

TEST CODE 8 1 2 4 2 6

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	Astha Jain		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	191010 9161	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र		Date/दिनांक	9/10/2025

*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			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			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			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			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			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 :			For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु	
			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :
			2.30 pm	5.36 pm
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।			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.

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) Examine the scope and significance of the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction under Article 143 of the Constitution. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 143 के तहत सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के परामर्शदात्री क्षेत्राधिकार के दायरे और महत्व का परीक्षण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Article 143 provides for the advisory jurisdiction wherein the President can seek advice of SC on certain matters.

Scope

① Two cases

- a) Pre constitutional treaties, convention etc → SC is bound to give the opinion
 - b) Presidential references on constitutional interpretation → can choose not to give
- 2) Advice tendered is not binding on Pres.
- 3) In recent Tamil Nadu Case → SC asked Pres to consult in A143 if state bill is reserved for constitutional grounds

Significance -

- ① Better explanation of Constitutional provisions (eg) Minorities meaning in A 29.
- ② Clarity > Ambiguity → SC can clear what 'substance' lies in words.
- ③ Unlocks mind of constitutional makers → what they intended.
- ④ Creative reinterpretation for expanding scope (eg) A 21 in various cases.
- ⑤ Pres. can get expert advice to fulfill his/her duty meaningfully as guardian of constitution.
- ⑥ Upholding constitution as a living document → needing clarity with changing times.

Advisory powers are unique to Indian judiciary, making it most powerful.

Feedback

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

Q.2) What is delimitation; and why is it important? What challenges are associated with the delimitation exercise in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

परिसीमन से क्या तात्पर्य है और यह क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है? भारत में परिसीमन प्रक्रिया से जुड़ी चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Article 82 provides for the delimitation of seats for Lok Sabha while A. 171 provides for delimitation of constituencies for state assembly.

What is delimitation -

① Deciding boundaries of electoral constituencies for elections

② Ensures proportional representation by balancing people ratio in each seat

③ Governed by Delimitation Act, 2002

Importance

① Representative Democracy → enables seats boundary setting for voting

② Ensure 'one man, one vote, one value' by legitimate boundary

- 3) Timely upgradation to reflect changing population dynamics
- 4) Federalism → ensures states representation is balanced

Challenges

- ① Allegations of Southern States → Punish population control as seats reduce for less population
 (eg) UP will get > 50 seats, Kerala none if delimitation happens
 - ② Imbalances → UP MP represent > 10 lakh. Manipur → < 10 K
 - ③ Data inadequacies about pop.
 - ④ Politicisation (eg) Jerrry mandering
 - ⑤ Frozen after 1971 & 2002 → to incentivise pop. control
- Delimitation must balance demography and state's representation in a holistic way.

Feedback

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



Q.3) How has asymmetric federalism helped India accommodate its diverse regional needs? Discuss with suitable examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

असममित संघवाद ने भारत को अपनी विविध क्षेत्रीय आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने में किस प्रकार मदद की है? उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Asymmetric federalism refers to different provisions, powers and special treatment given to different federal units.

- Federalism in India
- a) Article 245-263 → govern centre-state relation
 - b) 7th schedule → ensure list division
 - c) NITI Aayog, ISC (263) ensure cooperative federalism.

Asymmetry for accommodation

- ① Special provisions for tribal areas to accommodate diversities of their culture, practices → 6th & 5th schedule, PESA etc
- ② Administrative asymmetry
 - ③ Delhi governed under A. 273 AA

③ Differential representation in Council of state (Rajya Sabha) under Schedule 4th (eg) UP vs Goa

④ Financial asymmetry

↳ Special grants to revenue hit states (eg) Bihar

↳ Special category status by FC to himalayan states

↳ Central sponsored schemes → North east get 90:10 share

⑤ Constitutional differences such as special provisions for states (eg) Nagaland Gujarat etc

⑥ Regional needs accommodated by various mechanism (eg) forming UTs, ISC (263) etc

Asymmetry balance diversity and preserve federal balance with unity.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.4) Explain how the terms 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble embody specific meanings in the Indian context. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

स्पष्ट कीजिए कि प्रस्तावना में 'समाजवादी' और 'पंथनिरपेक्ष' शब्द भारतीय संदर्भ में किस प्रकार विशिष्ट अर्थ रखते हैं। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Socialist and secular word were added under 42nd AA 1976 to reflect nature of Indian State.

