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1)

Federalism refers to sharing of Power by union and state government. India is case sui-generis (unique in itself)

> Federal governance solves problems of pluralism by consultation & mutual consent

1) Financial Federalism → GST council, Finance commission works on consultation

2) Administrative Federalism → NITI Aayog, concurrent list provides for sharing

3) Political Federalism → Regional Parties, Rajya Sabha representing states

4) Cooperative Federalism → Inter-state council, zonal council, sisters city agreements

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Zonal councils → Statutory body under State Reorganisation Act
→ Divided into 5 zones with CM as vice President by rotation.

Evolution of Role of Zonal councils

1) Consultation → Platform for discussion, views, opinions of zone

2) Decision Making → Provides for consensus based decisions

3) Federalism → Ensure cooperative, competitive federalism among zones

4) Proactiveness → Increased frequency of meetings, decisions, participation.

5) More Power → consultation, grievance redressal, voice to zones.

Thus, India is a federal country with certain unitary features and cooperation is necessary to achieve goal of being Vishwaguru.

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2)

Secularism was added by 42 constitution in Preamble and promotes freedom of religion [Article 25-28]

> Secularism encapsulated in constitutional commitment to equality

1) Rule of law (Article 14) → Provides equal treatment of all religious persons and places

2) Prohibition of discrimination (Art 15) Ensures that no religion is discriminated and ensures equal protection

3) Equality of employment (Art 16) → No one discriminated on the basis of religion.

4) Religious equality → By providing political economic & social equality

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5) Equity → Providing reservation to minorities ie Muslims under OBC to provide level playing field to all religions.

> However, Inclusion of Secularism strengthened it in letter & spirit

1) Freedom of Religion → Protects religious faiths, belief, practices
2) Secular decisions → Ensuring no vote on religion [Abhiram case]
3) Restrict state interference → In religious matter [Stanislus case]
4) Part of Basic structure → Thus, can never be taken away [Minerva Mills]

Thus, India is secular country with concept of 'sarva Dharma Sambhava' & thus focuses on peaceful coexistence of all religions.

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3)

Section 8 of Representation of People Act 1951 deals with the disqualification of candidates on the basis of some corrupt practices

Section 8 of RPA focusing on duration of sentence & not gravity

1) Punishment term ⇒ Disqualification only if convicted for 2 years +

2) Single category → corrupt practices include terrorism, corruption, heinous crime under 1 category

3) Similar disqualification → for 6 years for every kind of offence.

Current classification leading to arbitrary & categorisation of offence

1) Corrupt practices → Crimes ranging from rape, heinous crimes, corruption

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Bribery under corrupt practices

2) Court sentence → If convicted for 2 years / more for any crime / case

3) Electoral offense → Tampering machines, Booth capturing >

4) **Remedies available to person disqualified**

Election commission

* If disqualified for MCC violation or corrupt practices during elections, can appeal to ECI then High court.

Supreme court

* If disqualified for being convicted of offense or by court, can file petition in supreme court.

Thus, RPA ensures free & fair elections & there is a need to strengthen it more with stringent powers and conscious decisions.

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4) Leader of Opposition was given statutory recognition in 1977 and leader of largest opposition party not having less than 10% of seats is designated as same.

Significance of Leader of Opposition in Indian Parliamentary system

1) Alternate government → Ensures stability by providing alternate government

2) Prevents despotic rule → By questioning government

3) Strengthens democracy → Through debates, discussions

4) Minority Interests → Raise voice of other sections neglected by government

5) Systematic working → Ensure that Parliamentary sessions work

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follows rules, norms, constitution.

Role of opposition contributing to checks & balances

1) Watchdog → Ensures that all steps taken by government as per rules

2) Agitator → Promoting interest of different sections, raising voice

3) Check arbitrary rule → Questions government & strengthen democracy

4) Deterrence → to government on not following constitution.

5) Reconsideration → Through debates, discussion, provides for revisions of laws made by government.

