

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	Deeksha Chauhaniga.		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910044065	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1901	Date/दिनांक	1 st July 2025

*Center Code : For Oniine - 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			
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Total/कुल अंक	250		

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।

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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :	Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 1:30	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 4:30
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Total Marks/कुल अंक :	Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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*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।

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ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers; or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

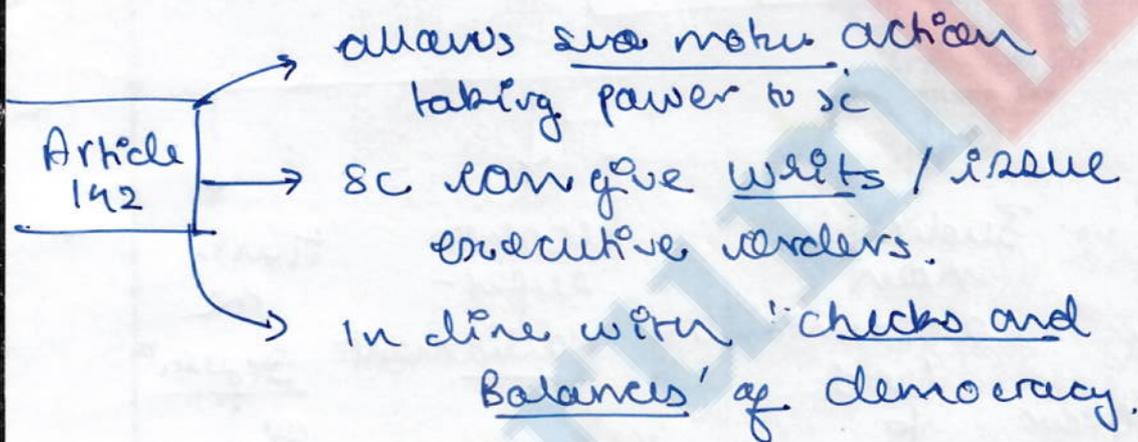
CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

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

Q.1) "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 supreme court of India extraordinary power to do "complete Justice". It is a tool of Judicial empowerment as well as Judicial excess.



Utility of A-142

- Aids in furthering Social Justice →
 - (Eg) Babita Punia case : SC allowed women in permanent commission
- Fill in the executive gap -
 - (Eg) Vishakha guidelines for women safety by SC.

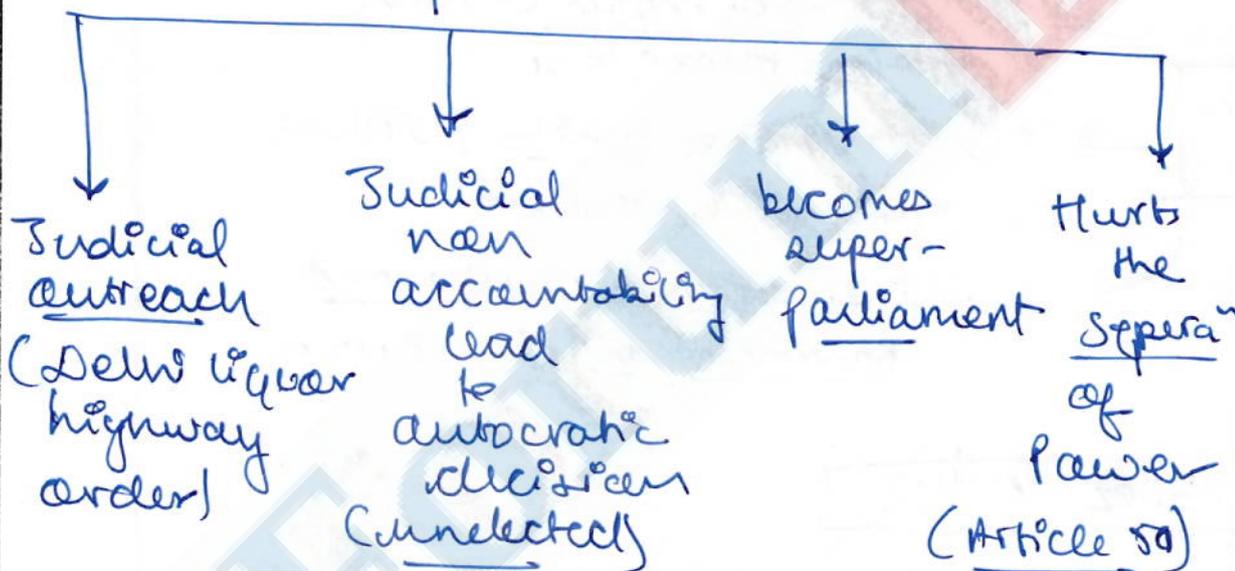
③ Uphold Democratic Ethos

Ⓔ Recent scrapping of Chandigarh Mayor election

④ Ensure Federalism in action

Ⓔ Recent guidelines on governor timeline (A-200) in Punjab vs UOI case

Dangers of excess power



As VP Jagdeep Dhankar said, 'Judiciary must remain passive but active in upholding the constitutional ideas'

A 142 - must be used with constitutional morality and restrain.

Feedback

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	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.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)

State legislative assemblies (Part VI) of the constitution are an important COG in the Federal wheel of Indian democracy.

SLA's are involved in President election (under article ³⁴ 31)

due to :-

- ① Federal representation - President of India represents the 'union' i.e. all of India.
- ② Symbolic head - In the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy, President is the 'executive head', yet powers remain in hands of PM.

③ Parliamentary democracy - States have their say in Bills / Acts

via → Rajya Sabha } Triple
 → President } representation.
 → Lok Sabha

1. All acts taken in name of President
2. First citizen of India
3. Republic office open to all -

Responsibilities related to State

↳ President is crucial in :-

① Schedule 6/5 area declaration and jurisdiction

② Imposing state emergencies (Art 356)

Hence, states have their say in decision process

Excluded from election - Reasons Impeachment

① President impeachment is 'Rarest of the rare' case (Never happened in India)

② States are represented via Rajya Sabha

③ Involvement would have delayed the impeachment process -
making it complex

④ Symbolic head - does not require federal removal.

Yet, President of India continues to represent state interest by acting as a guardian of the constitution

Feedback

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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)

Indian parliament has not passed any private member bill since [1970] and only 14 have been passed in total.

This shows the 'rare' acceptance of private bills and need for 'greater' parliamentary representation.

Significance of PMB

① Enhances quality of legislation.

② - recent bill passed by private member on marital rape.

③ Increases / voices of dissent in parliament.

↳ constructive opposition

④ Coordinated legislation →

involves people's voice across the nation.

- Ex) DMK wanting a legislation on Native language.
- ① Ensures minority voice is respected.
- Ex) Regional party's needs for their local grievances.

Ways to strengthen P.M.B passage

- ① Fixing the days of discussion of P.M.B with dedicated hours
↳ 2nd ARC
- ② Making put members part of parliamentary committee.
- ③ Speaker: must have proactive role in engaging with put members
- ④ President assent requirement can be waived off
- ⑤ Greater public representation in LS and RS chamber

Private Democracy is not just about the votes but also voices.

