

UPSC

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(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Kusha Motwani

GS-2.

3h 30 min



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Q1:

There is a need to resolve the ambiguity in the disqualification provisions under section 8 of RPA 1951. Discuss

B:

Article 102 and 191 of the constitution deal with disqualification of MPs (MLAs) from legislatures. Recently, ex-MP Rahul Gandhi was disqualified as MP on the basis of Section 8(3) of RPA 1951.

In this context:

Disqualification grounds:

| Constitutional | Statutory |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → unsound mind → undischarged insolvent → occupying office of profit, etc. → citizen of India (nat) etc. | <p>(RPA 1951)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Section 8 (1), 8(2): Disqualification if convicted under specific offences → Section 8(3): Automatic disqualification if convicted with sentence more than 2 years. → Section 123 → Section 135 // |

Apparent ambiguity in Section 8, RPA 1951:

1. Section 8 (1) and 8(2) provide for disqualification - if convicted of specific offences.



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2. Section 8(3) : automatic disqualification if sentence is greater than 2 years.
(for 6 years)

3. Ambiguity: Does section 8(3) override section 8(1) and 8(2) ?

Need to resolve the ambiguity:

1. to uphold principle of transparency in electoral laws
↓
so that voters may choose without bias
2. de-criminalisation of politics.
3. If section 8(3) ~~is~~ does not override 8(1) and 8(2)
↓
it may give a loophole to criminal candidates
4. (similar such loophole was exploited by criminals - section 8(4), till it was struck down by SC in Lily Thomas case.)

Way forward :

1. Clarify over-riding provision of section 8(3)
2. Further steps towards de-criminalisation of politics;
→ robust implementation of Section 123 (Abhinav case)
(bribery and soliciting votes on grounds of race, caste, religion, etc.) //

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Q2.

Constitution is a mere skeleton whereas constitutionalism is the soul of democracy. Discuss.

A:

The fundamental difference between constitution and constitutionalism is that ~~whereas~~ on one

hand, constitutionalism is the CONCEPT of limiting the powers of the STATE, constitution is the means of doing so.

constitutionalism as the soul of democracy is the end, constitution is merely the means.

How constitution is merely skeleton:

1. written document → fixed
2. Defines structure of govt (LS, RS, state govt, etc).
3. Defines rights of citizens and duties of state.

(eg) Article 21: "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty unless allowed by procedure established by law"

↓
literal interpretation:

At Copalan case:

If procedure allows, right to life can be taken away.

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4. Literal Interpretation,

(eg): Shankar Prasad case (1951):
"Constitutional Amendments not considered law under Article 13, and hence can take away fundamental rights"

Now constitutionalism is the soul of democracy

1. Makes constitution a living breathing document
2. Allows for expansive interpretation
↓
to meet aspirations of citizens

(eg): Article 21:
→ "due process of law"
→ "life is not merely breathing, it is living with choice and dignity"
→ right to clean environment, education, privacy, etc.

3. Interpretation in spirit

(eg): Kesavananda Bharti judgement:
"Constitutional amendments can't change the IDEA of INDIA"
↓
evolution of Basic Structure Doctrine (BSD)

4. free and fair elections, democracy, federalism, etc are part of BSD
↓
Soul of Democracy

Thus, without constitutionalism, constitution is merely a fancy book



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Q3:

"Electoral bonds are a double edged sword, providing anonymity to donors while raising concerns around transparency." To what extent have electoral bonds further legitimized opacity in electoral funding?

A:

Electoral bonds are Non-Interest bearing, promissory notes, introduced by Finance Act 2017, to ensure political funding is not done using black money.

In this context:

① Transparency concerns of electoral bonds:

1. Bonds carry no ownership information.
2. Political party - ~~does~~ has no compulsion to disclose name of donor
3. Power: no compulsion to disclose
4. If donor is a corporate entity: no limits, no disclosure required.
5. Violates citizens' "right to information", about their representatives
6. Potential concerns about foreign interference via corporate entities.
7. Donors have to purchase electoral bonds from



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designated SBI bank branch

↓

SBI being a PSU bank - govt may have information about all donors

↓

Information asymmetry, lack of level playing field.

At the same time, they have increased transparency:

1. KYC necessary to buy ~~fund~~ bonds.

2. Have to be purchased digitally
(ie, money is transferred digitally)

↓

it can be traced

↓

ensures black money does not come into political system.

3. Preserves privacy of donors.

4. SBI would maintain identity of all buyers

↓

for investigation later, if needed.

Analysis:

1. While issue of black money has been addressed, lack of transparency still exists.

2. Concern of foreign interference has been voiced by Election Commission in SC.

3. Need to balance privacy and transparency

Way forward:

↓ VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE

(5) by Shankhand party IMM - received
to 1 cr bond from Hindalco.

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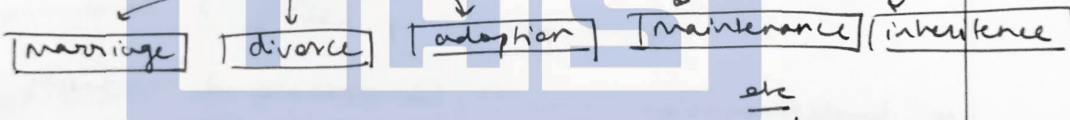
Q4: Question of gender equality is central to debate on UCC. What are the challenges in reconciling UCC with gender equality as enshrined in the constitution?

D: The Uniform Civil Code (Article 44) is referred to as the "unfulfilled dream of the nation's founding fathers".

Gender equality is enshrined in Articles 14-16 of the constitution. (and also Articles 39, etc.)

Gender equality central to debate on UCC:

1. UCC deals with uniform personal laws



2. India being a largely patriarchal society, personal laws are biased against women.

3. Examples:

- triple talaq
- halala
- maintenance of 2nd wife under Hindu code
- differing age of marriage for boys and girls (21 and 18 respectively).

4. Hindu women did not have right to property before codification of Hindu laws.



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5. Many Muslim laws are still not even codified
↓
disproportionately biased against women

Challenges in reconciling gender equality and UCC:

1. Articles 25, 26

→ Article 26 gives religious denomination freedom to manage religious affairs

→ This has been interpreted by courts and legal experts to mean that

personal laws are not subject to judicial review.

