

TEST CODE : 5 1 0 6 2

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate

Abhinav K Malik

Roll No.

19 101 04336

Date:

Maximum Marks: 250

Time Allowed: Three Hours

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
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Total:	250	

INSTRUCTION

1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.
3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
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. 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.

Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.

Evaluator's Discretion:

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End Time |

Total Marks:

Mode Of Examination:

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Offline

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.

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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

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Q.1) Every person has a fundamental right to entertain such religious practices as approved by his/her conscience. Do you think that 'doctrine of essentiality' restricts this autonomy?
(10 marks, 150 words)

प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को अपने विवेक द्वारा अनुमोदित ऐसी धार्मिक प्रथाओं में सम्मिलित होने का मौलिक अधिकार है। क्या आपको लगता है कि 'अनिवार्यता का सिद्धांत' इस स्वायत्तता को प्रतिबंधित करता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Article 25 of the Indian Constitution provides for freedom to profess, practice and propagate religion of one's choice. This constitution not only provides freedom of conscience but also right to religious practices in public sphere.

However Supreme Court has put forth 'Doctrine of essentiality' to ~~do~~ ascertain which practices are essential and which are not.

Reasonable restrictions can be made with respect to non-essential religious practices.

→ Karnataka High Court has

recently upheld the ban ^{of an} wearing
 right in educational institutions
 in Karnataka. Supreme court has

also commented that right to
 practice of religion doesn't include
 bringing it to schools and colleges
 which have a defined uniform.

Right to religion though
 fundamental, but is subject to
reasonable restrictions like other
 fundamental rights. Even with
 respect to certain aspects of personal
 laws of Hindus, Government
 has put regulations in form of
Hindu code bill.

Hence Doctrine of essentiality
 doesn't curb the right to practice
 of religion rather just puts
 reasonable restrictions on it.

Feedback

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Q.2) Sedition law, in any form, is a threat to civil liberties and presents an opportunity for its weaponization against dissenters and detractors. Should India do away with the sedition law? Justify your opinion. (10 marks, 150 words)

राजद्रोह कानून, किसी भी रूप में, नागरिक स्वतंत्रता के लिए खतरा है और असंतुष्टों और विरोधियों के खिलाफ अपने हथियार बनाने का अवसर प्रस्तुत करता है। क्या भारत को राजद्रोह कानून को खत्म कर देना चाहिए? अपने मत का औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए।

(Section-124A) (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Sedition law in the IPC, is a colonial legacy and is meant to curb anti-social elements which aim at fomenting violence and overthrow of the state.

Issues with sedition law

-) curbs right to criticise government:-
There have been instances where sedition law has been used against critics of the government.
-) low conviction rate:-
less than 4% are convicted under sedition law shows its misuse.
-) Ambiguous language:-
leads to frivolous usage of

law.

1) Relic of colonial past:-

It was these very laws which our freedom fighters aimed to end.

Arguments in support of sedition law:-

1) Supreme court stand:-

only when there is spread or threat of spread of violence and violent overthrow of government, sedition law can be applied.

2) To protect unity and integrity of India:-

owing to various terrorist, secessionist and extremist elements present.

Ex:- Maoists, naxalites, North east and Kashmir insurgencies.

This need of the hour is not to repeal the law but make it more clear and incorporating suggestions of Supreme court. This will prevent the misuse of law.

Feedback

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Q.3) Discuss the status of death penalty in the country. Can a governor pardon a death penalty? What are various limitations of pardoning power of governor? (10 marks, 150 words)

देश में मृत्युदंड की स्थिति की विवेचना कीजिए। क्या राज्यपाल मौत की सजा माफ कर सकता है? राज्यपाल की क्षमादान शक्ति की विभिन्न सीमाएँ क्या हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Indian laws provide for capital punishment (death penalty) in cases of serious and heinous crimes.

Ex:- In acts of terrorism, murder, grenade, rape etc.

Status in other countries

•) More than 100 countries have abolished death penalty and 40 countries have abolished it in practice.

Constitutional safeguard

•) Article 21 provides that state can't take right to life except procedure established by law.

Art. 21 further strengthened by Judicial pronouncements → procedure established by law includes due process of law
→ death sentence to be given in interest of rare cases.

Governor's pardoning power:-

Art. 161 provides for pardoning power of death sentence to governor in case of ~~any violation of a~~ conviction under any state law which prescribes for death penalty.

Limitations on Governor's pardoning power :-

-) Pardoning power only with respect to state government laws.
-) No pardoning power if conviction under union law.
-) No pardoning power in case of court martial.

