प्रश्न संख्या (Question No.)

U.P.S.C.

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1.

Interstate border disputes eg. Meghalaya & Assam ~~be~~ have become a thorn in the dual quest of national integration, as well as growth & developement.

Constitutional & Legal framework

1. Article 131 → Dispute between 2 units of federation to be ~~so~~ adjudicated in SC.

2. Article 263 → Inter-States Council
   - Mechanism of ~~no~~ non-binding debate & discussion about concerns of states vis-a-vis. centre or other states

3. Zonal Councils (7th CAA)
   - ~~To~~ Headed by Home Minister;
   - To further national integration & tackle issues related to reorganisation.

Reasons for failure

1. SC → Long pendency of cases
2. Inter state councils (ISC) not meeting regularly, & has become ad-hoc

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3. Zonal Councils have also been unable to solve issues effectively

4. Non binding nature of ISC & Zonal Council decisions

5. Political → · Change in government
· Regionalism → eg. Belgavi dispute (Regional pride)

6. Feeling of one-upmanship

There is a need to strengthen Zonal Council & ISC, to achieve goal of "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" & move towards regional developement, as the ultimate losers are the people.

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2.

Inter-State Council is formed by President under Article 263 of the Constitution. It is a mechanism to hear out & try to amicably solve grievances of states.

Functions

1. To look into disputes b/w centre-state or 2 states.
2. To make suggestions about issues concerning centre & states or multiple states, & promote coordination
3. To try to amicably resolve disputes
4. To perform ~~the~~ functions as provided by President

Analysis

- It has not been able to resolve disputes in an effective manner as long standing disputes still persist

Eg. Baelgavi / Belgaum issue

- ~~Reason~~ Reasons

1. Political reasons → Different party at centre / State / 2 States

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2. Increased litigation in SC

3. Decisions not binding

4. Meetings not often

5. Overcentralisation recently felt by states) eg. Farm laws.

Suggestions → Regular meetings
→ Make decisions enforceable
→ Can use other avenues eg. Zonal Council

Interstates council is a mechanism to preserve federalism & unity in diversity, & must be made functional & powerful

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प्रश्न संख्या (Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें (Don't write anything in this part)

3.

Public accounts Committee (PAC) was established by GoI Act 1919. It is a means of parliamentary control over executive

Functions

1. To look into accounts of Centre govt. to see if money spent ₹ was legally available
2. To look into appropriation & finance accounts
3. To look into some PSUs
4. To undertake "propriety audit" on its own choice
5. To take help of CAG to help analyse the books

Composition → 21 from lok Sabha + 10 from Rajya (NOT a MINISTER) Sabha

Chairman → Usually from opposition

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Steps for way forward

1. Regular monitoring, & not only post mortem analysis
2. Report to be thoroughly discussed in the House
3. ~~Take~~ ASK for action taken report on its report from government
4. More members from Opposition
5. Carry "propriety audit" for as many as possible transactions

PAC is a means of parliamentary control as well as fiscal control, 2 vital cogs in our system, & needs to thus be strengthened

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Question No.)

4.

15th Finance Commission has called urbanisation as driver for economic growth. It has recommended reforms for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Recommendations

1. Increased devolution of funds from State to ULBs
2. Performance based incentives to ULBs
3. To increase internal resource generation (eg. property tax)
4. To establish State finance Commission where not already present
5. Audit of ULBs

Analysis

- Tries to strengthen ULBs by more funds
- Internal resource generation to decrease dependence on grants (currently 47% income from Grants for ULBs)
- Performance based incentives may promote healthy

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ambi Civil Services

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प्रश्न संख्या (Question No.)

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Competition, but also reduce scope of innovative thinking

- Onus put on states to help ULBs become self-reliant & effective.
- Audit → Transparency, efficiency, accountability

ULBs are an ~~ex~~ example of "government at the doorstep", & their strengthening is necessary to help provide growth & development to the people. Steps like municipal bonds are also a step in right direction.

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5. Freedom of speech & expression is under Article 19(1)(a) while Parliamentary Privileges provide it under Article 105 & 194.

