

TEST CODE : 4 1 0 7 4

FIAS - MGP 2021 - GS paper #2

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate

SHRUTI SHARMA

Roll No.

1910051334

Date:

4/12/21

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

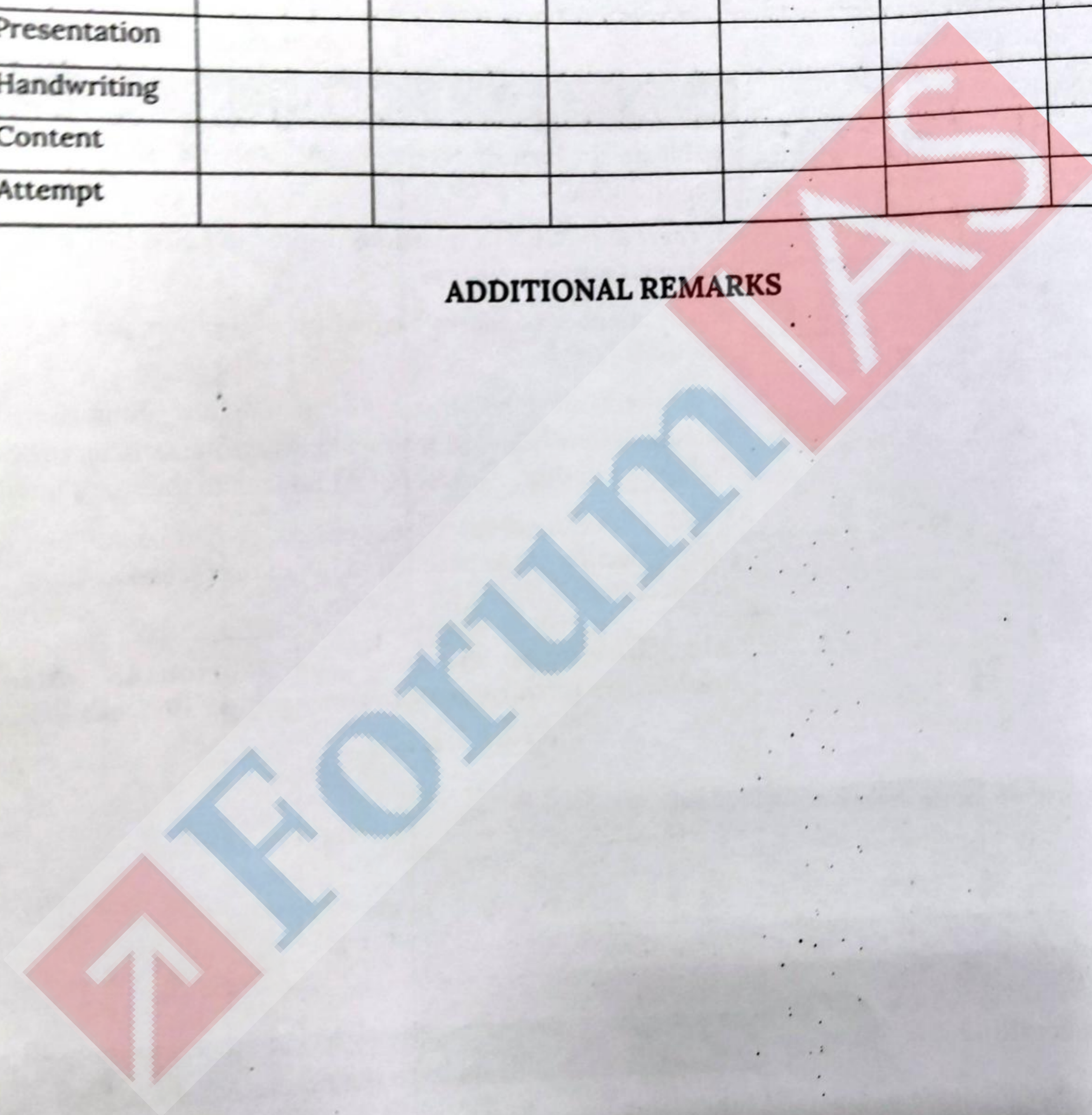
INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained		
1			1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.	
2			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.	
3			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.	
4			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.	
5			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.	
6			<p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>	
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Evaluator's Discretion:			For Student Only	
			Start Time 2pm	End Time 5pm.
Total Marks:			Mode Of Examination:	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluator's Discretion: This is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator 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.			For Office Use Only	
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Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL REMARKS



Q.1) Though necessary; timely, free and fair elections are not sufficient to ensure a vibrant democracy. In your opinion, what are the essential requirements for a vibrant democracy?

(10 marks, 150 words)

हालांकि एक जीवंत लोकतंत्र को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अनिवार्य रूप से, समय पर, स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव पर्याप्त नहीं हैं। आपकी राय में, एक जीवंत लोकतंत्र के लिए आवश्यक आवश्यकताएं क्या हैं?

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India is the largest democracy of the world with its 1.2 bn population engaging in the largest free and fair elections conducted by an independent Election Commission (Art 324)

Imp of elections

→ Imposition of accountability
 → Representative decision making - represent of regions, groups
 → necessity in light of large popu
 (non viability of direct demo)

However, it is not enough :

VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

- ① Respect and safeguards for minorities
 (To prevent majoritarianism)
 Key → • Art 244 - Reservations
 • 'Secularism' in Preamble.

② Independence of institutions

↳ Four bulwarks

↳ ① Independent judiciary. (Art 124-147)

↳ ② Union Public Service Commission.

↳ ③ Comptroller and Auditor (Art 148)

↳ Financial propriety

③ Upliftment and protection of marginalised

↳ Sixth and Fifth Schedule (Tribal welfare)

④ Protection of fundamental rights

↳ Part III of Constitution

Art 19 Freedom of Expression

⑤ Effective participatory democracy

↳ 73rd and 74th Amendment

↳ vibrant local panchayati raj institutions

↳ social audit (Meghalaya model)

Only when citizens feel active partners in democracy - to develop their potential - in absence of arbitrary power - is it 'of', 'by', and 'for' the people.

Feedback
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Structure/
Presentation

