

TEST CODE 8 1 2 4 1 0

MGP 2025

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

Forum IAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Akshat Bakliwal		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910129862	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र		Date/दिनांक	22/06/2025

*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. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	
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Total/कुल अंक	250		

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।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।

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।

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 (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।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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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :	Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :
Total Marks/कुल अंक :	Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <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 समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।

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

Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. 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)

Recently, the Supreme Court exercised its powers under Article 142 in the Tamil Nadu Governor case (2025) to set timeline for assent of bills under Articles 200 and 201.

Extraordinary powers under Article 142: Rationale

Article 142 empowers Supreme Court to pass an order to ensure complete justice to the petitioners.

- ① Uphold Constitutional morality
to ensure that constitutional ideals of Equality, Liberty, Fraternity are not breached.
- ② Uphold Democratic ideals and Rule of Law
eg) Article 142 used to reinstate Mayor of Chandigarh in 2024.
- ③ Protect rights and liberties of citizens
eg) Article 142 used to allow divorce on grounds of non-maintenance of marriage.

④ Fill Legislative Vacuum

eg) Article 142 was used to give Vishakha guidelines for sexual harassment at work.

⑤ Ensure there is no travesty of justice.
Principles of Natural Justice are followed and no biasness in decisions.

However, must be exercised with extraordinary care.

① Cannot violate Constitutional provisions, but can be invoked in cases of Constitutional silence eg) Timeline for Speaker in K.M. Singh vs. Manipal case (2018)

② Cannot violate substantive statutory provisions, can only supplement within statutory limits.

③ Cannot violate judicial precedents.

④ Cannot violate Principles of Natural Justice like right to be heard, equality before law.

Supreme Court must invoke its "judicial wisdom" on case-by-case basis to ensure Article 142 serves as "guarantor of justice" to all.

Feedback

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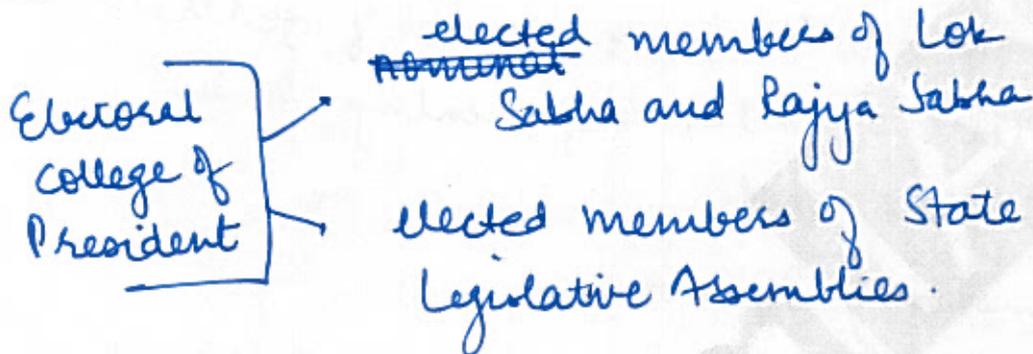
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TOTAL MARKS

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)

Article 53-56 deals with office of President and its election procedure



Reasons for involvement of State Legislative Assemblies in election of President

① Irish model of Republic

↓
As a Republic, an elected head must be elected by citizens, directly or indirectly. As members of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly are directly elected, so they are in electoral college.

② Power of President under Article 356

↑
President has power during President's

Rule to take over administrative machinery of State, so State assemblies should have say in President's election

③ Federalism

President acts as a symbol of federal structure of India, representing Union as well as States

④ Parliamentary Democracy

Indian model is representative and the Head of State must be representative of Union and all its States.

⑤ Role in Assent to Bills

President has power to assent or withhold bills under Articles 201, 254, 288 and 304, so say of State Assembly is maintainable.

However, States are excluded from process of impeachment because a Union Head of State is being removed, which involves only Parliament. This reflects the Quasi-federal nature of Indian polity as propounded by K.C. Wheare

Feedback

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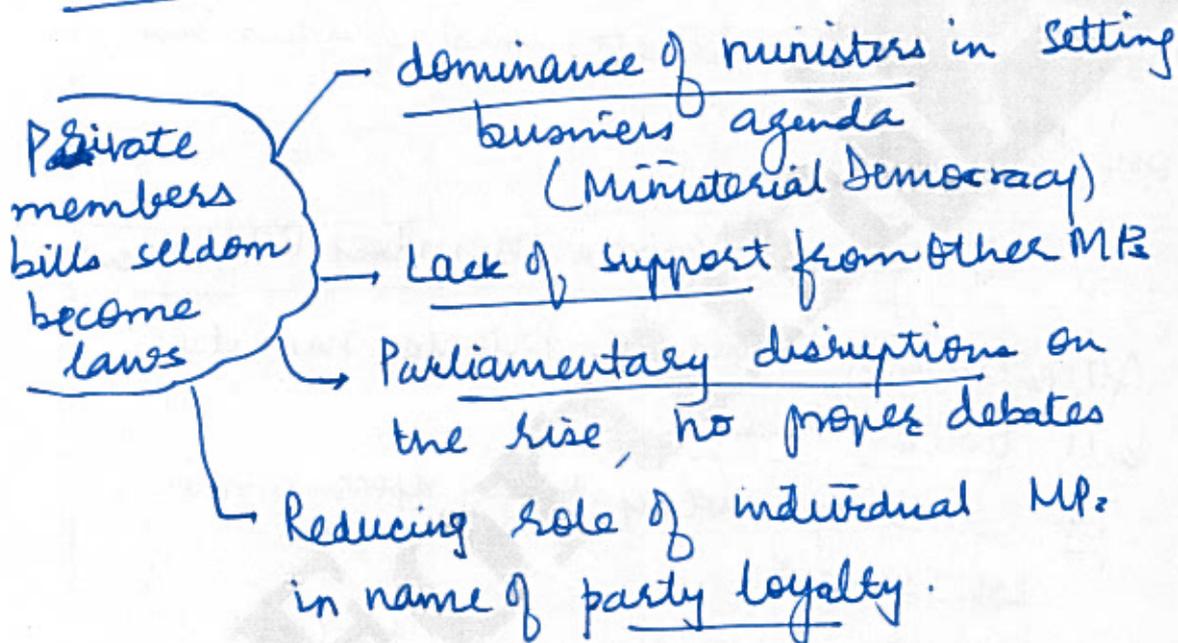


Q.3) Private Member's Bills (PMBs) seldom become law in India, yet they are an important aspect of parliamentary democracy. Bring out their significance and suggest steps to strengthen the PMB process. (10 marks, 150 words)

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 सुझाएँ।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Ull date, only 14 Private member bills have been passed in Parliament and none since 1980s.



