

TEST CODE : 5 1 2 2 4

FIAS - MGP 2022 (C-11) - Sectional Test #4

ForumIAS

## GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate SMRITI MISHRA

Roll No. 19100 59516

Date: 12.08.22

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.	
1			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.	
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.	
3			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.	
4			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. A page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.	
5			Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.	
6			Write in two sittings → focus was on	
7			memorisation and	
8			recollection	
9			( ~ 3 hours 10 mins to	
10			write)	
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Total:	250			
Evaluator's Discretion:			For Student Only	
			Start Time	End Time
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
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Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
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Attempt						

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Q.1) The role of CAG as the highest auditing authority is intrinsically linked to augmenting the efficacy of government policies and undertakings. In this context, examine how independent and efficient working of the CAG can ensure good governance? (10 marks, 150 words)

उच्चतम लेखा परीक्षा प्राधिकरण के रूप में CAG की भूमिका आंतरिक रूप से सरकारी नीतियों और उपक्रमों की प्रभावकारिता को बढ़ाने से जुड़ी हुई है। इस संदर्भ में, जांच करें कि CAG का स्वतंत्र और दक्ष कार्य किस प्रकार सुशासन सुनिश्चित कर सकता है। (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Article 148 of the Indian Constitution provides for the office of Comptroller & Auditor's General (CAG).

### CAG's audit process

#### Regulatory audit

checks whether the compliances provided by statute are met.

#### Performance audit

checks the economies, efficiencies and effectiveness of spending.

Independent working of CAG ensures good governance.

- Brings transparency to utilisation of taxpayer's money
  - ↳ prevents misuse and keeps executive under check
  - eg: CAG pointed out how off budget borrowings were increasing → Govt gave up the practice.

2. Efficiency in public spending by revealing inconsistencies — reducing opportunity costs  
eg: Former CAG Vinod Rai ~~was~~ brought forth the commonwealth and 2G scam
3. Builds public trust in institutions by acting as watchdog of public purse.
4. Preserves tenets of democracy by (eg: report about Center's cess collection lead to state's questioning Center: strengthening federalism)

However, the institution does suffer from certain challenges like appointments by the Government of the day, ~~and~~ and is only able to do a post-mortem analysis of expenses. For independent functioning, a committee based appointment need to be made.

Feedback

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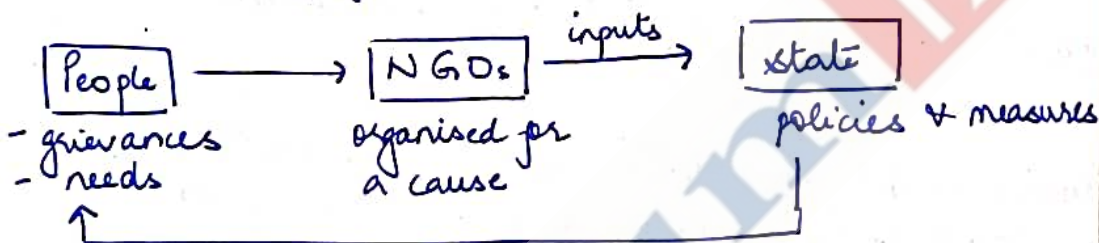
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Q.2) Sustainable alliance between Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the State is critical for social change and development. Highlighting hurdles in this developmental alliance, suggest remedial measures for a more productive partnership. (10 marks, 150 words)

गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs) और राज्य के बीच टिकाऊ गठबंधन सामाजिक परिवर्तन और विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। इस विकासात्मक गठबंधन में बाधाओं को उजागर करते हुए, अधिक उत्पादक साझेदारी के लिए उपचारात्मक उपायों का सुझाव दें।

Non governmental organisations (NGOs) are voluntary, private associations of people and groups to work for a (social) cause. Example : Bachpan bachao andolan, HelpAge India, etc.



### Hurdles in state-NGO developmental alliance

1. Trust deficit between <sup>state</sup> center and NGO  
eg: Tightening of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act norms (FCRA) → issues in receiving funding
2. NGOs put up barriers in state's development agenda.  
eg: Amnesty International's vociferous campaign against Kudankulam nuclear plant.
3. Many entities use the NGO route to fund illicit activities like forced conversions in poorest regions.

4. Non-cooperation with respect to model of development  
 eg: Greenpeace files PILs against land acquisition etc.

### Measures for more productive partnership

1. Platform for state-NGOs to interact and engage in dialogue and deliberation.
2. streamlining funding activities taken up by NGOs.
3. Single-window engagement to reduce compliance burdens.
4. Provision for representation of NGOs in committees constituted to formulate policy in tune with ground realities.

The government has routinely used NGO's data (Pratham - ASER India) or has ~~relied~~ relied on NGOs for last mile public service delivery. Deeper engagements between the two would help India achieve sustainable develop goals in time.

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Q.3) Subsidies have morphed into a populist tool to achieve electoral objectives rather than developmental goals. Examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

विकास के लक्ष्यों के बजाय चुनावी उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए सब्सिडी एक लोकलुभावन उपकरण में बदल गई है। परीक्षण करें। (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Subsidies are financial aid provided by the government to further growth and development.

Eg: Food subsidy → providing wheat and rice at Fair Price shops

Subsidies were intended to achieve developmental goals -

- To ensure food security (food, fertiliser subsidy)
- To uplift the most vulnerable sections -  
eg: women, children (Ujjwala scheme)
- To ensure equitable provision of public goods (water, electricity)

However, subsidies have morphed into a populist tool to achieve electoral objectives

Subsidies are being used as a tool to influence voters, affecting free and fair elections in the country

Eg: - provision of free electricity and water to well off sections of society

- Electricity subsidy in Punjab is largely responsible for groundwater depletion
- Subsidies morph into poor freebies offered in election manifests
  - competitive freebies
    - Party X: 200 units electricity
    - Party Y: 250 units free
  - Freebies like television have no direct relation with development
  - aim is to "lure" voters into voting for the party seeking immediate gratification.

Subsidies help in inclusive growth with proper targeting, however, they must largely be indirect to facilitate social infrastructure development. The election commission must be given adequate powers to check political parties' practices.

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Q.4) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that improve the voice of the tribals. Discuss.  
(10 marks, 150 words)

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग (NCST) सबसे प्रभावी हो सकता है जब इसके कार्यों को अन्य तंत्रों द्वारा पर्याप्त रूप से समर्थित किया जाता है जो आदिवासियों की आवाज को उठाते हैं। चर्चा करें।  
(अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Through the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, Article 338A was inserted to give institute National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

### Role of NCST - primary tasks

- To promote interests and development of tribes
- To enquire into complaints of violation of rights of ~~the~~ STs
- Can take suo moto cognisance and has powers of a civil court to issue summons
- To advise government on policies related to STs and prepare a report annually.

NCST can be effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms

Tribals constitute ~12% of the population and are among the most vulnerable sections with high IMR rates, high MMR and poor nutritional outcomes.

- Separate health department for tribals
  - ↳ primary focus on diseases unusually high of: tuberculosis, malaria (50% deaths - tribals)
- Political representation at center and state levels
  - ↳ mainstreaming tribal issues by representing them through a new platform
- Presentation of culture through institutional methods
  - ↳ better documentation of traditional knowledge

India does the bare minimum for its tribals - NECT has no power, to raise funds to ensure all round development of tribal population. The need is to draw up a holistic Tribal Plan and implement it, with on urgent basis.

