

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	BIPUL GUPTA		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910159463	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	Date/दिनांक	07/08/25

*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 :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :
			9:25	12:25
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 समय रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को अपनी कौपी में पसंद आया 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 :
			① ② ③ ④ ⑤	

Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion class the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

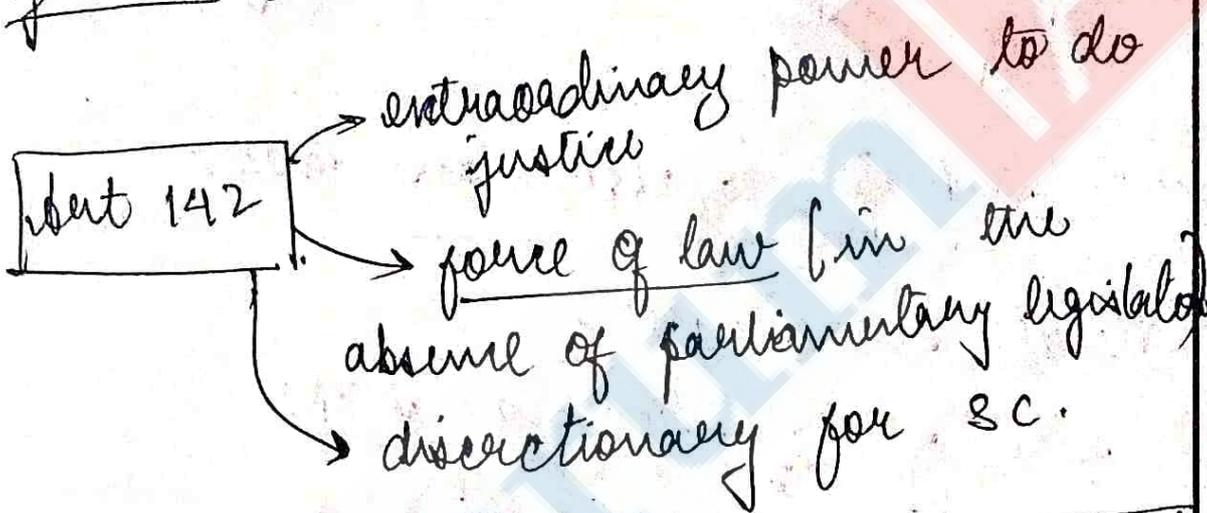
CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

1. **AWIS = Answered What is Asked.** This means whether you have addressed the core demand of the question or not. Addressing the core demand of the question gets you an objectively fair score. It is examiner's perception if you have understood the question and if you know the answer in the first place. Creative answer writing, sometimes missing the core demand, may fetch very high or very low scores, and exposes your answer to the subjectivity of the examiner.
2. **CD & VA = Content Density & Value Addition.** Examiner will evaluate the quality and quantity of your content in the answer. In the same word limit and space limit have you (a) written what is asked (b) gone beyond what is asked (c) enriched answers through combination of (but not all!) suggestions, ideas, quotes, flowcharts, diagrams, facts and figures, data etc. This affects objective components of assessment.
3. **S & F = Structure & Flow =** Whether you have structured your answer properly or not. Whether the answer has been broken into parts and sub-parts and each part has been addressed appropriately or not. Whether the flow of the answer is maintained. Affects both subjective and objective components of assessment.
4. **P & R =** How your answer performs on the criteria of presentation, ease of read, clarity and apparent effort in writing the answer. This affects the subjective components of assessment.

Q.1) "Extraordinary powers must be exercised with extraordinary care." Discuss in the context of Article 142 of the Indian Constitution. (10 marks, 150 words)

"असाधारण शक्तियों का प्रयोग असाधारण सावधानी से किया जाना चाहिए।" भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 142 के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Article 142 gives extraordinary power to SC to do 'complete justice' on an issue.



It has been used positively in case of:-

① filling legislative gaps

→ missha guidelines: Unnikrishna v. State of Raj.

② correcting previous judgements

→ Delhi airport line case

③ broadening scope of justice

eg. TN Jodavannan case (environmental justice)

④ fill institutional gaps

eg. religious appointment of CEC → Dr. B.R. Ambedkar case

However, improper/excessive use may:-

① judicial overreach -

eg. state of TN vs. Governor of TN
↓
directives to president.

② erosion of moral value of judgments

③ set wrong precedent for future

④ Executive-judiciary tussle
(violate Article 50)

Judicial restraint must be exercised
as mentioned in Balwant Singh Chahal case

	①	②	③	④
AWIS				
CD & VA				
S & P				
P & R				

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

TOTAL MARKS

Q.2) Why are State Legislative Assemblies involved in the election of the President but excluded from the process of impeachment? (10 marks, 150 words)

राज्य विधान सभाओं को राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव में शामिल किया जाता है, लेकिन महाभियोग की प्रक्रिया से बाहर क्यों रखा जाता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The process of election and impeachment of president are governed by article 54 and other articles of part V.

election : (MP + MLA) → proportional representation

Impeachment : $\frac{2}{3}$ rd majority of total strength of LS & RS each

Reason state legislative assemblies are involved

① Role of president in state legislation

↳ article 201 : review bills reserved for president

- ② ~~but~~ uphold federalism
↳ part of basic structure. (Sa Bommai case)
- ③ article 54 explicitly mentions so.
- ④ president → head of state → authoritative figures.

Reasons not included in impeachment

- ① Impeachment guided by principle of separation of powers between parliament and state by executive.
(SLA are not involved here).
- ② Impeachment seen as more of an exception only for violation of constitution.
- ③ might lead to political instability.

also, it is crucial to understand that president is part of parliament and not SLA.

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

भारत में निजी सदस्य विधेयक (PMBs) शायद ही कभी कानून बनते हैं, फिर भी वे संसदीय लोकतंत्र का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू। उनके महत्व को उजागर करें और निजी सदस्य विधेयक प्रक्रिया को सशक्त करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएं। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Only 14 private members bill have become law of which the last was passed in 1970, highlighting the dwindling of PMBs.

significance of PMB

① being issues not receiving attention

key → Muslim Wakf act in 1950s.

② push for debates on crucial issues.

key → 2021: PMB to amend preamble.

③ Reformative legislations

key → rights to transgenders bill 2014 inspired the 2019 act by government.

- ④ bring diversity in perspectives
 - ⑤ alternate policy possibilities
 - ⑥ Represent bipartisanship on issues
- Key → SCL jurisdiction enlargement act 1970.

steps to make PMB effective

- ① number of parliamentary committees on PMB. to be increased.
- ② opposition to set agenda for few days (UK model).
- ③ drafting support by parliamentary secretariat.
- ④ rearranged time for PMB → amend LS/RS rules.

