

NEXT IAS**GS MAINS ADVANCED COURSE 2024**

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : GSMAC2406**Test No. : 06**Name of Candidate: Aditi Sharma Mobile No.

Roll No. : Start Time End Time.....

Date of Examination: 09.08.24 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
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	
TOTAL MARKS - 150		

GRAND TOTAL -/ 250**EVAL CODE:** **EVAL DATE:****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 20 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:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

<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>	
 Topper's Copy	 Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB
 Copy Scanner App	 Next IAS Test Centre Location

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT



IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

1. परामर्श और आपसी सहमति के आधार पर बहुलवाद द्वारा उत्पन्न समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए संस्थागत व्यवस्था संघीय शासन की एक प्रमुख विशेषता है। क्षेत्रीय परिषदें केवल सलाहकार निकायों से कार्रवाई के लिए सक्रिय मंचों के रूप में कैसे विकसित हुई हैं (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

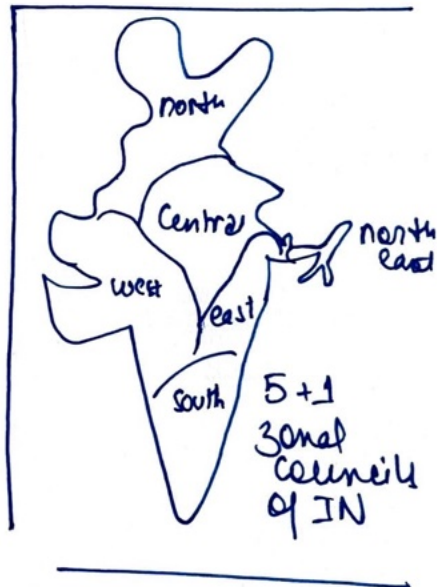
Federal governance is characterised by institutionalized arrangements for solving problems generated by pluralism based on consultation and mutual consent. How have Zonal Councils evolved from merely advisory bodies to proactive platforms for action (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Post the linguistic reorganisation of states as per Fazl Ali Commission the government enacted the States Reorganisation Act 1956 to create zonal councils.

Evolution of zonal councils

In the nascent years of their formation zonal councils acted as advisory bodies whose recommendations were non binding.

But now, zonal councils



① Regional Development: provide a platform for states to develop policies for regional development
② Regional connectivity

③ Collective Action: for common regional problems

④ eastern zonal council collaborates on issue of nationalism

③ Federalism: As all zonal councils are headed by the home ministers, it provides a platform to forge consensus between centre & states and ensure national development

④ Comparative Learning: is encouraged by studying the best practices across states

(eg) Rythu bandhu of Telangana was studied as a best practice for improving farmer income

⑤ Dispute Resolution: Zonal councils create a platform for dialogue, discussion, debates to settle inter state disagreements on issues like inter state river water disputes Inter state boundary disputes etc

⑥ Policy Evaluation: is undertaken to identify gaps and identify areas for improvement to achieve development goals.

Zonal councils need to be empowered with requisite funds & infrastructure to ensure they are able to live up to its mandate.

2. भारतीय संविधान के तहत धर्मनिरपेक्षता समानता के प्रति संवैधानिक प्रतिबद्धता की व्यापक अवधारणा में समाहित है। चर्चा करें।
(150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Secularism under the Indian constitution is encapsulated in the broader concept of constitutional commitment to equality. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Though the word secularism is explicitly written in the preamble (42(AA)) its essence can be found in the larger concept of equality in the constitution.

Secularism in Constitution

Secularism is a political philosophy which advocates for a separation of the state from religion. In India we have a positive model of secularism.



Equality & Secularism

① right to equality: under article 14 firmly establishes rule of law which is against any arbitrary rule by law by state or religious institutions

② right against discrimination: under article 15 explicitly bars state from discriminating against individuals on ground of religion and article 16 bars discrimination in public employment on grounds of

religion

③ right to religion: article 25 provides all citizens to right to practice, propagate, propagate their religious beliefs. with reasonable restrictions.

④ right to manage religious institutions to all under article 26.

⑤ article 27 bars state to levy taxes for the purpose of promoting any single religion.

⑥ universal adult franchise: allows suffrage to all without discrimination based on religion.

⑦ constitutional posts: like SC/HC judges, CAG, President, VP, PM, Council of Ministers, MP, MLAs etc are open for all Indian citizens without any restrictions based on religion.

Secularism and the idea of sarva dharma sambhava is the corner stone of our society and part of basic structure of constitution (Bommai case)

3.

जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 8 को सजा की अवधि से हटाकर अपराध की गंभीरता पर केंद्रित करने की आवश्यकता है।' टिप्पणी करें कि धारा 8 के तहत वर्तमान वर्गीकरण किस प्रकार अपराधों के मनमाने वर्गीकरण की ओर ले जाता है। साथ ही, इस धारा के तहत अयोग्य घोषित व्यक्ति के लिए उपलब्ध उपायों का भी उल्लेख करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

'There is a need to shift the focus of Section 8 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 from the duration of the sentence to the gravity of the offence.' Comment on how the current classification under Section 8 leads to arbitrary categorisation of offences. Also, mention the remedies available to a person disqualified under this section. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

The rising criminalisation of politics and politicisation of criminals has led to the demand of re-evaluating section 8 of RPA 1951

Current Classification



- ① S8 outlines some heinous and serious offences (eg. rape, sati etc) for which the MP/MLA will be disqualified for contesting poll for the duration of sentence + 6yrs post the sentence
- ② For other offences with a punishment of fine or sentence < 2yr, the candidates will be disqualified only for the duration of the sentence
- ③ however, no objective classification exists and often subjectivity is misused to get a less harsh sentence + escape disqualification

Relaxation

① new categorisation based on escalation matrix to penalise candidates based on gravity of their offence rather than sentence of punishment

Remedies

- ① Disqualified candidates can approach higher judiciary and make an appeal.
- ② Lakshadweep MP was accused under S(8), appealed and got it overturned
- ③ EC I also reserves right to stay the order of disqualification

Nevertheless there is an urgent need to reform S(8) and also undertake steps to decriminalise politics

4.

भारतीय संसदीय प्रणाली में विपक्ष के नेता का क्या महत्व है? लोकतंत्र में नियंत्रण और संतुलन बनाए रखने में विपक्ष की भूमिका किस प्रकार योगदान देती है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

What is the significance of the Leader of Opposition in the Indian parliamentary system? How does the role of the opposition contribute to the checks and balances in a democracy?

(Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

After remaining vacant, the post of leader of opposition post has been filled in the 18th LS. He is the leader of the single largest opposition party/coalition and enjoys the same status as that of cabinet minister.

Significance of Lo Op

- ① Leadership: to the opposition group in the house.
- ② Alternate viewpoints: of opposition on key policies are expressed by him on behalf of the larger group.
- ③ Impartiality: Lo Op is part of the high powered committees responsible for appointments of CEC & ECs, Lokpal, CVC, CIC, NHRC, ~~etc~~ CBI director etc, his presence deters political appointments.

Role of Opposition

- ① Accountability: from government by using parliamentary tools like

question hour, zero hour, calling attention motion, censure motion, adjournment motion, no confidence motion etc

② Participate in parliamentary committees : like Public Accounts Committees, DRSCs, committees on PSU and contribute to policy evaluation and legislative scrutiny.

④ digital personal data bill → joint parliamentary committee

③ Raise issues of national concern : like inflation, geopolitical developments (Bangladesh crisis), student demonstrations in Delhi etc and seek action from government

④ Financial Propriety: opposition participates in budget discussions and scrutiny of demand for grants.

To further strengthen opposition practice in the house, India should explore UK practice of shadow cabinet.

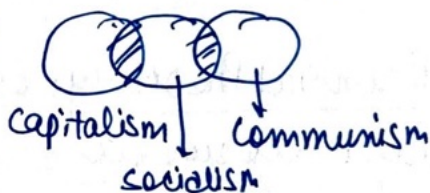
5. "प्रस्तावना के मूल आदर्श - संप्रभुता, समाजवाद, धर्मनिरपेक्षता और लोकतंत्र - भारत के संवैधानिक ढांचे की आधारशिला हैं।" स्पष्ट कीजिये। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)
- "The core ideals of the Preamble - sovereignty, socialism, secularism, and democracy - form the bedrock of India's constitutional framework" Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

The preamble is the moral compass of the constitution encapsulating its core ideals.

Sovereignty: ensures ability to take policy decisions independently without external interference and in national interest.

④ India has maintained its neutrality in ongoing wars in Russia & Israel in line with strategic autonomy

Socialism: ensures establishment of a welfare state to create a society with social, economical and political justice



Secularism: separates the realms of religion and state, and allows for preservation of minority rights and religious reforms.

④ right to freedom of religion under articles 25-28 (Part III)

Democracy: is the rule of popular sovereignty.
Abraham Lincoln defined it as a government
of the people, by the people and for the people.
Constitutional provisions reflecting democratic
ethos →

① universal adult suffrage, right to freedom
of expression, rule of law, parliamentary
accountability etc.

Therefore preamble's values are the
foundation of our polity and should act as
the north star in policy formulation.

NEXT IAS

Pg 11

Candidates must not write on this margin

6.

103वें संवैधानिक संशोधन के निहितार्थों का आकलन करें, जिसने भारत में सामाजिक न्याय के सिद्धांत पर आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्गों (ईडब्ल्यूएस) के लिए दस प्रतिशत आरक्षण की शुरुआत की है। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दें) 10 अंक

Assess the implications of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which introduced a ten per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), on the principle of social justice in India.
(10 marks, 150 words)

As per the recommendations of the Sinha Committee the GoI passed the 103CAA to provide 10% reservation to EWS in public employment and educational institutions.

Implications

Positive

- ① ensure economic justice for the EWS.
- ② per capita income in India is around 2L/annum
- ③ provide opportunity for social mobility
- ④ realise value of equality of opportunity in preamble
- ⑤ help decrease income inequality
- ⑥ top 1% in India → 40% of wealth.
- ⑦ help decrease poverty ⑧ 16% population poor multidimensionally (NTPI)

Negative

- ① exceeds the 50% limit laid down by SC in Indo Sawhney judgement

- ② prioritises equity + equality over limit
- ③ difficulties in identification of beneficiaries
- ④ issues of fake certificates
- ④ economic class as a criteria for affirmative action is not explicitly mentioned in the constitution
- ⑤ excludes only a few as more than 80% population → EWS
- ⑥ decreases pool of seats for SC/ST/OBCs.

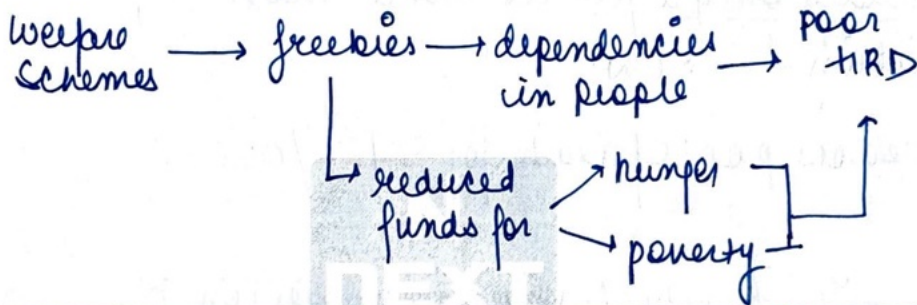
The beauty of any policy lies in its implementation, the SC has upheld the validity of 103 CAA, now the Govt must ensure its benefits reach intended beneficiaries.

7.

भारत में कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का ध्यान "कल्याण" से "अति-निर्भरता" की ओर स्थानांतरित हो रहा है। इसके आलोक में, क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि कल्याणकारी योजनाओं ने भारत में "मुफ्त की संस्कृति" को जन्म दिया है, जिससे गरीबी और भूख उन्मूलन से ध्यान भटक गया है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The focus of welfare schemes in India is shifting from "well-being" towards "over-dependency". In light of this, do you agree that welfare schemes have inculcated a "freebies culture" in India leading to a divergence of focus from poverty and hunger alleviation? (10 marks, 150 words)

Recently the PM brought attention the freebie culture highlighting issues of dependencies created by welfare schemes.



Welfare schemes & divergence of focus from hunger alleviation + poverty

Arguments in favour.

