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FIAS – MGP 2022 (C-12) –GS Paper # 2

ForumIAS**GENERAL STUDIES**

Name Of Candidate

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Roll No.

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Date:

16/8/2022.

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	
1			1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
2			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.
3			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
4			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.
5			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.
6			<i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i> <i>Hi Sir, please suggest tips for time management, tried structuring as per previous feed back, please comment;</i>
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Total:	250		
Evaluator's Discretion:			For Student Only
			Start Time 4:00 pm
			End Time 7:10 pm
Total Marks:			Mode Of Examination: Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluator's Discretion: This is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator 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.			For Office Use Only
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Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Q.1

Ans. Part III of Indian Constitution contains one of the most elaborate provisions of Fundamental Rights guaranteed to Indian citizens.

- Right to Equality (14-18)
 - Right to Freedom (19-22)
 - Right against Exploitation (23-24)
- ∴ These emphasise the modern values of 'Indian' democracy as
- Equality is central to realisation of potential whereas freedom ensures it.
 - ^{Right against} Exploitation intervenes between executive tyranny and personal well being.

Hence, it is a true representative of modern democratic values. On the other hand.

- Right to Freedom of Religion (25-28) emphasises on positive secularism reflecting our plural collective consciousness
- Cultural and Educational Rights
 ↳ safeguards to minorities
 ↳ flourishing of every cultural realm showcasing the true plural and inclusive spirit of Indian democracy
- Right to Constitutional Remedies - as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar names as bulwark of Indian constitution ensures all the other rights make sense.

On other hand

- US has a simple Bill of Rights.
 ↳ South African constitution also lacks in some respects like conscience freedom

Hence Indian Constitution's Part III can be a directional agent for the univers of constitutionalism to lead towards true realisation of democratic values

Feedback

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Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q. 2

Ans. Section 295A and 153A of IPC are in news recently due to the Hijab^{case}, Varanasi mosque - temple issue, Nupur sharma's remarks.

→ Conflict:

Article 19(1)(a) confers Freedom of Speech and expression to all its citizens with "reasonable restrictions" of public order, morality, national security, sovereignty, maintaining friendly relations with neighbours.

→ The subjective nature of provisions in 295A (religious speeches, pseudo-blasphemy) 153A (specifically to place of worship) give rise to such elaborate debates.

→ Supreme court in multiple cases

1) Kedarnath Singh Case - Incitement to violence is the reasonable restriction to sedition

2) Sudarshan TV Case - "the onus of getting

affected by media stunt is on people".
 makes it clear that the ^{tangible} "outcomes"
 of the acts should decide the course
 of action.

⇒ Just because someone is offended
 by someone's speech — the other person
 cannot be stopped from exercising
 his right to freedom — which is
 central to exercising democratic
 participation.

→ As Article 25 of constitution clearly
 states Freedom of religion (conscience)
 is subject to other provisions of Part II

19(1)(a) wins over 25 as it is
 but the subjectivity of the provisions
 of 153A and 295A demand case-by-case
 scrutiny by. as Article 26 comes into
 picture which is a collective right
 and is not subject to other rights in Part III

Feedback
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Q-3

- Ans ~~Political~~ Recent Sri Lanka Crisis is attributed to
- 1) Economic Mismanagement
 - 2) Sudden decisions Ex: Organic farming ^{overturn}
 - 3) Delay in reaching out to help.
 - 4) Russia-Ukraine war troubles.

Comparative Analysis

India

- Parliamentary system
- ⇒ Collective responsibility
- Every decision goes through layers of checks and balances and a thorough filter of civil society
- Ex: Executive decisions are scrutinised in legislature

Sri Lanka

- Presidential system
- ⇒ Separation of powers
- Separation of powers immunises the organs
- Ex: Rajapaksa's decision is neither countered by Congress nor by Apex court.

→ The collective decision making ensures to a degree, a check and balance to impulsive decisions; in addition to Parliament

→ The Presidential (individual) decision making lacks multiple perspectives; Separation of Powers further isolates this

→ Looking at the above differences, Presidential System worked in a counter productive way, and the dynasty politics; President - 'Primordialist' relations further led to some polarized decisions / ending up in a crisis.

