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Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

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Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate | DSK PRACHET
परीक्षार्थी का नाम

Roll No./अनुक्रमांक

Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र

Medium/माध्यम | English ☑ हिंदी ☐

Date/दिनांक | 28/7/25

*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

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक
1		
2		
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Total/कुल अंक	250	

Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता का विवेक :

Total Marks/कुल अंक :

*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 कर्त्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

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 (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. 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।

For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु

Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 3:10 PM

End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 6:13 PM

Mode Of Examination/परीक्षा की विधि :
Online/ऑनलाइन ☑
Offline/ऑफलाइन ☐

For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु

ECN CODE/ईसीएन कोड :

EG/ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Evaluation Date/मूल्यांकन तिथि :

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 given 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 subjective components of assessment.
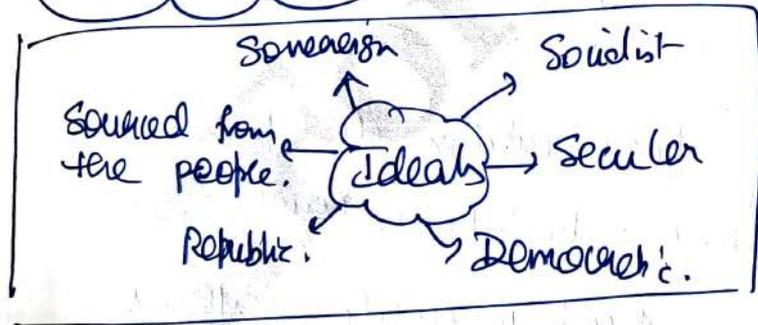
Q.1) To what extent, in your opinion, have the ideals of the Preamble been realised in the country's 75-year constitutional journey?   (10 marks, 150 words)

आपकी राय में, देश की 75 साल की संवैधानिक यात्रा में प्रस्तावना के आदर्शों को किस हद तक साकार किया गया है?
(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Ans) The Preamble of the Indian constitution lists the following objectives — Justice, Equality, Liberty and fraternity, cherished as the goals of the Indian state and vision of the constituent assembly members whereas the ideals of the preamble are as follows.

Ideals of Preamble.

Extent of realisation of ideals.

(1) Sovereign → India has successfully prevented external influence from interfering in decision-making, and ensured territorial sovereignty — Op. Sindhoo

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② Democratic Republic → Integrity of elections upheld by (ECI) in 75 years despite hiccups.

③ Socialist → Recent World Bank report India Gini Index - 0.255, very low on inequality → Achieved socialist equality.

④ Secular → Supreme court judgement in (SR Bommai), (Keshavananda Bharti) here upheld these values.

Challenges in Realising ~~values~~ ideals

① Religious fundamentalism and majoritarianism
TMA Pai case by Supreme Court.

② Continuing social inequality - Caste-based inequality → hurdle to socialism.

③ Challenges to democratic integrity →
Recent SIR based EC controversy.

Thus, India has come very far in its journey of realising the preamble, but there are still significant gaps to cover, to ensure a rich and vibrant democracy

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marks in th
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Here G is Go
Average and
Poor.

TOTAL
MARKS

Q.2) The evolution of property rights in India reflects an intricate relationship that exists between individual rights and public welfare. Discuss this statement with the help of relevant constitutional provisions and case laws.

(10 marks, 150 words)

भारत में संपत्ति अधिकारों का विकास व्यक्तिगत अधिकारों और लोक कल्याण के बीच एक जटिल संबंध को दर्शाता है। प्रासंगिक संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और निर्णय-विधियों (केस लॉ) की सहायता से इस कथन पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

John Locke had declared individual property rights to be the cornerstone of a democratic society. But ~~Amartya Sen~~ (Gandhiji) had proposed in concept of trusteeship that all property belongs to the public. Thus, the conflict between both has led to evolution of a constitutional ~~doct~~ and judicial interventions.

Evolution of property rights in India

① Initially considered a fundamental right → (Art- 30) at independence. But this FR hindered socio-economic distribution policies → like land reforms of 1951

② ~~Hence~~ Later, (Art 31C) emerged, which ensured DPSP (Art 39 (b) & (C)) which allowed socialist distribution policies to take precedence over Art-14 – Right to equality.

③ Goloknath case (1967) FRs inviolable, can't abridge them, to which 25th constitutional amendment came → Art 39 (b) and (c) can take precedence over FRs.

④ (42nd CAA) → 42nd constitutional amendment ensured any DPSP can be used to abridge FR. → reverted by 44th 1978 and (Minerva Mills) → DPSPs and FRs are bedrock of Indian constitution — need for intricate balance between individual rights and public welfare.

⑤ However, this was again overturned in (Sanjeev Coke case) → all private property can be used for public welfare.
↳ (Art 39(b))

⑥ Recently clarified in MH property owners association case → (Art 39(b)) includes private property whose relevance for public welfare, scarcity etc determines whether it can be acquired.

Thus, the recent clarification has ensured an expensive and enabling interpretation, not restricting the country to a single economic dogma.

Q.3) Under what conditions can the 'National' Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What are the consequences when such a proclamation remains in force? When was it last imposed in the country?

