

NEXT IAS

anubhav-2025

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : ANV2502

Test Date : 02/08/2025

Name of Candidate: ANANYA RANA Mobile No. ...

Roll No. : CAVA25ECL1569 Start Time 3:15pm End Time 6:15pm

Date of Examination: 2nd AUG 2025 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, 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, 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> |
|---------------------------------|--|
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| 2 | 2 |
| | |
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| 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.

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

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 |
|--------------|------|------------|
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Q2.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q3.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q4.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q5.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q6.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q7.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q8.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q9.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q10.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q11.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q12.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q13.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q14.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q15.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q16.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q17.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q18.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q19.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q20.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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समाजवादी आदर्श और पंथनिरपेक्षता भारत में मूल संरचना के सिद्धांत की मुख्य विशेषताएँ हैं। इस संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार न्यायिक निर्णयों ने इन सिद्धांतों को सवैधानिक पहचान की आधारशिला के रूप में स्थापित किया है।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Socialistic ideals and secularism are core features of the Basic Structure doctrine in India. In this context, discuss how judicial decisions have cemented these principles as the cornerstone of constitutional identity.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Recent debates over inclusion of words like 'socialist' and 'secular' in Indian Constitution's preamble via 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 have re-ignited the basic structure doctrine.

Basic structure doctrine in India

- first stipulated by SC in Kesavananda Bharati Case 1973
- judicial innovation as a part of judicial interpretation of constitution.
- socialist ideals which establish a welfare state were included in constitution even before amendment @ Article 38, 39 (DPSP)
- secularism - has been part and parcel of India's 'principled distance' between state and religion. Article 25-28
(Right to Freedom of religion justifies it)

Judicial decisions that cemented these principles as cornerstone of constitutional identity

- (1) S.R. Bommai Case, 1994 - SC affirmed secularism to be part of basic structure doctrine.
- (2) LIC v/s Union of India Case, 1995 - SC further re-iterated 'secularism' as basic feature of Indian state.
- (3) Abhiram v/s C.D. Commachen Case - state's domain is not to be mixed with religious activities. A candidate can't appeal for votes on the basis of religion.
- (4) Khirur Mutt Case, 1954 - SC gave judgement about Essential Practices Doctrine.
- (5) Balram Singh v/s UoI, 2024 - socialism and secularism are integral to Indian state

Socialism refers to welfare state that promotes equality of opportunity without harming private sector while secular state means neither having affinity nor disgust for religion

2. "चुनावी कदाचार के उभरते रूपों से निपटने के लिए जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के अंतर्गत 'भ्रष्ट आचरण' के दायरे का विस्तार करने की आवश्यकता है।" टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक
- "There is a need to expand the scope of 'corrupt practices' under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to address emerging forms of electoral malpractices." Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Supreme Court is hearing a case related to petition seeking lifetime ban on convicted criminals on fighting elections.

① Defamation of other party via social media campaigns

② Use of AI deepfakes to influence voters

Emerging form of electoral malpractices

④ Vote buying under guise of freebies

③ Horse-trading using loopholes in law (Schedule X)

Current status of corrupt practices under RPA, 1951

- (1) If convicted of bribery, spreading enmity
- (2) Convicted of crimes like Sati, Dowry

(3) Non-disclosure of convicted crimes in newspapers while filing nomination

Need of expansion of 'corrupt practices' under RPA, 1951

- ① Ethical dimension - lawmakers must be of high moral integrity.
- ② Misuse of loopholes in law to gain power (eg) Anti-defection law does not disqualify mergers.
- ③ Advanced use of technology which may go unreported (eg) malafide videos created via AI to defame others
- ④ Constitutional morality that people deserve able leaders
- ⑤ Bribery cases against representatives (eg) SC recently overruled a judgement
corrupt practices will lead to misadministration. Thus, need is to uphold politics with principles

भारत और फ्रांस की संवैधानिक संरचना में परिलक्षित समानता से संबंधित विशिष्ट दृष्टिकोणों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Analyse the distinguishing perspectives on equality as reflected in the constitutional frameworks of India and France.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Indian constitution has borrowed the provisions of liberty, equality, fraternity from French revolution yet both differ in perspectives on equality on certain domains.

Distinguishing perspectives on equality as reflected in constitutional frameworks of India and France

| India | France |
|---|--|
| <p>① <u>Article 14</u> Right to equality</p> <p>(a) <u>Equality before law</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Equal protection of law</u></p> <p>② <u>Article 15</u> - No discrimination in accessing public</p> | <p>① Initially <u>granted equality of men</u> leaving behind <u>women, workers etc</u></p> <p>② Gradually, came up with <u>equality of right to vote</u></p> |

spaces only on the ground of religion, race, caste etc.

③ Article 16 - State can't discriminate against anyone in (citizen) public employment only on basis of religion, race, caste, language etc.

④ Article 17 - It prohibits the practice of untouchability in all forms.

⑤ Article 18 - No citizen or foreigner in service of GOI is allowed to use titles without permission

Thus, Universal Adult Franchise was not the initial feature.

③ State is not bound to offer affirmative actions in public employment

④ No such prohibition on untouchability

⑤ No such prohibition on accepting titles

Indian concept of equality has emerged with a goal of adjusting India's status as a 'salad-bowl'

संघ के सकल कर राजस्व में राज्यों की प्रभावी हिस्सेदारी में लगातार कमी और संसाधनों के क्षेत्रीय वितरण में समता पर अत्यधिक बल देने के कारण भारत में राजकोषीय संघवाद को लेकर गंभीर चिंताएँ उत्पन्न हो रही हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

The shrinking effective share of States in the Union's gross tax revenues, coupled with equity-heavy criteria in horizontal devolution, raises critical concerns for fiscal federalism in India. Analyse.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Fiscal federalism refers to division of financial resources between Centre and States (Vertical) as well as among the States (Horizontal) from the divisible pool of Centre's taxes.

Shrinking effective share of States in gross taxes

⊕
Equity heavy criteria

- ① Rise of cess and surcharges ⊕ Agricultural
- ② Conditions of reforms ⊕ power reforms
- ③ Inclusion of 'forestry' as criteria
⊕ Developed states v/s still developing states
- ④ North v/s South states debate ⊕ population criteria
(2011 Census)

Critical concerns for fiscal federalism

- (1) Denial of equality to states who may have performed better
 - ⊙ T.N., Kerala → population control
- (2) Transfer of rewards to other states who still ^{have} enjoy huge poverty incidences
 - ⊙ U.P., Bihar
- (3) Reduction in fiscal capacity of states.
 - ⊙ Introduction of cess and surcharges
- (4) Disregards principle of financial autonomy to states
 - ⊙ tied funds to power sector reforms
- (5) Creates strife between cooperative federalism
 - ⊙ T.N. not implementing Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan.

This delicate issue requires dialogue and cooperation by taking into consideration grievances of all stakeholders. The spirit of 'Samvad' will bring the solution.

