

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	MANOJ PATIL		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910028484	Medium/माध्यम	English <input type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र		Date/दिनांक	18/07/25

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

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक
1		
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Total/कुल अंक	250	

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

- 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।
- There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- 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।
- 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।
- 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 है, का पालना 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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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :	Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 9:00	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 12:00
Total Marks/कुल अंक :	Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु

*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।	ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी : ① ② ③ ④ ⑤	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

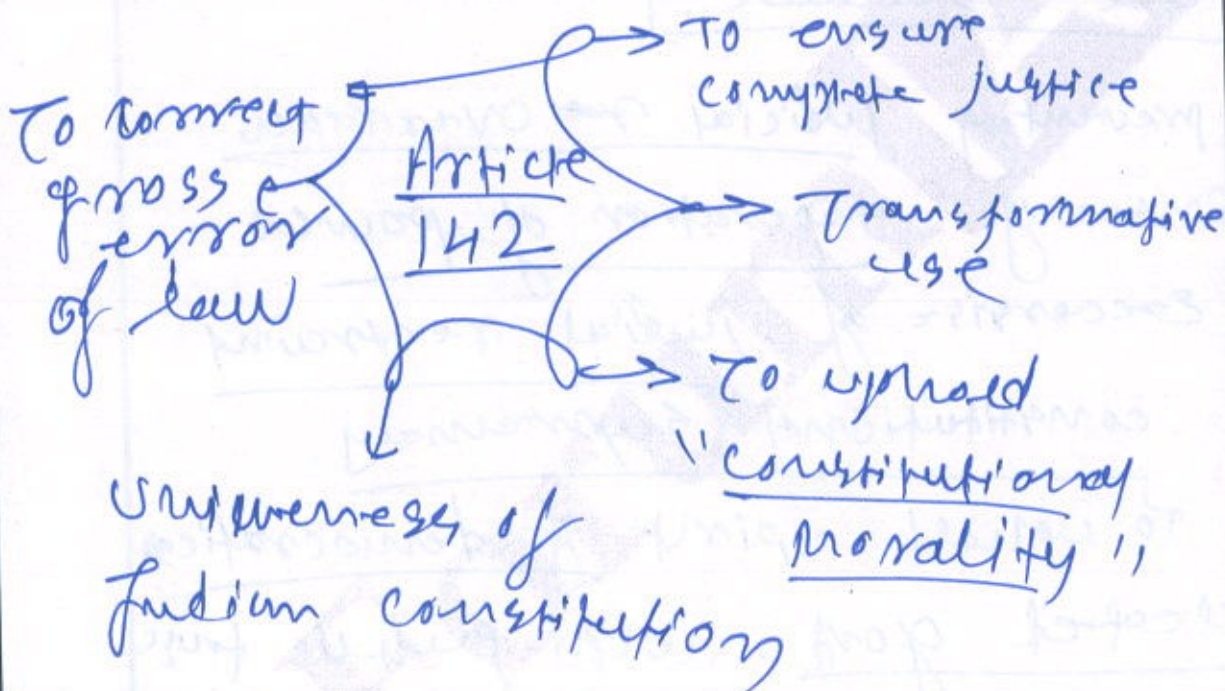
CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

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

Q.1) "Extraordinary powers must be exercised with extraordinary care." Discuss in the context of Article 142 of the Indian Constitution. (10 marks, 150 words)

"असाधारण शक्तियों का प्रयोग असाधारण सावधानी से किया जाना चाहिए।" भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 142 के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

A. 142 of the Indian constitution is unique in its essence, to ensure "complete justice".



It's an extraordinary power!

eg. SC banning liquor sell along national highway.

eg. SC used A.142 in Tamil Nadu

Governor case to set firm timeline for governor/president to assent bills.

① 2014 coal block cancellation -

To be exercised with Extraordinary care because!

- ① preventing Judicial Overreach
- ② Ensuring separation of powers
- ③ Excessive of judicial restraint
- ④ constitutional supremacy
- ⑤ To uphold spirit of democratic elected govt. with public trust
- ⑥ May result in unpragmatic decision due to limited capacity of SC

⑦ Absence of public input.

So, former CJI Chandrabud, rightly said that A-142 is to be used for justice, not to rewrite law.

Feedback

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#	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
S & F			
P & R			

Please put tick marks in the above table.
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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.2) Why are State Legislative Assemblies involved in the election of the President but excluded from the process of impeachment? (10 marks, 150 words)

राज्य विधान सभाओं को राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव में शामिल किया जाता है, लेकिन महाभियोग की प्रक्रिया से बाहर क्यों रखा जाता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

A. 54 of constitution provides for procedure for election of president with electoral college, consisting of all elected MPs & all elected MLAs.

State Legislative Assemblies involved in president election :

- ① president → State Head of State
- ② president office ⇒ Federal feature.
eg. In case any gross injustice to State govt., representatives meet to president.
- ③ Strengthen federalism → Basic Structure
- ④ Balances 'unity in diversity'
eg. Equal of every MLAs (elected)

~~either~~ election from Nagaland or Konyakumar, gets involved in presidential election.

Why Excluded from it's impeachment

- ① State legislature involvement in this process would be time consuming, & ineffective
- ② Already Rajyasabha involved, which have representation from every state.
- ③ Art 74 → Executive responsible to legislature.
- ④ → Accountability framework To ensure dignity of office of president, away from petty local politics.

Hence, this show the richness & uniqueness of vision of our constituent assembly.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.3) Private Member's Bills (PMBs) seldom become law in India, yet they are an important aspect of parliamentary democracy. Bring out their significance and suggest steps to strengthen the PMB process. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत में निजी सदस्य विधेयक (PMBs) शायद ही कभी कानून बनते हैं, फिर भी वे संसदीय लोकतंत्र का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू हैं। उनके महत्व को उजागर करें और निजी सदस्य विधेयक प्रक्रिया को सशक्त करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएं।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Recently, best Parliamentary Awards were announced, one of criteria is 'private member's bill introduced'.

It's a bill, introduced by a non-minister member.

→ imp. aspect of parliamentary democracy
 → limited time frame
 → only on Friday (Afternoon)
 ↳ alternate Friday

→ sole responsibility of member to prepare bill
 → speaker's consent need to introduce

more than 2000 PMBs introduced in 17th LG

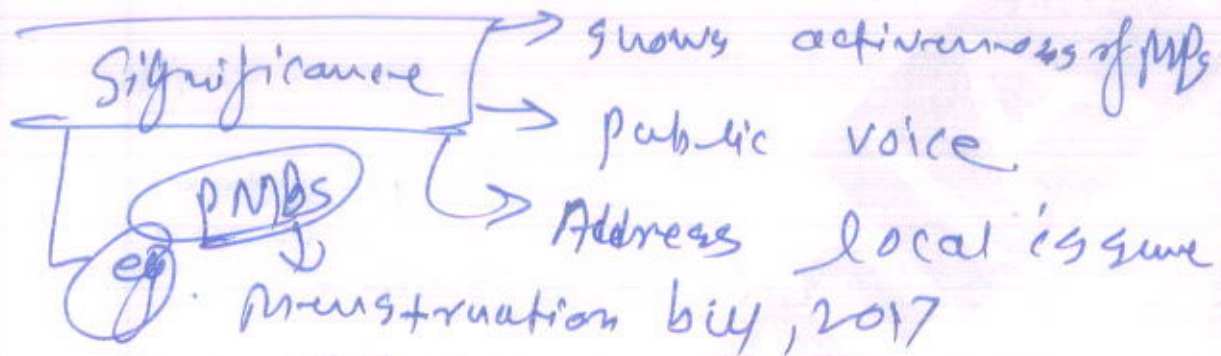
→ Till, only 14 PMB passed.

