

TEST CODE 8 1 2 5 5 2

MGP 2025

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	DIVYA		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	4200442	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	online	Date/दिनांक	8 August 2025

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

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	
1			
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20			
Total/कुल अंक	250		

1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.

कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।

2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.

उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।

4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.

उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।

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.

प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।

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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :	Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 4:50 am	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 7:50 am
Total Marks/कुल अंक :	Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि : online	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>

*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.

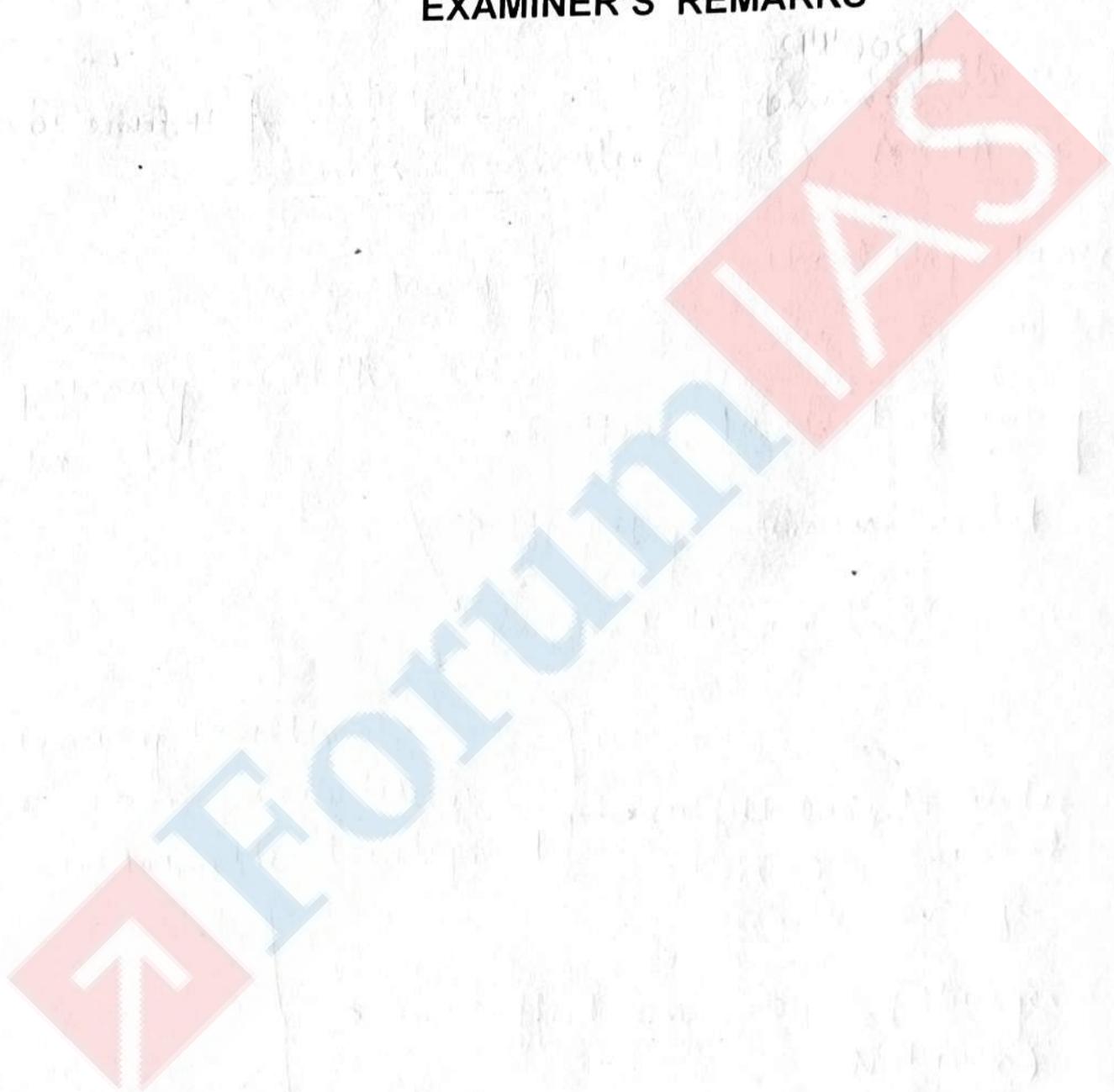
मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, प्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समय रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।

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ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussions on the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to share their copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

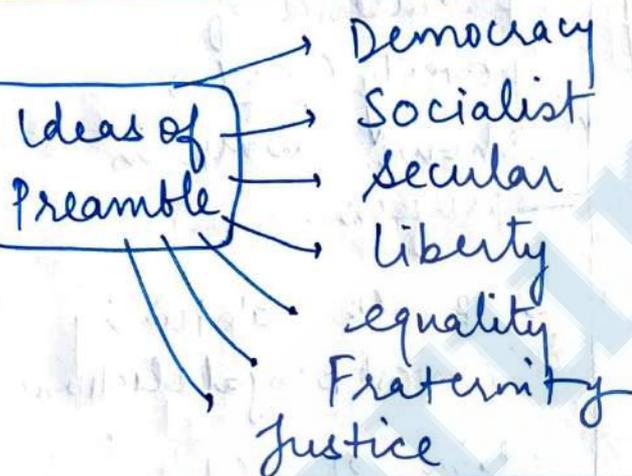


CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

Addressing the core dema

Q.1) To what extent, in your opinion, have the ideals of the Preamble been realised in the country's 75-year constitutional journey? (10 marks, 150 words)

The Objective Resolution of JL Nehru inspired the Indian Preamble and is described as key to hearts of our constitution makers



Ideas of preamble

Realised

→ Secular India as seen through Art 25 - 28 (Right to religion)

→ Equality
↳ Art 14, 15, 16
↳ Sabrimala verdict (women equality)

Not realised

→ Mob lynchings
Riots
Communalism
⊗ Delhi riots (2020)
Godhra violence

→ pay parity issues,
double burden on women
(unpaid care work)

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↳ Rights to women
 ↳ Vishaka Guidelines
 ↳ POSH Act

→ KG Khar case however reflect instances of sexual harassment

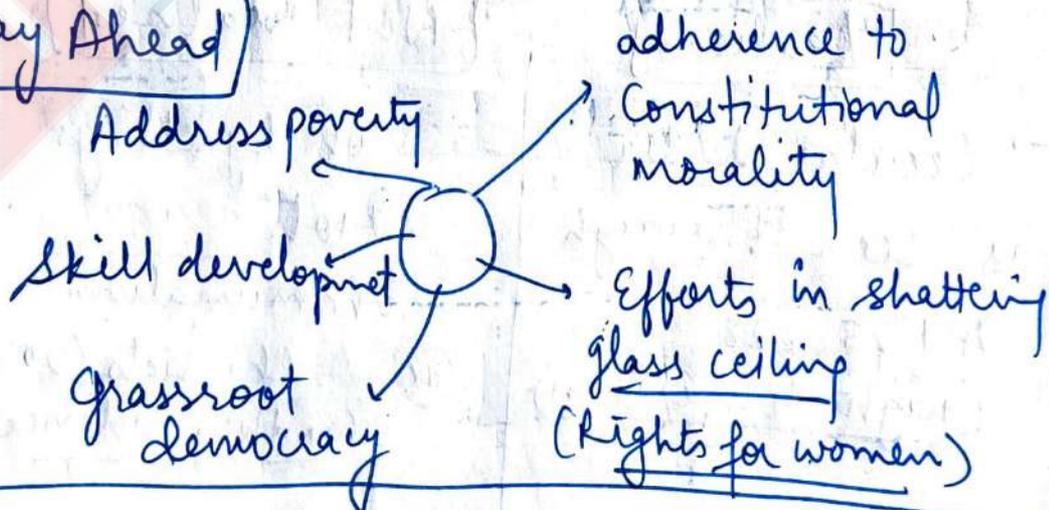
→ Preamble's justice reflected in
 ⊙ PILs
 ⊙ service delivery via schemes like MGNREGA (economic justice)

→ However judicial delays, pendency, prevalence of poverty (23%) shows work in progress.

→ free and fair elections - hint democracy

→ Booth capturing (West Bengal elections) claims of ECI's biasness

Way Ahead

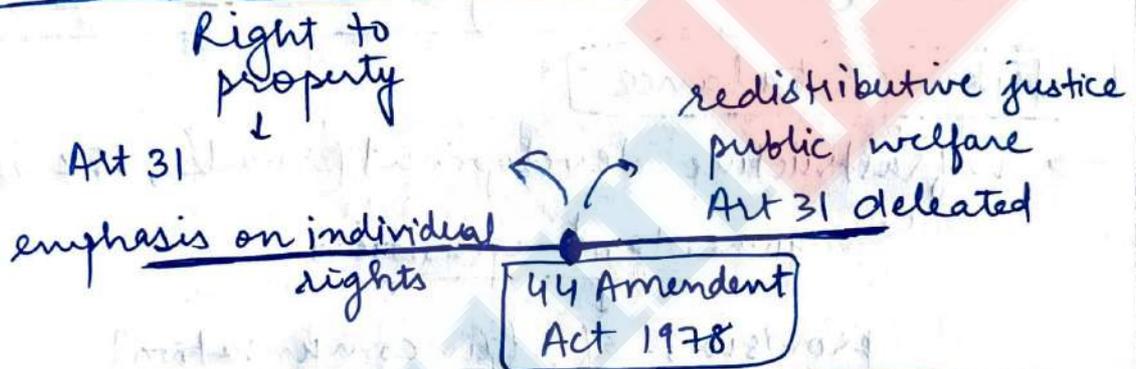


The 75 year constitutional journey shows work in progress and more inclusive, robust growth is required to promote Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas.