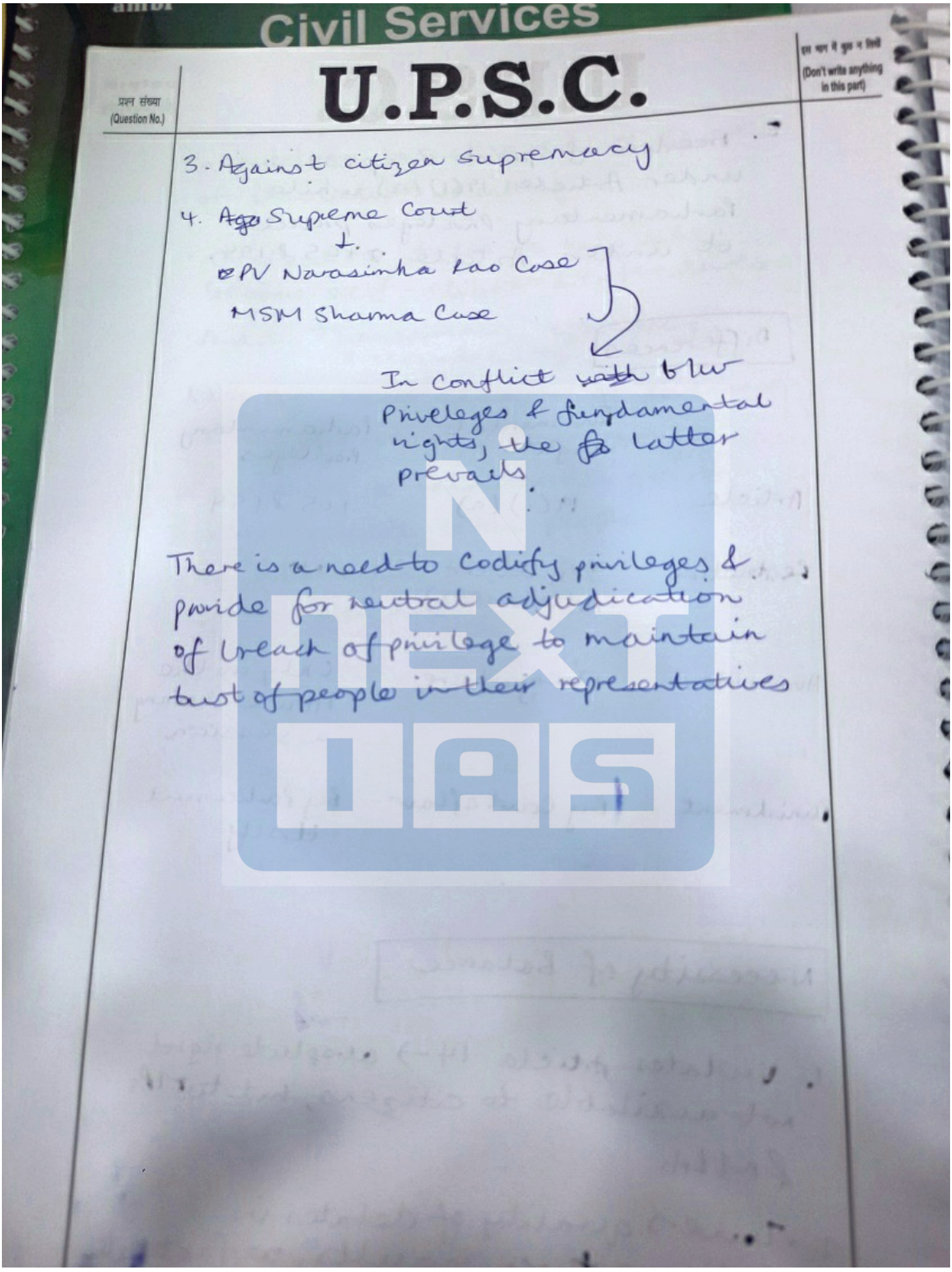
Differences

	Fundamental Rights	Parliamentary Privileges
Article	19(1)(a)	105 & 194
Restriction	Yes, under Article 19(2)	NO
Available	Everywhere	Only in the House during a session
Punishment	By Court of law	By Parliament itself

Necessity of Balance

1. Violates Article 14 → absolute right not available to citizens, but to MPs & MLAs
2. Lowers quality of debates in Parliament eg. insults, factually incorrect information

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6. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) eg. NGOs promote the welfarist agenda in our country, along with "theory of trusteeship" of Gandhi as CSR. According to UN, 75% CSR funds are to NGOs to promote welfarism

Challenges in LRM & CSR

1. Loss of spirit of voluntary donations
2. Conflict between ideology of Corporates & NGOs
3. Mistrust b/w Corporates & NGOs
4. FCRA Amendment 2020
   - Only 20% fund for organisational activities
   - Account in Delhi branch of SBI
5. Corporates who provide funds force to spend on certain activities, & look for immediate outcomes
6. <10% Corporates have specialised CSR wings, do improper association with CSOs
7. Frequent raids eg. Amnesty International

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Suggestions

- Vijay Kumar Committee
  - Light regulation
  - Training to NGOs
  - Easy relationship with tax authorities
- National Policy on Voluntary Sector
  - NGOs as partners for service delivery
  - Integrate IT services
- 2nd ARC
  - Promote capacity building
  - Highlighted role of NGO in society
- NGOs to focus more on rural areas
- Keep audit accounts prepared
- Do not indulge in anti-India activities

NGOs are a partner for societal growth. Their involvement will help to provide welfare ~~set~~ to people at large

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7.