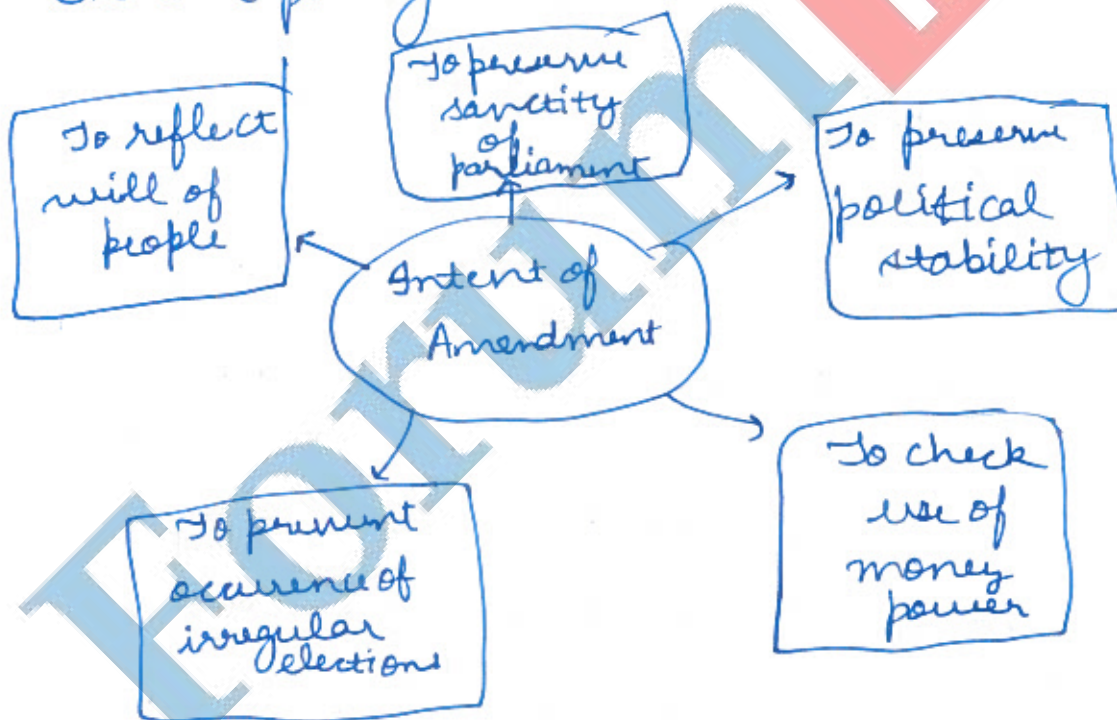
Thus Governor has concurrent powers of pardoning like the President, however it is restricted only for state laws.

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Q.4) The divergence between intent and impact of the tenth schedule necessitates calling into question its relevance in the present times. Analyze. (10 marks, 150 words)

दसवीं अनुसूची के आशय और प्रभाव के बीच का अंतर वर्तमान समय में इसकी प्रासंगिकता पर सवाल खड़ा करता है। विश्लेषण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Tenth schedule was brought by the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985 to check the increasing phenomenon of "horse trading" (Aaya Ram Gaya Ram) in Indian polity.



Impact of tenth schedule :-

1) Curbs right to free speech :-

As any speech or stand in parliament

can be construed as against party stands and hence can be ~~also~~ ground for disqualification

•) Rise of bulk defections :-

Recently, in Maharashtra we have seen more than 2/3rd MLAs of Shiv Sena defecting which is allowed under 10th schedule.

•) Partisan role of speaker :-

As any decision is to be taken by speaker under 10th schedule, we have seen controversial role of speaker driven by partisan interests. \rightarrow Karnataka,

Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra (deputy speaker)

thus the need of the hour is to bring about changes in 10th schedule :-

•) As prescribed by ~~Sarkaria~~ ^{2nd ARC} commission \rightarrow President should decide upon disqualifications based upon advice of Election Commission.

•) Only voting during non-confidence motion should come under ambit of 10th schedule

Feedback

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Q.5) Instead of performing a transformative role, traditional bureaucracy has contributed to perpetuation of old order. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

एक परिवर्तनकारी भूमिका निभाने के बजाय, पारंपरिक नौकरशाही ने पुरानी व्यवस्था को कायम रखने में योगदान दिया है। टिप्पणी करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Bureaucracy has been defined as the steel frame of the country by Sh. Vallabh Bhai Patel.

Transformative role ~~is~~ encouraged for the bureaucracy :-

-) uphold rule of law
-) Being about balanced development
-) Securing rights of the people → food, shelter, social security etc.
-) Being a change agent
 - ↳ especially in wake of dominance of public sector, bureaucrats got enormous powers.
-) Positive role played by bureaucrats
-) uniformity in administration

across the country

•) High levels of growth :- India has emerged as one of the fastest emerging economies owing to sound policy formulation and implementation by bureaucrats.

•) Implementation of welfare measures :- sound implementation of schemes like MGNREGA, National Food Security Act, RTE etc. has secured welfare to the masses.

Yet elements of perpetuation of old order remains

- Red tapism
- Bureaucratic attitude and high handedness
- Political interference
- corruption.

Way forward

- 2nd ARC called for ~~of~~ independence of bureaucracy from political misuse
- ~~strong~~ ethical training
- lateral entry of specialised personnel.

Feedback

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Q.6) 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। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NGOs have been recognised as an important participant in the process of development.

Importance of NGOs

- 1) community mobilisation
- 2) Saving upon costs :- since Govt. machinery would incur more expenditure to deliver similar services.
- 3) Participatory governance.

Alliance between Government and NGOs is crucial for

Social change

- 1) Grassroots democracy
- 2) Involvement of people.
- 3) Changing attitude of people

Development

- 1) Last mile service delivery
- 2) Better social audit of developmental projects
- 3) Saving costs

Hurdles in the developmental alliance:-

•) Lack of understanding of the NGOs:-

Still Government official view NGOs as driven by private/nested interests.

