

TEST CODE 7 7 1 2 1 0

SPS 2024 – UPPSC MAINS

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 200
अधिकतम अंक : 200

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Ananya Trivedi		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910134472	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	online	Date/दिनांक	15 May 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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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 3pm	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 6:20 p.m	
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 :	EG/ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :

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Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes and the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the video 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.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

लघु उत्तरीय प्रश्न

Section-A / खण्ड-अ

Q.1) Analyse the significance of Fundamental Rights in ensuring social justice and individual liberty in India.

भारत में सामाजिक न्याय और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने में मौलिक अधिकारों के महत्व का विश्लेषण करें।

(8 Marks)

Fundamental Rights (Article 14-32)

had been a tool against tyranny of legislature and executive ensuring social and political democracy.

Significance in ensuring

A SOCIAL JUSTICE

- (a) Through Articles like "Equality Before law" (Article 14) & empowering states to make such provision for the advancement of S&EBC classes [Article 15(4)]
- (b) State can also make special provisions for women & children [Article 15(3)]
- (c) Abolition of untouchability through Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955.

- (d) Prevents discrimination ensuring gender equality (Article 15) and protection of minorities (Article 29, 30)
- (e) Reservation in matters of public employment (103rd const. Am. Act 2019)

Ensuring Individual liberty

- (a) Article 20 and Article 22 lay down rules for fair trial, right against self-incrimination etc.
- (b) Article 21 with its ~~an~~ BROAD SCOPE ensures :
- Right to work (Alega Tellis case)
 - Right to safe environment (MC Mehta case)
 - Right to privacy (K.S Puttaswamy case)
 - Right to freedom of choice for marriage (Hadliya case)
 - Right to Die (Aruna Shaubay case)
- Maneka Gandhi case led to "DUE PROCESS OF LAW" interpretation ensuring constitutionalism against arbitrariness of both executive & legislature.

Feedback

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

Q.2) Critically analyse the role of the judiciary in maintaining the balance of power among the three organs of the state in India.

भारत में राज्य के तीनों अंगों के बीच शक्ति संतुलन बनाए रखने में न्यायपालिका की भूमिका का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(8 Marks)

Indian constitution is based upon doctrine of Separation of Power alongwith checks & balances, where each organ of government is prevented from pushing its limits

Role of Judiciary in BALANCE OF POWER

① Article 13 gives the power of Judicial Review against arbitrariness of legislature and executive.

⚡ In Kesavanand Bharti case SC ruled → any contravention to Basic Feature will be considered void

② Protects Fundamental Rights of citizens through WRITS (Article 32)
⇒ ensures CONSTITUTIONALISM i.e

the conceptualisation of LIMITED GOVT.

③ Through tools like PTL judiciary time & again checks the tyranny of executive.

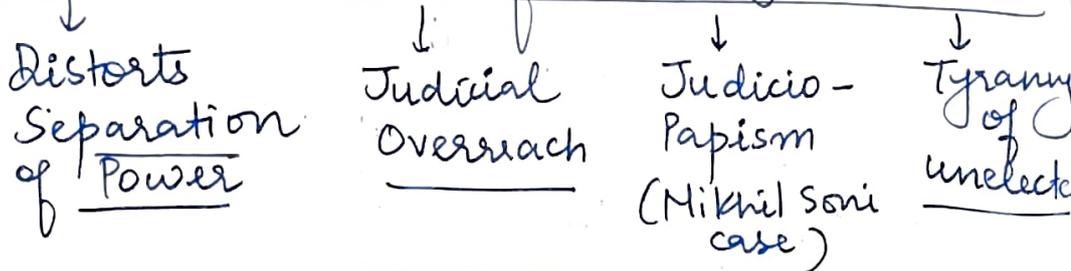
⚠️ - Musainara Khatoun (Prison Reforms) Case

✓ PVCL vs VOI (Right against Handcuffs)

④ Ensures independence of Election Commission preserving democracy against AUTHORITARIAN TENDENCIES.

⚠️ ADR vs VOI, Lilly Thomas case (Electoral Reforms)

Issues with Role of Judiciary



Judicial Restraint is desirable since "Judiciary must play the role of of an ALARM CLOCK" & not that of a "TIME KEEPER"

Feedback

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

Q.39) "One Language" policy in a linguistically diverse country like India.

भारत जैसे भाषाई रूप से विविध देश में "एक राष्ट्र, एक भाषा" नीति की व्यवहार्यता का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण करें।

(8 Marks)

Indian Constitution has no national language though Hindi and English are OFFICIAL languages of Centre.

"One Nation, one language" policy envisages use of one language for all administrative & judicial purposes throughout the country.

