

UPSC

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in the space
between the
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उम्मीदवारों को
इस दस्तावेज़ में
कोई लिखना
नाहीं।
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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Sanskriti Singh

Test Code : 812414

Roll no. 1910093289

Date : 28-07-2025

ForumIAS



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

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

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

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

Q.2) The evolution of property rights in India reflects an intricate relationship that exists between individual rights and public welfare. Discuss this statement with the help of relevant constitutional provisions and case laws. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत में संपत्ति अधिकारों का विकास व्यक्तिगत अधिकारों और लोक कल्याण के बीच एक जटिल संबंध को दर्शाता है। प्रासंगिक संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और निर्णय-विधियों (केस लॉ) की सहायता से इस कथन पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.3) Under what conditions can the 'National' Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What are the consequences when such a proclamation remains in force? When was it last imposed in the country? (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत के राष्ट्रपति किन परिस्थितियों में 'राष्ट्रीय' आपातकाल की घोषणा कर सकते हैं? ऐसी घोषणा के प्रभावी रहने पर इसके क्या परिणाम होंगे? देश में यह आखिरी बार कब लगाया गया था? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

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

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

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

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

Q.6) In what ways do industry and business associations contribute to socio-economic development in the country? Explain with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

उद्योग और व्यावसायिक संघ देश के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में किस प्रकार योगदान देते हैं? उपयुक्त उदाहरणों सहित समझाइए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

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

(10 marks, 150 words)

“भारत की निर्धनता देखने वाले की आँखों में है।” इस कथन के आलोक में, देश में एक विश्वसनीय और समय-समय पर अद्यतन किए जाने वाले निर्धनता आकलन ढाँचे की आवश्यकता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Q.8) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 falls short of achieving its intended objectives. Comment.

(10 marks, 150 words)

यौन अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण (POCSO) अधिनियम, 2012 अपने इच्छित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में विफल रहा है। टिप्पणी करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

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

(10 marks, 150 words)

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

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

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

(10 marks, 150 words)

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

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

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

Q.12) Assess the role of NITI Aayog over the past decade in promoting cooperative and competitive federalism.

(15 marks, 250 words)

सहकारी और प्रतिस्पर्धी संघवाद को बढ़ावा देने में पिछले दशक में नीति आयोग की भूमिका का आकलन करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

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

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

क्या ऑनलाइन सामग्री के सख्त नियमन की बढ़ती माँग उचित है, या यह अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार के लिए खतरा है? हाल के न्यायिक निर्णयों के आलोक में इसका परीक्षण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.15) Critically examine the 'in-house procedure' adopted by the Apex Court to inquire into allegations of misconduct against judges of constitutional courts in India.

(15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में संवैधानिक न्यायालयों के न्यायाधीशों के विरुद्ध कदाचार के आरोपों की जांच के लिए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा अपनाई गई 'आंतरिक प्रक्रिया' का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.16) Recent controversies over alleged malpractices in the electoral rolls have renewed demands for the mandatory linkage of Aadhaar with Voter ID. What is your opinion? Give reasons in support of your answer.

(15 marks, 250 words)

मतदाता सूची में कथित गड़बड़ियों को लेकर हाल ही में उठे विवादों ने आधार को मतदाता पहचान पत्र से अनिवार्य रूप से जोड़ने की माँग को फिर से बल दिया है। आपकी क्या राय है? अपने उत्तर के समर्थन में कारण बताएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Q.17) Lateral entry into civil services is seen as a reformative step, yet it continues to attract criticism and controversy. Discuss.

(15 marks, 250 words)

सिविल सेवाओं में पार्श्व प्रवेश (लेटरल एंट्री) को एक सुधारात्मक कदम के रूप में देखा जाता है, फिर भी यह आलोचना और विवाद को आकर्षित करता रहता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

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

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय राजनीति में आर्कटिक क्षेत्र की बढ़ती प्रमुखता के पीछे के कारकों का परीक्षण कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, आर्कटिक में भारत की भागीदारी को पुनः संतुलित करने की रणनीतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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

(15 marks, 250 words)

बांग्लादेश भारत की "पड़ोसी प्रथम" नीति का एक प्रमुख स्तंभ है, लेकिन दोनों पक्षों के हालिया घटनाक्रमों से द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में 'सोनाली अध्याय' के टूटने का खतरा है। विश्लेषण करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space) कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या को अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

