

विदेह VIDEHA

UPSC Civil Services Mains GS Paper II (2013–2025)

Descriptive Question Bank with Model Answers · 258 Questions

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Model answers for all questions follow the complete question bank (answers are placed **after** the questions), numbered identically for cross-reference.

2013 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

1. The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years and as a result healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law which was legislated but with a different intention? (200 words, 10 marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

2. Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q3 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

3. Recent directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the State. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

4. 'The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution.' Discuss critically. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

5. Many State Governments further bifurcate geographical administrative areas like Districts and Talukas for better governance. In light of the above, can it also be justified that more number of smaller States would bring in effective governance at State level? Discuss. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

6. Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter- state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

7. Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

8. The product diversification of financial institutions and insurance companies, resulting in overlapping of products and services strengthens the case for the merger of the two regulatory agencies, namely SEBI and IRDA. Justify. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q9 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

9. The concept of Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates and success. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

10. Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q11 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

11. The legitimacy and accountability of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the micro- finance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q12 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

12. The Central Government frequently complains of the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q13 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

13. Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Q14 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

14. The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Q15 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

15. Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Q16 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

16. Though Citizen's charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyse. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Q17 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

17. 'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs. Discuss. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Q18 · 10 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

18. The proposed withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Q19 · 10 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

19. What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Q20 · 10 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

20. Economic ties between India and Japan, while growing in recent years, are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Q21 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

21. The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India? (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Q22 · 10 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

22. Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India? (200 words, 10 marks)

Q23 · 10 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

23. In respect of India — Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q24 · 10 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

24. What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss. (200 words, 10 marks)

Q25 · 10 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

25. The World Bank and the IME, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. (200 words, 10 marks)

2014 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

26. Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q2 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

27. Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q3 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

28. The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of uncodified and unenumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges. How can this problem be addressed? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q4 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

29. What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q5 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

30. Instances of the President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyze. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q6 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

31. The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far is the efficacy of a government then inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q7 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

32. Though 100 percent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like a trade publication and general entertainment channel, the government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q8 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

33. The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for the obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways, or the private container operators. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q9 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

34. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of the above observation, assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q10 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

35. The penetration of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q11 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

36. Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economies? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q12 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

37. An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q13 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

38. Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allow more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q14 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

39. Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organization been the cause of slow growth in India? Critically examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q15 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

40. Two parallel run schemes of the Government, viz the Aadhar card and NPR, one as voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need to run concurrently. Analyze the potential of the schemes to achieve developmental benefits and equitable growth. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q16 · 5 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

41. With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and ever flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q17 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

42. The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on Information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q18 · 5 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

43. Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss the merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q19 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

44. India has recently signed to become a founding member of the New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q20 · 5 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

45. WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

2015 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

46. Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizens a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q2 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

47. The concept of cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasized in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q3 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

48. In the absence of well-educated and organized local level government system, 'Panchayats' and 'Samitis' have remained mainly political institutions and not effective instruments of governance. Critically discuss. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q4 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

49. Khap Panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extra-constitutional authorities, often delivering pronouncements amounting to human rights violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, Executive and judiciary to set the things right in this regard. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q5 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

50. Resorting to Ordinances has always raised concern on violation of the spirit of separation of powers doctrine. While noting the rationales justifying the power to promulgate Ordinances, analyze whether the decisions of the Supreme Court on the issue have further facilitated resorting to this power. Should the power to promulgate the Ordinances be repealed? (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q6 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

51. What are the major changes brought in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1966 through the recent Ordinance promulgated by the President? How far will it improve India's dispute resolution mechanism? Discuss. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q7 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

52. Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulations on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of Indian Constitution and judgement(s) of the Apex Court in this regard. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q8 · 5 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

53. Examine critically the recent changes in the rules governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q9 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

54. The Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Program (SBLP), which is India's own innovation, has proved to be one of the most effective poverty alleviation and women empowerment programmes. Elucidate. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q10 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

55. How can the role of NGOs be strengthened in India for development works relating to protection of the environment? Discuss throwing light on the major constraints. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q11 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

56. The quality of higher education in India requires major improvements to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of higher and technical education in the country? Discuss. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q12 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

57. Public health system has limitations in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that the private sector can help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives would you suggest? (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q13 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

58. Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate reduction in poverty levels over time. Do you agree? Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q14 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

59. In the light of Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in corporate governance to ensure transparency, accountability. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q16 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

60. “For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institutions remain independent and autonomous”. Discuss in the light of the experiences in the recent past. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q17 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

61. Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pros and cons. Critically examine. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q18 · 5 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

62. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q19 · 5 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

63. Project ‘Mausam’ is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of the Indian Government to improve relationships with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Q20 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

64. Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India -Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchanges could help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

2016 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

65. Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q2 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

66. To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note “temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir”, temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q3 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

67. “The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes.” Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q4 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

68. Exercise of CAG’s powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government’s policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q5 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

69. Discuss each adjective attached to the word ‘Republic’ in the ‘Preamble’. Are they defensible in the present circumstances? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q6 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

70. What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q7 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

71. Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q8 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

72. What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q9 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

73. Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q10 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

74. “In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal.” Critically examine this statement. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q12 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

75. In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q13 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

76. Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q14 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

77. “Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India.” Comment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q15 · 5 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

78. Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q16 · 5 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

79. “Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative.” What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q17 · 5 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

80. The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries.” Discuss in the Indian perspective. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q18 · 5 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

81. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India’s Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q19 · 5 marks · 200 words · GS II - Polity, Governance and IR

82. “Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).” Explain with suitable examples. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Q20 · 5 marks · 200 words · GS II - Polity, Governance and IR

83. What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of UNESCO? What is India’s position on these? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

2017 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · Polity and Constitution

84. “The local self-government system in India has not proved to be an effective instrument of governance”. Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · Polity and Constitution

85. Critically examine the Supreme Court’s judgment on ‘National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014’ with reference to appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · Polity and Constitution

86. ‘Simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will also reduce the government’s accountability to the people’. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · Governance and Administration

87. How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful as formal pressure groups in recent years? (150 words, 10 marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · Polity and Constitution

88. Discuss the role of the Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · GS II - Polity, Governance and IR

89. “To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs the identification of the beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes.” Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · GS II - Polity, Governance and IR

90. Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · Governance and Administration

91. Hunger and poverty are the bigger challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *International Relations*

92. What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

93. Explain the salient features of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough “to remove cascading effect of taxes and provide for common national market for goods and services”? (250 words, 15 marks)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

94. Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

95. The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint sessions of the two Houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reason thereof. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

96. To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful? (250 words, 15 marks)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Governance and Administration*

97. Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Governance and Administration*

98. “The emergence of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the State from developmental activities.” Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

99. “Poverty Alleviation programs in India remain mere showpieces until and unless they are backed up by political will.” Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation program in India. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Governance and Administration*

100. Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services? Comment. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *International Relations*

101. The question of India’s Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India’s economic progress. Analyze India’s energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries. (250 words, 15 marks)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *International Relations*

102. Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South East Asian countries’ economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian diaspora in South- East Asia in this context. (250 words, 15 marks)

2018 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

103. In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

104. Whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

105. Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? (10 marks, 150 words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

106. Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for Parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

107. “The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play.” Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

108. “Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate protection and prevention of degradation to the environment.” Comment with relevant illustrations. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

109. Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve ‘Health for All’ in India. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

110. E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about the critical importance of the ‘use value’ of information. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *International Relations*

111. “India’s relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.” Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

112. Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

113. How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

114. Indian and the USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

115. How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

116. Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources can the Panchayats look out for financing developmental projects? (15 marks, 250 words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

117. Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

118. How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India? (15 marks, 250 words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

119. The Citizen's Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *International Relations*

120. What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (15 marks, 250 words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

121. In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? (15 marks, 250 words)

2019 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

122. Do you think that the Constitution of India does not accept the principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q2 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

123. "The Central Administration Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority." Explain. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

124. What are the methods used by the Farmers organizations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods? (10 marks, 200 words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

125. From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of Legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Polity and Constitution*

126. What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism? (10 marks, 200 words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

127. Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

128. There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on Non- Food essential items squeezing their food budget - Elucidate. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q8 · 10 marks · 200 words · *Governance and Administration*

129. Implementation of information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects / Programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors and suggest measures for their effective implementation. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q9 · 10 marks · 200 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

130. The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment. (10 marks. 200 words)

Q10 · 10 marks · 200 words · *International Relations*

131. 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'. (10 marks, 200 words)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

132. On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

133. Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power." In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? (15 marks, 250 words)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

134. "The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self- government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process." Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

135. “The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India.” Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

136. Individual Parliamentarian’s role as the national lawmaker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss. (15marks, 250 words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

137. In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages.’- Discuss. (15marks, 250 words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

138. Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process – Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

139. “The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order” Elaborate (15 marks, 250 words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

140. “What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India’s National self-esteem and ambitions” Explain with suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

2020 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

141. “There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act”. Comment. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

142. “Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have a profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission”. Discuss. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

143. How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

144. The judicial systems in India and the UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

145. ‘Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker’! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implication for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India? (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

146. In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

147. “Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance”. In this context, suggest reforms in Civil Service for Strengthening Democracy. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Governance and Administration*

148. “The emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government”. Discuss (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

149. Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the COVID-19 Pandemic. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

150. “Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries”. Comment with examples. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

151. Indian constitution exhibits centralizing tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

152. Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of a large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

153. The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of ‘Functions, Functionaries and Funds’ to the contemporary stage of ‘Functionality’. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

154. Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a ‘useless stepney tyre’ to the most useful supporting organ in the past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

155. Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

156. “The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone”. In this context analyze the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

157. “Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India”. Evaluate the role of Self-Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

158. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

159. ‘Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)’ is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

160. What is the significance of Indo-US defense deals over Indo-Russian defense deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

2021 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

161. ‘Constitutional Morality’ is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of ‘Constitutional Morality’ with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

162. Discuss the desirability of greater representation of women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusiveness. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

163. How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

164. To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

165. “Pressure Groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India.” Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

166. “Besides being a moral imperative of Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development.” Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

167. “‘Earn while you learn’ scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful. “ Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

168. Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

169. “If the last few decades were of Asia’s growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa’s.” In the light of this statement, examine India’s influence in Africa in recent years. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *International Relations*

170. “The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union.” Explain. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

171. The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probe within a particular state is being questioned by various States. However, the power of States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

172. Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analysing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

173. Analyse the distinguishing features of the notion of Right to Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

174. Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

175. Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

176. Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio- economic development? Examine with justification. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

177. “Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal.” Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

178. Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

179. Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *International Relations*

180. The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

2022 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

181. "The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalisation of environmental problems by the Supreme Court." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

182. "Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute." Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Governance and Administration*

183. To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralization of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

184. Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

185. Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

186. The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

187. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

188. Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

189. India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in light of the preceding statement. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *International Relations*

190. Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organization like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organization? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

191. Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to the case laws. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

192. Discuss the essential conditions for the exercise of the legislative powers by a Governor. Discuss the legality of the re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

193. While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

194. Critically examine the procedures through which the President of India and France are elected. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

195. Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

196. Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of the society. Discuss. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

197. Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process ? Justify your answer. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

198. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse.(250 words, 15 Marks)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

199. How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's Position in global politics ? (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *International Relations*

200. ‘Clean energy is the order of the day.’ Describe briefly India’s changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics. (250 words, 15 Marks)

2023 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

201. “Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy.” Comment. (10 Marks)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

202. “The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially.” Comment. (10 Marks)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

203. Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty. (10 Marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

204. Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices. (10 Marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

205. The crucial aspect of the development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy. (10 Marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

206. Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multinational Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions. (10 Marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Governance and Administration*

207. E-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features? (10 Marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *International Relations*

208. Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India. (10 Marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

209. “The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society.” Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty. (15 Marks)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

210. Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws. (15 Marks)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

211. Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid- 1990s. (15 Marks)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

212. Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India. (15 Marks)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

213. Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism? (15 Marks)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

214. Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalization of Indian Parliament? (15 Marks)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

215. "Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. (15 Marks)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

216. Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyze the linkages between education, skill and employment. (15 Marks)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

217. 'The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.(15 Marks)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *International Relations*

218. 'Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos'. Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting the environment and enhancing maritime safety and security. (15 Marks)

2024 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

219. Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to "one nation - one election" principle. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

220. Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Constitution*

221. "The growth of cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalisation of the parliamentary supremacy." Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

222. "The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety." Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Governance and Administration*

223. Analyse the role of local bodies in providing good governance at local level and bring out the pros and cons merging the rural local bodies with the urban local bodies. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Governance and Administration*

224. Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India's development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

225. Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Governance and Administration*

226. The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *International Relations*

227. The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China's political and economic dominance. Explain this statement with examples. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *GS II - Polity, Governance and IR*

228. Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

229. What are the aims and objects of recently passed and enforced, The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024? Whether University/State Education Board examinations, too, are covered under the Act? (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

230. Right to privacy is intrinsic to life and personal liberty and is inherently protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. Explain. In this reference discuss the law relating to D.N.A. testing of a child in the womb to establish its paternity. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

231. What changes has the Union Government recently introduced in the domain of Centre- State relations? Suggest measures to be adopted to build the trust between the Centre and the States and for strengthening federalism. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

232. Explain the reasons for the growth of public interest litigation in India. As a result of it, has the Indian Supreme Court emerged as the world's most powerful judiciary ? (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

233. Discuss India as a secular state and compare with the secular principles of the US Constitution. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Polity and Constitution*

234. The Citizens' charter has been a Landmark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Social Justice and Welfare*

235. In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Governance and Administration*

236. e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *International Relations*

237. 'Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security.' Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *International Relations*

238. Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India with a focus on global trade and energy flows. Further also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition? (250 words, 15 Marks)

2025 — GS Paper II : Questions

Q1 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Polity and Representation*

239. Discuss the 'corrupt practices' for the purpose of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Analyze whether the increase in the assets of the legislators and/or their associates, disproportionate to their known sources of income, would constitute 'undue influence' and consequently a corrupt practice. (Answer in 150 words)

Q2 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Judiciary and Tribunals*

240. Comment on the need of administrative tribunals as compared to the court system. Assess the impact of the recent tribunal reforms through rationalization of tribunals made in 2021. (Answer in 150 words)

Q3 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Comparative Constitution*

241. Compare and contrast the President's power to pardon in India and in the USA. Are there any limits to it in both the countries? What are 'preemptive pardons'? (Answer in 150 words)

Q4 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Jammu and Kashmir Governance*

242. Discuss the nature of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. Briefly describe the powers and functions of the Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. (Answer in 150 words)

Q5 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Constitutional Offices*

243. The Attorney General of India plays a crucial role in guiding the legal framework of the Union Government and ensuring sound governance through legal counsel. Discuss his responsibilities, rights and limitations in this regard. (Answer in 150 words)

Q6 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Gender and Social Justice*

244. Women's social capital complements in advancing empowerment and gender equity. Explain. (Answer in 150 words)

Q7 · 10 marks · 150 words · *E-Governance*

245. e-governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine. (Answer in 150 words)

Q8 · 10 marks · 150 words · *Civil Society and Governance*

246. Civil Society Organizations are often perceived as being anti-State actors than non-State actors. Do you agree? Justify. (Answer in 150 words)

Q9 · 10 marks · 150 words · *International Relations*

247. India-Africa digital partnership is achieving mutual respect, co-development and long-term institutional partnerships. Elaborate. (Answer in 150 words)

Q10 · 10 marks · 150 words · *International Relations and Globalization*

248. With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism. Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words)

Q11 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Constitutional Morality and Judiciary*

249. In view of the Supreme Court's observation that constitutional morality acts as an essential check upon high functionaries and citizens alike, explain the concept of constitutional morality and its application to ensure balance between judicial independence and judicial accountability in India. (Answer in 250 words)

Q12 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Constitutional Amendment*

250. The Indian Constitution has conferred the amending power on the ordinary legislative institutions with a few procedural hurdles. In view of this statement, examine the procedural and substantive limitations on the amending power of Parliament to change the Constitution. (Answer in 250 words)

Q13 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Judiciary and Appointments*

251. Discuss the evolution of the collegium system in India. Critically examine the advantages and disadvantages of the system of appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India and that of the USA. (Answer in 250 words)

Q14 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Fiscal Federalism*

252. Examine the evolving pattern of Centre-State financial relations in the context of planned development in India. How far have the recent reforms impacted the fiscal federalism in India? (Answer in 250 words)

Q15 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Environment and Civil Society*

253. What are environmental pressure groups? Discuss their role in raising awareness, influencing policies and advocating for environmental protection in India. (Answer in 250 words)

Q16 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Poverty and Inequality*

254. Inequality in the ownership pattern of resources is one of the major causes of poverty. Discuss in the context of 'paradox of poverty'. (Answer in 250 words)

Q17 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Decentralization and Development*

255. In contemporary development models, decision-making and problem-solving responsibilities are not located close to the source of information and execution defeating the objectives of development. Critically evaluate. (Answer in 250 words)

Q18 · 15 marks · 250 words · *Child Rights and Digital Governance*

256. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has to address the challenges faced by children in the digital era. Examine the existing policies and suggest measures the Commission can initiate to tackle the issue. (Answer in 250 words)

Q19 · 15 marks · 250 words · *India and Middle East*

257. Energy security constitutes the dominant kingpin of India's foreign policy, and is linked with India's overarching influence in Middle Eastern countries. How would you integrate energy security with India's foreign policy trajectories in the coming years? (Answer in 250 words)

Q20 · 15 marks · 250 words · *United Nations and World Order*

258. The reform process in the United Nations remains unresolved, because of the delicate imbalance of East and West and entanglement of the USA vs Russo-Chinese alliance. Examine and critically evaluate the East-West policy confrontations in this regard. (Answer in 250 words)

Model Answers — GS Paper II (after the questions, numbered identically)

1. [2013 Q1] The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years and as a result healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law which was legislated but with a different intention? (200 words, 10 marks)

Parliament is the crucible of criticism, deliberation and even consensus-making. Key points: The Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution inserted the provision of Anti-Defection Law in 1985.; It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of the House based on a petition by any other member of the House.; It was legislated to ensure stability of the government in an environment where money power can be used to persuade individual MPs to bring down elected governments.; MPs are elected on the party ticket.; The binding nature of the law assumes that the MP is voted solely on the popularity of their party, akin to a list system.; Anti-Defection Law subtracts the need for the government to build a broad consensus for its decisions.; The role of an MP is reduced to just a person who has to follow orders from the party bosses.; ears, for example, when a Bill is voted upon, all MPs voted on party lines.. Overall, they can be held accountable by making amendments in the law for their actions.

2. [2013 Q2] Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. (150 words, 10 marks)

Article 19 of the Constitution of India declares that all citizens have the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression. Key points: ears of jail and a fine.; The terms for elaborating the grounds for holding the provision are vague and it is difficult for the law enforcement agency and the offender to know the ingredients of the offence.; It violated Article 19 the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression and outlawed all the political criticism on media platforms.; Threat to public order, defamation, incitement to offence, contravening decency, and morality, committing Contempt of Court, etc, are listed in Article 19(2) as grounds to limit freedom.; This is a potential tool in the hands of rulers to curtail the voice of opposition.. Overall, viswanathan Committee, to strengthen the legislation on online hate speech and protect freedom of...

3. [2013 Q3] Recent directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the State. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution. (200 words, 10 marks)

Most of the north-eastern States have been accorded special provisions under Article 371. Key points: The Ministry had passed the Miners and Minerals Regulation and Development Act (MMRDA) for major minerals including oil and gas which gives vast powers to the Center in their allocation.; Nagas agitated over what they perceived as the Centre's threat to override the exceptional status they enjoy under Article 371A of the Constitution.; Under Art 371A, 'land and natural resources' also include natural gas.; As per the Centre and the Ministry, Art 371A only gives a 'negative power' to the Naga Assembly to negate applicability of central laws to the state in these areas and not a 'positive power' to create its own laws.. Overall, this would inevitably take Article 371A to new Constitutional waters.

4. [2013 Q4] 'The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution.' Discuss critically. (200 words, 10 marks)

The Constitution is not a frozen and unalterable document. Key points: In the famous Supreme Court (SC) judgement in the Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973), the court established the Doctrine of Basic Structure and established supremacy of the Constitution.; In the Indira Nehru Gandhi vs.; In Waman Rao vs.; In the Indra Sawhney vs.; Bommai case (1994), SC tried to curb the misuse of Article 356 (regarding President's Rule) and set the grounds for the exercise of the President's Rule.; In the recent National Judicial Appointments

Commission (NJAC) case, SC invalidated the 99th Amendment Act of the Constitution, which dealt with appointment of judges and said independence of judiciary & separation of power are Basic features of the Constitution.. Overall, the Supreme Court keeps checks and balances to prevent the arbitrary or capricious use of power.

5. [2013 Q5] Many State Governments further bifurcate geographical administrative areas like Districts and Talukas for better governance. In light of the above, can it also be justified that more number of smaller States would bring in effective governance at State level? Discuss. (200 words, 10 marks)

In India, the States are divided into smaller geographical areas like District, Taluka, Blocks, etc., for the creation of efficient public administration by establishing direct contact with people. Key points: Ambedkar had argued for smaller states rather than larger ones.; The move towards smaller states appears to be inevitable and would lead to more democratization.; It can have a more responsive administration; regional differences in India are major leading to greater homogeneity in smaller units.; It can lead to greater national integration, for example: Small states like Punjab, Haryana, and some in the north-east strengthened rather than weakened the Union.; The smaller states did much better post- reorganization by giving credence to the clamour in certain regions for division.; It can improve the economic progress of the State.; Smaller states have the ability to focus on their strengths and fix their problems in a more efficient and cohesive manner towards higher growth.; The mere creation of smaller states out of the existing bigger ones does not guarantee good governance and faster and inclusive economic development.; Smaller states may be prone to greater disruptive forces...

6. [2013 Q6] Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter- state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss. (200 words, 10 marks)

Article 262 of Indian Constitution deals with the inter- state water disputes. Key points: Delay in the proceedings: There are many cases in which the time gap between tribunal formation and final decision is extreme.; Opacity in working: The institutional framework and guidelines of the tribunals are not clear and transparent.; Decision beyond Judicial Review: The final award of the tribunal is beyond the jurisdiction of the courts.; Lack of data and specialisation: The tribunal does not have adequate data and multidisciplinary membership which creates roadblock in resolving disputes.; Influence of politics: The distribution of water between the States is a political dispute and transforms into vote bank politics.; Complexity: The process of dispute resolution is very lengthy, has excessive paperwork and tedious procedures, which affect the resolution and participation of several stakeholders.. Overall, the government has recently introduced the Inter- State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha, which tries to address issues of limited time frame, data bank, functionality of tribunals, etc., by creating Disputes Resolution Committee.

7. [2013 Q7] Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances. (200 words, 10 marks)

The union Finance Commission (FC) is a Constitutional body, appointed under Article 280 of the Constitution, every five years by the President of India for the purpose of resource sharing between the Center and the states is unique to the Indian federal structure. Key points: ears by the President of India for the purpose of resource sharing between the Center and the states is unique to the Indian federal structure.; It suggested raising the states' share in Union Tax revenues from 30.5% to 32%.; It also called for a 2.5% share of the divisible pool for local bodies in the form of grants, as the Constitution does not allow the sharing of tax revenues with them.; The revenue was previously divided between rural and urban bodies in the ratio 4:1, the commission has suggested raising the latter's share to match their share of the population according to the 2001 census.; It will empower local bodies by turning the grants they receive into an entitlement,

reducing the control that the state governments exercise over them.; The local governments will get their grants based on their..