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Q.5) Normalization of poverty as a feature of large population overshadows the lack of intent and capacity of political and administrative institutions. Do you agree? Justify using suitable examples.

(10 marks, 150 words)

बड़ी आबादी की विशेषता के रूप में गरीबी का सामान्यीकरण करना राजनीतिक और प्रशासनिक संस्थानों की मंशा और क्षमता की कमी को ढक़ लेता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? उपयुक्त उदाहरणों का प्रयोग करते हुए औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए।

(अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Poverty refers to the inability to afford a basic minimum standard of living. It is "a denial of choice" (UN).

Income poverty ← UNDP → Human poverty  
 lack of resources                      lack of opportunities.

Normalisation of poverty: Traditional understanding  
 large population. → benefits of growth diluted  
 ↓  
 Poverty ← Poor ← lack of physical & social infrastructure  
 human capital

However, this approach overshadows lack of intent and capacity of institutions

- China lifted 850 million people out of poverty in since economic reforms

- India sets minimum standards for poor -  
 { cereal centricity (wheat & rice at PDS)  
poor education and skill development  
 (focus on lower skilled jobs for poor in poverty skill dev. programs)

- lack of intent and capacity of institutions :
  - L reports of leakages at lower levels and scams at higher levels
  - eg:- false beneficiaries for Janani Suraksha Yojna in Bihar
  - Fodder scam, to 2G scam etc
- Understaffed, overworked institutions
- treating welfare as charity
- Lack of funding at the right place (eg: tied funds in the form of centrally sponsored schemes, while states have no money)

Poverty is a complex issue that requires intervention at multiple fronts. An integrated approach is necessary to achieve SDG-1.

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Q.6) While manual scavenging is legally banned, socio-economic realities perpetuate this practice in the society. Comment. Suggest measures to deal with the menace of this social evil.

(10 marks, 150 words)

जबकि हाथ से मैला ढोना पर कानूनी रूप से प्रतिबंधित है, फिर भी सामाजिक-आर्थिक वास्तविकताएँ समाज में इस प्रथा को कायम रखे हुए हैं। टिप्पणी करें। इस सामाजिक बुराई को खतरा से निपटने के उपाय सुझाएं।

(अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Manual Scavenging is the act of removal of fecal matter by humans. It is prohibited under Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act 2013.

Socio-economic realities perpetuate this practice

Most of the manual scavengers belong to lowest strata of caste hierarchies

- L low literacy levels
- L low skills and poor human capital
- L lack of social integration
- L no social security

Often manual scavenging is the only job they <sup>can</sup> find, thus perpetuating the practice.

Measures to deal with this social evil

### • Immediate measures

- deployment of machines (eg: Kerala model)
- strong regulation and heavy penalties on

employers to set a precedent.

- allowance to manual scavengers after identification and verification

### Medium & long term measures

- Upskilling workers through vocational training.
- Awareness generation about rights and govt schemes
- Community based rehabilitation to ensure a better standard of living.

The progress of society depends on the progress of its weakest members. Need of the hour is to provide adequate social security for victims to fall back on so that they don't are not forced to enter this job again.

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Q7) India's response to Ukraine crisis is an expression of strategic autonomy and not a reflection of strategic compulsions. Examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

यूक्रेन संकट पर भारत की प्रतिक्रिया सामरिक स्वायत्तता की जंगव्यक्ति है न कि सामरिक बाध्यताओं का प्रतिबिंब। परीक्षण करें। (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

Ukraine crisis refers to the armed invasion of Russia into Ukrainian territory starting February 2022. India abstained from voting against Russia at UN.

Critics suggested this was a reflection of strategic compulsions

1. High dependence on Russia for defence exports [46% imports from Russia-SIPRI]
2. Need of countering China and prevention of Russia-China-Pak axis.
3. Russia has been an all-weather friend since 1971 war

However, India's response is an expression of India's strategic autonomy:

1. India continues importing cheaper oil from Russia
  - ↳ prioritises core national interest

↳ clear stand that the war is "Europe's problem."

2. India took a principled stand and called for dialogue, de-escalation and diplomacy to resolve the issue

3. India follows the panch sheel principles of mutual non-aggression and even criticised Russia for Bucha massacre

India has always condemned violence and violation of human rights. However, as MEA S. Jaishankar says, India's response is "assertive" and India will not bandwagon with West to deal with problem Europe's problems.

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Q8) Comment on the utility and effectiveness of soft power for furthering national interest. Can soft power replace hard power in international politics? (10 marks, 150 words)

राष्ट्रीय हित को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए सॉफ्ट पावर की उपयोगिता और प्रभावशीलता पर टिप्पणी करें। क्या अंतरराष्ट्रीय राजनीति में सॉफ्ट पावर हार्ड पावर की जगह ले सकती है? (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

According to Joseph Nye, soft power is the ability of a country to influence other countries based on its culture, foreign policy, institutions, etc.

Utility and effectiveness of soft power in furthering national interest :

1. Influence through culture rather than coercion is long lasting :

eg: Bushido code of Japan is respected worldwide, India's "vaccine maitri"

2. Hard power has numerous limitations :

- brings about destruction and instability

eg: American invasions in Afghanistan, Syria etc have led to instability

- ineffective in modern techniques of warfare (eg: cyber warfare has turned Ukraine-Russia war into a "frozen war").

3. Soft power creates avenues of economic

integration and influence (eg: McDonaldisation)

Can soft power replace hard power?

- Hard power, despite limitations is very effective in creating deterrence.  
eg: experts believe Russian invasion of Ukraine would not be as swift had Ukraine not destroyed its nuclear arsenal.
- Hard power is reflective of country's economic economic might and place at global high table

While soft power cannot totally ~~ob~~ replace hard power, it does enable a country to raise its stature. India's vaccine diplomacy when the world was in crisis have perpetually has lifted India's place at the Global Health High Table.

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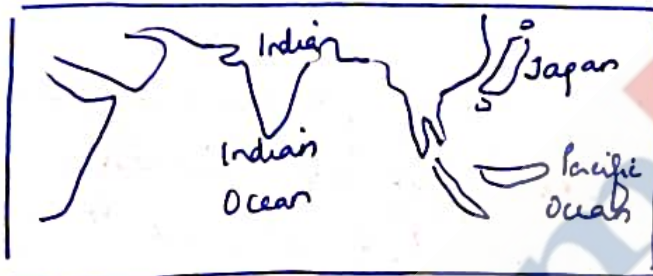
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Q.9) India and Japan may have long enjoyed very cordial relations with substantial shared interests, but it also tends to be one that has been low on ambition, limited in outcomes and high in rhetoric. Critically examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत और जापान के बीच भले ही पर्याप्त साझा हितों के साथ बहुत सौहार्दपूर्ण संबंध रहे हों, लेकिन इसमें ऐसा भी है जो महत्वाकांक्षा में निम्न, परिणामों में सीमित और बयानवाजी में उच्च रहा है। समानता चनात्मक परीक्षण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India and Japan are celebrating 70th year of diplomatic ties in 2022.



Map - India - Japan

India and Japan share substantial shared interests

1. Both are a part of diamond democracies
2. Cultural ties
  - ↳ spirituality and Buddhism
  - ↳ ancient civilisations
3. Seek reforms in global governance (G9 group for UNSC expansion)
4. Vision for free and open Indo Pacific.

However, these are challenges

1. Partnership is low on ambition :
  - Despite a trade agreement (CEPA) in place, trade

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is limited to \$3.85 billion

- Japanese policy of Seikei Bunri prevents taking a strong stand against China.

