

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	PRASTUTI UPADHAYA		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910122718	Medium/माध्यम	English ☒ हिंदी ☐
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	Date/दिनांक	16 th Sept. 2024

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 210

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक
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Total/कुल अंक	250	

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

- 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।
- 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।
- 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।
- 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।
- 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।

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 :
Total Marks/कुल अंक :	Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन ☒ Offline/ऑफलाइन ☐

*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।

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ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
	① ② ③ ④ ⑤	

Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussions, the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to make copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

Q.1) The Indian
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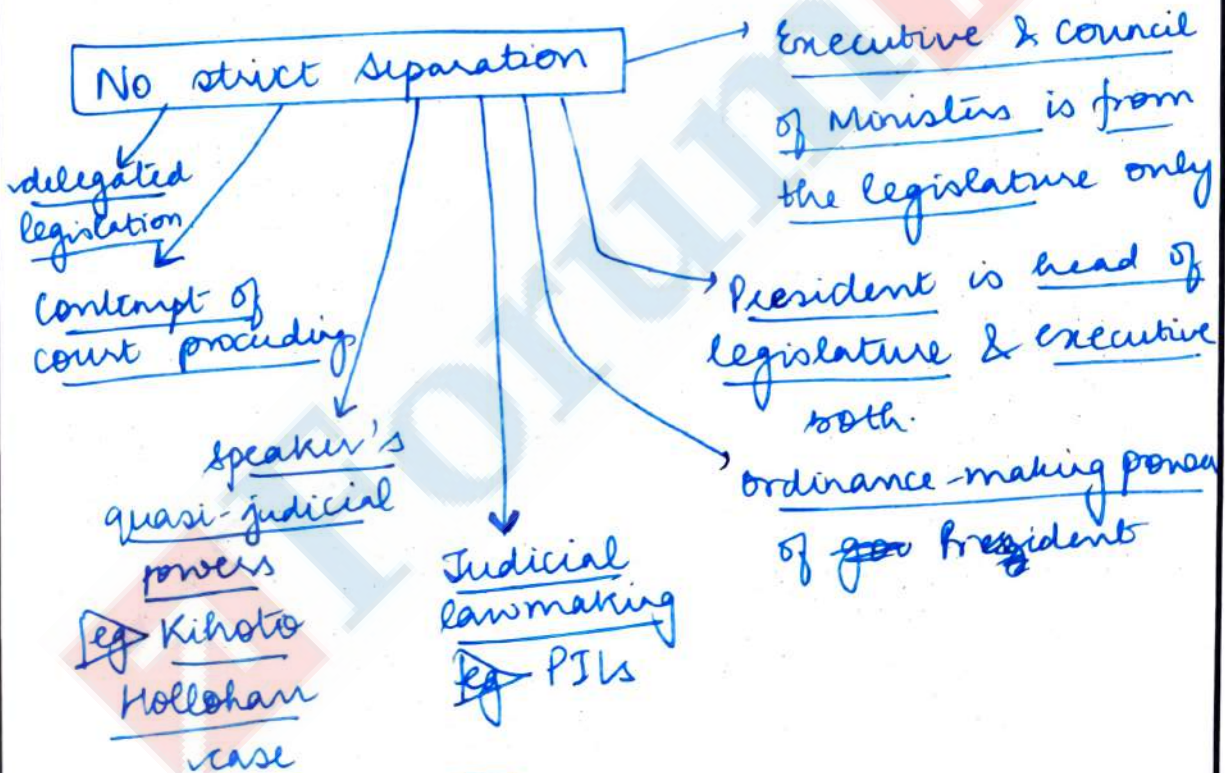
CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

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) The Indian Constitution does not embody a strict separation of powers rather it introduces a system of checks and balances, with overlapping functions and interdependencies among the legislature, executive, and judiciary. Elaborate. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारतीय संविधान में शक्तियों का कठोर पृथक्करण नहीं है, बल्कि यह विधायिका, कार्यपालिका और न्यायपालिका के बीच अतिव्यापी कार्य और अन्योन्याश्रितता के साथ नियंत्रण और संतुलन की प्रणाली प्रस्तुत करता है। विस्तृत वर्णन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Supreme Court, in Kesavananda Bharati, recognized separation of Powers as a part of Basic structure doctrine of India, enshrined in Articles 50, 122 & 212 of Constitution.



Checks & Balances

- ① Judiciary keeps a check on legislature via judicial review as said in K. S. Puttaswamy Case in 2018.

② Judiciary keeps a check on executive by PILs or judicial activism, declaring laws/rules as unconstitutional under Doctrine of severability
Eg Shreya Singhal Case

③ Legislature keeps a check on executive via no-confidence motions, budget motions, motion of thanks, etc.

④ Legislature keeps a check on judicial overreach by law making Eg CEC and Other ECs Act, 2023
overruled Anoop Baranwal judgement.

⑤ Exec keeps a check on judiciary via judicial appointments and tribunals Eg Inter-state water disputes.

2) Hence, India does not follow the American
model of strict separation of powers but
a ~~new~~ format of "Principle of Constitutional Objectivity".

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

Here G is Good, Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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2) Recently, the Supreme Court has expanded the scope of Articles 14 and 21 to include the "right against the adverse effects of climate change". In this context, citing relevant case laws, discuss the role played by Indian judiciary in 'constitutionalization' of environmental issues.

(10 marks, 150 words)

हाल ही में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने "जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रतिकूल प्रभावों के खिलाफ अधिकार" को शामिल करने के लिए अनुच्छेद 14 और 21 के दायरे का विस्तार किया है। इस संदर्भ में, प्रासंगिक केस लॉ को उद्धृत करते हुए, पर्यावरणीय मुद्दों के 'संवैधानिकीकरण' में भारतीय न्यायपालिका द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Supreme Court in a recent case included the right against adverse effect of climate change in continuation of its policy of protecting environmental rights.

ROLE BY INDIAN JUDICIARY

① Acting against hazardous & polluting industries
 Eg. MC Mehta vs UOI (1996) → to protect children from damage in hazardous & polluting industries of fireworks in Tamil Nadu

② The National Green Tribunal enacted a judgement to protect & clean River Ganga by declaring rivers as living entities.

③ Supporting environment over corporate interests.

eg In the Niyamgiri Case in Odisha,^{SC} ruled that companies can't acquire land without permission of gram sabha / tribal council.

④ supported banning of firecrackers in Delhi-NCR on Diwali to prevent poor Air quality.

⑤ Right to clean environment recognized as a right under Article 21 in MC Mehta Case.

⇒ Hence the Supreme Court has been quite proactive in recognizing environmental rights of all people & "constitutionalizing" them

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Here G is Good Average and Poor.	
TOTAL MARKS	

Q.3) The Speaker's inclination to cater to party loyalties often undermines the dignity and impartiality of the office, eroding public trust in the legislative process. Analyse with the help of recent examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

दलगत निष्ठा को पूरा करने की स्पीकर की प्रवृत्ति अक्सर पद की गरिमा और निष्पक्षता को कम करती है, जिससे विधायी प्रक्रिया में जनता का भरोसा कम होता है। नवीनतम उदाहरणों की सहायता से विश्लेषण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The speaker of the Lok Sabha is a constitutional position recognized under Article 93, and is elected from the members of the Lok Sabha.

