Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

NEXT IAS

GS MAINS ADVANCED COURSE 2024

(To be filled by candidate)

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

Name of Candidate: SWETA Mobile No. [redacted]

Roll No. : 6309676 Start Time 2:00 pm End Time 5:00 pm

Date of Examination: 13/09/24 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: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 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: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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)

The five zonal councils are statutory bodies established under State Re-organisation Act of 1956

Institutionalised Arrangements

1. Zonal Councils.
2. NITI Aayog
3. Inter-state council under Art-253.
4. Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court under Art-131.

Role of Zonal council

(1) chairperson is Home Minister and Vice chairperson is chief Minister of any state from zonal States.

(2) They effectively cater to regional/zonal issues which are very specific.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(3) Platform for states and UTs to conduct debates and deliberation.

(4) Important channel to solve regional issues.

(5) Promote co-operative federalism.

(6) With regional issues addressed, functioning of NITI Aayog becomes more robust.

Challenges

(1) The advise of zonal council is advisory and decisions not binding.

(2) At times, it is difficult to reach any agreement.

To ensure a harmonious relation between centre and states, mechanisms such as zonal councils must be strengthened.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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)

Secularism was added to Indian Preamble by 42nd Amendment Act, though it was implicit in the constitution.

Secularism promoting equality:

(1) In Indian Young Lawyers Association, women of menstruating age were allowed to enter Sabrimala Temple.

(2) From 1985 Shah Bano case to 2001 Daniel Latifi case, SC said that right to alimony to Muslim women can't be over-shadowed by Muslim women Act of 1986.

(3) secularism under Art-25 enforces religious equality.

(4) Proceeds of tax cannot be used for benefit of one religion.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(5) Art-44 : calls for creation of uniform civil code that aims to end discrimination done on basis of religion.

(6) There is no state religion in India. It works for upliftment of all religion.

(7) welfare schemes - Ayushman Bharat, SUMAN, PDS functions without any religious discrimination

(8) Indian secularism is a way to promote Art-14: Right to equality under constitution.

~~secular~~
secularism supports right to equality and right to equality encapsulates secularism. India aims for an inclusive growth in terms of gender, religion and economy.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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)

Section 8 of Representation of people's Act 1951 contain offences and related punishment that invite disqualification.

Why should we shift from duration to gravity of ~~sentence~~ offence?

(1) The heinousness of crime determines the mental state of the offender.

(2) Duration of sentence is prone to be misgiven due to vested interests.

(3) The gravity of offence determines the extent to which an individual can misconduct himself

Offences under section-8

(1) showing disrespect to the national flag, or constitution.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(2) Involved in social crimes such as Dowry and punished under Dowry Prohibition Act.

(3) offences related to hoarding, profiteering or food/drug adulteration.

(4) For a sitting MP/MLA, disqualification will not happen till 3 months.
But SC in Lily Thomas case allowed immediate disqualification.

(5) Disqualification is for a period of 6 yrs from date of release.

(6) Imprisonment of more than 2 years also invite disqualification.

Remedies to disqualified person:

only remedy is appeal to higher court. However President pardon can also be used.

Legislative reforms must be brought to reduce criminalisation of politics. As per ADR, 40% MPs have criminal cases pending against them.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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 is a statutory office recognised under Leader of opposition Act 1977. It is leader of party having atleast 1/10th of total strength of seats in House

Significance of leader of opposition.

(1) often termed as 'Alternate Prime Minister', will make government in case of any unstability

(2) They safeguard the rights of minority groups.

(3) Crucial role being a part of different parliamentary committees.

(4) Helps maintain decorum and uphold parliamentary procedure.

(5) Acts as a bridge between govt. & opposition parties.

(6) Representator of opposition party in the House

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Leader of opposition maintaining checks and balances.

(1) enhances debates and discussions in parliament.

(2) As part of several committees of appointment such as NHRC, upheld dignity and independence of organisation.

(3) Questions government policies & outcomes.
Eg> Congress released 'Black Paper'.

(4) Restrict arbitrary exercise of power by government.

(5) Keeps a check and deterrance on ruling party.

(6) Create popular pressure on ruling party in question hour.

Leader of opposition is one of the most ~~indepen~~ important office in parliament. She promotes a pro-people governance.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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"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 often termed as key note to the constitution, encloses the constitutional ideals.

Preamble ideals depicting India's constitutional framework.

