

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	ZUFISHAN HAQUE		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1530610	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	Date/दिनांक	24/08/23

*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 (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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			3:00	6:00
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 समय रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हें तब तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।			For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु	
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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11/20
1-80

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)

The media has been called as the fourth pillar of democracy.

Role ① Dissemination of information

↓
Helps public build a free opinion
[Article 19(1)(a)]

② Mobilise public - pressure groups to raise issues.
Eg. Aarey protest was mobilised with help of press.

③ Greater accountability - Role of ministries and implementing of projects published by media.

Eg. Rafale deal investigation carried by leading newspaper.

④ Publicise government policies - newspapers in vernacular language reach remote areas - welfare state concept as per Directive Principle of State Policy

⑤ Freedom of speech and expression and raise voice of dissent (Article 19)

Issues with Press Freedom -

① Legislative framework - Frequent changes in IT Rules and Digital Media Rules.
↳ impacts 'autonomy'

② Greater interference of executive - PIB can fact check a news and ask publishers to remove it. Liability body to be selected by government

③ Small publishers have lower funding, big news publishers with quid - pro quo with government.

④ Safety issues - Sting operations, investigative reports lead to death
Eg - Gauri Lankesh's unfortunate death
While a 'light touch' kind regulation is needed for media, it needs to flourish for democracy to function.

Feedback
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#	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
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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)

The current Lok Sabha has less than 15% of women in comparison to total seats.

Electoral process :- inclusionary

- (i) Universal adult suffrage - Article 325 and 326 - One person, one value vote system.
- (ii) High turnout of women voters - Women are considered as important 'vote-bank' by political parties.
- (iii) Local self government - Has high number of women candidates and women Panchayat members. (33% reservation for women)

Electoral process : exclusionary

- (i) Low representation in Lok Sabha and State Legislature - Eg. Recently

the Nagaland state legislature got its first female MLA since independence.

(ii) 'Women issues' are not an important part of electoral promises - eg. Unpaid domestic work an issue raised by few parties.

(iii) Women viewpoint in elections is largely influenced by other voters' behaviour.

(iv) Participation in voting, party campaigning & nomination of candidates is low.

(v) High funding for campaigning, use of digital technology - disadvantage for women.

(vi) Passage for reservation of women seats in Lok Sabha is delayed.

Positive changes are seen like unpaid domestic work discussed in Tamil Nadu elections or women allowance in Punjab. Further, actions need to be taken.

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)

Article 21 provides for protection of life and liberty and is a fundamental right. Death penalty is awarded in grave offences in India.

Controversies around capital punishment

- ① Death penalty is against the concept of Article 21 promising dignified life.
- ② Death penalty — leads to retributive justice not reformatory justice.
- ③ Scope of revising judgement is limited
- ④ Disadvantageous for poorer sections of society — limited access to legal aid.

⑤ Most countries have abolished death penalty - death penalty is punishment for entire family of the criminal.

⑥ Delays in pardoning order is against the right to speedy trial

Capital Punishment is needed

① Strong deterrence - For offences having serious repercussions.

② Sense of justice to the victim.

③ As per the Supreme Court, death penalty is to be given in 'rarest of rare cases'. Eg- in

terror cases, sexual harassment and rape of minor

↳ necessary checks for death penalty are present.
Proper implementation of law and order and timely conviction ensures crime level remains low both in presence and absence of death penalty.

Feedback
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TOTAL MARKS	
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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)

The Inter-State River Disputes Act, 1956 has been ~~used to~~ set up to look into disputes over rivers flowing between two or more states. Such disputes have been kept outside the purview of Supreme Court.

① It sets up tribunals to look into the issues. Eg. Kaveri Dispute Board for Kaveri river for state of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

② It provides common platform for states to divide water usage and building of dams.
eg. Mullaperiyar dam managed by Kerala belongs to Tamil Nadu government.

③ States can together look into desiltation and clearing.

Shortcomings

- ① Delay in orders by the tribunal
- ② The orders are not followed - all parties to disputes raise such allegations. Eg. Mekedattu Dam construction - protests by neighbouring states.

