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**ANSWER**  
**WRITING**

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Mains Answer Writing -  
Most Easiest and Fruitful part of  
UPSC preparation.

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## Q.) Discuss the role of Rajya Sabha in Parliamentary System. Examine the issues surrounding its functions.

‘The Council of States’ is the second chamber of Indian parliament, intended to play certain role as a permanent house and offers a degree of continuity in the underlying policies of laws passed by Parliament.

- It acts as a means to institutionalise the federal principle of power sharing between centre and states, and also acts as a Safety Valve of India’s Federal Polity thus easing the federal tensions.
- It also plays the role of a deliberative body which enables the members to debate major issue of Public importance and thus balances the ‘fickleness and passion’ of Lok Sabha.

However, in the recent times, many issues have come up, questioning the functions of Rajya Sabha such as -

1. **Bypassing the Rajya Sabha** - Ordinary Bills being presented in the form of Money Bill. Example Aadhar Bill and other bills are passed with a Voice vote even when there no clear-cut distinction of majority in favour. Example - Farm Laws.
2. **No Equal Representation of States** - No. of seats allocated in Rajya Sabha to Uttar Pradesh alone is significantly higher than that of combined north-eastern states.
3. **Undermining the Federal character of Rajya Sabha** - the seats in the Rajya Sabha have been used by the ruling party to get their defeated candidate in Lok Sabha, elected in Rajya Sabha.
4. **Low Participation of Nominated Members** - Example Sachin Tendulkar during his term attended the session for a meagre 24 days.

Therefore, the steps that can be taken to strengthen the functioning of Rajya Sabha are -

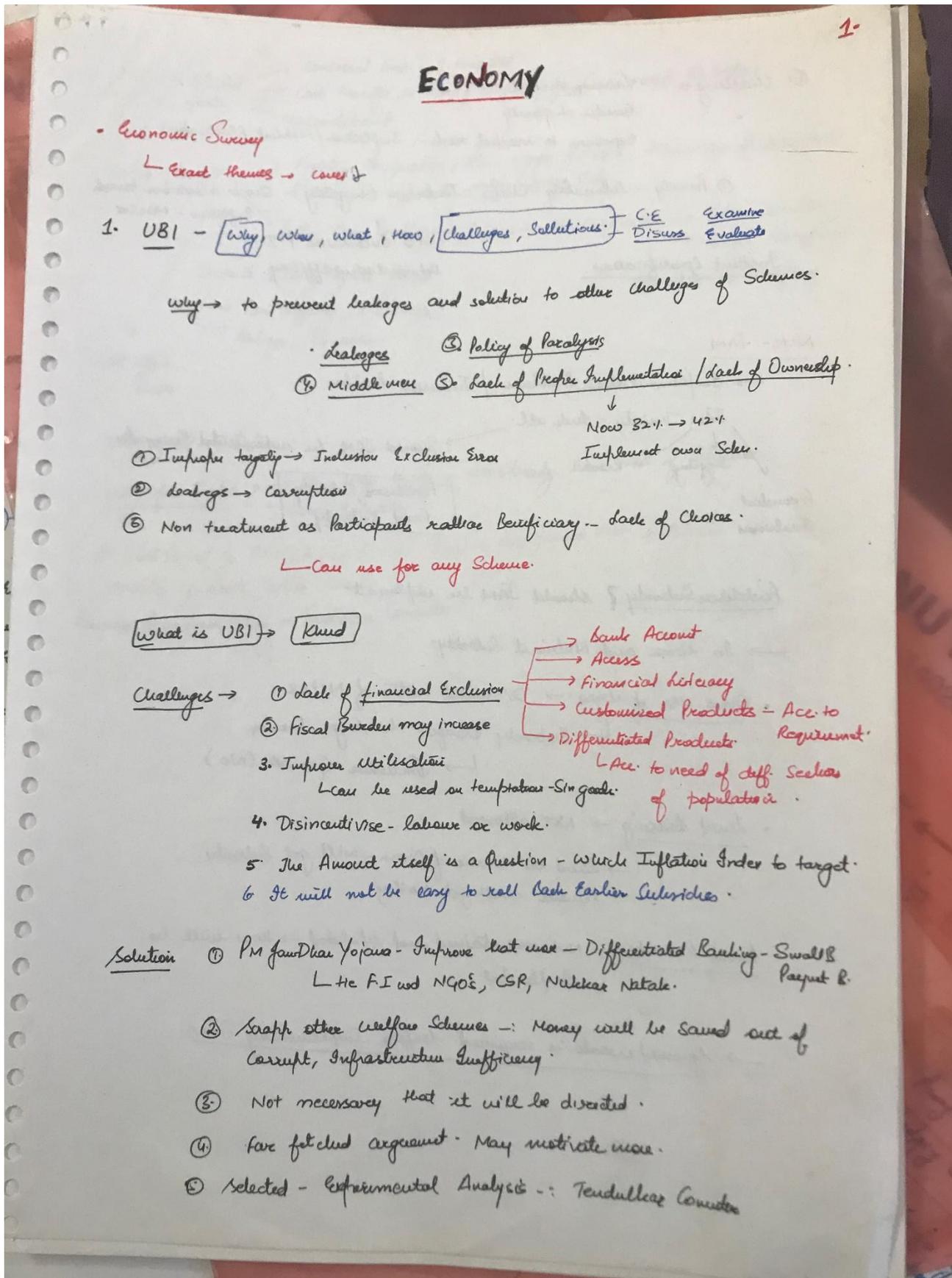
- Directly appointing the members of the Rajya Sabha - will reduce cronyism and patronage appointments.
- Federal Arrangement wherein there is equal representation of each state.
- Certain rules and procedure for Nominated members so that they also add to the efficacy of Rajya Sabha.

Rajya Sabha since its inception has remained a ‘vanguard for political and social values’, and flag bearer of Parliamentary ethos, therefore today efforts needs to be made to enable Rajya Sabha to retain its significant role in Indian democracy.

Source of the article - <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/theneed-for-a-second-chamber/article315600>

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**Q.) Hand Made Notes**



- ① Challenges - : Labour market  
Gender disparity  
Exposure to market risk - Inflation / Market fluctuation -

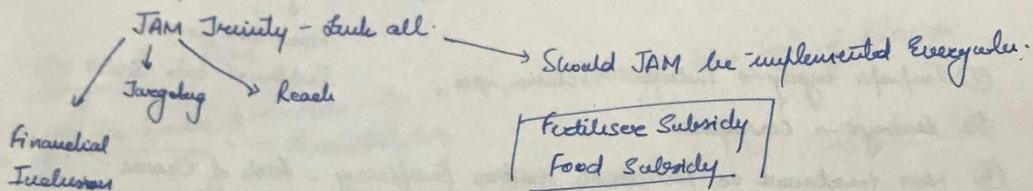
- ① Poverty - Vulnerability - Choice - Inclusion (targeting) - Stock allocation towards  
- Inflation - Market

