

TEST CODE 6 1 2 3 0 2

FIAS - MGP 2023 - GS PAPER 2 FLT #6

Time Allowed : Three Hours

समय : तीन घंटे

Forum IAS

Maximum Marks : 250

अधिकतम अंक : 250

## GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

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|---|-----------------------|---------------|--|
| Name Of Candidate<br>परीक्षार्थी का नाम | KSHITIJ ADITYA JHARMA |               |  |
| Roll No./अनुक्रमांक                     | 1910115817            | Medium/माध्यम | English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र              |                       | Date/दिनांक   | 11-08-2023   |

\*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.<br>प्र.सं.  | Max. Marks<br>अधिकतम अंक | Marks Obtained<br>प्राप्तांक |  |  |
| 1  |                          |                              | 1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.  |  |
| 2  |                          |                              | कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।  |  |
| 3  |                          |                              | 2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.  |  |
| 4  |                          |                              | उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।  |  |
| 5  |                          |                              | 3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.   |  |
| 6  |                          |                              | प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।  |  |
| 7  |                          |                              | 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. |  |
| 8  |                          |                              | 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।                               |  |
| 9  |                          |                              | 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.                    |  |
| 10   |                          |                              | 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।                              |  |
| 11   |                          |                              |  |  |
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| Total/कुल अंक  | 250                      |                              | For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु  |  |
| Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :   |                          |                              | Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :   | End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :  |
|  |                          |                              | 9:30 AM  | 12:45 PM   |
| Total Marks/कुल अंक :  |                          |                              | Mode Of Examination/<br>परीक्षा की विधि :  | Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>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. |                          |                              | For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु  |  |
| 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 आती के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।   |                          |                              | ECN CODE/<br>ईसीएन कोड :   | Evaluation Date/<br>मूल्यांकन तिथि :   |
|  |                          |                              | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤  |  |

**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.

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## EXAMINER'S REMARKS

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### 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 fourth estate of the democracy refers to a free, diverse & vibrant media which promotes transparency and holds the other three organs accountable for their actions.

### Role of the fourth estate

- ① Exposing abuse of authority. eg Police beatings in Bhagalpur, Bihar.
- ② Promoting freedom of speech and expression. eg Indian Express during emergency.
- ③ Promoting debate on issues of public concern + deliberative democracy.
- ④ Exposing corruption and maladministration.
- ⑤ Providing representation to the voices of the marginalised.

## Challenges facing the press & media

- ① Reliance on government funding through advertisements.
- ② Ownership of news media by large corporates.
- ③ Creation of oligopolies in the news media through concentration.
- ④ Attacks on journalists and combative attitude of the government.
- ⑤ Limits on FDI in electronic media to only 26%.

To improve press freedom, we must ensure that government funding is free from bias or favour, and that independent news platforms are promoted, to create a more participative & deliberative democracy.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

| #  | G | A | P |
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| AWIS   |   |   |   |
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| Please put tick marks in the above table.<br>Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor. |   |   |   |
| TOTAL MARKS  |   |   |   |

Q2) 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)

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

The constitution guarantees electoral equality through Articles 325 & 326 by preventing exclusion and promoting equal franchise. However, there are certain challenges to the realisation of this vision.

### Challenges to electoral inclusivity

- ① Female participation in parliament is a meagre 17%.
- ② Low voter education creates challenges for fair exercise of franchise.
- ③ Electoral malpractices and role of money and muscle power in politics.
- ④ Representation of women in panchayats undermined by panch lathi practice.
- ⑤ First-Past the Post system effectively leads to decision of the largest minority.

## Way forward

- ① Programs like SVEEP of ECI to increase voter education & awareness.
- ② Passing women's reservation bill to enhance female participation.
- ③ Removing structural barriers to female leadership at local levels.
- ④ Implementing Indrajit Gupta committee suggestions on state funding to create level playing ground in elections.
- ⑤ Promoting female leadership at the intra-party level.