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Interpretation

Content

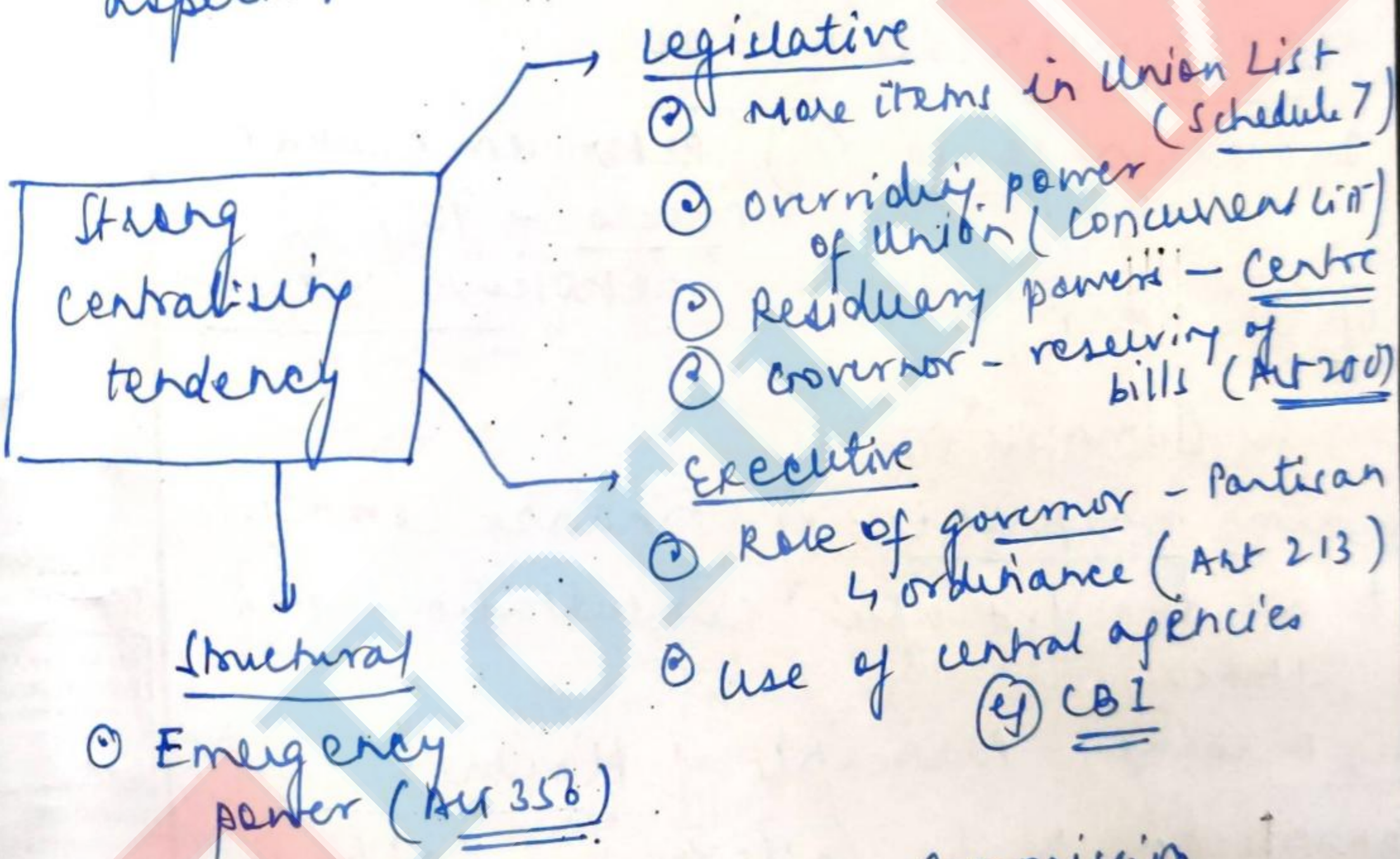
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Q.2) A major responsibility in a federal country with strong centralizing tendency is to maintain the balance, as well as mutual respect, between political structures at the central and state levels. Explain in light of recent events. (10 marks, 150 words)

मजबूत केंद्रीकरण की प्रवृत्ति वाले एक संघीय देश में एक प्रमुख जिम्मेदारी केंद्र और राज्य स्तर पर राजनीतिक संरचनाओं के बीच संतुलन के साथ-साथ आपसी सम्मान को बनाए रखना है। हाल की घटनाओं के आलोक में व्याख्या कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India's federal system has been termed as 'quasi-federal' by K.C. Wheare - highlighting its central tilt in various aspects!



In this light, as Sarkaria Commission, highlighted, there is a functional need for the Centre to respect the States powers. Recent events highlight this conflict.

- ① Legislative: Criticism of farm laws, Electricity Amendment Bill, Post-Authentic Act — as impinging on state subjects
- ② Institutional: Unilaterally increasing tenure of CBI head - using it as target states (eg West Bengal)
- ③ Fiscal federalism: Issues regarding GST compensation cess
 - Increasing cesses ④ Petroleum central cesses - 95% of petroleum revenue

Need of the Hour

- ① Punchhi Commission
 - Terms of reference of Finance Commission to be decided after consultation with state.
- ② Law making - Principle of Harmonious construction to be followed - with building of consensus.
- ③ Sarkaria Commission, S.R. Bommai judgement: Imposition of President's rule and role of governor needs to be led by certain guidelines

Feedback	
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Q.3) How far do you agree that use of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as instruments of delivery of services and implementation of projects by the government has led to undermining of legitimate authority of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)?
(10 marks, 150 words)

आप कहाँ तक सहमत हैं कि सरकार द्वारा सेवाओं के वितरण और परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन के साधन के रूप में स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) के उपयोग ने पंचायती राज संस्थानों (PRIs) के वैधानिक सत्ता को कमजोर करने को बढ़ावा दिया है?
(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The principle of subsidiarity highlights the decentralisation of functions as far as possible - for efficient governance. Self Help Groups and PRIs are both tools in this regard.

Increasing role of Self Help Groups as an impediment to PRIs:

- ① Impinging on topics provided under Art 243 G (public health, education, awareness) by mobilizing resources from private sources
- ② Overlapping of functions leading to duplication.
- ③ Decreasing prestige and relevance in the eyes of the public.

However, looking at this as a zero-sum game - is a narrow interpretation.

SHGs as enablers of local governance.

① As means of financial inclusion & solving issue of fund mobilisation of PRIs
 Ex) SEWA ⇒ through SHG-Bank Linkage prog.

② Reaching untapped, remote areas by tapping information technology
 Ex) Kudumbashree - using GPS data, Laptops (video conferencing)

③ Tapping women power and mobilising local labour marginalized sections
 & hitents unaware about governance
 Ex) Mission Shakti - 6 lakh SHGs in Odisha

④ Improving governance outcomes - hand in hand with PRIs
 Ex) involvement of Mission Shakti helpers in Jal Sathi prog of govt (water supply)

⑤ Greater political empowerment
 Ex) Most Kudumbashree volunteers later became sarpanches of PRIs

Thus, a fulfilment of 75 Lakh SHG aim of govt will be a stepping stone for best utilisation of 73rd Amendment

Feedback	
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Q.4) Highlighting the need of an All-India Judicial Services (AIJS), enumerate the various challenges associated with creation of an AIJS. (10 marks, 150 words)

अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवाओं (AIJS) की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, AIJS के निर्माण से जुड़ी विभिन्न चुनौतियों का उल्लेख करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The need of an All India Judicial Service was highlighted by the 1st Law Commission as a measure to create a uniform standard across the subordinate judiciary.

Need :

- ① Pendency of cases : More than 82% of 4.5 lakh crore pending cases (NJDG) are in subordinate judiciary
- ② Vacancy : More than 5000 current vacancies (court data).
- ③ Lack of excellence and efficiency : poor incentive structure for greater involvement.
- ④ Lack of uniformity across country
 Kerala - better judicial outcomes vs Bihar.
- ⑤ Low pay
- ⑥ Need for judicial unity in the country.

While this demand is being considered by the current govt, ~~the~~ number of challenges persist:

- ① Languages: Different linguistic regions have diversity of laws and language - will be difficult to learn (national level).
- ② Against 'Judicial federalism' - Importance of HC in appointing judges will be challenged (Now by central recruitment system).
- ③ Questions of amount of reservation - and locally marginalised groups may not get reservation at central level.
- ④ Opposition by states and HCs - More than 9 High Courts oppose the idea.
- ⑤ Accessibility: Judges from poor and non urban backgrounds may find difficult to qualify.
- ⑥ A net of coaching institutions may prosper.

Thus, only after taking all sections and stakeholders in consensus - should the Law Commission recomm. be taken forward.

