

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TEST CODE | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Time Allowed : Three Hours

समय : तीन घंटे



Maximum Marks : 250

अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---|
| Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम | ISHITA SHARMA | | |
| Roll No./अनुक्रमांक | | Medium/माध्यम | English <input type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र | | Date/दिनांक | |

*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। | |
| 5 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | |
| 18 | | | | |
| 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | |
| Total/कुल अंक | 250 | | | |
| Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक : | | | For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु | |
| | | | Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : | End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : |
| Total Marks/कुल अंक : | | | Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि : | Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> |
| *Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं। | | | For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु | |
| | | | ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड : | Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि : |
| | | | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | |

387347_812406_1910139397_(2025-07-29 21:01:28)

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.

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) The contributions of the “founding mothers” of the Indian Republic are often under-acknowledged, yet they are crucial to understanding the evolution of gender-sensitive constitutional jurisprudence. Elaborate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

भारतीय गणराज्य की “संस्थापक माताओं” के योगदान को अक्सर कम आंका जाता है, फिर भी वे लैंगिक रूप से संवेदनशील संवैधानिक विधिशास्त्र के विकास को समझने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.2) How has asymmetric federalism helped India accommodate its diverse regional needs? Discuss with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

असममित संघवाद ने भारत को अपनी विविध क्षेत्रीय आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने में किस प्रकार मदद की है? उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.3) The collegium system of judicial appointments remains the best mechanism to safeguard the judiciary's independence. Critically examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

न्यायिक नियुक्तियों की कॉलेजियम प्रणाली न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा के लिए सबसे अच्छा तंत्र बनी हुई है। आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.4) Explain how the terms ‘socialist’ and ‘secular’ in the Preamble embody specific meanings in the Indian context. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

स्पष्ट कीजिए कि प्रस्तावना में ‘समाजवादी’ और ‘धर्मनिरपेक्ष’ शब्द भारतीय संदर्भ में किस प्रकार विशिष्ट अर्थ रखते हैं। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.5) The role of State Finance Commissions in building regional equity and strengthening the federal link has largely been underutilized. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

क्षेत्रीय समानता के निर्माण और संघीय संबंध को मजबूत करने में राज्य वित्त आयोगों की भूमिका का व्यापक स्तर पर अल्प उपयोग किया गया है। चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.6) “Right to vote is fundamental to democracy, and depriving undertrial prisoners of this right while allowing contesting elections reflects a flawed legal framework.” Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

“मतदान का अधिकार लोकतंत्र के लिए मौलिक है, और विचाराधीन कैदियों को चुनाव लड़ने की अनुमति देते हुए उन्हें इस अधिकार से वंचित करना एक दोषपूर्ण कानूनी ढांचे को दर्शाता है।” टिप्पणी करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.7) In what ways can community-based interventions improve access to preventive and promotive healthcare services in the country? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

किस प्रकार समुदाय-आधारित हस्तक्षेप से देश में निवारक और प्रोत्साहनकारी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुंच में सुधार हो सकता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.8) The increasing elderly population in India faces numerous challenges, highlighting the need for a comprehensive policy framework to manage this demographic transition. Analyse.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

भारत में बढ़ती हुई वृद्ध आबादी कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रही है, जिससे इस जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तन को प्रबंधित करने के लिए एक व्यापक नीति ढांचे की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डाला गया है। विश्लेषण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.9) Discuss the role of the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) towards promoting safe and peaceful use of nuclear technologies in the world.

(10 marks, 150 words)

विश्व में परमाणु प्रौद्योगिकियों के सुरक्षित और शांतिपूर्ण उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा संघ (IAEA) की भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.10) The rapidly escalating tensions between Israel and Iran in West Asia can have significant economic and geopolitical repercussions for India. Explain with suitable examples.

(10 marks, 150 words)

पश्चिम एशिया में इजरायल और ईरान के बीच तेजी से बढ़ते तनाव का भारत पर महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक और भू-राजनीतिक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है। उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ स्पष्ट कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.11) Simultaneous elections are advocated as a step towards reforming the electoral process and streamlining governance; however, their broader implications for democracy and federalism remain contentious. Discuss.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

चुनावी प्रक्रिया में सुधार और शासन को सुव्यवस्थित करने की दिशा में एक साथ चुनाव कराने की वकालत की जाती है; हालाँकि, लोकतंत्र और संघवाद के लिए इसके व्यापक निहितार्थ विवादास्पद बने हुए हैं। चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.12) Bring out the rationale behind the introduction and implementation of the three new criminal laws. Highlighting key features of the laws, state the associated concerns.

(15 marks, 250 words)

तीन नए आपराधिक कानूनों के परिचय और कार्यान्वयन के पीछे के तर्क को उजागर करें। कानूनों की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, संबंधित चिंताओं को बताएं। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.13) Examine the role of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in ensuring corporate governance and addressing insolvency issues in India.

(15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में कॉर्पोरेट प्रशासन सुनिश्चित करने और दिवालियापन मुद्दों को हल करने में राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून न्यायाधिकरण (एनसीएलटी) की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.14) Differentiate between the clemency powers of the Presidents of India and the USA. Also, critically examine the vesting of clemency power in the executive.

