

ForumIAS

## GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	ATULESH JHA		
Roll No.	1910000128	Date:	28-11-21

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>	
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<b>Total:</b>	<b>250</b>			
<b>Evaluator's Discretion:</b>			<b>For Student Only</b>	
			Start Time	End Time
<b>Total Marks:</b>			Mode Of Examination:	Online <input checked="" 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>	
			ECN CODE:	EG:
			Evaluation Date:	

**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						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
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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)

Elections are the life and breath of a vibrant democracy as they ensure people choose their government and ensure its accountability.

Essential requirements of a vibrant democracy :-

- (i) Political :
- Ⓐ Free from fear of Fundamental Rights
  - Ⓑ Equal opportunity to participate  
eg. affirmative action Art 332
  - Ⓒ Majoritarianism is curbed
- (ii) Economic :
- Ⓐ Removal of poverty
  - Ⓑ Opportunity to gain employment  
as given under Art 16
  - Ⓒ Resource redistribution  
eg. taxes and capital investment
- (iii) Social : Ⓐ Low rate of crime

⑥ Social harmony

(iv) Environment : ① Clean and clear environment

② Healthy life and medical facilities. e.g. Ayushman Bharat

Thus, we can see that it is important to attain a holistic and healthy democracy in all fields; holding free and fair elections isn't sufficient.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total



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 defined as quasi-federal since it has a strong centre — Emergency Powers Art 352, 356, 360  
Union list over state list or Concurrent  
Appoints Governors and Judges  
Control of States Art 365

Issues in centre-state relations:

(i) Role of Governor: Even courts commented on role in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

(ii) GST Funds: 9 States complained of delayed GST dues in 2020.

(iii) COVID rules: States complained of centralisation in decision making and low feedback and consultation.

(iv) Clash of agencies: West Bengal protested against CBI activities in state and team from centre wasn't allowed in Covid relief.

(v) Laws passed: Farm laws encroach State list in 7<sup>th</sup> schedule; Punjab passed separate Bills.

## Way Forward

(i) Consultation under mechanism as Inter State Council and NITI Aayog Council.

(ii) Empower States more by allotting more GST dues and reduce cess as only centre keeps it.

(iii) Ensure trust and respect by constant discussions informally.

A federal polity can only function if both state and Union work together as one - Indian team. Both sides need to set aside their ego and approach amicably.

### Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total





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)

Self Help Groups refer to coming together of people of similar socio-economic status to achieve better economic status and support each other to achieve it.

Self Help Groups (SHGs)   
 { Save ~~some~~ money and economic prudence  
Help each other out informally too.

Steps for service delivery and project implementation -

(i) SHG-Bank Linkages: Expansion of micro-finance; credit expansion and also achieve Priority sector lending.

(ii) SHG-Project Linkages: Engaging SHGs in Projects like Kutumbashree by Kerala Government for better literacy.



(ii) SHGs as employer: Encouraging SHGs to take up employment generation programmes as well.

(iv) SHGs as monitor: Engaging them to monitor Mid-Day meal schemes and MGNREGA projects in states like West Bengal and Jharkhand.

## Undermining Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):

(i) Monitoring: PRIs usually undertake MGNREGA; even Mid-Day meal.

(ii) Banking: PRI work is sanctioned under PSL by banks.

(iii) Schemes: Literacy or any medical scheme should take PRIs as ~~body~~ 3<sup>rd</sup> tier government.

## Way Forward:

(i) Work in harmony as SHGs proved more egalitarian and efficient; each stakeholder motivated.

(ii) PRIs to improve their functioning and act less as political bodies and more like social institutions.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
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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)

Article 312 empowers Rajya Sabha to recommend for setting up new All-India Service. All India Judicial Services (AIJS) will ~~benefit~~ a body to recruit judges for rank of Additional Judge and serve as cadre for Higher Judiciary too.

Need for an AIJS:

(i) Vacancy: Over 400 out of 1050 judges in High Courts are vacant as Economic Survey 18-19 pointed.

(ii) Lack of trained cadre: No dedicated judicial cadre for higher judiciary unlike PCS (J) in States.