The Article-324, 325 establishes the Election commission of India and Electoral Roll. It showcases democracy. Other can be seen from the table:

Preamble	constitution
1. Democracy	• 73rd & 74th Const. Amendment Act of 1993 • Art-75: President appointing prime ministers. • Part-IV of Indian constitution enclosing DPSPs. • Art-15: No discrimination on basis of religion, caste or colour.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Secular	• Art-25: Gives fundamental right to practice, profess & propagate religion. • Tax proceeds to not be used for benefit of one religion.
Socialism	• Art 39(b): to prevent concentration of wealth. • Equal pay for equal work. • Art-51: International peace and security.
Sovereign	• Art-1: India is a union of states. • Art-2,3: India can occupy, acquire, cessation of any territory in its territorial domain.

constitutional ideals are clearly abridged in the preamble. It displays the foundation on which Indian democracy is build.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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 प्रतिष्ठात 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)

Reservation is an affirmative action that seeks to support the deprived and providing them opportunities, implementing Article-14.

Implications of 103rd constitutional Amendment Act.

(A) Positive effects:

(1) Reduce the injustice done due to lack of monetary resources.

(2) Account for the lack of access to top notch education by EWS.

(3) Giving them a fair representation in employment and educational avenues.

(4) Realise that economic backwardness leads to social backwardness

(5) Develop a more inclusive society and organisations where every group is represented.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(B) Negative effect:

(1) It shifts the reservation policy from caste to class based.

(2) There has been no historical injustice against economically weaker groups.

(3) Reservation once given is difficult to be taken back.

(4) Largely used as a political gimmick to woo voters.

(5) Reduced the overall seats available for unreserved candidates.

We must aim for the gradual phasing out of people from reserved to unreserved categories to avoid duplicity and ensure targeted benefits to the needy

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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)

India is a welfare state. Around 11% of India's population is multidimensionally poor. This makes welfare schemes indispensible.

There are welfare schemes that ensures well being of people and poverty & hunger alleviation such as:

(1) Jal Jeevan Mission:
↳ Around 13Cr functional household tap connections have been provided.
↳ SDG-6: Clean water & sanitation.

(2) Swachh Bharat Mission
↳ It saved 60,000 to 70,000 infants from dying every year.
↳ 11Cr toilets constructed.

(3) MGNREGA
↳ Providing right to work in urban areas.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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However, there are other welfare schemes that ensure over-dependency such as:

(1) Public Distribution System
↳ It has 80 crore beneficiaries, which contradicts poverty rates at 11%.

(2) Mahila Samman Nidhi
↳ cash disbursal to women.
↳ No focus on capacity building of women.

Way Forward
- (1) In Subramaniam Swamy case, SC directed ECI to frame guidelines for political freebies.
- (2) Low hanging fruits should not be used to woo voters.
- (3) Scheme reformation & rationalisation of beneficiaries.

To reduce freebies & misdirected subsidies, effective data is required.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

Candidates must not write on this margin

ई-शासन केवल दक्षता के संबंध में नहीं है; यह प्रत्येक नागरिक के लिए शासन व्यवस्था को सुलभ और समावशी 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 refers to the robust use of technology in the delivery of public service. It is SMART - smart, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent.

E-governance ensuring accessibility and inclusivity.

(1) Promotes faster delivery of services.
Eg learner driving licence.

(2) It ensures transparency and reduces corruption.
Eg RTI Act.

(3) It ensure targeted implementation of Social welfare schemes.
Eg DBT

(4) It ensures 24x7 availability of data.
Eg Digital Agriculture Mission to create Agristack.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) It ensures resource utilisation and optimisation.
Eg Maharashtra used blockchain technology in storing land records.

(6) with increasing internet penetration, it make public service inclusive and information accessible

(7) It makes reporting of violation of law and order easier.
Eg e-FIR under Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita.

[challenges]

(1) Digital literacy of people lags behind.

(2) partial digitalisation of records.
Eg Transport department.

(3) cyber threat and data misuse.

Technological developments have to happen. It is must to ensure that people are aware and effective safeguards are in place to ensure their digital safety.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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)

The global order of the world is changing slowly and gradually. China +1 strategy, Friendshoring are a manifestation.

New organisations replacing old ones:

(1) changing of national and global interests over time.
   Eg BRICS is more active as compared to IBSA.

(2) Rising of new issues that needs new organisation.
   Eg chinese threat in Indo-pacific and birth of Quad.