“नागरिकता संवैधानिक अधिकारों और दायित्वों का विधिक आधार है।” चर्चा कीजिए कि नागरिकता के प्रति भारत का दृष्टिकोण संवैधानिक मूल्यों के प्रति उसकी प्रतिबद्धता को किस प्रकार दर्शाता है।

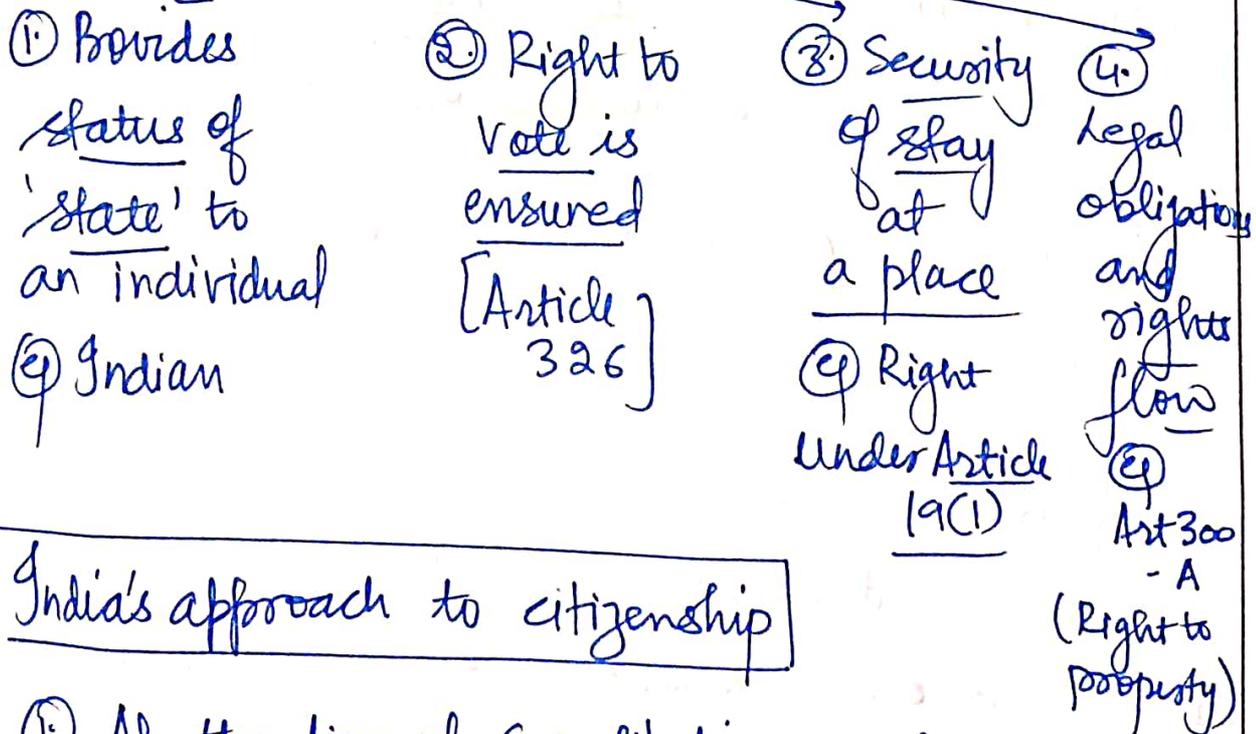
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

“Citizenship is the legal foundation of constitutional rights and responsibilities.” Discuss how India's approach to citizenship reflects its commitment to constitutional values.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar by ECI has re-ignited debates on citizenship and National Citizens Register

Citizenship legal foundation of constitutional rights and responsibilities



India's approach to citizenship

① At the time of Constitution enactment

↳ Art 5-11 (Part II of Constitution)

② After enactment - Citizenship Act, 1955
(amended thereafter)

India's approach to citizenship reflecting Commitment to Constitutional values

- ① Right to equality to attain citizenship with 'reasonable classification'
- eg Section 6A of Citizenship Act for Assam
- ② Welfare state granting provision of citizenship on basis of compassionate grounds eg CAA, 2019
- ③ Liberty to revoke citizenship voluntarily except under conditions of war
- ④ No citizenship on basis of religion committing to values of secularism
- ⑤ Different approaches to citizenship offering wider access to justice eg by birth, descent, territory capture, naturalisation, registration.

India's approach to citizenship highlights its belief in ideal of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam'

घटती प्रजनन दर और बढ़ती जीवन प्रत्याशा के कारण, प्रजनन-केंद्रित हस्तक्षेपों के स्थान पर मानव पूँजी निवेश को ओर बदलाव की आवश्यकता है। हालिया जनसंख्या प्रवृत्ति के आलोक में परीक्षण कीजिए।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Declining fertility rates, coupled with rising life expectancy, require a shift from fertility-focused interventions to human capital investments. Examine in the light of recent population trends. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

India has surpassed China to become most populous nation with 1.46 billion population. Moreover, report 'Ageing India' by UNPFA points to rise in elderly significantly by 2030.

Declining fertility rates with rising life expectancy

- ① Total Fertility rate = 2.0 (NFHS-5)
- ② Rising life expectancy = 70+ years

This calls for shift in policy from fertility focused intervention to human capital investments.

- ① Reaping dividends of silver economy by creating strengthened framework for elderly. ② SACRED initiative for wilful re-employment of elderly

- ② Strengthening healthcare systems by promoting increase of private sector and GDP contribution to 6%.
- ③ Investing in technology for accessible governance (e) UMANG app
- ④ Quality education with interdisciplinary approach (e) Foreign university campus in India, National Education Policy, 2020
- ⑤ Skilling and upskilling to prevent 'job-loss' growth in an era of AI (e) AI for all initiative, Skill India Mission, PM Internship programme
- ⑥ Capability approach of development where entrepreneurs are promoted (e) Orange economy, semiconductors

India's demographic dividend is for a limited period and it needs to ensure Sabka Sath for Sabka Vikas

7. "शासन की गुणवत्ता लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रियाओं में नागरिक सहभागिता की सीमा और प्रकृति से महत्वपूर्ण रूप से जुड़ी हुई है।" भारतीय संदर्भ में सोदाहरण विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

"The quality of governance is critically linked to the extent and nature of citizen participation in democratic processes." Discuss using examples in the Indian context.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Quality of governance transforms itself when citizens change from passive beneficiaries to active participants ensuring more transparency and accountability.

Quality of governance - linked to citizen participation

(I) Extent

① Larger participation ensure removal of concepts of 'eliteism'

② Introduction of RTI

③ Substantive v/s Superficial participation.

Substantive participation ensures practice is just not for ticking the boxes.

④ social audits under MNREGA.

Regular v/s Occasional - Regular participation builds ~~the~~ up public trust

⑤ Feedback via QR Codes

④ Aware citizenry questions authority and establishes accountability.