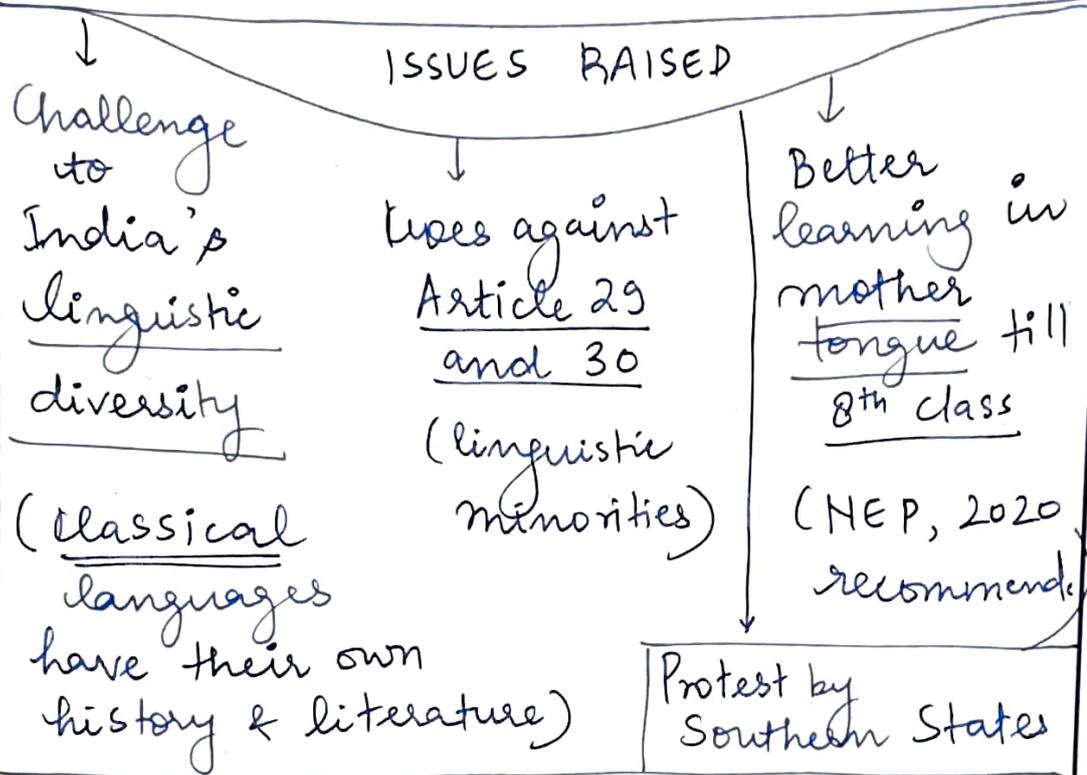
Feasibility

- ① Under Article 35, it is the duty of State to promote use of Hindi language preserving cultural heritage.
- ② Unity and Integrity of Nation is ensured through one language.
- ③ Reduce cost for translation in

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day to day official works .. ensuring UNIFORMITY throughout country.

④ One language can be used as an apt representation in international arena.



Use of technology like BHASINI App and ASMITA Project (22000 text in 22 languages) are good initiatives to bridge the diversity.

India must celebrate its diversity and learn many languages as part of 3-language formula

Feedback
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
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Q.4) "ADR has the potential to transform India's justice delivery system, yet it remains underutilized." Comment.

"वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (एडीआर) में भारत की न्याय वितरण प्रणाली को बदलने की क्षमता है, फिर भी इसका कम उपयोग किया जाता है।" टिप्पणी करें। (8 Marks)

Arbitration is a process in which disputes are settled outside court room by neutral third party.

eg) MSME's Samadhaan Portal

Potential to Transform

① Judicial tendency [4 cr cases pending]
NJDG

② Cost effective → accessible and affordable for common man.

eg) Lok Adalats, industrial disputes.

③ Improve EODB → A real estate disputes needs 20 years to be solved.

④ Address manpower deficiency

⑤ Amicable solutions in line with

SINGAPORE CONVENTION

⑥ ODR (Courts are service, not a place)

Yet, remains underutilized

- ① lack of Awareness (only 27% know - Vidhi Centre report)
- ② Not seen with scepticism → Judicial Attitude of seeing ADR as less legal.
- ③ Imposition of Decision on Vulnerable.
 eg Bhopal Gas Tragedy : less compensation
- ④ Unestablished legal precedents for ADR judgments.
- ⑤ lack of funding, infrastructure etc. and concentration in urban areas

Establishment of Arbitration Council of India (Act of 2020), Mediation Act of 2023 → MCI and promotion of R&D (under LSA Act 1987) are steps in right direction.

ADR through digital mechanism

eg IT's Nivad Se Vishwas need to be promoted

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.5) Discuss the relation between state and civil society.

राज्य और नागरिक समाज के बीच संबंध पर चर्चा करें।

(8 Marks)

Civil society is an alternative model of public service delivery which is an indispensable part of democratic set up playing both complementary and conflicting role within State.

II ARC - 3rd pillar
of
Good Governance

Relation

- ① Supports in data driven policy making
 - eg) NIPUN Bharat based on ASER findings.
- ② Voice to all sections of society.
 ⇒ COMMUNICATION link between citizens & state.
 - eg) Bhartiya Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan
- ③ Protection of Rights of citizens.
 - eg) Narmada Bachao Andolan
 = Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- ④ Help in effective implementation.

of government programmes.

eg - Social Audit of MNREGA
* Swachha Bharat Mission

③ Watchdog of political processes
and democracy.

eg PILs by ADR & PUCL

Conflicts in Relationship

① Government crackdown

eg Misuse of FCRA, 2010 (Amend. 2020)

② Hidden Agenda of scuttling govt. projects

eg Protests against Kundankulam project

③ Conversions,

Fraudulent Practices like

MONEY LAUNDERING, human trafficking et.

In lines with S. Vijay Kumar

Committee and portals like N40 Darpan
government and civil society should
take steps for better relation - improving
health of democracy

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.6) "Welfare schemes have contributed to poverty reduction, but structural issues persist."
Discuss.

"कल्याणकारी योजनाओं ने गरीबी कम करने में योगदान दिया है, लेकिन संरचनात्मक मुद्दे अभी भी बने हुए हैं।" चर्चा करें। (8 Marks)

Poverty refers to inability to meet even basic necessities and lack of opportunity for "capability devt."

As per NITI Aayog's MPI,

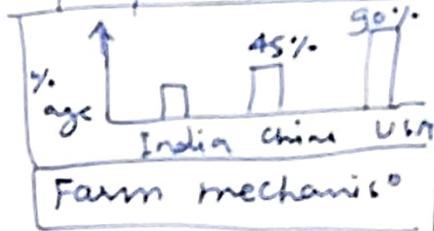
Schemes for poverty reduction

- ① JAM Trinity & DBT (prevent leakages)
- ② PM Atal Pension Yojana (Insurance)
- ③ PM DIGSHA, PM-WAANI (Internet connectivity)
- ④ PM-KISAN, PM-KSY (Farmers)
- ⑤ DDU-NRLM (SHG-NABARD linkage)
- ⑥ RAMP scheme → (to boost MSMEs)
- ⑦ Startup & Startup India (Credit support for entrepreneurship)
- ⑧ PM JSY, Telemedicine, PM JAY, LaQshya (Maternal & Infant's Health)
- ⑨ ICDS, PM POSHAN 2.0 (address hunger & malnutrition)

Structural Issues in poverty reduction

① lack of manufacturing base — Service sector DRIVEN GROWTH
 (Stagnant at 18% GDP contribⁿ since 1990s)

② Agriculture not being a profitable enterprise (lack of modern tech adoption, (av. size 1.08 hectares))



③ Jobless growth
 ↓
 CMIE x 9% unemployment

UNCERTAIN GLORY
 ↓
 Called by Amartya Sen & Jean Dreze

④ Poor spending in health & education sector. (less than 3%) = NHP, 2016 (6% GDP econ^o)

Steps like Make In India, PLI scheme, Micro credit availability & boost to food processing (PM-SAMPADA), Renewable energy (100 GW - solar - achieved) etc. are step in right direction. NEP 2020 focus on VOCATIONAL eduⁿ → must be implemented.

