TEST CODE	8	1	2	4	1	4

MGP 2025

388512_812414_1910111667 (2025-07-31 14:22:43)

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : **250**
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Disha Dhankhar		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910111667	**Medium**/माध्यम	English ☑ हिंदी ☐
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	**Date**/दिनांक	31/July

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

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक
1		
2		
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20		
Total/कुल अंक	**250**	

Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता का विवेक :

Total Marks/कुल अंक :

*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.

मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और 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।

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
कृपया उत्तर–पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।

2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी / हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न / भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।

4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.
उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।

5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।

For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु

Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 9 am	**End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :** 12:15 pm
Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन ☑ Offline/ऑफलाइन ☐

For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु

ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	**EG/ईजी :** ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	**Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :**

Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the 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.

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EXAMINER'S REMARKS

FORUM IAS

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.

Instructions: All questions are compulsory. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. Quality of the answer is more important than the length of the answer.

निर्देश : सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। प्रत्येक प्रश्न द्वारा धारित अंकों को उसके सामने इंगित किया गया है। उत्तर की गुणवत्ता उत्तर की लंबाई की तुलना में अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है।

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

Q.10) The world continues to operate in a 'my terrorist' versus 'your terrorist' paradigm. Explain. What strategies would you suggest to develop a unified, comprehensive, and rules-based global approach to tackle the menace of terrorism? (10 marks, 150 words)

दुनिया आज भी 'मेरा आतंकवादी' बनाम 'तुम्हारा आतंकवादी' के सिद्धांत पर चल रही है। स्पष्ट कीजिए। आतंकवाद के खतरे से निपटने के लिए एक एकीकृत, व्यापक और नियम-आधारित वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण विकसित करने हेतु आप कौन सी रणनीतियाँ सुझाएँगे? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

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)

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)

Q.13) 'The post of Deputy Speaker goes beyond ceremonial significance and is indispensable to Indian parliamentary democracy.' Discuss with relevant constitutional provisions and conventions. Also, examine the implications of the prolonged vacancy of the Deputy Speaker's post.
(15 marks, 250 words)

'उपसभापति का पद औपचारिक महत्व से कहीं बढ़कर है और भारतीय संसदीय लोकतंत्र के लिए अपरिहार्य है।' प्रासंगिक संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और परंपराओं के साथ इस पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उपसभापति के पद के लंबे समय तक रिक्त रहने के निहितार्थों का भी परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.14) Is the growing demand for stricter regulation of online content justified, or does it pose a threat to the right to freedom of speech and expression? Examine in light of recent judicial pronouncements.
(15 marks, 250 words)

क्या ऑनलाइन सामग्री के सख्त नियमन की बढ़ती माँग उचित है, या यह अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार के लिए ख़तरा है? हाल के न्यायिक निर्णयों के आलोक में इसका परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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

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

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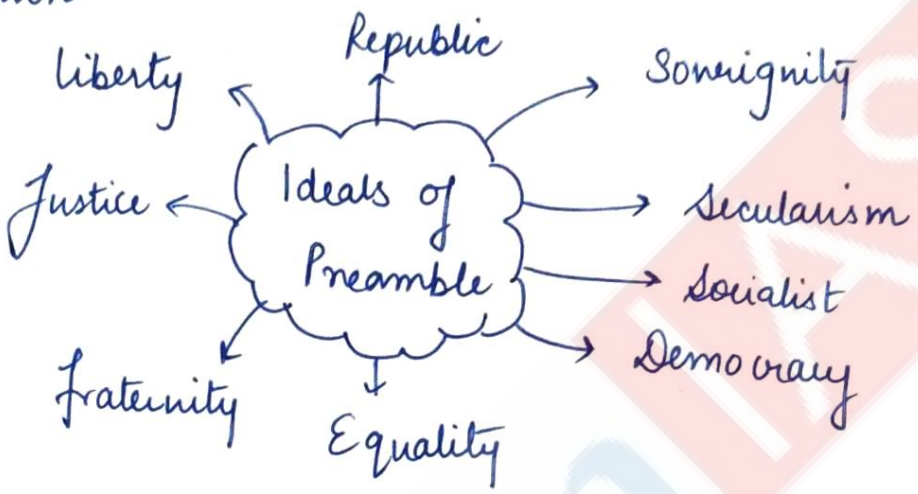
(1) Justice Krishna Iyer refered to the Preamble as the horoscope of our sovrign democratic republic. This holds true more than ever with 75 years of us being an independent nation.



