

TEST CODE 8 1 2 4 1 0

Time Allowed : Three Hours  
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250  
अधिकतम अंक : 250

## GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	MADHVENDRA PRATAP SINGH		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910114953	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	Karol Bagh	Date/दिनांक	13/7/2025

\*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		
Sl. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।		
1			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।		
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।		
3			4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।		
4			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।		
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Total/कुल अंक	250		<b>For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु</b>		
Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :	
			7:40PM	10:40PM	
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 समय 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।			<b>For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु</b>		
			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

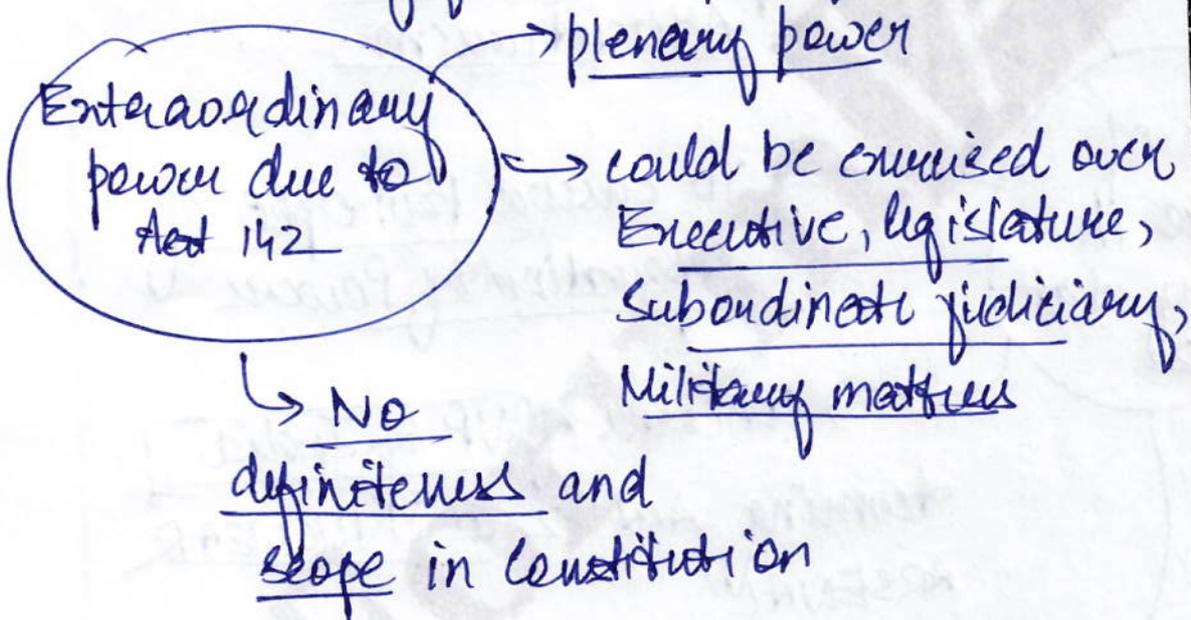
1. **AWIS = Answered What is Asked.** This means whether you have addressed the core demand of the question or not. Addressing the core demand of the question gets you an objectively fair score. It is examiner's perception if you have understood the question and if you know the answer in the first place. 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) "Extraordinary powers must be exercised with extraordinary care." Discuss in the context of Article 142 of the Indian Constitution. (10 marks, 150 words)

"असाधारण शक्तियों का प्रयोग असाधारण सावधानी से किया जाना चाहिए।" भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 142 के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

## Art 142 of Constitution

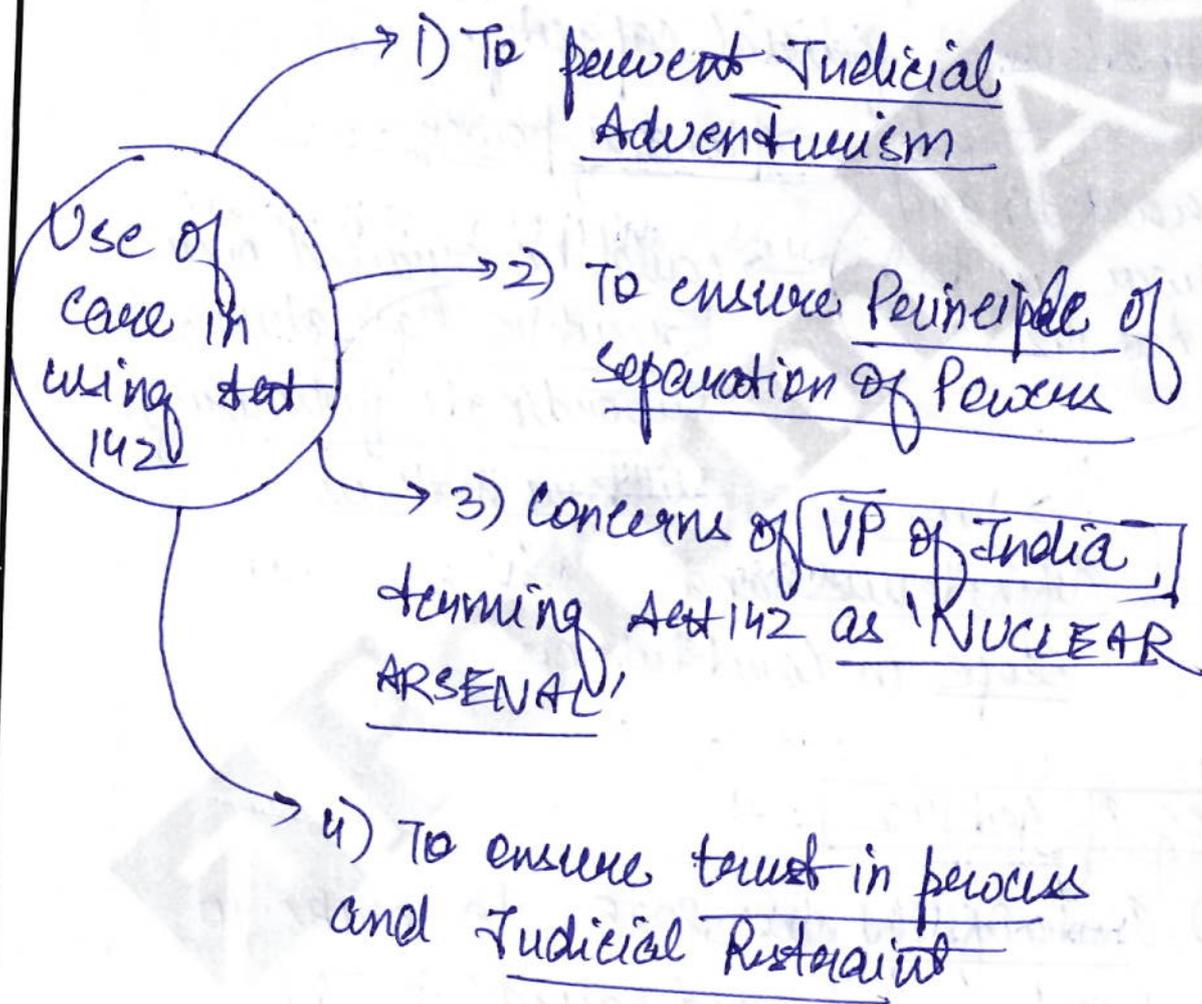
Gives SC the power to do complete justice in matters of judicial capacity.



## Use of Art 142 :-

- 1) State of TN case, 2025 :- to make 10 bills as 'deemed passed' in TN' assembly + define timeline for Governor to pass bills under Art-200

2) Chandigarh Mayor election case: use of Art 142 to invalidate process due to misuse of power and erosion of process.



Further the scope of Art 142 as defined by SC in earlier cases can be a guiding principle.

**Feedback**

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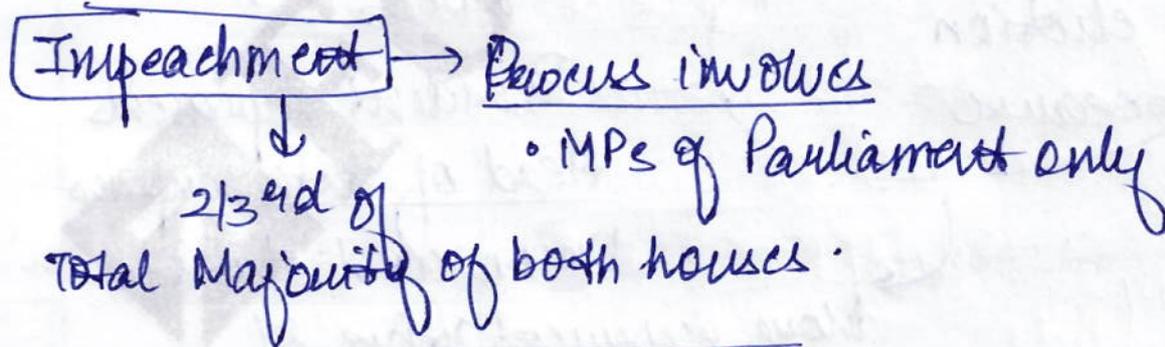
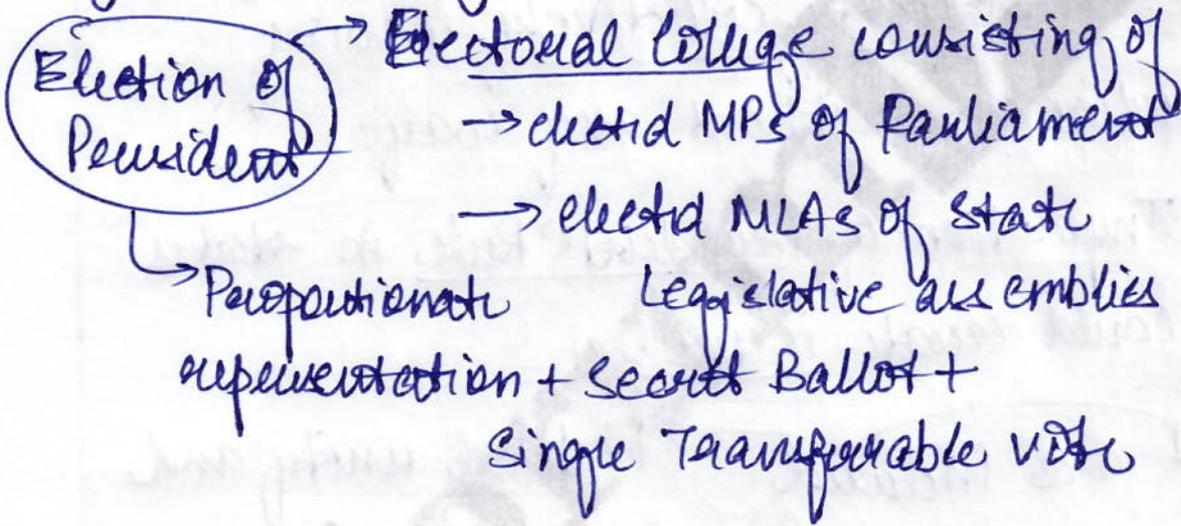
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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.2) Why are State Legislative Assemblies involved in the election of the President but excluded from the process of impeachment? (10 marks, 150 words)

राज्य विधान सभाओं को राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव में शामिल किया जाता है, लेकिन महाभियोग की प्रक्रिया से बाहर क्यों रखा जाता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Art 54, 55 of Indian Constitution talk of appointment of President of India.



