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MGP 2025

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	<u>Mitush Mali</u>		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	<u>19100 78164</u>	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र		Date/दिनांक	<u>22 July, 25</u>

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

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश		
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।		
1			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।		
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।		
3			4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूआर) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।		
4			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।		
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Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>	
*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समय रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में प्रस्तुत आती है आधार पर (लेकिन इसकी तका स्तानित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।			For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु		
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

1. **AWIS = Answered What is Asked.** This means whether you have addressed the core demand of the question or not. Addressing the core demand of the question gets you an objectively fair score. It is examiner's perception if you have understood the question and if you know the answer in the first place. Creative answer writing, sometimes missing the core demand, may fetch very high or very low scores, and exposes your answer to the subjectivity of the examiner.
2. **CD & VA = Content Density & Value Addition.** Examiner will evaluate the quality and quantity of your content in the answer. In the same word limit and space limit have you (a) written what is asked (b) gone beyond what is asked (c) enriched answers through combination of (but not all!) suggestions, ideas, quotes, flowcharts, diagrams, facts and figures, data etc. This affects objective components of assessment.
3. **S & F = Structure & Flow =** Whether you have structured your answer properly or not. Whether the answer has been broken into parts and sub-parts and each part has been addressed appropriately or not. Whether the flow of the answer is maintained. Affects both subjective and objective components of assessment.
4. **P & R =** How your answer performs on the criteria of presentation, ease of read, clarity and apparent effort in writing the answer. This affects the subjective components of assessment.

Q.1) "Extraordinary powers must be exercised with extraordinary care." Discuss in the context of Article 142 of the Indian Constitution. (10 marks, 150 words)

"असाधारण शक्तियों का प्रयोग असाधारण सावधानी से किया जाना चाहिए।" भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 142 के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

With Powers, comes great responsibility. Extraordinary power required extraordinary precaution to ensure optimum use & avoid any misuse.

Art 142 provides Supreme Court (SC) with large amount of power to ensure complete justice.

Benefits of Art 142

- 1) To tackle extraordinary situation to ensure justice
- 2) To take innovative & context specific decisions.

Ex) POCSO case of West Bengal - where SC refused to punish the convict and provided relief to couples.

Ex) Vishaka Guidelines

- 3) SC can also ensure that any dispute between States or Center & States is resolved as per Constitution.

Challenges

- 1) Possibility of judicial overreach

Ex) SC provided for closure of liquor shop around Highways

2) May undermine Constitutional machinery,
 ↳ Taking disputes between center & State → Art 263/
 Art 262 bars court to interfere

3) Strain on relationship between judiciary & legislature - checks & balances issues
 ↳ Over appointment of Judges

4) Judges are not experts of all issues, Art 142 can undermine judgements of tribunals or special bodies

5) Way forward

- 1) Frame guidelines to ensure judicious use
- 2) ~~Set~~ Consultation with ~~the~~ experts - legal experts
- 3) Parliament can also deliberate & can frame a law for judicious use.
- 4) Promote reforms in judiciary to increase public trust - Collegium reform, ~~more~~ publication of judges assets (Justice Sanjay Kumar case).

Supreme Court is apex court and must maintain a balance to ensure ~~the~~ functioning of legislature & executive as per Constitution & ensure just check!

Feedback

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#	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	
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Q.2) Why are State Legislative Assemblies involved in the election of the President but excluded from the process of impeachment? (10 marks, 150 words)

राज्य विधान सभाओं को राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव में शामिल किया जाता है, लेकिन महाभियोग की प्रक्रिया से बाहर क्यों रखा जाता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

President of India (Art 52) is highest office in the country. Every five years regular election are conducted ~~for~~ by Election Commission of India.

Legis. Collegium of election & impeachment & removal of President

Election

- 1) Elected MPs of Parliament
- 2) Elected MLAs of State Legislative Assemblies

Impeachment

- 1) Elected All MPs of Parliament
- 2) No power to State

Process

- 50% States should agree
- Single Transferable vote by proportional representation

Process

- 1) Ground - Violation of Const. Constitution
- 2) $\frac{2}{3}$ rd Absolute Majority in both houses

Rational behind non-inclusion of State in impeachment

- 1) Logistic challenges → as removal
- 2) India is republic - thus participation of State

in election ensures Republic nature of State

b) However, ^{impeachment} ~~removal~~ of President is not much connected to republic idea. Also, involving State will delay impeachment process.

~~ECI is not involved.~~

2) ~~States are Inquiring also~~ There will be challenges to include State in investigation process

2) Inclusion ensures voice of State is heard at State Center level, But because President also represents all States, But ~~removal~~ impeachment does not need to have voice because if charges are proved then State will have approve the impeachment.

So, to avoid any delay and complexity ^{impeachment} ~~removal~~ was given stringent majority to ensure that proper check should be there before ~~removal~~ impeachment of President.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.3) Private Member's Bills (PMBs) seldom become law in India, yet they are an important aspect of parliamentary democracy. Bring out their significance and suggest steps to strengthen the PMB process. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत में निजी सदस्य विधेयक (PMBs) शायद ही कभी कानून बनते हैं, फिर भी वे संसदीय लोकतंत्र का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू हैं। उनके महत्व को उजागर करें और निजी सदस्य विधेयक प्रक्रिया को सशक्त करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएं।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Private Member's Bills (PMBs) are introduced by members apart from ministers in Parliament or SLAs. Last, 50 years, 4 private member bills were passed ⁴ⁿ but introduced on regular basis.

Significance

1) Highlighting pressing concern in the country.

↳ Data Protection, Marital Rape

2) Promote discourse over sensitive issues in Parliament, media and between experts.