Instant Gratification

Will Incentivise F+I  
Administrative Efficiency

Note - JAM

↳ Implementation Problem / Inclusion Problem



Fertiliser Subsidy? should JAM be implemented

→ In Urea and Nutrient Subsidy

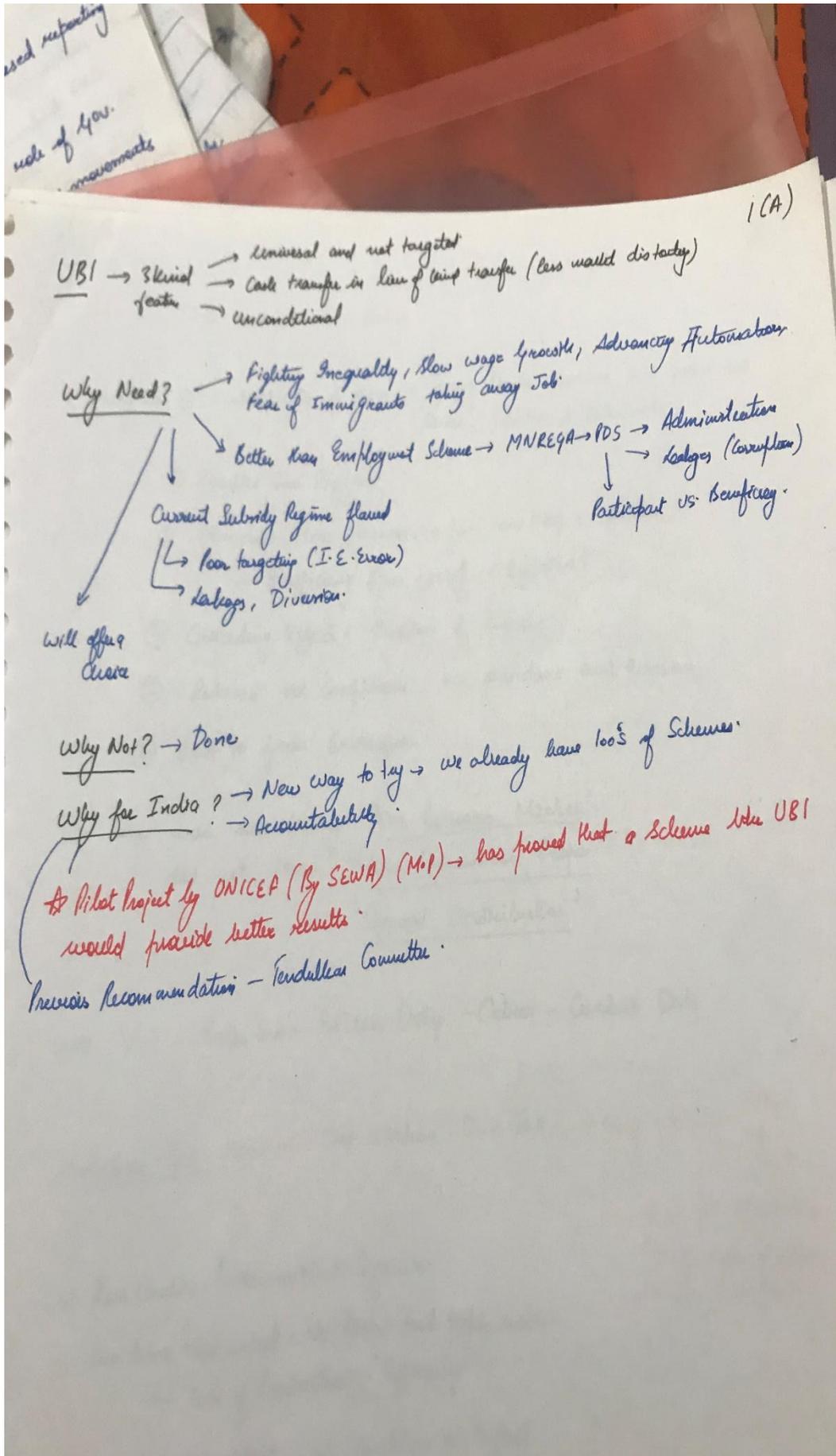
- Over use of Urea → Distorted ratio of N:P:K  
↳ Subsidy Benefit to large farmer  
↳ Inclusive Growth (No)

• Land Leasing → Not allowed

- ↳ Land on Name of Owner - will get Subsidy.
- ↳ tenant will get Nothing

• Land Records - : Not maintained and updated → how will be benefited

→ Ground work is required before Implementing JAM.



⇒ GST → GS II and GS III Both.

Why → ① Multiplicity of taxes → Taxing Powers divided b/w Centre and States, Problem of Interstate.

② Complex tax Regime.

③ Transverse time increases → from one stop to another.  
↳ Inefficiency ↓ → Cost ↑ → Inflation ↑

④ Cascading effect - Problem of Input.

⑤ Reduced tax Compliance - tax Avoidance and Evasion.

⑥ Loss to Govt. Exchequer

We were not having 'One Economic Market'  
did not have 'Fiscal Federalism' Proper.  
'Skewed Distribution'

⇒ VAT - Sales tax - Excise Duty - Octroi - Cess and Duty.

Solution - GST - How → ① One Nation - One Tax - Many states -  
SGST, CGST, IGST  
↳ Just for name sake  
Diff type of State.

2. Less Complex - Interconnected - Organic.

3. Less time transversed - No forms and paper work  
↳ Cost of Production - Efficiency

4. No Cascading effect - No problem of Input.

5. Tax Compliance will increase - 1 month - 3 returns

↳ Because of Organic Nature.

↳ Framework supports tax compliance.

Formation of chain tax

↳ Earlier before 2008 - Interstate - No Need

Now for Re 1 also - GST number required.

↳ Will lead to formalisation of Tax industry.

It will increase Govt. Expenditure.

Challenges -:

1. Many Commodities Excluded because of Pressure of State  
↳ Petrol - Diesel. → GST Council → States wanted.  
↳ Decided Federally - Need to Respect - Strong State limited strong nature

2. How One Nation - One tax

↳ States - Complexity →

It is a transitional phase with time will become Normal and will remove complexities.

3. Devolution to Panchayats still remains a problem - No provision of Compensation to States - Panchayats.

→ States should do proper devolution of Power and Money.

4. Revenue Neutral Rate - Ambiguity and seems too high. (Increase base and lower the rate) - On a higher side.

→ If done by Committee focus - sufficient funding has been done - cascading tax effect was more than this.

5. Proper representation of States has not been made - Union prevailed over federalism.

6. Destination Based tax - Disincentivises the Manufacturing State.  
↳ Push towards Consumption

→ May be movement starts in State where there is purchase - Push to Industry - Consumerism - Industry may move.

7. Ambiguity once the time period ends of Compensation to State

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• GST continued →

Impact on Per Capita Income of all states →

1. Fiscal Capacity of all States → Simplified Regime Increase tax Base.
  - ↳ Unique feature of Input tax Credit → Bring Unorganised Sectors under tax Net.
  - ↳ Improved Governance and Reduce Corruptions.

2. Boost to Investment →

- Cheaper Capital Goods 'Revenue Neutral Rate' report of 'Aswini Mehta Committee' → Investment in Economy would increase → GDP ↑ 0.5%.

3. Initially decrease ICI of manufacturing State as destination based tax.
  - ↳ Consumption driven States will get a push and will lead to balanced Growth of Economy.

★ GST will increase 'Convergence' among the States.

## DEMONETISATION

- 1) Parallel Economy - Black Money. Why done ↓
- 2) Counterfeit Currency - Fake Currency
- 3) financing of Illegal Activities towards Including Terrorist.  
↳ tax Evasion - Hawala.
- 4) Problem of transparency / Accountability → 86:1 Cash / GDP Ratio.  
↳ leading to Informalisation / Loss to Exchequer.

⇒ legal tender of 500/1000 → Ordinances → withdrawn.

### Challenges →

- Short term →
- ① Liquidity Crunch
  - ② Standing long in Queues
  - ③ Poor One more affected.
  - ④ Informal Sector impacted especially Agriculture.
  - ⑤ Digital literacy → Not upto mark.
  - ⑥ No ground work done

### Long term

- ① Growth suffers.
- ② After Remonetisation - Curbing Black Money, Illegal Activities still a challenge.

Solutions → ① Terrorist financing is not the root cause of Terror.  
↳ Go to Root cause of Terror

- ② For Fake Currency → Porus Borders - Management.
- ③ Black Money → Ease of Doing Business  
↳ Complex Tax Regime.

## ① Digital India

Challenges -

- ① Psychological Distance vs. Physical Distance.  
↳ Drive towards Digital India could further increase the class divide. b/w banked and unbanked.

- ② Digital Infrastructure.