State Assemblies are excluded because: —

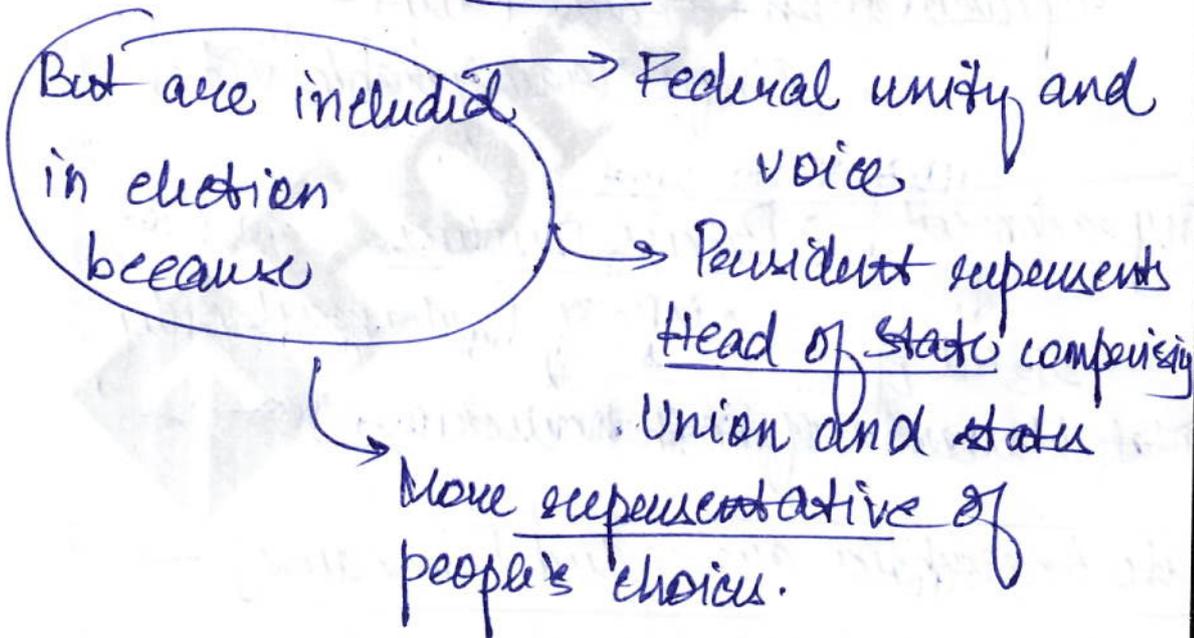
1) will make the process complex

2) Will involve political considerations at local level

↳ populist agendas

3) Instability could arise in part of President → because states could get 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority collectively leaving Parliament without any way.

4) Imposition of President's Rule in states could create issues.



Moreover, President's role in maintaining unity among states and Union is of paramount relevance.

### Feedback

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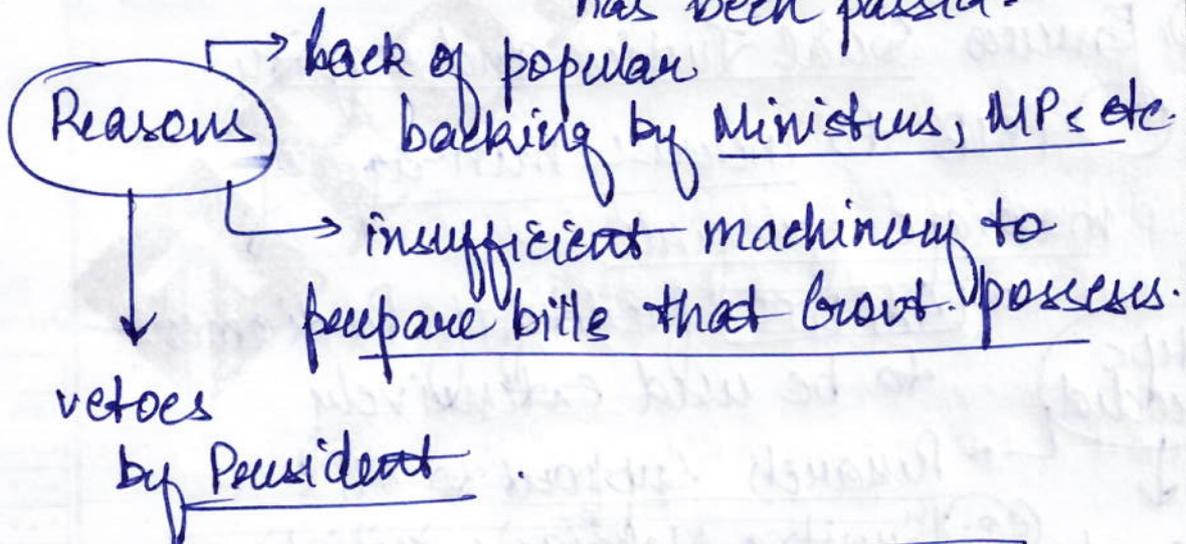
Q.3) Private Member's Bills (PMBs) seldom become law in India, yet they are an important aspect of parliamentary democracy. Bring out their significance and suggest steps to strengthen the PMB process. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत में निजी सदस्य विधेयक (PMBs) शायद ही कभी कानून बनते हैं, फिर भी वे संसदीय लोकतंत्र का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू हैं। उनके महत्व को उजागर करें और निजी सदस्य विधेयक प्रक्रिया को सशक्त करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएं। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

### Private Member's Bills

(PMBs) refer to Bills brought to floor of house by MPs who are not part of Govt., i.e. are not ministers.

PMBs seldom become law in India } ⇒ Last PMB passed in India was in 1970's and since then no PMB has been passed.



Yet, They are an important aspect of Parliamentary democracy

1) PMBs reflects views of local constituencies and issues (ex: Train connectivity to hinterlands in Jharkhand)

2) Being out important vacuum in legislative process

(ex: PMB on Judicial Commission 2022)

3) Touch on important issues of National interest

(ex: PMB on Nuclear Liability in Civil Matters)

4) Ensure Social Justice and equity

(ex: PMB to increase min-age of marriage for girls)

(Steps needed) → LAARDIS facility of Parliament to be used extensively

Research support to MPs

Separate (ex: Sumitra Mahajan's initiative)

time slot for discussions (NCRWC) of PMBs.

### 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			

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

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

Both Indian and USA's Judicial system are robust and support the capabilities of world's largest and oldest modern democracy.

Convergence of India and US Judicial systems

- 1) Due Process of Law: Menaka Gandhi Case 1978: India started following.
- 2) Principles of Natural Justice and equitable access to justice  
 ex: Art 39A of Indian Constitution.
- 3) Judicial Review: Art 13, 32, 226 of Indian Constitution provide for Judicial Review.

4) Citizen at center of Judgements  
 (ex:) Art 32 : direct approach sc for violation of Rights.

## Divergences

US	India
1) <u>More scope of Judicial Review</u> → as Due Process of Law enshrined in Constitution	1) <u>Less scope than US</u>
2) Federal Courts can't interfere in state courts matters	2) <u>Integrated Judiciary with hierarchy</u>
3) <u>No plenary power like <del>that</del> that.</u>	3) <u>Plenary power under Art 142 ; SLP under Art 136</u>
4) <u>Don't advise President</u>	4) <u>Advice President under Art 143</u>

More the process of appointment of Judges is also different but reflect the national priorities and interests.

### Feedback

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Q.5) The role of Election Commission of India has evolved beyond conducting elections to becoming a guardian of electoral democracy. Critically evaluate. (10 marks, 150 words)

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

"Elections are the bedrock of democracy and ECI's credibility is central to its legitimacy"  
- Fr. CEC SY Duraish

Role of ECI has evolved to guardian of electoral democracy :-

1) Ensuring Free and fair elections :

basic structure of Constitution  
(Indira Gandhi case 1975)

2) Control Abuse and Money power  
{ (Ex.) seizing of liquor, money etc. during 2024 LS campaigns }

3) Ensuring voice of opposition is not stifled.

→ by star campaigners, free AIR time etc.

4) Ensure sanctity of elections → by MEE imposition (ex: Ban of T. Raja Singh in 2024 for Hate speech)

5) Ensuring Constitutional Right of citizens is protected → Art 326 (Universal Adult Suffrage)

But Concerns remain: —

1) Concerns raised by Opposition of business (ex: MH 2024 election)

2) Disenfranchisement concerns

of Urban Migrants during Special Intensive Revision of Bihar

3) Urban voter apathy

In this context, ECI needs to consult all parties, CSOs, citizens before taking a step to ensure the credibility of institution.

