

NEXT IAS

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MAIN TEST SERIES 2023 (FULL LENGTH TEST-6)

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SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

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Evaluator Code :

Q.No	Pg No.	Maximum Marks	Marks	Total
1	1			
2	3			
3	5			
4	7			
5	9			
6	11			
7	13			
8	15			
9	17			
10	19			
11	21			
12	24			
13	27			
14	30			
15	33			
16	36			
17	39			
18	42			
19	45			
20	48			
Grand Total				

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS



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1. "अंतरराज्यीय सीमा विवाद, यदि शीघ्र और निष्पक्षतः नहीं सुलझाए गए, तो स्थायी विवादित मुद्दों में परिवर्तित हो सकते हैं जो विकास में बाधक बनते हैं और टकराव या संघर्ष उत्पन्न करते हैं"। अंतरराज्यीय विवादों को हल करने के लिए संवैधानिक और विधिक ढाँचे पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, स्पष्ट कीजिए कि स्वतंत्र भारत अंतरराज्यीय सीमा विवादों को सुलझाने में क्यों विफल रहा है।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Interstate border disputes, if not promptly and impartially settled, can transform into persistent issues that impede development and generate friction". Highlighting the constitutional and legal framework to resolve interstate disputes, explain why Independent India has failed to resolve inter-state border disputes.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Art. 1 of our constitution describes India as a indivisible union of divisible states.

i.e. states can be reorganised as per will of union legislatures. However, this arrangement leads to ambiguity over certain regions - causing interstate border disputes.

eg. Dispute b/w Maharashtra and Karnataka over Nelgandu.

Constitutional framework to resolve the same

- ① Inter State Council - under Art 263 to talk out disputes of any nature.
- ② Zonal Councils - established under States Reorganisation Act for inter-state coordination.
- ③ Full faith and credit clause - under Art. 261

- ⑦ Prior water dispute Tribunals - to resolve the issue regarding river water of interstate areas.

Reasons for failure in resolving inter-state border disputes -

- ① Colonial legacy - such as ambiguity over frontiers and non-scientific boundaries for provinces
- ② Legal issues - e.g. North East (Reorganisation) Act, 1986 leaves many issues unanswered.
- ③ Lack of co-operative federalism - ISC under Art 263 has met for just 13 times in last 30 years of its creation
- ④ State - centre Tussle e.g. on GST, Finance Commission etc.

Way forward ① A permanent tribunal under Art 263 by President

- ② ISC recommendations can be made binding.

Co-operative federalism is a constitutional ideal and must be respected.

2. ऊर्ध्वाधर (केंद्र-राज्य) और क्षैतिज (अंतर-राज्य) अंतर-सरकारी सहयोग और समन्वय को बढ़ावा देने में अंतर-राज्य परिषद की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Examine the role of the Inter-state Council in promoting vertical (Centre-State) and horizontal (Inter-State) Intergovernmental cooperation and coordination. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Art 263 provides for an Inter-State Council to be established by President to discuss various federal issues.

It was established in 1990 on the recommendation of Lok Sabha Comm.

Role in promoting vertical & horizontal inter-governmental co-operation:

- ① It is constitutionally mandated to discuss all constitutional federal issues of inter-state land disputes, trade & commerce etc.
- ② Form to chalk out plans for administrative co-herence for concurrent list laws e.g. forest, education etc.
- ③ To promote legislative and financial co-operation e.g. discussion on financial grants (Art 272)

However the offering has been limited to four:-

- ① Has met only 14 times in last 30 years.
- ② No follow up on important federal issues such as — Advt Govt, Land dispute
- ③ No interaction with various inter-state commissions eg Punchhi, Sarkaria etc.
- ④ Financial relations can also be discussed — not yet taken.
- ⑤ No adequate secretariat and adequate staff

Some suggestions

- ① NITI can act as agenda setter for ISC.
 - ② Its meeting can be fixed at least twice per year — through constitutional amend.
 - ③ Terms of Reference of Finance Commission can be fixed at ISC itself
 - ④ Permanent secretariat and staff.
- ISC is the instrument to ensure cooperative federalism.

3. लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) के प्रमुख कार्यों पर चर्चा कीजिए। सार्वजनिक धन के सच्चे संरक्षक के रूप में इसकी प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए लोक लेखा समिति (पीएसी) में सुधार के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the key function of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). What steps should be taken to revamp the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in order to enhance its effectiveness as a true guardian of public funds?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was established under recommendation of GoI Act, 1919 in 1921 as a standing committee to ensure financial accountability of union expenditure.

Key Functions

- i) Audit reports of CAG are scrutinized by it
- ii) Scrutiny of Appropriation and Finance Accounts of GoI
- iii) Audit report of autonomous/ semi-autonomous bodies of GoI are scrutinized
- iv) Also carries out propriety scrutiny
e.g. extravagance, wastage, economy etc.
- v) Called - conscience keeper of Government of India.

But it's role as a guardian of public funds is marred by following factors —

- (i) Ex post facto - nature of scrutiny
- (ii) Recommendations are not binding on executive
- (iii) Cannot disallow expenditure
- (iv) Lack of outside expertise, although CAG helps but nature of CAG reports - too technical.

Suggestions for effective functioning :-

- (i) CAG can provide lucid reports - Noddy books introduced by ex CAG - Vinod Rai is good.
- (ii) Recommendations can be made binding
- (iii) An Action Taken Report can be established to scrutinize performance of PAC.
- (iv) Long term appointment of PAC members from present 1 year term to infuse expertise.

PAC is conscience keeper under our constitutional scheme and it must remain so.

4. राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक विकास के चालक के रूप में नगरीकरण की अहम भूमिका को स्वीकार करते हुए, पंद्रहवें वित्त आयोग ने शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) के लिए प्रमुख सुधारों का सुझाव दिया है। भारत में यूएलबी को बढ़ावा देने और पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए पंद्रहवें वित्त आयोग द्वारा दी गई सिफारिशों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Recognizing the pivotal role of urbanization as a driver of national economic growth, the Fifteenth Finance Commission has suggested major reforms for Urban Local Bodies. Evaluate the recommendations put forward by the Fifteenth Finance Commission in promoting and revitalizing ULBs in India.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

15th Finance Commission established under Act.

