

TEST CODE 8 1 2 4 1 4

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	DEV DUDEJA		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910116491	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1901	Date/दिनांक	14/08/2025

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

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश		
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।		
1			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।		
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।		
3			4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।		
4			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।		
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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :	
			२:३०	५:२०	
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>	
				Offline/ऑफलाइन <input checked="" 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 की आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आदी 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 :	EG/ईजी :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
				① ② ③ ④ ⑤	

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) 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)

Supreme Court in Berubari Union Case, called Preamble as key to unravel the minds of constitution makers and a beacon for times of darkness.

Ideals of Preamble
 ① Sovereignty
 ② Secularism
 ③ Socialism
 ④ Republic
 ⑤ Democratic

Journey of 75 years of Constitution

① upholding the sovereignty of the country :- Preamble acted as

guide in tackling aggression from Trump's tariff pressures.

② Maintaining Secularism :- Religious tolerance and a plural society is developed in last 75 years.

③ State led development :- providing schemes such as PM Garib Ann Kalyan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana etc.

④ Republic i.e. powers in hand of the people
18 Lok Sabha elections without any compromise
 on smooth transition

⑤ Democracy :- 96 crore voters in elections
 in India.

However, There are challenges as well

① Rising Xenophobia :- Majoritarianism in form
 of Hindu Nationalism.

② Social Inequality :- Discrimination based
 on caste (increased from 1991-2021 by 117%
NCRB)

③ Economic Inequality :- Top 1% holding 40%
 of wealth.

④ Fraternity and Unity :- disturbed by
 events like mandir masjid politics.

Nonetheless, Breamled has
 shown light to policy makers by
 marking as identity card of
Constitution (RM Munshi).

Feedback

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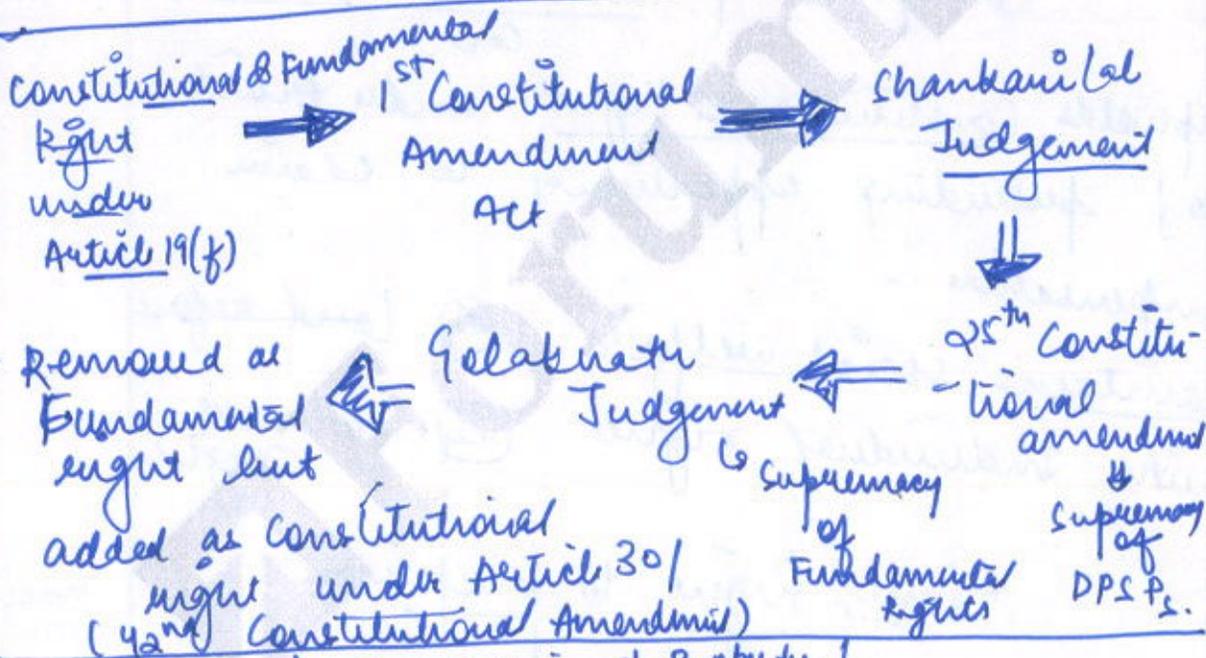
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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.2) 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 considered Right to property as a Natural right inalienable by State. However in Indian context, Balance of individual right and public welfare places Property rights as a complex structure.



Evolution of Property.

Intricate Relationship b/w Individual Rights and Social Welfare

① Right to property isolated for introduction

- of land reforms through 1st Constitutional Amendment. (a) upheld by Shankari Prasad
- (2) Centre tried to enact more passes through 25th Constitutional Amendment but rejected in Golak Nath Case.
- (3) 42nd Constitutional Amendment removed Article 11(f) and 31(f) but retained 31(b) and 31(c) for agricultural compensation.
 ↳ (a) upheld by Krishanada Prasad Case.
- (4) upholds Constitutional Rights under Article 17(3) providing opportunity to claim compensation.
- (5) Maintains social welfare (a) land reform with individual rights (a) farmers rights.

Thus, Right to property
 stand at harmonious balance of
Right and welfare dictating.

