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NEXT IAS

anubhav-2025

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : ANV2502 **Test Date : 02/08/2025**

Name of Candidate: WASIM UR RAHMAN **Mobile No.** .....

Roll No. : ..... **Start Time** 2:30 PM **End Time.** 5:30 PM

Date of Examination: ..... **Medium : English** ☐ **Hindi** ☐

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1.	10	
2.	10	
3.	10	
4.	10	
5.	10	
6.	10	
7.	10	
8.	10	
9.	10	
10.	10	
TOTAL MARKS - 100		

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
11.	15	
12.	15	
13.	15	
14.	15	
15.	15	
16.	15	
17.	15	
18.	15	
19.	15	
20.	15	
TOTAL MARKS - 150		

GRAND TOTAL - ...../ 250 **EVAL CODE:** ..... **EVAL DATE:** .....

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 20 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.

सामान्य निर्देश

1. QCA पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर कृपया तुरंत जांच लें कि इस QCA पुस्तिका में कोई पृष्ठ या सामग्री आदि गलत छपी हुई या फटी हुई या गायब तो नहीं है। यदि ऐसा है, तो इसे एक नई QCA पुस्तिका से बदल लें।
2. अभ्यर्थियों को सभी प्रासंगिक विवरण जैसे नाम, रोल नंबर, मोबाइल नंबर आदि का आवंटित स्थान पर उल्लेख करना होगा ।
3. अभ्यर्थियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह आवंटित समय-सीमा के भीतर ही सभी 20 प्रश्नों के उत्तर-लेखन का प्रयास करें।
4. प्रत्येक उत्तर, प्रवेश के समय चुनी गयी भाषा के माध्यम में ही लिखे जाने चाहिए।
5. अभ्यर्थियों को विशिष्ट प्रश्न के उत्तर संबंधित प्रश्न के नीचे ही लिखने होंगे। आवंटित स्थान के बाहर लिखे गए किसी भी उत्तर को क्रेडिट नहीं दिया जाएगा।
6. कृपया साफ-सुथरा लिखें। अपठनीय लेखन से बचें।
7. QCAB में अप्रासंगिक तथ्यों को न लिखें / न ही चिह्नित करें।

REMARKS: .....

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Student Concerns / Query	Evaluator's Feedback / Response
1	1 .....
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3	3 .....
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MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 3.00	3.00 - 3.75	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.50	4.50 - 5.75	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

IMPORTANT QR CODES

Topper's Copy	Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB
Copy Scanner App	Next IAS Test Centre Location

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MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of MTS 2.0 Score Improvement Program (SIP) is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

Q1.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q2.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q3.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q4.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q5.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q6.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q7.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q8.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q9.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q10.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q11.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q12.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q13.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q14.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q15.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q16.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q17.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q18.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q19.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q20.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

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Candidates mu
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(1)

1. Socialistic ideals and secularism are core features of the Basic Structure doctrine in India. In this context, discuss how judicial decisions have cemented these principles as the cornerstone of constitutional identity.

Supreme Court in Bhimsinghji case (1981) and in SR Bommai case (1994) held socialistic ideals and secularism as part of Basic structure respectively.

Judicial decisions cementing secularism

1) Shayara Bano case (2019) declared Triple Talaq as null and void upholding secular ideals.

2) In Sarla Mudgal case, Supreme court held that Uniform civil code is necessary for upholding Secularism

3) Recently in AMU vs Naresh Agganwal case (2025), Supreme Court ~~upheld~~ overturned Azeez Basha case judgement on recognition of

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minority institutions.

4) In **Hadiya case**, supreme court upheld, the right to freedom of religion.

Judicial decisions cementing socialistic ideals

1) In **Bhimsinghji case**, supreme court held 'welfare state' as part of the Basic structure.

2) In **Minerva Mills case**, supreme court upheld **42nd** Constitutional amendment Act that removed **Right to property** from **Part III** of constitution.

3) In **Olga Tellis vs BMC case**, supreme court upheld Right to livelihood.

4) In **Chameli Singh vs St. Maharashtra case** supreme could upheld right to shelter under **Art. 21**.

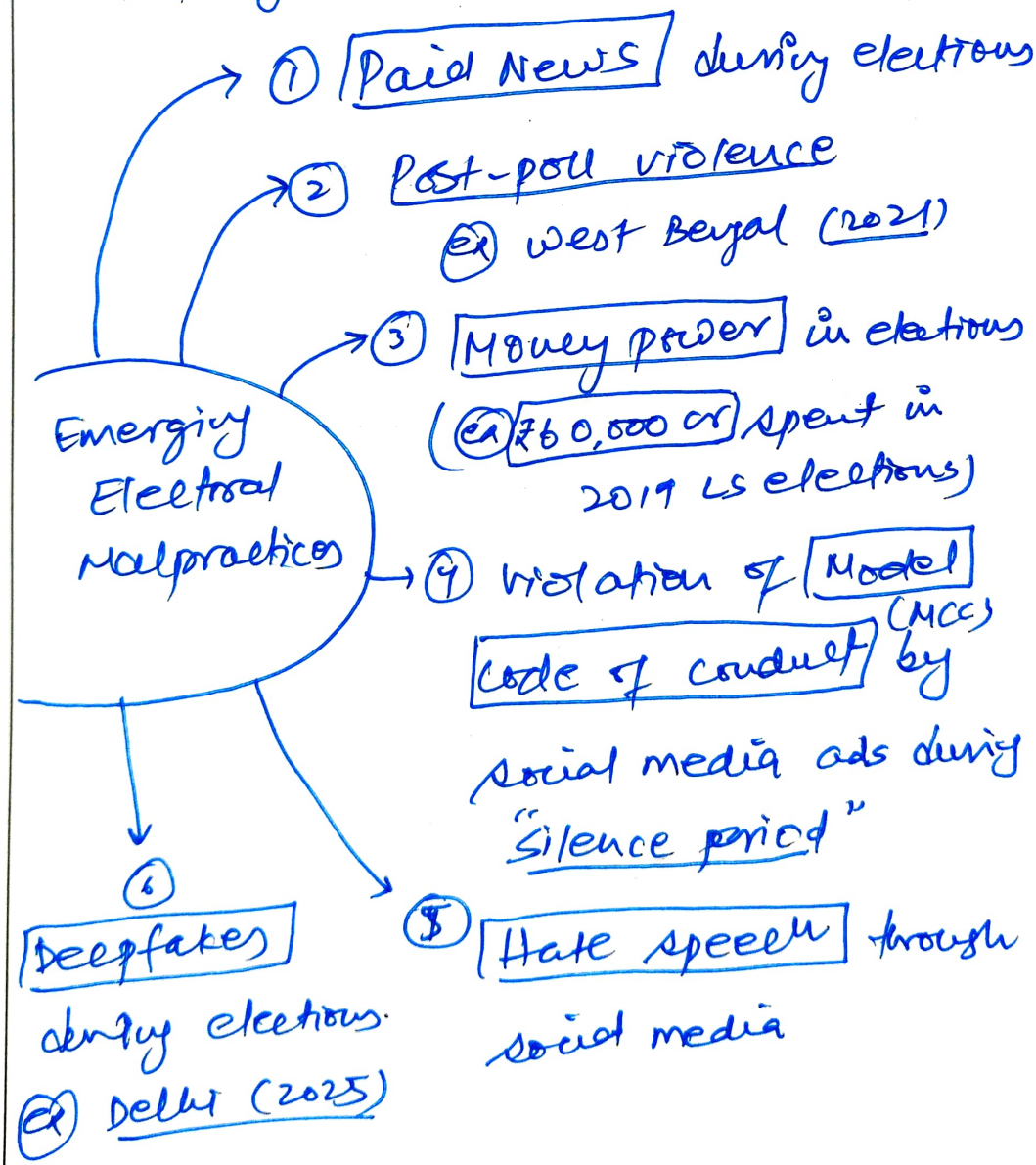
Thus, **judicial activism** has deepened the **SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY** in India

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(2) **2. "There is a need to expand the scope of 'corrupt practices' under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to address emerging forms of electoral malpractices." Comment.**

Under section 123 of Representation of People Act, 1951, corrupt practices are defined as promoting enmity between communities, bribery and interfering in election rights.



