

TEST CODE : 4 1 0 7 4

FIAS - MGP 2021 - GS paper #2

Forum IAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate

PREKSHA AGRAWAL

Roll No.

19100 84757

Date:

17/17/2021

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			<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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Total:	250			
Evaluator's Discretion:			For Student Only	
			Start Time 2:00pm	End Time 5:00pm
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:	

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						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

1. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI. All questions are compulsory.

2. The number of marks carried by a question part is indicated against it.

3. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Question Card, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.

4. Only one answer should be attempted for any question. If specified, it should be adhered to. In case of a question, the answer should be written in the space provided in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet.

5. Candidates are requested to give copy write if necessary.

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Total: _____

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Mode of Examination: _____

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Ques 1.

Elections are often the stepping stone to ensure a vibrant democracy. But they do not constitute the whole bridge.

Essential requirements for vibrant democracy

- 1) Grassroot level decision making - In India, Panchayati Raj Institutions should be given financial autonomy.
- 2) Active opposition - to criticise, expose government's faults. At the same time, offer different solution
(Eg. Shadow cabinet - UK)

- 3) Democratic institutions - to ensure that democracy is preserved through apolitical institutions.
Eg. CAG, CVC, ECI should be autonomous bodies
- 4) Strong Right to Information - uphold citizens' right to transparency,
- 5) Robust data availability - real time data to monitor government performance
- civil society
- 6) Enforcement mechanism - counts, civil society to ensure compliance with constitution.
- 7) Enlightened citizens - to uphold constitutional morality.

Democracy is hence lot more than timely elections.

It's about collective, open decision making.

India's federalism 'sui-generis' has strong centralizing tendencies. Hence there is need to maintain the balance, mutual respect between political structures of centre and state.

Responsibility to maintain balance and mutual respect:-

① Recent case of CB I not being general approval to investigate cases in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh.

⇒ This will impact the functions of central agency which have role on law and order of state.

② Refusal of West Bengal, Delhi to implement

Ayushmaan Bhanat — This goes against principle of cooperating with the centre (Article 365).

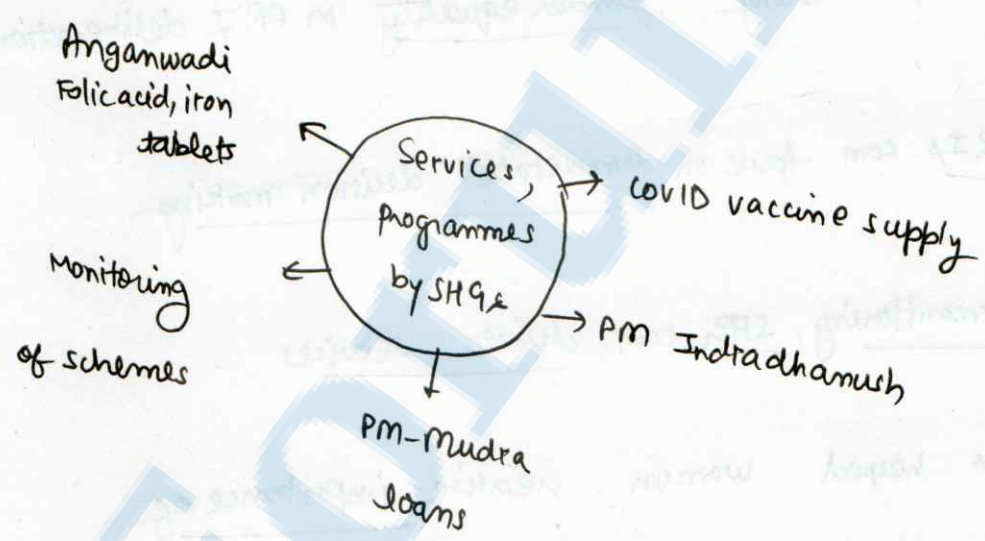
③ Central government holding meetings with principle secretary, Panchayat heads — entering domain of state government. This is violation of respect.

④ Centre withholding GST compensation Fund is serious issue in economic federalism.

For federalism to be successful, there is need to respect each other's boundaries and then work accordingly.

Q3..

SHGs have become vehicles of service delivery and for project implementation. However this has allegedly led to undermining of P.R.I.s. (Panchayati Raj Institutions).



How has this undermined role of P.R.I.?

- ① SHGs are unelected bodies, unlike P.R.I.s.
- ② They represent interests of only members.

③ PRI's engage more democratically with entire population.

④ SHGs usually focus on service delivery component,
not monitoring

However, SHGs have in a way strengthened PRI's :-

① Help to spread awareness about schemes.

② SHGs help to bring gender equality in PRI deliberations.

③ While PRI's can focus on democratic decision making

and monitoring, SHG can deliver services

④ SHGs helped women realise importance of
social infrastructure proposals of PRI's.

As part of People's Plan Campaign, PRI's can be

successfully complemented by SHGs.

Q4.

India's case load stands at 2.5 crore cases while vacancies across the high courts and local courts stand at gigantic level.

