

NEXT IAS

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13 JUL 2025

GRADED ASSESSMENT TEST 2025

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : M25GAT04

TEST NO. : 04

Name of Candidate: KIRAN. KAMATE

Roll No.: MT25FLTRA015 Start Time 2:00 PM End Time 3:45 PM

Date of Examination: 13-07-25 Mobile No

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
Total Marks : 50		

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
6	15	
7	15	
8	15	
9	15	
10	15	
Total Marks : 75		

GRAND TOTAL -/ 125

EVAL CODE: GRADED DATE:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 10 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.
8. Only those copies that are submitted on the date of exam till 5 pm will be graded.

REMARKS:
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MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 2.50	3.00 - 3.50	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.00	4.00 - 5.50	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

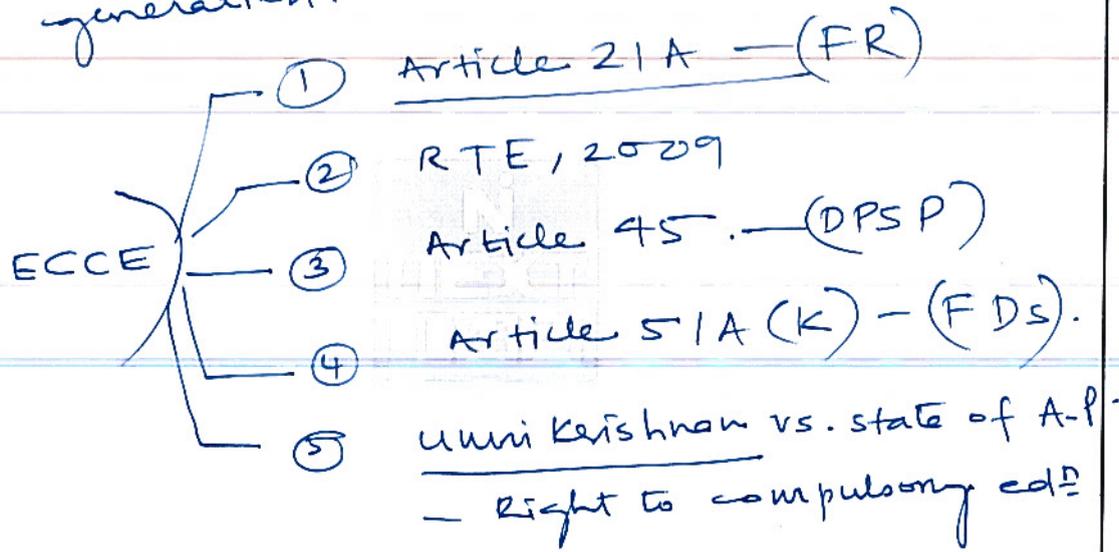
AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT



IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Q1. 'Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) plays a pivotal role in laying the foundation for formal primary education and ensuring the holistic development of children.' Examine the current status of ECCE in India. What steps can be taken to improve the quality of elementary education in the country? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

“Investment in children, is investment in future” — in this regard early childhood care & education (ECCE) is pivotal for overall growth of a generation.



Current status .

1. PM-SHRI
— creating new age schools.
2. EMRS — ekalavya Model schools for tribals.
3. Pramati judgement
— RTE, 25% reservation in private schools applicable → inclusive ↑

Candidates must not write on this margin

Intro :
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Conc. :
Total :

4. Near universal primary education
→ > 98%.
5. higher education : (23.5%)
target of 50% by 2035 (NEP, 2020)
6. Learning outcomes are poor
(eg) ASER Report → 5th grade
not able to read
3rd grade
7. Arithmetic and Numeracy issues
(eg) NIPUN Bharat to the same
8. Teacher to Pupil ratio less compared to universal standards.

Steps to be taken

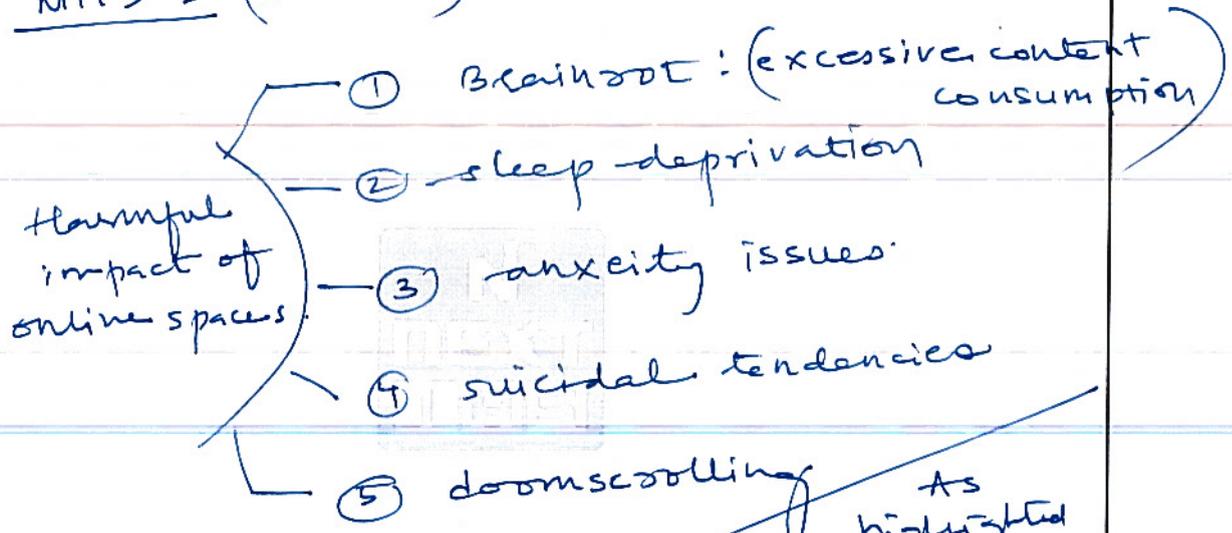
1. interactive learning — AI based mentoring
2. investment in teacher training
(eg) Finnish school methodology
3. "one-size fits all"
— moving away from singular exam based judgement
4. rural-urban divide → reduced by investment @ rural levels.

ECC E is the core of dream of Viksit Bharat. Outcome over output = approach will be key.

Q2. 'Despite the growing harmful impact of online spaces on adolescents, curbing these negative effects remains a significant challenge'. Discuss the factors responsible for this challenge and suggest measures to protect adolescents in the digital age.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

There is growing trend of "doomscrolling" and related mental health issues as highlighted by ASER and NHFS-5-(2023-24)



As highlighted by Jonathan Haidt

American psychologist

Factors responsible

1. social media

⑨ NF series: Adolescent highlighted "Misogynistic content"

2. child-cuddling practices have changed

3. replacement of playgrounds to screens for games.

