



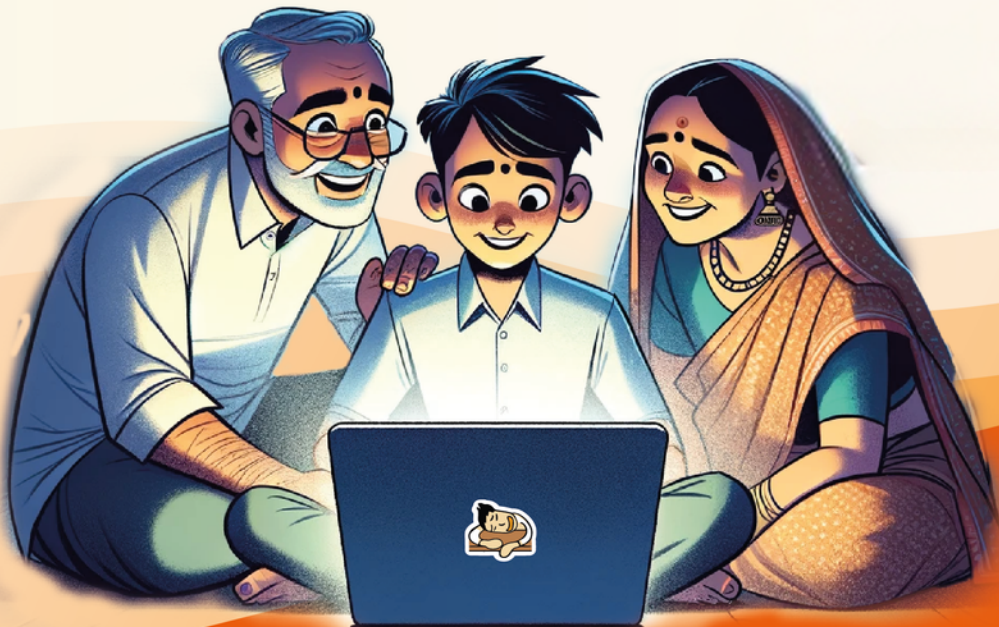
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UPSC MAINS

Solved PYQs

2023

General Studies Paper 2



How to Maximize Your UPSC Mains Score Using These PYQs

Transform Your Preparation into Your Success Strategy

✗ "I solve PYQs but still struggle in mock exam"

Your Problem: You're treating PYQs like MCQs - solving for the sake of solving without strategic analysis.

Strategic Solution: After solving each question, spend 10 minutes analyzing: What was the examiner testing? Which keywords were crucial? How can I improve my answer structure? Create a "mistakes point list" to track recurring weaknesses.



"I can't finish questions within time limits"

Your Problem: You know the content but struggle with time management and answer structuring under pressure.

Time-Bound Practice: Set strict timers - 7 minutes for 10-mark questions, 12 minutes for 15-mark questions. Practice writing concise, impactful answers. Use bullet points and subheadings to save time while maintaining clarity.



"My answers lack depth and examples"

Your Problem: Your answers are generic and don't stand out among thousands of similar responses.

Content Enhancement: For each PYQ, create a "example bank" - collect 2-3 specific case studies, data points, or contemporary examples. Practice weaving these naturally into your answers to demonstrate comprehensive understanding.



"I don't know which topics to prioritize"

Your Problem: Without pattern analysis, you're studying everything equally instead of focusing on high-weightage areas.

Smart Analysis: Create a frequency chart of topics from last 7 years. Identify recurring themes and question patterns. Allocate 60% of your time to high-frequency topics, 40% to emerging trends. Also Sleepy Classes has a video on complete pattern analysis of UPSC mains.

⚠ Critical Mistake to Avoid

Don't just read solved answers and move on. The real learning happens when YOU attempt the question first, then compare with model answers to identify gaps.



Remember: PYQs are your blueprint, not just practice material

Every question tells you exactly what UPSC expects. Use this collection to decode the examiner's mindset, not just to test your knowledge. Your success lies in understanding the 'why' behind each question.

FREE - GS Mains PYQs Discussion

Date	Day	Topic	Year
02 June 2025	Monday	General Studies Paper 1	2024
03 June 2025	Tuesday	General Studies Paper 2	2024
04 June 2025	Wednesday	General Studies Paper 3	2024
05 June 2025	Thursday	General Studies Paper 4	2024
15 June 2025	Sunday	General Studies Paper 1 to 4	2023
22 June 2025	Sunday	General Studies Paper 1 to 4	2022
29 June 2025	Sunday	General Studies Paper 1 to 4	2021
06 July 2025	Sunday	General Studies Paper 1 to 4	2020



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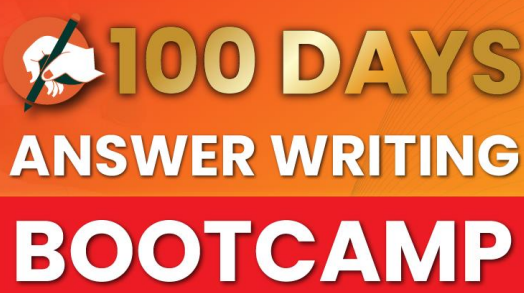
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Polity & Governance

1) The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society." Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty.)

- The 106 amendments to the constitution in almost 75 years are testimony to the fact that it continues to work effectively because of its ability to be dynamic, open to interpretations and ability to respond to changing situations.
- Dynamic aspects- Judicial interpretations, constitutional amendments, Public Interest litigations and social justice
- Article 21 and expanding scope through judicial pronouncements –privacy, environment, education, food, livelihood
- Some changes we would like to see in constitution- flow chart
- Conclusion-The core philosophy of the constitution is alive and kicking –change is the only constant



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2) Who are entitled Free Legal Aid ? Assess the role of NALSA in rendering free legal aid in India.

- **Article 39**
 - A – Free Legal Aid to the poor + LSA 1987 envisages the same
- **Eligible for Free Legal Aid:**
 - SC/ST + Trafficking/beggar victims+Women and Children+ mentally ill/disabled+disaster victims+industrial workmen+income-based eligibility
- **Role of NALSA:**
 - Policy formulation + SLA, DLSA etc. + organizing lok adalats+creating awareness+Special schemes like victim compensation; legal aid clinics etc
- **Challenges:**
 - Awareness, funding, manpower, Lok Adalat overburdened
- **Conclusion-**
 - Litigation must be the last solution and Gandhi's talisman of justice to the last person

3) Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy." Comment.

- **Introduction:**
 - Judicial independence definition or Significance of Judiciary as pillar of government
- Constitutional Basis for Judicial Independence in India – Appointment and Removal of judges, ban on practice after retirement, salaries and allowances charged expenditure, Conditions of service, contempt powers
- Linkage of Judicial independence and democracy – Protection of FR, System of Checks and balances, social justice, impartial administration, Rule of law, Protection of minority rights
- **Additional Note:**
 - Only constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is not enough- other measures like judicial accountability, efficiency, Cooling off period post-retirement, focus on lower judiciary
- **Conclusion**
 - Quote of former CJI about Judicial independence

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4) The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially." Comment.

- **Introduction**
 - 30 years of constitutionalisation of PRI and ULB
- Functional Reluctance : Niti Aayog observation, Parallel institutions, Non elected members, Ward committees, District Planning Committee , role as service delivery
- Financial Reluctance – Lack of own revenue sources, State Finance Commission, Lack of diversification of revenue, Financial irregularities
- Please give bright spots as well- three examples – Bhilai, Deogarh, Indore, Kerala
- Conclusion – Way Ahead in form of flowchart-funds, functions, functionaries

5) Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalization of Indian Parliament?

Introduction – Westminster Model and parliamentary committee system

Body Part 1 – Structure of committees with diagram /flow chart

Body part 2 – Role of Financial Committees with examples – Financial accountability, Improving governance, Parliamentary control

Drawbacks of committees in Flow chart/Diagram

Conclusion –

- **Introduction:** Highlight the significance of the Parliamentary Committee system in India, emphasizing the crucial role of financial committees.
- **Body:** Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system, detail the roles of financial committees like the PAC and EC, and discuss their contribution to institutionalizing the Indian Parliament.
- **Conclusion:** Emphasize the importance of financial committees in enhancing accountability, transparency, and governance effectiveness, reinforcing the principles of democratic accountability in India.