8. [2013 Q8] The product diversification of financial institutions and insurance companies, resulting in overlapping of products and services strengthens the case for the merger of the two regulatory agencies, namely SEBI and IRDA. Justify. (200 words, 10 marks)

India's financial sector is diversified and expanding rapidly; it has resulted in financial innovation. Key points: At present, financial regulation in India is oriented towards product regulation, i.e., each product is separately regulated.; There are multiple regulators in India, with varying regulatory requirements which often leads to regulatory arbitrage.; There are different disclosure norms and regulatory measures of both regulatory bodies, which is creating complexity in the process of regulation.; There are gaps for which no regulator is in charge – such as the diverse kinds of Ponzi Schemes that periodically surface in India, which are not regulated by any of the existing agencies.; There are overlapping laws and agencies leading to incidents in which conflicts between regulators have consumed the energy of economic policy makers and held back market development.; Consumer protection is required from the unregulated Ponzi Schemes like chit funds, etc.. Overall, it also favored the merger of SEBI and IRDA for better regulation.

9. [2013 Q9] The concept of Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates and success. (200 words, 10 marks)

Mid-Day Meal in schools has had a long history in India. Key points: To address the issues of hunger and education in schools by serving hot cooked meals.; To improve the nutritional status of children and improve enrollment, attendance and retention rates in schools and other education centers.; It also promotes equality and reduces class differences among people.; As per the MHRD report around 92 percent children going to government schools are benefitting from mid-day meals while 80 percent of the parents surveyed agreed that the scheme has improved enrolment as well as attendance of children.; It increases participation of children in school, especially vulnerable sections and promotes better learning, reduces hunger, and promotes healthy growth of children.; It increased learning among girls and fostered gender and social equality.; It reduced malnutrition and promoted sanitation through washing hands and good eating habits.; According to the CAG report (2017) there is over-reporting of enrolment figures, financial indiscipline, poor quality of meals and inadequate meals.; The cases of cooking of poor-quality meals in unhygienic conditions, inadequate and poor quality of infrastructure in terms of kitchen sheds...

10. [2013 Q10] Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India. (200 words, 10 marks)

A pressure group means any interest group whose members have shared common interest, occupation, opinion, aspirations and which organize themselves and claims on the other groups and the political process. Key points: Lobbying via petitions, letters, and deputations; Business groups like The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) exert pressure to influence planning and business policies.; Consulting with ministers or senior public servants; several community and religious groups use it for achieving their interests.; Taking legal action through injunctions or appeals to higher courts; For example: Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) etc.; Campaigning & Demonstrating- many farmers and students' groups like- All India Kisan Party, All India Students Federation etc.; Using strikes for political purposes: Trade unions like All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) exert pressure for monetary gains (increase in wages, bonuses, etc.); Public opinion and Electioneering; these are agencies of interest aggregation, political communication, political socialization, and public opinion.;

Narmada Bachao Andolan: With the active participation of tribals, environmentalists, human right activists and local people, it protected the river ecosystem from the construction...

11. [2013 Q11] The legitimacy and accountability of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the micro-finance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss. (200 words, 10 marks)

Self-Help Groups are informal groups of people who come together to address their common problems. Key points: SHGs has weak Financial Management, there is diversion of funds for other activities like: Marriages, household activities, etc.; They also borrow multiple loans from different microfinance agencies.; Sometimes the interest rate charged for loans is very high, which is difficult to repay.; The dependence of SHGs on government, NGOs or other agencies for funding.; These groups are concentrated in rural areas, there is negligence of urban poor.; There is meagre income from several enterprises, poor management practices, poor scientific practices and lack of specialized training in taking up income generating activity.; These groups are also affected by the increasing politicization.; There should be subsidised credit schemes for SHGs for their long-term financial sustainability.; The income of these groups can be raised by skill upgradation and capacity development.. Overall, the Self-Help Group (SHG)- Bank Linkage Programme of NABARD is a right step in the direction of providing easy microcredit to the groups.

12. [2013 Q12] The Central Government frequently complains of the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate. (200 words, 10 marks)

The Constitution of India clearly defines the role of Central and State Governments in the federal structure. Key points: In the majority of cases, the Central government and the States fund these schemes at a 60:40 ratio, respectively.; In the north-eastern states, 90 percent of the funds are provided by the Central government.; The Central government spends approximately 12% of its annual budget on the CSS.; The Central assistance for the States varies on the basis of priority of scheme.; CSS does not take into account adequately the need for flexibility in physical and financial norms of projects.; Flexibility is required for cognizance of divergence amongst States in geographic condition, level of economic development, nature of gaps in physical infrastructure and demography.; The monitoring and independent evaluation of schemes is generally poor in CSS because of gaps in design of scheme, lack of focus on outcome, lack of ownership amongst States.; Some of the schemes have been plagued by overlaps, duplication and bureaucratic mismanagement and negligence that impinge on efficiencies and lead to wastage.; Both the NITI Aayog and 15th Finance Commission recommended reconstruction...

13. [2013 Q13] Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

The Government of India, with the aim of reforming its delivery system by re-engineering the existing process in welfare schemes for simpler and faster flow of information/funds and to ensure accurate targeting of the beneficiaries, de-duplication, and reduction of fraud, rolled out the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in January 2013. Key points: Direct Benefits to Consumers: DBT is based on Aadhar metadata, and it is used for the identification of beneficiaries.; No Middlemen: Middlemen in implementation of the several social sector schemes.; Inclusion and exclusion error: Through the use of Aadhar data, the exclusion and inclusion error can be eliminated.; Ghost beneficiaries: Once ghost beneficiaries are eliminated, it will not only help in the reduction of corruption and also help in facilitating reforms.; Restructuring of all the social sectors can be initiated as better targeted delivery to the actual needy population will help government machinery to bring reforms in several schemes, especially welfare schemes.; Better targeting: Collection of data and analysis

based on the data will help in achieving all three objectives of eliminating wastage, facilitating reforms, and minimizing corruption.. Overall, yet, there are...

14. [2013 Q14] The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

The former President APJ Abdul Kalam proposed the concept of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) in his VISION 2020 project to provide India new heights and achievements by making the rural areas more attractive like cities. Key points: Simultaneous delivery of key infrastructure in villages leading to optimal use of resources.; Provision of funds for O&M of assets for ten; ears post-construction, along with capital investment for creation of assets.; Transformation of several schemes into a single project, to be implemented as per set standards in a defined timeframe, with the requirements of each scheme being kept intact.; Combining livelihoods creation with infrastructure development.; Enforcement of standards of service delivery in rural areas.; Enforcement of service standards through a legally binding arrangement.; Economic connectivity is the ultimate goal for development, but Dr.; Electronic amenities are needed as the pre- requisites for the advancement of the knowledge base that will eventually lead to economic success and self-sustainability.. Overall, the integrated method, which will bring prosperity to rural India.

15. [2013 Q15] Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals that the UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015. Key points: The United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed in September 2000, commits world leaders to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women.; Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.; Millennium Development Goal 4: Reduce child mortality.; Millennium Development Goal 5: Improve maternal health.; Millennium Development Goal 6: Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.; Poverty Eradication Programmes; Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY): PMRY started in 1993 with the objective of making available self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed; outh by assisting them in setting up any economically viable activity.; Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) REGP, launched in 1995 with the objective of creating self-employment opportunities in the rural areas and small towns, is being implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).. Overall, universal health coverage can provide the impetus to India's efforts to build up a sustainable health system where all citizens may get a rational and comprehensive package of preventive...

16. [2013 Q16] Though Citizen's charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyse. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

The citizen's charter is a voluntary written declaration by service providers about the commitment of the organisation towards standard, quality and time frame of service delivery, grievance redress mechanism, transparency, and accountability. Key points: Accountability: It makes administration accountable and citizen friendly, at the level of the individual and the organization.; Transparency: It ensures transparency in rules/ schemes/procedures/grievances.; It is citizen-centric and creates a professional and customer-oriented environment for the delivery of services.; There is a lack of involvement from the personnel and citizens, and the whole exercise is carried out because it was a command from the top.; Often a lack of interest has been shown by departments and organizations in implementing citizen charter.; Poor Awareness among people regarding citizens charter and also people even do not know binding provisions made under citizen charter.; There is a general lack of will in implementation among public officials and a lack of timely review of the provisions.; There is improper training of the staff leads to the charter being merely drafted and not implemented properly.; Unprepared staff to implement because bureaucracy in India is still...

17. [2013 Q17] 'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs. Discuss. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Key points: There is a delay in the appointment of Lokpal because of the legal technicalities and lack of political will.; Unaware citizens are the issue because of it, public officials dare to do illegal acts which are often against the interest of the general public, but it is in favor of some officials.; The Lokpal act does not make public officials work according to law, but it is expected to work as per law.; Immorality is an act of making wrong choices knowingly and implementing them; it is clear that Lokpal can not interfere in the working of the permanent executive; hence it may not stop public officials from doing immoral acts.; Lokpal may come into the picture when an immoral act was already done, and the public or citizens made a complaint about it.; The appointing committee consists of members from political parties, which may create political influence on its working.; It doesn't provide concrete immunity to the whistleblowers.; The appointment of Lokpal and Lokayukta must be made transparently without any...

18. [2013 Q18] The proposed withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1386 in 2001 authorized the establishment of an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) for Afghanistan to support the Afghan Interim Authority by maintaining security in and around Kabul. Key points: Security Interest: Afghanistan shares border with India, its stability is important for regional and domestic security and stability in both the South Asia and India.; India has a lot of stakes with respect to security in Kashmir and in the south Asia region.; Terrorism in the Region: Political instability and rising affection towards radical ideology is another serious concern for India's strategic interest in countries like Bangladesh, Central Asia, Maldives, etc.; The relation with Afghanistan is important for India to reduce Pakistan's influence in the region.; Economic Interest: India's economic interest in the region especially politically unstable central Asian countries, which are having huge mineral resources and atomic minerals.; Energy Security: Energy security for India is very important as India's total oil needs, 80% oil is imported, and the middle east contributes to this more than half.; Security: The stability and security of Afghanistan is important for...

19. [2013 Q19] What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

'String of Pearls' means a geopolitical theory to the network of Chinese intentions in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Key points: Myanmar: China has a presence in Myanmar's Kyaukpyu port.; Coco Island: Another main Chinese presence in close vicinity to Indian shores are at Coco Islands.; Bangladesh: China has developed the port of Chittagong which again gives it a station to be used in the heart of the Bay of Bengal.; This newer port in Bangladesh is another cause of concern as it has made possible the presence of China in the Bay of Bengal and as a result in Indian Ocean Region.; Sri Lanka: Though India has robust relations with Sri Lanka for centuries, China has found its feet in Sri Lankan soil as well.; By building a port on one of the busiest sea lanes of communication, China is having the ability to influence south Asia and South East Asian trade routes.; Pakistan: Pakistan- India relations require no introduction and China is Pakistan all weather ally.; It is supposed to be one of the biggest naval bases in the world and it...

20. [2013 Q20] Economic ties between India and Japan, while growing in recent years, are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth. (200 Words, 10 Marks)

The friendship between India and Japan has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties since 752 AD. Key points: First, the two countries have built upon these values and created a

partnership based on both principle and pragmatism.; India-Japan economic ties have witnessed remarkable growth in the last few; In FY 2011-12, the bilateral trade reached \$18.43 billion from \$13.72 billion in 2010-11.; According to the survey conducted by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in FY 2012, India was ranked the second (after China) among the promising countries for overseas business by the Japanese companies over the medium term.; In fact, by February 2013, 66 projects were under implementation in India with Japanese ODA.; Unfortunately, the bilateral trade seems to be quite disappointing given the enormity of the two economies.; Lack of appropriate infrastructure development is considered to be one of the major constraints in this regard.; Many of these factors continue to remain relevant even in today's context.; Economic ties: Though economic ties are growing, Japan, the third largest economy of the world, is the...

