



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

Name of Candidate	ABHAY DAGA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1060011
Center	ONLINE	Date	15/08/22

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

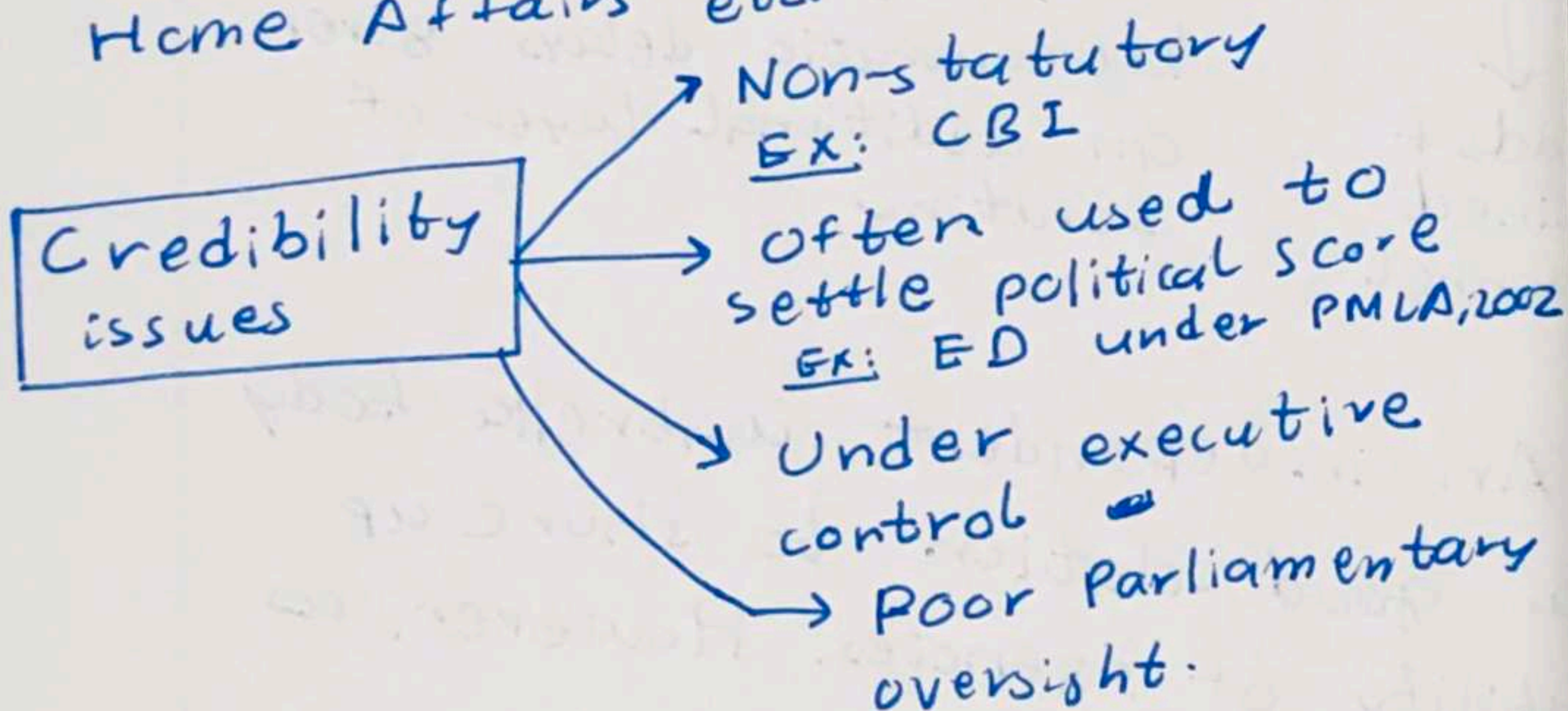
6.

All the Best

1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility. Discuss. (150 words) 10

एक स्वतंत्र अम्ब्रेला निकाय जो विभिन्न केंद्रीय जांच एजेंसियों को एक छत के नीचे लाता हो, उनकी विश्वसनीयता को बढ़ाने की कुंजी है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate, National Investigation Agency, Narcotics Control Bureau etc. are some of the central investigative agencies operating under various ministries - M/O Personnel, Finance, Home Affairs etc.

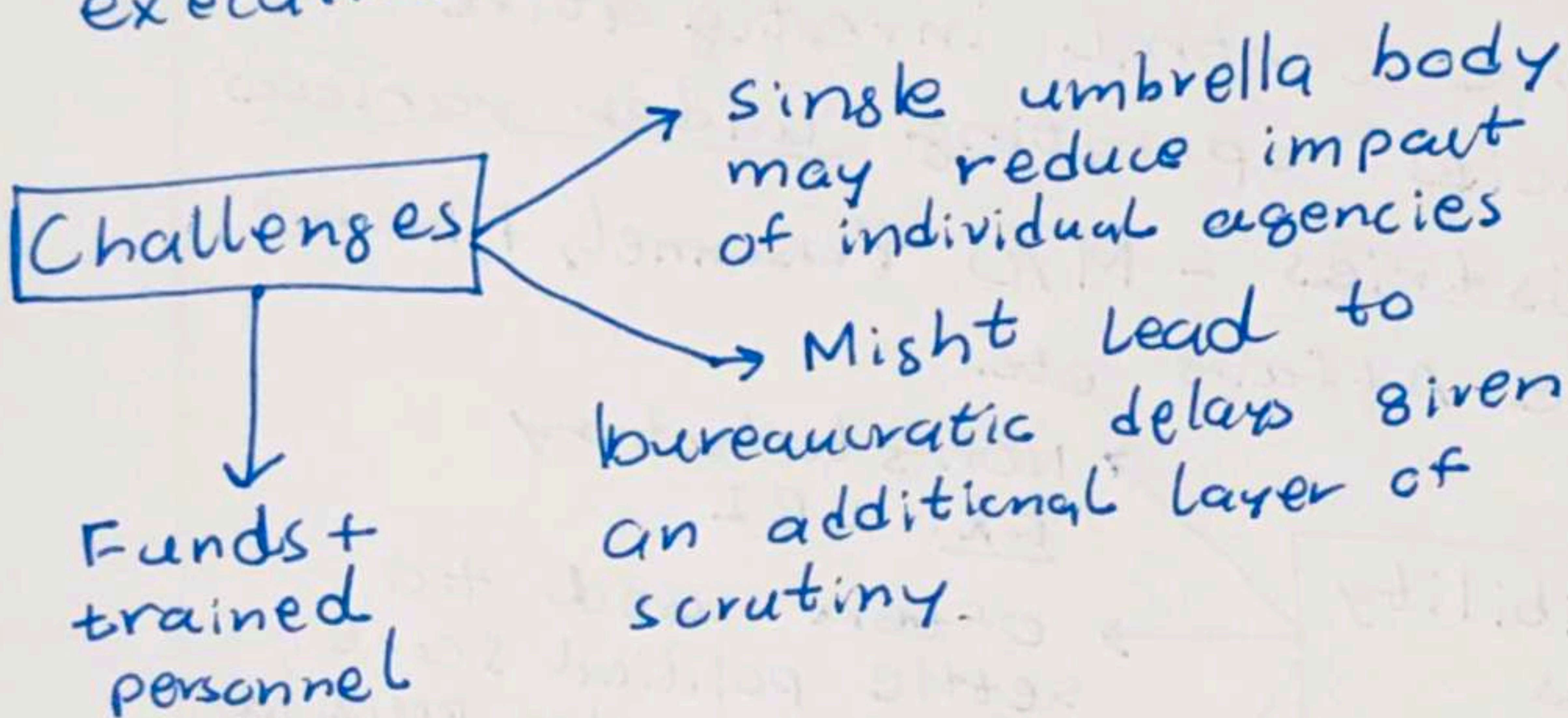


Need for umbrella body

- ① An independent umbrella body for these agencies can help in ensuring their

accountability

- ② streamline resources
- ③ Perform regulation over their activities through periodic review
- ④ Constitutionalization can impart independence and help in curbing executive influence.



An independent umbrella body is a good solution to shore up credibility of agencies. However, as a precursor, statutory recognition to CBI, parliamentary/judicial oversight should be done to uphold their accountability.

2. Discuss the significance of the Doctrines of Pith and Substance and Colourable Legislation with respect to Centre-state relations in India.

(150 words) 10

भारत में केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों के संदर्भ में तत्व एवं सार के सिद्धांत और छद्म (आभासी) विधायन के सिद्धांत के महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

3. Do you agree with the view that there should be simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies in India? Discuss with suitable arguments. (150 words) 10

क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत में लोक सभा और राज्य विधान सभाओं के निर्वाचन एक साथ होने चाहिए? उपयुक्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

"One Nation - One Election" has been the topic of discussion, with mentions in Parliamentary debates, Election Commission reports etc.

Benefits of simultaneous elections

- ① Reduced election expenses.
- ② Excess expenditure due to bye-elections, dissolution etc. can be better used for developmental work.
- ③ Reduce the degree of constant state of politicization with energy of representatives diverted to meaningful work.
- ④ Increased efficiency of teachers, PSU employees etc. who are otherwise deployed for election duties frequently.

Issues

- ① National issues may overpower local/regional issues during elections.
- ② "Wave politics" at national level often suppresses chances of regional parties.
- ③ Voters may tend to choose same party both at national and state elections.
- ④ Possibility of dissolution of assemblies at different states at different time will again disturb the synchronized election times.

Thus, instead of simultaneous elections, periodic election at an interval of 2.5 years or one year-one election can help find a workable solution. This way, voters can exercise their choice at regular interval and keep political representatives under check.

