

UPSC IFS 2024

AIR-1

KANIKA ANABH

16000474

GS 2 (FLT 10)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

September 13, 2024

Page

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Q1.

Ans

Alternate Dispute Redressal refers to the settlement of judicial ^(ADR) disputes outside a traditional court. It is provided for in Section 89 of the Civil Procedure Code and also the Legal Services Act, 1987.

Streamlined and Efficient Approach

- ① Provides quicker way of dispute resolution
- ② Lowers the cost of dispute resolution as no lawyer fee, court fee etc. has to be paid
- ③ Prevents any further burden on judiciary (already has 4.4 crore pending cases as per NJDG)
- ④ Prevents any ill will between parties



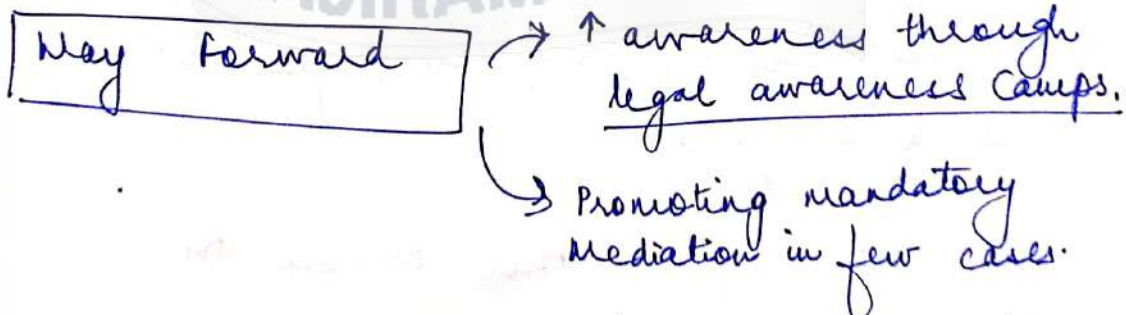
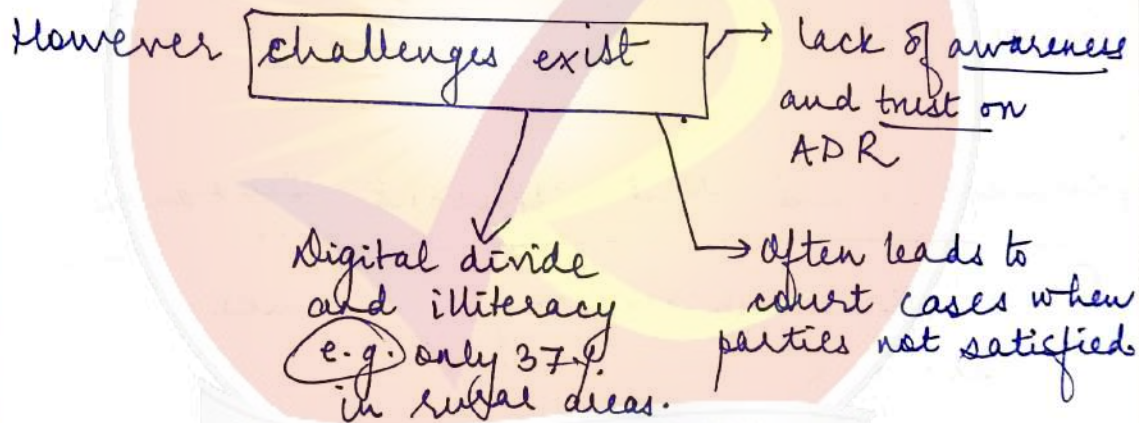
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as mediation based approach is used

— "Win win" outcomes.

5) Makes justice more accessible to peoples → removes stigma of courts and police.

6) Online mode of ADR can significantly help e commerce (e.g) Sama → Online Dispute Resolution Platform for Snapsdeal.



"It is the spirit and not the form of justice which keeps it alive"
ADR upholds the spirit of justice.

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Q2

The State Finance Commissions have been constituted under the mandatory provisions of the 73rd and 74th amendment acts under Article 243.

Role in ensuring fiscal autonomy

- 1) Recommend the distribution of taxes from the States to the local bodies like Panchayats and Municipalities (Vertical distribution)
- 2) Recommend horizontal distribution of taxes among various local bodies
- 3) Recommend the amount of grants to be made to the local bodies.
- 4) Seek to increase the share of revenue of local bodies to ensure smooth functioning (Their Own Revenue Source is only 5% (40% in Brazil))
- 5) Fiscal autonomy promoted by them can further help in true democratic decentralisation

However, some issues exist:—

- ① State finance Commissions are not permanent → need to be reconstituted every 5 years.
- ② often not reconstituted on time.
- ③ Positions in several state finance Commissions lying vacant
- ④ Recommendatory nature of provisions → often not followed.

Way Forward

→ Making State finance Commissions permanent bodies

→ Binding recommendations on States

These steps will lead to true empowerment of local bodies and realise Article 40

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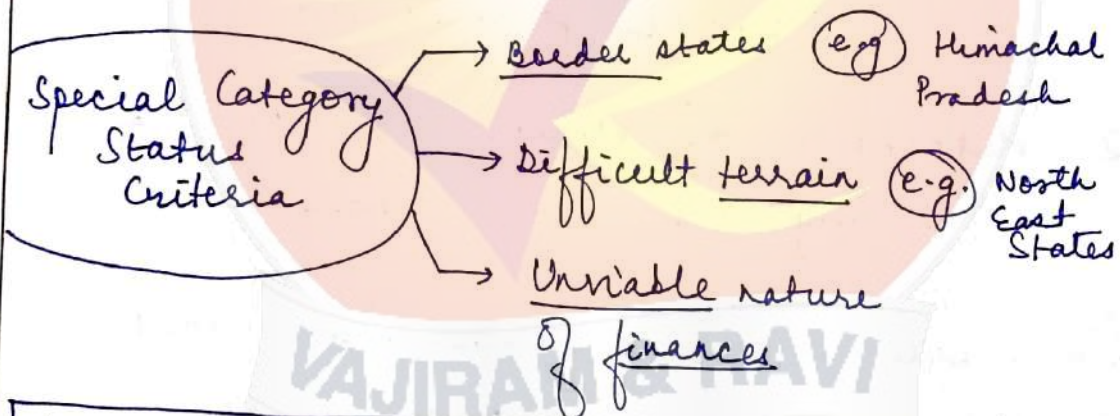
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Q. 3.

