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FIAS - MGP 2021 - GS paper #2

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	Ankit Gupta		
Roll No.	1910064557	Date:	13/12/21

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained		
1			1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.	
2			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.	
3			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.	
4			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.	
5			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.	
6			<i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i>	
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Total;	250			
Evaluator's Discretion:			For Student Only	
			Start Time 8:45 am	End Time 11:55 am (3:10 hrs)
Total Marks:			Mode Of Examination:	Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluator's Discretion: 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.			For Office Use Only	
			ECN CODE:	EG:
			Evaluation Date:	

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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
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ADDITIONAL REMARKS

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Q1) Freedom of speech and expression goes well beyond spoken words and written texts; however, neither the right enjoyed by citizens, nor the power of the State to impose restrictions is absolute. Analyze. (10 Marks, 150 words)

वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता बोले गए शब्दों और लिखित ग्रंथों से बहुत आगे तक जाती है; हालाँकि, न तो नागरिकों द्वारा अधिकार का उपयोग और न ही प्रतिबंध लगाने की राज्य की शक्ति अनन्य है। विश्लेषण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Freedom of speech & expression is guaranteed under Art 19(1)(a) of Indian Constitution & its manifestation has been very wide as pronounced by SC in various judgements.

Freedom of speech encompasses

- Right to information
- Right to be silent
- Right to voice others' opinion (press)

It is not absolute because!

- ↳ subjected to various reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2)
- ↳ usage impeded by prevailing laws like sedition, UAPA etc
- ↳ access to information has been limited defeating the aim of the right
- ↳ it's needed to balance the right of

other persons (for ex:- use of defamation may inhibit other person's liberty).

The restriction of state is also not absolute because

- Need of society to evolve through speech
- debates are healthy to bring diverging opinion.
- Attract people's awareness about issues.
- Lead to reforms ex:- farm bills revocation

As mentioned by John Stuart Mill in his philosophy, freedom of speech is essential for societal evolution. Hence, it must be promoted in public interest.

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Q. 1547041078_1910064557 (2021-12-13 12:29:16) 7th schedule goes against the federal spirit of distribution of power? How has judiciary applied the doctrine of pith and substance for resolving the Q. of legislative competence on different lists under 7th schedule? (10 Marks, 150 words)

क्या आप सहमत हैं कि 7वीं अनुसूची में समवर्ती सूची की उपस्थिति शक्ति के विभाजन की संघीय भावना के विरुद्ध है? 7वीं अनुसूची के तहत विभिन्न सूचियों पर विधायी सक्षमता के प्रश्न को हल करने के लिए न्यायपालिका ने तथ्य और सार के सिद्धांत को कैसे लागू किया है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

7th schedule of constitution (Article 246) contains the distribution of subjects for legislation by centre & states into 3 lists - union, state & concurrent.

7th schedule against federal spirit

- ↳ violates the principle of supremacy of state since concurrent list subjects have primary of union laws.
- ↳ leads to encroachment on power of states
- ↳ against the federal division since most of the powers under the list must be exercised by states alone.
- ↳ no consultation by centre with states by while making laws under concurrent list (Ex: Education related legislations)

7th schedule supports federal spirit

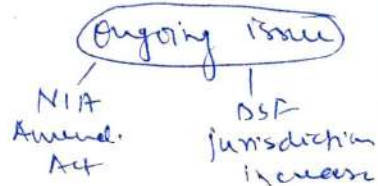
- ↳ provides equal opportunity for state & centre to act
- ↳ state law can prevail if it gets Presidential assent hence states have autonomy.

- ↳ it divides power properly under constitution which is a feature of federalism.
- ↳ supports smooth working of federal polity. Ex:- model laws enacted to give states right to choose & enact.

Doxine of pith & substance:- says that judiciary might uphold laws by the legislature if it is found in its competence even though it encroaches power of other list.

Used by SC in:-

- ↳ upholding various laws like Disaster management Act.
- ↳ water related disputes.
- ↳ privy council case.



SC needs to exercise judicial discretion & take up matter on case by case basis to uphold public interest related to laws made.

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Q3) Use of ordinance making power to bring in governance reforms not only dilutes the accountability of executive to the legislature but also fails to generate popular consensus on the issues of national importance. Examine with examples. (10 Marks, 150 words)

शासन में सुधार लाने के लिए अध्यादेश बनाने की शक्ति का उपयोग न केवल विधायिका के प्रति कार्यपालिका की जवाबदेही को कमजोर करता है बल्कि राष्ट्रीय महत्व के मुद्दों पर आम सहमति बनाने में भी विफल रहता है। उदाहरण सहित परीक्षण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Recently ordinance making has been exercised widely due to non-functional parliament in times of COVID-19. Article 123 deals with ordinance making power.

Issue with ordinance making power:

↳ dilutes accountability of executive

Affects judicial jurisprudence	No referral to committee	No discussion	No scrutiny by Parliament
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Ex- (J) said, "lack of effective debates on laws leads to problem in understanding the intent behind it."

↳ Fails to generate popular consensus on issues of national importance

By reducing the scope of correction & incorporation of multi-dimensional views	incorporation of views of various stakeholders in the bill
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EX: 1) Form law ordinance although a key reform pushed by centre failed to generate consensus.

2) ~~Act~~ Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act failed to generate consensus because of the lack of debate in Parliament.

Way forward → Accept low commission of recommendation of 120 days sitting for Lok Sabha & 100 days for Rajya Sabha

Reform Anti-defection law to enhance quality of debate

Send all bills to standing committees (as recommended by NCRWC).

Law making should be as inclusive & multi-dimensional as it can to minimize the scope of arbitrariness & judicial sanctions.