(10 marks, 150 words)

भारत के राष्ट्रपति किन परिस्थितियों में 'राष्ट्रीय' आपातकाल की घोषणा कर सकते हैं? ऐसी घोषणा के प्रभावी रहने पर इसके क्या परिणाम होंगे? देश में यह आखिरी बार कब लगाया गया था?

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The national emergency under (Art 352) was introduced as a dead letter by (Dr Ambedkar). Unfortunately it has been misused in the past according to Shah Committee.

Conditions for declaring national Emergency.

① External conflict/State of war.

② Internal disturbance - replaced by armed rebellion by 44th amendment 1978.

Consequences of proclaimation

① Suspension of fundamental rights
  ↳ (Art 19) → automatically. → (Art 358)
  ↳ (Art 20 and 21) not suspended.
  ↳ Right to seek grievances → (Art 359) also limited for Other rights

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② Government/ legislature can pass order for extending tenure.

③ Centre Parliament can pass for taking over assembly powers (or) Centre can also take executive precedence over state governments.

④ Judiciary will continue to function as is.

⑤ All acts deemed necessary for emergency subjected for judicial review.

(Imposition last time) → 1976, Indira Gandhi regime
↓
over fears of internal disturbance

(Criticism of provisions) → (HV Kamath) called for additional safeguards against emergency provisions in assembly.

(Punchi commission) recommendations must be adopted - localised emergency to ensure effective use of the same.

Q.4) 'Lack of a binding framework for pre-legislative consultations in India limits citizen engagement in the lawmaking.' Propose measures to strengthen the role of public consultation in the legislative process. (10 marks, 150 words)

'भारत में विधान-पूर्व परामर्श के लिए बाध्यकारी ढाँचे का अभाव, विधि-निर्माण में नागरिकों की भागीदारी को सीमित करता है।' विधायी प्रक्रिया में सार्वजनिक परामर्श की भूमिका को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए उपाय प्रस्तुत कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

A) Pre-legislative consultations involves gathering public opinion about policies before they are approved.

(Ex)→ DPDP Act, Telecom Act, NEP 2020 were all open to public opinions, which were also included. However there is no binding mechanism for same.

Measures to strengthen role of public consultation in law-making.

① Data availability - key, desaggregated data across all ministries and states to ensure informed consultation

(Ex)→ (Estonia's) completely digitalized governance system.

② Parliamentary pre-legislative ~~input~~ consultancy mechanism → like bill referal

Allow for mandatory legislative inputs

③ Publishing ⇒ a simplified note on the law, its different provisions and impact in simple language for people to understand.

④ Establish citizen charters for every ministry — to ensure consultation and accountability & policy making ⇒ Delegated legislation

⊗

⑤ Accountability framework — every MP must gather insights from constituency about bill.

⑥ Committee framework — Parliamentary committees must indulge in public consultation ⇒ En → Waqf bill JPC

Criticism ⇒ pre-legislative consultations

① Redundancy — Elected leaders are selected to provide insights in parliament ⇒ constituency.

② Impossible exercise — logistical challenge ⇒ considering all 1.4 billion suggestion. Such pre-legislative consultations should be held selectively for important policies, not mandatorily for all.

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Q.5) 'The recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission have enabled the States to improve their fiscal conditions.' Comment.

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(10 marks, 150 words)

15वें वित्त आयोग की अनुशंसाओं से राज्यों को अपनी वित्तीय स्थिति सुधारने में मदद मिली है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Ans) 15Th Finance Commission headed by NK Singh has been in charge from 2019-2025, 1 year beyond usual tenure to ensure effective state consultations and resolve state issues.
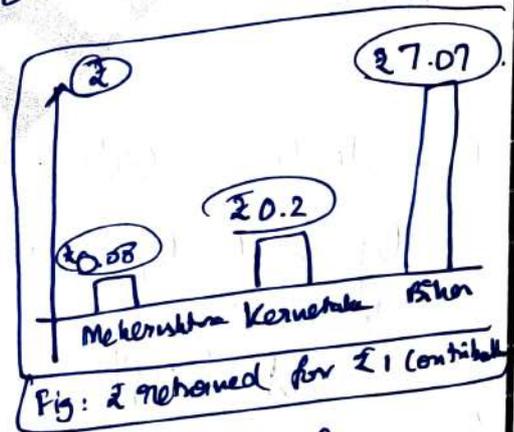

15th FC recommendations improving State fiscal conditions.

---

① States reached public debt targets of 32% of GDP set by 15thFC

② Substantial rise in ~~income~~ devolutions 32% to 42%, and reduced to 41% after J&K formation.

③ Included income distance — equalize state inequality (45%), (tax efforts) → (2.5%) to reward state performance and demographic performance → (12.5%) to correct for demographic penalty

(4) Enabled performance linked grants

→ State power reforms (0.5% borrowing extra)

→ For urban local body reforms etc.

However, the recommendations have also been criticised for the following reasons

① Central devolutions declining → PAC →
Cesses and surcharges → divisible pool
decreasing, effective devolution only 32%

② States production to revenue mismatch
contribution (vs) return
↳ criticised by Kerala, Tamil Nadu etc

Fig: ₹ returned for ₹1 contributed

③ Tied grants — leading to decreased devolutions.