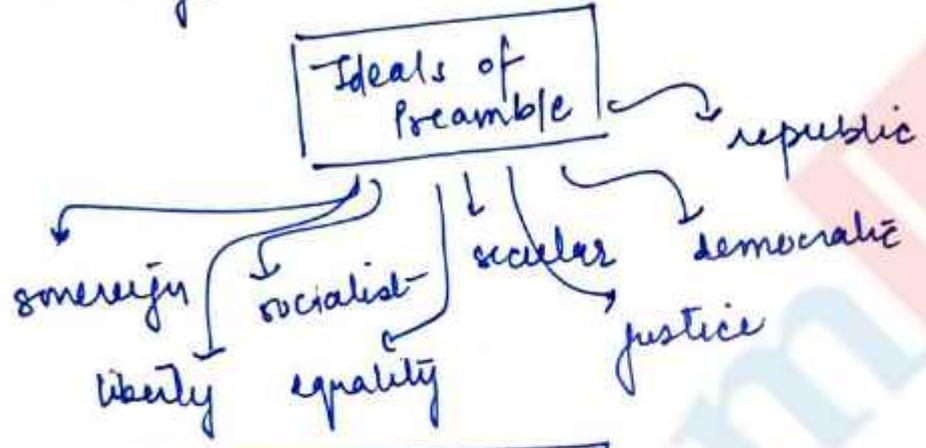
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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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उम्मीदवारों को इस स्थिति में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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① Roots of preamble can be traced back to Objectives Resolution introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru on December 9, 1946 in the constituent assembly.



Ideals have been realised

① India has been able to maintain sovereignty & strategic autonomy

eg Op. Sindoor
stand on Russia - Ukraine war

② Socialist ideals have been realised through programs like NFSA Act, 2013, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

③ Secularity is seen in evidence of diverse religions : 79.8% Hindus, 14.2% Muslims, 2.3% Christians & other faiths



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कृपया हस्तलिखित में केवल उत्तर लिखें। उम्मीदवारों को लिखने के लिए इस स्थान का उपयोग करना चाहिए।

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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④ India is the world's largest democracy
- regular elections
- huge voter turnout
- acceptance of results by public.

⑤ Republic: President as a ceremonial head & has special respect.

⑥ liberty & Justice - proactive role of judiciary (eg) Ranjit Singh vs UOI case
- recognising protection against adverse effects of climate change as fundamental right.

⑦ equality is being furthered by schemes like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, NAMASTE, etc.

limitations

- growing inequality - top 1% own 40%+ wealth
- Crimes against women
- Import Dependency - 90% oil.

Continuous efforts are required to achieve these ideals, as Palkiwala says Preamble is the identity card of our constitution.



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उपसंहार में
नहीं लिखना
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कृपया इस स्थान
में केवल प्रश्न संख्या
लिखें।

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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4) India is the world's largest democracy

- regular elections.
- huge voter turnout.
- acceptance of results by public.

5) Republic: President as a ceremonial head & has special respect.

6) Liberty & Justice - proactive role of Judiciary (eg) Ranjit Singh vs UOI case
- recognising protection against adverse effects of climate change as fundamental right.

7) equality is being furthered by schemes like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, NAMASTE, etc.

limitations

→ growing inequality - top 1% own 40% + wealth

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Continuous efforts are required to achieve these ideals, as Palkhivala says Preamble is the identity card of our constitution.

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या ही लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस स्थान में कोई लिखावट नहीं करनी।
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2

Our constitution provided Right to Property as a fundamental right under Article 31, later it was changed into a legal right under Article 300 A.

Constitutional provisions reflecting indicate relationship between individual rights and public welfare

① earlier Article 31 providing right to property as a fundamental right. - removed by 44th amendment of 1978.

② Article 300A. Property can't be taken away from any individual except by procedure established by law.

③ Article 39 (DPSP)
- stated to prevent concentration of wealth
- material resources to be used for public good.



case laws reflecting the intricate relationship

① Minerva Mills case

Supreme court established a balance between FRs and DPSPs.

↳ Article 31(C) takes precedence over Article 14 and Article 19.

② Property Owners Association vs State of Maharashtra, 2024

↳ SC stated that all private resources are not community resources.

↳ If state want to take, fair compensation must be provided.

A healthy balance between public good & individual freedom is necessary to maintain constitutional ideals.



Please do not write anything beyond the question number in the space given for answer of your answer is self-evident only.

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उत्तरदाता को इस स्थिति में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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3

Under Article 352 of the Indian constitution, President can proclaim the 'National emergency'.

Conditions

① External disturbance when the security and sovereignty of the country is under threat.

② Armed rebellion.

the word 'internal disturbance' was removed from the constitution by [44th] Constitutional Amendment of 1978.

Consequences of such a proclamation

① Parliament acquires the power to make laws on [state subjects].

② Term of Lok Sabha could be extended by [1 year at a time].

③ Article 19 is automatically suspended in case of 'external disturbance'.

- it's not suspended in case of armed rebellion. (Article 358)

④ All other Fundamental Rights, except Article 20 and Article 21, are not automatically suspended but right to go to court for their enforcement is suspended. (Article 359)

⑤ The proclamation needs parliamentary approval in 6 weeks from its 1st sitting., and subsequent approvals in 6 months.

last-time National Emergency was imposed

1975 - 1977 → by Indira Gandhi government due to "internal disturbance" removed by 44th amendment &

2025 marks 50th year of this emergency, and it should be a reminder for government & people of India to follow constitutional ideals.

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4) In India, legislations are formed by union & state legislatures without any citizen engagement & consultations.

Limits citizen engagement in lawmaking

① Against participatory democracy.

- legislations are primarily based on the ideologies & programs of ruling party.
- private member bills are also declining.

② Ignorance of voice of minorities.

- the dominant factions & groups dictate the legislative process.

③ Lack of constructive criticism.

