

Q1. Why is the current Lok Sabha not having the post of 'Leader of Opposition' in spite of great importance of this post in the functioning of legislature? (10 Marks, 150 words)

Use data/facts, graphs to improve your marks.
Try to provide a conclusion to each 95
answer.

- Leader of Opposition (LoOP) is a post given to the leader of the largest opposition party in the house. Since 2014 & 2019, India hasn't seen a LoOP. ~~due to~~

- Reason for not having LoOP :

(i) against Mavlankar Rule = LoOP to be given to largest party securing at least 10% of seats. No party fulfils the criteria

(ii) No constitutional binding = defn. of LoOP is statutory, recognition by Chair of the house

(iii) enforceability of 10% rule = upheld by the courts.

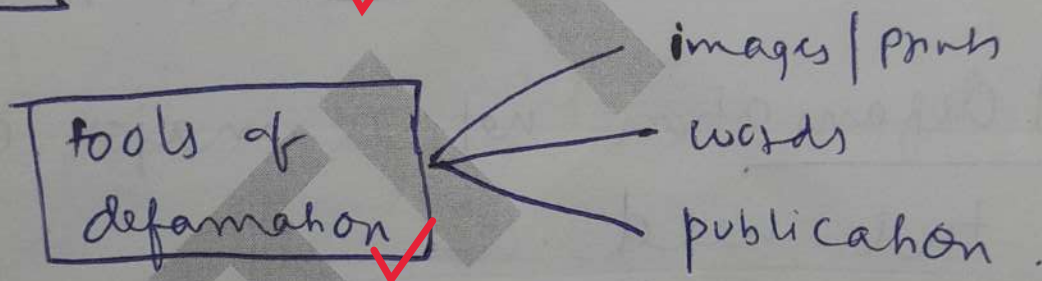
Importance of Loop :-

1. Checks & balances on executive excesses ✓
2. Leads opposition unity against misgovernance ✓ of majority coalition
3. Part of important selection committee panels like CBI, CVC, etc. ✓
4. UK = Shadow cabinet & Loop in UK = Shadow PM ✓ = forming alternative government.

→ Loop is a post that ensures a breakstop against executive dominance, ensuring accountability & Rule of law under ✓ A13 4/10

Q2. Criminal defamation as legal instrument is often abused by the powerful to smother the freedom of speech. What is criminal defamation? Do you think is it justified in a liberal democracy like India? (10 Marks, 150 words)

Defamation is any deliberate action, that maligns the reputation of an individual. It is a reasonable restriction against A 19(2).



Criminal defamation = IPC Sec 499, 500.

Issues with Criminal defamation :-

- Umbrella concept = often parallel to civil wrongs / individual wrong
- Curb on Freedom of speech & expression = against A 19
- used to silence voice by the powerful.

1. Against proportionality principle = fails A 21, 19

Need for Criminal defamation in India

(i) right to reputation part of Right to life under A 21 (S. Swamy case).

(ii) A 21 preceeds over A 19 (proportionality)

(iii) Civil defamation not a major deterrent hence the need.

(iv) mandated by A 19 under reasonable restriction clause.

Expalin why it is not needed.

There is need of a uniform Criminal code, as highlighted by Law Commission, to incorporate post modification colonial era laws like Criminal defamation.

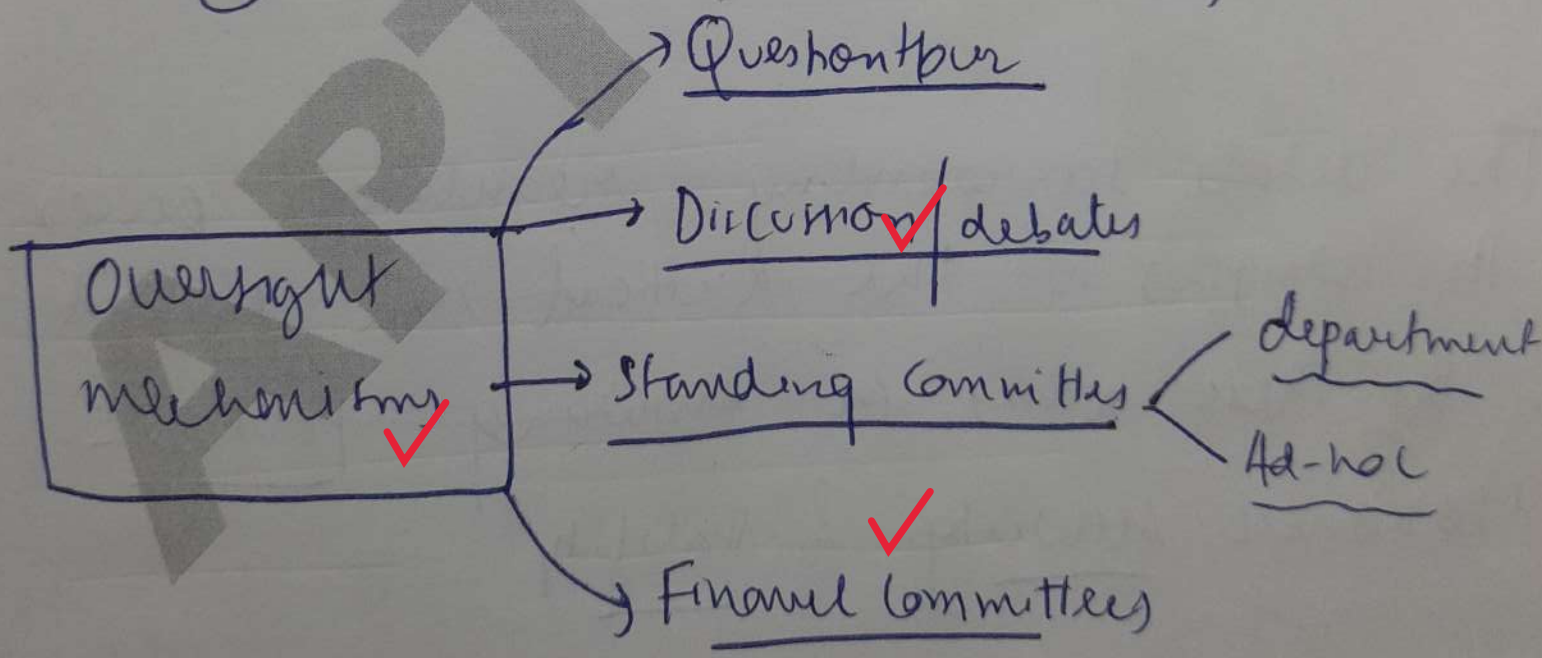
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Q3. List the parliamentary mechanisms available for the scrutiny of regulators. Also, discuss major steps through which parliamentary oversight of regulators can be strengthened. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Parliament is empowered, via host of tools, to have an oversight over regulators.

This is for 3 purposes ✓ -

- (i) ensuring ~~to~~ accountability
- (ii) **Avoid this** independence.
- (iii) oversight of functioning.