### Feedback

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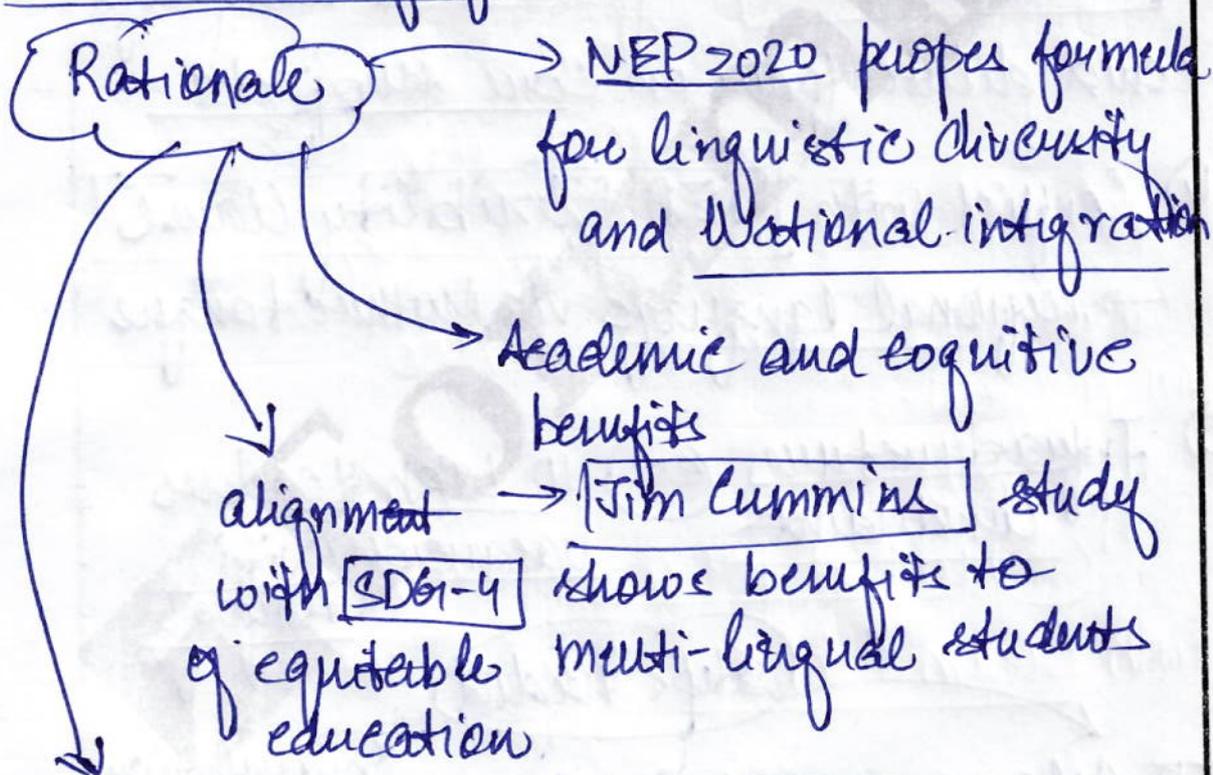
Q.6) What is the rationale behind the 'three-language formula' in India's education policy? Also highlight the challenges associated with its adoption and implementation across the country. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत की शिक्षा नीति में 'त्रि-भाषा सूत्र' के पीछे क्या तर्क है? देश भर में इसे अपनाने और लागू करने से जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

## Kothari Commission

In 1966 it recommended adopting '3 language formula' to teach students 3 languages with

2 Indian languages.



- ensure alignment with Art 350A of Constitution (primary education in mother tongue)
- Tribal languages are given space.

## Challenges associated

1) Linguistic Impartition (Federal Tensions)  
 → MH opposition by various states

2) Policy ambiguity: no national consensus on which 3 languages to adopt.

3) Academic load: focus on 3 languages could dilute focus on core subjects

4) Conflict with NEP Flexibility Clause  
 → regional language v/s mother tongue

5) Infrastructure constraints (ex: 10 lakh teachers vacancies (Niti Aayog))

(Steps needed)

RTE Act 2009

uniform implementation

Niti Aayog

SATH ED project

Consultation

UNESCO's Multi Lingual Education Vision could guide to linguistic justice and equitable education.

### Feedback

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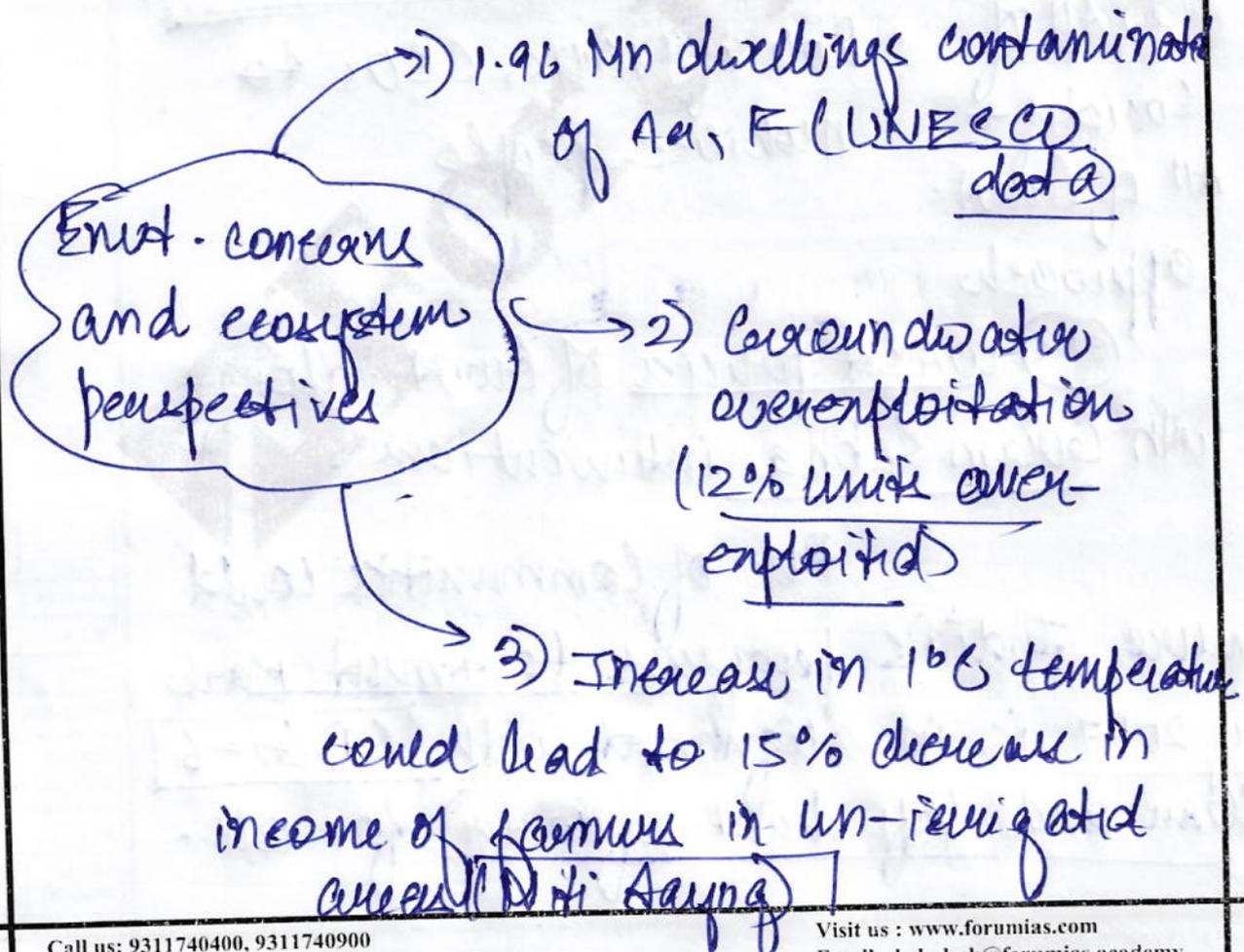
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TOTAL MARKS

Q.7) 'Emerging environmental concerns and evolving ecosystem perspectives demand a reimagined approach to rural water governance.' Discuss the key interventions needed to recalibrate rural water policies with special emphasis on the role of communities. (10 marks, 150 words)

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

As per UNESCO and WB report, less than 50% of Indians have access to clean drinking water, demanding a reimagined approach to rural water governance.



→ 1) Role of communities

- in creating traditional water harvesting systems

[Johads in Rajasthan]

- Atal Biju Yojna success

Key interventions needed to recalibrate

[Social Audit of Jal Jeevan Mission]

2) All of Society + All of Govt. approach

- Role of NGOs, CSOs to mobilize people

⊕ WASH policies of Govt. along with Gram Sabha interventions.

Role of Communities could ensure India's progress to Amrit Kaal by 2047 is in alignment with SDG-6 (Clean and safe drinking water) for all.

**Feedback**

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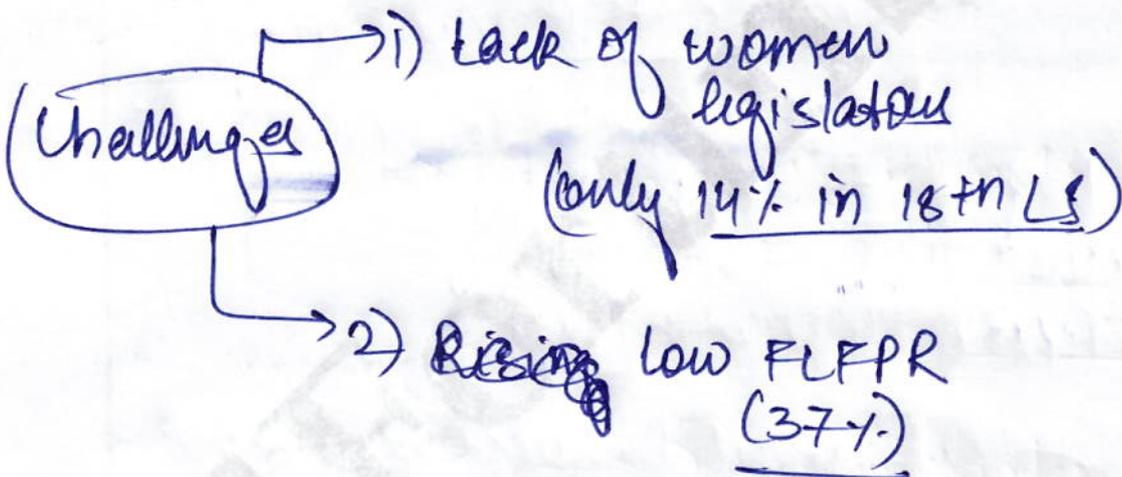
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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.8) Identify and discuss the challenges hindering effective implementation of gender-sensitive policies and schemes in the country. (10 marks, 150 words)

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

In line of Gender-sensitive policies and schemes, the Union Budget of 2025-26 comprised of 8.86% of Gender Budgeting.



