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(1)

Constituent Assembly was a diverse political platform encompassing representatives from every section of the society including women.

Women like Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sarojini Naidu, Jangabai Deshmukh et al. coursed India's constitutional discourse in the following ways:-

(1) Advocation for social welfare and provisions for the marginalised like SC/STs, women.

(eg) Article 15 and Article 16 providing for equality of opportunity to everyone.

(2) Gender rights and gender justice through articles 39, article 46 etc.

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- ③ Adhered to the use of gender neutral sentences in the constitution.
- ④ Strongly supported universal adult franchise for women irrespective of any criteria.
- ⑤ Begum Aizaz Rasul and others voiced for against separate electorates, thus, promoting communal harmony in the constituent assembly debates.

The contributions of our "founding mothers" are still reflecting and will continue to do so in the socio-political, economic ethos of our country.

(2)

Privilege Motion in parliament can be moved against a member or a non-member for breach of privilege of an individual member or the house itself.

Parliamentarians are guaranteed freedom of speech and conduct through Article 105 and its violation even by a non-member like publishing false news by media with respect to parliamentary proceedings may draw fines, penalties or even punishment of imprisonment of the accused.

Once a privilege motion is initiated in the house, it is referred to

The Committee of Privileges which deals with the matter as follows:-

- (1) Examine the statement/ conduct under question of breach of privilege.
- (2) Identifying the stakeholders either MPs or non-MPs or both.
- (3) Deciding penalties/ fines etc. with respect to rule book of the parliament.
- (4) Preparing and finalising report to be sent to the presiding officer.
- (5) Presiding Officer decides the final verdict and is the ultimate authority to take action on the committee's recommendations.

With the growth of digitisation and democratisation of opinions, parliamentary privileges should cater to the freedom of speech & expression.

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(3)

India is a republic with an elected Head of State while UK is a parliamentary democracy with a monarch as a nominal head.

Similarities in powers of the President and King of India and UK respectively: —

- (1) Both are nominal heads with real power vested in the executive and the legislature.
- (2) They are the supreme commander of the armed forces.
- (3) They have the right to know, right to be informed on matters relating to governance.
- (4) They summon the house of the parliament, all bills

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become acts after their assent.

(5) Each foreign treaty/agreement is entered on in their name.

Their respective roles reflect constitutional principles of India and UK as:-

① President is an integral part of India's parliament, hence, he can either accept or reject the bills sent to him.

while King in UK cannot do this, as ~~he~~ is just a figurine head.

② India is a republic hence, President is elected unlike UK where Kings and Queens are from hereditary linkages.

③ President in India can refer questions to Supreme Court, while the King cannot.

Thus, powers and roles of President in India reflect strong democratic, republic and sovereign constitutional principles, while UK's King represents an age old monarchical tradition with parliament democracy.

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(4)

The statement aptly describes the importance of leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Role of LoP in LS

- ① Holding government accountable in meetings, appointments etc with respect to cabinet committees, parliamentary committees etc.
- ② Ensuring proper procedural safeguards in appointments of Election Commissioners and other important posts
- ③ Representing the collective opposition parties, ensuring that democracy does not camouflaged itself into a majoritarian ruled state.

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Measures to enhance LoP's effectiveness :-

- ① Institutional support with a proper secretariat given to LoP like other union ministries.
- ② Consensus based approach to be adopted in executive appointments of which LoP is the member. If this is not feasible, then the dissent of LoP must be made public.
- ③ Reform the 10% criteria to single largest party for nominating LoP is LS.

Formal recognition of LoP as a post instead of numbers to promote a culture of constructive opposition is crucial to strengthening parliament -ry democracy in India.

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(5) Article 29, 30 provides for safeguards to the minority educational institutions in India.

Role of Judicial Pronouncement in safeguarding equality and minority identity in India:-

- (1) Upheld autonomy & right to administer institutions by minority institutes through TMA Pai Foundation v/s Karnataka (2002) Judgement.
- (2) State cannot force reservation on SC/ST/OBC ground to unaided private minority institutions as propounded in PA Inamdar case 2005.
- (3) In St Stephens^{College} Case, SC allowed 50% reservation for

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Christian students to maintain minority identity.

(4) SC has also stated in its judgements that compulsory reservation through RTE Act cannot be imposed on minority educational institutions.

However, certain challenges remain such as:-

(1) Vague definition of 'minority' and its selective interpretation across states.

(2) Lack of transparency and accountability of such institutions leading to allegations of corruption.

Hence, a transparent, accountable mechanism which clearly defines 'minority institutions' is needed to preserve socio-cultural fabric of minorities, enhancing their dignity and identity.

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(6)

Social enterprises are those institutions which work for the collective development and growth of a society. For instance a company manufacturing affordable clothes for vulnerable sections may be termed as a social enterprise.

How can social enterprise complement government in inclusive development?

(1) By providing financial and manual support to execution of schemes, policies, etc.

