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31 JAN 2026

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UPPSC MAINS 2025

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटेForumIAS
ForumIAS
DEMYMaximum Marks : 200
अधिकतम अंक : 200

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Animesh Kumar Singh		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910097525	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र		Date/दिनांक	25/01/2026

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	
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Total/कुल अंक	200		

1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (OCA) Booklet in the space provided.
उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।

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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :	Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :
	12:00 pm	3:00 pm
Total Marks/कुल अंक :	Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

*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 सफर रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में प्रसन्न आये के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हें तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।

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.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

लघु उत्तरीय प्रश्न

Section-A / खण्ड-अ

Q.1) Examine the evolving dynamics of fiscal federalism in India after the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) के क्रियान्वयन के बाद भारत में राजकोषीय संघवाद की उभरती गतिशीलता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(8 Marks)

101st Constitutional amendment (GST Act) brought many changes in indirect tax governance and thus affected India's fiscal federalism.

Evolving dynamics of fiscal federalism after GST

1. Brought uniformity - through simple and clear tax slabs instead of multiple tax regime.
 e.g. → GST Act subsumed over 20 indirect taxes.
2. Ease of doing business :- through better tax governance and reducing cascading effect.
3. Role of central government :- Earlier various indirect taxes collected and distributed by states. e.g. → Service tax
4. Enhancing tax revenue collection - GST collection has surpassed the mark of Rs 2 lakh Crore.

5. Compensation over loss → for five years to losses due to new tax regime to states.

6. Uniform market - it promoted uniformity in market through uniform, single tax regime.

GST implementation does affected asymmetrical fiscal federalism, it has raised various challenges:-

- 1> Fiscal autonomy of states eroded.
- 2> Composition of GST council favour centre.
- 3> Issue of cess and surcharges, which is not shared by centre to states.

4> Rate rationalization is still a problem.

5> Delay in payment of compensation amount to states.

Thus, while GST implementation strengthen tax compliances and collection, it is necessary to ensure trust between state and centre for robust fiscal federalism and co-operative federalism in the country.

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			

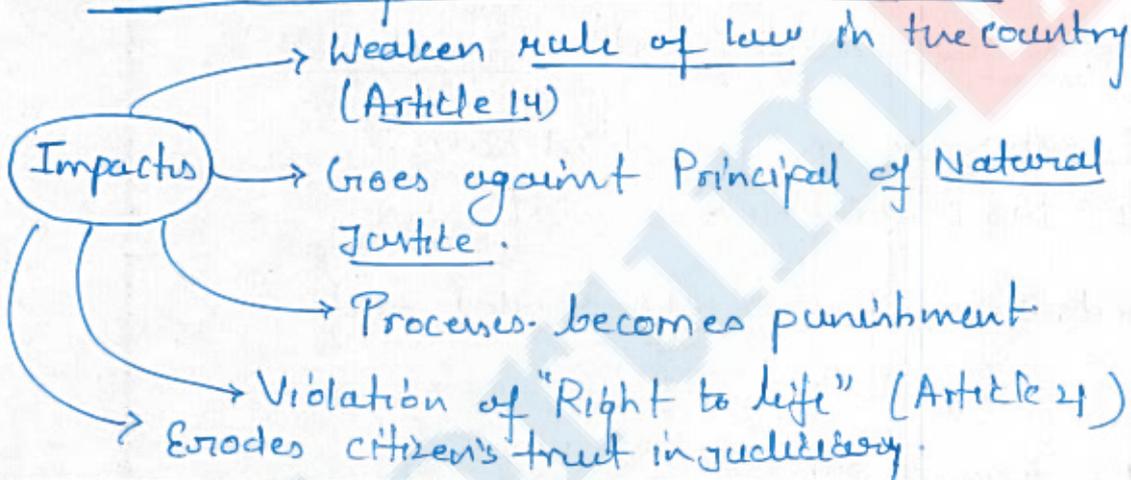
Q.2) "Judicial delays undermine access to justice in India." Discuss recent initiatives for judicial reforms and evaluate their effectiveness.

"न्यायिक देरी भारत में निवारण के अधिकार (access to justice) को कमजोर बनाती है।" हालिया न्यायिक सुधार पहलों पर चर्चा करें और उनकी प्रभावशीलता का मूल्यांकन करें।

(8 Marks)

Under Article 21, Indian Constitution guarantee its citizen "Right to speedy Justice", the same was reiterated by Supreme Court in Hussainara Khatoon case.

"Judicial delay undermine access to justice"



Recent initiative for judicial reforms

1. Legal Service Act and Lok Adalat :- for speedy disposal of cases at grassroot level.
2. Promotion of Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanism.
3. Establishment of fast track and special courts
e.g. Family court, NDPS courts etc.

