

TEST CODE : 4 1 0 7 4

FIAS - MGP 2021 - GS paper #2

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	ADITYA RAJ		
Roll No.		Date:	20/11/21

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH &amp; HINDI, all questions are compulsory.</p> <p>3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.</p> <p>5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p> <p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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<b>Total:</b>	<b>250</b>		
<b>Evaluator's Discretion:</b>			<b>For Student Only</b>
			<b>Start Time</b>   9:45 am   <b>End Time</b>   1:00 pm
<b>Total Marks:</b>			<b>Mode Of Examination:</b> Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Evaluator's Discretion:</b> This is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.			<b>For Office Use Only</b>
			<b>ECN CODE:</b>   <b>EG:</b>   <b>Evaluation Date:</b>

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**Note:** You can discuss your evaluated copy with the Mentor. Raise a ticket from your portal to schedule a mentor call or visit the offline centre to meet mentor (all 7 days, Timings - 11 AM to 6 PM). Further if you are unsatisfied with the evaluation, you can seek re-evaluation of the copy.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
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**ADDITIONAL REMARKS**



Q.1) Though necessary; timely, free and fair elections are not sufficient to ensure a vibrant democracy. In your opinion, what are the essential requirements for a vibrant democracy?

(10 marks, 150 words)

हालांकि एक जीवंत लोकतंत्र को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अनिवार्य रूप से, समय पर, स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव पर्याप्त नहीं हैं। आपकी राय में, एक जीवंत लोकतंत्र के लिए आवश्यक आवश्यकताएं क्या हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

ECI conducts the free & fair elections under provisions of Ar 324, RPA 1950 & RPA 1951. They are deemed as part of basic structure of Indian constitution.

Why it is not sufficient.

- 1) Elections is just one part of democracy.
- 2) ~~Proper~~ free Fulfills the entry-level task by constituting the legislature.
- 3) ECI has ~~no~~ less powers to debar the candidates or political parties using unfair means. Since ECI cannot de register a political party.
- 4) No legal enforcement to Model code of conduct - MCC.

## Other essential requirements for vibrant democracy

1) Effective functioning of legislature:  
without disruptions, stalls, or bypassing  
it via ordinance (Ar 123 or 213).

2) Constitutionalism i.e. limited government norm for executive

- to maintain separation of powers under Ar 50

- Be limited by written constitution, federal policy & fundamental rights of citizens

3) Independent & Robust Judiciary -

4) Proper functioning of other bulwarks of constitution

- CAG (Ar 140)

- Central Vigilance Commission

- UPSC

5) Robust civil society and media.

Hence vibrant democracy is like a Caravan with many parts and personnels.



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Q.2) A major responsibility in a federal country with strong centralizing tendency is to maintain the balance, as well as mutual respect, between political structures at the central and state levels. Explain in light of recent events. (10 marks, 150 words)

मजबूत केंद्रीकरण की प्रवृत्ति वाले एक संघीय देश में एक प्रमुख जिम्मेदारी केंद्र और राज्य स्तर पर राजनीतिक संरचनाओं के बीच संतुलन के साथ-साथ आपसी सम्मान को बनाए रखना है। हाल की घटनाओं के आलोक में व्याख्या कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India is quasi-federal polity as suggested by Granville Austin.

Provisions which make it centralizing

- 1) Emergency powers : Ar 352, Ar 350, 359
- 2) President assent to state bill : Governor can reserve such bills under Ar 200
- 3) Central Administrative Directive (CAD) under Ar 256, 257 which hold sanction of Ar 365 to impose President rule if not followed.

Hence it is responsibility of Centre and even states to an extent to maintain spirit of (co-operative federalism).

The recent events which put off this balance

- 1) Centre's unilateral decision to impose nation wide lockdown under Disaster Management Act 2005
- 2) Withdrawal of General consent to CBI by West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh on charge of centre using it to create Bargaining federalism model.
- 3) Issues of extending BSF jurisdiction from 10km to 50km within state in Punjab, West Bengal & Assam
- 4) Withholding of GST compensation dues by Centre to states during COVID crises.

Hence, need is to be devised by ~~Team~~ Team India spirit of NITI Aayog and use forums like GST Council (Ar279A), Inter-state Council (Ar263) to maintain cordial federal relations.

Indian Federation must be a necklace where states are Pearls & Centre is the thread holding them.

### Feedback

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Structure/  
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Q.3) How far do you agree that use of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as instruments of delivery of services and implementation of projects by the government has led to undermining of legitimate authority of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)? (10 marks, 150 words)

आप कहाँ तक सहमत हैं कि सरकार द्वारा सेवाओं के वितरण और परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन के साधन के रूप में स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) के उपयोग ने पंचायती राज संस्थानों (PRIs) के वैधानिक सत्ता को कमजोर करने को बढ़ावा दिया है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

SHGs are groups to socio-economic & politically empower people at the grassroots. Ar 43-B provides sanctions to create SHGs. There exist over 66 lakh SHGs with over 7.2 cr members.