2nd ARC and Law Commission (2015) recommendations must be followed

Feedback

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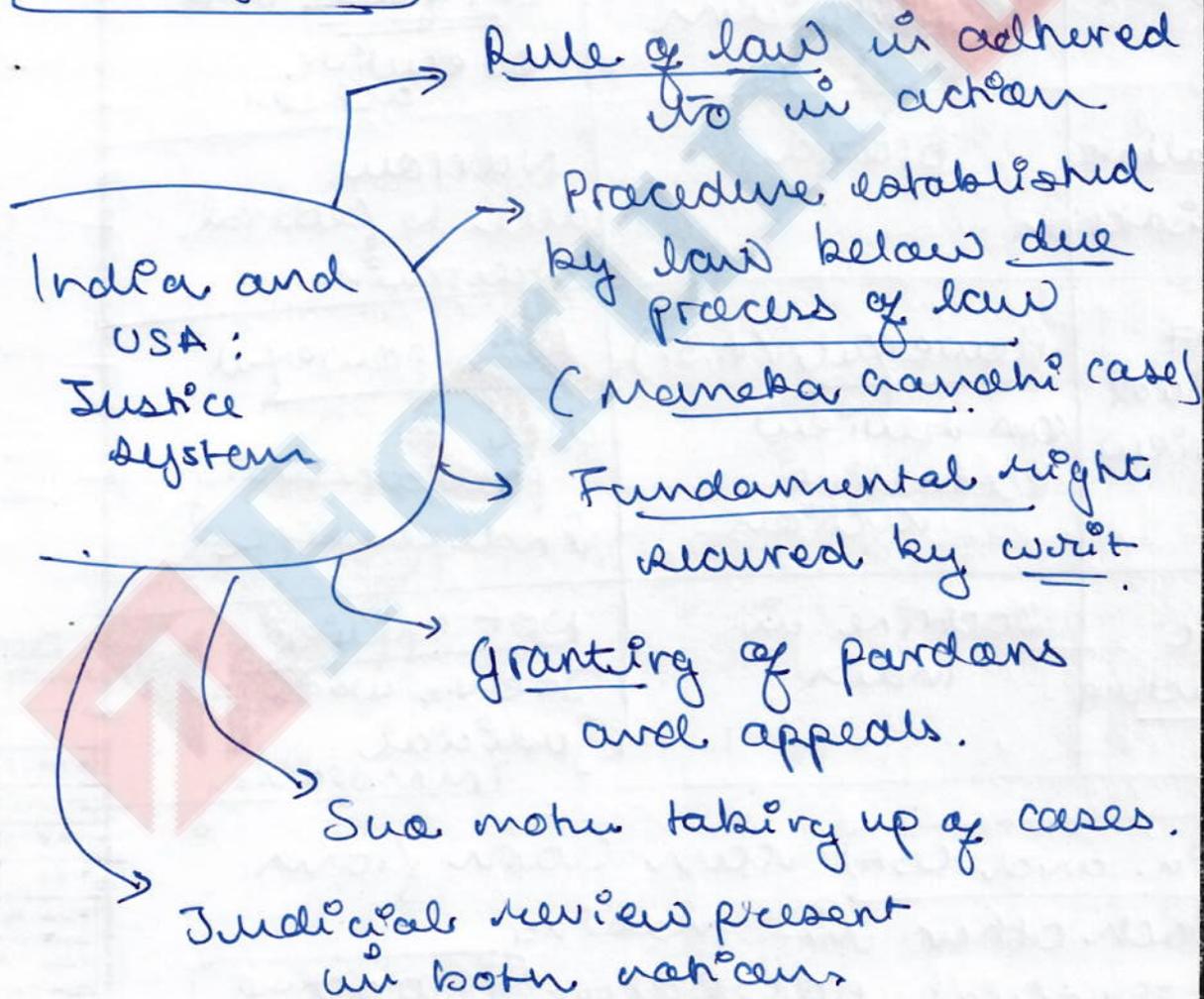
TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.4) Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the judicial systems of India and USA. (10 marks, 150 words)

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

India and USA are the two largest democratic giants in the world that have powerful Judiciary in ensuring Justice.

Convergences



Divergences:

	India	USA
<u>Federal Structure</u>	Integrated Judiciary ↳ federal courts and local courts.	Lack of integration : strict separation of power b/w state and centre
<u>Judges election</u>	Done by collegium	done by <u>Congress</u> and executive action
<u>Appellate Jurisdiction</u>	Broad	Narrow due to federal restraint
<u>Judicial review</u>	Powerful (A 32) can review executive action	Less powerful due to parliamentary independence
<u>Basic Structure</u>	Doctrine in India	Not applied. Joe v. S. Wade = judicial immorality

India and USA can learn from each other in making proactive judicial proceedings

Feedback
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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)

"India is known of 3 things -
Taj mahal, Mahatma Gandhi and
Elections" - 54 qureshi

Election Commission (324) of India ensures that elections become festival of democracy.

Conducting elections

Under Representation of People Act 1950 and 1951 it ensures →

- ① Registration of parties
- ② Electoral roll preparation
- ③ Conduct of election (13th Lok Sabha)
- ④ Gravimance redressal
(Recent election symbol fight b/w Maharashtra parties)
- ⑤ Election result declaration.
- ⑥ Ensuring free and fair election (Basic structure under Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain case)

Going Beyond elections

- ① Upholding democratic ethos and morality → model code of conduct (MCC)
- ② Preserving the sanctity and Trust in Democracy.
(EC) - TN Seshan regime.
→ NUPAT introduction
- ③ Reforming elections → (NOTA) innovation (under PUL vs UOI case)
- ④ De-criminalising election - mandated declaration of assets and FIRs by MLA/MP.
- ⑤ Electoral awareness - by SUJAT campaigns and awareness week

Election Commission thus is the vanguard of social and political justice - which is the basis of our democracy.

Feedback

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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.

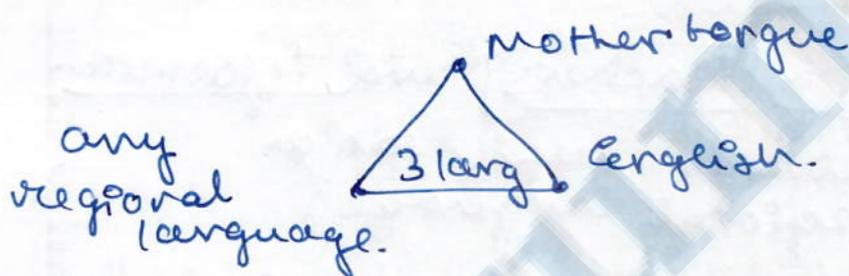
(10 marks, 150 words)

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)

NEP 2020 has introduced 3-language formula with as proposed by Kothari Commission.

Rationale of policy



- ① Cognitive development → aids the development of child's brain.
- ② Linguistic proficiency - for higher education
- ③ Preserve regional/local language (cultural growth - AT300 A & B)
- ④ Ease of understanding in vernacular language
- ⑤ Linguistic unity across the nation

Challenges in Adoption

- ① Federal tensions - Tamil Nadu govt opposing Hindi imposition and adoption.
- ② Increased burden - on students below class V
- ③ Linguistic reading material - inaccessible in vernacular language
- ④ Availability of teachers and infrastructure (very less teacher: pupil ratio in regional language)
- ⑤ Ambiguity in policy - Broad guidelines (which 3 to select?)

Way Ahead

- Utilise A. Bhashini for translation
- Inter state council (263) for federal co-ordination.
- Cultural connect (Kashi Tamil Sangam)

3 language formula must be supplemented with training and material access to ensure language UNITES, not divides.

