

NEXT IAS**MAINS TEST SERIES 2.0 - 2025 (FLT)**

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : FLT2505Name of Candidate: SOPHIA SIDDIQUI Mobile No. [REDACTED]Roll No. : 0413785 Start Time 3:00 PM End Time 6:00 PMDate of Examination: 01/08/2025 Medium : English ☒ Hindi ☐

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

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
TOTAL MARKS - 150		

GRAND TOTAL -/ 250**EVAL CODE:** **EVAL DATE:****GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 20 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.

सामान्य निर्देश

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

REMARKS:**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

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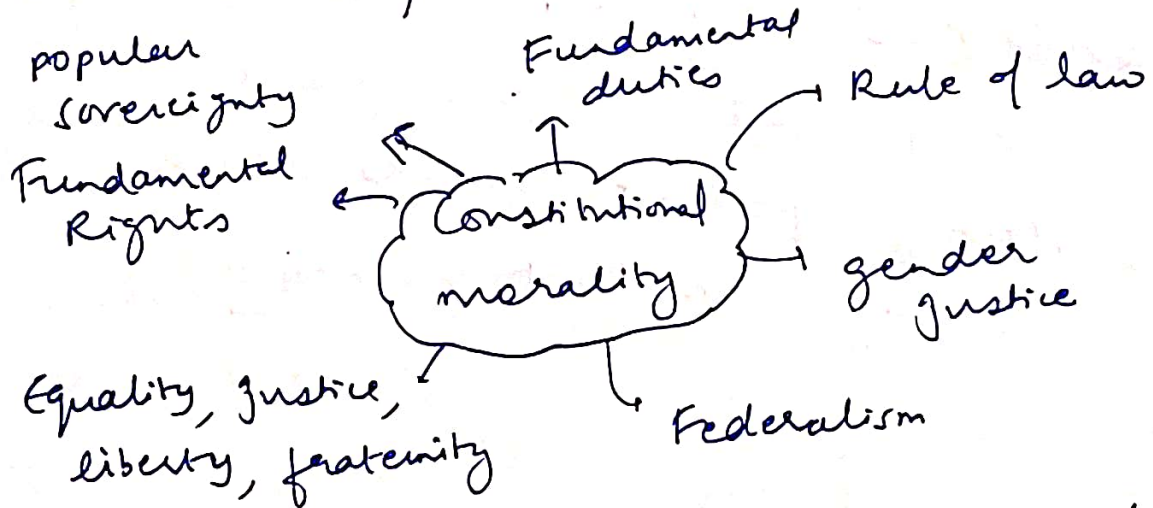
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Q16

According to Dr B R Ambedkar,
Constitutional morality ^(CM) forms the core
and conscience i.e. values, norms
and moral principles of constitution.



Hence, CM goes beyond social morality (Nartej Singh Jambhar case).
Indian Constitution under Article 44
provides for UCC.

UCC align with vision of CM

- (1) Ensures gender justice and welfare
- (2) SC banned instant triple talaq.

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(2) Uphold rule of law and brings parity in personal laws.

(eg) Separate personal laws of muslims, Sikhs, Parsis, Hindus.

(3) Common citizenship, common civil code

(4) Ensures equality and fundamental rights of people.

(eg) Uttarakhand UCC bans Nikah halala

However there are challenges with UCC

(i) Right to privacy and state intrusion in private affairs

(eg) mandatory live in registration

(ii) Affects Right to freedom of religion (Art 25-30)

(3) Affects Rights of minorities (Art 29, 30)

Way Ahead → piecemeal and gradual approach to implement UCC

→ Judicial intervention to remove discriminatory practices.

(eg) Shah Bano case, Shayara Bano case.

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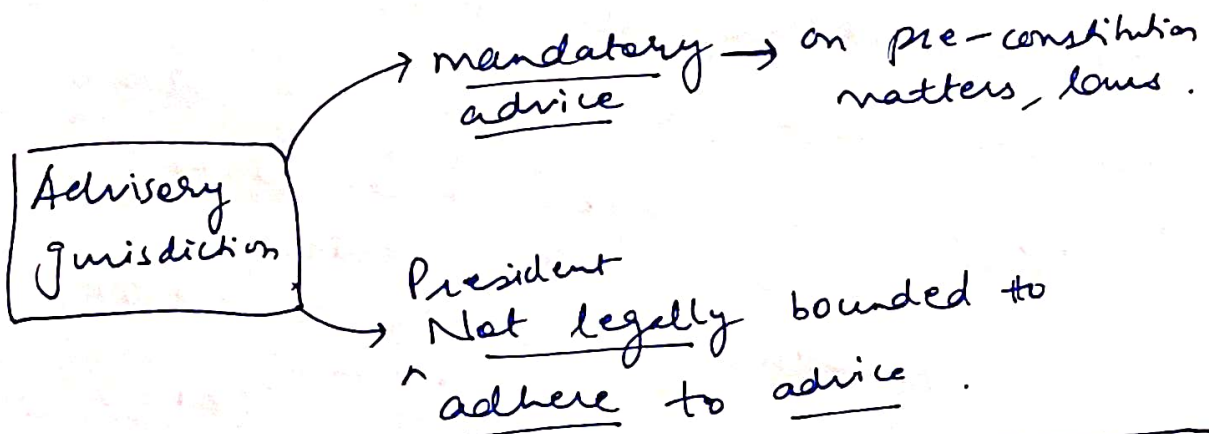
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~~Q1~~
Q2

Article 143 provides for advisory jurisdiction by Supreme Court to President for constitutional and other matters. For instance, Recently President availed for President role in state bills.



