

General Studies

(GS - 2) Complete Test - 6

Test Code - VR1222516

Evaluator Code:

Date of Assignment:

CQ:

NAME:

Prince Bethi

Time allowed: 3 Hours

STUDENT. ID.:

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UPSC ROLL NO.:

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Submission

Date:

17 August / 2025

MOBILE NO.:

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS**Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:**There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**.

All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

Instructions:-

- Legible Scanning:** Exercise due diligence in scanning your scripts for clear legibility
- Submissions** marred by poor scanning, notably those with illegible sections or blackened pages due to improper scanning, risk being excluded from the evaluation process.
- Non-Adherence Consequences:** Failure to comply with the aforementioned instructions may lead to the disqualification of your submission.

For Student Only

Start Time -

5:06 PM

End Time -

8:03 PM

Mode of Examination

ONLINE

Online

Offline

Receiving date -

Dispatch date -

Parameters		Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding				
Understanding Demand of Question				
Structure	Introduction			
	Body			
	Conclusion			
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.				
Language and Handwriting				
No. of Questions Attempted				
Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No				

Mentor's Feedback

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



👍 😊 All the Best 😊 👍

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



👍 😊 All the Best 😊 👍

1)

Recently Supreme Court of India held that Basic structure doctrine could not be applied to determine validity of ordinary laws.

Differential test of validity:-

<u>Ordinary laws</u>	<u>Constitutional Amndt.</u>
1) Fundamental rights. 2) Constitutional provisions except Part III	1) <u>Basic structure doctrine</u>

Basic structure doctrine should not be applied to ordinary laws.

1) Undermine Constitutionalism (IR Welho case)

2) Broad doctrine → Subjectivity Risk

3) State of Karnataka v/s Uma Devi →

(2)

Supreme court cautioned against subjectivity of judges & tendency for "sympathy"

3) Article 13 explicitly requires alignment with part III of constitution during Judicial Review

however, principles of Basic Structure can serve as guiding light (Kesavanand Bharati case)

1) Secularism 2) Federalism — SR Bommai Case

3) Role of government as welfare state
— Bhim Singh Case.

4) Freedom & dignity of Individual (Narita Sharma) Case.

Thus, we need differential approaches

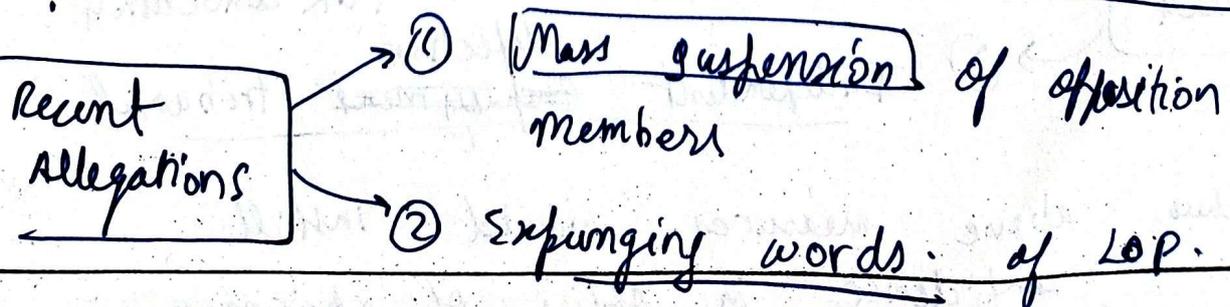
for both ordinary laws & constitutional amendments.

2)

Vice President's office is established as per Article 63 of constitution, however his role as Presiding officer of Rajya Sabha often clashes with debates of neutrality

Vice President's Role as Chairman :-

- 1) Maintaining decorum in house
- 2) Interpretation of Rules of house, laws & constitution.
- 3) Fair allocation of Business
- 4) Appointment of members of standing committees

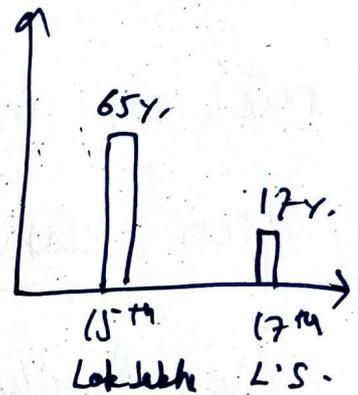


Implications for Parliamentary democracy

1) Decline in quality of debates due to expunging

2) Lower Scrutiny of Bills.

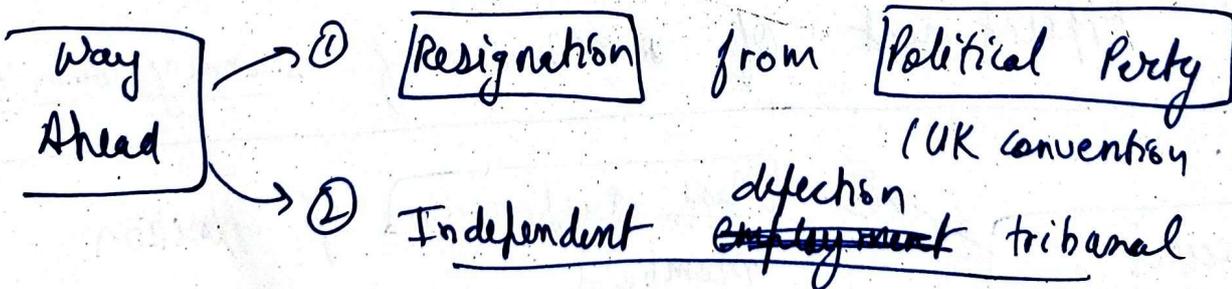
Bills ~~referred~~ referred to committees declined



3) Ineffective accountability of Union / Executive

4) Tendency towards majoritarianism & mistrust b/w parties

5) Decline in public trust.



Thus above measures would instill confidence in office of chairman.

A 25 (1) allow freedom to manage religious endowments, however A-25(2) impose duty on government to ensure secular, political & economic activities align with constitution

Dilemma of Balancing Regulation with Freedom.

- 1) Ensuring compliance with laws of land.
eg) Limitation Act v/s right to acquire/hold property (A26)
- ② Ensuring Transparency through representative trusts / Board v/s freedom to manage one's own religious affairs (A26(1))
- ③ Representativeness of different communities (Right to equality v/s intrusion in religious affairs).

