

Time Allowed : Three Hours  
समय : तीन घंटेMaximum Marks : 250  
अधिकतम अंक : 250

## GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	AMRIT MAHAPATRA		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910136444	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	Date/दिनांक	10.08.2025

\*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	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।	
1			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।	
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।	
3			4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (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. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।	
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Total/कुल अंक	250		For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु	
Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 2:30 PM	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 5:30 PM
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" 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।			For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु	
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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**Note:** Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

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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.

**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)

→

As Nani Palkhivala remarked, the Preamble is the identity card of the Constitution. It is important to check the progress achieved on its values as a litmus test.

## Ideals of Preamble Realised

→ Social, Economic, and Political Justice

Ex: MGNREGA for employment

Nari Shakti Adhiniyam for women's reservation

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955

→ Liberty of Thought, Belief, Expression -

Ex: Freedom of press upheld  
(Romesh Thapar case)

Freedom of religion upheld  
(Essential Practice Doctrine)

# UPSC

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

→ Dignity of individual

Ex: BNS and BNSS for reformative instead of retributive laws.

→ Sovereign, Socialist, Secular Republic

Ex: Strategic autonomy for sovereignty  
PM Galib Kalyan Yojana for state support  
Non-discrimination on religious base

However, it is not a complete success as: -

→ Instances of religious nationalism.

Ex: Bhoomi Pujan by PM at Parliament

→ violation of people under poverty

Ex: violates economic justice

→ Instances of overreach of ED, CBI

Ex: Violates democratic dissent.

Thus, while India has come a long way, we must strive to realise all Preamble values to establish "Ram Rajya".

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 इतिहास में नहीं लिखना चाहिए और Candidates must not write on this margin.

2)

The evolution of Right to Property from a Fundamental Right to constitutional right under Art. 300-A showcases an evolution.

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Property Rights — Individual Rights vs. Public welfare

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→ Originally, a Fundamental Right

Ex: Guaranteed under Art. 19 of the Constitution

→ Clash with the ideals of Land Reforms laws

Ex: Champakai <sup>rajan</sup> Domairaj case  
ESC held that FRs are supreme)

→ First Amendment to the Constitution

Ex: Prioritised Public welfare and Directive Principles.



→ Ultimately, converted into a constitutional right.

Ex: Under Art. 300-A

→ Balancing individual rights with the notion of social welfare

Ex: Supremacy of Article 39(b),(c) by the Supreme Court.

---

Way Forward contemporarily

---

→ Protect the Right to Property

Ex: To promote investment (LR Law, 2013)

→ Promote public welfare through a consensus-oriented model.

Ex: Sahakari Se Samridhi

Thus, while the position of property rights have evolved, the underlying intent of advancing national interests should continue to guide us towards 'Viksit Bharat'.

3)

Article 352 of the Constitution empowers the President to proclaim the National Emergency on the grounds of external aggression or an armed rebellion.

Consequences of Such A Proclamation

→ Federal Polity converted into unitary

Ex: Parliament can legislate on state subjects as well.

→ Union empowered to direct states on any or all matters.

Ex: Not subject to constitution provisions

→ Suspension of right to move courts for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

Ex: Arrest of people during 1975

Emergency episode without recourse

→ All laws made during Emergency cannot be challenged for their consequences.

→ Dissolution of Parliament - delayed  
Ex: 1 year at a time for any number of times.

## Last Episode of Emergency

↳ 1975 - Proclaimed on grounds of internal disturbances.

↳ led to mass detentions and arrests  
Ex: → 200,000

↳ Violation of procedural Justice.  
Ex: Slum Demolition.

while safeguards were instituted in 44th Amendment, it taught Indians to not take democracy for granted despite being "Mother of Democracy".

4

From about 60% of bills being sent to Committees for detailed examination in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, the number came down to ~14% in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

Lack of Framework limits Citizens' Engagement

→ No enforceable rule for consultations

Ex: Subject to whims of the ruling Government.

→ Tokenistic measures limits participation

Ex: Online feedback for limited time - Issues of access

→ Sensitive legislations are not shown to the public beforehand.

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Ex: Art. 370 abrogation, 2019.

→ Go against best practices globally.  
Ex: Switzerland model.

Measures to strengthen Public Consultation

→ Mandatory publication of bills before the consideration.