Significance and scope of SC's advisory role

- (1) SC is the ultimate guardian and interpreter of Constitution.
- (2) Technical juristic advice in the legal matters.
- (3) Scope of powers of legislative, executive and judiciary

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- (4) Doctrine of basic structure of Constitution.
- (5) Legal clarity of Constitutional procedures, laws, rules & regulations.
- (6) Pre constitutional treaty, sanad and their implications.

However, there are issues →

- (1) Advice not legally bounding on President.
- (2) Difference of opinion and juridical matters.
- (3) No time bound advice.
- (4) Politicisation of this power.

Supreme Court and President must ensure checks and balances to uphold Justice and President as supreme executive decision making power.

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Q3

India is a representative
democracy with members of almost all
Caste, race, creed, religion, language,
region, gender being represented
in Constitution.

The composition ^{of parliament} has
undergone significant changes since
independence from educated upper
middle class and lawyers dominated
to in 1951 to more egalitarian and
democratic representation in 2024.

Impact of shift of overall quality
of representative democracy →

(1) Positive impact

- (i) more diverse professional background -
agriculture, social work, lawyers.
- (ii) more educated and graduate.
- (iii) Around 7% hold PhDs.

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iii) Increased ^{women} ~~gender~~ participation.

(Eg) 17th LS → 78 women
18th LS → 74 women.

iv) Increase young and first time parliamentarians

(Eg) 25 year old MPs in 18th LS.

Negative impact / Challenges

1) Increased criminalisation of politics

(Eg) PRS Report → 42% have
criminal cases.

2) Increased overall average age of MPs.

3) MPs representing even more
than 30 lakh population in some states
while around 50000 population in
Lakshadweep.

4) Low SC, ST, gender based representation
thus, a more inclusive and

diverse representation to upkeep
vibrant democracy.

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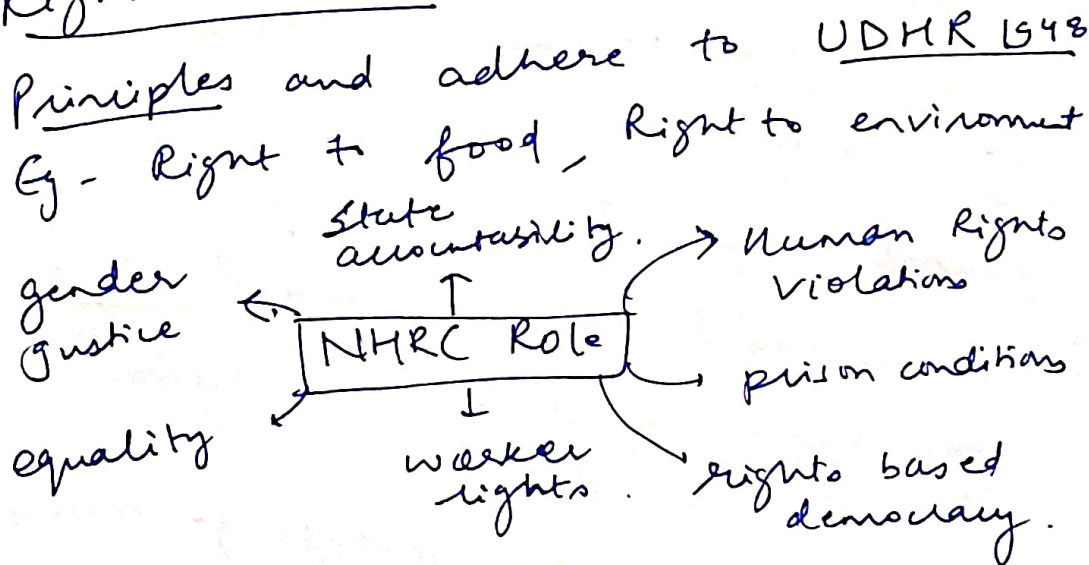
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84

NHRC established under Human Rights Act 1992 to uphold Paris Principles and adhere to UDHR 1948.



However, it must evolve beyond symbolic presence to real time impact.

Structural and functional issues.

- (1) No teeth power to NHRC.
- (2) only recommendatory role to government.
- (3) only Human Right violations of 7 years before.

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- (4) Issue of funds and functionaries.
- (5) Lack of competent staff and human rights training.
- (6) Issue of Human Rights violations and delayed response by NHRC.
(6g) manipur violence → women paraded naked.
- (7) Called as toothless tiger.

To address these issues →

- (1) Constitutionalization of NHRC.
- (2) Expand Human Rights
(2g) Include LGBTIQ+ rights.
- (3) Timely response and teething power.
- (4) Adhere to international human rights.

The real time input of NHRC is to treat humans as end in themselves (Emmanuel Kant).