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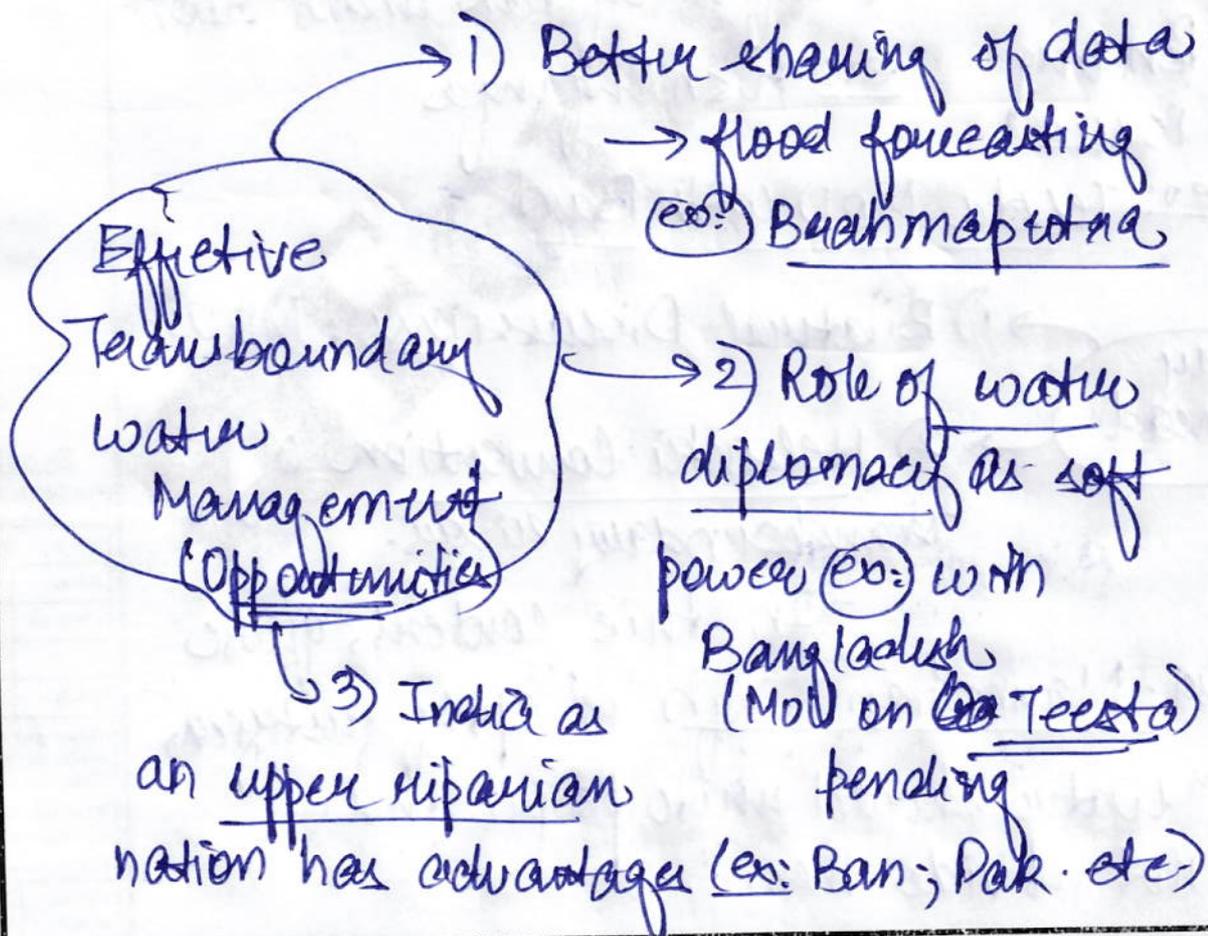
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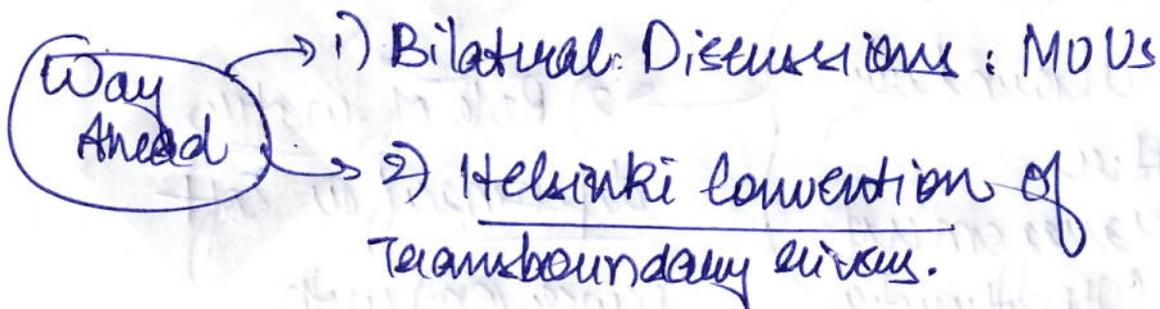
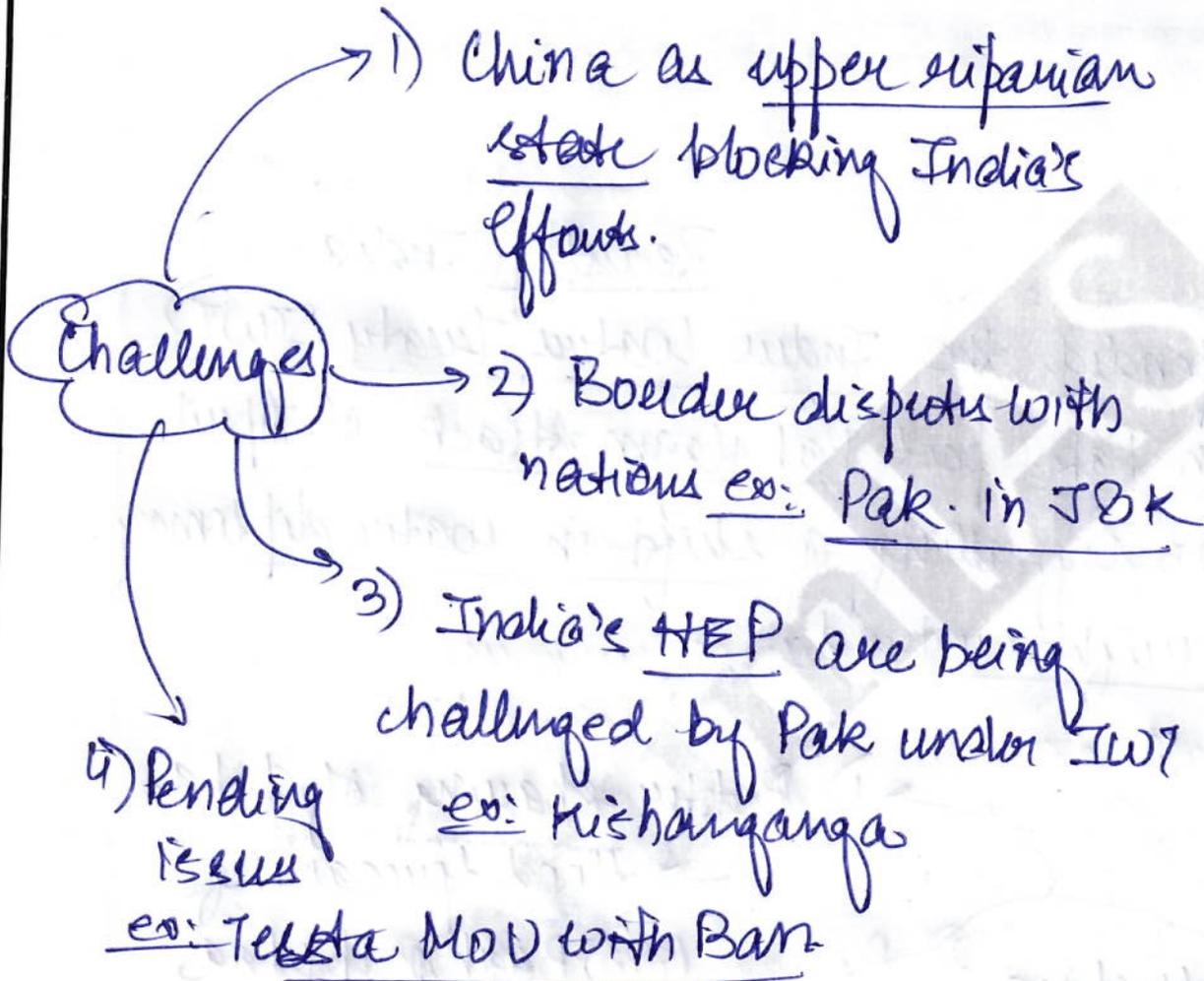
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.9) Effective transboundary water management can act as a catalyst for regional peace and cooperation.' In light of this statement, bring out the opportunities and challenges for India in leveraging 'water diplomacy' in its neighbourhood. (10 marks, 150 words)

प्रभावी सीमापार जल प्रबंधन क्षेत्रीय शांति और सहयोग के लिए उत्प्रेरक का काम कर सकता है।' इस कथन के आलोक में, भारत के लिए अपने पड़ोस में 'जल कूटनीति' का लाभ उठाने के अवसरों और चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Recently, India suspended the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with Pak. post Peshawar Attack in April 2025 signalling a shift in water diplomacy in neighbourhood.





In this context, quote of Dr. Manmohan Singh is aptly justified, "Water should unite people and not divide them".

**Feedback**

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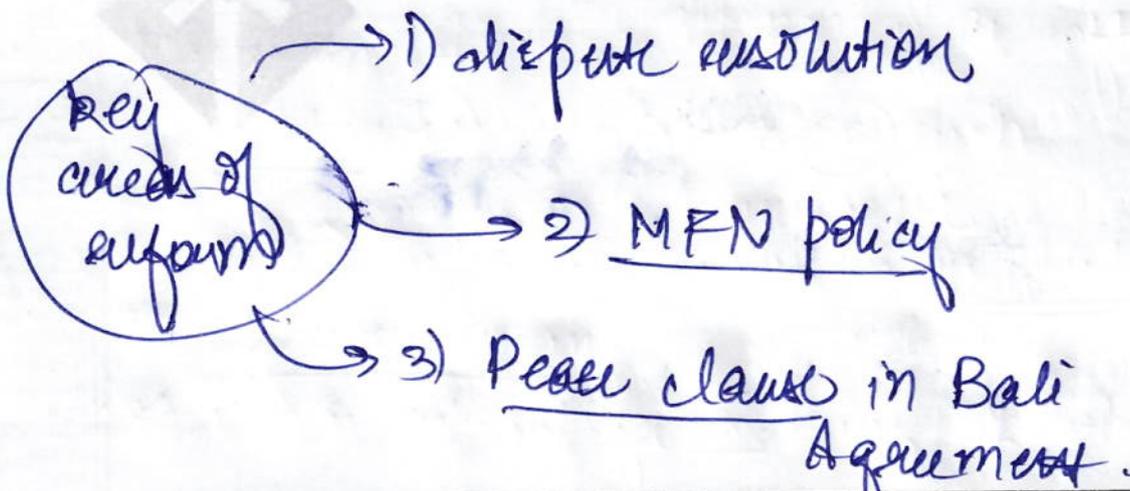
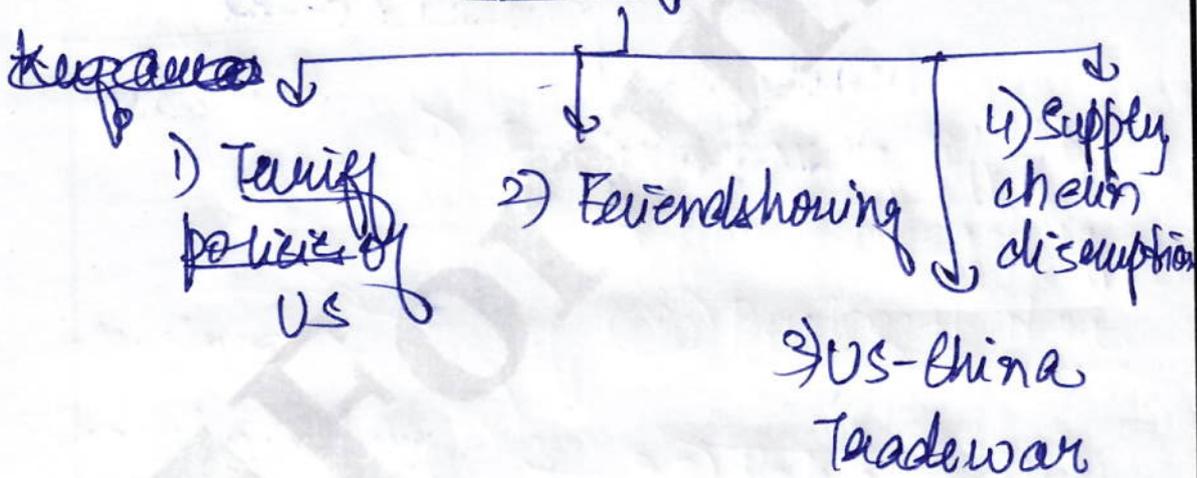
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TOTAL MARKS			