(iii) Slow appointments: Current collegium system is very slow and many frictions between judiciary and government.



(iv) Remove allegations of nepotism: An objective exam will remove these suspicions.

(v) Representation opportunity: Can apply affirmative action for better representation.

Challenges associated with creation of AIJS:

(i) Opposition from States: A judicial cadre appointed by centre might not be impartial.

(ii) Opposition from judiciary: Independence of judges; self-appointment by collegium hampered.

(iii) Issues in cadre: Who and how to control the judicial cadre?

(iv) Lower court judges might feel ignored in promotion and low morale.

It is imperative that the government first rectify the current situation by filling vacancies and improve infrastructure. Then it can seek opinions from all stakeholders on how to move ahead.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total





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)

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Anganwadi workers serve as last mile link in service delivery for state. There are over 2.1 crore such workers on ground mostly in rural areas.

Importance of ASHA and Anganwadi:

- (i) Medical sector:
- ① Institutional birth is promoted.
  - ② Ensure timely check ups for pregnant mother and baby -
  - ③ Healthy diet and supplements
  - ④ Encourage people for vaccine and medicines; even during Covid.

(ii) Education: @ Anganwadis take care of small children; mid-day meal too.

⑥ Pre-school basic learning skills.

- (iii) Social :
- ① Encourage woman empowerment by taking decisions on health and child-birth.
  - ② Act as social leaders and role models for villagers.
  - ③ Harbingers of change in values.

Issues faced by them:

(i) Social stigma : Against working woman by villagers.

(ii) Distrust : No trust on govt. institutions and go for self-remedy.

(iii) Violence : Some even face violence eg. attacked during Polio and Covid drives.

(iv) Overburdened : Low training; too many projects.

(v) Under-paid : They are given very low salaries and are contractual.

ASHA and Anganwadi need to be encouraged and promoted for they are instrumental in improving rural health and to attain Sustainable Development Goals.

**Feedback**  
(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total





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)

Indian constitution defines India as a socialist country in its preamble. Socialism strives to eliminate economic disparities in society with government intervention and redistribution of resources.

Socialist policies in politics:

- (a) Freebies offered:
- (i) Cheap or free electricity in States weaken DISCOMS.
  - (ii) Cheap or free resources; such as water lead to wastage.
  - (iii) Distribution of TVs, Laptops, etc. in states like Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Agricultural investment: Most funds are spent on providing subsidies and MSPs; less on input in technological innovations or capital investment. So low productivity of land and labour.



③ Quantity over Quality: Colleges and hospitals at every other village but poor resource management, hence for better healthcare still need to come to city.

④ Subsidies: Overall heavy burden due to rising petroleum prices, fertilizer costs, food prices, etc.

## Economy as Global Capitalism:

(i) FDI: Opening up multiple sector has led to increase of 60% in FDI (40%).

(ii) ECBs: Cheap loans due to subdued interests eg. nearly 0% interest on ~~Delhi~~ Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train.

(iii) MNCs: Google and Facebook to pay taxes such as Google tax.

(iv) Global Tax: New proposal for Global Min. Tax Rate.

Thus, we see that there is a need to converge our socialist policies with capitalist economy for better synergy and outcome and achieve a 5 trillion \$ economy in near future.

### Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total



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)

Indian jails are 70% over capacity and nearly 65% of these are undertrials according to Economic Survey 2019. The menace of custodial violence also leads to over 500 such deaths according to PUCL.

Status of prisoners :

- (i) Human Rights : Low monitoring; stripped of basic rights; Punishment begins.
- (ii) Overdue time : Jail itself is a punishment; trial drags for years without bail.
- (iii) Lack of awareness : Illiteracy and lack of good legal advice leaves them languishing.
- (iv) Economic Issues : Can't furnish bail bonds; can't afford lawyers.



## Issue of violence:

- (i) Monitoring: No CCTV; even if present; not working.
- (ii) Police all powerful: Jail staff mistreat for no fear.
- (iii) Caste issues: Caste violence too manifests.
- (iv) Criminals: Hardened criminals beat up innocent or petty criminal undertrials.
- (v) Psychological trauma: The social stigma and psychological trauma is violence in itself.