These are crucial to uplift the "temple of democracy" to be more effective.

Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the judicial systems of India and
(10 marks, 150 words)

और अमेरिका की न्यायिक प्रणालियों के बीच अभिसरण और विचलन के प्रमुख बिंदुओं पर प्रकाश डालिए।
(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

While the Indian judicial system
sourced from various sources in
1947, US judicial system is based
on political thinkers, like Benjamin
Franklin in post American war USA.

points of convergence

- ① presence of fundamental rights and
merit jurisdiction (part III in India)
- ② jurisdiction on federal disputes
(Article 131 in India)
- ③ appointment of judges by
president (Article 124 in India)
- ④ executive - judiciary separation

⑤ no provision for judicial review
points of divergence

	India	USA
Judges retirement	65 years	appointed for life
civil/criminal appellate jur	✓	X
jurisdiction over military tribunals	✓	X
right to life	procedure est. by law	due process of law
type of system	unified judicial system	Federal judicial system

Both are suited for their ~~respective~~ unique political system they exist in.

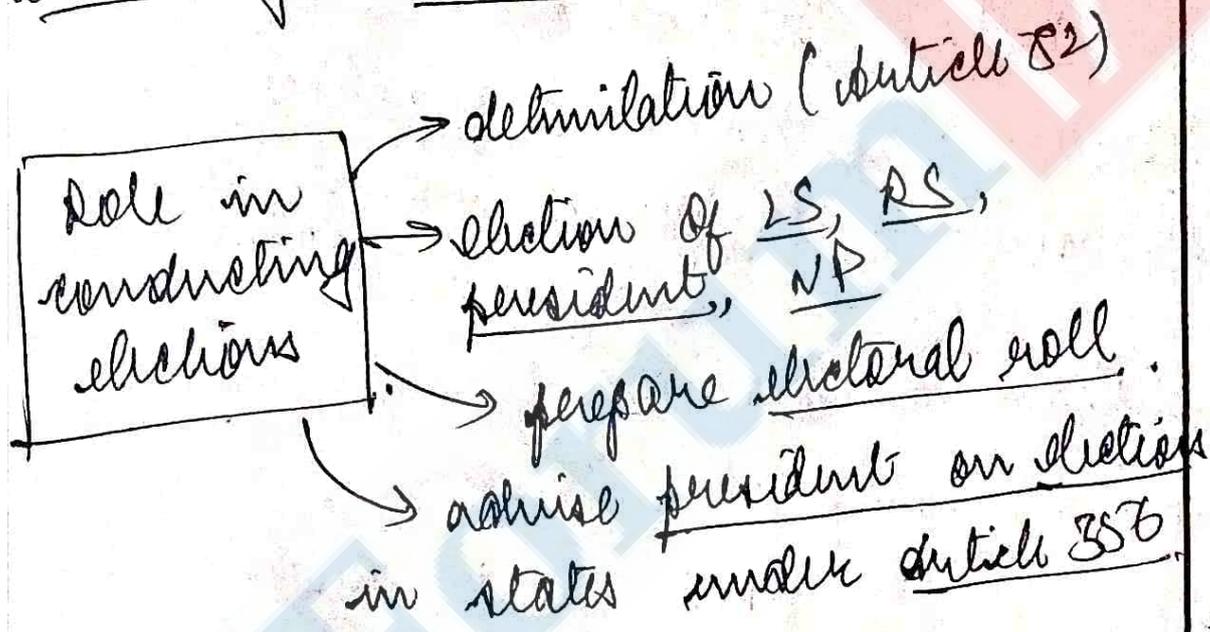
Fees (For OFFICE)

AWIS
CD & VA
S & P
P & R
Please put marks in table.
Here G is Average and Poor.
TOTAL MARKS

The role of Election Commission of India has evolved beyond conducting elections to becoming a guardian of electoral democracy. Critically evaluate. (10 marks, 150 words)

त के चुनाव आयोग की भूमिका चुनाव कराने से आगे बढ़कर चुनावी लोकतंत्र के संरक्षक बनने तक विकसित हो गई है।
गोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Article 324 sets up ECI to conduct the most important ritual of democracy - elections.



Going beyond conducting elections

- ① citizen outreach during elections.
→ CVILL app to report offences.
- ② effective and accountable roll revision.
→ SIR in Bihar

- ③ e-governance initiatives
- ECINOT: unified election portal
- ④ last mile approach for outreach.
- ⑤ transparency in election process
- VVPAT introduction
- ⑥ strengthening innovative practices
- discussion on regional voting remote voting.

limitations of EC

① operational part

- duplicate EPIC controversy
- SC noted issues around restrictive SIA
- state speech during elections
- despite SC's Anish Durgam case

② structural part

- maintaining drop Baranwal case
- by restricting CSI
- salary not changed.

SC's drop Baranwal case guidelines must be implemented

Fee (For OFFI
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Please put marks in table.
Here G is C Average on Poor.
TOTAL MARKS

What is the rationale behind the 'three-language formula' in India's education policy? Also highlight the challenges associated with its adoption and implementation across the country.

(10 marks, 150 words)

त की शिक्षा नीति में 'त्रि-भाषा सूत्र' के पीछे क्या तर्क है? देश भर में इसे अपनाने और लागू करने से जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The three language formula (first adopted by S Radhakrishnan committee) saw a confrontation between center and Tamil Nadu over its role in NGP-2020.

Rationale behind three-language formula

① social rationale

- uphold linguistic diversity (Article 350 B) &
- social integrity across India

② constitutional rationale: Article 350A (education in mother tongue)

③ psychological rationale
→ multilingual brain

- frontal cortex development
- cosmopolitan attitude.

Challenges in implementation

- ① Federal tension over adoption.
eg CA-TN confrontation 2025.
- ② Non implementation by many states
(eg only 2 languages taught in most of Bihar schools)
- ③ Over-burdened students.
- ④ politicisation of language.
- ⑤ "Kashkrit" lack of accountability of schools

A cooperative approach coupled with flexibility and autonomy at school level must be adopted.

7) 'Emerging environmental concerns and evolving ecosystem perspectives demand a reimagined approach to rural water governance.' Discuss the key interventions needed to recalibrate rural water policies with special emphasis on the role of communities. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारतीय पर्यावरणीय चिंताएँ और विकसित होते पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के परिप्रेक्ष्य ग्रामीण जल प्रशासन के लिए एक नए दृष्टिकोण मांग करते हैं। समुदायों की भूमिका पर विशेष बल देते हुए ग्रामीण जल नीतियों को पुनः संतुलित करने के लिए आवश्यक मुख्य हस्तक्षेपों पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NITI Aayog reported that 50% of water demand will be met by 2030, highlighting the impact of climate change, over-extraction and pollution on water availability.

