

# NEXT IAS

## GS MAIN ADVANCED COURSE 2024

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : GSMAC2402

Test No. : 02

Name of Candidate: VAIBHAV KUMAR Mobile No 7011024121Roll No. : NIS 202366282 Start Time 9:00 am End Time 12:00 pmDate of Examination: 30/7/24 Medium : English ☒ Hindi ☐

| Q. No.            | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1                 | 10            |                |
| 2                 | 10            |                |
| 3                 | 10            |                |
| 4                 | 10            |                |
| 5                 | 10            |                |
| 6                 | 10            |                |
| 7                 | 10            |                |
| 8                 | 10            |                |
| 9                 | 10            |                |
| 10                | 10            |                |
| TOTAL MARKS - 100 |               |                |

| Q. No.            | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1                 | 10            |                |
| 2                 | 10            |                |
| 3                 | 10            |                |
| 4                 | 10            |                |
| 5                 | 10            |                |
| 6                 | 10            |                |
| 7                 | 10            |                |
| 8                 | 10            |                |
| 9                 | 10            |                |
| 10                | 10            |                |
| TOTAL MARKS - 100 |               |                |

GRAND TOTAL - ...../ 250

EVAL CODE: ..... EVAL DTE: .....

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 10 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.

## सामान्य निर्देश

1. QCA पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर कृपया तुरंत जांच लें कि इस QCA पुस्तिका में कोई पृष्ठ या सामग्री आदि गलत छपी हुई या फटी हुई या गायब तो नहीं है। यदि ऐसा है, तो इसे एक नई QCA पुस्तिका से बदल लें।
2. अभ्यर्थियों को सभी प्रासंगिक विवरण जैसे नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर, मोबाइल नंबर आदि का आवंटित स्थान पर उल्लेख करना होगा।
3. अभ्यर्थियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह आवंटित समय-सीमा के भीतर ही सभी 20 प्रश्नों के उत्तर-लेखन का प्रयास करें।
4. प्रत्येक उत्तर, प्रवेश के समय चुनी गयी भाषा के माध्यम में ही लिखे जाने चाहिए।
5. अभ्यर्थियों को विशिष्ट प्रश्न के उत्तर संबंधित प्रश्न के नीचे ही लिखने होंगे। आवंटित स्थान के बाहर लिखे गए किसी भी उत्तर को क्रेडिट नहीं दिया जाएगा।
6. कृपया साफ-सुथरा लिखें। अपठनीय लेखन से बचें।
7. QCAB में अप्रासंगिक तथ्यों को न लिखें / न ही चिह्नित करें।

REMARKS: .....

| <u>Student Concerns / Query</u> | <u>Evaluator's Feedback / Response</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1 .....                         | 1 .....                                |
| .....                           | .....                                  |
| .....                           | .....                                  |
| 2 .....                         | 2 .....                                |
| .....                           | .....                                  |
| .....                           | .....                                  |
| 3 .....                         | 3 .....                                |
| .....                           | .....                                  |
| .....                           | .....                                  |
| .....                           | .....                                  |

| <u>MARKING SCHEME *</u> |               |             |                |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Marks Per Ques          | Below Average | Average     | Above Average  |
| 10 Marks                | Below 3.00    | 3.00 - 3.75 | 4.00 and above |
| 15 Marks                | Below 4.50    | 4.50 - 5.75 | 6.00 and above |

\* Subject to change without prior notice.

| <u>IMPORTANT QR CODES</u>                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Topper's Copy</p>    |  <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB</p> |
|  <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Copy Scanner App</p> |  <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Next IAS Test Centre Location</p>          |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MACRO COMMENTS</u></b></p> <p><i>The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.</i></p> |
| <p><b><u>STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b><u>AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b><u>IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                 |



Q1.

विधि का शासन और न्यायिक समीक्षा एक दूसरे पर निर्भर हैं, क्योंकि किसी भी एक का दूसरे के बिना अस्तित्व नहीं हो सकता है। इस संदर्भ में क्या न्यायिक समीक्षा को संविधान के मूल ढांचे का गठन करने वाले आयामों में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण आयाम माना जा सकता है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The rule of law and judicial review are interdependent, as one cannot truly exist without the other. In this context can judicial review be considered the most important aspect among those that constitute the basic structure of the Constitution? (150 words, 10 marks)

Rule of law is the idea that legal  
jurisprudence decides all actions

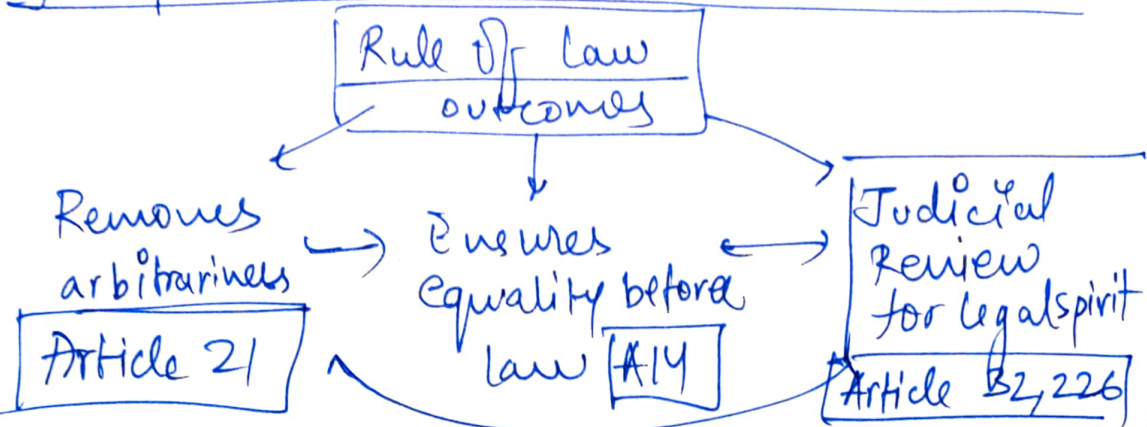


Fig: Interconnected nature of judicial review and rule of law

Judicial review is most important among basic structure components as

- ① It protects the independence of judiciary eg striking down of NJAC Act
- ② Ensures constitutionalism is followed in legislative and executive actions eg Electoral Bond scheme struck down as Right to Information violated.



- (3) Checks and balances on other aspects of polity (eg) Judicial review of recent ECA act and definition of forest
- (4) stops arbitrariness and promotes natural justice (eg) Maneka Gandhi case
- (5) Inclusivity and equality before law (eg) Nartej Singh Johar judgement and rights of all genders

However, judicial review has caused issues for Rule of law

- (1) Judicial overreach ~~only~~ in action.  
(eg) Cracker Ban ~~in~~ in Delhi
- (2) Conflict of Interest (eg) Judiciary deciding breach of privilege itself
- (3) No equality before law as issue of no standard process in judicial announcement

Judicial review still remains the most important fundament (Article 32) as per BR Ambedkar.