SHGs undermined authority of PRIs

- 1) Power-cohabitation: between SHGs and PRIs at local level
- 2) (SHGs allegiance to Centre/state and banks) rather than PRIs.
- 3) Reduces scope for taxation powers of PRIs  
- PRIs generate < 2% tax revenue as said in Economic Survey 2017-18
- 4) Dual Membership: in SHGs & PRIs divide the people's mandate to authority



Let there exist a counter-argument too, that  
SHGs have rather strengthened PRIs.

- 1) More Awareness in SHGs: to its members creates more authority to PRI
- 2) Political Empowerment in SHG: led to more participation and electoral competition in PRIs
- 3) Women Participation:  
 - The Kudumbashree SHG in Kerala has strengthened PRI model in Kerala
- 4) Together for a better future  
 - SHGs, PRIs together work for alleviating rural indebtedness

Hence Government has promoted SHGs along with PRIs via following schemes (since SHGs empower PRIs not impede it)

- 1) SHG-bank linkage
- 2) Digitization of SHG (E-Shakti)
- 3) She Mean Business (Odisha state scheme)
- 4) Sanchiye (for better market opportunity)



# ForumIAS

Q.4) Highlighting the need of an All-India Judicial Services (AIJS), enumerate the various challenges associated with creation of an AIJS. (10 marks, 150 words)

अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवाओं (AIJS) की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, AIJS के निर्माण से जुड़ी विभिन्न चुनौतियों का उल्लेख करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

All India Judicial Services (AIJS) was brought in 42<sup>nd</sup> CAA yet it was not implemented

Various Challenges.

- 1) Against separation of powers (Ar 50): hence Judiciary is vary of such services
- 2) Language barrier: All India recruitment can put a north Indian judicial officer in Tamil Nadu court
- 3) Not aware of local customs: which still are used in local courts by judges of the same region
- 4) May not address vacancy of Judiciary: since AIJS (IAS, IPS, IFS) also suffer from >25% vacancy in their cadre

Let there exist strong reasons to bring AITS now.

- 1) Pendency of cases: docket explosion to the tune of > 3cr cases
- 2) Defunct appointment procedure - riddled with corruption and favouritism at lower level
- 3) Judicial corruption is highlighted by Transparency Int'l : can be addressed by AITS
- 4) Better capacity of judicial officers : by adopting a extensive uniform curriculum for entrance exam. & training.
- 5) Address shortage of judges : currently only 19 judges/10 lkr population, since students prefer to become lawyer/advocates

Hence owing to the current scenario of judiciary, a robust AITS regime can help in strengthening democracy.

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# ForumIAS

Q.5) Discuss the critical role of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Anganwadi workers as a connecting link between the community and the state in promoting health, reducing malnutrition and controlling pandemic in rural areas. (10 marks, 150 words)

स्वास्थ्य को बढ़ावा देने, कुपोषण को कम करने और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में महामारी को नियंत्रित करने में समुदाय और राज्य के बीच जोड़ने वाली कड़ी के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ताओं (आशा) और आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिकाओं पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

ASHA and Anganwadi workers are the steel-frame of the grass-root healthcare services in India.

Role of ASHA worker

- 1) Doorstep delivery of nursing, medicine and primary healthcare needs
- 2) Facilitate the engagement of patient with District hospitals & doctors via tele-  
medicine

3) Record Billion + Vaccination Drive :

due to efforts of ASHA worker.

— PM Modi interacted & thanked one such ASHA worker from Bageshwar (Uttarakhand) in his Mann Ki Baat

— ASHA workers helped in CO-WIN registration & vaccine administration

Role of Angadwadi workers

- 1) Neo-Natal care: to mother and child in formative years
- 2) Educate and administer: diet and medicines of lactating mother and children to alleviate malnutrition.
- 3) Critical support in ICDS services and PM-POSHAN abhiyan.
- 4) even continued their services during COVID lockdowns: hence were frontline workers.

Let ASHA & Angadwadi workers face issues which must be addressed

- 1) Underpaid: to the level of services they provide
- 2) Stress & Over-worked: by travelling long hours in difficult terrain to reach households.

hence increasing health expenditure to 6% of GDP as envisaged in National Health Policy 2017 as way ahead



Q.6) Populism has pushed politics towards socialism while economy continues to be dominated by global capitalism. Examine with examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

लोकलुभावनवाद ने राजनीति को समाजवाद की ओर धकेल दिया है जबकि अर्थव्यवस्था पर वैश्विक पूंजीवाद का वर्चस्व बना हुआ है। उदाहरण सहित परीक्षण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Around Subramanian (former CEA) calls it as "India's EXIT problem" where socialism of politics & capitalism of economics creates legitimisation crisis.

