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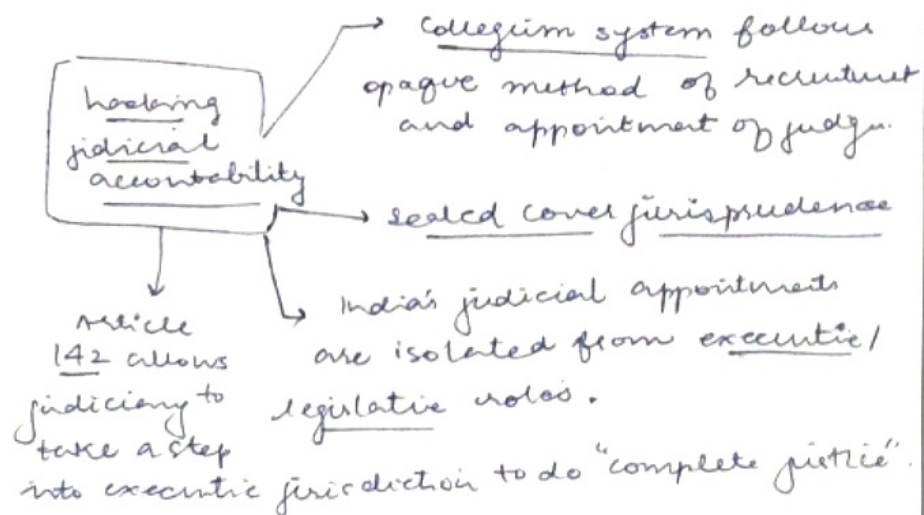
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Q1.

India's judiciary has often come under question regarding its opaque nature and lack of transparency.



Need for New Law to Enforce Judicial Accountability

- ① Judiciary is a pillar of democracy and justice needs to be "seen" to be done.
- ② Collegium system has scope for favoursitism, nepotism and bias.

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② Citizens have a right to information under RTI Act 2005 and since judiciary is government body, the same should apply to it.

Arguments
Against Law
of Judicial
Accountability

→ Article 50 separates powers of executive & judiciary. This also struck down 99th Constitutional Amendment of NJAC.

→ Judicial autonomy needs to be conserved to ensure free and fair judicial ruling.

Thus, a fine balance needs to be secured between the doctrine of separation of powers and the need for checks and balances in an accountable democracy.

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Q2.

Since the inception of the Constitution, Fundamental rights (FRs) and directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) have often been at loggerheads.

Why the struggle between FR and DPSP?

whereas DPSPs are promoters of state action, FRs are limits on state's actions. So they inevitably clash.

Reconciling FRs and DPSPs

1) Champakam Dorairajan Case and 1st constitutional Amendment Act.

9th Schedule vs. Article 31 (private property)

↓

Zamindari Abolition Act for socio-economic justice as per DPSP.

2) Shankari Prasad Case ^{gave} ~~made~~ Parliament the power to amend FRs for purpose of DPSP implementation.

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3) Golaknath Case made the FR supreme and non-amendable. after 24th Constitutional Amendment Act resulted in Art 19(b) and (c) being "greater than" Articles 14 and 19.

4) Kesavananda Bharti Case established basic structure doctrine that ensured Parliament can change FRs but without having the basic fundamentals of the constitution.

5) Minerva Mills Case established due process of law as a means of judicial review to ensure the doctrine of proportionality was followed in DPSP.

Thus, a fine balance between FRs and DPSPs was established over the years and continues to be maintained today.

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The Prime Minister's Office is a body that holds all those individuals and organizations that are of high importance. It is effectively the first line of action stemming from the Prime Minister.

functions of
PMO

- Top level discussions are done here.
- centralized decision making.
- manages and controls various bodies like the Atomic Energy Commission
- handles top-level security-related, space-related and cyber-related matters.

Role of PMO in shaping Policy making

① positive Role

② enhances quick decision-making.

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- ③ allows for centralized and undelayed response to emergency situations.
- ③ no unnecessary delay due to long discussion process as in Parliament
- ③ top-down action with immediate results.
- ③ PM has a small body of close associates for discussion; removes arbitrariness.

② Negative Role

- ③ inadequate oversight / discussion
- ③ may lead to despotic / dictatorial rule.
- ③ undermines representative and participative democracy
- ③ Rash decision-making / fanaticism & bias.

PMO is thus a powerful decision making body that could prove to be a boon or a bane depending on its use.

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Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is the sedition clause that calls for punishment for anyone who incites violence against the state.

Need for Re-examination of Sec. 124A

1. "chilling effect" of sedition law on Right of Expression (Article 19)
2. other nations have decriminalized it
eg: UK, USA, etc.
3. misuse of the law by political agents

Need for Balance between Civil liberty
[and India's Sovereignty]

1. Sedition law in itself is not a wrong because Article 19(2) provides for reasonable restriction on 19(1)(a)
i.e. freedom of speech & expression.

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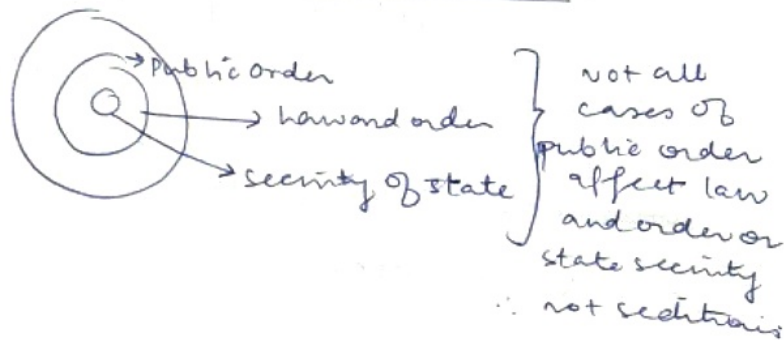
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2. According to Kedar Nath Singh Judgment,
sedition as a law does not need to be
removed. Instead it is the onus of
the state to ensure that any act of
strong speech against state is not interpreted
as sedition.

3. Need to differentiate between :



Thus, Sedition law can contrive -
as per Law Commission report - but its
use must be tempered by the Doctrine
of Proportionality to ensure that
civil liberties are not over-hauled
for state sovereignty purposes.

95.

