



NEXT IAS

MAINS TEST SERIES 2.0 - 2025 (FLT)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : FLT2502

Test No. : 02

Name of Candidate: KIRAN. KAMATE Mobile No.

Roll No. : MT25 FLTRA015 Start Time 1:30 PM End Time 4:40 PM

Date of Examination: 25.06.25 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 12 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 छपाई 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 12 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
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.....
.....

MARKING SCHEME *

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.

IMPORTANT QR CODES

 <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>

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of MTS 2.0 Score Improvement Program (SIP) is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

Q1.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q2.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q3.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q4.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q5.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

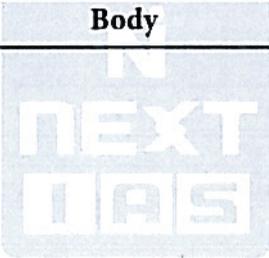
Q6.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q7.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q8.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion
		

Q9.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q10.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q11.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q12.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q13.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q14.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q15.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

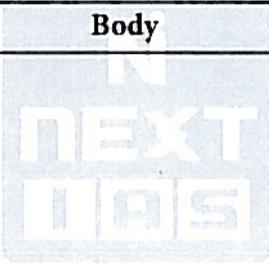
Q16.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q17.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q18.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion
		

Q19.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q20.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion





1.

संविधान सभा में संस्थापक माताओं का योगदान और उनके नारीवादी दृष्टिकोण ने भारत के संवैधानिक विमर्श को कैसे आकार दिया है? चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The contributions of the founding mothers in the Constituent Assembly and their feminist perspective have shaped India's constitutional discourse. Discuss

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The Constituent Assembly was a mosaic of subaltern voices including feminist perspective has shaped the constitutional discourse.

Feminist contributions and contribution to the discourse

1) Hansa Mehta

- debates on UCC along with Pocker sahib / Ismail Sahib
- article 44 (Part IV)

2) Vijayalaxmi Pandit

- international exposure led to inclusion UDHR's principles on gender
- Article 14, 15, 16. → equality before law + opportunities

3) Muttulaxmi Reddy

- emphasis on education as an intrinsic right.
- Article 45.

4) Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

→ gender rights and UCC.

5) Madam Lyngdoh

- minority rights (Article 29-30)

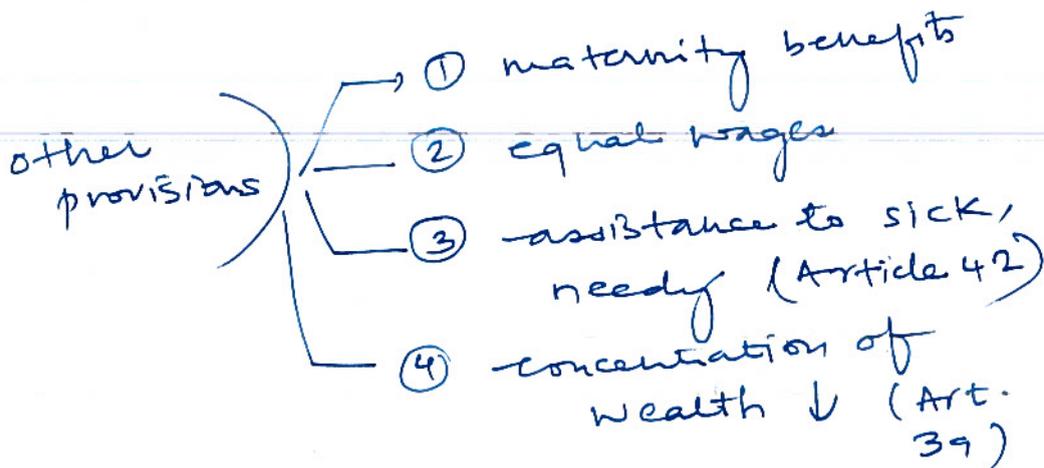
6) Sarojini Naidu

Sucheta Kriplani

} equal voting rights

6.1 ⇒ Articles 324, 326

6.2 ⇒ no discrimination on gender.



The contribution of founding mothers will be written in golden words for making the constitution inclusive and empowering.



2. भारतीय संसद में विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव क्या होता है? विशेषाधिकार समिति ऐसे प्रस्तावों की जांच और निपटान कैसे करती है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

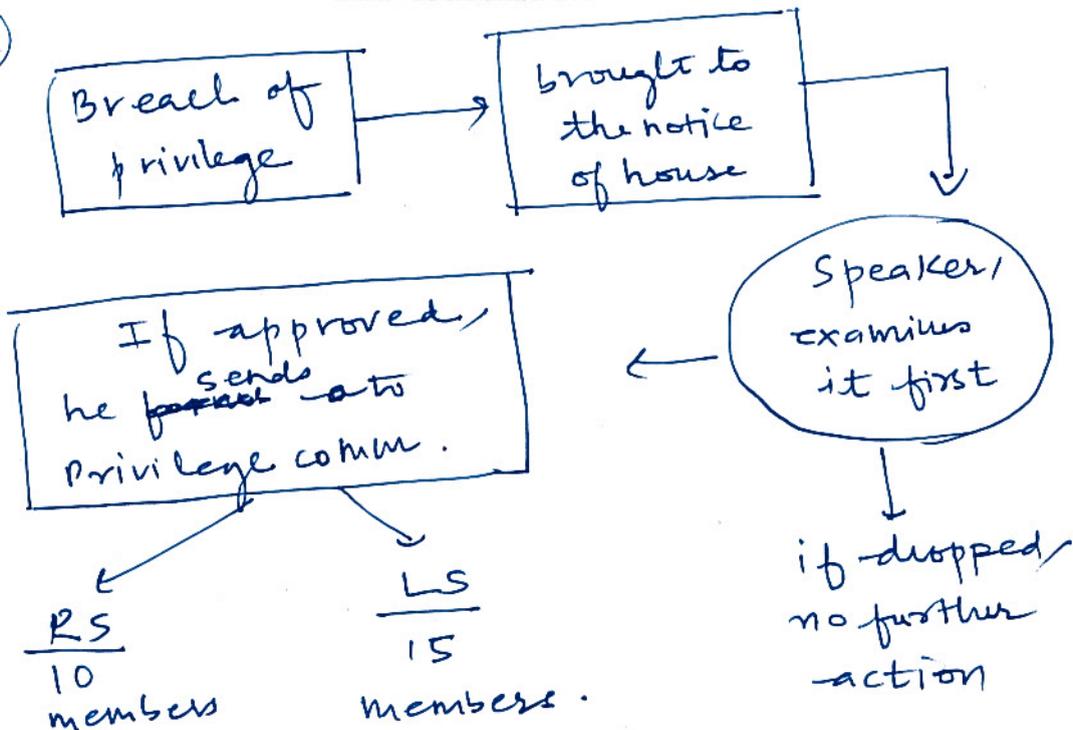
What is a Privilege Motion in the Indian Parliament? How does the Committee of Privileges examine and deal with such motions? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Article 105 - provides for constitutional privileges to the members of the Parliament.

① Privilege Motion

- is involved by any Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha/R.S whenever there is a breach of privilege by other MP.

②



③ once the breach of privilege is established by the committee
 ⇒ the member of house is censured
 ↓
 stands removed from the activity of house

Issues

- ① not-codified
 ⇒ based on conventions
- ② partisan role of speaker / chairman
 ⇒ usually against the opposition

Thus, there is a need to codify not just for legal simplification, but for smoother, transparent functioning of the house.

Privileges forms important aspect for the functioning of MPs in exercising their duties and functions as established recently in Sita Soren case (2024)



3. भारत और ब्रिटेन में राष्ट्राध्यक्ष के अधिकारों की तुलना कीजिए। इनके कर्तव्य और अधिकार उनके संबंधित संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों को कैसे प्रतिबिंबित करते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Compare the powers of the head of state in India and the UK. How do their roles reflect the constitutional principles of their respective systems? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The Indian constitution is called as Colonial Constitution by "Arghya Sen Gupta" for it derives its structural aspects from the GOI, 1935 (colonial legacy) and political part from British constitution.

India	UK
1) India has a parliamentary democracy with an executive head (.Prez).	1) Parliamentary democracy with constitutional head <u>Monarchy</u>
2) President is indirectly elected	2) Monarchy - with King at its head.
3) The Prime minister is the real head, de facto Ruler	3) Similarly, Prime Minister is real head.

4) PM is the leader of the govt. in the Lok Sabha

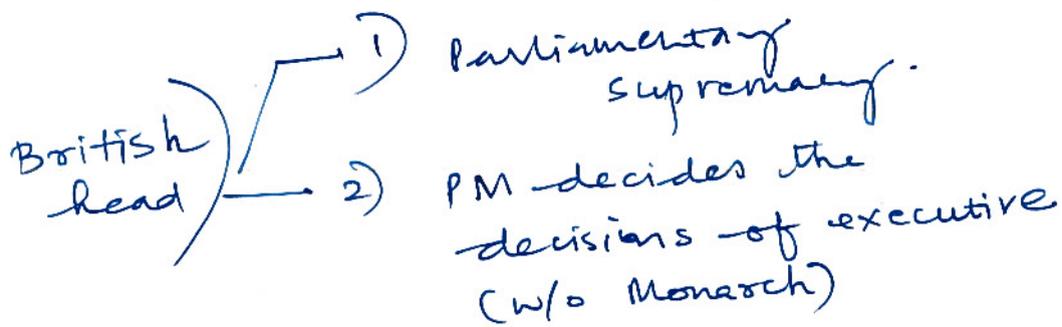
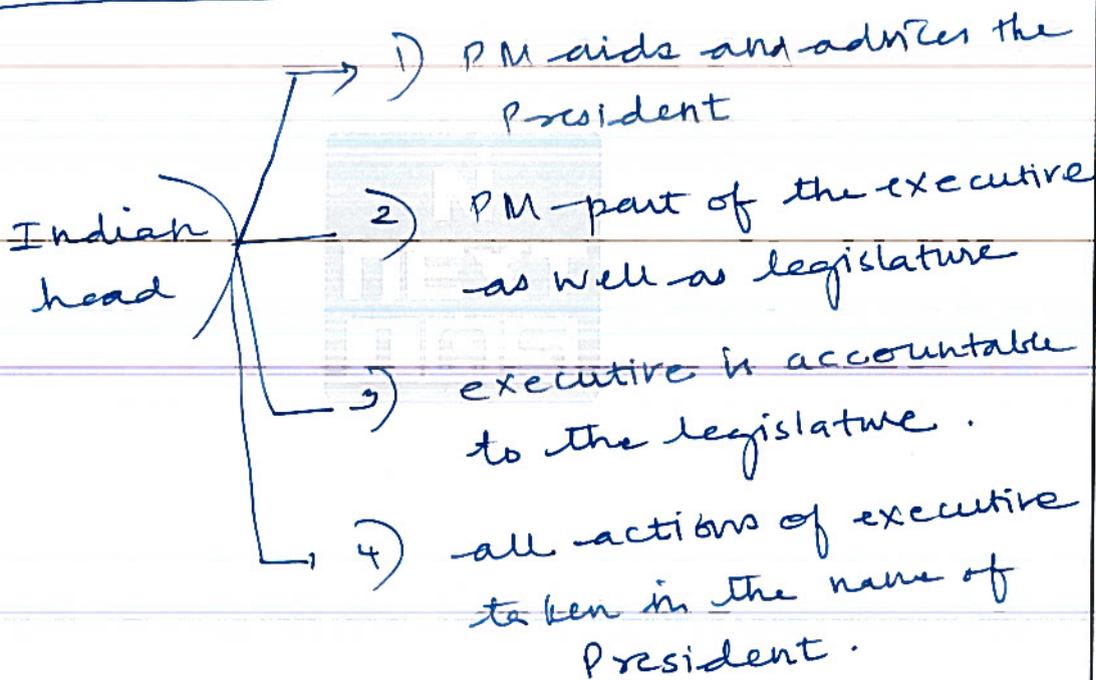
PM is the head of the Commons

5) PM can come from both LS/RS

necessarily from House of Commons.