Need for creation of All-India Judicial service :-

- 1) High case load - Nearly 60, lakh pending in High courts.
- 2) Vacancies at lower level, high court level.
- 3) Poor case management
- 4) Opacity at collegium level.
- 5) Low representation of women, minorities.
- 6) Reluctancy at level of executive and judiciary.

challenges associated with creation of AIJS: -

1. Obstruction to Federalism → States have an autonomy with respect to appointments in local courts, AIJS would impede this.
2. Presence of affirmative action by states → Eg. Karnataka HC has reserved seats for women and specific backward classes.
3. varied vacancy and case load → eg. Madras HC has lower vacancy than Calcutta but higher case load.
4. Dissolution of separation between Executive and Judiciary → against Article 43.(DPSP) since Executive would appoint.

Thus, AIJS needs to be brought about only with proper consideration. Rather use Alternate Dispute Resolution, e-courts etc.

ds.

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Anganwadi have become vital line of defence of village population during COVID.

Role as link between community and state :-

1. Promoting health
 - a) Take care of maternal and child health.
 - b) Implementation of PM Indradhanush program for vaccines.
 - c) Registration of child birth.
 - d) Institutional delivery.
 - e) Provide folic acid tablets to lactating mothers.

2. Reducing malnutrition

- a) Ensure regular supply of mid-day meals.
- b) Provide bio-fortified rice, salt etc.
- c) Awareness regarding nutrition, breastfeeding.
- d) Ensure sanitation is robust. ("Swachhagrahis")

3. Controlling pandemic

- a) Trained to use oxygen measurement devices.
- b) COVID-healthy habits, social distancing, mask distribution, cleaning hands ensured.
- c) Survey of villagers having mild symptoms.
- d) Awareness regarding vaccine acceptance.

ASHA, Anganwadi workers deserve a special
place in Indian healthcare infrastructure
and their salaries should be improved.

06. Populism

India's politics have been in direction of

socialism — more so after 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.

(added socialist to Preamble)

But since 1990s, economy has been in line with global

capitalism.

Populism has pushed politics towards socialism

1) First Past the Post system means Parties need just

1 more vote than opponent.

2) Focus on immediate election gains. Eg. Farm loan waivers, electricity subsidy Punjab.

3) Redistribution of wealth. Eg. PM KISAN.

4) states competing with centre on populist schemes. Eg. Delhi

government's home delivery of rations.

5) creation of new "vote banks". Eg. Tamil Nadu - income to housewives.

Yet economy remains dominated by global capitalism

1) Multi-national corporations have offices in India.

Eg. Walmart, Goldmann Sachs.

2) Free trade markets, agreements. Eg. India-Sri Lanka FTA.

3) startups eg. Flipkart, PayTM

4) latest technology eg. Blockchain

Thus new trend of political socialism and economic capitalism has emerged.

Q7.

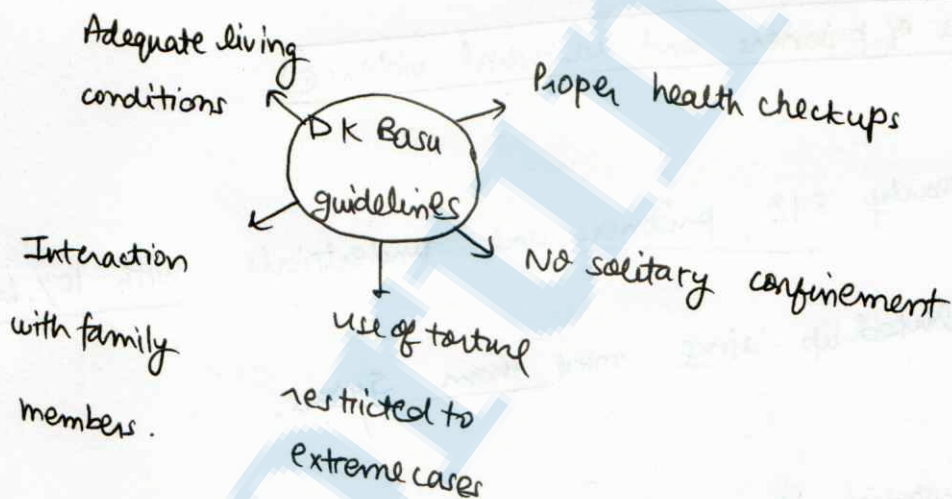
DK Basu case was a landmark in terms of respecting rights of prisoners in India. Supreme court gave guidelines as to how they should be dealt with.

Status of prisoners and custodial violence

- ① Nearly 34% prisoners are undertrials, with 10% being locked up since more than 5 years.
- ② custodial violence leads to death of more than 200 prisoners each year.
- ③ As per Amn Vidhi Centre for Legal Research, 60 prisoners are on death punishment —

with 2/3 of them not having completed secondary education.