Feedback

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Q.5) Discuss the critical role of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Anganwadi workers as a connecting link between the community and the state in promoting health, reducing malnutrition and controlling pandemic in rural areas. (10 marks, 150 words)

स्वास्थ्य को बढ़ावा देने, कुपोषण को कम करने और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में महामारी को नियंत्रित करने में समुदाय और राज्य के बीच जोड़ने वाली कड़ी के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ताओं (आशा) और आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिकाओं पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

ASHA and Anganwadi workers ~~and~~ as grassroots level workers providing basic government schemes and benefits to the people - have been a lasting success in our public welfare state.

Link in promoting health and reducing malnutrition

① First level implementors of the POSHAN Abhiyaan and National Food Security Act in provided uncooked food and biscuits to pregnant mother and children under 3 years (Reducing Hunger + SDG 2)

② Awareness of government schemes - using placards, word of mouth.

③ women empowerment: being role models, greater accessibility

to women members of family

Controlling pandemic

- ① First responder in critical situations (checking temperature, basic medicines - vitamin C etc)
- ② Awareness for taking COVID test and importance of isolation
- ③ Data procurement for efficient evidence based decision making

However they suffer from various

④ Resource crunches
 ↳ Absence of basic masks and sanitizers in rural UP & Bihar

⑤ not enough salary & remunerating them for crucial health risk

They need to be provided with special govt backed insurance to acknowledge their role in reaching SDG goals of 1 (No poverty), Health (5) and achieving a welfare state

Feedback
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Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.6) Populism has pushed politics towards socialism while economy continues to be dominated by global capitalism. Examine with examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

लोकलुभावनवाद ने राजनीति को समाजवाद की ओर धकेल दिया है जबकि अर्थव्यवस्था पर वैश्विक पूंजीवाद का वर्चस्व बना हुआ है। उदाहरण सहित परीक्षण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Populism as the democratic impulse towards demands by masses has led to greater 'socialistic' tendencies even in traditional 'capitalist' world orders.

Examples :

① Demand for universal health care :
 → UK (State funded health care),
 → India (Ayushman Bharat), Even
 USA (Hub of capitalism) → demands of Obama care.

② Idea of a welfare state
 → Subsidies for agriculture
 (a) India - fertilizer subsidy (urea)
 (b) USA - Land and research subsidies.
 → Submitting to demands for farm loan waivers

- ③ Idea of Corporate Social Responsibility & certain limits put on companies.
 ↳ Vedanta Group

However, the economy continues to be largely capitalistic.

- * Global economic institutions (IMF, WB and World Bank) function on ideas of 'market openness'

- * Tariff barriers (for external imports of solar components) and food subsidies (WTO Peace Clause) (e.g. Cairn Energy) by India — were heavily penalized

- * Even 'communist' countries like China have a capitalist model.
 ↳ large corporates → WePay, Alibaba

It is this contradiction that lies at the conflict between the developed and developing world — which needs to move in the interest of the welfare of the most downtrodden with sustainable development.

Feedback	
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Q.7) Comment on status of prisoners and custodial violence in the country keeping in mind Supreme court guidelines in the DK Basu case.
(10 Marks, 150 words)

डीके बसु मामले में उच्चतम न्यायालय के दिशानिर्देशों को ध्यान में रखते हुए देश में कैदियों की स्थिति और हिरासत में हुई हिंसा घटनाओं पर टिप्पणी करें।
(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

According to NCRB there are more than 69% undertrial prisoners in the country — and the dire strait of our prisons is best reflected in our crime.

Status of prisoners

- ① Poor and dilapidated infrastructure.
- ② Great impact on mental health
 - ↳ Mental Health Statistics: Prisoners 1.7 times more likely to commit suicide
 - ↳ Lack of adequate medical health professionals (as mandated in Prison Manual)
- ③ No emphasis on reformatory justice
 - ↳ Hardening of criminals
- ④ Large undertrial population
- ⑤ Unnecessary arrests - due to needless criminalisation (More than 50% of current cases)

Custodial Violence

- Recent gruesome case of Jayaraj & Benichu (highlighted prevalence of torture)
- Very few reported (~~only 1700~~ ^{only 1700}) in last 10 years (According to NCR → 5 a day)
- Burden on victim to prove complicity of police
- Role of magistrate: Do not look into merits of case - simply pass on file to arrest

Thus as per DK Basu case, need for the following

- (*) Arrest only in extremely dire situations posing threat to law and order.
- (*) Undertrial prisoners to be released (especially after completing 'half' of sentence)
- (*) Need for police reforms - sensitisation
- (*) Ratification of UN Convention on Torture
- (*) Idea of 'Open Prisons' (Mulla Committee)
- (*) A SMART police can thus lead to idea of prisons as 'hospitals' for a diseased mind (M. Gandhi)

Feedback
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Addition

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Q.8) Investment in education yields both private and social return, yet India shies away from investing in it. Do you agree? (10 Marks, 150 words)

शिक्षा में निवेश से निजी और सामाजिक दोनों तरह से लाभ मिलता है, फिर भी भारत इसमें निवेश करने से कतराता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Sustainable Development Goal 4 as a inclusive education for all is essential in reaping the 'demographic dividend' of the country.

Private return

- ⊕ scope for bustling teaching avenues
 - ↳ Online education → Byjus, Vajiram
- ⊕ Provision of employment - for teachers, support staff.
- ⊕ Ancillary activities - canteen facilities, sports equipment for shops
- ⊕ long term investment - for a skilled populace → better industrial growth

Social return

- ⊕ Better health returns
 - ↳ National Nutrition Survey - Imp of mother's education in

child malnutrition

(*) women empowerment

↳ Telangana - operation Blackboard
↳ Adult woman literacy program

(*) marginalised groups upliftment

↳ Tribals, dalits, North East India
↳ (e) Dr BR. Ambedkar

We have invested in many areas

(1) samagra shiksha Abhiyaan (Policy)

(2) Infrastructure → Eklanya schools
(Tribal Areas)

(3) use of technology
↳ SWAYAM Portal

(4) Teacher training - N.S.H.T.H.A

Yet there is a long way to go

(*) Increase budget beyond 3%.
(Kashirangan - more than 6%)

(*) Develop best practices
↳ Delhi - Happiness curriculum

An educated India can be our only hope for a 'Trillion Dollar Economy'

Feedback

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Q.9) Rooted in historical solidarity, India's multifaceted engagement with Africa has been critical for its foreign policy matrix. Discuss strategic significance of Africa for India and compare India's engagement with Africa vis-à-vis China. (10 Marks, 150 words)

ऐतिहासिक एकजुटता में निहित इसकी जड़ों सहित, अफ्रीका के साथ भारत का बहुआयामी जुड़ाव इसकी विदेश नीति के मैट्रिक्स के लिए महत्वपूर्ण रहा है। भारत के लिए अफ्रीका के सामरिक महत्व पर चर्चा करें और चीन के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव की तुलना अफ्रीका के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव से करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Right from the Bandung Conference and Conference for Asia-Africa Unity & Solidarity in the apartheid movement, India and Africa have had a rich history of engagement.

Importance of Africa

Security

- ⊕ Issues of piracy, terrorism, freedom of navig. (Boko Haram)
- in Indo Pacific

development of South-South solidarity on global platforms (eg) Glasgow WTO.

Economy

- ⊕ Great scope for investment
- ⊕ Source of raw material (eg) pulses, diamonds
- ⊕ Routes of navigation

Cultural

- ⊕ Cooperation on Gandhi
- ⊕ Para-diplomacy
- ⊕ Tourism - Project Mausam

India's engagement with ~~China~~
Africa in areas of.

(*) Pulse imports - from Mozambique

(*) Grants: High Impact Development Projects

Grants to African Development Bank
with African Union

(*) Security impacts → Indo Pacific (freedom of navy)

(*) Solar-Mitra → development of solar energy.