2. Partnership is limited in outcomes

- Delayed projects eg: Bullet train
- No major defence deal
- Stalled projects

3. High on rhetoric eg: no progress on global initiatives like Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI), Asean Africa Growth Corridor.

However, India benefits greatly from Japan -

- recipient of largest overseas development assistance (ODA)
- Para diplomacy (eg: ~~Vasara~~ Vasaran & Kobe)
- Partnership in space sea research (eg WIPeX project)
- Cultural exchange

India and Japan are "natural partners" and there is a need to further cooperation <sup>keeping</sup> through Trust - Transparency - Timeliness in mind.

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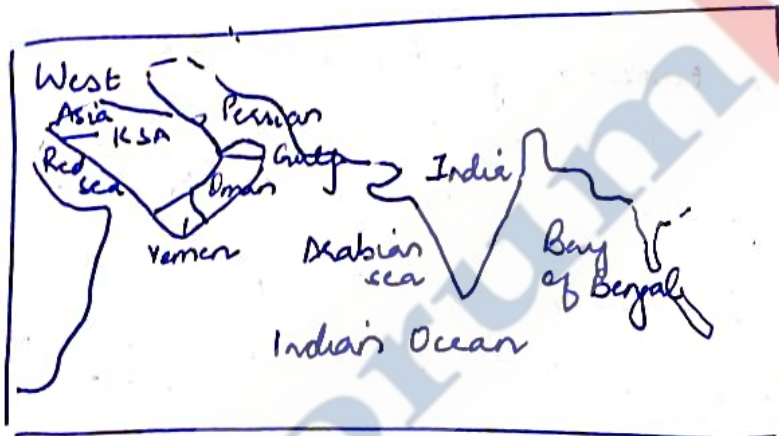
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Q 10) India's relation with West Asia has acquired depth and diversity that can navigate geopolitical hurdles. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

पश्चिम एशिया के साथ भारत के संबंधों ने गहराई और विविधता हासिल कर ली है जो भू-राजनीतिक बाधाओं को दूर कर सकती है। टिप्पणी करें। (अंक 10, शब्द 150)

India being an energy deficient country with 80% import dependence, it relies heavily on crude oil imports from west Asia. However, this relationship is no more transactional.



Map: India - West Asia

### Geopolitical hurdles in West Asia

1. Role of external players
  - [-] US trying to revive ties
  - [-] Pakistan's interference in OIC
  - [-] China investing heavily in the region
2. Internal disunity between countries
  - [-] Saudi - Iran conflict
  - [-] Israel - Palestine

↳ Qatar - Saudi conflict

3. Issues of radicalisation, terrorism (eg: Indian youth influenced through social media handles run in West Asia).

India's relation with West Asia has acquired depth and diversity

Other than oil, India & West Asia have deep relationships:

- Strong expat community: 8 million Indians live in West Asia → remittances
- Reworking of Free Trade Agreement with GCC
- Cooperation in investments and trade (eg: UAE Investing \$7 billion in food corridors in India)
- Strategic partnership - 12U2 multilateral (Israel, UAE, US, India)
- Cooperation to ensure worker protection, help relief operations (Rahat, Sankatmochan)
- India's role as Net security provider in Indian Ocean region is acknowledged by ~~see~~ West Asia.

According to experts, "West Asia is looking East", and India has a look west policy in place — the tremendous potential must be exploited.

Q11) Harnessing public sector data is vital for informed decision making, accelerating socio-economic transformation and democratizing innovation in the country. In this context, highlight the various bottlenecks in public data sharing and suggest strategies for unlocking true value of data. (15 marks, 250 words)

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के डेटा का उपयोग सूचित निर्णय लेने, सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिवर्तन में त्वरित लान और देश में नवाचार को लोकतांत्रिक बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। इस संदर्भ में, सार्वजनिक डेटा साझाकरण में विभिन्न बाधाओं को उजागर करें और डेटा के वास्तविक मूल्य को अनलॉक करने के लिए रणनीति सुझाएं। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Public data refers to anonymised data sets that can be used freely and is available in public domain.

For example: number of vehicles travelling on a road per hour [Public data]  
 ↓  
 available in public domain ← cannot be used to identify

### Bottlenecks in public data sharing

- lack of adequate planning and infrastructure
- No data protection law [withdrawal of Draft Data Protection law]
- lack of expertise in handling and segregating data sets
- Top down approach in decision making (decision

makers are not tech-savvy individuals)

However, the country is slowly slowly progressing towards increased data sharing practices

For example - sharing of COVID data by govt lead to development of many websites and applications by the private sector.

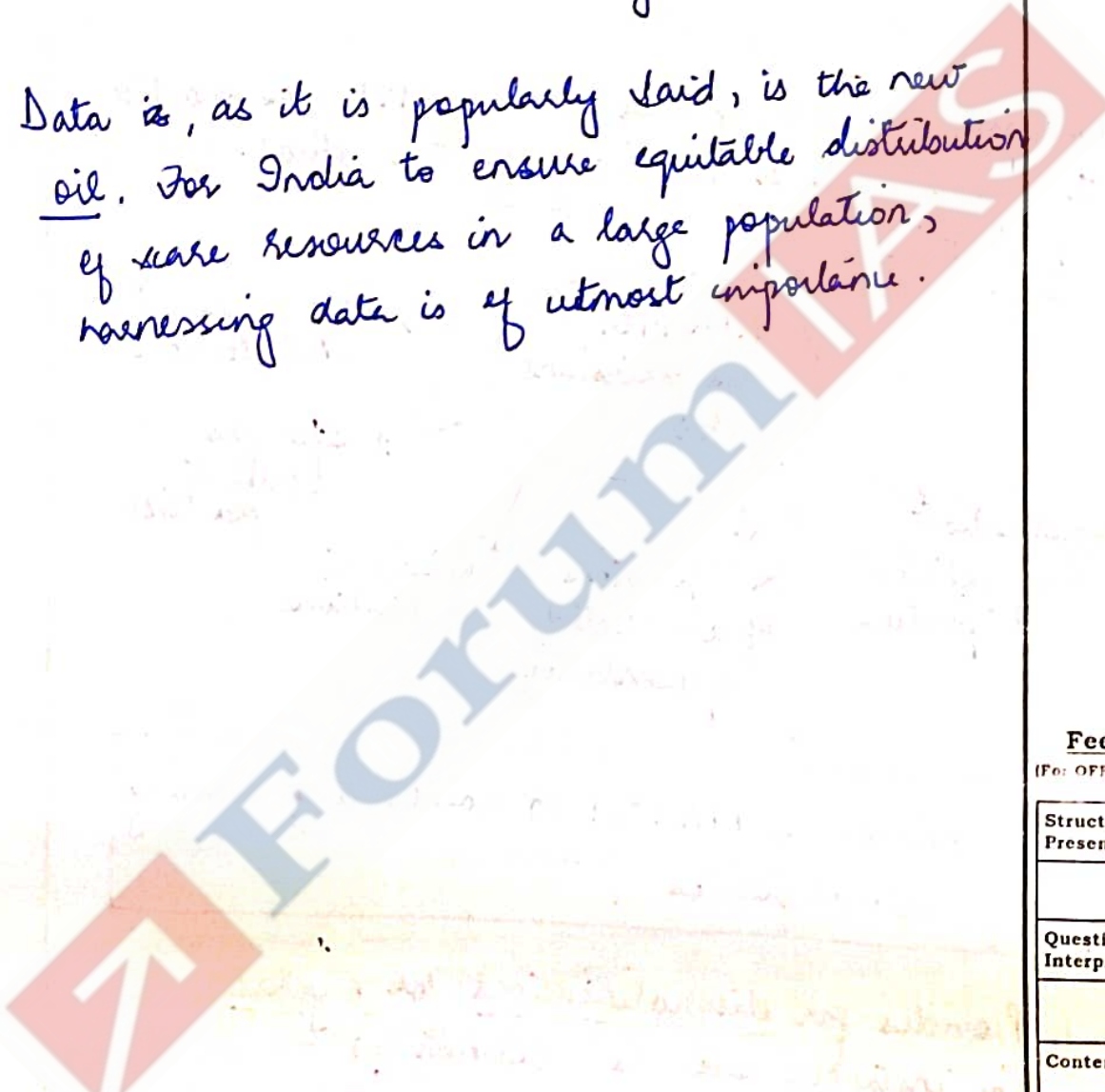
### Strategies for unlocking true potential of data