(c)

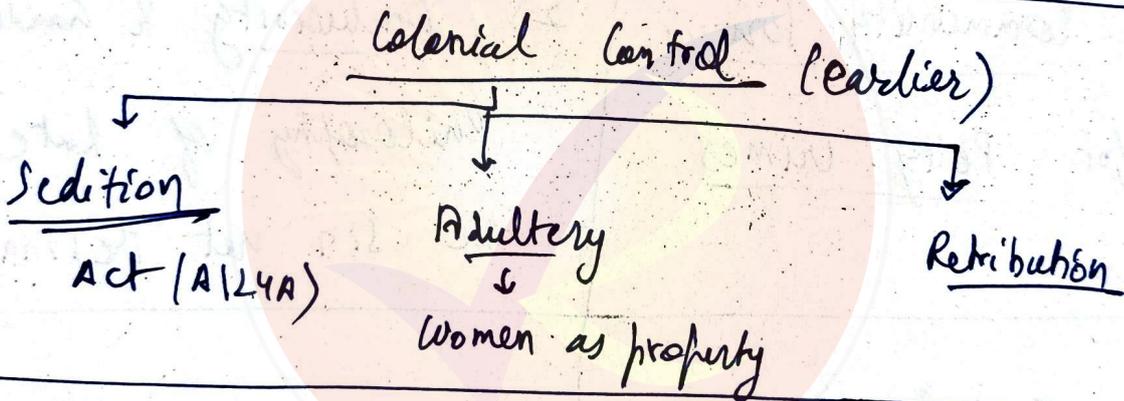
Balancing Regulation with Religious Rights

- 1) ~~Ensure~~ Ensure adherence to Shirur Mutt
Case → regulate only non-essential acts.
- 2) Prioritizing rule of law & Equality before law
- 3) Application of Land Limitation Act to all religions equally
- 3) Non-intrusive representation → member without voting ⇒ to represent different religions
- 4) Promote government officials in administration as neutral expert / ~~sec~~ Secretary ⇒ Administrative efficiency

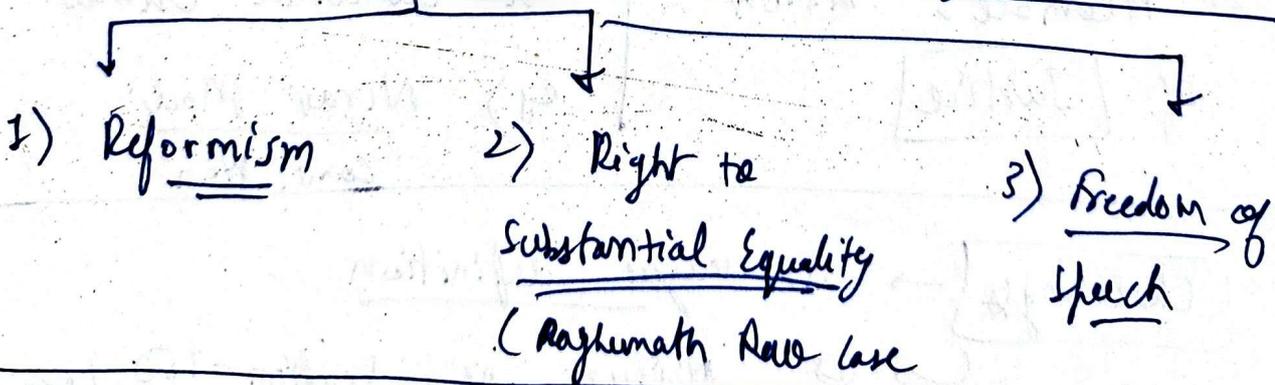
Thus, this will ensure secularism & principled equidistant (Article 25)

(7)

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New Criminal Laws - BNS, BNSS & new Evidence Act marks shift from repressive colonial outdated ideology to reformist & ancient Indian Kautilyan Philosophy



Contemporary Justice Philosophy



New Laws reflect India's

Constitutional Vision	Society Needs.
1) Primacy to freedoms. eg) Removal of <u>Section -124A</u>	1) <u>Section 150</u> (Incl. violence) ↓ Prevent <u>secessionist</u> & rebellious behaviour
2) <u>Community service</u> for <u>Petty crimes</u>	2) <u>Inclusivity</u> & <u>Compassion</u> Philosophy of hate the sin not the sinner.
3) <u>Trial in absentia</u> => Preamble's vision of <u>Justice</u>	3) Deterrence to social & economic crimes. eg) <u>Nirav Modi</u> conviction

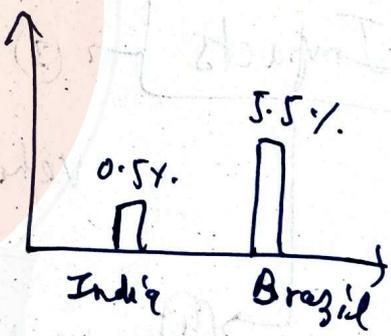
Challenges → ① vague definition
 ↳ ② misuse of Section-150 possible.

Thus, we need continuous evaluation &

update to laws.

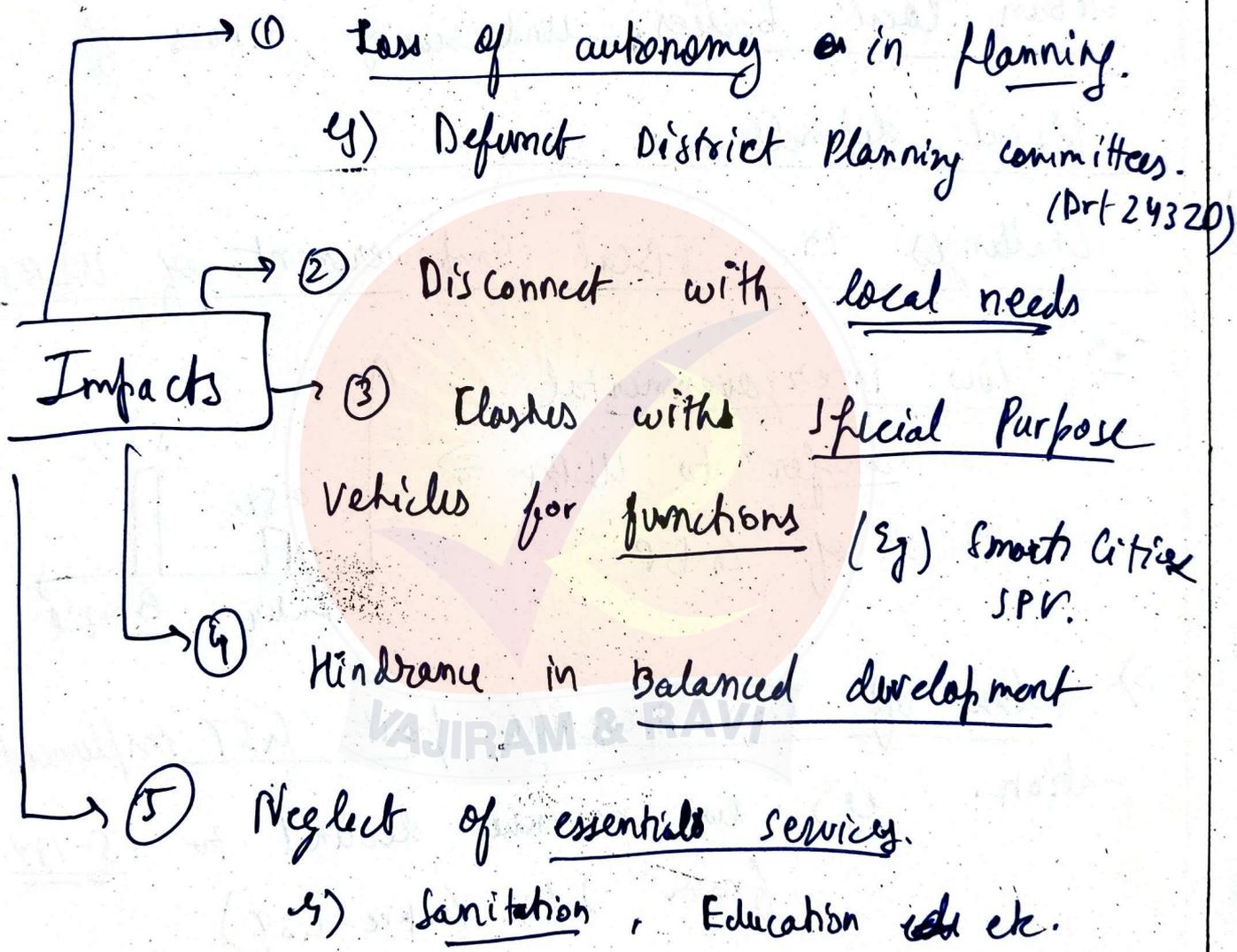
Under Finance Commission - 15th, untied grants reduced from 86% to 60% for urban local bodies, underscoring issues of fiscal dependence.