Specific meanings

- Socialist → a) Indian socialism is different from Soviet/Marxist
- ↳ b) Mixed economy model to ensure growth & equity balance
 - ↳ c) Welfare state to suit post independent India and its need
 - ↳ d) 'State socialism' as Ambedkar advocated → state ensure equity & justice in society (eg MNREGA scheme)
 - ↳ c) Constitutional provisions (DPSP)
 - (eg) A 38 → egalitarian social order
 - A 42 → public assistance & maternity relief

- ↳ f) Ensures socio-economic democracy and democratic socialism → best of both world
- Secularism → a) Indian model of secularism (Rajeev Bhargava)
- ↳ b) Equi-distance v/s principled distance → India's principled one.
- ↳ c) State can intervene in religion for reforms (eg) Hindu Code Bill
- ↳ d) Positive secularism → equal respect to all religion
- ↳ e) Celebration of religious diversity (eg) State holidays on festivals
- ↳ f) Different from France 'laicite' → state & religion not rigid separate
- ↳ g) Provisions (A-25-28) for rights based approach.
They reflect welfare oriented and diverse nature of India.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.5) The role of State Finance Commissions in building regional equity and strengthening the federal link has largely been underutilized. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

क्षेत्रीय समानता के निर्माण और संघीय संबंध को मजबूत करने में राज्य वित्त आयोगों की भूमिका का व्यापक स्तर पर अल्प उपयोग किया गया है। चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Finance Commission is formed under A 280 and state finance commissions are formed under A 243 clauses as they were introduced by 73rd & 74th AA of 1992.

State finance Commissions & their role in regional equity & federalism -

- 1) Ensure principles to govern division of taxes pool, be based on needs of local government
- 2) Tasked with recommending principles to govern grant-in-aids to ensure regional development
- 3) Federal strengthening by utilising funds recommended by Centre FC
- 4) Strengthen fiscal devolution & local government.

Underutilised

- ① Recommendatory nature → SFCs are not binding & their recommendation not implemented
- ② Reports not tabled or discussed timely in SCAs → compromise their roles
- ③ SFC formation depends upon state's will → further reduce autonomy in federalism
- ④ Funds transfers by states much low despite SFC recommendation → weaker equity
- ⑤ Not prioritised in state's fund transfer scheme
- ⑥ Remain mere decorative with less importance & powers compared to centre fc.

Ways to improve

- a) Ensure SFCs are enabled & recommendation compulsory
- b) Federal link between Union fc & SFC

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.6) How far do you think has the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) been successful in protecting and promoting child rights in India? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

आपके अनुसार राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग (NCPCR) भारत में बाल अधिकारों के संरक्षण और संवर्धन में कितना सफल रहा है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NCPCR was est. under protection of child rights act, 2005 to ensure welfare & wellbeing of children

Successful

- ① Investigate offences against children
→ suo-moto cognizance of violation
(eg) Maharashtra child labor case.
- ② Reconnied laws & amendments
for protection of children
(eg) Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse Act
- ③ Inquire into specific complaints
and ensure complete justice
(eg) Manipal case of child trafficking
- ④ Empowered to act as civil court
- ⑤ Promote awareness about rights
(eg) Child marriage prevention

- ⑥ Innovative solutions eg Child helpline for 24x7 access → 1098
- ⑦ Grassroot works → engage civil society eg Pratham NGO

Concerns

- ① Recommendatory nature → reports submitted not binding
- ② Can't penalise or award compensation to victims
- ③ Dependency on centre for funds & functionaries
- ④ High vacancies → around 11 post vacant in 2023
- ⑤ Non constitutional → less power
- ⑥ Awareness among children low
- ⑦ Rising crimes such as sexual abuse of children → ineffective body

Recommendations

- ↳ a) Can be constitutionalised
- ↳ b) Mandatory annual reports and discussions

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.7) Outline the salient features of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 related to school education. What does it state about the medium of instruction in schools? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

विद्यालयी शिक्षा से संबंधित नई शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 की मुख्य विशेषताओं को रेखांकित करें। यह विद्यालयों में शिक्षा के माध्यम के बारे में क्या उद्घृत करती है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NEP 2020 was introduced to usher in a new era of modern 21st century education by updating existing system (Kasturibangan Committee)

Salient features

- ① Tech. education to be introduced in early ages (eg chapters on AI in class 6th)
- ② Vocational education → skill based courses for children (eg Gardening, craft classes)
- ③ Moral education → inclusion of chapters on Gita, Ramayan etc
- ④ New structure :- 5+3+3+4 for aligning with modern demands
- ⑤ Holistic assessments on various parameters such as skills etc → move beyond academic performance

- 6) Credits system → ABACUS system for recording credit points
- 7) 3 language formula for linguistic diversity promotion
- 8) curriculum revisions to promote holistic competency (eg) NCERT revised
- 9) Pre school education for preparing kids for school
- 10) Foundational learning & reading + maths capabilities

Medium of instruction

- ① Mother tongue in early ages and pre schools upto class 5th
 - ② 3 languages for students →
↳ Mother tongue + English + Non hindi indian language
 - ③ Linguistic diversity to be promoted
(eg) Tamil learning in North, Hindi in South
- NBP makes children ready for new age of tech revolution.