Steps to strengthen oversight :-

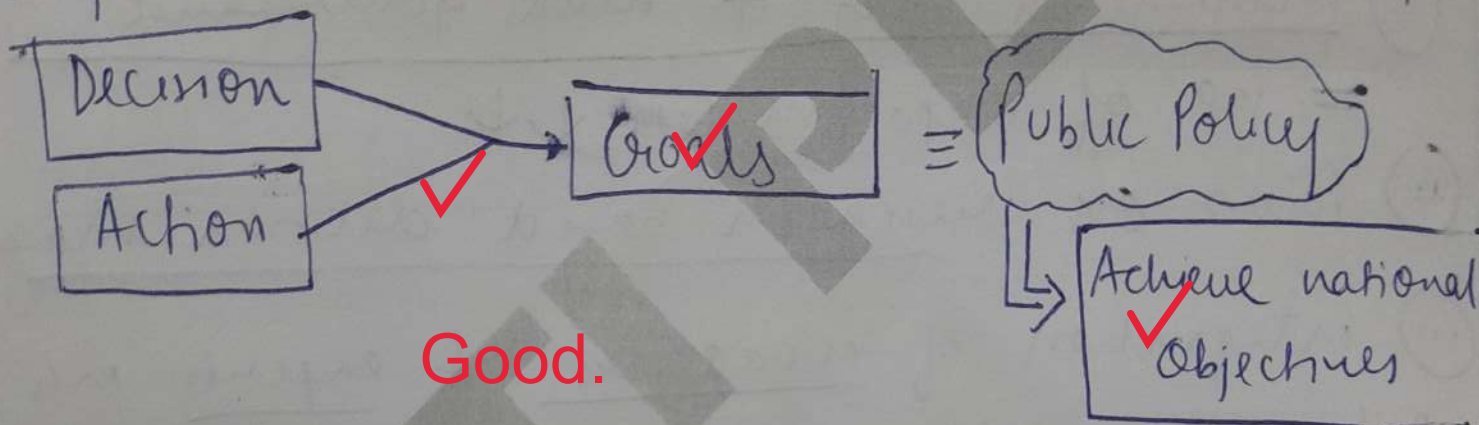
- (i) Reports of on regulators tabled in parliament should be made public.
- (ii) Periodic review of regulators.
- (iii) Performance based status upgradation.
- (iv) System of regulatory Ombudsman -
2nd ARC → Regulator of regulators.

The debate surrounding regulatory issues originates to the critical role played by these bodies in ensuring politics - economic security & stability

3/10

Q4. Discuss the issues plaguing public policy formulation in India. Also suggest measures to strengthen the policy formulation process. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Public policy is the plan of action that governments lay down to fulfill national objectives.



Issues plaguing public policy :-

- (i) Compartmentalisation A division
= fragmentation of issues. eg:- transportation under different ministries.
- (ii) lack of informed debates + discussion
- (iii) low Research { expenditure resources.

(iv) focus on long term gains without
prioritising short term wins.

(v) poor stakeholder consensus. eg:- farm bills

— Strengthening policy formulation process:-

(i) Minimum govt + lean government
= no. of departments ↓↓

(ii) focus on research based decision making

(iii) integration of academia & experts into
policy formulation teams

(iv) using tools — AI/ML/data analytics.

[
Civil society
+
bureaucracy
+
experts
]

+ [Government]

4/10

= effective
public
policy

Do not miss out a conclusion.

Q5. "Internet provides one of the most potent platforms for expressing people's voices in contemporary times". In light of the statement, discuss the effects of internet shutdown on the freedom of speech and expression. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Internet shutdown is deliberate disruption of internet services, usually on orders of Govt. A/c to an report, India was the worst affected country with shutdown costing over ₹ 2000 cr.

— Effects of internet shutdown :-

(i) Kerala HC → Internet key to Right to life under A21.

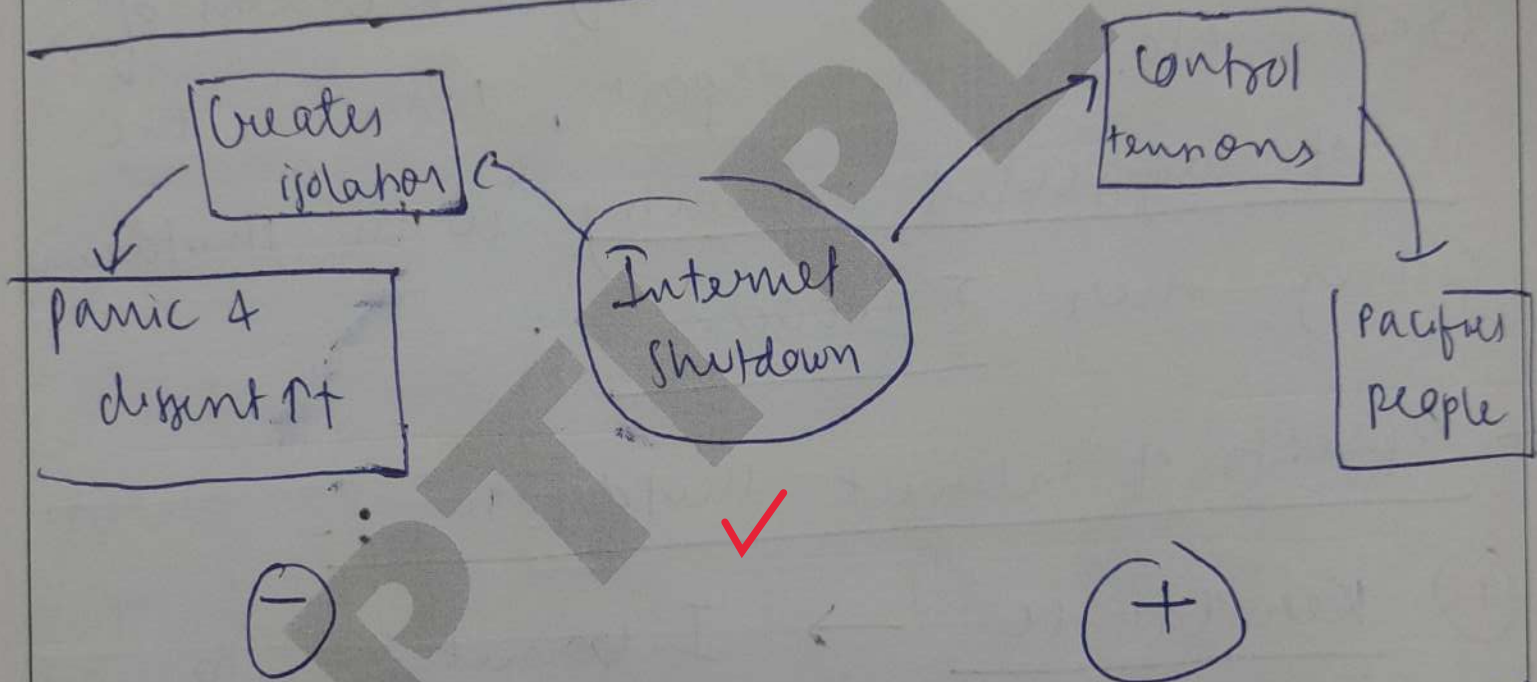
(ii) creates isolation, exclusion & panic.

(iii) no ex-facto check against misuse

(iv) takes away freedom of speech & expression (A 19).

v) The year long disruption in Kashmir has led to claims of HR violations

vi) economic losses - due to hampered business, telecom revenues ↓, education &



Under classic freedom of speech vs security of state / law & order debate, shutdown

must be used under last resort that too following due process of law.