The Supreme Court has issued wider guidelines on the issue and also requested to form Prison Reform Boards. Human Rights Commission to get unrestricted access and its recommendation implemented immediately.

**Feedback**  
(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total





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 United Nations suggests investing 6% of GDP in education annually to get best outcome; however India only spends 2.7% even below Bangladesh's 4.3% of GDP.

Issues in Investment in Education:

- ① Concurrent Subject: Centre spends more at 4% but states shy away from investing more.
- ② Non-capital expenditure: Spending in salaries and pensions forms major part rather than infrastructure.
- ③ Low capital ~~returns~~ receipts: Since free government education; hence no earnings.
- ④ Corruption: UGC reports have pointed to wide mismanagement of funds in

Universities and Colleges.

③ Non-technical education: It is focused less and hence low investment.

Way Forward:

① Raise funds: Cheap funds from abroad through commercial borrowings.

② CSR activities: Gear more funds to rural education to reduce rural-urban gap.

③ Finance commission: To suggest more expenditure by states in order to access additional grants by centre.

④ Wider public opinion: Engage education as an election issue for better political will.

Investment in Education ensures growth of society in all parameters; it will put India on path to become superpower and also achieve SDG<sup>goal</sup> of 'Education for All'.

### Feedback

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Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total





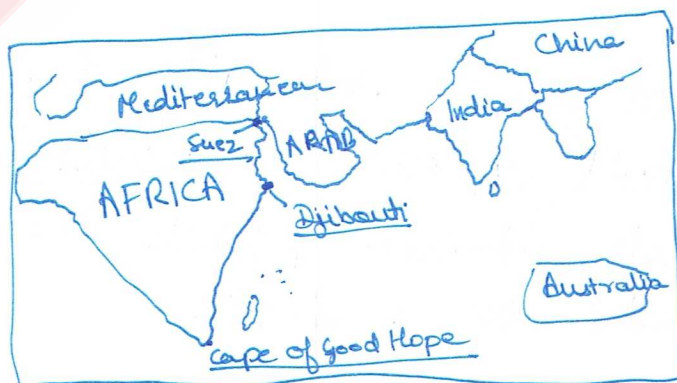
**Q.9)** Rooted in historical solidarity, India's multifaceted engagement with Africa has been critical for its foreign policy matrix. Discuss strategic significance of Africa for India and compare India's engagement with Africa vis-à-vis China. (10 Marks, 150 words)

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's freedom provided impetus to many African colonies to fight for freedom and attain it peacefully. Thus, India is regarded as a natural ally to be emulated in Africa. The African society too has multiethnic and multicultural dimensions similar to India and its growth is also following same trajectory.

## Strategic Significance of Africa:

(i) Trading ports: It lies at centre of important trade routes eg. Suez and Djibouti.



(ii) Minerals : North Africa rich in oil eg. Egypt; South Africa rich in diamonds and Gold; Copper and Zinc belts too.

(iii) Cheap land resource and agriculture : It has good potential in agricultural boom.

(iv) UN ally : It has over 50 votes in UNGA and help India to achieve Reforms in UNSC.

(v) Trade Security : Regional security by ports @ Mauritius; Comoros and Madagascar.

China's engagement in comparison:

(i) setting up Chinese enterprises with Chinese personnel; facing protests now.

(ii) BAI and debt trap compared to Indo-Japan Asian-African Growth Highway.

(iii) Lack of values of democracy : Aggressive posture disliked eg. protest on Taiwan connect.

(iv) Security : Port on Djibouti to encircle India.

Africa is the next growth pole after Asia and India should approach a South-South collaborative model through projects like India-Africa talks like in 2018.

### Feedback

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Value Addition
Total





Q.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)

BRICS was coined as BRIC by a report by IMF to identify this emerging group of high market potential economies; South Africa later joined it in 2008-09. It has over 35% of world population and over 20% of GDP (PPP) of world.