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Expanding the scope of corrupt Practices

1) Law Commission recommended defining Paid news and increasing transparency.

2) Election Comission of India (ECI) suggested inclusion of 'Money Power' under Section 58A in addition to muscle power.

3) Parliamentary Standig committee recommended statutory status to MCC

4) ECI suggested that in addition to Exit polls banned under Sec 126A, Opinion polls should also be banned.

Thus, electoral malpractices must be tackled through legislative and Executive means to ensure FREE AND FAIR elections.

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(3)

3. Analyse the distinguishing perspectives on equality as reflected in the constitutional frameworks of India and France.

Indian and French constitution are based on Civil libertarian structure attempting to Constitutionalise equality in social and economic domain

India	France
1) Article 14 provides equality of status and of opportunity	1) Equality enforced by impartial approach to every-one.
2) Equality guided by Social Justice ideals.	2) Equality inspired from "Liberty", Equality and Fraternity" slogan.
3) Equity aimed by providing affirmative action and Positive	3) Mechanical equality by providing everyone

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India	France
discrimination.	with equal opportunity
4) Article 15(4), 15(5), 15(6) and 16(4), 16(5), 16(6) promote equity our equality	4) Equality focussed in French constitution.
5) Substantive Equality aimed by Positive discrimination.	5) Equality through absence of discrimination and ensuring fairness

convergence

① Equality of rights for all

② Equal benefits enjoyed by all citizen

③ All are equal in eyes of law (Principle of Natural Justice)

Thus, Indian Constitution goes beyond the absence of discrimination and ensure Substantive Equality

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4. The shrinking effective share of States in the Union's gross tax revenues, coupled with equity heavy criteria in horizontal devolution, raises critical concerns for fiscal federalism in India. Analyse.

The States' share in gross tax revenue has fallen from 36% (2013-14) to 32% (2022-23), shrinking the fiscal space for the states.

Critical concerns for fiscal federalism due to declining share

1) 15th Finance Commission reduced vertical devolution share from 42% to 41%.

2) Share of cess and surcharge in Gross Tax revenue increased from 10% to 16% in last decade.

3) Equity heavy horizontal devolution transferring revenue

- Income distance : 45%
- Population : 15%
- Demographic performance : 12.5%
- Area : 15%
- Forest cover : 10%
- Tax efforts : 2.5%

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from Southern States to Northern States. (CR) UP and Bihar get the highest share of Finance commission distribution

4) Demographic shift leading to pervasion of Southern States.

5) Delays in transfer of GST compensation cess to states.

6) Article 292, 293 further restricting States autonomy in borrowing.

way forward
- (1) NK Singh recommended an Independent Fiscal Council' formation
- (2) Revisiting Terms of Reference of 16th Finance commission
- (3) Arbind Modi committee: GST reforms to augment States share.

Plus, Fiscal Federalism can be maintained only with JUST share of revenues guided by EK BHARAT SHRESHTA BHARAT

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(5)

5. "Citizenship is the legal foundation of constitutional rights and responsibilities." Discuss how India's approach to citizenship reflects its commitment to constitutional values.

Part II of the constitution include Article 5-11 dealing with citizenship that reflects India's unique approach in determining citizenship.

Approach to citizenship reflect constitutional values

1) Jus soli approach followed to provide citizenship at the commencement of the constitution.

2) Fraternity (Preamble) ideal followed to provide equal rights to all citizens.

3) Justice approach followed in citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 to provide citizenship to persecuted

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minorities and uphold Nehru-Liaqaat pact.

4) Graduated recognition of citizenship to tackle Assam immigration issue. (Assam Accord)

5) National Unity and integrity (Preamble) upheld in dealing with revocation of citizenship. (Article 9, 11)

6) Shelter to refugees. (ex) Rohingyas upholding Principle of Non-Refoulment

Steps Required:
- (1) Sign Refugee convention with due deliberation.
- (2) Active implementation of CAA (Rules).
- (3) Principle of Non-Refoulment to be followed.

Hence, India's approach to citizenship is ensedded with its belief in VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM

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Candida write on

(6) **6. Declining fertility rates, coupled with rising life expectancy, require a shift from fertility focused interventions to human capital investments. Examine in the light of recent population trends.**

UN Population Prospectus has reported India's population to rise to 1.46 billion while NFHS-I has found fertility rate to decline to 2.0.

Demographic trends
- ① Rising life expectancy (69.4 years)
- ② Ageing population (from 10% to 20% by 2050)
- ③ Demographic Winter in certain regions. (ex) Kerala
- ④ Feminisation of ageing (sex ratio : 1900 for age >80)

Need to shift to Human capital approach

1) Poor employability (ex) only 50% of

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graduates are employable (India Skills report, 2023)

2) Poor health indicators (ex) NFHS-5 - 35% children are stunted.

3) Poor learning outcomes (ex) ASER report - Class V student not able to solve division.

4) Fertility rate Stabilisation (ex) Total Fertility Rate 2.0 (Replacement Rate-2.1)

5) Greying of Population (ex) Elderly population to triple by 2050.

6) Demographic Dividend window will close by 2055.

Way Forward
- (1) K. Kasturirangan committee - Change learning pedagogy
- (2) S. Ramadorai Panel - Outcome oriented skills

Hence, to harvest DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND, Amartya Sen Capability Approach is needed

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(7)

7. "The quality of governance is critically linked to the extent and nature of citizen participation in democratic processes." Discuss using examples in the Indian context.

Candidat write on

2nd ARC held that citizen participation is key to good governance and for strengthening of Democracy.

Citizen participation improving quality of governance

1) Accountability ensured through public participation. (ex) Social Audit of Flood relief materials in Assam

2) Transparency enhanced to catalyse good governance (ex) RTI used by Parivartan NGO to unearth PDS scam in Delhi

3) Grievance redressal by active citizenry. (ex) CPGRAMS.

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4) Efficiency and Effectiveness in utilisation of public funds.
   (ex) Gram Sabha (Article 243(b)) led verification of PMAY beneficiaries.
5) Public service delivery quality enhanced. (ex) Passport Seva Kendra.
6) Citizen centric administration through Jan-Bhagidari. (ex) Indore cleanliness.

way forward
- (1) 2nd ARC: Establish Public Grievance officer (PGO)
- (2) GVK Rao committee: promote decentralisation over bureaucratisation
- (3) Gadgil committee: Regular social audits

Hence, Jan-Bhagidari (Public participation) is Sine-qua-non for GOOD GOVERNANCE

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(8)

8. "Low alignment between educational outcomes and market needs can widen social and economic inequalities." Examine this statement in the context of India's skills ecosystem.

As per [India Skills Report, 2023], only [50%] of the graduates are employable. This highlights the lack of [industry-academia disconnect]

[Low alignment can widen inequalities]

Social Inequality

① [Social Mobility] avenues would shrink

② [Gender equality] would face hurdles.

③ [Regional inequalities] may increase.

④ [Social unrest] may occur.

(ex) Jat - reservation demands

[Economic inequality]

1) Widening of [income inequality]

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(ex) oxfam report : Top 1% earn 22% of income.

2) Wealth generation opportunities may diminish

3) Urban inequality may rise. (ex) slums.

way forward

① S. Ramadorai Panel - Outcome based skill development

② Narendra Jadhav Comittee → Industry academia collabration

③ K. Kasturirangan Comittee - change learning pedagogy.

④ Recognition of prior learning.

⑤ Skill on wheel approach. (ex) Brazil.