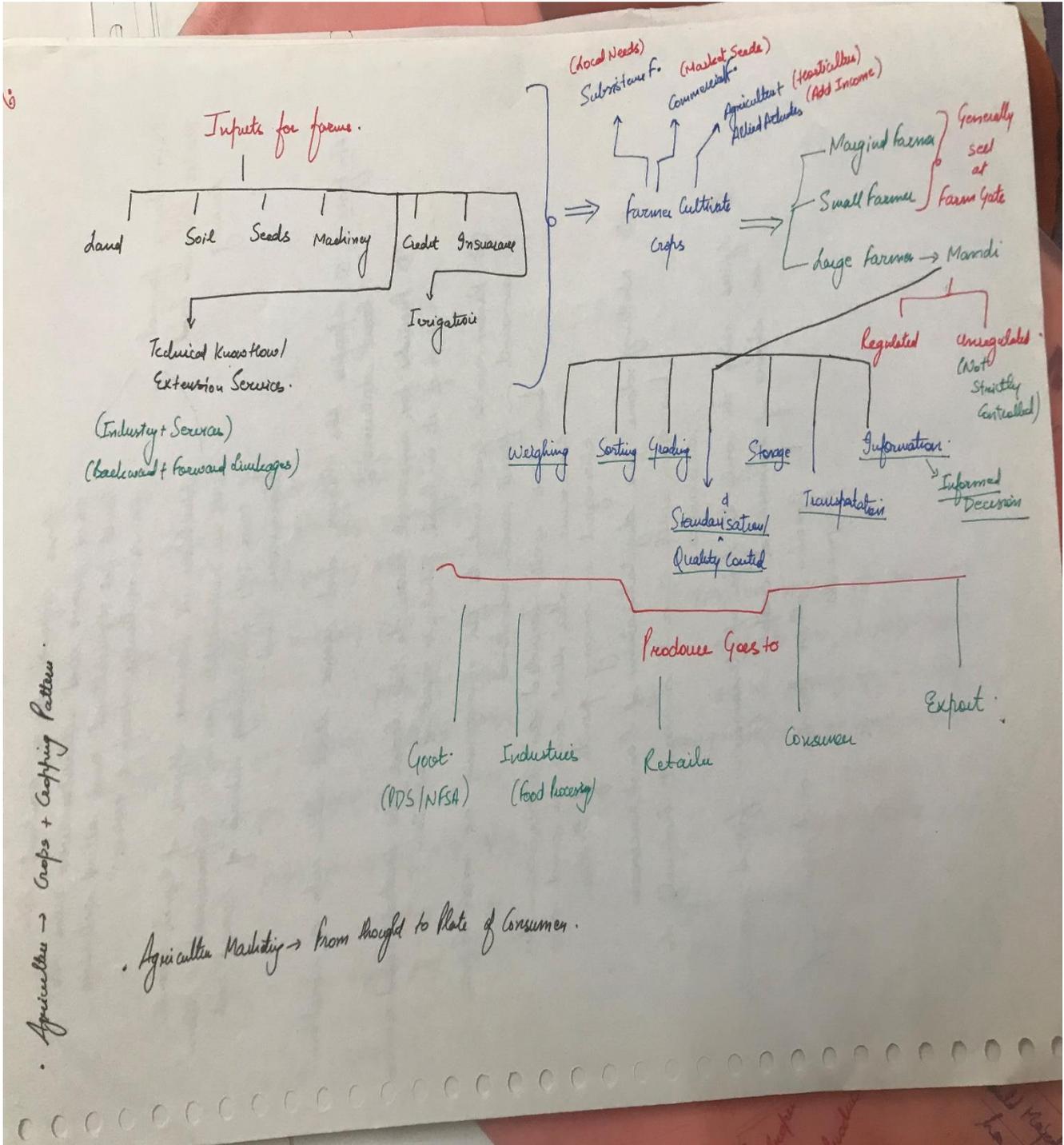
- ③ Digital Illiteracy.

- ④ Prevalence of Black Money and its owners prove to be a road blockers of D.I.

- ⑤ Security Cyber threats. → Ransomware ✓

Way out

- ① Behavioural Change
- ② Creating Avenues for Digital Payment → Financial Inclusion.
- ③ Incentivizing Digital Transactions (Dukh Grahak Yojana)
- ④ Projects like DBI make a push.
- ⑤ Providing Digital literacy.
- ⑥ Online Banking Ombudsman.



## 6 India and Pulses :-

- Reason for Shortage
- ① Only grown in rain fed areas.  
↳ Erratic production.
  - ② Poor access to storage and milling facilities.  
↳ Risk to farmers.
  - ③ Poor market linkages.
  - ④ Procurement prices are low.
  - ⑤ Stagnant production and productivity over years.
  - ⑥ Tendency to switch to other crops like wheat-rice which are more profitable.

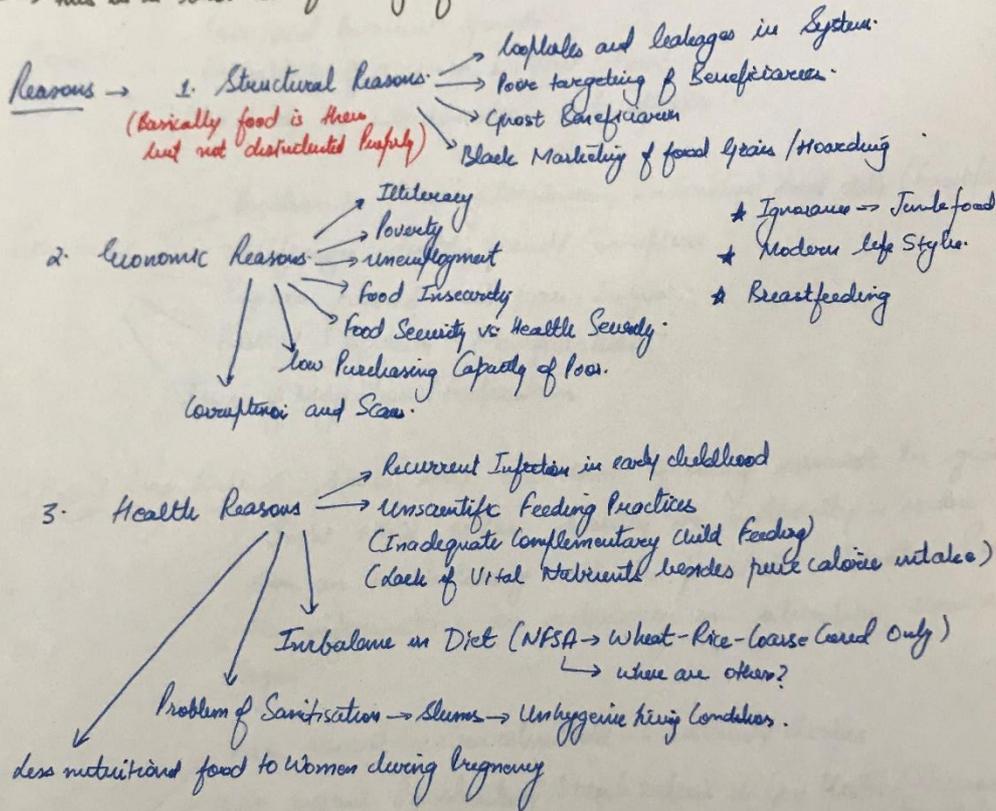
- Strategies to ↑ Supply
- ① Better MSP
  - ② Production in Irrigated Areas
  - ③ Expanding the area under pulse production.
  - ④ Creation of Infra for Storage.
  - ⑤ Providing Micro Irrigation in Rain fed Areas.

## MALNOURISHMENT

rapid rising in children - Malnourishment should be included as a medical emergency in order to further decrease.

- ↳ 38% - stunted (low height for age)
- 30% - Underweight (low weight for age)
- 15% - wasted (low weight for age)

→ this is a blot on functioning of PDS and NFSA.



Way out → On lines of Iodized salts → fortified food should be provided → Biofortification.

- Reform of Govt. policies and Schemes.
- Improved Health Care system.
- Education and Awareness -: Child Care and Nutritional Intake

\* **MULWARI** → Scheme of Chattergari aims to curb malnutrition by providing balanced and nutritious diet to women + children