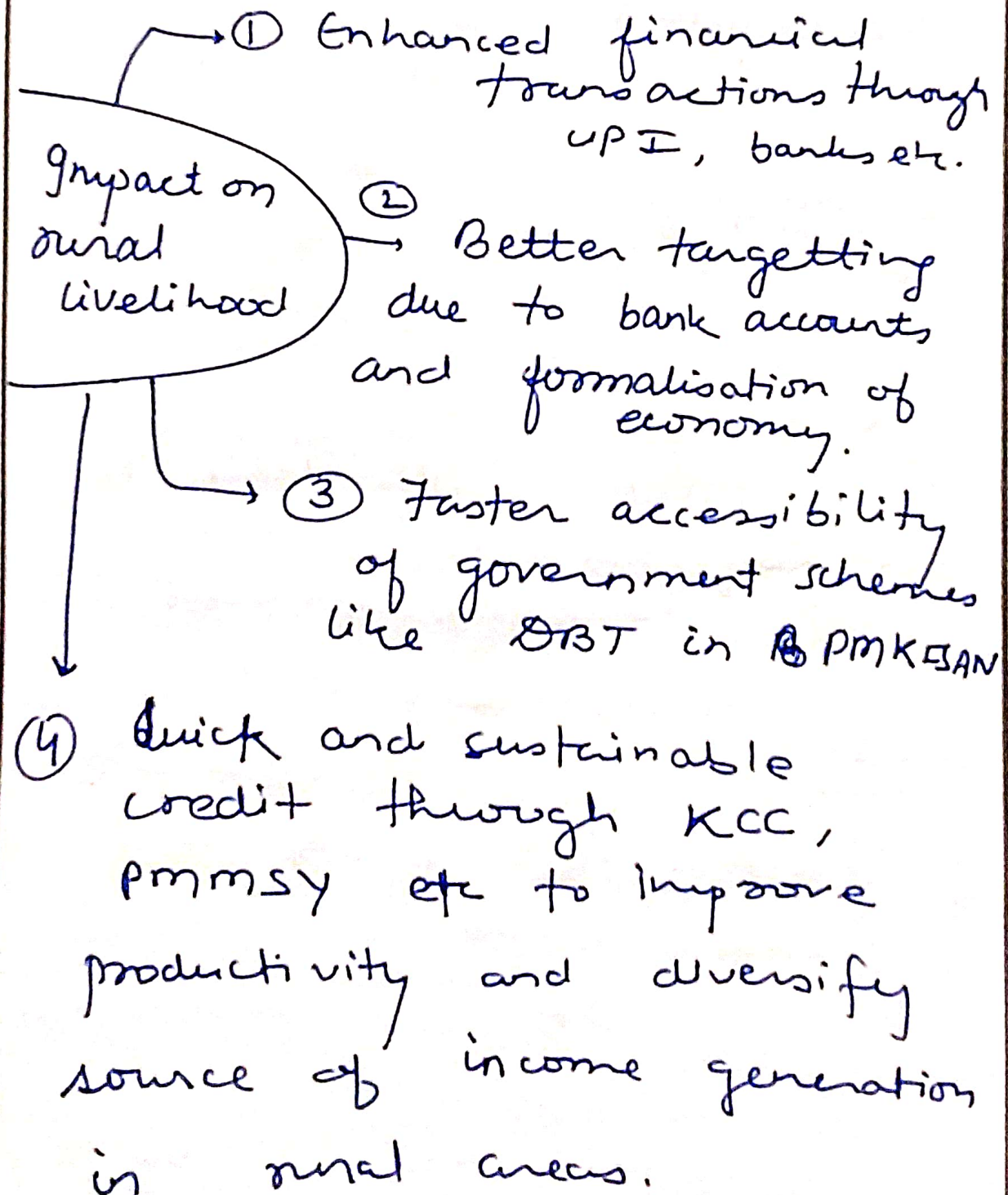
(2) Providing trucks to collect solid municipal wastes.

- ② Training of individuals and them, helping in capacity building.
(eg) NGO, working with a tech giant to provide free computers in government schools.
- ③ Helping in Research and Development in areas like clean energy, drinking water etc.
- ④ Facilitating affordable products to ensure equitable access for all.
(eg) low price LED bulbs.
- ⑤ Foster business ideals with sustainability, equity and democratic ideals.