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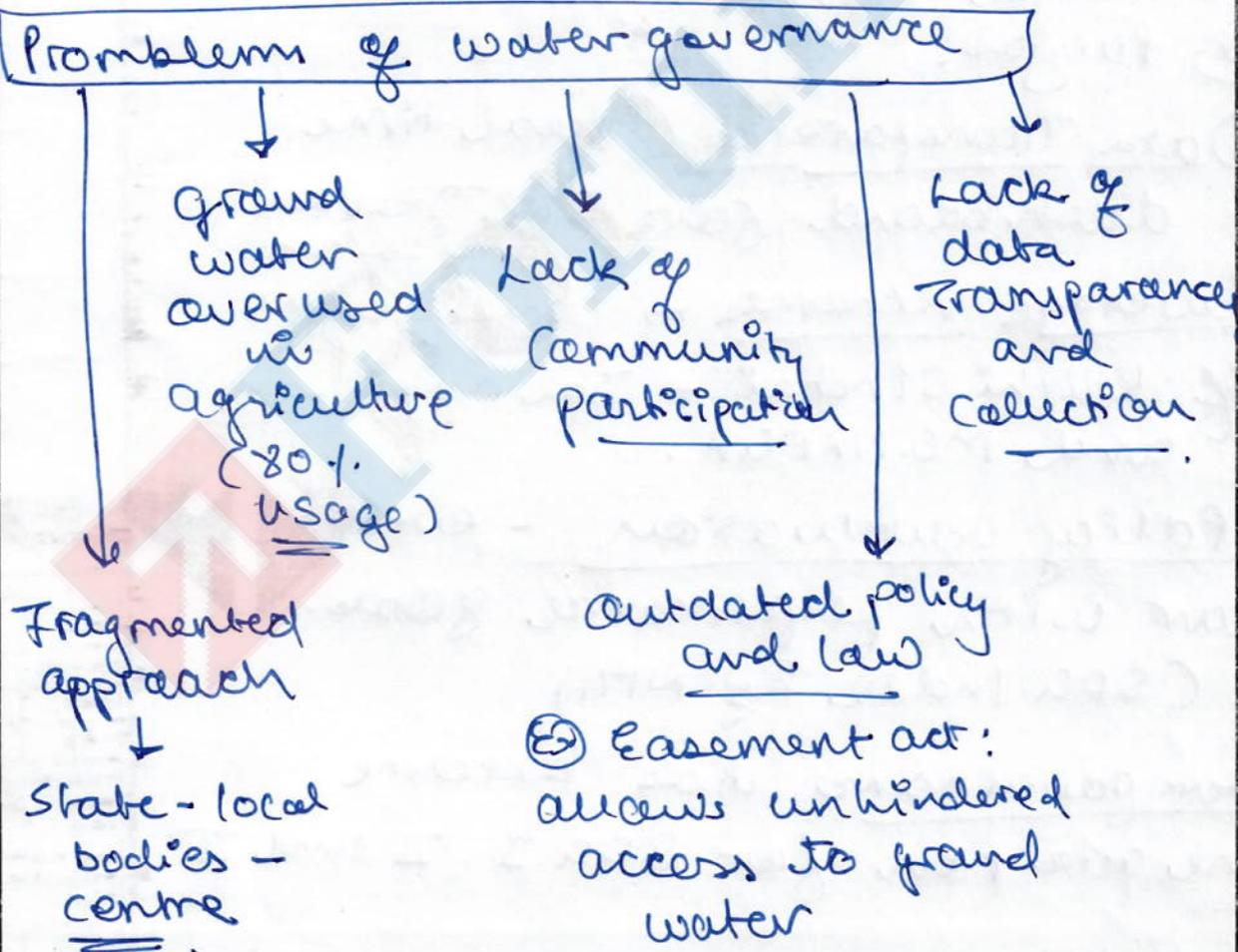
TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.7) 'Emerging environmental concerns and evolving ecosystem perspectives demand a reimagined approach to rural water governance.' Discuss the key interventions needed to recalibrate rural water policies with special emphasis on the role 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)

According to Ground water Board of India, around 60-70% of the water in rural area comes under 'over exploitation' criteria.

This calls for a renewed rural water governance.



Interventions needed

I Policy formulation



Bottom up approach with community involvement in policy making

Ex) Pani panchayat in Haryana (especially WOMEN STUs)

II Policy execution

↳ water metering for reducing misuse (subsidy / freebies)

Ex) Punjab.

↳ Data Transparency (real time dash board for Jal Jeevan mission)

↳ Leverage schemes → unify aims of Krishi Sindhai + Jal abhigyan and MANKRGA.

III Policy evaluation - every year with performance goals. (SPA Index by NITI)

Water governance has become sine qua non for SPA. I, II and III.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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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)

Women empowerment schemes of Indian government aim at securing the panchsmit goal of - EQUITY, EMPOWERMENT and CAPACITY building.

Hinderance in effective implementation

I Formulation stage

- ① Lack of women participation in policy making
(Only 14% women mps in Lok Sabha)

II Implementation stage

- ① Inadequate sensitisation drive
- ② Patriarchy evident in Sarpanch patri syndrome (Sudha Pai) in Rural areas.

- ② Underutilisation of funds
↳ Nirbhaya fund - only 40% utilised
- ③ Lack of gender Budgeting at local level
↳ only 6% Budget.
- ④ Bureaucratic apathy - towards other gender (LGBTIA rejected identity certificates in Nagpur office)
- ⑤ Gender audit - missing in schemes.
- ⑥ Lack of participation of women in implementation.
- ⑦ - Esther Duflo study

Way Ahead

- women to be seen as 'agents of change'
- women led development with SHG / NGO
- gender audits with surveys for schemes
- Behavioural change (sexie with daughter)

women constitute 50% of population and we cannot afford a missing link in our growth story.

Feedback

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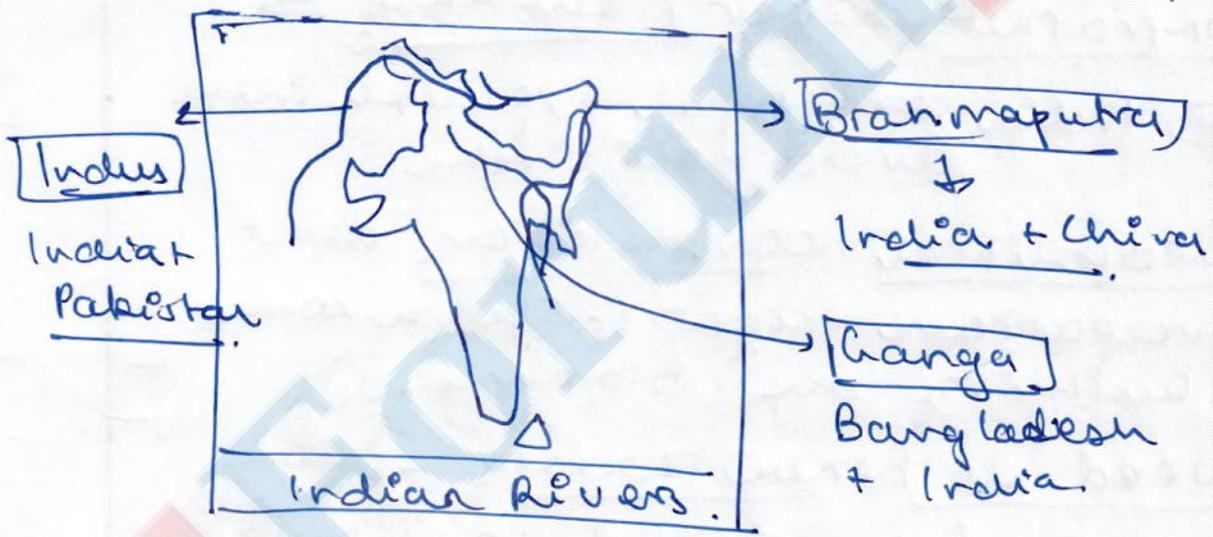
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.9) 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)

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)

Water has no boundaries yet it connects people across nations. Water diplomacy can be used by India due to its strategic placement.



Opportunities with India

- ① Transboundary rivers with nations (super-map)
- ② Hydrological energy sharing
- ③ India-Nepal agreement on power sharing over Kalu river

- ③ Successful river boundary model - India (Bangladesh) over 200 rivers
- ④ Inter river transport → ferry with Bangladesh
- ⑤ Trade via maritime route - Indus river
- ⑥ Geopolitical - Mekong Ganga Initiative

Challenges

- ① Unmarket river boundary →
- ② India ~~the~~ Nepal hipoketh issue over Kali river
- ③ Geopolitical contestation over reparian rights - China dam building on Brahmaputra.
- ④ Need to Renew Treaty - Indus water treaty 1960 in abeyance
- ⑤ Untapped potential - for South Asian connectivity.

Water must act as a means of joining nations together and not divide. Helsinki principles must be followed.

Feedback

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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)

WTO was formed in 1995 to secure fair and equitable trade relations between nations.

Yet it has not been able to perform its mandate.

Key Issues of WTO ⇒ needs Reform

① Dysfunctional appellate structure
 ↳ due to hindrance of USA.
 ↳ prevents effective grievance redressal

② Agricultural stockholding - No permanent solution for subsidies in developing nations (Amber Box - India's MSF)

③ e-commerce moratorium - on customs - affect the developing nations due to loss of revenue

① Non functional MFN - most favoured nation dissolved due to - Rising FTA's
- Bilateral Treaties.

② Differential principle - not adhered to.

③ USA Tariff war \Rightarrow Impact global south

④ Sanitary and phytosanitary - measures used as non tariff barriers

⑤ - Alfonso Mangrakes in India

⑥ Discriminatory policies - like EU's CBAM taxation on carbon
 \hookrightarrow Impact developing states

To resolve these issues, WTO need -

① Restructuring of voting share

② Inclusive leadership

③ Political will to take action.

"Institutions of [19th century] cannot cater to demands of [21st century] - thus [WTO 2.0] is required."