IMPARTIALITY OF SPEAKER'S OFFICE

- ① Tendency to align with party lines rather than unbiased behaviour
- ② Withholding disqualification petitions
 Eg in the Keisham Meghachandra case, the speaker did not give a decision for ~2 years.
- ③ Decisions on deciding money bills
 Eg declaring Aadhar Bill as Money Bill.

(4) Suspension of MPs based on speaker's discretion $\Rightarrow$ Criminal reform bills were passed when 70% of opposition MPs were suspended

IMPACT

(1) unbiased behaviour on part of speaker leads to weakened opposition $\Rightarrow$ since 1970, no private member Bill has been passed.

(2) decline in quality of debates in the house $\Rightarrow$ no farm bills passed w/o any debate

(3) The Supreme Court ruled in Meghachandra case that decision must be taken in a limited & reasonable amount of time.

(4) Declaring money bills protects from Rajya Sabha scrutiny.

$\Rightarrow$ India needs to follow British model of Speaker resigning from party & adhering to "Once a speaker, always a speaker" idea.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.4) Assess the effectiveness of SEBI in fulfilling its envisaged role of regulating the securities market, ensuring transparency, and protecting investors' interests. (10 marks, 150 words)

प्रतिभूति बाजार को विनियमित करने, पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने और निवेशकों के हितों की रक्षा करने की अपनी परिकल्पित भूमिका को पूरा करने में सेबी की प्रभावशीलता का आकलन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

SEBI refers to the regulatory body for the securities exchange & stock markets of India. It is a statutory body under the SEBI Act.

ROLE OF SEBI

- ① ensuring transparency in functioning of stock markets.
- ② Investor protection from frauds, scams and market volatility.
- ③ Promote capitalisation of Indian stock markets and Indian companies.
- ④ Prevent corruption, insider trading, stock market scams [eg] 1992 Harshad Mehta scam

EFFECTIVENESS

A. POSITIVES

- ① ensured digitalization of functions in stock exchanges in India for transparency
- ② schemes for investor protection.
- ③ Regular updates & awareness programmes

B. NEGATIVES

- ① allegations of corruption
 eg former SEBI chief relying on information from religious Gurus for decisions
- ② reports suggesting inflated assets & insider trading eg Adani Report by Hindenburg
- ③ Unable to control volatility due to external shocks eg NIFTY fall due to Ukraine-Russia

→ Hence SEBI has seen mix of success & failure in achieving its mandate.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use)

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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

TOTAL MARKS

2.5) The foundational strength of the Indian Constitution stems from its ability to integrate diverse socio-political perspectives. Elucidate. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारतीय संविधान की आधारभूत शक्ति विविध सामाजिक-राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोणों को एकीकृत करने की इसकी क्षमता से उत्पन्न होती है। स्पष्ट कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Indian Constitution focuses on preservation of Indian diversity and include all people into the democratic exercise.

INTEGRATING ALL

① Linguistic differences → while Constitution promotes Hindi (A-343), it also instructs state to provide instruction in mother tongue under Article 350 A.

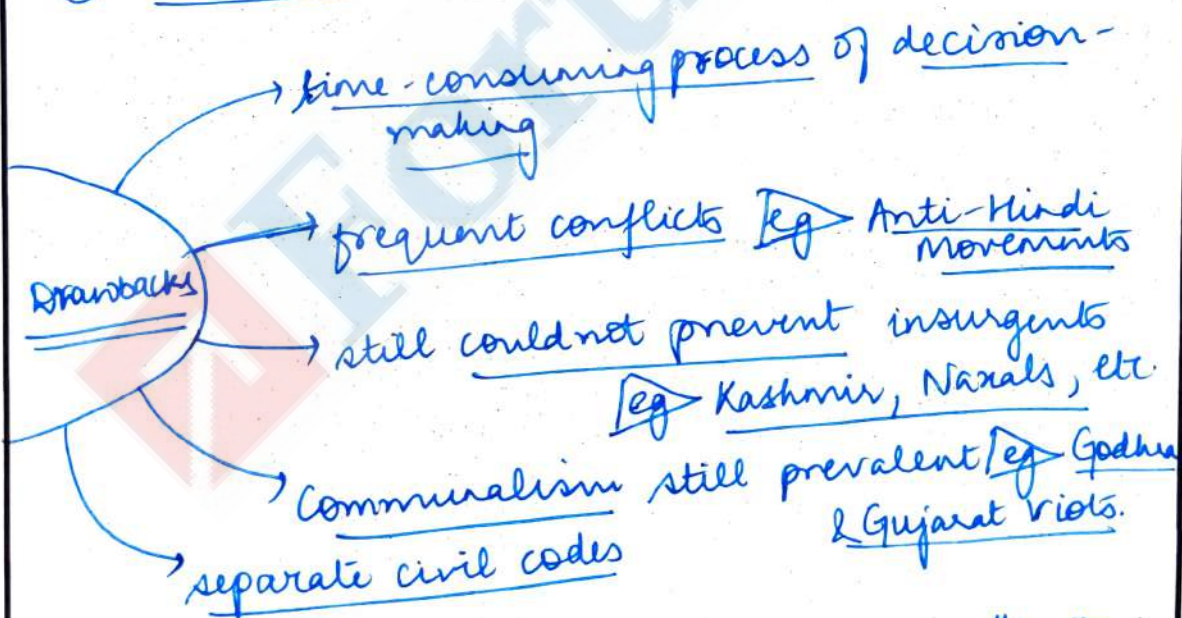
② Religious diversity is protected via freedom of religion under Articles 25, 26, 27 & 28 & promote their institutions under Ar. 29 & 30.

③ Social Inequalities of caste and class are tackled by special provisions under Articles 15 and 16 to provide for affirmative action.

④ The democratic structure includes various political perspectives under Article 324 and universal adult suffrage. Promotion of a uniform Civil Code under Article 44.

⑤ Protection of regional aspirations via asymmetric federalism under Articles 371, 371A, etc. for special provisions of some states.

⑥ Tribal interests focused by 5th & 6th Schedule



⇒ Hence, the Constitution should focus on "unity in diversity" perspective which is only possible through "sabka saath, sabka vihas, sabka Prayasa"

Feedback
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TOTAL MARKS

6) Parliamentary committees serve as vital tools for legislative oversight, ensuring accountability and transparency in governance processes. In light of the statement, examine the role of the Public Accounts Committee in establishing financial accountability of the executive. (10 marks, 150 words)

संसदीय समितियाँ विधायी निरीक्षण, शासन प्रक्रियाओं में जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण उपकरण के रूप में कार्य करती हैं। कथन के आलोक में, कार्यपालिका की वित्तीय जवाबदेही स्थापित करने में लोक लेखा समिति की भूमिका की परीक्षण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Parliamentary Committees refer to committees of members of parliament that are either elected by the House or appointed by speaker, and submit reports to the House after scrutiny.

VITAL TOOLS

① help increase debate & discussion on bills and suggest changes

eg Prevention of Corruption Amendment Bill was amended after committee input.