6) President Reigns but doesn't Rule.

Crown King reigns



Thus, UK and Indian heads of the state are similar in most sense, differing only in some functions..



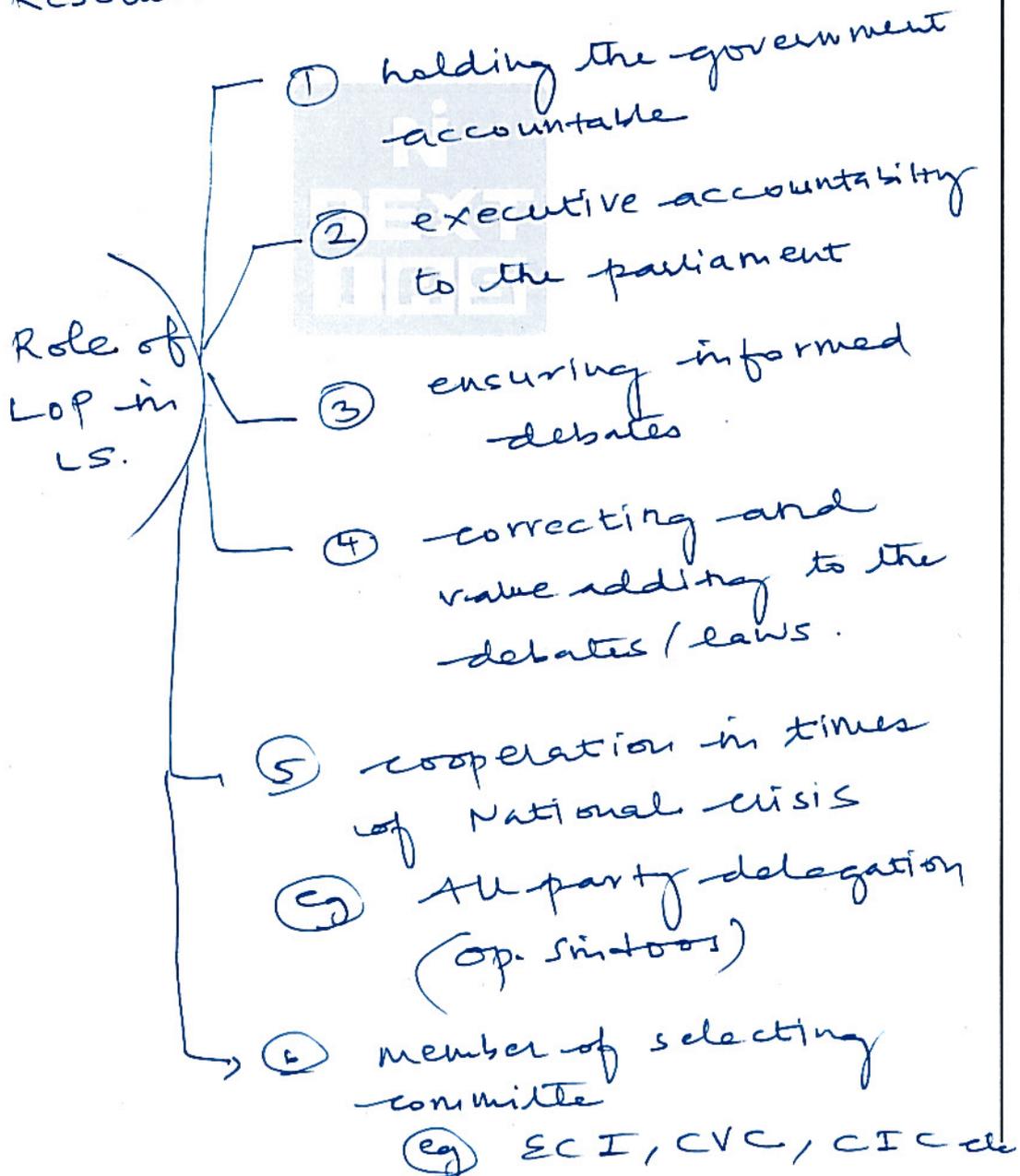
4. "लोकतंत्र उतना ही मजबूत होता है जितनी उसकी विपक्षी पार्टी।" इस संदर्भ में, लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता की भूमिका का मूल्यांकन कीजिए और भारत में इस संस्था की प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के उपाय सुझाइए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"A democracy is only as strong as its Opposition." In this light, examine the role of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and suggest measures to enhance the effectiveness of this institution in India.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The leader of Opposition was first recognised in 1967 and officially in 1973 through the parliamentary Resolution -



Measures to enhance effectiveness

- ① remove the arbitrary 10% of LS strength as a criteria.
⇒ leader of largest opposition as LoP.
- ② sufficient time allocation for informed debate
- ③ Real half of the week for opp.
as suggested by Dr. Sachin Tharoor
- ④ Make chair person of important parliament committees.
- ④ Voting beyond party-politics to show constitutional maturity (whenever bonafide)

The role of the Opposition in a democracy is not of obstruction but keeping the ruling party in check from turning autocratic and ensuring rule of law.



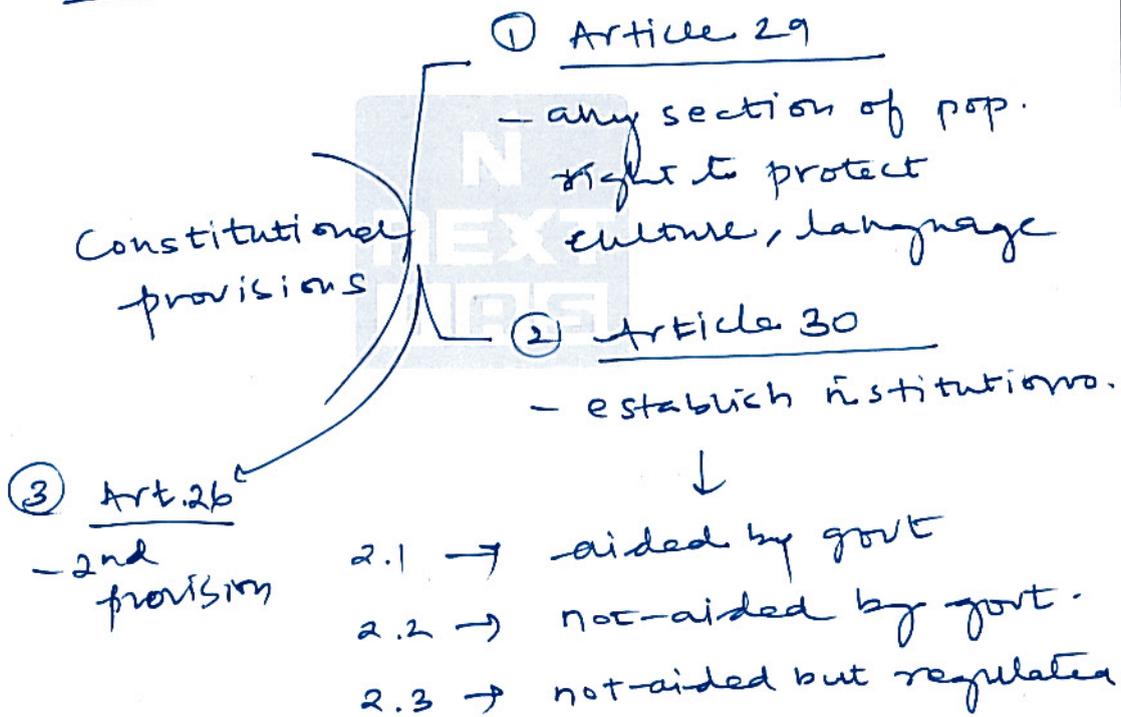
5.

भारत में अल्पसंख्यक शैक्षिक संस्थानों से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधान क्या हैं? न्यायिक निर्णयों ने समानता के अधिकार और अल्पसंख्यक पहचान के संरक्षण के अधिकार के बीच संतुलन कैसे स्थापित किया है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What are the constitutional provisions related to minority educational institutions in India? How have judicial pronouncements shaped the balance between the right to equality and the right to preserve minority identity in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Minority educational institutions (MEI) are differentiated / specialised institutions formed under article 29 and 30 of Indian Const.



Judicial Pronouncements

- 1) In the recent, AMU - aligarh Muslim University
- 1.1 ⇒ SC: said AMU is no longer a minority institute
- 1.2 ⇒ equal access to everyone (Art-15)

2) In Stephen College Case, even though the institute is MEI, but it has to ensure govt's education standards.

3) T. M. A. Pai case

3.1 → education is a charitable profession.

3.2 → reservation under Article 15 to SC/ST → doesn't apply to MEIS

4) P. A. Inamdar judgment

4.1 - MEI are free to manage its internal administration
- in term of appointment.

5) In other cases, SC has iterated that reservations to EWS under Article 21A (RTE, 2009 Act) applies to MEIS.

Thus, SC has been vocal in ensuring equality of education, balancing it with rights of minority education.



