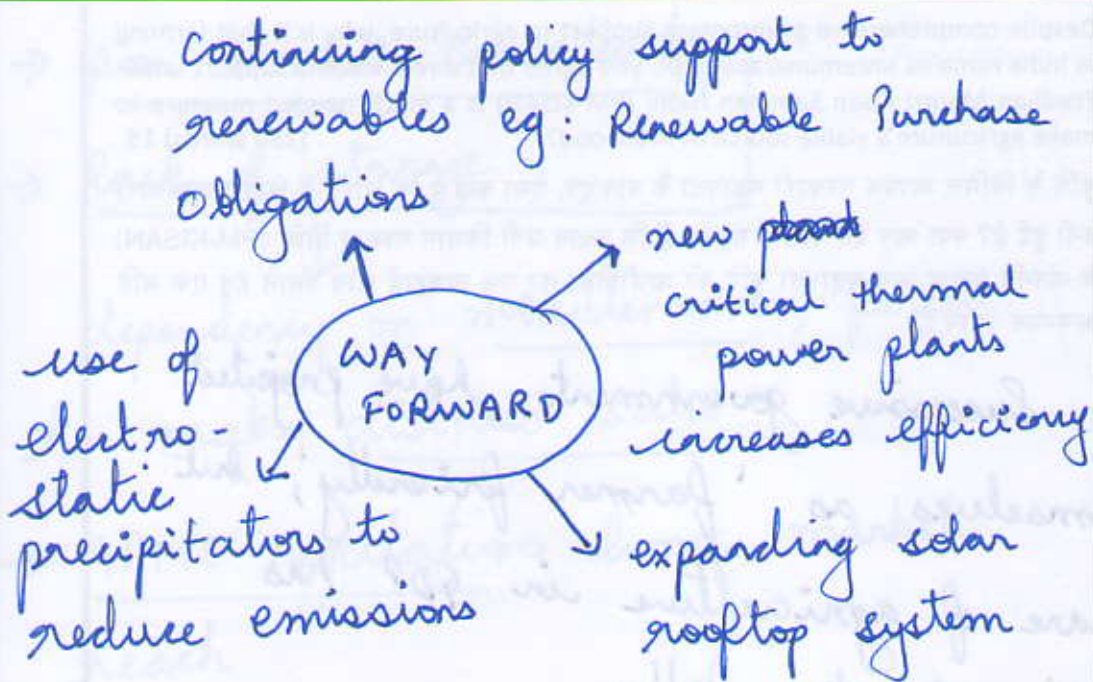
NITI Aayog's 3 Year Action Agenda Plan

noted that India is likely to remain dependent on coal based energy sources in medium term due to following reasons :-

- large number of thermal power plants designed for coal usage → capacity utilization of plants must due to heavy investment already made
- coal is cheap and easy to use
- renewable market still under-developed → slower growth compared to India's rapidly growing energy demand

- coal is reliable source of energy →
solar/wind depend on climate +
expensive battery storage
- risks associated with nuclear energy +
collapse of Westinghouse (global nuclear
bankruptcy giant)
- India's low per capita energy
consumption justifies use of
coal for economic development
- recently, coal mining was opened
up for private sector for captive
power plants

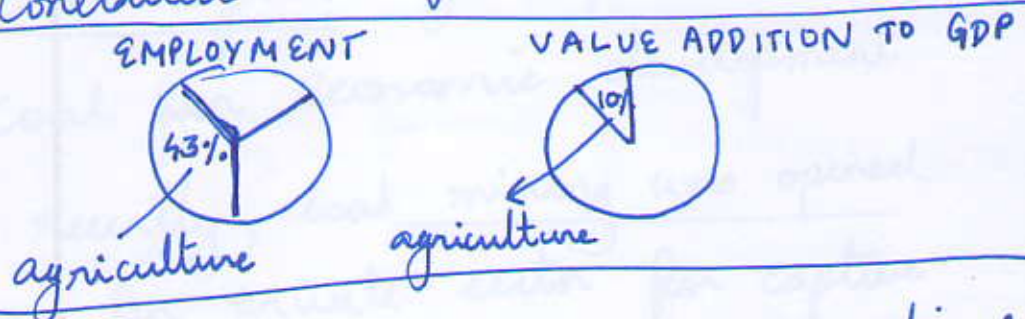
However, policy support to
renewables will ensure that
India has a diverse energy
base to rely upon.



12. Despite comprehensive government support to agriculture, why is it that farming in India remains unremunerative? Do you agree that direct income support under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a much needed measure to make agriculture a viable source of livelihood? (250 words) 15

कृषि के निमित्त व्यापक सरकारी सहायता के बावजूद, ऐसा क्यों है कि भारत में खेती अलाभकारी बनी हुई है? क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि (PM-KISAN) के अंतर्गत प्रत्यक्ष आय सहायता कृषि को आजीविका का एक व्यवहार्य स्रोत बनाने हेतु एक अति आवश्यक उपाय है?

Successive governments have projected themselves as 'farmer friendly', but share of agriculture in GDP has continued to fall.



[Reasons] for remaining unremunerative :-

- high disguised unemployment - high population pressure on limited resources
- small, fragmentary landholdings → no economy of scale
- lack of capital investment eg. irrigation

→ poor market connectivity

→ lack of storage



dependency on middleman, forced
to make distress sales

→ APMC regulations limit market
reach

→ absence of corporate farming law

→ absence of land leasing market -
farmers unable to leave land &
look for employment outside
agriculture

→ poor R&D in agriculture

→ lack of interest among youth

* Can PM-KISAN help?

PM-Kisan provides ₹ 6000/year to
all farmers (Budget 2019 removed)

~~minimum~~ landholding ceiling)

PROS

- supplement to income
- acts as insurance / security net
- direct cash transfer prevents leakage of funds
- unlike subsidies, allowed by WTO