→ morale boost for parliamentarians

Why less success rate :

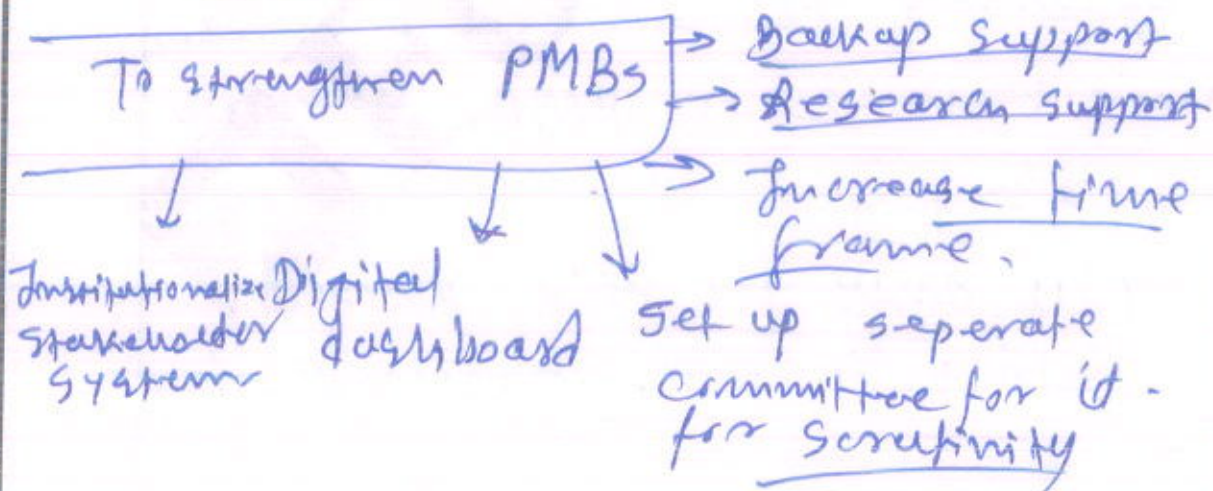
① lack of majority support.

- ② Anti-defection laws' "whip" order
- ③ faults in bill, poor designing of bill
- ④ less importance of bill in the view of govt. of the day.



Sexual Harassment bill → finally became POSH Act 2013

eg. women reservation bill → now Act



So, need of innovative way/study of best practices across world to ensure PMBs are well considered.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.4) Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the judicial systems of India and USA. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत और अमेरिका की न्यायिक प्रणालियों के बीच अभिसरण और विचलन के प्रमुख बिंदुओं पर प्रकाश डालिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India - largest democracy in the world
 & USA - oldest democracy of modern era - are the two great societies with democratic spirit, rule of law & freedoms & equality & equity.

In both the states, judiciary plays great role.

Key points of convergence:

- ① Judicial review → A. 32, 228 in India
 is taken from USA constitution
- ② Impeachment of judge.
- ③ Judicial activism ④ Constitutional Supremacy
 in both
- ⑤ Judicial independence
 for both systems
- ⑥ equal value for judicial precedents.

Key pts of divergence:

India

USA

① Integrated judiciary

① Federal set up of judiciary

② Executive appoints judges on the basis of collegium

② No executive involvement

③ procedure established by law (A-21)

③ Due process of law

④ checks & balances system

④ strict separation of law

⑤ Constitutional Supremacy

⑤ Judicial Supremacy

⑥ No Jury trial here

⑥ Jury trial process

both have great points of convergence & divergence depends on content of their democratic set up.

Feedback

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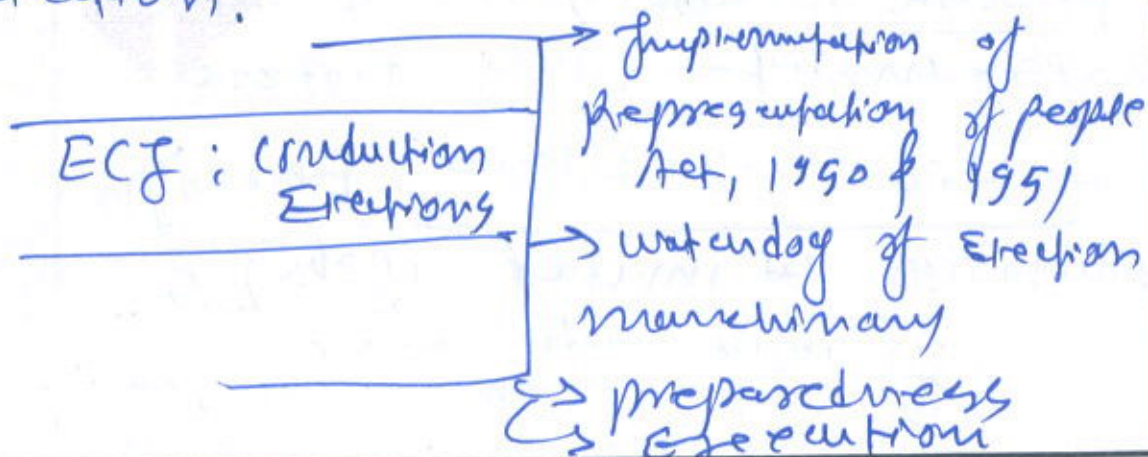
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.5) The role of Election Commission of India has evolved beyond conducting elections to becoming a guardian of electoral democracy. Critically evaluate. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत के चुनाव आयोग की भूमिका चुनाव कराने से आगे बढ़कर चुनावी लोकतंत्र के संरक्षक बनने तक विकसित हो गई है। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

ECI - Journey, starts from 1951 to present - 18th LS elections, 200+ assembly elections, registration of 97 crore voters (18th LS) & the journey continues.

Robust democracies of our world are based on robust institutions, hence, the strategic importance of ECI, under A. 324, with the mandate of free & fair election.



→ voters registration, control on election expenditure, social media, MCC

As a guardian of electoral democracy

① voters education eg SVEEP

→ Awareness, National Election Day

→ "value of" one vote, one citizen
one man, one vote, one value

② making informed citizenry

→ Keystone of democracy

③ participative, responsive,

④ transparent eg. Regular press
briefing by CIC & ECs

⑤ Facebook, Youtube/Social media
engagement with voters

⑥ Election observers, Foreign
dignitaries invited 18th LS

Concerns

- ① weak enforcement
- ② Electoral freebies, money power
- ③ post-facto action, delay action

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.6) What is the rationale behind the 'three-language formula' in India's education policy? Also highlight the challenges associated with its adoption and implementation across the country.

(10 marks, 150 words)

भारत की शिक्षा नीति में 'त्रि-भाषा सूत्र' के पीछे क्या तर्क है? देश भर में इसे अपनाने और लागू करने से जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NEP 2020 called for "three-language formula!"

Language is the strongest binding factor of soul of culture & civilisations

3-Language formula

Rationale:
 ↳ "Mother tongue first"
 ↳ At least, 2 must be Indian language
 ↳ one can be foreign.

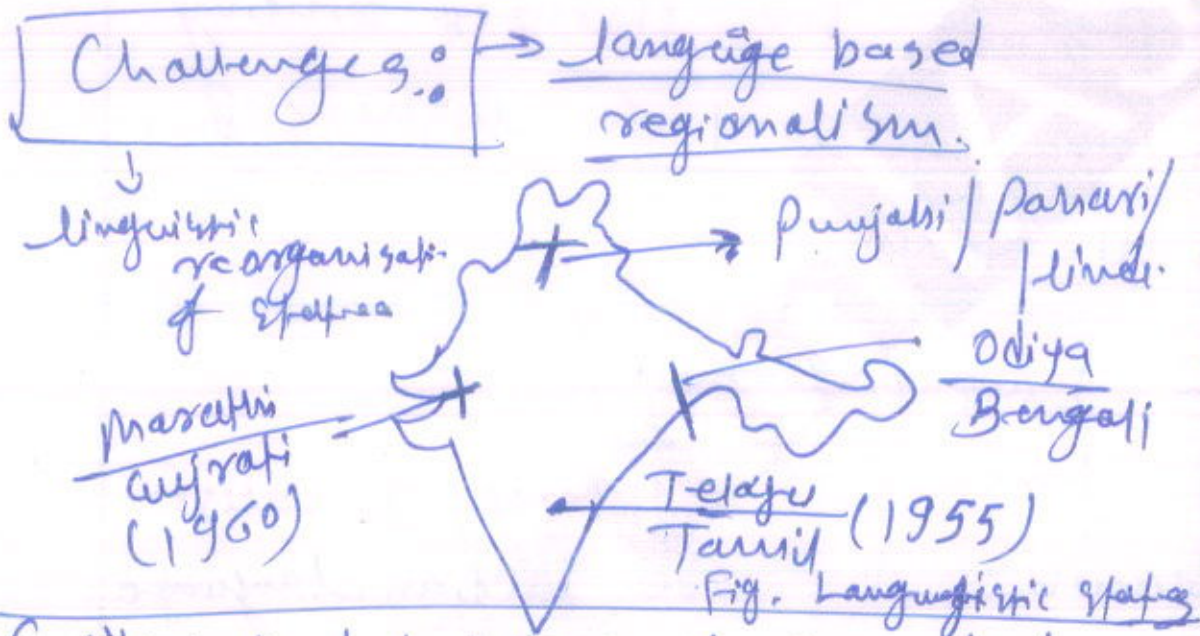
↳ one language → as a national binder.