(3) Differing objectives give rise to birth of sub-organisation.
   Eg AUKUS and sharing of nuclear submarine technology.

(4) Less members make it viable to achieve consensus.
   Eg AIC from BRICS.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Relevance of old world organisations

1. Some organisations rise, function and then become dormant.
   - Eg SAARC.
2. Old organisation find it difficult to change/reform them.
   - Eg No UNSC reforms
3. G-77 a group of developing countries, created various other organisations.
4. Some organisations keeps their spirit alive.
   - Eg NAM's spirit of non-alignment.

Way Forward

1. Organisations must reform themselves according to change in world order.
   - Eg African Union inducted in G-20.
2. The spirit of multilateralism and inclusivity must be respected always.

We must recognise that none of us is safe until everyone is safe.

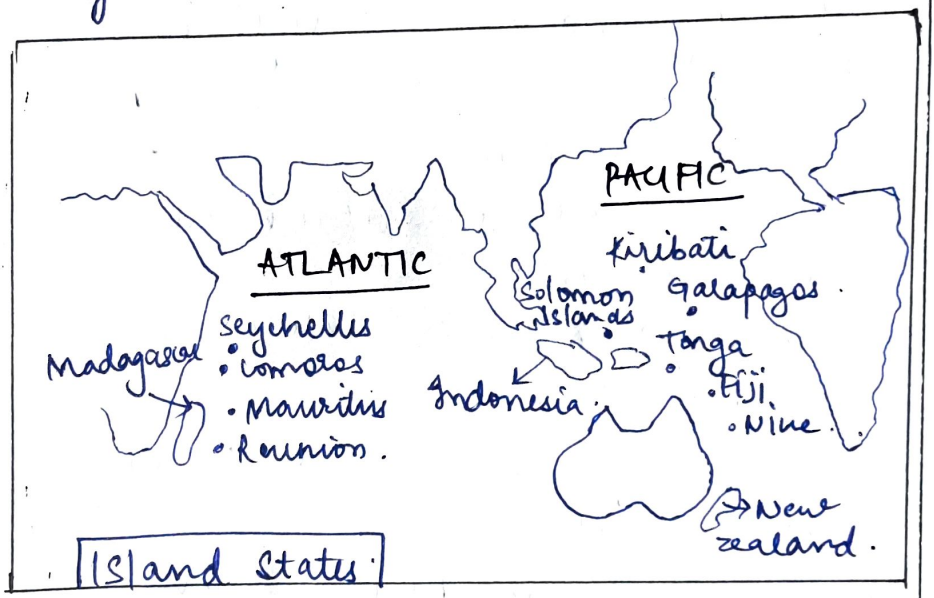
Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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)

Island states and territories are small geographical entities strategically located in the oceans.



Island States

Importance of Island states for India:

1. They can serve as strategic military bases in wake of rising China.
2. They enhance the maritime security for India.
3. collaboration ensure exploration of minerals such as polymetallic nodules.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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④ They collaborate with India to hold developed countries accountable for climate change.

⑤ collaborate to adopt green technologies.

⑥ Island states can be potential market for India.

Initiatives by India to strengthen ties.

① Indian ocean Rim Association: a group of countries surrounding Indian ocean.

② Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure.

③ Issuance of e-visas and special medical visas.

④ Forum for Indo-Pacific Island co-operation (FIPIC)

India adopted the doctrine of SAGAR - security and growth for all in the region. It is manifestation of India's vision of an inclusive world.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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)

Supreme court struck down 'Electoral Bonds' scheme on ground of information asymmetry and hindering the right to know of citizens.

Legal loopholes in Electoral funding

(1) No legal backing for Electoral Trusts or Electoral Bonds scheme

(2) Non enforceability of Model code of conduct.

(3) Loopholes in RPA, 1950 regarding disclosure of election expenditure, and contribution.

(4) Clever accounting by parties & expenditure by star campaigners.

Political Inefficiencies in Electoral funding

(1) Political parties are kept outside the purview of RTI Act.

(2) undisclosed corporate funding and repeated violation of MCC.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(3) Elections becoming a battle of money and power rather than of ideas.

Challenges to Electoral Funding

(1) Transparency:
- ↳ Funding to parties must be done transparently.
- ↳ Self-Disclosure and RTI for parties.

(2) Legal:
- ↳ Amendments in RPA 1950 and 1951.
- ↳ Absence of punitive measures for political parties and corporations.