ⓐ complaints at Jan sujay portal

(II) Nature

① Direct v/s Indirect - Direct participation ensures niche solutions

ⓐ complaints at CM-portal in Haryana

② Constructive v/s propaganda promoting

Constructive participation helps in real improvements on ground.

ⓐ # Theek tarke Dikhaao campaign

③ Monitored v/s un-monitored - Monitored

participation via real-time progress check improves faith in system.

ⓐ e-DISHA initiative

④ Hopeful v/s hopeless - Hopeful participation ensures better monitoring & results.

Citizen participation forms the DNA of state's governance aim & should be encouraged

"शैक्षणिक परिणामों और बाजार की आवश्यकताओं के मध्य कम अनुकूलन सामाजिक और आर्थिक असमानताओं में वृद्धि कर सकता है।" भारत के कौशल पारितंत्र के संदर्भ में इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए।

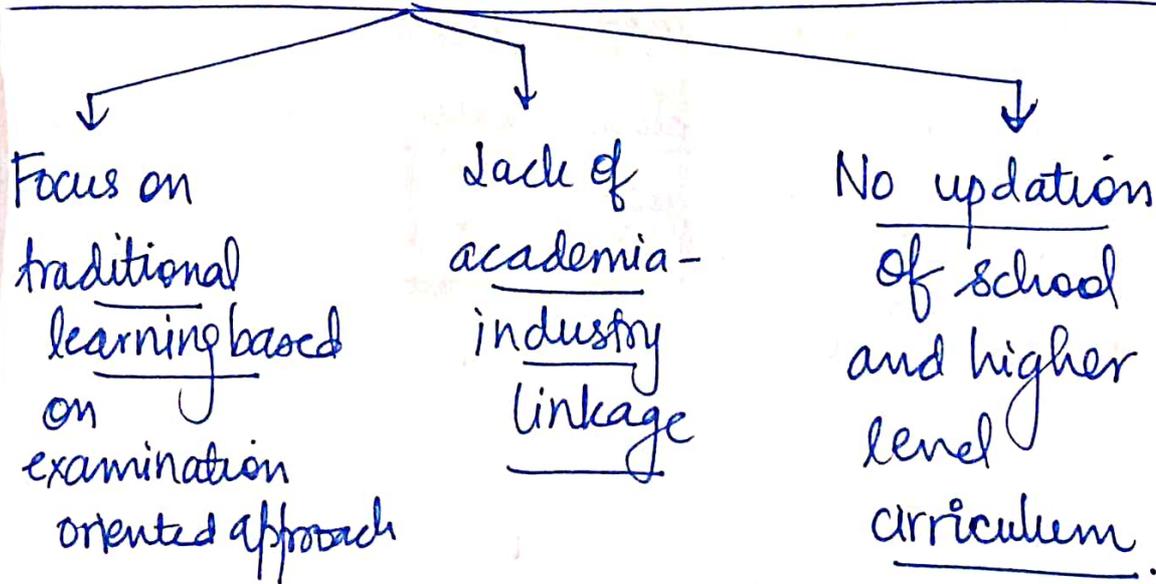
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Low alignment between educational outcomes and market needs can widen social and economic inequalities." Examine this statement in the context of India's skills ecosystem.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

According to Skills India Report, 2025
Only 55% of graduates are employable.

Low alignment between educational outcomes and market needs



~~This~~ Low alignment can widen:

(I) Social inequalities

① less educated section further gets marginalised. ② first generational learners

③ Information asymmetry about market dynamics renders education unuseful

- ③ Intergenerational poverty continues
- ④ Further gated societies are developed.

(II) Economic inequalities

① Wide disparity between wealth of top 10% and bottom 10%. [nearly 40:2]

② Replication of inequalities from villages to urban areas @ caste discrimination to class discrimination

③ Vicious cycle of debt and marginalisation due to low skills

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    graph TD
      A[low skills] --> B[low wages]
      B --> C[informal economy]
      C --> D[low opportunities]
      D --> A
  
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④ Rise in crimes among lower strata further losing breadwinners.

The initiatives like Employment linked Incentives and PM Internship Scheme are steps in right direction to improve academia-industry linkages

9.

“अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य संरचना के प्रति प्रमुख शक्तियों की शिथिल होती प्रतिबद्धता समतामूलक वैश्विक सहयोग के लिए गंभीर चुनौतियाँ प्रस्तुत करती है।” विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन से अमेरिका के हटने और भारत पर इसके प्रभावों के आलोक में विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

“The weakening commitment of major powers to international health frameworks poses serious challenges to equitable global cooperation.” Discuss in light of the U.S. withdrawal from the WHO and its implications for India. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

International Health frameworks like WHO has been a significant contributor in preventing major outbreaks of diseases however, weakening commitments to WHO not just threaten institution but entire health system.

Weakening commitment leading to serious challenges to equitable global cooperation

- ① Decrease in collaboration on research and development @ USA holds many scientific organisations
- ② Enhances regional disparities in already suffering nations @ US stopped aids to African nations.
- ③ Threaten spread of pandemics in absence of access to data.
- ④ Promotes weaponisation of health by creating artificial demand for

trade with advanced nations.

Implications for India

- ① Reduced aid for healthcare system.
 - ⊙ A hospital for transgender was closed due to blocking of USAID
- ② Decline in data exchange on various pathogens ⊙ rare diseases research.
- ③ Reinforces technology disparity
 - ⊙ high-end research facilities in USA
- ④ Increase risk of epidemics given India is a tropical country
- ⑤ Reduce idea of globalisation free flow of ideas & information.

India needs to strengthen its own health infrastructure by investing in all tiers of healthcare. Should use tool of diplomacy to call USA back into WHO

10. पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे संघर्ष ने क्षेत्रीय कूटनीतिक संवेदनशीलताओं को उजागर कर दिया है। इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में, भारत की सामरिक स्वायत्तता और क्षेत्रीय सहभागिता पर पश्चिम एशियाई संघर्ष के प्रभावों की चर्चा कीजिए।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

The ongoing conflict in West Asia has exposed the vulnerabilities of regional diplomacy. In this light, discuss the implications of the West Asian conflict for India's strategic autonomy and regional engagement.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Rise in geopolitical tensions between Iran - Israel amid the ongoing Israel-Gaza war seems to upend the interests of India in establishing peaceful West Asia.

Exposure of vulnerabilities of regional diplomacy

Difference in relations with each of country

Ⓢ Iran-Israel are sworn enemies

May be difficult to bring consensus in entire region

Ⓢ Turkey is an outlier

Existence of faultlines along with interests of major powers may disturb peace

Ⓢ USA's engagement

Delays proposed projects and aspirational policies

Ⓢ I2U2 bloc

Implications of this conflict for India's strategic autonomy & regional engagement

- ① Can't ignore interests of one nation against another. (eg) India couldn't take sides in this conflict.
- ② Limits the space for de-hyphenation (eg) Iran is important for oil imports while Israel for defence imports.
- ③ Delays new engagements (eg) proposed IMEC corridor, Chahbar port usage
- ④ Creates great game like conditions reducing India's influence (eg) Role of USA, China, Russia.
- ⑤ Raises insecurities for development (eg) Access to rare earth minerals from Central Asian countries via INSTC

India must focus on diplomatic solution to conflict with following the policy of multialignment and ~~not~~ India First abroad.