Archievements of ideals

1) Equality – ensured via Articles 14-18.
   eg. Affirmative action, gender budgeting.
2. Fraternity – spirit of national solidarity during crisis like covid 19, donations for disaster relief finds in different regions
3. Liberty – expansion of right (Art 21) to include freedom of movement, right to dignity
4. Justice (socio-economic-politic) – affirmative action (Artices 15, 16, 46), political justice through universal adult franchise, right to contest elections

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5. Secular - Pluralism has survived despite partition & communal violence.

6. Democratic - regular elections & peaceful transfer of legislative power - a record for the region (South Asia)
- vibrant civil society culture.

7. Socialist - pro poor schemes like - MGNREGA, NFSA, Ayushman Bharat, PM KISAN etc.

9. Sovereign - peaceful integration of princely state, no attempts to overthrow civil - elected govt. by military coups.

10. Republic - elected head of state, political participation of Dalits, women & minorities. (eg. Draupadi Murmu - female tribal president)

Limitations →
- Sovereignty - border disputes & claims
- Socialist - Oxfam Inequality Report figures (1% hold 40% wealth)
- Justice, liberty, Equality - judicial pendency (over 5cr cases), misuse of sedition laws, gender pay gap (34.1)
- Fraternity, secular - politicisation of religion, communal violence, hate crimes

While challenges persist, we must renew constitutional morality to ensure Amrit Kaal by actualising spirit of Constitution.

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(2.) In the initial original text of Constitution, right to property was crowned among freedoms listed under Article 19, 31. However, its position has since evolved due to tenets, social justice & public interest

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Constitutional evolution of property rights

↳ Original Constitution - Articles 19(1)(f) & 31, guaranteed right to acquire, hold and dispose property

↳ Articles 31A, 31B - added via 1st & 4th Amendments introduced to protect land reform laws from judicial review.

↳ 44th Amendment (1978) - repealed Articles 19(1)(f), 31 & 31 and introduced Art. 300A - "no person shall be deprived of his property save authority of law."

↳ Shifted from individual liberty to public welfare orientation.

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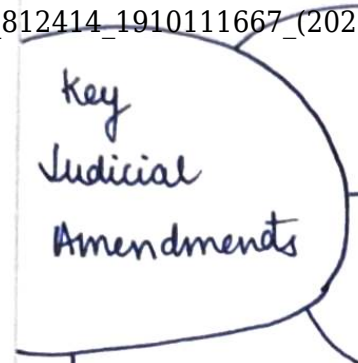

- Golaknath case (1967) – denied power to amend fundamental rights
- Kesavananda Bharti – Basic structure doctrine allowed limited amendment
- Jilubhai v. State of Gujarat – right to property not part of basic structure.
- Property Owners Association v. State of Maharashtra (2024) – Supreme Court held that Article 300A must be non arbitrary & proportionate, striking down unauthorised acquisition by district civic authorities.
  – It see - emphasised legal right to property against arbitrary state action.

Despite legal reforms (including Forest Rights Act and LARR Act) challenges remain –

- Inadequate rehabilitation
- Forced displacement (including evictions as collective punishment for whole family when action said to be against one individual).

The evolution depicts India's commitment to balance public welfare while securing individual property rights.

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(3) Emergency provisions are laid down under Part XVIII of the Constitution. They are modeled on the powers laid under Govt. of India Act, 1935.

National Emergency

↳ is declared under Article 352 of the Constitution when security of State is threatened on account of -

1. war;
2. external aggression;
3. Armed rebellion [44th Constitutional Amendment Act replaced 'internal disturbance'].

↳ Presidential proclamation is made on the written advice of Union Cabinet (44th Amendment) It laid before the Parliament & approved within 1 month.

↳ It may continue for 6 months at a time, subject to renewal by Parliament for continued existence.

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Consequences of National Emergency :

1. Suspension of fundamental rights - Article 19 automatically suspended. Others (except 20, 21) can be suspended via Article 359.
2. curtails federalism - turns nation into unitary system with Centre's control over State legislatures.
3. Lok Sabha & State Legislative Assemblies can be extended for one year at a time
4. limited judicial review (Article 358)
5. liberal use of preventive detention & military deployment.

Last imposition

↳ National Emergency was last imposed in 1975 & extended till 1977. It was declared on the grounds of 'internal disturbance'.

While a powerful tool to face crisis situation, abuse of power (particularly in 1975) prompted safeguards (44th Amendment) to prevent indiscriminate suspension of civil liberties

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(4.) Pre-legislative consultations are the cornerstone of democratic lawmaking. While the 2014 Pre legislative Consultation Policy was well-intended its implementation remains spotchy.

