

TEST CODE 6 1 2 3 0 2

FIAS – MGP 2023 – GS PAPER 2_FLT #6

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	ATUL TYAGI		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	104101	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	ONLINE	Date/दिनांक	06/09/23

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INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश		
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।		
1			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।		
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।		
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. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।		
4			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. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।		
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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :	
			2:00 pm	5:00 pm	
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>	
*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner 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. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।			For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु		
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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Note: You can discuss your evaluated copy with the Mentor. Raise a ticket from your portal to schedule a mentor call or visit the offline centre to meet mentor (all 7 days, Timings - 11 AM to 6 PM). Further if you are unsatisfied with the evaluation, you can seek re-evaluation of the copy.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

1. **AWIS = Answered What is Asked.** This means whether you have addressed the core demand of the question or not. Addressing the core demand of the question gets you an objectively fair score. It is examiner's perception if you have understood the question and if you know the answer in the first place. Creative answer writing, sometimes missing the core demand, may fetch very high or very low scores, and exposes your answer to the subjectivity of the examiner.
2. **CD & VA = Content Density & Value Addition.** Examiner will evaluate the quality and quantity of your content in the answer. In the same word limit and space limit have you (a) written what is asked (b) gone beyond what is asked (c) enriched answers through combination of (but not all!) suggestions, ideas, quotes, flowcharts, diagrams, facts and figures, data etc. This affects objective components of assessment.
3. **S & F = Structure & Flow =** Whether you have structured your answer properly or not. Whether the answer has been broken into parts and sub-parts and each part has been addressed appropriately or not. Whether the flow of the answer is maintained. Affects both subjective and objective components of assessment.
4. **P & R =** How your answer performs on the criteria of **presentation, ease of read, clarity and apparent effort** in writing the answer. This affects the subjective components of assessment.



Q.1) Discuss the role of the 'Fourth Estate' in upholding democratic values and analyse the issues affecting press freedom in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों को बनाए रखने में 'चौथे स्तंभ' की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए और भारत में प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता को प्रभावित करने वाले मुद्दों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Media is known as the 4th Estate of democracy. As Thomas Jefferson said:

"Information is the currency of democracy" - and this is the contribution of media.

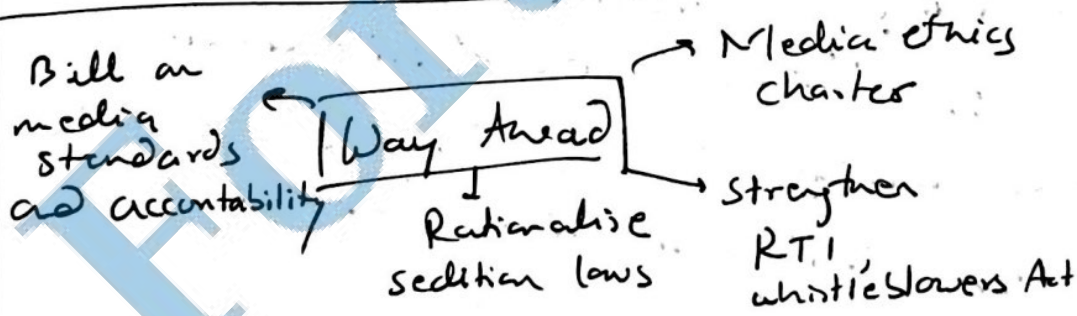
Role of fourth estate

- ① Information and awareness generation: for the citizens.
- ② Participative Democracy: such as public debates, opinion polls etc.
- ③ Evaluation of government policies
 ↳ Vantage with Palki Sharma.
- ④ Accountability of the officials
 ↳ USA presidential debates.
- ⑤ Voice of the marginalised
 ↳ Coverage of COVID migrant exodus.

⑥ National narrative in the international platform i.e. WION news.

Issues to press freedom

- ① Corporatisation of news houses:
paid news issue
- ② Political affiliations: ideologically motivated news coverage.
- ③ Legislative restrictions
i.e. Seditious laws (Section 124A) and UAPA.
- ④ Echo-chambers / fake news in social media.
- ⑤ Crackdown on NGOs and their ideologically motivated publications
i.e. Amnesty International



"An informed citizenry is the best safeguard of democracy." The same is ensured through media freedom under Article 19.

Feedback

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	G	A	P
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Please put tick marks in the above table.
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.2) The electoral process, though inclusionary in theory, has been pointed out for exclusionary tendencies in practice. Analyse, with special emphasis on role of women in India's representative electoral system. (10 marks, 150 words)

चुनावी प्रक्रिया, यद्यपि सिद्धांत रूप में समावेशी है, व्यवहार में बहिष्करणीय प्रवृत्तियों की ओर इंगित किया गया है। भारत की प्रतिनिधिक चुनावी प्रणाली में महिलाओं की भूमिका पर विशेष जोर देते हुए विश्लेषण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

"Free and fair elections are the lifeblood of a democracy." - TN Seshan
India's vibrant democracy is based on an active electorate, which is to be inclusive and participative.

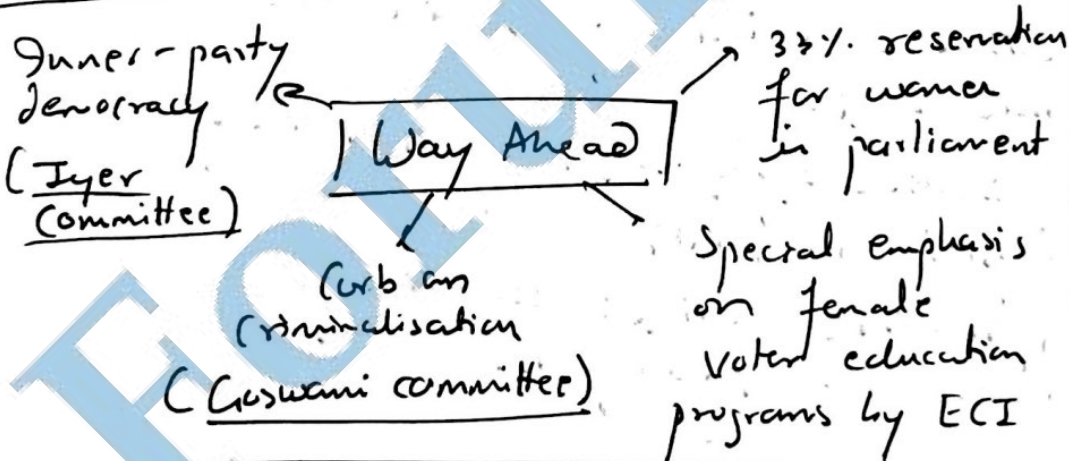
Inclusionary in theory

- ① Universal adult franchise: regardless of any discrimination.
- ② Institutional safeguards: Office of Election Commission of India under Article 324.
- ③ Legislative safeguards: Representation of peoples' Act, 1951
- ④ Affirmative action: reservation of women in Panchayats.

Exclusionary tendencies

- ① Limited political participation of women - lack of inner-party democracy.