Q6. Highlight the importance of State Finance Commission in strengthening fiscal federalism in India. Do you agree with the view that they have not been provided with the necessary environment to play their rightful role? (10 Marks, 150 words)

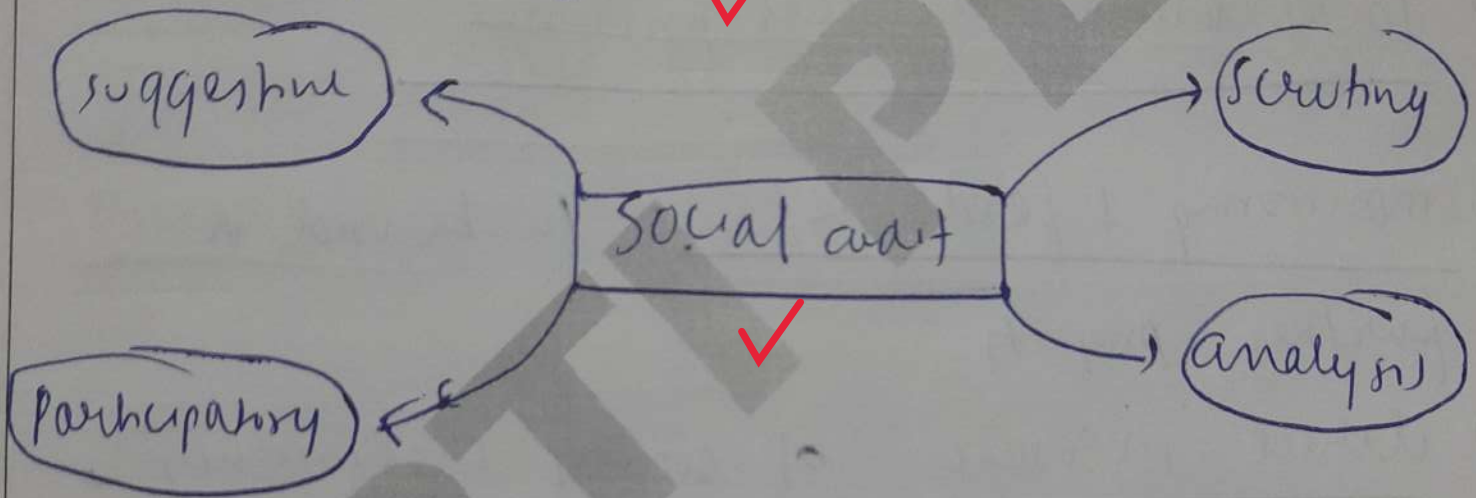
Article 243, in consonance with 73rd & 74th CAA create SFCs in the state level for furthering fiscal federalism at panchayat level. They are constituted every 5 yrs by Governors.

importance of SFCs in strength. fiscal federalism

- (i) distributes finances between states & local bodies.
- (ii) recommends improving financial posn. of states.
- (iii) determines taxes & grants to municipalities / panchayats.

Q7. Social Audit involves citizen's participation in governance along with increasing accountability of the government towards citizens. Substantiate the statement with examples. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Social audit is the stocktaking of the resources of a project by the public, especially beneficiaries.



Social Audit improves participation & accountability

(i) Reduces corruption = beneficiaries check accounts & track money.

(ii) Collective participation = empowering communities & deepening democracy.

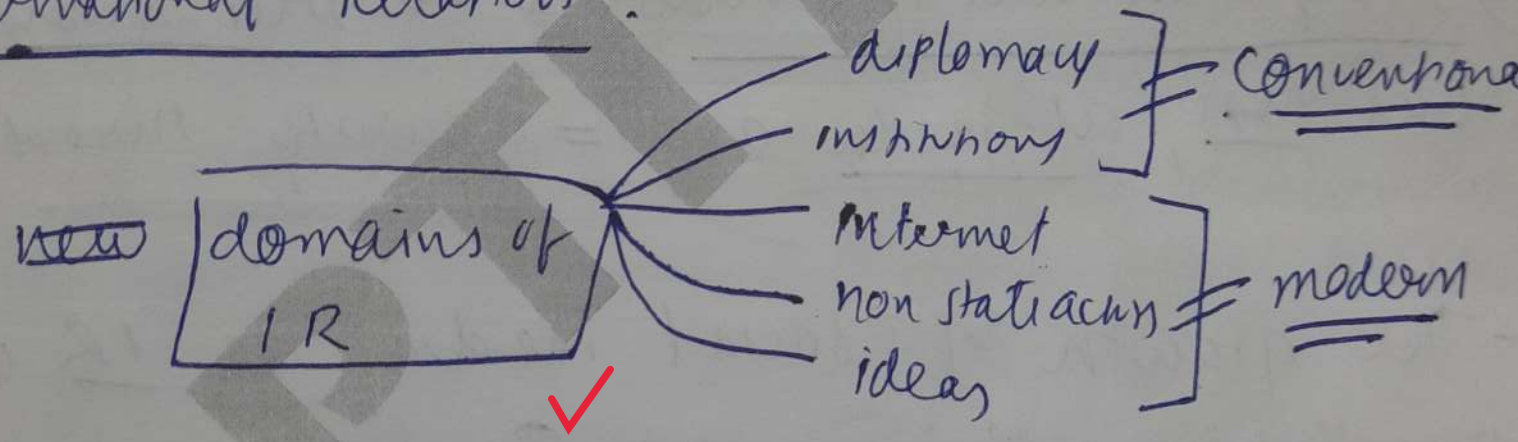
- (iii) bottom to top decision making = gives power
to Gram panchayats ✓.
- (iv) learning exercise for government departments,
bureaucracy & people ✓.
- (v) local solutions to local problems ✓
- (vi) monitoring & feedback = to be used in
further projects ✓.
- (vii) direct measure of success & efficiency =
of government schemes & policies, aimed for
people ✓.

— Meghalaya made Social Audit compulsory
in 2017. This can be adopted by other states
wrt improving targeted public service delivery
and accountability ✓.

Q 8. International relations are not the relations only between nations. Various other players like corporations, global institutions, lobby groups and NGOs, and also media are participants in their own right. How do you think the rise of social media has affected international relations? (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Social media are websites or interfaces over internet used for people-to-people interaction as well as making content.

It has emerged as a key driver in International Relations.



Role of social media influencing IR :-

(i) Sharing ideas/info = transfer of best practices globally

(ii) Highlighting transboundary issues = eg:- #MeToo, etc.

(iii) Holding meets virtually = eg G20 in 2021 in

Italy.

(iv) tool for government propaganda :- eg

China's Weibo diplomacy.

(v) Premoving disengaging nations = eg:- use of
social media in Arab-Israel issues.

