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NEXT IAS

GS MAINS ADVANCED COURSE 2024

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : GSMAC2406 **Test No. : 06**

Name of Candidate: ANUPAM YADAV Mobile No. ....

Roll No. : GSMACT24A1279 Start Time 07:00 End Time 10:00

Date of Examination: 25/08/2024 Medium : English [Y] Hindi [ ]

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

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

GRAND TOTAL - ...../ 250 EVAL CODE: ..... EVAL DATE: .....

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 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: .....

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Student Concerns / Query	Evaluator's Feedback / Response
1	1 .....
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MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 3.00	3.00 - 3.75	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.50	4.50 - 5.75	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

IMPORTANT QR CODES

Topper's Copy	Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB
Copy Scanner App	Next IAS Test Centre Location

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

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Q.01

Federal system of governance is well suited to accomodate the varying ~~diversity~~ diversity and created working consensus among competing interests.

Zonal councils were made on the mandate of State Reorganisation Act, 1956. North-East Zonal council was made after North-East Reorganisation Act, 1971.

Evolution of Zonal Council

1) Earlier when zonal councils were envisaged they were aimed as ~~forum~~ forum of deliberation, charting out differences and promoting regional development and national integration.

2) With passage of time, the zonal

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councils have emerged as proactive platform for concrete action

Eg: North ~~East~~ Zonal Council active role in promoting connectivity infrastructure and dealing with inter-State and ethnic issues.

3) Southern zonal council have played out to be crucial platform to solve and cooperate on water sharing issues

However, some hindrances especially guided by State's internal local political factors hamper in realising true potential of zonal councils in achieving regional integration & national oneness There need to adopt Ek Bharat-Shreshth Bharat approach

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Q.02

Secularism stands for seperation of religion and state affairs. In Indian concept of secularism, we follow positive secularism, which enables State to curb discriminatory practices and promote equality.

Secularism in Indian constitution and commitment to equality

1) Preamble mentions goal of secularism but also states equality in terms social, economic and political

2) Article 25 to 28 gives religious rights, but constitution promotes equality (Art 14) and bans discrimination (Art 15).

This has led supreme court to give various progressive judgements

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such as Sabarimala case, Tripple Talaq Case, Shahbano and Shayra Bano case.

3) State enables rights to minorities to preserve their culture, language and script but also enables State to set standards for minority institutions.

Thus, Indian secularism is not negative secularism but rather tries to promote substantive equality, progressive society and maintain individual dignity.

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Q3

Sec 8 of the Representation of People's Act (RPA Act), 1951 deals with the cases of disqualification in case of conviction of offenses leading to punishment of 2 years or more.

The disqualified person is also barred from contesting elections for (jail term + 6) years.

Current classification leading to arbitrary categorisation of offences

Currently focus is on the quantum of offense and not on the nature of heinousness of offense.

In such case even a person with less serious crime may be disqualified Eg: Rahul Gandhi disqualification due to conviction in case of defamation.

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On the other hand, the absence of speedy trial results for accused with serious offenses ~~continuing~~ to ~~be~~ continue to contest elections.

There is urgent need to give emphasis on seriousness of offense and fast track such cases

Remedies available

1) To appeal to the higher court
2) To ask/petition to president or Governor for pardon.

These two recourse could be opted by the person convicted of offense and disqualified.

The ultimate solution lies in judicial and electoral reforms coupled with criminal justice system reforms to ensure complete eradication of criminalisation of politics

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Q.4

Leader of opposition is the main voice of opposition party. He may be leader of largest single party in opposition or maybe a leader of coalition of parties

To be officially recognised as leader of opposition, a party must secure minimum 10% seats of the strength of the house.

Role in Indian Parliamentary System

1) Articulate voice of counter view
2) Criticise government polices, thus, tried to ensure improvements
3) Member of various appointment committees. Eg Committee to appoint Lokpal
4) Status of cabinet minister

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5) Builds consensus among opposition.

6) Many a times, government policies are influenced due to extensive canvassing by leader of opposition.

Contributing to checks and balances

1) Available as counter policy view, thus, often stops government from taking extreme views.

2) Enables public scrutiny of government policy by pointing out lacunas.

3) Member of various Departmental Related Standing committees, thus, instrumental in ensuring executive accountability to parliament.