- ② Limited female representation in powers of position
 ↳ 14% in Lok Sabha.
- ③ Patriarchal discouragement of public roles to women
 ↳ Domestic chores as the domain of the female in patriarchal societies.
- ④ Imposition of male-counterparts even in seats for women
 ↳ Pradhan-pati system.
- ⑤ Criminalisation and money and muscle power - depriving women on equal ground.



An equitable participation will include diversified gender and solutions. Taking inspiration from President Draupadi Murmu we need to move for political gender justice.

Feedback
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.3) Human dignity, stemming from right to life, does not end with death penalty. In this context, throw light on various controversies surrounding capital punishment in the country.

(10 marks, 150 words)

जीवन के अधिकार से उपजी मानवीय गरिमा, मृत्युदंड से समाप्त नहीं होती है। इस संदर्भ में, देश में मृत्युदंड से जुड़े विभिन्न विवादों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India remains one of the few democracies in the world to retain death penalty. However, it is reserved only for the rarest of rare cases (Bachan Singh case)

Controversies

- ① Human rights : denied as the state cannot give life, so it is questionable if it can take it.
- ② Irreversibility of action even if it is later found to be misguided.
- ③ Retributive justice : in the spirit of an 'eye for an eye.'
- ④ Reformative justice is compromised with death penalty.
- ⑤ International support for doing away

with the practice

ie) UNHRC has reiterated the need to do away with it.

⑥ Threat to victims: when death penalty is assignable to a crime they may try to end victim's life to destroy evidence.

⑦ Question of efficacy as deterrence raised
ie) Amnesty International researched against it.

⑧ Mob mentality is a possible outcome of retributive justice.
However, in some extreme cases it is justified:

① Crimes against the state sovereignty
ie) Terrorism.

② Social security: responsibility of the state under social contract!

③ Utilitarianism: greater good when one is a threat to the society.

④ Hardened criminals: who show no remorse or reformative tendencies.

Until an alternative is devised, it should be limited to only extreme cases. Reformation should be the aim of the justice system eventually.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			



Q.4) Assess the effectiveness of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 in resolution of river-water disputes. Also describe the potential impact of delays in resolution of water disputes.

(10 marks, 150 words)

नदी-जल विवादों के समाधान में अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद अधिनियम, 1956 की प्रभावशीलता का आकलन कीजिए।
जल विवादों के समाधान में विलम्ब के संभावित प्रभाव का भी वर्णन कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Under Article 262, Union is assigned with resolution of inter-state river resource sharing. The above act is framed accordingly for cooperative federalism in mind.

Effectiveness

Success

- ① Tribunals formed for the individual disputes
eg) Kaveri dispute tribunal.
- ② Power of civil court as well as adherence to natural justice: the two sides given equal rights to be heard.
- ③ Finality of decision, equivalent to a Supreme Court (SC) justice.
- ④ Technical expertise through civil engineers, ecologists etc ensured.

Concerns

- ① No time-frame, leading to delays.
- ② Enforcement mechanism is less.
- ③ Post-implementation audit missing.
- ④ Stakeholders getting affected life
Farmers are not on the negotiation table.
- ⑤ Cases eventually go to Supreme court
i.e. Rehabilitation, land acquisition etc

This all leads to Delays with many implications:

- ⑥ Roadblock on development projects
i.e. Mahadayi river project.
- ⑦ Politicisation of issues
i.e. Kaveri river dispute: Karnataka vs Tamil Nadu.
- ⑧ Against cooperative federalism: increasing antipathic sentiments.
- ⑨ Policy paralysis: non implementation of resolution.

There is a need to ensure international best practices like UN water convention. This will lead from confrontation to competition to cooperation.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			



Q.5) Discuss the significance of the cooperative model of development in addressing the issues of rural growth. (10 marks, 150 words)

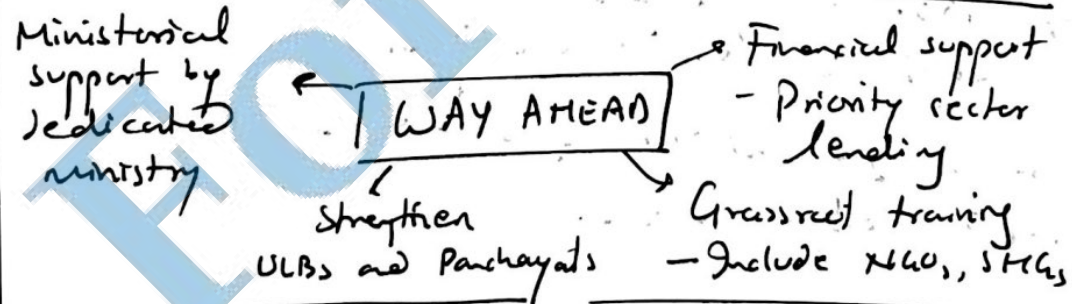
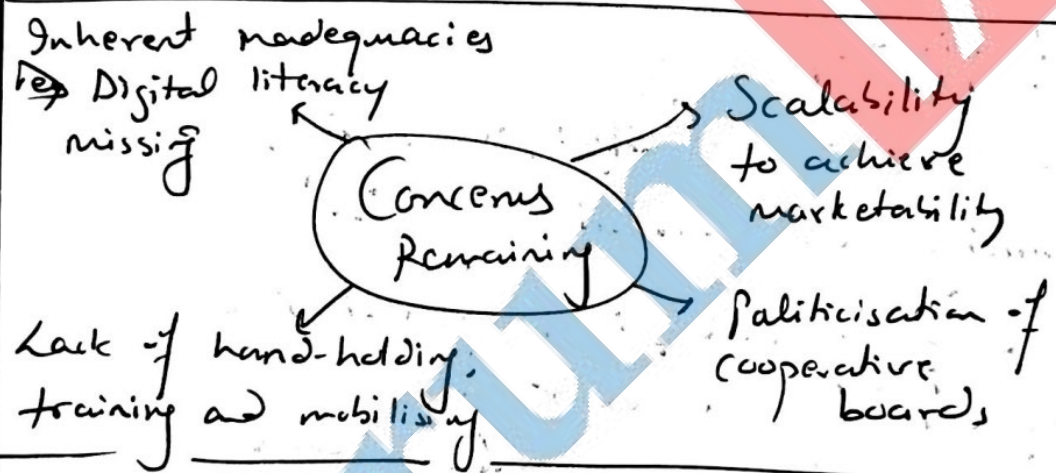
ग्रामीण विकास के मुद्दों के समाधान में विकास के सहकारी मॉडल के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

A separate Ministry of Cooperation was formed under the Prime Minister's head due to the centrality of the sector. Evergreen example like AMUL shows the potential it holds in bolstering rural growth.

Significance

- ① Access to credit: Mobilising and investing funds.
- ② Economy of scale: as against the fragmented rural economy
 ↳ 80% of farmers have small or marginal land-holdings.
- ③ Access to infrastructure such as shared hiring houses.
- ④ Market access by formal channels
 ↳ FPOs and cooperative farm-gate models.

- ⑤ Inclusion of deprived sections
 ↳ Women participation like MAVIK in Maharashtra.
- ⑥ Local best practices for self-employment
 ↳ Minor forest produce through TRIFED.
- ⑦ Brand-building like AMUL, due to Standardisation and marketing.