Significance of Private Members Bills in Parliamentary Democracy:-

- ① Representative Responsibility
to represent interests of own constituency and become their voice in Parliament.
- ② Lower Burden of Government

- By focusing on issues government could not due to running of Administration.

- ③ Innovation and Expertise - could bring in new and diverse views related to laws.
- ④ Strengthen Deliberative democracy by engaging in debates and discussions on Bill topics

Steps to Strengthen Private member Bill process

- ① Allocation of Time for Private member bill twice a week
eg) Currently every Friday afternoon in Lok Sabha.
- ② Opposition days every week to let them decide business agenda
- ③ Role of Committee on Private Member Bills to ensure compliance
- ④ Role of Presiding Officers to encourage and allow introduction of Bills

In words of Jawaharlal Nehru, a true government must work in collaboration with others to know about public needs and demands.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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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 has borrowed the "Independence of Judiciary" facet of Constitution from USA Constitution, but with certain modifications to suit its polity.

Convergence of Judicial Systems of India and USA

- ① Independent Judiciary - a federal feature to have separation of power
- ② Power of Judicial Review - to review State as well as government actions, and strike down those ultra vires to Constitution
- ③ Scope - Power to hear cases related to interpretation of Constitution
 - ↳ Federal disputes between Centre & States or among States

Divergence in judicial system

<u>Basis</u>	<u>India</u>	<u>USA</u>
1) Structure	Integrated judiciary with Supreme Court at top	Federal Judiciary with each State having its Supreme Court.
2) Advisory role	Article 143 gives advisory role to Supreme Court to President	No such advisory role.
3) Appellate Jurisdiction	<u>Appeal for civil and criminal</u> appeals	No appellate jurisdiction to US Supreme Court
4) Epistolary jurisdiction	Public interest litigation, <u>sub moto</u> or on application	No such power
5) Tenure of judges	upto age of 65 years	For life
6) Separation of powers	Not strict, ensures checks and balances	Strict separation of power between Judiciary and Executive.

Despite divergences, Both Supreme Courts are Guardian of Constitution and Guarantor of Rights.

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)

It was in K.L. Omar vs R.K. Trivedi Case where Supreme Court laid down that Election Commission has "plenary powers" under Article 324 to conduct free and fair elections.

Election Commission Role as Guardian of Electoral Democracy:-

- ① Enforcing Model & Code of Conduct
↓
to preserve sanctity of elections and provide a level playing field
eg) T.N. Shesham in 1990s - effective enforcement
- ② Prevent misuse of State machinery
to ensure government in power does not get undue advantage
- ③ Recognition of Regional Parties helps uphold federal principles and make elections more representative.

- ④ Publishing of voter turnouts on next day of voting in 2024 Elections
(ADR of GOI, 2024)
- ⑤ Introduction of EVM and VVPAT to ensure fairness and accountability
- ⑥ Requiring disclosure of Criminal Antecedents + Assets & Liabilities → Sources of income
Ensures accountability and transparency of candidate towards electors..
- ⑦ Delimitation revision in Assam.

However, Election Commission faces challenges

- ① Non-partisan allegations
eg) Delay in elections after imposition of President's Rule, Appointment Committee has executive majority
 - ② No security of independence
eg) Expenses and Salaries not charged upon CFI, ECs removed on recommendation of Chief EC
 - ③ Dependence on state machinery for election
 - ④ No power to deregister political parties
- Electoral Reforms to strengthen the office of ECI are need of the hour for a vibrant democracy

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.

(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, 2020 introduced

3-language formula in education -

English, Hindi and a local language

Rationale :-

- ① Globally competitive workforce,
∴ Learning English •
- ② Revival and respect for our
own culture
↓
∴ Learning Hindi and Regional languages
- ③ Intellectual capacity of children increase
when they learn multiple languages
- ④ Inclusive education policy - focusing
on those who find it hard to learn
in English and Hindi.

Challenges

Adoption

- ① Opposition from Southern States to learn Hindi
eg) Tamil Nadu
Advocating for 2-language formula
- ② Resistance from teachers to teach in local language
- ③ Resistance from students to learn in English

Implementation

- ① Huge diversity of regional languages
↓
requires coordination in education policy
- ② Textbooks to be printed in regional languages
- ③ Teacher quality for ~~that~~ language papers
- ④ Assessment and examination based on language.

3-language Formula is a policy blend of cultural pride and global acceptance and can help students excel in life.

