

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

GS-2 - Complete

Name: Aditya Talwar

Roll No: 1910169445

Start Time: 4:32 p.m.

Finish Time: 7:44 p.m.



**Instructions: All questions are compulsory. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. Quality of the answer is more important than the length of the answer.**

निर्देश : सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। प्रत्येक प्रश्न द्वारा धारित अंकों को उसके सामने इंगित किया गया है। उत्तर की गुणवत्ता उत्तर की लंबाई की तुलना में अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है।

**Q.1)** To what extent, in your opinion, have the ideals of the Preamble been realised in the country's 75-year constitutional journey? (10 marks, 150 words)

आपकी राय में, देश की 75 साल की संवैधानिक यात्रा में प्रस्तावना के आदर्शों को किस हद तक साकार किया गया है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.2)** The evolution of property rights in India reflects an intricate relationship that exists between individual rights and public welfare. Discuss this statement with the help of relevant constitutional provisions and case laws. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत में संपत्ति अधिकारों का विकास व्यक्तिगत अधिकारों और लोक कल्याण के बीच एक जटिल संबंध को दर्शाता है। प्रासंगिक संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और निर्णय-विधियों (केस लॉ) की सहायता से इस कथन पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.3)** Under what conditions can the 'National' Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What are the consequences when such a proclamation remains in force? When was it last imposed in the country? (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत के राष्ट्रपति किन परिस्थितियों में 'राष्ट्रीय' आपातकाल की घोषणा कर सकते हैं? ऐसी घोषणा के प्रभावी रहने पर इसके क्या परिणाम होंगे? देश में यह आखिरी बार कब लगाया गया था? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.4)** 'Lack of a binding framework for pre-legislative consultations in India limits citizen engagement in the lawmaking.' Propose measures to strengthen the role of public consultation in the legislative process. (10 marks, 150 words)

'भारत में विधान-पूर्व परामर्श के लिए बाध्यकारी ढाँचे का अभाव, विधि-निर्माण में नागरिकों की भागीदारी को सीमित करता है।' विधायी प्रक्रिया में सार्वजनिक परामर्श की भूमिका को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए उपाय प्रस्तुत कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.5)** 'The recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission have enabled the States to improve their fiscal conditions.' Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

15वें वित्त आयोग की अनुशंसाओं से राज्यों को अपनी वित्तीय स्थिति सुधारने में मदद मिली है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.6)** In what ways do industry and business associations contribute to socio-economic development in the country? Explain with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

उद्योग और व्यावसायिक संघ देश के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में किस प्रकार योगदान देते हैं? उपयुक्त उदाहरणों सहित समझाइए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.7)** “India’s poverty lies in the eyes of the beholder.” In light of this statement, examine the need for a credible and periodically updated poverty estimation framework in the country.

(10 marks, 150 words)

“भारत की निर्धनता देखने वाले की आँखों में है।” इस कथन के आलोक में, देश में एक विश्वसनीय और समय-समय पर अद्यतन किए जाने वाले निर्धनता आकलन ढाँचे की आवश्यकता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.8)** The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 falls short of achieving its intended objectives. Comment.

(10 marks, 150 words)

यौन अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण (POCSO) अधिनियम, 2012 अपने इच्छित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में विफल रहा है। टिप्पणी करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.9)** ‘Starved of funds, shackled by geopolitics, WHO is facing a crisis of capacity and credibility.’ Discuss the statement in the light of USA’s withdrawal and its accusation of the health body of being ‘biased towards China and mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic’.

(10 marks, 150 words)

‘धन की कमी से जूझ रहा और भूराजनीति से घिरा विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन क्षमता और विश्वसनीयता के संकट का सामना कर रहा है।’ अमेरिका के WHO से पीछे हटने और स्वास्थ्य संस्था पर ‘चीन के प्रति पक्षपाती होने और कोविड-19 महामारी से ठीक से न निपटने’ के आरोप के आलोक में इस कथन पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.10)** The world continues to operate in a ‘my terrorist’ versus ‘your terrorist’ paradigm. Explain. What strategies would you suggest to develop a unified, comprehensive, and rules-based global approach to tackle the menace of terrorism?

(10 marks, 150 words)

दुनिया आज भी ‘मेरा आतंकवादी’ बनाम ‘तुम्हारा आतंकवादी’ के सिद्धांत पर चल रही है। स्पष्ट कीजिए। आतंकवाद के खतरे से निपटने के लिए एक एकीकृत, व्यापक और नियम-आधारित वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण विकसित करने हेतु आप कौन सी रणनीतियाँ सुझाएँगे?

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

**Q.11)** Briefly explain the procedure laid down in the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 for the registration of political parties with the Election Commission of India (ECI). What are Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)? What concerns are associated with them? Does the ECI have powers to de-register a political party?