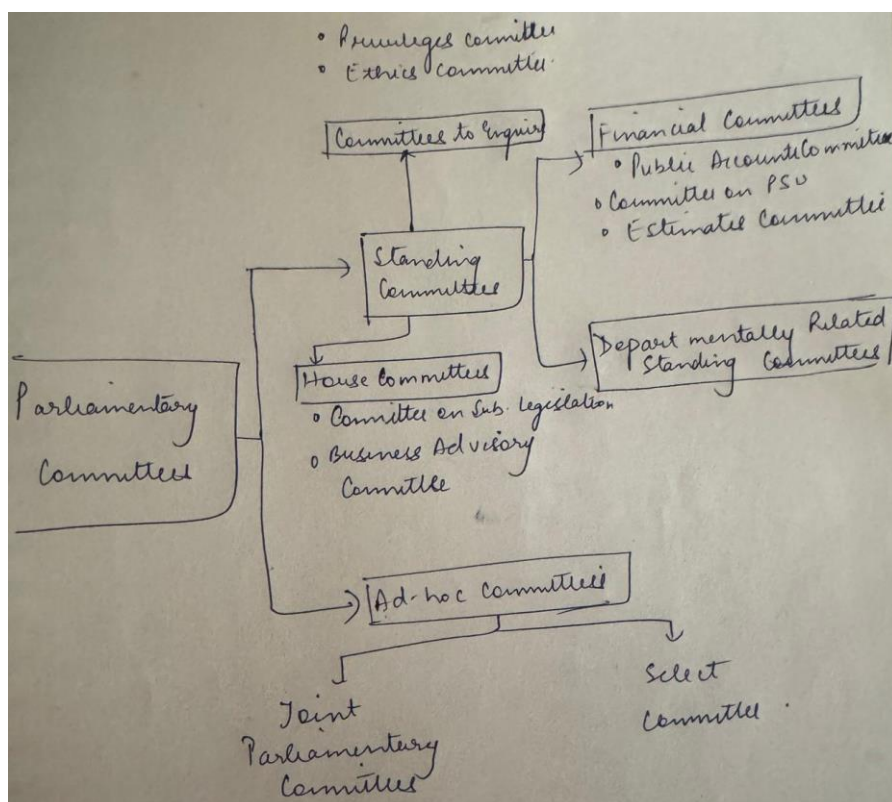
Introduction:

- The Parliamentary Committee system plays a crucial role in the functioning of the Indian Parliament, serving as an **essential mechanism for oversight, scrutiny, and deliberation on various aspects of governance**.
- Among these committees, the financial committees hold particular significance, tasked with **the crucial responsibility of examining the government's financial policies, expenditures, and budgetary allocations**.

Structure of the Parliamentary Committee System

The Parliamentary Committee system in India comprises various committees categorized into two broad types: **Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees**.

- **Standing Committees:** These committees are **permanent in nature** and are **constituted every year or for the duration of the Parliament session**. They examine bills, budgets, policies, and other matters referred to them by the Houses of Parliament or the presiding officers.
 - **Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs):** These committees are associated with various ministries and departments of the government. There are currently 24 DRSCs, each focusing on specific areas such as finance, defence, health, etc.
 - **Other Standing Committees:** Apart from DRSCs, there are other standing committees such as the Committee on Ethics, Business Advisory Committee, and Rules Committee, among others. These committees perform specialized functions related to parliamentary procedures and explainethics.
- **Ad Hoc Committees:** These committees are constituted for a specific purpose and are dissolved upon the completion of their assigned task. Examples include select committees formed to scrutinize specific bills and joint committees comprising members from both Houses of Parliament to examine particular issues.



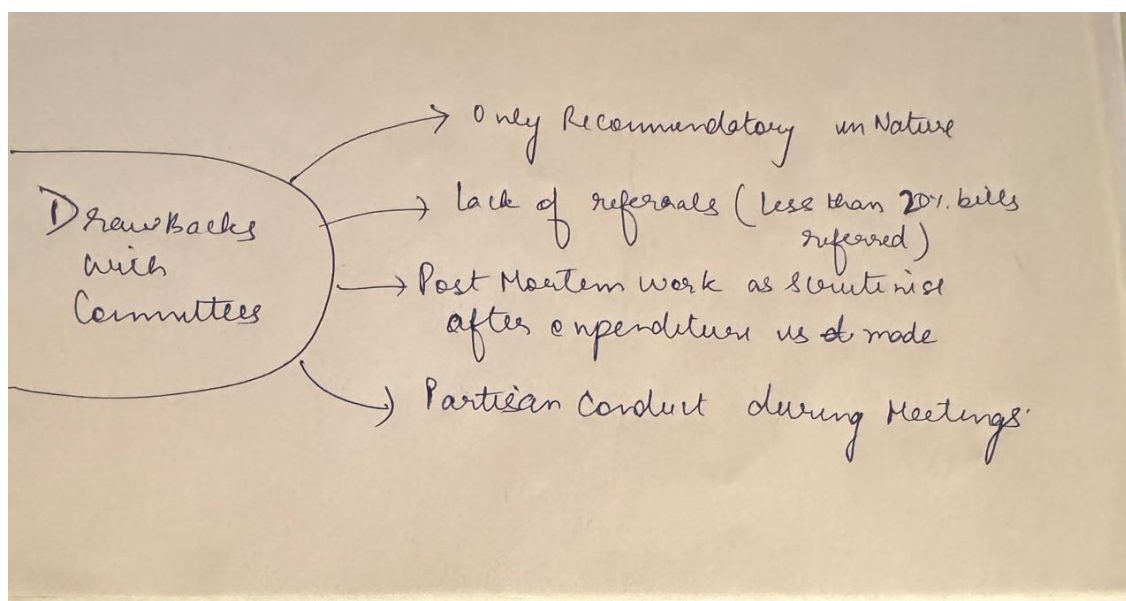
Role of Financial Committees

- Financial committees, play a vital role in ensuring financial accountability, transparency, and efficiency in government spending. These committees scrutinize government finances, assess budgetary allocations, and evaluate the implementation of financial policies.

- **Public Accounts Committee (PAC):** The PAC is responsible for **examining the appropriation accounts of the government, the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), and other financial matters.** It ensures that government expenditures are in line with parliamentary approvals and are utilized efficiently and effectively.
- **Estimates Committee (EC):** The EC examines the estimates of expenditure presented by the government in the budget. **It assesses the justification for proposed expenditures, evaluates the performance of various government schemes, and suggests measures for improving budgetary processes and allocations.**

Institutionalization of Indian Parliament through Financial Committees

- **Enhancing Financial Accountability:** By examining expenditure patterns, identifying discrepancies, and recommending corrective measures, these committees contribute to strengthening fiscal discipline and preventing misuse of public funds. For Example, PAC probe into 2G scam, Commonwealth Games Scam, calling RBI Governor Urijit Patel to understand demonetisation process etc.
- **Improving Governance Effectiveness:** By evaluating the outcomes of budgetary allocations and suggesting reforms in financial management practices, these committees contribute to enhancing governance outcomes and service delivery. For example, report of PAC on National Social Assistance Program suggested changes in beneficiary identification and quantum of financial assistance which needed regular updation.
- **Ensuring Parliamentary control :** The role of financial committees in scrutinizing government expenditures reinforces the principle of parliamentary supremacy. **By holding the executive accountable for its financial decisions and actions, these committees uphold the primacy of Parliament in matters of budgetary oversight and financial management.**
- **Expert Feedback**
- **Microcosm of Parliament**



Conclusion

- The Parliamentary Committee system, with a focus on financial committees, serves as a cornerstone of institutionalization in the Indian Parliament. Through their oversight functions, financial committees contribute to enhancing accountability, transparency, and governance effectiveness in the management of public finances. As India continues its journey of democratic governance, the role of financial committees in strengthening parliamentary oversight and upholding the principles of democratic accountability remains paramount.

5D Framework for way forward for parliamentary committees

Define:

- Clear mandate and composition for each committee.
- Subject matter experts where needed.

Debate & Deliberate:

- Pre-legislative scrutiny with stakeholder consultation.
- Amendment power for refining bills.

Demand & Deep-dive:

- Scrutiny of government actions and spending.
- Investigative power for specific issues.

Disseminate & Document:

- Regular reports with recommendations and action plans.
- Follow-up mechanisms to track government response.
- Public dissemination of committee work for transparency.

Develop:

- Capacity building for committee members.
- Strong secretariat support with qualified staff.
- Benchmarking best practices for continuous improvement.

6) Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices.

- **Introduction Article 178**
- Body Part 1 – Responsibilities of P.O
- Body part 2 – Facilitation of best democratic practices – live streaming, public feedback and petitions, role in business advisory committees
- **Concerns:** Anti defection, partisanship, lack of transparency, abuse of power
- **Conclusion:** Symphony of democracy

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7) Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty.

- **Introduction**
 - Define Parliamentary Sovereignty
- **Bodies**
 - Differences in Approach : position of parliament, Nature of Constitution, Separation of Powers, Judicial Review / Constitutional Amendment, Federalism, Position of Speaker
- **Similarities**
 - Common Law Countries, Judicial Review, Ministerial Form of government
- **Conclusion**
 - Summarize- can learn from each other

Simple Framework for Comparison of Constitutions

- Preamble and Basic Philosophy
- Written or Unwritten
- Amendability – Flexibility or Rigidity
- Rights
- Separation of Powers
- Federalism and Type
- Type of Executive – Presidential, Semi-presidential, ministerial
- Role of Legislature
- Secularism
- Judiciary

8) Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India (2023)

• Introduction

- Define what are civil societies / Talk about 106th Constitutional Amendment Act and multiple reasons for its success included campaigning by Civil Society

• Body part 1:

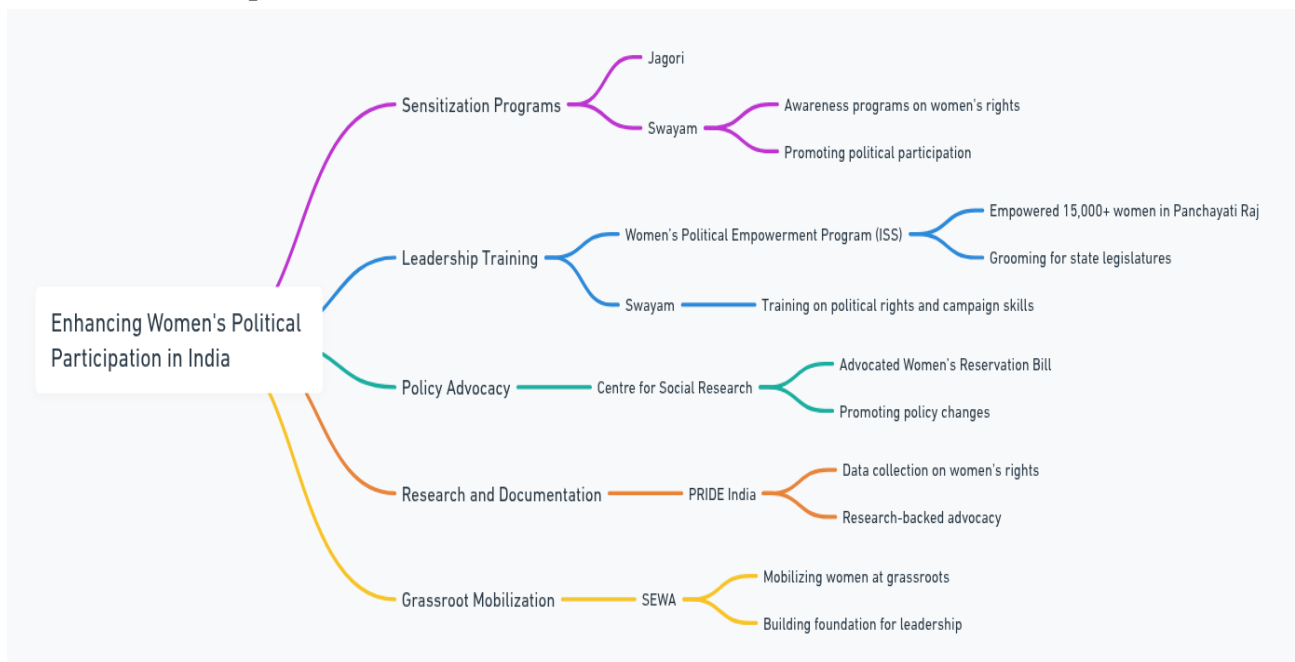
- Contributions of Civil Society: Awareness and Advocacy + Policy change Recommendations + Legal Reforms + Capacity building and training + Research

• Body Part 2:

- Challenges for women representation Patriarchal Society + low representation + Lack of Support system + Safety Concerns

• Conclusion

- Miles to go before we rest as we must target SDG 5 and climbing up the ranks of Global Gender Gap index



9) Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism?

Approach

- Introduction: Highlight the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act and its role in implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to reform India's tax system.
- Body: Discuss the economic significance of GST, its impact on federalism, and how it reflects cooperative federalism while acknowledging its drawbacks.
- Conclusion: Emphasize the milestone of GST in India's economic and federal history and its embodiment of cooperative federalism principles for collaborative governance and inclusive policymaking.

Introduction

- The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, passed in 2016, heralded a monumental shift in India's taxation landscape with the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- This transformative legislation aimed to replace the convoluted and fragmented indirect tax system with a unified, streamlined structure.

Significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act

- **Unified Tax Regime** : The GST replaced a plethora of indirect taxes levied by the central and state governments with a single, comprehensive tax regime. This consolidation of taxes aimed to eliminate the cascading effect of taxes, enhance ease of doing business, promote economic efficiency, and foster a unified national market.
- **Removal of cascading effect of taxes** : The erstwhile tax on tax regime made it difficult for sellers, service providers as well as consumers which was replaced by single destination based tax on final output.
- **Boost to formalization** : As per Economic Advisory Council chairman, GST encouraged enterprises to join the formal tax system, enhancing tax collections, decreasing tax evasion, and improving openness.
- **Ease of inter State Trade and Commerce through E-Way Bills** : By **rationalizing tax structures** and reducing compliance burdens, the GST facilitated ease of trade and commerce across state boundaries.
- **Decreased cost of doing business** : According to a survey by Deloitte conducted in June 2023, 88% of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have reported a decrease in goods and services costs, coupled with streamlined supply chains.
- **Boost to Digitization**: The digitization of tax processes through the GST Network (GSTN) enhanced tax administration, minimized tax evasion, and enabled real-time monitoring of transactions, thus bolstering government revenue collection.

Impact on Federalism

- The GST framework acknowledged the constitutional autonomy of states by granting them significant powers to administer and collect taxes within their jurisdictions. **Concurrent taxation powers granted to both the centre and the states (Article 246 A) ensured a cooperative approach in tax governance, wherein decisions were taken through mutual consultation and consensus-building.**
- The establishment of the GST Council established under **Article 279A** comprising representatives from the central and state governments, exemplified cooperative federalism in action. **The council served as a platform for dialogue, negotiation, and decision-making on key aspects of GST implementation, including tax rates, exemptions, and procedural matters.**
- The GST framework also incorporated mechanisms to address the concerns of states and ensure equitable distribution of revenue. Concepts such as the revenue-neutral rate (RNR) and the GST compensation mechanism aimed to safeguard the fiscal interests of states, thereby fostering trust and cooperation between the centre and the states.
- The cooperative framework underlying the GST regime was evident in the consultative approach adopted by the GST Council. Decisions within the council were taken through consensus, with States having a 2/3rd voting right. This inclusive decision-making process ensured that the interests of all stakeholders were duly considered, thus fostering a sense of ownership and collective responsibility in GST implementation.
- Moreover, the GST framework encouraged state participation and empowerment through initiatives such as the GSTN portal. States were actively involved in tax administration and compliance activities, leveraging technology to enhance efficiency and transparency in tax governance.
- Additionally, the GST regime provided for the resolution of disputes through impartial mechanisms such as the Dispute Resolution Panel and the GST Appellate Tribunal. These mechanisms aimed to address grievances and ensure a fair and expedient resolution of disputes, further strengthening the cooperative framework between the center and the states.

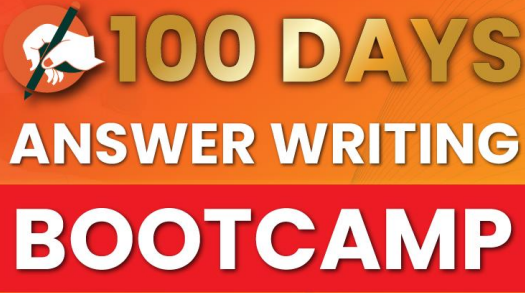
However, it is important to note that the GST regime is not a perfect embodiment of the accommodative spirit of federalism. Some drawbacks include:

- **Unequal distribution of revenue:** The GST regime has been criticized for its uneven revenue distribution formula, which has resulted in some states facing revenue deficits while others have surpluses. This has led to concerns about the fairness and equity of the GST framework.
- **Exemptions and distortions:** The GST regime has a complex exemption structure, which has led to distortions and inconsistencies in the tax system. For example, some industries or products are exempt from GST, while others are taxed at different rates, leading to confusion and opportunities for tax evasion.

- **Technical glitches and implementation issues:** The GST regime has faced numerous technical glitches and implementation issues, including problems with the GSTN portal, delayed refunds, and difficulties in filing returns. These issues have caused frustration and hardship for taxpayers, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Conclusion

- The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, which introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, marked a significant milestone in India's economic and federal journey. Beyond its economic implications, the GST underscored the cooperative spirit of federalism, wherein the centre and the states collaborated to enact a transformative tax reform. As India continues its journey towards economic growth and development, the principles of cooperative federalism embodied in the GST framework serve as a beacon of collaborative governance and inclusive policymaking.