↳ Recently, UCC Bill was introduced by ~~PM~~ Private Member

3) Give MPs authority and power to present their views and ideas about any issue through detail Bill.

4) Can be utilised to highlight apathy of government.

5) Can also act as check on executives by through public awareness by media (4th pillar of democracy).

Steps to Strengthen

1) Dedicated team and office to support drafting.
 2) Biggest assistance MPo face is legal expert support

3) Provide fund to promote research by MPo

3) Can provide access to government data & technical team to analyse numbers

4) Training of MPo - to get brain about Bill creation process

5) Can engage think tanks like PRS, Vidhi etc.

6) Can follow UK's Shadow Cabinet Model

Private Member Bills are a crucial device to make Parliament more dynamic and relevant for country's needs

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.4) Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the judicial systems of India and USA. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत और अमेरिका की न्यायिक प्रणालियों के बीच अभिसरण और विचलन के प्रमुख बिंदुओं पर प्रकाश डालिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India and USA are two thriving, vibrant & dynamic democracy based on respective constitutions. There are differences between both the countries due to unique history, leadership and population composition.

Convergence between Indian and USA judicial system

- 1) Constitution is supreme and presence of checks & balances
- 2) Both derive powers from constitution like Judicial review

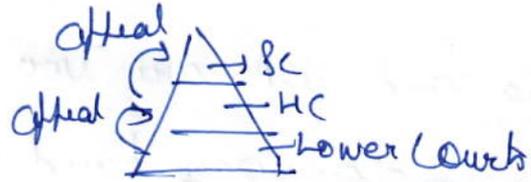
or
Divergences

- 1) India follows due procedural established by law (Article 32) whereas US follow due process of law
- 2) Supreme Court in Munshi v. Maneka Gandhi case said that we India need to follow employed due process of law -

2) India has integrated judiciary

a) As per Constitution,

both SC & HC are equal body



b) USA have different model, it is not integrated,

Federal judiciary is different from State level judiciary.

3) Chief justice seat in impeachment process of President in Senate, no such provision in India

4) All courts follow Constitution & State laws in India, whereas in US, State judiciary follow State Laws

5) Indian judiciary have wider writs jurisdiction compared to US Federal Court.

Thus, both judiciary reflect unique adaptation to unique countries -

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.5) The role of Election Commission of India has evolved beyond conducting elections to becoming a guardian of electoral democracy. Critically evaluate. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत के चुनाव आयोग की भूमिका चुनाव कराने से आगे बढ़कर चुनावी लोकतंत्र के संरक्षक बनने तक विकसित हो गई है। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Election Commission of India is a constitutional body, deriving powers from Part 15, Articles 324 to 329 & it is RPA also governed by RPA 1950 & RPA 1951 & Election Commission Act.

Evolution of ECI from conducting election to guardian of electoral democracy

1) The Supreme Court highlighted that ECI history can be divided between pre TN Seshan and Post TN Seshan era.

2) Pre TN Seshan era → More focus on conducting election.

a) Machinery was focused on ensuring free & fair election - because of booth hijacking, violence etc.

b) Limited interpretation of Art 324 → led to disproportionate check by ECI over political malpractices

3) Post TN Seshan era

- a) Widespread enforcement of Model Code of Conduct
- b) Reduction in interference of Political executives
- c) Use of technology like EVM, VVPAT etc.
- d) Better training of election officers
- e) Focus Presently focus shifted to
 - i) Increase in participation especially of Youth
 - ↳ ICT Campaign by ECI
 - ii) Ensuring check on social media
 - iii) Use of CCTV cameras for storage
 - iv) ~~Use of~~ Increase in Co-prosecution step to curb illegal liquor, cash flow in elections.

Challenges

- 1) Urban voters apathy ↳ Mumbai - 52% vote share in 2024 election
- 2) Concerns over electoral roll updation ↳ EPIC Scam

Way forward

- ↳ Digitisation
- ↳ Regular updation of voter list
- ↳ More participation of opposition in process.

ECI is important institution to ensure the trust of public gets strengthen in democratic process of our country to make it more vibrant.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.6) What is the rationale behind the 'three-language formula' in India's education policy? Also highlight the challenges associated with its adoption and implementation across the country.

①

②

(10 marks, 150 words)

भारत की शिक्षा नीति में 'त्रि-भाषा सूत्र' के पीछे क्या तर्क है? देश भर में इसे अपनाने और लागू करने से जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

National Education Policy, 2019 was introduced to make education more holistic, relevant and provide freedom to states to have tailored approach.

Rationale Behind 'Three-language Formula'

- 1) To promote education in mother tongue especially at young age (Constitutional directive under Article 350A)
- 2) To promote national integration by making citizen multilingual → to increase exchange of ideas values etc.

⇒ Transition working in Punjab or Assam

- 3) To increase employment opportunities for citizens.

- 4) To improve cognitive abilities of children

(Studies have proved that multilingualism make children more better at understanding worldviews)

Challenges

- 1) Apprehensions and Perception bias

a) Continuation of historical ideas that NEP 2020

also wants to promote Hindi in all States

2) Dominant Monolingualism → possibility of dominance

of few languages due to economic opportunities

↳ Many tribal languages are dead, PHSI survey in last 50 years - 220 languages died.

3) Availability of Infrastructure

a) ~~Soft~~ a) teachers to teach in regional language

b) Content translation c) Schools offering multiple languages

4) Possibility of conflict between Center & States

↳ Center holding fund for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for Tamil Nadu

Difficulty in Way forward

↳ Consensus building among States

↳ Promoting digital avenues for learning & training to teachers

↳ AI/Phasini for content translation

↳ Developing models for better schools to promote emulation.