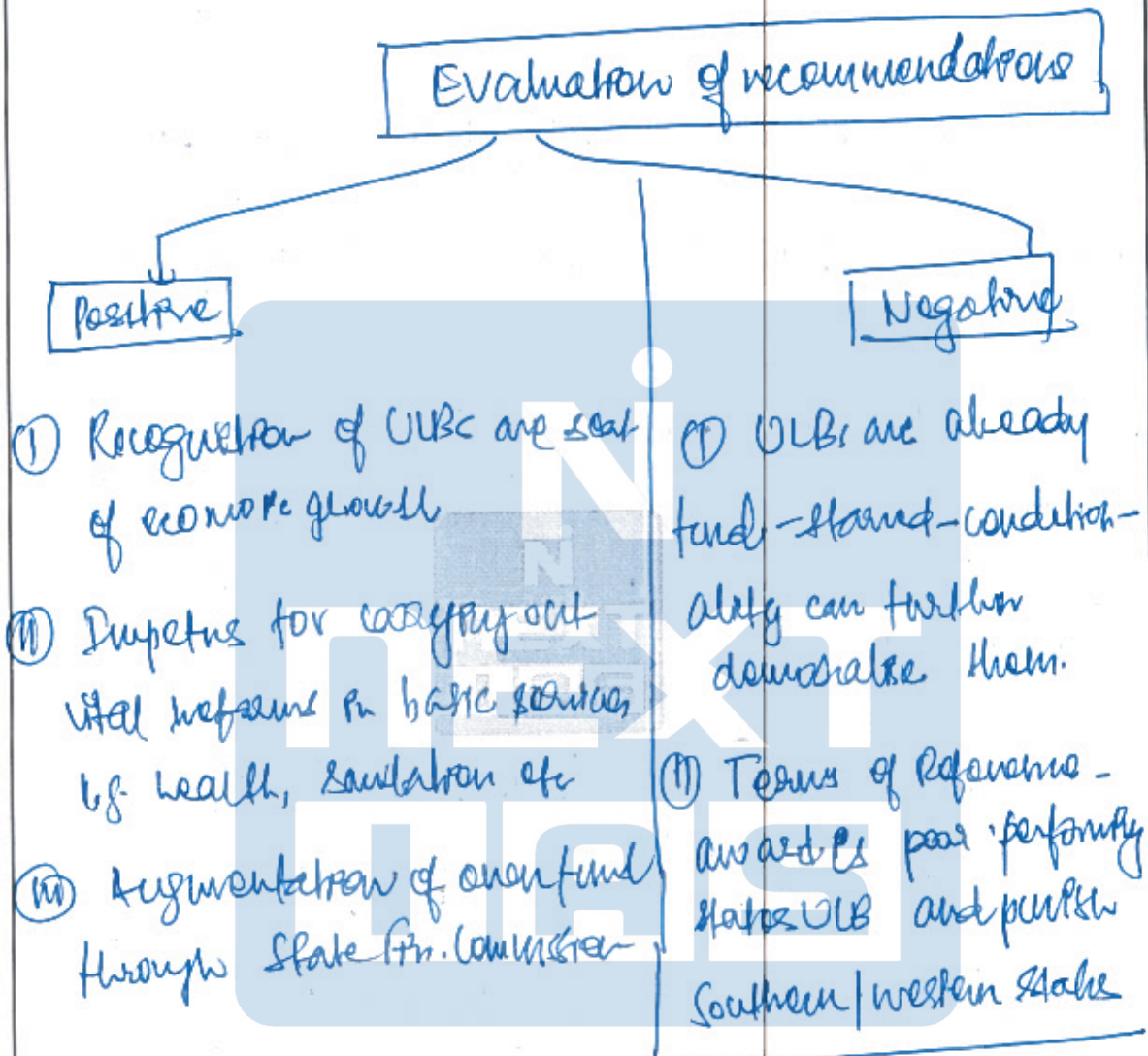
260 has made some key recommendations

regarding Urban Local Bodies.

Some of them are following:—

- ① Exclusive grant of 70 k crore for health related schemes
- ② Special Grants for ULB and 60% of it contributed on ULB carryout sanitation work
- ③ Mandate to state governments to establish own State Finance Commission to augment corpus of ULBs.
- ④ Sanitation and water related funds.

- ⑦ Sectored grants for first time cog. power, health, disaster etc.



The recommendations are far-fetched in ensuring all round development of ULBs. However, the curb on conditionality can be relaxed for fund starved ULBs of Bihar, Jharkhand etc.

5. मौलिक अधिकारों की तुलना में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के तहत प्रदान की गई वाक् और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के दायरे में प्रमुख अंतरों पर प्रकाश डालिए। संसदीय विशेषाधिकार और मौलिक अधिकारों के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखना क्यों आवश्यक है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Highlight the key differences in the scope of Freedom of speech and expression as provided under Parliamentary privileges vis a vis Fundamental rights. Why is it necessary to maintain a balance between parliamentary privilege and fundamental rights? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Art 19(1)(a) provides for Right to freedom of speech and expression for every citizen of India.

Difference between scope of the same for parliamentarians and ordinary citizen

Parliamentarians

Ordinary citizen

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Art 105</u> - allows them (MPs) certain privileges. - <u>Congress are debared from</u> taking any action for statements made in parliament - <u>Important given the nature of work they do - legislating on important matters require broad based discussion</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No such privilege to ordinary citizen - <u>Under Art (19)</u> - no such special privilege allowed Congress can interfere. - <u>Custom restriction</u> such as decency, morality, unity authority of nation act as <u>limit on exercise of Art 19(1)(a)</u>. |
|---|---|

Necessity to maintain balance between both

- ① To let parliamentarians do their duty in unrestricted manner - some privileges are required.
- ② Balance, however, is necessary to maintain the sanctity of parliamentary customs.
- ③ The scope of Art. 105 should not be stretched to a level of rudeness and non-morality.
- ④ Supreme Court in Raja Ram Pal case also pointed that conduct of parliamentarians under Art (105) can be questioned if it is unconstitutional.