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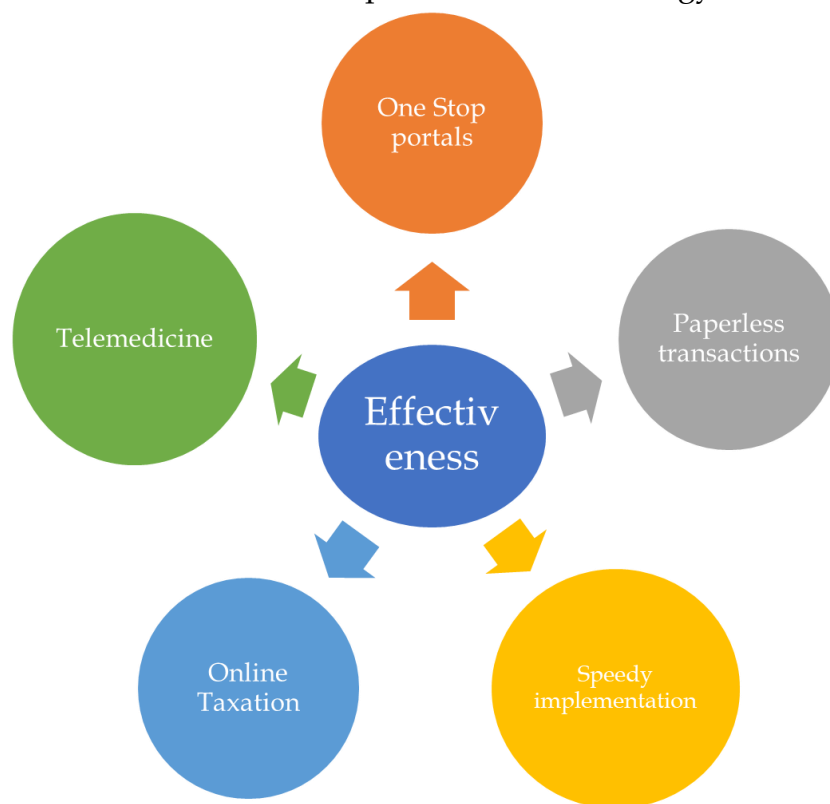
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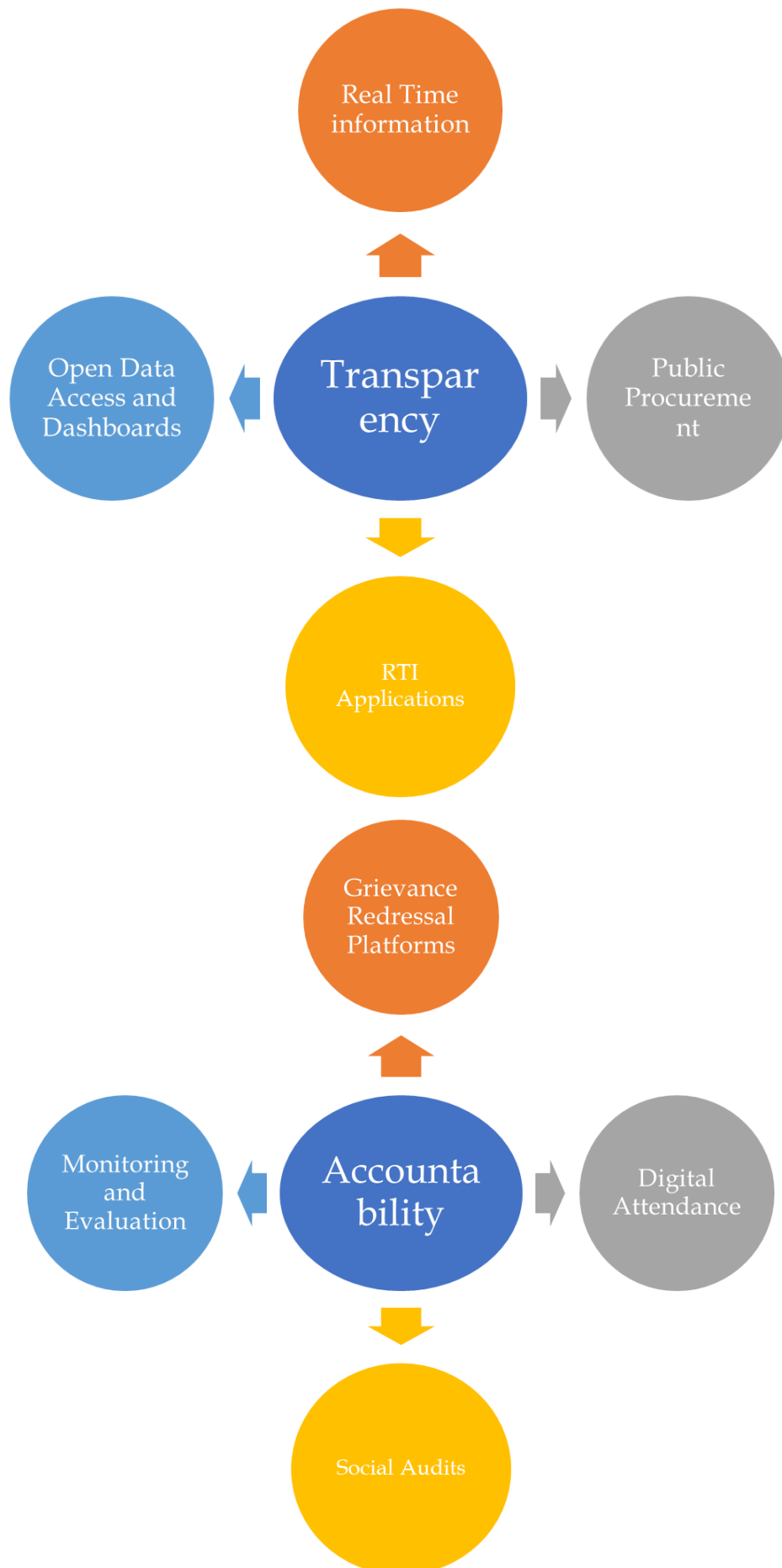
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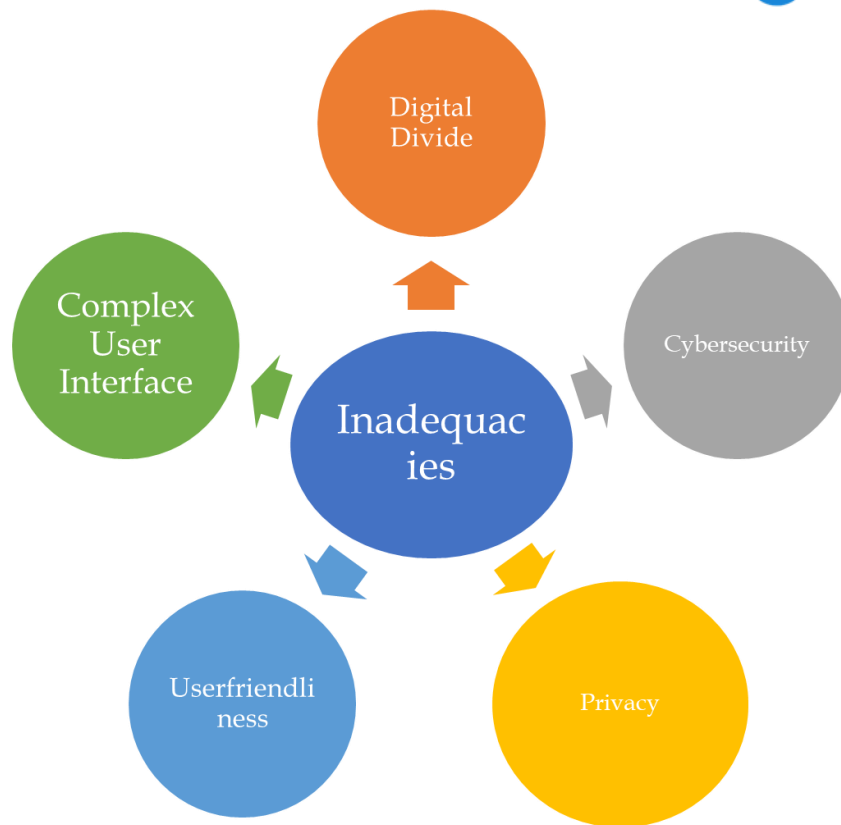
10) E-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features ?

Two Parts of the Question.

- **Part 1**
 - E governance in Effectiveness, Transparency and Accountability.
- **Part 2**
 - Inadequacies that hamper enhancement of Effectiveness, transparency, and accountability.
- **Conclusion**
 - Four Pillars of E-Governance – People, Process, Technology and Resources (PPTR)







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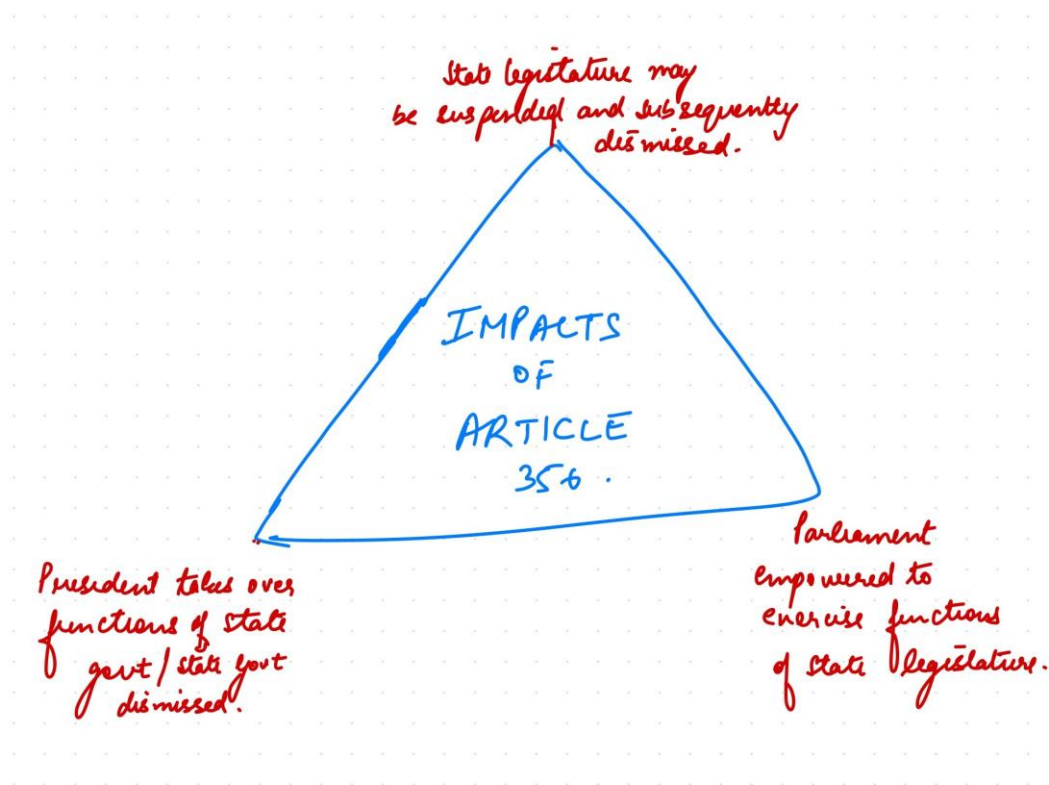


11) Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

- **Introduction**
 - Use DPSP as mandate for development schemes
- **Body Part 1:** Why Schemes may seem Discriminatory : Bad targeting(Adivasi mahila Sashaktikaran) + “Beneficiary approach versus rights approach” + Top – Down planning + Use of technology +Lack of awareness + Exclusion and Inclusion errors
- **Body Part 2 :** Why Such Welfare Schemes are important : Success in poverty alleviation + Welfare state and constitutional mandate+ imperfect industrialization +Human Rights approach + Inclusive Growth
- **Conclusion : Viksit Bharat needs to make sure that no one is left behind**
 - 5S Framework – Scope + Sustainability +Simplicity +Synergy+ Sunset

12) Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the union governments since mid 1990's.