Cooperatives hold the potential to fulfil our vision of Gram Uday se Bharat Uday.
 It is to make rural economy self-reliant and prosperous.

Feedback
 (For OFFICE use only)

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Q.6) In order to pass the ultimate test of good governance, welfare state should be close to the people, responsive to their aspirations, and inclusive in its approach. Discuss with special reference to PM PVTG Development Mission. (10 marks, 150 words)

सुशासन मौलिक परीक्षा पास करने के लिए, कल्याणकारी राज्य को लोगों के करीब होना चाहिए, उनकी आकांक्षाओं के प्रति उत्तरदायी होना चाहिए और अपने दृष्टिकोण में समावेशी होना चाहिए। PM PVTG विकास मिशन के विशेष संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Budget 2023 aims to be spearheaded by inclusive growth. PVTG Development mission is launched for the groups formed under Debar Committee recommendations of: pre-agriculture technology, low literacy and declining population.

Test of Good Governance: PVTG mission

Close to the people

① Establish connectivity of disconnected hinterlands

ie) Odisha's Gurupriyo bridge in tribal connectivity.

② Accessible to the grassroots:

Need assessment + delivery to the ground:

③ Realistic assessment : as against top-down policy enforcement.

Responsive to aspirations

① Local issue assessment for local solutions.

② Not over-administer : Nehru's Parishad also in PVTG program :
"Sabka Saath, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vikas." spirit.

③ Water-fall approach envisioned in the program replaced with agile situational updation.

Inclusive

① Program aiming at antyoodaya for Samudaya.

② HDI development : low literacy and health indicators to be checked.

③ Equitable distribution of grants
⇒ Special PVTG funds

The program thus aims to reach the last mile. It is towards social justice so that whole of India marches to Amrit keel.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.7) To what extent collaboration between the state and civil society organizations (CSOs) help in addressing poverty and malnutrition in the country? (10 marks, 150 words)

राज्य और नागरिक समाज संगठनों (सीएसओ) के बीच सहयोग किस हद तक देश में गरीबी और कुपोषण को दूर करने में मदद करता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

CSOs are said to be the fourth pillar of democracy. In the neo-liberal development paradigm civil society is a partner for growth along with the government.

State \rightleftharpoons CSOs

Success

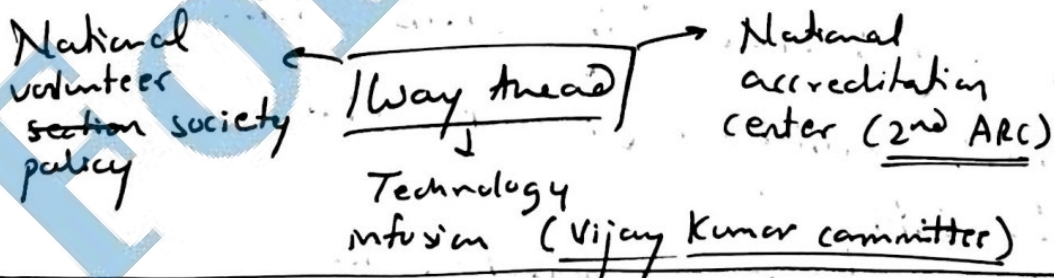
- ① Diverse agenda by giving voice to the marginalised
 ↳ Robinhood army NAO for BPL houses.
- ② Grassroot engagement and implementation
 ↳ Jagan steel during COVID crisis.
- ③ People's participation: with civic responsibility
 ↳ Volunteers, contributors etc.
- ④ Awareness generation of rights
 ↳ People's concern for governance group

in village Ambegon - delivery of PDS checked.

- ⑤ Micro-finance inclusion by bank-sakhis in STAs.
- ⑥ Local best practices emerge like Rajasthan millet program for addressing stunting and wasting using Panchayats.

Limitations

- ① Lack of funding crunch : need government support
- ② Formalisation is limited :
CBI report : only 10% file income tax.
- ③ Corruption avenue : shell companies or paper charities
⇒ Amnesty International raid.
- ④ Fear of foreign propaganda
⇒ religious freedom group.



The CSOs hold potential to leave no-one behind in our development story. Fair functions of the same with government will ensure growth for all.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use)

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Please put tick marks in the above table.	
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TOTAL MARKS	

Q.8) Absence of a robust social infrastructure in the country may become one of the most significant challenges in achieving a developed status by 2047. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

देश में एक मजबूत सामाजिक बुनियादी ढांचे की अनुपस्थिति 2047 तक विकसित स्थिति प्राप्त करने में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों में से एक बन सकती है। चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

"Economic growth without investment in human development is unsustainable and unethical." - Amartya Sen.

From growth to development in the journey made from inclusivity. This is to ensure India's Amrit Kal vision.

Absence of social infrastructure → challenge

- ① Demographic dividend may turn to liability without human and social infrastructure.
- ② Educated society as a productive society needs NEP, 2020 implementation.
- ③ Health parameters
 - 132% children stunted
 - 18% wasted
 - >50% women are anaemic

} Reduced productivity + Medical burden.
- ④ Community connect: such as old age homes in the wake of

nuclear families

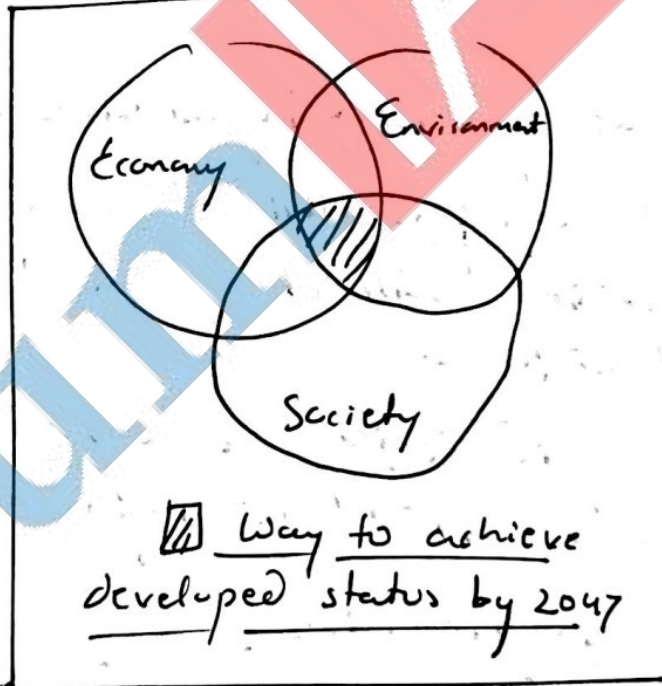
- ③ Social capital: absence of which may lead to conflict and loss
 ↳ Nuh and Manipur violence.

Social infrastructure → developed status

- ① Education: universal literacy, quality high education, R&D ⇒ knowledge capital.

- ② Healthy citizens
 ↓
 Robust workforce.

- ③ Social security
 cater to dependent population
 ↳ 2nd demographic dividend of senior citizen.