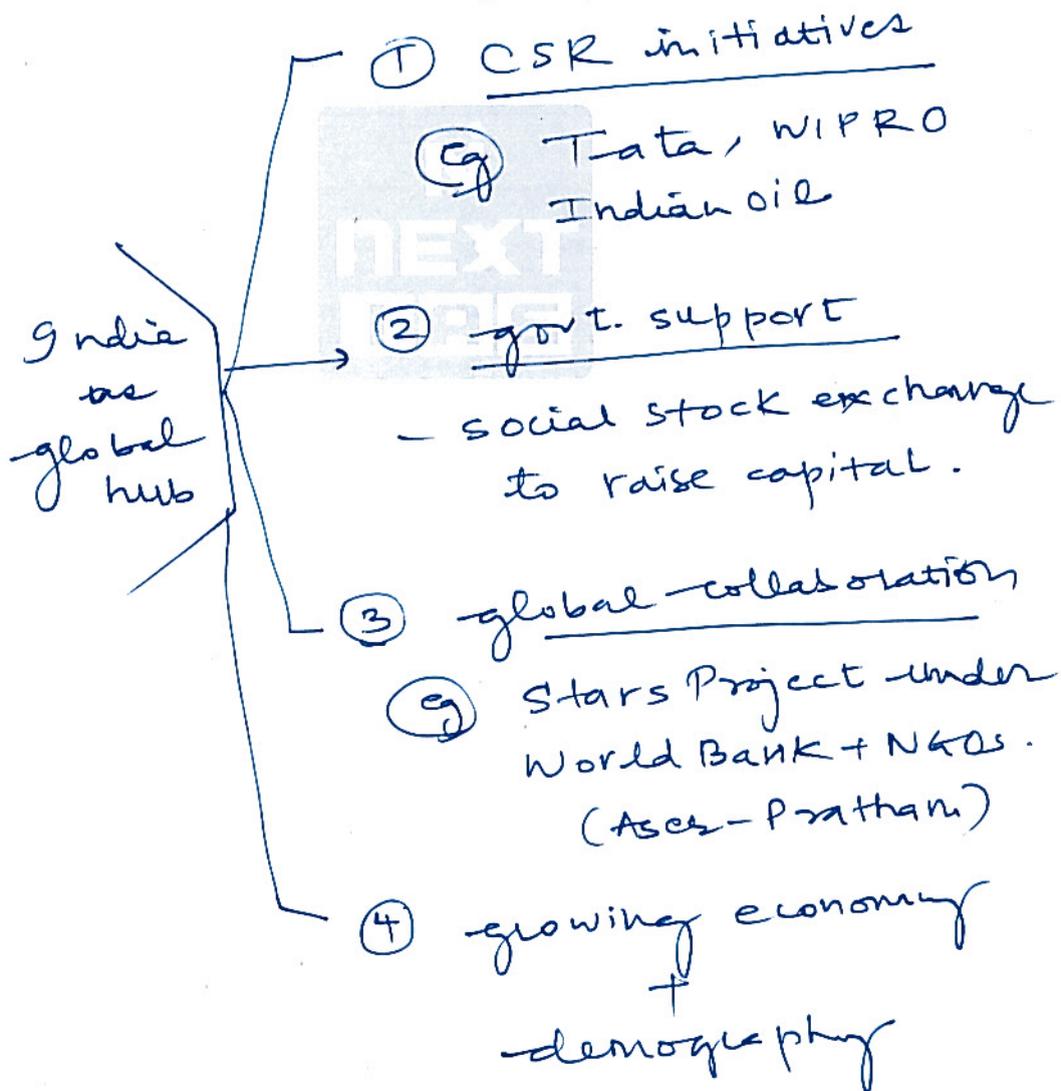
6.

भारत सामाजिक उद्यमिता के वैश्विक केंद्र के रूप में उभर रहा है। क्या सामाजिक उद्यम राज्य की समावेशी विकास की उपलब्धियों में प्रभावी रूप से पूरक हो सकते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

India is emerging as a global hub for social entrepreneurship. Can social enterprises effectively complement the state in achieving inclusive development?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Social entrepreneurship is where individuals, social companies and NGO work together to provide socio-economical and environmental solutions plaguing the society.



Complementing state efforts to achieve inclusive development

- 1) inclusive development
 ⇒ (eg) A sp. districts program
 - 2) improving health access
 (eg) insurance penetration ↑↑
 - 3) access to education
 (eg) PM-SHR I + Aseel Pratham
 - 4) environment protection
 ⇒ CSE (Sumita Narain) + M/O EFCC
 ⇒ policy formulation
 - 5) rural development
 ⇒ (eg) Dharmachala trust in Karnataka ⇒ supplementing PM-JDY through microfinancing
- challenges) {
- ① FCRA regulation
 - ② Intelligence Bureau
 ⇒ halting mega projects Nuclear, Reservoirs.

Social entrepreneurship, can add new lease to inclusive growth and sustainable dev. in India.



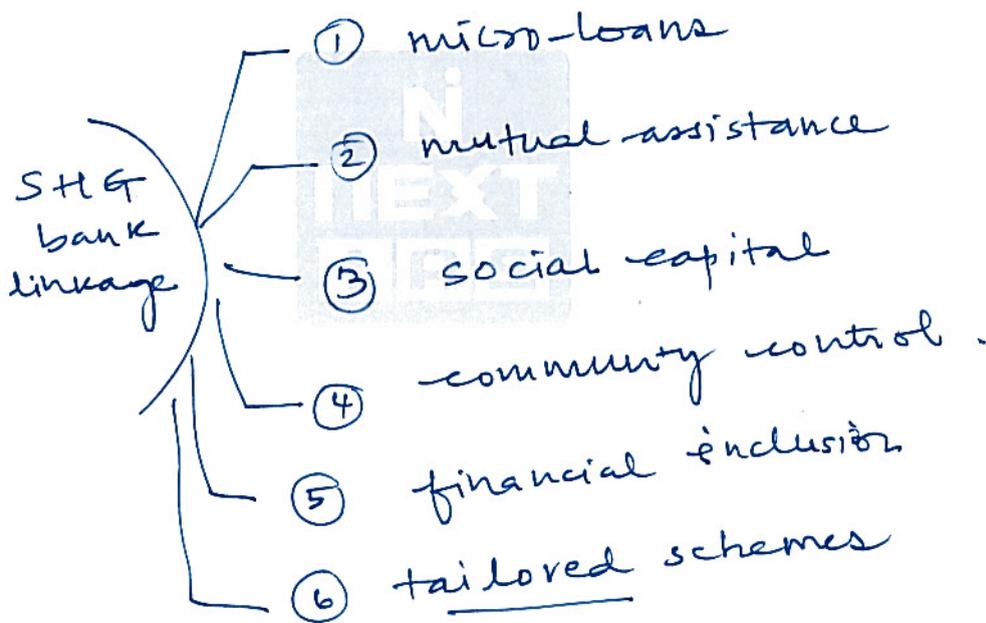
7.

स्व-सहायता समूह (SHG)-बैंक लिंकिंग कार्यक्रम को भारत में गरीबी उन्मूलन के लिए स्वदेशी उपकरण माना गया है। ग्रामीण आजीविका सुधारने और बहुआयामी गरीबी कम करने में इसके प्रभाव का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

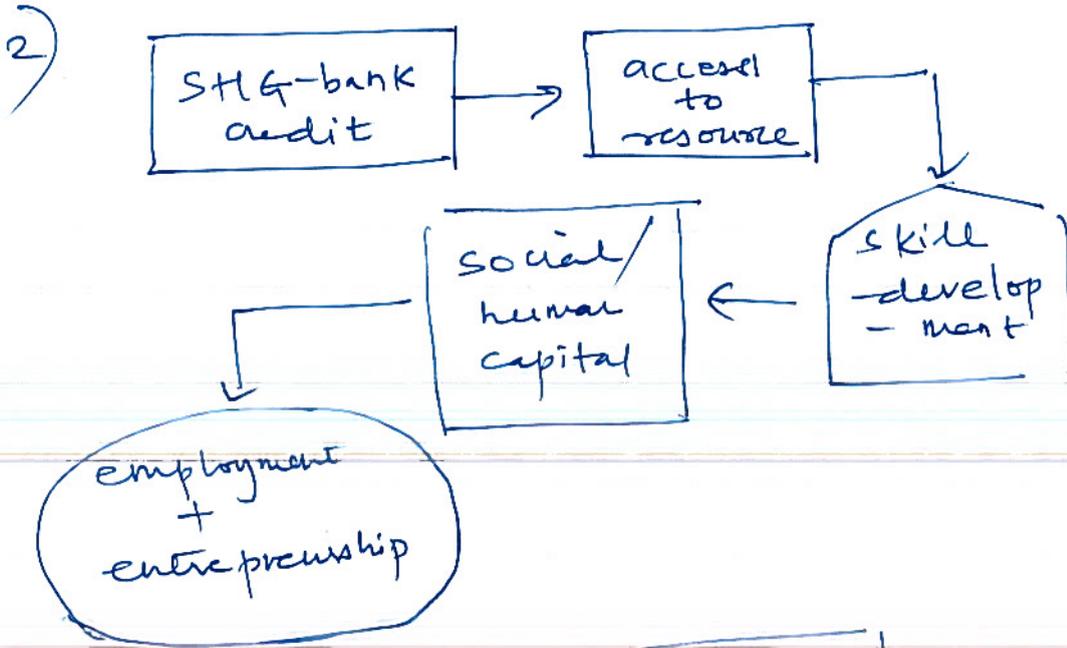
The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme has been hailed as an indigenous tool for poverty alleviation in India. Examine its impact on improving rural livelihoods and reducing multi-dimensional poverty.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The SHG-Bank linkage programme started in 1992 - on the lines of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh by Md Yunus.



Impact on livelihood and poverty

1) increased access to credit
⇒ financial inclusion



3) Rise of SHGs - 90 lakhs covering 100 women

- 4)
- Kudumshree - Kerala
 - Jeevika - Bihar
 - MYRADA - Karnataka
 - MAKIM - Maharashtra

5) economic growth in small India.
↳ self sufficient

6) entrepreneurship → small industries by women.

The Dastasutras by NABARD

for the SHG, should be the guiding light to improve its internal issues and for greater empowerment.



8.

नागरिक-आधारित पर्यावरणीय आंदोलनों ने हाल के वर्षों में पारिस्थितिक संरक्षण के प्रभावी उपकरण के रूप में कितना योगदान दिया है? उदाहरण सहित व्याख्या करें। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

How far do you think Citizen-led environmental movements have proven to be effective tools of ecological preservation in recent years? Justify with examples.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The debate surrounding conservation vs infrastructure development, has found new force with increase in citizen-led environmental movements, as highlighted by Ram Guha in linguist woods

Effective tools in eco-preservation

- 1) rise of eco-socialism
⇒ Swedish movement led by Andreas Malm.
- 2) Mumbai Coastal Road project
- changes in DPR.
- 3) Aarav Park Movement (2019-20)
⇒ was dropped post citizen protest.
- 4) Mekedatu project
⇒ Karnataka's interstate water project ~~was~~ drawing criticism for citizen-groups.

- 5) The Sharavati Runoff River
 ⇒ called off after Gadgil Madhav led protests.
- 6) Vedante Copper sterlite
 → due to strong people-tribal led movement.
- 7) Kudankulam Nuclear project
 → Greenpeace and citizen groups
- 8) Samatha Judgement (1994)
 → role of gram sabha was made mandatory.
- 9) MC Mehta led initiatives
 (eg) cracker ban,
 public trust doctrine
 polluter pays principle

Madhav Gadgil says,
 "development without ecological
 preservation is a sure recipe
 for disaster."



9.

“डिजिटल शासन वैश्विक एजेंडा का नया मोर्चा बनकर उभर रहा है, और भारत उदाहरण स्थापित करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।” इस पर विचार कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

“Digital governance is emerging as a frontier of the global agenda, and India seeks to lead by example.” Examine

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

“Breaking the mould” by ex RBI
governor Raghuram Rajan - highlights
the contribution of digital programme
in India in recent economic growth -
and called it leader in digital &
governance

Digital governance emerging as
frontier

- 1) Network society
(Manuel Castells) - we are
becoming digitally connected
- 2) rising tech
5G, AI, Big data
- 3) ease of governance
→ ideregulation facilitated by
technology.
- 4) techno-nationalism
→ home grown tech. products.