Q The next 16ᵗʰ FC led by Arvind Panegriya must ensure states are adequately compensated to ensure fiscal federalism, as Sardar Patel had said — FC is the balancing wheel of fiscal federalism in India.

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Q.6) In what ways do industry and business associations contribute to socio-economic development in the country? Explain with suitable examples.

(10 marks, 150 words)

उद्योग और व्यावसायिक संघ देश के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में किस प्रकार योगदान देते हैं? उपयुक्त उदाहरणों सहित समझाइए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Ans) Industry and business associations have historically contributed to India's socio-economic development, even pre-independence like (V. C. Polkis) Swadeshi steamship Navigation company and (G D Birla's) Jute mills

---

Contributions of industry and business Associations.

① Contribute to GDP growth in the country => leading to greater exports and eventually (Employment)

Eg→ Tata group of businesses
   ↓
Significant industry association.

② Contributes to government policy making

Eg→ Recent (CII) recommendation for improving EoDB

③ Encourage sustainable Business practices → amongst the industries

Ⓔⓝ→ Diversity hiring, like Tatas hiring transgenders

④ Promote rural economic development and establish non farm opportunities also.

Ⓔⓝ→ ⑧ Walmart organises FPOs in Coastal Anadhra Pradesh.

Criticism ① industry and business associations.

① Motivated by profit primarily, not by socio-economic conditions.

② Presence ① lobbying allegations — interfering with government policy

Ⓔⓝ→ Frequent Adani scams

TVS chairman T. Venugopel had recently highlighted the India Way ① business development → Sustainable and stable & must be adopted by all.

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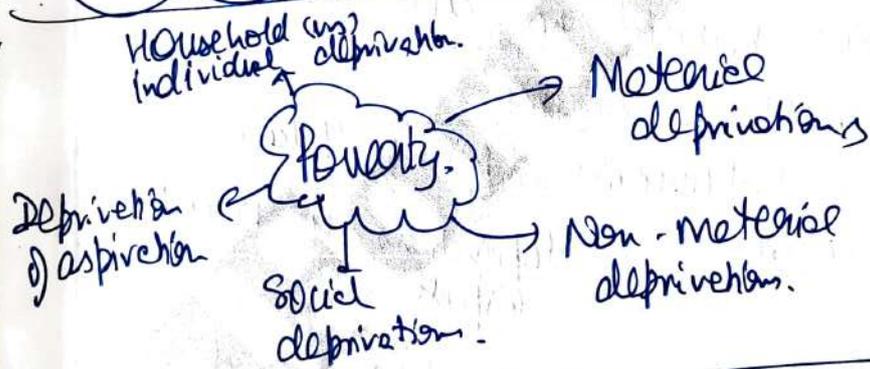Blog : blog.forumias.com
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Q.7) "India's poverty lies in the eyes of the beholder." In light of this statement, examine the need for a credible and periodically updated poverty estimation framework in the country.

(10 marks, 150 words)

"भारत की निर्धनता देखने वाले की आँखों में है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, देश में एक विश्वसनीय और समय-समय पर अद्यतन किए जाने वाले निर्धनता आकलन ढाँचे की आवश्यकता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

A) There are multiple poverty estimation framework in India, with World Bank noting poverty rate at $2.5%, SBI - 4.5%, NITI Aeyog — 11.5% etc. Thus, there is an active need for a single framework.

Poverty lying in the eyes of the beholder.

Need for a credible and periodic poverty estimation framework,

① Multiple framework — multiple results ⇒ lack of clear input.

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② Periodic updation required

Recent (HCES) led to updation
i) poverty → must be regular
yearly.

③ Need in policy-making
&
Disaggregated framework → regional
and social category spendt
interventions ⇒ (Across different
state poverty lines)

④ Effective monitoring and evaluation
i) welfare schemes
↳ through (MDPI) who
framework   deprivations in multiple
aspects.

⑤ Enhance global credibility and
sovereign credit framework.

⑥ Ensure public trust in government by
eradicating poverty.

Eradication i) Poverty — SDG 1 must also be
measured annually, hence need for single
framework is essential.

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Q.8) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 falls short of achieving its intended objectives. Comment.

(10 marks, 150 words)

यौन अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण (POCSO) अधिनियम, 2012 अपने इच्छित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में विफल रहा है। टिप्पणी करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

A) POCSO Act (2012) was established to ensure children are protected from sexual offences, however it has come into avrd criticism recently, even with a 2025 Sc judgement — granting see Act 142 type justice to a youth accused.

Objectives of POCSO.

① Reduces crimes of sexual abuse against children.

② Speedy justice and delivery.

③ Protecting the future of children and their dignity

Failure of POCSO in objectives

① Crimes against minors continuing
  ↳ Recent Odisha university ca

i) immolation ⇒ inability i) POCSO to.
reduce/deter such crimes.

② Benches - limited i) 761 fast track courts
but overas trekhed.
↳ Judicial delays i) thousands
i) cases → infra issues.