2

Q.2) The evolution of property rights in India reflects an intricate relationship that exists between individual rights and public welfare. Discuss this statement with the help of relevant constitutional provisions and case laws. (10 marks, 150 word)

The right to property evolved from being a fundamental right under Art 19(1)(f) and Art 31 to being a legal right under Art 300A



Balance between individual right and public welfare

① First Amendment Act, 1951

↳ Art 31A and 31B to protect agrarian reforms
↓
for land reforms

② Use of Ninth Schedule

↓
to promote socialistic welfare
for → tenancy reforms
→ land ceiling acts

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- ③ 25th Amendment Act
↳ Art 31C added to implement Art 39(b) and (c)
↓
laws for 39(b)&(c) could violate Art 14, 19
- ④ Finally 44th Amendment Act deleted right to property as fundamental right (now legal right under Art 300A)

Striking a balance

- infrastructure development (roads, SEZ etc)
↳ requires land acquisition
↓
provision of "fair compensation"
- also to egalitarian redistribution
↓
through land Acquisition Act, 2013.
- social impact Assessment and consent clauses for land reforms and development.

Property rights in India aim to strike a balance between socialism and liberalism.

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Q.3) Under what conditions can the 'National' Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What are the consequences when such a proclamation remains in force? When was it last imposed in the country? (10 marks, 150 words)

National Emergency under Art 352 is proclaimed in case of war, external aggression or armed conflict by president of India.

Conditions for proclamation of National emergency

- in case of armed conflict in the country
- war
- external aggression

By president under Art 352 through "written recommendation" of cabinet (as per 44th amendment Act, 1978)

Consequences of proclamation

- ① Unitary nature
 - ↳ country become unitary from federal
 - ↳ center gains excessive power on states.

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- ② State government under complete central control (not suspended)
- ③ Parliament - can make laws on state list
- ④ President can reduce/cancel transfer of finances from center to state.
- ⑤ Life of Lok Sabha could be extended by one year at a time.
- ⑥ Art 358 - suspension of fundamental rights under Art 19 (FR)
- ⑦ Art 359 - FR under Art 21, 20 ~~also~~ cannot be suspended
(other all F.R. → suspended.)

National Emergency has been imposed in the country 3 times

1971 1975 1968

It was lifted in 1977

The National Emergency remains "dark patch" of Indian democratic story. The 44th amendment Act made safeguards for avoiding its future misuse

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Q.4) 'Lack of a binding framework for pre-legislative consultations in India limits citizen engagement in the lawmaking.' Propose measures to strengthen the role of public consultation in the legislative process. (10 marks, 150 words)

A participatory democracy is characterised by transparent, inclusive and consultative law making involving all stakeholders including people.

Limited citizen engagement

Pre-legislative consultations - lacking
(less than 40% bills undergo public consultation)

opaque lawmaking - suffer protests
↳ ex farm laws - passed with limited consultations

Curbs diversity

⊗ Marginalised sections
Gender equality - neglected

Loss of public trust in democracy
(feeling of alienation)

Legislative quality suffers
(ground level implementation hampered.)

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Measures to strengthen public Consultations

- ① Legal safeguards for pre legislative Consultations
- ② Use of digital means
ex) Budget 2023-24 had public opinions taken through My Gov.
- ③ Institutional oversight
 - ↳ by parliamentary standing committee
 - ↳ monitor compliance
 - ↳ effective feedback mechanisms
- ④ Refer to parliamentary committee
 - ↳ scope of role of NGOs, civil society in legislative scrutiny
- ⑤ Social and environmental impact assessment of draft laws

India could adopt the UK's feedback legislative processes in democratising the pre-legislative system.

Q.5) 'The recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission have enabled the States to improve their fiscal conditions.' Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

5

The 15th finance commission under Act 280 recommended devolution of finances from central to state for upholding fiscal federalism

Recommendations of 15th F.C.

- ① 41% devolution from central pool of taxes to states
- ② performance based grants
 - ↳ rewarding outcomes
 - ↳ promotes competitiveness among states
- ③ Outcome based allocations
 - ↳ under sector specific grants
 - ④ Health outcomes evaluated for further devolution
- ④ Ecological assessment based metric
 - ↳ provide for environmental justice

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(as forest cover - one of the criteria)

⑧ enabled states improvement of fiscal conditions

Yes!

No!

→ the grants (41%) horizontal devolution to states strengthened fiscal conditions.

→ The devolutions to local bodies meagre

(Actual grassroot devolution unachieved)

→ performance based grants incentivised states for better performance

→ laggard states

(eg improved ease of business in Gujarat further)

reinforced (because of lack of fund could not invest)

→ Population based grants allowed states like Bihar, UP to invest more.

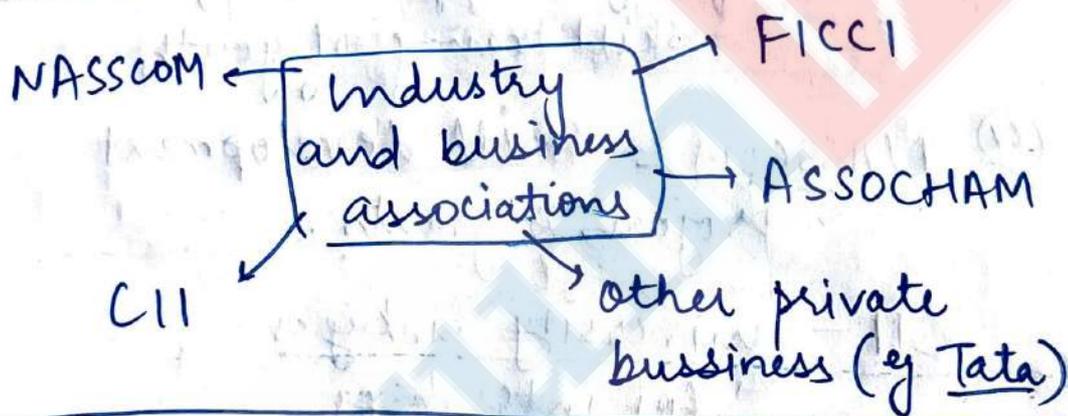
→ Demographic discipline punished (eg Kerala Tamil Nadu)

15. FC did deliver on to promises to large extent setting ground for 16th finance commission.

6

Q.6) In what ways do industry and business associations contribute to socio-economic development in the country? Explain with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 w)

The industry and business association acts as a link between public, government and contribute to socio economic development



Contribution in socio-economic development

① in policy formulation

↳ provides inputs, expertise

ex) role of FICCI in drafting certain provision of GST law.

② in inclusive development

↳ partner with SHGs for women empowerment

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ex - CII - association with SHGs in Jharkhand → entrepreneurship

③ in disaster resilience

④ ASSOCIAM - Goonj collaboration during Odisha cyclone

④ employment and skill development

↳ provides for job opportunity, skill training of youth

④ NASSCOM - Skill development projects & grants.

CII - university linkages
↳ for internships

③ social inclusion

↳ promote sustainable growth

④ FICCI's role in promoting women led MSME

⑥ Credit growth

↳ provide soft loans, helps in linkages with MUDRA etc

Industrial and business association are key for Sabka Sath and Sabka Vikas.

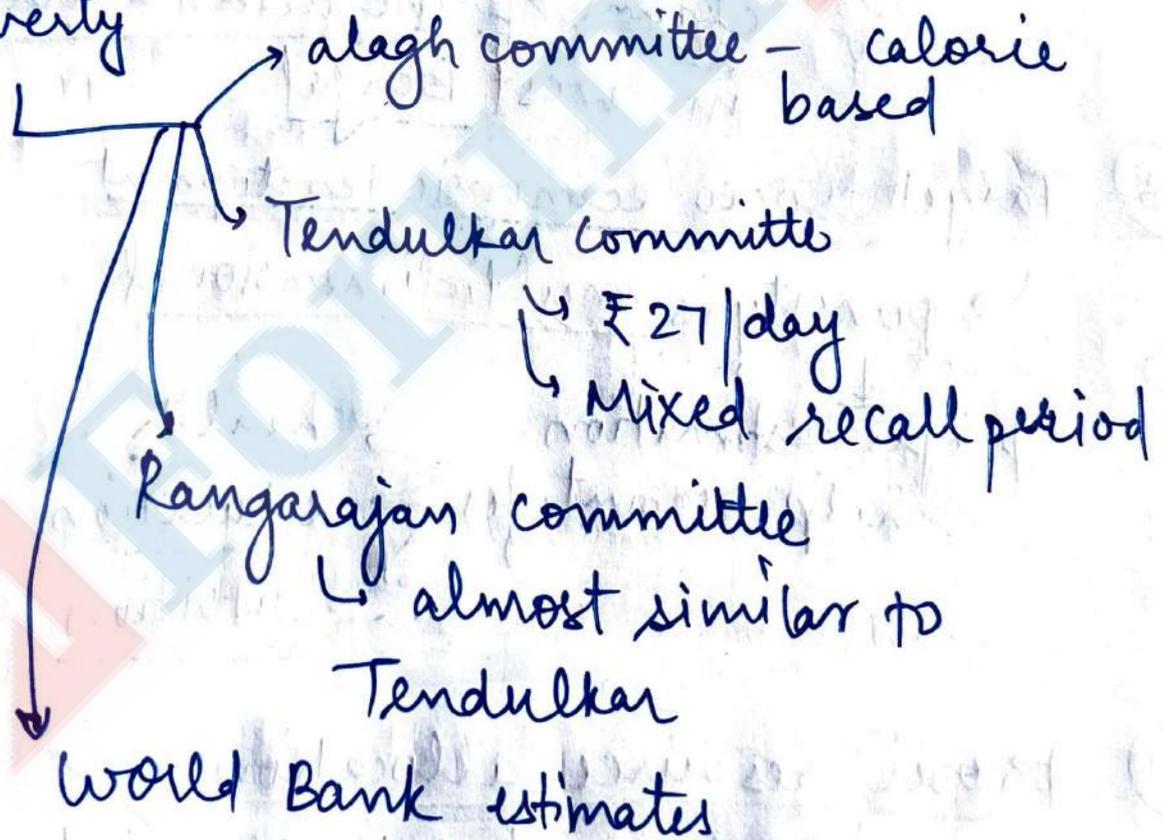
Q.7) "India's poverty lies in the eyes of the beholder." In light of this statement, examine the need for a credible and periodically updated poverty estimation framework in the country. (10 marks, 150 words)