2. Lack of codification of all laws

3. State interference in personal matters

↓
against principle of liberty

4. Implementation issues: constitutional morality v/s public morality

Way forward:

1. Immediate codification of all personal laws

2. Codification will allow us to understand the extent of gender inequality.

3. This will then enable the state to take appropriate steps across all religions.

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Q5: "Governor's office is neither decorative nor inconsequential - it assumes a constitutional role of profound essence". To what extent does the Governor actively contribute to governance of a state, and reinforce principles of federalism?

A: Article 153 describes office of Governor - and ~~154~~ defines the ~~an office~~ in which all the ~~the~~ and Article 154 describes the office as one in which all the executive power of the state is vested.

Governor, to a significant extent - contributes to the governance of a state, and to principles of federalism.

Contribution to governance, and federalism:

1. Article 163: "All executive action ... in name of Governor"
2. Article 163: Discretionary power to governor
3. Article 166: Governor to make rules for convenient transaction of business
4. Article 167: "Duties of Chief Minister to Governor"
 ↓
 → inform Governor about ALL executive action taken.
 → ie, it is Governor's responsibility, to ensure governance ^{Page} is accordance with constitution.



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5. Article 200, 201 :

- giving ~~assent~~ assent to legislation
- withholding assent if it is against constitution, etc

6. Article 356 : Governor can report to President :

(if administration is not in accordance with Constitution)

7. Administration of [Scheduled areas] -
5th and 6th schedule.

8. as Chancellor of universities.

Thus, as Lunchi and Lakshmi Commission have noted, Governor is the linchpin to the federal scheme in the Constitution.

Yet, there are [several issues] in office of Governor, which have led to gone against principles of federalism :

1. Partisan functioning

2. Interference with [State Executive] -

3. Abuse of Article 356.

(eg) during 1975-77, 78-80 and 81-84.

4. Delay in giving assent to legislation

(eg) Jallikattu legislation in Tamil Nadu.

Thus, Supreme Court has observed in [BP

Singhal Case 2007], and [Nabha Khera Case 2015],

"Doctrine of Absence without responsibility
doesn't exist in Indian Constitution"

Shriyashri Singh Case

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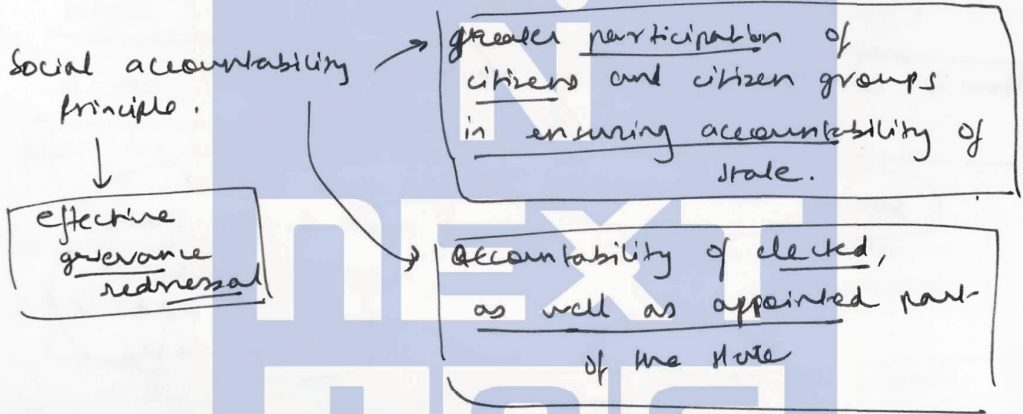
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Q6: Recently, demand has been rising in a state regarding enactment of Social Accountability Law. How can such a law lead to good governance and boost citizens participation in decision-making?

Ans: Recently, there has been a demand in Rajasthan and several other states, for a Social Accountability Law.



How social accountability law can help in good governance

| Component of good governance | How social accountability will help. |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Participatory | → law envisions greater participation |
| 2. consensus oriented | → law envisions inputs of multiple citizens and citizen groups. |

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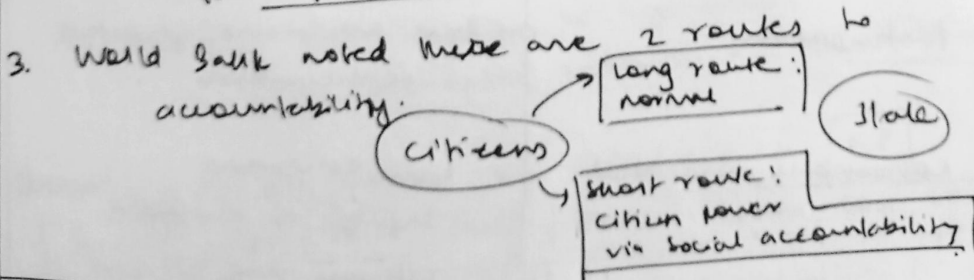
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- 3. Responsive → Law envisions better grievance redressal
 - 4. Accountable → Law is focused directly on accountability of both
 - ↙ elected executive
 - ↘ appointed executive
- and so on.