② expert analysis + ministerial views in departmentally-related standing committees

③ help identify loopholes in a proposed Bill
criticism from
eg JPC on data protection bill under Shashi Tharoor → led to new bill altogether.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Role

- audits the public accounts of government and PSUs
- takes support from CAG who acts as friend, philosopher, guide.
- reveal financial imprudence of govt. expenditure.
- recommendations for improvements.

post-mortem in nature, done after the expenditure is done

non-binding recommendations, govt. can choose to ignore

does not account for off-budget borrowings of the govt. from PSUs

lack of technical expertise as all members are MPs.

LIMITATIONS

⇒ Hence, while public accounts committee plays a crucial function, its powers need to be enhanced with more technical expertise and binding or semi-binding recommendations.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.7) Without addressing the issues that hinder the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, the goal of achieving inclusiveness and their empowerment will remain unattainable. Analyze. (10 marks, 150 words)

राजनीतिक और सार्वजनिक जीवन में दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों की पूर्ण और प्रभावी भागीदारी में बाधा डालने वाले मुद्दों को संबोधित किए बिना, समावेशिता और उनके सशक्तिकरण का लक्ष्य अप्राप्य रहेगा। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The recent case of Aankh Micholi in 2024, the Supreme Court mentioned about poor representation of people with disabilities (PWD) in media & lack of implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

ISSUES

- ① stigma faced by PWD due to disabilities in society. eg abandonment of disabled children especially girls.
- ② stereotyping in media, usage of derogatory language like "cripple" [Aankh Micholi case].
- ③ lack of employment opportunities
eg private sector, vacancies in public sector reserved seats.

④ Misuse of reservation provisions

eg Puja Khedkar, IAS case

⑤ lack of accessible infrastructure especially in Tier II & III cities eg lack of wheelchair ramps, disability-friendly toilets, Braille instructions, etc.

Achieving Inclusiveness

① Proper implementation of PWD Act, 2016 is essential.

② Checks by local bodies to ensure all major buildings have PWD-friendly infrastructure.

③ Promotion of sports infrastructure for disabled people eg Paralympians like Arani Sekhara, Sumit Antil, etc.

④ Mental Health counseling for free under Mental Healthcare Act, 2013.

⇒ Hence, identification of issues is necessary for inclusion under "nothing about us, without us"

What roles do
healthcare
systems
play in
achieving
inclusiveness?

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.8) What roles do community-based interventions play in enhancing access to preventive and promotive healthcare services in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत में निवारक और प्रोत्साहनकारी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुंच बढ़ाने में समुदाय-आधारित हस्तक्षेप क्या भूमिका निभाते हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Preventive and promotive healthcare mainly refers to healthcare practices that prevent health issues and promote healthy living.

ROLE OF COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS

① Inclusion of all sections

eg inclusion of women's health care under Mission Indradhanush due to ASHA workers being women from same area.

② Tackling superstitions eg District administration in tribal districts of Bihar employed village elders & religious leaders to counter COVID vaccine hesitancy.

③ child healthcare + reaching last mile

eg Polio eradication was successful due to community inclusion and targeted ads - "do baad zindegi ki".

(4) Tackling malnourishment via community efforts eg POSHAN 2.0, ASHA workers taking health measurements.

(5) SHGs and NGO involvement in remote areas

(6) Local body initiatives for promotive health - care eg Dengue checks by municipal corporation of Delhi.

Way Forward

- empowering local bodies to enhance access to better healthcare
- better medical facilities
- use of nukkad-naatak & plays to spread awareness - tried & tested formula

digitization

⇒ Hence, community intervention is useful for promotive & preventive healthcare.

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.9) The current composition of the UNSC, with under-representation and un-representation of key regions is detrimental to its legitimacy and effectiveness, underscoring the urgent need for reforms. Elaborate. Also, present a case for India's permanent membership in the UNSC. (10 marks, 150 words)

संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की वर्तमान संरचना, जिसमें प्रमुख क्षेत्रों का अल्प प्रतिनिधित्व और अप्रतिनिधित्व है, इसकी वैधता और प्रभावशीलता के लिए हानिकारक है, जो सुधारों की तत्काल आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है। विस्तार से बताइए। साथ ही, संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद में भारत की स्थायी सदस्यता के लिए पक्ष प्रस्तुत कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The UN Security Council is the apex UN body for decisions regarding world security, military interventions and world peace post World War-2.

CURRENT COMPOSITION

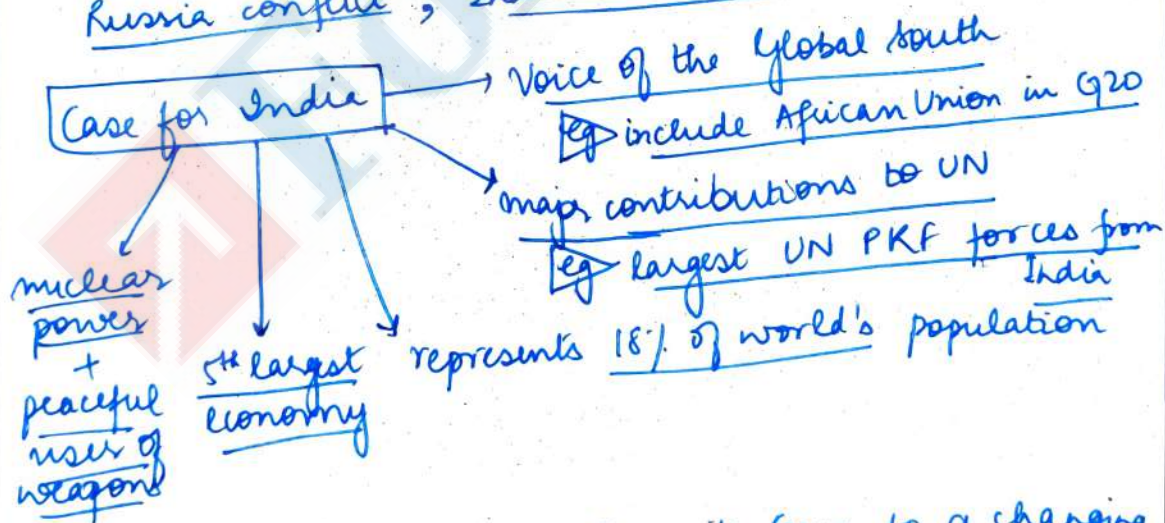
- ① 5 permanent members → USA, UK, Russia, China and France (the P5)
- ② ~~20~~ non-permanent members → elected by UNGA

Underrepresentation

- ① The permanent 5 members exercise veto powers that allow even 1 member to stop a resolution.
- ② The UNSC only has 25 seats that does not represent majority of world population at all times
- ③ Excessive representation of developed world & lack of representation for the Global South - Asia, Africa, South America, etc.

Legitimacy & Effectiveness

- ① reflection of cold-war mentality
- ② does not represent victims of war like Middle East, Africa, etc. many times.
- ③ Prevents proper decision-making due to veto.
eg India's bid to include Pak terrorists in global terrorists → vetoed by China.
- ④ have not been able to prevent major conflicts
eg Ukraine-Russia, Israel-Gaza, Azerbaijan-Armenia
- ⑤ often used for purposes of the developed world
eg resolutions against only Russia during Ukraine-Russia conflict, India's Kashmir issue by China, etc.