India is leading by example

1) Bharat Net programme
 → more than 5+ lakh villages connected (11 Year - Document GI)

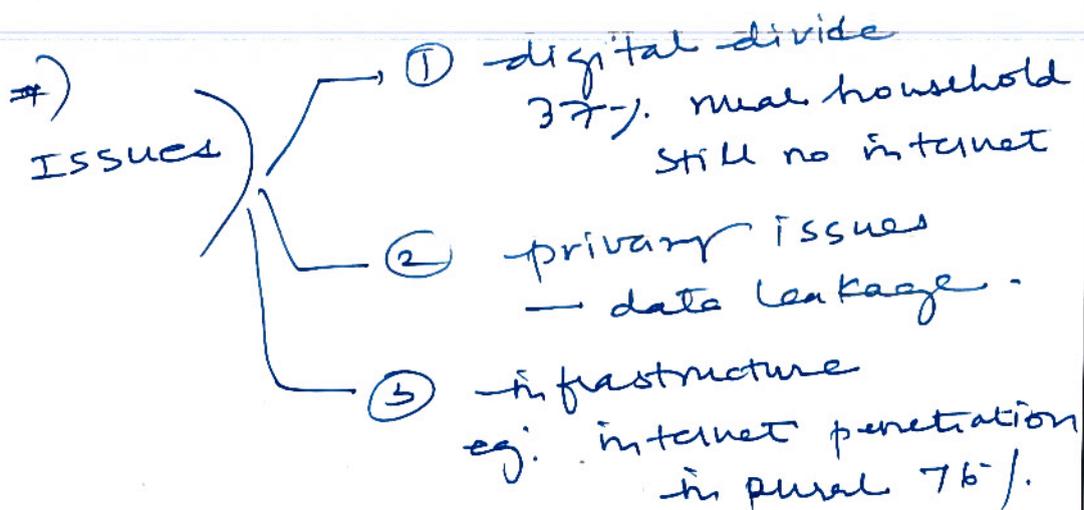
2) JAM trinity
 → reducing leakage

3) UPI
 → decentralised banking.

4) COWIN and NHU card
 - Health 'digital card'

5) NEP, 2020 - digital intervention in education

6) NGO regulation → Portal for common database



Digital India is a benchmark to the world.

10.

हाल की विवादों के संदर्भ में, भारत के पाकिस्तान और बांग्लादेश के साथ सीमा पार जल-साझाकरण की चुनौतियों की समीक्षा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Examine India's transboundary water-sharing challenges with Pakistan and Bangladesh in light of recent disputes. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks



Hydro-geopolitics is emerging as new arena in the face of climate change, increasing the weaponisation of water.

Challenges in Recent light with PAK

1) Indus water treaty in absence

1.1 → post-Pahalgam

1.2 → non-kinetic response

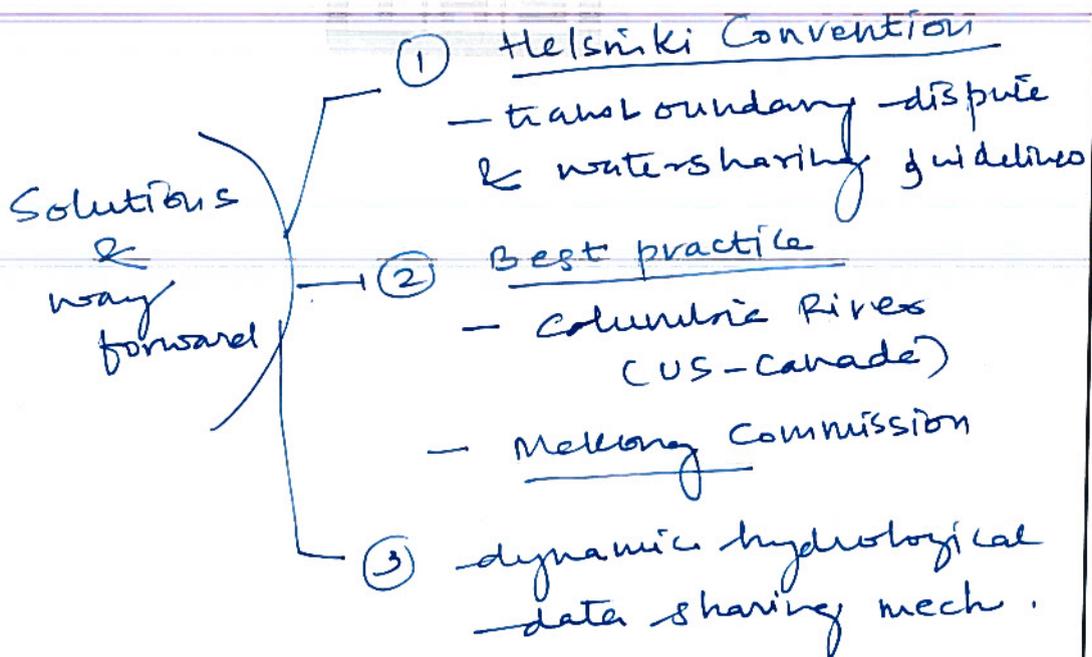
2) relooking at the Indus water treaty
 2.1 ⇒ currently 80% - PAK - Indus, Chenab, Jhelum
 20% - India - Ravi, Beas, Sutlej

2.2 ⇒ only runoff-river - (non-consumptive use) on western river

2.3 ⇒ Issues with dispute-resolution mechanism, as Pakistan doesn't agree to Neutral arbitrator's verdict.

with Bangladesh

- 1) Teesta dispute - long pending.
- 2) overall there are 54+ river disputes with Bangladesh (small to large)
- 3) hydrological data sharing issues.
- 4) India building SUMP - stagnant upper multipurpose project
→ reduced flow to Bangladesh
- 5) Other disputes involve Feni, Gumti, Khushiyara



According to BRATIMA CHELLANEY, water will be source of prosperity and conflict in 21st c, akin to oil in 20th century



11.

विपक्ष के राज्य में राज्यपालों की भूमिका केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों में विवाद का कारण बनी है। राज्यपालों के अधिकारों के अतिक्रमण से राज्य सरकारों की स्थिति पर किस प्रकार प्रभाव पड़ता है? ऐसी विवादों को कम करने के लिए क्या सुरक्षा उपाय अपनाए जा सकते हैं? आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The role of Governors in opposition-ruled States has been a flashpoint in Centre-State relations. Critically discuss how gubernatorial overreach challenges the position of state governments and suggest safeguards to mitigate such conflicts.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Article 163 of the Indian Constⁿ
provides for Governor to every state as
its executive head. He acts as the
bridge b/w the centre and state and
Sarkaria Commission calls Governor
as the lynchpin.

Flashpoint in centre-state Relations

- 1) Recent, TN Governor and state
over the assent of bills (13 bills)
- 2) curtailment of Governor's address
by TN Governor.
- 3) misuse of discretionary powers
- 4) WB Governor - defamiation case
against CM
- 5) LG of Delhi vs Chief Minister
of Delhi.

Gubernatorial overreach challenging state

- 1) disruption of exercising legislative mandate
 - eg) 13 bills - withheld by TN Gov.
- 2) disruption of day to day administration
 - eg) LG of Delhi.
- 3) not acting timely on the pardoning powers (Art. 213)
 - eg) AG Perarivelan
- 4) acts as the agent of central govt. - undermining state's efforts.
- 5) Nabam Rebia - governors without the guidance of Council of Ministers called the state assembly.
- 6) sitting on VCs appointments
 - eg) Kerala Ambedkar university.
- 7) misuse of 201 article - referring to President

Safeguards

- 1) Punchhi Commission - consulting state gov i.e CM before appointment
- 2) Venkateshiah Comm (2002)
→ governor should be man of outstanding integrity above politics.
- 3) Nebam Rasia (2016)
- Governor's actions cannot be arbitrary, fanciful & capricious.
- 4) Sansher Singh case
- Governor is a office subordinate to President / central govt.
- 5) Soli Sorabjee in (Governor - Sage or Salotens)
↓
governor's discretionary are limited; his actions should be actuated by good faith and tempered by caution.

Thus, governor's position should be reformed to call for greater cooperation between centre & states.



12.

भारत के संवैधानिक सफर में मौलिक अधिकारों और राज्य नीति के निर्देशक सिद्धांतों के बीच विकसित होता हुआ संबंध एक गतिशील विशेषता रही है, जिसके लिए न्यायिक हस्तक्षेप और संवैधानिक संशोधन आवश्यक होते रहे हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The evolving relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy has been a dynamic feature of India's constitutional journey, often necessitating judicial interventions and constitutional amendments. Discuss.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Fundamental Rights (Article 12-35) and Directive Principles (Article 36 to 51) of Part III & IV of Indian Constitution form the core of political-civil and social-economic rights (2-gen. of rights - Karel Vasak)

Dynamic relationship between the DPSP and FRs

- 1) FRs are justifiable in nature through article 32/226. where as DPSP are not.
- 2) FR ensure political democracy where DPSP - socio-economic democracy.
- 3) Ambedkar said : political democracy with socio-economic dem @ its base is meaningless.
⇒ thus, this relation is ensured

4) In Champakam Dorairajam (1951),
SC said FRs cannot be sacrificed
for the implementation of DPSP.

5) The 24th and 39th CAA, established
supremacy of Article 39(b)/(c)
over article 14 and 19.

6) In Kesavananda Bharati (1973)
SC said the extension to all
directive principles over Art. 14 & 19
as null & void

7) In Minerva Mills (1980)
→ SC : enforced the doctrine of
Harmonious Construction
→ balance b/n the two is part of
the basic structure

8) Waman Rao
— called DPSP and FRs as two
wheels of the chariot,
however, FR >> DPSP,
as they are justifiable.

- 9) In NM Thomas vs UoI, SC said they are not antagonistic to each other and state reconcile the two.
- 10) 86th Amendment (2003) - Right to education both a DPSP and FR (Article 21A) - balancing both.
- 11) Courts through PIL and judicial activism has balanced DPSP-FR
- (eg) Access to justice (Art. 39A) is a fundamental right Art (21)
- 12) Similarly, Right to health, water, livelihood, clean air, wages etc
- (eg) Olga Tellis, MC Mehta, Property owners case (2024)

In K.C. Rajewar case, SC said FR and DPSP form the core conscience of the constitution. To balance the two is to realise the aspirations of the founding fathers. Const. Amendments and judiciary has maintained the fine balance.

