

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

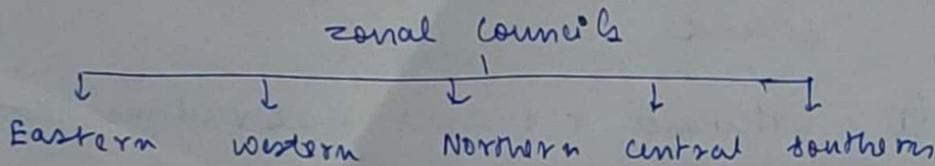
# UPSC

Anurag Singh  
GSPM24N11004

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

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

Ans 1 Zonal Councils are statutory bodies formed under State Reorganisation Act 1956. They are institutions to ensure federal governance in the country is in true sense participative.



North-Eastern Council has been formed under a separate act.

## Evolving Role of Zonal Councils

- ① States have raised concern for economic disparities that exist.
- ② Varied matters regarding functioning of central agencies like CBI in states have been raised.
- ③ Federal devolution of funds by centre and issues arising out of it are raised.

# UPSC

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

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

उम्मीदवारों को इस स्थान में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin.

- ④ Application of welfare scheme in an integrated manner is being discussed
  - ⑤ Issues like disaster management have gain importance due to recent increase in incidences caused by climate change.
  - ⑥ Border issues leading to security & law-order challenges in the states are being raised
  - ⑦ speedy completion of development projects by centre & state co-operation are being discussed
  - ⑧ Role of civil servants in state and question regarding their responsibilities to centre are a hot discussion topic
- zonal councils have become podiums of federal debate and these should be further strengthened by giving constitutional status

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

# UPSC

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

उम्मीदवारों को इस स्थान में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin.

Ans 2 Secularism was added explicitly to constitution through 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976

Art 14 - It in constitution enshrine the value of Right of Equality as a Fundamental Right.

Secularism encapsulated by commitment to Equality

The primacy given to equality within which secularism is supposed to function is seen by:

- ① Art 25 and Art 26 begin with the restrictive tone i.e. only if they don't violate public morality, order will they be applicable.
- ② Indian secularism has given the right to state to interfere in discriminatory practices of religion and pursue religious reforms (4) Hindu Code Bill



# UPSC

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

③ Art 16(s) allows for certain jobs of religious nature to be reserved for people of certain religion highlighting emphasis on equality.

④ Art 17 bans practices that attach permanent social stigma to individual and communities ④ untouchability in Hinduism

⑤ Art 44 of Part IV states that uniform civil code should be applied thus highlighting primacy to equality over religious rules.

⑥ Supreme Court on several occasions have given judgements upholding equality over religion ⑥ M.ammad case (2024) where SC held that muslim women are also entitled to maintenance under section 125 of IPC.

Secularism in India unlike west is not based on non-interference & is subsumed under the clause of equality highlighting a positive approach.

# UPSC

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

Ans 3 Leader of opposition post is a statutory post under leader of opposition (Pension & Allowances) Act 1971.

## Significance in Indian Parliamentary system

- ① Represent the largest opposition party with  $>10\%$  MPs in the parliament.
- ② Raises major issues of contention and holds government accountable.
- ③ Is member of various selection committees (a) selection committee for Election commissioners.
- ④ Any matter of current public importance is raised by leader of opposition on parliamentary form.
- ⑤ Acts as bridge between the government and opposition fostering co-operative politics.

उम्मीदवारों को इस छवि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin.

# UPSC

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

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

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

## Contribution to Checks and Balance

Recently Mr Rahul Gandhi was appointed as leader of opposition in 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. This raised questions about contribution of this post which are:

- ① It ensures that all bills are properly discussed before passage.
- ② Presents alternative policy proposals in response to government's proposals
- ③ Ensures that time in parliament is reserved for discussion on important matters

## Avenues for Improvement

- ① British practice of shadow government and leader of opposition as alternative prime minister can be emulated.