7

About 23% of Indian population lies below poverty line according to Suresh Tendulkar poverty line estimates

poverty - in eyes of beholder

↳ because of multi ways to measure poverty



This creates confusion and inclusive exclusion errors

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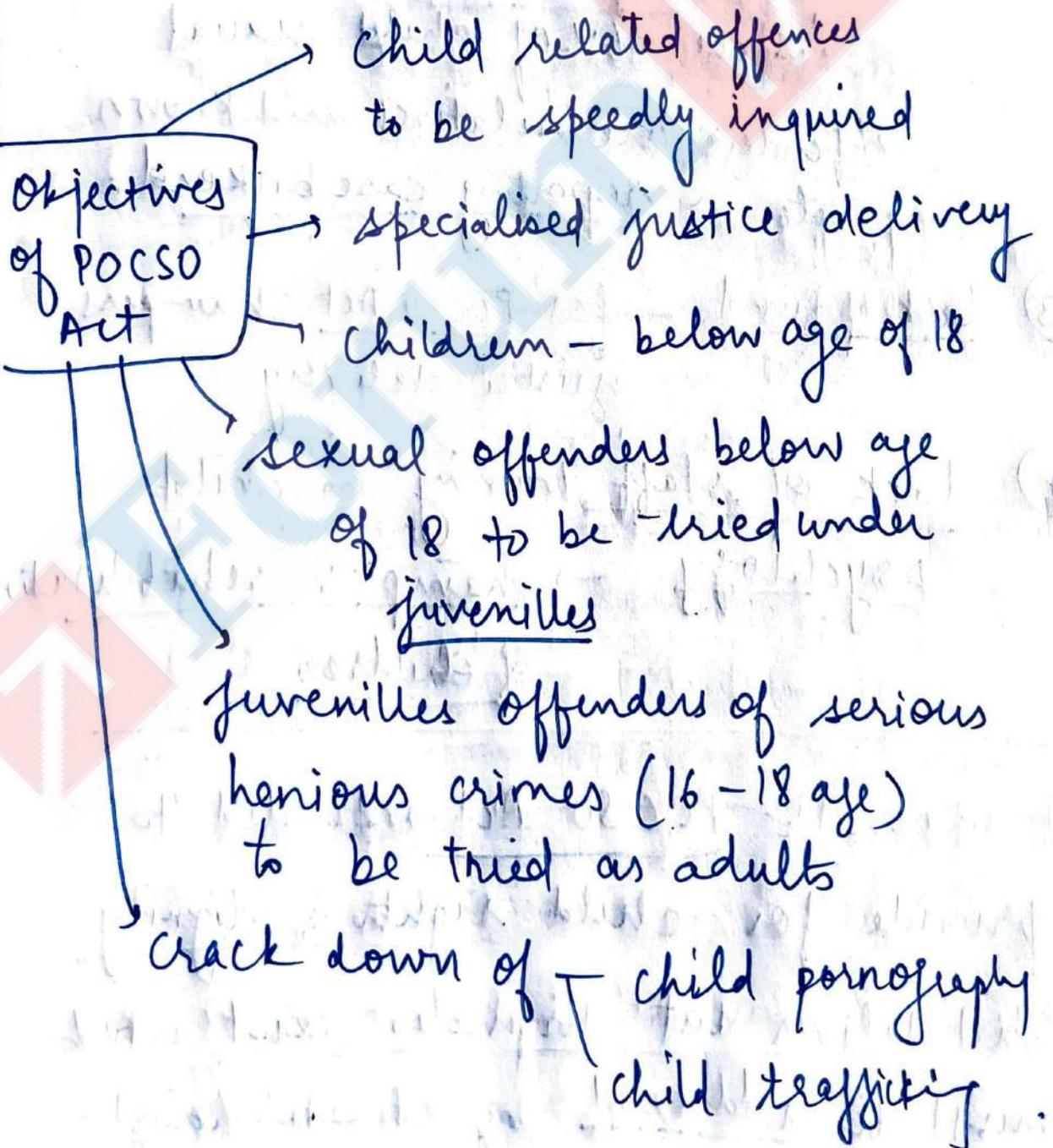
Need for updated poverty estimation

- ① to target welfare delivery efficiently
 - ↳ using updated SECC, 2023 data for estimating headcount ratio
- ② proper budget allocation
 - ↳ credible estimation helps allocate sustainable for schemes like MGNREGA
 - ⊕ claims of inefficient allocations in west Bengal
- ③ Target socio economic development
 - ↳ poverty is multidimensional
 - ↓
proper estimation help account for
 - ↳ health
 - ↳ education
 - ↳ nutrition gaps
- ④ proper resource allocation
 - ↳ helps redistributive justice

Amartya Sen's Capability Approach is useful guide towards welfare for the poor section

Q.8) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 falls short of achieving its intended objectives. Comment. (10 marks, 150 word)

POCSO Act, 2012 aimed to prevent child sexual offences by speedy justice delivery and upholding child dignity.



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POCSO, 2012 - fall short of achieving intended objective -

- ① Cases pending -
↳ thousands of cases pending inspite of provision of "fast-track courts".
- ② Case reporting
↳ since 96% of child sexual offenders are relatives and known people - reporting case backend
- ③ lack of fund - for POCSO Act hampers justice delivery
- ④ lack of staff training in child psychology → hampers rehabilitation of children

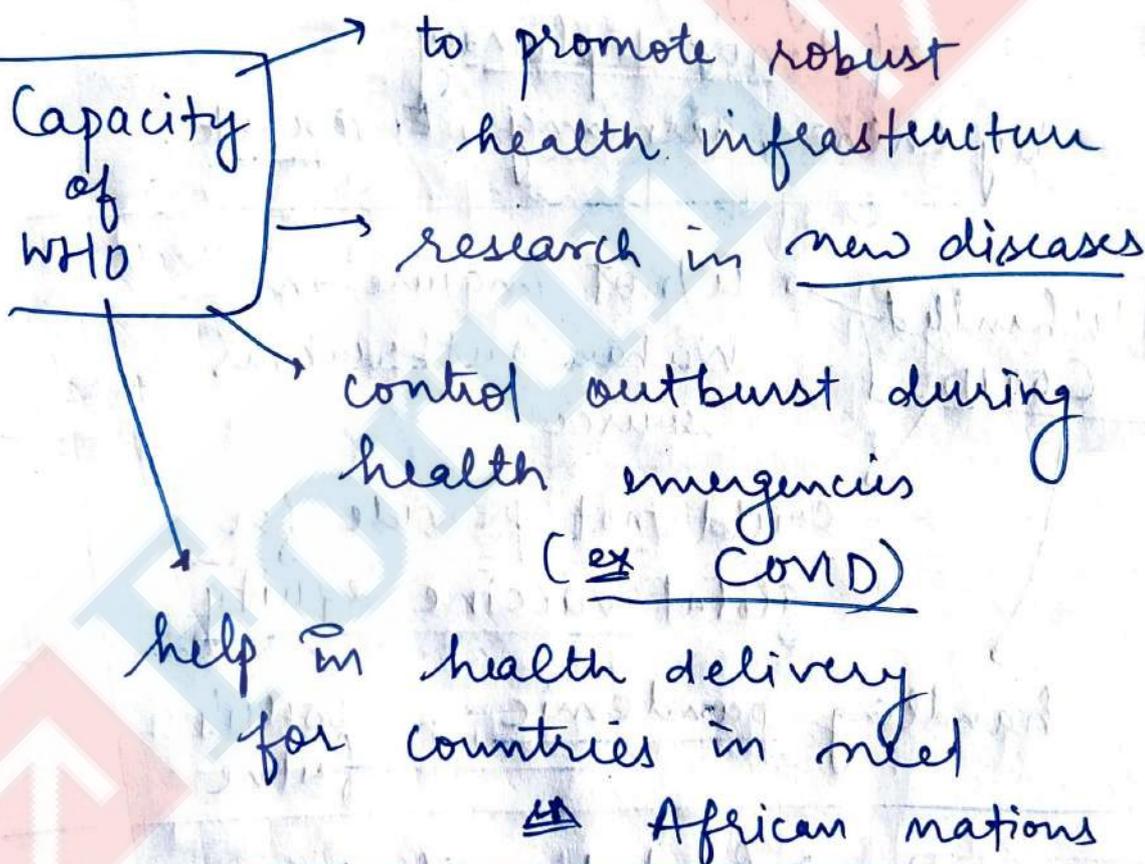
POCSO Act intended to provide for child rights & dignity did deliver but loopholes exist which must be addressed by best holistic reforms.

