TEST CODE	8	1	2	4	1	4

MGP 2025

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	RAHUL PATIL		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	19101056 11	**Medium/**माध्यम	English ☑ हिंदी ☐
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1901	**Date/**दिनांक	10/07/2025.

*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

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक
1		
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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 :	**End Time/**समाप्त करने का समय :
5:00 pm	7:30 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.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

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

Q.1) To what extent, in your opinion, have the ideals of the Preamble been realised in the country's 75-year constitutional journey? (10 marks, 150 words)

आपकी राय में, देश की 75 साल की संवैधानिक यात्रा में प्रस्तावना के आदर्शों को किस हद तक साकार किया गया है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Preamble defines gives the ideals of the Constitution and also tells about about the source of sovereignty and date of adoption.

Ideals of Parliament realized

(1) socialist - DPSP based schemes & programmes to provide goods & services
- (i) MDMS + NFSA → Food security

(2) Secular - upheld the rights of minorities
- (i) Art 29 & 30 - Minority Edu Institutes (MEI)

(3) Sovereign - Foreign policy - strategic Autonomy
- (ii) Ukraine crisis - India neutral

(4) Democratic - 18 LS elections & numerous State Legislative election + electoral reform by ECI

(5) Republic - Head of state - amongst the people
- (i) Ram Nath Kovind & Smt. Murmu - SC/ST President

(6) Freedom - Maneka Gandhi - Due process of law & wide interpretation of Art 21.

(Don't Write anythi
in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

However, there are shortcomings

(1) Socialism - 1% of population owns 37% of wealth
\ large scale poverty (highest absolute MDP - HNDP)

(2) Secular - communal politics & rhetorics + violence
(eg) Muzaffarnagar riots 2013

(3) Sovereign - ✓

(4) Democratic - reports of malpractice + criminalization of politics - Democracy Index - calls Flawed Democracy

(5) Republic - nepotism in politics still continues
(eg) Election of Rajiv Gandhi, who had no prior taste of politics to PM position

(6) Liberty + Freedom - Sedition Law. (e.g. section 124A) etc curb dissent

(7) Justice - vulnerable sections - LGBTQ+ no right to union etc

Thus, although some achievements, still a long way to go. to achieve ideals of constitution makers

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.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)

property rights, initially Fundamental right, under Art. 19(1)(f), is now just a constitutional right under Art 300A (by 44th Amendment 1978).

Evolution of Property rights

(1) Shankari Prasad - Parliament can amend constitution (upheld 1st amendment) ↓

(2) Govt — 1, 4th & 7th Amendment - 9th schedule - to protect from judicial review

→ SC powers to declare a law null & void - curbed

(3) SC Golaknath 1967 - Parliament can't amend FR, they are sacrosanct

(4) 24th & 25th Amendment - gave parliament powers to acquire property without any compensation to owner.

(5) K. Bharathi - upheld the amendments with case 1973

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

some modifications,

- Introduced Basic structure doctrine – Parliament can amend but not the essence

(6) 42nd Amendment – 1976 – absolute powers to Parliament. made Judiciary subordinate to Parliament

(7) 44th Amendment – govt changed – Abolished right to property as FR – shifted to Art-300A.

(8) Minerava Mills case (1980) – Doctrine of Harmonious construction – FR & DPSP shall be balanced

(9) Recent development

(1) Right to Fair compensation Act 2013 –

– 2X (urban) & 4X (Rural) – compensation

– for PPP – 70% to 80% consultation

Thus, right to property has evolved over the years. Recently, it was seen as a key & govt can't take away under adverse possession

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.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)

Art. 352 allows President to proclaim national emergency on the aid & advise of council of ministers & written consent from the cabinet.

conditions of proclamation

(1) Grounds → Armed rebellion
→ War
↳ External Aggression

Before 44th Amendment, internal disturbance was also a ground

(2) written consent of cabinet

(3) subject to Judicial Review - ~~Indira Go~~
↳ 44th Amendment protected

(4) Approved by Parliament -
(a) By both houses within 1 month
(b) If one house not in session, 30 days time for other house convention
(c) cease to operate 6 months from
(d) can be extended by 6 months a time (indefinitely)

(Don't Write anythi
in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

Consequences of proclamation

(1) FR - can be non-functional - ie except A20 & A21, can be abrogated (also, depends on whether A358 or A359 for abrogation)

(2) centre-state relation -
- Centre becomes all powerful
- can take over the functions of state
- can dissolve states

(3) other effects -
- Judiciary - effectively running but power to approach court under A32 suffers
- Legislature - becomes powerful can legislate laws (eg. 42nd Amendment - mini constitution - during Emergy)

Recently, the last time national Emergency was proclaimed in 1975 in effect till 1977.