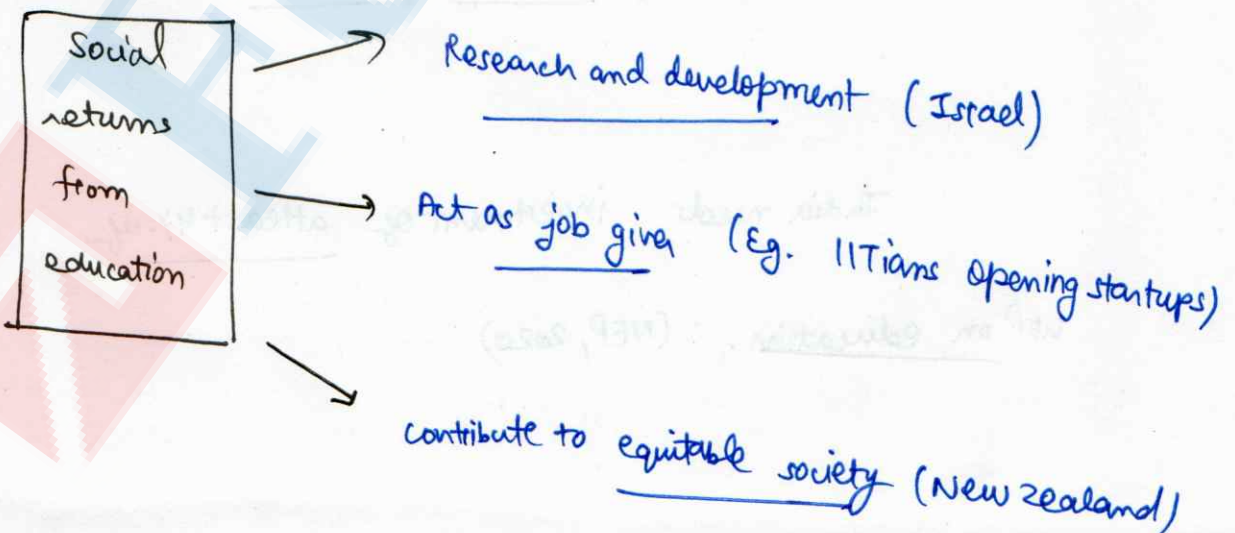
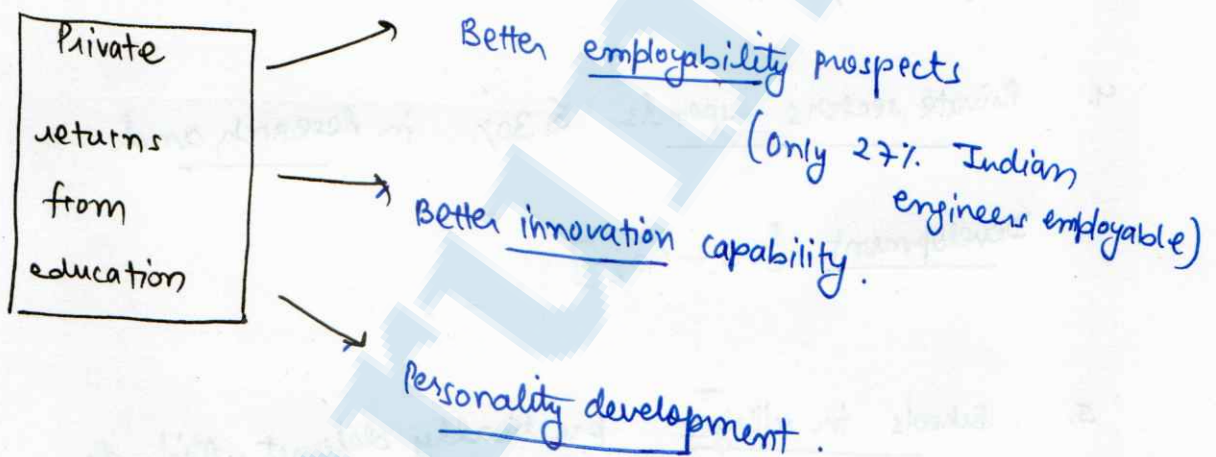
⑨ Poor living conditions, absence of mental healthcare, infighting among inmates have led to increasing suicides inside jails.



As per Amitava Roy committee, there is
urgent need to free undertrials staying in jail
for more than 2 years.

88.

Educational investment is among the most efficient in terms of return generated. India's educational investment stands at ≤ 3% of GDP.



However, educational investment in India remains low :-

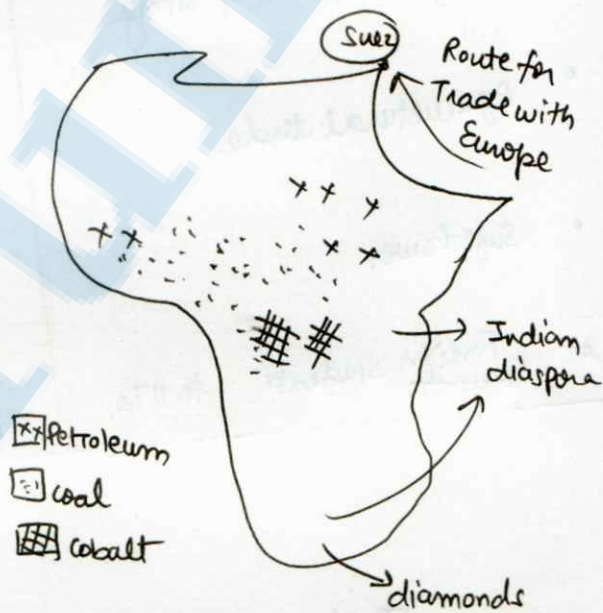
1. Meagre amount spent by Centre on universities, etc.
2. Lack of financial autonomy → reduced private sector funding
3. State universities lack even basic infrastructure
Eg. Tables, chairs
4. Private sectors - spends $\leq 30\%$ in Research and Development [US - 60%]
5. Schools in villages practically defunct. Mid-day meal scheme - money used to pay salaries.

India needs investment of at least 4% of GDP on education. (NEP, 2020)

Historically, India and Africa were active partners in process of de-colonization. As members of NAM, both strove for global "south-south" cooperation.