4) Possibility of alternate leadership. There need to allow opposition to decide agenda of house for few days a week. (UK model).

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Q.05

Preamble declares the nature of Indian States as Sovereign, Secular, Socialistic and democratic republic, which highlights the core philosophy of our constitution.

Sovereignty → It means that our nation is supreme in itself and do not take orders from any other entity.
It is displayed in constitution deriving power from 'people of India' and following independent strategic autonomy.

Socialism → ensures there is no poverty and upliftment of all
Art 39 (b) and (c) - this to prevent concentration of wealth. Art 21(A) ensures right to education for all.

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State is constitutionally ordered to take steps for the weaker sections of society. Eg Art 15(3) - steps for women related issues.

Secularism → India maintains positive secularism. Art 25 to 28 gives various kind of religious freedom Art 29 & 30 ensure minority rights. Art 14 established right to equality and Art 15 prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion.

Democracy → India adopted universal adult franchise and equality of all citizens to right to vote and contest election. Constitution seeks to promote not only political but social & economic democracy as well. (DPSP provisions).

Thus, these are bedrock of constitutional framework

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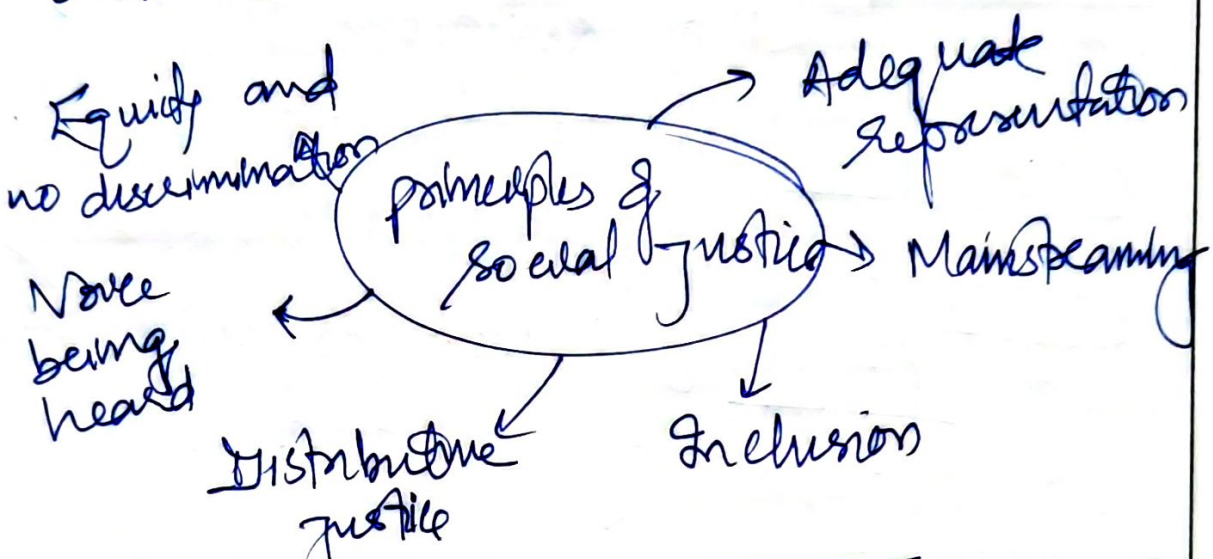
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Q.06

103rd Constitutional Amendment Act introduced 10% quota for EWS, which are people whose family income is less than ~~10~~ 08 lakh per annum and some other property related criteria.



Assessment of EWS reservations

In line of principles of social justice:

1) Ensures those economically ~~empower~~ weak get representation in government jobs and education institutions.

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2) Promotes inclusion & saves from relative deprivation.

3) Distributive justice, as State's resources accessible to all

Against principles of social justice:

1) These section of pusons already adequately respresented

2) No adequate data to assess marginalisation

3) Historically privileged classes.

As supreme court observed, poverty is not State of being State, rather, it is retrogation with time EWS reservations seeks to remedy that.

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Q.07

Welfare means ensuring "well-being". In the context of State it should ensure capability of individuals to ensure well being of themselves.