Citizen participation is the inherent
of people in governance mechanisms
like e-governance to enhance social
outcomes.

Citizen Participation in e-Governance

1. This could mean civil society
engagement and contribution to
data collection / registry of beneficiaries /
service delivery.
2. It also involves grievance redressal
through active feedback provision.
3. Using e-governance channels for
service access, etc.

These methods can enhance success
of e-governance initiatives in rural
India.

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1) participation in e-Gram swaraaj can enhance role of Gram Panchayats and local governance.

2) One Nation one Ration Card, Jam tindy and online payment through creation of bank account can enhance scheme outcomes like -

- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
- PM KISAN
- PM POSHAN, ICDS, etc.

3) Grievance redressal through CPGRAMS and online RTI filing can ensure doorstep delivery of services and information.

4) SWAMITVA, supporting government in drone-based land monitoring can ensure propertied citizens.

5) Agricultural output enhancement using AI, drones can be improved through help of farmers.

Thus, e-governance becomes truly citizen-centric when people are directly involved - as per 2nd ARC.

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Q6.

Aspirational District Programme was introduced as a scheme to upgrade 123 districts across the nation in various socio-economic indicators like health, education, sanitation, etc.

Successes
of Aspirational
District Programmes

- Provision of social infrastructure like schools, hospitals
- Improvement in various indicators like waste management, tap water connection
- Focus on cluster area development.
- Cooperative and competitive federalism encouraged.
- Focus on cities along with AMRUT, Smart Cities Project, etc.

The programme gave an impetus to equitable and sustainable growth and encouraged the introduction of Aspirational Blocks Programme in 2023-24 budget.

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Some challenges persist:-

- (i) underperforming districts due to lack of oversight and lethargic bureaucracy
- (ii) water management continues to be a challenge.
eg: Yamuna floods in Delhi,
Bangalore + Mumbai floods.
- (iii) pollution and waste continue to clog cities.
- (iv) Inadequate integration with supply side eg: industry activity is at odds with the project.

There is a need to realign the concept of Aspirational District to a holistic and integrated approach of mission Lift [Lifestyle for Environment], for adequate outcomes.

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97.

Technology is the most recent and most useful tool of the 4th Industrial Revolution. It can be harnessed by NGOs to enhance their outcomes.

Role of Technology for NGO sector

1. use of social media to gain recruits, volunteers and spread their message.
2. use of social media campaigns to gather crowdfunding and other local resources and ensure stability.
3. use of blockchain technology for effective, leakage-free service delivery.
4. Using websites for feedback and grievance redressal.
5. Use of drone technology / AI / IoT to gather data / collate data to reach potential beneficiaries.

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6. Using technology to upgrade their
product / interface.

7. Reach out to other NGOs for sharing
of best practices through networking.

Simultaneously, technology can be
misused for money laundering, exploit-
ation of people, etc. This must be
avoided.

Technology can prove to be a tool
for rapid growth of the NGO sector
towards efficient and effective service
delivery in a citizen-centric model.

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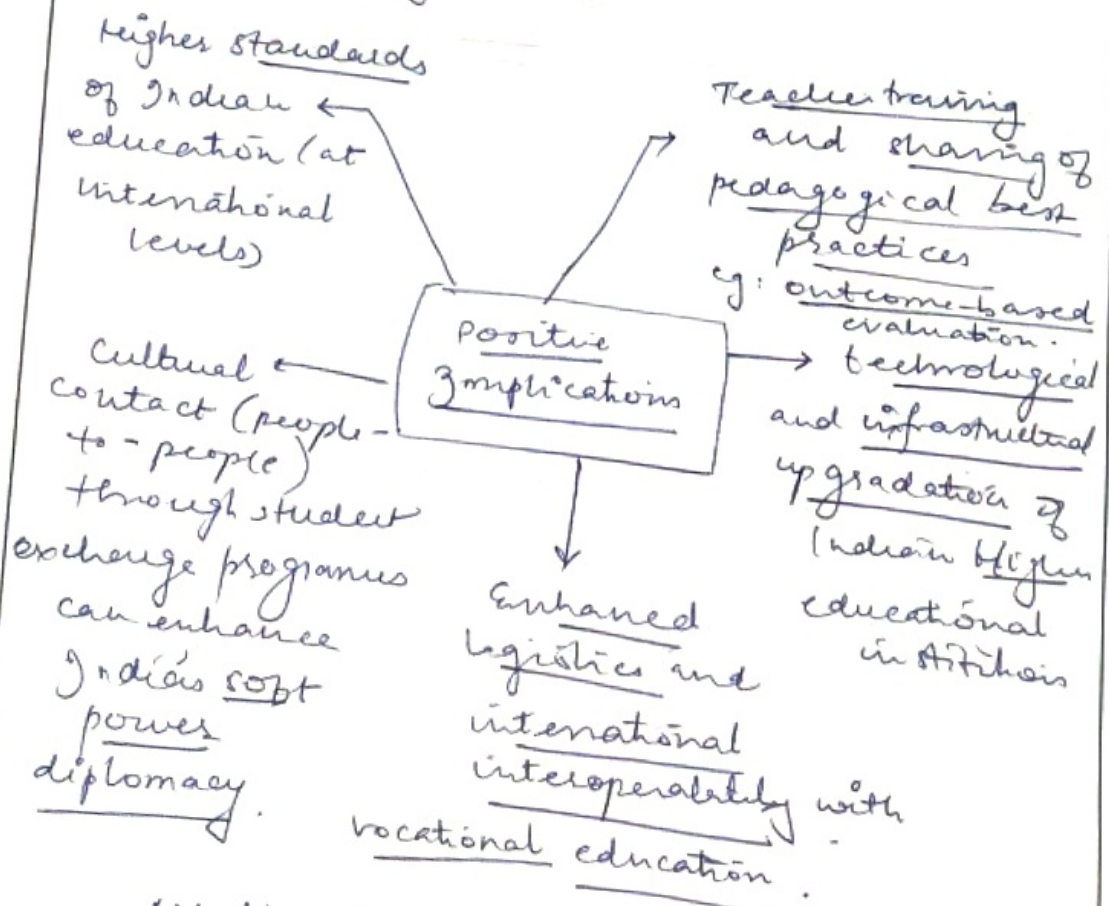
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Q8.