CONS

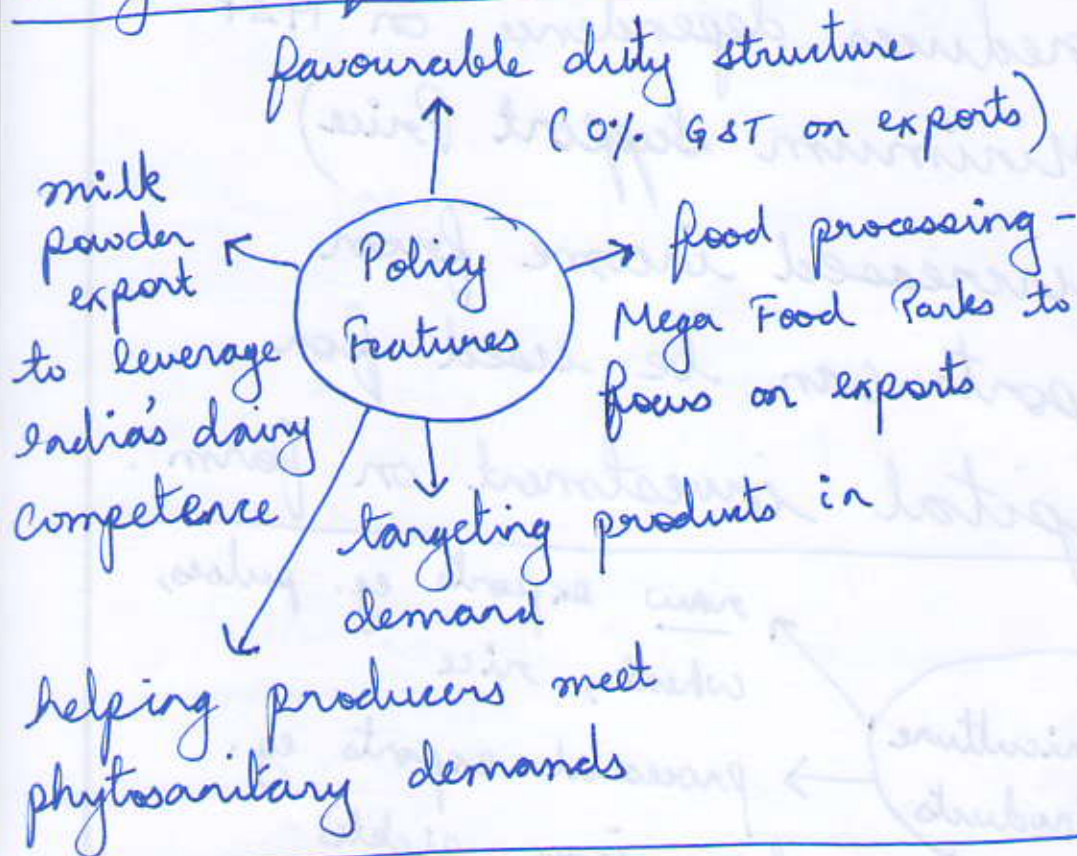
- meagre sum
- does not address structural issues
- delay in payment
- high fiscal burden
- identification / targeting challenge

Although PM. Kisan is a well-meant step, greater efforts needed to resolve farm crisis.

13. Elaborate the strategic and operational elements of the Agriculture Export Policy, 2018 and discuss the role it can play to achieve the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022. (250 words) 15

कृषि निर्यात नीति, 2018 के रणनीतिक एवं परिचालन-संबंधी तत्वों का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए और 2022 तक किसानों की आय को दोगुना करने के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में इसके द्वारा निभायी जा सकने वाली भूमिका की विवेचना कीजिए।

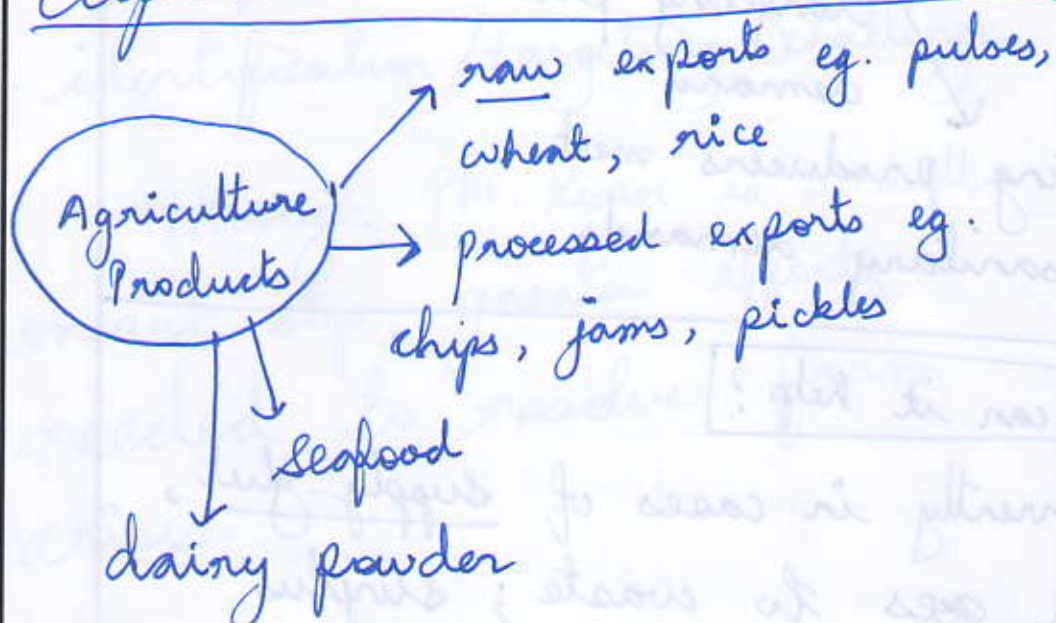
Agriculture Export Policy, 2018
aims at increasing India's share
in global food market.



How can it help?