∴ leader of opposition represent an impartial feature of Indian parliament in ensuring accountability and continuance of democratic order

# UPSC

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

Ans Preamble of Indian constitution declares India as "sovereign, secular, socialist, democratic republic". This forms the base for all the following provisions of constitution.

These features as bedrock

- ① sovereignty which implies that no external entity holds control over matters related to India is highlighted in Articles 1 to 4.
- ② socialist values of constitution are displayed in:
  - (i) Article 38 which aims to establish social justice
  - (ii) Art 39(b) & Article 39(c) which talk about prevention of concentration of wealth and redistribution
  - (iii) Article 43A which demands more representation of workers in management.

# UPSC

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

- ③ Indian secularism is a positive idea which is reflected in
- (i) Articles 25 → It gives freedom of conscience, profession, practice & propagation of religion
  - (ii) Art 26 → It gives right to establish religious institutions
  - (iii) Art 27 → Prohibits discriminatory taxation
- ④ Democracy, which means participation of all parts of population in choosing the government and protection of minority rights is highlighted
- in (i) Art 326 → Gives Universal Adult Franchise
  - (ii) Art 29 & 30 → Protection of minority Rights
  - (iii) Art 324 → Election Commission of India to ensure free & fair elections

∴ These values find place in the most important parts of constitution i.e. III & IV highlighting their role as bedrocks.

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

# UPSC

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

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

Ans 6 103<sup>rd</sup> constitutional Amendment Act 2019 added Article 15(6) and Article 16(6) providing additional 10% reservation to Economically weaker sections in educational institutions and jobs respectively.

## Implications on Principle of Social Justice

Principle of social justice includes

- Redistribution of resources
- Recognition of marginalised
- Participation of all

This amendment has effects like

- ① It ensures inclusion of those section of communities which were differently placed than other unreserved sections giving voice to Article 14(2)
- ② In Janhit Abhiyan case (2022) supreme court (SC) held that this was constitutionally valid.
- ③ It ensured participation of those communities in bureaucracy and

# UPSC

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

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

education which were earlier facing difficulties due to economic backwardness

- ④ It recognises the non homogeneity of unreserved community.

Problems arising out of this

- ① Fake certificates of EWS has become a major concern.
- ② It is alleged to be harming the meritocracy.
- ③ Economic basis of division rejected in Indira Sawhney case (1992) has raised question

What should be done

- ① Strict implementation and scrutiny should be there to remove inclusion error
- ② EWS as a category was in need of affirmative action but this should be better targeted to benefit the actual needy.

# UPSC

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

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

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

Ans 7 Well being based approach refers to capability enhancement of people making them self sufficient. However in recent past certain populist measures have tilted the approach towards over dependence.

Yes I agree that this shift has led to divergence from real issues of poverty & hunger.

How does it leads to divergence

- ① Schemes like PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana targeting POC beneficiaries result in masking of actual poor.
- ② Focus has not being on developing a comprehensive poverty line.
- ③ The numbers of "hungry people" in

# UPSC

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

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

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

Country are washed due to this schemes.

- ④ The fiscal pressure created reduces spending on health, education and other sector
- ⑤ Administration of such big schemes present a logistical challenge creating challenges on ground.
- ⑥ Civil servants who should be engaged in capability enhancement of public are engaged in these reducing their efficiency
- ⑦ This has resulted in regional politics harming democratic structure and model of inclusive growth.
- ⑧ The welfare schemes like these should ensure better targeting and funds should rather be directed to schemes which focus more on skill development. ~~focus~~

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

# UPSC

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

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

Ans & E-governance is a tool of governance where services are provided on a digital platform using information and communication technology.

Accessibility and inclusivity with efficiency

E-governance reduces time of response due to use of technology thus is efficient however it has other perks like :

- ① It makes services accessible in areas where physical presence of office is not possible.
- ② It reduces human to human interaction thus removing any possibility of discrimination in service delivery.
- ③ It builds social capital thus involving multiple people in the governance process.