Ex: Time for engagement.

→ Decentralising models for feedback  
Ex: Local administration outreach  
Awareness campaigns.

→ Referral to committees led by MPs  
Ex: People's representatives  
who can call citizens.

→ Ensuring Action Taken Report on the public recommendations.

This can ensure the PM's vision  
of 'Sabka Prayasa Se Sabka Vikas'

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)  
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Candidates must not write on this margin

5)

Article 280 of the Constitution empowers the President to constitute a Finance Commission every five years to set the guidelines for distribution of finances.

Enabled states To Improve Fiscal conditions

→ Improved the sharing of resources for states.

Ex: 41% of divisible pool granted to states

→ Horizontal devolution criteria ensured efficiency.

Ex: Prioritising tax efforts, demographic performance.

→ Borrowing limits on states to limit the revenue expenditure.



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Ex: Addressed the proclivity for freebies.

→ Incentivised fiscal reforms in states

Ex: Extra 0.5% borrowing of GSDP if engaged in power reforms.

→ Ensured states had more resources  
↳ For devolution to Panchayats.

However, there have been complaints of:

→ Unfair devolution between states

Ex: TN: Every 1 rupee in tax, gets only 20 paise back

→ Demand for 50% of resources from the Centre

↳ For regional development.

→ Allegations of violating federalism

Ex: Conditions for borrowing

By ensuring smooth fiscal conditions,

the 15<sup>th</sup> FC has realised, "Minimum Government  
Maximum Governance!"

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)  
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6)

Industry associations such as ASSOCHAM and FICCI have a rich history of drawing up and executing growth plans for India.

---

Industry Associations → Socio-Economic Progress

---

→ Formulate policies of economic growth

Ex: Bombay Plan in 1944 by Bajaj and G.D. Birla.

→ Ensure conditions for business growth

Ex: Influence for import substitution during 2nd FYP.

→ Trickle down effect of development.

Ex: CSR activities of Tata Group  
— 6% of profits.

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→ Act as pressure groups in global talks.  
Ex: Pressure by marine industry to not open up the sector.  
↳ Livelihoods

→ Influence and lobby policy makers  
Ex: Conferences by CII for inclusive dialogue and policy.

However, sometimes there are downsides:-

→ Vested interests for narrow profits  
Ex: Environmental destruction for mining issues.

→ Increasing wealth disparity  
Ex: 1% - 40% of Indian wealth

→ Elite self closure does not allow for inclusive growth.

Gandhian principles of the wealthy as trustees and commerce with morality should guide business associations.

7

Poverty refers to the deprivation not just in material resources but also structural barriers which hinder human progress.

---

Poverty lies in the Eyes of the Beholder

---

→ No uniform poverty measurement tool.

Ex: Tendulkar Committee revised Alagh Committee but on different criteria.

→ Notion of calorie vs. income poverty

Ex: Calorie consumption norms (some reports)

vs

Income bracket (World Bank)

→ Differing basket of goods for poverty.

Ex: Inclusion of motorcycles in the

# UPSC

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basket for poverty by Hashim Committee.

→ Notion of Multidimensional Poverty.  
Ex: Banking, Sanitation, Fuel.

Need for Uniform Poverty Estimation Model

→ To ensure targeted eradication policies.  
Ex: Garib Kalyan Yojana for food poverty.

→ To track measure of growth and success  
Ex: MPI estimates 270 million lifted out of poverty.

→ Ensure uniformity with global standards  
Ex: To apply for aid/support.

→ Uniform estimation prevents politicisation.

If uniform framework would account for updating consumption patterns and lead to the realisation of 'Garibi Hatao'.

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Candidates must not write on this margin

87

The POCSO Act enacted to prevent and punish sexual offences against children has fallen short of the aspirational benchmarks.

## Objectives And Features of POCSO Act

- Protect young children against abuse  
Ex: Sexual abuse by relatives
- Acknowledges inability of consent at a young age.  
Ex: Victim centric Framework
- Cognisable offences ensure deterrence  
Ex: Police mandated to file case
- Gender Neutral Framework

## Short of Achieving Objectives

- Rise in numbers of POCSO cases  
Ex: ~ 53,000 annually (NICRB)
- Misuse by parents of girl child  
Ex: To rob autonomy in choosing partners.
- Prevention of intimate violence has failed  
Ex: >60% of accused are partners or the relatives.
- Institutionalisation of children  
↳ Destroys childhoods.