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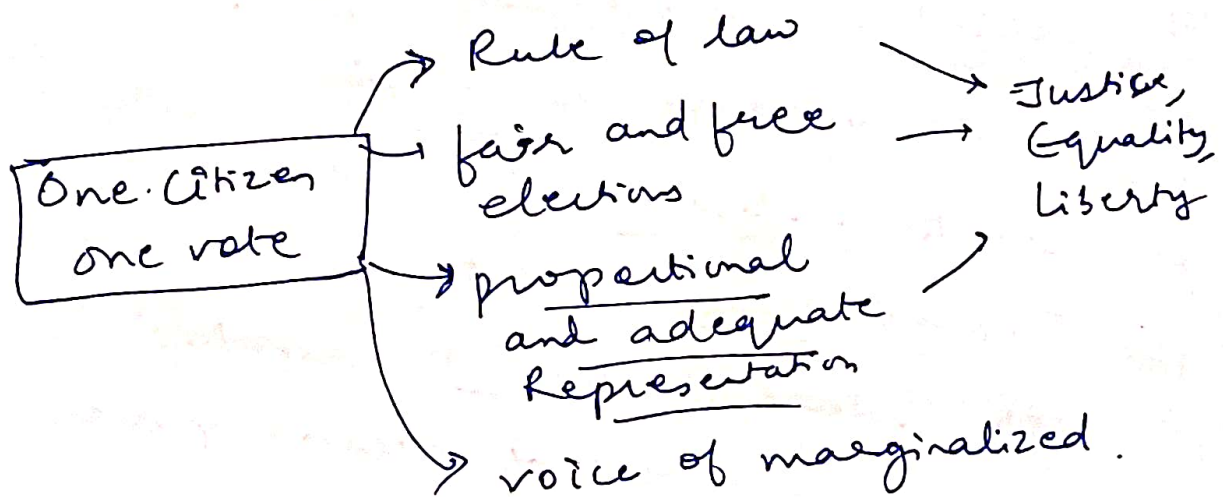
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85

Delimitation Commission established
four times is responsible for redrawing
Constituency boundaries and ensure
proportional representation ~~and~~
and reservation to SC, STs.



However, its implications goes
against federalism as →

(1) Demand of southern states ^{note to delimit} as it
will penalize them for population
control.

(-y) → UP, Bihar, MP, Raj → will gain
around 22 seats
(Southern states) → will lose
(Kerala, TN) around 17
seats.

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- (2) Increased centralization and
representation of dominant & states
- (3) marginalization of North East with
reduced representation.
- (4) Disbalanced federalism and
combative federalism.
- (Eg). North vs South Divide.

Way Ahead → Delimitation exercise
to be gradual and
inclusive.

→ Proportional representation to
population.

(Eg) Northern States → MP → Represent
30 lakh people.
Kerala → 20-25 lakh
people.

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Q6

Recently PM Internship
scheme (PMIS) was launched which
guaranteed internship to graduates
with stipend amount.

To make skilling meaningful →
participation of people.

- (1) India has the largest ^{working age} population
of 15-59. (around 58%)
- (2) World Skills Report 2024 → Around
50% of India's ~~youth~~ youth
are lack skills for jobs.
- (3) Shift from agricultural sector
to industries.
- (4) low quality and low remunerative
jobs in service sector
- (5) BPO, Backend services.
- (5) Inclusive participation → SC, ST, women

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To make skilling : Employability linked meaningful outcomes

- (1) Increased skilling, upskilling and reskilling.
(Eg) World Bank Reskilling initiative to skill 100 crore people
- (2) Increased quality of skills
(Eg) AI, automation, Robotic skills
- (3) Participative and experiential learning
(Eg) Foreign Institutes in India.
- (4) Employable skills at per IR 4.0.
(Eg) English for ~~at~~ AI jobs.

Challenges like agricultural disguised employment, lack of education and funds, lack of qualitative skilling exist.

However, with schemes like PMIS, Standup India, PMKVY 2.0, skilling and entrepreneurship is promoted.

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97

Women centric welfare schemes
aims to ensure gender justice, social
welfare (Article 3B) and overall
women empowerment. For instance, KIRAN
for scientific development, Beti Bachao
Beti Padhao.

Need to go beyond welfare to
empowerment →

(1) Low educational outcomes

(eg) Women - STEM graduates not
finding jobs.

(2) Low social empowerment

(eg) Despite Ujwala Yojana, women
still using traditional wood cooking.

(3) Low political participation and
decision making (agency)

(eg) 78 women in 17th LS, issue of
Surpankh
pati.

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(4) High school dropouts, and low gross enrolment ratio.

(Eg) Poor infrastructure → lack of toilets, hygiene.

(5) Poor labour participation.

(Eg) PLFS → only 44.7%. FLFPR.

Way Ahead

(1) Reform Beti Bachao Beti Padhao → for inclusiveness, infrastructure building and quality assurance.

(2) Skilling of women's apprenticeship.
(Eg) PM Internship scheme for women

(3) Health outcomes and legality to ASHA, ANM.

(Eg) Legal wages to ASHA. change
(4) Capacity development and social
attitude of patriarchy.

Thus, women led development
as said by PM Modi needed
for Viksit Bharat 2047. (SDG 5)

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Q8

Civil society organisation
act as a watchdog to ensure
accountability, transparency and
democratic governance.

Increasing regulatory oversight

- (1) Regulatory cholesterol (Economic Survey)
- (2) Strict Rules and Regulations
(a) FCRA guidelines.
- (3) Adherence to ^{distinct} centre and state laws
- (4) Issue of bureaucratic apathy,
ered tapism and watch on them.
(a) Strict compliance to rules.

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Shrinking democratic space →

(1) Decreased role and oversight mechanism.

(2) Increased violation of human rights, pendency

(Eg) Indian prisons - largest number of undertrials (>60%)

(3) Lack of transparency and accountability of government.

(4) Lack of active citizen participation and citizen exclusion.

Civil societies like MKSS have played significant role in RTI, farm laws, conditions of prison, under trials.

For active citizen participation, civil society forms backbone of democratic space.

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Q3

In the age of complex interdependence, India-Africa relations are based on mutual cooperation, respect and coexistence i.e. Realistic policies and Panchsheel.

India's development engagement ~~and~~

- (1) Increased trade and agreements especially with South Africa.
- (2) Infrastructural development and loans

- (3) People to people ties and academic collaborations

India's strategic and economic relations

- (1) Inclusion of African Union into G20 under India's leadership.
- (2) India-Africa summit → at leaders level.
- (3) Diplomacy → Increased diaspora.