(15 marks, 250 words)

भारत और अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपतियों की क्षमादान शक्तियों के बीच अंतर बताइए। साथ ही, कार्यपालिका में क्षमादान शक्ति के निहित होने की आलोचनात्मक जांच कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.15) "Rape is a rape; it cannot be condoned on the basis of the marital relationship between the victim and the accused." In light of the statement, throw light on the ongoing debate regarding the criminalization of marital rape. (15 marks, 250 words)

"बलात्कार तो बलात्कार है; पीड़िता और आरोपी के बीच वैवाहिक संबंध के आधार पर इसे माफ नहीं किया जा सकता।" कथन के आलोक में, वैवाहिक बलात्कार के अपराधीकरण के बारे में चल रही बहस पर प्रकाश डालिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.16) Discuss the role played by the Swachh Bharat Mission over the past decade in bringing a positive change in life of women, children and marginalized communities. (15 marks, 250 words)

पिछले दशक में महिलाओं, बच्चों और हाशिए पर स्थित समुदायों के जीवन में सकारात्मक बदलाव लाने में स्वच्छ भारत मिशन द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.17) How do Centrally Sponsored Schemes differ from Central Sector Schemes? Highlighting the concerns raised by some states regarding Centrally Sponsored Schemes, suggest remedial measures. (15 marks, 250 words)

केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाएं केंद्रीय क्षेत्र की योजनाओं से किस प्रकार भिन्न हैं? केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाओं के संबंध में कुछ राज्यों द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, सुधारात्मक उपाय सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.18) The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

लोकतांत्रिक शासन का सिद्धांत यह आवश्यक बनाता है कि सिविल सेवकों की ईमानदारी और प्रतिबद्धता के बारे में जनता की धारणा पूरी तरह सकारात्मक हो। चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.19) While BRICS and Quad may have different priorities, both have their salience in advancing India's strategic interests. Elaborate. (15 marks, 250 words)

"हालांकि ब्रिक्स और क्वाड की प्राथमिकताएं अलग-अलग हो सकती हैं, लेकिन भारत के रणनीतिक हितों को आगे बढ़ाने में दोनों की अपनी-अपनी महत्ता है।" सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.20) "The strategic competition between India and China is determining India's foreign policy towards its South Asian neighbors." Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

"भारत और चीन के बीच रणनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धा दक्षिण एशियाई पड़ोसियों के प्रति भारत की विदेश नीति को निर्धारित कर रही है।" टिप्पणी कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

387347_812406_1910139397_(2025-07-29 21:01:28)

Q1.

The foundation of modern day gender sensitive constitutional jurisprudence was laid down during freedom movement itself.

Founding mothers of Indian Republic:-

- There were <20 women in 299 membered constituent assembly

(e.g) Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, Hansa Mehta etc.

- Women freedom fighters (e.g) Usha Mehta, Anie Besant etc.

Their contribution remains undervalued.

Contribution of founding mothers in gender-sensitive jurisprudence :-

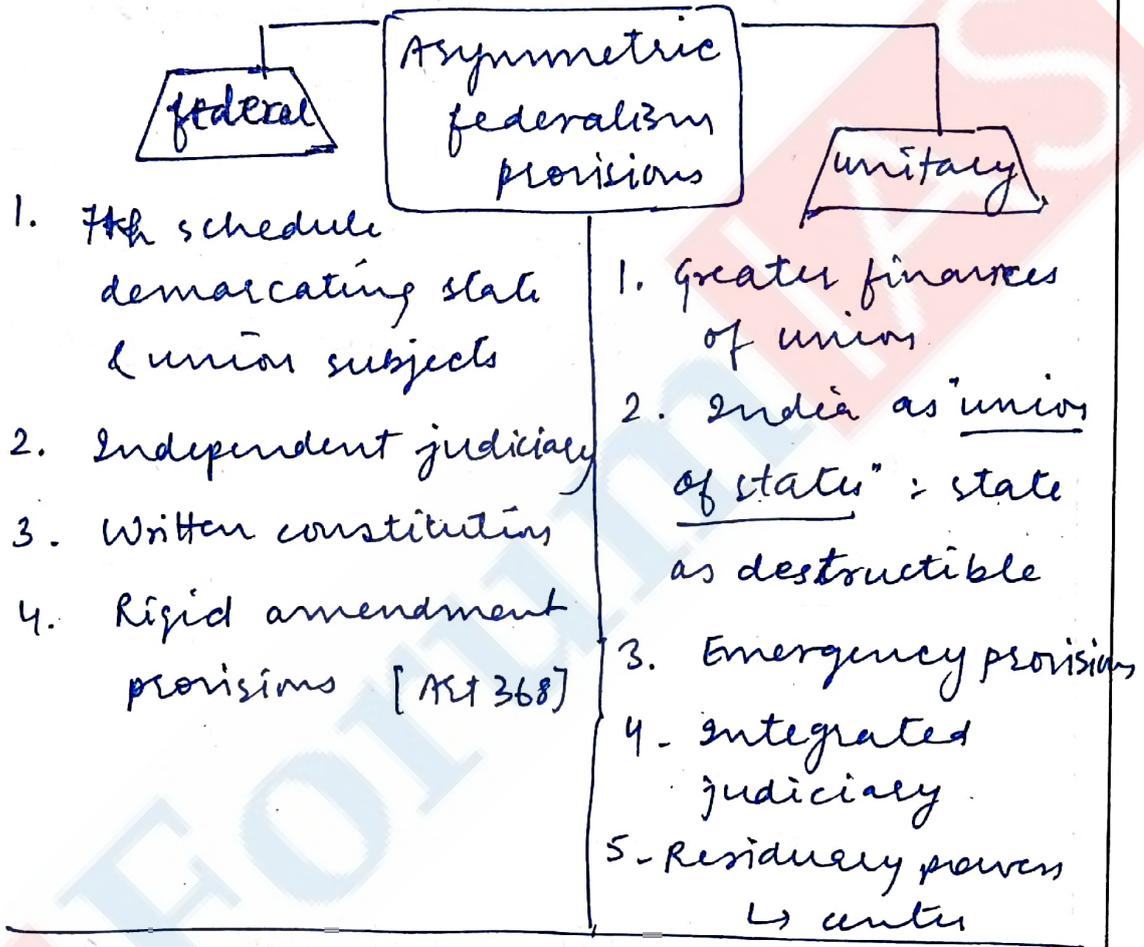
① They vehemently voiced for codification of personal laws to make them gender sensitive