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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.8) Throw light on the legal frameworks that are in place to ensure women's safety in India. What further steps are needed to enhance their safety and well-being? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

भारत में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए मौजूद विधिक ढाँचों पर प्रकाश डालें। उनकी सुरक्षा और कल्याण को बढ़ाने के लिए और क्या कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Women Safety is state responsibility under A-14, 15, 16, 23 (FR) as well as DPSP (A42 - maternity relief) and FD (respect women dignity).

Legal frameworks

- ① Dowry prohibition Act → to ban dowry demands by groom side + penalise this practise
- ② Prevention of sexual harassment at workplace → based on Vishaka judgement
- ③ Domestic Violence Act → to protect women from marital cruelty
- ④ Immoral trafficking Act → to prevent trafficking for prostitution
- ⑤ Child marriage (Prevention) Act → to ban child marriages

⑥ POCSO Act → to protect children below 18 from sexual violence

⑦ BNS & BNSS provisions

↳ penalise sexual exploitation on false promise of marriage
↳ harsh penalties for rape.

Further Steps →

- a) Criminalise marital rape → to prevent cruelty against women.
- b) workplace safety in POSH needs to be strengthened → IPC to be replaced with independent tribunal
- c) online crimes → revise IT Act & Rules to address online abuses against women
- d) Awareness regarding child sexual abuse & enhance reporting under POCSO
- e) child rights awareness + legal awareness → @ NCW role
- f) Lok Adalats, special courts for speedy justice (J.S. Verma committee)

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.9) "A multipolar world order is not merely an option but a necessity". Elaborate. How can India leverage its position to strengthen multipolarity in the global arena? (10 marks, 150 words)

"एक बहुध्रुवीय विश्व व्यवस्था केवल एक विकल्प नहीं बल्कि एक आवश्यकता है। विस्तार से चर्चा कीजिए। वैश्विक क्षेत्र में बहुध्रुवीयता को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत अपनी स्थिति का लाभ कैसे उठा सकता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Multipolar world refers to the world order where many powerful states govern the international system.
 (eg) currently, US, China, Russia, India, Japan etc. are major powers.

- Necessity
- a) Ensure representative multilateral bodies
 (eg) UNSC seats
 - b) Power distribution equitable between regions
 - c) More checks & balances
 - d) Prevent hegemonic tendencies
 (eg) US unilateral actions in Iraq, Afghan.
 - e) Ensure global governance & rule based world order
 - f) Collective Security → as states engage in cooperation

India leverage its position to strengthen

- ① leader of global south → can build consensus & unanimity in global south (eg Afro-Asian unity)
- ② South-western power → act as a bridge b/w west & east, North & South countries (janshankar)
- ③ Net security provider in the 10th → can leverage ties in neighbours
- ④ Push for multilateral reforms
(eg UNSC permanent seat expansion)
- ⑤ G20 leadership → used for AU inclusion → offered India's inclusive approach
- ⑥ Soft power (eg vaccine diplomacy)
- ⑦ Consensus on various platforms & strategic autonomy (eg BRICS)

India in a multipolar world can ensure spirit of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam'

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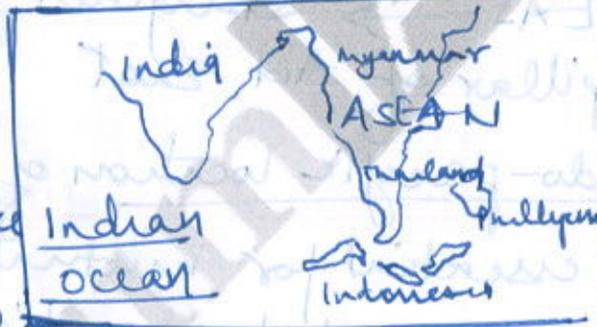
Q.10) "ASEAN is the cornerstone of India's Act East Policy and its Indo-Pacific vision." Elucidate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

"आसियान भारत की एक्ट ईस्ट नीति और उसके हिंद-प्रशांत दृष्टिकोण की आधारशिला है।" स्पष्ट करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

ASEAN is a regional bloc in SE Asia formed in 1954 and Act East policy was launched in 2015 as a successor of Look East.