One of the biggest impediments in the eradication of ~~power~~ poverty is lack of data. NITI Aayog has come up with National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI) to give it local touch & combine with international best practices

Parameters

- Education
  - Literacy rate
  - No. of years of schooling
- Health
  - Child mortality
  - Undernourishment
  - % of women having ANC visits
- Living Standard
  - House
  - Water
  - Electricity
  - Cooking fuel
  - Assets
  - Bank account

Added by NITI Aayog

Method → Data collection from various resources.

☆ Poor ≥ 3 aspects → Multidimensionally poor

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Significance

1. Goes beyond income
2. Includes human poverty
3. India specific
4. Also looks at maternal health & financial inclusion
5. Focus on quality of life

ECOSOC defines human poverty as denial of opportunities & violation of rights. National MPI aims to measure this aspect of poverty, in order to achieve "Sabka Saath Sabka vikaas"

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8.

India has the highest burden of TB & 2nd highest burden of NCDs. 6 Crore people are pushed into poverty every year due to Catastrophic OOPE (Ayushman Bharat)

Status of Right to Health in India

- Directive Principles → under Art. 38, 39, 41, 42
- Case laws → Bhendi Bazaar Sangathan Case.
  ↓
  SC → Right to health is a fundamental right u/A. 21
- States → Rajasthan - Right to Health Act 2023
  - Delhi - Right to Health
- International Conventions → ICCPR
  - UNDHR
  - Alma Ata Declaration

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इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें (Don't write anything in this part)

Funds - Current health budget 2.1% GDP (National Health Policy at least 2.5%.

Lack of Explicit Recognition

→ State subject (7th schedules)

→ Not a major election issue → Lack of political will

→ "Learned helplessness" of people → Do not demand

→ Expensive to finance

→ Culture of insurance not present (eg. Penetration 4.2%)

Good health is an essential component of to make use of our demographic dividend, & to achieve societal goal & international commitment of universal Healthcare. There is a need to provide explicit recognition to this right.

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9.

BRICS was coined by Goldman Sachs to tell the next big powerhouses in the world, & South Africa joined it in 2010 to ~~reform~~ form BRICS. Recently, BRICS expanded to BRICS+ in Johannesburg Summit.

Advantages of BRICS

1. Economic eg. · BRICS Currency
   · New Development Bank
   · ~~Currency~~ Contingency Reserve Agreement
2. Healthcare eg. BRICS vaccine alliance
3. International Cooperation
   ↳ To reform multi-lateral institutions
4. People-People Contacts

Disadvantages in Bilateral Relations among members

1. India-China
   · No meaningful rapproachment even after sideline talks

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प्रश्न संख्या (Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें (Don't write anything in this part)

2. Economic powerhouse status not realised by South Africa & Brazil

~~Exploration~~

Help in Bilateral Relations

1. India–Brazil relation deepened
   ↳ eg. visit of Brazil President on Republic Day in 2020.

2. India-Russia relation deepened
   ↳ eg. Oil supply ↑ to 25% India import

BRICS is an organisation of countries with similar goals, outlook & opportunities to provide a different direction to global consensus. It has some success & failures in bilateral relations, but successes are more.

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10.

Indus Water Treaty 1960 between India & Pakistan was signed for sharing water of Indus River. It has stood the test of time for >60 yrs, but there are recent demands for re-negotiation.

Reason for demands

1. Unequal distribution
   - Pakistan gets ~75% of water
2. Pakistani activities in Kashmir, eg. funding ~~terrorists~~, Uri attack
3. Pakistani opposition to Kishanganga & Ratle Projects
   - ↓
   - Went to Court of Arbitration before World Bank Expert
   - ↓
   - Procedural crisis
4. Change in river course

- ~~May~~ Will have wide implications on relations

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प्रश्न संख्या (Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें (Don't write anything in this part)

Implications
- Mistrust of b/w governments
- Tough re-negotiation due to political realities
- Changing river course → needs new data
- May lead to tense Subcontinent → Threat of war
- Increasing Pakistani activities ("Bleed India by Thousand Cuts")

"Blood & Water cannot flow together"
-PM Modi

Indus water Treaty re-negotiation will be a tenous process but it is still needed to face the changed reality of day vis-a-vis 1960

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11. India & US have principles of Constitutional supremacy, & an ensuring balance between Parliamentary ~~Supren~~ sovereignity & Judicial Supremacy.