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Q.4) The Office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) needs to evolve and reinvent itself in order to improve the performance of its critical role of improving governance, ensuring fiscal transparency and extracting executive accountability. Discuss in light of various criticisms of functioning of CAG. (10 Marks, 150 words)

नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) के कार्यालय को शासन में सुधार, राजकोषीय पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने और कार्यकारी जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने की अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका के प्रदर्शन में सुधार करने के लिए खुद को विकसित और पुनर्संयोजित करने की आवश्यकता है। CAG के कार्य-कलाप की विभिन्न आलोचनाओं के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

CAG is mentioned in Constitution under Art 148 & is chief financial prudence maintainer of Constitution (also called most important constitutional officer by B.R. Ambedkar)

Various criticisms of functioning of CAG:-

- ↳ lack of effective scrutiny on government expenditure
- ↳ post-mortem work rather than proactiveness.
- ↳ focus on formal working rather than actively proving public service to ensure financial prudence.
- ↳ redoxative pricing putting restrain on its working

CAG needs to evolve to:-

- ↳ for improving governance
 - ↳ By reducing corruption

- ↳ Increasing transparency of fund allocation
- ↳ sanctioning the use of cess & surcharges for fiscal deficit.

↳ ensuring fiscal transparency:-

- ↳ focus on smoothing fund transfer to ground level
- ↳ filing reports on the misfeasance of officials.

↳ executive accountability:-

- ↳ making off-budgetary borrowings public
- ↳ reporting the facts & figures to Public Accounts Committee (PAC) accurately.

CAG is the pillar of macroeconomic prudence of India & hence its functionary is critical to democratic principles of transparency, accountability & openness in fiscal issues.

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Q.5) What are the methods used by pressure groups to influence public policy in India? In your opinion, whether pressure groups broaden democratic participation by voicing group concerns or subvert larger public interest to narrow group interests? (10 Marks, 150 words)

भारत में सार्वजनिक नीति को प्रभावित करने के लिए दबाव समूहों द्वारा उपयोग की जाने वाली विधियाँ क्या हैं? आपकी राय में, क्या दबाव समूह समूह की चिंताओं को उठाकर लोकतांत्रिक भागीदारी को व्यापक बनाते हैं या बड़े जनहित को संकीर्ण समूह हितों में बदल देते हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Pressure groups are organizations which don't participate in legislative/political process of elections but lobby for their interests. ex:- Trade unions.

Methods used by pressure groups:-

- ↳ Lobbying through pressure on government
- ↳ Shames/strike to mobilize public opinion
- ↳ Actively advertising their concern.
- ↳ vote bank politics
- ↳ acting as transmission of sections' grievances.

Pressure groups, ~~streets~~ broaden democratic participation by voicing group concerns -

- ↳ help in policy orientation towards the ignored issues. ex- labor laws inadequacy put forward by trade unions.
- ↳ help in increasing bargaining power of lesser powerful. ex- street vendors association.

- Focus on bringing social equity
- promote access to justice to unprivileged workers/classes

Pressure groups subvert public interest to narrow group interests.

- lead to political polarisation making zero sum game i.e. benefits of some at cost of many.
- At times lead to wastage of scarce public resources.
- depend on dominance of voice to operate hence suppress lesser visible voices/faces.
 - ↳ trade unions suppress voice of informal workers

Way forward → Balancing demands to help promote public interest

- ↳ legitimate demands should be paid heed to
- ↳ politicisation should be avoided.

Pressure groups are pillars of support to various disadvantaged sections; their working is critical to some unprivileged sections' interest hence their promotion is important.

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Q.6) Social reforms without political empowerment are meaningless whereas political empowerment without social reforms remains hollow. Discuss with respect to women representation in local bodies and legislatures. (10 Marks, 150 words)

राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण के बिना सामाजिक सुधार निरर्थक हैं जबकि सामाजिक सुधारों के बिना राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण खोखला है। स्थानीय निकायों और विधानसभाओं में महिलाओं के प्रतिनिधित्व के संबंध में चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Social reforms are the reforms oriented at making changes in norms/structure of society while political empowerment leads to increased voice & representation in political domain.

Social reforms without political empowerment are meaningless:-

~~5% women in local bodies~~

9% MLAs are women

14% MPs in Lok Sabha are women

shows lack of empowerment of women in political spheres (much far from goal of 50%)

- ↳ social reforms can bring incremental change but political voice brings policy focus leading to exponential changes
- ↳ social reforms hindered with no political voice - ex) women not in politics hence still rely under patriarchy.
- ↳ social reforms are not the focus because none raises this in political arena for

debates. Ex: Academic women (>50%) but no political discourse debates it.

Political empowerment without social reforms:

* 45% women in local bodies

↳ Concept of Sampark Patti since seats reserved so husband makes wife fight & win in his name.

↳ Parochiality prevails since female MPs given less opportunity to speak & women issues never the focus.

↳ Misogynist & vulgar remarks on women MPs. ex: remarks on Mahua Moitra & Smriti Irani due to their gender.

Way Forward — Combine political empowerment with social reforms

↳ Bring reforms in political party pass women reservation bill & bring gender inclusive budgets.

SDG-6 can only be achieved if political empowerment & social reforms lead to arrival of 'Sheshakti Nari' (capable lady).

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Q.7) A moribund police-judicial system (2021-12-13 12:29:16) hurdle to economic reforms. Explain how governance and economic reforms are interrelated. (10 Marks, 150 words)

एक मरणासन्न पुलिस-न्यायिक व्यवस्था आर्थिक सुधारों के लिए एक बड़ी बाधा बनी हुई है। बताएं कि शासन और आर्थिक सुधार कैसे परस्पर जुड़े हुए हैं। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Police vacancy remain ~34% & police system has been reeling under various issues of its own. Judicial vacancies remain at 40% in HCs & 25% in lower judiciary.

Moribund police-judicial system

- ↳ slow investigation ↳ slow justice delivery
- ↳ lack of autonomy ↳ allegations of corruption
- ↳ loss of people's trust ↳ erodes democratic credentials
- ↳ ~~the~~ problem is upholding 'rule of law'.

Interrelation in governance & economic reforms

- ↳ Better performance of police & judiciary
 ⇒ decrease in crime rates & increase in investors' confidence.
- ↳ Better enforcing of contracts & speedy justice ⇒ increased investment from foreigners.