Feedback
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Structure/ Presentation	
Question Interpretation	
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Q.4

Ans. Civil society comprises of everything outside family/individual realm excluding market and state.

$$\text{People} - (\text{state} + \text{market} + \text{individual circle}) = \text{Civil society}$$

Changed nature:

- ↳ Corporatisation of NGO's
 - ↳ Growing scale of operations of CSO's
Ex: Pratham's large scale operations pervasive in Indian villages.
 - ↳ Digitisation. \Rightarrow more disconnect from the unequipped population
Ex: Fund raising campaigns like Child India etc
 - ↳ Compliance burden on CSO's
Ex: FCRA, IT returns. have helped in better regulation of NGO's and other CSO's
- Delhi SBIS account only to be used.
- Limit on foreign funding to be used for admin expenses

Problems—

- The fact that compliance burden acted as a deterrent on many CSO's shows that in a run towards democratic regulation of CSO's → state overstepped in interventions leading to loss of ground-level connect of these NGO's
- The diverted resources of time and effort to comply have counteracted against participatory democracy
- The rules Ex: FCRA is a part of statutory approach rather than promoting procedural Transparency which is central to ensuring accountability
- Hence, easing FCRA rules and focusing on accountability mechanisms like NGO's under RTI, transparency like improvised social audit on lines of schemes comparing website/data- with onground scenario can help achieve the task of CSO accountability and participation better

Feedback

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Question Interpretation
Content
Value Addition
Total

Q.5

Ans. = National Green Tribunal (NGT) is established to dispense with the cases of violation of some laws mentioned in the schedule of NGT Act. Ex:- Environment Protection Act, Water Act. etc.

→ The urgency and importance of regulating sustainable development keeps NGT at the center of Environmental Compliance.

Contribution :-

→ Suspension of permission to POSCO, South Korean steel company

→ Art of Living Festival, in Yamuna region. → penalised.

→ Interim ban on plastic bags of < 50 μ size.

Structural & Functional Issues.

- Recommendatory body
- not equipped with enforcing rulings
- The time limit to report to NGT acts in an opposite way to the benefit
- short tenure of members.
- Political (executive) interference
Ex: Appointed by Central Govt with CJI's advice
- The appeals ^{rulings} of NGT just increased. The pendency in higher courts (HC, SC)
- Lack of experts → inability to balance between Economy & Environment

Hence for NGT to truly safeguard sustainable development

- Financial Autonomy (charged on CFI)
- Access to expert groups.
- Timebound actions; more powers regarding implementation of decisions is needed

Feedback

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Structure/ Presentation	
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Q-6

Ans: Affirmative Actions (Reservations) are envisioned by founding fathers of Constitution to address the socio-economic inequalities in representation in public employment and education

→ Article 15(4) and 16(4) confer this power on Parliament.

Discrepancies in Reservations:-

- Skewed towards SC/ST; OBC force in police for example is way below their proportion of population
- Political parties capitalising on caste groups, reservation appeasements to gain power Ex: Haryana's local reservation Bill.
- OBC reservation - major chunk of benefits go to a few castes as per Rohini Commission's report

- New category of EWS (Economically weaker section) is talked about as if it is to silence the voices.
- Universities & PhD recruitments are skewed towards open category
- ⇒ discrimination taking new form and shape.

However:

↳ social mobility of lower social sections was possible to some extent.

But reservation is more of 'treating symptoms than the cause i.e., social rigidity', because evident in the new forms of discrimination.

Hence, it needs

- ↳ subcategorisation - Rohini Commission
- ↳ Socio Economic Caste Census → to ensure the benefits reach the needy
- ↳ MCC (Model code of conduct) rules on manifestos to not include reservation points to affect the voters / decision etc

can help to some extent

Feedback

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Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
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Value Addition
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Q.7.

Ans: As the basic tenet of Accessible India Campaign (Ayazmya Bhaat Abhiyan), the persons with disability need to be ~~made~~ able to "Access" public entitlement to compete with general population.

Factors that Prevent effective participation

- Building codes not implemented properly
- Integration of ISL (Indian sign language) is not upto the mark.
- The inefficient functioning of special schools, expensive private services access puts them behind in the race
- Inclusive schemes, yet to touch the whole population
- Early Intervention Schemes (EIS) are not known to majority of population

Way Ahead.