Feedback

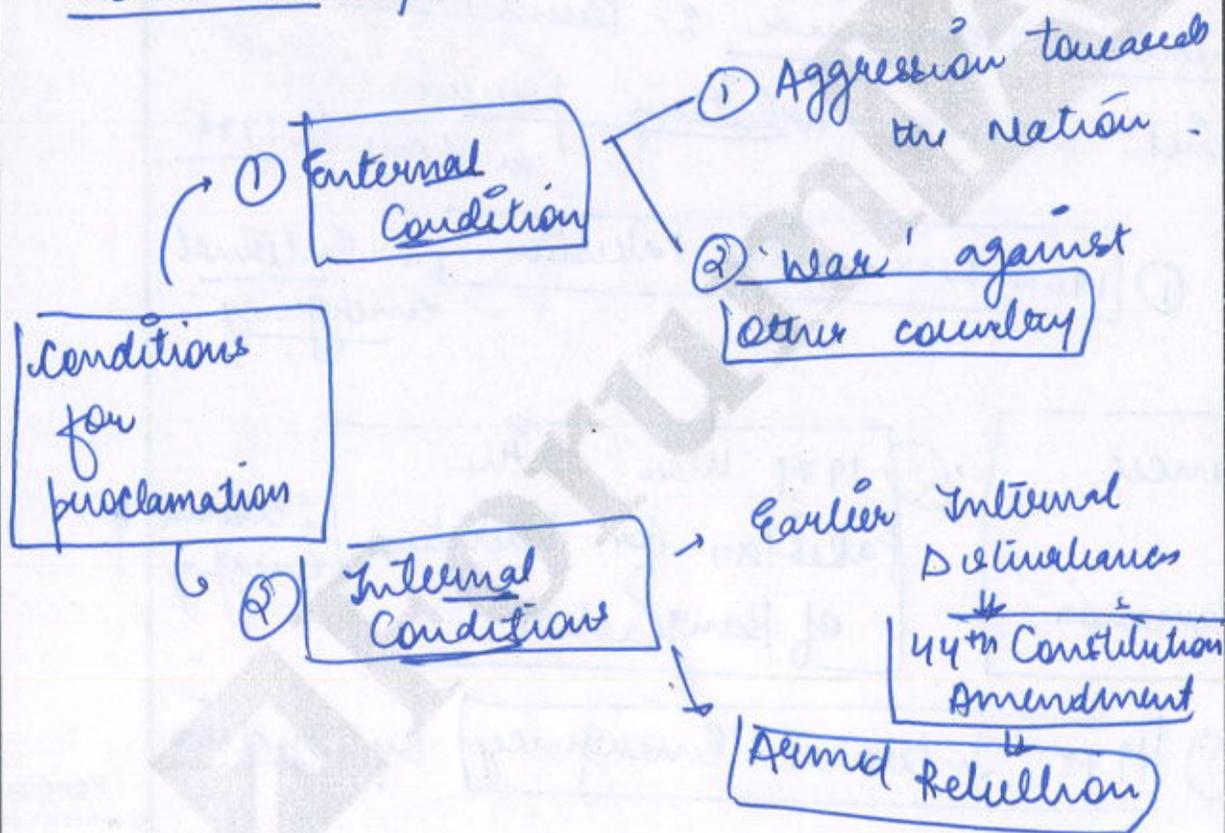
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TOTAL MARKS			

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)

Article 352 provides for proclamation of 'National' Emergency by President. 2025 marks 50 years of Darkest Chapter in Indian Constitutional history.



Consequences of National Emergency

① On Fundamental Rights → Suspension of fundamental rights except 20, 21 and Art 19 only when ground is external condition.

② Centre State relations :- Unitary setup :-
Parliament has power to make law on the state lists.

③ Financial powers :- President can instruct state in fiscal prudence and can change devolution of taxes.

④ Executive Dominance :- Prime Minister and Cabinet holding arbitrary power as done in 1978.

→ ① 1965 war with Pakistan :- External emergency

Instances of Proclamation

② 1971 war with Pakistan for liberation of Bangladesh

:- External emergency

↳ ③ 1978 Internal Emergency by Indira Gandhi.

Thus Emergency powers are exceptional powers to be used in exceptional cases -

Feedback

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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)

Pre-legislative consultations refer to participation of people in advising on changes or raising the concern in any law formulated by the Government.

- Importance of Pre-legislative consultations
- ① Participatory Democracy :- inclusion of masses in decision making.
 - ② Bottom up Approach :- demands lead law making resulting in efficient laws.
 - ③ Accountability and transparency of the Government towards people.
 - ④ Promote legitimacy to the laws made by legislature.

However, there is lack of binding framework leading to limited citizen engagement.

- ① Representative Democracy in India → instead of participatory democracy

- ④ Political Awareness among masses - limited.
- ⑤ Disconnect between political parties and people leading to lack of pre consultation frameworks.
- ④ lack of statutory or conventional frameworks

Measures to adopt the Public Consultation

- ① Vinoba Bhave's 15 Point Programme including legislative impact assessment with focus on Public Consultation.
- ② Use of technology (eg) MyGov for seeking reviews from the people.
- ③ Strengthening Gram Sabhas :- Political awareness and participation.
- ④ Inclusive partnership with Civil Society (eg) ADR, PUC.

Thus, Pre-Legislative Consultation can make laws more meaningful, rational and most importantly humane.

Feedback

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

15th finance commission provided for target of 40% of debt to GDP ratios in enabling states to improve their fiscal conditions.

① 41% tax devolution leading to fiscal space for state fiscal management.

Recommendations enabling the states

② Grants in aid and policy grants for easing burden on states of implementation of public programmes.

③ Provision of interest free loans from Central Government.

However, various states felt the fiscal mismanagement due to 15th finance commission -

① Tied nature of grants or tied with specific

functions leading to lack of autonomy

② Raising share of Cess and Surcharge % Non-Sharable → 27% of total devolution.

③ Resource crunch :- due to implementation of welfare programmes (20 states missed their targets).

④ Asymmetry :- discomfort raised by Southern States
 ↳ 16th Finance Commission :- taken into account concerns of Southern States.

Way forward

② PRBM Targets to be achieved

↳ ③ following fiscal prudence.

Thus, There is pressing need for fiscal devolution and decentralisation for effective management of states fiscal health.