Key interventions needed

① COMMUNITY CENTRIC APPROACH

① case study: Delejan Jaldhi community interventions at micro-scale like check dams, bundhs and ponds made this district water surplus

② Encourage pani panchayats for comprehensive approach.

③ Women SHG to participate.
eg Kudumbashree of Kerala.

④ community awareness of sustainable water use.

eg WASH Vani initiative of UP.

④ financial decentralisation by water grants

VI OTHER APPROACHES

→ Technological → satellite based
digital data

→ agriculture: microirrigation
saves upto 70% water.

~~These are crucial~~ In addition computer based ^{needs} main approach like "satya ganga" are

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Please put marks in this table.
Here G is G
Average and Poor.
TOTAL MARKS

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

में लैंगिक रूप से संवेदनशील नीतियों और योजनाओं के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में बाधा डालने वाली चुनौतियों की पहचान और उन पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Despite coming up with multiple schemes like NIRBHAYA fund, Mission Shakti and Mission Shakti, India still ranks at 131/142 in global gender gap index 2024.

challenges hindering schemes implementation

- ① Inadequate fund utilisation
↳ 30% NIRBHAYA fund unused.
- ② But Bureaucratic red-tape in schemes

- ③ lackadaisical implementation
 ↳ FOST ICC missing in restructuring
federation of India.
- ④ patriarchal mindset of administration
- ⑤ Issues around 33% reservation
 ↳ sanpamch pati issues
 ↳ lesser authority recognition
for women.
- ⑥ Lack of evidence for reforms.

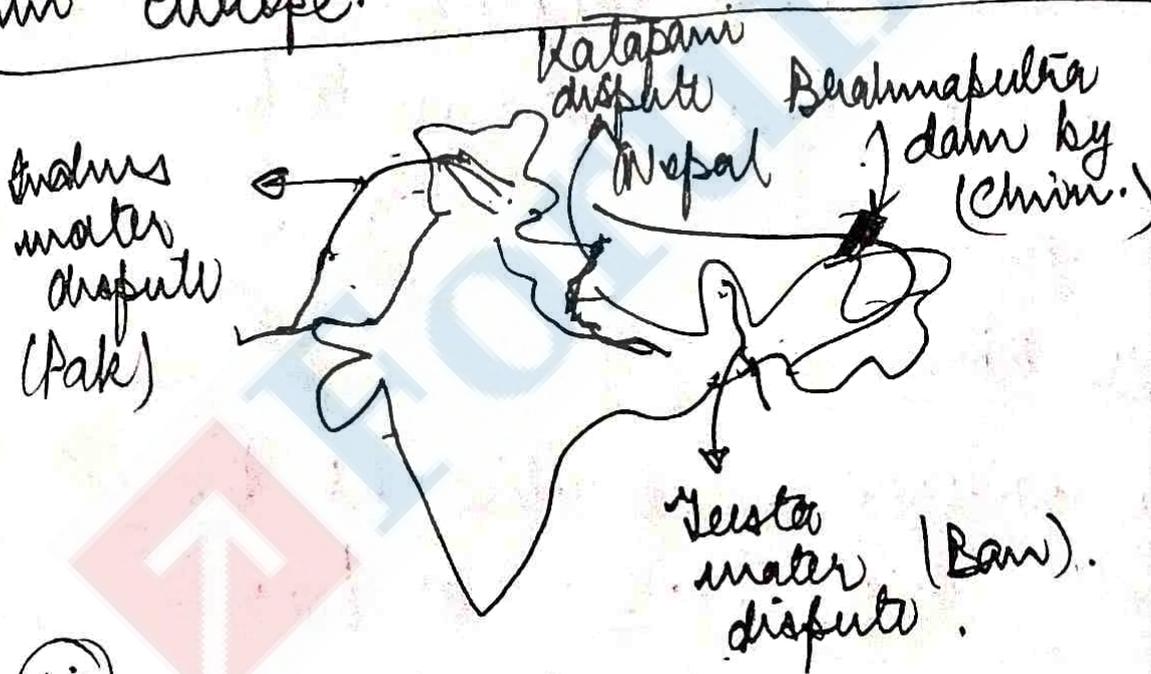
Way forward

- ① high powered committee to oversee
implementation
 - ② parliamentary oversight on how implem
tal
- this is crucial for SDG-5 (gender
more equality)

Effective transboundary water management can act as a catalyst for regional peace and cooperation. In light of this statement, bring out the opportunities and challenges for India in leveraging 'water diplomacy' in its neighbourhood. (10 marks, 150 words)

वी सीमापार जल प्रबंधन क्षेत्रीय शांति और सहयोग के लिए उत्प्रेरक का काम कर सकता है। इस कथन के आलोक में, भारत के लिए अपने पड़ोस में 'जल कूटनीति' का लाभ उठाने के अवसरों और चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Water bodies when approached by cooperation and objectivity can result in major gains as ~~the~~ seen in Rhine river development in Europe.



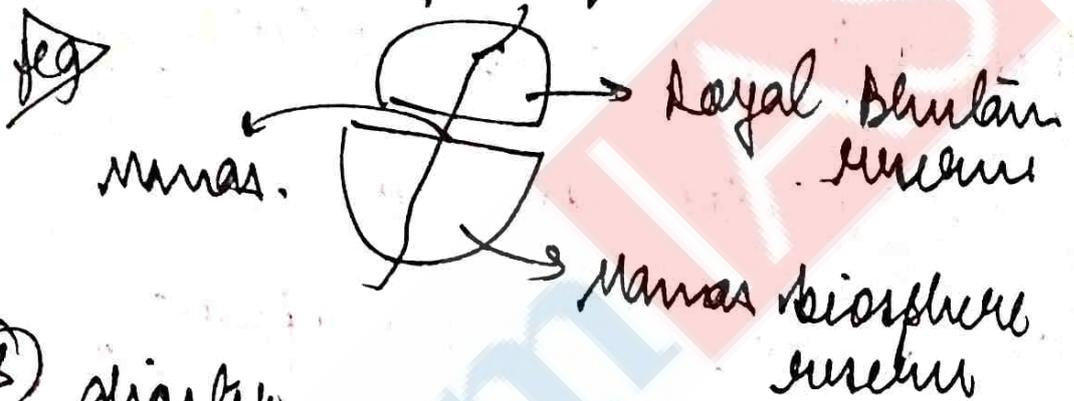
Key: water disputes.