4. E-court projects - to enhance transparency and monitoring.
5. Establishment of Tribunals :- after 42nd Constitution - an amendment to reduce workloads of court under Article 323A and Article 323B.
 e.g. National Green Tribunal

Effectiveness

1. Reduces time of criminal case disposal from 6-7 year to 2-3 years (Justice Clock Report)
2. Brought expertise in specialized cases.
 e.g. NGT for environmental cases.
3. Expedited cases of MP/MLA related and POCSO.
4. Faith of citizens in Supreme Courts and high courts have increased.

In nutshell, delayed justice is equivalent to denied justice. It erodes public trust, increases lawyers and gross violation of constitutional morality.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.3) Evaluate the proposal of 'One Nation, One Election' in the context of its constitutional and administrative feasibility.

एक राष्ट्र, एक चुनाव' के प्रस्ताव का इसके संवैधानिक और प्रशासनिक व्यवहार्यता (feasibility) के संदर्भ में मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(8 Marks)

Simultaneous election is a process of conducting Parliamentary election and assembly election simultaneously to reduce instances of policy paralysis.

Constitutional feasibility

Aspect	Feasible	Infeasible
History	From 1952 - 1967, both election held simultaneously	It happened due to circumstances and not due to constitutional provision
Amendments	Article 368 provides for such amendment - 5	The same provision require sanction of 50% of States, difficult in case of ruling party misrule.
Political	It ensure better utilization of resources like security forces, continuation of projects etc.	It may benefit national parties favourably than regional and small parties.

Judicial aspect	Earlier judgements are favour	Kesavanand Bhargava's Case made Federalism as a part of Basic structure.
Article 356	It can be made through consensual approach	It goes against principle of representative democracy

Administrative context

Pros	Cons
1. Better utilization of revenues.	1. Revenues are meant for promotion of <u>democracy</u> .
2. It enhance policy implementation	2. Same can be done through consultation approach.
3. It reduce voter's fatigue instances.	3. The same can be done through simplification of voting and enhancing voter's education.

Thus, One Nation One Election has various implications for the constitution and political system. Consultation and broader consensus is a way forward.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.4) Discuss the implications of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 on the federal structure and citizen privacy.

डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 के संघीय ढांचे और नागरिकों की गोपनीयता पर प्रभावों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(8 Marks)

To protect citizen's digital data and enhance governance around processing, collection and utilization of digital data in the country, DPDP Act 2023 was enacted by the Parliament.

Implication on federal structure

Positive implications

1. Uniformity in role and responsibilities of authority.
2. Ensure better compliances by various stakeholders.
3. Brought uniformity in national standards.

Negative implications

1. Limited role of states in authority, violates principle of co-operative federalism.
2. Burden on states in terms of fiscal drain on compliances and implementation.
3. Expanded Union power, thus promote asymmetrical federalism.

Implications on Citizen's Privacy :-> Positive and Negative

1. Recognition of citizen's privacy, realisation K.S. Puttaswamy case.
2. Clear structure and cases for retaining personal citizen's data by the government.
3. Centre's power to retain personal information without judicial oversight is a challenge.
4. Appointment of protection authority is carried by central executive, it's no-independent body for appointment.
5. Absence of data localization mandate, non follow-up of recommendation of B.N. Sri Krishna Committee.

Thus, DPDP Act 2023 enhance country's digital governance, however non-involvement of states in appointment and implementation raises questions on full realisation of intent of the Act.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.5) Examine the major barriers to the full realization of women's empowerment in rural India

ग्रामीण भारत में महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण की पूर्ण प्राप्ति में प्रमुख बाधाओं की परीक्षा कीजिए। (8 Marks)

Feminization of agriculture is a new phenomenon that has been observed rural India wherein women are left with workload of both household and fieldwork due to outmigration of male workers

Major obstacles to women's empowerment in rural India



1. Social and cultural barriers:-

a) Prevalance of child marriage:

eg) NFHS-5 data show married women between age 21 to 23, 37% reported marriage before 18.

b) Rigid social norms and gender based role.

eg) Household chores are meant for women.

2. Discrimination and crime against women:-

↳ NCRB 2023 data shows Uttar Pradesh recorded highest in crime against women.

3. Access to quality healthcare:-

↳ prevalence of anemia (NFHS-5 findings)

4. Access to credit:- due to high interest rate, non-holding of intangible property.

5. Education and equitable opportunity:- Burdened with household chores and early marriage.

↳ ASER finding suggest lower learning among rural girls

Steps taken

1. Education:- scholarships and residential school system

2. Health:- Aanganwadi system, free immunization, PMMVY, Maternity benefits

3. Economic empowerment - concession in registry fee while purchasing property in women's names

4. Political empowerment → 73rd Constitutional amendment

According to McKenney Report, gender equality enhance GDP by 1.4%.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.6) Evaluate the challenges in ensuring quality and ethical standards in medicines and healthcare access for children in India.

भारत में बच्चों के लिए गुणवत्तापूर्ण और नैतिक मानकों वाले औषधियों तथा स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुँच सुनिश्चित करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (8 Marks)

Part IV and Part IVA of the Indian Constitution provides for well-being of children including their health and education.

