

Time Allowed : Three Hours  
समय : तीन घंटे



Maximum Marks : 250  
अधिकतम अंक : 250

## GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

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

\*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश	
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।	
1			2. There are <b>TWENTY</b> questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में <b>बीस</b> प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।	
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।	
3			4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।	
4			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।	
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Total/कुल अंक	250		<b>For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु</b>	
Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>
*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।			<b>For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु</b>	
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
			① ② ③ ④ ⑤	

**Note:** Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

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## EXAMINER'S REMARKS

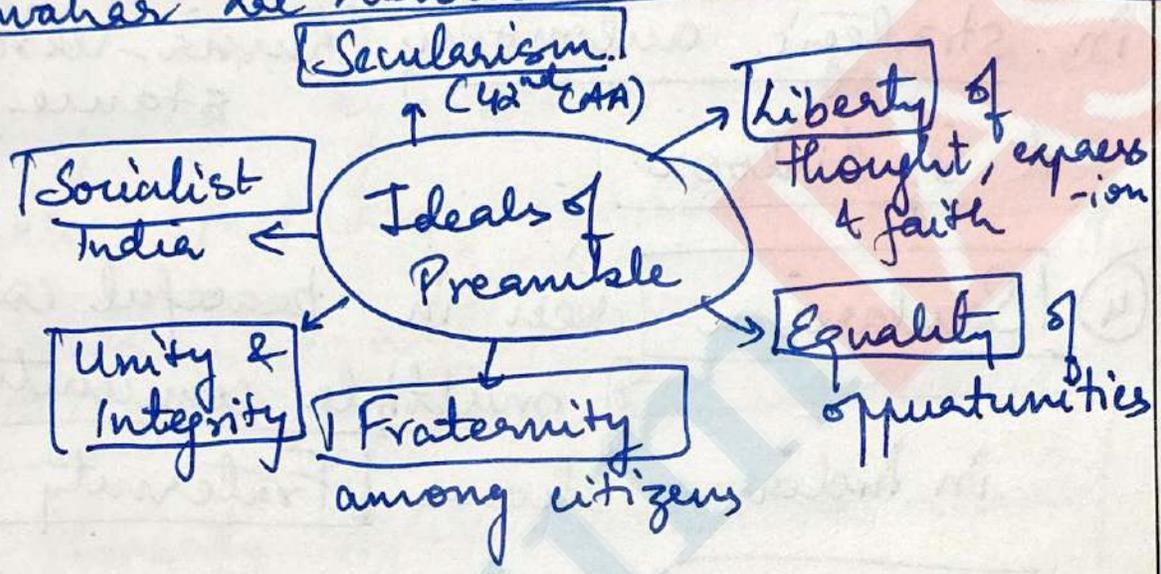
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### CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

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)

Ans Indian Constitution's Preamble was inserted as part of passing of Objectives Resolution initiated by Jawahar Lal Nehru.



## Analysis of realisation of ideals

- Liberty : a) Role of SC in upholding rights promoting liberty of individuals as expressed in NALSA judgement

b) Rights of PwD Act → recognition & support to liberty of disability victims.

② Equality : affirmative reservation for marginalised as evident

(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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(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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Candidates must not write on this margin.

- a) Nari Shakti Adhiniyam (women reservation)
- b) Article 16(4) → reservations

③ Unity & Integrity & Sovereignty seen in strategic autonomy (Russia-Ukraine stance) & Op Sindoor

④ Secularism seen in peaceful coexistence of multiple communities in India → shows Fraternity

However, certain events & facts may mar the harmonious ideals as :

- ① Communal conflicts → Delhi Riots
- ② Inequality : 40% wealth owned by top 1%. [Oxfam India]
- ③ Liberty hindered by unequal access to fruits of development.  
→ digital divide

130%	60%
Urban	Rural
TRA 1: tele density	

④ Unity challenged by secessionism → Khalistan extremism

Following Constitutional Mandates of

a Just and Responsive State is need of the hour



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)

Ans 2

Spirit of Indian Constitution  
guides law makers to have a  
harmonious balance between individual  
rights (Part III) and public welfare, as  
highlighted by SC in various cases.  
which includes debates on property  
rights as well

Property rights evolution and  
balance

- ① Right to property was a  
fundamental right guaranteed  
by Article 19(g) in Part III of  
Constitution.
- ② 1<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act  
(CAA) initiated debate between  
Right to Property & government's  
action wrt Zamindari Rights

- ③ In Champaloharam Case, SC highlighted that a harmonious balance has to be maintained and reiterated in Minerva Mills Case.
- ④ 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Am. Act removed Right to ~~Funda~~ Property as fundamental right
- ⑤ It was added as a 'Constitutional Right' as Article 300-A but remedy under Article 32 was not available.
- ⑥ Constitutional provisions mandate that State can take away the property subject to certain conditions given  $\Rightarrow$  fair market rate compensation etc
- Property rights thus constitute a contested reality challenged by individual rights & public welfare (DPSP)

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)

Ans 3

National Emergency, referred to as 'Emergency', in Constitution is dealt with in Article 352

(A) Conditions

- ① Armed Rebellion (previously internal disturbance) → amended by 44th Amendment
- ② External Aggression
- ③ War

Can be proclaimed by President on advice of Council of Ministers  
Can be proclaimed in some states or whole of India

(B) Consequences

- ① Parliament gets control of State Affairs, though State legislature is not suspended.

② State Executive is not dismantled, yet President or officer ~~or~~ designated by Her take precedence in State affairs

③ Fundamental Rights of [Article 32] getting redressal from Supreme Court for infringement gets suspended — automatically  
— Presidential order

↳ except Article 20 [conviction] and Article 21 [life]

1975-1977 on grounds of internal disturbance (=armed rebellion)

SR Bommai guidelines need to be followed for National Emergency

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)

Ans 4

Pre legislative Consultations refer to asking for, analysing and taking remedial actions on comments and suggestions from public on proposed legislations, which is not formalised as binding in India.