How it can boost citizens participation in decision making :



2. "Lack of accountability leads to a cynical lethargy amongst citizens"
i.e. citizens feel that there is no point of their participation



Thus, way forward :

- 1. 2 way communication, (Gy) @ My Gov.
- 2. Public hearings, (Gy) EIA //

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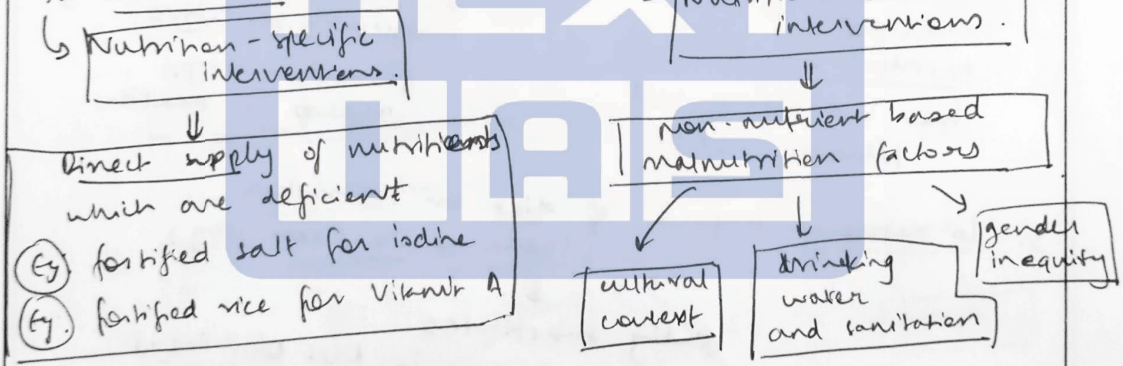
Q7:

There is a need for convergence of "nutrient-specific" and "nutrition-sensitive" interventions to effectively tackle child undernutrition in India.
Examine

A:

According to NHFS-5, ~ 35% children suffer from stunting; ~ 19% from wasting and according to NITI Aayog's Multi Dimensional Poverty Index, ~ 20% India's multi dimensional poverty is on ground of nutrition, where India suffers from the triple burden of malnutrition

In this context:



Why India needs a convergence of both approaches:

- If nutrient-sensitive interventions are ignored - directly supplying nutrients, body won't be able to absorb the nutrients.

(Eg) in Bihar, it was found that nutrients given to kids are not absorbed because of diarrhoea due to poor sanitation

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2. Cultural context has to be taken into consideration.
(eg.) vegetarians can't be given eggs / fish oil
↓
need to be given substitutes.
(eg.) flax seeds for omega-3.
3. If nutrition-specific interventions are ignored:
the nutrient deficiency will continue to persist.

Hence, convergence is needed:

1. To holistically tackle malnutrition at all levels.
2. To remove the impact of gender on malnutrition.
(eg.) deficiency of iron.
(NHFS-5 - increased to 58%).
↓
Nutrient specific: Iron and folic acid tablets (IFA)
↓
nutrient-sensitive: gender equity, access to health.
3. To remove impact of diet on nutrition (such as veg / non-veg)
↓
finding substitutes
(eg.) milk instead of eggs in Mel Day meal.
4. To remove impact of sanitation. → Swachh Bharat

Way forward:

1. Convergent approach - not working in silos
2. Scale up best practices:
(eg.) Project SAATHAS: personalized smart nutrition at SMART ANGANWADI in Hansot, Gujarat

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Q8:

"MGNREGA, lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation, has become victim of fiscal apathy".
critically analyze in light of recent developments.

A:

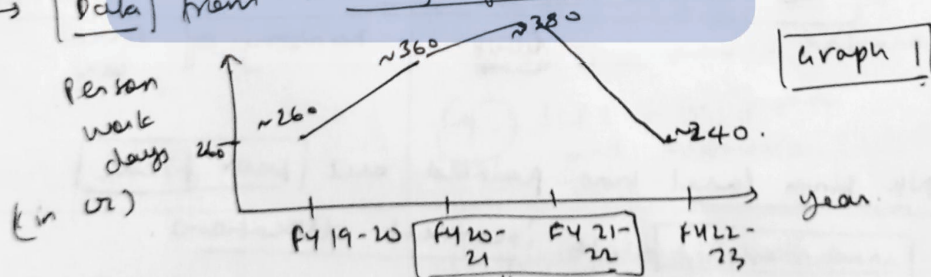
The budget for MGNREGA was cut in budget 2023-24 by $\sim 15\%$, in light of revival of economy and employment.

MGNREGA as lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation

1. safety net: accessible to all adults
(100 days work - manual).

2. "Economic shock absorber during COVID" -
→ MGNREGA was able to absorb the urban to rural migration that took place during lockdown.

→ [Data] from Ministry of Rural Development:



during COVID lockdowns.

3. Providing security against seasonal nature
of agriculture.

→ farmers join MGNREGA during non-crop season

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"Victim of fiscal apathy"

Yes :

- Budget reduction.
- delayed wage payments via PFMS, in some states
- lack of work.

No.

- Demand driven scheme.
- as can be seen from Graph 1:
demand increased \downarrow from 2020 to 2022
then decreased again
 \downarrow
in fact, it decreased below pre-covid level
- hence, less budget needed.

→ if there is more demand, more budget can be dynamically increased

- Govt. - Ministry of Rural Dev

Nrc Singh Panel has pointed out poor fiscal maintenance - i.e. incorrect allocations.
Steps such as dynamic allocations,
such as for MURKGA, would improve fiscal maintenance.

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Q9: "India must leverage, if not manage, global political divides". How can current geopolitical changes pave way to India's rise to global high table?

A: Honorable External Affairs Minister recently said:

"History has lessons for an aspiring power - leverage the dominant, collaborate with the convergent and manage the competition"

Current geopolitical changes

How it provides opportunity to India's rise to global high table

(I): USA - China competition (leading)
↓
technology competition
↓
derisking of supply chains.

1. "China + 1"
↓
Potential for India to build its manufacturing industry at scale.
2. Supply Chain Resilience - with like minded nations

(Eg:): SCPI with Japan and Australia.

(II): Russia - Ukraine crisis - (leading to)
↓
"Greater Eurasia"
↓
"weaponisation of everything"

1. Multi polarity and multi alignment
2. cement status as first responder to crisis

(Eg:): Black Sea Grains Initiative

(Eg:): evacuation operation Ganga



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(iii): Climate change

changing map of energy security

rising role of climate institutions

1. "Potential to become the first country to industrialize without carbonizing"

- ex. NITI Aayog CEO Anilash Kant

↓

Can show a path to Global South.

2. Voice of Global South

(eg) at G20

3. International Labor Alliance.

(iv): Rising role of technology

AI

→ 5G, semiconductors.

1. GPAI - India is one of founding members (Global Partnership on AI)

2. D10 - group of 10 democracies, for 59

(v): Changing West Asia

→ Abraham Accords.

