Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

NEXT IAS

GS MAINS ADVANCED COURSE 2024

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : GSMAC2406

Name of Candidate: RAHUL SHEKHAR Mobile N

Roll No.: ..... Start Time 5:30 PM End Time 9 PM

Date of Examination: 26-08-24 Medium : English ☑ Hindi ☐

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

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

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

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, 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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Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

1. परामर्श और आपसी सहमति के आधार पर बहुलवाद द्वारा उत्पन्न समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए संस्थागत व्यवस्था संघीय शासन की एक प्रमुख विशेषता है। क्षेत्रीय परिषदें केवल सलाहकार निकायों से कार्रवाई के लिए सक्रिय मंचों के रूप में कैसे विकसित हुई हैं (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Federal governance is characterised by institutionalized arrangements for solving problems generated by pluralism based on consultation and mutual consent. How have Zonal Councils evolved from merely advisory bodies to proactive platforms for action? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Federalism in India is ~~also~~ moving towards cooperation, collaboration and competition, thus Zonal councils have gained traction.

Institutional arrangements

1) Inter-state councils
- Constitutional body
- Regional issues as well as national issues.

2) River boards
- Solving disputes amicably.

3) Zonal councils
- Issue resolutions of each zones.
- Chaired by Home Minister

4) GST council → Art 279A
- for indirect taxation

Zonal councils: Evolution from advisory → proactive

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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1.) Deeper engagements

- CMs, Governors with Home Minister + resolve issues.

2.) Achieving substantive results

- Eg. tackling left wing extremism issues.

3.) focus on integration

Eg. NE council + checking insurgency.

4.) Respecting federal units

Eg. development agendas of respective states.

5.) Dispute resolution among states

Eg. border disputes between states.

Active success of zonal councils will promote balanced regional growth and federal spirit.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

2. भारतीय संविधान के तहत धर्मनिरपेक्षता समानता के प्रति संवैधानिक प्रतिबद्धता की व्यापक अवधारणा में समाहित है। चर्चा करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Secularism under the Indian constitution is encapsulated in the broader concept of constitutional commitment to equality. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Indian secularism is based on harmonious relation of state with all religions and promotes inter and intra religion equality.

Article 25-30 → ensure secularism.

Secularism → commitment to equality

1) Equal promotion of all religions
   - Eg. freedom to preserve distinct culture to all. Art. 29.
2) No state religion
3) Equality to all citizens to interpret religion and practises.
   - Article 25
4) Intra-religion equality
   - Equal protection to all sects within religion.
5) Promoting equality between genders in personal laws.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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Eg. Shayra Bano Case → banning of triple talaq.

Challenges to secularism –

1) Religious extremism → separatist tendencies.
   Eg demand for Khalistan, ~~Kashmir~~ radicalisation in Kashmir.
2) Intolerance → leading to communal tensions. Eg. Delhi riots, 2020.
3) Use of religion in politics
   Hate speeches during 2024 elections
4) Opposition to UCC by religious groups.
5) Religious interpretation → against gender equality. Eg. ~~sec~~ impurity → menstruating women.

Way forward –

1) UCC (Article 44) → Create discussions
2) Unbiased law enforcement
3) Incorporating LGBTQ rights within secular framework. → Enhances equality.

Secularism - a part of basic structure will help to further build India's multicultural society.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

3. जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 8 को सजा की अवधि से हटाकर अपराध की गंभीरता पर केंद्रित करने की आवश्यकता है।' टिप्पणी करें कि धारा 8 के तहत वर्तमान वर्गीकरण किस प्रकार अपराधों के मनमाने वर्गीकरण की ओर ले जाता है। साथ ही, इस धारा के तहत अयोग्य घोषित व्यक्ति के लिए उपलब्ध उपायों का भी उल्लेख करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

'There is a need to shift the focus of Section 8 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 from the duration of the sentence to the gravity of the offence.' Comment on how the current classification under Section 8 leads to arbitrary categorisation of offences. Also, mention the remedies available to a person disqualified under this section. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Sec-8 of RPA deals with disqualifications of MPs and MLAs for corrupt practises, electoral violations and criminal actions, however there are ambiguities.

Provision with regard to sentence duration :-

- Disqualification - if sentence is for 2 years or more.
- Period - Sentence period + 6 years.
- No consideration of gravity of crime.

Arbitrary classification at present -

1) Heinous offenses clubbed together with less grave offenses.
   Eg. murder and criminal defamation

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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2.) Corruption clubbed together with electoral affidavit mistakes.

3.) Frequency of crime - Not considered

4.) Arbitrary power given to ECI to reduce punishment period.

Remedies available -

1.) Appeal to a higher court and get the stay ~~over~~ on punishment within 3 months.

2.) Appeal to ECI to remove/reduce at discretion.

Way Forward -

1.) Remove ambiguities under the act.

2.) Induce proportional punishment to the gravity of offense.

This may help to check "criminalisation" of politics.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 03-08-2024 12:25 AM

4. भारतीय संसदीय प्रणाली में विपक्ष के नेता का क्या महत्व है? लोकतंत्र में नियंत्रण और संतुलन बनाए रखने में विपक्ष की भूमिका किस प्रकार योगदान देती है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

What is the significance of the Leader of Opposition in the Indian parliamentary system? How does the role of the opposition contribute to the checks and balances in a democracy? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Leader of Opposition (LoP) is the leader of the largest party of the opposition faction, subject to minimum 10% seats of the house.