•) Anti-national / developmental approach:-

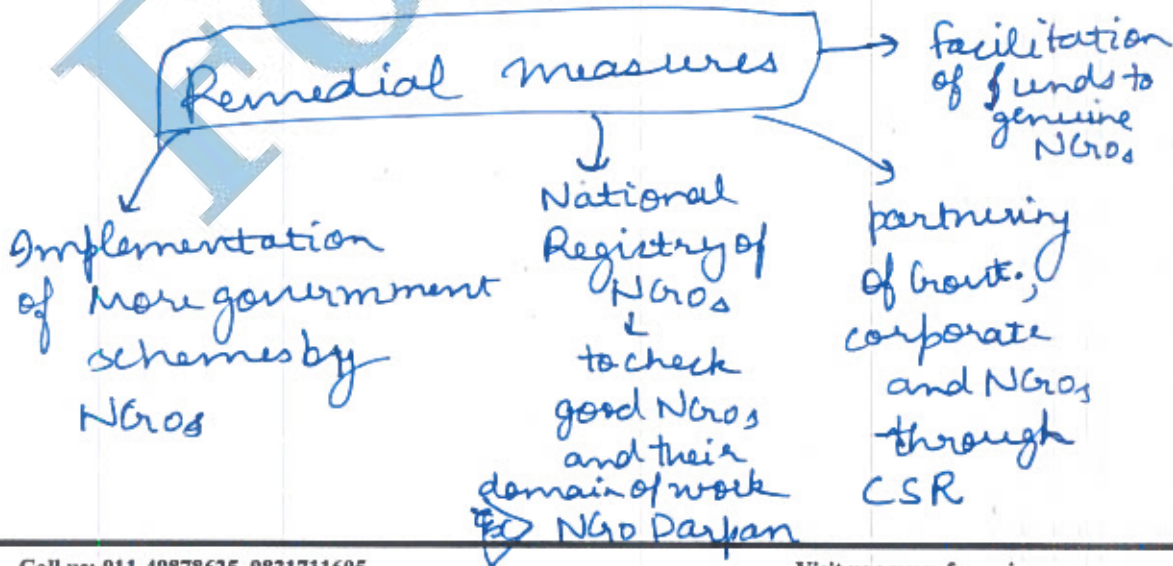
Some NGOs have been accused of anti-national activities, proselyting activities.

, Stalling development

(Ex) Amnesty International, protest against Kudankulam nuclear reactor.

•) Law like FCRA:- which curbs

fund raising ~~and also imposes~~ ~~due~~ owing to recent amendments.



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Q.7) 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। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Subsidies are provided across the world by the governments for:-

-) Providing last mile funding:-
in areas like farm mechanisation where banks and other stakeholders reluctant to finance.
-) To bridge viability gap:-
in projects like cold chain, ~~big~~ godown etc.
-) To channel funds in particular sector
→ ~~to~~ Food processing subsidies
→ PM SAMPADA scheme.
-) For benefit of vulnerable sections:-
Poor people, farmers, SCs, ST etc.

our Directive Principles under Part IV of constitution provide for an elaborate list of welfare measures for the people which forms the basis of subsidy regime in India.

However owing to electoral politics, some of subsidies have now become conduit of populist measures:-

•) Announcement of freebies in elections:-

like farm loan waivers, free electricity, free water.

•) Burden on exchequer:-

fordolling out subsidies on freebies like televisions etc. RBI has recently stated that states' finances have become too vulnerable.

•) Subsidies favouring revenue expenditure and not on capital measures:-

subsidies on capital assets like roads, manufacturing units etc. may pay better returns.

•) Exploitation of natural resources:-

owing to subsidy on water for agriculture the need of the hour is to differentiate genuine subsidies from freebies and disallowing populist measures.

Feedback

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Q.8) 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। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

National commission for Scheduled Tribes was formed as a separate body via 89th constitutional amendment Act, 2003.

Functions and Role of NCST

-) Look into administrative and legal safeguards for STs
-) Act as court of enquiry in case of complaints against STs.
-) Prescribe for welfare measures for STs.

However NCST has not been able to fully play the envisaged role. Lacunae highlighted by the recent report of parliamentary standing committee :-

-) No report of NCST has been tabled in parliament in last 4 years.
-) Vacancy in membership of NCST.
-) Lack of adequate staff.
-) Pendency of cases.

Therefore, certain immediate measures are required for better functioning of NCST :-

-) Provision of adequate staff.
-) Engagement of subject experts.
-) Filling up of vacancies whenever they arise.

Other measures needed :-

-) NCST working with civil society organisations :- For better understanding of tribal issues.
-) Sub-committees to be formed for different regions :- hilly areas, central India, naxal affected areas, North East areas :- as tribal issues different for different regions.