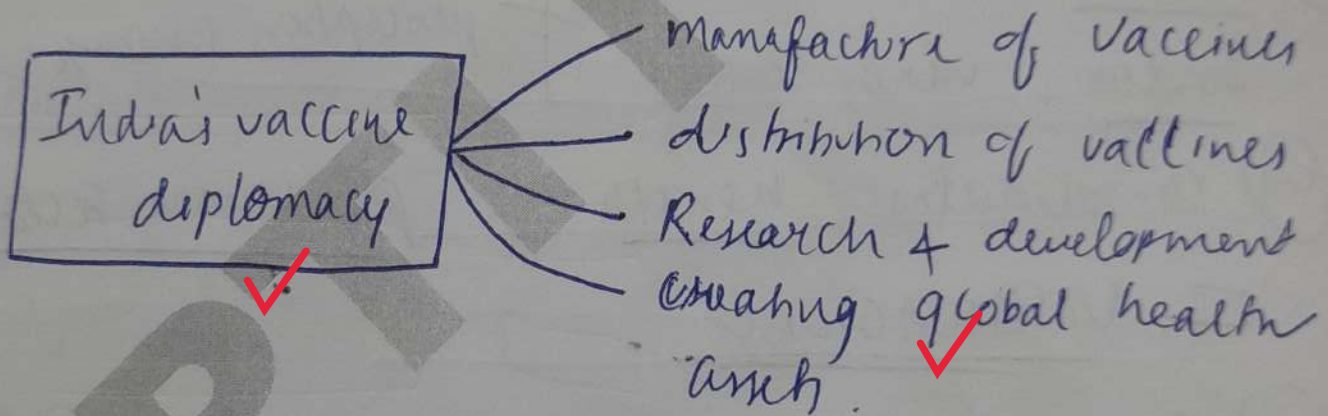
(vi) strengthened voice of NGOs & non-state actors

like ISIS, al-Qaeda etc = security threat.

- The growth of social media in IR is
new but rapidly rising. It is a double edged
sword - ~~test~~ and needs judicious use with
proper oversight.

Q 9. What is Vaccine diplomacy? Explain the significance of Vaccine Diplomacy for India. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Vaccine diplomacy is an international tool used to increase country's soft power by engaging in sharing & development of vaccines to fight global pandemics.



Significance of Vaccine diplomacy for India :-

- (i) Upholds principle of vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - treating world as one big family.
- (ii) Significant softpower & goodwill increase.
- (iii) in line with Neighbourhood first policy.

(iv) Human intervention of for third world countries of Africa & Asia = geopolitical advantage.

(v) showed leadership with like minded countries like South Africa on Trade war at WTO.

(vi) China = virus maker
India = virus killer } perception change.

(vii) consolidates health & pharma sector
= VISHWAKARU.

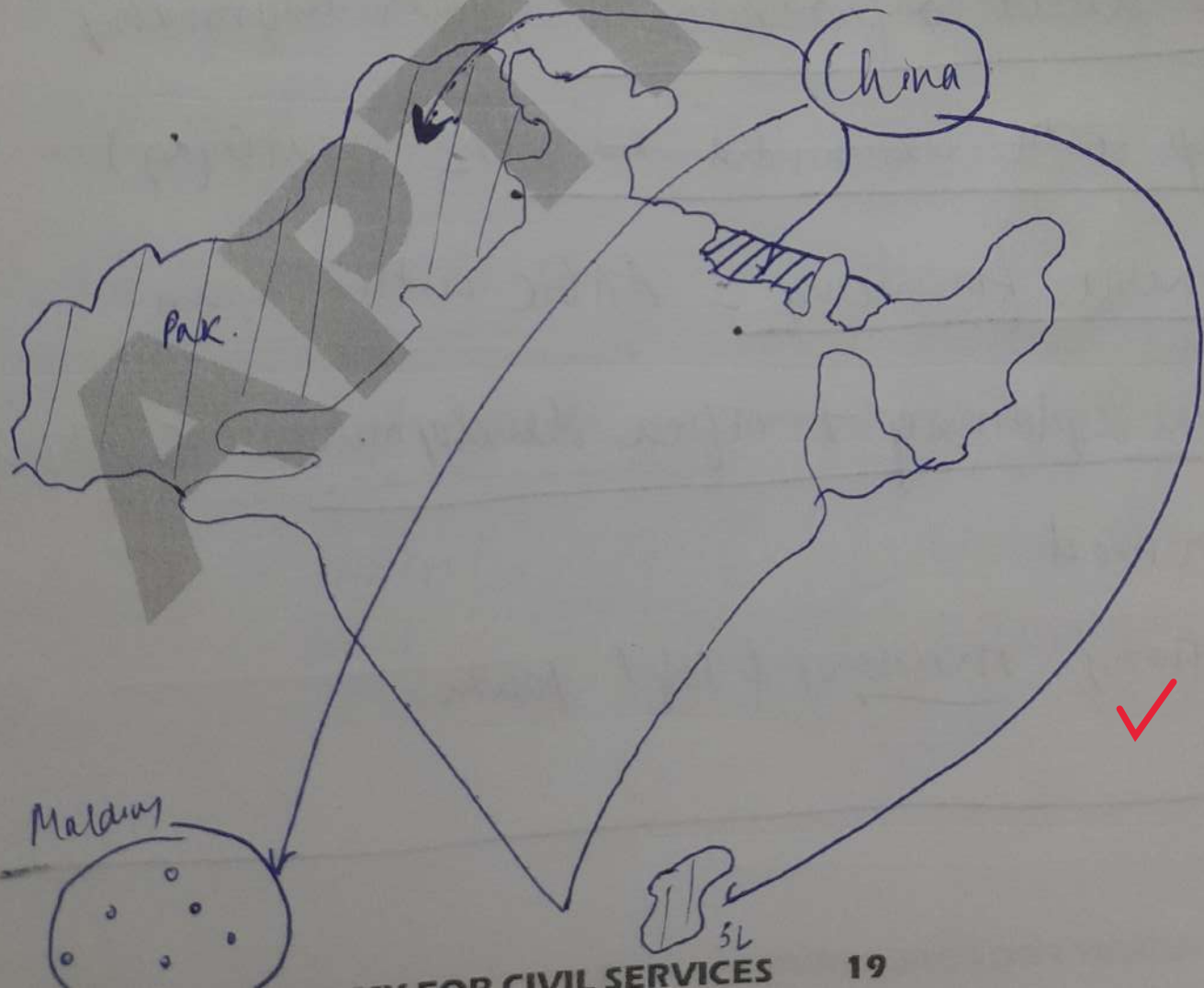
(viii) forex reserves = crossed \$ 900 bn

— PM Modi rightly said "with 60% of vaccine against COVID, India has now become the pharmacy of the world". **3.5/10**
diplomacy " feature in Cap of Indian Foreign Policy

Q 10. China has been recently extending its influence over small countries in India's neighborhood. How does it do so? What steps India needs to take to counter China's influence and safeguard its interests in the region? (150 Words, 10 Marks)

China, with its deep pockets & misguided ambitions aimed at not-so-peaceful rise, is strategically isolating India in its neighbours. ✓

Steps by China in our neighbourhood :- ✓



wrt Sri Lanka = Hambantota port on 99 yr lease = debt trap
wrt Pak = CPEC, BRI, Cheap loans, flooding markets,
Gwadar port
wrt Nepal = Cultural integration, rail link, financial packages
wrt Maldives = political interference, infra friendly, FT
wrt Bangladesh = deepening, defense, etc.

Steps for India to counter China :-

- (i) avoid direct confrontation = power asymmetry
- (ii) group with like minded nations = QUAD (19)
- (iii) sustainable financing = AAGIC with Japan
- (iv) vaccine diplomacy + infra development = CBM

neighborhood

3.5/10

Provide a conclusion.

- (v) strengthening military + soft power.

Q.11 Indian Union is a unitary state with subsidiary federal features rather than a federal state with subsidiary unitary features. Discuss various aspects of Indian federal scheme that showcases its unitary bias. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Constitutional Expert KC Wheare has called India "Quasi Federal" or "Federal in form, Unitary in character".

Founding fathers of Constitution made this arrangement to prevent any attempt at Balkanisation of the country.