Act East policy

- ↳ a) focus on strategic convergence
- ↳ b) leverage PEP ties and cultural diplomacy
- ↳ c) focus on north east as gateway
- ↳ d) connectivity focus (eg) BBIN, IMT
- ↳ e) Expand ASEAN & beyond → Japan, South Korea.



ASEAN as cornerstone

- ① central pillar of connectivity projects (eg) IMT to lateral highway
- ② economic linkages in Act East →

eg FTA between India & ASEAN

- ③ People to people connections Strongest with ASEAN → crucial for success of Act East (eg Buddhist connect)
- ④ India participates in various forums of ASEAN such as ARF, ADMM EAS → strengthen strategic pillar of Act East
- ⑤ Indo-pacific location of Act East → essential for mutual vision of free, open Indo-pacific
- ⑥ Defense diplomacy as central focus (eg Brahmas export to Philippine)
- ⑦ Vision of Net security provides → ASEAN critical for maritime partnership
- ⑧ Resolving Chinese aggression in IP → mutual goal of ASEAN & India. Both need to solve their bilateral differences for holistic partnership

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.11) Discuss the various administrative challenges faced by local self-governments (LSGs). What measures do you suggest for devolving administrative powers to LSGs, enabling them to function as institutions of genuine self-governance? (15 marks, 250 words)

स्थानीय स्वशासन (LSGs) के सामने आने वाली विभिन्न प्रशासनिक चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। स्थानीय स्वशासन को प्रशासनिक शक्तियाँ सौंपने के लिए आप क्या उपाय सुझाते हैं, जिससे वे वास्तविक स्वशासन की संस्थाओं के रूप में कार्य कर सकें? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Local self government was constitutionalised in India by 73rd & 74th CAA 1992, ensuring Democratic decentralisation.

- Major provisions
- a) Addition of 11th & 12th schedule for function devolution
 - b) SFC, SECs formation
 - c) 3 tier structure in PR
 - d) DPC (A 243 2D) for planning
 - e) Voluntary provisions → States can devolve funds & powers
 - f) Reservation for SC/ST, women

Admin Challenges

① Funds devolution weak + Internal resource generation only 15%.

- ① Functional devolution under Schedule 11th & 12th not properly done → lack of state will
- ② Vacancies → functionaries absent → affecting delivery capacity
- ③ Lack of training in administration to PRI members → affect their working
- ④ Decentralisation of corruption as per Manishakar Aiyar (C)
- ⑤ Functionality weak → 2nd ARC highlighted it
- ⑥ Dependent on bureaucracy for power & implementation (noted by GVK Rao)
- ⑦ Infra poor (e) only 43% connected with internet

Measures

- ① Digitalise their functioning (e) eGram Swaraj portal

- ② Capacity building of members of PRI and municipalities (eg) Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
- ③ Funds autonomy (eg) municipal bonds recommended by Sumit Bose (C)
- ④ Functional devolution can be made compulsory for effective devolution
- ⑤ Timely elections + Strengthen SECs
- ⑥ SFC can be empowered for funds allocations + recommendⁿ compulsory
- ⑦ DPG to be strengthened for local planning (eg) localisation of SDGs in Madhya
- ⑧ National body for governing & supervising LSG
- ⑨ Citizen Charter + social audits for accountability + participation
- ⑩ Vacancies of Panchayat secretaries etc to be filled
LSG can ensure Gandhi's dream of Gram Swaraj (A-40)

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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



Q.12) In light of recent developments, the Collegium system and the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014 have once again come under scrutiny. Do you think that a NJAC-like body can make judicial appointments more transparent, broad-based, and accountable? Justify your answer. (15 marks, 250 words)

हाल के घटनाक्रमों के मद्देनजर, कॉलेजियम प्रणाली और राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ति आयोग (NJAC) अधिनियम, 2014 को रद्द करने का सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का फैसला एक बार फिर जांच के दायरे में आ गया है। क्या आपको लगता है कि NJAC जैसा कोई निकाय न्यायिक नियुक्तियों को अधिक पारदर्शी, व्यापक और जवाबदेह बना सकता है? अपने उत्तर का औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 124 governs the appointment of judges in the Supreme Court. It has been under constant debate.