Strengthening role of public consultation - Measures thereof

- ① Vice President's 10 point action programme can be consulted which includes
  - open engagement
  - clear 'objectives' of proposed act
  - release of legislation for a predetermined time
- ② Citizen engagement can be increased through technology by using portals like MyGov.in

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- ③ Release in 'VERNACULARS' as done by [PIB] for news items.
- ④ Wide publicity for comments
- ⑤ Blockchain technology can be used for citizen engagement to ensure no comment / suggestion goes unnoticed.
- ⑥ Apart from this, providing Secretarial staff to committees & legislatures to gauge public sentiment
- ⑦ Mandatory digital recording of committee recordings on discussions on consultation

Hence, public engagement can reduce unintended backlash on <sup>seemingly</sup> 'draconian' laws like 'Net Neutrality' and thus engage public dialogue on important issues

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

Ans 5 Finance Commission is constituted for 5 yrs by President under Article 280 which prescribes Devolution methodologies for revenue sharing.

↳ 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission for period of 2020-2025

15<sup>th</sup> FC & States improvements of their finances

① 15 FC has delineated the parameters of income, forest, taxation, population etc for revenue sharing which is 41% of the divisible pool

② As per RBI state finances report, States have been able to restrict their Fiscal deficit below 3.5%.

Devolution has played a significant

role.

② However, the percentage of population parameter disproportionately benefits populous Northern States (eg UP, Bihar) and limits Southern states like Tamil Nadu etc which have controlled population levels.

③ Increase in Tied grants over a period of time defeats the purpose of devolution.

④ Lack of GST compensation → stressed <sup>finances</sup> Hence, to maintain horizontal

& Vertical Centre State Relations,  
Centre & States must move side by side if not hand-in-hand [Ajit Singh Care]

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)

Ans 6

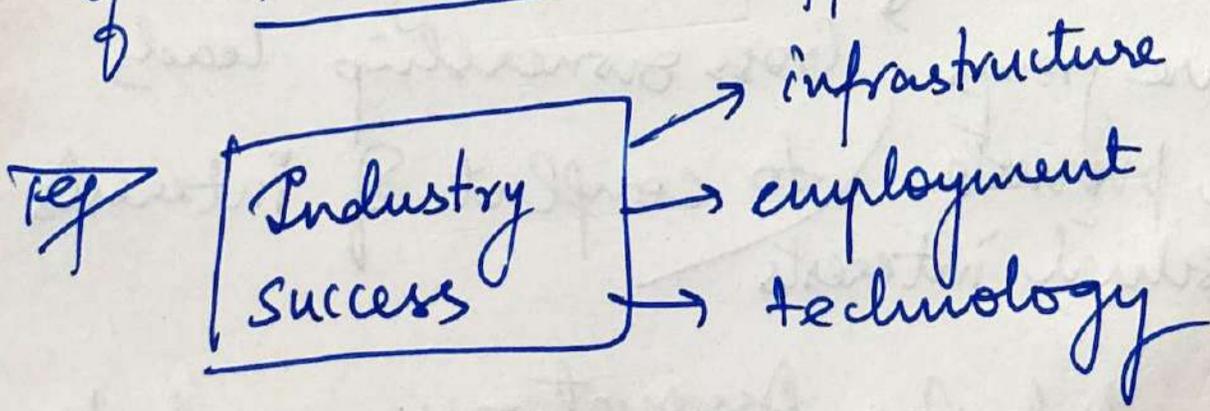
Adam Smith highlighted the role of 'Invisible Hand of Market' which supports economies to become prosper - ~~ous~~.

Industry and Business Associations are part of this invisible force which contributes to socio economic development - ~~ent~~ in the following ways:-

① Acts pressure groups  
① ~ Articulation of interests of Stakeholders.

ref Dairy associations' pressure to not join RCEP

② Inclusive Growth as a consequence of Trickle Down Effect.



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③ Supports State to formulate policies.

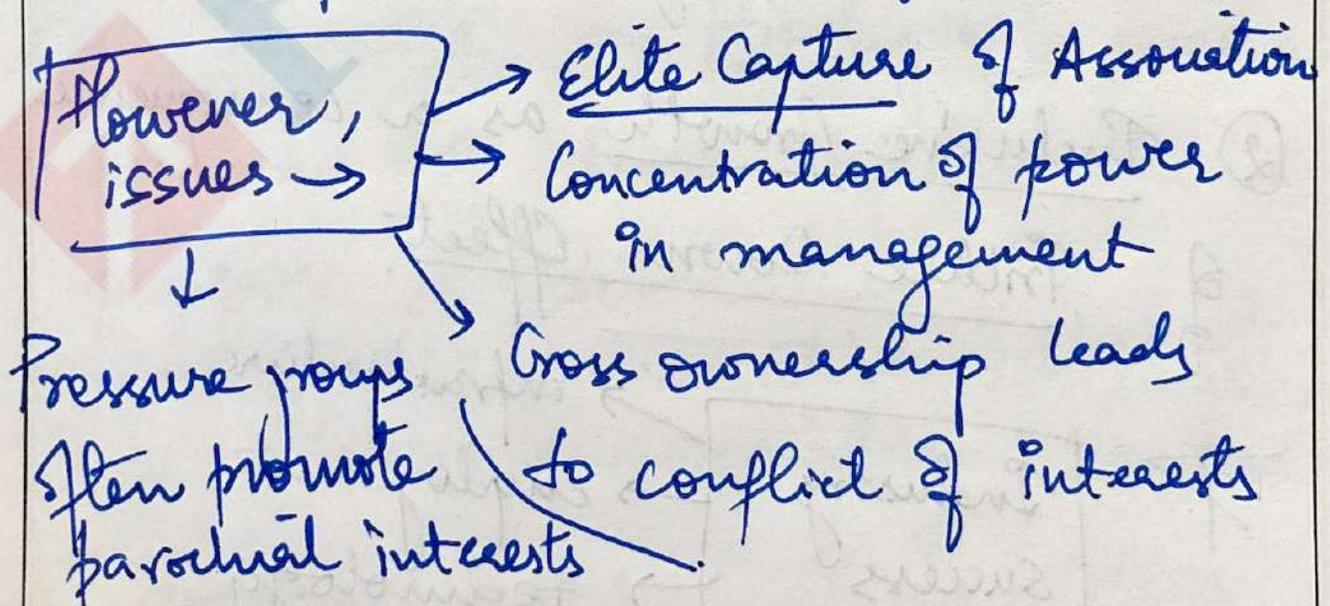
ex) FICCI

ex) Bombay Plan.