Challenges in Fiscal Empowerment of ULBs

- 1) low intergovernmental transfer to ULBs \Rightarrow as % of GDP
 

Country	Transfer to ULBs as % of GDP
India	0.5%
Brazil	5.5%
- 2) loss of own revenue post GST implementation.
 - y) own revenue declined to 15-17% from 26% (pre-GST)
- 3) lower tendency of local bodies to tax \Rightarrow due to populism (IIARC)

- 4) State government are themselves dependent on centre for revenue
- 5) Devolution of corruption along with Funds (Mamishankar Niyar Committee)



Way Ahead

- ① Terms of Reference for ULBs.
- ② Rejement state finances (Panchchi)

This would ensure good urban governance.

Tribunals are setup under Article 323 A & B to ~~adjuate~~ adjudicate over water disputes by applying principles of Natural Justice

Issues in Inter state water Dispute



Limitations of current Tribunal Based System.

- 1) Lower enforceability due to lower status compared to High Court / Supreme Court
- 4) SYL Issues
- 2) Lack of principle of finality \Rightarrow appeal to High Courts (Chandra Kumar case).

3) Lack of climate experts in benches.

→ No expert weightage in judgement

4) Sweeping orders → sometimes oppose laws & State's authority

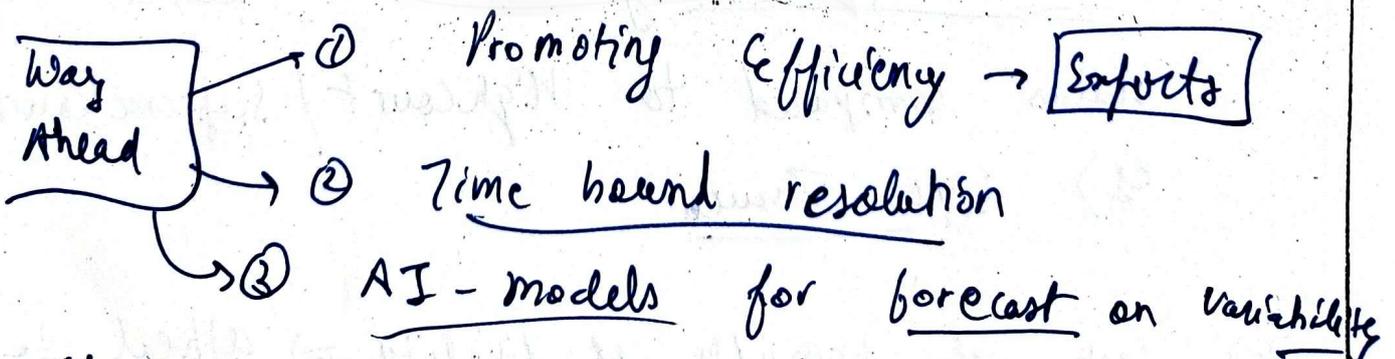
However, Tribunals are essential too.

1) Apply principle of Natural Justice & not strict evidence Act

2) Expert Consultation & Committees.

3) De-clog judiciary and promote efficiency

4) Promote principle of equity over equality



This would strengthen tribunals.

Article 42 of Constitution exhort state to ensure fair & humane work conditions & prevent exploitation of labour.

Gig workers operating in grey zones.

- 1) Not registered by company officially
- 2) Lack job security (contractual)
- 3) Inadequate Social Security

Gig workers facing conditions akin to Bonded labour

- 1) lack of economic mobility → no skill upgradation
- 2) No fix working hours due to absence of agreement.
- 3) "exiction" from Job as per will of company.

4) lack of leaves or medical facilities

5) lower castes are major in hig market

Reasons for Bonded labour

1) lack of formal agreement

2) lack of state oversight

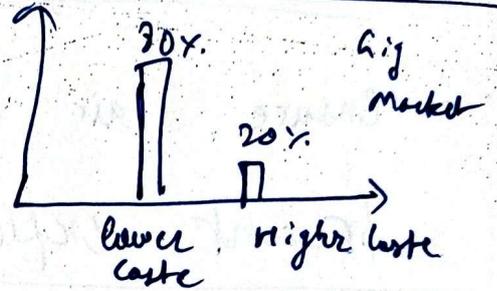


Fig. Division of Hig Worker

Implications

① Exploitation of hig workers

② lack of social security, medical or leaves.

