

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे**ForumIAS**Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250**GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन**

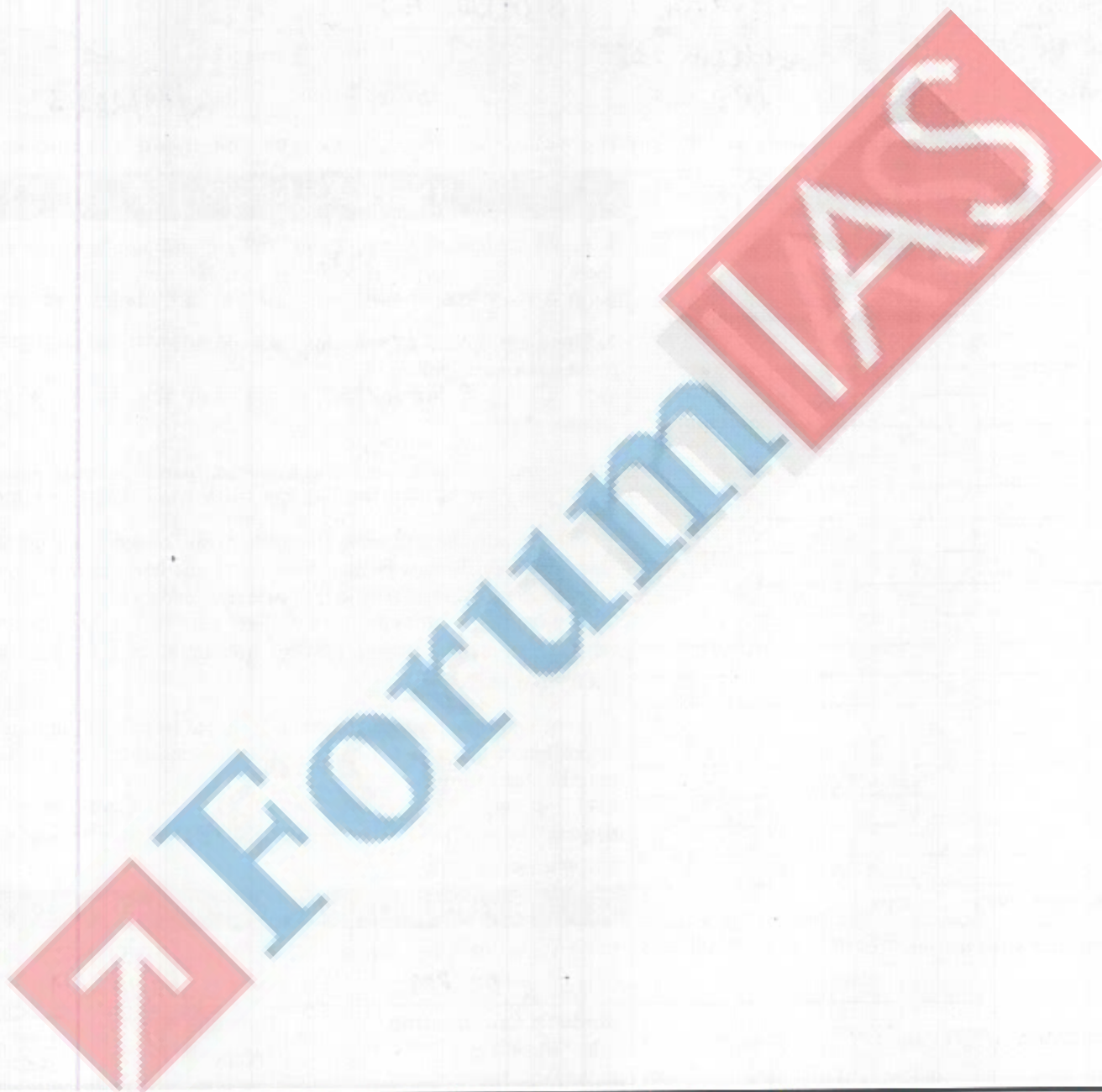
Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	SHUBHAM BHARDWAJ		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	19100P5118	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1901	Date/दिनांक	2/09/2023

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

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 (व्यूसीए) 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।		
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
Total/कुल अंक	250		For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु		
Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 2:00 PM	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 5:00 PM	
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 : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :

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.

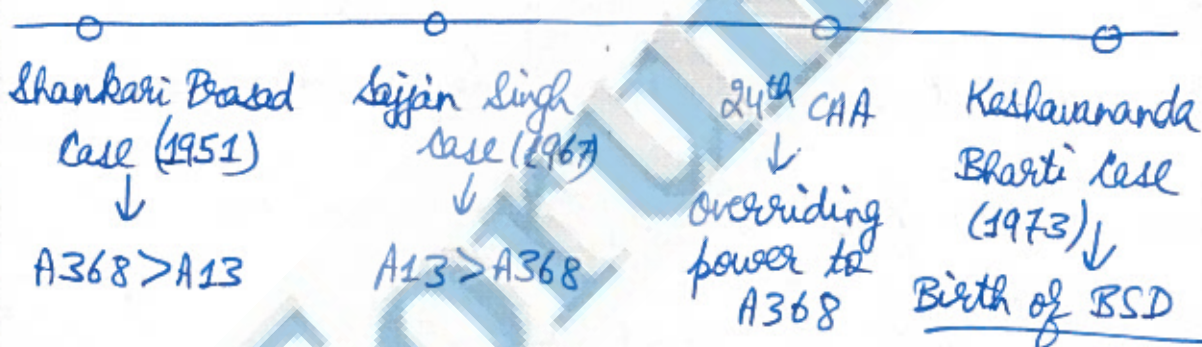
Q.1) Critically evaluate the significance of the Basic Structure Doctrine in the five decades since its judicial pronouncement. (10 marks, 150 words)

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 (BSD)

is a judicial innovation that shields core tenets of Constitution from amending power of Parliament under Article 368.

Evolution



Significance

- 1) Upholds constitutionalism → puts restriction of amending power of Parliament.
 eg) 36th CAA → refused by SC.
- 2) Enables Rule of law → checks and balances.

3) Protects Fundamental Rights of citizens against executive/legislative excess.

Reg A359 → cannot suspend A21. (emergency)

4) Allows judicial review and nullification of unconstitutional provisions.