- LoP status = Equivalent to Cabinet minister
- Signifies high value

Significance of LoP for Indian Parliamentary system :-

1) Constructive criticism of the government on the floor of the house.
2) Channeling voice of the opposition
3) Collaborating with ruling party (or coalition) for political consensus
4) Staging input in policy making through incorporating voice of the people.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

Candidates must not write on this margin

5) Maintaining checks and balances and discussions on floor.

6) Member of selection committees → Eg → ECI.

Role of opposition for checks and balances is through -

1) Debates and discussions on bills

2) Questions → Question hour and zero hour.

3) Motions → Cut motions, no-confidence motion, censure motion etc. to check the government.

4) Parliamentary committee participation
- Inputs on bills. Eg: National ~~Health~~ Medical Council bill.

5) Awareness among people about actions of the government.

Challenges	Way forward
1) Disruptions in Parliament.	1) Mandatory screening of bills through committees.
2) Partisan role of Speaker.	2) Equality of chances for opposition to speak.
3) Falling attendance	3) Empower MPs with technical support.
4) low discussion time. (20% bills passed on same day in 17th Lok Sabha).	

Opposition helps to effectively balance the power and check arbitrariness of Government.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 26-08-2024 12:25 AM

5. "प्रस्तावना के मूल आदर्श - संप्रभुता, समाजवाद, धर्मनिरपेक्षता और लोकतंत्र - भारत के संवैधानिक ढांचे की आधारशिला हैं।" स्पष्ट कीजिये। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

"The core ideals of the Preamble—sovereignty, socialism, secularism, and democracy—form the bedrock of India's constitutional framework." Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Preamble lists several ideals which Indian state and people shall seek to achieve and enhance for democracy to foster.

Core ideals form bedrock –

Sovereignty
- 1.) Independence in foreign affairs.
  Eg. buying S-400 from Russia despite threat of US.
- 2.) Protection of borders and ceding land through Constitutional amendment.
  - Berubari case, 1960.
- 3.) Freedom to annex territories
  - Eg. Goa merger with India, 1956.

Secularism
- 1.) Constitutional safeguards to minorities.
  - Article 25 to 30.
- 2.) Part of basic structure as per Supreme Court.
- 3.) Acts ~~such~~ to enhance secular morality. Eg. banning triple talaq, Child marriage (restraint) act)

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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Socialism
- 1.) Welfare state + Basic structure
- 2.) Constitutional mandate → Articles 39(A), 39(B).
- 3.) Mixed economy model
  - Democratic socialism.
- 4.) Policy decisions

Eg. PM JANMAN scheme, Standup India, Food security Act etc.

Democracy
- 1.) Freedom to political organisation, participation and equality of votes. (Constitutional).
- 2.) Supreme Court strengthening election commission.

Eg. ADR vs Union of India, 2002;
PUCL v/s Union of India, 2003.

- 3.) Rising people's participation.
  - Voter turnout rise.
  - Rise of pressure groups.

These ideals shall enhance with time to further foster constitutional morality.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

6. 103वें संवैधानिक संशोधन के निहितार्थों का आकलन करें, जिसने भारत में सामाजिक न्याय के सिद्धांत पर आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्गों (ईडब्ल्यूएस) के लिए दस प्रतिशत आरक्षण की शुरुआत की है। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दें) 10 अंक

Assess the implications of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which introduced a ten per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), on the principle of social justice in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Through 103rd amendment, articles 15(6) and 16(6) were added to provide 10% reservation to EWS in educational institutes and public employment.

Positive implications –

1.) Inclusive growth → Poors face lack of opportunities

2.) Enhance educational attainments
- Access to education.

3.) Positive discrimination → Justice
- Part of constitutional morality

4.) Basis for economic criteria under other categories of vertical reservation like OBCs, SC, STs.

Possible challenges –

1.) Breach of 50% ~~limit~~ cap on reservation. → Indira Sawhney case, 1992.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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2) Complicated criterions
→ Vulnerable to be misused.

3) Covers nearly 90% of the population
→ May not transform substantively.

4) Exclusion of SCs, STs, OBCs
• Minority stance in Jaishri Ahluwalia v/s Union of India; said should include SCs, STs, OBCs.

5) Create dependence culture

Way Forward -

1) Effective enforcement to check fake certifications.

2) Form a commission to ensure its downward filtration. Eg. NCSC, NCBC.

3) Continuous review and feedback.

Its effective implementation will help foster "socio-economic justice".

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

7. भारत में कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का ध्यान "कल्याण" से "अति-निर्भरता" की ओर स्थानांतरित हो रहा है। इसके आलोक में, क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि कल्याणकारी योजनाओं ने भारत में "मुफ्त की संस्कृति" को जन्म दिया है, जिससे गरीबी और भूख उन्मूलन से ध्यान भटक गया है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The focus of welfare schemes in India is shifting from "well-being" towards "over-dependency". In light of this, do you agree that welfare schemes have inculcated a "freebies culture" in India leading to a divergence of focus from poverty and hunger alleviation? (10 marks, 150 words)

Welfare schemes seek to uplift and empower vulnerable sections and enhance their quality of life.

Shifting focus from "well being" to 'over dependency":

1.) Non-asset creating subsidies.
- Eg. loan waivers.

2.) No motivation to enhance efficiency.
- Eg. lack of investment.

3.) Dependence culture for basic amenities of water, cleanliness etc.