Strategic significance of Africa for India

- ① Africa as source of Raw materials—coal, cobalt.
- ② Development cooperation with Africa.
- ③ Role in provision of security in Indian Ocean Region.



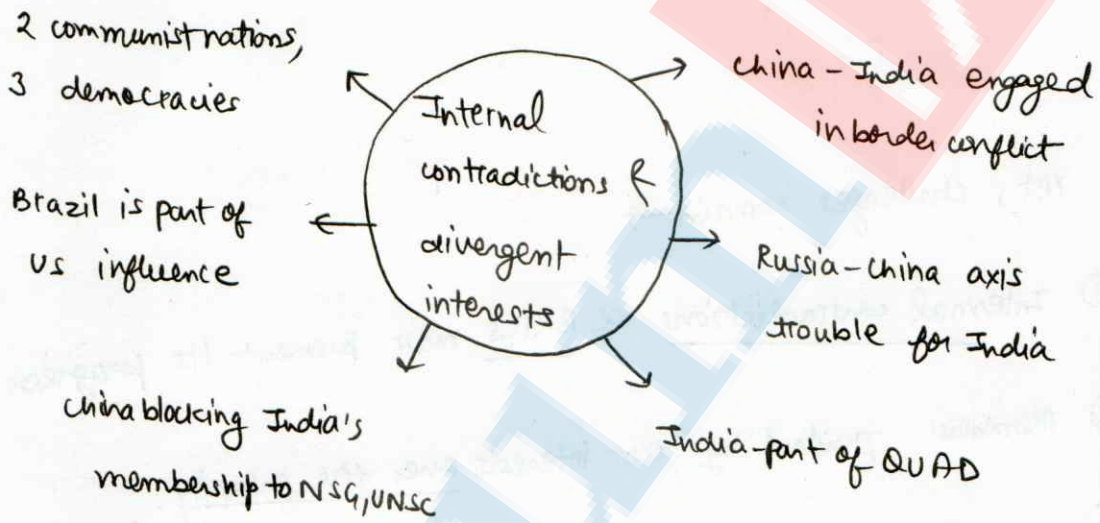
- ④ Diaspora in Africa — engaged in business, etc. [Eg. Vedantamines]
- ⑤ Platform to make India a regional power.

India	China
<p>Focus on</p> <p>long term engagement, diplomatic dealings, earn goodwill</p>	<p>short term gain, business interest</p>
<p>Method applied</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Social sector infrastructure◦ Training to diplomats, army◦ Agricultural trade◦ Soft Power◦ Foreign Students in IITs, Focus on	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ construction of costly infrastructure◦ Military training◦ Provision of weapons◦ Militarisation◦ Access to Ports (eg. Djibouti)

India's engagement in Africa though multi-faceted
yet is linked to just handful of nations. It needs
to be expanded and made more aggressive.

Q10.

BRICS as an organization is now coming-of-age and has potential to shape world order.



Significance of BRICS

Positive aspects

- ① BRICS represents 45% of world's population.
- ② Inter-continental engagement — boost to trade, connectivity
- ③ Contingent Reserve Arrangement provides concessional

loans as against IMF's conditional loans.

- ④ Increasing reach of New Development Bank - Bangladesh,
VAE as members.
- ⑤ Agreements on cooperation in climate change, Terrorism,
cybersecurity etc.

Yet, challenges remain →

- ① Internal contradictions of BRICS may prevent its progress.
- ② Members' guided by own interests over the grouping.
- ③ Trade turning more protectionist, post 2008 crisis.
- ④ Minilateral being preferred.

Success of BRICS will have to be gauged in terms of
ability to shed national interests over long term
multi-lateralism, if BRICS wishes to shape global order.

Q11

Kedarnath Singh case, 1962 → Supreme Court

upheld the necessity of Sedition as crime under

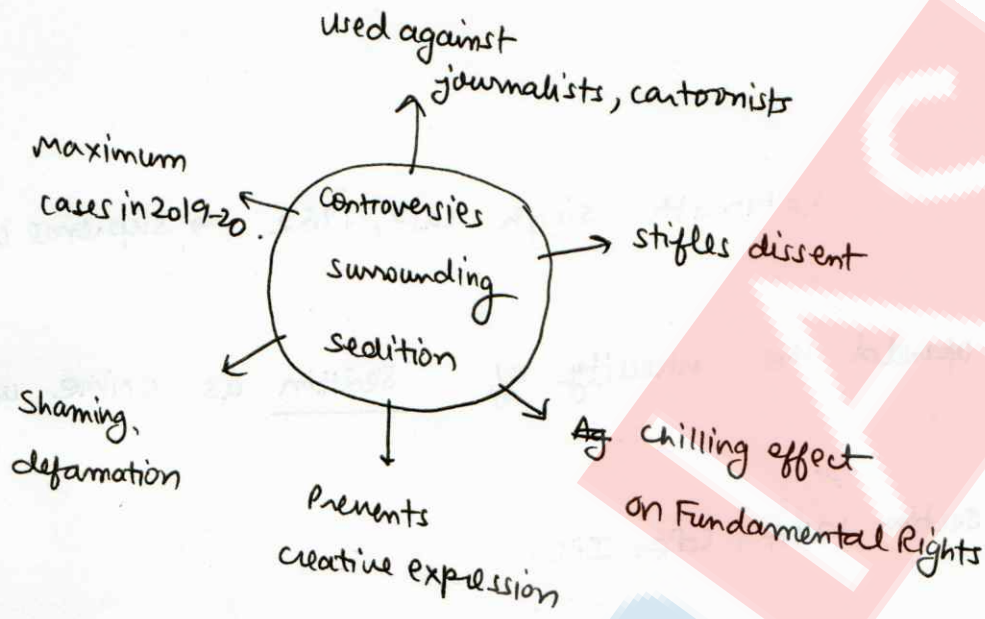
Section 124A, CrPc. IPC.