However China's engagement is much higher in monetary terms

and use of (debt diplomacy).
→ They have also leased huge areas of land (for agriculture) and massive imports of minerals.

India must use its soft power to build on its historical ties in the interest of South-South solidarity.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use)

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Q.10) Evaluate the significance of BRICS in shaping the emerging global order given the internal contradictions and divergent interests of its member countries. (10 Marks, 150 words)

अपने सदस्य देशों के आंतरिक अंतर्विरोधों और अलग-अलग हितों को देखते हुए उभरती वैश्विक व्यवस्था को आकार देने में ब्रिक्स के महत्व का मूल्यांकन करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

BRICS as a regional organisation with Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - as an outcome of the Fortaleza Declaration in 2015 is an interesting group in the current geopolitical context

Contradictions/Divergent Interests

- ① Increasing land disputes (Ladakh standoff) between India and China.
- ② Development of Russia-China axis with higher trade ties
- ③ Rise of isolationist, hardcore tendencies under Bolsonaro in Brazil.
- ④ Lesser cooperation with South Africa and India.

(*) Rising importance of USA vis a vis Russia for defence imports in recent years

However, it remains significant

(*) Large population base - important market for → trade destination

↳ Can be tapped through FTAs → Investment destination

(*) Importance of New Development Bank - for infrastructure creation (eg) Railways between Mumbai and Ahmedabad

(*) Important platform to challenge USA hegemony in global platforms (eg) WTO

↳ Development of South-South solidarity

BRICS must reinvent itself in today's times - to meet needs of changing global order

Feedback	
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Q.11) What was held in Kedar Nath Singh Case 1962? Do you think that the judgement has outlived its utility and needs review? Discuss in light of recent controversies. (15 marks, 250 words)

केदारनाथ सिंह केस, 1962 में क्या हुआ था? क्या आपको लगता है कि इस फैसले की उपयोगिता खत्म हो गई है और इसकी समीक्षा की जरूरत है? हाल के विवादों के आलोक में चर्चा करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The Kedar Nath Singh case of 1962 discussed the constitutionality of Sec 124 A of the IPC - Sedition

- ⊕ The court upheld its validity
- ⊕ However it stated that mere criticism of government did not amount to sedition.
- ⊕ It must involve a challenge to the public order, incitement of violence and fomenting disaffection against the state.

Relevance : Today.

- ① It remains relevant in the limited view - that mere criticism healthily of the govt - without violence - is a narrow interpretation which should be implemented in spirit -

in light of 'sedition' cases against Vinod Dua case (2020) — highlighting rampant misuse.

② However it has also 'lost relevance' as 'sedition' as a clause itself is anachronistic to the modern age.

* Excessive misuse: NCRB : Between 2016-19 → 160% in use of sedition cases — while 3.3% is the conviction rate.

↳ The process itself becomes the punishment.

* Use by government to quell dissent — by targeting protesters

* Targeting of political opponents

* Base in colonial context. Was used to target Tilak and Nehru — to place in a modern democracy.

- ① No parallels in other governments
- ② Challenge to Art 19(1)(a) - freedom of speech

Law Commission: 'The signing from the same songbook is not a sign of patriotism'

③ A wholesome review must thus be considered in light of ... the Kanhaiya Kumar case and Vineet Dua case.

Threats of sedition are used for comedians, civil society activists, protestors - while engaging in healthy criticism → leading to a 'psychological self censorship' - which can sound a death knell to democracy.

Feedback

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Q.12) Judicial review and soliciting constitutional justification for policies formulated by the executive is an essential function entrusted to judiciary by the constitution, but there is a fine line between judicial activism and judicial overreach. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

न्यायिक समीक्षा और कार्यपालिका द्वारा तैयार की गई नीतियों के लिए संवैधानिक औचित्य सिद्ध करना संविधान द्वारा न्यायपालिका को सौंपा गया एक आवश्यक कार्य है, लेकिन न्यायिक सक्रियता और न्यायिक अतिरेक के बीच एक महीन रेखा निहित है। चर्चा कीजिए। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Art 23 and 32, among others provide the judiciary with the power to uphold constitutionalism by checking arbitrary powers of executive - through the mechanism of judicial review - also a part of the basic structure.

Necessity for judicial review :

- ① checking concentration of powers.
- ② Ensuring ~~upholding~~ upholding of basic structure of Constitution.
 ↳ Kesavananda case
 ↳ Right to property removed from FR.
- ③ Ensuring dynamism in polity
 ↳ Repeat of Sec 377.
- ④ Protecting rights of people.
 ↳ Arrest of political prisoners - Art 32 -

mit jurisdiction

- ⑤ Ensuring social welfare, welfare of the down trodden
- ↳ Environmental measures
M.C. Mehta case - env. education
 ↳ PIL - Tribal rights -

Judicial Activism refers to the enlargement of the actions of the judiciary in the interest of the public - through an effective interpretation of the basic structure of constitution

Examples

- ① Menaka Gandhi case - Enlargement of scope of Art 21 - introducing 'due process of law' - implementing idea of 'rule of law' in spirit.

- ② M.C. Mehta case - creation of Taj Traperium zone around Taj Mahal - due to dereliction of duty

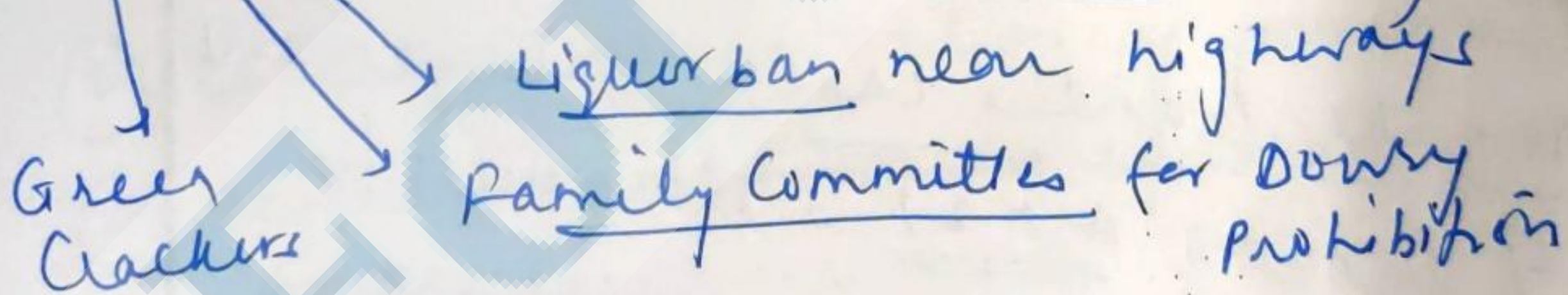
and urgency (Right to Environment under Act 21)

③ Vishakha guidelines - Women empowerment

④ PIL undertaking for prison reforms, writ jurisdiction (use of habeas corpus)

Judicial Overreach however points to an overstepping of jurisdiction to lead into realm of policy making disturbing balance of power.

⑤ → Subhash Kashinath Mahajan case (Review of Prevention of Activities Act)



These can be a problem - as no check is present on the judiciary, will affect dignity if not followed (liquor ban) and most importantly violates Art 50 - the clear separation of powers envisaged by Montesquieu

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Q.13) While the Election Commission of India has quite effectively neutralized the effect of muscle power and incumbency power, the commission has newer challenges to face. Discuss in the light of several long pending reform proposals that aim to clean up electoral process. (15 marks, 250 words)

जबकि भारत के चुनाव आयोग ने बाहुबल और सत्ता शक्ति के प्रभाव को काफी प्रभावी ढंग से बेअसर कर दिया है, फिर भी आयोग के सामने नई चुनौतियां मौजूद हैं। लंबे समय से लंबित कई सुधार प्रस्तावों जिनका उद्देश्य चुनावी प्रक्रिया को पारदर्शी एवं निष्पक्ष करना है, के आलोक में चर्चा करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Art 324 under Part XV of the Constitution provides for an independent Election Commission as a bulwark of the Constitution.