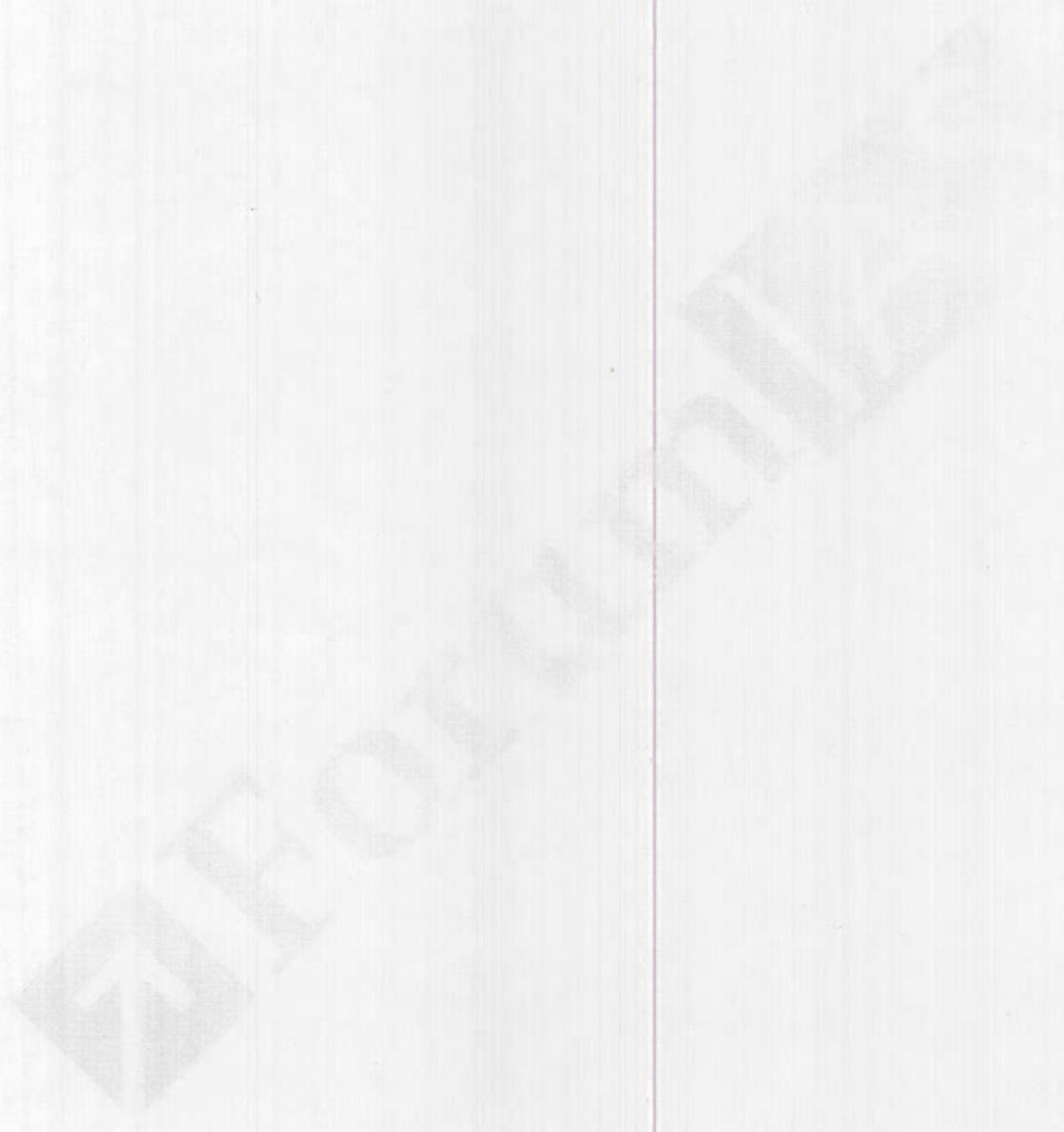
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TOTAL MARKS			

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)



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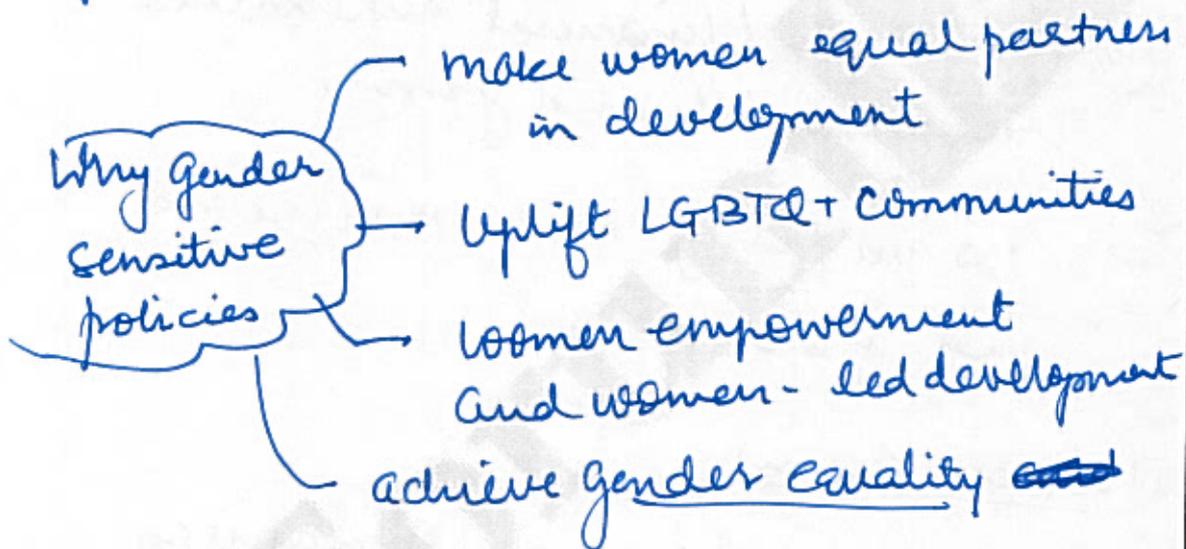
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Q.8) Identify and discuss the challenges hindering effective implementation of gender-sensitive policies and schemes in the country. (10 marks, 150 words)

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)

NITI Aayog data suggests that India

spends <6% for gender-sensitive policies and schemes (6% of GDP) -



Challenges in effective implementation

Ⓐ Social Challenges

① Patriarchal Control over women, denying them access to schemes & policies

eg) Standup India, MUDRA Yojana

- ② Barriers to mobility denying them employment opportunities and access to health & nutrition
 eg) PM Matrika Vandana Yojana, POSHAN 2.0

③ Economic Causes

- ① Economic / financial dependence on husband and family
 ② No autonomy over own income and spending

④ Political Causes

- ① Less representation in Legislatures
 eg) 14% in Lok Sabha (74 M.P.s)
 ② Sarpanch Pati syndrome at Local Panch level.

Steps by government like Mission Shakti and Mission Samarthya of Ministry of Women are step in right direction to ensure gender sensitive governance & responsiveness.