(15 marks, 250 words)

भारत के निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) में राजनीतिक दलों के पंजीकरण के लिए जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम (RPA), 1951 में निर्धारित प्रक्रिया का संक्षेप में वर्णन कीजिए। पंजीकृत गैर-मान्यता प्राप्त राजनीतिक दल (RUPP) क्या हैं? इनसे क्या चिंताएँ जुड़ी हैं? क्या निर्वाचन आयोग के पास किसी राजनीतिक दल का पंजीकरण रद्द करने का अधिकार है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

**Q.12)** Assess the role of NITI Aayog over the past decade in promoting cooperative and competitive federalism.

(15 marks, 250 words)

सहकारी और प्रतिस्पर्धी संघवाद को बढ़ावा देने में पिछले दशक में नीति आयोग की भूमिका का आकलन करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

**Q.13)** 'The post of Deputy Speaker goes beyond ceremonial significance and is indispensable to Indian parliamentary democracy.' Discuss with relevant constitutional provisions and conventions. Also, examine the implications of the prolonged vacancy of the Deputy Speaker's post.

(15 marks, 250 words)

'उपसभापति का पद औपचारिक महत्व से कहीं बढ़कर है और भारतीय संसदीय लोकतंत्र के लिए अपरिहार्य है।' प्रासंगिक संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और परंपराओं के साथ इस पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उपसभापति के पद के लंबे समय तक रिक्त रहने के निहितार्थों का भी परीक्षण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

**Q.14)** Is the growing demand for stricter regulation of online content justified, or does it pose a threat to the right to freedom of speech and expression? Examine in light of recent judicial pronouncements.

(15 marks, 250 words)

क्या ऑनलाइन सामग्री के सख्त नियमन की बढ़ती माँग उचित है, या यह अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार के लिए खतरा है? हाल के न्यायिक निर्णयों के आलोक में इसका परीक्षण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

**Q.15)** Critically examine the 'in-house procedure' adopted by the Apex Court to inquire into allegations of misconduct against judges of constitutional courts in India.

(15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में संवैधानिक न्यायालयों के न्यायाधीशों के विरुद्ध कदाचार के आरोपों की जांच के लिए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा अपनाई गई 'आंतरिक प्रक्रिया' का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

**Q.16)** Recent controversies over alleged malpractices in the electoral rolls have renewed demands for the mandatory linkage of Aadhaar with Voter ID. What is your opinion? Give reasons in support of your answer.

(15 marks, 250 words)

मतदाता सूची में कथित गड़बड़ियों को लेकर हाल ही में उठे विवादों ने आधार को मतदाता पहचान पत्र से अनिवार्य रूप से जोड़ने की माँग को फिर से बल दिया है। आपकी क्या राय है? अपने उत्तर के समर्थन में कारण बताएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

**Q.17)** Lateral entry into civil services is seen as a reformative step, yet it continues to attract criticism and controversy. Discuss.

(15 marks, 250 words)

सिविल सेवाओं में पार्श्व प्रवेश (लेटरल एंट्री) को एक सुधारात्मक कदम के रूप में देखा जाता है, फिर भी यह आलोचना और विवाद को आकर्षित करता रहता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

**Q.18)** While rankings aim to benchmark the performance of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), concerns remain about whether current ranking frameworks reflect the broader goals of education. Suggest measures to make the ranking system more objective, inclusive, and aligned with educational and societal outcomes.

(15 marks, 250 words)

हालाँकि रैंकिंग का उद्देश्य उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों (HEI) के प्रदर्शन का मूल्यांकन करना है, फिर भी इस बात को लेकर चिंता बनी हुई है कि क्या वर्तमान रैंकिंग ढाँचे शिक्षा के व्यापक लक्ष्यों को प्रतिबिंबित करते हैं। रैंकिंग प्रणाली को अधिक वस्तुनिष्ठ, समावेशी और शैक्षिक एवं सामाजिक परिणामों के अनुरूप बनाने के उपाय सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

**Q.19)** Examine the factors behind the growing salience of the Arctic region in international politics. Discuss, in this context, strategies for India to recalibrate its Arctic engagement.

(15 marks, 250 words)

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय राजनीति में आर्कटिक क्षेत्र की बढ़ती प्रमुखता के पीछे के कारकों का परीक्षण कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, आर्कटिक में भारत की भागीदारी को पुनः संतुलित करने की रणनीतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

**Q.20)** Bangladesh is a key pillar of India's Neighborhood First policy, but recent developments on both sides threaten to disrupt the 'Sonali Adhyay' in bilateral relations. Analyze.