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- (4) Trade negotiations and trade relations
- (5) India's support from Global South for UNSC permanent membership.
- (6) Net security provider in the IOR.

Challenges

- (1) Increased role of China.
- (2) Debt trap diplomacy with Africa
- (3) New scramble of Africa
- (4) Presence of rich rare earth minerals.
- (5) Africa's market and population

Way Ahead

- Diversify trade relations with West Africa and Central African countries
- Regular Africa - India summits
- last in 2015.

Thus, India & Africa lies at centre of Global South for strategic reshaping of world order.

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Q10

India has the largest diaspora
in world which PM Modi called
them as Rajdoots (diplomatic ambassadors)
and living bridge to other nations.

Indian diaspora in Gulf Region →

(I) Shapes India's economic relations →

- (1) Increased trade and mutual agreements.
- (2) Oil diplomacy and energy security
 - (a) Saudi Arabia and Iran →
largest supplier to India
- (3) Emerging markets and India's diaspora
 - (a) Golden visa in Dubai
- (4) Expanding economic relations.

(II) People centric diplomacy →

- (1) major pilgrimage centre in
Saudi Arabia → Mecca & Medina

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(2) Establishment of schools, education institutions and training institutes

(Eg) BIT Dubai

(3) largest remittances from the west especially to Kerala, Maharashtra

(4) Second largest destination after USA.

Challenges

{ Regressive policies like Kampala
poor labour laws and conditions
legal issue - Eg Nirisha Priya case
volatility and wars.

(Eg) Iran Israel war.

However, with diplomatic capital
and support, India's diaspora can
be huge brain gain and source
of remittances.

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911

73rd and 74th Constitutional
amendments provide for women
reservation in local bodies. It has
led to around 75% EWRs in
local bodies.

Increased
EWRs

→ Increased women voter
participation (even more
than males in 2024)

→ gender based laws and
policies

→ democratic social goods
availability eg clean water,
roads.

→ political women empowerment.

(eg) Chhavi Rajawat → 1st MBA
Panch

However, there are challenges
faced by EWRs →

(1) lack of effective participation,
lack of training

(eg) Panchayat pati syndrome

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(2) Proxy leadership and represented
by brother, father, husband.

(Eg) 'Biwi, Bahu, Beti' panth

(3) Lack of education and political
exposure

(4) Dual burden of house and office.

(5) Lack of funds, functions, functionaries
and functionalities in Panchayats

(6) >70% funds from centre and
states devolved funds.

(6) Gender insensitivity and patriarchy
dominance in rural areas.

(7) Low salary (around 4500 per month
in Rajasthan).

Reforms for gender inclusive grassroots
governance →

(1) Increased role of women EWRs
led to increased social goods
availability (Esther Duflo Study)

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- (2) Sensitivity and Regular political training for GWRs.
- (3) Education and digitization of Panchayats
- (4) Increased funds and infrastructure
(G) lack of toilets in Panchayats
- (5) SC suggested penalizing proxy representatives.
- (6) Public swearing - in - Ceremony,
- (7) Women groups like SHGs,
Civil society, NGOs for political participation.

Ans Dr BR Ambedkar said
that progress of a nation is
determined by progress of women
in society.

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Q12

India is a parliamentary system based on United Kingdom model, while France is a Semi Presidential system of power sharing between President and Prime Minister.
(Pres)

Comparison of India and France

(1) Government

India → Executive comes from the legislature
→ No strict separation of powers.

France → Semi → Presidential.
→ No strict separation of powers
→ shared responsibility of PM and President.

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(2) Law making

India → Full legislative power
~~under~~. ~~Article 3~~

France → Limited parliament → limited
role in law making.

(3) Parliament

India → Bicameral → Upper House &
Lower House

Some special powers to Upper
& Lower House.

France → Bicameral → Upper and
Lower House

Unequal powers → power
disparity

(4) Secularism

India → positive model
no strict separation

France → Rigid secularism
strict separation.

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⑤ President & PM

India → Indirect election of President
PM is real head.
France → direct election of President.
PM advises President.

Thus, the Constitutional safeguards
to ensure executive stability →

India	France
→ Prez → Default Head PM → Real Head	→ Prez → advises PM → PM → receives advice from Prez
→ PM and Council of Ministers collectively responsible to Parliament.	→ PM and Prez both collectively responsible.

Hence, both India and
France show executive stability
with different methods.

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Q13

Judiciary have been recently criticised for Judicial overreach in Ranveer Allahabadia and Imran Pratapgarhi case in matters of speech and expression.

Principle
of checks
and balances

→ Separation of Judiciary and Executive (Art 50)

→ Executive accountable to Legislative (No Confidence motion)

→ Doctrine of Basic Structure and Judicial review (Art 13, 32, 226)

→ Impeachment of President

→ Removal of Judges by legislature

→ Prohibition of discussion of Judges in legislature (Art 121, 211)

→ Courts cannot conduct on legislature proceedings (Art 122, 212)

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However, there are challenges of judicial overreach in legislative and executive domains → Reasons →

(I) Legislative domain

(1) Lack of adequate laws on the subject.

(eg) visakha guidelines on sexual harassment.

(2) Lack of political will to implement reforms

(eg) Banning of firecrackers by SC

(3) popular decisions by legislature.

(4) Affecting redistributive justice

(eg) Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims compensation.

(II) Executive Domains →

(1) To keep check on executive overreach.

(eg) Right to clean environment in MC Menta Case

(2) Uphold federalism and rule of law.