⇒ Hence, UNSC needs to shift its focus to a changing world that is moving towards multi-polarity and focus on democratization.

Feedback

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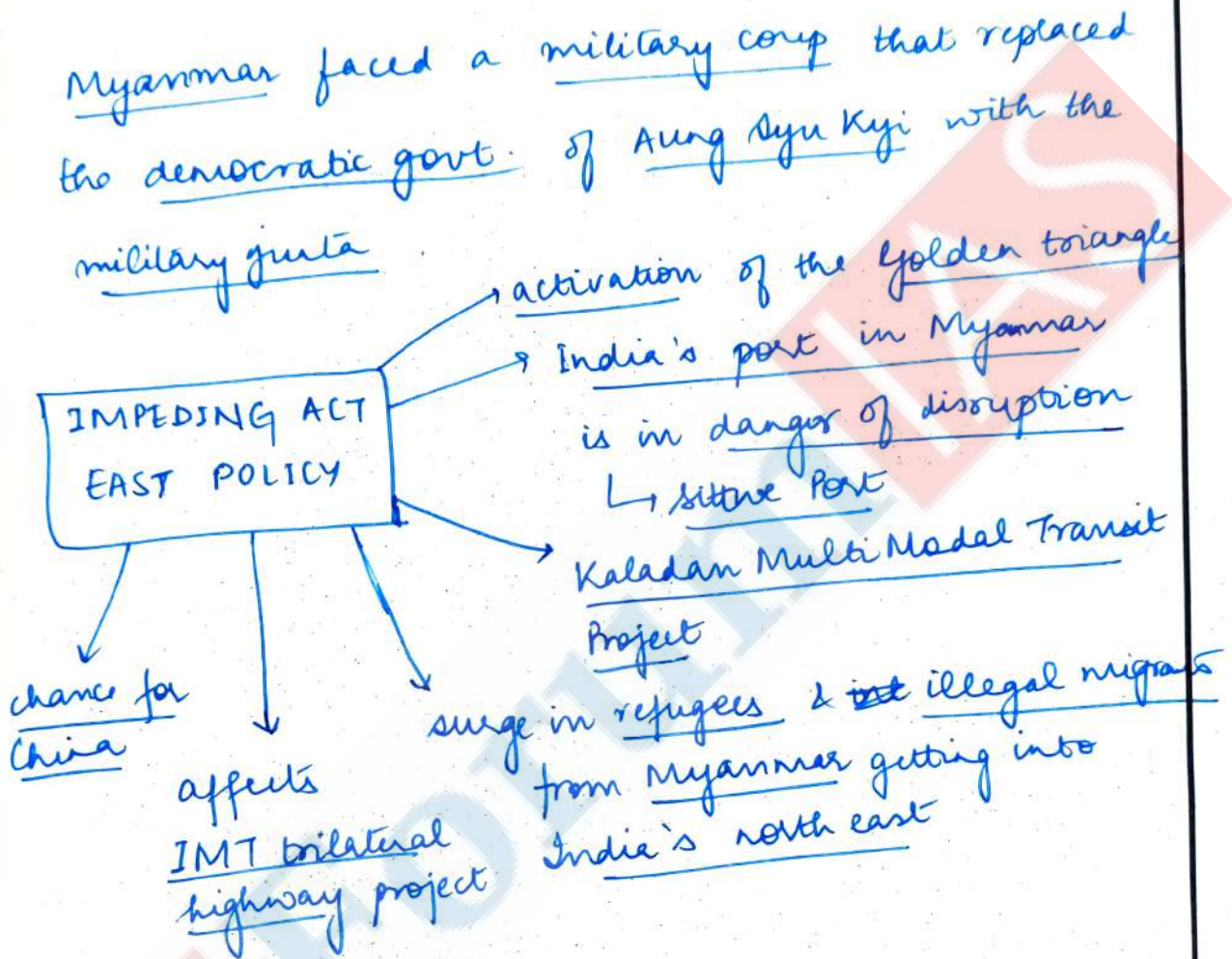
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Here G is Good, Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.10) "The ongoing internal crisis in Myanmar is impeding India's Act East Policy." In light of the statement, discuss the measures taken by India to deal with the crisis and associated challenges. (10 marks, 150 words)

"म्यांमार में चल रहा आंतरिक संकट भारत की एक्ट ईस्ट नीति में बाधा डाल रहा है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, संकट और संबंधित चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए भारत द्वारा उठाए गए उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)



Measures by India

- ① Engagement with military junta while focusing on promoting democracy.
- ② Operation, ^{sunrise,} All Clear with Myanmar to tackle active insurgent groups on both sides of border

③ Has ceased operation of free movement regime that was active since 2018.

④ targeting better border patrols and focus on preventing drug trafficking.

CHALLENGES

① Increasing Chinese presence in Myanmar
 eg Kyaukpadaung Port

② Rise in refugees filtering into Bangladesh

③ Bangladesh political crisis and less friendly govt.

④ Mizoram's local population has ties to people on Myanmar's side. eg Mizoram CM requested movement of people across the border

⑤ Nexus of insurgents, traffickers and illegal migrants across porous borders.

The situation needs to be handled with care with focus on integration with local population of north east and stricter border patrols along with engagement with gharas.

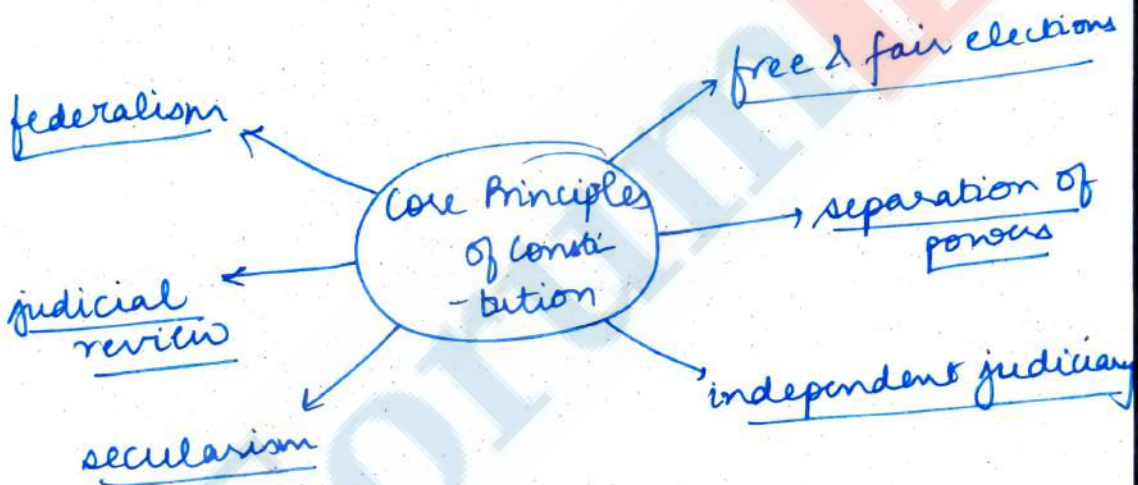
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Q.11) "The Basic Structure Doctrine, lauded for safeguarding the core principles of the Constitution against majoritarian impulses, is also criticized for enabling judicial overreach and disturbing the balance of power as envisioned by the Constitution." Elaborate. (15 marks, 250 words)

"आधारभूत संरचना सिद्धांत, जिसे बहुसंख्यकवादी आवेगों के विरुद्ध संविधान के मूल सिद्धांतों की सुरक्षा के लिए सराहा जाता है, साथ ही इस सिद्धांत का न्यायिक अतिक्रमण करने तथा संविधान द्वारा परिकल्पित शक्ति संतुलन को बिगाड़ने के लिए भी आलोचना की जाती है।" सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Supreme Court came up with the judicial innovation of Basic Structure Doctrine in the Kesavananda Bharati Case, 1973.