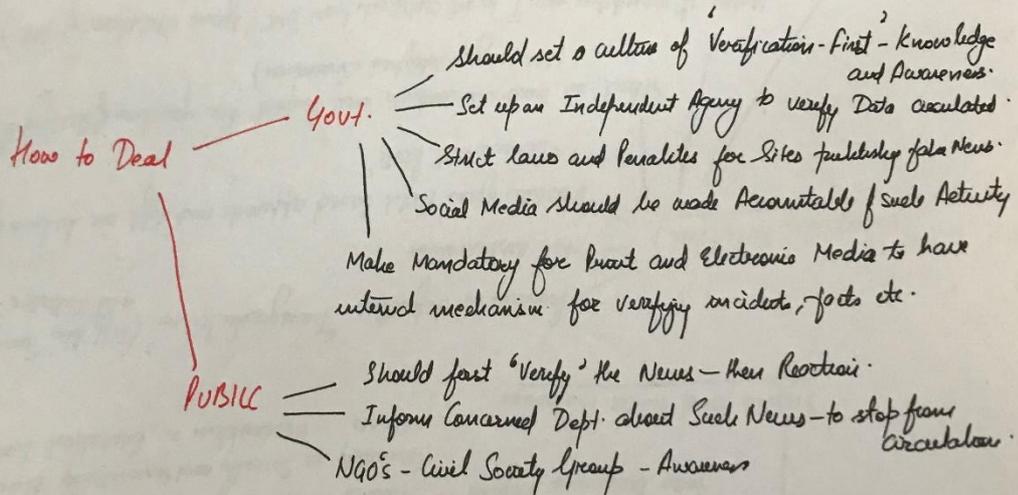
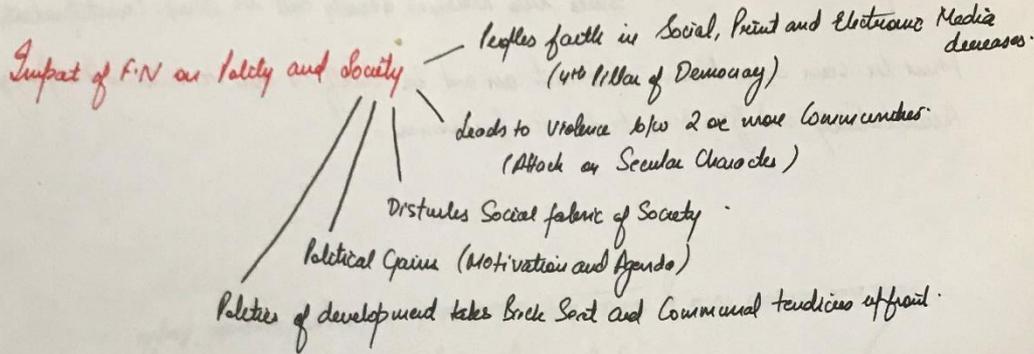
- Educating Mother about Breastfeeding.
- Use of Biotech → fortified foods.

## Social Media

### - Fake News menace

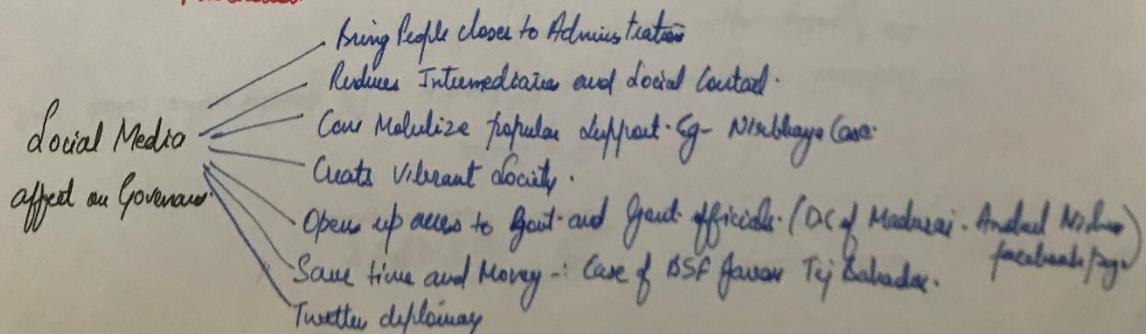
Cases — Mass Exodus of NE people from Bangalore  
— Muzaffarnagar Riots.

- Arab Spring
- Occupy Wall Street
- Flight of war refugees
- Earthquake Survivors



\* Social Media is Empowers Civil Society as third Pillar of Governance.

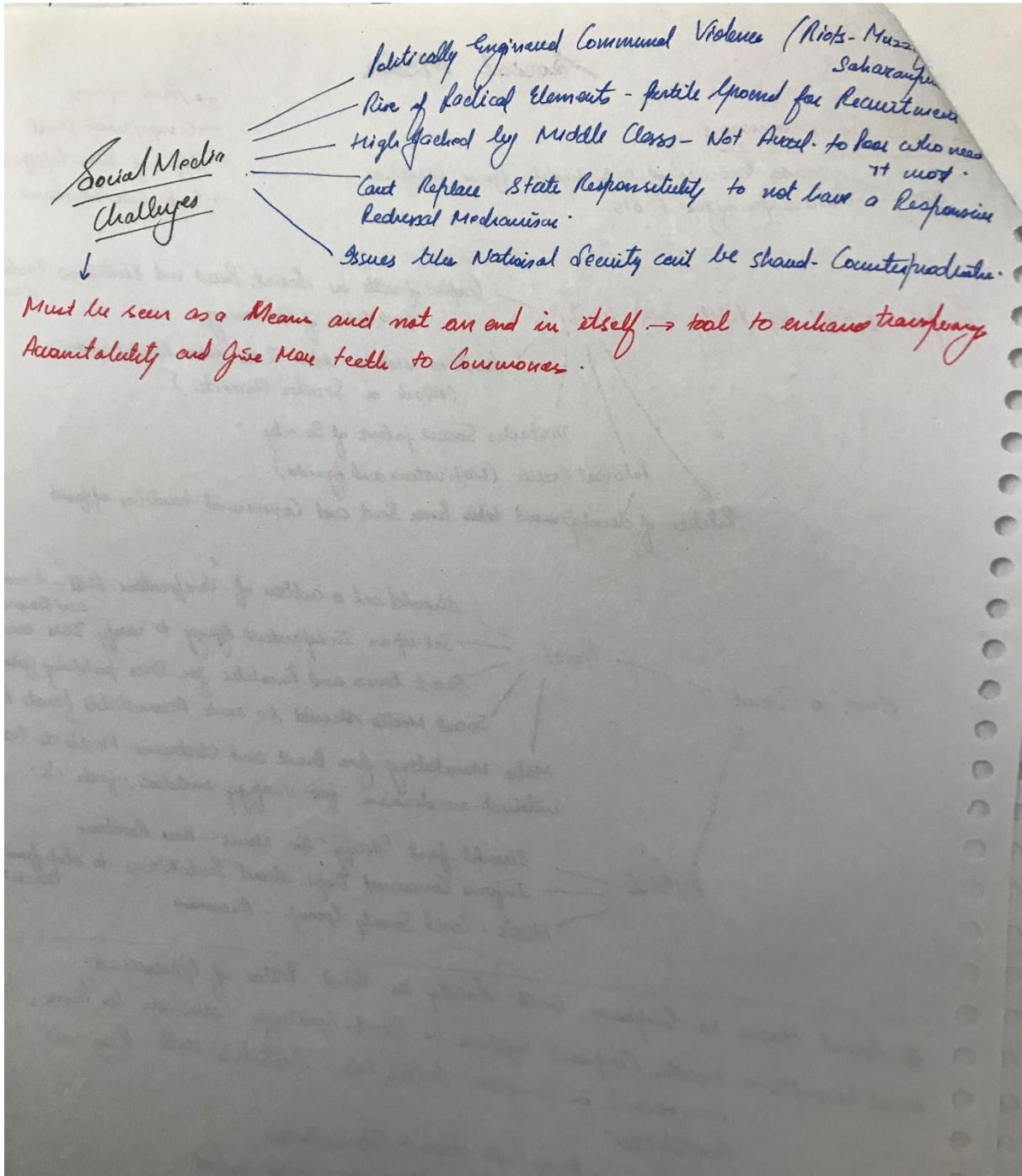
Local Examples → Waste Disposal System in Surat, Garbage Collection in Pune, traffic Management in Bangalore, Delhi Police Initiative with Resident welfare Association.



D. ...

to Kailash Satyarthi.

- Bangalore, Nov. 0



19-11-21  
Golden Trinity - Freedom - Equality - Untouchability

## 3<sup>rd</sup> GENDER

- NALSA vs. Union of India → SC of India
  - ↳ Declared transgender to be 3<sup>rd</sup> Gender - FR granted under Court. will be Equally applicable to transgender.

Judgement

- Legal Recognition to Third Gender.
- Legal R. for persons transitioning and male/female Binary.
  - ↳ use "Psychological test against Biological test"
- Public Health and Stigmatisation
- Socio Economic Rights - Provide Social Welfare Schemes and treat Community as Socially and Economically Backward Classes. - Reservation in Educational Institutions.
- Stigma and Public Awareness

Transgender Bill (2016)

- Problem in definition 'Transgender person' (Diff. b/w Transgender and Intersex Individuals)
- No Reservation
- Deviates from Right Based approach and left on helms of 'Benevolent State'
- Silent on how its contents will impact the operation of Existing laws. (Marriage - Adoption - Succession)
- Makes it mandatory for T to get certificate from DM (If any violation of HR)
- Does not address issue of Section 377 which used to harass transgender people

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## Q.) What is Global Minimum Tax Rate? What are the foreseeable challenges for its implementation in India and how can we overcome it?