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

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

WTO was created post Uruguay Round of Negotiation in 1994 as a successor to GATT.

## Rising Protectionism



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### Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

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

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

Basic Structure doctrine (BSD) is a judicial innovation created by SC in Kusavananda Bharti 1973 case.

BSD acts as constitutional compass in balancing legislative authority and Constitutional Supremacy.

1) Ensures Principles of Check and Balance

→ Parliament's power to pass No-Confidence Motion against Executive

2) Guardian of Rule of Law: Parliament cannot interfere with Judicial Independence

[LNJAC Case 2015]

3) Protects Core values of Constitution from legislative upheaval.

- (ex.) Parliament cannot amend Basic features like Secularism.
- 4) Upholds Federal unity : SR Bommai case → Constitutional Supremacy.
  - 5) Ensures Constitutional Morality  
↳ Right to equality in Sabeemala case
  - 6) Provides leeway to Parliament to amend features other than Basic features.

But BSD has it's own sets of issues :-

- 1) Perceived as Judicial overreach in domain of legislative competence.
- 2) Difficult to maintain balance

between Judicial Independence and Judicial Accountability

(ex:) SC striking down 99th Constitutional Amendment Act citing Basic Structure

3) Conflict with Social Morality

(ex:) Judgement in Sabeemala case raised protests.

Way Ahead :-

1) Judicial Restraint by Judges

2) Legislative reforms :-

→ debate and discussions before passing bill (NCRWC recommendation of ≥ 120 days of sitting per year)

→ Pre-legislative consultation mechanism

BSP rests at core of Constitutional supremacy and uphold it in National interest.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

Q.12) Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are pivotal to inclusive and efficient urban governance, yet they remain fiscally constrained and institutionally weak. Analyze. (15 marks, 250 words)

शहरी स्थानीय निकाय (ULBs) समावेशी और कुशल शहरी शासन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, फिर भी वे वित्तीय रूप से सीमित और संस्थागत रूप से कमजोर बने हुए हैं। विश्लेषण करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

"Local self Govts. are the bedrock of Democracy. They are the training grounds for citizens and Nursery of democracy"  
 - Lord Ripon (Father of local self Govt. in India)

ULBs are pivotal to inclusive and efficient urban Governance

- 1) Counter to growing needs: as per Niti Aayog, India's urban population will reach 50% by 2060.
- 2) Respond to emergencies and disasters (Ex: Role of TN's Chennai Municipal Corporation during Chennai Floods 2015?)

3) Provision of essential basic facilities to citizens

(ex): • Public toilets • Urban food and shelter drives for poor

4) Role in development

→ infrastructure creation

→ Transport facilities (ex): 840 km of Metro Rail lines have been laid across country (PTB)

5) Accessibility to welfare schemes and development initiatives

(ex): • NFSA, FPS shops  
• Ramps, lifts for disabled.

But they remain :-

(A) Fiscally constrained :-

1) Property Tax ratio = 0.15%  
GDP (1% for OECD nations)

2) Only 1% of <sup>revenue</sup> ~~expenditure~~ are funded by taxes.

3) As per WB, \$ 840 Bn is need for cities by 2030 in India

4) Lack of accountability from FCs: delayed submissions, vacancies etc.

(B) Institutionally weak

1) 37% vacancies (Niti Aayog Report) in ULBs

2) Lack of devolution of subjects:

ex) Only 9 subjects devolved to BMC.

3) Political influence

4) Indirectly elected Mayor.

Way Ahead → 1) 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC: directly elected Mayor  
 → 2) RBI report 2022: 100% of city's income tax collection devolved to ULBs  
 → 3) Municipal bonds

Moreover People's Plan Campaigns of Kerala can be a best practice to achieve SDGs-11.

**Feedback**

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.13) "The judiciary has functioned as an institutional corrective, redefining and refining the contours of the Governor's office to prevent its misuse and uphold constitutional principles." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (15 marks, 250 words)

"न्यायपालिका ने एक संस्थागत सुधारक के रूप में कार्य किया है तथा राज्यपाल के कार्यालय की रूपरेखा को पुनः परिभाषित और परिष्कृत किया है ताकि इसका दुरुपयोग रोका जा सके और संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों को कायम रखा जा सके।" प्रासंगिक न्याय विधियों (केस लॉ) की मदद से इस कथन पर चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Governor's role in strengthening federal unity is challenged by recent cases of Gubernatorial apathy like stripping of speech by TN Governor.

In this context,

Judiciary functioned as an Institutional corrective :-

- 1) Limit on discretionary powers of Governor : as said by SC in Shamsher Singh Case
- 2) Preventing misuse of Ordinance powers by Governor  
→ Original guiding principles in D. D. Wadhwa Case

3) Making decisions of Governor subject to Judicial Review

↳ Rameshwar Prasad Case

4) Limiting role of Governor in passage of Bills [under Art 200, 201]

State of TN case 2025

- 1) No absolute discretion to Governor
- 2) Timelines fixed for passage, withdrawal, re-introduction
- ↳ 3) No poached veto to Governor

5) Institutionalising role of Governor in power over ministers, chancellors of Universities etc. (ex) Kerala, Punjab cases

But Judiciary's role is also criticised lately as:-

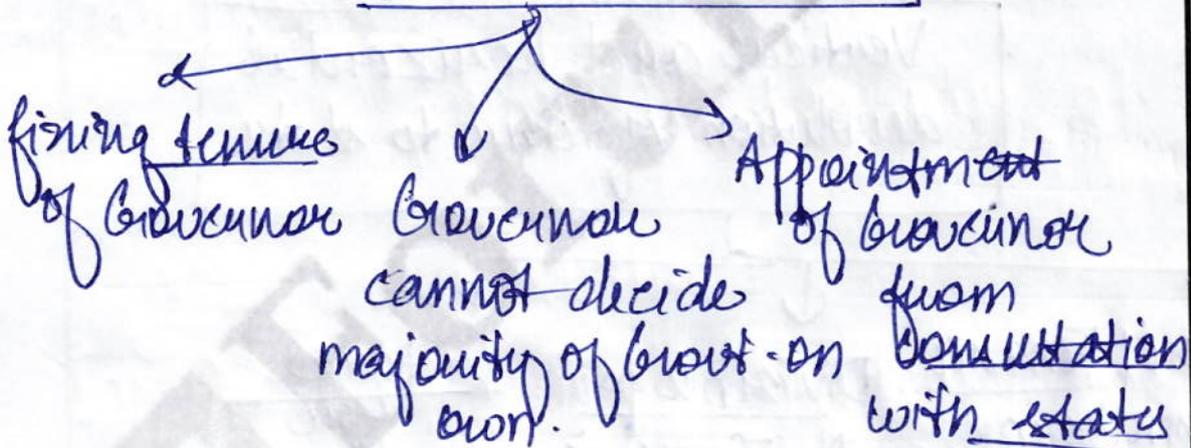
1) President's reference under Art 143

asking clarity over President's role in State of TN Case 2025.

- 2) Importance of Governor in:-
- President's Rule (ex: Manipur)
  - in Scheduled Areas etc.

Way Ahead :-

1) Recommendations of Panchhi Committee



Moreover, several committees on state-center relations constituted by TN [Kherian Joseph Committee] can be a better way forward in strengthening role of Governor in federal polity!