(15 marks, 250 words)

बांग्लादेश भारत की "पड़ोसी प्रथम" नीति का एक प्रमुख स्तंभ है, लेकिन दोनों पक्षों के हालिया घटनाक्रमों से द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में 'सोनाली अध्याय' के टूटने का खतरा है। विश्लेषण करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

# UPSC

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①

The preamble has been described as the 'identity card of the constitution' by Nani Palkiwala, and it is the guide to our national development

Ideals have been realised

- 1.) Rise of a sovereign foreign policy  
eg ○ 'NAM' ○ Multialignment  
○ Operation Sindoor
- 2.) Upholding of equality of opportunity  
eg Affirmative action - Mandal Commission
- 3.) Secularism and development for minorities - eg Nai Manzil scheme
- 4.) Liberty is being upheld  
eg Recent IT fact check writ scrapping
- 5.) Public participation for true democracy  
eg Panchayati Raj under 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> amendments

# UPSC

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## Challenges

1) Dilution of socialism

eg 'LPG reforms'

2) Questioning of discriminatory

policies - eg LAA

3) Equality objective still very far

eg 1% of population owns 75% of wealth (Oxfam)

4) Curbs on dissent and liberty

eg 'Ashoka University professor case'

Therefore the 75 year Annit Road has been a progressive period with challenges and the future of our Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic is bright.



# UPSC

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②

Property rights in India have been given under the Article 300A as a constitutional right and has led to significant conflicts in our federal system.

Intricate Relationship between Individual Rights and Public Welfare

1) Conflicts regarding rights

Eg. '44<sup>th</sup> amendment removed Article

31 and A-1911

2) Judicial intervention for welfare

Eg. Olga Tellis case - right to shelter

also.

3) Doctrine of adverse possession

4) Executive action for welfare

Eg. PM-AWAS

o SVAMITVA

# UPSC

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## Challenges

- 1.) Recent demolitions were criticized by Supreme Court
- 2.) Encroachments and illegal colonies have multiplied - eg NSSO survey
- 3.) Judiciary has denied the right to claim or acquire land for welfare as absolute.
- 4.) Large-scale property-less population  
eg 56% farmers are landless (SECC)

## Way forward

→ 1.) Clarity regarding land laws for better governance

2.) Active role of Judiciary

eg Recent case showing Article 300A's importance

Right to property is considered as a universal right, ~~and~~ and it should be through a delicate balance between welfare and rights.

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③

National Emergency under Article 352 is a provision which transforms the Indian polity from a federal to unitary structure to deal with crisis.

## Conditions to be Proclaimed

- 1) External war or threat
  - 2) Armed insurgency internally - 44<sup>th</sup> CAA
- Removal of internal disturbance by the 44<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Consequences in force

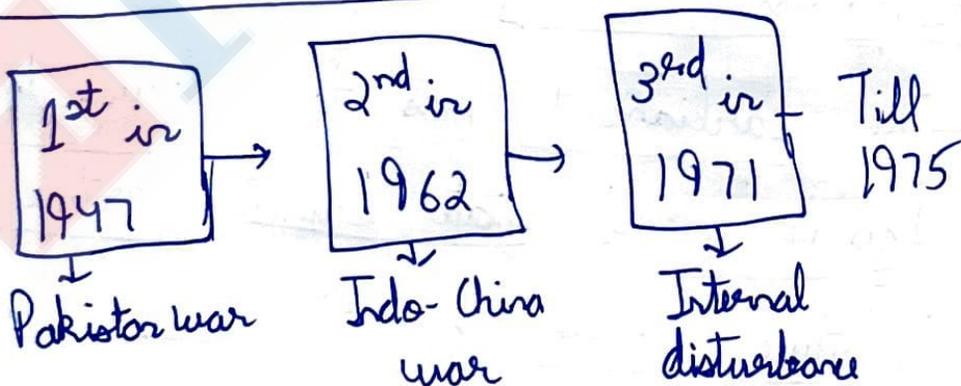
- 1) The parliament has the power to legislate on state subjects - Article 250
- 2) Executive power of the union can extend to provide directions to the states for safeguarding sovereignty.

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- 3.) Fundamental rights can be suspended  
eg. Article 358 → Article 19 automatically suspended  
① Article 359 → other rights except Article 20 and 21 can be suspended  
↳ Need order of President.
- 4.) President can provide for alteration of finances of the state.
- 5.) Extension of the Parliament by 1 year.

## Imposition Timeline



With the completion of 50 years of the emergency, the country has upheld constitutionality without the need arising again.

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4)

The Parliament of India is the temple of Democracy and the purpose of legislation is to fulfill the public aspiration. This brings in the need for pre-legislative consultation

## Lack of Binding framework

1) Lack of social audits or public consultation.

2) Even the role of parliament is declining → Only 56 sittings in 2022 unlike 121 in 1950 1952.

