

TEST CODE 6 1 2 4 0 2

FIAS | MGP 2023 | Open Test – GS Paper #2

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

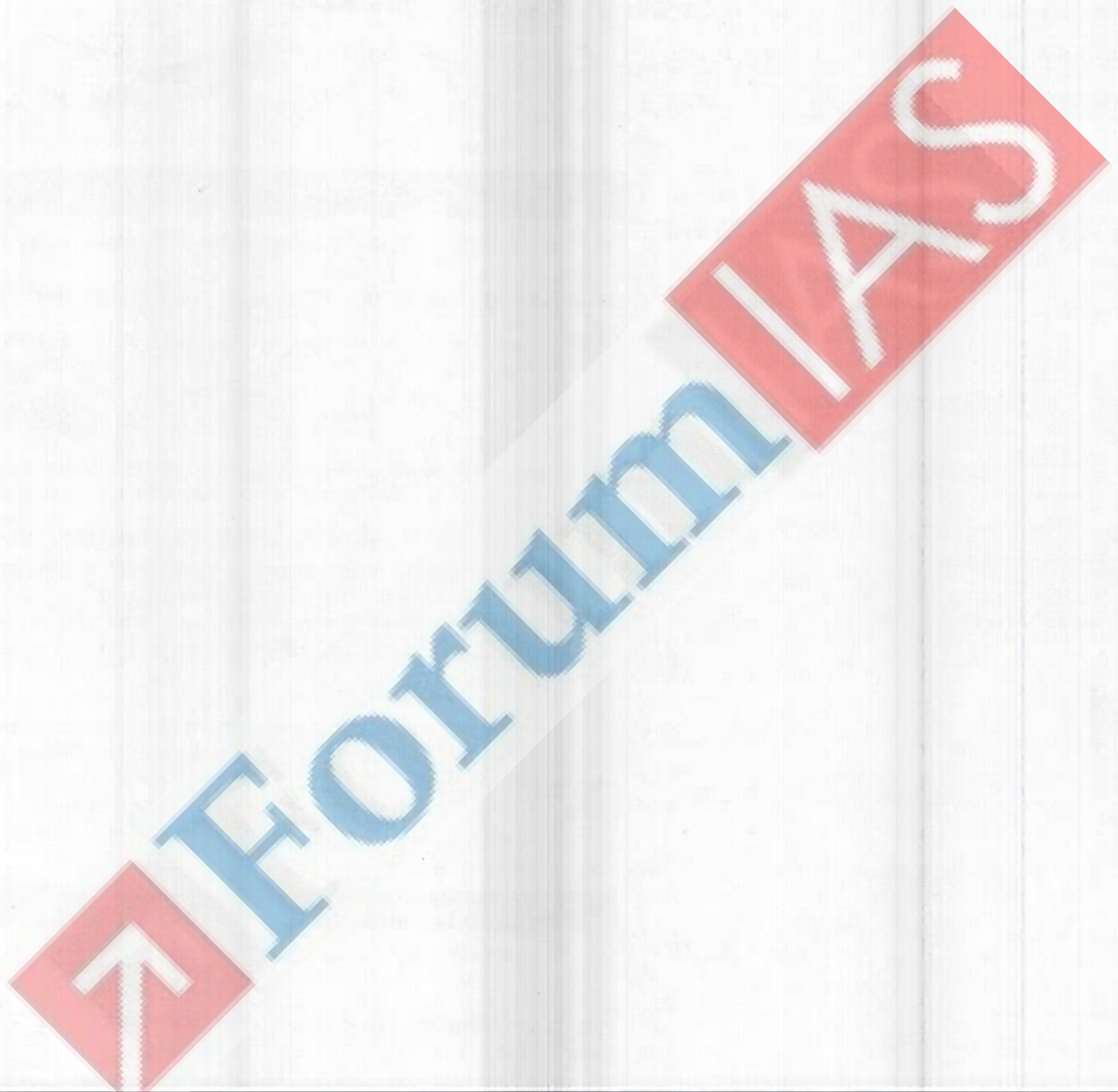
Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Nagendra Babu Kumar		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910051052	Medium/माध्यम	English <input type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा कोड	1901	Date/दिनांक	02 Sep 2023

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol Bagh - 1901, GRN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमिका			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 (OCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर 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 :	
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>	Offline/ऑफलाइन <input checked="" 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: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the solution provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Asks specific questions, to get specific answers.

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) Critically evaluate the significance of the Basic Structure Doctrine in the five decades since its judicial pronouncement. (10 marks, 150 words)

बुनियादी संरचना सिद्धांत के न्यायिक प्रवर्तन के बाद से पांच दशकों में इसके महत्त्व का आलोचनात्मक मुल्यांकन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Basic Structure doctrine evolved by Supreme Court in 1973 in Kesavananda Bharati case says that Certain Characteristics of Constitution which when changed destroys the character of the constitution cannot be changed by way of Amendment by the parliament.

Significant benefits

- ① To maintain the Constitutional Supremacy.
 - [Eg] To protect Republican and Democratic nature of the state.
- ② To safeguard the rights of the people.
 - [Eg] A. 32, 14, 19 which protect fundamental rights of people are basic to Constitution.
- ③ To promote welfare of public - as India is a welfare state.

- (iv) To ensure checks and balances through Separation of powers.
- (v) Judicial Independence as basic trait.
- (vi) To strengthen the structure of polity.
- (vii) Federalism as basic to Constitution in S.R. Bommai case.
- (viii) To safeguard constitutionalism and democratic ethos.
- (ix) Free & fair elections.

Issues → Judicial Overreach or Supremacy
 → Hampers the balance separation of powers
 → Goes against the needs of society as some day society may need different Constitution.

However, the basic structure doctrine has proved to be more beneficial than damaging to the Indian masses. However, delicate balance is necessary and judicial restraint should be the norm except when necessary.