⑥ Credit system for skill mobility

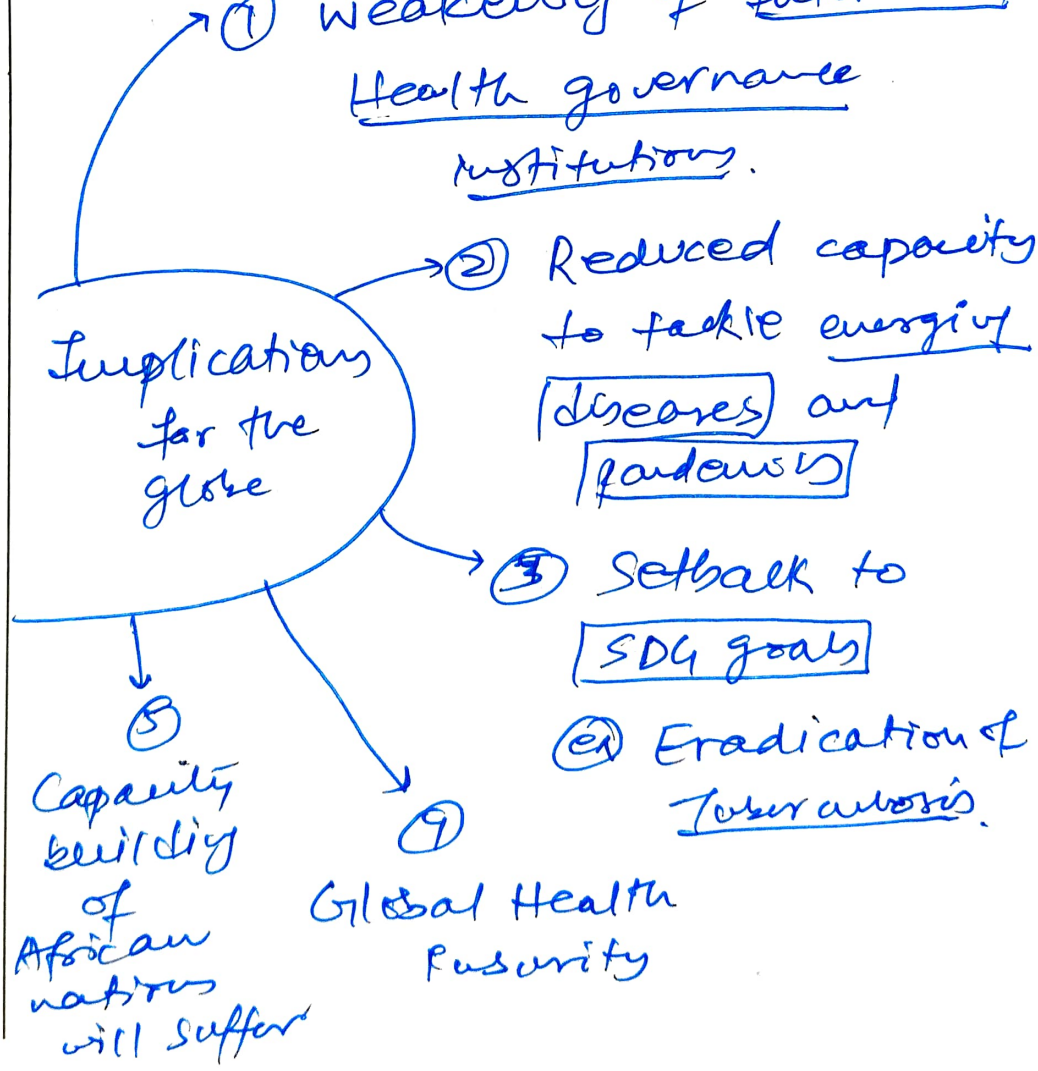
Therefore, to harness YUVA SHAKTI as per PM Modi, we must skill the youth to make them one of SAPNAASHIL

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(9)

9. "The weakening commitment of major powers to international health frameworks poses serious challenges to equitable global cooperation." Discuss in light of the U.S. withdrawal from the WHO and its implications for India.

USA's deglobalisation is leading to "Kindelberger Trap" for global governance. The withdrawal of USA from WHO threatens health governance architecture



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Implications for India

① Threats to integration of health governance
- e.g. SEAR HQ in New Delhi

② Health targets may get difficult to achieve.
- e.g. WHO support in AIDS management

③ India can fill the leadership role

Way Forward

① Commit annual funds to WHO

② Reduce trust deficit between nations

③ Strengthen Int'l Health Regulation (IHR)

④ Regular World Health Assembly.

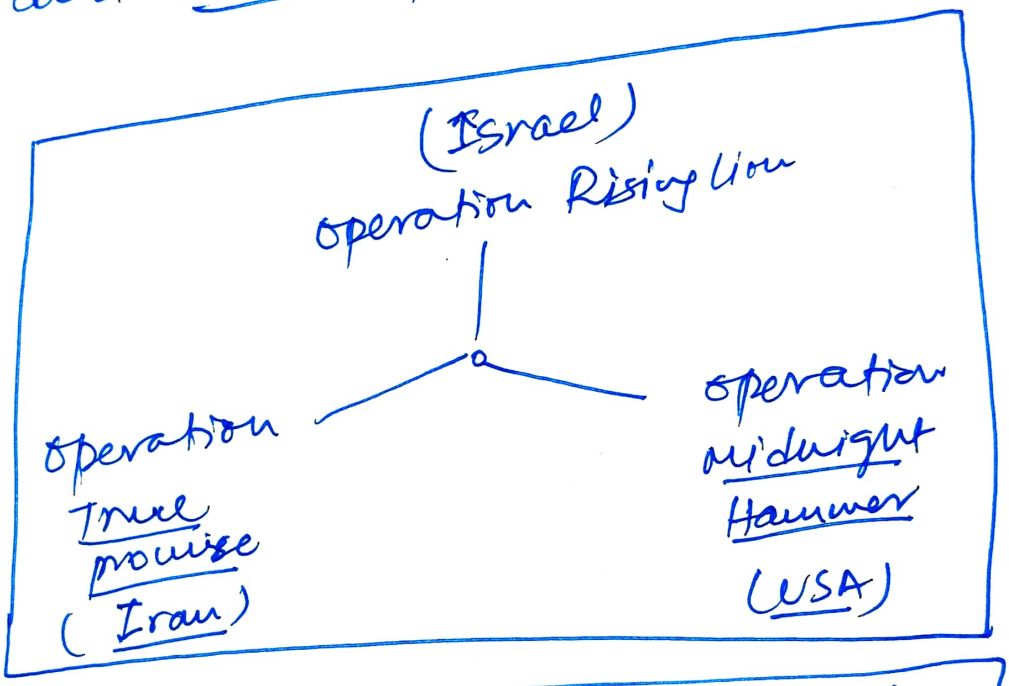
Hence, WHO must be strengthened as NO ONE IS SAFE until everyone is SAFE.

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(10)

10. The ongoing conflict in West Asia has exposed the vulnerabilities of regional diplomacy. In this light, discuss the implications of the West Asian conflict for India's strategic autonomy and regional engagement.

Recently, a series of geopolitical conflicts threatened the peace and security of west Asia



Implications of west Asian conflict

1) Complicates **Diplomatic Balancing** Act vis-a-vis Iran and Israel

2) **De-Hyphenation Policy** may get complicated with Israel-Iran War.

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3) Strategic Projects like IMEEC may get delayed.

4) Israel-Iran conflict threatens 9 million diaspora.

5) Navigation route threatened due to Houthis Attacks
   (a) Gulf of Aden

6) Threats of USA sanction on Chabahar port project with Iran.

Way Forward
- (1) Peaceful negotiation
- (2) Two state solution
- (3) India as a Peace Broker.

Thus, India can use up the occasion to become a Peace Broker for ensuring lasting peace.

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(11)

11. "Department-related Standing Committees serve as the institutional backbone of legislative scrutiny, yet their potential remains underutilised." Critically analyse the challenges faced by Parliamentary Committees in ensuring executive accountability in India.

"Congress in ~~Com~~ house is congress on exhibition, congress in committee is congress at work"
– Woodrow Wilson.

Role of parliamentary committees

① In-depth scrutiny of Bills.
- eg DPDP Bill

② Provide voice to members from all parties.
- eg Proportional representation followed.

③ Tackle reduced number of sittings of House (Average 70 days annually)

④ Recieve Public feedback

⑤ Depoliticised environment

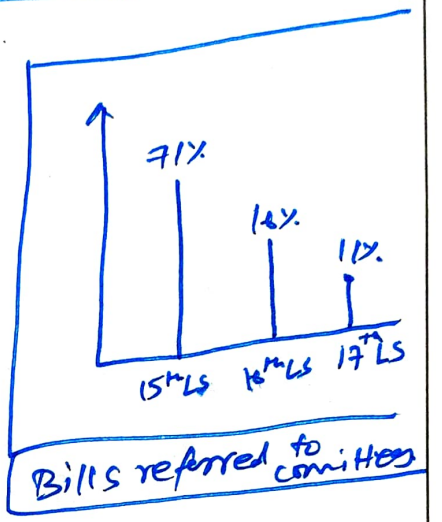
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Challenges faced by Parliamentary Committees

1) **Short tenure** (1 year only) restrict opportunity to specialise.