Utility of 1962 Judgement

- 1) Made at a time when India still in phase of national integration.
- 2) Partition, followed by Wars of 1947, 1962 made it inevitable to safeguard government of day.
- 3) Democracy still nascent.

However, recent controversies have challenged this.

Q.2.



Why Judgement needs Review?

- 1) Conditions today are very different.
- 2) Sedition is misused to prevent genuine criticism of government of day.
- 3) Against principle of fair trial, ^{natural} justice.
- 4) Corruption, fake news have exponentially

Q11.

enhanced.

5) sedition is used to curb freedom of expression (Art 19),

Right to life (Art 21).

However, still need remains →

- Hostile neighbourhood → nuclear nations China, Pakistan
- Societal faultlines → communalism
- International funding of NGOs → spread dissent, chaos

Sedition needs to be differentiated as to

whether there was genuine motive to instigate revolt

or mere criticism. It needs wider debate as to

whether 124A should be repealed.

Q12.

Judicial review has been product of American Judiciary and has been used in India to revisit a case if important question of law has been left unaddressed.

Judicial review and soliciting constitutional justification for policies:-

① Since there is adequate separation of power between executive and Judiciary, the latter can ask questions to former.

② often clarity is sought only after proper understanding of policies.

Eg. Aadhar card case - allowed only for beneficiary services.

However, line between judicial activism and overreach is thin.

Judicial activism

→ Judiciary strives to understand
→ constitutional legitimacy of
policy / law.

→ Judiciary doesn't give
suggestions eg

→ It merely studies question
of law / fact.

→ constructive for democracy.

Eg. Liquor Ban on

Highway (2017)

Judicial overreach.

→ Judiciary moves beyond
its sphere of influence.

→ It goes on to give
policy suggestions,
tears down entire
laws

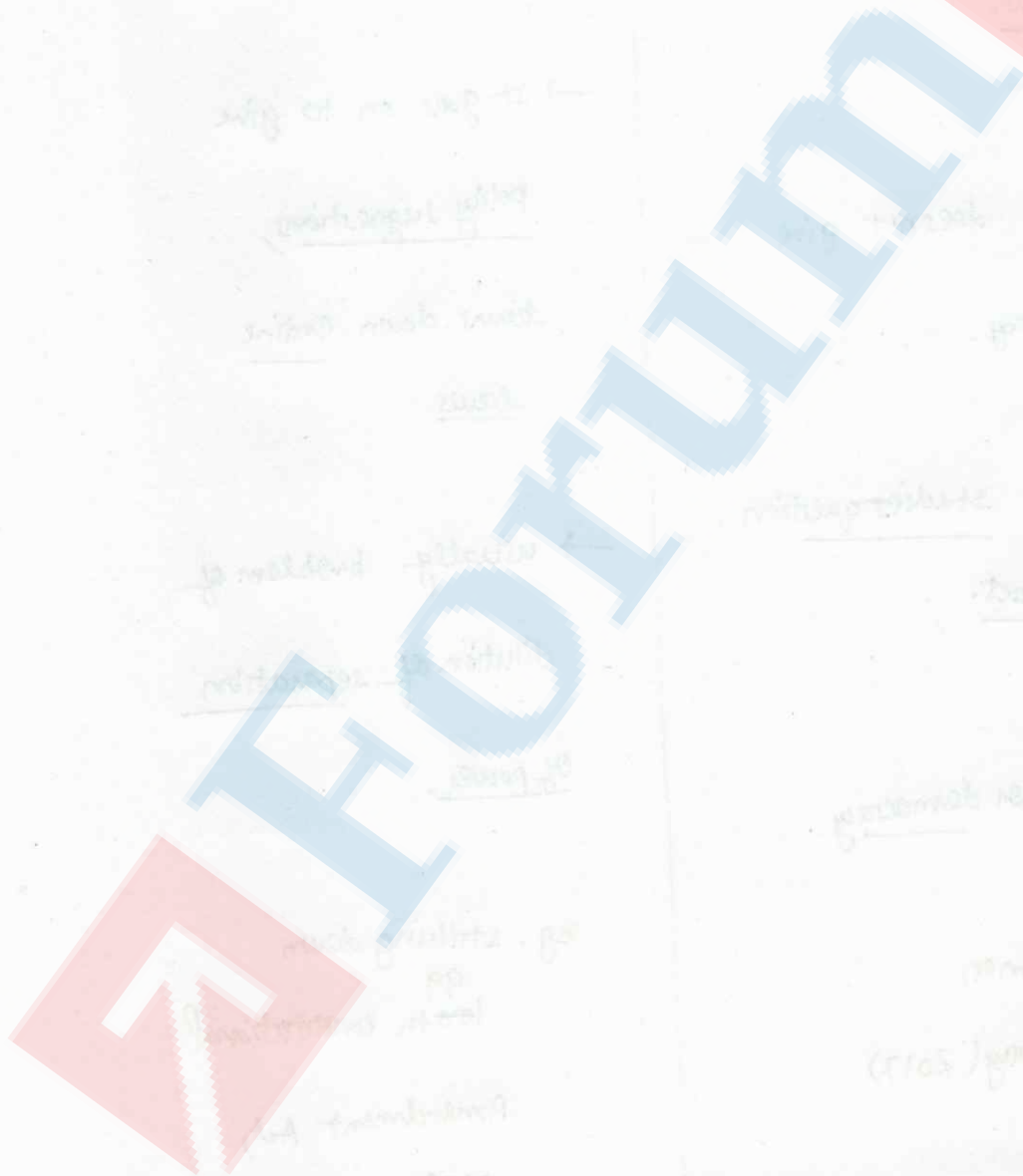
→ usually problem of
dilution of separation
of power.