Feedback

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#	G	A	P
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S & F			
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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) Though defamation law is vital to protect one's reputation and dignity in society, weaponization of the same to curb dissent and free speech is antithetical in a constitutional democracy. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

यद्यपि मानहानि कानून समाज में किसी की प्रतिष्ठा और गरिमा की रक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन संवैधानिक लोकतंत्र में असहमति और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए इसका हथियारीकरण विरोधामासी है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Constitution provides freedom of Speech and Expression while imposing reasonable restrictions on the grounds including defamation.

Advantages of Defamation Law

Defamation is tried under Sec. 499 and

500 of IPC.

① It will help to protect the hard earned reputation and dignity.

[Eg] Any big company falsely accused of malpractices can use it.

② To provide legal remedy in case of increasing social media, where one click can create havoc in social media.

- ③ To ensure Excellence in the society as most of the times swarthinks of big politicians who contribute to society are targeted.
- ④ To curb Intortion or blackmailing or frivolous accusations.

However, it has its flip side.

- ① It is used to muzzle the dissent.
 - ↳ Eg) Rahul Gandhi case in 2023.
- ② It is against the free speech.

However, the technological improvements to weed out the fake claims and fact check units along with critical thinking in the public is necessary.

Thus, we can ensure balance between the rights of everyone and ensure inclusive and pluralistic society.

Feedback

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Q.3) Explore the legal-constitutional basis for the conflicts between the elected government and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor over the governance process in the Union Territory of Delhi. Analyse the role that the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 2023, can play in resolving it. (10 marks, 150 words)

केंद्र शासित प्रदेश दिल्ली में शासन प्रक्रिया को लेकर निर्वाचित सरकार और उपराज्यपाल की संस्था के बीच टकराव के कानूनी-संवैधानिक आधार का अन्वेषण कीजिए। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली सरकार अधिनियम, 2023 इसे हल करने में क्या भूमिका निभा सकता है, इसका विश्लेषण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Indian Constitution provides for federal structure, however, Delhi is considered as UT with legislature under Article 229AA.

The conflict between elected government and LG in UT of Delhi borne out of :-

① Article 229AA mentions that LG to act on aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. In case of difference of opinion in any matter, he can refer it to the President.

However, ^{In} NCT Delhi Case 2018, the Supreme Court held that any matter does not mean every matter.

② In May 2023, the Supreme Court held that Services fall under the Control of elected Government of Delhi.

The Central government came up with Ordinance to include services under the Union list in Delhi along with previously held land, police and public order.

Thus, later it was passed by the Parliament which created a National Capital and Services Authority involving Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Principal Home Secretary to decide on appointment and transfer of services in Delhi.

However, Delhi government challenge this Act on the basis that Ordinance was brought to amend the constitution.

As the case is *sub-judice*, we can suggest both Delhi and Union governments to go for further consultations to resolve the issue.

Feedback

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Q.4) The objective of the Mediation Bill, 2023 is to have a mediation first approach to civil and commercial disputes resolution, with the purpose of reducing the burden of litigation on Courts, providing alternate means of disputes resolution, and enhancing the country's reputation as an investor friendly destination. Comment, with special emphasis on the salient features of the bill.

(10 marks, 150 words)

मध्यस्थता विधेयक, 2023 का उद्देश्य अदालतों पर मुकदमेबाजी के बोझ को कम करने, विवाद समाधान के वैकल्पिक साधन प्रदान करने और निवेशक अनुकूल गंतव्य के रूप में देश की प्रतिष्ठा को बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से नागरिक और वाणिज्यिक विवादों के समाधान के लिए मध्यस्थता प्रथम दृष्टिकोण रखना है। विधेयक की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर विशेष जोर देते हुए टिप्पणी कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Indian Constitution under A-29A

Calls on the state to provide legal aid for the poor. Mediation is a form of alternate dispute resolution mechanism where a neutral person mediates between the parties to conflict to come to an amicable solution.

Advantages

- ① This will reduce the burden on Courts where about 45 Crores of cases are pending in subordinate courts.
- ② This can reduce the expenses of parties to the case.
- ③ It will reduce the litigations and improves the ranking of India in Ease of Doing Business.

Thus, mediation along with arbitration and Reconciliation are a way to reform the Criminal justice system.

However, the measures like:-

- ① Increasing awareness among public.
- ② Providing for plea bargaining in Courts.
- ③ Courts nudging out of the Court settlement.
- ④ Lawyers with integrity should be nominated to ensure level playing field for all.

Thus, we can ensure justice to all and improve the economic growth as ²⁰¹⁹ Economic Survey put that judicial pendency leads to loss of about 1-2% of GDP annually.

Thus, it can be win-win situation for all the stakeholders.

Feedback

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Q.5) A middle point between socialism and capitalism, cooperatives bring the best of the both worlds. Assess the utility of the cooperative model in effecting rural prosperity.

(10 marks, 150 words)

समाजवाद और पूंजीवाद के बीच एक मध्य बिंदु, सहकारी समितियां दोनों दुनिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ लाती हैं। ग्रामीण समृद्धि को प्रभावित करने में सहकारी मॉडल की उपयोगिता का आकलन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Co-operatives is a model based on members being owners of the organization and Indian Constitution in A. 43B provides that State to promote voluntary formation, democratic functioning & control of Cooperatives.

It is mid point between Capitalism and Socialism:-

Capitalism

Private ownership of means of production & distribution.

Socialism

State control of means of production & distribution.

Cooperatives

Members are owners, be it small farmer or big capitalist.

Co-operatives in Rural prosperity.

① It pools resources of small players to increase bargaining powers.

[Ex] FPOs in rural areas among farmers.

② It increases investments.

[Ex] PACS under DCC Banks.

③ It leads to employment generation.

[Ex] SHCs in rapkin production in Jharkhand.

④ Women empowerment and skill improvement.

[Ex] women participating in panchayat elections being won.

However, lack of awareness, elite capture, corruption and mismanagement, Red tapism and caste discrimination has been hindrances.

The recent formation of Separate Co-operative Ministry at the central level is a step in right direction. Rather than politicization of cooperatives, we need to make them tools of rural socio-economic development.

