



TEST CODE 8 1 2 4 1 0

MGP 2025

Time Allowed : Three Hours  
समय : तीन घंटे

**ForumIAS**

Maximum Marks : 250  
अधिकतम अंक : 250

**GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन**

|   |               |               |  |
|---|---------------|---------------|--|
| Name Of Candidate<br>परीक्षार्थी का नाम | ADITYA PATHAK |               |  |
| Roll No./अनुक्रमांक                     | 1910159534    | Medium/माध्यम | English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र              | KAROL BAGH    | Date/दिनांक   | 16/07/2025   |

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

| INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका  |                          |                              | INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश   |   |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Q. No.<br>प्र.सं.  | Max. Marks<br>अधिकतम अंक | Marks Obtained<br>प्राप्तांक | 1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.<br>कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।   |   |
| 1  |                          |                              | 2. There are <b>TWENTY</b> questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.<br>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.<br>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.<br>उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए। |   |
| 4  |                          |                              | 5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.<br>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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| 20   |                          |                              |  |   |
| Total/कुल अंक  | 250                      |                              | <b>For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु</b>   |   |
| 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/<br>परीक्षा की विधि :  | Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/><br>Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> |
| *Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.<br>मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समय रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं। |                          |                              | <b>For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु</b>   |   |
|  |                          |                              | ECN CODE/<br>ईसीएन कोड :   | EG/ईजी :<br>① ② ③ ④ ⑤   |
|  |                          |                              | Evaluation Date/<br>मूल्यांकन तिथि :   |   |

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.

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## EXAMINER'S REMARKS



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### CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

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

Q.1) "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)

Art 142 - empowers the Supreme Court

to do complete justice in case of

- constitutional / legislative vacuum
- failure of Central / State government to discharge their duties
- violation of rights - esp of vulnerable groups

EX → SC used its extraordinary powers to strike down illegal election of Chandigarh's Mayor

Extraordinary Care

- separation of powers - SC's main duty is to interpret laws & not

make them

- Accountability - Judges are not elected
- Credibility - threatened if SC issues unworkable judgements/order  
↳ or if the Executive ignores them
- Independence of Judiciary - may be endangered on a quid-pro-quo basis
- Dilution of Democracy - if important matters are not deliberated but adjudged by SC

Way forward - the honorable SC has itself outlined the limitations & specified guidelines / principles to guide exercise of power under 142. They must be followed.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.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 - the Executive Head of State  
of the Union of India (Centre & States)

Electoral College of Presidential Election

{ Elected MPs of LS/RS  
Elected MLAs of SLAs

Involvement of SLAs

- in line with Federal Structure of Indian Polity
- to give representation to people at the state level - although indirectly
- to broaden the Electoral College

- to prevent regionalism in the election of HoS
- to ensure representation regardless of geographical proximity / isolation from the Political Capital → Unity & Integrity of India

## Exclusion from Impeachment

- a quasi-judicial process - requires investigation & trial in a house
- to simplify the procedure & impart certainty to final decision  
 ↳ SLAs may delay the process
- to prevent politicisation of the process

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

| #       | G | A | P |
|---------|---|---|---|
| AWIS    |   |   |   |
| CD & VA |   |   |   |
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| P & R   |   |   |   |

Please put tick marks in the above table.

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

TOTAL MARKS

Q.3) 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)

PMBs - Bills introduced by MPs & not ministers are called PMBs. The last time a PMB became a law was in 1970s

## Features

- ↳ introduced on alt Fridays,
- ↳ scrutinized by Committee on PMB
- ↳ sole responsibility of MP - MoLaw not involved
- ↳ defeat of PMB  $\Rightarrow$  defeat of govt.