③ Criminalising consensual sexual
relations among minors i)
similar ages - Recent 2025 Supreme
Court judgement recognised
injustice to victim.

④ Failure in protecting dignity i)
children → publicization i) cases,
limited presence i) psychologists in
FSTCs etc.

Way forward must be to adopt UNCRC
Convention to ensure criminalisation i)
Children is avoided - for consensual and
non-exploitative relations. Also to prevent.
weaponization i) such cases.

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Q.9) 'Starved of funds, shackled by geopolitics, WHO is facing a crisis of capacity and credibility.' Discuss the statement in the light of USA's withdrawal and its accusation of the health body of being 'biased towards China and mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic'.

(10 marks, 150 words)

'धन की कमी से जूझ रहा और भूराजनीति से घिरा विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन क्षमता और विश्वसनीयता के संकट का सामना कर रहा है।' अमेरिका के WHO से पीछे हटने और स्वास्थ्य संस्था पर 'चीन के प्रति पक्षपाती होने और कोविड-19 महामारी से ठीक से न निपटने के आरोप के आलोक में इस कथन पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Ans) World Health Organization is one of this principal organs tasked with ensuring global healthcare objectives and decreasing global indicators of mortality.

WHO facing crisis of capacity and credibility

① USA withdrawal — recent Donald Trump presidency more
criticism of Chinese bias.

② Major funds source hindered →
vaccine development and supply programs in risk. → especially in Central Africa.

ⓑ Image of WHO tainted with bias.
↳ Decreased trust in body, and lowered adherence to regulation.

① Mishandling of Covid pandemic
↓
Downplaying concerns until pandemic emerged → Criticised as inefficient; for global spread could've been prevented much earlier.

Measures for WHO to reform.

① Focusing on global collaboration to regain trust - like recent (Pandemic treaty) → Global North-South collaboration.

② Access to funds can be obtained through increasing mandatory concessions to WHO by member countries and expanding funding sources to private companies also.

③ Encourage health care empowerment of nations - especially in NCD regulation.

Thus, the WHO must expand its role beyond just a facilitator to a global collaboration empowering health outcomes in different countries.

Q.10) The world continues to operate in a 'my terrorist' versus 'your terrorist' paradigm. Explain. What strategies would you suggest to develop a unified, comprehensive, and rules-based global approach to tackle the menace of terrorism?

(10 marks, 150 words)

दुनिया आज भी 'मेरा आतंकवादी' बनाम 'तुम्हारा आतंकवादी' के सिद्धांत पर चल रही है। स्पष्ट कीजिए। आतंकवाद के खतरे से निपटने के लिए एक एकीकृत, व्यापक और नियम-आधारित वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण विकसित करने हेतु आप कौन सी रणनीतियाँ सुझाएँगे?

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The recent debate on "my-terrorist (us) your terrorist" centres around many countries failing to designate TRF as a terrorist organisation despite claims of Pahelgam attack by themselves. Other dimensions follow.

> My terrorist us) Your terrorist paradigm.

① Centres on recognition of terrorist groups by different countries and organisation

② Reflects lack of global consensus/ collaboration in fight against terror.

③ However sometimes - difficult for countries to differentiate between terrorism and legitimate cause Ex → Hamas decleration as a terrorist

Strategies to develop a united rules based global approach to terror.

① Develop standard definition for terrorism across different domains and regions
  ↳ Financial, cyber etc

② Strict modalities to prevent Financing of terrorism
    ↓
  Coordination between ATFT and UNSC Counter terror cooperation

③ Binding framework against terrorism like UN convention against transnational organised crime. (UNTOC)

④ Consensus based designation of terrorism and terrorist groups

Thus, global fight against terror can only be countered through a united approach targeting collective ona terrorism

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Q.11) Briefly explain the procedure laid down in the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 for the registration of political parties with the Election Commission of India (ECI). What are Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)? What concerns are associated with them? Does the ECI have powers to de-register a political party?

(15 marks, 250 words)

भारत के निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) में राजनीतिक दलों के पंजीकरण के लिए जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम (RPA), 1951 में निर्धारित प्रक्रिया का संक्षेप में वर्णन कीजिए। पंजीकृत गैर-मान्यता प्राप्त राजनीतिक दल (RUPP) क्या हैं? इनसे क्या चिंताएँ जुड़ी हैं? क्या निर्वाचन आयोग के पास किसी राजनीतिक दल का पंजीकरण रद्द करने का अधिकार है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Au) The Representation of People Act (RPA) 1951 has been helmed for the conduct of elections, Registration of political parties etc, empowering the ECI to do so → concerned with more practical aspects of election compared to RPA 1950.

Currently — 6 National Parties , 50+ state parties

Procedure for registration of political parties.

① Section 29A of RPA 1951 contains provisions for same

② Parties classified into National, State, Unregistered

③ National Parties → need to fulfill 3 conditions, few of which are —

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(a) >6% of votes (or) 2 Lok Sabha seats from ≥4 states.

(b) Recognised as state party in 4 states.

(c) ≥8% total valid votes polled. etc.