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.4) 'Lack of a binding framework for pre-legislative consultations in India limits citizen engagement in the lawmaking.' Propose measures to strengthen the role of public consultation in the legislative process. (10 marks, 150 words)

'भारत में विधान-पूर्व परामर्श के लिए बाध्यकारी ढाँचे का अभाव, विधि-निर्माण में नागरिकों की भागीदारी को सीमित करता है।' विधायी प्रक्रिया में सार्वजनिक परामर्श की भूमिका को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए उपाय प्रस्तुत कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Pre legislative consultations allow for taking public consultations before the lawmaking begins (ie before introduction in Parliament).

Lack of binding framework affects citizen engagement

(1) Role in actively putting opinions - restricted
↳ Limited to representative democracy

(2) Dissent is not taken - SC - said dissent is the "pressure valve of democracy"

(3) could lead to post law violence & other issues

(5) Fears law protests & violence

(4) Majoritarian outcomes - could affect the minority - (5) Citizenship Amendment Act.

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

P Measures to strengthen the role

(1) • Jan sunvai - where people put forward their grievances & opinions

(2) Digital platforms like UMANG & e-kranti - to help reach b audience & citizens better

(3) Training of citizens on giving consultations

(4) NGOs + CSOs can play the role of information disseminators → also could show pros & cons of each law
   (e.g.) PRS body - researches every law.

(5) Amendment to Art 118 - rules of conduct of business in Parliament to make public consultation & parliamentary committee mandatory

Thus, with the support of people & vigilant citizenry, the goal of direct democracy can be achieved (e.g.) Cantons of switzerland.

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	

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

Q.5) 'The recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission have enabled the States to improve their fiscal conditions.' Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

15वें वित्त आयोग की अनुशंसाओं से राज्यों को अपनी वित्तीय स्थिति सुधारने में मदद मिली है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

15th FC (chaired by NK Singh) gave some recommendations as per the terms of reference

Art 280 - a FC by President every 5 years to prepare ~~develop~~ a strategy to devolve the funds between centre & its subsidiary units.

Enabled states to improve fiscal conditions

(1) increase in devolution - 41% suggested (although less than 42% of 14th FC, but J&K was demoted to UT. Thus, increased devolution)

(2) Performance based grant of funds (5) Power sector reforms, UJJWALA schem etc

(3) Demographic & ecological performance - recognized - gave weightage of 12.5% & 10%.

(4) Disaster Mitigation Fund - (NDMF) - to augment NDRF + SDRFund

(5) other grants - deficit grants etc

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

Challenges – criticism by states

(1) Lack of consultations with states grievances

(2) No further increase – states envisaged atleast 45%.

(3) Most of the funds are tied – meaning with some conditions

(4) Still considers 2011 census – Southern states are unhappy as they performed better in demography control

(5) FRBM restriction to states – overall debt can be max 20% (while centre can have 40%)

(6) Art. 293 restrictions to borrowing from outside (FC recommended continuation)

(7) Extra budgetary borrowing + cess & surcharge have flaws in Fiscal Federalism

Thus further financial powers are needed to realize the principle of subsidiary.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

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Please put tick marks in the above table.
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TOTAL MARKS	

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

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)

Industry & Business groups are societal bodies that are representative of business motives of a group/industry.

(e.g.) FICCI, ASSOCHAM etc.