↳ Put under BSD in Chandra Kumar case

Issues

1) Non-constitutional and non-legal basis

2) Dynamic → frequently updated by judiciary

3) Promotes judicial excess and activism

Reg Nullifying 99th CAA → NJAC

4) Not codified → prone to misuse.

Thus, codifying the basic structure would bring clarity and legitimacy to this indispensable judicial innovation.

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.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 विरोधाभासी है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Defamation refers to act of intentionally sabotaging one's dignity and reputation by means of lie or inappropriate comments.

Need for defamation

★ Protecting one's reputation

1) A19 frequently misused to demean others
 eg Personal lives of judges on social media.

2) deterrence against wrongdoers.

eg Penal action under defamation law.

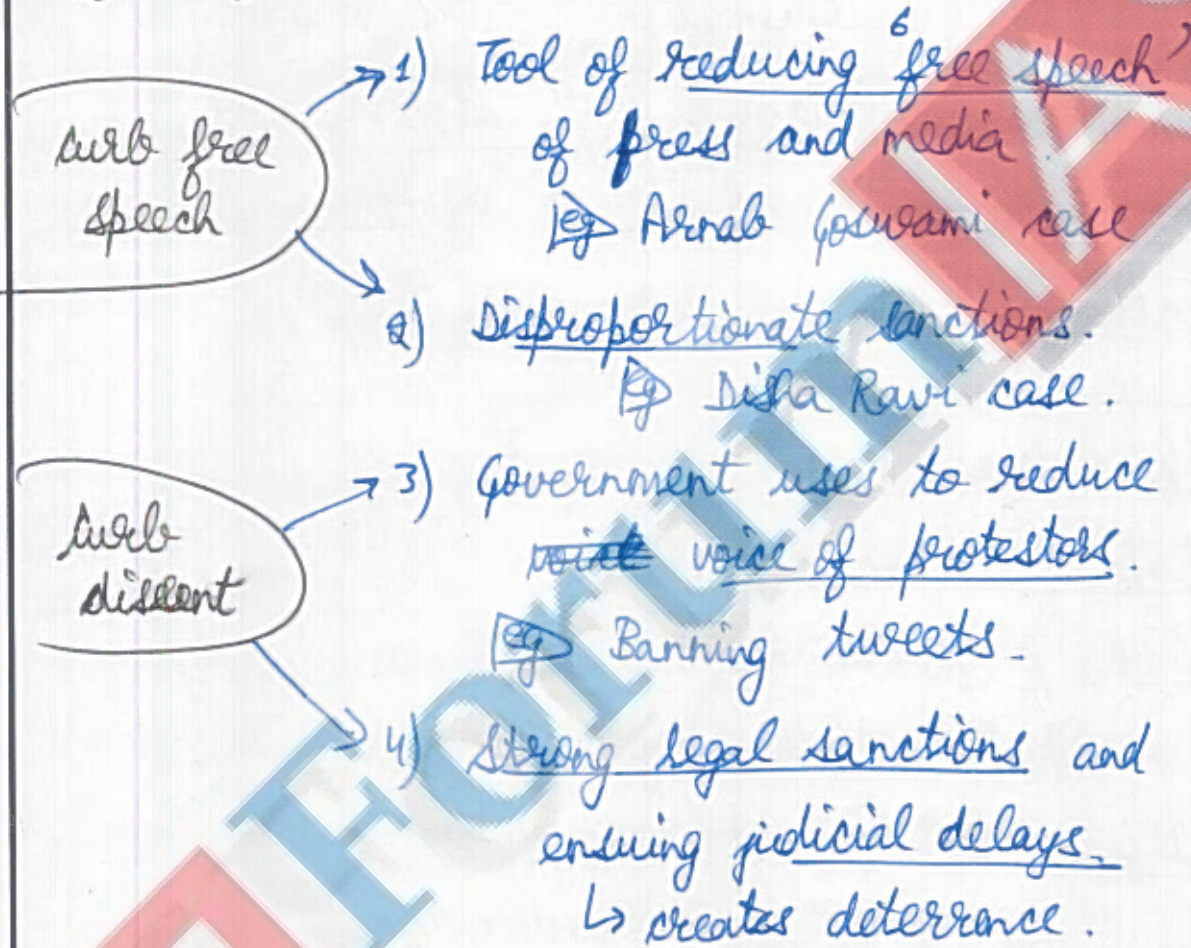
★ Maintaining dignity

3) Enforcing basic etiquette of public speech

eg CJI → MP are implicitly expected to maintain ethical behaviour.

- 4) Enforcing ethical behaviour in public life.
 eg case against 'Modi' surname.

Effect of weaponization



Thus, 'defamation law' is a double edged sword and must be prevented from curbing dissent. As CJI Chandrachud said - 'Dissent is safety value of democracy'.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	⊙	Ⓐ	Ⓒ
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.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)

Governor, under Article 154, is a constitutional post who leads the state government as its nominal head, as well as act as link with the Centre.

Basis of conflict between Governor, Delhi

★ Constitutional

- 1) 69th CAA → Delhi as National Capital Territory with own legislature.
- 2) A163 → Governor to act in aid and advice of State Council of Ministers, except when acting in discretion.

★ Legal

- 1) Several judicial pronouncements. State Governor's discretion to be superimposing.

2) Nabam Rebia Judgement → cases of discretion are few, otherwise act in aid and advice.

Such dichotomy has created a rift between Lieutenant Governor and Government of NCT of Delhi, as to authority over each other, like control of services.

Role of GNCTD, 2023

- 1) States Lieutenant Governor to be final authority for decision-making.
- 2) Land, Police etc. which are out of scope of Delhi government → come under Lt. Governor in alliance with MHA.

Thus, the issue is sub-judice and presently over tussle between SC order and Central Government's ordinance on control of services.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	⊙	Ⓐ	Ⓒ
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.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)

Mediation is a form of alternate dispute resolution (ADR) that includes a neutral third-party who acts as mediator to balance interests of both parties.

Benefits of mediation

- 1) Reducing litigation burden on Courts.
 (4.7 cr pending cases, many over 20yrs)
 ↳ By providing out of court settlement, 'no losers, only winners' approach.
- 2) Providing ADR → 'mediation first approach'
 ↳ Reduce time of justice delivery.
 (ensure good governance).

3) Efficient enforcement of contracts.