(3) Black money:
- ↳ curbing use of black money.
- ↳ Involvement of formal banking channels.

(4) Nexus:
- ↳ Any nexus between political party and corporation.
- ↳ A quid-pro-quo must not be developed.

(5) Curbing expenditure
- ↳ Freebies to woo voters.
- ↳ Splurging money and making elections an expensive affair.
- ↳ State funding of elections is an issue.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Global Best Practices

(1) Germany:
→ Favoured complete state funding of elections.
→ No role of corporate donations in influencing policies.

(2) France:
→ State funding of elections with strict disclosure norms, robust reporting of donations to political parties.

(3) UK:
→ Allows corporate donations but only for permissible donors.
→ 'shareholder approval' in case of corporate funding.

Way Forward
→ (1) As per former CEC - SY Qureshi National Election Fund can be created.
→ (2) Strict disclosure norms for political parties.
→ (3) Increasing the role of public funding as per 2nd ARC.

Electoral funding reforms are required to fulfil the objective of DR. BR Ambedkar - one person - one vote - one value.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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)

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Pressure group refers to a group of people having significant clout and are vocal for their interests. They create obligation upon government to act for social welfare.

Pressure groups forms social foundation

(1) They provide collective voice to people.
(2) People with similar socio-cultural background come together.
(3) It helps fulfil the aspirations of people as part of group.
(4) It makes individual a part of group and stops their exploitation
(5) It fosters sharing of different ideas.

Pressure groups contributing to promoting social security for workers.

(1) Recognition of Trade Unions under new labour codes.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(2) In 1972, Elaben Bhatt started SEWA (Self-Employed women Association) for women working in unorganised sector. It has international reach too.

(3) Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan threw off records to public & laid the foundation of Right to Information Act in 2005.

(4) Pressure groups enhances the demand for different individuals coming together.

(5) They ensure social as well as collective security for workers.

How pressure groups address gaps in existing policies.

(1) They advocate the reason for their exploitation.
   ⇨ Gratuity Benefits.

(2) They compare and contrast the working conditions & other workers in different organisations

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(3) They promote access and demand right to a dignified life.

(4) They aim for the inclusive development for all workers.

(5) They ensure access to safe & sound working environment.

(6) They reduce social inequalities existing.

(7) Promote a sense of collectivism.

Way forward
- (1) Implementation of labour codes - on wages, industrial relations, occupational safety and social security.
- (2) Due respect and recognition to pressure groups.
- (3) Periodic checks by public officials to enquire into conditions of workers.

Pressure groups as part of larger civil society organisations promotes SDG-8: of 'Decent work and Economic Growth'.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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)

Article-1 of Indian Constitution establishes India as a union of states. However certain features of Indian constitution gives a unitary tint to Indian polity.

Principle of federal supremacy in executive space of Indian polity

(1) Article 248 of Indian constitution provides residuary powers to Union government.

(2) State laws are not applicable to the extent they contradicts union laws.

(3) under Article-200, Governor reserves certain bills for the assent of president.

(4) Art-355 of Indian constitution, Union government is to ensure that governance of state is carried on accordance with provision of Indian constitution.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(5) Art-356: allows State government to be dissolved and imposition of President rule. Supreme Court in SR Bommai Case 1994, gave directions for use of Art-356.

(6) Article 2 and 3 allows central government to change the territorial boundary of states.
Eg In Berubari Case

(7) Appointment of Governor to a State is the executive function of Union government.

(8) establishment of GST council under Article 279A. gave taxation control in the hands of union government.

(9) creation of Legislative Councils under Art-169 lies under the domain of Union government.

(10) Art-253 allows Parliament to make laws for the implementation of International Treaties and Agreements.
Eg Prevention of Money Laundering Act of 2003.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Resolving Power Asymmetry

(1) Judicial Review
↳ checks the tyranny of Union government.
↳ Eg In Mohit minerals case, SC maintained that advise of GST council aren't binding.
↳ Eg SC struck down 97th constitutional Amendment Act to the extent it applies to state co-operative societies.

(2) Implementation of recommendations of Punchhi commission and National commission for working of Indian constitution appointed in 2000.

(3) strengthening bodies such as NITI Aayog, Inter state council, and zonal council for discussions.

State governments cater to regional needs which must be accomodated by Federal government while framing laws and taking executive actions.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 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)

Art-82 of Indian constitution calls for the establishment of Delimitation commission. It has been constituted four times till date for redraw of boundaries.

