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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

Name of Candidate	SHIKHAR CHOUDHARY		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG.	Registration Number	913063
Center		Date	7/08/2019

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). 2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH 3. All questions are compulsory. 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. 5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
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Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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

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Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

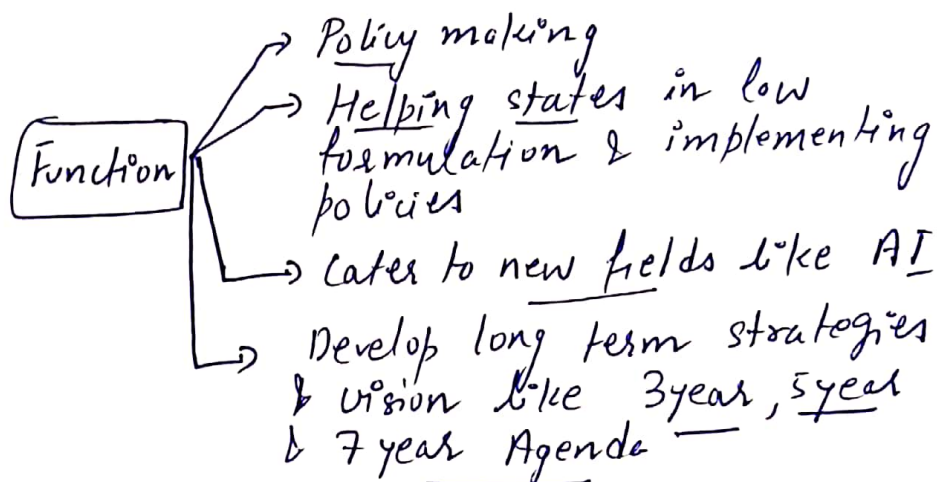
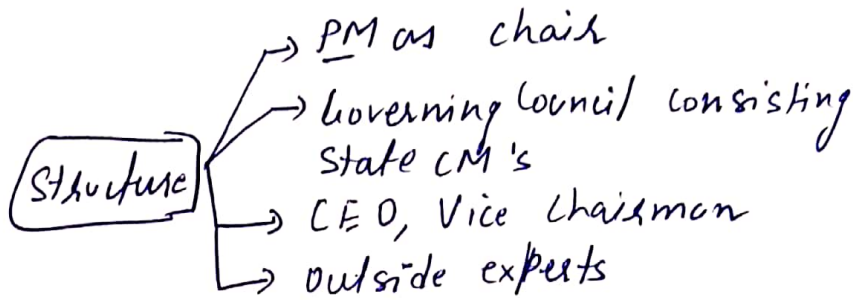
5.

6.

All the Best

1. Mention the structure and functions of NITI Aayog. Also, comment on its contemporary relevance. (150 words) 10

NITI Aayog replaced Planning Commission to develop 'operative' federalism



Contemporary Relevance

- ① Fresh energy into policy formulation thus replacing decade old Planning Commission
- ② Diversified and complex law making requires state cooperation which NITI provides

- ③ Technical expertise like Academia will help in better policy making
- ④ NITI Aayog will propel development in new fields like AI and Blockchain
eg. NITI's ~~Inter~~ Model Centre for Transformative AI.
- ⑤ Will promote competitive federalism through Aspirational Districts.
- ⑥ Better monitoring of schemes like NITI Vice Chairman heads POSHAN

Not relevant

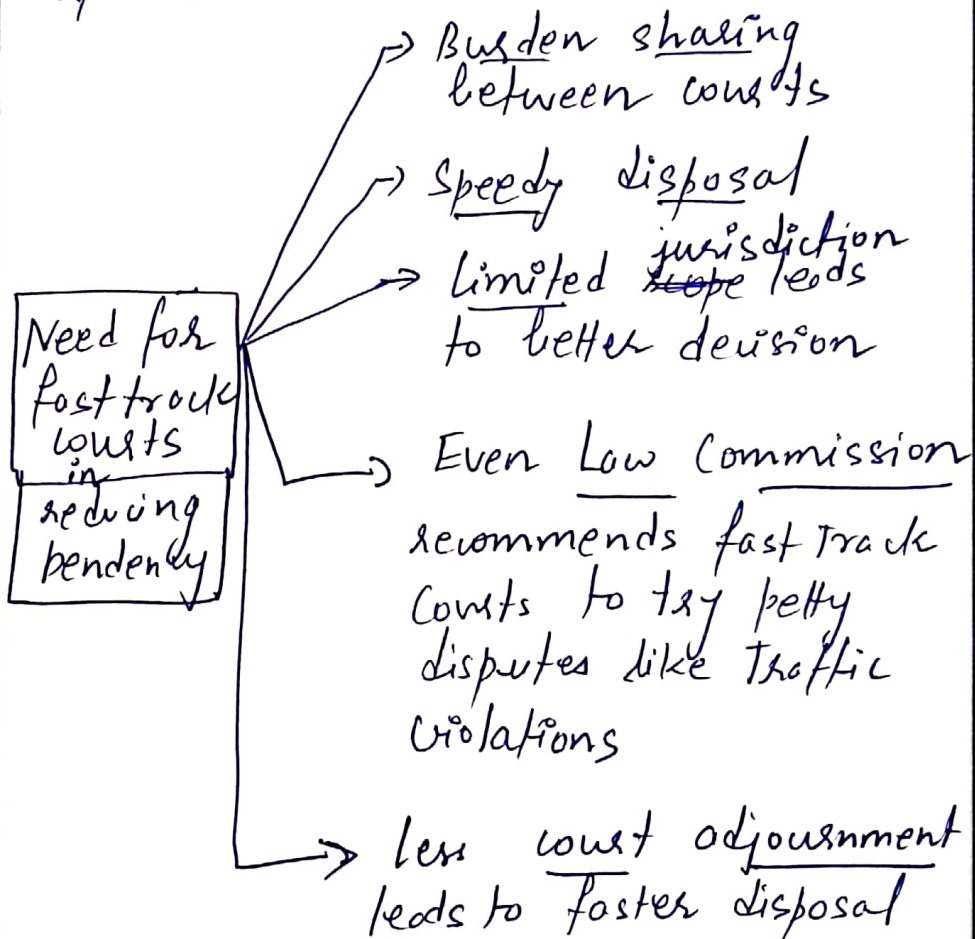
- Not a constitutional body
- Lack financial allocation powers, which reduces authority
- Disproportionate voting share of Centre, thus against federalism

NITI Aayog has the potential to usher a new era of federalism through

- giving constitutional mandate
- more say of states
- financial role like Planning Commission

2. Critically discuss the practice of setting up Fast Track Courts to reduce pendency of cases in the judiciary. (150 words) 10

Fast Track Courts are set up to try cases, thus reducing burden of Traditional courts.



However, there have been issues in FTCs.

Issues Unable to address pendency

- ① National Law University reports suggest slow disposal of cases by FTCs. & lax attitude
- ② FTCs suffer from infrastructural constraints and staff shortages
- ③ Lack of funds from centre, hence depends on state's mercy
- ④ Insufficient no. of FTCs have been set up
- ⑤ Multiple judicial authorities control FTCs, thus delaying justice.