4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (150 words) 10
भारत में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के बारे में अनिश्चितता और अस्पष्टता के आलोक में, उनके संहिताकरण की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 105 of the Constitution provides for parliamentary privileges in India :- which are largely uncodified and based on Constitutional provisions, parliamentary conventions, judicial decisions, Rules of House etc.

Need for codification

- ① Ease the process of identifying breaches and take appropriate actions.
- ② Make behaviour of members more accountable and drawing their lines.
- ③ Already, there is provision in Houses which prevent usage of certain phrases like - "andolanjevi" etc. Codification will be extension of existing boundaries.

- ④ Improve productivity of House which has been dismal over last few years.

Issues

- ① Consensus on codification.
- ② Often, contextual meaning of certain breach in privilege may vary and need to qualify to be one.
- ③ Sensibilities with respect to privileges change over time - not making codification foolproof.
- ④ Any breach not covered by laws may amount to misuse.

Thus, codification of privileges is a tricky matter which needs to be dealt with utmost sensitivity.

Instead, empowering Ethics Committee for taking timely decisions on breach of privileges can work in maintaining the decorum as well as freedom of speech of individual members.

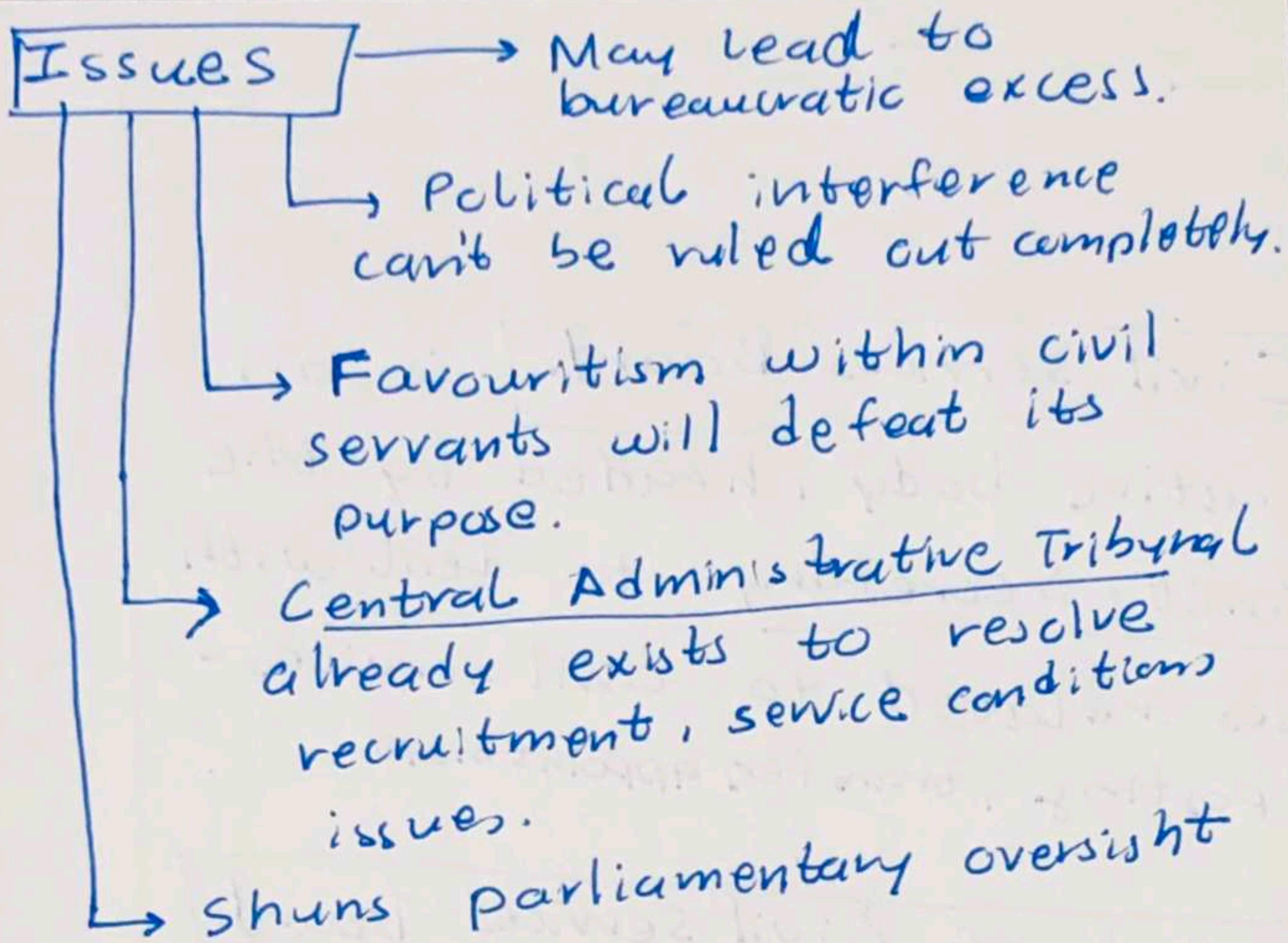
5. While the Civil Services Board can be a step forward in making the Indian bureaucracy more effective, it has its own issues which need to be addressed. Analyse. (150 words) 10

हालांकि, सिविल सेवा बोर्ड भारतीय नौकरशाही को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने की दिशा में एक अग्रणी कदम हो सकता है, लेकिन इसके अपने मुद्दे हैं जिन्हें हल करने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Civil Services Board is an executive body, headed by the Cabinet Secretary to deal with issues related to civil services - ~~posting~~ posting, transfer, appointment.

Potential of Civil Services Board

- ① Streamline resources and enhance efficiency of civil servants.
- ② Reduced politicization of bureaucracy.
- ③ Supreme Court in T.S.R Subramaniam case has pushed for ~~statutory~~ statutory recognition to Civil Services Board.
- ④ Security of tenure and ability to work without fear/favour.
- ⑤ Ensure transparency and accountability of ~~the~~ civil servants.



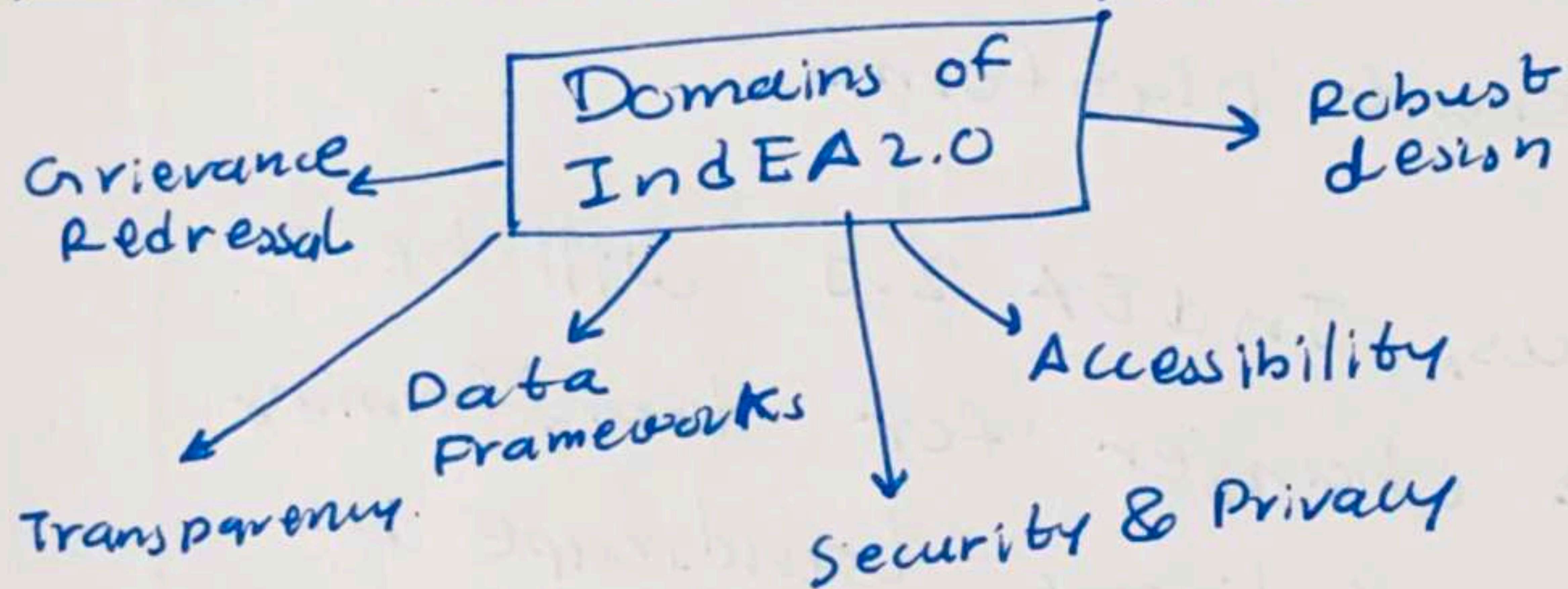
Thus, Civil Services Board can help curb politicization of bureaucracy. Before enlarging its mandate, the Board itself should be made ~~accountable~~ transparent. - by adding oversight of Central Administrative Tribunal, & making public its decision as far it can be done

6. Highlight the potential of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 in transforming the ecosystem of service delivery in India. (150 words) 10
भारत में सेवा वितरण के पारितंत्र को रूपांतरित करने में इंडिया डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) 2.0 की क्षमता पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Recently, Meghalaya become the first state to adopt India Digital Ecosystem Architecture

- MeghEA

IndEA → model framework for service delivery of digitalized public services



Potential

① One-model - different states

- states can adopt the framework according to their needs by making flexible changes.