→ currently in cases of supply-glut,
food goes to waste; surplus

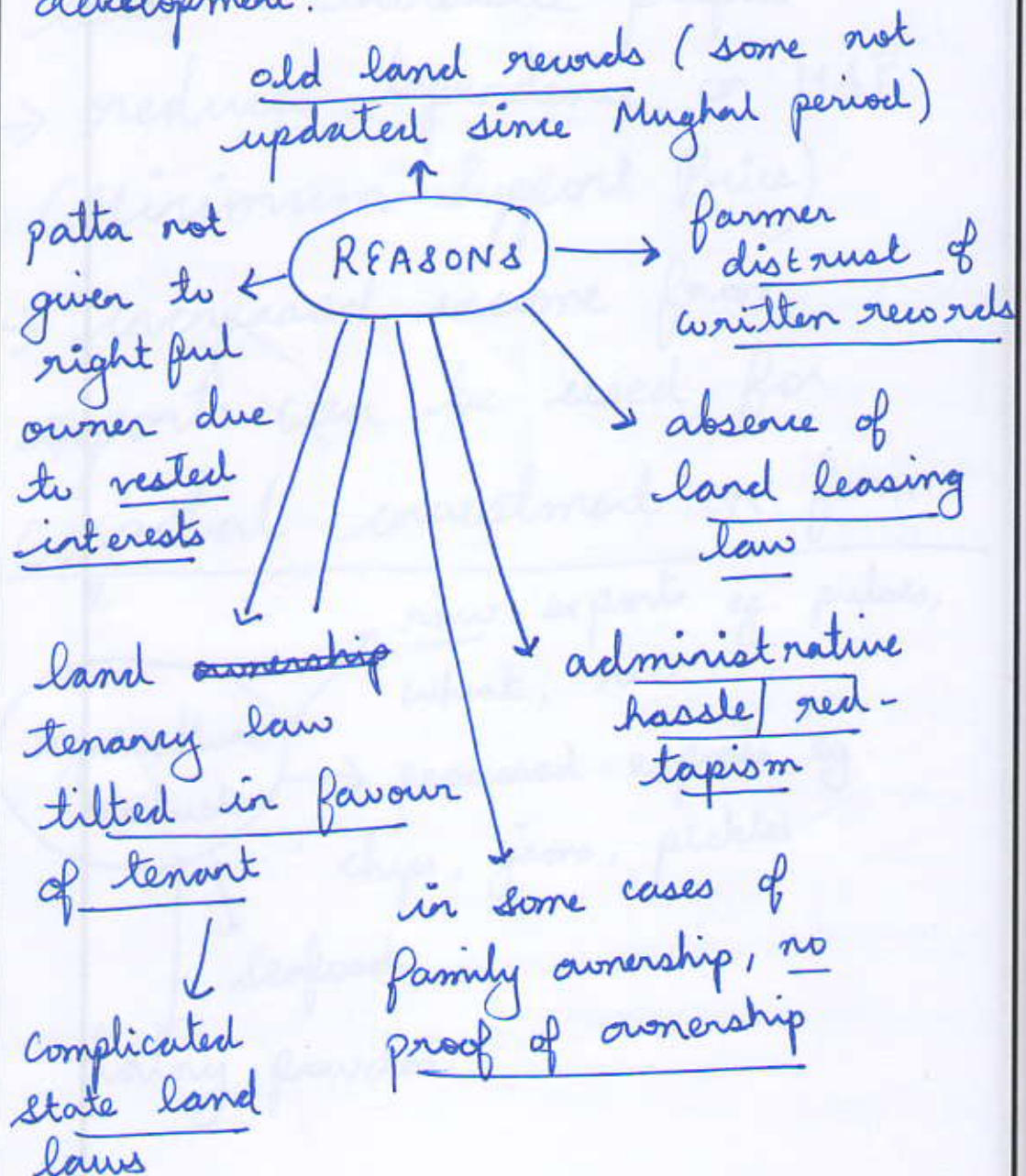
- can be used for export
- allows farmers to tap into international demand
 - Commercialization of agriculture leads to increased profits
 - reduces dependence on MSP (Minimum Support Price)
 - increased income from exports can be used for capital investment on farm.



14. Highlight the reasons behind inconclusive land ownership titles in India. Discuss its repercussions and suggest measures for moving towards conclusive land titling system in India. (250 words) 15

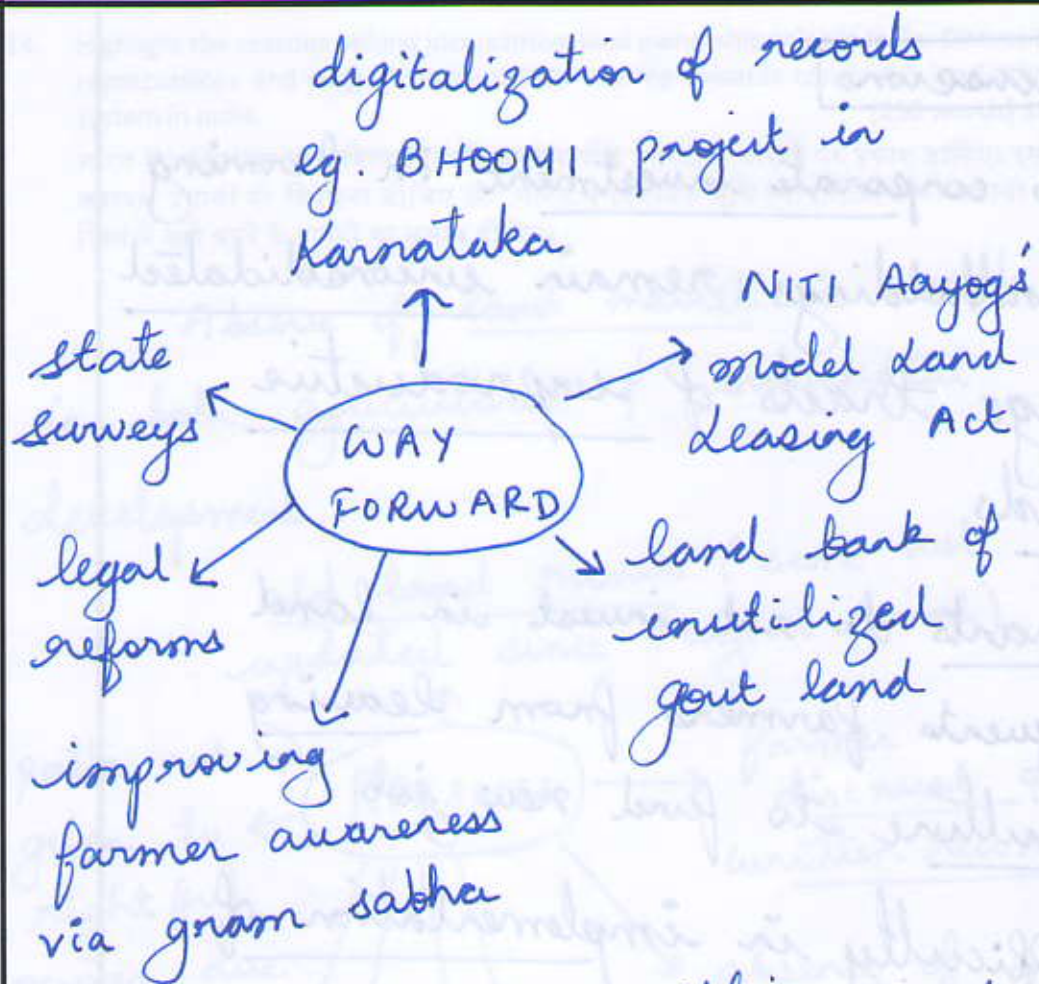
भारत में अनिर्णायक भूस्वामित्व स्वत्वाधिकारों के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इसके अप्रत्यक्ष प्रभावों की विवेचना कीजिए और भारत में निर्णायक भूमि स्वत्वाधिकारों की प्रणाली की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Absence of land market is hurdle in both agricultural & industrial development.