2) **Reducing number** of bills referred to parliamentary committees



3) **Politicisation** and taking stance based on party lines. (ex) Waqf bill.

4) **Poor adherence** to recommendations
(ex) Sophie Zhang case

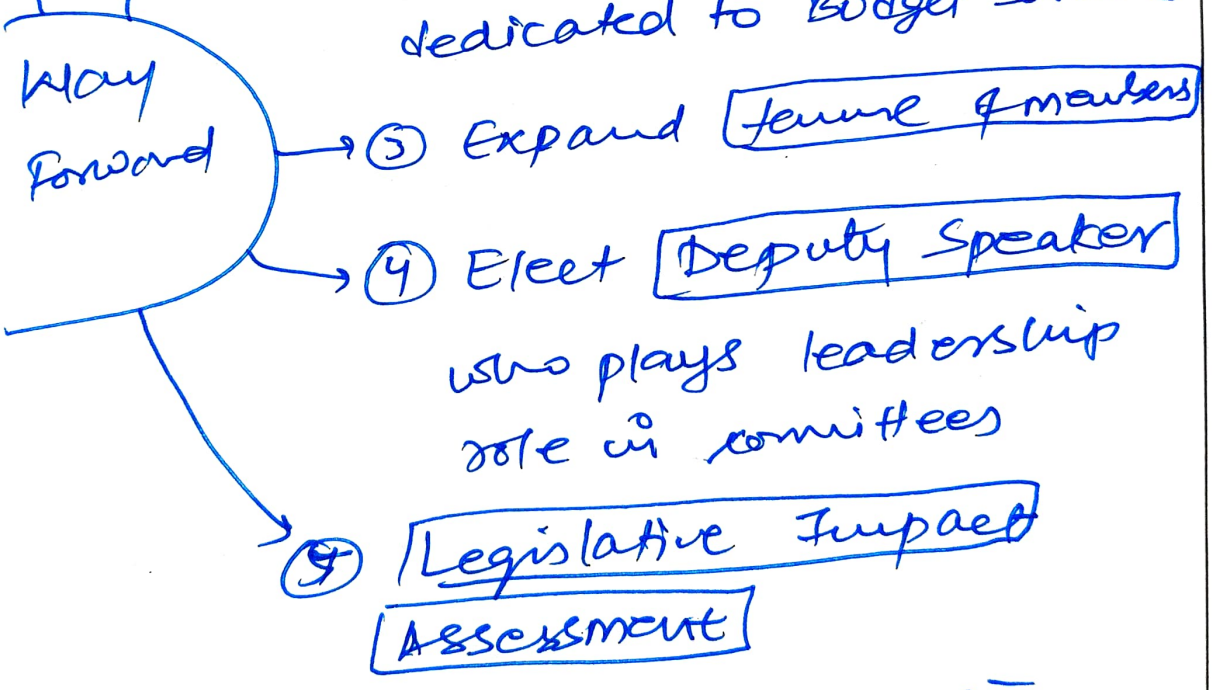
5) Recommendations are **not always** laid down on the **floor of house**.

6) **Post-FACTO** audit by **Public Accounts committee**.

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7) Delegated legislation increasingly which are not properly scrutinised

8) Rising use of ordinances (Article 123)



Thus, parliamentary committees need to be strengthened to make our VISIBLE democracy SUBSTANTIVE

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12. "President's Rule is a constitutional mechanism to deal with governance failure, not political convenience." Under what circumstances can President's Rule be imposed in a State? Discuss the constitutional safeguards and judicial verdicts associated with it.

Article 356 provides power to the President of India to impose President Rule through notification based on circumstances in Article 355 and 365.

Circumstances of imposing President Rule

1. No clear majority to any party post-polls.
2. No alliance willing to form government
3. Sudden death of the Chief Minister without any replacement
4. Breakdown of law and order (Article 355)
5. Non-compliance with order of Centre (Article 365)
6. Government not being carried out in accordance with constitution. (Article 355)

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Constitutional safeguards

1) Article 163 provide Governor with discretion to call parties to form government.

2) SR Bommai case verdict (1994)
   - → Majority need to be proven on the floor of house
   - → Governor can't take decision based on subjective assessment
   - → President can only "suspend" the government, later confirmed by Parliament.

3) Raveshwar Prasad case: Governor cannot apply Presidents rule based on his subjective assessment.

4) BP Singhal case: Judicial review of Governor's removal

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5) **Keisham Meghachandra case**: Decision on disqualification under Anti-defection within **3 months**.

6) **Nabam Rebia case**: Speaker cannot decide on disqualification plea when his **removal** resolution is under consideration

Way Forward

1. **NCRWC**: Governor should be chosen with chief ministers consultation
2. **Sarkaria commission** prescribed order to call for **floor majority**.
3. **Punchhi commission**: Presidents Rule only for **3 months**

Hence, presidents rule must be applied **sparingly** to maintain the spirit of **COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM**

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NEXT IAS

13

13. The recently released Devolution Index reveals wide variation in the performance of States in empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions. While explaining the reasons behind this variation, discuss the role of capacity-building initiatives in enabling PRIs to fulfil their constitutional mandate.

Recently, Devolution Index was published by Ministry of Panchayati Raj that highlighted the variation in democratic decentralisation in the spirit of 73rd Amendment Act (1993)

Reasons behind variation in devolution

1) GVK Rao Committee highlighted Bureaucratisation over decentralisation in Panchayats

2) 2nd ARC highlighted the lack of devolution of
   - 3Fs
     - Funds
     - Functions
     - Functionaries

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3) Article 243 I that provides for State Finance commission has not be constituted by many states.

4) Schedule XI Subjects still kept with state governments in some states.

5) Financial devolution is insufficient to Panchayati raj. (ex) only 1% GDP devolved to Panchayats (10% in UK)

6) Shrinking Revenue avenues for Panchayats and Municipalities.
(ex) octroi, advertisement tax subsumed in GST

Role of capacity building initiatives

1) Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo highlighted that women with

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greater knowledge about their roles and power prioritised women specific demands in Panchayats.

2) Effective accountability through social audits, gram sabhas.

3) Bina Aggarwal (sociologist) highlighted increased confidence among women representatives who underwent training.

4) Article 243(b) - Gram sabha effectively used for grievance redressal

5) Transparent utilisation of funds.
(ex) Geo-NREGA.

6) Digital capacity building (ex) PRIASoft

Thus, MYSORE DECLARATION need to be followed to achieve ~~GR~~ BHARATUDAY through GRAM UDAY

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14. "In the evolving constitutional and political landscape, the effectiveness of statutory commissions depends on their structural autonomy and independence." Discuss in the context of the growing demand for constitutional status for statutory commissions like the National Commission for Women (NCW) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Recently, GANHRI has refused recognition to NHRC citing lack of Independence and political interference.

Mechanisms of ensuring Independence of Institutions

1. Collegiality for appointment
   - ex: Lokpal, CEC.
2. Funds charged on Consolidated Fund of India
   - Schedule II
3. Independent secretariat and own staffs.
   - ex: CAG
4. Ban on Post-Retirement appointment
   - ex: Judiciary (Article 124)
5. Accountability directly to Parliament

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Need for structural autonomy and independence of institutions

1) **Credibility** of the institution is enhanced. (ex) ECI [**Anoop Baranwal case** (2023)]

2) **Financial independence** gives concrete power to fulfill the mandate.

3) **Bipartisan investigation** and quasi-judicial role. (ex) NHRC against **Custodial deaths**

4) **Public confidence** on the institution increases. (ex) **CBI** investigations demanded in sensitive matters.

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5) Rule of Law over Rule of Men

(a) NCW delayed reaction to Manipur crisis.

4) Strengthens Democracy and build strong institutions.