Impact of delays in resolution

- ① Social unrest - People and state government needs are not answered
 - ② Delay in projects such as dam construction → affects energy security
 - ③ Dams already present on river are not checked and maintained
 - ④ Rising cost of projects on river
 - ⑤ Degrading relation between states rise of regionalism
- The Inter State River Water Dispute Bill suggests a permanent tribunal.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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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)

The cooperatives are formed when people often from similar socio-economic background come together to pool their resources and achieve a common economic target.

Significance of cooperative model for rural growth

- ① Better employment opportunities - Co-operative in sectors like animal husbandry, fishing are alternative to agriculture. Eg. Amul, cooperative in milk industry.
- ② Higher rural income - Cooperatives have better bargaining power, better access to market.
- ③ Improvement in Female Labour Force

Participation (FLFP) - arrest the declining FLFP, cooperatives employ larger share of women.

④ Technology access - Cooperatives can hire machines from common service centres, bring new technology - better yields in agriculture

⑤ Financial inclusion - Cooperatives can take loans at less interest rate, no issue of collateral, loans from formal banks.

⑥ Better awareness of government schemes - Government promotes cooperatives and offers lucrative schemes & funds under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Fund.

However, cooperatives in rural area have issues of low inclusivity of different social groups and interference of political parties. The Ministry of Cooperation is set to streamline cooperatives for further rural growth.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			



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)

Good governance means public services are accessible and affordable. Welfare state ensure basic minimum needs reach people to help them provide opportunities of growth.

PM PVTG Development Mission

Particularly vulnerable Tribal groups have poor development indicators. The scheme offers:-

- ① Dedicated fund for various schemes for PVTG groups.
- ② Improvement of health index of PVTG → Opening of health care centres, improvement in health infrastructure
- ③ Opening of schools, more number

Q.6) In order to pass the ultimate test of good governance, welfare state should be people, responsive to their aspirations, and inclusive in its approach to PM PVTG Development Mission.

सुशासन मौलिक परीक्षा पास करने के लिए, कल्याणकारी राज्य को लोगों के जीवन को बेहतर बनाने के लिए उत्तरदायी होना चाहिए और अपने दृष्टिकोण में समावेशी होना चाहिए। PM PVTG विकास मिशन को सफल बनाने के लिए।

good governance means public services are accessible and affordable. Welfare state ensure basic minimum needs such people to help them in opportunities of growth.

of Eklanya Model Residential school for tribal groups.

④ Nutritional needs - Improvement of facility of Public Distribution system. → address issue of anaemia, undernutrition among PVTG.

⑤ Adequate Means of livelihood - Program seeks to create livelihood options as per their traditional skills → marketing of bamboo crafts (under TRIFED).

⑥ Citizen centric development scheme - use of traditional knowledge in agriculture projects.

PM PVTG program will help to fulfill one of the seven priorities in budget which is Last Mile Delivery

Feedback
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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)

Civil society organizations are non-state, non-market bodies which work for the interests of citizens and their socio-economic development.

Collaboration between state and CSO

① Knowledge sharing - CSO has individuals with greater expertise
Eg. Red Cross Society organises health camps among Chenhus, a tribe in South India.

② Better reach - CSO are connected to the grassroots, have members from local communities.
↳ ensures better targeting of government schemes.
Eg. Akhaya Patra carries mid-

day meal program in about 19000 schools.

③ Data collection - CSO provides necessary data to state which helps in policy making.

Eg. Population Fund of India collects data on population structure, age and gender.

↳ eliminate poverty through specific schemes.

④ Citizen acceptance - Religious organisations have greater influence over people. State utilise it to spread awareness. Eg. Use of religious group to promote Covid vaccine.

However, certain NGOs face difficulties under amended Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. Ease of working for CSO with state collaboration will help in achieving goal of welfare state

Feedback

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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)

West Asia and India's interests are converging on strategic and economic front.

Changing paradigm and India's interests

① I2U2 Alliance - ^{grouping} Alliance of India, Israel, UAE and USA. ^{grouping} promise rule-based order. ^{grouping} will bring investments such as UAE investment in food parks.

② Energy security - Improved relations with Iran ensures supply of oil without fears of sanctions.

③ Balancing Act - Better relations with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Countries.

balances the influence of Pakistan and new organisations of Islamic Conference.