Recent Braille Map released by Central Government shows intent of the to abide by Article 41 of DPSP

→ Social exclusion like superstition, stigma need to be handled effectively to ensure normal psychological growth

→ NEP- Early Childhood Care Education inclusion is a step in right direction

→ Implementation of Incheon strategy is the need of the hour to achieve an inclusive and empowered betterment of disabled.

Feedback

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Q. 8

Ans. NCRB data reveals that 75% of the prisoners are under trials and prisons are running at 118% of their capacity

Reasons behind undertrials proliferation

- Pendency → DAKSH report points to ~3.2 Cr cases pending in courts all over India.
- Delay in justice
- Expensive justice According to Asian HRC if ₹2 is court fee ₹1000 is paid as bribe.
Given majority of undertrials belong to weaker sections, this is expected.
- Workforce in judiciary. not sufficient to clear the cases
- Formal legal process is taking time.
leading to multiple hearings eating away court's time
- Insensitivity of police towards human rights

How to tackle:

→ ODR - ADR - Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms can reduce case burden and courts can prioritise, specifically on pending cases

→ Dedicated Bail Law:

Recent Sedition cases, UAPA's brought bail into focus. where "presumption of innocence" is skewed against the suspects.

→ According to Article 22 → punitive detention is bound to produce the candidate in court within 24 hours; what if he is not produced? Then bail becomes an implied right till the opportunity to produce the suspect arises

However; pendency clearance, sensitisation of police forces (only 7% receive on field training) coupled with a dedicated bail law can tackle the undetectable proliferation and make democratic legal system a reality

Feedback
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Structure/ Presentation
Question Interpretation
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Value Addition
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Q-9

Ans. Russia-Ukraine War; pre-pandemic and present US-China fight for supremacy have made it clear that the world is heading towards a bipolar or in that case a multipolar regime from being unipolar for more than 3 decades.

China's interest in Russia:

- 1) strategic ^{Partners} Energy security → oil & gas.
- Nuclear power; defense super power.
 - a gateway to Eastern Europe, and engagement to Central Asia
 - countering India's aspirations
 - attaining global presence through Russian support

Diversion for west → The activity of SCO laying fears in western community about a brewing counter NATO.

China's abstaining to vote, against Russia shows multiple intents of support to Russia and a hit on NATO

- ↳ West being busy with China-Russia relations, China to capitalise on global markets by deeper penetration into supply chain Ex: Australia joined RCEP despite having ~~da~~ not so favourable relations with China
- ↳ Asia which is considered the ~~the~~ current powerhouse of global growth is almost captured by Chinese with expanding presence in Africa also.
- all this in the backdrop of growing China-Russia axis.

Hence the global balance of power is going to see some interesting entries in the coming decades with Chinese assertion in 3 of the 7 continents

Feedback

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Q. 10

Ans:- Indian diaspora amount to almost ¹⁰~~100~~ million in West Asia and about a million in Africa.

Role of Indian diaspora:-

- ↳ Knowledge economy contribution in West Asia Ex: Dubai
- ↳ Business in Africa Ex: Kenyan tea estates
- ↳ Deeper penetration of PIO's in South African socio-economic structure Ex: cricketers of Indian Origin
- ↳ Political representation too.

But:- Issues:

- ↳ In West Asia → Indians are majority in low skilled domains.
- ↳ Recent protectionist laws being counter productive against Indians
- ↳ The political disturbances → security threat

↳ discrimination against Indian workers

Measures to be taken-

↳ Improve people - people relations by conducting events by embassy's

Ex: Philippines Indian food festival, 2018

↳ Recent Government of India initiative to upskill the Gulf expatriates
This can put Indians in better position in organisations

↳ Instruments of soft power - Bollywood etc.

↳ Better African relations Ex: "Indo Japan Africa Growth Corridor" to better the involvement of Indians there

Feedback

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11.

Ans: Electoral reforms: The Indian electoral system since independence have touched many aspects of representative democracy.

Transparent funding:

- Electoral bonds. (2017).
- Declaring the donations beyond ₹10000 in cash
- Asset declaration etc

Election process:

- Campaigns to increase participation
- NOTA - Right to reject over right to boycott
- Special security measures in agency areas

Political parties accountable:

- Declaring Organizational structure, recruitment process with application

- Model Code of Conduct adherence.
- Actions against not declaring criminal Records, asset declaration, etc.

Overall, election process in India evolved to what it is now, but didn't happen at once.

Yet, a lot of work is left to make this process - the ^{true} celebration of democracy.