Feedback

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Q.6) Evaluate the efficacy of Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) and Panchayat (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) in attaining their mandate. Also, recommend measures to make these legislations more effective in attaining their desired objectives. (10 marks, 150 words)

वन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2006 (एफआरए) और पंचायत (अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों का विस्तार) अधिनियम, 1996 (पीईएसए) की प्रभावकारिता का मूल्यांकन उनके अधिदेश को प्राप्त करने में कीजिए। साथ ही, इन विधानों को उनके वांछित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के उपायों की सिफारिश कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India has about 8.6% of tribal population and the governance of tribal areas based on Tribal Panchsheel principles has led to Acts like FRA, 2006 and PESA, 1996.

FRA, 2006

It has led to legal recognition of tribal rights over land and forest resources by the individual as well as community. It has also led to joint forest management of about 22 million ha in India.

- However, Issues are
- Rejection of claims (50% overall)
 - Lack of awareness among the tribals.
 - Unabated mining and land acquisition.
 - Pending cases with District authorities.

DESA, 1996

To provide for self-administration based on the socio-cultural practices of tribals in about 10 states. Gram Sabha to be the nucleus of all the activities in Panchayats giving rise to people participation, transparency and accountability.

However, the EIA rules and recent changes to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to relax the consultation of Gram Sabha on strategic projects have caused criticisms.

However, they have been helpful in raising the awareness of Environmental Conservation involving indigenous population.

And, their proper implementation will ensure equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

Feedback

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Q.7) Differentiate between the legal and illegal means adopted by advocacy networks to advance their interests. What are the factors that limit their effectiveness as a pressure group?

(10 marks, 150 words)

अपने हितों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए दबाव समूह द्वारा अपनाए गए कानूनी और गैर-कानूनी तरीकों के बीच अंतर कीजिए। वे कौन से कारक हैं जो एक दबाव समूह के रूप में उनकी प्रभावशीलता को सीमित करते हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Pressure groups are the associations of people with particular interest in pursuit of which they choose different methods like Lobbying, Campaigning, electioneering, advocacy etc.

Legal means adopted - As per the law.

- ① Electioneering where advocacy groups nominate their candidate in the election.
- ② Campaigning where groups support someone who is already a candidate.
- ③ Propagandizing through op-eds and TV debates.

④ Farmers organizations involve in all the above 2 methods.

④ Road blocks or sit ins.

Illegal methods

- ① Cronyism and lobbying ^{eg} By big Corporate associations.
- ② Fake news and narrative creation ^{causing} law & order issues.
- ③ Damage to public Infrastructure.

However, their impact is limited!

- ① Lack of social base & limited reach.
- ② Lack of resources for smaller groups.
- ③ Lack of ideological coherence.
- ④ Anomic behaviour.
- ⑤ Lacking leadership.

Thus, the plural societies need functioning pressure groups involving legal methods. Thus, we will be able to ensure rule of law and Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikaas.

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Q.8) Discuss the steps taken by the government in empowering Self Help Groups as a development partner in poverty alleviation. Also highlight the challenges in the working of SHGs.

(10 marks, 150 words)

गरीबी उन्मूलन में विकास भागीदार के रूप में स्वयं सहायता समूहों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर चर्चा कीजिए। एसएचजी के कामकाज में चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Economic Survey 2022-23 mentions that there are about 1.2 crore SHGs in India with successful state policies to promote them.

Steps taken by government

- ① States like Kerala in Kumbashree and Bihar in Aarika supporting SHGs.
- ② NABARD policy of SHG-Bank linkage programme to provide them formal credit.
- ③ Central government promoting FPOs to improve agricultural production and income.
- ④ Government involving in skilling members of SHGs through Rashtriya Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

⑤ Increasing the limit of credit to SHCs to as much as 10 lakhs.

This has led to women empowerment where 88% of members are women. However, there are challenges too:-

- ① Elite capture in the SHCs.
- ② Regional imbalances [eg] Southern states dominate over the northern states.
- ③ SHCs are more focused on urban areas.
- ④ High rate of credit was recorded in some SHCs leading to exploitation.
- ⑤ Caste based discrimination.
- ⑥ Lack of transparency in members activities and hence diversion of funds.
- ⑦ Instances of non-repayment.

Hence, there is a need for reforms to ensure transparency and utilize resources effectively for intended purposes to ensure equitable development.

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.9) Changing strategic realities come with their own constraints and possibilities. Describe briefly India's defense diplomacy in the context of contemporary geopolitics.

(10 marks, 150 words)

बदलती रणनीतिक वास्तविकताएं अपनी बाधाओं और संभावनाओं के साथ आती हैं। समकालीन भू-राजनीति के संदर्भ में भारत की रक्षा कूटनीति का संक्षेप में वर्णन कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The geopolitics in contemporary times is described as decline of west and the rise of east leading to increased geopolitical tensions.