④ Business Associations help in educating workers of their rights

ex) Trade Unions

⑤ Help form a collective identity with business organisation thereby leading to economic growth.



Thus, Industry Associations need to act impartially and without

selfish interests to collectively realise

Vikasit  
Bharatya  
20/07

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)

Poverty estimation refers to the process of estimation of extent of debilitated victims of poverty both quantitatively and qualitatively.

⇒ Tendulkar Committee 2011  
Each estimation exercise takes different parameters into account thereby generating different results.

⇒ Tendulkar Committee v/s Rangarajan estimation

Need for Credible & Updated (periodically) framework

① direction to National Growth for tailoring policies

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उम्मीदवारों को इस कॉपी में नही लिखना चाहिए।  
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② Proper headcount provides estimation of resources to be earmarked

→ Budgetary expenditure on National Food Mission / PDS

③ Periodical release and updates remove 'Statistical vacuum' as highlighted by John Dreze.

→ PLASE: NFHS-4 released after 10 yrs

④ Poverty alleviation schemes need region, caste, gender wise data for proportional allocation

⑤ Credible data facilitates comparison of policies & initiatives

→ Role of SHGs in rural areas

Proposed Steps → Multi stakeholder consultation  
→ Reliable methods  
→ Triangulation of data collection techniques  
↓ Standardised models

Constant evaluation

useful in achieving SDG 2

Q.8) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 falls short of achieving its intended objectives. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans 8 POCSO Act 2012 provides a legislative prescription and proscription delineating provisions for conviction of delinquents related to sexual offences on children.

### Intended Objectives

- ① protection of children dignity
- ② statutory recognition of child related offences
- ③ definition of child as being under 18 yrs age
- ④ strict punishments including life imprisonments.

### Analysis & Evaluation

- ① An unintended consequence of misuse.



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- 4
- ② Families disapproving relationships of adolescents misuse it for framing charges on male partner.
  - ③ ~~do~~ Considers consenting partners below 18yrs as children thereby increasing scope of misuse
  - ④ Lack of sensitive investigation on genuine cases.
  - ⑤ Corrupt officials of law enforcement agencies (Police) take bribes from male offenders.
  - ⑥ Family members offences of go unreported
  - ⑦ Trauma to child victims during questioning [NCRB]

To realise objectives → sensitivity training to investigators  
→ female education about the law in schools.  
↓  
foolproof investigation → 'Judicial discretion' flexibility for considering cases of consenting adults

Role of NCPER and Civil Society is significant in effective implementation of POCSO 2012

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)

4th  
Ans 9

WHO is an international collaborative organisation which aims at improving health outcomes of world population through disease eradication (smallpox), pandemic prevention (coronavirus) and health awareness, One Health etc.

Crisis of Capacity & Credibility

① Withdrawal of \$ US & alleged 'China bias' has resulted in crippling of WHO

② WHO's funding channels of both discretionary / voluntary and fixed mechanisms are constrained as US was a major donor

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- (3) Mismanagement of COVID resulting in numerous deaths raises questions of effectiveness.
- (4) Geopolitical tensions between countries  $\Rightarrow$  Russia-US, China-US has spillover effects on world health dynamics  $\Rightarrow$  fractures in vaccine's supply chains

However, WHO's corrective steps has helped it regained credibility & trust. India's role as Global South leader can be used

World Pandemic Agreement 2025

which focuses on One Health

as a step in right direction for sustainable goals



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)

Ans) World fora have been unable to come to terms for a common definition of terrorism as evident in halted discussions on CCIT 1996

### My terrorist v/s Your terrorist

① Each nation, due to unique geopolitical condition & domestic conditions, has its own parameters of defining terrorism.

→ Syria

② Presence of state sponsored rebels & insurgents complicates the distinction

→ Houthis of Yemen. (Iran)

③ Use of geopolitical stature to halt designation of terrorists

→ China's vetoes for Pakistan based terrorists [Hafiz Saeed]

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## Strategies required

Unified approach

→ bringing countries <sup>to</sup> realise the essence of terrorism i.e. killing of innocents & property destruction

Comprehensive approach

→ which includes  
- Organised crime [eg D-Company]  
- Transnational networks [eg ISIS]  
- Cyber terrorism etc