④ State parties —

(a) ≥6% of votes in last legislative assembly and (e) 1 Lok Sabha seat.

(b) ≥8% total valid votes polled etc

⑤ Thus all parties register with ECI on the basis of those criteria.

Registered unrecognised political parties.

---

① Those parties which don't fulfel either criteria for State/National party.

② Generally newly established parties, (or) parties emerging from local body election

(Ex)→ Vijay- Tamil superstar newly launched political party.

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Concerns with RUPPs

① Not eligible for benefits under political parties by ECI - tax exemption etc.

② Prone to dissolution — limited party support from financers

③ Lack of effective regulation and scrutiny → can be used for:

    ⓐ Illegal activities— Money laundering

    ⓑ Limited safeguards for women.

    ⓒ etc. Money regulation — ₹ 2,000 limit (Donation) not applicable

No, the ECI doesn't have powers to deregister political parties - because in 2002 Supreme Court ruled that ECI can't get into political processes to maintain electoral integrity.

Thus, ECI must effectively regulate political parties to ensure integrity of elections is upheld and public trust is preserved

Feedb
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P & R		

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

TOTAL MARKS	

Q.12) Assess the role of NITI Aayog over the past decade in promoting cooperative and competitive federalism. (15 marks, 250 words)

सहकारी और प्रतिस्पर्धी संघवाद को बढ़ावा देने में पिछले दशक में नीति आयोग की भूमिका का आकलन करें।
(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

A) NITI Aayog replaced Planning commission in 2015 over concerns of the Planning Commission functioning as a super cabinet. NITI Aayog was envisaged as a think tank with 2 verticals → Promoting federalism and enhancing public policy research.

Role of NITI Aayog in promoting federalism

---

1) Competitive federalism.

① Establishes competitive rankism like recent (fiscal health index 2025) to encourage healthy competition between states.

② State wise disaggregated socio-economic data — like (SDG index 2024) ↳ to increase transperency and improve regions of concern.

II) Cooperative federalism

① Provide public policy inputs

    (En)→ State based Research improvement advocacy

② Establish platforms for <u>Centre-State</u> and <u>inter-State</u> collaboration

    ⊔
    (SAATH E) program for different - sectors like <u>education</u>.

③ Establish knowledge sharing among States- <u>for best practices</u>

    ⊔
    (En)→ Social sector best practices report 2024

④ Recognise and <u>celebrate advancements</u>

    ↱ a <u>state</u>
        ↳(En)→ Recent 2025 seawood report on <u>Tamil Nadu</u> success.

⑤ Aspirational districts program

    ↳ Empowering most backward 100 districts — Asymmetric federalism

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Challenges faced by NITI Aayog.

① Declining participation by states

Losing trust in NITI Aayog

Recent 9th gov council — 10 states/UTs boycotted.

② Regional differences in support

Ever being divide → limited support
to NER — hindering integration)
North East.

(Way forward) → Establish transparent and digital mechanisms for cooperation.

└ Encourage states to establish NITI Aayog like bodies themselves.

Along with NITI Aayog, other bodies like Art 263 — Inter States council and zonal councils must also be empowered for effective federalism.

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Q.13) 'The post of Deputy Speaker goes beyond ceremonial significance and is indispensable to Indian parliamentary democracy.' Discuss with relevant constitutional provisions and conventions. Also, examine the implications of the prolonged vacancy of the Deputy Speaker's post.

(15 marks, 250 words)

उपसभापति का पद औपचारिक महत्व से कहीं बढ़कर है और भारतीय संसदीय लोकतंत्र के लिए अपरिहार्य है।' प्रासंगिक संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और परंपराओं के साथ इस पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उपसभापति के पद के लंबे समय तक रिक्त रहने के निहितार्थों का भी परीक्षण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

A) The present 17th Lok Sabha concluded without any appointment to the Deputy Speakers' post, first time in the history of India. The post of deputy speaker was concieved during the GoI Act 1919 with first -

(Indispensability of deputy speaker to Indian parliamentary democracy.)

① Constitutional obligation

[Art 93] → Speaker to hold elections for deputy speaker as soon as possible

↳ 5 year delay is criticised

② Ensures continuity in parliament.
(Ex) → Recent VP resignation

from Rajye sabha — deputy chairmen
ensured interregnum prevented

③ Also ensures opposition cooperation

Convention ① handling post to
leader ① opposition
Deterioration ① relations.

④ Deputy Speaker also plays the
role ① becoming chairmen ①
any committee appointed to.
↳ Parliamentary convention

(Implications for prolonged vacancy)

① Constitutional obligations not
adhered to
↳ Constitutional morality
violated |

(Manoj Narule case) → highlights significance
① constitutional morality.

(Don't Write anything in this Area / इस स्थान पर कुछ न लिखें)

② Risk of parliamentary proceedings stalling — due to non-appointment.

③ Opposition protests increasis, as disagreement increase.

↓

Deputy speaker serves as a mediating support to the parliament, decreasing disruption and increasing productivity.
(17th LS — 80% lost to productivity disruption.)
— PRS data.

④ Violation of parliamentary convention

↓

Credibility of institution and public trust erosion.