Way Ahead

① Rajasthan → hig worker funds

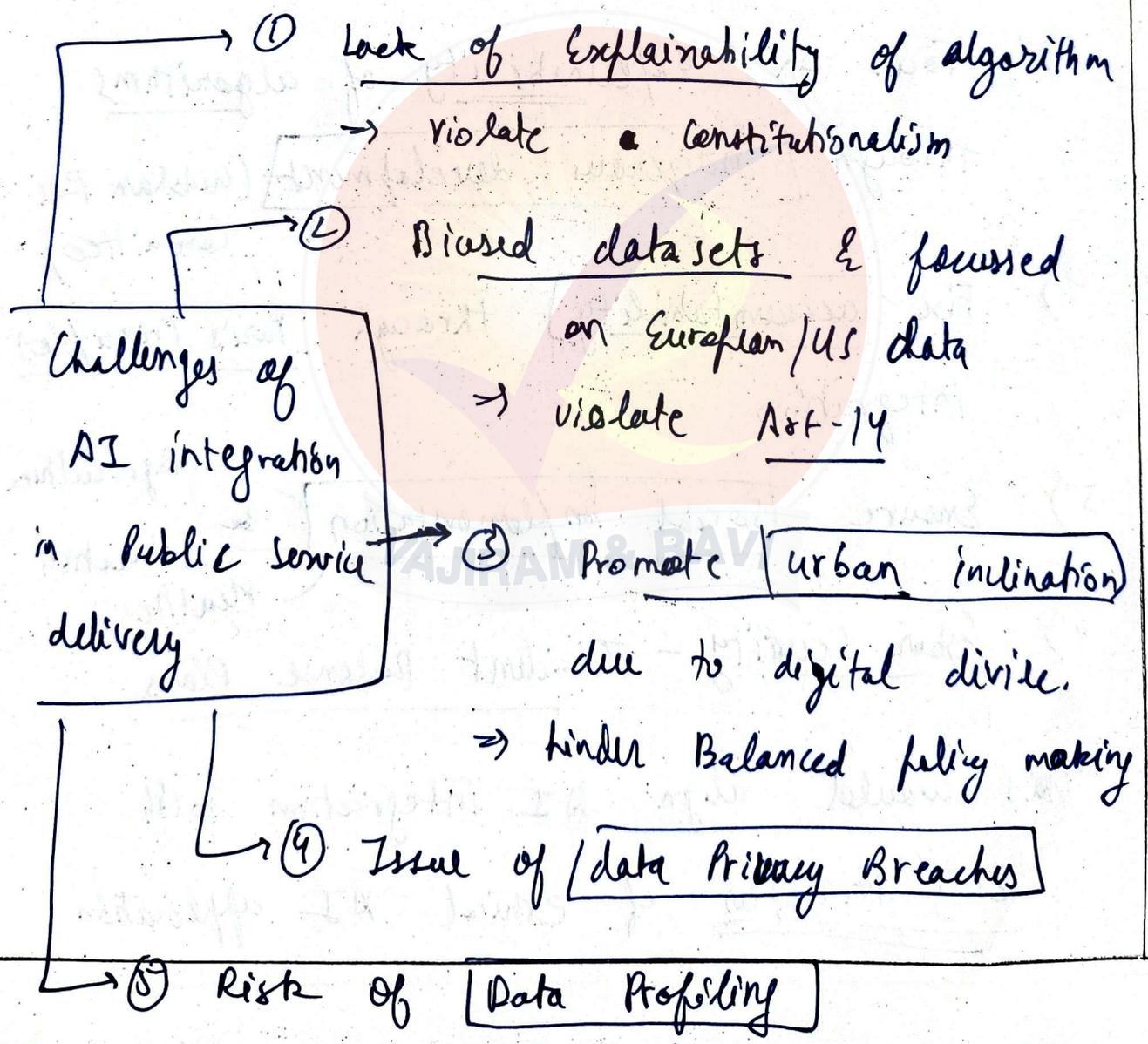
social security

② Karnataka → Registration of hig workers.

This would uphold principle of social justice enshrined in Roberts Sharma Act.

AP

As per Accenture, globally, 60% of governments are in apprehension on implementation of AI in governance due to multifaceted Issues.



violate Article 21 (KS Puttaswamy Case)

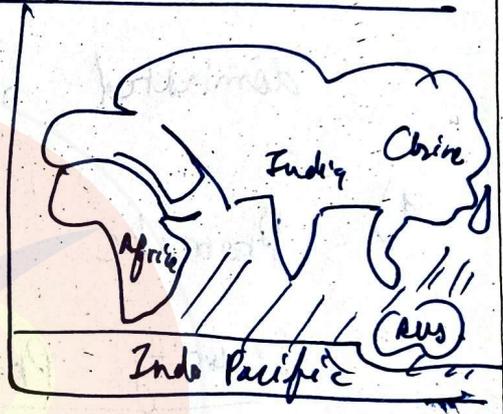
Roadmap to Address above challenges.

- 1) Ensure India-centric Data through India-AI Mission (Data Centre Pillar)
- 2) Regulatory 'sand boxes' for checking Biases.
- 3) Focus on Explainability of algorithms through Indigenous development (Gubham Rai Committee)
- 4) Fix accountability through Paris Principles integration
- 5) Ensure Social implementation
 - Agriculture
 - Education
 - Health
- 6) Cyber Security - Incident Response Plans

This would align AI integration with OECD Principles of ethical AI application

US India ~~can~~ COMPACT initiative promote Strategic Convergence in key sectors like defence, space & technology development

Role of US-India COMPACT



1) Military → Enhance capability to counter hybrid threats

g) IUU, Climate change, piracy

2) Geostrategic → Containment of China's String of beads - encirclement. → Joint Defence Partnership

3) Economic → Ensure safe-open & free Indo Pacific ⇒ 70% - 80% oil pass through it.

4) Communication & Intelligence sharing.

Impact on Regional Power Dynamics

- 1) Balance of ^{power} in South - South-east Asia
- 2) Impetus to regional groupings 4) QUAD
- 3) Address supply chain power dynamics dominated by China in critical minerals
- 4) Promote India as Hegemon & net Security Provider in South Asia / Indian Ocean
- 5) Strengthen SAHAR policy

Challenges → ① Tariff Threats by Mr Trump
 → ② Foreign Policy instability of US.

Thus, we need close US-India cooperation
 & roadmap to execute COMPACT to
 insure free, open, safe Indo Pacific

SCO is regional grouping of countries of Central Asia, Iran, India, Pakistan, China, Russia, Belarus, etc. to promote connectivity & collective growth for all.

Disengagement from groupings.



- 1) creates geopolitical vacuum → Filled by China through chequebook diplomacy
- 2) Hinder India's vision as Vishwaguru
- 3) Prevent regional connectivity e.g) TAPI pipeline
- 4) "If you are not on table - you are on menu" — Kaush V Pant

5) Present assess to global markets

→ Increasing domestic industry dependence on few key markets

However, SCO engagements has its thorns.

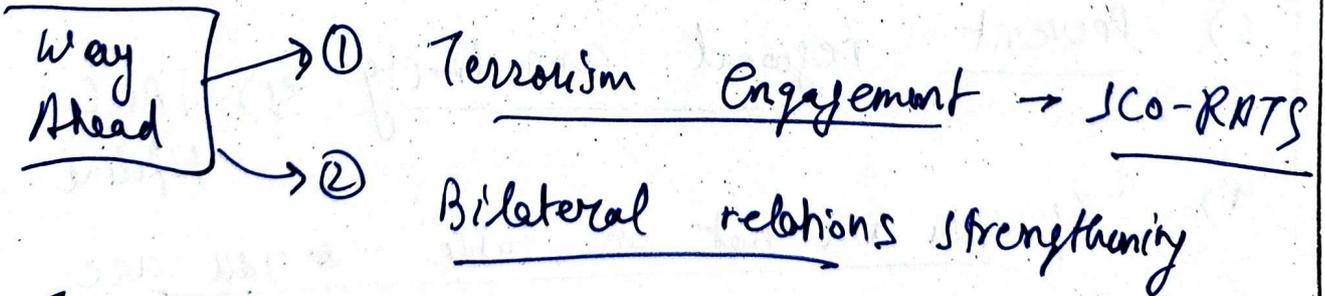
1) Conflict with China-Pak over CPEC

2) Blockade of TAPI pipeline by Pakistan.

3) Lack of convergence on key issues.

4) SCO condemned → Israel ⇒ ally of India.

4) Used by China to curb Indian Central Asian Influence.



Thus, we need to focus on INSTC to diversify engagement with Central Asia.

1) Competition Commission of India is statutory
regulator promoting fair competition in
digital market space.

