

TEST CODE 8 1 2 4 1 0

MGP 2025

Time Allowed : Three Hours  
समय : तीन घंटे

Forum IAS

Maximum Marks : 250  
अधिकतम अंक : 250

## GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	DSK PRAJETA		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hindi <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	Date/दिनांक	2/7/25	

\*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			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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Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>
*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।			For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु	
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
			EG/ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	

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**Note:** Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes 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

Q-1) "Extract  
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"असाधारण :  
वर्च कीजिए

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### 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 a 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 have you (a) written what is asked (b) gone beyond what is asked (c) enriched answers through combination of ( but not all!) suggestions like 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 or not. Whether 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.

Call  
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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)

Art 142 of the Indian Constitution gives the Supreme Court ultimate powers to ensure effective and complete justice. However the exercise has been criticised lately.

Extraordinary powers of Art 142.

① Overruling procedures to grant justice

Ex → Atul Kumar Bhoze vs JOSA 2024

IIT Admission ensured.

② Go above and beyond Supreme Court's assigned jurisdiction

Ex → Army Regulation - Permanent Commission for women - Supriya Chandel case 2024

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③ Expand Courts review powers against itself  
 ↓  
 Enables writative petition in Supreme Court

④ Upholds constitutionalism → Chandigarh  
Mayor's Ballots  
Case 2024

⑤ Societal reform and social justice also  
 ↓  
 Supreme court granting divorce  
 without one year gap

However, these powers have been criticised  
 by Vice President → Nuclear missiles on Democracy.

Extraordinary care to be adopted for Art 142.

① Can't affect Fundamental Rights of others  
 in deliverance of one's justice.

Ex → Tubehills Coop Housing Board case

② Can't supplement law, only supplement it.

Ex → Association of ~~lawyers~~ Supreme  
court advocates vs UOI 1982.

As Justice TJB Parolewal cautions - Art 142

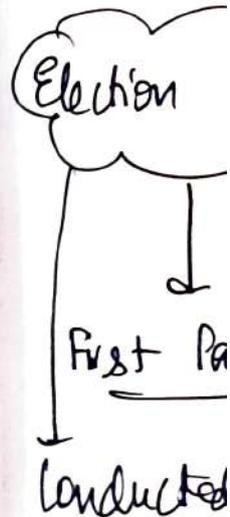
Must be exercised with utmost care to sustain  
 judicial trust and constitutional supremacy.

पर कुछ न...  
 Q.2) Why are State L...  
 the process of impea...

राज्य विधान सभाओं को  
 है?

Art 52

the Cen  
 Union



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Reason

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Feedback  
 (For OFFICER)

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Please put your marks in this table.	
Here 0 is the Average mark of Poor.	
TOTAL MARKS	

Q.2) Why are State Legislatures included 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)

Ans) Art 52 and Art 53 designate President as the constitutional and nominal head of the Union Executive. However, his int-

Election of President → Electoral college of all elected Members of Parliament and State Legislative Assembly.

First Part the Post System of Election.

Conducted by (ECI).

Removal of president however determined by parliamentary impeachment alone.

Reason state legislative assemblies not involved

① ~~President~~ President as an integral part of Parliament, not for legislative assemblies

② Centralising nature of Indian federalism

↳ [Evon Jennings]

President accountable to ~~State~~ Parliament

③ President as representative of Union  
Executive  $\Rightarrow$  not for ~~State~~ State Assembly / Government.

↓  
Hence impeachment by Parliament  $\rightarrow$   
Art 75  $\rightarrow$  Executive accountable to Lok Sabha.

④ Rajya Sabha as State representation in  
impeachment process

⑤ Borrowed nature of constitutional provisions - (Similarity to USA)

Way forward  $\rightarrow$  Consensus from States / Consultation  
can be effected  $\Rightarrow$  to ensure

Like territorial modification  
deliberative governance.

The President's removal must be  
consultative because according to [V.K. Krishna Rao J.C.],  
he is the conscience keeper of the Constitution.

Feedback  
(For OFFICE use)

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

Q.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 हैं। उनके महत्व को उजागर करें और निजी सदस्य विधेयक प्रक्रिया को सशक्त करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India in its 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha witnessed over ~~700~~ (700+) private members bills in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha each, however only 2 in LS, 14 in RS were passed. In-fact not one (PMB) has been passed since (1980).

### Significance of PMBs in India

- ① Enable deliberative governance, upholding spirit of Parliament.
- ② Reflect demands and needs of diverse regions and sections of India through their MPs.  
(Ex) Bills for women safety.
- ③ Enable accountability of MP from his constituency.

④ Promote social reform and direct  
Government's direction to pressing reforms

↳ Bill for ~~different~~ different disasters.  
↳ Bill for (VCC).

⑤ Portrays role of Opposition — Holding  
Government accountable in eyes of  
public by demanding bills.

~~Methods~~ Steps to strengthen PMB Process.