Although parliamentary privileges are a necessity for a progressive democracy, yet there should be a balance maintained with Fundamental Right under Art 19.

6. नागरिक समाज संगठन, "सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्यवाई" को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। स्थानीय संसाधन जुटाने (एलआरएम) और निगमित सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (सीएसआर) के माध्यम से कॉर्पोरेट (निगमों द्वारा) वित्तपोषण प्राप्त करने में उन्हें किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है? साथ ही सार्थक उपाय भी सुझाएँ।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

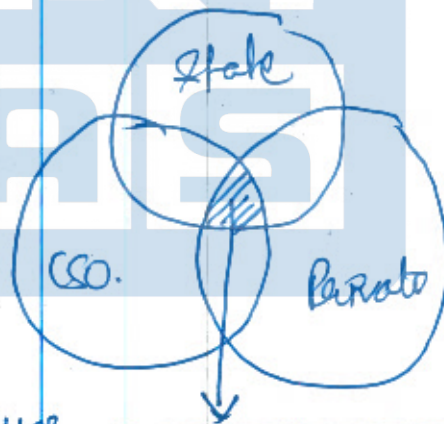
Civil society organizations, play a pivotal role in fostering "collective private action for the public good". What challenges do they face in local resource mobilization (LRM) and corporate funding through corporate social responsibility (CSR)? Also, suggest measures.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Prof Nora Chandoke defines Civil Society Organization (CSO) as politically systematic group engaged in political struggle for rights of common people.

Cohen and Arato consider CSOs as the third pillar of good governance after state and private sector.

Role in fostering public good and governance



- ① Educate people over important socio-economic issues eg. Corruption (Amethi case)

- ② Mobilize public opinion on federally important issue and government scheme eg. SKM on farm bills

- ③ Thwart extreme adventurism by agitating on unpopular actions eg. CAA agitation

- ① Parochial Interest - illat less response on an all India basis.
- ② Non-transparent funding mechanism of various CSO/NGO.
- ③ lack of financial acumen among the members.
- Challenges in mobilising resources

- ④ State Impression and home approach among corporate sector to land helping
- ⑤ Issue of help of financial misappropriation and corruption (e.g. IB report on foreign funding)

Reformative suggestions

- ① State funding of all registered CSO/NGOs
- ② Audit of accounts and fund utilisation of all state funded CSO/NGOs.
- ③ Enactment of CSR for social cause and related CSOs e.g. Transparency International.

CSOs are third pillar of good governance and they must be sustained to ensure the same.

7. गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में पहला कदम कार्यक्रम के डिजाइन, कार्यान्वयन और निगरानी के लिए आवश्यक विश्वसनीय गरीबी मूल्यांकन करना है। इस संदर्भ में नीति आयोग के राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक की पद्धति और महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The first step to eradicating poverty is reliable poverty assessment for program design, implementation, and monitoring. In this context discuss the methodology and significance of NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index.

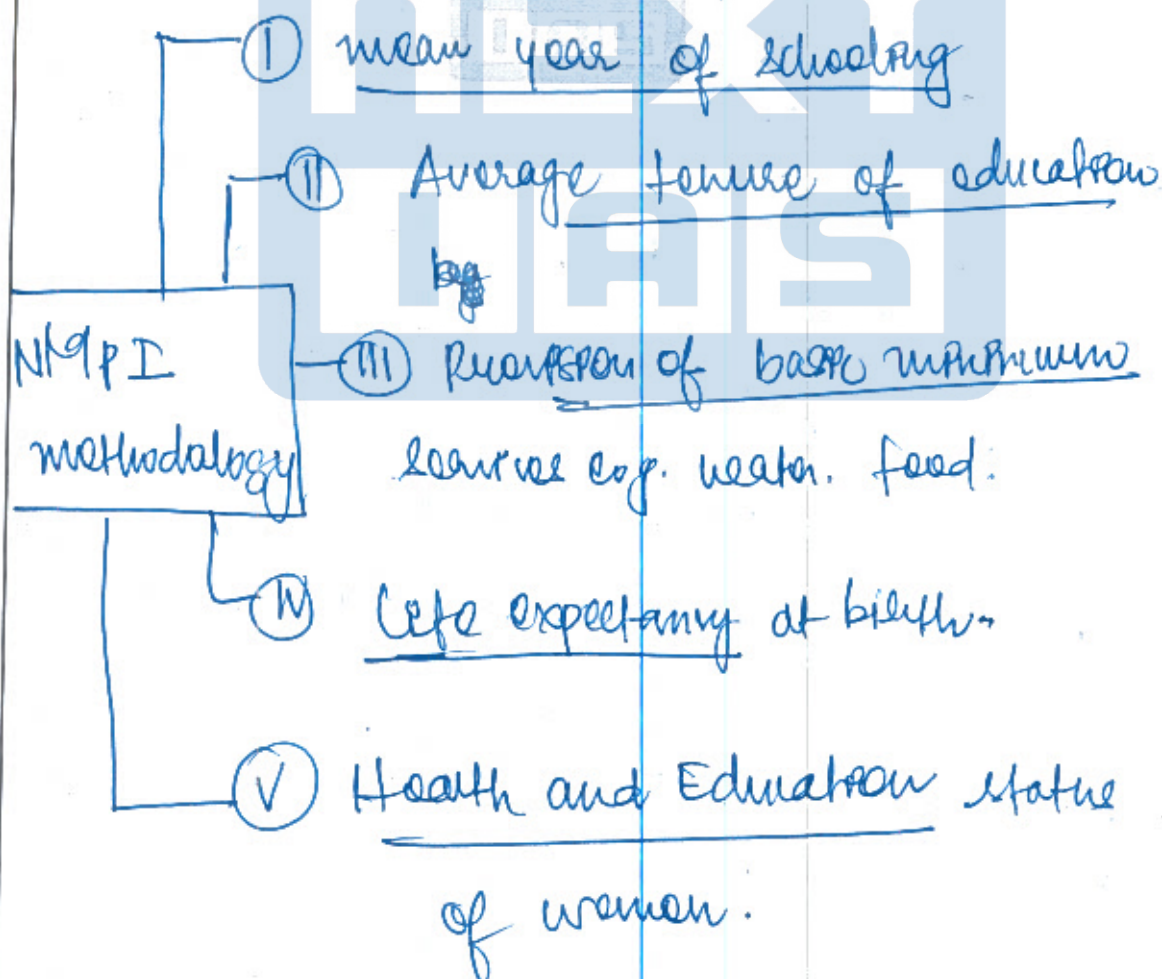
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI)

Is an Indian counterpart of ~~the~~ Oxford and

UNDP - Multilateral Poverty Index at global

level. It deploys the same measures -



Cogniframe of NMPI

- ① In sync. with global MPI indicators
- ② Instrumental in bringing out 415 million
poor people ~~of~~ out of multidimensional
poverty between 2005-2020 (MPI data)
- ③ MMR reduced to 100 (2021) from 130
(2014)
- ④ IMR also reduced to just 49.