Competition Commission Curbing dominance

- 1) Ensure level playing field.
- 2) Penalizing the giants for monopoly
 - a) Penalty on Google for mandating Google app store for purchase.
- 3) Ensure low-entry barriers for new players.
- 4) Upholding Interest of consumers & protection

against artels of Giants eg) Online wallets
Greed penalty for hidden charges.

Ensuring Fair Competition

1) Transparency in data collection & use

→ Prevent data colonialism & unfair
data-use for targetted ads.

2) Promote adherence with rules & laws.

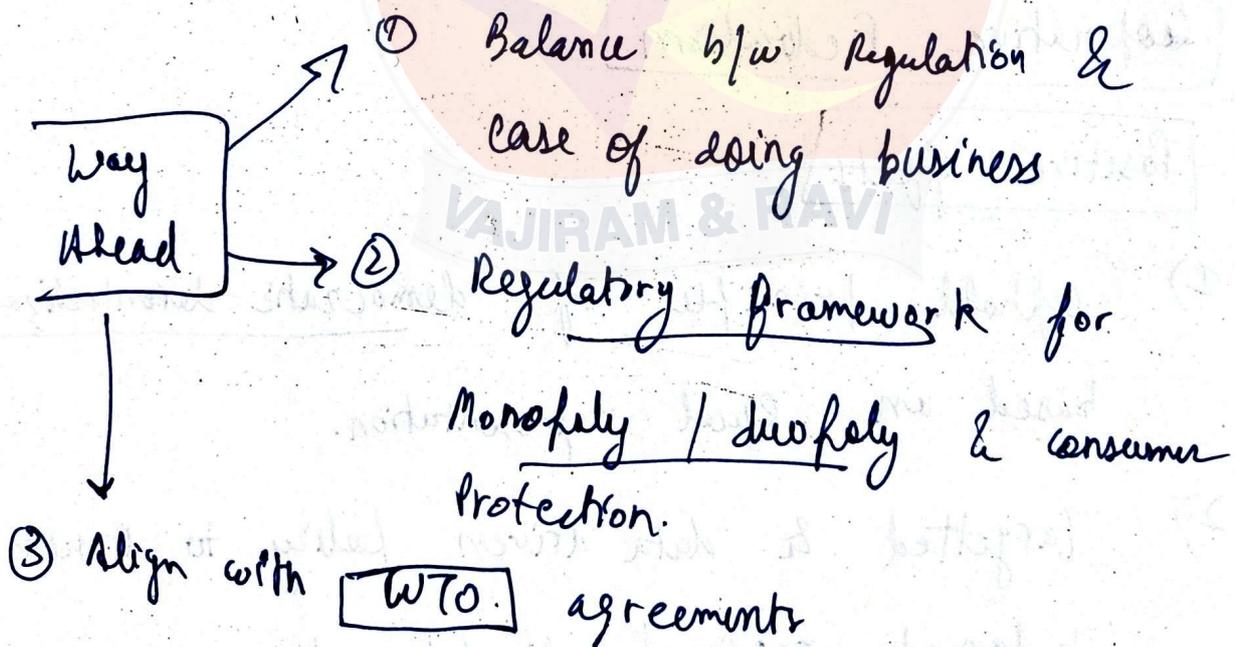
eg) Amazon fined for violating 25%
share limit in Amazon products sale - branch.

3) Prevent hegemony on digital space.

However, there are some challenges :-

1) Lack of capacity for online monitoring

- 2) Clashes on data-utilization & localization
- 3) Conflict with diplomatic issues
- eg) US-India conflict on e-commerce operations (Amazon) in WTO.
- 4) Hinder Expansion of foreign business & may instead promote repatriation due to regulatory rigidity.



This would ensure proper CCI functioning

Article 32 mandate delimitation of constituencies after each census to ensure principle of one-person-one-vote, however, differential demographic changes hinder application of Article 32

Implications of Post 2016 Delimitation

Cooperative Federalism

Positive effects

- 1) uphold principle of democratic decentralization based on equal representation.
- 2) Targetted & data driven policy to ensure balanced regional development.
- 3) Address Inter-state infrastructure gaps.

Negative impacts

- 1) Tussle between Centre & States eg) Union v/s Tamil Nadu. (Seat losing States)
- 2) Loss of Revenue due to lower population growth for good performing states.
- 3) could ignite demand for exemptions or special status → promoting enmity among states

Political representation

Positive

- 1) Equitable representation
- 2) Fair allocation of seats per person.
- 3) Voice to marginal States eg) North east, & Bihar

Negative

- 1) loss of seats for good demographic performing states.
- 2) May raise demands of regional separation

3) Promote regional interests over national interests due to dominance of few states.

Thus, above challenges require following measures:-

1) Protection of representation to seat losing but good demographic performing states.

2) Southern states.

2) Incentivise reduction in total fertility rate by linking it to devolution / Increasing weightage in 10th Finance Commission devolution

Thus, we can ~~implement~~ address demographic imbalance by representation & revenue protection for southern & North western states.

Mediation Act, 2023 Promote Institutional

alternative dispute resolution through

Commercial Courts and ('out of court' adjudication)

Significant step towards institutionalizing
alternate dispute resolution

1) Special Mediation Courts e.g) Commercial Courts

2) ~~friendly~~ law expert in adjudication /
mediation as 'amicus curiae'

3) Accreditation framework for mediators

4) Auditing & ranking for private firms.

5) special cadre of qualified personnel

Potential to reform overburdened Judiciary

1) Fast-Track justice through mediation.

→ uphold principle of timely justice.

2) Friendly & Amicable mediation promote reconciliation and compromise

3) low-cost Justice ⇒ significant for MSMEs & SHGs.

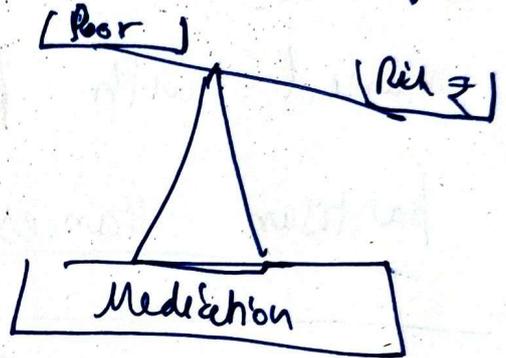
4) Promote culture of commercial ~~disc~~ discipline.

5) Ensure "principle of finality" due to reconciliation.

However, ~~they~~ there are challenges as well.

1) Justice inclined towards more powerful.