↳ Article 45, Article 51A

Challenges in ensuring quality and ethical standards in medicine and access to health for children

Challenges for access to medicine

1. Low monitoring and testing of medicines :-
↳ Children cough syrup scandal.
2. Lower expenses on Research and development.
↳ Total India's R&D expenditure stood at 0.67%.
3. Low awareness among parents.
4. Weak ethical oversight in clinical trials of medicines.

Challenges pertaining to access to health

1. Out of pocket expenditure is high, decline of public health sector.
2. Blackmarketing of medicines from government hospitals.
3. Lack of sufficient pediatric doctors in the country.
4. Poor pediatric wards in government sector hospitals.

Way forward

1. Enhancing ethical and regulatory oversight
2. Increasing budget of public health sector from 2% to 6%.
3. Training and education of medical profession - also by Medical Council of India.

Thus, Children are future of a country, an asset that can yield infinite benefits with right approach towards their health and education.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.7) Evaluate the significance of Mission Karmayogi in transforming India's bureaucracy from a 'rule-based' to a 'role-based' system.

भारत की नौकरशाही को 'नियम-आधारित' से 'भूमिका-आधारित' प्रणाली में परिवर्तित करने में मिशन कर्मयोगी के महत्व का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(8 Marks)

Mission Karmayogi is a central programme for training and capacity building of bureaucrats. It marked a shift from rule-based training system to role-based system.

Significance in transforming India's bureaucracy

1. Uniformity in programme :- Earlier training programmes were divided into silos programmes.
2. Monitoring and evaluation :- through digital platform.
 ↳ iGOT platform
3. Performance based role - it evaluate performance of trainee and assigned according to their capacity.
4. Result-oriented training - specific training with desired outcomes are included under this.

5. Capacity building through field work is emphasized under this.

Though the mission intended to improve capacity building of the bureaucrats, it has faced several challenges -

- a) Resistance to change amongst officials.
- b) Limitations of Weberian bureaucratic model. i.e. Hierarchy-based role.
- c) Privacy and security - of data of officials susceptible to digital breach.
- d) Overcentralization of programme may hinder state-specific needs.

In conclusion, mission karmyogi success depends on overall adoption, quality and implementation of the programme.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.8) Analyze India's 'Engagement without formal recognition' policy towards the Taliban-led regime in Afghanistan.

भारत की अफगानिस्तान में तालिबान-नेतृत्व वाले शासन के प्रति 'औपचारिक मान्यता के बिना संलग्नता' नीति का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(8 Marks)

Recently India open its comulcate in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, without formal recognition of Taliban-led regime and held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi.

Significance of India's action

1. Emphasis on strategic autonomy while following foreign policy.
2. Historical ties - the move is aligned with cultural and people-to-people relation.
3. Regional peace and security - Taliban's sole government in the region is significance.
4. Countering Pale-China symmetry.
5. Crucial for success of India's Central Asia's approach.

5. In alignment with actions of other PS nation of UNSC.

↳ USA's negotiation with Taliban forces

Consequences of such move

1. It gives legitimacy to non-elected government.
2. Undermine India's long-standing position of Afghan relation by Afghan people.
3. May collude with Pakistan in furthering anti-India activity in Jammu and Kashmir.

↑

Thus, India's engagement with Taliban without recognition, reflect India's commitment towards regional peace and security and welfare of Afghan's citizen.

Feedback

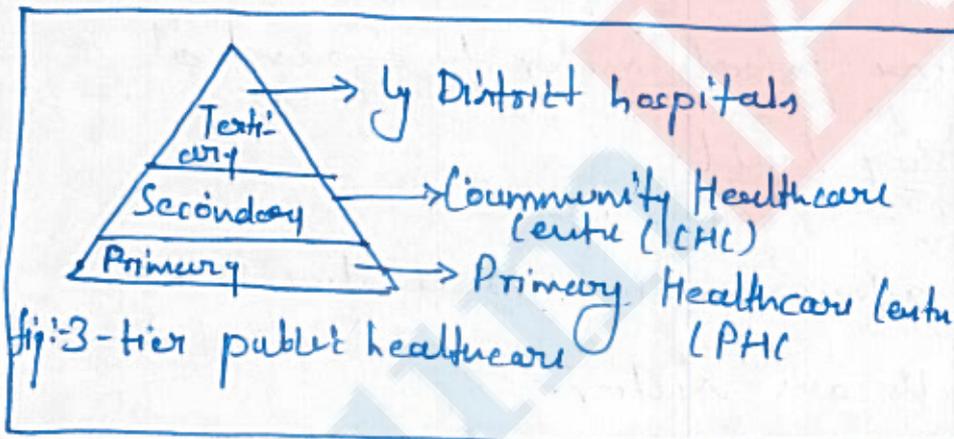
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.9) Evaluate the current state of Public Health Infrastructure in India, focusing on the need for decentralized primary healthcare.

भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना की वर्तमान स्थिति का मूल्यांकन करें, विशेषकर विकेंद्रीकृत प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की आवश्यकता पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए। (8 Marks)

India's public health infrastructure is divided in primary level (by PHC), at secondary level (by CHCs) and tertiary level (by District hospitals).