Issues related to

1) Election funding:

- According to Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) data - almost 75% of the funding to parties is anonymous.
- This leads to big corporates lobbying with political parties and influence policy making as well as policy

paralysis Ex:- 7.5% cap on corporate funding removed

→ partial state funding of elections, is recommended by Indrajit committee can solve this issue to some extent
 ↳ it also leads to level playing ground to new entrants, regional parties etc

Remote Voting:-

- ↳ Proxy voting may violate the right to choose representative. Ex: The proxy may have different political orientation
- ↳ Postal ballot already present
- ↳ complexity of procedure to ensure secret ballot.
- ↳ Duplication possible.

Regulation of RUPP.

- ↳ Star campaigners limit and spending limit is often violated and disguised
- ↳ The non-serious parties can lead to wastage of resources if 'brought under formal regulation process.

As it came so far, Indian election process with increasing participation (>65% in 2019) has proven to be resilient with need to reforms in some areas

Feedback
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Q.12

Ans: Judicial accountability refers to holding judiciary responsible and answerable to its judicial and administrative activities.

Judicial independence refers to non-interference of other state organs in functioning of judiciary.

This is ensured by multiple provisions in constitution and statutes like

- Contempt of Court Act, 1971
- Collegium system
- Security of Tenure, impeachment of Judges. as an elaborate process. though appointed by President.
- Expenses, charged on Consolidated Fund of India etc.

Judicial accountability -

- If judiciary is accountable it is accoun-

table to its people

Ex: Recently 'office of Chief Justice of India' is brought under RTI

→ Open courts ensure transparency of judicial procedure.

Concern: Privacy of sensitive issues like rape, security of Nation etc can be affected

→ ^{Proposal of} Declaring assets of judges of SC and HC is under process
↳ This will ensure impartiality

→ Pendency issue can be tackled by going for All India Judicial Services (42nd Constitutional Amendment).

↳ But issues like executive interference (in recruitment) can to some extent undermine independence.

→ Supreme Court and Govt. appointed commissions suggested relatives of High Court judges shouldn't be in the

Same High Court : Such measures
'can ensure avoid' nepotism

→ Ethical code of Conduct as a moral
compass amidst rigid legal process

Ex: MP High Court Judge asked accused
to tie raakhi to the victim woman.

→ Process of appeal like National
Court of Appeal can decentralise
the judicial power..

With trust in institution comes
independence to its functioning

Hence Judicial accountability and
(independence are mutually reinforcing

Feedback
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Q. 13

Ans: Ordinance Power. is available to executive i.e., President or Governor upon the advise of Cabinet or Council of Ministers when the legislative houses are not in session. This is conferred by Article 123 and 226 ^{of constitution} to President and Governor respectively.

Rationale behind inclusion:

- Emergency legislations
Ex: Violation against doctors during pandemic; Essential Commodities ordinance
- To avoid delay in implementing needs of immediate nature
- To be executive's way of handling crisis situations when political disturbances, instabilities occur.

Safeguards
However, though mentioned by Supreme Court in multiple occasions to use this extraordinary power carefully.

In a judgement "The aspects on which ordinances are legislated should be urgent and important in nature".

- Ordinance making is under judicial review too. But SC cannot challenge the legitimacy of ordinance process.
- Lapse of ordinance - constitution after commencement of session, if not passed as bill within 4.5 months or 6 weeks.
- SC in RC Cooper Case mentioned that ordinance can be challenged

on the grounds that subject is not
urgent

Misused.

State of Bihar → Governors kept 100+ ordinances
and more than 17 ordinances
continued for 10 odd years

↳ Supreme court in this case
termed "ordinance not placed before
legislative houses" amounts to abuse of
power and fraud against constitution

However, the ordinance making
is necessary in emergency times like
violence against doctors during pandemic
is still necessary to handle crisis.

But such a power needs to
be carefully used by executive to
ensure democratic accountability

Feedback

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Q.14

Ans:- Multiplicity of Central Investigative Agencies

→ Ex: CBI, CRC, Lokpal have overlapping jurisdictions → Group A & B officers.

↳ Functional dependence on each other.

Ex: CRC refers cases to CBI

↳ Appointments

Ex: Lokpal Act contains procedure of appointing CBI Director.