Federal aspects with Unitary Bias:-

(1) Division of power - 7th schedule

Central = 97
State = 60
Concurrent = 17

} more topics +
overriding power
Concurrent list.

(ii) Emergency powers = Union dominates Centre
wrt directions issued + making laws on State
list ✓

(iii) Unequal representation in Rajya Sabha = based on
population (USA ✓ = 50 states → 2/state = 100 total)

(iv) Bodies headed by Central govt = eg:- GST,
Zonal Council etc. ✓

(v) Constitutional amendment power rests with
Centre. ✓

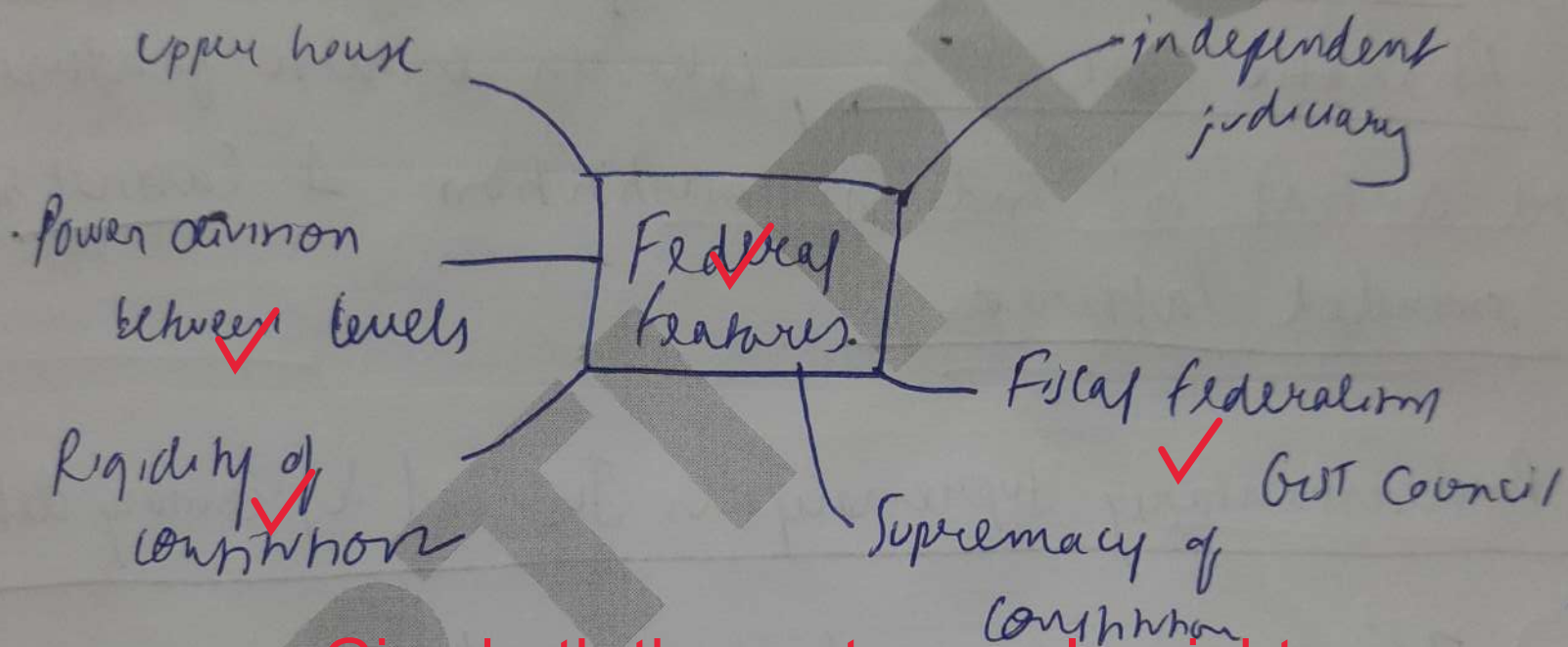
(vi) Complete control over naming, area &
boundary of state = freedom of redrawing
State limits. ✓

(vii) dependence of states for finances on Centre :-
eg:- Ars. ✓

(viii) Unified Judiciary = SC at top ✓

(ix) Position of Governor = acts as agent of Centre.

(x) All India services = 4312 = recruited by Centre, serving states, but state can't remove them.



Give both the parts equal weightage.

→ despite certain unitary elements, federal continues to be a basic structure & judicial lynchpin of our polity, as per Keshavananda

Bhargava Case 1983

5.5/15

Q.12. How has the Doctrine of Basic Structure settled a conflict between Parliamentary supremacy and judicial supremacy in India? (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Doctrine of Basic Structure (DBS) is a judicial innovation resulting from Keshavananda Bharati Case 1973, wherein certain features are central to Indian Constitution & cannot be amended/altared.

Parliamentary Supremacy vs Judicial Supremacy debate

(i) 1st CAA 1951 introduced A 31 b, which has challenged on grounds of violation of A 13 & A 14.

(ii) In Shankari Prasad case (1952), SC upheld the parliament power to amend the Constitution in totality.

(iii) Golaknath Case (1967) - reversed 1955 verdict -
no power to ammend Part III (F.R.)

(iv) Parliament passed 42nd CAA 1971 - restoring
full amending power.

(v) Finally in 1973, KB Case, SC overruled
Golaknath case

(a) Parliament allowed to amend FR

(b) " not " to amend any
principle following basic structure of the
Constitution.

- settling the conflict: Significance of DBJ

(1) Helped establish supremacy of Constitution
against any organ of government.

(2) Safeguards Constitution & power bestowed
prevents misuse of authority.

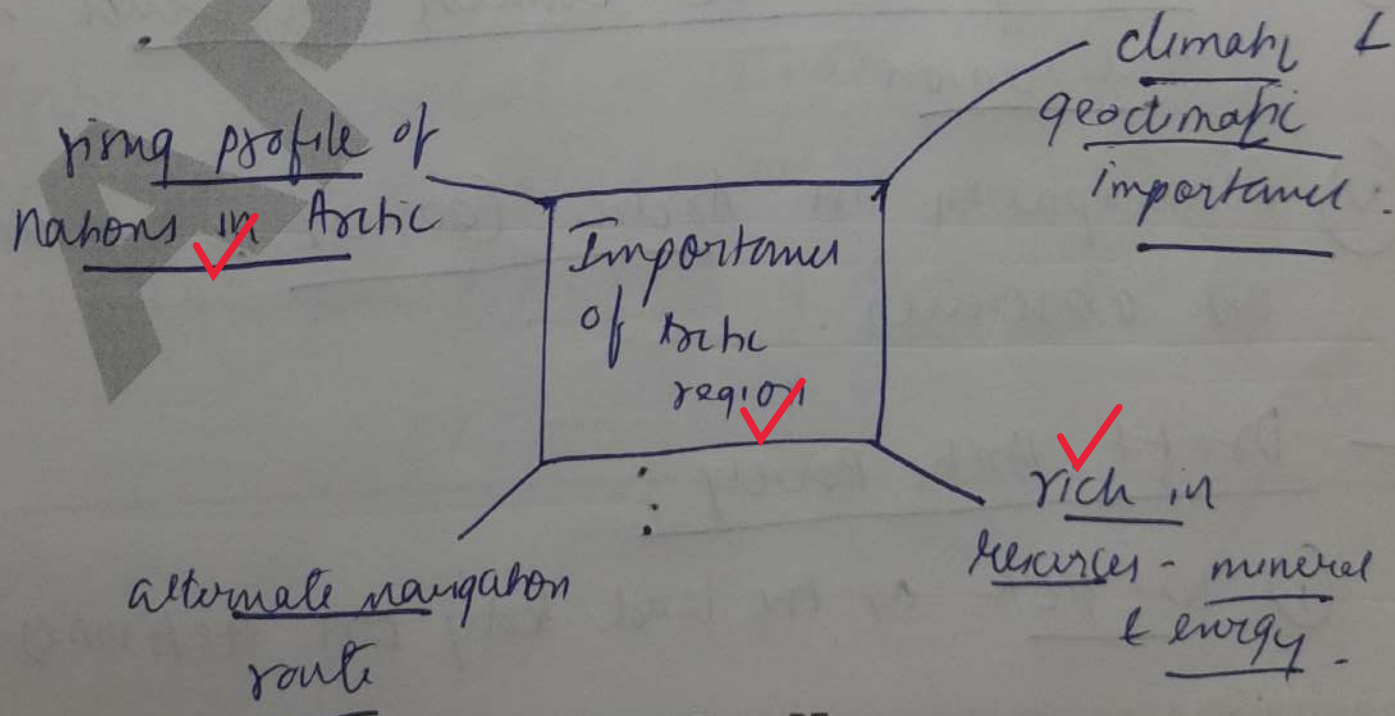
(iii) Safeguards Constitutionalism ✓ = prevents
erosion of legitimate authority that prevents
~~forming~~ creation of totalitarian state.