Rules based approach

→ common definition  
→ Use of technology  
ref AI for social media detection

Operationalise  
Cooperation on Organised crime  
CIT 1996

No funding → strengthen FATF

Organised crime → strengthen INTERPOL & UNCTOC

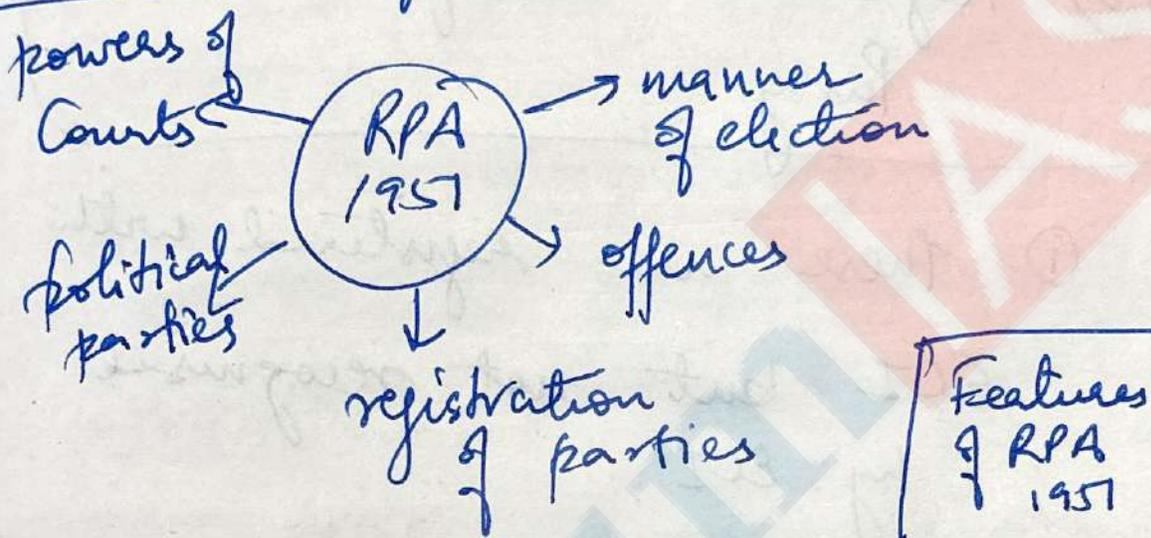
Hence, ideals of Adelphi declaration which prohibits terrorists to use technology etc need to be followed.

Common definition ought to be the first step

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)

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RPA 1951 acts as the foundational legislation for conducting elections democratically.



A) Procedure for registration with ECI

- ① Political parties need to file application for registration.
- ② Criteria for state & National party is delineated having various parameters like percentage of votes, seats etc.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)  
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उम्मीदवार इस स्थान पर नही लिखना चाहिए।  
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③ ~~ECI~~ antecedents - financial need to be submitted.

B) Registered Unrecognised Political Party

① These are registered with ECI but not recognised by ECI

② They don't file returns with ECI

C) Concerns

① Non filing of returns

② used for money laundering

↳ donations + non reporting

↳ Finance Act 2017, exempted



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transactions under Rs 20000 from  
reporting

## (D) ECI's powers

① RPA 1951 doesn't define  
powers to de-register  
a political party

② ~~to~~ Various recommendations  
have been given by  
the Law Commission

Dinesh Goswami Committee  
regarding entrusting powers  
→ ECI

Hence, there is a need to  
amend RPA '51 and entrust  
ECI with Roops to ensure  
a fair & stable democracy

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

Ans 12

NITI Aayog is a non statutory (made by executive resolution) body which was formed to replace centralised planning process of Planning Commission by consultative planning.

Cooperative federalism refers to a system of polity, where individual units cooperate in harmony to further developmental goals.  $\rightarrow$  GST Council (Article 279A)

Competitive federalism aims to further development by healthy competition among units  $\rightarrow$  HDI rankings.

Role of NITI AAYOG in promoting cooperative & competitive federalism

(1) Use of Key Performance Indicators in initiatives



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like Aspirational District Program,  
& Aspirational Block programmes leads  
to healthy competition.

② Rankings ~~are~~ based on performance  
infuse spirit of growth  
Key Cleanliness as a parameter  
leads to WASH hygiene.

③ States are seen as active partners  
in TEAM INDIA and not  
passive recipients of centralised  
planning dictates

④ Forum for discussion is  
provided for issues like  
Climate Change, Water  
Sharing, poverty etc. facilitating  
a Two way communication

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However, some limitations exist as :-

- ① Appointment by Central Govt
- ② Lip Service to States issues  
↳ concerns on delimitation  
↳ GST compensation cess
- ③ Has only advisory powers & no binding recommendation process
- ④ Competition is often unequal as regions are disproportionately developed.
- ⑤ Tagging as 'Under Achievers' reproduces stereotypes for tagging states like Bihar etc

Hence, NITI Aayog's role can be enhanced through giving statutory recognition, initiating followups and space for implementing states' issues.

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)

Deputy Speaker is elected amongst the members of Lok Sabha after election of Speaker.

### Significance & Indispensability

According to Constitution,

- ① Deputy Speaker acts as Speaker in Speaker's absence.
- ② Takes up the role of Speaker when Speaker vacates office → responsible for conducting new elections.
- ③ According to convention, Deputy Speaker is chosen amongst the opposition while Speaker is from ruling party.

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

# UPSC

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

- ④ Holds importance as highlights significance of Opposition voice.
- ⑤ When not in post of Speaker, he assumes original role as MP.
- ⑥ Acts as adjudicating authority for Anti defection law proceedings