(ex) ECI under TN Sheshan (IAS)

Way forward

(1) LP Singh committee - Statutory status to CBI would be given

(2) AM Ahmadi committee - NHRC should be given operational independence.

(3) Jyoti Srivas committee - Ensure independence of competition commission of India

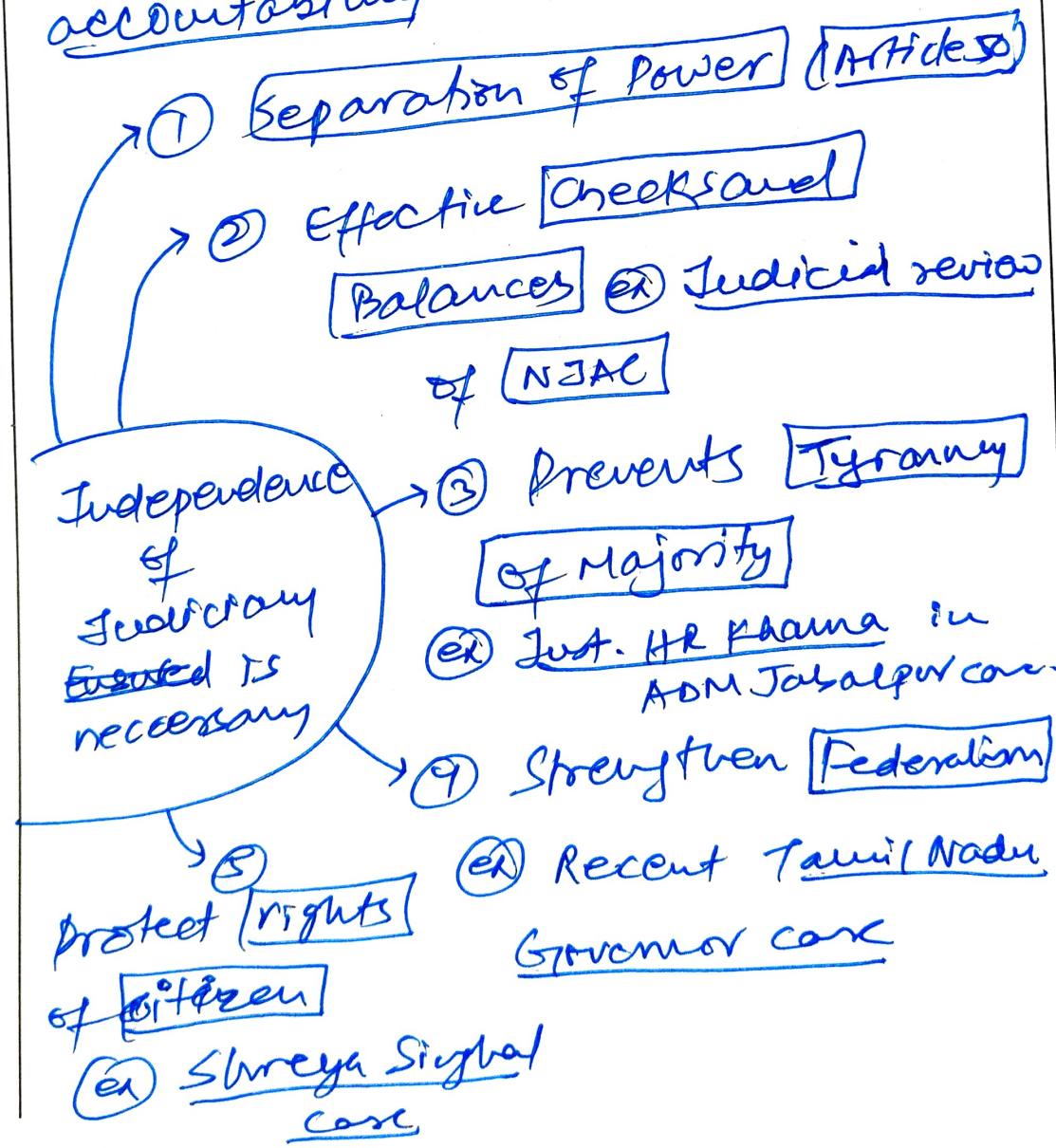
thus, Strong institutions will lay the foundation of India's strong strides towards VIKSIT BHARAT by 2042.

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15

15. "An independent judiciary is essential for upholding constitutional values, but it must also remain accountable to preserve public trust." Discuss in the context of recent issues.

Recently, Unaccounted cash were found from Justice Verma's (Delhi High court) residence which has reignited the debate on judicial accountability and Independence.



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Necessity of Judicial accountability

1) **Limited power** with institutions. (Doctrine of Constitutionalism)

2) Maintain Public trust and credibility of institution of judiciary.
   (ex) Odisha High Court publishes Annual report.

3) **Principle of Natural Justice** upheld within judiciary also. (ex) Refusal of CJI Gogoi to recuse from his own sexual harassment case.

4) **Balances and checks** between the three organs of the government

5) **Dignity** of the court upheld when it remains accountable.
   (ex) Just. Dinakaran case.

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6) Public Faith in Judicial functioning is maintained.

- Way Forward
  - ① Permanent Enquiry committee should be established
  - ② Code of Ethics - Re-Statement of values of Judicial life (1997) should be adhered to
  - ③ Intermediate punishment before impeachment
  - ④ Expand the scope of inquiry under Judicial Enquiry Act (1968)
  - ⑤ Public disclosure of Assets

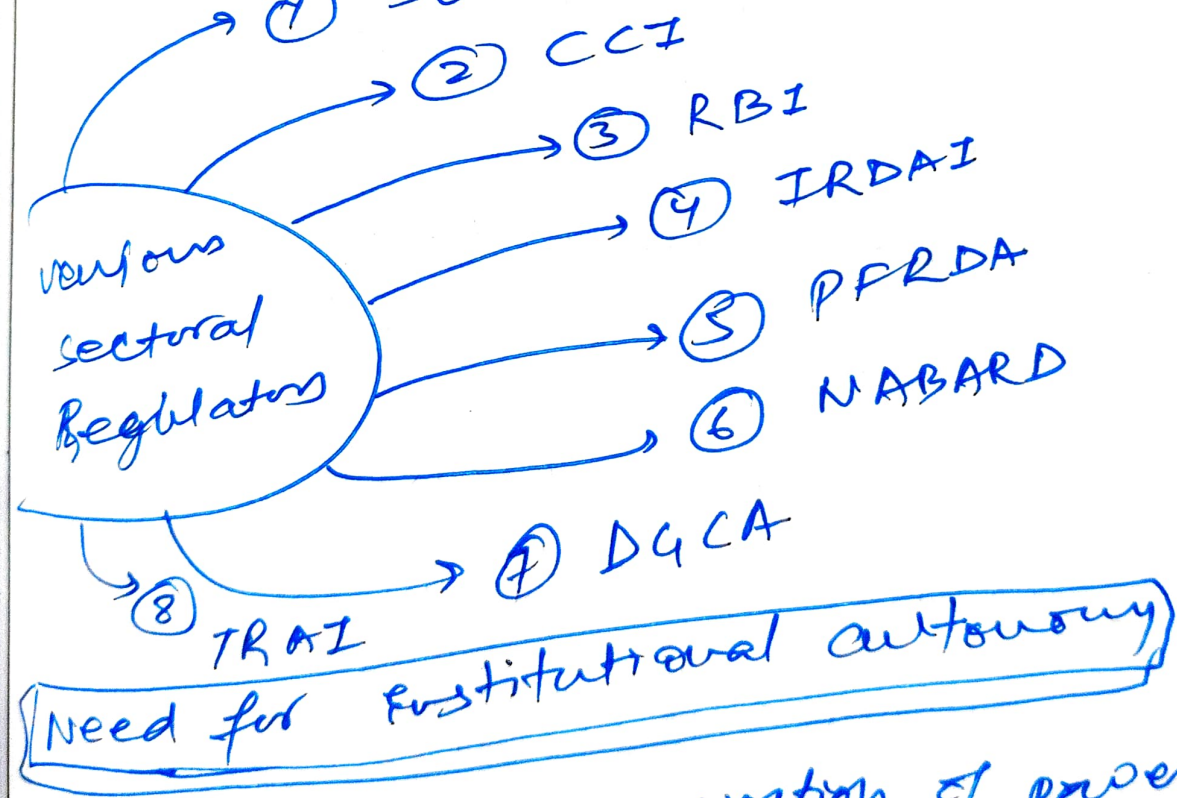
Thus, BANGALORE PRINCIPLES need to be followed to enhance Judicial accountability and secure Judicial Propriety

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16. Institutional autonomy of sectoral regulators is critical for ensuring credibility, transparency, and fair competition. In light of recent incidents, examine the issues pertaining to the independence and autonomy of regulatory bodies in India.