4. peer-pressure → and "online spaces" are made common sense

5. cyberbullying

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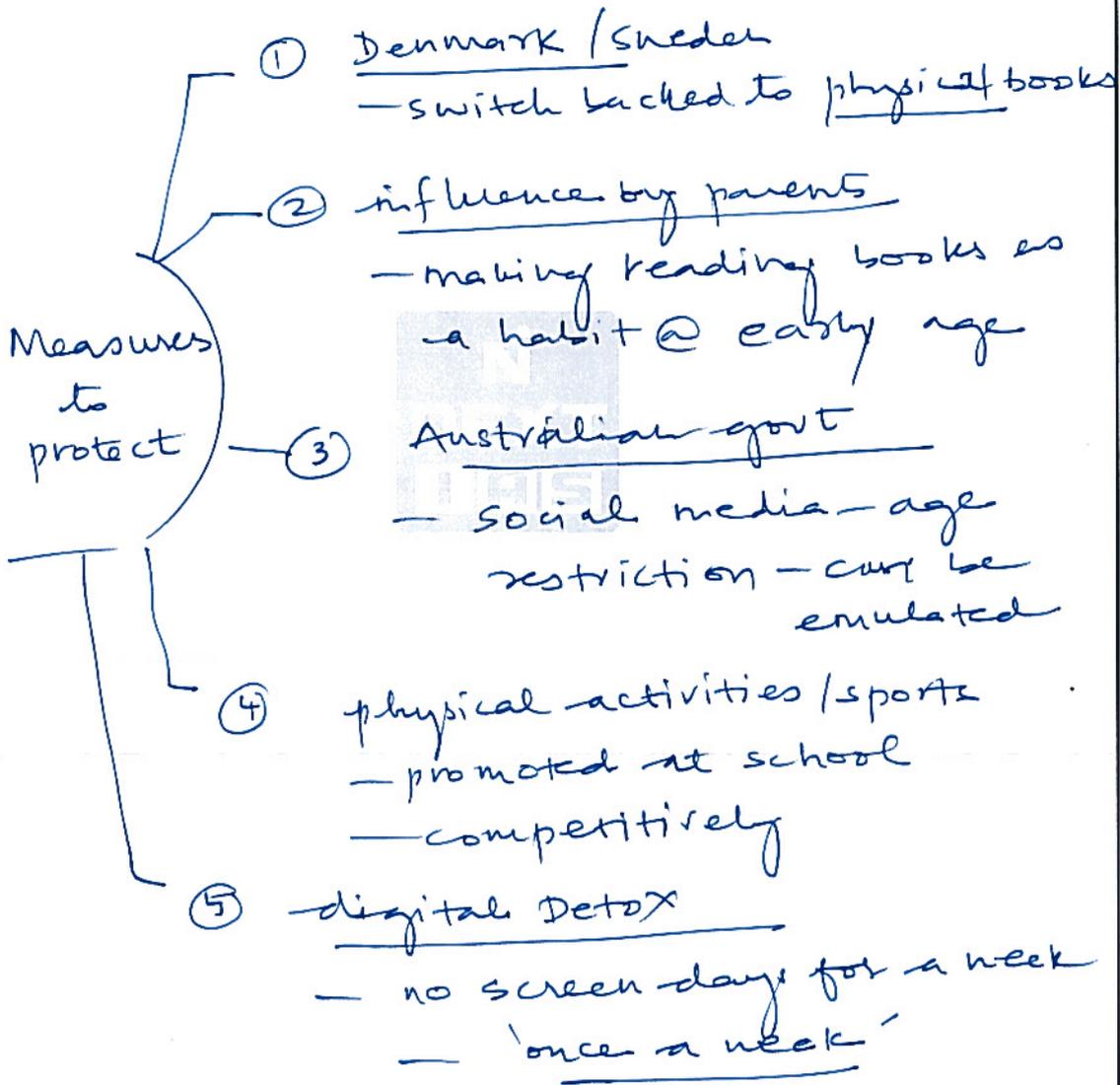
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6. Adaptation by parents

→ influence by seeing parents

7. social media / phones / tablets as the new sources of digital learning

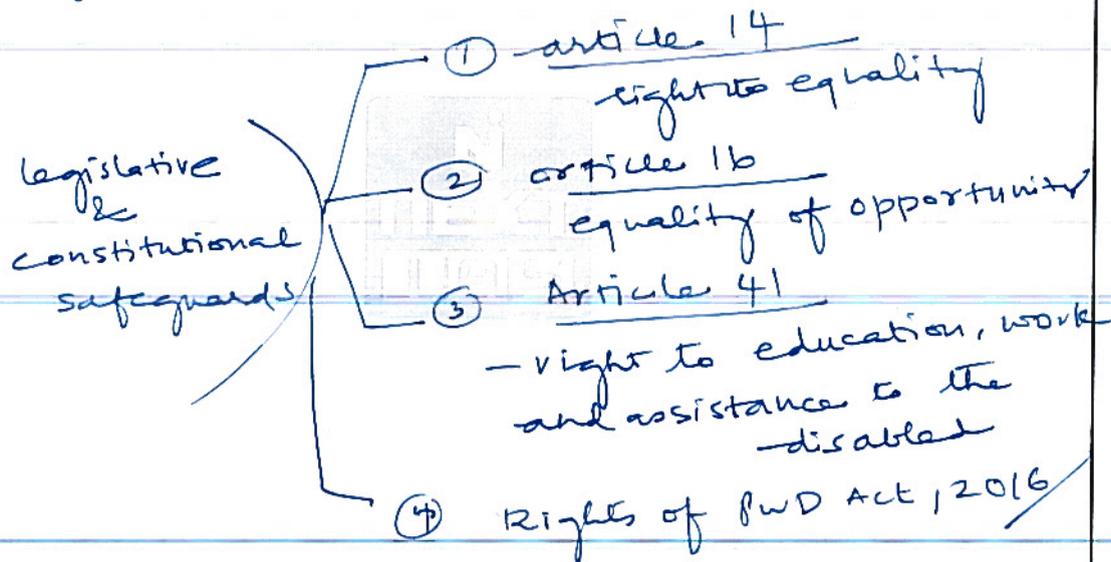
⇒ leading to a paradox!