① Institutionalise PMB discussions → Every  
Friday must become parliamentary convention.

② Speaker neutrality in administering more bills.

③ Public display of all PMB bills by  
Parliament → greater accountability.

PMB thus ensures Parliament reflects the  
Pulse of the nation, not through its bills passed  
but by the debate fostered.

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Q.4) Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the judicial systems of India and USA. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत और अमेरिका की न्यायिक प्रणालियों के बीच अभिसरण और विचलन के प्रमुख बिंदुओं पर प्रकाश डालिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Judicial System of India is barely 80 years old, whereas USA's is 250+ years old.

However, there still exists significant convergence between them.

Points of convergence.

- ① Independence of Judiciary - fixed tenure, difficult removal, appointment scrutiny - Art 24.
- ② Judicial review → concept of due process of law adopted from America.
- ③ Advisory jurisdiction - to President  
↓  
to clear constitutional doubts. Art 143 in India

Points of divergence.

Point	USA	India.
① Appointment process.	<u>Executive</u>	<u>Judicial</u> → Collegium.
② Dual Judiciary (a) Single.	<u>Federal + State</u> judicial systems	<u>Integrated</u> <u>Judiciary.</u>
③ Transparency	Mandated financial disclosure for <u>Supreme Court</u>	No such <u>Mandate.</u>
④ Special powers	Limited checks and balances, greater separation of powers	Greater Judicial review, Art- 142, PILs etc.

Indian judiciary is a unique synthesis of borrowed elements and unique evolution like PILs ⇒ suited to India's cultural and political context

Feedback  
(For OFFICE use)

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

Q.5) 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)

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

Election Commission of India (ECI) - (Art 342) was designated by the Constitution and RPA 1950, 1951 to conduct elections, but is now taking on a greater role.

Evolution of ECI as guardian of electoral democracy.

① Constant evolution of electoral processes

(En) → Contribution reduced to ₹ 2 thousand from ₹ 20k. → free and fair elections

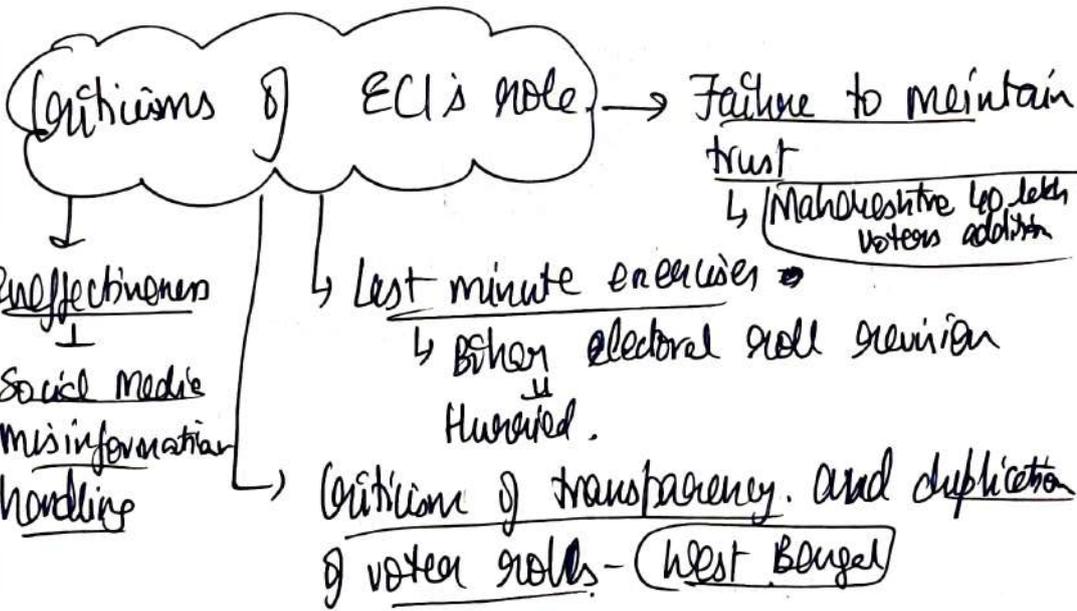
② Strives to build and maintain public trust in democracy

(En) → June Bypolls 2025 → 100% webcasting of polling booths.

③ Ensuring Inclusivity in elections -  
↳ Sakshyam App for disabled.

④ Efficiency expansion of ~~governance~~ elections through technology and digitization  
↓  
BVMs, ETPBs, ECINET portal.

⑤ Model Code of Conduct - Ensure Level playing field for elections.



Elections in India must not only reflect peaceful transfer of power, but ECI must ensure Indian elections as a global example of free and fair election.

Feedback

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Here G is Grand Average and P Poor.	
TOTAL MARKS	

Q.6) 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)

भारत 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 as dictated by NEP 2020 seems to ~~be~~ teach students 3 languages - including mother tongue and English.

Rationale behind policy.