Feedback

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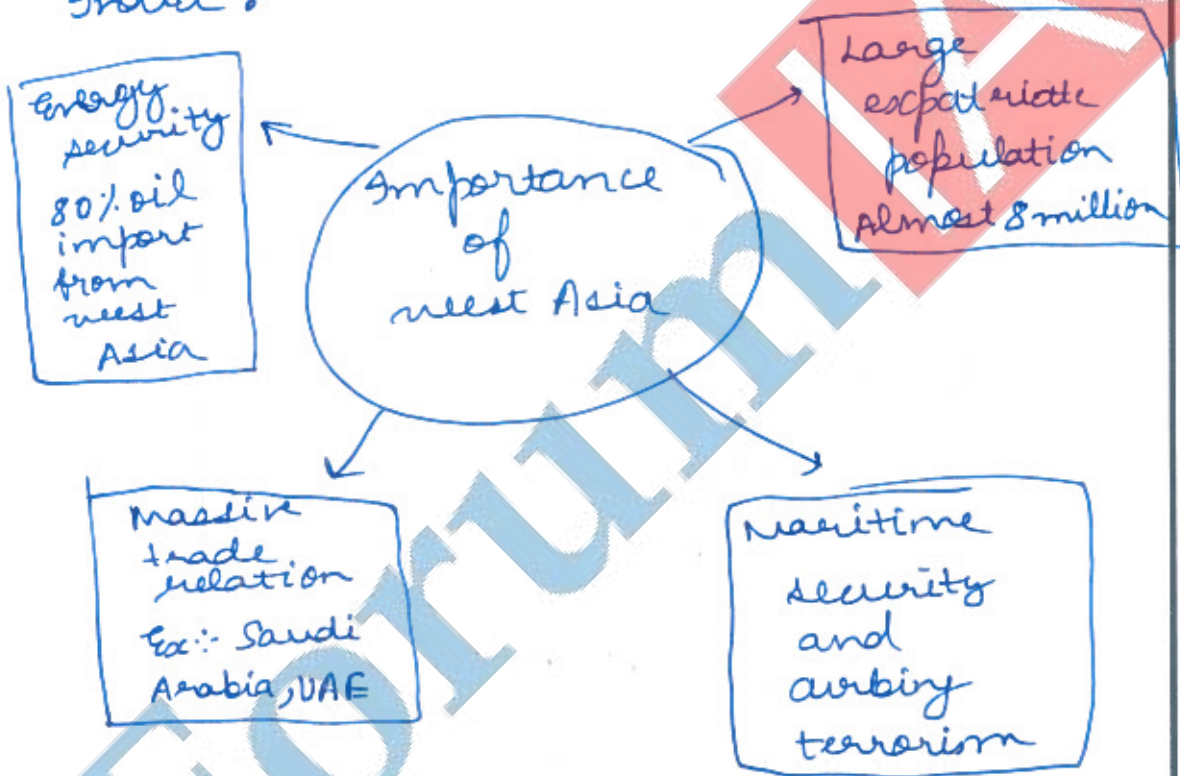
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Q.9) India's relation with West Asia has acquired depth and diversity that can navigate geopolitical hurdles. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

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

West Asia has been regarded as the extended neighbourhood of India.



Geopolitical hurdles in the region:-

-) volatile governments:- Syria, Yemen.
-) Arab-Israel rivalry.
-) Shia-Sunni rivalry (b/w Iran & Saudi Arabia)

-) Rise of fundamentalism
-) Presence of terrorist organisations
 Ex. → AR Qaeda, ISIS.

However over the years Indian Foreign policy has been successful in treading the difficult geo-political waters :-

-) Engagement with all stakeholders :-
 like Saudi-Arabia, Israel, Iran without having bearing on any other partnership.
-) Positive role of Indian diaspora :-
 with large Indian diaspora, the policies in most Asia have been taking into account India's sensitivities.
-) Growing trade relations :-
 UAE and Saudi Arabia among top 5 export destinations.
 Thus India has been able to walk the diplomatic tightrope among geo-political difficulties and has secured the national interest.

Feedback
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Q.10) 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 अभिव्यक्ति है न कि सामरिक बाध्यताओं का प्रतिबिंब।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has unleashed a major upheaval in the geo-political and strategic scenario across the world.

Response from various countries :-

•) From US & EU :- has been completely against the Russian invasion. Sanctions imposed on Russia.

•) From China :- has taken a more pro-Russian stance.

•) From India :- India's stand has been a neutral one. India has called for ceasefire and peaceful resolution of conflict.

Reasons for the Indian stand :-

1) Dependence on Russian arms imports:-
Russia continues to be India's largest arm supplier.

2) Historical relations with Russia:-
Through treaty of peace and friendship of 1971, Russia has remained India's "all weather friend".

Therefore we witness that there are strategic compulsions involved in the Indian stand on the issue. Yet we ~~have~~ also witnessed ~~the~~ India's basic foundational policy of asserting strategic autonomy:-

- 1) Not playing in hands of west
- 2) Not imposing sanctions on Russia:-
As we have huge energy dependence on Russia. \rightarrow Natural gas.
- 3) Not let Russia go near china:-
Isolating Russia would strengthen Russian-china relations which isn't in favour of India.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

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Q.11) Discuss the role of the judiciary in electoral reforms citing suitable cases. How far do you agree that judiciary induced reforms violate the principle of separation of power?

(15 marks, 250 words)

उपयुक्त मामलों का हवाला देते हुए चुनाव सुधारों में न्यायपालिका की भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। आप कहीं तक सहमत हैं कि न्यायपालिका से प्रेरित सुधार सत्ता के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन करते हैं? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Electoral reforms have been carried out from time to time in order to better represent the will of the people without any fear.

Judiciary has played a pro-active role in ensuring that elections in India are carried out with the spirit of the constitution.

Role of judiciary in electoral reforms

•) Declaration of criminal antecedents of candidates:-

SC in ADR case (2002) ruled that all candidates need to declare criminal antecedents in ~~the~~ their application. This is important

for informed decision making by voters. It would check ~~not~~ criminalisation of politics.

•) Striking Section 33B of RPA, 1951:-

In POCU case (2003), SC struck down Section 33B of RPA, 1951 which was brought to nullify ADR judgement.

•) Lily Thomas case (2013):-

SC struck down section 8(4) of RPA, 1951 and made ^{applicable} disqualification of legislators upon conviction of more than 2 years.

•) Setting up fast track courts (2017):-

50 complete investigation and pronounce judgement upon cases against legislators within one year.

However, some analysts ~~and~~ have pointed that judicial intervention ^{in election process} amounts to violation of principle of separation of power. Since election process and electoral reforms are ^{under} executive domain.

However this argument

doesn't stand valid as :-

1) Judiciary in India is understood to play an active role in "social revolution".