Inculcated a freebie culture →
1.) Rise in competitive populism
- Race to the bottom
- Eg. TV set distribution

2.) Means to distort electoral agenda setting
Eg. farm loan waives announcement

3.) Non targetted nature
Eg. free electricity to all.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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Divergence from poverty and hunger elimination -

1) Lack of focus on quality of food
   - GHI rank = 111/125.
2) Rise in anaemia in women
   - 57% women (15-59 age group) = anaemic.
3) Rising income inequality
   - Top 10% = 77% wealth (Oxfam).
4) Largest number of poors in the world.
5) Reduced budget for schemes like NREGA that target poverty alleviation.

Benefits of present targetted based approach -

1) Holistic focus - Eg. health = Ayushman Bharat.
   Housing = PM Awas Yojana.
2) Reduction in Multi-dimensional poverty
   - 411 million people = out of poverty = 2005 to 2019
3) Incentivising people = Standup India, Mudra loans.
4) Inclusion-based model Eg. Jandhan Yojana.
5) Rights' as focus = Rights of disabled.

The ~~issues~~ issues when solved will lead to more inclusion.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

8. ई-शासन केवल दक्षता के संबंध में नहीं है; यह प्रत्येक नागरिक के लिए शासन व्यवस्था को सुलभ और समावेशी बनाने के संबंध में है। व्याख्या करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

E-governance is not just about efficiency; it's about making governance accessible and inclusive for every citizen. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

e-governance is the use of ICT to deliver efficient, accessible and inclusive services to the citizens.

e-governance → efficiency

1) Checking loopholes
Eg. DBT

2) Faster service delivery
Eg. Single window clearance

3) Inter department cohesion
Eg. CCTNS, PFMS.

4) Enhancing output and outcome measurement

e-governance → Accessible

1) Online information availability
Eg. RTI application.

2) Enhancing reach of education and health: eg. M-health, NPTEL

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

Candidates must not write on this margin

3.) ~~Approa~~ Receiving services at doorstep
- Eg. online land registeration

4.) Incorporating voices → feedback
Eg. CPGRAMS.

e-governance → inclusivity

1.) Reaching the last mile.

2.) Online complaint filing → Eg. women friendly.

3.) Justice access Eg. SUVAS, SUPACE by Supreme court.

4.) Reducing language barrier →
- Information in several languages.

Challenges	Way forward
1) ~~(bad~~ Digital divide and illiteracy.	1.) Digital literacy missions - DIKSHA
2) Lack of infra.	2.) Check and foolproof → cyber security
3.) Poor interoperability	3.) Build digital infra → CSC, SWAN
4.) Poor capacity of public servants.	

e-governance is a shot in the arm and shall help us achieve the goals of people centred governance.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

9. QUAD, AUKUS, I2U2 आदि जैसे नए क्षेत्रीय और बहुपक्षीय समझौतों के आगमन के साथ, गुट निरपेक्ष आन्दोलन (NAM), दावोस और G77 जैसे संगठनों द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व की जाने वाली पुरानी वैश्विक व्यवस्था अपनी प्रासंगिकता खो रही है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

With the advent of new regional and multilateral agreements like QUAD, AUKUS, I2U2 etc the old world order represented by organizations like NAM, Davos, and G77 is losing its relevance. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Candidates may write on this side

The concerns over undemocratic rise of China and Iran have led to engagement in groups like QUAD, I2U2 AUKUS and slight marginalisation of groups like NAM, Davos, G77 etc.

losing relevance of NAM, G77, Davos etc

1) Pre cold war organisations
   - ~~As~~ As USSR collapsed, these groups lost sheen.

2) Security of Indo-Pacific
   - Major trade route for oil.
   - China → threat to security.

3) Changing world order
   - Multi alignment rather than non-alignment. → India's policy.

4) Emerging challenges
   - Food security, water issues, environment issues → part of I2U2.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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QUAD → India, US, Japan, Australia
I2U2 → India, Israel, USA, UAE
AUKUS → Australia, UK, USA

NAM, G77, Davos etc. → still relevant →

1) India hosted Summit of Global South before G-20 presidency summit.
2) Call for UN reforms by India at G77
3) Inclusion of African Union in G20 at India's behest.
4) Developmental initiatives in Africa, South Asia etc.

Maintaining balance by India –

1) focus on multilateral world order.
2) Democratic engagement with all countries, on equal terms.
   Eg. USA - India → No sanctions for S-400.
3) Competing with China for strategic gain in global south

The balanced approach by India exemplifies our commitment to our policies of democratic and rule based global order.

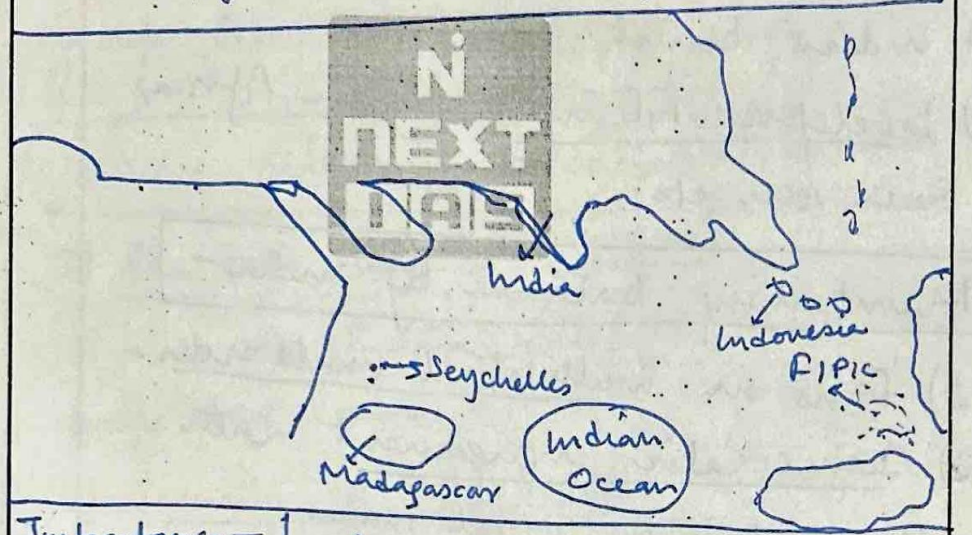
Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