Feedback

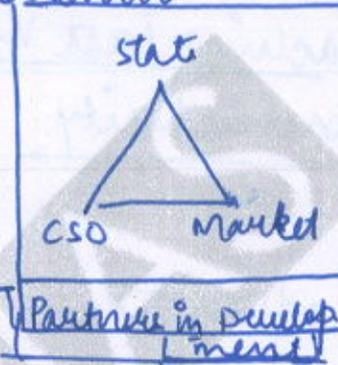
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TOTAL MARKS			

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)

market or industry and business associations are inclusive part of socio economic development acting as 2nd pillar.



Ways in which Industry and Business do	Socio Economic advantage.
<p>① Financing public projects via <u>Public Private Partnership</u></p> <p>② Adani investing in <u>Uzhavani pond</u></p> <p>③ Through statutory requirement of CSR (<u>Companies Act, 2013</u>)</p> <p>④ Opening new ventures and <u>Companies</u></p> <p>⑤ Food processing industry</p>	<p>• creation of <u>Structural infrastructure</u></p> <p>⑥ Port Development</p> <p>• Investment in <u>socio-economic and environmental area</u></p> <p>⑦ Conservation of Wetland or <u>Public Parks</u>.</p> <p>• leading to <u>employment opportunity</u></p>

④ Non discriminatory opportunities

• regardless of caste, religion etc.

eg) Skill Based Jobs

⑤ Reaching last mile connectivity

• eg) Tata Health facilities

eg) Tata Cancer Hospital

⑥ Dedicated programmes for specific sections

• Women empowerment by Ghazal Alavi's Manna Earth

Challenges

→ ① Crony Capitalism :- Relations between Bureaucrats and industrialists

② Favouritism ③ Rigged Bidding

③ Problem of Accessibility and Affordability
eg) High medical Private Hospital charges

→ ① B Corp Certification

② Triple Bottom line Accounting

③ Regulation by Government
The Industry can help in achieving Welfare

Way forward

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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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)

India's poverty stands at 11.9% as per multidimensional Poverty Index. There has been demands of updated poverty estimation

→ ① Based on Jendulhar Committee
↳ Calorie Based system for Urban and Rural to Consumption based system

current framework

↳ ② lack of multidimensional poverty calculation
(eg) Education, Health

↳ ③ Exclusion of section specifically
(eg) Vulnerable section like women

There is a credible need for updated poverty estimation :-

① Going beyond Economic criteria

↳ including social poverty, concept

poverty and capability poverty

- ② gender sensitivity and specific issues
- ③ Hidden Hunger i.e. Malnutrition depleting along with learning poverty

④ highlighting the issues of standards using learning lag concept.

① NITI Aayog's National Multi-dimensional poverty index (NMPI)

learning lag
poverty

- ② Capability Approach of Amartya Sen
- ③ Standards of living measurement

Thus for Smart India, India needs to achieve SDG-1 of zero poverty by 2030.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

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)

POCSO, Act, 2012 was introduced for protection of child from sexual offences by providing deterrent effect.

① Safeguard ~~of~~ child rights and safety against sexual offences

② 50% of child faced physical offences

Intended Objectives

③ Child safety (eg) child rape cases, Harassment and exploitation.

④ Protection of children from Trauma and unintended consequences.

⑤ Special Courts However, there are issues in POCSO

① lack of functioning of Special Courts & High Judiciary and low Human Capital.

② Clashes with Juvenile Justice Act & protection of under age offenders from punishment.

③ Reporting and Awareness of social factors such as prestige and far away children.

④ lack of proactive mechanism.

- ① Awareness in school to children especially girl child
- ② Complain box at school and Home for children
- ③ Honest and openness with Parents
- Way forward

Thus, POCSO is an Useful weapon against menace of child exploitation.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

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)

World Health Organisation (WHO) was envisaged as global health watchdog for promoting human health and cooperation. However, in light of criticism, the credibility and Capacity crisis is evident.

Crisis faced WHO

(i) Capacity crisis :-

↳ (i) lack of funds required for smooth operational functionings (ii) dependent on voluntary grants.

↳ (ii) Removal of voluntary grants by USA which contributed upto 35-40% of WHO funds.

↳ (iii) Without consensus of countries, WHO cannot act in its full capacity.

↳ (iv) lack of dispute resolution mechanism.

② Credibility crisis

↳ (i) Accusation of chauvinism against WHO by US concerning the credibility.

↳ (ii) lack of proactive response during COVID-19 in cyber and oxygen distribution

↳ (iii) lack of trust of Global players.

→ (i) Digital resolution mechanism

Way forward

↳ (ii) Inclusion of private players for diversification of funds.

↳ (iii) Global Health requires Global cooperation beyond Nation-centric interests

Thus, for achievement of SDG-3

functioning of WHO is crucial. Global

Pandemic treaty is a step towards right direction

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

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 सुझाएंगे? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The lack of universal definition of terrorism has led to paradigm of "my terrorist" and "your terrorist" as reflected in dilemmas of Good Terrorism and Bad Terrorism.

① National interest centric approach.
 eg) vs planted mujahideens in Afghanistan - attacked 9/11.

my terrorist vs your terrorist paradigm

② Lack of state sponsored terrorism as established parameters.

eg) Pakistan as listed.

③ Based on victimisation of Perpetrator of terrorism eg) Zaffar express narrative

④ Deliberate efforts to delay the coordinated efforts - eg) Pakistan's approach.

⑤ Selective approach of countries eg) China recognizing Zaffar express as terrorist while Pathalgam as not.

Strategies to develop unified comprehensive and rule based global approach

- (i) India's proposal of Comprehensive ^{Conventional} Counter Terrorism :- universal definition, defined approach rather than selection.
- (ii) Cooperation of countries at FATF for curbing Terror financing (a) No funds to Terror summit (money)
- (iii) Platforms such as SCO-RATS, QUAD etc should be utilised.
- (iv) Tackling new age terrorism such as Car bomb attacks and Drone attacks (a) Jammu attacks
- (v) No Selective approach and distinguishing between good terrorism and bad terrorism

Thus, as argued by Shashi Tharoor terrorism is a periculum sans borders, require an integrated approach to tackle this menace against Humanity

Feedback

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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)

RPA, 1951 is called as magna Carta for electoral democracy of India dealing electoral procedure like registration of political parties.