Recent developments -

- ↳ Yashwant Verma Case → Bash in the house
- ↳ Appointment delays in SC & HC by govt.
- ↳ Criticisms by retired judges as well as allegations of biasness by current judges

Evolution of Collegium

1982	1992	1994	2014
1st judge case	2nd judge case	3rd judge case	2014 NJAC case (IV)

NJAC can make appointments

- Transparent →
- a) Ensure clear criterias for appointment
 - b) Appointment based on merits rather than 'Uncle judge' syndrome
 - c) Talpke 'backdoor' affair criticism of collegium
 - d) Based on majority votes → no discrimination

Broad based

- a) NJAC consisting of varied members → women, SC/ST etc → inclusivity promotⁿ
- b) Broad set of parameters for appointments, for holistic competency
- c) Publicised working & reasons ensure openness

Accountable

- a) Ensure merit based appointment & explainⁿ for it

- b) Balance judiciary & executive interference in appointment
- c) checks abuse of power by judiciary → no imperio in imperum (Ambedkar)
- d) checks & balances → NJAC a better alternative to collegium

Issues

- a) Executive interference in judiciary → undermine independence
- b) Undue influence → compromise autonomy of judges
- c) Can weaker judicial scrutiny & review of Govt & judges might be chosen with a bias
- d) Separation of power doctrine challenged
- e) checks & balances might be harmed.

NJAC is a good initiative based on UK model

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.13) Differentiate between the clemency powers of the Presidents of India and the USA. Also, critically examine the vesting of clemency power in the executive. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

भारत और अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपतियों की क्षमादान शक्तियों के बीच अंतर बताइए। साथ ही, कार्यपालिका में क्षमादान शक्ति के निहित होने की आलोचनात्मक जांच कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India has a parliamentary system wherein President is the nominal head of state.

US has presidential system wherein he is the real head.

many substantial differences exist b/w both

Clemency Power

US

a) US president has complete authority to decide on pardon/commute etc.

b) Lower! - can pardon death sentence, even military orders etc.

India

a) Indian Pres act on the advice of COM not otherwise

b) AiZ → power to commute, remit respite, and pardon..

c) Prez is the final authority, can't be questioned

c) Can be under judicial review in exceptional cases

d) Vested with real & wide powers to ensure judicial coexistence scope

d) Not real only nominal as PM act as real head and he advises

US
Prez - less legislative power, full executive powers, chose VP

Other differences
India
→ legislative, executive, judicial emergency powers

→ a) Both can pardon & death sentence

Similarities → b) Both can pardon sentences of military tribunals as well

→ c) Can commute, remit also

Vesting clemency pwr in Executive

Positives

- ① Ensure checks on judicial powers & scope for correction
- ② Gives executive discretion to ensure complete justice
- ③ Checks & balances between diff. organs of state
- ④ Ensure accountability of executive towards ensuring justice

Negative

- 1) Against separation of powers
- 2) → potential for misuse of power
- 3) Politicisation chances as executive can use it for political gains
- 4) Hampers judicial independence & undermine its authority by revising its judgement

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.14) What constitutes corrupt practices under the Representation of the People Act, 1951? Also, discuss the challenges in curbing such malpractices and suggest remedial measures.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत भ्रष्ट आचरण क्या है? साथ ही, ऐसे कुप्रथाओं को रोकने में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें और उपचारात्मक उपाय सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

RPA 1951 provides for comprehensive details regarding what constitutes corrupt practices and their penalties.

Section 133

- ↳ Promotion of hate, animosity among people on the basis of caste, religion etc (eg Abhram Singh case)
- ↳ Promoting social evils → dowry, sati, domestic violence etc
- ↳ Corruption and misuse of govt. machinery for political gains
- ↳ booth capturing, vote rigging and undue influence on voters

↳ Violating MCC, 48hr silence period, false affidavit to EC

Section 8(1) → prohibit persons convicted under PCA, UAPA, Sati Act

Section 8(2) → prohibit for dowry
Section 9 → states in govt contracts, corruption, bribery etc.