The DBJ ✓ created a middle path of
Constitutional sovereignty, between the
Judicial sovereignty (of USA) & parliamentary
sovereignty ✓ (of UK). 6/15

Good use of examples.

Q.13 Highlight India's ambitions towards Arctic Ocean along with explaining India's Arctic Policy. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

The Arctic region lies north to 60° 1/2' N to the North pole — housing almost 12% of global population, India's Arctic policy ✓ is synonymous to the rising profile of region in India's Foreign Policy ✓.



Need of the region for India :-

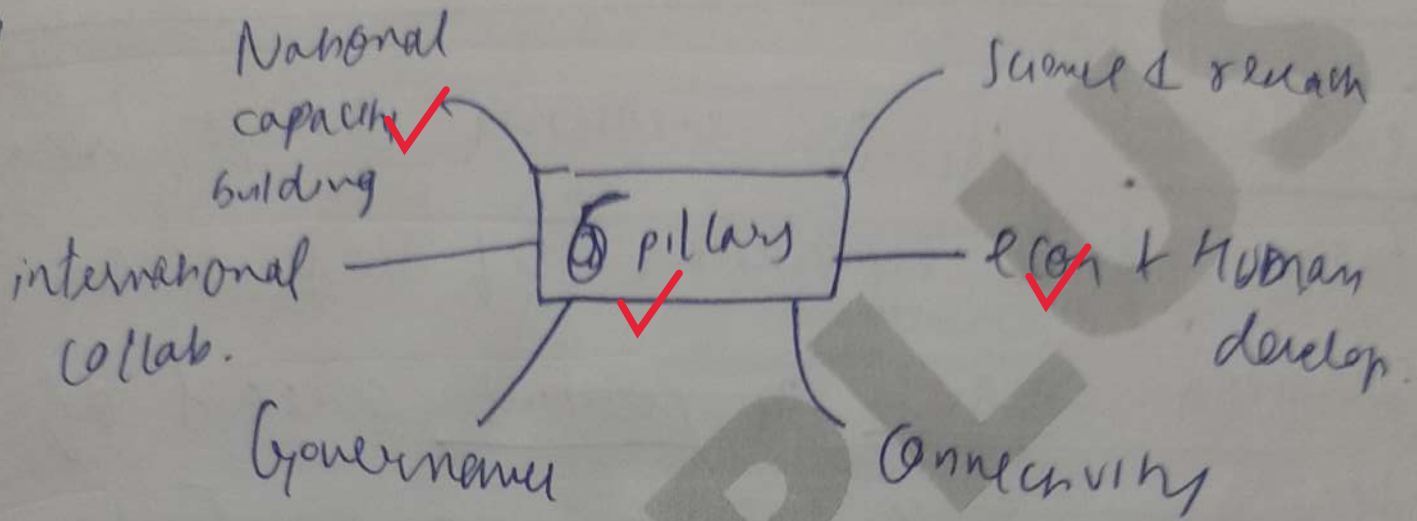
- (i) Global cooperation = as the race of visibility in archic warms up, India can't afford to be left behind.
- (ii) Key trade routes in the region = Can cut logistics cost (2019 - 14% of GDP)
- (iii) Economic significance = diversifying markets, especially energy & rare metals.
- (iv) Countering american Chinese influence in the region.
- (v) Participation in Arctic Council = currently as observer.

Draft Arctic Policy :-

- (i) NCPOR as the lead body on activities

Concerning Arctic.

(ii)



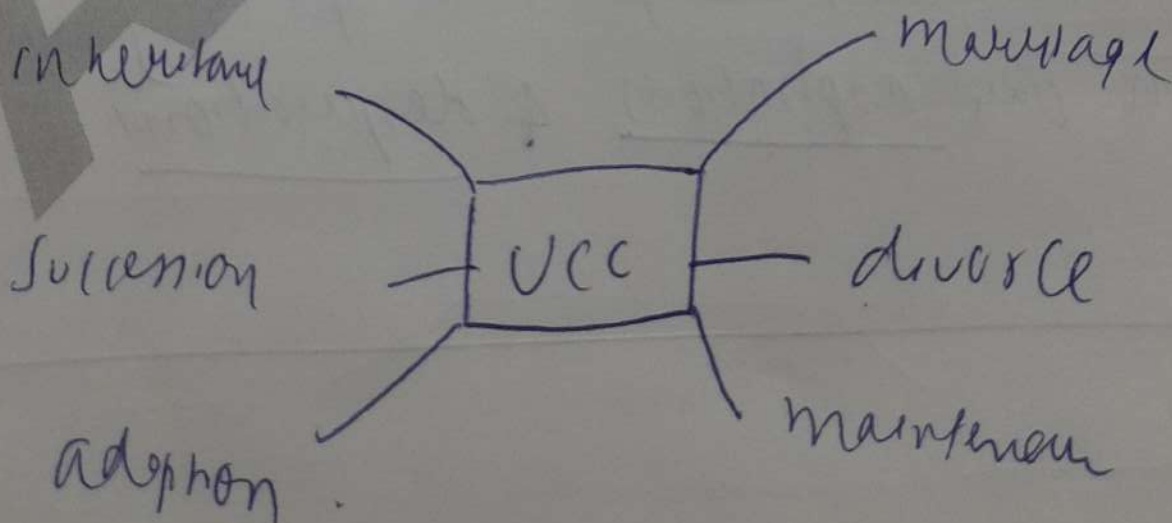
(iii) India envisions Arctic as "the next
great frontier" for mankind's evolution.

Arctic is central to India's long term interest, and needs cooperation globally to match our aspirations & aspirations.

Q14. Does a top-down approach in the implementation of Uniform Civil Code augur well for the Indian version of Secularism? Critically Examine (15 Marks, 250 words)

Secularism is a western concept which talks about separation of state from religion. Indian or postive model of secularism talks about non interference of state in religion.

o A 44 = Uniform Civil Code = example of top to bottom secularism → uniform civil laws to all citizens.