Q.9) 'Starved of funds, shackled by geopolitics, WHO is facing a crisis of capacity and credibility.' Discuss the statement in the light of USA's withdrawal and its accusation of the health body of being

'biased towards China and mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic'. (10 marks, 150 word

WHO formed in 1948

with aim to provide for global health
and disease free globe.



Problems with WHO

① Crisis because of donor dependency

↳ donations from Europe,
USA → hampered independence.

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- ② Trump administration
↳ withdrew in 2018
↓
this started WHO of fund.
- ③ led to Chinese funding increase
↓
dictated own terms
- ④ shackled by geopolitics
↳ of donor diplomacy
by China, Germany, Europe etc

Mishandled COVID → did not inquire on Wuhan outbreak as source
could not provide for global vaccine equity
handling pandemic - WHO's failure

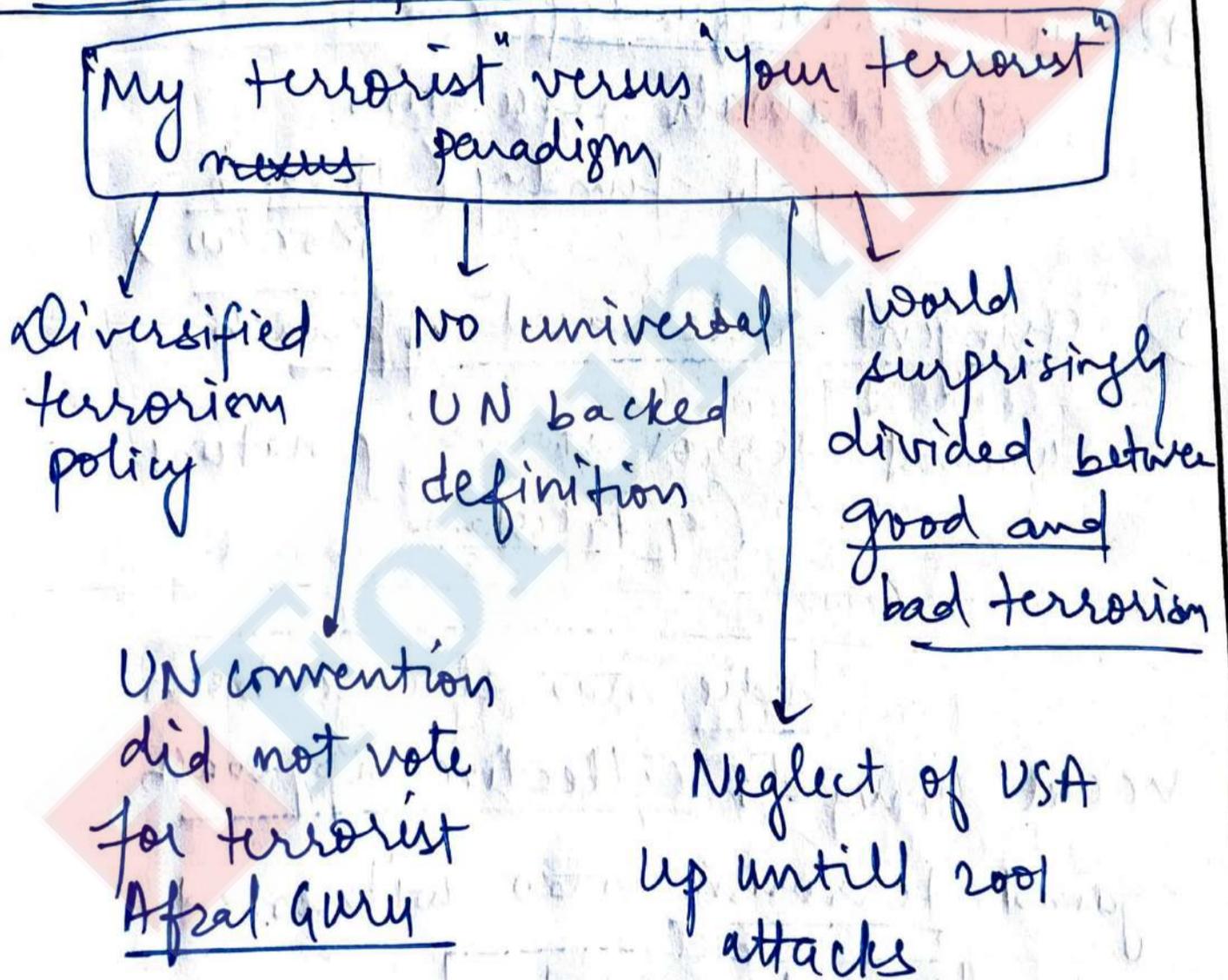
Way Ahead → fund diversification
health independence
diversified administrative staff

WHO in face of COVID was exposed of its irregularities & thus requires an overhaul.

10

Q.10) The world continues to operate in a 'my terrorist' versus 'your terrorist' paradigm. Explain. What strategies would you suggest to develop a unified, comprehensive, and rules-based global approach to tackle the menace of terrorism? (10 marks, 150 word)

Terrorism remains a bone of contention with numerous groups like Al Qaeda, LET, ISIS still existing



Strategies for terrorism handling

- ① Universal definition of terrorism.

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② Establish global convention

↓
Compressive law
intelligence sharing

③ Strengthen multi-lateral platforms

eg SCO-RATS
G-20 diplomacy

④ Cut terror funding means

eg Hawala regulation
Crypto funding (through Monero)

⑤ Stringent rule based approach

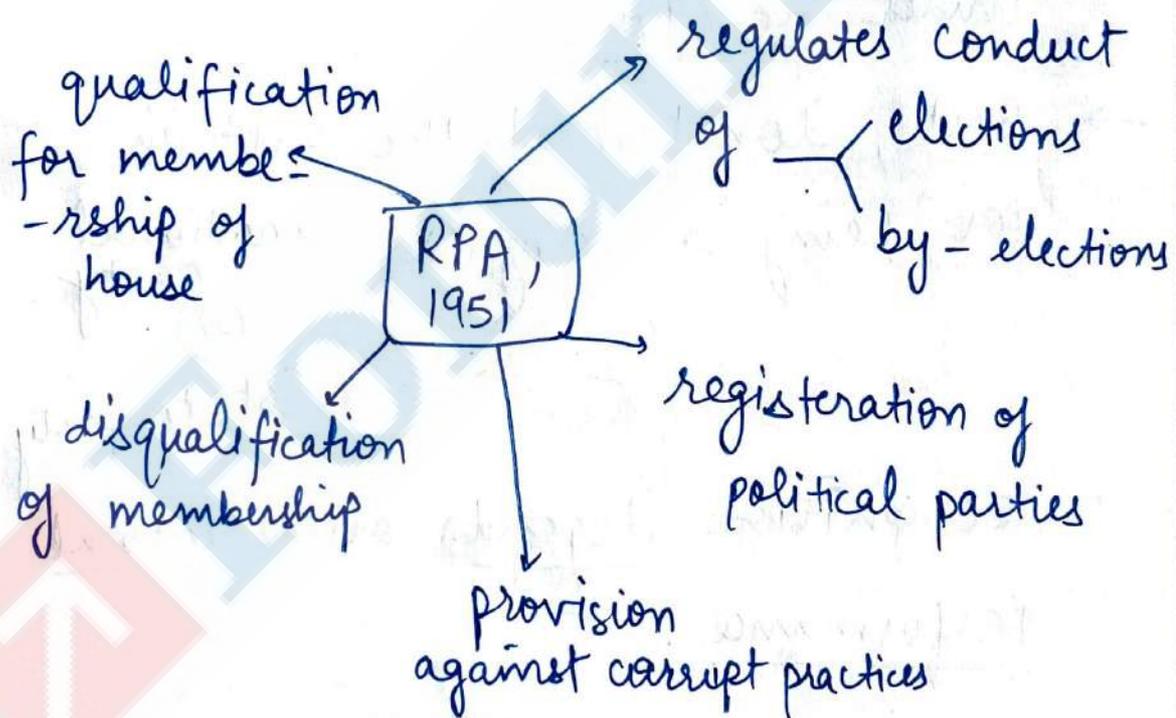
↓
against terror sponsoring nations
(eg Pakistan)

India has always been vocal towards collective approach against terrorism also witnessed during Operation Sindoor.

11

Briefly explain the procedure laid down in the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 for the registration of political parties with the Election Commission of India (ECI). What are Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)? What concerns are associated with them? Does the ECI have powers to de-register a political party?

Representation of People's Act, 1951 is the act of parliament that governs the electoral process for parliament and state government



Procedure for registration of political party

- ① Under Section 29 A of RPA, 1951.
- ② Any association seeking to be a

political party to :

apply to ECI
within 30
days of its
formation

with bank
account,
party constitution
details etc.

Registered Unrecognised political parties (RUPP)

- They are registered with ECI under Sec 29A
- But, donot meet the criteria for being a recognised national party
or
state party
- Recognition depends on electoral performance.

Concerns associated with RUPP :-

① Ghost entities

↳ Many RUPP exist merely on paper, not on ground.

- ② Electoral activity missing
↳ many RUPP do not contest election
- ③ Misuse of Tax Exemptions -
↳ RUPP - get tax exemptions under
income tax act
↓
their donations have been flagged
of laundering etc.
- ④ Misuse during elections
↳ to split votes, manipulate electoral
roll.