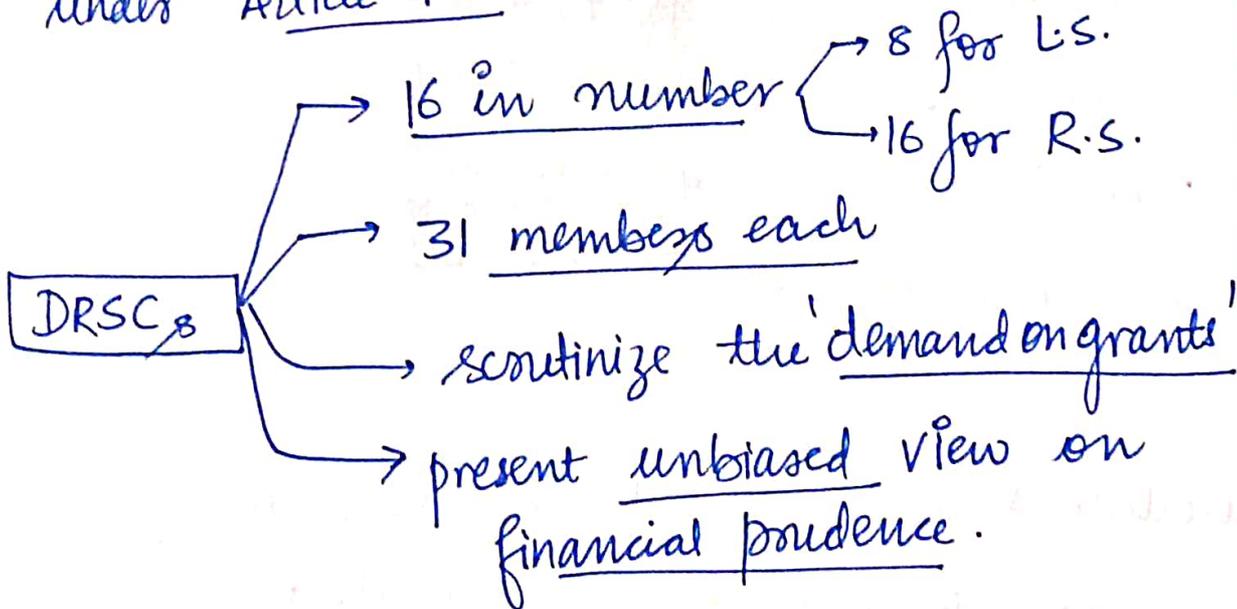
11.

विभाग-संबंधी स्थायी समितियाँ विधायी समीक्षा के लिए संस्थागत आधार के रूप में कार्य करती हैं, फिर भी उनकी क्षमता का पूरा उपयोग नहीं किया जाता है।" भारत में कार्यपालिका की जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने में संसदीय समितियों के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

"Department-related Standing Committees serve as the institutional backbone of legislative scrutiny, yet their potential remains underutilised." Critically analyse the challenges faced by Parliamentary Committees in ensuring executive accountability in India.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The Department-related Standing Committees (DRSC) are way of ensuring parliamentary checks and balances on the executive to fulfill the purpose of Parliamentary democracy under Article 75.



DRSC - institutional backbone of legislative scrutiny

① Detailed checks and balances on executive financial actions.

② Promote idea of responsible govt.

③ can point out extravagance

- ③ Ensure executive action is within domain of constitutional powers.
- ④ Provide more open conversation as all MPs from different parties can collaborate.
- ⑤ Provides avenues for expert opinion as they can seek advice from people outside Parliament
 (e) economists, environmentalists.

Challenges faced by DRSC / Parliamentary Committees in ensuring executive accountability

- ① Post-facto investigation by certain financial committees (e) Public Accounts Committee, Expenditure Estimates Committee etc
- ② No real control - These committees can't object on day-to-day administration of ministries.

③ Only advisory powers - Their recommendations are not legally binding.

④ Party bias often creeps in during meetings thus defeating the purpose.

⑤ Can't cut the demand on grants which is a power only with parliament.

⑥ Expertise deficit with the members regarding technical issues.

⑦ Lack regular checks - especially the Estimates Committee where per year only few accounts can be audited.

→ ① Increase period of lifetime from 1 year

Measures needed → ② Allowing legally binding recommendations

→ ③ Referring bills on regular basis
(eg. only 17% Bills sent in 17th L.S.)

Parliamentary Committees act as eyes and ears of the Parliament & help it ensure and uphold principle of responsible executive

12.

“राष्ट्रपति शासन, शासन की विफलता से निपटने के लिए एक संवैधानिक तंत्र है, यह राजनीतिक सुविधा का तंत्र नहीं है।” किसी राज्य में किन परिस्थितियों में राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया जा सकता है? इससे संबंधित संवैधानिक सुरक्षा उपायों और न्यायिक निर्णयों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

“President's Rule is a constitutional mechanism to deal with governance failure, not political convenience.” Under what circumstances can President's Rule be imposed in a State? Discuss the constitutional safeguards and judicial verdicts associated with it.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently, Ministry of Home Affairs (with Parl. approval) extended President's Rule in Manipur under Article 356 for another six months.

Circumstances under which President's Rule can be imposed in a state

① Article 356 - When the Governor of the state submits a report to the President or otherwise and President is satisfied that constitutional machinery has failed in the state.

② Article 365 - When the state fails to give effect to the constitutionally directed directions of centre.

Constitutional Safe guards associated with President's Rule

- ① Requirement of ratification by the Parliament within 2 months of issuance.
- ② Applicable only for 6 months at a time and need ratification every 6 months.
- ③ For maximum of 3 years only.
- ④ For a period exceeding 1 year, following conditions must be met:
 - ① Either emergency in entire State or some part of it or
 - ② Written declaration by Election Commission of India about its inability to hold elections in State.

Thus, these safeguards protect provision under Art 356 to be used as political tool.

Judicial verdicts associated with President's rule

- ① Rameshwar Prasad Case 2006 - Imposition of President's rule should be limited to exceptional cases only.
- ② S.R. Bommai Case, 1993 - should be used sparingly, not for political tool, secularism can be ground for imposition
- ③ Cooper Case 1970 - Ordinance making power of President for a state under President's rule can be reviewed if based on malafide intention
- ④ These judgements present the case for limited power of usage of President's rule.

The way forward should be such provisions should remain a 'dead letter' as envisaged by Dr. Ambedkar to be used only exceptionally.