Successes of Commission

① Use of muscle power has reduced with newer regulations to declare assets, criminal cases and reasons for fielding candidates.

↳ Awareness spread has reduced ~~their~~ attractiveness to new voters

↳ Election expenditure limits reduce use of money power.

② Incumbency power

↳ Gradual decline and popular

appeal of dynastic politics
 → Emergence of younger, newer faces

→ Facilitated by use of social media and younger voters by EC.

However, various problems persist, and newer ones have arrived.

① Criminalisation — currently 42% of the 18th LL have criminal backgrounds

② Various dynastic families continue to hold high posts

Newer issues

① Perception — Questioning of integrity of ECL

↳ Finding open ballot ~~not~~ EVM data in Meghalaya

↳ Use of Section 12 to reduce disqualification of Prem Tamang (Sikkim)

② Newer issue of electoral bonds - promoting anonymity (ADR - 90% of funds more than 1 Cr and to ruling party)

③ Communal politics
Ineffective powers to use Sec 125 (promoting enmity)

↳ Role of leaders in North East Delhi riots

④ Social media regulation

Sec 126 (48 hrs non campaigning) does not extend to social media.

⑤ ~~Correct~~ No power to de-register parties

Thus long standing reforms need to be introduced.

① Independence: 2nd ARC: Creation of collegium for Election Commissioners appointment, security of tenure

② Plenary powers (Mokinder Singh Coil case)
↳ for better enforcement

③ Right to de-register parties

④ Independent cadre (NOT from states)

One Nation - One Election is yet another idea - to revitalise the Election Commi-

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Q.14) Obsession with ethnic identity and lack of economic development is the root cause of various interstate land border and river water disputes in the country. Discuss with relevant examples.

(15 marks, 250 words)

जातीय पहचान के साथ जुनून और आर्थिक विकास का अभाव देश में विभिन्न अंतरराज्यीय भू-सीमा और नदी जल विवादों का मूल कारण है। प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा करें।

(अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Art 1 of the Constitution defines India as a Union of States - highlighting our federal nature - Diversity of interests is the sine-qua-non of a federation.

A number of disputes have plagued the country since independence:

Interstate Land Border disputes

- ① Telangane and Andhra Pradesh
 - ① Emphasis on different peasant identity of Telangane.
 - ② Desire for common economic resources - ③ - coastal territory - city of Amravati.led the movement ultimately leading to creation of new state by Parliament (Art 3)

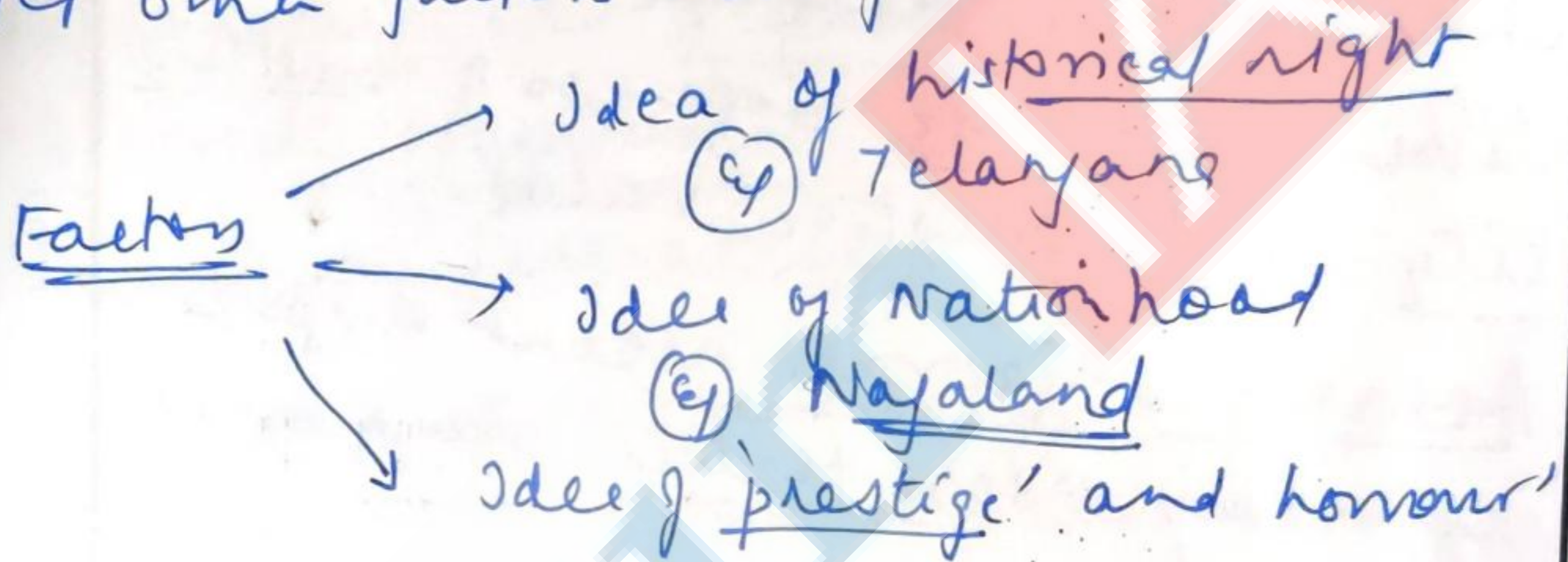
- ② Belgaum dispute (Karnataka and Maharashtra)
 - ↳ Ethnic identity (Maharashtrian population) in Belgaum (District in Karnataka) have led to ~~the~~ demands to include it in Maharashtra
- ③ Chandigarh (Haryana & Punjab)
 - ↳ over economic resources of bustling city and 'prestige' value.
- ④ Assam-Mizoram recent dispute - regarding rich fertile land and forest area.

River water disputes

The multiple disputes - Ravi Beas, Caaverly (between Karnataka, Andhra and Tamil Nadu), Mahadayi (Goa, Maharashtra) are premised on the economic value of water as a source of irrigation for

agriculture, supply for industries
and drinking water for large
growing urban cities.
This is matched with underlying ethnic
suspensions

Yet other factors also persists



It is through utilisation of
Constitutional → Art 263 - Inter State
Court
→ Art 131 - Role of judiciary

Legislative → Inter State Water
Disputes Act
→ Zonal Councils

and Executive → Conciliation

measures that one must aim to
find lasting solution, in interest of
cooperatiive federation

Q.15) Instead of making government more transparent to public, data has made public more transparent to the government. Discuss the issues related to data privacy and data utilization. Can the proposed data security legislation address these concerns? (15 marks, 250 words)

सरकार को जनता के लिए और अधिक पारदर्शी बनाने के बजाय, डेटा ने जनता को सरकार के लिए और अधिक पारदर्शी बना दिया है। डेटा गोपनीयता और डेटा उपयोग से संबंधित मुद्दों पर चर्चा करें। क्या प्रस्तावित डेटा सुरक्षा कानून इन चिंताओं को हल कर सकता है? (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

'data is the ~~new~~ new oil' - seems to be an adage - true to our times - highlighting centrality of data in power relations and political control.