- Q2. दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल की शक्तियों और अधिकारों की तुलना, विशेष रूप से मंत्रिपरिषद की सहायता और उनकी सलाह पर कार्य करने के संदर्भ में अन्य राज्यों के राज्यपालों से किस प्रकार की जाती है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)
- How does the power and authority of Delhi's lieutenant governor compare to that of the governors of other states, particularly in terms of acting on the aid and advice of the council of ministers? (150 words, 10 marks)

Delhi's ~~LG~~ <sup>(LLG)</sup> lieutenant governor has been in the news due to the formation of Civil Services Authority and reduced powers of elected government on civil serv-  
-ants

| <u>Delhi (LG)</u>                                                      | <u>State Governor</u>                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| - Powers from Article <u>239AA</u>                                     | - Power from Article 153                         |
| - Defined as " <u>government</u> " by <u>GNCTD Act</u>                 | - Defined as " <u>Head of state</u> "            |
| - Exclusive powers on <u>land, police</u> and <u>public order</u>      | - No such powers for state government            |
| - More an <u>adminis-</u><br><u>trative</u> role by central government | - Role of as <u>agent</u> of central government. |

## Powers in terms of aid and advice

### LG of Delhi

- Not bound by state government actions decisions

- High discretionary powers

eg All civil services report to LG & can overturn appointment

- Functions when state government is dissolved

### State Government

- Bound by advice of state government

- less discretionary powers

eg send Bills to President

• cannot appoint civil servants

- Requires Council of Ministers always for functioning

Solutions to Delhi state LG - Government confrontations

① Making Delhi a full state.

Large population Economic rationale

② LG to function in discretion in certain matters

LG is part of federal system and ensuring that power is exercised rationally is required.



Q3.

हाल के दिनों में, भारत में धर्म के अधिकार और संवैधानिक नैतिकता के मध्य तनाव/मतभेद को दूर करने में न्यायपालिका की भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। प्रासंगिक वाद विधियों की सहायता लें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Discuss the role of the judiciary in navigating the tension between the right to religion and constitutional morality in India in recent times. Refer to relevant case laws.

(150 words, 10 marks)

Judiciary in India through powers of Judicial review (Art. 32<sup>226</sup>) Power of complete justice (Art. 142) and appellate powers has balanced Right to religion and constitutional morality regularly.

Right to religion

Article 25, 26, 27, 28

Constitutional morality

Value in Preamble

Judiciary has balanced constitutional morality and religious value in following

- ① Secular values promoted when reti<sup>o</sup> kirpane allowed for Sikhs.
- ② Gender equality under Article 14 even if not in congruence with religious view (eg) Sabrimata judgement allowing women to enter.
- ③ Right to livelihood under Article 21

when (eg) Shah Bano case allowed alimony for Muslim women.

- ④ Promoting DPSPs as enshrined  
(eg) Sarla Mudgal case said to implement UCC (Article 44)
- ⑤ Protection of minority religious group rights (eg) Keshavnanda Bharti had also judged that land ceilings laws govt. Hindus (minority in Kerala)

Unfortunately, challenges in navigating the tension exists

- ① Judges understanding of religious values is not in consonance with constitutional essential  
(eg) Tandav Dance said not practice under Article 26 for Anand Marg

- ② Arbitrary applications, which is not as per equality before law  
(eg) Muslim man asked to cut beard as judged not essential practice

The balancing act is tough for judiciary and it should be done keeping secular, minority values.



Q4.

‘शक्तियों के पृथक्करण’ का सिद्धांत अमेरिकी संविधान की एक प्रमुख विशेषता है। इस संदर्भ में तुलना करें कि भारतीय संविधान में शक्तियों का कार्यात्मक पृथक्करण अमेरिकी प्रणाली से किस प्रकार भिन्न है। शक्तियों के कठोर पृथक्करण की तुलना में नियंत्रण और संतुलन प्रणाली के क्या लाभ हैं? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The principle of ‘Separation of Powers’ is a key feature of the American Constitution. In this context, compare how the Indian Constitution’s functional separation of powers distinguishes itself from the US system. What are the advantages of a check and balance system over a rigid Separation of Powers? (150 words, 10 marks)

America is the oldest democracy while India  
is the largest and hence the two  
democratic countries show varying  
implementations of similar concepts

Separation of powers has different  
implementation in both.

| America                                                                                                          | India                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ① Follows <u>complete separation of powers</u> approach between <u>legislative - executive</u>                   | ① <u>legislative and executive</u> have a <u>checks and balance</u> approach.    |
| ② <u>Judiciary</u> can only rule on <u>constitutional</u> questions and not <u>legislative, executive action</u> | ② <u>Indian judiciary</u> can act on <u>both</u> under <u>Article 32</u> powers. |
| ③ <u>The President</u> is not a member of either house.                                                          | ③ <u>The Prime Minister</u> is a member of <u>Parliament</u> .                   |



④ Removal of President doesn't lead to house dissolution

⑤ Judiciary members are selected by President

④ PAM removal ~~not~~ can dissolve house

⑤ SC selects its own members (3rd Judges case)

Advantages of checks and balance over separation of powers

① Ensure cohesiveness in policies as same members in both legislature and executive. (eg. GST Act. and implementation via GST Council)

② Public Trust as elected members working as executive.

③ Constant scrutiny over government actions (eg. Recent highlighting of NEET issue in Lok Sabha).

Advantage of Separation of Powers → ① No party interests impeding legislative, executive as both are separate.

→ ② Efficiency in working as more systematic working with norms

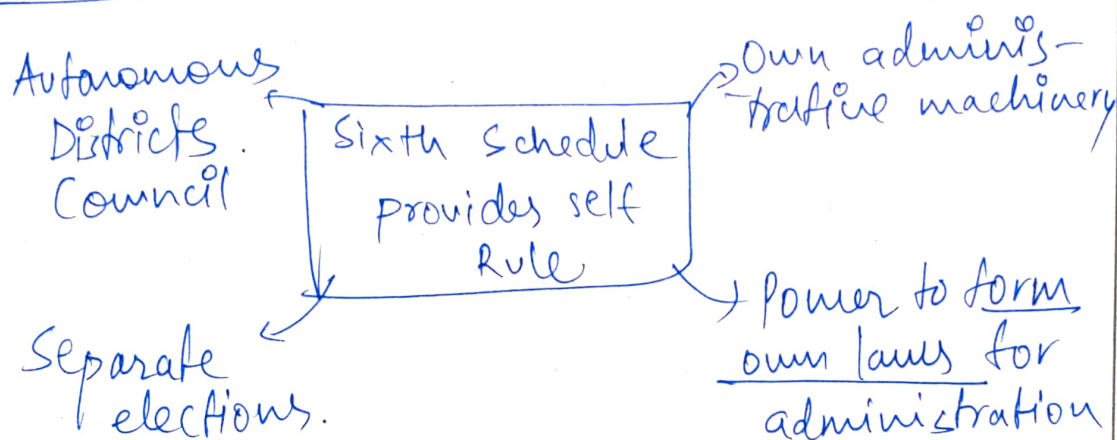
Separation of powers ~~is~~ and checks and balances are hallmarks of any democracy to ensure natural justice.