Special Category States is a special status granted to some states to give them aid in development. In such states, centre covers 90% of the amount of centrally sponsored schemes compared to 60% in others.



Lifeline for most vulnerable states

Bridging unique challenges

- ① Gives impetus to development in North East (had only 50% of rail lines compared to Mumbai in 2016 [North East except Assam)

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② Border areas facing constant security threats → need special aid

③ States with variable finance → need aid in infrastructure and employment generation

Promise of equitable growth

- ① Counter disadvantages of such states
(e.g.) NMEO - OP in North East to promote palm oil farming
- ② Helping in infrastructure development
(e.g.) PM - DevINE scheme
- ③ People to People Connect (e.g.) Vibrant Villages along border areas.

Recently, states of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have also received special grants from the Centre under this.

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Q4.

Nani Palkhivala has described Preamble as the ID card of the Constitution and this ID card clearly states Justice as one of the goals of the Preamble.

Value of Justice manifesting in current policies of government

(I) Social Justice

(1) Affirmative action for backward (eg) 104th Amendment Act → reservation for EWS.

(2) PM - Janman Yojana for development of PVTGs and infrastructure in their areas.

(3) 'Tis Parsi' scheme for the upliftment of minority Parsi community.



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II Economic Justice

- 1) PM - Shramyogi Yojana - allows registration and formalisation of construction for workers.
- 2) Consolidation of labour codes to prevent labour exploitation.
- 3) Giving impetus to startups (200 in 2016 to > 1 lakh at present)

III Political Justice

- 1) Nari Shakti Vandan Ashijan - 33% reservation to women in Assembly and Lok Sabha.
- 2) The current President, Draupadi Murmu is a member of ST community
- 3) Recent elections, Shompen tribe of Andaman voted for 1st time.

Justice is the lifeblood of democracy and the above measures ensure the same.

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Q5

In India, accreditation processes such as NIRF ranking or NAAC ratings are used to assess the quality of Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs).

Ensuring quality standards in HEIs

① Top ranking are only available on criteria such as quality education and infrastructure, inclusive environment \Rightarrow need to maintain that

(e.g.) Miranda House - top NIRF rank for 6 years.

② Indicates quality of institution and attracts best talents (e.g.) IIT - Madras

③ sets up an accountability mechanism for colleges to adhere to.

④ Acknowledges and rewards best practices in colleges \rightarrow motivation to continue further.

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⑤ Deviation from set standards leads to fall in rank → feedback mechanism to improve further.

However, accreditation is not a guarantee for good quality :—

- ① might involve collusive collusion to get a good rank
- ② often standards maintained only during inspection days.
- ③ Parameters for such ranking are not holistic (e.g) mental health of students not taken in account.
- ④ Several colleges don't participate (e.g) St- Stephens, Delhi University

Reforms in accreditation along with internal accountability will help in the aim of enrollment ^{rate} of 50% in higher educational institutes by 2035.

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Q6

The civil servants of India constitute the 'Stell Frame of the Nation' as said by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.

§ In keeping with current times, there has been a need to ensure continuous learning for civil servants.

Modern Administrative Challenges

① Change in nature of bureaucracy → 'more democratic' attitude expected.

② Raised awareness of rights among citizens

③ Increasing use of technology in lives and administration.

Role of training and learning

Learning emotional intelligence and trusteeship principle.

Skilled civil servants can ensure satisfaction of particular demands

Using e-governance mechanisms to ensure better govt outcomes.



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4) Increasing economic prosperity of people → inequality also increases

Training helps in dealing amicably with both sides
(e.g)

5) Higher demand for transparency and accountability

Better information disclosure

(e.g) Jan soochna portal in Rajasthan

Skilling and Training can help transform civil services from a rule based to a role based one.

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Q 7.

Recently released SDG progress report highlights that we are on track to achieve only 17% of the goals.

Accelerating progress towards SDGs

Zero Poverty

effective MNREGA even in urban areas, promoting upskilling and MSMEs

No Hunger

PM Poshan, implementation of ICDS, Buddy Mother Initiative, Promoting millets (Anna Shri)

Healthcare for all

Penetration of Ayushman Bharat Insurance for missing middle (40%)
Focus on NCDs (63% of all illness)

Quality Education

PM SHRI for better school infrastructure

NIPUN → for better learning outcomes.

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Gender
Equality

Increasing FLFPR (only 37%
right now), preventing 'leaky
pipeline' in corporate sector

Safe
water

Atal Bhujal Yojana, wastewater
surveillance and ~~can~~ water
harvesting

Clean
energy

PM KUSUM and Surya Ghar
Bijli Yojana, India's 1st offshore wind
plant in Tamil Nadu

Sustainable
Cities

Leveraging Smart Cities Mission
Linking Smart Cities with
Smart Villages.

Sustainable
Consumption

Use of public transport, Mission
life.

Life on
Land

Reducing air and soil pollution
→ switch to sustainable fuels
and materials

These steps will take India towards
the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

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Q. 8

As per census 2011, ~~1.6%~~ Transgenders comprise nearly 8% of the population.

Progress made for LGBTQIA+ community

→ Right of Transgender Act, 2019

→ Decriminalisation of Article 377.

Increasing representation

e.g. Madhu, 1st transgender constable of Bihar.

→ Recently, Supreme Court allowed such couples to access banking services together.

Challenges to Rights and Dignity

- ① Facing a lot of harassment and stigma.
- ② Tailor made policies missing for them.
- ③ Recently, petition to legitimise same sex marriage turned down

④ Often are victims of trafficking and prostitution.

⑤ Representation in traditional jobs less than 1%. → Mostly resort to begging.