- ① Uniformization and Standardization of Education across states.
- ② Enable greater opportunities for students by learning 3<sup>rd</sup> language
- ③ Ensure mother tongue instruction - fulfilling APU-3SDA objectives.
- ④ English education standardization as well.
- ⑤ Greater literacy outcomes

# Challenges with adoption and implementation.

- ① Limited capacity of schools nationwide to teach 3 languages.
- ② Diversity of mother tongues, and widespread migration  $\Rightarrow$  need for identification and provisions nationwide  $\Rightarrow$  logistically tough.
- ③ Disposition on states - Federal Disensions over 3rd language - naturally Hindi
- ④ Lack of material in all languages  
limited assessments and exams  $\uparrow$
- ⑤ Poor learning outcomes in remaining subjects must be corrected before going ahead.

Way forward for the challenge can be digitalization and tele-education through SWAYAM portal  $\rightarrow$  choice of students and logistial ease. ~~Enables~~ Requires digitalization of classrooms but.

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Pool.	
TOTAL MARKS	

Q.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)

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

1). Rural water governance refers to provision of effective, continuous, clean water to all, as proclaimed by [Tata Shakti Mission]. However it has run into many challenges.

## Challenges to rural water governance

- ① Environmental concerns → water stress increasing, earthen latrines drying up, river water provision declining
- ② Evolving ecosystem perspectives →
  - Ⓐ Agriculture demand increasing.
  - Ⓑ Monsoon & unpredictability - increased and disturbed regional demands
  - Ⓒ Water pollution due to industry expansion in Rural areas.

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Key interventions for rehabilitation

- ① Community based water management  
 like Uttarakhand Shree Jal programme,  
 ↓  
 ② Enable dynamic governance - changing conditions.
- ③ Greater centrality in interventions.
- ④ Better accountability and monitoring.
- ② Need to adopt integrated water governance  
 ↓  
 ⑤ River-basin approach - [T Bandopadhyay]  
 ⑥ Combining CWC and CGWB ⇒ [Mihir Shah Comm.]
- ③ Integration of climate considerations into water planning.  
 ↳ Data based water governance - [Mihir Shah Comm.]

Thus, Good water governance is essential to meet SDG-6 and ensure UN goal of 55 litres/person/day is met

Feed  
 (For OFFICE)

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

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

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

India has yet again faced a rank of 130 on the Global Gender Gap report of WEF, due to ineffective implementation of schemes.

Challenges in Effective implementation of gender sensitive schemes.

① Ineffective coverage → PM Matru Vandana Yojana  
only 9.3% coverage in 2023.

Tamil Nadu's scheme covers 83% of women.

② Limited institutional support - NCW.

Parliamentary Standing Committee 2023

Delays in implementation, Paper-Pushing entity, inconsistent intervention

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③ Patriarchy in society and governance

④ Poor monitoring of outcomes → ~~the~~  
 ↓  
 lack of disaggregated, timely data.

⑤ Ineffective convergence of ministries

Mo Education - Mo Women & Child Development - Min. of Health & Family Welfare

⑥ Low educational and health outcomes

↓  
 Empowerment inefficiency  
 [64% literacy rate]

↓  
 Limited  
 [98 Maternal Mortality Rate]

## Measures to improve implementation.

① Follow [Aparna Bhett & Or vs DOJ] case to avoid gender stereotyping - patriarchy decline.

② Ensure independence and strengthening of [NCH] → as watchdog

③ Local body empowerment → grassroots delivery.

[Swami Vivekananda] said a bird can't fly with one wing. Similarly societal development requires women empowerment.

**Feedback**  
 (For OFFICE use)

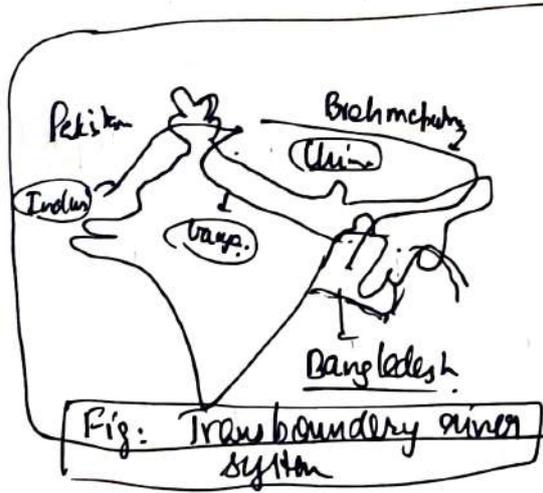
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Here G is Good, Average and P is Poor.		
TOTAL MARKS		

Q.9) Effective Pan-Asian water cooperation (2025-07-02-19:31:42) 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)

प्रभावी 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)

India shares countless rivers with its neighbours, ~~presently~~ through the Indus-Gange-Brahmaputra systems mainly. This presents huge opportunity for water diplomacy.

Opportunities for water diplomacy.