Feedback

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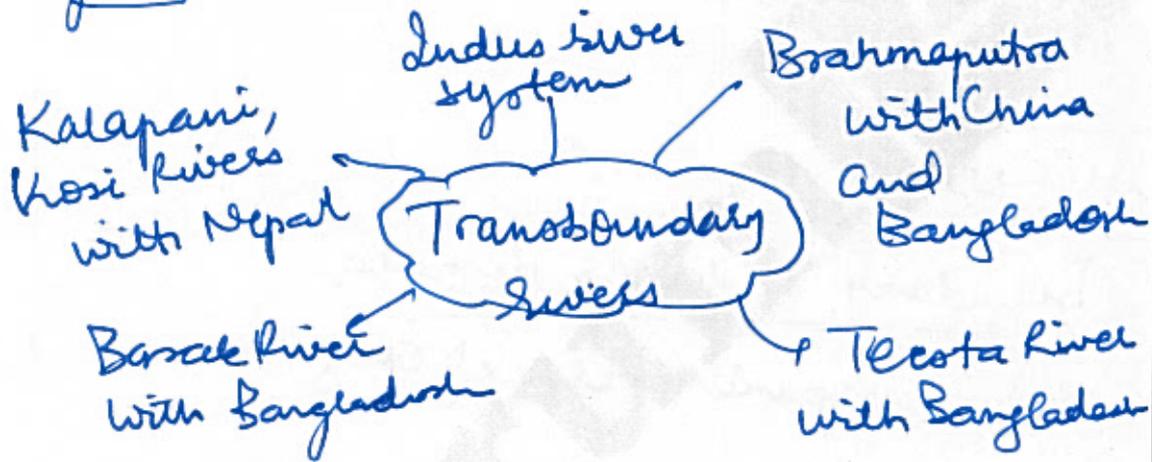
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Q.9) Effective transboundary water management can act as a catalyst for regional peace and cooperation.' In light of this statement, bring out the opportunities and challenges for India in leveraging 'water diplomacy' in its neighbourhood. (10 marks,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

India shares many rivers with its neighbours Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China, Pakistan



Opportunities in Water Diplomacy

① Economic Cooperation

- ↳
- eg) Inland water transport
- eg) Connection to North eastern States

② Energy Cooperation

- eg) Hydropower projects and

traded) electricity

- ③ Support on international arena based on shared interests
- ④ Leveraging Community impact development projects to deepen ties.

Challenges

- ① Boundary as river dispute
eg) Kalapani river & Nepal
- ② Non State actors
- ③ Blocking of rivers by construction of dams
eg) China on Brahmaputra
- ④ Lack of cooperation & dialogue

Water Diplomacy can play a crucial role in deepening ties with the Neighbourhood.

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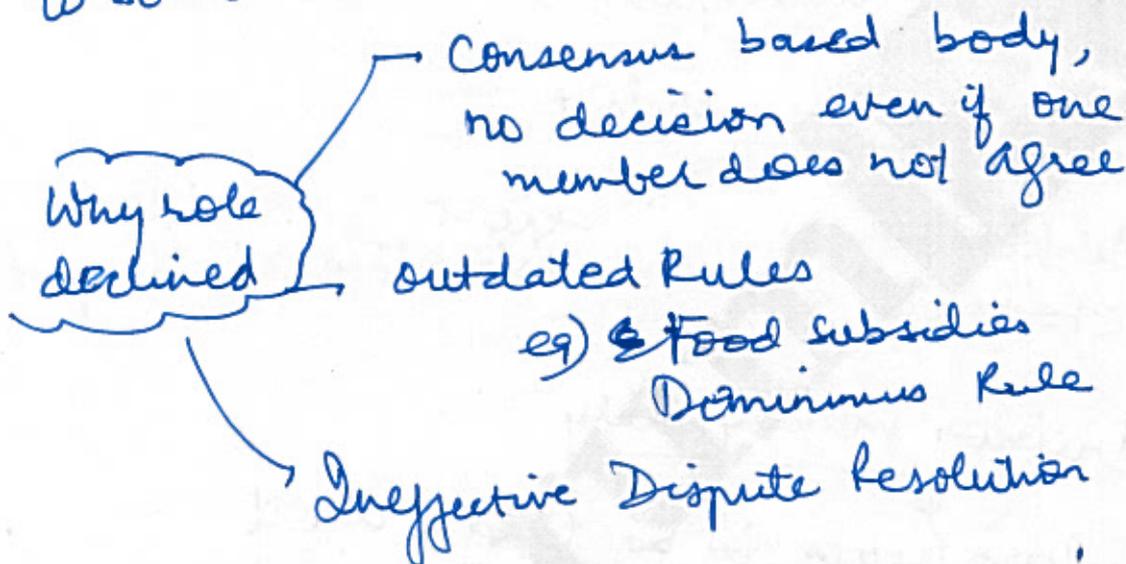
TOTAL MARKS



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)

With rising de-globalisation patterns and trade wars, Role of WTO has declined to some extent.



Key areas of WTO Reforms

- ① Commitment from major Countries
 - G7, Russia, China, India to commit to goals of free and fair trade.
- ② Power to ~~impose~~ ~~so~~ recommend UNSC to impose sanctions for trade wars

- ③ Updation of base years for De-minimus rule from 1984-86
- ④ Dispute Resolution Mechanism to include arbitration to make it effective and operational
- ⑤ Resolution of pending issues
 - Public stockholding → Export subsidies
- ⑥ Decision making body
 - ↓
 - Procedures to be laid down if no consensus reached in Talks.

For WTO to be relevant, it is important that global powers show will and commitment towards a open and globalised trade.

