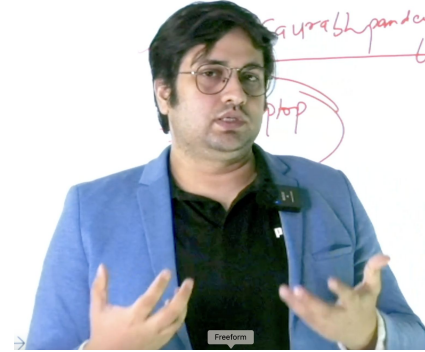


Topics - MINDS MAPS included



- the Axiom Mission
- One belt one road Initiative
- One belt one road Initiative
- China and Nepal Relationship
- The Bosphorus Strait,
- The National company Law Tribunal
- An Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)
- The Madhav Gadgil Committee and the Kasturirangan Committee
- Mains



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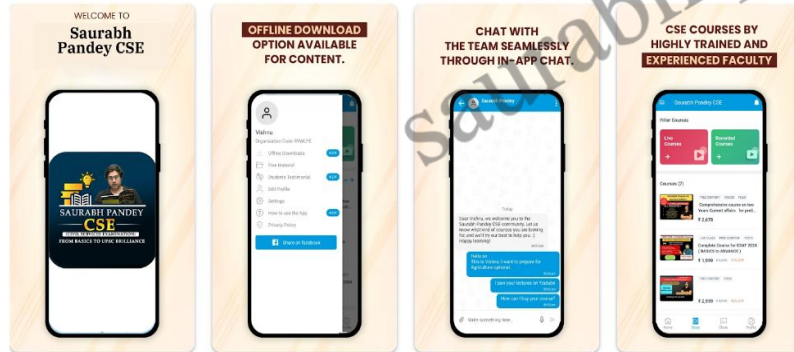
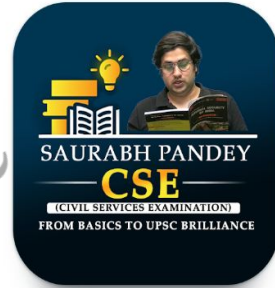
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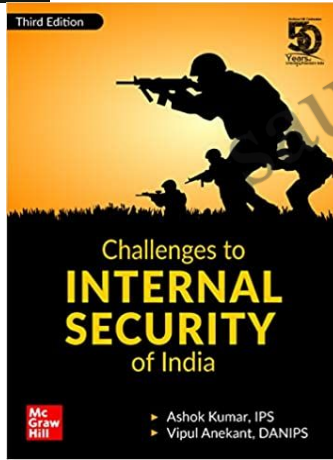
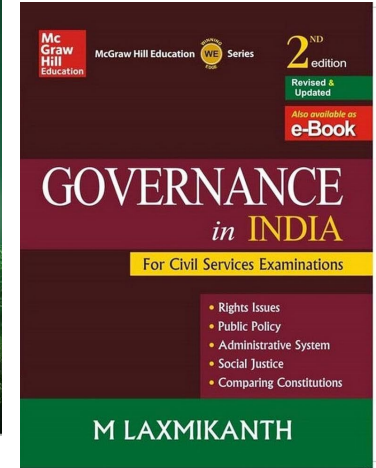
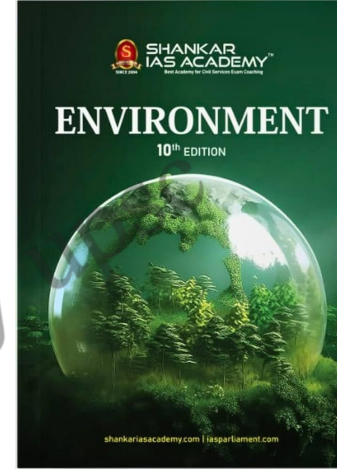
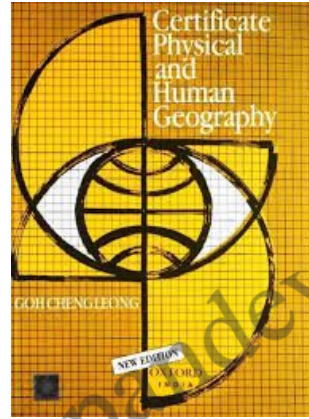
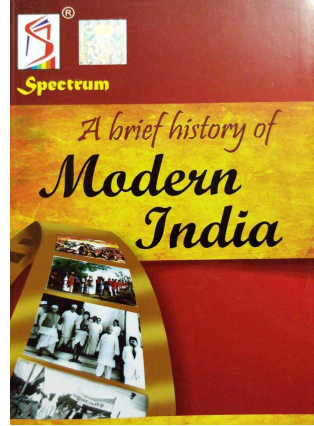
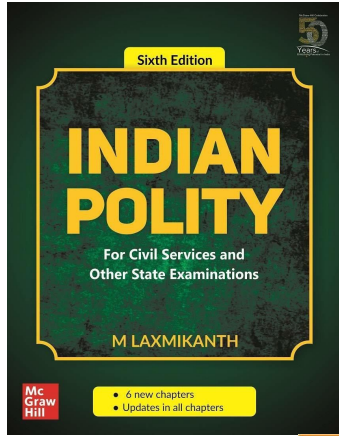
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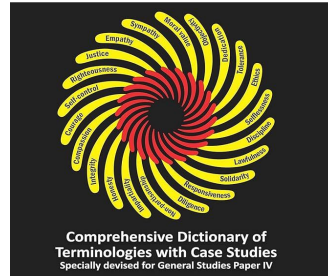