① Engage in water sharing agreements

↳ like between Egypt - Kenya - Ethiopia on Nile

↳ can extract benefits in exchange of water, like Mineral resources also in Bhutan

② Exact deterrence against enemy countries  
 ↓  
 Recent suspension of Indus Water Treaty.

③ Goodwill and soft power ⇒ Enable India's role as Big Brother in neighbourhood.

↓  
 (En) Development of dams - APJN III in Nepal.  
 ↳ Early warning system - under IWT earlier.

## Challenges in water diplomacy.

① Usage as deterrence - damage India's global and regional ~~image~~ image.  
 ↓  
Decline in trust.

② Can be used against India.  
 ↳ Chinese construction of Dam on Ganga

Thus, water diplomacy must be cautiously used to ensure regional cooperation and stability, as QAM S Jaishankar says a global power must have a strong regional foundation.

Feedback	
(For OFFICE use)	
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Please put tick marks in the table.	
Here G is Good Average and P is Poor.	
TOTAL MARKS	

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

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

The WTO was established in 1992 after the Marrakesh accords and includes within itself TRIPS, GATT, GATS, TRIMs etc and other agreements.

Challenges faced by WTO.

- ① Limited consensus  $\Rightarrow$  very few treaties signed in 20+ long tenure.  
 Ex  $\rightarrow$  Fisheries agreement, Agreement on Agriculture etc.
- ② Ineffective dispute settlement body  
 $\hookrightarrow$  Blocked by USA.
- ③ Lack of success in projecting a global order amidst trade wars  $\Rightarrow$  Trump's Tariffs
- ④ Limited enforcement powers against rising protectionism and resource nationalism by countries.  
 [Chinese Export works]

## Measures and areas to reform.

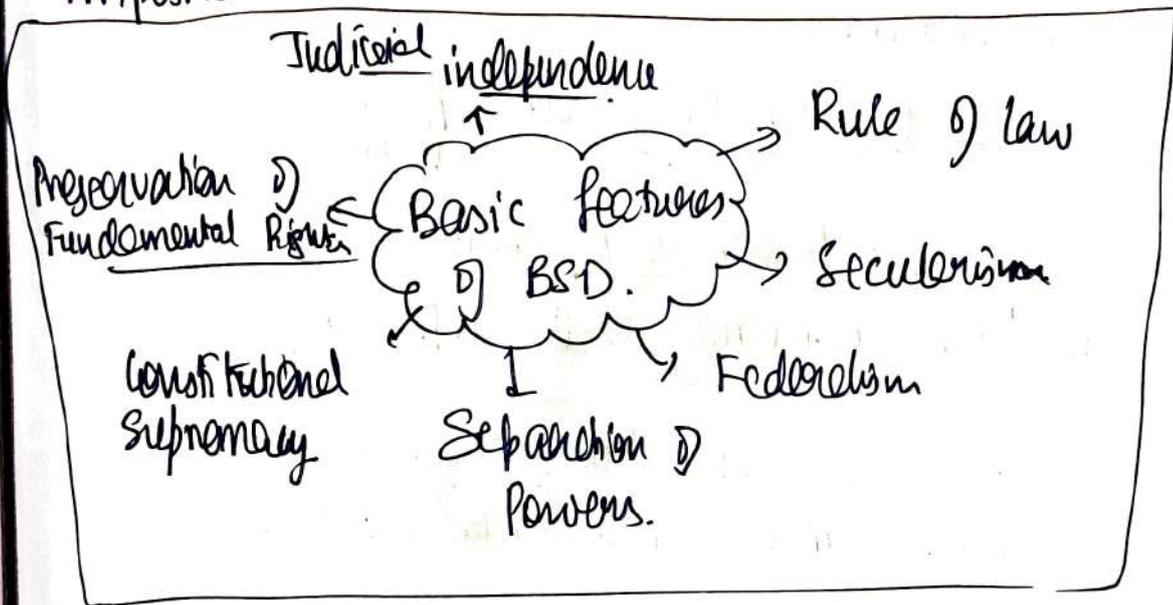
- ① Speedy implementation of alternative dispute settlement procedure  
 ↓  
 as decided in latest Ministerial Conference,  
 delayed since 2024 deadline
- ② Effective enforcement of rules based order  
 limited exceptions ~~and~~ ⇒ like Safets Clause
- ③ Remote inclusivity — Effectiveness of Special and differential treatment  
and limited Non-Tariff barriers
- ④ Enforcement powers — use fines and sanctions.

WTO has potential to ensure rules based global order, but it must overcome its ~~weak~~ orientations and adopt neutrality

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

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

4). The Basic Structure Doctrine was (BSD) established by Supreme Court in Keshavananda Bharti case to limit parliament's imposition and preserve Constitutional Supremacy



BSD as a constitutional compass.

① Preserving Parliament's authority

② Enables parliamentary sovereignty

Raja Rampal case → Privileges are essential for functioning of parliament.