Q5.

भारतीय संविधान की छठी अनुसूची आदिवासी क्षेत्रों को स्वशासन का अधिकार देने वाले विधिक प्रावधानों से कहीं अधिक है। छठी अनुसूची किस प्रकार उनकी पारंपरिक शासन प्रणालियों और सांस्कृतिक प्रथाओं का सम्मान करते हुए विकास को बढ़ावा देती है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution is more than a legal provision that empowers tribal regions with self-rule. How does the sixth schedule foster development while respecting their traditional governance systems and cultural practices? (150 words, 10 marks)

Article 244 provides for sixth-schedule  
in regions of Assam, Meghalaya,  
Tripura, Mizoram.



Sixth schedule fosters development :-

① It gives power to <sup>legislate</sup> ~~work~~ on health, education etc in these areas =>

Ensure local needs.

② Regulation of local markets

③ Undertake all works for minor irrigation, schools, etc.

- ④ Can push for regulating money lending practices  $\Rightarrow$  ~~Protecting~~ Protecting tribals from poverty.
- ⑤ Implements government policies through own machinery  $\Rightarrow$  employment in region.

6th schedule respects traditional governance & cultural practices  $\rightarrow$

① Power to enforce customary laws in civil matters (judicial)  
(eg) Santhal's own laws for marriage, divorce.

② Can stop land alienation  $\Rightarrow$  not allowing non-tribal to tribal land transfer.

③ Mining activities require approval of autonomous council

Challenges  
in  
6th schedule

$\rightarrow$  ① Not enough (eg) Tripura Autonomous Council staff shortage.

$\rightarrow$  ② Enforcement of central laws (eg) IPC.

6th schedule provisions must be strengthened upholding Tribal Panchsheel principles.



Q6.

नागरिक समाज संगठनों और सरकारी संस्थाओं के मध्य साझेदारी भारत के विकास लक्ष्यों में किस प्रकार योगदान देती है?

(150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

How do partnerships between Civil Society Organizations and Government Entities contribute to India's development goals? (10 marks, 150 words)

Civil society organisations are informed, voluntary organisations <sup>(CSO)</sup> which work in policy formulation, implementation and evaluation, thus in parallel with government entities

CSO help in partnership with ~~dev~~ government for development goals

① Help in designing policies catering to needs through data collection.

(eg) Parakh conducts AISER reports for education

② Helps in last mile connectivity

(eg) Akshay Patra working in ensuring food security

③ Develops active citizenry through helping in social audits. (eg) Andhra Pradesh society for social audits : report cited in knowing \$90mn corrupt

- ④ Provide alternate models for development goals (eg. \$FNA) working to give microfinance products to women.
- ⑤ They help in monitoring policies, laws (eg) 15th FC collab with Vidhi Centre for legal policy to understand impact of cess on states.

Certain challenges plaguing this partnership

- ① CSDs have poor governance practices  
(eg) 90% have no balance sheet
- ② Hurt economic development of nation } (eg) IB report highlights 2% GDP loss.
- ③ Involved in anti-national actions  
(eg) Mercy Corps in Kashmir
- ④ Development activities are spoiled. } (eg) 63000 + in education but less than 200 in skill development

Way Forward → ① National Policy on Voluntary sector, 2007  
→ ② Vijay Kumar Committee recommendation

CSD and government partnership is essential for achieving India's SDG goals.

- Q7. भारतीय सिविल सेवकों में आजीवन सीखने की संस्कृति विकसित करने के महत्व पर चर्चा करें। मिशन कर्मयोगी ने इस उद्देश्य में किस प्रकार योगदान दिया है? उदाहरणों के साथ स्पष्ट करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

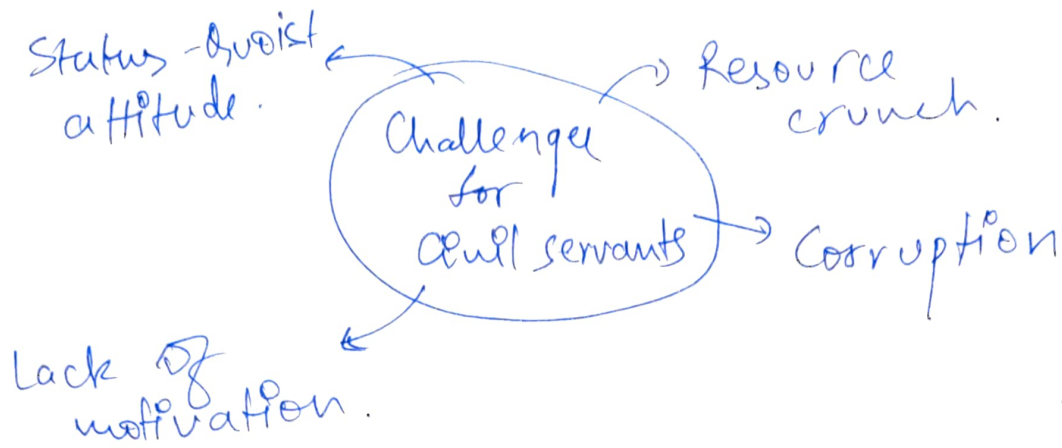
Discuss the importance of cultivating a culture of life-long learning among Indian civil servants. How has Mission Karmyogi contributed to this objective? Illustrate with examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Civil services refers to the permanent executive of nations involved in policy making and its implementation.

Importance of life-long learning among civil servants

- ① Brings in specialization in service.  
(eg) lateral entry scheme to ensure that civil servants are working with officers who are aware of new methods
- ② Ensure adaptation to new challenges  
(eg) climate change rising → IAS Astik Kumar launched Clean Akola for same.
- ③ New methods to solve old social ills  
(eg) IAS P. Iyer in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan brought need of wudge effect
- ④ stronger institutions are built for future officers and nation (SDG-16)





Importance of Mission Karmayogi in bringing life-long learning

- ① Adaptation to new changes via Mid-Career training modules.
- ② Continuous learning via iGot for Karmayogi portal
- ③ Specialization in roles to ensure efficiency at top.
- ④ Standardising training modules for more competence building amongst officers.

Civil Services in 4th lion of non capital although hidden but working continuously, hence it needs to learn life-long to better serve.