Foreign Educational institutions were introduced into the Indian education system by a notification by the University Grants Commission (UGC) recently. This move has advantages as well as some challenges.



All these measures can make India a preferred destination for higher education in the near future.



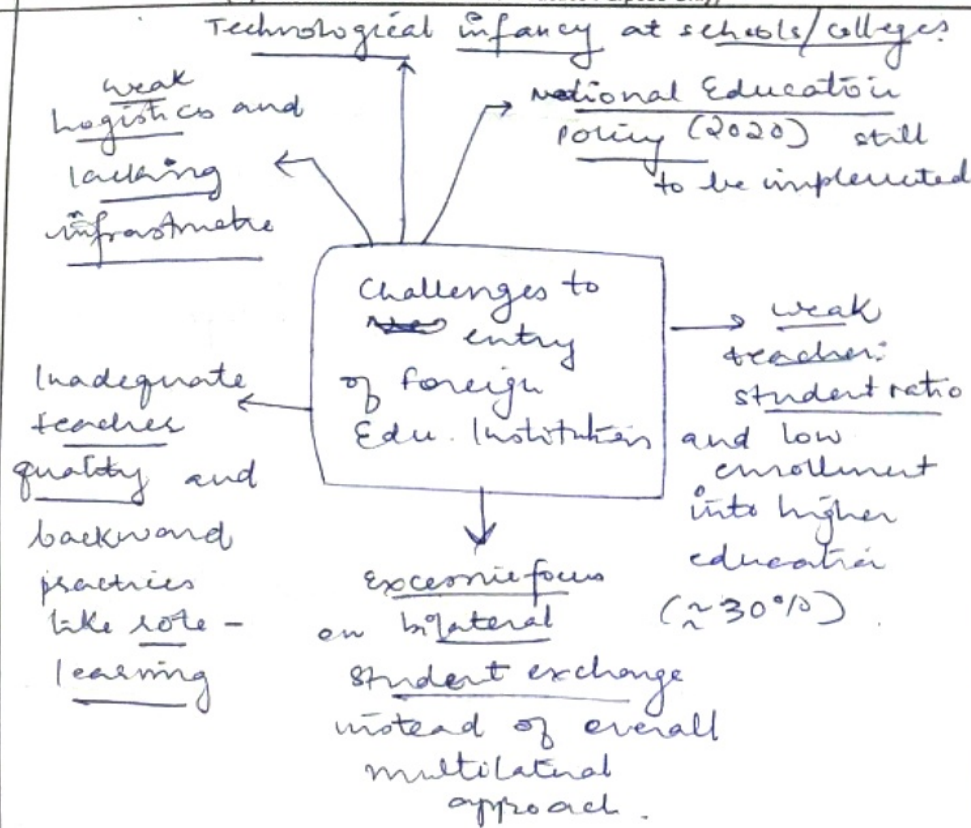
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Thus, though foreign university entry can help India revolutionize higher education, more needs to be done to ensure SDG 4 is truly achieved in spirit.

Q5

Latin America refers to all nations in Central and South America like Brazil, Argentina, Chile as well as Dominican Republic, etc.

Relationship Between India (and Latin America):

- 1) Trade is steadily increasing with this region as costs of shipment fall.
- 2) South-South Cooperation in contexts of :
 - ① Cultural contact and soft power (G20).
 - ② UN^{SC} Permanent Membership: Brazil and India both vying for seat.
 - ③ climate justice and separation from the global North.
 - ④ Non Aligned Movement in context of Russia-Ukraine War.

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3) Energy and resources alternative for India:

① lithium triangle i.e. Chile, Bolivia, Argentina.

② oil, Venezuela

③ minerals and forest resources of Brazil can ensure energy security and carbon neutrality by 2070.

4) Collaboration ^{on} ~~of~~ disaster management as part of CDR, etc.

5) Paradiplomacy (Uttar Pradesh and Brazil diplomacy) along with currency swap arrangements.

Thus, India's foreign policy now encompasses Latin America as a major partner in global matters of peace, power and politics.

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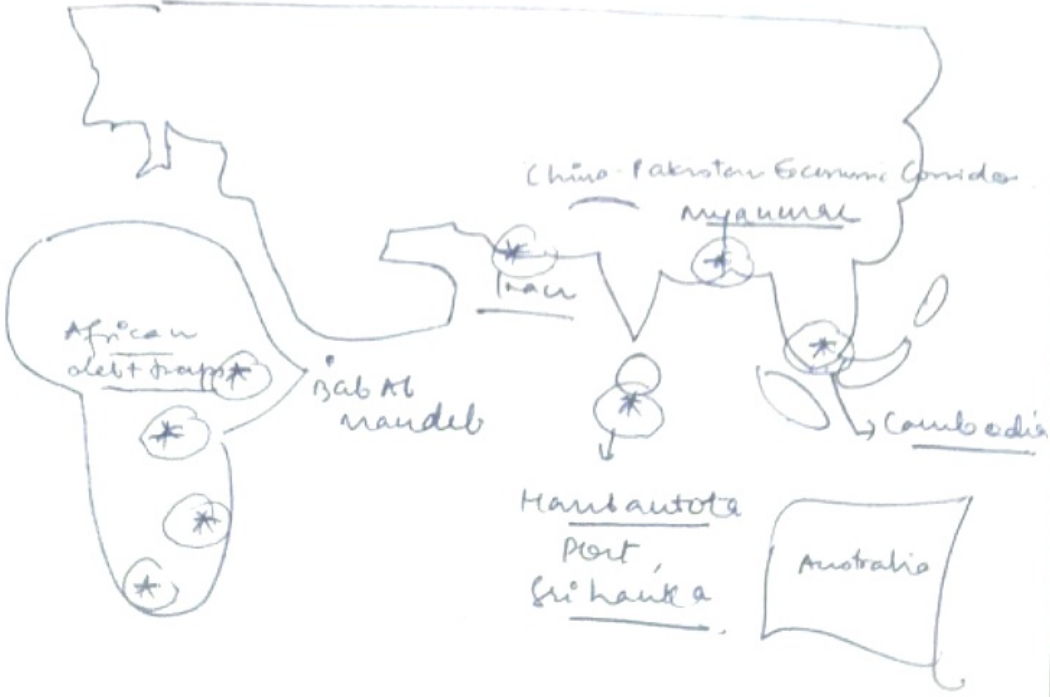
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910.