3) Decline of the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar institutions  
↳ 'Pratap Bhanu Mehta'

4) Lack of civil society collaboration  
↳ eg Revert RTI amendment and 'DPDP' Act exemptions

Measures to Strengthen Role of Public Consultation

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- 1) Introduction of legislative impact assessment → 'Verkaiah Naidu'
  - 2) Mandatory civil society collaboration clauses - eg Jeevan Dhara scheme model
  - 3) Legislations to be kept in public preview for 30 days - (NCRWC)
  - 4) Revival of parliamentary proceedings  
↳ Institute minimum sitting days (NCRWC)
  - 5) Consultation with pressure groups for policy - eg Recert RCEL bailout after discussion with 'dairy cooperatives'
  - 6) Institute 'Right to Recall' - Rajdhama
- Public is the builder of democracy and the voice of reason. Thus, the legislature can be strengthened through public participation

5

The 15<sup>th</sup> finance commission setup under Article 280 has acted as the 'balancing wheel of fiscal federalism'

Enabled states to Improve

1) Strengthened performance based incentives for states

Eg 2.5% allocation criteria for fiscal and tax effort

2) Strengthened need for better outcomes among the performance on demography

Eg 15% for 'Demographic performance'

3) Consultation for devolution to Panchayati Raj institutions

4) Better use of leverage to award a higher devolution - 41%

## Challenges in Empowerment

1) Lower contribution towards regional equity and performance

Eg 'Hindi states' with 39.5% of population got ~~just~~ 41% of funds

2) Lack of incentives for performance

Eg 'Bihar' got 10% of funds, while 'Kerala' got 1.9%

3) Problematic cesses and surcharges

Eg Actual devolution is just 29%

4) Opposition for creation of 40% based criteria on population.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission under

'Arvind Panagariya' has a task ahead

to provide performance push as well as per capita equity.

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⑥

The contribution of the businesses and industries has been growing in the Indian development story with PPP, CSR, etc.

Contribution to Socio-economic Development

1) Last-mile delivery through collaboration

Eg Mahindra's 'Oxygen on wheels' during COVID

2) Corporate Social Responsibility

Eg 'Narhi Kali' for education

3) Responsible and sustainable practices

Eg Use of recycled textiles by 'Levis'

4) Better awareness about rights

Eg 'WIPRO's' employee outreach programs

5) Philanthropy and donations

Eg ○ Azim Premji → Donated incomes.

○ Ratan Tata

6) Skilling of employees for better

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efficiency and growth  
Eg Bosch adopted '25 ITI's

## Challenges

1) Disoriented and unilateral focus

Eg Health and education sciences

lower CSR funds (Ashoka Univ. report)

2) Hiding true details

Eg Greenwashing

3) Unethical marketing practices

Eg 'Report Hemant Singhra' exposed HSS foods

## Way forward

1) Mandate contributions to certain sectors like education under CSR

2) Promote ethical practices and whistleblowers

Industries are an essential facet of Indian development and their role will be crucial for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'



①

Recently, the World Bank has called India as the 4<sup>th</sup> most equal country in the world, but poverty still persists.

Need for Credible Poverty Estimation

- 1) Lack of a universally accepted framework. Eg 'Tendulkar Vs. Rangarajan Committee'
- 2) Constantly changing demographics and consumption patterns  
Eg 'HCES by NSSO' showed growing non-food expenditure in several areas
- 3) Lack of a scientific basket of goods in current framework.
- 4) Poverty as a multidimensional problem  
Eg Consumption Vs. Income Vs. Expenditure
- 5) Urbanization boom and changing needs  
Eg 600 million in cities by 2036 (World Bank)

# UPSC

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6) Unidimensional focus on calories, rather than holistic nutrition - (Niti Aayog)

## Way forward

1) legally mandated poverty estimation with each census

2) Poverty line updates to align  
Eg World Bank updated to \$3 per day

3) Scientific baskets with inflation targeting Eg CPI only changes basket with base year change.

4) Integration of proper 'Non-food' expenditure criteria.

'Poverty is the worst form of violence.'

To tackle it, the focus should not just be on unscientific solutions but also periodic estimation for impact

assessment for 'Ek Bharat, Shredhitha Bharat'

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⑧ The POCSO Act, 2012 was enacted to safeguard children from any exploitation under 'Article 23' and A-24

Falls short of Objectives

- 1.) low conviction rate
- 2.) Toothless bodies such as NCPDR

↓

3.) lack of civil society collaboration

4.) Delays in cases and injustice

5.) Many states have not setup functional special courts for POCSO cases

6.) Increasing crime against children (NCRB)

Way forward

1.) Setting up of online complaint redressal mechanism

Eg SHE-Box for women

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2) Special courts should be setup for faster processing of cases by all states.

3) Civil society collaboration

eg. Boori foundation

o' Mukti Vahini by Railosh Satyarthi

4) Periodic social audits and legislative impact assessments (2<sup>nd</sup> ARC)

5) The POCSO Act's punishment should be increased.

The Act has largely been a step in the right direction but requires a proper application and review mechanism for true impact.

④

The recent signing of WHO's withdrawal bill by Donald Trump despite lack of an exit clause has put up questions on its effectiveness.