- ④ schemes like CPGRAMS enable efficient grievance redressal
- ⑤ Udyam portal like initiatives involve MSMEs in the manufacturing process.
- ⑥ They make services easy to understand @ FRIENDS in ~~the~~ Kerala for easy tax filing.
- ⑦ Prahari app of BSF like initiatives ensure personnel within service are also included & heard.

## Challenges to E-governance

- ① spread of internet in India is only 52%. (ICRER)
- ② There exist gender gap of around 10% in access to internet
- ③ Digital literacy is only about 34%.

E-governance in order to become more successful needs to be combined with growth of digital infrastructure.

# UPSC

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

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

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

Ans 9 In the post COVID era the focus on regional agreements like QUAD, E2U2, AUKUS have increased to ensure supply chain resilience, security etc. in a fast changing world.

However it has not necessarily rendered old world order meaningless

## Impact on relevance

- ① These regional agreements signify as wave of diglobalisation while earlier organisations represented globalisation
- ② Focus on security is increasing earlier the focus was on spreading democracy and reforms.
- ③ The economies of the developing countries like India are fast growing giving them place in

alliances including developed countries.

- ④ The UN is slowly losing its hold over global order necessitating regional alliances.
- ⑤ Regional issues like growing Chinese influence in Indo-Pacific is gaining primacy over focus on global issues.

Old world order still relevant

- ① 19<sup>th</sup> summit of NAM in Kampala shows the continued commitment of these countries towards democracy.
- ② Developing countries are coming together on platforms like UN on issues of reforms & climate making earlier alliances relevant.
- ③ Developed country groupings like G7 still hold significant power.

Global order is fast changing and new alliances are call of time but old alliances based on democratic values still hold relevance & will continue.

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

# UPSC

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

उम्मीदवारों को इस शीट पर नही लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Ans 10 with growing intensity of power struggle in Indian Ocean region and India's projection of itself as leader of global South the island nations have become immensely significant.

## Importance of Island Nations

- ① Integral part of India's strategy to counter string of pearls of China in Indian Ocean.
- ② Represent a large chunk of countries which can give required momentum for advocating UN reforms.
- ③ They are all affected by climate change the most and support India's cause of climate funding.
- ④ Strategic locations make them important hubs for shipping and

# UPSC

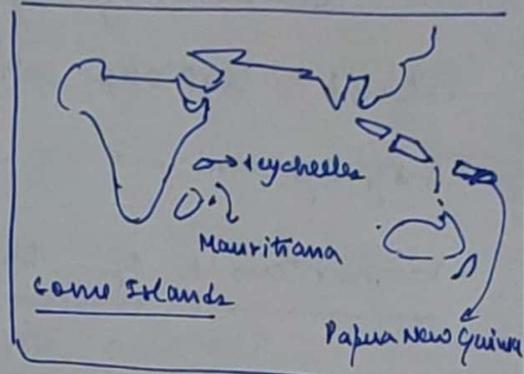
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस प्रश्न में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin.

trade routes which need to be utilized.

- ⑤ With rise of non traditional security threats they offer effective places for military bases.

## Initiatives Taken by India



- ① PM Modi attended the FIPIC summit in Papua new guinea to foster collaboration
- ② India is taking development projects in Seychelles.
- ③ Many islands off on ~~Indian~~ African coast have Indian diaspora creating opportunities for people to people connect
- ④ India is mobilising ties with ALEAN to collaborate more with island countries. These countries have significant collaborative voice on global platform and India should increase it's engagement.

# UPSC

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

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

उम्मीदवारों को इस स्थान में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin.

A small recent verdict by Supreme Court in Electoral Bonds case (2024) declaring these bonds as illegal has made electoral funding in India a burning ~~def~~ debate.