हाल ही में जारी किए गए अंतरण सूचकांक में पंचायती राज संस्थाओं को सशक्त बनाने में राज्यों के प्रदर्शन में व्यापक भिन्नता को उजागर किया गया है। इस भिन्नता के लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों की व्याख्या करते हुए, पंचायती राज संस्थाओं को उनके संवैधानिक अभिदेश को पूरा करने में सक्षम बनाने में क्षमता निर्माण पहल की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

The recently released Devolution Index reveals wide variation in the performance of States in empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions. While explaining the reasons behind this variation, discuss the role of capacity-building initiatives in enabling PRIs to fulfil their constitutional mandate.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Panchayati Raj Institutions are the third tier of governance at local levels granted constitutional status under 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1994.

Results of Devolution Index of PRIs

- ① Regional disparity - with South Indian States performing better @ Kerala
- ② Lack of devolution of financial powers
- ③ Lack of effective functions with the PRIs

④ In Most States, Gram Sabha is not aware of its mandate.

⑤ Concept of 'Sarpanchpati' is prevalent in North Indian States @ MP

Reasons behind these disparities

- (1) Strong communist ideology in certain states that strengthens local-level governance @ Kerala
- (2) Socio-economic status of people and the state also impacts its deliverables
 - @ Tamil Nadu - high GDP and lower population
- (3) Low literacy levels of leader appointed due to no education qualification criteria required
 - @ Madhya Pradesh - no educational criteria. required.
- (4) Presence of Civil Society Organisations who complement PRI in their work
 - @ Karnataka has good network
- (5) Political will of the state.

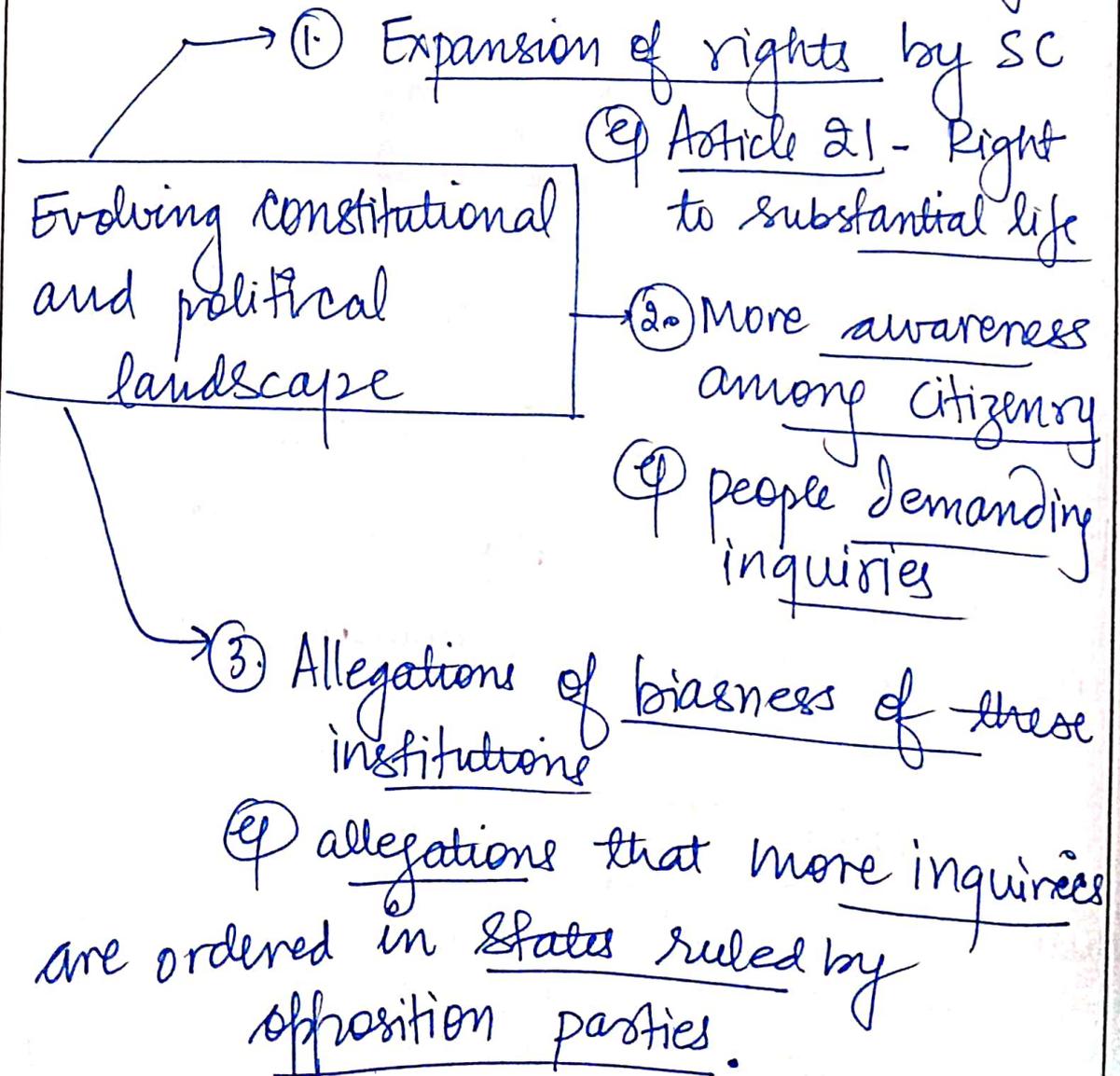
Role of capacity-building initiatives to enable PRI_s fulfill their mandate

- ① Training of the functionaries like women Sarpanches, Gram Secretary etc to enhance their management skills.
 - ① Training programmes run at State Level Institute in Nilokheri, Haryana
- ② Digital literacy of the stakeholders in managing funds ① Priya Soft initiative.
- ③ Online preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan ① Gram Swaraj portal
- ④ Role of state governments will to devolve more functions, funds to PRI_s ① Tamil Nadu government.

PRI_s are the grassroot level institutions to promote the goal of 'Jan bhagidari' or participatory democracy as envisaged in Constitution

14. उभरते संवैधानिक और राजनीतिक परिदृश्य में, सांविधिक आयोगों की प्रभावशीलता उनकी संरचनात्मक स्वायत्तता और स्वतंत्रता पर निर्भर करती है।" राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग (NCW) और राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) जैसे सांविधिक आयोगों के लिए संवैधानिक दर्जे की बढ़ती माँग के संदर्भ में विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक
- "In the evolving constitutional and political landscape, the effectiveness of statutory commissions depends on their structural autonomy and independence." Discuss in the context of the growing demand for constitutional status for statutory commissions like the National Commission for Women (NCW) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Statutory Commissions like NCW and NHRC are the institutions envisaged to promote protection of rights of women and all citizens respectively.



This has caused growing demands for constitutional status to NCW and NHRC to preserve their sacred nature of protecting and enabling fulfilling rights.