Way forward

- Parliamentary Standing Committee recommends States to give lands to set up courts
- F.C recommended setting up 1800 FTCs

FTCs are a step to ensure speedy and Accessible justice delivery as happened in Kothwa rape case

3. Highlight the challenges faced by lower judiciary in India and suggest measures for enhancing their productivity. (150 words) 10

lower judiciary in India involves
courts like → sessions court
→ District judge
→ Munsif's court etc.

Challenges

- ① Over 6000 vacancies in judicial posts.
- ② Infrastructural constraints like lack of court offices, ~~no~~ staff shortages
- ③ Poor quality of judges who are appointed through favouritism
- ④ Over 3 crore pending cases
- ⑤ High frequency of judgement shows poor quality of decisions
- ⑥ Costly and too complex for the poor people.
- ⑦ Frequent adjournments delays justice

Measures

- Law Commission recommends All India Judicial Commission
- Judicial Standards & Accountability Bill to enforce judicial conduct
- Fast tracking e-courts to make judicial process transparent
- Economic Survey recommends Indian Court & Tribunal Services (ICTS) to relieve courts of administrative burden
- setting up Lok Adalats for cost effective justice
- Draft Memorandum of Procedure which states that judges of highest merit should be inducted

By above steps, justice will become more accessible and inclusive.

4. Assess the need to formalise the process of post-legislative scrutiny to improve the effectiveness of laws. (150 words) 10

Post legislative scrutiny involves critically examining the impact of legislation on general public & whether it had served its mandate.

Need to formalize post legislative scrutiny

- ① Will lead to evidence based decision making
 - Rectify mistakes that may occur in legislative impact
- ② Better executive accountability through Parliamentary committees
 - Also, Citizen's could use post legislative scrutiny as a yardstick for government performance
- ③ Technical expertise could be availed leading to better legislation
- ④ Check hasty decision making & government will be more careful in future law making

Need not formalize

- ① Will delay low implementation, thus impacting public service delivery
- ② Government may avoid taking extreme and bold steps due to fear of criticism
- ③ Will increase undue burden on Parliament when it's productivity is already falling
- ④ Highly subjective approach and is prone to errors and misjudgements.
- ⑤ Huge financial cost
 - Strengthening Parliamentary Committees so that they hold govt. accountable
 - Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill to improve legislative scrutiny

Way forward

Post legislative & scrutiny could be a way to enforce executive accountability

5. Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving the effectiveness of e-governance in India. (150 words) 10

AI uses Machine learning and Big Data to perform complex tasks which is impossible for human mind.

AI potential → error free
→ fast
→ wide applications in Health, agriculture etc.

AI and e-governance

- ① Data based decision making
 - Better health record management of patients.
 - Better land record management
- ② Check leakages in Public distribution system.
 - Also, it will eliminate the need of middlemen in public service delivery
- ③ Judicial e-governance like better identification of criminals, better case management

④ Useful for initiatives like Smart Cities

• Eg Integrated Command & Control Centres (ICCC) will lead to better city governance.

⑤ Address cyber threats by checking cyber attacks, thus securing e-governance

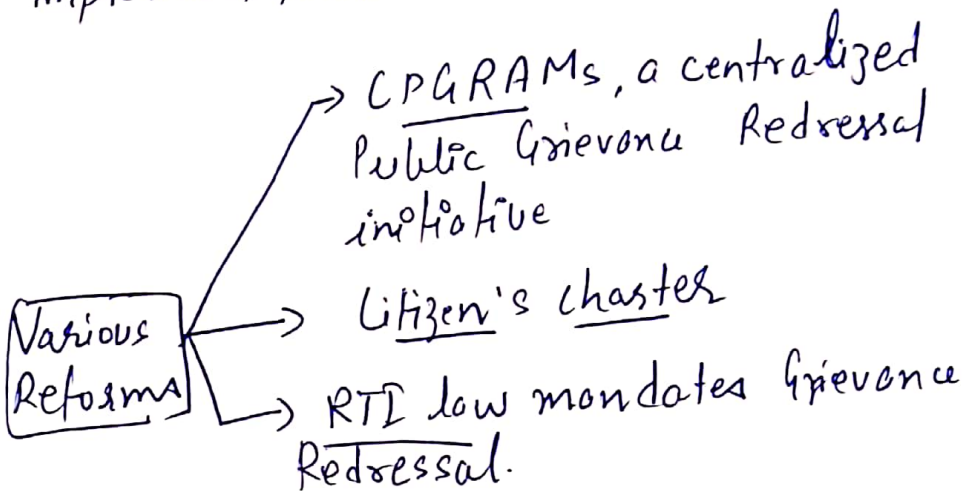
Challenges
to potential

- Huge initial cost due to technology import
- Low digital literacy
- Insufficient digitization of records, no data culture yet in India
- Creates privacy concerns
- Low skills in AI field.
- Threats from unethical AI which can discriminate on basis of caste, religion etc.

AI's potential will improve governance and steps like R&D, skilling youth, creating digital infrastructure through NITI's AICTAI should be adopted.

6. Despite various reforms in the public grievance redressal mechanisms, their effectiveness remain limited. Discuss. (150 words) 10

Public Grievance Redressal is a way to address the genuine concerns of public who face issues due to low implementation



Limited effectiveness

- Citizen's don't get timely data
- Department's fail to provide correct information
- Low awareness regarding such mechanism amongst citizens.

Reasons for limited effectiveness

- ① Organizational apathy : As per

CIC Transparency Audit, 80% PIO's
don't know Basics of RTI

② Lack of manpower, eg many department
fail to appoint nodal officer

③ Lack of digitization

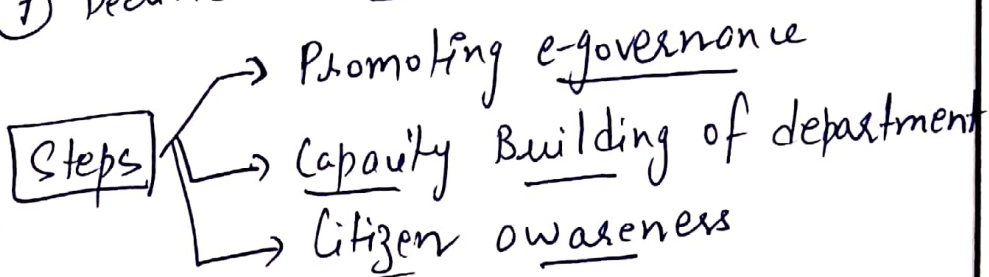
- No mechanism to track the status of grievance.
- Paper work being done in majority of offices

④ Financial constraints by Grievance Redressal Cells

⑤ Poor infrastructure like lack of photocopier machines, internet connectivity

⑥ No monitoring to check if grievance redressal cell is functioning.