Current state:-

1. Negligence of Primary Healthcare Centres:-
Only 65% PHCs are functional.
2. Inadequate staff and buildings - issues like power-cut, availability of beds, decade-old buildings.
3. Non-availability of medicine and non-functionality of radiology departments.

4. Urban - rural divide - healthcare infrastructure in urban areas are better than rural areas' government hospitals.

Need for decentralized primary healthcare

1. Empowering local bodies and expanding their responsibility.
2. Allowing private sector to expand at primary level.
3. To address urban-rural divide in healthcare sector.

Thus, improvement of public healthcare infrastructure required restructured approach like PM-JAY to improve public health in the country.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.10) Examine the strategic significance of the Quad grouping for India in the context of the Indo-Pacific region

हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र के संदर्भ में भारत के लिए काड समूह के रणनीतिक महत्व का परीक्षण करें।
(8 Marks)

Quad is a informal grouping of India, USA, Japan and Australia. Idea of Quad, originated in 2008, propounded by Japan's former PM Shinzo Abe.

Strategic Significance of Quad in Indo-Pacific region

1. A grouping of democratic nations - as it is based on democratic values of free, open and conflict free Indo-Pacific.
2. Countering China's aggression in the region :-
China's unilateral maritime border (Nine-dash line) undermine UNCLOS rules, in this context Quad is crucial to uphold international law.
3. In alliance with other initiative :-
 - ⇒ Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

4. Climate-change :- causing sea level rise in the region, can ~~disrupt~~ cause maritime border disputes.

5. Presence of USA - USA's economic and military power deter any agreement in the region.

Given its strategic importance, it has suffered various setbacks in recent time -

a) Informality of the grouping and absence of Charter outlining its objective.

b) Irregular meetings of the grouping.
 (e.g.) No meeting in 2025

c) Different version of extent of Indo-Pacific region among members.

Thus, Quad has potential to ensure free, open Indo-Pacific and upholding international law like UNCLOS.

Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

दीर्घ उत्तरीय प्रश्न

Section-B / खण्ड-ब

Q.11) "Local bodies are critical to achieving good governance at the grassroots level." Discuss the major current challenges faced by Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities, with special reference to Uttar Pradesh.

"स्थानीय निकाय जमीनी स्तर पर सुशासन प्राप्त करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।" उत्तर प्रदेश के विशेष संदर्भ में, पंचायती राज संस्थाओं और नगर पालिकाओं के सामने आने वाली प्रमुख वर्तमान चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(12 Marks)

73rd and 74th constitutional amendments granted constitutional status to local governance and brought uniformity and continuity in local governance. Despite constitutional guarantees, local bodies faced problem such as devolution of power and finances.

Significance of local bodies in good governance

- ① Democratic decentralization of governance in the country.
- ② Rural development - through involvement of local population in planning and execution of plan.
- ③ Women Empowerment :- it promotes participation of women in governance.

→ ④ Promoting transparency and accountability in governance through enhanced citizen participation.

Key challenges faced by local bodies

☐ Panchayati Raj Institutions and municipalities

i) Devolution of power :- Out of 29 mandated subjects under 11th schedule, only 16 are granted to Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh.

ii) Financial challenges -

a) Only 10% of finances owned by local bodies, rest are funded by state and central governments.

b) Non-implementation of local taxes such as house tax, irrigation tax, marketplace tax, these constraints financial autonomy of the bodies.

iii) Capacity building -

a) Training of representatives of local bodies is inadequate, it severely affects effectiveness of local bodies.

b) Lack of staff and supportive ecosystem:-

→ Over 50% of PRIs lacks secretaries of Panchayats in the states.

iv) Empowerment of weaker sections:-

a) Seat reservations for women, SC, ST community is dynamic, which affects the community empowerment

b) Issue of Ghost Sarpanch:- Often women village headperson are represented by their husbands.

v) Audit and accountability - social audit of accounts of local bodies are irregular.

Thus, local bodies are key element in ensuring participatory and citizen-centric governance in state like Uttar Pradesh.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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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.12) Evaluate the challenges posed by the rapid expansion of digital surveillance technologies to democratic rights. What safeguards must states adopt post-Puttaswamy judgment?

डिजिटल निगरानी तकनीकों के तेज़ी से बढ़ते विस्तार से लोकतांत्रिक अधिकारों के समक्ष उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। पुट्टस्वामी निर्णय के बाद राज्यों को कौन से सुरक्षा उपाय अपनाने चाहिए? (12 Marks)

Digital surveillance refers to collection, processing and utilization of public data using digital technologies. It is strictly regulated for government with Judicial oversight for any surveillance.

Recent digital surveillance technologies

- 1) Facial recognition technologies used for at streets, stations and airports.
- 2) Biometric data collection including fingerprints in Aadhar system.
- 3) Softwares → digital software like Pegasus used in phones and digital systems.