Need for constitutional status for bodies like NCW and NHRC

- ① Requirement of shield from any political pressures in sensitive cases.
- ② Rape of a woman doctor at R.G. Medical College, Kolkata.
- ②. Investigation should not become a political tool. ② Manipur human rights violations.
- ③ Security of tenure for the chairperson as well as members will strengthen its mandate
- ④ More trust based institutions will

enhance justice delivery.

⑤ Will ensure safeguard against abrupt actions.

ⓐ delay in issuing investigation by NCW into incidents of women rape in Manipur.

① More fiscal burden on consolidated Fund of India

② Amendment require political majority in Parliament

Some challenges in granting Constitutional status

④ Siloed working of different institutions like Police, NCW, CBI will create confusion

③ May interfere in investigation by law enforcement agencies

The need is to ensure fine balance between independence and autonomy of these institutions by appointing members via formation of a committee with wide representation

15.

“संवैधानिक मूल्यों को बनाए रखने के लिए एक स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका आवश्यक है, किंतु जनता के विश्वास को बनाए रखने के लिए इसे जवाबदेह भी होना चाहिए।” हाल ही के मुद्दों के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

“An independent judiciary is essential for upholding constitutional values, but it must also remain accountable to preserve public trust.” Discuss in the context of recent issues.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Judicial independence is a part of basic structure doctrine that ensures functions of judges are not impacted by any fear or favour and are based on complete objective criteria.

Independent judiciary

① From American constitution

② Article 212 -

Parliament can't discuss conduct of judges except when motion of removal is being taken up

③ Security of tenure of SC & HC judges

→ Require parliamentary approval with special majority
(Article 124)

This reason was cited for declaring National Judicial Accountability Commission Act, 2019 as unconstitutional.

(along with 99th Constitutional amendment Act)

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However, recent incidents have brought to fore the equally important concept of judicial accountability.

Requirement of judicial accountability to preserve public trust.

- ① Conduct of judges of recent times have been an issue of contention.
 - ⊕ Justice Yashwant Verma Case - Unaccounted ^{cash}
 - Justice Shekhar Yadav Case - hate ^{Speech}
- ② Black box nature of collegium system where no public communication is made regarding criteria for appointment as judges.
- ③ Changing role of Supreme Court in interpreting constitution.
 - ⊕ from textual → purposive → transformational understanding of constitution.

④ Allegations of encroachment of powers of other organs @ Guidelines on removal of liquor shops within 500m of National Highways

⑤ Judicial overreach allegations in interpreting constitutional provisions.

⑥ Setting of timelines not just for Governor but also for President in going assent to Bills. [Tamil Nadu Case]

⑦ Potential of Uncle judge's syndrome. Where nepotism concerns are being highlighted during appointments.

→ ① Amended form of NJAE Bill can be introduced

Measures required → ② Judiciary itself must bough past all allegations

③ personal interview with candidate for appointment (recently introduced)

→ ④ Must use judicial restraint

The 'daxmanrekha' between judicial review and overreach should not be crossed to ensure healthy working of democracy

16.

विश्वसनीयता, पारदर्शिता और निष्पक्ष प्रतिस्पर्धा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्षेत्रीय विनियामकों की संस्थागत स्वायत्तता अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। हाल ही की घटनाओं के आलोक में, भारत में विनियामक निकायों की स्वतंत्रता और स्वायत्तता से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

Institutional autonomy of sectoral regulators is critical for ensuring credibility, transparency, and fair competition. In light of recent incidents, examine the issues pertaining to the independence and autonomy of regulatory bodies in India.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Sectoral regulators are the institutions designed to facilitate the functioning of bodies while also keeping a check on their malicious activities. (e) SEBI, CCI etc

Institutional autonomy of sectoral regulators is critical for ensuring:

(I) Credibility

(1) Trust-based governance is ensured

(e) Actions against Blue-Smart by SEBI

(2) Enhance investor confidence

(e) Increase of FDI inflows into India

(3) Promote higher ratings of Credit agencies

(e) AAA ratings by Moody, S&P etc

(II.) Transparency

- ① Ensures safeguards against misuse of powers
 - ⊕ Actions against willful defaulters.
- ② Promotes accountability of regulators
 - ⊕ Monthly reports by SEBI
- ③ Encourage participatory governance
 - ⊕ Feedback mechanism on new regulations.

(III.) Fair Competition

- ① Promotes equal opportunities for entry
 - ⊕ Google's misuse of authority penalised by CCI
- ② Prevent investor losses by ensuring ethical governance.
- ③ Helps in domestic companies' growth
 - ⊕ startups, entrepreneurs etc

Issues pertaining to independence and autonomy of regulatory bodies in India

- ① Allegations of political interference

undermines public confidence

⊕ Delay in action against fugitives

2. Conflict of interest issues create suspicion of wrong doing.

⊕ Former SEBI chief had shares in Adani Enterprises overseas

3. Recent cases of misuse of market dynamics ⊕ Jane Street was banned by SEBI.

4. Appointments by executives for head of regulatory bodies also undermine their autonomy.

5. Bureaucratic red tape in decision making

These regulatory bodies are the guardians of public trust and financial resources. They must be entrusted with substantial autonomy in their functioning to ensure the achievement of 'reducing cholesterol' (as highlighted in Economic Survey 2025)

17.

आपके विचार में, प्रशासनिक चुनौतियों के बावजूद, सामाजिक न्याय और समतामूलक विकास के लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में जातिगत जनगणना किस सीमा तक एक आवश्यक कदम है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

How far do you think a caste census is a necessary step toward realising the goals of social justice and equitable development despite the administrative challenges it poses?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Union Government has announced the conduct of Caste Census along with census 2026 to be conducted under the supervision of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.
[Mo HA].

Caste Census - a necessary step to realise goals of:

(i) Social justice

① Remove the practice of guesstimations since data available is as old as a centenary (1931 Census)

② Promote real situation discovery on ground. (e) Socio-economic status of different castes.

③ Ensure satisfaction of goals of Constitution (e) Article 38, 39

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④ Promote data-based policy making
∴ 'data is the new oil'

⑤ Ensure political representation to
give adequate voice to marginalised
④ SCs and STs.

(II) ~~Equitable~~ Equitable development

① Determine class within castes .
who have cornered majority of benefits.

② Fulfill aspirations of voiceless

④ demands for subcategorisation of
SCs, STs and OBCs (Justice Rohini
Commission)
[Davinder Singh
Case]

③ Reduce concentration of wealth.

- India is one of the most inequitable
country on the basis of wealth.

④ Remove inclusion and exclusion
errors ④ correct identification of
beneficiaries for the scheme

Administrative challenges posed by Caste Census

- ① Multiplicity of sub castes within castes may create confusion for data collectors.
- ② 2011 SECC was rejected due to inflation of number of castes.
- ③ Literacy of personnels about different castes in India.
- ④ May strengthen Caste Identities
- ⑤ more divisiveness based on castes
- ⑥ Potential of use of data for political gains
- ⑦ Analysis of data is more difficult task and need use of advanced big data analytics.