Way to achieve developed status by 2047

- ④ Community bonding: peaceful co-existence in the spirit of unity in diversity.

India has the potential to be a global power. A healthy social infrastructure along with economic growth will make its rise unstoppable.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use)

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Please put tick marks in the table.	
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TOTAL MARKS	

Q.9) Though the changing paradigm towards dialogue and diplomacy in West Asia augurs well for India's interests in this otherwise restive region, presence of inimical actors may reverse the gains. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

हालांकि पश्चिम एशिया में संवाद एवं कूटनीति के प्रति बदलते प्रतिमान इस अशांत क्षेत्र में भारत के हितों के लिए अच्छा संकेत है, लेकिन प्रतिकूल तत्वों की उपस्थिति लाभ को उलट सकती है। व्याख्या कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Recent developments like the Abrahamic Accords and the China brokered talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia have promised a new era in the Middle East. India's Look West policy tends to gain from it, provided some inimical actors are kept in check...

Gains for India

① Balancing act of India to get a push:

<u>Saudi Block</u>	<u>Iran block</u>	<u>Israel</u>
UAE Bahrain Oman	Yemen Syria	

② Complementarity: Israel technology and UAE capital can be now utilised by India.

③ Energy security: from Saudi Arabia + Iran (combined).

- ④ Economic and trade domain enlargement due to interconnectivity of the region.
- ⑤ Access to central Asia and western Europe \rightarrow INSTC corridor which is stalled so far.
- ⑥ Exit of proxy wars induced instability.

Reverse of gains - mimical players

- ① China as a vacuum filler in the region \rightarrow Iran: Saudi denture.
- ② Terrorist organisations like ISIS and Al-Qaeda still jeopardising the region.
- ③ Counter push by USA to assert its vain centrality in the region.
- ④ Traditional deterrents like Pakistan and Taliban to block India's connectivity to the region.

It is thus necessary for India to engage in the emerging trends. With its bilateral excellence and new reach like I2U2 India needs to maintain its centrality connect.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use)

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Please put tick marks in the table.	
Here G is Good Average and P is Poor.	
TOTAL MARKS	

Q.10) Water diplomacy can redefine the contours of regional cooperation in South Asia. Discuss with special reference to Indus water treaty 1960. (10 marks, 150 words)

जल कूटनीति दक्षिण एशिया में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग की रूपरेखा को फिर से परिभाषित कर सकती है। सिंधु जल संधि 1960 के विशेष संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Indus water treaty was brokered by the World Bank after 9 years of negotiations. It is a lasting successful diplomatic understanding in an otherwise least connected region in the world as per World Bank itself.

Water diplomacy → change regional cooperation

- ① Connectivity : through waterways, to propel other projects like TAPI pipeline.
- ② Trade and commerce : far much more economic sea and river routes.
- ③ Development diplomacy : Such as India-Nepal Arun hydropower and India-Bangladesh Chulcha and Teila hydropower projects.
- ④ Ecological restoration of the fragile

Himalayan hotspot shared by the region.

- ⑤ Institutional understanding from cooperation of the water resources to build up an more engagements.
- ⑥ Goodwill and soft-power from people by management of crucial resources.

Concerns remaining

- ① Skewed distribution:
80% usage to Pakistan
20% to India
- ② Lack of technical clarity
→ Run of the river, minimum storage qualifications.
- ③ Institutional disparities
→ Neutral expert & arbitration court.
- ④ Cross-border concerns: terrorism, arms and drug trafficking as overarching issues

Renegotiate (Article 13) → IWAY thread → Transboundary water convention
↓
Use regional groups like SAARC, BIMSTEC

India's Neighbourhood first policy needs to succeed in South Asia. Water diplomacy is an innovative approach to achieve that.

Feedback (For OFFICE use)

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TOTAL MARKS	

Q.11) Despite constitutional backing to the institutions of local governance, the idea of decentralisation has remained hostage to several structural bottlenecks. Elucidate.

(15 marks, 250 words)

स्थानीय शासन संस्थानों को संवैधानिक समर्थन के बावजूद, विकेंद्रीकरण का विचार कई संरचनात्मक बाधाओं का बंधक बना हुआ है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

73rd and 74th amendment acts introduced the 11th and 12th schedules. This established Panchayats and Urban local bodies in the spirit of the Principle of subsidiarity.

Constitutional backing

11th schedule: Panchayati Raj institutions:

- Gram Sabha
- 3-tier panchayati systems
- Universal adult franchise
- Women reservations ($\frac{1}{3}$)

12th schedule: Urban local bodies:

- Elected legislative bodies.
- Executive heads in the form of mayors
- District development plans.

Structural bottlenecks

- ① Fund limitations :
 - Limited self-generating capacities
 - Tied grants from the upper levels
- ② Function devolution : in a discretion of the state governments
- ③ Functionaries are ill-equipped due to lack of dedicated cadre.
- ④ Multiplicity of bodies
 - ↳ ULBs, district administration, special purpose vehicles (SPVs) for SMART city projects etc.
- ⑤ Lack of coordination and capacity-building
 - ↳ Unelected DM authority not bound to share authority.
- ⑥ Traditional patriarchal patterns continue
 - ↳ Pradhan pati.
- ⑦ Election delays, lack of Gram Sabha meetings etc.

Way forward

- ① Mandatory devolution of items from the state and concurrent list.
- ② Dedicated ULB and panchayat services cadre
- ③ Finance Commission recommendations for devolution of central grants.
- ④ Use of evaluation mechanisms like Panchayati Raj ministry + TISS → devolution performance index.
- ⑤ Digital governance
→ eGram Sabha + eGramswaraj portal.
- ⑥ Scheduled election and meeting calendar especially Gram Sabhas.
- ⑦ Mandatory Gram Sabha Development plans Panchayat (GPP) and district plans for project sanction.

"When self-governance is established, public opinion will do what violence can never do"
Gandhi Ji. This vision is possible by dedicated decentralisation and grassroots capacity building.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.12) Independent judiciary, as envisaged by the constitution, provides the bedrock for a thriving polity; however, executive encroachment may erode its credibility and affect its efficacy. Evaluate (15 marks, 250 words)

स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका, जैसा कि संविधान द्वारा परिकल्पित है, एक समृद्ध राजनीति के लिए आधार प्रदान करती है; हालाँकि, कार्यकारी अतिक्रमण इसकी विश्वसनीयता को कम कर सकता है और इसकी प्रभावकारिता को प्रभावित कर सकता है।
मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Indian Supreme court is established under Article 124 and high courts under Article 214. They ensure the saying: "Peace and Justice are two sides of the same coin" - to ensure a vibrant democracy.

Independent judiciary: thriving polity

- ① Final interpreter of constitution to maintain constitutional supremacy.
- ② Judicial review against legislative and executive actions
↳ Keshavananda Bharti case: Basic structure.
- ③ Fundamental rights are upheld
Article 32 and writ jurisdiction.

- ④ Advisory role under Article 143
for judicial guidance.
- ⑤ Judicial activism to fill executive/
legislative vacuum
 ↳ ECI selection verdict of
March 2023.
- ⑥ Appellate rules of SC and HC to
ensure correction of any faulty
judgements.
- ⑦ Court of record: establishing judicial
precedent.