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TOTAL MARKS	

Even Amarinder Singh Case

① ① Ensures Separation of Powers

↓  
Kihoto Hollohan Case

10<sup>th</sup> schedule  
defections, parliamentary  
responsibility

②

② Preserves Rule of Law, against executive  
dominance.

Ex → Indro Sawhney Case ⇒ Procedural  
nature

③ Preserves parliamentary powers -

limiting ordinances ⇒ RC Cooper Case

② DSJ also ensures constitutional supremacy on  
the other hand, against parliamentary interference  
also :-

① ① Against foundational values and subversion

of constitution → IR Coelho ⇒ ninth schedule  
law also judiciable.

② Ensuring judicial independence - NJAC  
Case 2014 from parliamentary intrusion

① Protection of fundamental rights

Miner's Mills case

② Preservation of federalism

97<sup>th</sup> CAA struck down for anti-federal imposition by Parliament.

③ However, BSD also sometimes is over-reaching, resulting in Judicial ~~activism~~ activism:

① Judicial review → NTAC cancelling seen as antithetical to work of people.

② Recent mandamus to president on federalism criticised as breaching constitution.

Hence Basic Structure doctrine is a highly essential principle and a unique principle, but its use must be limited to constitutional amendments - as indicated by JY Chandrachud CJ

**Feedback**

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**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)

Ans) Urban local bodies were constitutionalized under 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act, but their functioning has been criticised recently.

Significance of ULBs in governance (urban)

I) Inclusivity → 33% mandatory reservations to women.

↳ SC/ST reservations.

↳ Participatory planning - inclusivity of direct population.

II) Efficiency → Greater accountability → directly by people

↳ Effective public service delivery.

↳ Ensures locally adaptable solutions.

# Challenges associated with ULBs

## ① Financial Constraints

① Dependency syndrome  $\Rightarrow$  greater than 45% of funds from states and centre.  
 $\hookrightarrow$  RBI report

## ② Low effectiveness in Own Source of Revenue generation (OSR)

$\hookrightarrow$  OSR only contributes to 0.5% of GDP  
 $\downarrow$   
England makes - 10% of GDP  
 $\hookrightarrow$  Subsumption of taxes like Octroi by GST

## ③ Poor fiscal condition $\Rightarrow$ CAG report

Limited funds for increasing demands of city.

Municipal debt rose by 300% (2013-2022)

## II Institutional weakners.

- ① Irregularities in elections — Bengaluru without elections since 2020.
- ② Displacement of role by para-statal agencies like Smart Cities Advisory Forum
- ③ Limited capacity, and bureaucratic interference  
 ↓  
 Staffing autonomy limited Crk Room
- ④ Corporate Pat Syndrome and corruption  
 ↓  
Mani Shankar Aiyar Comm.

Measures to reform ULBs. → Institutional strengthening  
 ULBs like in USA — City level Myra

RBI → Recommends GIS based property tax.

Vijay Khelkar → Extension of GST to local bodies.

2<sup>nd</sup> ARC → Encourages PPPs for effective governance.

ULB empowerment is essential for effective governance, as decentralisation with sharing power, but sharing responsibilities

Feedback

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

Q.13) "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)

"न्यायपालिका 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 न्याय विधियों (केस लॉ) की मदद से इस कथन पर चर्चा करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Governor, instituted by Art 153 has been criticised for his role involving discretion such as dissolution of Assembly Art 163 and Reserving of bills Art-200.

Judicial Role in Limiting Governor's Office.

① Effective timelines for reservation of bills

↳ 1 month to ~~hold~~ withhold.

3 months to reserve for President

↓

State of Tamil Nadu (vs) Governor of Tamil Nadu 2025

② ~~Effective~~ Clarity in Governor's role during formation and dissolution of assembly

↓

Nabam Rebia Case → Art-163 → Governor has no discretion.

③ Effective usage of Art 356 - Recommending  
President's rule ⇒ TSR Bormmai case (1974)  
 ↳ Providing list of criteria for  
 implementing president's rule.

④ Highlighted - arbitratoriness of post  
 ↓  
~~⊗~~ Swaya Narain case ⇒ Governor having  
no security of tenure

⑤ Recommended procedural appointments and transfers → BP Singhal case

### Significance of judicial intervention

- ① Upholds federalism → Governor deliberately stalling state governance.
- ② Evolution and plugging of constitutional holes → Clarity in ambiguous provisions, like Smelies in (Tamil Nadu case)

③ Preventing executive outreach - Preserving Rule of law ⇒ BP Singhal case

④ stability of state governments upheld  
SR Bommai case

## Criticism of interventions.

① Judicial overreach - Mandamus to governor and president

② Constitutional breach - providing timelines  
↓  
Arbitrariness in nature.

③ Bordering on judicial populism

④ Judiciary unconcerned about administrative procedures

However, as BR Ambedkar said - the Governor has no discretion in a popular government, Judiciary has lived the fulfil the statement.