SAFEGUARDS

- ① The doctrine prevents breach of separation of power ~~is~~ by legislature as seen in overruling of 99th Constitutional Amendment Association for Democratic Reforms
- ② It upholds the power of judicial review

to prevent tyranny of majority and protect democratic rules $\Rightarrow$ ruling the electoral bond scheme was illegal in ADR vs VoI case (2023).

③ Promotion of secular ideals $\Rightarrow$ SR Bommai case.

④ Protecting federal features by countering misuse of President's Rule $\Rightarrow$ SR Bommai Case.

⑤ Upheld that constitutional supremacy was foremost and every law can be judicially reviewed in IR Coelho Case.

JUDICIAL OVERREACH

① This breaches separation of power as envisioned under Article 50 and between legislature & judiciary.

② Law making orientation of judiciary can

cause imbalance of this feature. eg Moope
Baramwal Case.

(3) can also raise questions on non-partisa
nship of judiciary $\Rightarrow$ case of Andhra High
Court against Andhra govt.

(4) Preventing ^{tyranny} of majority should not lead
to tyranny of unelected judges.

(5) excessive judgements on PILs

(6) Misuse of
Article 142
to do "Complete
justice

WAY FORWARD

(1) Judiciary should exercise restraint in
legislative matters eg Central Vista Case -
SC refused intervention.

(2) should continue with interpretation of
constitutional questions while specifying lack
of domain eg case on same-sex marriage,
in 2023 - judiciary gave interpretation but
left it to parliament.

$\Rightarrow$ Separation of Powers is a part of basic structure
doctrine & must be upheld for democratic
functioning.

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Q.12) Enumerate the salient features of Representation of People's Act, 1951. In your opinion, what amendments are needed in the Act to further the cause of free and fair elections in light of contemporary challenges. (15 marks, 250 words)

जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की प्रमुख विशेषताओं का उल्लेख कीजिए। आपकी राय में, समकालीन चुनौतियों के मद्देनजर स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनावों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए अधिनियम में क्या संशोधन आवश्यक हैं? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Representation of People's Act, 1951 was enacted to fulfill Parliament's duty under Article 324 to define process of elections in India.

SALIENT FEATURES

- ① It includes features about actual conduct of elections.
- ② It includes detailed provisions on eligibility criteria for contesting elections
- ③ It lists grounds of disqualification
eg section 8 of RPA, 1951
- ④ It lists duties of Election Commission
during and after conduct of elections.

⑤ It also enlists features of campaigning and rules around expenditure by candidates.

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

① Increase in criminalization of politics
 eg 18th Lok Sabha has 46% MPs with criminal records.

② Increase in corrupt practices of funding.
 eg electoral bonds disclosure.

③ Use of technology for propaganda.
 eg use of Cambridge Analytica.

④ Increase in influence of Artificial Intelligence and deepfakes in spreading misinformation.

⑤ Continuous violations of Model Code of Conduct.

⑥ Excessive expenditure by candidates → destroys level playing field.

eg In 18th Lok Sabha elections (2024), Rs. 1.35 lakh crores were spent, up from Rs. 60,000 crores in 2019.

Amendments Needed

① Follow recommendations of Goswami Committee to prevent criminalization → don't allow even undertrials to contest [Jan Chaukidari Case 2013].

② Consider state funding to create level playing fields eg as per Indrajit Verma Committee.

③ Rules & regulations regarding use of technology
eg EU's Code for Disinformation, 2022

④ Statutory recognition for Model Code of Conduct & action within 48 hours of violation

Free & fair elections are bedrock of any democratic process & necessary for democratic functioning.

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Q.13) The cooperative nature of Indian federalism is being increasingly challenged by emerging differences in Centre-State relations. Discuss. What steps can be taken to strengthen the cooperative spirit of Indian federalism? (15 marks, 250 words)

केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों में उभरते मतभेदों के कारण भारतीय संघवाद की सहकारी प्रकृति को लगातार चुनौती मिल रही है। चर्चा कीजिए। भारतीय संघवाद की सहकारी भावना को मजबूत करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 1 describes India as a "Union of states" but India has a federal structure, as affirmed by the courts to be a part of basic structure doctrine.

COOPERATIVE NATURE

- ① sharing of resources of states
eg water sharing of rivers by upper & lower riparian states.
- ② inter-state councils for deliberations
- ③ GST Council acts as forum for cooperative federalism & fiscal federalism
- ④ free movement of any citizen throughout India + free markets, etc

CHALLENGES

- ① Fiscal Issues → Article 293 does not allow states to borrow without Centre's permission if they owe to Centre.
- ② Distribution of Cess not done which forms ~25% of taxes collected by Centre, states relying only on GST. [SGST + compensation].
- ③ friction with states ruled by opposition parties → Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala → facing issues with Governor
- ④ Use of central agencies [eg CBI] to target states ruled by opposition
→ West Bengal withdrew general consent for CBI.
- ⑤ Inter-^{state} water disputes not solved yet
→ Cauvery dispute.

Steps to Take

- ① allow fiscally-prudent states to borrow from market as exception under Ar.293.
 - ② utilize Inter-state Councils to promote discussion of issues between states & promote economic collaborations between them.
 - ③ Implement recommendations of Sarkaria & Punchhi Commission to resolve Governor issues.
 - ④ GST Compensation should be disbursed to ensure manufacturing states are not at a loss.
 - ⑤ Independent usage of central agencies by granting autonomy.
 - ⑥ Population control measures so that south states are not at disadvantage.
- 2) Hence, cooperative federalism is backbone of federal provisions in India & needed for economic growth & "Viksit Bharat" vision.

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Q.14) Parliamentary privileges are fundamental for lawmakers to discharge their duties without undue influence. However, ensuring the responsible exercise of these privileges is crucial for fostering public trust and ensuring the accountability of public institutions. Analyse. (15 marks, 250 words)

संसदीय विशेषाधिकार विधि निर्माताओं के लिए बिना किसी अनुचित प्रभाव के अपने कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन करने के लिए मौलिक हैं। हालाँकि, इन विशेषाधिकारों का जिम्मेदारी से उपयोग सुनिश्चित करना जनता के विश्वास को बढ़ावा देने और सार्वजनिक संस्थानों की जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 105 of the constitution provides basis for parliamentary privileges of law-makers. These are sourced from constitutional provisions, rules of procedure of the houses & parliamentary convention.

FUNDAMENTAL FOR LAWMAKERS

- ① Freedom of speech is ensured in parliament & allows for complete discussions on important matters.
- ② Allows parliament to maintain secrecy and prevent publishing of some discussion deemed confidential.