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Topic - the Axiom Mission

- the Axiom Mission refers to a series of planned private missions to the International Space Station (ISS) organized by Axiom Space, a company that aims to play a significant role in the future of commercial spaceflight.
- Axiom Space is developing its own space station and is also working on the Axiom Segment, an addition to the ISS that will eventually become the Axiom Space Station.
- The Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1), which launched in April 2022, was the first private astronaut mission to the ISS and was carried out in partnership with SpaceX.
- The crew included Michael López-Alegría (a former NASA astronaut and the mission commander), Larry Connor, Mark Pathy, and Eytan Stibbe.
- The mission lasted about eight days and involved conducting scientific research and other activities on the ISS.

- **Future Axiom Missions are expected to continue the trend of private astronaut missions, potentially including more extensive stays on the ISS and eventually on the Axiom Space Station once it is operational.**
- **These missions are part of a broader trend towards commercial spaceflight and are opening up new opportunities for space tourism, scientific research, and other activities in low Earth orbit.**
- **Indian astronaut-designates Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been shortlisted to go to the U.S. to train for the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).**

Topic- One belt one road Initiative

- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as the One Belt One Road (OBOR) Initiative, is a global development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in infrastructure and economic development in countries across Asia, Europe, and Africa.
- The initiative is named after the ancient Silk Road trade routes that connected China with the West.

The BRI consists of two main components:

The Silk Road Economic Belt: This involves land-based infrastructure projects that aim to link China with Europe and Africa through Central Asia and the Middle East. Projects include railways, roads, and pipelines.

The 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road: This focuses on maritime infrastructure, such as ports and shipping lanes, connecting China's coast with Europe and Africa via the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The BRI is a massive undertaking, involving billions of dollars in investments and thousands of projects. It encompasses a wide range of infrastructure development, including:

- **Ports and maritime facilities**
- **Railways and road networks**
- **Energy pipelines and power grids**
- **Telecommunications and digital infrastructure**
- **Industrial parks and economic zones**

Objectives of the BRI:

- **Economic Development:** To stimulate economic growth by increasing trade and connectivity, both within China and between China and other countries.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** To invest in infrastructure projects that can boost economic development and provide new markets for Chinese companies.
- **Geopolitical Influence:** To enhance China's geopolitical influence and create a "Sinosphere" of countries economically tied to China.
- **Energy Security:** To secure access to energy resources through new pipelines and other infrastructure.

Challenges and Criticisms:

While the BRI has the potential to transform global trade and connectivity, it has faced several challenges and criticisms:

Debt Sustainability: Some countries have struggled with the debt incurred from BRI projects, leading to concerns about debt sustainability and the potential for "debt-trap diplomacy."

Environmental Impact: Large-scale infrastructure projects can have significant environmental impacts, including habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change concerns.

Transparency and Governance: There are concerns about the transparency of BRI projects and the governance structures surrounding them, including issues of corruption and lack of accountability.