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contribution to socio economic development

(1) Demand based - they have business centric mindset & put forward their opinions to govt. (eg) APEDA, MPEDA

(2) Advocate for market reforms - Thus, reducing govt control of industries. → A better level playing field & EODB (e.g.) KVIC - for khadi promotion

(3) Research & Analysis of industries, help smaller players (e.g.) FICCI study

(4) Deal and put forward demands to Budget department - pre budget meeting with industries Inc. (e.g.) ASSOCHAM

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

(5) Agenda for development - as it will increase consumerism & subsequent development.

(6) CSR initiatives

challenges

(1) Driven by profit motive - not social justice

(2) Technology advocacy - could lead to displacement of labour

(3) At times, give less regard to society (people) & environment (planet)

(4) Narrow interests of specific industries interest (5) FICCI - export

(5) Lobby groups to influence political decisions - "Backdoor democracy".

(6) At times at loggerheads with labour Unions.

Thus, reforms needed to promote ideals of social justice by better regulation of this governance

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
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TOTAL MARKS	

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

Q.7) "India's poverty lies in the eyes of the beholder." In light of this statement, examine the need for a credible and periodically updated poverty estimation framework in the country.

(10 marks, 150 words)

"भारत की निर्धनता देखने वाले की आँखों में है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, देश में एक विश्वसनीय और समय-समय पर अद्यतन किए जाने वाले निर्धनता आकलन ढाँचे की आवश्यकता का परीक्षण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India's poverty estimation has changed stances from Alagh, Lakdawala, Tendulkar to Rangarajan.

Poverty lies in the eyes of beholder] - Need for updation

(1) changing criteria

(a) Alagh - calories { 2400 kcal (Rural) / 2100 kcal (Urban)

(b) Lakdawala - income

(2) Relative poverty - deprivation is relative, difficult to identify needs & wants.

(3) Regional differences in price based poverty as the minimum wage etc are different

(4) Doesn't consider - Intensity of poverty only incidence

(5) Not updated metrics - difficult to judge based on changing inflation

(Don't Write anythi
in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

credible & periodically updated framework

(1) Inflation-indexed estimation - to correctly identify poverty

(2) Regional variation - to avoid one size fits all approach

(3) New metrics - (15) MDPI - UNDP brought (10) metrics - India's MDPI - adds (2) more
- bank accounts & malnutrition/anaemia

(4) understanding poverty from poor's point of view
- subaltern studies. - WB - fixed poverty rate worldwide

(5) using PPP to better compare different countries (Purchasing Power Parity).

(6) Women weightage to be enhanced - to bring equity principle & prevent feminization of poverty

Thus, reforms help overcome the changing parameter challenge

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			

(Don't Write anythi
in this Area /इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

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)

FORUMIAS

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in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

ForumIAS

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	

Q.9) 'Starved of funds, shackled by geopolitics, WHO is facing a crisis of capacity and credibility.' Discuss the statement in the light of USA's withdrawal and its accusation of the health body of being 'biased towards China and mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic'. (10 marks, 150 words)

'धन की कमी से जूझ रहा और भूराजनीति से घिरा विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन क्षमता और विश्वसनीयता के संकट का सामना कर रहा है।' अमेरिका के WHO से पीछे हटने और स्वास्थ्य संस्था पर 'चीन के प्रति पक्षपाती होने और कोविड-19 महामारी से ठीक से न निपटने' के आरोप के आलोक में इस कथन पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

FORUM IAS

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in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

ForumIAS

Feedback

[For OFFICE use only]

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P & R			

Please put tick marks in the above table.

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TOTAL MARKS	

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

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

FORUMIAS

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in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

ForumIAS

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.11) Briefly explain the procedure laid down in the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 for the registration of political parties with the Election Commission of India (ECI). What are Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)? What concerns are associated with them? Does the ECI have powers to de-register a political party? (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत के निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) में राजनीतिक दलों के पंजीकरण के लिए जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम (RPA), 1951 में निर्धारित प्रक्रिया का संक्षेप में वर्णन कीजिए। पंजीकृत गैर-मान्यता प्राप्त राजनीतिक दल (RUPP) क्या हैं? इनसे क्या चिंताएँ जुड़ी हैं? क्या निर्वाचन आयोग के पास किसी राजनीतिक दल का पंजीकरण रद्द करने का अधिकार है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

RPA '1951 provides the right to register political parties to ECI. However, there is no right to register a political party.