↳ Delay in investigation due to jurisdictional dilemma - diffusion of responsibility

↳ inefficiency of investigation

Ex: Preliminary inquiry by CBI then handed over to CRC → it has to start again

The above are the problems with Multiple central investigation agencies

Federal Principles under this issue.

- The superintendence of Central Government in handling over cases to CBI, CVC, sometimes even falling under state police jurisdiction
- Misuse of General consent
Ex: 11 states have withdrew general consent to CBI

Other issues:

- delay in investigation due to
 - 1) State's consent delay - for those who are not under General consent (CBI)
 - 2) Political interference
 - 3) Availability of man power
 - 4) Internal aspects Ex: Asthema case.
- inefficiency of investigation due to uncoordinated actions Ex: Jain hawala case.
- Professional incompetence, due to lessened Parliamentary accountability

To handle these issues, an independent umbrella body can be useful in

- Coordinating investigation by tackling resource allocation
- Transparency of procedure, financial allocations coordinated

But as ARC-2 and other recommend confering statutory status to CBI, should be considered instead of creating one more body to complicate the process.

Feedback

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Question Interpretation
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Value Addition
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Q.15

Ans. Recent Mysuru declaration talks about centrality of ^{PRI in} Service delivery

Sustainable Development Goals are the obligations (voluntary) of states to strive for an all-inclusive growth ensuring highest standards of living to its people ~~along~~ with a teeming environmental sustenance.

→ Top-down approach has shown its failures in recent times in a diverse country like India

Ex: Community Development Programme
Family Planning coercion during 1970s

→ The recent developments in governance are realising the importance of local government institutions (PRI) in leading to SDG attainment.

Role of PRI's

- ↳ Efficient service delivery
Ex: contraceptives, entitlement
- ↳ Bottom up planning \Rightarrow voice of people heard -
Ex: People's Plan Campaign and GPDP.
- ↳ Lessening leakage of funds.
- ↳ Local immediate accountability
- ↳ Women empowerment Ex: Kudumbashree
- ↳ SHG - PRI tandem can tackle poverty, nutrition, livelihood problems (SDG-1, 2)
- ↳ Inequalities can be clearly identified and tackled - SDG-10, using local leaders / accountability
- ↳ Traditional methods Ex: seed banks etc, Farmer Producer Organisation, can be effectively organised and coordinated

Formal credit access to SHG, financial devolution to PRI can help MSME, Cottage industries → Entrepreneurship
 → increased tax revenue to PRI

Many more aspects give 'PRI' their crucial status in SDG attainment

Problems to be tackled

- Social structure entrenchment at local level
- Lack of technological expertise
 Ex: 33%, internet penetration; magnified gender differences
- Lack of financial resources → main problem
ARC-2; Parliamentary Standing Committee Finance Commission 15 recommended more financial devolution
- Administrative oversight by district officials rather than duplication of functions can resolve double problem of inefficiency and incapacity

Hence, true participative democracy through PRI is to lead the coming developmental journey

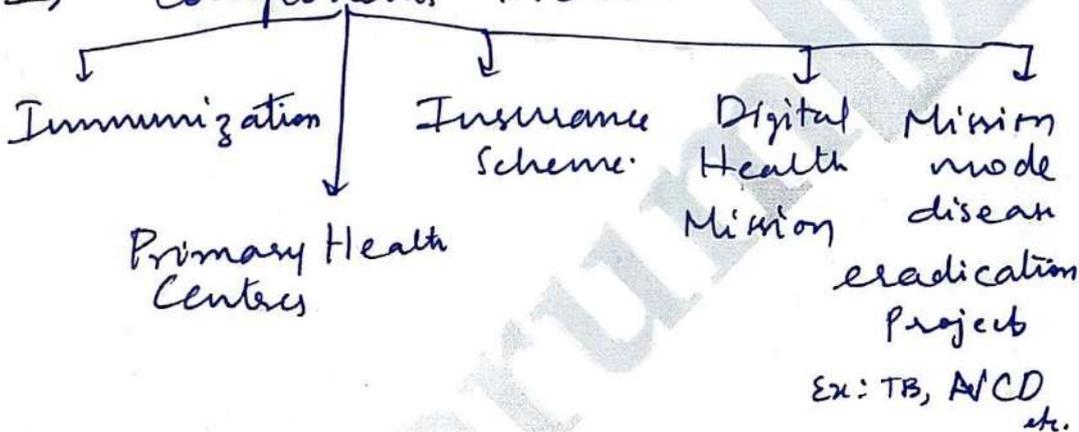
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Q.16

Ans- Ayushman Bharath is a flagship scheme to ensure accessibility, affordability and availability of health services to the last man (Antyodaya).