- (1) Hindu laws
- (2) curbing of child marriage through laws (eg) Sarda Act, 1926
- (3) women organizations created awareness about gender-sensitivity. (eg) All India Women Conference
- (4) 2nd stage of feminist movement was led by founding mothers
(eg) Pandita Ramabai → Arya Mahila Samaj, Savitri Bai Phule → Kal Hatya Pratibandak Griha
- (5) Today's jurisprudence is based on sustained efforts of them
(eg) Hindu Succession Act: Equal inheritance rights.

Thus, their efforts need greater societal acknowledgment. School level awareness can be key in that.

Q2.

Prof Jennings had called Indian federalism as "federalism with unitary tilt", thus asymmetric.



How it has helped accommodate diverse regional needs:-

- ① Reorganization of states as per regional demands
(eg) Vishal Andhra Movement,

States Reorganization Act, 1956 & 7th Amendment

- ② Has helped by center prioritising weaker regions & marginalized sections (eg) 5th & 6th schedule areas
- ③ President Rule has helped check regional instability & security issues (eg) In manipur recently
- ④ Powers used by center to promote greater integration by providing regional autonomy as well
(eg) J&K Reorganization has benefitted the region

Thus, asymmetric federalism has helped in balancing diverse regional needs with maintenance of unity & integrity of country.

Q3.

Collegium system was laid down in 2nd judges case & expanded in 4th judges case.

It involves panel of Chief Justice of India (CJI) & 4 senior most judges which decides upon appointments & transfers in SC & HC's.

Collegium as best mechanism to safeguard judiciary independence:-

(A) Arguments in favour :-

- ① It retains the ultimate control with judiciary — panel's advice being binding on President under Art 124.
- ② Impartiality in appointments & transfers is sine qua non for independence.

③ Executive's role was questioned during emergency, when Justice Khanna was sidelined from being promoted as CJI due to dissenting against govt.

↳ Thus, to avoid such in future, independence of judiciary needs to be safeguarded.

⑧ Arguments against :-

↳ Questions on functioning of collegium

↳ opaque system
↳ former SC judge Kumar Pal criticized it as favouring nepotism

↳ lack of accountability & transparency

↳ frequent frictions with executive
(eg) Delays in appointments

↳ Other alternative ways

↳ NJAC, introduced by 99th Amendment was one such.

As suggested by Law Commission, Judicial appointment commission - with primacy of CJI role, can be envisaged. &

Q4.

'socialist' & 'secular' terms in preamble, as the defining character of Indian republic, were added by 42nd Amendment, 1976. However, even before, they were a part of ideals of constitution.

Specific meanings in Indian context

(A) socialist

- ① unlike socialism of USSR, India leaned heavily towards Gandhian socialism. [DS Nakara case]
- ② This blend was - Nehruvian socialism : India followed mixed economy model : suigeneris for Indian content
- ③ state took the prime role of industrialization (eg) construction

- dams, integrated steel plants etc.
- (4) Private sector was allowed to complement
 - (5) Thus, policies of import substitution etc. were followed.

(B) secular :-

- (1) As Dr. Radhakrishnan said - Indian secularism is a positive concept.
- (2) Unlike western nations, India follows "saeva dharmā sambhava"
- (3) Principled distance of state - allowing for positive interventions (eg) Sabrimala, Triple Talag cases
- (4) Protection of minority rights [Art 26, 29, 30]
- (5) Promotion of all religions equally (eg) Hajj Yatra, Amarnath yatra, Iftar party, Kartarpur corridor etc.

Thus, India evolved its own meanings of above - tailored to its pluralistic needs

Q5.

(SFC)
State Finance Commission was intro-

-duced as part of 73rd & 74th
amendments - of local bodies:
Panchayats & Municipalities.

Role of SFC :-

- ① To determine principles governing distribution of net proceeds of taxes & duties of between state & local bodies.
- ② To suggest grant-in-aids to local bodies
- ③ To suggest ways of augmenting consolidated fund of state to increase funds availability to local bodies.

This can be utilized to build regional

equity → By greater decentralization
 ↳ by ensuring financial autonomy of regional bodies

& federal link → by coordinating with central finance commission in augmenting state revenues.

However, it remains underutilized:-

- ① Irregular constitution of SFC by states
- ② Restricted terms of reference, avoiding devolution of powers to local bodies
- ③ Its services haven't been utilized to augment taxing powers of local bodies
- ④ CAG Report, 2024: only 30% of revenues of local bodies come from own sources.
- ④ Its recommendations are not adhered to in spirit.
↳ Panchayat Devolution Index: only 44% in India.

Thus, greater role of SFC needs to be ensured for realizing goals of DPSPs - Art 40.

Q6.

Right to vote, provided by consti-
-tution under Art 326: universal
adult franchise is the founding
stone of democracy in India.