Procedure to register party

(1) Right to form political party is protected by Art 19 – right to form associations.

(2) The party members come together and propose the name to ECI

(3) The name has to be decent, without hurting sentiments and dignity, shouldn't be derogatory.

(4) If ECI is satisfied, it approves the name

(5) ECI ~~not~~ allows parties to choose a symbol for the party. It shouldn't resemble any existing party symbol

(6) Either party can provide their own & can select

from the list of symbols available with ECI

Registered Unrecognized Political Party (RUPP)

(1) Parties are registered with ECI

(2) But, are neither national nor state parties

(3) They fall under unrecognized party

(4) Provisions-

- (20) star campaigners allowed
  (40 for recognized parties)
- (10) proposers for nomination of candidate
  (1 for recognized)
- If there is death of candidate from RUPP, EC may not declare election void or call for recelection (but, it does for recognized party)
- Recognized parties get dedicated air time on AIR & DD & other state funded communications (RUPP dont get)

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

Concerns for RLPP

(1) Lack of funding to these parties – thus, cant campaign with full potential

(2) usually driven by local concerns – hence cant attract other regional votes

(3) Dont have a set agenda – are flexible to the needs of the hour

(4) At times, run by one leader without much internal democracy.

(5) organizational structure is weak and

(6) Prioritize narrow outcomes – without much consolidation of ideological stands

Thus, a further fillip by ICT based advertisement can give a new hope for RLPPs and help them play key role in electoral politics

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	

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

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

NITI Aayog was formed on 01 Jan 2015, as a non-statutory, non-constitutional body replacing the ~~Planning~~ commission (PC) - planning.

Role of NITI Aayog

(1) Cooperative Federalism

(a) Programmes that bring all states together in planning

(i) Great Nicobar project - PPR

(b) Governing council - headed by PM - constitutes all state CMs, Lt-Govs etc & deliberate on future planning

(i) 3 year - operational plan
7 year - vision plan
15 year - strategic plan

(c) Regional council - Ad hoc bodies to deal with ~~local~~ issues & disputes between states

(2) competitive federalism :

(a) Ranking based competition

(i) — SECI - secondary edu

(ii) ~~CEP~~ SDGR - climate change & sust. dev. report.

(b) Performance based incentives

(i) Aspirational district programme (ADP) & BDP (Block).

Challenges

(1) No authoritative powers like FC — to sanction statutory & discretionary grants

(2) only deliberative body — can recommend. No power to enforce the advices

(3) the appointment to VC & CEO of NITI is political — against the merit based appointment

(4) the hyper-realistic plans — which are difficult to achieve (i) $10T economy by 2030

Inputs pressure on departments

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

(5) Do not have a set format of working with SOPs and guidelines

(6) Unable to resolve the interstate disputes
- water disputes (e.g.) Cauvery, Meidi
- boundary disputes (e.g.) Assam-Meghalaya, Belgaum

(7) centre-state trade still continues over
- Governor's discretionary power
  (e.g.) A201 - reserve bill for President

(8) Also, unable to bring fiscal federalism reforms
- cess & surcharge
- GST compensation
- off budget borrowing

} cause of concern for federalism

Solns/Reforms
- more powerful - reports if not addressed must be explained
- make it constitutional/statutory
- power of civil court - to summon & demand data

Use of tech like AI, IOT, IR4.0 can bring reforms to planning by NITI

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

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Please put tick marks in the above table.
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TOTAL MARKS	

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

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

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 93 gives for Deputy speaker to Loksabha with key role during vacancy, death or absence of speaker.

ceremonial significance

(1) During speaker present, Dy. speaker is just like any other MP.

(2) can take up role of speaker – exceptional circumstance as mentioned above

(3) Beyond ceremonial – indispensible to parliamentary Democracy.

↳ implication of vacancy

(1) speaker's absence is more often – due to ill health etc

(2) As speaker, has the same powers as speaker has

(3) Emoluments, salary & pension – drawn from consolidated Fund of India – ie –

(Don't Write anythi
in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

it can't be vacated post appointment & not subject to parliamentary vote.