Way forward

- ① Ensuring proper implementation of Rights of Transgender Act
- ② Sensitising police towards their issues
- ③ Spreading awareness to reduce stigma
- ④ More permissive approach to rights can be explored (e.g) Nepal → registration of same sex marriage allowed.

These steps will help ensure
'Sakka Sath Sabka Vikas.'

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Q9:

China's aggressive policies in the South China Sea and posturing against Taiwan had led to constant fear of a China Taiwan Conflict.

Jeopardising our security

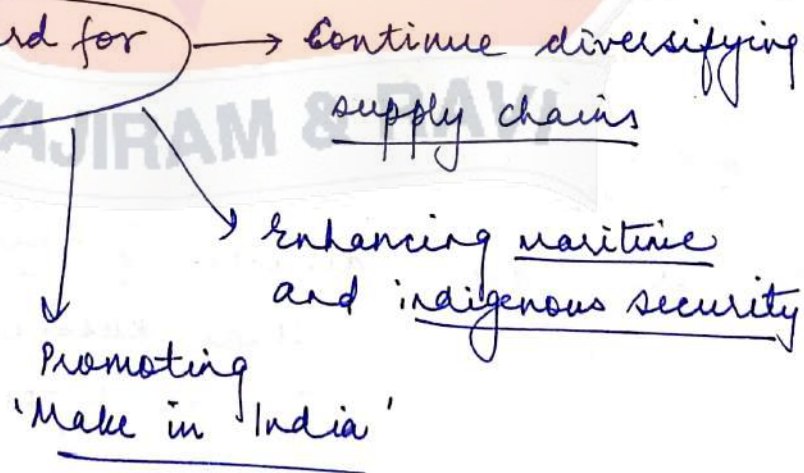
- ① will lead to instability in the Indo Pacific ~~the~~ region
- ② Can also indicate future aggression towards India under 'salami slicing strategy'
- ③ Will lead to division of world in 2 factions
 - China, Russia, North Korea
 - Taiwan supported by West
- ④ Might alienate Russia away from India in its support for China



Jeopardising economic interests

- ① Taiwan is a leading manufacturer of semiconductor chips → attack will disrupt supply.
- ② Could impact India's development of e-vehicles and our semiconductor programme → both need chips
- ③ Disruption in Indo Pacific route with the West Asia already disturbed → inflation due to high fuel usage.
- ④ Could choke supply chains.

Way forward for India



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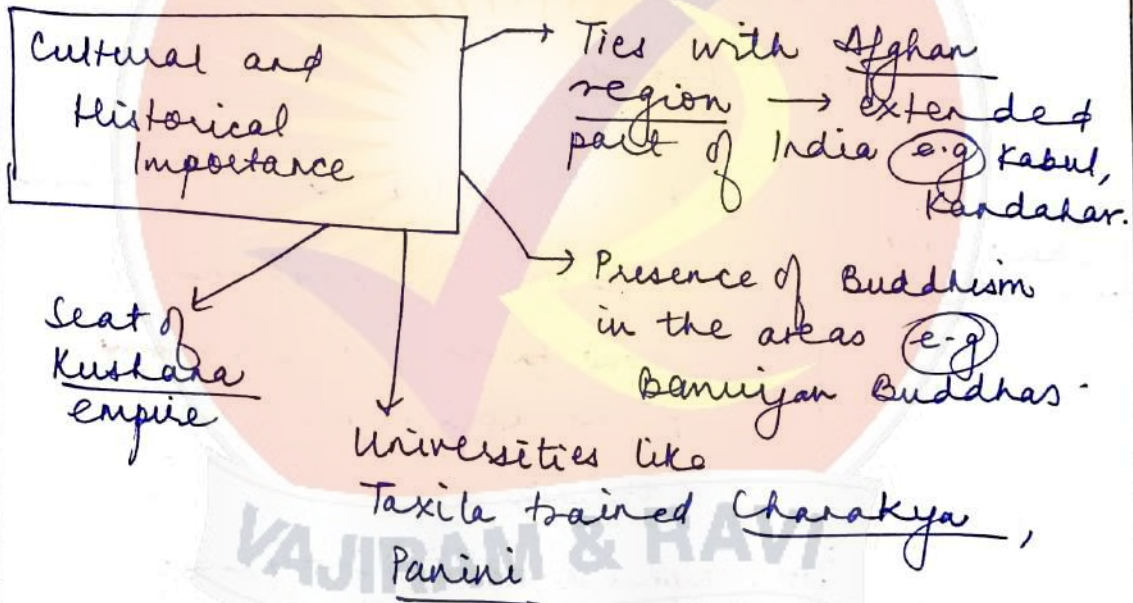
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Q10

India shares a long history with the Central Asian Region — dating back to the Silk Route during Kushanas.



Strategic Importance

- ① Rich source of minerals (e.g. uranium) in Kazakhstan.
- ② Rich source of energy resources (e.g. crude oil) in Turkmenistan.



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- 3) Increasing India's connectivity to Europe (e.g) INSTC passes through it.
- 4) Countries like Iran, Afghanistan → natural allies as per 'Mandala Theory'
- 5) Important for strategic encirclement of China (e.g) ~~ports~~ Chabahar port in Iran is part of our Diamond Necklace strategy.

Challenges

→ Political Instability (e.g) Taliban takeover in Afghanistan
→ Extremism and trans border insurgency threats

TAPI pipeline stalled for years.

Revitalising our connections along with 'diplomatic recalibration' as per need can help realise Connect Central Asia Policy.

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Q 11:

Indian polity follows the first past the post system in which a candidate need not secure absolute majority but only a relative majority of votes to win elections.

Polarising Indian Politics

- ① Winner does not reflect absolute mandate of people (e.g) in a constituency if a candidate gets only 35% votes and rest get less than this \Rightarrow he will still win.
- ② Does not give representation to minorities \rightarrow 'winner takes it all' approach followed
- ③ Lack lustre efforts by political parties

as they know that they need not secure an absolute majority.

- ④ Establishes a majoritarian system → leads to polarisation.