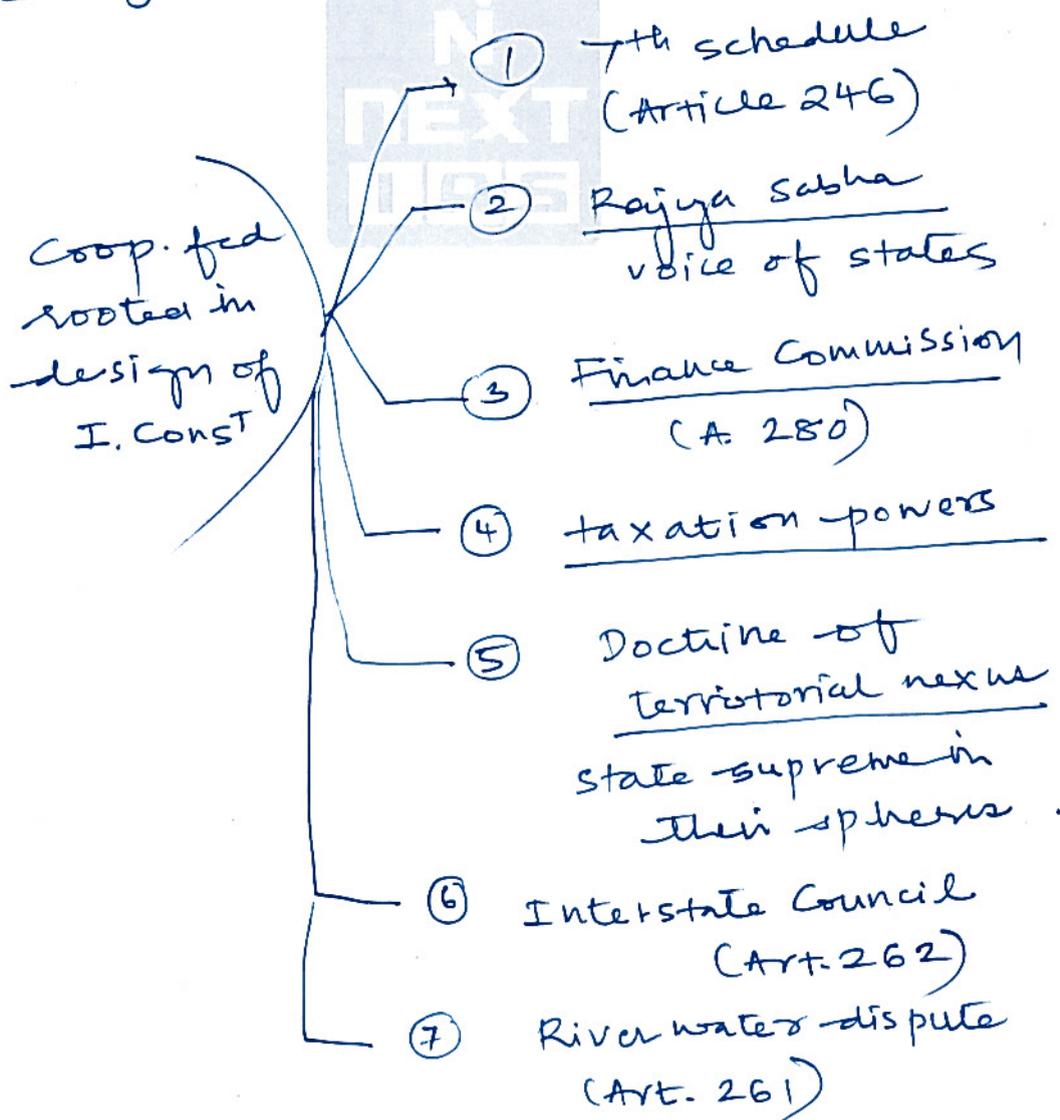


13.

सहकारी संघवाद संविधान की रूपरेखा में निहित है, लेकिन राजनीतिक कारणों से प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक और टकरावपूर्ण संघवाद उभरा है। भारत के संघीय ढांचे में इन प्रवृत्तियों को संतुलित करने में संवैधानिक और संवैधानिक-से बाहर के संस्थानों की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

While cooperative federalism is rooted in the design of the Constitution, political considerations have given rise to competitive and confrontational federalism. Examine the role of constitutional and extra-constitutional institutions in reconciling these trends within India's federal structure. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Article 01 - says India is a 'union of states' and Granville Austin calls Indian federalism as 'cooperative federalism' - which is sui-generis (Alexandrowicz)

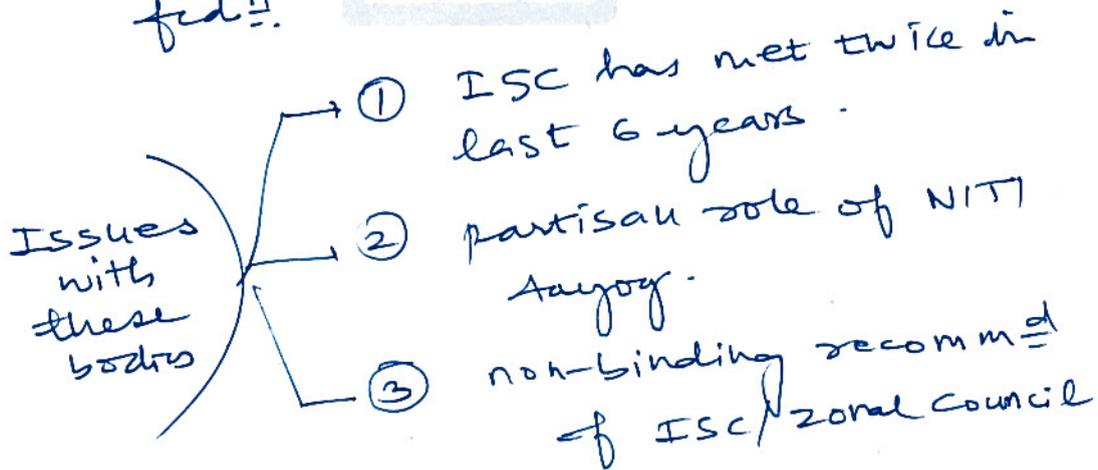


Political considerations hurting cooperative federalism

- ① Transfer of state items into concurrent list (Art. 246) - 42nd CAA
- ② partisan role of gubernatorial office:
 - eg) stalling state bills.
- ③ centre's control over Residuary list (A. 248)
- ④ centre's encroaching into state's jurisdiction
 - eg) Kajendra Shah (2021) - Multi-state cooperative Act.
- ⑤ GST compensation cess → delays
→ despite losing on taxing powers
- ⑥ Reduction in net proceedings sharing by FC → 42% to 41%.
- ⑦ delimitation issue
North South divide over population control vs. seat allocation
- ⑧ Three language formula.
- withholding of PM-SHRI funds.

Role of extra Const. and Const. bodies

- 1) Article 262 - Interstate Council .
- platform for assuaging the fears of state govt .
- 2) Zonal councils - headed by Home Minister
- regional interests
- 3) GST council → Mohit Minerals case (2023)
→ states are on equal pedestal as centre
- 4) NITI Aayog - Team India spirit through coop. and competitive fed.?



Federalism is a part of basic structure (SR Bommai, 1994) . Coop. and competitive federalism and not confrontational and combative federalism is the way forward



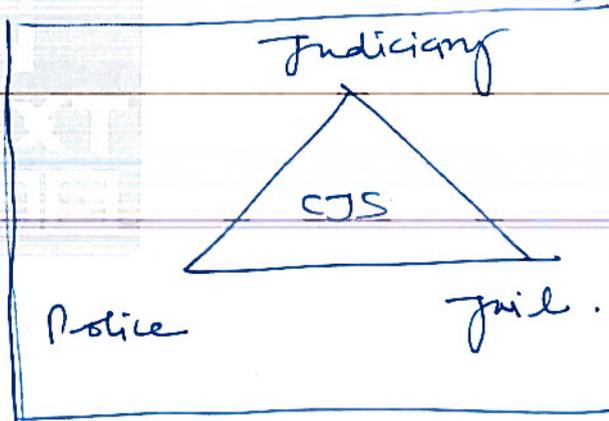
14. भारत में बढ़ते हुए न्यायिक हिरासत में बंद बंदियों की संख्या आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली में प्रणालीगत और प्रक्रियात्मक खामियों को दर्शाती है। हाल के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देशों के संदर्भ में इस समस्या की मूल चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें और इसके समाधान के लिए बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण सुझाए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The growing number of undertrial prisoners in India reflects both systemic and procedural lapses within the criminal justice system. In light of recent Supreme Court directions, discuss the underlying challenges and suggest a multi-pronged approach to address this crisis.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

According to NCRB Data (2022) the undertrial prisoners form more than 50% of the prison population, hinting at a structural and procedural lapse in our criminal justice system (CJS)

Procedural & System lapses



1) State-wise prison manuals
 ⇒ lack of uniformity.

2) long-drawn judicial procedure
 ee In our CJS, procedure is punishment, - ex CJ/ NU Ramana

3) prison capacity - limited

4) stringent Bail conditions.
 ee bail is the rule, jail is an exception - Justice Krishna Iyer

- 5) adjournments after adjournment
⇒ vested interests.
- 6) lack of awareness of Rights
as highlighted by Vidhi-centre for
Legal Research

Underlying Challenges

- 1) lack of adoption of alternate
dispute resolution (ADR)
(eg) Lok Adalat.
- 2) SC guidelines are not enforced
- 3) changes in fundamental laws
(eg) BNS / BNSS etc
⇒ lack of awareness and updation
- 4) fragmented CJS
⇒ lacks coordination b/n organs.
- 5) very few "amicus curiae"
→ to take case under NALSA
- free legal aid

- Multi pronged Approach
- ① Vineet Singh (2025)
- under trials classification based on probable sentence, if convicted
 - ② Hussainara Khatun
→ Right to speedy trial (Article 21)
 - ③ Strong backing to NALSA
→ more resources, HR.
 - ④ AJIS in future
→ lower courts have 85% of 5-9 cr pending cases (Data Grid SC)
 - ⑤ Prison Manuals reforms
→ Sweden/Norway: Best practices
 - ⑥ fast track courts for under trials only
 - ⑦ Sudha Bharadwaj case (2023)
- relaxing bail conditions
⇒ "default bail"

The recommendations of Mali Math Rebeiro, Mulla committee along with Prakash Singh (2006) are the need of the hour



15.