① Increased expenditure on welfare schemes creates fiscal deficits (FD)

eg 4.9% FD in FY24

② decreases availability of funds for other programmes

eg around 4.5 Lcr spent in food fuel fertilizer subsidy (FY24)

③ increased issue of hunger

eg India → #117 in Global hunger index

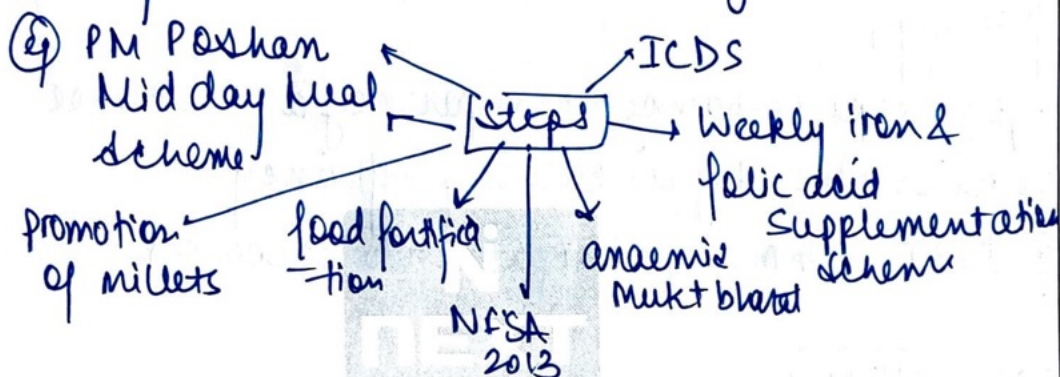
1/3rd kids → malnourished
50% women and 14% men → anaemic } NFHS-5

① increased issue of poverty

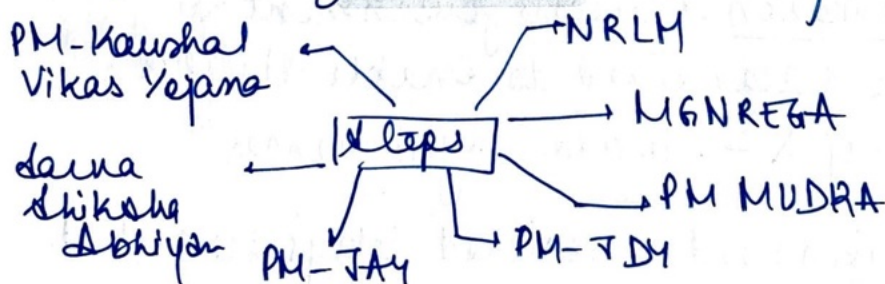
② NITI Aayog MPI → 16% population poor.

Arguments Against

① welfare schemes address hunger



② empowers citizens to reduce poverty



Welfare schemes should be properly implemented to reduce leakages and periodically monitored to ensure intended beneficiaries prosper so that we can achieve our SDG (1) (poverty) & SDG 2 (hunger).

8. ई-शासन केवल दक्षता के संबंध में नहीं है; यह प्रत्येक नागरिक के लिए शासन व्यवस्था को सुलभ और समावेशी बनाने के संबंध में है। व्याख्या करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)
- E-governance is not just about efficiency; it's about making governance accessible and inclusive for every citizen. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

In this techade e-governance is emerging as a tool to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and equity in administration.

Efficiency

e-gov helps enhance transparency and decrease leakages thereby increasing efficiency

eg DBT → money straight into accounts.

Accessibility

① Communication: between government to citizen is streamlined to enable dialogue.

eg use of X → to address grievances

② Red tapism: and associated delays are curbed.

eg ICEGATE portal for trade.

③ Simplified processes allow citizen engagement

eg CPGRAMS portal → grievances.

④ Ease of access for public goods & service

eg UMANG App.

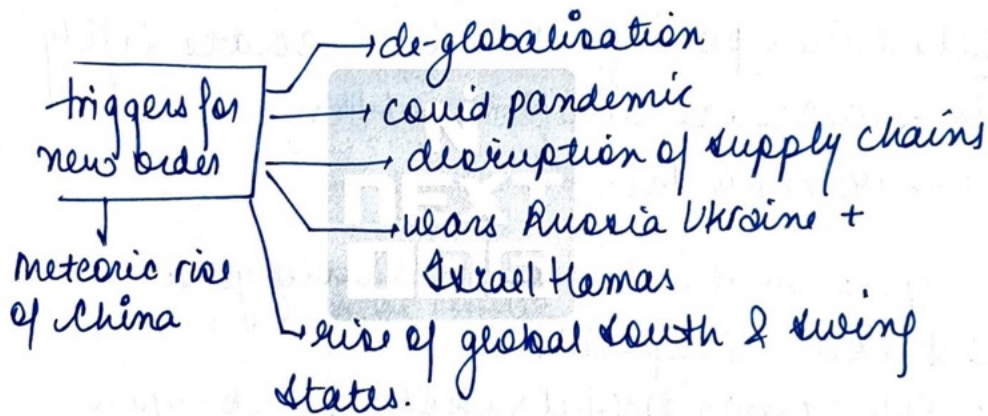
Inclusion

- ① Participation : of people in policy ecosystem
 (e.g.) mygov.in
- ② Targeted Action for vulnerable & marginalised
 (e.g.) ADP portal to track progress.
- ③ Better opportunities : for growth & develop-
 -ment (e.g.) e-NAM for farmers
- ④ Data driven policy : making to create safety
 nets to decrease vulnerabilities
 (e.g.) e-thram portal.
- ⑤ Empowerment : through technology to
 build skills & capabilities
 (e.g.) PM- Groomin digital saksharta abhiyan
 to increase digital literacy.

e-gov can thus create an accessible administration and inclusive society, Govt decision to establish one future vision to promote DI is a step in the right direction.

9. QUAD, AUKUS, I2U2 आदि जैसे नए क्षेत्रीय और बहुपक्षीय समझौतों के आगमन के साथ, गुट निरपेक्ष आन्दोलन (NAM), दावोस और G77 जैसे संगठनों द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व की जाने वाली पुरानी वैश्विक व्यवस्था अपनी प्रासंगिकता खो रही है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)
- With the advent of new regional and multilateral agreements like QUAD, AUKUS, I2U2 etc the old world order represented by organizations like NAM, Davos, and G77 is losing its relevance. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

The old world order set against the backdrop of world war 2 and the consequent cold war politics emphasised on globalisation, but now in a multi polar world we are going towards minilateralism



Losing significance of NAM, G77, Davos

Arguments in favour.