Freebie culture leads to divergence of focus of welfare

1) Various non merit freebie are leading to burden on exchequer and not enough positive implications on society

Eg: Free scooty or ~~free~~ gold in Tamil Nadu

2) It also limits state capacity to ~~cause~~ ~~on~~ ensure real capability building

Eg- less resources on health and education and skilling

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3) Promoting over-dependence on State for everything. Eg: Food, Housing, Education, Health etc

Positive outcomes of freebies

1) PDS ensures food security.
2) Ayushman Bharat promotes health & well-being of all
3) Sarva-Siksha Abhyan leading to 100% primary school enrolments
4) Saubhagy promoting electrification
5) PM-Kisan empowering farmers.

Freebies is double edged sword. If used appropriately could result real empowerment and could stress developmental capacity of State is mis-utilised. There is need of wider political concensus to promote healthy democracy.

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Q.08

E-governance is the process of integrating ICT technology on the decision making, implementation and on the point of beneficiary interface.
It promotes efficiency, reduces leakages and corruption.
Eg: GeM portal, DBT, Aadhar-Janadhan Mobile-Trinity etc.

E-gov making governance accessible

1) Citizens can give feedback at My gov.in portal
2) Easy access to services through CSC Centres- Eg Jeevan Praman
3) Reduced need to visit government offices. Eg: Electricity Bill Payment
4) Online grievance redressal mechanism

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2) Online RTI portal of union government.

E-governance promoting inclusiveness

1) She-Box for women to address harassment issues.
2) Easy application for caste, income certificate for EWS, SC-ST, OBC ... groups.
3) Facilitating end to end tracking of PDS, reducing diversion & leakages resulting food security of poor.
4) Jeevan Pramaan of old-citizen without hassel.

Thus, e-governance is ushering a new paradigm in governance. There is need to bridge digital divide, Internet access issues and robust cyber and data security measures to build continued trust among public.

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Q.09

The present era is emerging as multipolar world with focussed multi-alignment

In this context the ~~old~~ earlier institutional frameworks like NAM, Quad, G-77 are struggling for relevance.

How old world order organizations loosing relevance?

1) The leaders of these organisations ~~is~~ seeking multiple alliances.
Eg India, leader of NAM is part of I2U2, QUAD ~~etc~~

2) The ~~two~~ these organisations had genesis in cold war ~~do~~ context. Now in new ~~old~~ world war, interests of nations are better protected in case of like minded alliances

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इस हाशिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।
Only write question number in this margin

Specimen Booklet

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For Practice Purpose Only

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.
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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
Candidates must not write on this margin.

Eg: India's participation in QUAD for Strategic Interests.

3) There is increasing military spending across world. This underscore preparation for conflict. Here, grouping like AUKUS seeks to leverage alliances.

However, old world order organisations still relevant:

1) To fight neo-colonialism
2) To raise voice of global-south
3) Climatic negotiation for just transition (CBDR principle)
4) Protection of 3rd world nations interest in WTO

Due to emerging realities, India is engaging with I2U2 & QUAD, but also make participation in NAM & G-77 to show its commitment for cause of Global South

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Q.10

Prime-minister and cabinet ministers of India in recent past have been travelling to various island countries in Indian & pacific ocean. This highlights the importance of these island nations for India.

Importance for India

1) They are acting as important supporters to India's role in geopolitics. (Eg UNSC seat support)

2) India have people to people relations (indentured labourers of Indian origin) who has origin to India.

3) Important for Strategic goals Eg - Assumption Island (Mauritius) Maldives, Srilanka etc

4) Logistic support agreement with Singapore, gave us access to

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Changi port. Enabling our vision of Blue water navy.

Initiatives taken by India

1) SAGAR initiative for growth and development of all
2) IONS for increased security cooperation
3) Developmental assistance & Line of credit
4) Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for SIDS.
5) Humanitarian and Disaster Relief initiatives
6) Agreement with FIPIC States (island States of pacific Ocean).

These island States are going to be first victim of sea level rise. India can voice the needs of these countries forcefully on multilateral forums and advance our strategic goals.

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Q.11

Electoral funding is most vexing issue impacting Indian democracy. Various committees like Indrajit Gupta committee, Dinesh Goswami Committee, 2nd ARC commission have sought to offers solutions to this vexing issue

Legal loopholes

1) Political parties could not take more ₹ 20,000 in cash donations.
(Resorting to earlier position post striking down of electoral bonds law).
Parties break down cash donations in small portions to avoid submitting donar details

2) RTI do not cover political parties under its ambit.