Yet some improvements required :-

- ① Regionally prepared Index for more
inclusive report
- ② Continuous monitoring and intervention
to maintain and improve vital indicators
viz. literacy, poverty line etc.
- ③ Strengthening the implementation of Basic
Necessities Index (recommended by Eco.
Survey, 2021)

Poverty - a challenge - needs multisectoral approach
to eradicate poverty by 2030.

8. भारत के संदर्भ में, संवैधानिक प्रावधानों, कानूनी पूर्व-उदाहरणों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं की उपस्थिति के बावजूद, जो स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार के लिए एक मजबूत आधार स्थापित करते हैं, इस अधिकार की स्पष्ट कानूनी मान्यता का अभाव क्यों रहा है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In the context of India, despite the presence of constitutional provisions, legal precedents, and international commitments that establish a robust foundation for a right to health, why has there been a lack of explicit legal recognition of this right?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Under Art 21, Right to life and liberty also

includes right to good health. Despite

this constitutional provision and many legal precedents, there has been lack of explicit legal recognition of this right.

① Financial Issue - To implement such

Reasons

a right at par with basic

① State fiscal condition - due to

insufficient fund mobilisation

② lack of required infrastructure

to fulfill legal obligation. Eg. doctor to patient ratio is well below WHO standards

③ lack of robust legal health care facilities

to ensure justice with legal recognition.

Way out could be —

- ① Increasing expenditure on health to 6% of GDP
- ② 15th Fin. Comm. recommended states to spend 8% of budgetary expenditure on health.
- ③ Specifically earmarked health grants and its audit for effective utilisation by CAG
- ④ Increase the health R&D expenditure from 0.01% to at least 1% to ensure robust domestic healthcare ecosystem.

Right to health and its legal recognition

can go long way in meeting SDG-3
by 2030.

9. ब्रिक्स राष्ट्रों की सामूहिक शक्ति असंख्य मुद्दों पर सार्थक सहयोग की अनुमति देती है, हालाँकि, द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के प्रक्षेप पथ को प्रभावित करने की मंच की क्षमता सीमित है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
- The collective strength of BRICS nations allows for meaningful cooperation on myriad issues, however, the platform's ability to influence the trajectory of bilateral relationships remains limited. Do you agree?
- (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

BRICS - refers to formal grouping of 5

developing countries - Brazil, Russia,

India, China, & South Africa - working

on common interest viz. political order,
economic issues, terrorism etc.

Allows for meaningful cooperation

① The block have common focus regarding
various indicators of economy, infrastructure,
poverty, development etc.

② They are institutional manifestation
of aspiration of developing world aspirants

- ③ Are slowly strengthening their financial positions as well — NDB (BRICS bank)
- ④ Open to address issues of other developing countries facing similar situation eg. South Africa, Iran etc

But, BRICS ability to maintain the hierarchy of bilateral relations remains linked due to —

- ① Diverging strategic issues between China and India — border, terrorism etc
- ② Stark financial capabilities difference among members eg. China v/s South Africa.
- ③ Pragmatic geopolitical ambitions eg. China v/s. India on UNSC reforms
- ④ West's policy differences — stance on Russia/China v/s India, South Africa.

The success of BRICS depends on how easily they get together bilaterally as well.

10. सिंधु जल संधि में संशोधन की हालिया माँगों के आलोक में, भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच जल-बंटवारा व्यवस्था पर पड़ने वाले इसके संभावित प्रभावों की चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
In light of the recent demands to amend the Indus Waters Treaty, discuss the possible implications it could have on the water-sharing mechanism between India and Pakistan.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Indus Water Treaty (1960) is 1960 water sharing treaty brokered by World Bank for distribution of 6 major waters — Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi, Sutlej, Beas, and Indus between India and Pakistan.

Recently, there have been demands of amendment to treaty due to unilateral approaches of Pakistan and alleged favour it gives to Pakistan in water sharing.

Possible Implication of amendment on water sharing mechanism

- ① It could lead to modernisation of treaty with latest know how.

⑫ It can take into consideration the new-age technologies on multipurpose projects & its implications.

⑬ Water sharing rules eg Helsinki rules etc can be considered for fair and equitable distribution.

However, there could be negative implication as well —

① Increased awareness of China to do the same in Asianachal region

② Bringing together China and Pakistan more close on projects on Indus river

The amendment to IWT must pass under watch of international mechanism to ensure just and equitable distribution of vital natural resource.

11. संसदीय संप्रभुता और न्यायिक सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत ने भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के संवैधानिक ढाँचे को आकार देने में अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव डाला है। प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयजन्य विधियों का हवाला देते हुए इन देशों में संविधान को प्रभावित करने में न्यायपालिका की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। क्या भारत में न्यायिक समीक्षा का दायरा व्यापक है?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy has exerted considerable influence in shaping the constitutional frameworks of India and the USA. Citing relevant case laws discuss the role of the judiciary in influencing the constitutions in these countries. Is the scope of judicial review wider in India?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The scheme of constitution in both India and USA provides for parliamentary sovereignty but limited by judicial supremacy i.e. parliament is sovereign in law making field but it must stay within the constitutional limits. It is ensured through tools of Basic Structure doctrine (BSI), Judicial Review, Judicial Activism and PIL in both nations.

Role of the doctrine in influencing the constitution of Indian and USA

- ① Golak Nath Case, 1961 - parliamentary supremacy was established.