- 1) Debt Laden PSUs :
- were retained to provide public welfare services
  - Yet failed to keep up with their private counterparts (Example Air India)

- 2) Corporate tax Reduction : from 22% to 15% to make not availing exemptions

- 3) The Subsidy Bill & farm loan waivers continue to increase
- Public Debt during COVID-19 lockdown reached 90% of GDP

- Over 4 lakh cr farm loan waiver since 2014-15

4) Economy driven by Global Capitalism

- Profit motive as supreme
- Disproportionate salaries for C-suite level employees & CEO-founders as highlighted by SEBI report
- Less regards to Environment, people health like the case of Coca Cola, Vedanta plants etc

Hence need is to bring reform in both sectors

In Politico-Administrative Sphere

- Minimum government maximum governance
- Rationalize subsidies
- Government has no business in doing business (PSUs disinvestment policy)

Compassionate Capitalism & Ethical wealth creation as highlight in ESI 20-21

- Corporate Social Responsibility (Act of 2013)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (for waste management)
- Labour Code 2020

Feedback (For OFFICE use)

Structure/Presentation

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Q.7) Comment on status of prisoners and custodial violence in the country keeping in mind Supreme court guidelines in the DK Basu case. (10 Marks, 150 words)

डीके बसु मामले में उच्चतम न्यायालय के दिशानिर्देशों को ध्यान में रखते हुए देश में कैदियों की स्थिति और हिरासत में हुई हिंसा घटनाओं पर टिप्पणी करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

According to recent NCRB data,  
more than 1800 custodial deaths occurred  
in last 20 years while only 20 policemen  
convicted

Issues of Prisons, custodial violence

- 1) Criminal Justice System  
↳ is facing crisis as highlighted by  
Malimath committee.
- 2) D. K. Bhoopala (IPS) highlighted shabby state of  
prisons in Karnataka
- 3) The Toothakudi case (TN) of father-son  
duo custodial death is a case in point
- 4) NHRC reports on poor state of prisons,  
more than 67% under trials who face  
more injustice inside prisons than  
outside.

DK Basu, Supreme court highlighted the poor state of prisons, and its psychological impact on prisoners. It leads to lack of rehabilitation and moral regeneration and hence fails the purpose of prison time. Custodial violence is added misery for the criminal justice system.

Hence reforms is the key

1) Implement Malimath committee recommend

→ action → improve budget for prisons  
 → SOP to treat prisoner & undertrial  
 → law & stringent penalty against custodial violence

2) (Prakash Singh Directives) for police reforms are also relevant in this regard to create more professional & less stressful police force.



Q.8) Investment in education yields both private and social return, yet India shies away from investing in it. Do you agree? (10 Marks, 150 words)

शिक्षा में निवेश से निजी और सामाजिक दोनों तरह से लाभ मिलता है, फिर भी भारत इसमें निवेश करने से कतराता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The current expenditure on Education is less than 3.5% of GDP

As ESI 2020-21 observed, the contribution of private sector is less than public sector in investment in Education.

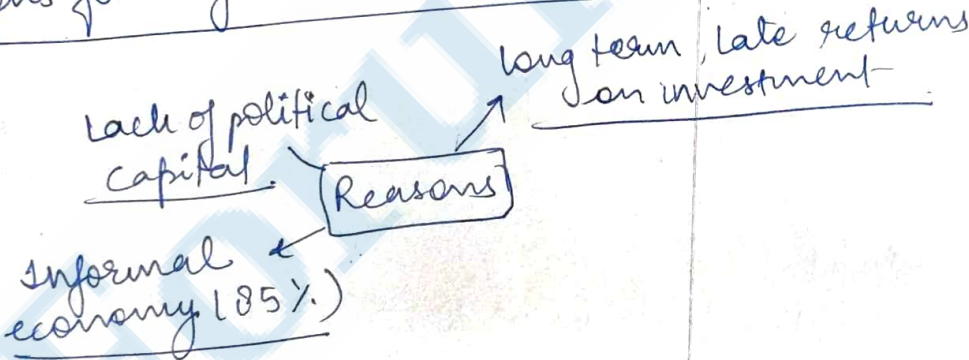
Education for social return

- 1) Improves sois-economic status of an individual
- 2) Reduces cast deficit based on social evils like caste, communalism
- 3) towards achieving (Demographic Divident)
- 4) Hence Rajni Kothari Commission opined "Education as tool for sois-economic transformation the country."
- 5) Helps in attaining SDG-1, 5, 6, leading to poverty alleviation and economic growth

Education for private gains

- 1) Towards meritocratic society
- 2) Supplies skilled labour for private sector
- 3) Brings competency and efficiency in economy
- 4) shift towards Knowledge Economy
- 5) Helps to bring Ease of Doing Business by having educated workforce
- 6) Avoid Middle Income Trap

Reasons for shyness in investment



Let the change has started to income

- 1) 130% budget (2020-21) hike towards social sector like Health
- 2) Institutes of Eminence to attract private investment
- 3) social stock Exchange idea mooted in Budget (2020-21)

National Education Policy 2020 if implemented in right spirit can prove to be a mother reform.