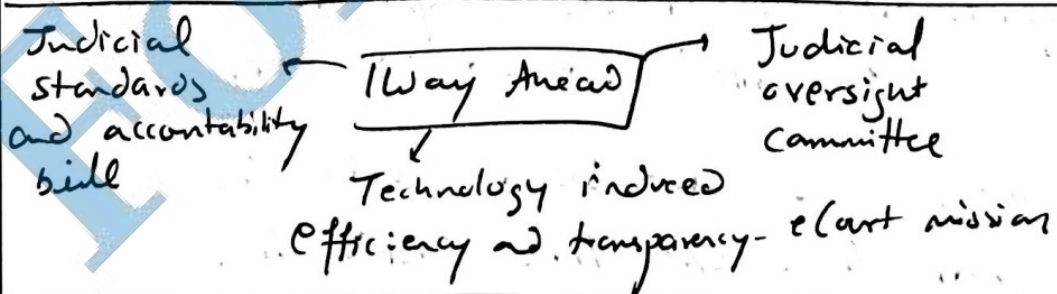
Executive encroachment

- ① Jeopardise selection on objectivity
 ↳ SC reservations against NSAC Act.
- ② Impartiality will be compromised
by a committed ~~success~~ judiciary.
- ③ Removal has also been checked in
the past from executive consideration
 ↳ Justice Deenakaran and Justice Ramaswamy
cases.

- ④ Promotion on preferential basis
→ Justice Bg. over seniority.
- ⑤ Post-retirement posts like Rajya Sabha posts can compromise justice
- ⑥ Individual liberty may be threatened with unchecked executive action.

However, some concerns remain with Judiciary itself too:

- ① Collegium system is opaque and leaves scope for nepotism.
- ② Contempt of court: judge in its own cause.
- ③ Judicial overreach concerns
→ Removal of alcohol shops from highways verdict.
- ④ Pendency: 86% in sub-ordinate courts and 60,000+ with SC.



A free and fair judiciary ensures functional democracy. Separation of powers with checks and balances is the way ahead.

Feedback (For OFFICE)

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Q.13) Executive agencies, working as the watchdog against impropriety, are vital to act against the corrupt; however, pandering to vested interests may have the effect of turning the idea of rule of law on its head. Comment, with special reference to controversies associated with the Enforcement Directorate (ED). (15 marks, 250 words)

अनौचित्य के विरुद्ध प्रहरी के रूप में कार्य करने वाली कार्यकारी एजेंसियाँ, भ्रष्टों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं; हालाँकि, निहित स्वार्थों को बढ़ावा देने से कानून के शासन के विचार को उल्टा करने जैसा असर हो सकता है। प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ईडी) से जुड़े विवादों के विशेष संदर्भ में टिप्पणी कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Enforcement Directorate deals with prevention of money laundering Act (PMCA), FEMA Act and the Economic offenders fugitive Act. It aims to form financial accountability by enforcing these laws.

Vitality of executive agencies

- ① check corruption \Rightarrow Central vigilance commission (CVC) for prevention of corruption act.
- ② Investigate serious crimes \Rightarrow CBI.
- ③ Prevent economic funds and loss to exchequer \Rightarrow ED.

④ Intelligence gathering
 ↳ Intelligence Bureau and RAW. (IB).

⑤ Preparedness and prevention of national threats

↳ National Investigation Agency (NIA) on terrorism.

⑥ International cooperation against crime
 ↳ With INTERPOL.

⑦ Consequent goal of good governance
 - Transparent and accountable.

(Concern - vested interests)

① Politicisation of executive agencies
 ↳ targeting opposition leaders through ED

② Unchecked powers to ED under PMLA:

- Search any properties
- Seize and attach them
- Carry out independent organisation.

- ③ Lack of objective criteria for accusations.
- ④ Reverses justice principle by burden of proving innocence on accused.
- ⑤ Procedural lacuna: Enforcement case Information Report (ECIR) is kept confidential.
- ⑥ Power to arrest for upto 7 years.

This makes the agencies susceptible to misuse. Thus, some checks are:

- ① External regulatory bodies for oversight.
- ② Judicial activism: with dimally low conviction
 - ↳ No conviction by ED from 2005-2014.
- ③ Independence from executive control
 - ↳ Salary and tenure to be fixed.

Viewing the centrality of these agencies, their objectivity is of utmost importance. 'To check the checker' is guarantee of a fair regulatory mechanism.

Feedback

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Q.14) Critically analyse the role of National Commission for Women (NCW) in wake of its mandate to safeguard women's rights and uphold their socio-economic wellbeing.

(15 marks, 250 words)

महिलाओं के अधिकारों की रक्षा और उनकी सामाजिक-आर्थिक भलाई को बनाए रखने के लिए राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग (एनसीडब्ल्यू) की भूमिका का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

National Commission for Women (NCW) was formed with the vision:
"It is not only a man vs woman issue. It is a people vs prejudice issue." It aims to provide gender justice by safeguarding women's rights and ensure their well-being.

Role of NCW

Positives

- ① Power to take suo-motu action if enquiry
 ↳ Engagement in "Chuppi todo" Campaign during COVID, domestic violence cases. lockdown
- ② Enquire into particular complaints
 ↳ Dance teacher Padman sexually abusing students case.

- ③ Help to civil society organisations:
fund + administrative support
→ NLU + Gooj collaboration in
Haryana.
- ④ Advocacy and awareness generation on
rights of women such as during
Amit Mahotsav event - plays.
- ⑤ Research in human rights and humanities.
- ⑥ International collaboration for best
practices → UNHRC, UNICEF etc.
- ⑦ Evaluation of Constitutional } Annual
safeguards and their } Report
implementation
- ⑧ Advisory role

Limitations

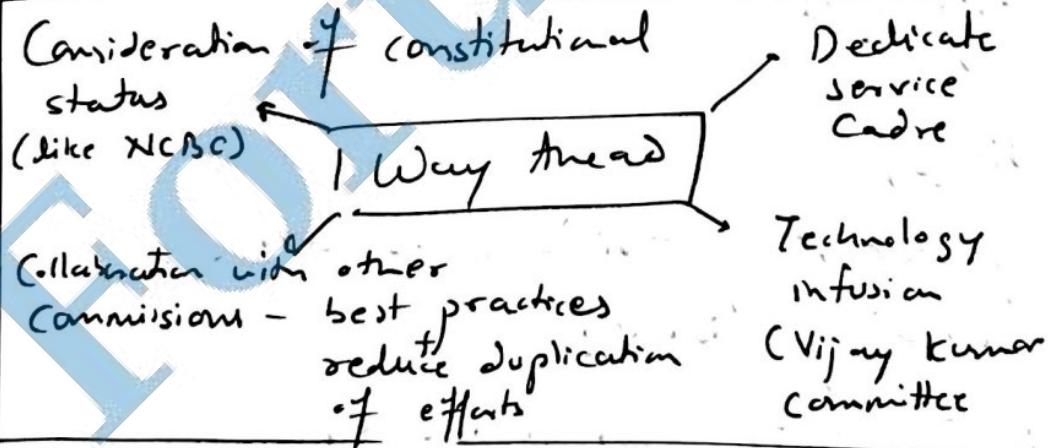
- ① No power to provide compensation
or award punishment.
- ② Limited civil court powers on
examining and summoning leading to contempt
of orders.