~~Conflicts between Parliamentary Supremacy~~

Role of Judiciary

1. India

- Article 32 & 226 → ~~Judicial~~ Judicial review (Against 24th Amendment)
- Kesavananda Bharati Case
  - ↳ Basic Structure Doctrine
  - ↳ Parliament has power to amend Constitution
- Menaka Case (against 42nd Amendment)
  - ↳ Wide interpretation of A. 21
    - Due process of law
- L. Chandra Kumar Case
  - ↳ Judicial review is part of Basic Structure
- SR Bommai Case → Secularism & Federalism are

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parts of basic structure

- B N Ganguly Case → Due process of law is a part of constitution
- Minena Mills Case
  - A 39(b) & (c) overide A. 14, 19, 21
  - Welfarist, society

2. USA

1. Roe v Wade
   - Constitutional value of right to life
2. Jackson Medical Centre Case
   - Doctrine of strict Constitutionalism & power of State legislatures to decide what is not in original Constitution
     - Texas anti-abortion law
     - Mississipi anti-abortion law

Powers in Indian vs US SC

Indian Stronger

- A. 142 → Complete justice

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- Can decide court martial
- Supremacy over State HCs
- Suspensory jurisdiction

US SC stronger

- Wider apellate jurisdiction

The Indian & US federal SC have evolved under different status quo, & differ in powers, but display principle of judical supremacy. Indian SC has wider jurisdiction due to being an integrated system, but the federal apellate jurisdiction is more advanced in US federal SC

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इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें (Don't write anything in this part)

12. Delimitation refers to division of areas into constituencies that send representatives to legislatures. It is a fundamental part of right to be represented & electoral democracy

One Vote One Value

- Different parts have different population sizes & densities
- ~~Area~~ This distribution of population changes due to birth, death or migration (3% Indian people migrants)

  ↳ Need for delimitations

- Delimitation Acts provide for Delimitation Commission to undertake re-arranging constituencies

- But, no of seats per state has been fixed by 87th amendment act till 2026.

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इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें (Don't write anything in this part)

Challenges of misrepresentation

People → Mistrust in system
→ Ineffective airing of grievances → ↑ protests
→ Demands for secession may arise

Parliament → Not representative of entire country → Against democracy
→ Lead to unbalanced regional growth
→ Cannot solve problems of under-represented areas

Federal Tension due to Delimitation

- 1970s → Family Planning → Succesful in South
  - TFR → 1.6 ; whereas TFR in North India Ter, eg. Bihar ↳ 3
- If ~~re~~ delimitation done acc. to population

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↳ seats of ~~Tamil Nadu~~ South India will decrease drastically, &
North India will increase
↓↓
Federal tension

- Already a divide regarding issues like language & GST compensation will be accentuated due to perceived under-representation
↓↓
less focus of centre on South due to less seats
- Feel are being punished for getting results

Delimitation is an essential component of electoral democracy.
There is a need for innovative steps to alleviate federal tensions in this process, eg. taking other indicators apart from population.

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13

Election Commission of India (ECI) was established by Article 324, to conduct free & fair elections to Parliament & state legislatures. Supreme Court has made certain pronouncements to enable it to function freely.

Role of Supreme Court

1. KL Omar vs RK Trivedi Case.

- ECI has "plenary, unlimited" powers where constitution / laws are silent regarding procedure.
- ECI has residuary powers
- But, will be subject to existing laws & constitutional provisions

- made role of ECI easy to take decisions where lacunae was present in the law.

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2. Anoop Baruwal Case

- Appointment of CEC will be by a 3 member Committee
  - Prime Minister
  - Chief Justice of India
  - LoP in Lok Sabha

⇓

- Removes executive control over ECI
- Makes ECI free of interference
- Increases trust of people & Parties in ECI
- Promotes free & fair elections
- Removes questions of arbitrariness & malafide in appointment & decisions of ECI
- Ensure meritocracy in appointments

Concerns

1. Might be "judicial activism", as Constitution says Parliament to provide for manner of selection

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of CEC & EC

2. Removal of ECs still by opinion of only CEC.
   ↳ 2nd ARC → Give equal protection to EC & CEC.

The recent verdict will help ECI to perform its function to conduct free & fair elections in the country.

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14.

Recent disruptions in Parliament meant that last Winter Session had lowest productivity in last 10 years (17 bills passed), which is an ominous sign for democracy.