- opposition in legislatures are keen on fulfilling their political motives.

4) No expert consultations & inputs.

most of the legislation lack expertise in many areas.

⑤ Declines public trust in administration



Measures to strengthen the role of public consultation)

① Platform for public feedbacks on bills - leveraging technology for it. My Gov.

② Taking experts feedback and inputs - empowering Parliamentary committees to consult eminent people.

③ Making provisions for public to initiate legislative ideas.

Switzerland.

④ empowering local bodies with funds, functions & functionaries to take initial steps.

True democracy is one which has voice for everyone. As democracy is for the people, by the people and from the people.

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(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस प्रश्न में कोई लिखना नहीं। Candidates must not write on this margin.

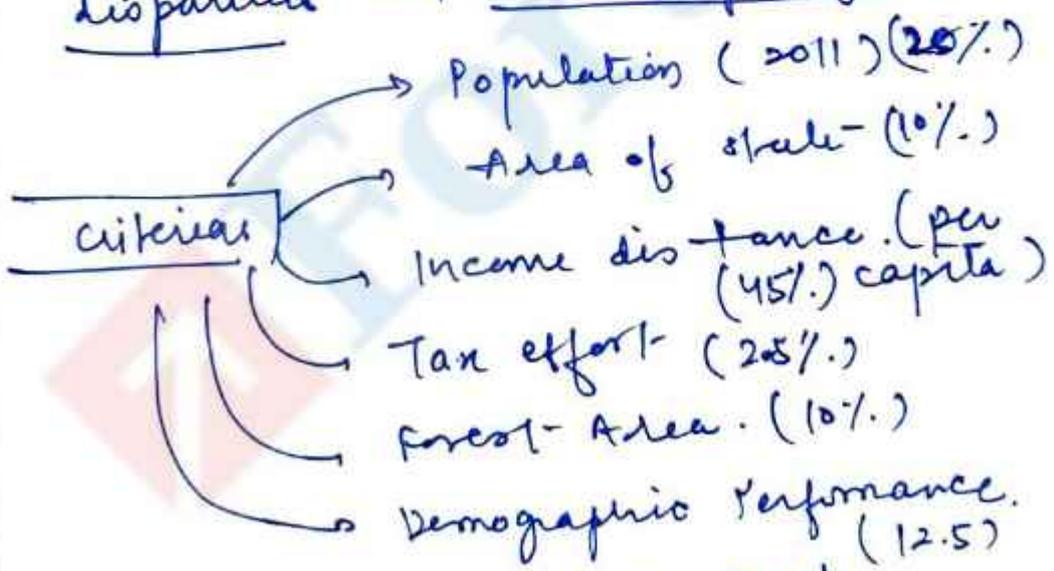
5) 15th Finance commission was formed under Article 280 of Indian constitution under the chairmanship of N.K. Singh

Recommendations have enabled the states to improve fiscal conditions

1) Vertical devolution of 41% from divisible pool of centre.

complements states own tax revenues.

2) Horizontal devolution makes a balance between recognising disparities and celebrating efforts.



3) Increased grants to local bodies as compared to 14th FC (38% from states grants)



UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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कहीं लिखना
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- ⑥ Increased borrowing for states
(0.5% of GDSP) if power reforms are
undertaken
- ⑦ special funds for disaster manage-
ment & capacity development.

Limitations/Drawbacks

- ① Increased use of 'cess' & 'surcharge'
by centre → not shareable with states
- ② Delays in devolution of funds.
- ③ limited devolution of funds to local
bodies by states.
- ④ Politically motivated discretionary
grants under Article 282.

Way forward → increasing own tax revenue
of local bodies

→ Making FC permanent.

we must move inwards decentralised
governance & empower local bodies.

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386561_812414_191009_289 (2025-07-08 19:04:22)

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस कॉपी में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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The 1991 reforms marked the beginning of increased role of industries & business associations to development of our country.

contributions to social development

- ① Bridging the gap between citizens and government. ~~is~~ CII takes citizen inputs in its agenda formation.
- ② more inclusivity to government policy decisions.
 - eg) lobbying by AITUC \Rightarrow labor reforms
- ③ increased opportunities for women in secondary & tertiary sectors.

contributions to economic development

- ① formulating major policies - critical inputs to government -
 - Δ ASSOCHAM during GST bill.
- ② Bringing expert-opinions on plate -
 - Δ NASSCOM engaging eminent-personalities for feedbacks.



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कुछ भी इस स्थान में लिखना न चाहिए।

561_812414_1910093289 (2025-28 19.5.2025)

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस इतिहास में कुछ लिखना चाहिए।
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- ③ Gross roots economic development.
- encouraging local enterprise.
 - marketing channels.

Limitations

- ① Dominance of few over many
- neglect of minority interests
- ② Concentration in few industries
- lack of organised groups for agriculture marketing
- ③ Delays in policy formulation.

way ahead

- Digitising the process of recruitment & engagement.
- Mandatory women representation in boards \rightarrow Norway - 40% reservation
- Broadening the area of engagement & environment.

These associations are critical to the development process of in achieving NETI @ 75 agenda.