Has Not Polarised Indian Politics

- ① Has been functioning largely smoothly ~~now~~ so far.
- ② Polarisation can also be attributed to other factors such as social media, sensational journalism etc.
- ③ Is reflective of relative mandate of people → out of all candidates, the one getting even 35% more preferred than others.

Need for bringing Proportional Representation

① Needed

- ① Upholds absolute mandate of people.

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② Allows for minority representation too.

③ Prevents wastage of votes.

④ Already done in indirect elections for Rajya Sabha and President

Not Needed

① Familiarity with FPTP system

② Ease of understanding for masses.

③ NCWRC suggested retaining the FPTP system.

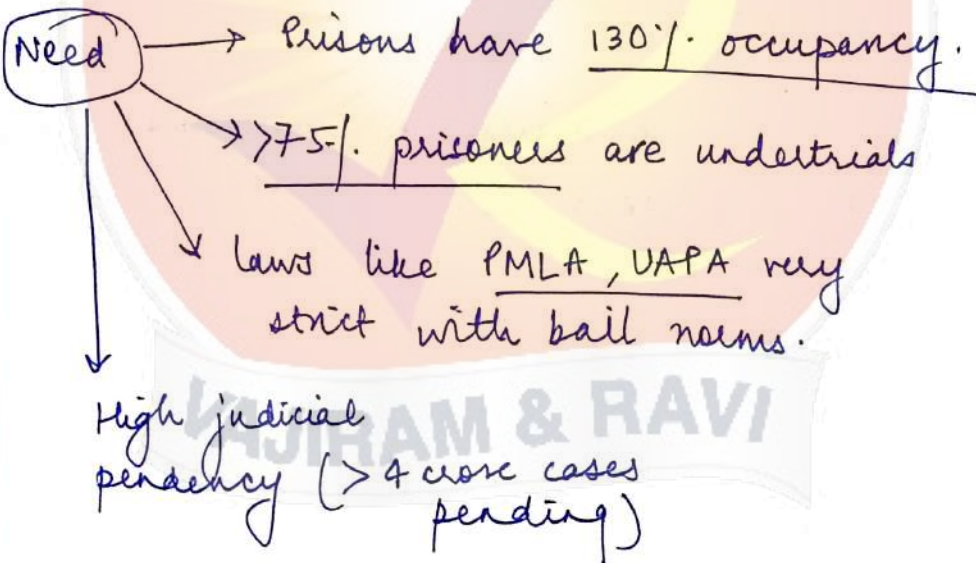
A committee can be constituted again to look specifically into the issue.

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Q12

The Supreme Court has time and again highlighted the 'bail not jail' norm, most recently in cases dealing with PMLA also.

Need for 'Bail Not Jail' principle



Upholding Article 21

① Supreme Court in 'Hussainara Khatoon case' → Right to speedy trials is a fundamental right.

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- ② mildly liberal bail norms prevent wrongful detention of a person for too long without trial.
- ③ Despite strict rules of PMLA → recently held that even in such cases bail should be the norm.
- ④ Prevents political vendetta based imprisonment.
- ⑤ Allows the undertrial a life of dignity till he is proved guilty if at all.

Recent measures

- ① The newly enacted BNS allows bail to first time offenders if they've served one-third of their sentence.
- ② Previously section 436 of IPC also suggested release of ~~but~~ undertrials on some conditions.

③ Amitava Roy Committee on prison reforms suggested increasing bail usage and releasing prisoners on bond

④ Need for lower judiciary to be more liberal with bail → highlighted by CJI.

This will ensure the rights and dignity of undertrials and also declutter our prisons.

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Q 13

The recently formed central government after the 2024 elections is a coalition government of the NDA — National Democratic Alliance.

Coalition politics result of Political Expediency

- 1) Becomes the only option when no party commands majority
e.g. in recent elections, largest party had around 235 seats → less than needed 272 in Lok Sabha.
- 2) Might involve parties with quite different ideologies coming together → quick fall of government. e.g. 1996 Vajpayee government lasted only 13 days.
- 3) Might allow for convenience and favour based alliances.

④ Unlikely alliances may often disrupt government functioning
(e.g. left opposing Congress moves in 2004-9 ^(14th) Lok Sabha.)

⑤ Constant fear of disintegration of alliance due to clashing ideologies. (e.g. INDIA alliance)

Result of ~~Part~~ Ideological Synergy

- ① Coming together of like minded parties for a common cause.
- ② We don't see opposite parties together.
(e.g. BJP and Congress can never be together in an alliance.)
- ③ Helps provide some stability to ideas and agenda.
- ④ May be focused on one common agenda making small differences insignificant.

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May forward

- ① Reforms in anti defection law to prevent solely ~~for~~ need based alliances.
- ② Pre poll alliances must also be covered under it.

Coalition politics can also be a manifestation of unity in diversity in India if it overcomes above issues.

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Q/A

Ans.

Recently, the government notified the rules under Citizenship Amendment Act, 2020.

Reshaping path to Indian citizenship

- ① Allows for expedited citizenship for persecuted minorities of Pakistan and ~~Afghanistan~~ Bangladesh ^{in India}
- ② The requirement of staying ^{in India} for 11 years now shortened to 6 years to gain citizenship.
- ③ Applies to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs in these countries.
- ④ Also will be accompanied by NRC → National Register for Citizens to deport illegal immigrants away from country

- ⑤ Will help prevent further demographic change especially in North East regions.
- ⑥ Allows minorities of these countries to live a life of dignity and free from fear.