↳ Reduce court conflicts. eg Vodafone
 ↳ Improve image as 'investor friendly' ^{call} nation

eg EuDB ranking → only lagging on contract enforcement.

Mediation Bill, 2023

Salient features

- ↳ Promote 'mediation' over litigation.
- ↳ Establish mediation centers in India.
- ↳ Learn from best practices (Singapore)

Thus, Mediation Bill 2023 is a step in right direction towards making India a 'global mediation hub'.

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.

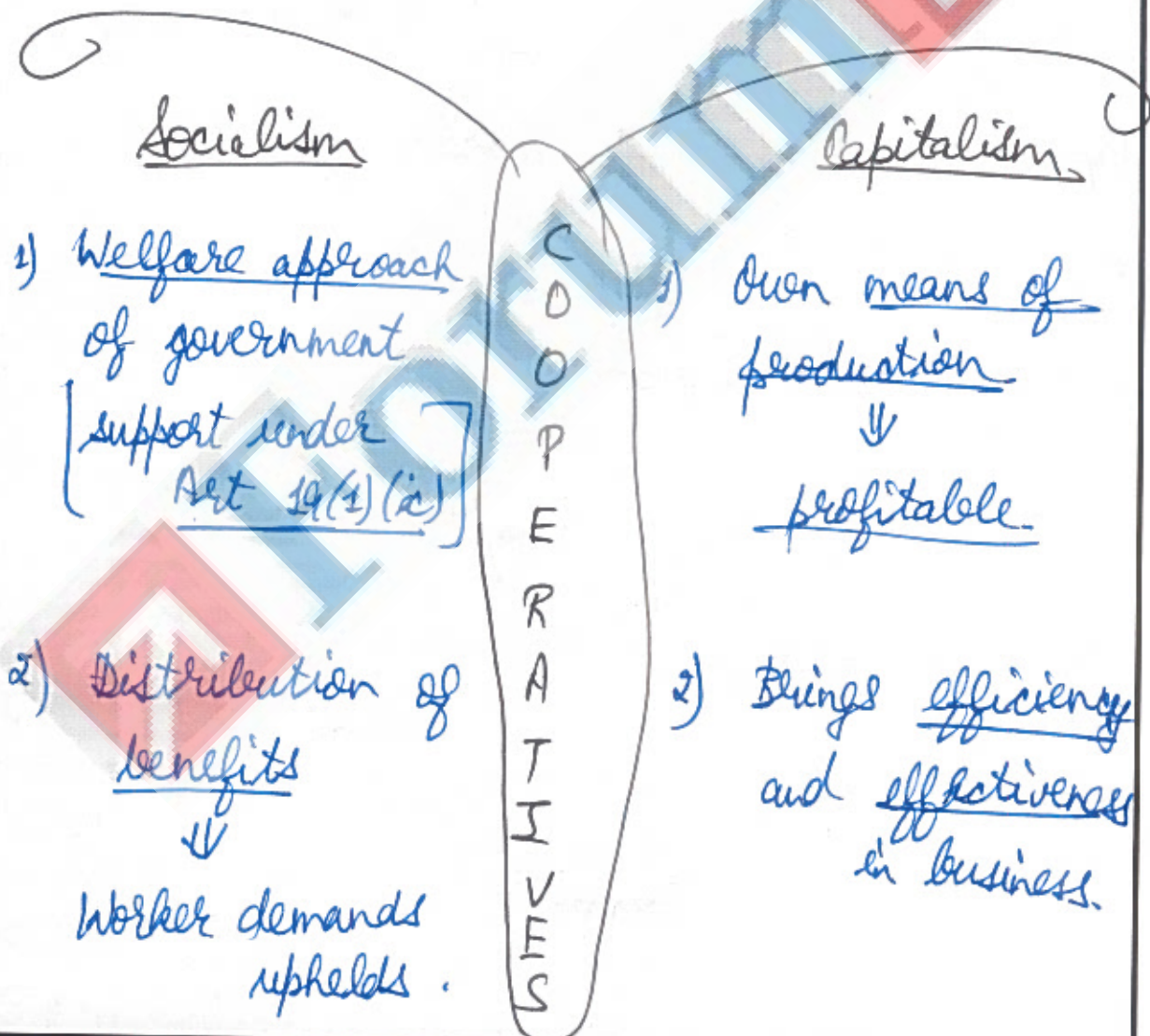
TOTAL MARKS

Q.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)

Cooperatives refer to self-formed associations of people with a specific objective.



Utility in rural prosperity

- 1) Increase farmer incomes [2X under Ashok Mehta Committee]
- 2) Redistribution of benefits to society.
- 3) Skill development, entrepreneurship.

Drawbacks

- 1) Capitalist overtones → worker oppression
- 2) serve interest of shareholders.
- 3) Environmental impact.

Thus, they have potential to usher in era of 'sabka saath, sabka Vikas'

Feedback

(For OFFICE use on)

#	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.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)

Tribals remain at the lowest rung of development even after 75 years, as per Tribal Development Report 2022. Thus, several provisions have been implemented to ensure their representation since independence.

Efficacy of laws in achieving mandate

★ Forest Rights Act, 2006

Achievements

1) Assent of Gram Sabha before community rights to persons.

2) Accord rightful livelihood rights to tribals.
 ↳ collection of MFP.

Issues

3) Frequent rejection of claims by administration.

↳ 82% rejected [MoTA Report]

4) Low awareness in tribal community

★ PESA, 1996

Achievements

→ 1) Harbinger of decentralisation of political power in tribal areas (5th Schedule Areas)

2) Devolution of power to tribes for own development.

↳ Education in own language

Issues

→ 3) Conflict with traditional tribal leadership.

↳ Buddha Panchayat (Nyishi)

4) Finances dependent on state.

Measures needed

→ Involve tribals in policy-making

→ Bottom-up implementation + social audit

→ Follow Tribal Panchsheel.

