

Question No 144088_51224_1910102924_(2022-08-28 16:41:23)

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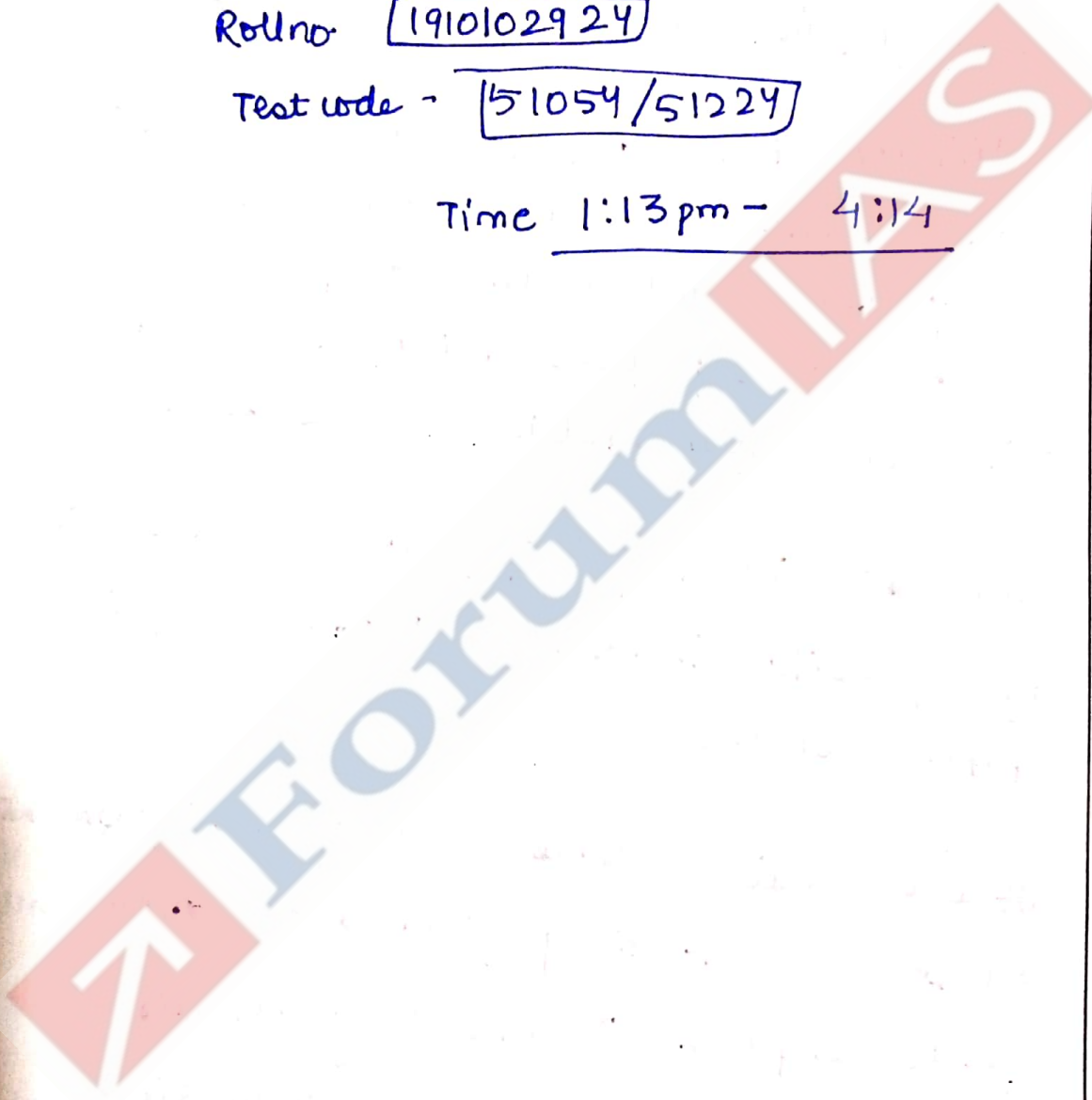
Name- Gauṁa Lohia

Date - 28/08/2022

Rollno 1910102924

Test code - 51054/51224

Time 1:13pm - 4:14



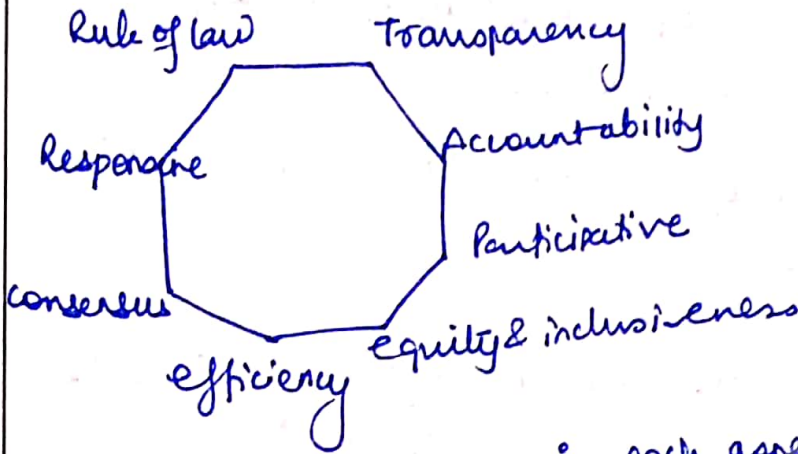
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Q-1 Art 148 of the Indian Constitution provides for an independent position of CAG as the highest auditing authority in the country.