Lack of Binding framework limits citizen engagement

1. 2014 policy is non binding which makes it ineffective. PRS data shows more than 3/4th laws introduced in 17th Lok Sabha, without pre-consultation.
2. Excludes vulnerable voices - leaves the marginalised, tribals, women, weaker sections unheard.
3. This could potentially lead to judicial challenges.
4. Lack of consultation violates social contract- diminishes public trust because of opacity in proceedings.
5. Tokenistic consultations, where made, are done for sake of formality & limit feedback & constructive criticism.

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Measures to strengthen public consultation

1. Giving the policy a legal backing by codifying it into a statute.
2. Enhancing Ease of Participation for citizens in consultations via use of apps such as MyGov.
3. Making it mandatory to include a feedback report along with draft of Act in Parliament.
4. Independent Oversight Authority, with help from civil society organisations.
5. Learning from global best practices eg. UK's petitions portal.
6. Ensuring use of local languages for wider engagement beyond tokenism. Use of Bhashini can help here.

To ensure India remains a thriving democracy worthy of the title 'Mother of Democracy', public participation in law making must be ensured in a rights based approach.

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(5) 15th ~~financial~~ finance Commission (2021-26) was set up under NK Singh to make recommendations for fedual tax distribution in line with Article 280 of the Indian constituition.

Enabled better fiscal health for States

1. Vertical & horizontal devolution – recommended 41% vertical devolution.
   - Horizontal devolution formula considers population, forest cover, tax effort & demographic perfomance.
2. Performance based incentives – grants linked to power sector reforms, ease of doing business etc.
3. post devolution revenue deficit grants – ~ ₹ 2.9 lakh crore to 17 states to ensure minimum fiscal support.
4. local body grants – allocation of ₹ 2.36 lakh crore.
5. Disaster risk management reforms – recommended setting up of Mitigation funds in addition

to Response funds.

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Limitations / Concerns

↳ performance based grants may disproportionately benefit fiscally stronger states.

↳ Dependence on GST compensation & Centre's delay in transfers undermines predictability of State finances.

↳ Off budget borrowing by States remains a concern and is beyond commission's control

Way forward

↳ institutionalise fiscal monitoring mechanisms.

↳ Enhance capacity of rural & urban local bodies to make up finances eg. property taxes, fees etc.

Finance Commissions are the cornerstone of fiscal federalism. Going ahead mid term review mechanisms could help predictability, transparency & adaptability in evolving fiscal federalism.

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(6.) Industry & business associations such as FICCI, NASSCOM, SIAM etc. act as vital intermediaries between govt & private sector.

Contribution to socio-economic development

1. Policy advocacy & economic reforms - they represent business interests & help shape pro business, employment friendly policies.

2. Skill development & job creation - run industry specific skill training programs. eg. NASSCOM's future skills initiative to reskill & upskill IT professionals.

3. Promote MSMEs & Startups - eg. CII helps access markets, finance & technology to MSMEs. This helps inclusive growth as smaller businesses get helped.

4. CSR compliance - promote sustainability standards focusing on ethical wealth creation eg. Tata group's CSR under CII umbrella includes education, healthcare & rural development.

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5. Balanced regional growth - encourage investments in Tier. 2 & 3 cities.

6. Crisis response - eg. industry associations arranged funds for ~~disaster~~ oxygen, migrant worker support during COVID.

7. Encourage management - labour dialogue (Article 43A) and support conducive industrial relations.

8. Create collaborative environment eg. FICCI & CII bring together industries that work together ushering national development.

Role of such associations is thus crucial for skilling, inclusive growth & to reach 'Viksit Bharat' dream.

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(7.) Currently the International Poverty line is $3/day (PPP) - World Bank. However, poverty measures are made via multiple methods (Tendulkar, Multidimensional Poverty Index etc) making the process confusing & inconsistent.

Need for credible & updated poverty framework

1. Ensure proper identification of beneficiaries for govt schemes like PDS, Ayushman Bharat.

2. Represent demographic shifts. Currently most schemes use SECC 2011 data which is more than a decade old.

3. Monitoring welfare outcomes - in the absence of data, progress cannot be tracked.

4. Outdated poverty lines - Tendulkar threshold of ₹27 (rural) & ₹33 (urban) donot coexist with lived realities as this figure is insufficient to ensure even 3

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balanced meals, let alone all basic necessities.

5. meeting SDGs - 1 (ending poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (well being & health), 6 (clean drinking water & sanitation), 10 (reducing inequalities), among others.

6. meet dynamic challenges related to poverty such as hidden hunger, anaemia in women, urban poverty.