21. [2013 Q21] The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India? (200 Words, 10 Marks)

Hundreds of thousands are occupying Shahbag, an intersection in the heart of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, demanding the death penalty for war crimes committed during Bangladesh's liberation from Pakistan in 1971. Key points: Nationalist and people: Demanded to put a ban on the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami party from politics and boycott of institutions affiliated with the party.; NRI Bangladeshis: Protesters considered the punishment too lenient given that he was convicted on five of the six counts of gruesome war crimes.; effect on Islamists: The Shahbagh Protest appeared to be a threat to the very existence of Jamaat.; Portrayed anti-Islamic protest: They have been publishing concocted news and photos to portray the protesters as anti-Islamic, even atheist.; Democratic principle: People used democratic principles and democratic methods to protest for demanding capital punishment.; The then National Security Advisor said the Shahbagh protest represents the open-mindedness of the; ouths, who were battling extremism and upholding fundamental values.; Mature democracy: Youth involvement in peaceful protest to an extent showed that democratic maturity of Bangladesh deepening, and this is good for India because Islamist extremists had no place in...

22. [2013 Q22] Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India? (200 words, 10 marks)

India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious, and commercial links steeped in antiquity and enjoy close, cordial, and multi-dimensional relations. Key points: The Maldives is in transition democracy as it had started its journey as a democratic nation in 2008 when 30; ears of autocratic rule ended, and President Gayoom presented a new Constitution, which paved the way for the multi-party election for the first time in the island nation.; Mohammed Nashid's reign was also controversial when he gave a contract to Indian company GMR without permission of Parliament, curb on government institution, arrest of criminal judge, and after all these episodes, he had resigned.; In 2013 election was conducted, but none of the candidates, Mohhamed Nashid and Abdullah Yameen did not secure a majority.; In 2015 ahead of a mass support rally for Nashid, the Government announced a state of emergency in the country and arrested Nashid.; Strategic Implication: the Maldives has a very major place in Indian Ocean Region and is situated on important sea-lanes of communication.; Anti-democratic move: Anti-democratic move has another major blow to India's interest, as communist China...

23. [2013 Q23] In respect of India — Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy. (200 words, 10 marks)

The relationship between India and Sri Lanka is more than 2,500 years old. Key points: Both countries have a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious, and linguistic interaction.; ears, the relationship has been marked by close contacts at all levels.; Fishermen Issue: Fishermans of Tamil Nadu and Kerala often cross the sea boundary of India and the same thing is done by Sri Lankan fishermens.; Tamil Ethnic Issue: Tamil ethnicity

in north-eastern state of Sri Lanka is another critical issue between both the countries.; Katchatheevu Island Issue: This uninhabited island which India succeeded to Sri Lanka based on conditional agreement later on Sri Lanka declared it as sacred place.; Granting Citizenship to the Tamilians: Sri Lankan people often opposed making a separate province for Tamil majority Northeast province.; Cancellation of the East Container Project: Sri Lanka, Japan, and India signed an agreement to jointly develop the ECT at the Colombo Port in May 2019.; Jaffna Hybrid Energy Project: It was a joint venture (JV) programme awarded the contract to install a hybrid renewable energy system on Nainativu, Delft, and Analaitivu islands off the Jaffna...

24. [2013 Q24] What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss. (200 words, 10 marks)

Inder Kumar Gujral served as India's Minister of External Affairs under two of India's twelfth Prime Ministers (1997-1998). Key points: First, with the neighbors like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, India does not ask for reciprocity but gives all that it can in good faith and trust.; Second, no South Asian country will allow its territory to be used against the interest of another country of the region.; Third, none will interfere in the internal affairs of another.; Fourth, all South Asian countries must respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.; Fifth, they will settle all their disputes through peaceful bilateral negotiations.; Aligned with India's Foreign Policy: India's Current foreign policy of "Neighbourhood Policy" is closely aligned with Gujral doctrine.; Improving ties with neighbors has been a leitmotif of Indian foreign policy under all governments.; It would modify India's image from a regional hegemon to one of an accommodating neighbor acting generously, without expectations of reciprocity.; Building Trust: Being a major country and the biggest economy in the region, making unilateral donations and contributions in neighboring countries will help in generating trust...

25. [2013 Q25] The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. (200 words, 10 marks)

The United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference (Bretton Woods conference) was held in 1944 to regulate the international monetary and financial order after the conclusion of World War II. Key points: The IMF and World Bank exhibit many common characteristics while they are performing their tasks.; oversees the international monetary system; promotes exchange stability and orderly exchange relations among its member countries; assists all members-both industrial and developing countries-that find themselves in the temporary balance of payments difficulties by providing short- to medium-term credits; supplements the currency reserves of its members through the allocation of SDRs (special drawing rights); to date, SDR 21.4 billion has been issued to member countries in proportion to their quotas; draws its financial resources principally from the quota subscriptions of its member countries; has at its disposal fully paid-in quotas now totaling SDR 145 billion (about \$215 billion); has a staff of 2,300 drawn from 182 member countries; The management structure of the Bank is largely similar to that of the Fund.. Overall, India has constantly been demanding reforms in international institutions, especially financial institutions.

26. [2014 Q1] Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Judicial activism is a concept that originated in the US in 1947, and in India, it was introduced in the mid-1970s. Key points: Public Interest Litigation (PIL); Access to international statute for ensuring constitutional rights; Constitutional interpretation; Supervisory power of the higher courts upon the lower courts Positive Role Played by Judicial Activism in Achieving the Ideals of Democracy; Kesavananda Bharati case (1973): In this case, SC defined the basic structure of the Constitution.; Judiciary can strike down an amendment passed

by the Parliament which is in conflict with the basic structure of the Constitution.; Indira Nehru Gandhi vs.; SC added free and fair elections as a basic feature of the Indian Constitution, Democracy, the rule of law, and equality.; National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) case: SC invalidated the 99th Amendment act of the Constitution, which dealt with the appointment of judges and said the independence of judiciary & separation of power are Basic features of the Constitution.. Overall, but there should be a narrow demarcation between activism and overreach; for a fine balance, the judiciary should follow self-imposed discipline and self-restraint.

27. [2014 Q2] Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Federalism is a system of government in which power is divided between the central government and several constituent units of the country. Key points: Dual Polity: The Constitution establishes a dual polity consisting of the Union at; the Centre and the states at the periphery.; Written Constitution: The Constitution is not only a written document but also the lengthiest Constitution of the world.; Division of Power: Schedule seven of the Constitution divided the powers between the Centre and the states in terms of the Union List, State List, and Concurrent List.; Supremacy of the Constitution: The Constitution is the supreme law of the land.; Rigid Constitution: The Constitution is rigid to the extent that provisions which are concerned with the federal structure (i.e., Centre-state relations and judicial organisation) can be amended only by the joint action of the Central and State governments.; Independent Judiciary: The Constitution establishes an independent judiciary headed by the Supreme Court to protect the supremacy of the Constitution by exercising the power of judicial review, and to settle the disputes between the Centre and the States or between the States....

28. [2014 Q3] The ‘Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members’ as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of uncoded and unenumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the ‘parliamentary privileges. How can this problem be addressed? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Article 105 and Article 194 of the Constitution provide for Parliamentary privileges; these are special rights, immunities, and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees, and their members. Key points: Constitutional provisions,; several laws made by Parliament,; Rules of both the Houses,; Parliamentary conventions, and; Judicial interpretations.; Articles 105 and 194 clearly lay down that the “power, privileges and immunities of the legislature shall be as may from time to time be defined by the legislature, and until so defined, shall be those of the House of Commons”.; The expression “until so defined” does not mean an absolute power not to define privileges at all.; Against the separation of power: Legislators have been arguing that codification of privileges will harm the sovereignty of Parliament.; The codification of privileges is basically resisted because it would make the privileges subject to fundamental rights, and hence judicial scrutiny and evolution of new privileges would not be possible.. Overall, the restrictive interpretation of the Supreme Court holding freedom of speech subject to legislative privileges is not in tune with modern notions of human rights, and...

29. [2014 Q4] What do you understand by the concept “freedom of speech and expression”? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The Preamble of our Constitution contains the “freedom of thought and expression” and Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution guarantees the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression. Key points: The Supreme Court held that the Freedom of speech and expression includes the following; Right to propagate one’s own view and views of others.; Freedom of commercial advertisements.; Right against tapping of telephonic conversation.; Right to telecast (the government has no monopoly on electronic media).; Right

against bandh called by a political party or organization.; Right to know about government activities.; Right against the imposition of pre-censorship on a newspaper.; Right to demonstration or picketing but no right to strike.. Overall, such bans are thus against the constitutional philosophy, against the rule of law, against democracy, and against our national interest.

30. [2014 Q5] Instances of the President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyze. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardon or commute the sentence in all cases where the sentence is a sentence of death. Key points: In 1974, Justice Krishna Iyer had written of the "brooding horror of haunting the prisoner in the condemned cell for; In 1983 and 1989, the Court delivered judgments that held that a prolonged delay in carrying out the death sentence would be inhumane and degrading treatment to the convict.; In 2014 the Supreme Court of India pronounced a momentous judgment relieving the agony of convicts in India sentenced to death awaiting their execution for prolonged periods of time.; According to Supreme Court, the inordinate delay in deciding a petition of a convict sentenced to death by the President can be torture and inhumane punishment to the convict.; In such circumstances, if the convict approaches the Court, the Court will hold that his fundamental right to protection of life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution is violated and the Court will commute his sentence to life imprisonment.; ears, are kept in disregard of the...

31. [2014 Q6] The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far is the efficacy of a government then inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

A cabinet is a smaller body consisting of 15 to 20 ministers amongst the Council of ministers. Key points: Article 72 of the Constitution prescribes that the total number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the number of members of the House of the People.; ears, whether because of coalition compulsions or the need to appear representative of India's diversity, Cabinets have been swelling.; It was found that abnormally large councils of ministers were being constituted in a coalition Government.; A compact ministry has enabled much better coordination in several sectors, especially energy and transport.; It also streamlines the decision-making process; in the past, there have been multiple authorities and clashes between different departments.; Small Cabinet possesses less burden on the public exchequer.; It also fosters team spirit among the members; thus, a small Cabinet is recommended for the healthy development of democracy.; The Cabinet reflects the need to take care of sociological representation.; The Cabinet should reflect India's national character, its regions, classes, castes, communities, and ethnicities.. Overall, and its size should be...

32. [2014 Q7] Though 100 percent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like a trade publication and general entertainment channel, the government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The contribution of foreign investments in an emerging economy like India can never be undermined. Key points: This is one step closer to liberalizing the FDI regime for entities engaged in the News Digital Media Sector.; It will mitigate the effect of Yellow Journalism (sensationalism) and broaden the scope for investigative journalism.; This step will bring financial resources to the Media House and bring new state-of-the-art technology in media and digital platforms.; It will bring internal democracy to the working of the media and bring transparency, responsibility, accountability in media sections which reduce the unscrupulous practice of domestic media houses.; It also helps in diversifying media coverage.; Ambiguity in language and in interpretation of who qualifies as a news aggregator or a news agency.; The practicality of

regulating digital media “in a global internet environment” is against freedom of speech.; This will invite more Government interference in the media.; FDI in media is seen as the government is trying to restrict digital media companies in India and find levers to exercise control.. Overall, hence, enhanced FDI Limits will help the industry as more and...