A. 350A → ⁱⁿ mother tongue, education for primary schools

A. 350B → special linguistic office for minority of languages

A. 351 → Union duty to promote Hindi

→ Linguistic diversity promote → culture unity in diversity, strengthen bridging component of social capital; for career advancement.



→ "Hindi debate" → MH' Mumbai

→ fear of losing language identity

→ son of soil; to preserve ancient language

→ Electoral politics; public sentiment

→ Challenges in teaching 3 langs

→ Teachers → Not trained, cognitive load
→ English dominance

Language is one part of unity in diversity

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.7) 'Emerging environmental concerns and evolving ecosystem perspectives demand a reimagined approach to rural water governance.' Discuss the key interventions needed to recalibrate rural water policies with special emphasis on the role of communities. (10 marks, 150 words)

'उभरती पर्यावरणीय चिंताएँ और विकसित होते पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के परिप्रेक्ष्य ग्रामीण जल प्रशासन के लिए एक नए दृष्टिकोण की मांग करते हैं।' समुदायों की भूमिका पर विशेष बल देते हुए ग्रामीण जल नीतियों को पुनः संतुलित करने के लिए आवश्यक प्रमुख हस्तक्षेपों पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India's per cap water availability is 1486 cubic mt/annual, far below the WHO norm for personal hygiene & healthy life.

Emerging environmental concerns:

- ↳ climate change, droughts, urban floods
- ↳ Europe, Madagascar
- ↳ GLOFs → Sikkim flood
- ↳ cloud burst
- ↳ Mumbai flood
- ↳ Maharashtra
- ↳ Rajasthan
- ↳ climate-induced hunger, heatwaves
- ↳ Loo in Ganga
- ↳ gender impact

In this scenario, suggested key

interventions for rural water governance: Whole-of-Society Approach

① community-led water governance

eg. Traditional water harvesting ponds (RJ); Kuls (HP) etc.

② water literacy → public awareness
as suggested by Mihir Shah panel

③ watershed management → people-led initiative - eg. Aareyamsiddi (Anna Hazare)

④ Democratic governance

eg. River Kali Bein (Punjab)
→ spiritualism, public participation

⑤ utilising cooperatives, SHGs

⑥ civic sense education

⑦ strengthen local bodies → schedule

11 & 12
(Hence) Jan Bhayidas needed.

Feedback

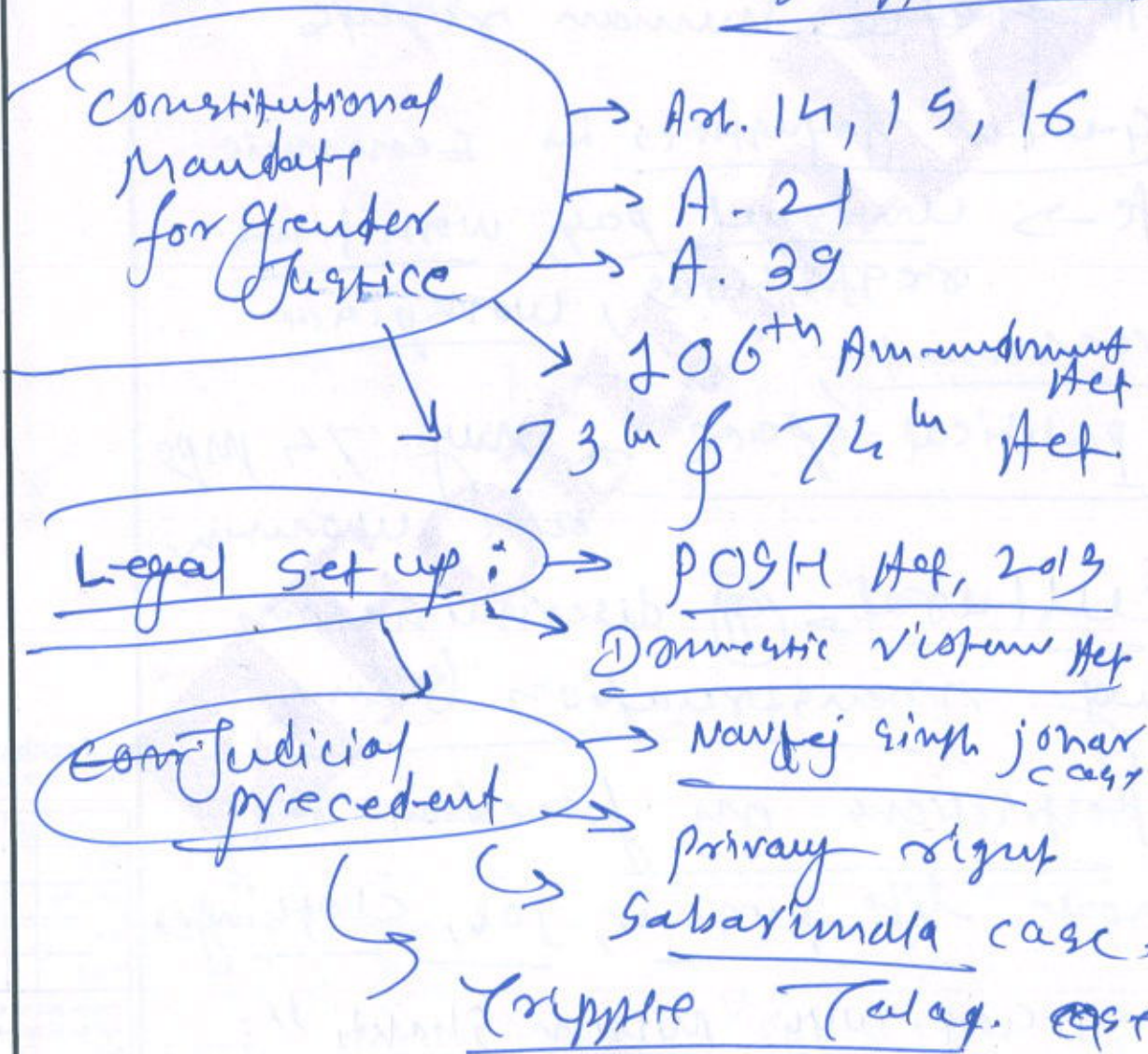
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.8) Identify and discuss the challenges hindering effective implementation of gender-sensitive policies and schemes in the country. (10 marks, 150 words)

देश में लैंगिक रूप से संवेदनशील नीतियों और योजनाओं के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में बाधा डालने वाली चुनौतियों की पहचान करें और उन पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

"I measure the progress of the society, by measuring the progress made by women in that society" — Dr. Ambedkar



In this scenario, still challenges

as follows:

① patriarchal mindset.
 → first child → treated as "paraya dhan"
 ↓ Honour, Killing → Burden - Jinnah
 → 'missing girls'
 → malnutrition
 → Negated human rights

② Gender Injustices in Economic life → unequal pay, work time restrictions, workplace harassment

③ political space → only 74 mps are women

④ cultural → eg. discrimination during menstruation time

⑤ Restrictions on freedom to choose life partner, job, clothing

However, cont. with "Mission Shakti"
"Mudra Yojana", Mari Vandan Adhiniyan
 aiming for SDG 05 & "Waste Management"