Delimitation of constituencies ensure fair representation and upholds one vote - one value as in:

(1) It redraws the boundaries based on population (sometimes geography as in J&K).

(2) Maintaining the same ratio of population to seats throughout India.

(3) It is important as demographic changes happen every decade & needs to be accomodated.
eg India becoming most populous country in 2023.

(4) It ensure equal representation to every person in the voting age group.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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challenges imposed by misrepresentation of constituencies.

(1) It contradicts the idea of one vote one value.

(2) It creates regional division and tensions.

Eg Population as criteria reduces representation of southern states such as Kerala. whereas Uttar Pradesh has TFR of 2.4 will get more seats resulting in higher clout at centre.

(3) It doesn't led to fair representation of people.

(4) Distorted seats to population ratio is observed.

(5) It hinders the inclusive development of region.

(6) Southern states are penalised for taking Human Development initiatives.

(7) Varied popular mandate to elected ministers opens them for criticism.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Way Forward.

1. Census 2011 can be used to redraw boundaries for state legislature. 1991 census can still be continued for parliamentary constituencies.
2. Increase the role and responsibilities of Rajya Sabha.
3. Increased financial devolution to states having good human development indicators.
4. Nudge the northern states to improve their social outcomes.
   - Eg UP's new Population policy to reduce TFR from 2.4 to 1.9 by 2030.
5. Concept of Twin states can be used where a weak state is coupled with a stage working excellently well in human development.

Delimitation is a challenging task considering the factors such as varied population, education outcomes, geography. However a wider criteria including population can be developed to reflect the needs.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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 also called as Public Interest litigation was stated by Justice PN Bhagwati. It aimed to make judicial recourse more accessible to voters.

PIL shifts the ~~ba~~focus from constitutional matters to day-to day matters.

(1) Since the principle of locus standi doesn't apply, number of PIL applications increased.

(2) Making it more simple as even a letter can be termed as PIL increases case load.

(3) There are many frivolous petitions not addressing significant public issue.

(4) The invention of PIL lies in the domain of judicial overreach.

(5) PIL delays the execution of developmental activities.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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But: PIL are an important instrument of social change as:

(1) They do address serious issues.
   Eg PIL against Electoral bonds in supreme court led to their withdrawl.

(2) They aim for the welfare of group at large.
   Eg Vishaka case in 1997

(3) They also aim to promote environmental interests.
   Eg MC Mehta Case for pollution in Ganga Basin.

Role of Trial courts in reducing burden on higher courts.

(1) Must use their expertise in disposing off the cases at first instance to the satisfaction of petitioner.

(2) They can use previous judgements of High courts and Supreme courts for their help.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(3) They must be guided by laws such as Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita or Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam but must also enforce Principles of Natural Justice.

(4) They must flag the suitable for appeal in higher courts.

(5) They must be efficient and timely deliver the verdicts.

Way Forward

(1) Lok Adalats can be empanneled to handle PILs.

(2) Disposing off frivolous PILs at the initial stages.

(3) Using Artificial Intelligence in assigning cases for faster hearing.

(4) Penalising the frivolous petitioners to create deterrance

PIL and its related provisions must be codified into a law. It needs to be strengthened to work efficiently

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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)

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As per QS World University rankings by subject, in 2024; 18 Indian Universities ranked in top 100. It is significant achievement for India.

Reforms required in higher education system.

(1) updation of curriculum and pedagogy

(2) Create employment ready graduates.
Eg only 5% of Indian graduates are employable.

(3) Promote diversity of subjects
Eg civil and mechanical; also basic sciences.

(4) Encouraging R+D in the campuses and motivating students for doctoral and post doctoral studies.

(5) Improving funding and infrastructure.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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NEP 2020 addressing the challenges in Higher education.

(1) Creation of National Research Foundation as a replacement of SERB.

Eg More than 50% of funding under SERB went to IITs.

(2) TO increase the Gross enrollment ratio in higher education to 25% by 2035.

(3) Creation of Academic Bank of Credit to foster flexible entry and exit in courses.

(4) It aims to increase the internationalisation of Higher Education.

Eg Deakin University in India at GIFT city, Gujarat and IIT-Madras campus in Tanzania.

(5) Promotion of education in local languages.

Eg ~~Government~~ 14 engineering colleges across 8 states are offering their courses in Hindi

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Best international practices

(1) More than 80% universities in Japan and South Korea teach in their mother tongue. This facilitates R+D in local languages.