Procedure laid down for registration of Political Parties

- ① Political Party as the group of individuals having similar ideology, common goals and working under same sign/symbols and flag.
- ② Registration is necessary for every political party to fight election.
- ③ For registration, Political party members have show the proposers of certain numbers and sign surety bond of

same amount for the registration.

④ A registered party needs not to be mandatorily recognised as the recognition status is given to political parties based on their electoral performance.

⑤ Registered Unrecognised Political Parties :-
These parties are not recognised by Election Commission due to negligible presence in electoral politics. But since India is a multi party system, they are allowed to fight elections.

Issues associated with RUPPs :-

- ① lack of substantial base and recognition leading to lack of level playing field.
- ② Involvement in criminalisation or corrupt practices under unrecognised nature. → lack of security due to

marginal presence.

③ lack of power with ECI to ~~reg~~ deregister political parties :- one of criticism of Electron Commission.

Therefore, the commission is not empowered to deregister the party regardless of corrupt practices, criminalisation etc.

① Law Commission - 255th report - argued for power to deregister to Electron Commission.

may forward

② scrutiny over RUPPc and warning about potential action.

③ Disqualification in case of engagement in corrupt practices.

Thus, India is mother of Democracy due to electoral integrity safeguarded by Electron Commission.

Feedback

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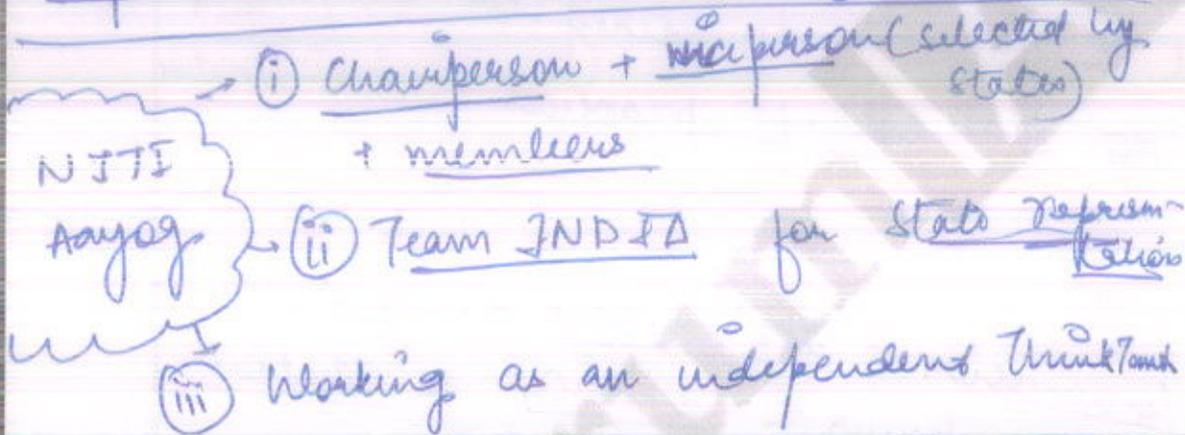
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Q.12) Assess the role of NITI Aayog over the past decade in promoting cooperative and competitive federalism. (15 marks, 250 words)

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

NITI Aayog was introduced and established in 2015 replacing the ^{half-}century old Planning Commission and embark upon new era of Cooperative and Competitive federalism.



Role of NITI Aayog in promoting :-

(1) Cooperative Federalism :-

↳ (i) Bringing Centre and state on same platform to discuss and negotiate over the centre state issues. (eg) Team India

↳ (ii) Bargaining power to state as a collective unit in managing bargain

in Central pool of funds.

- (iii) Promotion of Comprehensive National plan
 (eg) strategy for New India@ 75.

Promotion of Competitive federalism

- (i) Various indices and reports in comparing state performance
 (eg) SDG Index, National multidimensional poverty Index. (N MPI).
- (ii) Recommendation of performance based grants to redistribution among states
 (eg) aspirational district program
- (iii) Competition among centres and states for allocation of resource based on performance based indicators

However, there are challenges faced by NITI Aayog :-

- (1) Criticism of competitive federalism :- for

creating asymmetry between states.

(eg) Southern State elected about level playing field.

(ii) Recommendatory Nature rather than Planning Commission type powers and influence. (eg) planning commission as mini Cabinet.

(iii) Legacy of Planning Commission still looms. (eg) Centralisation of resources.

(iv) Questions over Methodological inadequacies

① Reforms in NITI Aayog based on Methodological challenges

Way forward

② State representation in Calculations of Indices.

③ Expanding scope of recommendations and their acceptance.

Thus, NITI Aayog can play an important role in India's journey to Unstinted Growth.

Feedback

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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)

उपाध्यक्ष 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, उपाध्यक्ष के पद के लंबे समय तक रिक्त रहने के निहितार्थों का भी परीक्षण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

From 17th Lok Sabha, the post of Deputy Speaker has remained vacant leading to question of constitutional crisis and relevance (significance) of the office.