NEP was aiming to make education more relevant to Indians & three language policy is right step to ensure integration of local with national goals.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.7) 'Emerging environmental concerns and evolving ecosystem perspectives demand a reimagined approach to rural water governance.' Discuss the key interventions needed to recalibrate rural water policies with special emphasis on the role of communities. (10 marks, 150 words)

'उभरती पर्यावरणीय चिंताएँ और विकसित होते पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के परिप्रेक्ष्य ग्रामीण जल प्रशासन के लिए एक नए दृष्टिकोण की मांग करते हैं।' समुदायों की भूमिका पर विशेष बल देते हुए ग्रामीण जल नीतियों को पुनः संतुलित करने के लिए आवश्यक प्रमुख हस्तक्षेपों पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Rural water governance has been ineffective since independence. Recent case of Mirzapur, where villages received tap water after 75 years highlights (IAS Durga Mittal) is point in case.

Challenges faced by rural water governance

1) Administration loopholes

a) No check on groundwater utilisation - many industries extracting without norms

b) Poor implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, Har Koi Se Jal

2) Water Stress

→ Decline in groundwater (Punjab, Haryana)
 → Low efficiency → Flood irrigation
 → Indiscriminate overuse of groundwater → frequent water wells

Key interventions

1) Strengthening administration

a) Posting motivated officers → IAS Himanshu 'Nagpal improved ground water table of Varanasi

1) Digitisation of fund release, regular check on implementation of schemes.

2) Ground level reforms

a) Ensuring Community Engagement for Conservation

↳ Himre Bazaar, Raigarh Siddhi

b) Establishing Rani Panchayat for adequate use

↳ Villages of Bundelkhand,

c) Social audit → to improve outcome of government schemes

d) Involvement of locals to rejuvenate water bodies

↳ IAS Manish Kansal → revived Sot river, UP.

3) Use of technology to check on water wastage

↳ IAS R. Gopalak Sunkara used IoT to reduce water overflow, by 10%. Tamil Nadu

4) Community consensus to ensure diversification of crops, & building supply chain to promote welfare by increasing income

↳ IAS Sushant Gaurav, - Bumla Model → Milllets promotion in Jharkhand.

Availability of clean water is basic human right and government should ensure its availability to meet SDG goals 1, 2, 3.

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.8) Identify and discuss the challenges hindering effective implementation of gender-sensitive policies and schemes in the country. (10 marks, 150 words)

देश में लैंगिक रूप से संवेदनशील नीतियों और योजनाओं के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में बाधा डालने वाली चुनौतियों की पहचान करें और उन पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Hillary Clinton said that the most undervalued or untapped resource in the world is women. Government of India has adopted various measures like gender budgeting, Mishra fund, provision for women in Mudra Yojana, Startup India, yet the outcome is not at par with desired scale.

Challenges hindering effective implementation of gender sensitive policies & schemes

- 1) Challenges at design of policy → Poor participation of women in policy making ~~to ens~~ → lack of gender perspective in policy
- 2) Poor representation of women at implementation level.
 Eg) less than 50% post at A, B, C category are filled by women officers in government
- 3) Ground level challenges
 - a) Bias in society → reduces participation of women

~~4) Women are affected~~
 4) Hindrance due to patriarchal attitude

Ex) Sarpanch Pati

5) Benefits of women scheme accrued by male members

4) Challenges → illiteracy, Digital illiteracy } Limits participation of women
 → Financial illiteracy

5) ~~Poor~~ Poor health facilities, dual burden of work, Pagan agricultural labourer are mostly women

Way forward

1) SHGs promotion Ex) Kudumbshree Model

2) Education & various literacy programs

Ex) Common Community Centers

3) NGOs, CSOs for grassroot level mobilization

4) Training & handholding

Ex) Woman Sarpanch training

Gender equity & equality is must for societal inclusivity & growth.

Feedback

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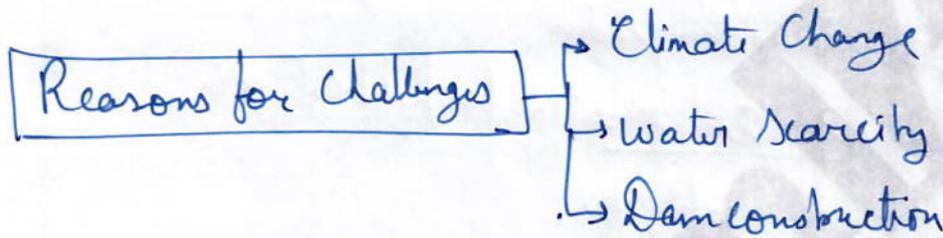
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.9) Effective transboundary water management can act as a catalyst for regional peace and cooperation.' In light of this statement, bring out the opportunities and challenges for India in leveraging 'water diplomacy' in its neighbourhood. (10 marks, 150 words)

प्रभावी सीमापार जल प्रबंधन क्षेत्रीय शांति और सहयोग के लिए उत्प्रेरक का काम कर सकता है।' इस कथन के आलोक में, भारत के लिए अपने पड़ोस में 'जल कूटनीति' का लाभ उठाने के अवसरों और चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Water conflict has emerged new diplomatic challenge for India. India shares many rivers with China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan etc.



Opportunities for India

- 1) Promoting effective coordination for water use
 - ↳ Indus Water Treaty (before Phalgam attack)
- 2) Ensure regional stability
 - ↳ Ganga water sharing with Bangladesh
- 3) Building trust and reciprocal obligation over states
 - ↳ India allows more flexibility in water treaty dispute having upper hand.
- 4) Collaborating with countries
 - ↳ Hydro power project with Nepal, Bhutan

Challenges

- 1) Assertive policies of China
 - ↳ Bhompheta Dam
- 2) Influence of China in Bangladesh + Nepal
 - ↳ To undertake water project construction
 - ↳ Teesta Bangladesh
- 3) "Anti-India sentiment" → tool for political gain in various neighbours
- 4) Delay in project construction

Way forward

- 1) Strengthen delivery of project
- 2) Need Build strong relationship with all political actors of neighbours
- 3) Promote more collaborative projects-

↳ Water diplomacy can help India to promote more regional stability & harmony.