Position of undertrials :-

They're not provided right to vote
while they're lodged in prison.

⊗ undertrials can contest elections
from jail (eg) Amritpal Singh
won in 2024 elections from jail.

How this is flawed :-

- ① violates Right to Equality of
undertrials. [Art 14]
- ② Deprives them of right to vote
, restricting their democratic
participation
- ③ With "jail, not bail" being the

norm, the quantum of undertrials in prisons renders laks of people disenfranchised.

[Prisons Statistics 2022 Report -

131% occupancy rates in prisons]

- ④ Disproportionately harms disadvan-
-taged sections (eg) Above Report
data - 2/3rd of undertrials are
SCs, STs & OBCs.
- ⑤ They're punished for the fault of
system → delays in trial,
lack of bail, lack of legal aid.

However, court has provided the
flip side as well :-

- L Conducting elections in prisons can be logistical nightmare.
- L Huge personnel mobilization required.

Thus, currently the issue is sub-judice in court. Innovative ways like postal ballot can provide the balanced way out.

Q7.

In India, expenditure on preventive & promotive healthcare is $< 7\%$ of the total expenditure. Thus, it remains neglected & underserved.

Community based interventions

These are people oriented initiatives requiring 'pro-active' approach.

(eg) ASHA workers' visit, Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness centers, (A BAWC's) vaccine programmes, public health surveillance etc.

How these can improve access to preventive & promotive healthcare:-

① Mass based targeting → Direct reach to beneficiaries

(eg) cervical cancer vaccine for adolescent girls

② Geography based interventions

(eg) villages covered by ASHA workers
ANMs → Preventive healthcare
for pregnant women, infants.

③ These provide local solutions

(eg) Rajasthan: Males being invol-
-ved in natal care has improved
women's health → (↓) in Anaemia

④ These can nudge people to better
lifestyle

(eg) Kerala - Morning exercises for
community (age group 60-60) in
schools

⑤ AB-HWCS promote yoga & counsell-
-ing services → Promotive care

Thus, community based
interventions can further benefit
in long-term: pandemic prepared-
-ness through public health surveillance.

Q8.

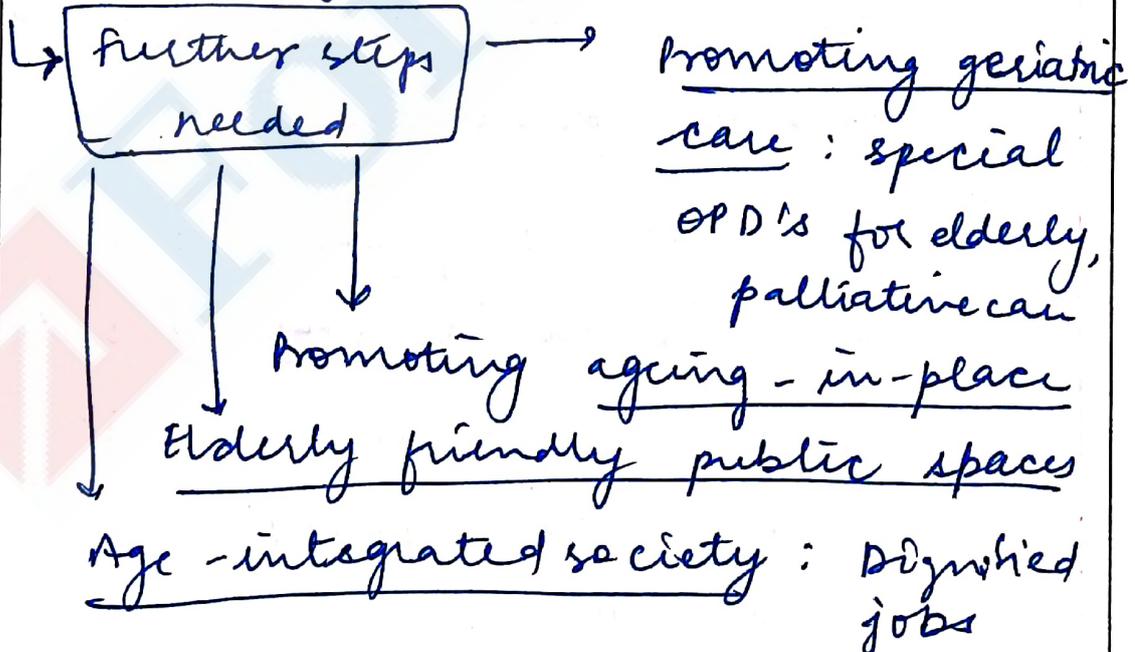
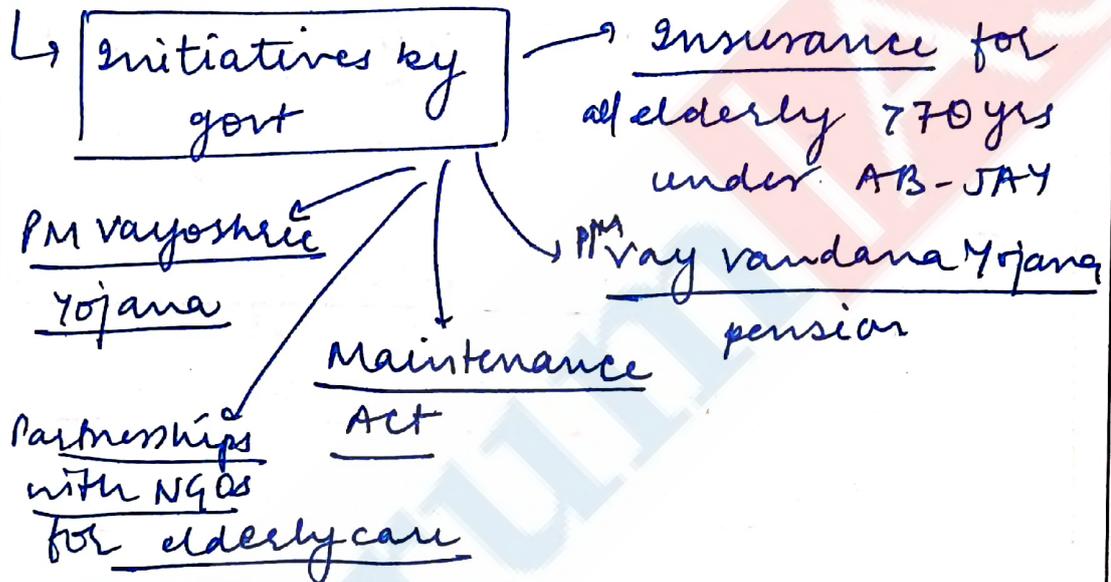
As per 2011 census, elderly population (60+) constituted 8.5% of population. By 2050 it is expected to cross 20%. [UNFPA]