Sec 8(3) → convicted for 2 yrs +

Challenges → a) Blatant violations

⊕ Hate speeches

b) low conviction rates → 46%

criminalisation in Lok Sabha

c) Expenditure limits not adhered

→ 17th Lok Sabha → 8000 cr +

d) Powers of EC limited → can't penalise violation

e) Biasness allegation on EC

⊕ Sharphard CM case.

f) Malpractices such as booth capture still prevalent (eg) Vellore case.

g) Misuse of political power by ruling parties to garner votes

h) low & infrequent actions against violating candidates

Measures

① State funding of elections for clean elections (Indrajit Gupta ©)

② Empower EC to penalise violation (Achesh Goswami)

③ Fast track courts to expedite cases of crimes by MPs

④ Penal provision for false disclosure of assets, criminal records

⑤ Parties & candidates under RTI

⑥ MCC legalisation → NCRWC

⑦ Strict checks on hate speech → bring law for lifetime ban on candidates

Feedback

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P & R			
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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.15) Discuss the role of the Vice-President as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Also describe the procedure for his/her removal from office. (15 marks, 250 words)

राज्य सभा के सभापति के रूप में उपराष्ट्रपति की भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। साथ ही, उनके पद से हटाए जाने की प्रक्रिया का भी वर्णन करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 63 provides for the office of Vice President in the Indian system of government with varied powers & responsibilities

Role

- ① Act as President when P is not in office due to absence, illness, death or otherwise
→ maintain continuity in the system
- ② Ex officio chairman of Rajya Sabha
↳ a) enable house of discussing and debating on various issues
↳ b) Maintain decorum in the house for conduct

c) Ensure rule of procedure of Rajya Sabha are implemented for smooth functioning

d) Guardian of privileges of the house (e) Secret sitting

e) Enable voting on bills

f) Casting vote in case of tie

g) Accept various motions by opposition (e) Adjournment etc

h) Presides over the house as the neutral person → protect every member's right to speak etc.

Concerns → a) Ruling party bias since they elect them/her

→ b) Less powers compared to Lok Sabha speaker (e) Anti Defection, Money bill

Procedure for removal -

- ① No grounds have been mentioned in Constitution for his removal
- ② Members (atleast 50) must sign a petition and submit to the house for removal.
- ③ must be passed with effective majority \rightarrow $\frac{2}{3}$ of current strength of Rajya Sabha + Agreed to by Lok Sabha \rightarrow simple majority
- ④ Vice Pres can be present but can't vote \rightarrow house presided over by Deputy Chairman.
- ⑤ After passing of resolution - VP stand removed from his office.
No VP has been removed so far.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.16) "Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a viable solution to eradicate extreme poverty in India." Critically discuss the statement. (15 marks, 250 words)

"भारत में अत्यधिक निर्धनता को मिटाने के लिए सार्वभौमिक बुनियादी आय (UBI) एक व्यवहार्य समाधान है।" इस कथन का आलोचनात्मक वर्णन करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

UBI refers to provision of a basic monetary support provided to all citizens to meet their basic needs by state's support.

Viable solution to poverty eradication

① Ensure income support to poor sections by monthly cash transfers.

② Gives flexibility of expenditure to fulfill one's needs (eg) Spend on health/education etc.

③ In line with UNDP's recommendation of daily income of at \$1.9 for sustenance

- ④ Can boost consumption among poor population (eg) spending on basic needs → food, clothes
- ⑤ Ensure minimum living standards
(eg) Provision of water, food etc through OBI
- ⑥ Enhance resilience to shocks such as crop failure, accidents
- ⑦ Reduce out of pocket expenditure on health & education
- ⑧ Women empowerment by financial support → ensure fiscal autonomy
- ⑨ Old age protection to every elderly → support healthy ageing

Concerns →

- ① Extra burden of subsidies →
2% GDP spend on subsidy annually

- ② Inflationary effect → too much cash flow in economy
 - ③ Burden on exchequer → already many welfare schemes
 - ④ Income for all against distributive justice to margin alised
 - ⑤ Reduce Capex potential of Govt → populist expenditure rise
 - ⑥ May not reduce poverty if spent on wrongful things such as liquor
 - ⑦ High prices of goods → UBI might not fulfil all the needs
 - ⑧ Multidimensional nature of poverty → housing, educational needs etc
- UBI can ensure fulfilment of DPSP - Article 42 but needs to be studied better.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
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TOTAL MARKS			