- ① decreasing western capitalist hegemony and rise of multipolar world order has eroded credibility of Davos.
- ② The value of non-alignment is not pragmatic and USSR is no longer a threat to USA. reducing relevance of NAM.

③ The global south under G77 is a diverse group with often competing interests

~~Arguments Against~~ ④ Small organisations like
OVAD, IZU2, AUKUS

4.1 have specialised focuses

4.2 easier to forge consensus.

4.3 comprise of like minded countries

Arguments Against

① fragmentation of global order by multilateral organisations will increase difficulties in addressing global problems like war, terrorism, climate change etc.

② NAM, G77 can boost South-South solidarity + create equitable world order.

③ Davos → multistakeholder forum
↳ policy innovations

The need of the hour is to reform global institutions and empower multilateral institutions.

10.

दक्षिण प्रशांत से अफ्रीकी तट तक के द्वीपीय राज्य और क्षेत्र भारत के बदलते रणनीतिक भूगोल में नए केंद्र बन गए हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के लिए इन द्वीपीय राज्यों के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें और इन राज्यों के साथ संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत द्वारा की गई पहलों पर भी प्रकाश डालें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The island states and territories from the South Pacific to the African coast have become new nodes in India's changing strategic geography. In this context, highlight the importance of these island states for India and also throw light upon the initiatives taken by India to strengthen ties with these states. (10 marks, 150 words)

In the recent past India's has considerably expanded its territories of engagement in foreign policy to include island states in the indo pacific region.

Importance of Island States

Geopolitical

- ① they are part of the global south and share developmental values of India
- ② their support is important for India to secure permanent seat at UNSC
- ③ support is important ~~to~~ in global policy discourse regarding issues of climate change, sustainable development.

Economical

- ① These islands have huge areas of exclusive economic zones under their jurisdiction
- ② important trade partners
- ③ strategic location close to chokepoints

on major sea routes .

Social

① Large population of Indian diaspora line in these island states, which can act as a source of soft power

② in Fiji Bhojpuri is a official language

Initiatives

① Security and Growth for all in the region policy to act as net security provider .

② forum for indopacific island states (FIPIC) to engage with these countries

③ Indian Ocean Rim Association + Indian Pacific Ocean Initiative for regional development and security.

④ Indo Pacific regional dialogue by Indian navy to review geopolitics in Indopacific.

Cordial & Robust bilateral relations with Islands aligns with India's Indo-Pacific strategy and vision of Blue Economy

11. भारत में चुनावी वित्तीयन विधियों और राजनीतिक अक्षमताओं की दोहरी मार से भरा हुआ है। इस संदर्भ में, चुनावी वित्तीयन की चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें। इस संबंध में भारत वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं से क्या सीख ले सकता है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Electoral funding in India is fraught with the double whammy of legal loopholes and political inefficiencies. In this context, discuss the challenges to electoral funding. What lessons can India draw from global best practices in this regard? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Recently the SC struck down the electoral bond scheme as being violative of right to information, exposing the issues in electoral funding in India.

Challenges

① Black Money: finds its way into exchequers of political parties

② Rent Seeking: corporate entities may fund political campaigns for future quid pro quo leading to elite capture and crony capitalism

③ Lack of Transparency: regarding the sources of funding for political parties as RTI is not applicable to parties.

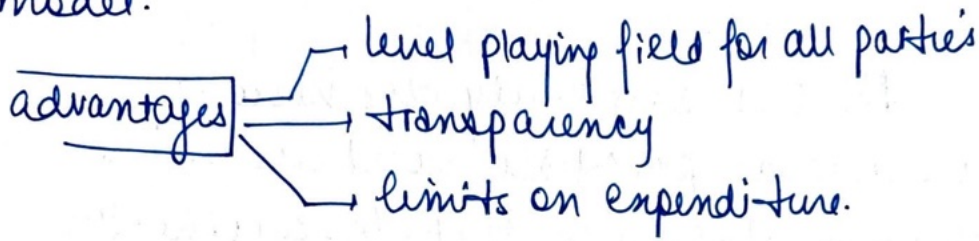
④ Absence of a legal framework: to regulate donors and political parties

⑤ Political Apathy: due to vested interests

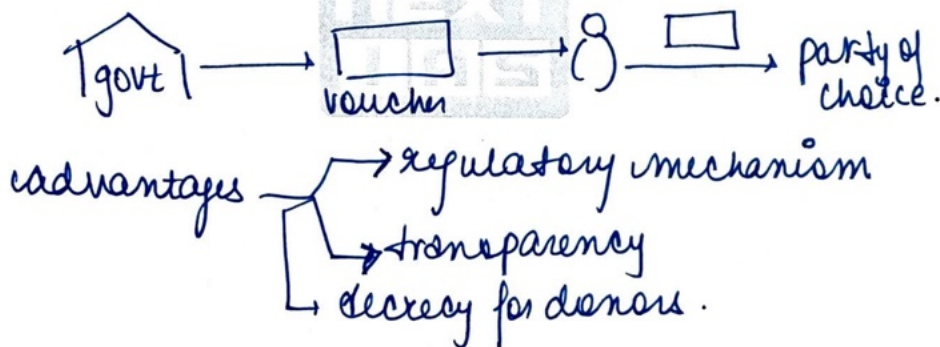
leads to lack of reforms to address the above issues.

Global best practices

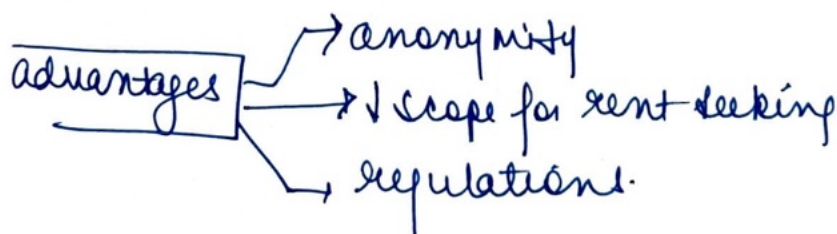
① Germany: uses state funding of elections model.



② USA: uses democracy vouchers for local elections in Seattle.



③ Chile: uses the reserved contribution system.