Repercussions

- no corporate investment in farming
- landholdings remain unconsolidated
- large tracts of unproductive lands
- tenants do not invest in land
- prevents farmers from leaving agriculture to find new job
- difficulty in implementation of schemes like PM - Kisan
- land title absence of land title → difficulty in obtaining bank loan

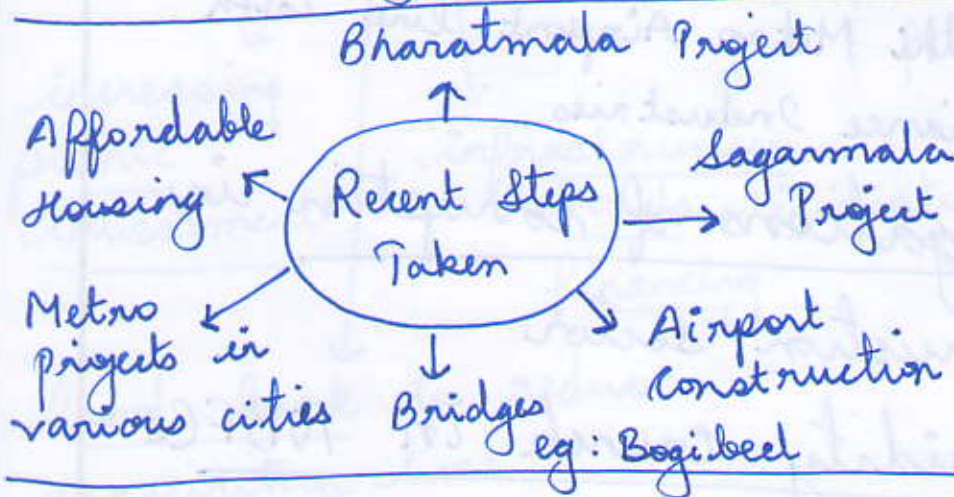


Conclusive land titling system
is first step to land reforms
in India.

15. Despite measures taken by the government for promoting investment in the infrastructure sector in the last few years, there are multiple challenges that still exist. Discuss. What further steps can be taken in this regard? (250 words) 15

बिगत कुछ वर्षों में अवसंरचना क्षेत्र में निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों के बावजूद, कई चुनौतियाँ अभी भी विद्यमान हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। इस संबंध में आगे और क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?

Infrastructure investment was key to China's growth during 1980s, and India's growth during mid-2000s.

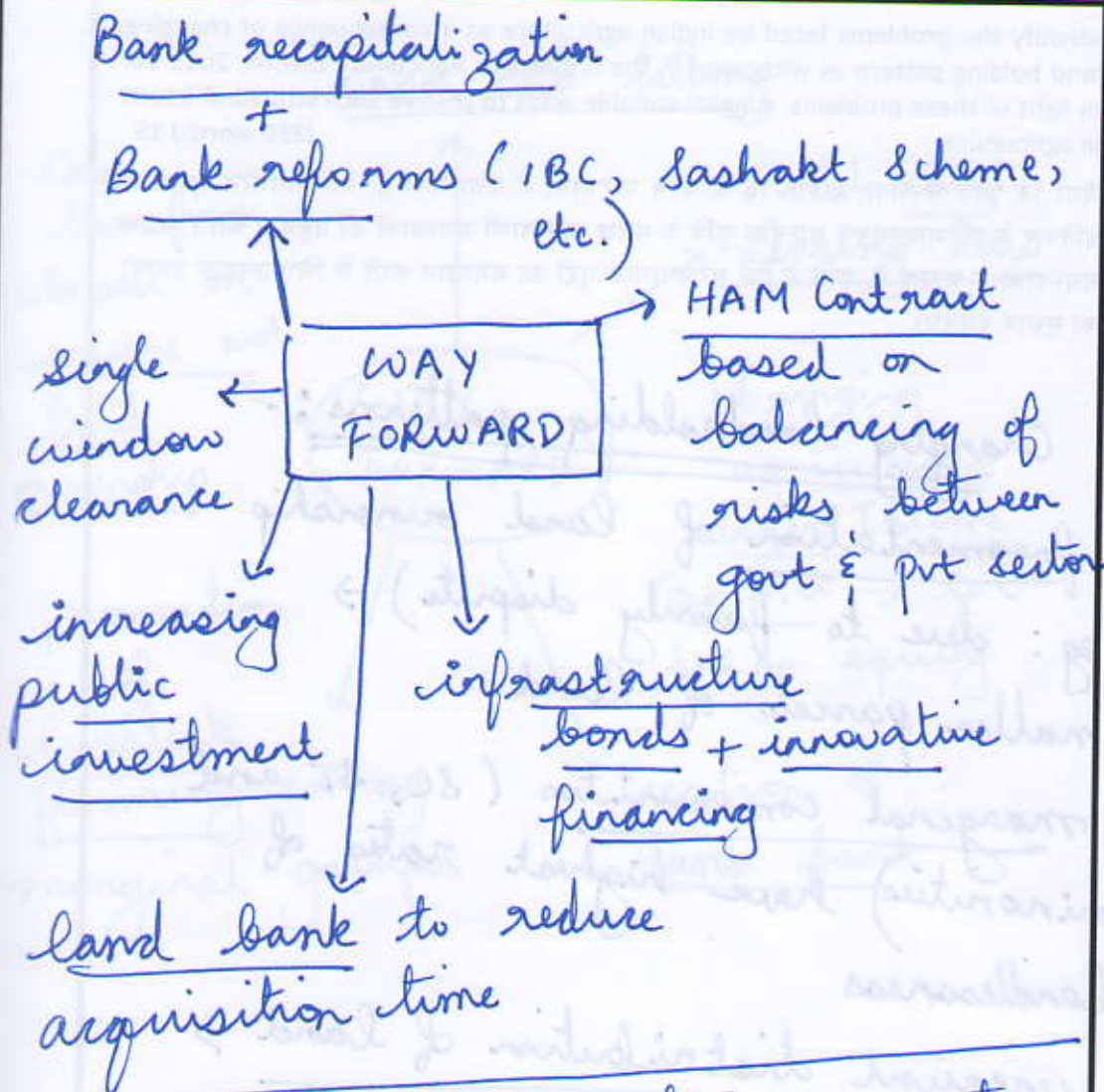


Challenges

→ Twin Balance Sheet Problem :-

- high NPAs in banks reduces credit offtake
- stressed corporate balance sheets prevent private investment

- difficulties obtaining clearances (land, environment, etc). has led to delays in project completion, leaving project midway, etc...
- poor ~~so~~ negotiation of PPP contracts
eg: Delhi Metro Airport line with Reliance Industries
- allegations of corruption in construction sector
- liquidity crunch in NBFCs
following IL&FS crisis
↓
long term infrastructure loans unable to meet short term repayment requirements



Improving regulatory structure and financing will boost infrastructure investment in country.