(2) Germany offers free higher education to ensure accessibility and inclusivity.

(3) Universities in USA such as Harvad, MIT focus on teaching adaptability and promotes a culture of R+D.

(4) shifting the focus from Education for job to Education as a job itself. Education is never the means to an end.

(5) Diversity of courses and career opportunities.

As Nelson Mandela said that Education is the most powerful weapon that can be used to change the world. A robust higher education creates good human resource, which is an asset.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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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)

The origin of Right to information Act lies in the activities of pressure groups such as Mazdoor Kisan shakti sangathan when it there land records open to public.

RTI promoting transparency & accountability.

(1) It empowers citizen with the tool to question government and it's programmes.

(2) It upholds the Art-19: freedom of speech and expression of individual.

(3) It keeps government under constant check and supervision.

(4) Section-4 of Act enables suo-motu disclosure of information by organisations.

(5) It restricts the arbitrary exercising of power.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007 GSMTC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

(6) It generates social awareness about the utilisation of resources by government.

Eg people raising RTI query for delay in getting certificates or benefit of schemes.

Challenges in implementation of RTI

(1) The scope of RTI is many times restricted by government.

Eg exclusion of PM-CARES fund from RTI.

(2) Section-8 of the Act contain the list of exemptions from RTI.

(3) Many times an ambiguous and irrelevant information is provided to public.

(4) There exists absence of Public Information officers (PIOs) at many places.

(5) No effective and timely disposal of RTI queries.

Eg Lakhs of RTI application pending as per Satark Nagrik Sangathan

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Measures for effective RTI implementation

1. Only information that could jeopardise the security of nation could be exempted.
2. Lokpal can function as a third party to look if the exemption provided is valid.
3. Training to PIOs to effectively and clearly communicate with people.
4. It should be strengthened to work as a tool for social empowerment.
5. Periodic assessment of the implementation of RTI by civil society organisation must be promoted.

Information is the currency of democracy. A transparent and accountable conduct on part of government bolsters the trust of people in democracy

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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 group of people from similar socio-cultural background who have come together to improve their social and financial well-being.

SHGs exists in rural areas as well as in urban areas. But due to differences in economic structure of rural and urban India, there are different challenges & opportunities.

SHGs in Rural India.

(A) Opportunities

(1) financial empowerment of women.
(2) Lending of loans to members.
(3) use to fight social evils such as alcoholism.
(4) collective security and unified voice.
(5) Grassroot development and proliferation of economic activity.
Eg Making achaars & papads

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(B) Challenges

(1) Access to long-term credit is difficult.

(2) Disrupted market linkage due to connectivity issues.

(3) Fighting patriarchy and starting own venue.

(4) Access to technology and infra-structure.

SHGs in Urban India.

(A) opportunities

(1) More recognition and exposure.
Eg Ministry of Housing launched brand 'Sonchiraya' for urban SHG products.

(2) Access to market and opportunities
Eg Shops run by SHGs along Kartavya Path.

(3) New domain of work.
Eg SHG running Happy Works, co-working space in West Bengal.

(4) More generation of profit.
Eg Cafe Kudumbashree Chain in Kerala.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

(B) Challenges.

(1) Complexity of work in urban areas require skill.

(2) Presence of factories and industrial goods in urban areas.

Role of Microfinance to tackle urban poverty.

(1) Microfinance initiative such as PM-MUDRA yojana and stand-up India scheme ensure grassroot reach of finance.

(2) This provides a key starting material for an upcoming activity by SHGs.

(3) It can stabilize the flow of income to poor households and can lift them out of poverty.

(4) Microloans are manageable for poor households.

Eg PM-SVANidhi for street vendors

Promoting SHG through microfinance can ensure beginning of new activities thereby generating employment.