Role of CAG in ensuring good governance

- 1) CAG looks into the Expenditures of ministries and verifies them on account of
 - Sanctions and authority to spend the money
 - whether purpose stated & achieved are same
 This ensures Accountability of the executive
- 2) By looking into propriety, faithfulness & wisdom of expenditure it ensures public money is put to best use
- 3) It also audits balance sheets of PSU's, organisations ~~and~~ substantially financed by government which helps to surface any ulterior transactions & reveal any corporate-government nexus
- 4) Multiple scams like 2G, Coal Allocation were revealed due to CAG reports.

Good Governance according to UNDP based on pillars like



CAG has a role to play in each aspect of good governance.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called CAG as the bulwark of Indian Constitution & the most important office therefore independent & efficient functioning becomes a *sine qua non*.

Way forward

- various PPP project should also be included under ambit of CAG
- RTI - powers to access timely information to CAG
- collegium based appointment to avoid politicization
- statutory recognition to Public Indian Audit- & Accounts Department

Righteousness forms the basis of good governance - Confucius

2) Civil societies when organised in structure & specialised in function are called NGOs.
eg Pratham, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Naz foundation etc.

According to CBI, there is 1 NGO for every 600 citizen in India.

Sustainable Alliance between NGO & State helps in social change and development

i) 3rd sector of governance → helps in social audit - eg MGNREGA

ii) fills the gap in government efforts eg Sambhavana for Physically Disabled

eg role played by Doctors for You in managing Covid makeshift hospitals

→ in 2004 Tsunami Rehabilitation

iii) Rights based movement →

eg PUCV vs UOI led to Right to Food

MKSS - Right to Information

SFLC - Right to Internet - Fakeena Shiroin case

iv) brings efficiency, development through reliable data eg - Pratham - ASGR survey
eg centre for science & environment

Hurdles in this alliance

- 1) **Ethical** → lack of transparency in foreign-funding
↓
Only 2% of NGOs are registered, 90% of which don't submit balance sheet
which reduces their credibility as a development partner
- 2) **Security concerns** → greenpeace led protest against Kudrakovium nuclear plant
- 3) **Mercycorps** fuelled extremism in North east
- 4) Lack of human resources, funding & professionalism
- 5) Regional & Sectoral imbalance

Way forward

- 1) Social Stock Exchange → as recommended by **Ishat Hussain** panel
- 2) Transparency & accountability in NGOs
- 3) Contract based partnerships
- 4) Government support through National Policy on Voluntary Sector
- 5) National Accreditation Council.

role of NGOs during COVID was lauded even by World Bank. Given the potential they must overcome hurdles and work in collaboration with government.

③ Subsidies provided to multiple sections of society have failed to achieve desired objectives and have become a populist measure.

1) electricity subsidies → led to huge losses to DISCOMS

↳ unsustainable groundwater extraction (90% of groundwater used in agriculture)

↳ unsustainable cropping pattern and increased soil salinisation

2) fertiliser subsidies - smuggling of cheap urea to Nepal & Bangladesh

↳ irrational use of urea
↳ diversion into food adulteration

3) Public Distribution System → led to huge losses - 60,000 tonnes wasted according to Min. of Consumer Affairs

↳ lack of development of storage infrastructure
↳ inclusion & exclusion errors.

4) LPG subsidies → leakages & corruption

Competitive populism, election freebies and their negative impact is well established
 however subsidies have also played a positive role

Due to PDS, Midday Meal Scheme → the enrolment ratio has increased

electricity & fertiliser subsidy has helped farmers improve income

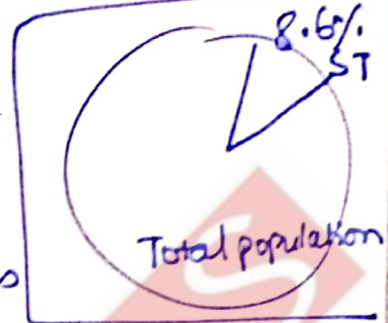
LPG subsidies have led to reduced indoor air pollution and helped women

Way forward

- 1) rationalisation of subsidies, eg phase down & phase out environmentally unsustainable ones
- 2) Use of Direct Benefit Transfer → NDCI's e-RUPI model can be helpful
- 3) discussion on Universal Basic Income
- 4) provide & invest in Public Capital formation
 eg dams, canal, power grid in the long run.