It is high time that tribals get their rightful share of development benefits and right of self-governance.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use on)

#	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.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?

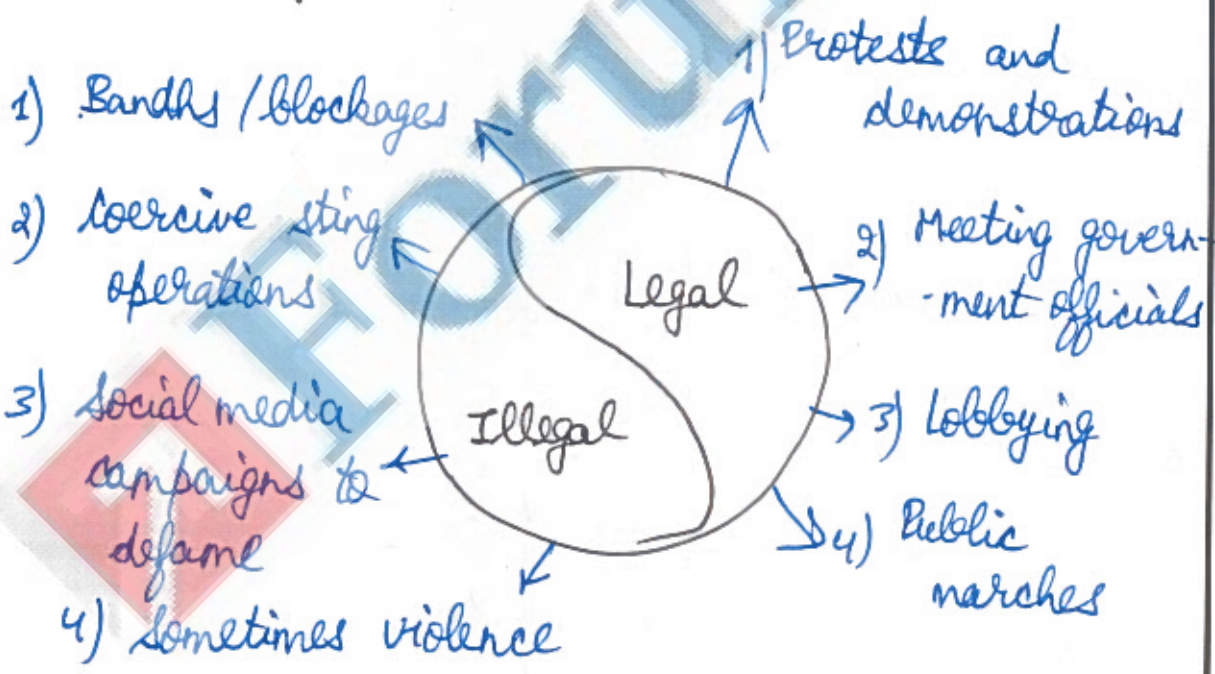
(10 marks, 150 words)

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)

Advocacy networks or pressure groups are organized associations who try to influence policy making towards their specific mandate, even by coercive means.

Means adopted



Thus, entire gamut of means are employed by advocacy groups.

Factors limiting effectiveness

- 1) Lack of government responsiveness to demands
 Eg) Sports persons protest → delayed hearing request.
- 2) lack of coherent strategy and leadership.
- 3) Double dilemma — shortage of funds
 ↳ Misuse of funds.
- 4) Clamping down by government on dissent.
 Eg) 475 sedition cases since 2012 [NCRB]
- 5) Legal provisions → FEMA 1999
 ↳ New FEMA Amendment Rules
 ↳ chilling effect of on free speech.

Way forward

- 1) Provide rightful space for dissent.
- 2) Promote formation of co-operatives [Art 19(c)]
- 3) Possibility of government funding.

Thus, pressure groups are crucial for substantive democracy

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	C	A
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.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)

Self-Help groups refer to voluntary informal groupings of people with similar socio-economic background and aim of similar developmental objectives.

Steps by government → Role in poverty alleviation

- 1) SHGs are preferred developmental partners for last-mile delivery in rural areas.

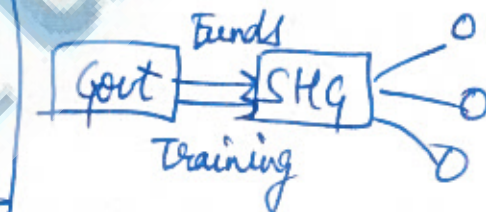


Fig 1: last mile delivery

- 2) Financial inclusion → SHG- Bank linkage programme.
↳ Micro-finance, Micro-credit.

- 3) Entrepreneurial support → for creation of employment.
eg. Ujjat Papad → 1600 cr venture.

- 4) Skilling of women → Digital literacy
↳ Link with PM KVV (90% are women)
- 5) Redistribution → Act as PDS agents.
↳ Income to female members.

Challenges in working

- 1) Socio-economic → caste-based leadership
↓ ↳ Irregular book-keeping
Poor credit repayment ⇒ less loans in future.
- 2) Working of SHG → Plateauing outcomes
(need professional training)
↓
Problem of 'dwarfism' → unable to grow.
- 3) Regionally concentrated → 80% in South India.

Professional handholding and financial best practices can enable SHGs to regain the status of 'usher of prosperity in rural India'

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.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)

Defense diplomacy refers to a country's national security objectives being fulfilled through diplomacy.



Associated constraints

- 1) Reducing world trade, increasing protection.
- 2) Low trust environment ⇒ weak collaboration
eg Not signing trade pillar of IPEF.

3) Hegemony of global powers → 'New cold war' between US and China.

Possibilities

- 1) Coming together of global south.
↳ India can be its leader and voice
- 2) Rise of realpolitik → increased spending on hard power.
eg) Brahmos deal with Philippines

India's defense diplomacy

Strategic collaboration

- 1) 7 level of talks with China.
- 2) India-US → INDUS-X
→ GE Jet engine deal
↓
Sea Guardian drones.
- 3) India-Russia → S-400

Hard-power projection

- 1) No 'business as usual' with China.
- 2) Surgical strikes on Pakistan.
- 3) Increasing defense exports.

Thus, defense and diplomacy have become inseparable in today's geo-political scenario.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A
AWIS		
CD & VA		
S & F		
P & R		

Please put tick marks in the above table.

Here G is Good, A Average and P is Poor.

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)

China proved itself to be major global player by recently brokering deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia → who are traditionally 'sworn enemies'.

Significance of Diplomatic Accord

- 1) Temporary resolution to Shia-Sunni conflict.
- 2) Portrayal of China as global harbinger of peace → legitimising its image.
- 3) Precursor to stability in war-torn Middle East.
eg Saudi v/s Houthis rebels (backed by Iran)
- 4) Possibility of global peace amidst instability
eg looming New Cold War.

5) Potential stability of oil prices.