Thus, opposition plays an important role in strengthening democracy and ensuring that governance is carried on as per the constitutional principles.

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5) Preamble is the keynote to constitution' - Earnest Barker.

Bedrock of India's constitutional framework

1) Sovereignty → India is sovereign and thus under no one's rule [Part of Basic structure Doctrine by Kesavananda Bharati case]

2) Socialism → India is mix socialism relying on Gandhian part more [DS Nakara case]

3) Secularism → Ensures equality and freedom of all religion [SR Bommai case]

4) Democracy → It means there is rule of people indirectly by selecting their representatives [Kesavananda Bharati case]

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Constitutional framework is not defined but is based on core values [Basic structure] which can never be taken away

Thus, includes following ideals as well →

1) Federalism → Ensures democratic rule & sharing of power [Indira Sahwney case]

2) Judicial Review → Protects basic ideals [Minerva Mills case]

3) Fraternity → Promoting Brotherhood

4) Unity of Trinity → Equality, Liberty, Fraternity as basis

5) Justice → Ensures social, economic political Justice [Menaka Gandhi]

Thus, constitutional Morality and ideals hold supremacy and structure is dynamic with the evolution of society.

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6) 103rd constitutional Amendment Act Introduced 10% Reservation for Economically Weaker section (EWS)

Postive Implications of EWS Reservation on social Justice

1) Equity → Providing opportunity to poor people

2) Challenge class divide → Economic distinction more apparent than social distinction.

3) Other castes → Do not affect reservations for others like SC, ST, OBCs

4) Empowerment → 230mn people below Poverty line [NITI Aayog MDP Index] and thus provides education, job opportunities to them.

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5) Not Permanent → If move out of poverty, not get reservation again as based on income source

However EWS reservation suffers from following issues

1) Fake certificates by forging documents, asset certificates
2) Poor people ~27% (Census 2011) but reservation only 10%.
3) Strengthen Middle Income Trap as Middle Income people face further constitution.
4) Land less than 100 hectares & immovables less than of ₹ 1 crore not right criteria

Way Forward

- Digitisation of property Records
- Realistic criteria
- Promoting skills, self employment

Thus Reservations should be temporary solution & long term focus should be on development of caste, class

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7)

Welfare schemes includes subsidies, free distribution of goods, concessions to facilities.

Forms of welfare schemes shifting from well being to over dependence

1) 50% of farmers' income in form of grants, subsidies

2) Antodaya Anna Yojana covering 75% of rural & 50% of urban households

3) Subsidies (Farm, Fuel) forming large part of government expense.

4) Increased subsidies (Food, Health) by states like Rajasthan contributed to High state Fiscal Deficit.

5) Less focus on education (3.5% of GDP), skill, infrastructure (2.9%)

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Welfare schemes inculcating a freebies culture in India

1) ~~Long~~ Large loans getting renewed, revived
2) PM KISAN providing income to rich farmers as well
3) Fuel, food subsidy to rich as well [PAHAL scheme]
4) Less budget allocation for MGNREGA, other.

Moreover still welfare schemes promote poverty & hunger alleviation

- PM Awas Yojana (Subsidised House)
- MGNREGA (employment) &
- Skill India Mission
  - Food Fortification (Nutritional value)
  - POSHAN, Mid day Meal.

Thus, there is a need to relook at welfare schemes from fiscal prudence angle and should promote capacity building and development.