- **Introduction :** Introduce What Article 356 is / Use Example of Manipur being one of the rare occasions of use of Article 356 in last 2 decades (Small Diagram to show consequence of Article 356)
- **Body Part 1 :** Pre 1990's Era
- **Body Part 2 :**
- **Conclusion :**



Body

Legal Factors :

SR Bommai judgement 1994 :

- **Judicial Review:** The imposition of President's Rule is subject to judicial scrutiny.
- **Majority Test on the Floor:** The majority of a government must be tested on the floor of the House, not decided by the Governor or the Union Cabinet.
- **Limits on Dissolution:** The Assembly cannot be dissolved until Parliament approves President's Rule.

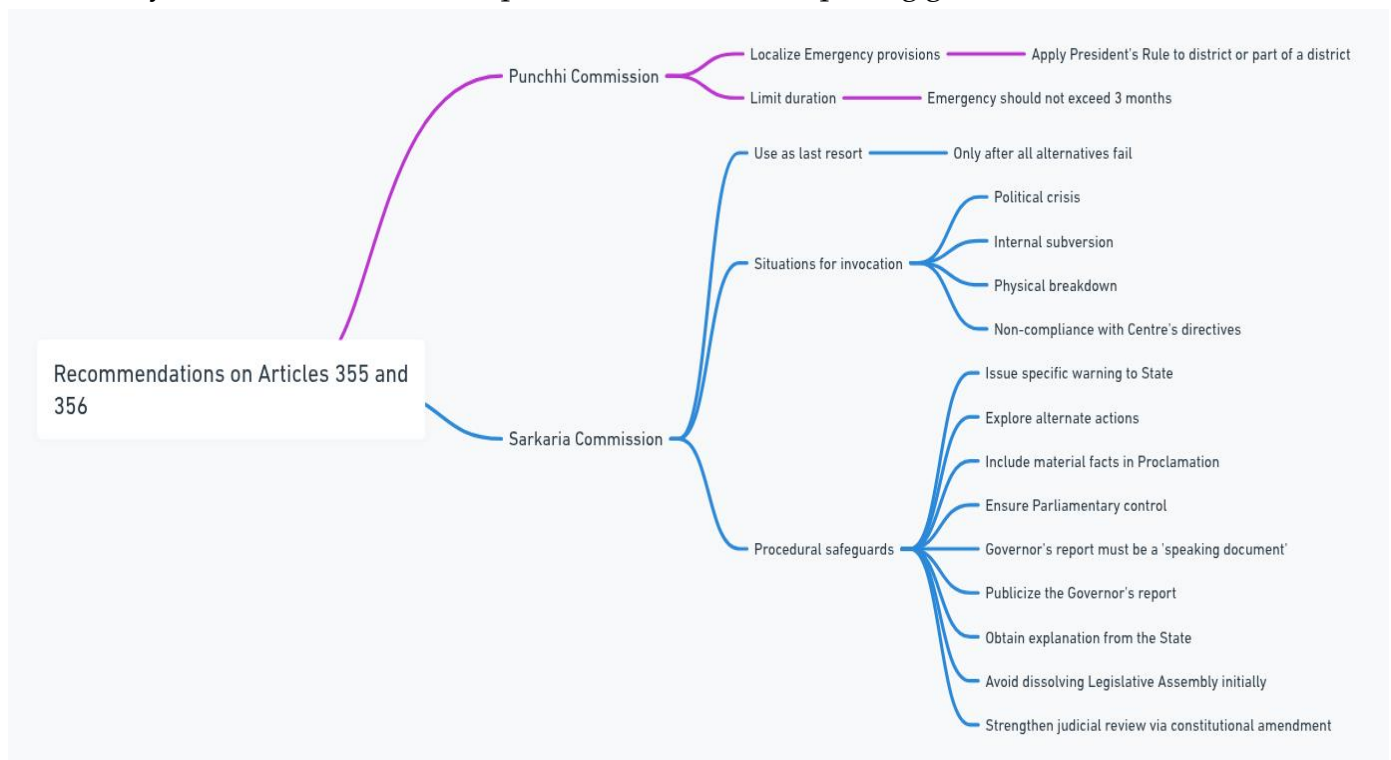
Subsequent Judicial interventions :

- **Rameshwar Prasad Versus Union of India :** Dissolution of Bihar Assembly invalidated

- Union of India versus Harish Chandra Rawat 2016 : Stay on President rule in Uttarakhand
- Nabam Rebia Case 2016 : Supreme Court effectively reversed the application of President Rule in Arunachal Pradesh

Political Factors :

- **Rise of Coalition Governments at the Centre**
 - The emergence of **coalition politics (since 1996)** weakened the dominance of any single party at the Centre, making arbitrary dismissals of opposition-ruled states politically risky and difficult to justify within a multi-party alliance.
- **Growth of Strong Regional Parties**
 - The increasing strength of regional parties in states made them **key players at the national level**. Dismissing such parties could alienate potential allies and disrupt Centre-State relations.
 - E.g., Parties like **DMK, TMC, BJD, Shiv Sena, and TDP** became central to national coalitions.
- **Unsaid political understanding and consensus over avoiding misuse**
- **Electoral Awareness and Media Vigilance** : The **voter's increasing political awareness**, aided by a vigilant **media and civil society**, has made undemocratic dismissals politically costly. The electorate tends to punish overreach, compelling governments to exercise restraint



13) Skill development programs have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyze the linkages between education, skill and employment.

• Introduction

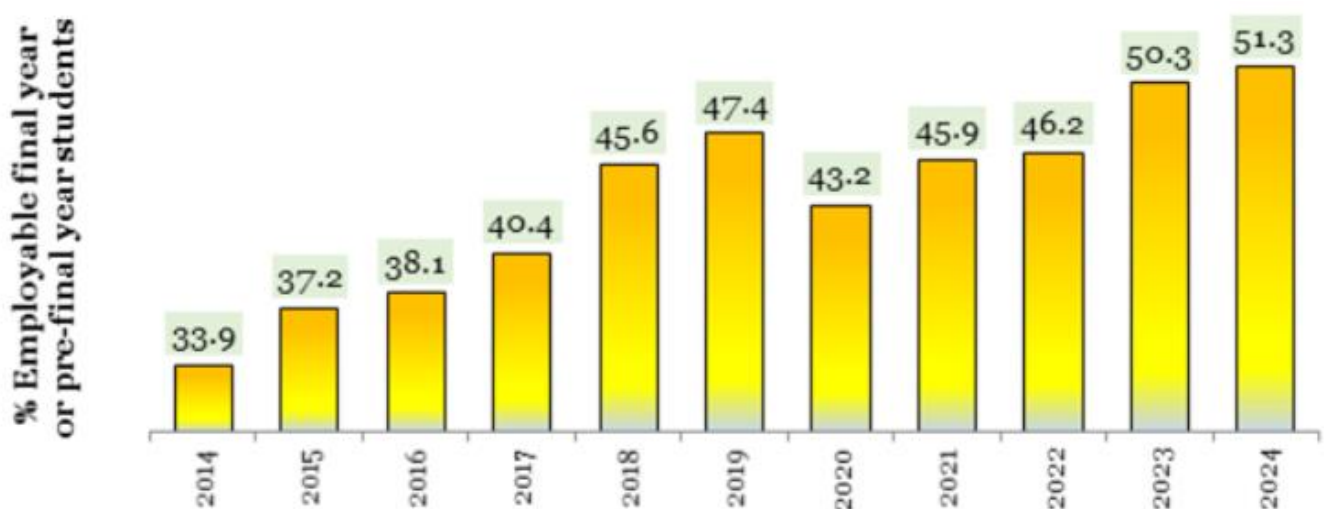
- With one of the youngest populations, a median age of 28, India can harness its demographic dividend by nurturing a workforce that is equipped with employable skills and prepared for the needs of the industry.