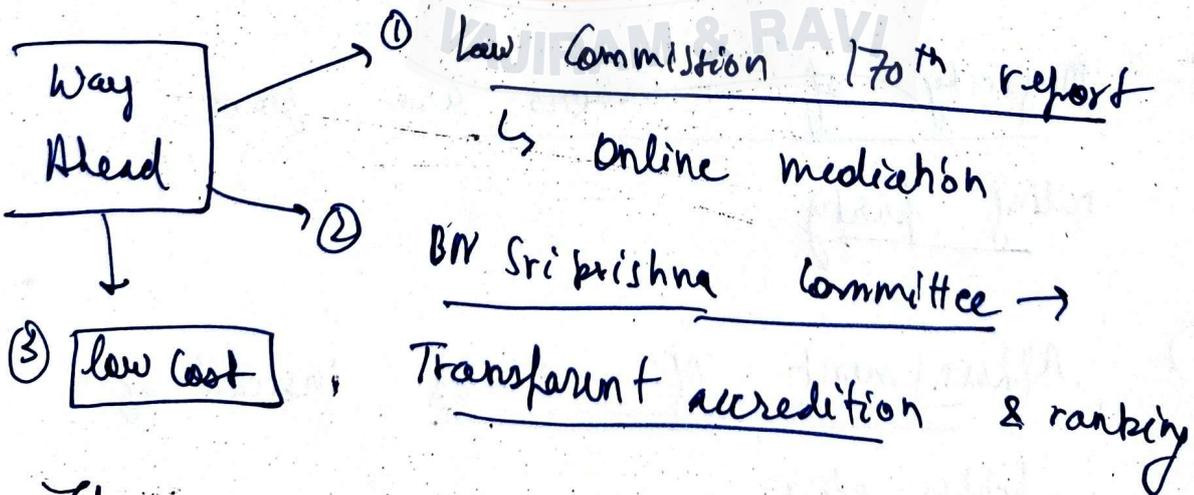
⇒ Poorer party forced to compromise



2) lack of standardization of processes.

3) low-uptake due to lack of public confidence

4) Focus more on quantity over quality due to incentives for case closing.



Thus, this could de-leg ~~from~~ Judiciary

Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPC) are often marred with political rhetoric's and partisan stances, hindering their effectiveness.

Limited Coercive & Accountability enforcement

Institutional Constraints

- 1) Lack of enforcement provisions for JPC in Rules of House of Lok Sabha.
- 2) Majority of members are from ruling party.
- 3) Appointment of members instead of proper elections.
- 4) Wakened reports due to opposition.

minority.

- 5) No monitoring mechanism post report submission.

Broader Political Challenges.

- 1) loyalty of members along party lines.
- 2) Reference of any matter to JPC is in hands of speakers
- ⇒ Kithoto Kellehan case → suspicion of bias on part of speaker cannot be ignored.

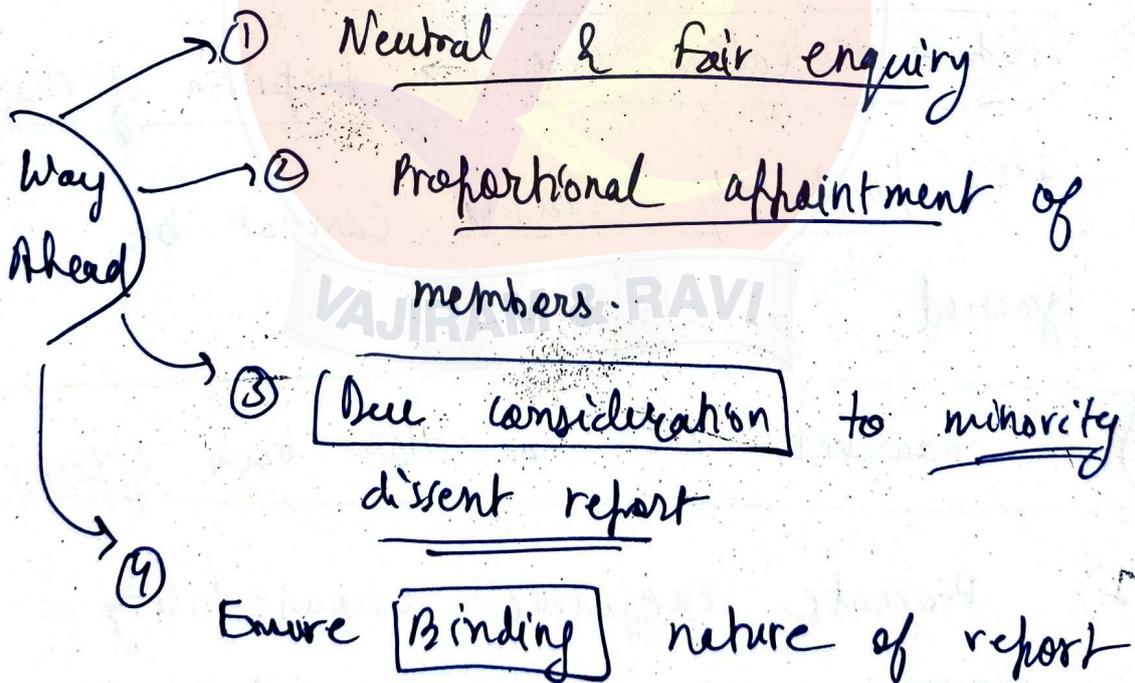
~~3)~~ However, JPC has also been effective

- 1) Promote executive accountability through wider scrutiny of both houses.

2) Present ~~to~~ stance of States through Rajya Sabha members.

3) Ability to expose scams 4) Commonwealth games scam & 2G scam

4) Provide mechanism to Rajya members to ensure collective responsibility of Council of ministers



Thus, this would strengthen accountability of executive to Parliament

Non-state actors are integrated into governance through NGOs, pressure groups etc, which is constitutional as per Article 19(1)(c)

Non-state actors as indispensable partners

- 1) Providing policy inputs for formulation / amendment eg) PRIA → social issues modules for policy formulation.
- 2) Implementation of policies
- 3) Assess Foundation promote last mile connectivity in case of up. Sadbhawna.
- 3) Assessment of Policies. eg) Pratham NGOs

ASER reports provide outcomes of education policies.

- 4) Assistance in implementation through community networks. → eg) Barefoot College providing skill training through community volunteers.

Significance of NGOs / Non-state actors.

- 1) 92% more reach to rural households

(Vijaykumar Committee)