- ④ UK : has put in curbs for spending
thresholds for both parties & candidates
- advantages → wasteful spending ↓
→ transparency.

The ECI can study the various international practices and customise them for Indian context to resolve the many issues regarding electoral funding.



12. दबाव समूह लोकतंत्र की सामाजिक नींव का निर्माण करते हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में श्रमिकों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा उपायों को बढ़ावा देने में दबाव समूहों के प्रमुख योगदान पर चर्चा करें और बताएं कि वे मौजूदा नीतियों में उपलब्ध खामियों को किस प्रकार दूर करते हैं। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Pressure groups form the social foundation of a democracy. In this context, discuss pressure groups' key contributions in promoting social security measures for workers in India and how they address the gaps in existing policies (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Pressure groups are non state entities who use techniques of electioneering, lobbying, propagandizing to influence policy decisions in their favour.

Role in social security for workers

Nearly 90% of the population is engaged in informal employment without adequate safety nets, pressure groups help

- ① Raising concerns of workers to the government and industry leaders.
- ② Consolidate & mobilise workers under a single umbrella to empower them to use their collective bargaining power for better wages, working conditions, safety at work etc
- ③ Conduct awareness programmes for workers to educate them about their legal rights

- ④ provide them with access to affordable & quality legal counsel to enforce their rights
- ⑤ they help create & improve grievance redressal mechanisms for workers.
- ⑥ demand policy reforms from governments
- ⑦ protection for gig workers.

Case study: Mazdur Kisan Shaktisangathan has been a worker-peasant pressure group at the forefront of worker rights movement

Addressing gaps in Policies

- ① expose lacunae in policy implementation through social audits.
- ② participate in policy making to help incorporate worker rights in laws/policies.
- ③ suggest sector specific reforms to labour laws. ④ mining, construction etc.
- ④ by participating in DRSCs and other multi stakeholder consultations.

Worker pressure groups thus perform a critical role in our policy discourse, need of the hour is to provide a regulatory framework for them to effectively engage with government.



13.

संविधान में भारतीय संघीय राजनीति के कार्यकारी क्षेत्र में "संघीय सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत" की परिकल्पना की गई है। प्रासंगिक संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और वाद एवं विधियों का हवाला देते हुए चर्चा कीजिये। शक्तियों के वितरण से संबंधित विवादास्पद मुद्दों का समाधान किस प्रकार किया जाता है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

The Constitution envisages the principle of federal supremacy in the executive space of Indian federal polity. Discuss while referring to the relevant Constitutional provisions and case laws. How are contentious issues regarding the distribution of powers resolved? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Article 1 states that India is a union of states highlighting its quasi federal nature which is most evident in the executive space.

Principle of federal supremacy

Gives primacy to the union over the states in certain matters to ensure unity & integrity of the nation.

Constitutional provisions

① Office of governor: who is appointed by the union as its representative in the state enjoys.

Powers → discretionary (163 article)
→ withhold bill for president (article 201)
→ recommend imposition of presidential rule (article 356)
→ appoints vice chancellors.

- ② all India Service: officers are appointed by the union and serve in the state and can be removed only by the president
- ③ Advisory role: the union government can issue advisories to the state on subjects such as maintenance of railways welfare of tribals, etc.
- ④ emergency powers: under article 352 the entire polity is turned into a unitary state and under article 356, state government is dismissed for failure of constitutional machinery.

Case Laws

- ① In the recent SC judgement on abrogation of special status of J & K, the SC upheld the union government's authority to dissolve a state
- ② In the NCT Case the SC recognised Lt Governor of Delhi as the final executive authority.

Resolution of Contentious Issues

- ① Institutional forums: like the Inter state Council and zonal councils can act as forum for dialogue.
- ② Judiciary: the SC under article 131 enjoys original jurisdiction over intergovernmental disputes. @ recently SC ruled royalty is not a tax, giving financial power to states
- ③ NITI's Aayog: strives to encourage cooperative federalism through its governing council

Federalism is part of the basic structure of the constitution (SR Bommai case), we must practice cooperative & enabling federalism rather than combative & extractive federalism.

14.

निष्पक्ष प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करने और एक वोट, एक मूल्य के सिद्धांतों को बनाए रखने के लिए सीटों का परिसीमन आवश्यक है। निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में गलत प्रतिनिधित्व से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए संघीय तनाव उत्पन्न करने में जनसंख्या-आधारित परिसीमन के प्रभावों का विश्लेषण कीजिये। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Delimitation of seats is essential to ensure fair representation and uphold the principles of one vote, one value. Highlighting the challenges posed by misrepresentation in constituencies analyse the ramifications of population-based delimitation in creating federal tension. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

The 42CAA & 84CAA froze the number of seats in parliament as per the 1971 census. but as its deadline nears, there is increased debate over the delimitation exercise.

Delimitation (article 82, 170) is an exercise to redraw seats and constituency boundaries to ensure one person one vote one value. It is done by a statutory Delimitation Commission

Challenges by misrepresentation

① distorts regional representation in the house.

② during 2019 elections a UP MP represented 30L people, Lakshadweep MP → only 55,000.

② decreases ability of people to access their MPs and hold them accountable.

③ penalises the southern states for undertaking successful population control and uncenturies race to bottom.

- ④ goes against principle of fair representation under one person one vote value.

Ramifications of population based Delimitation

Positive

- ① adjust representation in parliament as per present context
- ② facilitate implementation of 106CAA for $\frac{1}{3}$ rd women representations.
- ③ increase number of seats to over 800+ in the house.

Negative

- ① Increase the north south divide as. Per estimates northern states may gain over 32 seats, while southern states may lose over 24 seats.
- ② Population is a major criteria for FC devolutions. delimitation may shrink tax devolutions for southern states
- ③ may fuel sons of the soil policies across states @ HR, KN laws for local reservation
- ④ can trigger inter state migrations

⑤ decrease the ability of southern states to influence national policies due to reduced political clout.

Delimitation is a constitutional inevitability, but it must be done only by keeping all states in confidence. The Punchi Commission recommendation to provide equal representation in Rajya Sabha (like USA) is worth exploring.

15.