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3) Exemption from paying Income tax, leads to creeping in of Black money

Political inefficiences

1) No accountability on electoral spending
2) No collective effort from parliament to make system robust
3) Even electoral bond scheme was half hearted effort

Challenges of electoral funding

1) Protection of Donar's names vs electors Right to know
2) Crony capitalism dangers
3) Costly elections in the world
4) Black money and illegal money issue

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Lessons from ~~the~~ Global best practices

1) Partial State fundings as in New Zealand
2) Only online donations should be allowed.
3) Cap on corporate donations (to curb dangers of crony capitalism).
4) Parties to openly publish list of all donars on website. (USA)

Political corruption is root of all corruption. The first step to deal with it is transperent political funding.

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Q.12

Pressure groups are associations of people (which may be formal or informal) which rally behind common cause & put pressure to government to accept their agenda

Pressure groups have resulted deepening of democracy and helped voice the need of most deprived sections.

Contribution in promoting social security measures

Pre ~~Indep~~ Independence period - The collective demand by labour union led to enactment of factories Act, protecting workers rights and regulating working hours.

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Post-Independent

1) MKSS led social audit revealed corruption in payment of wages, ultimately leading to justice to people & passage of RTI Act

2) Equal remuneration Act was one of old demand of women peasant groups

3) SEWA have helped in inclusive policy with respect to Gender

4) EPFO, ESIC, etc creche facility etc long demands of labour unions, got fulfilled highlighting role of peasant groups in promoting social security to labourers and furthering social democracy.

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How pressure groups address these gaps?

1) Policy advocacy role (Eg demanding maternity leave)

2) Policy formulation role (Eg - Drafting RTI by MKSS)

3) Policy implementation role (Eg SEWA, Akshay Patra).

4) Research and data collection Eg CMIE, PRS

Thus, pressure groups play crucial role in deepening Indian democracy.

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Q.13

Under article 246 and 7th Schedule legislative powers are divided between centre and States, which becomes basis for administrative power division as well. But here union has been given more powers than States.

Federal supremacy in executive space

1) Union and State executive power extent to respective union & State list.

2) Concurrent list executive powers rest with States, but if law says it may be with Union also And here union has upper hand in making laws

3) Governor ~~Gand~~ & president can

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mutually delegate executive functions to Union or State executive on mutual agreement of both.

But, in case of disagreement, Parliament can delegate subjects to State executive but ~~State~~ legislature has no such power.

4) ~~State~~ Union can give directions to States to follow. If not follow, union can impose Art 365.

5) The recent power tussle with respect to Delhi Union Territory is expression of executive power sharing issue.

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Resolving the Issue

1) Suitable constitutional amendment to resolve ambiguity
   - Amendment to Art 239AA and GNCTD Act
2) Promoting cooperative federalism.
3) Use of ~~international~~ constitutional bodies like Inter State Council (Art 263).
4) Judicial recourse as measure of last resort
5) Rationalisation of 7th schedule in the light of 21st century governance challenges.

Cooperation rather than confrontation is the way out. Constitutional morality must be abided by all parties.

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Q.14

Delimitation is the process of creating territorial constituencies, which ensures there is roughly same number of persons per constituency in such a way that there is equal value of each vote with respect to choosing public representatives.

Challenges posed by misrepresentation in constituencies:

1) It lead to denial of political equality, ie not upholding the ~~value~~ principle of one person=one value

2) There is dangers of gerrymandering.

3) Sometime packing is done, where minority population is

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clubbed into one constituency and thus, their influence is restricted to one constituency only, otherwise it could have influenced winning probability in many constituencies.

4) Another kind of danger is making minority or a single community voted divided across multiple constituencies, resulting probability of influence in winning that seat is reduced.

5) It could led to denial of political representation and discontent among population.

Ramification of population based delimitations

1) It lead to discontent among

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states who were successful in controlling the population.

2) Such States claim that they are being punished for being perfomer.

3) On the other hand ~~~~ not doing delimitation & delaying it leads to erosion of political equality.

Thus, it creates federal tensions and tensions among States as well. There is need to maintain a balance between political equality and principle of ~~=~~ one-person-one vote. This can be done by have ~~Rajya~~ population based ~~seats~~ in Loksabha and equal representation to all States in Rajyasabha (US Senate model).

