

# ForumIAS

## GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	Ishu Agrawal		
Roll No.	191008286	Date:	04/12/2021

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. 2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part 3. One question in each part is compulsory. 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. 5. 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. 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.
Q.1			
Q.2			
<b>Total Marks:</b>			
<b>Remarks:</b>			<p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p><i>• Please guide me in reducing the time taken..</i></p> <p><i>Essay Time taken</i>  <i>I - 1:40 hr</i>  <i>II - 1:30 hr</i></p>
<b>For Student Only</b>			
Start Time   12:00 PM		End Time   3:10 PM	
Mode Of Examination:		Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>For Office Use Only</b>			
ECN CODE:		EG:	Evaluation Date:

**MARKING SCHEME**

<i>Parameter/Criteria</i>	<i>Aspects Considered</i>	<i>Total Marks</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
<i>Basic Format</i>	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
<i>Content</i>	Data/Facts/Interpretation/ Analysis	25		
<i>Organisation</i>	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
<i>Language Skills</i>	Punctuation/Grammar/ Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
<i>Examiner's Discretion</i>	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

<i>Parameters</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>
<i>Coherence</i>				
<i>Language</i>				
<i>Handwriting</i>				
<i>Pre-writing</i>				

<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>
120 and above	100-120	Below 100

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## Section A

The myth of local democracy : Indian  
experience with Panchayati Raj

" I want ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> free India, which  
has <sup>her</sup> villages at the centre of  
the oceanic circle of democracy .

I want the villages to be the <sup>basic</sup>  
unit of Indian republic . These <sup>are</sup> ~~the~~  
<sup>the</sup> words that Gandhiji wrote in  
"Young India", as his vision for  
a post colonial, independent Bharat .

In keeping with his ideal,  
the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment to the Indian  
Constitution was made to give  
Constitutional status to Panchayati  
Raj Institutions (PARI) as the units  
of local democracy.

Three decades later, as India embarks upon the <sup>lofty</sup> path of "Atma Nirbharta" to become a "Vishwa Guru", India's experience with PRI needs a critical analysis and relook.

In this discussion we would talk about the experiment of Panchayati Raj and its shortcomings, problems that would arise if the shortcomings continue and what are the solutions to these problems. But first of all let's understand what Panchayati Raj really is.

## DECODING: Panchayati Raj

Panchayati Raj is a system of local self governance. It works on the principle of "Democratic Decentralization" i.e. taking democracy to the people. It seeks to increase democratic participation and involve



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people in planning and implementing solutions to the problems they face.

Panchayats or local bodies of elected leaders have been part of village administration in India since ages. Through Constitutional Amendment no-73, these institutions were formalized and given concrete structure.

Panchayati Raj: A story so far!

"Local problems beget local solutions" going by this dictum, a ~~the~~ three tiered panchayat system was envisaged by the said amendment. Through bodies like V Gram Sabha and Raj Panchayat, panchayati raj was envisioned to be the harbinger of "grass root democracy" in India.

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Despite its short glimpse of success, as Madgi Committee observed Panchayati Raj has largely been "blooms without roots". ~~The PRA~~ ~~has to be examined~~ ~~and~~ lets now discuss the reasons behind it remaining a non starter.

Panchayati Raj: All talk - No work

Among the many reasons for Panchayati Raj being the myth of local democracy, the first and the foremost reason is that PRA are not localized. The constitution provides for twenty nine functions which need to be devolved to panchayats, but as noted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, almost no state has devolved more than fifteen or about half of these functions to PRA's.



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Instead of localizing the functions, the state governments have ~~restricted~~ <sup>kept</sup> them confined under their domain.

Secondly, P.R.I., the institutions of local democracy are not democratic enough. In taking decisions like dam building, <sup>land acquisition,</sup> mining etc - Gram Sabha are routinely bypassed. Many states have even failed to constitute Gram Sabha and panchayats due to lack of awareness among the people about P.R.I.s.

Further, states like Karnataka have not held panchayat elections for years altogether, despite completion of tenure of previous panchayats. Even when elections are held, money and muscle power dominate the result, robbing P.R.I. of their



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democratic credentials.

Thirdly, PRTs face the problem of shortage of funds on scouting basis. This tax base of their own, coupled with lack of devolution of funds from the state paralyzes their functioning. Even Thangam & Mani Shankar Aiyar committee have pointed out numerous instances of non adherence to recommendations of state finance commission by the state governments.