## Vacancy & Implications

① The post of Dy Speaker has not been filled since 2019

② Against principle of

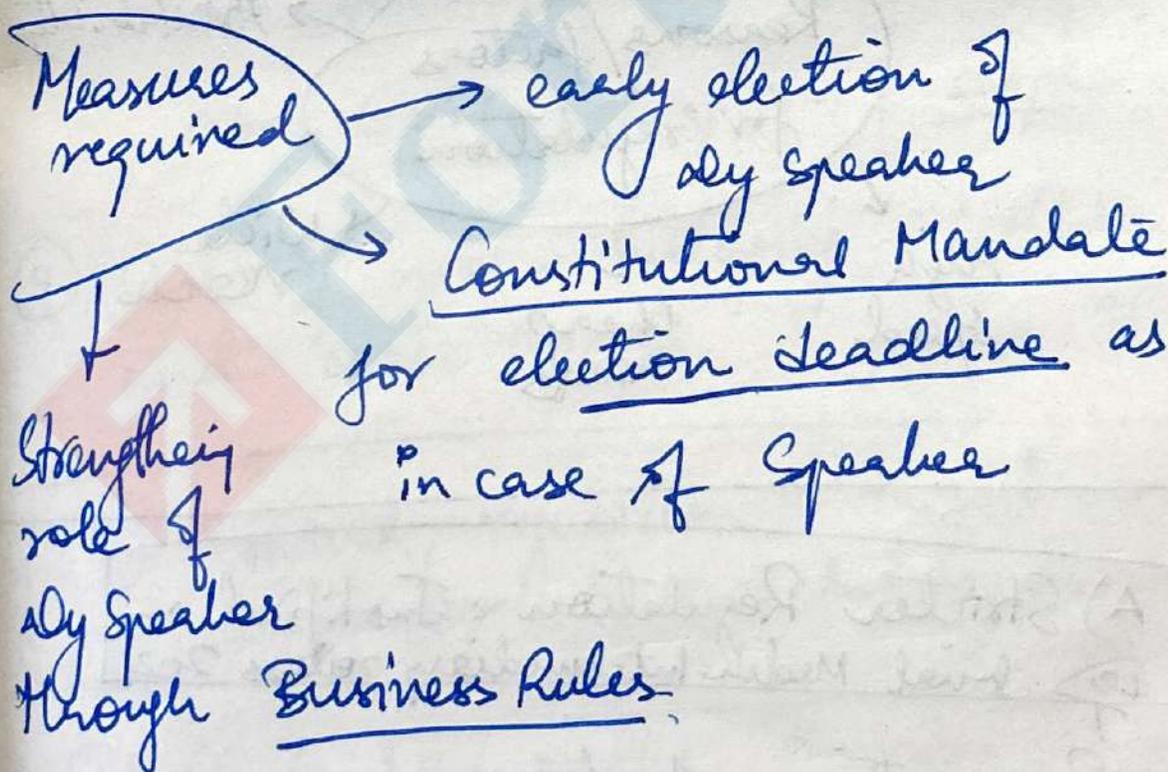
# UPSC

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representation as dy Speaker  
is, by convention, elected from  
the Opposition

- ③ Reduces Checks & Balances on authoritarian decisions
- ④ Represents importance of multi-party democracy.



Hence, dy Speaker is not just ceremonial, rather holds significance for a vibrant democracy.

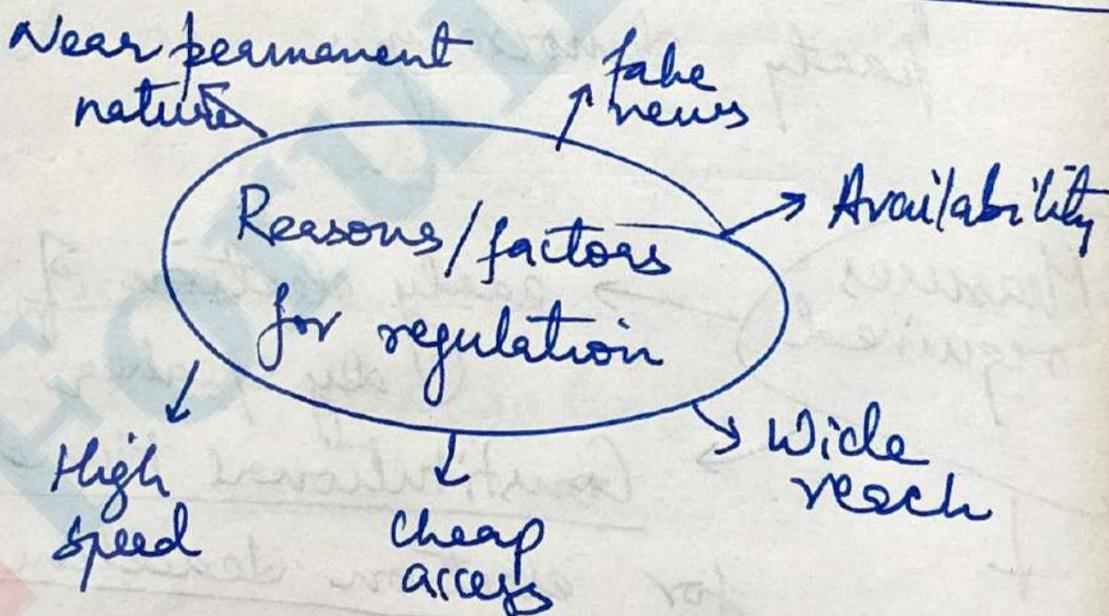
Q.14) Is the growing demand for stricter regulation of online content justified, or does it pose a threat to the right to freedom of speech and expression? Examine in light of recent judicial pronouncements.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Ans/14

Online content refers to the content that is disseminated, reproduced, generated and accessed through platforms based on internet.

eg → Pictures, News, Videos (content)  
Instagram, Facebook, Youtube (platform)



A) Stricter Regulation : Justified :-  
eg → Social Media Intermediary rules 2021

① Propagation of fake news  
leads to social tensions

eg → Deep fakes of influential leaders asking for violence



# UPSC

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

② Promotion of illicit activities through Dark Web.  
→ ad surrogate advertisements for 'hard drugs' on gaming apps

③ Violation of basic human dignity through revenge sharing, pornographic content and gore videos.

→ Supreme Court guidelines on renaming child pornography as CSEAM - expanding scope.

④ Cases of cyber bullying, trolling and cyber threats.