However, it has also helped: → Acknowledging the seriousness of crime

↳ led to mandatory reporting.

↳ Victim centric lens in criminal justice.

Thus, POCSO needs to be reformed to ensure human development of children and a 'Surakshit' Bharat.

2/

The US's flip-flop of joining and exiting the World Health Organisation has put both the credibility and capacity of the global health system at risk.

## Crisis of Capacity And Credibility of WHO

→ Inadequate resources to respond to health crises in Global South.

Ex: US fund withdrawal under Trump.

→ Credibility questioned over vaccine program

Ex: US Health Secretary accusing vaccines as needless propaganda.

→ Theatre of Geopolitical Tensions

Ex: US's displeasure over WHO not naming china as responsible for COVID.

→ Policy paralysis in the face of pandemic

Ex: changing directives over masks and drugs usage.

→ Relevance of US as a major player

Ex: Exit may portray WHO as a clique of anti-US parties.

However, WHO has been successful:-

→ Advancing vaccine equity

Ex: GAVI alliance

→ Emergency response to growing diseases

Ex: Ebola in Congo.

→ Alternate systems of medicine

Ex: AYUSH, India

Thus, WHO needs to be reformed for multi-alignment in multipolar world.

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10

The recent double standards by the western camp over non-sanction of EU over Russian oil purchase and punishing India for the same reflects 'my terrorist, your terrorist' approach among other things.

My Terrorist v/s Your Terrorist Paradigm

→ Euro-centrism to terrorist threats

Ex: S. Jaishankar's statement,

"Europe's problems are world's problems"

→ Hypocrisy over sanctions and actions

Ex: US attack on Pakistan terrorists

for 2001 attack

v/s

wooing Pak when it attacked India.

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
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→ Using terrorism as a power politics tool  
Ex: China blocking designation of Pak terrorists.

Strategy For Unified, Comprehensive, Rules Based Approach To Terrorism

→ Develop uniform definitions  
Ex: Instead of consensus voting which is politicised.

→ Zero Tolerance For Sponsors of Terrorism  
Ex: UNSC action  
Operation Sindoor

→ Multi-pronged approach to block terror  
Ex: No IMF aid without strict terror audits.

→ Remove veto as a geopolitical tool.

Thus, terrorism needs to be fought in all its manifestations to ensure the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

11

The RPA, 1951 governs the rules and procedures for the registration of political parties as well as contesting elections -

## Procedure for Registration with ECI

- Formation of a party
  - ↳ with membership, constitution
- Application for registration
  - ↳ state where it is primarily based.
- Perusal of details of governing body
- Assigning of the name and symbol depending on availability
- Recognition depends on electoral performance.

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Registered Unrecognised Political Parties are unite that although have a legal backing do not enjoy any benefits associated with a state or national party,

## Concerns Associated with RUPPS

- Front for money laundering.  
Ex: Through donations received to them.
- Erode spirit of democracy.  
Ex: Frivolously formed to wt votes of the rivals.
- Multiplicity of parties confuses electorate
- Many RUPPS do not contest elections  
↳ concerns over purposes
- May promote irrational activities due to strength in numbers  
Ex: 2300 RUPPS.

## Resolving Those Concerns

- strict guidelines over electoral funding  
Ex: SC Judgement in Bonds' case
- Audit of activities and electoral activity  
Ex: De-recognition on the pursuance of anti-national act
- Rationalise barriers to entry  
Ex: Balancing democratic rights v/s social good.

The Election Commission cannot deregister a political party except under some conditions.

Thus, the concerns over electoral process have to be resolved keeping in line with Taskforce Committee suggestions.

12

NITI Aayog has arisen as the principal advisory body post 2014 replacing the Planning Commission, promoting cooperative and competitive federalism.

Promoting Competitive Federalism

→ Issuance of reports/index to track relative performance.

Ex: Swachh Bharat Index.

→ Incentivise states to perform better in crucial sectors

Ex: School ranking in terms of learning outcomes - PGI 20

→ Gamifying social responsibility

Ex: Increased public participation.