16. Identify the problems faced by Indian agriculture as a consequence of changing land holding pattern as witnessed in the findings of Agriculture census, 2015-16. In light of these problems, suggest suitable ways to resolve such structural issues in agriculture. (250 words) 15

जैसा कि कृषि संगणना, 2015-16 के जाँच परिणामों में देखा गया है, परिवर्तनशील भू-धारण प्रतिरूप के परिणामस्वरूप भारतीय कृषि के समक्ष आने वाली समस्याओं की पहचान कीजिए। इन समस्याओं के प्रकाश में, कृषि में ऐसे संरचनात्मक मुद्दों का समाधान करने के लिए उपयुक्त उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Changing landholding patterns :-

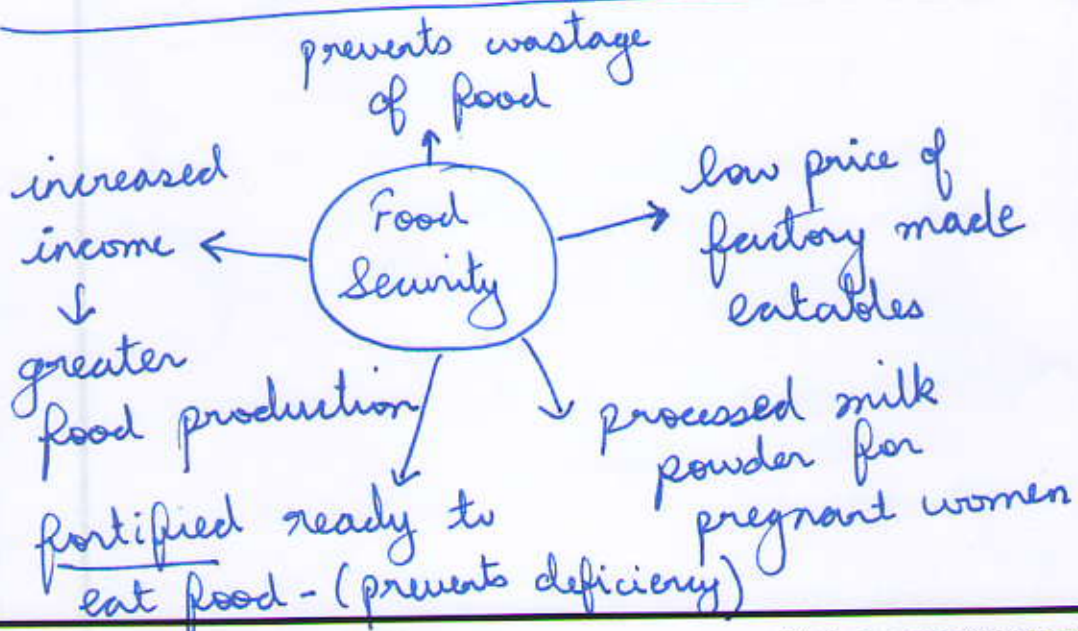
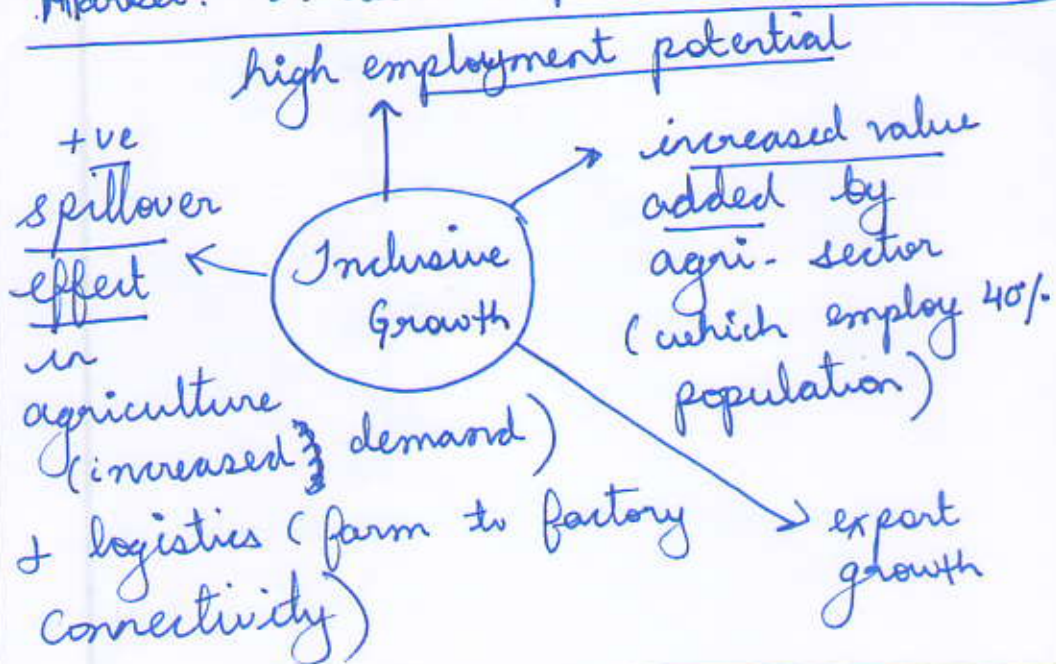
- fragmentation of land ownership
(eg: due to family dispute) →
smaller parcels of land
- marginal communities (SC, ST and minorities) have highest rates of landlessness
- unequal distribution of land →
large share concentrated with rich farmers