④ Economic growth - Trade deals with UAE, talks with Saudi Arabia on investments (investment in oil refineries) opens employment opportunities.

Presence of inimical actors

① China is increasing its influence in region - Iran - China 25 year partnership.

② Political instability in region - Israel - Palestine issue, Yemen and Syria issue.

③ Radicalization may affect security of India.

Thus, India needs to closely tread its path to ensure that its ties with West Asia bring benefits

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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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)

The Prime Minister has given the Ranch Plan which promises India a developed status by 2047.

Absence of Robust Social Infrastructure

① Poor skilling - As per global skills report only 50% of graduates are employable as per industry needs.
↳ leads to problem of unemployment and poverty.

② Degrading health condition - India has highest number of TB cases, it is diabetes capital of the world.
↳ impairs productivity of individual.
↳ greater expenditure on health rather than skilling and education.

③ Digital Divide - Poor communication and internet infrastructure leads to unequal access to technology
 ↳ 90% of India's population is digitally illiterate → prone to cyber crime and spamming.

④ Poor living conditions - Poor unhygienic living conditions, improper access to electricity violates basic minimum needs of people.

⑤ Deepening inequality - As per Oxfam Report top 1% has more than 50% of wealth of country. Inequality breeds social unrest.

Thus, in absence of social infrastructure demographic dividend can become a demographic disaster which can affect achieving developed status by 2047.

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TOTAL MARKS	
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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)

The Indus water treaty 1960 is one of the most successful treaty in the world. It divides the usage of water between India and Pakistan from river Indus.

Water diplomacy

① Indus water treaty - It has allowed India to exploit eastern rivers for irrigation project and hydroelectric dams. L India and Pakistan hold dialogue under Permanent Commission.

② Transnational rivers between India and Bangladesh - Both countries share 54 rivers. Treaty over Hooghly river and building

of Farakka barrage has benefited both nations.

③ India and Nepal have partnered over Kosi river, Mahakali river.

↳ dams have prevented the flooding in areas of Bihar.

④ India and Bhutan have partnered over run-off-river dams → helps Bhutan in hydropower generation → economic and energy security.

The Indus water treaty has suffered from certain political statements which speak to reverse treaty conditions. However, despite worsening of India Pakistan relation the treaty is intact.

Similarly, other countries cooperation with India on river sharing is successful. This contributes to regional cooperation in South Asia.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS	
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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)

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (73rd CAA) and 74th CAA introduced local self governance as envisaged in Article 40 of Constitution.

Constitutional backing

- ① XIth and XIIth Schedule list the items for state government for devolution of power.
- ② Mandatory provisions include — Regular elections for Panchayat and Municipal bodies, setting up of State Finance Commission and reservation for women.
- ③ The Finance Commission looks into measures for augmenting finance to local bodies.

and South Africa have jointly raised the issue of patent-waiver for Covid-19.

④ Asia-Africa Growth Corridor - Project by India and Japan to increase investment and infrastructure in African countries.
↳ focus on sustainable projects which conform with Sustainable Development Goals.

⑤ Climate Justice - India and Africa has raised issue of common but differentiated responsibilities to achieve climate goals.

⑥ Resilient Supply Chain - African nations like Egypt has raised issue of food-security crisis due to Russia-Ukraine crisis. India too raised the issue in United Nations.

- ⑦ Rule based order in Indo Pacific - India - African ties for surveillance of maritime domain and better security in Indo - Pacific region.
- ⑧ Both India and Africa have not taken sides in Russia-Ukraine war and urged to solve the crisis through negotiation.

Challenges

- ① India - Africa ties limited to East and Southern African countries (less interaction with Francophone African countries)
- ② Political instability and rise of radicalisation - limits strategic relations.
- ③ Free Trade Agreement is lacking.
- ④ growing inroads of china through military port (Djibouti) and BRI projects.
India - Africa ties has the potential to redesign global affairs and geopolitics.

Feedback

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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)

The Indo-Pacific region makes about 60% of the world's GDP. The economic center from Atlantic has now shifted towards Indo-Pacific.