As if all of these was not enough, the social structure and latent malices in our society have also hinder functioning of PRTs. The constitution provides for reservation of 33% to women in election to PRT, however, the patriarchal mindset of our society has limited the elected women representatives as mere showpiece with real power wielded by their "Sarpanch Pati".

~~This hinders the~~  
the  
problems of status-quo

Panchayati Raj is important to ensure equitable and inclusive development of the country. But it would remain merely a dream if the status quo continues.

The chinese experiment of localized planning has shown great promise in ensuring social development and poverty reduction. India which host 28% of global poverty, can not dream of poverty alleviation without bringing decentralized and localized institutions of democracy.

further, as shown by James Robinson in his book "Why Nations Fail", weak institutions create a conducive condition for creating unrest and causing countries to collapse. A weak



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panchayati raj system can be ~~the~~ one such institution, if warning signs are not heeded to.

## fixing Panchayati Raj

There are no magic pills to cure the ~~po~~ ills of panchayati Raj at once. Systematic, persistent and multipronged efforts are required to rid it of its woes.

The first step could be linking grants from the central pool to devolved to the states with their degree of funds & functional devolution ~~to~~ to the PRIs. NITI Aayog says that it would push the states towards localising PRIs in true sense.

Second, new avenues of fund raising like panchayat bonds, share in mining ~~tax~~, royalty, bringing new taxes etc. can be experimented with. With greater funds, the efficiency



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and capability of P.R.I.s would increase, boosting further decentralization.

Third, states should, realizing their responsibility, ensure that timely, free and fair elections to panchayats are held. This not only helps the P.R.I.s to function continuously, but also increases public confidence in them.

last, but not the least, As suggested by Mr. Amitabh Kant in his book "The path ahead", ~~the~~ ICT technology must be used in a big way to strengthen Gram Sabha and Panchayats. Use of ICT & IR 4.0, would ensure greater public participation and evidence based policy formulation.

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To sum it all, Panchayati Raj, con-  
 tinuing the age old institution of  
 panchayati Raj in a formalized  
 manner, was thought to be a useful  
 tool of democratic deepening in  
 India.

However, it has been marred by  
 a number of problems like  
 non devolution of funds, functions &  
functionaries. For growth & develop-  
 ment of India, panchayati Raj insti-  
tutions can play an important role.

The solution to these problems  
 lie in greater devolution of funds,  
 timely elections and greater parti-  
 cipation of people. ICT can play a  
 huge role in it.

Panchayati Raj as the foremost  
 instrument of local democracy is  
 the need of the hour. To make it  
 a reality today, an all out effort  
 is required as,

" Sarvodaya through antyodaya"  
 can be ensured only through

" Swaraaj through Gram Swaraaj"



Book → Rural manifesto →  
 Bridgital nation →

Arav swaraj

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The path ahead → A. Keert  
 304. varanasi  
 rebale

Subtopic  
 Democratic decentralisation

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## The myth of local democracy: Indian experience with panchayati Raj

### Why a myth / unsuccessful / all talk no walk?

- funds, functions & functionaries → devoth of funds → this fund base
- devolution of roles → ~~SC~~ SG (taken up mess)
- Sarpanch pati → many states no ~~SC~~ SFC
- Bypassing Gram Sabha
- Lack of functionaries
- election ~~not~~
- 1<sup>st</sup> not local - more functions at state & block level

2<sup>nd</sup> not democratic - Gram Sabha reduced role - power points - no meetings of panchayat

### Solution Evidence →

Why a myth →  
 myth → reality  
 decoding & their mechanism  
 internet is LO & PPT  
 how PRI seek to achieve  
 - why still a myth - 2.  
 - why emp to turn myth to reality - 1  
 - what to do to make a reality - 1





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Intro x 1.5 - 'I want a demo for India where a unit of republic is an occupier club place in oceanic wheel of development' - Crawshaw in Young India - 1920s - enacted ~ 3 decades back - as India - coming growing - warrant a relook.