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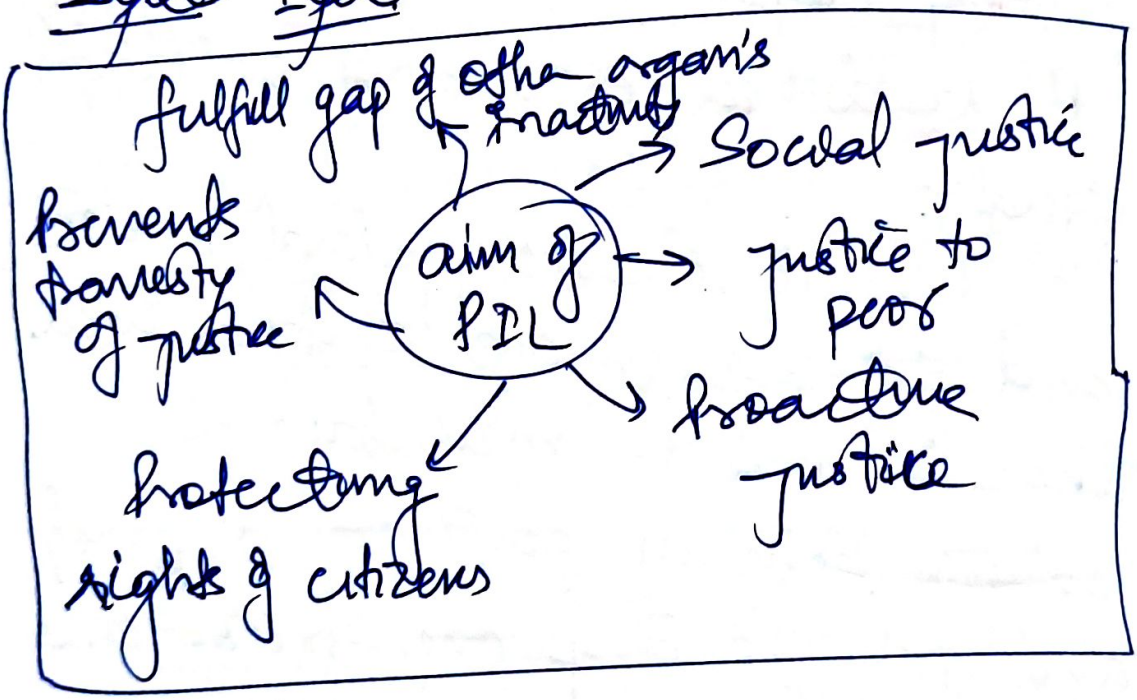
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Q.15

PIL system came into being by relaxing locus standi principles. It was outcome of judicial activism role played by justice PN Bhagwati & Justice Krishna ~~Iyer~~ Iyer.



PIL responsible for shifting focus

1) Now PIL cases are almost 2/3rd of total SC cases

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2) This reduces ~~the loss~~ time available for crucial questions of constitution

3) Some times trivial matter reach directly to supreme court

4) Wastage of court's time

PIL rather helping court in constitutional matters

1) The court is very gaurdian of constitution

2) It prime goal is to protect the rights of citizens

3) In this context, PIL help to court to fulfill this duty.

Eg: PUCL Case, Olga Tellis Case, Puttaswamy Case etc

Role played by trial courts to reduce over all case burden on higher courts

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1) Many a times appeal is made because judgement of lower court doesn't have sound reasoning.

2) The suitable judges, writing reasonable and constitutionally valid judgement could reduce the number of appeals. This will lead to reduced case burden on higher judiciary.

3) One cases certified for appeal shall be allowed for appeal in the higher court.

4) Smaller cases (less pecuniary implications) shall not be allowed to appeal in normal circumstances.

More than 85000 cases are pending in supreme court. This is big black blot on judiciary and need to be corrected.