→ Saudi-Iran dialogue, etc.

1. Greenhouse gases for multilateral partnerships

2. Energy security by diversification of supply

↓

ie, bargaining power

(vi): New Washington Consensus

Stakeholder capitalism

security-development hybridization.

1. India can benefit from friendshoring.

(vii): Change in global theatre of interest towards Indo-Pacific.

1. Indian doctrine of CAIAP

Thus, each dimension of the current geopolitical arena holds enormous opportunity for India //

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Q10:

"Berlin can be India's gateway to EU"

Elaborate with respect to Germany's significance in India's relationship with EU.

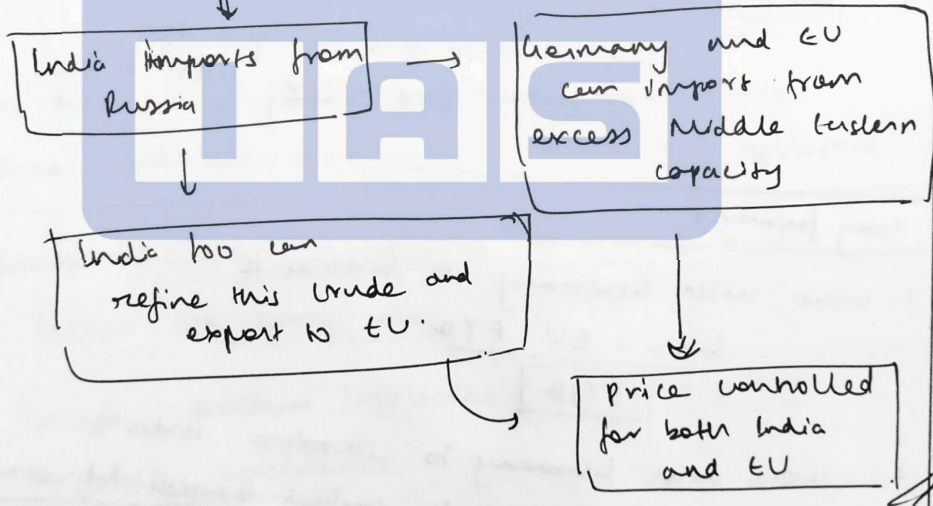
A:

India - Germany partnership is based on common values of democracy, development, and now just climate transition too.

In this context:

Germany as India's gateway to EU:

1. Key role in creating alternate crude oil supply chain, post Russia - Ukraine crisis.



2. Clean energy and climate transition partnership.

Initially, India and Germany signed a Green Urban Mobility Partnership.

This was followed by greater Indian engagement with EU on public transport.

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3. India and Germany initially formed a Green Energy Partnership

This was followed by

India - EU green Energy Partnership,
and India EU green hydrogen forum.

Thus, Germany has been acting as "gateway" to EU.

4. Cooperation on industrial development

(Ex: German automobile companies amongst first to enter India

5. Cooperation on space.

6. India - Germany cooperation on Innovation

↓
can be leveraged for greater innovation partnership with EU.

Way forward :

1. Work with Germany to fast-track

India - EU FTA

(BTIA)

2. Work with Germany to resolve India's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism issues related to

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाथिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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Q.11!

How has anti-defection law impacted relationship between pol parties and individual legislators? In light of recent incidents, also discuss unintended consequences it has on functioning of democracy in India.

A.:

The anti-defection law was introduced in India via the 52nd Amendment in 1985, Xth Schedule, and corresponding Anti-Defection Law.

It was introduced to curb existing defections and horse-trading, which was impacting stability of govt.

It has had a profound impact on relationship between political parties and individual legislators:

1. Made individual legislators compelled to follow the party whip.
2. forced individual legislators to vote against their conscience
3. curbed intra-party dissent
4. Broken link of accountability between voter and his representative
↓
led to less discussions in Parliament //



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5. Increased the dependence of individual legislators on political parties.
6. Created ~~an~~ alternate extra-constitutional authority inside the House - whips

Unintended consequences on functioning of democracy :

1. ~~led~~ leading to "wholesale defections"
(as 2/3rd party defecting is exempt under the act)
(eg.) recently seen in Goa.
2. Disturbs the balance of power between executive and legislature
↓
earlier, pride members (both of ruling and opposition party) were at greater liberty to hold the executive accountable.
3. Created a situation in which major decisions of the House now may be taken by only a few party leaders.
↓
against principles of democracy //

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

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4. Reduced scope for collaboration across party lines in legislature
↓
greater confrontation in parliament
↓
voter interests not represented
↓
against democracy
5. Against separation of powers.
↓
giving executive control over legislators (Vic whip).

Way forward :

1. Supreme Court in Keshavn Singh Vs Speaker of Manipur (2020)

- ~~Speaker~~ disqualification petitions must be decided within 3 months, unless there are exceptional circumstances
- petitions should not be decided by speaker, but by an independent mechanism

2. Bhesh Kumarani Committee :

- decision should be by President/Governor, on advice of Election Commission
- It should be limited to votes where stability of govt is threatened
(eg: No-confidence motions)

3. Political parties must internally establish greater democracy

4. Voter awareness and age education

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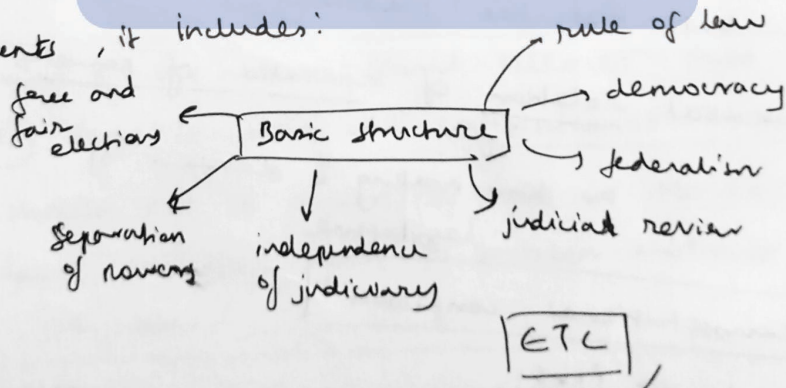
Q12.