**Feedback**  
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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)

Ans) Tax devolution to the States, vertically and horizontally are determined by GST and Finance Commission, (Art 271A & Art 280)  $\Rightarrow$  both constitutional bodies.

### Devolution of Taxes to States.

1) Vertical devolution  $\rightarrow$

a) FC formula  $\rightarrow$  (41%) according to (15<sup>th</sup> FC)

~~tax~~ cesses and surcharges not added - (Art. 271) to divisible pool.

b) GST  $\rightarrow$  decides according to GST Council - set up by President

$\downarrow$   
1/3<sup>rd</sup> Centre voting power } 3/4<sup>th</sup> required  
2/3<sup>rd</sup> State votes } for decision

# Horizontally

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(a) FL formula → ~~Area~~ Income distance  
[45%],

Area [15%], Population [15%], Forest and

Ecology [10.5%], Demographic performance [12.5%]

Tax Efforts [12.5%]

(b) GST same by Council again.

## Concerns raised by States

(1) Decreasing Divisible pool ⇒ due

to increasing cesses and surcharges

↳ [12.5%] currently of  
Central Revenue.

(2) ~~State~~ Contribution - eligibility mismatch

↓  
loss to producing states ⇒ (Ex) Karnataka

(3) Loss of autonomy in tax collection

↓  
GST ⇒ uniform rules, regional  
autonomy vanished.

④ Declining share of divisible pool → (42%) to (41%) after Jammu & Kashmir - UT.

⑤ EC → ~~all~~ recommendations not followed.

Concise measures for same.

① cutting on taxes and surcharges by of Centre - Sarkar Commission

② Greater contribution of states in Finance Commission → Punchi Comm.

↓  
Participation in TOR finalization.

③ Establish permanent FC for monitoring devolutions.

④ Establish GST appellate tribunal to speeden up complaints.

True federalism forms the backbone of cooperative federalism. And in such federalism, J. D. Chandrababu Naidu, states must be partners, not at conflict

Feedback	
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TOTAL MARKS	

Q.15) 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)

किसी 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)

Ans. Constitutionalization of a Commission enables greater powers to the organisation.

Steps required for constitutionalizing  
a Commission.

- ① Provision of security of tenure,
- ② Institutionalizing processes of appointment/ removal
- ③ Inclusion via constitutional amendment  
art. 105 for NEBC.

Granting Constitutional status to CIC

↓  
Might improve RTI regime, but  
it requires other reforms.

- FORUM
- ① Might provide fearlessness of CIC officer.
  - ② Ensure regular appointment — filling of vacancies.
  - ③ Can ensure justiciability of CIC mechanism.

### Additional reforms required

- ① RTI regime → Greater effectiveness of CIC.  
 ↓  
 Not rejecting over silly reasons.
- ② Accountability mechanisms  
 ↓  
 for CIC from public/ executive
- ③ Greater transparency in workings
- ④ Reduced bureaucratization of posts

⑤ Procedural inefficiencies must be cleared / resolved ⇒ limited delays

Thus, role of constitutionalization must be accompanied by other reforms to ensure CIC works efficiently to enable RTI Regime

**Feedback**

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TOTAL MARKS				



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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)

Ans. India fared poorly - 105<sup>th</sup> rank in recent 2024 Global Hunger Index, despite being 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy, and one of largest agricultural producers.

### Current Status of India in Hunger

Child nutrition - NFHS-5 → Adult

Stunting — 35%  
Wasting — 18%  
Underweight — 32%

BMI < 18.5 ⇒ 18%

Anemia ⇒ 57% of women

Zero food children → in India ⇒ 6.7 million  
2023 Lancet Study

### Factors responsible for low Nutrition outcomes

① PDS nutritional inefficiencies

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PDS system → ~~the~~ NPSA 2013 provides only cereals, ineffective for nutrition.

② Limited nutritional education and awareness → Among students and parents.  
↓  
Breastfeeding — missing in many poor households.

③ Sanitation inadequacy → Enteropathy  
↓  
Rural areas. ← Diarrhoea & led malnutrition

④ Limited dietary diversity — Micronutrient deficiencies  
Vitamins, Folic acid etc

⑤ Poor nutritional outcomes amongst tribes and other marginalized groups.

⑥ Global norms and measurement standards inadequate — MOWCD → Chain of Poshan Tracker  
↓  
87. Wasting not MoV.

## Steps to improve situation.

- ① Encourage dietary diversity — Poshan scheme, PDS, NFSA etc.
- ② Nutritional awareness → among family
  - ↳ School based education.
  - ↳ Through AWES and AHA workers (ICDS).
- ③ Encourage breast feeding — MAA scheme
  - ↳ Ensure safe pregnancy — Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana
- ④ Screening of nutritional disorders to be stepped up under Bal Swasthya Karyakram

Hunger is the <sup>2nd</sup> ~~first~~ goal of SDG, and is highly crucial to address to break the

(intergenerational cycle of poverty)

Feedback  
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TOTAL MARKS

Q.17) The Union Government has recently announced that caste enumeration will be part of the upcoming 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)

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

Ans. The upcoming census will be conducted after a gap of over 17 years and is long overdue. It includes new features such as a digitized and caste-enumeration census.