⑦ Decline in values of public service



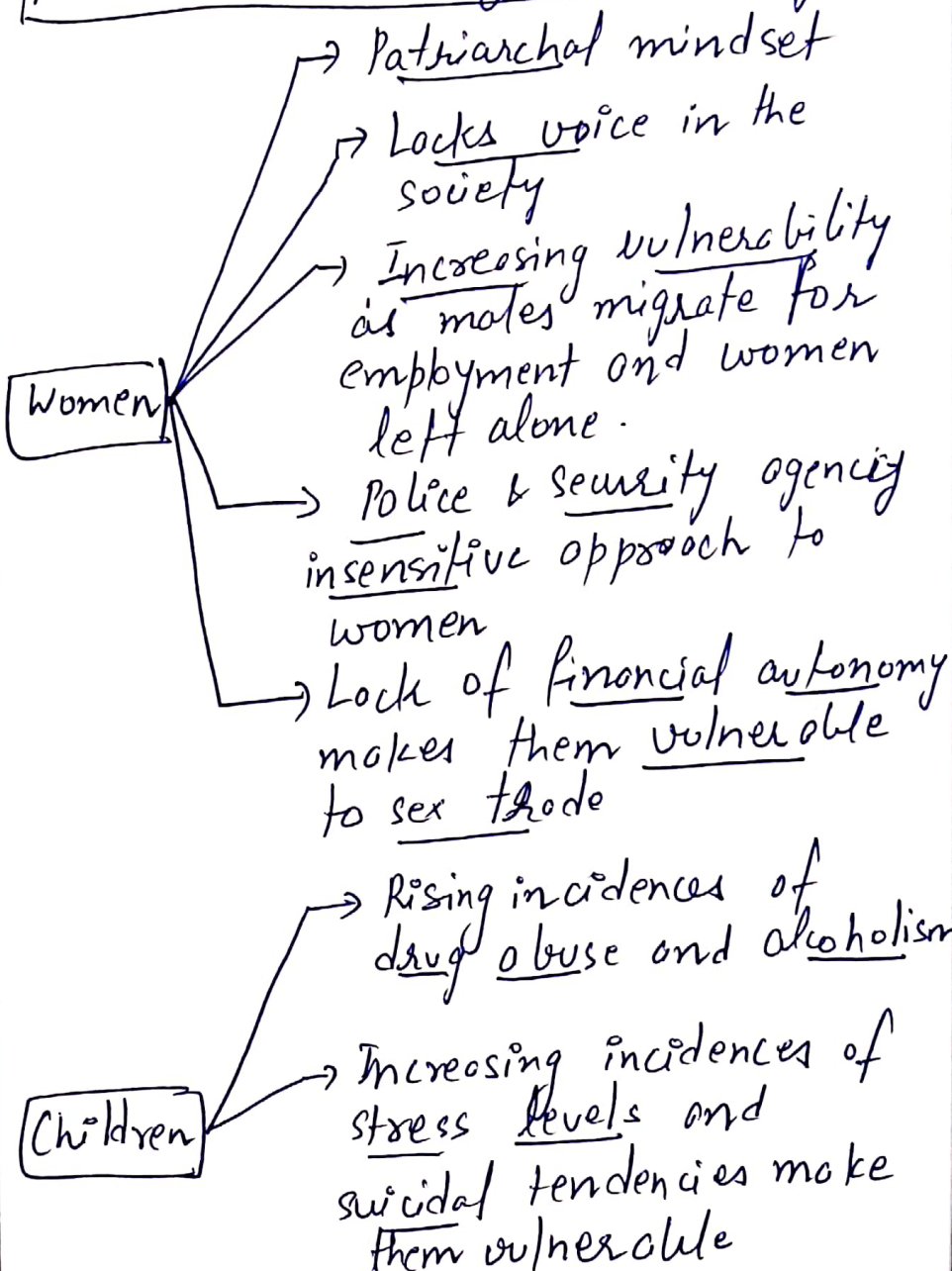
ARC considers Efficient Grievance Redressal as key to good governance

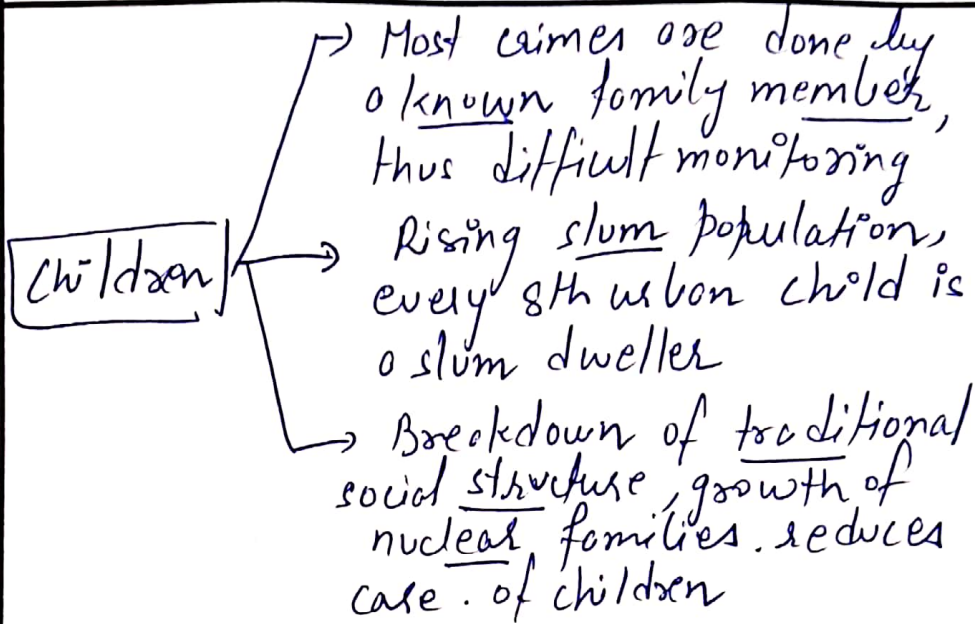
7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it.

(150 words) 10

As per NCRB, over 8000 cases of trafficking have been reported.

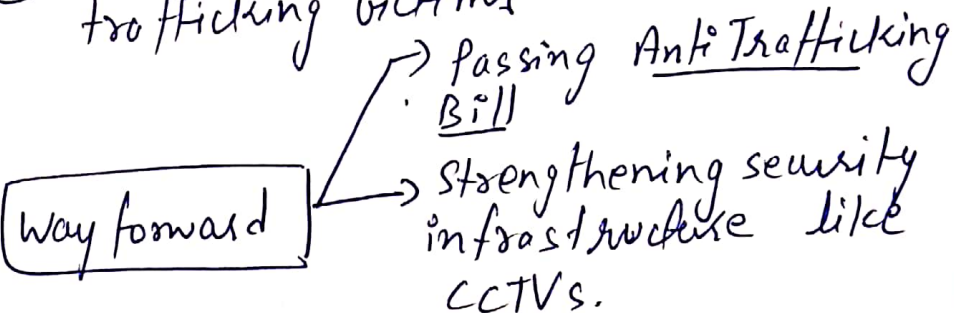
Factors contributing to Trafficking





Steps taken

- ① POSCO Act which criminalizes child trafficking
- ② Juvenile Justice Act
- ③ Vishakhia Guidelines to rehabilitate trafficking victims



checking Trafficking is a constitutional mandate under Article 23.

8. With Vector-Borne Diseases (VBDs) reaching epidemic proportions in India, highlight the factors that have led to their emergence. Also, suggest some measures for their effective control and management. (150 words) 10

Vector borne diseases include diseases like malasia, dengue which are transmitted by mosquitoes

Epidemic proportions

- India accounts for 6% of malasia cases
- Highest number of dengue in South Asia
- Increasing threats from Zika, Filario etc.

