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Q14

Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · GS I · 15 marks · Natural Resources and Industries

Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

Core demand of the question

- Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas
- Give both halves equal weight

Revision summary

India's coast and **EEZ** hold fish, ports, offshore energy, beach minerals, salt, and tourism.

Cyclones, the 2004 tsunami, surge, and erosion are the main natural hazards.

The **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, IMD, **INCOIS**, and cyclone shelters have lowered death counts.

CRZ rules and mangrove buffers are unevenly enforced.

Ports and fishers need the same map of hazard before the next surge.

Flow diagram

Long coastline -> Fish ports oil minerals tourism

Long coastline -> Cyclone tsunami surge erosion

IMD INCOIS NDMA CRZ -> Better warning shelters

Cyclone tsunami surge erosion -> Gap in last-mile and erosion

Fish ports oil minerals tourism -> Blue economy

Better warning shelters -> Blue economy

Conclusion

- Treat mangroves and dunes as infrastructure, not as spare land for ports.
- Complete cyclone shelters, all-weather houses under coastal PMAY-U and state schemes, and boat-to-phone warning for small fishers.
- Align Sagarmala and coastal power plants with NDMA flood and surge maps before construction.

The long coast can feed fisheries, ports, minerals, and tourism if the **EEZ** is used with care. Preparedness has improved in cyclone warning and law since 2005, but erosion, surge, and weak local enforcement still leave fishers and slums exposed.

Facts & figures

Coast length

About 7,500 kilometres including island territories, in official round figures.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Marine zone beyond the territorial sea, over two million square kilometres, for living and non-living resources.

Disaster Management Act, 2005

Statute that created NDMA and a modern disaster chain after earlier cyclone disasters.

INCOIS

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, which issues tsunami and ocean alerts.

CRZ Notification, 2019

Coastal Regulation Zone rules that try to limit hazardous and ecological damage along the shore.

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