Feedback	
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Q.9) Rooted in historical solidarity, India's multifaceted engagement with Africa has been critical for its foreign policy matrix. Discuss strategic significance of Africa for India and compare India's engagement with Africa vis-à-vis China. (10 Marks, 150 words)

ऐतिहासिक एकजुटता में निहित इसकी जड़ों सहित, अफ्रीका के साथ भारत का बहुआयामी जुड़ाव इसकी विदेश नीति के मैट्रिक्स के लिए महत्वपूर्ण रहा है। भारत के लिए अफ्रीका के सामरिक महत्व पर चर्चा करें और चीन के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव की तुलना अफ्रीका के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव से करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India - Africa shares a genuine 2-way street. 21<sup>st</sup> century is Afro-Asian Century

— Dr. Hamid Ansari  
(Former Vice President)

### Instances of historical solidarity

- 1) India supported Anti-Apartheid drive of South Africa & other African nations.
- 2) supported Decolonization process via NAM
- 3) Cultural link through leaders like Mahatma Gandhi.

### Features of Multifaceted Engagement

- 1) Private Sector Leadership : in driving India - Africa partnership via B2B diplomacy.
- 2) soft power push : through programs like ITEC, e-PAN Network, Tele-medicine etc.

3 India's soldiers in UNPKF : serve at missions in Africa like Liberia, Sierra Leone etc

Let Issues in foreign policy matrix vis-a-vis China

- 1) Negligence to West Africa
- 2) No uniform India's Africa policy
- 3) Issue of delay in project completion, created image of "India promises, China delivers"
- 4) Low Trade potential harness while China trade is multifold with Africa
- 5) China using BRI & debt-trap diplomacy to gain ports on East Africa

Africa has great significance for India

→ Indian Ocean (freedom of navigation) : against piracy, smuggling & even China's string of Pearl strategy

→ Support in UN : to gain UNSC permanent seat it requires vote strength of African nations

Hence India has started pro-active diplomacy

- 1) PM Modi's 10-pt policy for Africa (given in Ugandan Parliament)
- 2) Human Assistance & Disaster Relief ops : 1<sup>st</sup> responder
- 3) India-Africa Forum Summit : to engage better

## Feedback

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10) Evaluate the significance of BRICS in shaping the emerging global order given the internal contradictions and divergent interests of its member countries. (10 Marks, 150 words)

अपने सदस्य देशों के आंतरिक अंतर्विरोधों और अलग-अलग हितों को देखते हुए उभरती वैश्विक व्यवस्था को आकार देने में ब्रिक्स के महत्व का मूल्यांकन करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The foreign policy scholars often opine that "Bilateralism in BRICS is more consequential than BRICS itself"

Significance of BRICS in emerging global order

- 1) Grouping of middle power nations : in this emerging order of multi-polarity
- 2) Constitute about 40% population and 28% of world's economy : hence significant to intl community voices.
- 3) Participation from 3 distinct continents i.e. Asia, Africa & Latin America gives the grouping a global character. in today's emerging order of Declining globalization and rising regionalism.

Let BRICS despite being a very promising grouping to the present & future world order, suffers from various challenges

Internal Contradictions

- 1) India-China relations: driven by competition and containment more than co-operation
- 2) India-Russia relations: stagnating due to India's growing relations with USA and Quad grouping
- 3) Brazil: faces domestic challenges due to rise of Rightist leader - Bolsonaro (called as Trump of the Tropics)

Divergent Interest

- 1) [China & Russia]: was to emerge as regional & global hegemony, and face USA in Cold War 2.0.
- 2) India, South Africa: wants for a multi-lateral benign mutual rise & development of all.

Hence, in this atmosphere, [BRICS] must keep aside their ~~mutual~~ individual apprehension and work together for mutual interest through the platform of the grouping.

**Feedback**

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Q.11) What was held in Kedar Nath Singh Case 1962? Do you think that the judgement has outlived its utility and needs review? Discuss in light of recent controversies. (15 marks, 250 words)

केदारनाथ सिंह केस, 1962 में क्या हुआ था? क्या आपको लगता है कि इस फैसले की उपयोगिता खत्म हो गई है और इसकी समीक्षा की जरूरत है? हाल के विवादों के आलोक में चर्चा करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Kedar Nath Singh Case 1962 was regarding the question of viability of sedition provision under Sec 124A of the IPC. It was held that the provision is still valid because it ensures action against breaking India forces present both within and outside India.

But the judgement also mentioned to reform the terminology of the colonial law to remove vagueness, obsolete parts of the act.

There have been many cases of arbitrary use of Sedition Act against Journalist, students, protesters in recent times.

The case of sedition Act against Manipuri Journalist is a case in point.

This raises question of judgements relevance.

Not lost relevance & judgement still valid

1) Insurgent forces within India :  
like the recent Manipur Attack or Sukma attacks (Chattisgarh) shows the need to keep the sec 124A of IPC alive

2) Integrity and sovereignty of India :  
is the topmost priority and also a fundamental duty for every citizen under Ar-51A

3) Reasonable restrictions under Ar 19 :  
- public order & morality, National security are some caveats to freedom of speech & expression under Ar 19.