1. Bring forth a data sharing policy
  - ↳ put in place a framework for minds to collaborate
2. Voluntary sharing of anonymised data (non personal data - Kris Gopalan Committee)
3. Piloting data-based approaches in pockets of different sectors:
  - eg: precision agriculture
    - ↳ weather data
    - ↳ soil data
    - ↳ data on micronutrients & fertilisers
  - Industries
    - ↳ market research
    - ↳ consumer preferences



Q. 4. Induction or collaboration of with public spirited data scientists  
eg: India in Pixels - awareness generation

Data is, as it is popularly said, is the new oil. For India to ensure equitable distribution of scarce resources in a large population, harnessing data is of utmost importance.



**Feedback**

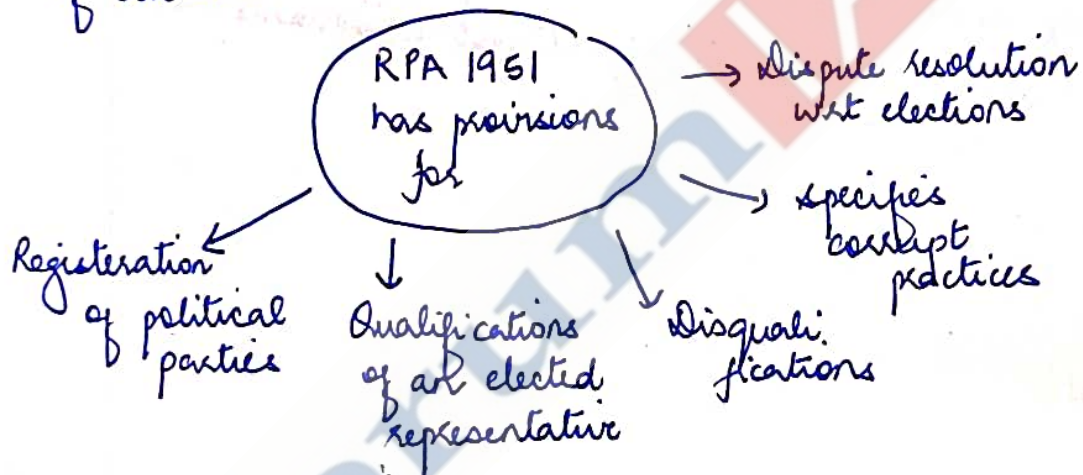
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Q.12) Examine the significance of Representation of People's Act, 1951 in maintaining the sanctity of electoral politics in India. In light of recent events, evaluate the demands of Election Commission of India for reforms in RPA 1951 and Model Code of Conduct. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में चुनावी राजनीति की पवित्रता को बनाए रखने में जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के महत्व का परीक्षण करें। हाल की घटनाओं के आलोक में, RPA 1951 और आदर्श आचार संहिता में सुधार के लिए भारत के चुनाव आयोग की मांगों का मूल्यांकन करें। (15, 214, 250)

The Representation of People's Act 1951 was enacted to provide for a machinery for the actual conduct of elections.



Significance of RPA-1951 is maintaining sanctity of electoral politics

1. Provides for disqualifications for 6 years in instances such as (Section 8)
  - candidate promoting enmity between groups
  - candidate convicted for heinous offences such as rape and practice of untouchability

- booth capturing
- convicted and imprisoned for more than 3 years
- failure to lodge election expenses on time.

Thus RPA creates a framework to ensure ethical conduct of elections.

2. It defines corrupt practices under section 123

- bribery
- appeal to vote on grounds of religion, caste
- use of national symbols to further a political agenda

3. Provides mechanism for dispute resolution via election petition (eg: Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain → where Indira Gandhi's election was declared void)

Demands of Election Commission for reforms in RPA and Model Code of Conduct

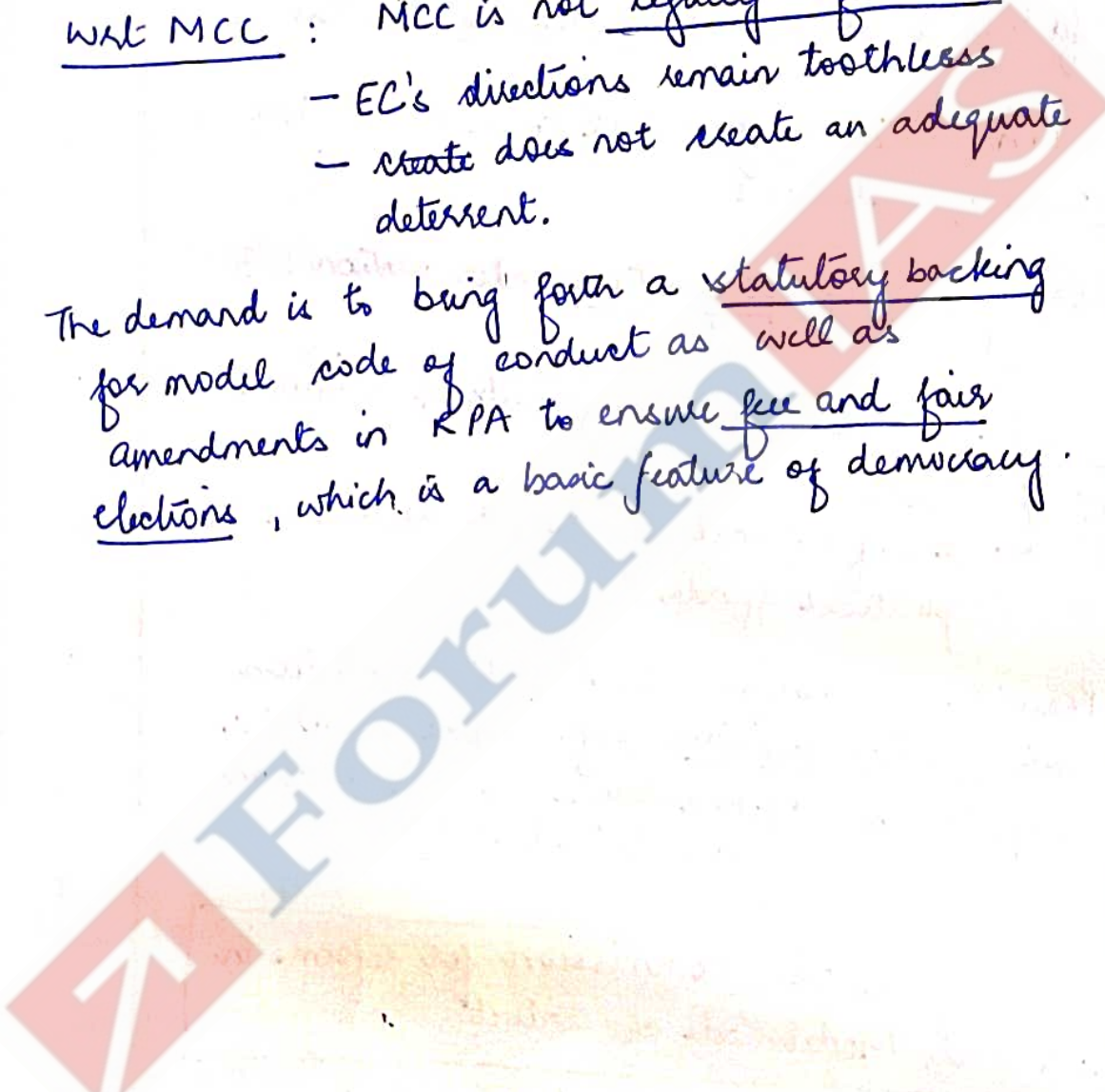
- In RPA - no power to de-register a party
  - political parties used as a conduit for illegal activities like money laundering (CC observation)