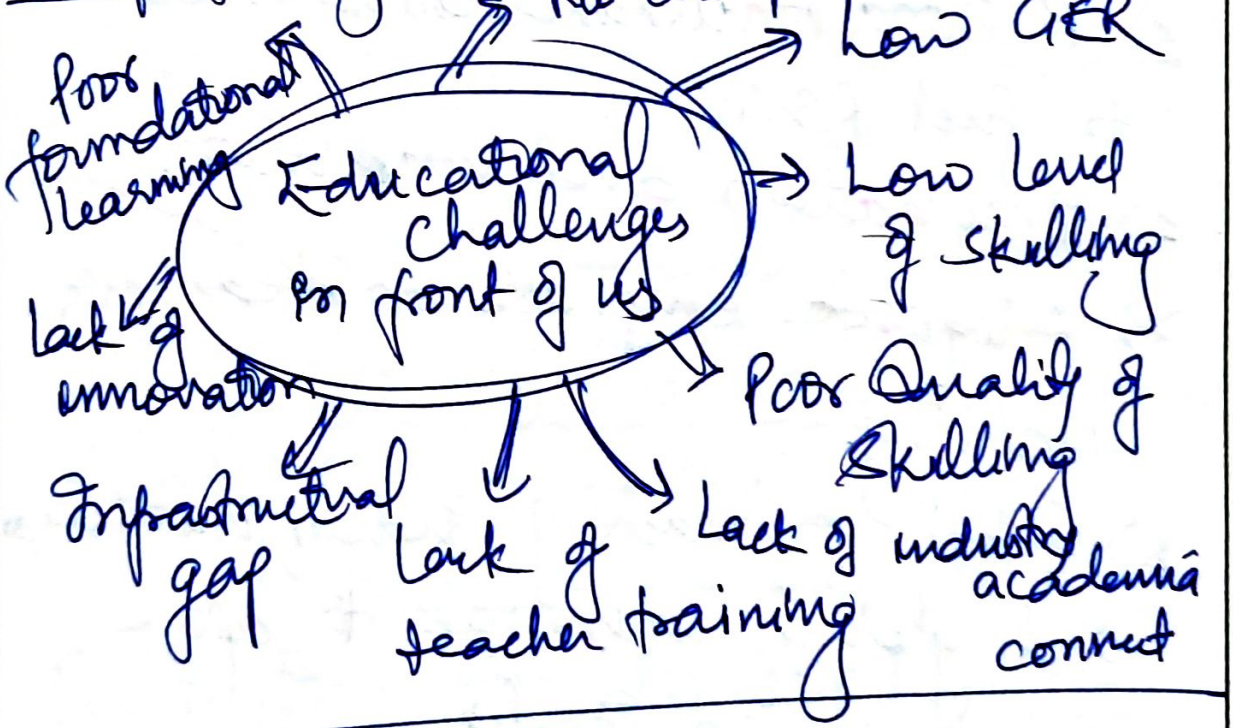
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Q.16

21st ~~cbc~~ century is century of fast transitions, In this context we need systemic overhaul of our education system to deal with emerging and ever changing world.

In this context, NEP is timely step from government of India.



NEP-2020 has been brought to deal with above challenges.

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NEP-2020 addressing challenges

1) Focus on foundational literacy
2) Skilling is integrated to the syllabus
3) Focus on mother tongue (cultural connect)
4) Industry person's input in syllabus design.
5) Rashtra Anushandhan Parishad to fuel R&D.
6) Incubation and innovation.
7) Adequate emphasis on teacher's training
8) Global outreach of Indian institutions and global universities to open campuses in India.
9) Enhanced focus on STEM
10) 2.5% of GDP to spend on education

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What India can learn from international best practices

1) focus on research (Europe & US)
2) focus on attracting foreign students (Europe & US)
3) practical and industry relevant learning or education. (Germany)
4) Massification of higher education
5) Enhanced budgetary spending on education and R&D. (Sweden)
6) Industry-academia linkage (USA)
7) Affordable education (Sweden, Germany)

NEP is properly implemented will be instrumental in overhauling our education system and getting us ready to face changing 21st century & its challenges

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Q.17

RTI Act of 2005 ushered a new era of governance and empowered citizenry to ensure more accountability.

Factors impeding effective implementation of RTI

1) There is no adequate appointment of PIO in many offices
2) PIOs are not trained
3) The information is not well classified & stored for easy retrieval
4) Lack of pro-active disclosure [(Sec. 4) of RTI Act requires this].