Feedback

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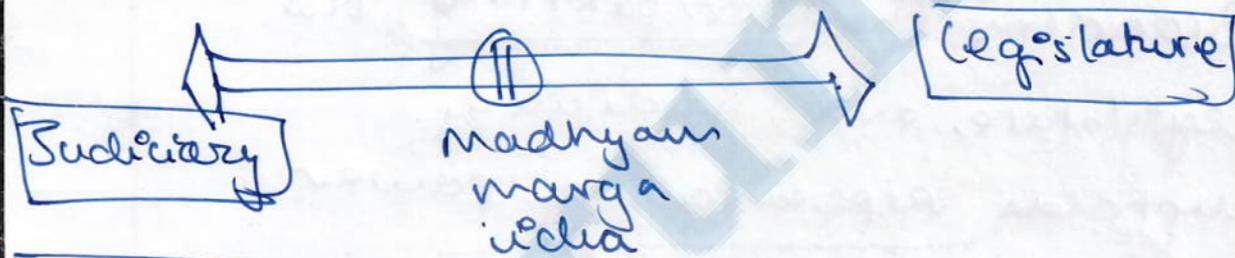
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Q.11) The basic structure doctrine acts as a constitutional compass in balancing Parliament's legislative authority and constitutional supremacy. Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

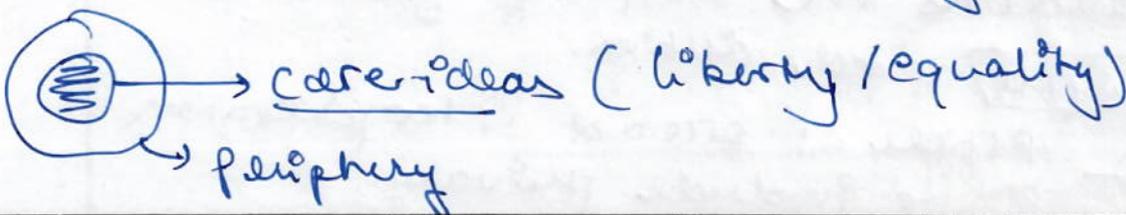
आधारभूत संरचना सिद्धांत संसद की विधायी शक्ति और संवैधानिक सर्वोच्चता के बीच संतुलन बनाने में एक संवैधानिक निर्देशक के रूप में कार्य करता है। टिप्पणी करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Basic structure doctrine is a Judicial innovation under the Keshavnanda Bharti case (1973) which provided a middle path between parliament authority & constitutional supremacy.



Acting as a Balancing compass :-

- ① Reduces legislation tyranny :- By introducing Judicial review.
- ② Core ideas of Constitution remains inviolable and cannot be taken away.



③ Introduces judicial flexibility in interpretation

↳ Pith and substance doctrine over Rule of law

↳ substantive justice.

④ SR Bommai - federalism as Basic structure, cannot repeal any ideal that goes against state interest.

⑤ Broadens the compatibility b/w legislature and Judiciary.

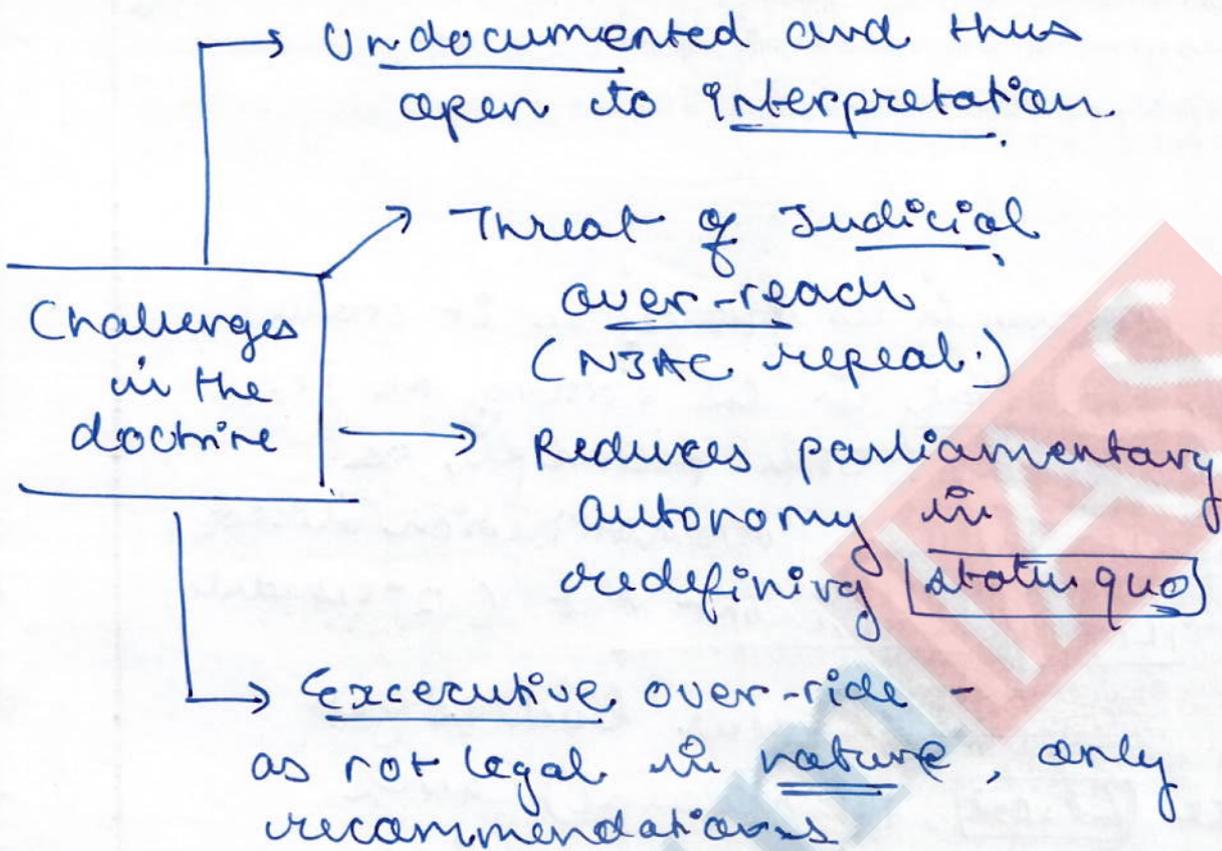
↳ upholds separation of power with checks + balances

⑥ ensures autonomy and accountability.

⑦ Recently, Co-operative amendment act (97th CAA) struck down as against federalism.

⑧ Broadens the scope of fundamental rights and duties.

⑨ Article 21 broad interpretation to include privacy.



Way Ahead

As recommended by Justice NV Ramanna; Basic structure doctrine must be documented to prevent misuse or overweighing of any one side of see-saw.

As BR Ambedkar said, constitution is ~~as~~ as good as the people who execute them.

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)

"A nation is as strong as its state"
And the state is as strong as its local bodies. This principle of subsidiarity was constitutionalised in 74th amendment Act (12th schedule)

Urban Local Bodies yet face fiscal, functional and functionary problems - 2nd ARC

Fiscal problems

① Inadequate revenue

only 1% of revenue from own tax collection
most of it from state/central grants.

② Tied grants in central sector schemes reduce fiscal capacity

③ Lack of fiscal devolution - only 9 states have disbursed

full revenue to ULB's (AOR report)

- ① Inefficient working of fiscal commissions at state level (Sharkband - formed only in 2018!)