Debt-trap diplomacy is a method by which a nation provides excessive loans to a developing country for funding its growth. This ends up making the country dependent and indebted to the original nation which can then exploit this upper hand.

China's Debt Trap Diplomacy * Regions



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China provides funds to underdeveloped nations. Then, in the name of repayment it gets the right to build ports/cities in those regions and established its presence. This creates economic, political and defense challenges for India.

Impact on India's Interest

1. Greater militarization of Chinese ports in neighboring countries creates threat of attack. [security and growth]
2. String of Pearl / Nine Dash Line leads to surrounding of India from all sides. [defense challenge].
3. Dependence on China reduces India's economic leadership position in the Indo Pacific. and geopolitical

At the same time India's friendly diplomacy through soft loans acts as a contrast to China's warrior-word diplomacy and thereby attracts India's neighbours to India as a leader.

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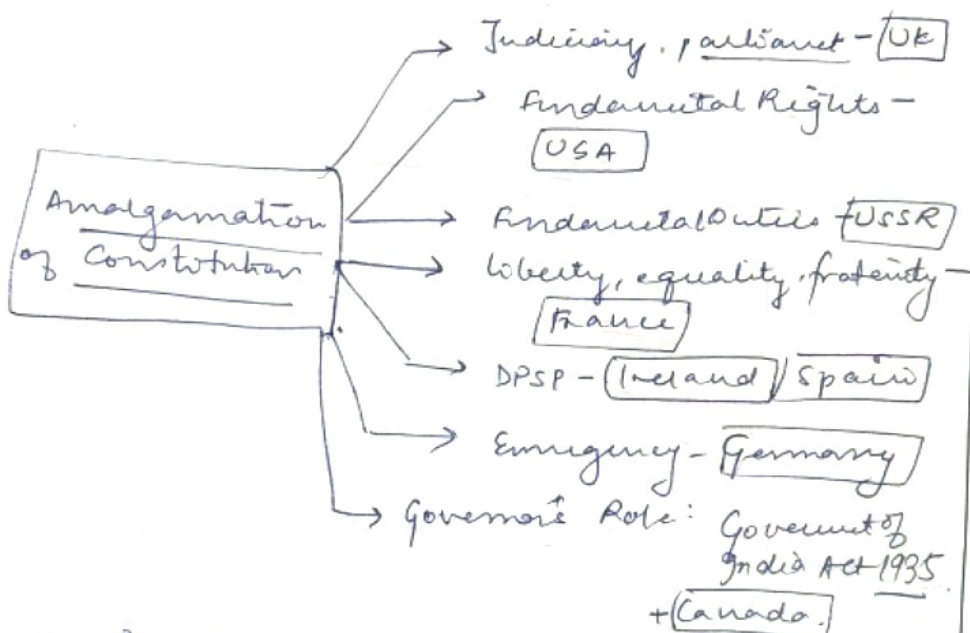
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Q1.

The Indian Constitution is the longest written Constitution of the world, created after cherry-picking and refining the best portions of Constitutions across the world.



Despite being a product of so many Constitutions the Indian Constitution inherits:

④ Social Justice : "Socialist Republic"

① Preamble calls for equality of opportunity

② Article 14 (Right to Equality) ensures

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Rule of Law $\begin{cases} \rightarrow \text{equal protection of law} \\ \rightarrow \text{equality before law.} \end{cases}$

- ① DPS Article 38 and 39 ensure socio-economic equity and justice through welfare state.
- ② Fundamental Rights Articles 15(4) and 16(4) provide for reservation for socio and educational backward classes (SC and ST).
- ③ Fundamental Duty (Article 51A) provides for respect for women.

② Pluralism

- ① Preamble states India is a "secular" country [Indian concept of secularism].
- ② Articles 25-28 provide for religious freedom.
- ③ Article 29-30 ensure cultural and educational rights and minority rights.
- ④ Schedules 5 and 6 provide for ST and SC safeguards.
- ⑤ Linguistic plurality through Schedule 8 - 22 official languages, no national language.

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③ Equality

① Article 14

→ Equal protection of law
→ equality before law

② substantive equality through reservation
(even in promotions 16(5)) for EWS,
backward classes etc.

③

Thus, the Constitution of India may
be a combination of those across the
world but it has been refined to fit
the uniquely Indian context of unity in
diversity.

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Q.12.

Recently, criminalization of marital rape was brought before the ~~Supreme~~ court for providing a legal mechanism to safeguard human rights. However, concerns regarding the privacy of the marital institution were raised.

Need for criminalizing Marital Rape

- 1) Marital Rape is the most cruel of all forms of harassment because it is legitimized by the institution of marriage.
- 2) Victim is under greater trauma because she must face the perpetrator of the crime daily and live with him.
- 3) Women's rights and the call for UNDHR to apply, along with Istanbul Convention.

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- 4) It is closely linked to domestic violence.
- 5) spillover impact on children and mental wellbeing of the family.

Challenges in Criminalization of marital Rape:

- 1) misuse of the law by women for purpose of monetary benefit.
- 2) Burden of proof is difficult to establish.
- 3) SC stated that the institution of marriage is considered sacred in India. This law may interfere with this fundamental institution.
- 4) other mechanisms like divorce already exist.
- 5) Implementation challenge due to inadequate means of surveillance / investigation.

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6) Lack of political will to change the status.

Thus, various political, social and institutional challenges act as impediments to this step forward. The Uniform Civil Code under Article 44 can prove to be a change in this respect and help women ensure their dignity and choice as per Article 21 and SDG 5.

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413

Indian model of federalism is that of
a "quasi-federal" state where there are
both Centre and state constituents but
the system is centrally tilted.

Centralizing Tendencies of Indian Federalism:-

- 1) Constitution does not mention "federal"
anywhere - indicating unitary tilt
- 2) Emergency powers put state legislative &
executive in Parliament's hands
eg: Article 365, 356.
- 3) Governor's powers under Article 63 allowing
reservation of bills for President's review,
recommendation of Emergency (President's
Rule).
- 4) Concurrent list (Schedule 7) subjects
allow for central law to override state
law in case of clash.