4) The instances during CAA-NRC protest, Delhi riots 2019 provides reasons why such provision should remain in force

Needs review, judgment lost relevance

1) Arbitrary Use: by the government to curb political criticism

2) Anti-democratic element: to curb the speech of an individual

3) International scenarios: No other democracies like USA, UK have similar provisions

4) Leads to Majoritarianism: by curbing space for constructive criticism.

Hence as the judgment itself & others like Romila Thapar judgement stated that need is to reform the act not repeal it.

"Dissent is the safety valve of democracy"  
- Justice Chandrachud

**Feedback**

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Q.12) Judicial review and soliciting constitutional justification for policies formulated by the executive is an essential function entrusted to judiciary by the constitution, but there is a fine line between judicial activism and judicial overreach. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

न्यायिक समीक्षा और कार्यपालिका द्वारा तैयार की गई नीतियों के लिए संवैधानिक औचित्य सिद्ध करना संविधान द्वारा न्यायपालिका को सौंपा गया एक आवश्यक कार्य है, लेकिन न्यायिक सक्रियता और न्यायिक अतिरेक के बीच एक महीन रेखा निहित है। चर्चा कीजिए। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

There is not a better test of excellence of the working of the government than its Judiciary  
- Lord Bryce

Ar 13, 32, 226 provides sanctions for judicial review. In the same regard in Minerva Mills Case 1980, SC ruled that judicial review is part of Doctrine of Basic Structure too.

The advantage lies in Judicial activism even when legislature and executive is paralyzed due to politics. The following are the supporting arguments



- 1) Maintained separation of Judiciary from other arm of democracy : like the case NJAC struck down (99<sup>th</sup> CAA), hence preserved Art 50.
- 2) (Gender Equality)
  - ↳ Repealed Sec 377 (IPC) in Naz foundation case
  - ↳ Allowed women entry in Sabriyala & Haji Ali Dargah
- 3) (Checked executive passivity)
  - ↳ brought BS-6 norms to reduce vehicle emission
- 4) Check legislative policy paralysis by using (Art 142)
  - ↳ Vishakha guidelines (to prevent women's sexual harassment at workplace)
  - ↳ Prakash Singh directives (for police reforms).

5) Preserved fundamental rights of citizens

- Harida case (right to choice to marry)
- Aruna Bhasin case (right to internet)
- K. Puttaswamy case (right to privacy)

Yet this Judicial activism not devoid of criticism of Judicial over-reach

1) Violated separation of powers

- Allahabad high court judgement for compulsory government schooling for children of bureaucrats

2) Trivial Matters and Implementation Nightmare

- Ban on highway alcohol shops in 500 m radius

Hence the need is to maintain balance and make use of Ar 142 and Ar 13, 32 in a very mindful sense.

Bangalore principles of Judicial conduct can be the way forward.



Q.13) While the Election Commission of India has quite effectively neutralized the effect of muscle power and incumbency power, the commission has newer challenges to face. Discuss in the light of several long pending reform proposals that aim to clean up electoral process. (15 marks, 250 words)

जबकि भारत के चुनाव आयोग ने बाहुबल और सत्ता शक्ति के प्रभाव को काफी प्रभावी ढंग से बेअसर कर दिया है, फिर भी आयोग के सामने नई चुनौतियां मौजूद हैं। लंबे समय से लंबित कई सुधार प्रस्तावों जिनका उद्देश्य चुनावी प्रक्रिया को पारदर्शी एवं निष्पक्ष करना है, के आलोक में चर्चा करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Election Commission of India (Ar 324) is a constitutional bulwark to ensure free & fair elections in the Indian democracy.

Steps taken to curb effects of Muscle power

1) EVMs and VVPATs

- led to reduction in cases of booth capturing

2) Model Code of Conduct

↳ to bring civility in conduct of candidates and political parties

3) SC led fast-track courts for charged candidates for criminal conduct.

4) Disqualification of candidature for an individual convicted for more than 2 years jail term under RPA '1951.

Even mis-use of incumbency power is curbed)

- 1) Model Code of Conduct  
↳ to prevent any last-minute roll out of populist policies
- 2) Check on Government ads and expenditure
- 3) Action against candidates using identity politics to collect votes : under RPA 1951.
- 4) Electoral Bonds scheme

But there exist newer evolving challenges before ECI to further clean up the process



1) Sec 33(7) of RPA 1951 : allows upto 2 seats candidature for a person.

Need is to move towards 'One candidate' - 'One seat formula' as recommended by Law Commission also

2) Simultaneous Elections

↳ At state and centre level to reduce expenditure, break in governance

↳ One Nation - One election : in every 5 year was also reiterated by Honible PM Modi

3) 80% Electoral bonds to ruling party in 2019 elections, which creates entry barrier for new emerging parties & thus avoid competition in electoral democracy.