Opportunities for India -

- ① ASEAN centrality - India's Act East Policy converges with greater importance of ASEAN in region.
- ② ASEAN is a center of market and investment → Singapore is one of the largest investor in India.
- ③ ASEAN countries are improving their defence capabilities.
↳ opportunity for India to export

defence items. Eg. Helicopters Philippines interest in BRAHMOS.

② Rule Based Order - ASEAN and India both favour inclusive Indo-Pacific.

↳ Vietnam has raised voice against China's growing hegemony

Opportunity for India to act as net security provider in region and collaborate with ASEAN countries.

↳ Eg. India participates in ASEAN Regional Forum and ASEAN Defence Meeting.

③ Development Partnership - India-ASEAN are looking forward

to projects in Space Sector and Green Energy.

Hurdles

- ① Trade deficit — India has negative trade balance with all ASEAN countries.
↳ weakens India's position.
- ② Hegemony of China — Increased presence of China in Indo-Pacific.
↳ pearl of strings, nine-dashed line.
India has withdrawn from RCEP trade deal — China can further extend influence with ASEAN.
- ③ Political instability — Myanmar is under military rule. Both India and ASEAN countries have to manoeuvre over its statement given India and ASEAN's stand to democratic values.
- ④ People to People contacts is limited, needs to be further enhanced.
India's claim in multipolar world can be achieved by making Indo-Pacific inclusive.

Feedback

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Idea of decentralisation is a
hostage to bottlenecks

- ① Limited functions - Most states have transferred on less important subjects to local bodies -
eg. management of markets, sanitation
Health is not under local bodies
- ② Functionaries have less role -
The Panchayat leaders and municipal councillors lack training.
Infrastructure is poor - no office, computer facility in many villages.
- ③ Political interference - Elections to local bodies do not take place in time. Eg. Delayed in Maharashtra over issue of reservation.
- ④ Autonomy of State Election Commission
Election officers functioning is hindered

by state to its advantage -
 Eg. State Election Commissioner,
 Andhra Pradesh terms of appointment
 and tenure changed after appointment

5) Insufficient funds - limited avenues
 for funds through land tax,
 markets. Land tax is limited as
 property papers are not properly
 available

6) Caste-based discrimination - despite
 reservation, social structure is
 such that Sarpanch from scheduled
 castes have reported discrimination
 like not allowed to sit with
 other members.

Decentralisation needs to be further
 improved by granting greater
autonomy and more funds to
local bodies. The Devolution Index
 by Pratham assesses the performance
of states. Data can be used for
intervention.

Feedback
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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)

The independence of judiciary is part of basic structure and a necessary component for separation of powers.

Independent judiciary - thriving polity

① Limits the role of executive and prevents arbitrary actions - 44th

Constitutional Amendment Act wanted to bring the amendment - any provisions of Directive Principles of State Policy can be used to limit Fundamental Rights → declared void.

② Progressive realisation of rights - Interpretation of Article 21 has become a source of various inferred rights. Eg. Right to Privacy (Puttaswamy judgement)

③ Protects Federalism - view of state is considered, any dispute resolved as per Article 131 - L.S. Bommai case - Federalism is a basic structure.

④ Judicial activism - Eg. Framing of Misakha guidelines

Executive encroachment

① Against the concept of separation of powers.

② Appointments - The National Judicial Appointment Commission for selection of judges gave executive a larger role - declared unconstitutional

③ Non-compliance with orders - Eg. Ordinance to bring Delhi services under Lieutenant Governor control is against Supreme Court judgement

④ Delays process of justice -
 Vacancies in High Court - upto 400 vacancies; list is pending approval of executive.

⑤ Political cases - Political parties have alleged each other for false cases for vendetta.
 ↳ increases the number of cases for judiciary.

However, separation of powers also includes systems of checks and balances. Hence, executive can criticise the collegium system.

↳ ensures greater transparency in selection of judges.

All organs of government need to work in tandem without encroaching the domain of each other.

Feedback
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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)

Executive agencies such as Enforcement Directorate (ED), CBI, NCB are created for effective implementation of various acts that prevent crime and ensure security of nation.

Role of Enforcement Directorate

- ① It can seize assets pertaining to proceeds of crime related to money laundering.
- ② It can arrest without warrant and carry search operations.
- ③ It also looks into provisions under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act. Thus, it is a vital agency to curb money laundering.