opportunities

① - hydroponic cooperation

eg Summit project in Nepal

② Bio-diversity cooperation



③ Disaster relief cooperation

eg Amphan cyclone in Andhra Pradesh

Challenges

① mentioned in fig 1

② inconsistency in treaties like Indus water treaty (~70% to Pakistan)

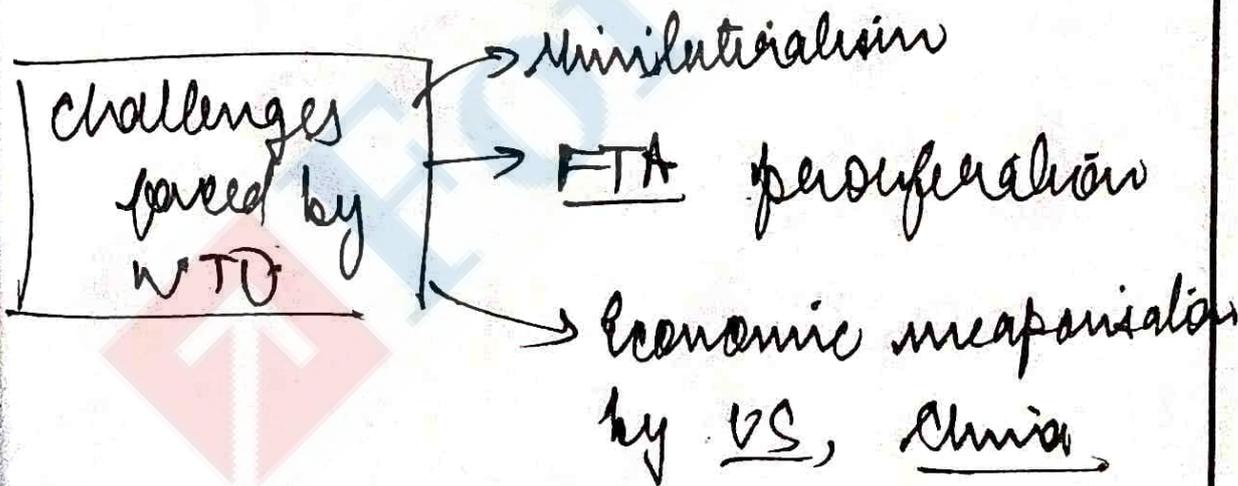
③ Non-observance of Helsinki, Berlin principles of neighbours.

India needs to leverage BIMSTEC and other org. for water diplomacy

What are the key areas of reform if the World Trade Organization (WTO) has to remain relevant in present context of rising protectionism and trade wars? (10 marks, 150 words)

वैश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) को बढ़ते संरक्षणवाद और व्यापार युद्धों के वर्तमान संदर्भ में प्रासंगिक बने रहना है तो सुधार के मुख्य क्षेत्र क्या हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The liberalization of tariffs by USA marks the last nail of the coffin in the era of globalisation under WTO that saw 300% increase in global GDP between 1996-2022.



Areas of reform

① consensus based decision to

be replaced

② objective definition of developing
country.

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table
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Average
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TOTAL
MARKS

11) The basic structure doctrine acts as a constitutional compass in balancing Parliament's legislative authority and constitutional supremacy. Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

धारभूत संरचना सिद्धांत संसद की विधायी शक्ति और संवैधानिक सर्वोच्चता के बीच संतुलन बनाने में एक संवैधानिक दिशक के रूप में कार्य करता है। टिप्पणी करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Keshavananda Bharati case saw the evolution of basic structure doctrine to balance the fluidity and rigidity of Indian constitution.

It ensures constitutional supremacy by

① protecting core elements from encroachment.

eg ISA case: Judicial independence as part of basic structure.

② countering blanket exemptions

eg Minerva Mills case: 42nd CAA to delet 31C, read down

③ emphasize a consistent constitutional philosophy

Key: core doctrine in K. Coelho case

(4) uphold principles of checks & balances

Key: L. Chandra Kumar case restored HC appellate authority

(5) Keep wisdom of constituent assembly alive

Key: SC referred to debates in S.R. Bommai case (secularism part of basic structure)

(6) prevent majoritarian amendments
Key: 42nd CAA

However, it also respects parliament's authority!

(1) allowing structural reforms

Key: GST → 101st CAA

(2) respecting wisdom of parliament

Key: Janhit Abhiyan case: EWS quota allowed.

(3) prevent excessive invocation

① Does not hinder progressive reforms

→ 106th CAA : Nari Shakti Vandan
adhiniam.

② guides parliament for legislation.

→ 44th CAA kept Keshavananda Bharati
case in mind

③ adheres to doctrine of prospective overruling

→ 24th April 1973 cutoff in R Colho
case

Issues with basic structure

① non-codified and subjective.

② uncertainty of judicial stance.

→ NTAC case → NTAC invalidated

③ discretionary powers to judges.

④ Extra-constitutional concept.

More legal clarity on the subject
would go a long way.

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) Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are pivotal to inclusive and efficient urban governance, yet they remain fiscally constrained and institutionally weak. Analyze. (15 marks, 250 words)

शहरी स्थानीय निकाय (ULBs) समावेशी और कुशल शहरी शासन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, फिर भी वे वित्तीय रूप से सीमित और संस्थागत रूप से कमजोर बने हुए हैं। विश्लेषण करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Despite ULBs are given constitutional recognition under article 243Q under 74th CAA - to serve as tools of bottom up democracy.

Financial provisions

- ① 12th schedule - provides various supports for local body loans.
- ② article 243I → state finance commission for finances.
- ③ 15th FC : 40% untied funds to ULB.
- ④ articles 275, 282 : statutory and discretionary grants to ULBs.

Recent
positives→ Ghaziabad MC : green
bonds.→ Indore, Bhopal have
used municipal bonds
extensively.

Issues around finances & institutions

FINANCES

① RBI → 40-45% grant dependence
of ULB
→ only 31-34% generated by
own taxes.② property tax collection.

India	80.2%
OECD	~2%

INSTITUTIONAL WEAKNESSES

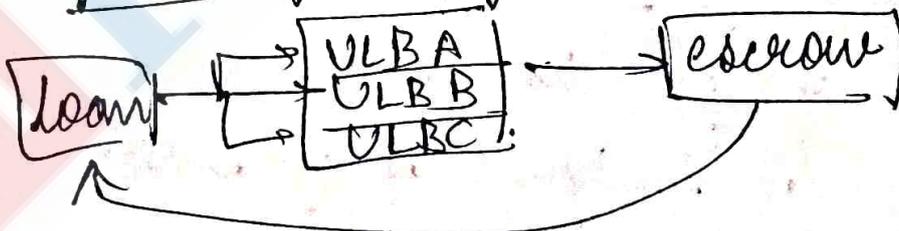
① ~~①~~ Lack of trained personnel.② emergence of parallel bodies→ district rural development agency inst.③ irregularity in procedures.→ Chandigarh Mayor election scandal④ lack of power devolution.

