



**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 'Sonali Adhyay' in bilateral relations. Analyze.

(15 marks, 250 words)

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

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

392749\_812414\_1910101622\_(2025-08-06 16:48:29)

↓

Preamble, soul of the constitution, enshrines ideals of Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity which have guided the path of country in last 75 years.

## Realisation of Ideals

- 1) Justice : social, economic, political
- affirmative actions like reservation (Ex) more than 40% women in panchayat.
  - land reforms to reduce inequality
  - free legal aid, Article 39A

2) Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship

- upholding rights under Article 25-28 (religious freedom)
- Independent Judiciary upholding rights (Ex) Basic structure doctrine.

3) Equality of status and opportunity

- reservation for SC/ST in public employment.

- Transgender persons act 2019
- Ban on triple talaq.

4) Fraternity → to ensure dignity of individual and unity and integrity of nation

→ single citizenship

→ Ek Bharat, Shresht Bharat.

### Challenges

1) Inequality: Top 1% people hold 40% wealth (Oxfam)

2) Divisions based on caste, religion (E) Non violence, caste based violence

3) uneven implementation of affirmative actions (E) only 4% SC households have member in govt services (2011 census)

4) Situation of women: sexual violence (Rajkumar medical case), Gender pay gap.

5) challenges to liberty like low rank in press freedom index.

Institutional reforms, ethical governance, public awareness necessary to make these ideas reality and usher the era of inclusive growth.

2.

The original constitution provided right to property as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(f), however its tussle with measures of public welfare led to its further evolution

### Evolution of Property Rights in India

- 1) Original constitution: in part III
  - Article 19(1)(f): right to hold, acquire and dispose property
  - Article 31: against compulsory acquisition of property except by law and with compensation.
  - It acted as hindrance in implementation of land reforms (Ex) Kameshwar Singh vs State of Bihar

### 2) 1st constitutional amendment

- added Article 31A and 31B (9th Schedule) and saved land reform acts from judicial review

### 3) Shankari Prasad case upheld validity of 1st amendment

- 4) 4th amendment expanded scope of 31A.

5) Golaknath vs. State of Punjab (1967)

→ SC held that parliament can not amend fundamental rights including right to property

6) 25<sup>th</sup> amendment 1971

→ added Art 31(c) gave primacy to Article 39(b) and 39(c) (DPSP) over fundamental rights

7) Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)

→ upheld 25<sup>th</sup> amendment but limited in scope

8) 44<sup>th</sup> amendment

→ Removed right to property from Part III and added Article 300A in part XII

→ Right to property is constitutional right

9) Ultra-Tech cement Ltd case (2024)

SC held property right is human right and due procedure should be followed.

In recent Property Owners Association case SC held that not all private property is material resources of community and hence gave primacy to individual right balancing with public welfare.

3.

Article 352- 360 in Part XVIII of the constitution contain provisions related to National Emergency.

Conditions to proclaim 'National Emergency'

- 1) Grounds : 1) War    2) external aggression
- 3) Armed Rebellion (44<sup>th</sup> amendment replaced 'Internal disturbances')
- 2) President can proclaim national emergency on the basis of written advice of cabinet (44<sup>th</sup> amendment)
- 3) proclamation should be passed by special majority in both houses ~~by~~ within one month.
- 4) If approved it would continue for 6 months and can be extended indefinitely with repeated approval for every 6 months.

Consequences of National emergency

- 1) on fundamental rights
  - i) Article 358 - fundamental rights under Article 19 automatically suspended if war, external aggression or grounds.

# U.P.S.C.

Que 302749\_812414\_1910101622\_(2025-08-06 16:48:29)

प्रश्न संख्या

for practice  
use only  
सिर्फ अभ्यास  
के लिए

ii) Article 359 : President can suspend right to approach to court in case of violation of fundamental rights (except Article 20 and 21)

2) on state-centre relations:

→ parliament can pass law on subject in state list [Article 250]

→ centre can give directions to any state to any matter

→ president can modify distribution of revenue between centre and states

→ can extend tenure of lok sabha [Article 83(2)]

and legislative assembly [Article 172(1)] by 1 year at a time

→ It transforms federalism into unitary polity.

Last time it was imposed during

period 25<sup>th</sup> June 1975 to 21<sup>st</sup> March

1977 on the grounds of internal disturbance.

To remind the violation of civil liberties during emergency centre declared 25<sup>th</sup> June as 'Samidhaan Hatya Divas'.

392749\_812414\_1910101622\_(2025-08-06 16:48:29)

4) Pre-legislative consultation is a process of seeking inputs from public, experts on proposed bill before it passes through formal procedure of enacting act.