- ① Kesavananda Bhareli Case — doctrine of BCD was evolved — parliament can amend the constitution but not its basic structure.
- ② Mithuani Mills case — the relation between fundamental rights and DPSP (Part IV) was established.
- ③ Indira Santhrey case — Right to employment was impacted and reservation capped at 50% except for exceptional circumstances.
- ④ S. R. Bommai Case — The constitutional loophole in Art 356 and role of governor as agent of centre was corrected.
- ⑤ F. R. Coelho case — The scope of Art 31B and 9th schedule was restricted.

Judicial review which is explicitly bestowed upon Indian judiciary through Art. 22 and 226 is implied in USA.

- ① In USA, although indirect, but it is based on principle - due process of law while in India it is - procedure established by law.
- ② Indian parliament can bring amendment and change judicial pronouncement but the same is very tough in USA.
- ③ USA - Judiciary can make laws if case exists on-site interpretation, while Indian judiciary cannot make laws except for occasional changes in law through judicial activism of Vishakha guideline.

Hence, scope of judicial review is quite wide in USA vs Indian judiciary.

12.

‘निष्पक्ष प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करने और एक मत, एक मूल्य के सिद्धांत को बनाए रखने के लिए सीटों का परिसीमन आवश्यक है।’ निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में अप्रतिनिधित्व से उत्पन्न हुई चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए संचीय तनाव पैदा करने में जनसंख्या-आधारित परिसीमन के प्रभावों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Delimitation of seats is essential to ensure fair representation and uphold the principles of one vote, one value. Highlighting the challenges posed by misrepresentation in constituencies analyze the ramifications of population-based delimitation in creating federal tension. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Delimitation of seats refers to distribution of
parliamentary and state legislative seats

among various states based on latest census.

It is done through Delimitation

Commission Act of Parliament which establishes
a highly powerful delimitation commission.

However, delimitation based solely on
population criteria poses certain challenges to
an federal polity:—

- ① Geographical Imbalance — Populous states
get higher share of seats against non-
populous e.g. Lok Sabha seats from UP
is 80 vs. just 1 from Sikkim

- ⑪ Fear of missing out - the policy making process get dominated by few states eg UP, Bihar, MP legislators.
- ⑫ Funding challenge - Since some states send more representatives, the funding pattern under Act 282 / Act 272 also get skewed.
- ⑬ Issues missed - popular issues missing various regions miss out from parliamentary discussion eg: North-East case of Manipur.

Ramification of population based distribution

- ① Skewed Fin. Commission Terms of reference
- ② Financial Imbalance - grant transfer through Fin. Comm. of UP alone is sum total of grants of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Telangana.

- ③ Creates North-South divide - due to excessive
North representation - causing conflictual federalism
- ④ Secessionist tendencies - leads to call for
regional autonomy of Indo-land, Khalistan etc

Way out

- ① The delimitation must also take in consideration
other factors as demographic performance just
as 15th FC did.
- ② States must get equal representation at
least in Rajya Sabha (Council of States)
- ③ Voting power of MPs - can be adjusted for
proportional contribution.

Delimitation is an important exercise to
ensure continuation of co-operative federalism.

13. देश में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव कराने की निर्वाचन आयोग की संवैधानिक जिम्मेदारी के निर्वहन में उसके हाथों को मजबूत करने में भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
Discuss the role of the Supreme Court of India in strengthening the hands of the Election Commission in the discharge of its constitutional responsibility of conducting free and fair elections in the country.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Supreme Court (Art 124) and Election Commission (Art 323) are the two important bulwarks of Indian democracy apart from office of CAG and UPSC under constitutional scheme.

Role of Supreme Court in strengthening the EC in its functioning—

- (i) Interpreting electoral laws — RPA, 1951 and RPA, 1950 to weed out any discrepancy of Sect (8) of RPA, 1951 (disqualification)
- (ii) Mandatory use of VVPAT — allowed by Supreme Court since 2017.
- (iii) Lily Thomas case — ensured immediate disqualification of sitting legislators in case of conviction.

IV) Mandatory disclosure of all criminal cases and financial assets in election affidavit.

V) Disclosure of measures to verify a candidate with criminal background performed as others - In two leading newspapers

VI) Establishment of a select Committee for selection of CEC to ensure transparency in appointment process.

VII) Option of NOTA - to let electorates exercise their right not to vote for unworthy candidates.

VIII) Mandatory distribution of electoral rolls to all the candidates in all the constituencies.

Yet, there are certain areas wherein both the bodies can jointly work -

- ① Charting out a way for enforcement of Model Code of Conduct.
- ② Debarring candidates having heinous crime record eg murder, rape etc
- ③ De-registering political parties in case of violation of electoral laws.
- ④ An independent authority to decide on issues of Defection related disqualification

Supreme Court and Election Commission can together ensure free and fair election of Credible legislatures as envisioned by our ex President Dr. Kalam.

14.

‘संसद की घटती भूमिका शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के मूल सिद्धांत को कमजोर करती है, क्योंकि यह कार्यकारी शाखा पर नियंत्रण रखने और सत्ता का संतुलित प्रयोग सुनिश्चित करने की विधायिका की क्षमता को कम कर देता है।’ विवेचना कीजिए।

‘The declining role of Parliament undermines the fundamental principle of separation of powers, as it diminishes the legislature’s ability to serve as a check on the executive branch and ensure a balanced exercise of power.’ Discuss.

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Art 79 provides for a parliament as union law making body to legislate upon subjects mentioned in Union list of 7th schedule.

Role of Parliament

- (i) Forum for debate and discussion.
- (ii) Law making on union list
- (iii) Financial functions — taxation, budget
- (iv) Check on executive — through debates, questions, parliamentary committees
- (v) Emergency power eg Art 352, 356, 360 exercise of

However, the role of parliament is on down-ward spiral, evident from —

- ① Decreasing number of average sitting days
from 120 (1950-70s) to 60 (2010-20)
- ② Decreasing productivity of both houses debates and discussion
- ③ Bills referred to DRSC is declining
Consistently

LS	15th	16th	17th
Bills	60%	27%	17%
- ④ Ordinance way of legislation - average ordinance issued 6 ~~6th~~ (2010) 4th 15th LS) v/s 10 (16th 17th) LS.
- ⑤ Declining admission of calling attention motion by House chair
- ⑥ 45% of MPs have criminal background.