- ↳ increase in police autonomy & decrease in judicial commissions especially at local levels ⇒ no extortion & no exploitation ⇒ ease of doing business ↑
- ↳ social equity & justice ↑ ⇒ productivity of labor ⇒ economy boosts.
- ↳ Reforming implementation of labor laws through active police & proactive judiciary ⇒ support people's confidence & shifts capital oriented economy to labor oriented.
- ↳ Administrative efficiency & boost efficiency of economic reforms & delivery of envisaged products/services.

Way Forward → Enhance judicial accountability (judiciary)
 Implement Malimath committee,
 Prakash Singh case Guidelines (police)

Police & judiciary are 2 pillars on which governance depends & hence for any type of reforms (even economic ones) their effective functioning is necessary.

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Q.8) Despite various safeguards (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016) interference and diminishing independence prevents civil servants in performance of their transformative role as envisioned under the constitution. Critically analyze. (10 Marks, 150 words)

विभिन्न सुरक्षा उपायों के बावजूद, लगातार राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप और घटती स्वतंत्रता सिविल सेवकों को उनकी परिवर्तनकारी भूमिका के प्रदर्शन में बाधा डालती है जैसा कि संविधान के तहत परिकल्पित है। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Civil service are the basis of governance in parliamentary democracies like India where leaders are generally laymen & bureaucracy effectively works as the critical support to whole system.

Safeguards — Civil servants barred from political activity (Article 33) 'Neutrality & anonymity' Autonomy to work provided under conduct rules.

Safe work environment through security of service

Issues faced by civil servant & their role in widening performance:

Political interference

- ↳ demotivates the civil servants working properly in public interest
- ↳ creates collusion & nexus between politicians & bureaucrats (2nd ARC).

→ Diminishing independence:

- ↳ Interference is working by ruling party members
- ↳ Activism by political parties hindering their work ex: removal of irregular colonies in Gurugram
- ↳ Regular transfers & lack of independence in decision making according to situation. Ex: Haryana DGP told DM to go down in protestors (Jat Andolan)

Way forward

- Break politician-bureaucrat nexus
- fixed terms & independence in working, transfers & promotions
- Civil Service board to bring autonomy

Steps taken

→ Mission Karmayogi to bring role based instead of rules based working

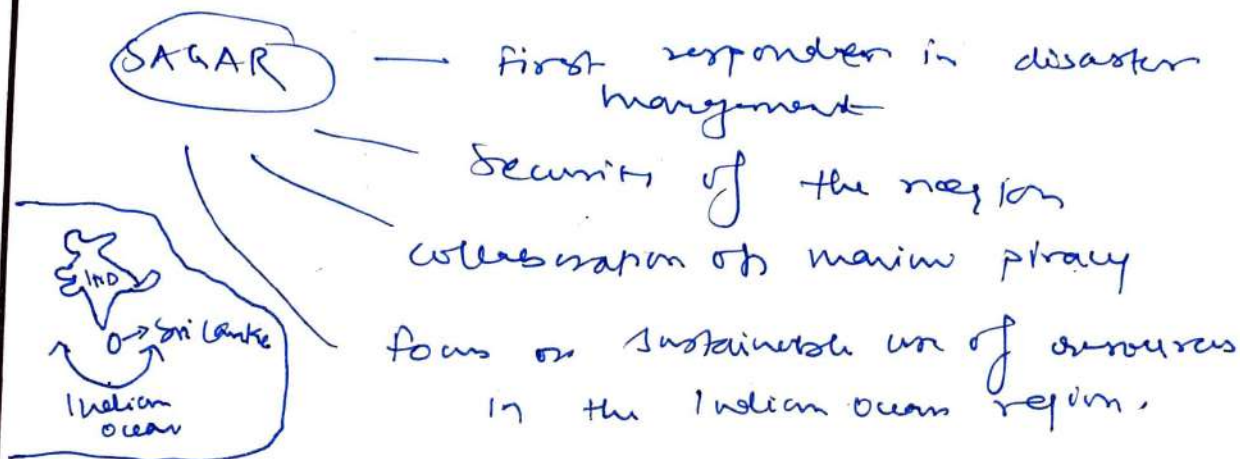
As 2nd ARC recommends, working of civil servants should be guided by ethical principles & political bosses should follow restraint/ethical code (although unwritten).

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10954 Sri Lanka 1910064557 (2021-12-13 12:20:16) display its neighborhood first policy but also give credence to its SAGAR doctrine. Elaborate. (10 Marks, 150 words)

श्रीलंका एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जहाँ भारत न केवल अपनी पड़ोसी पहले नीति प्रदर्शित कर सकता है बल्कि अपने सागर (SAGAR) सिद्धांत को भी बल दे सकता है। विस्तृत विवेचना करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

SAGAR (Security & Growth for all in the region) is an initiative which puts forward the India's aspiration to become net security provider in the region.



Sri-Lanka & neighborhood first policy:-

- ↳ Sri-Lanka's key to India's assertion in Indian ocean since Chinese presence increasing. Ex: Colombo port.
- ↳ Sri-Lanka India trade fluctuating even when both countries have FTA.
- ↳ Sri-Lanka's strategic location as the island in Indian ocean & part of all remains key to Indian dominance in the region.

Sri-lanka & SAGAR doctrine

- ↳ Sri-lanka should be given key importance in SAGAR to enhance trust & push other powers like china.
- ↳ Retaining primacy in Indian ocean region requires building diplomacy for which Sri-lanka as one of the bigger nations can play a critical role.
- ↳ Sri-lanka can help further India's SAGAR doctrine by enhancing Indian navy's reach. G-20 west container Terminal.
- ↳ Both India & Sri-lanka suffer from similar challenges in marine areas hence collaboration can be way forward.

Way forward → Central doctrine to engage Sri-lanka.

Settling Tamils issue & 13th Amendment to resolve conflicts.

Sri-lanka is critical to India's pre-eminence in Indian ocean hence India needs to retain its support for pursuing wider diplomatic tools towards emerging power.