• Body

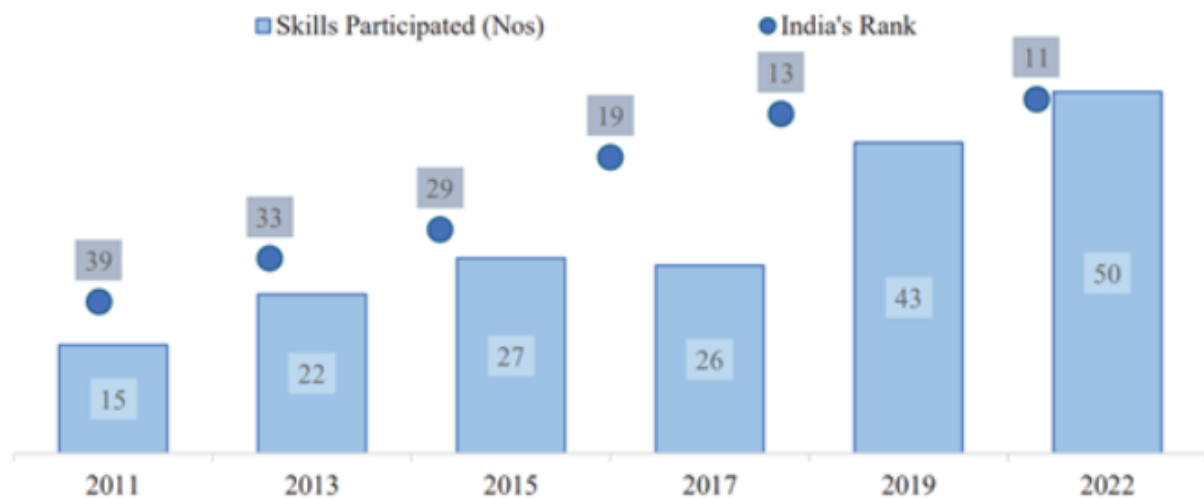
- Skill Development Programs and their Impact in recent years :



Achievements: Employability of Graduates



Achievements: India's performance at WorldSkills competition



Source: MSDE Annual Report 2022-23

Important Linkages between Education, skill and Employment :

- **Alignment of curriculum with industry needs :**
 - Traditional education often emphasizes theoretical knowledge, whereas industries demand practical, job-ready skills. Misalignment causes **educated unemployment**.
- **Response :**
 - National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to integrate vocational education from Grade 6.
 - AICTE's **curriculum reforms** to promote internships, practical training.

Access and Equity in Skill Training

- **Explanation**
 - Skilling opportunities must be **inclusive**, targeting rural youth, women, SC/ST, and differently-abled populations. Only **4.6% of the workforce in rural areas** received formal vocational training.

Employability vs. Employment (Quality of Skill Training)

- Skill programs must ensure **quality, certification, and industry linkage**, not just enrollment. For Example , **around 30%** of PMKVY-certified individuals got placement in jobs (as per Ministry of Skill Development data, 2023).
- Policy Response : Germany's Dual Vocational Training System can be emulated in Skill India Mission

Employability vs. Employment (Quality of Skill Training)

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Lifelong Learning and Upskilling

- With technology evolving rapidly, workers need **continuous skilling, reskilling, and upskilling** to remain employable. For example, as per WEF's Future of Jobs Report 2023 , 44 percent of workers skills will be disrupted in next five years.
- Response : Government's **Digital Skilling Initiative** aims to train 1 crore youth in **AI, cloud, and cybersecurity** by 2025.

Covering Regional and Sectoral Imbalances :

- Skilling must match **local economic contexts** – skilled workers often migrate due to lack of local employment ecosystems. **District Skill Committees (DSCs)** under Skill India mission are meant to assess **local labor market demand** and align training accordingly.
- Conclusion
 - As per Vision 2047 for Viksit Bharat, India can harness its human capital for a future ready globally relevant and technologically updated skills capital of the world.

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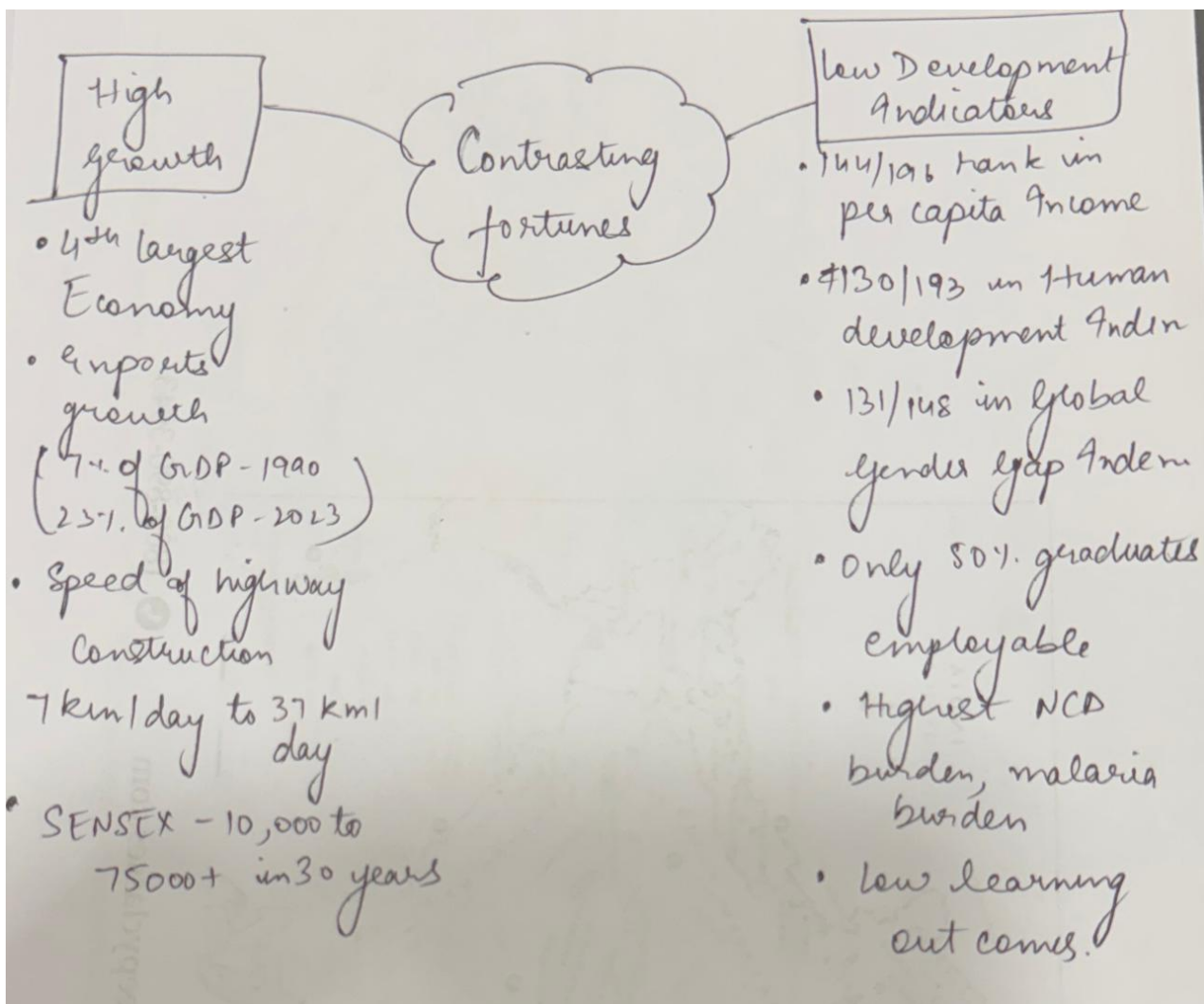
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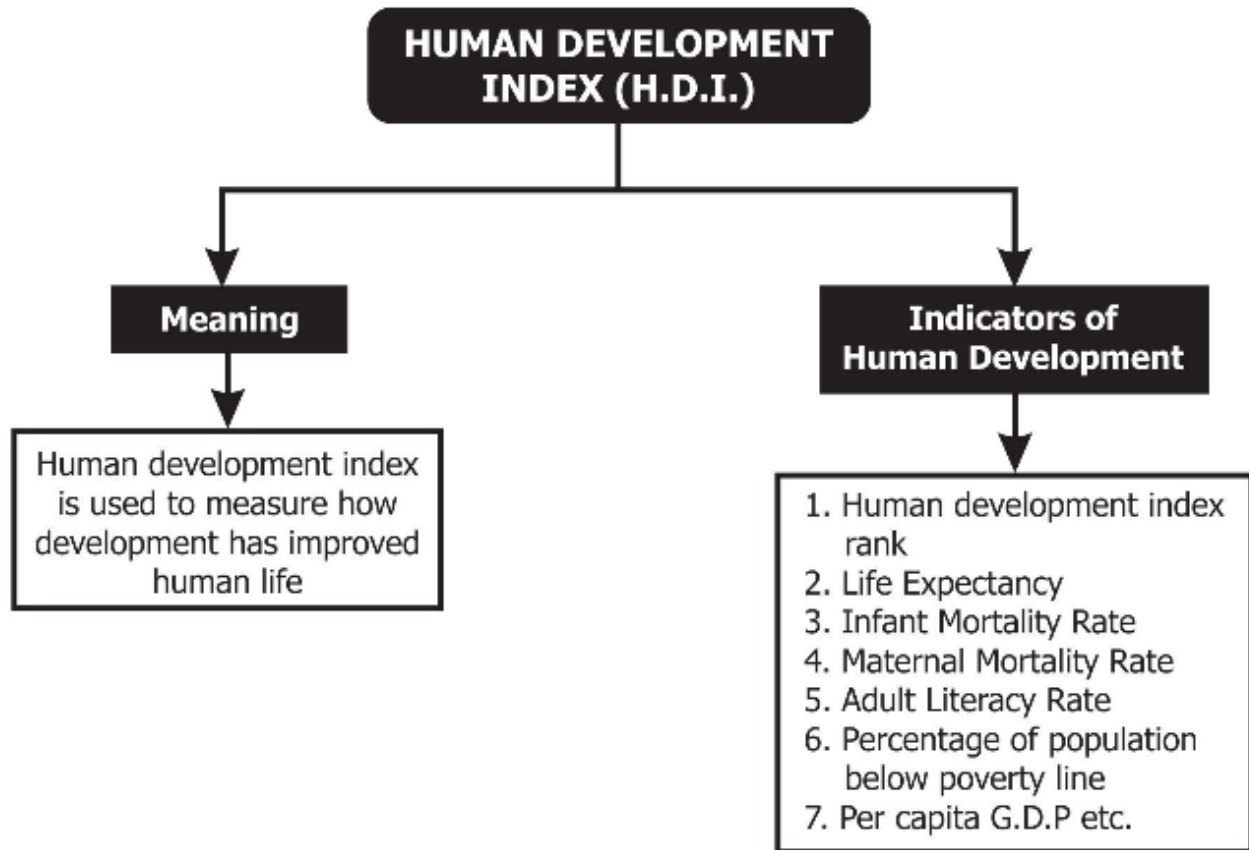