Issues with lack of binding framework for pre-legislative consultation

- 1) hinders participative governance  
→ present mechanism is ad hoc and inconsistent
- 2) can lead to opposition of public post implementation  
(Ex) protest against farm bills (2020)
- 3) lowers trust of citizens and can lead alienation of people from legislative process.
- 4) availability of draft in English and only in online mode → limits reach.

Measures to strengthen public consultation

- 1) Legislative framework:  
→ we already have policy on pre-legislative consultation but it is not binding.

## 2) Dedicated Portal :

→ all bills and drafts should be uploaded on the portal to get public views and feedback.

→ drafts should be available both online offline and in local languages

## 3) strengthening parliamentary committees

→ can include experts, academicians in the process of legislation

## 4) mandate disclosure of action taken

on views received by ministry and why accepted or rejected.

## 5) promote awareness among public

and capacity building of civil society and NGOs to use the available mechanisms efficiently.

## 6) Involve marginalised sections like tribals through NGOs.

pre-legislative consultations can transform p.citizens from passive recipients to active participants and strengthen democracy.

5)

15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (FC) had been established under Article 280 to recommend distribution of revenue among states and centre for the period 2021-26 under chairman NK Singh.

FC enabled states to improve fiscal conditions

- 1) Vertical devolution of taxes  
→ 41% taxes to states ensure steady supply of revenue
- 2) Revenue - deficit grants to 17  
states whose revenue could not match expenditure to ensure equity
- 3) sector specific grants : to allow targeted development in sectors like health, education.
- 4) weightage to Income distance (45%)  
to balance regional development
- 5) weightage to demographic performance (12.5%) incentivise states to take population control measures.
- 6) Grants to local gov Bodies

7) weightage to tax efforts (2.5%)  
incentivise states to reform tax  
governance and bring efficiency.

However there are certain concerns  
raised by state.

## Concerns

1) weightage to population of 2011 census  
(15%) → southern states have raised  
concerns as it was perceived as penalty  
for taking population control measures

2) performance-linked initiatives: the  
non-performing states can loose  
grants and reinforcing inequalities.

3) Increasing portion of cess and surcharges  
(around 23%) reduce divisible pool

4) Tied funds reduce autonomy  
of local governance bodies.

5) fiscal targets like reducing  
fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP can reduce  
ability to spend.

The measures like fiscal council  
(suggested by 15th FC) can be taken  
to balance fiscal federalism.

6)

Industry and business associations are interest groups advocating commercial interests of specific sectors. (Ex) ASSOCHAM, FICCI

Contribution of Industry and Business Associations to socio-economic development

1) Policy advocacy

→ associations provide important inputs while making policy to boost economic growth

(Ex) CII and FICCI providing inputs

2) Skill development:

→ associations provide youth with required skills specially in emerging sectors like AI

(Ex) NASSCOM's future skill prime

3) entrepreneurship and employment

→ associations support start-up and MSMEs providing employment

(Ex) NASSCOM's 10000 startups.

#### 4) Investment and Infrastructure development

→ by associating government in its effort to ensure regional development

(Ex) FICCI collaborating with government to boost connectivity in North-East

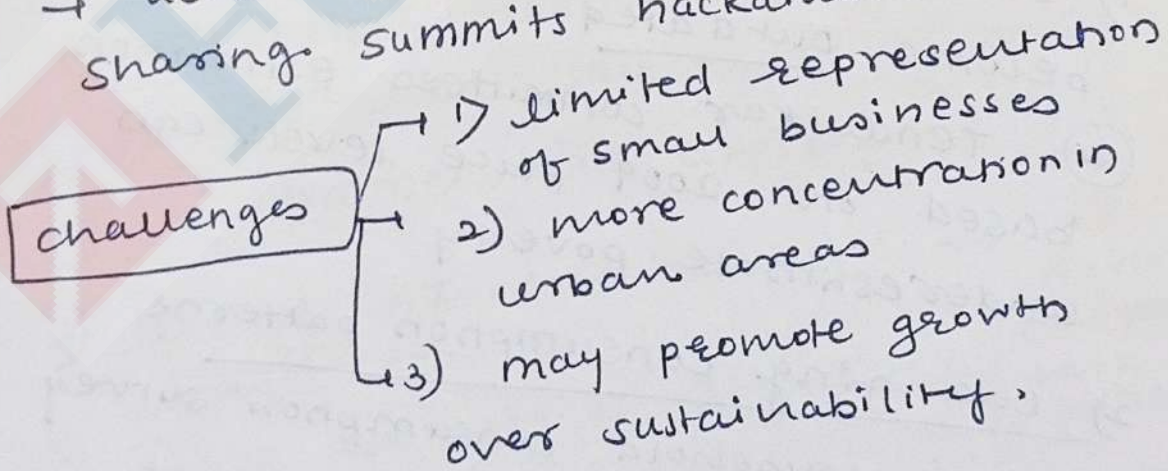
#### 5) Corporate Social Responsibility

→ associations ensure that CSR funds are channelled into specific areas promoting inclusive growth

(Ex) Initiatives for women empowerment.