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5) Union Territory provision = for direct control.
eg: New Delhi: National Capital Territory
Governance Ordinance

Contestation between
Lieutenant Governor and elected MLAs
in matter of appointment of civil servants

Despite these tendencies, there is also
adequate space and autonomy
given to states.

Federal features

- 1) State list under Schedule 7 for state jurisdiction.
- 2) State Election Commission conducts state's local elections autonomously.
- 3) Spending and revenue under state Finance Commission.
- 4) Principle of Harmonious Construction provides for a favourable reading of clashing laws that combines both Centre & State laws to make them work constructively.



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5) Principle of subsidiarity calls for autonomy and self-governance as far as possible.

6) Cooperative federalism and various bodies like Zonal Councils, Interstate Council (Article 263), etc.

Thus, unitary features are not an impediment to federalism in India. They are a mechanism to ensure unity of the holding-together federation. Commissioners like Punchhi, Sarkaria and ARC can enhance India's federal nature through recommendations of collaboration and healthy competition.

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914.

Recently, the Supreme Court recommended a new ^{method} ~~form~~ of electing the Chief Election Commissioner and ECs.

Collegium for appointment
2
CEC/ECs

- 1) Prime Minister
- 2) Leader of Opposition
in Lok Sabha
- 3) Chief Justice of India

Fundamental change :

- ① Brings objectivity to body ~~of~~ nominating the CEC/ECs.
- ② creates transparency in process.
- ③ introduces element of legislature, executive and judiciary combined.

This judgement has far reaching implication for ECI, and elections in India.



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1. Reduced bias in nomination.
2. Balanced mechanism of recommendation can reduce favoursitism / nepotism.
3. Sets the stage for clarifying the merit on which CEC / EC is recommended.
4. Reduces opportunity for favours (by CEC) and therefore encourages
 - impartiality
 - independence and autonomy
 - absence of bias in working of ECI.
5. Ensures reduced bias even in Delimitation procedure (under article 82)
6. Promotes fair elections and freedom from political interference.

Appointments are just one step towards beforeing the ECI. There is a need for:

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- defining CEC/EC requirements / qualifications
- permitting ~~parallel~~ lateral entry
- defining tenure and preventing re-recruitment to ensure independence of the body.

This step is an essential one towards free and fair elections and can have long-lasting impacts on India's electoral institution.

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1915.

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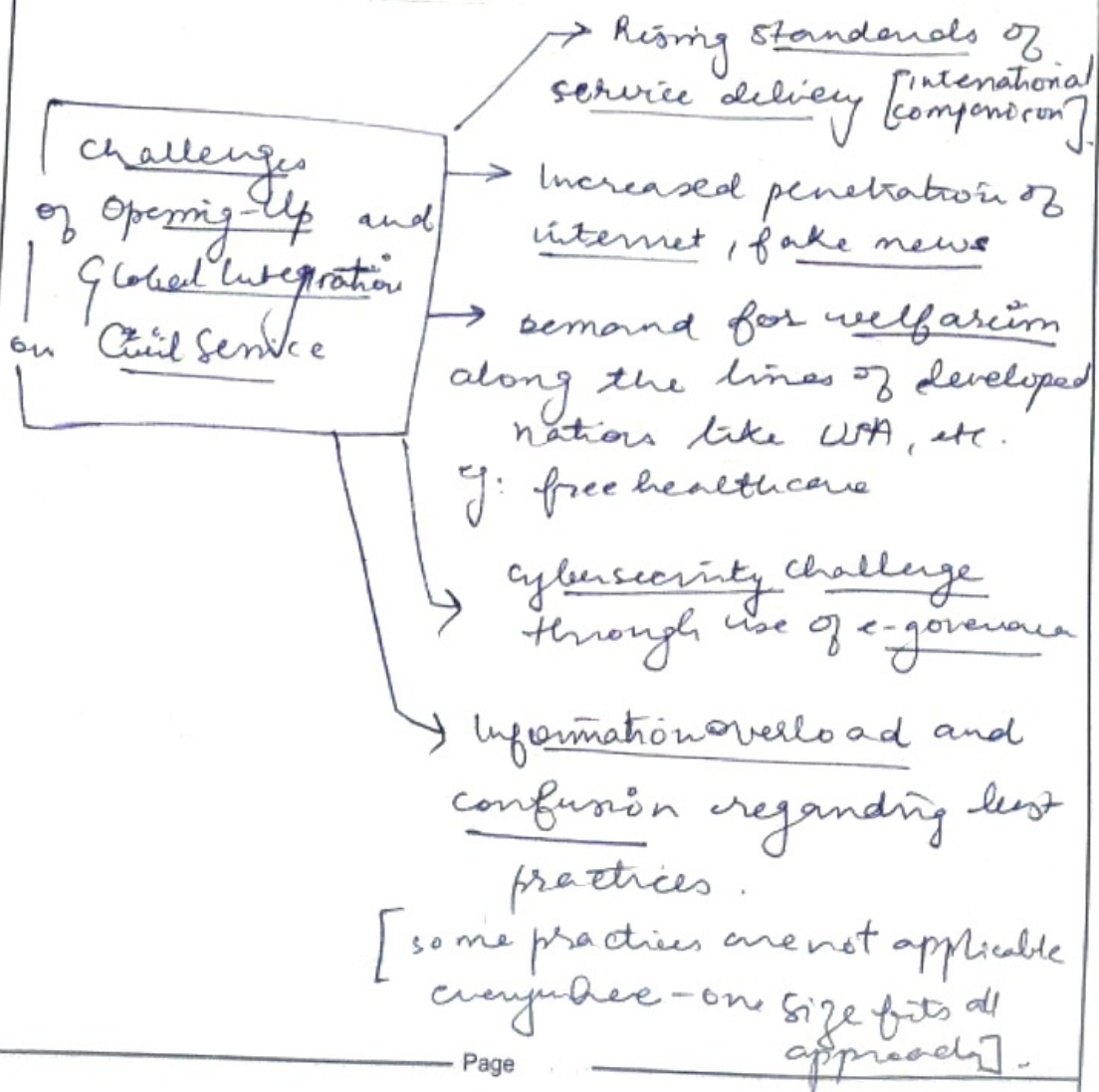
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Q15.