2) Judicial Review :- ~~power~~ Provides for establishing checks and balances in legislature and executive domain.

3) Preventive rights of people :-

Since election process ~~is~~ and right to vote is a constitutional right and its judiciary's duty to protect people's rights.

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Q.12) Why did constitution makers prefer 'union of states' over 'federation of states' to describe India? To what extent this preference is responsible for tensions in centre-state relations?

(15 marks, 250 words)

संविधान निर्माताओं ने भारत का वर्णन करने के लिए 'यूनियन ऑफ स्टेट्स' के बजाय 'फेडरेशन ऑफ स्टेट्स' को प्राथमिकता क्यों दी? केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों में तनाव के लिए यह वरीयता किस हद तक जिम्मेदार है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 1 of the constitution describes India as a "union of states". Indian constitution makers deliberately chose the word union instead of federation as :-

-) India is an indestructible union
 -) In India, states didn't come together to form a federation rather it was a highly centralised polity which was converted into a federation (unlike US).
 -) To showcase commitment to unity & integrity of India.
- Nevertheless Indian ~~federation~~ is a federal political system with

features like :-

•) constitutional separation of power
 ↳ union list, state list, concurrent list.

•) written constitution

•) Independent judiciary

areas of tensions owing to strong central bias ⇒

•) More legislative powers :-

union list - 101 subjects, whereas state list has 61 subjects.

Residuary powers with center.

•) Reservation of bills of state for President's approval (Art. 200)

•) Partisan role of governor

•) Imposition of President's rule (Art 356) :- has been used more than

100 times.

1) Tilt of fiscal power towards centre :-
more revenue yielding taxes like income tax, corporate tax under centre's ambit.

2) Deployment of CAPFs → reduces morale of state police.

3) All India services :-
Effective disciplinary powers lie with centre.

Thus the centre-state relations have been fraught with issues arising out of central/unitary bias in constitution.

Way forward :-

- 1) Implement Sarkaria & Punchhi commission recommendations on Schedule 7, President's rule, appointment of Governor.
- 2) effective use utilisation of inter-state council for addressing federal issues.

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Q.13) Political decentralization without devolution of funds and functions to panchayats has resulted in representation but not empowerment. Examine whether devolution of funds and functions alone can transform panchayats into effective institutions of self-governance.

(15 marks, 250 words)

पंचायतों को धन और कार्यों के हस्तांतरण के बिना राजनीतिक विकेंद्रीकरण के परिणामस्वरूप प्रतिनिधित्व तो हुआ है लेकिन सशक्तिकरण नहीं। जांच करें कि क्या केवल निधियों और कार्यों का हस्तांतरण पंचायतों को स्वशासन के प्रभावी संस्थानों में बदल सकता है।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 was passed to give constitutional status to the pillars of grassroots democracy - i.e. the Panchayats.

Features of 73rd amendment Act

-) defining role of Gram Sabha
-) manner of elections.
-) indicative list of functions to be devolved to Panchayats (Schedule XI).

•) Popular representation based on Universal Adult Franchise -

•) 33% Reservation to women.

However despite this, panchayats faced challenges

in becoming institutions of empowerment:-

a) Non-effective decentralisation of function

↳ reluctance of state governments to devolve functions.

b) Bureaucratic apathy

c) under-staffing

d) Lack of finances

↳ heavy dependence upon state grants.

e) 2nd ARC → As per 2nd ARC,

the panchayats need to have devolution of funds, functions and functionaries.

f) Mani Shankar Iyer Committee:-

highlighted lack of funds and functions and over-representation of functionaries.

It also commented that "A Bad Panchayati Raj is worse than no Panchayati Raj".

Devolution of funds for effective role by PRs :-

a) Taxation powers to Panchayats

↳ for ex → hand revenue,

property tax, octroi etc. can be assigned.

b) Performance based grants :-

↳ for good performing panchayats

c) Regular appointment of State Finance Commission.

Evolution of functions :-

·) All functions mentioned in 11th schedule

·) Big Bang approach :- As in case of Kerala and MP, most of ground level functions assigned to Panchayats only with proper devolution of funds & functions, the panchayats will

Feedback

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Q.14) The offence of rape cannot be condoned by marital relationship between victim and culprit. In light of this statement, discuss the issues involved in criminalization of marital rape.

(15 marks, 250 words)

बलात्कार के अपराध को पीड़िता और अपराधी के बीच वैवाहिक संबंधों द्वारा माफ नहीं किया जा सकता है। इस कथन के प्रकाश में वैवाहिक बलात्कार के अपराधीकरण में शामिल मुद्दों की चर्चा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The offence of rape is ~~one~~ ^{one of} the most heinous acts to outrage the modesty of a person. Despite this, marital rape continues to remain out of ambit of a criminal offence in India.

Arguments to keep marital rape out of criminal offence :-

1) Burden of proof :-

It would be difficult to prove whether the act of sex was consensual or forced.

2) Misuse of law :-

As seen in Dowry Prohibition Act and Domestic Violence Act, 2005,

marital rape if criminalized may be misused.

-) may end the very sanctity of institution of marriage
-) surveillance of state in the private life

Arguments to support criminalisation of rape :-

-) Rape is rape :-
whether against a known or a stranger.

-) Dignity of woman :-

The trauma of living with one's rapist is insurmountable.

-) International precedents :-

Most of the countries have criminalised marital rape.

•) Law Commission and Justice Verma committee has supported for criminalisation of marital rape.

•) India is signatory to CEDAW :-

↳ CEDAW calls for ~~end~~ ending exploitation in all forms against women.