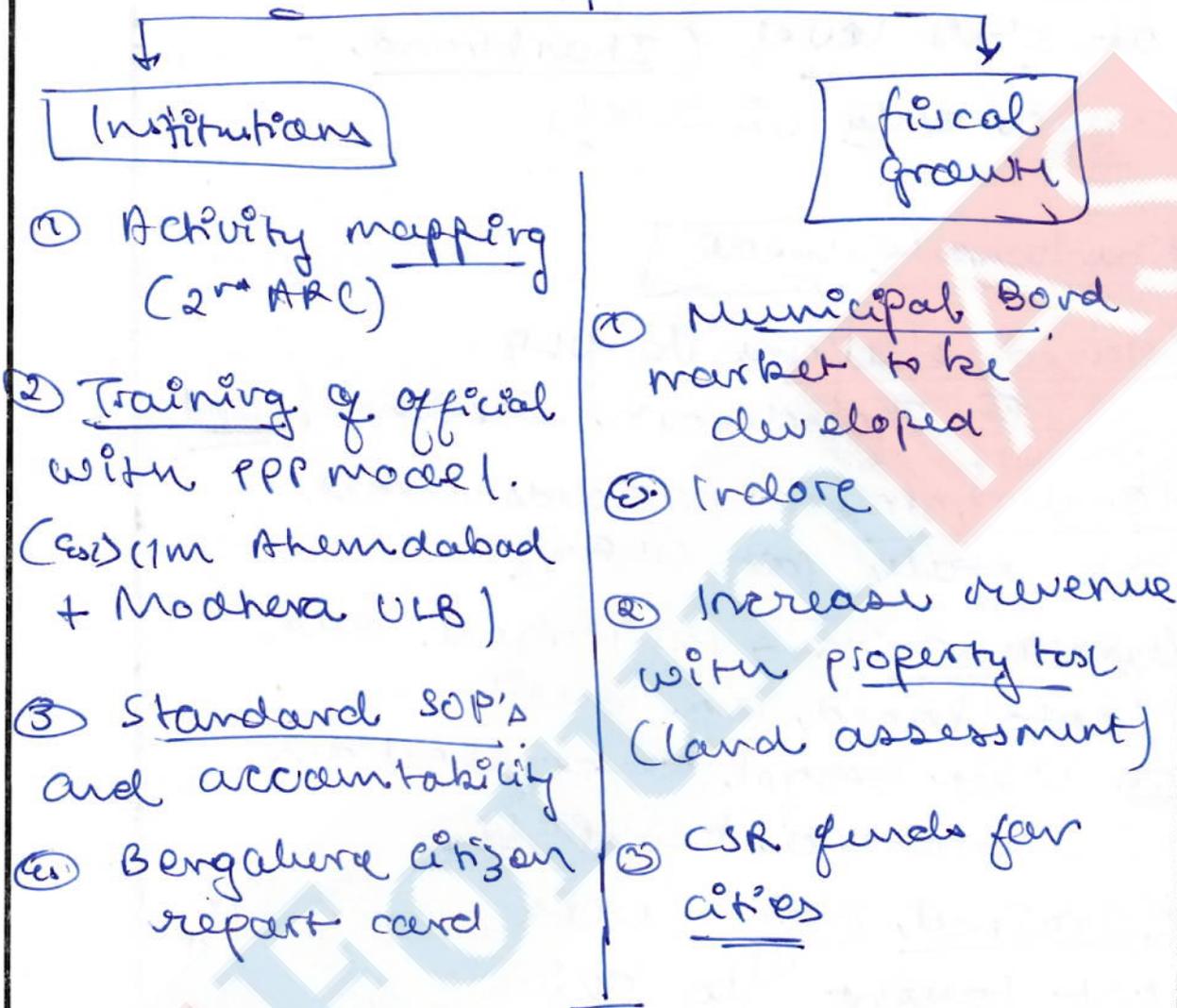
Institutionally weak

- ① Delayed elections to ULB.
 - ② Chandigarh election fraud.
- ② No uniform standards across the states for ULB's.
- ③ functionaries - politicised and not based on merit.
 - ④ West Bengal Mayor election violence by parties.
- ④ Untrained staff - urban planning not taught to officials (Germany model)

ULB's are pivotal

- local voice of the people
- functions - water / housing and sanitation.
- Democratic decentralisation
- Reduces state / central burden.

Interventions needed



Mysuru declaration principles along with 2nd ARC recommendations are needed to ensure sustainable cities (SDA-11)

Feedback

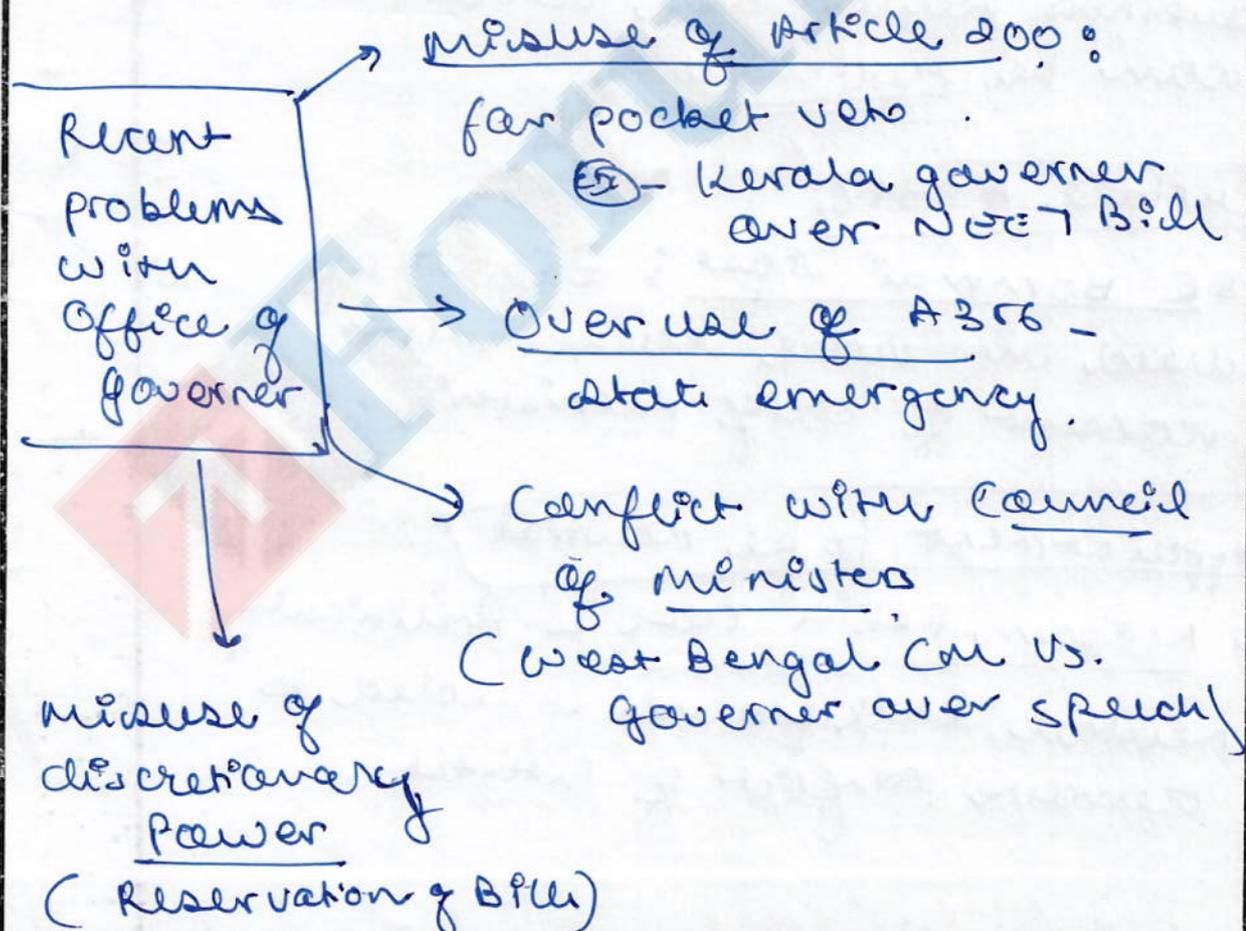
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Q.13) "The judiciary has functioned as an institutional corrective, redefining and refining the contours of the Governor's office to prevent its misuse and uphold constitutional principles." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (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)

Judiciary ensures that the scales of constitutional duty and rights are balanced by reforming the constitutional offices like that of governor (A 163-167)



Judicial Interventions

① Setting Timelines

↳ State of Punjab / Tamil Nadu case:
SC has given 1-3 month timeline to act upon the cases and reserve for president.

∴ Restricted use of A-200.

② Put under Judicial Review

↳ Rameshwar Prasad case :-
governor's power and recommendation can be reviewed.

③ Curtail A-376

↳ SC Bommai case :- 376 to be used in rare cases with consent of chief minister.

④ Appointment to be neutral

↳ Nebam Rebia case - Politically neutral background needed to remove conflict of interest

① Enhance collaboration with Council of Ministers

↳ In the case Sankar Singh vs Union of India - Article 163 - Broadened with aide and advise of Com as compulsory.

② Floor test

↳ was declared necessary to prove majority in Shivraj Singh vs speaker of MP case.