Data based governance - promised to bring an age of greater accountability has not arrived - with technical challenges of 'Digital India' and recent amendments to RTI Act.

However, greater power and data control through Aadhar seeding, govt schemes and role of corporatis- has led to concentration of health, demographic, income data of citizens in easily form by govt.

Emerging issues

I Data privacy

- ① Absence of any data protection law on lines of GDPR (EU)
- ② Constant rise of cyber breaches highlighting vulnerability
 - ↳ Pegasus breach
 - Kudankulam attack
- ③ Increased concentration of data of all sorts with govt.
 - ↳ National Health Stack - disease data
 - Aadhar data

II Data utilization

- ① Use of data for political targeting of opponents and dissidents (eg) Israel, China
- ② Facial recognition - may lead to grave consequences in wrong hands
 - ↳ Rise of deep fakes
- ③ Use of data for blackmailing
- ④ Monetization of data - manufacturing consent

⑤ Affecting consumption patterns

This highlights the Right to Privacy as explained as part of Art 21 by the Puttaswamy judgement.

Recent data security legislation:

① Provides for multi layered structure and authorities - for dealing with critical, sensitive and non sensitive personal data

② Highlights importance of consent and 'Right to forget'

③ Importance of data localisation - preventing threats to security

④ Duties of data fiduciary are listed

Yet ⑤ Clause 32 - Use of 'public order' as reason for breaching right to privacy

⑥ Multiple exemptions provided to state agencies

⑦ Absence of parliamentary oversight for exemption

It must be strengthened for fulfilling in spirit - observations of Puttaswamy judgement

Feedback

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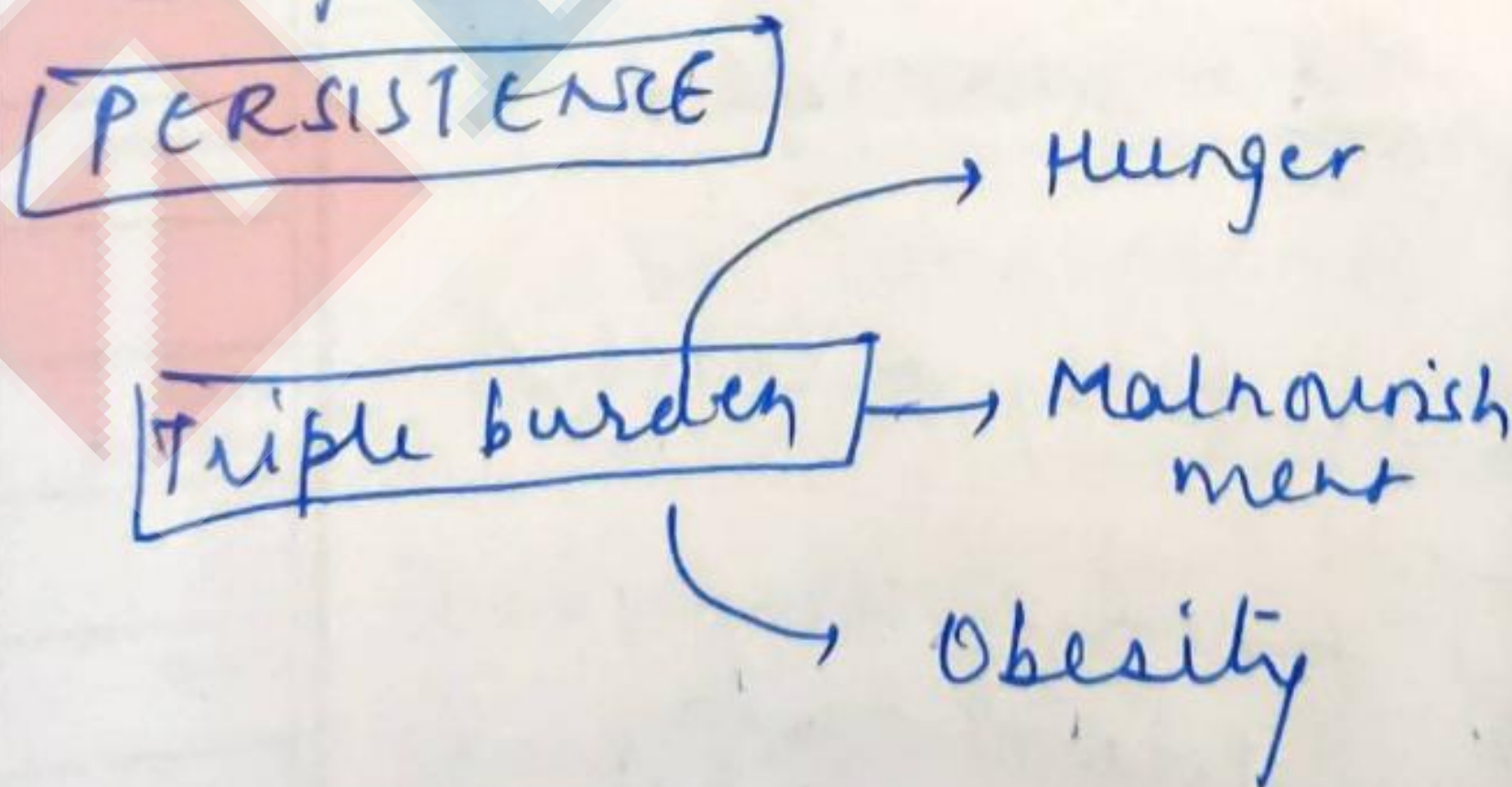
Q.16) Despite substantial rise in per capita income and surplus production of food grains, high level of malnutrition and hunger continues to persist in India. Examine the reasons for this divergence keeping in mind findings of Global hunger Index 2021. (15 marks, 250 words)

प्रति व्यक्ति आय में पर्याप्त वृद्धि और खाद्यान्न के अधिशेष उत्पादन के बावजूद, भारत में कुपोषण और भूखमरी उच्च स्तर पर बनें हैं। वैश्विक भूखमरी सूचकांक, 2021 के निष्कर्षों को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस विचलन के कारणों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(अंक 15, शब्द 250)

India has come a long way from the PL-480 programme — to a path of self sufficiency (130mT of food grains) and continuous increase in per capita income since the LPG reforms in 1991 — falling into a 'middle income' category.

While 271 mn people have been pushed out of multidimensional poverty (MPI Index 2020) between 2015 to, hunger continues to persist



Key indicators
(NFHS 5)

- Stunting 35%
- Malnutrition 30%
- Wasting 21%

Hunger persists not just in terms of caloric intake but also absence of nutritional quality → Anaemia among women has increased to 57% (NFHS 5)

Reasons for divergence

The Global Hunger Index highlights a rank of 94, marginally better from 102 last year.

① Policy Implementation

* Lacking enough empowerment to local functionaries (ASHA workers) for effective awareness.

* Poor PDS system - low quality of foodgrains

↳ Wastage: FAO: 40% of foodgrain wasted in India.

- ② Lack of enough funds allocated to health monitoring.
- ③ Structural
 - ⊕ Green Revolution : Focus on only wheat and rice - lacking nutritional diversity.
- ④ Social
 - ⊕ Gender relations - greater malnourishment among girl children (less preference for high nutrient foods)
- ⑤ Economic
 - ⊕ Poverty begetting hunger.
- ⑥ COVID pandemic - stopping of midday meal for children.