Thus need of the hour is to criminalise the heinous offence of marital rape although by ensuring enough safeguards to prevent its misuse.

Feedback

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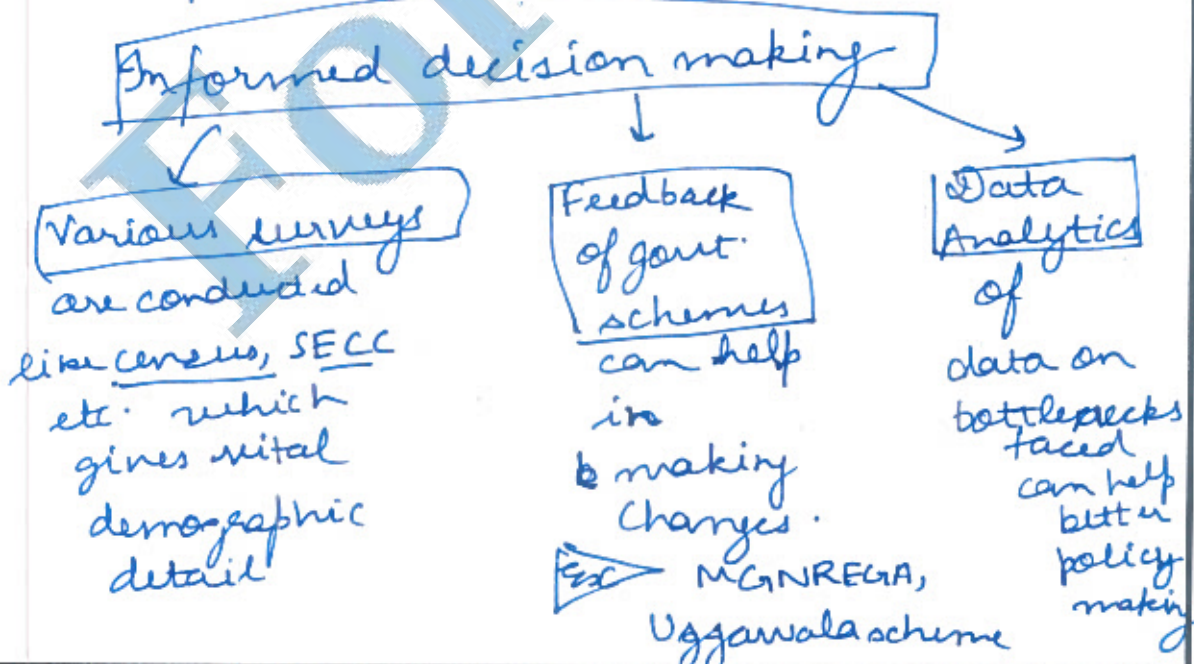
Total

Q.15) 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)

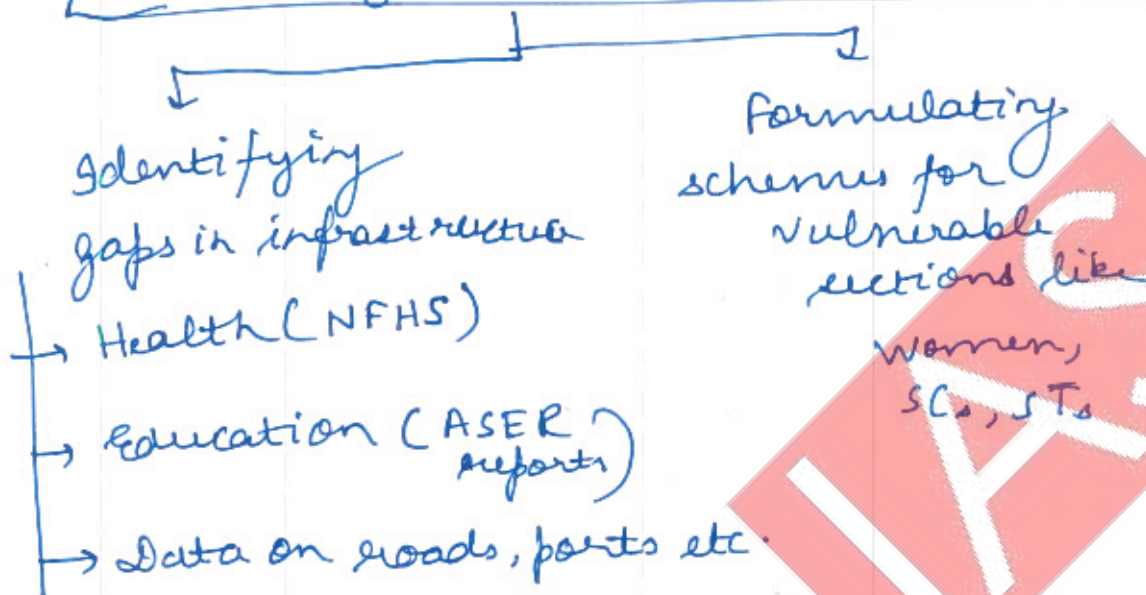
सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के डेटा का उपयोग सूचित निर्णय लेने, सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिवर्तन में तेजी लाने और देश में नवाचार को लोकतांत्रिक बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। इस संदर्भ में, सार्वजनिक डेटा साझाकरण में विभिन्न बाधाओं को उजागर करें और डेटा के वास्तविक मूल्य को अनलॉक करने के लिए रणनीति सुझाएं। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

In the age of Industrial Revolution 4.0, data assumes primacy in transformation lives of the people in a positive way.