उच्च न्यायालयों का ध्यान "संवैधानिक मामलों" से हटाकर रोजमर्रा के मामलों पर केंद्रित करने के लिए जनहित याचिका प्रणाली को किस सीमा तक जिम्मेदार ठहराया जा सकता है? उच्च न्यायालयों पर समग्र बोझ को कम करने में ट्रायल कोर्ट क्या भूमिका निभा सकते हैं? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

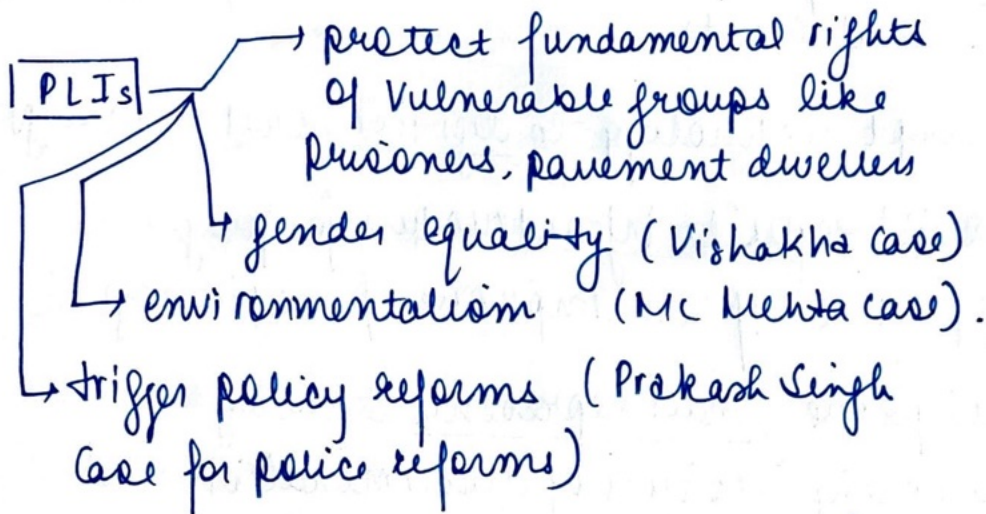
To what extent can the PIL system be held responsible for shifting the focus of the higher Courts from "constitutional matters" to day-to-day matters? What role can the trial Courts play in reducing the overall burden on higher Courts? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

PILs are legal instruments allowing public spirited individuals to raise matters of public concern (by relaxing locus standi provisions).

PILs → Shift of focus

- ① leads to judicial activism and involvement of judiciary in day to day matters
- ② pollution in delhi post dival
- ② PILs are misused for even publicity by some advocates
- ③ PILs are filed for frivolous cases also.
- ④ all this decreases time with higher judiciary to hear constitutional matters and increases delays and pendencies.
- ④ 4.5 cr + cases pending in judiciary.
average time to resolve case in HC is 5yr.

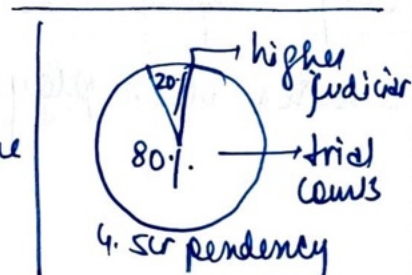
But at the same time,



all of which have constitutional significance and are not mere day to day matters.

Role of Trial Courts

Out of the total pendency 80% → trial courts, therefore they can play a major role in reducing burden on higher courts.



① faster resolution of cases.

② drafting quality judgements so as to ensure justice and avoid tendency to file for appeal with the higher court

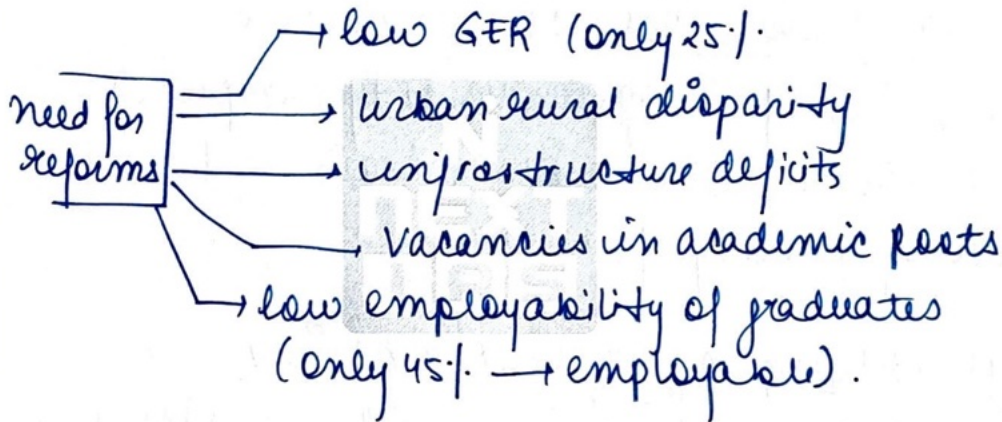
③ fill vacancies to ensure optimum functioning

- ② nearly 24% vacancies in post of judges in trial courts
- ④ adopt technology to digitise court proceedings
- ⑤ build requisite infrastructure for judges & support staff to improve functioning
- ⑥ improve gender representation by addressing issues of discrimination and lack of facilities like washroom.

The need of the hour is to focus on ease of doing justice. all India judicial services can play a role in this regard

16. भारत की उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को वैश्विक मानकों के अनुरूप बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। नई शिक्षा नीति (एनईपी) 2020 का लक्ष्य इन चुनौतियों का समाधान करना किस प्रकार है, और भारत अपनी उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रथाओं से क्या सबक सीख सकता है? चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)
- India's higher education system needs significant reforms to align with global standards. How does the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aim to address these challenges, and what lessons can India learn from international practices to enhance its higher education system? Discuss. . (15 marks, 250 words)

None of the top Indian universities feature in the world top 100 in international rankings like QS & THS. highlighting the need for reforms.



NEP 2020

① Regulation: The NEP advises to set up a Higher Education Institutions Commission as the central regulatory authority to create an enabling environment for HEIs.

② Multidisciplinary Approach: is encouraged through the Blue grants scheme and

Academic Bank of Credit (ABC). Herein a student can gain credits for different courses from different colleges to encourage holistic learning.

③ flexibility: through multiple exit and multiple entry options to decrease dropouts and allow continuous learning.

④ foreign Universities: NEP envisions setting up of foreign university campuses in India to reduce brain drain and improve quality of education.