(4) Can't vote for his own removal

(5) speaker resigns by giving resignation letter to Dy. speaker.

(6) Panel of speakers in LS - list of 10 members who can act as speaker during both Speaker & Deputy's absence - currently functional

↳ But, can't be a long term solution as it requires continuity

(7) By convention, an opposition ~~leader~~ MP is chosen as Dy. speaker. Thus, key role across party lines. - uphold democratic values of all parties

(8) Ensure fair conduct of mps and pass the bill. and also endorse a money bill (as the speaker).

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

Thus, a prolonged vacancy will hurt the parliamentary principles & democracy.

Solution / Way Forward

(1) Election of Py. speaker – at the earliest

(2) Allow opposition to play constructive role

(3) Enhance the quality of debates in Parliament

(4) Help send laws & bills to parliamentary committees more often (17th LS – only 12% bills referred – PRS study)

(5) more effective deliberation over – Question Hour, Zero hour, No confidence motion etc

Thus, Py speaker is not subordinate to speaker but has a key role to play in his absence.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

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

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

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

With online content being aired unrestricted, there is need to regulate the content but at times, there are crises of curbing fradom of speech.

Need to restrict content

(1) uphold the constitutional morality :-

(a) Dignity of a woman - SC in Sabarimala case - said woman cant indignified.

(2) societal values & morals - need to be respected as part of culture.

(a) elderly care, etc

(3) ~~Uphold the principles of freedom w/o~~ -

(3) Reasonable restrictions to freedom of speech

(a) Defamation - section 499, 500 of IPC

(b) Contempt of Parl./ Court.

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

(4) Regeneration of youth — a study by vidhi centre showed vulgar content leading to increase in sexual harassment.

(5) Incitement to violence & Fundamental elements
- (e.g.) Muzaffarnagar; Delhi riots 2020 riots

Threat to Freedom

(1) Already laws exist to restrict freedom.
- (e.g.) IT Rules,

(2) the content is globally watched & consumed, thus difficult to regulate

(3) Difficult to define what is 'decent' 'vulgar', 'blasphemous' etc

(4) Anuradha Bhasin case — SC explicitly called for freedom of speech via internet is significant to realize true freedom

(5) Targeting of critical influencers/youtubers
- (e.g.) creators of opposition party.

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

(6) selective banning of content – against level playing field.

(5) India's got Latent row

(7) In Shreya Singhal case – SC declared section 66A of IT Act void for restricting freedom

Way Ahead

(1) Platform based guidelines of conduct

(5) Netflix, Amazon prime – self regulation

(2) IT Rule (Intermediary) 2021 – to regulate content, originator of fake news.

(3) Age based content display.

(4) Parental control of online content

(5) Behavioral reforms – from the society itself role of NGO, CSO etc

There is need to apply proportionality principle before banning to balance freedom & societal needs

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

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Please put tick marks in the above table.
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TOTAL MARKS	

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)

SC has an inhouse procedure to deal with complaints against judges to uphold the independence of judiciary.

In house procedure

1997 - guidelines by SC - have devised the procedure

(1) A complaint is made to CJI about SC(judge) or HC(CJ)

(2) A complaint about other judges of HC are made to HC CJ

(3) once CJI or CJ(HC) are convinced that the complaint has merit, it will ask the said judge to respond.
[natural justice - audi alteram partem - right to be heard]

(4) If the judge's response is not convincing the CJI may form a committee of judges

(5) CJI will decide the judges to lead/ part of committee (master of the roster)

(4) ex- CJI Gogoi - appointed himself as chair of committee against sexual harassment case

(6) Based on the recommendation of committee, the CJI will recommend impeachment of judge to Parliament., (ex) in justice Verma case

(7) In parliament, judge is trialled & impeached if found guilty.

Critical examination

(1) Against the checks & balance principle
↳ No role of executive/ legislature (in the initial stage)

(2) concentration of power in Chief justice. (master of the roster)

(3) Nominating self (ex) ex CJI Gogoi - against principle of "can't be judge in own case" self-incrimination.