Causes of declining role of Parliament

1. Bills not referred to Committees (~11% in 17th LS)
2. Use of ordinances in non-emergencies
   eg. Farm Laws
3. Not enough time given to opposition ⇒ Create ruckus
4. Lackadaisical response of treasury benches
5. Lowering attendance (71% in LS this year)
6. Allegations of partisanship over role of Speaker
   eg. Suspensions of opposition MPs
7. Non-appointment of Deputy Speaker
8. Use of "voice vote" to pass bills

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8. Drawbacks

1. Poor deliberation function
2. Wastage of time & people's resources
3. Loss of trust in parliament
4. Promotes "cabinet rule" & executive supremacy
5. People's issues are not heard
6. Against principle of "checks & balances" & "responsible government"

Suggestions

- Fixed calender of sittings
- "Opposition days" to provide for opposition to air greivances

} 2nd ARC

- "Once a speaker, always a speaker" like UK (Page Committee)
- Non-partisan approach of speaker

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- Responsible behaviour by opposition as well as treasury benches
- Active participation of civil society & media to bring issues to light & force discussion in Parliament
- Use "Ordinance" only in emergencies
- Power to financial committees

Parliament is the "temple of democracy". Our founding fathers fought for self determination not see it being used in an unproductive manner. Parliamentary control over executive is the bedrock of our system, & needs to be enforced

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15.

NCW came into Comission for Women Act 2005 & is a statutory body.

Constitutional Body Status Advantages

1. Role cannot be varied without constitutional amendment
2. Shows focus of government on Status of women
3. Confidence to women organisations & NGOs
4. Defined functions
5. More importance to its actions & decisions

Role in Law Making

1. Maternity Benefit Amendment 2021
2. PoSH Act 2013

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3. Nirbhaya Act
2. DG

Drawbacks → Inconsistent approach
↓
eg. Manipur issues not attended fast

→ No standard or qualifications for members/ chairwoman

NCW has an important responsibility in shaping discourse, but it needs to focus on making its actions consistent, coherent, & effective.