Eg. striking down
99
~~100~~th constitutional

Amendment Act,

NJAC

Judiciary, to ensure its legitimacy and credibility,
needs to ensure that it respects principle of separation
of Power.



Q13.

Election commission of India has since long earned reputation to be neutral and steadfastly committed to its goal of free and fair elections.

ECI has effectively neutralised muscle / incumbency power through following:-

- ① Affidavit on criminal precedents.
- ② Affidavit on assets owned by self / spouse.
- ③ use of electronic voting machine and VPA T₂.
- ④ under Article 324, it appoints, transfers officers during model code of conduct.
- ⑤ voter ID cards, indelible ink, cooling off period.

However there have been newer challenges and long pending reform proposals:-

① Appointment of Election Commissioner - made by executive.

II ARC and Law Commission

Report, calls for collegium

PM, leader of opposition, supreme court Judge etc. to make appointments. Eg. controversy regarding Navin Chawla, Sumil Lamba.

② State Funding of elections - No limit on party expenditure.

Indrajit Verma Chawla Report calls for state funding of elections.

③ De-registration of Party - close to 3,000 parties registered, though less than 500 fight elections.

As per II ARC, ECI should get right to de-register parties.

Q13. ④ Fake News - not covered under RPA. Only paid news covered under Election expenditure.

urgent need to check fake news as disrupts elections.

⑤ Statutory backing to model code of conduct - This will make ECI ⁴ toothed tiger!

Thus if ECI is to function independently and efficiently, there is urgent need to reform and make it even more transparent. IIARC reports are ~~effic~~ effective guiding lights.

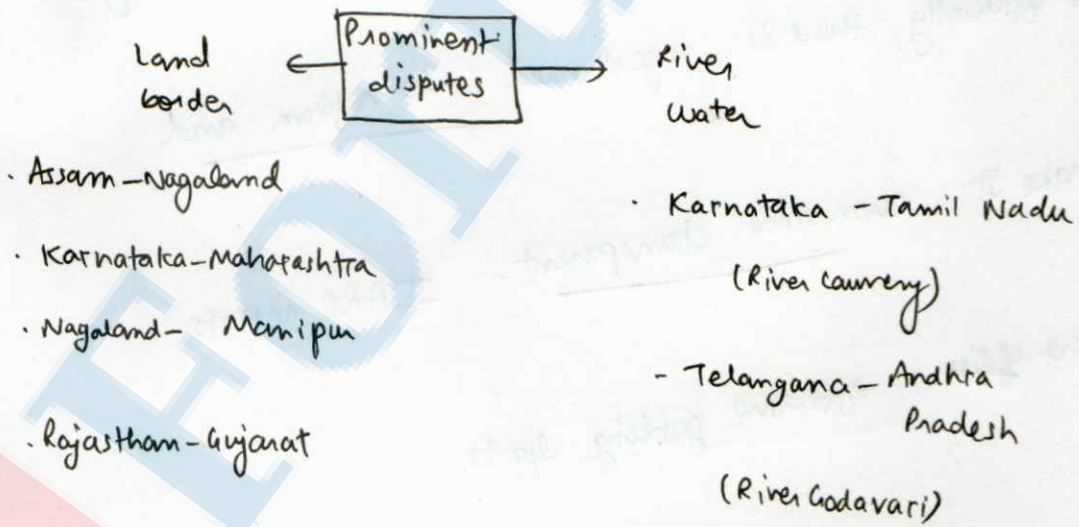
Q14.

India's federalism has been encountered

with various challenges since independence. Inter-state

land border and river water disputes stand out

amongst chief ones.



Obsession with ethnic identity :-

- ① Ethnic identities have remained strong in context of limited natural resources.
- ② Resource ownership rests with clan/group — which then wants exclusive use rights.
- ③ Ethnic identities also help to bargain better in terms of asymmetric federalism given by constitution.

Eg. Nagas want to create Greater Nagaland (Nagalim) which contains parts of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Myanmar.

Lack of economic development :-

- ① Economic skewness generates resentment amongst

the population and they wish to get maximum benefit out of limited employment opportunities.

eg. Northern Karnataka - dryland area - absence of agricultural prospects - dispute with Maharashtra.

(2) Also regional disparities are used to divert attention from fundamental causes. Eg. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka Cauvery dispute has been politicised.

To prevent such disputes from escalating, best option would be Inter state council (Article 163).

Q15.

Data based governance is believed to be transparent and hence better suited to serve needs of citizens. However this has to come with proper debate on privacy, utilization etc.