B) However, regulation = threat to freedom of speech & expression

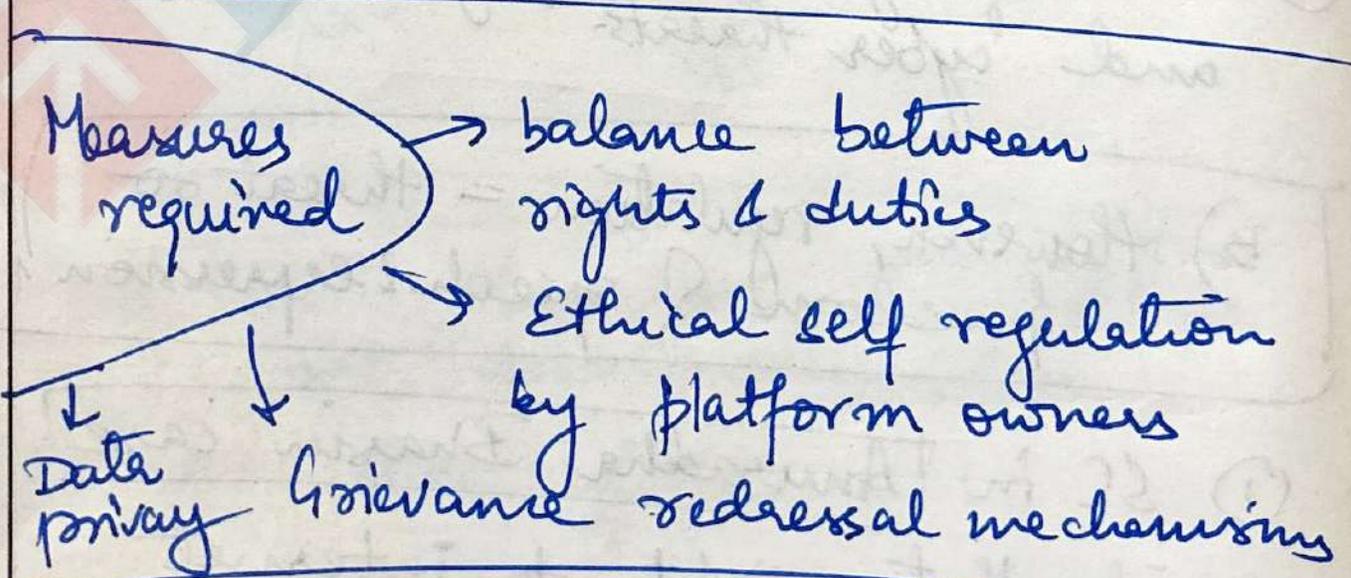
① SC in Anuradha Bhasin case said that right to internet is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)  
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# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
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- ② In Fahim Shiri's case SC said access to internet is fundamental right under Article 21
- ③ Online media encourages democratization of talent  
⇒ ability to showcase skills by marginalised sections free from traditional barriers.
- ④ Inhibits creativity as regulation leads to a chilling effect
- ⑤ Regulation powers can be misused ⇒ curbing opposition views.



Thus, implementation of DPDP Act 2023 and discussions on Digital India Act are required.



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)

dates not in this

Articles 124-147 and 216-231 relate to Judiciary in India.

In-house procedure, to inquire into allegations of misconduct, is however an internal mechanism of Supreme Court of India.

Positives of In-house procedure

- ① Creates internal accountability of judiciary.
- ② As inquiry is held by esteemed judges → inculcates trust
- ③ Follows ethical principles of first finding out faults internally

# UPSC

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

## Negatives

- ① Opaqueness of enquiry reduces trust and makes judiciary seem 'shrouded in mystery'
- ② Lack of transparency raises questions on effectiveness and objectivity of decisions
- ③ Against separation of powers (trias politica) as constitution defines and elaborates on impeachment of judges

(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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④ Allegations of nepotism & favouritism as "colleagues question colleagues" challenges 'biasfree claims' of inquiry

Way Forward / Suggestions for increasing effectiveness:-

① Release of discussions and reasons for actions except confidential & private details