7. Global credibility due to proactive engagement in poverty reduction.

Way forward

-) hybrid indices that cover incidence & intensity & combine consumption, health, digital access and education.
-) Real time data tracking similar to POSHAN tracker
-) Region specific data to ensure localised issues are dealt with.

While the recent figures which state 25 cr people were brought out of poverty in India are comforting, better framework is necessary to continue true progress.

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(8.) POCSO Act was passed in 2012 to enact a robust legal framework to protect children from sexual harassment, abuse & pornography.

Falling short of its objectives

1. Judicial delays, despite special POCSO courts NCRB data shows high pendency.
2. low conviction rate, around 39%. (NCRB 2022)
3. Non appointment of child Protection officers as guided by Act.
4. Misuse & overcriminalisation - increasing cases of criminalising consensual teen relationships (SC has highlighted this 'Romeo-Juliet' relationships between 16-18 year olds).
5. Low reporting, poor awareness - due to societal stigma, legal illiteracy, family pressures.
6. Increasing cases show failure of deterrent effect of law.

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7. In a high number of cases, accused a family member - difficulty limited preventive role of Act to create a safe space at home.

8. Inadequate victim support - retraumatization due to lack of child friendly procedures, lack of sensitivity training to officers.

9. Rising instances of digital child sexual abuse material & lack of effective legal measures to counter it. eg. use of AI.

Way forward

↳ Revise law to exempt consensual adolescent acts between minors.
↳ Child friendly infrastructure, trained staff in all districts
↳ Awareness campaigns in media
↳ Good touch, bad touch education in schools & at home.
↳ tech-enabled monitoring of online content.

While a revolutionary step that clearly defined child sexual abuse & made it gender neutral, promise of Act remains unfulfilled due to gaps in awareness & implementation.

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(9.) World Health Organisation (WHO) is the premier international authority on public health established in 1948. Recent US withdrawal comes with challenges to its credibility & allege biased behaviour.

Crisis of capacity

1. Inadequate funding - relies majorly on voluntary contributions with US being biggest. With their withdrawal, ~15% shortfall in funding expected.
2. Limited enforcement power - lacks any binding power over member nations. eg. during COVID, it could only recommend travel bans & advisories.
3. Lack of viable alternatives to US funding.
4. Due to insufficient funding, public health interventions would see butterfly effect.

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Lack of credibility

1. US's allegations of biased behaviour regarding China evidenced in delayed release of data.
2. This could lead to decline in public trust in institution.
3. This negative perception could futur cut-funding

Way forward

↳ transparent decision making - establish independent panels.

↳ funding reforms: shift towards mandatory, unified contributions.

↳ Legal mandate during emergencies.

↳ Strengthen cooperation.

for WHO to regain its capacity & credibility, it must insulate itself from geopolitics.

(10.) The cross boundary challenge of terrorism, remains largely unsolved due to lack on agreements between nations as to 'what' & 'who' constitutes a terrorist acts.

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My terrorism v/s Your terrorism paradigm

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1. State sponsorship and safe havens eg. Taliban's sheltering of Al Qaeda, Pakistan's role in sponsoring LeT & JeM.
2. Selective designation of terror groups - eg. US & Russia, China differing on classifying rebel groups as terrorists.
3. Using of veto powers to block UN sanctions eg. China's role in blocking designation of Pakistan based terrorists.
4. Double standards - severe condemnations of terrorist acts in west (eg. 9/11) while muted responses for ones in Africa & Asia.

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Strategies for rules based global approach

1. Agreeing on a common definition.
2. UN reforms – to do away with veto powers and power imbalance in favour of permanent members.
3. Collective action against all forms of terrorism, including state sponsored, irrespective of location.
4. Making sanctions against terrorist organisations & individuals based on democratic vote.
5. Intelligence sharing, using AI based mechanism to counter use of digital spaces for terrorist funding & radicalisation (FATF).
6. political will must be enhanced.

As noted by PM Modi, there are no good or bad terrorists. Therefore all acts must be treated with same importance to deroot it completely.

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(11) Election Commission of India (ECI) is empowered by the Constitution under Article 324 to supervise, direct & control elections. Representation of Peoples Act (RPA) provides for implementation of the same.

Procedure for registration

↳ Article 29A of RPA lays down the provision for registration of political party by ECI. It includes:

-) fomal application within 30 days of its fomation.
-) disclose list of party members, PAN details & bank acount information.
-) notices in 2 English & 2 local newspapers
-) ECI may seek additional information if they require.
-) ECI conducts verification, & if satisfied may register party.

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Registered Unrecognised Political parties (RUPP)

↳ these are political parties registered by ECI that don't meet criteria for recognition as National or State party.

↳ they are around 2800 as of 2024.