Digital spaces ^{is} ~~are~~ a "double edged sword" — needs to be regulated to maximise the benefits, while reducing the ill effects

Q3. Analyse the challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in India despite legislative and constitutional safeguards. Suggest reforms to bridge the gap between legislative intent and societal reality to ensure their full inclusion in society. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

According to census 2011, India has (2.21)% of population with disabilities and Indian in ratification of international convention on Rights of persons with disabilities, enacted Right of PwD Act, 2016. (PWD)



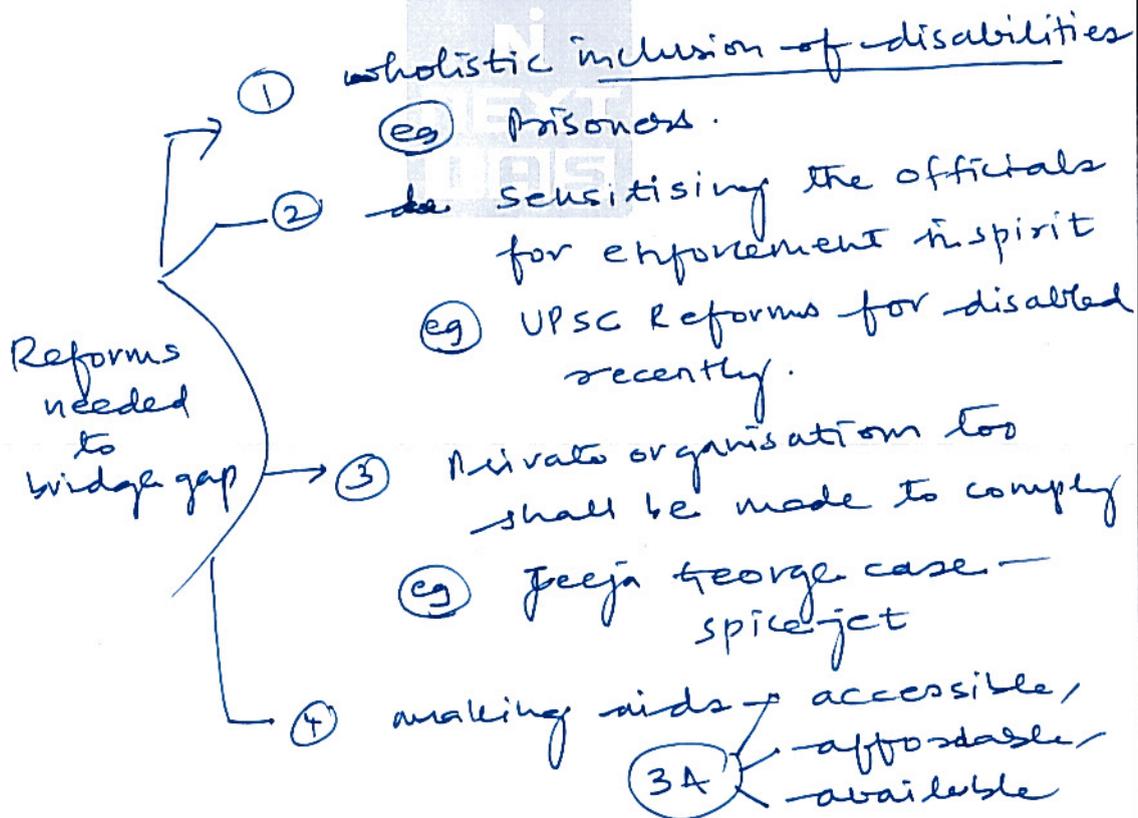
Challenges faced despite this.

- 1) Right to Accessibility
 - 1.1 - Accessible India campaign
 - 1.2 - only 35% of public buildings are disabled friendly.
 - 1.3 - RAJIVE RATURI case, (2022)
- 2) enforcement of law only in letter
 - eg) Vikas Kumar vs UPSC (2011)
- right to scribe was denied
citing procedural deficiencies

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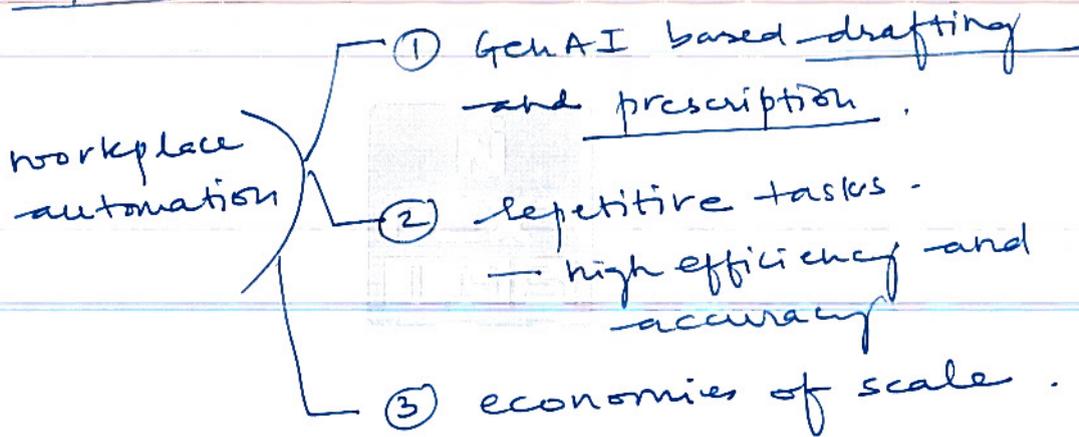
- 3.) Rights of Prisoners with Disabilities
 → the current prison manuals are silent on it. — as highlighted in recent SC case.
- 4.) lack of awareness of schemes
 — like ADIP → physical aids for disabled.
- 5.) discrimination and stereotyping
 → CJI Chandrachud highlighted the mass media of using pejorative terms in movies.



Thus, the legislations & constitutional mandate needs to be enforced in letter and spirit for bridging the gap of lived realities and protections promised.

Q4. 'Workplace automation is transforming industries by enhancing efficiency and productivity'. In this context, critically evaluate the social opportunities and risks associated with workplace automation in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

According to CII automation is deployed rapidly - covering $\frac{2}{3}$ of total old industries and 100% of new industries. leading to enhanced productivity. At the same time, labour unions, have highlighted 40% job loss



Social opportunities of Automation

1. Safety of workers

⑤ cradling in high-elevation construction sites.

2. drone-based reconnaissance survey - has led to efficiency, accuracy and less exposure during heatwaves!