Various statutes provide for sectoral regulators in India with defined jurisdictions. But, many regulators have been facing challenges like NSE scam raised questions on SEBI.



Need for institutional autonomy

1) Unhindered application of powers

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within jurisdiction. (ex) RBI monetary policy.

2) Tackle Big-tech monopolistic tendencies. (ex) CCI - Meta case.

3) Evolving market conditions and technological advancements. (ex) Dabba trading tackled by SEBI

4) Long term sustainability of finances would be augmented. (ex) IRDAI and PFRDA managing large sum of funds

5) Financial services at grassroots level can be expanded. (ex) NABARD regulating Rural Cooperative Banks

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Issues with Sectoral Regulators

1. Financial Scams. ex: Chitra - Ramakrishna - NSE scam
2. Big Tech refusal to comply with domestic rules.
   ex: CCI - Meta case.
3. Anti-competitive practices and cartelisation.
   ex: Amazon - Walmart
4. Executive appointment of regulator chairpersons
5. Inability to scale up regulatory infrastructure
6. Digital monopolies.

Way Forward

1. Bimal Jalan committee recommendations for RBI
2. Financial management of PFRDA need to be enhanced.
3. SEBI should expand its capacity

Thus, Independent regulators will create fairness in difference sectors.

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(17)

17. How far do you think a caste census is a necessary step toward realising the goals of social justice and equitable development, despite the administrative challenges it poses?

Recently, Ministry of Home Affairs announced that Caste census would be a part of upcoming nationwide census to be carried out from March, 2027.

Necessity of caste census

1) Data driven policy making based on accurate caste profiles

2) Article 340 constitutionally mandates enumeration of socially and economically backward classes

3) Supreme Court in Indira Sawhney case recommended for regular

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collection of data on caste.

4) Justice approach by re-orientation of reservation based on data.

5) Supreme Court in Davinder Singh case called for Sub-categorisation of SC/STs, that can be done based on latest data.

6) Substantive equality could be achieved.

Administative challenges

① Multiplicity and Duplication of caste names. ex SECC data not released.

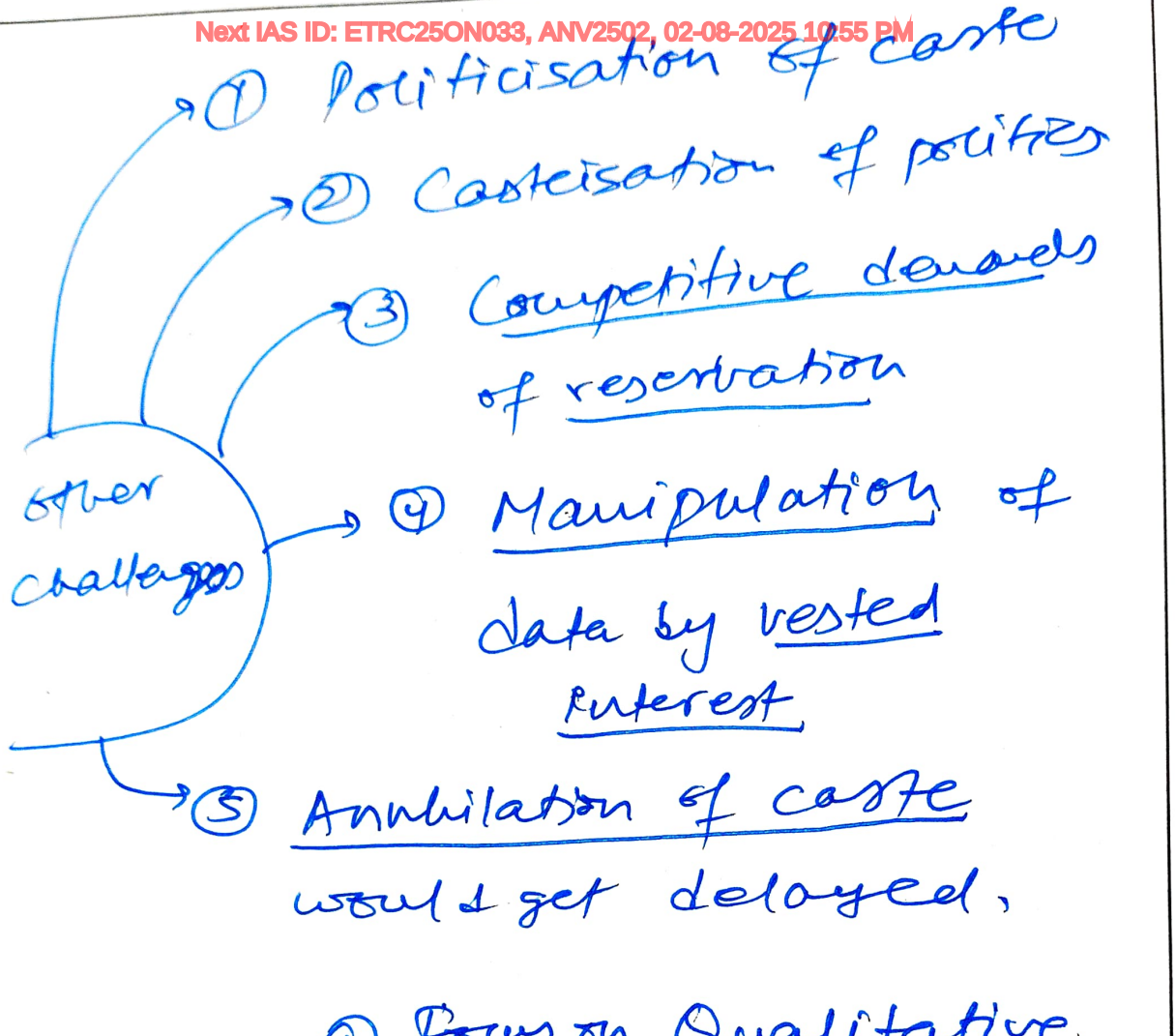
② High variation regionally for identification of castes. ex Jats as OBC in Haryana but not in UP.

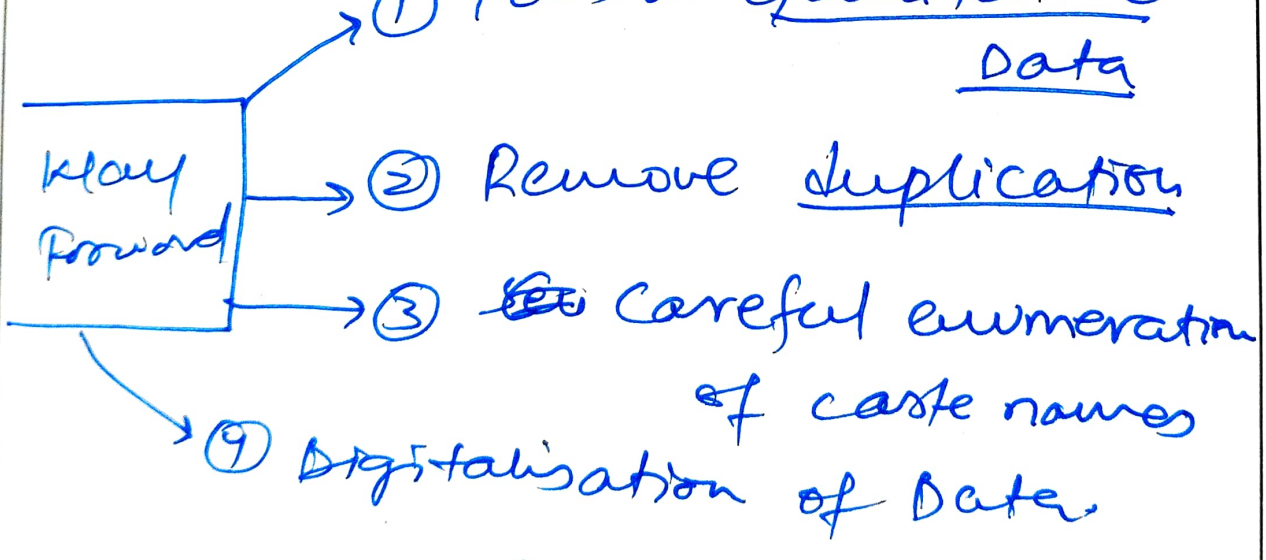
③ Outmigration and change in identity

④ Casteisation of Tribe and Tribalisation of caste

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Hence, caste census must be guided by "Principle of Fair use" of Data.