- Q8. अत्यधिक गरीबी को कम करने में भारत की प्रगति को देखते हुए, क्या देश को वर्तमान सामाजिक-आर्थिक वास्तविकताओं को बेहतर ढंग से दर्शाने के लिए अपनी गरीबी रेखा को फिर से परिभाषित करने पर विचार करना चाहिए? गरीबी रेखा को फिर से परिभाषित करने से जुड़े संभावित लाभों और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Given India's strides in reducing extreme poverty, should the country consider redefining its poverty line to better reflect the current socio-economic realities? Discuss the potential benefits and challenges associated with redefinition of the poverty line.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Recent reports highlight India bringing down poverty and bringing out 150 million people from extreme poverty since 2013. (UNDP)

Present poverty line → Rangarajan Committee  
→ Niti MPI

Country should redefine its poverty line as per socio-economic realities

① Reduction in poverty levels (eg) 24.96%  
MPI Poor as per Niti-Aayog

② Increasing consumption levels.

(eg) National Consumption Survey showed ~30% increasing in rural-urban areas.

③ Multidimensional nature of poverty not reflected via Rangarajan method

- ④ India is 3rd largest economy in ~~new~~ upcoming decade as per IMF
- ⑤ Rising labour force participation  
(eg) Economic Review, 24  $\Rightarrow$  37% women LFPR from 25% in 2023

### Challenges in redefining poverty line

- ① Data collection is an issue as per 15th FC
- ② No recent national level updation of SECC data for targeted policies.
- ③ Multidimensional nature of poverty.  
 $\hookrightarrow$  Not reflected all dimensions via any line.
- ④ High inequality not reflected by absolute line (eg) Top 1% have 40% wealth

Way Forward  $\leftarrow$  ① SECC data ~~for~~ to be recollected  
② Focus on basic capabilities (Amartya Sen)

Redefining <sup>in</sup> poverty line can be step to ensuring SDG-1 goal of no-poverty.



Q9.

प्रमुख पश्चिमी देशों के साथ गहरे होते राजनीतिक मतभेदों का वैश्विक शासन व्यवस्था और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन करें। वैश्विक मंच पर अपने राष्ट्रीय हितों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए भारत को इन मतभेदों से किस प्रकार निपटना चाहिए? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Evaluate the impact of the deepening political divisions with the major Western States on global governance and international cooperation. How should India navigate these divisions to advance its national interests on the global stage? (10 marks, 150 words)

India wants a "multipolar world,  
~~un~~ bipolar Asia and unipolar South Asia."  
However this puts it at certain divisions  
with major western powers.

Negative impact of political divisions with  
major Western powers:-

- ① Reduction in India's role at  
multilateral bodies. (eg) UNSC permanent  
seat would be delayed.
- ② Lower benefits of rising ~~eco~~ change  
in economic systems (eg) India's  
late entry to MSP for critical  
minerals
- ③ Challenges in achieving regional  
goals (eg) De-prioritization by USA of  
Indo-Pacific ⇒ China boxing up India  
in region.
- ④ Inhibits geo-political aspirations  
(eg) voice of Global South ~~may~~ <sup>role</sup>  
may be reduced

⑤ Rise in Chinese assertivism in region.

Positive Impacts are also possible

Promotes BRICS,  
SCO as alternate  
bodies

Pushes India  
to build  
"Atmanirbhar"

Role in  
Indo-Pacific  
as  
Net security  
provider

Methods to navigate divisions at  
global stage

① Focus on  
3M strategy

→ Multilateralism

→ Multipolarity

→ Middle-way

(eg) G20 Delhi Consensus highlighted above  
especially Ukraine declaration.

② Focus on bilateral & multilateral bodies  
(eg) I2U2, QUAD to balance strategic  
interests

③ Avoid drawing into conflicts

④ Focus on national interests

As MEA, S. Jaishankar Foreign policy  
is "forging convergences and managing  
divergences" and relation with Western  
nation should be on same.

- Q10. भारत की आर्कटिक नीति उसके व्यापक विदेश नीति के उद्देश्यों के साथ किस प्रकार संरेखित है? आर्कटिक परिषद के साथ भारत द्वारा किए गए सहयोगों और समझौतों पर व्यापक रूप से चर्चा करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

How does India's Arctic Policy align with its broader foreign policy objectives? Broadly discuss the collaborations and agreements India is involved in with the Arctic Council. (10 marks, 150 words)

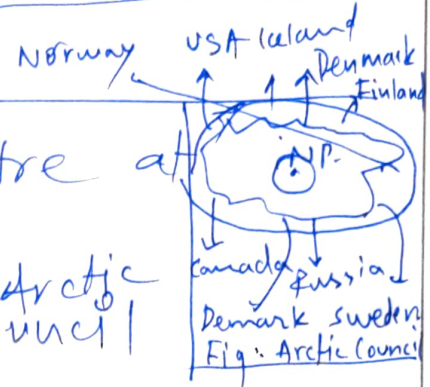
India foreign policy is an instrument to ensuring territorial sovereignty and integrity and Interests of the people

Arctic Policy aligns with these objectives

- ① India's Himadri centre in Norway = Projects India as sovereign power with our goals.
- ② Multilateralism with joining Arctic Council as observer.
- ③ Research and Innovation in Arctic region = India's interests promoted
- ④ Arctic Policy research = Inclusive efficient = voice of Global South Role promoted.
- ⑤ Capacity building for India's progress



Collaborations India is involved in  
with Arctic Council



- ① Himadri Research Centre at Svalbard, Norway
- ② Observer status in Arctic Council
- ③ Focus on reducing climate change
- ④ Agreement on stopping Arctic amplification  $\Rightarrow$  via reduced emissions and stopping temperature rise at  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$

certain challenges in working with  
Arctic Council:

- ① Low <sup>number</sup> ~~low~~ of meetings.
- ② Non-cooperation since beginning of Russian invasion began

Future prospects

- ① Focus on international cooperation especially with Global South.
- ② More convergences and agreement between India and Arctic Council on new research (eg) Dark matter etc.

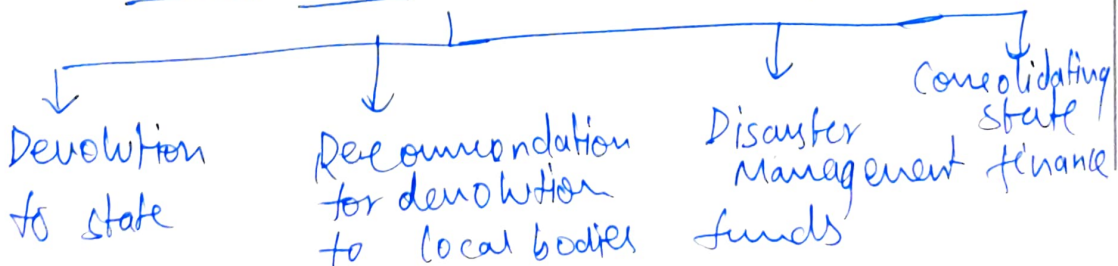
- Q11. 16वें वित्त आयोग के समक्ष विचारार्थ विषय, पिछले वित्त आयोगों से किस प्रकार भिन्न हैं? बाद के वित्त आयोगों द्वारा उत्तरोत्तर प्रगतिशील हस्तांतरण के बावजूद, विभिन्न राज्यों में आर्थिक असमानताओं को बढ़ावा देने वाले कारकों का परीक्षण करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

In what ways are the terms of reference of the 16th Finance Commission different from that of the previous Finance Commissions? Despite increasingly progressive devolution by subsequent Finance Commissions, examining the factors that propel economic disparities across various States. (15 marks, 250 words)

16th Finance Commission (FC) under Article 280  
was formulated in 2024 for the period  
between 2026 - 2031.