Feedback

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

TOTAL MARKS

Q.10) What are the key areas of reform if the World Trade Organization (WTO) has to remain relevant in the present context of rising protectionism and trade wars? (10 marks, 150 words)

यदि विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) को बढ़ते संरक्षणवाद और व्यापार युद्धों के वर्तमान संदर्भ में प्रासंगिक बने रहना है तो सुधार के प्रमुख क्षेत्र क्या हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

World Trade Organisation was created in 1995 with the Uruguay round, Marrakesh agreement.

Relevance of WTO

- 1) Promote global order in trade → ensure rule of law to be followed in trade
 - 2) Provide platform for negotiation and deal
 - 3) Help global south to have more integration with global trade
 - 4) Solving critical issues like marine fisheries
 - 5) Solving disputes about subsidies, agriculture, food trade
- ↳ During COVID-19 pandemic, WTO pushed for vaccine distribution & food availability.

Challenges

- 1) Decreasing relevance of WTO due to violation of rule of law in global trade

2) More focus on protectionism undermining WTO platform

Reforms

- 1) Revamp dispute resolution body
- 2) Adjust Quota to ensure reflection of new reality → India became fourth largest Economy.
- 3) Enforcement mechanism to ensure rule of law in trade
- 4) Inclusion of cyber digital trade, Climate change etc in trade talks
- 5) ~~Increase~~ Increase frequency of WTO meetings
- 6) ~~Allow global south to retain longer the status~~
- 7) Follow Principle of differentiated sustainability

WTO is a necessary institution in present world of flux to ensure global trade order.

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.11) The basic structure doctrine acts as a constitutional compass in balancing Parliament's legislative authority and constitutional supremacy. Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

आधारभूत संरचना सिद्धांत संसद की विधायी शक्ति और संवैधानिक सर्वोच्चता के बीच संतुलन बनाने में एक संवैधानिक निर्देशक के रूप में कार्य करता है। टिप्पणी करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Basic Structure Doctrine was enshrined by Supreme Court in Keshwanand Bharati Case (1973).

It means that certain core principles of Constitution cannot be amended by Parliament.

How Basic Structure balances Parliament Legislative Authority & Constitutional Supremacy

1) It clearly identifies which principles are beyond amending power of Parliament.

Eg. Secularism, Rule of Law, Judicial Review (Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narayan Case) etc.

a) It ensures that Constitutional makers ideas were preserved and not modified by prevailing political ideology.

b) Parliament also make sure that through law making process they are violating and any basic structure principle.

~~2) Supreme Court through~~

2) During Indira Gandhi era, Parliament amended constitution to reduce power of Court by Amending Article 13 & 368 in 24th CAA.

↳ This led to supremacy of Parliament.

↳ It also added provision that Parliament can amend any laws & provision of constitution.

↳ Thus, established supremacy of Parliament.

3) However, Through Keshwanand-Bharati Case (1973) →

SC declared the provision of ~~the~~ undermining judicial review but upheld power of amendment power of ~~Constitution~~ constitution.

↳ Later, when Speaker differed in providing judgement over anti-defection laws.

↳ SC intervened and clarified that Speaker's decision is under judicial review. This ensured an external check over supremacy of Speaker.

- 5) Also when ^{2 States} Centre tried to utilise Ordinances to undermine legislation known. Supreme Court ~~also~~ highlighted that ~~intention~~ it is also under judicial review.
- 6) Supreme Court also upheld that President's decision on President ~~rule~~ can also be questioned by Court. This ~~was~~ reduced misuse of President rule witnessed during 1970-80s period.
- 7) Supreme Court through Basic Structure also ensured that Parliament abide by DPSPs principle to fulfil duty of social justice.

Thus, Basic Structure acted as - constitutional compass in balancing legislative authority and Constitutional Supremacy.

Feedback

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

Q.12) Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are pivotal to inclusive and efficient urban governance, yet they remain fiscally constrained and institutionally weak. Analyze. (15 marks, 250 words)

शहरी स्थानीय निकाय (ULBs) समावेशी और कुशल शहरी शासन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, फिर भी वे वित्तीय रूप से सीमित और संस्थागत रूप से कमजोर बने हुए हैं। विश्लेषण करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) got Constitutional Status
by 74th Constitution Amendment Act. It drives
power from Part IX, Art 243 and 12th Schedule.

Importance of ULBs for Urban governance

① Inclusivity

- a) ~~Ensure~~ Ensure municipal services reaches to urban residents
 Eg) Water-drinking, Sanitation, → Delhi - Many localities face water scarcity
- b) Special provision for challenging areas.
 Eg) Special focus for low elevation areas →
 During Delhi floods (2024) - area around Yamuna Plain
- c) Ensure feedback redressal & solve grievances
 Eg) Lack of staff & understaff
- d) Special facilities for old age, Pwd → promoting accessibility in Urban transport & Offices
 Eg) Accessibility Campaign - make Metro transport accessible (50%).

② Efficiency

a) Ensure funds optimisation & proper use for welfare

b) Digitisation & single ^{windows} ~~windows~~ clearances

eg) Mumbai & Delhi - land clearances still ^{takes} needs lot of time

c) Handle efficiently the urban disasters.

eg) Poor performance during Delhi flood, Chennai floods in ^{few} last years.

d) ~~Lack~~ of Poor collection of waste from various colonies. → Challenging & reducing impact of Swachh Bharat Mission.