- ② Inbuilt transparency, accountability features in framework
- ③ well-scrutinized security layer protects user data.
- ④ Scalability to adjust according to traffic needs.
- ⑤ Interoperability between different platforms.

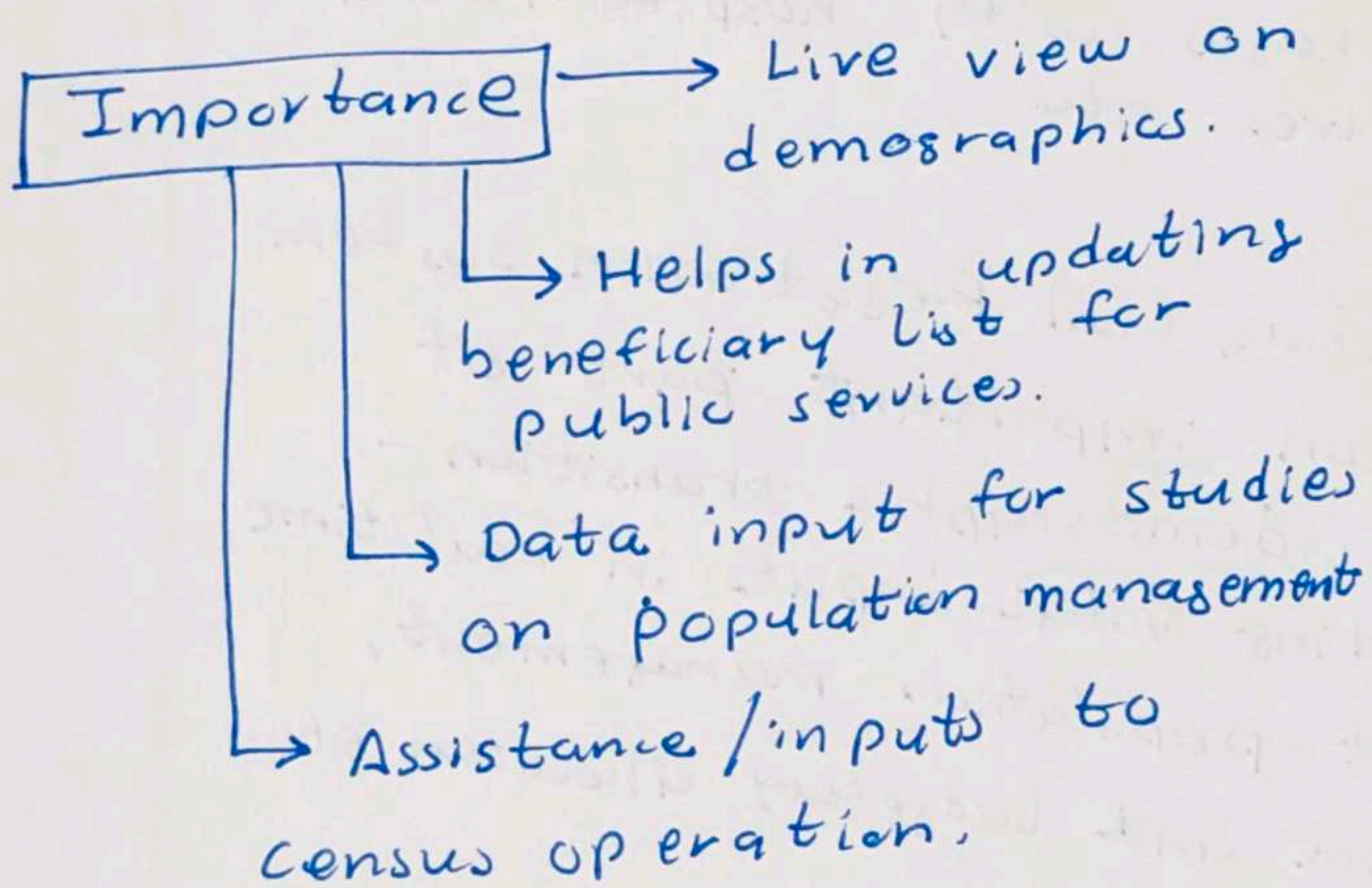
Thus, IndEA 2.0 will be a game changer for transforming service delivery landscape in India with its robust design, inbuilt data security and grievance redressal features.

7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it.

(150 words) 10

नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली क्या है? इसके महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए और इसमें सुधार करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Civil Registration system is a system under M/O Home Affairs, to record all the births and deaths occurring in India.



Measures taken for improvement

① Digitalization of Civil Registration

System to remove any inclusion/
exclusion errors.

② Better coordination between
Centre and states to capture
data in real time.

Ex: Kerala, Tamil Nadu have achieved
near cent percent registration

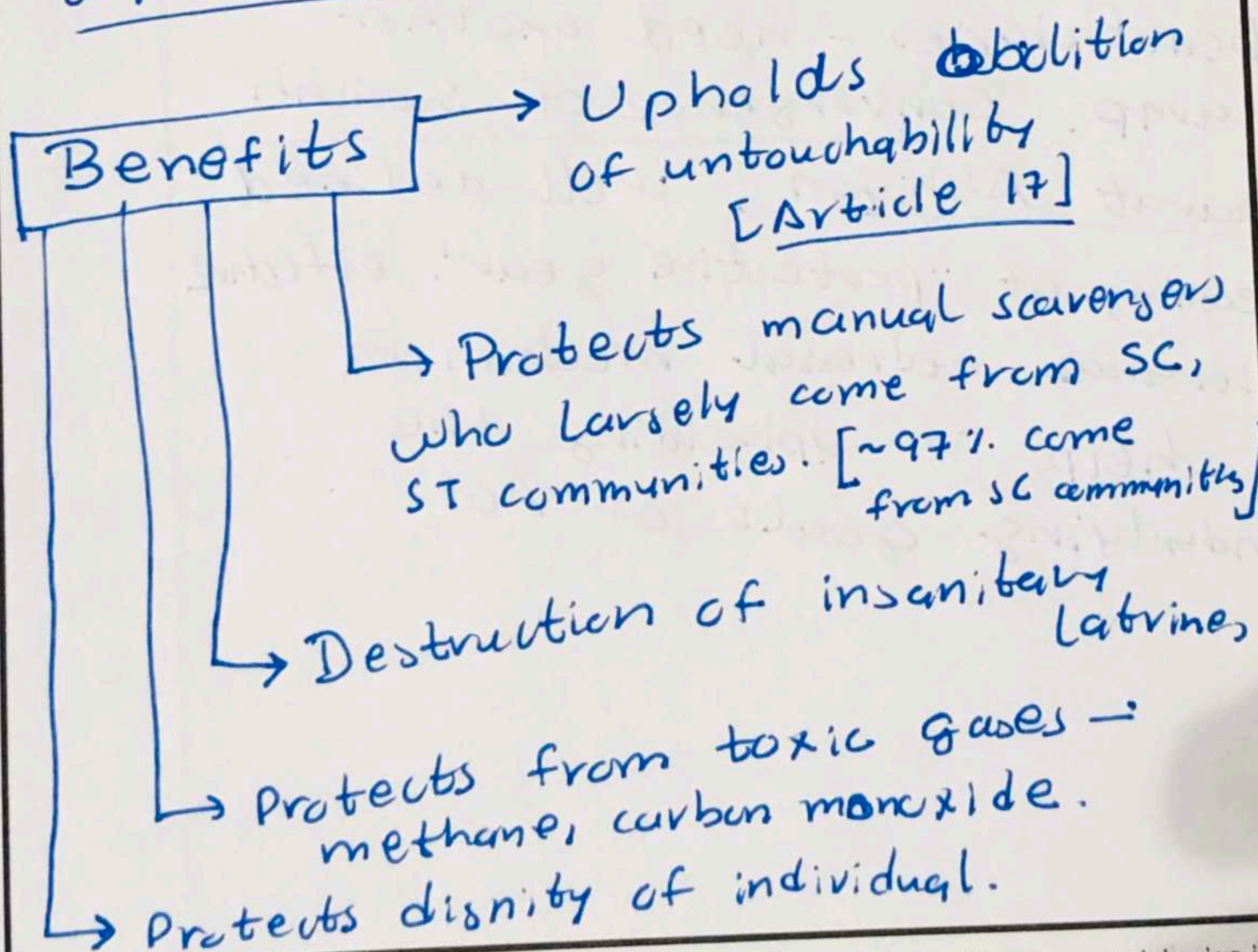
③ Improved information sharing
linkages with hospitals, cremation
centres etc.

Thus, Civil Registration System
is an important part of
our demographic transition -
providing vital inputs in real time
about population management,
resource and budgetary allocation etc.

8. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, provides an effective mechanism for empowerment of the intended beneficiaries in the society. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

हाथ से मैला उठाने वाले कर्मियों के नियोजन का प्रतिषेध एवं उनका पुनर्वास अधिनियम, 2013 समाज में इच्छित लाभार्थियों के सशक्तीकरण के लिए एक प्रभावी तंत्र प्रदान करता है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The Prohibition of Employment as Manual scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 has banned removing of undecomposed human waste from insanitary latrine, pit or railway tracks without protective gear.



Issues

- ① Low conviction rate.
- ② Lack of other viable employment for ~~those~~ those engaged in manual scavenging.
- ③ Deaths have continued to occur despite the Act.
- ④ Vague/Lack of meaning of "protective gear".

Thus, the Act even though meant to empower intended beneficiaries - need another revamp. Convergence of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, well-defined meaning of "protective gear", effective grievance redressal mechanism can help in upholding the underlying goals of Act.

9. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system. **(150 words) 10**

वर्तमान वैश्विक व्यापार प्रणाली में विद्यमान कमियों को दूर करने के लिए विश्व व्यापार संगठन को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु उस पर किए जाने वाले सुधारों की विवेचना कीजिए।

- World Trade Organization needs reform in terms of share of power distribution between developed and developing countries.
- India and China, who are on economic rise need higher share while other developed countries need reduction.
- Putting public distribution system under green box of WTO will enhance food security of developing nations.
- Consensus on reducing non-technical barriers of

trade like Sanitary and
Phytosanitary measures,
Technical Barrier to Trade.

10. State the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Also, discuss the need for a legally binding Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement.
(150 words) 10

संयुक्त राष्ट्र समुद्री कानून संधि (UNCLOS) के महत्व का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी राष्ट्रीय अधिकार से परे क्षेत्रों की समुद्री जैव विविधता (BBNJ) समझौते की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

UNCLOS provides for
free and open navigation
of seas.

Legally binding Marine
Biodiversity of Areas beyond
National Jurisdiction is
needed to protect
the global commons, ensure
its sustainable use, build
energy security and reverse
climate change effects on
marine biodiversity.

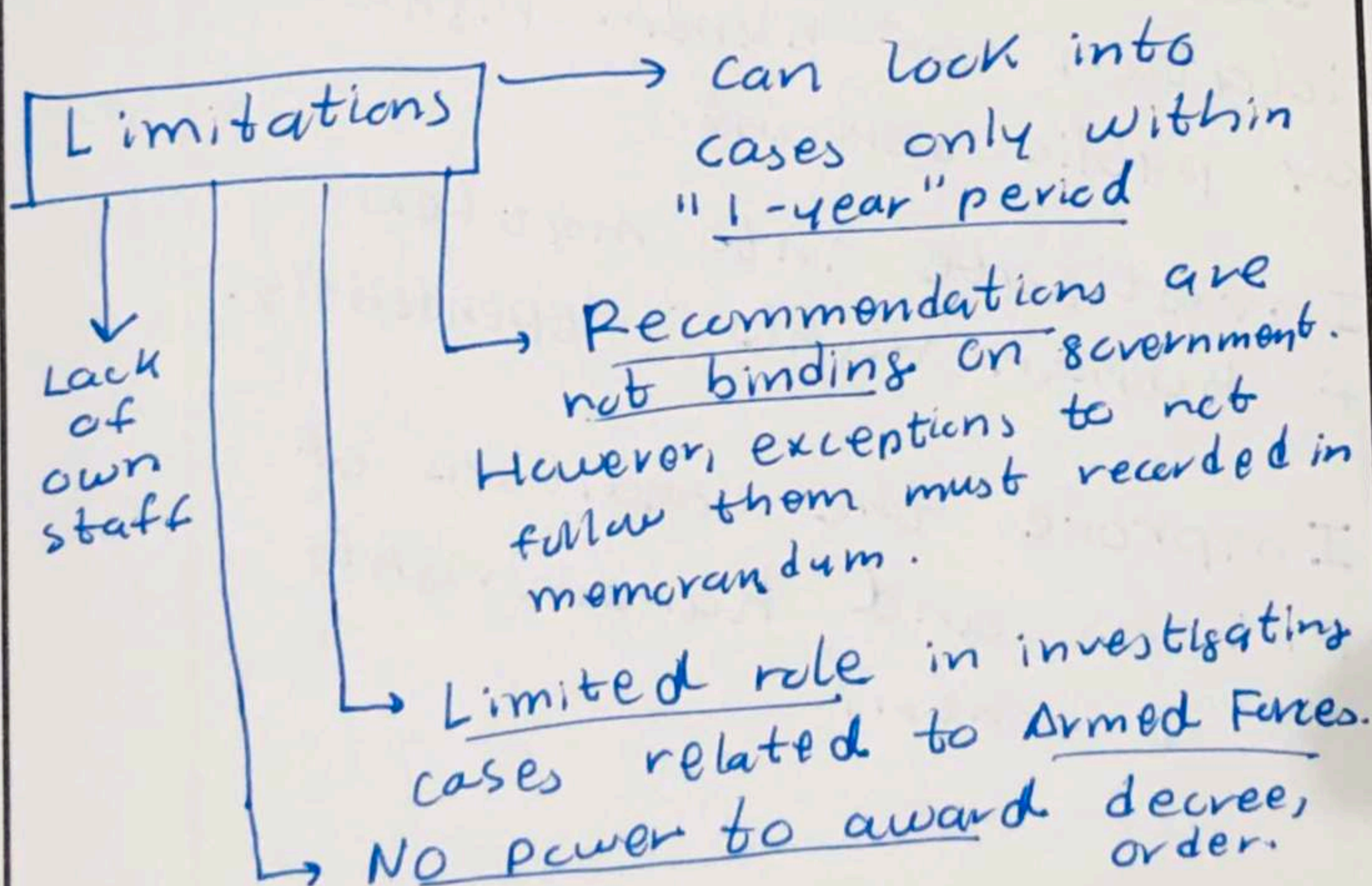
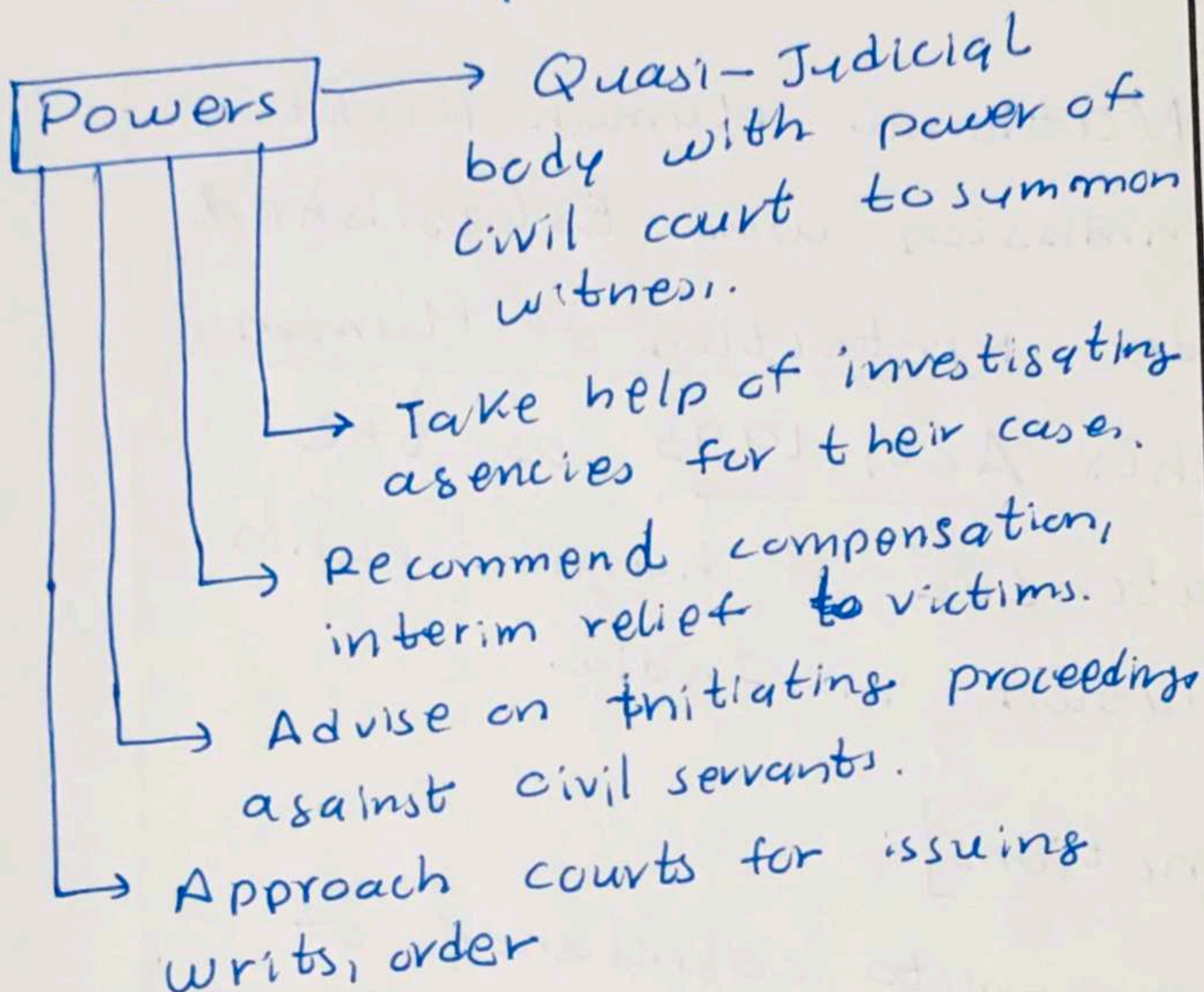
11. Critically assess the role played by the National Human Rights Commission as a watchdog of human rights violations in India. (250 words) 15
भारत में मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के प्रहरी के रूप में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