Candidates must write on this side

10. दक्षिण प्रशांत से अफ्रीकी तट तक के द्वीपीय राज्य और क्षेत्र भारत के बदलते रणनीतिक भूगोल में नए केंद्र बन गए हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के लिए इन द्वीपीय राज्यों के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें और इन राज्यों के साथ संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत द्वारा की गई पहलों पर भी प्रकाश डालें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The island states and territories from the South Pacific to the African coast have become new nodes in India's changing strategic geography. In this context, highlight the importance of these island states for India and also throw light upon the initiatives taken by India to strengthen ties with these states. (10 marks, 150 words)

Recently Indian PM visited Seychelles FIPIC countries as well as ~~the host~~ to enhance engagement in Southern Indo-Pacific.



New nodes in India's changing Strategy

Importance —

1.) Indo-Pacific security

2.) Tackling China's large influence

3.) Seek ~~out~~ defense and naval cooperation Eg. joint drills with Seychelles

4.) Deep sea mining

~~5.) Disaster~~ 5.) Disaster resilience

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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India's initiatives –

1.) Disaster cooperation with SIDS countries like PNG.

2.) Infrastructure development
Eg. jetty and airpad in Seychelles.

3.) Food security initiatives
Eg. easier supply from India to FIPIC.

4.) Health support during COVID
• Mission SAGAR.

5.) Institutional → Eg. dialogue member of IORA

6.) Enhancing people to people contact.
Eg. Mauritius.

7.) Defense support → Helicopters by India.

Thus, India's diverse engagement is in sync with future forecasts to become a "blue water navy".

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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12. दबाव समूह लोकतंत्र की सामाजिक नींव का निर्माण करते हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में श्रमिकों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा उपायों को बढ़ावा देने में दबाव समूहों के प्रमुख योगदान पर चर्चा करें और बताएं कि वे मौजूदा नीतियों में उपलब्ध खामियों को किस प्रकार दूर करते हैं। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Pressure groups form the social foundation of a democracy. In this context, discuss pressure groups' key contributions in promoting social security measures for workers in India, and how they address the gaps in existing policies. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Pressure groups are associations of similar interest people who seek political gains without direct political participation.

Eg. IAS Association, Kisan Union etc

Form social foundation of a democracy

1) Enhance political awareness and participation

2) Goal setting and prepare agenda for the government

Eg. FICCI's business policies.

3) Check arbitrary actions of the government.

4) Demand reforms

Eg. Women's groups asked for women's representation in Parliament → Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

Promoting social security measures for workers-

1.) ~~Coll~~ Labour rights movements led to Mines Safety Act.

2.) ~~₹~~ Demanding proper implementation
Eg. NREGA Mazdoor Sangh.

3.) Inputs for policies related to labour.
Eg. 4 Codes on Labour relations.

4.) Demand for social security to gig workers.

Address gaps in existing policies-

1.) Demand for reforms and rights
Eg. MKSS → call for RTI.

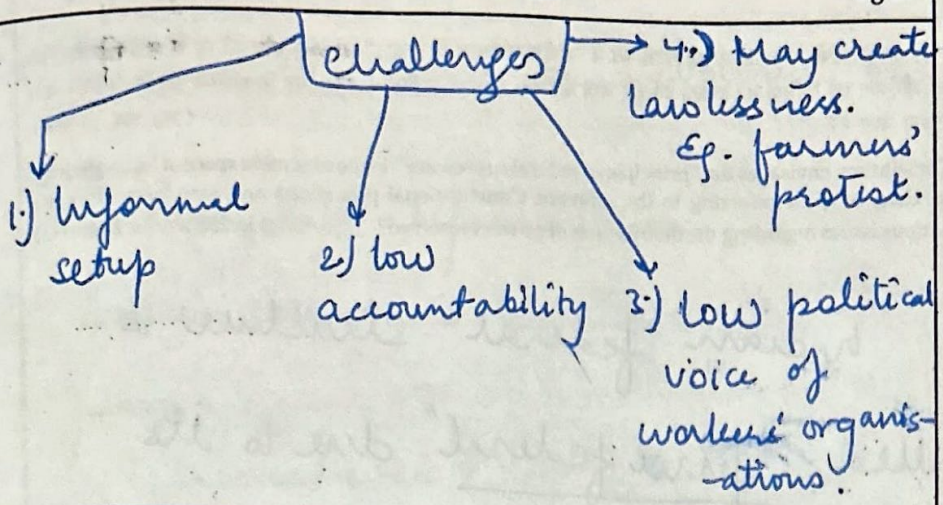
2.) Seek constitutional / legal recourse
Eg. Bandhua Mukti Morcha → Right to Health.

3.) Fostering economic landscape
Eg. Business organisations give review on budgets.