Concerns associated with RUPP

1. Act as 'letter pad' parties - i.e. don't engage in political activity. they raise dummy candidates or may be used to confuse voters.
2. used as shell companies to indulge in tax avoidance. Tax exemptions & undr s 13A (IT Act) political donations.
3. Allegations of money laundry.
4. failure to comply - many do not file mandatory financial & audit reports.

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ECI and de-registration

↳ ECI lacks explicit ~~statute~~ Statutory power to de-register political parties.

↳ Supreme Court in INC v. Institute of Social welfare held that ECI doesn't possess power to de register.

↳ Further, in Mohinder Gill case the court observed that ECI's powers are not unlimited.

↳ However in situations of fraudulent registration & UAPA conviction, ECI may de-register a political party.

There is requirement of legal reforms & giving more teeth to ECI to ensure integrity of India's electoral democracy.

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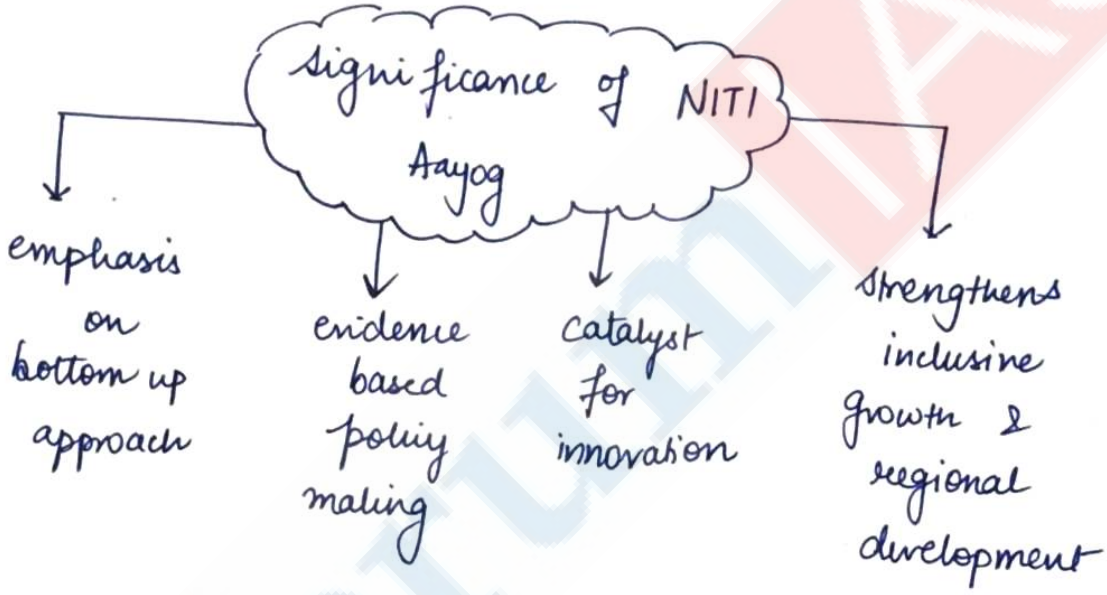
(12) NITI Aayog was constituted in 2015 to replace Planning Commission as the policy think tank. It reoriented Centre - State relations, modifying the earlier top down movement of funds & decisions by empowering federalism.



Role in promoting cooperative federalism

1. decentralised planning - 'Team India' approach to planning. Governing Council of CMs.
2. Sharing best practices across States - facilitates cross regional learning eg. Tamil Nadu's skill initiatives & Kerala's

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healthcare models (TB prediction model using AI).

3. Joint working groups - formed on critical issues such as agricultural reform & digital economy.

Role in competitive federalism

1. Performance based rankings eg. SDG Index, Multidimensional Poverty Index, Health index etc. These encourage benchmarking & best practices sharing.

2. Ease of doing Business Ranking - in coordination with DPIIT.

3. Output - Outcome monitoring framework promotes evidence based policy making.

Challenges & limitations

1. Lack of adequate financial ~~resource~~ powers - unlike Planning Commision, no fund allocation powrs. This limits its influence

2. Lacks statutory Status.

3. Allegations of one - centralisation.

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4. Dominance of Bureaucrats (generalists) over domain experts (specialists) – limits involvement of ~~subjmen~~ subject matter experts in policy making.

5. Inadequate coordination between Centre & States – concerns raised by States such as Kerala & Punjab.

Way forward

1. Greater involvement of States in policy decisions.
2. Expanding domain expertise.
3. Empower Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO) with real time data analytics.

NITI Aayog has revitalized spirit of federalism by promoting collaboration & healthy competition to ensure India becomes a developed nation in letter & spirit.