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उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्जिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
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## Promoting Cooperative Federalism

- Follows a bottom-up instead of top down approach.  
Ex: Advisory consensus role unlike the Planning Commission.
- Participation of states unlike earlier.  
Ex: CMs are invited to the Governing Body
- Consensus-based decisions ensure better implementation.  
Ex: PMU under Invest India  
(for better investment)
- Expert Advice ensures evidence-based persuasion.  
Ex: unlike command models of Planning Commission

However, it suffers from a few fallacies:-

→ Purely advisory nature of recommendations

Ex: Armchair Theorizing w/o onground impact.

→ Conflicts between states stymie progress

Ex: No consensus on key issues

→ Regional diversity needs customized solutions

Ex: Potential of no-uniformity pan India.

→ Political rivalries and lack of enough capacity.

Ex: No more lateral entry.

Thus, NITI Aayog needs to be bolstered further to realise the ideal of federalism

by resolving these issues and lead to,

'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'

Please do not write anything except the question number in this space.  
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13)

The Deputy Speaker is the second-in-line presiding officer of the House in the absence or ~~vacancy~~ vacancy of the Speaker.

## Provisions Related to Dy. Speaker

- Elected from among members of House of the Lok Sabha.
- Facilitated by the Speaker on a date of his choosing.
- Usually from the opposition to uphold respect for democratic traditions.

The role of the Dy. Speaker is central to the functioning of Parliament.

## Dy. Speaker - Crucial For Democracy

- Ensures continuity in the Speaker's chair  
Ex: By presiding in his vacancy or during absence.
- Upholds democratic accountability  
Ex: Dy Speaker elected by MPs (unlike Panel of chair persons)
- Allows equitable division of time for Govt. and opposition issues.  
Ex: As he's usually from the Opposition
- Can ensure consensus between two sides.  
Ex: Prevent disruption of Parliament
- Smooth functioning in case of death or resignation of Speaker  
Ex: President does not have to nominate if Dy. Speaker there.

## Implications of Prolonged vacancy in Dy. Speaker

→ Reduces trust in Parliamentary process  
Ex: Allegations of bias by Speaker - Ruling Party.

→ Mechanism to ensure Government control  
Ex: continual rejections of Adjournment Notices by Speaker.

→ Perception of only Government business  
Ex: No allowance on debate over the SR.

→ Prevents equitable representation among parties  
Ex: ~250 seats with Opposition yet no Deputy Speaker.

The post of Dy. Speaker has to be bolstered to guarantee parliamentary sovereignty.

14

The advent of online platforms has expanded the field of freedom of speech but also enlarged the societal risks with it.

## Stricter Regulation of Content Justified

→ to promote national security and prevent anti-national content.

Ex: KJ Pothuswamy - Doctrine of 4 fold test.

→ to prevent hate speech, <sup>or fake news</sup> that could affect public order.

Ex: SC in Patanjali case while ordering takedown of ad.

→ to uphold other constitutional values such as freedom of religion.

Ex: Yati Narasinghanand case.

→ To restrict defamatory speech in line with vested interests.

Ex: Saket Gokhale v. Laxmi Puri  
(order for takedown of tweets)

---

Threat to Freedom of Speech And Expression

---

→ No uniform definition of grounds of restriction.

Ex: Misuse of terms as Public order

→ Enlarges state power and takes away liberties.

Ex: Blanket takedown of anti-government tweets on X.

→ selective application of hate speech

Ex: Sudarshan TV case

→ Chilling effect on dissent of opposition.

## Way Forward

- Restrict online content on strict grounds well defined in law.
- Put responsibility on social platforms to self-filter hate speech.  
Ex: Non-bias in algorithms.
- legal tools to ensure compliance in a measured way  
Ex: IT Rules, 2021
- Doctrine of Proportionality as laid down in Puttuswamy (2017).

Thus, online content must be moderated only to promote national security and allowed to progress to ensure, 'Samvaad se Samridhi'.

15

The recent case involving the discovery of cash at Justice Y. Varma's house has brought focus to SC's in-house procedure.

## Advantages of Procedure to Investigate Allegations

→ Ensures non-interference of executive or political bias.

Ex: Enquiry by other Judges

→ Keen application of Judicial Mind

Ex: No pressure unlike police who may feel burdened to exonerate.

→ Flexibility in Procedure allows detailed investigation.

# UPSC

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Ex: As laid down in the K. Veeraveesami case.