ECI's de-registration power:

→ ECI does not have statutory
power to de register a party.

→ only in case of :-

registration
by fraud

or court declares
party illegal

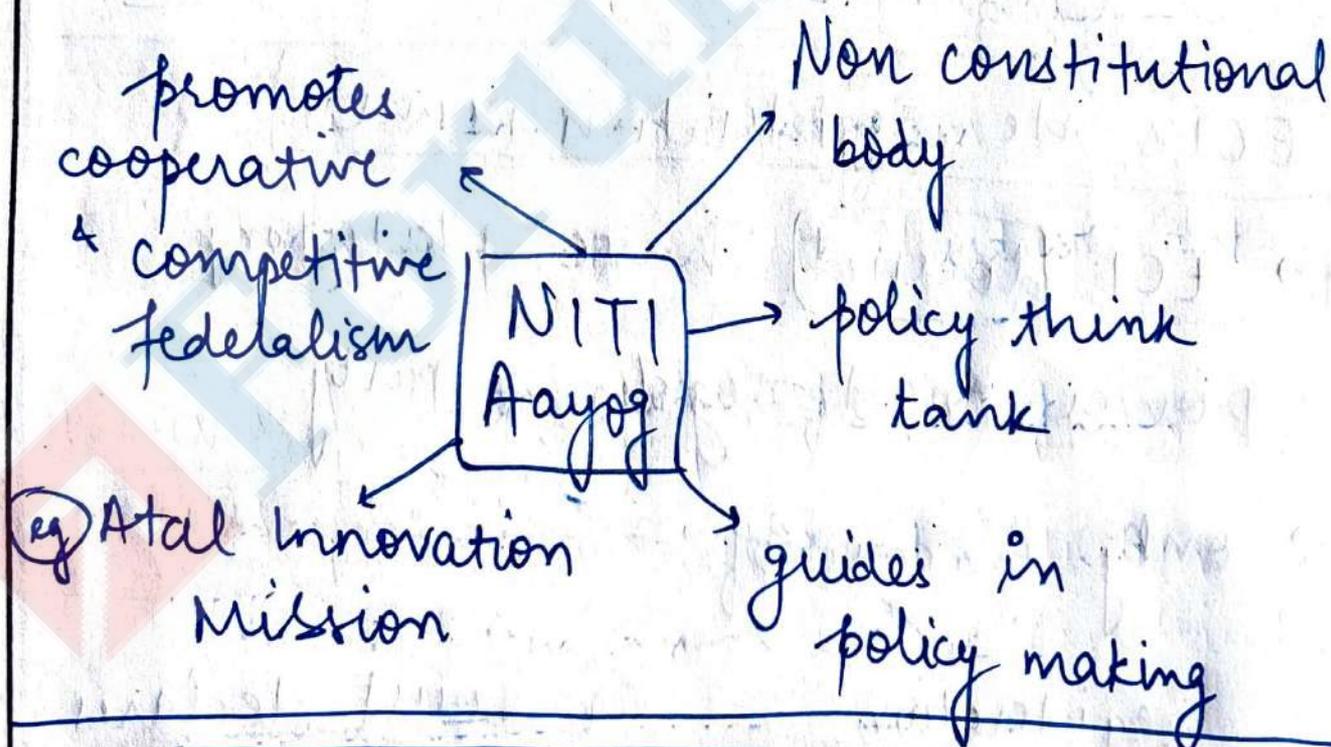
→ However, ECI can de-list a party.

A powerful, independent
election commission is ground on
which free and fair election process of India
can stand.

12

Assess the role of NITI Aayog over the past decade in promoting cooperative and competitive federalism.

NITI Aayog replaced Planning Commission in 2015 as a think-tank and tool for federal, inclusive and bottom up governance.



Role in cooperative federalism

① promote center-state coordination

↳ its composition comprises of prime ministers, chief ministers, governors etc.

② Decentralised planning

↳ asks for development strategies, ideas for collaborations

④ in Aspirational block program

↓
NITI request inputs from blocks

③ State-specific strategies

↳ through "vision documents"

④ NEP 2020, Ayushman Bharat

④ Capacity building

↳ in aspirational districts

④ target via POSHAN Abhiyan,

⑤ Facilitates collaborations

④ Digital education initiative led by World Bank in Sikkim (with NITI Aayog support)

Role in Competitive federalism

① Rankings for state's performance

④ Composite water index
School Education Index etc

② Aspirational District program

↳ districts ranked on various KPIs (eg- health, schooling, agriculture etc)

③ promotes ease of doing business

⊗ - Rates states $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{logistic performance} \\ \text{investment environment} \end{array} \right.$

④ Sustainable Development

↳ by ranking $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Top performers} \\ \text{Achievers} \end{array} \right.$

⑤ Boosts start up ecosystem

↳ ⊗ through State Startup Ranking

However
Issues

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{No statutory backing} \\ \text{limited funds} \\ \text{over centralised mediation} \\ \text{human resource constraints.} \end{array} \right.$

NITI Aayog did shift focus from one size fits all approach to a targeted regional development. Its future effectiveness will be boosted by greater decentralisation boosting Jambhaidari

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Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

13

Q.13) 'The post of Deputy Speaker goes beyond ceremonial significance and is indispensable to Indian parliamentary democracy.' Discuss with relevant constitutional provisions and conventions.

Also, examine the implications of the prolonged vacancy of the Deputy Speaker's post (15 marks, 250 word)

The constitutional post of Deputy speaker in Lok Sabha (Art 93) and State assembly helps ensure smooth, impartial functioning of the House.

Role and significance of Deputy Speaker

- ① presides over House proceedings in absence of speaker
- ② Not subordinate to speaker, holds independent office of ruling government
- ③ Conventionally deputy speaker belongs to opposition party.
- ④ Enjoys constitutional autonomy
- ⑤ ensures
 - Bipartisanship
 - impartiality
 - Neutrality.

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Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

Beyond ceremonial functions

- ① Ensures checks and balances
 - ↳ ensures all voices are heard.
- ② Continuity in functioning
 - ↳ uninterrupted conduct of business of the house (in Speaker's absence)
- ③ Role in ensuring democracy
 - ↳ oversees impartial — floor test during hung assemblies.
- ④ Enforce rules
 - ↳ according to Rules of Conduct can refer matters of Ethics Committee

Implication of prolonged vacancy

- ① Violates constitutional spirit
 - ↳ as Deputy speaker is mandated in constitution.

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Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

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- ② Weakens role of opposition
- ③ disrupts parliamentary continuity
↳ in case of speaker's absence.
- ④ Impacts Neutrality of speaker
↳ disrupts checks & balances.
- ⑤ sets bad precedent
↳ keeps deputy speaker office
as optional exercise
- ⑥ Deputy speaker of Lok Sabha
Vacant since 2019.

"SC" emphasised
constitutional
morality
in this matter

way
Ahead

set limit on
time in
Dy speaker
appointment

uphold
democratic
integrity

Institutionalise
opposition's claim
on Dy speaker

Deputy speaker is not
a ceremonial office but a vital
pillar of rule-based democratic
function of temple of democracy.

14

Q.14) Is the growing demand for stricter regulation of online content justified, or does it pose a threat to the right to freedom of speech and expression? Examine in light of recent judicial pronouncements.
(15 marks, 250 words)

India has about 720 million internet users, hinting towards us being in age of dataism. This requires a balance between free speech and ethical regulations.

Growing demand of strict regulations

↳ Reasons

① Instances of Hate speech

↳ use of social media for — propagand
|
Communalism
youth radicalisation

⊗ whatsapp used during Delhi Riots (2020)

② Misinformation and fake news

↳ leads to polarisation and panic.

③ Misuse of AI

↳ ⊗ instances of deepfakes

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- ④ Rise of online harassment
 - ↳ (ex) Trolling
 - Revenge porn
- ⑤ Threats from cybercrime
 - (ex) skype - used in digital arrest
- ⑥ Concerns of National security
 - (ex) use of telegram by ISIS for recruitments (from Kerala)
- ⑦ Uncalled foreign influence
 - ↳ (ex) role during Farm protests (2023)

Strict regulation threatening freedom of speech

- ① Vague, uncodified provisions
 - ↳ (ex) IT Rules 2021 - undefined terms like "in good taste"
- ② Risk of interpretations
 - ↳ excessive censorship in light of "moral policing".