These evolving technologies pose serious challenges for citizen safety and raise various legal issues in using such technologies:-

1. Erodes citizen privacy:- Without consent of citizen, usage of their data is illegal.

2. Inculcate fear among citizen:- as there can be used against them and falsely accusation in cases.
3. Growth of mistrust:- any such apprehension fuel mistrust and pose challenges of social unrest.
4. Authoritarianism:- rapid usage of such technologies by governments and its bodies can give birth to state of dictatorship in the country.
5. Manipulation and nudging:- citizen's data can be used for manipulation and nudging for a particular political beliefs.

Given its serious implications for citizen in a democratic country, safeguards are essential; particular after Puttaswamy judgement of Right to Privacy:-

Safeguards

1. Legal mandate:- clear legislation and rules for usage of citizen's data.

2. Judicial oversight:- Such actions must be scrutinized by judicial process.
3. Implementation of B.N. Srikrishna Committee recommendations:
- ndation: \Rightarrow Localization of public data.
4. Independent body:- separate from executive and accountable to legislature and judiciary.
5. Publication:- Periodic publication of any such action to public after its usage, to ensure public trust.

Democracy is built on trust and legitimacy of its citizen. Any contravention required faithful disclosure and citizen's participation, to ensure public trust in governance.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.13) Analyse the implications of the new criminal laws. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, for policing, investigation, and judicial procedures in states.

नए आपराधिक कानूनों, भारतीय न्याय संहिता, भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता और भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम, का राज्यों में पुलिसिंग, अन्वेषण और न्यायिक प्रक्रियाओं पर प्रभावों का विश्लेषण करें।

(12 Marks)

The new three criminal laws intended to improve access to justice, protection of liberty of citizen and decolonizing Indian laws.

Implication of these laws on Policing

1. Recognition of community-oriented policing.
2. Modernization of police system.
3. Accountability of the system toward its citizens.
4. Integration of digital technologies in police stations.

Implications for investigation

1. Digital led policing - improve quality of the services.

2. Evidence-based investigation - through promotion of forensic analysis.

3. Inter-agency interoperability - improve co-ordination and timely access to crucial information.

1. Promoting time-bound investigation.

Simplification for judicial processes

1. Help in speedy adjudication of cases through improved policing and investigation.

2. Humanitarian approach while dealing with petty crimes. ~~the~~ ^{Instead} harsh bail condition to community workers.

3. Scope for early conclusion of trials without need of ~~other~~ presence of other co-accused.

A. It emphasized judicial training to improve working capacity of judicial workforce.

Way forward

1. Implementation of Prakash Singh case recommendations on Police-reform
2. Separate body for ~~promo~~ appointments and promotion of judicial officers.
3. Improving judicial infrastructure, particularly district courts.
4. Training and capacity building of workforce.
5. Public awareness and feedback mechanism for further improvement.

Thus, these laws opened a new era in criminal justice system in the country by emphasizing citizen-led approach.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.14) Analyse the role and limitations of Parliamentary Committees in ensuring executive accountability. Why is their strengthening important for a robust democracy?

कार्यपालिका की जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने में संसदीय समितियों की भूमिका और सीमाओं का विश्लेषण कीजिए। एक सुदृढ़ लोकतंत्र के लिए उनका सुदृढ़ीकरण क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है? (12 Marks)

Parliamentary committees are extra-constitutional bodies of members of Parliament to ensure detailed scrutiny of legislation, executive actions and expenditure.

Role in ensuring executive accountability

1. Department related Standing committees :- these scrutinize proposed expenses of department.
 e.g. → these committee exclude ministers as member.
2. Bringing expertise :- it can call upon subject experts for detailed scrutiny of actions.
 e.g. → Implementation of demonitization in 2016.
3. Ensure continuity and ~~is~~ non-partisan :- To bring continuity in previous action and political neutrality.
 e.g. → Chairman of PAC from opposition party

4. Financial oversight :- through committee like Public account committee.

↳ CAG report scrutiny by PAC

Its limitation

1. Decline in referral :- ↳ Over 20% bills referred in 17th Lok Sabha compare to 60% in 15th Lok Sabha.

2. Non-binding nature :- their recommendations are not binding for the executive.

3. Political dominance :- by ruling party MPs, main partisan issue of such committee.

↳ JPC on ~~the~~ Waqf Board Bill

4. Capacity building :- MPs are not equipped with parliamentary functioning, particularly newly elected ones.

5. Time constraints :- delay in submission of report.

6. Short-term tenure :- of MPs, generally 1-year term.

Need for strengthening for robust democracy

1. Enhancing executive accountability in times of popular government.
2. Promoting federalism - members from Rajya Sabha act as balancing wheel between centre and state.
3. Transparency - scrutiny by committee ensure transparency.
4. Reducing burden on legislative bodies
5. Reducing passage of hasty and ill equipped legislations.

In conclusion, these bodies are essential for promoting parliamentary democracy, transparency and accountability in the country.