**Context - Finance Ministers from the Group of Seven (G7)** rich nations reached a landmark accord on backing the creation of a global minimum corporate tax rate of at least 15%, an agreement that could then form the basis of a worldwide deal.

### Global Minimum Tax Rate

- Major economies are aiming to discourage multinationals from shifting profits - and tax revenues - to low-tax countries regardless of where their sales are made.
- Increasingly, income from intangible sources such as drug patents, software and royalties on intellectual property has migrated to these jurisdictions, allowing companies to avoid paying higher taxes in their traditional home countries.
- The global minimum tax rate would apply to overseas profits. Governments could still set whatever local corporate tax rate they want, but if companies pay lower rates in a particular country, their home governments could "top-up" their taxes to the minimum rate, eliminating the advantage of shifting profits.
- Now, with its proposal for a minimum 15% tax rate, the USA administration hopes to reduce such tax base erosion without putting American firms at a financial disadvantage, allowing competition on innovation, infrastructure and other attributes.
- Apart from low-tax jurisdictions, the proposal for a minimum corporate tax are tailored to address the low effective rates of tax shelled out by some of the world's biggest corporations, including digital giants such as Apple, Alphabet and Facebook, as well as major corporations such as Nike and Starbucks.

### Process of tax avoidance

- These companies typically rely on complex webs of subsidiaries to Hoover profits out of major markets into low-tax countries such as Ireland or Caribbean nations such as the British Virgin Islands or the Bahamas, or to central American nations such as Panama.
- India's annual tax loss due to corporate tax abuse is estimated at over \$10 billion, according to the Tax Justice Network report.
- The US Treasury loses nearly \$50 billion a year to tax cheats, according to the Tax Justice Network report, with Germany and France also among the top losers.

### Impact on India

- **Tax sovereignty:** If the proposal comes into effect, India may experience a longer economic hangover than other developed nations with less ability to offer mega stimulus packages. A global minimum rate would essentially take away a tool that countries use to push policies that suit them.

- **Multilateralism** will further stumble in such a tax policy. The policy will create haves and have-nots across the world.
- **Deglobalization:** Tax-justice advocates will criticize the global minimum of 15% as too low, the global minimum as an unwarranted restriction that will impede their ability to attract investment for countries like India who have still stakes in globalization.
- **Differential treatment:** In inhospitable investment environments, lower taxes are one of the few immediate ways in which governments can compensate companies for the many disadvantages they face. For example, North East India and hill states in India.
- **Future of digital taxes:** India's digital equalisation levy (or the "Google tax"). Taxes of this kind have been consistently criticised by the US as unfairly targeting a particular sector. The global minimum tax's lack of clarification on the issue of digital taxation may be further dissuasion to countries like India.

### Measures to overcome the challenges:

- India attracts foreign investment owing to its large internal market, quality labour at competitive rates, strategic location for exports, and a thriving private sector. Hence India must focus on skill development, lowering cost of transport and improving other ease of doing business indicators to attract more investment.
- India must demand for more clarity on digital equalization levies to assert its right to tax income generated in its jurisdiction.
- India must "proactively engaging" with foreign governments with a view to facilitating and enhancing exchange of information under Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements, Tax Information Exchange Agreements and Multilateral Conventions to plug loopholes. Besides, "effective enforcement actions" including expeditious investigation in foreign assets cases have been launched, including searches, enquiries, levy of taxes, penalties, etc and filing of prosecution complaints, wherever applicable.

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**Q.) How far do you agree that the National Commission for SCs is able to tackle the problem faced by Dalits in India? Critically Analyse.**

**Structure -**

- Intro - Brief about NCSC.
- Body - Issues prevailing among the NCSC and then write about the reasons behind these Issues. Also talk about the positives of NCSC (So as to give a holistic view about NCSC).
- Conclusion - Measures that needs to be taken in order to improve the functioning of NCSC.

**Answer-**

**Article 338** established **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** in order to provide them safeguards against exploitation and to promote their social, economic, educational and cultural development.

However, in the recent past several issues have popped up dealing with functions and functioning of the commission like -

- **Huge pendency and Increasing atrocities** - As per the RTI data, over 22,000 complaints are pending for disposal and also the number of cases filed under SC/ST prevention of atrocities act are only increasing. Example being Dalit lynching in Una, Caste related honour killings in Haryana.
- **Discrimination on the basis of caste-** Article 15 prohibits discrimination on the basis of caste. However, discrimination is still not uncommon. The case of Rohith Vemula reflects that the discrimination till date is omnipotent.
- **Failure to bring awareness and sensitivity** - SC decision on diluting the provisions of SC/ST act demonstrated that the issue of SC/STs is seen as exaggerated even by the apex court.
- **Delay in appointment** - The commission remained headless for months during Hathras case in UP.

Inefficiency in functioning and inadequate attention to the issues faced by dalits is causing denial to their constitutional rights under article 14,14,16,17. These are due to various reasons like

- **Non-Binding Recommendations** - Even though the Commission has extensive powers of investigation and inquiry in this area and can fix responsibility and recommend action, its recommendations are not binding.
- **Delay in appointment** - The commission remained headless for months during Hathras case in UP.
- **Annual Reports** not frequently discussed and remain only paper.

But if we look at the half-filled glass, then NCSC has been successful in achieving its mandate through works like -

- **Services Safeguards and Monitoring** - Over the years, the Commission has conducted several onthe-spot inquiries into complaints of atrocities.
- **Special Cells** - Institutionalised the system of liaison officers and special SC and ST cells in all central ministries and PSU's has been setup.
- Worked Effectively towards **education and providing strong economic front** to Schedule Castes.

In order to remove the lacunas and improve the functioning of NCSC, following measures can be taken -

- **Strengthening the legal and judicial protection of Dalits under the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act** like facilitating online reporting and tracking of crime.
- **Capacity building and sensitisation of the Institutions** - The Commission can help in capacity building of lawyers, judges and policemen, ensuring their empathetic engagement with members from Scheduled Castes.
- **Ensuring effective implementation of existing Govt policies-** The Commission can discuss with legislators and prioritise outcome-oriented fund expenditure across the Ministries and schemes such as STAND UP INDIA scheme.

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Q.) "The needs of migrants should be addressed through a concerted national policy". In the light of the above statement critically examine the utility of One Nation One Ration Card scheme.

Article that you can refer to for this -  
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/editorial/the-needs-ofmigrants-should-be-addressed-through-a-concerted-national-policy/article>

#### Structure -

- Introduction - What are the need of the migrants interlinked with the problems of food security that they faced during the Corona pandemic.
- Body - As the question demands - we need to critically examine the utility of One Nation One Ration Card scheme (Pros- Challenges).
- Conclusion - What measures can be taken so that the challenges are resolved and scheme becomes a novel one.

#### Answer-

Migrants form the backbone of our labour force, their holistic security in terms of food-housing-income etc. forms a crucial prerogative of ruling Govt. However, the wrath fell upon migrants during the Corona Pandemic as they were left with little private or public help during crisis.

Learning quick lessons, need of the hour is to have a concerted national policy to address their needs and One Nation One Ration Card is a step in the same direction as it will provide portability of food security befits across whole of the nation with benefit like -

1. Interoperability of Ration Card across country.
2. Empowering Consumers - Less scope of exploitation by the Fair Shop Price owners.
3. Right to Food guaranteed under National Food Security Act (2013).
4. Integrates the country which will further help in adding the nutritional value of the poor consumers.

However, there are certain challenges that are restricting the implementation of this scheme such as-

1. PDS is a Domicile based Social Sector Scheme and thus restricts food entitlements at the place so the origin.
2. Logistic Issue - An FPS receives the monthly quota of products strictly in accordance with the number of people assigned to it.
3. May create misbalance for some states as the cost of additional food grains will go up.