(eg) Inter state water disputes

(3) Plenary powers under Art 142 to do complete justice

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Impact on functional separation
between various organs →

- (1) Fused decisions → Judiciary becoming 'Super-parliament'
- (2) Judicial despotism and making laws outside its domain.
(69) State of TN vs. Governor of TN case 2025 → legislative powers of governor
- (3) Lack of people's will - trust and decreased popular sovereignty
- (4) Legislative and executive overreach.
(65) NJAC 2015.

Way Ahead → Judicial restraint.

Cooperative balance between the
organs
Legislature, Judiciary and
executive oversight →
(legislative impact assessment
Judicial impact assessment.

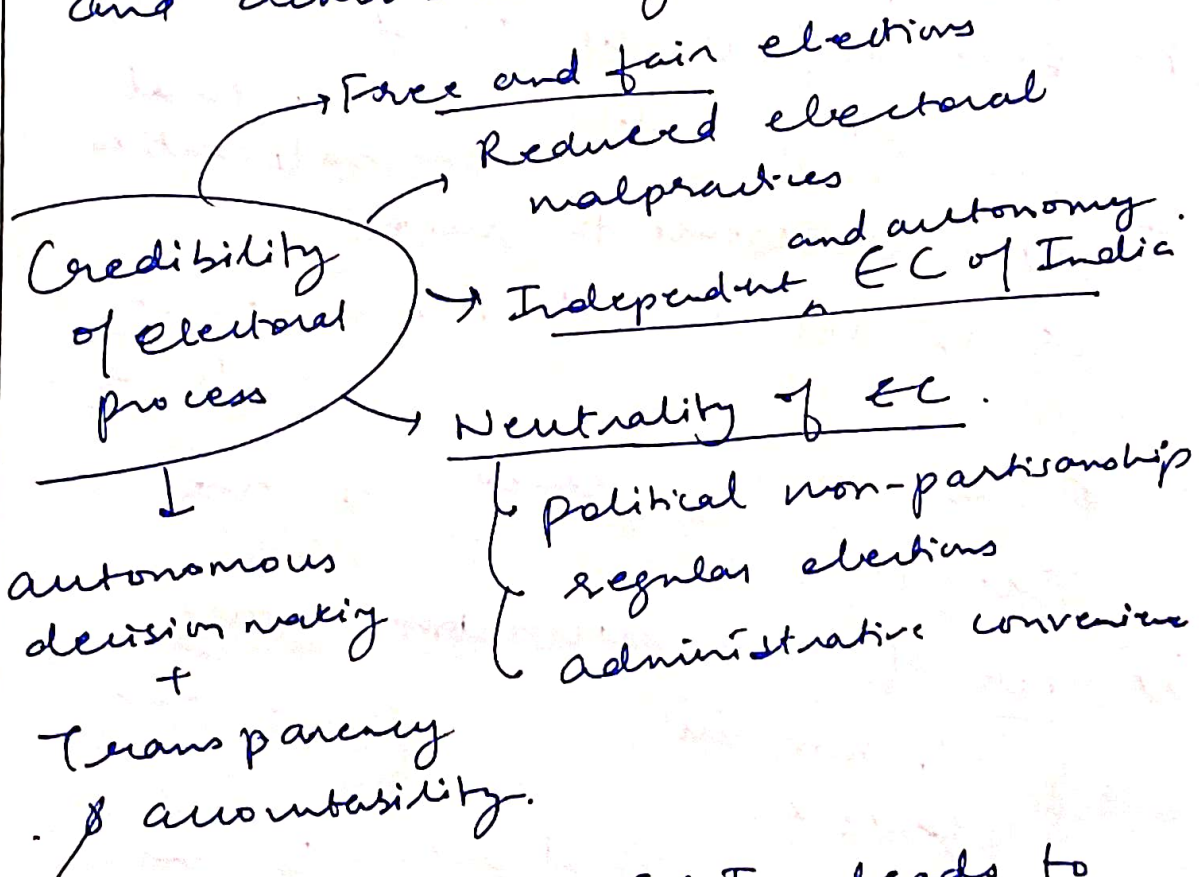
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Q14

Indian Constitution under Article (EC)
324 and 325 entrusts Election Commission
to conduct free, fair and transparent
elections upholding popular sovereignty
and democratic governance.



A Healthy ECT leads to
healthy elections in the world
largest democracy.

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However, there are credibility
issues in ECI

- (1) Lack of political independence
- (2) Increased role of executive
- (3) Delayed decisionmaking and transparent process.
- (4) Decreased public trust
 - (eg) EVM credibility, electoral malpractices.
- (5) Non adherence to rules
 - (eg) Model code of conduct → not legalized
- (5) Financial dependence on the executive
- (6) Lack of own supportive staff.
 - (eg) Election duty by government treasurers.
- (7) Increased political pressure and opinions.
 - (eg) Manipur → President Rule extended.

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However, the success of ECI can be seen in successful elections since 1947. India is one of the few democracies that did not collapsed in post colonial countries.

Way Ahead

- (1) ECI's finances charged on Consolidated Fund of India
- (2) ECI → expand the body and collegium system for appointments
- (3) Decrease role of executive and ensure independence.
- (4) Electoral reforms suggested by Dinesh Goswami committee, 2nd ARC.

Supreme Court held free and fair elections as basic structure
(Indira Gandhi vs. Raj Narain)

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Q15

Cooperative societies under
Articles ~~19(1)~~ 19(1), 43B gives the
fundamental right to form
Cooperatives. For eg - Amul in
Gujarat, Lijjat papad in Rajasthan.

Integral to India's socioeconomic
development →

- ↳ Upholds women empowerment
and employment. (eg) Lijjat Papad.
- ↳ State development and regional
development (eg) Nandini in Karnataka
- ↳ Economic growth and development.