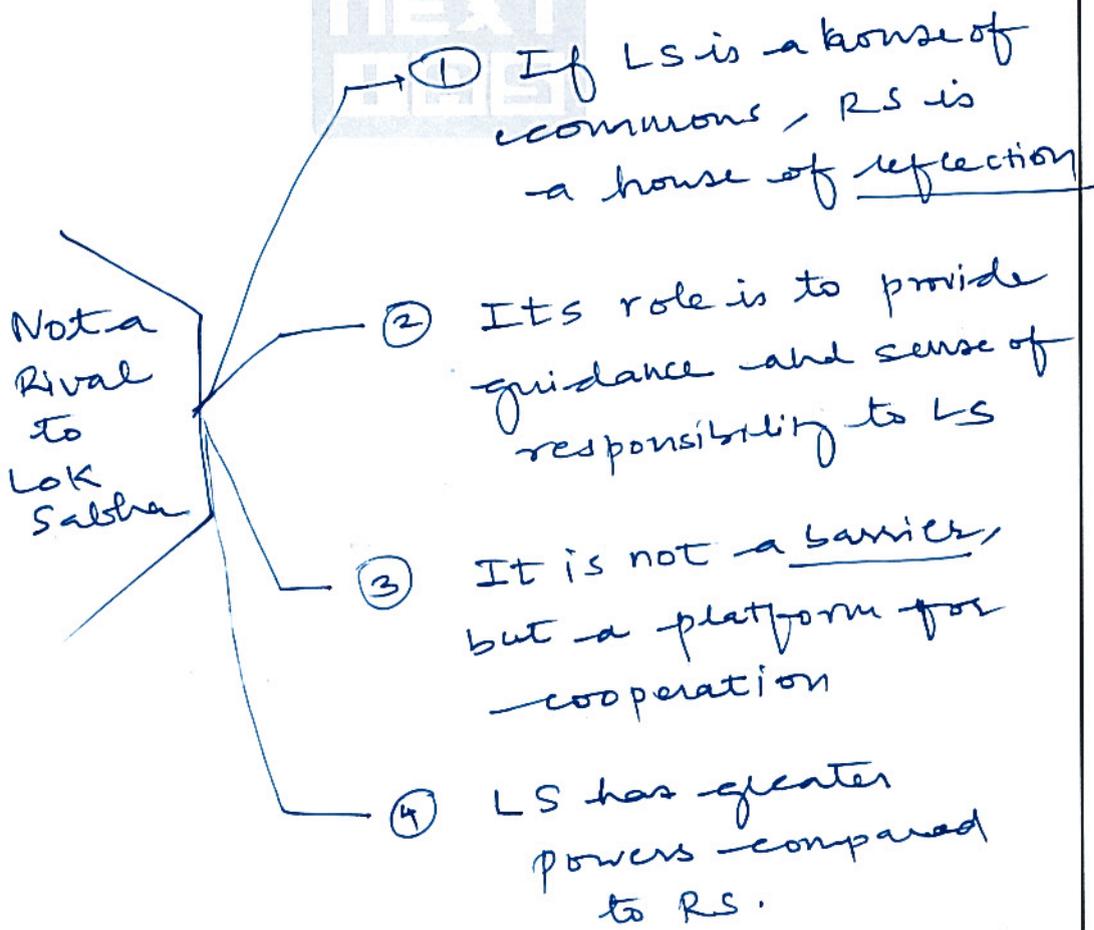
“उच्च सदन को पुनर्विलोकन कक्ष के रूप में कल्पित किया गया था, न कि निम्न सदन के प्रतिद्वंद्वी के रूप में।” इस कथन के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि समकालीन भारतीय राजनीति में राज्यसभा इस दृष्टिकोण को अभी भी निभा रही है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'The Upper House was envisioned as a reviewing chamber and not a rival to the Lower House.' In light of this statement, do you think the Rajya Sabha continues to fulfil this vision in contemporary Indian polity? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

“If the upper house (or) the Rajya Sabha carries out manipulative debates and discussions for most of its sitting - it has done its job”

— TR Krishnamani

(Member of Const. Assembly)



R.S continues to fulfill this vision

- ① It adds a layer of scrutiny.
- ② checks hastily moved bills.
- ③ adds to meaningful discussion
eg The data protection bill
- ④ Represents in important parliament committee:
eg Public Accounts Committee.
- ⑤ It acts the federal equilibrium by representing interests of states.
eg GST ACT, 2017
- ⑥ It is a house of dignity
eg Nominated Members across diverse field.
⇒ Sudha Murthy, Sachin Tendulkar
- ⑦ It aids in bridging the interregnum when LS is dissolved.
- ⑧ During emergencies, without LS (when dissolved) — takes needful action.
- ⑨ legislating on state items
⇒ only RS can initiate.

- Issues
- ① less attendance of Nominated members
(eg) S. Tendulkar
 - ② lack of valuable debates
 - ③ total days of appearance/attendance
→ very low ≤ 100 days
from 150+ in 1950s
 - ④ not rising beyond party politics.
 - ⑤ Removal of criteria of residence
→ state's interests are not well represented.

Rajya Sabha - thus needs active reforms and participation. In an age where debates are rare and informed debates even rarer, the Role of Rajya Sabha is imperative in ensuring its role envisaged by the makers.



16.

अच्छी तरह से संचालित सरकारी पहल तब भी विफल हो जाती हैं जब उनके संचालन और रखरखाव को कार्यक्रम की रूपरेखा में शामिल नहीं किया जाता। भारत में स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के संदर्भ में, सामूहिक प्रयास और समुदाय की सहभागिता इसकी दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता कैसे सुनिश्चित कर सकती है? चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Well-executed government initiatives often fail if operations and maintenance are not integral to the programme design. In the context of the Swachh Bharat Mission in India, discuss how collective action and community ownership can ensure its long-term sustainability.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

☛ In his book - 'we also make policy' by Shubhash Chandra Garg (ex-member of PM-EAC) - highlights the nuances of policymaking and its challenges in bringing them to reality.



Failure of govt. initiatives without O&M

- 1) policy making is not singular approach
- ⇒ needs constant tweaking to reduce the leakage.

- 2) operation and maintenance is provided through
- 2.1 \Rightarrow real time data
 - 2.2 \Rightarrow model studies
 - 2.3 \Rightarrow pilot projects.
 - 2.4 \Rightarrow monitoring & evaluation
 - 2.5 \Rightarrow equal weightage of resources to monitoring
 - 2.6 \Rightarrow coordination & consensus building,

Ensuring long term sustainability in the context of SBM

- ① Swachh Bharat Mission involved \Rightarrow behavioural changes
i.e. Nudging (Richard Thaler)
- ② Community Awareness
eg. IEC initiatives.
information education communication
- ③ bureaucratic - experts collab.
- health experts and Parameshwar Iyer (IAS)

4) use of gram sabhas (73rd CAA)
⇒ ownership and responsibility.

5) women-empowerment
— active participants and not
— passive recipients

6) Civil society organisations (NGOs)

6.1 ⇒ for programme coordination

6.2 ⇒ resource management

⇒ info. dissemination

7) digital tracking

SBM portal → realtime data

↓
(Dholakia
Committee)

8) outcome-based governance
rather than output based

⇒ focus on effects (MMR, IMR)

rather than mere quantity

(IMF Report)

Thus, community participation
and ownership has helped realise the
policy objectives into ground realities



17. चुनावी राजनीति में मुफ्त सुविधाओं ने भारत में शासन पर उनके प्रभाव को लेकर बहस छेड़ दी है। मुफ्त सुविधाओं और कल्याण उपायों के बीच अंतर स्पष्ट कीजिए और उनके शासन पर प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

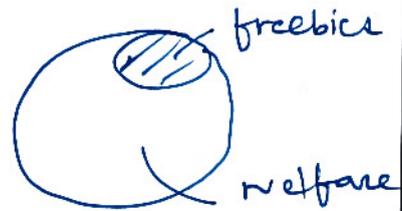
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Freebies in electoral politics have sparked debate over their impact on governance in India. Differentiate between freebies and welfare measures, and examine their impact on governance. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

RBI defines freebies as social welfare measure that is give free of cost. The rise of freebies culture has resulted as new modus operandi for electoral winnability.

Freebies	Welfare Measures
1) Freebies are for short-term all measures	Long term - well thought out social measures. (DPS P)
2) usually part of electoral <u>populism</u>	They are part of long term programmes
eg) Free <u>bus pass</u> , laptop etc.	eg) NFS A, RTE / MGNREGA etc
3) Not all some welfare schemes are freebies	freebies are part of social welfare

Freebies are part of welfare, not vice versa.



4) Impact on fiscal health is high and threatening.

since, these are well planned, effects are manageable.

The line between the two is blurring in the recent debates. Freebies can be seen as bandaging the effects / failures of welfare measures.

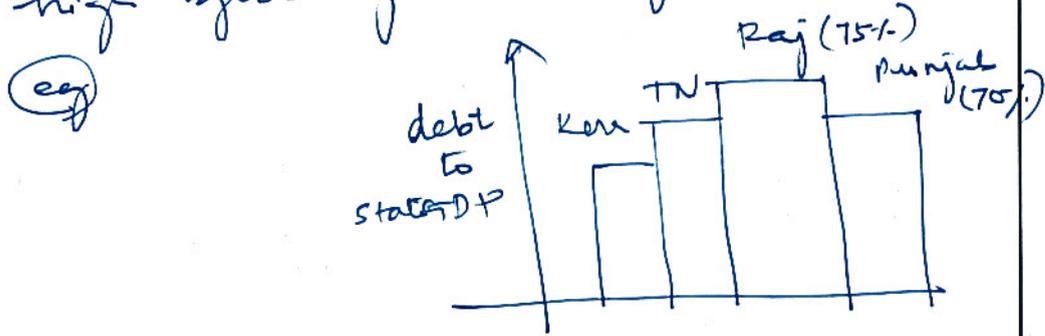
Impact on Governance

POSITIVES

- 1) Article 38 - state to secure a social order for public welfare
- 2) SC in ~~V~~ Subramaniam Balaji (2010) said they enforce the DPSRs.
- 3) provide / fill the welfare vacuum
- 4) gender empowerment + eco. growth.
 ⇒ free buses ⇒ more women labour force particip
 ↓
 ↑ GDP.

NEGATIVES

1) RBI report and Niti Aayog's "Fiscal Health Index (2025)" - high growing debt of few states



2) free and fair elections.
⇒ disrupts level playing field.

3) market distortion.

4) SC: creating a parasitical society → dependency ↑
(BR Gavai)

The Supreme court in Ashwani Kumari Upadhyay (2025) is currently hearing the issue of freebies in politics. Its judgement would give further clarity and change the dynamics of fiscal prudence and electoral dynamics.

18. कई संस्थानों के होने के बावजूद एक मजबूत शोध वातावरण के विकास में संरचनात्मक बाधाएं लंबे समय से अवरोध बनी हुई हैं। अनुसंधान राष्ट्रीय निधि (ANRF) इन संरचनात्मक चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए कैसे प्रयासरत है? चर्चा कीजिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Structural barriers have long impeded the development of a robust research environment, despite the presence of numerous institutions. Discuss how the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) seeks to address these structural challenges.