Way forward → Codification of Speakers roles and responsibilities to ensure institutionalised appointment.

Thus, the role of Deputy speaker is necessary to ensure (Parliament's sanctity) is maintained. Which is essential for Parliament's functioning — (Raja Rampal case)

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Q.14) Is the growing demand for stricter regulation of online content justified, or does it pose a threat to the right to freedom of speech and expression? Examine in light of recent judicial pronouncements.

(15 marks, 250 words)

क्या ऑनलाइन सामग्री के सख्त नियमन की बढ़ती माँग उचित है, या यह अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार के लिए ख़तरा है? हाल के न्यायिक निर्णयों के आलोक में इसका परीक्षण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Ans) Recent developments such as the Samay Raina show have been criticised for breaching public morality and decency on social media, leading to Supreme court regulations of the same.

Growing demand for stricter regulation of online content.

Justification

① Required to preserve freedom of public morality and decency
    Observance of public ethics in lieu of reasonable restriction on Art 19 → (Allahbadhia Case) by Justice Suryakant

② Required to preserve the dignity and sanctity of public office

I

Recent Supreme Court case on cartoons on (PM Modi) criticised as abuse of freedom of speech and expression.

③ Essential to maintain dignity of individuals → [Just Rights for Children]

(V/S S Harish case 2024) → definition of child sexual exploitative material

I

for effective regulation and protecting child dignity.

④ To preserve law & order → Karnataka HC ongoing case against (X corp) over (Sahyog portal) for same.

I

for online platform moderating such content

⑦

Counterviews

① Ensuring right to freedom and expression through creativity → Imran Pratapgarhi case

② Arbitrary regulatory procedures must be limited

Shreya Singhal case → a) Sec 66A
                                   b) IT Act

curtailed as oppressive to speech and expression.

③ Courts shouldn't get into deciding cases on moral basis, rather must be done on constitutional basis — Madras High Court.

"Courts aren't institutions to sermonize the public on morality"

Thus, the regulation of digital content is valid in certain cases to ensure public order. But as indicated in Imran Pratapgarhi case such cases must be identified through strong mind and rational outlook

Q.15) Critically examine the 'in-house procedure' adopted by the Apex Court to inquire into allegations of misconduct against judges of constitutional courts in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में संवैधानिक न्यायालयों के न्यायाधीशों के विरुद्ध कदाचार के आरोपों की जांच के लिए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा अपनाई गई 'आंतरिक प्रक्रिया' का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Ans) The Supreme Court of India has adopted an in-house procedure to inquire into allegations of misconduct against judges of Supreme and High Courts.

(Ex→) Recent Delhi HC judge case.
(Yashwenth Gupta)

Features of in-house procedure:

① Judicial inquiry by 3 member Panel of Supreme Court judge, and two other Chief Justices of other state high courts
  ↳ in case of High court judge - inquiry

② In case of Supreme Court judge inquiry — Panel of CJI and

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2 other Supreme court judges

Significance of procedure.

① Ensures Judicial independence
⊥
upheld as part of Basic Structure
Doctrine - NJAC case 2014

② Internal accountability measures
⊥
Separation of Powers doctrine
upheld.

Criticism of procedure.

① Complete lack of institutionalised
transparency
  ↳ Procedure made public
    recently
  ↳ FIR proceedings not made
    public → Recent Delhi HC
    Judge case

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② Limited accountability measures
|
Judiciary can't eliminate/ take action itself, only parliament can
|
(Art 124)

③ Decline in public trust
|
Detrimental to judicial functioning
as (Justice Mer kandley Katju)
|
Public trust is essential for judicial legitimacy, and source of power for some.

(Measures to improve procedure)

① Enhence accountability — Parliamentary Executive involvement — like (USA) impeachment

② P Restitutionalize Procedure —
UK ombudsmen — Judicial appointment commission
Judicial accountability is key for ensuring constitutional performance of duties, given how judiciary is the custodian of constitution.

Q.16) Recent controversies over alleged malpractices in the electoral rolls have renewed demands for the mandatory linkage of Aadhaar with Voter ID. What is your opinion? Give reasons in support of your answer. (15 marks, 250 words)

मतदाता सूची में कथित गड़बड़ियों को लेकर हाल ही में उठे विवादों ने आधार को मतदाता पहचान पत्र से अनिवार्य रूप से जोड़ने की माँग को फिर से बल दिया है। आपकी क्या राय है? अपने उत्तर के समर्थन में कारण बताएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

A) Linking of Aadhar with Voter ID might not be the best solution, given how Aadhar is not considered a proof of citizenship.

Recent electoral rolls controversies.

① Maharashtre - over 48 lakh + additional voters have been added in this elections ⇒ questioning about sudden inclusions.

② Bihar special intensive revisions before November polls criticised over procedure and expedition

③ Duplication of voter-IDs reported in West Bengal By poll election

(Don't Write any
in this Area / इस
पर कुछ न लिखें)

Given the concerns, calls for linking
voter ID with Aadhar have emerged.
But I believe that not to be a ~~corr~~
correct measure.

Justification

→ Sec 9 of Aadhar Act.