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(13.) The office of Deputy Speaker is a Constitutional mandate under Article 93 of the Indian Constitution.

Indispensable to Indian Parliamentary democracy

1) Ensures legislative continuity in case of absence of vacancy in the office of Speaker. Deputy Speaker would take up her office & ensure continuity of Parliamentary business (Article 95(1))

2) Institutionalises bipartisanship - India follows Westminister Parliamentary system, and conventionally office falls to opposition member. This ensures cooperation & bipartisanship.

3. Discharge of quasi judicial functions in Speaker's absence, decides on disqualification questions under Tenth schedule.

4. Presides over parliamentary committees & delegations - contributing to Parliamentary functioning & democratic ethos.

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5. Ensures transparency & accountability in Parliamentary functioning.
6. Reduces overload on Speaker - administrative support.

Implications of prolonged vacancy

1. Institutional deficit - undermines checks & balances in Parliamentary functioning.
2. 17th Lok Sabha - unprecedented vacancy. Violating Constitutional mandate and is against Constitutional morality.
3. Violates 'Bipartisan' convention - concentrates power with Ruling party and discourages political - executive transparency & accountability.
4. Reduces public trust & harms credibility of Parliament.
5. Administrative burden on Speaker.

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way forward

↳ Codifying time limits for appointing

Deputy Speaker. Mandatory timelines would support constitutional imperative of 'as soon as possible'.

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The real test of Indian democracy is not confined to the conduct of elections & formation of government, it ~~is~~ depends upon what occurs between elections.

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(Hi) Recent instances of 'digital obscenity' have raised public calls for greater restrictions on right to freedom of speech & expression (Article 19(1)(a)). However, the balance between rights & restrictions must be maintained.

Justifications for stricter regulation of online content

1. Misinformation & spread of hate - incites violence, amplifies communalism & disrupts social peace.
   eg. Muzzafarnagar riots were fanned by use of online spaces.

2. divisive tendencies must be controlled in interest of fraternity, public order & dignity of individuals.

3. prevent proliferation of online profanity & digital obscenity eg. Ranveer Allahabadia's case.

4. Cyberbulling & online harassment of women, children & marginalised groups eg. sexual harassment, Cyberbullig of LGBTQIA+

community.

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5. Indiscriminate use of AI has ~~taken~~ created deepfakes, faster spread of misinformation, much beyond the capacity of traditional, conventional legal restrictions to combat.

6. Increasing use of digital & AI tools in proliferation of child sexual Exploitative Abuse material, and legal lacuna to punish them.

7. Right to speech doesn't cover right ~~of others~~ to harm others - eg. defamation.

8. As welfare state, constitutional mandate to protect vulnerable, children (Article 39).

9. Lack of platform accountability.

Concerns: threat to freedom of Speech & Expression

1. Chilling effect on liberal rights ensured by Constitution as fundamental rights.

2. Vague and onboard provisions - 'decency' & 'community morality standards' are subjective & ambiguous.

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3. Excessive state control, without sufficient protective measures - Legislative overreach to dictate all & any speech of citizens.

4. Usher & normalises surveillance state - reducing safe spaces for dey expression

5. Disproportionate and opaque mechanisms of enforcement.

Way forward : middle path

1. strict provisions to tackle illegal acts & expansion of laws to cover hate speech, child sexual abusive material & bullig online.

2. Rights based legislation to ensure digital privacy and judicial oversight mechanism.

In Anuradha Bhasin, Supreme Court (SC) recognised access to internet as a tenet of freedom of speech under Article 19. Thus, any restrictions must stand test of constitutional morality.

(15.) Supreme court's in house mechanism (1999) is the self regulatory mechanism to address allegations of misconduct.

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In-house procedure

↳ non-statutory mechanism governed by Chief Justice of India (CJI).

↳ It applies to High Court Judges & Supreme Court Judges.

↳ It doesn't lead to formal punishment, only voluntary resignation or impeachment reference.

Merits of Inhouse procedure

1. Conforms to the principle of judicial independence as envisaged in the Constitution

2. Prevents politicisation of Judiciary, thus keeping judiciary free ~~for~~ from political pressures.

3. Confidentiality helps maintain public perception, maintains expediency.

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4. Maintains institutional dignity, prevents media trials.

5. Confirms separation of power, part of basic structure of the Constitution.

Criticisms & limitations

1. Opacity – no place for closed door accountability mechanisms in democratic nation.

2. Leads to phenomena of 'Judge in own case' which is against principle of natural justice.

3. Lack of statutory backing and non binding decisions.

4. No provision for appeal or judicial review

5. Against principle of justice must seen to be done.

6. Lack of transparency leads to loss of public trust in judicial process.

(#) 2019 sexual harassment case against the then CJI - Rajan Gogoi triggered public

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Ensuring due level of transparency in the in-house inquiries.