## Significance of BRICS :

- ① Economic :
- (i) Counterpoise to America led World Bank eg. NDB
  - (ii) Challenge Eurocentric rating system eg. St. Pauli's. Proposed setting up new agency.
  - (iii) Redefine growth; excessive focus on economy shifts to quality of life and culture.

- ② Political : (i) India-China collaborate frequently on WTO platform.

- (ii) Environment talks are steered by developing nations like India - China; ensure Western responsibility eg. Kyoto protocol.
- (iii) Challenge to colonial and imperialist hangover. Rise of Asian century.

- © Social :
- (i) People to people connect; Cuban consensus. Cultural exchanges.
  - (ii) India's outreach to Brazil, South Africa in Covid help and vaccines (Vaccine Maitri)

### Internal contradictions and divergent interests:

- (i) Border clash: Assertive and expansionist China; threat to world peace; eg Galwan clash.
- (ii) Taliban support: Russia-Pak-China Nexus; not good for India's security even in Kashmir and Afghanistan.
- (iii) BRI: Passing through Pak harms India's sovereignty.
- (iv) Balance of Trade: Chinese exports flood Indian markets while China puts trade in jeopardy.
- (v) Sandwich between China-US-Russia: BRICS is getting mired in Quad, and multipolar world politics.

We need to decouple our interests and realise importance of BRICS for economic growth. Need to solve issues amicably.

### 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 1962 was a land-mark judgement which held that Sec. 124A of IPC was constitutional eg. sedition. It also laid guidelines that unless the sedition was calling for violent armed overthrow of government it can't be convicted.

Recent Issues in Sedition:

(i) CAA Protests: Protestors who were demanding repeal of CAA and farm laws were slapped with Sec 124A. eg. Disha Ravi.

(ii) Journalists: Journalists who criticize governments and report on its shortcomings were charged too; eg. Vinod Dua and local journalist in Mirzapur who reported on Mid Day Meal.

(iii) Naxal Sympathisers: Many tribals and supporters of tribal movements have been booked by Chattisgarh and Maharashtra under sec. 124A.

(iv) Misuse: Even the Supreme Court in its *Vineet Dua v/s Uttarakhand* and other cases has reiterated about its misuse.

(v) Frequent and frivolous: Possession of Leftist literature is at times cited as reason for slapping sedition. Less than 1% cases the accused is convicted.

Review of Kedar Nath Singh:

(i) Mature Democracy: Changed since 1962; no more ~~secessionist~~ secessionist and naxalist tendencies as widespread.

(ii) Political awareness: Mature and conscious political class of electors need

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more freedom of criticism.

(iii) Colonial hangover: Introduced in 1871 to quell dissent from National Movement.

(iv) Outdated: Most democracies have done away with such loose parameters; eg. violent act necessary for prosecution in USA.

(v) Judicial Burden: Less than 1% conviction rate makes such cases a burden and take away courts attention and waste accused precious life years.

India has now established its credentials as a vibrant democracy which has achieved high literacy rates and more political consciousness. Thus a colonial law used to quell dissent needs to be done away with.

### 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)

Article 32 of the Indian constitution makes the Supreme Court empowered to conduct Judicial review of all laws and rules passed by legislatures. Article 142 further gives unbridled <sup>power</sup> to the Supreme Court to do full justice.

Powers given to judiciary:

- ① Judicial Review to see if the laws are in sync with Fundamental Rights.
- ② Basic structure doctrine to check any legislation changing constitutional values.
- ③ Act as an advisor to President when asked to exercise Advisory Jurisdiction.



- ① Check executive action for due process of law and procedure established by law both; post Maneka Gandhi case, 1978.

## Judicial Activism:

- ① Gap in executive action: Oversight of marginally poor people eg. Supreme Court questioned govt. on necessity of Cowin App for vaccination.
- ② Populist measures: Reservation for Jats and Marathas struck down for lack of conclusive data evidence.
- ③ Last resort: Force govt. to consider pleas of marginalised eg. SC student filed fees late and denied admission in IIT.

## Judicial Overreach:

- ① Staying constitutionally sound laws: The Farm laws were stayed even though they weren't declared unconstitutional.