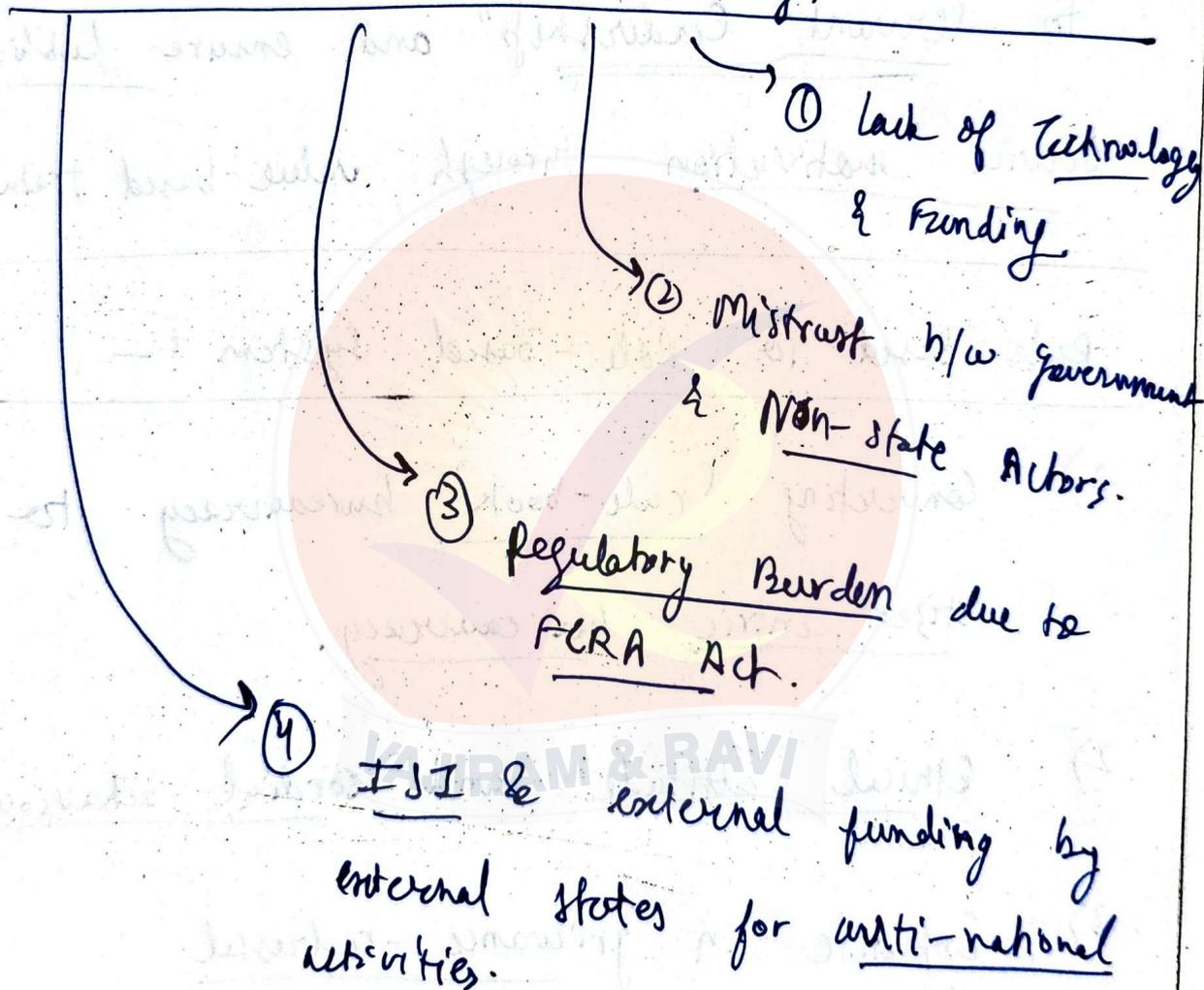
- 2) Greater cost-effectiveness eg) 30% lower cost of NGO based health sub-centres.

- 3) Provide bottom-up framework for policy formulation eg) WWF inputs on environmental rules & wildlife protection.

4) Protection of human rights and 'prevent marginalization due to development projects

↳ Amnesty & Greenpeace

however, there are challenges



This, this, would require transparency through

NWD-Darpan Initiative for NWO audit & ranking by Maharashtra government

Q16

Mission Karmayogi is envisaged as transforming Indian civil servants' attitude of bureaucracy to "servant-leadership" and ensure public service motivation through value-based training.

Rule based to Role-based system :-

- 1) Converting 'rule-book' bureaucracy to citizen-centric bureaucracy.
- 2) Ethical attitude and cordial behaviour
- 3) Empathy in grievance-redressal.

Design of Mission Karmayogi :-

- 1) Value-based training
- 4) Compassion,

honesty, transparency & citizen-centricity.

- 2) Promotion of selflessness through village-visit modules.
- 3) Role-based & Cadre-based training, & re-skilling e.g) TULIP for urban local cadres under Mission Karmayogi.
- 4) Grievance Redressal training modules
- 5) PIO - training modules.

Challenges associated with mission Karmayogi

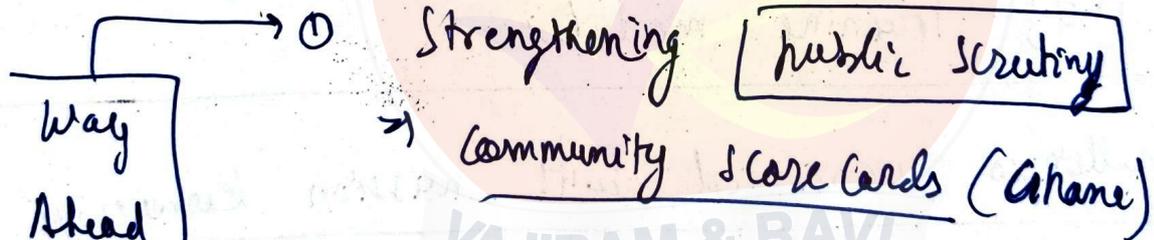
- 1) Inclination towards theoretical training
- 2) Focus on supply-side (bureaucracy) & not demand-side (public)
- 3) "Corruption is not one way street, both

ends need to be plugged".

3) Inadequate attention on Vigilance and Ombudsman based accountability

4) Complexity in value-based performance appraisals.

5) Inadequate ~~self~~ attention on skill-based specialized training (Kofa Committee)



Ombudsman empowerment

4) Lokpal Suo Moto Acting & enforcement

Thus, by citizen centric & RTI based mechanism we can reinforce Karmayogi spirit

Recent instance of panwar Allahabad & OTT-based 'soft-born' programmes highlight inadequacy of IT Rules, 2021

Gaps in current Regulatory Framework.

- 1) Lack of Capacity for online monitoring
- 2) Ambiguous definitions eg) 'Karmful' content
- 3) Allegations and litigations based on right to freedom of expression (A79) violations
- 4) Lack of Institutional oversight body
- 5) Lack representation from industry experts

→ hinder representative democracy

However IT Rules 2021, have also lead to significant deterrence :-

- 1) Take down of Alt Balaji Shows on the basis of 'pornographic content'
- 2) Deterrence to objectification in open public digital space eg) youtube age blocker
- 3) promote balance between artistic freedom & social issues representation
eg) 'Delhi-fides'

However measures to strengthen IT Rules 2021 are required :-

- 1) promote Independent oversight
through diverse representative body
~~including~~ including social activists.
- 2) Accountability mechanisms to prevent breach
e.g) fines etc.
- 3) pre-release - prima facie review and
appropriate age-tagging
- 4) Fact-check mechanisms e.g) fact checking
unit
- 5) Blocking sensitive communal content to
prevent enmity promotion

Thus, by institutional oversight &
adequate legal frameworks, we can curb
harmful, misleading content.

Affordability of and accessibility of Internet has widened an Urban - Rural closeness in internet access with Rural users now exceeding urban users by 150 million.

Affordability & Accessibility reshaping rural - urban governance.

- 1) Digital - online - classes in rural areas.
 - e) MOOC courses
- 2) Smart - learning in rural schools.
 - e) 86% rural schools have access to computers & internet
- 3) Digital Health services in rural areas.
 - e) e-Sanjeevani.