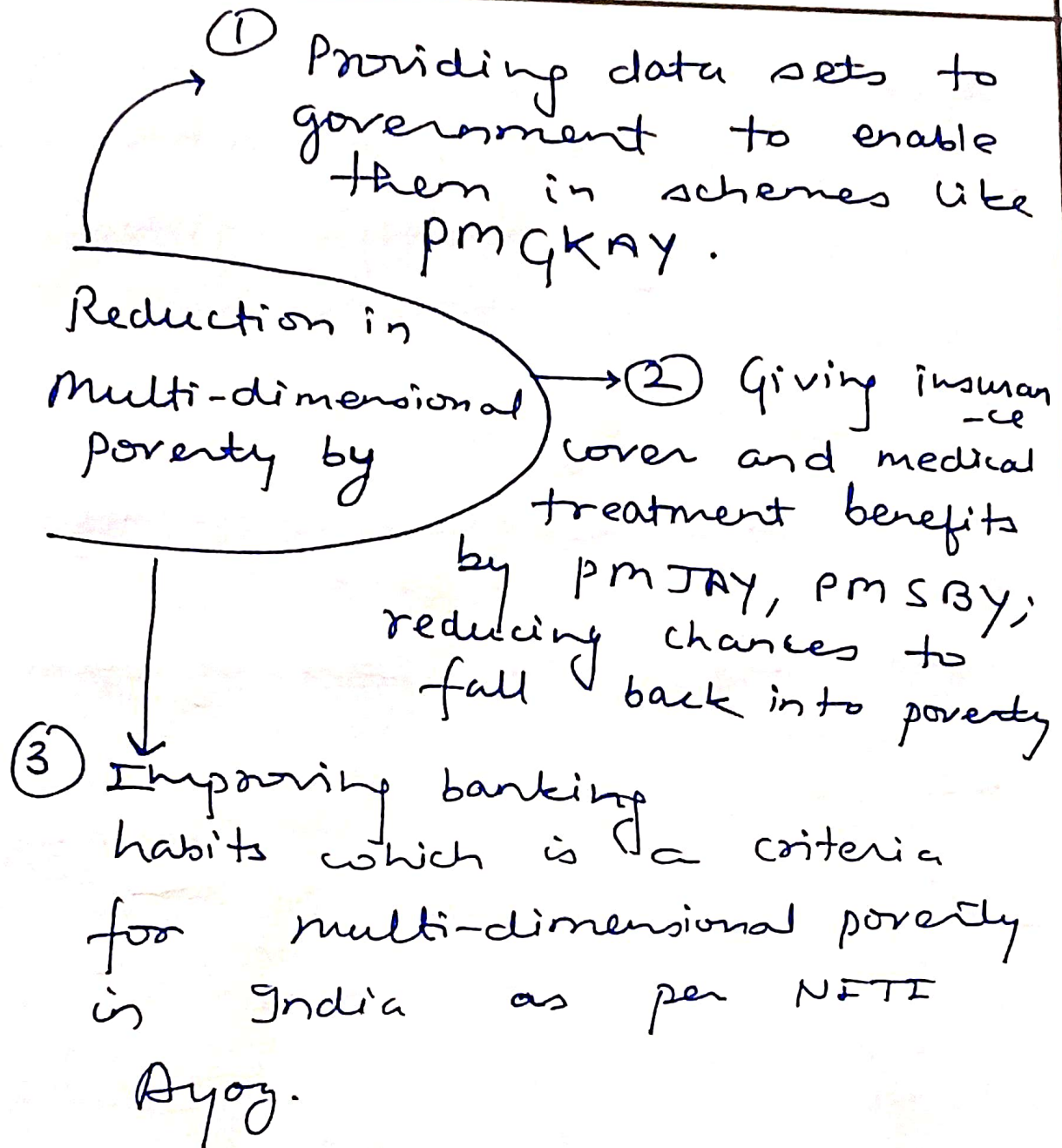
Inclusive development would not only come from government alone but from sectors like social enterprises too.

(7)

SHG Bank linkage programme is a crucial step to financial inclusion and growth in rural India.



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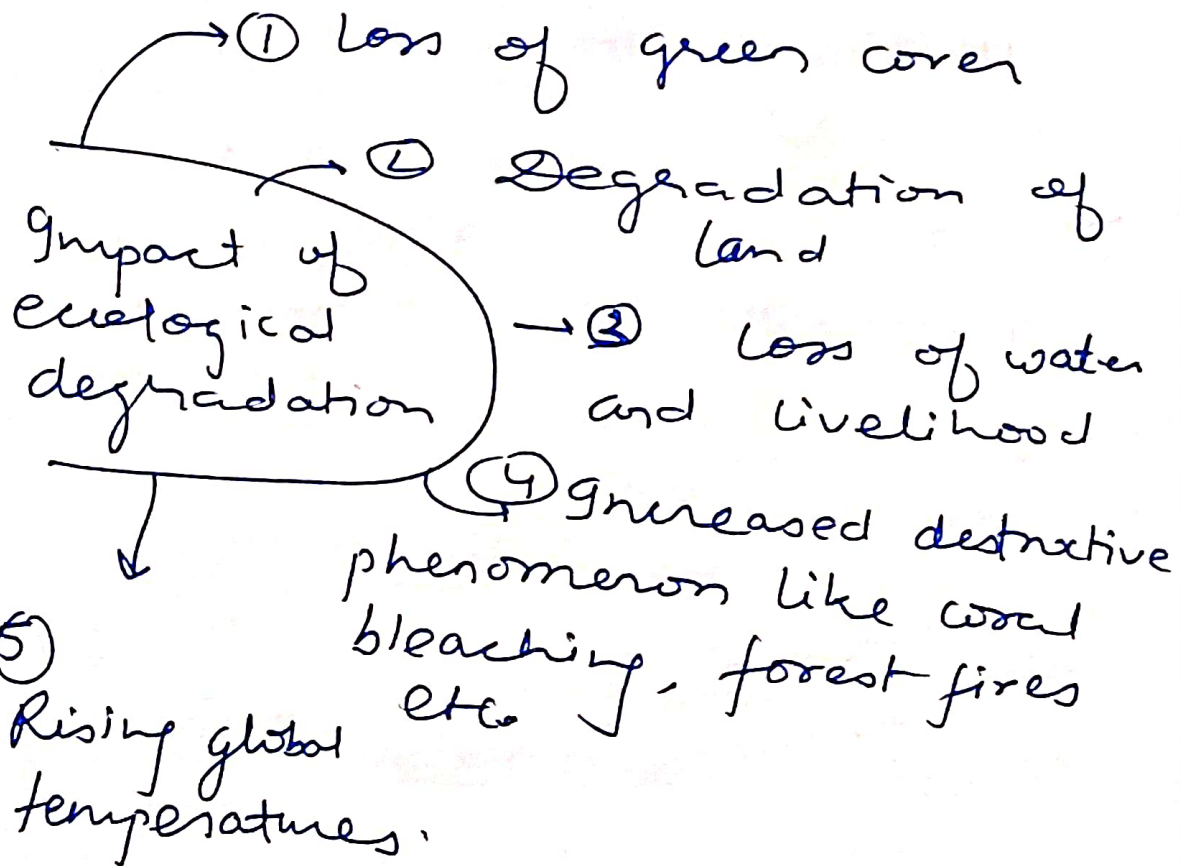