Factors
for
emergence

→ Poor disease surveillance

→ Unsanitary conditions
like open defecations
breeds mosquito

→ Rising threats from
climate changes

→ Poverty (24% population
below BPL) increases
vulnerability

→ Lack of awareness regarding
healthy practices

→ Low presence of Primary Health Centres.

(Some Measures)

- ① Mapping of disease prone areas will lead to better policy making
- ② Data collection on incidence of diseases
- ③ R&D investment for developing new treatments for VBD
- ④ Expanding Primary Health Care.
- Eg Ayushman Bharat provides for Health and Wellness Centres
- ⑤ Community involvement like Civil Society in disease monitoring
- ⑥ Making Health care cost effective through health insurance

Above steps will help India fulfill the mandate under SDG 3 (Health)

9. After years of neglect, rapidly evolving regional strategic realities are now forcing India and Indonesia to coordinate their policies ever more closely. Discuss. (150 words) 10

India and Indonesia are two littoral states surrounding the Indian Ocean

Years of neglect

- Indonesia moved towards USA and India towards USSR
- Issues ~~of~~ like Andaman dispute.

Rapidly evolving regional strategic realities are forcing them to coordinate

Evolving realities

- Threats from China's presence ~~on~~ in Indian Ocean
- Trade cooperation ~~through~~ ^{as} Indian Ocean becomes focal point
- Common groups like ~~As~~ RCEP
- Focus on Blue economy
- Converging views on maintaining freedom of Navigation adherence to international laws, checking sea piracy

Evidence of changing realities

- ① Indonesia gave access to Sabong port to India
- ② Increasing military & cooperation and exercises
- ③ Coordinating on trade talks in RCEP

Challenges remain

- ① Connectivity is a major issue
- ② Difficult to counter China's economic might
- ③ Historical distrust remains.
- ④ Diverging interests, as Indonesia is more concerned with Pacific Ocean countries unlike India.

Way forward

- India could invite Indonesia to BIMSTEC
- ~~Improving~~ undertaking joint projects in Indian Ocean
- People to people contacts, a form of soft power

India and Indonesia should collaborate for developing an Asian Century

10. Despite several attempts at resetting the ties, various barriers continue to be a cause of concern in the India-Nepal bilateral relations. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

India Nepal have a history of friendship through Friendship Treaty signed in 1940s, which allows Nepalis to work in India without permit.

Attempts at resetting ties

- India welcomed Nepal's new Constitution
- Indian PM visited Nepal on priority
- India to develop Aruna Hydro project in Nepal.

Barriers remain

- Nepal ignoring Indian interests like accepting China's BRI, new railway line linking China and Nepal
- Nepal rejected BIMSTEC participation in MLAN exercise.

Reasons for barriers

① Nepal is wary of India's Big Brotherly attitude

- ② Indian Blockade during Nepal's constitutional crisis created distrust
 - ③ Indian attitude of looking at Nepal from the prism of China hurt Nepal
 - ④ Overdependence of India has led to huge deficit for Nepal
 - ⑤ Nepal has a history of flooding China card
 - ⑥ Delay in completion of projects from Indian side has hurt Nepal's economic interests
 - ⑦ India unable to match China's economic pro prowess
- Steps
- SAARC could be used to regain trust
 - India should avoid interfering in internal affairs of Nepal, Panchsheel could be a guide.
 - More WhatsApp / contact

Nepal is an important pillar for India's "neighbourhood first" policy and we should maintain healthy relation

11. Delineate the differences between pressure groups and interest groups. Citing examples, elaborate on the ways in which pressure groups influence government decisions and policy making in India. (250 words) 15

Interest & Pressure Groups play a major role in the political discourse.

Pressure Groups

They include a group of like minded people who try to influence a policy

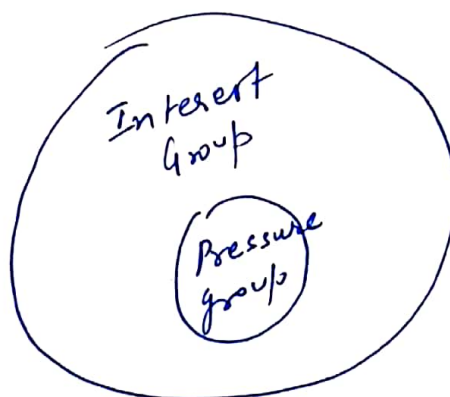
They are a smaller group

Example : Kisan Shakti Sangathan, FICCI, ASSOCHAM

Interest Groups

They are a larger group who are more concerned in protecting their interest over policy making

Interest Groups in a way include Pressure Groups

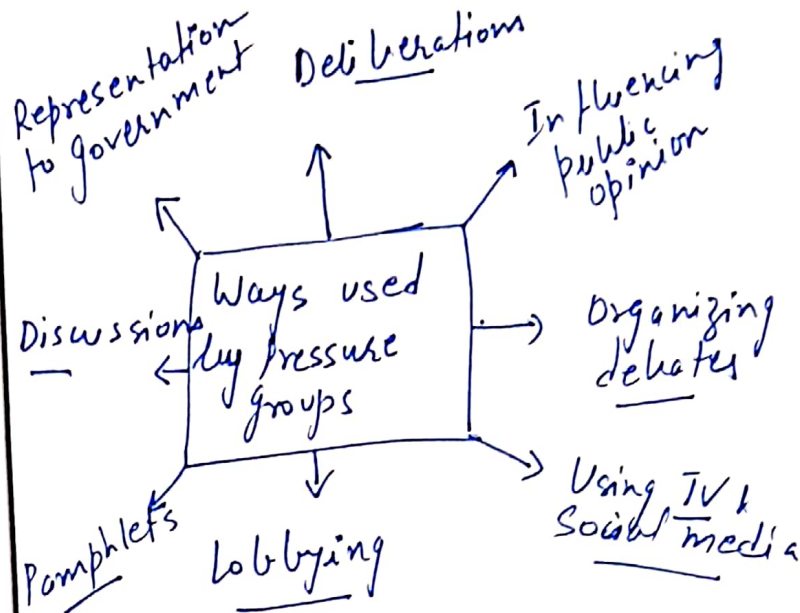


Pressure groups have influenced government decisions & policy making as

- ① They represent the voice of the people
- ② Example of grassroot democracy
- ③ Government is made accountable to the public.
- ④ They are a major vote bank
- ⑤ Genuine concerns have led to better laws

Example

- Mazdoor & Kisan Shakti Sangathan played a major role in getting RTI passed
- FICCI, representing business interests have led to Company Law's Act.
- Bombay Plan was a major force in India's socialist economic policy.
- Centre for Survival and Dignity (CSD) has been fighting for tribal rights and welfare



However, they have also resorted to negative actions like → Violence (Naxalism)
 → Unsympathetic capitalism
 • by libeling officials
 → Strikes & Protests which damage public property
 → Using Money & Muscle power

Pressure Groups are a manifestation of grassroot democracy & should be promoted in a peaceful manner

12. Highlighting the issues faced by the institutions of local self governance in India, suggest measures that can be taken to improve their effectiveness in the delivery of public goods and services at the grassroot level.