- ③ Lack of institutional infrastructure
 - Staff shortage
 - Administrative lacuna
 - Training limitations.

- ④ Overlap of functions
 ↳ Double-burden of women from minority sections, and vulnerable castes.

- ⑤ Fund-crunch and infrastructure dispensament
 ↳ Multiplicity schemes : Swadhar gruh, one stop centers etc.

- ⑥ Informalisation and fragmentation of development industry



"Yata vanyantu pujanya, ramante tatra deraha".
 Now has a crucial role in ensuring that through gender sensitisation and empowerment.

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TOTAL MARKS	

Q.15) Understanding the extent, source, and complexity of deprivations among the multidimensionally poor contributes to more informed policymaking. In this context, analyze the latest National Multidimensional Poverty Index Report by NITI Aayog. (15 marks, 250 words)

बहुआयामी गरीबों के बीच वंचितों की सीमा, स्रोत और जटिलता को समझना अधिक सूचित नीति निर्माण में योगदान देता है। इस संदर्भ में, नीति-आयोग द्वारा नवीनतम राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक रिपोर्ट का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) by NITI Aayog uses Amartya Sen's conception of poverty as:

"Not just a lack of money, but not having the capability to realise one's full potential." It thus expands across health, education and standard of living.

Informed policy-making through:

Understanding extent

① MPI (NITI) continuing the long trend of poverty incidence assessment from Tendulkar committee.

② Intensity is assessed for qualitative distinction

Top SC/ST communities are observed disproportionate share in Multi-dimensionally

poor in NITI Aayog report.

③ Regional dispersal of poverty

↳ Urban-rural distinction observed

④ Social extent of poverty

↳ Gujarat's food habits are seen to contribute in nutritional poverty despite economic ability.

⑤ Future course of upliftment assessed from present extent of MPI.

SOURCE

① Social factors playing significant role:
- Caste - Gender - Minority communities.

② Economic reason:

↳ Lack of ownership of women leading to patriarchal dependence.

③ Political participation shortcomings are also observed to contribute in MPI:

↳ 14% women in Lok Sabha.

④ Ecological encroachment: affecting tribal,

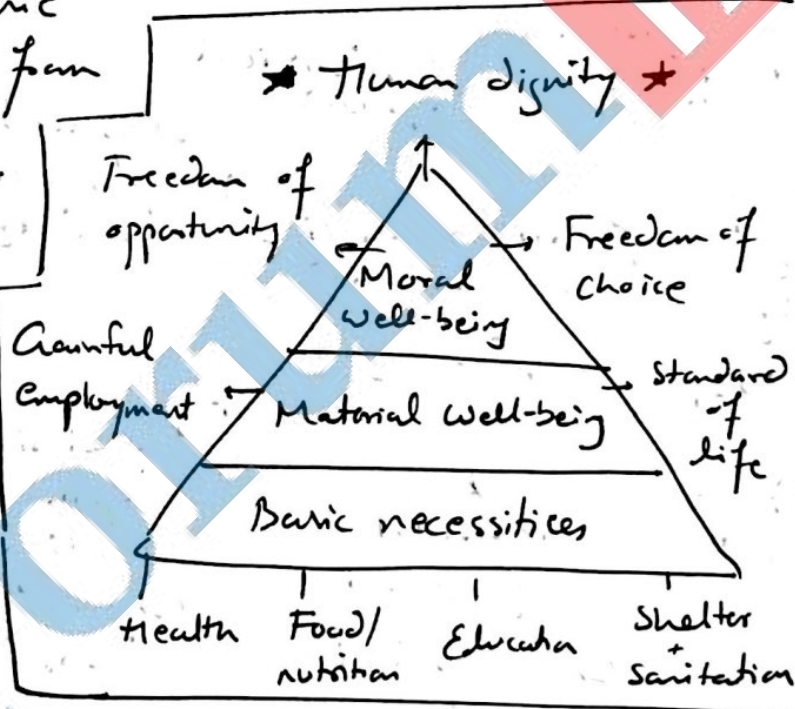
first dependant communities disproportionately in MPI report by NITI Aayog.

Complexity

- ① Going beyond economic terms from growth (quantitative) to development (qualitative)
- ② Inclusion of human development parameters : health, education.
- ③ Consideration of historical factors

like systemic deprivation from decision making posts.

④ Consequent multi-pronged solutions



"Eradication of poverty is not just a gesture of charity. It is an act of Justice." - Nelson Mandela. National MPI report provides the ground to form policy for zero poverty

MPI - eradication strategy

"Eradication of poverty is not just a gesture of charity. It is an act of Justice." - Nelson Mandela. National MPI report provides the ground to form policy for zero poverty

Feedback

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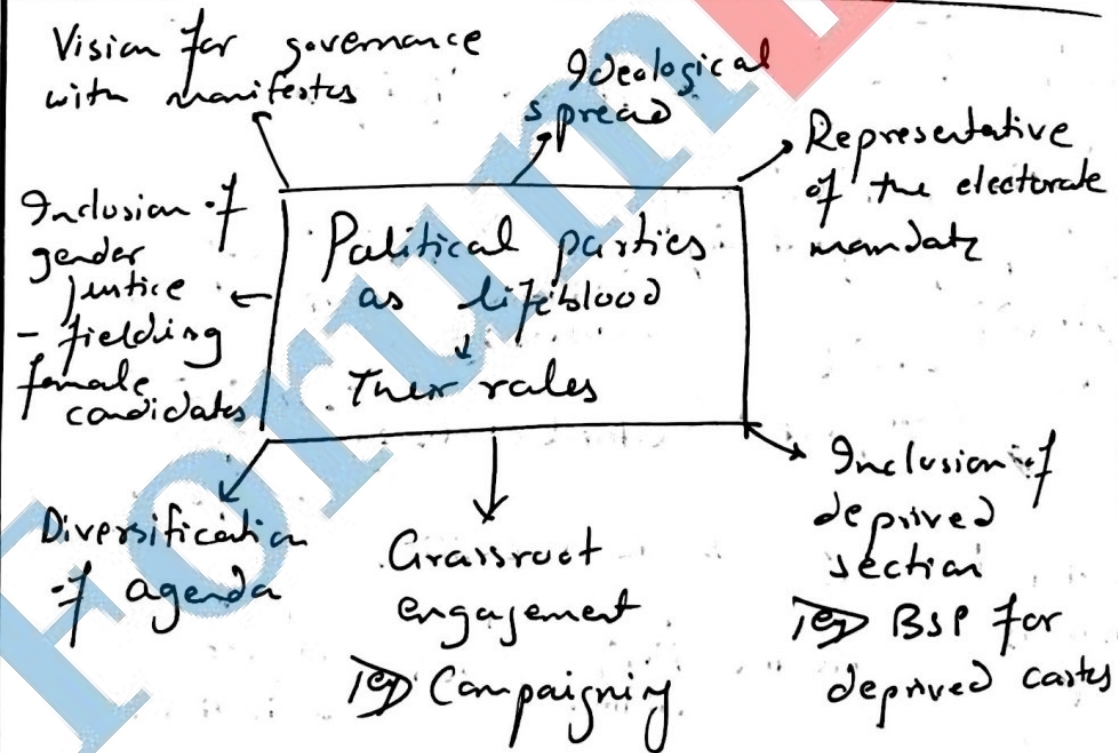
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Q.16) Though lifeblood of a representative democracy, political parties are beset with challenges of their own, limiting their larger role in democratization of the society. (15 marks, 250 words)