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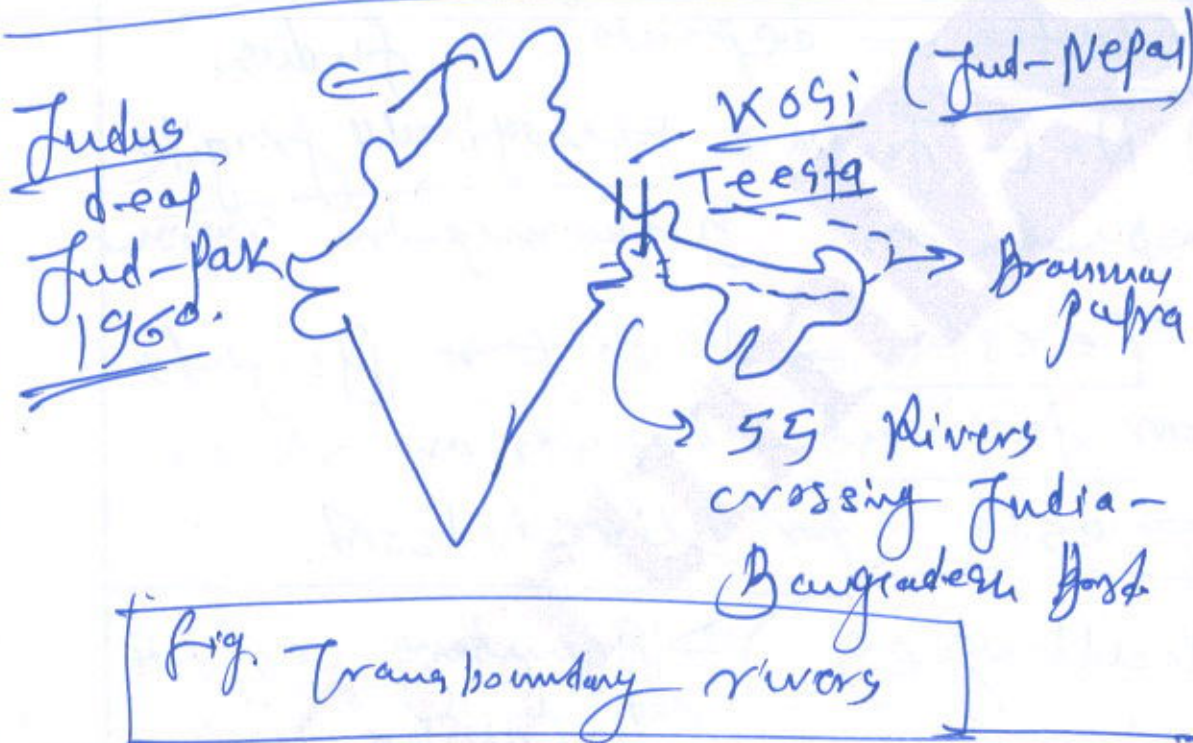
TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.8) Effective transboundary water management can act as a catalyst for regional peace and cooperation.' In light of this statement, bring out the opportunities and challenges for India in leveraging 'water diplomacy' in its neighbourhood. (10 marks, 150 words)

प्रभावी सीमापार जल प्रबंधन क्षेत्रीय शांति और सहयोग के लिए उत्प्रेरक का काम कर सकता है। इस कथन के आलोक में, भारत के लिए अपने पड़ोस में 'जल कूटनीति' का लाभ उठाने के अवसरों और चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

"water diplomacy" is a great tool to ensure regional peace & stability



Opportunities

- ① cultural linkages - people people ties, civilisational connect
- ② Water - Human right
- ③ Indus water Commission: success of visionary approach b/w two nations

④ India-Nepal-Kosi hydro data sharing mechanism — useful for downstream water management

⑤ Water: Economic resource
 eg. Majority of part of agriculture — depends on India.

eg. N-E India → Ecologically fragile depends on Biannamapra region

eg. Teesta → North-East Bangladesh poor farmers — depends on river forests for livelihood.

Challenges

→ Boundary conflicts
 eg. Galwan, Doklam

→ India-Pakistan War
cross-border Terror
Paragyan Organised crime
terror.

poor technological watch

→ lack of institutional setup,

Hence, India, with its spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" & "Neighbourhood first", with sovereignty, must take care of rivers.

Feedback

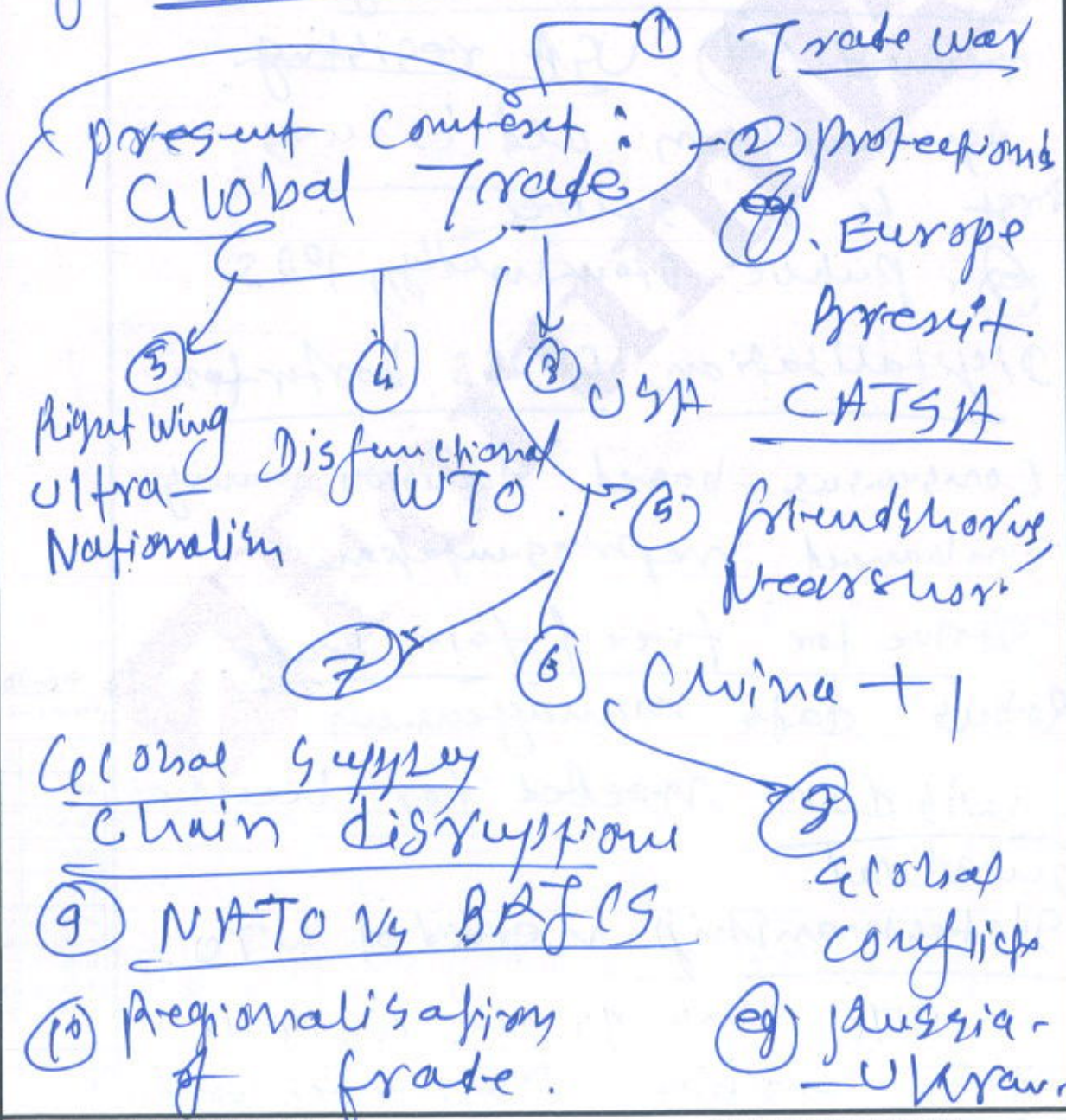
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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.10) What are the key areas of reform if the World Trade Organization (WTO) has to remain relevant in the present context of rising protectionism and trade wars? (10 marks, 150 words)

यदि विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) को बढ़ते संरक्षणवाद और व्यापार युद्धों के वर्तमान संदर्भ में प्रासंगिक बने रहना है तो सुधार के प्रमुख क्षेत्र क्या हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Recently, USA announced heavy tariffs (reciprocal tariffs) on lot of countries, in this world of 'Geo-economic fragmentation'



⑪ Climate - change Induced crisis
 (eg) Europe heatwaves, Australia Bushfire

In this context

Reforms of WTO:

- ① Dispute settlement body - must be revived. (eg) USA resisting.
- ② Agreement on old issues first to be solved.
 (eg) public stockholding, PSD
- ③ Digitalisation, cross border for
- ④ Consensus-based decision making
- ⑤ Enhanced representation
- ⑥ Strive for free & fair trade.
- ⑦ Robust data management
- ⑧ Wisdom needed for human

Survival

⑩ Statesmanship needed at WTO.