The declining note is largely because of the scheme of our parliamentary democracy wherein there is confluence between executive and legislature.

- Causing —
- ① No effective check on executive as they are part of legislature
 - ② Executive adventurism due to power wielded by executives.
 - ③ Policy Paralysis — due to ineffective law making eg Data Protection Bill, Farm Bill

Way out

- ① Committee system as prevalent in UK can be emulated
- ② Compulsory stay of LS/RS for 120 days as seen in Canada.
- ③ Tooth to Election Commission for strict enforcement of electoral laws — Prakash Gera
Committee recommendation can be followed
- ④ Long term appointment of committee members for expertise.

The idea of collective responsibility must also include the principle of individual responsibility.

15. भारत में लिंग-संवेदनशील कानूनों पर विमर्श को आकार देने में राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग को संवैधानिक संस्था बनाने से उसका प्राधिकार किस हद तक सुदृढ़ होगा?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the crucial role played by the National Commission of Women in shaping the discourse on gender-sensitive laws in India. To what extent the elevation of the National Commission for Women to a constitutional body would reinforce its authority?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

National Commission of Women (NCW) was established as an statutory body under NCW, Act, 1992 to look after the Constitutional and legal safeguards provided to women.

Role played by NCW

- (i) Enforcement of Constitutional provisions related to women eg Art 21, Art 14, 15, 16
Constitutional Amend. Art - 73rd / 74th etc
- (ii) Safeguarding the legislative provisions eg Domestic (Prohibition) Act, Sexual Harassment at workplace Act
- (iii) Suggesting alternate policies to central and state governments regarding women

- ④ Addressing the governance of women regar-
ding legal & other safety related provisions.
- ⑤ Monitoring schemes for welfare of women eg.
STEP, Matru Vandana, One-Stop Saksho etc
- ⑥ Ensuring financial and political empowerment
through - SHGs, MNREGA etc

However, certain developments over past couple
of decades warrant its elevation as constitutional
body such as -

- ① 88% of SHGs are women based
- ② 70% of MMEs ^{have} are women employed at
napetty
- ③ Schemes such as Stand Up India - ensuring
more financial safeguards
- ④ Increasing women voices - rape, Online
harassment etc

Benefits of devolutional constitutional body:-

- ① Good health to the working - through better appointment and staffing
- ② Increased parliamentary oversight - through Annual working reports
- ③ Increased authority to members to take quick action regarding misuse of power.

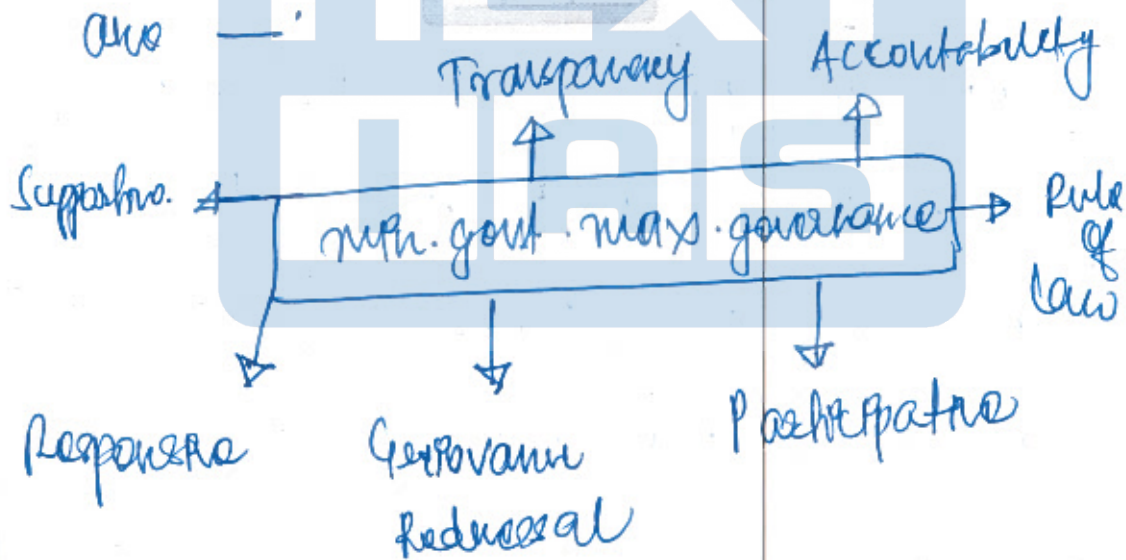
Mahatma Gandhi said, India cannot
develop 100% if it leaves behind the 50%
population.

16.

'शिकायतों का संतोषजनक और समयबद्ध निवारण 'न्यूनतम सरकार, अधिकतम शासन' की आधारशिला है।' इस संदर्भ में मौजूदा शिकायत निवारण तंत्र से जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए और इस प्रक्रिया को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Satisfactory and timely redressal of grievances is the cornerstone of minimum government, maximum governance.' In this context discuss the challenges associated with current grievance redress mechanisms and suggest measures to strengthen the process. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

The changed game of governance after
 emergence of neo-liberal forces such as
liberalisation, good governance paradigm etc
 has necessitated the idea of minimum govt. and
maximum governance. Its important pillars



Governance redressal - is cardinal principle
 supporting the paradigm of maximum governance
 through — CPGRMS, Citizen Charter, DARG etc

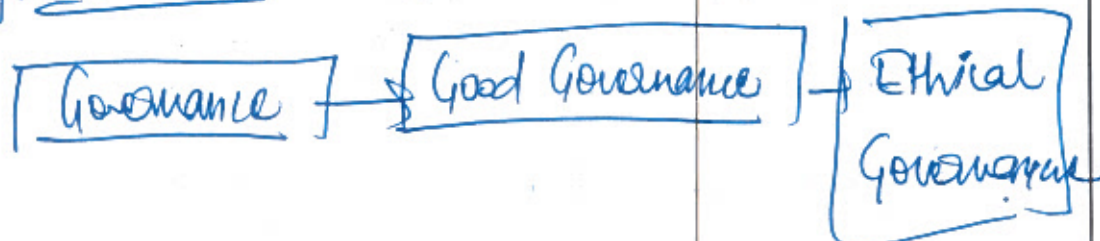
However, the existing ecosystem of grievance redressal is fraught with certain challenges—

- ① Periodical illiteracy — among masses to avail the channels of GRM or CPGRAMs.
- ② Technological divide — among rural/urban, rich/poor, high/low class etc in availing the benefits.
- ③ Bureaucratic opacity — in sharing the present views of good governance position.
- ④ Excessive secrecy culture — Sec 8 of RTI allows ~~to~~ restricting certain information.
- ⑤ Jargonistic language of citizen charters — makes it hard for ordinary citizens to avail the rights and seek redressal.