Globalization has opened up both opportunities as well as challenges for civil services. Reforms and affirmative action can help reach conclusions and solutions for the same.



Page

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Need for Holistic Reforms for Efficient Service Delivery :

- 1) There is a need to understand that "one size fits all" approach is wrong. developed and developing nations have different systems.
- 2) Learning from similar nations :
eg: Brazil's Healthcare system of universal coverage.
eg: Italy's universal social security
- 3) Adoption of new age technology for beneficiary identification & efficient delivery eg: use of blockchain technology.
- 4) need to counteract false news by using social media to spread correct news and raise awareness.

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5) Use of citizen's charter, grievance redressal
forums for feedback-based growth.

Civil Service must strive to change
with the times through programmes like
Karmayogi to ensure citizen centric
governance as per 2nd ARC.

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Q/c

recently, India's leadership of the G20 has released a declaration that calls for better use of digital public infrastructure for governance.

Role of Open Data in E-Governance in India

- 1) Interoperability of ministries, Departments in scheme implementation.
- 2) Collation of data to find and map most vulnerable localities and hence ensure service delivery.
- 3) Reduce corruption & leakage through proactive display of data to the public.
- 4) Enhance trust and mutual cooperation [Government to people relations] for better outcomes.

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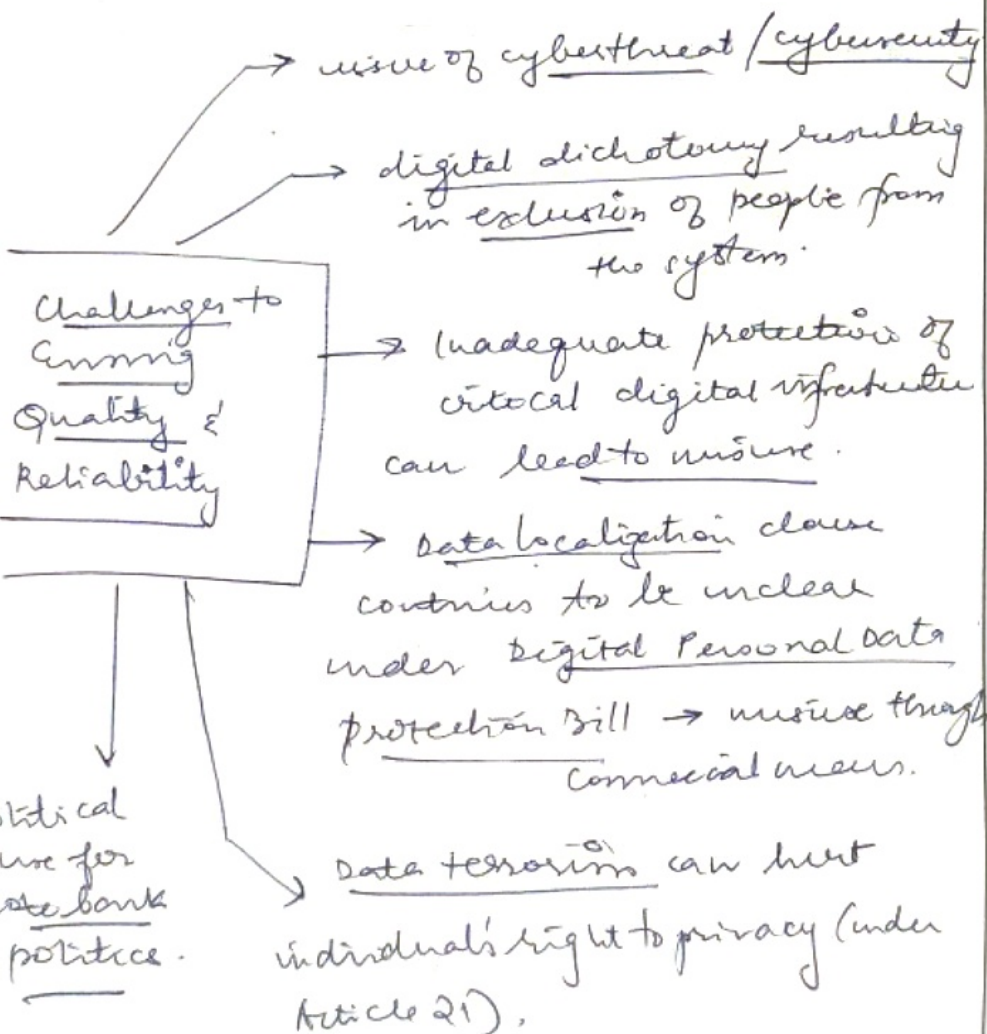
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- 5) weeding out of ghost beneficiaries.
- 6) zetter investigation of leakages/nepotism of funds can cure administrative lethargy.
- 7) Right to Information of Citizens is enormous
↳ key to good governance as per ^{2nd} ARC.



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किसी भी चीज
को लिखना नहीं
है।

Thus, ^{open} data may be a futuristic
measure for enhanced governance
but safeguards are not yet in place
to ensure high quality, usable data.
The current aim should be equitable
digitization and sustainable cyber growth.



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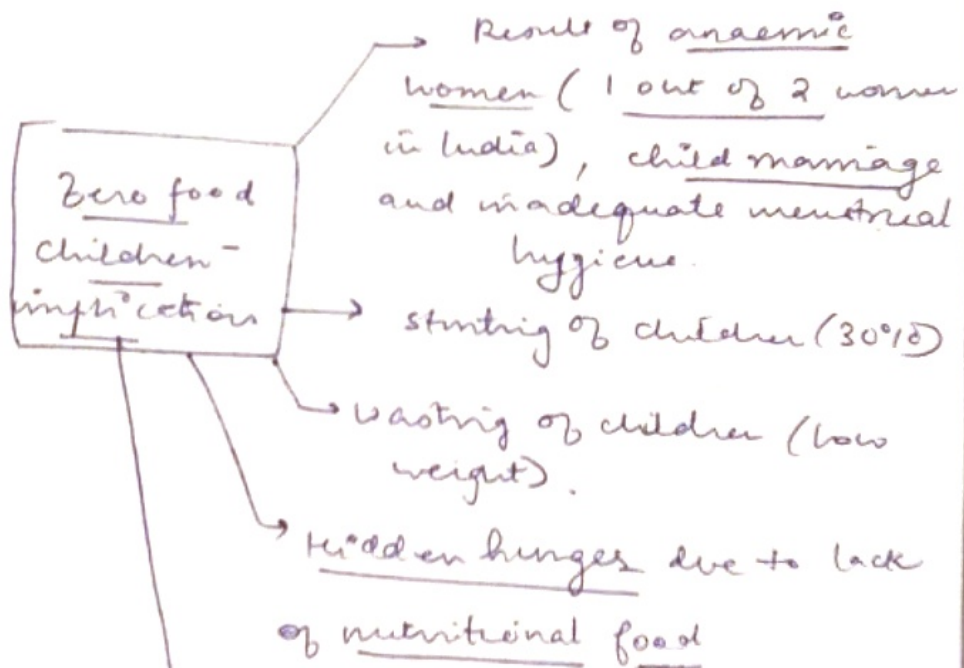
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917