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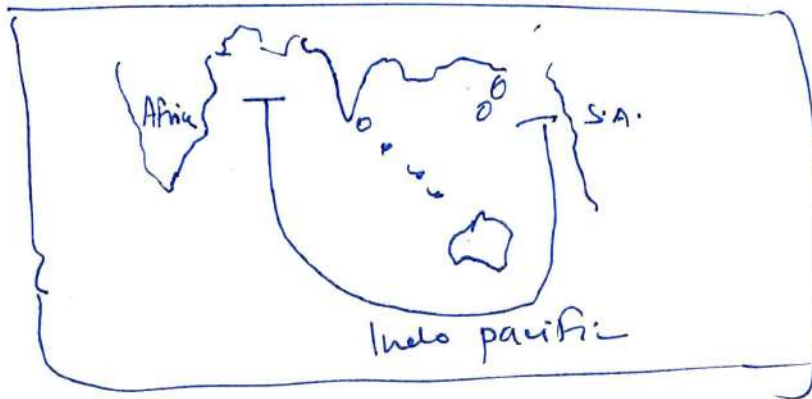
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Q.10) Indo-Pacific reflects both the interdependence as well as interpenetration which are evident in an era of multipolarity and globalization. Discuss this statement keeping in mind India's Indo-Pacific vision. (10 Marks, 150 words)

हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र अन्योन्याश्रयता और अंतर्प्रवेश दोनों को दर्शाता है जो बहुध्रुवीयता और वैश्वीकरण के युग में स्पष्ट हैं। भारत की हिंद-प्रशांत दृष्टि को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस कथन की चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Indo-pacific is the region which encompasses areas from African coast to South American coast.



Indo-pacific reflects interdependence

- ↳ US activity in Indo-pacific even though it doesn't have any constituency shows primary of interests. Ex QUAD
- ↳ Multipolarity leads to engaging with each other to protect individual interests. Ex: Australia-India or India-Japan.
- ↳ Globalization & flow of trade is key to global economy & hence Indo-pacific

becomes critical.

- ↳ dependency of ASEAN nations, ~~of~~ on each other & engagement of various countries like South Korea, Japan etc shows the key need of interdependence.

Indo-Pacific reflects interpenetration

- ↳ The arrival of US/European powers penetrating into Indo-Pacific is guided by interests due to multipolar world.
- ↳ AUKUS is one of the key example of interpenetration becoming visible.
- ↳ Need of globalization to secure sea lanes of communication has led to inter penetration in each other's constituency

India must secure its strategic autonomy while pursuing the diplomacy for being net security provider & pre-eminent power in Indian ocean region.

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Q1) Examine various existing mechanisms for controlling money and muscle power in elections. Discuss why criminal elements find it easy to succeed in politics and how the trend of increasing criminalization of politics can be reversed. (15 marks, 250 words)

चुनावों में धन और बाहुबल को नियंत्रित करने के लिए मौजूद विभिन्न तंत्रों का परीक्षण करें। चर्चा करें कि आपराधिक तत्वों को राजनीति में सफल होना क्यों आसान लगता है और राजनीति के बढ़ते अपराधीकरण की प्रवृत्ति को कैसे उलटा जा सकता है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Election Commission of India under its constitutional mandate (Article 324-329) is required to conduct free & fair elections to promote vibrant democracy.

various mechanisms for controlling money & muscle power:

- Bribery punished under IPC
- Affidavit of assets needs to be filed by candidates.
- Election expenditure is limited for a candidate.
- ECI can cancel election if it finds use of cash etc. Helpline elections in 2019.
- CIVIL app launched for people to report money & muscle power.
- Ringing squad & observers appointed by

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→ Booth capturing is an offence under Representation of People's Act (1951).

Reasons for criminal elements succeeding in politics

* (43% of MPs have criminal cases, earlier 34%).

→ Criminals fight elections

- to pressure police
- to reduce assets
- to gain social clout

→ Political parties provide tickets to them because:-

Provide funds to party accumulated to illegal means.

Winnability (according to report, they have double chance of winning than normal candidates)

→ voters vote for them because of

less awareness about criminal records.

Reputation image

used by money

corruption or threat

→ Good people avoiding politics leading to increased dominance of criminals.

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Steps needed to address the trend :-

- Provide ECI more powers to cancel candidature even if conviction stands on the day of filing nomination (ie. charges framed)
- assets & illegally occupied properties etc must be attached using law enforcement agencies
- daily trials as ordered by SC in 2014.
- Lily Thomas case guidelines of 2 years conviction must be amended.
- Bringing political parties under RTI.

Steps taken:-

- Filing of criminal cases while filing nomination. (SC order)
- Advertisement of criminals getting ticket by political party. (SC order)
- PULL case (Nota).

As Padmanabhaia Commission & Vohra Commission have found, criminalization of politics affects every segment of country hence urgent action required.

Feedback

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Q.12) Reservations have morphed into a populist exercise to deal with an employment crisis, making it a political response to resolve an economic issue through the prism of identity. Analyze in the backdrop of rising demand for caste census and reservation for locals in private job.

(15 marks, 250 words)

आरक्षण रोजगार संकट से निपटने के लिए एक लोकलभावन अभ्यास में रूपांतरित हो गया है, जिससे यह पहचान के चश्मे के जरिए आर्थिक मुद्दे को हल करने के लिए एक राजनीतिक प्रतिक्रिया बन गया है। जाति जनगणना और निजी नौकरियों में स्थानीय लोगों के लिए आरक्षण की बढ़ती मांग की पृष्ठभूमि में विश्लेषण करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Reservation was envisaged by our constitutional makers as an affirmative action to provide social justice to historically discriminated castes. It is mentioned in Article 15(4) & 16(4).

Reservation as political tool

Used by parties in election promises

creating domino effect

Breaching of limits laid by Indra Sawhney case (75% reservation in Haryana to locals in private jobs)

Creates division of country & polarization on basis of region & caste which is opposite to the aims of reservation.

Recent issues

— Bihar demanding caste census

— Haryana & Andhra brought reservation in private jobs

— Demand of reservation by strong castes like Jats.