② Involvement of outsiders in inquiry process to make it more transparent

③ Following "Restatement of Judicial Values 1997" to avoid misconduct

The trust in judiciary & its fairness is paramount for effective

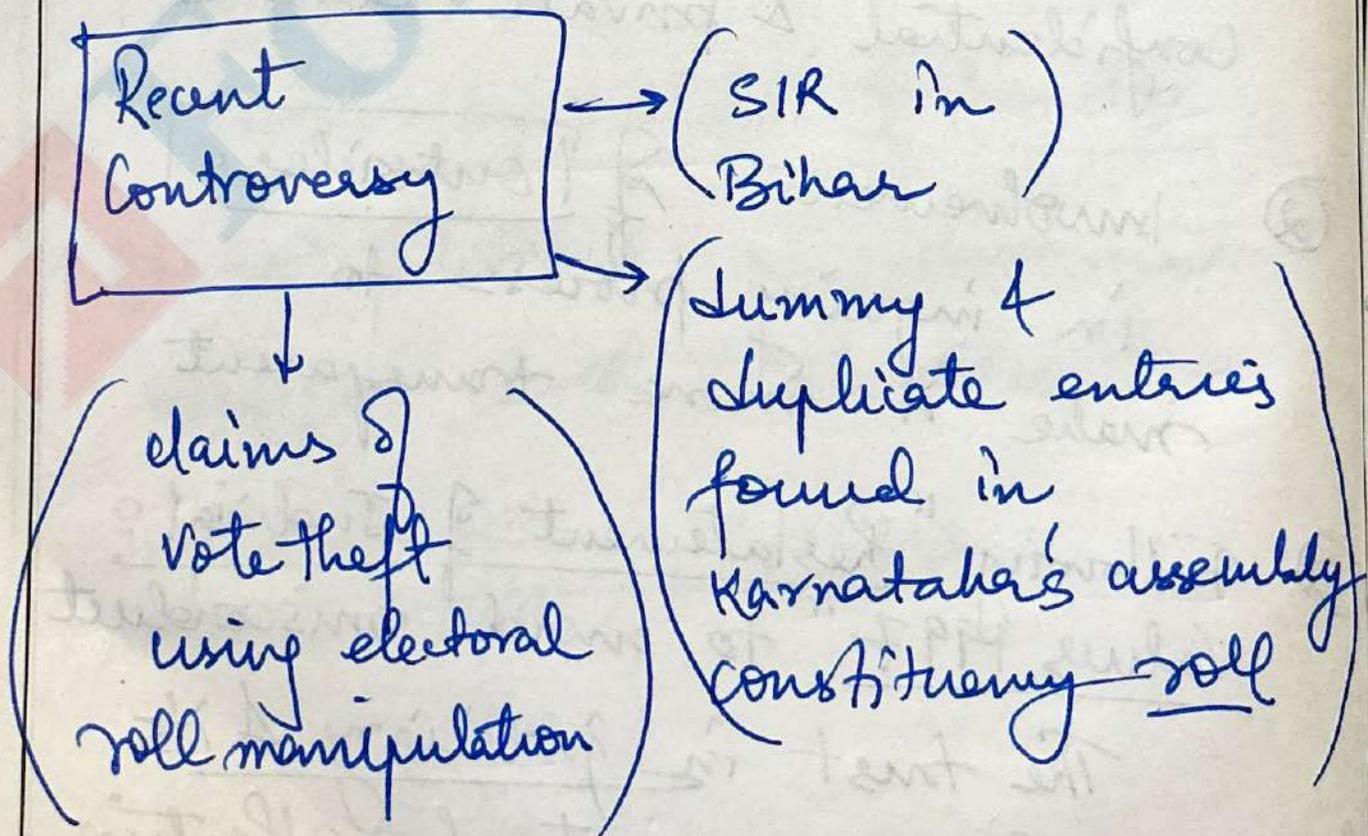
justice in India

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)

Ans 16

Article 324 establishes Election Commission of India for ensuring free & fair elections in the country.

Electoral roll preparation is a significant initial step in elections which contains the list of eligible electors/voters



## Mandatory Aadhaar linkage with Voter ID

Benefits :-

- ① Since Aadhaar ID acts as unique identifier (16 digit Aadhaar number), inclusion errors of dual entry can be tackled.
- ② ~~99%~~ ~100% saturation of Aadhaar cards can check support in verifying exclusion errors.
- ③ UIDAI's technological advances and infrastructure can be shared with ECI for interoperability.

However, limitations arise →

- ① Exclusion & Inclusion errors in Adhar database exist [Jan Dreye]
- ② Reduces trust in efficiency of ECI
- ③ Lack of robust data protection framework i.e. DPP Act 2023 not implemented yet.
- ④ Fraudulent Adhar Ids exist as confirmed by independent audits
- ⑤ Rejection of access due to faulty machinery / fingerprints → problems at polling booth

Measures reqd.

→ digital electoral roll availability for audits

→ clarification by ECI with proofs to regain trust

Exploring 'blockchain' for maintaining record

Hence, electoral democracy is safeguarded only when the election watchdog is alert & accountable

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)

Ans 7

FORUMIAS

in this Area/ इस स्थान पर कुछ न लिखें )

Civil Services in India is founded on basis of colonial modelling of hierarchy and rigidity.

As India attained independence in 1947, role of civil services also changed. Post 1991, it evolved from being a regulator to a facilitator.

Lateral Entry refers to incorporate private professionals in administrative roles instead of regular experienced civil servants for a period of time.

Lateral Entry as Reformative Step

① 2nd ARC lamented focus on 'governance' than on 'effective governance'

in present civil services.

② lateral entry increases expertise in dynamic departments

⇒ Civil Aviation in light of recent Air India crash (Amritsar)

③ Baswan committee suggested tackling the problem of shortage through lateral entry.

⇒ shortage of ~600 officers (IAS) at Centre.

④ Private players bring in 'efficiency' of outcomes ⇒ Targets based approach in Corporate sector

⑤ Hota Committee: ICT based governance enabled

⑥ 2nd ARC recommended deputation of civil servants outside Government

↳ lateral entry facilitates this exchange between public sector & private sector [Two-way]

However, Criticism :-

- ① Increases scope of favoritism & nepotism in selection
- ② Creates Conflict of Interest
- ③ Influential policy
  - corporate benefit chosen over public welfare
  - securing future prospects
- ④ Creates a revolving door between public organisations & private sector which can lead to crony capitalism
- ⑤ Resistance from incumbent officers → reduces morale
- ⑥ ~~sets~~ limited span of tenure is ineffective for bringing effective change.

Measures required → joint training programmes  
 → use of Ka iGoT platform for upskilling  
 → Skill based incentives  
 → dual entry model [22-28 yrs + 37-40 yrs] can be explored

Hence, a balance between job security & public welfare & efficiency needs to be maintained

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)

Ans 18

"What gets measured, gets done"

Rankings act as a measuring rod for identifying, monitoring & evaluating Higher Education Institutes.

eg) QS world rankings

A) How rankings help

① Highlights best practices

② Quantification leads to easy comparability

eg) Teacher: pupil ratio

③ Laggard institutes get motivation & direction to achieve

eg) IITs act as role models for <sup>local</sup> regional colleges.

B) Are broader goals of education reflected?

**(I) Yes**

a) enrolment ratio reflects inclusivity

ref 100% target in by 2030 [NEP 2020]

b) Infrastructure availability shows investment

ref target @ 3% of GDP

c) research papers & citations show original research.

ref JNU, IISc Bangalore

**(II) No**

a) Standardisation of parameters ignores regional disparities

ref JNU vs Naxal affected College

- b) Can't capture moral & ethical inculcation of values.
- c) Promotes rote learning (Output is preferred over outcomes)
- d) Increased pressure on institutes to improve → lose focus from core teaching.

c) Measures required

① Objectivity → Triangulation of Methodologies  
 → Focus on 'Validity' of benchmark tests

② Inclusivity → weightage systems  
 → wide range of parameters (qualitative & quantitative)

③ Alignment  
 ↓  
educational → societal → focus on harmony values  
 ↳ critical thinking  
 ↳ creative arts  
 ↳ India's shared culture

Hence, higher education systems ranks need to be recalibrated. Expenditure on HEI should also increase

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)

Ans 19

ForumIAS

(Don't Write anything in this Area/ इस स्थान पर कुछ न लिखें )

Arctic region refers to the region around Arctic Ocean. Thus, countries like Canada, Scandinavian nations, Russia etc find significant in India's approach towards Arctic Region.