Feedback
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Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.7) Critically analyse the key provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

उत्तर प्रदेश लोकायुक्त एवं उप-लोकायुक्त (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024 के प्रमुख प्रावधानों का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण करें। (8 Marks)

Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act of 2013 asks for establishment of office of lokayukta at state level as a result of IAC movement.

It acts as a states' anti-corruption watchdog.

Key provisions

↓
Reduction of tenure of lokayukta from 8 years to 5 years

↓
 Proposed an increase in upper age limit to 70 years

Advantages of following provisions

① Ability of senior members with experience and expertise to serve LOMAER.

- ② Shorter tenure will prevent avenues of corruption and use of public office for future gains.
- ③ Shorter tenure will also prevent Nexus with political leadership.

Negative Implications

- ① Lack of stability due to shorter tenure will lead to DISRUPTION in duty, consistency is required to solve cases and bring reforms.
- ② More susceptible to political influence due to uncertainty created by shorter tenure.
- ③ Complex workload would hinder efficiency with increasing AGE.

The intended results of proposed bill to ensure dynamism & Transparency needs to be balanced with RIDERS to prevent misus.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

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Q.8) Discuss the strategic significance of the Quad in the Indo-Pacific region.

हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में क्वाड के सामरिक महत्व पर चर्चा करें।

(8 Marks)

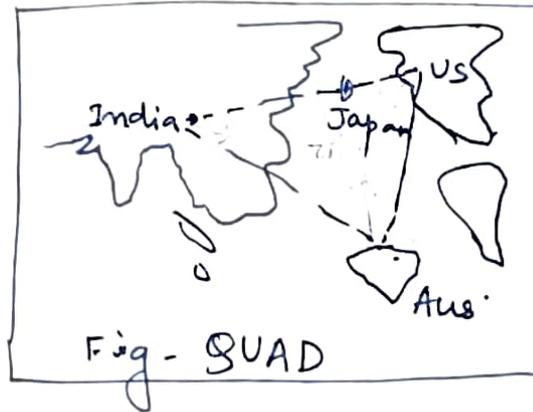
QUAD as an idea propounded by Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, envisages for a free, open and inclusive INDO-PACIFIC in the background of China's rising assertiveness and disregard for global rules & regulations.

Strategic Significance

① To counter China's Expansionism

Recently China disagreed to UNCLOS ruling in South

China Sea claiming major territorial waters through NINE DASH LINE.



② Trade Diversification through SCRI (Supply Chains Resilience Initiative)

- ③ QUIN (QUAD Investors Network)
since Indo Pacific is seen as preferred destination for INVESTMENT.
- ④ Ensuring Maritime Security & Stability through Joint Naval Exercises (MALABAR), HADR assistance and MDR (Maritime Domain Awareness)
- ⑤ Joint principles for Cyber Security & Defence Infrastructure strengthening cooperation in 5G, AI to counter China's hegemony.
- ⑥ EOS - data exchange on Climate Change; Clean Energy through G-Champ & Vaccine Partnership.

↓ Concerns ↓

Trump wants to turn it into Military Alliance challenging India's strategic autonomy

↓ Balancing it with antagonist partners like SCO & BRICS ↓

could Alienate Russia & Iran

Institutionalising QUAD & boosting eco. partnership through QUAD is the need of our.

Feedback
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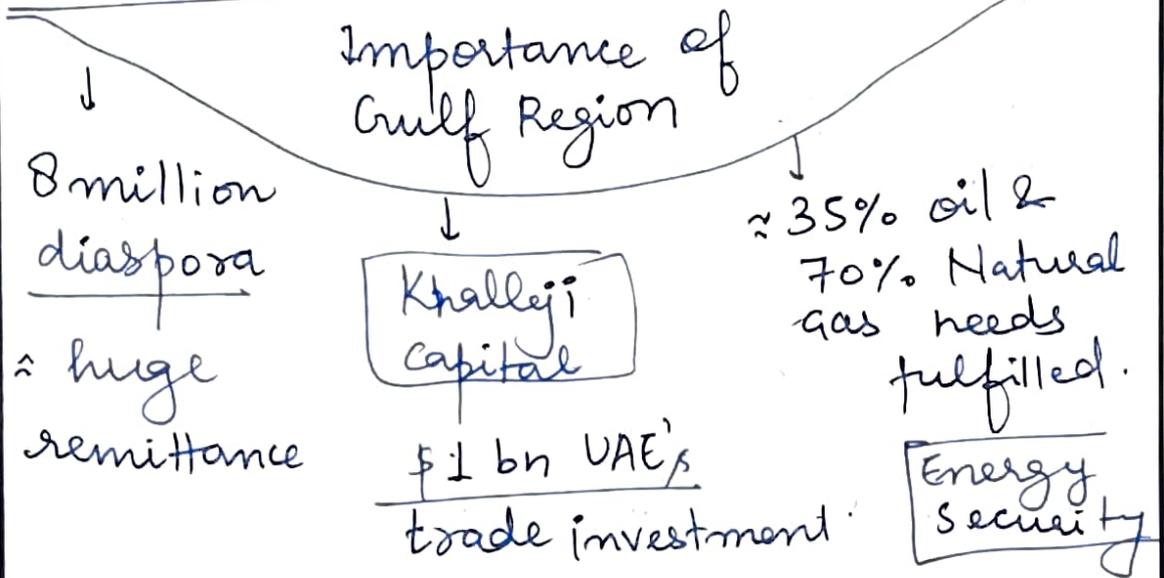
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.9) Comment on India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue.

सामरिक वार्ता के लिए भारत-खाड़ी सहयोग परिषद (जीसीसी) संयुक्त मंत्रिस्तरीय बैठक पर टिप्पणी करें।

(8 Marks)

India - GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting in Riyadh underscores the strategic significance and aims to strengthen economic ties.



Proposed cooperation in meeting

- ① Faster finalisation of India-GCC
FTA thus, leveraging trade potential.

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② Cooperation in plethora of fields → agriculture, health, infrastructure, energy, security, space, education etc.

Thus, ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION through various MoUs.