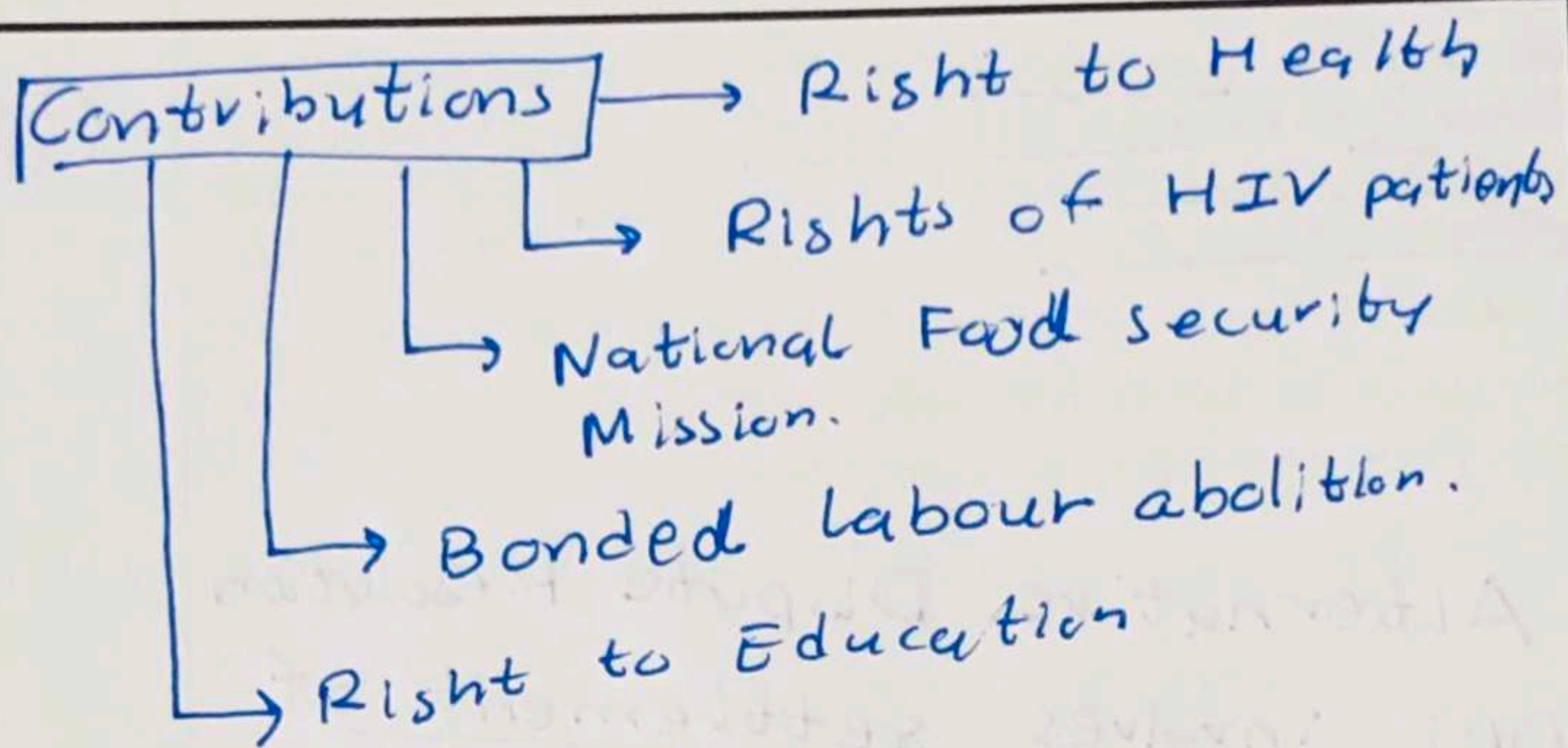
National Human Rights Commission was established under Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 as the watchdog of human rights violation in India.

Functions

- ① Suo-moto cognisance of violation of human rights by public servant.
- ② Investigate into matters of human rights independently.
- ③ Improve the conditions of prisons and human rights of prisoners.

④ Human rights awareness
with help of NGOs.



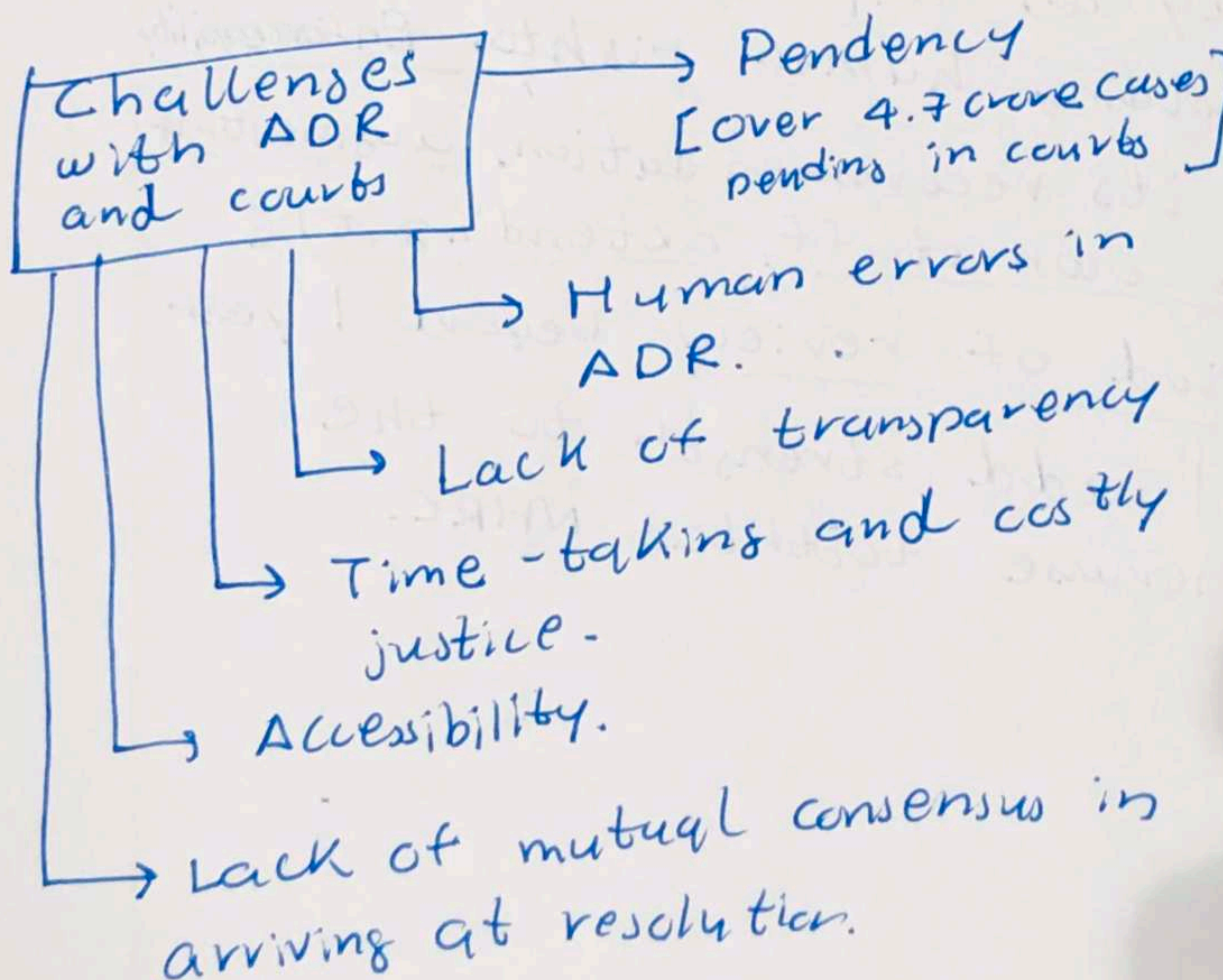


Thus, National Human Rights Commission continues to play an important role in upholding human rights. Enforceability of its recommendation, augmenting its own staff, extending the period of review beyond 1 year will add strength to the otherwise toothless NHRC.

12. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. (250 words) 15

विवेचना कीजिए कि विवाद समाधान प्रक्रियाओं में सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी (ICT) का एकीकरण अदालतों एवं वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (ADR) मंचों के कामकाज से जुड़ी चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में किस प्रकार सहायता करेगा।

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) involves settlement of disputes outside court, in pre-litigative stage or early stage with mutual understanding.



Role of ICT

- ① Online Dispute Resolution
(ODR) is a part of ADR that involves usage of information and communications technology (ICT) to resolve disputes at hand.
- ② Imparts transparency and unbiased decision-making
Ex: MSME Samadhan Portal
- ③ Cost-effective - reducing expenditure on court procedures.
- ④ Time-efficiency - given the efficient IT enabled processes.
- ⑤ Improves access to justice in remote and rural areas.
- ⑥ Reduces pendency in courts which is already overburdened.

Thus, integration of ICT is the necessity of the hour to accelerate dispute resolution. Data Protection Law, improved digital connectivity and availability in local languages will further enhance ICT's role in ADR.

13. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत विधायकों की निरर्हता से संबंधित विभिन्न प्रावधानों के बावजूद, भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण का मुद्दा अभी भी काफी हद तक अनसुलझा है। विवेचना कीजिए।

~4900 members of Parliament and state legislature have criminal cases registered against them.

Provisions for curbing criminalization of politics

① The Representation of the People Act, 1951 bars candidates from contesting election with imprisonment charges of more than 2 years.

② Prevents candidate from contesting election till 6 years from end of imprisonment term.

- ③ Compulsory surfacing of information related to criminal antecedent.

Why the issue still persists?

- ① Delays in judicial decisions.
- ② Appeal against conviction further stalls the decision.
- ③ Delayed revelation of crimes in public sphere.
- ④ Misuse of parliamentary privileges to slow down civil proceedings.
- ⑤ Lack of political will to enforce laws related to decriminalization of politics.
- ⑥ Politician-businessman-bureaucrat nexus leading

to low transparency.