Some informative suggestions -

- ① Investing in adult literacy - to build the procedural knowledge among masses
- ② Digital literacy - promotion of Digital India campaign in letter and spirit
- ③ Coactive effort - of all stakeholders in propagation of citizen charter on regional basis and in local language
- ④ Ethical training to lower-level bureaucracy who are in direct contact with public.

The ideal of minimum government, maximum governance is vital to ensure the progress of governance to good governance and finally to ethical governance.



17. 'भ्रष्टाचार शासन के ताने-बाने को जर्जर कर देता है, जिससे लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में जनता का विश्वास कम हो जाता है।' भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी शासन या व्यवस्था की प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम, विसलब्लोअर संरक्षण अधिनियम (डब्ल्यूबीपीए), और लोकपाल और लोकायुक्त अधिनियम, 2013 के बीच समन्वय स्थापित करने के सामर्थ्य का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Corruption corrodes the fabric of governance, eroding the public's faith in democratic institutions.' Examine the potential for harmonizing the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act (WBPA), and the Lokpal & Lokayukta Act, 2013, to enhance the effectiveness of the anticorruption regime. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Purview of Corruption Act defines corruption

as an act which — (i) leads to undue
advantage accrual ~~due to~~ from public position

(ii) Misuse of public position for
financial gain.

(iii) Transgressing the path of natural justice

(iv) Violation of oath of office.

Effect of corruption — (i) Loss of public fund

(ii) Lack of faith of public
in government

(iii) Tax evasion

(iv) Revenue base erosion and subsequent
effect on infrastructure

(v) Promotion of misfeasance, overfeasance
& malfeasance

In this regard, a case exists for harmonization
of RTI Act, Whistleblowers Act, & Lokpal Act:-
to ensure effectiveness of anti-corruption
regime. :-

- ① Codification of all laws into single coherent
makes enforcement smooth
- ② Lokpal Act, presently lacks substantive power
to check malfeasance and corruption
- ③ IC and CJs under RTI Act lack teeth to
act strongly against high officials
- ④ Harmonization can bring together of all three
under one umbrella.
- ⑤ Can lead to de-bureaucratization of
Information Commissions with current expert

However, there are some flip sides
as well -

- ① Legislative apathy - to strengthen even the existing loopholes in Lokpal & RT Acts
- ② Too much of delegated legislation and resultant overpresence of bureaucrats in critical decision making positions
- ③ Unhealthy nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and criminals
- ④ Repeated criminal attacks on RT activists
eg Gaurav Lankesh.

The menace of corruption requires a wholesome approach by all three organs of government to ensure zero-tolerance regime against it.

18.

गरीबी का प्रभावी ढंग से मुकाबला करने के लिए हाशिए पर रहने वाले समुदायों के बीच कौशल विकास, उद्यमिता और आय सृजन के लिए एसएचजी का लाभ एक मंच के रूप में उठाने में शामिल संभावित चुनौतियों और लाभों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Analyze the potential challenges and benefits involved in leveraging SHGs as platforms for skill development, entrepreneurship, and income generation among marginalized communities to effectively counter poverty.

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

As per Economic Survey 2022, there are 12 million SHGs in India with 88% of them being all women SHGs.

NABARD defines SHG as a homogeneous group belonging to equal socio-economic status grouping together and pooling their funds for common benefit.

Benefits of SHG

- (i) Promotion of financial empowerment and independence.
- (ii) A forum to discuss common social issues like dowry, child marriage, domestic violence - all affecting women.
- (iii) Empowering basic economic skills to become independent - e.g. Ratna Mission of Maharashtra.

- ② Resurrecting political literacy among rural women and promoting awareness regarding socio-political issues affecting women like reservation of seats for women in Parliament

However, their efficacy is restricted due to following reasons —

- Issues
- ① Financial illiteracy — and resultant misappropriation of fund
 - ② Lack of skill in account and fund keeping
 - ③ Patriarchy — most of the work of SHGs are carried out by male members
 - ④ Lack of skill to effectively carry out community work eg. wood, health education
 - ⑤ Shrewd persons — too much in Gujarat, Telangana, Karnataka and too few in Bihar, Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh

Same exposure to realise their potential -

- ① Amendment in NABARD Act to spread SHG to semi-urban & urban areas
- ② Involving NGOs/CBOs for participatory procedure liberating the finance and accounts.
- ③ KRBs - can be brought to Aspirational Districts of Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha.
- ④ Government to act as facilitator and not much interference in their working.