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Arguments favoring these demands :-

Local jobs in private sector → crisis in agriculture creating distress.
 → local land & incentives taken by company so local jobs should be given
 → will reduce the unsustainable migration
 → provide employment to locals which who are electing local governments.

Caste Census → will lead to understanding of socio economic dynamics of society
 → help rationalize caste reservation
 (ex: O. P. Bhanu Commission found - 25%
 caste took 97% of benefits in OBC & 10 castes took 25% of benefits while 1000 castes didn't take any benefit)
 → will increase upliftment of socially more backward which is objective of affirmative action.

Arguments against these demands :-

Local jobs in private sector → creates reservation (son of soil theory)
 → affects social cohesion of country
 → reduces pool of talent for company & also suppresses growth of business
 → have decrease investments.

Caste Census

- It will increase caste based mobilisation
- reservation demands will increase
A might become a reason for chaos in society
- Already NSSO & NFHS data are there related to caste.
- very sensitive issue with wide ramifications.

Way Forward

- Caste census** → can be done but adequate safeguards
G. Rohini commission's report must be seen first
- Reservation in private jobs** → should not be promoted instead incentivizing industries to recruit locals can be done
Skill development must be done

Unity in diversity of India is very essential hence ensuring local satisfaction have lead to compromising of integrity of India. Every steps needs to be taken with wide consultation & proper risk analysis.

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Q.13) The project of grass root democracy remains incomplete as administrative decentralization has not accompanied political decentralization. Highlight the critical administrative challenges faced by local institutions and give your views to improve the situation. (15 marks, 250 words)

जमीनी लोकतंत्र की परियोजना अधूरी है क्योंकि प्रशासनिक विकेंद्रीकरण के साथ राजनीतिक विकेंद्रीकरण नहीं हुआ है। स्थानीय संस्थानों के सामने आने वाली महत्वपूर्ण प्रशासनिक चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालें और स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए अपने विचार दें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India got 3rd tier in constitution by 73rd & 74th constitutional amendment in 1992 which brought the era of democratic decentralization.

Administrative decentralization:

every level has representative of people.
Gender sensitivity
Pool of Functionaries
Presence of local staff for 3rd tier

No political decentralization:

Subjects under 11th & 12th schedule not given to local governments
Unavailability of funds to properly function
Political parties don't take local representative seriously
Political power remains in state's/centre's hand
Capacity building of local representative is lacking

11th & 12th schedule → contain list of powers for panchayats & urban local governments
→ promote local administration

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Critical administrative challenges:

→ Absence of fund, function & proper functionaries:—

Funds — erratic; dependency on states & centre; no proper devolution; state finance commission not formed regularly.

Functions — not devolved to local governments; act as mere appendages to states; dissolved anytime so functions not performed properly.

Functionaries — poor capacity; political parties making it prestige issue so use of money & muscle power; less activism.

→ No freedom to recruit local staff leads to helplessness in completing people's demands.

→ Huge shortage of human resources.
(posts of safai karmacharis, water supply etc vacant).

→ Corruption is rampant.

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Way forward to improve :

- ↳ proper power decentralization.
- ↳ Auditing of the institution by independent citizens led agencies (for ex: social audits).
- ↳ L.M. Singhvi committed recommendations must be fully accepted.
- ↳ provision of training & capacity building to ensure their participation in critical issue ex- disaster management.
- ↳ focus on reforming the political process

Steps taken

Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
 Best practices :- MBA girl becoming Sarpanch ; panchayat led management in Ralegaon sidhi

The dream of Gandhiji towards Gram swaraj was expected to be realized by 73rd & 74th amendments however there is still need of lot of progress.

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Q.14) How far do you agree that collegium system of judicial appointment and transfer falls short in striking a balance between judicial independence and other democratic principles? In this context, suggest some practical solutions for making the collegium system more transparent.

(15 marks, 250 words)

आप कहाँ तक सहमत हैं कि न्यायिक नियुक्ति और स्थानांतरण की कॉलेजियम प्रणाली न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता और अन्य लोकतांत्रिक सिद्धांतों के बीच संतुलन बनाने में विफल है? इस संदर्भ में, कॉलेजियम प्रणाली को और अधिक पारदर्शी बनाने के लिए कुछ व्यावहारिक उपाय सुझाएं।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Collegium system is not a constitutional experiment rather it was brought through 2nd & 3rd Judges case by SC for appointing judges in SC & HC (high courts).

Collegium system — consist of CJI + 4 senior most of SC (varies according to the appointment or transfer purpose SC or HC judges).

Judicial appointment through collegium bringing democratic principle & judicial independence.

- It upholds primacy of judiciary as envisaged by SC in NJAC case.
- It leads to separation of power & avoids conflict of interest since government is a major litigant (46% cases).
⇒ Article 50 upheld
- It leads to merit being recognised

Since judges are the best people to select merit of law upholders.

→ It is democratic since only CJI can't take decision, he needs concurrence of others.

However, it doesn't strike balance between judicial independence & other principles.

↳ issue of judicial accountability being compromised

↳ No reason for selection is made public

↳ uncle judges syndrome (said by law commission) since 37% of judges are relatives.

→ Compromises checks & balances principle

Practical solutions for making collegium transparent?

↳ CJI's regia was brought under RTI; now its decisions also need to be brought public scrutiny.

→ As SC judge said, ultimate court for every democratic institution is people's court hence transparency is of paramount importance.

- Independent commission must be formed to appoint judges while ensuring judicial primacy,
- something like AJIS can be envisaged for higher levels too to combat the issue of nepotism.
- legal scrutiny of judges & their appointment must be allowed through judicial review.

SC is the guardian of people's fundamental rights & upholds accountability of people's representative hence its accountability is also critical to enhance democratic credentials of country.

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 Q.15) Scholars and activists argue that misuse of draconian UAPA to curb every dissenting voice can put democracy in peril. What sections of UAPA make it a threat to democratic rights? Critically analyze the issues related to UAPA while evaluating the requirement of such a stringent law.