However, this has to be further supplemented with →

- ① legal changes in Article 200
- ② Executive and political will
- ③ Pro active judicial action against any act against constitution
- ④ Public awareness.

Judiciary has set a precedent that legislature must follow for ensuring Gandhi ji's ideal of Sarvaaj (Good governance)

Feedback

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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 'ऊर्ध्व' 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)

In line with the principle of democratic fiscal devolution, the finance commission was established to devolve the funds from centre to states. (Article 280)

Methodology of Devolution

Central pool of taxes is distributed amongst states (41% according to the recent commission) based on the formula: (vertical)

① Demographic performance	12.5%
② Population	15%
③ Area of state	15%
④ Income distance	45%
⑤ Forest and ecology	10%
⑥ Tax and fiscal effort	20%

Horizontal/Vertical distribution. = 100%

Apart from this, specific grants and aids are also provided to states in need.

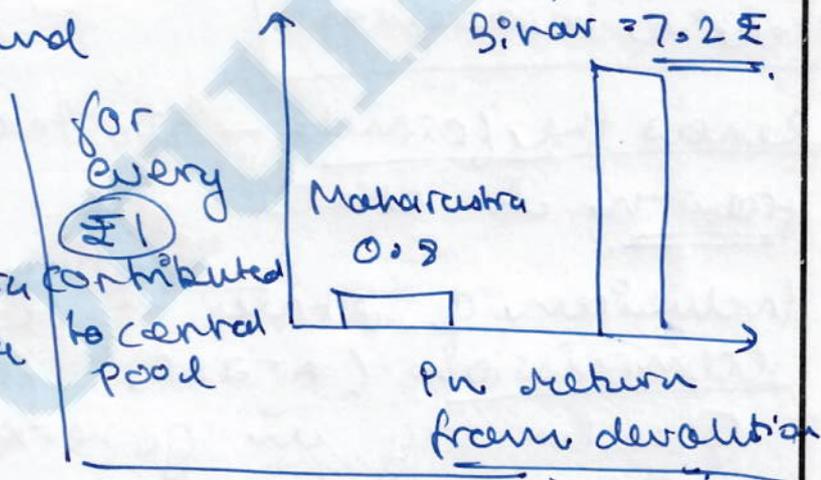
⑤ - Special category states.

↳ funds are also allocated via Central sector schemes (60:40 ratio / 90:10)

Concerns raised by states

① Divergence between income and allotted fund

② - Stark difference for Maharashtra and Karnataka



③ Delimitation - will further reduce the devolution of Southern states (as reduced population)

④ Punishment for growth →

Developed states contribute much more without incentives

⑤ - Kerala fund deficit.

① Growing expenditure of states

② Punjab with highest debt.

③ Tied nature of funds in CSS - reduces fiscal innovation.

④ GST cess compensation - delayed and to be removed.

Corrective measures

① Renew the formula - to incentivise growth in states.

② Inclusion of states in fiscal commission (A-280) - for greater say in governance.

③ Cap on state revenue expenditure (to reduce debt / subsidies)

④ flexible grants and aids to states in need.

As suggested by 2nd ARC - fiscal devolution must reach upto arties to prevent high BP at centre.

Feedback

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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)

Central Information Commission
is a Statutory Body under
Right to Information Act 2006.

There has been growing
demand for constitutionalisation
of CIC like that of NESC and
NCBC..

Steps required

① Introduction of the Bill in
Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.



② Passing of the Bill with 50%
majority and 2/3rd present voting



③ Similar passing in 2nd house



④ Assent of the President.

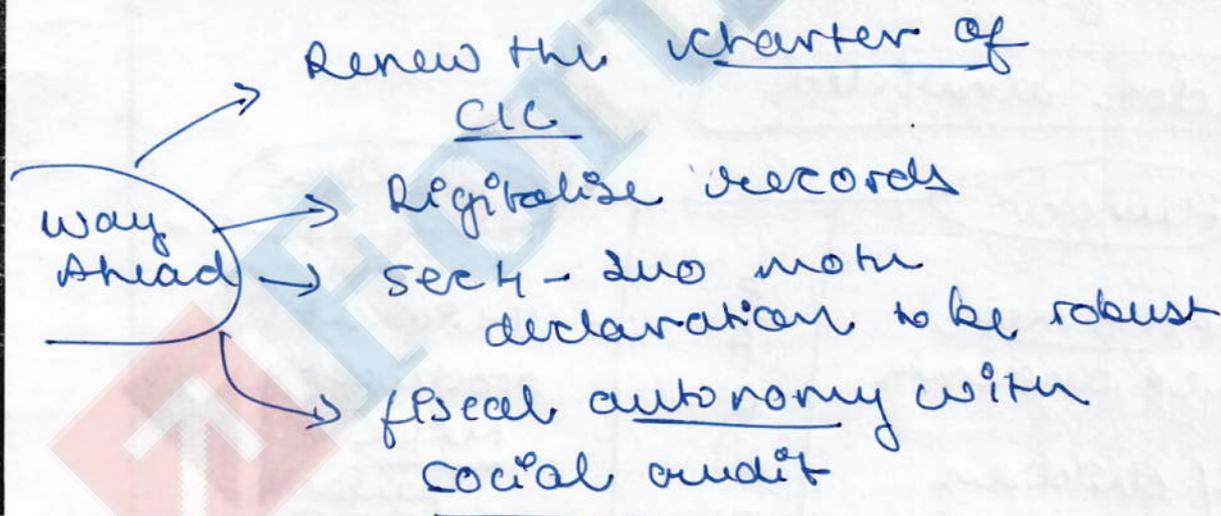
finally the body is notified in the gazette and gets the constitutional status -

Constitutional status: aid CIC

- ① Empower the body → weigh more due to its place in Rule Book of the country.
- ② Safeguard from any changes - amending any clause will require constitution amendment.
- ③ Secure the position of members - with tenure and fiscal independence.
- ④ Give power to fundamental right to (information) (A-19)
- ⑤ Empirical evidences - with (NCBC) and (NCSC) - given more autonomy in work
- ⑥ Reduce chances of politicisation of office.

Constitutional status : only a symbolic victory

- ① Does not assure substantial changes in working
- ② Structural issues still dominant
(Ex) - 30+ labor cases pending.
- ③ Non accountability of PIO's and Corruption in agency can be stemmed out only with Institutional changes



CIC ensures that Information is democratized. And thus must be strengthened HOLISTICALLY.

Feedback

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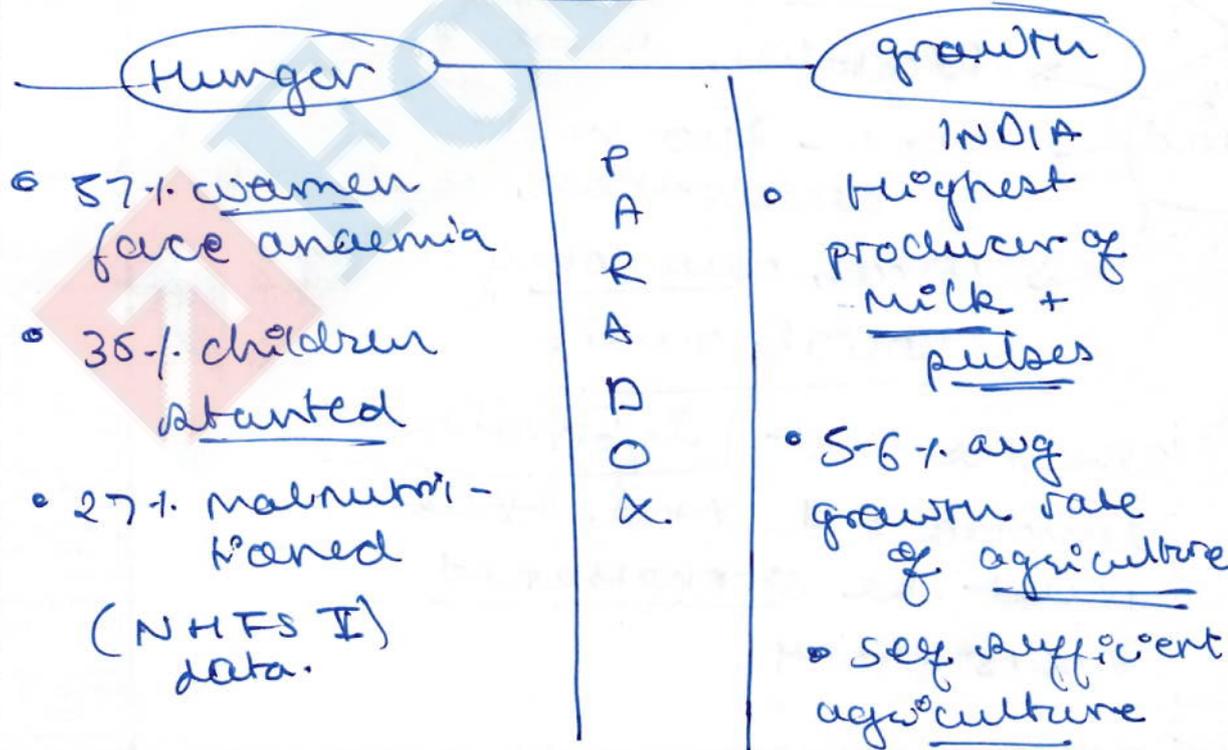
Q.16) Even as India experiences consistent economic growth and has achieved self-sufficiency in food production, hunger and food insecurity remain pressing concerns. Examine the factors responsible for this paradox and suggest steps to improve the situation. (15 marks, 250 words)