Thus electoral inclusivity, especially for women, requires the removal of social, political & cultural barriers that limit their political participation & exercise of voting rights.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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| TOTAL MARKS                                 |   |   |   |

Q3) 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 उभरी 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)

In India, death penalty is awarded for the 'rarest of the rare' of heinous crimes as per the Bachchan Singh verdict of the Supreme Court.

Death penalty & human dignity

- ① In Shabir Ahmad Chauhan's case, the court held that inordinate delay in sentencing violates right to life under Article 21.
- ② Justice Subba Rao argued that punishment of death is inherently contradictory to reformatory goals of justice system.
- ③ In reality, rarest of the rare standard is not observed, or applied arbitrarily.
- ④ Death penalty not only violates right to life, but confuses reformation with retribution.

- ⑤ Cases of Juvenile delinquents like Nisbhaya case create further controversies.
- ⑥ Several countries have either completely abolished death penalty or limited it to terrorism or state offences.

## Way forward

- ① Law Commission of India has also recommended the abolition of death penalty.
- ② If not removed, death penalty must be limited to severe organised crimes like terrorism.
- ③ even then strict procedural safeguards are required to prevent arbitrariness.

Babasaheb Ambedkar also said that "the proper thing to do is to abolish death penalty", during Constituent Assembly debates. It is fundamentally incompatible with human life & dignity

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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| Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor. |   |   |   |
| TOTAL MARKS                                 |   |   |   |



Q.4) Assess the effectiveness of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 in resolution of river-water disputes. Also describe the potential impact of delays in resolution of water disputes. (10 marks, 150 words)

नदी-जल विवादों के समाधान में अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद अधिनियम, 1956 की प्रभावशीलता का आकलन कीजिए। जल विवादों के समाधान में विलम्ब के संभावित प्रभाव का भी वर्णन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act was enacted pursuant to Article 263 of the Constitution to promote a cooperative & non-judicial approach to these disputes.

Challenges to effective implementation

- ① Accurate data of river basin volume is rarely available.
- ② Politicisation of river disputes between states. Eg. Cannery river dispute
- ③ Long delays in settlements, sometimes taking decades.
- ④ Lack of effective mediation by the central government
- ⑤ Failures of negotiations leading to court cases.

## Consequences of delays

- ① Lack of equity in sharing water with deprived regions.
- ② Underutilisation of potential of irrigation of major rivers.
- ③ Development of power projects suffers  
Eg. Nokedam dam dispute.
- ④ Leads to excess groundwater extraction depleting the water table.
- ⑤ Exacerbation of water stress.

Resolution of water disputes requires a cooperative, peaceful and non-political approach. The 2019 Amendment Bill is a crucial step in this direction.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

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

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

Cooperative societies are powerful tools for ensuring economics of scale, cooperation and greater bargaining power for farmers and other agriculturalists. Recent government policies show astute awareness of this.

Role of cooperative model of development

- ① Countering the adverse effects of fragmentation of landholdings.
- ② Promoting economisation of expenses through sharing expensive resources like tractors & other machines.
- ③ Bargaining power of farmers is increased through mutually decided rates.
- ④ makes it easier for government to implement schemes.
- ⑤ Prevents price discrimination of individual farmers.

## Recent government efforts

- ① 97th constitutional amendment added Article 43B & amended Art 19(1)(c).
- ② New Ministry of Cooperation to focus on the sector.
- ③ scheme for world's largest grains storage

### Plan:

- ④ Promoting cooperatives & PPOs in the horticulture & animal husbandry sectors.
- ⑤ scheme for promotion of 10,000 PPOs.

Thus, the cooperative model has the potential to help realise the dream of 'Sakshar se Samriddhi' and augment infrastructural development in the agricultural sector.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

सुरासतन नौलक परीका 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)

The PVTG Mission was launched as part of Budget 2023 to focus on the growth of 75 PVTGs of India based on the Shekar Committee criteria.