Secondary PR

Defn/meaning 1. (→ <sup>unit of</sup> LGL - demo decent - principle of subsidiarity → local parti → local problems)   
begs local soln → grass root demo (A.73 - 2434 - 2420)

All work no strike

Mystery problem - despite short glimpse of success like <sup>budget committee</sup>   
- 3: As: grass w/out roots →   
→ Not local → more functions @ state & block level -   
→ not demo → as bypassed - infreq meeting - power   
localities + elections x (Karnataka)   
→ step motherly treatment → 29 funct - no state full -   
- seen as penalty   
→ lack of funds - tax base + devolution + AFC +   
→ Sanpach path -

Problems of Persia

Solutions: what'd happen if continued - 1   
→ Essential - inclusive & equitable growth - 70% pop   
rural ⊕ localized demo - not oligarchy ⊕   
as Chinese experiment → community parti - block   
level workers - communist party → better input ⊕ policy   
from Washing Nations Facts - James Robinson - weak crash

PR 3.0

Coalitions - 2 peetal manif,   
→ NITI Aayog - linking devol with panchayat devol   
→ Expanding tax base + mining royalty + tax stress   
→ Path ahead - A. Kant - rule tech → strengthen   
→ ↑ parti   
→ ↑ parti



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अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।

The whole world is more than  
the sum of its parts

Almost a couple of years  
back, a reeling silent tragedy  
hit our world. A tiny virus  
took birth but its growth  
costed us more than sixty million  
lives worldwide. It brought to  
a grinding halt to our bustling  
lives and forced us to imprison-  
ment within our homes.

Two years later, things are  
better now. The world is getting  
back to its feet. lockdowns have  
been called off and people are  
out on streets and parties and  
offices and public spaces again.

This leads us to wonder,  
what made it possible for our



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Lives to turn back to normalcy. Was it the grit of communities? or was it the ingenuity of a state? or was it the effort of a country alone?

Well, it wasn't the efforts of any one of them alone, but the effects of the whole world as one, that made it possible for us to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and bring it to controllable levels.

The present would not have been possible without the stewardship of WHO, without the research on vaccines in the west and without their mass production in India. It would not have been possible without prompt genome sequencing of 'Delta' variant of the virus by African countries and

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without the exemplary leadership of New Zealand in guiding the world on post lockdown economic recovery.

'The ~~turn~~ turning of the curve' of the pandemic is the proof that "The whole world is more than the sum of its parts".

In this discussion we would see what does ~~this~~ the above quote signify? Its relevance in contemporary times? The problems hindering its realization and finally what ~~can be~~ needs to be done.

The aforementioned quote carries the message of "GLOBAL COOPERATION" as its essence. Divided as countries we tend to achieve much less than what we can achieve united as one world. This has



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been true over our history.

It was only when the world got together as one, could the world war be stopped. Half hearted attempts of only victorious nations of the 1<sup>st</sup> world war could not bring lasting peace to the world. But when the leaders of the whole world got together, post world war II, the ground for global cooperation, and global peace was laid, which sustains itself till today.

Similarly, it was ~~at~~ the conjointed efforts of the whole world that, <sup>ensured that</sup> the problem of ozone depletion ~~was~~ was tackled holistically. Had the countries not assented to the Vienna Accords and tried to tackle the problem individually, we would still be leaving

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under massive ozone holes.

Furthermore, the recent upgradation of III world countries like Bangladesh and Guatemala, from least developed countries status to developing ones, is the result of the collaborative efforts of the world as a whole. It was the developmental aids and embracing import policies of the developed countries, that led to economic growth in these poor countries.

This view is also shared by ex. Foreign Secretary of India Mr. Shivshankar Menon. He says the world has prospered more always, when it has been inter-connected. From the pre christian era to the recent times, it has been true all along.



Global cooperation : Sin-Qua-Non today

Our world today faces a multitude of problems which pose threats ranging from hindering prosperity to ending humanity. The global origin and global ramifications of these problems, makes it quintessential for the world to come together to tackle them head on.

Furthest and foremost such crisis is the crisis of climate change. Rising sea levels and increasing global temperature have posed existential threat to all forms of life on the earth. These problems aren't limited to any nation alone but would impact all countries alike. A sustainable solution lies only in global efforts in unison and not as part.

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Second, the rising global inequalities is cause of concern for the whole world. As it is said "Poverty anywhere is threat to prosperity everywhere", no country can ignore the problem of "North-South divide". Doing so would ~~cause~~ amount to derelict of duty on the part of developed world.

Third, the problem of terrorism is another menace beyond the control of any single nation. Singular efforts of the military powerhouse of USA ~~power~~ powerhouse of USA ~~power~~ have proven to be abject failure. The need of the hour, is that the world <sup>come</sup> together to address this grave threat.