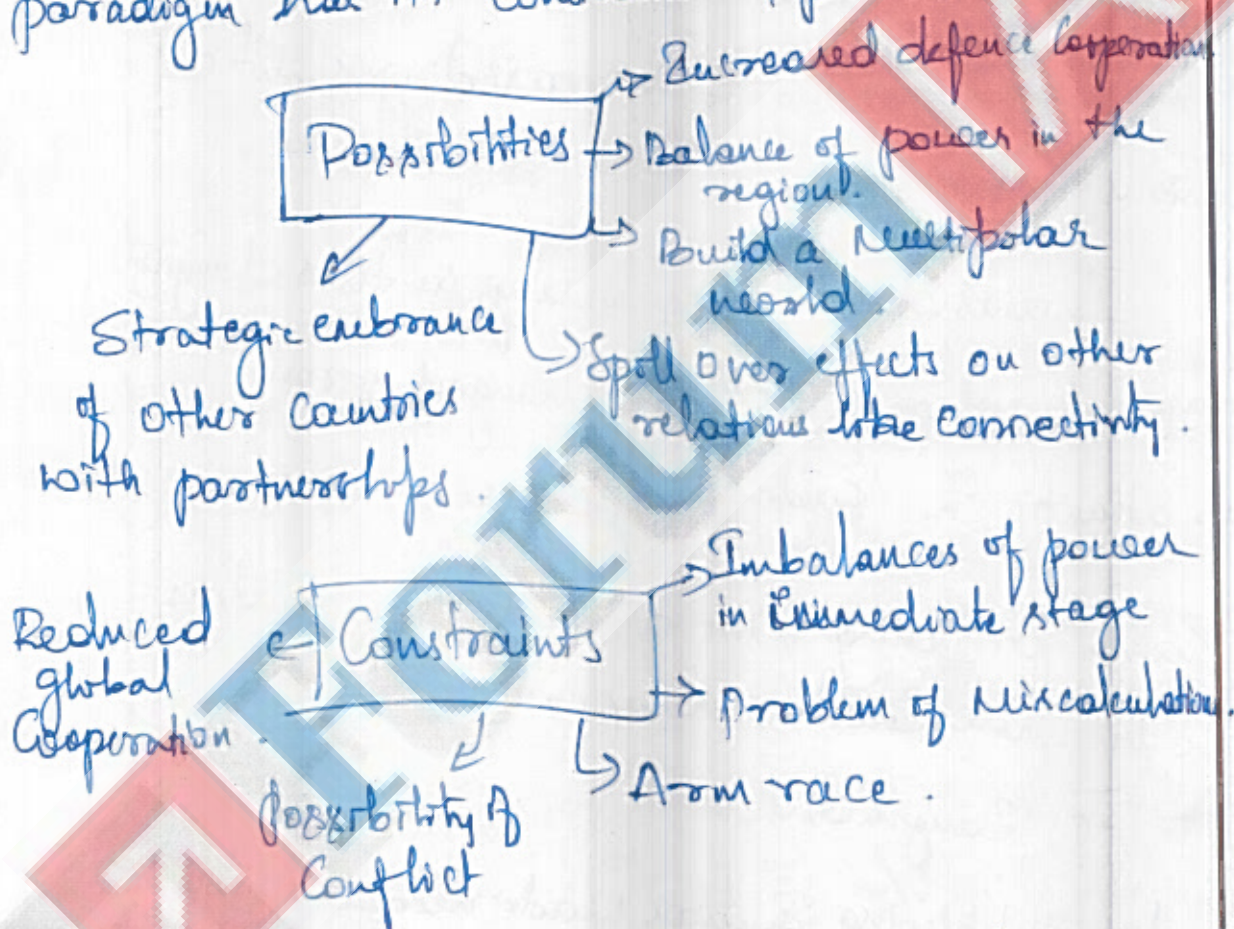
India's defense diplomacy in this changing environment where focus has changed from Transatlantic to Indo-Pacific are:-

- ① India providing line of credit for countries to purchase Indian weapons.
[eg] Bangladesh.
- ② India supplying Indian made weapons to other countries.
[eg] Pinaka system to Armenia.
- ③ India providing gifts to nations in ASEAN.
[eg] To Philippines and Vietnam.

④ Defence Exercises with groups as well as bilateral countries.

⑤ Malabar exercise with QUAD countries.
Varoona with French Navy.

And, changing nature of this Indo Pacific paradigm has its constraints & possibilities.



Thus, we need to have good relations with all countries based on national interest and protect sovereignty and territorial integrity with our strategic autonomy and contribute to the world (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam).

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.10) Explain the significance and implications of the China-brokered diplomatic accord between Iran and Saudi Arabia. (10 marks, 150 words)

ईरान और सऊदी अरब के बीच चीन की मध्यस्थता में हुए राजनयिक समझौते के महत्व और निहितार्थ को स्पष्ट कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Recently Iran and Saudi Arabia have agreed to reestablish diplomatic ties which were stopped since 2015 after Yemen war, which was brokered by China.

Significance

- ① China's positioning in the Middle East as deal maker with USA's retreat.
- ② Two enemies coming close to face issues and establish good relations show that there is no permanent friend or foe in the geopolitics.

Implications

- ① Regional peace & stability as the war in Yemen may come to end.

- ② It will help the Iran as it is battling economic crisis.
- ③ It will help China to increase its investments under BRI project safely.
- ④ China can tackle the terrorist attacks in its western region.
- ⑤ It will ensure China's energy security.
- ⑥ Possibility of peace in Afghanistan and beyond.

However, India may be concerned with China encircling India on the land as per the McInders' heartland theory after China has unleashed string of pearl strategy in Indian Ocean.

However, India has to watch closely and play active role in Middle East to ensure energy security as well as safety of diaspora to promote its growth and position in the County of Nations.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Q.11) A key pillar of Constitutional morality is constitutional punctuality. Illustrate with suitable examples, how a lack of constitutional punctuality not only hinders democratic functioning of the State, but also goes against the spirit of the Constitution. (15 marks, 250 words)

संवैधानिक नैतिकता का एक प्रमुख स्तंभ संवैधानिक समयबद्धता है। उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ स्पष्ट कीजिए कि कैसे संवैधानिक समयबद्धता की कमी न केवल राज्य के लोकतांत्रिक कार्यकलाप में बाधा डालती है बल्कि संविधान की भावना के भी खिलाफ जाती है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Constitutional morality Explained by

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in his speech 'Grammar

of Anarchy' means the values that Constitution tries to uphold in the form of trinity of values - Equality, Liberty and Fraternity.

Constitutional punctuality is the timely intervention by the Constitutional bodies to ensure and uphold constitutional morality.

① Parliament - As a law making body, it has to come up with timely enactments to safeguard the rights of the people.

[Eq] Right to Privacy and its consequent

law on Digital personal Data Protection. Bill

② Judiciary If not it will lead to decline of the Parliament and disruptions in the conduct of business hampering law making and adversely affecting right to privacy.

② Judiciary - As an adjudicating body it has intervene to protect and defend the rights and ensure checks & balances.

[Eg] Tehseen Poonawala case it gave guidelines to tackle mob lynching.

If not the rights as well the Executive arbitrariness will hamper the right to equality as given in Constitution.

③ Executive - The Executive while implementing policies has to act fairly to ensure the welfare state credentials.

[Eg] During COVID-19 - coming up with

PM-CARES fund and vaccination policy.

④ Constitutional bodies - like Election Commission and CAG to conduct free & fair elections and ensure financial accountability of the Executive respectively.