Controversies around ED

- ① Political conformity - Opposition and political parties have alleged that ED arrests and seizure is against political opponents to stifle opposition.
- ② Opacity - ED is not required to submit ECIR report on arrest like FIR.
↳ great discretion to ED
- ③ Against spirit of federalism - ED can conduct search operation and arrest in state without state permission.
- ④ Non-uniformity - EDs role in different cases has not been alike, certain cases have been given more importance → reflects political interference.
- ⑤ After arrest burden of proof

is an accused. Further, bail conditions are difficult.

⑥ Appointments - The tenure of ED chief has been extended without proper and standard norms. Supreme Court has expressed displeasure

⑦ Low rate of conviction - Arrest by ED have low conviction. The arrest and delay in case is itself seen as a punishment.

The Supreme Court has accepted money laundering is a heinous crime. Hence, powers of ED have been justified.

Greater transparency and less delay in conviction will raise public trust

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)

The National Commission for Women is a statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act.

Role of NCW

- ① Review the various constitutional and legal safeguards for women
- ② Advise government on various policies for women.
- ③ Look into violation of women's right, non-compliance of policies.
- ④ Investigate and take suo-motu notice of cases against women's access to rights.
- ⑤ Investigate seam and homes, prisons.
- ⑥ Submit report on women.

Positive intervention by NCW

- ① Awareness creation - NCW has hosted a number of campaigns against child marriage and dowry with success.
- ② Policy change - NCW input was taken in Pre Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Technique Act to prohibit sex determination of foetus.
- ③ Platform to register complaints - NCW has been instrumental in setting up of SHE-Box - online platform to report sexual harassment cases to Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ④ Inspection of women shelter and remand homes - improved the conditions

Limitations

- ① Lack inclusivity - NCW body

does not have representation proportionately for SC, ST and minorities.

② NCW has not been vocal in many important issues -
Eg - Late response in recent viral video of Manipur which trampled dignity of women.

③ Opaqueness - Appointments to NCW have been alleged to have political influence.

④ Lack of funding - NCW has limited resources.

⑤ Its recommendations are advisory in nature.

Suggestions to give NCW power to impose penalties have been given. Further, NCW can engage with civil society to address grassroots problems.

Feedback

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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)

Multidimensionally poor is calculated broadly on the basis of three factors - health, education and standard of living.

Multidimensional poverty Index (MPI) report by NITI Aayog.

The second MPI report by NITI Aayog was recently released. It accords about 15% of Indian population as multidimensionally poor.

→ There has been substantial decrease in percentage of poor since 2009.

→ Incidence of poverty as per UN

standards have decreased.

MPI Report for policymaking

① Poverty estimation - It helps to map the poor population and design schemes for basic minimum needs.

Eg. PM Garib Kalyan Yojana provides food grains to 80 crore Indians.

② Sources of deprivation - Health segment gives details on level of nutrition, infant mortality
 ↳ MPI reports lower infant mortality → increase in institutional delivery.

↳ Education takes into account enrollment and attendances.
 Improvement in Gross Enrollment

rate in primary education is reported.

③ Impact of policies - Greater number of individuals with bank accounts has been reported.

- ↳ success of Jan Dhan Account
- Increase in use of LPG gases
- ↳ success of PM-Ujwala scheme

④ Compassion and intervention - State wise data can be compared. Eg. Bihar has highest number of multidimensionally poor population. ↳ greater funding for state by centre can be planned.

⑤ Equity - Multidimensional poor access different social groups is assessed → special schemes for SC, ST (higher percentage of poor). Thus, MPI report is a positive step to achieve Sustainable Development Goal-1 of Zero Poverty.

Feedback
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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)

India is a multi-party democracy meaning multiple parties contest elections and raise issue of diverse sections of society

Political Parties - representative democracy

- ① Fulfills right to dissent as well as right to freedom and expression (Article 19)
- ② Political Parties raise issues of different groups. Eg. Shiv Sena is party in Maharashtra - raises issue of Marathas. DMK - party in Tamil Nadu.
- ③ Create pressure on government - They act as pressure groups. Eg. Opposition parties raised

demand regarding discussion
on violence in Manipur →
greater visibility of the issue.