③ Joint Action Plan (2024-28) → Roadmap for coopⁿ in various sectors.

India-GCC ase ties are marked by cultural exchange, digital interoperability (UPI), investment in infrastructure (Hub Mall) and huge potential for strategic & emerging sectors. (including AI, Big Data & IoT).

Feedback

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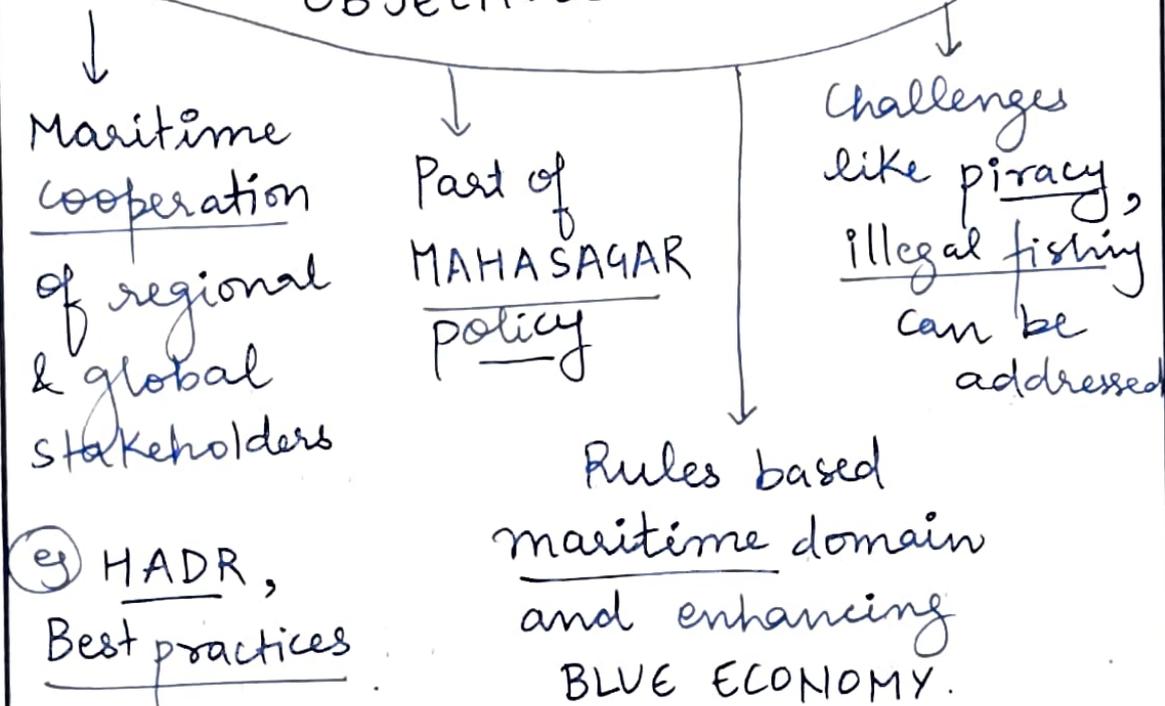
Q.10) Discuss the objectives and key pillars of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

हिंद-प्रशांत महासागर पहल (आईपीओआई) के उद्देश्यों और प्रमुख स्तंभों पर चर्चा करें।

(8 Marks)

India launched Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative during EAST ASIA SUMMIT to ensure "free, open & inclusive Indo-Pacific.

OBJECTIVES OF IPOI



Thus, IPOI's objectives seek cooperation for global good in maritime domain ensuring Sustainability (SDG-14)

Key pillars of IPOI

- ① **Security** → Safeguarding SLOCs & safe navigation, Navy exercises etc.
- ② **Biodiversity Protection**
In sync with **MARPOL** convention,
(Sustainable fishing, etc)
- ③ **Harnessing Resources**
 ↻ Recent Discovery of deep-sea lithium in IOR
 = Poly-metallic Modules et-
 for ENERGY SECURITY
- ④ **Collaboration**
 - ↳ Data exchange, scientific coop"
 - ↳ Best practices, CB&T
 - ↳ Trade connectivity boosting global economy.

Thus, IPOI is a part of India's Indo-Pacific vision for safe, sustainable & secure IOR.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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

TOTAL MARKS

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

दीर्घ उत्तरीय प्रश्न

Section-B / खण्ड-ब

Q.11) Examine the challenges associated with the current process of appointing Election Commissioners in India. Should there be a more transparent and independent mechanism?

भारत में चुनाव आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति की वर्तमान प्रक्रिया से जुड़ी चुनौतियों की जांच करें। क्या अधिक पारदर्शी और स्वतंत्र तंत्र होना चाहिए? (12 Marks)

Election Commission is an autonomous constitutional body under Article-324 responsible for conduction of Free & Fair elections

Present process of Appointment is dictated by EC (Appointment, Condition of Service & Term of Office) Act, 2023. A committee constituting

of → PM
→ leader of opposition
→ Cabinet Minister of Union.

Act removed Chief Justice of India earlier being part of committee that recommends to President.

Challenges

① Lack of Accountability & Transparency

(Since there is executive dominance a bias in office of CEC & ECs favouring ruling party is feared)

② Blow to autonomy & Independence

Since, EC is the sentinel of democracy, lying at disposal of government puts question mark on :

→ Process of Elections

→ Various decisions taken throughout elections like MCC, advertisement time, disqualifications for promoting hatred etc.

③ Security of Tenure lies only with CEC. Other ECs can be

removed any time by President,
making them committed to executive
authority.

- ④ Threat to democratic process,
provisions like no restriction on
taking office post retirement is
also

Measures for more transparent Mechanism

- ① A dedicated law for Appointment,
Terms of office & Tenure needs to
be formulated.
- ② SC's collegium SC's recommendation
of (PM, Leader of Opposition & CJI)
needs to be followed till then for
process of appointment
- ③ EC's should also be provided with
post-ret security of Tenure
like SC judges.

EC's independence is the heart
of Indian democracy.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.12) Explain the concept of Judicial Review in India. How does it uphold the supremacy of the Constitution?

भारत में न्यायिक समीक्षा की अवधारणा की व्याख्या करें। यह संविधान की सर्वोच्चता को कैसे कायम रखती है? (12 Marks)

Judicial Review refers to the process of examining the constitutional validity of laws passed by legislature and checks tyranny of executive.