#### 6) Innovation and R&D

→ associations arrange knowledge sharing, summits, hackathons etc.



Industry and business associations can play important role in achieving

Viksit Bharat @ 2047

by promoting socio-economic development.

7)

World Bank's report shows India has pulled out 171 million people from poverty in last 10 years

Poverty lies in eyes of the beholder implies the different methods, criteria used for measuring poverty

(or) Income criteria, capability approach etc.

Tendulkar committee → 21.9% poverty

Rangarajan committee → 29.5% poverty.

Need for credible and periodically updated poverty line

1) existing poverty lines have become outdated

(or) Tendulkar committee's estimation based on 2009 price levels can underestimate poverty

2) changing consumption patterns

Recent household consumption survey shows declining proportion of expenditure on food (< 50% in rural areas also)

3) To update poverty basket

→ in recent times even access to mobile, internet, bank accounts become necessity which was luxury once.

4) To better service delivery:

schemes like NFSA, Ujjwala yojana use SECC 2011 which has become too old.

5) ensure accountability:

• periodically updated poverty line will enable people and parliament uphold government accountable

### Way forward

1) establish mechanism to update poverty like (say every 5 years)

2) multidimensional approach (NITI 2008)

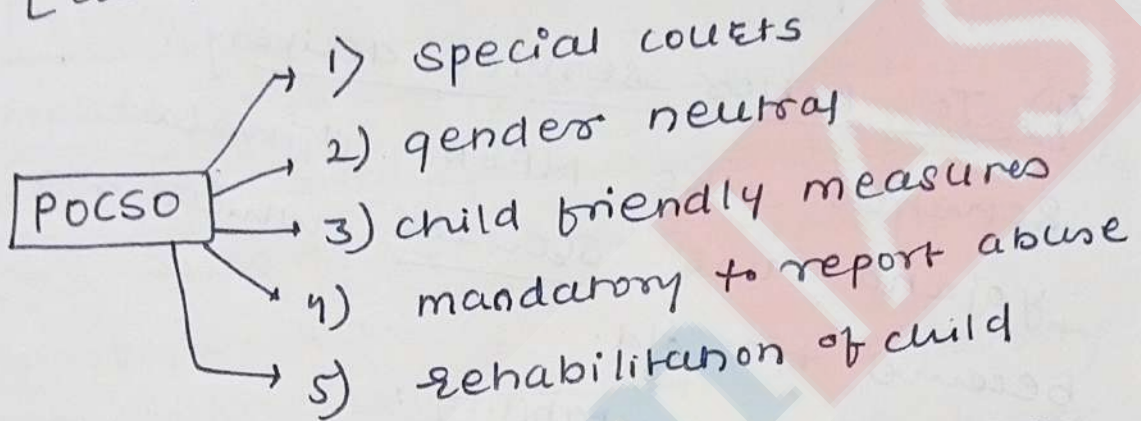
3) use of AI, data analytic to analyse data

4) trace progress of Bottom 30% [Azing Panagariya task force]

If we truly want eliminate poverty, we first measure it accurately. Because, what we can not measure, can not change.

8)

POCSO act 2012 is a dedicated legislation in India to tackle menace of child sexual abuse [child + below 18 years]



However, due to some issues it fails short of achieving its intended objectives

### challenges

- 1) criminalization of adolescent consensual relationships.  
→ misuse by parents to prevent inter-caste and inter-faith marriage
- 2) low number of special courts  
→ only 412 in 2022 against the intended numbers
- 3) low conviction rate  
→ only 3% conviction rate in 2022. (SC report).

- 4) underreporting of sexual abuse due to social stigma
- 5) lack of awareness among parents and implementation agencies like police.
- 6) Delayed Justice : It takes more than one year to dispose POCWO case ( vidhi centre for legal policy)
- 7) Digital media: encryption enables circulation of child sexual abuse (CSA) material.

## Way Forward

- 1) Increasing number of special courts.
  - 2) address overcriminalization of adolescent relation through Judicial discretion
  - 3) awareness among parents and sensitization of police.
  - 4) incorporating sex education in school
  - 5) Rehabilitation measures through child care institutions.
- " The progress of nation is measured through how it treats its children";

9.

World Health Organisation (WHO) is a specialised agency of UN, established on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1948, and plays central role in global health governance.

crisis of capacity and credibility

1) limited financial autonomy:

- WHO depends on voluntary contributions for finances (80%)
- + it limits its ability to respond to pandemics
- + USA accounted for 15% of funds
- its removal can create issues.