33. [2014 Q8] The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for the obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways, or the private container operators. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Rail Tariff Authority (RTA) was set up to advise the government on fixing fares and freight. Key points: It will be vested with the function to develop a transparent, integrated, and dynamic pricing mechanism for the passenger and freight segments of the Indian Railway's business.; It is the first step towards depoliticizing rail fares and inducing reforms aimed at pulling the cash- strapped railways out of the financial crisis.; The authority can recommend fare revision from time to time after considering input cost and volatile market conditions.; It can advise the central government on the fixation of tariff, based on the cost of operations and factors impinging it, to help generate requisite surpluses for healthy growth in the future.; It will help in increasing private sector participation in the power sector, which can reduce the risk and enhance the delivery of services.; The Authority will not only consider requirements of the Railways but also engage with all stakeholders to usher in a new pricing regime through a transparent process.; The consumer will get efficient, fast, and comfortable service, which are gradually reaching an unsustainable...

34. [2014 Q9] The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of the above observation, assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The National Human Rights Commission is a statutory body, established as per provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights. Key points: The National Human Rights Commission is an example of “fourth branch institutions.” The other three branches are the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary, with each branch acting as a check and a balance upon the others.; Under the Protection of Human Rights Act, the Human Rights Commissions are empowered to inquire into the violations of human rights committed by state authorities, either upon petitions presented to them or upon their own initiative.; During the inquiries, the Commissions are granted identical powers to that of civil courts.; These proceedings are deemed to be judicial proceedings, and they require that any person, who may be prejudicially affected by their outcome, has a right to be heard.; The commission has its own nucleus of investigating staff for inquiry into complaints of human rights violations.; It is empowered to use the services of any officer or investigation agency of the...

35. [2014 Q10] The penetration of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

SHG is a small autonomous, nonpolitical group of people sharing common concerns, who come together voluntarily to work jointly for their personal, social, and economic development. Key points: There is opposition in the community and in the family towards efforts to improve the status of poor and vulnerable sections.; Illiteracy: As per the government data, around 30% of the rural people are illiterate and are not aware of the importance of SHGs, which adversely affects their efficacy.; Lack of stability: Most of the SHGs are dominated by women, who are unable to provide long-term leadership because of their family responsibilities, migration because of marriage, and social barriers.; Production, family, and marketing problems were found to be the most serious and hindered the path of women's empowerment.; Discontinuance of their membership in SHG after marriage to the extent the SHGs would be disturbed is

prevalent.; Caste Discrimination: The caste and religion are deeply rooted in Indian society, which hinders the formation of groups because of a lack of coordination and participation.; Studies have shown that up to 51 percent of the members are from poor...

36. [2014 Q11] Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economies? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Social exclusion means ways in which groups/ individuals may become cut off from full involvement in the wider society because of many social factors like caste, religion, disability, gender. Key points: The list of castes designated as the OBCs is prepared separately at the central and the state level.; Hence, certain castes scheduled as OBCs for the purpose of central government jobs may not be listed as OBCs in state government jobs which deprives them of establishing businesses in urban economies; The schemes also increase labour cost because of the regulations put by the government agencies, by interfering with the free determination of the prices in the market.; The increase in the competition of markets in urban areas is often an outcome of the welfarist stance taken by the government.; In the form of subsidized and regulated distribution, the government imposes restrictions on the freedom of businesses, thus facilitating the growth of the vulnerable section at an opportunity cost of the development of the private sector as a whole.; The primary argument for 'positive discrimination' through a quota for a certain historically disadvantaged section...

37. [2014 Q12] An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

India's sport sector is growing at an explosive rate. Key points: In India, each sport is 'managed' by an independent federation, with these federations recognized by the central Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and receiving funds from the central government.; India, despite its space programme and burgeoning population of billionaires, is still a very poor nation in terms of per capita income, and sport has never been a priority for the government.; Sports are played out of passion in India, not for cash awards.; Lack of facilities at the grass root level is a major problem.; Cricket continues to dominate India's sporting landscape.; It can help in filtering talented sports persons.; Talent Hunt Programme will bring more accountability and transparency in sports by reducing red tapism.; The search for talent will not be limited to Urban or Town areas.; The talent hunt programme will break the barrier of social inequalities like caste, creed, gender.. Overall, surely, there are more talents to come in this direction.

38. [2014 Q13] Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allow more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) are accorded as Institute of National Importance (INI). Key points: More autonomy to IIMs and IITs is needed: Autonomy implies academic and administrative freedom which should result in the enhancement of quality of education and achievement of academic excellence.; IIMs are separate bodies registered under the Societies Act.; Since Societies are not authorized to award degrees, students admitted to their Master's programme are given a postgraduate diploma in management or PGDM.; Similarly, those pursuing doctoral studies are awarded the title of a 'Fellow' at the end of their research.; Although the PG diploma and 'Fellow' title are recognized by the Association of Indian Universities and the HRD Ministry to be equivalent to an MBA and a Ph.; In IITs, the President acts as the Visitor who appoints the directors and chairpersons on the advice of the HRD Ministry.; Bureaucratic Interference: Bureaucratic accountability is articulated through the misguided 'Memorandum

of Understanding' approach which the HRD ministry forces the IIMs and IITs to copy.; IIMs and IITs require a comprehensive audit through a Visiting Committee...

39. [2014 Q14] Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organization been the cause of slow growth in India? Critically examine. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

India's Civil Services Examination (CSE) is considered as one of the toughest of its kind in the world. Key points: Undermining National Unity: because of the Cadre Allocation 2008 Policy, distance of assigned cadre from home cadre decreases and homophily increases with Northerners staying in Northern cadres and Southerners staying in Southern cadres.; Correlated Preferences: Cadre preferences of exam toppers are correlated as disadvantaged cadres (regions with foreign conflict, states with internal political strife, and newly formed states) are consistently ranked towards the bottom of most preference lists.; Desire for Home Cadre: Overwhelming preference for assignments closer to home when officers rank cadres.; Almost all officers want to be considered for Insider positions in their home state.; At the top of their preference lists, officers tend to rank close-by cadres in terms of how well the state is, that is, in order of GDP (gross domestic product) per capita.; At the bottom of their preference lists, officers tend to rank cadres farthest away from their home state in order of development outcomes.; Long-Term implications of cadre allotment: According to 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission's Report, the...

40. [2014 Q15] Two parallel run schemes of the Government, viz the Aadhar card and NPR, one as voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need to run concurrently. Analyze the potential of the schemes to achieve developmental benefits and equitable growth. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Aadhar and NPR have gained media mileage from the past few days. Key points: The need for NPR was highlighted by the Kargil Defence Review Committee and thus NPR was born as an idea in 2003.; NPR is for the Security purpose.; Enrolment in the NPR is mandatory under the Citizenship Act, whereas getting an Aadhaar number is voluntary.; The Registrar General of India (RGI) is creating a National Population Register (NPR) of persons usually residing in India under the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003 read with the Citizenship Act, 1955.; UIDAI is issuing Unique Identification Numbers (called Aadhaar numbers) to all residents through the multiple registrar model.; At the time of setting up of UIDAI, the Authority was also mandated with the task of collation of NPR with UID.; The Government has decided that the NPR enrolment will continue as envisaged, but, if during enrolment, a person indicates that he/she is already enrolled for Aadhaar, the biometric data will not be captured by NPR.; Instead the Aadhaar number/enrolment number will be recorded in NPR and biometric...

41. [2014 Q16] With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and ever flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The South China Sea abundant in natural resources like extensive oil, natural gas and hydrocarbons assets and is a critical trade route through which about half of all world trade passes is contested by the six littoral states of the region i.e. Key points: Factor in India's own strategic calculations and strategic debates: India's entry into the geopolitics of the region has been welcomed by ASEAN Nations except for China.; The South China Sea is becoming a factor in India's own strategic calculations and strategic debates, and India is becoming a factor in the strategic calculations of South China Sea states.; Geopolitical Dimension: The acceptance and prevalence of the term "Indo-Pacific" among strategic commentators as well as diplomats has become synonymous with India's entry into South East Asia and the Pacific theatre.; Some analysts posit that India's involvement in the South China Sea is reflective of Indo- Chinese Great Power rivalry.; South China Sea and the Indian Ocean: China is not a power in the Indian Ocean,; et it is investing diplomatically and militarily in the region to become an influential actor in the...

42. [2014 Q17] The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on Information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The Information Technology Agreement (ITA) is a plurilateral agreement enforced by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and concluded in the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products and entered into force 1 July 1997. Key points: According to the Government of India, experience with the ITA has been most discouraging, which almost wiped out the IT industry from India.; The real gainer from that agreement has been China which raised its global market share from 2% to 14% between 2000-2011.; While India promised to lower its tariff and bring them down to zero in the information technology products under the Information Technology Agreement in 1997, yet, it has been taking the argument that the scope of the Agreement back in 1997 was limited and the duties imposed do not cover those products.; India had explained that the IT goods in question do not fall under ITA.; It had all along maintained that IT and telecom technologies have evolved with new applications and equipment which were neither existent nor even conceived at the time of signing the ITA-I in December 1996.; The technology has...

43. [2014 Q18] Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss the merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The international funding agencies are known for the generous foreign aid which includes international transfer of capital, goods, or services for the benefit of the recipient country or its population. Key points: During the LPG reform in 1991, for India, the immediate response was to secure an emergency loan of \$2.2 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by pledging 67 tons of India's gold reserves as collateral.; India had to agree with the series of large-scale reforms then began under the IMF's structural adjustment programme (SAP).; The most common type of foreign aid is official development assistance (ODA), which is sometimes channeled through international organizations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).; But a report from Intelligence Bureau accused NGOs such as Greenpeace, Cordaid, Amnesty, and Action Aid for reducing India's GDP by 2-3% per; Although traditionally considered largely as a recipient of foreign aid, India in the last decade has increasingly transitioned toward becoming an "emerging donor" country.; As an emerging donor, India's new aid policy was far from unique in that it was driven not by pure altruism, but mainly from the domestic and...

44. [2014 Q19] India has recently signed to become a founding member of the New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The need for the creation of new banks reflects the reality of a diverse and more complex world order, in which a Western-centric, "one size fits all" approach is no longer tenable. Key points: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB): The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank headquartered in Beijing.; Its mission is to improve social and economic outcomes in its region, Asia, and beyond.; The bank's priorities are projects that promote sustainable infrastructure and support countries that are striving to meet environmental and development goals.; It funds projects linking countries in the region and cross-border infrastructure projects for roads, rail, ports, energy pipelines, and telecoms across Central Asia and maritime routes in South East and South Asia and the Middle East.; Its priorities also include private capital mobilization and encouraging partnerships that stimulate private capital investment, such as those with other multilateral development banks, governments, and private financiers.; New Development Bank (NDB): In the 2013 annual summit in Durban, South Africa, the BRICS countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa agreed to establish the BRICS Development Bank, which soon...

45. [2014 Q20] WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

World Trade Organization (WTO) is an international organization established to supervise and liberalize world trade. Key points: ears) or by their ambassadors or delegates (who meet regularly in Geneva); Settlement: The WTO is responsible for overseeing the rules of international trade.; Rebalancing: If one party violates, another should not be obliged to continue to perform its obligation to ensure fairness and reciprocity.; Compensation: It repairs the damage caused by the breach to victims of the beach.; Compliance: It also facilitates trade negotiations among its 164 members, up from 123 in 1994, and brings about conformity with the rules.; Clarification: It clarifies the rules to facilitate compliance or settlement in the specific case, as well as to guide future conduct.; Deterrence/Punishment: The organization also monitors the implementation of trade agreements, produces research on global trade and economic policy, and serves as a forum for settling trade disputes between countries, which deter future violations of the law.; In its two and a half decades, it has helped reduce barriers to trade of both goods and services and created a dispute resolution system that supporters say reduced...