Challenges faced by elderly that require comprehensive policy framework

- ① Poor access to healthcare
(20% have insurance)
- ② Increasing isolation, alienation
[AgeWell foundation: 75% of elderly report feeling of depression]
- ③ Lack of access to dignified work opportunities
- ④ Geriatric care & elderly friendly equipments industry is under-developed
- ⑤ Neglect from family, poor state of old age homes
- ⑥ Particular plight of women-

sexual abuse, dependency on son due to no property inheritance, widows' woes (eg Mathura, Vindavan)

Comprehensive policy framework needed



Implementing above can ensure that India harnesses its longevity dividend.

Q9.

International Atomic Energy Association, is a nuclear watchdog promoting civil nuclear energy use in world.

Role in promoting safe & peaceful use of nuclear technology :-

- ① under Non-Proliferation Treaty, civilian nuclear power plants are kept under watch of IAEA to prevent nuclear weapon proliferation.
- ② It performs period checks on nuclear reactors, reporting any enrichment activities.
(eg) recently reported Iran's activities
- ③ It ensures that reactors adhere

to safeguards & security standards.

④ In case of wars or conflicts, it helps in advocating for peace & checks on attacks

eg) Zaporizhiza nuclear power plant in Ukraine during war

⑤ Helps in post disaster control measures

eg) Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan after Tsunami → safe release of contaminated water

Thus, IAEA's role is crucial in promoting nuclear weapon free world.

Q10

Iran & Israel engaged in 12 day war recently after Israel had taken pre-emptive strikes on Iran on pretext of it being close to detonating nuclear weapon.

Repercussions for India :-

(A) Economic :-

① Volatility in crude prices :-

↳ India being dependent on Gulf countries for its major supply

② Indian workers in Gulf being major source of remittances getting affected

③ Impact on projects (eg) India-Middle East Economic Corridor, Chabahar port in Iran

④ Volatility in markets → depreciation

⑤ Red sea crisis due to Houthis

↳ Increased shipment costs

↳ Exports to Europe affected.

⑥ Geopolitical :-

① India - having close relations with all actors in Middle East
needs tightrope balancing act.
Israel
Iran
Saudi Arabia

② Polarization of world politics

(eg) West backing Israel, (vs) Russia - Iran - China axis

③ Evacuation of Indian diaspora

(eg) operation Sindhu from Iran / Israel

④ India's interests in Iran get adversely affected (eg) INSTC,

Chabahar, potential oil & gas imports

Regional stability is hence, sine qua non for Indian interests. A nuclear deal between Iran & West, thus, would be in India's larger interest.

Q11.

Simultaneous elections refer to the concurrent holding of elections at national & sub-national levels, i.e., state & local bodies.

India used to have simultaneous elections during 1950s & 60s but with political instability, these got out of sync.

Simultaneous elections : As step towards reforming electoral process & governance : -

- ① As a step away from perennial election mode : every year at least 5-6 states' poll & local body polls
- ② To save huge resources spent in elections (eg) 2024 elections - ₹5K cr cost

- ③ To save up millions of personnel deployed away from their duty
- (eg) paramilitary, teachers etc.
- ④ To improve governance : As
periodic elections lead to Model
code of conduct throughout,
preventing welfare scheme announce-
ments
- ⑤ Bureaucracy remains pre-occu-
-pied with election duties,
hampering governance
- ⑥ frequent elections → voter mobilization
on identity
↓
polarization in society
so, this could also be checked
- ⑦ Election expenditure by political
parties would also come down
↳ leading to decline of
black money & other #
malpractices also

However, few issues as well :-

- ① Decreased accountability of govt.
- ② Regional parties may lose due to greater resources & clout of national parties
- ③ syncing state assemblies cycle with Lok Sabha may erode federalism, with tilt towards centre
- ④ "Nationalization of local issues" → voters maybe drawn more to national discourse, impacting state level issues

Nevertheless, govt. has recognized the importance of simultaneous elections & has accepted recommendations of former President Kovind committee.

Constitution Amendment bills introduced for its implementation ~~for~~ are under consideration by parliament. Their early passing can ensure smooth implementation.

Q12.

Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bhartiya
-ya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)
& Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam
(BSA) have come into force from
1st July 2024 replacing earlier
laws.

Rationale behind introduction :-

- ① **BNS**
- To decolonize criminal laws (eg removal of seditious)
 - To replace dominant approach of "penalizing" by "justice" (nyaya)
 - To update the laws as per modern requirements
(eg organized crime, cyber crimes have been introduced)

- ② **BNSS**
- To tackle rising pendency in courts
 - To provide rights to victims
(eg zero FIR)

③ BSA → To include modern means of investigation a part of it
 (eg) digital evidence
 ↳ As recommended in Prakash Singh case : inclusion of new techniques (eg) DNA sample, sign etc

Key features of laws :-

① BNS :-

1. Community service introduced as punishment
2. New forms of crimes included
 (eg) mob lynching, organized crime including cybercrimes
3. False promise of marriage criminalized
4. Seditious replaced with "Deshdroha"
5. Adultery, suicide decriminalized
6. Gradation of punishment for rape - as per age of victim

concerns 1. NO provision for sexual

assault of men & transgender

2. wide definition, overlapping with other laws (eg) Terrorism → UAPA also
3. marital rape not included

(2) BNSS :-

1. Bail for undertrials introduced
(eg) have completed $\frac{1}{2}$ of maximum imprisonment
2. For speedy trial → timelines laid down (eg) 30 days for pronouncing judgement after completion of hearing
3. Zero FIR at any police station

concerns → minimum punishment specified in many cases, which may overlook accused mitigating condition.

(3) BSA :-

1. Digital evidence included as part of documentary evidence.
2. Video conferencing for witness statement
3. Provision of collection of sign, hair sample, behavioural aspects of convict.

concerns: Need proper handling of digital evidence (eg) Faraday bag to avoid tampering. Thus, the laws stand to modernize

criminal justice system in India.

Q13.

National Company Law Tribunal is the statutory body handling disputes as well as insolvency proceedings.

Role in ensuring corporate governance & addressing insolvency issues :-

① It is the final authority granting approval to insolvency resolution plans under insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

② It ensures that the resolution plan benefits all stakeholders & that adequate efforts have been made before severance of company.

Q14.

"Every saint has a past & every sinner has a future." - Oscar Wilde

Clemency powers refer to the pardoning powers vested in President for entertaining mercy pleas.

Difference between

| Indian President | US President |
|---|---|
| <p>① can grant pardons for death penalty for <u>union as well as state law.</u></p> <p>② Can entertain mercy petitions only from <u>convicts.</u> [Art 72]</p> <p>③ No provision of pre-emptive pardon</p> <p>④ not a discretionary</p> | <p>① can only grant it for <u>federal law.</u></p> <p>② can grant clemency at <u>any stage of litigation</u>, not just after conviction</p> <p>③ can grant pre-emptive pardon</p> |

power of President.
She is bound by
advice of council
of ministers.

⑤ Pardonning completely absolves the convict from offence.

④ lies at sole discretion of President of US.

⑤ Pardon terminates the sentence but doesn't mean "innocence" of offender

Vesting of clemency powers in executive :-

① Rightful :-

1. It provides chance to correct unduly harsh sentence
2. Opportunity to undo any lapse in justice.
3. As upholding of human rights & dignity of offenders
4. As a balance in doctrine of checks & balances

However, it has been questioned also :-

- ① SC held in Mauram case that decision of President can be subject to limited judicial review on grounds of malafide
- ② Executive not being the domain of adjudication of justice, thus violating separation of power
- ③ US President's decision to grant pre-emptive pardon to his son was criticised as being favouritism
- ④ Inordinate delays in deciding upon mercy pleas. [Shatrughan Chakhan case]

Despite above, mercy remains a humane recourse. As Lincoln said :
"I have found that mercy bears richer fruits than harsh punishment."

Q15.

Rape constitutes sexual violence structure of patriarchy. Traditionally, it has been seen as perpetrated by strangers. However, such notions are under question today in form of marital rape debate.

debate on marital rape

(A) Arguments in favour of its criminalization :-

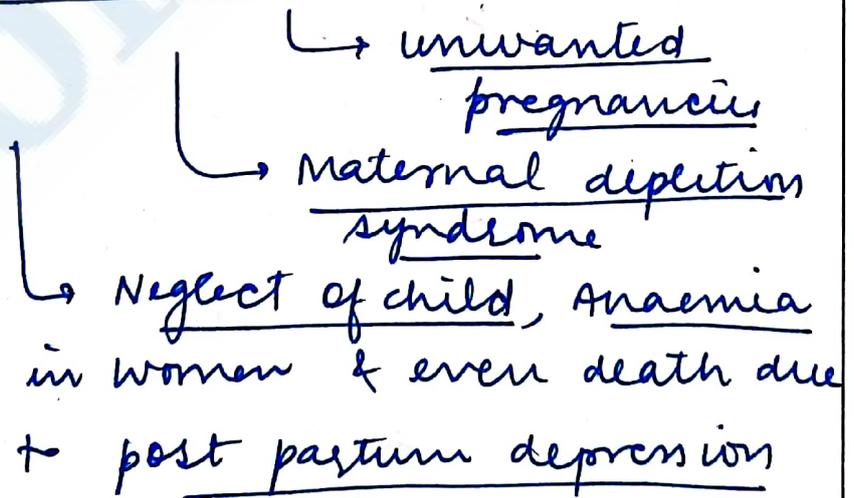
- ① UNCEDAW - to which India is signatory sees it as form of violence against women (VAW), thus, its criminalization as of force
- ② Justice Verma committee post Nirbhaya also had recommended this.