2) Political pressure : it is

alleged that WHO works under political pressure

(Ex) Its endorsement on taxing soft drinks faced opposition from beverages industry and US government

3) poorly coordinated response

(Ex) delaying declaration of ebola outbreak in 2014 as PHEIC and COVID 19 in 2020.

## 4) complex organisation

→ Includes multiple departments with overlapping jurisdiction and complex and rigid rules slow down response

## 5) credibility issues:

→ facing allegations of bias against countries like china (vs cited thus as reason of withdrawal)

→ (97) Inspection of wuhan lab in non-transparent manner.

## 6) conflict of Interest:

→ Decisions of WHO are alleged to be swayed by interests of pharmaceutical companies.

## What to be done ?

1) funding reforms : fixed contribution from member countries

2) Bringing transparency in operations

3) Internal reforms to ensure speedy response.

Reforms in WHO are necessary as it plays central role in ensuring health security specially in least developed countries.

10)

The phrase 'My terrorist vs your terrorist' indicates how fragmented is global response to terrorism and countries tackling only their own enemy instead of collective efforts against terrorism as whole.

My Terrorist vs Your Terrorist

1) Tackling particular enemy;

(ex) 1) Europe fighting right wing extremism

2) USA fighting racially and ethnically motivated extremism (REMPRE)

2) creation of barriers by few countries

(ex) China blocking Masood Azhar's designation as terrorist

3) Double standards: collective response after 9/11" but asking India to show restraint after Panalgham.

4) Some countries even asked for proof of Pakistan's involvement.

5) Global Terrorism Index 2024 shows 'Sahel region' becoming

epicentre of terrorism but lack of response due to my terrorist v your terrorist paradigm.

### Measures / strategies

- 1) finalize comprehensive convention against international terrorism (CCIT)
    - proposed by India in 1996 to form definition and criminalize all forms of terrorism
  - 2) reforms in counter-terrorism architecture of ~~US~~ UN:
    - (a) VETO in sanction committee and UN office of counter terrorism
  - 3) Data sharing and coordination among FATF, INTERPOL, SCO RATS etc
  - 4) Combat Terror financing: by implementing FATF guidelines
    - (a) India's No ~~fund~~ money for Terror (NAMFT)
  - 5) Tackle root causes of radicalisation through education and empowerment.
- Terrorism is not threat to particular country but to global peace and stability, hence demand global response.

11)

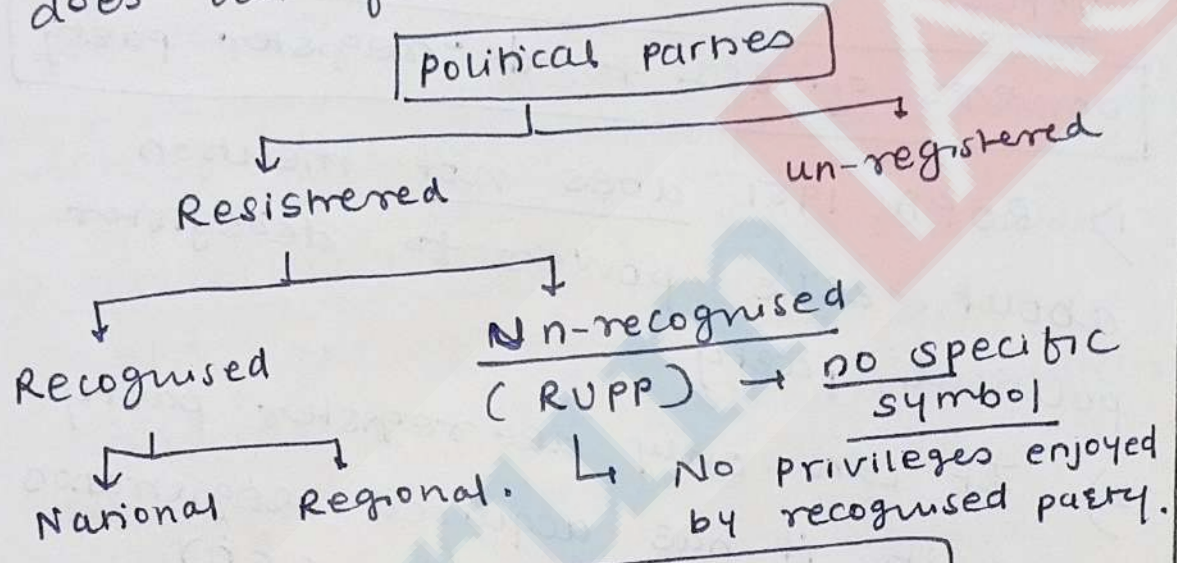
Representation of people Act 1951 provides basic framework for conducting elections in the country. It includes provisions from registration of political parties to disqualification of candidates.