Strategic Competition: The BRI has been seen as part of a broader strategic competition between China and other major powers, particularly the United States.

Despite these challenges, the BRI remains a central part of China's foreign policy and economic strategy, with significant implications for global trade, geopolitics, and infrastructure development.

figures:

figure 1.1 mindmap:



Topic- China and Nepal Relationship



- The relationship between China and Nepal is historically significant and has evolved over time.
- Nepal, a landlocked country in South Asia, shares a border with China to the north and with India to the south, east, and west.
- This geographical position has played a crucial role in shaping Nepal's foreign policy and its relationship with both its neighbors.

Historical Context:

- China and Nepal have had diplomatic relations since the 1950s.
- Nepal was one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China in 1950, and the two countries established formal diplomatic relations in 1955.
- The relationship has been characterized by a commitment to the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and equality.

Economic Relations:

- **China has been increasingly engaged in Nepal's economic development, particularly through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).**
- **This includes investments in infrastructure projects such as roads, railways, and energy development.**
- **China's involvement in Nepal's economy has the potential to diversify Nepal's trade and reduce its dependence on India, which is Nepal's largest trading partner.**

Political and Strategic Ties:

- The relationship between China and Nepal has also been influenced by strategic considerations.
- Nepal seeks to maintain a balanced relationship with both China and India, its much larger neighbors.
- This balancing act is reflected in Nepal's foreign policy, which emphasizes non-alignment and seeks to benefit from the economic opportunities offered by both countries.

Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges:

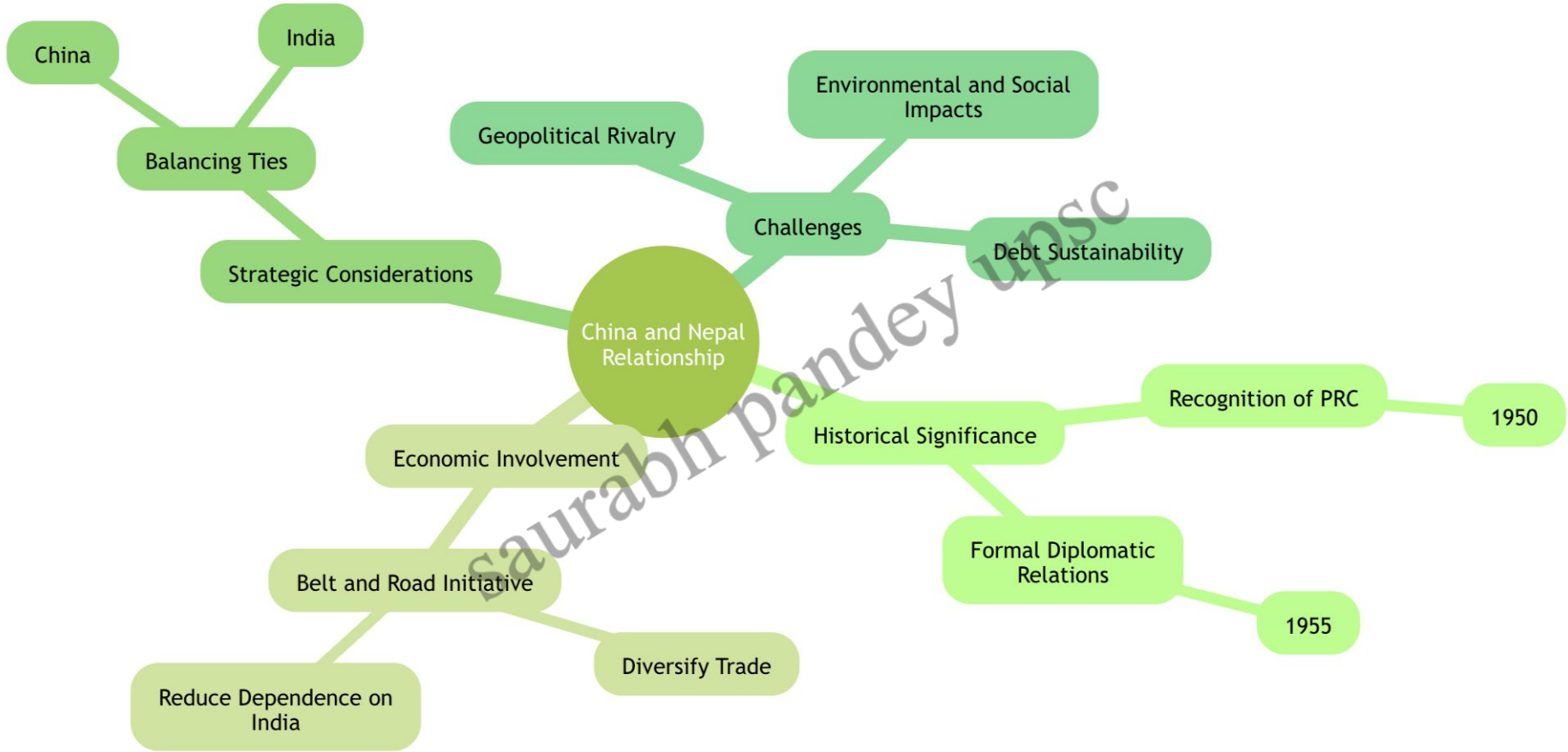
- There have been efforts to strengthen cultural ties between China and Nepal through educational exchanges, tourism, and cultural events.
- These exchanges aim to promote understanding and friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