### Role of inclusivity & responsiveness

- ① Ensuring consultative policy-making, keeping local aspirations in mind.
- ② Allow for effective grievance redressal at the local level in a timely manner.
- ③ Reduces cost of implementation and policy transmission.
- ④ Increases accountability & transparency.
- ⑤ Promotes participatory governance & decentralisation.

## Significance of PVTG Development Mission

- ① Address declining population of PVTGs.
- ② Increase human development performance of tribal areas.
- ③ Ensure better health and educational outcomes.
- ④ Promote participation of PVTGs in their own development.
- ⑤ Reduce poverty & income distance from other communities.

Thus, the PVTG Development Mission seeks to overcome a long neglect of the most vulnerable tribal groups to ensure social justice and economic welfare.

### Feedback

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

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

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

Given the extent of poverty and malnutrition in India (107/121 in global hunger Report), the government alone cannot tackle gaps of research, provision and tracking for ensuring redress.

Role of collaboration with CSOs

- ① Research into unique challenges that exacerbate misery like hidden hunger.
- ② Augmenting the capacity of government machinery to reach the underserved.
- ③ Plugging availability gaps where proper availability is a challenge.
- ④ Raising awareness of good health & hygiene practices that complement nutrition.
- ⑤ Tracking the success of efforts & advising on improvements.

## Way forward

- ① Policy formulation itself should emission a role for CSOs.
- ② Providing training to the personnel of NGOs and other groups.
- ③ Aligning NGOs & CSOs with research wings of NITI / MO FHW for proper tracking & analysis.
- ④ Providing funding support to CSOs to ensure last mile connectivity.
- ⑤ Using them to raise awareness about complementary schemes for hygiene, clean water, etc.

Thus, NGOs and CSOs can play a major role in meeting SDGs-1 & 2, by increasing the reach & efficacy of government efforts.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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



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। बर्खा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India has traditionally suffered from a weak social infrastructure and the problem only worsened after the LPG reforms as the role of the government in development started to decline.

Role of robust social infrastructure

- Ensuring social security and well being to promote economic participation.
- Augmenting productivity through skilling and education.
- Promoting empowerment of vulnerable groups in the social & economic spheres.
- Increasing human development & quality of life.
- Reducing poverty and unemployment through improving quality of manpower.



## Way forward

- ① Increasing healthcare expenditure to 2.5% minimum as per National Health Policy, 2017 & educational expenditure to 6%.
- ② Improving the quality of primary healthcare especially in rural areas.
- ③ Addressing shortage of teachers & doctors in government facilities.
- ④ Promoting private sector partnership.
- ⑤ Using insurance schemes like PM-JAY, PM-JAY etc to enhance social security.

Thus, to reap our demographic dividend & become a developed economy by 2047, we must address gaps in our social infrastructure.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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



Q.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 is a region of great strategic, economic and political significance for India, as is reflected in our increasing engagement with the region.

## Significance of West Asia for India

- ① Main source of oil supplies for India.
- ② Securing major SLOCs and access to North African & European Markets
- ③ Engagement with Israel for agriculture and defence growth.
- ④ great potential of the region for alternative energy, especially solar & wind energy.
- ⑤ Reducing support of Muslim nations to Pakistan to increase diplomatic leverage.

## Challenges to stable engagement

- ① Inherent tensions between Israel - Saudi Arabia - Iran with each other.
- ② Recent events like Arab Spring causing political instability.
- ③ Need to ensure decoupling of Arab interests with Israel to reduce tensions.
- ④ Active role of China through OBOR and policy of containment.
- ⑤ Tensions of Iran & Western Nations even since JCPOA was terminated.

India has so far sailed steady in the region. We must continue to engage with each actor individually to cement our position without ~~the~~ getting dragged into diplomatic contestations.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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



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

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

Water scarcity can emerge as one of the greatest challenges to regional peace in south Asia due to its already low availability and low levels of technology...