Deputy Speaker beyond ceremonial significance

- (i) Constitutional office / post as officer of the Lok Sabha as mentioned in Article 93
- (ii) Role of Speaker in absence of Speaker over vacancy in the office for 6 months.
- (iii) Conventionally belongs to opposition party member leading to parliamentary values being upheld.
- (iv) Election of Deputy Speaker to be presided by speaker i.e. after the election of speaker (Article 93)

Implications in prolonged vacancy

- ① Constitutional crisis :- Mandate of naming Deputy speaker as the officer of the house.
- ② Parliamentary ethics :- reflection of lack of opportunities for opposition to speak in the house.
- ③ Affects working of the house :- in absence of speaker, post of Deputy speaker becomes crucial.
- ④ Role in accelerating decline in parliamentary democracy :- vacancy as the reflection of lack of parliamentary procedure being followed.
- ⑤ Disrupts the house based on political nature of issues :- lack of constructive criticism
 - eg) opposition raising question on election of Deputy speaker

Way forward

- ① Upholding Constitutional Requirement and Parliamentary ethics
- ② All Political parties should meet for developing consensus or election of deputy speaker.
- ③ Parliamentary Ethics to followed in letter and spirit :- beyond the excuse of absence of opposition.

Thus, Deputy Speaker as much as speaker, represents the freedom and dignity of the house, his ~~his~~ election should be conducted at earliest hour.

Feedback

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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 खतरा है? हाल के न्यायिक निर्णयों के आलोक में इसका परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

In recent case of India's got talent, Supreme court argued for stricter regulations and responsible behaviour from social media personalities.

Stricter Regulation are Justified

① Helps in upholding societal values eg respect of women, against commodification.

② Provides a regulated environment for young generation :- impact on upbringing and mental framing eg discrimination and insensitivity in name of Dark Comedy

③ creates social stability in the society
 ↳ religious groups and caste based groups protesting against movie eg Thug Life movie

However, the regulation have bearing on Freedom of speech and expression

① Chilling Effect :- as argued in Shreya Singhal case, silencing of one voice leads to chilling effect.

② Heckler's Veto :- Majoritarian values getting empowered against small voice
 eg Indian Prathegathi case, SC took principial centric approach.

③ lack of creativity and innovation :- leading to individual's creative downfall.

④ Tool for surveillance state eg Orwellian state.

Therefore, there is a need for "Middle path" in these dilemmas

① R J Udesin Case :- Supreme Court called for Hicklin Test for obscene scenes and vs practice of Miller Test

② Reasonable restriction - Article 19(2) is one of them is Public Morality

③ Due process of law to be followed while making the regulation. Test of proportionality is crucial.

④ Self-Regulation by social media platforms (Section 79 - Safe harbour IT Act).

Thus, Balancing Social Morality and Freedom of Speech and Expression is the way forward for maintaining a free and open society.

Feedback

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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)

'In house procedure' refers to the procedure followed by Apex Court involving Judicial scrutiny against misconduct of Judge.

① Either with Sen. Memo or with recommendation by President, CJI initiates an enquiry.

② 2 Justice of High Court and one member judge of High Court are part of committee formed by CJI.

③ The committee is not bound on Judicial process but gives opportunity to the concerned accused Judge for clarification.

④ The consensus among Judges against misconduct is taken into account and sent to CJI.

⑤ CJI sends it to Parliamentary for Constitutional process under Article 124.

Merits of in House Procedure :-

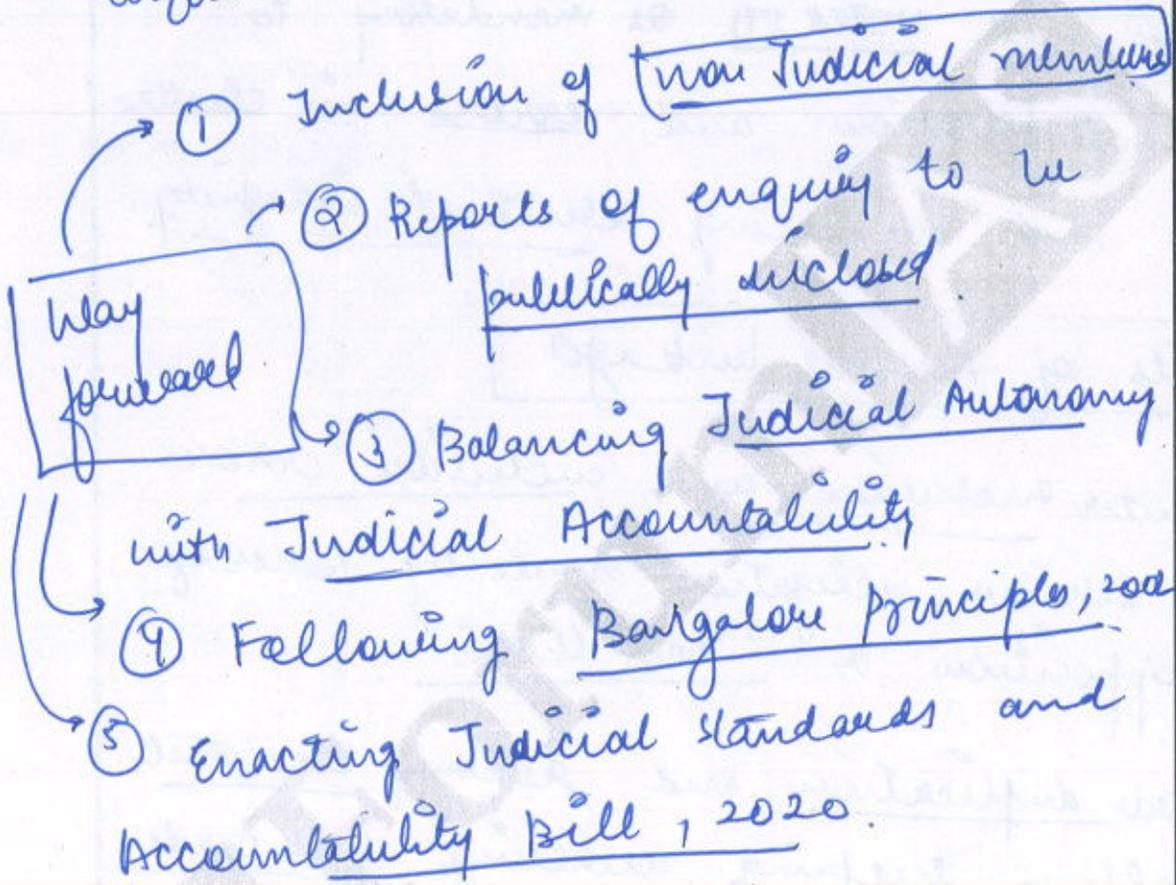
- ① Independence and Autonomy of Judiciary
↳ involvement of Judicial members
- ② Opportunity to give clarification
↳ to the accused Judge. However, official trial is not in process.
- ③ Upholds separation of powers. (Starts of Rafiq Khan case).