Reasons for the above

- ① discretionary control of state government
- ② mistrust in power devolution and decentralisation
- ③ lack of citizen awareness / demand

Way forward:

- ① ~~power~~ constitutionally recognized (NCRWC) power devolutions
- ② constitutional share in taxes (Anechi comm)
- ③ pooled financing concept



- ④ create urban local body stock exchange
- ⑤ separate cadre model of Gujarat

These are crucial as 55% Indians will be living in cities by 2050 (NITI Aayog)

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3) "The judiciary has functioned as an institutional corrective, redefining and refining the contours of the Governor's office to prevent its misuse and uphold constitutional principles." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (15 marks, 250 words)

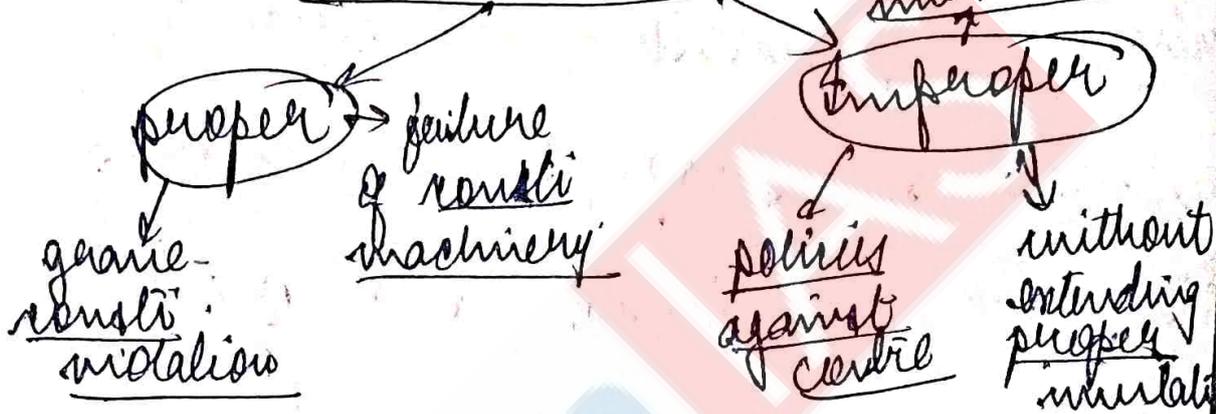
राज्यपालिका ने एक संस्थागत सुधारक के रूप में कार्य किया है तथा राज्यपाल के कार्यालय की रूपरेखा को पुनः परिभाषित और परिष्कृत किया है ताकि इसका दुरुपयोग रोका जा सके और संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों को कायम रखा जा सके।" प्रासंगिक घटियाँ (केस लॉ) की मदद से इस कथन पर चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 153 establishes the office of Governor as bridge-between federal units, but continued federal frictions associated with office has prompted the stepping in of judiciary.

Role of judiciary associated with Governor. (4 marks)

- ① clarity on tenure of Governor.
~~→~~ Surya Nandan case: Gov. enjoys office during the pleasure of President.
- ② Emphasized the impartiality aspect in Shanmukh Singh case.

③ Guidelines for recommending Articles 35 in SR Somnath case



④ criticalal overreach of office
 ↳ Subhash Desai case : asking for floor test.

⑤ Legal clarity on ambiguous issues

↳ Punjab governor case 2024
 ↳ governor cannot refer returned bill for president consideration

⑥ clarity on powers of detenant governor

↳ GNCOTD vs UOI (2018) : Delhi HC.
 - ban on by advice of CAG.

⑦ Invoke Article 142 on gross injustice

↳ Time limit (3 months) set on governor in state of TN vs governor of TN (2025).

⑧ advisory opinions to uphold sanctity of office ~~under~~ ~~articles~~ in Shanmugan Singh case.

Consistent with SC's judiciary's approach

① Judicial overreach.

↳ TN gov. case: timelines set are arbitrary.

② against separation of powers.

③ Inter-constitutional recommendations in TN gov. case.

④ domino effect in other states.

↳ Kerala arguing TN gov case (2025) applies to it as well.

Moreover, SC acts as an ombudsman to participations of the office.

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			



Q.14) How is the 'vertical' and 'horizontal' devolution of taxes to the states decided? Highlighting the concerns raised by some states regarding the devolution of taxes, suggest corrective measures.

(15 marks, 250 words)

राज्यों को करों का 'ऊर्ध्वाधर' और 'क्षैतिज' हस्तांतरण कैसे तय किया जाता है? करों के हस्तांतरण के संबंध में कुछ राज्यों द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए सुधारात्मक उपाय सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 280 envisages the finance commission to look into horizontal and vertical devolution of taxes.

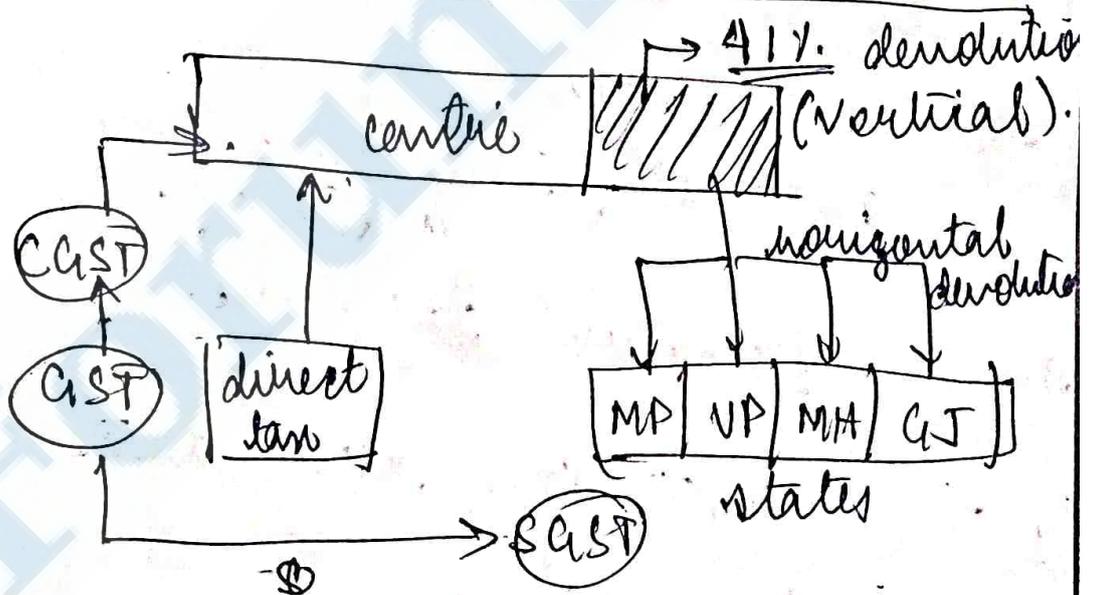


Fig Tax devolution

FC is constituted every 5 years or less to decide the mode of devolution.