386561 812414 1910093289 (2025-07-28 19:34:22)

The given statement highlights the multi-faceted nature of poverty estimates. Various databases & estimates provide various angles to the issue.

India's poverty lies in the eyes of the beholder.

① Absolute number of poor is decreasing

→ At Independence, around 54% of the population was below poverty line.

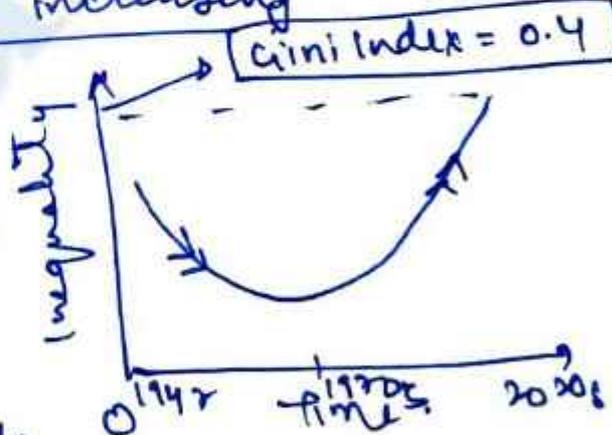
→ 2011 Tendulkar committee estimates

↳ 21% population below poverty line.

② Relative poverty is increasing

According to Oxfam Report, top 10% Indians

hold 77% wealth.



③ Declining rural poverty

but increasing urban poverty.

⇒ 17% (1 out of 6) people in urban area lives in slums.

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UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस इलाके में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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(a) multidimensional poverty
According to NITI Aayog, 15.4% of Indian population is multidimensionally poor.

Need for credible & periodically updated estimation framework

(1) To make data informed policy decisions eg Targeted - PDS as recommend by Shanta Kumar committee.

(2) Avoiding inclusion & exclusion errors in schemes. eg Ladli Behan Yojana.

(3) To reach the last mile ('Antodaya') through limited resources.

(4) Addressing the root cause of problems

(5) To curb corruption, and increase efficiency. eg Bham - PDS.

A strong poverty estimation framework is a must. As Gandhiji said -

'A strength of a nation is measured by how it treats its weakest citizens'



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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस इतिहास में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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8

In a recent judgement by Supreme Court,
carrying / possessing 'child pornography'
clips or videos has been criminalised.

Intended objectives of POCSO Act 2012

- ① Reducing sexual harassment against-
children (upto age 18)
- ② Maintaining healthy environment in
Schools & homes
- ③ Mental & emotional development of
children.

fall short of its objectives

- ① Law implementation
- not strictly implemented by law
authorities.
- ② low rate of convictions
- due to lack of evidence.
- ③ Inability of children to report
& understand the actual circumstances
- ④ No "nudge" effect - penalises but
no behavioral change provisions.



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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis
(Specimen Answer Bracket - For Practice Purpose Only)

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Bracket - For Practice
Purpose Only)

(9)

WHO was formed in 1945 as a global health body, and withdrawal of USA weakens its position as an international body.

crisis of capacity & credibility

① lack of funding limits the ability to undertake major programmes.

↳ US was its biggest funder.

② more countries contemplating the withdrawal ↳ Argentina

③ Beasness towards china creates backlash from other developing countries ↳ India

④ lack of trained & professional expertise

Other lining

① Bringing attention towards Neglected Tropical Diseases.

② collaborating with NGOs & other

organisations → GAYI alliance.

③ leveraging technology for inclusivity
in health sector → S.A.R.A.H

way forward

① Diversify funding sources

— increase multilateral borrowing
& reducing dependence on bilateral
donations.

② Inclusive board representation
& leadership - regular rotations.

③ Engaging with governments for
localised interventions.

As highlighted in UNDHR, being
healthy is a fundamental human
right, and WHO is its flagholder.

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

② Makes a 'dialogue' between regional blocks must affected △ Middle East

③ Worldwide mechanism to block access - to funding, arms, money.



major groups (terrorist)

④ engaging various stakeholders

- △ cyber companies,
financial institutions.

⑤ empowering FATF & Interpol

⑥ Intelligence sharing among countries

⑦ Recognising best-practices

India's abeyance of Indus Water Treaty of 1960 after Pahalgam attack displays how strategic moves can help curb terrorism.



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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस अंश में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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①

Representation of the People Act, 1951 is known as the electoral code book of India.

Procedure for registration of a party with Election Commission of India

① Deciding a name & a symbol (which is available).

→ National & state parties have a common symbol across country.

→ Small parties select from a list of party available symbols.

② submitting other necessary documents

③ developing their constitution

Registered Unrecognised Political Parties

Parties which are neither state parties nor national parties.

The criteria for recognising state & national parties is listed in the act.



→ and is revised periodically.

There are currently 6 national parties in India

- BJP, INC, BSP, CPI-M,
NPP, AAP.

concerns associated with registered
unrecognised parties.

- (a) Lack of funds for day to day working and campaigns.
- (b) No 'star campaigners' - increased expenses on elections.
- (c) No 'digital time' allotted for campaigning.
- (d) large number of seconds needed for candidates.
- (e) overshadowed by big and dominant parties.