Governance and autonomy challenges
faced by MSCCs →

- (1) Lack of regular elections and
oversight mechanism.

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- (2) Understaffed and lack of employable opportunities.
- (3) Low salaries, lack of basic infrastructure
- (4) Autonomy issues → Independent Director's role
- (5) mandatory adherence to the strict orders of centre and states → creates ambiguity.
- (6) Director's board lacks autonomy in decision making.

Recent Amendment seeks to address

- (1) Separation of State, Centre and inter state cooperatives.
- (2) Increase role of state ~~govt~~ over state cooperatives.
- (3) Centre oversight mechanism over multi state cooperative

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- (4) Increased discretionary powers to directors.
- (5) Regular elections and expansion of cooperatives.
- (6) Inclusive members → include women, SC, ST in boards as well as members.

Thus, cooperatives forms the economic base for economic growth. UN declared 2025 as International year of Cooperatives.

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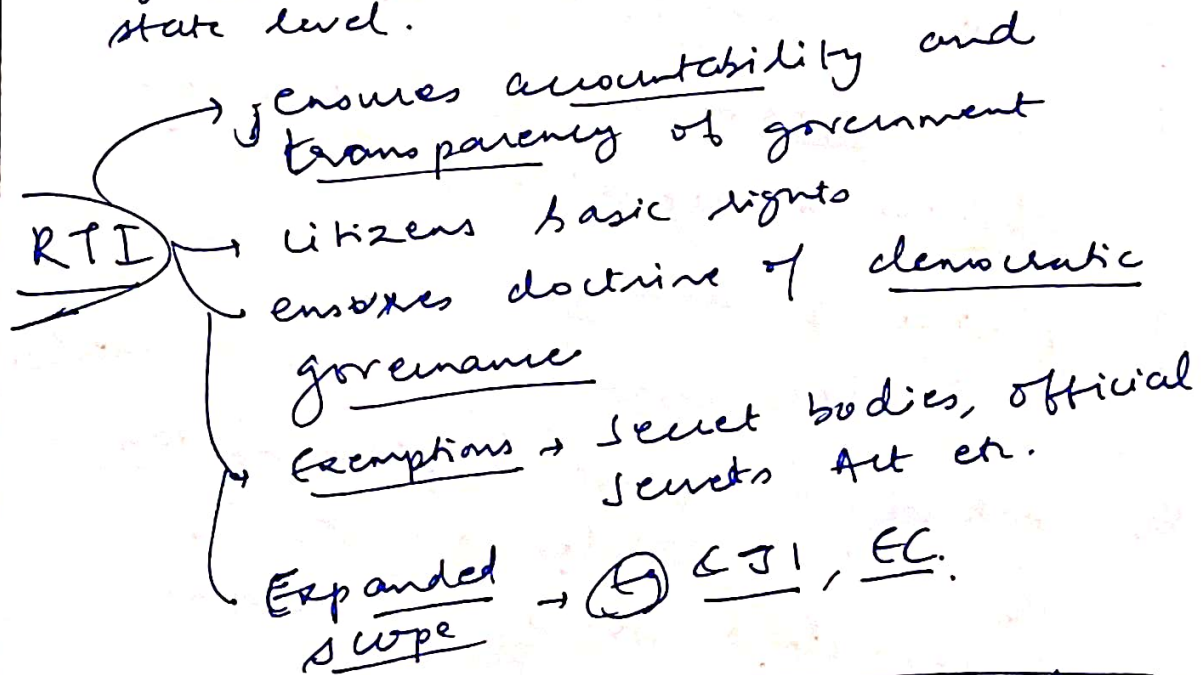
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Q16

(RTI)
Right to information under
Article 15(1)(a) i.e. freedom of speech
and expression got institutionalized by
RTI Act 2005 and establishment of
Information Commissions at national and
state level.



~~However~~ However, weak institutional governance has diluted its effectiveness.

(1) lack of adequate autonomy and more of advisory and recommendatory role

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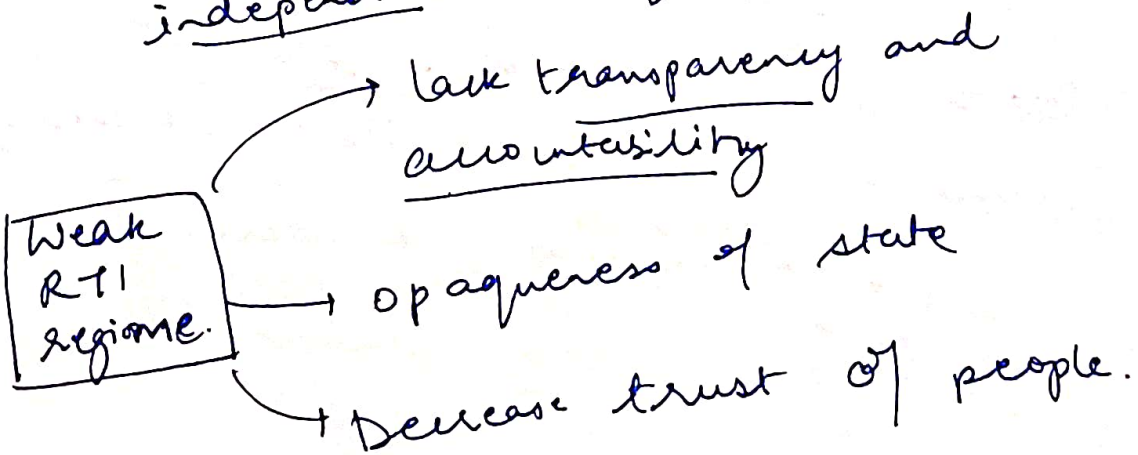
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- (2) lack of timely appointments of Information Commissioners (ICs)
- (3) High vacancy in ICs and the understaffed.
- (4) Non compliance to RTI Act 2005 by authorities.
- (5) lack of oversight mechanism.
- (6) Non appointment of Information officers in departments.
- (7) Large pendency
(eg) 4.2 crore cases pending under RTI.
- (8) lack of adequate implementation of RTI principles → lack of independent oversight mechanism.