Though NOT EXPLICITLY mentioned, it is envisaged through :

- ✓ Article 13 (Laws in contravention of FR, null & void)
- ✓ Article 32, 226 → (Writ jurisdiction)
- ✓ Article 131, 136, 142

(Original jurisdⁿ, Appeal by special leave SC's Power to do complete justice)

Upholding Supremacy of Constitution

(a) Checks the constitutionality of laws passed by Parliament.

ensuring alignment with Constitutional
values.

↳ SC struck down NJAC citing
threat to judicial independence.

② Constitutional amendments can
not violate Basic Structure.

↳ Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights,
Secularism etc.

Thus, Judicial Review ensures that
essence of Constitution remains
intact.

③ It protects citizens from states'
arbitrary action.

↳ Recent judgment by SC against
demolition of Houses without
prior notice.

↳ Acts against Tu Custodial
Violence cases etc.

④ § Constitution has envisaged an ACTIVIST Judiciary.
Judicial Review directs government towards a particular policy or step to be taken.

Concerns with Judicial Review

↓
Distorts SOP at times.

↓
Judges are not eclectic bodies.

↓
Tyranny of unelected

eg) Banning alcohol in highway's proximity

(Hikhi Soni case)

(eg. Censorship of Jolly LLB 2)

↓
regarding religious interpretation.

Judicial Review is bullwark tool for citizen's in protection against an authoritarian state. However, Judicial Discipline needs to be maintain to prevent [breach of boundaries]

Feedback

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

Q.13) Discuss the significance of the Delimitation Commission in the context of the 2026 delimitation exercise. What potential political and demographic challenges could arise?

2026 के परिसीमन अभ्यास के संदर्भ में परिसीमन आयोग के महत्व पर चर्चा करें। क्या संभावित राजनीतिक और जनसांख्यिकीय चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं? (12 Marks)

Delimitation of constituencies was frozen till 2026 through 84th Constitutional Amendment 2001. With the change in demographics, fairness & equity in representation of country's population makes delimitation a necessity.

Significance of Delimitation:

- ① Fairer representation of MPs proportional to population, ensuring voice of people to be heard.
- ② Reservation of SC & ST in lok Sabha also demands insight about the changes in demography.
- ③ For Appropriation of net proceeds of taxes shared by Centre to States.

Political challenges

- ① Despite more contribution to country's GDP there is will be reduction in the representation of Southern States.
- ② Finance Commission's formula for devolution of share to states includes population as one the metrics.
- ③ Punitive for South despite better human HDI indicators and flattering population with TFR below 2.0.

Demographic challenges.

- ① Southern industrial states will receive less grant for social infrastructure.
- ② Political voice of North will dominate national discourse leading to alienation of issues of South.
- ③ Northern states will not be disincentivise for reducing population growth.

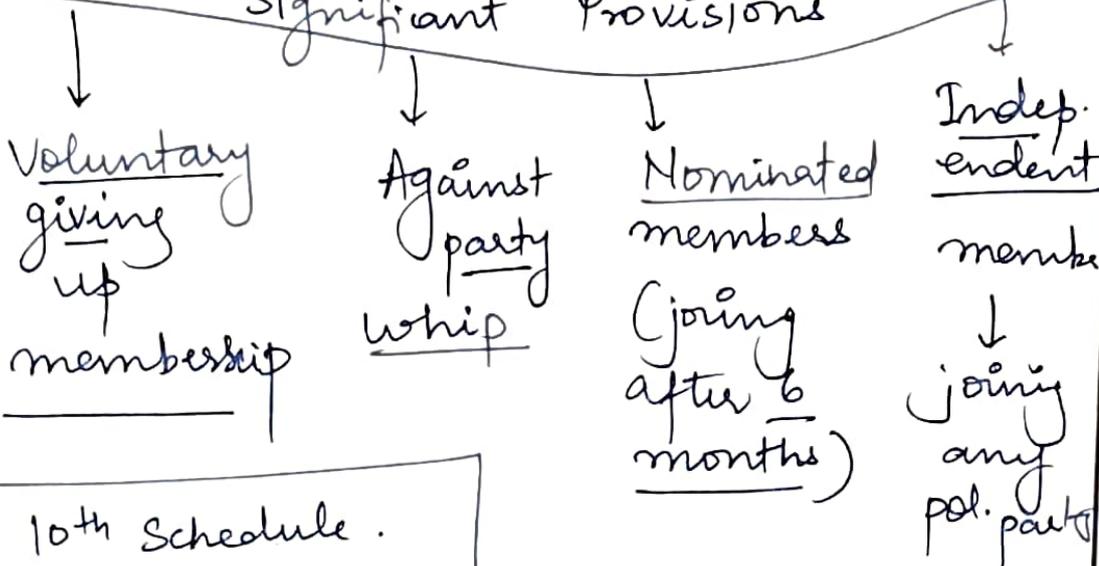
Thus, a socio-economic consideration is needed to address this federal asymmetry.

Q.14) Examine the significance of the anti-defection law in the State Legislature. How effective has it been in curbing political instability?

राज्य विधानमंडल में दलबदल विरोधी कानून के महत्व का परीक्षण करें। राजनीतिक अस्थिरता को रोकने में यह कितना प्रभावी रहा है? (12 Marks)

Brought by 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1985, Anti-Defection intends to prevent horse trading post elections. on whose ticket one has been elected.

Significant Provisions



Thus, it has been an effective tool ensuring trust and confidence in democratic processes. of not changing party allegiance

Significance

- ① Ensures pol. stability against (Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram) politics
- ② Curbs money & muscle power
→ frequently used to CHANGE ALLIANCE to a particular party.
- ③ Erodes public trust → thus the law protects INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY
- ④ No fear of toppling government through horse-trading. ensuring STABILITY
- ⑤ Facilitates merger (when $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of legislatures are in favour)
- ⑥ Promotes party discipline and important in case of motions that test MAJORITY in parliament

Yet, its effectiveness has been questioned: with incidents like 22 Congress MLAs → toppling Karnal Math govt. by resignation.

(a) Defection for a Noble Cause

eg) Arif Mohammad Khan against during Shah Bano case.

(b) Biased Role of Speaker

SC rebuked Maharashtra Speaker in 2023 for delaying proceedings.