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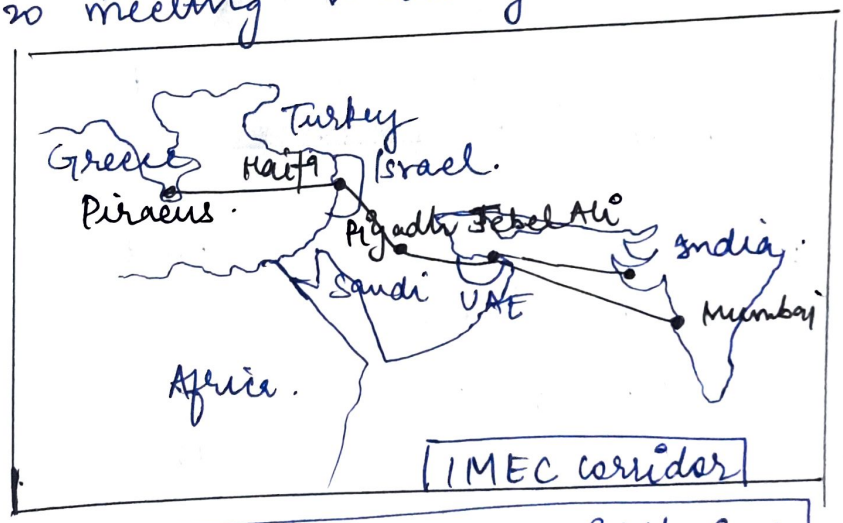
9. विश्व, विशेषकर पश्चिम के साथ भारत के संपर्क (कनेक्टिविटी) के लिए हाल ही में परिकल्पित भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप गलियारे के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें। क्या आपको लगता है कि हाल के दिनों में भारत की विदेश नीति में परिवहन और ऊर्जा पहल को प्राथमिकता दी गई है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

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)

Interdependence and multilateral engagements are key to survival for any country in the currently reshaping global dynamics.

India - Middle East - Europe corridor

It was envisaged during the 2023 G20 meeting hosted by India.



IMEC corridor

Significance of India - Middle East - Europe corridor.

(1) It promotes India's connectivity to West Asian countries such as Israel.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(2) It provides an alternative to important chokepoints such as Suez Canal.

(3) It reduces the cost of transportation to countries around Mediterranean sea.

(4) India is able to bypass the land route available through Pakistan and Afghanistan

(5) Increase connectivity to European countries such as Ukraine, Italy, France and others

(6) promote strategic engagement with Arabian Peninsula.

Examples of energy and transport initiatives by India.

(1) India - Myanmar - Thailand trilateral highway in South East Asia.

(2) Kaladan Multimodal Project with Myanmar.

(3) International North - South Transit corridor (INSTC) to connect with Russia.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Importance of energy and transport initiatives.

1. They will balance the BRI by china in the Indian Ocean.
2. Develop strategic routes through reliable countries.
3. Boost trade and deepen the economic co-operation.
4. Initiatives such as coal from Russia will enhance energy security.
5. They will restrict china from blocking India in the region.
6. Neighbourhood instability is a compulsion to develop water routes.
7. They will help India to become a regional power in South and South-East Asia.

Thiruvalluvar said, "Wisdom is to live in tune with mode of changing world". Hence India must adapt to the perceived geopolitical changes.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 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)

Despite the accusation of India's involvement in killing of Nijjar by Canada, India-Canada relations remained largely stable.

Pillars of India-Canada relationship

(1) Shared values
- ↳ Both India and Canada are democratic countries.
- ↳ India borrowed some features from Canadian constitution such as: appointment of governor by central government.

(2) Pluralism
- ↳ Both hosts people from different religion and nationalities.
- ↳ Eg: Manitoba passed Turban Day Act to celebrate April 13 as Turban Day.

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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(3) Expanding economic Engagement

→ Bilateral trade of India and Canada stands at $ 10bn in 2022.

→ Both countries are vocal of their economic goals and are negotiating comprehensive economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

(4) People to people ties:

→ Around 4% of canada's population comprise of Indians.

→ Approx 1.5% of its population is sikh.

→ Indians go to Canada for education and work related purposes.

(5) Multilateralism

↳ Firm belief of both nations in a rule based international order.

↳ visit of canadian PM Justin Trudeau to India during G20 meet

Next IAS ID: MT23ATON007, GSMAC2406, 14-09-2024 09:41 AM

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Potential areas of co-operation and collaboration.

(1) collaboration in the development of green energy technology
   Eg: Electric Vehicles
(2) Jointly figure out the laws to govern Artificial Intelligence and its associated development.
(3) Enhanced R&D in the field of science and space.
   Eg: collaboration of ISRO and canadian space Agency (CSA).
(4) educational exchanges such as canadian universities in India and vice versa.
(5) Deepening of trade ties and diversifying of products.

Resentments should not generate divide between two countries. It is the identification of leaders to navigate their differences and work towards common goals and objectives.