Vertical devolution (41%).

- (expenditure) - (Income) of states
- burden of implementing CSS etc. considered.

Horizontal distribution

- Income distance — 45%
- population — 15%
- area — 15%
- population control — 12.5%
- tax efficiency — 2.5%

concerns raised by states

- ① south Indian states at disadvantage (15% for population)
- ② very low weightage for tax efficiency (2.5% only).
- ③ excessive usage of cess and surch - args

FC need	41%
due to cess	~ 32%

- ④ constricted fiscal space due to Article 293
- ⑤ Indirect pressurization for initiatives
 → incentives on implementing OWDRC

corrective measures

① punchhi commission

- state consultation while preparing TOA to FC
- minimise usage of cess & surcharge
 (Finance only uses in emergency)
- FC to be made a permanent body.

② include weightage for tax quantum
collected in horizontal distribution

③ create separate equalisation fund

the fiscal federalism seen in GST council
needs to be expanded to other spheres

What steps are required for the constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think granting constitutional status to the Central Information Commission (CIC) would strengthen the RTI regime in India? Give reasons. (15 marks, 250 words)

1) आयोग के संवैधानिककरण के लिए क्या कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है? क्या आपको लगता है कि केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग (CIC) को संवैधानिक दर्जा देने से भारत में RTI व्यवस्था मजबूत होगी? कारण बताइए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The constitutionalization of RTI has seen a recurring demand raised by civil societies like MKSS, Internet for freedom etc.

steps required for constitutionalization

- 1) Introduce a constitutional amendment bill under Art 368.
- 2) pass in both houses by special majority.
- 3) specify the details in bill
 - member qualification
 - salaries charged or not.
 - security of terms
 - mode of removal
 - procedure of removal.
- 4) president's assent.

Arguments in favour of constitutionalizing RTI CEC

- ① present weakening amendments like ~~2019~~ RTI (Amendment) act 2019
 - security of tenure curtailed
 - salary delimited from CEC.
- ② ~~security of~~ increased independence to CEC.
- ③ Better financial allocations to RTI.
 - ↳ ~~20~~ > 80% districts ~~to~~ lack separate PIO
- ④ make RTI an constitutional right
- ⑤ faster, complaint redressal on RTI rejections
- ⑥ increased autonomy for rule making
 - ↳ guidelines - by CEC to deal with frivolous RTI

② increased compliance leading to ^{better} and more disclosure

①

arguments against constitutionalization

① Independence not guaranteed.

✶ NCSC, NCST can be removed by president.

② does not guarantee effectiveness

✶ NCSC report tabled after more than 3 years.

③ still dependent on political will

✶ NCST ^{chair} @ office empty for 71 years

④ positive performance at present as well.

↳ only 3.84% rejection (CIC annual report)

However, a constitutional status combined with political will and civil society participation will be best.

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.16) Even as India experiences consistent economic growth and has achieved self-sufficiency in food production, hunger and food insecurity remain pressing concerns. Examine the factors responsible for this paradox and suggest steps to improve the situation. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में भले ही लगातार आर्थिक संवृद्धि हो रही है और खाद्य उत्पादन में आत्मनिर्भरता हासिल हो गई है, लेकिन भूख और खाद्य असुरक्षा अभी भी गंभीर चिंता का विषय बनी हुई है। इस विरोधाभास के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों का परीक्षण करें और स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए कदम सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

with 6.4% projected growth in FY 26 and becoming the 2nd largest producer of both wheat and rice, India's 106th rank in global hunger index presents a unique paradox.

Recent strides → reduced food inflation (8.4%) (CPI) → 2nd largest rice, wheat → largest milk, sugar ^{pulse} producer.

yet, food insecurity remains due to:-

① economic access to food is hindered
↳ only \$2484 per capita income.

② Micro-nutrient deficiency

Key 67% children are anaemic (Iron deficiency)

③ protein poor diets in India

④ Food wastages due to improper storage

↳ India loses 90,000 Cr every year (NITI sayog)

⑤ geographical barriers to food access

Key Kendryhat starvation case

⑥ weakness in NFSA / PDS

↳ unfair exclusion
↳ ghost beneficiary

Key 2019 Garaband girl death due to PDS exclusion

Steps to improve situation

① Lessons from Bargarh model

↳ SHG mobilisation + education

Forum IAS

led to 98% child wasting reduction

② DBT for FD-C to curb leakages.
(Shanta Kumar committee).

③ Millet promotion (Kelli till imp)
 ↳ post harvest millet processing
 ↳ farmer training + seed provision

(Ragi contains 4x iron than rice)

④ Use POSHAN 2.0 database for better targeting

⑤ Rationalise beneficiaries from 67% to 40% for better targeting (Shanta K. committee)

⑥ District wise nutrition planning

⑦ Yearly ANA meetings for nutrition consultation

The government has already begun with POSHAN 2.0, PM-ANAY, and rice deficiency payment scheme to achieve SPH-2 (zero hunger)

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7) The Union Government has recently announced that caste enumeration will be part of the coming census. Examine the opportunities and challenges associated with conducting a nationwide caste census. Also, propose a framework for its seamless and effective conduct.
(15 marks, 250 words)

सरकार ने हाल ही में घोषणा की है कि जाति गणना आगामी जनगणना का हिस्सा होगी। राष्ट्रव्यापी 'जाति जनगणना' कोजित करने से जुड़े अवसरों और चुनौतियों का परीक्षण करें। साथ ही, इसके निर्बाध और प्रभावी संचालन के लिए एक ढांचा को प्रस्तुत करें।
(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The announcement of caste census marks the first caste census since 1931.

opportunities in nationwide caste census

① tackle social disabilities at micro-level

eg 5/6th of multidimensionally poor are from ST/SC/OBC (CMPTI-2021)

② Examine social-economic disability

eg poverty among Dalit/tribes

③ Informed decision making on reservation

eg Triple test (Maharashtra reservation case)

can be easily applied.

④ Better idea on sub-categorisation
of SC (Ravinder Singh case)

↳ eg: Yelangana 3 fold SC classification

⑤ Bring out social picture of India
more clearly.