(c) Amendment does not recognise Split but merger.

(d) Curbs dissent ⇒ lack of INTRA-PARTY democracy

SC ~~is~~ has recommended for EC to overview defection proceedings since its effectiveness has been compromised despite Kihoto Hollohances.

Feedback

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

Q.15) What are the key challenges faced by Self-Help Groups in India? Suggest measures to improve their sustainability and efficiency.

भारत में स्वयं सहायता समूहों के सामने कौन-सी प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ हैं? उनकी स्थिरता और कार्यकुशलता में सुधार के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ। (12 Marks)

SHGs are voluntary community based organisations whose members come together for common purpose of improving their socio-economic condition.

Improvement in SPG-3, 4, 5

Claret Study

Importance of SHG

→ Anti-poverty vaccine (Kerala's Kudumbshree)

→ Financial Inclusion

Supports govt. in Social Audit,

↓
Entrepreneurship
(eg) Lijjat Papad.

Banking Correspondents etc.

Despite their significant role in Women Empowerment, SHGs face numerous challenges.

Key Challenges

- ① lack of scalability and security
Since they run on mutual trust
and confidence.
- ② lack of financial avenues ,
→ Bank reluctant , poor rural
banking infra.
→ Heavy dependence on NGOs and
CSOs for funding .
- ③ Patriarchy & social obligations .
- ④ lack of upgradation of skills ,
poor marketing and branding
since they are largely primitive .
- ⑤ Digital Divide (only 30% internet
penetration)
↓
lack of digital & financial literacy .
- ⑥ lack of policy support , NO
STATUTORY BACKING and qualified
training .

Solutions

- ① Provide statutory backing to SHGs to enhance credibility & functioning
- ② Link with Micro-credit schemes, incentives to banks under PSL for loans to members.
- ③ Skill India Mission, Apprenticeship Promotion → can be integrated to TRAIN SHG members and upgrade IT enabled marketing.
- ④ Public procurement of 25% from SHGs be made mandatory.
- ⑤ EGS Monitoring, policy & financial support, tax norms for NGOs supporting SHGs.
- ⑥ Monetary incentive in performing govt. work like in PDS, Bank Sakhi et.

Need to turn SHGs to NHGs (Nation Help groups)

Feedback

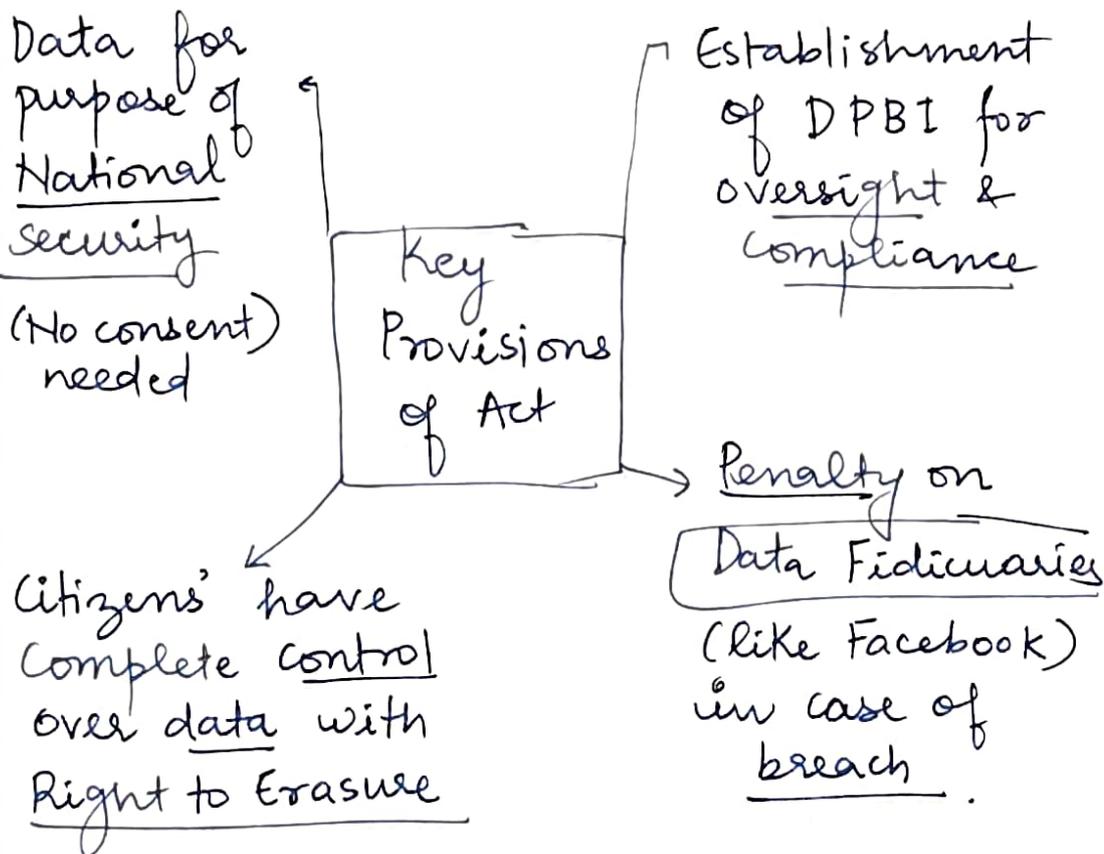
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.16) "Examine the key challenges and propose solutions for the effective implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), 2023."

"डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम (डीपीडीपीए), 2023 के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन के लिए प्रमुख चुनौतियों की जांच करें और समाधान प्रस्तावित करें।" (12 Marks)

DPDPA 2023 was passed for ensuring data protection, storage, privacy, processing with prior consent etc. maintaining a balance between DATA PRIVACY and use of data for economic interests.



Key challenges

- ① No consent in matters of National Security can lead to Surveillance and invasion of Data Privacy (against K.S Puttaswamy judgment)
- ② Compliance burden for mini-start ups, small tech firms & MSMEs can be an obstacle in their growth
- ③ DPBI → needs to define what term "harmful for children" means, while obtaining parents' consent.
- ④ Many data fiduciaries lack cyber infrastructure to protect data from cyber attacks
- ⑤ Digital literacy is lacking with only 26% youth being digitally educated. (NSO)

Solutions

- ① Nationwide awareness and digital literacy promotion through schemes like PM Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan
- ② Tiered compliance - with more penalty on "significant" Data Fiduciary
- ③ Enhance cyber security infrastructure, use of AI, innovation & training programmes.
- ④ DPBI's autonomy needs to be ensured with adequate staff and funding.