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18. "The complexity of modern governance demands adaptive and dynamic administrative reforms." Evaluate the role of administrative reforms in improving efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness in Indian governance.

As per UNDP, good governance is the processes and institutions which makes the best use of resources available to get desired outcomes.

Challenges in Modern Governance

1. Power Asymmetry between the govt. and the governed
2. Information Asymmetry between administration and public
3. Status quoist attitude of administrators.
4. Red-Tapism in govt processes
5. Accountability is not effectively ensured
6. Lack of effective Grievance Redressal
7. Elitist attitude and alienation of civil services.

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Role of Administrative reforms

I) Improving Efficiency

1) Time-bound grievance redressal
   - ex: CPGRAMS
2) Reduce leakages - ex: DBT System
3) Reduction in exclusion errors and inclusion errors - ex: AePS - PDS System.

II) Improving Transparency

4) Disclosure of information
   - ex: RTI, citizen charter
5) Transparent judicial functioning.
   - ex: e-courts.
6) Better regulatory environment.
   - ex: MCA-21 for businesses.
7) Enhance Answerability
   - ex: EIA, ESG norms

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III Improved responsiveness

1) Fast access to justice.
   - (ex) FASTER System for jails

2) Social media responsiveness.
   - (ex) Twitter seva - Railways

way Forward
- (1) 2nd ARC : National Institute of Public Administration
- (2) Suriveder Nath comittee
  - ↳ Lateral entry
- (3) NITI Ayog : Multi-Stakeholder appraisal.
- (4) 2nd ARC : Domain Specialisation.
- (5) 2nd ARC
  - Code of Ethics need to be adopted.

Thus, governance reforms is necessary to achieve

MINIMUM GOVT. MAXIMUM GOVERNANCE

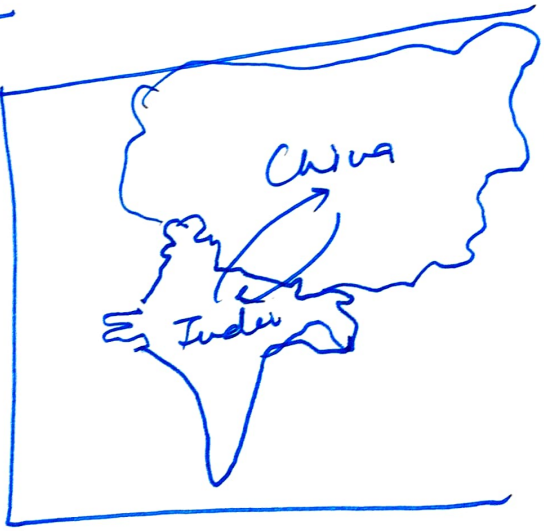
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19. The trajectory of India–China relations in the last 75 years reflects a balance between pragmatic cooperation and unresolved strategic tensions. Discuss the contours of this evolving policy and highlight the measures India should take to counterbalance asymmetries with China.

Retd. IFS Nirupama Rao held that India's relations with China is based on balance between deterrence on borders and pragmatic economic ties.

Evolving ties

1) Idealism and Realism guided relationship in the decade following both independence. eg Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai.



2) Realism in foreign policy after 1961 Sino-Indian war

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3) Line of Actual Control remained undefined and skirmishes continued.

4) Greater economic integration post 1991 reforms by India and 978 opening of China by Deng Xiaoping.

5) High level Bilateral visits during Rajiv Gandhi tenure.

6) Incursion and Infiltration — I2 Diplomacy by China. (ex) Doklam standoff.

7) China's Five Finger Strategy expanding its frontiers in India

8) China's BRI (Belt and Road) expansion to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) (ex) CPEC violating India's sovereignty.

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9) Xiaokang villages (Dual use villages) built on India's border by china

Measures India should take

① Strengthen military Hardware and infrastructure in border areas.

② DERISKING by diversification of trade

③ continued communication on Border patrols (confidence building)

④ Leverage SCO and BRICS to achieve foreign policy goals.

⑤ Expedite IMEEC, IMT trilateral etc.

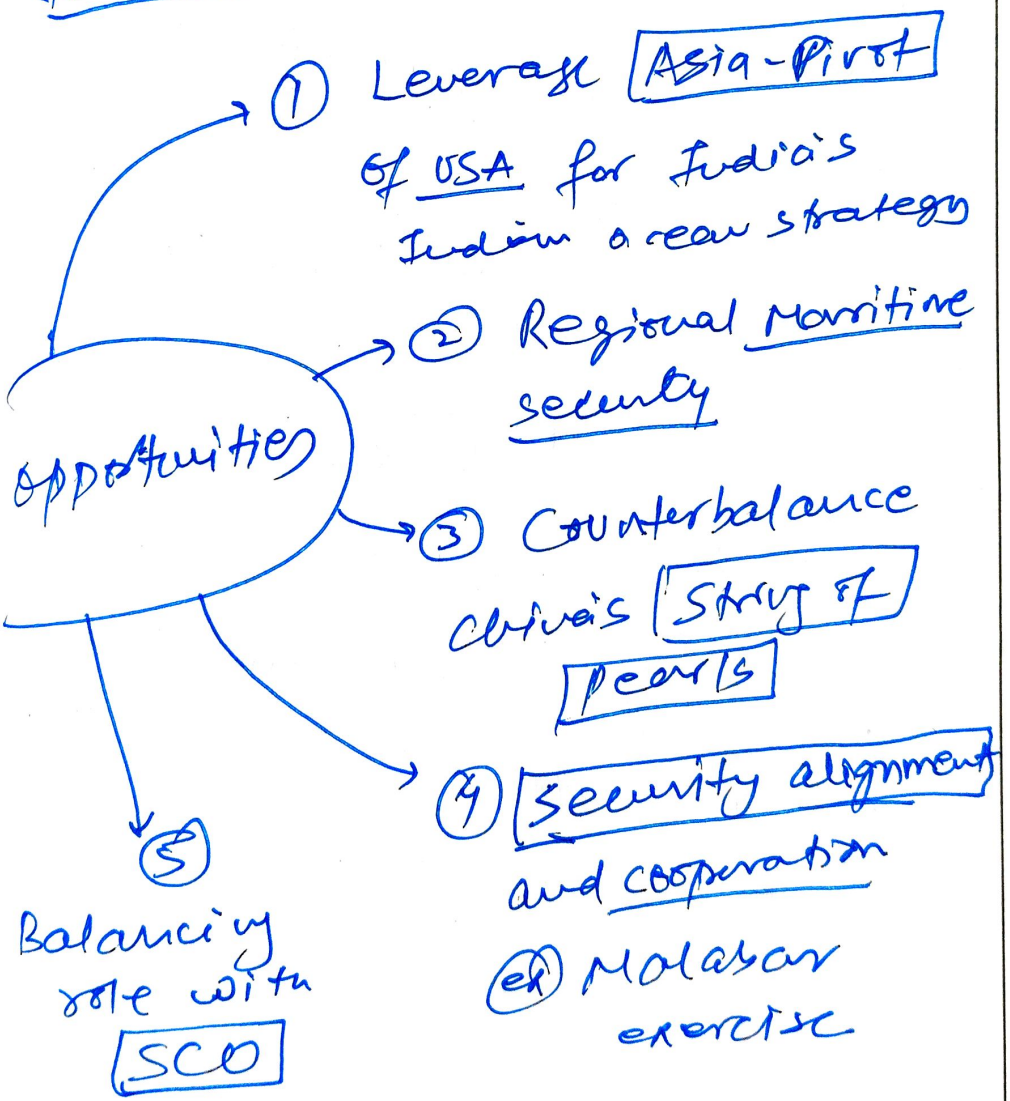
Thus, Vikram Misri has rightly said that India-china relationship should be guided by mutual → Trust, Interest, Respect