⑤ Judicial Legislation: Force govt. to bring changes in laws such as Tribunals Act. even when Parliament considered all amendments and passed it.

⑥ Budgetary allocation: Force govt. to undertake specific projects thus diverting funds from other projects eg. order to procure more hydrochloro quinone during Covid by Mumbai High Court.

⑦ No accountability: No political accountability and self-recruitment. The constitution envisaged separation of powers between judiciary and Government for smooth functioning and accountability. The courts on the other hand should refrain from venturing into legislative domain unless extremely essential for they lack public accountability unlike government.

**Feedback**  
(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total



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)

The Election Commission of India derives its power from the Article 324 of constitution. It has powers of superintention, direction; control and management of centre and state elections.

Neutralising muscle power and incumbency power:

(i) Money & Economic:

@ Money spent on elections are monitored; limit on individual for fair play.

@ Filing all expenditure of elections and audit. Disqualification if failed to do so on time.

(ii) Social:

@ Cannot exhort people in name of caste, religion or god.

⑤ People convicted of social evils barred from contesting .e.g. Sati, untouchability, etc.

⑥ People convicted of any crime carrying two years sentence to be disqualified for additional six years after jail time.

(iii) Political :

① Force parties to publish all details of criminal candidates in newspapers.

② Declare all income and assets in affidavit compulsorily.

③ Implementation of Model Code of Conduct to reign in ruling party from using resources to influence electorate.

④ All bureaucratic machinery under Election Commission to curb undue influence.

Further electoral reforms proposed:

(i) Rationalise election expenditure: To allow candidates to spend and report

**Feedback**  
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Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total



honestly.

(i) Decriminalisation: To debar individuals with serious criminal charges from contesting. Setting up special courts to speed up trials.

(ii) Power to punish for contempt: ECI has been asking for this to punish vested interests who by blame and shift responsibility eg. accusations of EVM hacking.

(iv) Elevate Election Commissioners: Similar protection and power as Chief Election Commissioner.

The foundation a strong democracy is laid on its electoral process. Election Commission has been successful in ensuring a free and fair electoral process largely; yet further reforms need to be undertaken to strengthen it further.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
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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)

India as a nation ~~is~~ represents 'Unity in Diversity' as it is amalgamation of various ethnic-lingual identities. The state Reorganisation on basis of language ensures that each state has atleast one unique linguistic identity.

Interstate land border and river water disputes :

Obsession with ethnic identity :

(i) Language : Maharashtra - Karnataka Belgaum issue for people and resources.

(ii) Tribal : Meghalaya and Assam land border issue for tribal identity.

(iii) Orissa and Andhra Pradesh for village panchayat lands.



(iv) Tribal areas in Chattisgarh and Maharashtra lack demarcation around Dandakaranya.

## Lack of economic development :

(i) Mahadayi : Goa- Maha- K'taka river dispute for agricultural fields and also hydro power.

(ii) Kaveri : Serves states of Kerala, K'taka; T.N; ~~Te~~ Andhra Pradesh and UT of Puducherry. It is used for agri-productivity and hydro power generation; lack irrigation.

(iii) Chambal : Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh for it traverses barren land. Lack of irrigation facilities.