4) On the question of state funding : since 2019 General Election was the costliest

Hence need is to provide legislative and more adjudicating powers to ECI under Ar 324 to ensure timely implementation of these reforms

**Feedback**

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Structure/  
PresentationQuestion  
Interpretation

Content

Value  
Addition

Total

Q.14) Obsession with ethnic identity and lack of economic development is the root cause of various interstate land border and river water disputes in the country. Discuss with relevant examples.

(15 marks, 250 words)

जातीय पहचान के साथ जुनून और आर्थिक विकास का अभाव देश में विभिन्न अंतरराज्यीय भू-सीमा और नदी जल विवादों का मूल कारण है। प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा करें।

(अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The recent cases of

1) Assam - Manipur border dispute

2) Kerala - Tamil Nadu river water dispute  
over Mullaperiyar dam river water

are the 2 examples of inter-state disputes

Why ethnic identity is the root cause

1) son of soil Movement: like in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat etc leads to mass exodus of migrants from UP, Bihar etc (as seen in 2017-18)

2) Preserving Culture: is another reason which led to inclusion of Clause 6 in Assam Accord, and even clashes over Bru tribe re-settlement in Mizoram



Q2)

Why Economic development is root cause.

1) River water is source of agricultural economy

→ hence many disputes like Cauvery, Mahanadi, Godavari etc due to use of water in state's economy

2) Land as source of Economic wellbeing

→ land provides opportunity for agriculture, infrastructure etc.

3) Recent UP-Uttarakhand agreement of dues settlement:

where UP provided compensation for forest re-generation to Uttarakhand.

Hence need is to solve such issues amicably & in a institutionalized format.

1) ISC under Art 263: President must re-invigorate Inter-state council for amicable dispute settlement

2) Inter-state river water disputes (Am) Act 2019 :

which provides for single tribunal with multiple benches and stipulated timeline to resolve river disputes.

3) Use forums like NITI Aayog, GST Council (under Art 279A) and Zonal Councils to reduce trust deficit.

4) Use of provisions under Art 371, 5<sup>th</sup> schedule and 6<sup>th</sup> schedule allows states and regions to maintain their cultural identity intact.

Hence the spirit of Co-operative federalism and Eh Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat vision can help in peacefully resolving such conflicts. Strengthening Decentralization and Local bodies is also an effective way for effective governance.



Q.15) Instead of making government more transparent to public, data has made public more transparent to the government. Discuss the issues related to data privacy and data utilization. Can the proposed data security legislation address these concerns? (15 marks, 250 words)

सरकार को जनता के लिए और अधिक पारदर्शी बनाने के बजाय, डेटा ने जनता को सरकार के लिए और अधिक पारदर्शी बना दिया है। डेटा गोपनीयता और डेटा उपयोग से संबंधित मुद्दों पर चर्चा करें। क्या प्रस्तावित डेटा सुरक्षा कानून इन चिंताओं को हल कर सकता है? (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

India will soon become 5<sup>th</sup> largest data generating nation in the world.  
(McKinsey report)

Public data easily available to government.

- 1) Aadhaar details
- 2) Financial details under banking e-KYC
- 3) Voter ID details with government
- 4) National Health Data stack will now have medical data too.

Issues in transparency of government sharing data with public

- 1) Exemption in sec(2) of RTI Act 2005
- 2) Restrictions under Official secrets Act 1923
- 3) Restricted former intelligence agency officials to reveal data by threat to their pension civil service (Conduct Rules) 1964

## Issues in Data privacy

- 1) Right to privacy: deemed a fundamental right under K. Puttaswamy judgement
- 2) Legal Vacuum for Data privacy: since recommendations of BN Srikrishna committee still not enacted
- 3) No definition of what constitutes personal data
- 4) Other regions like EU, USA have brought privacy laws.

## Issues in Data Utilization

- 1) Data-colonialism: by tech-giants like Facebook, Google & others
- 2) No redline on Minimum Utilization by data companies
- 3) weak contract enforcement on utilizing fiduciary data



The Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 (PDP Bill) was brought on lines of recommendations of Justice BN Srikrishna and At Shah Panel.

Provisions to address concerns:

- 1) Define: personal & data
- 2) Uphold sanctity of fiduciary relationship and the data therein
- 3) Consent to be genuine
- 4) Utilization and processing of data to be minimal and legally allowed
- 5) stringent penalty in case of violation.

Hence the bill seeks to address most of the concern. Yet with the fast evolving and dynamic nature of data regime, there must be allowed scope for administrative adjudication to deal with the cases on their own merit.

**Feedback**

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Addition

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Q.16) Despite substantial rise in per capita income and surplus production of food grains, high level of malnutrition and hunger continues to persist in India. Examine the reasons for this divergence keeping in mind findings of Global hunger Index 2021. (15 marks, 250 words)

प्रति व्यक्ति आय में पर्याप्त वृद्धि और खाद्यान्न के अधिशेष उत्पादन के बावजूद, भारत में कुपोषण और भूखमरी उच्च स्तर पर बनें हैं। वैश्विक भूखमरी सूचकांक, 2021 के निष्कर्षों को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस विचलन के कारणों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(अंक 15, शब्द 250)

India ranked below 140 in the Global Hunger Index 2021.