① Aadhar not a proof of citizenship
    |
    Awaarded as a measure
    of identification
    |
    Even to PIO, NRIs ek.

② Aadhar doesn't indicate place
    of residence → rather only
    (permenent)   indicates temporary
    | residence
    Sec 33A of RPA
    1950

③ Criticism of data leaks of UIDAI
    and Aadhar although not
    proven, question the legitimacy
    of Aadhar.

③ ~~Aadhar ten be duplicated attou~~

④ Aadhar can be used as a source
   ① ~~de~~ duplication, but not as a
   permanent source ① citizenship.

Other measures to resolve electoral roll
controversies.

① ECI - like measure ① SIR in Bihar,
   ~~but~~ involving date ① birth certificate,
   and other measures ①
   identification
   └ But make it a measured
     process, over 6 months before polls,

② Ensure continuous vetting ①
   electoral roll → connected with
   death registry ① SRs - India.

③ Introduce unified electoral roll
   across India → ⟨ECI recommendation⟩

Thus, ⟨Sanjay Khanna committee⟩ for
ensuring data integrity ① electoral roll can
be used for effective maintenance ① electoral
                                              roll.

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Q.17) Lateral entry into civil services is seen as a reformative step, yet it continues to attract criticism and controversy. Discuss.

(15 marks, 250 words)

सिविल सेवाओं में पार्श्व प्रवेश (लेटरल एंट्री) को एक सुधारात्मक कदम के रूप में देखा जाता है, फिर भी यह आलोचना और विवाद को आकर्षित करता रहता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Ans) Lateral entry into civil services means direct entry of qualified, domain experts into government policy roles & administration, bypassing the civil services exam.

Benefits of lateral entry into civil service.

① Recommended by many committees — Hota comm, NITI Aayog, Subba Rao etc

② Ensures domain expertise in civil servants — clively missing ⇒ [Surindar Nath comm.]

③ Private participation in policy making — bringing experiences

and effective practices into government service.

④ Can make government services competitive — reduce complacency.

⑤ Followed by many countries

Ex→ USA — Elon Musk and Trump.
↳ DOGE

Challenges associated with lateral entry

① Can lead to spoils system

Recent Trump cabinet criticism ← Collusive corruption by politicians
for same

② Decline incentives for civil services them → lateral entry prioritized

⑧

③ Reduced accountability for civil service → as the lateral

entrees aren't equally liable for public service as normal civil servants.

④ Can lead to lateral entrants prioritizing self interests over civil service

⑤ Affects reservation outcomes and social justice

⑥ Lack 1) experience 2) lateral entrants in policy making and public administration.

Way forward

① As the recently announced UPSC notification (2024) → lateral entrants must be taken as advisory roles → ensuring knowledge transfer without accountability risk

Thus, following (Hota comm) recommendations can also enable similar civil service reforms — like age limit, domain expertise etc

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

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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.18) While rankings aim to benchmark the performance of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), concerns remain about whether current ranking frameworks reflect the broader goals of education. Suggest measures to make the ranking system more objective, inclusive, and aligned with educational and societal outcomes.

(15 marks, 250 words)

हालाँकि रैंकिंग का उद्देश्य उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों (HEI) के प्रदर्शन का मूल्यांकन करना है, फिर भी इस बात को लेकर चिंता बनी हुई है कि क्या वर्तमान रैंकिंग ढाँचे शिक्षा के व्यापक लक्ष्यों को प्रतिबिंबित करते हैं। रैंकिंग प्रणाली को अधिक वस्तुनिष्ठ, समावेशी और शैक्षिक एवं सामाजिक परिणामों के अनुरूप बनाने के उपाय सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

A.) The recent NIRF rankings continued the trend of placing IITs at the top. And similarly, the recent international ranking QS 2025 → ten universities in top 250 only. However these rankings are criticised as not reflective of NEP 2020 goals.

Concerns of mismatch in rankings and educational goals

① Ranking - based on limited categories → not expensive in nature.

② Excessive focus on quantity over quality

Publications quantity criteria → India over 2 lakh, but quality
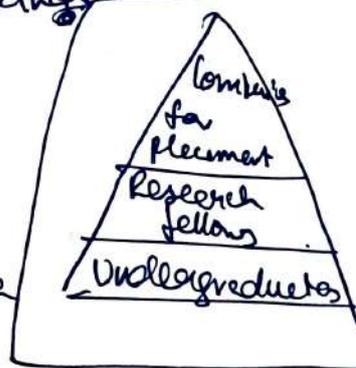
Concerns - piracy, distractions and plagiarism.

③ ~~costs~~ Rankings reflect single list for different uses - companies for placement, research students, under graduates etc
   ↳ no disaggregated ranking for each.

④ Limited focus on social justice outcomes - (DEI) representation.

Measures for improved ranking system.

① Tiered approach - different criteria for each king
   ↳ (Ex) →

② Transparency in criteria
   ↓
   Criticism for (NIRF).