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3. faster, and consistent responses -

(eg) legal drafting is increasing trend

4. economies of scale

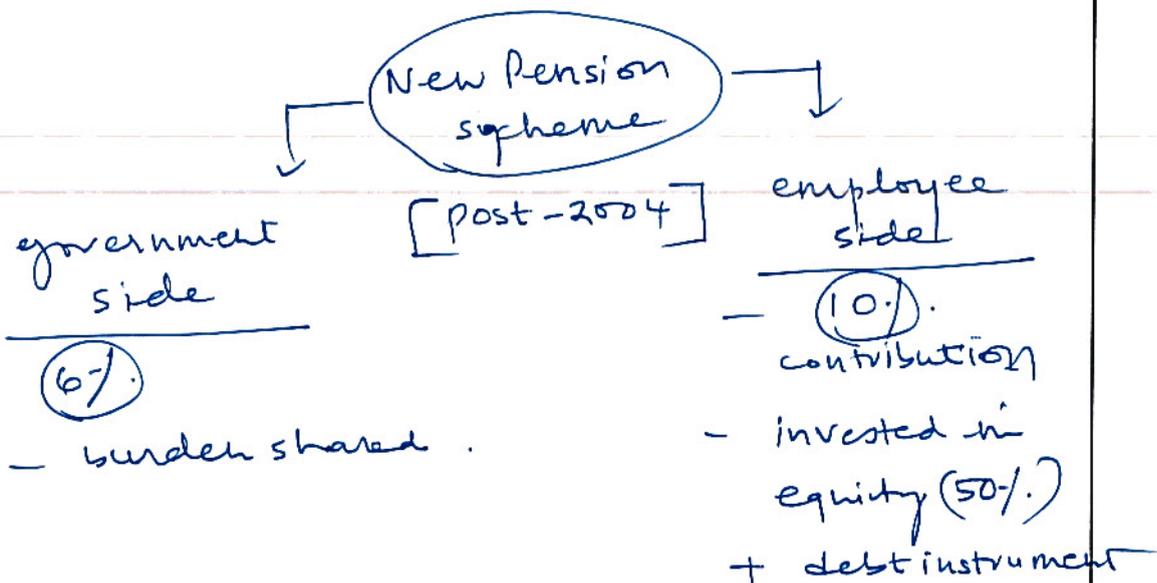
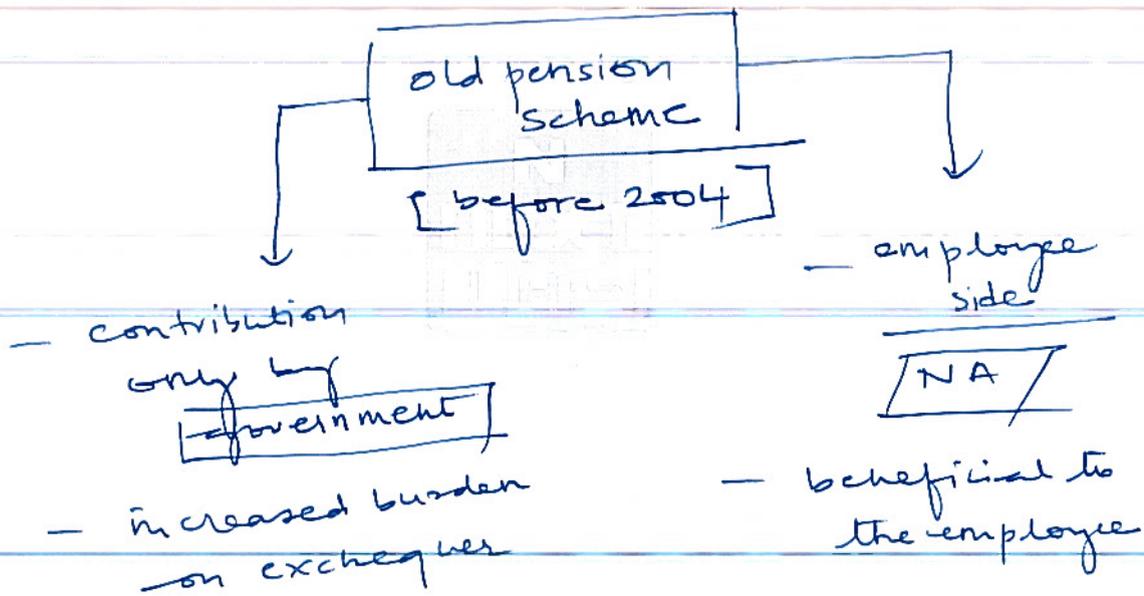
- high production ↑↑

- RISKS associated
- ① loss of jobs at lower levels
 (eg) ILO, highlighted AI based automation will take up 40% of jobs
 - ② unequal deployment
 → MSMEs are not able to take up automation
 → leading to uncompetitive prices
 - ③ errors without
 → a physical verification leads to errors, having widespread repercussions.
 (eg) FICCI study reveals 5% error in automation.

Automation is enhancing productivity but also threatens to loss of jobs.
skilling, upskilling and reskilling is the way forward

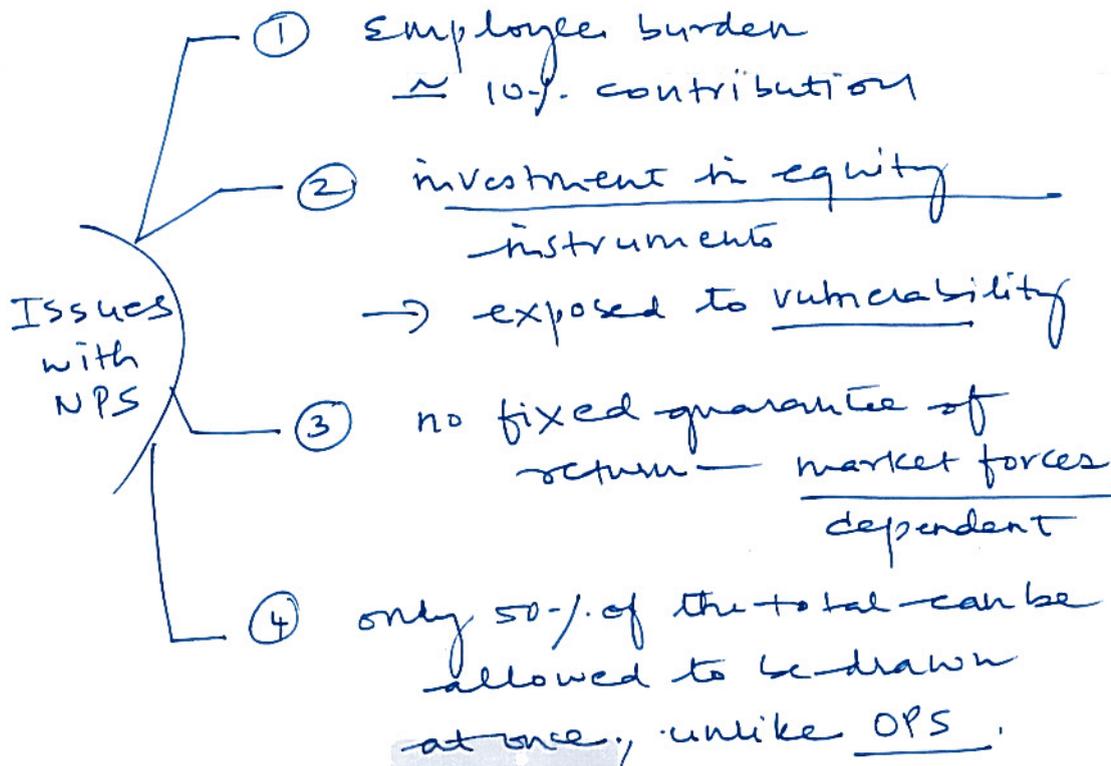
Q5. The Indian pension system has evolved from the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to the New Pension Scheme (NPS) and, now to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). In this context, discuss the issues associated with the NPS and evaluate the significance of the Unified Pension Scheme.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Pensions forms ^{one of} the largest expenditure among revenue expenses.
Recently, govt. brought in the Unified Pension scheme (UPS) to strike a balance between old and new system