→ Components include.



Need for right to health:

→ Article 21 confers Right to life and personal liberty, dignity, Supreme Court in Maneka Gandhi case expanded the notion to Right to health too.

→ NFHS-5 data reveals the inaccessibility of Health care by the lower strata of economy.

Ex: Higher incidence of child wasting, low institutional delivery, mortality rate though improved is well below the global rates.

- ↳ The dismal state of primary health centres
- ↳ Inaccessibility of Health Care to Tribals → Recent Expert Committee report on Tribal Health
- ↳ poor internet insurance penetration especially Health insurance.
- ↳ rising Out of Pocket Expenditure to 65% well above the global average.

Impediments:

- ↳ low awareness of entitlements.
- ↳ Internet penetration - poor leading to inequalities in service delivery.
- ↳ Yet institutional delivery percentage is less than 50% in Tribal areas

i.e., inaccessibility and reluctance.

↳ Health Budget $< 1.5\%$ of GDP though reiterated by multiple Economic Surveys and ~~to~~ multiple expert bodies

Ex:- Public expenditure on health historically, globally benefited the last man

↳ Private health care dominance
↳ exploitation leading to impoverishment

Hence, only government can't achieve this feat without community involvement through behavioral change, NGO's to lead the awareness campaigns and efficient regulation of private health sector.

Feedback

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Q.17

Ans: MGNREGA

This is a Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme guaranteeing ≥ 100 days of unskilled manual labour to rural pool.

→ This acted as an effective shock absorber during pandemic by accommodating returning migrant labour.

Performance of MGNREGA.

↳ Sustainable Employment

↳ Crisis cushion Ex:- Pandemic

↳ Alternative source of income to seasonal labour. Ex:- farm labourers

↳ UN lauded ^{this} Indian scheme as the largest rural employment scheme pulling many out of starvation

↳ Recent Skill inclusion in MGNREGA

acts as an accelerator of
poverty upliftment.

Durable assets:

- Water embankments
- water shed development schemes
convergence Ex: Integrated Water Shed
Development
- Rural landscape projects like
terracing, Gram Sadak Yojana
acting as major contributors to
MGNREGA.
- Public service buildings like
community halls, etc.
Ex:- Sikkim composite public
infrastructure

Issues do exist in MGNREGA

- Insufficient utilisation of funds
- inefficient social audit in many
states except in some Ex: AP.
- Delay in payments to non-SC-ST.
- Majority workers belong to lower
strata amounting to deepening stratification

→ Replicating to Urban:

→ As economist Jean Drèze suggested DWET model (Decentralised Urban Employment) by giving out employment bonds to public institutions can be exercised: Reasons

- 1) The rural population - lesser the awareness to entitlements
- 2) Urban poor have worse standard of living than rural.
- 3) Can act as shock absorbers of mass layoffs
- 4) Can absorb urban unskilled ~~workforce~~ workforce.

Also recommended by World Bank - a similar Urban employment model can effectively aid urban poverty prospects.

Feedback

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Value Addition
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Q.18

Ans: Recent NFHS-5 reveals the anomaly also according to PLFS survey

rural women
employment and
Labour force participation
rate (LFPR) > Urban
LFPR

Reasons:

- 1) Out migration of males from rural areas puts the family responsibility on women to be bread earners
- 2) Also poor standard of living of rural India compels many women to work on fields.
"feminisation of agriculture"
- 3) Whereas, educated women are migrating to urban areas.
- 4) Urban families lessen the need of women to work since males are earning enough to suffice i.e., social structures

- 5) Even more educated are emigrating to foreign countries due to better opportunities
- 6) Social structures suggesting women to be confined to household work leading to role conflict and hence a convenient option is not to work.

Usefulness of SHG's

- Education empowers women psychologically whereas SHG's empower women financially
- Cottage industries, entrepreneurship promotion Ex: TREADS scheme.