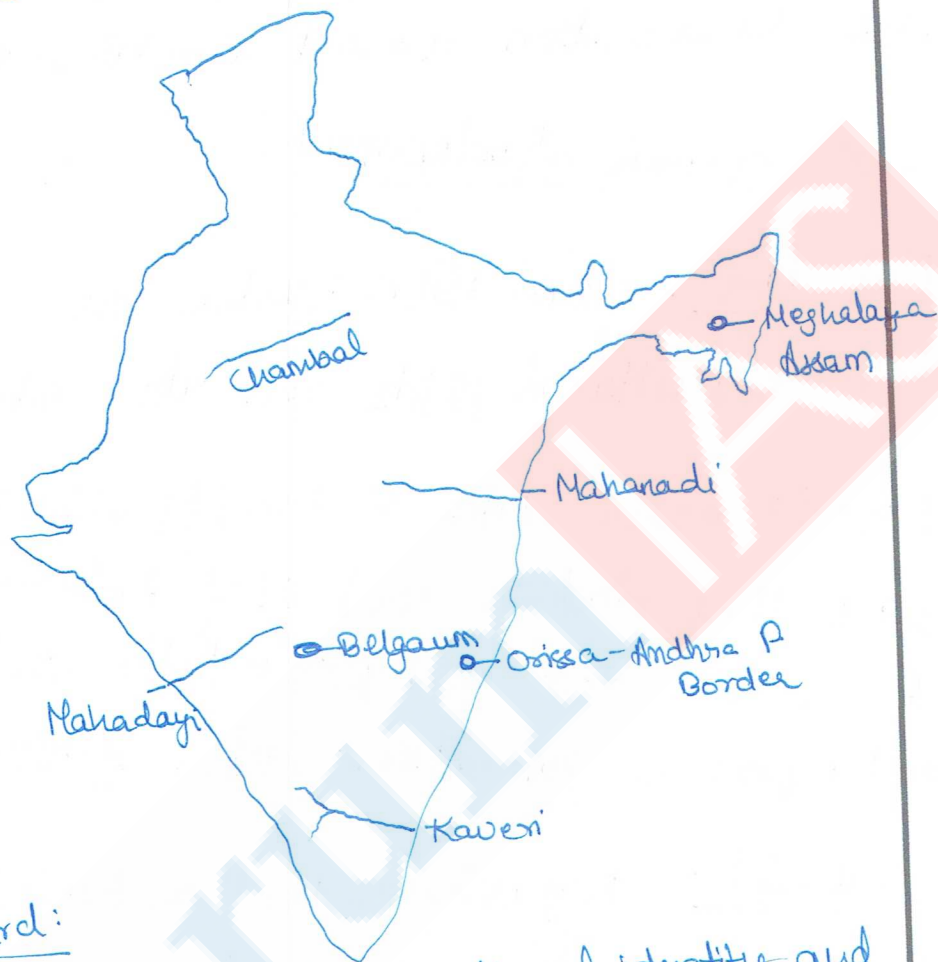
~~(iv) Kaveri~~  
(iv) Mahanadi : Between Odisha and Chattisgarh; lack industrial and tertiary sector development hence dependent on agriculture.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

## Various Issues :



## Way Forward:

- (i) National unity : Focus on national identity and not regionalism.
- (ii) Important role of centre : Tribunals to give definite judgement and swift implementation.
- (iii) Economic diversification : Need to go beyond agriculture and investment in tertiary sector and industries (labour-intensive).

Thus to solve these issues is not just a law & order problem but also needs holistic development economically and socially.





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)

'Data is the new oil'; this encapsulates the new mantra of knowledge economy. Policy formulation and implementation; any economic expansion needs data. The rise of artificial intelligence and machine learning ushers in an era of 'Data-economy!'

Issues related to data privacy :-

(i) Classification: Data needs to be segregated and classified based on information it contains and how personal it is. eg. No. of people in a city is public but no. of children a person has is private.

(ii) Storage : Whether stored in electronic or hard copy ; whether stored locally or globally or in cloud.

(iii) Collection : Modes of collection and issues regarding collector whether government or private body .

(iv) Disposal : Rules of deletion once the data is utilised or on request of individual.

## Issues related to data utilization:

(i) Accessibility : Who can access specific data and how to judge ?

(ii) Data revelation : How much information to be revealed by authorities and to whom ?

(iii) Consent : Blanket consent or on case basis for utilization.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total



(iv) Sharing : Govt. or private agencies allowed to share and if yes, then with whom?

## Proposed Legislation :

- (i) Authority : Appoint nodal authority.
- (ii) Segregation : Data has been divided into 3 types
- (iii) Rules for Pvt. entities : Private bodies too covered.
- (iv) Localisation : Sensitive data to be localised.

## Way Forward :

- (i) Public awareness : Important to spread awareness.
- (ii) Consultation : With all stakeholders to know their views.
- (iii) Global Best Practices : To look into EU model of GDPR and Australian model as well.

Thus, data privacy is paramount and needs global consensus and regulatory mechanism for truly effective.