## Significance

- allow MPs to initiate legislation on important issues ignored by Govt
- ↳ Ex. Bill on Maximum Work Hours

- allow MPs from ruling party to take an independent stand
- attract Parliament's attention to crucial matters
- lower burden on Govt

## Steps to Strengthen PMB Process

- Time allotted for PMBs must not be used for govt business
- Sub-Committee within Committee on PMBs - to prioritize PMBs & act time expeditiously
- Amendment of Rules of LS/RS - to streamline the procedure
- Necessary Assistance from MoLaw
- Strengthen LAMP Fellowship Prog

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.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, the largest democracy & USA, the oldest democracy have robust & independent judicial systems.

## Points of Convergence

- Power of Judicial Review
- Independence of Judiciary
- Protector / Guarantor of Fundamental Rights
- Original Jurisdiction (+ Exclusive) of SC of India & SCOTUS in Centre-State / Inter-state disputes

## Points of Divergence

- | <u>India</u>           | <u>US</u>            |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| - Integrated Judiciary | - Separate Judiciary |

- No role of Executive in appointment of Judges of SC/HC
- Narrower power of Judicial Review - based on Procedure Estd by Law
- 34 Judges in SC - sit in benches
- Parliament can extend Powers & Jurisdiction of SC/HCs
- Fixed tenure of Judges

- for States & Union/ Federation
- Political appointment of Judges of SCOTUS & Circuit Courts
- Broader power of JA - based on Due Process of Law
- All 9 judges of SCOTUS sit together - No benches
- Congress has no such power - already determined by Const<sup>n</sup>
- Lifetime tenure

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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



Q.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)

Article 324 empowers ECI to exercise control & jurisdiction over the electoral process in India

ECI conducts elections for

- Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha
- Vidhan Sabha & Parishad
- Office of President & VP

Role in Conducting Elections

- Preparation/ update of rolls
- notification / declaration of Elections / results
- Punishment for violation of MCC
- Scrutiny of nomination papers as per RPA, 1951

## Pole as Guardian of Electoral Democracy

- ensures 'one person one vote' - by issuing EPICs
- ensures Universal Adult Franchise - by continuous update of electoral rolls
- Introduction of innovative technology
  - EVMs - prevents booth capturing
  - VVPATs - ensures 'right vote'
  - Totalizer - 'anonymity' of voters
- Proposal to introduce distant voting
  - preserves 'right to vote' of migrants → broadens representation
- Initiatives
  - SVEEP - voter Education
  - APP to report MCC violation

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

(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)

The New Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 introduced the 'Three Language Formula' for India's school education system.

## Features

- 2 out of 3 languages should be native to India
- No compulsion on States to choose a particular language.
- Education in mother tongue preferably till 5th Grade

## Rationale

- learning multiple languages
  - develops cognitive faculties

- helps in overall personality development
- exposes students to diverse literature
- growth of regional languages in India
- greater interaction between ~~the~~ people from distinct backgrounds → Unity & Integrity

## Challenges

- Poor literacy in just one/two languages
- Extra resources - teachers, classrooms
- apprehensions of attack on States' linguistic culture - (Ex) Tamil Nadu
- Insufficient evidence on impact on cognitive skills

## Way Forward

- focus on FLN in short-term
- adopt 'Singapore Model' - one local language & English
- Greater consultation with stakeholders

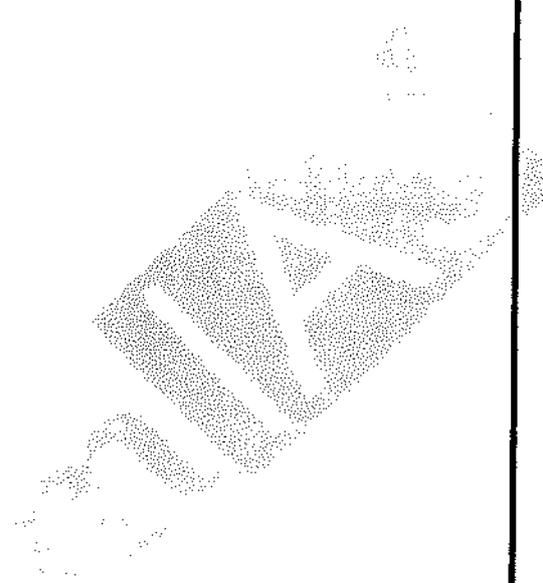
### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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