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) "Malnutrition in India is increasingly a governance challenge rather than a food-availability issue." Discuss in the context of POSHAN 2.0 and recent NFHS findings.

"भारत में कुपोषण खाद्य उपलब्धता की समस्या के बजाय शासन की चुनौती बनता जा रहा है।" POSHAN 2.0 और हालिया NFHS निष्कर्षों के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (12 Marks)

As per NFHS-5 data, over 50% women are anemic and MMR stood at 97 per 1 lakh live births.

Malnutrition in India is governance challenge

Context of POSHAN 2.0

1. Overlapping jurisdiction of institutions :-

e.g. Ministry of Women and Child Development:-
- Responsible for policy making for women and children

Ministry of Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs → responsible for food grain procurement and distribution

State agencies → implementing them on ground

2. Issue of fortification of food grains

e.g. Distribution of fortified food grains to sickle cell anaemic patients through TPDS.

3. Bureaucratic hurdles :- excess paperwork, scrutiny of applications of beneficiaries, led delay of delivery to beneficiaries.

4. Issues of One Nation One Ration Card :- led to reduction of quota for beneficiary at both level i.e. home state and migrant's state.

In Context of NFHS

1. Anemia - often due to lack of delivery of nutritious food.

2. MMR rate :- high due to hindrance in accessing public services.

↳ e.g. Odisha tribal ~~women~~ pregnant women died ~~due~~ due to non-availability of ambulance.

3. Malnutrition among children :- over 80% children are either stunted, wasting or underweight.

4. Paradox of obesity - due to imbalance nutrition intake, weak market regulation.
 e.g. → Overconsumption of oil, sugar.

What can be done?

1. Regulatory synergy :- among ministries and department at both levels state and centre.
2. Public health governance - availability quality doctors,
3. Reducing bureaucratic red tapism and increasing role of local bodies.

Thus, it is true that malnutrition is often due to overbureaucratization and mismanagement in governance and not due to non-availability of food grains.

Feedback

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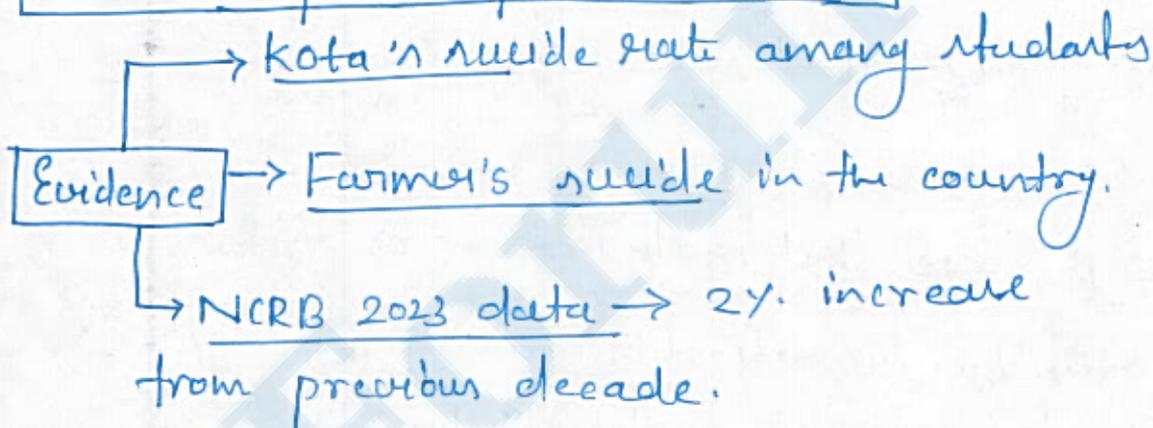
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Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.16) Examine the rise of mental health challenges in India. How effective is the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 in ensuring rights-based mental healthcare?

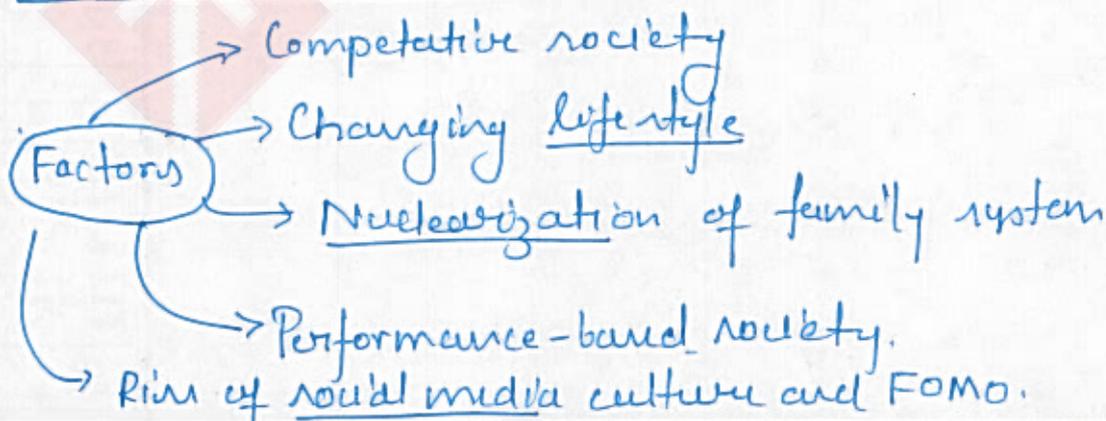
भारत में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य चुनौतियों के बढ़ते प्रसार का परीक्षण कीजिए। अधिकार-आधारित मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवा सुनिश्चित करने में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य देखरेख अधिनियम, 2017 कितना प्रभावी है? (12 Marks)