Demerits of in House Procedure :-

- ① Lack of accountability and transparency
↳ opaque nature of inquiry
- ② Potential risk of favoritism and compromise
↳ leading to violation of Principles of Natural Justice
- ③ Lack of involvement of independent members

④ Against Global precedence

④ in UK, ~~the~~ Constitution process for removal of Judge and enquiry.



True, In house process needs to be recamp to gain public trust and meet standards of Judicial Accountability.

Feedback

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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)

Election Commission of India introduced Aadhaar linkage with Voter ID as mandatory to curb duplication and errors in electoral rolls and enhancing electoral integrity.

Merits of Aadhaar linkage

- ① Counter inclusion and exclusion errors
 (eg) serious allegation made by leader of opposition as "Vote Chooie".
- ② Curb duplication and scam Electoral rolls - keeping weeding fake cards also.
- ③ Digitisation of process providing smooth access to the users and voters.
 (eg) ect website.
- ④ Maintaining integrity of electoral process.

Demerits of Linkage :-

① Supreme Court argued that Aadhaar should not be used in any other scheme than Welfare.

② Aadhaar Card is not the proof of citizenship :- Fake Aadhaar cards being caught by UIDAI.

③ Lack of Access and awareness among masses (e.g. only 38% digitally literate) → enhance exclusion risks.

④ Political Nature of Issue :- based on Bangladeshi illegal migrants getting Aadhaar card.

⑤ Aadhaar Card and address can be changed :- leading to confusion.

Therefore, There is a need for balanced approach :-

① While Aadhaar linkage is a positive step,

inclusion lists are genuine! ECI should counter these lists -

② SIR like exercise in State Assembly elections (eg) Bihar Elections -

③ All party consensus :- to be developed by Electoral Commission -

④ Proactive Disclosure by ECI in any inclusion and exclusion error for gaining public trust -

Thus, the Electoral roll is not just piece of paper, it is the right of common voter and future of ordinary citizen. Its sanctity

should be maintained at all cost.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

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)

In recent controversy regarding lateral entry, UPSC had to back track on their decision for inviting people in administration through lateral route.

Lateral Entry as a Reformative Step

- ① Brings academic insights and expertise in administration. (eg) in US, secretaries are majorly academic stalwarts.
- ② Promotes efficiency and competition & competition between usual recruits and lateral entrants leading to efficiency in administration.
- ③ Provides opportunity to experts and field experience in administration :- Implementation of key ideas for service delivery and welfare.

④ Brings innovation and creativity in the system due to influence of best practices from Corporate Governance.

⑤ Merit promotion

However, The policy has been criticised on basis of -

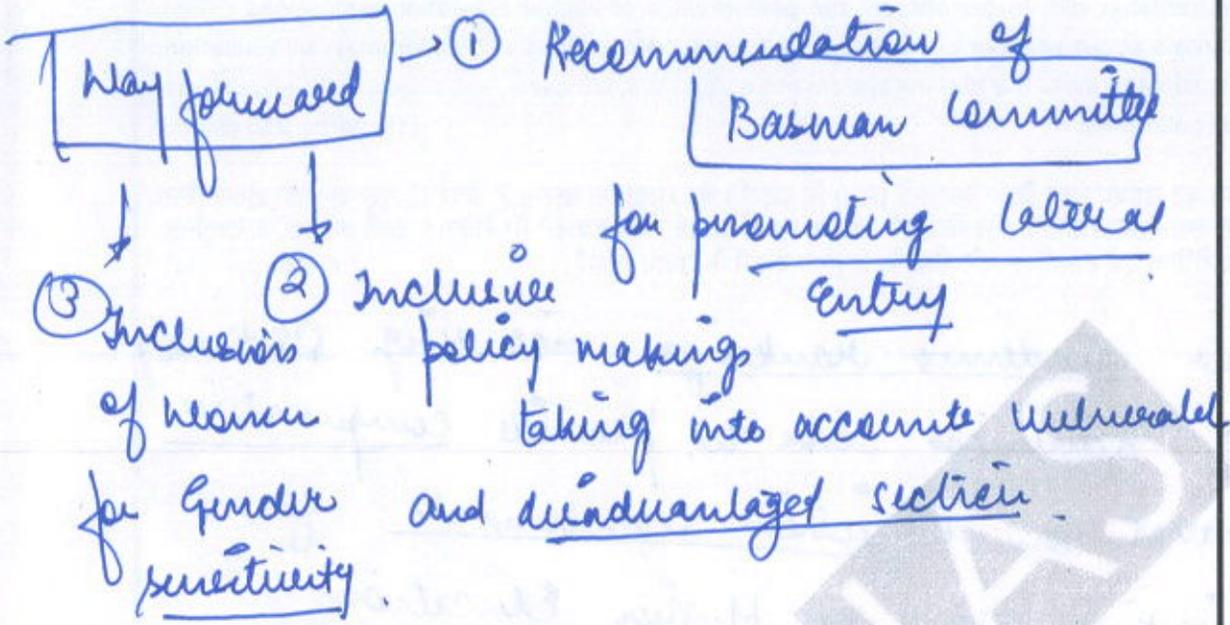
① Discriminatory and lack of inclusion :- lack of affirmative action and recruitment of SCs and ST communities.

② Training and Adaption issues :- Training for inputs is created difficultly facing issue of adaption

③ Resistance from General recruits due to fear of competition and problems in career.