(15 marks, 250 words)

विद्वानों और कार्यकर्ताओं का तर्क है कि हर असहमति की आवाज पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए कठोर UAPA का दुरुपयोग लोकतंत्र को खतरे में डाल सकता है। UAPA की कौन सी धाराएँ इसे लोकतांत्रिक अधिकारों के लिए खतरा बनाते हैं? ऐसे कड़े कानून की आवश्यकता का मूल्यांकन करते हुए UAPA से संबंधित मुद्दों का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) is a law to ensure law & order in society & punish the organized crime / terrorists / secessionists to ensure stability.

Sections of UAPA making it a threat to democratic rights:-

- ↳ keeping even book related to terror is a crime & can attract UAPA
- ↳ violation of Article 19 & Article 21.
- ↳ designation of individuals as terrorist on vague grounds violates their liberty.
- ↳ problem of erratic application & no right to trial at immediate stage → hinders exercise of fundamental rights.
- ↳ draconian provisions which are unhealthy

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For a democratic society. Ex: Allegations of use of UAPA to silence people demanding justice for tribals.

Issues related to UAPA :-

- ↳ Hinders the exercise of fundamental right
- ↳ Democratic dissent is hindered & vague provisions can lead to potential misuse.
- ↳ Frequent usage to sanction youths lead to allegation of authoritarianism.
- ↳ Affects access to legal remedies which is a democratic right in itself.
- ↳ Has become basis of human rights violations. Ex: UAPA on maple individuals in J&K even though there has been no direct link.

74 Requirement of UAPA :-

- ↳ Fragile India's internal security scenario
 - ↳ Khalistan & Islamist groups in Punjab & J&K.
 - ↳ Naxalites in Central hills
 - ↳ North-East terrorism

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- ↳ Hostile neighbors supporting the internal law breakers. Ex: Pakistan exporting terrorists in J&K. China supporting groups in North-East (Ex ULFA).
- ↳ Need to complete anti-terror law enforcement architecture.
- ↳ increase deterrence against the radicals & fundamentalism. Ex: one wolf attacks.
- ↳ suggestion of Shaktikan committee on defence supports its application.

UAPA although a necessary evil in our society must be reformed & enforced properly in responsible way to not victimize but prevent terrorism & create deterrence.

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Q.16) Comprehensive National Nutritional Survey (CNNS) paints a grim picture of health and nutrition of children in India. Discuss the effects of intergenerational poverty on nutrition and health. Also, suggest ways to break the poverty-undernutrition vicious cycle. (15 marks, 250 words)

व्यापक राष्ट्रीय पोषण सर्वेक्षण (CNNS) भारत में बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य और पोषण की एक कुरूप तस्वीर पेश करता है। पोषण और स्वास्थ्य पर अंतर-पीढ़ीगत गरीबी के प्रभावों की चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, गरीबी-अल्पपोषण के दुष्चक्र को तोड़ने के उपाय सुझाएं। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Comprehensive National Nutritional Survey has highlighted the nexus between poverty & undernutrition which leads to decreased productivity.

* Malnutrition — Undernutrition
— Hidden Hunger
— Obesity

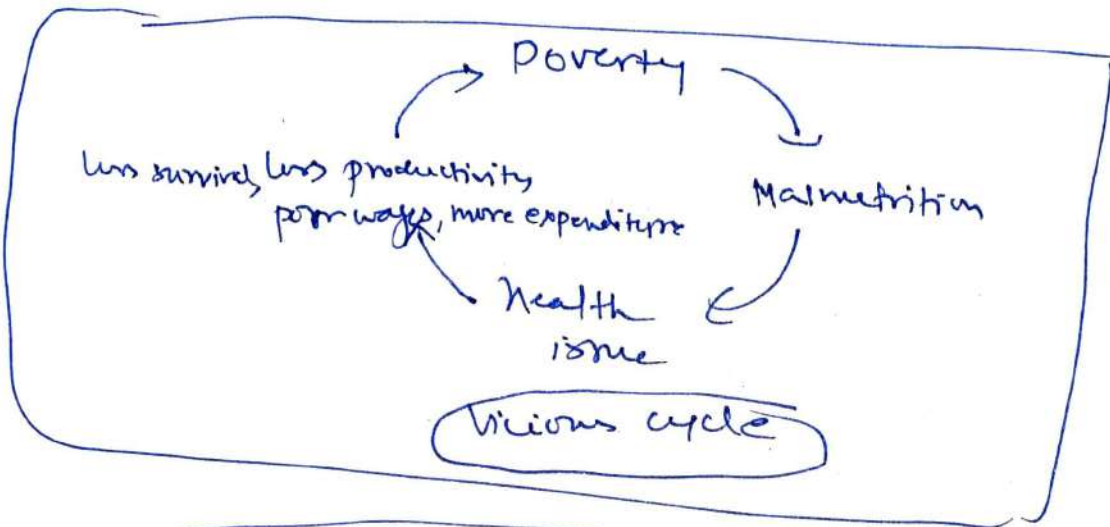
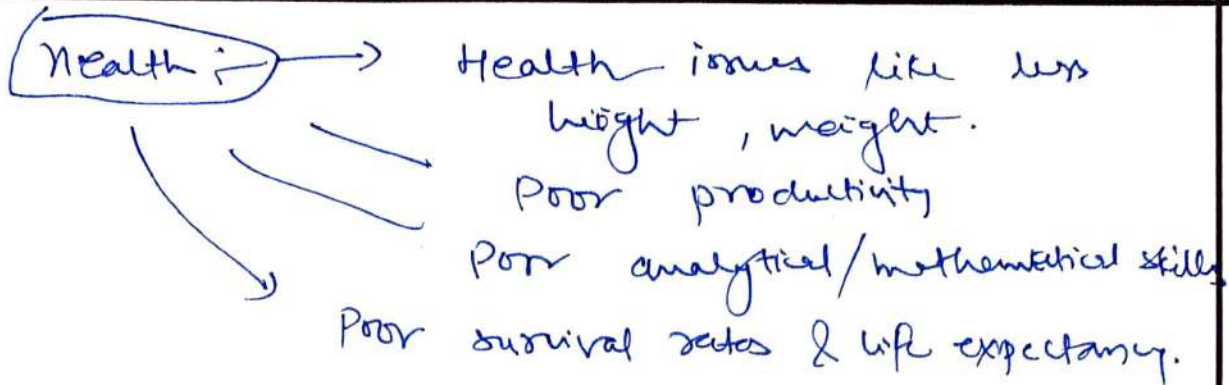
India's stunting data — 38%

Child wasting — 21.4%

Anemic mothers — 53%

Effects of intergenerational poverty on nutrition & health:-

Nutrition:- → poverty leads to undernutrition
→ Focus on cereals since it is provided in PDS shops.
Lack of proteins & nutrients in diets
Perpetuates ill-nutritional diet.