Ans (4) NCST formed under 338 A of the Constitution is the nodal body for implementing constitutional safeguards for scheduled tribes

Recently report by Parliamentary Standing Committee of MOPJE revealed NCST met only 4 times in the year 2020-21



Challenges facing NCST

- i) lack of infrastructure, digital technology eg online complaints portal
- ii) lack of budget & funds
- iii) Vacancy due to recruitment criteria set very high
- iv) high disposal pendency - about 50 %
- v) not tabled a single report in parliament since last 4 years.

To make it effective, it needs to be supported by other mechanisms

- i) Overhaul of NCST
 - increasing funds
 - immediate recruitment
 - adequate staff

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- (2) Implementing recommendations of Bhuria Committee → Such as 50% ownership to tribals in tribal area in any industrial ownership
- (3) Stricter implementation of PESA and Forest Rights Act
- (4) Increasing political empowerment and voice of tribals by including them in government initiatives
- (5) Special and fast track courts for disposing off causes
- (6) Strengthening institutions like TRIFED which can provide livelihood mechanisms
- (7) Incentives to civil societies who work for tribals
- (8) Dedicated implementation of Constitutional and legal safeguards such as Prevention of (SCST) Atrocities Act.
An inclusive development led model is imperative to domestic socio-economic equilibrium.

⑥ Manual scavenging as defined in Manual scavengers Act 2013 refers to removing human waste by anyone without protective gear from dry latrines, open pits etc.

It is legally Banned and a punishable offence as it violates Article 17 of Constitution.

However socio-economic realities perpetuates this practice

1) According to NCRB - 97.25% of manual scavengers are SCs and remaining are STs & OBCs.



2) Most of them hesitate filing a complaint because they fear violence, loss of job and ostracization

3) ^{sub} Culture of poverty and internalized marginalization has further led to perpetuation.

Measures to deal with Manual Scavenging

- 1) Legal → Manual Scavengers Act 2013 - prohibits
↳ encourages building of sanitary latrines
- 2) Recent NAMASTE scheme of central government
to shift to mechanized cleaning of septic
tanks and alternate livelihood to manual scavengers
- 3) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to bring attitudinal
change to make cities open defecation free

Way forward

- i) need of addressing socio-economic realities
behind this through social influence, incentives
- ii) strict implementation & monitoring of the
provisions
- iii) technology to their aid
- iv) involving NGOs & civil societies organisations

In a democratic and inclusive country like India, manual scavenging is a harsh reality and needs to be addressed through wide array of measures.

7) India's response to Ukraine crisis is termed by many as STRATEGIC AMBIVALENCE, however AS MEA S. Jaishankar says → Foreign Policy is about pursuing national interest, it's an expression of our strategic autonomy.

Strategic autonomy refers to a dependence control strategy, ability to take decisions best for India's development.

Expression of strategic autonomy and not strategic compulsions

1) Need of diplomatic balancing - world is moving towards power blocs, new cold war. India needs to balance relations with US & West and Russia-China on the other hand.

energy security - Russia is our 2nd largest oil supplier. Given our energy dependency, partnership with Russia is essential.

3) defence & security → India & Russia are jointly developing Brat Mos, reliable defence partner. According to SIPRI - 46% of India's defence imports from Russia.

4) To counter balance China - Russia & China

elevated to a No-limits Relationship. In this scenario, Russia can act as counterbalancer

⑤ connectivity and relations with central Asian countries like Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan.

⑥ India's policy of Panchsheel → and Non alignment.

Harsh V. Pant criticized India's stance as against India's democratic principles of non aggression

however India's stance is based on Deescalation, Dialogue and Diplomacy in this conflict.

As Shiv Shankar Menon says -

Foreign policy is about MINI MAXING, India's response to note vote against Russia but at the same time provide humanitarian assistance & relief is a shining example of our strategic autonomy as we believe

It is purely a Europe's conflict and result of NATO's eastward expansion.

- 8 Soft power refers to use of culture, values, diaspora sports, music etc to pursue national interests.
At 15 Soft Power Index - India ranks 29th while USA ranks 1st.

Utility and effectiveness of soft power

- 1 Cultural ties help in forging deep economic relations eg with Japan, ASEAN countries, West Asian countries. Project MAUSAM is a step in this regard.
- 2 Diaspora acts as a living bridge - V. Murliidharan
eg SR Nathan - President of Singapore
Lulu Group in West Asia are helping further India's interests
- 3 vaccine diplomacy helped India gain a seat at global health high table
- 4 Our role in providing food exports to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan in crisis strengthens our case for public stockholding at WTO
- 5 Operations like Operation Ganga in Ukraine, Devi's Rakti in Afghanistan increases our acceptability as a global reliable development partner and permanent seat at UNSC

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Soft power replace hard power?