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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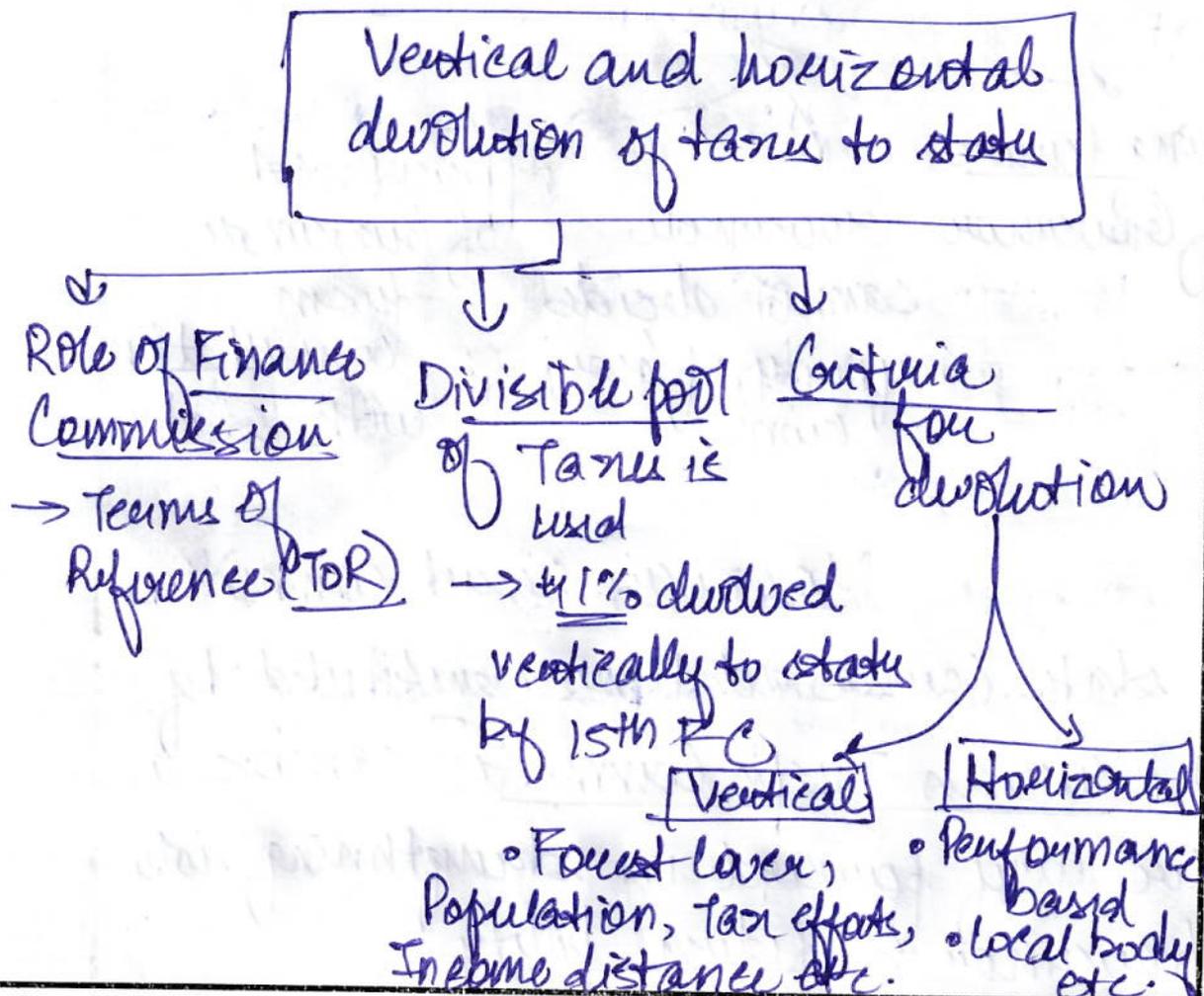
Q.14) How is the 'vertical' and 'horizontal' devolution of taxes to the states decided? Highlighting the concerns raised by some states regarding the devolution of taxes, suggest corrective measures.

(15 marks, 250 words)

राज्यों को करों का 'ऊर्ध्वाधर' और 'क्षैतिज' हस्तांतरण कैसे तय किया जाता है? करों के हस्तांतरण के संबंध में कुछ राज्यों द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए सुधारात्मक उपाय सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Recently, President constituted the 16th FC using powers under Art 280 of Constitution to decide vertical and horizontal devolution of taxes to states.



(ex:) ₹ 2-8 Lakh crore was devolved by 15th FC to Local bodies as part of horizontal devolution.

## Concerns raised by states

1) "Development Paradox" (ex:) Kerala  
 More developed state → Less income distance  
 ↓  
 low devolution  
 ← increased borrowing needs  
 ← more fiscal deficit and debt (ex:) ₹ 3 Lakh crore of Kerala Govt.)

2) Inequality in distribution

(ex:) • for ₹ 1 contributed → Bihar get ₹ 6 back  
 → TN get ₹ 0.08 back  
 (TN Govt.)

3) Fiscal Annihilation: due to demographic performance by southern states.

4) Increased share of cess and surcharge  
 → don't form part of divisible pool of taxes.

## Corrective measures needed

- 1) Following regular devolutions by Centre to states.
- 2) Changing criteria of devolution by 16th FC → more incentives to good performing states.
- 3) Utilisation of Intra-State Council, Anti-Arrogance Co-ordinating Council meets to iron out differences.

Moreover principles of Fiscal federalism as given by NK Singh need to be followed in letter and spirit by 16th FC to ensure justice to developing and developed states alike.

### Feedback

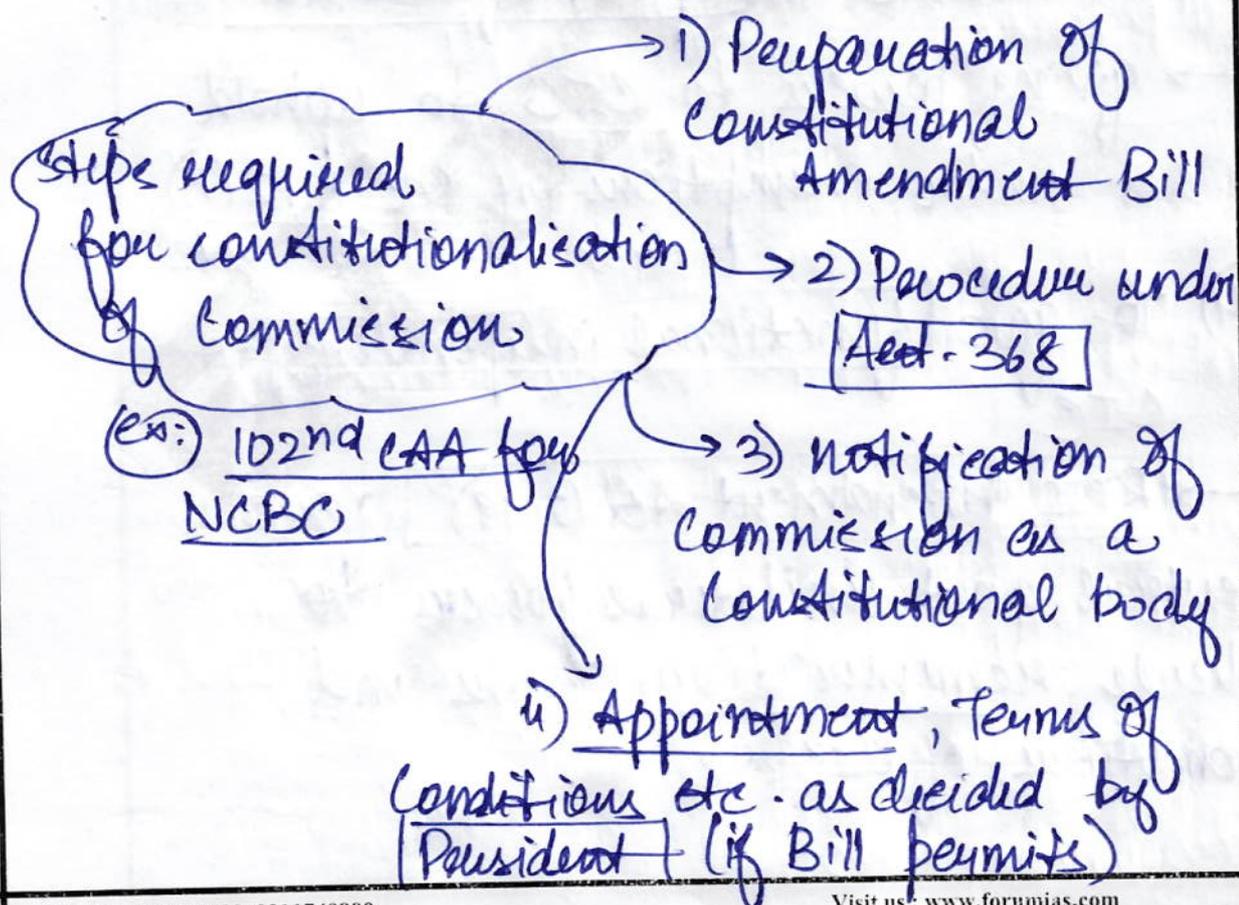
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.15) What steps are required for the constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think granting constitutional status to the Central Information Commission (CIC) would strengthen the RTI regime in India? Give reasons. (15 marks, 250 words)

किसी आयोग के संवैधानिककरण के लिए क्या कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है? क्या आपको लगता है कि केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग (CIC) को संवैधानिक दर्जा देने से भारत में RTI व्यवस्था मजबूत होगी? कारण बताइए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

RTI has been considered a 'Sunshine legislation' by 2nd ARC to bring in culture of transparency in offices shrouded with secrecy. In this light, constitutionalisation of CIC is talked about.



CIC was constituted by RTI Act 2005 and is a statutory body.

### Need of constitutionalizing CIC

- 1) To address functional inefficiencies  
(ex) 8/11 posts vacant in CIC.
- 2) To increase disposal rate of cases under CIC (currently = 9 months (SNS support))
- 3) To realise the spirit of RTI Act.  
→ giving powers to CIC to uphold act under exemptions by sec 8, 2(h) etc.
- 4) To give functional independence to CIC.  
→ RTI Amendment Act (2019) gave central govt. unilateral powers to decide remuneration, terms and conditions of CIC etc.

5) To address backlog of cases  
(4-18 Lakh in 2024 as per SNS)

Constitutionalizing still will not be able to strengthen RTI regime:-

1) Vacancies occur in Constitutional bodies too (ex: NCST, NCSC)

2) Delay in submission of reports, lack of meeting by Constitutional bodies  
(ex: NCST.)

3) Political interference still possible  
(ex: allegations against NCBC.)

Way ahead

1) Give power to CIC to bring political parties under RTI

2) Change expenditure of CIC on CFI  
(like CAB, UPSC etc.)

3) Fill vacancies swiftly.