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③ Curbs dissent

↳ (ex) journalists, comedians booked
and jailed

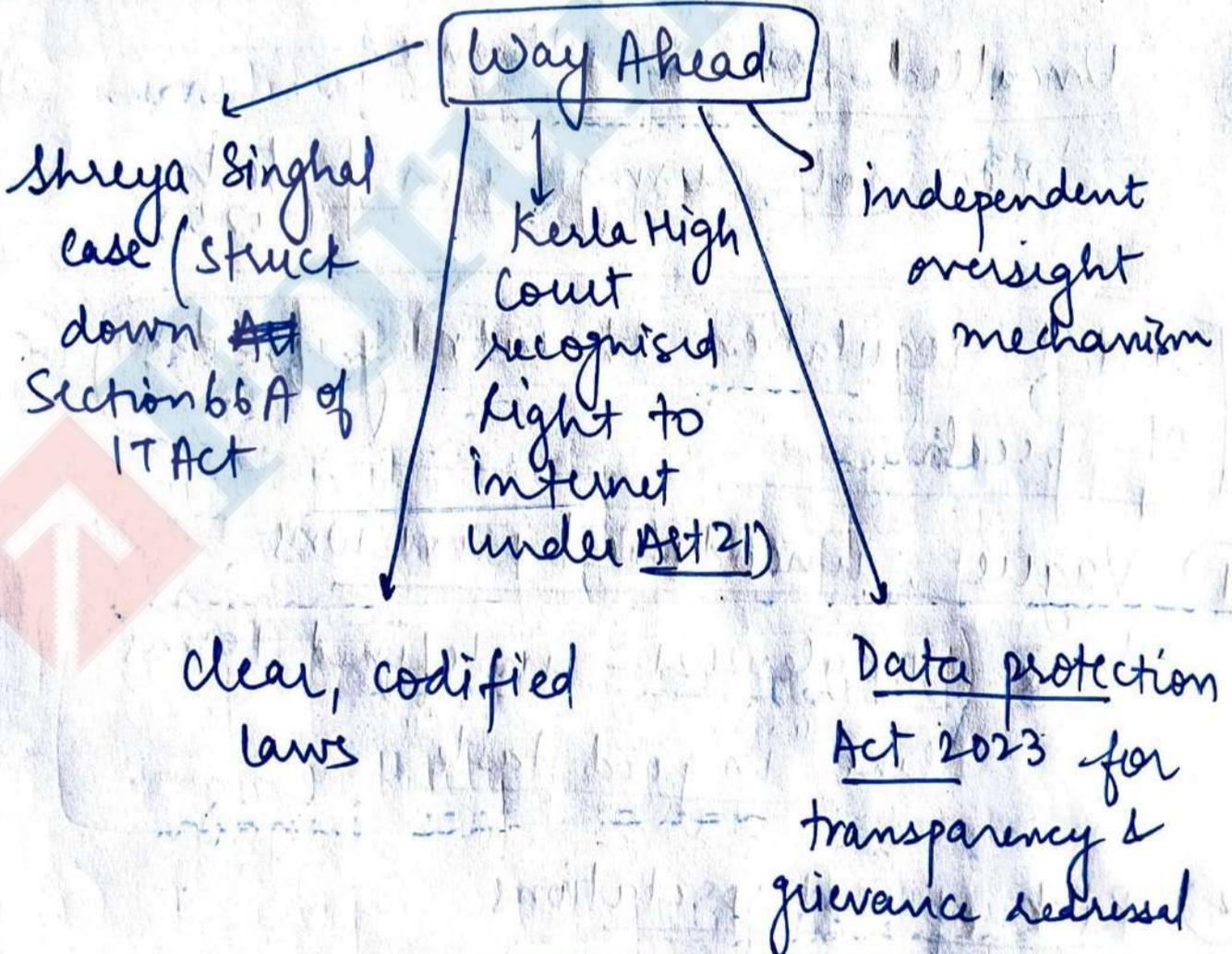
④ Over surveillance

↳ conflicts with right to privacy (Art 21)

⑤ Risk of political control

↳ hampers democracy

(ex) Arbitrary takedown of posts, vides
by Ministry of Information Broadcasting



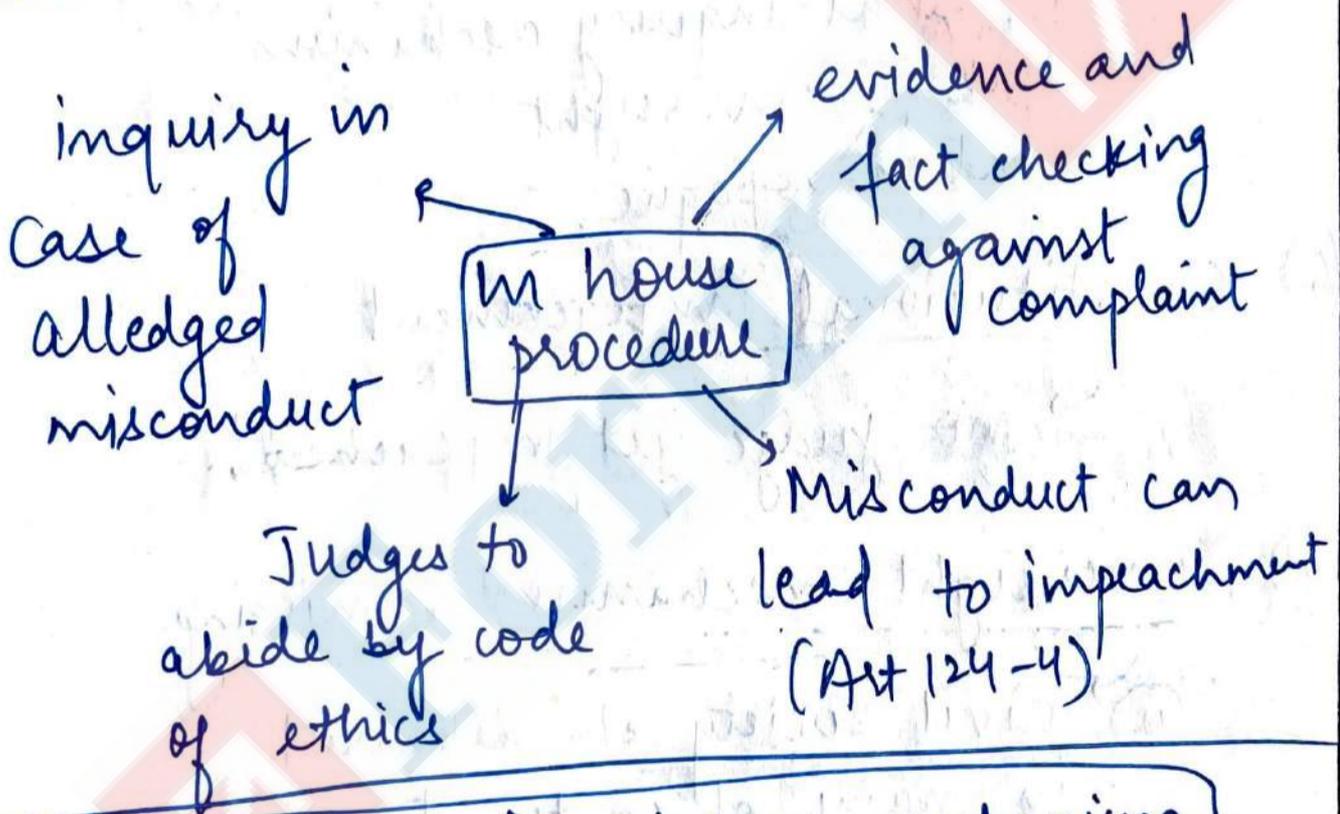
Participatory and right based approach must be followed for upholding free speech, privacy and accountability in digital age

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Q.15) Critically examine the 'in-house procedure' adopted by the Apex Court to inquire into allegations of misconduct against judges of constitutional courts in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

The independence of judiciary is the basic structure of constitution to be balanced with accountability



Issues with in-house mechanism

- ① lack of statutory backing
↳ judges don't face binding consequences
- ② contempt of court provisions
↳ misused
Ⓧ Subramaniam fined ₹1 over CTI's bike.

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Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

- ③ Lack of transparency in inquiry
↳ alleged partiality
- ④ Limited outcome
ex) CJI Ranjan Gogoi & sexual misconduct allegations - got clean chit.
- ⑤ Lack of deterrence
↳ internal inquiry mechanism lack — oversight and are → opaque.
- ⑥ Constitutional impeachment
↳ no judge yet impeached!
- ⑦ oversight mechanism - missing
↳ civil society etc debarred in name of contempt

Way forward for judicial accountability

- ① Transparent inquiry mechanism
↓
by independent body comprising
of < judges
civil society

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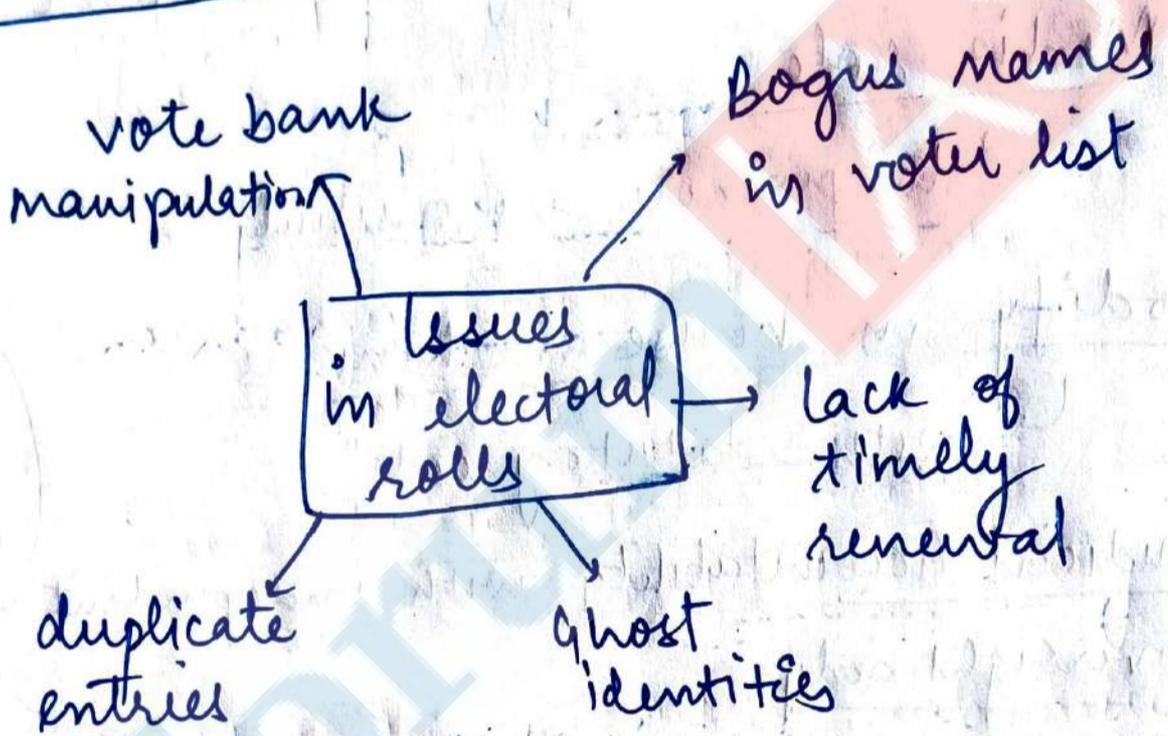
- ② Codify ~~and~~ contempt rules
↳ to balance dissent, free speech,
constructive criticism with Judicial
independence
- ③ Role of Bar Council of India
↳ in maintaining Judicial discipline
- ④ Media role
↳ to promote responsibility
- ⑤ Codify in house mechanisms
↳ with statutory "code"
- ⑥ Judicial Accountability with independent
oversight body