Double whammy of legal loopholes and political inefficiencies

- ① Before electoral bonds 70% of the funding was in cash ~~high~~ having high chances of black money circulation.
- ② The electoral bond law created a conflict between Article 19(1)(a) and Art 21 leading it to be declare unconstitutional
- ③ The values of transparency and accountability are missing from the funding setup.

# UPSC

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

- ④ Lack of effective tracking of funds being given due to less reporting by parties
- ⑤ Lack of internal party democracy in India has made the inside working of party opaque
- ⑥ Tickets based on monetary contribution present another set of challenges.
- ⑦ Lessons India can learn from Global Best Practices
  - ① India can adopt internal party democracy as seen in USA
  - ② State funding of political parties in various European countries can be emulated
  - ③ Digital transactions should be made



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

# UPSC

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

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

the norm rather than cash transactions.

- ④ Small democracies but efficient ones like Norway & Sweden ensure complete accountability of transactions of political parties through effective tracking
- ⑤ legislations which comprehensively cover all aspects of fundings need to be made.
- ⑥ Bodies responsible for conducting the free & fair elections in the country should be strengthened.
- ⑦ The politician-businessman nexus should be addressed to curb fundings for vested interest.

Political funding which is opaque represents a rot in the integral component of democracy i.e political parties which should be addressed promptly.

# UPSC

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

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space) कृपया इस स्थान में केवल प्रश्न संख्या ही लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को प्रश्न संख्या में ही लिखना चाहिए। Candidates must not write on this margin.

Ans 12 Pressure groups are primarily interest groups which do not aim to form government but influence policy makers towards their interests. They are integral part of civil society organisations in the country and thus integral to democracy.

## Social security measures for workers

- ① They ensured minimum wages were being given to workers
- ② They raise voice regarding working conditions at factories
- ③ Issues of health, social security of workers are addressed due to the pressure these groups put on policy makers.
- ④ They ensure that uniqueness of each workspace is taken into

# UPSC

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

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

उम्मीदवारों को इस स्थान में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin.

account. ④ Recently the penalty for accidents caused by truck drivers under Bharatiya Nyay Suraksha Samhita were reviewed due to pressure by Truck drivers association.

⑤ The create environment such that policy makers have to take actions to provide basic facilities like schools, hospitals for workers + their families.

⑥ Workers have the potential to bring the economy to hold as they operate sectors like logistics, manufacturing. This is used as bargaining power ensuring worker's voice ~~are~~ is heard.

Addressing legal policy gaps

① Pressure groups cite the directives of state policies Article 43 which

# UPSC

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

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

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हार्जिन में  
कोई लिखना  
नाहीं।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on this  
margin

dictates larger role of workers  
in management to demand policy  
change.

- ② They arrange strikes and hartals  
to convey their message to  
the governments (e) Truck drivers strike
- ③ They arrange workshops for  
workers to make them aware of  
their rights.
- ④ They act as medium between  
government and workers to ~~address~~  
reach at an acceptable solution.

## Challenges of Pressure Group

- ① They sometime may push for  
unjust & parochial reforms.
- ② There are a lot of conflicting factions  
with different demands

Pressure groups ensure participation in  
democratic setup but government should  
not succumb to unjust demands.

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

# UPSC

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

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

Ans-131 Art 82 of Indian constitution provides for delimitation exercise for reorganisation of seats in parliament.

## Essentiality for principle of equal vote

- ① Delimitation ensures the all constituencies are of roughly equal population in the country.
- ② Within state too it ensures this
- ③ It is necessary to delineate the constituencies reserved for the SCs & STs
- ④ The newly passed legislation for 33% reservation of women in parliament can only be executed if delimitation exercise is carried out.
- ⑤ It takes into account changing

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

# UPSC

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

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

population dynamics in state and reflect it in the seat division of the parliament.

- ⑥ Delimitation is essential for effective policy implementation and ~~to~~ devolutions under MPLAD fund as per need.