Way forward

1. Statutory independent judicial oversight body.
   - ↳ Greater transparency via asset disclosures.
   - ↳ Neutral external body for complaints.

Judicial independence must be tempered with judicial accountability to maintain integrity of Judiciary & public trust in the judicial process.

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(16.) With the ongoing revision of electoral rolls by ECI in Bihar, the question of duplicate entries & bogus voting and other malpractices is in light.

Aadhar - linkage is in this context recommended to ensure integrity of electoral rolls.

Arguments in favour of mandatory linkage

1. Help terminate electoral IDs issued wrongfully & fraudulent entries.
2. Curbs electoral malpractis such as impersonation & bogus voting.
3. Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2021 provides for voluntary linkage - it would be simply scaling up of existing provisions.
4. Usher biometric verification ensured via Aadhar IDs.
5. Aadhar covers >99%. ~~citizens~~ population & provides possibility of greater coverage.

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Arguments against

1. Concerns of privacy & surveillance state.
2. Aadhar is neither a citizenship document, nor failproof identification marker.
3. there exist discrepancies within Aadhar authentication as well eg. illegal migrants inclusion in the North East.
4. Aadhar cannot be made mandatory to avail services - this is noted by SC & doing so would be Legislative Overreach. (KS Puttaswamy judgment)
5. There are no legal provision to make such a linkage mandatory

Way forward

↳ Data Protection safeguards including consent guidelines should precede such changes.

↳ Enhance inclusion without compromising legal right to vote.

↳ Grievance redressal system by ECI to hear complaints ~~for~~ against wrongful exclusion.

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While hearing a petition against Special Intensive Revision (Bihar), SC held that electoral roll Entries may be based on Aadhar ID, birth certificate or voter ID.

We should continue voluntary use of Aadhar-Voter ID linkage.

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(17.) Lateral entry refers to the mechanism of inducting experienced, subject experts into civil services without them having to go through standard examination - recruitment process.

Reformative step

1. Ushers experience, (relevant to post) efficiency & new energy into Civil Services
   eg. policies such as those related to AI, renewable energy required specialised knowledge.
2. Managerial skills & professional competency from private sector seen as a positive.
3. Keeps Civil Services competitive, leads to greater interest in upskilling among generalist Civil Servants.
4. Collaborative approach leads to better results as the best of both worlds combine their energy.

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5. Ethical flow to private sector - as experts return to private sector, they would prioritise public interests. eg. CSR, better environmental practices.

6. Global best practices - lateral entries have presented good results in USA, UK, Singapore.

7. Is in line with meritocratic principle of the most deserving doing the job.

Limitations & criticisms

1. Threat to political neutrality & non partisan principle - appointees may have political affiliations leading to biases.

2. Undermines meritocratic recruitment process of UPSC.

3. May lead to resentment among career Bureaucrats.

4. Opaque selection process.

5. Lack of reservations violate social justice principles & constitutional mandate of affirmative action.

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6. Short term stints, less likely to usher lasting change as appointments made for about 3 years.
7. Lack civil services training - may indulge in corrupt practices, profit prioritisation in conflict with basic point of civil service.

Way forward

↳ D Subbarao (former RBI Chairman) recommends a blend - standard hiring via UPSC for majority posts (25-30 year olds), lateral entry for few posts (37-47 year olds).
↳ hiring private sector consultants.
↳ Study leaves should be encouraged among civil servants to enhance skills.
↳ Restructuring hiring process to better represent skills demanded.

As noted by Pdt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the 'true test of a civil servant is not how much he knows, but how much he cares.'

(18) Higher Education Institutions are based on various parameters such as research output, inclusivity, educational outcomes etc. These include National Institutional Ranking framework (NIRF) in India.

Concerns in existing ranking system

1. Overemphasis on research & publication, over teacher qualifications & effectiveness.
2. Regional diversity, social impact not prioritised.
3. Favour STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medical) streams and English medium institutions disregarding humanities & vernacular - education.
4. Institutions in Tier-2, rural areas face disadvantages due to resource constraints & infrastructural limitations leading to poor ranking which in turn leads to poor infrastructure due to lack of funding - vicious circle.
5. Neglect of equity and accessibility - Outlook representation of women & other marginalised sections in admissions & teaching.

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6. Cosmetic changes over structural reforms - to manipulate metrics institutions prioritise optics over genuine reform eg. temporary faculty.