Mental Health Act, 2017, for the first time recognized the growing epidemic of mental health in the country and tried to change its governance through right-based approach.
 e.g. Between 1990's to 2025 over 3.5 lakhs farmers died by suicide.

Evidence of rise of mental illness



Factors behind the rise



Challenges

1. Low public expenditure - out of total public health expenditure, only 4% are spent on mental health.
2. Low awareness and public negligence - stigma around mental health often discourages people to seek help.
3. Rapid urbanization - by 2033, over 40% population going to live in apartment settings, can boost epidemic of loneliness.
4. Low availability of mental health professionals.
5. Higher cost of diagnosis and treatment
6. Rise of social media culture :- unregulated public generated contents often fuel Fear of Missing Out (FOMO) effect.

Role of Mental Health Act 2017

1. Recognition of rights of patients → right against discrimination.
2. Streamlining of mental health education through advertisement.
3. Promoting ~~effectiveness~~ autonomy of patients.

Effectiveness

- It aligned with UN vision.
- Gives choice to patient, and respect their autonomy
- Addressing stigma and awareness deficit
- Provision of free services for weaker section.

Thus, the act marked a paradigm shift in mental healthcare sector. It gives legal right to patients and visualize vision of Article 21 of the Indian constitution.

Feedback

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

Q.17) Discuss the importance of elderly care in India's ageing demographic context. What reforms are necessary in health, social security, and community support systems?

भारत की वृद्ध होती जनसंख्या के संदर्भ में वृद्धजन देखभाल के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। स्वास्थ्य, सामाजिक सुरक्षा और सामुदायिक सहायता प्रणालियों में कौन से सुधार आवश्यक हैं? (12 Marks)

India's demography has rapidly expanded in last two decades, becoming largest populous country in the world. Simultaneously it raises concerns of elderly care in the country.

Ex: Aging problem in state of Kerala.

India's aging demographic context

- over 60% population are in age between 15 to 60 years old.
- Next decade will see decline and surge of dependant population.
- Southern states are facing heat of aging population in recent years. Ex: Kerala, Tamil Nadu.

Given the context, following are importance of elderly care :-

Importance

1. Smooth population transition from younger population to old age population.

2. Reducing anxiety in elderly population :- Elderly population often struggle with loneliness and anxiety.
3. Improving quality of life of elderly :- through physical and emotional care of the population.
4. Harnessing old age wisdom :- their care may guide future younger generation to navigate their lives.
5. care economy :- it can contribute in the economy, creation of jobs.

Reforms needed

A. Health

a) Providing health care services, assistance devices and regular checkup at PHCs.

b) Providing nutritious food to elderly population through Anganwadi scheme.

B. Social Security

a) Enhancing social security net through Pension scheme.

b) Enhancing insurance coverage of elderly.
 ↳ Expansion of PM-JAY to 70 year old

c) Community support system

a) Providing elderly friendly public infrastructure

b) Strengthening family system.

↳ Holidays for elderly parents-

Steps taken

1. Atal Pension Yojana and NPS → to expand insurance coverage.

2. Suganya Bharat Yojana → creating barrier-free infrastructure.

3. Mental Health Act 2017 → recognition of right of mental health patients including elderly one.

Thus, to address future aging problem, it is the right time to invest in care economy, strengthening public health system.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.18) "India's foreign policy is increasingly shaped by geopolitics rather than ideology." Discuss this shift with reference to India's evolving approach in the Indo-Pacific.

"भारत की विदेश नीति विचारधारा के बजाय भू-राजनीति द्वारा अधिकाधिक रूप से आकार ले रही है।" हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत के विकसित होते दृष्टिकोण के संदर्भ में इस बदलाव पर चर्चा कीजिए। (12 Marks)

Indian foreign policy guided by Panchsheel doctrine is not a static but a dynamic one which evolve to adrem changing dynamics of international politics.

Role of geopolitics in India's foreign policy

Evidences :-

1. Middle-East approach :- dehyphenation of Israel and Arab approach.
2. Post cold-war approach :- increasing shifts towards western nation instead of socialist led Russia.
3. From Non-Aligned approach to multialignment
4. Demands for UNSC reforms \Rightarrow demand of permanent seat in UNSC
5. Balancing superpowers — engagement with various regional and international groupings.
 \Rightarrow BRICS and G20 memberships.