Procedure of registration of political parties

- ROPA 1951 under section 29A provides for registration procedure
- political parties apply to the Election Commission of India for registration
- ECI can demand documents like party's constitution for verification (must align with constitutional provisions)
- scrutiny by public is allowed before registration
- After proper verification, ECI registers political party.

## Registered Unrecognised Political Party

RUPP is political party registered by ECI but not recognised as national or regional party as it does not fulfill criteria.



## Concerns associated with RUPP

- 1) many RUPP do not contest elections even after many years of registration
- 2) can be used for money-laundering - shell companies. can use them as tool to reintroduce tax exempt money
- 3) can be used to confuse voters and compromise electoral integrity.

4) proliferation of RUPPS leads to increase in administrative cost of conducting elections.

5) can be used for splitting of votes

powers of ECI to de-register party

1) ROPA 1951 does not mention about ECI's power to de-register political party

2) It can only de-register party only if it has acquired registration through fraudulent means (SC)

3) ECI and Law Commission demanded power of de-registration to ECI to ensure electoral integrity

4) ECI de-list the political party which does not participate in electoral process for long time.

Strengthening ECI with power to de-register party is necessary to ensure free and fair elections which form base of democracy.

12)

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, replaced erstwhile Planning Commission, with aim of fostering cooperative and competitive federalism.

Role of NITI Aayog in cooperative federalism

- 1) Governing Council : It includes PM, CM of all states, Lt. Governors which foster collaboration to align regional priorities with national goal
- 2) Regional Councils to address challenges faced by more than one state or region (ex) North East
- 3) Team India Hub of NITI brings centre and states together to promote national developmental agenda
- 4) Publication of Best Practices promote information sharing and learning from each other

# U.P.S.C.

## 5) decentralised planning:

→ encourages bottom up planning and formulation of state level plans

(Ex) State specific SDG vision documents.

## 6) Policy Support :

→ NITI ayog provides technical support, expertise, data analysis to states to implement developmental policies

(Ex) Aspirational District Programme, Atal Innovation Mission, SATH-C

## NITI Aayog's role in competitive federalism

### 1) Performance based ranking:

→ NITI aayog ranks states on various parameter and promote healthy competition.

- (Ex) • Export Preparedness Index
- Health Index
- Composite Water Management Index
- SDG India Index.

## 2) Aspirational District Programme

→ encourage race to the top by real time data monitoring and rewards for progress in sectors like health, agriculture, education etc.

### Challenges

- 1) limited financial autonomy unlike planning commission
- 2) advices not binding ignored by states
- 3) states have questioned quality of data used for ranking
- 4) centre-state friction continues  
(eg) CAA, governor's post etc.

### Way forward

- 1) provide financial autonomy
  - 2) strengthen policy enforcement
  - 3) transparency in data gathering and ranking of states.
- With adequate measures taken, NITI Aayog has potential to transform federalism landscape.

13)

Article 93 and Article 178  
of the constitution of India  
provides for the post of Deputy  
Speaker in Lok Sabha and State  
legislative assemblies respectively.

DS beyond ceremonial significance

1) Constitutional necessity:

→ use of words like 'shall' and  
'as soon as may be' indicates  
election is not optional but mandatory  
(Article 93)

2) Role to ensure legislative continuity

→ Deputy speaker performs role of  
speaker in case of vacancy Article (95)

⊗ DS Ananthasayanam Ayyangar  
performed role of speaker after  
demise of G.V. Mavalankar in 1956

3) Democratic Inclusion:

→ conventionally, DS should come  
from opposition ensures consensus  
building in parliament.

4) plays important role in parliamentary committees like Rules committee

→ DS becomes chairman of committee if appointed as member.

However, the post of Deputy Speaker is vacant since 2019.

C for whose 17<sup>th</sup> LS and continue in 18<sup>th</sup>)

Implications of prolonged vacancy

1) against constitutional morality:

→ it sets dangerous precedents of disregarding constitutionally mandated posts.

2) Marginalisation of opposition:

→ vacancy of DS results into shrinking space for opposition.

→ weakens deliberative democracy

→ leads to disruptions in parliament and obstructs consensus building

3) Centralisation of authorities into single position of speaker which often questioned for neutrality.

4) Institutional crisis in case of resignation or vacancy of speaker in the absence of second in command.

5) challenges credibility of parliamentary democracy of India at international level.

Way ahead

1) clear time frame under Article 93 to avoid ambiguity

2) Judicial interpretation of 'as soon as' as in the case of Governors power to assent

3) Institutional convention of appointing DS from opposition

4) strengthen civil society, media to create public pressure.

The post of Deputy speaker is neither optional nor symbolic but constitutional necessity to preserve integrity of parliamentary democracy.