Issues related to data privacy and data utilization →

- In absence of any statutory protection, data privacy presently is minimal.
- Data privacy involves securing personal data, data on search history etc. protected by user himself.

• Though there exist mechanisms like encryption for sending messages but recent episode of Pegasus NSO surveillance has demonstrated the powerful reach of cybermafia.

• This is clear violation of Art 21 (Right to life). By not being able to address the issue through writ petition, it also becomes case of violation of Article 32.

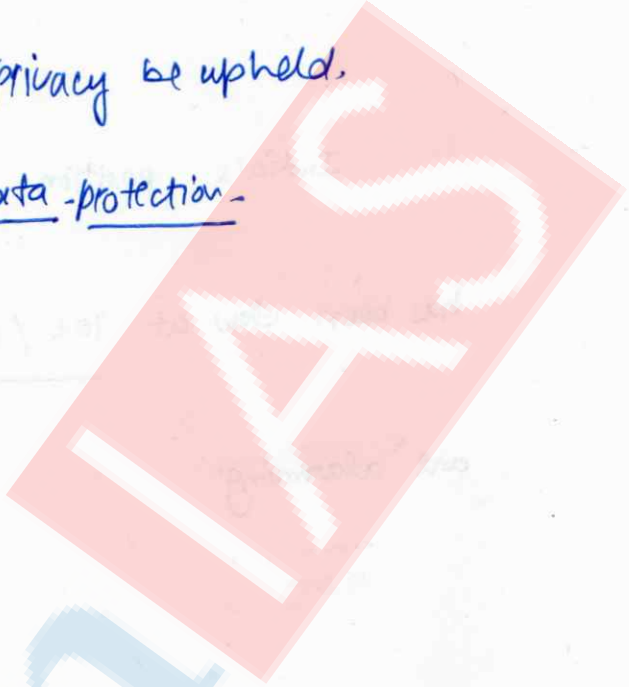
Proposed data security bill can address it

- Describe who can store data.
- How long,
- What purpose data is being subjected to.

Q15.

Only after this, can data privacy be upheld.

Also user literacy in terms of data-protection.



pl-β	α-CP
α-CP	pl-β

188
124
178 (normal) 18000
18000

Q16.

India's position in Global Hunger Index, 2021

has been low at 102 / 117 countries and hunger levels are 'alarming'

Rise in per capita income

2021
\$2,500

Food grain production

1975-76	2018-19
75mnt.	300 mnt.

Malnutrition and hunger.

- Stunting 33%
- Wasting 17.5%
- Anaemic (women) 57%
- Chronic Hunger 180mn

-NHFS 5

Reasons for divergence

I. Structural

① Income inequality → 10% population holds 57% wealth.
(Gini coefficient)

② Patriarchal mindset → Girls and mothers left out in terms of nutrition availability.

③ Poverty → As per Rangarajan committee, 22.5% population below poverty line (2012)

④ Incidence of disease → eg. Tuberculosis, cholera, malaria impact assimilation of food.

⑤ Inter-generational malnutrition →



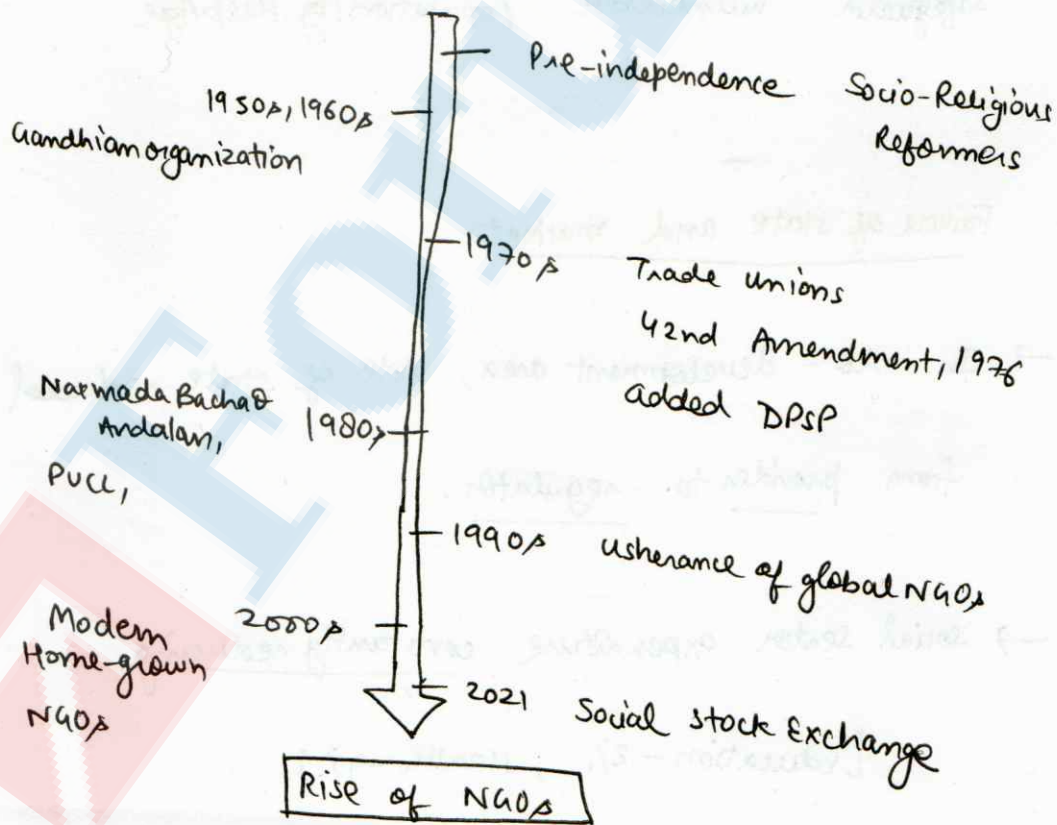
II. Problems in programme implementation