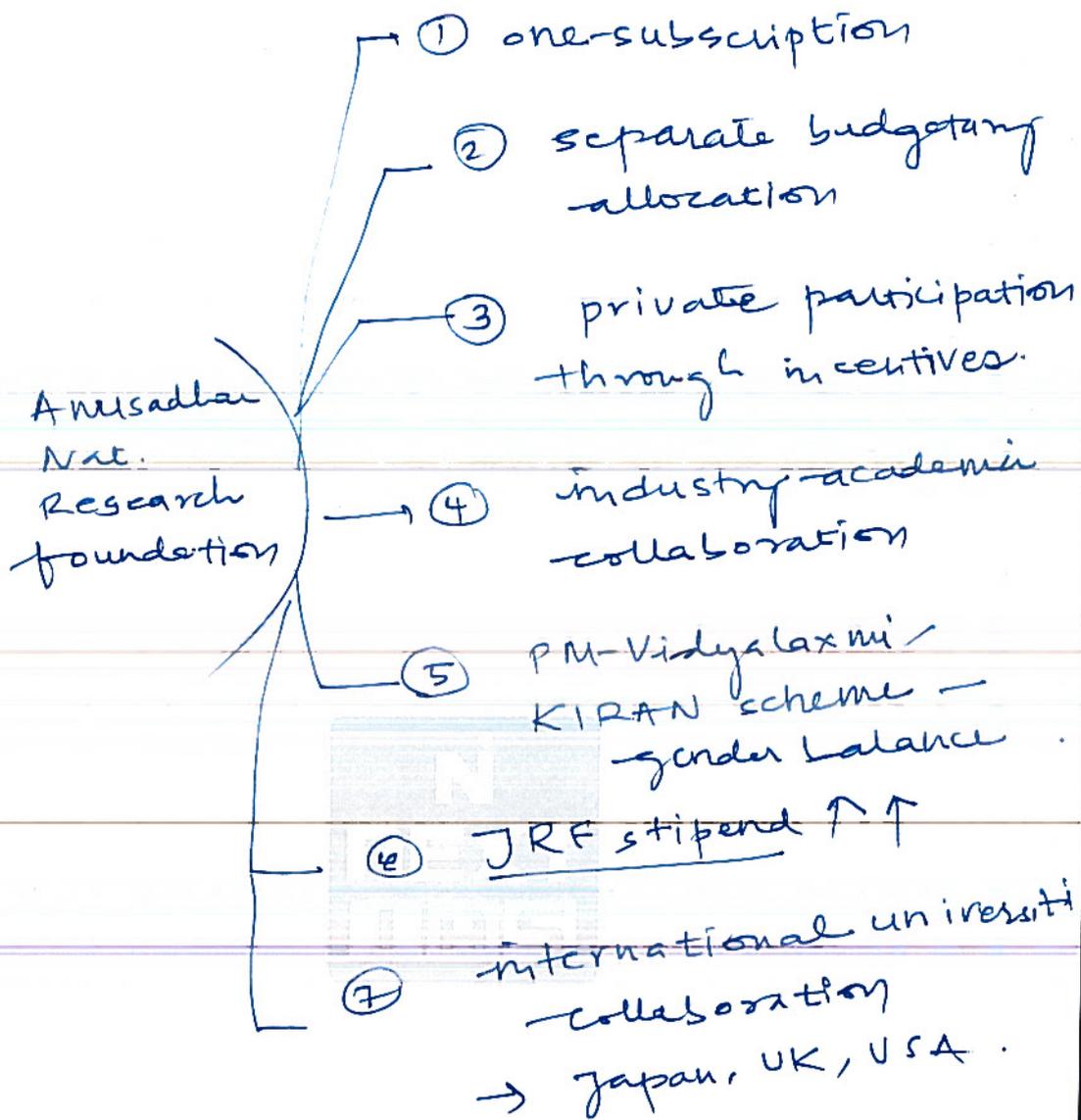
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Pandit Nehru in 1954 - while inaugurating AIIMS, IITs - said "future belongs to those, who make friendship with science and technology" - highlighted the importance of research in humankind.

Structural barriers impeding
research environment

- 1) Low number of patents by Indians.
⇒ most of them are by NRIs
- 2) STEM representation
⇒ women participation is skewed.
- 3) lack of access to quality research journals.
⇒ one-nation-one-subscription is well intended in this line.

- 4) focus more on grades and rote learning.
- 5) lack of industry-academia-government nexus.
⇒ leading to fragmentation
- 6) technological adaptation is low
⇒ redundant, obsolete tech.
- 7) international exposure is missing!
eg) China's mandatory scholarship
- 8) India's research is not funded sufficiently: only 0.7% of GDP (Budget)
- 9) politicisation of research institutions
eg) elite capture
- 10) lack of private participation
⇒ only 25-30% → public: 70%
- compared to US: 70-75%.



If 20th century belonged to "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" - 21st c. will belong to "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan" - a clarion call for a robust research environment for a Viksit Bharat 2047.

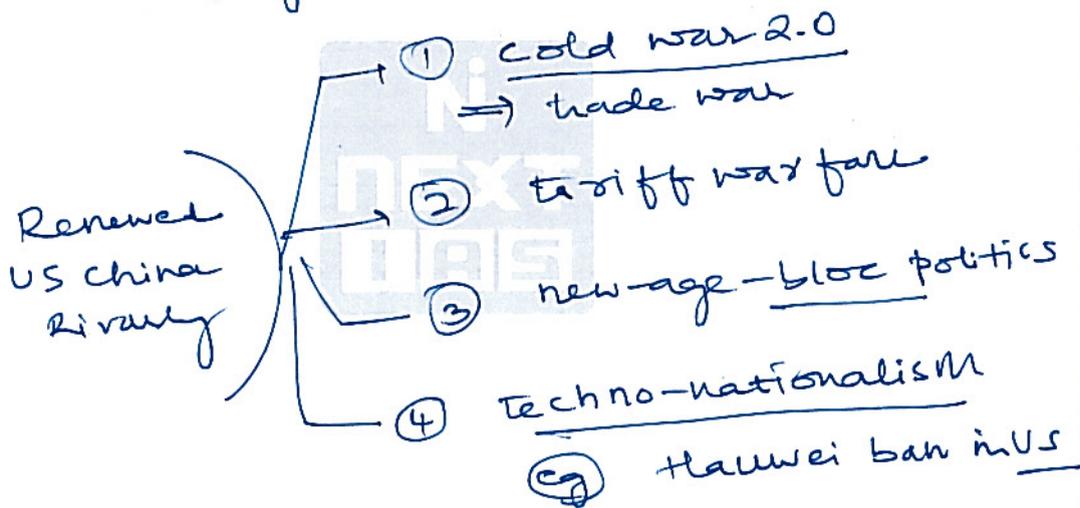


19.

भारत की रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और चीन के साथ संबंधों को संचालित करने में मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांत बनी हुई है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के सामने संभावित चुनौतियों और अवसरों का विश्लेषण कीजिए और भारत को इस नए अमेरिका-चीन प्रतिद्वंद्विता में कैसे अपना रास्ता बनाना चाहिए, इस पर विचार करें। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
 India's strategic autonomy remains the guiding principle in navigating relations with the United States and China. In this context, analyse the potential challenges and opportunities for India and how India should navigate this renewed US-China rivalry.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

“Indian Foreign Policy is based on India First attitude, asserting its strategic autonomy in the changing world order” — PM Modi



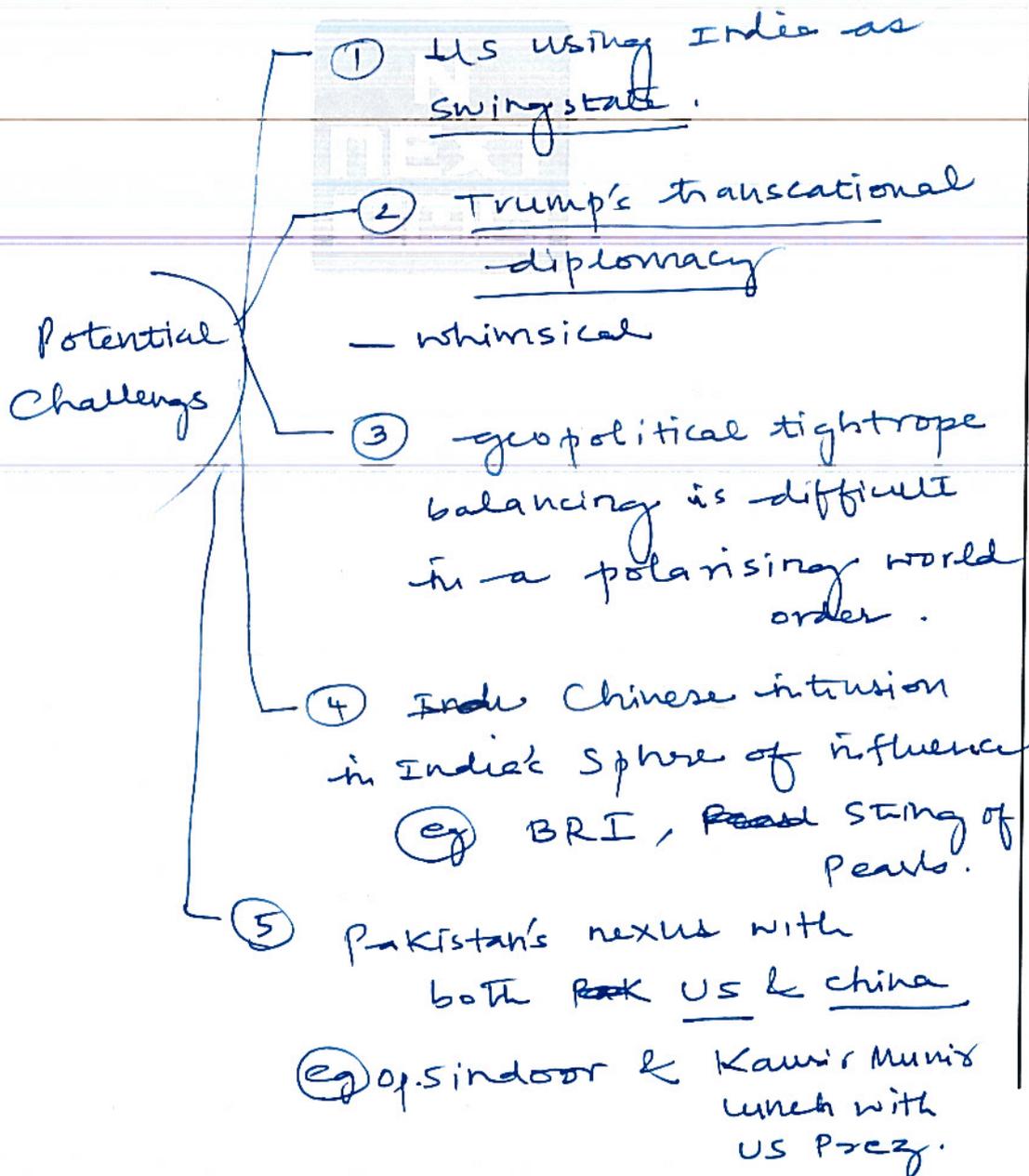
Strategic autonomy as India's guiding principle

“state of borders will determine state of relations” — S. Jaishankar
 — on China relation

② India is a country of considerable consequence (Suhasini Haider)
 — balancing BRICS, SCO and QUAD, IPEF.

③ Active trade relations with China, while not gaining CAATSA sanctions.

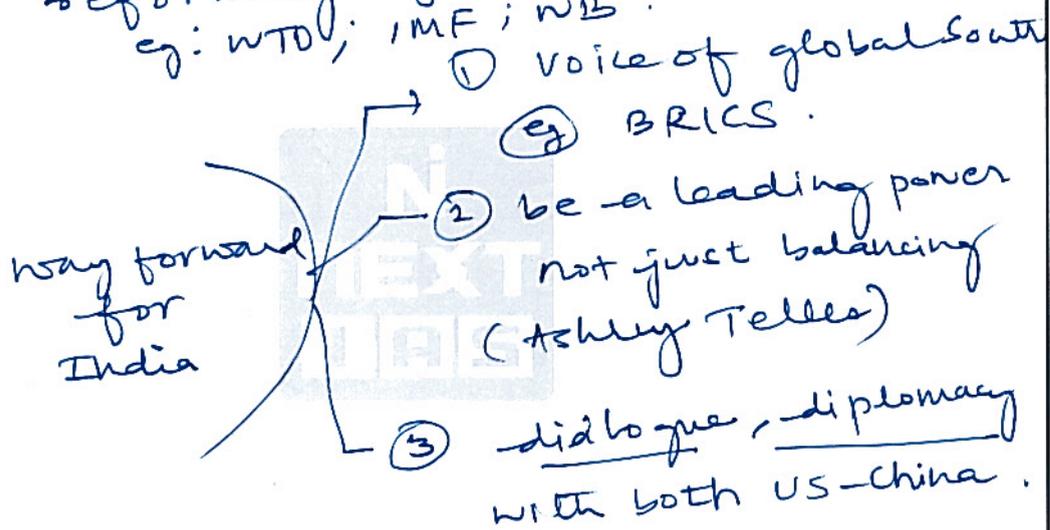
④ Calibrated response to global conflicts eg: Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Iran.