Feedback

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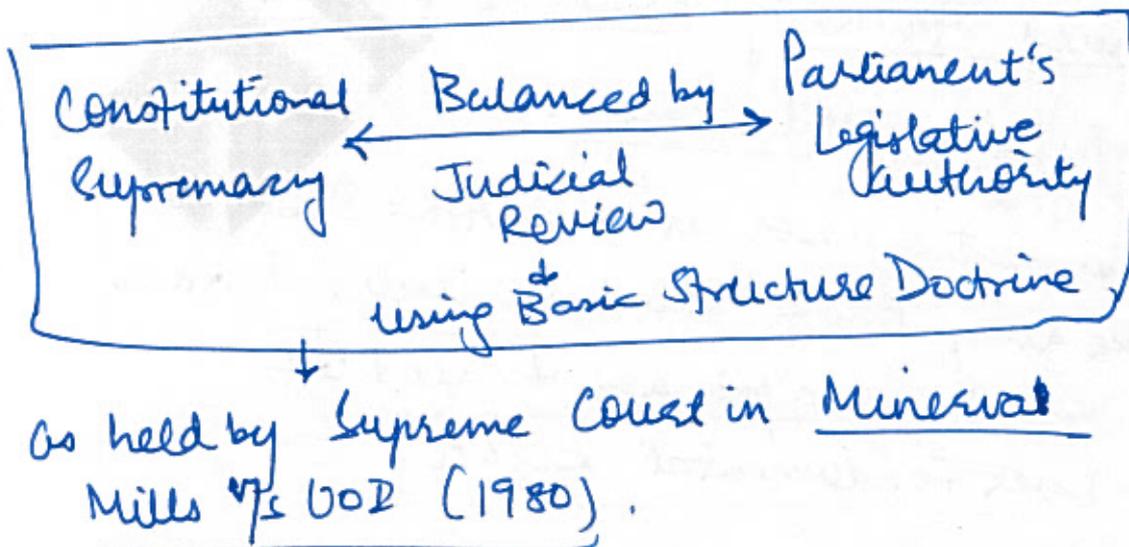
TOTAL MARKS

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, though briefly mentioned in IC Golaknath case, 1967 was formally laid down in Kesavananda Bharti vs State of Kerala, 1973.

SC in Kesavananda Bharti case held that Parliament has "Constituent" power to amend the Constitution under Article 368, but it cannot violate the basic core principles embedded in the Constitution that form its Basic Structure.



How Basic Structure balances Constitutional Supremacy and Parliament's Legislative Authority?

① Upholding powers to amend :-

eg) Kesavananda Bharti case - Parliament could amend any part but not take away Basic Structure.

② Safeguarding power of Judicial Review

eg) R Coelho vs IRI (2007)

Parliament can place laws in 9th Schedule, but cannot take away Judicial Review

③ Limited Amending power as Basic Feature

eg) Minerva Mills case, 1980

Parliament cannot amend Article 368 to take away Basic Structure itself. Further it cannot give primacy to all DPSPs over Fundamental Rights.

④ Upholding principle of Federalism

eg) S. R. Bommai Case (1994) - Although Indian polity has unitary bias, but states are not appendages of Centre, they derive power from Constitution.

⑤ Maintaining electoral democracy

eg) Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975)
Parliament cannot provide immunity to elections of functionaries.

⑥ Safeguarding Independence of Judiciary:

eg) SC Association v. UOI (1994)
+
Independence of Judiciary essential to balance Constitutional Supremacy and Parliamentary Sovereignty.

Justice Y. V. Chandrachud in Minerva Mills Case said that purpose of Basic Structure is to limit Parliament from usurping the Constitution, but at the same time, enable it to amend Constitution to make it a truly living document.

Feedback

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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)

Democratic decentralisation was constitutionalised in India by 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments to realise Gandhian goal under Article 40 of limits of self-government.

Urban Local Bodies - Pivotal to inclusive and efficient urban governance

Inclusive

① Representation to vulnerable sections
 SC/ST OBC.

② Participation of women in governance
 ↓
 ensures

Efficient

① Direct contact with public
 ↓
 working at grassroots level

② Higher responsiveness to needs and demands of people.

Women-centric & gender sensitive policies

eg) Social audits by local bodies

③ Developmental planning
 ↓
 inclusive - considering even slum rehabilitation and hawkers and street vendors

③ Effective implementation of schemes
 ↓
 based on localised understanding
 eg) Swachh Bharat Mission - ODF.

Challenges faced by Urban Local Bodies

Fiscally constrained

① Low avenues of own source of revenue

eg) Property tax

② High dependence on grants from Centre and States

eg) Finance Commission Recommendations

Institutionally weak

① Insufficient and poorly trained staff

↓
 incapable of effective decision making

② Bureaucratic control and dominance over elected machinery

eg) Collector and Municipal Corporation

- ③ Tied nature of funds
no autonomy in
scheme formulation
- ④ Underutilisation
and misutilisation
of funds due to
corruption
- ③ Low penetration of
Technology at
Grassroots
↓
reduces efficiency and
leads to delays.
- ④ Marred by Bureaucratic
red-tapism and
political interference

Measures to improve functioning

- ① Separate cadre for Local bodies with
training - Karnataka model
- ② Devolution of financial powers to tax
- Thangou Committee (1987)
- ③ Strengthening State Election Commission
and State Finance Commission to
improve financial and institutional structure.
- ④ Decentralisation of developmental planning
at district level.

- Gadgil Committee

This will ensure citizen centric, participatory
and consensus oriented democratic governance

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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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)

Through its powers of judicial review, Judiciary has corrected, refined and redefined Governor's powers to prevent its misuse and uphold constitutional principles in following manner:-

① Uphold Parliamentary Democracy

Case: S.R. Bommai vs UOI (1994)

Governor cannot impose President's Rule on democratically elected government without a floor test.

② Prevent tyranny of unelected over elected

Case: Ganesh Singh vs Punjab (1964)

Governor must act on aid and advice of State Council of Ministers.

3) Prevent abuse of discretionary power

Case: Nabam Rebia vs UOI (2016)

Governor⁺ cannot abuse discretionary powers under Article 163, any malafide use is open to Judicial Review.