Its terms of reference is different  
(TOR)  
from 15th FC as

- ① Unlike 15th FC which mentioned the use of Census - 2011, 16th FC has no such TOR.
- ② No specific mention for sector-specific grants unlike 15th FC.
- ③ No overall policy achievements mentioned unlike 15th FC of India @ 75 goals.
- ④ The terms of reference have same basic TOR as 15th FC of:



The devolution has progressively increased

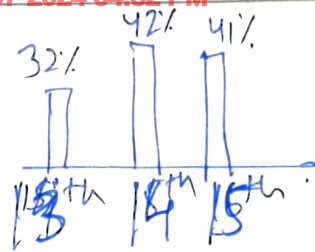


Fig: Devolution

However, economic disparities  
% said to be increasing  
across states →

- ① Regional disparities in growth.  
(eg) ~90% projects under PFI in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat.
- ② Lack of Income generation sources for most states  
(eg) Bihar generates 46% of its assets from devolution of central fund compared to ~30% in Karnataka.
- ③ Reducing devolution. ~32% of funds sent to states instead of 42%.
- ④ GST regime and reduced state tax generational powers
- ⑤ Issues in horizontal devolution between states v/s amount of tax collection
- ⑥ Politicisation of issues



Government steps to correct economic disparities:

- ① Focus on reducing regional disparities  
(eg) Paryodaya Yojana to reduce development deficit of East India (Budget 24-25)
- ② Focus on bottom-up approach (eg) RBI releasing framework for local bodies to issue bonds.
- ③ GST Council to be used for solving economic issues in indirect tax
- ④ Youth employment to ensure more local income sources (eg) 12.5 cr jobs generated between 2013-24 (Finance minister)

Way Forward

- ① Use of Civil Service Orgs. for local skill development.
- ② Strengthen local bodies taxation power

To achieve 39(a) goal of adequate livelihood, finance devolution of funds must be streamlined.

- Q12. 'अनैतिक' आचरण और विशेषाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के मामलों को संबंधित करने में आचार समिति और विशेषाधिकार समिति की शक्तियों और कार्यप्रणाली की तुलना करें और उनमें अंतर करें। संसदीय अनुशासन बनाए रखने में ये समितियाँ एक-दूसरे की किस तरह से पूरक हैं? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Compare and contrast the powers and working of the Ethics Committee and the Privileges Committee in addressing cases of 'unethical' conduct and breach of privileges. How do these Committees complement each other in maintaining parliamentary discipline? (15 marks, 250 words)

Ethics committee and Privileges committee are formed under Article 118 former to regulate our proceedings.

| <u>Ethics Committee</u>                                                                                | <u>Privileges Committee</u>                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ① Formed to ensure <u>ethical conduct</u> of its members.                                              | ① Formed under <u>Article 105</u> powers to regulate breach of privilege.            |
| ② Cases are <u>taken up</u> only against <u>members</u> .                                              | ② Against both <sup>cases</sup> <u>members</u> and <u>outsiders</u>                  |
| ③ <u>Proceedings</u> initiated by <u>member</u> post <u>issue</u> being registered by <u>outside</u> . | ③ Can be initiated by <u>members</u> themselves <u>directly</u>                      |
| eg. Recent <u>IS member expulsion</u> post <u>businessman</u> - <u>an</u> <u>complained</u> .          | eg. Breach of privileges proceedings against <u>Shri Raghav Chaddha</u> (MP) in 2023 |

Ethics and Privilege committee together maintain parliamentary discipline as

- ① Ensure Constitutionalism and in actions of members.
- ② Constitutional morality is upheld in their act workings.
- ③ Ethical code is imposed on ~~them~~<sup>members</sup> in their working in parliament.
- ④ Ensure outsiders don't tarnish parliamentary image and cause breach of privileges.
- ⑤ Public Trust remains as they act as per values of ethical governance.
- ⑥ Bring inquiries and data collection making objective decisions as their hallmarks.



Issues in the working of ethics and  
privileges  
~~parliamentary~~ committees

- ① Ethics committee lacks standardized  
code of conduct ⇒ Issues in application  
(eg.) Highlighted in Mahua Moitra Case.
- ② Privileges are not codified  
(eg.) Jita Soren case had shown members  
taking bribe for voting was as per  
privilege.
- ③ Lack of specification in their working.
- ④ Politicisation of bodies for own political  
gain.
- ⑤ Non-Binding Recommendations

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Way<br>Forward | ① Binding Regulations    |
|                | ② Autonomy in working.   |
|                | ③ Codification of norms. |

Parliamentary functioning is effective  
is the basis of a healthy democracy  
and committees should be strengthened  
for same goal.

- Q13. भारत में सतत विधायी शिथिलता के संदर्भ में, सार्वजनिक नीति और शासन को आकार देने में न्यायिक सक्रियता की उभरती भूमिका का विश्लेषण करें। ऐतिहासिक न्यायालय के मामलों के उदाहरणों का उपयोग करते हुए, शासन संबंधी कमियों को दूर करने और नागरिकों के अधिकारों की सुरक्षा में न्यायिक हस्तक्षेपों की प्रभावशीलता का मूल्यांकन करें।

(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

In the context of persistent legislative dysfunction in India analyze the evolving role of judicial activism in shaping public policy and governance. Using examples from landmark court cases, evaluate the effectiveness of judicial interventions in addressing governance gaps and safeguarding citizens' rights. (250 words, 15 marks)

Judicial activism refers to the expanding role of the judiciary to take actions in executive and legislative sphere.

Evolving Role of judicial activism in:

→ Public policy

① Steps for policy formulation if lacunae in same  
(eg.) Wishaka guidelines

② Bringing in Judgements for expanding the policy in certain sphere.

(eg.) 2023 Judgement on MTP Act, 1971 to allow women beyond 28 weeks pregnancy for termination.

→ Governance

③ Ensuring transparency and accountability of government actions

- (eg.) Election Bonds Case 2024 removing  
the scheme as against Article 19
- ④ Good governance and public welfare.
- (eg.) Right to underbills through  
Hussanaira Khatoon Case

Judicial interventions have been effective in

→ Addressing governance gaps

- ① Protecting Human rights in government  
action.

(eg.) Niyangiri case to stop mining  
in sacred groove of tribal.