4.) Call for democratic reforms.
Eg. ADR and PUCL through several cases

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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Way forward–

1.) Ensure transparency in funding

2.) Promote self regulation.

3.) Promote consultations in policy making

Pressure groups' positive engagement will help us enhance democratic participation.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

13 संविधान में भारतीय संघीय राजनीति के कार्यकारी क्षेत्र में "संघीय सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत" की परिकल्पना की गई है। प्रासंगिक संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और वाद एवं विधियों का हवाला देते हुए चर्चा कीजिये। शक्तियों के वितरण से संबंधित विवादास्पद मुद्दों का समाधान किस प्रकार किया जाता है?

(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

The Constitution envisages the "principle of federal supremacy" in the executive space of Indian federal polity. Discuss while referring to the relevant Constitutional provisions and case laws. How are contentious issues regarding the distribution of powers resolved? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Indian federal structure is called "quasi federal" due to its favourable tilt towards union and it is reflected in executive space as well Eg. All India Services.

Principle of federal supremacy in excutive space.

---

1) Office of Governor
   - Chief executive of the state
   - Appointed and removed by centre
   - Acts as agent of centre.

2) All India Services - Article 312
   - State bureaucracy - appointed and controlled by Union.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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3.) Finance Commission → Devolution of taxes.
- No state representation.

4.) Centre can issue directives to states to follow.
- Disobedience ⇒ call for Art 356.

5.) President's rule → Art. 356.
- Emergency
- Disbanding state executive

6.) State to protect railways, telecommunications etc.

Contentions
1.) Arbitrariness related to Governor's actions.
Eg. Tamil Nadu governor - budget speech issue.
2.) Control of bureaucrats
- Centre deputation
3.) Lack of financial autonomy to states.
4.) Arbitrary removal of state governments.
5.) Friction in Delhi government
- 2 power centres → CM → LG

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

Resolving contentious issues -

1.) Supreme Court decisions → Art. 131

a) SR Bommai case → No arbitrary application of Art. 356.
- federalism → Basic structure

b) Rameshwar Prasad case → Discretionary power of governors → used only when constitutionally mandated.

c) Nebam Rebia case → Reinstated Arunachal government and legislature.

2.) Committee recommendations

a) Sarkaria commission → Inter state council

b) Punchhi commission → Consultation of CM in appointing governers.

3.) Constitutional amendments

GST council → Cooperative federalism

4.) Inter state councils, NITI Aayog, Zonal councils, & River boards → Dispute resolution

5.) Political solution → Coalition governments.

Federal Spirit of India has risen and transitioned into cooperative and competitive from confrontational.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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14. निष्पक्ष प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करने और एक वोट, एक मूल्य के सिद्धांतों को बनाए रखने के लिए सीटों का परिसीमन आवश्यक है। निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में गलत प्रतिनिधित्व से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए संघीय तनाव उत्पन्न करने में जनसंख्या-आधारित परिसीमन के प्रभावों का विश्लेषण कीजिये। (250 शब्द, 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 analyse the ramifications of population-based delimitation in creating federal tension. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Delimitation commissions are formed as constitutional bodies (87th amendment), to ensure the principle of equality of votes through delimiting constituencies in States.

Delimitation Commission
- Headed by Supreme Court judge
- Member - Election Commissioner of India
- Temporary - SEC.

Last conducted in 2003 (interval)

Principle of one vote, one value -

1.) $\frac{\text{Population (as per census)}}{\text{Value of 1 vote}}$ = No. of constituencies

2.) Population rise is faster ⇒ More seats.

Challenges posed by misrepresentations -

1.) Non-equality in political spheres

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

2.) Violates the principle of suffrage.

3) Misrepresentation may lead to developmental lag → ~~State~~ less say in rule-making

4.) Generation of voter apathy

Possible ramifications –

1.) North-South divide

States likely to lose seats are usually southern ones vis-a-vis northern ones.

2.) Deterrent to population control achievements.

Southern states → 4th stage of demographic transition

Northern states → 2nd or 3rd stage usually

3) Federal conflicts due to changed representation.

. Resentment by states that lose seats.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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4) ~~Hate~~ Compounding with language issue.

- Threat to national integrity.
- Regionalism will rise.

Possible solutions

1) Increase seats for some states, but don't reduce for any state.

2) finance commission rewards for states that perform better on demography.

3) Consultative process → Political consensus across parties is needed.

~~4)~~

Delimitation after upcoming census (2026 probable) will help reinforce the principle of political equality.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

15. उच्च न्यायालयों का ध्यान "संवैधानिक मामलों" से हटाकर रोजमर्रा के मामलों पर केंद्रित करने के लिए जनहित याचिका प्रणाली को किस सीमा तक जिम्मेदार ठहराया जा सकता है? उच्च न्यायालयों पर समग्र बोझ को कम करने में ट्रायल कोर्ट क्या भूमिका निभा सकते हैं? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

To what extent can the PIL system be held responsible for shifting the focus of the higher Courts from "constitutional matters" to day-to-day matters? What role can the trial Courts play in reducing the overall burden on higher Courts? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

PIL removes the condition of "locus standi" and have been seen as a method to inclusive justice but enhance workload of judiciary.