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8)

e-governance includes use of Information, communication technology (ICT) in governance

e-governance promote efficiency

1) Reduce corruption → DBT, (Direct Benefit Transfer), Digital Sansad

2) Better service delivery → cowin app, UMANG App

3) Reduced cost & time → Digilocker, e-court providing quick services

4) Better grievance → CPGRAM, e-surveillance, PRAGATI

e-governance promotes accessibility

1) Availability → services at own place - Telemedicine, cowin

2) Affordability → Nyaya Bandhu, SWIFT

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3) Better service → UMANG in different language, MANI for PwD

4) Remove Bureaucratic hurdles → ICEGATE, swift, RFID fast tag

e-governance promoting inclusive governance

1) Equality in services → No caste discrimination - e-court, Digilocker

2) Easy to use → Different language (Bhashini), MANI for PwD

3) Tailored service → SWAYAM, DIKSHA Portal for different category of users

4) Faceless → Ensures quick, easy, effective [Fastag, UMANG, Aadhar]

Thus, PM has rightly said that e-governance is easy, effective & efficient & economic governance & helps to achieve SDG & Inclusive Growth

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9) The world order is changing and the world is no longer divided into 2 blocs and new powers are emerging like China, India, Brazil.

> Old world order [NAM, Davos, G77] losing its relevance

1) Non Alignment to Strategic alignment → More focus on national interests Eg → India good relations with US, ~~UK~~ USSR

2) Changing Priorities → Indian ocean emerging as new focus

3) New Powers → USA, USSR no longer major power but being challenged by China

4) Glocalisation → New trends of focusing on international order based on national interests

5) Diversification → Not depending on

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any 1 country to increased resilience

Advent of New world order [Quad, AUKUS, I2U2]

1) China expansion → Strategies to contain china - AUKUS, Quad

2) ~~Focus shifting~~ → On Asian countries - Central Asia, India, India Pacific

3) De-Hyphenation → strategic alliance with all Eg → I2U2

4) Military engagement → More focus on defense - AUKUS submarines, Malabar exercise

5) Regional interests → Promote regional Powers (Voice of global south, India as leader)

Thus, in today's evolving, dynamic world, India can showcase the potential of being visionaries based on its democratic principles.

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b)

India is becoming the voice of Global south and promotes democracy, diplomacy, collaboration, connection in the region.

Importance of South Pacific & African coast island & states

1) Economic importance → Poly-metallic nodules, reserves, deposits

2) Geographical significance → controlling trade, sea routes

3) Countering China → Against Belt & Road Initatives

4) Diplomacy → supporting India's UNSC membership

5) Collaboration → International Solar Alliance

6) Remittances → Indian diaspora abroad, their protection.

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Initiatives taken by India

1) Global South → G20 include African union as member & Global south summit

2) Aids → High Impact Development Project, Vaccine Maitri

3) Alliance → signing PTAs, One Grid One Earth One sun

4) Investment → Increased Investment in mineral exploration [KABIL]

5) Defense → Indian Navy at Diego Garcia, military exercises.

Thus, India needs to have strategic alliance with different countries to achieve the dream of 2 trillion $ from exports and becoming Vishwaguru

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4)

Electoral funding in India is plays an important role in expenses of campaign, candidates and thus elections

Laws regulating electoral funding

- RPA Act) 1951
- Electoral Bond scheme
- MCA Regulation on corporate fundings of parties
- FEMA, 1999
- EC surveillance

Electoral funding suffering from

Legal loopholes

* No stringent punishment, enforcement mechanism
* Increased cases of bribes,

Political Inefficiency

* Inefficient spending
* Lack of accountability
* Lack of Maintainance

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corruption
* No separate body & cap on expense

of proper records
* Increased criminal candidates

Challenges in electoral funding

1) Lack of Accountability → No information to voters on source & amount

2) Lack of surveillance → No proper record on use

3) Informal, Illegal → Organised crimes funding elections

4) Against equality → not follow level playing field for small parties

5) Black Money → serve as a source to white black money

6) Legal limitations → No fixed laws, governance, mechanism

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Learning from International best practices

1) State funding of elections
2) Accountability using ICT → Message to voters on rupees received & spent
3) Proper record & disclosure of election expenses
4) Cap on amount spent on elections by parties, candidates
5) Election budget funding parties campaigning

Thus, Inderjit committee reforms on state funding of elections should be implemented to ensure free & fair elections.