## Crisis of Capacity and Credibility

- 1.) Mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of vaccine availability.
- 2.) Accusation of corruption and bribing of top officials by China.
- 3.) An effective generic medicines regime has not been put in place.
- 4.) Rise in global Non-communicable diseases burden.  
Eg. 60.9 lakh deaths in India (2019)
- 5.) Lack of funding - 'USA' was a



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major funder.

6) Lack of action against emerging viruses

Eg. Nipah Virus

7) Lack of help provision in conflict ridden areas like Palestine

## Way forward

1) Liberal institutional reform - give powers and functions to 'Global South'

2) Collaboration with civil society  
Eg. 'Doctors without Borders'

3) Usage of social exchanges and donor contributions

4) Effective skilling of ground-level workers

The WHO decline can be arrested through a targeted focus on institutional reform and a responsible diversification of power towards actors like 'India'

⑩ Terrorism debates have resurfaced post incidents like the Pahalgam incident killing 26 people and the rise of extremist leaders in Syria.

## My Terrorist Vs. Your Terrorist

- 1) Lack of accountability by Pakistan regarding the actions of 'TRF'
- 2) Blocking of terrorist designation in UNSC by China.  
Eg. 'Abdul Rahman Makki' case
- 3) Absence of condemnation of Pahalgam incident in the 'SCO declaration'
- 4) Meet of US president with former ISIS leader of Syria.
- 5) Allegations by Pakistan on Balochistan terrorists on India.
- 6) Double standards of China regarding

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Xinjiang region and J&K.

7) Support of Axis of Resistance by  
'Iran' → ○ 'Houthis' ○ Hezbollah ○ 'Hamas'

## Strategies Needed

- 1) Blacklisting of nations promoting terrorism at FATF - Pakistan
- 2) Universal collaboration on adoption of the Indian initiative CCIT
- 3) Regional actors should be collaborating through bodies - eg 'SCO' RATS in Tashkent
- 4) Inclusion of India in UNSC permanent seat for a comprehensive security regime
- 5) Removal of opportunistic claims  
'Terrorist is a Terrorist' - No Tolerance Mentality

Terrorism is a threat to humanity and requires a collaborative attitude between global actors against such elements.

# UPSC

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11

Representation of People Act (R.O.P.A), 1951 is the major practicable legislation that is responsible for conduct of elections in India.

## Procedure Laid Down

- ↳ (a) Initially Parties can register as Unrecognised parties
  - ↳ Symbols have to be chosen from common list
- (b) With around 6% <sup>voteshare</sup> ~~seats~~ in a state and other criteria it is registered as a state party.
  - ↓
  - (c) Further a national party.

## Registered Unrecognised Political Parties

- 1) They do not have a substantial vote share to become a state or national party.

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- 2) Under Section 33A → Provision of information disclosures such as cases, money, assets, etc.
- 3) Are allowed 20 star campaigners.
- 4) Often referred to as 'Independent candidates' also.

## Concerns Associated with Them

- 1) Rise of money power in politics  
↳ 1.35 lakh crore in 2024 (ADR)
- 2) Lack of awareness among public
- 3) Can promote anti-national agendas  
eg 'Engineer Rashid's party in J&K.
- 4) May become a party just for tax benefits
- 5) Lack of impact on the electorate.

Does ECI have powers to de-register



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1.) The RPA does not explicitly mention de-registration powers

2.) Candidates or parties can be disqualified

(a) for promoting social evils like Sati

(b) for bullying voters or using state machinery

(c) flouting MCC norms

(d) Disqualifications under Article 102

(e) Section 8, 8A, 9 and 10 of RPA

## Way forward

1.) Provision of de-registration powers  
eg ECI demanding Section 58B for controlling money power.

2.) State funding of elections - Judrajit Gupta committee

The ECI through the multi-party system has been the flagbearer of free and fair elections (Mahinder Bill case) and reforms are needed for further legitimacy



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(12)

The NITI Aayog or National Institution for transforming India setup in 2017 as the premier Think Tank of the government has been the cornerstone of cooperative federalism.

Role of Niti Aayog in promoting Federalism

1) Cooperative

(a) Setting up of collaborative schemes

Eg. Atal Tinkering Labs

(b) Centre - state cooperation

Eg. Team India Hubs

2) Competitive → 'Output - Outcome Budgets'

(a) Indexes and performance

Eg. ○ SDG Index

○ Aspirational Districts Program

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- 2) Performance based incentive recommendation  
Eg Bihar, Jharkhand Pradesh demands
- 3) Regional balance in development  
Eg ① 'NITI Forum for North-East'  
② 'Islands Development Agency'
- 4) Devising of schemes for sectors  
Eg National Oilseeds Mission for A&N Islands
- 5) Taking the perspective of federal units - eg 'Governing Body has all CMs'

## Challenges and Problems

- 1) Lack of financial powers like Planning commission
- 2) Overarching role of the centre
- 3) Absence of state-wise units of the Asyog.