46. [2015 Q1] Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizens a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is one that would provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, etc. Key points: In the Shah Bano Case 1985; The Supreme Court, in the Shah Bano case, observed that a common Civil Code would help the cause of national integration by removing disparate loyalties to laws that have conflicting ideologies.; In the Sarla Mudgal Case (1995), Jordan Diengdeh vs.; It will ensure just and fair treatment of women from all sections of society and help in the progress of society by realizing the values enshrined in the Constitution.; It will also reduce vote-bank politics and help in the integration of India as it will be a binding thread across the diverse cultural groups.; The personal laws are inconsistent with Article 14 of the Constitution.; According to the Law Commission's report on reform of family law (2018) comments that a uniform civil code "is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage".; The Law Commission of India notes that the tracts of the Constituent Assembly...

47. [2015 Q2] The concept of cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasized in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

The Constitution of India provides for a federal system of government in the country. Key points: The division of powers is in favor of the Union Government and highly inequitable from the federal angle.; The Union List contains more subjects than the State List.; The more important subjects are included in the Union List.; The Union Government has overriding authority over the Concurrent List.; The states in India have no right to territorial integrity, the Parliament can, by unilateral action, change the area, boundaries, or name of any State; unlike in other federations.; thus, the Indian Federation is "an indestructible Union of destructible states."; No equality of State representation The states are given representation in the Rajya Sabha based on population.; Some recent developments during the Covid-19 pandemic 2020 have revealed fissures in Union Government-State cooperation.; Even though State consultation is a legislative mandate cast upon the Union Government under the Disaster Management Act of 2005.. Overall, when compared with other large federal countries such as the US, the country has done very well to minimize the frictions and provide a sense of direction...

48. [2015 Q3] In the absence of well-educated and organized local level government system, 'Panchayats' and 'Samitis' have remained mainly political institutions and not effective instruments of governance. Critically

discuss. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

The term Panchayati Raj signifies the system of rural local self-government in India. Key points: Conceptual Confusion: The concept of Panchayati Raj is very narrow as it was not viewed as an institutional framework that could play an important role in the overall development of rural masses.; The present concept does not envisage even a single unit of Panchayati Raj Institutions as an instrument of planning as well as an implementation agency of different rural development programmes.; There is also lack of clarity about Panchayati Raj Institutions as agencies that can manage routine administration, infrastructure and bring about socioeconomic welfare of the rural population.; The Gram Sabha, which was a pivot of Panchayati Raj in the new dispensation, has been sidelined in many cases.; It is through the Gram Sabha that the elected representative is made accountable to the electorate.; Rigid Structure: The structure of the PRIs envisaged under the Act is rather rigid.; While the district has been defined as a normal district in a State, the jurisdiction of the village and intermediate levels has not been specifically defined in the Act.; Panchayati...

49. [2015 Q4] Khap Panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extra-constitutional authorities, often delivering pronouncements amounting to human rights violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, Executive and judiciary to set the things right in this regard. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Khap Panchayats are caste or community groups, present largely in rural areas of north India, which at times act as quasi-judicial bodies and pronounce harsh punishments based on age-old customs. Key points: ears, particularly in states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.; Legislative Actions: several legislative efforts have been taken by the Parliament of India to check the misuse of power and authority by the Khap Panchayats.; Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees to all citizens the right to assemble peaceably and without arms; as well as the right to form associations and unions.; Executive Action: The Union Government came up with a draft legislation named “Prohibition of Unlawful Assembly (Interference with Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances) Bill, 2011.”; This Bill has been a serious attempt towards a legislative framework to curb the evil of honor crimes.; At present, there is no special law and honor killing is treated as murder under Section 300 read with Section 302 of the IPC.; The Law Commission of India drafted legislation that seeks to declare Khap Panchayats unlawful.; The Commission also proposed legislation namely, The Endangerment...

50. [2015 Q5] Resorting to Ordinances has always raised concern on violation of the spirit of separation of powers doctrine. While noting the rationales justifying the power to promulgate Ordinances, analyze whether the decisions of the Supreme Court on the issue have further facilitated resorting to this power. Should the power to promulgate the Ordinances be repealed? (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Article 123 and Article 213 of the Constitution empower the President and Governor to promulgate Ordinances, respectively. Key points: For far too long, the court recognized, the power to make Ordinances has been abused to subvert the democratic process.; Constitutionally, important issues that have been raised include Judicial Review of the Ordinance making powers of the Executive; the necessity for ‘immediate action’ while promulgating an Ordinance; and the granting of Ordinance making powers to the Executive, given the principle of separation of powers.; In *DC Wadhwa vs. the State of Bihar* (1987) the court was examining a case where a state government (under the authority of the Governor) continued to re-promulgate Ordinances; that is, it repeatedly issued new Ordinances to replace the old ones, instead of laying them before the state legislature.; According to the Court’s verdict, the legislative power of the Executive to promulgate Ordinances is to be used in exceptional circumstances and not as a substitute for the law-making power of the legislature.; The Supreme Court argued that if Ordinance making was made a usual practice, creating an ‘Ordinance raj’ the courts...

51. [2015 Q6] What are the major changes brought in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1966 through the recent Ordinance promulgated by the President? How far will it improve India’s dispute resolution

mechanism? Discuss. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Arbitration is a form of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Key points: ear to 2015 and 2019.; The amendment will ensure that all stakeholder parties get an opportunity to seek an unconditional stay on enforcement of arbitral awards where the arbitration agreement or contract is “induced by fraud or corruption”.; The Ordinance deleted the 8th Schedule of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 which contained the necessary qualifications for accreditation of arbitrators.; The 8th Schedule of the act had faced criticism that the conditions prescribed in the law came in the way of India getting the benefit of having foreign arbitrators.; The amendment will ensure that all the stakeholder parties get an opportunity to seek an unconditional stay of enforcement of arbitral awards where the underlying arbitration agreement or contract or making of the arbitral award are induced by fraud or corruption.. Overall, this may be extended by a six-month period. of their dispute, an issue that the 2019 Bill seeks to remedy.

52. [2015 Q7] Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulations on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of Indian Constitution and judgement(s) of the Apex Court in this regard. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Article 21 of the Constitution declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. Key points: ear celebrations coincide with the period when farmers burn crop residue in neighboring Punjab and Haryana.; ear, often leads to the effects of these farm fires lingering in the air for several days.; Bursting of firecrackers may not be the only reason for air pollution, but it is one of the reasons.; According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), bursting of firecrackers has seen a substantial increase in PM 2.5 level, which is a “very serious health hazard.” Article 21 of Indian Constitution and judgement(s) of the Apex Court in this regard; Use of firecrackers for a festival is a core and essential religious practice for one community in India.; The Supreme Court temporarily banned the sale of firecrackers and later the Supreme Court refused to impose a nationwide blanket ban on sale of firecrackers.; The court had said that the limited ban on firecrackers was an experiment to examine its effect on the pollution levels....

53. [2015 Q8] Examine critically the recent changes in the rules governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976 regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect internal security. Key points: According to the recent changes in the FCRA, any NGO that accepts foreign contributions has to register with the central government.; Registered associations can receive foreign contributions for social, educational, religious, economic, and cultural purposes.; Filing of annual returns, on the lines of Income Tax, is compulsory.; In 2015, the MHA notified new rules, which required NGOs to give an undertaking that the acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or effect friendly relations with any foreign state and does not disrupt communal harmony.; All NGOs would have to operate accounts in either nationalized or private banks which have core banking facilities to allow security agencies access on a real time basis.; In case of non-compliance with provisions of the FCRA, the government can penalize an NGO and, subsequently, suspend or cancel its license.; If NGOs do not file annual returns, the government can issue a show-cause notice and, subsequently, suspend or...

54. [2015 Q9] The Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Program (SBLP), which is India’s own innovation, has proved to be one of the most effective poverty alleviation and women empowerment programmes. Elucidate. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Self-Help Groups are voluntary, small group structures for mutual aid and the accomplishment of a special purpose. Key points: In the first model the bank itself acts as a self- help group promoting institution (SHPI); Under the second model, banks opened saving accounts and then provided credit directly to the SHGs, while

NGOs acted as facilitators.; Under the third model the NGOs act both as facilitators and microfinance intermediaries.; In 1992-93, only few SHGs were credit-linked but it grew rapidly over the years reaching more than lakhs SHGs recently.; According to recent data by NABARD, the share of women SHGs in the total SHGs with saving bank accounts was more than 80%.; Women's access to credit was prioritized as an international agenda in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995).; The Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Program (SBLP) is one step towards achieving Goal 5 of SDG i.e., Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.; Major advances in women's livelihood conditions have come about through the institution of microfinance and through women's participation in the local markets.. Overall, there are...

55. [2015 Q10] How can the role of NGOs be strengthened in India for development works relating to protection of the environment? Discuss throwing light on the major constraints. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

The United Nations Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations defines a Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) as any nonprofit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized at a local, national, or international level. Key points: Environmental NGOs typically take up causes related to the environment such as Climate Change, Air Pollution, Deforestation, Ozone Layer Depletion, Waste Management, Biodiversity, and Environmental degradation.; Some of the Prominent examples of Environmental NGO working in India are Centre for Science and Environment, WWF India and many more.; NGOs have an increasing presence in making and implementing environmental policy and law.; Amongst NGOs working for protection of the environment the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India was the first to advocate conservation of nature on a national basis.; Further, through the Conservation Action Programme run by WWF, support is extended to smaller NGOs working at the grassroots level.; Contrary to the popular perception that NGOs are always critical of government initiatives, it is now widely recognized that NGOs also contribute positively to enhancing state initiatives towards environmental protection by working in constructive partnerships.; National Toxics Movement in India: The movement was inspired by...

56. [2015 Q11] The quality of higher education in India requires major improvements to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of higher and technical education in the country? Discuss. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

India's higher education system is the world's third largest in terms of students, next to China and the United States. Key points: India has brought about a revolution in the education system of the country with statistics revealing a staggering enrolment in schools over the past; Despite these numbers, international education rating agencies have not placed many of these institutions within the best of the world ranking.; There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approaches from primary to higher education level to make Indian educational system globally more relevant and competitive.; There should be a good infrastructure of colleges and universities which may attract the students.; Government must promote collaboration between Indian higher education institutes and top international institutes and generate linkage between national research laboratories and research centers of top institutions for better quality and collaborative research.; There is a need to focus on the graduate students by providing them such courses in which they can achieve excellence, gain deeper knowledge of the subject so that they will get jobs after recruitment in the companies which would reduce unnecessary rush to...

57. [2015 Q12] Public health system has limitations in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that the private sector can help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives would you suggest? (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Report on the Health Survey and Development Committee, commonly referred to as the Bhore Committee Report, 1946, has been a landmark report for India, from which the current health policy and systems have evolved. Key points: India has a mixed health-care system, inclusive of public and private health-care service

providers.; The health system which was visualized for independent India and the one at present are very different.; One of the first blueprints of the health system in the; ear 1946 emphatically defends the building of a universal (for all), comprehensive (covering a wide range of services) healthcare network in India, thinking of health as a right of all people, and of the government as the main player in health.; Historically, India did not make adequate financial investments in the public health sector.; The public health system in most states in India, with some exceptions, has largely remained side- lined in political discourse over the; The evidence of this neglect is visible in the form of limitations in basic structural and functional capacities- drugs, human resource vacancies, equipment, demotivated and overburdened staff- in public health...