Top to down approach argues well :-

- (i) Success of GOA = Only state to follow UCC = very peaceful & successful
- (ii) in line with SC judgements - eg:-
Shah Bano case (1985), Sarla Mudgal (1999)
& Shayara Bano case (2017).
- (iii) in consonance with changing times =
in 21st century, women equal to men here
need equal protection before law.
- (iv) Complexity = of multiple religious codes -
increases differences & divides.
- (v) Global success = eg:- US, UK, France
- (vi) dream of National leaders = eg:- Dr. Ambedkar,

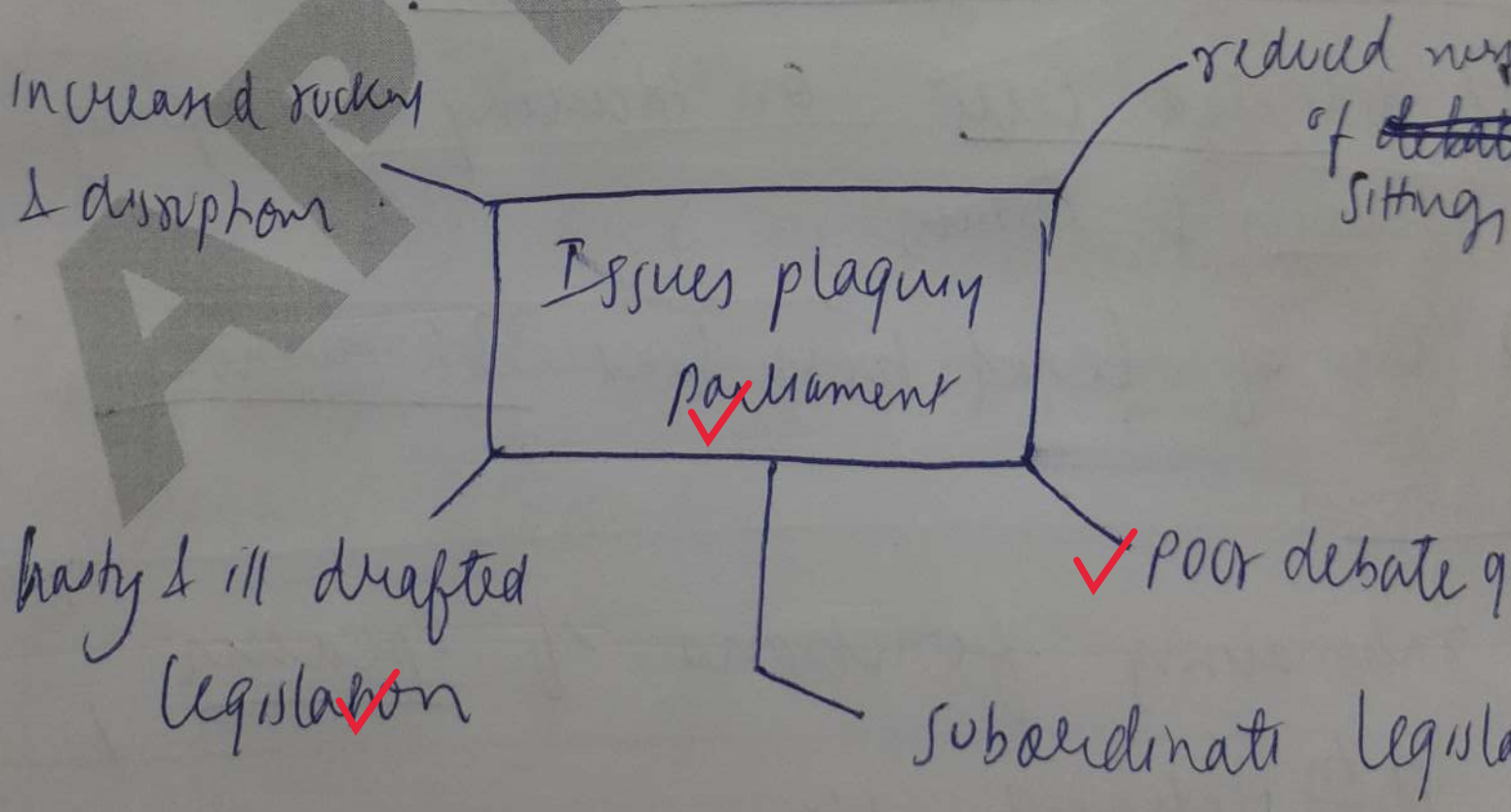
VCC doesn't argue well :-

- (i) fear of tyranny of majority over minority.
- (ii) lack of precise information about VCC creates panic.
- (iii) Threat to plurality → Communal disharmony
- (iv) Communities won't agree - eg:- Muslims = Shariat Act 1937 = only obey Quran
- (v) Complexity of religion diversity + encroachment of state in personal freedom

VCC is a novel idea who's time hasn't come yet. Rather than this, a bottom to top approach in increasing fraternity & dialogue would be more productive

Q.15. "Parliament is for constructive policy making and not for political manoeuvres". Comment. Also, suggest reforms needed to make Parliament more productive, efficient and responsive. (15 Marks, 250 words)

Parliament is the highest law making body in the country. It has been witness to historic people & debates, whose standards have come down ~~over~~ [✓] sadly over past couple of decades. This has been due to "Politics dominating policy".



• Making parliament productive :-

- (i) increase in number of sessions to minimize 100 in Lok Sabha per year.
- (ii) Permanent suspension of ~~other~~ unruly members by speaker led panel.
- (iii) System of shadow cabinet = eg UK

• Making parliament responsible :-

- (i) dedicated cells on tackling emergency issues & notices
- (ii) Use of legal tools like 331. Reservation for women
- (iii) rationalizing functions of speaker, 9th schedule etc.

• Making parliament efficient

- (i) improve research ecosystem of parliament
- (ii) need for PBO = parliamentary budget office
- (iii) Use of power point presentations, paperless sadan (eg:- Uttarakhand) & data analytics to monitor performance.

- Parliament is the hallimark of our democracy. It is high time the prestiged institution be used as a council for cooperation, rather than an arena of political gladiators.

Q 16

Q 16. Discuss the importance of women's representation in political decision making towards gender equality. Can reservation for women in Indian Parliament bring about behavioral change on women issues? Capture the divergent views (15 Marks, 250 words)

Misc Q17 in Q16

Digital governance is the use of multifaceted digital tools to improve

governance & governability. Eg:- CPC

by Govt.

impact of digital governance

service delivery = Bhoomi portal

Grievance redressal = my gov. 24

monitoring & training = Mission Ka

information dissemination

Departmental to citizen centric approach

(1) brings government from cabins to doorsteps.

(ii) equitable access of public services to people.

(iii) localised solutions for localised problems.

(iv) bottom to top or decentralised approach in governance.

↳ data driven decision making = a growth towards future.

• Challenges persisting in new approach :-

(i) Resistance to devolution = due to colonial bureaucratic mindset persisting among people.

(ii) issues over data = w.r.t quality, collection & analysis.

(iii) non reciprocity of by local governance

units like PRIs.

(iv) motual distrust between bureaucracy & local admin at lower level - causing friction.

(v) data security issues - Provide govt. initiatives and portals.

- citizen centric government is key in 21st

Century. via decentralisation, government should aspire to bring governance to people

& not the other way around.