The ignorance of a reality such as caste doesn't remove it. Caste Census is a selfie of a nation for itself to account for substantial justice as the goal of our fore-parents

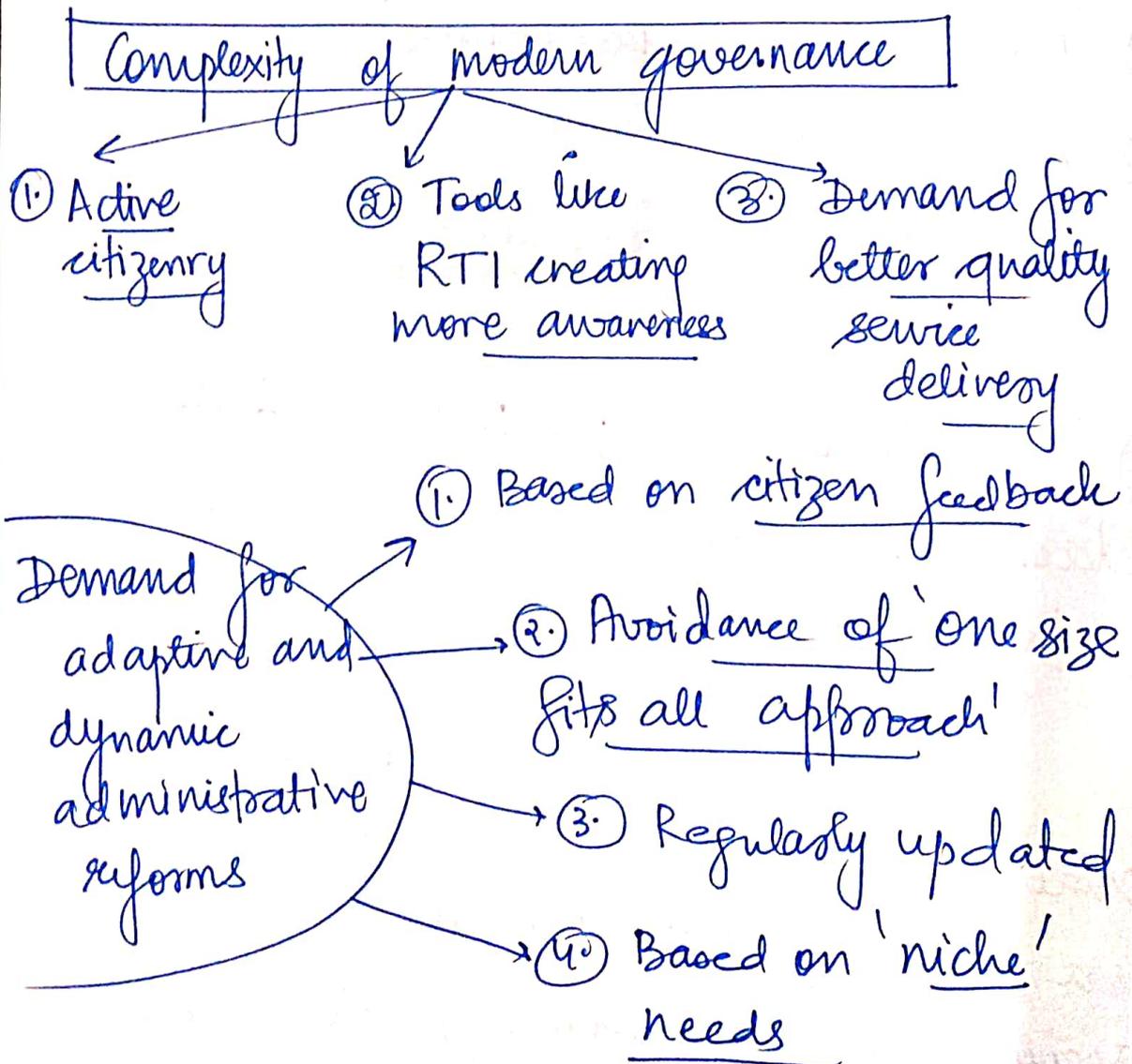
18.

"आधुनिक शासन की जटिलता अनुकूलनीय और गतिशील प्रशासनिक सुधारों की माँग करती है।" भारतीय शासन में दक्षता, पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही में सुधार लाने में प्रशासनिक सुधारों की भूमिका का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

"The complexity of modern governance demands adaptive and dynamic administrative reforms." Evaluate the (role) of administrative reforms in improving efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness in Indian governance. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Rising population, aspirations of people and introduction of tools like social media demands modern governance based on adaptive and dynamic reforms.



Role of administrative reforms in improving:

(I) Efficiency

- ① Improves data accuracy by involvement of technology (e) Big data analytics to gather data of flood victims
- ② Faster analysis and need based response (e) Text message on completion of process.
- ③ Productivity increases manifold as no requirement of manual examination
- ④ Healthy work culture further improving service delivery (e) fulfillment of demands of public.

(II) Transparency

- ① Ensure trust-based governance and better implementation at ground.
(e) my gov portal.
- ② Prevents misuse of discretionary powers

NEXT IAS

Candidates
write on

- ② PFM's portal for financial management
- ③ Establish accountability in system
- ④ Removing chance of corruption
- ④ Promotes integrity in work-culture
as one chain leads to another

(III) Responsiveness

- ① Faster evaluation of grievance and redressal.
- ② 24 hour timelines on acceptance of complaints.
- ② Niche response based on specificity of demand.
- ③ elderly, children-based services
- ③ Compassionate response of state
- ④ Addressing specific and special cases based on urgency - PDS related.

The adaptive and dynamic administrative reforms forms the foundation stone of forming relationship of 'social contract' between citizens and the state.

19.

विगत 75 वर्षों में भारत-चीन संबंधों की प्रगति व्यावहारिक सहयोग और अनसुलझे रणनीतिक तनावों के बीच संतुलन को दर्शाती है। इस उभरती नीति की रूपरेखा पर चर्चा कीजिए और चीन के साथ विषमताओं को संतुलित करने के लिए भारत द्वारा उठाए जाने वाले कदमों को रेखांकित कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

The trajectory of India-China relations in the last 75 years reflects a balance between pragmatic cooperation and unresolved strategic tensions. Discuss the contours of this evolving policy and highlight the measures India should take to counterbalance asymmetries with China. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

“The situation at India-china borders is peaceful but not normal and is sensitive”

— CDS Sh. Anil Chauhan

Trajectory of India-China relations in last 75 years

| 1940-61 | 1962-71 | 1971-2013 | 2014-Present |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeling of cooperation • Hindi-Cheni Bhai Bhai policy • common historical victims of <u>colonisation</u> • focus on <u>economic development</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeling of hostility • 1962: Sino India war • Border incursions • Bangladesh liberation war, 1971 • changed India's <u>status</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alternative ups and downs • China became all-weather ally of Pakistan • CPEC introduction Under BRI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India asserted <u>strategic autonomy</u> • 2020 Galwan Clashes • focus on <u>dialogue</u> |

Balance between pragmatic cooperation and unresolved strategic tensions

Pragmatic cooperation ↔ strategic tensions

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① Capacity building measures via <u>Special Representatives</u> (SRs) | ① <u>Borders ambiguity remain</u> (eg- China's refusal to accept Shimla Declaration, 1914) |
| ② Focus on dialogue and diplomacy | ② <u>Nomenclatural aggression</u> (naming Arunachal Pradesh) |
| ③ No military engagement against China (eg- dismissal of <u>NATO</u> as anti-china platform) | ③ <u>Wolf warrior diplomacy</u> , <u>grey zone warfare</u> <u>Salami slicing</u> . |

Counters of this evolving policy

- ① Change in polarity of world: From bipolar unipolar to multipolar to heteropolar.
- ② America's isolationist tendencies with advent of Trump & administration

③. Realisation of pragmatism | e) China's economic might much more than India. (\$19 trillion against \$4 billion) (approx.)