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

(4) so far, no judge has been found guilty despite allegations (Thus, shows rigidity of the process)

(5) such cases, erode the trust of judiciary as protector of freedom & guarantor of fundamental rights.

Solutions

(1) Allowing other 2 pillars to have a role

(2) Transparent & open house proceedings

(3) More proactive role rather than reactive

(4) SOPs and guidelines of conduct be clearly delineated

(5) Reform Judges (enquiry) Act 1968 to allow more robust mechanism.

Judiciary is bulwark of democracy & hence its independent functioning is paramount but reforms are always welcome

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.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)

Electoral democracy is key to uphold the principles of participatory governance. Hence, free & fair elections are sine qua non.

Need of linking Aadhar & Voter ID

(1) To remove any fraud voters. or D voters (doubtful)
   (a) Allegations of Bangladeshi nationals getting voter ID in Assam

(2) Curb the fear of demographic change
   (a) Tripura – changes in demography post 1971 B'desh liberation war.

(3) Make democracy – free & fair –
   (a) only authentic votes be counted

(4) Reduce the role of communal politics

(5) Bring electoral reforms - can provide service voters, proxy voting, NRI voting etc.

Challenges of linking

(1) SC in Aadhar judgment - said Aadhar is not mandatory beyond social services

(2) Aadhar is not universal still - too many individuals still without it

(3) some regions have Aadhar card given in excess of population

(4) Alleged cases of Aadhar in the names of film personalities.

(5) Voter ID revision can resolve the problem

(6) Herculian task of linking Aadhar - any exclusion would disenfranchise a section out of electoral democracy

(7) Issues of database management - privacy & data security

(Don't Write anythi
in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

Way Ahead

(1) Systemic Intensive Review (SIR) of voters
   (a) Bihar - under process

(2) Authentication of voters - by digitally recognizing their credentials

(3) Use of AI, Big data analytics - to bring scalability

(4) DPDP Act - to protect personal data - any violation to be punished accordingly

(5) Empower the citizens to self verify over open platforms

(6) Using robust IT mechanisms to prevent data breaches as it would lead to profiling of voters, hybrid warfare etc

Thus without linking of Aadhar, there are other means to achieve the same objectives

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

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TOTAL MARKS	

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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)

Lateral entry is recruitment of civil servants beyond the traditional rank of UPSC exams, to post at senior levels that require expertise.

A reformative step

(1) Bring in fresh talent (ex successful entrepreneurs et, CEO etc

(2) Infuse the spirit of market dynamics - are more efficient and driven by outcomes

(3) Infuse competition among existent civil servants to perform better

(4) Reduce the lobby & rigid culture of status quo among civil servants

(5) A level playing field where merit is recognized over Weberian seniority.

(Don't Write anythi
in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

(6) Expertise to sectors & departments
   (a) Biotech depart. – requires experts in the Nanotech depart. / field.
   (b) DNA bill

(7) Novel ideas & innovation to steel frame

criticisms & controversy

(1) Do not have the values of civil service ingrained over years of on the job training

(2) Driven by profit motive over social justice principle, which is preamble value

(3) May be unattractive with low salary compared to corporate big cheque

(4) Tough to retain talent – they always have an incentive to resign & join back old employment

(5) possibility of conflict of interest – as the governed become the governing
   ↳ Quid Pro Quo potential.

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

(6) May affect the morale of current lot of civil servants

(7) Policy making & administration is more generalist job over specialist

(8) Experts can always be hired on contractual basis

Thus, lateral entry requires solutions that balance.

(1) A few posts can be recruited on pilot basis

(2) Need to change the rigidity of civil servants

(3) Training reforms of civil servants to be more competent ⓨ iGOT platform — mission karmayogi

(4) value based training & knowledge dissemination

(5) Public consultations for law & policymaking

ⓢ Jan Sunvai's

Thus, a civil services reform can bring the much needed change.