⑤ Hybrid learning: through online + traditional learning modules for immersive learning experience.

Lessons from foreign Universities

① focus on R&D ecosystem.

② In India only 1% colleges → R&D
and only 0.5% of budget → R&D

③ develop industry-academia linkages

④ develop world class infrastructure like labs, libraries, playing fields etc.

- ④ innovative funding mechanisms
- ④ USA → alumni are major donors for universities
- ⑤ creating pedagogy techniques
 - ④ case studies, debates, role play, mock courts etc.
- ⑥ creating rich scholarship programmes for meritorious students
- ⑦ linkages with CSOs.

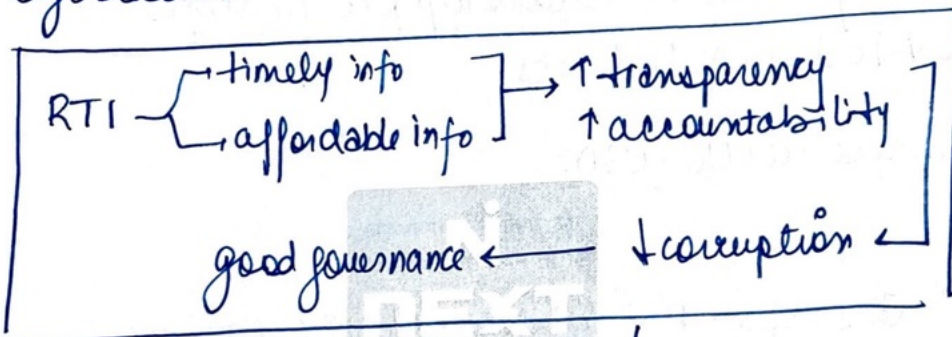
The recent guidelines of UGC paving way for foreign universities to set up campuses in India are a step in the right direction.

17.

सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम को भारतीय शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की तलाश में परिवर्तनकारी प्रभाव के लिए सराहा जाता है। हालाँकि, बहुआयामी चुनौतियाँ और प्रणालीगत सीमाएँ इसके प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में बाधा डालती हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही इसके प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन के लिए उपाय भी सुझाइये। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

The Right to Information (RTI) Act is hailed for its transformative impact on the quest for transparency and accountability in Indian governance. However, multifaceted challenges and systemic limitations impede its effective implementation. Discuss. Also, suggest measures for its effective implementation. (15 marks, 250 words)

The second ARC called RTI as a key to good governance and a sunshine legislation



Challenges & Limitations

A. Operational

- ① huge pendencies of appeals
 - ⑨ 3.5L + pending
- ② unwillingness of PIO to levy fines on officials for non compliance.
- ③ emphasis on form of query rather than substance leading to high dismal rates
- ④ lack of awareness of RTI especially in rural areas and amongst marginal groups like SC/ST/OBC/EWS/women.

B. Institutional

- ① lack of transparency in appointment of CICs and ICs
- ② vacancies in SIC, many are defunct
- ③ poor gender representation
- ④ only 4% ICs → women
- ⑤ politicisation and favouritism in appointments
- ⑥ narrow base for selection as most ICs IAS.

C) Legal

- ① The RTI Amendment Act 2019 decreases independence and autonomy of CICs and SICs
- ② Recent Digital Personal Data Protection act also limits scope of RTI by widening definition of personal data of public officials
- ③ provision of voluntary disclosure under RTI has been ignored.

Measures

- ① Transparency in appointments + broad basing of selection pool.
- ② fill the vacancies immediately
- ③ focus on voluntary disclosure @ Jan Leckha Portal (RT)
- ④ ensure financial independence of CTC & SIC.
- ⑤ awareness campaigns & capacity building of people to educate them about correct procedure to file RTI
- ⑥ provide requisite infrastructural support + staff support.

RTI can enable participation, accountability & transparency in governance, we must address the existing lacunae.

18. ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की तुलना में शहरी क्षेत्रों में स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी) को मिलने वाली अनूठी चुनौतियों और अवसरों पर चर्चा कीजिए, और शहरी गरीबी से निपटने के लिए सूक्ष्म ऋण को किस प्रकार अनुकूलित किया जा सकता है।

(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Discuss the unique challenges and opportunities Self Help Groups (SHGs) encounter in urban areas compared to rural ones and how can microfinance be adapted to tackle urban poverty.
(15 marks, 250 words)

An SHG is a voluntary group of 20-30 people working together to achieve shared socio-economic goals. In India there are 9mn SHGs.

Urban SHGs

A. Challenges

- ① familiarity: rural SHG members are bonded by kinship, but in urban areas members come from diverse social groups, this creates issues of trust deficits.
- ② competition: Cities are economic growth engines, urban SHGs find it hard to compete with MSMEs, startups corporates MNCs
- ③ Dependence on NGOs: is high and performance of SHGs often stagnate without handholding support.

④ elite capture: Is common in urban SHGs undermining their democratic organisation

⑤ Poor urban governance linkages with ULBs also affect their ability to participate in local development

on the other hand in rural areas

PR1-SHG → Kudumbashree (Kerala).

Opportunities

- ① access to large market
- ② availability of multiple channels of financing through PSBs, private banks etc
- ③ access to experts who can assist in capacity building.
- ④ access to better infrastructure and civic amenities @ better internet connection, roads etc.

Micro-finance and urban poverty

In India collateral free loans upto 3L to SHGs, individuals etc are considered microfinance. They can help deal with urban poverty by—

- ① access to productive capital to start small businesses
- ② add employment opportunities
- ③ can act as a safety net in cases of emergency eg during pandemic
- ④ help increase income levels of informal workers like daily wage labourers, hawkers etc.
- ⑤ help create durable revenue generating assets and ensure income security.
- ⑥ enable gender empowerment for women SHGs.