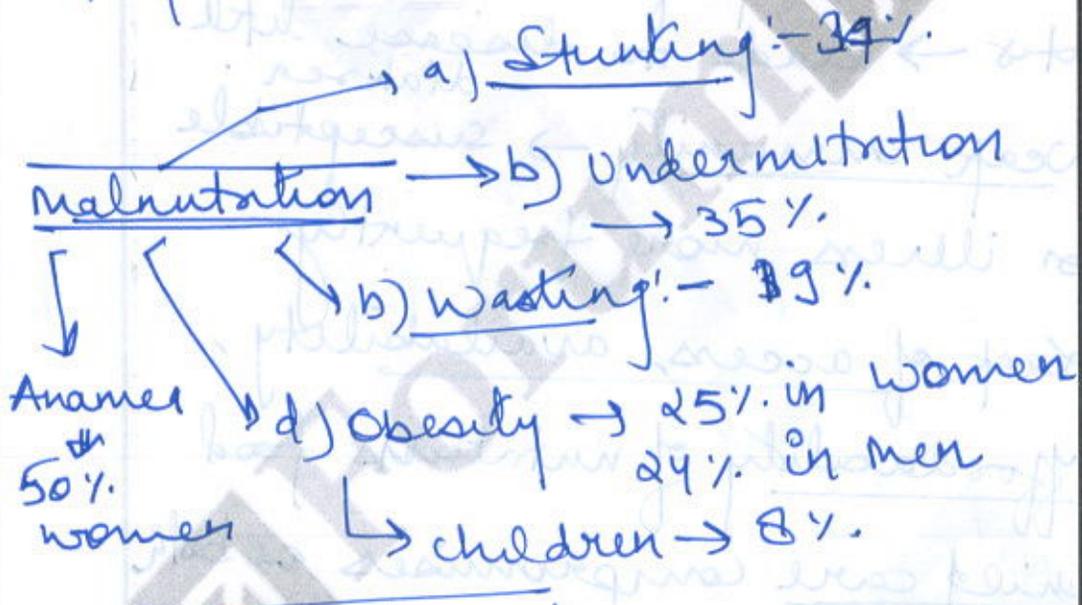


Q.17) What are the key determinants of malnutrition among under-five children in the country? Also, elaborate on the role of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in addressing this issue.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

देश में पांच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों में कुपोषण के मुख्य निर्धारक क्या हैं? साथ ही, इस मुद्दे को संबोधित करने में पोषण-विशिष्ट और पोषण-संवेदनशील हस्तक्षेपों की भूमिका पर विस्तार से चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Malnutrition is the silent epidemic in India with more than 100 per lakh under five mortality linked to malnutrition.



Key determinants

① Poor nutrition :- lack of balanced diet & micronutrient rich food @ Vitamin deficiency common

- 2) Poverty → leads to food insecurity & undernourished kids (11% MDP)
- 3) Under-ge mothers & unhealthy mothers → give birth to malnourished kids
- 4) WASH → unhygienic surrounding + lack of clean drinking water → leads to disease like diarrhea.
- 5) Weak immunity → susceptible to illness more frequently.
- 6) Lack of access, availability, affordability of nutritious food
- 7) Child care compromises as both parents working
- 8) Lack of awareness among parents regarding child's needs
- 10) Vaccination not completed.

Role of nutrition-specific & sensitive interventions →

<u>Interventⁿ</u>	<u>Role</u>
POSHAN Abhiyan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure holistic nutrition with focus on micronutrient • Promote <u>community awareness</u> about balanced diet • Promote nutri garden, kitchens & pathshala for children
ICDS (Anganwadi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination as well as food for children → ensure dietary needs are met
MDM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse food grains + fruits + milk etc provided @ <u>100ml</u> daily, for holistic growth
Promotion of millets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet micronutrient needs of kids
Fortified milk and food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targetted supply of nutrients to kids

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.18) "Data is the raw material of Artificial Intelligence." In this context, discuss the need for transparent and accountable data governance frameworks in India. What steps has the government taken in this regard? (15 marks, 250 words)

"डेटा आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस की आधारभूत सामग्री है।" इस संदर्भ में, भारत में पारदर्शी और जवाबदेह डेटा गवर्नेंस ढाँचे की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा करें। सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाए हैं? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

'Data' is now raw material of AI as huge data is needed to train machines into mimicking human intelligence.

a) Ensure use of data is consent based

Data governance → b) Protect privacy of individual data

c) Manage huge flow of data

d) Promote data localisation

e) Data security by protecting from cyber attacks

f) Active steps for data protection and legal framework for data usage by big data firms

Need for transparent & accountable
data governance →

- a) huge amount of data created every minute (eg) Google searches or ChatGPT responses
- b) misuse by firms (eg) Cambridge analytic case
- c) Potential of data leaks or cyber espionage of sensitive data
(eg) Govt. files of defense
- d) Monopolisation by big firms
Such as Meta, Amazon
- e) Data sovereignty concerns
(eg) Using user data for civilian targeting
- f) Threat to internal security & Law & order (eg) Terrorist org using data for radicalisation
- g) Accountability fixing of firms & govt.

h) Part of RTI → people deserve transparent knowledge of data usage.