**Feedback**

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| #  | G | A | P |
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| AWIS   |   |   |   |
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| P & R  |   |   |   |
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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)

The recent Union Budget (2025-26) allocated about Rs 8.5 lakh Crores for gender-specific policies & schemes in the country, highlighting Gol's resolve in this direction

## Challenges hindering effective implementation

- Lack of data - what can't be measured can't be managed
- Lack of gender-specific capacity building among officials
  - ↳ normal implementation of gender-specific schemes
  - ↳ No sense of urgency

- Lack of a Feedback Mechanism -  
to assess the usefulness of schemes & make corrective actions
- Lack of accountability & suitable action in case of negligence → emboldens sub-par behaviour
- Administrative & Political Causes
  - < 14% MPs in LS are women
  - low level of participation in higher bureaucracy

## Way Forward

- Separate Output-Outcome Budget for gender-specific policies/schemes
- Separate CAG Audit
- Gender sensitive Training
- Increasing women's representation

### **Feedback**

(For OFFICE use only)

| #   | G | A | P |
|---|---|---|---|
| AWIS  |   |   |   |
| CD & VA                                     |   |   |   |
| S & F                                       |   |   |   |
| P & R                                       |   |   |   |
| Please put tick marks in the above table.   |   |   |   |
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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)

Recently the IWT between India & Pakistan was suspended by India in the wake of the Pahalgam attacks

## Opportunities of Water Diplomacy

- to improve relations with upper & lower riparian states
- share hydrological data
- exchange proposals on Hydro Projects - elicit concerns - build trust & confidence
- use scarce water resources optimally for > 2 billion people

- prevent all-out war

## Challenges

- water diplomacy affected by other factors

- ↳ terrorism - Pak
- ↳ border dispute - China

- Insubfficient mechanisms for

- sharing hydro-data

- negotiating concerns

- Overall lack of trust among countries

- ↳ Indo - Pak
- ↳ Indo - China

- India at a relative position of disadvantage vis-a-vis China - lower riparian state

## Way Forward

- ↳ Use regional forums - BIMSTEC/SAARC
- ↳ Mekong - Ganga Type forum for Indus & Brahmaputra

### Feedback

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| #       | G | A | P |
|---------|---|---|---|
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| 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.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)

WTO came into existence as a successor of GATT after multiple rounds of discussions. It established a 'rules-based' trading order to the advantage of developing countries like China & India

## Issues with WTO

- consensus via unanimity - hurdle to progress on key issues
- Appellate body not functional
- No agreement on agriculture, fisheries, PSH
- Preference to RTAs over the Principle of Non-discrimination

## Key Areas of Reforms

- replace unanimity with majority for decision making
- free appointment of Appellate Court judges from geo-politics
- New round of talks on agri, PSH  
 ↳ give due voice to Global South - India can act as the 'Voice of Global South'
- Remove moratorium on Tax<sup>n</sup> on digital services → more revenues for developing countries
- Initiate broader multilateral reforms

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.11) 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 - Evolved by the SC in multiple cases after the landmark Keshavanand Bharti Case (1973)

- Paj Narsain Case (1975)
- Menaka Gandhi Case (1976)
- Minerva Mills Case (1980)
- Bommai Case (1994)
- Koelho Case (2007)

Features of BS

- Parliamentary Democracy
- Secularism
- Fundamental Rights
- Federal Structure
- Independence of Judiciary

Constitutional Compass in balancing Parliament's legislative Authority & Constitutional Supremacy