Critics assert that limitless judicial authority rests on structural ambiguity of BSD. Has the elastic nature of Basic structure made judiciary more powerful than executive?

A: The Basic Structure Doctrine was originated in the Kesavananda Bharti case 1973, and relates to the amending power of Parliament.

Doctrine asserts that Parliament has unlimited amending power, as long as it does not violate / abridge / contravene the Basic Structure.

The basic structure is an "idea" in the minds of the "judges" - uncodified. Over the years, via various judgements, it includes:



ie, if in a future case, SC thinks that something needs to be added to Basic structure, it can add the same, to further limit the Parliament.

Hence, critics allege that limitless judicial authority rests on structural ambiguity of B.D.:

1. Uncodified nature

2. Constitutional silences :

something which the constitutional is silent on, and yet imposes restrictions on govt action, if against essential facets of constitution.

3. B.D. is one of the "constitutional silences" in India (other being "constitutional morality")

4. Both are in hands of judiciary.

5. It may lead to judicial overreach.

6. It is referred to as "tyranny of the undelected" (as Executive is accountable to the legislature, but not the Judiciary)

7. Potential violation of separation of powers
↓
as law-making is domain of legislature

8. "Constitutional confusion" :

→ via PILs.

→ (6) People have begun to routinely approach courts for policy matters.

9. "Intra-constitutional hierarchy"

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On the other hand,

judiciary has used Basic Structure sparingly:

1. Used only 19 times in ~50 years
2. Used ~~only~~ ^{mostly} in cases of blanket violation of spirit of constitution.

(eg) "unlimited^{ed} amendment powers" } 42nd Amendment
"no judicial review"

3. Constitutional amendments have been invalidated only on one ground

↓
"Judicial independence / 'judicial review'"

Way

In this context, way forward:

1. Codification of basic structure - as done in Germany

2. Merging of all "constitutional bilences" into one:
(ie) Basic Structure and Constitutional Morality should not ~~be~~ separately used to strike down laws. This will lead to greater mistrust and confusion.

- ③ foundation of constitutionalism is a state limited by constitution. Basic structure represents these limitations ⇒ hence must be codified.



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Q.13:

FRs are not gifts bestowed upon by the state, rather an individual possesses them independent of the state. In this context, discuss desirability of reasonable restrictions on various FRs.

A:

The given ~~question~~ statement relates to the relationship between natural rights, fundamental rights, reasonable restrictions, and the social contract.

fundamental rights:

- guaranteed to all citizens
- enforceable against the state
- key to basic human existence (civil and political)

Natural rights:

- universal
- not depended on any state/culture, etc.

Reasonable restrictions → restrictions to FRs.

Social contract: → agreement of men - which results in society //

"Fundamental rights and reasonable restrictions are a means to balance natural rights and the social contract" //

FRs are not gifts imposed by state:

1. Men are born equal //
equality is not given by state //



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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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2. Hence: Article 14:

"State shall not deny to any person equality before law or equal protection of laws" . . . "

→ "state shall not deny" means state is not the origin of this fundamental right

3. Similarly: Article 21:

"No person's life or personal liberty shall be taken away unless by procedure established by law"

→ "shall not be taken away" - means state is not the origin of this right,

→ State's role is to ensure this right is NOT TAKEN AWAY

Yet, certain FRs are bestowed by the State ↓

1. Article 16: equality of opportunity in public employment

→ public employment is under ambit of sovereignty of state.

→ If state so desires - it needn't ensure equality of opportunity in public employment.

2. Similarly, for Articles 29, 30.

and so on //



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Desirability of reasonable restrictions to ensure social contract

1. In rights bestowed by state - reasonable restrictions are the will of the state.
 2. Even in natural rights, reasonable restrictions help ensuring constitutionalism
- ⑤
- ↳ Sovereignty and Integrity of India : necessary for sanctity of state
 - ↳ Public order and morality :
 - ↳ for social morality - part of social contract
 - ↳ for law and order - necessary to ensure other citizens may enjoy their rights.
 - ↳ India's interests with foreign nations : to protect sovereignty
 - ↳ 'Interests of scheduled areas' : to preserve rights of indigenous communities
 - ↳ for public health : to prevent faith from harming citizens
 - ↳ to give effect to socio-economic rights

↳ via DPSPs
 (eg) Aadhaar as violation of privacy, for public service delivery //

Hence, reasonable restrictions must exist,
 "India is a land of no absolutes"

However, if fundamental rights are violated, Doctrine of Proportionality must be used, with Harmonious Construction



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उम्मीदवारों को
इस उत्तर में
कोई लिखावा
नहीं
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Q14: "SR Bommai vs Union..." signified a paradigm shift in judicial interpretation of union's authority to assume control of State's admin". Discuss significance and impact of the judgement in cementing federal structure.

A: SR Bommai case is a landmark federalism case, which has significantly advanced the spirit of federalism in the country.

The judgement was related to imposition of President's rule, and dismissal of SR Bommai as Karnataka CM in 1989, on ground of not having absolute majority, post election.

Significance of the judgement in cementing federal structure:

1. federalism declared to be part of Basic Structure doctrine
2. SC gave clear guidelines for imposition of President's rule under Article 356

Objectively, there must be materials/documents on the basis of which it has been decided

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That "governance cannot be in accordance with constitution"

3. Lack of absolute majority post elections is not one such ground

4. Courts can look into advisory documents/ reports / materials on the basis of which Union Council of Ministers advices President to impose Article 356.

5. Imposition of Article 356 is subject to Judicial review

6. Governor is not to dissolve the Assembly before getting legislative approval from Parliament (60 days according to Article 356)

↓
Till approval, Assembly is only to be suspended

7. If courts find action to be ultra vires
↓
Courts have power to revive the assembly

8. Floor test to be used for deciding confidence

9. Federalism Article 356 may violate federalism,
hence, it is to be used sparingly,

it was intended to be a "dead letter"

10. ~~Scratch held that~~

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या को
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

Impact of the judgement :

1. Incidents of the ~~prob~~ use of Article 356 have reduced drastically.
2. Used only ~30 times for last 30 years (since judgement)
(compared to 80+ times in first 40 years of independence) (before judgement)
3. Supremacy of floor test :
upheld in Jaggambika Pal v/s State of UP

4. Significant interpretation of constitution

↓
while courts can't look into advice
tendered to President, they may look into
material on basis of which advice was
tendered

⑤ 5. Power to judiciary to reinstate assembly
↓
prevents hasty decision by Governor.