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12)

Pressure groups can be defined as group of people who come together for common interests but do not try to assume power

Strategies adopted

Engineering Electioneering — Propagandising — Lobbying

Pressure groups forming social foundation of a democracy

1) Checks & Balance → Prevents authoritarian & despotic rule

2) Articulation → Provides ideas, views, opinions to government

3) Strengthens democracy → Through debates, discussion, reviews

4) Minority interest → Raise voice, promote interest, rights of minority

5) Enforcement → Provides information, rights to citizen.

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Pressure groups promoting social security measures for workers in India

1) Raise voice → Against poor working conditions, exploitation of gig workers

2) Lobbying → Pressure groups force government to frame policies

3) Bridge divide → By serving as a platform for workers to reach to government

4) Awareness → Among workers, government about needs for social security measures

5) Better decision → Discussion, debates, ideas on measures

Thus, code on social security was passed consolidating labour laws.

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Addressing gaps in existing policies

1) Review → Insightful views & analysis [Farmers law]
2) Simplification → For better understanding [Social security code]
3) Accountability → Bring transparency [Social audit, RTI]
4) Implementation → Checks & Balance, Review [PRAGATI]
5) ~~Perspective~~ → Wider Perspective, views [Public Hearing of EIA]

Thus, Pressure groups play an important role in promoting democratic values, principles and checks any despotic rule.

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13) Federalism is the part of basic structure of constitution [Kesavananda Bharati case]

Constitutional provisions promoting federal supremacy in executive space

1) Concurrent list (Article 256) → Executive power lies with state government

2) Mutual delegation → Centre & state delegated its role of executive to each other.

3) Central laws on state list → In 5 circumstances as well as in case of National Emergency, President Rule

4) Governor, All India services → Although works for state but appointed by centre

5) Directions to states → centre can give directions to states on

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matters relating to railway, power maintenance

Solving disputes regarding power distribution

1) Seventh schedule → Divides power between centre & state
2) Judicial Interpretation → Kesavananda Bharat case, SR Bommai on President Rule
3) Collaborative Federalism → Formation of zonal councils, NITI Aayog
4) Court Jurisdiction → Original (Article 131) in federal matters
5) Governor (Article 153) → Acts as link between centre & state
6) Executive administration → states as executive authority

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decided, appointed by state government.

7) Delegation → Mutual delegation of powers

8) Rajya sabha → Promoting & Protecting states' interest.

Thus, Federalism acts as check & balance on authoritarian rule and strengthens the democracy.

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(4)

Delimitation refers to fixing the area boundaries of electoral constituencies.

In India, RPA Act, 1950 provides for Delimitation (Article 81) and done by statutory body

Importance of Delimitation

1) Fair Representation →
   - ↳ Ensure that each constituency represents equal no of people
   - ↳ Ensure that constituency among states represent population fairly
   - ↳ Dividing states on basis of population on basis to ensure equality principle

2) One vote one value principle →
   - ↳ candidate from each constituency represent same no of people.

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↳ vote to constituency represent equal no of people
↳ Every vote is equal in terms of representative chosen

Challenges posed by Misrepresentation in constituencies

1) Inequality of votes → some vote represent more
2) Challenge the democracy
3) Against Equality Principles (Article 14)
4) Against Universal Adult suffrage, equality of votes
5) Against Federalism between centre & states & among states
6) Division in society on basis of Population.

Ramification of Federal tension by misrepresentation

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1) Against cooperative federalism as gives more power to one

2) Against Level Playing Field for states

3) Free & fair elections cannot be held

4) Agitations, unrest, anger among states

5) Division, Devide, competition among states

6) States not following sustainable population schemes

Thus, delimitation play an important role in ensuring fair elections and thus, strengthen democratic values & principles.

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15)

PIL (Public Interest Litigation) refers to a higher court taking suo motto cases of wider public concerns, interests. Like in case of Vishakha.