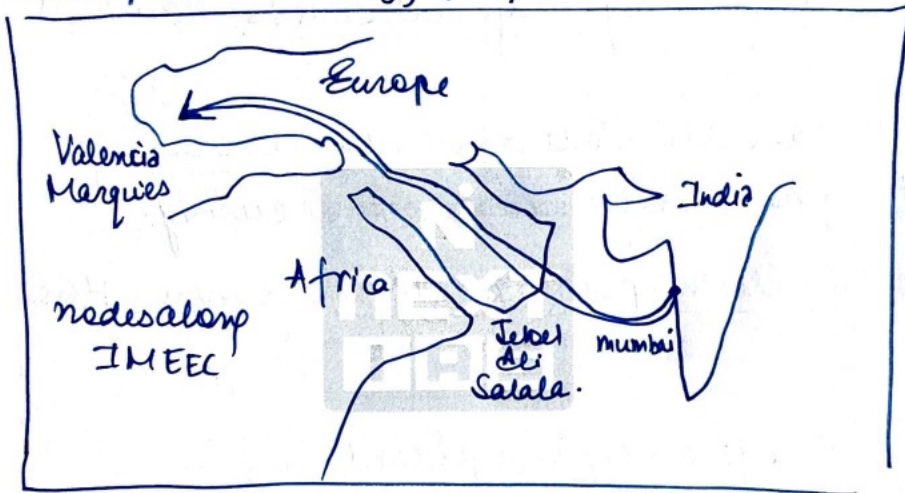
Microfinance is a potent tool in dealing with urban poverty. Microfinance Institutions must focus on financial inclusion programmes to eradicate poverty.

19. विश्व, विशेषकर पश्चिम के साथ भारत के संपर्क (कनेक्टिविटी) के लिए हाल ही में परिकल्पित भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप गलियारे के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें। क्या आपको लगता है कि हाल के दिनों में भारत की विदेश नीति में परिवहन और ऊर्जा पहल को प्राथमिकता दी गई है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Highlight the significance of the recently envisaged India-Middle East-Europe corridor for India's connectivity with the world, especially the West. Do you think, in recent times, transport and energy initiatives have taken precedence in India's foreign policy?

(15 marks, 250 words)

Recently on the sidelines of G20 Summit the Govt launched the India Middle East-Europe corridor (IMEEC) as a multimodal transport & energy project.



Significance

Geopolitical

- ① provide a counter to China's BRI and challenge its hegemony.
- ② provides an alternate route to choke point of Suez canal
- ③ helps avoid the problematic and unstable red sea route

- ④ improve bilateral ties with west asian countries like S-Arabia, UAE etc
- ⑤ Embedden India EU ties.

Economy

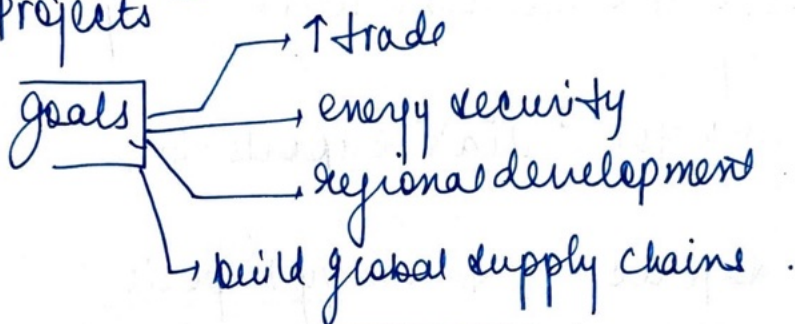
- ① decrease the trade time with EU by atleast 30%.
- ② major push for India's exports to EU
- ③ ensure safe access to energy imports from west asia ④ nearly 80% of crude oil is imported by India
- ④ boost regional development
- ⑤ create jobs in India
- ⑥ help attract investments
- ⑦ boost India's GDP.

Transport & Energy Projects

- ① International north south transit corridor.
- ② Construction of Chabahar port (Iran)
- ③ Kaladan multimodal transit project (Myanmar)
- ④ development of Trincomamallee oil field (Sri Lanka)

⑤ Agartala - Akhora rail link project (Bangladesh).

Therefore it can be seen India's foreign policy is actively pursuing transport & energy projects



But at the same time we are also focusing on —

- ① humanitarian aid & assistance
 - ④ Operation Dost Turkey
- ② Sustainable Development ④ Asia Africa growth corridor.
- ③ global governance reforms ④ UNSC permanent seat.

Nevertheless transport and energy projects have taken prominence to ensure economic growth & resilience and energy security.

20. राजनीतिक रूप से विवादास्पद मुद्दों में हालिया वृद्धि के बावजूद, भारत-कनाडा द्विपक्षीय संबंध लोकतंत्र, बहुलवाद, आर्थिक जुड़ाव के विस्तार और लंबे समय से चले आ रहे लोगों से लोगों के संबंधों के साझा मूल्यों के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। भारत-कनाडा संबंध के महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत और कनाडा के मध्य सहयोग और सहभागिता के संभावित क्षेत्रों पर चर्चा करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Despite the recent rise in politically contentious issues, the India-Canada bilateral relationship has remained committed to shared values of democracy, pluralism, expanding economic engagement and long-standing people-to-people ties. Highlighting the significant pillars of the India-Canada relationship, discuss the potential areas of cooperation and collaboration between India and Canada. (15 marks, 250 words)

Allegations of Canadian authorities against Indian intelligence agencies for assassination, delays in granting student visas and counter allegations by Indian authorities on Canada for harbouring anti-Indian (Khalistani) separatists have increased problems in Indo Canada relations.

Pillars of Relationship

Still the relationship remains strong as based on

- ① Geopolitical: both members of G20, Common Wealth Group of Nations, common anti China concerns in Indo pacific, both pro UNSC reforms
- ② Economic: Bilateral trade between both around \$10bn, Canada major source of remittance for India

- ② Political: both parliamentary democracies with rule of law
- ④ Historical: part in freedom struggle
eg Komagata maru incident, Ghadi party
- ⑤ Social: both multicultural population, Sikhs, hindus etc → major part of Canadian population
eg Punjabi → 2nd language in Canada.

Areas of Cooperation

- ① Geopolitical: greater convergence to advance rules based order especially in Indo Pacific, collaboration on anti-terrorism
- ② Economic: forge free trade agreements, bilateral investment treaty, sign mobility & migration agreements
- ③ Social: cultural exchanges, student scholarships
- ④ Technology: mutually beneficial partnerships for quantum computing, AI, Block Chain, space tech, nano tech and other emerging critical technology

⑤ Environmental: develop green energy and contribute to climate change mitigation

⑥ carbon capture & storage, green hydrogen

⑦ Defence & Security: Joint patrol & defence exercises.

Indo-Canada relations are going through a tough phase but is important to expand engagement and focus on convergence rather than divergence.