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)

India has ranked 103rd amongst 126 countries in Hunger Index 2025, ranking behind only Afghanistan in the south Asian region.

This is in spite of India being the 4th largest economy (IMF) and fastest growing nation!

Paradox unveiled



Reasons for the paradox

I Institutional factors

- ① Leakages and corruption in PDS (Shanta Kumar committee)
- ② Hoarding of grains (non-seasonal) increase inflation

II Behavioural

- ① Poor awareness of healthy diet
- ② NHTS II - wealthy kids having micro nutrient deficiency
- ③ Culture of poverty = helplessness.

III Economic

- ① only 27% Indians able to afford a healthy diet.
- ② Inflation and unemployment (MPI Index = 15.1)

IV Geopolitical

- ① wars / conflicts induce displacement led hunger.
- ② North east insurgency / Russian war reduce wheat import

I Structural

- ↳ food wastage in India - 40% food grain wasted.
- ↳ Inequality - 1% hold 40% wealth

Suggested steps

- ① Streamline supply chain from high supply to high demand (PDS = electronic ration card access)
- ② Nutritional intervention - food fortification / mid day meal.
- ③ Food processing (SAMPAVA) to increase shelf life / access.
- ④ Remove poverty (SDG) to secure healthy nation (Amartya Sen - capability approach)
- ⑤ Food Banks to redistribute food to needy (Bombay model)

"A swastha (healthy) nation will make a samridha (prosperous) nation" - PM Modi.

Feedback

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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)

Caste census as a part of census will aid in building data led governance model in India which can further the idea of social justice.

Opportunities in census - working

① Data collection of diverse

caste groups

(last census happened in 2011
SECC - data not available)

② Enumerate changes in caste

Profile for better policies based on affirmative action.

③ Dawinder Singh Judgement (2024)



Called for sub categorisation of SC/ST based on rational data

- ② Removal of fake beneficiary in reservation / schemes.
- ③ Analyse sociological data for better targeting of vulnerable sections (Article 46 - DPSP)
- ④ Regional devolution of funds according to caste data.

Case study

Bihar : successfully conducted caste census = aided in govt data led policies.

Challenges

- ① embolden caste identity - against gandhian ideal.
- ② misuse of data for asking for reservation = slippery slope
- ③ Difficult to capture data due to difference in state and central caste list
- ④ fake data / certificates = make inaccurate data base

- ⑤ Lack of documents with people (caste certificate)
- ⑥ Bureaucratic hassle.

framework for seamless conduction

- ① Digitise the data - caste certification electronically uploaded.
- ② Leverage AI and Big data.
- ③ Ensure transparency and accountability with e-vigilance.
- ④ 'Due diligence' principle for verification.
- ⑤ Data to be used ~~only~~ only for governance and not political motive → to be mandated by Min of Home affair.
- ⑥ Training of officials with population behaviour.

Caste census will open a pendant's box of opportunities and must be streamlined with efficiency -

Feedback

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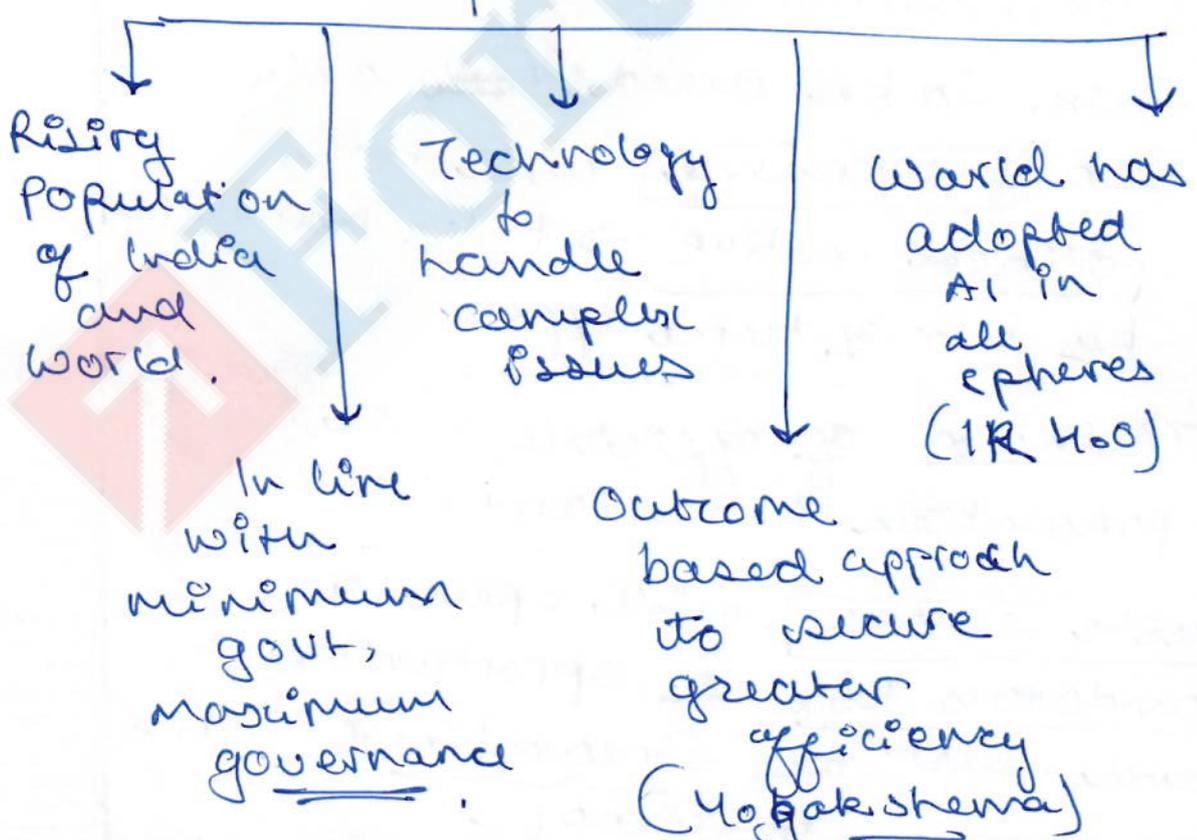
Q.18) "AI integration in governance is no longer a choice but a necessity." In light of this statement, discuss how AI can enhance education and healthcare governance. (15 marks, 250 words)

"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)

"Data has become the new currency of Democracy"
- Joe Biden

AI in governance can help in furthering the idea of e-governance to SMART governance.

AI - now a necessity



AI - in healthcare

- ① Streamline health data → PM JAY data on block chain
- ② Beneficiary integration with other stakeholders
- ③ Digital identity card for insurance ⇒ multisector connect-
- ④ Reduce Redtapping → Exa delays in insurance payment
↳ Estonia model of health insurance using AI.
- ⑤ Special focus on palliative care and old age
- ⑥ AI chat bots for reducing loneliness.
- ⑦ Mental health care → can be integrated with better digital surveys and screening

AI in education

- ① Personalised Pedagogy - for specially abled children
- ② European nations framework
- ③ Creative learning - using VR/AR
- ④ Skilling of teachers - in rural areas.
- ⑤ Kerala - Teacher AI - Robot for spreading awareness.
- ⑥ Reducing skill gap - with constant evaluation.