58. [2015 Q13] Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate reduction in poverty levels over time. Do you agree? Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

The poverty estimates in India have consistently reflected a divergence from the rest of the indicators of well-being such as under-nutrition among children, underweight children, chronic anaemia among women, malnutrition among women and other consequent health indicators, specifically in the last two decades, which show worsened nutritional situation. Key points: The Working Group 1962: Recommended that the national minimum consumption expenditure for a household of five persons should not be less than Rs 100 per month or Rs 20 per capita per month in terms of 1960-61 prices.; For urban areas, this figure was Rs 125 per month or Rs 25 per capita per month to cover the higher prices there.; This poverty line was widely used in the 1960s and 1970s to estimate the poverty ratio at national and state level.; Alagh Committee 1979: This committee estimated average calorie requirements and the poverty line corresponding to the calorie requirement.; The estimated calorie norm was 2400 kcal per capita per day in rural areas and 2100 kcal per capita per day in urban areas.; Lakdawala Committee in 1989: They did not redefine the poverty...

59. [2015 Q14] In the light of Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in corporate governance to ensure transparency, accountability. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Corporate governance is the system of rules, practices, and processes by which a Company is directed and controlled. Key points: Satyam Scandal in 2009 was about corporate governance and fraudulent auditing practices allegedly in connivance with auditors and chartered accountants.; The company misrepresented its accounts both to its board, stock exchanges, regulators, investors, and all other stakeholders.; It misled the market and other stakeholders by lying about the company's financial health.; The Chairman of Satyam Software Services Ltd, Ramalinga Raju, confessed to a Rs 7,136 crore fraud committed by him and a few others at the company.; Committees to suggest reforms: In 2009, the Confederation of Indian Industries set up a task force headed by Naresh Chandra to suggest reforms.; Based on the recommendations of this task force, the Ministry of Corporate affairs issued Voluntary Guidelines for Corporate Governance in 2009.; Reforms by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI): In April 2014, SEBI amended the Listing Agreement to include provisions relating to establishment of a vigil mechanism, role of Audit Committee in cases of suspected fraud or irregularity, the role of the...

60. [2015 Q16] "For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institutions remain independent and autonomous". Discuss in the light of the experiences in the recent past. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

A regulatory body is a public organization or government agency that is set up to exercise a regulatory function. Key points: Financial Regulation: Financial regulation in India is oriented towards product regulation, i.e., each product is separately regulated.; Fixed deposits and other banking products are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI); Mutual funds and equity markets by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); The New Pension Scheme (NPS) by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA); Regulation in the Public Interest: This covers areas where industries are

failing to meet a standard or uphold something of public importance.; A related problem which calls for public interest regulation is the low level of consumer awareness on issues such as safety, which means there is not enough demand pull to make industry interested in implementing safety standards.; Environmental Regulation: Environmental regulation covers actions to protect the environment from harm.; National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) are two most important regulatory bodies in India.; Considerable legal incoherence and uncertainty.. Overall, certain domains of activity require technical decision- making...

61. [2015 Q17] Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pros and cons. Critically examine. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

India-Africa ties is one of the most sought-after relations rocketing towards a global growth spurt in the 21st century. Key points: ears of global outreach.; Partnership is based on a model of cooperation: India's partnership with Africa is based on a model of cooperation which is demand-driven, free of conditionalities and responsive to the needs of African countries.; Areas of Defence and Security: India's cooperation with Africa in the areas of defence and maritime security has strengthened over the past many; India along with Africa is determined to fight terrorism all together; India is one of the largest contributors to UN Peacekeeping Missions in Africa which have played an important role in bringing peace and stability to the African continent; Multidimensional approach to engage Africa: The establishment of a line of credit to African nations, as a form of development cooperation.; In 2019, India had granted 279 lines of credit worth \$28 billion globally out of which \$11 Billion had been extended to African countries.; Indian aid has also been augmented with digital initiatives like e-Vidya Bharti and e-Arogya Bharti focusing on education and...

62. [2015 Q18] Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has emerged as the quintessential arena and barometer for evaluating the promise and progress of accommodating new, rising powers in the international system. Key points: The Security Council is one of the UN's six main organs composed after the Second World War in 1945.; The UNSC at present has 15 members and five of them- the US, the UK, Russia, China, and France are permanent members, who have veto rights.; With global economic and population fulcrum shifting to Indo-Pacific, inadequate Asian representation and no African and Latin American representation are pushing the UN to stagnation, unless it reforms itself.; UNSC in its current form is not representative of the developing world and global needs with the primacy of policy being in the hands of P5 members.; According to India, "no reform of the United Nations (UN) is complete without the composition of the Security Council changing to reflect contemporary realities of the twenty-first century.; The UN Security Council, with its exceptional role in the UN in preserving international peace and security, has always been of significance for India...

63. [2015 Q19] Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of the Indian Government to improve relationships with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Project 'Mausam', announced in 2014, is an important initiative for maritime heritage. Key points: Project 'Mausam' is the initiative of the Ministry of Culture to be implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as the nodal agency with research support of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Museum.; The project aims to explore the multi-faceted Indian Ocean 'world', collating archaeological and historical research to document the diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions in the Indian Ocean.; The main objective of the project is to inscribe places and sites identified under Project Mausam as trans-national nomination for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List.; The Project 'Mausam' is considered the most major foreign policy initiative in recent time by the Government of India.; It is inspired by India's historical role as the focal point for trade in the Indian Ocean.; Project Mausam

would allow India to reestablish its ties with its ancient trade partners and re-establish an “Indian Ocean world” along the littoral of the Indian Ocean.; It would stretch from east Africa, along the Arabian Peninsula, past...

64. [2015 Q20] Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India -Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchanges could help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples. (12.5 Marks, 200 Words)

Pakistan and India were almost on the brink of war in 2019 following the Pulwama terror attack which prompted India to carry out air strikes on terror camps in Pakistan, which was followed by an aerial combat between Air Forces of the two countries. Key points: Sports exchanges: The assumption that sport is a form of reconciliation is true to a degree.; “Sports diplomacy” is a loose term, but a starting point to understanding the good part.; Sport can at times act as politics’ messenger as.; Pakistani players have not been invited to the Indian Premier League and Hockey India League.; India declined to play alongside Pakistan at the 2017 Sultan of Johor Cup.; Cricket as a strategic diplomatic tool is indeed capable of transcending the ethnic and social divide while dispelling historical stereotypes and age-old prejudices between the two countries.; Expanding IPL to include cities from Pakistan and Kashmir could lay a strong foundation for a peaceful relationship between the two acrimonious and bitter neighbors.; Cultural Exchanges: India and Pakistan share common cultural values in addition to divided families.; The Rekhta Concerts which...

65. [2016 Q1] Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The 69th Amendment of the Constitution in 1992 gave the National Capital of Delhi a special status with its own democratically elected government and Legislative Assembly. Key points: Sub-section (4) of Article 239AA mandates that a Council of Ministers shall provide aid and advice to the LG in his functions regarding laws made by the Legislative Assembly.; Article 239AA (4), which mandates that in case of a difference of opinion between the LG and the Council of Ministers, the former has to refer the issue to the President.; In the meanwhile, while that decision is pending before the President, the LG, if the matter is urgent, can use his discretion to take immediate action.; In case of failure of Constitutional machinery, the President can impose his rule in the territory.; There is a jurisdictional conflict between the elected government of Delhi and the Union Government and its representative, the Lieutenant Governor, because of the coexistence of Article 239 and 239AA.; According to the Union government, Article 239 empowers the Lieutenant Governor to act independently of his Council of Ministers.; The government of Delhi held...

66. [2016 Q2] To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note “temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir”, temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Article 370 of the Indian Constitution grants special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir, which exempts J&K from the Indian Constitution (except Article 1 and Article 370 itself) and permits the State to draft its own Constitution. Key points: The Part XXI of the Constitution is devoted to the ‘Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions’.; Article 370 was incorporated in the Constitution of India, clearly states that the provisions with respect to the State of J&K are only temporary and not permanent.; Article 370 makes Article 1 and Article 370 itself applicable to the State of J&K at once and authorizes the President to extend other Articles to the State.; The Delhi High Court in *Kumari Vijayalakshmi* (2017) said that Article 370 is temporary and its continuation is a fraud on the Constitution.; Article 370 has been described as a tunnel through which the Constitution is applied to J&K; it is a bedrock of the Constitutional relationship between

Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India.; Like other states with special power, it protects the demographic status of Jammu and Kashmir in its prescribed constitutional...

67. [2016 Q3] “The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes.” Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Political parties are voluntary associations or organised groups of individuals who share the same political views and who try to gain political power through constitutional means, and who desire to work to promote the national interest. Key points: One-party dominance: Since independence, the Indian party system has passed through several transitory phases, from a single party dominance at the Centre and the states to a multi-party system from 1977.; In spite of the multi-party system, the political scene in India was dominated for a long period by Congress.; Multi-party System: The dominant position enjoyed by the Congress has been declining since 1967 with the rise of regional parties and other national parties like Janata (1977), Janata Dal (1989), and the BJP (1991) leading to the development of a competitive multi-party system.; Regional political parties started becoming important in the formation of coalition governments.; Ideologies of the political parties have eroded at a large scale, especially in the economic sphere.; Lack of clear Ideology: Except for the BJP and the two communist parties (CPI and CPM), all other parties do not have a clear-cut ideology...

68. [2016 Q4] Exercise of CAG’s powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government’s policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Article 148 of the Constitution provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). Key points: He audits the accounts related to all expenditures from the Consolidated Fund of India, consolidated fund of each State, and consolidated fund of each union territory having a Legislative Assembly.; He audits all expenditures from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India, as well as the contingency fund of each State and the public account of each State.; He audits all trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets, and other subsidiary accounts kept by any department of the Central Government and state governments.; He audits the receipts and expenditure of the Centre and each State to satisfy himself that the rules and procedures on that behalf are designed to secure an effective check on the assessment, collection, and proper allocation of revenue.; CAG has witnessed a transformation in recent years, with the constitutionally mandated institution bringing to the fore new issues of accountability in governance.; It has shifted from the mode of functioning as the country’s supreme audit...

69. [2016 Q5] Discuss each adjective attached to the word ‘Republic’ in the ‘Preamble’. Are they defensible in the present circumstances? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The term ‘Preamble’ means the introduction or preface to the Constitution. Key points: Adjectives Attached to Preamble of the Constitution.; Sovereign-The word ‘sovereign’ implies that India is neither a dependency nor a dominion of any other nation, but an independent state.; Socialist: It was added by the 42nd Amendment in 1976 of the Constitution.; Secular: The term ‘secular’ was added to the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.; Democratic: Democratic polity is based on the doctrine of popular sovereignty, that is, possession of supreme power by the people.; The democratic characters are evident through the periodic elections based on universal adult franchise, the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, etc.; In recent times the problems like corruption, use of money, and muscle power in the elections, vote bank politics, etc., threaten the democratic system.; several provisions of the Constitution, like Fundamental Rights (Article 25-30) and other legal rights, ensure secularism.; With the emergence of several global multilateral institutions like WTO, IMF, and WB, etc. decision making power and policy formulation is greatly influenced.. Overall, thus it is the prime...

70. [2016 Q6] What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The I R Coelho v. Key points: State of Tamil Nadu case, 2007 is one of the landmark judgments for the interpretation of the doctrine of basic structure decided by a nine- judge bench, with regard to conflict of power between the Parliament and Supreme Court.; The Supreme Court ruled that there could not be any blanket immunity from judicial review of laws included in the Ninth Schedule.; The SC argued that all amendments to the Constitution made on or after 1973 by with the 9th schedule has been amended by inclusion of several laws therein shall have to test on the touchstone of the basic structure of the Constitution.; The court held that judicial review is a 'basic feature' of the Constitution, and it could not be taken away by putting a law under the Ninth Schedule.; The laws placed under the Ninth Schedule after 1973, are open to challenge in court if they violated fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21 or the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.; Article 13 (2) and Article 32 provides for the judicial review...