Intensifies debate over secularism

- ① Restricts individuals belonging from Muslim communities to get such expedited citizenship.
- ② Distinction between Muslims and non Muslims → threat to secularism.
- ③ Provision of Foreigners Tribunals and camp to retain illegal immigrants before deportation → may lead to injustice.
- ④ Accusations of 'religious cleansing' being associated with it.
- ⑤ Powers to be given to DMs under Foreigner's tribunals → may lead to

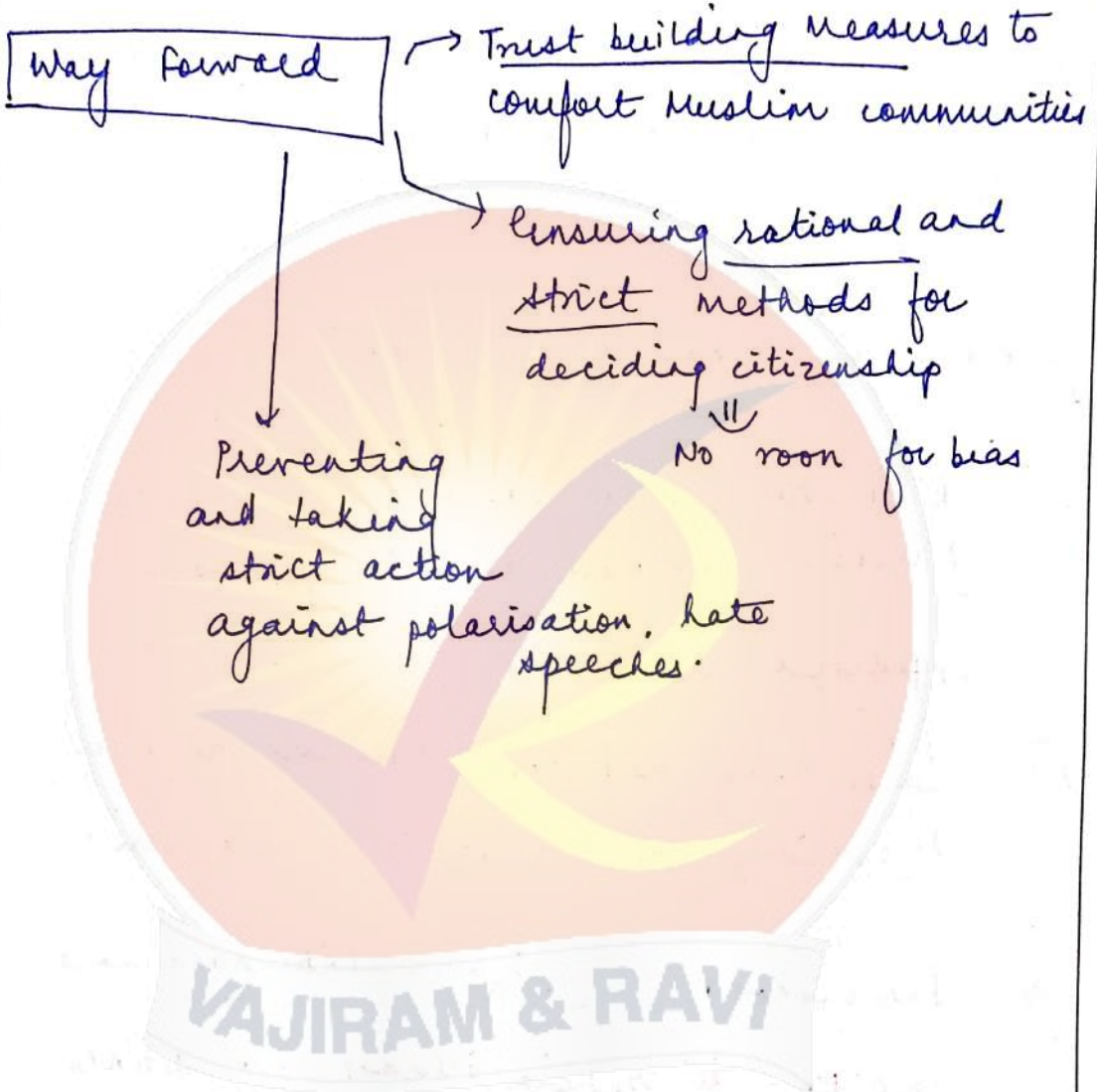
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arbitrary decisions due to personal bias.



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2/15

The Supreme Court in Darinder
Singh vs State of Punjab upheld that
there should be subcategorisation of SC/
ST communities.

Judgement affecting fairness of reservation
benefits

I. MAKES IT UNFAIR

① Overturns E. Chinniah judgement →
stating SCs are a 'homogenous group'

② Creates subdivisions among the SC,
ST groups → can further lead to
resentment.

③ Even economically sound SCs may face
discrimination and stigma →
judgement does not acknowledge this.

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④ The subdivisions can be arbitrary → high chances of exclusion errors

II MAKES IT FAIR

① Allows reservation to be equally distributed
→ presently utilised by less than 10% of their population

② Fair approach of making way for the most backward — 'Antyodaya philosophy'

③ sets logical parameters (e.g) child of SC civil servant can't be equal to ~~an~~ a child of poor SC farmer in village.

④ Reflects ground reality.
(e.g) in dhobi community → 146 out of 10,000 get higher education which is 1 out of 10,000 for Avar community of Bihar.

⑤ makes the reservation policy more equitable.

6) Increasing accessibility to posts eg. in Tamil Nadu some communities have 60% of jobs even though their population is low.

Way forward

- 1) Ensuring an independent commission to set criteria for subcategorisation.
- 2) Subcategorisation must be made on absolutely empirical basis.
- 3) Preventing the politicisation of any such subcategorisation move.
- 4) The idea of limiting reservation till one generation can also be explored.

This will help in the advancement of the 'Mahadalits' of India.

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Q 16

Recent reports suggested that India has lifted 315 million people out of extreme poverty from 2014 to 2024. That is however still not equivalent to eradicating extreme poverty.

INDIA has ^{nearly} eradicating extreme poverty

- ① Multidimensional poverty has reduced to 15% from 19% in 2019.
- ② Financial Inclusion especially in rural areas via ~~the~~ JAM trinity.
(RBI financial inclusion index → 60% in India)
- ③ Nearly 11 crore toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Yojana
→ 60,000 kids saved annually because of it
- ④ Over 2 crore people given housing facilities

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

under PM Awas Yojana

- 5 Replacement of biofuels with LPG in many households by Vijayalakshmi Yojana

INDIA has not eradicated extreme poverty

- 1) 15% multidimensional poverty would still mean over 22 crore people are in extreme poverty -
- 2) India's rank in world HDI index is 132 → shows poor social development
- 3) Global Hunger Index → India's rank is 111 with > 75% Indians claiming they don't have proper nutrition (SOFI report) → reflects poverty
- 4) 124th rank in the Gender Gap Index shows poor status of women in India.