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

⊕ Lack of participation in elections

Power of ECI to deregister a political party

ECI can't deregister a political party

Reasons → Independent constitutional authority.
→ Expected to maintain impartiality.

ECI is the electoral watchdog of our democracy, and RPA, 1951 provides ECI its teeth.



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this box) कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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उम्मीदवारों को इस इलाक़े में कुछ लिखना चाहिए। Candidates must not write on this margin.

12

NITI Aayog was formed on January 1, 2015, replacing erstwhile Planning Commission.

Promoting cooperative federalism

- ① Representation of states - their voices are also taken into consideration
- ② 'Facilitator' rather than a 'regulator' like Planning Commission.
- ③ Recognition of State level best practices & empowering other States to incorporate these.
- ④ Research & reports on improving governance Δ recommendations to rationalise CSSs.
- ⑤ Collaborative innovation
 Δ Atal Innovation Missions

Promoting competitive federalism

- ① Releasing various indices to cultivate a competitive spirit.

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UPSC

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

1. SDG India Index.

2. Aspirational Districts Program

112 districts compete to overtake each other in achieving same objectives.

3. Ranking states of cities on cleanliness parameters

4. Swachh Sammelan Awards

Indore - first position for 6th time.

5. Independent - Evaluation office for monitoring & evaluating results.

Limitations / Drawbacks

1. Inter state rivalry
A Maharashtra & Karnataka

2. Regionalism
A Tamil Nadu opposing three language policy.

3. Centre's encroachment into state list A farm law of 2020



UPSC

Do not write anything except the question number in this space.
कृपया इस स्थान में केवल प्रश्न संख्या ही लिखें।

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5561_812414_1910093289 (2025-07-28 19:34:22) Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Words Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

④ Delayed resolutions of funds, and politically motivated use of discretionary grants.

Way forward

- ① Making good use of Inter state Council. - frequent meetings.
- ② A permanent inter state river disputes tribunal. legislature.
- ③ Respecting each other's jurisdiction.
- ④ Judicial activism & proactive efforts to manage disputes.

As PM Modi said,

NITI Aayog is a great step by TEAM India for transforming India.



Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

12

Article 93 of Indian constitution provides for a Deputy speaker in Lok Sabha.

ceremonial significance & indispensable to parliamentary democracy.

① constitutional mandate.

- vacancy since 2014 in Lok Sabha.
- 11 states don't have any deputy speaker.

② Performs duties of speaker when that office is vacant.

- impartiality of the role becomes important.

③ heads many Parliamentary committees.
- head of every committee he/she is a part of.

④ Sign of a mature democracy, as the deputy speaker post goes to opposition, as per convention.

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

(5) Expected to interpret constitutional provisions in the house in absence of speaker.

(6) also heads parliamentary delegations, when speaker is not available.

Implications of prolonged vacancy

(1) against constitutional mandate
- weakening of democracy.

(2) Move towards one party dominance
- as the post is held by opposition member

(3) Disruptions in functioning of legislatures. - when speaker is absent.

(4) undermines public trust in democratic functioning.

(5) Strain on public resources
every minute of parliament costs
₹ 2.3 lakh.



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386561A812414_1910093289 (2023-07-26 19:34:27)
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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⑥ Discourages constructive criticism of government policies.

— questions hour, zero hour become more of a formality.

Deputy Speaker is a core part of legislative functioning, and the post- must be filled as soon as possible.



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UPSC

812414_1910093289_(2025-07-28_19:34:22)

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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14

Indian Parliament enacted Digital Person Data Protection Bill in 2023, but it's yet to be enforced.

Growing demand for stricter regulation of online content |

- ① Privacy concerns
growing use of AI and deepfakes
eg Rashmika Mandhana deepfake
- ② fake News & misinformation
affects electoral outcomes
- ③ communal violence due to online content spread eg Delhi riots 2020.
- ④ children getting exposed to adult-content. eg no or little censor on Instagram.

Demand is justified

- ① Maintaining public morality as held by supreme court in K.A Abbas vs UOI case.



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उम्मीदवारों को इस कॉपी में कुछ भी लिखना नहीं चाहिए। Candidates must not write on this margin.

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis. (Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

- ② Protecting defamation & personality rights - as held in Subramaniam Swamy case
- ③ Privacy as a fundamental right in Article 21. K.S. Puttaswamy case.
- ④ Preventing violence and maintaining spirit of democracy.

strict-regulation not justified

- ① Against Article 19. Section 66 of IT Act 2000 scrapped Article 66 in Sreyas Singhal case 2015
- ② Right to internet under Article 21 → Anuradha Bhaskar case, 2021.
- ③ Difficulty in differentiating between what-to regulate & what-not.
- ④ may curb the rights of minorities.
- ⑤ may go against the right-to propagand / profess one's religion.



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UPSC

admission for officers of all branches will be held on 12th July 2022. Candidates must not write in the margin.

1_812414_1910093289_(20.5.07-21.19:34:22)

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Way ahead

① Parents oversight - mechanisms for children below 16.

↳ Child lock.

② strict regulations to protect privacy.