14)

India has second largest network of mobile connections (1.14 Billion) and 2nd largest 5G Market. As the use of Digital Media is increasing, it is also leading to demand for online content regulation.

Justification of demand for regulation of online content

- 1) Misinformation and Disinformation have been identified as top most risk in short term by World Economic Forum.
  - 2) instances of hate speeches, fake news can undermine unity and integrity of India.
  - 3) proliferation of obscenity and public outrage over it
- (2) India got latent controversy.

4) can undermine Institutional Integrity.

→ Recently government showed how digital media can be misused by creating account in the name 'supreme court of Karnataka' it can be misused for spreading misinformation through fake account.

5) lack of comprehensive framework to tackle challenge

→ loophole in IT act 2000

→ opposition to SAHYOG portal

6) can be used for circulation of child sexual Abuse (CSA) material.

However, over-regulation can have chilling effect on fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression Article 19(1)

1) Shreya Singhal case : SC

Struck down Section 66A of IT act 2000 as infringing freedom of speech.

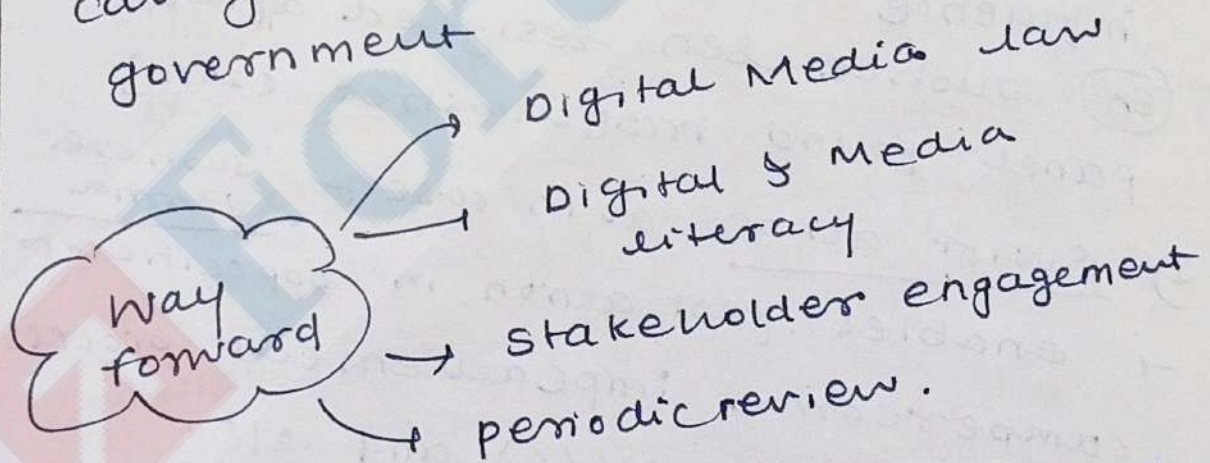
2) Anuradha Bhasin case : (2020)

SC propounded that 'test of proportionality' should be used  
→ curbs imposed should be proportional to intended goals.

3) ambiguity :

→ ambiguity in words like sovereignty, unity can be misuse

4) online content regulation can give overriding power to government



Freedom of speech should not become casualty of regulation but its most protected outcome.

15)

'In-house procedure' is a mechanism to investigate cases of judicial misconduct by court internally. It originated in

Ravichandran Iyer vs Justice

A.M. Bhattacharjee case 1995.

## Benefits of In-House Procedure

1) Judicial Independence :

→ Judicial accountability is managed internally, shielding from external influence

(Ex) Justice Sen resigned after panel found irregularities (2011)

2) Swift action as in case of Justice Varma  
→ enables fast action in opposition to cumbersome impeachment process under Article 124(a) and 218.

3) Flexibility : more options than binary output of impeachment

(Ex) CJI can 'advise' in case of minor violation.

4) Institutional Integrity:

+ confidentiality is maintained throughout the process.

However, opaque procedure has led to some challenges.

Limitations of in-house procedure

1) lack of transparency:

+ not open to public and reports are not published

+ erosion of public trust in judiciary

2) No statutory backing → depends on judicial discretion3) limited outcomes:

→ recommendations are advisory only

→ not allow to take punitive action even against serious misconduct

4) Conflict of Interest: peers

review Judges. This can lead to conflict of Interest due to Judicial Brotherhood.

# U.P.S.C.

Question ID: 392749\_812414\_1910101622\_(2025-08-06 16:48:29)

प्रश्न संख्या

for practice  
use only  
सिर्फ अभ्यास  
के लिए

5) lack of mechanism for appeal or review

6) lack of external oversight against checks and Balances

## Measures to be taken

1) encourage transparency  
→ public disclosure of bindings with safeguards

2) Independent oversight Body on lines of UK's judicial conduct investigation office.