However WTO, has great role to play in world's fragmented world

Feedback

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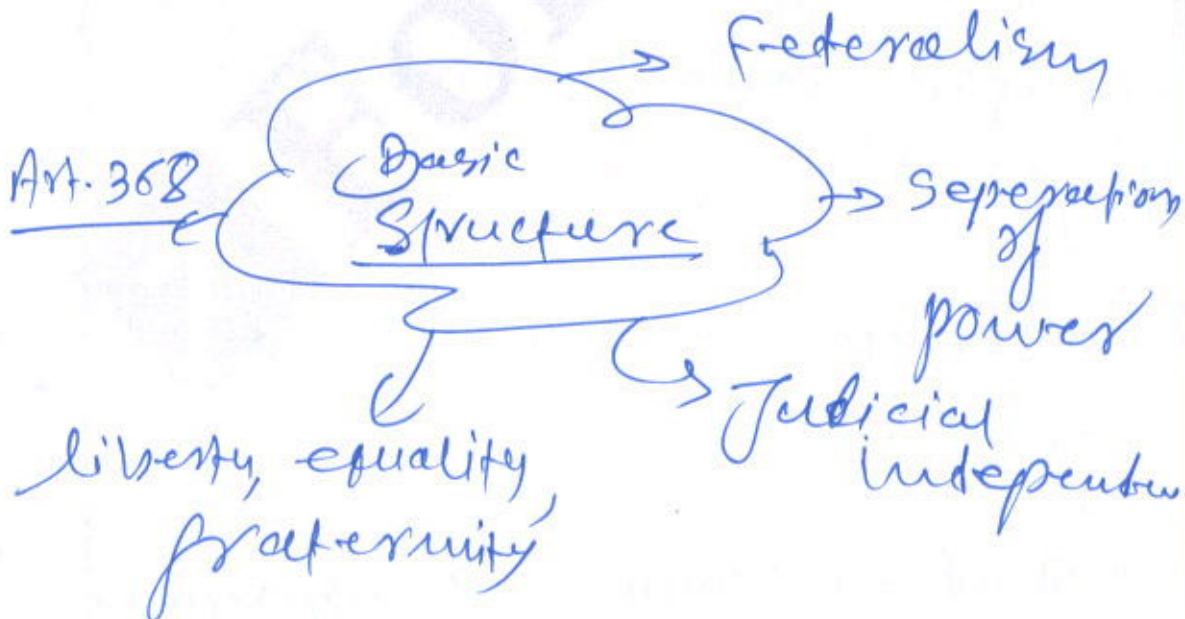
TOTAL MARKS

Q.11) The basic structure doctrine acts as a constitutional compass in balancing Parliament's legislative authority and constitutional supremacy. Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

आधारभूत संरचना सिद्धांत संसद की विधायी शक्ति और संवैधानिक सर्वोच्चता के बीच संतुलन बनाने में एक संवैधानिक निर्देशक के रूप में कार्य करता है। टिप्पणी करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The basic structure doctrine is one judicial innovation, emerged in Keshwanand Bharati case, 1973.

It says that there are certain constitutional values (constitutional morality), principles which can not be override by legislature.



As a constitutional compass it's balancing parliament powers & constitutional supremacy.

① It upheld constitutional values system. Judicial Review, under, A.32, A.13, A.226 - + SC & HC keep check on parliament legislative power.

② Parliament passed NJAC Act but SC declared it null & void, saying it undermines constitutional value of judicial independence.

② As a bedrock in time of legal crisis.

③ Upheld constitutional supremacy in emergency time.

④ upholding gender justice

④. Nandji Singh Johar case, SC
upheld gender equality.

⑤ Scope for constitutional dynamism

⑥ Constitution - living entity -
of Judiciary, via, basic structure doctrine, which was repeated in Mimerva Mitt case; L.J.C case, K.S. Puttaswamy - has upheld basic structure doctrine.

⑦ In Shah Bano case, SC, strongly addressed gender injustice.

Hence, basic structure doctrine is true nerve of India's constitutionalism, helps us to walk on the path shown by our forefathers.

Feedback

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Q.12) Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are pivotal to inclusive and efficient urban governance, yet they remain fiscally constrained and institutionally weak. Analyze. (15 marks, 250 words)

शहरी स्थानीय निकाय (ULBs) समावेशी और कुशल शहरी शासन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, फिर भी वे वित्तीय रूप से सीमित और संस्थागत रूप से कमजोर बने हुए हैं। विश्लेषण करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Urban Local Bodies (ULBs),
are established as a institutions
of self-governance, under
74th constitutional amendment
Act 1999

Pivotal to 'inclusive & efficient
governance'.

① Strengthen "grass root level
democracy"

② Schedule 12 → focus on
local issues such as public
health, water, sanitation etc.
of finance, strategic tool to achieve
constitutional mandate

- ③ participatory democracy, inclusive approach, make citizen part of governance
- ④ Tool for women empowerment
SC, STs → reservation in ULBs
- ⑤ Key to robust urban planning as India's 50% population to be in urban area by 2050.
- ⑥ Citizen centric approach, responsive, transparent

Why fiscally constrained & institutional weak?

Fiscally constrained

- ① poor revenue realisation
- ② lack of political will to decentralise taxing powers
(eg. municipal taxes, fees, etc.)

③ poor digitalisation & Absence of Public Fund Management Systems

④ State Finance Commission:

↳ Lack of resources, manpower.

↳ Irregularity in work.

↳ Half of states - not established it timely.

Institutionally weak:

① At the mercy of State govt.

② Lack of professionalism in work culture.
 (Mumbai housing collapse case.)

③ Mayor → Symbolic head.

④ Bureaucratic inertia, lethargy.

⑤ Lack of trained staff, poor use of technology, etc.

Hence, ULBs reviews is - Govt need of the hour to achieve SDG targets.

Feedback

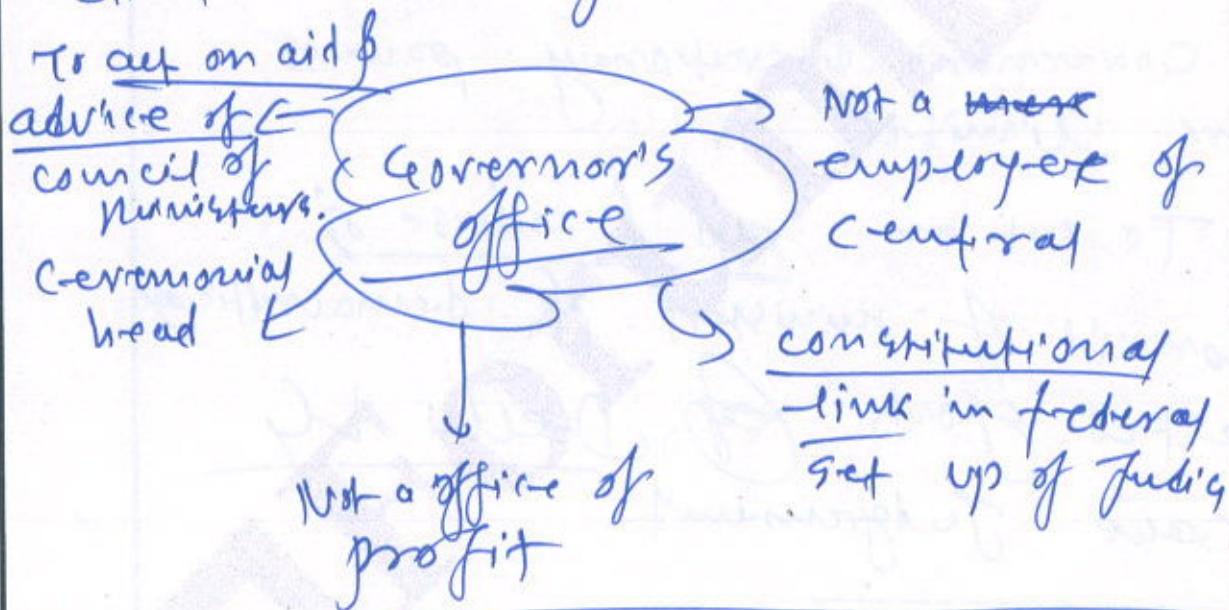
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Q.13) "The judiciary has functioned as an institutional corrective, redefining and refining the contours of the Governor's office to prevent its misuse and uphold constitutional principles." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (15 marks, 250 words)

"न्यायपालिका ने एक संस्थागत सुधारक के रूप में कार्य किया है तथा राज्यपाल के कार्यालय की रूपरेखा को पुनः परिभाषित और परिष्कृत किया है ताकि इसका दुरुपयोग रोका जा सके और संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों को कायम रखा जा सके।" प्रासंगिक न्याय विधियों (केस लॉ) की मदद से इस कथन पर चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Recently, In Tamizh Nadu case, SC sets up timelines for governors & president for giving assent to bill passed by democratically elected state govt.