- ⑦ Political party not under
ambit of Right to Information
Act, 2005

What can be done?

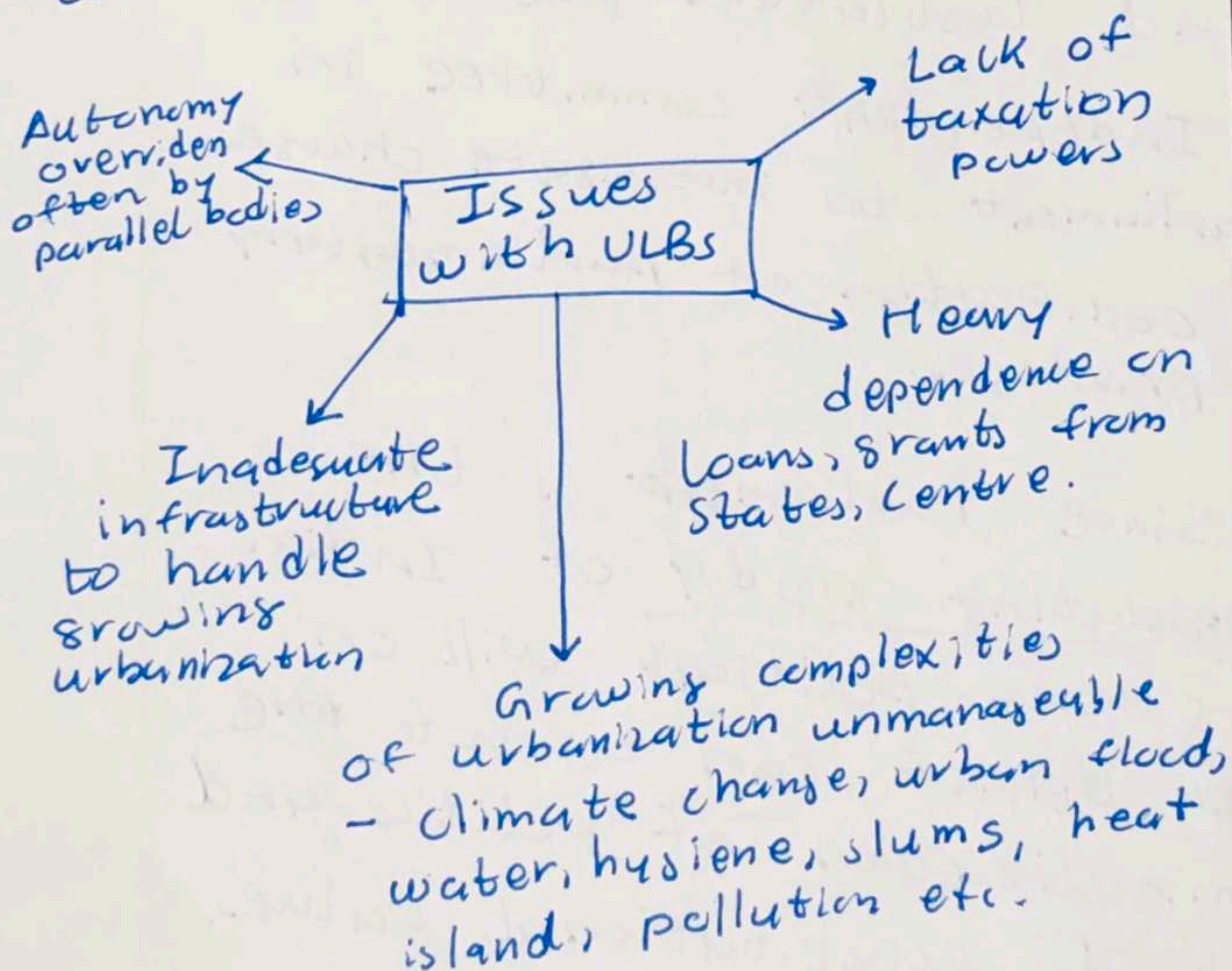
- ① Permanent ban on contesting
elections post conviction.
- ② Fast-track courts to deal
with members of parliament
and legislature cases.
- ③ Independent committee in
Parliament to investigate charges
- ④ Codification of parliamentary
privileges.

Since Parliament is the
legislating body of India,
a strong political will on
their behalf can uproot the
criminalization of politics and
uphold constitutional values.

14. It is time for reforms, which recognise that urban local bodies (ULBs) need permanent, buoyant revenue sources to match the growing demands of an increasing urban population. Discuss. (250 words) 15

यह सुधारों का समय है जो यह पहचान करता है कि शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) को बढ़ती शहरी आबादी की बढ़ती मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए स्थायी, वृद्धिशील राजस्व स्रोतों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992
provided for urban local bodies to realize the goal of democratic decentralization at urban level.



Reforms needed

- ① Permanent, buoyant revenue sources.
- ② More taxation powers from entries in Twelfth schedule
- ③ Allocation of service delivery to ULBs instead of parallel bodies
Ex: Electricity supply.
- ④ Promoting municipal bonds so that local money is used for local development.
- ⑤ Provision for crowd funding and associated requirement of transparency and accountability.
- ⑥ More devolution of net proceeds and grants-in-aid to serve the growing urban population

- ⑤ Mandating social audit of all developmental work of ULBs.
- ⑥ More flexible funds from centre and state with respect to sponsored schemes so as to adjust to local needs.

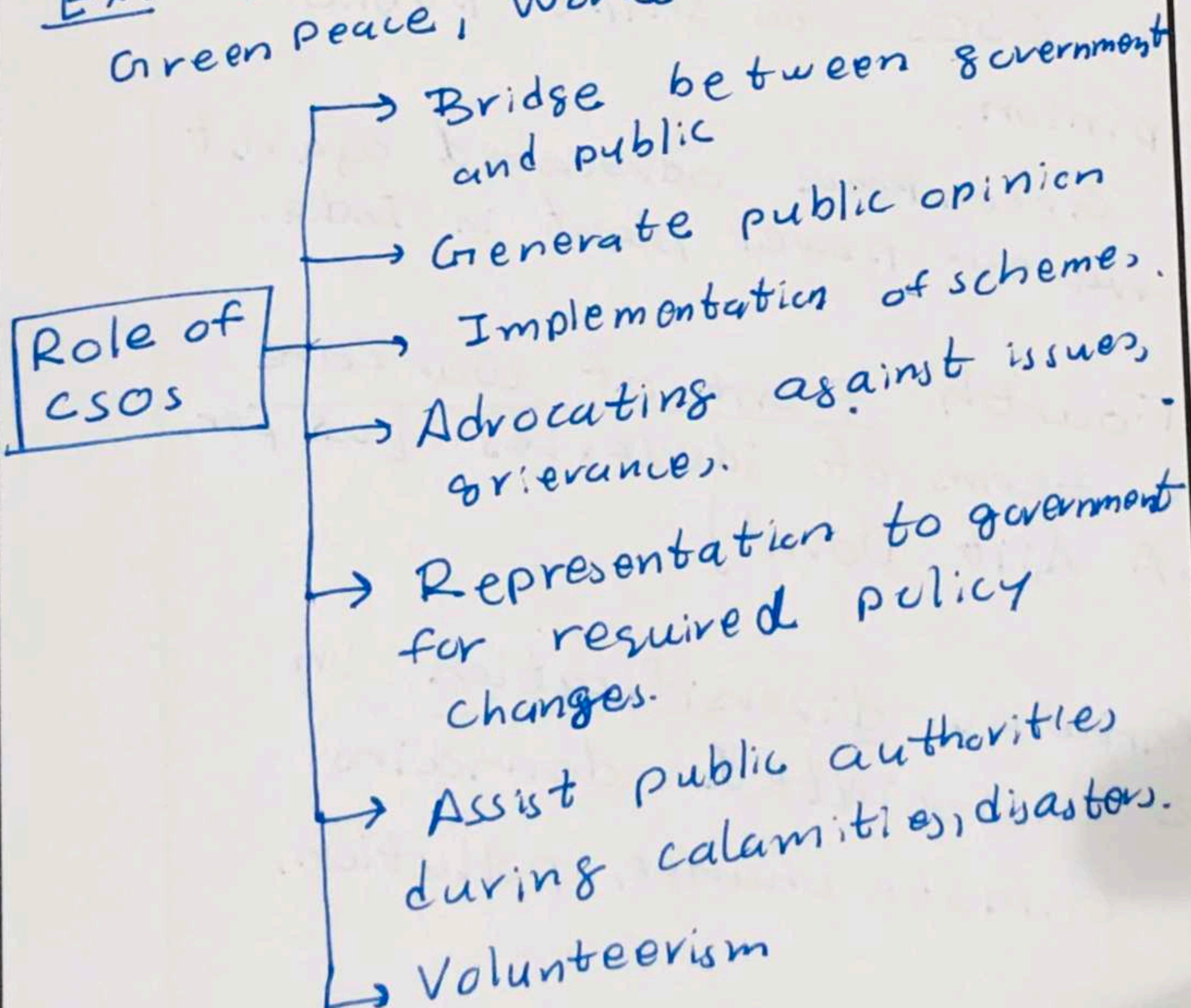
ULBs are vested with more responsibilities but less power. Hence, the time is ripe to introduce second-tier of reforms to revive the financial and functional autonomy of ULBs so as to ~~to~~ provide service to growing urbanized landscape.

15. The role of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in India is changing in contemporary times and has become increasingly more complex. Discuss.
(250 words) 15

समकालीन समय में भारत में नागरिक समाज संगठनों (CSOs) की भूमिका बदल रही है और निरंतर अधिक जटिल होती जा रही है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Civil Society Organizations
(CSOs) are array of organization involving groups, organizations, NGOs, unions etc. that come together for a common cause and specialize in solving them.