⑥ Evidence based policymaking

↳ use data to identify PM-ATM
villages.

⑦ ~~tasks~~ differentiate tribal community
(semi-nomadic, nomadic, unnotified etc).
↳ Kolam Commission

Issues around caste census

① practical difficulties are to
multiplicity of castes

↳ SCE-2011 failure.

② similar sounding names
↳ Mena - Mina

- ③ perpetuate social divisions
 ↳ Mala Vs. Madiga dispute
- ④ indirectly fuel caste based violence
 ↳ Wathras rape case
- ⑤ lead to politicisation of caste
- ⑥ against the goal of "caste blind society" and "annihilation of caste" (BR Ambedkar)
- ⑦ ~~res~~ reservation 50% cap breach
 ↳ Nagraj case: reservation should not be at cost of efficiency
- ⑧ ~~strengthens~~ fight for reservation quotas
lobbying

way forward

- AI based cross referencing
- marginalisation of data
- conditional data release

this is crucial to achieve social justice without social fragmentation

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

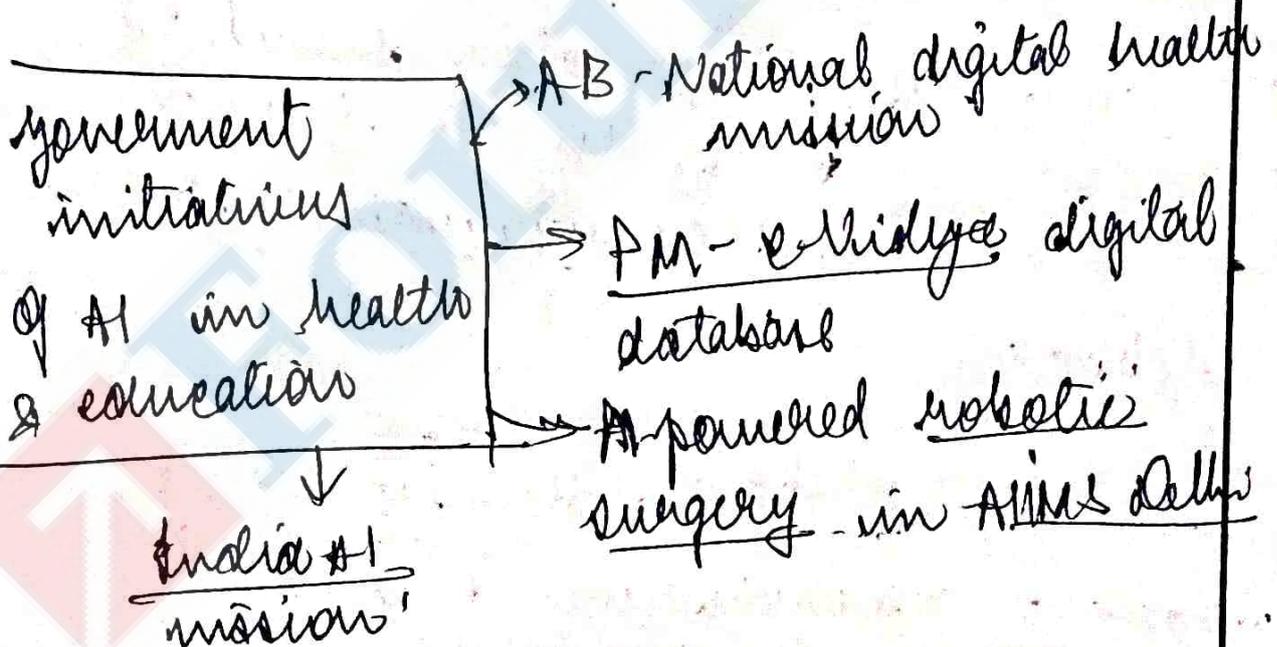


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Q.18) "AI integration in governance is no longer a choice but a necessity." In light of this statement, discuss how AI can enhance education and healthcare governance. (15 marks, 250 words)

"शासन में AI का एकीकरण अब एक विकल्प नहीं बल्कि एक आवश्यकता है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, चर्चा करें कि AI किस प्रकार शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य सेवा शासन को बढ़ा सकता है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Economic survey 2024-25 predicted
AI economy to grow by 25-35%
by 2027, making it a necessity to
include in governance.



Role it can play in education

STUDENT LEVEL

① personalised mentoring for students

→ Khanacademy uses AI for personal

ined mentoring

② source of doubt clearing.

→ Perplexity AI solves math problems.

③ better multidimensional pedagogy.

→ AI explains videos.

SCHOOL LEVEL

① ~~data~~ class-wise data analysis
for proper planning.

② carry out mundane tasks (e.g. file
arrangement) to free teaching time.

③ AI based curriculum planning.

NATIONAL LEVEL

① analyse policy impacts of initiatives
→ use POSHAN tracker data.

② comparative analysing learning poverty
studies.

Role it can play in healthcare

① RPA Chatbot

HOSPITAL LEVEL

- ① Robotic-process automated surgery.
 - ↳ Da Vinci surgical robot.
- ② AI based diagnosis
 - ↳ Japan: AI based cancer detection.
- ③ AI powered robots in quarantine
 - ↳ Japan using them in COVID-19.

NATIONAL LEVEL

- ① ~~AI~~ AI based data analytics
 - ↳ tracking GBS cases in Japan during 2025 outbreak.
- ② AI based synergetic - allopatry cross linkages.
- ③ AI in medical education.