4) Participatory governance through digital oversight on panchayat plans.

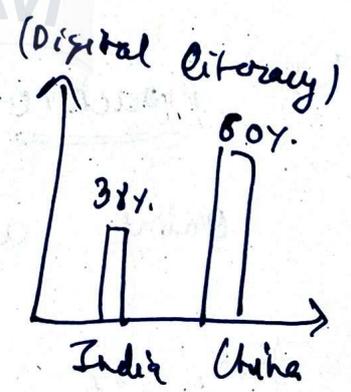
4) Muri-panchayat

However, there are gaps in urban-rural governance due to affordability & accessibility

1) Only 16% students access online courses due to lack of internet affordability

2) less than 10% of rural population availed e-medicine (MoHFW)

3) Issue of digital literacy divide hindering accessibility



4) Low Capacity of public for online governance oversight.

5) Lack of online proactive information

disclosure by government hindering accessibility

Measures to strengthen rural-urban governance equality :-

1) Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

2) Targetted capacity building eg) Jharkhand Digital didi Initiative

3) Promote smartphone access eg) Punjab distribution of free smartphones for online classes.

4) Proactive disclosure of information online under RTI section-4

Thus, by enhancing public capacity we can uphold principle of Gandhian Raj Dharma

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New Washington Consensus is based on policy of development of emerging economies through new principles in the back drop of climate change.

Influence of New Washington Consensus on Indian Foreign Policy:-

Strategic Partnerships → (A) Positive

1) opportunities for collaboration for low income countries development

4) African continent.

2) Development of New alliances based on critical mineral supply chains

(46)

eg) Mineral Security Partnership and

recent trade b/w DRC & Rwanda

⇒ opportunities to secure critical minerals.

3) Countering China's Debt-trap policy

through joint project implementation

eg) India - France collaboration in Small Island
Developing States (SIDS) development.

Negatives

↳ 1) ~~Handed~~ Resource constraints

↳ 2) Chances of antagonizing Russia

↳ 3) Dragging in Great Power Rivalries.

Regional Security

1) Promote Containment of China

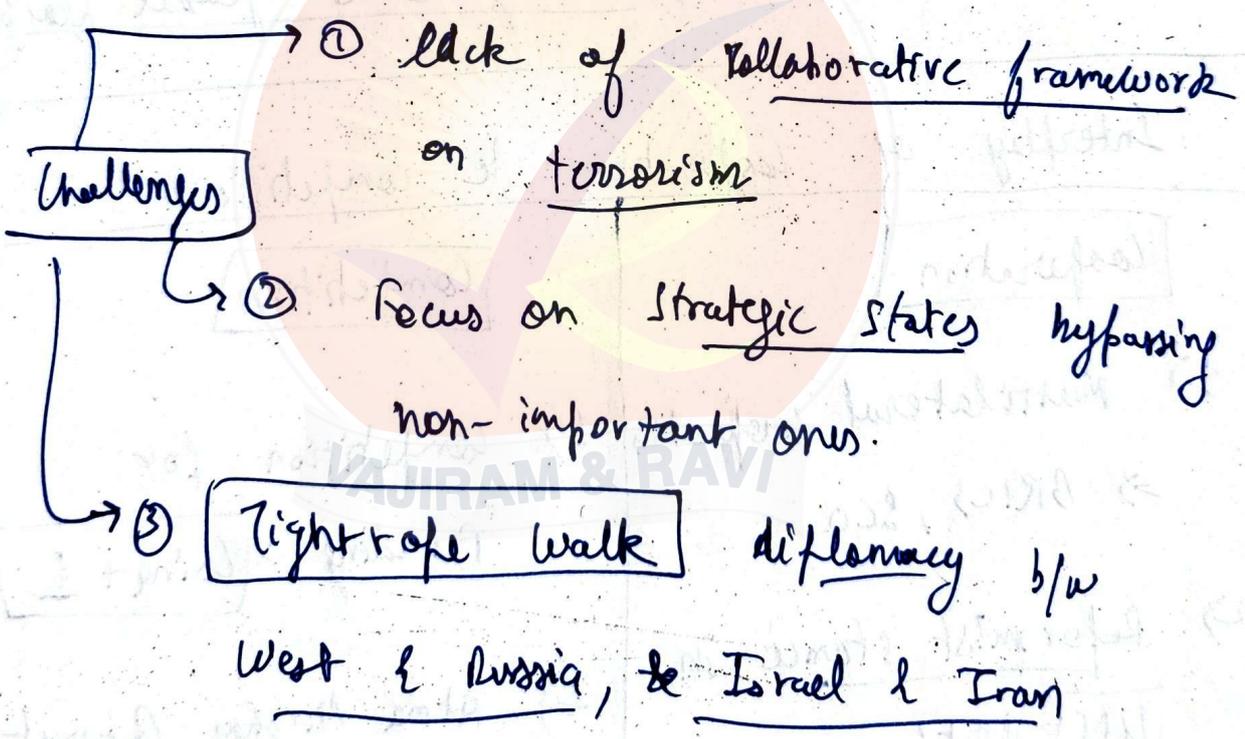
↳ curbing Regional Terrorism frameworks.

2) Isolation of Pakistan

3) Indian Ocean Region Security &

Establish India as Net security Provider

4) Countering Hybrid threats → Tu, cyclones,
& piracy



Moving forward we must promote inclusive
& non-interventionist mechanism for new

Washington consensus.

Q/20)

As per former Ambassador Nirupama Rao,
 India-China relations are marked by competition
 balanced by cooperation, confrontation balanced
 by dialogue and convergence at global platforms

Interplay of cooperation & competition

Cooperation

- 1) Multilateral cooperation
 → BRICS, SCO
- 2) Reformist stance in
UN platforms → UNGA
- 3) Developing countries
 interest promotion at
UN FCCC COPs → CBDR

Competition

- 1) Competition for
 funding → China+1
- 2) Atma Nirbhar Bharat
 to de-risk imports
 from China.
- 3) Trilateral cooperation
 to counter China

(49)

eg) India - Japan, investment
in Colombo port
to Counter Hambantota.

Interplay Shaping the trajectory of 21st

Century relations between China & India:-

- 1) "Calibrated" stance on trade with China. eg) \$ 87 Bn import deficit
- 2) Strategic ~~low~~ cautiousness → on Chinese investment in India eg) DPIIT's government route for Chinese FDI.
- 3) Derisking supply chains by cooperation with US/EU & other like minded countries.

4) "Dragon-Elephant Dance" to counter Trump-tariffs through cooperation.

5) ~~Cooperate~~ Strengthening Asian connectivity & trade through SCO.

6) Cooperation on Inter-state water issues.

e) Garhung-Tsangpo dam negotiations & India's counter in Tawang valley.

Challenges

→ ① Chinese "Wolf-warrior" diplomacy
↳ 4) Bhutan intimidation

↳ ② Violation of sovereignty through CPEC

→ ③ Sabotaging Make In India by diverting FDI away from India in Vietnam/Indonesia.

Thus, above challenges require calibrated &

4 R. policy → Robust, resilient, Reconciliatory & reformist.