Zero food children are those that receive very low nutrition as a direct result of malnourished mothers that are unable to sustain 2 bodies.



India's HDI : # 132 in 2022.

To reduce this phenomena, maternal health needs to be a priority.

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A

1) PosHAN Abhiyaan : National Nutrition Mission aims to provide nutrition to adolescent girls and lactating women.

2) Anganwadi and ~~the~~ ASHA workers provide maternal health services to rural women.

3) Integrated Child Development Scheme [ICDS] and Matru Vandana Yojana for new mothers to provide a mother-child oriented solution to nutrition deficiency.

4) Biofortification through biotechnology, millets production (Shree Anna Yojana) to enhance nutritional intake of women.

5) Budget 2023-24 : National mission to eradicate Anaemia by 2047.
→ allow women to produce more milk.

6) Awareness generation through telemedicine
eg: e-Sanjeevani.

7) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for sanitation and menstrual health

8) Legal changes → longer maternity leave, etc.



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Thus, a coordinated approach to
"women-centric nutrition delivery" can
ensure not just the health of
women but also that of children and
thereby address the issue of nutritional
insecurity.



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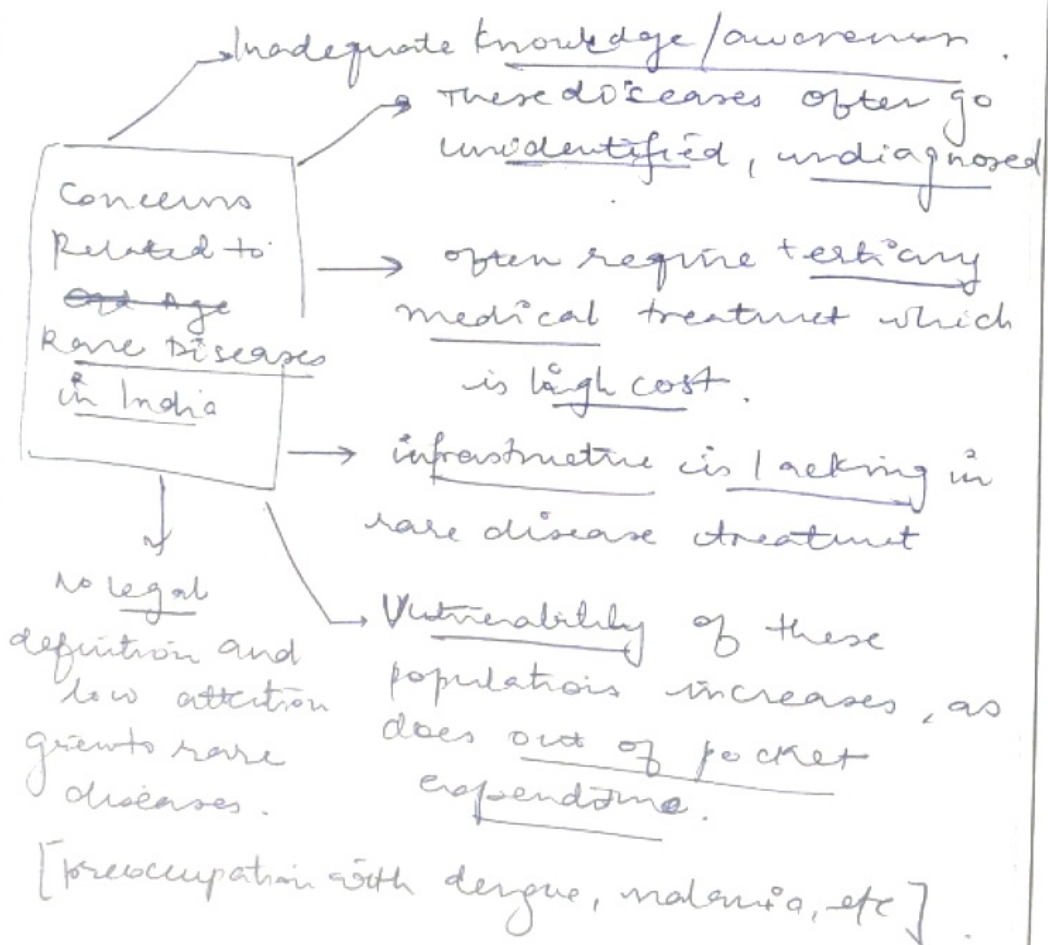
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Q18.

Rare diseases are those that occur very rarely amongst a significantly low number of people in the population. These include certain forms of cancers and various old age diseases.



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Resolution of these issues

- ③ legal definition of rare disease.
- ④ Research and development in rare diseases can be enhanced under ICMR.
- ⑤ Government incentive or subsidy to create domestic medical units to deal with these diseases.
- ⑥ Generating awareness regarding rare diseases via NGOs, civil society, etc.
- ⑦ International collaboration and support from WHO to ensure facilities for rare disease ~~unit~~ treatment.
- ⑧ Reduction of costs like recent removal of customs duties.
- ⑨ setting up pharmaceutical units for production of drugs in rare diseases thereby adding to economic output while tackling public health.



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Thus, a combination of RFP, political
backing and medical proactiveness
can ensure the Right to Health for
this section of population suffering
from rare diseases.

919.



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919.

The Indo-Pacific Region refers to countries of the Indian & Pacific Oceans. With USA's 'pivot to Asia' and a rise in aggression by China, the region has become a centre of conflicting stakes.