PIL shifting focus of Higher court from constitutional matters to day-to-day matters

1) Pending cases → ~50% cases under Article 136 (Special leave)

2) Judicial overreach → Banning of sale of liquor, allocation of telecom license.

3) No pre-review → Does not need pre-review of lower court or CAG to file PIL

4) Self Interest → Most PIL not in public interest but self interest based.

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5) Increased workload → not much time to review constitutional cases.

However PIL has played important role

- Vishakha Guidelines
- RTI Act
- Banning polluting vehicles

Increased Burden on Higher court
- → Supreme court → 70,000 cases pending
- → High court → 66 Lakh case pending
- → 464 years to resolve all case at present strength (Law commission)

Trial courts role in reducing overall burden

1) Reduce pending cases → can help to solve cases

2) Shifting focus → focus on day-to-day matters & higher courts can take constitutional matters.

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3) Andliary support → solving smaller, routine cases, providing advisory services

4) Accessibility → Better service delivery to citizen.

Following measures needed to reduce pending cases

- Strengthen ADR mechanism
- Increased Judiciary strength
- Using ICT e-court, Nyaya-Bandhu

Thus, Judiciary is the main wheel of democracy ensuring justice and should be strengthened to ensure timely delivery of justice as justice delayed is justice denied.

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16)

Higher education system deals with after school education and provides wider application knowledge, skills.

Higher education system needs reforms as
- High Dropout rate for graduates
- Low Gross Enrolment Ratio (~52%)
- Gender disparity
- Lack of infrastructure, modern technology
- Outdated course, curriculum

New Education Policy 2020 dealing with the challenges

1) **Promoting enrolment** → Incentives to graduates, schemes to increase enrolment ratio

2) **Accreditation** → World class accreditation to ensure global competence.

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3) Promote diversity → credit system to ensure diverse skills, knowledge

4) Application based learning → focus on research, vocational training

5) Increased resources → Ensuring 6% of GDP spent

6) Collaboration → Global universities coming to India.

7) Training → To Professors & Teachers for teaching

8) ICT → Adopting modern technology, new subjects on Quantum, Biotech, Nano, etc.

Lessons to be learnt from international practices

1) Holistic development → Harvard focusing on sports, community

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working equally

2) Diversity → Oxford promoting diversity in learning & of students & of courses

3) End Result → Focus on learning innovation & not grades

4) Assessment → Innovative and not based on test

5) Collaboration → with other countries & universities globally

6) Accreditation → world class faculties knowledge, skills.

If India wants to be Vishwaguru, it needs to focus on higher education and schemes like KIRAN, Vigyan Jyoti, Rashtriya Uchatar Shiksha Abhiyan can yield positive results

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17)

The Right to Information Act (RTI) is a statutory right which increased transparency and accountability in governance and enpowers people by providing information.

RTI increasing transparency & accountability

1) Checks corruption → Provides checks & balances

2) Enpower People → By Providing information to people

3) Prevent despotic rule → By making government answerable

4) Better services → Ensure uniformity, efficiency, effectiveness

5) Checks and Balances → Make people / citizen supreme.

6) Bridge gap → Acts as means

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of communication between people & government.

However RTI Act suffers from multifaceted challenges

1) Ill trained officers → not know how to handle
2) Threat → As per commonwealth HRs activist, 99 people (RTI activist died)
3) Incomplete information → Do not provide full & right information
4) Oath of secrecy → Secrecy Act and other such law prevents its working
5) No proper record → Lack of control on records & their digitisation
6) Self Interest Based → ~80% are self Interest based or frivolous.

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ARC 2 recommended following measures

1) Oath of transparency in place of ~~at~~ oath of secrecy
2) Suo motto disclosures
3) Training of officers
4) Awareness generation
5) Punishing self interest based application
6) Strengthening whistleblower mechanism.
7) Periodic evaluation & grievance redressal.