SHG - Bank Linkage programme have been a game changer, inspiring millions and lifting them out of poverty and destitution.

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⑧

Ecological preservation is one of the most challenging aspect of today's global citizens.



Role of Citizen-led Movement in ecological preservation

① Prevention of deforestation.

(eg) Chipko Andolan in 1970s

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② Saving encroachment of rivers from degradation and pollution.

(eg) Narmada Bachao Abhiyan

③ Regeneration of ecological zones and forests.

(eg) Wular forest, is pure regenerated after community efforts & mass campaign.

However, their effectiveness is yet to realise full potential due to:-

① Inconsistency in action.

② Strict government measures in some cases like development of dams in Uttarakhand.

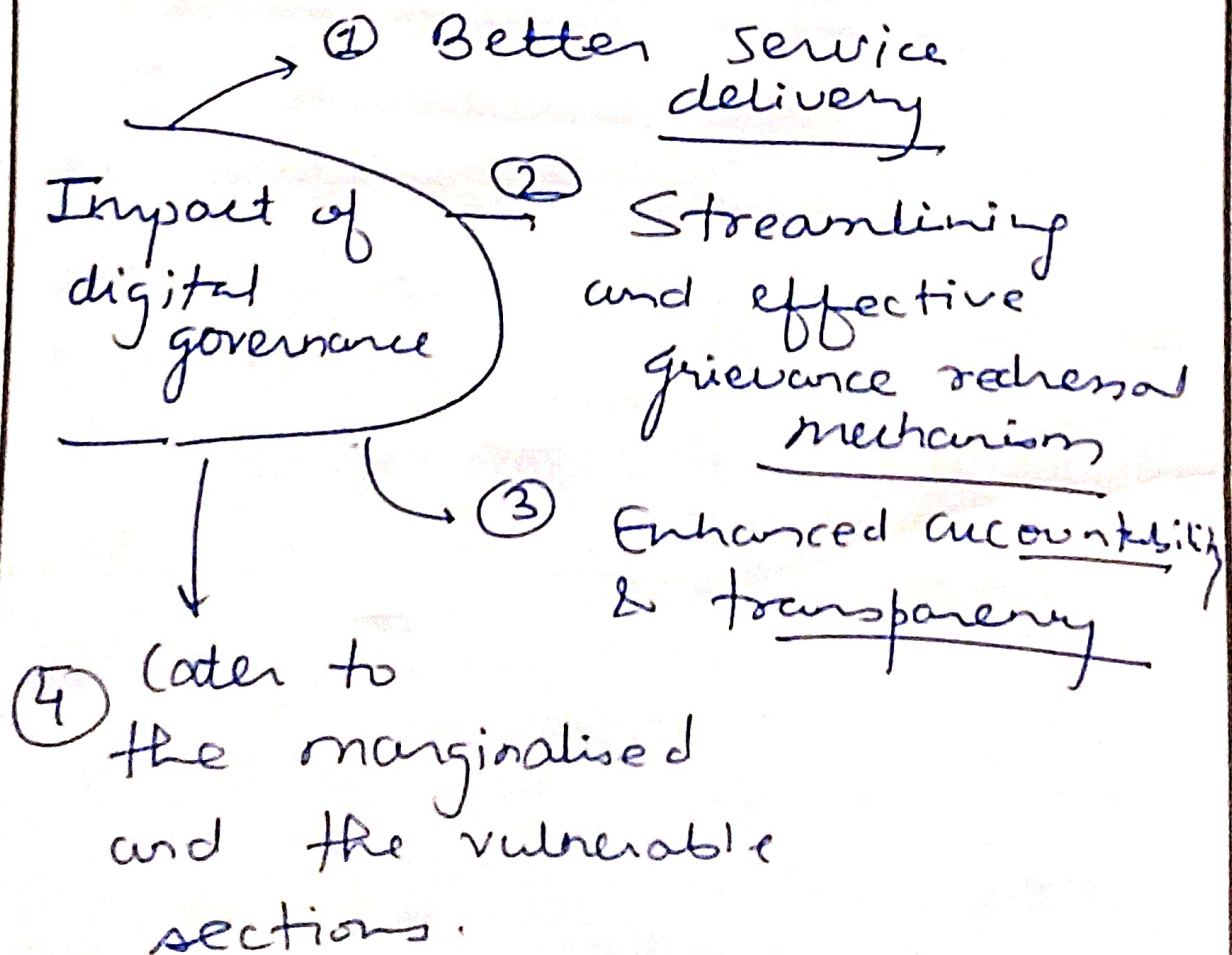
③ Improper and narrow vision of these movements with weaker regional connect.