Challenges and Concerns:

- **Despite the positive aspects of the relationship, there are challenges and concerns.**
- **These include the potential for Nepal to become entangled in the geopolitical rivalry between China and India, the environmental and social impacts of Chinese-funded infrastructure projects, and concerns about the sustainability of the debt incurred by Nepal from these projects.**

Recent Developments:

- In recent years, China has become increasingly active in Nepal, and the relationship has grown closer.
- This has been evident in increased Chinese investment, high-level diplomatic visits, and support for Nepal's political stability and economic development. However,
- Nepal continues to navigate the complexities of its relationships with both China and India, seeking to maintain its sovereignty and independence in the face of their competing interests.



Topic-The Bosphorus Strait,

- **The Bosphorus Strait, also known as the Istanbul Strait, is a significant waterway that connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara in northwestern Turkey.**
- **It forms part of the continental boundary between Europe and Asia, with the city of Istanbul straddling both continents on either side of the strait.**
- **The Bosphorus is approximately 30 kilometers (about 19 miles) long, with a width that varies between 700 meters (about 2,300 feet) and 3,700 meters (about 12,100 feet).**

International Maritime Traffic:

- **The Bosphorus is one of the busiest waterways in the world, with a high volume of maritime traffic, including commercial ships, tankers, and passenger vessels.**
- **It is essential for the transportation of goods, energy resources, and passengers, linking the Black Sea ports with the rest of the world.**

Environmental and Urban Challenges:

- **The heavy maritime traffic and the proximity of the strait to Istanbul, one of the largest cities in the world, pose environmental and urban challenges. Issues such as pollution, the risk of accidents, and the impact on the local ecosystem and marine life are of concern.**
- **Additionally, the urban development along the shores of the Bosphorus and the need for infrastructure to support the growing population add to the challenges of managing the strait**

Control and Regulation:

- **The control and regulation of the Bosphorus Strait are governed by international treaties, most notably the Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits, which was signed in 1936.**
- **This convention determines the conditions for warships and commercial vessels passing through the straits, ensuring freedom of passage under certain conditions while also addressing security concerns.**

Topic- The National company Law Tribunal

- **The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is a quasi-judicial body in India that was established under the Companies Act, 2013.**
- **It is responsible for adjudicating issues related to Indian companies, including corporate disputes, insolvency, and winding-up proceedings.**
- **The NCLT was created to replace various other tribunals and authorities that previously handled such matters, aiming to streamline the process and provide a more efficient and effective resolution mechanism for corporate issues**

Key Functions of the NCLT:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Proceedings: The NCLT is a key player in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), which governs the resolution of insolvency and bankruptcy in India. It adjudicates corporate insolvency cases and oversees the process of corporate debt restructuring and liquidation.

Corporate Disputes: The tribunal resolves disputes between companies, shareholders, and management, including disputes over oppression and mismanagement, class action suits by minority shareholders, and other corporate governance issues.