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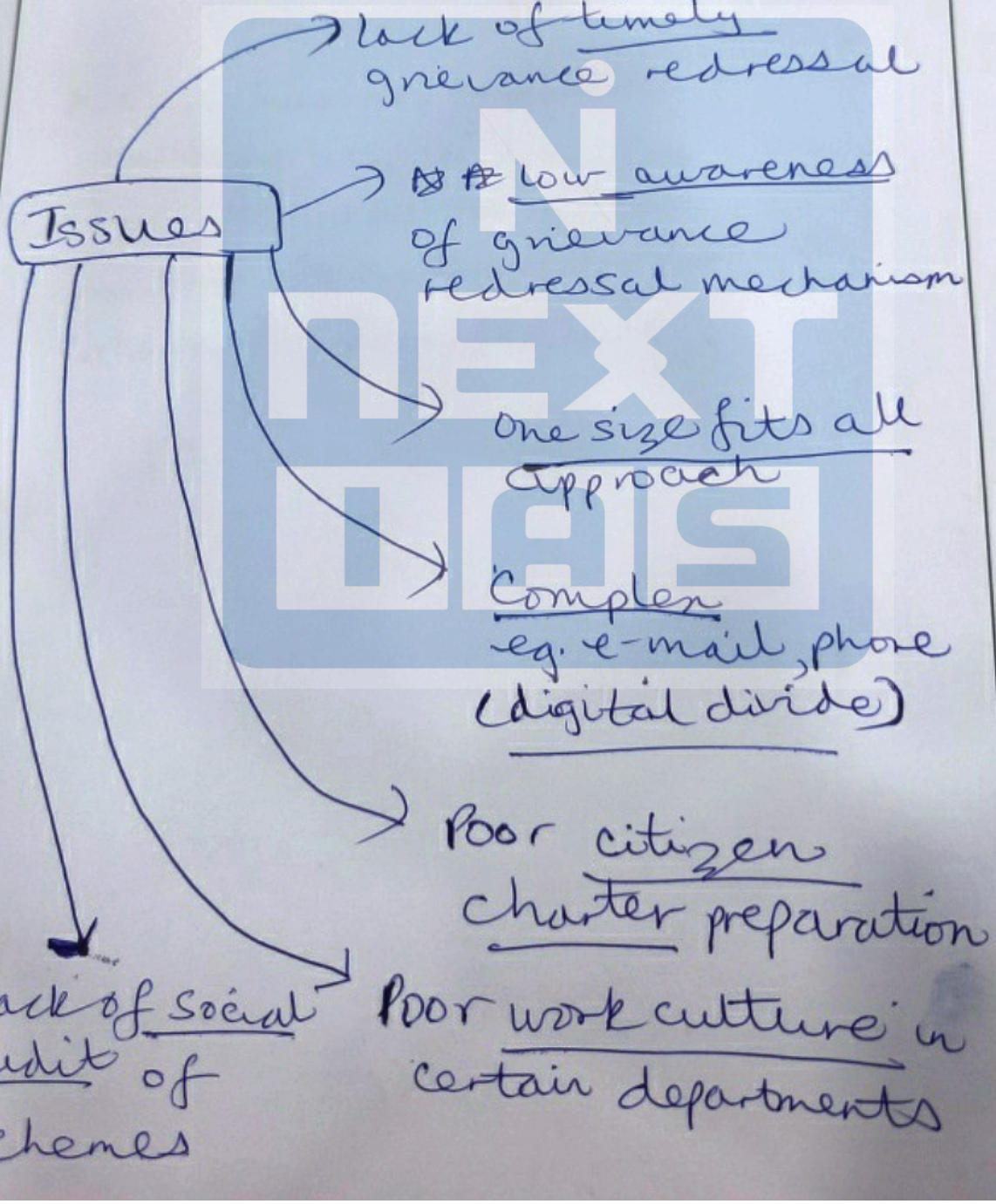
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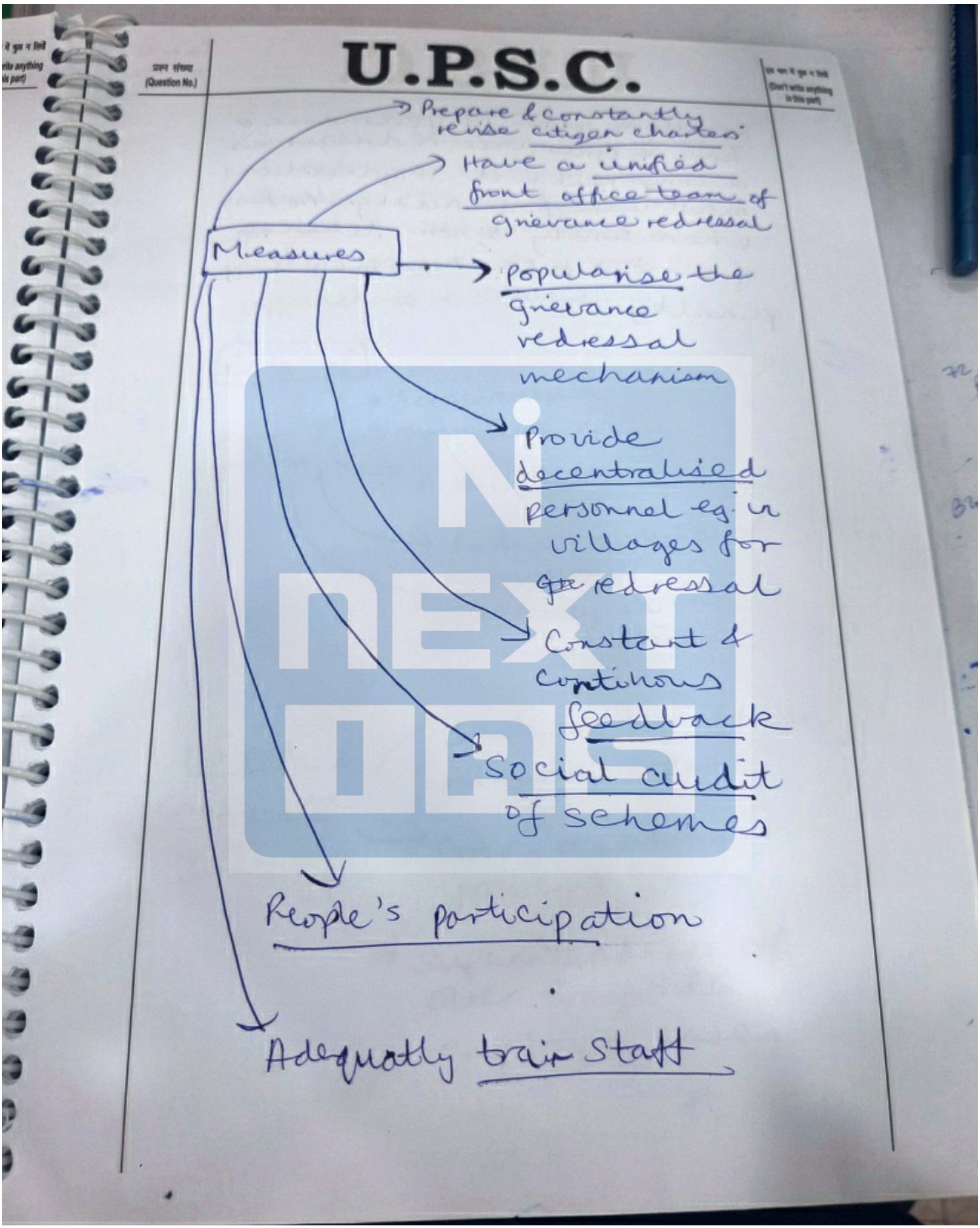
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16.

Grievance redressal has become an important part of evaluation of service delivery. It helps people air their concerns & get remedies, while it helps the organisation to evaluate & plug gaps in its services




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Measures
Prepare & constantly revise citizen charters
Have a unified front office team of grievance redressal
Popularise the grievance redressal mechanism
Provide decentralised personnel eg. in villages for redressal
Constant & continuous feedback
Social audit of schemes
People's participation
Adequately train staff

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"Sevottam" model of governance has grievance redressal as a component in it. Organisations must learn from Madhya Pradesh where timely non-delivery of services comes a monetary penalty

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प्रश्न संख्या (Question No.)