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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Way forward

- ① Experimenting with Universal Basic Income (proven helpful in Esther Duflo study)
- ② Reducing workforce in agriculture sector and channelising them to manufacturing sector.
- ③ Agricultural modernisation and mechanisation (only 40% right now)
- ④ Skill development initiatives on priority basis (India's skill percentage is 5.4% compared to Korea's 96%)
- ⑤ Impetus to MSMEs → will employ 22 million people by 2030.
- ⑥ Focus on nutrition through PM POSHAN

The above steps will fulfill the goal of SDG - 1 - Zero Poverty in India.

Q17.

Drug abuse cases in India have increased very rapidly with states like Punjab severely under its grip.

Addressing Drug Abuse in India: Multifaceted Approach

I CAUSES

I Social

- ① Influence of western culture and TV shows.
- ② ↑ internet users (around 628 million)
→ ↑ access to videos and shows promoting drugs as 'cool.'
- ③ Normalisation (e.g.) Punjabi songs mention drug use
- ④ Breaking family structure due to divorces, live in → promote nuclear families drug use.

5) Deteriorating mental health
during COVID, nearly 26% and 28%
people developed Anxiety and Depression
respectively.

II SYSTEMIC

- 1) India's proximity to Golden Crescent
and Golden Triangle → easy access
to drugs (e.g) throwing drugs across
India Pakistan border.
- 2) Nexus formation with local police
and officials → allow running of
drug rackets.
- 3) Economic prosperity in cities like
Delhi, Mumbai → easy access to expensive
drugs like cocaine.
- 4) Intelligence failure prevents detection
of such drugs being sold.

way forward

social

- ① Widespread campaigns on the ill effects of drug usage
- ② Using suitable role model to appeal to youth
e.g. Virat Kohli
- ③ enabling easy access to mental health counselling services.
- ④ Regular campaigns in schools and colleges.

systemic

- ① Smart Borders and Cameras to be used along border areas.
- ② Increasing personnel along susceptible borders such as India Myanmar, India Pakistan borders.

These steps will help ensure a 'Nasha Mukta Bharat'.

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कृपया प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

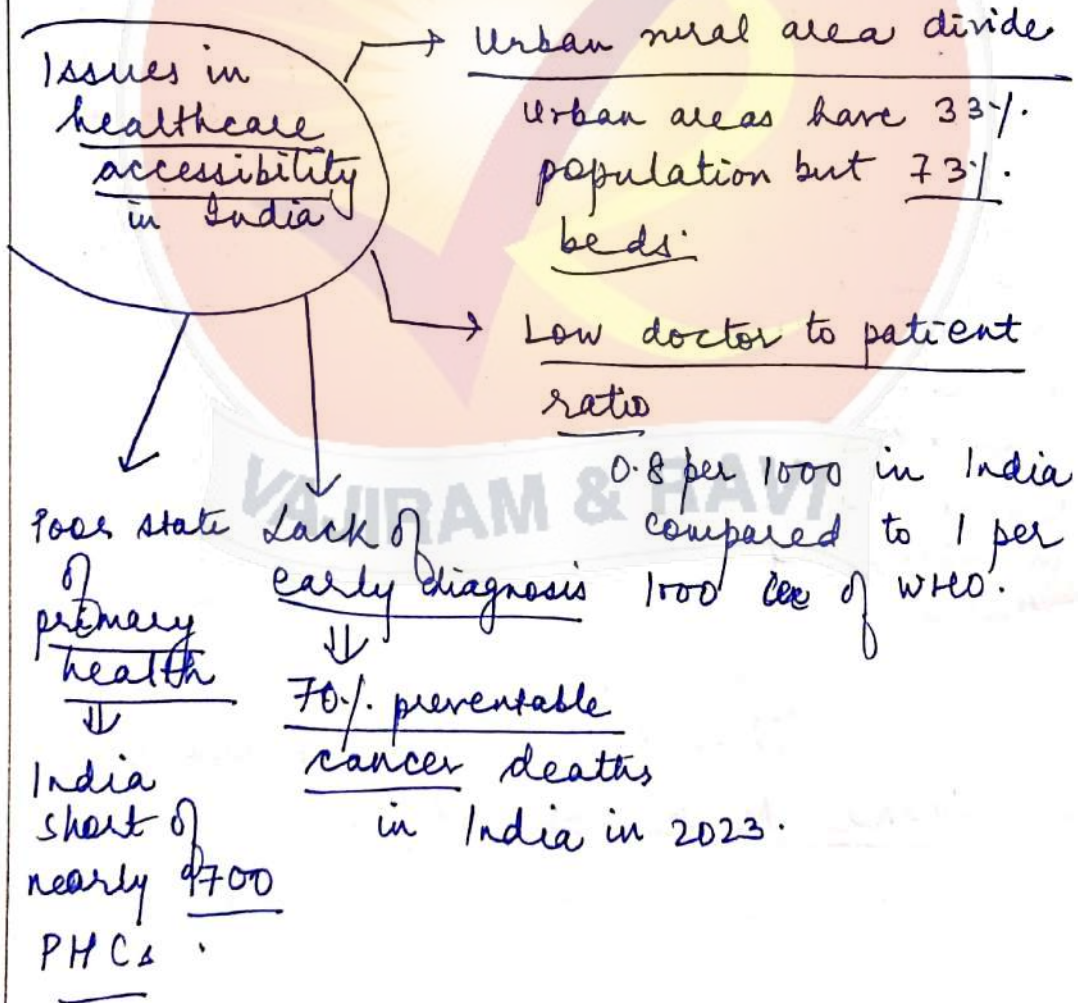
UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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Q 18.

Recently, a technology called Hear AI was developed which enables detection of lung cancer, TB etc. based on the sound of cough of an individual.