Overall, ONORC scheme is novel one and can also include other health and welfare schemes under its ambit by taking measures such as a dedicated e-commerce platform which may resolve the challenge of logistic issue, Social auditing may be made mandatory to measure the performance and a National Budget can be set up to manage the cost of scheme.

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### Q.) Write a note on the Evolution of Architecture of Delhi Sultanate.

**Sultanate era** marked the evolution and development of a new-type of Hindu-Muslim architecture in which decorative exuberance of the Hindu architecture was toned down and its place was taken by new elements such as use of geometrical shapes, calligraphy, inscriptional art etc.

Thus, the elements of Hindu architecture still formed the basis of new architectural style. This was mainly because -

- The Muslim rulers had to employ Indian architects and masons.
- Nearly all mosques were built by demolition of temples and the Muslim rulers used the same material of Hindu temples in making their mosques and tombs.

Each successive dynasty made evolution to the existing pattern and designs of Architecture of Delhi Sultanate in ways such as -

#### **Mamluk Dynasty**

- **Qutub Complex** can be considered as the foundation of Delhi Sultanate architecture.
  - ✓ Constructed from material collected from Hindu buildings and temples. For its decoration the Hindu craftsmen were used and they applied the same style of inlaying which they had been using in building temples. The floral designs, bells and chains were made to decorate the minar from existing material remains of temples. In this the structural technique of true arch and dome was not used.
- **Sultan Ghari built by Iltutmish - First monumental tomb** in India. It has a square chamber and octagonal flat roof with round towers at 4 corners.
- **Balban's Tomb**, situated in Mehrauli, Delhi represents the first true arch built in India.

#### **The Khalji Period**

- **Alai Darwaza** - The first example of the true arch and true dome, constructed with a dome-shaped gate made of red sandstone and decorated with stunning Turkic features made of white marble inlay and inscriptions engraved in the ancient Naskh Script and screens made with Lattice stones depicting unique Turkic craftsmanship.
- **JamatKhana Masjid** is the earliest example of a Mosque built on wholly muslim ideas using scientific arches and dome.

#### **The Tughlaq Period**

- The buildings of the Tughlaq period were constructed by combining arch and dome. They also used the cheaper and easily available grey colour stones.
- Tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq built in red sandstone, is an irregular pentagon in its exterior plan & is crowned by a finial resembling kalasa of a Hindu temple.

## The Lodhi Period

- An independent and elegant style emerged under the Lodis.
  - ✓ Introduced the concept of double dome, built one upon the other, leaving some space in Enamelled tiles were used for decoration showing Persian influence.
  - ✓ The Lodi garden in Delhi is the finest example of the synthesis of dome, arch, slam and beam.

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## Q.) Conflict is an Instrument of Social Change. Comment.

### Structure

- Intro - Explain about Social Change and how Conflict is related to it.
- Body - In part 1 talk how conflict can bring up positive social change and then in part 2 talk about How conflict can bring negative social change.
- Conclusion - How conflict as a medium of change has transformed in present times.

### Answer

**Social change** refers to change in the social structure, social institutions, functions and relationships of individuals, groups in a society and **Conflict** (i.e. antagonism and eccentricism among individuals and groups) is one of the primary instruments of social change in ways such as -

- **Conflict between orthodoxy and modernity** led to Abolishment of Sati and acceptance of Widow marriage in Indian society which legally transformed marriage as a social institution.
- **Conflict brings the popular choice in force.** Ex: French revolution and Arab spring,
- **Prolonged conflict** resulting in progressive change like Chartist movement of 19th century helped women to get adult suffrage in early 20th century.
- **India's linguistic conflict** strengthened cooperative federalism. Ex: State Reorganisation.

However, changes can be regressive too -

- **Son of soil doctrine** resulted in ethnic clashes and internal security problem.
- **Economic conflicts** taking violent shape. Ex: Naxalism.
- **Religious conflicts** have resulted in communalism and brutal changes such as the partition of Asian sub-continent.
- **Conflicts between natives and migrants** leading to the phenomenon like Xenophobia, Europhobia, Islamophobia etc. worldwide.

Going ahead "**Institutionalisation of conflict**" like judicial interventions and taking up confidence building measures to prevent regressive changes are helpful to preserve the mosaic of India culture.

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**Q.) India's growth in External Sector is restrained not only by international factors but also by domestic factors. Comment.**

### Structure

- Intro - Briefly tell about what is meant by External sector so as to impart a sense of context to your answer.
- Body - In first 2 lines, List 2-3 international factors which restrain India's external sector, this will impart a sense of affirmation to question asked.
- Then in next art, talk about the domestic factors which restrain India's external sector.
- Conclusion - Talk about present status of India's external sector and what measures have been taken by the government to improve external sector performance.

### Answer

An economy's external sector refers to **all international economic transactions between residents of the country** (private and public sector) and the **rest of the world** and consists of components included under **Balance of Payment**. Though India has a high potential for the growth of external sector but its growth is slower than expected.

Not only International factors such as **acceptance of quality of products, fluctuating oil prices, import ban by international markets** etc. but many domestic factors are restraining the growth of India's external sector such as -

1. **Monetary constraints** - Rising NPA with the banks and high interest rates has resulted a funding constrain for industries. Due to this lack of funding our industrial growth has been affected and unable to adopt new technologies which ultimately affect our competitiveness in international market.
2. **Polity logjam** - Several proposed reforms such as Tax simplification proposals, Land reforms, foreign investment promotion, banking reforms etc are continuously being delayed resulting into eroding the trust.
3. **Infrastructure bottleneck** - The lack of proper development of roads, railways and port infrastructure fails to provide efficient and cheap transportation facilities which ultimately affects our export potential and renders our products less competitive in international market due to increased costs.
4. **Export policy** - At points our export policy is not favourable to our domestic industry. In many cases we follow inverted duty structure, which render our exports less competitive in international market, Resulting in trade deficit.

Others factors such as **Unskilled labour** (Mismatch between demand and supply), **non-utilisation of vast pools of natural resources especially energy resources** sum up the domestic factors which restrain External sector.

On the brighter side, India is expected to witness **current account surplus** during the **current financial year after a gap of 17 years** and the **foreign exchange reserves rose to an all-time high of US\$ 586.1 billion**. To sustain the improvement pace our government has started many initiatives like -

- Promoting Exports through **Production Linked Incentive Scheme, Remission on taxes and duties on Exported Products**.
- Improvement in **Logistic Infrastructure** through programmes such as **Bharatmala Pariyoajana** etc.
- Digital Initiatives like **Digital India scheme**.
- **HELP policy** to ease resources extraction.
- **Liberalised FDI policy** to attract more investments from abroad which would go a long way in strengthening external sector in general and exports in particular.

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**Q.) State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance. (UPSC 2019 PYQ)**

### Structure

- Intro - Reference about any Govt. or Public document where these values are listed, this would give a relevance/ back up to your points that you will write in body.
- Body - Write about the three basic values but do remember to give examples alongside, as they will make you fetch extra marks.
- Conclusion - Any concluding line just to sum up your answer.

### Answer

2nd ARC in its 4th report has mentioned several foundational values for civil services like dedication, objectivity, impartiality etc. However, the three most basic and core universal values among the range of values for civil services include

**Integrity:** Integrity is complete consonance of thought, speech and action. It is best risk management preparedness against internal and external pressure for doing corruption.

- It is morally uplifting in nature and inspires a public servant to dedicate his life for public cause. Integrity is about doing right things even when nobody is watching you. Such officers with integrity don't even need rules to guide them as they have internal locus of control.
- Examples include officers like Saryendra Dubeyand, S. Manjunath, who derived intellectual courage from integrity to fight against injustice.

**Compassion:** Yudhishtira in Mahabharat proclaimed that compassion is the highest Dharma.

- Compassion helps a public servant to be kind and empathetic towards the needs of citizens. It also helps them to stay in touch with people and make realistic policies which are in line with ground realities. It also prevents ego to get developed among bureaucrats.

**Wisdom:** is the charioteer for all other human virtues.

- Wisdom helps a public servant to make an informed decision. Justice is also not possible without wisdom as it guides a bureaucrat to make an inclusive, sustainable choice. It also helps them to balance national, social and international goals and remain fair to all. Vinod Rai showed wisdom while playing proactive role as the CAG of India.
- Thus, a civil servant must always express these basic and universal values. They are the core values and all other virtues can be regarded as their manifestations.