- Parliament alone is empowered to make laws at the central level

└ ensures will of the people

└ However, BS doctrine prevents Parliamentary laws from

- violating FRs
- being repugnant to constitutional provisions
- violating Doctrine of Pith & Substance

- Indian Polity - a synthesis between

Judicial Supremacy of the US & Parliamentary sovereignty of UK - BS doctrine ensures this by emphasizing the supremacy of Constitution above all

- Laws / bye-laws can't exceed the constitutional framework  
 - Central govt / Parliament cannot encroach the legislative competence of State legislatures

- Power of Judicial Review - empowers SC/HCs to examine the constitutional validity of laws. This leads to

- confidence in the Parliamentary system  
 - credibility / legitimacy of laws

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.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)

74th CAA (1992) - provided constitutional status to ULBs & obligated state Governments to adopt a system of ULBs which is consistent with the provisions of the Act.

Provisions / Part IXA - Municipalities  
 - Articles 243P - 243ZG  
 12th Schedule - 18 Functions

Pivotal to Inclusive / Efficient UG

- aligned with Principle of Subsidiarity - local issues are addressed best at the local level → Efficiency.
- Stakeholder approach to Governance - involve representatives at the

local level who are closer to the people → Inclusivity

- Effect Accountability at the local level
- allow heterogeneity in policies & approaches → No 'One Size Fits All'

## Fiscal Constraint

- insufficient devolution of powers to levy, collect and appropriate tolls, taxes, fines & duties (TTFD)
- Reports of SFC not accepted by many governments → no sharing of taxes
- Reluctance of ULBs to leverage fiscal power, if any.

- thin tax base - heavy reliance on property taxes
- Low share of Non-tax Revenues

## Institutionally Weak

- reluctance of State Govts to devolve Functions & Functionaries
- Lack of Capacity Building among elected representatives
- Weak position of Mayor
- Interference by Bureaucracy
- Tied nature of Funds → Lack of autonomy

## Way Forward

- Full & timely devolution of 3Fs
- Innovative financing - Bonds, Pooled debt
- 2% of GST to ULBs/PRLs - Kelkar

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

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

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| TOTAL MARKS |  |
|-------------|--|

Q.13) "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)

The Constitution of India provides a Governor for each State who acts in two capacities

- Constitutional Head of State
- Agent of the Central Govt.

### Constitutional Provisions

- 153 - all executive authority of State is vested in Governor
- 163 - Council of Ministers to aid & advise Governor
- 164 - Power to appoint CM & CoM
- 200 - Options open to Governor when a bill is presented to him

- 213 - Power to promulgate Ordinances

Judiciary's Role as Institutional Corrective

- Prevented Governor from delaying assent to bills - (Ex. State of Tamil Nadu case (2025)) . This ensured

basic principle of parliamentary democracy - legitimacy of a law initiated by a popularly elected govt  
continuance of administration  
timeline for a future - 14  
3 months in specific cases

- Prevented Governor from dismissing

a govt without providing them reasonable opportunity to prove majority in US

↳ Ex State of Uttarakhand case (2016)  
State of Arunachal Pradesh case

This ensured

↳ Rule of Majority  
↳ Vertical Separation of Powers

- Bommai Case (1994) - laid down guidelines for 'Proper' & 'Improper' Use of Art 356

- Additional Observations of SC

- Governor must act as a guide & philosopher to State Govts

- Satisfaction of Governor - based on relevant material not personal biases

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.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 'ऊर्ध्वार' 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)

Article 280 - empowers President to constitute a Finance Commission every 5 years to determine

- Vertical devolution of taxes/duties between Centre/States
- Horizontal devolution among States

Vertical Devolution - decided based on the expenditure needs of Centre (Defence, CS, CSS, Railways) + States (Education, health, LG) - 41/69

Horizontal Devolution - decided based on a formula with multiple components

+ different weights :

- Income distance
- Population  $\leftarrow$  1971 Demographic Performance
- Tax Effort
- Forest & Ecology