Why rise in per capita income not reflected in hunger alleviation

1) Inequality: as reported by Oxfam report i.e. top 10% population owns 73% wealth

2) Informal nature of Economy: 85-90% economy is informal made of casual, daily wage, unskilled workers with low income and no social security

3) COVID-19 crisis: created a category of New-poor like urban migrants, street vendors etc



Reasons for divergence in rising hunger and ~~reducing~~ rising food grain production

1) Low diversification of food basket

- cereal centric
- low share of pulses, millets (< 5%)

2) Low Awareness about dietary patterns

- especially among rural poor
- Regarding lactating & pregnant women
- leads to anemia, stunting

3) Hidden-hunger rather than hunger

- Hidden hunger is a bigger concern
- i.e. deficiency of micro-nutrients, vitamins, protein.

4) Faulty MSP & FCI procurement policies

- skewed in favour of cereals like rice, wheat.

- FCI procures inferior <sup>quality</sup> grain

- Mis-management in FCI as

highlighted by Shankar Kumar committee

Steps taken

- 1) Pulses and millet procurement : by FCI increased 10 times in last 7 years (from 74 mn tonne to 740 mn tonnes)
- 2) States providing pulses, nutrient rich cereals in their ration quotas.
- 3) Green-light to bio-fortification of rice.
- 4) Addition of Millets in TPM-POSHAN and mid-day meal schemes.
- 5) Hon'ble PM Modi asked Olympians 2020 to visit 75 schools each to spread dietary awareness.

Ways Ahead

- 1) Improve functioning of FCI and PDS shops
- 2) Universal coverage of One nation - One ration card.

Alleviating hunger will lead to fulfilling SDG-1, 2 and lead to realizing demographic dividend in India

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Q.17) The rise of NGOs reflects the failure of Indian state and markets to usher in equitable development and economic redistribution. Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

गैर सरकारी संगठनों का उदय न्यायोचित विकास और आर्थिक पुनर्वितरण में भारतीय राज्य और बाजारों की विफलता को दर्शाता है। परीक्षण करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

NGOs are the non-government, non-market place entities of civil society

Role of NGOs

1) Social welfare: like education (example MAD, TFI), Health, food distribution (Aushay Patra) etc

2) Social Justice for the poor:  
by filing PLs on behalf of poor

3) Mobilize and Agitate

↳ some NGOs help in mobilizing the people of vulnerable section and facilitate in their agitation (under

Ar 19) against state

↳ ex. NAZ foundation

4) Economic Empowerment: for women, destitutes, beggars etc by providing rehab & half-way homes, sources of livelihood etc

In a welfare state model as envisaged under Part 4 of constitution (Directive Principles - Ar 35 to 51), the Indian state was put in charge to ensure socio-economic justice for all as reiterated in Ar 39, 46 and others

Even after  LPG reforms, the markets and private sector was envisaged to trickle down wealth for economic welfare and re-distribution.

Hence, to an extent, presence of NGOs reflect shortcoming of above two actors



Yet in a democratic-multi-stakeholder society driven by Democratic socialism it is diversity of actors including NGOs which work for people's welfare

Hence state must facilitate proper functioning of NGOs in the country.

(Steps taken)

- 1) FARA (Amendment) Act 2020 : to regulate and monitor the NGOs
- 2) Darpan Portal and Blacklisting : by Home Affairs Ministry to remove faulty NGOs.
- 3) Empowered Group - 6 : under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog CEO sought support of over 92,000 NGOs/organizations to augment state capacity during COVID crises

Hence as VS Vyas committee said Civil society organizations like NGOs are important pillar of Indian Democracy.

### Feedback

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**Q.18)** Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021 has expanded access of women to safe and legal abortion services, but it fails to address the critical issues of reproductive rights and bodily autonomy of women. Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

मेडिकल टर्मिनेशन ऑफ प्रेग्नेंसी (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2021 ने महिलाओं की सुरक्षित और कानूनी गर्भपात सेवाओं तक पहुंच का विस्तार किया है, लेकिन यह महिलाओं के प्रजनन अधिकारों और शारीरिक स्वायत्तता के महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों को संबोधित करने में विफल है। परीक्षण करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

### Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Am) Act 2021

(MTP) provides for increasing the limit for abortion in certain cases upto 20-22 weeks.

### Advantages of the MTP (Amendment) Act 2021

- 1) All-encompassing: to acknowledge rarest of the rare cases of forced or unfortunate pregnancy.
- 2) Helps in breaking the taboo around abortion especially in genuine cases.
- 3) Formalization and legalize: abortion, thus ensure institutional, safe and secured abortion rather than through secretive means (creates safety hazards to life of mother).