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5) Only 4% people even used RTI [Lack of awareness]

6) RTI amendment act and rules weaken the CIC & SIC independence

7) Misuse of Sec-8 (exemptions) of RTI Act to deny information

8) Lack of digitalisation with respect to receiving & sending information application.

9) Killing of RTI Activists

10) Misuse of RTI for vested interests

Measures for effective implementation

Systematic changes:

1) Training & appointment of PIOs
2) Clear pendency of cases in CIC & SIC
3) Digitalisation

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4) Proper classification & information for easy retrieval

5) Repeal of Official secret Act

~~Attitudinal~~ change

1) PIO should be willing to provide information (training)

2) For active disclosure

Public awareness

1) More awareness about RTI Act

Along with RTI, Social Audit and Citizen charter had huge potential to ensure transparency, accountability & better service delivery to the citizens, resulting good governance

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Q.8 Self Help Group is group of women from poor sections of society who voluntary came together for collective upliftment.

Due to their social base, location and poor educational and awareness level, SHGs face various problems.

In this context, urban SHGs faces unique opportunities & challenges.

Unique challenges to Urban SHGs

1) Heterogenity of members makes cooperation difficult
2) High cost of life results little savings.
3) Even faces issues of availability of space, water & other ammenities.

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4) Need of capital to start any venture is higher

Opportunities for urban SHGs

1) More social sector (NGOs) guidance available
2) Near to market, hence, ease of selling products
3) Nearness to bank (ease of credit)
4) Women more likely to be educated
5) More opportunities due to being near to city centre

Adopting microfinance to tackle urban poverty

⇒ Microfinance is small ticket loan given to individuals who do not have any collateral. Microfinance can help in following ways:-

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1) SHGs can get credit & start business

2) MUDRA scheme, PM Svanidhi scheme are showing good results in promoting self employment

3) They can act as help to buy initial raw material & small capital goods.

Various small finance banks are playing crucial role in micro-financing and empowering poor.

There is more wider systemic support should be given to SHGs in all parts of country to promote sustainable regional development & reduce inequality.

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Q.19

On the aegis of G20, IMEC corridor was launched aiming at enhancing multi-modal connectivity between India, Middle and Europe.

Significance for India's connectivity

1) India today is 3rd largest economy in terms of PPP. Our trade is going to further increase
This corridor will bring down logistics cost, boosting India's export

2) India's largest trading partners are EU and Middle east after China and USA, this highlights the potential

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of this corridor.

3) It will promote infrastructural development

4) It will boost our export resulting job creation, enabling us to reap our demographic dividend.

However, its operationalisation & success depends on peace in the volatile middle east region.

Transport and Energy initiatives in recent foreign policy of ours

1) Signing of IMEC
2) Focus on Chennai - ~~to~~ Vladivostok corridor.
3) Asia-Africa growth corridor in cooperation with Japan
4) India - Myanmar - Thailand

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trilateral corridor

2) Kaladan Multi-modal corridor

6) BBIN ~~etc~~ ISA, OSOWOG etc.

other issues → more foreign policy

1) Trade (EU, EFTA)

2) Defense cooperation (USA, Russia)

3) Human Resource development

4) HADR, Climate change

~~cooperation~~ cooperation etc

Thus, our foreign policy is multi-dimensional, however, energy and transportation sectors are important component of it

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Q.2. Due to targeted killing of Nijjhar by unknown assailants, Khalistan extremism in Canada and their accusation of our involvement in Canadian internal affairs coupled with Canadian unsolicited remarks on farmers protest has resulted strain in the relationship between two nations.

However, due to shared values of democracy, duration, care for human rights and freedom of speech and expression the base of relationship is solid and intact

Significant pillars of India-Canada relationship

1) Diaspora & people to people ties

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extends centuries old. There is deep relations between Indian Sikhs and Canada

2) Punjabi is one of large spoken language in Canada

3) Trade of two nations is of multi billion dollar & growing

4) Indian students spend $ 6 billion annually on education in Canada

Potential areas of cooperation & collaboration

1) Education
2) Space Technology
3) Climate change
4) UN Reforms
5) Trade relations

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6) Energy Security

7) Employment and Diaspora

8) Anti-terrorism & Money laundering.

India-Canada have huge potential to explore as there commanlity of vision and values. There is need of cultural sensetivity to be infused into the relationship for better understanding & cooperation

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