③ Equal focus for diversity outcomes
↓
Ⓐ Enrollment of SC, ST, women.
Ⓑ R&D facilities for HEI infrastructure

④ Outcome based ranking
↓
⟹ Graduates with company placement, Social-oriented research etc.
↓
focus on quality over quantity

⑤ Multiple frameworks → adopt Alkire-Foster method for poverty estimation → Similarly for HEI ranking → convergence of quality and quantity

Thus efficient HEI rankings can lead to healthy and vibrant competition, boosting research outcomes for domestic and foreign investors.

Q.19) Examine the factors behind the growing salience of the Arctic region in international politics. Discuss, in this context, strategies for India to recalibrate its Arctic engagement. (15 marks, 250 words)

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय राजनीति में आर्कटिक क्षेत्र की बढ़ती प्रमुखता के पीछे के कारकों का परीक्षण कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, आर्कटिक में भारत की भागीदारी को पुनः संतुलित करने की रणनीतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

A.) Arctic region in the North Pole is a relatively uninhabited region covered by polar ice caps. It is governed by the Arctic Council — 8 member group.

①

Fig. Arctic zone

Factors behind growing salience in Arctic region.

① Global warming → leading to melting of ice :-

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(a) Opening of new trade routes like (Northern See Route)

(b) Increasing demand for mineral exploration — to secure critical minerals supply chain in global electronics 🔻 race

(En)→ Greenland's huge mineral reserve for REEs eyed by USA.

② Russia-Ukraine war — breakdown
(i) Arctic council collaboration
↑
leading to extensive militarization
(ii) region and threats of nuclear placements.

③ Securing maritime domain in unclaimed high seas.
(En)→ Russia's Kola peninsula, Norway's Svalbard

④ Growing interest of non-Arctic countries in region for geo-strategic

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and Geo-political reasons - Namely China and India.

⑤ Territorial conflicts over international waters → [USA, Canada] → [North west passage].
↳ Territorial expansion.

Strategies for India to Recalibrate Arctic engagement :

---

① Counter Chinese intrusion via Russian Arctic → geopolitical presence in Arctic required.

② Expand scientific collaboration with Nordic countries and engage in hydrographic explorations with Russia for AR routes. → security.

③ Push for global consensus and equitable sharing of Arctic - Push for Antarctica like treaty in (UN) → demilitarisation and equitable allocation.

Arctic region represents the new undiscovered territory, and must not be exploited in like with (Ottawa convention 1996) of Arctic Council.

(Don't Write
in this Area
पर कुछ न लि

Q.20) Bangladesh is a key pillar of India's Neighborhood First policy, but recent developments on both sides threaten to disrupt the 'Sonali Adhyay' in bilateral relations. Analyze. **(15 marks, 250 words)**

बांग्लादेश भारत की "पड़ोसी प्रथम" नीति का एक प्रमुख स्तंभ है, लेकिन दोनों पक्षों के हालिया घटनाक्रमों से द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में 'सोनाली अध्याय' के टूटने का खतरा है। विश्लेषण करें। **(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)**

Ans) → India played a key role in the genesis of Bangladesh through Mukti Bahini operation of 1971. However India's relations with Bangladesh have historically fluctuated with changing political regimes.

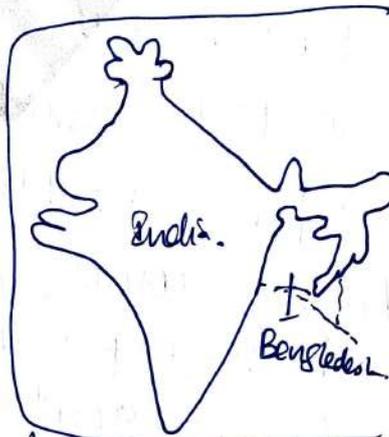Bangladesh as a key pillar of India's Neighbour first policy.

Fig : Geopolitical position

India.

Bangladesh

① Extensive economic collaboration
↳ Trade → India as one of top Bangladeshi partners
↳ Extend water transit as land ports and Investment from India to Bangladesh.

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② Intensive connectivity of Bangladesh
and India → Transhipment agreement
　　└→ British Era train tracks.
　　└→ Inland water transit agreement
　　└→ Sabroom land port.

③ Geopolitical support → Bangladesh
and India in global forums
　　U
　　(Ex) → Bangladesh supported India in
　　　Nijjar accusation.

(Recent developments threatening the
relation)

① - Change in regime → diplomatic
networks | damaged.
　　　　　↓
　　Deposed of earlier cordial PM.

② Statements threatening sovereignty
　of India
　　　↓
Transitionary Bangladesh head about North
East India.

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③ Preferring Chinese collaborations
as top security provider
↓
Threatening security of India
↑
Even formation of Pakistan-Bangladesh-
China nexus ⇒ Recent reports.

④ Treatment of minorities ⇒ led to
Tripura mission of Bangladesh
damaged by public mob.

☁ **Way forward**

① Strategic diplomacy — offering
economic benefits for regional
security and stability.

② Push for renewal of relations to
peace and security

③ Engage in goodwill relations with
Bangladesh → as Big Brother policy
Thus, securing a healthy relationship with
Bangladesh is crucial for regional stability, and
as EAM sem → India's strategic future lies in its
relations with neighbour

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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.			
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