Despite significant role played by soft power, hard power in the form of military and economic strength cannot be underemphasized.

1) India is a 3 trillion \$ economy. It helps us provide development aid to countries like Sri Lanka, Afghanistan to not fall in trap of China.

2) our military strength acts as a deterrent and helps us overcome 2.5 front war, Pincer strategy and incursions of external states.

3) our role as regional net security provider in Indian ocean and protecting FOZ and SLOC can be possible through military might.

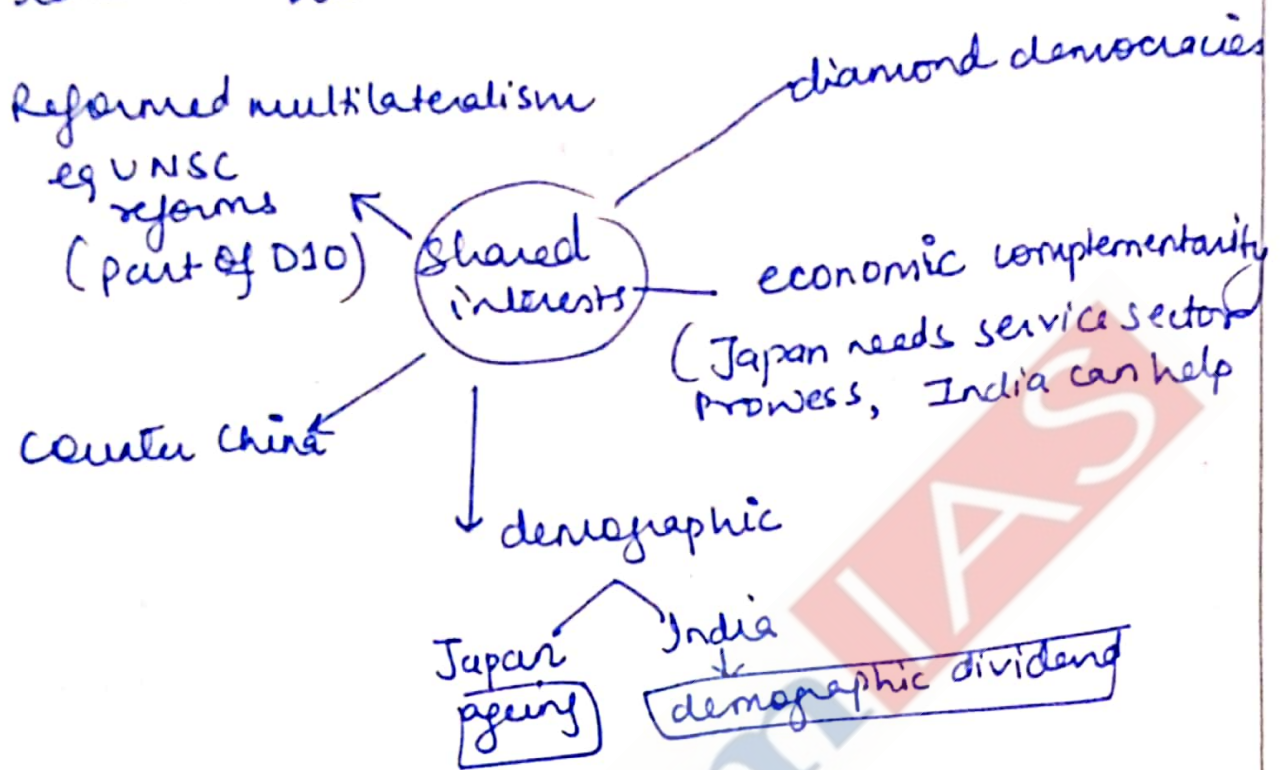
4) India is a key contributor to UN Peacekeeping forces.

5) India leads development initiatives like IMT, BBIN, TAPI, INSTC.

Therefore a judicious mix of both soft & hard power can help in furthering our national interests.

(9) India-Japan recently concluded 70 years of partnership. We have had very cordial relations with shared interests

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But it has been **LOW ON AMBITION**

India-Japan not concluded any defence deal, submarine deal

no cooperation in maritime security eg **Coast Guards**
due to Japanese constitutional safeguards

no landmark trade & partnership agreements

LIMITED IN OUTCOMES

1) trade despite CEPA has remained below potential

2) Japanese policy of **Seikei Burei** has

Not led to disassociation from China

3) no initiative under SIRT, JAI, Asia Africa Growth Corridor

4) Bullet train project delayed, sister city projects between Ahmedabad & Kobe not yet started

HIGH ON RHETORIC

1) claims to counter China but no advancements

2) Japan fearful of technology transfer and India fearful of competitive pricing

3) para-diplomacy has not achieved much.