Significance to regional cooperation

- ① increasing geopolitical tensions due to water-use and run of the river hydel projects on Indus river system.
- ② accusations of foul play during recent Pakistan floods.
- ③ India - Bhutan also engage in sharing water & hydroelectricity as a means for mutual cooperation.
- ④ India - Nepal pursuing several projects to generate electricity & reduce flooding of Kosi river.

⑤ Brahmaputra water is a source of tension with China.

## Problems with Indus Water Treaty mechanism

- ① Pakistan gets 60%+ of all water from the river system.
- ② No provisions on unilateral exit.
- ③ Lack of clarity on dispute settlement mechanism - arbitration v. expert adjudication
- ④ Allegations of withholding data on river flow.
- ⑤ Allegations of violation of provisions on free flow of waters of the Northern rivers.

Thus, there is a need for renegotiation of various provisions of the treaty to ensure stability and shared prosperity in the region.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

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

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The constitutional vision of the framers of ~~the~~ was transformed from a DSP under Article 40 to a reality through the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments. However, there are certain challenges in its realisation.

### Significance of Local Area Bodies

- ① Decentralising democratic functioning to the local level.
- ② Article 243D and 243T - Reservations for persons from SC/ST communities.
- ③ Promoting transparency & accountability in local governance
- ④ Article 243I - State Finance Commission for better management of resources.
- ⑤ State Election Commission [Article 243K] to

make local representation more participative and fair.

## Challenges to their functioning

- ① Weak fiscal capacity arising from poor taxation powers under XI & XII schedules.
- ② Lack of trained manpower, particularly at the gram panchayat level.
- ③ Inability / unwillingness to impose local taxes due to political reasons.
- ④ Ineffectiveness of female reservations due to paunch pati phenomenon.
- ⑤ Poor delegation of authority by state governments.
- ⑥ Gram Panchayat development plans [Article 243 G] are poorly designed.



## Way forward

- ① Budget 2023 proposed ring-fencing local charges & cesses to ensure efficiency.
  - ② Amending XI & XII schedules to increase the taxation powers of LABs.
  - ③ Venkatchalaiiah Commission recommended CAs audit of finances of local area bodies.
  - ④ Proper training to functionaries of the bodies.
  - ⑤ Augmenting the role of the gram Sabha [Article 243A] in the formation of Panchayat development plan.
- Thus to avoid LABs becoming 'grass without roots', we must ensure that the constitutional provisions are implemented in letter & in spirit.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

| #           | G | A | P |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| AWFS        |   |   |   |
| CD & VA     |   |   |   |
| S & F       |   |   |   |
| TOTAL MARKS |   |   |   |

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



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)

In Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain, the Supreme Court held that an independent judiciary is the foundation of separation of powers, and thus, also a part of the basic structure of the constitution.

### Role of independent judiciary

- ① Upholding the rule of law [AV Dicey - Supremacy of the law is an element of rule of law]
- ② Preventing administrative excesses.
- ③ Upholding fundamental rights & applying reasonable restrictions when required.
- ④ Foundation of government (executives) accountability towards citizens.
- ⑤ Progressive expansion of human rights through article 21.

## Threats from executive encroachment

- ① During PM Indira Gandhi's term, several judges were overlooked for appointment as J.
- ② Failure to appoint judges in a timely manner especially to high courts.
- ③ Refusal to obey the orders of the court. eg Armesh Kumar case - guidelines on bail.
- ④ overruling court verdicts through law.  
eg sechi NCT ordinance, 2023.
- ⑤ Public criticism of the court's functioning by the speaker & vice president.

## Way forward

- ① government & courts should come up with an agreed memorandum of appointment of judges.

- ② As recommended by the court, new appointments should be made within 3-4 weeks of recommendation by collegium.
- ③ Avoiding public criticism of the courts functioning.
- ④ Creation of a National Judicial Service for lower judiciary.
- ⑤ Legislature must respect SC verdicts, and not overrule them through legislative means.

The courts have time & again upheld the vibrancy of our democracy. The Gita says - he who protects the law is protected by it. Thus, we must ensure judicial efficiency & independence.