These steps are needed to ensure spirit of RTI under Art 19(1)(a) of Constitution.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

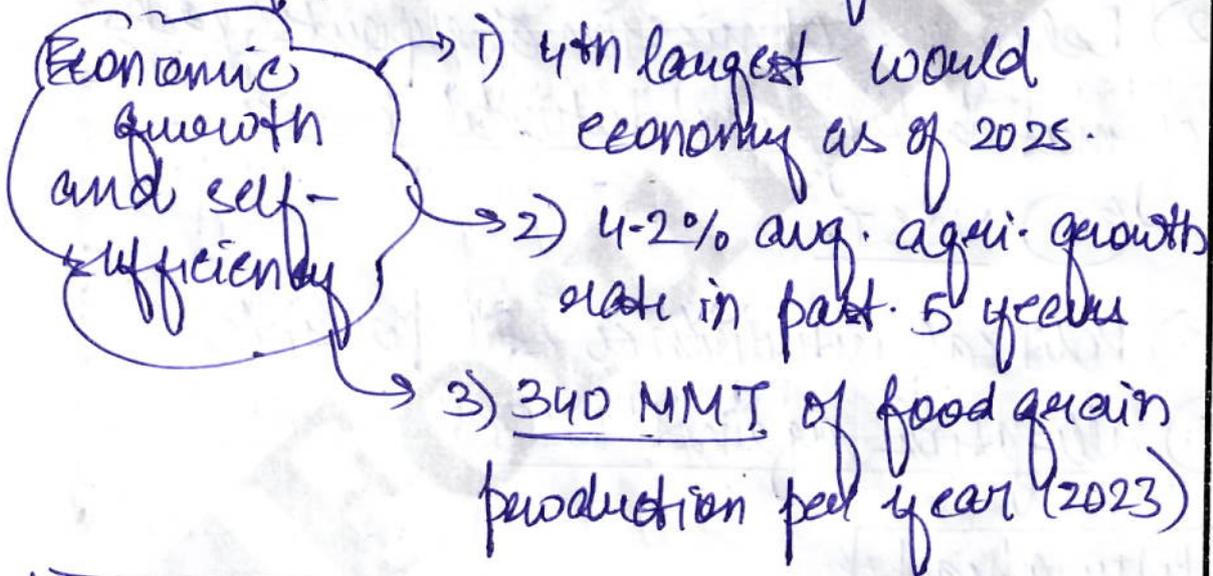
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Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

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

भारत में भले ही लगातार आर्थिक संवृद्धि हो रही है और खाद्य उत्पादन में आत्मनिर्भरता हासिल हो गई है, लेकिन भूख और खाद्य असुरक्षा अभी भी गंभीर चिंता का विषय बनी हुई है। इस विरोधाभास के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों का परीक्षण करें और स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए कदम सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India ranked

111<sup>th</sup> in Global Hunger Index 2023 reflecting critical gaps in India's hunger solutions,



But still pressing concerns occur like

HUNGER  
Production

Food insecurity

- ~~Production of~~  
Pub
- 32% underweight (NFHS-5)
- 17% wasting state

• 22.4 crore under-nourished in India  
[FAO 2023]

## Factors responsible for paradox

### (A) Governance issues

1) Food Budget Squeeze: OoPE of 48-8% (NHA 2017) → squeeze food budget.

2) Inflation: food inflation of 90% in July 2024.

3) Inefficiencies in PDS → 1) 113 Mn exclusions (Prof. Ashok Gulati)

→ 2) Black Marketing (Shanta Kumar Committee)

4) Delayed implementation of One Nation, One Ration Card in all states (WB govt.)

### (B) Agricultural issues

1) Lack of storage capability: only 145 MMT storage for 340 MMT production.

2) APMC inefficiencies: role of intermediaries

3) Lack of climate suited crops  
 (ex) Sugarcane in Raj.

## Steps needed

1) Prof. Ashok Gulati

→ Polyhouse cultivation

→ Contract Farming

2) Creation of storage capacity

(ex) 70 MMT creation via PACE project  
 of Ministry of Cooperation

3) local level initiatives

(ex) Poth laika Abhiyan of JH

4) extension of MDM to secondary school students | CPC on labor and Textiles 2023

5) efficient grain distribution

(ex) Annapurna Grain ATM by DD Grant

Further Deccan HLPs

formulated in G20 2023, can guide India to achieve vision of No Hunger (SDG 2) by 2030

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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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.17) The Union Government has recently announced that caste enumeration will be part of the upcoming census. Examine the opportunities and challenges associated with conducting a nationwide 'caste census'. Also, propose a framework for its seamless and effective conduct.

(15 marks, 250 words)

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

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

MHA recently notified  
 conduction of 16<sup>th</sup> Census of India using  
32 Lakh enumerations. Cabinet Committee on  
 Political Affairs earlier made decision to  
 include Caste Census as part of it.

16<sup>th</sup> Census  
 +  
 Caste Census

→ 1) 1<sup>st</sup> fully digital census  
 → 2) 1<sup>st</sup> census to enumerate  
caste band lists after  
Census 1931 apart  
 from SC, STs.

## Opportunities for Caste Census

1) Ensuring that backward castes  
 are enumerated exactly for welfare  
 schemes.

2) Data Driven Welfare Policies → better targeting, reduced leakage

3) Will ensure Affirmative Action is leading to social justice and social mobility (Vogendra Yadav)

4) Creation of database for other sample based surveys  
(ex: NFHS, PLFS, SRS etc.)

### Challenges associated with caste census

1) Populist agendas of political parties → freebies culture based on caste could open 'Pandora's Box'.

2) Could lead to solidification of caste lines

3) Could lead to increased demand of Reservations.

→ breaching 50% limit set in Indira

Sawhney case

4) Could dilute the judgement of sub-categorization of castes in

Singh v/s State of Punjab

Framework

1) Digital tools for better accuracy  
(ex:) Bhashini AI

2) Training and sensitisation of enumerators

3) 'All of Govt. approach' + 'All of Society' approaching: roping in CEOs, NGOs etc.

Better data enumeration can lead to accurate identification for needs of a rising India.

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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

"शासन में AI का एकीकरण अब एक विकल्प नहीं बल्कि एक आवश्यकता है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, चर्चा करें कि AI किस प्रकार शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य सेवा शासन को बढ़ा सकता है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Technology like AI  
could revolutionise education and  
healthcare governance.

AI integration as a necessity:—

→ Digital economy of India is expected to form 20% of GDP by 2030 (PIB)

→ Citizens as co-creators of Governance  
(PM Modi)

Role of AI in:—

(A) Education Governance

1) Breaking Language Barrier [Bhashini  
AI]

→ use in 3-language policy

→ education in mother tongue based

( RTE Act 2009, Art. 350A of  
Constitution)

## 2) Increasing access

(ex-) Swayam Prabha + AI integration  
 → DTH channels ⇒ shift to AI based teaching models.

3) Use of Creative AI like Chat GPT, Copilot etc. for education

## 4) Better monitoring of Learning outcomes

(ex-) AI based digital dashboard of Performance Grading India 2.0

5) Rise of ed-Tech sector and role of AI  
 ↳ expected to grow to \$120 Bn by 2030 (NASSCOM)

## (B) Healthcare governance

1) In monitoring situations of hospitals : no. of beds, expected no. of patients etc.

2) Automated medicine facilitators  
 (ex:) AI investigation in PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras

3) Creation of ABHA IDs under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

4) Monitoring and screening of cases  
 (ex:) AI based tool for TB detection under National TB Elimination Programme 2021

## Way ahead :-

- 1) India AI Mission success
- 2) Skilling of workforce (ex:) NIELIT | Bopar as a deemed university to train 37 Lakh in 5 years
- 3) PM BDIKHA Yojana: digital literacy

Role of AI is summarised as revolutionary role of science by Archimedes  
 "Give me a lever and a fulcrum and I will move the world".

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

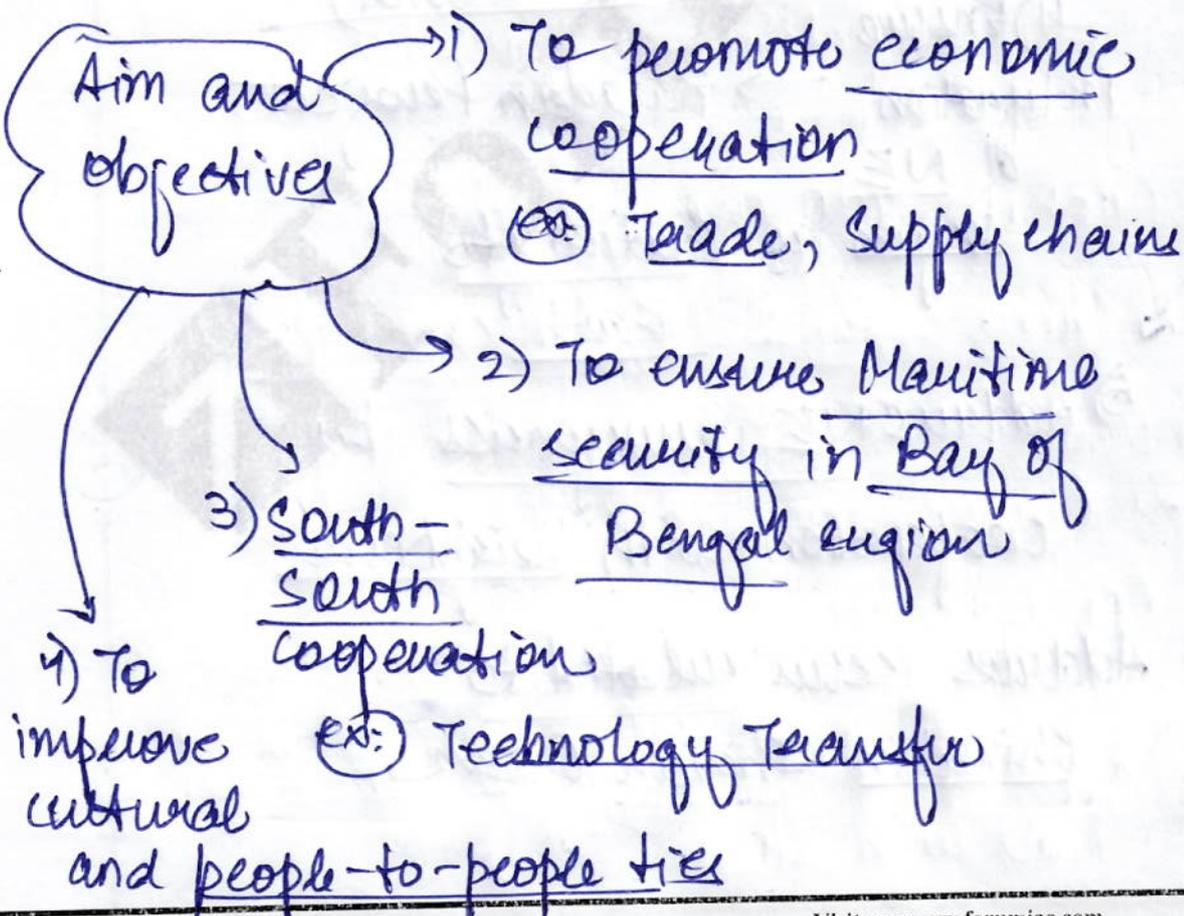
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TOTAL MARKS			