4) Power of Assent to Bills (200 Article)

Case: Punjab Governor vs Punjab (2023)

↓
 (a) Governor must act on aid and advice of Council of Ministers in providing assent to Bill under Article 200

(b) Governor cannot indefinitely sit on bill and must return for reconsideration

5) Power to Reserve for Consideration of President (Article 201)

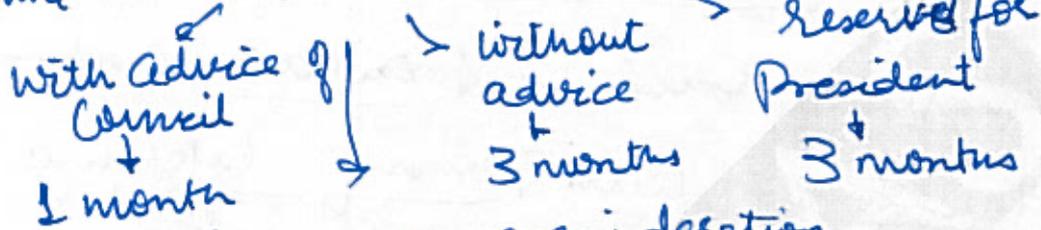
↓
Case: Tamil Nadu Governor vs Tamil Nadu (2023)

↓
 Governor cannot reserve bill for President consideration after being passed pursuant to reconsideration request.

⑥ Timeline for Assent to Bills (Constitutional punctualism)

Case! Tamil Nadu Governor vs Tamil Nadu (2025)

Time limits for Assent



Return for reconsideration
3 months.

⑦ Upholding Separation of Powers and Constitutional morality

Case! NCT of Delhi vs. UT (2023)

Control of ~~Gov~~ civil services with UT government and not Lt. Governor.

Reforms are needed in Governor's office in line with Punchhi, Sarkaria and Venkatachalliah Commission to make Governor friend, philosopher and guide of States and protect States from Union encroachment.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
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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 'ऊर्ध्वाधर' 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)

The 16th Finance Commission has been recently formed by President under Article 280 with Terms of Reference for devolution of taxes to states.

How is devolution decided?

(A) Vertical devolution

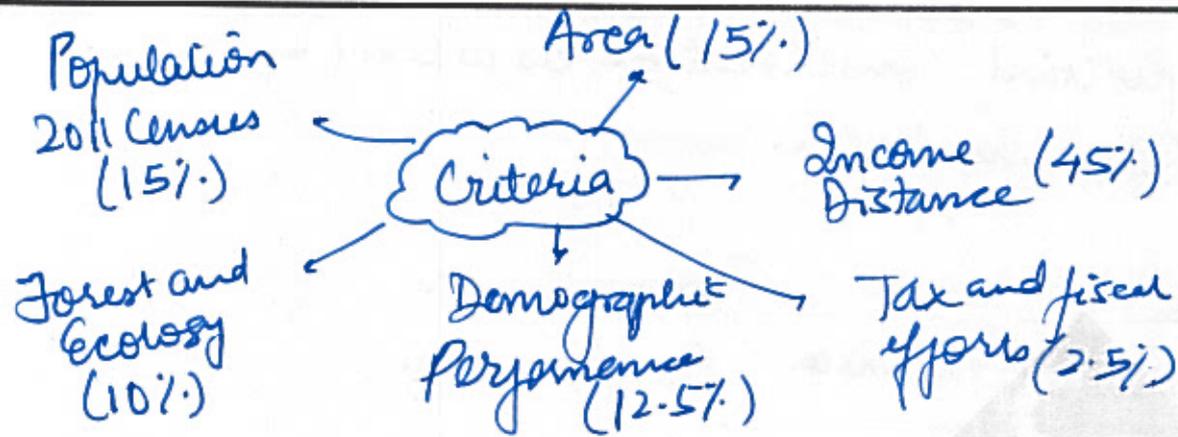
↓
Decided by Finance Commission based on expenditure of Centre and all states

14th F.C → 42%

15th F.C → 41% (1% was for UT of Jammu and Kashmir)

(B) Horizontal Devolution

↓
→ Decided by Finance Commission based on 6 criteria with weights



→ Based on above criteria, performance of each State is gauged and devolution is decided.

Concerns raised by certain States

- ① Asymmetry in contribution made to Central pool of taxes and ~~taxes~~ revenue received as devolution
 - ↳ Southern States contribute more and get less (TN, Kerala, etc.)
 - ↳ Northern States (UP, Bihar, MP, etc.) contribute less and get more
- ② Population ~~Criteria~~ ^{Criteria} - use 1971 Census instead of 2011 as demanded by South.
- ③ Discretionary grants - uneven, driven

by political considerations as alleged by Southern States.

Corrective Measures

- ① 16th Finance Commission to revise criteria for devolution
- ② Include GST as one criteria
- ③ Guidelines to be laid down for discretionary grants
- ④ Multi-stakeholder consultation for devolution
- ⑤ Direct devolution at local level to PFI & ULBs

Fiscal federalism is the cornerstone of participative and representative democracy

Feedback

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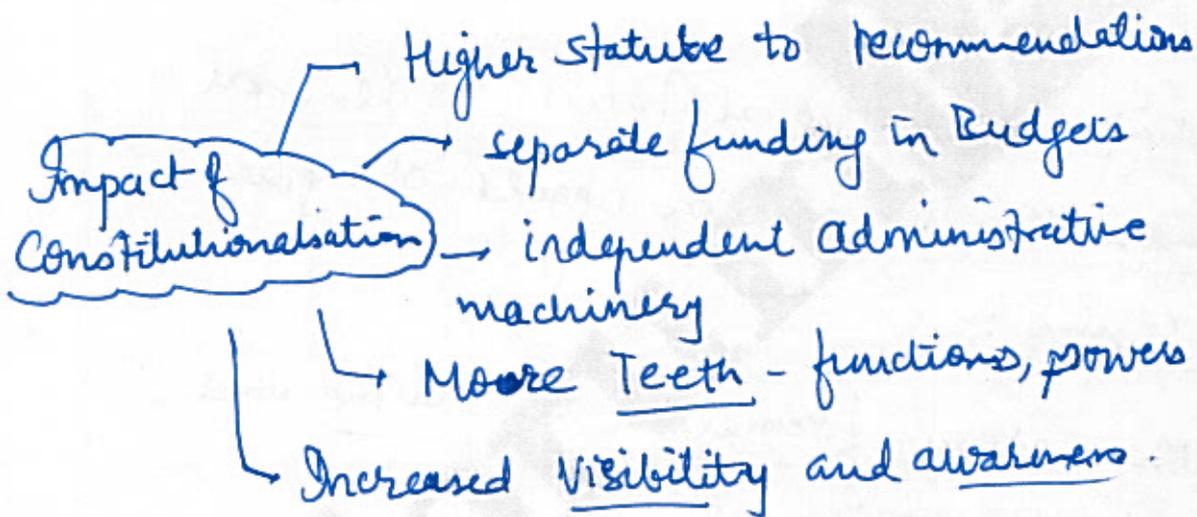
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TOTAL MARKS