(250 words) 15

Local self government was started through 73rd & 74th Amendment Act. Panchayati Raj was established under 11th Schedule while Municipalities under 12th Schedule. They are important for democracy as

- Citizen Participation
- Grassroot Democracy (Gram Sabha)
- Tribal Rights (PESA)
- Women Empowerment (33% reservation)
- Law's made as per local condition

However, they suffer from several issue

Financial issues

Issues

- They depend on state funds for 95% of their income
- Panchayat's revenue collected is only 0.1% of rural per capita income
- Local government reliance on their own resources is only 8%.

Issues

- Corruption / Misappropriation of Funds
- Lack of expertise amongst elected representative to carry out development projects
- Panchayats suffer from caste Bias, eg Panchayat ordered Manoj-Bobbi killing
- Lack of coordination between block level and panchayat level plans
- States apathy, eg in UP, panchayats have not been devolved powers and they are totally dependent on Government
- Gender inequality, as women & sarpanch's husbands rule most of the time
- Women Sobhas are neglected in law making
- Many Tribals unrepresented in PESA areas

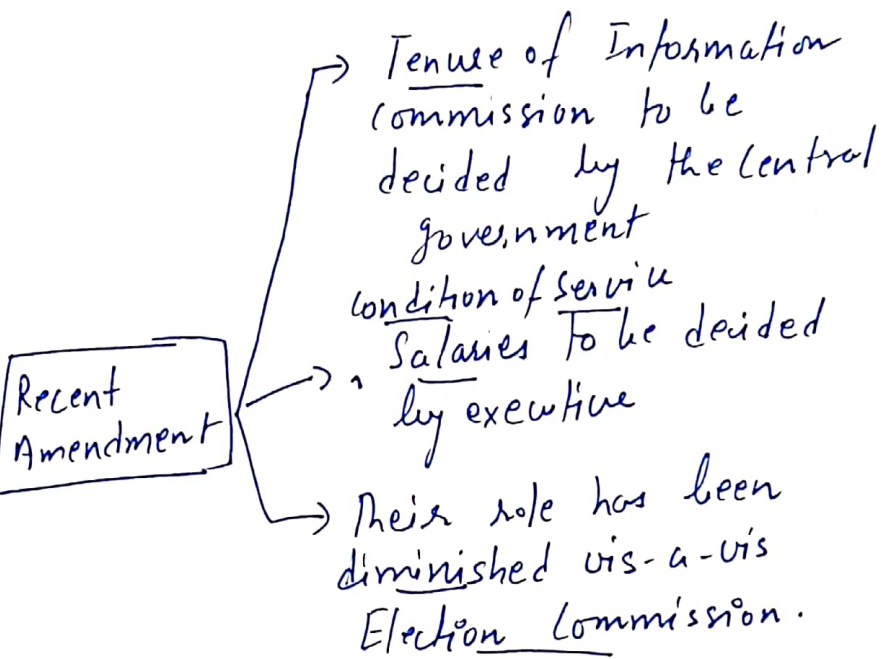
Measures which can be taken

- ① ARC recommends
 - Capacity Building of Elected Representatives
 - Sufficient devolution of power to enable them function as institutions of self government
- ② Strengthening the State Finance Commission on the lines of Central Finance Commission
- ③ Encouraging citizen participation through awareness
- ④ Municipalities could be strengthened by giving security of tenure to Mayor and more powers to undertake independent development

By above step, local government can truly serve the vision of decentralized governance / Jan Bhagidiri

13. The recent amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005 will weaken the act and undermine the authority of Information Commissioners. Discuss. (250 words) 15

RTI Act passed in 2005 was a step to fulfill the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19.



Recent amendment has issues

- ① Weaken the Act
- Government control might result in delays in appointment of IC
 - Give bureaucratic control
 - Lack of security of tenure will

mean that I.C cannot take bold decisions

- Make the information disclosure subject to government approval and government may refuse it as per its whims.
- Diminishes the Right to expression by non-disclosure of information as per government's will

② Weakens the institution

- Lack of authority by reducing its status compared to Election Commission means it will lack authority to enforce its decisions
- In India, considering hierarchy of authority, a superior authority is required to ~~get~~ extract information, which is lost with the amendment
- Also, C.I.C will become ~~more~~ ^{less} independent in its functioning and be at the mercy of Centre for funds and manpower

Will empower
authority as
well

Will become more accounta
-ble to the Parliament
and legislative scrutiny

Lapse in performance will
be a yardstick for the
voters to judge government
performance

Smooth functioning as will
reduce litigations in cases
where government refuses
information

Way forward

- ① ARC recommends capacity building of
PIOs, and regional offices of CIC
- ② Parliament Standing Committee
reviewing RTI Bill stated the need
for an independent CIC
- ③ RTI should be made constitutional

As ARC has said, RTI is the master
key to good governance

14. Highlight the process of delimitation in India. Also, throw light on the debates surrounding the delimitation exercise in India. (250 words) 15

Delimitation is the process of demarcating territories for the purpose of elections to Lok Sabha and State legislatures

Delimitation Exercise

- ① Delimitation Act, provides for a Delimitation Commission to carry out the task
- ② Its decisions are final and ^{not} subject to judicial scrutiny
- ③ The date for Delimitation has been set as per the 2001 census.
- ④ For delimitation, the State is divided into constituencies. The population of each constituency to the total population of the State remains the same for the States for election to Lok Sabha. State Assembly.
- ⑤ For Lok Sabha, the total seat allotted to the State on its population remains same for all states
- ⑥ Reservation on the basis of proportion of population

Debates

① Delimitation is incorrect as :-

- Population has increased drastically since the last census
- The Delimitation exercise does not take into account the changing dynamic like inter and intra state migration
- Differential allocation of seats have led to a culture of politically important and unimportant states.
eg UP is politically important over Goa or Manipur
- Further, Delimitation has increased the burden on MP's as MP per ratio of voters per MP have increased
- All voters are not given equal attention and has led to decreased voter turnout
- Absence of judicial scrutiny is against the principle of Judicial Review

(2) Delimitation is correct

- Fixing dates of older Census has helped in Population Control and we reached TFR 2.3
- Also, discrimination between states on the basis of population is justified as higher population states require greater resources & even constitution provides for the principle of Differential equality
- Further, capex delimitation on current Census will create issues like
 - ↳ Parliament does not have enough capacity to house more members
 - ↳ Will increase disruptions in Assembly
 - ↳ Huge manpower & financial lost for Delimitation

Way forward

- ARC recommends limited judicial scrutiny in such cases
- Equal votes for all states as in USA can be considered.

Delimitation exercise should be fair and address concern of all states

15. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are vehicles of rural development, which help in the upliftment of marginalized groups. Elucidate. Further, mention the constraints faced by SHGs and how they can be addressed. (250 words) 15

SHGs are defined as a group of 15-20 people who come together for mutual benefits, be it social or economic.