- claiming exemptions under Income Tax Act
- received more than 1000 crore funding without conducting elections.

Wrt MCC : MCC is not legally enforceable

- EC's directions remain toothless
- state does not create an adequate deterrent.

The demand is to bring forth a statutory backing for model code of conduct as well as amendments in RPA to ensure free and fair elections, which is a basic feature of democracy.



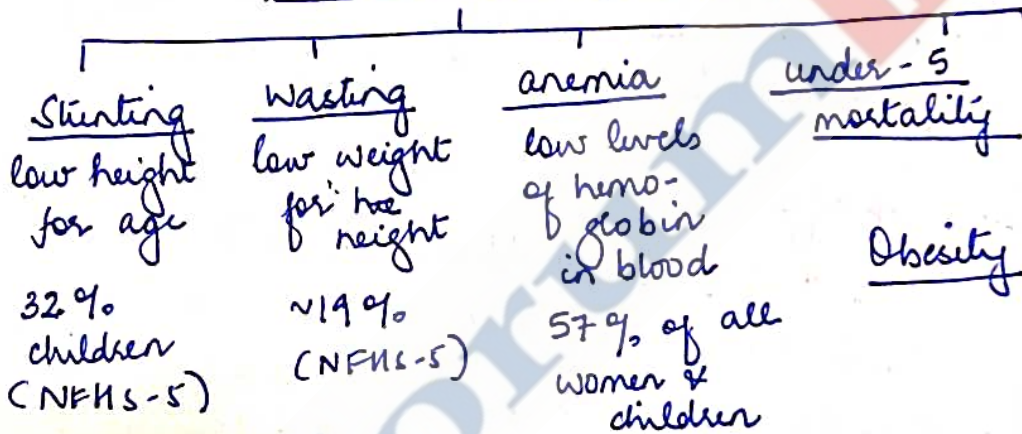
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Q.13) "Addressing the problem of chronic malnutrition in the country requires nutrition-specific as well as nutrition-sensitive interventions." Analyze. (15 marks, 250 words)

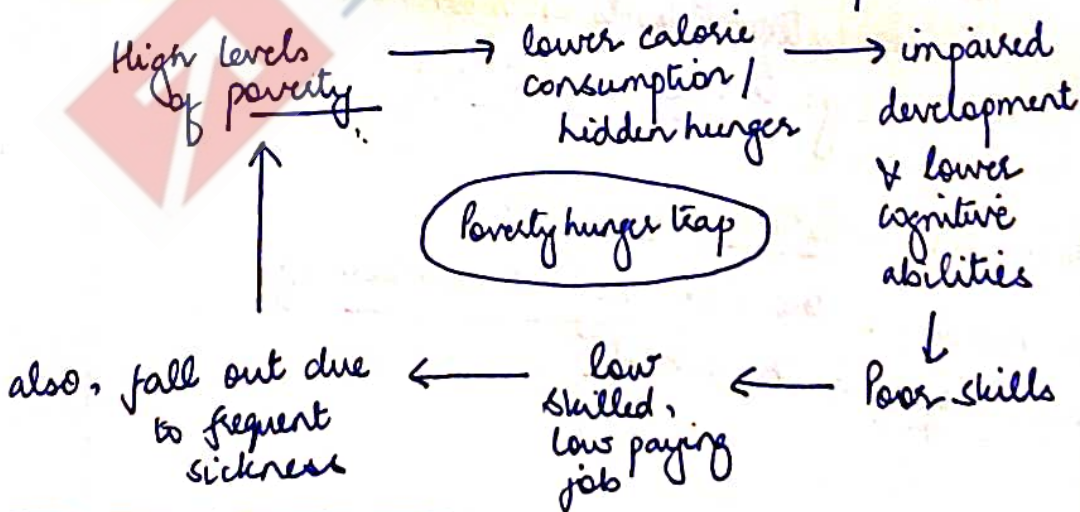
"देश में दीर्घकालिक व गंभीर कुपोषण की समस्या का समाधान करने के लिए पोषण-विशिष्ट के साथ-साथ पोषण-संवेदनशील हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता है।" विश्लेषण करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Malnutrition refers to inadequate ~~compens~~ consumption of dietary requirements, leading to both under-nourishment and overnourishment.

**Indicators for malnutrition**



**Reasons for chronic malnutrition** : Poverty-hunger trap



Addressing malnutrition requires nutrition-specific and nutrition sensitive interventions :

(A) Nutrition specific interventions

- Excessive focus on cereals : distribution of only wheat & rice at ration shops
- Problem of micronutrient deficiency
  - ↳ anemia (57%)
  - ↳ decrease in bone density
  - ↳ poor muscle mass
- Nutrition specific interventions needed
  - ↳ fortified rice (with Vitamin A) to be distributed at fair price shops
  - ↳ compulsory milk fortification to ensure children get requisite micronutrients
  - ↳ distribution of vitamin tablets in cases where extreme levels of malnutrition seen (eg: tribal population)

(B) Nutrition sensitive interventions :

- India harbours the 3rd highest number of obese people in the world.

- High burden of non-communicable ~~de~~ diseases in younger populations
  - ↳ risk of myocardial infarctions due to high cholesterol
  - ↳ joints - severely impacted due to disproportionate weight

Thus, there is a need of nutrition sensitive interventions too -

- Additional taxation on high cholesterol products
- Incentives on products with lower salt and cleaner oil
- Marking products based on percentage of fat, health advisory similar to tobacco products.

Focussing on elimination of malnutrition requires multi step, multipronged strategy and will help achieve SDG 2 on time.