Leveraging technology to improve accessibility

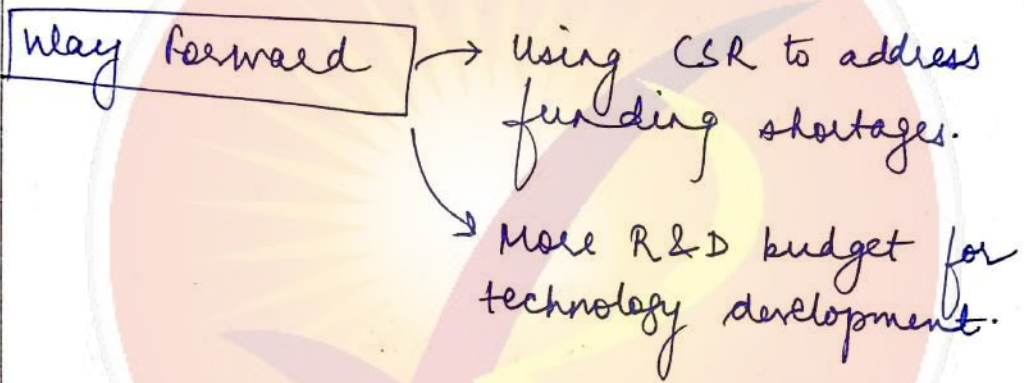
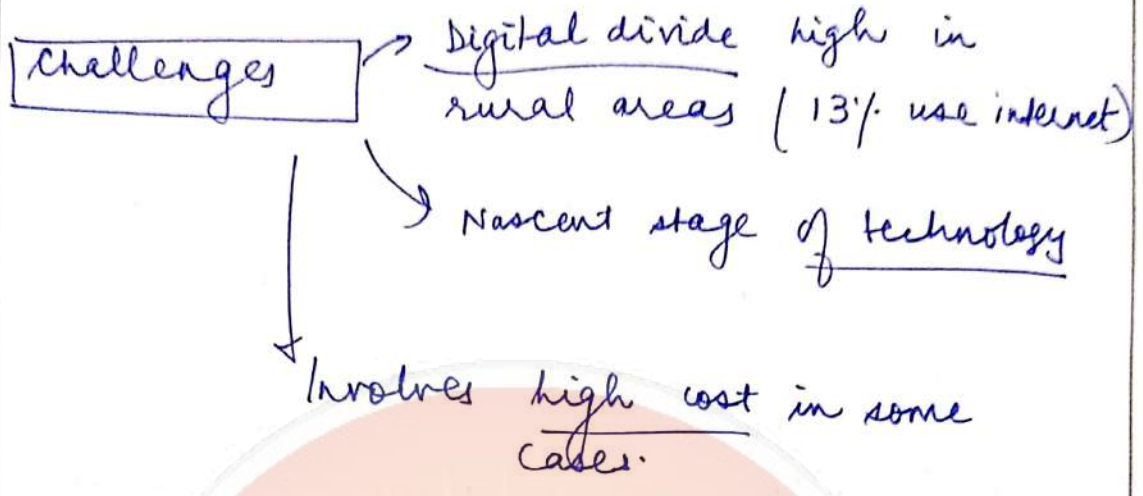
- ① Use of telemedicine can help in early diagnosis (e.g) Tripura has teleophthalmology services.
- ② Better diagnosis and detection using AI and thermal imaging
- ③ Using technology for mobile PHCs in rural areas → must be solar powered, ensured with rainwater harvesting
(e.g) mobile boat clinics of Assam
- ④ Use of technology to maintain health records → can be accessed anywhere
(e.g) Estonia e health model and Ayushman Bhasat Digital Mission
- ⑤ Use of drones to ensure drug or vaccine delivery in remote areas.
- ⑥ 3D printing technology for rapid construction of PHCs in needed areas.

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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This will help realise the maxim of 'Sarve Bantu Niramaya'