This will ensure trust & confidence in the system and constitutional principle of collective responsibility.

Thus, constitutional punctuality to uphold the principles will safeguard the democratic ethos as well as human dignity on which democracy is based.

Feedback

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Q.12) Free and fair elections are the lifeblood of a democracy, and electoral reforms are at the core of political reforms. In this context, highlighting the challenges to functioning of the Election Commission, suggest the necessary reforms needed, with special reference to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Other Election Commissioners ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023. (15 marks, 250 words)

स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष निर्वाचन लोकतंत्र की जीवनरेखा हैं और निर्वाचन सुधार राजनीतिक सुधारों के मूल में हैं। इस संदर्भ में, निर्वाचन आयोग के कामकाज की चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त (सीईसी) और अन्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त ईसी (नियुक्ति, सेवा की शर्तों और पदावधि) विधेयक, 2023 के विशेष संदर्भ में आवश्यक सुधारों का सुझाव दीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 324 Creates Election Commission

to conduct free and fair elections in India. It also ensure independence to ECs and CECs so as to keep them above political interference. Supreme Court recently came up with a judgment to appoint ECs + CEC by a committee.

The committee consists of CJI, PM and leader of opposition until a law is made by Parliament on this. This is to ensure that the EC is independent as in the earlier system the PM has sole responsibility recommend the appointment of CEC + ECs which affected its

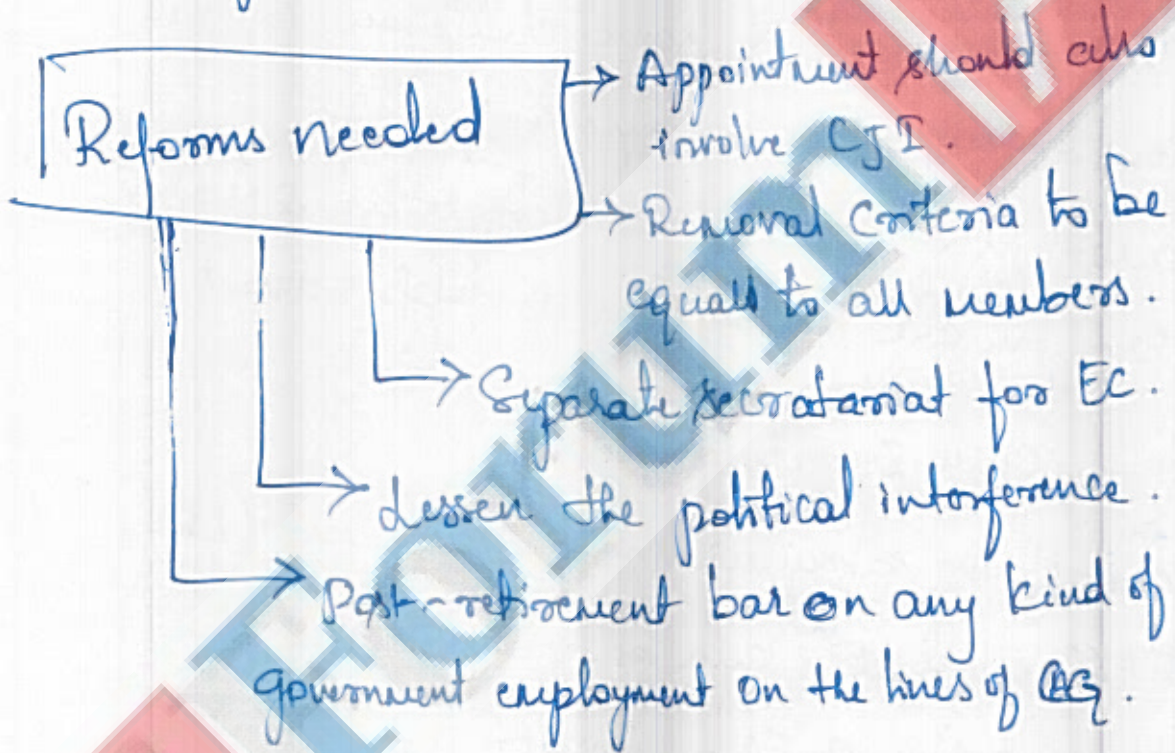
independence.

The New Bill CEC & Other ECs Bill, 2023 provides that the CEC & ECs be appointed by committee of PM, leader of opposition and a Cabinet Minister.

Thus, there are some challenges in the functioning of Election Commission:-

- ① Accusations of political interference as 2 members of Executive are involved in its appointment.
- ② Lack of own Secretariat.
- ③ Inequality in safeguarding the tenures of CEC and ECs where ECs can be removed on the recommendation of EC.
- ④ Lack of Qualifications mentioned for ECs hence, more administrators becoming ECs.
- ⑤ Post-retirement jobs to ECs are not barred as it is done for CAG and UPSC members and chairman.

- ⑥ Recent issue of Arun Jaitley retiring to become EC on the next day made headlines.
- ⑦ Supreme court highlighted the low tenure of CEC for 2-3 years compared to earlier 8-6 years in 1950s + 1960s.



Thus, all party consensus is necessary to bring reforms in election commission and conduct of elections.