5.5/15

Q.17 The agenda for next generation of digital governance is moving away from present departmental approach to a more personalized and proactive form of governance." Analyse the above statement in the light of adoption of data driven robust digital governance ecosystem. (15 Marks, 250 words)

muswoti 616 m 017

There has been a recent demand by Women MPs to implement 108th LAA provision of 1/3rd seats in parliament for women ✓

• Women representation towards gender equality ✓

(i) level playing field = to women, who despite 99% of population hold only 14% of LS seats (ADR) ✓

(ii) Gender perspective in laws would be catalysed by ✓ women participating

in greater numbers in lawmaking.

(ii) It would do away with misogyny & patriarchy prevalent in society

(iv) India ranks poorly on Gender Inequality Index (GII). Political participation of women, if improved, can bring improvement in such rankings.

Participation brings behavioral change

- men will get used to idea of women leaders
- Gender neutral discourse & outlook
- better women perspectives in policy making

Participation not bringing behavioral change

- Women might become proxy for their husbands (saayamch-Pah phenomenon)
- lowers efficiency of parliamentary process
- against gender

- will have spillover effect to other sectors
- encourage women participation.



parity in election.

- against voter choice - Conflicts with right to ^{own} choice.
- some parties opposed to the idea



The previous decade has witnessed rising women participation in politics. Measures like reserving seats for women can bring positive improvement in status of women, but the more needs adequate societal & legal-institutional safeguards.

5.5/15

Q.18. Self Help Groups (SHGs) has emerged as an innovative programme in dealing with the feminization of poverty in India. To what extent, SHGs have been successful in achieving its objectives? (15 Marks, 250 words)

Self help Groups (SHGs) are an informal association of people who come together & pool their resources towards achieving a socio-economic objective.

A report stated that India has over 84 lakh SHGs active as of 2017.

SHGs helping combat feminization of poverty

(i) Empowerment = makes a women an organize & decision maker.

(ii) Bringing together women & sharing experiences. < learning

(iii) Access to resources = increased pool of financial & non financial resources.

(iv) Better bargain power - Collectively, w.r.t. raising loans or supply contracts

(v) Empower political participation = eg in Gram panchayat, Sabha etc.

• Successes of STICs :-

(i) increased diversification of incomes - away from farm dependent families!

(ii) increase in women led entrepreneurship

eg :- MUDRA loans
 → 66% benefic. women
 → 81% better repayment than men.

(iii) revitalising local economy = eg:- Lijjat rapad

(iv) AMUL is the biggest example of a SHG with global presence.

• Failures of SHGs:-

- (i) lack of expertise : product & technical.
- (ii) low institutional support - due to patriarchy.
- (iii) high expenditure of ancillary activities -
eg:- audit, book keeping etc.
- (iv) low per capita income = eg:- North East.
- (v) Need for financial & operational handhold

Good answer.

SHGs can have the potential to be women centered. A women led growth in India, and requires multistakeholder action.

6.5/15

Q.19. Comment on the role played by the diaspora in India's development process. Also, discuss the challenges in terms of engaging the Indian diaspora and suggest ways to translate these partnerships into benefits. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Indian diaspora includes people of Indian origins (PIO), NRIs, OCI and others residing outside India. Indian diaspora is one of the highest in the world with over 30 million people globally.



Challenges in engaging with diaspora :-

- (i) Geographical variations = 90% diaspora restricted to 9 countries.
- (ii) not mobilised automatically
- (iii) Personal interests prioritised over ~~rather~~ national interests.
- (iv) Radical elements in diaspora = eg:- Khalistanis in Canada.
- (v) Over emphasis on economic engagement over other forms of engagement.

Steps to be taken to improve engagement

- (i) dedicated diaspora cell in MoEA & embassies.

(i) Negotiating trade agreements with emphasis on preferential movement of Indians.

Celebrating Pravasi Bharatiya divas, etc.

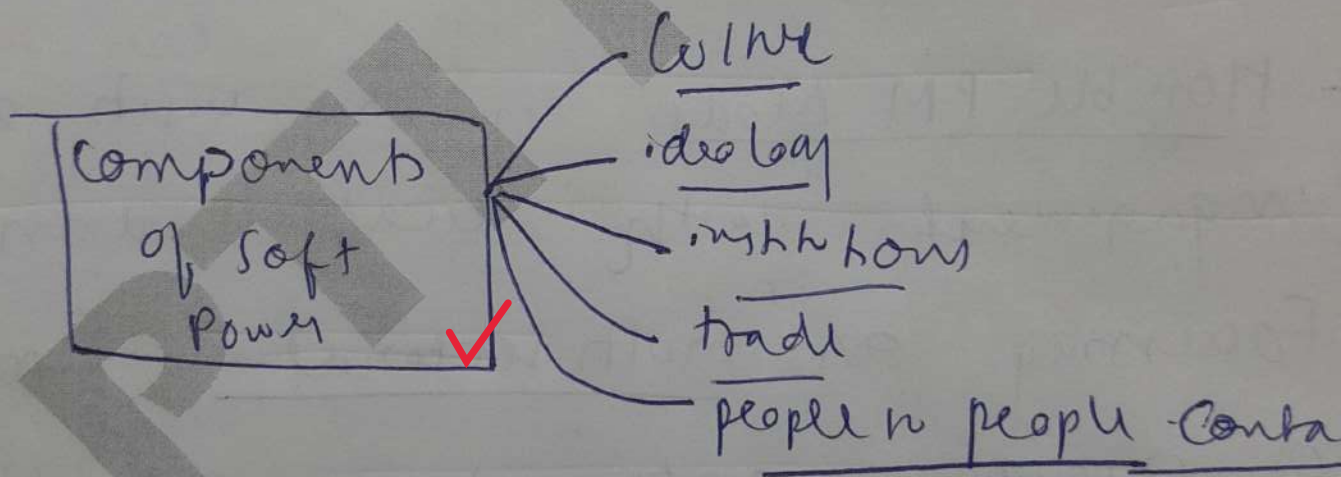
(ii) need for reskilling & rehabilitation scheme, especially ✓ to retraining blue collar workforce.

Try to mention govt. initiatives as much as possible.

— Hon'ble PM Modi in his visits encourage engagement with ✓ local Indian population. Focussing on multi sectoral importance of diaspora rather than unifocal economic agenda, will further reap dividends for the ✓ nation. **5.5/15**

Q.20. Despite India having immense soft power potential, it alone will not be sufficient to achieve India's foreign policy objectives. Examine (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Soft power is the ability of a country to influence other countries to do what it wants without resorting to threat or use of force.



India's soft power potential :-

(1) Yoga, meditation, spiritual healing = 27th

June = World Yoga Day

(ii) Bollywood & local movie industry =

reputed & common at global arena.

(iii) Vaccine diplomacy = made India the
pharmacy of the world, boosted soft
power.

(iv) Use of institutions = eg:- TRIPS waiver
at WTO led by India.

(v) moral stand & democratic ethos = voice
of the Global South eg:- G77, SIDS etc

Limitations of Soft Power :-

(i) inadequate in the presently conflict
prone world.

(ii) hasn't helped India deal with terror

neighbours like Pakistan, China.

(ii) General perception is that India delivers below potential and Soft Power ineffectiveness is one reason behind it.

The current geopolitical scenario requires a nuanced approach — a combination of hard & soft power

(called Smart power) can be best used for securing & futureing

India's foreign policy interests.

Good.

6/15