Feedback
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Q.18) While rankings aim to benchmark the performance of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), concerns remain about whether current ranking frameworks reflect the broader goals of education. Suggest measures to make the ranking system more objective, inclusive, and aligned with educational and societal outcomes. (15 marks, 250 words)

हालाँकि रैंकिंग का उद्देश्य उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों (HEI) के प्रदर्शन का मूल्यांकन करना है, फिर भी इस बात को लेकर चिंता बनी हुई है कि क्या वर्तमान रैंकिंग ढाँचे शिक्षा के व्यापक लक्ष्यों को प्रतिबिंबित करते हैं। रैंकिंग प्रणाली को अधिक वस्तुनिष्ठ, समावेशी और शैक्षिक एवं सामाजिक परिणामों के अनुरूप बनाने के उपाय सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Rankings allow the institutions to be judged based on set criteria, helping students choose the desired college/HEI and the stream.

Benchmark the performance

(1) set criteria & indicators – (eg) Teacher pupil ratio, R&D outcomes, industry–Academia linkage (eg) QS World ranking of colleges

(2) Allow competition among colleges to perform and achieve higher rank
(e) Reforms in IITB, IITD, IITM by competition

(3) Bring the best talent to the shores from foreign countries (e) African students in India

(4) Accrediation based performance ranking - thus, instill trust among admission seekers
   (a) NAAC based ranking

(5) Diverse methodology. - to include interviews, surveys, opinions, multiple levels of questionaire etc

Concerns remain

(1) criteria is subjective in nature - varries from one from to another

(2) organizational bias towards certain institutions due to reputation
   (a) Harvard vs Cambridge

(3) Based on survey - which are samples representing the whole. Thus, bend to be misleading at times

(4) methodology & framework used are not disclosed (b) interviews, Debates, Hermeneutics

(Don't Write anythi in this Area / इस स्थ पर कुछ न लिखें)

(5) Rising up drastically becomes difficult due to changing criteria.

(a) Times Higher Edu ranking (THE) recently changed its methodology.

(b) sometimes politically motivated criteria are added (c) DEI based indicators for universities.

suggestions to reform

(1) more inclusive & robust methodology

(2) Identify actual & reality based assessment - on ground

(3) Expand to better surveys (a) Randomised control Trials - Abhijeet Banerjee & Esther Duflo.

(4) student satisfaction - be given higher weightage

(5) A regulatory body to assess the ranking institutions (a) similar to credit rating agencies assessments

Thus, ranking reforms can help make better & quality decisions by students

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.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)

FORUMIAS

ForumIAS

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Feedback

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Q.20) Bangladesh is a key pillar of India's Neighborhood First policy, but recent developments on both sides threaten to disrupt the '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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Mentor Feedback Questions

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3 .....

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5 .....

Test Goal	Outcomes
1 ..... ☐	.....
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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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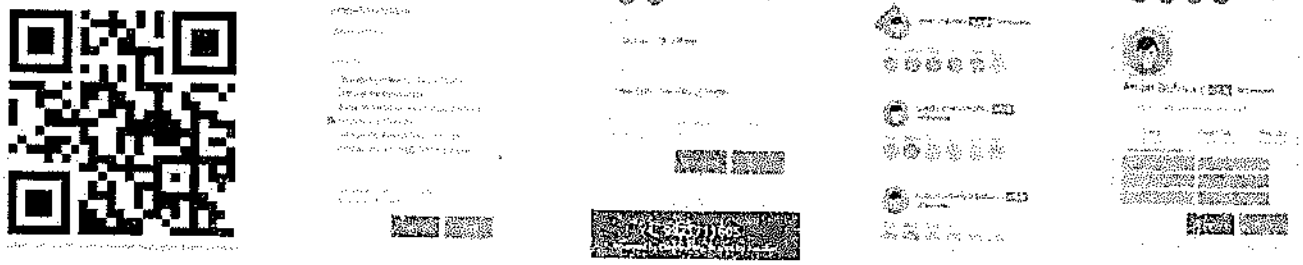

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If we are already doing well, a reinforcement from the Mentor will further assist us in following the right path. A Mentor may also be able to give valuable inputs with respect to time management, presentation, structure etc. He may recommend you clearly to work on content or may suggest you to take courses / read books in case he feels you lack content that may be quickly improved with a course at ForumIAS or elsewhere, or some study material.

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