④. De-risking against de-hyphenation | by diversifying sources of imports
e) critical minerals from Argentina

⑤. Security-development hyphenation | where India banned many Chinese apps like Tik tok.

→ ①. Taking opportunities of 'China+1' policies by enhancing Ease of Doing Business

Measures India need to take

→ ②. Diversifying sources of imports

e) rare earth magnets

→ ③. Continue capacity building measures

e) Renewal of Mansarovar Yatra

→ ④. Improving manufacturing capacities

e) electronics by being part of GRCs

The disengagement at two friction points of Demchok & Depsang indicate towards strengthening of confidence building measures.

NEXT IAS

Candid
write o

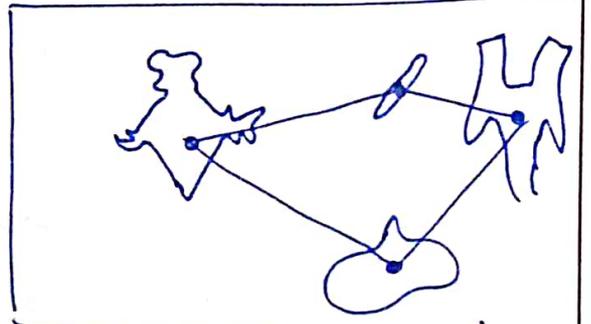
20.

चतुर्पक्षीय सुरक्षा संवाद (QUAD) का एक समुद्री सुरक्षा समूह से बहुआयामी साझेदारी के रूप में विकास, हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में बदलती रणनीतिक वास्तविकताओं को दर्शाता है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत की क्षेत्रीय आकांक्षाओं और रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता के लिए QUAD द्वारा प्रस्तुत अवसरों और चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

The evolution of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) from a maritime security grouping to a multidimensional partnership reflects changing strategic realities in the Indo-Pacific. In this context, examine the opportunities and challenges that QUAD presents for India's regional aspirations and strategic autonomy. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

QUAD was the brainchild of former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe to improve coordination between diamond democracies [India, USA, Japan and Australia].

Evolution of QUAD
from maritime to
multidimensional
grouping



Diamond
democracies

Initially

- ① Focus on Indo-Pacific
- ② Indian Ocean as free zone of navigation
- ③ Military exercises to ensure safe passage

Now

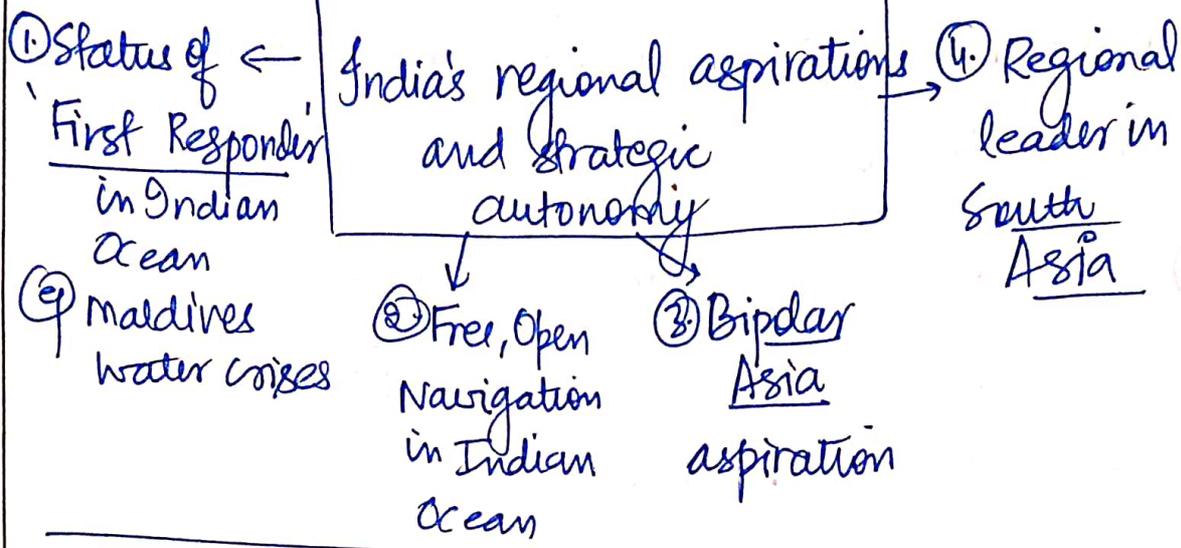
- ① Climate cooperation
- ② HADR cooperation
- ③ Critical mineral supply chains
- ④ Trade enhancement
- ⑤ Data privacy & Rise of AI

Evolution reflects changing realities in Indo-Pacific

- ① Climate Change induced disasters
⊕ sea level rise causing existential threat to Pacific islands (SIDS)
- ② China's expansionist policies in Indian Ocean
⊕ Deployment of spy ships in Soidanka
- ③ Emergence of Indian Ocean as new and significant trading route
⊕ Important sea lines of communication
- ④ Rise of unsustainable use of AI
via deepfakes, data abuse etc
- ⑤ Trade weaponisation by countries like China ⊕ recent ban on rare earth magnets.
- ⑥ Rise of multipolarity with states like India, Indonesia, etc. having a say in global politics.

NEXT IAS

Candidates must not write on this margin



Opportunities and challenges presented by QUAD

| Opportunities | Challenges |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Attract Collaboration with Global <u>North</u> nations ② Access to critical minerals - ① ICET ③ Data <u>governance</u> enhanced ① AI regulations ④ Climate Change collaboration ⑤ <u>Diversification</u> of supply chains (India-Japan-Australia) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① <u>Difference in Aspirations</u> ① US wants direct confrontation ② Land border issues with China can't allow India <u>strong military</u> conflict ③ <u>Isolationist</u> tendency Under Trump 2.0 ④ US interests in Indo-Pacific |

The QUAD initiative can act as a strategic hedge against China to promote idea of multipolarity and regional security for India & its neighbours