### **Feedback**

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total



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)

The National Family Health Survey -5 identified that over 27% children suffer from malnutrition in India. Hidden hunger plagues nearly 30% of the population.

Reasons for malnutrition and hunger:

(i) Economic: @ Poverty; nearly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> population earns below 1\$ a day (WHO).

ⓑ Increasing cost of food grains.

ⓒ Low paying labour and consistent inflation rate.

(ii) Social: @ Debt trap and bondage of labour.

ⓑ Lack culture of excellence so low social mobility.



Ⓒ Low access to food in far flung places such as hills and deserts.

(iii) Political : Ⓐ MSP focuses on few crops; recent diversification hence malnutrition.

Ⓑ Issues in implementation of projects like NFSA - corruption and pilferage.

Ⓒ Lack of documents e.g. migrants and poor illiterates.

## Global Hunger Index 2021 :

(i) India slips further to 98<sup>th</sup> position.

(ii) Increasing instances of malnutrition and even absolute hunger.

(iii) failure of government schemes to effectively address the issue.

(iv) Lack of adequate Research on food fortification etc..

## Way Forward:

- (i) MSP for nutrient diversification to address malnutrition.
- (ii) Scientific research for bio-fortification and GM crops like Golden rice.
- (iii) Improve PDS to counter corruption; eg. public audit.
- (iv) One Nation One Ration card to improve access to food by migrants.

To achieve a 'Fit India' we need to first tackle 'Hungry India'. It is imperative to leverage our demographic dividend if we wish to become superpower.

### Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total





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)

Non-government organisations (NGOs) are bodies which aim to achieve certain social aims to improve lifestyle and overall life for general populace. They function as an extension of services to the public.

Reasons for rise of NGOs:

(i) Lack of resources: At times government lacks resources to reach out to people and then NGOs step in.

(ii) Social change: Government can frame laws but social awareness and implementation can't be proper unless society supports; NGOs fulfill that role eg. Bachpan Bachao Andolan by Kailash Satyarthi for Child Labour.

(iii) Government lethargy: Government at times

prioritises other tasks or simply ignores; eg. RTI was a success due to NGOs.

(iv) Protests and awareness: Narmada Bachao Abhiyaan drew attention of Government and Tribals were relocated.

(v) Specific initiative: NGOs can focus on areas which suffer neglect such as Teach India in education.

Issues with NGOs:

(i) Tax favors: They do not give details of expenditure and try evading taxes; CBI said this in SC.

(ii) Subvert National Interest. Internationally funded NGOs were trying to hold back development; IB report in SC said so.

(iii) Vested interests: Many NGOs are accused of politicisation to benefit certain political parties.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total



## Way Forward:

- (i) Partners in development: Many NGOs have specialised infrastructure which can be leveraged for social development by governments by partnering.
- (ii) Better implementation: NGOs can be appointed for social audit of projects such as MGNREGA and even CSR projects.
- (iii) Environmental concern: Many NGOs can be partnered for public awareness and better implementation of schemes.

Thus, we do not need to view NGOs as anti-government but as partners to achieve development goals and economic growth. Although care needs to be taken that vested interests are taken care off.

### **Feedback**

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Value Addition	
Total	



**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 (Amendment) Act 2021 is a revolutionary Act which envisages a more empowered woman centric abortion law to shed the social stigma and taboo associated with it.

Amendments brought by the Act:

- (i) Increase time of abortion to 24 weeks from earlier 20 weeks.
- (ii) Consultation of only one expert doctor needed for upto 20 weeks and two only needed for 20-24 weeks
- (iii) Upper gestation Period of 24 weeks to not apply in case of foetal abnormalities assessed by Medical Board.



- (iv) Name and other details of the woman to be kept private for her discretion.
- (v) Failure of contraceptive extended to the woman and partner as well.

## Issues and criticism of ~~right to~~:

- (i) Right of woman: Can't decide without outside concurrence; doctor needed to concur.
- (ii) Timeline: Time can be overshoot in bureaucratic and judicial proceedings; even rape victims stay silent for many months.
- (iii) Reproductive Rights: Foetal abnormalities only ground beyond 24 weeks; poverty or lack of intent not considered.
- (iv) Lack of access: Doesn't ensure that women in far off rural areas are not able to access many abortion facilities due to orthodox nature of society or lack of resources.