Dr Ambedkar intended it to be a "dead letter".

Hence SR Bommai judgement has gone a
long way in institutionalizing spirit of constituent
Assembly //

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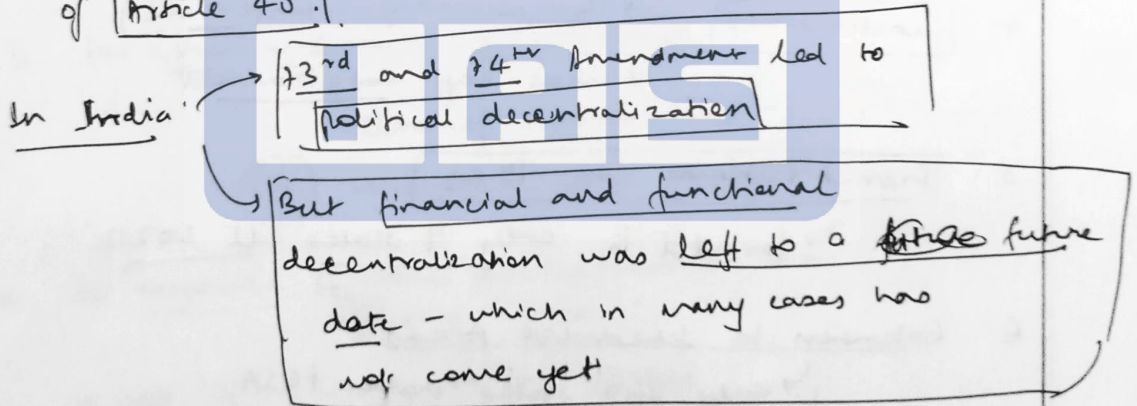
Q15:

Key to effective decentralization is "pol decentralization should follow finance and functional decentralization"
Discuss in context of impediments faced by local Governance in India.

A: Local self govt in India is not a new concept.

It dates back to Sabhas in Vedic period, to elected local bodies during Cholas, as documented in Uthamerur inscriptions.

In post independence India, they were formalized and given Constitutional status via 73rd and 74th amendment - to realize Gandhian vision of Article 40.



Impediments faced :

- Elections
 - not regular (Eg: held after 7 years in Tamil Nadu)
 - Lack of independence of State Election Commission.
 - Violent (Eg: West Bengal).

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2. funds → some states have not yet formed state finance commissions
 ↳ local bodies reluctant to collect revenue
 (eg.) Bengaluru, Jaipur collect only 5-20% of their potential property tax.
 (Economic survey).
 Most funds from Union/State govt are tied
 (eg.): 50-60% of finance commission grants are tied
3. functions → no state has devolved all 29 subjects of 11th schedule.
 ↳ most states have devolved less than 10
4. functionaries → bureaucratic interference
 ↳ local staff not trained
5. District Planning Committees
 ↳ formed in only 9 states till 2022
6. Extension to Scheduled Areas
 ↳ only 8/10 states have PESA
 ↳ no municipal extension to scheduled areas
 Act
7. Aaram Sabha → not an effective check on Panchayats
 ↳ social audits not regular
8. Similarly, ward committees not formed //

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Thus, political decentralization should follow financial and functional decentralization :

1. for financial decentralization :

- ↳ compulsory State finance Commission (15th Finance Commission)
- ↳ Greater untied funds
- ↳ performance based funding - based on increasing revenue.

(Eg:) Kerala - entertainment tax //

2. for functional decentralization

- ↳ adopt principle of subsidiarity (2nd ARC)
- ↳ i.e., function should be devolved to that level, which is best suited for it //

3. for effective exercise of functions

↓
skilling of functionaries

(Eg:) Volunteer Corps in Kerala

4. to empower political participation as an effective check :

→ use of e-Gram Swaraj portal

↓
details of all funds with Panchayat

↓
greater political decentralization

5. social audit via SHGs.

These steps will empower the political decentralization, in line with Gandhian vision //

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Q16. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are key to leveraging collective expertise and networks. How can effective partnership and localized implementation be fostered to accelerate achievements of SDGs in India?

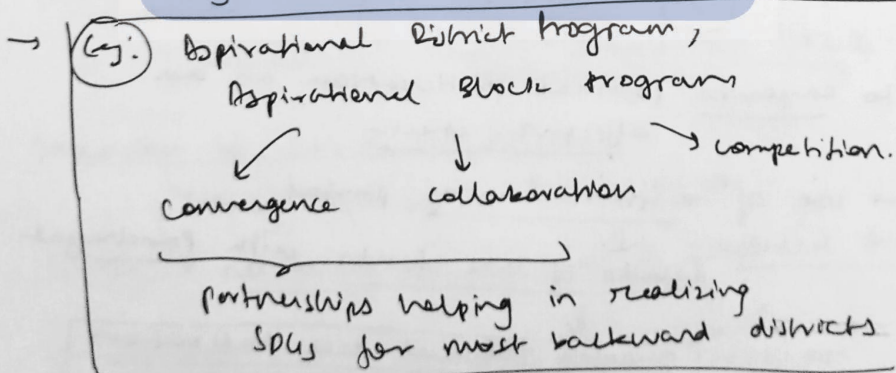
A: The given question is in context of the

report recently published by NITI Aayog -
and "Indian Model of Localising SDGs"

Role of effective partnerships in accelerated implementation of SDGs:

(I) : intra-govt partnerships:

- ie, collaboration between diff govt departments
- breaking out of silos



(II) : govt-civil society partnerships:

→ via NITI Aayog | Darpan portal

→ to ensure civil society and state play a

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Complementary role

→ civil society: last mile implementation of SDGs

(eg:) Akshay Patra - Mid Day Meal

↓
SDG 2 zero hunger

(eg:) Kailash Satyarthi - Bachpan Bachao.