Implications

- 1) Precursor to inroads of China's BRI.
 ↳ Already signed deal with Taliban
- 2) May lead to recognition of China as better global power than USA.
- 3) On India → Distancing from GCC and Middle East.
 ↳ Hegemony of China as 'global player' from Asia.

Thus, the China-~~to~~ brokered accord, however unsuspicious in nature, will present multi-fold implications for India in its extended neighbourhood.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A
AWIS		
CD & VA		
S & F		
P & R		

Please put tick marks in the above table.

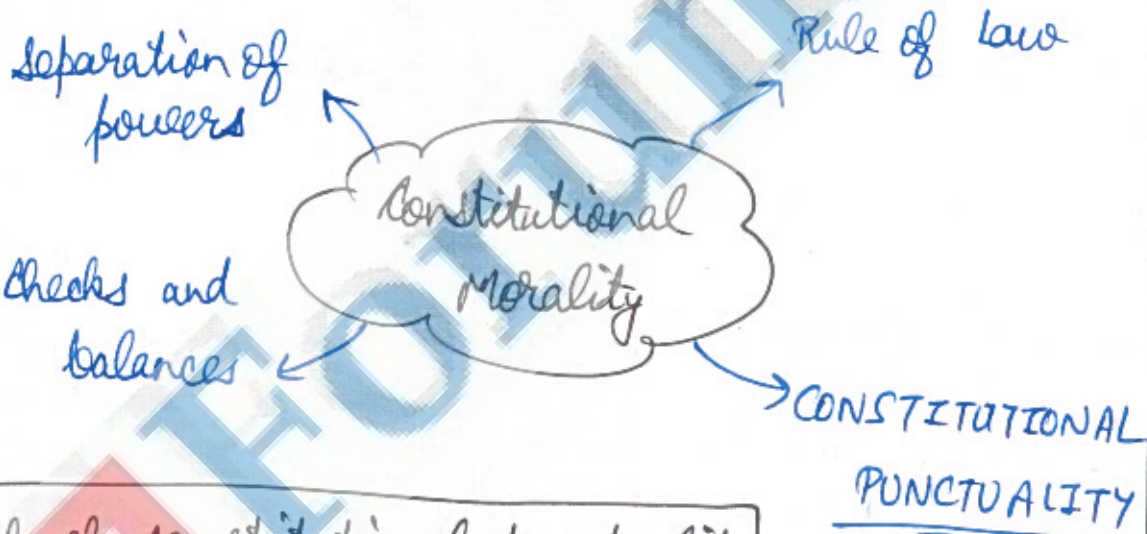
Here G is Good, A Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS

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 refers to the ideology of following ideals enshrined in Constitution, and upholding values of Constitution makers.



Lack of constitutional punctuality:

★ Hinders democratic functioning

1) "Justice delayed is justice denied".

↳ >4.7 cr pending cases with judiciary.

2) Lack of implementation of safeguards in letter and spirit.

eg FRA 2006 → not fully executed.

3) Reduces credibility and legitimacy of administration.

eg several villages → still no electricity.

4) Violates essence of 'democracy' → sovereignty of people

eg Bureaucratic apathy.

★ Goes against spirit of constitution

5) Violates fundamental rights.

eg A21 violated of under trials
↳ No timely justice.

6) Breakdown of social contract.

eg 33% women reservation in PRIs
↳ Not done, 'Panchayat patis'
or 'Sarpanch pati'

7) Undermines equality and rule of law.

eg Rehabilitation of displaced tribals from Sardar Sarovar Dam → still pending

8) Mockery of high ideals in Constitution

Steps Needed

1) Fixing of accountability by e-governance.

eg CPGRAMS Portal → for grievances.

2) Periodic audits and evaluation.

eg DARPAN portal → implementation of projects.

3) Strengthen social capital → awareness.

eg Role of NGOs and civil society.

4) Strengthening judiciary → fill vacancy
→ digitization.

Constitutional morality is precursor to good governance, and is sine-qua-non for India to become 'Vishuvaguru'.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	⊙	Ⓐ	Ⓢ
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.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)

The essence of democracy is contained in free and fair elections, as per Dr. BR Ambedkar. Thus, Election Commission of India (ECI) was formed as constitutional body under Article 324.

Role of ECI

- 1) Superintendence, direction, and control of elections.
- 2) Resolve disputes between parties
- 3) Assist President in disqualification of MPs, etc.

Challenges to functioning of ECI

2nd ARC highlights major issues in ECI are related to 3F: Funds, Functions, Functionaries.

Funds → 1) No independent financing from CFI.
 → 2) Central government determines pay and service conditions.

Functions → 3) No teeth to enforce Model Code of Conduct
 → 4) Overburdened with administrative lacunae.

Functionaries → 5) lack of officials (permanent secretariat ⇒ temporary posts during elections.
 6) Issues in appointment of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), and other ECs.
 7) Bureaucratization of ECI.

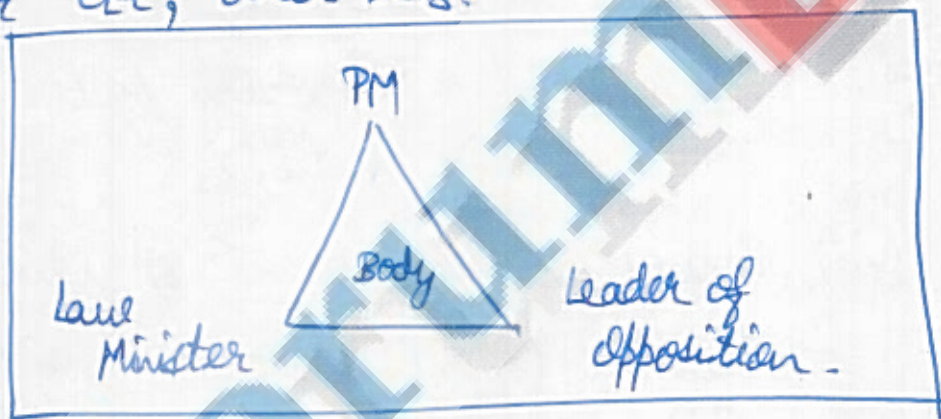
Reforms needed

1) Supreme Court (SC) in 2023 presented a 3-member body of CJI, PM and Leader of Opposition to select CEC, other ECs.

- 2) Independent finances → 'charged expenditure'
- 3) Inclusion of civil society members in its cadre.