- ③ Prevention of arrests of MPs & MLAs during the session of Parliament allows for uninterrupted functioning of parliament.
- ④ allows easier focus on lawmaking and legislation rather than other issues.

ISSUES

- ① Misuse of privileges to promote corrupt activities [eg] Cash-for-query scam
- ② Protects MPs from civilian/criminal prosecution in many cases which opposes equality for all under Article 14.
- ③ Speaker's powers to prevent publishing of some part of proceeding is against spirit of transparent democracy &

produces chilling effect.

(4) Misuse of powers to punish can cause clashes between legislature & other organs like judiciary due to being against separation of powers $\Rightarrow$ Keshav Singh Case of UP Assembly and Allahabad High Court.

Ensuring Accountability

(1) Codification of privileges can help prevent misuse. $\Rightarrow$ UK.

(2) empowering Ethics Committee $\Rightarrow$ Cash-for-query case is good example.

(3) Reasons for preventing publication of proceedings ^{should be allowed to be} ~~can~~ ^{be} demanded under RTI.

$\Rightarrow$ Hence, parliamentary privileges highlight the "Principle of Double Effect" which ~~helps~~ allows for bad side effects due to utility of the feature for democracy.

Q.15) The Constitution of India provides several rights that empower the individual, yet it balances these freedoms with reasonable restrictions in the larger public interest. Discuss how constitutional restrictions on fundamental rights strike a fine balance between individual interests and societal interests. Also, mention the principles that are considered in evaluating the reasonableness of restrictions with reference case laws. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत का संविधान ऐसे कई अधिकार प्रदान करता है जो व्यक्ति को सशक्त बनाते हैं, फिर भी यह इन स्वतंत्रताओं को व्यापक सार्वजनिक हित में उचित प्रतिबंधों के साथ संतुलित करता है। चर्चा करें कि मौलिक अधिकारों पर संवैधानिक प्रतिबंध व्यक्तिगत हितों और सामाजिक हितों के बीच कैसे एक अच्छा संतुलन बनाते हैं। साथ ही, प्रासंगिक केस लॉ के साथ प्रतिबंधों की तर्कसंगतता का मूल्यांकन करने में जिन सिद्धांतों पर विचार किया जाता है, उनका उल्लेख कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Indian constitution in Part III, from Articles 14 to 32 provides for fundamental rights that help empower the individual but also have reasonable restrictions.

PROMOTING INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS

① Article 15 and 16 prevent discrimination under caste, gender, place of birth, religion, etc. providing equal treatment by the state.

eg VISHAKA case to protect women from workplace harassment, Babita Puriya case for permanent commission in Army for women

② Article 17 & 18 abolish untouchability & hereditary titles to create an equal society.

③ Article 19 protects freedom of expression

eg Shreya Singhal Case

④ Article 25 - 28 protect freedom of religion

and uphold individual's choice eg Hadiya / Akhila Case of Kerala.

⑤ Article 21 protects Right to life and includes

many aspects eg Menaka Gandhi Case

RESTRICTIONS FOR SOCIETAL INTERESTS

① Article 15 & 16 do not prevent discrimination

on legitimate criteria eg Kerala Electricity Board

Case allowed specifying gender if the job demands that.

② Reservations under Ar. 16 & 15 are restricted

by creamy layer provision eg Indra Sawhney Case for larger interest.

③ freedom of expression is limited on grounds

of national security, public order, relations

with another country, etc. eg UAPA considered constitutionally valid.

④ Freedom of religion is restricted by public health, morality & security eg Stamisclaus case → forced conversions not allowed, recent Hijab case in Karnataka → high court said Govt. can put restrictions.

⑤ Right to life & personal liberty cannot harm other's interests or societal well-being.

PRINCIPLES FOR REASONABLENESS

① Proportionality law → restriction should be in proportion to the need eg KS Puttaswamy judgement

② Recent Kolkata Municipal Corporation Case on right to property → reasonable reason for acquisition needed, mere application of doctrine of eminent domain not enough.

③ Should pose actual harm / violence threat in cases of freedom of speech restriction

→ The balance between rights & restrictions forms the communion of rights of individual & that of society.

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Q.16) Self-Help Groups (SHGs) can play a crucial role in alleviating rural poverty by providing women with access to microfinance, enabling them to start small businesses and improve their livelihoods. Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

स्वयं सहायता समूह (SHG) महिलाओं को सूक्ष्मवित्त/माइक्रोफाइनेंस तक पहुंच प्रदान करके, उन्हें छोटे व्यवसाय शुरू करने और अपनी आजीविका में सुधार करने में सक्षम बनाकर ग्रामीण निर्धनता को कम करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकते हैं। परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Self Help Groups refer to the group of similar oriented members coming together to pool in financial resources and act as a unified entity to enhance bargaining power & debt/credit facilities access.

ROLE IN ERADICATING RURAL POVERTY

- ① helps increase bargaining power of otherwise small farmers / artisans.
- ② Allow pooling of resources and loaning activities within the group.
- ③ Pooled money can act as collateral for institutional credit from banks.

④ help get initial capital to start businesses Eg Kudumbashree, Kerala.

⑤ Not dependent on men for money

⑥ Extra source of income + brand creation
Eg Lizzat Paapad

ISSUES

① Lack of awareness about organizing into SHGs.

② Regional imbalance

Eg 70% are located in southern states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh

③ Lack of credit facilities from institutional sources in remote areas

④ Controlled by men and women

acting as surrogate members.

⑤ Lack of involvement of Dalit & tribal women.

Way Forward

① Awareness & capacity building programme under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojna

② PSL targets for rural banks and scheduled banks in rural areas.

③ Increase penetration in northern areas like UP, Bihar

④ Involve local panchayats and integration with local businesses

→ SHGs have ability to counter issue of rural poverty & empower women for "Nari Shakti" Goal.

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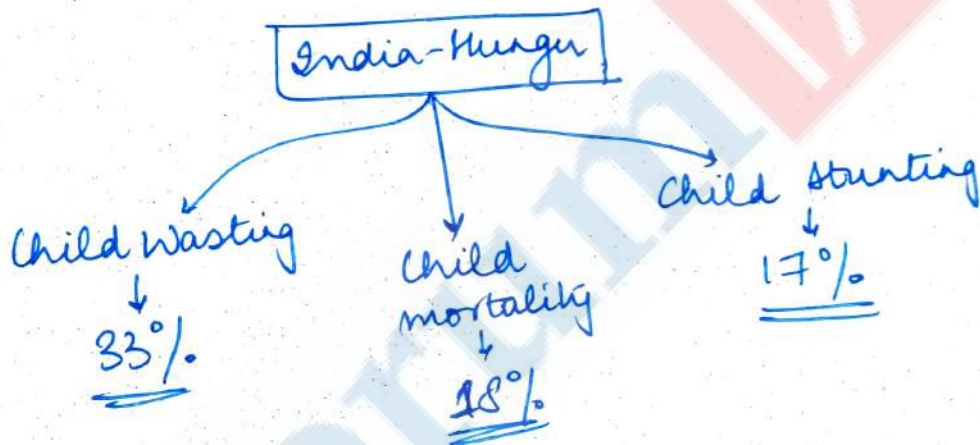
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Q.17) Despite the implementation of numerous policies and schemes aimed at combating hunger and malnutrition in the country, their effectiveness remains limited. Analyse. (15 marks, 250 words)

देश में भूख और कुपोषण से निपटने के उद्देश्य से अनेक नीतियों और योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन के बावजूद, उनकी प्रभावशीलता सीमित बनी हुई है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India, in 2023, ranked at 111th position in Global Hunger Index out of 125 countries.