Underlying Intentions of Various Nations

1. India has a clear cut intention of becoming the Asian leader of the Indo-Pacific region with an aim of South-South Cooperation and a rules-based international order.
2. China's intention is multifaceted:
 - ① Belt and Road Initiative aims to expand China's historical silk route in both land & maritime domain.

Page



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- ① One Dash line and Debt Trap diplomacy shows a warrior-
word stance of territorial expansion
- ② Aggression and rapid establishment
of the String of Pearls represents
an intention to surround India and
gain an upper hand in strategic terms.
3. South East Asian Nations intend to
~~try to~~ establish peaceful relations
and demand their sovereign right to
territories in South China Sea.
eg: Spratley Islands, Paracel Islands.
4. USA's intention is to restrict growth of
China through Indo Pacific Economic
framework and Build Back Better as
well as Blue Dot Network.

With these intentions understood, collaboration
can be ensured in a realistic manner.

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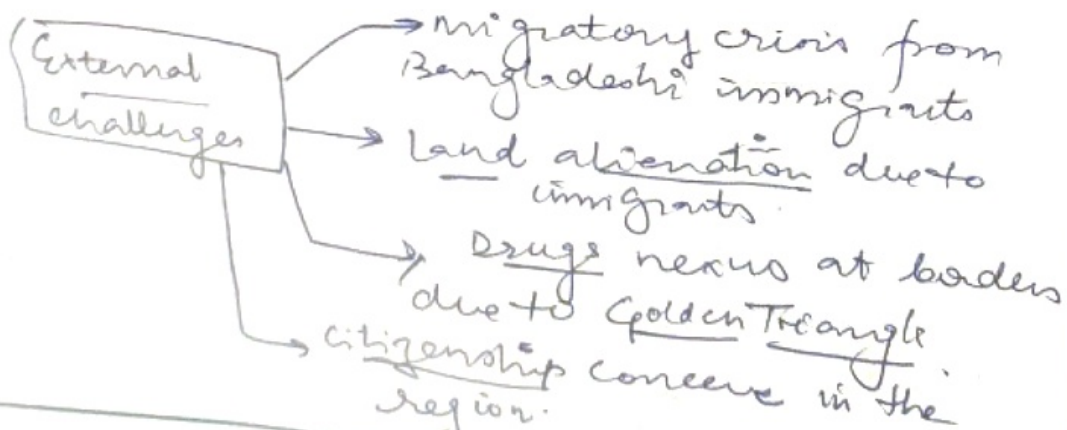
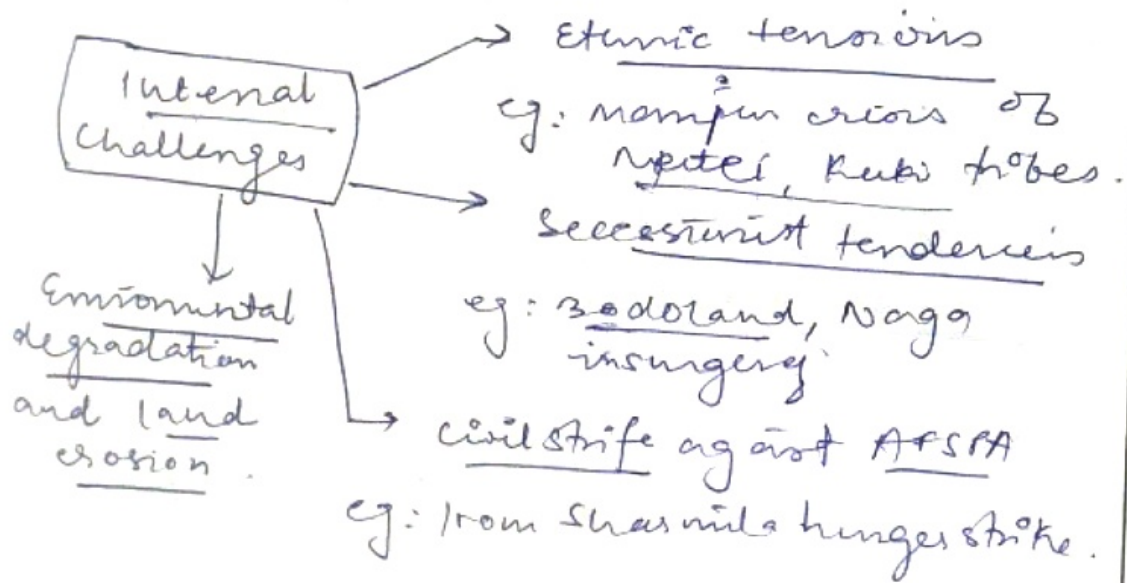
(i) India - USA - South Asia axis can ensure a policy of collaborative trade and counter China's dominance in the region.

(ii) Collaboration on counter terrorism, climate change [climate justice for small island developing states], sea of communication lanes and rules-based Indo-Pacific can be established.

(iii) Security & Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) and Blue Economy goals can be stepped forward.

Thus, realpolitik and understanding underlying intentions is essential for meaningful diplomacy and actual collaboration in foreign affairs, to ensure goal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Recently, project Pervatmale and Purvodaya were introduced to expand infrastructure and development in North East India. However, various internal & external challenges pose a threat to this development.



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Need to Address BOTH :

Internal
challenge

External
challenge

- ① Effective policy and developmental role.
- ② poverty alleviation
- ③ infrastructure development
- ④ Social infrastructure, like education & health.
- ⑤ Land rights through implementation of PESA, Forest Rights Act
- ⑥ North Eastern Council meetings to resolve ethnic tensions.

- ① Border security as per recommendation of National Council
eg: CIBMS.
- ② Countering the nexus of organ trade / illegal migration / drug trade through investigation agencies.
- ③ Collaboration with neighboring governments to resolve cross-border crises.

These changes are essential before connectivity is achieved in the region.

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However, North East India still serves as a connecting space between India and its neighbours:

- ① Bangladesh - Myanmar India - Nepal connectivity. [BBIN]
- ② Kaladan Multimodal Connectivity Project.

Thus, connectivity can actually help solve issues of internal and external crises through economic growth & upliftment of the masses as well as intercultural contacts across nations, though simultaneous work on both is required.