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4) Criticism of states for imposition of formulas - eg '3-language formula'

## Way forward

- 1) Moving for Inductive to 'Strategic' 'planning'
- 2) Legislation for making Niti Aayog a legislative body
- 3) Setup state-wise writs for collaboration
- 4) Collaboration focus through clarity on meetings and role with Inter-state council (Article 263)

The NITI Aayog is a body for a new India and through our 'New Planning' model, it can help India to achieve the \$5 trillion GDP goal.



13

The Deputy speaker's post has been vacant since the elections which has stirred a constitutional debate on the post.

## Indispensable to Democracy

- 1) Assumes the speaker's responsibility under 'Article 93' and 'Article 94' in case of absence.
- 2) fills in the gaps for effective legislation - Eg Can put a casting vote in speaker's absence.
- 3) Responsible for effective debates and assigning of the money bill in absence.
- 4) Considered to be voice of opposition  
Eg Conversion or appointment of opposition leader
- 5) Chairs parliamentary committees.

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6.) Mandate in constitution to appoint  
'As soon as possible'.

7.) Date set by speaker should not have complete discretion (Kihoto Hollohon)

## Implications of Prolonged Vacancy

1.) Absence of democratic accountability in speaker's absence.

↳ Although other's can preside, deputy speaker is a constitutional post.

2.) Gaps may emerge in sitting during active sessions

3.) The voice of the opposition may not get properly represented

4.) Shows the lack of constitutionalism

5.) The parliament will be less effective

↳ former 'CJI D.Y. Chandrachud'

## Way forward

- 1) Mandated timelines should be set for appointing the deputy speaker
- 2) Constitution can be amended to replace 'as soon as possible' with 4 months
- 3) Speaker's discretion regarding fixing election date can be limited  
↳ R. Meghachandra Singh case talked about limiting discretion.

The Deputy speaker as an officer of the parliament represents its legitimacy and the post must not be left vacant to ensure democracy is functional.

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
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(14) The regulation of online content in our New Age of Social Media seems to be at a crossroads and in conflict with Article 19(2)(a)

## Stricter Regulation is Justified

1) Need to curb harmful practices

Eg. Deepfakes, without consent

2) Child-friendly and family-friendly content - Eg. Recent 'India's Got Latent' controversy

3) Anti-national and extremist elements need regulation.

Eg. ISIS operates through social media

4) The quality of content has taken a hit. Eg. 'Whatsapp fake News'

○ Invasion of privacy by creators

5) Need to ensure responsibility of online personalities.

Eg Telangana youtuber: cooked a 'Peacock Curry' - illegal.

Threat to freedom of Speech and Expression

1) Over-regulation curbs journalistic freedom - Eg SC released 'Ashoka University professor'

2) Scrapping of the IT Act, fact check unit for arbitrary usage

3) Can become a political tool for curbing dissent - Eg Runal Kamra case

4) Against the right to express opinions

Eg Shreya Singhal case removed

'Section 66 A, of Act

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5.) Against the right to internet freedom

Eg Jabeena Shirir case

Way forward

1.) A fact check unit can only be created with role clarity

2.) Freedom to internet content with proper adult-content labels

3.) Promote self-regulation by intermediaries

Online content has become a major medium for public expression as seen on Twitter, Instagram and Youtube. A check on extremist elements and promotion of freedom should be balanced.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space) कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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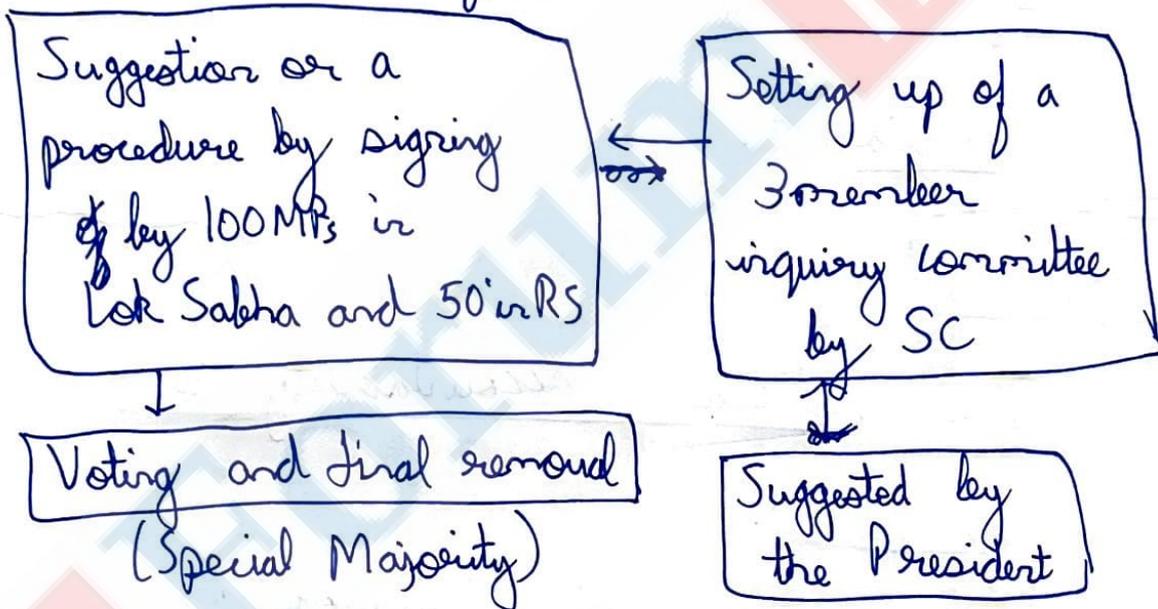
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15