Reasons for low effectiveness

① Lack of targeted policies

eg NFSA, 2013 & PDS cover 60% of the country's population

② focused on mainly calorie intake

[Tendulkar Committee] and not coverage
of macro & micro nutrients.

eg PDS only covers wheat, rice, pulses
mainly.

(3) lack of protein + religious angle

eg opposition to eggs in Mid Day
Meals by ~~the~~ some groups.

(4) Poor position of girls & women

eg higher anemia rates $\Rightarrow$ >70% of
adolescent girls.

(5) lack of targeting of tribal belts and
BPL families

eg Anemia prevalence in tribal
areas is more than other districts.

(6) Poor postnatal care for 1st 5 years

Way forward

- ① Targeted & prioritized implementation of Anemia Mukh Bharat
 - ② Include veg & nonveg protein sources in mid-day Meal under POSHAN 2.0.
 - ③ Decrease coverage of PDS to ~40% as per Shanta Kumar Committee.
 - ④ Promote millets under Shree Anna scheme along with regional vegetables & fruits.
 - ⑤ Proper checks on infant health by ASHA workers to ensure access to protein & vitamins
 - ⑥ Ensure colostrum (first breast milk after birth) is fed to baby as it is crucial for health
- ⇒ Hunger must be tackled to achieve SDG 2 of zero hunger & also for other SDGs.

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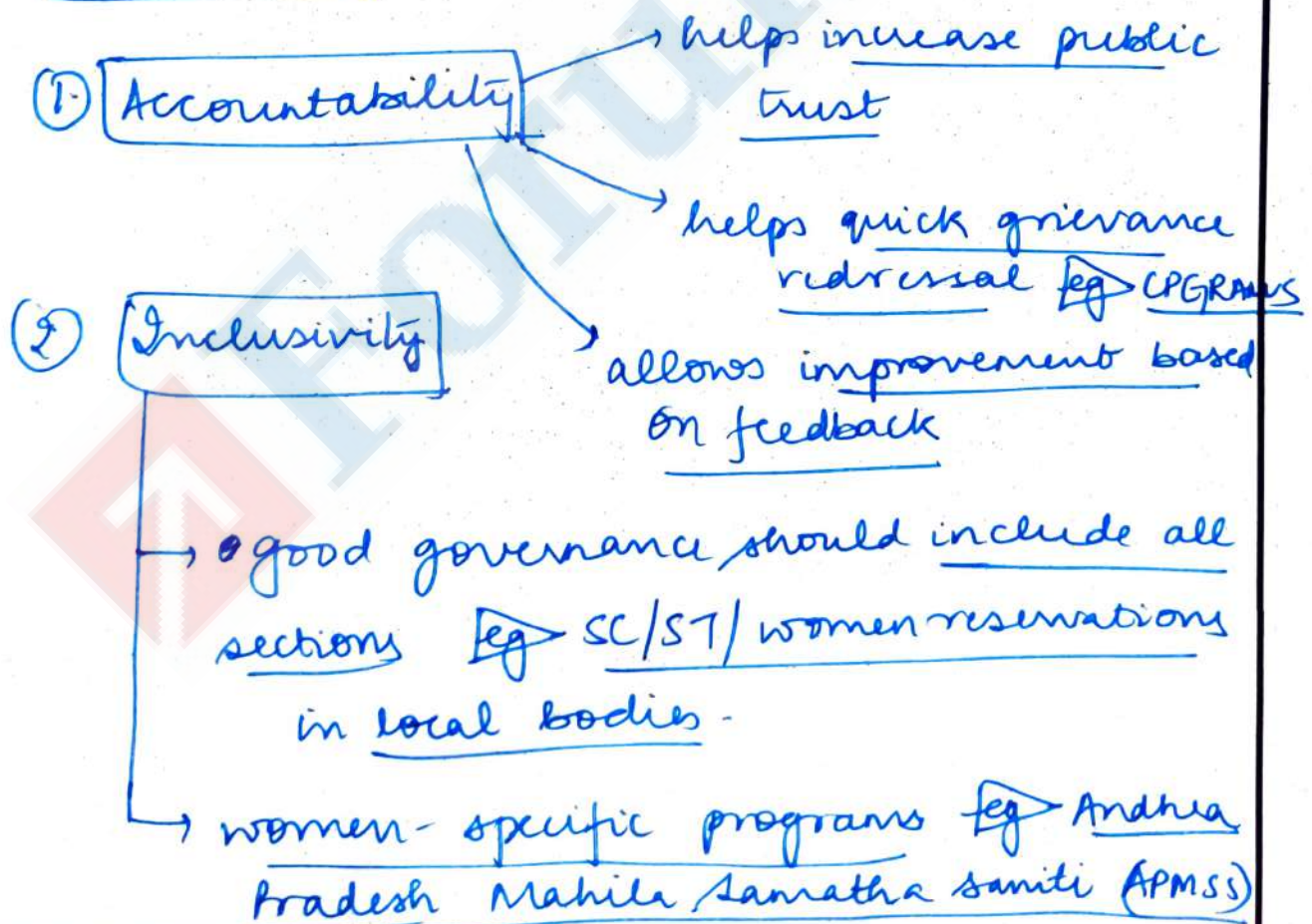
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Q.18) The true test of good governance is the degree to which it ensures accountability towards citizens and delivers on the promise of sustainable and inclusive human development. Discuss in the context of challenges to good governance in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

सुशासन की असली परीक्षा इस बात से होती है कि वह किस हद तक नागरिकों के प्रति जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करता है और सतत एवं समावेशी मानव विकास के वादे को पूरा करता है। भारत में सुशासन के समक्ष चुनौतियों के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

World Bank defines good governance as management of resources & finances to optimize benefits for maximum number of people.

True Test



- ③ Sustainable → ensures improved facilities for future generations
→ environmental friendly
eg Meghalaya's living root ~~bridge~~ bridge.

CHALLENGES

- ① corruption and lack of transparent audits eg RTI ~~is~~ revealed Rs. 1.74 crore inappropriation in Karnataka.
- ② lack of regional balance
eg Kerala & Bihar are on opposite ends of good governance
- ③ lack of environmental oversight
eg skipping EIA even in important cases
→ Toshimath subsidence
- ④ lack of targeted schemes for target population. ~~auditions~~

⑤ lack of data-based decision making

WAY FORWARD

① digitization and recurrent audits
for corruption $\Rightarrow$ Direct Benefit
transfer

② social audits $\Rightarrow$ Meghalaya $\rightarrow$ statutory
law

③ Inclusion of civil society $\Rightarrow$ Meira Paibis
of Manipur

④ Regional empowerment

⑤ Reviewing practices $\Rightarrow$ Naryana's
Rainbow 7-star rating scheme for Panchayats

2) Hence, good governance is only possible
with involvement of people & public
authorities both.