However, India & Japan have had bipartisan relationship, have concluded major agreements such as ACSA, Civil Nuclear Deal, elevated FTA to CEPA and 2+2 ministerial level dialogue. We are also engaging through newly formed Indo Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF)

India & Japan both being aspirants of middle power can help in meeting each other's requirements and lead to a reformed global order.

10 West Asia's policy of Look East is converging with India's policy of Look West.

India-West Asia Relations have acquired depth and diversity

① Energy security → A/c to ORF paper, in the last 15 yrs India's share of oil imports from West Asia remained constant at 60%.
West Asia is energy supplier & India is consumer - established buyer-seller relationship

② Traded investment → working on India-West Asia FTA

- bilateral trade about 87 billion \$
- Saudi Arabia's Aramco & UAE's ADNOC investing in Rajasthan oilfields in India
- investment in infrastructure through Sovereign Wealth Fund by UAE

③ People to people relations - 8 million expatriate

Population - 83 million remittances (World Bank)

• employment in QATAR FIFA world cup to huge number of Indians

④ Security - common interests of maritime security has resulted in collaboration in the

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form of I2U2 (Israel UAE, USA, India) to work on maritime security, climate change, trade and technology.

⑤ working on reforming multilateralism

⑥ Such vivid relationship will help to navigate geopolitical hurdles such as

- ↓ Deglobalisation
- ↓ Climate Change
- ↓ Protectionism
- ↓ Weaponisation

However certain hiccups in relationship such as

- ↓ huge trade deficit in favour of West Asia
- ↓ Role of USA China & Pakistan through OIC
- ↓ Policies like Nitaqat & Kafala ↓ modern slavery

needs to be addressed to have a broad based relationship. India is working on Emigration

Bill 2021, a new free trade Agreement, increased cooperation to improve India-West relations.

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Data is the new oil harnessing public sector data has positive implications for decision making — as it provides reliable inputs, real time information.

Various Bottlenecks

- i) lack of data centre infrastructure
- ii) lack of comprehensive data security law
- iii) cybersecurity infrastructure has various challenges.

Strategies for unlocking true value of data

- 1) Comprehensive legislation eg- Public Data Protection Bill
- 2) awareness among public
- 3) strict enforcement of data localization norms.

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Representation of People's Act 1951 is a landmark legislation that helps achieve objective of free and fair elections in India.

Significance of ROPA 1951

i) Provides for qualification of candidates → any candidate convicted for an offence of > 2 yrs punishment is disqualified from contesting elections - This ensures reduction of

Criminalisation of Politics

ii) reservation of SC | ST seats → only a candidate of that particular caste can contest → leads to Social Inclusion

iii) Disqualifies candidates on grounds of misuse of religion, race, ethnicity, promoting enmity

(IV) Recognition to national and state parties

(V) powers to election commission of India.

Recent events such as - fall foebies, competitive populism in election campaigning, violation of election expenditure ceiling, flouting of Model Code of conduct by parties, asking votes in the name of religion have all led to demands for reforms in RPA 1951 and MCC.

Arguments for

1) legal enforcements to MCC will give ECI more teeth in checking electoral malpractices

2) ROPA 1951 needs to include powers like power to derecognise political parties

→ disqualify on the basis of chargesheet and not convictions

→ false affidavit as a ground for disqualification

can on ~~elec~~ opinion polls on the lines of exit polls.

Arguments against

i) It will lead to frivolous & multiple litigations which will delay the election results and can lead to an interregnum

ii) Such reforms are not consensus based as political parties do not favour it

Way forward

i) improve efficiency of ECI by improving its autonomy through collegium based appointments, constitutional qualification

and independent ~~secretariat~~ secretariat

2) Voter behaviour through attitudinal changes

- (13) Malnutrition is a silent assassin as it creates an army of sick personnels - WHO.

Addressing the problem of chronic malnutrition requires nutrition specific interventions

1) >50% of women in India are anaemic and suffer from iron deficiency. Therefore providing iron and Folic Acid tablets through Schools, PM Matru Vandana Yojana is useful.