- ② Expanding scope of governance

(eg.) Right to Information after MKSS  
case ⇒ led to Article 19 implications

→ Safeguarding citizen's rights

- ③ Protecting from climate change.

(eg.) Ranjitsingh v/s UOI judgement  
Right to safeguard from climate  
change.



- ② Gender equality (eg) Sabrimala case judgement
- ③ Protecting fundamental rights of citizens  
(eg) Article 21 expansion for Right to Privacy (Puttuswamy case judgement)

### Issues in judicial intervention:

→ In their actions

- ① Separation of powers ignored.  
(eg) Judgement on liquor within 500m of highway
- ② Unilateral executive actions.  
(eg) Covid-19 suo-moto committee formed to regulate migration.

→ In own functions

③ Tyranny of unelected  
(eg) NJAC Act declared void.

④ Expansion of PIL powers

⑤ Lack transparency in members selection.

Judicial activism is part of Article 32,  
142 powers which must be exercised  
with caution in line with democratic polity.

- Q14. राजनीतिक दलों के भीतर आंतरिक लोकतंत्र का स्तर भारतीय दलीय प्रणाली की कार्यप्रणाली और वैधता को किस सीमा तक प्रभावित करता है? भारत में अपर्याप्त अंतर-दलीय लोकतंत्र की चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए कौन-कौन से सुधार किए जा सकते हैं? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

To what extent does the level of internal democracy within political parties impact the functioning and legitimacy of the Indian party system? What reforms can address the challenges of inadequate intraparty democracy in India? (250 words, 15 marks)

Intraparty democracy of parties is regularly in news due to the rise of dynastic political parties across India.

Positive Impact of Intraparty democracy :-

- ① Ensures trust of public in functioning of parties.
- ② Stops centralisation of powers and authoritarian working of leaders.
- ③ Inclusivity promoted as members from across social groups get to take part
- ④ Directly affects policies ⇒ as democratic decisions in designing manifestoes
- ⑤ Promotes gender equality as female members given chance

Negative impacts  
of intraparty  
democracy

① → Policies will reflect  
political ideology instead  
of societal welfare.

↓ ②

Slower decision making.

Challenge for intraparty democracy in  
India

- ① No overarching regulation of intraparty democracy through any law
- ② Election Commission lacks power to regulate internal working.
- ③ Unregistered political parties rising for corrupt gains ⇒ Intraparty democracy can ensure transparency
- ④ Dynastic political parties on rise  
→ reduces chances for equal representation.
- ⑤ Member selection influenced by muscle power and social capital
- (eg.) 43% LS members have criminal cases (18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha)



## Reforms for addressing inadequate Intraparty democracy

- ① Overarching regulation needs to be formed (Dinesh Goswami committee)
- ② Powers to EC under Article 324 to regulate intraparty democracy. (NCRWC recommendation)
- ③ strict enforcement of RTI Act to ensure transparency in working.
- ④ Lokpal powers to look into corruption strengthened
- ⑤ 106th Constitution Amendment expanded to ensure Intraparty reservation of seats in parties for women.

Intraparty democracy is the foundation-  
-al stone for better policies and

SDG Goal-5 of Gender Equality can be a starting point through it.

- Q15. "एन एच आर सी (NHRC) को न केवल एक निगरानी संस्था होना चाहिए, बल्कि हाशिए पर उपस्थित और उत्पीड़ित लोगों के लिए आशा की किरण भी बनना चाहिए।" इस संदर्भ में भारत में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एन एच आर सी) की भूमिका और अधिदेश पर चर्चा करें। एन एच आर सी की वर्तमान संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली इसकी स्वतंत्रता और प्रभावशीलता को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करती है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

"The NHRC must not only be a watchdog but also a beacon of hope for the marginalized and oppressed." In this context discuss the role and mandate of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India. How does the current composition and functioning of the NHRC affect its independence and effectiveness? (250 words, 15 marks)

NHRC is a 13 member body which has 7-nominated members and 6-ex-officio members under overall chairmanship of Retired SC Judge.

Role and mandate of NHRC in India

→ As a watchdog

① Violation of human rights across nation reported (eg) cases in Manipur violation under NHRC

② Powers of civil court to regulate its proceedings ⇒ Ensure independence in working.

③ Can recommend government action based on reports of violation.

→ Beacon of hope for marginalized

④ Takes cases without any political bias

- (eg.) Despite inflammatory actions in Kashmir, NHRC took up cases of activists.
- (5) Ensured protection of local rights
- (eg.) NHRC looked into migration of Sahariyas from Bhanu national park and related issue.
- (6) Can ask for government machinery support and provide financial support to marginalized.

Issues faced presently by NHRC in independence

→ Composition

- ① All members selected by executive ⇒ ~~dep~~ no independent powers.
- ② Ex-officio members affect decisions

→ Functioning

- ③ No suo-moto powers to take up cases.
- ④ Cases only from past 1 year can be taken.

Issues faced in effectiveness

- ① NHRC recommendations are



- not binding on government
- ② No power to look into human right violation of armed forces.

All this have lead to India not being Asian Grouping of UNHRC which will affects its candidature in UNHRC.

Steps to  
Strengthen NHRC

- ① Focus on giving suo-moto powers
- ② Financial and own resources officers.
- ③ Binding actions and reports tabled regularly.
- ④ No vacancies in NHRC posts.
- ⑤ Better coordination mechanism with other agencies

Protecting human rights is enshrined under Article 14, 19, 21 etc. in constitution. NHRC's role is pivotal for attaining goal of "Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat".

- Q16. भारत में स्वास्थ्य समानता की सतत चुनौतियां सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य कवरेज प्राप्त करने में एक गंभीर बाधा उत्पन्न करती हैं। इस संदर्भ में ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों में पर्याप्त स्वास्थ्य पहुंच और परिणाम सुनिश्चित करने में सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों की भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

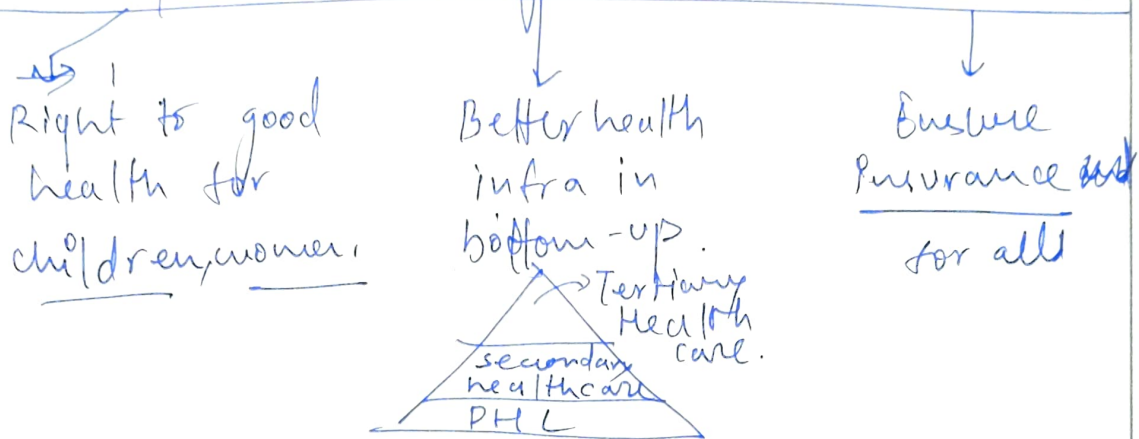
The persistent health equity challenges in India pose a critical barrier in achieving Universal Health Coverage. In this context discuss the role of the public and private sectors in ensuring adequate health access and outcomes across rural and urban areas. (250 words, 15 marks)

Universal Health Coverage is a goal as per Indian Directive Principle of State Policy Article 39(e), 39(f) and Right to Good Health as per Article 21.