Feedback

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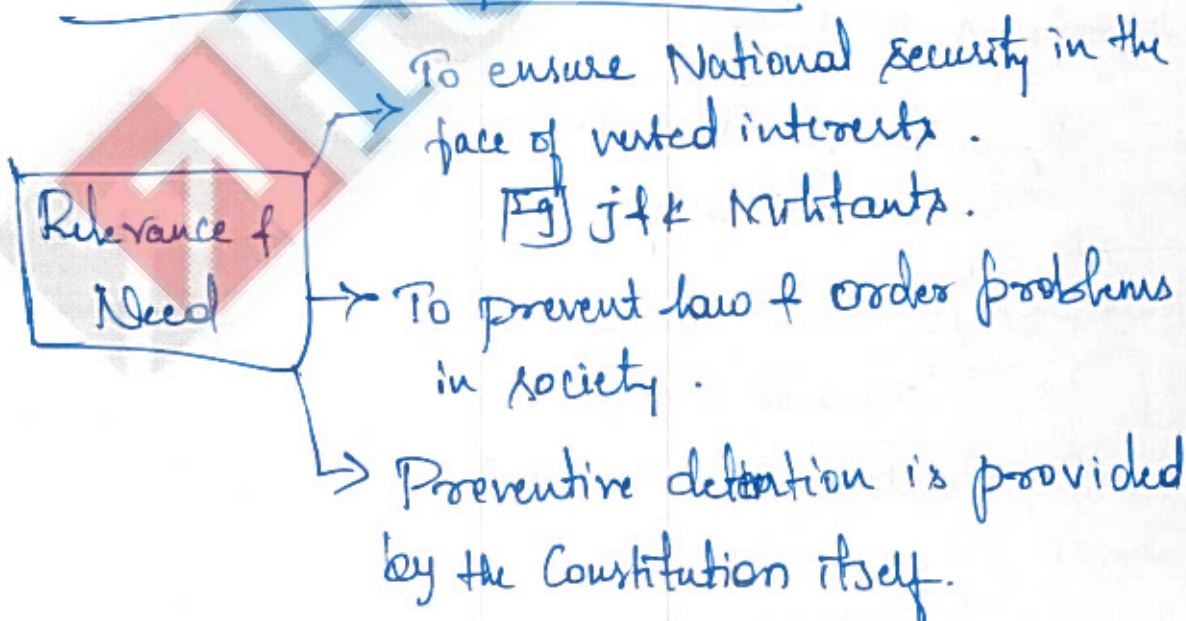
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Q.13) Striking a fine balance between national security on one hand, and freedom of speech and expression on another is the key to democratic ethos. In light of this statement, write a critical note on the relevance and need for stringent laws like the National Security Act and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in a vibrant democracy. (15 marks, 250 words)

एक ओर राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और दूसरी ओर वाक एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के बीच एक अच्छा संतुलन बनाना लोकतांत्रिक लोकाचार की कुंजी है। इस कथन के आलोक में, एक जीवंत लोकतंत्र में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम और गैरकानूनी गतिविधियां रोकथाम अधिनियम (यूएपीए) जैसे कड़े कानूनों की प्रासंगिकता और आवश्यकता पर आलोचनात्मक टिप्पणी कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Indian Constitution provides for freedom of speech & expression under A-19(1)(a) while the reasonable restrictions are mentioned in A-19(2), striking the balance between democratic ethos and National security.

National Security Act, 1980



→ To ensure good relations with other countries like Bangladesh and Myanmar as people can fuel the hate in the ongoing debate on CAA and NRC in Assam.

Hence, NSA has been instrumental in providing the incitement to offence or defamatory.

UAPA, 1967

It provides for designating individual or organization as terrorist so as to tackle the terrorism in India.

→ To tackle cross border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

Relevance + Need

→ To ban organizations promoting terror activities.

[Eg] Popular Front of India was banned in 2022.

→ To tackle separatist nation demands

by Khalistanis and Naga people.

→ To avoid terrorist recruitment done by individuals or organizations.

Eg:- CPI (M), ULFA in Assam.

Thus, both laws try to ensure the national security. However, the issues of Over Centralization, government nuzzling dissent against political opponents are a cause of concern.

Hence, the procedural safeguards should be followed by the government to ensure balance between liberty of individuals and State's concerns of security.

Feedback

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Q.14) The overhaul of India's criminal justice system is not only a long due reform, it is also imperative for decolonizing India's penal system. Elucidate in the light of recently proposed trinity of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत की आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली में आमूल-चूल परिवर्तन न केवल लंबे समय से अपेक्षित सुधार है, बल्कि यह भारत की दंड व्यवस्था को उपनिवेशमुक्त करने के लिए भी जरूरी है। हाल ही में प्रस्तावित भारतीय न्याय संहिता विधेयक 2023, भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता विधेयक 2023 और भारतीय साक्ष्य विधेयक 2023 की त्रयी के प्रकाश में स्पष्ट कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Criminal Justice system involving Police, Judiciary, Prisons and Forensics are based on Laws made by Britishers like IPC, 1860 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and Indian Prisons Act

Hence, to overcome these colonial mindset as called by Prime Minister in 2022 Independence day speech, government has come up with the above 3 Bills mentioned in the question.

The reforms of ICJS is imperative because:-

- ① Judiciary - high judicial pendency (5 crore cases), high vacancy (25% in subordinate courts), long adjournments, low

judge to population ratio (21/million),

② Legal issues - Complexity of multiple laws
on one issue.

↳ Domestic violence is dealt by IPC as
well as Domestic Violence Act, 2006.

Hence, Parathasarkathi Home Committee
suggested repealing about 1800 obsolete laws.

③ Police - high vacancy, low police to population
(153/lakh) instead of UN mandated 222/lakh)
low training, high burden and politicization
along with corruption.

④ Forensics - lack of technological upgradation,
low man power, insufficient training etc

⑤ Prisons - Torture in prisons, unhygienic condi-
tions, suicides, high undertrials (75%)
and overcrowding (128%) etc.

Thus, many Commissions like Padua nabhaiah Commission, Law Commission and Supreme Court in Parakash Singh case has suggested reforms in ECJs.

Benefits are

- ① Reduce procedural delays & litigation.
- ② Ensure efficient investigation and better communication between stakeholders.
- ③ Increased trust and confidence in the system.
- ④ Reduced Under trials and crowds in prisons.

Thus, ensuring justice to all and creating social order based on the Indianness rather than British.

Thus, India will truly become a welfare state rather than police state as it was during British rule.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

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Q.15) What ails institutions of Higher education? Bring out the possibilities and challenges that come with the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions seeking to impart higher education.
(15 marks, 250 words)

उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में क्या समस्या है? उच्च शिक्षा प्रदान करने के इच्छुक विदेशी शिक्षण संस्थानों के प्रवेश और संचालन से जुड़ी संभावनाओं और चुनौतियों को उजागर कीजिए।
(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Higher education institutions are those providing tertiary education beyond 12th standard. India has highest number of tertiary or higher education institutions in the world.