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Significance of UPS

1. Right mix of both OPS + NPS
2. equitable distribution of contribution b/w employer and employee
3. Mix of both equity + debt instrument
4. allowance to draw — at once like OPS
— give independence to employee

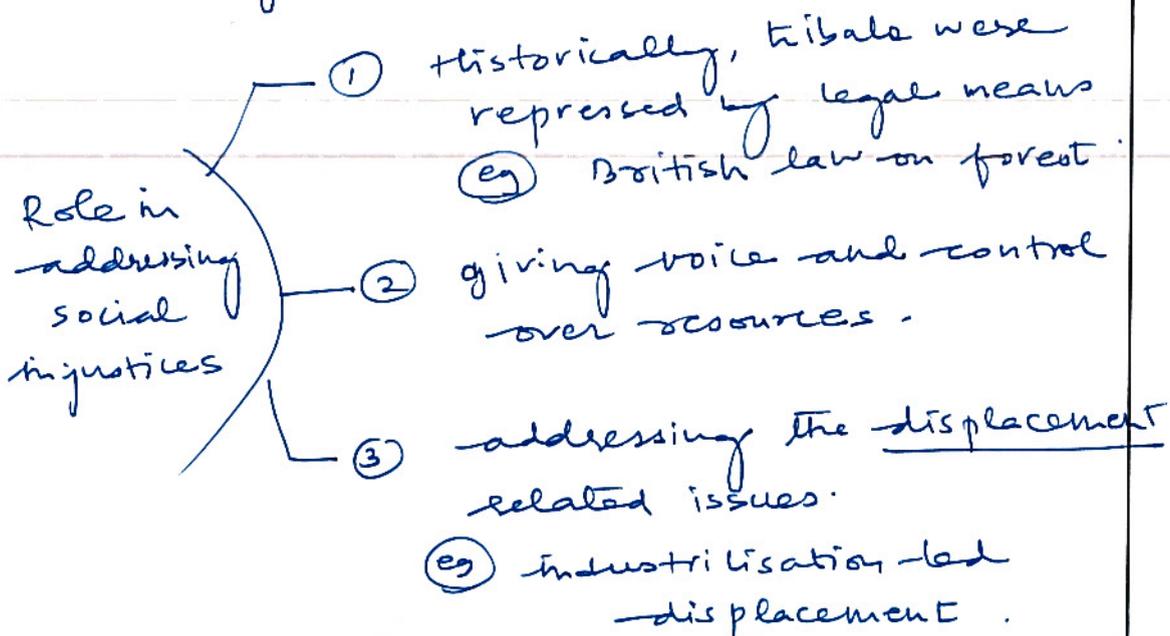
OPS, NPS and their issues are to an extent resolved by UPS. Not perfect but an near ideal version of pension system.

Q6. Discuss the key provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, and their role in addressing historical injustices./ What are the major challenges in its implementation? Suggest measures to overcome these challenges for effective implementation of forest rights. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The forest Rights Act, 2006 was a landmark legislations in line with promise of Pt. Nehru's Tribal Landshel

Key provisions.

1. It gives variety of rights like community forest rights, land titling rights and individual rights.
2. It has provisions for making the Gramsabha approval for mandatory clearance.
3. Role of Gram Sabha in EIA/SIA.
4. It highlights the intergenerational rights - 3 generations recognised.



Challenges in Implementation

1. The objective use of satellite data to assess their rights
 (eg) ⇒ this recently led to forced eviction in Orissa.
2. Conflict with forest conservation Act and policy, 1980.
 → (eg): slash-and-burn practice
3. - SC guidelines in Samatha judgement
 ⇒ flouted for selective implementation
 ⇒ only in spirit letter not spirit implementation of FRA
4. Politico-bureaucratic nexus
 → wildlife smuggling and illegal trade affecting tribals.
5. Development projects
 (eg) Niyangiri, Kudankulam (TN)
 Sharavati lift irrigation (KA)
6. ethical issues
 — development vs. sustainability
 — rights vs. larger goals/objectives
7. ex post facto clearance given.
8. biopiracy of tribal knowledge

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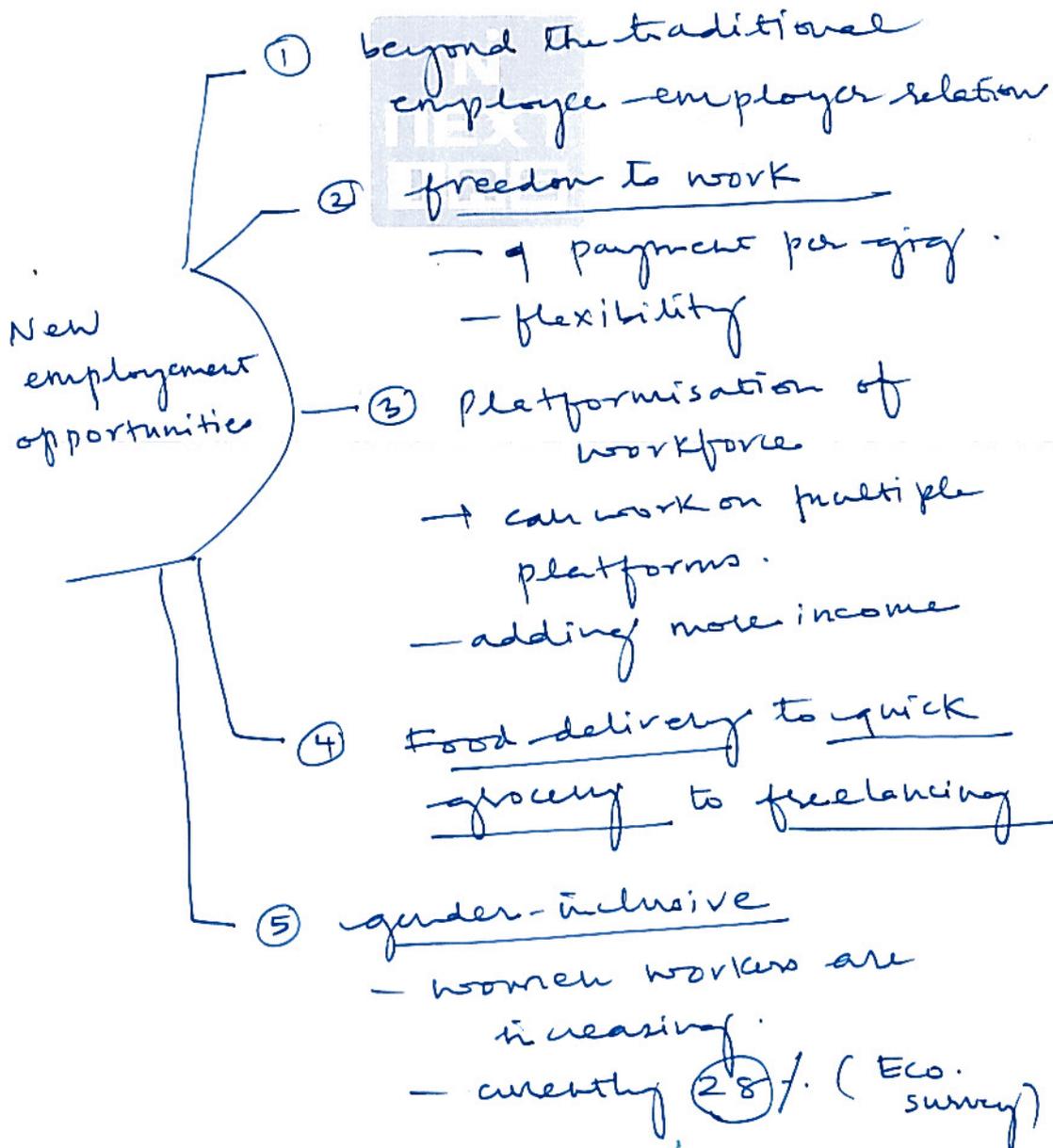
Measures to overcome