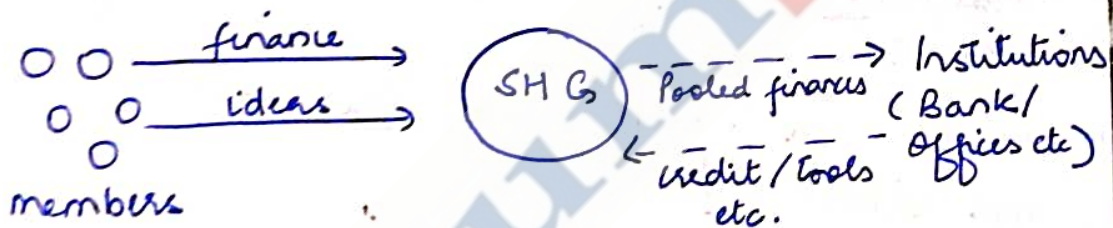
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Q.14) Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are an effective model of social entrepreneurship for women empowerment and have multiplier effects on developmental processes in rural areas. Elaborate with suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

स्वयं सहायता समूह (SHGs) महिला सशक्तिकरण के लिए सामाजिक उद्यमिता का एक प्रभावी मॉडल है और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में विकास प्रक्रियाओं पर कई गुना प्रभाव डालते हैं। उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ विस्तृत व्याख्या करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Self Help Groups are voluntary associations of homogenous people who come together to pool in finances to advance an economic aim or to fulfill a social need.



SHGs are effective model of social entrepreneurship

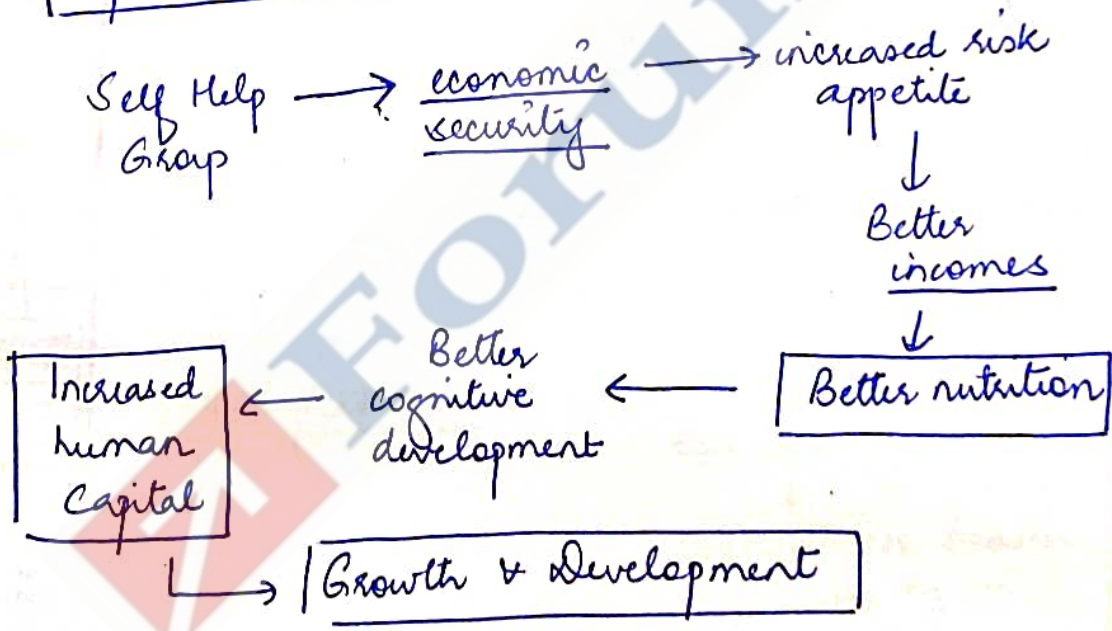
- SHGs are primarily women-lead
- According to NABARD, the recovery rate for credit advanced to SHGs is more than 98%.
- While individual members will find it difficult to procure institutional credit, SHGs offer social capital as a collateral,



◦ In case of unforeseen circumstances, the members have a closely knit group to fall back on.

eg: Dijjat Papad started with less than 100 members, has now turned into a collective <sup>with</sup> ~~earning~~ > 650 crores as the annual turnover, employing thousands of rural women.

SHGs have a multiplier effect in development processes



- Self Help groups provide economic and financial security to members, which eventually lead to better income realisation (eg: Pabiben in Rajasthan)

- Increased incomes lead to better nutrition
  - ↳ decreased infant mortality rates
  - ↳ decreased maternal mortality rates
  - ↳ decreased malnutrition, under weight, wasting & stunting

∴ This not only gives agency to woman but leads to development of rural area as a whole, ensuring better standards of living and increased prosperity in general.

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Q.15) Success of welfare schemes depends on whether they are built on principles of participation and work within structures of accountability. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की सफलता इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि क्या वे भागीदारी के सिद्धांतों पर बनी हैं और जवाबदेही के ढांचे के भीतर काम करती हैं। चर्चा करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

Welfare schemes are deemed successful when they bring about a shift in indicators, behaviours and stand of society.

For eg: PM Ujjwala scheme providing free LPG cylinders to women (in BPL category)

- ↳ reduced time poverty
- ↳ reduced indoor air pollution
- ↳ reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Welfare schemes succeed when built on principles of participation

Maximum participation → benefit to all sections of society

↓  
 Improvement in health, well being of society  
 ← Better indicators  
 ← Development & progress

For example: - near universalisation of Aadhar

- Opening of Jan Dhan accounts on mass scale

- reduction in leakages + timely disbursements  
(eg PM KISAN, Janani Suraksha, Matri Vardana Yojana etc)
- ICDS Poshan Abhiyan : reduction in malnutrition  
eg: stunting : 35% (NFHS-4) → 32% (NFHS-5)
- 89% institutional deliveries : reduction in MMR
- Participation in family planning programmes brought down Total Fertility Rate to 2.0 (NFHS-5).

Welfare schemes succeed when they work within structures of accountability :

- ICDS - Poshan Abhiyan - slower rate of improvement due to constant software malfunctioning
- Lack of accountability leads to poor outcomes  
eg: Poor quality of toilets constructed in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan → open defecation continues.

- Poor quality of outcomes and low productivity
- y: MNREGA: provision of unskilled manual labour
  - ↳ criticised for "democratisation of corruption"
  - ↳ no provision for check on quality of work, economy or benefits of welfare

Thus implementation of welfare schemes largely determine the outcomes. Strong, responsive, inclusive institutions are hallmarks of a strong and resilient nation — welfare schemes fulfill constitutional mandate (Art 38) and make democracy more inclusive.

**Feedback**

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Q.16) Why do Indian universities find it difficult to break into the ranks of top global universities? How can Indian institutions of higher education be transformed into global centres of learning? (15 marks, 250 words)

भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए शीर्ष वैश्विक विश्वविद्यालयों की श्रेणी में आना मुश्किल क्यों है? भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों को वैश्विक शिक्षा केंद्रों में कैसे बदला जा सकता है? (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

While India has the most number of higher education institutes, even the top universities fail to make it top 100 in global rankings like QS World University Rankings.