The issues in higher education

① Institutions - Various bodies regulate the various streams.

Ex) AICTE on engineering
Bar Council of India on law.
NMC for Medical etc.

② Curriculum - is outdated and focusses on rote learning.

③ Teacher pupil ratio - is more than 1:35 which should ideally be 1:25.

④ Students discrimination and harassment.

[Eg] The suicides of Parshant Solanki and Anil Kumar in various IITs.

⑤ Lack of Autonomy for the institutions as Vice chancellors are chosen by the political class.

⑥ Low funding on education which is around 4.5%. Compared to NEP-2020 target of 6%.

⑦ Insufficient infrastructure and research as only 0.7% of GDP is spent on research & Development in India.

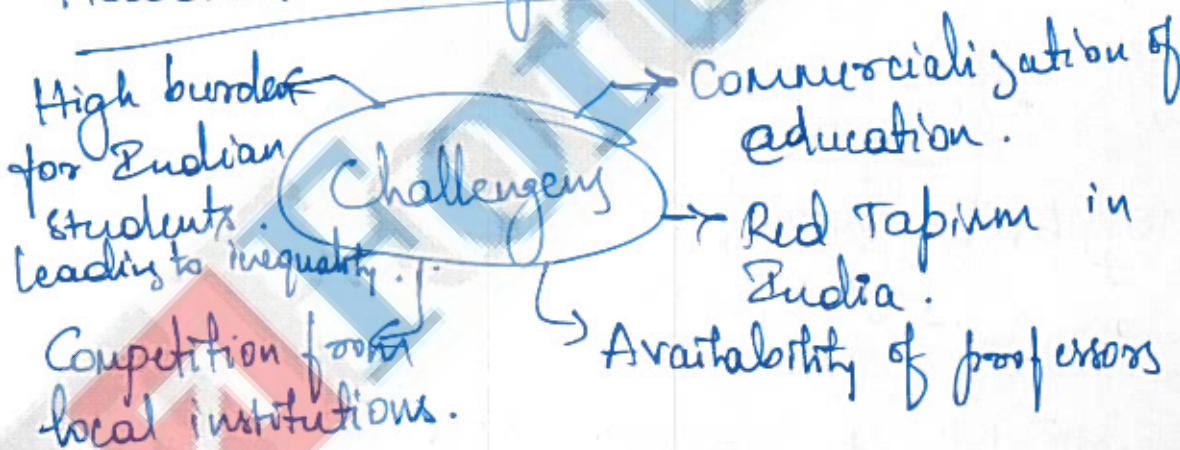
⑧ low employability (50%) and low industry-academia links.

However, NEP 2020 had provisions for foreign institutions entering and operating in India. Recently Australian Universities have shown interest to enter India.

Hence, there is a possibility of others following suit because:-

- ① About 7.5 lakh students went abroad to study in 2022 alone.
- ② It amounted about \$5 Billion USD for their fees.
- ③ India provides cheap land and amenities than foreign countries, hence it is attractive for foreign education institutions.

However, challenges remain.



Thus, there should proper regulation and inclusive policies should be promoted. This enhances the education system and positions India well in global order changes.

Feedback

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Q.16) Partnership between the State and CSOs for delivering development, while promising at face value, is fraught with challenges. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

विकास हेतु राज्य और सीएसओ के बीच साझेदारी, अपेक्षित उद्देश्यों के भरोशों के साथ, चुनौतियों से भरी है। चर्चा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The LPA reforms and the state taking facilitator role in development has given rise to CSOs complement the states role to ensure development and take corporate sector into the accountability mechanisms:-

The partnership is promising :-

① CSOs complement states initiatives.

Eg Akshaypata providing mid day meals in 12 states / UTs.

② It will fill the vacuum where state is absent.

Eg To provide education in poor or marginalized communities like Teach for India in slums.

③ CSOs will involve in Consultation activities.

[Ex] In the case of UCC Consultations.

④ To ensure Corporate social responsibilities.

[Ex] CSOs partner with Companies to provide direction to them on implementing CSR money.

⑤ CSOs in health and education.

[Ex] TATA sons providing for PM CARES fund. Mahindra Foundation for educating adult women.

However, challenges are:-

① CSOs are limited in nature due to their geographical reach.

② Lack of volunteering activities by the youth due to low benefits.

③ Possibility of collusion between State and CSOs affecting accountability adversely.

(H) CSOs involving in anti-National activities as given by EB report that about 1-2% of GDP is lost because of that.

(E) Lack of accountability in CSOs.

(C) CSOs being in hand in glove with Companies to whitewash the tainted image of Companies.

Hence, measures like flexibility of CSOs and increasing their reach along with ensuring accountability is the need of the hour.

Thus, Indian can truly claim to hold a democratic ethos in the face of criticism from western countries.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Q.17) Critically analyse the working of the POCSO Act, 2012 in addressing the menace of child sex abuse in society in the 10 years since its enactment. How far has the National Commission for protection of child rights been successful in fulfilling its mandate? (15 marks, 250 words)

इसके लागू होने के बाद से 10 वर्षों में समाज में बाल यौन शोषण के खतरे को संबोधित करने में POCSO अधिनियम, 2012 की कार्यप्रणाली का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग अपने अधिदेश को पूरा करने में कहीं तक सफल रहा है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

POCSO Act, 2012 was enacted to deal with the child sex abuse. Irrespective of the consent, if the age of a child is below 18 years, it attracted the provisions of POCSO Act, 2012.

Agarwal Bapu case was fought on the POCSO provisions.

Benefits

- ① It was neutral in nature where male and female child facing sexual abuse can be tried.
- ② There have been cases which have dealt the blow on the human consciousness for their lack of compassion towards kids. Say the Asaram Bapu case.

However, the issues are:-

- ① It avoids the consensual sex and prosecutes them. Hence, more than 85% of the cases have seen consensual sex and got acquitted.
- ② Madras HC has suggested that the age be reduced to 16 years.
- ③ There are questionable judgements by the lower courts where court has asked to marry those involved.

And, NCRP was made the authority to promote the awareness regarding the act.