### 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.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 एजेंसियों, 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)

In the recent past, executive agencies have been accused of performing their roles in a pathosan manner, including the CBI, CVC, NIA and ED.

Role of executive agencies as watchdogs

- ① Exposing government corruption and ensuring accountability.
- ② Preventing financial crimes such as tax evasion & money laundering.
- ③ Investigating serious crimes like terrorism and human trafficking.
- ④ Ensuring government servants perform their duties fairly.

⑤ fracturing the capacity of local (state level) agencies and the police.

## Challenges to their interests

① Politicisation of these bodies: The Supreme Court called the CBI a 'caged parrot' in the Vineet Narain case.

② changing appointment procedures to reduce independence of office.

③ dependence on government machinery for conducting raids & investigations.

④ harassment of opposition leaders through repeated inquiries and summons.

⑤ Poor conviction rates: Enforcement Directorate enforces the PMLA and FEMA poorly, leading to a mere 2% conviction rate.

## Way forward

- ① Increasing the institutional capacity of the Enforcement Directorate.
- ② Avoiding frequent amendments to the tenure of the chairperson to ensure independence.
- ③ Reducing the politicisation of EP as a weapon against opposition leaders.
- ④ Improving the quality of investigation to increase conviction rates.

Thus, the executive bodies can only perform their role if given the capacity & freedom to do so. The government must maintain a principled distance from them.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

| #       | G | A | P |
|---------|---|---|---|
| AWRS    |   |   |   |
| CD & VA |   |   |   |
| S & F   |   |   |   |
| TOTAL   |   |   |   |
| MARKS   |   |   |   |

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

**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 was established in 1992 to safeguard the interests of women and to enquire into matters affecting their interests.

### Role of the NCW

- ① Inquiring into issues of violence and abuse faced by women.
- ② Making recommendations to the government for their empowerment.
- ③ conducting hearings on issues that are brought before it.
- ④ Cooperation with NGOs and other bodies to promote female empowerment.
- ⑤ Presenting an annual report on the steps taken by the commission.



## Some short comings of NCW

- ① Failure to exercise suo motu powers of investigation.
- ② ~~Low~~ Low institutional capacity for conducting inquiries.
- ③ Its recommendations are not binding on the government.
- ④ Tends to follow the government's position on issues rather than to question it.
- ⑤ No power to punish abusers for the offences against women.

## Recommendations

- ① Venkatchalaiiah Commission recommended that NCW should work as an ombudsman rather than merely conducting enquiries.

- ② Shortage of staff and funding has to be overcome to increase institutional capacity.
- ③ exercising no more powers more proactively.
- ④ Annual Report should mandatorily be discussed in both houses of the Parliament.
- ⑤ NCW should coordinate more effectively and engage with NHOs working to promote women's rights.

Thus, the NCW should function as an independent statutory body rather than an attached - department of the executive machinery to perform its functions properly.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

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

बहुआयामी गरीबी 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)

As per the latest MPI report from the NITI Aayog, poverty rate has fallen to 14.96% percent by 2020-21, with a decline of 42 crore people over 2005-06.

Traditional approach to poverty estimation

The Tendulkar formula uses an Income based approach to poverty estimation.

Shortcomings:

- ① Fails to measure intensity of poverty
- ② Does not account for regional variations in poverty lines.
- ③ Does not consider lack of resources available to poor families.

⊕ Social indicators are not accounted for.

## Need for Multidimensional Approach

- ① Helps take a more capability-driven approach to poverty estimation.
- ② Accounts for material improvements in quality of life.
- ③ Success of government schemes like SAUBHAYA or Jan Dhan can be directly measured.
- ④ Focuses on cumulative well-being of the family.
- ⑤ Accounts for the sources of deprivations.

## Findings of the latest NITI MPI Report

- ① Report points to the success of recent government schemes in reducing deprivation.

② In the last 7 years alone, more than 13 crore people escaped poverty.