- 1) Mandatory participation of Gramsabha for EIA/SIA.
- 2) increase the period of consulting from current 45 to 60 days
- 3) civil societies / NGO - ~~make awareness~~ and advocacy of rights.
 (e.g) Greenpeace
- 4) sensitisation of working staff towards the needs.
 → going beyond 'us vs them' mentality
- 5) Technology only a means.
 → should be used along with 'physical verification'
- 6) mandatory royalties to development projects - "Public Trust Doctrine"
- 7) use of DMF - dist. mineral fund judiciously - for schools (ERMS), health, skilling
- 8) forest and tribals at the centre of policymaking → inclusive legislation

FRA is a legislation that has made tribals from frontiers to fore-
runners.

Q7. 'The rapid growth of the gig economy in India has created ^① new employment opportunities but also exposed significant social security challenges for gig workers'. Discuss these ^② challenges and suggest how the rationalization of labour laws can aid their formalization and integration into the social safety net. ^③ (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

According to Economic survey the gig economy is the "breakthrough moment" for Indian economy with contribution going to rise above 350 million dollars by 2030, from current 100+ dollars.



Social security challenges

1. No formal security net
 ⇒ leaving them exposed to vulnerabilities
2. Casualisation of labour
 → lack of recognition under specific framework.
3. Gig worker definition
 — in the 2020 labour code is very narrowly defined, creative threats of omission/commission in govt. programme.
4. Lack of accident coverage
 → increasing the burden.
5. dual burden
 → informal nature + ^{fast} changing tech.
 (eg) Drones for delivery.
6. Technological control
 — algorithmic control of workers
 — based on data
 — dehumanisation of labour.
 (eg) 10 min delivery — linked to ratings

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"Rationalisation" of labour laws to include them into social safety net

1. creating specific legislation for gig workers.
 - (eg) like Rajasthan govt.
2. Mandatory accident coverage under govt. insurance network
3. define the "gig economy" widely to include diverse types of gigs
 - ⇒ leaving no one behind
4. health insurance and other formal guarantees to make gig economy into the formal economy
 - better reflection of date & GDP

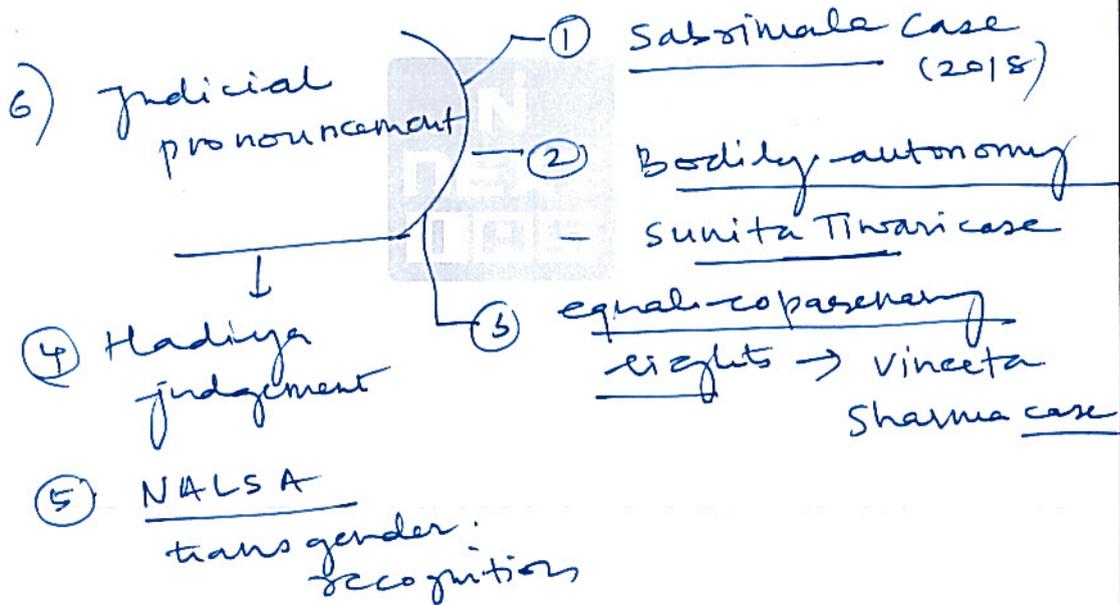
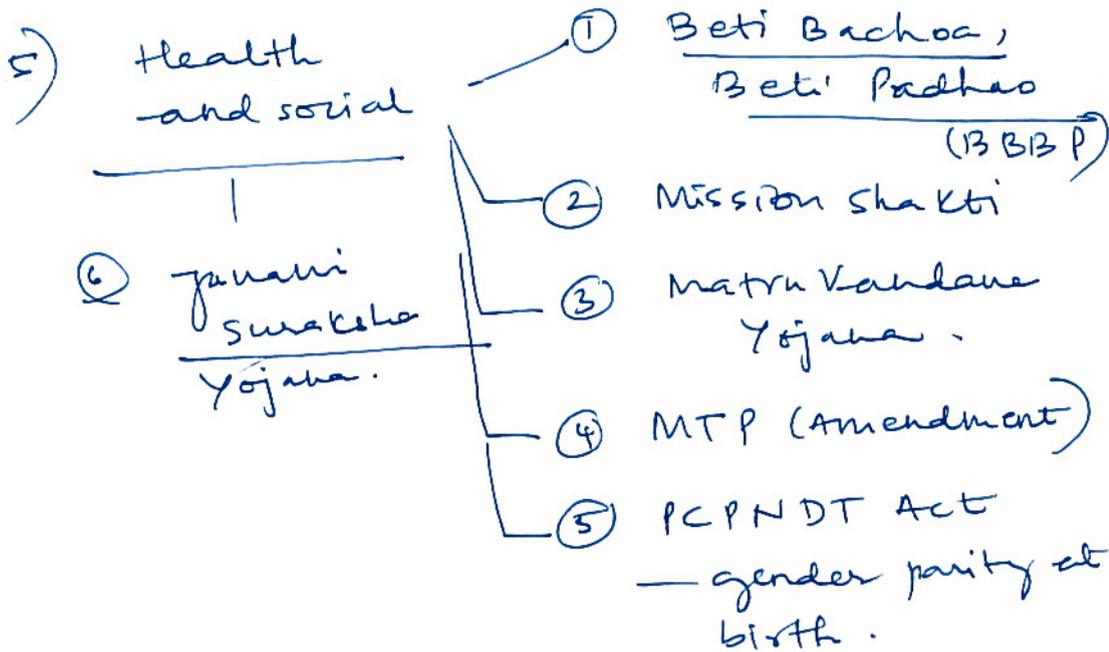
Gig economy can be a "tour de force" for economic development and growth. The social security is the starting point of that journey.