PIL → shifting focus of higher courts

1) Large burden of cases due to PIL
   - 120% cases pending in high courts
   - 85,000 pending cases in SC.
2) Frivolous PIL filings to vested gains.
3) ~~A~~ Create delays in justice delivery.
4) Constitutional matters take backseat
   Eg. Electoral bonds' issue - 6 years for verdict.
   Art 370 removal - still pending

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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PIL - positive impacts

1) Justice delivery to voiceless
   Eg: Hussainara Khatoon case - rights of prisoners.
2) Enhance ambit of right to life.
   Eg: MC Mehta vs Union of India - right to clean environment.
3) Create constitutional morality to prevail.
   - 39 A - free legal aid.
   - Navtej Singh Johar case - Decriminalisation of homosexuality
4) Increase trust of people.

Role of lower courts in reducing overall burden on higher courts -

1) Unambiguous decisions to be made
   - will reduce challenging of cases.
2) Timely justice delivery
   - Large pendency of (85.7% cases) in lower courts lead to filing petitions in higher courts.

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3) Verdict making within ambit.

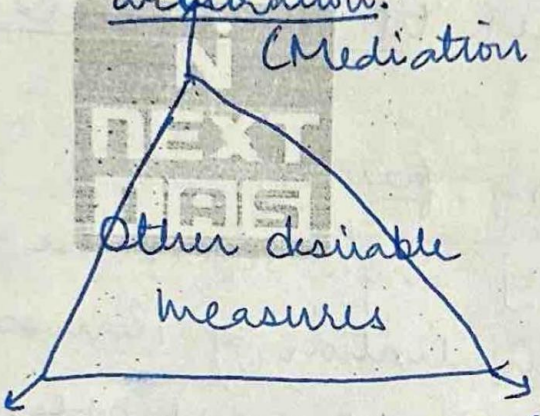
- Will reduce usage of writs by higher courts.
- Certiorari etc.

4) Enhance reach of people to lower courts.

- Will check PILs.

~~5)~~

1) Promote mediation and arbitration. (Mediation Act → 2023)



3) Fill vacancies in higher courts.
High courts → 25% vacancies

2) Digitisation of Courts

Timely justice will help to ensure order and fairness in the society.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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16. भारत की उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को वैश्विक मानकों के अनुरूप बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। नई शिक्षा नीति (एनईपी) 2020 का लक्ष्य इन चुनौतियों का समाधान करना किस प्रकार है, और भारत अपनी उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रथाओं से क्या सबक सीख सकता है? चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

India's higher education system needs significant reforms to align with global standards. How does the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aim to address these challenges, and what lessons can India learn from international practices to enhance its higher education system? Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

Only 13 of Indian higher educational institutes feature in Top 800 of global institutes as per annual rankings, thus signifying challenges and need for reforms.

Challenges with Higher education system

1) Low teacher-student ratio

2) Poor R&D focus

3) Weak physical and digital infra.

4) Disorientation with industry demand. only 4.7% formal vocational training

5) female participation in STEM is lower.

6) Mushrooming of colleges by private sector - Lack of quality focus.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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NEP aims to address in these ways -

1. Flexibility of entry and exit
   - 2 year, 3 year, 4 years courses.
2. Multi-disciplinary education
   - Students can choose variety of courses.
3. Standardisation
   - Higher Education Council of India setup for accredition.
4. Teacher quality enhancement
   - Training and evaluation programs.
5. Focus on skill and vocation
6. Enhance teacher student ratio.
7. Digital education initiatives
   Eg. NPTEL etc → promote
8. Inviting foreign university → campuses in India.
   - Amendment to UGC norms in 2022.

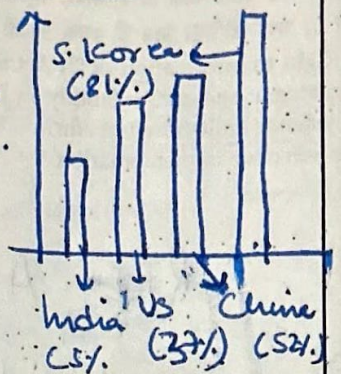
Learning from best international practices -

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1.) Practical and vocation based education.

(UNESCO data.)



2.) Recruitment of faculty to enhance ratio to global standards (1:5 nearly)

- Personalised education

3.) R&D focus → Nearly 0.5% in India → 1.5% → USA.

- Improvise IPR regime.

4.) Affordability → Costly → Huge private dominance.

↳ Check private sector fee schemes.

5.) Enhance public investment.

- 6% envisaged → only 2.2% presently

6.) Industry-linkage

Eg. ISRO - NIT collaboration.

A robust higher education system will pave way for next generation jobs and technology crucial for 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

17. सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम को भारतीय शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की तलाश में परिवर्तनकारी प्रभाव के लिए सराहा जाता है। हालाँकि, बहुआयामी चुनौतियाँ और प्रणालीगत सीमाएँ इसके प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में बाधा डालती हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही इसके प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन के लिए उपाय भी सुझाइये। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

The Right to Information (RTI) Act is hailed for its transformative impact on the quest for transparency and accountability in Indian governance. However, multifaceted challenges and systemic limitations impede its effective implementation. Discuss. Also, suggest measures for its effective implementation. (15 marks, 250 words)

Candidates write on this

RTI Act (2005) has motto of "accountability and transparency" and has strengthened citizen's engagement but is marred with multifaceted challenges.

Transformative impacts
1) Unearthing corruption
• Eg. CWG scam.
2) Forward accountability
• Displaying information on self
3) Participation by citizens.
4) Accessibility to information at will.

Multifaceted challenges-

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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1) Incompetence of PIOs
   - Less trained

2) Lack of digital availability by states
   - Only (8 states) have digitised portal.