Way Ahead

Need to safeguard use of AI by adopting UNESCO guidelines.

- ① Digital equity
- ② Privacy of Patients
- ③ Prevent misuse of data (local storage norms)

aid in making AI HUMANE for humans

AI has to be made (A) - Accessible
(I) - Inclusive.

Feedback

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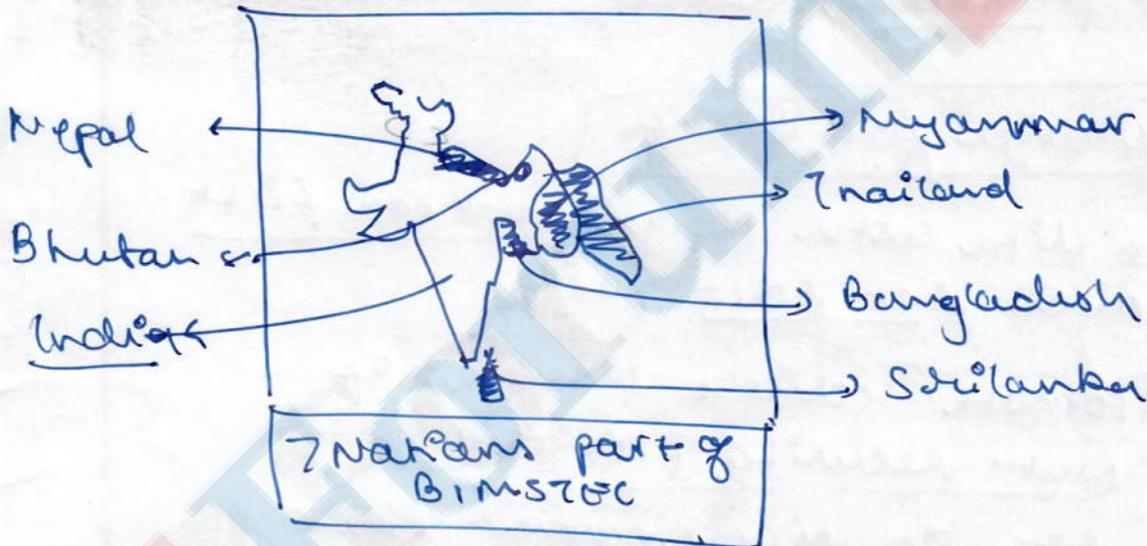
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Q.19) Providing a brief overview of the aims and objectives of BIMSTEC, explain its significance for India. (15 marks, 250 words)

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

BIMSTEC has recently completed 30 years (1995) and in its 16th summit it has re-iterated its values in form of BIMSTEC Charter



Aims and objectives of BIMSTEC

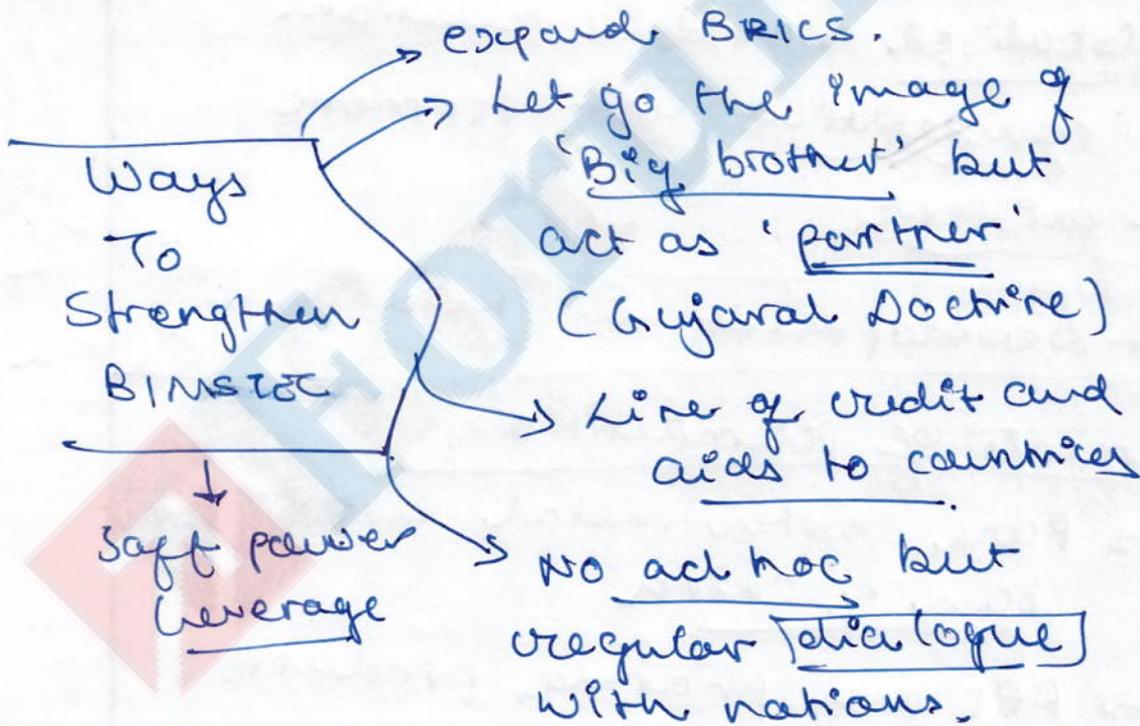
- ① Economic integration → of the Bay of Bengal region. (South Asia - one of the most connected areas of the world - WB)

- ② Cultural progress - similar values and culture.
- ④. Promote tourism.
- ③ Technological cooperation - in upcoming fields like Digital AI and UPI.
- ④ Collective development → of all in the region by - human + physical asset.

Significance for India

- ① In line with neighbourhood first and Act east policy
- ② Promote India's image as 'Net security provider'
- ④ - Aid to Myanmar after Earthquake.
- ③ Technological diplomacy - promote India's [PPI] like UPI.
- ④ Cultural connect - with BB
 - Buddhism
 - Bollywood
 - Business

- ① Infrastructural connect →
- ② BBIN Project
- ③ Geopolitical significance
 - ↙ Counter Chinese footprint in India's backyard
 - ↘ Access to North east (Beyond chicken neck)
- ④ Reduce dependance on SARF - dysfunctional since 2016.



BIMSTEC as PM Modi said, can be a bridge between India and Asia for achieving Asia Century

Feedback

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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 relations can be best explained as 'Dragon-elephant Tango' with constantly evolving relations between the two.

④ Due to necessity of interdependence in globalised world - relations are competitive yet promote Co-existence.

Recent Development in Relationship

① Elements of competition

- Rare earth metal export ban of China.
- API and pharma products: increased custom duty.
- Competition over sovereignty in (Andhra) sector

and hydrological dams over Brahmaputra

- Expansion of BRI in Pok. region.
- Competing geopolitical claims over India's neighbourhood
- ④ - Debt trap diplomacy of China ⑤ Developmental aid of India in Sri Lanka.

② Events of co-existence

- Recent SCO meet - Border talks on its path
- Operation Sindoor - China had strategic silence
- Trade increasing with \$45 bn deficit with India
- Geopolitical collaboration in G-20 / BRICS etc.
- Diplomatic channels re-opened (2024) and visa / embassies as well.

Future strategy needed

- ① Values of Panchsheel to be integrated with Pragmatism
- ② Wooden stick to keep the dragon at Bay → increase defence modernisation on borders (vibrant villages)
- ③ Soft power - via sports and tourism to normalize ties
- ④ Leverage China +1 - to attract investment.
- ⑤ Friendshoring - in supply chain security pact with private partners
- ⑥ Kautilya's (Mandala Theory) - befriending enemy's friend i.e. Russia for leverage
- ⑦ Constant dialogue and de-escalation by Saint Committee for border mgt.
- ⑧ China India relation has transversed from INCH to MILES for collective growth.

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			

Mentor Feedback Questions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Test Goal

- 1
- 2
- 3

Outcomes

-
-
-

Marking Scheme

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

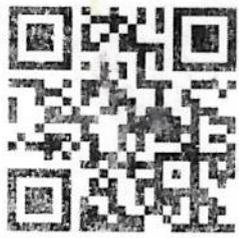
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