## Ramifications of population based delimitation

- ① The states which effectively implemented the population control policies of the centre stand to loose from this causing federal tensions.
- ② Other states are citing under-representation in parliament according to their population numbers.
- ③ This is creating a dual problem of misrepresentation on one hand and federal tensions on the other.

# UPSC

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

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

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

- ④ States with higher populations are demanding higher funds for development.
- ⑤ Misrepresentation of constituencies is hitting at the principle of equal vote in democracy.
- ⑥ The continuous holding off of delimitation exercise due to federal tensions inhibit equitable representation of all communities.

## Way Forward

- ① A body which can bring all states on table for dialogue should be created
  - ② Delimitation exercise should be carried out soon
- ∴ delimitation at present is necessary to capture India's changing demographics

# UPSC

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

Ans 15 Public interest litigations have removed the principle of locus standi from judicial procedure. This has increased judiciary's involvement in day to day matters. (4) Recent NEET case.

Extent of shift from constitutional matters

- ① Higher judiciary is tackling the contemporary issues more than those under Article 130 i.e. constitutional matters due to easy filing under PIL.
- ② As people are becoming more aware about their rights the filings of PIL have increased.
- ③ Direct intervention by courts in daily lives has increased (4) supreme court granted divorce in

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

# UPSC

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

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

Shailish Singh case (2014) which is result of PIL induced activism.

- ④ Judicials involvement in executive matters has increased (eg In Solly LB2 case (2017) Bombay High Court mandated cuts in the movies which is executive domain.
- ⑤ PILs have brought to fore the matters like environmental rights resulting in cases like MK Ranjit Singh case (2024) adding rights under Article 21.

Thus PIL ~~is~~ has induced into the country an environment of legal activism visible both in judiciary and common public.

## Role of Trial Courts in reducing burden

As per National Judicial Data grid there are about 70000 cases in Supreme Court and 70 lakh in High Court



# UPSC

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

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

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

This burden which is being increased by PIL can be reduced by trial courts by:

- ① Building infrastructure to tackle the extra case load.
- ② The vacancies in trial courts ~~(are)~~ can be filled to increase number of judges.
- ③ Trial courts can help in sorting out cases which are legitimate thus acting as a filter.
- ④ Trial courts can offer ~~easy~~ procedural efficiency leading to faster resolution which is not possible in higher courts.

Judicial pendency in India is 5.1 crore cases which has to be addressed to ensure that fundamental right to access to justice is achieved.

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

# UPSC

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

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

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

Ans 16 Education is the part of sustainable development goal 4, thus in order to achieve these goals by 2030 India has to focus on quality of it's higher education institutions.

~~Reasons suggested~~ Challenges

- ① Poor infrastructure of schools impeding transfer of quality education.
- ② Lack of integration of internet and communication technology
- ③ Lack of flexibility in subject choice and career fields.
- ④ Lack of value based education
- ⑤ Lack of inclusive education due to low participation of women.
- ⑥ Only 75% of disabled children have access to schools (UNESCO)

# UPSC

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

## Reforms by NEP 2020

- ① It focuses on value based education inculcating human + democratic values required in a responsible duty conscious citizen.
- ② It has proposed a credit based education system which will enable recording of all academic achievements & seamless transfer between institutions.
- ③ Multilingual model is proposed to become prepared for globalised world
- ④ Integration of IT into teaching is an integral part
- ⑤ The focus on physical education along with mental health focus has been increased.

# UPSC

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

- ⑥ NEP 2020 envisions higher career flexibility and interdisciplinary studies to foster new fields.

## Lessons from International practices

- ① USA & Japan have added video games as part of curriculum to improve hand-eye co-ordination required for big data analytics
- ② China has adopted several policies of familiarising high school students with Artificial intelligence so that they can be ready for future scenario
- ③ Integrity schools have been started in Bangladesh

Education in India should become more future oriented to deal with the challenges of AI.