3) legislative framework can be provided for investigation

(a7) Judicial standards and accountability Bill

4) following due process for both complainant and Judge and introduce mechanism to appeal.

Judicial Independence is part of Basic structure (Kesavananda Bharati) of constitution but should ~~does~~ not come at the cost of accountability.

16)

The recent controversies like sudden spurt in voter registration in Maharashtra, duplication of EPIC in West Bengal have led to renewed demand for voter-ID and Aadhar linkage.

ECI started voter ID - Aadhar linkage as a part of **NERPAP** (National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme) in 2015 but stopped after SC Judgement.

### Benefits of Voter ID - Aadhar link

1) Duplicate and fraudulent entries elimination

- biometric authentication of Aadhar will help in purification of voter roll

2) Facilitate voter mobility

- specially for domestic migrant laborers

- can participate in electoral process at place of residence.

(will increase their political visibility)

3) can reduce impersonation  
frauds.

→ Aadhar can be used for authentication at polling stations to weed out proxy voting.

4) Backed by law:

→ Election laws (amendment) act 2021 allows for voluntary linkage

5) can provide foundation for future innovations like remote  
voting

### Challenges of linking Aadhar - Voter ID

1) Misuse of personal data and violation of privacy

→ data can be used for surveillance and voter profiling

→ can violate fundamental right of privacy (Puttaswamy case)

2) Risk of disenfranchisement

⊕ In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana 30 lakh voters disenfranchised in 2015 due to linkages.

3) According to Aadhar Act 2016  
Aadhar is proof of residence not  
citizenship. → It can result into  
some non-citizens participating in  
voting.

4) Data accuracy issues : errors  
in aadhar database can result  
into inclusion-exclusion errors.

### Way forward

1) Voluntary opt-in mechanism :

→ linking of Aadhar should be  
voluntary

2) Increasing public awareness

about benefits with safeguards  
like robust data protection measures.

3) Independent auditing mechanism  
and grievance redressal should  
be put in

4) Alternative tools : Aadhar should  
be one of the tool of identification  
(autonomy)

Aadhar - Voter ID linkage can  
ensure electoral integrity but  
safeguards should be there to  
avoid privacy violation and exclusion

17)

Lateral Entry allows recruitment of individuals outside the traditional Bureaucratic set up at mid-level and senior-level posts in government. It is often based on 3-5 years contract.

First mooted by ARC  
(Administrative Reforms Commission)  
was announced in 2018.

Lateral Entry as Reformative Step

1) address shortage of Officers.

→ Baswan committee supported lateral entry for addressing shortage of ~1500 IAS officers (DOPT)

2) Boost competition among career bureaucrats (NITI Aayog)

3) Bring Domain experts in governance in Areas like AI, Cryptocurrency etc

4) Outsiders perspective

→ by providing opportunities to private experts, it gives

chance to understand outsiders perspective

5) Improve work culture:

→ Bureaucracy is often criticised for red-tapism, rule-book bureaucracy and status quoism.

However it has attracted criticism and controversy.

## CRITICISM and CONTROVERSY

1) lack of transparency in recruitment process can lead to perception of Nepotism, favoursitism

2) outside the reservation system goes against the goal of social justice

3) private players can use their position to influence policies to favor private sector (revolving door governance)

4) resistance from career bureaucrats (outsider syndrome)

5) short term of 3-5 years

→ can prioritise short-term goals over long term vision

→ difficult to set accountability

6) lack grassroots experience

→ bureaucrats get training under constitutional framework and field work.

Way forward

1) Transparent & merit based recruitment. (ex) UK's fast stream recruitment

2) clear specification about role, responsibility and expectations

3) civil service reforms

→ private deputation for domain expertise

→ mid-career trainings (Mission Karmyogis)

Though well intended, safeguards should be provided to reduce controversies regarding lateral entry.

18)

Various ranking frameworks are used to evaluate the performance of Higher-Education Institutions and compare them.

(ex) National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

Concerns in current ranking framework.

1) disproportionate weightage research, citation etc.

2) one-size fits all approach  
→ every institution has some specific mission and goals.  
→ ranking on rigid framework can ignore their uniqueness.

3) Does not take into account parameters like impact created on social surrounding, social research, community engagement etc.

4) Does not take into account diversity of students in Educational Institutions across gender, social groups, class etc.

5) Also, do not include professors diversity etc.

6) There are also some subjective parameters in some frameworks like 'perception' of institutions

## measures for improvement

1) more focus should be given on quality of research rather than focusing just on number of publications.

(2) applicability to daily-life issues.

2) also consider ethical issues like plagiarism.

- 3) participation of students, professors, education experts while deciding parameters of ranking
- 4) Institutions with similar mission should be ranked to avoid one-size fit approach
- 5) Include parameters like diversity, community engagement, social entrepreneurship development, sustainable practices.