↓
SDG 4

(ii) govt - corporate partnerships:

→ via CSR - companies Act 2013

→ ~ 15,000 cr spent as CSR in FY 22

→ accelerating SDG realisation

(eg:) Tata trusts - Walthan project

↓
UCN status of Mahseer changed from critically endangered to least concern

↓
SDG 15

(iii) govt - citizen partnership:

→ "whole of society approach"

→ Jan Shiksha, Jan Andolan

→ Swachh Bharat - led to SDG 6 (sanitation)

→ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao - led to SDG 5 (women empowerment)

Localised Implementation to accelerate SDGs

• ~~Via local bodies~~ 1. Via local bodies

↓
ground connect, SHCs, social audit, etc



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- answer
- Location specific agriculture and nutrition.
↓
SDG - 2 zero hunger.
(Eg:) crops specific to agro-climatic zones.
↓
millet
↓
higher vitamin, iron, etc → better nutrition
 - Local communities empowered to conserve environment
↓
SDG 13, 15: forest restoration
(Eg:) via community rights in FRA 2006
 - decentralization of renewable energy - SDG 7
(Eg.) rooftop solar, bladeless winds,
PM KUSUM - vijadeta ke area
↳ annadata se vijadeta
 - Health and well ness centres - SDG 3
(Eg) Local PHCs upgraded to HEWCs
↓
⑤ local level prevention and screening of diseases

thus, effective partnerships and localisation of SDGs are critical to accelerating implementation of SDGs in India //.

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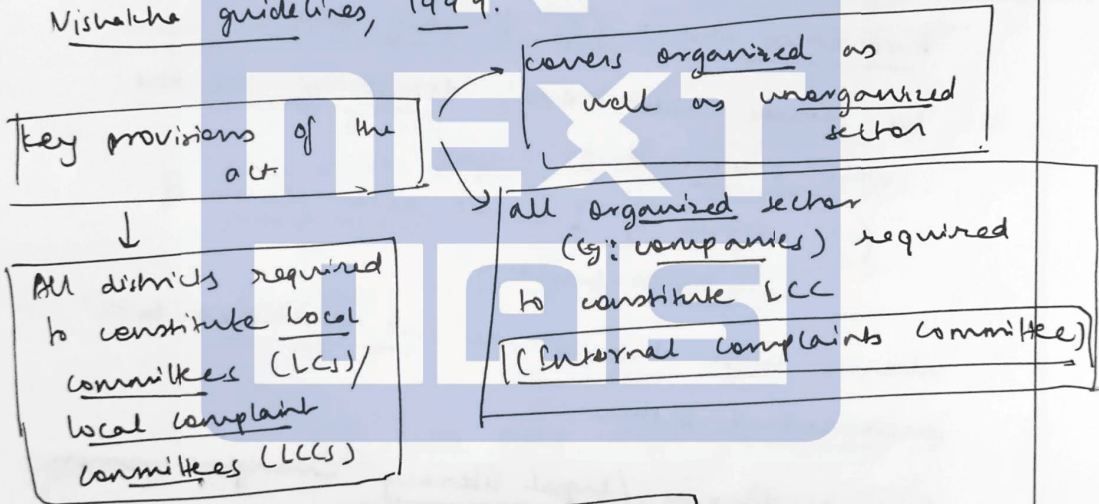
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Q7

How has implementation of POSH Act resulted in limited success in raising awareness about sexual harassment, and what factors have hindered its outreach to unorganized sector? Propose strategies to bridge this gap, and ensure comprehensive protection to women in unorg sector.

A:-

The POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment...) Act was passed in 2013, based on Supreme Court's Vishalika guidelines, 1999.



ie, it aims to comprehensively protect women from sexual harassment at the workplace //

limited success in raising awareness:

- All companies / organizations have not constituted ICCs
(eg: 16/30 sports federations of India have not constituted ICC, ie, govt itself is not a good role model. //



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2. All districts have not constituted LCs.
3. Awareness about the process / mechanisms / protections is lacking
4. In some cases, privacy of the process has not been ensured
 ↓
 leading to concerns among women of stigmatization.

Factors hindering outreach to pvt sector :

1. Awareness about LCs is very low.
2. In formal institutions, details of ICC are well publicized.
 (eg.) details of ICC at each floor of my office building
 whereas such details are not publicized in unorganized sector
3. Lack of literacy / legal literacy amongst women employed in unorganized sector
4. Seasonal migration in unorganized sector / frequent change of jobs.
5. Punishment for false complaints.
 ↓
 while this provision is necessary, it also contributes to apprehension in unorganized sector, due to low bargaining power

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चाहिए
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write on this
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6. fear of stigmatization / losing job.

in unorganized sector workers being often on
hand-to-mouth existence :- This is a major
apprehension for
them

Strategies to bridge this gap :

1. Compulsory publication of details of LCE/LC
in all unorganized sector establishments.
2. Outreach and awareness initiatives
3. Social security / safety net / rehabilitation programs
for victims
↓
to give them psychological confidence to
move ahead with their complaints
4. Timely Counseling and support initiatives
for the victims

Mentioned steps will help improve utility of
POSH Act 2013 for unorganized sector, and
make the workplace safer for ~ 80% of female
workforce in unorganized sector

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Q.18:

"Neo-liberal reforms and globalization have deeply transformed institutions of welfare state and set the ground for a new type of civil services".
In this context, examine challenges faced in service delivery and suggest reforms.

A:

Neoliberalism is a economic-political theory relating to low state intervention in society and economy, with state mainly playing a regulatory role.

It has increased in the phase of globalisation seen post the cold war.

This has led to challenges for public service delivery:

1. delays in decision making

↓
→ delay in service delivery

② → Red tapism: state institutions are slower than non-state institutions created by neoliberalism and globalisation.

2. Lack of political will / conflict of interest in political will

③ ↓
due to vested interests in non-state profit making organisations.