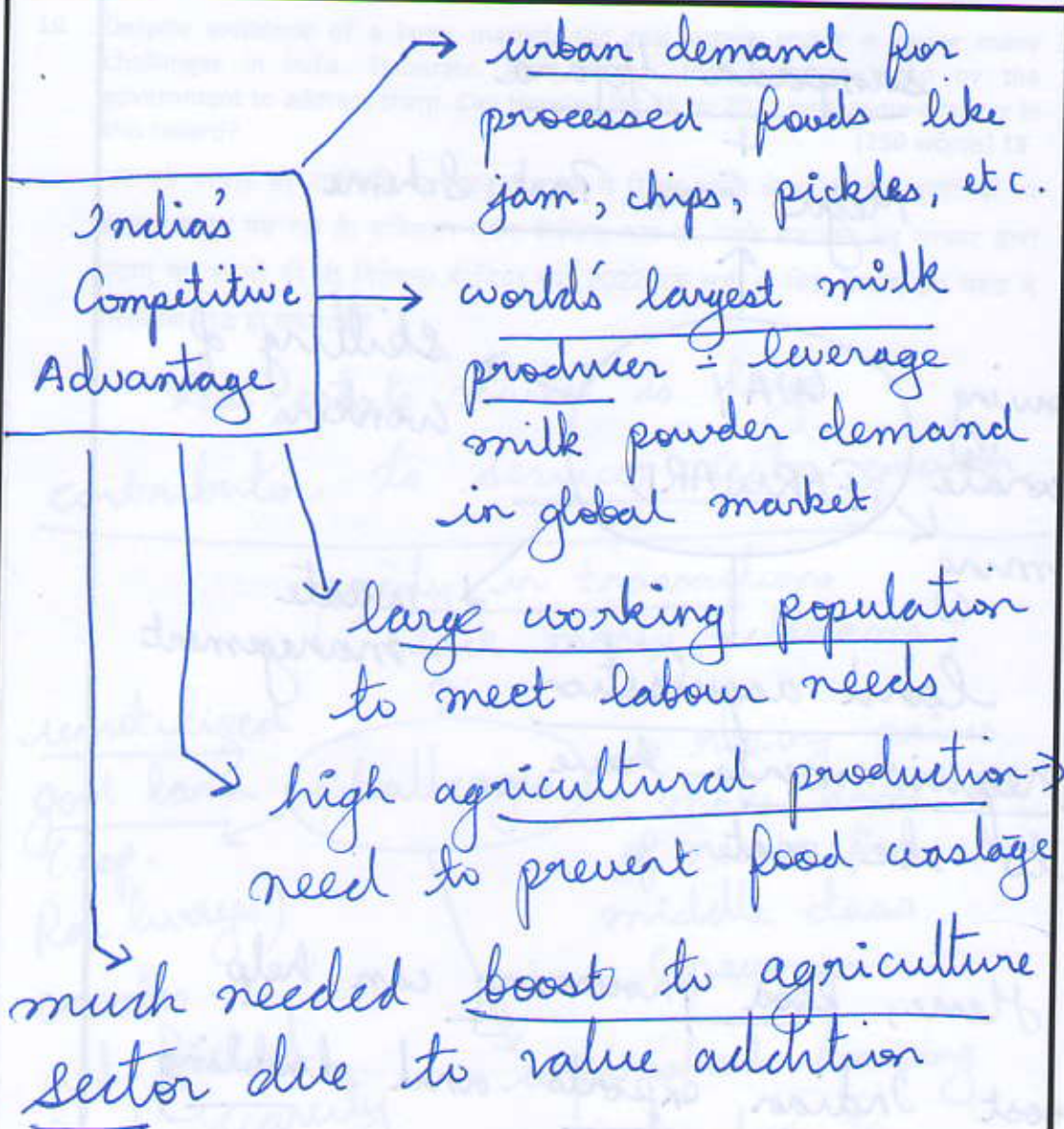
18. Development of food processing industry will help in achieving the twin goals of inclusive growth and food security. Discuss. Also, account for the competitive advantages enjoyed by India in the food processing sector. (250 words) 15

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग के विकास से समावेशी विकास और खाद्य सुरक्षा के दोहरे लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में सहायता मिलेगी। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक में भारत को प्राप्त प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ का भी विवरण दीजिए।

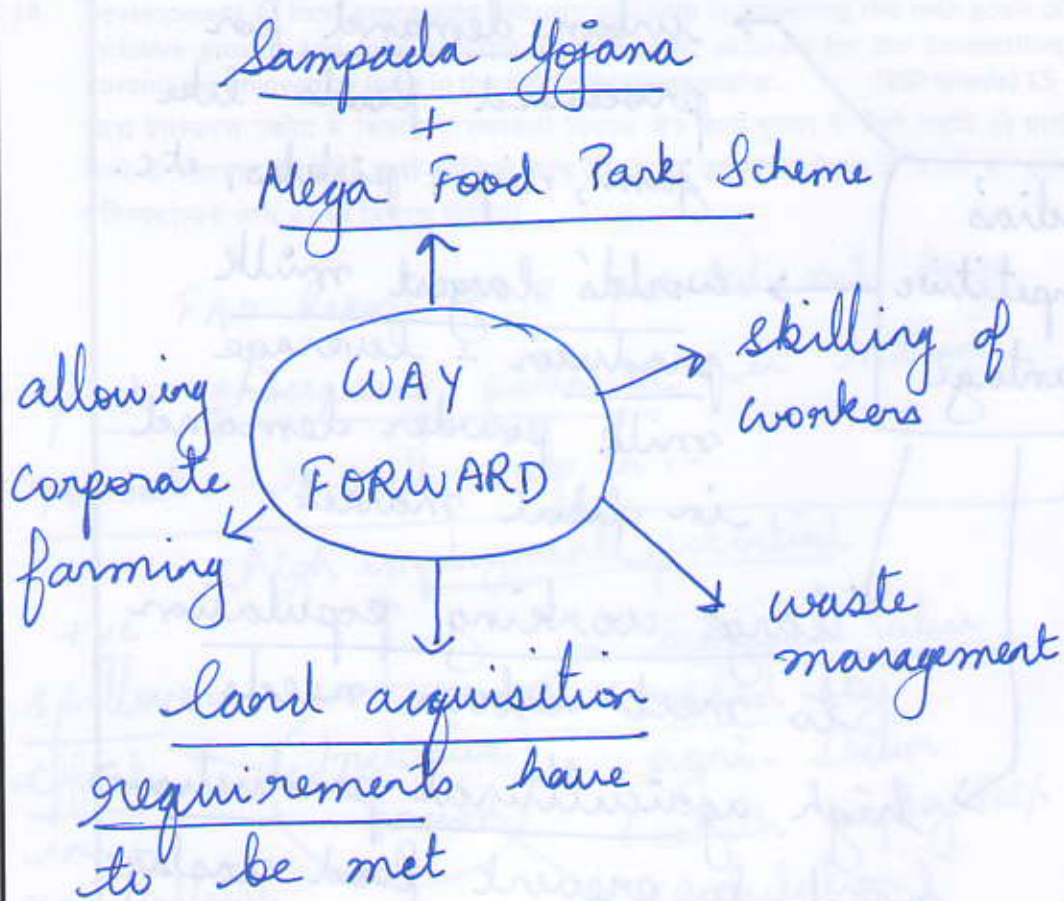
FAO Report 2018 pointed out huge food processing potential in Indian Market. It will help in:-



India's Competitive Advantage



Currently, food processing sector is growing rapidly and requires only the right policy push.