Limitations of ULBs

1) Fiscal Constraints

a) Poor tax collection & fee collection

b) Poor utilisation of resources like revenue from waste recycling, services fees etc

c) Corruption - leakage of money

d) ~~Less~~ transfer from state government

2) Institution weakness

- a) Lack of Constitutional provision for fund transfer
- b) Political interference & hindrances
- c) Lack of mechanism to generate revenue & ensure accountability of officer

Achievements

- 1) Fund raising → Municipal Bonds by Bangalore & Lucknow ULBs
- 2) Officer initiatives → "Fund your City" - Hyderabad (Smriti Sabarwal)

Way forward

- 1) Strengthen trust by citizen charter, social audit etc. → Muzumbari Charter
 - 2) Raise municipal Bonds
 - 3) For inclusivity implement MESA (Bhuria Commission)
 - 4) Efficiency in tax collection, revenue generation
 - 5) Form Urban Disaster Management Authority (DM Act 2024)
- Urban governance needs to strengthen to achieve SDG-11 → Inclusive & Sustainable City.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.13) "The judiciary has functioned as an institutional corrective, redefining and refining the contours of the Governor's office to prevent its misuse and uphold constitutional principles." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (15 marks, 250 words)

"न्यायपालिका ने एक संस्थागत सुधारक के रूप में कार्य किया है तथा राज्यपाल के कार्यालय की रूपरेखा को पुनः परिभाषित और परिष्कृत किया है ताकि इसका दुरुपयोग रोका जा सके और संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों को कायम रखा जा सके।" प्रासंगिक न्याय विधियों (केस लॉ) की मदद से इस कथन पर चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Constitution of India empowers judiciary to ensure proper functioning of Constitutional machinery in the country.

Constitutional Articles

- 1) Art 13 & Art 32 → Empowers Supreme Court to check power of State & Centre
- 2) Art 226 → provides power to High Court
- 3) Art 142 → provides power of Complete justice to SC

Role of Judiciary in ensuring functioning of governor's office - by Correction, redefining & Refining

- 1) ~~Case~~ Court by various judgments highlighted that governor's office is under judicial review.
 [Eg] → SC explicitly highlighted SR Bommai case.
- 2) Supreme Court in this case Margawind Singh Pant case highlighted the clear position of governor vis-a-vis

Constitution

- a) Clarified that Governor is Constitutional Officer &
 - 1) It is not agent of Center but to ensure functioning of state as per Constitution
 - 2) Office of Governor has discretionary power but they are under judicial review.
- 3) Recent case of Punjab & Tamil Nadu Case (2023) Supr SC highlighted that Governor has to return Bill in this time frame.
- 4) Also in Case of Tamil Nadu SC clarified that Governor cannot uphold held Bill for more than ~~and can not refer it~~ three months.
- 5) Court also highlighted that as per Constitution there is a '5 year tenure' for Governor and cannot be removed arbitrarily.

Challenges = Skill Equivalent

- 1) Political appointment of governor
- 2) Conflict between State & Governor over -
 Chancellor/Vice-chancellor of University (West Bengal),
 Tamil Nadu issue over Governor speech in State Assembly etc.
- 3) Frequent issues over Bill passing → Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala

Way forward (11th ARC, NSCRW)

- 1) CM should be part of selection committee
- 2) Ensure non-politically active person is appointed as governor, at least for last couple of years.
- 3) Governor should be from outside state
- 4) Sensitisation

Governor office is vital cog for functioning of federalism in India and Court is ensuring smooth functioning through various Judgements.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.14) How is the 'vertical' and 'horizontal' devolution of taxes to the states decided? Highlighting the concerns raised by some states regarding the devolution of taxes, suggest corrective measures.

(15 marks, 250 words)

राज्यों को करों का 'ऊर्ध्वधर' और 'क्षैतिज' हस्तांतरण कैसे तय किया जाता है? करों के हस्तांतरण के संबंध में कुछ राज्यों द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए सुधारात्मक उपाय सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

For devolution of taxes, Constitution under Article 280, provided for constitution of Finance Commission every five years by President of India.

Process of devolution of taxes by FC (15th)

Criteria are decided by FC based on - Vertical Devolution

a) Amount of taxes collected

b) Desirable pool estimation

c) Growing economy & changes in tax collection

d) Consultation with States, UTs & Central

department.

e) New emerging factors are also considered

like NDCs, Reforms needed etc.

f) Term of Reference is also act as backbone

g) It also decides special grants to fulfill

Some special needs of certain states like
tribals, Hilly states etc

f) Also, suggest measures to strengthen state
fund to augment support for ULBs &
Local PAs.

2) Based on above process 15th FC came up
with criteria for horizontal devolution.

- a) Population (2011) \Rightarrow to ensure proportional share
- b) Income distance \Rightarrow to ensure regional balance (Equity)
- c) Demographic performance \rightarrow to compensate Southern States
- d) Forest, tax performance etc.

These criteria ensured equity, justice & fairness
in ~~for~~ horizontal & vertical devolution.

Concerns Raised by States

1) Use of population criteria and lower weightage
of demographic performance

a) Southern States believe that they are getting
punished for population control.

- 2) So Industrialised States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka raised concern that ~~no~~ they receive less fund than what they contribute.
- 3) Also, various states like Tribal dominated & forest dominated believe that they receive less funds compared to backwardness in states.
- 4) ~~There are~~ Political Biases in providing grants to various states (Perception)
 - ↳ Karnataka CM protested over less funds under 14th resolution.