### Opportunities of conducting caste census

① Availability to latest, accurate data

↓  
Relying on 1932 census → built on SECC 2011

② Disaggregated, nationwide data

↓  
Effective for identifying intersectionalities.

③ Ensures accurate creamy layer identification

↓  
Prevents elite capture of reservations

④ Effective for upcoming delimitation

↓  
for assigning caste-based seats

⑤ Can help in nationalizing quotas

↓  
According to population and disadvantage ⇒ especially OBC.

## Challenges in caste-census.

① Enumeration and identification

challenges

↳ Multiplicity of castes, regional names etc.

SECC 2011 → ~~is~~ left an open blank ⇒ Multiple, duplicative castes emerged

② Can lead to politicization and identity politics

↳ cover Common results

③ Meritocracy affected ⇒ Art 335

↳ due to increase in reservations

beyond 50% ceiling

④ Solidification of social divisions and conflict in society

Framework for seamless conduct

① Awareness to people on effective reporting of caste anomaly to form

② Pre-Informed consent necessary

③ Enumeration activity for castes to be undertaken ⇒ Not open blank

④ Digital security and data privacy

Census is highly effective for policy-making to be targeted, and is essential treasure for India

### Feedback

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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)

Ans) AI has become ubiquitous even in Indian governance. Even Supreme Court has adopted Supace for effective case management. Similarly, AI can be utilized for Health and Education governance.

Potential for AI in governance.

I) Health governance

① AI integration in tele medicine

↓  
Personalized doctor, advisory suggestions.

↓  
E-Sanjeevani integration.

- ② AI as assistant for doctors → Personalized assistant.
- ③ AI-based screening and diagnosis  
↓  
(RT) → AI based radiology scans
- ④ AI for effective monitoring of healthcare outcomes and patient adherence to regimen ⇒ Necessary for Tuberculosis 6 month treatment
- ⑤ AI for maintenance of healthcare infrastructure and supply chain management of medicines

⑥ Education governance.

- ① AI based personalised tutors  
↳ Monitoring of educational outcomes, personalized assistance etc.
- ② AI assistance in designing courses  
↳ (Diksha) courses.

③ AI for data based monitoring of education outcomes across schools

↓  
Disaggregated data analysis.

④ AI for multilinguism → greater inclusivity.  
Even disabled users → for digital courses on SWAYAM portal.

### Drawbacks of AI.

- ① Data and privacy concerns
- ② Mismanagement / exploitation of patient data  
↳ Denying insurance claim etc.
- ③ Lack of AI specialists and technicians in India.
- ④ Nasiness of AI → can lead to biases, hallucinations.

(Paris) India-France AI declaration must be adopted for developing people and public-centric AI, especially for governance.

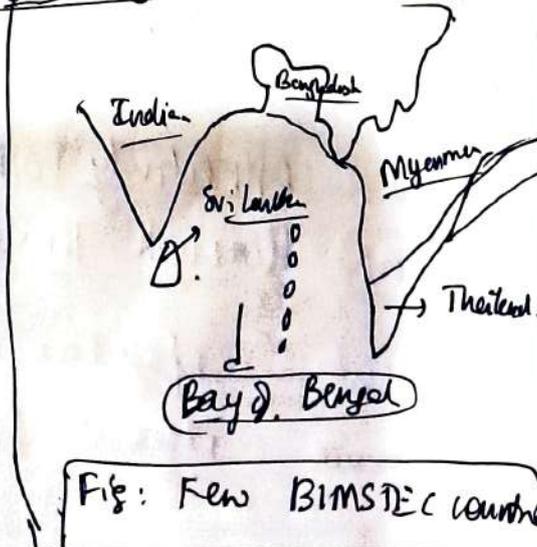
Q.19) Providing a brief overview of the aims and objectives of BIMSTEC, explain its significance for India. (15 marks, 250 words)

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

Ans). BIMSTEC was formed in 1992 as part of the Bangkok agreement signed, and includes South Asian Countries + Thailand and Myanmar. ⇒ ~~SEA~~ surrounding Bay of Bengal

Aims and objectives of BIMSTEC

- ① Inclusive, Hub-based, free and open Bay of Bengal
- ② Regional economic cooperation, enhancing inter-country connectivity and expanding trade.
- ③ Regional security and stability
- ④ Encouraging cultural and scientific cooperation



## Significance of BIMSTEC for India

- ① Further India's goals of Neighbourhood First and Act East ⇒ Policy emphasis
- ② Enables rules-based maritime order.  
↳ 1<sup>st</sup> responder as India
- ③ Deterrence to Chinese BRI and String of Pearls assertion.