③ Right to be forgotten

- removing data that is no longer required.

④ Global framework of consultation with big social media giants on regulating content.

↳ meta, X

finally, a balance must be maintained in regulating content, and freedom of speech & expression.

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UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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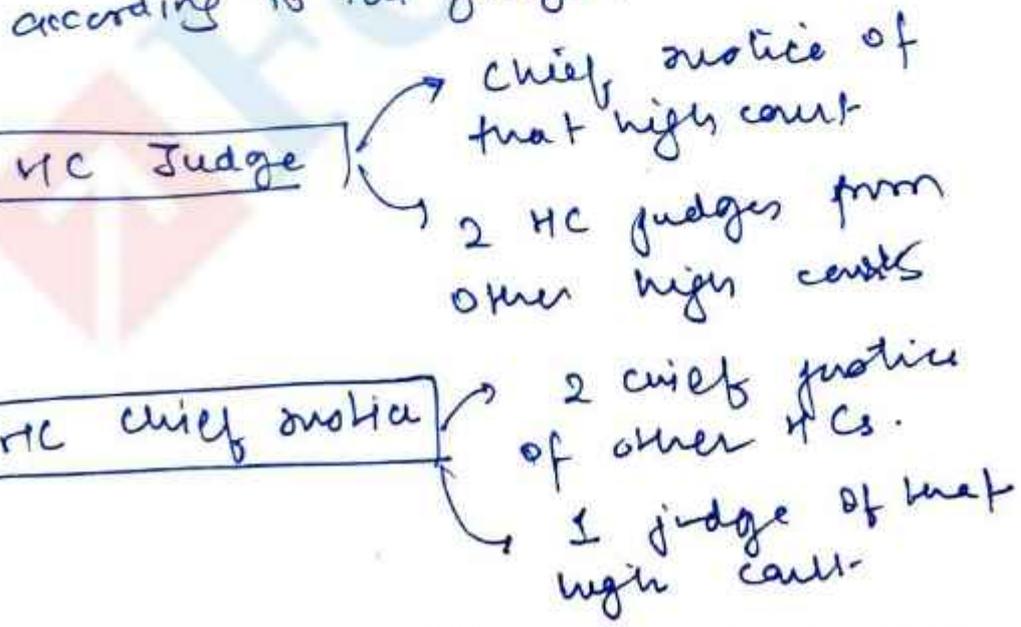
Besides the impeachment process provided in the constitution, an "in-house" procedure to inquire into allegations of misconduct against judges exists.

In house procedure

① The Chief Justice of India, upon receiving a complaint or suo-moto takes into consideration any such event.

② upon inquiry, CJI can form a three-member committee and seeks its report.

The committee's composition differs according to the judge.



SC Judge → 3 SC judges.

③ Upon committee's recommendation, further step is taken

found guilty
↓

judge in question is asked to resign

not guilty
↓

process ends

④ If the judge resigns, the process ends.

⑤ If judge declines to resign, CJI asks the government to continue with the impeachment process.

Positives of this process

① Separation of power

- no need for legislature to interfere except when the judge refuse to resign.

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कृपया प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को इस कॉपी में कुछ भी लिखना नहीं है।
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UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

② Less costly & effective

- the process is quick & gives the person the chance to resign without impeachment.

Negatives of this process

- ① Judges / committee's recommendations may be biased.
- ② constitution mentions of impeachment, so it should be the way ahead.
- ③ Limited expertise of committee to hold someone accountable.

Recently, this procedure was followed for Justice Yashwant Verma, and he has refused to resign, now it's on parliament to decide on its impeachment.



16

Protesters are being seen in Bihar, over alleged malpractices in electoral rolls where over a crore of entries in rolls are frivolous.

Arguments in favor of Aadhaar linkage with voter ID

- ① easier identification of voters
 - universal ID.
 - biometric verification.
- ② streamlining of process
 - avoiding duplication
 - less inclusion & exclusion errors
- ③ creation of comprehensive database
 - could be used for targeting under diff. schemes.
- ④ curb malpractices
 - strengthen democratic mandate
- ⑤ enhancing electoral integrity
 - which foundation of our democracy

Arguments against linking

- ① Problems with Aadhar seeding itself.
- ② Privacy concerns \rightarrow Aadhar data leaked on Telegram.
- ③ Aadhar duplication cases
- can over-exaggerate problems.
- ④ Aadhar is not a proof of citizenship - as held by supreme court, and a voter must be a citizen.
- ⑤ wrong data in Aadhar cards
 \rightarrow date of births.
- ⑥ difficulty in taking into account the deaths in a particular place.

Firstly, the process of Aadhar should be made error proof, and then only its linkage with voter ID would be feasible.

Immediate steps could be

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UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उपरोक्त का
एक अंश में
लिखें।
उम्मीदवार
कैंडिडेट्स
नहीं लिखें।
Candidates
must not
write on this
margin.

- ① Cross checking with census data,
which is going to start in 2026.
- ② excluding duplicate entries,
and giving unique EPIC number
to a single person.
- ③ strict checking of polling stations.

Immediate steps are needed to
strengthen the electoral foundations
of our democracy.