Last, <sup>absolutely</sup> but not the least, is the problem of governing of global commons like Arctic sea, Antarctica, the moon etc. Ensuring that



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these cannons are used only for  
the interest of the whole  
humanity and not to sateiate  
the ~~the~~ greed of any specific  
nation, the world must ~~to~~ come  
together.

## Global Cooperation : THE ROAD BLOCKS

The path to global cooperation  
is fraught with multiple  
impediments. The inability of  
countries to look beyond their  
"own nose" hampers the global  
unity. Countries like China and  
North Korea have embarked <sup>up</sup> on the  
path of expansionism ~~in~~. Their  
"National interest" ~~has~~ is pushing  
the world towards another cold war

Rising populist, jingoist tenden-  
cies worldwide, do no favour to  
global cooperation either. From  
USA to Hungary and from Turkey to  
Belarus, chauvinism ~~is~~ has spread

its legs which sees the world  
through mercantile lens. Politics  
of concessions have has caused  
countries to become protectionists.

Similarly, the moral myopia  
prevailing worldwide is another  
threat to global cooperation. Rise  
of "Realpolitik" in international  
affairs has reduced the space  
for "liberal engagement" between  
the countries.

### The Road Ahead

As Professor Jugal Nath Harari  
puts it, "Global problems require  
Global solutions". The nations must  
realize that without shouldering  
the responsibility of global welfare  
national welfare can be only be  
a dream at best.



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The need of the hour is to adopt ~~every~~ cosmopolitanism in international engagement today. Going beyond narrow national interest, countries must realize that global good does good to them as well.

further, institutions like United Nations must be strengthened to facilitate global cooperation. Putting supra nationalism over nationalism can work wonders for us.

lastly, humanity must acquire the centre stage in national and international politics. With humanity as the pivot of decision making, the differences between the countries would reduce automati- cally, leading to sustainable, viable and inclusive development.

To sum it all, global cooperation forms the bedrock of global progress. From the world wars to

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the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, global cooperation has been the key to successfully overcoming problems.

Problems of today, like climate changing, rising terrorism etc. require the countries to come together and put conjointed efforts. Though the path is fraught by hurdles like cynicism, narrow national interest and expansionism of countries, adopting value of cosmopolitanism, and strengthening UN can help fill the schisms between the countries.

Like the pandemic of corona, the pandemic of poverty and the pandemic of climate change could be tackled well, if we remember that :-

"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"

The world is one family.





YN Harari - Global people - Global self

Shri Shankar Menon - most people when connected

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The whole world is more than the sum of its parts.

- Global coop
- Kumbh Mela
- Humanity
- unity
- Cosmopolitanism

- Nationalism
- Regionalism
- Fear

→ Corona crisis - shows / country can't handle it alone.

North south divide

Terrorism

Climate change  $\frac{60}{10}$

Global common

Controlling range nations.

past changes

→ Montreal protocol - Vienna - Ozone

when Failed - Harari

→ Cold war  
→ world war

- UN - strengthens
- Human Ent over nature
- Cosmopolitanism

challenges :-

- problem of free riders
- new countries don't want cycle
- regimes

→ Supra nationalism

Tugend - Unity of human spirit - beyond national walls.

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whole world is  $\rightarrow$  than the sum of its parts

Intro:- Corona

Examples:-  $\rightarrow$  Sermon

- $\rightarrow$  ~~Corona virus~~
- $\rightarrow$  Vienna
- $\rightarrow$  averted world war
- $\rightarrow$  recent upgradation of B'desk

soon after - Interest of parts  
 $\rightarrow$  gave rise to cold wars.

Problems that can't be solved w/out it -  $\odot$  Sin cause Non today

- $\rightarrow$  climate change
- $\rightarrow$  North south divide - poverty anywhere threat
- $\rightarrow$  Terrorism
- $\rightarrow$  Global commu.

what hinders  $\rightarrow$  'Natarasi'  
 $\odot$  Roadblocks

- $\rightarrow$  populism
- $\rightarrow$  xenophobia
- $\rightarrow$  moral myopia

what needs to be done  $\odot$

- $\rightarrow$  supra nationalism - UN strength
- $\rightarrow$  equitable fruits of globalisation
- $\rightarrow$  BRICS  $\rightarrow$  not in just a set other aspects
- $\rightarrow$  ethical revisiting - ~~it~~
- $\rightarrow$  send relevant interests  $\Rightarrow$





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