STEPS to be taken :

- ⊕ Food diversity → (Eg) Bharat POSHAN Krishi Kosh → Millet Village Scheme (Kerala)
- ⊕ Innovative solutions
 - Eg) Project Sampoorna (Bongaigaon) - use of 'buddy mother' to tackle malnutrition

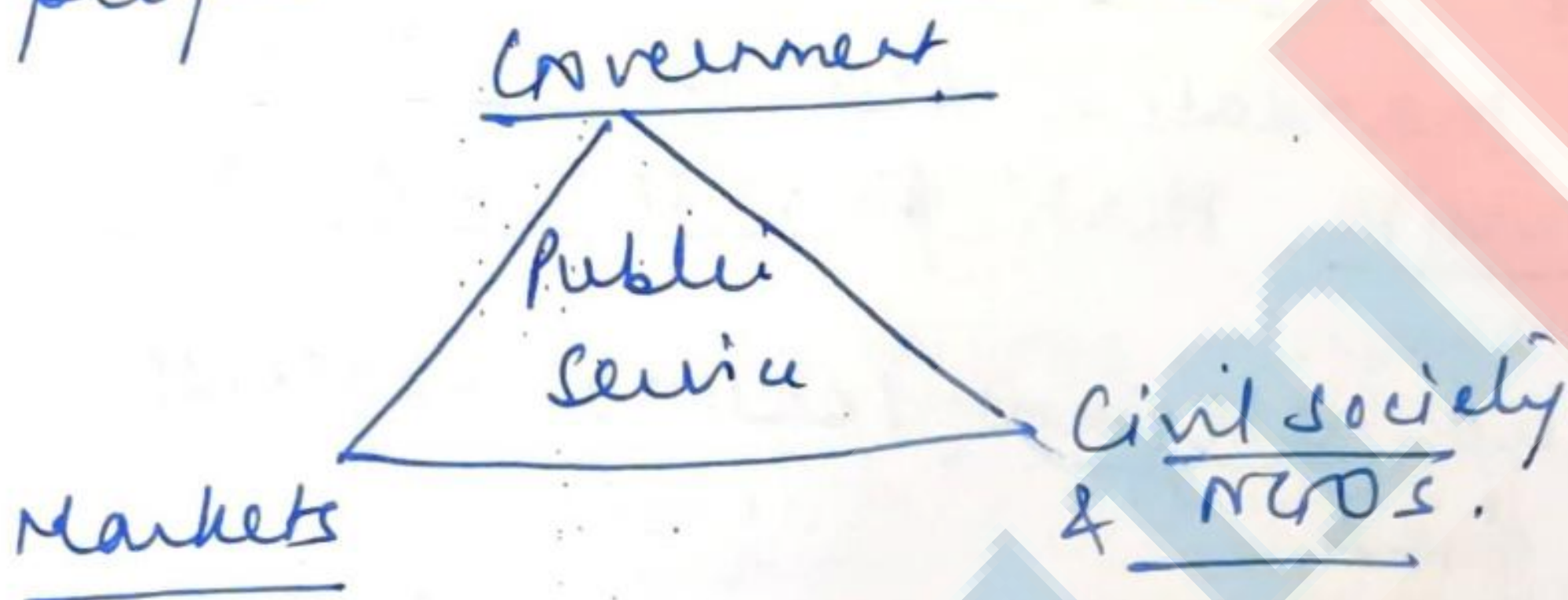
An effective monitoring policy is key to achieving zero hunger (SDG 2)

Feedback
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Q.17) The rise of NGOs reflects the failure of Indian state and markets to usher in equitable development and economic redistribution. Examine.
(15 marks, 250 words)

गैर सरकारी संगठनों का उदय न्यायोचित विकास और आर्थिक पुनर्वितरण में भारतीय राज्य और बाजारों की विफलता को दर्शाता है। परीक्षण करें।
(अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The World Bank defines NGOs as private organisations working to bring economic, social and cultural benefits to people without desire for profit.



The above three are simultaneously actors of good governance.

Rise of NGOs (As failure of state and markets)

① Dependence of people on NGOs seems to have increased

➤ Role in pandemic

- Ashaya Patra → Food provision
- Coory → provision of sanitary pads, clothes

* Greater accessibility and visibility

↳ Aakarshhe Foundation
↳ providing legal aid
(Instead of NALSA)

* Higher efficiency and affordability

↳ Help Age India → better than
state mandated old age homes,
less expensive than private care homes.

* Picking up relevant issues neglected
by govt.

↳ child welfare - Bachpan Bachao
Andolan

(NCRB data 2020 : one child disappears
every 8 minutes)

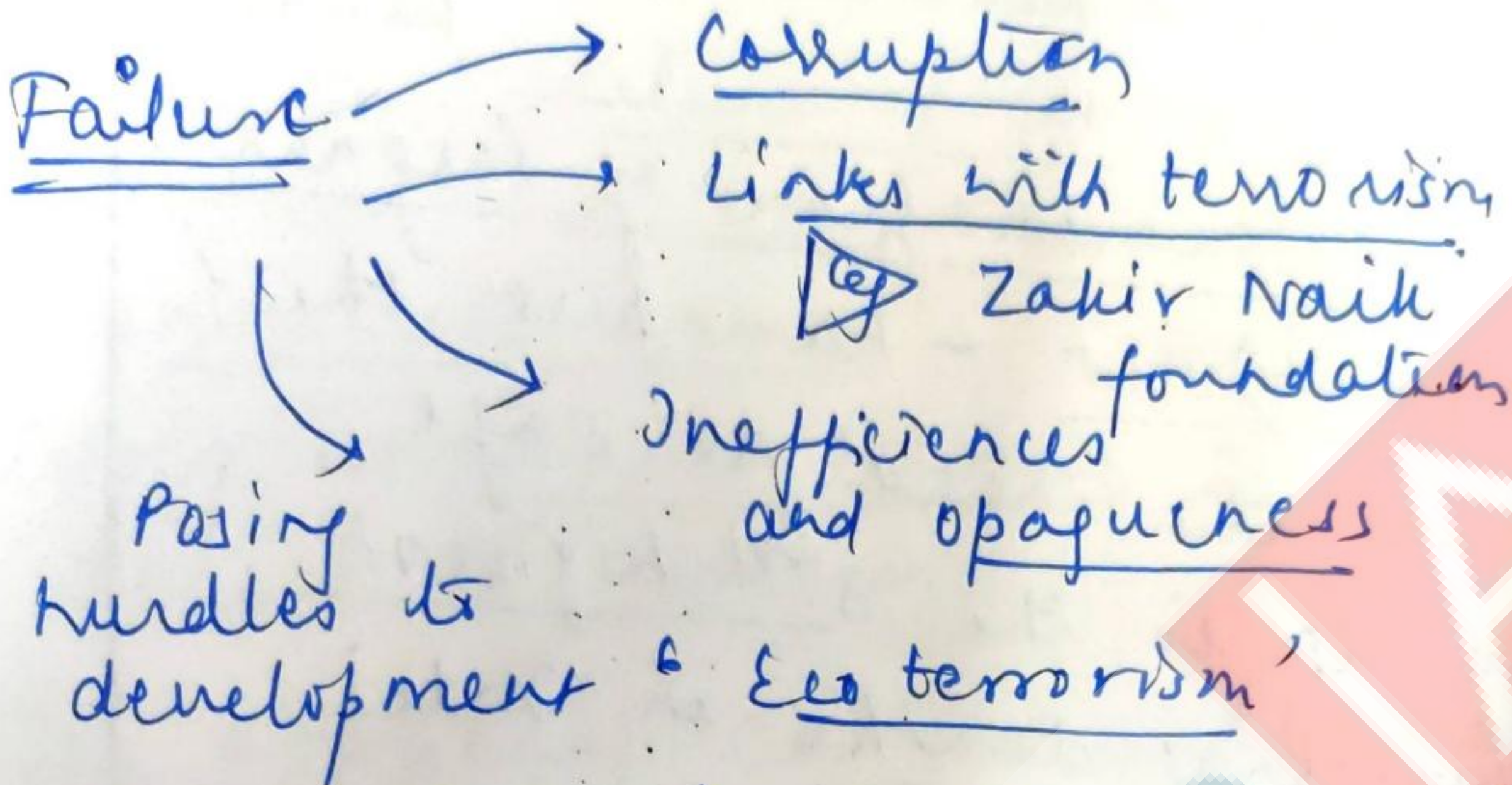
* Better source of support for
marginalized groups

↳ Beswade Wilson - Sajai Karamchari
Andolan

↳ govt. has yet not eliminated
manual scavenging

↳ Market focuses on 'profit'
not issues of 'social welfare'

yet with using NGOs are accompanying issues - highlighting failures of NGOs in some respects



However, the use of NGOs - must be seen as an adjunct to the growth process - in aim with the state and market as.