Provisions of 2023 Bill

- 1) Institutionalises the appointment body for CEC, other ECs.



- 2) Sets base for better efficiency and functioning of ECI.

Thus, ECI reforms are long pending and must be taken at the earliest to ensure legitimacy in the very body that ensures true democracy in India.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A
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.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 government and judiciary have been at loggerheads regarding need and continuance of several draconian laws like National Security Act (NSA) and UAPA.

Need of laws like NSA, UAPA

- 1) National Security is paramount, and precursor to establishing democracy.
- 2) Rising cases of foreign interference in internal affairs.
eg Kashmir issue, Greenpeace → Kudankulam protest.
- 3) Fundamentalist forces and radicalisation increasing. eg ISIS from Kerala.

- 4) Global political turmoil → need stable government
 eg Russia-Ukraine war,
 Takeover of Afghanistan by Taliban
- 5) separatist tendencies need to be stamped.
 eg 'Tukde-Tukde' slogan → Shayed Imam

Decreasing Relevance of NSA, VAPA

- 1) Disproportionate application by government.
 eg 475 cases since 2012 [NCRB]
- 2) Very low conviction rate in cases.
 eg Only 2 of 92 cases in 2019.
- 3) Chilling effect on free speech (Article 19)
 eg Disha Ravi case → VAPA.
- 4) Increasing liberal tendencies throughout world.
 eg 3rd and 4th generation rights

5) "Dissent is safety valve of democracy" as per CJI DY Chandrachud.



Fig 1: Maintaining democratic ethos.

Steps Needed

- 1) Liberal interpretation of dissent by government
↳ only if incites violence. [Balaji Raghavan case]
- 2) Strengthening judiciary and rule of law.
- 3) Rise of civil society engagement.
- 4) Inclusive policy making.

Only while walking on fine balance between the two can India seek to achieve 'Ease of Living' for its people.

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.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 in India at present is run by colonial relics of Indian Penal Code (IPC) as well as Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.PC)

Overhaul of system

★ Long due reform

1) Increased demands of reforms.

eg Marital rape, no sedition (Sec 143A)

2) Make laws compliant with international best practices.

3) Remove petty criminal offences.

★ Decolonising India's penal system

4) Colonial era laws → to silence nationalist leaders.

⊗ Sedition → Nehru, Gandhi, Tilak

5) No place in a democracy

⊗ Associated Jan Vishwas Act

6) PM Modi's daring call of removing colonial baggage

Recent Bills

Bharatiya Nyaya
Sambhita Bill, 2023

→ IPC reforms

Trinity
of reforms.

Bharatiya Nyaya
Suraksha Bill, 2023

↓
New protections.

⊗ Sex under deception

Bharatiya Sakshya
Bill, 2023

↓
Good Governance.

Implications

- 1) New Indian identity
- 2) Era of trust → IPC reforms,
- 3) Latest changes → Define terrorism
 ↳ law against forced conversion

Thus, the trinity of reforms are well-poised to put India on a golden period of 'Amrit Kal' of good governance.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

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 sector is an umbrella term denoting higher educational institutions (HEIs), regulators, accreditors, as well as infrastructure providers.

Ailments in Higher Education

1) Poor quality infrastructure.
↳ ill-equipped labs, low funds.

2) Low accessibility for disabled, women, etc.

3) Outdated curriculum, disinterested professors.

4) Low industry-academia linkages.

↳ >80% engineers unemployable.
[McKinsey Report]

Structural

- Non-structural
- 5) Humongous population
→ intense competition
eg) Kota suicides.
 - 6) caste-based discrimination
eg) Sarban Banerji case
 - 7) "Islands of excellence, oceans of mediocrity" → few IITs/IIMs
 - 8) Rising fees, low capacity of rural parents
↳ Rural-urban inequality.

Entry and Operation of Foreign HEIs

University Grants Commission (UGC) recently released norms for allowing foreign HEIs in India.

★ Possibilities

- 1) World-class education and infrastructure
↳ improve domestic institutions too.
eg) Deakin University in GIFT city.

- 2) Prevent outflow of forex reserves.
eg ~\$5bn/year by students.
- 3) Better choice to students → reduce brain drain.
- 4) High quality R&D → increase patents.

★ Challenges

- 1) Deregulation of fees → untenable for most students.
- 2) Increasing student loans
↳ may increase burden → suicides.
- 3) Threat of inflow of western issues.
eg cancel culture, wokeism.

Despite challenges, entry of foreign HEIs into India is a welcome step.
In today's globalised world, it will enable Indian students to develop cosmopolitan view and get best facilities.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
S & F			
P & R			

Please put tick marks in the above table.

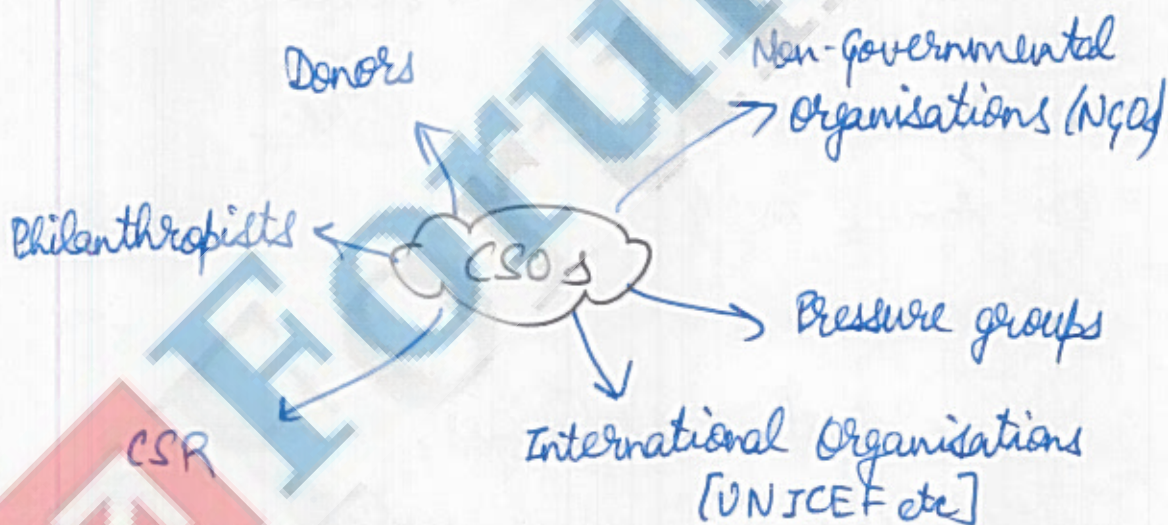
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
-------------	--