## Concerns Raised by States

- rising share of cess & surcharge in Centre's GTR  $\rightarrow$  reduced divisible pool - increased from 7% in 2000 to 21% in 2020
- Higher weight to Equity Criteria (~85%) than to Efficiency Criteria (~15%)  $\leftarrow$  Tax Effort Demographic Performance

- Income distance criterion punishing States with higher PCI

→ Some States like Bihar get more than they contribute while Southern states get less

Corrective Measures

- representation to States in Constitution of FC - in TOR
- reduction in Cess (Surcharge)
- 50:50 share of Efficiency & Equity criterions
- making FC a permanent body
- improving tax base of States → to reduce reliance on Centre
- Utilize ISC (C263) to sort-out differences

**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.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)

A Constitutional Commission is a body that derives its mandate & powers directly from the Constitution -

Ex. → NCBC / NCSC / NCST (338B / 338 / 338A)

Steps for constitutionalization of a Commission

- introducing a CAB in either house of Parliament - the CAB must contain
  - Powers of the Commission
  - Composition of the Commission
  - Method of Appointment
  - Tenure / Conditions of Service

- Passage of the CAB by both  
the Houses
- Assent by Prez - Compulsory
- Notification of the Constitutional  
Commission in the Official  
Gazette

Constitutional Status to CIC - presently

CIC is a statutory Body constituted  
under the PTI Act, 2008. Its  
constitutionalization would ensure  
a more robust PTI regime via

- ensuring 'security of tenure' of  
the Chief IC & other ICs →  
independence from the Executive

→ impartial functioning

- give constitutional backing to the RTI → greater accountability

- improve trust in the RTI regime  
 ↳ greater willingness to file RTI → participative governance

- improve the proportion of RTI answered
  - ↳ completely
  - ↳ on time

- However, like other CBs (NCSC/ST/BC) it may face challenges

- lack of staff
- possibility of reappointment of ICs
- insufficient financial resources

Thus constitutionalization of CIC must be done keeping in mind these challenges

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.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 achieved rapid economic growth after the LPA reforms of the early - 1990s & secured self-sufficiency in food production after the multiple successful phases of Green Revolution (1960s onwards)

- However hunger & food insecurity persists

- reflected in low rank in Global Hunger Index (~130)
- 80 cr Indians rely on PMGKAY
- High rates of Stunting (35%)

## Wasting & Underweight in NHFS-5

### Responsible Factors

- Low access - due to fragmented food markets
- Low affordability - due to
  - low incomes / savings - 85% workforce in informal sector
  - Weak supply chains - high volatility in food prices
- Commercialization of Agri - farmers growing for distant markets & not for own-consumption
- Leakages in PDS
- High rate of wastage of agri-produce

- ~ 95 thousand Crores in value
- Low rate of processing & fortification

## Steps to Improve Situation

- Social & income security to informal workforce → improved affordability improved access
- Localization of agri-production ↓
- Emphasis on milletts / pulses
- Strengthening supply chains of perishables — Cold storages  
— refrigerated vans
- DBT to replace PDS
- Boost to processing of perishables & fortifications of grains

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.17) 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)

India will conduct a full-scale  
Caste Census for the 1st time its  
after Independence & 1st time  
after 1931

## Opportunities

- Counting of castes will lead to
  - identification of the poorest  
among the poor
  - assessment of the various provisions  
for welfare & development of  
poor castes/classes

- designing of suitable policies for the most backward
- rationalization of reservation system → greater representation in jobs & education to the most deprived
- understanding the true structure of Indian society - its diversity & power structure

### Challenges

- never done in independent India → lack of expertise & experience
- lack of an exhaustive list of castes → may lead to the SECC

bungle (~ 46 lakh castes)

- Politicization of Caste - resurgence of 'Mandal - Kamandal Politics'
- greater demand for reservation by multiple groups → social tension & unrest
- Clarity of about relative deprivation among groups → class/caste conflicts