The Government collects huge amount of data from citizens which can be effectively utilised for :-



Decelerating socio-economic transformation



Democratizing Innovation

↳ making information accessible to public can lead to innovative solutions by citizens

↳ Hackathons, Swiss challenge

However there remains certain bottlenecks with respect to public data sharing :->

-) Fear of curbing privacy
-) Lack of anonymised data.
-) Non-robust cyber-security systems → vulnerability to data theft.
-) Lack of skilled professionals for data analysis.

Strategies for unlocking true value of data :-

-) Robust legal framework :-

Personal Data Protection Act may be a step in ~~right~~ this direction -

-) Robust cyber security framework :-
CERT-IN, NCIIPL.

-) Data Analytics :- New course designs and skilled professionals.

Since data is the new currency the time is to mine the relevant data to bring about socio-economic transformation of country.

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? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

In recent years, Indian universities have only managed 3 positions in top 200 universities in the world.

Reasons for dismal performance :-

a) Criteria of ranking :-

Most of the global ranking indices give higher weightage to perception of university. This makes the ranking subjective. (Highlighted by Min. of Education)

b) Low level of innovation :-

The R & D culture remains under-prioritised. Less number of research papers and innovations happen in Indian universities.

c) Lack of finances :-

For creating new age

infrastructure up. with respect to labs, machineries etc.

d) Placement records:-

Placement records of Indian universities vis-a-vis foreign universities seem to be lagging behind.

Steps required for improving ranking of Indian universities can be:-

•) Higher financing/funding to universities :-

Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) which can mobilise innovative ways of financing (loans, endowments, grants) is needed.

•) Increased spending on R & D :-

R & D expenditure in India continues to be less than 1% of GDP. This needs to increase to the level of countries like China & South Korea.

c) Higher Industrial-academic interaction

- ↳ for better placements
- ↳ more innovations

d) setting up of incubation centres in universities :-

- ↳ by corporates
- ↳ by govt. bodies (ex. NABARD incubation centres in Agriculture universities).

e) Tracking progress

↳ National Institutional Ranking framework (NIRF) by Min. of Education. This gives real time assessment of our universities.

only with rigorous spending on infrastructure, R & D and more filip to ~~also~~ innovation culture our universities can become global centers of learning.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Q.17) 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 हैं और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में विकास प्रक्रियाओं पर कई गुना प्रभाव डालते हैं। उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ विस्तृत व्याख्या करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Self Help Groups is a group of 10-20 ladies who come together with the objective of

- savings
- getting access to financial services
- entrepreneurial activities

•) At present, 1.13 crore SHGs have been formed and almost half of them have availed bank finance (NABARD Microfinance Report).

•) SHGs have become an effective model of social entrepreneurship for women empowerment as:-

- a) leads to ~~to~~ savings for women.
- b) ~~to~~ Access to cheaper finance.

-) Social cohesion
-) Prevention from falling into debt trap.
-) Resources for entrepreneurship.
-) Skill training through various agencies :- National Rural livelihood Mission (NRLM), MEDPs & LEDPs by NABARD.

It has brought multiplier effects on development process in rural areas :-

-) Improvement in household income:-

Ex → In Kerala, Andhra Pradesh owing to success of SHGs

Kudumbashree model of Kerala has brought significant improvement among rural women in economic terms.

1) Reduced incidences of poverty :-

→ Through SHG-Bank Linkage Programme and NRLM, SHGs have benefited members from high rates of interests.

2) Development of micro & small units of women :-

→ SEWA in Gujarat helped establish Lijjat Brand of Papads.

→ AT India foundation in Uttarakhand helped establish a women ~~Bank~~ Micro Finance institution in Rudrapur district.

3) Enhanced focus on health & cohesion among social groups

→ Awareness generation by Arpana foundation in Karnal (Haryana) among SHGs which led to lower disease burden.

Thus SHG model provides the strongest way to ~~quick~~ ^{manage} development activities

Feedback

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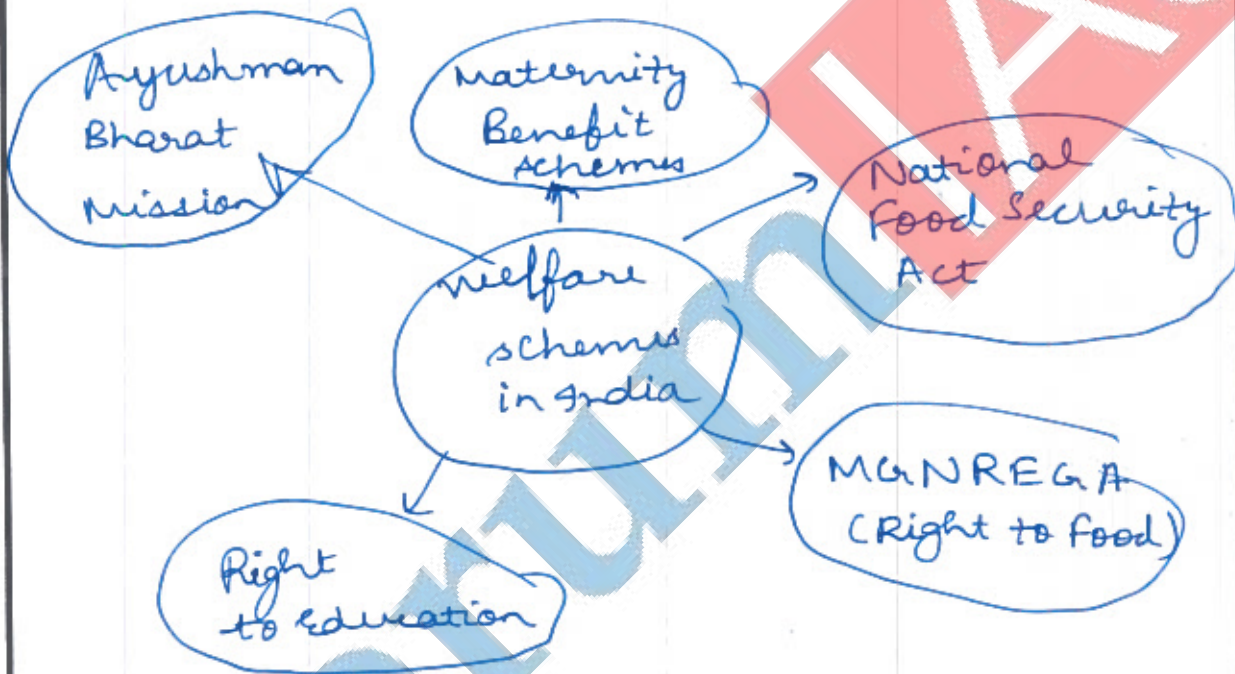
Total