Way forward

- 1) Consultative approach by FC → specially to Southern States.
- 2) Increase weightage of reform, demographic performance and forest preservation.
- 3) Increase sharing pool & reduce surcharges & tax collected by Center

Finance Commission should take inclusive, proactive and objective approach to ensure fiscal federalism in country.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.15) What steps are required for the constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think granting constitutional status to the Central Information Commission (CIC) would strengthen the RTI regime in India? Give reasons. (15 marks, 250 words)

किसी आयोग के संवैधानिककरण के लिए क्या कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है? क्या आपको लगता है कि केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग (CIC) को संवैधानिक दर्जा देने से भारत में RTI व्यवस्था मजबूत होगी? कारण बताइए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Constitutionalization means granting of Commission \Rightarrow Constitutional status by parliament.

Steps required for constitutionalization of a Commission

1) Need to should be ensured & checked

Eg To ensure effective protection of enforcement of OBC protection measures, Parliament provided constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes (102nd CA).

2) Introduction of motion/resolution in any house of Parliament - Rajya Sabha / Lok Sabha (Art 368)

3) Discussion, Deliberation and discourse by members

4) Quiring proper provision to ensure effectiveness - Budget provisions, personnels, Chairperson etc.

5) After passage of bill \rightarrow It go to President.

1) When President provide assent, it becomes Constitutional body.

7) Majority order in both House will be based on Art 318 as it will be amendment to Constitution
 $\Rightarrow \frac{2}{3}$ rd Present and Voting + $\frac{1}{2}$ absolute majority

Arguments in favour of granting Constitutional Status to CIC

1) Ineffective functioning of RTI

↳ Delays in reply, overriding orders of

CIC

2) Center has reduced ^{effectiveness} status of CIC by amending

RTI Act

a) Center will determine condition of service of Chairman.

1) It will appoint CIC

Thus, critics argue that this will ~~in~~ increase political influence over CIC functioning

3) CIC has no enforcement mechanism to provide for punishment for violation of its orders

Thus, providing constitutional status will provide

CIC →

a) More autonomy to ensure functioning of RTI

b) Increase independence of CIC → difficult to

~~c) CIC can also be removed, funds are charged on Budget CFI etc.~~

However other mechanisms can also be taken

1) Restoring power of CIC under RTI Act

2) Providing enforcement mechanism for its orders.

3) Mandate government officials to follow orders of CIC.

4) Appoint a special officers in every department to ensure timely reply of RTI.

Constitutionalization is one mechanism, but not only.

Strengthening functioning of RTI will require a holistic approach by making citizen enlighten, officers responsible and CIC capable.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.16) Even as India experiences consistent economic growth and has achieved self-sufficiency in food production, hunger and food insecurity remain pressing concerns. (Examine the factors responsible for this paradox and suggest steps to improve the situation.) (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में भले ही लगातार आर्थिक संवृद्धि हो रही है और खाद्य उत्पादन में आत्मनिर्भरता हासिल हो गई है, लेकिन भूख और खाद्य असुरक्षा अभी भी गंभीर चिंता का विषय बनी हुई है। इस विरोधाभास के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों का परीक्षण करें और स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए कदम सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India has become fourth largest economy. Our food production has consistently increased in last five year and crossed 330 million tonnes last year. Still challenges of hunger and food insecurity are present →

i) NFHS-5 (17 States, UTs, 2019-20 data) →

- > 50% of Indians are obese
- > 89% children under 6-23 months don't receive adequate diet
- Stunting (35%), Undernourishment (32%) and wasting (15%)

Reasons for hunger & food insecurity

- 1) Food wastage (Dalwai Committee - 790000 t loss)
 - a) Inadequate storage, warehouse
 - b) Lack of poor administration - rotting of grains in warehouse, ~~loss~~ losses during rainy season.

2) Inadequate attention on Children below 5 years

a) Failure of ASHA workers & Anganwadis to ensure Universal care & availability of food for children.

3) Procedural Issues

a) Lack of documents with migrants, tribals etc.

b) Apathy of administrations

c) Digitisation → digital illiteracy → lack of updates of documents

4) Cereal based diet (DTE Study, 2018) - Madhya Pradesh
Tribe - Bhill, Bhilala, Thabua

Meat, Milk

PDS, NFSA, MDM
Sanitisation

Veg-cereals

→ facing nutritional stresses

5) Cultural factors

↳ Saharia women don't feed breast milk to child for 3 days due to because she is considered polluted. ↳ Obesity - westernisation

Methods to improve

1) Diversification of diets

↳ Humla Model of Raji (IAS Shohant Gaurav) →

inclusion of millets in Anganwadi → empowerment
~~and~~ employment and health

2) Investment → Infrastructure, sensors, Storage
 & Check regularly.

3) Awareness → IEC Campaign especially in village area
 Ex) Belgauri district → Parents started giving biscuits instead of roti by getting influenced by media ads led to severe malnutrition.

4) Strengthening ^{capacities of} officers Ex) IAS kshanka Ala started Kitchen garden in Meghalaya for diverse diet

5) Strengthening Anganwadi & ASHA workers

a) Equip ~~better~~ with better infrastructure & staff

b) Provide adequate compensation to ASHA workers

c) Targeted nutritional & Health check on children under 5 years

To achieve sustainable goals & healthy India, nutritional & food security must be ensured.

Feedback

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

Q.17) The Union Government has recently announced that caste enumeration will be part of the upcoming census. Examine the opportunities and challenges associated with conducting a nationwide 'caste census'. Also, propose a framework for its seamless and effective conduct.

(15 marks, 250 words)

केंद्र सरकार ने हाल ही में घोषणा की है कि जाति गणना आगामी जनगणना का हिस्सा होगी। राष्ट्रव्यापी 'जाति जनगणना' आयोजित करने से जुड़े अवसरों और चुनौतियों का परीक्षण करें। साथ ही, इसके निर्बाध और प्रभावी संचालन के लिए एक रूपरेखा को प्रस्तुत करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Caste Census will be done to record numbers of caste, their distribution and changes at national-wide scale.