Thus ARC 2 rightly recommended RTI Act as ~~an~~ ~~era~~ of beginning of era of light and end of era of darkness

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18)

Self Help Groups are self or created, peer controlled group of 15-20 people with common interests.

Challenges of SHGs in urban areas compared to rural areas

1) Stability → Isolation and lack of time on people to devote

2) Incentives → More PSL, other financial incentives in rural areas

3) Work Life Balance → Already increased pressure of work

4) Different issues → Global warming, climate change

5) Increased costs → Need more capital, Investment in urban areas.

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6) Bureaucratic hurdles → Rank 93 in corruption Perception Index

7) Need for governance → Need effective standard Operating Procedures, guidelines.

Opportunities for SHGs in urban areas

1) ICT use → Using technology to collaborate

2) Literacy → Increased knowledge, skills

3) Women → Proactive role and empowered

4) Information → More readily & easily available

5) Wider reach → Through work, phones

6) Better services → Due to urbanisation, Internet penetration.

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Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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Role of Microfinance to tackle urban poverty

1) Employment → Provides new opportunity
2) Development → Learn new skills, education
3) Financial Inclusion → covered social security benefits
4) Women empowerment → women led, owned work
5) Increased availability → As loans made affordable, accessible.

India ranks 62 in Inclusive development index & SHG can play important role in inclusive growth & development & thus schemes like e-SHAKTI are effective steps in strengthening them.

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Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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19) India - Middle East - Europe corridor was announced in G20 for connecting India with the world connecting India with Central Asia, Europe.

Significance of IMEC for India's connectivity

1) Connectivity → connects different countries (India, Israel, Central Asia)

2) Regional issues → Helps in bypassing ~~them~~ Pakistan in connecting

3) Diverse → Incorporates rail, road connectivity as well

4) Logistic cost → Helps in reducing cost & thus new opportunities

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Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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5) Integration → Increased trade & interactions with countries

6) Relations → Better diplomatic relations

7) Counter China → Against String of Pearls, Debt trap Diplomacy

Transport & energy initiatives taking precedence in India's Foreign Policy

1) Connectivity → Main focus of relationship with other Eg:- Myanmar

2) Projects → IMT, Kaladan, Zaranj Delaram Highway

3) Diversification → Energy needs relying not only on just one.

4) Countering China → In transport, energy

5) Incentives → KABIL exploring minerals, purchasing mines [MSP]

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Question No. प्रश्न संख्या

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However India's foreign policy has holistic approach focusing on multiple areas

1) Trade → signing PTAs, CEPA
2) Defense → Exercises, Export, collaborations
3) Diaspora → OCI, Bharatiya Pravasi Divas
4) Technology → iCET, Innovation Handshake
5) Security → Net security Provider, counter terrorism.

Thus, India aims to become global leader (Vishwaguru) and for that needs to maintain good foreign relations with all by forming strategic alliances.

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20) India and Canada shares deep relations in terms of trade, diaspora, collaborations

Recent rise in Politically contentious issues
- → Khalistani issue
- → PIO issues
- → Questioning Human rights in India
- → Trade deal issues

Significant Pillars of India-Canada relationship

1) Democracy → Both countries promote democratic values

2) Trade → Trade relations with surplus in India's favour

3) Technology → collaboration on new technologies, renewable energy

4) Diaspora → Holds a significant

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no of Indian people & shared remittances

5) Investment → strong and shared FDI in each other

6) Pluralism → supporting rule based international order

7) Environment → working on climate change issues, green energy.

Potential areas of cooperation & collaboration between India & China

1) Legal → Mutual extradition treaty

2) Counter terrorism → combating khalistani group

3) Emerging Technology → Nano Biotechnology research

4) Space → India providing

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support in vehicle launch.

5) Arctic → Joint exploration and research

6) Innovation → Joint research on new things like iCET

7) Defense → Joint exercise, efforts

8) Indo-Pacific → common intentions.

Thus, India and Canada can cooperate with each other to strengthen trade, relations and ensure collaborative and inclusive growth & development.