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**Q.) Distinguish between “Code of Ethics” and “Code of Conduct” with suitable examples. (250 words).**

- Both Code of ethics and Code of conduct are effective tools to regulate the behaviour of public servants towards desired ends. Yet, they are different in their content, approach and extent of coverage like -

Code of Ethics	Code of Conduct
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. General Values and principles that guide rather than dictate behaviour Example - Integrity and Transparency.</li> <li>2. Highly descriptive and abstract, therefore, therefore scope of discretion. Example - What constitutes being fair can have different meaning for different people.</li> <li>3. Universal Approach, doesn't take into account cultural considerations. Example - Equality and non-partisanship.</li> <li>4. One for all levels. Example - Nolan Committee's seven principles of public life and thus there is no need to change it on regular basis.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Specific Guidelines and Procedures in the form of Do's and Don'ts to determine what is right and what is wrong. Example - In bureaucracy, taking no gifts or not giving any information to media without Government permission.</li> <li>2. Perspective and specific in nature. Example - A civil servant cannot gamble or drink liquor in public.</li> <li>3. Contextual Approach - Includes specific requirements of a society. Example - Civil Servants are not allowed to participate in politics in India but same is allowed in France.</li> <li>4. Different code of Conduct is required at different levels Example - Conduct while meeting with fellow bureaucrat's vs meeting with politicians and thus there is need of regular updating according to the changed environment.</li> </ol>

- As per 2 ARC, a comprehensive code containing both is required to ensure ethical behaviour among public servants in the rest of citizens.

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## Q.) Covid-19 Pandemic Accelerated Class Inequalities and Poverty in India. Comment.

The coronavirus pandemic is **unprecedented in our lifetimes**, infecting **millions and killing thousands** of people. Its **aftereffects** will be reflected even years after in the **form of inequalities**. While we are all floating on the same sea, it's clear that some are in **super-yachts**, while others are **clinging to the drifting debris**.

### Growing Inequalities and poverty - (You can mention any single point of these 3)

- Global per capita income is expected to fall four percent. The World Bank has warned that the virus could push between 40 and 60 million into extreme poverty this year, with sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia hardest hit.
- ILO estimates that half of working people could lose their jobs within the next few months, and the virus could cost the global economy.
- The World Food Programme says, 265 million people will face crisis levels of hunger unless direct action is taken.

### Impact in India -

- Pew Research report suggests middle class may have shrunk by 30% and number of poor risen by 7.5 crore.
- World Bank projected estimate the impact of COVID-19 on Indian incomes: The lockdown triggered by the pandemic resulted in shut businesses, lost jobs and falling incomes, plunging the Indian economy into a deep recession.
- The middle class in India is estimated to have shrunk by 3.2 crore in 2020 as a consequence of the downturn, compared with the number it may have reached absent the pandemic,"
- Meanwhile, the number of people who are poor in India (with incomes of \$2 or less a day) is estimated to have increased by 7.5 crore because of the COVID-19 recession. This accounts for nearly 60% of the global increase in poverty," the report added, estimating an increase from almost 6 crores to 13.4 crore poor people. It also noted the record spike in MGNREGA participants as proof that the poor were struggling to find work.
- There are people who can't be home-stayers when it comes to livelihoods viz. a) migrant workers b) gig economy workers c) fruit & vegetable street vendors d) daily wage earners and others. The CMIE approximates job losses of about 140 million people then.
- Even not a third of total school goers could access online education. The class inequality reveals the deep digital divide.
- Women negatively influenced by class are facing increasing violence and struggling against inequalities. The unemployment rate among women rose from an already high 15% before Covid to 18%.

- Beyond income and job losses, poorer women also suffered health-wise because of the disruption in regular health services and Anganwadi centers.

In order to combat this alarming scenario, Today Governments all around the world need to take welfare measures, In India **PM Garib Kalyan Yojana** is a welcome step in the same direction.

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## Q.) Examine the Amendment Process in Indian Constitution. Discuss the Evolution of Basic Structure Doctrine and its Relevance in Maintaining the Sanctity of Constitutional Provisions.

- The Indian Constitution is seen as balancing between rigidity and flexibility so as to adapt to changing scenarios of the country while maintaining certain foundational principles. The amendment process devised in the Constitution is a reflection of these very ideals. The formal amendment power is found in Article 368 of the Indian Constitution.
- Constitution can be amended in three ways:
  - a) Amendment by simple majority of the Parliament,
  - b) Amendment by special majority of the Parliament, and
  - c) Amendment by special majority of the Parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures.
- Amendments require a two-thirds majority of Parliament, present and voting, and in certain specified cases, ratification by at least half of the State legislatures. The latter include provisions involving India's federal scheme, such as Articles 245–255, which distribute power between the Union and the States. Further, some changes – like the reorganisation of States under Article 3 – may take place through a simple parliamentary majority, in the same manner as the enactment of ordinary legislation.
- Basic structure doctrine is **judge- made doctrine** to put a limitation on the amending powers of the Parliament so that the basic structure of the basic law of the land cannot be amended in exercise of its constituent power under the Constitution. It is seen as being instrumental in helping constitutionalism survive in India. It is an evolving doctrine which has been adding values with cases e.g. Democracy, secularism, federalism etc.

### Historical development:

- **Sankari Prasad judgement 1951:** Initially judiciary was of the view that the amendment power of the parliament is unrestricted because it can amend any part of the constitution, including those which affect the Fundamental rights of the land. In this case the Supreme Court kept the 'law of amendment' beyond the scope of Article 13(2).
- **Sajjan Singh Case:** The majority of the judges in this (Sajjan Singh) case on the same logic as held in the Shankari Prasad case held that the law of amendment is superior law and is not subject to Article 13.

- **Golak Nath V State of Punjab 1967:** The Seventeenth Constitutional Amendment was challenged in the Golaknath case. By a majority of 6:5 it was held that the Parliament had no power to amend the fundamental rights. The Supreme Court adopted a new vision to see the powers of parliament that it cannot amend the Part III of the constitution and thus awarded fundamental rights a “Transcendental Position”
- **Kesavananda Bharti V State of Kerala 1973:** It gave birth to the landmark judgement which pronounced that the parliaments cannot alter or disturb the basic structure of the constitution. It was held that, however, the parliament has unfettered power to amend the constitution but it cannot disturb or emasculate the basic structure or fundamental features of the constitution as it has only the power of amendment and not of re-writing constitution. It held that the Golaknath case had been decided wrongly and that Article 368 contained both the power and the procedure for amending the Constitution.
- **Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain and Minerva Mills v. Union of India:** Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court used the basic structure doctrine to strike down the 39th Amendment and parts of the 42nd Amendment respectively, and paved the way for restoration of Indian democracy. In Minerva Mills, the majority held the amendment to Article 31C unconstitutional as it destroyed the harmony and balance between fundamental rights and directive principles which is an essential or basic feature of the Constitution. It further upheld the power of judicial review of constitutional amendments.

#### **Significance of the Basic Structure Doctrine:**

- 1) The doctrine of Basic Structure helped in maintaining the supremacy of the Constitution and to prevent its destruction by a temporary majority in Parliament.
- 2) It acts as a limitation upon the constituent power and has helped in arresting the forces which may destabilize the democracy. Parliament does not and should not have an unlimited power to amend the Constitution.
- 3) It helps to retain the basic ideals of the Constitution which was meticulously constituted by the founding fathers our Constitution.
- 4) If Basic structure doctrine would not have been their India would most certainly have degenerated into a totalitarian State or had one-party rule. Most importantly, the Constitution would have lost its supremacy.
- 5) It, by restraining the amending powers of legislative organ of State, provides basic Rights to Citizens which no organ of State can overrule. These rights are called Fundamental Rights.
- 6) It strengthens our democracy by delineating a true separation of power where Judiciary is independent of other two organs. It has also given immense untold unbridled power to Supreme Court.

- **Conclusion:** N. Madhava Menon correctly remarks that along with basic structure, the evolution of 'due process' through Maneka Gandhi case and the easing of rule of 'locus standii' via judicial activism has only aiding in expanding the scope of Constitutionalism.

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Q.) United Nation Security Council permanent membership status no longer represents the present geopolitical order of the world. In the light of the above statement, discuss India's claim to the permanent membership status at UNSC.