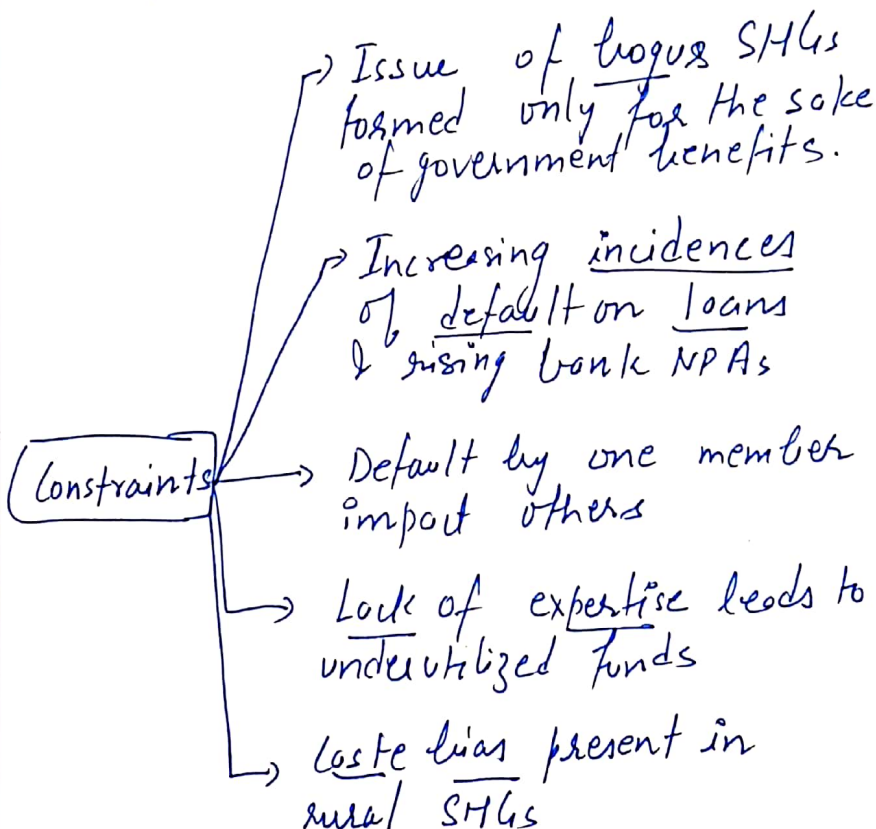
SHGs as vehicles of ^{rural} development

- ① They promote financial savings through pooling of money, thus encouraging financial inclusion
- ② Act as a social support in case of shocks like indebtedness
- ③ Better risk taking as burden is shared amongst members
- ④ Promotes entrepreneurship in fields of agriculture (agripreneurs) etc.

Upliftment of marginalized sections

- ① Women empowerment as more than 90% of SHGs are women held.

- ② Vulnerable communities pool their money, thus acting as insurance.
- ③ Increases collective voice of marginalized sections to fight against social injustice
- ④ Act as a pressure group on Panchayat for their upliftment
- ⑤ Avail government social welfare schemes for upliftment



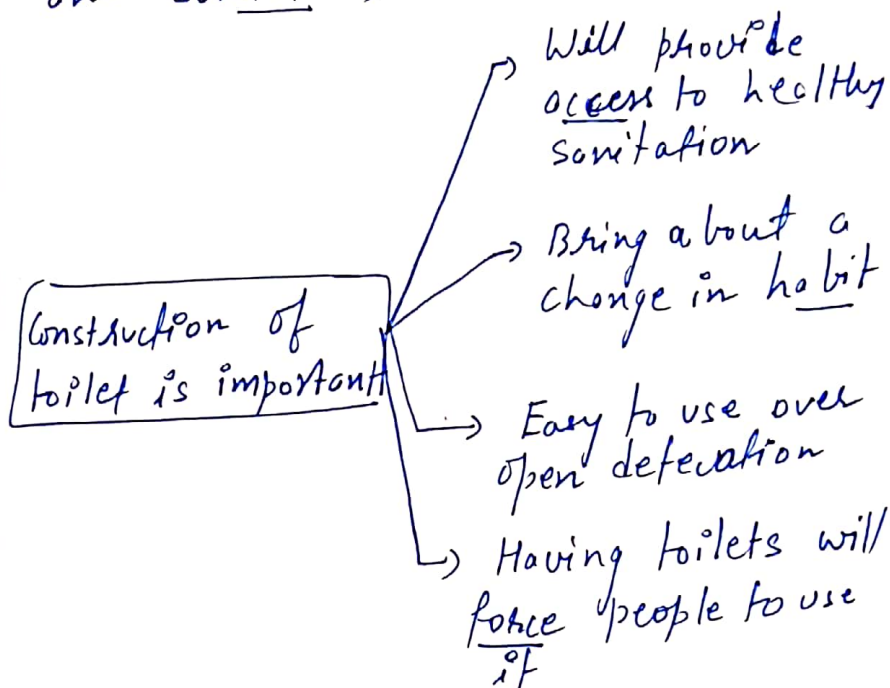
Certain measures

- ① ARC recommends capacity building of SHGs so that they could undertake development work
- ② Bank monitoring of funds for better utilization
eg. Bank linkage scheme of RBI & NABARD.
- ③ Rangarajan Committee recommended Joint Liability Groups to improve financial viability
- ④ Provision of collateral free ~~democracy~~ loans
- ⑤ Weeding out bogus SHGs by monitoring and online registration
- ⑥ Involving civil society and NGOs

SHGs are a major part in achieving SDGs related to poverty reduction and gender equality & should be promoted

16. With construction of toilets being only one part of the solution for a clean India, it is time that the Swachh Bharat Mission puts more emphasis on the other facets as well. Discuss. (250 words) 15

SBM was is a novel initiative to achieve the SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)



As per Rural Sanitation Survey, more than 90% of the the households have access to toilets. Also, more than 15 states have been declared ODF status.

Need to put emphasis of other facets to be

① Usage of toilets

- ~~into~~ Toilets are being converted to store houses
- CAG report also stated that many ODF status figures have inflated, and in reality, people still prefer open defecation