Yet the legislation has led to creation the issues of its own

1) Silent on the cause of unwanted pregnancy  
- like sexual misconduct, crimes, rape etc

2) Requires the mother to be [validated by] a civil society member for bonafide termination of pregnancy.

hence takes away autonomy of women over her body and reproductive matters

Hence while MTP Act 2021 has delivered legal justice to women but it lacks on certain parameters in Gender justice.



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(For Office)
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Q.19) Compare and contrast the Build Back Better World (B3W) with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Can joining the B3W initiative help India in furthering her national interest? Discuss.

(15 marks, 250 words)

बिल्ड बैक बेटर वर्ल्ड (B3W) की बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI) के साथ तुलना एवं समानता का उल्लेख करें। क्या B3W पहल में शामिल होने से भारत को अपने राष्ट्रीय हित को आगे बढ़ाने में मदद मिल सकती है? चर्चा करें।

Both B3W & BRI are infrastructure development projects around the world. (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Build Back Better World (B3W)

- by 67 nations

- consociational model of infra development

- As a counter to Chinese BRI

- Multi-lateral, rule based order in world

- Maintain liberal world order

Belt & Road Initiative (BRI)

- by China

- Top-down model by unilateral action of China

- to create Chinese hegemony in the world

- cheque-book and debt-trap diplomacy of assertive China

- Usher the era of Pan-Sinica



India has not joined BRI owing to issues of territorial integrity (since it passes through Pak-occupied Kashmir) and lack of transparency in its implementation. Ministry of External Affairs called BRI as China's charm offensive since it contradicts India's National interest.

Positives of joining B3W for India's national interest

- 1) Emergence as leading power : on global geo-political platform
- 2) Engagement with great powers which are members of G-7 council.
- 3) Induce greater investment in India.
- 4) Allow channels abroad for Indian investors to invest
- 5) Can help to materialize Indian visionary projects like



Projects like

- ↳ Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)
- ↳ Sagarmala Pariyojana & SAGAR doctrine in Indo-Pacific (Security & Growth for all in the Region)

6) Act as counter to China's BRI

7) Can also provide employment opportunities for India's burgeoning labour force

Yet India needs to be vigilant of the redlines

- 1) B3W shouldn't lead to debt-trap for India
- 2) Indulge India in new emerging (USA - China cold war)
- 3) Retain sovereignty, strategic autonomy and Territorial Autonomy of the country.

Hence while B3W provides good alternative to BRI yet it must be a well-thought out and calculated decision

**Feedback**

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Structure/  
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Interpretation

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Addition

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Q.20) The year 1991 marked a watershed moment not only for economy but also for India's foreign policy. Discuss the evolution of India's foreign policy since 1991 highlighting the factors for the changes henceforth. (15 marks, 250 words)

वर्ष 1991 न केवल अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए बल्कि भारत की विदेश नीति के लिए भी एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षण के रूप में अंकित है। 1991 के बाद से भारत की विदेश नीति के उद्भव की चर्चा कीजिए और इसके बाद के परिवर्तनों के लिए जिम्मेदार कारकों पर प्रकाश डालिए। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Indian foreign policy is an ever-evolving phenomenon yet some pedestals like 1991 brings watershed changes to its direction.

Changes since 1991

- 1) Pro-active outer engagement: with diverse regions and countries. Ex. Look East Policy 1992
- 2) Geo-economic diplomacy over & above geo-politics: to focus on trade, investment relations with other countries
- 3) Abandoned Reflexive Anti-Americanism which was being followed till end of cold war.



- 1) Crossed Nuclear Rubicon : in 1999  
under operation smakti in Pokhran  
& became Nuclear power

Factors that led to such changes in 1991

- 1) Disintegration of most trusted ally USSR  
in 1990s urged Indian foreign policy to  
look beyond
- 2) LPG reforms : included element of  
Globalization and seek pro-active  
Track 3 diplomacy (B2B)
- 3) Nuclear Blackmail : from Pakistan  
& eventually from China was a concern
- 4) Need for soft balancing vis-a-vis the new  
hegemon USA

The impact of changes in 1991 to the foreign policy are still felt and impact choices of foreign policy even today.

- 1) Look East elevated to Act East Policy
- 2) Partnership with USA upgraded to Global Strategic Comprehensive Partnership ranging from trade, technology, defense, political & strategic mutual support.
- 3) Nuclear Policy maintaining strategic deterrence against China & Pakistan today.
- 4) The emerging trade relations like the recent India-Mauritius FTA.

Just like 1991 was a watershed, the post COVID era provides opportunity to re-calibrate our foreign policy in wake of Afghan turbulence and Cornwall consensus.



**Mentor Feedback Questions**

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

**Test Goal**

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....

**Outcomes**

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

**Marking Scheme**

Mark	Good	Average	Below average
10 Marker	3.75 – 5.0	3.0 – 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 – 7.0	4.0 – 5.5	< 4.0
✓✓	Key / Relevant Point		
✗	Vague / Irrelevant		

\* Subject to change without prior notice.