Opportunities

- 1) reshoring, nearshoring & friendshoring
- 2) China + 1 - strategy
↳ supply chain shift to India
- 3) greater leadership - concerning voice of G-South.

- 4) reforming global governance
eg: WTO; IMF; WB.



"Managing divergences and collaborating on convergences" - is the mantle for new-age INDIA in the climate of US-china cold war 2.0 on the sidelines of deglobalisation, minilateralism and global conflicts.



20. भारत-मिडिल ईस्ट-यूरोप आर्थिक गलियारा (IMEC) की शुरुआत भारत की कनेक्टिविटी कूटनीति में एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ है। चीन की बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI) के मुकाबले इसकी भारत के लिए रणनीतिक प्रासंगिकता का विश्लेषण करें। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
- The launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) marks a turning point in India's connectivity diplomacy. Analyse its strategic relevance for India vis-à-vis China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

IMEC is a connectivity project construed in the sidelines of G20 summit hosted by India in 2023, October.

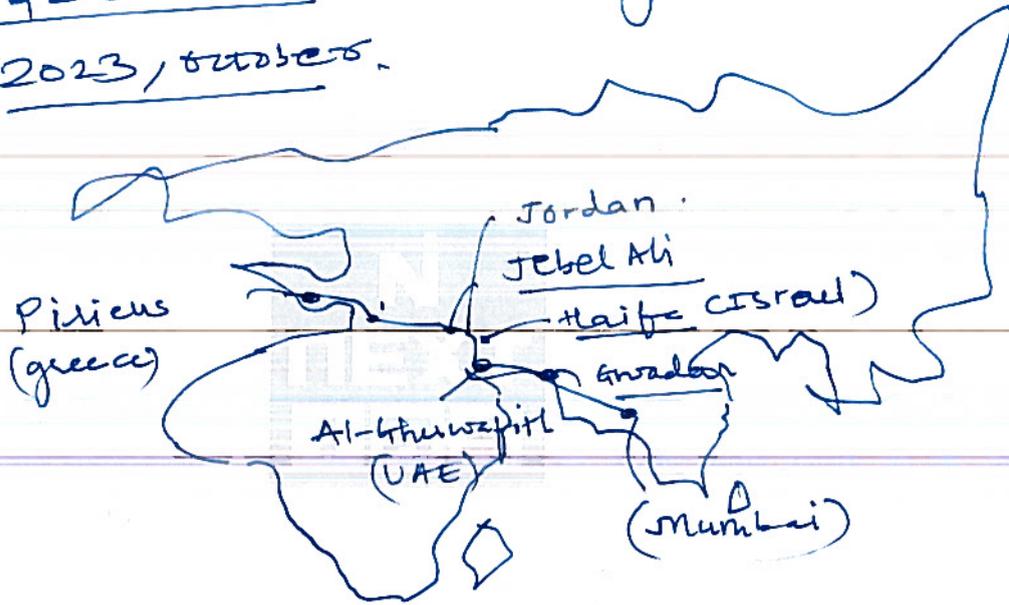


fig: IMEC connectivity

IMEC as a turning point

- 1) hailed a project for peace
→ bringing diff. countries into one way.
- 2) alternate to BRI

- 3) Acc. to Parag Khanna, (Connect - graphy) → the new age relationship in geopolitics will be formed by connectivity & not borders.
- 4) supply chain diplomacy
⇒ increasing the resilience ↑
- 5) alternative to existing choke points.
⇒ (eg) Strait of Hormuz - Red sea crisis.
- 6) greater-cooperation
⇒ increased trade, investment.
- 7) cost ↓ : time ↓
7.1 ⇒ efficiency of production
7.2 ⇒ improved logistics.

Strategic Relevance vis-a-vis BRI

- ① India's assertiveness in the extended neighbourhood
⇒ "Rajiv Sikri" → arc of communication and prosperity

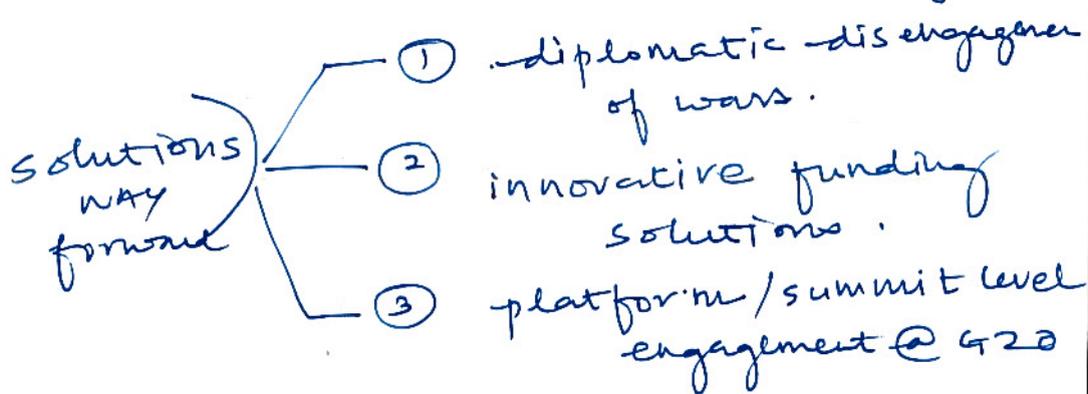
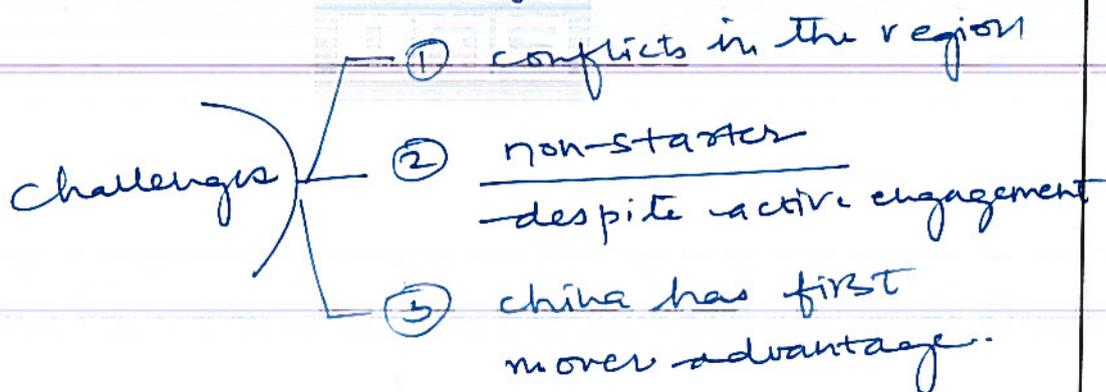
② alternative to Chinese debt-trap.
— diplomacy

⇒ eg African countries.

③ India's stature as a Net-security
provider in the region ↑

④ India as public-goods provider
(Kindleberger Trap) — S.S
Tirumurti

⑤ strategic alternative to BRI
↓↓ China's hegemony in the region
and beyond



IMEC can be gamechanger both
geo-strategically & geo-economically.

NEXT IAS

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.

DONT'S

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question-cum-Answer Booklet.
2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any pages from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR CANDIDATE AVAILING ONLINE FACILITY

1. Scan the QCA booklet properly. We suggest the uses of the app CAM scanner (Scan QR code in page 2) based on our previous experiences.
2. Please scan the QCA booklet in ample light. Copies scanned under moderate light can hamper evaluation quality.
3. Any page/pdf having shadow needs to be rescanned. Please make sure that the pdf that you upload is as clean as possible.
4. **Candidates not using the QCA booklet** must mention their details on the front page. And leave the next page blank for the macro comments. It must be understood that the answer should start from Page no. 3 in of the scanned pdf.
5. Candidates not using the QCA booklet must follow the sequence of the answer as per the question paper.
6. Please check the sequence of the answer and total number of pages in the scanned version. Make sure it is in consonance with the physical version of the same.

NEXT IAS

ग्रहत्वपूर्ण निर्देश

अभ्यर्थियों को निम्नलिखित निर्देशों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ना चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर दण्डित किया जा सकता है।

क्या न करें-	क्या करें-
1. इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका के भीतर कहीं भी अपना नाम या पंजीकरण संख्या न लिखें।	1. कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए निर्देशों को ध्यान पूर्वक पढ़ें और उनका सख्ती से पालन करें।
2. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तरों के अलावा कुछ भी न लिखें।	2. QCA पुस्तिका के कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए स्थान पर अपना पंजीकरण नंबर और अन्य विवरण लिखें।
3. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका से कोई भी पृष्ठ न फाड़ें, यदि आपको कोई पृष्ठ गायब लगे, तो पर्यवेक्षक/निरीक्षक को सूचित करना न भूलें।	3. स्पष्ट और पठनीय तरीके से लिखें। खराब/अपठनीय लिखावट में न लिखें।
4. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका को अपनी टेबल पर न छोड़ें, परीक्षा समाप्त होने के पश्चात इसे निरीक्षक को सौंप देना चाहिए।	4. रफ नोट्स या गणना के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंतिम दो खाली पृष्ठों का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। रफ नोट्स को बाद में क्रॉस कर देना चाहिए।
	5. यदि आप किसी कार्य को रद्द करना चाहते हैं, तो उस पर अपना पेन चलाएं या उस पर "रद्द" लिखें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है।
	6. परीक्षा-हॉल-छोड़ने से पहले अपनी QCA पुस्तिका व्यक्तिगत रूप से निरीक्षक को सौंप दें।

ऑनलाइन सुविधा का लाभ उठाने वाले अभ्यर्थियों के लिए विशेष अनुरोध

1. QCA पुस्तिका को ठीक से स्कैन करें। हम चाहेंगे कि आप स्कैनिंग के लिए कैमस्कैनर ऐप (CAM SCANNER) का प्रयोग करें। (यह कोई प्रमोशन नहीं है)।
2. कृपया QCA पुस्तिका को पर्याप्त रोशनी में स्कैन करें। कम रोशनी में स्कैन की गई पुस्तिकाएं, उनके मूल्यांकन की गुणवत्ता को बाधित कर सकती हैं।
3. स्कैन के दौरान छया वाले किसी भी पृष्ठ/पीडीएफ को फिर से स्कैन किया जाना चाहिए। कृपया सुनिश्चित करें कि आपके द्वारा अपलोड की गई पीडीएफ यथा संभव स्पष्ट हो ।
4. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को अपना विवरण पहले पृष्ठ पर देना चाहिए और मैक्रो टिप्पणियों के लिए अगला पृष्ठ खाली छोड़ दें। यह समझना चाहिए कि उत्तर स्कैन की गई पीडीएफ में पृष्ठ नंबर 3 से शुरू होना चाहिए।
5. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को प्रश्नपत्र के अनुसार उत्तर के अनुक्रम का पालन करना चाहिए।
6. कृपया स्कैन किए गए संस्करण में उत्तर के अनुक्रम और कुल पृष्ठों की संख्या की जाँच करें। सुनिश्चित करें कि यह उसी के भौतिक संस्करण के अनुरूप है।