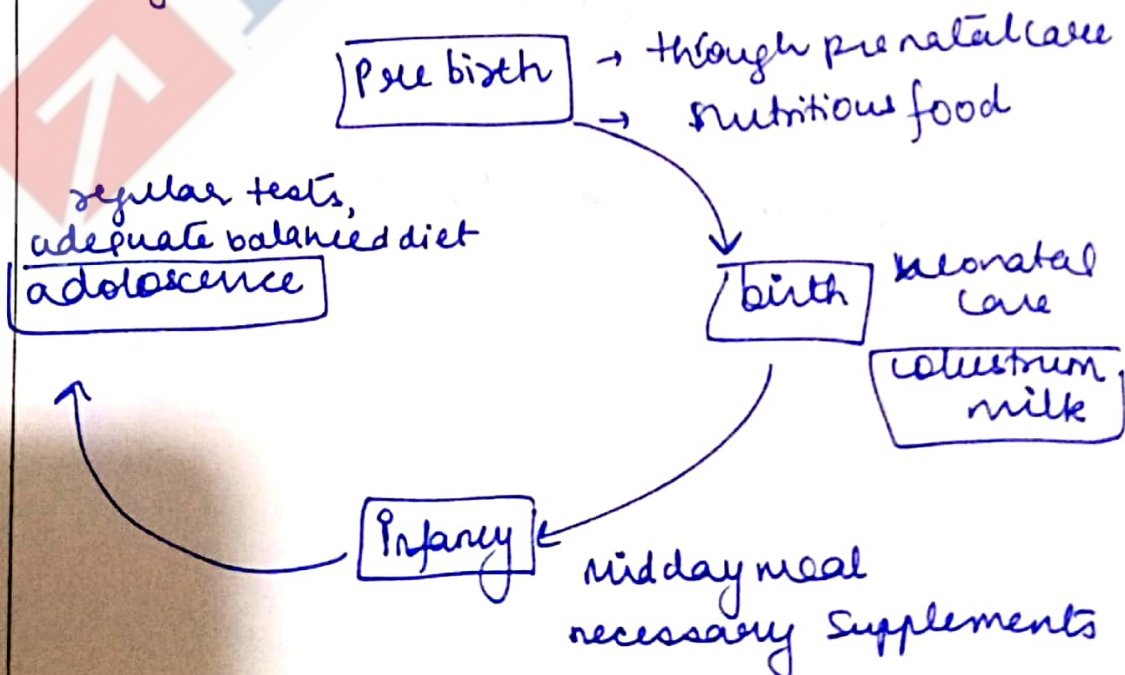
2) Most of the under 5 children in India lack Vitamin D and Vitamin A. Therefore rice fortification enriched with these vitamins and supplied through mid day meal schemes will be more effective.

Nutrition sensitive interventions

providing the right nutrient, in the right quantity and at the right time will help in addressing malnutritions.

Hidden hunger is an issue which has yet not gained traction in India. Apart from lack of food, lack of balanced diet, micronutrients and vitamins is the real causes of higher under 5 mortality, stunting & wasting.

Therefore intervention at right stage is crucial



India's rank in the recently released Global Hunger Index is worrisome. However schemes like POSHAN 2.0, Midday Meal, Bio fortification are a step in the right direction.

Way forward

- Increased awareness about nutritional security
- 2) FSSAI guidelines of displaying nutrition information need to be adhered
- 3) government schemes need to be effectively implemented.

For India to reap benefits of its demographic dividend, a healthy human capital is a pre requisite

(14) Self help groups are self empowered, self controlled group of people with similar social & economic outlook. It gained popularity after efforts of ~~the~~ RBI via Bank linkage Program.

SHG as an effective model of social entrepreneurship for women empowerment

1) SHGs helps in inculcating financial discipline and financial inclusion

a study reveals - women under SHG 8% less likely to take credit from money lenders

2) access to formal credit helps them in establishing viable business opportunities & financial autonomy

3) ~~It~~ leads to political empowerment as - Banila Bisoi of Odisha, leader of their SHG nominated to LS constituency

4) Social positive externalities → eg Ila Bhatt - through SEWA organised women entrepreneurs
→ Tamil Nadu's Amma Yargavan works for radicalisation of women

Study reveals that - women organised under SHGs ~~are~~ ^{face} 50% less Maternal Mortality and 33% less IMR

Multiplicie effects on developmental process in several areas

- 1) In rural area where connectivity and penetration of formal credit is abysmally low, SHGs help in mobilising rural poor into an organised group to access credit
- 2) SHGs in rural area provide essential services and fill in the gap of government institutions. eg Kudumbashree in Andhra Pradesh
- 3) Jagsevi an SHG works for development of sanitary pad manufacturing and helps in achievement of social empowerment as well as sanitation of women.

However there are certain challenges faced by SHGs in India

- discriminatory attitude towards rural credit
- financial literacy. 76% of rural people don't have any knowledge of finance
- conspicuous consumption loans which reduces their credibility
- regional imbalance - 70% SHGs are in South India

Way Forward

- 1) 2nd ARC recommends development of new financial products suited to SHGs.
- 2) providing SHGs with mentorship and guidance
- 3) complementing their efforts through government finances.

15) Any welfare scheme would be successful only if built on principles of participation and work as per accountability.