The misconduct of judges and the in-house procedure has come into public spotlight due to the Justice 'Yashwanth Verma case'

## Examination of the Procedure



## ~~1) Challenge~~ Procedure in court

1) The Chief Justice sets up a 3-member committee

for SC judge → 'CJI' + 2 senior members

for HC → 'CJI' + 2 HC CJs

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2.) After final enquiry, the voting is done based on majority with no special vote.

3.) Can reject the suggestion for removal or advise the President to move a removal motion in Parliament.

## Positives

1.) The judicial accountability is maintained.

2.) Better use of interrogation of judge by judicial officers.

3.) An opportunity is given to the judge to represent themselves.

## Negatives

1.) No judge has been impeached



till date - Out of 4 motions

2) Difficult procedure to remove  
↳ 'Special majority' in both houses.

3) Enquiry on judge is done by  
judiciary itself - Conflict of interest possible

4) The appeal to the decision of the CJI is to a bench with CJI  
↳ Against principles of natural justice.

Way forward

1) Need to create a legislated and  
lawful impeachment process

2) easing the special majority to  
effective majority

The in-house procedure needs to be provided with legitimacy through institutionalization and removal of the 'Black-box procedure'

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
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16) The recent allegations of malpractices in voter rolls updations just before the polls in Maharashtra have started a debate.

Should Aadhar be Mandatorily linked

- 1) The Aadhar should not be mandated as it is a document of residency not citizenship - Amit Shah
- 2) Large scale errors of omission could occur  
Eg MBNREGA Aadhar linkage led to omission in beneficiaries
- 3) Lack of documents with a large section of the population.
- 4) Makes the roll updation process complicated.

5) ECI has not talked about the Aadhar mandate.

## Arguments for linkage

- 1) Possibility of increased inclusion in the process and include unbankable  
Eg Shopper gave vote in 2024
- 2) Better document linkage for records  
uniformity
- 3) Online portal could easily be created for grievances
- 4) Opposition demands will be fulfilled.

## Way forward

- 1) Application can be made for voter ID and Aadhar for new voters simultaneously.
- 2) Social impact assessment could be

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done.

3) Clarity on utility of Aadhar should be enriched by the government.

4) Online governance through E-GI IDs or Digilocker

The worst SIR reunion in Bihar is a testament to the need for reforms in Voter ID creation. The linkage could prove to be a useful tool with the

Census 2027



17

Lateral entry refers to the process where existing experts who are found suitable for administration are recruited to the civil services based on merit and experience rather than regular exam-based entry.

Seen as a Reformative Step

1) Induction of new talent  
eg 'Nandan Nilekani'

2) Promotion of innovative steps outside traditional bureaucracy  
eg M.S. Swaminathan with 'Green Revolution'

3) Recognition of experiential merit rather than just bookish  
eg Mortek Singh Ahluwalia

4) Breaking the red-tapism and closed frame attitude - (Niti Aayog)

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- 5) Expertise and specialization in subjects - eg 'Sanjeev Sanyal', economics
- 6) Usage of lateral entry for bringing in prudent corporate efficiency  
eg 'Amitabh Kant' as CEO of Niti Aayog

## Criticisms and Controversies

- 1) Opposition for creating an ~~new~~ unrecognised selection channel
- 2) Could create 'Demitization of the bureaucracy'
- 3) Lack of reservation in the process  
eg Niti Aayog's recent order was cancelled
- 4) Opposed by the traditionally selected bureaucratic lobby.

# UPSC

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5) Could provide for selective and political selections

eg 'Saddam Hussein' did this in Iraq

Way forward

- 1.) Balanced selection process with involvement of UPSC
- 2.) Institutionalize selection through parliament legislation
- 3.) Reservation could be introduced for posts
- 4.) Involvement of a collegium with opposition and judicial members.
- 5.) Minimum qualifications should be clarified.

Lateral entry is a way to enhance the efficiency of our steel frame bureaucracy balanced with skilling of our existing civil servants (Yugandhar committee)

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⑧ The ranking system in India for Higher Education Institutions such as NAAC score and NIRF have been the centre of discussion.