Growing Salience - factors



### ① Energy

Arctic region's rich energy resources bring importance to energy security to India

↳ IEA estimates India's two fold energy demand increase in a few years.

### ② Connectivity

Northern Sea routes give

access to countries like Russia and US/Canada.  $\Rightarrow$  reduces shipment time.  
Europe

③ Geopolitical significance

Strategic presence in Arctic region gives significant positional advantage to countries

eg  $\rightarrow$  Russia  $\leftrightarrow$  USA

④ Climate Change

Acc. to IPCC AR6 glaciers in arctic region are receding raising world wide concerns of migration, disasters and displacement

⑤ Dominance in Arctic Region

also signifies technological prowess because of its below zero temperatures

## India's engagement - strategies

- ① Greater cooperation with Nordic countries like Finland, Iceland, Norway & Denmark

⇒ Cooperation on Maritime Transport with Norway could be deepened

- ② Using Observer status in Arctic Council for generating trust of India's democratic, ecofriendly (dife) and equitable values

- ③ Chennai - Vladivostok ~~sea~~ maritime link to be used for growing engagement in region.

- ④ Championing Global South's cause for environmental justice as Arctic Region is environmentally fragile.

Hence, Arctic Region engagement of India needs to be calibrated

effectively for ~~re~~ utilising Arctic's calicene

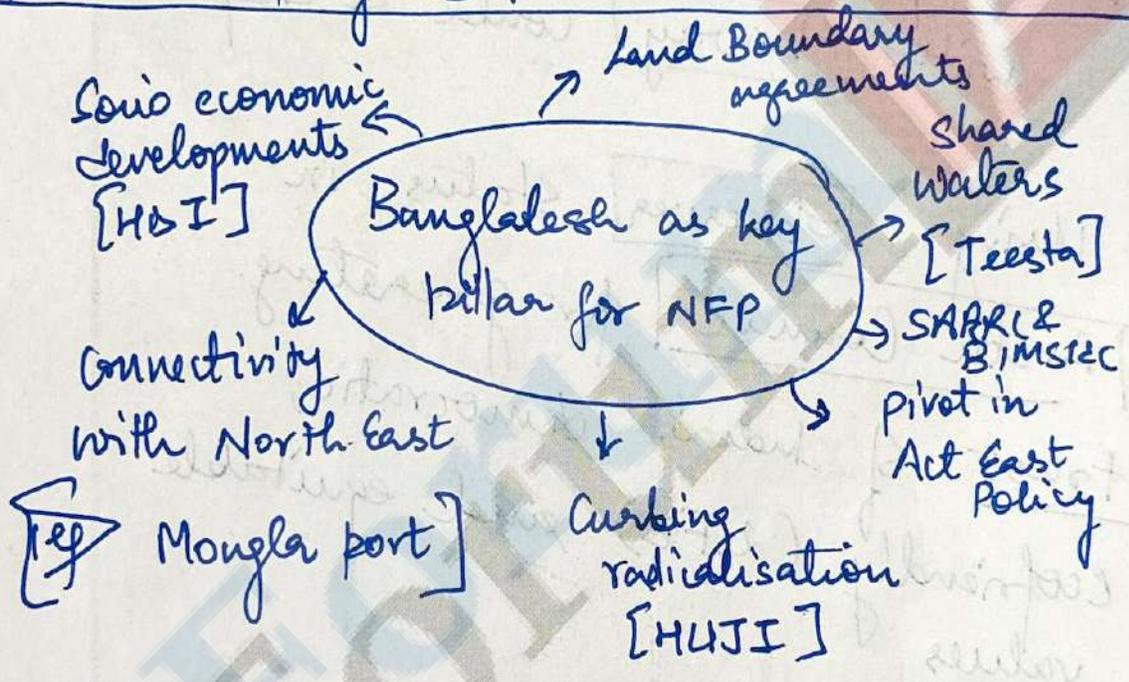
Q.20) Bangladesh is a key pillar of India's Neighborhood First policy, but recent developments on both sides threaten to disrupt the 'Sonal Adhyay' in bilateral relations. Analyze. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans 20

ForumIAS

(Don't Write anything in this Area/ इस स्थान पर कुछ न लिखें)

India shares the longest border, among its neighbours, with Bangladesh making it a key pillar for Neighbourhood First Policy which aims at taking all neighbours together in India's path to progress.



PM Modi aptly described relations between both countries as part of Golden Phase or Sonal Adhyay which is marked by growing cooperation between both the nations.

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			

However, recent developments pose a threat →

- ① remarks such as 'Sole protector' for Indian ocean challenges India's role as Net Security Provider.
- ② Renewed Thaw between Pakistan & Bangladesh raises a key threat to India's security & border management.
- ③ Closeness to Pakistan China points towards growing dependence on China  
 ↳ part of BRI  
 ↳ Golden Friendship exercise
- ④ Revocation of transshipment port access for Bangladesh ports by India reduce scope for economic cooperation through Land Ports

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

⑤ Growing anti-India sentiment fuelled by radicalisation and Rohingya issue hinders joint cooperation on security issues

These developments might have a dysfunctional effect on ongoing and future cooperation on:-

- 1) Teesta Water Sharing
- 2) India's role as global giant
- 3) Support for UNSC reforms
- 4) Global South leadership
- 5) Connectivity of North East
- 6) Indian technology growth & assistance to Bangladesh  
 ↳ Rooppur Nuclear plant
- 7) Energy security as fetched LPG has to be provided to North East

Measures Required

- Track II diplomacy
- Renewed trust using people-to-people contacts ↳ common culture
- Focus on common shared ideals ↳ 1971 War.

Thus, India needs to recalibrate & harmonise Visit Bharat by 2047 with Smart Bangladesh (2047) vision