③ Arguments given in favour of criminalization :-

- Marital Rape
1. It violates human rights of women.
 2. It lowers dignity & self esteem of women
 3. It is experienced by huge chunk of women :-

NFHS 5 : 90% of sexual violence against women is by husbands

4. In long term it has dysfunction -
onal impacts



5. It arbitrarily creates distinction between husbands & other men as perpetrators of crime - who need to be equally punished

6. As rightly pointed out by KN HC :-
" Victim of rape lives with horrific memory but victim of marital rape lives with the perpetrator."

(B) Arguments Against its criminalization :-

(1) GoI has submitted in SC :-

↳ it can destabilize the institution of marriage."

(2) It can become a tool of harassment of husband.

(3) Amount to violation of privacy (u/a 19 & 21)

(4) Difficult to prosecute - how to collect evidence / witness etc.

Thus, BNS has also skipped it.

Therefore, there is a need to balance both sides → empowerment of women can ensure prevention of VAW in the first place.

Q 16.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched on Oct 1, 2014 with the aim to curb open defecation, promote sanitation, construct toilets at home & pub place.

Over the time its aims were refined & broadened with targets of $\boxed{\text{ODF}} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{ODF+}} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{ODF++}}$ villages & municipalities.

Role played by SBM :-

- ↳ 100% villages have become ODF (open defecation free)
- ↳ Door-to-door waste collection in municipalities
- ↳ SBM rankings have improved over years

Positive change in lives of :-

(A) Women :-

- ① ODF villages → protection of dignity of women
- ② better menstrual hygiene
- ③ Door-to-door collection of waste saves time
- ④ Health & hygiene during pregnancy
- ⑤ better access to washrooms at public places supporting women in "outdoor roles"

⑥ children

- ① As per study in Nature, SBM has led to saving of lives of 750k infants per year
- ② Reduced infections, water borne diseases
- ③ cleaner environments with removal of garbage dumps → better health, play areas
(eg) In Assam: dumpyard → playgr-
-ound)

④ Girl child missing school after onset of adolescence due to lack of washrooms is checked.
(LASER Report 2023)

③ marginalized communities

① They were mostly likely to indulge in open defecation due to poverty induced lack of infra → UN study

SBM has led to saving of 71 lac per household per annum on account of medical bills.

② pour & flush toilets instead of dry latrines → curbs on manual scavenging (which is predominantly by SCs & STs)

③ stigma associated with sweeping & cleaning on decline with popular image of leaders with brooms in hand

Thus, SBM has revolutioned India's progress in WASH → SDGs

Q17.

Welfare schemes of center are fund-
-amental to fulfill the idea of
"welfare state" laid down by
constitution, [Part IV]

These are divided into :-

| Central sector schemes (CS) | Centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) |
|---|---|
| <p>① These schemes are fully funded by the center.</p> <p>② These are usually related to subjects part of union list [7th schedule]</p> <p>③ These are often implemented by center itself</p> | <p>① Expenditure on these are <u>shared between center & states</u> (usually <u>60:40</u>, except for hilly & northeast states)</p> <p>② These are usually on state subjects</p> <p>③ These are implemented often by states on behalf of center</p> |

Concerns raised by states on CSS's :-

- ① Encroachment in their domain
violating federalism
- eg schemes on health, agriculture, water etc.
- ② Tied nature of funds of these schemes
- ③ Greater branding of center, despite states' contribution as well
- eg strict guidelines on PM-JAY : Branding of Jan Arogya mandis (states like Punjab hence, didn't implement)
- ④ lack of consultation with states
- ⑤ top down approach - ignoring local level diversity
- eg Food fortification : Iron in Rice in PDS → exacerbated Sickle cell anaemia in tribals in Odisha

Steps taken to allieviate concerns :-

- ① Rationalization of CSS by high level group of CM's recommendations :-
 - core schemes
 - core of core schemes
- ② 7150 CSS have now been reduced to 480
- ③ NITI Aayog's governing council as consultative body with states
- ④ initiatives like Aspirational District Program to address regional challenges

Remedial measures further:-

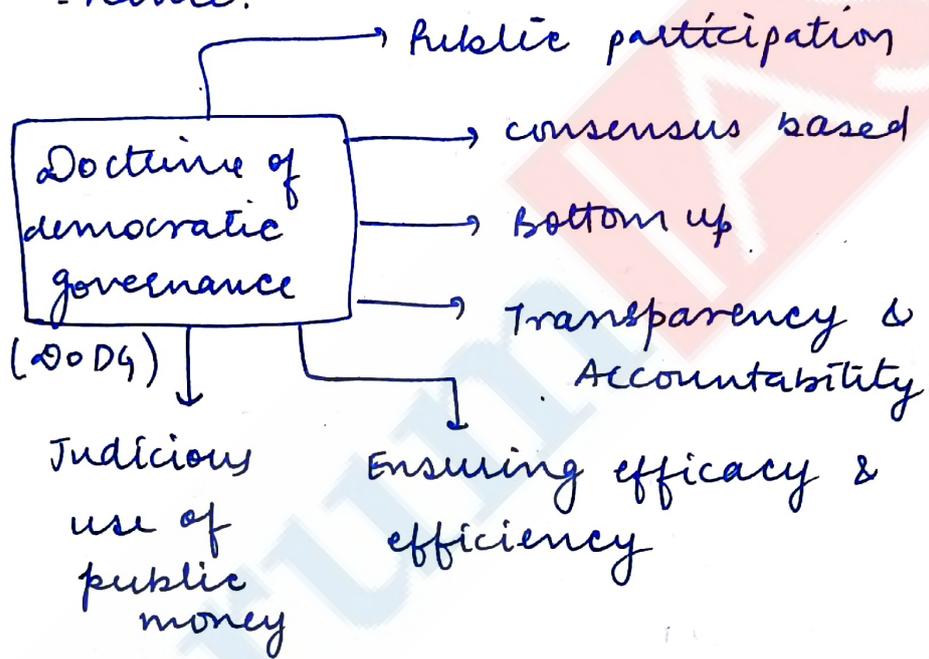
- ① constructive use & frequent meetings of inter state council & zonal councils for better coordination
- ② 14th & 15th Finance Commission's policy of increasing devolution of states should be continued.