Importance of Participation

1) Top down approach to designing welfare policies ignores the peculiar needs of the people, doesn't develop stakeholder mentality and creates a gap between rulers & the ruled

For eg. - PDS scheme has not been effective in

North Eastern States because it was implemented without participation & inputs of local regarding their food requirements



2) Participation in implementation and monitoring of any welfare scheme is sine qua non for its effectiveness. For eg. → MGNREGA has been so successful because of mechanisms like SOUK AUDIT which involve people's participation

3) Gram Sabhas and People Development Plan are based on this intent of enhancing participation of people in the welfare schemes

Importance of Accountability

- 1) UNDP defines it as one of the core principles of good governance.
- 2) Accountability of government can be achieved only through access to information regarding government's budget outlay, its expenditure etc
- 3) As Thomas Jefferson says - information is the currency of democracy - RTI 2005 has helped in achieving accountability of government
- 4) ~~corruption~~ irregularities such as leakage & corruption reduce effectiveness of any scheme. For eg → Midday Meal Scheme

5) Accountability mechanisms such as RTI Act, Citizen charter, Social Audit, Outcome budgeting help in enhancing effectiveness of a welfare scheme.

Way Forward

- i) Specific inputs must be roped in by govt before any policy formulation
- ii) one size fits all approach should be avoided and regional & local level led BOTTOM UP approach should be promoted
- iii) use of reliable data for policy making
- iv) enhanced participation to increase acceptance and achievements.

The path to social development does not go through coming up with new schemes but implementing exist ones with focus on participation & accountability.

16) In the recently released QS Rankings, Indian universities failed to secure top positions.

Reasons for Indian universities not able to find its place in global rankings

1) Teaching pedagogy and curriculum of higher educational institutions is still focussed on traditional methods and not Research, Industry-academia linkage, vocational education

2) Skills imparted are not in sync with global skill requirements. eg- need of specialists in blockchain, biotechnology

However Indian universities fail to do so
According to Skill India report 47.3% of graduates are employable

3) Faculties are hired on contract basis and are not working as a development partner. Teacher-pupil ratio is below Satisfactory.

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(4) Multiple regulations such as MIC, UGC etc leads to regulatory cholestrol

(5) Questions have also been raised on the ranking methodology and reliability of these rankings.

How can Indian higher education institutions be transformed into global centres for learning

1) New Education Policy is a right step in this regard. It provides for multiple entry, exit options - Academic Bank of Credit

2) focus on research based study, vocational educational

3) Formation of HEFA will be fruitful in meeting funding requirements

4) Recent UGC guidelines of collaboration

with foreign universities would help contain Brain drain and develop India's educational paradigm.

5) Increasing India's ^{GDP} share on education from present 3.8% to 6% would help in addressing shortcomings

6) Use of technology, modern pedagogy such as experiential learning is the need of the hour

As Venkaiah Naidu, said India had always been a global teacher - we had Nalanda university. we need to take back that role and for this improvement of higher education ecosystem is sine quo non.

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The recent failure of UN to broker peace between Russia and Ukraine raised question on its credibility

As PM Modi says "India faces a crisis of confidence as it fails to take structural reforms."

Instance of failure of UN and its agencies

i) UN Secy general → failed to broker peace unlike previous security generals Kofi Annan — In 1998. between USA & Iraq

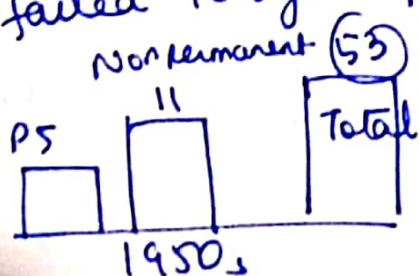
ii) UNSC → failed to maintain peace & stability

→ failed to intervene in Taliban's forceful capture of power

→ no comprehensive definition on terrorism

→ Technical hold on Abdul Rahman Makki as terrorist by China

→ failed to reflect present geopolitical order



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UNGA → most of the countries are going to miss achieving sustainable development goals by 2030.

ICJ - its advisory opinion of UK's occupation of Chagos archipelago was not accepted by UK.

ILO - as a specialised agency of UN has still not been able to achieve universal ratification of its fundamental conventions.

UNFCCC largely failed to combat climate change
However UN has not been a total failure

1) **UNSC** - role in peace keeping missions in Sudan, Yemen

↳ international conflict resolutions eg USA - Iraq

↳ Sanctions against rogue countries like North Korea & Iran

↳ Sanctions committee 1267 Al Qaeda **ISIS**

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2) UNGA → achieved almost universal membership
↳ focus on decolonization in all aspects

③ UNESCO - focus on social evils like child labour &
child marriage
works for preservation of local & tribal language
and culture

④ ILO - works for newer broader concepts
like decent work, green jobs.

As Antonio Guterres said - "I am deeply convinced
that there is no other solution to global
problems rather than global solutions organised
in a multilateral way."