Steps like Quantum Cryptography to secure India's data and its cross-border transfer, along with independent Parliamentary OVERSIGHT and MONITORING will lead to fair mechanisms and Transparency.

Feedback

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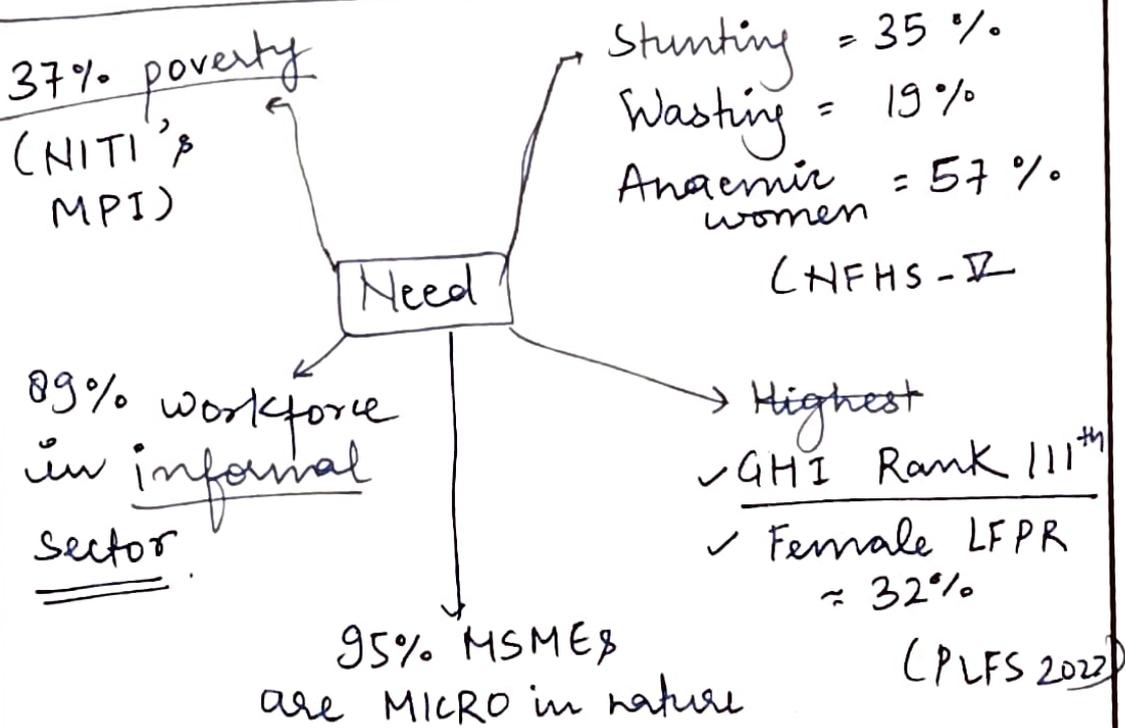
	G	A	P
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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.17) "Social security schemes are crucial for vulnerable populations, yet many beneficiaries remain excluded." Analyze the gaps in social welfare coverage in India and propose solutions.

"सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाएँ कमज़ोर आबादी के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, फिर भी कई लाभार्थी इससे वंचित रह जाते हैं।" भारत में सामाजिक कल्याण कवरेज में अंतराल का विश्लेषण करें और समाधान प्रस्तावित करें।

(12 Marks)

Social Security schemes are backbone of Rights Based Approach in public welfare. It involves, health, education, insurance, credit and subsidy alongwith policies and laws to protect the poor and vulnerable section.



Social Welfare schemes → problems of implementation

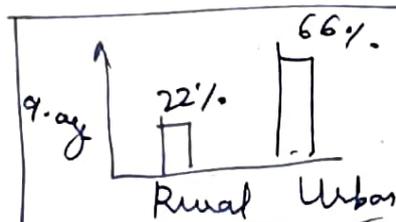
① Poor identification of Beneficiaries

eg) Jean Dreze argues for a population left under NFSA, 2013 since its

② Corruption and leakages

eg) CAG report about PM-JAY and MNREGA revealed serious financial irregularities

③ Lack of Digitisation (esp. rural areas)



④ Lack of inter-departmental

COORDINATION → duplication of efforts

⑤ Schemes like Maternity Benefit lead discourage owners from HIRING WOMEN.

How to address Gaps.

- ① Use of Digital Infrastructure
 ⚙️ = Aadhar Enabled Payment System
 = JAM Trinity.
- ② Project Monitoring (PRAGATI platform)
Geo-Tagging of Assets - MNREGA.
- ③ Digitisation of land Records ⇒ can be used as collateral.
- ④ MSMEs (25% govt. procurement)
UK Sinha Committee
- ⑤ GM Accident Insurance for farmers
[UP government]
- ⑥ NABARD, CSR-funds channelize,
PPP, interest subvention..
- ⑦ Skill dev. through CSCs & loan support for SC, ST, women
[Scooty for meritorious students]
Social Welfare → thus can be reached to people via these steps.

Feedback

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

Q.18) Analyse the significance of BRICS expansion in the context of the emerging multipolar world order. What challenges does it pose to Western hegemony?

उभरती बहुधुवीय विश्व व्यवस्था के संदर्भ में ब्रिक्स विस्तार के महत्व का विश्लेषण करें। यह पश्चिमी आधिपत्य के लिए क्या चुनौतियाँ प्रस्तुत करता है? (12 Marks)

Recent BRICS summit led to induction of VAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia into the block thus shifting trade & regional dynamics towards East.

Significance \rightarrow Multipolarity

- ① Oil Producing countries being part of Non-Western block will result in energy security policies free from western influence
- ② Emergence as a major grouping against IMF \rightarrow NDB (BRICS bank) can provide loans, currency swap agreements for building infrastructure.

- ③ De-dollarisation and push for
CIPS instead of ~~west~~ US dominated
SWIFT international finance messaging
system.
- ④ To an extent diplomatic leverage
to voices & economic concerns
of Global South.

Challenge to Western Hegemony

- ① World Trade policies and credit
facilities led with west
dominated IMF and G-7's PAGE
initiative (Blue Dot De Network)
against China's BRI.