Judicial integrity must
go ~~of~~ beyond ensuring independence.
It must ensure transparency and
responsibility for ensuring public trust

16

Q.16) Recent controversies over alleged malpractices in the electoral rolls have renewed demands for the mandatory linkage of Aadhaar with Voter ID. What is your opinion? Give reasons in support of your answer. (15 marks, 250 words)

The oxygen to Indian democracy is provided with its conduct of free and fair elections.



Linkage of Aadhaar and Voter ID

Advantages

- ① Eliminate bogus voters
↳ renews "one person - one vote"
- ② Instances of non existent voters flagged during Telangana elections.

② Contain electoral malpractices

- ↳ reduce ghost voters
- ↳ curb vote bank politics

③ enhances accuracy

- ↳ easy, robust updates of electoral roll possibly

④ efficiency in data management

- ↳ by centralised databased
- ↳ enhances coordination between ECI and SECs

Risks of linkage

① Against Right to privacy

- ↳ Aadhar is for welfare delivery not surveillance of voters

② Risks exclusion

- ↳ About 12% population still without aadhar.

③ Against democracy

- ↳ cannot force linkage

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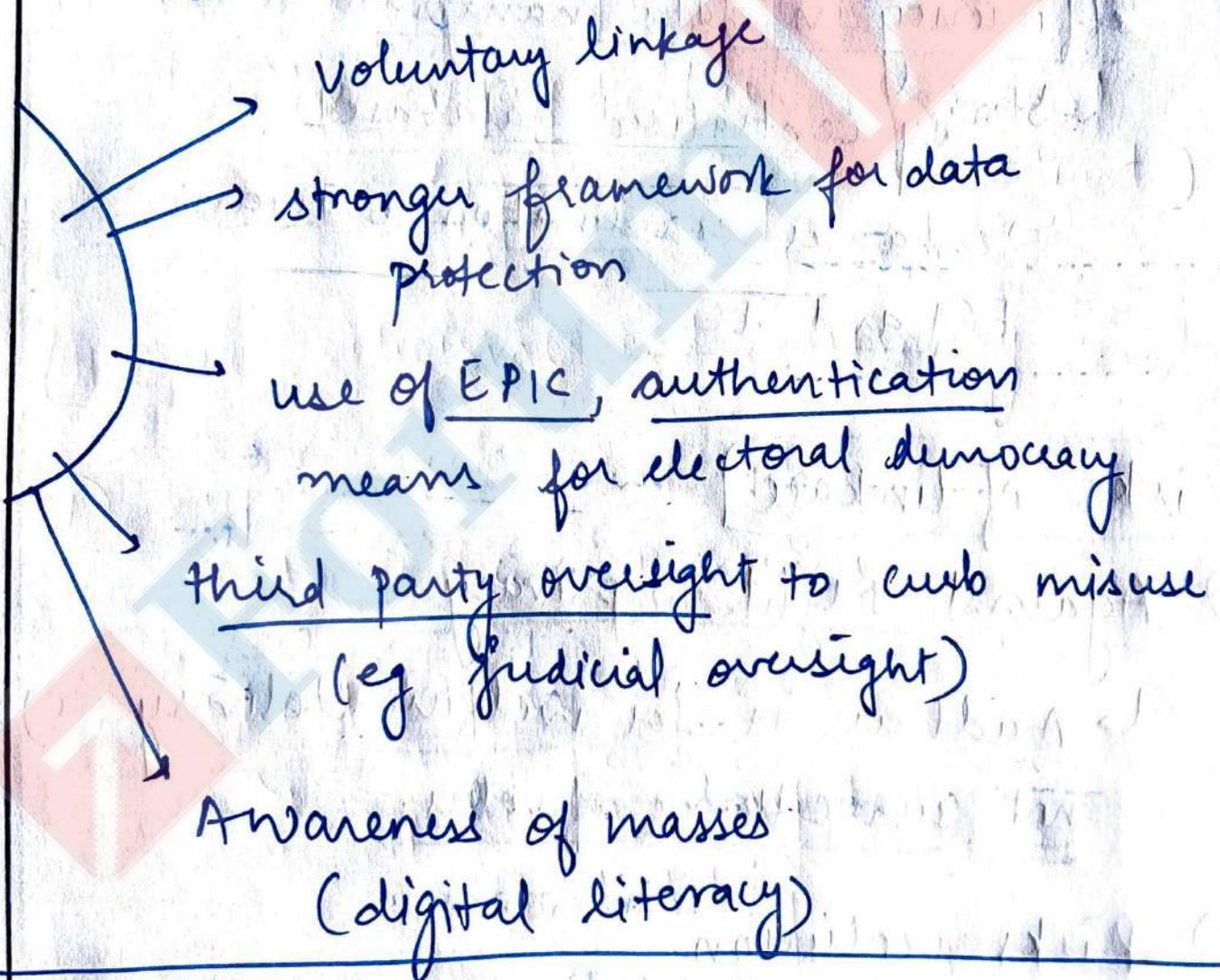
④ Against electoral neutrality

ⓐ Risks of breach of personal data.

ⓑ Risk of misuse

↳ to target voters for vote bank

Way Ahead



Aadhar - voter ID linkage

will help in effective data management and democratic inclusivity but it must be backed by puttaswamy judgement

Q.17) Lateral entry into civil services is seen as a reformative step, yet it continues to attract criticism and controversy. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

17

Hota Committee and the 2nd ARC recommended for reforms in civil services through lateral entry to strengthen the steel frame of our country

Lateral entry - A reformative steps

① Fills vacancy

↳ There are more than 15000 vacancies at all India service level
(Lateral Entry - fills the gap)

② provides specialised expertise

↳ in age of digital era
AI

↳ new issues (cyber security)

③ Improves governance

↳ role in NITI Aayog 3 year
Action Agenda

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- ④ Dealing complex administrative situations
 - ↳ subject specific insights
 - ↳ Technical knowhow
- ⑤ Entry and retention of talent
(as suggested by 6th pay commission)
- ⑥ Lead by example
 - ↳ (x) Vijay Kelkar (lateral entrants)
 - ↳ Raghunam Rajan

How criticisms and controversy exist

- ① Bypasses the merit system
 - ↳ of UPSC CSE exam
- ② Short term tenure
 - ↳ can hinder long term accountability.
- ③ Coordination with existing bureaucracy
 - ↳ may be difficult
- ④ Demoralises the service officers
 - ↳ of inequality with lateral entrants.

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- ⑤ Risk of partiality and unfair favouritism
→ in appointments
- ⑥ political vantage
↳ in appointment to higher posts
- ⑦ lateral recruits
↳ untrained in ground level administrative know-how

Suggestions / way Ahead

- ① Clear guidelines for transparent recruitment
↳ as suggested by Surender Committee
- ② Performance evaluation
- ③ on ground training before induction
- ④ Balanced approach - hybrid model
↳ with existing bureaucracy & field domain experts

Transparency and specialisation
have to find a balance to ensure
the strength of Indian bureaucracy

18

Q.18) While rankings aim to benchmark the performance of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), concerns remain about whether current ranking frameworks reflect the broader goals of education. Suggest measures to make the ranking system more objective, inclusive, and aligned with educational and societal outcomes. (15 marks, 250 word)

The NIRF, QS world rankings for higher educational institutions promote competitiveness, accountability and quality for better outcomes

Concerns with rankings

① over emphasis on research

↳ ex publications, h-index dominate

② Neglects equity

↳ doesnot emphasis on gender inclusivity, diversity of students

③ Teaching Quality measurement

↳ unaccounted

④ Social Impact assessment

↳ of educational outcomes not done.

- ③ Urban and elite bias
 - ↳ neglect of rural based institutions
- ⑥ Concerns of independence
 - ↳ Third party verification of data rarely conducted.