Shift in approach in Indo-Pacific

1. QUAD membership :- to ensure free and open sea lanes.
2. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) → connecting Asia, Africa and Australia for maritime security in the region.
3. India joined Indo-Pacific Economic Framework
4. Growing importance of BIMSTEC, led by renewed push of India.
5. Engaging with southeast nations through ASEAN framework.
6. Establishment of Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) → a tri-service command to secure the maritime security of the region.

Despite shift in approach, rapidly changing geopolitics raise certain issues -

Key obstacles

1. Growing presence of China :- eg → China's BRI

2. Absence of coherent Indo-Pacific doctrine in India.
3. USA's push for MACTA, making difficult for India to balance its needs.
4. Climate change and rising sea level may fuel maritime border disputes.
 e.g. → Dispute between Phillipines and Indonesia.
5. Divergence in policies of European nation and USA.
 e.g. → Some nation consider Indo-Pacific from eastern coast of Africa, while others from Indian coast.

Thus, Indian foreign policy is a living document that accommodates evolving nature of geopolitics and balancing the country's interests.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.19) Discuss the major foreign policy implications of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict for India's energy security and diplomatic balancing.

रूस-यूक्रेन संघर्ष के भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और कूटनीतिक संतुलन पर प्रमुख विदेश नीति निहितार्थों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (12 Marks)

Russia-Ukraine conflict started in 2022, now entering its fifth year, posing greater challenge for international peace and security, particularly energy and food grain production.

Implications for India's energy security

1. Sanctions over Russian oil - limit India's oil bucket and increase dependence on USA.
2. Currency swap - India has explored the possibility of rupee-ruble trade.
3. Push for clean energy - limited oil market pushed for harnessing clean energy.
4. Refining sectors - technologies are developed based on origin of crude oil, now it is causing stress in refining sector.

Implication for diplomatic balance

1. Permanent membership - of USA and Russia making difficult for diplomats.
2. Push for strategic autonomy - its relevance is increasing.
3. China's factor :- India's relation with China has seen many failures in recent past.
 ↳ Doklam and Galwan incident.
4. Unilateral actions of USA :-
 ↳ Sanctions and military action in Iran by USA.
5. Global orders :- increasing influence of Europe and USA and diminishing influence of Asia and Africa.
 ↳ USA led International Peace Board / superseding mechanism of UNSC mechanism. -sm.

Way forward

1. Mediation → between Russia and Ukraine for early resolution.
2. Enhancing capacity of strategic oil reservoir in the country.
3. Promoting and reforms in UN system.
4. Early trade agreements with EU and middle-east country.
 [e.g.] India-Uk Economic Partnership and Trade Agreement
5. Enhancing installed capacity of renewable energy in the country.

Thus, ~~the~~ Russia-Ukraine conflict is litmus test for India's foreign policy to navigate diverging needs of Europe and Asian countries.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.20) Discuss the geopolitical significance of critical minerals (lithium, rare earths) and evaluate India's strategies for securing supply chains in a competitive global environment.

महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों (लिथियम, दुर्लभ मृदा) के भू-राजनीतिक महत्व पर चर्चा करें और प्रतिस्पर्धी वैश्विक वातावरण में आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को सुरक्षित करने के लिए भारत की रणनीतियों का मूल्यांकन करें। (12 Marks)

Critical minerals like lithium, rare earth metals are essential for clean energy transition and digital and defence technologies. Its availability is shaping geopolitics of the time.

↳ China's threat to limit its supply.

Geopolitical significance

1. Energy transition and climate goals → essential for fulfillment of Paris agreement.
2. Defence manufacturing - advanced weaponry system, stealth technology heavily depend on it.
3. Global economy - countries are advocating for mineral diplomacy.
4. Dominance of China in production and supply chain.

↳ Over 80% REE are produced by China.

5. Electronic and semiconductors → new electronics heavily depends on these minerals.

6. Risk of global supply chain disruption.

↳ Disruption during COVID-19 pandemic.

India's strategies for securing supply chain

1. Identification of 30 minerals as critical mineral by the central government.

2. Enhancing exploration:-

↳ finding of Lithium in J & K

3. Joining USA-led Mineral Security Partnership to diversify its supply chain.

4. Approach toward Central Asian countries:-
India's foreign policy aimed for this resources in the region.

5. Expanding R&D expenditure for exploration and production of these minerals.

Persistent issues in supply ~~challenges~~ chain

1. China's dominance.
2. Harneering new technologies for exploration.
3. Low R&D expenditure.
4. No alternate of these minerals.

Thus, critical mineral has spered a geopolitical tension around its supply chain. India's foreign policy evolving rapidly to ~~balance~~ ~~its~~ diversify and robust supply chain for these minerals.

Feedback

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Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
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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		

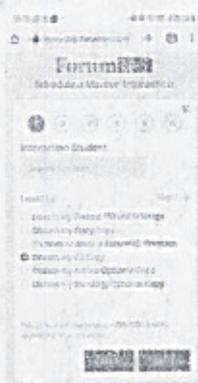
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