Steps taken

① DPDP Act 2024 → overarching framework.

a) Creation of data Protection board

b) 'Consent' mandatory from data principles

c) Right to erasure of data after use

d) Due diligence by data fiduciary

e) Duty to ensure data is not misused.

② Awareness Campaign by MeitY

③ Institutional Response → ITC, CERT IN

④ IT Act 2008 & IT Rules → govern data processing & privacy

⑤ Strengthened RTI for public scrutiny.

Data is new oil, it must not create fire hazard.

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.19) Critically examine the role of International Monetary Fund (IMF) in addressing debt distress in the Global South. How can India use its post-G20 presidency momentum to push IMF reforms?

(15 marks, 250 words)

वैश्विक दक्षिण में ऋण संकट से निपटने में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) की भूमिका का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। भारत G20 की अध्यक्षता के बाद अपनी प्रस्थिति का उपयोग IMF सुधारों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए कैसे कर सकता है?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

IMF was established in the Bretton Wood conference in 1946 to regulate global monetary flows.

Role in addressing debt distress —

- ① Provides funds to tackle urgent BoP crises eg India in 1991
- ② Relief from high interest rates by giving concessional loans eg Pakistan recent loan.
- ③ Support weak economies by giving respite in debt repayment eg African nations
- ④ Protect countries of Global South from debt trap →

- (eg) Chinese loans led to debt trap → Sri Lanka, Pak etc.
- ⑤ Transparent procedure + loan conditions unlike China
- ⑥ Reduce dependence on other players such as open market
- ⑦ Help in restructuring of economy → promote LPG reforms.

Issues

- ① US hegemony instrument → voting rights 27% to US
- ② Biased institution → promotes interest of western institutions
- ③ Conditionalities such as opening economies → long term loss
- ④ SDR allocation also skewed towards global north → (eg) India only 2%.
- ⑤ couldn't provide debt relief in many countries

India & IMF reforms

- ① Build on G20 consensus regarding IMF reforms → follow up diplomatically
- ② Global South leadership to act as powerful bloc in IMF
- ③ Collab with like minded nations
 - ④ India - Japan Asia Africa growth corridor
- ④ Leverage economic strength → 4th largest economy in world
- ⑤ Soft power use → to nudge nations for multilateral reforms
- ⑥ Use its growing international reputation @ BRICS platform
- ⑦ Focus on alternatives @ NDB.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			



Q.20) "In a fluid geopolitical arena, engagement without formal endorsement is a pragmatic middle path." Do you agree? Explain in the context of India's current approach towards the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. (15 marks, 250 words)

"एक अस्थिर भू-राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में, औपचारिक समर्थन के बिना जुड़ाव एक व्यावहारिक मध्यम मार्ग है।" क्या आप सहमत हैं? अफ़गानिस्तान में तालिबान शासन के प्रति भारत के वर्तमान दृष्टिकोण के संदर्भ में व्याख्या करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

World is going through a phase of constant flux, with rapidly changing geopolitical arena.

eg US under Trump, EU's use of right, Chinese aggression etc.

why formal endorsements not preferred →

a) complicates partnership → as world powers intervene eg India Afghan under wraps

b) complexities involved eg Taliban a terror org

c) global image & reputation at stake
→ thus need of covert diplomacy

d) Rigidities in engagements

Engagement without endorsement

① Ensure diplomatic ties are maintained



eg India afghan shares deep ties

② Maintain continuity in relations

eg People's People ties in Afghans

③ Protect mutual interest eg Counter Pak's terror propoganda.

④ Ensure synergy on existing arenas of cooperation

a) Economic

India - Afghans trade ties + Indian investment in Afghans (CoC - \$10bn)

b) Political

SAARC, Centrod Asia, Isan connect

c) Projects such as building of Salma Dam, Parliament etc by India

⑤ Gives diplomatic headstart →
 (eg) China - Russia - Pak already engaging

⑥ Prevent black-box syndrome →
 maintain communication b/w nations

⑦ Issue based partnership with flexibility

Concerns → a) Continued human rights violation by Taliban in Afg
 → b) Against idealistic principles of India (eg) Democracy
 → c) Terror sponsorship → J & K militancy
 → d) Pak' leverage in Afg hamper India-Afg ties

way ahead → a) Can deepen partnership (eg) Mutual cooperation
 → b) I2P ties strengthen.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Test Goal

- 1
- 2
- 3

Outcomes

- 1
- 2
- 3



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.

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