Way forward ① UNSC reforms such as
inclusion of new powers like India into P5

② effective alliances on issues like data
protection, modern slavery, climate change

③ works on consensus & egalitarian rather
than hierarchical order

18) India-ASEAN recently concluded 30 years of its partnership. ASEAN's policy of Asian Initiative of Indo Pacific converges with India's vision of Indo Pacific

Importance of ASEAN for development of North East

ASEAN (10)	
Myanmar	Buruni
Thailand	Malaysia
Laos	Indonesia
Comodia	Singapore
Vietnam	Phillipines

i) North East is presently connected to India only through a narrow Siliguri corridor or Chicken's Neck which hampers our security and development initiatives in the region

Connectivity projects like India Myanmar-Thailand Highway, from Moreh to Mawsot will help

in - (i) shortening the distance to reach North East

(ii) integration of North East through an alternative route

(iii) providing direct port access to North East via shorter route

(iv) integration of north east economy to

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economies of ASEAN.

- (v) greater capital, labour and infrastructural development
- (vi) multi modal connectivity through Kaladan Projects
- (vii) horticulture capability can be harnessed through this.
- (viii) greater integration will also help in dealing with insurgency which has firm grounds due to vacuum in governance.

ASEAN as India's gateway to East Asia and beyond

Our shift from Look East to Act East is also guided by strategic importance of ASEAN

- 1) helps us in securing our interests in Sea lanes of Communication. We are developing Singapore as an alternate container terminal.

(2) It's an important fulcrum of Indo-Pacific,
freedom of navigation in South China Sea.

Because of increased Chinese presence in
Indian Ocean through String of Pearls strategy,
We need to use ASEAN as a counter balance to
China's Malacca dilemma

(3) Our connectivity to FIPIC nations can be
strengthened through ASEAN nations.

In this pursuit, India-ASEAN have taken
multiple steps but reservation remain over
issues like RCEP withdrawal of India, Increased
Chinese presence in Myanmar & Laos, Noodle
Bowl syndrome of Rules of Origin - Jagdish Bhagwati

Way forward - Use multilateral forums for
discussions

enhance people to people relations

→ renegotiate Free Trade Agreements

→ connecting the connectivities.

19) IPEF is Biden led USA's vision of Pivot to Asia which focus on economic integration with like minded countries based on the idea of Friendshoring.

As Christina Lagarde said - Russia-Ukraine war could be an economic tipping ~~point~~ point, shifting the world from globalisation to regionalisation.

IPEF - members - India USA Japan Australia
New Zealand South Korea Fiji and 7 ASEAN
nations

Significance of IPEF

1) Geopolitical and geoeconomic significance →
It focuses on fair and principled trade based on
Cornwall consensus and is a China + strategy.
This will help countries in active decoupling
with India.

2) It is complementing existing security partnerships
in Indo Pacific like QUAD so it overcomes
the no better all gun criticism.

3) By focussing on digital technology, it can help India & other nations harness Industrial Revolution 4.0

4) Since Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS) is a major concern, and G-MCT is still not functional IPEF will help in countering tax evasion & corruption

5) will help in economic integration despite reservations like withdrawal of RCEP by India

6) focuses on supply chain resilience and clean economy partnership.

Challenges of IPEF

① Acts as a divided platform → Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia vs other ASEAN countries can create ~~create~~ fault lines

→ can be dubbed as Anti China which is against India's security concerns

- ② High Standards - on labour, environment are discriminatory to developing nations
As UNFCCC said "environmental standards should not be used for trade disadvantage".
- ③ No consensus regarding acceptance of standards
- ④ Inflation in USA at all time high
- ⑤ concerns on data security
- ⑥ India placed on Priority Watch list of USA.
- ⑦ Skeptical of being just another talk shop.

Way Forward

- i) discuss and negotiate conclusions on issues like high standards
- ii) shouldn't be encroaching on data sovereignty issues.
- iii) work out internal dynamics well.

IPEF is an opportunity for India to participate in fair & principled trade and thereby reduce poverty and inequalities in the domestic sphere.

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Recently 14th BRICS summit concluded and Iran and Argentina applied for BRICS membership

BRICS represents

- 25% of global GDP
- 40% of global population
- 1/3 of global food production

Potential to lead the path towards reformed multilateralism

(i) BRICS countries have been pushing for multilateral reforms

(ii) formed New Development Bank since Bretton Woods organisations are not reflective of present world order

(iii) Sovereign Credit Rating Agency of BRICS due to pro-west ~~is~~ stance of existing agencies

(iv) collaboration of Anti Terrorism

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But it suffers from numerous internal contradictions

(i) Russia-Ukraine conflict → India abstained, China voted in favour of Russia, Brazil voted against. This shows internal disagreements

(ii) Trade between BRICS nations have been around 187 billion \$, 90% of which is with China

This dominant role of China needs to be addressed

(iii) Working on Anti Terrorism, however China put a technical hold on listing of Abdul Rahman Makki as a global terrorist

(iv) Though objectives is reformed multilateralism, China is the biggest opponent of India's entry into P5

(v) talks about sovereignty but Russia's aggression shows otherwise.