### **Feedback** (For OFFICE use only)

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Value Addition
Total

Way Forward:

(i) Wider consultation: All stakeholders need to be taken into account while framing rules.

(ii) Economic perspective: 'Economics of pregnancy' needs to be considered as poor people might not be able to bear burden.

(iii) More Institutions: Better awareness and more institutions so that it is safe and easily available.

A society needs to understand the need to go for such a drastic step must have some cogent reason and respect it.

It is a bill in the right direction however more needs to be done to ensure reproductive rights and bodily autonomy of woman.





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।

(अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The geo-politics of development has shifted to 'geo-politics of investment'. China has pledged over 100 Billion \$ on various BRI initiatives and is expanding the projects fast. USA is trying to recapture the vacuum created by Trump-era withdrawals and counter a multipolar world.

Comparison of B3W and BRI:

BRI

① Initiated by China alone.

② Funds projects as a loan from its resources.

B3W

① USA alongwith European Union has declared this.

② Funding of projects still not clear.

## BRI

- ③ Already operational in many areas like CPEC (Pakistan).
- ④ Ensures full support infrastructure for the projects
- ⑤ Divided into two components - sea-Maritime Silk Route and Land-Belt & Road.

## B3W

- ③ Nothing operational as of now;
- ④ Largely restricted to evaluating projects and assigning quality check protocols.
- ⑤ Only infrastructural evaluation component

## Should India join B3W ? !

- (i) Hostile China: China has explicitly ignored India's protest on CPEC hampering our sovereignty.
- (ii) Rise of India-US: The 'pivot to Asia' policy of ~~India~~<sup>USA</sup> has brought it closer to India due to geo politics.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Value Addition
Total



(iii) Infrastructure Development: India is taking heavy infra development on its own and doesn't need much external loans.

(iv) Cold War: Choosing a side for the sake of it will only reduce our global standing unlike during NAM.

(v) B3W needs India: So far, <sup>B3W is</sup> a 'quality check protocol'; which India doesn't really need for now.

(vi) Pursue China: We are still negotiating with China through back channel talks on BRI and shouldn't give up easily.

To join a side for the sake of it would be to sacrifice one's diplomatic sovereignty. India shouldn't join B3W unless it offers substantial benefits; also recent USA actions such as evacuation of Afghanistan do not inspire much confidence in its diplomatic assurances.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total



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)

The budget of 1991 brought in LPG  
- Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation.

Liberalisation of sectors; privatisation of companies and ushered globalisation of society. India's foreign trade has gone up from 400 million \$ annually to over 300 Billion \$.

Changes in India's foreign policy post-1991:

(1) Economy:

① Abandoned protectionism and attracted FDI and foreign corporations from Europe and USA.

② Industries setup by Korean and Japanese companies like Hyundai and Honda.



① Loans from IMF and World Bank groups for restructuring.

② Devaluation of currency making exports attractive.

(ii) Geo-Politics :

① Closer to USA compared to USSR during Cold War eg.

BECA, LENOA, etc.

② Wargames with Nato nations

③ Counter to China post-Mao era.

④ Decline in contact and focus on third world erstwhile colonies to shed colonial hangover.

⑤ Gyrfaal Doctrine to show magnanimity over neighbours and small partners.

⑥ Assertion post Nuclear test in Pokhran 1998.

⑦ Evolution of Asian engagement  
↳ 'Act East' & 'Look West'.

(iii) Cultural

Ⓐ Spread of Indian diaspora and students to Europe and USA.

Ⓑ Non tangible exports such as Yoga and cuisine increased.

Thus, we see that opening our door to the world, we also opened their doors for us. We have grown closer to USA and progressed economically and technologically. We are now entering into a multipolar world while vying to be a pole ourselves. As S. Jaishankar remarked 'We are now in an era of Cautious Optimism' which will usher the Asian Century.

**Feedback**

(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total





## 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.