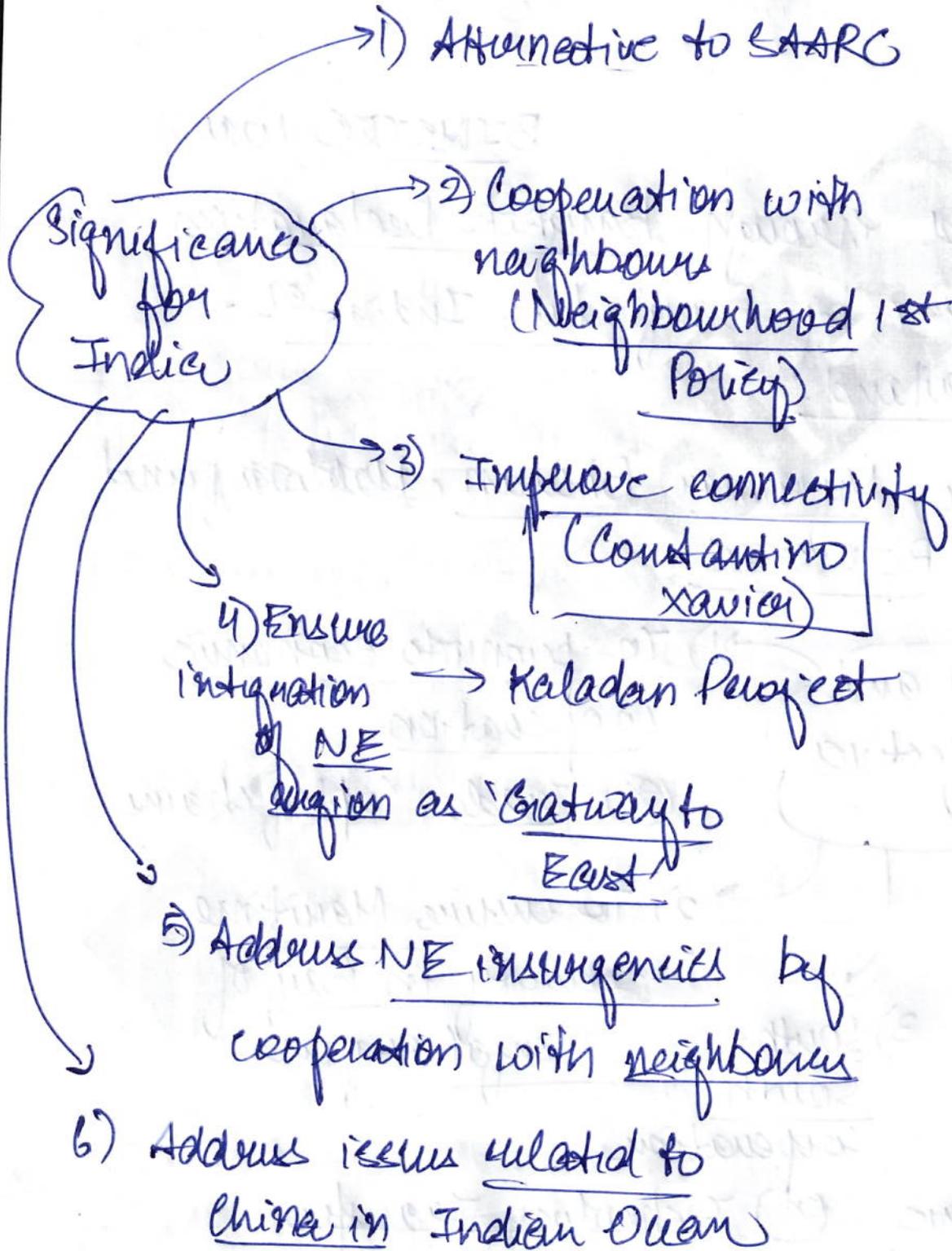
Q.19) Providing a brief overview of the aims and objectives of BIMSTEC, explain its significance for India. (15 marks, 250 words)

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

BIMSTEC was formed through Bangkok Declaration in 1997 by Bangladesh, India, SL, Thailand.

Later, Myanmar, Bhutan ~~and others~~ joined BIMSTEC.





Further BIMSTEC can be utilized as a platform that can "shift old order based on domination to new order based on cooperation"

-(Bandung Communique)

### Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
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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.20) India's approach to its relationship with China has evolved into what can be best described as 'competitive coexistence'. Discuss in light of recent developments. What should be the broad contours of India's future China policy? (15 marks, 250 words)

चीन के साथ अपने संबंधों के प्रति भारत का दृष्टिकोण 'प्रतिस्पर्धी सह-अस्तित्व' के रूप में विकसित हुआ है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों के आलोक में चर्चा करें। भारत की भविष्य की चीन नीति की व्यापक रूपरेखा क्या होनी चाहिए? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Recently, MEA, is scheduled to participate in SCO Meet in China crucial for India-China ties in wake of Pahalgam attack.

India's relation with China  
 ⇒ Competitive co-existence

(A) Global South engagement

1) China's BRI in African nations like Tanzania.

2) Chinese base in countries like Djibouti

3) Approach to STDS: Solomon-Islands MoU with China.

(B) Indo-Pacific theatre

1) China's Strategic Partnership with Maldives

2) China's critical strategic base in Hambantota (SL)

(C) Multipolar institutions

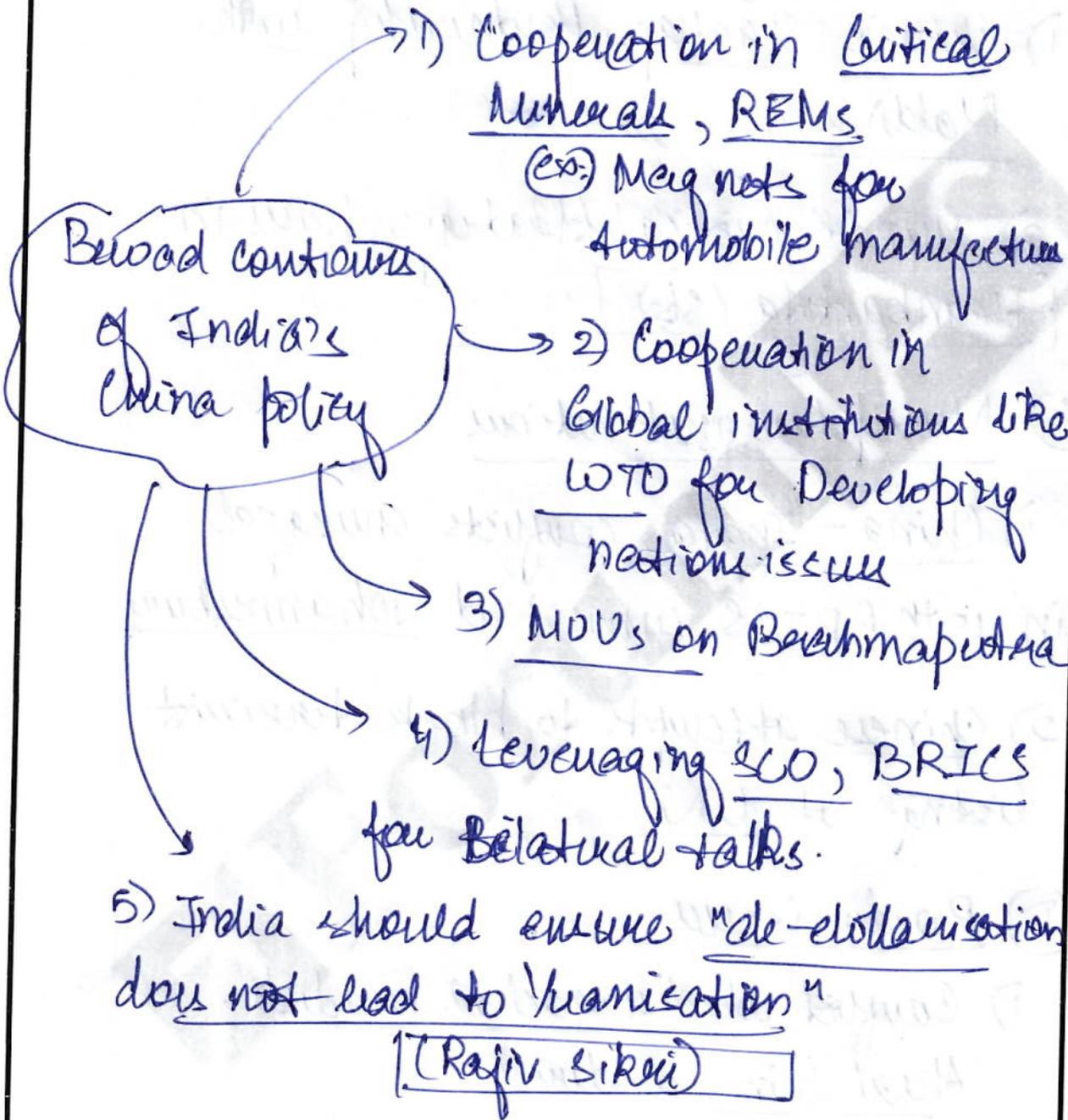
1) China - India conflicts emerged in 15<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit at Johannesburg

2) Chinese attempts to block terrorist listings at UN

(D) Border issues

1) Conflict at Aumachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin border

2) Beahmaputera water diplomacy  
→ lack of data sharing by China.



21st century is termed as Asian Century and India-China partnership lies at center of it.

**Feedback**  
(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
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P & R			

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		

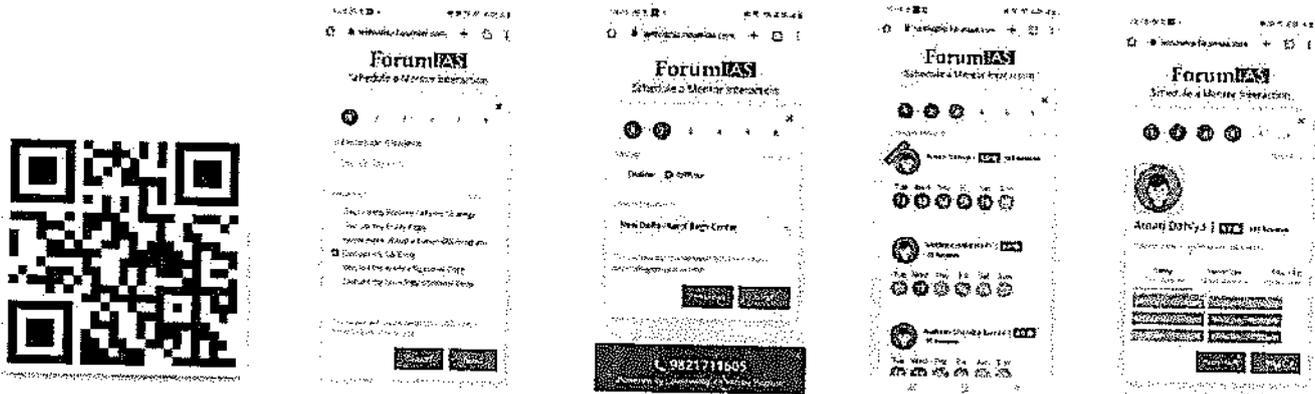
\* Subject to change without prior notice.

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