→ Faster completion of inquiry facilitates quicker justice

Ex: Justice Varma case already considering for impeachment.

---

Procedure As Fallacious And Unadvisable

---

→ Violates the principles of natural justice.

Ex: Judiciary cases being heard by colleagues — biased allegations.

→ No transparency in methods adopted

Ex: Public right to know is violated with closed seal documents

→ Doctrine of checks and balances flouted.

Ex: No accountability for acts of commissions/omissions

→ Has no legal backing to it.  
Ex: Judicially innovated doctrine -

Way Forward:-

→ open publication of findings  
Ex: Builds public trust in the procedure adopted.

→ Appointing a Judicial ombudsman  
Ex: To check the Judiciary

→ Comprehensive mechanism to inquire allegations of corruption.

→ strict action for dereliction of duty  
Ex: DCP not registering FIR

The Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct should guide behaviour in this direction.

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16)

The uproar over exclusion of 65 lakh people from electoral rolls in Bihar and allegations of voter fraud have renewed calls for Aadhar-Voter ID linkage.

Aadhar-Voter ID linkage As a solution

→ check the duplication of voting IDs  
ex: one voter at 4 rolls  
allegations.

→ Ensure the principle of 1 person - 1 vote  
ex: in line with universal adult franchise principles

→ Ease of verification for citizens  
ex: Near-Universal availability of Aadhar card.

→ Promote formation of representative Govt.  
Ex: By preventing voter manipulation

→ Easy transferability for future migration  
Ex: Digital records prevent manual tampering.

---

Aadhar - Voter ID linkage - Not a Perfect Measure

---

→ Aadhar not proof of citizenship  
Ex: Reason for excluding Aadhar from Bihar SR.

→ Easy forging of Aadhar cards  
Ex: Possible manipulation and entry of fake voters.

→ Universality of Aadhar - Surveillance Risks  
Ex: State could track voting activity and punish. punitively.

# UPSC

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- Over-reliance on a single document.  
Ex: Renders PAN, Voter ID redundant.
- Chances of Data theft and privacy risk.  
Ex: 800 mn vaccination records leaked.

## Way Forward

- ↳ Systematic investigation into allegations of voter fraud.  
Ex: Restore voter trust.
- ↳ Robust data protection/purpose limitation.  
Ex: DPDP Act
- ↳ Principle of presumption of citizenship.  
Ex: To avoid harassment.

The sanctity of electoral process must be upheld to ensure India's tag of, 'Mother of Democracy'

(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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Candidates must not write on this margin

17/

Lateral Entry into civil services was devised as a mechanism to attract expert talent to complement policymaking.

Lateral Entry — A Reformative step

→ Attract best minds in the sector to contribute to public policy.

Ex: Raghuram Rajan, From RBI Gov.

→ Generate fresh zeal and new approach in bureaucracy orientation.

Ex: Joint Secretary Lateral Appointment.

→ Cut down on red tapism and delays.



→ Allow a whole-of-society approach  
Ex: Through PPP models in Governance.

---

Attracts Criticism and controversy

---

→ Ad-hoc nature of appointments.  
Ex: No fixing on the number or percentage of posts.

→ limited to very few positions.  
Ex: Non-materialisation of Deputy Secretary Lateral Entry.

→ Political interference in selection  
Ex: Allegations of favouritism in selection of candidates.

→ Non-accountable nature due to short-term  
Ex: 3 years — difficult to fix responsibility in long projects.



(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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→ Violation of social justice ideals  
Ex: No reservation for SCs, STs, OBCs.

→ Non attractive nature of employments  
Ex: As compared to the corporate sector.

## Way forward

→ Making Service conditions attractive  
Ex: Higher Pay - 8th PC

→ Tackling Bureaucratic resistance  
Ex: Through strong political will

→ Reform of traditional Bureaucracy,  
Ex: iGOT platforms

This will ensure a Karomyogi spirit in Governance and lead to a Viksit Bharat.

18

The rankings of HEIs while reflecting a broader trend of objectivity in policy making fail to take a holistic view of educational and societal outcomes.

Comment Frameworks' Short Fall

→ Focus on non-educational aspects disproportionately.

Ex: NIRF → paid more emphasis to infra exclusively.

→ Perception based rankings defeat objectivity.