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Way Ahead

- (1) Strengthen RTI Act and underlying rules and regulations.
(a) Mandatory information officers.
- (2) Expand jurisdiction → include several bodies and laws
- (3) Timely completion of pending cases
- (4) An oversight mechanism for ensuring accountability
- (5) Record keeping and updating
- (6) Timely appointments of staff.

Sunlight is the best disinfectant and RTI upholds people's faith leading to ethical governance.

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Q17

Civil Services are the steel frame (Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel)
on whose shoulders the Doctrine of
democratic governance resides.

Article 312 → All India Services

Civil Services → Ensures neutrality → political
(Eg) Non partisanship. → legal
social.

Ensures efficiency in governance -
Policy making and implementation
(Eg) MGNREGA, PDS

Accountability and Transparency
(Eg) RTI, social audits.

Citizen charter and
efficient public service delivery
(Eg) DBT, Aardhar, JDT

Digitization ; e-governance
(Eg) - CPGRAMS.

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However, they are increasingly perceived as rigid and politicised i.e. Bureaucratic attitude and political domination.

Issues responsible for this perception →

(1) Bureaucratic apathy and Bureaucratic attitude.

(Eg) Lack of inclusion of tribal beneficiaries under FRA, 2006.

(2) Bureaucratic delays → red tapism, corruption, bribery.

(Eg) Odisha IAS Dhiman Chakma ~~Chakma~~

(3) Rigid policies and inefficient service delivery.

(Eg) Documents needed for Ration card,

(4) Lack of code of ethics and ethical myopia and muteness.

(5) Politicisation of bureaucracy and nexus

(Eg) Bureaucrats joining politics taking voluntary retirement.

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Corrective measures →

- (1) Responsible leadership and ethical training
- (2) Increased digitization of records and file handling.
(Eg) mygov.in, UPGRAMS.
- (3) Grievance Redressal mechanism
- (4) mission karmayogi → ethical leadership and training.
(Eg) IGOT karmayogi
- (5) Ensure transparency and accountability.
(Eg) RTI → pending cases, serial audit.
- (6) Use of technology → CCTV

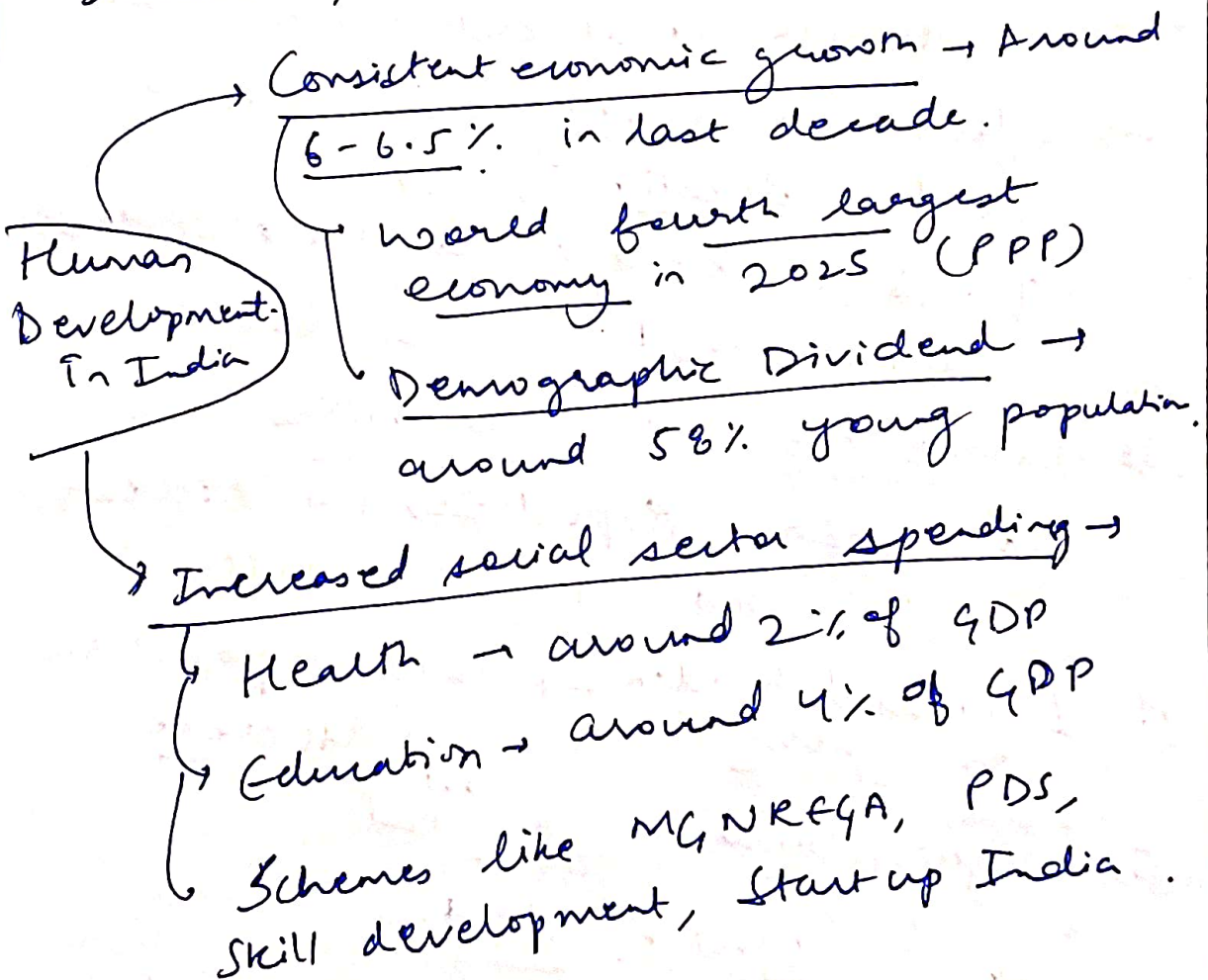
A balanced, ethical and democratic civil servants are needed
for Viksit Bharat by 2047.