③ Levels of multi dimensional poverty have reduced all across the country from 2019 levels.

Thus, the NITI National MPI report takes a more customised and data-driven approach to poverty estimation that accounts for actual improvements in the quality of life of the poor.

**Feedback**

(For OFFICE use only)

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



**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)

The political parties of our country, national and regional represent a rich mosaic of ideological, linguistic, cultural and regional identities that shape our political discourse.

### Role of political parties

- ① representing a diverse set of interests and aspirations.
- ② Foundation of democratic participation in the legislative process.
- ③ Prevent domination by a single ideology or point of view.
- ④ Promote federalism, secularism and regional growth.
- ⑤ Highlight the issues of vulnerable and underrepresented groups.

## Challenges to the party system

- ① Lack of intra-party democracy in India.
- ② Anti-defection law has a chilling effect on free speech in the legislatures.
- ③ Role of the whip has become highly dominant in parliamentary practice.
- ④ Lack of accountability of parties for their sources of funding.
- ⑤ Defections have continued unabated despite the 52nd and 91st amendments.

## Way forward

- ① Political parties should be brought under the RTI ambit.
- ② Anti-defection law must be balanced with privileges under Articles 105/194.
- ③ Venkatchalainth commission recommended the removal of defecting members for

the remainder of the term.

- ④ Roles & responsibilities of the whip should be laid down in a statute.
- ⑤ Promoting internal democracy in parties like European countries.

Deliberative democracy draws its life-blood from political parties. We must reform them and strengthen their functioning to promote transparency, participation and professionalism in politics.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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



Q.17) Safely managed drinking water services, as desired by Jal Jeevan Mission, are designated to give multigenerational 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 तय 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)

India has 17% of the world's population but only 4% of its freshwater resources. Maintaining efficient and sustainable use of these resources is crucial to ensure equal access to all.

### Role of Jal Jeevan Mission

- ① increasing availability of tap-water connections, especially in underserved areas.
- ② creating community water resources such as tanks and reservoirs.
- ③ Promoting a participative approach to ensure availability and fair use.
- ④ reducing dependence on groundwater in rural areas in particular.

⑤ Promoting good health & sanitation through access to clean drinking water.

Challenges to the missions success

- ① limited public - private cooperation
- ② Resource constraints faced by the governments
- ③ challenges in ensuring participative accountability of rural community.
- ④ Maintenance of installations to prevent future disuse.
- ⑤ Promoting responsible consumption of water by households.

Way forward

- ① Promoting comprehensive social audit of the scheme
- ② Enabling proper grievance redressal mechanisms to remove service gaps.

③ engaging with private sector for partnership and/or CSR support.

④ Promoting ~~responsible~~ responsible use of water resource by the community.

Thus, the Jal Jeevan mission can help attain SDG-6 and 12 through enabling access to clean water and sanitation along with responsible use of water in underserved areas.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

| #           | G | A | P |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| AWIS        |   |   |   |
| CD & VA     |   |   |   |
| S & F       |   |   |   |
| TOTAL MARKS |   |   |   |

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



**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)

The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was enacted to implement Article 17 and Articles 51A (e) to reduce discrimination of these communities and promote equal brotherhood among all.

Challenges to its implementation

- ① Misunderstanding and misinterpretation about the provisions of the Act.
- ② Supreme Court verdicts narrowing the scope of its provisions.
- ③ Poor recourse by the police to the Act even in cases of caste based discrimination.
- ④ Lack of public awareness about the Act.

③ Has not led to behavioural changes towards SC/STs among other caste groups due to lack of sensitisation.

④ Complainants are often forced to withdraw their complaints due to social pressure

### Recommendations for better implementation

① Training of police and sensitisation to properly apply the provisions of the Act.

② mechanisms be put into place to prevent misuse of the law.

③ Public awareness campaigns to increase knowledge of the provisions.