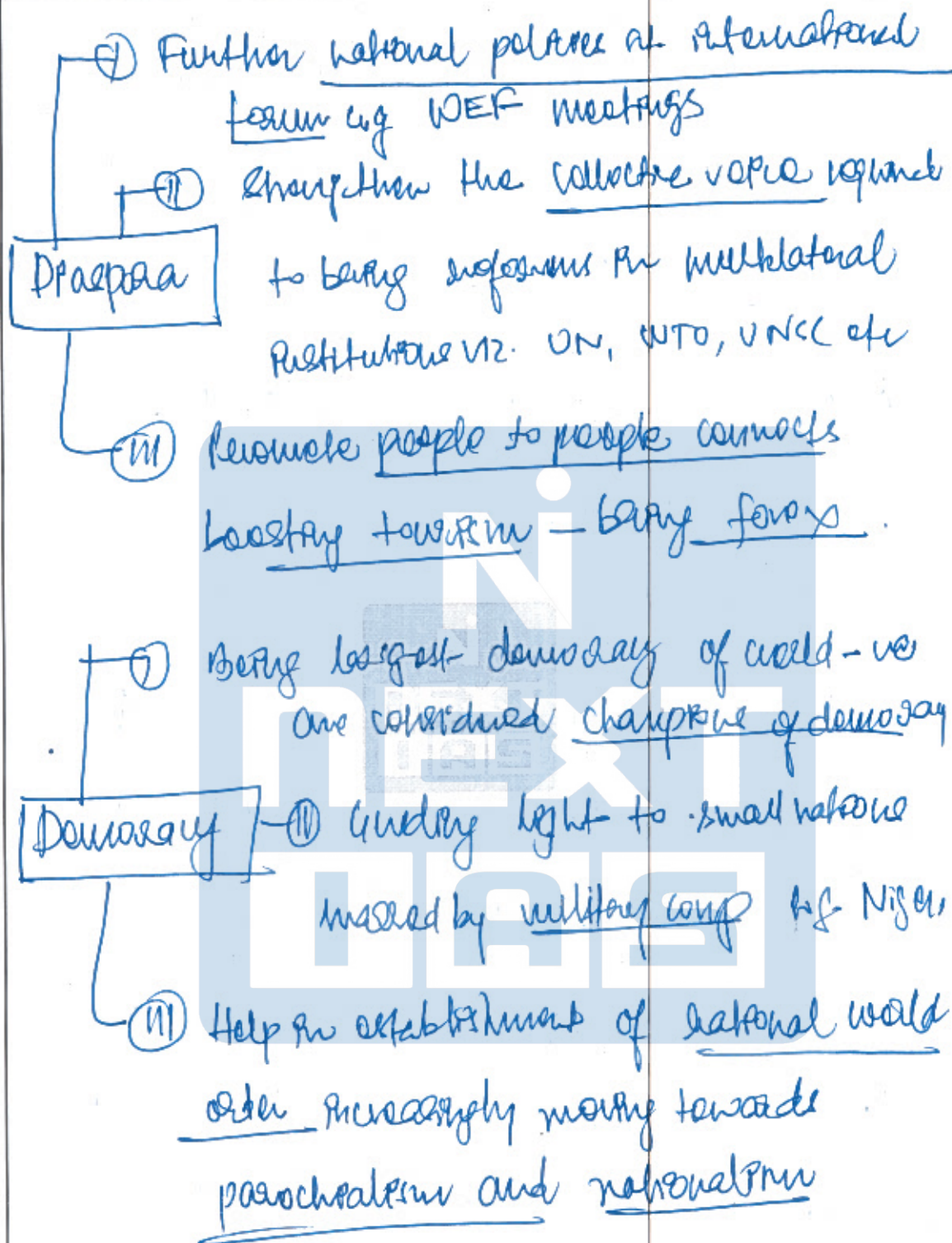
World Bank, inspired at the success of SHG movement in India, is replicating the same in Latin & African countries as well

19. 'भारत अपनी समृद्ध संस्कृति के लिए विश्व मानचित्र पर अद्वितीय स्थान रखता है।' इस संदर्भ में भारत की सॉफ्ट पावर कूटनीति के साधन के रूप में संस्कृति, प्रवासी और लोकतंत्र की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। भारत किस हद तक खुद को स्मार्ट पावर के रूप में स्थापित करने में सक्षम हो पाया है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
- 'India is uniquely positioned on the world map for its rich culture.' In this context discuss the role of culture, diaspora, and democracy as instruments of India's soft power diplomacy. To what extent India has been able to position itself as a 'smart power'? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Soft power diplomacy refers to displaying culture, traditions, diaspora, and tourism to further the international relations and foreign policy objectives. e.g. Buddha Connect with ASEAN nations.

Role of culture, diaspora and democracy as instrument of India's soft power.

- Culture
- ① Promotion of culture brings people together e.g. Buddha Connect linking ASEAN nations
 - ② Leads to exchange of cultural ideas strengthening cultural heritage of Bodhi Gaya influenced by Japan, Thailand & Korean help.



Role of India as a smart power

- ① Acceptance of CPRI, One Sun One World, One Good Initiative shows our strength

- ⑪ Integrating cultural angle to engage
with Central Asian and South East Asian
Nations e.g. Buddhism Council
- ⑫ Acceptance of Indian message of
One World - one family - one future at
G-20 Summit
- ⑬ Global Outreach by India such as -
Look East, Act East, Look West. etc have
been readily accepted
However much needs to be done to
ensure the universal message forwarded
by India i.e. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

20.

भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझा मूल्यों और जीवंत लोगों से लोगों के बीच संबंधों का साहचर्य दोनों देशों के बीच दीर्घकालिक व्यापार संबंधों और रणनीतिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उपजाऊ जमीन तैयार करता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The synergy of shared values and vibrant people-to-people connections between India and Australia creates a fertile ground for fostering long-lasting trade relations and strategic collaboration between the two nations. Analyse.

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

India and Australia enjoy strategic
partnership under recently agreed
CEPA b/w both.

The strong people to people connect
between both creates huge potential in
trade and strategic relations :-

① Signing of CEPA ensures long lasting
trade relation with a vision to double
trade by 2030.

② India - Australia - UAE - trilateral to
ensure peaceful development of
Indo-Pacific.

- (iii) Both are member of many multilateral forums esp G-20, QUAD, etc. — foster deep engagement at all levels
- (iv) Australia is favoured destination for Indian students — 30K students admitted on various courses.
- (v) Both are proponents of free & fair Indo-Pacific region
- (vi) Cricket is a long age connectivity wire between both

However, there remains area of further improvement —

- (1) Trade balance remains in favour of Australia.

- (i) India — not a member of Security Alliance — AUKUS
- (ii) Economic issues related to Coal extraction involving Indian businesses
- (iii) Transfer of nuclear submarines from US to Australia — demonstrates India's aspiration of not security provider in Indian ocean region.

These issues need to be looked at bilateral and multilateral forums to realise the full potential in bilateral relation.

Space for Rough Work

Candidates must not
write on this margin