Suggested measures

1. Enhanced focus on educational outcomes, as the primary parameter.
2. Including metrics such as student satisfaction, employability, drop out rates.
3. Focus on social impact - including contribution to community (eg. surveys, awareness campaigns, blood donation drives etc) as a parameter to include social impact.
4. Data verification - to prevent alleged favouritism
5. Moving away from one size fits all approach to a more inclusive & subjective one. eg. comparing programs i.e. same degrees & outcomes rather than universities.
6. Cluster based rankings can be explored to ensure fair regional comparisons.

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7. Weight to inclusivity measures such as representation of women, weaker section & the marginalised.

8. Enhancing transparency in ranking process & making it open to scrutiny & feedback.

9. Enhanced focus on social learning eg. modules on ethics even for STEMM courses.

Universities race to get the top rank is similar to countries vying for higher GDP numbers, but true test of education lies in making knowledge equitable, accessible & affordable. For this we must go beyond narrow metrics for HEIs & expand them.

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(19.) Unlike Antartica which is deemed 'common good' & thus free of human greed, Arctic sees competition among its neighbours to gain geopolitical & economic benefits by exploiting the region.

Factors behind growing salience of the Arctic

1. Energy resource - Arctic contains 30% unexplored gas reserves & 13% oil. In an increasingly energy deficit world, these figures cause rise to resources.

2. Climate Change - rising temperatures have opened Northern Sea route cutting trade time.
eg. China proposes a Polar Silk route in the region.

3. Military & geostrategic importance - Russia, USA & China have increased military & defence presence in the region eg. bases, surveillance.

4. Great Power Politics - China's declaration of 'Near Arctic State', competing claims of

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Russia & USA in the region.

5. Shifting alliances - Nordic countries' shift towards NATO, further complicates the region.

6. New maritime routes would help reduce congestion and traditional chokepoints, thus making it economically viable.

India's Interest

1. Scientific research - changes in Arctic impact monsoon & agriculture.
   - Himadri research station at Svalbard.
2. Energy exploration - Arctic holds promise for source diversification, strengthening energy security for India.
3. Trade route - NSR access could reduce costs & dependence on chokepoints (eg. Malacca)
4. Potential joint projects - with Russia, USA could lead to soft power enhancement, technology transfer.

Strategies to recalibrate India's Arctic Engagement

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↳ Enhance research under National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research.

↳ Build strategic partnerships with Russia, Norway, Canada for energy security.

↳ Strengthen participation in Arctic Council (observer).

↳ develop maritime capabilities to take advantage of NSR.

↳ Leverage AI, Quantum technology & innovation along with remote sensing to gather data & analyse it.

India's Arctic Policy (2022) should serve as springboard for India to pivot from passive observer to active participant in the Arctic region.

20. Since the 1971 War of Independence, India & Bangladesh have enjoyed deep & abiding ties. However, recent political turmoil has complicated a relationship both culturally & strategically important for India.

Key pillar for Neighbourhood first & Act East & Act fast.

1. Geostrategic location - Bangladesh bridges mainland India and the Northeast, helping Overcome limitations of Siliguri corridor
2. Energy cooperation - cross border electricity trade & oil pipelines
3. economic trade - $14.01 billion in bilateral trade (2023-24)
4. Security partner - curbing insurgency & terrorism in North east.
5. Regional cooperation - BIMSTEC, Colombo Security Conclave, regional integration, BBIN, G77.

6. Cultural & people to people ties.

Recent developments disrupting golden chapter

1. political turmoil - anti India sentiment due to Awami league support by India.
2. Democratic backsliding - violence & law and order challenges. this could fuel illegal migration to India.
3. Rising influence of fundamentalist groups in politics eg. JeI ban lifted, Radical leaders released from jail.
4. Increasing ties with Pakistan - eg. defence orders, military level visits.
5. Sociocultural trend away from secularism - eg. anti minority riots, protest by 20,000 men protesting against women's rights (June 2025)
6. Structural issues - high unemployment, rising inflation.
7. Chinese influence & strategic diversification - Bangladesh's increasing infrastructure & defence cooperation with China concerning.

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What should India do ?

- ↳ fighting the perception battle by engaging in diplomatic talks.
- ↳ Indo - US convergence for peace in Indo-Pacific.
- ↳ patient diplomacy, as engaged during Maldives situation, using Track 1.5, 2 diplomacy.
- ↳ promoting free & fair elections, engaging at international organisations

There is no doubt that the relationship has undergone tectonic shifts, sustaining 'Sonali Adhyay' requires shift towards mutual respect & non interference in internal matters.