Opportunities associated with Caste Census

- 1) Promotes objectivity and evidence based policy making.
 - a) Caste census will provide adequate data to policymakers to reform policies
 - b) Justice Rohini Commission → issues in OBC reservation
- 2) Various government schemes and programmes are based on caste calculation - Reservation, Muzra Yojana, etc
 - a) New data will allow it ensure equity & benefit reaches to most needy person (Antodaya of Gandhiji).
- 3) Social Change in India → changes in Caste Structure at State level & increase & decrease in

number of castes
 eg) Sanskritisation, migration etc. can be understood better.

Challenges

- 1) Polarisation of data → increase in caste based politics.
- 2) Mobilization of people based on new data → demand for reservations, special benefits
- 3) Errors in data
 - a) Inadequately trained officer/teachers will collect data - Caste is fluid identity (Jats, Caste, gotra etc.)
 - b) Intentional Manipulation → by dominant caste to ensure their dominance
 - c) Only Caste data will not be helpful → holistic coverage like socio-economic data will be more useful

Framework to ensure better conduct

- 1) Uniformity with regional variation →

- a) Use of technology to ensure same column names - to ensure uniformity of data
- b) Train Officers to ensure regional variation will not be affected ~~not~~ create mass of data
to regional sensitivity, cultural relativism - training by sociologists & anthropologists.
- 2) ~~At~~ Ensure that officers record data line & verified by one more person
- 3) Self declaration by families - to ensure integrity
- 4) Social Awareness - "Sahi Data, Sahi Fayala" - use of role model, social media engagement - to promote ethical behaviour of people and pressure of ~~can~~ census collector.

Caste Census will provide ~~to~~ data to ~~make~~ take more nuanced approach for inclusive development.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.18) "AI integration in governance is no longer a choice but a necessity." In light of this statement, discuss how AI can enhance education and healthcare governance. (15 marks, 250 words)

"शासन में AI का एकीकरण अब एक विकल्प नहीं बल्कि एक आवश्यकता है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, चर्चा करें कि AI किस प्रकार शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य सेवा शासन को बढ़ा सकता है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Artificial Intelligence has improved a lot in last few years and unleashed a new era of governance.

AI role in Education

1) AI can make policy making more accurate - and more by analysing data of UIDISEF, Pratham NLP.

a) Targeted approach to improve literacy, adult literacy.

b) Pratham providing adequate fund to more ~~ade~~ low performing areas & dimensions,

2) Ensuring better management of fund → Accountability, & transparency.

a) Regular check on utilisation - to ensure proper and timely utilization

b) Highlight leakages by analysing images of ~~low~~ works completed

3) Better teacher training

a) Personalised pace and content

4) Better availability of content in regional language

↳ Phasini - to translate in regional language

5) Better Education to remote areas

↳ Robotic teacher who teaches in regional languages

6) Making education more interactive → content

relevant to local areas, teaching student in story format etc.

AI in Healthcare

1) Better AI can ensure better identification of loopholes

gets. ↳ Lack of certain facilities & medicines in certain areas — Highlighted by AI

2) Better tracking of medicine utilisation, equipments purchase etc.

3) Analysis of emerging epidemics or diseases.

↳ NIPAH in Kerala, Bird flu in Maharashtra

4) Better Adequate training of ground workforce - ASHA Midwives etc

- 5) Remote area access - (Eg) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission & e-Sanjeevani etc
- 6) Better treatment to patients
- (Eg) Patient's registry, Tele medicines, @ A7 to has various advantages in detecting early stage of cancer etc.

Present Challenges

- 1) Inadequate fund → Education (3%), Health (2.75%) (Part of Budget)
- 2) Understaff → Schools, Hospitals etc.
- 3) Lack of penetration of technology in several areas
- 4) Digital illiteracy (digital divide)
- 5) Right to Privacy - sensitive data

Way forward

→ Budget Increase → Education (6% - NEP)
 → Health (3% - NHM)

↳ Digital equality & equity.

A7 can help in bridging several divide and help India to become Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Feedback

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P & R			
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.19) Providing a brief overview of the aims and objectives of BIMSTEC, explain its significance for India. (15 marks, 250 words)

बिस्तेक के लक्ष्यों और उद्देश्यों का संक्षिप्त अवलोकन प्रस्तुत करते हुए भारत के लिए इसके महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

BIMSTEC is an international organisation created to promote cooperation among neighbours of Bay of Bengal.

Aims & Objectives of BIMSTEC

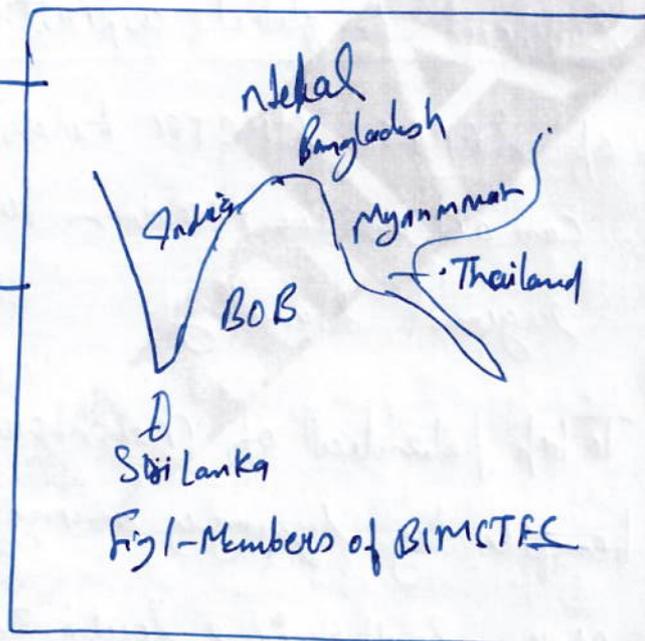
1) Promote regional cooperation among member members

2) Ensure economic integration - promote trade, movement of labour & goods.