However sporadic or sparsely erupted citizen led movements had been, there is no doubt that they act as the last resort to preserve ecological damage.

(9)

Digital governance refers to the use of internet, data etc. in policy formulation, execution and grievance redressal.

With rising global internet users and faster connectivity due to 4G, 5G etc, digital governance has emerged as the cornerstone of global agenda.



Challenges → (1) Privacy theft
→ (2) Threat to privacy
→ (3) Illegal acts like
DoS etc.
Digital divide
and rising inequality

Role of India as global digital hub in governance :-

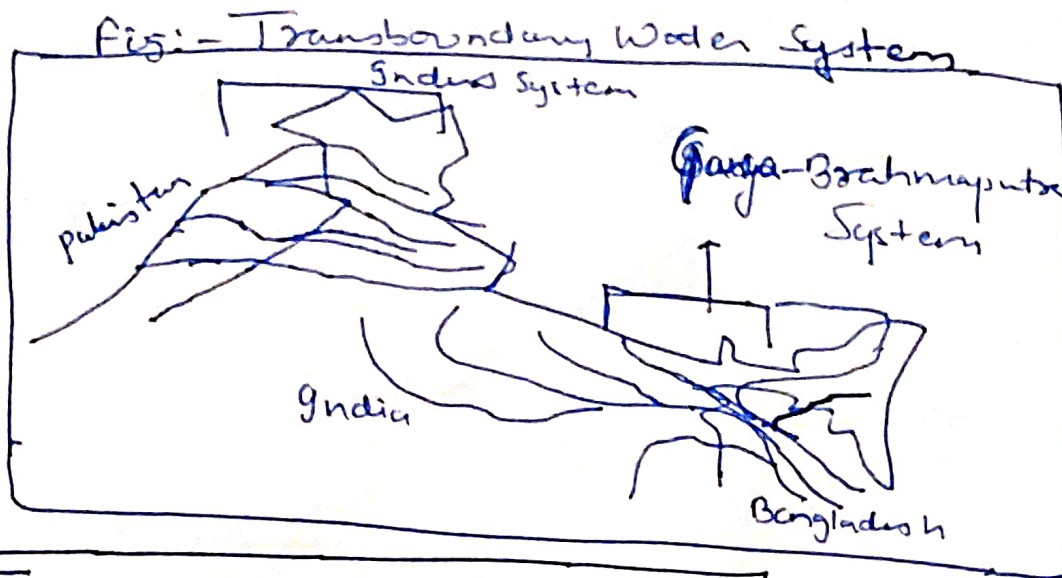
- (1) Better targetting through large database.
(eg) Aadhar
- (2) Equitable access to digital technology through UPI, ONDC, AgriStack etc.
- (3) Welfare schemes are delivered through digital methods like PM KISAN, PM JAY etc.
- (4) Enhanced grievance redressal by online RTI, CPGRAMS portal etc.

Digital is the future and India has the potential, the structure, the willpower to be a dominant player in that future.

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10

Two of the major water systems i.e., Ganga and Indus river systems of India are shared between Pakistan and Bangladesh as shown below :-



Issues with Pakistan

- ① Abeyance of Indus Water Treaty (1960) due to recent terror acts sponsored by ^{Pakistan in} India such as Pahalgam Attacks in April 2025.

India is keen to revise the treaty conditions with evolving needs and hydro-morphological changes.

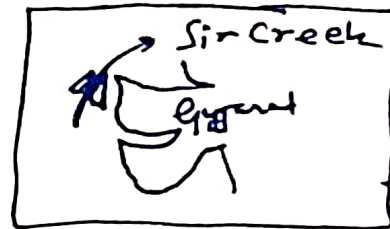
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- ② Sir Creek Issue :- Contentions arose due to Pakistan's claim of water in Sir Creek, Gujarat beyond thalweg principle

Issue with
Bangladesh



- ① Farrakha barrage construction and protest of Bangladesh against dam constructions on Ganga's tributaries.
- ② Issues relating to Teesta river and challenges regarding irrigation in West Bengal.
- ③ Bangladesh is vocal against dam construction on Barak river in Manipur.

Indian government stance on water sharing is based into peaceful coexistence as our honourable PM mentioned that 'Blood and water may never flow together.'

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11)

Recent Judgement of Supreme Court (SC) in Tamil Nadu's Governor Case has put the position of Governor into the centre of contention in centre-state relations.

Issues with Governor's role in centre-state relationship:-

- ① Delay in legislative action by the governor in giving assent or withholding assent to a bill.
(es) Tamil Nadu case.
- ② Ambiguity in action while reserving bill for President's consideration. This has often resulted in delays in ^{state} policy formulation.
- ③ Encroachment upon powers of the governor with respect to central/state universities' administration (generally governor

is the chancellor of state university by the state government through legislative amendments. ^(es)

(es) Kerala government's bill to regulate university administration.