Ex: Amnesty International,
Green Peace, World Wildlife Fund etc.



Changing roles of CSOs in present times

① With advent of information and communication technology, CSOs have had to adapt to it in order to stay relevant in their sphere.

Ex: Campaigning via social media - "One Merit one Nation"

② Influence of foreign powers on CSOs to shape public opinion.

Ex: Green Peace advocated against nuclear power plant in India.

③ Fourth front of warfare in terms of ideologies [as per NSA Ajit Doval]

④ Growing diversification in the associated domains.

Ex: Climate change, pollution,

cryptocurrencies etc.

⑧ Thus, CSOs are transforming themselves in ~~the~~ the changing times. Streamlining their resources, inculcating transparency and accountability, upgrading their digital infrastructure and training and sensitization of its members will help them stay relevant on top of issues.

16. Though the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) aims to address the inequity in development in India, there are a number of issues which plague the scheme. Discuss. (250 words) 15

वैश्वीकरण के युग में, विकेंद्रीकरण आधारभूत प्रतिकारी प्रवृत्ति है, जो भारत में विकास प्रक्रिया का समावेशी होना सुनिश्चित कर सकती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) provides for non-lapsable fund for development of individual constituencies of members of Parliament.

Role of MPLADS

- ① Development of socio-economic infrastructure for Locals.

Ex: schools, healthcare etc.

- ② Dedicated portion of funds for SCs [15%] and STs [7.5%] development

- ③ Non-Lapsability of funds provides for continuity of projects.
- ④ Active collaboration with local governments who are well-versed with local needs.

Issues

- ① Corruption and awarding of tenders to known relatives of the MP.
- ② Siphoning off funds for non-developmental work.
- ③ Only 10% of work is audited.
- ④ ~~are~~ Misused for developing areas which are vote banks for the MP thus accentuating inequalities further.

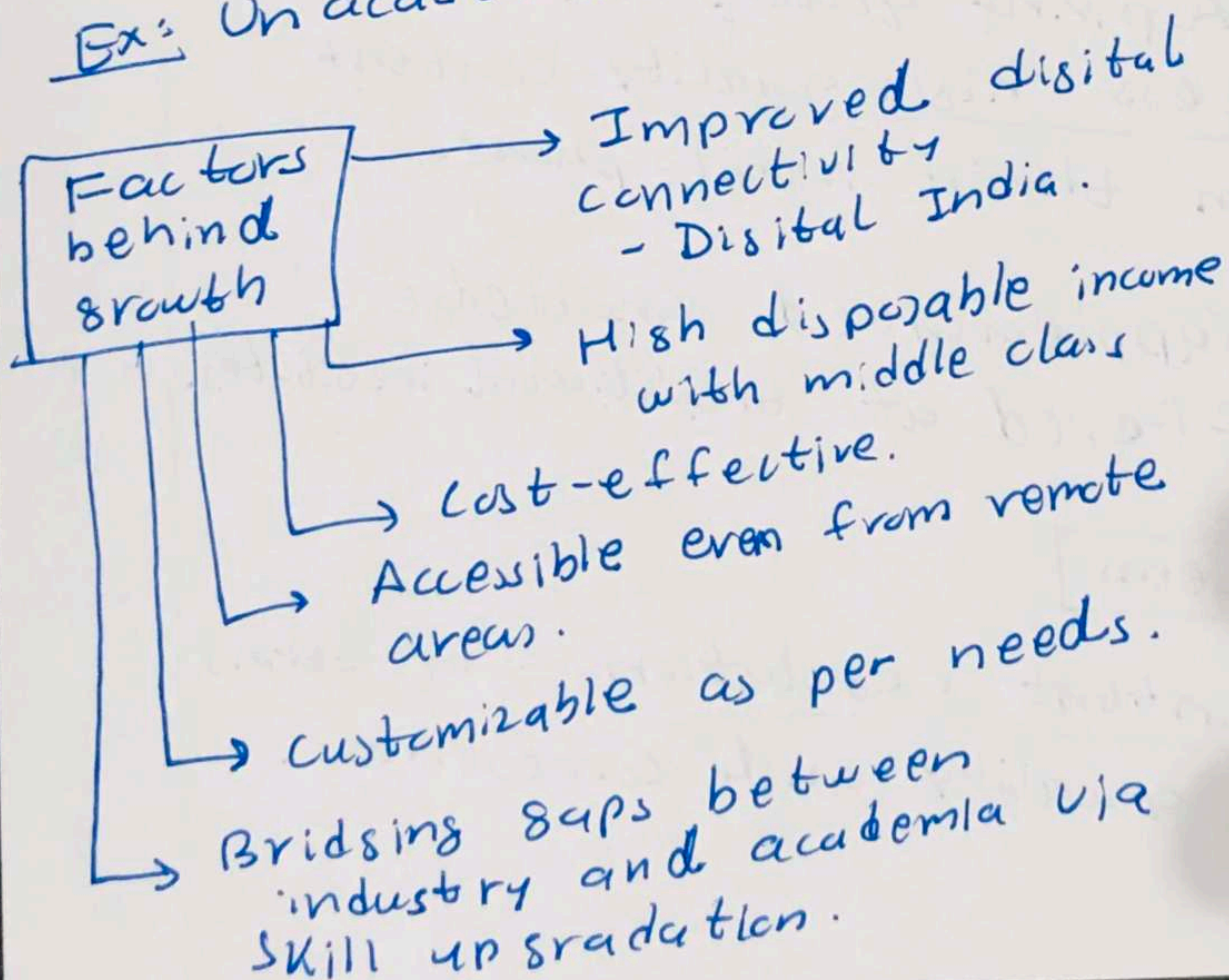
⑤ Delayed progress and bureaucratic hurdles further increase cost of such projects.

MPLADS has the potential to localize achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Better regulatory oversight and enforceability of social audit can impart effective results and transparency to the scheme.

17. Highlighting the factors responsible for the growth of EdTech sector in India in recent times, discuss its benefits. Also, state the concerns associated with it. (250 words) 15

हाल के दिनों में भारत में एडटेक क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके लाभों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इससे जुड़ी चिंताओं का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

EdTech sector in India, currently valued at \$750 mn is projected to grow upto \$4 bn by 2025 - signifying its growth trajectory. It involves leveraging computers, networks, digital infrastructure to provide education.
Ex: Unacademy, Toppr, BYJU's etc.



Benefits

- ① Skill development for changing nature of jobs.
Ex: Coding skills from upGrad.
- ② Making education more affordable - due to reduced cost of physical infrastructure.
- ③ New avenues of Learning which are otherwise unseen.
Ex: Language proficiency by Duolingo.
- ④ Aspiring youths can now access high quality content from their mobile phones.
- ⑤ Supplemented knowledge offered at traditional institutes.

Concerns

- ① Content regulation - in terms of quality and correctness.

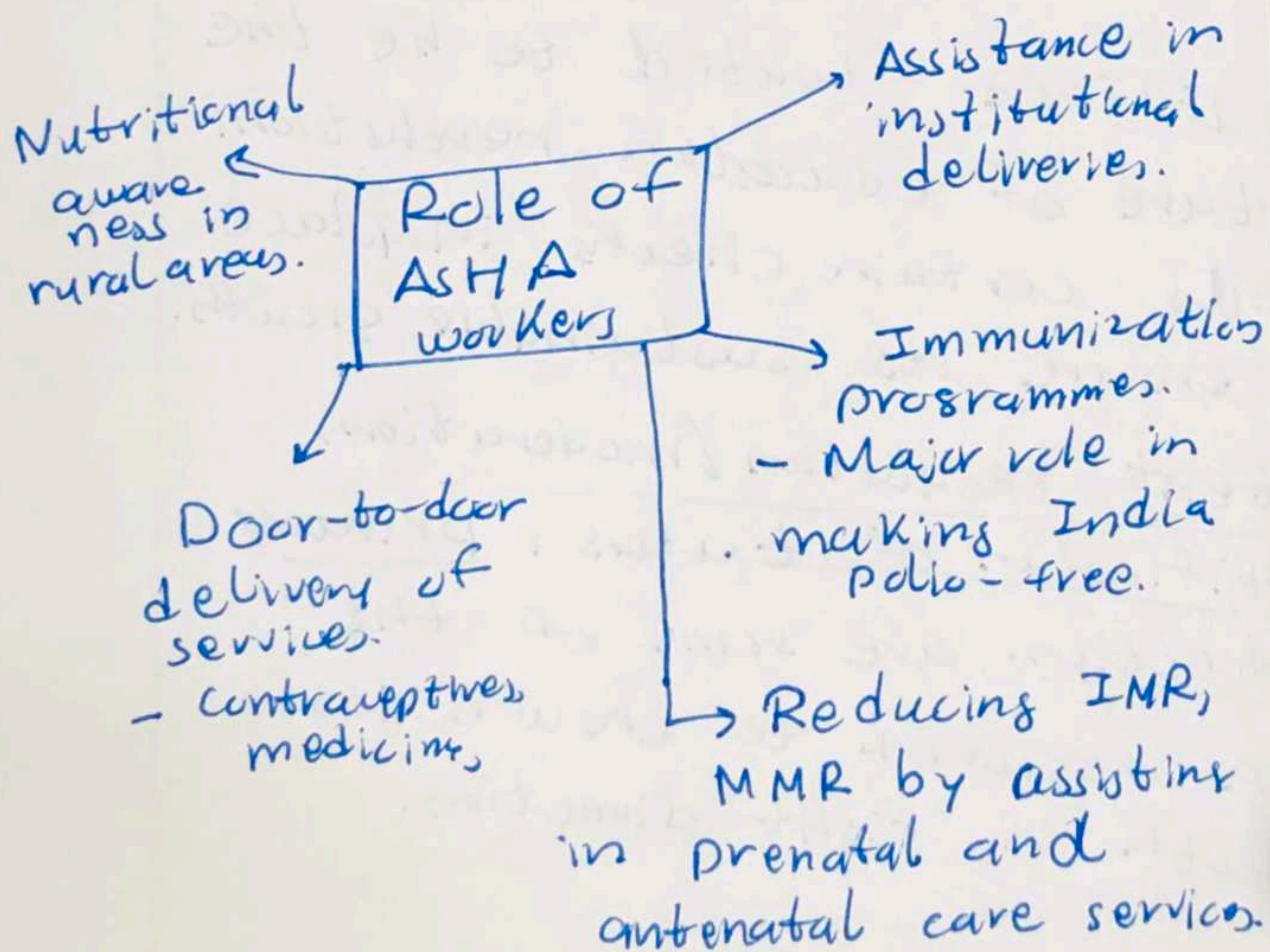
- ② Unverified qualifications of teachers can impact a child's learning curve in formative years.
- ③ Lack of privacy regulation has led to cyber-bullying and display of obscene content.
- ④ Auto-debit and payment options that are unsecured has led to many frauds.
- ⑤ Lack of regulatory oversight on EdTech companies.