Mergers and Acquisitions: The NCLT approves corporate restructuring schemes, including mergers, amalgamations, and demergers, ensuring they comply with the legal requirements and protect the interests of stakeholders.

- **Winding-Up Proceedings:** The tribunal can initiate the winding-up process of a company and oversee the distribution of assets among creditors and shareholders.
- **Other Company Law Matters:** The NCLT deals with a range of other company law-related issues, such as the rectification of company registers, the removal of directors, and the approval of certain transactions that require judicial sanction.

Structure and Jurisdiction:

- **The NCLT is composed of benches, which include both judicial and technical members with expertise in corporate law, finance, and insolvency.**
- **These benches are located across various cities in India to ensure accessibility and efficiency in the resolution of corporate matters.**
- **The jurisdiction of the NCLT extends to all companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, as well as to certain other entities as specified by the Act. Appeals from the decisions of the NCLT can be made to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), which is a higher appellate body also established under the Companies Act.**

- **The establishment of the NCLT is part of a broader reform agenda in India aimed at improving the ease of doing business and ensuring a more transparent and efficient corporate governance system.**
- **It plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and stability of the Indian corporate sector by providing a fair and effective mechanism for resolving corporate disputes and insolvency cases.**

Topic-An Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)

- **An Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) is a region or zone that is designated by regulatory bodies or governments as being particularly sensitive to ecological disturbance.**
- **These areas are often characterized by unique, rare, or threatened ecosystems, high biodiversity, and/or critical environmental functions.**
- **The designation of an area as ecologically sensitive is intended to restrict or regulate human activities that could harm the environment or disrupt ecosystem services in the area.**

Key Characteristics of Ecologically Sensitive Areas:

Biodiversity Hotspots: ESAs often contain a high concentration of endemic species, rare species, or species of particular ecological importance.

Fragile Ecosystems: They may include ecosystems that are particularly vulnerable to disturbance, such as wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs, and alpine meadows.

Environmental Services: ESAs provide critical ecosystem services such as water purification, carbon sequestration, and natural flood protection.

Cultural and Historical Significance: Some ESAs are also important for their cultural or historical value, serving as habitats for indigenous species or containing archaeological sites.

Regulation and Management:

- **The management of ESAs typically involves creating a set of regulations that limit or prohibit certain activities within the area.**
- **These regulations may include restrictions on development, industrial activities, mining, logging, and other practices that could negatively impact the environment.**
- **The goal is to balance the need for conservation with sustainable use of natural resources.**

Examples of ESAs:

- **Protected Areas:** Many national parks, wildlife reserves, and biosphere reserves are designated as ESAs.
- **Coastal Zones:** Coastal areas, especially those with coral reefs, mangroves, and other sensitive habitats, are often classified as ESAs.
- **Wetlands:** Wetland areas that are important for water purification and as habitats for aquatic species are frequently designated as ESAs.
- The designation of an area as ecologically sensitive is a critical step in environmental conservation and sustainable management.
- It helps to ensure that the unique and important ecological features of an area are protected for future generations, while also allowing for the sustainable use of natural resources.

Topic-The Madhav Gadgil Committee and the Kasturirangan Committee



- The Madhav Gadgil Committee and the Kasturirangan Committee are two expert panels that have played significant roles in shaping conservation and development policies in India, particularly in relation to the Western Ghats, a mountain range that runs parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula.

Madhav Gadgil Committee:

- The Madhav Gadgil Committee, officially known as the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), was formed in 2010 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India.
- The committee was chaired by ecologist Madhav Gadgil and was tasked with studying the ecology of the Western Ghats and recommending measures for its conservation and development.

- **The Gadgil Committee submitted its report in 2011, recommending the classification of the Western Ghats into three zones: Ecologically Sensitive Zones I, II, and III, with varying levels of restrictions on development activities.**
- **The report emphasized the need for strict conservation measures in the most ecologically sensitive areas, which were to be designated as ESZ-I, and suggested that development should be carefully planned and controlled in the other zones to ensure sustainability.**

Kasturirangan Committee:

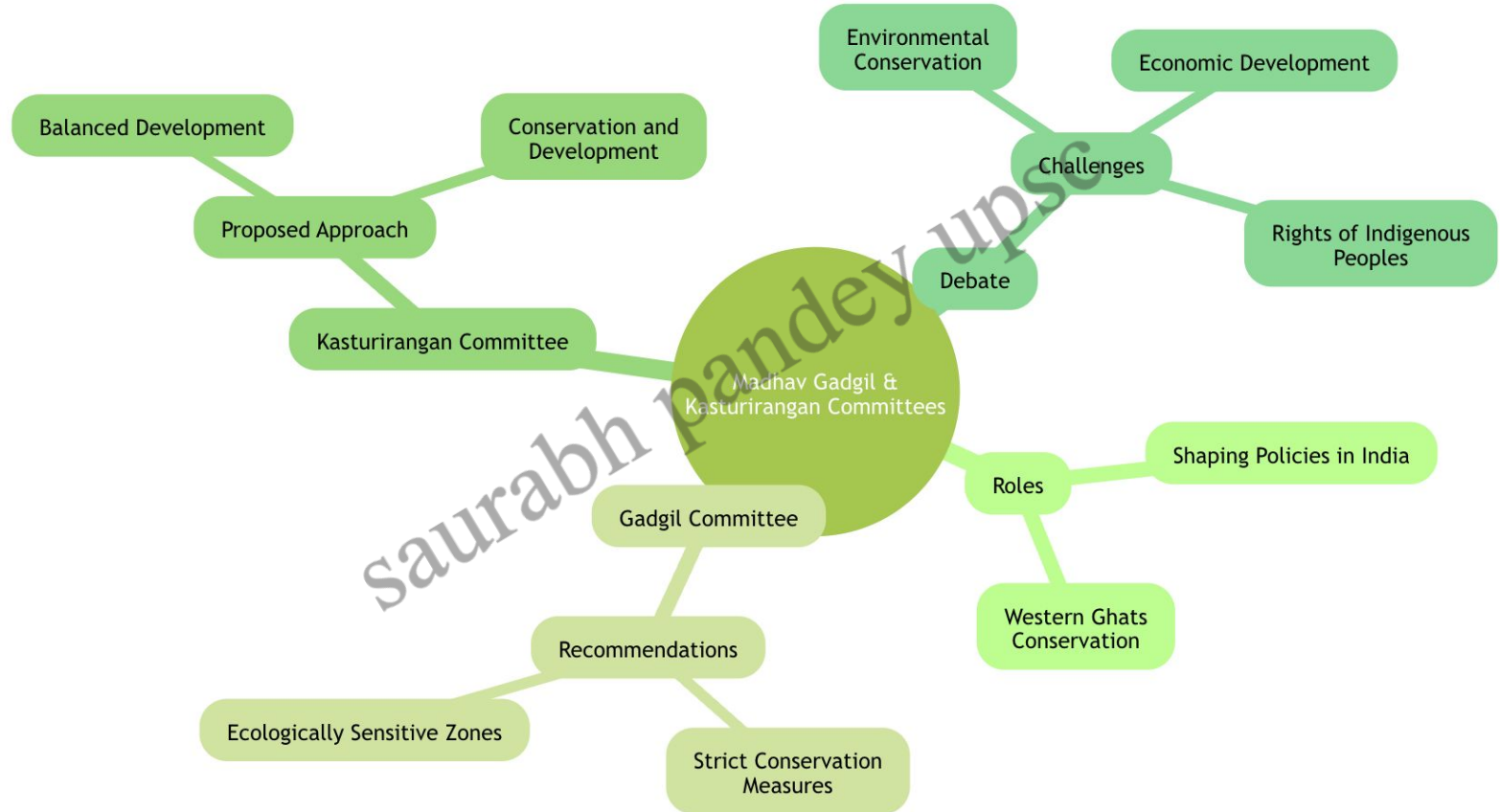
- **Following the Gadgil Committee's report, there was significant debate and opposition from various stakeholders, including local communities and industry, who felt that the recommendations were too restrictive and would hinder development. In response, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) constituted the High-Level Working Group on Western Ghats, chaired by ecologist Kasturirangan, in 2012.**
- **The Kasturirangan Committee submitted its report in 2013, with a focus on balancing conservation and development. It proposed a more nuanced approach to the classification of the Western Ghats, suggesting the creation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) that would cover about 37% of the region.**
- **The committee's recommendations aimed to accommodate both environmental conservation and the socio-economic needs of the local population.**