17.

Corruption has been called as an enemy of humanity by US President Mr Joe Biden. It is an insidious problem in India, & requires a multi-pronged approach to be solved.

Role of:

RTI
- → Accountability
- → Transparency
- → Public Trust
- → Reduce avenues of corruption
- → Efficiency in administration

Lokpal & Lokayukta Act
- → Includes top officers, ministers & PM
- → Over-reaching powers
- → superintendence over Group A & B employee cases

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WBPA → To help people declare corruption
→ To help investigation & prosecution of cases
→ Help in apprehension on coming forward

Need for Harmonisation

- "Silo" approach - multiple agencies
- RTI can help to detect corruption & misappropriation of funds
- WBPA helps in investigation & prosecution of cases
- Lokpal is an over-arching body with sole purpose of tackling corruption, & needs support of RTI & WBPA.

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Challenges

RTI → Non-disclosure under section 4
→ "National security" clause
↳ Lawareness of people

- Lokpal → Non-appointment of DOI & DOP
↳ States taking away power of Lokayukta (eg. Kerala)
↳ System to investigate PM opaque

- WBPA → Not very publicised
↳ limitation period
↳ No anonymous disclosure

Chanakya called Corruption as a multi-headed snake. A unified approach is needed to tackle this menace

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18.

SHGs are groups of homogenously situated women of similar socio-economic strata, for purpose economic independence & development.

Challenges

- Lack of financial literacy in rural areas (<30% → NSSO)
- Lack of digital literacy (India Inequality Report → Women → 15% less likely to operate internet)
- Lack of experience in business & technical expertise
- Have to compete with Large firms economies of scale
- Lack of marketing facilities
- Literacy (<30% literacy in SHGs Census 2011)
- Not involve lower castes (social exclusion)

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Benefits
- Large group → Better bargaining power on purchase
- Inculcate saving habits → Credit flow → Easier bank loans
- Sharing of skills → Skill development
- Government Schemes to get help eg. STAYARTH → ↑ brand visibility & growth

Societal
- Women empowerment
- Role models
- Financial independence
- Psychological independence
- Growth of SC/ST/OBC women also

Case Studies
1. Kudumbshree Project in Kerala

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SHG-led micro-enterprises

2. MANIM in Maharashtra

3. Department of Rural Developement initiatives in TN.

4. Bihan Mela → Women led farming.

Gaemment schemes

1. SHG- Bank linkage
2. PSL Lending
3. Bank Corespondents
4. SAMARTH.

SHGs are mechanisms to kill & multiple birds with one stone & ensure skill developement, entrepreneurship & sincome generation in marginalised

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19.

As the last ancient civilisation, India has immense potential of soft power, democratic principals, & diaspora relations in fostering foreign relations.

Culture

1. Buddhism
   - Intl^r Buddhist circuit
   - Relations with Nepal, Sri Lanka, South East Asia, East Asia

2. Hinduism
   - Ramayana circuit
   - Relations with Nepal

3. Yoga → International Yoga Day

4. Food → eg. Popularity of tandoori foods in UK

5. Artifacts → Gifting of local GIs to foreign dignitaries
   Gandhi Statues

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(Question No.)

6. Tourism → Varanasi as SCO Tourism Capital

Diaspora

1. Indian origin Heads of state/ Government eg. ~~Rishi~~ PM of UK, PM of ~~Fiji~~ Suriname
2. "Modi shows" → Diaspora relations stronger
3. ~~Rob~~ Role in foreign policy
   eg. US-India Nuclear Deal
4. Contribution to local economies
   eg Indians in origin in UK → 1% pop^n but 6% to GDP
5. Influence local laws eg. Hindu phobia recognised in Georgia

Democracy

1. Uninterrupted democracy
2. Trustworthy partner
3. Panchsheel provisions
4. "Mother of Democracy" → PM in

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प्रश्न संख्या (Question No.)

U.P.S.C.

US Congress

5. Invitation of US congressmen/women to Independence Day speech about democracy

Smart Power

- Uphold universal principles
  - eg. non-violence
- Strategic autonomy
  - ↓
  - Benefits from all, compromise from none
- But, still considered as a friend of all
  - eg. Russia & Ukraine consider us their friend
- Foreign media
  - ↳ Some articles target global policies

India is a leading soft power nation considered as an ally of all, & diaspora, democracy & culture help us in this regard

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

20.