④ Lack of field knowledge among Academics :- reality situations are different from academic focused issues.

⑤ Politicisation for vote bank politics.



Thus, lateral entry is not a Silver Bullet rather a means to achieve an end of Good Governance and Quality Service Delivery.

Feedback

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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)

Various academic rankings including QS Ranking AIRHE rankings seeks to provide comparative assessment on objective benchmarks for highlighting status of Higher Education Institutions

Institutions

(i) Objective comparative analysis

Aim of Rankings

(ii) Highlight the picture of Higher Education (eg) 28% GER in India

(iii) Parameters based on standards of Quality (AIRHE)

(iv) Competitive assessment helping in improvement

However, there are concerns regarding frameworks :-

(i) Focus on Quantification rather than Quality
 & number of Research Paper rather than number of relevant research papers

② Lack of emphasis on learning Outcome
and employability :- merely focusing on
course completion and academic credit.

③ Lack of focus on Quality of trainings in
teachers and adoption to new technology

↳ leading to older Pedagogy.

④ Lack of understanding of
use of AI among
teachers.

④ Emphasis on Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)
rather than Gross Outcome Ratio :- leading
to flawed understanding.

⑤ Rigid Value System :- western education
material in Indian content ⑥ QS Ranking

Therefore, There is a need for a more
objective, inclusive and outcome based
material and framework

① Parameters dealing with Quality than
Quantity :- Systematic relevance.

② Emphasise inclusion of vulnerable section
↳ separate data set and Survey Questions
based on socio economic circumstances

(eg) Gender based Questionnaire

③ Emphasis on learning outcomes based on recommendations of ISR (Uchcharaman) Committee

④ Alignment with Goal of National Education Policy, 2020 → promoting action based learning

① Internal assessment in Higher Education institutions
↳ independent

Way forward

② NHEQR as central regulatory body raising the quality of Accreditation

③ Teachers Training in emerging Tech.

Thus, Higher Education is an integral part of India's quest for SDG-4 which requires systemic reforms.

Feedback

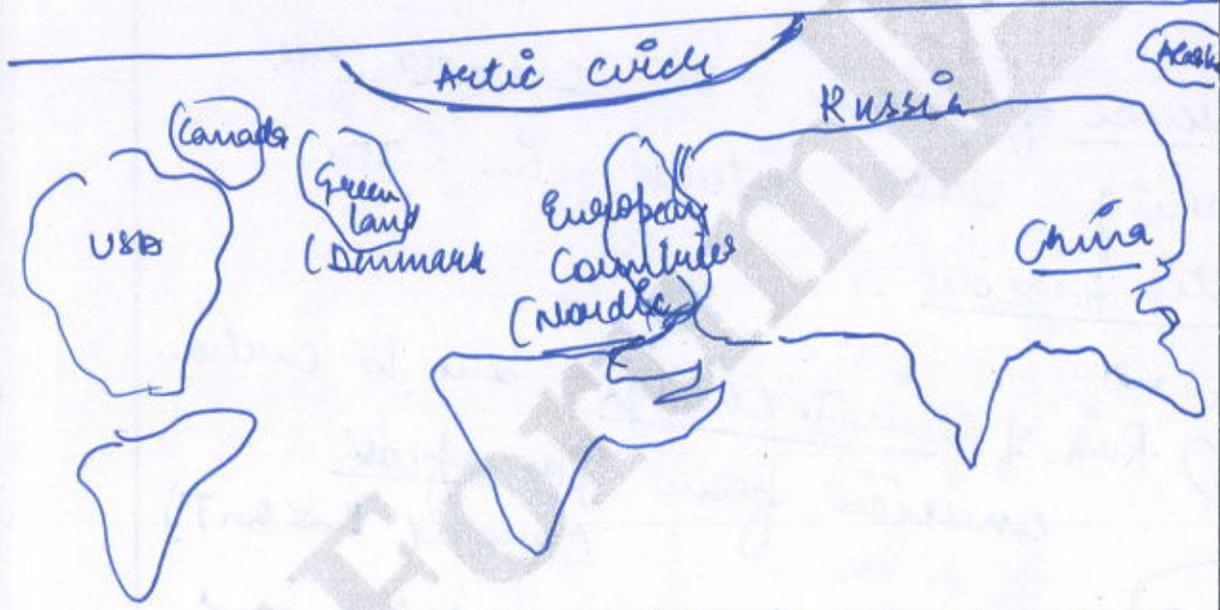
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Q.19) Examine the factors behind the growing salience of the Arctic region in international politics. Discuss, in this context, strategies for India to recalibrate its Arctic engagement. (15 marks, 250 words)

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)

In new geopolitical contestation among Arctic bordering countries, race for economic dominance, resource exploitation and geopolitical advantage has set the tone.



Arctic Region

Factors behind growing salience of Arctic

- ① Melting of Arctic ice and opening of New Economic trade routes
 - ↳ shorten distance for Europe and Russia.

(2) Geopolitical Contestations (29) China claiming Polar Silk Trade route for legitimising participation in "Arctic East".

(3) Resource Potential of Gas, Hydrocarbons leading to significance in Energy market and supply chain dominance.

(4) Presence of Russia, US, Canada etc having vested interest in the Arctic Regions.

↳ (1) Risk of Climate Change due to Carbon emission from Permafrost (caused 0.5 BnT)

Challenges faced by Arctic

↳ (2) Instability of ecosystems and productivity amid shipping and extractions.

↳ (3) Geopolitical Tussle for hegemony dominance and hegemony.

It requires India to re-calibrate its Arctic policy

- ① Partnership with like minded countries like Russia, Denmark etc.
 - eg) India invested in East East in Russia (Chennai - Uladivostok route)
- ② International Cooperation :- Partnership with Arctic Council and seek observer status in the council.
- ③ Counter Chinese Influence :- Monitoring presence of scientific mission eg) Himadri
- ④ Balancing exploration with conservation
 - ↳ represent the voice of Global South in balancing ecological sustainability.
- ⑤ Track II diplomacy :- Scientific Engagement with member countries.