# UPSC

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

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हार्जिए में  
कहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
Candidates  
must not  
write on this  
margin

Ans 17 RTT was introduced in India through RTT Act, 2005 and was the ~~culmination~~ culmination of the anti-corruption campaign that shook India.

## Transformative Impact

- ① It marked rise in accountability and transparency in government offices
- ② Special bodies like National Information Commission & State Information Commission were made to ensure smooth implementation.
- ③ It gave expression to Article 19(1)(a) which has implicit component of informed choice.
- ④ RTI helped in increasing awareness in the country and exposed several frauds.

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

# UPSC

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

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

## Multifaceted challenge & systemic limitations

- ① The 30 day time limit though creates sense of urgency ~~may~~ in some cases lead to incomplete information being given
- ② RTI activists have emerged whose only purpose is to create burden of RTI officials.
- ③ RTI's power does not include agencies like IB, RAW and others limiting it's scope.
- ④ Way arrounds to RTI have been devised by bureaucrats to avoid accountability
- ⑤ The recent amendment to act significantly reduced the ~~po~~ powers of ~~central~~ information commissioners affecting it's efficiency

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

# UPSC

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

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

⑥ The awareness regarding RTI has not been spread enough.

## Measures for effective implementation

- ① specific guidelines on what should be included in the information provided by preparing a database of common questions.
  - ② Using AI to sort RTI queries and effective distribution of queries.
  - ③ Increasing literacy & education among public.
  - ④ Public disclosure of relevant information by government departments to reduce the need for RTIs.
  - ⑤ ~~Restrict~~ implementation of RTI rules
- RTI is an important component of democratic rights of citizens & its sanctity should be ensured.



# UPSC

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

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

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्जिए में नही लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Ans:1 SHGs are small <sup>informal</sup> groups of 10-20 people who are involved in saving, microfinancing operations and income generation from credit. There are around 1.1 crore SHGs in India 88% of which are all women.

Challenges in Urban areas with rural areas

- ① Diffused communities in urban areas like people of different ethnicities, states, speaking different languages make collaboration difficult in SHGs.
- ② The trust problem is higher in urban areas. People are reluctant to invest money in informal groups.
- ③ Urban areas have higher presence of formal credit institutions thus role of SHG is limited.

# UPSC

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

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

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

③ The life in urban areas is very busy and fast ~~costly~~ and expensive which reduce scope of savings

## Opportunities in urban areas

- ① The potential of diversification of small led activities is huge due to large amount of avenues.
- ② The presence of formal credit institutions can help easy credit to SHGs for asset creation and expansion.
- ③ The skill level + literary levels in urban areas is higher thus SHGs can function more efficiently
- ④ The integration of different communities would bring inclusivity and diversity in operation of SHGs.

# UPSC

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

- ⑤ They can be used effectively to address the slowing decrease rate of urban poverty

## Microfinance to tackle Urban poverty

As per household consumption expenditure survey there is around 4.7% urban poverty in the country. Single led microfinance can tackle it through:

- ① Promoting vocational jobs financed by saving mobilised through SHGs.
- ② Small businesses creating jobs and multiplier effect.
- ③ Aid the skill development programs being run by government.
- ④ Improving social security net of people

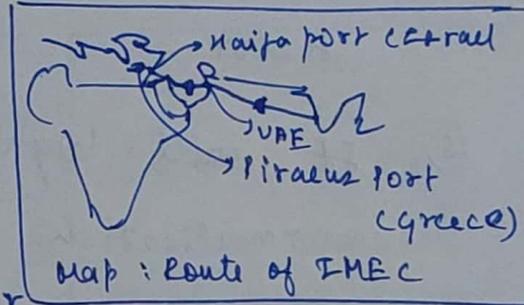
SHG experiment one of the best models of development and their effective implementation is needed to achieve vision 2047



# UPSC

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

Ans 19 India Middle East Europe corridor (IMEC) was proposed in 2023 post the G20 summit to enhance connectivity of Europe & India



## Significance

- ① It aims to counter China's BRI (Belt Road Initiative).
- ② It bypasses the Red Sea route of connectivity which is rife with conflict @ Yemen Houthis attacks
- ③ It is more efficient than present routes due to multimodal nature
- ④ It has been joined by India, US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Italy, France highlighting the multi stake holder approach it promotes.