② Release of timely funds

- As per data, only 28% of SBM fund have been released
- This impacts progress

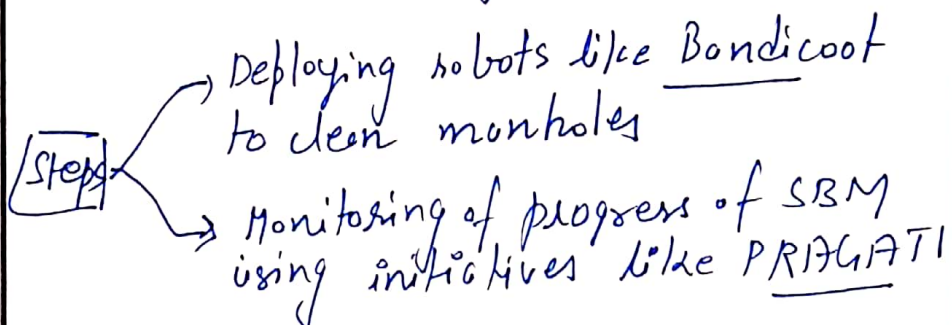
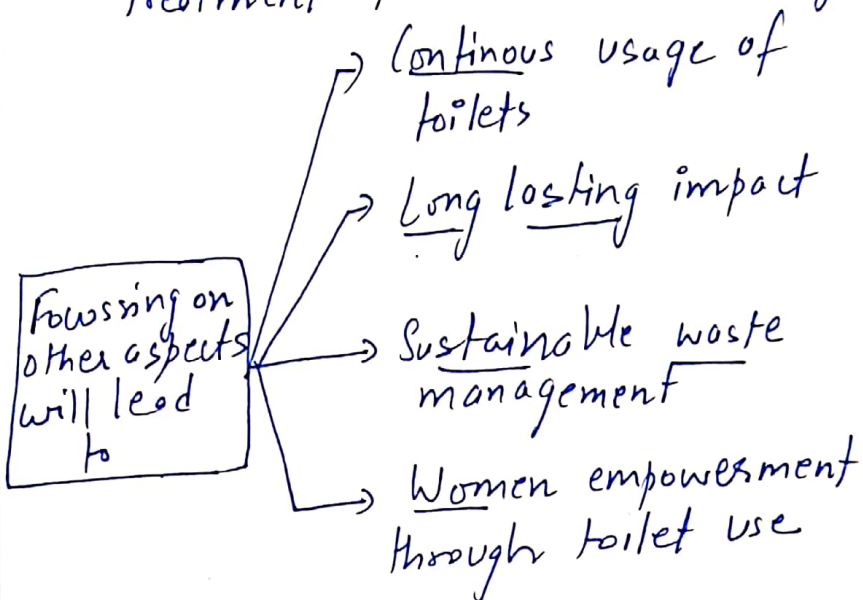
③ Eradication of manual scavenging

- As per NCSK, one manual scavenger dies every 5 day
- This shows a failure of SBM to focus on this aspect

④ Delivery of services like toilet repair, water connection etc.
to make sure that people use it continuously

(5) People needs to be 'nudged' towards toilet use by bringing about behavioural change as stated by Economic Survey

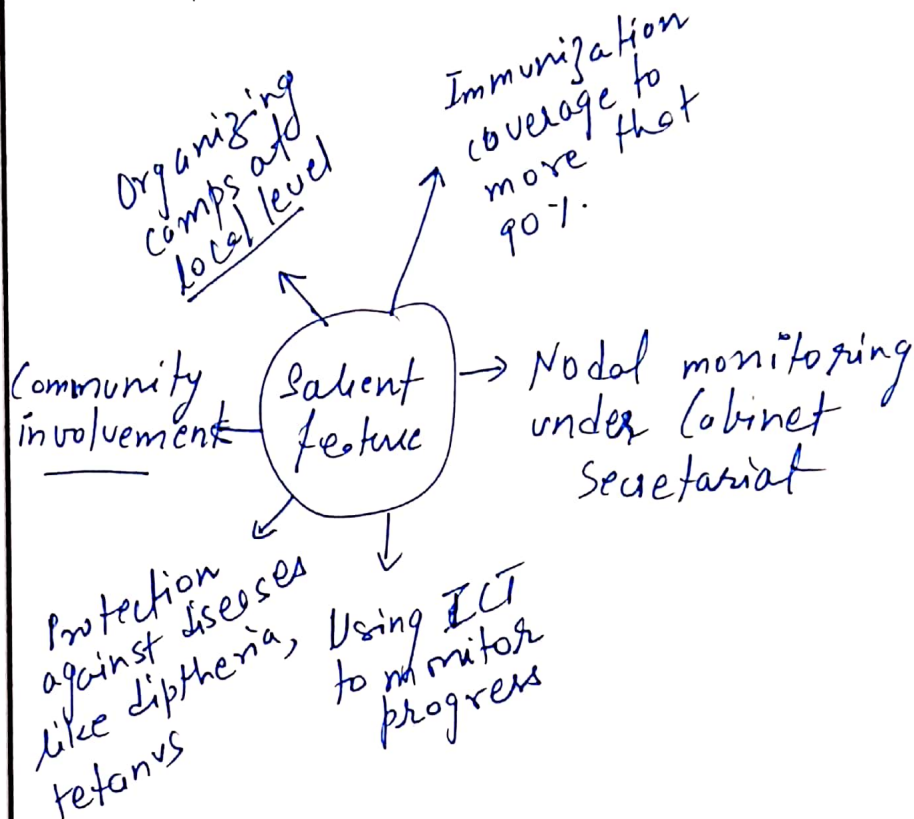
(6) Creation of supporting infrastructure
• As per CPCB, only $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of sewage Treatment plants are working.



These steps, while focussing on other aspects will lead to a healthy, ~~sanit~~ and clean sanitation

17. Highlight the salient features of Mission Indradhanush. What are the challenges that the mission is facing in its implementation? Suggest measures to address these challenges for progressing towards full immunization coverage. (250 words) 15

Mission Indradhanush was launched to improve immunization coverage



However, Mission suffers from several issues -

- ① Lack of awareness has led to low participation

- (2) Immunization camps are organized at odd hours, like office hours, which reduces turnout
- (3) suffers from financial crunch
- (4) Shortage of frontline workers, most states lack proper Primary Healthcare facilities
- (5) Lack of data to monitor the prevalence of diseases.
- (6) Organization camps are highly crowded, with poor crowd management, which deters many people
- (7) Lack of awareness amongst the citizens regarding the importance of immunization due to illiteracy
- (8) Improper monitoring at nodal level to check the status of immunization and outcomes
- (9) Hospitals & local centres lack patient health records, hence difficulty in tracking their immunization status

- Steps
- Decentralized monitoring through local governments
 - Using community health care providers will improve participation
 - separate fund to provide finance. An immunization cess could be levied
 - Nodal monitoring under PM using PRACTI
 - Awareness campaigns (like DOT campaign on TV) to increase awareness regarding importance of immunization

Above steps would fulfill our SDG 2
and ensure healthy India

18. Assess the importance of skilling in light of changing economic and demographic structure in India. In this regard, how far has the Skill India Mission succeeded in its mandate. (250 words) 15

Skilling means increasing the capacity of people to take up better paying jobs.

Importance of skilling

① Changing economic structure

- Growing economy (expected to be \$ 5 trillion) requires skilled youth to sustain the growth
 - Several Economic Surveys has emphasized on the importance of skilling
- Growing fields like AI, Big Data etc requires skilled youth to cope up
- Growing globalization requires skilling to compete with foreign nations
- Skilling is important for marginalized sections like women, else it will create inequality
- Skilling is required to cope with Automation

② Changing Demography

- Youth bulge needs skilling so that they can take up jobs. Else demographic dividend would turn in demographic ~~dividend~~ burden.
- Skilling is required to address the changing social structure like emigration and brain drain.

It is also required to check
inter state and intra state
migration

- Further, skilling is required to improve the condition of slums, where people live in poverty and there are high rates of crime.
- Skilling is also required to ensure meaningful employment for the old age population which is expected to increase to 173 million as per AgeWell Foundation.