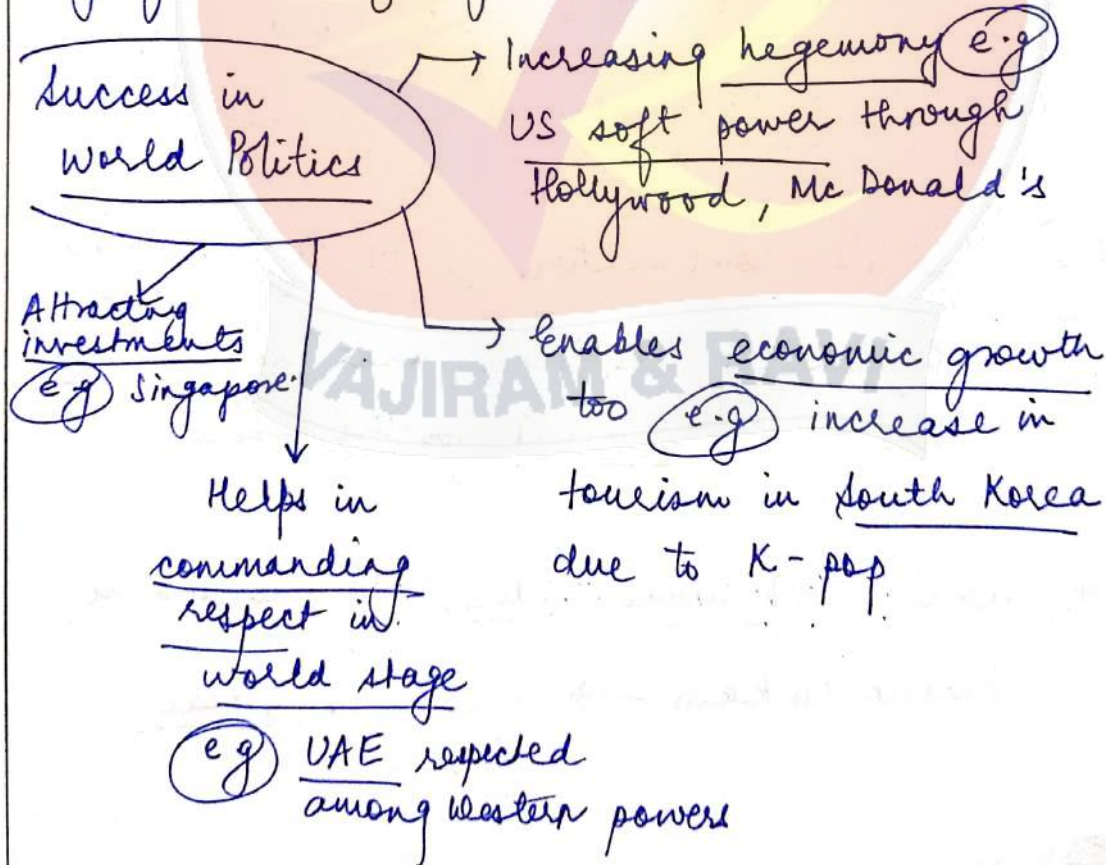
VAJIRAM & RAVI

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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Q19

The concept of soft power was given by Joseph Nye to indicate the influence a country has on another not by means of military but by socio cultural and economic aspects.

Significance of soft



Significance of Soft Power for Foreign Policy Goals

- ① India's cultural heritage (e.g.) old civilisation → Respected as a 'democratic country'
- ② India's 3 million strong diaspora → asking for favourable policies from countries like USA, Middle East (e.g.) Qatar - Indian navy case
- ③ India's contribution to UN Peacekeeping forces → asking a seat at Security Council for the same.
- ④ India's spiritual values of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam → leader of Global South.
- ⑤ Yoga as soft power → India as wellness and medical

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

tourism destination.

⑤ India's cuisine and clothing and Bollywood → Increasing tourism towards India

↓
more forex earnings

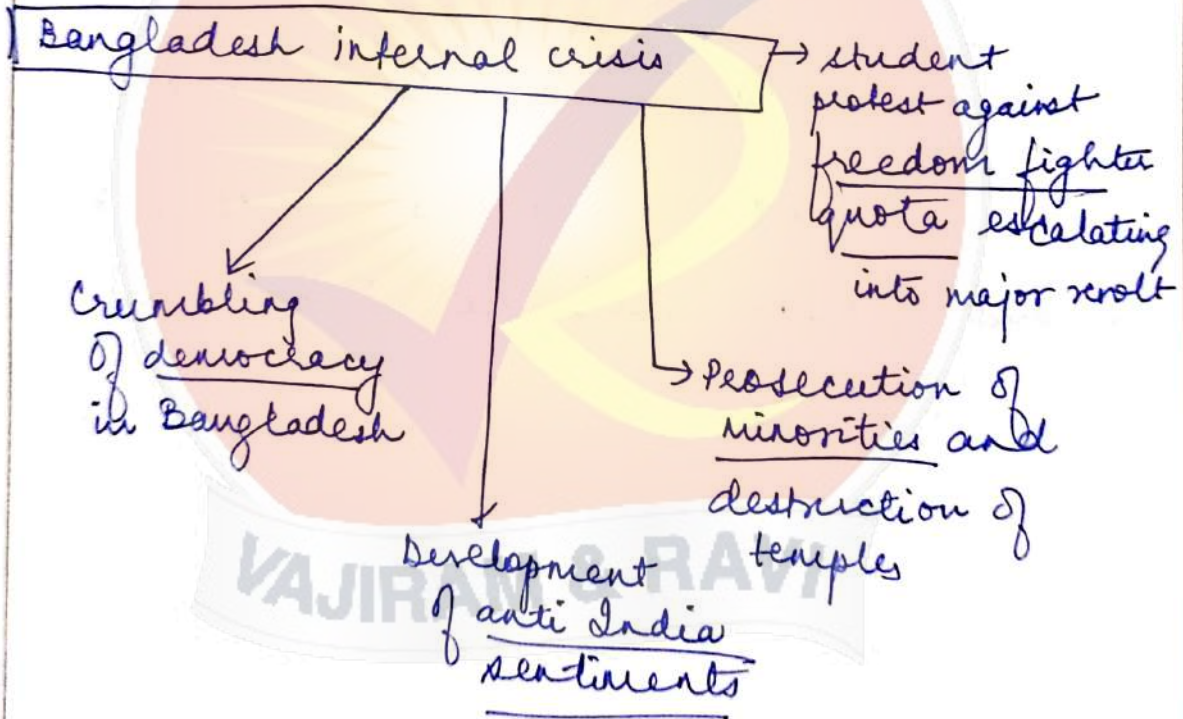
↓
Demand for reforms in multilateral institutions

India's soft power holds a lot of potential and must be tapped to ~~realise~~ make India a 'Vishwaguru'

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Q 20

The recent coup in Bangladesh overturned Sheikh Hasina's regime and established a government under Yusuf Khan, the Nobel laureate.



India and Bangladesh face critical test

① Departure of a friendly regime under Sheikh Hasina

Please do not write anything except the question number in this space. You are liable for any violation of this rule.

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उपयोगी को प्रश्न संख्या में ही लिखें। उम्मीदवारों को इस स्थान पर कुछ भी लिखना नहीं चाहिए।

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis (Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

- ② Anti Indian sentiments may lead to extremism and cross border terrorism
E.g. under HUTI - B
- ③ Vandalisation of temples can affect People to People Ties.
- ④ Economic ties may face threat as India and Bangladesh have 18 bn \$ trade and 8 bn \$ granted as line of credit
- ⑤ Refugee crisis along the Bangladesh border → Threat in North Eastern States
- ⑥ Security concerns due to rising influence of China.
- ⑦ Lesser scope for strategic cooperation in multilateral forums like SAARC and BIMSTEC.



Way Forward

- ① Engaging diplomatically with new government — 'Diplomatic Recalibration'
- ② New PM has highlighted that violence against minorities will not be allowed.
→ seeking assurances for same
- ③ Cooperating in multilateral forums must continue.
- ④ Avoiding Drift towards China as far as possible.
As per Dr. S. Jaishankar -
India and Bangladesh have the potential to change the geoeconomics of the region.