# UPSC

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

- ⑤ It will increase the exports of India providing it a larger market for its emerging manufacturing sector.
  - ⑥ It will highlight, if completed, normalisation of ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia making India's diplomacy in West Asia easier.
  - ⑦ Flow of remittances and foreign exchange into India will increase as logistics of this port increase
- IMEC is one of the many projects being undertaken by India to enhance energy & transport connectivity

## Increasing Emphasis on Connectivity

India is highly dependent for its energy needs and is looking for market for its commodities thus

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

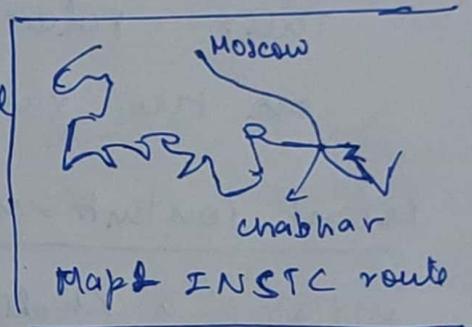
# UPSC

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

उम्मीदवारों को इस स्थान में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin.

focus on these projects to have increase seen by:

- ① 10 year deal for development of Chabahar port as part of International North South Corridor covering more than 13 countries.



- ② Deals with Afghanistan and in progress to gain entry into the central asian market
  - ③ Chennai Vladivostok route has been proposed to access North sea route
  - ④ India Myanmar Thailand trilateral highway to increase trade with ASEAN
  - ⑤ Connectivity projects like ~~national~~ <sup>tourism</sup> water way through Bangladesh, Kaladan projects with Myanmar
- connectivity is the need of present world and India's aim of becoming \$5 trillion economy.

# UPSC

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

Ans 20 India & Canada share ~~historical~~ ties since before independence and were part of the commonwealth. Their relations have been based on the values of democratic setup.

Recent Contentions: The killing of Nijjar, a Khalistani ~~activist~~ terrorist, which Canada alleges is ~~by~~ done by India has ~~reopened~~ long standing issues regarding Khalistan issue

Pillars of India - Canada ties & collaboration

- ① Economic co-operation through vibrant trade
- ② People to people exchanges: Indian student community in Canada is largest.
- ③ India & Canada have long collaborated on nuclear energy programs on projects like CANDU
- ④ We both are affected by climate

# UPSC

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

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस कॉपी में  
कोई लिखना  
चाहिए।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on this  
margin

change thus have shared concerns.

- ⑤ Engagement on platforms like G7 & G20 regarding global geopolitics has been an important pillar
- ⑥ Arctic is another pillar of engagement. Canada is a member of the Arctic council while India is an observer.
- ⑦ Rise of polarisation in global politics is another area of co-operation
- ⑧ Collaboration on sustainable development goals
- ⑨ Inculcating inclusiveness in growth process
- ⑩ Canada is seeking avenues for increasing the growth of its economy while India is seeking market for its goods thus presenting area of collaboration.

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

# UPSC

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

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

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

- ① Natural disasters in world over are increasing and building climate resilient infrastructure is a avenue for collaboration
- ② Expansion of solar Energy grid by India under ~~so~~ International solar Alliance reflect ~~an~~ opportunity to collaborate with Canada
- ③ Challenges
  - ① India has long accused Canada of harbouring Khalistani Terrorists
  - ② Internal politics of Canada is impacting the ~~interests~~ bilateral ties.
  - ③ The differences arising between west & global north is also putting India & Canada on opposite sides

India - Canada are two democratic, plural countries and focus should be to increase market, people, services connectivity