3) Ensure regional security → Illegal trafficking, piracy etc -

4) Work for promotion of tourism, cultural cooperation, and people to people connection.

5) Work to ensure social stability by supporting



each other through → food, fuel etc.

6) Define cooperations → to improve synergy among forces.

Significance for India

- 1) Support to global aspiration → after failure of SAARC, BIMSTEC holds importance as it can act as ~~the~~ medium to improve India's regional standing.
- 2) To tap potential of neighbours & maximise benefits by synergy among members.
- 3) Make South Asia & South East Asia a regional hub of economic growth.
- 4) Make BIMSTEC a connecting link to ASEANs → cooperation with Myanmar & Thailand
- 5) Develop North East & East part of India
- 6) Promote social stability by prosperity → to reduce illegal trafficking - Drugs, humans, arms etc.

7] To reduce migrant crisis

8] To counter influence of China & its BRT

Challenges

- 1] Exclusion of few members like Maldives & Mauritius
- 2] Rising anti-India sentiment in Maldives & Bangladesh, & Nepal
 - ↳ An "India Out" Campaign in Maldives
- 3] Instability in region → Conflict in Myanmar & protest in Bangladesh.
- 4] Rising influence of China → Myanmar, KPOI-Nepal & Bangladesh-Pakistan-China Nexus.
- 5] Delay in projects - BIM, Kaladan Multi-modal Project, IMT Trilateral Highway.

Way forward

- 1] Timely completion of projects
- 2] Strategic patience with Bangladesh
- 3] Strengthening 'neighbourhood first Policy'

India is one of largest & fastest growing economy. India should maximise benefits & minimise damage through BIMSTEC.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.20) India's approach to its relationship with China has evolved into what can be best described as 'competitive coexistence'. Discuss in light of recent developments. What should be the broad contours of India's future China policy? (15 marks, 250 words)

चीन के साथ अपने संबंधों के प्रति भारत का दृष्टिकोण 'प्रतिस्पर्धी सह-अस्तित्व' के रूप में विकसित हुआ है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों के आलोक में चर्चा करें। भारत की भविष्य की चीन नीति की व्यापक रूपरेखा क्या होनी चाहिए?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India & China relationships have gone through various challenges in last 50 years. Experts now termed the present relations as "Competitive Coexistence"

Competitive Coexistence

1) Border disputes → Galwan Clash, Doklam Standing

a) Highlights divergences over border security

b) But mechanism at level of Army, defence ministers, Foreign Ministers - ensure regular meeting to deescalate tensions.

2) Economic Competitions → China +1 policy, USA Tariffs on China, India restricted investment by China till recently

a) These India & China are two large economies of world, standing at fourth & second respectively.

b) Competition between both countries → to attract investments, to have more growth of industries of industries

c) However, China is India's largest trading partners & have increasing trade between both countries

d) Also India is trying to diversify import & also reduced dependence on china

↳ Toy industries, Electronic Manufacturing.

3) Diplomatic tussle → Differences over reforms in UNSC

o the multilateral institutions, etc

↳ China block membership of India in UNSC

↳ China supports Pakistan in UNSC

a) Yet, India & China cooperate in BRICS, SCO to present a counter block to western axis

b) India through Quad, SCM, A tries to curb control influence of China.

4) Differences in values → India believe in democracy, socialism, welfareism, open economy whereas China is authoritarian, closed state.

Thus, India & China have both Conflict and Convergence

Ensuring Competition and Coexistence.

Broad Contours of India's future China Policy

- 1) Border tension - deescalation & resolution should be first priority.
 → PM message is clear that without border peace India cannot have economic deal.
- 2) Promote cooperation at multilateral institution but try to reduce influence in South Asia
- 3) Have eye on Chinese investment and activities of industries of Chinese origin
 → Tik Tok provided data to China's government (ED imposed fine)
- 4) Focus on internal strengthening → dehydrate economy & reduced dependence on China
 → Promote China +1 policy & utilise tariff war to improve India's economy.

India's Comprehensive power has increased a lot after covid pandemic, As reflected in Operation Sindoor, India should capitalise to curtail influence of China.

Feedback

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#	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			

Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Test Goal

- 1
- 2
- 3

Outcomes

-
-
-
-

Marking Scheme

Mark	Good	Average	Below average
10 Marker	3.75 - 5.0	3.0 - 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 - 7.0	4.0 - 5.5	< 4.0
20 Marker	7.75 - 10	6 - 7.5	< 6
	Key / Relevant Point		
	Vague / Irrelevant		

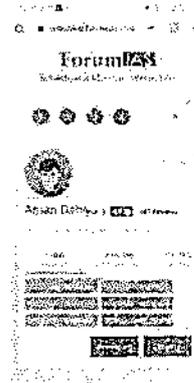
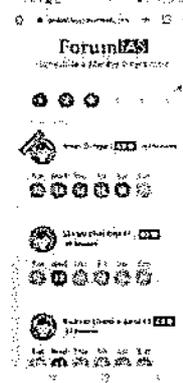
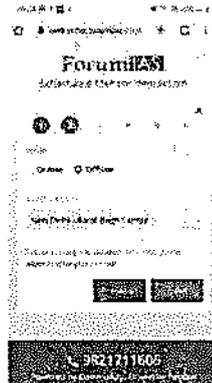
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