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14) Despite Consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.

- **Intro:**
 - Use data of growth and HDI rank
- **Body:**
 - Other lowest indicators of human Development
- **Body:**
 - Factors for lack of balanced and inclusive development: Regional disparities, health and nutrition, Gender Skewed growth, income inequality, jobless growth, environmental issues, governance and corruption
- **Measures that could be taken**
- **Conclusion: SDG**





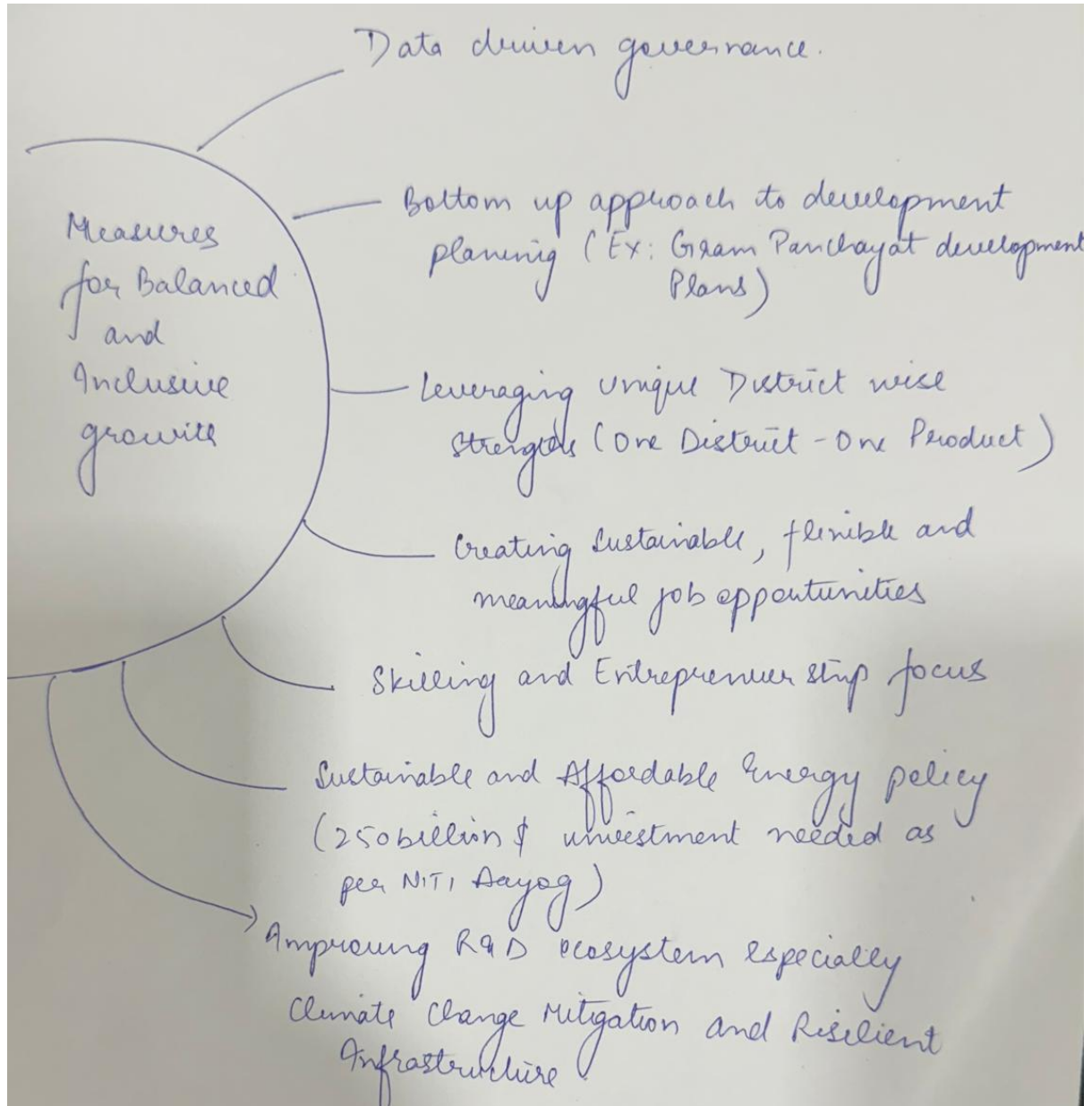
Inequality rising since 2000s, top 1 per cent in India holds 40 per cent wealth: study

Report reveals India's top one per cent income share ranks among the highest in the world behind Peru, Yemen, and a couple of other small countries.



- **Regional disparities:** Significant development gaps exist between different regions in India, with some states and districts lagging far behind in terms of human development indicators. These disparities exacerbate the challenges faced by disadvantaged regions, perpetuating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment. For instance, the literacy rate in Bihar is around 63%, while in Kerala, it is over 96%, illustrating the regional disparities in educational attainment.
- **Health and Nutrition :** According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-21, India has seen no significant improvement in health and nutritional status among her population. 7.7% of children are severely wasted, 19.3% are wasted and 35.5% are stunted. At the same time, 3.4% children are overweight which is an increase from last survey. Anemia among children under-5 has become significantly worse with the current prevalence as 67.1% compared to 58.6% according to NFHS-4. 57% of women of reproductive age are anemic in the country.
- **Gender Skewed growth:** Men in India capture 82% of labour income, while women earn just 18%, according to the first-ever estimates of the gender inequality in global earnings presented in the World Inequality Report 2022. As per NFHS 5 Overall, 42.3% of women and 62.5% of men own a house, whereas 31.7% of women and 43.9% of men own land either alone or jointly with someone else.
- **Income Inequality:** The wealth gap between the rich and the poor has widened, with the top 10% holding a significant portion of the nation's wealth. For example, according to the Oxfam's Report "Survival of the Richest: The India story", the richest 1% in India now own more than 40% of the country's total wealth, while the bottom half of the population together share just 3% of wealth between 2012 and 2021
- **Jobless growth:** With increasing economic growth, the rate of growth of employment has declined. According to NSSO, unemployment in India is highest in 45 years. With rising population and, consequently, the labour force, India will soon experience demographic disaster rather than a demographic dividend.
- **Environmental :** India is home to 63 of the 100 most polluted cities and 311 river stretches are severely polluted as per CPCB. There is also damage to ecological and physiographic resource in pursuit of infrastructure development.

Governance Issues and Corruption :



15) Explain the Constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant constitutional provisions and case laws.

- **Intro:**
 - Our Constitutional ethos is reflective of the egalitarian and social justice led vision of constitution makers and Gender justice was a predominant theme that has been buttressed by judiciary as ours is a living constitution.
- **Body:**
 - Constitutional Provisions of Gender justice – preamble, article 14, Article 15, Article 39(d), Article 39 (A), Article 21,
- **Body:**
 - Judicial Pronouncement of Gender justice :
- **Vishakha v State of Rajasthan 1997, Indian young Lawyers Association v State of Kerala 2018, Shayara Bano Case 2017, Navtej Singh Johar Case 2018, NALSA Case 2014, X Versus Principal Secretary 2022, Joseph Shine Case 2018**
- **Conclusion:**
 - Gender justice Project, apart from Constitutional and Judicial interventions, also requires socio economic impetus as well as sensibilities of justice led approach



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16) Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions.

- **Introduction** – Competition Act 2002
- **Body**
 - Diagram to show abuse of dominant position

Conclusion

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI), established under the *Competition Act, 2002*, plays a pivotal role in promoting and sustaining market competition, protecting consumer interests, and ensuring freedom of trade.