Judiciary as an institutional corrective

① upholding federalism. - Basic Structure

②. In Manuherastry, Assembly case, SC strongly condemned the

conduct of Governor, calling floor
test just on the basis of
suspicion.

→ called for objective assessment
of situation by Governors

② D. C. Wadhwa Case - misuse of
A-356 addressed

③ Governor's discretionary powers
are limited.

④ To act on aid & advise of
Council of ministers of democratically
elected govt. Op. Datta by
Gore Judgment.

Way forward:

→ Supreme guidelines given by
Sarkaria Commission, Palki
Commission regarding Governor
appointment of powers

eg. Governor should be from outside state of where he is going to be appointed; not involved in active politics, CM to be consulted while her appointment.

→ Cooperative Federalism.

→ India's Asymmetric Federalism is to ensure unit of integrity of the nation, not to impose Centre's powers on state as both have independent constitutional existence & Government is one connecting link b/w feds.

Feedback

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TOTAL MARKS			

Q.14) How is the 'vertical' and 'horizontal' devolution of taxes to the states decided? Highlighting the concerns raised by some states regarding the devolution of taxes, suggest corrective measures.

(15 marks, 250 words)

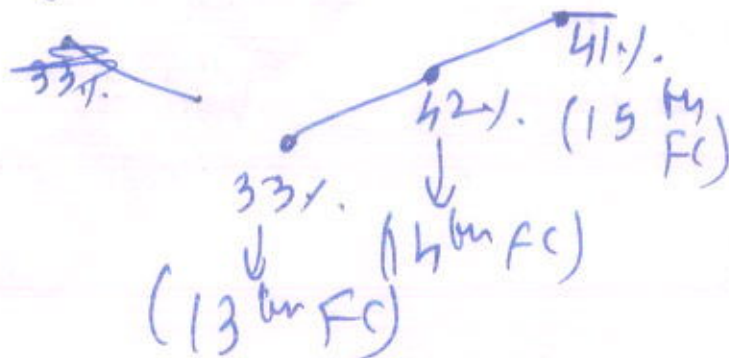
राज्यों को करों का 'ऊर्ध्व' और 'क्षैतिज' हस्तांतरण कैसे तय किया जाता है? करों के हस्तांतरण के संबंध में कुछ राज्यों द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए सुधारात्मक उपाय सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Fiscal Federalism is one way to ensure equitable distribution of resources, with some mandate of directive principles of state policy.

Vertical devolution of taxes

→ A-280 - Finance Commission



→ Central Govt. grants - statutory
Discretionary

→ for case of emergency situation
 e.g. Natural calamities, National Disaster Management Fund

Horizontal devolution:

→ Within the TFC given to FC, certain criterias are set.

Population Area per cap income

Fiscal Efforts of State Govt. Implementation of Central Govt.

Forest Conservation Revenue, fiscal deficit targets

Population control efforts

Concerns raised by States:

① poor devolution.

⊙ GST → demands by State Govt. for more devolution.

② major taxing powers with Union Govt. ⊙ Income tax, Corporate

③ Agricultural income not taxed

④ demand for special status of Bihar.

⑤ Southern states concerns despite efforts on control of population.

Corrective measures

① Cooperative federalism

⊕ GST Council - Ensures regular discussion of dialogue addressing State's concern

② Utilising constitutional platform such as Inter-state councils, Zonal councils.

③ NITI Aayog - like institution at state level. ⊕ Assam, Gujarat have state institutions of transformation

④ Fiscal disciplines ⊕ Elections frictions make it difficult.

Hence, to achieve Atmanirbhar Bharat dream, Team India approach is essential.

Feedback

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Q.15) What steps are required for the constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think granting constitutional status to the Central Information Commission (CIC) would strengthen the RTI regime in India? Give reasons. (15 marks, 250 words)

किसी आयोग के संवैधानिककरण के लिए क्या कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है? क्या आपको लगता है कि केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग (CIC) को संवैधानिक दर्जा देने से भारत में RTI व्यवस्था मजबूत होगी? कारण बताइए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

In a governance set up, there are different bodies like constitutional, statutory, executive etc. with different nature of mandates.

Constitutionalisation of a Commission

① Amendment to constitution needed: under A. 308.
— Special majority or in case of federal issue, special majority at parliament along with consent of half of the states.

② eg. NCBC, recently, made a constitutional body under A. 340B

② Constitutional status for any commission is decided on the basis of legal necessity.

Granting constitutional Status to CJC would strengthen RTI:

- ① Enhances credibility of institution with the spirit of constitutional values.
- ② Boost constitutional base of commission.
 - eg. CJC is statutory body under RTI Act, 2005, giving constitutive status would enhance position in governance hierarchy, resulting greater compliance by public authorities.
- ③ Boosting long-term continuity to the RTI regime.
- ④ Enhancing public trust, transparency, accountability,
- ⑤ RTI, itself, recognised under

A.19 & A.21

⑤ May get financial & administrative autonomy.

However, constitutionalization, may not result in intended outcomes as: core issues:

① Law of staff, authorized funds,

(eg) - PFOs → dual rate,

② RTI → sec-08, official secret Act → promote culture of secrecy.

③ 7100 RTI activists killed, many got burials → 90, need robust law enforcement.

(eg) wistle blower protection

④ Fixing accountability needed.

Hence, just, mere granting constitutional status, would not address these issues, rather completely, needed comprehensive reforms.

Feedback

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Q.16) Even as India experiences consistent economic growth and has achieved self-sufficiency in food production, hunger and food insecurity remain pressing concerns. Examine the factors responsible for this paradox and suggest steps to improve the situation. (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में भले ही लगातार आर्थिक संवृद्धि हो रही है और खाद्य उत्पादन में आत्मनिर्भरता हासिल हो गई है, लेकिन भूख और खाद्य असुरक्षा अभी भी गंभीर चिंता का विषय बनी हुई है। इस विरोधाभास के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों का परीक्षण करें और स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए कदम सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India is now 4th largest economy in the world, but, we are at 105th position on global hunger index, even though govt. is providing nutrition support to 80 crore (pmGKAY).

Factor responsible for this paradox

① poverty - still 11% are multidimensional - truly poor. (WB)

② Income inequality: Bottom 50% accounts only 12% of national income. — (as per world inequality lab)

③ Law of equal opportunities

④ regional disparity (eg): Big divergence b/w per cap. incomes of Bihar & Tamil Nadu

⑤ Food distribution chain

↳ leakage, corruption

⑥ Food wastage:

↳ As per Dalwai committee

₹ 92000 Cr food wastage in India

⑦ PDS system shortfalls:

Exclusion errors, diversion.

⑧ Hidden Hunger:

↳ Child stunting high in India

⑨ social & cultural reasons.

↳ women eating food at last

⑩ poor health literacy, fast food culture, etc.

STEPS to improve fm situations:

- ① PDS Reforms: Digitalisation.
- ② As per Shanta Kumar committee, plugging leakage, reducing no. of beneficiaries covered.
- ③ Grated food subsidy as per beneficiary economic status as suggested by Aswath Gulati (Agri. Economist) (eg. Prere to Antyodaya, at MSP to BPL etc.
- ④ crop diversification, National Nutrition Mission - monitoring deeping.
- ⑤ community-led measures
- ⑥ Food literacy, capacity building (eg. ASHA, Aanganwadis)
- ⑦ Food inflation → Fiscal + monetary policy → price control.

Hence, for SDG-2 dream, on which other SDG are dependent, India need to fight hunger.

Feedback

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Q.17) The Union Government has recently announced that caste enumeration will be part of the upcoming census. Examine the opportunities and challenges associated with conducting a nationwide 'caste census'. Also, propose a framework for its seamless and effective conduct.