हालांकि एक प्रतिनिधिक लोकतंत्र की जीवनरेखा, राजनीतिक दल अपनी स्वयं की चुनौतियों से घिरे हुए हैं, जिससे समाज के लोकतंत्रीकरण में उनकी बड़ी भूमिका सीमित हो गई है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Indian polity is a mosaic of national, regional and local parties. It adds to the diverse democratic spirit by encouraging participation of varied voices in the country's governance.



However, many concerns beset the parties themselves to prevent democratisation:

- ① Lack of inner-party democracy
- Nepotism or dynastic rules.
- ② Criminalisation of politics
 ↳ 43% of MLAs in the 17th Lok Sabha have criminal cases against them.
- ③ Limited role for women in leadership positions.
 ↳ 14% in Lok Sabha are women, despite constituting half of the population.
- ④ Money and muscle power even after reform life electoral bonds.
- ⑤ Identity politics: weaponisation of Caste, religion, language etc for vote-banks.
- ⑥ Irresponsible behaviour such as canquets.

by a minister during campaigning against a community.

- ⑦ Limited meritocracy such as criteria of educational qualification for selections.

Way Ahead

- ① State funding for parties (Binesh Goswami Committee)
- ② Model code of conduct to be given legal status (Iyer Committee).
- ③ Check on criminalisation (Vohra Committee)
- ④ Intra-party democracy such as reservation for women candidates.
- ⑤ Grassroot creation of leaders
 ⇒ Stringed check on pati-prata so that women leaders emerge from Panchayats and ULBs.

Democracy thrives on pluralistic participation. Political parties can be the foundation for vibrant legislators and executives.

Feedback

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Q.17) Safely managed drinking water services, as desired by Jal Jeevan Mission, are designated to give multifarious benefits cutting across generations. Discuss. Also, elaborate upon the challenges in ensuring the mission's success. (15 marks, 250 words)

जल जीवन मिशन की इच्छानुसार सुरक्षित रूप से प्रबंधित पेयजल सेवाएं, पीढ़ियों तक विविध लाभ देने के लिए नामित की गई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, मिशन की सफलता सुनिश्चित करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों के बारे में भी विस्तार से बताएं। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

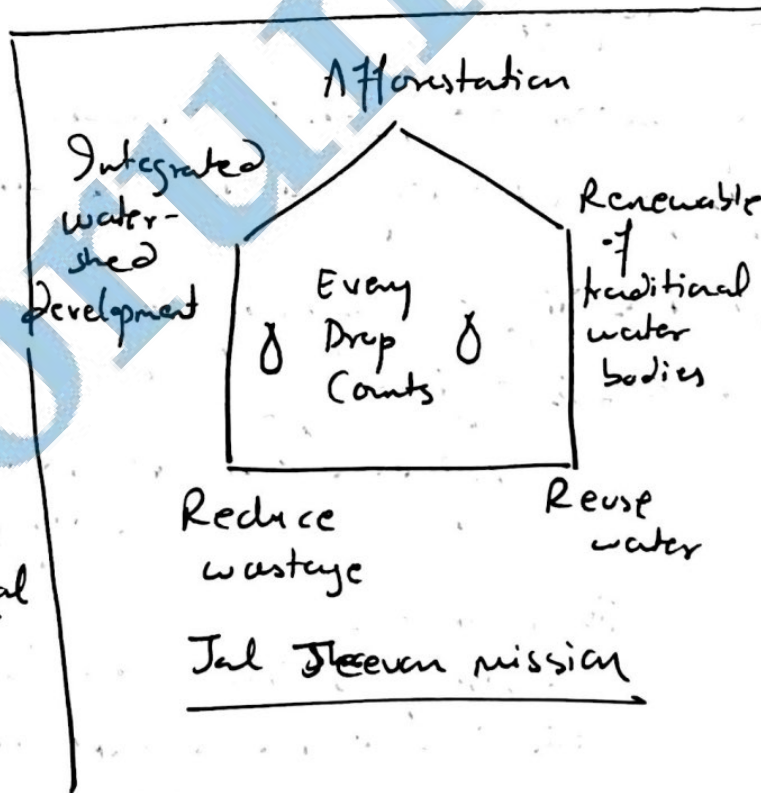
Jal Jeevan mission is the pioneer project of the Jal Shakti ministry.

600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress (NITI Aayog Composite water management index). This reflects the centrality of the mission.

Multifarious benefits across generations

① Gender justice: as women bear disproportionate burden of water woes at present.

② Health parameters across maternal and child health.



- ③ Standard of life improvement with drinking water as a leading parameter in MPI (Multi-dimensional poverty).
- ④ Sanitation: fulfil goals of schemes like WASH, for long-term health.
- ⑤ Economic and educational participation possible from reduced wasteful labour hours in fetching water.
- ⑥ Free from pollution induced diseases such as ~~malaria~~ Cholera, ~~acute~~ decay etc.

Challenges

- ① Infrastructural gaps: connected water supply network across all villages.
- ② Availability: disparity of water resources is regionally
 - Rajasthan west vs North east (200+ cm of rainfall)
 - (ii) Temporal
 - 90% of India's water is received between June-september.

- ③ Climate change induced extremities.
 ↳ Droughts, floods → intensity and frequency increase.
- ④ Depleting ground water resources
 ↳ 80% agricultural demand met from it, leading to lowering water table.
- ⑤ Institutional lacuna : fund, function, functionary limitations of Panchayati Raj institutions.
- ⑥ Qualitative delivery a challenge: increased heavy metal, river water pollution etc.

Way Ahead

- ① Rainwater harvesting for local availability.
- ② Traditional best practices revived
 ↳ Tankas, johad.
- ③ Use of MANREGA funds and labour for the mission.
- ④ Regulatory mechanism on quality as well as usage ↳ water-metering.

"Every drop counts," drives the "Har Ahar Jal" vision of the mission. Parthasarthy committee recommendation can sustainably assure its success.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.18) Legislation like Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 remains mere legal documents without intense sensitization of public functionaries and the civil society. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति (अत्याचार निवारण) अधिनियम, 1989 जैसे कानून सार्वजनिक पदाधिकारियों और नागरिक समाज की गहन संवेदनशीलता के बिना केवल कानूनी दस्तावेज बनकर रह गए हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

"Untouchability is a sin of the soul" - Mahatma Gandhi.