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

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

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

3. Governmental confusion

↓
in type of schemes to fund.
↓

Capital expenditure v/s revenue expenditure

4. Distractions due to resource allocations :

neoliberalism + globalisation

→ resources consumed rapidly

↓
resource inequality

Shifting focus from core welfare initiatives

← need for state to step in for equitable access

(eg.) inequity in access to water

"water in 21st century could be like what oil was in 20th century - a source of wealth and conflict" - Brahma Chellaney

5. This is leading to focus shifting away from health, education, etc

6. New challenges of climate change, etc. terrorism, etc.

7. Lack of public participation.

reforms to resolve aforementioned challenges

1. faster functioning of govt

↓
leaves structure i.e. lesser levels of decision making

↓
clearly defined roles

↓
effective delegation

↓
focus on WORK CULTURE

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(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

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

2. Transparency in disclosures of public representatives and bureaucrats
↓
to prevent ~~public~~ conflict of interest
"Sunlight is the best disinfectant"
3. Policy on budgetary allocation, instead of ad-hoc decision making
↓
Output outcome budgeting, performance budgeting
4. focus on equity in access to basic resources
↓
Economic survey suggested a Bare Necessity Index
5. collaboration with priv sector and civil society on welfare initiatives
(eg.) CSR,
NITI Aayog Sarva Portal, etc
6. International collaboration to resolve global issues
(eg.) terrorism, climate change
7. 2-way public participation (eg.) myGov
Mission Karmayogi must ensure that it takes into account aforementioned challenges, to make the bureaucracy future-ready

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Q19:

China views India as "Asian Rival" with innate ability to counter its hegemonic goals in Asia. Despite these difficulties in India-China relations, there are also convergences. Discuss.

A:

India believes that all countries have their own journey, and world needs collaboration to resolve global issues, which naturally leads to multipolarity, and absence of any hegemony.

China though, with its objective of hegemony - thus does it fundamentally against the concept of equity and absence of hegemony.



and so on

yet, there are areas of convergence:

(1): Economic:

1. Biased functioning of Bretton Woods institutions

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(eg): US has 15% + shareholding in IMF, and major proposals need 85% + votes to pass, effectively giving USA a veto

2. Biased credit rating agencies
3. Hegemony of US dollar in global trade
↓
de-dollarization of the world.
4. Doha development Agenda at WTO
↓
and subsequent Peace clause on agriculture

- (ii) : Socio-cultural :
1. against blind "westernization" of society.
 2. against western societal ideas and values eroding indigenous ones.

- (iii) : Multilateral :
1. Peace and stability in region
↓
cooperation via SCO (Shanghai cooperation org)
and its Permanent RATS
(Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure)
 2. Coop - with other developing nations at BRICS.
(eg): BRICS proposal to set up its own rating agency

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Candidates must not write on this margin

(10)

On climate change :

1. Setief that contribution to resolve climate issues should be proportional to cumulative historical emissions, not just present emissions.
2. Climate finance for developing nations.

(11)

Industrial complementarities :

1. India as a market for China
2. India as a destination for Chinese businesses to move to - considering rising cost of manufacturing, labour, etc in China

Thus, there are several areas of converges.

Yet, as honorable reference Minister has clearly laid, "Cooperation between the 2 nations can progress ONLY if peace and tranquility is established on the border"

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

Q20:

Indo-Pacific in recent times has emerged as zone of diverging interests and priorities. Discuss. Do you think Global Security Initiative will supersede Quad in the region.?

A: The Indo-Pacific has emerged as the new theatre for global cooperation, collaboration, competition and conflict, ~~as it~~ as it is lying along several of the major geopolitical "arcs" - such as the "arc of communication" (SLOCs).

Diverging interests and priorities:

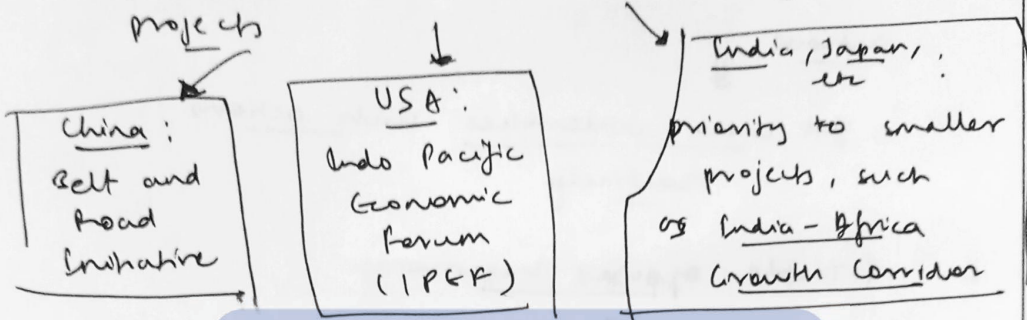
1. Chinese resilience / issues with Quad.
2. Chinese opposition to a "free and open, secure and prosperous" Indo Pacific.
3. Diverging views on Taiwan.
4. Potential disruption possible from the multiple Sea Lanes of Communication.
5. Territorial disputes in South China Sea!
6. Differing view / priorities on using oceanic resources
(eg) weather to use deep sea gas reserves ←

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7. Different priorities for connectivity projects



8. Different priorities for developmental approach:



Global Security Initiative (GSI)

1. New initiative proposed by China
2. focused on "joint security" / "indivisible security"
3. against process of sanctions
4. opposing unilateral actions
5. opposing hegemonic practices

Can Global Security Initiative supersede Quad

While the principle of GSI is undoubtedly noble - it is not trusted by the world as it comes from China :

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Candidates must not write on this margin.

1. The principle ~~invokes~~ opposes unilateral actions
↓
yet china undertakes such actions
routinely

2. Principle opposes hegemony

↓
yet china wants regional hegemony
for itself

3. Principle is about joint security

↓
yet - china routinely violates
security of others.

(eg): border with India, south china sea,
etc

Hence, due to these contradictions, CSF can
never supersede other organizations

Yet, if principles of CSF were to be proposed seriously,

its principles may become successful one day