Persistent health equity challenges in India that pose barrier:

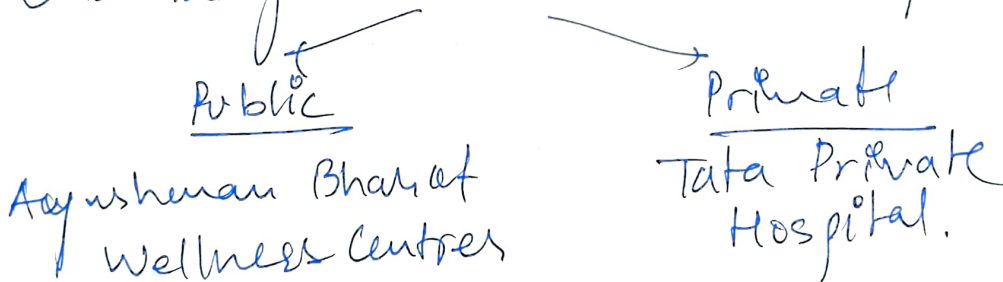
- ① Rural - urban divide in health infrastructure (eg) 60% multispeciality hospitals in metro cities (Lancet study)
- ② High out of pocket expenditure. (eg) 47% OOPEx in India (Economic Survey 23)
- ③ Poor presence of medical professionals in rural areas (eg) 80% doctors in urban areas.
- ④ Dependence on Quacks in marginalized groups (eg) WHO says 53% professionals don't have required capabilities

Solving health equity challenge can help in ensuring Universal Health Coverage



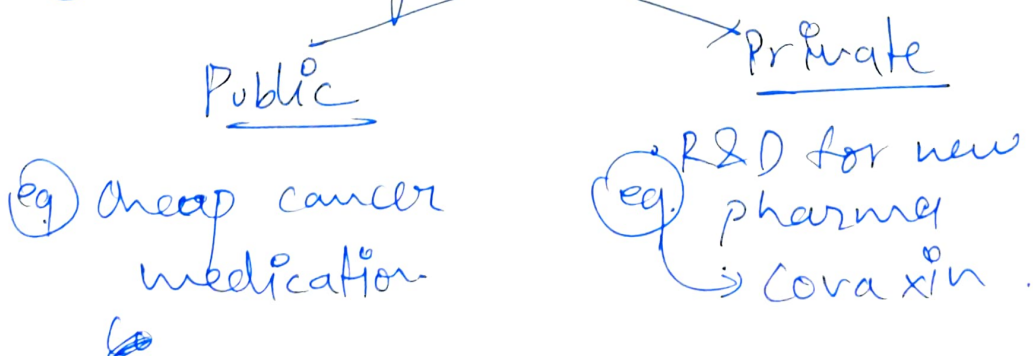
Role of public and private ~~ent~~ in ensuring health access and outcomes

① Building better infrastructure (eg)



② Better ratio of medical personnel.

③ Ensuring access to medicine.





④ Tie ups for health and nutrition security. (eg.) Akshay Patra for bring food to schools.

⑤ Insurance products for everyone.

(eg.) Ayushman Bharat Mission (Public)  
Private → (eg.) Karachi for healthca-  
re professionals insurance during  
Covid-19.

Way Forward for UHC in India

① Alternative medicine (AYUSH) for  
larger coverage.

② UP Model of Nutritional Security

↳ Involving SHGs in producing  
health food and sending it directly  
to pregnant women.

③ National Health Policy, 2017 recommen-  
-endation of 2.5% GDP spend  
and well being.

SDG Goal - 3 of universal healthcare  
can be achieved via targeted policies  
aimed at bottom up approach.

- Q17. सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (SDGs) की प्राप्ति के लिए क्षेत्रीय संदर्भ और स्थानीय परिस्थितियों पर विचार करना आवश्यक है। इस कथन के आलोक में जमीनी स्तर पर विकास और सतत विकास को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए उत्प्रेरक के रूप में पंचायतों की भूमिका का परीक्षण करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals requires consideration of regional context and local situations. In light of this statement examine the role of Panchayats as catalysts for grassroots development and advancing sustainable development. (250 words, 15 marks)

Sustainable Development Goals, 2030 are a priority for our nation highlighted by its faster attainment as standalone goals of G-20 Delhi Summit.



Steps taken in local context in India

- ① Kudumbashree Model of Kerala } • Based on local needs helped in achieving SDG-5 of gender equality
- ② Odisha Model of poverty } For SDG-1 of No poverty based on local bodies based development approach
- ③ Use of local produce } eg Ragi in Poshanabhiyan in Charkhand for SDG-3

Panchayats are catalyst in role of →

→ grassroot development

- ① As planning and implementation  
on per/local needs.
- ② Regulate local markets ⇒ ensure  
and highlight produce sold at right  
rate.
- ③ needs of human development  
fulfilled
  - ↳ Health
  - ↳ Education.

→ Sustainable development

- ① Goal of SDG-6 of clean water  
(eg) Pani samitis in village.
- ② Better sanitation through ODF  
status achievement by panchayats.
- ③ Focus on circular economy (SDG-13)  
(eg) Mission LIFE implementing.  
↳ Palli panchayat is carbon  
neutral.



## Challenges in panchayats role in development and achieving SDG goals

### Funds

- ① Lack adequate funds and taxation powers.
- ② Not enough sources  $\Rightarrow$  Depend on state devolution of finances

### Functions

- ③ Only few states devolved all 29 powers under 11th schedule
- ④ Lack any formal enforcement workforce

### Functionaries

- ⑤ 'Pradhan Pati' issue in reserved seats.
- ⑥ Issue of caste politics
- ⑦ No social welfare approach (eq.)  
Khap Panchayats and regressive judgements

### Way forward

- ① RBI guidelines on local bodies issue bonds to be extended to Panchayats
- ② Relook into state FC powers to ensure devolution to panchayats

Panchayats are the surest means of holistic development via bottom-up approach.