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Q.19) As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) provides a judicial mechanism for the peaceful resolution of international disputes. In this context, throw light on the structure and mandate of ICJ. Also, highlight the challenges it faces in fulfilling its mandate. (15 marks, 250 words)

संयुक्त राष्ट्र के प्रमुख न्यायिक अंग के रूप में, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय (ICJ) अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विवादों के शांतिपूर्ण समाधान के लिए न्यायिक तंत्र प्रदान करता है। इस संदर्भ में, ICJ की संरचना और अधिदेश पर प्रकाश डालें। साथ ही, अपने अधिदेश को पूरा करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) was formed under the United Nations and is situated at the Hague in Netherlands.

Structure

- ① ICJ has 15 judges that are all from different UN members.
- ② They have a tenure of 9 years.
- ③ They are elected by the UN General Assembly.
- ④ It has various levels of appeal.

Mandate

- ① It can only include cases that involve

member countries of the UN

② It cannot initiate proceedings against individuals or non-state actors.

↳ unlike the International Criminal Court under the Rome Statute, which recently started proceedings against Vladimir Putin for Ukraine conflict.

③ It can only have proceedings for UN conventions and agreements

↳ Philippines filed an ICJ case against China for dispute in South China Sea's Spratly Islands, under UNCLOS.

④ It can't have ^{rulings} ~~proceedings~~ that are binding.
there is no enforcement of its rulings.

↳ China lost the case against Philippines but nothing happened.

Challenges

- ① lack of enforcement of rulings ~~eg~~ China - Philippines
- ② cannot convict individuals or groups but only state actors.
- ③ does not expand to non-UN member states
- ④ lack of success in achieving mandate
eg recent wars in Gaza-Israel, Ukraine-Russia
- ⑤ cannot act against human rights violations
always eg Kulbhushan Yadav case
- ⑥ Euro-centric framework

Way forward

- create an enforcement mechanism for the body to make it effective.
 - timely to adhere to ruling
 - penalty/ sanction in case of non-enforcement
- ⇒ Hence, the ^{global} ICJ needs to be more proactive to establish a rules-based international order.

Feedback

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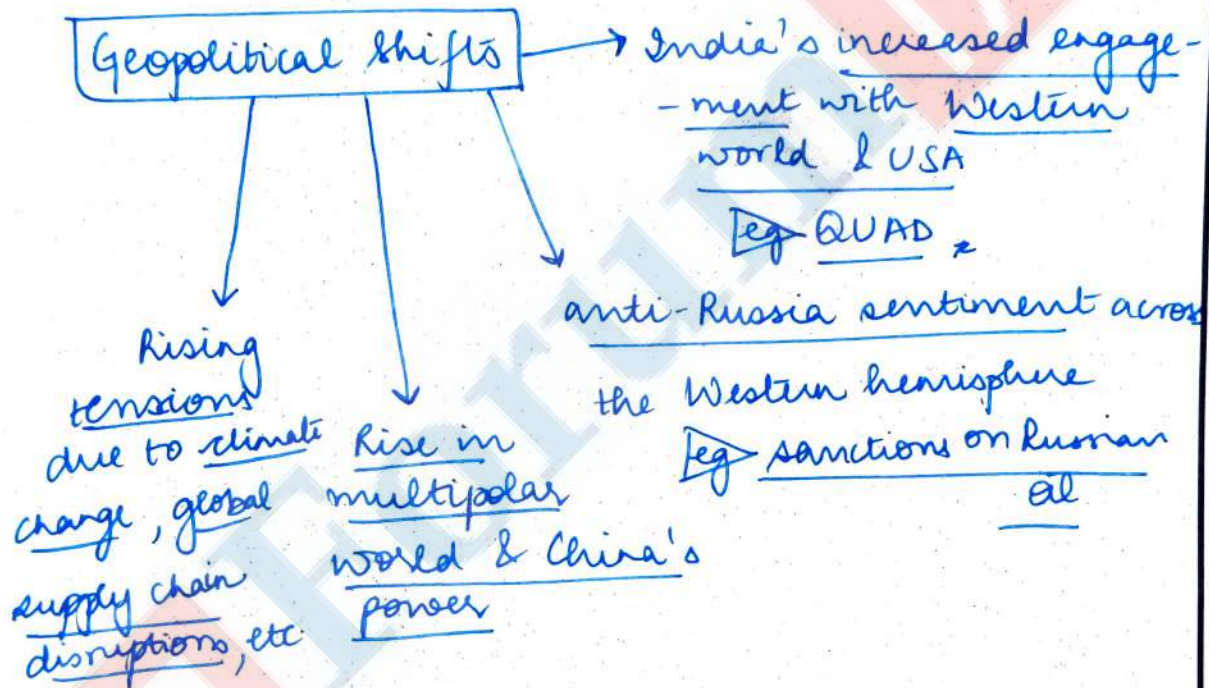
Here G is Good, Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.20) Geopolitical shifts pose challenges to India-Russia relations, yet the relationship remains robust, driven by deep-rooted trust and a shared commitment to sustain a multifaceted strategic partnership. Analyse. (15 marks, 250 words)

भू-राजनीतिक बदलाव भारत-रूस संबंधों के लिए चुनौतियां पैदा करते हैं, फिर भी संबंध मजबूत बने हुए हैं, जो गहरे विश्वास और बहुआयामी रणनीतिक साझेदारी को बनाए रखने के लिए एक साझा प्रतिबद्धता से प्रेरित हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India - Russia relationships are a reflection of an all-weather friendship that has sustained in times of deep geopolitical unrest



CHALLENGES

① India split between alliances with the US and western world eg QUAD, I2U2, India-EFTA, ~~etc~~ and old friendship with

Russia and Soviet Union.

(2) Reliance on Russia for weapons import and competing new sources of import

eg SIPRI report suggests diversification with reducing imports from Russia & increase from France

(3) Russia's closeness with China...

(4) Buying sanctioned Russian crude oil → opposition from EU.

(5) Lack of mode of transactions due to exclusion of Russia from SWIFT system.

CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP

(1) Russia continues to be major defence supplier and increase in collaboration eg Beahmos

(2) Rupee-Rouble settlement system to avoid dollar transactions → rupee-dollarisation can buy Russian crude.

③ India has continued buying Russian crude and even exported it, showing signs of rise in strategic autonomy + decrease Gulf dependence
 Eg Russia was largest source of crude oil imports by India.

④ India has proven to act as mediator while opposing war Eg PM's statement at SCO "This is not the era of war", while Russian President expressed that India can mediate in the Ukraine issue.

⑤ Balancing alliances with West & Russia alike
 Eg G20's Delhi Declaration

⑥ India's investments in the Russian Far East

Way forward → enhance collaboration with Russia to check China
 → diversify imports from Russia & increase exports to Russia

7) Hence, Russia - India friendship has stood the test of time & geopolitical tensions & continues to help both countries

Feedback

(For OFFICE use)

#	(C)	(A)
AWIS		
CD & VA		
S & F		
P & R		

Please put tick marks in the above table.

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

TOTAL MARKS	
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