## Challenges in Current System

1) Lack of quality improvements in the institutions.

Eg ~~very~~ Islands of excellence amongst a Sea of mediocrity

2) Very low score weightage given for research and development.

Eg Only 0.64% of GDP for R&D while in South Korea is 4.6%

3) Over-focussed on bookish and theoretical learning

Eg Only 4% of Indian youth are skilled

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while 96% in South Korea

4.) Lack of focus on employability

Eg Only 51% of graduates are employable (India skills report)

5.) Large number of fake colleges

Eg Recently UP closed many college registrations through UGC.

6.) Absence of teacher training focus

7.) Low gross enrollment ratio

↳ Only 28.4%, while global 33%

8.) Lack of scientific and empirical

calculations - Eg Survey method is used instead of empirical data

Measures to create a better System

1.) More objective → Using empirical data

rather than opinion surveys.

# UPSC

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- 2) Inclusive → Increasing weightage of women and caste-based factors
- 3) Aligned with goals → Reducing the compartamentalization of rankings  
(Yashpal committee)
- 4) Usage of CSR funds for performance based corporate funding in rankings  
↳ Narayan Murthy committee on CSR
- 5) Reducing political interference through legislated autonomous ranking system.
- 6) Base it on international best practices  
Eg. 'Ivy league college scoring'

The Higher institution rankings are a way to plug education inefficiencies, which makes such systems, crucial for future of 'Viksit Bharat'

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19

The Arctic region is the northernmost ~~point~~ point on earth beyond  $66^\circ\text{N}$  till  $90^\circ\text{N}$ . It has become a recent foothold for geopolitical contestation.

Factors behind growing

Salience

1) Geopolitical shifts

↳ New cold war between Russia & USA

2) Resource abundance → Oil and Gas in Siberia

○ Coal reserves

○ Shale gas and Methane deposits

3) Presence of Chinese aims in Eastern Russia

4) Opening up of new sea-routes

Eg. Chennai - Vladivostok

○ Eastern Maritime corridor

5) Geostrategic location → Europe and USA



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6.) Focus on climate change and melting ice sheets - Permafrost CO<sub>2</sub> traps

Eg. 'Datagaika crater'

7.) Russian stronghold in Arctic  
↳ put a flag on bottom of arctic sea.

8.) Possibility of research and development

Eg. Kola project

## Strategies for India's Engagement

1.) Active participation in Arctic council with indigenous groups  
↳ currently an observer

2.) Leveraging the 'Eastern maritime corridor' as alternative to Suez canal

3.) Promotion of research and



development.

Eg 'Himadri in Svalbard'

4) Investments for geopolitical gain

Eg 'Russian east investment.'

5) Use of arctic sea exploration  
for Poly metallic nodules (PMNs)

6) Geo-economic diversification

Eg Oil & gas cheap imports

7) Balancing Alaskan aims with Silesian past - 'Multipolarity'

The Arctic is an upcoming destination for geopolitical contestation and the Arctic Policy, 2024 of India shows its place in changing global order.

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
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20) PM Modi has referred to the India-Bangladesh relation as 'Sandhi Adhyay', but the regime change has brought few questions

- Bangladesh as a Key Pillar
- 1) BIMSTEC partnership
  - 2) Kaladan project
  - 3) Textile imports

↓  
4) BBIN motor vehicle treaty

→ 5) BCIM corridor

→ 6) Investments in 'Chattogram' and Mangla ports.

→ 7) Defence collaboration - 'Exercise Bangoragar'

→ 8) Cultural and Soft power connect

Recent Developments threatening relations

1) Rise of anti-India elements

Eg 'Jamaat-e-Islami'

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
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- 2) Ouster of India-friendly government.
- 3) Allegations of internal interference by Bangladesh → for protecting former PM Shiekh Hasina.
- 4) Rising closeness of leadership with China
- 5) Irresponsible statements by leaders  
Eg 'Muhammad Yunus' talked about North-East India vulnerability
- 6) Pakistan's involvement has increased  
Eg 'Shiekh Mujibur Rahman's' office and house were demolished
- 7) Criticism of India by Bangladeshi student unions and civil society → Eg Teesta issues
- 8) Rise of hate crimes against minorities.  
Eg 'Temple in Dhaka' was vandalised.

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

9) Migrant issues → eg recently Bangladeshi nationals were deported by BSF.

10) Rohingya and open border Issue.

## Way forward

1) Discussion and dialogue with leaders and civil society - 'Track 1.5 diplomacy'

2) Joint collaboration or revival of BIMSTEC → only 6 meetings till now

3) Clarity on position of Bangladesh through diplomatic channels.

4) Proper and mutual tackling of the migrants issue.

Bangladesh is a crucial bead in our Neighbourhood First Policy string and a strong collaborative spirit with a balance of national interest is required.