- Q18. भारत में बाल अधिकारों और कल्याण पर पोक्सो (POCSO) अधिनियम के क्या निहितार्थ हैं? बाल संरक्षण के लिए भारत के विधिक ढांचे को परिवर्तित करने में POCSO अधिनियम की भूमिका का विश्लेषण करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)
- What are the implications of the POCSO Act on the rights and welfare of children in India? Analyze the role of the POCSO Act in transforming India's legal framework for child protection. (250 words, 15 marks)

POCSO Act was brought in 2012 to bring a holistic legal paradigm to protect children as per UN convention on Protection of child Rights.

Implications on rights and welfare of children of POCSO

- ① Gender Neutral Act brought in via POCSO.
- ② Punishment to those who were trusted and exploited
- ③ Ensure Privacy for children.
- ④ Large scope of issues covered than IPC
- ⑤ setup dedicated Special Courts  
↳ Right to ~~eq~~ Equal Justice (Article 21)

Importance of POCSO in legal framework for child protection:

- ① It covers wider paradigm of issues and gives clarity on definition (eg.) child pornography Assault etc.
- ② Minimum punishment for certain assaults
- ③ Combines a punitive and risk-averse approach to justice delivery.
- ④ Special Courts and prosecutors are ensured.
- ⑤ Unlike IPC, they are designed to be children oriented

Unfortunately, POCSO has not been able to fully overcome issue of child sexual assault (eg.) Hathras Rape case



## Challenges in POCSO Implementation

- ① 1 in 4 cases in POCSO are romantic in origin. (UNICEF)
- ② Weaponization of law for achieving ulterior motive.
- ③ Special courts still not established
- ④ No specific provisions on how age is determined.
- ⑤ Lack of sensitization training of officers.

## Way Forward

- ① Special Courts  $\Rightarrow$  830 in number to be established must be hastened
- ② Capacity building of legal officers to deal with cases

Children are future of nation  
Hence focus on awareness and rooting out heinous crimes must be goal.

- Q19. अमेरिका और भारत के मध्य राजनयिक संबंधों के सन्दर्भ में मानवाधिकार संबंधी मुद्दों और लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों के प्रभाव का परीक्षण करें। इन चिंताओं ने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है तथा इन मुद्दों से उत्पन्न तनाव को कम करने के लिए क्या किया जा सकता है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Examine the influence of human rights issues and democratic values on the diplomatic relationship between the U.S. and India. How have these concerns affected bilateral engagements and what can be done to mitigate tensions arising from these issues?

(250 words, 15 marks)

India - US relationship has been in a work in progress since cold war time when they were estranged democracies to present of shared interests

Influence of human rights issues on India - US relationship: -

- ① Importance to food security for India  
(eg.) PL-480 grains in 1960s by USA
- ② US promotion of secularism as per own negative approach cause concerns  
(eg.) USIR Report on Religious Freedom in jeopardy in India
- ③ India - US collaboration on ensuring climate justice (eg.) Mission LIFE supported by USA

## Influence of democratic values in relationship

- ① Promotion of democratic values together  
(eg) QUAD formed as grouping of democracies.
- ② Congruence to ~~counterintuitive~~ counterintuitive Authoritarian regimes (eg) China.

## Concerns of human rights and democratic values affect bilateral relation

- ① US views itself in protector of democracy ~~is~~ causing concerns for Indian sovereignty  
(eg) US Ambassador ~~comment~~ <sup>comments on</sup> India's Farm protests.
- ② Lack of common ideology on applying human rights issues  
(eg) US - Saudi Arabia collaboration despite violations by Saudi.
- ③ India not joining Clean economy Pillars of MPEF  $\Rightarrow$  as concerned by forcetful enforcement of Western standards



- ④ US NGOs taking part in anti-India rhetoric
- (eg) Greenpeace and Kudankulam Nuclear plant protest
- ⑤ human rights concerns raised affect India's world governance ranking of World Bank  $\Rightarrow$  Affect our rating (sovereign)

### Steps to mitigate tensions

- ① Dialogue ~~and~~ forums on human rights issues to be mutually solved.
- ② Solving differences in democratic ideal  $\Rightarrow$  through democratic methodology.
- ③ People to people cultural connect  
(eg) Yoga Day type events.

India-US relationship is one which is going to be further strengthened as India is "mother of democracy" & US is "oldest democracy".

- Q20. वैश्विक उन्नति के बावजूद दक्षिण एशिया में भारत के समक्ष आने वाली भू-राजनीतिक चुनौतियों का परीक्षण करें। भारत अपने क्षेत्रीय नेतृत्व को मजबूत करने के लिए इन चुनौतियों का सामना किस प्रकार कर सकता है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)
- Examine the geopolitical challenges India faces in South Asia despite its global rise. How can India navigate these challenges to strengthen its regional leadership?
- (250 words, 15 marks)

"India's global rise is accompanied by its regional decline" — Prof. Happyman Jacob.

### Geopolitical challenges faced by India in South Asia

- ① Arc of instability near South Asia. (eg. West affects Asia. India.)
- ② Arc of uncertainty in Bangladesh, Myanmar due to instability
- ③ Countering China in region (eg. Chinese interest in Teesta region, BRI)
- ④ Non-prioritization by USA of Indo-Pacific to focus back on West Asia
- ⑤ Issues with neighbors due to perceived view of big-brother attitude



- ⑥ Low connectivity and trade between South Asian nations (eg) only 15% of trade of total region between SAARC.

But the time has also seen India's geopolitical rise as:

- ① Peer accommodation by western nations due to its democratic credentials and large population.
- ② Counter China in Indo-Pacific and Asia.
- ③ Status of swing state → so better able to balance relations.
- ④ India rising economic potential
- ⑤ Indian support during multilateral conferences (eg) ICT judge election Dalvir Bhandari won by India against UK with Global South support.
- ⑥ India's strategic policy of "Middle Way" (eg) Views on Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine



Steps by India to ensure regional leadership in South Asia.

① Solving these problem as per EAM S. Jaishankar in South Asia.

↓  
Unconnected borders

↓  
Unresolved disputes

↓  
Underexploited resources

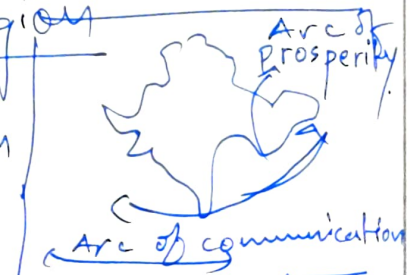
② Reviving SAARC and focus on neo-liberal view of economics for better integration

③ Focus on solving connectivity issues and completing development projects (Parliamentary Committee on external affairs)

④ Global cooperation to better utilize Arc of communication and arc of prosperity in region

⑤ Resolving disputes through democratic means

(eg) Land Border Agreement with Bangladesh.



India can strengthen regional leadership via Gujral doctrine of "non-reciprocity".