3) Pendency of cases → Nearly (3 lakh) in all SICs, CIC combined.

4) Vacancies in SICs, CIC
   - 4 SICs → completely vacant
   - 5 SICs → No head
   - Vacancies in almost all SIC.

5) low awareness among citizens

Systemic limitations -

1) Exemptions under Official Secrets Act
   - Wide usage by government officials.

2) Exemption of political parties, defense from the Act.

3) Weakening position of Information Commissioners under 2019 amendment.
   - Selection, removal, pay and privileges → as per Central government.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

4) less protection to whistleblowers
- Death of 29 RTI activists in last 10 years (NCRB).

5) High bureaucratisation.

Suggestive measures -

1) Protection of tenure to ICs.
- Reverse 2019 amendment.

2) Specify terms of usage of Official Secrets Act explicitly

3) Bring political parties under RTI.

4) fill vacancies in all commissions.

5) Engage civil societies, judges as ICs.

6) Nyaya support + Digitisation

7) Capacity building of PIOs.

The "sunshine Act" will help achieve ~~setup~~ the principles of "Good Governance" as given by World Bank.

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18. ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की तुलना में शहरी क्षेत्रों में स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी) को मिलने वाली अनूठी चुनौतियों और अवसरों पर चर्चा कीजिए, और शहरी गरीबी से निपटने के लिए सूक्ष्म ऋण को किस प्रकार अनुकूलित किया जा सकता है।

(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Discuss the unique challenges and opportunities Self Help Groups (SHGs) encounter in urban areas compared to rural ones, and how can microfinance be adapted to tackle urban poverty.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Self help groups are loose associations that join to pursue a social or economic purpose, which are mostly successful in rural areas, thereby showing challenges for urban areas.

Challenges for SHGs in urban areas -

1) Non-homogenity of members.
2) Other available income sources.
3) Frequent migration.
4) Urbain idealogy is individualistic whereas SHGs are communitarian.
5) Presence of specialised and corporate chains in urban areas - reduce scope for SHGs in urban areas.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

Q)

Opportunities

1) Tackling low women labour force participation in urban areas.
   - Urban → 29.2%.
   - Rural → 43.6%.
   } 2023 PLFS data

2) Development of social capital and awareness about social issues like maternal health.

3) Supplementing family income.

4) Breaking out of cycle of poverty, hunger and illiteracy through creation of community assets.

5) May enhance political participation of women as seen in rural areas.

Microfinance → tackling urban poverty-

---

1) Formal ~~lending~~ credit for poors -
   - Breaking away from moneylenders.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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2.) Asset creation
eg. e-rickshaw.

3.) Income generation afor the poorest.

4.) Replicating success of women empowerment from rural to urban areas. through microfinance.

5.) Enhancing creditworthiness of poors.
- financial inclusion.

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~~SHGs when~~
Tackling challenges-

1.) Identification and participation incentives like Rural livelihood Mission

2.) Identify key sectors in urban areas. Eg. transport

3.) Form specialised MFI like NABARD.

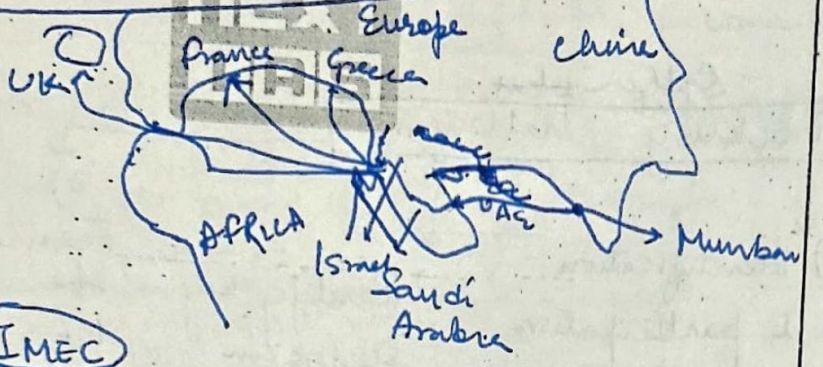
SHGs have the capability to make urban landscape inclusive.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

19. विश्व, विशेषकर पश्चिम के साथ भारत के संपर्क (कनेक्टिविटी) के लिए हाल ही में परिकल्पित भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप गलियारे के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें। क्या आपको लगता है कि हाल के दिनों में भारत की विदेश नीति में परिवहन और ऊर्जा पहल को प्राथमिकता दी गई है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Highlight the significance of the recently envisaged India-Middle East-Europe corridor for India's connectivity with the world, especially the West. Do you think, in recent times, transport and energy initiatives have taken precedence in India's foreign policy? (15 marks, 250 words)

Under India's G20 presidency India-Middle East-Europe corridor (IMEC) was announced as a significant move to enhance connectivity and energy linkages.



IMEC

Significance of IMEC-

1. Multimodal connectivity to Europe without Red Sea and Suez canal.
2. Enhanced Trade and reduced logistic costs.

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(3) Energy transfer
- Part of OSOWOG.
- & linking different branches of OSOWOG.

(4.) Safer route : Red Sea crisis

(5.) Deeper diplomatic engagements
- India-UAE CEPA → Already signed.
- India-EU, India-UK → talks

(6) ~~So~~ Checking growth of China in Indo-Pacific.
- Rule based order.