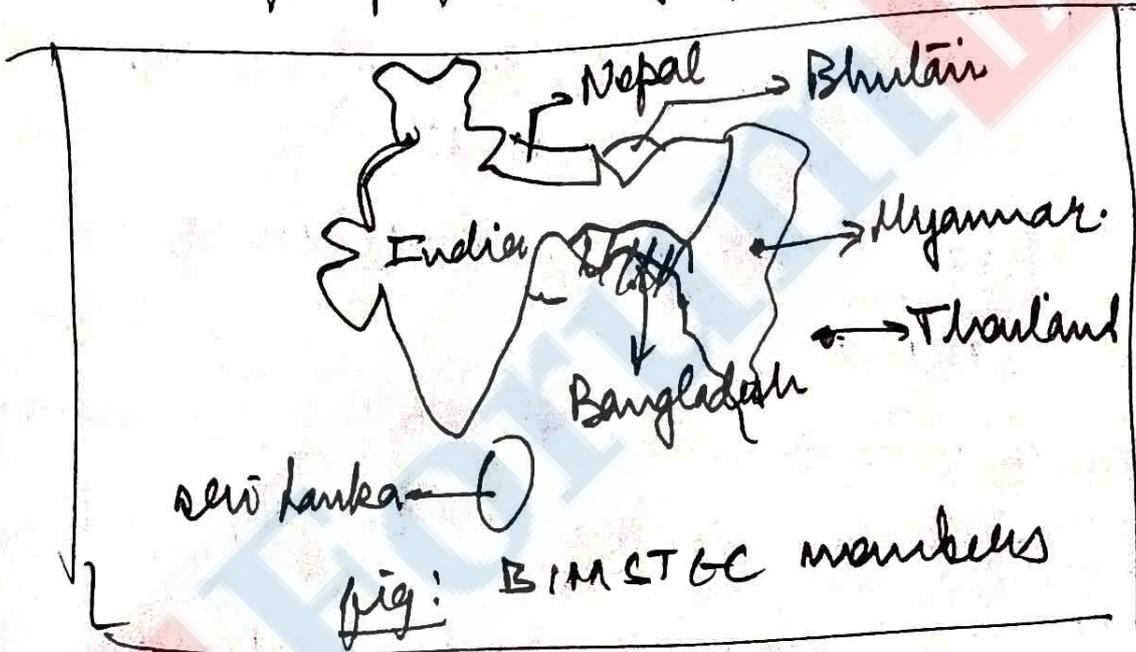
source, AI must be integrated while keeping privacy and ethics in mind as mentioned in Paris declaration.

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

Q.19) Providing a brief overview of the aims and objectives of BIMSTEC, explain its significance for India. (15 marks, 250 words)

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

Bay of Bengal multisectoral initiative for technical and economic cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a multilateral organisation consisting of following players:-



Aims and objectives of BIMSTEC.

① improve trade and investment across BIMSTEC nations

② focus on multilateral importance

two projects. \rightarrow IMT highway

③ tackle security threats

\rightarrow IUU fishing

\rightarrow maritime piracy

\rightarrow cybersecurity. (MHA: Indians
lose \$1000 cr every
month)

④ political meetings and resource
~~at national~~

⑤ assistance during disasters
 \rightarrow cyclones in Bay of Bengal

⑥ sign a FTA as soon as possible

⑦ cultural contacts \rightarrow people-to-people
relations

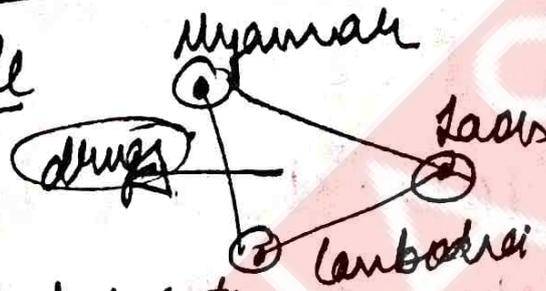
significance of BIMSTEC

① Engage with neighbours after SAARC
sterilisation post pulwama attacks

② centerpiece of act east policy

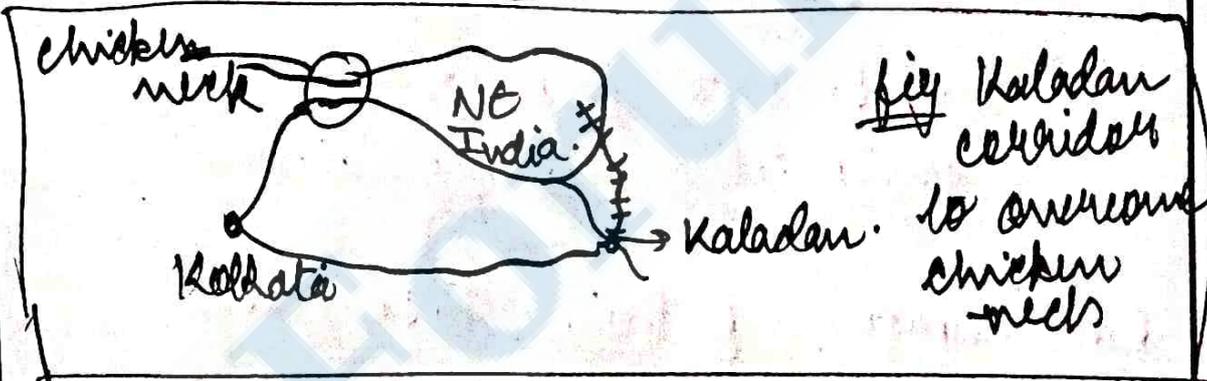
③ tackle security threats

eg golden triangle



④ secure crucial chokepoints
like strait of Malacca

⑤ overcome chicken neck crisis



⑥ Improve trade and commerce

Trade with Myanmar India | \$2 bn
China | \$8 bn.

However, issues like Myanmar civil war, Bangladesh regime change and Chinese roads demand strategic patience

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

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Q.20) India's approach to its relationship with China has evolved into what can be best described as 'competitive coexistence'. Discuss in light of recent developments. What should be the broad contours of India's future China policy? (15 marks, 250 words)

चीन के साथ अपने संबंधों के प्रति भारत का दृष्टिकोण 'प्रतिस्पर्धी सह-अस्तित्व' के रूप में विकसित हुआ है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों के आलोक में चर्चा करें। भारत की भविष्य की चीन नीति की व्यापक रूपरेखा क्या होनी चाहिए? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

"India-china relationship ~~can~~ can be characterised as strategic competition coupled with economic interdependence"
— C Raja Mohan.

Recent developments highlighting competition / confrontation

- ① Rare earths, fertilizers export ban to India
- ② China recalling 200 tourism employees
- ③ Galwan clashes 2020
- ④ aid to Pakistan during operation Indoor
- ⑤ South Asia - Indian ocean competition

China - Maldives FTA.

- ① competition for trade
↳ \$99.2 bn. trade surplus of China.

Developments highlighting coexistence:-

- ① disengagement in Yuluwan valley & return to pre-2020 status quo
- ② Chinese outreach (Dragon-elephant Yanga statement) after Trump tariffs
- ③ working together in SCO
- ④ similarly placed in climate diplomacy (global south)
- ⑤ common interests → low oil prices
→ peace in Afghanistan.
→ avert nuclear conflict.

However, China's vision of multip-

Old world with unipolar asia
conflicts with India's vision of
Multipolar world with multipolar asia.

Asad's contentions

- ① prepare for "one front reinforced"
war as seen during operation Indray
- ② strategic balance in new cold
war
- ③ heightened China doctrine: prevent
encroachment in South Asia, at all
cost.
- ④ strong competition without
overt confrontation.

India must stick to its strategic
multistage through QVAD, SCO to
overcome China challenge

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