- ⊕ It can help reach untapped areas - where govt cant
 ↳ Teach For India (Education)
- ⊕ Spread awareness of govt schemes
- ⊕ Ensure accountability
 (eg) ADR.
- ⊕ Deepen democracy through participations.

NGOs need to be seen as companions rather than enemies in development process

Feedback

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Q.18) Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021 has expanded access of women to safe and legal abortion services, but it fails to address the critical issues of reproductive rights and bodily autonomy of women. Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

मेडिकल टर्मिनेशन ऑफ प्रेग्नेंसी (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2021 ने महिलाओं की सुरक्षित और कानूनी गर्भपात सेवाओं तक पहुंच का विस्तार किया है, लेकिन यह महिलाओं के प्रजनन अधिकारों और शारीरिक स्वायत्तता के महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों को संबोधित करने में विफल है। परीक्षण करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act - has put the highlight on the need for safe abortion as it is the 3rd highest cause of natural deaths in India.

Expansion of women's rights

Provisions :

Duration of pregnancy	Course of action
upto 20 weeks	2 medical practitioners
20 - 24 weeks	cases of rape, <u>under age</u> 2 medical practitioners
More than 24	Substantial foetal abnormalities Medical Board
Threat to woman's life	No restriction

- This has made the right to abortion more liberalised by extending it to 24 weeks.
- Right to 'failure of contraception' provision has been extended to 'unmarried women' — reflecting the right of unmarried women to have access to abortion.
- The applicant can also approach the High Court for cases falling outside this purview.

However, key issues remain unsettled.

(*) The Right to Abortion and a woman's Bodily Autonomy under Art 21 as highlighted by Sachin Srivastava case — considers even the 24 week limit to be arbitrary — viability of a foetus. (no conclusive scientific proof)

④ Positive steps of sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness and Education not highlighted.

↳ ~~NEHS-4~~ NEHS-4 - only 8% of couples in India use contraceptives.

* Right of a woman to decide for her body considering mental and physical state — violated by provision of Medical Board to decide on 'appropriateness' of foetal abnormality

As seen in the Poland protests against repressive abortion law, many countries have completely liberalised abortion law in interest of women's right to their own body.

We must ~~as~~ bring necessary changes - while also encouraging appropriate reproductive health education in schools from an early age.

Q.19) Compare and contrast the Build Back Better World (B3W) with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Can joining the B3W initiative help India in furthering her national interest? Discuss.

(15 marks, 250 words)

बिल्ड बैक बेटर वर्ल्ड (B3W) की बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI) के साथ तुलना एवं समानता का उल्लेख करें। क्या B3W पहल में शामिल होने से भारत को अपने राष्ट्रीय हित को आगे बढ़ाने में मदद मिल सकती है? चर्चा करें।

(अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Infrastructure construction,
connectivity, transport and
economic development are the
key movers of economy and
global growth.

Build Back Better World Initiative
and BRI are both alternative
models with the above aims.
Differences

B3W
Key initiator:
European
Union

BRI
China

Area of concern :
The entire world-
mainly concerning
developing world.

Aim :
To build sustainable
and green
infrastructure in
interest of resilient
and 'green' future.

Means :
Provision of loans,
alongwith advice
and expert
assistance

Opposition :
No major
opposition

Largely concerns
itself with Asia-
reconnecting
marine and land
silk route.

Aim :
To build connectivity
between regions,
enhance trade,
boost economy,
through infrastructure
creation

Means :
Provision of loans
at high
interest rates
'debt diplomacy'

- Threat to India's
territorial
sovereignty (Kashmir)
- Accusation of
'neo-colonialism'

Joining the B3W can possibly help further India's interest by:

- (*) Posing as a counter to China's BR1 project
- (*) Enhancing economic capital - by encouraging infrastructure construction - with further follows - employment generation, technology transfer etc.
- (*) Sustainable Development - Fulfilling 'Sendai-Framework' - through construction of 'green infrastructure'.

India must however do so on its own terms - and in conjunction with local initiatives like BBIN and SAARC - develop India as a central spoke of economic dynamism and connectivity in the Indo Pacific.

Feedback

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Q.20) The year 1991 marked a watershed moment not only for economy but also for India's foreign policy. Discuss the evolution of India's foreign policy since 1991 highlighting the factors for the changes henceforth. (15 marks, 250 words)

वर्ष 1991 न केवल अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए बल्कि भारत की विदेश नीति के लिए भी एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षण के रूप में अंकित है। 1991 के बाद से भारत की विदेश नीति के उद्भव की चर्चा कीजिए और इसके बाद के परिवर्तनों के लिए जिम्मेदार कारकों पर प्रकाश डालिए। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

India's foreign policy following Arthashastra's 'mandala theory' has undergone various shifts over the decades.

The year 1991 marked onset of an open economy with beginning of liberalisation reforms. This liberalisation and shift from 'socialism' to greater 'capitalism' was witnessed in the foreign policy realm as well.

Evolution of policy since 1991

⊛ End of the Cold War - and consequently the 'non Aligned Movement' marked a shift to a

policy of 'pragmatism' - with a greater ~~open~~ openness to the western world.

(*) Shift from USSR ^{erstwhile} to USA can be seen - also a consequence of IMF programme and loans.

(*) ~~Secrets~~ → This relationship was taken forward with Indo Nuclear Deal of 2008 marking its climax.

(*) Balancing of different interests - ensuring strategic autonomy

- ↳ - Defense imports from Russia
- Increased trade with USA and China.
- Continued relation with developing south - e China.

(*) Greater aggression and building of strength in neighbourhood

- ↳ - Mission Pokhran - nuclear test
- Kargil War with Pakistan.

Post 2014 has been marked ~~not~~ by an 'energetic diplomacy'

(*) Shift from 'Look East' to 'Act East' & greater trading ties with South East Asia cultural.

(*) Involvement in more regional groupings
 ↳ Establishment of BRICS, greater involvement in BIMSTEC

(*) Neighbourhood First policy - reflected in 'Vaccine Maitri' policy and Operation Samudra Setu - providing essential medicines

(*) Growth of 'Indo Pacific' with India at the Centre - in conjunction with ~~the~~ our SAGAR policy - ensuring maritime security

These changes have been a consequence of.

(*) Changed geopolitical realities.
 (*) Desire for India to be a regional leader
 (*) ISA, IRIS Initiative.

(*) Economic practicalities
 (*) Changed vision of leaders.

A foreign policy marked by 'strategic autonomy' and 'national interests' can truly be 'Indie First'.

Feedback
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