Q8. Discuss the notable developments made by India in achieving gender parity and examine the barriers that continue to hinder progress. What further measures can be adopted to make progress towards gender parity in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Global Gender Index by World Economic forum (WEF) - India ranked 131st rank, closing 68.5% gap.

Notable developments made

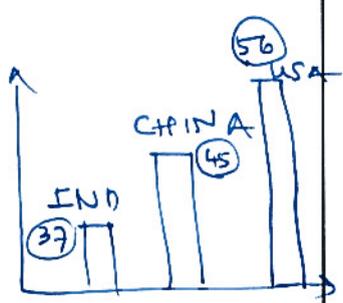
1. Political
 - ① 106th constitutional amendment act - women's reservation
 - ② 73rd CAA, 1992 - 33% in PRLs.
2. Education
 - ① STEM education - schemes like KIRAN and PM-eVidyalaxmi
 - MODCs - SWAYAM.
3. Economic
 - ① Gender participation in workforce acc. to PLFS, 2024 - 37.1%
 - ② reservation to state level judiciary and public service exams.
4. Workplace
 - ① POSH Act (Vishaka) guidelines.
 - ② Maternity benefits Act, (Amendment)



Barriers that continue

1) women public safety → (eg) RC Kar hospital case; Recent 11M Calcutta case

2) workplace contribution
labour force = 37.1%
(PLFS data, 2024)



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3. access to higher education

→ discrimination

→ sticky floor syndrome - not allowing by creating hindrance.

4. patriarchal mindset

(eg) Recent tennis player (25 yrs old)
- short by father in Haryana

① bridging the digital divide

(eg) only 37% rural women have access to internet.

(ASSOCIAM survey)

Measures to be taken

② behavioural nudging through social movement similar lines of BBBP.

③ STEM education

- scholarships and creating access.

④ improving surveillance

- and strengthening protection through legislative enforcement

⑤ skilling, reskilling, upskilling.

⑥ access to credit → PM MUDRA

WEF highlighted it would take 100+ years to close the gap, an inclusive approach would reduce the process time.

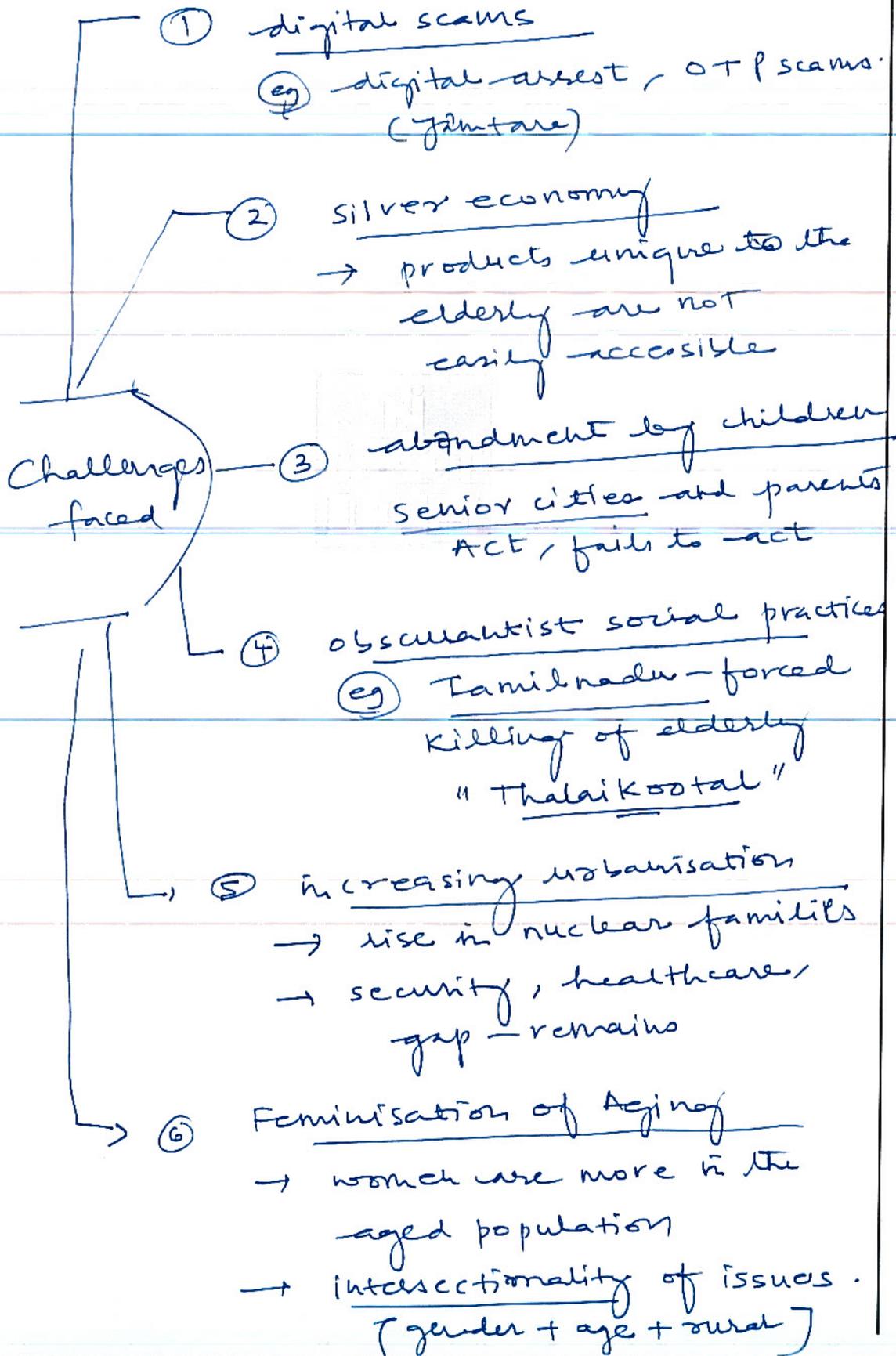
- Q9. Critically examine the various welfare measures undertaken for senior citizens in India. Analyse the need for a comprehensive policy to effectively address the challenges faced by the elderly in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