### Structure

- Introduction - Brief about UNSC and how it no longer represents the present the geopolitical order of the world.
- Body - Points for why India should be given the permanent membership of the UNSC.
- Conclusion - Frame a bigger picture than with or without permanent seat, India can still dominate the geopolitical order of the world.

### Answer

- UNSC is one of the six **principal organs of the United Nations** and is charged with the maintenance of **International peace and security**. Its powers include the **establishment of peacekeeping operations, establishment of International sanctions, and the authorisation of military action through Security Council resolutions**.
- It is the only UN body with the authority to issue **binding resolution** to member states. Its membership includes 15 member countries of which 5 - Russia, United Kingdom, France, China and United States are the permanent members of this commission and the rest 10 are elected on a regional basis for 2-year term.
- However, in the recent past, UNSC seems to be loosing its glory and is slowing receding and fading away as a dying star in the following ways -
  1. **Democracy Deficit** - The permanent seat at UNSC represent non democratic representation with Asia being underrepresented and continents such as Africa, Latin America etc. not represented at all.
  2. **Misuse of Veto power** - Most of the times the veto powers in the hands of the permanent members are used to serve the strategic interests of themselves and their allies, for example Since 1990, the United States has cast a veto on Council resolutions 16 times, concerning Israeli-Palestinian relations. Russia has done so 17 times, including eight times over Syria.
  3. **Global Misgovernance Issues** - There is no unanimity on how to deal with the global issues like terrorism - as that in Syria, Afghanistan, Climate change - failure of Paris climate deal, cyber security and public health, and also at the same time there is no regulatory mechanism for global commons like present day Covid situation.

- Current composition of the Security Council represent the post-World War II realities and is not in pace with the changing balance of power of the World, thus there is in need of certain reforms such as Equitable Representation ,veto reforms and Categories of membership like permanent, semi-permanent, observer status as in the case of other Multilateral Organisations.
- Amidst all these reforms India pitches a very strong voice and potential for the permanent seat at the UNSC due to the following reasons -
  1. Largest Democracy of the World - Being the largest democracy of the world, India should have the first say at the Highest democratic governing body of the world. India is the founding member of the UN and has always been an active participant in all the initiatives undertaken by the UN like MDG'sSDG's and other UN summits.
  2. Largest Contributor to Peace Keeping missions - India since independence has become a leading contributor of troops to UN peacekeeping missions and today India has over 8000 peacekeepers which is more than twice that of P5 group.
  3. Economic Leverage - When it comes to Economics, India outweighs many developed nations of the world, as it is 3rd largest Nation when accounted for Purchasing Power Parity and 7th largest economy of the world when accounted according to GDP.
  4. India has the 3rd largest active armed forces along with Nuclear Weapons, India's candidature is justified since India is already party to most of the Multilateral organisations such as Nuclear Weapons State, MTCR, Wassenaar Agreement etc.
- Being elected as the permanent member to UNSC, India will invariably provide enormous powers, prestige and opportunities to India to work better for its interests, However at the same time the counter argument which arises is that Permanent seat in UNSC neither necessary nor only way for India to assert its 'arrival' on global centre-stage.
  - We have many examples around the world where Nations without being the permanent members of the UNSC have emerged as the powerful, persuasive and progressive power that has made significant power for itself, biggest example being Israel - even though the number of UN resolutions condemning Israel are more than the total number of UN resolutions, against the rest of the world!
  - Germany contributes more to UN budget than Great Britain, France or Russia but then also it has been denied its rightful seat. However, this denial has not come in the way of Germany becoming the de facto powerhouse in the European Union and amongst the most stable, future-ready and influential countries in the globe,
  - India must manage, invoke and even circumvent the constraints of the prevailing situation by baking another cake, instead of seeking a slice in the existing one, where

it has been perennially denied. India has to continue seeking its rightful place in any expanded United Nations Security Council without unnecessarily vesting all its hopes, plans and ambitions in the quest for a such a status, as the changed world offers examples like Germany, Japan and Israel who have stitched alternative arrangements that could be multilateral (European Union), bilateral (US-Israel), regional or creatively/ strategically relevant, e.g., 'Quad'. A permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council is more significant from the perspective of sovereign pride, rather than any meaningful lever of national transformation.

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**Q.) What do you understand by the term “Peri Urban Agriculture”? Discuss its merits and demerits along with remedial measures for the same?**

The rapid growth of cities in the developing world is placing huge demands on urban food supply systems, and in order to resolve this, a concept of Urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) came into being which occurs within and surrounding the boundaries of cities and includes producing commodities such as crops and livestock agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

**The scope of UPA depends upon many factors such as**

- The economic status of the country and the households (which determine their needs).
- The household itself (determined by its size, labour force, assets etc.).
- Cultural aspects (which partly determine the kind of crops grown).
- Infrastructure and availability of fossil energy and inputs (which determine transportation capacities, availability of seeds and fertilisers), climate, soils and water.

**Merits of Peri Urban Agriculture are**

- **Basic Life support** - Provides fresh food, generates employment, recycles urban waste, creates greenbelts, and strengthens cities' resilience to climate change.
- **Climate Change** - Beyond the agro-products provided, trees will help in sustaining ecosystems by acting as carbon sinks, protection of water-supply catchments for the cities, protection against landslides and floods.
  - ✓ Help in climate change adaptation through diversification of food resources for the urban population.
  - ✓ Reduce the burden on transport, and help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cold storages.
  - ✓ UPA helps closing the energy loops and transforming waste into biodiversity along with reduction in post-harvest losses.
  - ✓ Less need for packaging, storage and transportation of food. Proximity to services, including waste water treatment facility.
  - ✓ Increase in Sustainable soil conservation and management practices.

However, on the other side of the coin, there are some issues which are restricting the Peri Urban Agriculture to its full potential -

- Lack of access to water and other productive resources.
- Competition for land and issues related to tenure rights.
- Use of concrete as building material urban heat islands are created.

- Food safety concerns regarding the use of waste water and organic material.
- Identification of fields of interventions along with analysis of technical issues.

Today need of the hour is that -

- Technical guidance for the integration of agricultural activities into urban development and training needs to be provided on urban sustainable production systems.
- Development of appropriate and sustainable intensive technologies for increased horticulture and livestock productivity to meet year-round market demand.
- Promotion of appropriate small scale agro-processing, including peri- urban products where raw materials and market demand for processed products are available.

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Q.) The government's on-going energy sector policies aim "to provide access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy". Discuss how the convergence can be made with these domestic goals and the global development agenda.

The country's demand for energy is set to double by 2040, electricity demand will triple and oil consumption is expected to grow faster than other major economies which make energy security a key priority and India's commitment to attain Paris climate goals aligns India's policies aiming "to provide access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy" in ways such as

- Extending citizens' access to electricity, affordable efficient lighting and clean cooking through historic schemes like **SAUBHAGYA, UJALA** and **UJJWALA**.
- Indian Energy efficiency improvements in India avoided 15% of additional energy demand, oil and gas imports, and air pollution as well as 300 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions between 2000 and 2018.
- Government policies designed to conduct large-scale renewable energy auctions, with renewables accounting to 23% of total installed capacity.

### Convergence of domestic goals and global development agenda

- **Air pollution:** On track to overachieve the Paris targets, India is demonstrating efforts to cut emissions for reduced reliance on coal, investments in mass transportation, and emissions standards can strongly improve the quality of urban life and public health.
- **Industrial green energy:** International partnerships such as Mission Innovation, and the International Solar Alliance. and the Leadership Group for Industry Transition, India exploring how heavy industries that connect our economies can produce steel and other goods without producing greenhouse gas emissions.

Since 2015, The number of people working in renewable energy in India has increased five-fold. Last year, the country's spending on solar energy surpassed spending on coal-fired power generation for the first time with India making significant progress towards universal access to electricity. More measures which can be taken in order to Improve the Energy efficiency scenario in India -

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) should come out with a white paper on its 5-year strategy on energy efficiency in various sectors and specify energy consumption norms.
- State designated agencies (SDAs) need to be more empowered and provided with adequate resources to implement EE related programmes and there is a need to ensure greater participation of energy service companies (ESCOs) using appropriate financing models with a risk sharing mechanism, particularly by public sector banks.

- Widen and deepen the perform, achieve and trade (PAT) programme; make Energy Saving Certificate (ESCert) trading under the PAT scheme effective by ensuring strict penalties against defaulters.