- ① corruption, leakages → in registration of malnourished women, children
- ② lack of awareness → eg. folic acid, iron tablets, family planning etc.
- ③ Behavioural changes needed → low budget spent.
- ④ MSP Policy → biased against millet - rich in micro-nutrients

POSHAN-mah celebration needs to be harnessed to full potential, Bio-fortification of food, and behavioural awareness needed at grassroot level.

Q17.

NGOs have been important part of civil society and in India their origin may be traced to Socio-religious reform movements of 19th CE, followed by Gandhian organizations. In modern times, their huge presence indicates existence of huge demand.



Rise of NGOs indicates failure of state and market

I. Role of NGOs

- distribution of relief material Eg. AkshayPaatra
- free education, health checkups Eg. PRATHAM
- Protection of environment Eg. IUCN, WWF
- Human Rights protection Eg. AMNESTY
- Safeguard vulnerable population. Eg. HelpAge

II. Failure of state and market

→ In neo-development area, role of state reduced from provider to regulator.

→ social sector expenditure constantly reducing

[Education - 2%, Health - 4%.]

Q17.

→ corporate social responsibility - limited access;

skewed to southern states

→ Income Inequality Rising [10% Population holds
57% wealth]

III - Why NGOs able to fulfill?

- Specialized workforce.
- clear vision and mission statement. Eg. ADR
- International access to funds. Eg. WWF
- work at grassroots level.

NGOs have thus come to fill critical gap. With increased transparency, they can act as vital link to alleviate poverty, inequality in India (National Policy on voluntary sector, 2007)

Q18-

Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2021

aims to provide option of safe abortion to women

and thus reduce maternal mortality rate owing

to pregnancy complications.

The Act expands access of women to safe and legal abortion services :-

1) Allows abortion upto 6 weeks of pregnancy
(earlier 4 weeks), without any restriction.

2) Beyond 6 weeks, advice of medical board
is needed.

2) The Act doesn't address the issue of

marital rape / forced pregnancy.

3) Consent of partner is needed before abortion.

4) Patriarchal system in India → women often don't

report about pregnancy in cases of rape. ultimately

may become fatal for women.

However, still if Act is implemented in

right spirit, will help to address rights of

women to some extent.

819.

Build Back Better World (B3W) is an initiative

announced by G-7, which is seen as counter to china's

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

B3W and BRI

Similarities →

- Infrastructural connectivity projects.
- Aim to ensure trade and consequently economic growth through infrastructure.
- Employment generation.
- Features — disaster resilience, climate change adaptation

Differences

B3W

- consensus oriented
- development of plan
as per local need.
- Blue Dot certification.
- More open, participative.
- No concrete plan on
scale and size of
project.
- Recently announced

BRI

- China imposed.
- Architectural design,
supply of raw material
by China,
- debt diplomacy.
- Secret negotiations
with respect to interest
rates, deals closed
door
- BRI - Europe to China
via Africa and Eurasia
- Ongoing since 2013.

Q19:

Protection of India's interest on joining B3W :-

1. China acting on expansionist lines - jeopardising India's territorial integrity. eg. CPEC
2. B3W can provide latest technology, funding in transparent manner.
3. All democratic nations.

But → may antagonise Russia
→ Push India toward US led deals
↘ No concrete plan still.

It would be better for India to wait
for further details of project.

Q20

1991 saw watershed in terms of LPG reforms. However India also underwent dramatic change in terms of foreign policy, most importantly, but not solely due to Disintegration of USSR.

Evolution of foreign policy post 1991

- I. Shift to unipolar world 1991 - 2002
- II. Regional balancing power 2002 - 2014
- III. Energetic engagement 2014 - Present

Phases of change and factors associated

- I. [Shift to unipolar world]

- 1) Disintegration of USSR led India to readjust itself.
- 2) NAM began to lose importance.
- 3) India's relationship with Israel underwent a change.
- 4) Diversification of arms import.
- 5) visit to India by Bill Clinton (1999)
- 6) Post Pokhran tests, India had to face another round of sanctions.
- 7) Kargil standoff — diplomatic engagement proved fruitful.

II. [Regional balancing power] 2002-2014

- 1) East Asian Tigers — FTA signed with ASEAN in 2004.
- 2) rise of china as regional power. India welcomed.
- 3) 123 Agreement / Nuclear deal — historic with USA.

Ended years of isolation of India

- 4) Dealing with Pakistan changed post 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- 5) Tensions with China creep up — debarred NSA membership.
- 6) India enters G20 as economic power.

III. [Energetic engagement] 2014 - Present

- 1) dehypnotisation of Israel - Palestine issue.
- 2) multi-lateral cooperation — BRICS, SCO, JAI, QUAD.
- 3) Defence expansion & diversification. France - Rafal.
- 4) strategic Partnership with USA.
- 5) Emphasis on connectivity — BIMSTEC, India Africa Growth Forum.

Hence India's Foreign Policy underwent

sea change post 1991