(4) Questioning ^{the} of policies of the state government by the governor on public platforms, often exceeding the constitutional role of the office.

(5) Lack of communication ^{by the governor} with the executive often leads to growth of mistrust among opposition ruled states and the centre. It has resulted in policy paralysis and ineffective implementation of centrally sponsored schemes in the state.

The constitutional figurehead of the state must

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act in consonance with defined powers and restraints as follows:—

- (1) Clear communication with state and central executives.
- (2) Self restraint by the governor while criticising state government.
- (3) Actions of the governor must reflect political will of the elected government.

Measures to avoid conflicts and advance collaboration:—

- ① Providing fixed tenure to the office as recommended by Sarkaria Commission.
- ② Recommendation to the post of governor may be consulted with the state government as envisaged by Punchhi Commission.
- ③ Reasonable grounds should be attached while reserving bill for President's consideration.

Future of centre-state relations lies in the effectiveness of the position of governor, if conducive and collaborative then only true democracy may flourish.

12)

Fundamental Rights (FR) and Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) are two of the most important foundation pillars of our democracy.

Although enumerated in articles ranging from 12 to 35, the relationship of FR and DPSP has been an evolving process throughout the constitutional journey of India.

Phase I :- The Tussle

1950s - 1967 :-

Supreme Court in Champakam Dorairajan Case (1950) stated that FR was to supersede DPSP while framing laws by the legislature.

This was contradicted by 1st Amendment of the Constitution (1951). Parliament

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placed IX Schedule to preserve the dominance of DPSP over FR to ensure socio-economic rights while framing policies.

Supreme Court further changed its stance and cemented the supremacy of FR over DPSP by accepting Parliament's power to amend Constitution in multiple cases such as Sajan Singh Case, Shankari Prasad Case etc.

~~Phase I~~ (1967-1973 :- Phase II)

Supreme Court overruled its earlier decisions and upheld primacy of FR over DPSP in Golaknath Case (1967).

This was reflected in judgments that followed.

Phase III :- The Harmony

1973 onwards :- SC in Kesavanand Bharti Case established the basic structure doctrine to

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Maintain balance between
FR and DPSP.

While in the
landmark judgement of
Minerva Mills Case (1980), SC

gave the doctrine of
harmonious construction to
interpret FR & DPSP
while legislating or policy
making.

Thus, the destiny
of FR and DPSP has
been shaped and being
continuously determined through
judgements, laws, rules etc.
in the ever evolving constitution
democracy of India.

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(13)

Cooperative federalism lies in the ideas of shared responsibility, mutual cooperation, trust, communication and trust between centre-state, state-state.

On the contrary competitive federalism may or may not incorporate such ideals, and might lead to an adversarial relationship between centre and states known as confrontational federalism.

Constitution through articles 43, 245, 246 etc. provides for centre-state collaboration but political narratives like regional politics, caste based politics, vote bank politics have often culminated into confrontations among centre and states.

Role of Constitutional and Extra Constitutional bodies in ensuring collaborative federalism:-

- (1) Inter State Councils set up under the constitutional provisions have facilitated communication and dialogue between States.
- (2) Finance Commission under article 280 has fostered financial federalism by ensuring effective and equitable resource sharing to state governments.
- (3) Non-constitutional bodies like NITI Aayog, CST Council, Zonal Councils etc. have played roles in policy formulation, technological cooperation and promotion of innovation and research for good governance models.

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(Eg) Atul Innovation Mission by NITI Aayog.

(b) Streamlining tax system by GST councils.

However, certain challenges remain such as:-

- (1) Ineffectiveness of these bodies like Inter State Councils practically being dysfunctional.
- (2) Growing ~~just~~ deficit due to delays in procedures like dispute resolution through Inter State Water Tribunals.
- (3) Inequality among states with most of the poorer states lying in eastern and north-eastern part of India.

Federalism must ensure growth with sustainability, empathy, trust and cooperation to benefit all rather than being confrontational it should encourage to be competitively collaborative.

(14)

According to Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), there are 75% undertrial prisoners across India.

- Reasons
- ① Judicial delays and lack of swift police action in filing chargesheets.
 - ② Large number of poor and destitute prisoners who cannot afford judicial expenses.
 - ③ Lack of institutional support to the prisoners.

Supreme Court in its multiple judgements has reiterated the cause of undertrial prisoners, with recent one being in Anvind Keriwal's case v/s the ED. SC reinforced that "bail is the rule, jail is the exception" and advocated for

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identifying undertrial prisoners and
fast tracking their cases.

Because, there are
several challenges ^{contributing} to undertrials
in India:-

- ① Low judge to population ratio.
- ② High number of vacancies
in judiciary, especially lower
judiciary leading to 4-8 crore
pending cases (except HC & SC).
- ③ Weak legal aid system due
to lack of awareness among
prisoners with respect to
their rights.
- ④ Inefficiency on the part of
jail administration and police
authorities to expedite bail
proceedings of accused.

Multi Pronged Approach to tackle this issue

- ① Follow recommendations of
Mulla Committee (1980) to ensure
effective reviewing of undertrials.