Q.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 मरोशों के साथ, चुनौतियों से भरी है। चर्चा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

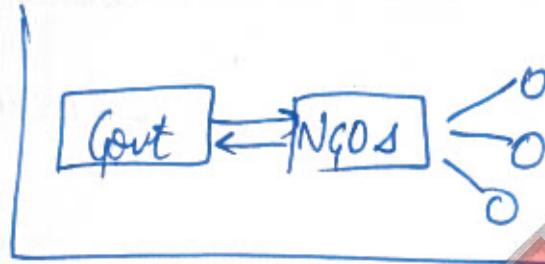
Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) refer to non-governmental organisations that seek to play a role in social development, poverty alleviation, voice to marginalized, for non-profit basis.



Promising Partnership of State and CSOs

- 1) Allows end-to-end planning and service delivery. eg NGOs for PDS distribution

2) Sharing of best practices



↳ improved efficiency. Fig 1: Last Mile delivery

eg Pratham → learning outcomes.
NGO

3) Proper identification of beneficiaries.

↳ Reduce inclusion and exclusion errors.

4) Inclusive policy-making and development.

↳ Voice of marginalised.

eg BKU → farmer protests of 2022.

5) Feedback and periodic monitoring → improve outcomes.
eg social audit.

Brought with challenges

1) Double dilemma → lack of funds
→ Misuse of funds.

eg Licenses of 16,000 NGOs cancelled due to this.

- 2) Conflict of interest → may lead to foreign interference
 Ⓞ Donors to Greenpeace → anti-development protest
- 3) Issue of maladministration
 - ↳ Not filing tax returns
 - ↳ Utilising >20% funds for administration
- 4) Concentrated in urban areas.
 ↳ Unable to fulfill rural objectives.
- 5) Environment of suspicion → low trust.

Reforms Needed

- 1) S. Vijay Kumar Committee
 - ↳ internal democracy in NGOs
 - ↳ proper utilisation of funds

- 2) Allow dissent, with limits of A19(2)

Thus, CSOs have the potential to bring effective governance in India by filling lacunae of government in development.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

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 कहाँ तक सफल रहा है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

POCSO Act, 2012 was enacted as foremost legislation to prevent and punish for offenses of child sexual abuse.

Working of POCSO Act, 2012

★ Achievements

- 1) Stringent provisions → child as any person below 18 years
 ↓
 Strong punishment → death penalty for rape below 12 years.

Allow minor of 16-18 years be treated as adult (if heinous crime)

- 2) gender neutral → available to boy child.
- 3) Acted as deterrence for several crimes.
- 4) Establish National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

★ Shortcomings

- 1) Still high number of cases of abuse.
 Eg Delhi as 'rape capital of world'.
- 2) low numbers due to underreporting.
 ↳ Almost 90% not reported [NCRB]
- 3) High incidence of child abuse in rural area.
 Eg One child pushed into trafficking every 7 minutes in India. [NCRB]
- 4) Poor implementation at ground level.
- 5) Untrained and insensitive police personnel

Mandate of NCPCR

- 1) Inquiry into child offences.
- 2) Power of civil court to call witnesses, and direct officials.
- 3) Periodic evaluation of working of POCSO Act and other provisions.

Whether successful?

- Yes
 - 1) Increased awareness about rights
eg Nukkad natak, plays.
 - 2) Workshop on 'good' and 'bad' touch.
 - 3) Hold officials accountable for swift action on calls.
- No
 - 4) Top-down implementation.
 - 5) Lack of teeth to punish officials or criminals.

Despite several shortcomings, POCSO Act 2012 and NCP CR have been instrumental in creating an 'atmosphere of trust and safety' for children in India.

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.18) Discuss the challenges that keep India multi-dimensionally poor with special reference to NITI Ayog'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)

Poverty, as per Amartya Sen, is a multi-dimensional concept including not just monetary inability to buy items, but also poverty of opportunity, time etc. which prevent full development of individual.

Challenges in India

Administrative

1) No standard definition of poverty.

eg Calorie approach →
Income approach →
Basket of goods approach

2) Bureaucratic apathy and lethargy

3) Inclusion and exclusion errors.

4) Poor data collection and management.

Socio-Economic

5) caste-based disabilities.

eg 80% dalits → own no land [SECC 2011]

6) Lack of opportunities of education and employment, especially in rural areas.

Political

7) Low representation in political offices → demands unanswered.

eg Transgenders → still no self-perception of identity.

8) Myopic policies → low development.
eg farm subsidies

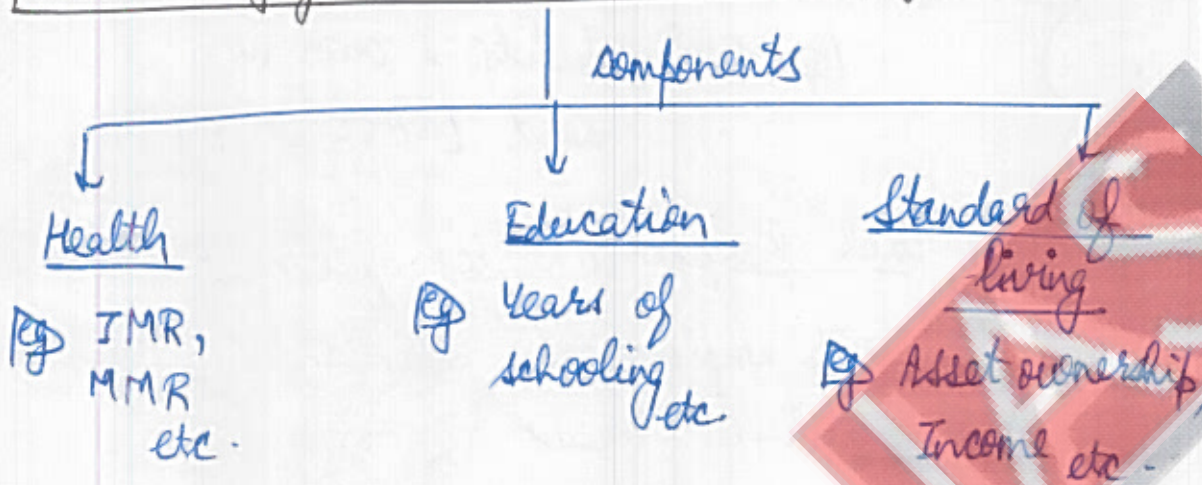
9) Gendered division of work
↳ time poverty for women.