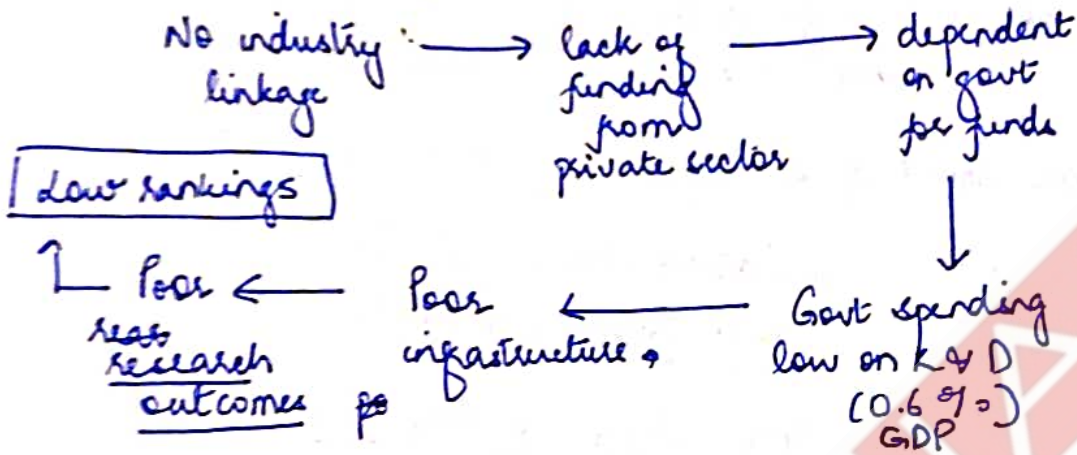
Indian universities find it difficult to break into the ranks of top global universities as

→ Shortage of trained and experienced faculties  
eg: 34% vacancy in IITs/IIMs

→ Poor ~~ex~~ spending on research  
 { 0.6 - 0.7% of GDP (China 2.1%, Israel 4%)  
 lesser no. of patent filings  
 poor quality of research infrastructure and papers published

→ Outdated curriculum and poor quality of & pedagogy  
 { focus on rote learning, memory based evaluations.

→ Lack of industry-academia linkage



How can Indian institutions be transformed into global centers of learning?

- (A) Steps taken:
1. RISE scheme
  2. Empanelling as "Institutions of Eminence".
  3. National education policy recommendations

4 year undergrad program with exit options at various levels

- Single regulatory authority
- Increase Gross enrollment ratio to 50%
- Revamp curricula and end of redundant courses

(B) Further steps that can be taken are:

1. A platform for collaboration between MSMEs and universities

2. Employment generation in core fields of study  
eg: civil engineer turns into a management trainee → 4 years of education wasted
3. Increase spending on research and development
4. Overhaul of examination from rote learning to application based project evaluation.
5. Teacher training and filling up vacancies.

Higher education institutions have immense potential to lay foundation of a resilient economy with sustainable practices. Countries like Japan ~~and~~, Germany and South Korea have progressed by largely focussing on human capital formation through education and skill develop-  
ment.

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Q17) The second decade of 21st century marks a collective failure of UN and its agencies. Examine this statement citing suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

21वीं सदी का दूसरा दशक संयुक्त राष्ट्र और उसकी एजेंसियों की सामूहिक विफलता का प्रतीक है। उपयुक्त उदाहरण देते हुए इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

The United Nations was established at the end of World War II on 24th October 1945.

Article 1 of UN Charter  
(objectives of UN)

International  
Peace and  
Security

Friendly relations  
between  
countries

Achieve  
international  
cooperation  
and promote  
human rights

In the seven decades of its existence, the UN has delivered various successes :

1. Ending colonisation and apartheid
2. Universal membership at UNGA -  
↳ acceptance by global community
3. Partnership for sustainable development goals (after Millennium Development Goals)
4. Preservation of world heritage (UNESCO)
5. Food security (World food programme - Nobel Prize)

However, the second decade of 21st century has raised questions on efficacy of UN

1. Inability to broker peace and avoid conflicts  
(especially when PS member is involved)

- eg:- Russian invasion of ~~china~~ Ukraine
- American invasion of countries in the middle east
  - Taliban takeover of Afghanistan

2. Failure of World Health Organisation

- delay in declaration of global pandemic
- failure to investigate into the origins of ~~for~~ virus
- failure to ensure vaccine equity

3. Inability to resolve border disputes and ethnic clashes

- eg:- violence in Nagorno-Karabakh region (Armenia & Azerbaijan)

4. Inability to maintain international security

- eg:- no global ~~concer~~ consensus on definition of "terrorism"
- no institution to check money laundering  
UN
  - emerging threats like cyber security and

- date sovereignty not adequately discussed.
5. Failure to do climate justice and counter climate change :
- Injustice to global south (worst sufferers of climate change)
  - Dilution of common but differentiated responsibility principle (CBDR)
  - lack of resource mobilisation by the West. ( \$100 bn in Paris Deal → not deployed till Glasgow pact).
6. No stable solution to refugee crisis including climate refugees.

The United Nations brings together countries on a common platform & for various issues. However, various structural challenges plague its working, leaving a vacuum in global governance. The need of the hour is to ensure "reopened multilateralism" giving each country a tangible say in global geopolitics.

**Feedback**

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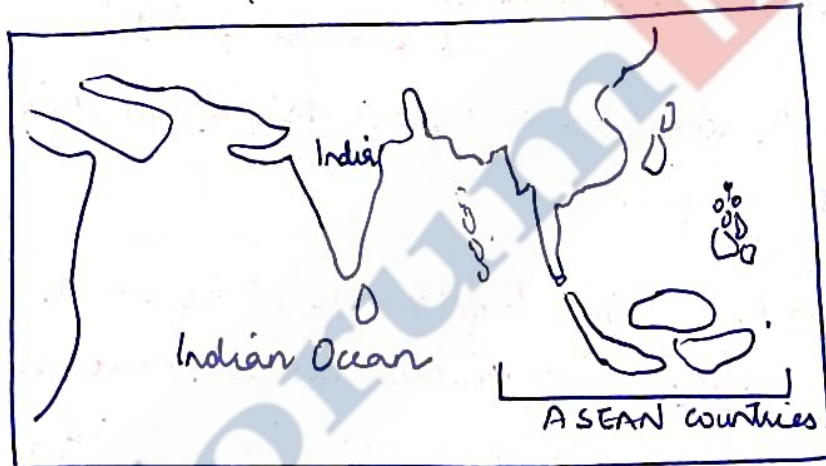
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Q.18) ASEAN is not only important for development of North-East but also it remains India's gateway to East Asia and beyond. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

आसियान न केवल उत्तर-पूर्व के विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है बल्कि यह पूर्वी एशिया और उससे आगे के लिए भारत का प्रवेश द्वार भी बना हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

ASEAN is a grouping of South-East Asian nations. The year 2022 is being celebrated as India-ASEAN Friendship Year as it marks 30 years of diplomatic ties with of India & ASEAN.



Map showing India-ASEAN

ASEAN remains India's gateway to East Asia and beyond

India-ASEAN ties have been strong and multi-faceted :

- India's Look East policy focuses on engaging with ASEAN

- Geographical proximity to North East offers immense potential for deepening of relationship
- Connectivity initiatives : India Myanmar Thailand highway
- Engaging with Singapore - multi modal logistics hub
- Reworking of FTA with ASEAN for better trade and investments
- Cooperation on climate change and disaster management
- Harassing technology and benefits of 4th Industrial Revolution (eg: cooperation with Singapore)
- Economic partnership in Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)
- Strategic partnership - countering China  
eg: Disputes in South China Sea (Malaccan Dilemma)

However, there are certain challenges

- ASEAN is divided into pro China and anti-China countries

- Security challenges
  - ↳ Golden triangle of drug smuggling (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand)
  - ↳ insurgency fueled in North East of Myanmar
- Influence of China in the region
  - ↳ keeping ASEAN divided.

ASEAN and India have shared vision of free and open Indo Pacific as well as shared security concerns (China), thereby creating conditions for sustainable, efficient and reciprocal partnership.