Challenges of political parties

- ① Lack internal democracy -
Internal processes of democratic
parties are not democratic -
no regular elections.
- ② Funding may not be sufficient -
Only few national parties receive
a large share of donations,
other parties are cash-strapped.
- ③ Political defections - Members
of parties split and merge
at convenience. Eg. Recent
split of National Congress Party
- ④ Lack representation - Most political
parties do not have enough

women members and members from different communities.
 ↳ women candidate get less tickets

⑤ Criminalization - Many political parties have members with pending criminal charges.
 ↳ denies equal and fair chance to other party members.

⑥ Political vendetta - Parties not in power allege that agencies are used to stifle opposition and their actions.

The Indrajit Gupta Committee has suggested state funding for elections. Further, suggestions to expand EC Role such that it can look into internal democratic functioning of parties has also been given.

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)

The Jal Jeevan Mission promises piped water supply to every individual of rural India by 2024.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - benefits

- ① Basic Minimum Need - Access
to safe drinking water is a necessity to a dignified and healthy life (Article 21)
- ② Good Health - Safe water reduces risk of diarrhoea and cholera.
 - ↳ better nutrition and food assimilation in children.
 - ↳ lower infant mortality.
- ③ Gender inequality is addressed -

Women are seen as providers of drinking water. Access to it reduces unpaid domestic work

↳ Better enrollment and attendance of female children in schools.

④ Prevents environmental degradation

↳ Keeps a check on over-exploitation of ground water.

↳ reduces soil salinity, water pollution.

⑤ Social harmony - Unequal access leads to social crisis. Eg. Jamil Nandu water crisis resulted in violence.

Better health and better education due to safe drinking water means reaping the demographic dividend → benefits across generations

Challenges.

- ① Slow execution of project - States like Manipur, West Bengal have very slow implementation rate.
- ② Pressure on existing water source - Without proper system to recycle available water, pressure created on existing rivers and lakes.
- ③ Lack of awareness - Public may waste water if its conservation benefits are not spread.
- ④ Contamination of water - About 70% of water in India is contaminated. Industry checks - to limit effluents.
- ⑤ Huge fiscal burden - to set pipelines and tanks.

Jal Jeevan Mission can become a success when transformed into a people's movement. People need to engage in sustainable use of water.

Feedback

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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)

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC and ST), Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 is to prohibit the discrimination faced by the community by inviting stringent legal action.

SC and ST Act, 1989 -

↳ Complaint filed and person can be arrested without preliminary inquiry.

↳ Anticipatory bail is denied.

↳ Burden of proof on accused.

Such stringent action against accused is to send strong message of deterrence.

Positive Outcomes → Increase reporting under SC and ST Act is an indicator of more awareness

- among the public.
- ② Large scale protests when Supreme Court sought to change the provisions indicates the value of the aforesaid Act.
 - ③ Other legislations like RPA disqualifies a candidate engaging in untouchability is a deliberence.

SC & ST Act :- mere legal document.

- ① Most cases registered are only by one section of aware individual.
↳ Cases of untouchability and forced labour is reported in several India.

Eg. Sumangalli, a form of bonded labour contract system despite being banned is reported in Tamil Nadu.

- ② Cases are filed but conviction remains low — grounds immunity to perpetrator.

③ Apprehensions to use the Act as SC, ST members are often blackmailed.

↳ Hathras case was reported late despite such a heinous crime.

④ Cases are registered under ordinary case laws instead of SC and ST Act.

↳ difficult to differentiate if the crime was based on identity of the caste.

↳ greater sensitization is needed for the police personnel to register cases and speedy disposal of cases through fast-track courts.

↳ civil society needs to create awareness by use of different tribal languages in different parts of country.

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)

India - Africa ties are strengthening with the raising of voice of global south.

India - Africa ties

① Multipolar world - Countries in both continent support rule-based order and reform

India and South Africa are emerging economies which will shape global order.

② Reform in multilateral institutions

- African countries support India's membership to United Nations Security Council.

- countries demand reform of banks - World Bank and IMF.

③ Equal access to resource - India