Ex: QS World Rankings

→ Do not measure learning outcomes

Ex: Outcome in terms of salaries only.

→ Fails to gauge the skill - industry mismatch.

Ex: ~14% of students placed under PMKVY.

---

Measures To Make Ranking System

---

## OBJECTIVE

→ Define criteria for ranking on basis of usability in future.

Ex: skill set, learning outcomes  
(PRATHAM for schools)

→ Principle of equity to ensure merit.

Ex: Accounting for private capital in auditing infrastructure.

→ Include measurable indicators

Ex: instead of perceptions.

# UPSC

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## INCLUSIVE

- Move beyond criteria of infrastructure  
Ex: Rank equipment, teacher quality
- Audit discrimination on the campus.  
Ex: 13,700 students dropped from IITs, IIMs from SC, ST, OBCs.
- Include gender parity among both teachers and students in the ranking.

## ALIGNED WITH EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIETAL OUTCOMES

- Measure industry driven skills ecosystem  
Ex: To promote employment.
- Measure practical relevance of HEIs's pedagogy.  
Ex: Market linkages.

Thus, this can aid objective ranking of HEIs and aid, "Shiksha Se Samridhi".

19)

The phenomenon of the Arctic Amplification while ringing warning bells has enhanced the region's strategic importance.

## Growing Salience of Arctic in Int'l Politics

→ Storehouse of Rare-Earth Elements

Ex: Melting of Arctic has enhanced race to extract REEs.

→ New sea routes for trading.

Ex: Russia exploring Murmansk port viability.

→ Importance to ensure public health

Ex: Zombie Viruses.

- Geopolitical stage for Rivalries.  
Ex: Positioning weapon systems
- Deep sea Mining and Research.  
Ex: competition between countries.

---

## Indian strategies - Recalibrate Arctic Engagement

---

- Comprehensive policy setting out the strategic objectives.  
Ex: India Arctic Policy, 2022.
- Invest significantly in R&D to ensure knowledge updation of ecosystem.  
Ex: 2-3% of GDP  
(Karnakoti Committee)
- Focused Diplomacy for Arctic Council Membership.  
Ex: will ensure cooperation and collaborative operations.

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
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→ Leverage enabling conditions for strategic projects -

Ex: INSTC, Vladivostok - Chennai corridor

→ Scientific missions to ensure building capability.

Ex: Samudrayaan, Deep Sea Mission

→ Take steps to set up research base on lines of

Ex: Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri.

The Arctic Region can be the key to Viksit Bharat and a \$ 30 billion economy if leveraged and harnessed by comprehensive national policy.

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Candidates must not write on this margin.

20x

The political instability in Bangladesh followed by deterioration of ties with India have put a questioning face on observers vis-à-vis future relationship.

---

Bangladesh — Pillar of Neighbourhood First

---

→ Sharing significant land and sea borders.

Ex: Assam, WB, Tripura — Bangladesh  
River Ganga

→ Can serve as overland route to the North East.

Ex: Agartala — Dhaka corridor for Saptarishi development.

→ Key partner in regional security

Ex: SAARC, BIMSTEC

# UPSC

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

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

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

- Trade and economic ties  
Ex: Textile exports to India  
Teesta project for hydroelectricity
- Cultural and ethnic ties  
Ex: RN Tagore wrote both national anthems; Bengali spoken on both sides
- Buffer against Chinese string of pearls in the IOR.  
Ex: Historic ties from liberation war of 1971.

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## Recent Developments Threaten Somali Adhycap

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- Political instability in Bangladesh  
Ex: Refuge to Sheikh Hasina has been not received well.
- Renewed sectarian violence.

# UPSC

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

Ex: Demolition of Hindu temples

→ Anti-Bangladeshi sentiment in India also fomenting displeasure.

Ex: NRC, CAA.

→ Chinese embrace of Bangladesh

Ex: Bangladesh, Pak, China meeting for the 10K.

→ Lack of deep pockets on India's part to complete projects.

Ex: Red Tapism in Teesta.

Way Forward:

→ Restart dialogue

Ex: Track II Diplomacy

→ Make incremental gains

Ex: Treaty on migration

→ Build trust through trade.

Thus, India must endeavour to restore ties in line with being *Uishwa Bandhu* and ethos of *Uasudhaina Kutumbhainam*.