Energy and transport taking precedence

1.) Large number of connectivity projects
- Eg. INSTC, Chennai-Vladivostoc

2.) ~~Source~~ Engagement for newer routes
Eg. North Sea route.

3.) Regional connectivity enhancement
Eg. BBIN, IMT corridor etc.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

4) Leadership for energy forums
Eg. ISA.

5) Securing energy needs Eg India-UAE CEPA, cheap oil from Russia.

6) Nuclear energy collaborations → France, Russia

Other initiatives taking precedence

1) Defense → India-US, India-Russia
↓ Scramjet engine ↓ Brahmos

2) Space → Joined Artemis accord.
ISRO → launching Brazil's satellites

3) Mineral security
Eg. joining MSP, talks with Latin countries (lithium rich).

4) Disaster resilience initiatives
Eg. CDRI.

5) Health diplomacy → Mission SAGAR

6) Free and safe Indo-Pacific
Eg. QUAD, I2U2 etc.

India foresees a multilateral world order and rising energy needs for growth and transition, thus engaging on all sectors.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

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20. राजनीतिक रूप से विवादास्पद मुद्दों में हालिया वृद्धि के बावजूद, भारत-कनाडा द्विपक्षीय संबंध लोकतंत्र, बहुलवाद, आर्थिक जुड़ाव के विस्तार और लंबे समय से चले आ रहे लोगों से लोगों के संबंधों के साझा मूल्यों के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। भारत-कनाडा संबंध के महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत और कनाडा के मध्य सहयोग और सहभागिता के संभावित क्षेत्रों पर चर्चा करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Despite the recent rise in politically contentious issues, the India-Canada bilateral relationship has remained committed to shared values of democracy, pluralism, expanding economic engagement and long-standing people-to-people ties. Highlighting the significant pillars of the India-Canada relationship, discuss the potential areas of cooperation and collaboration between India and Canada. (15 marks, 250 words)

Recently, Canadian PM alleged role by Indian govt. in ~~the~~ killing of a Canadian citizen and due to rising base for Khalistan activities, political contentions have risen but fundamentals stay rock solid

Significant pillars –

I) Democracy → ~~Both~~

1.) Both countries share same ideals.

2.) Democratic engagement on equal terms.

II.) Pluralism

1.) Multi-cultural societies in both countries.

2.) Secular culture and polity

III)

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

(III.) Rising economic engagement

1.) FTA talks

2.) Trade → US$ 8 bn nearly.

3.) Agriculture → Oil import for India and export of engineering goods.

(IV.) People to people contact

1.) Indian community → Largest immigrant group.

• (2.2%) of Canada's population.

2.) Historical connect → freedom movement Eg. Ghadar party

(V.) Other pillars –

1.) Common concerns with China

2.) Investment in India

3.) Health and energy → Canada has large gas reserves.

4.) Arctic collaboration → Member of Arctic Council

Potential areas of cooperation –

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1.) Student exchange and easy visa norms.

2) Trade enhancement → Large potential for REMs, coal, gas etc. trade.

3) Cultural cooperation → Varied culture in both countries.

4.) Disaster cooperation → Wildfires' issue is common.

5.) Investment potential in rising India
- Eased FDI norms.

6.) Space and nuclear energy cooperation. (Part of Artemis, MRSP).

7) Co-sponsoring developmental projects in Least developed countries.

8.) Technology → Canada decreased Methane concentration by 50%.

Way forward –
- 1.) Look to initiate 2+2 talks
- 2) Finalising FTA at the earliest.
- 3.) Use global fora for cooperation.
- 4.) Proof based allegation levelling.

India – Canada have potential to fit into each others' scheme of things in a multilateral world order.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

11. भारत में चुनावी वित्तीयन विधिक खामियों और राजनीतिक अक्षमताओं की दोहरी मार से भरा हुआ है। इस संदर्भ में, चुनावी वित्तीयन की चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें। इस संबंध में भारत वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं से क्या सीख ले सकता है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Electoral funding in India is fraught with the **double** whammy of legal loopholes and political inefficiencies. In this context, discuss the challenges to electoral funding. What lessons can India draw from global best practices in this regard? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

~~Elect~~ Recently, Supreme Court ~~can~~ declared Electoral Bonds scheme as null and void, and reinforced the earlier method, however it also suffers from inefficiencies.

Electoral funding in India

Legal loopholes

1.) No check on cash donations below ₹20,000

2.) No check on ~~ex~~ expenditure by parties.

Political inefficiencies

1.) Lack of will to enforce transparency

2.) Lack of accountability towards the people.

- Parties not under RTI.

Challenges to electoral funding -

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1.) Unaccounted ~~corp~~ donations in cash.

2.) Sites of crony capitalism.

3.) Checks people's "right to know"

4.) Enhances horse trading

5.) Role of money and muscle power increases.

6.) ~~It~~ ~~Bot~~ Cash for vote → distorts free and fair elections.

7.) Unregd political playground
- Ruling party received 55% of funds under electoral bonds.

Lessons India can learn from global best practises –

1.) State funding of elections →
Eg. Germany.

2.) Cap on expenditure limit by parties
Eg. UK.

3.) No cash donations. Eg. Canada.
- fully digital / cheque.

Next IAS ID: MT23SLTPN042, GSMAC2406, 28-08-2024 12:25 AM

4) Audit of parties' accounts and expenses. Eg. USA.

5) Bring political parties under RTI Eg. Scandinavian countries.

~~6)~~

Such measures will help us achieve substantive electoral democracy and enhance people's voices.

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