- ② Impetus to DALSA, SALSA etc. to take up cause of undertrials.
- ③ Use of ADR in compoundable and petty non-compoundable offences.
- ④ Equip use of e-technologies to facilitate processes.
- ⑤ Focus on awareness campaigns inside Jail through NGOs, legal experts by conducting monthly seminars, educating prisoners of their legal right.
- ⑥ Legal changes ^{such as in Companies Act} to avoid incarceration in case of petty financial irregularities.

The plight of undertrials reflects both judicial and moral indifference of authorities. Addressing their issues would be the initiation towards ensuring equity based in principles of natural Justice in our society.

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- (15) Rajya Sabha (RS) is the permanent house of the Indian Parliament envisioned to maintain legislative continuity in the Indian political system.

Role of Rajya Sabha in Legislature

- (1) Act as the reviewer, revisionist and reaffirms laws and bills passed by the Lok Sabha.
- (2) Maintains political continuity, political discourses and deliberations even when Lok Sabha is dissolved.
- (3) Acts as the representative of state governments by having and exercising rights with respects to All India Services.

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(4) Prevents LS from making constitutional overreach by ratifying emergency resolutions, bills, impeachment motions etc.

However, RS in the recent past have acted in an antithetical manner to LS as witnessed during :-

- (1) Non-passage of Motion of Thanks during 2016 Parliament Session in RS.
- (2) Rising disruptions and declining productivity as was observed when it failed to take up Finance Bill and Appropriation Bill due to protests in 2016.
- (3) Uproar in RS over opposition's remark against the chairman and multiple adjournments, undermining the credibility of

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RS as a permanent chamber.

RS role in Indian polity can be refined by:-

- (1) Increasing its power and role in legislation such as power to review money bills.
- (2) Reforming Anti-Defection laws to ensure vibrant democratic environment in RS.
- (3) Promoting ~~elec~~ representation from local bodies like Panchayats, ULBs etc.

In a democracy like India, RS offers a vital place where legislations are refined not rushed, democracy is deliberated and represented not diluted. In doing so, RS acts as the constitutional conscience of India.

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(16)

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) launched in 2014 to transform India into a clean and green environment has often been ^{criticised as being} qualified with high aspirations and visions but low delivery and service execution.

Challenges to SBM

- (1) Inadequate institutional setup to monitor and safeguard the implementation of policy's directives.
- (2) Lack of awareness among stakeholders such as waste generators are not sufficiently trained to segregate wastes.
- (3) Civic duty and community participation is not often merged with enthusiasm

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and energy.

Case Study :- River bank ^{region} of Ganga in eastern UP is often treated as waste disposal ground, even after executive's notification and initiatives like Namami Gange

The solution to persistent problems of effective policy implementation lies in community action as it would:-

- (1) Transfer responsibility from government functionaries to the community stakeholders.
- (2) Increased accountability of people living in the region.
- (3) Encourage people to use resources as their own collective assets which would

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further enhance their standard of living.

(eg) Village ponds developed through MGNREGA may witness better maintenance if the villagers are aware about its potential benefit to the village.

Case Study - Barthan Bank, Siddipet, Telangana :-

In this district, banks of the village are custodians of steel utensils used for community functions in village.

This innovative and collaborative step between community and institution of government has led to decline in use of plastic plates and bottles during ceremonies—promoting sustainability and cleanliness.

Thus, policy planning must include role of community and collective action in its nascent stage itself.

(17)

Freebies are monetary compensati-
_ons, gifts, supplementary grants
etc. given by the government
either directly or indirectly
with~~out~~ or without an intention
to gather political support from
the beneficiaries.

Impact of freebies in India

(1) Rise in populist measures
like distribution of laptops,
sweeties etc. to students,
often leading to high fiscal
burden.

(2) Increase in ^{personal} disposable income
without creating enough
supply, which may become
inflationary in the long run.

(eg) Persistent food inflation in
India may be a reason of
high DBT given through
multiples schemes/channels.

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(3) Little to ~~no~~ impact on capacity building, rather freebies may encourage youth to remain idle as long as monetary needs are met.

(eg) Unemployment allowance may discourage workers to participate in labour force.

(4) Against the principle of free and fair electoral process which is the basic structure of our constitution.

On the hand welfare schemes differ from freebies as they:-

(1) Target marginalised sections of the society to enhance their livelihood.
(eg) PMJAY; PM-SBY

(2) Are necessary for capacity building.

(eg) Samagra Siksha Abhiyan needed to ensure ^{free} universal education.

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(3) Enable government to reach the last mile in service delivery and ensure that the vision of 'sarvodaya' and 'Antyodaya' are fulfilled.

(eg) PM DEVINE, PM SHRI schools, PM JANMAN yojana etc.

benefitting tribals, north-eastern regions which are ^{one of} the most vulnerable in our country.

(4) Would ensure equitable opportunities to all, irrespective of gender/ caste differences.

(eg) Maternity leave provisions.

In a developing yet economically, socially and educationally divided country like India, welfare schemes and not freebies hold the key to ensure equitable, sustainable and desirable future.

(18)

India spends roughly around 0.64% of its GDP for research & development, far below global average.

To enhance academic excellence with innovation and ingenuity, ANRF Act 2023 was passed by the Indian Parliament.