④ Enhance regional connectivity

↓  
Improves economic opportunities for North East

Manipur  
Moneh - Mae  
Sot

↓  
↳ Trilateral Highway,

Kaladan Project.

↳ trade with  
⑤ Expands connectivity and trade with  
ASEAN through Thailand

⑥ Regional cooperation and leadership  
in forum without Pakistan — neglecting  
SAARC

# Challenges for BIMSTEC

- ① Delayed ratification of treaty  
↳ after 12 years of signing - 2014.
- ② Internal instability in region  
↳ Myanmar ⇒ Civil war  
↳ Bangladesh ⇒ Regime change.
- ③ Frequent delays and blockades to agreements  
↳ Nepal opting out of Road connectivity agreement.

~~Measures to take~~  
India should enhance bilateral ties and push for implementation

## Way forward

Attract external investment  
Vouch for UN entry.

Economic emphasis  
↓  
greater focus can lead to operationalization

As Shivshankar Menon, ex - foreign secretary said - India's strategic future lies in its regional interactions ⇒ BIMSTEC is highly essential

### Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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TOTAL MARKS			

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)

Ans) India - China are currently the largest populous nations, with both accounting for rapid economic growth. Despite their proximity, they share a troubled relationship.

India's foreign policy approach with China

① Cooperation →

① Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement 1993

↓  
Foundation for further border agreements.

② Economic trade — \$120-140 billion annually, but India — \$80 deficit.

③ Tech-based investments of China in India — Automobiles (BYD, KIA), Phones (Mi, Xiaomi) etc

366137\_8124101910159646\_2023-07-02 19:34:42  
(I) Cultural links → historical ties back to BCE.

- ↳ Buddhism ties.
- ↳ Manasarovar Yatra of Indians to Tibet.

(II) Competition →

- ① Global production ⇒ Trade competition.
- ② Defence competition
- ③ Preventing dumping of goods.

(III) Conflict →

① Frequent border skirmishes ⇒ 2020 Galwan clash.

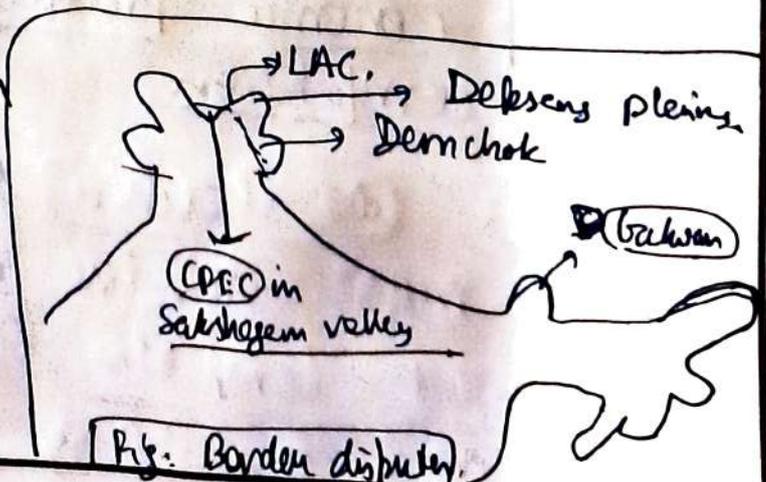
② Intrusion into Indian territory ⇒

Hotan prefecture declared in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh Neeps.

③ Maritime assertion

↓  
Dual use ports  
allow Indian neighbours

⇓  
String of Pearls



# Broad contours for India's future China policy.

- ① ~~the~~ Distant interactions  $\Rightarrow$  Mutually away but continuing cooperation
- ② Strengthen regional ties to counter Chinese influence  
 $\Downarrow$   
 through DPZ, maritime security, Energy transition etc outreach programs.  
 $\Downarrow$   
 Build up goodwill  $\rightarrow$  RADR gates?  
 like Op Karume, Myanmar
- ③ Strengthen QUAD presence as deterrence to China in Indian Ocean
- ④ Boost up economic production for trade based competition.

As General GDS Chauhan said, Chinese policy of India must revolve around 5C's - Cooperation, Conflict, Competition, Coexistence ~~and~~ Contestation

## Feedback

(For OFFICE use)

	②
AWIS	
CD & VA	
S & F	
P & R	
Please put tick marks in the table. Here G is Good Average and P is Poor.	
TOTAL MARKS	

**Mentor Feedback Questions**

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

**Test Goal**

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

**Outcomes**

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**Marking Scheme**

Mark	Good	Average	Below average
10 Marker	3.75 - 5.0	3.0 - 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 - 7.0	4.0 - 5.5	< 4.0
20 Marker	7.75 - 10	6 - 7.5	< 6
✓✓	Key / Relevant Point		
✗	Vague / Irrelevant		

\* Subject to change without prior notice.