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Q18

India stood 130 out of 193
countries in UNDP's Human Development
Index which includes education,
health, life expectancy as criteria.



Yet, India continues to perform
poorly in HDI Ranking.

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Structural issues that inhibit
equitable and inclusive human
development →

- (1) Lack of adequate social spending
 - (eg) Education → at least 6% of GDP
 - Health → at least 2.5% of GDP.
- (2) Educational poverty and lack of quality education around 50% of
 - (eg) ASER Report, Class 7th student cannot read class 2 books.
- (3) Rising Economic inequalities
 - (eg) Oxfam Report 2024 → Richest 1% owns 40% of wealth.
- (4) Increased burden on poor → largest population (14 crore)
- (5) Poor Agricultural growth, low and
- (6) Lack of effective IR 4.0.
- (7) Digital divide, urban vs rural divide
- (8) Service based economy → lack of labour intensive industries.

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Way Ahead

- (1) Social schemes like Vijawala Yojana,
MP Ladli Behna for women
empowerment.
- (2) Equitable growth and livelihood
opportunities.
(a) Standup India, PM Internship Scheme
- (3) Recognition of prior learning
and traditional artisanship.
(a) PM Vishwakarma Yojana.
- (4) Inclusive human development through
SC, ST, LGBTQ+, rural, poor.
(a) PM JANMAN, TRIFED.
- Amartya Sen's capacity development
through social sector spends on
education, health and livelihoods.

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Q19

BRICS established in 2003
is a Global South led
group engaged for political,
trade, economic and diplomatic
relations.

Members

→ Brazil, Russia, China, India,
South Africa

expansion → Iran, Saudi Arabia,
Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, Indonesia

BRICS offers opportunities for India
to strengthen its voice in global
economic governance →

(1) Increased trade relations especially
with West Asia

(Eg) Oil and energy dependence

(2) Access to key earth elements
and rare earth minerals. (REEs)

(Eg) China has the largest REEs.

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- (3) India as leader of global south
and net security provider
- (Eg) India's operation vijay in Red
Sea crisis
- (4) Access to global and India's markets.
- (Eg) India → world largest population
China → second largest.
- (5) Advance interests of Global South.
- (Eg) Climate Change Negotiations →
Historical Responsibilities.
- (6) Increased support at global high
table for India →
- (Eg) UNSC permanent membership,
G20 leadership.
- (7) Resolve South Asian issues and
- (8) Engage with China officially
- (Eg) Trade deficit with China and
huge import dependence.
- (9) Tripartite diplomacy in West
Asia → Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia

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- (1) Dominance of China and Russia and new emerged axis
- (2) India's internal matters with Pakistan and China supporting Pak.
- (3) Trade deficits with China of India
- (4) Defence import dependence on Russia
- (5) Impact of ongoing conflicts
- (6) Trump's tariffs and trade war.

Way Ahead → India leveraging BRICS+ for economic and political diplomacy.

Gain support and international legitimacy.

(Eg) vaccine maitri.

(Eg) India's ethical Nuclear security doctrine.

Dehyphenation of diplomacy and conflicts. (Eg) Two front war with China.BRICS+ thresholds lot of promise for India.

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Q26

Act East Policy (2015) is the logical extension of Look East Policy (1990s) to include economic, social, infrastructural, diplomatic engagement with east countries and group like ASEAN.

Act East policy :-

(1) Regional balancing :-

→ South Asia as area of prosperity and integratedness.

(G) IMT Trilateral Highway

→ infrastructural building.

(G) Mekong Ganga Initiative.

→ Connectivity and trade

(G) ASEAN → largest trading partner in East.

(2) Economic diplomacy

→ Emerging market and population.

(G) Indonesia, Malaysia → High population

→ Trade and connectivity

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eastern states.⇒ India's engagement with ASEAN
amidst shifting power dynamics
in Indo Pacific →(1) Improved trade and one of the
largest trading partner(2) ASEAN emerging as one of the largest
regional grouping after EU.
(Single market custom union)(3) Shift to Indo Pacific from Asia Pacific(Eg) QUAD, AUKUS by USA.(4) Contain China and maintain
regional assertiveness(Eg) FTA with ASEAN

soft diplomacy →

(5) People to people ties, Buddhism,
yoga and diaspora.

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नहीं लिखना
चाहिए।
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

- (6) Defence exports and boost to
indigenous defence market.
(Eg) Brahmos missiles to Philippines.

Challenges due to power dynamics
in Indo Pacific

- (1) Assertion of China and China - Russia axis.
(Eg) Nine dash line in South China Sea.
(2) Economic hegemony of China.
(Eg) BRI, maritime silk route.
(3) Area of great power contestation.
(4) Pro China vs Anti China Divide in ASEAN.

Diversifying trade and India
Joining RCEP (Shashi Tharoor) can
Increase India's active role in
East.