Challenges to India's Research Ecosystem :-

- ① Funding crunch for promotion of R&D, specialised laboratories etc.
- ② Weak Industrial-Academic linkage that hampers incentives for research beneficial for market as well as academics.
- ③ Compartmentalised educational system that does not promote cross ~~by~~ discipline approach of teaching.

(4) Limited enthusiasm from private sector to contribute for R&D.

(5) Lack of proper human resource development and Skilling.

Role of ANRF to tackle these challenges :-

① Consolidation of funding into integrated funds ecosystem by converging with agencies like DST, DBT, CSIR etc.

② Investment of around ₹500000 cr over 5 years to promote R&D to be mobilised from private sector.

③ Platform for philanthropic and third party contributions to R&D ensuring transparency

and fairness in fund utilisation.

④ Promotion of integration of physical, quantum sciences and social sciences to better socio-cultural fabric alongwith scientific humanism.

⑤ Focus on skilling, training and capacity building through dedicated programmes.

The dream of 'Viksit Bharat by 2047' would not be a distant reality if we can manage to train the world's largest ~~number of~~ youth population into critical thinking and analytical skills, the ANRF is a stepping stone in that direction.

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(19)

Rising US-China rivalry, heightens tensions in the diplomatic corridors of India to ensure its strategic autonomy while maintaining its interests with both the countries.

Importance of US and China for India :-

(1) Trade :- US and China are the top 2 trading partners of India. India trades in important and critical ~~and~~ goods like semi-conductors, energy etc. with these countries.

(2) Global powers :- Both US and China are global powers and India cannot afford to lose its strategic presence in the meddling of rivalries between the two countries.

Challenges :-

- 1) US-China rivalry can have repercussion on India's ^{-tuning} manufacturing sector especially in automobiles, phones etc.
- (2) India may face high tariffs which may further increase ^{our} trade deficit with China.
- (3) ~~the~~ Diplomatic pressures in global and regional institutions like G7, WTO, UN (often viewed as US backed) and SCO, BRICS etc (Chinese presence) for India.

Opportunities :-

- (1) Economic:- India may gain from China + 1 strategy, provided we develop our internal economic sectors efficiently.

(2) Strategic :- Collaboration on global and regional forums with Global South countries to fast-track global institutional reforms like UNSC reforms, WTO reforms etc.

(3) Regional :- India has a significant advantage over China by being a democratic state, and thus, it could enhance regional relationships with West Asian and South-East Asian countries by encouraging trade and investment flows.

India's foreign policy should be based in appreciating its national interests and in the renewed US-China rivalry, India should maintain its stance of having strategic and trade relationship with both the countries, while promoting peace and collaboration.

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(20)

India-Middle East-European Economic Corridor (IMEEC) was launched during India's 92nd presidency in 2023.

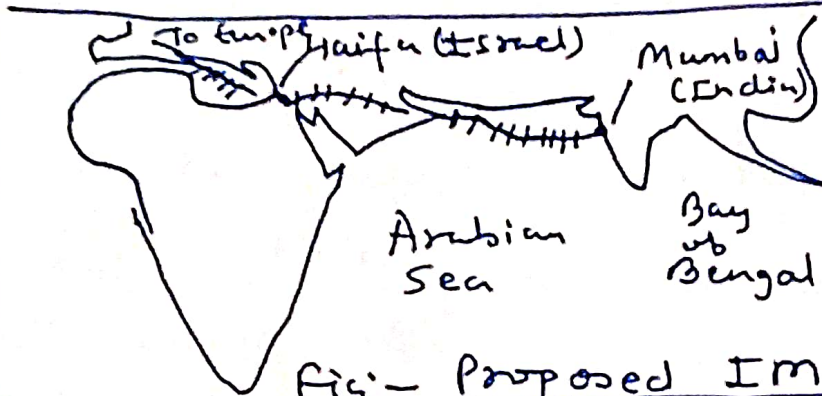


Fig:- Proposed IMEEC

- Potential impact of IMEEC
- ① Enhanced connectivity of India with Europe and West Asia.
 - ② Alternative route to Suez Canal for Europe.
 - ③ Provide boost to the INSTC project.
 - ④ Foster trade and cooperation in the region.

Strategic relevance vis-à-vis
China's BRI

- ① Strengthening India's SAGAR doctrine as it is the only major Naval Power in the Arabian Sea, committing its role as the net security provider of the region.
- ② Boosting India's presence in global trade and commerce by tapping newer markets like East African nations.
- ③ Counter China's presence in Djibouti, Myanmar and other strategic chokepoints in the region.

However, certain challenges remain like :-

- (1) Conflict between Israel - Hamas - Houthis - Iran, delaying the fructification of the project.
- (2) Global conflicts like Russia - Ukraine war, Syrian Crisis etc. preventing countries from Europe to invest in this project.
- (3) Houthis bombings in the Red Sea have undermined the security of West Asian waters.
- (4) Delays in INSTC project has also raised concerns over fulfilment of IMEEEC.

As famously said that one who controls the sea, controls the destinies of the world, India must rise up to the occasion and push for IMEEEC development to in contrast its strategic presence in the Indian Ocean and beyond.