Skill
India
has
succeeded

- Number of ITIs have increased by 5 times
- Over 19 lakh have been trained under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana

Skill India
has failed

- As per Sharada Committee, only 81% trained under NSDC got placements
- As per PFLS, 6.1% unemployment rate
- Recently, Tech Mahindra CEO commented that 90% IT graduates not employable
- Lack of industry-academia collaboration
- ITIs are of poor quality, low teacher ratio, no private participation

Skill India is necessary reap benefits of demographic dividend and should be improved through → Industry collaboration
→ Vocational training
→ Better courses

19. What according to you are the reasons that motivated India to create a dedicated Indo-Pacific division in the MEA recently? Also, highlight the challenges for India in the Indo-Pacific region. (250 words) 15

Indo Pacific counta regions includes countries bordering indian and Pacific Oceans and has gained new traction due to changing geo-economic dynamics.

Reasons for dedicated Indopacific division

① Security Concerns

- Threat from China
- New emerging challenges in the form of Pakistan increasing naval presence, or growing North Korean threat
- Threats from rising terrorism like Saudi Wahabism
- Threats like Sea piracy

② Growing trade

- More than 80% of oil trades pass through Indian Ocean chokepoints.

° Indian investments in the region
like ONGC in Vietnam

③ Growing Regional Blocs

- Quad grouping of USA, India, Japan & Australia
- ° RCEP, ASEAN

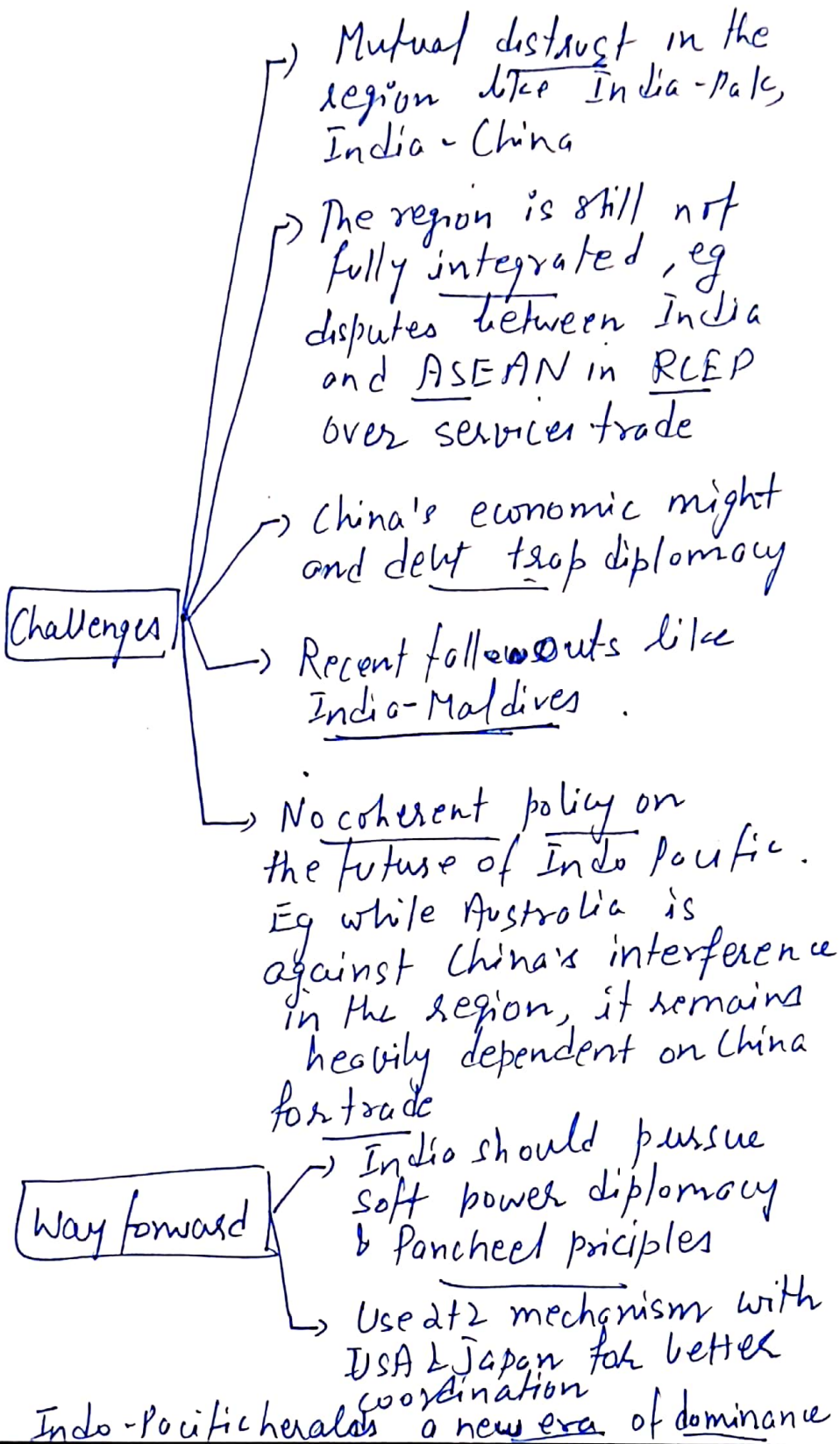
④ Rising Western Interest

- USA renamed its Pacific Command as INDO-PACOM and ^{looks} ~~requested~~ at India to ~~be~~ as a major partner

⑤ ~~Exp~~ Growing Indian interests like
"Act East Policy", "Asia Africa growth
Corridor", "Chabahar port".

Further, India has been demanding
entry to ~~APEC~~ APEC

⑥ New fields of interest like
Blue Economy, energy security
as there are huge oil deposits,
polymetallic nodules etc



20. For SCO to become a successful regional grouping, it has to overcome bilateral differences between its members and their respective geopolitical calculations. Comment. Also, discuss the role that SCO can play in enhancing India's interest in the Eurasian region. (250 words) 15

SCO is a political-military grouping of nations like → India
→ China
→ Pakistan
→ Russia
→ Central Asian like Kazakhstan

Bilateral differences

- ↳ India-China, like Doklam
- ↳ India-Pakistan ~~like~~ over terrorism
- ↳ India Russia, over Russia's growing inclination to China

Overcoming differences is needed

- ① Lead to better co-ordination between nations
- ② Better trade opportunities
- ③ Regional peace
- ④ Better cooperation on terrorism using bodies like RATS.

- ⑤ Mutual trust between India and Pakistan, China
- ⑥ Lead to joint actions and put forward regional issues in the UN to counter Western Hegemony

SCO's role in enhancing Indian interests in Eurasia

Positive
role

- Lead to regional stability ~~that~~ which has a spillover on Kashmir trade
- Open up Eurasian economies necessary for our energy security
- Complement our initiatives like INSTC and Ashgabat agreement
- Counter Chinese dominance
- Eurasian economies provide huge potential for services & agricultural export
- Areas like Kazakhstan are rich in minerals needed for our manufacturing sector

- Negative role**
- India may lose strategic autonomy and have to abide by SCO directions
 - Bilateral disputes can impact Indian investment in the region
 - SCO has an imbalance of power, as China & Russia are permanent UN members while rest are non-permanent
 - China's dominance may impact India's role in Eurasia
 - SCO will also fail in providing easy entry to Eurasia countries as they are landlocked

SCO has huge potential to help us expand our scope in Eurasian region and requires trust-building & mutual cooperation.