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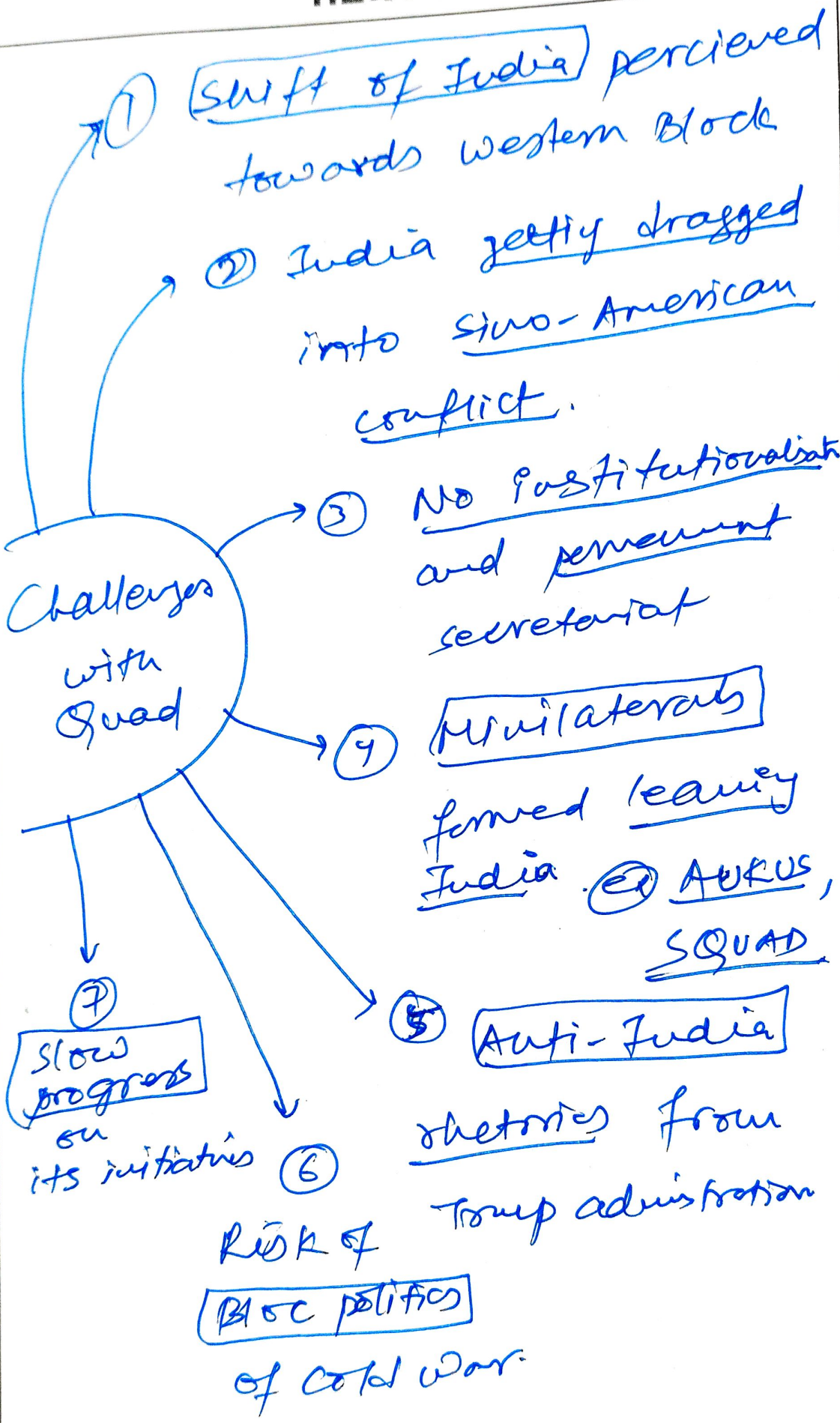
20. The evolution of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) from a maritime security grouping to a multidimensional partnership reflects changing strategic realities in the Indo Pacific. In this context, examine the opportunities and challenges that QUAD presents for India's regional aspirations and strategic autonomy.

Quad is an informal group of four likeminded democracies India - USA - Japan and Australia for establishing a free & open Indo-Pacific region.



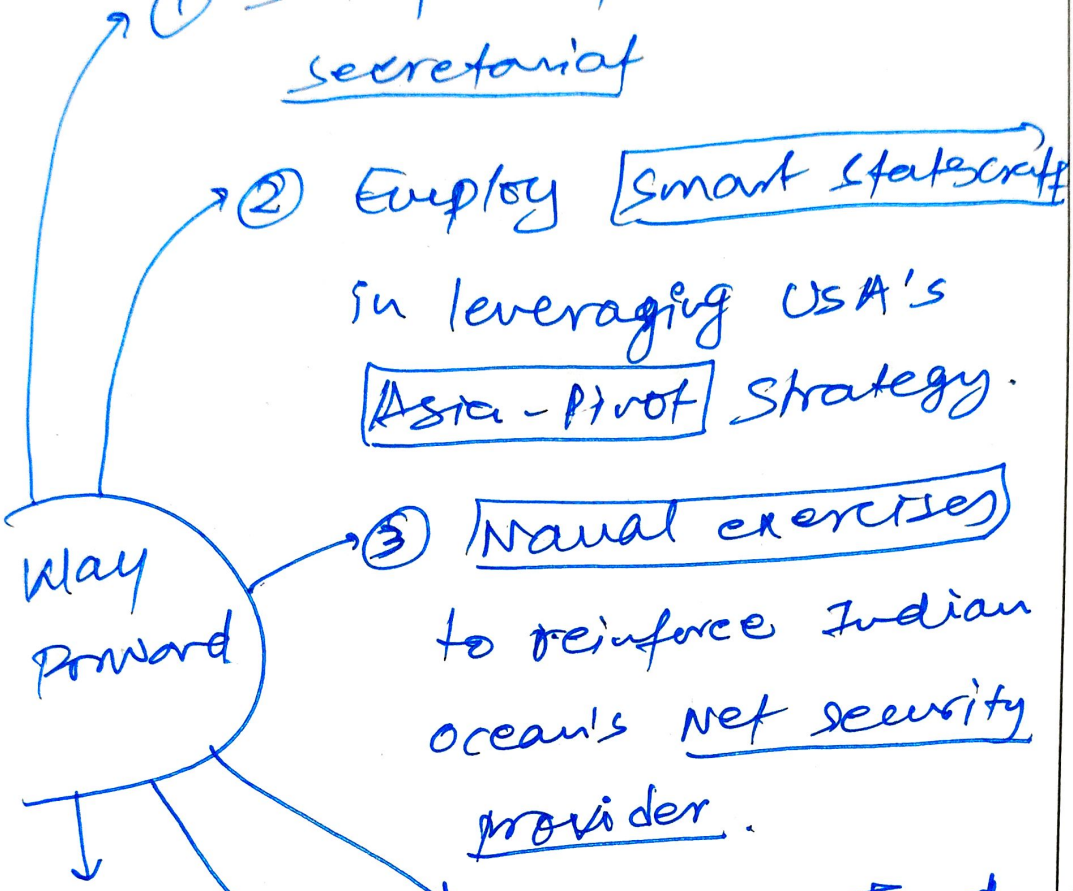
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① Setup a permanent secretariat

② Employ Smart Statecraft in leveraging USA's Asia-Pivot Strategy.

③ Naval exercises to reinforce Indian ocean's Net security provider.

④ Finalise Trade Deal with USA

⑤ Regular leaders meet.
(ex) Washington 2025

⑥ Expand areas of cooperation

"History has lesson for emerging power. Leverage the dominant collaborate with the convergent and manage competition"

– S Jaishankar