Ranking of HEIs has its own benefits like helping students to choose best institution and inducing competition. Hence concerns should be addressed.

19)

Global warming induced ice melting in Arctic is unlocking its resources and leading to growing salience of Arctic in international policies

Factors behind growing salience of Arctic

1) Climate change:

→ Temperature is increasing very fast in Arctic compared to rest of the world.

→ make Arctic sea routes more accessible for longer duration.

→ North sea route reduces distance by 40% between Western Europe and Western Asia.

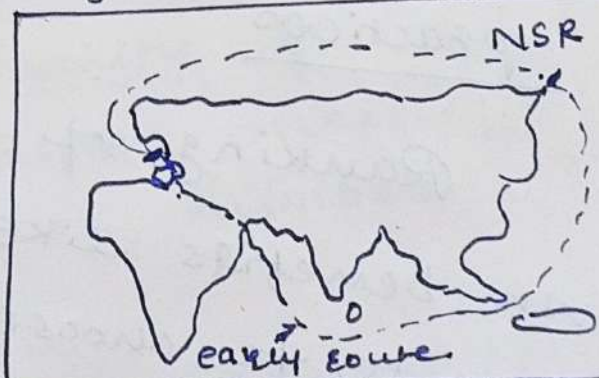


Fig. North Sea Route NSR

→ Bypasses strait of Malacca and Suez canal → zone of conflict and piracy

→ also resulting in unblocking of resources like oil and gas, fish

(27) Arctic has estimated 15% of global oil reserves and 30% of undiscovered natural gas.

2) Geopolitics competition:

→ countries like USA, China, Russia are increasing their activities in the region

3) present legal framework under UNCLOS and Arctic Council not enough to deal with disputes

(28) disputes over EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zones)

4) environmental concerns and rights of indigenous communities.

### India Arctic engagement

1) present engagement.

→ observer in Arctic Council since 2013

→ Research base Himadri, Svalbard, Norway

→ Arctic Policy 2022 to build partnership with arctic countries.

## Future course of engagement

- 1) Enhance scientific engagement  
→ engage with arctic countries on polar research, impact of global warming, glacial melting.
- 2) Diplomatic engagement with arctic countries on multidimensional areas like sci-tech, sustainable development (eg) India-Norway partnership
- 3) Explore opportunities for shipping linked to NSR, it can be integrated with INSTC.
- 4) Environmental Stewardship:  
→ strongly advocate for environment concerns and rights of people
- 5) Capacity building: in ship building, scientists etc.  
India as Global responsible power should strongly advocate for responsible use of Global Commons, like Arctic.

20)

Bangladesh had been key partner of India in South Asia since its formation in 1971.

(Ex) India-Bangladesh Treaty of friendship 1972.

Bangladesh : key pillar of neighborhood policy

1) Geostrategic location of Bangladesh to connect with landlocked North-Eastern India.

(Ex) Agartala-Akhaura rail link.

or use of Chattoogram and Mongla port

2) Security partnership:

• Bangladesh played key role in reducing insurgency in NE by attacking their bases.

→ defence exercises (Ex) exercise Sampehi (Army)

3) Economic partnership

→ Bangladesh is largest trade partner of India in South Asia

→ India is second largest trade partner of Bangladesh in Asia.

## 4) energy sector partnership

→ collaboration on Mairee  
Super thermal power plant and  
India - Bangladesh friendship  
Pipeline

## 5) Multilateral cooperation ;

→ partners in BIMSTEC, SAARC, BBIN  
etc

## 6) century old people-to people ties.

However recent developments  
have created challenges.

### 1) Diplomatic disconnect:

◦ post-Hasina, India does not  
share deep connection with  
interim government.

### 2) Growing Chinese influence.

◦ Bangladesh is key partner  
in Belt and Road Initiative (BR1)  
◦ Increasing Chinese investment  
even in Teesta Rejuvenation project

### 3) Violence against minority

(Hindus) created concerns in India

## 4) Anti-India Sentiments.

→ slogans in recent protest like Dehi or Dhaka: Dhaka-Dhaka and India-out campaigns  
→ show deep rooted mistrust

## 5) Border management:

→ non-cooperation of authorities and objections to border fencing.  
→ challenge of illegal migration.

## Way forward

1) Engage Inclusively: establish long-term engagement and explore Track-2 diplomacy

2) leverage multilateral institutions  
→ BBIN motor vehicle agreement to boost regional connectivity

3) tackling growing influence of china.

with the help of trilateral partners  
(Ex) Japan developing Matarbari sea port in Bangladesh.

4) scholarships to student

sustaining 'Sonali-Adhyay'  
requires cooperation, trust building and mutual respect from both sides.