- ① Though there is increased awareness, people do not come forward to register case as most of the times, the close family member will be the accused.

② Overburdening of NCPDR and its low staff has made dent in its mandate under the act.

Thus, measures required are:-

- ① Reducing the age to 16 years.
- ② Increasing awareness among the public.
- ③ Educating parents as to how to prevent such acts.

Thus, we can ensure safety and healthy development of children as provided in the Constitution Under A. 39(f).

Feedback

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Q.18) Discuss the challenges that keep India multi-dimensionally poor with special reference to NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index Report. (15 marks, 250 words)

नीति आयोग की राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक रिपोर्ट के विशेष संदर्भ में उन चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए जो भारत को बहुआयामी रूप से गरीबी बनाए रखती हैं। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

NITI Aayog report on MPI says that the poverty rate in India in 2020-21 is about 15%. Compared to S. Tendulkar Committee's estimation of 22% in 2011.

Challenges that keep India multidimensionally poor are:-

- ① Social structures - like caste based employment.
 - [eg] Dalits in manual scavenging.
- ② women being discriminated in inheritance and their financial dependence due to patriarchal norms.
 - [eg] LPRR of women in 2020-21 was 29.4 as per PLFS whereas for men it was around 87%.
- ③ Lack of Education and skills among the poor creates a vicious cycle of poverty.

④ Increasing population and low resources perpetuates poverty in regions of low development.

[Ex] Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

⑤ Corruption in the administration. It is said that only 12 paise reaches people out of 1 rupee spent on welfare in 1980s which more or less remains the same.

⑥ Lack of employment opportunities due to jobless growth and reliance on capital intensive industries.

⑦ Lack of Skilling.

[Ex] Only 5% of Indians are formally skilled.

⑧ Lack of Credit due to no Credit history.

[Ex] Credit gap of about \$140 Billion exists in MSMEs as per World Bank.

⑨ Housing issues leading to slums in Urban areas.

⑨ Dharavi is the largest slum in the world and about 18% of Indian Urban population live in slums.

⑩ Health spending with 48% out of pocket Expenditure and pandemics like COVID-19 exacerbates that.

Hence measures need to be taken:-

- ① Technology to reduce corruption - DBT.
- ② Provide education and health benefits with increased Expenditure to 6% and 2-5% respectively.
- ③ Accelerate PM Awas Yojana.
- ④ Awareness in public and skilling can ensure their livelihoods.
- ⑤ Focus on SHCs.

Thus, we will ensure dignified living to all which is the basis of Democracy.

Feedback

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Q.19) BRICS can serve as a platform for shaping a post-Western global order, but the potential of the grouping is held back by internal contradictions. Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

ब्रिक्स उत्तर-पश्चिमी वैश्विक व्यवस्था को आकार देने के लिए एक मंच के रूप में काम कर सकता है, लेकिन समूह की क्षमता आंतरिक विरोधाभासों के कारण बाधित है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

BRICS Countries form about 42% of world population with about 22% of global GDP and 16% of Intra-BRICS trade. With new addition of 6 countries the population goes to 46% and GDP of 36%.

BRICS+6 can ensure the post-western world order, managed by the developing countries and establishing multipolar world order. The impacts can be seen in:-

- ① Changing global financial architecture that is NDB, AIIB instead of WB or IMF.
- ② Call for Multilateral reforms.
- ③ Tackling global issues like Environmental degradation or pandemics or refugee crisis.

④ South-South cooperation to ensure equitable and sustainable development.

⑤ Ensure global balance of power.

However, it is bogging down on its own weight :-

① India-China contradictions in terms of Galwan clash, Yangtze clash in Arunachal Pradesh.

② India sees BRICS as China dominated to position itself as global superpower as reflected in the aspirations of China in terms of Middle Kingdom Complex.

③ Russia becoming a junior partner as it got weakened after Ukraine war to China is a concern for India.

④ India wanted more deliberation of BRICS expansion whereas China wanted immediate

Expansion to show its strength.

⑤ Countries vary on BRICS Currency, while Brazil wants separate BRICS currency, China and Russia want their currencies to be used in trade transactions.

⑥ Lack of jointness in Multilateral reforms as India's claim to UNSC seat is opposed by China.

⑦ Except India all other countries are facing economic problems.

Thus, to make the institution more relevant, it needs to ensure better cooperation among its members to ensure Multilateral Asia in the multilateral world.

Feedback

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Q.20) "WTO is dead! Long live WTO!" In the context of this statement, account for the reasons behind why the WTO is dysfunctional. In your opinion, what reforms are needed to promote resilient, sustainable, and inclusive world trade. (15 marks, 250 words)

"WTO मृत हो चुका है! WTO लंबे समय तक जीवित रहेगा!" इस कथन के संदर्भ में, उन कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए जिनके कारण WTO निष्क्रिय है। आपकी राय में, लचीले, टिकाऊ और समावेशी विश्व व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किन सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

WTO was established in 1995 to ensure rule based global trade based on fairness and to provide for stable and predictable trade in the world which stands at about \$20 Trn in 2022.

However, it has become dysfunctional as Appellate body does not have any members to adjudicate the disputes between members. Reasons are:-

- ① opposition by America for appointing the members to appellate body.
- ② Trade war between USA and china is one of the reason along with geopolitical churning in the world.

② Countries are going for protectionist models.

[S] America First approach of Trump.
BREXIT by Britain.

④ Increasing regionalisation of Trade.

[S] RCEP and RPTPP led by China and USA respectively.

Thus, there is necessity for reforms:-

① To appoint Appellate body as soon as possible.

② To ensure globalization remains functional, the great powers should reduce the tensions for the sake of mutual benefit.

③ Explore alternate mechanisms.

[S] Similar MPEA adopted by EU

Australia etc.

④ Countries should avoid protectionist policies and should integrate in global supply chains.

⑤ Reform the consensus based voting to democratic voting methods.

⑥ Allow Countries to bilaterally solve the issues.

[5] As India and USA solved about 6 disputes recently.

Thus, with reforms the institution can remain and avoid the crisis of relevance or confidence. As it is necessary for developing countries to protect globalization for equitable and resilient development.

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	
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