Thus, only with cooperative federalism can "sabka vikaas" be ensured.

Q18.

Doctrine of democratic governance

refers to the application of democratic principles in govern-
-nance.



It, therefore, requires absolute integrity & commitment of civil servants.

Positive perception of integrity & commitment of civil servants as necessary for DODG :-

- ① Absolute integrity → upholds

public trust in governance

(eg) Durga Shakti Nagpal taking on sand mafia

② commitment of civil servants

↳ compassion towards under-privileged

↳ their involvement in governance

(eg) Sandeep Nadhari's PwD led cafe

③ Democratic governance requires

efficient management of public funds inspiring confidence

(eg) DBT → leading to zero leakages

[World Bank : leads to saving 7\$Bn every year]

④ commitment of civil servants

is also showcased in public centric schemes & initiatives

(eg) Kirti cards in MP distt to

support families with girls only, to improve sex ratio

eg) Armstrong Pame got 100 km road constructed in Manipur for people through crowd funding & public support.

⑤ Democratic governance further requires an image of public institutions as positive

eg) TN Seshan's actions established positive image of Election Commission.

Measures that can further promote integrity & commitment in civil servants :-

- ⊕ Field visits to underprivileged areas
- ⊕ Ensuring accountability through social audits, citizen charter
- ⊕ Sensitization through "Mission Karmayogi"

Democratic governance is the foundation of good governance.

Q19.

India as diverse country & civilizational state - is part of various mini-lateral which are agenda & region specific.

BRICS & QUAD are two such groupings.

Different priorities of these: -

↳ BRICS :-

- ① A minilateral of emerging economies to advance their cooperation for growth & mutual benefit.
- ② It promotes economic interests

for India :-

- (eg) New Development Bank
Contingency Reserve Arrangement etc.

③ Helps advance dialogue with Russia, China & Global South countries — S. Africa, Ethiopia, Indonesia.

↳ QUAD :-

① It is an informal grouping of India, US, Japan & Australia for the vision of "free, open & inclusive Indo Pacific."

② Major priority: Rules based order in Indo-Pacific, regional stability, securing SLOC's etc

③ For India, it helps in maritime balancing of China

④ QUAD's initiatives that promote India's interests :-

↳ QUAD Ports ^{of future}, MAITRI - for maritime training, mineral security partnership etc-

Thus, focusses on resilience of supply chains.

Salience of both in advancing India's strategic interests:-

① Providing strategic autonomy against west & china

② Promoting reform of multilateral institutions :-

↳ BRICS argues for reform of global economic architecture

↳ QUAD members support India's UNSC bid

③ Both promote India's ^{economic} interests

Resilient ✓
infrastructure & supply chains (QUAD)

→ Investments & credit for projects (BRICS)

Thus, India has been able to maintain a balance in its global position by virtue of being active member of issue based coalitions.

Q20.

China represents "security dilemma" of India since 1962 war.

India & China are both emerging powers. With China's renewed focus beyond its periphery - to South Asia, India has to be more cautious of its presence.

Strategic competition between India & China driving India's foreign policy (FP) towards its South Asian neighbours:-

Evidences :-

① Nepal :-

i- China's BRI projects (e.g) Trans-Himalayan Railways, increased credit to Nepal, Hydropower projects & providing access to seaports

ii- India's FP response

→ PM Modi's HIT framework -
Highways, Infrastructure & Transmission Lines

→ Increased cooperation in hydropower @ West Seti
MoU with Nepal & Bangladesh for electricity transmission via India

② Maddives

China's initiatives

- drinking water
- largest creditor
- i-Hawan infra projects
- offered free defense training & cooperation

India's FP Response

- Recently 74800cr credit line
- High impact development programs
- greater Male connectivity project
- training of defense forces & gave defense equipments

③ Bangladesh

Recently after Hasina's fall, has been warming up to China

China

- Chittagong port development
- BRI projects
- Teesta restoration project

India

- suspended transit port facility
- Earlier provided infra & connectivity support @ Maitri power plant etc.

In other countries also - (eg) Bhutan,
Sri Lanka, greater thrust on India's
engagement due to strategic competition
with China.

Reasons :-

- ① South Asia is "backyard" of India's
FP → thus, to contain China's
influence
- ② to prevent neighbourhood becoming
Chinese "string of pearls"
- ③ Docking of Yuan Wang at Hambantota
- ④ To assert its regional power
- ⑤ Maintaining regional hegemony is
the first step for claiming global
power stature.

However, India's FP in the region
is not just contingent on Chinese
competition - but it is also driven
by Gujarat doctrine, shared
cultural & historic ties & India's
own interest of regional stability
& growth.