Now with emergence of
BRICS as an alternative source
of availing credit and trade
settlement of transactions in
local currencies (i.e. Rupee-Rouble
agreement)

rendered of diminished functional
importance of these institutions.

② New Development Bank will fill
the vacuum as an effective
alternative against NATO & G-7
led initiatives

③ Sanctions on Russia and Iran
with the proposal of BRICS currency
is a challenge to hegemony of
Western world. — since their
impact is reduced.

④ Policies suiting Global South will
gain prominence (earlier led
by G-7)

Concerns in its full realization

↓
Countries →
part of BRICS
have very diff.
pol. & eco. ideologies.

↓
Chinese
hegemony
through
BRI

↓
Internal
Division
eg) China
- India
↳ Saudi-
Iran.

BRICS has emerged as a powerful
block yet to achieve its economic &
political goals → time is needed

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

	G	A	P
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Please put tick
marks in the above
table.

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

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.19) To what extent do U.S. protectionist measures challenge India's efforts to integrate into global supply chains? Suggest policy measures India can adopt to counter such challenges.

अमेरिकी संरक्षणवादी उपाय वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं में एकीकृत होने के भारत के प्रयासों को किस हद तक चुनौती देते हैं? ऐसी चुनौतियों का मुकाबला करने के लिए भारत द्वारा अपनाए जा सकने वाले नीतिगत उपायों का सुझाव दें।

(12 Marks)

US protectionist measures are a result of Trump's America First policy in the background of global economic slowdown.

Challenges to India

- ① Imposition of high tariffs on India's steel and Aluminium sector, reducing its trade competitiveness
- ② US already revoked GSP status for India in 2019 making list of exports more costly for US consumers.

- ③ US under CHIPS Act intends to make local goods & more competitive by providing SUBSIDIES
- ④ Restrictions on H-1B visas have adversely affected India's skilled workforce professionals.
- ⑤ Strong IPR regime → prevents tech transfer → frequently listing India under US-301 report
- ⑥ US-China Trade war ⇒ benefitting more to countries like Vietnam, since India has own complex laws & lack of manufacturing base

It will lead to more dependence on China (for critical minerals, solar PVs) →, disruption in IT outsourcing and reduced

market access hurting India's domestic industry.

Trump asking Tim Cook to not establish Apple plant in India is also an example of that.

Policy measures need to be taken

① Strengthening Domestic Manufacturing
(Schemes like PLI, Gati-Shakti, Sagar Mala, Multi-Modal connectivity etc.)

② Diversifying Trade Partnership

⚡ Recent India-UK FTA, EFTA - India FTA etc.

③ leverage groupings like BIMSTEC, IPEF & initiatives like SCRI etc.

④ Boost R&D spendings (0.6% of GDP presently)
= Industry-Academia linkage etc.

Thus, Self Reliance and Trade diversification - imp. to deal with this challenge.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS

Q.20) Analyse the significance of India-China troop disengagement in resolving the border standoff. What are the key challenges that remain?

सीमा गतिरोध को हल करने में भारत-चीन सैन्य वापसी के महत्व का विश्लेषण करें। प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं?

(12 Marks)

India - China Share \approx 3500 Km
of border with disputes in Western,
Middle & Eastern sector.

2020 Galwan valley clash was most
severe since Doklam standoff and
needed diplomatic engagement to
de-escalate tensions.

Significance of TROO:

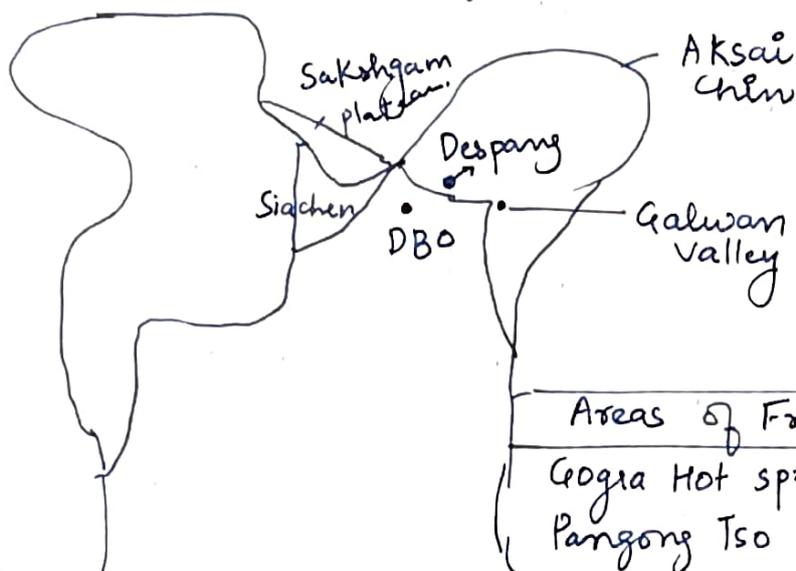


Fig : Disputed region of troops' standoff

Significance of Troop disengagement

- ① Led to de-escalation resulting in regional peace and stability for the time being.
- ② Troop disengagement at friction points (Gogra Hot Springs, Pangong Tso) prevented MILITARY confrontation.
- ③ Need given India time to deal with other geo-strategic threats.
 ⚡ Indo-Pak war post Pahalgan incident (2024)
- ④ Corps Commander Meetings → reached understanding - necessary for diplomatic engagement at forums like SARC & SCO.

However, the Challenges remain.

Challenges Yet to be Addressed

① Historical difference in understanding of international boundary.

China considers line whereas India → McMohan line.

≅ Renaming of villages of Arunachal
= Calling Tibet (one of its 5 fingers)

② Power Asymmetry → lack of Trust and frequent border violation

③ China perceives India as the biggest roadblock to its global aspirations (with QUAD etc.) alliances.

④ Despang plains & Demchok still disputed → NOT RESOLVED.

Along with global alliances, enhancing indigenous military & Eco. capabilities + Active Diplomacy is need of the hour.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1 Do I need to improve my content ?
- 2 I exceed word limit in most of questions.
How whether it is making any impact
- 3 on marks ? If not how should I go
about it?
- 4
- 5 Does copy look haphazard & points being
over-explained ?

Test Goal

1

2

3

Outcomes

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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		

* Subject to change without prior notice.