## Way Forward

- training of census officials - esp about caste names
- publication of Caste list - invite feedback
- Timely & unaltered publication of caste data - to avoid politics
- Multi-stake holder consultations

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.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 (AI) is poised to transform each & every aspect of individual & social life. As such, integration of AI in governance is a necessity & not a choice

AI can enhance Education Governance

- Use of AI-ML to study educational outcome patterns at various levels
- to design evidence-based policy
  - area-specific
  - needs-specific
  - resources-specific

- to design National Curriculum Frameworks (NCFs), under NEP by
  - including multiple data points
  - analysing differences in needs & abilities
- to introduce innovate methods of teaching - learning - EX  
customised TLM as per needs
- to scrutinise Reports submitted by teachers / Education officials

## Healthcare Governance

- Early detection of widespread diseases → pre-emptive action  
↳ from lab reports / sewer samples

- study ailments across different groups - Ex Anaemia among tribals
- allocate scarce resources for better healthcare outcome
- Public R&D in Healthcare - use of AI-ML to design customised case / vaccine
- manage stock of medicines, devices, vaccines effectively / efficiently
  - ↳ timely allocation in times of public health emergency

Thus AI can vastly improve the governance of Education & Healthcare & help in achieving SDGs

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

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

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

BIMSTEC is a collective of South Asian & South East Asian Countries formed in 1997 via the Bangkok Declaration

### Aims & Objectives

- act as bridge between South Asia & South East Asia
- Enhance collaboration in areas of regional importance
  - transport & connectivity
  - tourism
  - security - esp maritime
  - cross-border terrorism/extremism

- Smuggling of arms/narcotics
- voice demands of developing countries in international forums - multilateral reforms
- Improve P2P connections & revive ancient contacts

## Significance for India

- rally support of neighbors for permanent membership of UN
- provide vision for a rules-based regional order in its neighborhood
- aligned with crucial Indian foreign policies of Neighborhood First & MAHASAGAR

- Economic Integration - with markets of South East Asia / ASEAN
- a mechanism to address crucial issues
  - smuggling of drugs from the Death Triangle
  - maritime threats in BoB
  - inter-country water disputes
- counter the aggressive approach of China in Indian Ocean
- act as Net security Provider (NSP) & first responder in disasters

Thus, BIMSTEC is significant from both geoeconomic & geopolitical aspects.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.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)

Competitive Coexistence - Competition for

- ~~Competitive~~

- regional influence in S. Asia
- access to important waterways
- access to minerals - esp critical minerals
- global influence - China's opposition to India's permanent membership
- alignment -  $\triangleright$  recent shift in Bangladesh towards China

## Broad Contours of India's China Policy

Should be based on 3 Cs

- Collaborate - in areas of global

4 regional importance

- climate change
- reform of multilateral system
- water governance

- Compete - in areas of signi-  
ficant interest to India

- access to critical minerals
- leadership in AI / Quantum Tech / Nanotech / space

• influence among countries of global south

- Confront - in areas that endanger India's sovereignty & security

- border dispute
- support to Pakistan
- Assertive stance in ensuring rules-based maritime order
- opposing CPEC that passes through Pok

Overall, India's policy should be to ensure that China does not become an obstacle to India's growth story & geopolitical ambitions

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

**Mentor Feedback Questions**

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

**Test Goal**

- 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   |           |               |

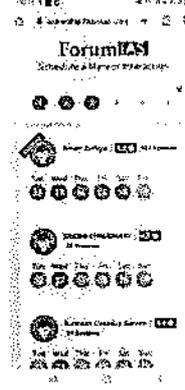
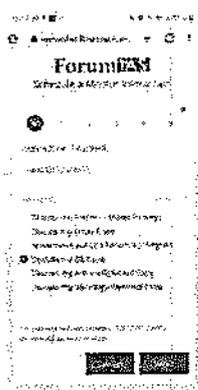
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