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)

A Commission is often Constitutionalised to give it more powers in functioning and to ensure guaranteed protection of Status.



Steps for Constitutionalization of a Commission:

- 1) Introduction of a Constitutional Amendment Bill in either House of Parliament
 - ↓
 - Stating addition of a New Article to add a body / Commission along with its formation, composition, functions & powers.

2) Passing of the Bill as per majority laid down in Article 368.

($\frac{2}{3}$ of present of voting and $\frac{1}{2}$ of strength of House)

3) On assent of Bill by President it becomes an Act → Constitution gets amended.

Granting Constitutional Status to Central Information Commission would strengthen

RTI regime :-

① Mandatory formation at Centre and in all States

② Independence in selection and appointment of Commissioners

③ Separate administrative machinery

funding
↓
ensuring some autonomy

staff and functionaries
↓
efficient operations

- ④ Timely disposal of requests due to filing of vacancies.
- ⑤ Disclosure Enforcement - effective and independent of government
- ⑥ Recommendations - tabled in front of Parliament by Government or President
Have more persuasive value
- ⑦ Enhanced functions and powers
 - a) Powers to mandate voluntary disclosure, otherwise finer, penalties & punishments.

However, there are other challenges:-

- ① Using national security as a veil to avoid disclosure (Official Secrets Act)
 - ② Conflict with Digital Personal Data Protection Act on disclosure of personal information in national interest. [Section 8(j)]
- Constitutional status to CIC would a step in right direction towards transparent, accountable and responsive governance

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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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 the 4th largest economy by GDP with crossing \$4 Trn mark and is among largest producers of grains and pulses, yet India faces problems of poor malnutrition, hunger and food security.

Factors Responsible for this Paradox

- ① High intensity of poverty
(eg) Multidimensional poverty at 15.5% in 2022-23 (NITI Aayog)
creates barriers in access to food.
- ② Income inequality - leading to widening gap between haves and have nots
(eg) Top 10% have 70% of wealth (Oxfam)
- ③ Gender discrimination - Barriers on mobility and patriarchal control open

Prevent women from accessing needs.

(9) ~~57%~~ 57% of women (14-49 age) are anaemic (NFHS-5)

(4) Climate vagaries & extreme weather events have not only reduced production but also farmers income causing poverty and hunger causing food insecurity and inflation

(5) Inefficiency and wastage in food distribution, storage and transportation → leading to hunger and food insecurity.

(6) Stagnant growth of Indian economy with employment elasticity as low as 0.15 causing poor incomes, no income security, poverty, hunger & food insecurity.

(7) Vicious cycle

```

    graph TD
      A[Low job and income] --> B[Poverty]
      B --> C[Inaccessibility to food & resources]
      C --> D[Hunger]
      D --> E[Low capability and cognitive ability]
      E --> A
    
```

Steps by Government

- (A) Hunger
 ↳ PDS, NFSA 2013
 ↳ ~~PM~~ M - Antyodaya Anna Yojana, free food grains

- (B) Malnutrition
 ✓ Poshan Abhiyan
 ✓ Mid Day Meal Scheme

- (C) Food Insecurity
 ✓ Export bans
 ✓ Reduction of import duties
 ✓ Agricultural reforms
 ✓ Irrigation

2nd ARC has suggested a "whole of government" approach to effectively implement policies for poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity as they are intricately linked to achieve (SDGs 1, 2, 3 and 5).

Steps to improve

- ① Food storage facilities to prevent wastage
- ② Effective implementation of policies related to Nutrition
POSHAN 2.0 ☑
- ③ Data collection to enumerate people suffering from hunger, including hidden hunger.
- ④ Climate Smart Agriculture and climate resistant crops
- ⑤ Micro irrigation for climate resilience

Feedback

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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)

For the 1st time after 1931, Caste Enumeration, other than SC/ST, will be done in upcoming Census of 2026-27.

Opportunities in Caste Census

- ① Understand caste hierarchy and caste structure in society.
- ② Identify groups that are severely disadvantaged among reserved categories
enable sub-categorisation
- ③ Revise affirmative action based on data on Caste Poverty
- ④ Effective targeting of welfare schemes to vulnerable sections
(similar to SECC data)

- ⑤ Help in formulation of policies to eradicate caste discrimination.
- ⑥ Beneficiary & vulnerability identification becomes easier and streamlined.