Govt - NGO - SHG

 structure can help women found meaningful ventures especially those educated
- Peer group in SHG's can act as mutual motivation to strive for innovation
- SHG activity indulgence in GDP, etc are equipping women with

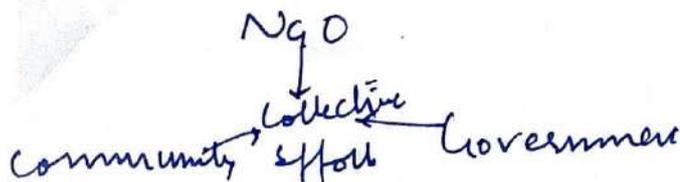
administrative capabilities too

Ex: Many of the Kudumbashree members are now placed in PRI's.

Problems:

- ↳ Most of SHG's credit is used for personal subsistence expenses
- ↳ Social norms, are deeprooted and women showing self-defeating behavior.
- ↳ SHG's - Formal credit linkages are not yet prudent despite relaxations by government Ex: Collateral free SHG loan.

It should be a conscious community effort to empower women holistically by recognising multiplier effects of women empowerment.



Feedback

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Q. 19

Ans. The inactivity of SAARC as a regional body has thrown concerns on its sustenance amidst disturbed Indo-Pakistan relationships

(Ex: 2016 SAARC summit postponed ^{in wake of Ori attack} and got cancelled, 2022 summit is yet to happen.

→ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)'s inactivity and growing and widening regional interests gave 'birth' to Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Bangkok summit

→ Although, its origins point to the regional body vacuum created by SAARC, BIMSTEC has come a long way to assert its identity Ex:- Recent

BIMSTEC summit at Colombo,
BIMSTEC charter was signed which
gave legitimacy of group as a
regional group instead as sub-regional.

→ Its membership — Myanmar, Thailand,
especially deem it as a bridge
between South Asia and ASEAN

BIMSTEC's significance:

- ↳ absence of major discrepancies
among members give possibility
of continued collaboration
- ↳ The efforts towards intra group
FTA give hope to its extension
to better relations with other
ASEAN nations
- ↳ Recent pronouncements of intention
to deepen the relationships
hint towards the mutual trust
and advocacy. that can be

Carried towards expanding

→ The progress Ex: Recent summit achieved the 7- core areas of cooperation assigning 1 domain to each country.

→ India, an aspiring net security provider and energy bank has much to contribute in this and ensure a peaceful Indian Ocean - instrumental to ASEAN trade.

However:

↳ India's exit from RCEP, growing Chinese influence on Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other ASEAN countries pose problems.

It is time for Indian side to capitalise on post-pandemic rethinking to channelise the supply chains to the region and BIMSTEC holds a pivotal role in this endeavour

Feedback

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Q.20

Ans:

= QUAD

Members:- India,
US, Australia Japan

→ Indo Pacific
rule based, freedom
of navigation

→ Counter China
threat in
S. China sea and
East Indian Ocean

→ Democracies

I2 U2

India, Israel (I2)
UAG, USA (U2)

→ West Asian Quad
is its nick name
due to the similar
objectives

→ Djibouti China ^{NAVY}
base for example
shows china's interest
in the region and
countering is important
to ensure prosperity
in the region

→ Mixed regimes
make it a bit
unconventional that
these countries came
together

→ US's Asia centered Indo Pacific vision is the central feature of both QUAD and I2U2

Importance to India:

→ Unlike QUAD, UAE and Israel are close allies to India as well.

↳ UAE is the 2nd largest export destination of India;

→ Israel is a major defense partner of India

→ Sovereign, as well as private investments in India.

Hence I2U2 members are more deeply integrated in India's economic structure

→ Indian diaspora in US, UAE, etc comprise almost 2/3rd of whole of expat: populations, hence this alliance can bring them under the same umbrella.

Forum IAS

→ As a bridge between Indo-Japanes African growth Corridor, I2U2 can improve our prospects in bettering African relationships too.

Reason: Better access to West Indian Ocean waters; Mauritius

→ Can counter growing Chinese interest in W-Asia Ex: Iran and Africa.

~~Hence~~, But,

→ The inconsonance at SCO, and other Russia-China involved platforms due to growing US. alliance can spell problem

→ India's 'non-alignment' history is not in tune with security alignment; global perception may influence India to stay passive in this respect

Moreover, consistent efforts to assert the strategic autonomy and dehyphenation using global fca like ORF can help us reap dividends from such alliances.

Feedback

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