Comparison and Controversy:

- The Gadgil Committee's recommendations were criticized for being too conservation-focused and not adequately considering the livelihoods of local communities, while the Kasturirangan Committee's report was seen as more development-friendly.
- The debate between the two reports reflects the broader challenge of balancing environmental conservation with economic development and the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Both reports have been influential in shaping India's conservation policies, with the Kasturirangan Committee's recommendations being more widely accepted and implemented by the government.
- However, the issue remains contentious, with ongoing discussions on how best to protect the ecological integrity of the Western Ghats while ensuring the well-being of the people who depend on it for their livelihoods

figures:

figure 1.1 mindmap:



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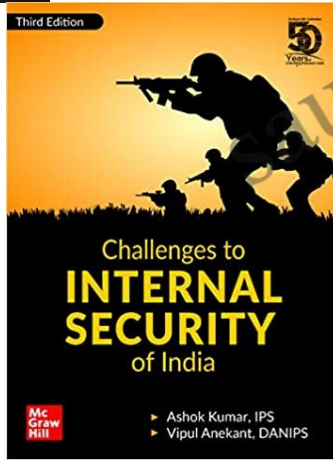
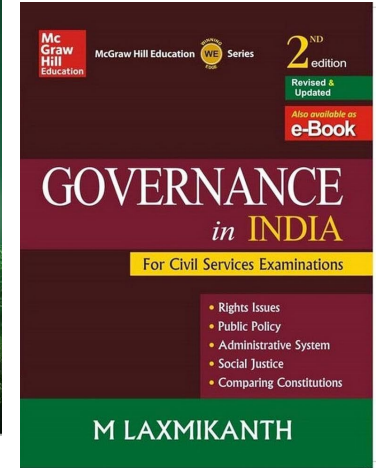
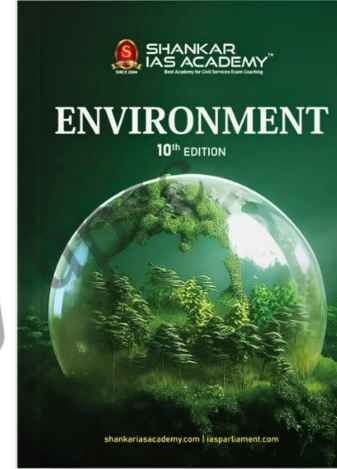
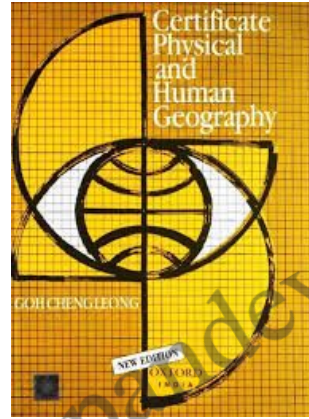
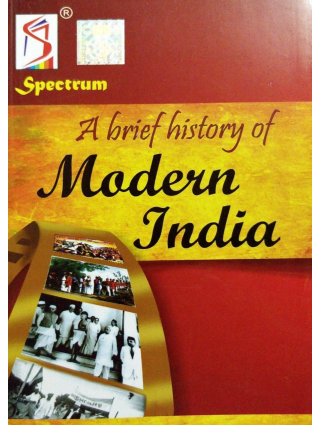
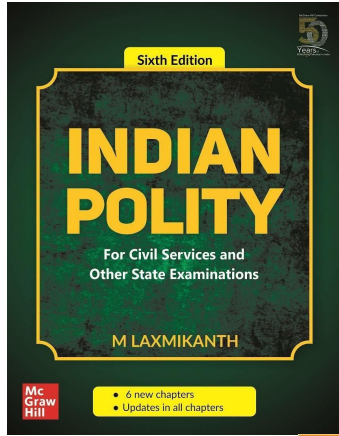
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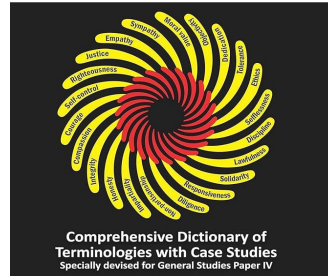
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