Hence, food processing can help
boost Indian exports and doubling
farmer incomes by 2022.

19. Despite existence of a large market, the real estate sector is facing many challenges in India. Elaborate. Also, discuss the measures taken by the government to address them. Can Housing for All by 2022 be a game-changer in this regard? (250 words) 15

एक बड़े बाजार की उपस्थिति के बावजूद, भारत में रियल एस्टेट क्षेत्र को कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। सविस्तर वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, इनके समाधान हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की भी विवेचना कीजिए। क्या 2022 तक सभी के लिए आवास इस संबंध में निर्णायक सिद्ध हो सकता है?

Real-estate market is large contributor to services sector growth.

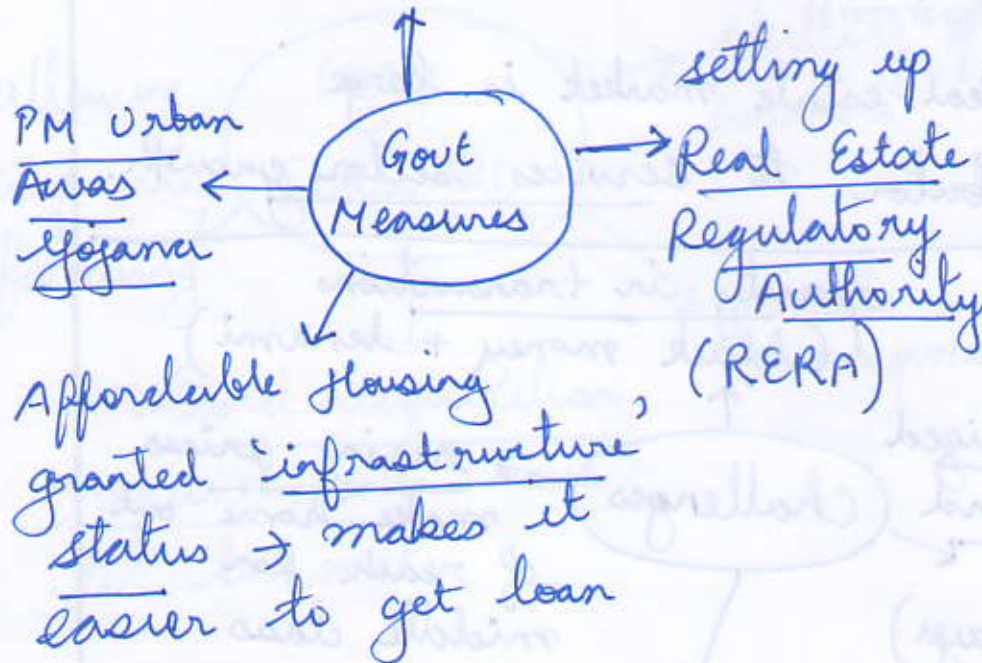
opacity in transactions
(black money + benami)

unused
govt land
(esp. Railways)
creates
artificial
land scarcity
↓
inflated prices

Challenges

→ rising prices
make home out
of reach for
middle class
consumer

↓
unfinished housing
projects due to
judicial delays

Benami Transaction(Amendment) Act, 2016:tightens rules w.r.t
benami transactionsBenefits of Housing For All

- Interest subvention in home loans for BPL, LIG (lower income groups)

Public
Private
Partnership

In situ
Slum
Redevelopment

Housing For
All by
2022

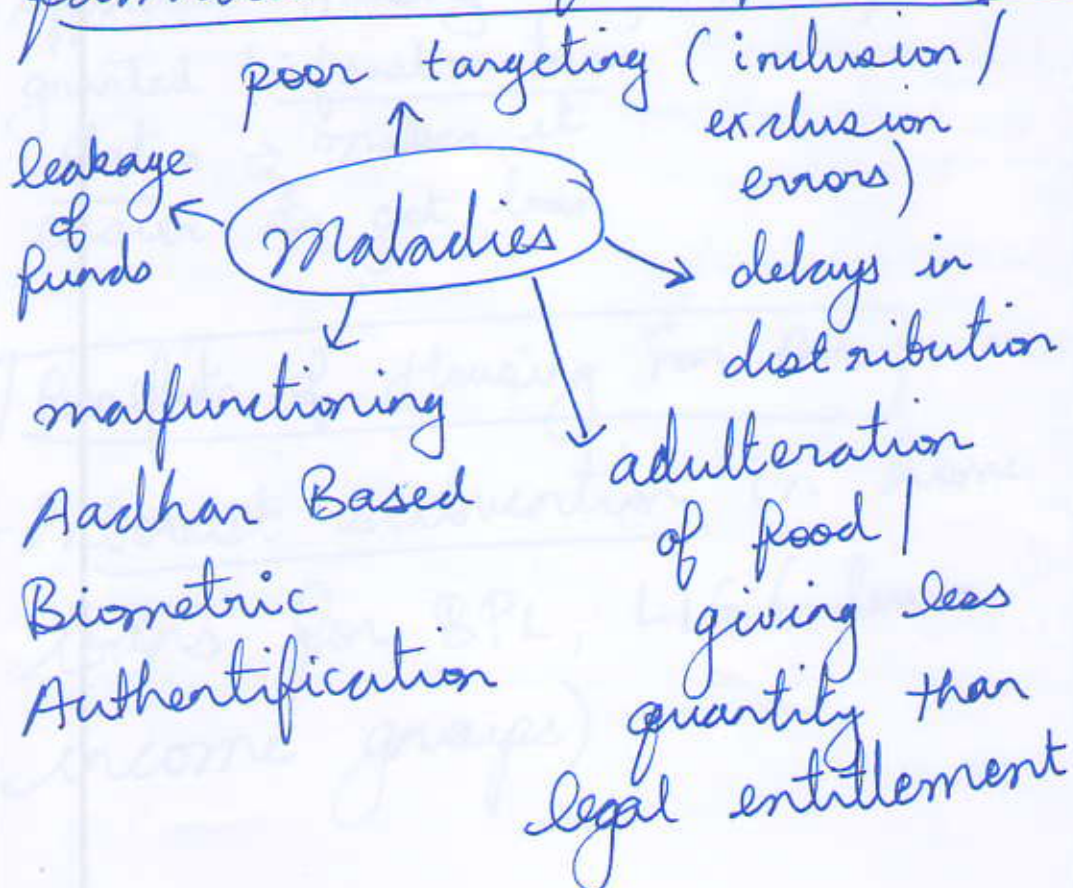
Beneficiary
led
construction

land capitalization

20. Identify the maladies affecting the proper functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Comment on the feasibility of alternatives available to TPDS. (250 words) 15

लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (TPDS) के समुचित कार्यकरण को प्रभावित करने वाली विकृतियों की पहचान कीजिए। TPDS के लिए उपलब्ध विकल्पों की व्यवहार्यता पर टिप्पणी कीजिए।

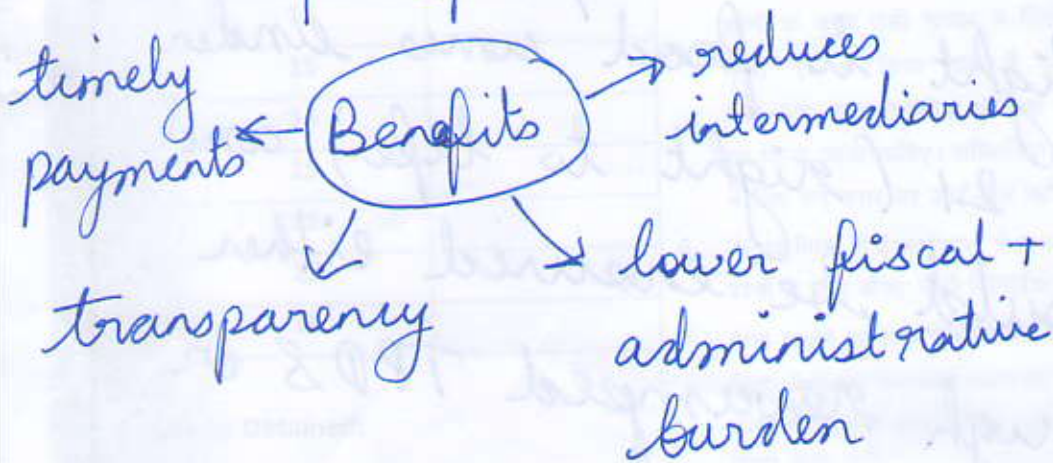
Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) provides subsidized rations to BPL families via fair price shops

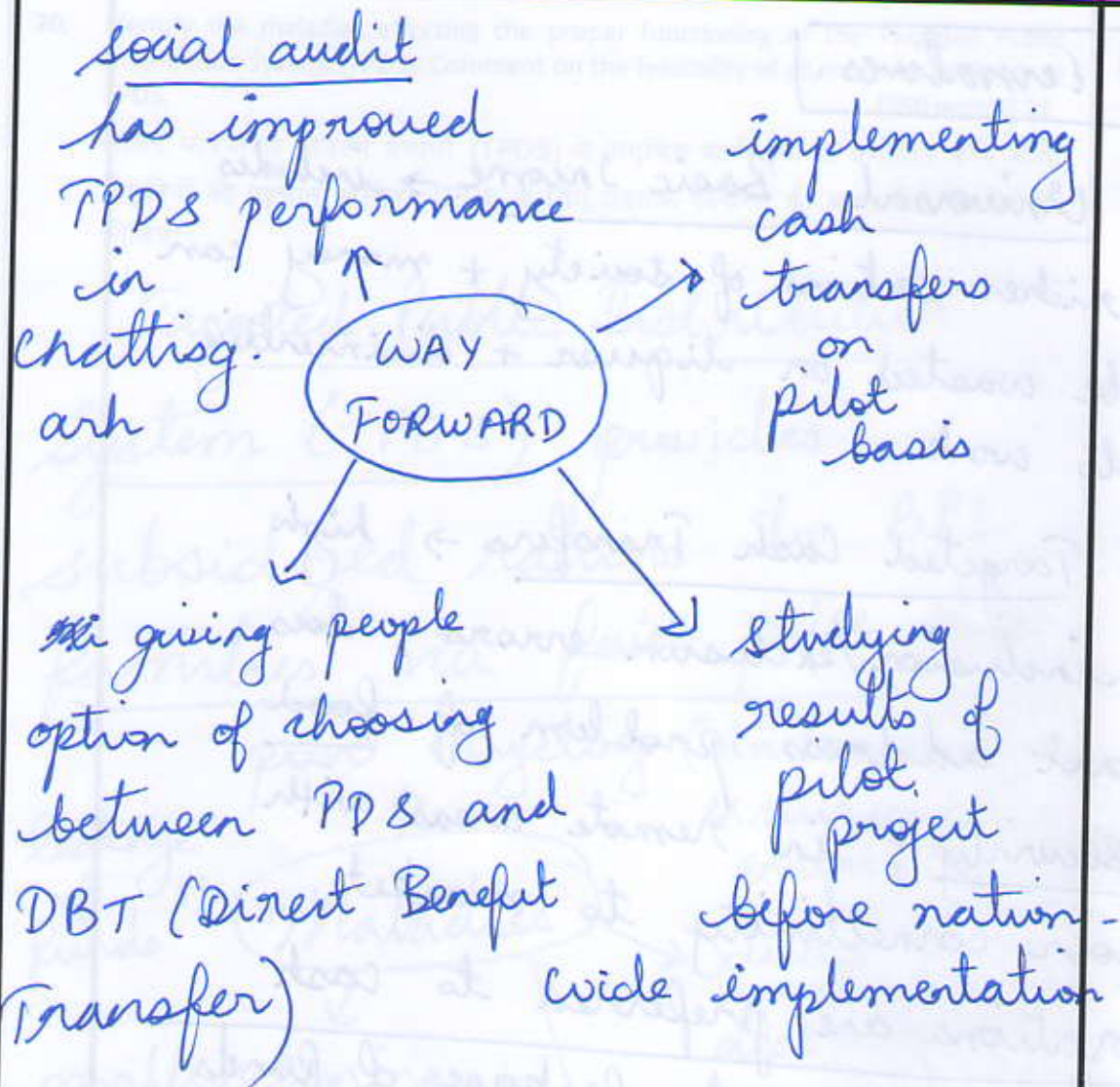


Alternatives

→ Universal Basic Income → includes richer sections of society + money can be wasted on liquor + disincentive to work

→ Targeted Cash Transfers → high inclusion/exclusion errors; does not address problem of food security; in remote areas with poor connectivity to market, rations are preferred to cash
↑
prevents leakage of funds





'Right to food' comes under Art 21 (right to life) and should be ensured either through revamped TPDS or DBT.