(15 marks, 250 words)

केंद्र सरकार ने हाल ही में घोषणा की है कि जाति गणना आगामी जनगणना का हिस्सा होगी। राष्ट्रव्यापी 'जाति जनगणना' आयोजित करने से जुड़े अवसरों और चुनौतियों का परीक्षण करें। साथ ही, इसके निर्बाध और प्रभावी संचालन के लिए एक रूपरेखा को प्रस्तुत करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India's ^{last} ~~first~~ caste census was conducted in 1931, & post independence it is never conducted.

A. 340 → It's duty of state to assess social, educational & economic backwardness of our state.

opportunities

① "social fabric" of our nation. Caste census - would tell us about how where one is lacking.

② "who is getting what, where & how" → Caste census, will make it clear.

② Data driven policy making: Caste census can be used for making accurate policies on public welfare

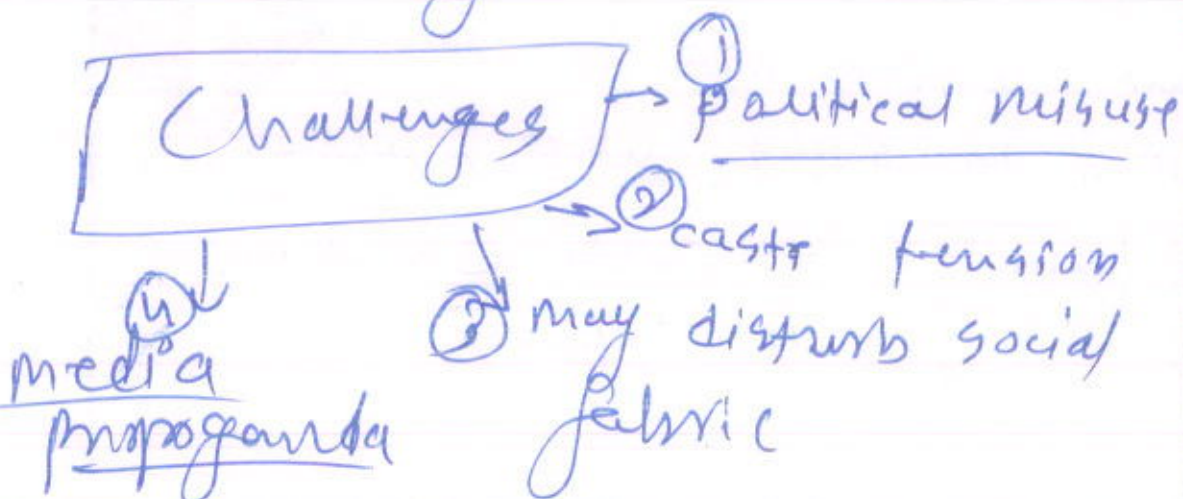
④ Diagnosis & solution approach.

③ policy making will improve with evidence, facts.

⑥ Vulnerable sections - SC/ST/OBCs minorities - caste census will help in public administration -

A. 39 (b) & A 39 (c) → Caste census will help to achieve it

⑦ Under A. 46, it's state responsibility also.



⑤ can be misused in electoral politics, metaphors, provocative speeches.

Framework for successful & effective conduct:

- ① Educate & aware last mile census workers / enumerators.
- ② Public seminars / advertisements making it public: objective of last census, Do's & Don'ts, questionnaires etc.
- ③ Digitalisation of data
- ④ local participation
- ⑤ Dashboard based monitoring

Conclusion: To become Viksit

Bharat @ 2047 for achieve constitutional ideals, caste census would help in appropriate policy making & resource distribution

Feedback

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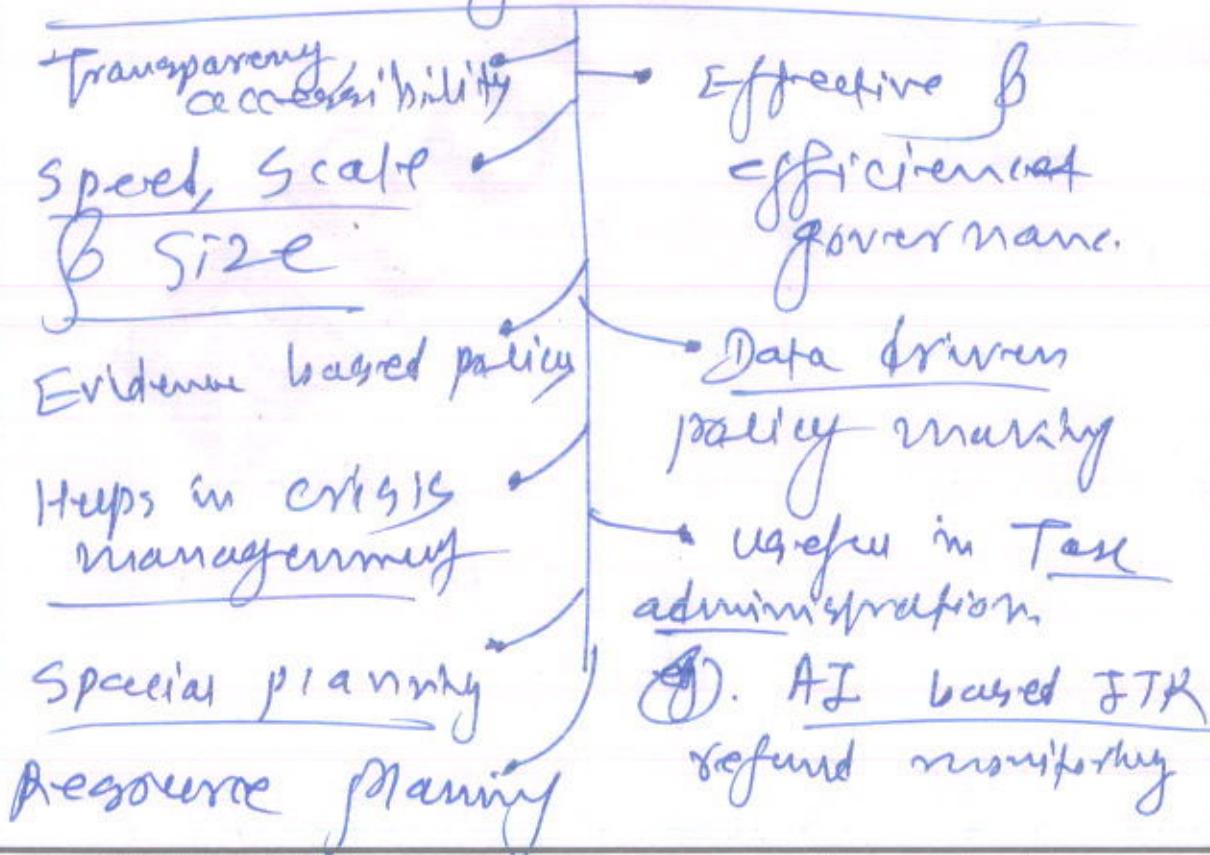


Q.18) "AI integration in governance is no longer a choice but a necessity." In light of this statement, discuss how AI can enhance education and healthcare governance. (15 marks, 250 words)

"शासन में AI का एकीकरण अब एक विकल्प नहीं बल्कि एक आवश्यकता है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, चर्चा करें कि AI किस प्रकार शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य सेवा शासन को बढ़ा सकता है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

AI is going to be more transformative than inventions of electricity or wheel. Hence, AI in state apparatus can be revolutionary in nature.