17 Union govt recently withdrawn a notification on recruiting persons through lateral entry.

Lateral Entry

• Recruiting people at higher offices and positions under government bypassing the normal recruitment procedure.

eg Vijay Kelkar - Ministry of Finance
Nandan Nilekani - Aadhar architect.

A reformative step

① Brings in expertise into a specific area

eg Manmohan Singh - former PM,
and former Governor of RBI.

② Brings in efficiency, and out-of-the-box ideas

eg Montek Singh Ahluwalia in economic domain.

UPSC

Answer Questions in the space provided in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
इस कॉपी में
नहीं लिखना
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Candidates
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write on this
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③ Bridging gap between private
& public organisations

eg) NITI Aayog head.

④ Cost effective - as they are
hired on contractual basis.

⑤ leveraging global best practices
and incorporating them into
daily life

Attracts criticism & controversy

① Seen as 'undemocratic'

- these people didn't appear for
examinations like UPSC.

② appointed on contractual basis
- affects continuity and brings
disruptions

③ politically motivated appointments.
- attracts criticism from opposition

④ renders with the promotion
process of other persons.



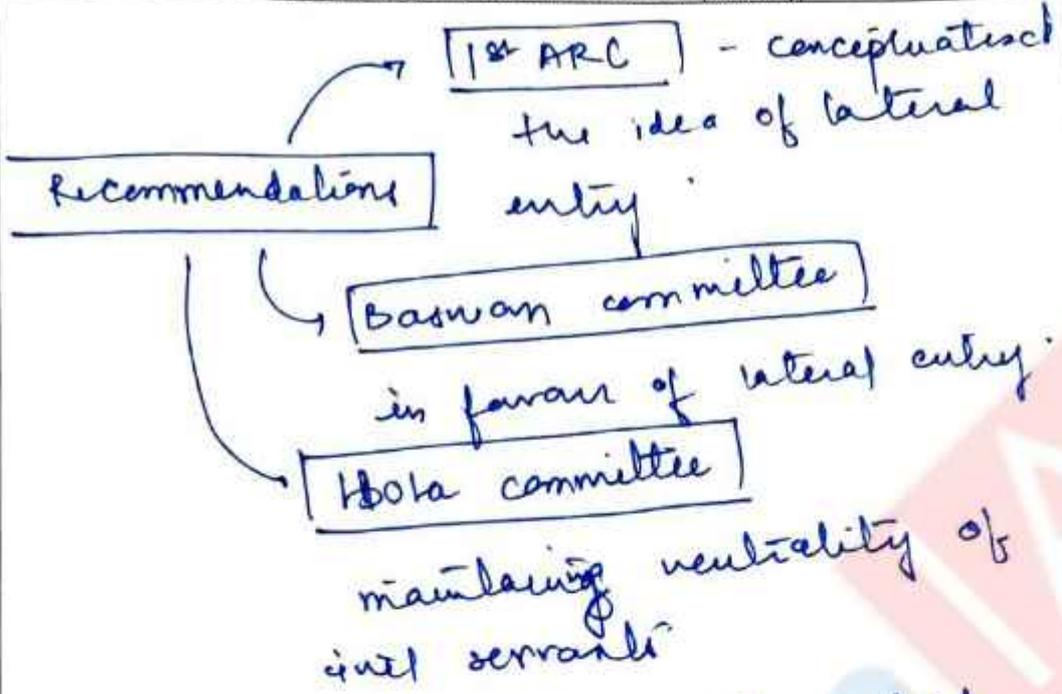
(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space) कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

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उम्मीदवारों को इस कॉपी में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
Candidates must not write on this margin.

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)



Lateral entry is desirable, but some checks needs to be introduced to make the process fair and transparent.



Please do not write anything above the question number. If the space above the question number is not sufficient, candidates must not write on this margin.

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UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उत्तरों में प्रश्नों के शब्द सीमा का पालन न करें। यदि प्रश्नों के शब्द सीमा पर्याप्त नहीं है, उम्मीदवारों को इस मार्गदर्शिका में लिखना नहीं है।

10

Ranking such as QS and Times ranks higher educational institutions, but these ranks don't often reflect the true picture.

Don't reflect broader goals of education

① Inclusivity
number of women, scheduled caste, tribes & disabled studying in institution.

② Value system
rankings must go beyond standardised curriculum.

③ Skills development
According to India Skills report - 33% of graduates are not ready for market jobs.

④ Fee structure & area of operation
Rankings don't take into account if these things are vulnerable-friendly.



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386561_812414_191009_289 (2025-07-19 14:22)

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis (Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Answer all questions in the space provided after the question number. Write in the margin.

⑤ sustainability issues taken into account or not.

measures to make ranking system more

→ A) OBJECTIVE

- ① expanding parameters on which data is taken
- ② removing urban bias
- ③ Aligning desirable goals with SDGs

→ B) INCLUSIVE

- ① Taking into account composition of students
- ② opportunities after getting into the institutions.
- ③ inclusion beyond classrooms.
 ↗ rising suicides in IITs brings a dark side of these institutions.
- ④ If environment is disabled friendly and safe for women.