Thus, Arctic Region is emerging as New Arena of Geopolitical, Economic and Geostrategic rivalry.

Feedback

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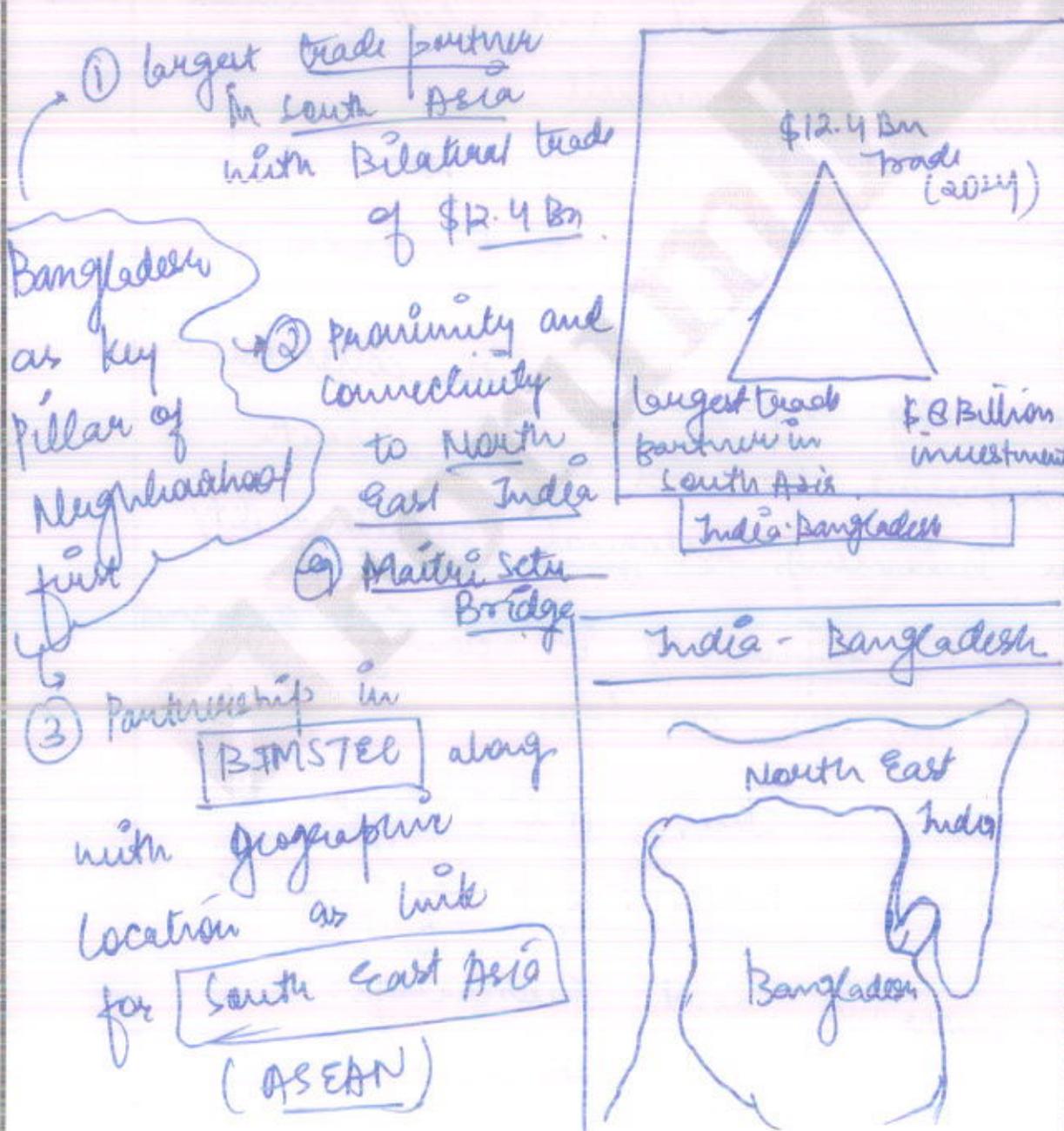
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Q.20) Bangladesh is a key pillar of India's Neighborhood First policy, but recent developments on both sides threaten to disrupt the 'Sonalī Adhyay' in bilateral relations. Analyze. (15 marks, 250 words)

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)

India Bangladesh relations, in recent times, have been affected by political instability and socio economic and security factors



However, the recent developments have threatened to disrupt the "Shawari Highway"

① Developments in Bangladesh

- ↳ (i) Political instability due to oust of Habina Government.
- ↳ (ii) Attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh.
 - ↳ (a) Iskon Saints arrested.
- ↳ (iii) Illegal migration leading to drugs and human trafficking.
- ↳ (iv) Closeness with Pakistan-China Axis

② Developments in India :-

- ↳ (i) Anger and suspicion towards Bangladesh re: migrants.
- ↳ (ii) Lack of response from India for extradition of Habina (convict in India).
- ↳ (iii) Border security management.

↓
This leads to -

① Erosion of Trust and mutual historical partnership
↳ lack of public sentiments towards Bangladesh in India.

② Impacts trade and economic connectivity
↳ towards North East.

③ Geopolitical tussle for interaction of Harna
↳ Bangladesh sent formal notice.

④ space to Pakistan and China - declining influence of India -

① Protection of Borders and minorities as expectations from Bangladesh

② Utilise treaty of interaction, 2012 for Harna case.

③ Neighbourhood first.

↳ ④ Hydropower connectivity.

key forward

Thus, India Bangladesh needs to emphasise political will in order to improve Bilateral issues for Shanti Adhyay

Feedback

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

TOTAL MARKS	
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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		

* Subject to change without prior notice.

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