AI integration in governance is a necessity:

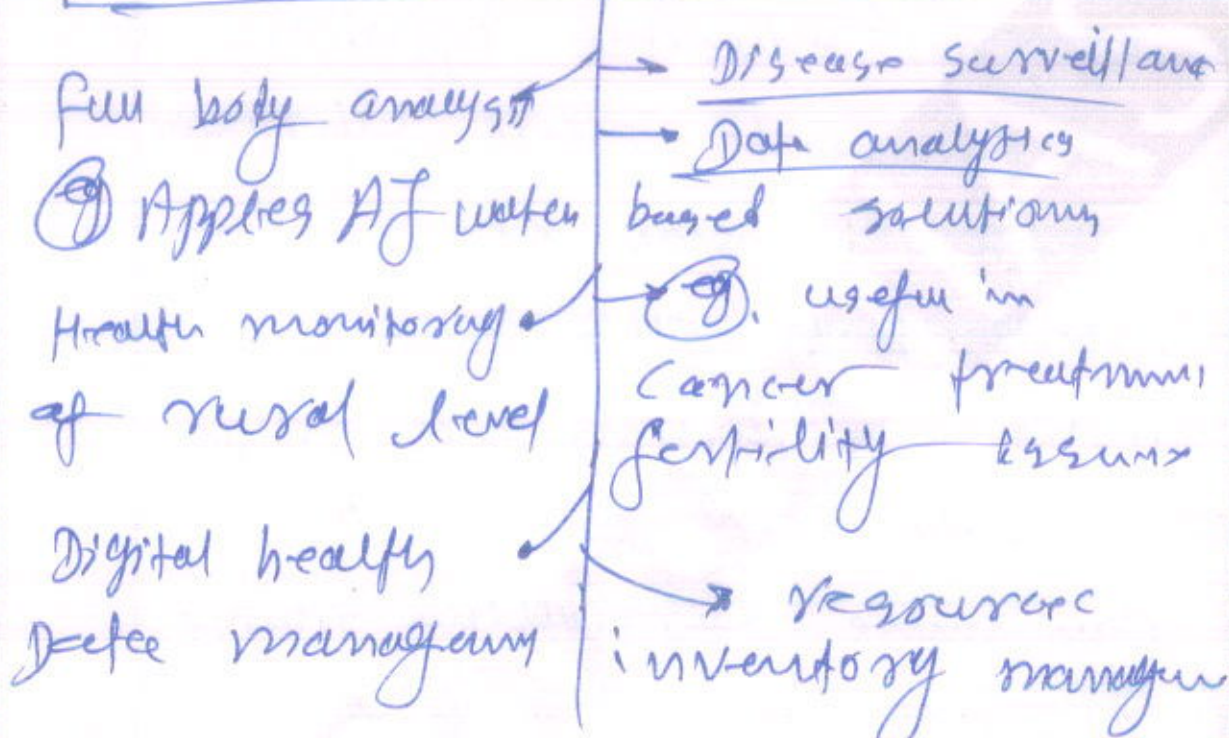


AI can enhance Education :

- ① personalised content based education service
- ② Chat app, Open AI → Easy to access, apt educated opinion. CS can generate asked information in text, images etc. → swift doubt clearance.
- ③ making education accessible in remote areas.
- ④ can make curriculum simple & effective by innovative teaching methods.
- ⑤ useful for teacher training, school monitoring, educational
- ⑥ Data Analytics & AI-driven decision making
- ⑦ useful in activity based learning,

- ② Useful for industry-academia integration
- ① for AI in IITs, IIMs, IITs

AI in healthcare governance



However, concerns such as data privacy, consent, data security, digital divide, cyber crime needs to be taken care. However, AI in governance can be a game-changer to ensure effective, transparent & citizen centric governance.

Feedback
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Q.19) Providing a brief overview of the aims and objectives of BIMSTEC, explain its significance for India. (15 marks, 250 words)

बिम्स्टेक के लक्ष्यों और उद्देश्यों का संक्षिप्त अवलोकन प्रस्तुत करते हुए भारत के लिए इसके महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical & Economic Co-operation (BIMSTEC)
 Strives for peaceful, stable & economically prosperous BoB region.



Member states: 7

India
 Nepal
 Bhutan
 Bangladesh
 Sri Lanka
 Myanmar
 Thailand.

Fig. BIMSTEC Zone

Aims & objectives:

- ① Inclusive growth in the region.
- ② secure & peaceful & stable Bay of Bengal.

- ③ Rule-based order in the region
- ④ HADR → eg. India provided assistance to Myanmar during earthquake
- eg. India - line of credit to Sri Lanka during her financial crisis.
- ⑤ Trade → seamless, secure
- ⑥ BPMSTEC region → strategic location in Indo-pacific so, upholding multilateralism
- ⑦ Respectful sovereignty, borders of each other
- ⑧ people to people contacts
eg. cultural exchanges, Youth Engagements
- ⑨ Partnership for climate change

Significance:

↳ ① Geo-Economic fragmentation in world

↳ BFMSTEC → can be a role model here (1A) Alternative to SAARC

② China dominance:

Low wolf diplomacy, Debt trap

Strategy, Salami slicing.

③ securing important sea lanes of communication & piracy in Indian ocean.

④ Unity in the name of climate change Vagaries.

eg. BoB → hotspot region for cyclones

⑤ Bargaining platform.

⑥ India can use BFMSTEC

for Global South issues, UN reforms appeal etc

Meaning, BFMSTEC is an opportunity for "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"

Feedback

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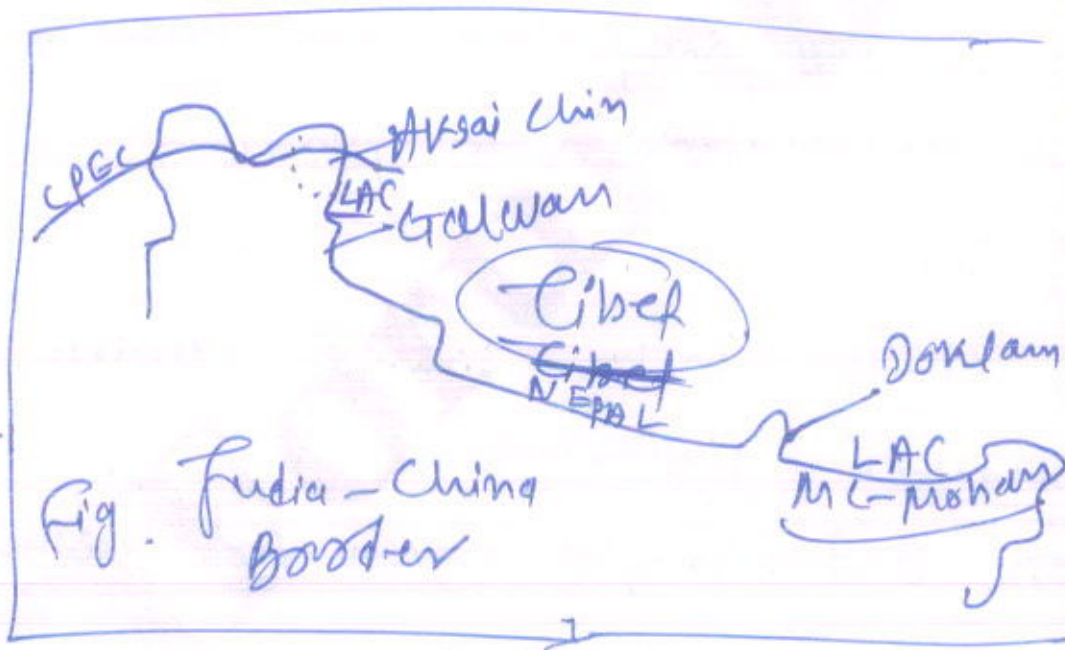
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Q.20) India's approach to its relationship with China has evolved into what can be best described as 'competitive coexistence'. Discuss in light of recent developments. What should be the broad contours of India's future China policy? (15 marks, 250 words)

चीन के साथ अपने संबंधों के प्रति भारत का दृष्टिकोण 'प्रतिस्पर्धी सह-अस्तित्व' के रूप में विकसित हुआ है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों के आलोक में चर्चा करें। भारत की भविष्य की चीन नीति की व्यापक रूपरेखा क्या होनी चाहिए?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India - China share border of 3488 km, along with strong cultural, historical & civilisational linkages.



Competitive coexistence in light of recent developments:

- ① Pre-eminence of China.

From 1980, India-China GDP at same level. Last 3 decades China growth rate around double digit.

② Assertive China

①. BRF, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

③ China's increasing dominance in India's neighbourhood

①. China-Myanmar Corridor
China-Hambantota port base

④ Border disputes : Doklam, Galwan

↳ colonial legacy
 ↳ Salami slicing strategy

⑤ China-Pakistan-Bangladesh

↳ Emerging axis

↳ ①. Recent war Ind-Pak → China supplied military hardware to Pakistan. ② Dalai Lama issue

Broad contours of India's future China policy:

① "Necklace of pearl" strategy Vs BRI.

↳ India → Diibaulti, ~~Go~~ Chabahar port development

② "QUAD" → To control China dominance in Indo-Pacific.

③ "India" → Emerging economic & military power → Balancing role to ensure multipolarity.

④ Ensuring differences shouldn't convert into escalations.

⑤ D & MOCs level talk about border management

⑥ Reducing dependence on China imports India → joining US-led Regional Supply Chain.

⑦ Asia-Asian Growth Corridor - Japan, India-China should work together for "Asian Century" dream

Feedback

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