Ways to break this vicious cycle

↳ Focus on nutrition of every child
 local intervention
 leverage NGOs
 involve Anganwadi, Asha & Panchayati raj representatives

↳ Focus on access to nutrients through government policy
 focus on delivery gaps minimization in ICDS, MDAs etc
 provision of nutrients through PDS

- Incentive parents to provide proper nutrients by awareness last educational, skill development & health outcomes.
- ↳ Sampoorna Initiative of Assam's Songajgon can be a guiding light.
- ↳ Increasing sensitisation of society towards nutrient rich diets. FSSAI led campaigns against fast food etc.
- ↳ Provision of Food Fortification & bio-Fortification before delivery.
- ↳ Increasing access to quality drinking water & better living conditions. through PM Jal Jeevan Mission & PM Awas Yojana.

SDG-1 & SDG-2 are interrelated & their achievement is only possible through targetted interventions with policy clarity.
 SDG-1: No poverty
 SDG-2: Zero hunger

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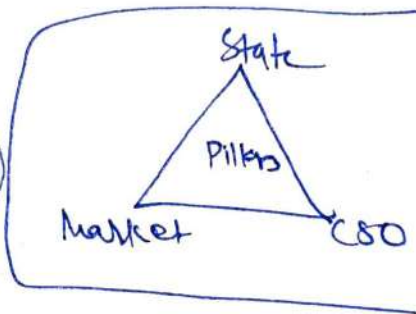
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Q17) Civil society organisations (CSOs) have played a stellar role in extension of human rights, protection of civil liberties and voicing the concerns of unheard, but critics argue that civil society has emerged as the new frontier of war and CSOs have hindered the socio-economic development of the nation. Give your opinion. (15 marks, 250 words)

नागरिक समाज संगठनों (CSO) ने मानवाधिकारों के विस्तार, नागरिक स्वतंत्रता की सुरक्षा और अनसुनों की चिंताओं को आवाज देने में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है, लेकिन आलोचकों का तर्क है कि नागरिक समाज युद्ध की नए सरहद या न्यू फ्रंटियर के रूप में उभरा है और CSO ने राष्ट्र के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में बाधा उत्पन्न की है। अपनी राय दीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Civil society organisations consist of NGOs, pressure groups & various other unions/organisation working for people's cause. They are 3rd pillar of governance in a mixed economy.

Role of civil society:



→ Extensions of human rights

providing justice through health initiatives or care initiatives

voicing against administrative excess

Provision of food to poor (ex:- COVID lockdown)

ex:- Child care NGOs, Bachpan fundations led by Kailash Satyarthi

→ protection of civil liberties:-

→ provide access to justice

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through legal avenues. Ex: volunteers of NALSA.

→ support freedom of speech & rights of people. Ex: RTI act related struggle by Majdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

→ concerns of unheard:

Caste amelioration by NGOs working amongst SCs/STs.

women organization working for trafficked women & bring violence to light

cause of tribals put thousands Ex: Narmada Richard Anderson

• Civil society as new frontier of war & obstacle to socio-economic development

→ New frontier of war:

Issue of hyperactivity against government which disturbs peace

Allegations of NGOs being funded for conversions & social enmity

Arguments that they promote revolts through mobilizing public opinion

Ex: Amnesty International had to shut its office in India.

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- Hindering socio-economic development.
 - ↳ Allegations that these NGOs take foreign fund to mobilise public against developmental projects ex: Nuclear power plants protests.
 - ↳ Issue of NGOs being funded for sectarian interests like promotion of religious conservatism. Ex: funds from Saudi Arabia in Madarsa run by NGOs.

Steps taken — FCRA act amended
 — IB report highlights that NGOs cause 2-3% of GDP loss due to hindrance created.

NGOs brought under RTI

Civil society are the critical component of development in market driven autonomy & hence bringing reforms is necessary while allowing the space to CSOs to work freely in public interest.

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Q.18) Invisibilizing destitute through criminalizing of begging amounts to complete denial of a socio-economic problem and abject failure of the state. In light of this statement, discuss the reasons behind the problem of begging and suggest suitable welfare measures to address various problems faced by them. (15 marks, 250 words)

भिक्षावृत्ति के अपराधीकरण के जरिए निराश्रितों को देखना एक सामाजिक-आर्थिक समस्या को पूरी तरह से नकारना और राज्य की घोर विफलता है। इस कथन के आलोक में भिक्षावृत्ति की समस्या के कारणों की विवेचना कीजिए तथा उनके सामने आने वाली विभिन्न समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए उपयुक्त कल्याणकारी उपाय सुझाइए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India has vast amount of beggars operating on signals, on temple/masque doorsteps, on gates of major institutions etc. It affects India's image as emerging power.

Criminalizing of begging

- leads to loss of livelihood of beggars
- Against human rights
- pushes them towards hunger deaths
- questions efficacy of democratic state where its citizens die of starvation

Reasons for problem of begging

- ↳ poverty leads to unwaitable health & other issues ⇒ no option than to borrow.
- ↳ disability or other social handicaps

- provide person with no avenues.
- ↳ rejection by home.
 - ↳ Jobless growths leading to no provision of sufficient jobs.
 - ↳ Poor skill development facilities (only 2.4% are formally skilled).
 - ↳ Rackets operating in begging as profession. Ext child trafficking to push them into begging.
 - ↳ Health/crisis issue in family. Ext can be seen on metro stations.
 - ↳ Lack of justice to poor ext tribals left with no livelihoods & displaced due to developmental project.
 - ↳ Environmental vagaries leading to loss of property & loved ones → pushes unwillingness to work.