## Feedback

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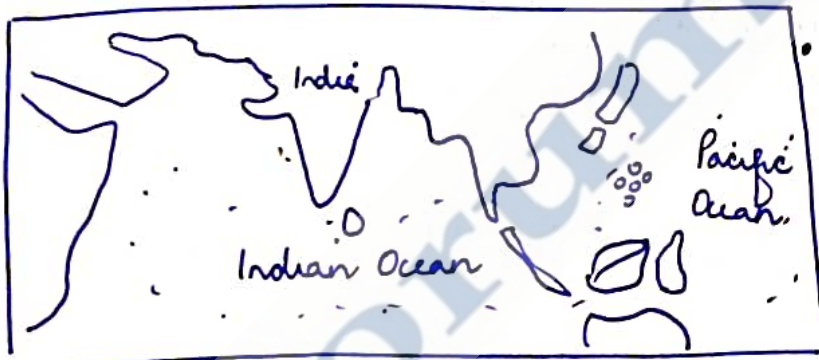
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Q.19) USA-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for prosperity (IPEF) is an economic initiative to complement its existing security partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region. Analyze the significance of and challenges to IPEF in the present scenario. (15 marks, 250 words)

समृद्धि के लिए संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के नेतृत्व वाला इंडो-पैसिफिक इकोनॉमिक फ्रेमवर्क (IPEF) इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र में अपनी मौजूदा सुरक्षा साझेदारी को पूरा करने के लिए एक आर्थिक पहल है। वर्तमान परिदृश्य में IPEF के महत्व और चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण करें। (अंक 15, शब्द 250)

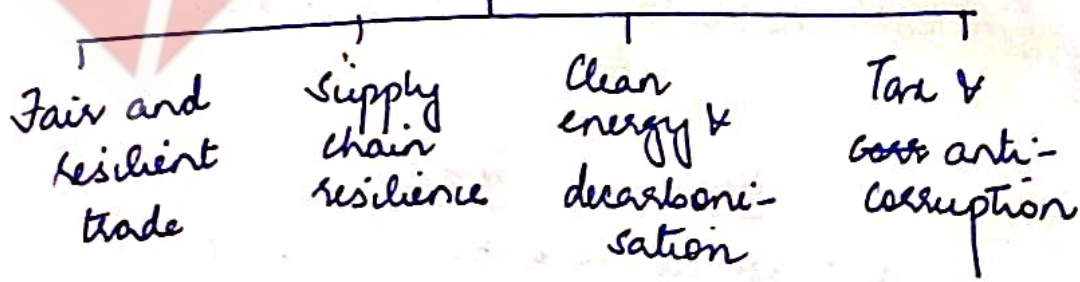
Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) is a geo economic grouping of 14 countries of the Indo Pacific including US, Japan, Australia, India, Brunei, Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore etc.



- 2.5 billion people
- \$34 trillion combined GDP

Map showing Indo-Pacific Region

IPEF is based on 4 pillars



## Significance of IPEF in present scenario

1. Alternative to Chinese model of trade and "cheque book diplomacy" in the region.

eg: China already took control of essential infra in Kase; Hambantota port etc (Sri Lanka) with BRI project.

2. Fair and principled trade between nations

{ decreased labour market polarisation  
 { transparency and accountability  
 { Better standards and better products  
 { control over Big Tech

3. Friendshoring: prioritising security over economic efficiency to ensure supply chain resilience

IPEF to counter this { eg: - disruptions due to COVID pandemic,  
 - food insecurity due to Russia-Ukraine crisis

4. Economic counterpart to Quad

{ Quad criticised as a group to counter Chinese development - coercive in nature



IPEF is an economic arrangement for better integration of Region.

### Challenges to IPEF in present scenario

1. Difficult to de-couple China
  - ↳ US heavily dependent on Chinese manufacturing
  - ↳ China becoming a leader of electronics products
2. No clarity of principles and binding ideology
3. WTO+ standards : difficult for countries like India to comply
4. Dividing group : leaves out Laos, Cambodia and includes <sup>most</sup> members of ASEAN.

As per Christina Lagard, the Russia Ukraine crisis has drove a shift where a country is choosing security over economic efficiency, regionalisation over globalisation. IPEF is a testament to changing geo economic equilibrium.

#### Feedback

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Q.20) BRICS has a potential to lead the path towards reformed multilateralism but suffer from numerous internal contradictions. Discuss, in light of recently concluded 14th BRICS summit.  
(15 marks, 250 words)

ब्रिक्स में बहुपक्षवाद समर्थित सुधार की दिशा में मार्ग का नेतृत्व करने की क्षमता है लेकिन कई आंतरिक अंतर्विरोधों से ग्रस्त हैं। हाल ही में संपन्न 14वें ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन के आलोक में चर्चा करें।  
(अंक 15, शब्द 250)

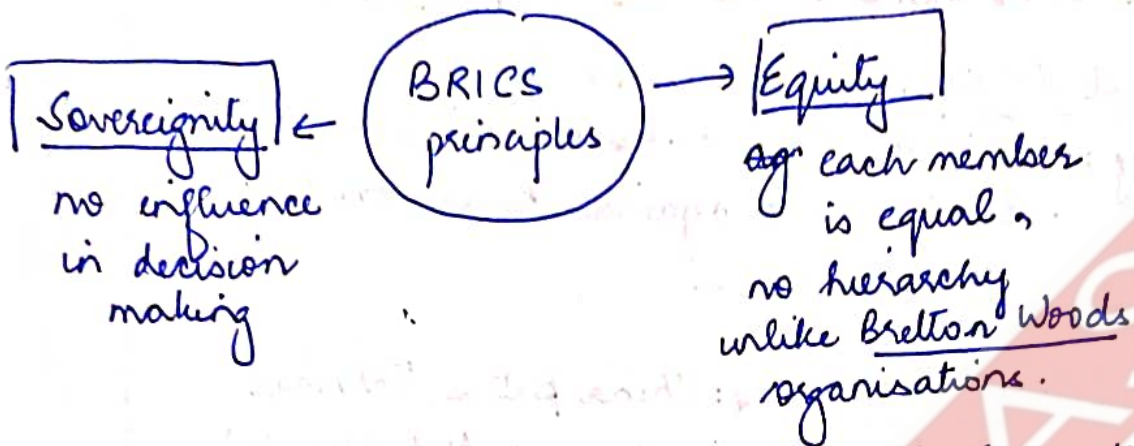
BRICS is a grouping of 5 emerging economies consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, established in 2009.

BRICS has the potential to lead the path towards reformed multilateralism

(A) Potential of BRICS :

- BRICS ~~are~~ countries account for 24% global GDP
- 42% global population resides in BRICS countries
- Trade between BRICS is 16% of global GDP
- 1/3rd of world's food is grown in BRICS countries.

(B) Path towards reformed multilateralism



— The New Development Bank funds development projects in member countries and beyond.  
↳ each country has equal votes in NDB.

— BRICS countries have worked a Contingent Reserve Agreement to help a member avoid Balance of Payment crisis  
↳ unconditional loan unlike IMF.

— BRICS countries are also working towards a Customs Agreement.

However, BRICS suffers from internal contradictions

— There is no common ideology or principle that gives the members  
eg: China and Russia are authoritarian

while other members are large democracies.

- Trust deficit between members  
eg :- India v China :- Border issues  
- Brazil voted against Russia in ~~Russia~~ Ukraine issue.

- Bilateral issues : eg: China put a technical hold on designation of Abdul Malik as global terrorist in 1267 Sanctions committee.

- low trade despite (merely \$117 bn, despite being big economies)

BRICS is representative of the present world order and has the potential to pioneer "reformed multilateralism" with practical steps.

The need is to engage, ideate and deliver a reformed 'global development architecture'.

### Feedback

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