Measures of outcome aligned rankings

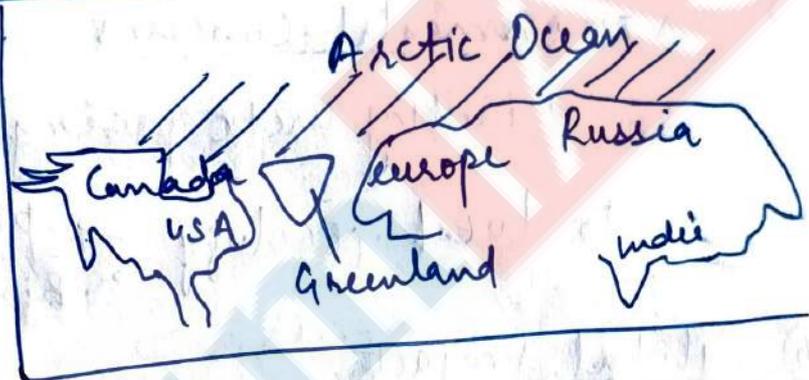
- ① Incorporate Quality Teaching along with research
 - ↳ NAAC assessments
 - ↳ pedagogical innovations
 - ↳ performance evaluations
- ② Focus on inclusive education
 - ↳ Rank
 - ↳ enrolments of SC/ST/OBC/women
 - ↳ diversity scholarships
 - ↳ diverse education
 - ↳ STEM
 - ↳ Humanities
- ③ Outcome based evaluation
 - ↳ employability rankings
 - ↳ job placement rates

- 4) Reward participatory learnings
 - ↳ ranking on
 - industrial linkage
 - NGO tie ups
 - collaboration with MSMEs, panchayats etc
- 5) Assessment of lifelong learning
 - ↳ through alumni engagement and meets
- 6) Categorical rankings
 - ↳ Medical colleges
 - ↳ engineering
 - ↳ Humanities
 - ↳ as done by NIRF-India
- 7) Blend with good global practices
 - ↳ include parameters from QS world rankings
 - ↳ international admissions
 - ↳ Research labs
 - ↳ diverse professionalism
- 8) Reward innovation
 - ↳ through Atal Innovation Mission

An educated youth is the future of Indian workforce and writer of Indian growth story thus broad, inclusive, diverse and specialised framework for ranking will help improve.

Q.19) Examine the factors behind the growing salience of the Arctic region in international politics. Discuss, in this context, strategies for India to recalibrate its Arctic engagement. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Arctic region known for its rich resources is gaining salience in international geopolitics.



Reasons for growing salience of Arctic

- ① Arctic amplification
↳ melting arctic is acting as opportunity in disguise for economic gains.
- ② Free up resources
 - ↳ Natural gas
 - ↳ Hydrates
 - ↳ Hydrocarbons→ contested.
- ③ Trade routes
↳ for shipping and short

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route to connect with Asia

④ Maritime security

↳ aim for Blue economies

⑤ NATO and Russia's military engagement in Arctic

⑤ Environmental concerns

↳ Melting arctic posing threat to local ecology - polar bear
↳ Biodiversity

⑥ Global impacts

↳ weakening of jet streams, polar vortex
Creating existential issues in USA,
Canada, Northern Europe (blizzards etc)
↳ also has potential to influence monsoons

Strategies of Indian engagement

① Observer status in Arctic Council

↳ partnership in sustainable development in Arctic.

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- ② Research base
 - ↳ at Himadri (Svalbard, Norway)
- ③ Engage multilateral partners
 - ↳ with Nordic countries, Russia
- ④ Safeguard maritime interests
 - ↳ Blue economy
 - ↳ MAHASAGAR initiative
- ⑤ Access to North Sea Route
 - ↳ to reduce shipping costs
- ⑥ Climate Diplomacy
 - ↳ through UNFCCC COP
 - ↳ G20 platform
- ⑦ Advocate for Global south in Arctic geopolitics
 - ↳ for equitable governance
- ⑧ Energy Cooperations
 - ↳ to access
 - ↳ Natural gas
 - ↳ Rare earths
 - ↳ for energy security

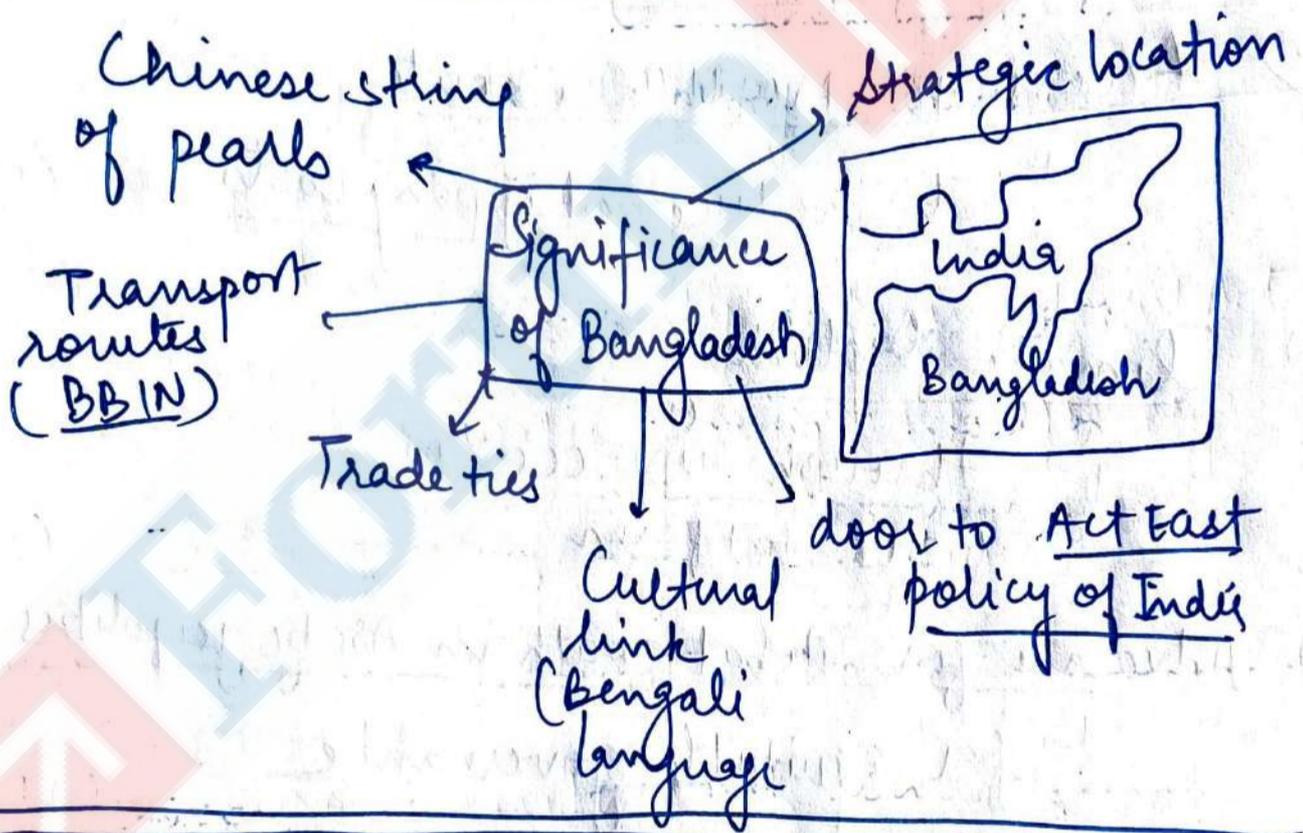
India and the world
must be guided by Polar Code in
sustainable development of the Arctic.

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20

Q.20) Bangladesh is a key pillar of India's Neighborhood First policy, but recent developments on both sides threaten to disrupt the 'Sonal Adhyay' in bilateral relations. Analyze. (15 marks, 250 word

India shared the largest length (~ 4000 km) border with Bangladesh and has been key to 1971 Bangladesh Liberation war.



Bangladesh - key pillar for India

① Geostrategic significance

↳ ~4000 km long border

② Vital for connectivity to Northeast

Ex) Road / Rail connect established between Kolkata and Agartala

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② Economic value

- ↳ Trade worth \$18 billion in 2023-24
- ↳ India offered line of credit

④ Role in security

- ↳ of border regions

②x Intelligence sharing, border security

③ Connectivity projects

- ↳ BBIN agreement
- ↳ inland water transport.

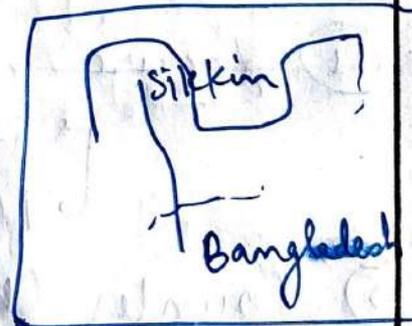
⑥ Cultural links

- ↳ Bangladeshi students
- ↳ liberation war history
- ↳ language diplomacy (Bengali)

Issues threatening 'Sonali Adhyay'

① Teesta water dispute

- Bangladesh riparian state
- disputes in river sharing agreement (opposition from west Bengal)



② Issue of Illegal Migrants

- ↳ to Assam, west Bengal.

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③ Illegal activities around border
↳ smuggling drugs
↳ arms trafficking
↳ cattle / human smuggling

④ Chinese involvement
↳ through BRI, port development

⑤ Assam Accord
NRC
CAA, 2019 → anxiety in Bangladesh

preserving Sonali Adharyay - Strategies:-

① Dispute resolution
↳ eg as done by 100th amendment Act
↳ need of water sharing (Teesta) treaty

② Border fencing and surveillance

③ Enhance cultural exchange

④ Secure maritime interests

↳ in Bay of Bengal
↳ Military exercises

⑤ Counter Chinese nexus

↳ swift infrastructure project
↳ revival of BBIN

India - Bangladesh ties are vital for upholding Gujarat Doctrine,