Welfare measures must be oriented towards 'lending a hand rather than giving a dose'.

- ↳ Steps to measure their population & presence.
- ↳ Data collection about reasons & provision of resources on the basis of need.

- framing an inclusive policy for different section of beggars. for example:- provision of old age homes for elders; assisted machines to disabled; skill development to unemployed.
- immediate provision of homes in community houses & food with proper nutrients
- involving NGOs, SHGs & local volunteers ex: Robinhood army for food distribution.
- collaboration between centr. States & local government with key role played by local levels & financing supplemented by upper levels.

Begging is against India's commitment to achieve SDGs & promote 'Saath Saath Vikas' hence rather than criminalizing, steps are needed towards course correction.

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 Q15) Real reason for rising Indo-China tension is that China is determined to reshape the global political and economic order in a manner aligned to its own interest in which it no longer regards India as a source of support. Explain with suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत-चीन के बढ़ते तनाव का वास्तविक कारण यह है कि चीन वैश्विक राजनीतिक और आर्थिक व्यवस्था को अपने स्वयं के हितों के अनुरूप बदलने के लिए दृढ़ संकल्प है, जिसमें वह अब भारत को समर्थन के स्रोत के रूप में नहीं मानता है। उपयुक्त उदाहरण देकर स्पष्ट कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India - China relations started on the positive note of Panchsheel during 1950s but 1962 war & recent apprehensions have depleted trust to historic lows.

Efforts of China in reshaping global order

- Policy of Belt & Road initiative which is debt trap diplomacy as termed by Brahma Chellany.
 (Ex) - Montenegro struggling to ^{repay} ~~give~~ debt.
- ↳ policy of string of pearls to surround India on all sides. Ex Military base at Djibouti & Sri Lanka.
- ↳ Direct confrontation with US. Ex:- Trade war escalation & no step to reconciliation.
- Acquisition of Hong Kong through new law which is seen as expansionist tendency.

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- Forays in South Asia & beyond.
- Support to Pakistan & Taliban
- Going against US to befriend Iran
- Adventurers in South China Sea & asserting dominance in Indian Ocean!
- African assets being acquired to further our interests.

India - China disputes

<p>Reducing Indian goodwill in South Asia Ex: Nepal's anti-India stand; Myanmar's junta govt favoring China.</p>	<p>Suppressing India's rise to become the only global power by replacing US</p>	<p>Forgetting US since India's going closer to US</p>	<p>centered around border which remains unresolved</p>
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India no longer envisaged as support since

India's a competing power

— India supports multilateral & rules based order

— India's rise supports pluralism & unity of world

Ex: human rights & regards for others' concerns. India is democratic & has due

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Way Forward For India:

- pursue strategic autonomy in India's interest.
- never let deteriorate relations with Russia (our all time friend).
- promote global diplomatic orientation against containing China.
- actively engage new partners like Vietnam, Singapore in QAD or regional forums to counter China advances.
- use UNSC membership to expose Chinese agendas.
- emphasize Chinese relation in trade & economy and strategic issues.

India's test lies in containing China & being the net security provider in Indian ocean & emerging power with potential to counter any threats in geopolitical domains.

Feedback

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Q.20) World Trade Organization (WTO) has fallen victim to diverging interest of developed and developing countries, great power rivalries and the inability to resolve dispute. Examine the statement and discuss the role that G-20 can play in creating broader consensus on contentious issues in WTO. (15 marks, 250 words)

विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) विकसित और विकासशील देशों के हितों में विचलन, बड़ी शक्तियों की प्रतिद्वंद्विता और विवाद को सुलझाने में असमर्थता का शिकार हो गया है। कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए और विश्व व्यापार संगठन में विवादास्पद मुद्दों पर व्यापक सहमति बनाने में G-20 की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

WTO was formed through Uruguay round (1992) by replacing GATT to promote trade & globalization with special concerns for developing & least developed countries.

Issues plaguing WTO

- Diverging interests of developed & developing countries :-
- Issue of subsidies & technical/non-technical barriers to trade ex- condition of high sanitary measures affecting imports from India to developed world.
 - Info technology agreement has been pushed by developed nations but developing countries feel consensus
 - Agriculture's peace clause supported by developing countries but opposed by developed ones

↳ great power rivalries :-

India & US
and India & EU
confronted on
various issues
like dairy trade,
solar panels, fisheries.

Problem of
western European
countries diverging
from US stand
Ex: deglobalised moves
by US

China - US
trade war
& its implications

↳ Inability to resolve disputes :-

Appeals &
allegations of
countries being
pressured to
support certain
bigger powers into
WTO dispute ~~ex: china~~.

Adherent
stand of
US prohibiting
functioning
of WTO's
dispute resolution

No appointment
to Appellate
panel of
dispute resolution
body

G-20 :- It is a group of 20 emerging
economies discussing global
financial stability & macroeconomic
issues playing the economies worldwide

Role of G-20 in WTO revival

- ↳ can be a platform for course correction with regards to negotiation in WTO.
- ↳ countries with major share of economic lift can resolve issues & bring

WTO to revival.

- Can help in assessment of global economy scenario & effects of WTO being made dysfunctional which could hinder efforts to resolve contention.
- Platform for developing countries to air their differences & get them resolved.
- Can help in China-US trade war halt & push towards resubilitation.
- India can play critical role in acting as mediator in these negotiations leveraging its relations with US/Europe & developing world.

WTO needs to be revived in the interest of everyone & usage of platforms like G20, summits, UN Assembly & various multilaterals (ex- QUAD, BRICS etc) is the need of hour to engage positive diplomatic efforts.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use c

Structure/
PresentationQuestion
Interpretation

Content

Value
Addition

Total