Q.18) 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। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Part IV of the Indian constitution provides for the establishment of a welfare state in India.



Success of these welfare scheme depends upon:-

(A) Participation of people:-

•) Grassroots democracy:-

On the wake of 73rd and 74th

Amendment Act, 1992 the participation of people in governance has become utmost important :

•) citizen centric governance :-

is envisaged in 2nd ARC and Sevottam model of governance, participation of people enhances the outcomes of welfare schemes.

•) social audit :-

as made mandatory in schemes like MGNREGA for better evaluation ~~and~~ monitoring and feedback regarding the welfare scheme.

(B) Establishing structures of Accountability :-

•) Democratic principle :-

Since the welfare measures are carried out from public funds, hence accountability

should lie with the people.

•) checking corruption :-

A transparent and accountable system helps in curbing the menace of corruption.

↳ Scandinavian countries, Singapore.

Therefore the importance of public participation and accountability can't be overemphasised. Some of the measures to further enhance the success of welfare measures can be :-

•) Public Service Delivery Act

↳ to ensure quality of public service delivery.

•) Timely replies to RTIs.

•) Agile approach

↳ As envisaged in Economic

survey for better feedback mechanism in policy making.

•) e-Governance → My gov. in etc.

Feedback

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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। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The enormous rise of China has led to alarm bells in USA as it gets its biggest challenge to its lone superpower status in the post cold-war era. US has now gone all out in its ambition to curtail China.

Various steps taken by us in the security domain :-

a) Formation of new alliances

↳ Quad → US, India, Japan and Australia

↳ AUKUS :- US, UK, and Australia.

↳ I2U2 :- India, Israel, US & UAE

Although US has stated that these are not security alliances yet the content of engagement showcases these alliances' strategic significance.

(b) Engagement with Taiwan:-

↳ US has assured Taiwan of military weapons' support

→ It has warned China against any aggression on Taiwan.

(c) Enhancing military presence in Indo-Pacific region.

In this backdrop the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) assumes importance :-

a) Sighted as economic arm of Quad

(b) Emvisages infrastructure projects in Indo-Pacific

↳ To counter Belt and Road initiative of china.

(c) Enhancing supply chain resilience among Indo-Pacific countries

↳ To reduce dependence on china as global value chain hub.

Challenges to IPEF:-

a) Proximity of China:- vis-a-vis US to the countries in Indo-Pacific.
Hence better prospects to implement infrastructure projects

b) Debt trap diplomacy of China:-
↳ like Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Heavy dependence on China

c) Neighbours may not like to ink China:-
Especially ASEAN countries.
Therefore US needs to play a proactive role to bolster confidence in region to join

IPEF.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)	
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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। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The term BRIC was coined by Goldman Sachs Economist Jim O'Neil in 2001 to highlight the growing significance of the 4 countries (China, India, Russia and Brazil) in the global economy.

BRICS was formally formed in 2009 with the addition of South Africa with ambitious aims & goals:

-) To reform multilateral institutions like IMF and World Bank by being collective voice of south.
-) Model of South-South cooperation
BRICS accounts for 30% of

World GDP and almost 45% of global population and hence can deliver successfully in development of third world countries

1) Creation of new institutions:-
like New Development Bank,
~~Contingency Reserve~~
Arrangement for benefit of the member countries, development of infrastructure.

2) Cooperation of global issues:-
like climate change, terrorism, trade negotiations in WTO.

However there are inherent contradictions among BRICS countries which prevents full realisation of its potential.

3) Border dispute :-

Between India and China based

to lack of trust among Asian giants.

1) Trade asymmetry and low internal trade :-

All the countries have high trade deficit with china. The internal trade among member countries quite low compared to ASEAN and EU.

2) Lack of divergence on global issues like P-5 membership in UNSC, issue of terrorism etc.

Therefore the member countries need to establish trust among themselves and first need to resolve outstanding issues bilaterally especially China and India. Other platforms like SCO, IBSA, RIC also need to be strengthened for intern strengthening BRICS.

Feedback

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Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Test Goal

- 1
- 2
- 3

Outcomes

-
-
-

Marking Scheme

Mark	Good	Average	Below average
10 Marker	3.75 – 5.0	3.0 – 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 – 7.0	4.0 – 5.5	< 4.0
✓✓	Key / Relevant Point		
✗	Vague / Irrelevant		

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