→ Challenges in Caste Census Enumeration

- ① Upward mobility
↓
some may say they belong to upper caste to avoid insults.
- ② Downward mobility
some may say they belong to lower caste to gain reservation benefits.
- ③ Reluctance to tell caste among ~~the~~ people due to stereotyping.
- ④ Bias / prejudice of enumerator
eg) Deciding based on surname.
- ⑤ Similar names - High chances of mis-classification
eg) Dhanuka, Dhanuk, Dhanak.
 ↓ ↓ ↓
 (Agrawal) (SC) (ST)

⑥ Higher risk of caste-based politics and freebies in future

→ Framework for seamless and effective

conduct :-

- ① Self-enumeration facility on mobile app to fill details (caste).
- ② Training to enumerators on sensitivity with respect to caste related questions.
- ③ Verification of data entered through a multi-stakeholder expert committee from all major castes.
- ④ Using past data as reference
eg) SECC, 2011

Caste Census is a step in the right direction if used for data-driven governance with methodological integrity to uplift weaker and vulnerable sections

Feedback

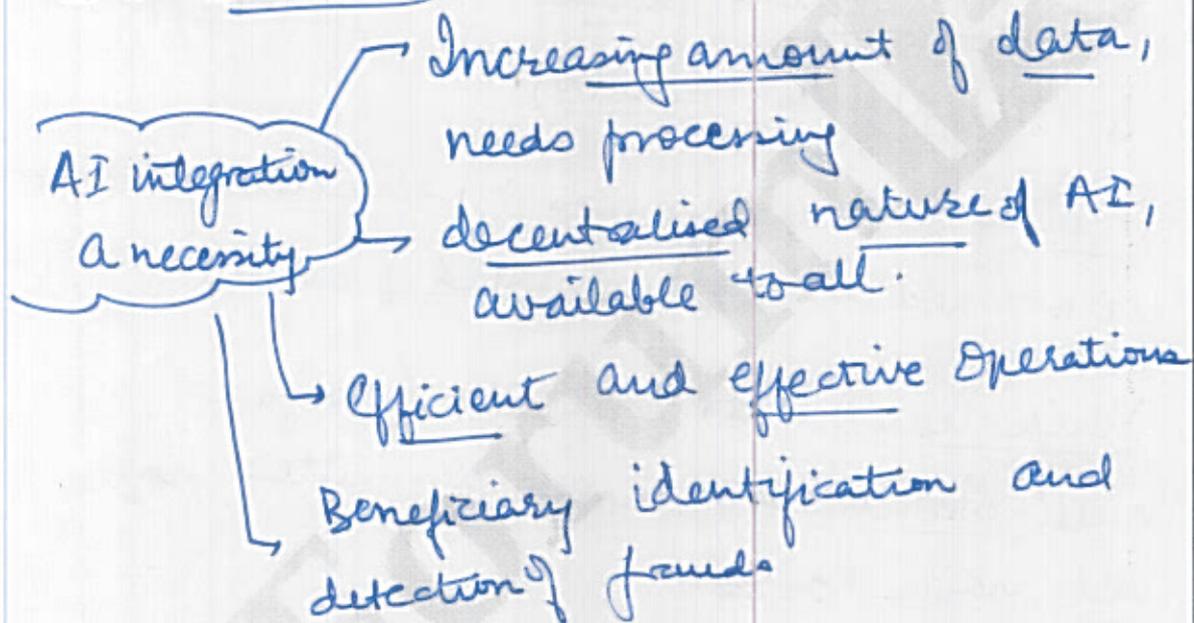
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Here G is Good, A is Average and F is Poor.			
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Q.18) "AI integration in governance is no longer a choice but a necessity." In light of this statement, discuss how AI can enhance education and healthcare 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 is critical for SMART, Effective and efficient governance, especially in social sectors like Health and Education.



How can AI enhance

Education Governance

Health Governance

① Data-driven ~~Policy~~ policy formulation

Targeted policies for education in areas based on

Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana insurance policy based

How can AI enhance

Education Governance Health Governance

Gross Enrolment Ratio

based on data of patients

② Beneficiary identification and fraud detection

To identify children and youth in need of vocational education

To identify duplicate or fake National Health Cards

⑤ Multiple Languages (Inclusive)

BHASHINI Language AZ to ensure schemes to all in local languages

Gender equality in access to health care and insurance

④ ~~Go~~ Effective and Efficient Implementation

Identify gaps in infrastructure in schools & villages

Identify gaps & leakages in fund disbursement

⑤ Real-time monitoring

Progress of various colleges and institutions

~~Go~~ Performance of empanelled hospitals

How can AI enhance

Education Governance

Health Governance

⑥ Instant Feedback

On quality of teachers and education

On quality of healthcare facilities

⑦ Data processing for policy change

ASER Report
of NCTO
Pratham

Data on reach of health care and utilisation of A3-JAY cards

However, AI faces certain challenges

⊕ Challenges

Gender stereotyping (eg: Amazon)

Lack of Accountability on damage by AI

Opaque algorithms → not transparency

Privacy concerns - data used for commercialisation

Data Security issues - cyberhacking of Aadhaar

Environmental impact

Digital Divide - only 40% in rural areas have internet

AI must be used but with Human Intelligence and ethical discretion prevailing in governance to create trust & credibility

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.
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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)

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

Established by Bangkok Declaration in 1997, and expanded in later years, BIMSTEC has gained significance as regional grouping of littoral states of Bay of Bengal.

Aims and Objectives

- ① Political Organisation to align interests and advocate shared concerns
- ② Economic cooperation to promote regional trade and investment
- ③ Social and cultural engagement to deepen people to people ties.

- ④ Advocate Counter Terrorism and anti-insurgency measures
- ⑤ Security - maritime and borders
to ensure rules based international maritime order.

Significance for India

- ① Traded Investment:
↓
enhance trade ties with FTAs and FDI.
- ② Maritime Security
↓
Crucial for Indian islands in Bay of Bengal
- ③ Technological cooperation
↓
to adopt emerging technologies

④ Mineral and Energy Security
 ↓
 to enable cleaner transition to green economy

⑤ Cultural and People to People ties
 ↓
 to secure safety of Diaspora & promote Indian interest

BFAI/STEC will play a crucial role as a regional grouping in the ~~up~~ upcoming geopolitical scenarios

Feedback

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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)



FORUM IAS

Feedback

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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		

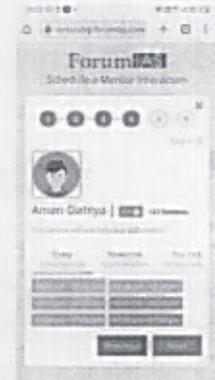
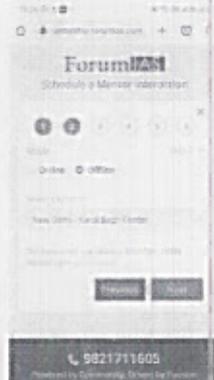
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