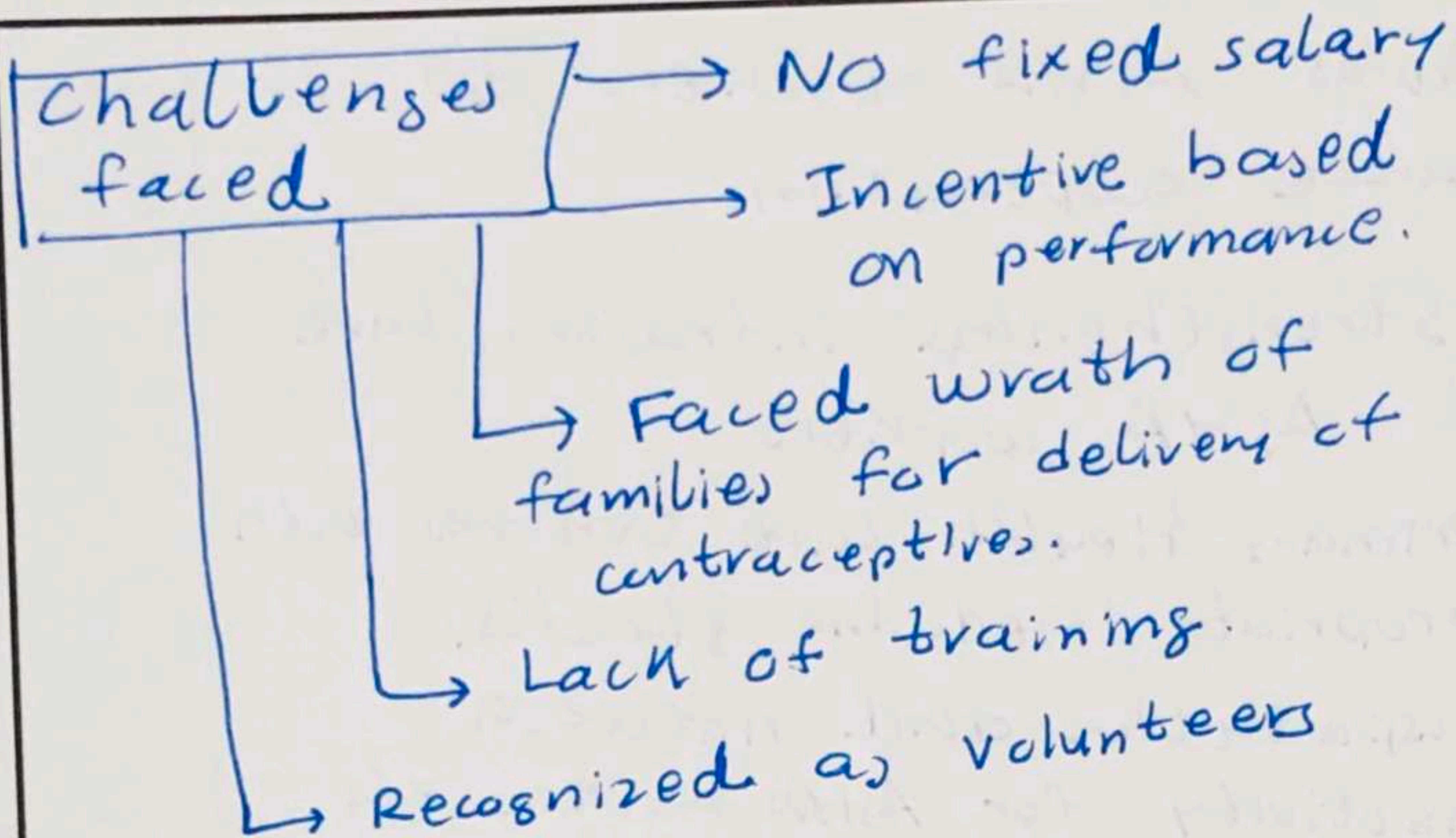
EdTech - touted to be the future of education revolution, needs certain checks in place to ensure its sustainable growth. Content regulation/moderation, certification of tutors, privacy protection are some of the steps required to ensure its growth in right direction.

18. Bring out the role of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in delivering health services in rural India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken to overcome the challenges faced by them. (250 words) 15

ग्रामीण भारत में स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं प्रदान करने में मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (आशा) की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों को दूर करने के उपाय भी सुझाइए।

Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers - associated with National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) have played important role in transforming healthcare landscape in rural region.





Measures needed

- ① Bringing them at par with Anganwadi workers and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) in terms of Salary and recognition
- ② Skills and training to ASHA workers will enhance their role in primary healthcare.
Ex: Treatment of basic ailment - fever, fatigue, aches etc.
- ③ Community sensitization

towards ASHA workers to
enhance cooperation.

- ④ Strengthening infrastructure
for ASHA workers.
- Primary Health Care Centres with
appropriate medicine stocks,
transportation and network
connectivity for ASHA workers etc.

ASHA workers are playing
an essential role in fulfilling
access to quality healthcare
(SDG-3). They need
strengthening and recognition
so as to fulfill their role
to best of their abilities.

19. Discuss the various concerns that have arisen for India after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Also, suggest the measures that India should take in the given context. (250 words) 15

तालिबान द्वारा अफगानिस्तान पर अधिकार करने के बाद भारत के लिए उत्पन्न विभिन्न चिंताओं की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए जो इस संदर्भ में भारत द्वारा अपनाए जाने चाहिए।

Taliban completed its takeover of Afghanistan on 15th August 2021 by removing democratically elected government and withdrawal of USA troops from the region.

Concerns for India

① India has always supported "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled" democratic government whereas Taliban has been antithetical to this principle.

② Provision of safe havens for terrorist organizations

Like Jaish-e-Mohammed,
Lashkar-e-Taiba, ~~etc~~ Haggani
group etc.

③ Indian investment under
threat from terror groups.

— Salma Dam, Afghanistan
Parliament.

④ Human rights violation
and gender-discrimination.

⑤ Safety of Indians in
Afghanistan and associated
refugee crisis.

⑥ Influence of Pakistan's
ISI over Taliban and its
ramification on India's
national security.

⑦ Non-recognition of Taliban
government by India has
led to communication gaps.

Measures

- ① Restoration of Indian embassy in Kabul recently will help improve access to Afghanistan.
- ② Engagement with Taliban without recognition [like that happened in Doha] will help ensure national priorities are conveyed.
- ③ Membership in UNSC till 2022 end and passing of terror-group list under UNSC resolution.
- ④ Humanitarian aid and relief to Afghans.
Ex: Recent consignment of wheat by India via Pakistan.
- ⑤ Push for inclusive government in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan remains a concern for India from perspective of national security and religious extremism. Consultation and consensus-based decisions by Taliban are best bet forward.

20. Bangladesh is not only a key part of India's "Neighbourhood First policy" but also crucial for the "Act East policy". In this context, discuss the steps taken by the two countries to strengthen their relationship.

(250 words) 15

बांग्लादेश न केवल भारत की "नेबरहुड फर्स्ट पॉलिसी" का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, बल्कि "एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी" के लिए भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस संदर्भ में, दोनों देशों द्वारा अपने संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Bangladesh is the largest
trading partner of India
in the South Asian region.

Importance of Bangladesh

- ① Strong bilateral trade and relations.
- ② People-to-people contact across borders
- ③ Agricultural and energy cooperation
- ④ Important neighbour to coordinate and cooperate in security issues and disaster management in the region and as well as in South-East Asian region.

Steps taken

① Land Agreement in 2011
by ~~sharing~~ exchange of
enclaves is a prime example
of ~~share~~ resolving border disputes
amicably.

② Ganges, Teesta, Barak,
Brahmaputra River water
sharing agreement to
ensure food security of both
nations.

③ Bangladesh - Bhutan - India -
Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement
for ensuring efficient mobility
and ease of doing trade.

④ Active cooperation in
BIMSTEC to ensure security
and cooperation in Bay of
Bengal region.

Thus, Bangladesh with whom India shares the largest boundary is an important player in strengthening India's influence in neighbourhood and in the East. Trade competitiveness between two nations have further accelerated collaboration and cooperation.