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⑤ Parameters beyond academics

↳ sports, innovation, social service

④ ALIGNED WITH EDUCATIONAL & SOCIETAL OUTCOMES

① Institutions & graduates prioritising self or society

② contribution to broader goals of development

③ focus on innovation & creativity in the age of AI.

In today's world, education of heart, is more important than education of ~~brain~~ mind, and rankings must display this.

Please do not write anything except the question number in this space.

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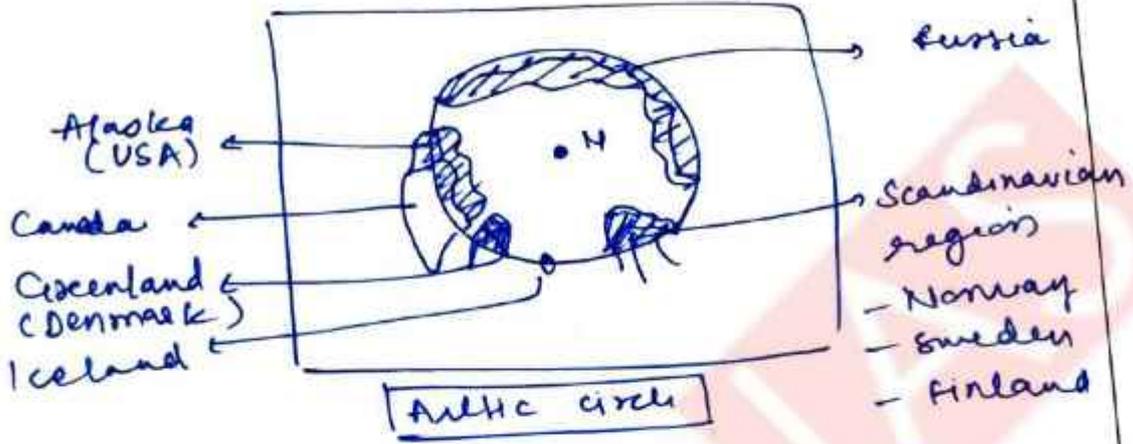
UPSC

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

19

Area of globe beyond $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}N$
(Arctic circle) is the Arctic region.



factors behind growing salience

- ① Oil & Natural Gas resources
critical for energy security.
- ② Rare Earth resources
- ③ Greenland - majority of world's REEs
- ④ connectivity
from western Europe / Russia to Eastern Asia.
eg Northern sea route.
- ⑤ climate change concerns
Arctic Amplification - Arctic is melting



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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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- two times faster than rest of earth.
- could lead to erratic rainfalls in northern hemisphere.
- floods in northern Europe.
- warming of earth's atmosphere.

5) Polar research & stations

for weather monitoring & forecasts.

6) Biodiversity conservation Δ Polar Bears population declining.

Strategies for India to recalibrate Arctic engagement-

1) engaging in regional pros & lead the talks.

eg) Arctic council - India is observer.

2) Setting research stations

& collaborating with other nations
teams

3) Raising issues in CoP

- Arctic is vital for sustainability.

④ Push for non-weaponisation of Arctic in UN.

- and also for nuclear disarmament.

⑤ empowering ISRO for making satellites for continuous surveillance & monitoring.

Arctic is a public good and must be used for global prosperity and

not for extractive purposes.

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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90

From Bangladesh's birth in 1971, till today India has been a biggest supporter & ally of Bangladesh.

Recent developments



① Removal of Sheikh Hasina from PM post

② Appointment of Mohammad Yunus as temporary head.

③ Military dominance in policy decisions

④ Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 in India

⑤ Violence & Hate towards Bangladeshis Hindus by muslim majority.

⑥ India has provided shelter to Sheikh Hasina

⑦ Migrants issue continues to be a problem

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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Disrupt- the 'Sarnali Adhyay'

- ① Declining Mutual Trust due to perceived non cooperation on various fronts
- ② Against our constitutional values of secularism.
- ③ Disputes on water sharing affect the every day lives of citizens near borders
- ④ Lack of dialogue between high offices.
- ⑤ Non-functioning of regional fora
↳ SAARC.
- ⑥ Adds to already existing border issues
↳ Pakistan, China.
- ⑦ Opens way for China's interference in Bangladesh's domestic matters.
- threatening India's dominance as regional power.
- ⑧ Economic competition rather than cooperation
↳ textile trade.

Please do not write anything except the question number in this space. कृपया प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ भी न लिखें।

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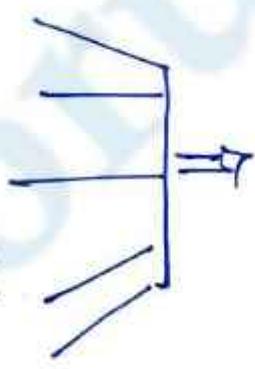
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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Way Ahead

- ① constructive engagement and dialogue
- ② transparent communication regarding religious & border issues.
- ③ leveraging people to people ties.
- ④ Following ideals of democracy.
 - restoration of popular government in Bangladesh.

India should follow the 5S strategy.

- Samvaad
- Sahyog
- Shanti
- Samridhi
- Samman



Betterment of relations.