Others

10) Inequality → Rural-urban divide
↳ Digital divide
Rich-poor divide.

Thus, multiplicity of factors lead to poverty in India.

NITI Aayog Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index



It was derived from UNDP and Oxford's MPI, but is more comprehensive as it also considers women's bank accounts.

Steps by government

- I) Nutrition → PM Poshan Kalyan Anna Yojana
→ NFSA, 2013 + PDS shops
- II) Employment → MGNREGA → 100 days guaranteed
→ PMKVY → upskilling
- III) Social security → PM JAY → health insurance
→ NSAP → pension

Thus, comprehensive approach is required to achieve SDG 1: No poverty in all forms

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A
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.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 was started as a grouping of 5 developing large nations → Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Recently, other countries like Iran have also been included.

Potential of BRICS in shaping post-Western global order

1) 21st century = Asia's century.

↳ BRICS include two largest economies, India and China, thus holds significant voice.

2) Fast developing economies with large population → increasingly difficult to ignore in global world order.

- 3) Fall of multi-laterals, Rise of Mini laterals
↳ Unique opportunity of leading global decisions.
- 4) Regional agreements on trade, security.
↳ Start of decline of petro-chemical powers
eg Agreement for currency swaps sends strong message of de-dollarisation.
- 5) Strong potential of people-to-people contacts
eg India-Russia → 'all weather friend'
India-China → ancient civilizations.

Internal Contradictions

- 1) Internal conflicts between members.
eg China's expansionist tendencies at India border.
- 2) Differing views on global aspirations.

eg India (part of G4) → want permanent seat at UN → refused by Brazil, China.

3) Lack of consensus as security group.

eg Differing views on Indo-Pacific.

4) Low global goodwill for some countries.

eg NATO against China-Russia-Iran axis.

5) Differing diplomatic views for collaboration.

eg With US → India supports.

→ Russia, China oppose.

Way Forward

1) Need alignment on key international issues.

eg Russia-Ukraine war.

2) Increase trade relations, collaboration on S & T, defense etc.

The recent inclusion of new members in BRICS signify rise of global south in today's Post-Western World Order.

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) "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)

World Trade Organisation (WTO) is a specialised UN body which was created post General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to ensure free, open, inclusive global trade.

Reasons behind dysfunction of WTO

- 1) Loss of funding → US substantially reducing funding to several UN agencies including WTO.
- 2) Disobeying guidelines by members.
eg Agricultural subsidies by India.
- 3) Lack of dispute redressal mechanism.
↳ Pending since long time.

- 4) Fall of multilateralism at global level.
↳ Shift towards bilateral, multilateral groupings.
- 5) Custom trade agreements, instead of global trade.
eg RCEP, NAFTA etc.
- 6) Restrictive policies by several countries.
eg EU → Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) for climate change
- 7) Increasing protectionism, deglobalisation.
eg Weaponisation of supply chains. Vaccine nationalism.

Reforms Needed

Resilient world trade

- 1) Free and open supply chain.
eg Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)
- 2) Support to COVID-affected nations.

- Sustainable**
- 3) sustainable development policies
eg WTO → green, Amber subsidy
 - 4) Creating 'environment of trust'
↳ Grievance Redressal
 - 5) Promote 'clean trade'
↳ Green energy, logistics.
- Inclusive**
- 6) No coercive groupings against nations.
eg US 'chip subsidy' v/s EU.
 - 7) Support sharing of technology, IPR.
eg WHO Pandemic Fund for IPR subsidisation.

Revival of WTO is dependent on multiplicity of factors, requiring global cooperation and moving away from protectionism.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

	G	A
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	
-------------	--

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		

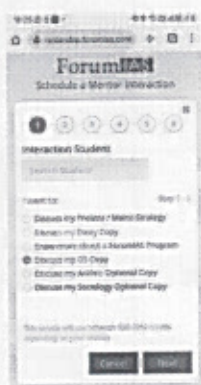
* Subject to change without prior notice.

Availing Mentorship - Now made easy & seamless via mentorship.forumias.com

Dear Students,

You can now avail Mentorship in both online & offline mode seamlessly. All you need to do is login to below URL and pick up a date and time and your Mentorship is scheduled at the designated time.

Visit the URL <https://mentorship.forumias.com> or Scan the QR code



When must you seek mentorship? When you are unable to fully comprehend the directions given by the evaluator in the MGP copy. A Mentor will help you understand the nuances of your evaluated MGP copy. He / She will also be able to make suggestions, if needed, on improvements that you could make.

If we are already doing well, a reinforcement from the Mentor will further assist us in following the right path. A Mentor may also be able to give valuable inputs with respect to time management, presentation, structure etc. He may recommend you clearly to work on content or may suggest you to take courses / read books in case he feels you lack content that may be quickly improved with a course at ForumIAS or elsewhere, or some study material.

To download topper's copies, visit the link <https://blog.forumias.com/testimonials>

Topper's Testimonials and Test Copies

CSE 2021 Topper's Testimonials and Test Copies

- CSE Rank 1, Shruti Sharma, Download MGP Copies + Testimonial [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 5, Utkarsh Divedi, Download MGP Copies + Testimonial [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 8, Ishita Rathi, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 9, Preetam Kumar, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 12, Yasharth Shekhar, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 14, Abhinav J Jain, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 17, Mehak Jain, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 19, Diksha Joshi, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 20, Arpit Chauhan, Download MGP Copies + Testimonial [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 23, Ashish, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 24, Pusapati Sahitya, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 25, Shruti Rajlakshmi, Download MGP Copies + Testimonial [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 26, Utsav Anand, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 28, Mourya Bharadwaj Mantri, Download MGP Copies + Testimonial [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 30, Naman Goyal, Download MGP Copies + Testimonial [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 33, Jaspinder Singh, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 37, V Sanjana Simha, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 39, Vishal Dhakad, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)
- CSE Rank 40, Kushal Jain, Download MGP Copies [Click Here](#)