PM Modi recently spelt out 3Cs, 3Ds & 3Es of India-Australia relations

Cs — ~~Culture~~ Commonwealth
— Curry
— Cricket

Ds — Diaspora
— Dosti
— Democracy

Es — Energy
— Economy
— Education

Shared Values

- Democracy, rule of law & equality are in both systems
- It has made India as a reliable partner of Australia

People - People contact

- Large Indian diaspora in ~~the~~ Australia
- Common love for cricket & Indian food

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- Australian Cricketers are well loved in India & vice versa

Trade Relations

- Economic Cooperation & Technology Agreement (ECTA)

~~Comprehensive~~ ↓

Based on complimentarity & comparative advantage

eg. Dairy sector shielded

Strategic Relations

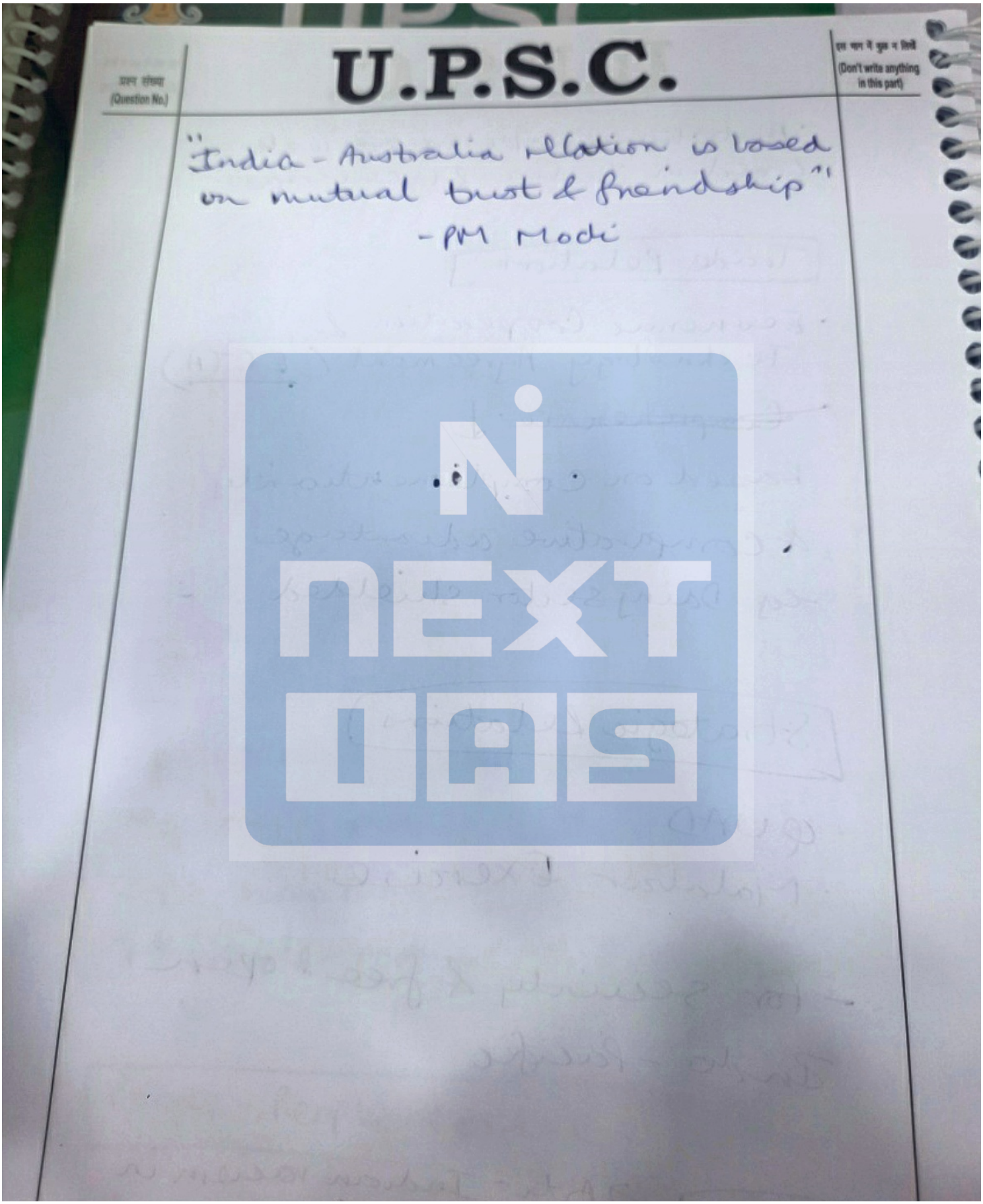
- QUAD
- Malabar Exercise

- For security & free & open Indo-Pacific

Thoms

→ Anti-Indian racism in some parts

→ local media comments on internal matters


U.P.S.C.
प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)
इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
(Don't write anything in this part)
"India - Australia relation is based on mutual trust & friendship"
- PM Modi