In the wake of preamble's vision of justice and equality, actions are taken to prohibit discrimination against SC and ST communities.

Behavioural change and social psyche needs to drive the true spirit of the legislation.

SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

- ① Strict deterrence against discriminative acts.
- ② Zero tolerance policy on caste-induced crimes.
- ③ Protection for the systematically deprived sections.
- ④ Affirmative action in a conducive, safe environment.

Without sensitisation - more legal document

Public functionaries

- ① Need to implement the measures first-hand with zero-tolerance.
- ② No biasness permissible in application.
- ③ Sensitisation of the powerful necessary to empathise with the powerless.
- ④ Institutional discrimination possible in absence of sensitisation
 ↳ Greater conviction rate of SC/ST members.
- ⑤ Structural discrimination possible if public functionaries themselves are desensitised
 ↳ Non-filing of FIR.

Civil society

- ① Psychological equality can be established by behavioural transformation and not just fear of punishment
 ↳ fellow-feeling, humanism.

② Inherent caste-bias in social institutions like endogamy perpetuate segregation : Dr. Ambedkar.

③ Affirmative action to succeed need collective social support : right from education institutes, hospitals and employment workspaces.

④ Sensitisation will also prevent misuse of the Act.

Therefore, the [way forward] is :

- ① Community connect programs such as common meals, sabha sammelans etc.
- ② Support diluting boundaries like inter-caste marriage.
- ③ Value-based education including caste sensitisation and eradication from school.
- ④ Training of public officials to dispel inherent caste-biases.
- ⑤ Institutional support like International Ambedkar Studies Forum in Delhi.

'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is possible through a strengthened society. This is possible when humanity is prioritised over accidents of birth.

Feedback

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Q.19) Harbinger of global rebalancing, India-Africa ties are a beacon of inclusive, sustainable, and equitable world. Explain. (15 marks, 250 words)

वैश्विक पुनर्संतुलन के अग्रदूत, भारत-अफ्रीका संबंध समावेशी, टिकाऊ और न्यायसंगत दुनिया का एक प्रतीक हैं। व्याख्या कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

In India-Africa defence dialogue, India voiced its approach to the continent as:

"Africa's best resources live on the African soil. Not under it."

This means India-Africa ties prioritise human development, on which an inclusive, sustainable and equitable world order can be formed.

Global rebalancing: India+Africa ties

- ① Push for south-south cooperation.
- ② Voice for representation of the south: African seat in expanded UNSC.
- ③ Against arm-twisting and exploitative imperialism of the north.

These principles drive our ties towards a world that is:

Inclusive

① Democratic voices at the international arena

⇒ India's stance for African union seat in G20.

② Prioritisation of the south's concern

⇒ Food, fuel, fertiliser crisis during COVID crisis.

③ Humanitarian and developmental diplomacy

⇒ Capacity building through student exchange, diplomat training etc.

④ Economic dispersal of growth: India's push for IT parks development in ~~India~~ Nigeria.

Equitable

① Self-sufficiency of human capital through investment in grassroots healthcare

⇒ India's generic medicine help to African nations.

② Equitability in Emergency concept

adopted such as Vaccine Maitri Drive.

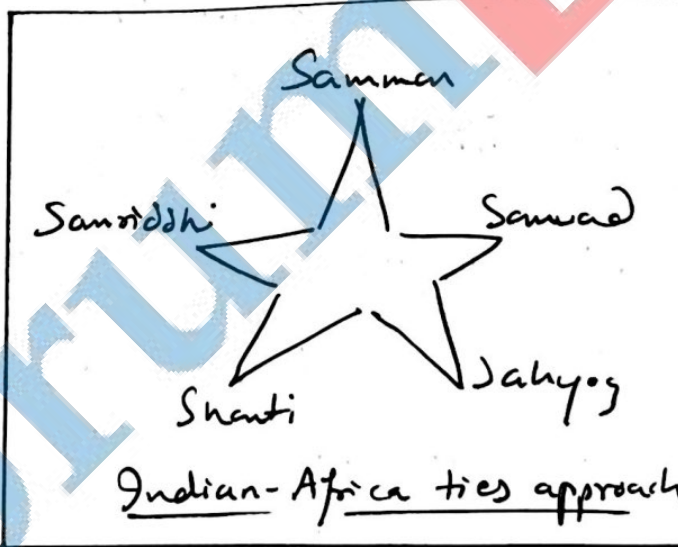
- (3) Importance to African agenda at par with global north in G-20, as against veto of UNSC.
- (4) Sustainability of benefit-sharing from India's projects like Asia-Africa development corridor.

Sustainability

- ① Combined voice for "common but differentiated responsibilities"
- ② Collective efforts for climate change mitigation

ICDR and International Solar Alliance-

- (3) Traditional best practices like India's LiFE and Africa's pro-planet lifestyle.



- (4) Alternate development model of circular economy - India: Africa as solution providers.

If this century is of Asia, the time of Africa is also ripe. By extending our diplomatic, economic and developmental presence in Africa, India can aim for its position as a global leader for equitable world.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
S & F			
P & R			
Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.20) How do ASEAN centrality, rules-based order, and development partnership with Pacific Island states make Indo-Pacific a theatre of opportunity for India? What are the hurdles in realisation of an inclusive Indo-Pacific construct? (15 marks, 250 words)

प्रशांत द्वीप देशों के साथ आसियान केंद्रीयता, नियम-आधारित व्यवस्था और विकास साझेदारी हिंद-प्रशांत को भारत के लिए अवसर का मंच कैसे बनाती है? एक समावेशी हिंद-प्रशांत निर्माण की प्राप्ति में क्या बाधाएं हैं?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Indo-Pacific is an essential geo-political construct from eastern African coast to western American coast. It hints at USA's pivot to Asia policy as well as India's centrality with other emerging powers like China.

1 Opportunity for India

ASEAN centrality

- ① India's Act East policy through the bloc.
- ② Model for regional cooperation for collective development.
- ③ Partner in global value chain
 (key) Rise of ASEAN tigers.

Rule-based order

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- ① SAGAR doctrine in a stable world order.
- ② Against unilateral aggression
⇒ Deterrence to China's 9-dash line against UNCLOS.
- ③ Trade efficiency: India's 90% trade by volume is through sea routes like crucial Malacca straight.

Development partnership

- ① India's voice of the global south pitch.
- ② Environmental justice
⇒ Aosis of small island nations.
- ③ India's digital delivery of services to Pacific island states as development diplomacy.

Concerns in inclusive Indo-Pacific

① Chinese aggression: South China sea + string of pearls.

② Militarisation of the region

↳ Japan's push post Russia-Ukraine war.

③ Multiplicity of institutions

↳ AUKUS.

④ USA's expectations on an alliance-based approach from India

↳ FONOP exercises without informing India.

Regional cooperation

Way Ahead

↳ MALABAR exercise

Capacity building

↳ INCOIS, Information fusion center

— Securing seas report of Indian Navy

Issue based multi-alignment: QUAD

Prime Minister laid India's vision of a open and secure Indo-Pacific in Shangri La dialogue. It is possible by moving from conflict to cooperation for Greater of All.