Role of CCI in Regulating MNCs

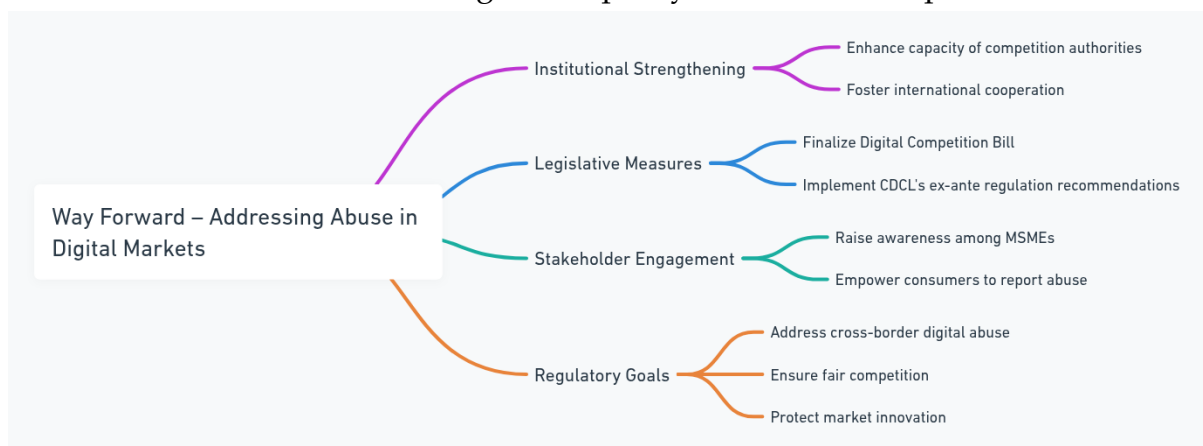
- **Market Investigation and Proactive Regulation:** CCI investigates market behavior through suo motu cognizance or based on complaints. It ensures that dominant MNCs do not engage in practices that distort competition or exploit consumers.
- **Imposing Penalties and Corrective Measures:** The CCI has the authority to impose monetary penalties, direct behavioral changes, and issue cease and desist orders to deter abuse of dominance.
- **Promoting Fair Digital Markets:** In the digital economy, several MNCs such as Google, Amazon, and Apple hold significant market shares. The CCI has been active in regulating these companies to ensure a level playing field.

Recent Key Decisions Involving MNCs

- **Google (2022-23)**
 - CCI fined Google ₹1,337.76 crore for abusing its dominant position in the Android mobile device market. Google was found guilty of forcing manufacturers to pre-install its apps and restricting user choice.
- **Amazon and Flipkart Probe (Ongoing)**
 - CCI has been investigating alleged preferential treatment to select sellers and deep discounting practices by e-commerce giants like Amazon and Flipkart, which could result in foreclosure of market access for smaller competitors. This showcases CCI's increasing scrutiny of platform-based MNCs.
- **Intel (2019)**
 - The Commission found Intel guilty of abusing its dominant position by refusing to supply product details to certain Indian customers, thus affecting downstream competition. Although no penalty was imposed due to cooperation, CCI issued strong warnings and directions for corrective actions.

Challenges in Regulating MNCs

- **Digital complexity and data asymmetry** make it harder to establish abuse conclusively.
- Jurisdictional limits and global operations of MNCs complicate enforcement.
- **Resource constraints** in investigative capacity and technical expertise.



- As MNC influence deepens in India, the Commission's vigilance remains crucial to maintaining equitable market dynamics.

International Relations

17) 'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO'.

Introduction- About SCO

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), established in 2001, aims to promote regional security, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange among its member states.
- However, internal conflicts and divergent interests among members have increasingly hindered its effectiveness.

Body- Manifestations of the 'Virus of Conflict' within the SCO

- Bilateral Disputes Among Member States (India- China & India- Pakistan)
- **Divergent Strategic Interests** (China's Belt and Road Initiative & India's Opposition + Russia China Competition)
- Security Challenges (Afghanistan, Terrorism & Extremism)
- Organizational Limitations (SCO's consensus-based decision-making, Lack of a robust conflict-resolution mechanism)

Body- Role of India in Mitigating Conflicts

- **Diplomatic Engagement** (Dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes)
- Economic Initiatives (Encouraging INSTC)
- Counter-Terrorism Efforts (SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure)
- Cultural and Humanitarian Outreach (Cultural exchanges and humanitarian assistance)

Conclusion

- The 'Virus of Conflict' within the SCO stems from deep-seated bilateral disputes, divergent national interests, and organizational constraints.

18) Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India.

Introduction

- The Indian diaspora, comprising over 35 million individuals globally, has achieved significant success, particularly in Western countries.
- Their accomplishments have translated into substantial economic and political benefits for India.

Body- Economic Benefits

- **Remittances-** In 2023, remittances to India reached approximately **\$125 billion**, accounting for about 3% of the nation's GDP.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Business Ventures.**
- **Trade and Market Expansion-** Diaspora act as cultural and business intermediaries
- **Lobbying and Advocacy**
- **Political Representation-** Individuals of Indian origin hold significant political positions in countries like the USA, UK, and Canada.
- **Enhancing India's Global Image-** Manifestation of Soft power enhances

Conclusion

- The Indian diaspora serves as a vital asset for India, offering economic support through remittances and investments, and political leverage through advocacy and representation.

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19) The Expansion and Strengthening of NATO and a Stronger US-Europe Strategic Partnership Works Well for India.

Introduction

- India, as a rising global power, seeks to maintain strategic autonomy while engaging with major international players.
- The expansion of NATO and a fortified US-Europe alliance present both opportunities and challenges for India's strategic interests.

Body- Benefits for India

- Enhanced Global Security and Stability
- Counterbalance to China's Influence
- Defense and Technology Collaboration
- Support in Multilateral Forums (India's aspirations for a permanent seat)

Conclusion- Challenges

- Strained Relations with Russia
- Navigating Strategic Autonomy
- Antithetical to SCO

20) Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos. Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security.

Introduction

- The sea, covering approximately 71% of Earth's surface, is integral to the planet's climate regulation, biodiversity, and global trade.
- Recognizing the sea's cosmic significance underscores the necessity of its protection and sustainable use.

Introduction- IMO

- Introduce the IMO as the UN agency responsible for regulating global shipping to protect oceans and ensure safety.
- State the focus on IMO's contributions to environmental protection, maritime safety, and security.

Body- IMO's Role in Environment Protection- CLEAN Framework

- **Control Pollution:** Enforces MARPOL Convention (1973/78) to prevent oil spills, plastic waste, and ship emissions.
- **Low-Carbon Shipping:** Promotes 2023 IMO GHG Strategy for net-zero emissions by 2050, encouraging green fuels.
- **Ecosystem Preservation:** Designates Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) to protect marine biodiversity (e.g., Great Barrier Reef).
- **Anti-Fouling Measures:** Regulates harmful anti-fouling systems to reduce toxic chemical release.
- **Noise Reduction:** Addresses underwater noise to protect marine life (e.g., guidelines for quieter ships).

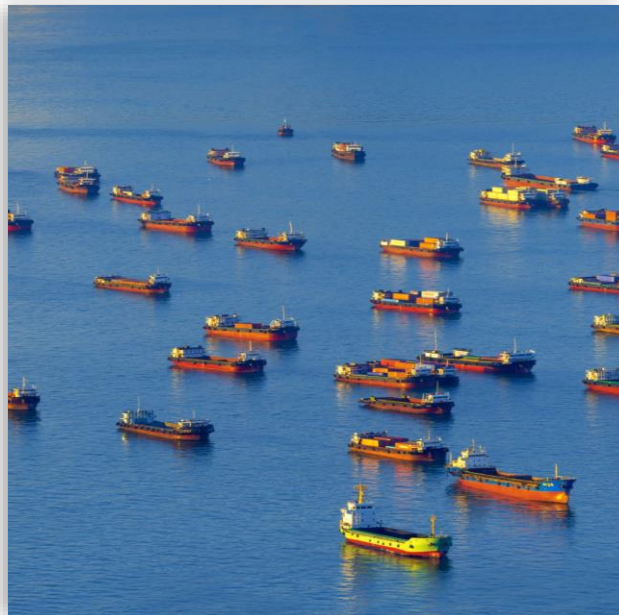


IMO's Role in Maritime Safety (3 key points - remember as "SAFE")

- **Standards for Ships:** Implements SOLAS Convention (1974) for ship design, equipment, and crew training.
- **Accident Prevention:** Develops navigation rules and traffic schemes to reduce collisions and groundings.
- **Fire and Emergency Response:** Sets global standards for firefighting and life-saving equipment on ships.
- **Education and Training:** Enforces STCW Convention for seafarer competency and safety protocols.

IMO's Role in Maritime Security (2 key points - remember as "SECURE")

- **Security Protocols:** Implements ISPS Code to protect ports and ships from terrorism and piracy.
- **Emerging Threats:** Addresses cybersecurity risks for modern vessels through guidelines.
- **Cooperation:** Facilitates global intelligence-sharing to combat maritime crime (e.g., piracy off Somalia).
- **Unified Response:** Coordinates with member states for rapid response to security threats.
- **Regional Support:** Strengthens regional security frameworks (e.g., Djibouti Code of Conduct).
- **Enforcement:** Ensures compliance through flag state and port state control measures.



Conclusion

- The sea's integral role in Earth's systems and human civilization necessitates its protection.
- The IMO's regulatory frameworks are crucial in safeguarding the marine environment and ensuring maritime safety, thereby preserving the sea as a vital component of the cosmos.