According to UN-FPA, the elderly population in India is currently at 9.6%, but would double to 20% in 20 years (2045-50)

Various welfare measures

1. Article 41 → right to assistance to the elderly.
2. PM - Vayashik Vandhana scheme
→ geriatric healthcare
→ insurance.
3. PM - ABJAY
expanded recently to include the population > 70 years.
4. Digi-Banking services
- for banking facilities.
(eg) PM Jan Dhan / DBT.
5. NPOP - National programme for older persons
→ healthcare
→ monthly allowances.

6. ADIP scheme - assistive ~~develops~~ devices like hearing aid, walking clutches. etc



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Comprehensive Policy needed

1. Digital divide and literacy
→ cyber hygiene practices.
2. Geriatric healthcare
— super speciality hospital and technology
— esp. at Rural India
3. Special schemes for 'elderly women'
— to address the intersectionality
4. Civil society
→ to enhance the security and entertainment needs.
5. startups
→ (eg) Ratan Tata backed app to look after avenues for post-retirement
6. decentralised banking services
7. availability of physical aids
more accessible + affordable

The disabled are "resource of experience" and should not be seen as burden.

Q10. Discuss the factors that have led to a significant increase in internal migration in the country over the past two decades. What are the challenges faced by migrant workers in India? Suggest measures that are needed to address these challenges.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

According to census 2011, migrant population accounts for 36% of total population, and are important agents of economic growth.

Factors that have led to increased internal migration

1. job availability
 eg: IT parks in Pune, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad.
2. rapid urbanization
 → currently 34% of population
 50% by 2050 → leading to growth of employment
3. Disaster-induced migration
 → eg Bihar floods → induce them to work in other states.
4. Disparity in development
 eg Green Revolution → led to attracting low-wage-labours from east to western India

- ⑤ Marriage
 - majority of migrant population is female too.
- ⑥ development induced migration
 - displacement of tribals (or) slum dwellers to other parts
 (eg) Delhi - mass - slum - resettlement
- ⑦ interstate migration
 - p contrary to popular perception, 67% is inter-state migration
- ⑧ education opportunities
 (eg) NEET - PG: No domicile reservation
 ∴ ⇒ interstate - college choice

Challenges faced

1. lack of migrant data available.
 (eg) only after COVID-exigency
 ⇒ led to lack of addressal
2. Voting issues.
 (eg) recent S/R reforms in Bihar electoral rolls.
 → narrow window to go for them
 ⇒ disfranchisement

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3. Growing anti-migrant stance

(eg) Sons-of-soil doctrine
 → MH, KAR.

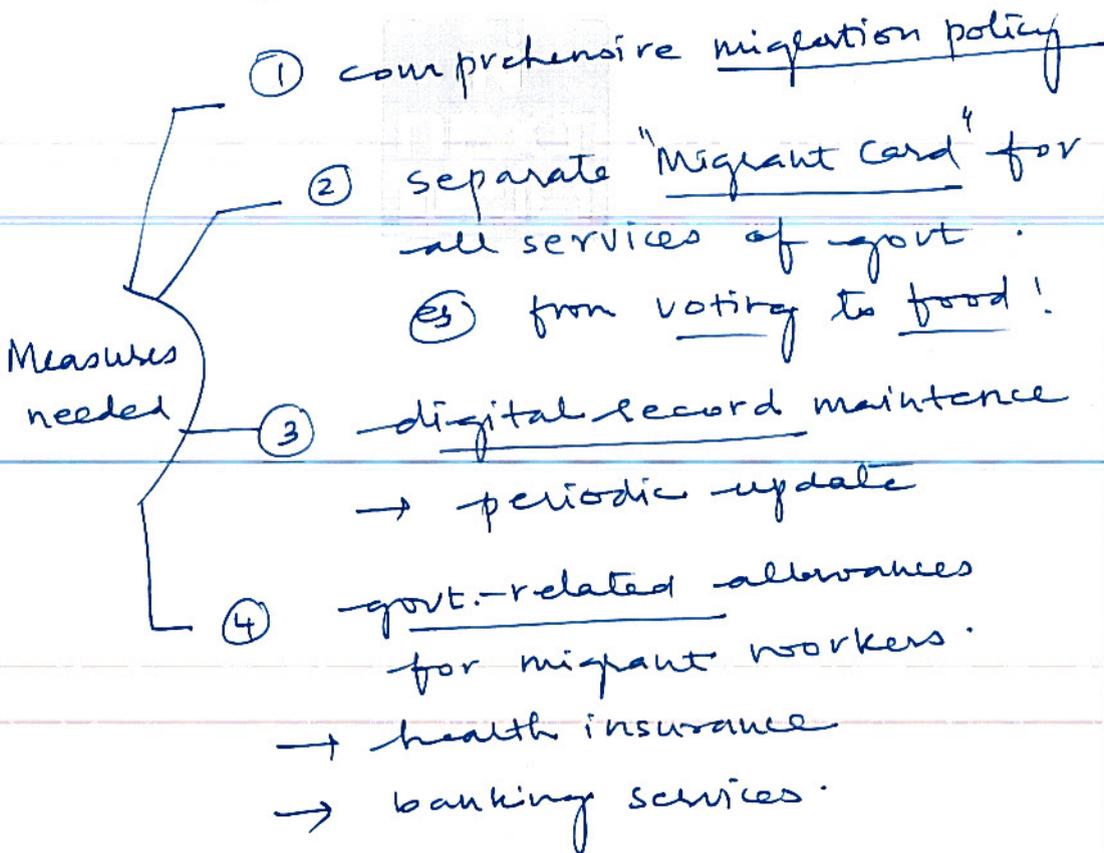
4. laws like jobs-for-local, hamper the job opportunities.

(eg) Karnataka private sector bill, 2024

5. issues with one-nation-one ration card

→ irregular implementation

→ (WB) not complying



"Disparity in development" needs to be addressed to ensure uniform, inclusive and sustainable development.
 Migration is a source of growth highlights (eco. survey)

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2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any pages from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

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6. Please check the sequence of the answer and total number of pages in the scanned version. Make sure it is in consonance with the physical version of the same.