④ Using means of social persuasion in addition to the law to promote behavioural change

⑤ Judges should also take a more sensitive approach towards caste discrimination & violence

⑥ Engaging with NGOs and CSOs to increase social conversation about SC/ST atrocities.

Thus, to prevent the Act from becoming a dead letter, intense sensitisation and social awareness programmes are required, in addition to strict enforcement of its provisions.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

**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 है। व्याख्या कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Indo-African relations go back millennia through trade & commerce, and were strengthened by the colonial struggle. These relations are rapidly assuming newer dimensions today.

Significance for global rebalancing

- ① Promotion of south-south cooperation for inclusive growth.
- ② Further our goal of all-alignment across ideological lines.
- ③ ensuring climate justice for historically low polluters.
- ④ Preventing neo-colonialism and abuse of international bodies like WTO & IMF.
- ⑤ Preventing base ~~er~~ erosion of economies through neo-liberal policies of

first world countries.

Manifestations of inclusive, sustainable and equitable growth

- ① India is actively pursuing membership for African Union in G20.
- ② India & Japan are promoting infrastructure development through Asia-Africa Growth Corridor.
- ③ India is one of the top-5 sources of FDI into Africa.
- ④ Building resilient trade & supply chains with several countries like Egypt, South Africa and Nigeria.
- ⑤ ~~Are~~ Voicing our shared concerns over common but differentiated responsibilities at global fora for climate change cooperation.



## Way forward

- ① Promoting 'friendshoring' to reduce our mutual dependence on developed nations.
- ② Joint R&D in human resource development for social justice & equitable growth.
- ③ Enhancing person to person contact between India & African nations.
- ④ Reducing concerns of debt-trap diplomacy of china through more trade & investment.
- ⑤ Exploring minerals & RCE partnership for sustainable future growth.

Thus, India & Africa ~~are~~ have natural complementarities. We must build upon these to pursue just and equitable growth for all.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

| #           | G | A | P |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| AWIS        |   |   |   |
| CD & VA     |   |   |   |
| S & F       |   |   |   |
| TOTAL MARKS |   |   |   |

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



**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 convergence of the two oceans - Indian & Pacific, has transformed them into a ground for great-power contestations and diplomatic manoeuvres. India is taking a pro-active approach to secure her interests.

### Role of multi-sectoral engagement

- ① Promoting a vision of free & open Indo Pacific through economic ties with ASEAN.
- ② Countering China's string of pearls policy by engaging with like-minded nations like Vietnam & Philippines.
- ③ Focus on a rules-based order through strict observance of UNCLOS, 1982 in all areas, including South China Sea.

- ④ FIPIC for engagement with Pacific Islands to ensure holistic cooperation & prevent single-country domination.
- ⑤ Indian Ocean Rim Association to take all stakeholders along.
- ⑥ other fora like QUAD, IPEF, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative for broad engagement based on all-alignment.

## Threats to an inclusive construct

- ① Aggressive Chinese maneuvering in the region.
- ② Conflicts of engagement as ASEAN countries are also trade-oriented.
- ③ Lack of clear definition of Indian Ocean - eg Australia disagrees with Indo-French construct.
- ④ Low capacity of smaller Pacific island states & economic pressure from China.

⑤ limited clarity on structure & goals of IPEP & QUAD.

## Way forward

- ① Promoting multilateral & minilateral cooperation
- ② Countering chinese debt-trap diplomacy at global fora.
- ③ continuing to engage with like-minded nations.
- ④ enforcing neighbourhood in the immediate neighbourhood.
- ⑤ Balancing 'Act East' with African vision for holistic Indian-ocean cooperation.

Thus, Indian interests in the Indo-Pacific are best served by multilateral engagement to prevent domination by any one nation over the region.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

**Mentor Feedback Questions**

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

**Test Goal**

**Outcomes**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 .....<br/>..... <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>2 .....<br/>..... <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>3 .....<br/>..... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 .....<br/>.....</li> <li>2 .....<br/>.....</li> <li>3 .....<br/>.....</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

**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.