71. [2016 Q7] Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The Government of India Act 1935 was based on the Joint Select Committee, led by Lord Linlithgow, and the white paper resulted from the Round table conferences. Key points: It proposed a federation of British provinces and the Princely States in India.; The Act provided a bicameral legislature, the Lower House elected directly and the Upper House with a composite representation to princely states and affluent classes.; It divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists, Federal List (for Centre), Provincial List (for provinces), and the Concurrent List (for both).; The subjects of common interest for the whole country and which demanded a uniform treatment were covered by the Federal list.; Subjects mainly of provincial interests where no uniform treatment was necessary were put into the provincial list.; A third list covered subjects mainly of provincial interests where uniform action was or would be desirable.; Residuary powers to accommodate future needs were vested in the hands of the Governor-General.; The Act provided a Federal Court to interpret the provisions and to decide over inter-province disputes.; The principle of Dyarchy...

72. [2016 Q8] What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

A quasi-judicial body is an individual or body which has some attributes of judicial provision but not all. Key points: They have adjudicating power like a breach in discipline, trust in money matters or otherwise, the conduct of rules, etc., and they can decide punishments to guilty.; These bodies act as an alternative justice system to lessen the burden of the courts and have the power of imposing laws on administrative agencies instead of supervising over all types of disputes like courts.; They function in specific areas like financial markets (SEBI), human rights (NHRC), market practices (Competition Commission of India), land use or zoning, public standards, employment laws, etc.; They can be formed on the matter which is pending in the court; the court has the right to appoint the members of such bodies.; Some of the quasi-judicial bodies in India are National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commission, Central Information Commission, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, etc.; National river water dispute tribunal: It has the power to grant the award in cases related to water disputes among several states.; Central administrative tribunal...

73. [2016 Q9] Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Education (state list) and health care (concurrent list) are some basic human rights to which all human beings are entitled; these are also covered in Fundamental rights(Article 21). Key points: The government

must prioritize expenditure on education by increasing government expenditure on primary education and health care to at least 5-6% of GDP; Recommendations of the Yashpal Committee Report can be taken into account while policy formulation, which seeks to reform primary education and make learning more meaningful and enjoyable by relating formal education to the living world of the children.; It would reduce the curriculum overload in primary education in the country, making home tasks redundant and private tuition unnecessary.; More emphasis should be given on the developing infrastructure, and providing basic amenities like clean, spacious school buildings having basic facilities like safe drinking water, quality teachers, etc., can improve the accessibility and quality of education.; There should be more stress on improving school outcomes, as well as innovative measures.; The inculcation of a sense of brotherhood and through increasing interaction by playful and recreational activities among students and community to curb discrimination...

74. [2016 Q10] “In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal.”

Critically examine this statement. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Non-state actors include organizations and individuals that are not affiliated with, directed by, or funded through the government. Key points: These are actively engaged in economic development, community mobilization, and societal transformation; They help in policy formulation and influence the decision-making of the legislators, peoples’ representatives.; Non-state actors play a important role in evaluating the policies and actions of the government and keep a close watch on it.; They deliver services for the welfare of the society and work at international, national, and local levels and play different roles like capacity building, asset creation, representation, lobbying, advocacy, service delivery, etc.; They have played an instrumental role in the enactment of important legislations like the Right to Information Act, Right to Education, National Food Security Act, MNREGA, etc.; They carry on social reforms and fight against the evils of society and are instruments of people’s action and the means of protecting and promoting the vital rights of citizens.; In policy formation, awareness generation, policy execution, etc., the role of non-state actors is important because of its understanding of ground realities.; They also check the political...

75. [2016 Q12] In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. Key points: Political and Legal Cause; Lack of enforcement capacity and regulatory complexity in the administration are major causes of corruption in India.; A long delay in judicial proceedings, less severity of punishment, multiple investigative agencies with overlapping jurisdiction such as Lokpal, CVC, CAG, etc., facilitates corruption.; Inadequate regulation of political finance and shortcomings in public sector recruitment and postings.; At the time of the election, corruption becomes unavoidable because of bribery, use of money, and muscle power, lack of intra party democracy, etc.; The emergence of political elites who are more self-interest oriented rather than nation- oriented programs and policies.; The Commonwealth Games scam, 2G spectrum scam, etc., showed the exponential increase in corruption.; Poor economic infrastructure leads to high inequality, poverty, and lack of equal opportunity in the society, which leads to corruption.; Artificial scarcity created by people with mal intention wrecks the fabrics of the economy.. Overall, government can also strengthen its regulatory and monitoring system, increase participation of people, promote moral education in schools, etc., to reduce...

76. [2016 Q13] Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

In 1991, India met with an economic crisis relating to its external debt; the government was not able to make repayments on its borrowings from abroad; foreign exchange reserves dropped to levels that were not sufficient for even a fortnight. Key points: India approached the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and received a loan to manage the crisis.; India liberalized and opened up the economy by removing restrictions on the private sector; reduced the role of the government in many areas, and removed trade restrictions between India and other countries.; The policy provided thrust towards creating a more competitive environment in the economy and removing the barriers to entry and growth of firms.; The government removed Industrial Licensing and Registration for the growth of industries.; It also streamlined and simplified labor laws, environmental laws, and compliance rules to meet the demands of LPG.; Government also reduced tariff barriers, facilitated long-term trade policy, allowed convertibility of Indian currency & adopted a floating exchange rate system, and increased the limit of Foreign Investment to integrate the Indian market with the Global economy.; The...

77. [2016 Q14] “Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India.” Comment. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The structure of administration in India is modeled on the basis of the British system of civil services; it is called by Sardar Patel as the steel frame. Key points: Bureaucrats are permanent executives, and they are not directly responsible to the people.; Interference of local political leaders in the administrative works also creates hindrance in the working of the bureaucrats.; The decision-making process is highly centralized, and participation of people and stakeholders is minimal; this centralization of power and procedure-oriented approach has failed to keep pace with the changing socio-economic environment.; It is maintaining its status quo nature and resist changes as they are wedded to their privileges and prospects, which hinders effective delivery of services.; Article 311 of the Constitution provides strong protection to bureaucrats and acts as a shield for bureaucracy which leads to lack of accountability and transparency.; There is a rising business-political- bureaucratic nexus, which is hampering the process of socio-economic development.; Red tapism and policy paralysis are also major issues with the Indian bureaucracy.; Non- decisiveness and strict rule-based conduct of officers are also responsible for the insensitive...

78. [2016 Q15] Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

In 2013 the government of India adopted a new National Policy for Children, which replaced the 1974 child policy. Key points: The policy states that the safety and security of all children are integral to their well-being, and they should be protected from all forms of abuse.; It recognizes every person below the age of eighteen; ears as a child and covers them within the territory and jurisdiction of the country.; The policy ensures equitable access to comprehensive and essential preventive, curative, promotive, and rehabilitative health care of the highest standard for all children before, during, and after birth and throughout the period of their growth and development.; It also secures the right of every child to learning, education, knowledge, and development opportunity, with due regard for special needs.; It provides access, provision, and promotion of the required environment, information, infrastructure, services, and supports for the development of the child’s fullest potential.; It promotes child-friendly jurisprudence, progressive legislation, preventive and responsive child protection system, etc., to comprehensively address issues related to child protection.; The policy aims to create a protective, caring, and safe environment...

79. [2016 Q16] “Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative.” What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) defines a demographic dividend as the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population’s age structure, mainly when the share of the working- age

population (15-64) is larger than the non-working age share of the population (14 and younger, 65 and older). Key points: younger, 65 and older); ears which is ever increasing and will be at the peak around 2036 and reach approximately 65%.; National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) 2008: It is a first-of-its-kind Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in India set up to facilitate the development and upgrading of the skills of the growing Indian workforce through skill training programs.; It is set up under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana to offer industry-relevant, meaningful, and skill-based training to the Indian; outh as well as a government certification to secure a job in the future.; National Skill Certification and Money Reward Scheme: The encouragement is given for skill development for; outh by providing monetary rewards for successful completion of approved training programs.; MUDRA scheme: It was introduced in 2015-16 to provide help in entrepreneurship development through...

80. [2016 Q17] The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries.” Discuss in the Indian perspective. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is a multilateral platform and the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. Key points: Achieving progressive liberalization of trade in services.; Ensuring flexibilities for developing countries, with special priority to be given to least-developed countries.; Respecting the needs of developing countries.; The Doha round of negotiations of WTO was officially launched at the WTO’s Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar 2001, to provide the mandate for the negotiations on agriculture, services, and an intellectual property topic and lower trade barriers around the world to facilitate global trade.; It aims to achieve reform in the international trading system through the introduction of lower trade barriers and revised trade rules.; The negotiations have remained stalled since 2008, mainly over the issue of huge trade-distorting subsidies being given to farmers by the rich countries.; The developing countries argued that the rules and regulations are more in favour of the developed or industrialized countries.; On the other hand, the developed countries argue that the developing economies don’t comply with their demands for near-zero tariffs in agriculture and...

81. [2016 Q18] Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India’s Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The Look East Policy of India, framed by the Narasimha Rao government in 1992 for better engagement with East Asian and Southeast Asian nations. Key points: The economy of South-East Asia was a virtually untapped market, India’s compatibility with the South East Asian countries with regard to better regional cooperation lies in the fact of its abstinence from exhibiting hegemonistic ambitions, making it more benign towards South East Asia.; India and ASEAN reciprocally have embarked upon a number of initiatives for rejuvenating their ties in multiple areas.; Phase two of the policy promotes a broader agenda involving security cooperation, actively constructing transport corridors, and erecting pillars of linkages and connectivity.; India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has raised annual trade from \$30 billion to \$79 billion in 2012.; The India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral Highway helps in connecting both regions.; India has extended a 500 million dollar Line of Credit to Vietnam for facilitating defense cooperation and countering China’s influence in the region.; India’s Act East Policy is closely connected with its long-term vision of developing its North-eastern region (NER), which is considered as a gateway to Southeast...

82. [2016 Q19] “Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).” Explain with suitable examples. (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia, which aims to accelerate economic growth, social progress, and cultural development in the region. Key points: India made a series of moves to isolate Pakistan

diplomatically in the aftermath of the attack on the Indian Army base in northern Kashmir's Uri.; The government also decided to revisit the 56-year-old Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan and maximize its own utilization of waters of three upstream rivers that were being used by Pakistan.; India has also revoked the Most Favoured Nation status from Pakistan in trade.; The announcement to boycott the SAARC summit comes as India has been unsparing in its attack, at the United Nations General Assembly, on Pakistan for sponsoring terror.; India remains steadfast in its commitment to regional cooperation, connectivity, and contacts but believes that these can only go forward in an atmosphere free of terror.; India has pursued a "SAARC minus Pakistan" plan to push through with agreements it is keen on since Pakistan is blocking all protocols to better link...

83. [2016 Q20] What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of UNESCO? What is India's position on these? (12.5 marks, 200 words)

The International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems presented its report titled Many Voices One World, at UNESCO in 1980. Key points: The Commission was established to study four main aspects of communication; The State of World communication.; The problems surrounding a free and balanced flow of information.; Understanding the needs of developing countries.; How the media can become a vehicle for educating public opinion about the problems of the world, but respecting cultural identities and individual rights; The Commission called for the democratization of communication and strengthening of national media to avoid dependence on external sources, among others.; It said that the right to inform and be informed is the key point of modern societies, to the extent the growing concentration of the power to information could lead to new types of control in which there would be no separation of power from society.; It also said that the information is a key resource, the treatment of which had to include interactions between communication, technology, and culture.; Promote the inclusion of communication as a fundamental right of individuals and groups.. Overall, its...

84. [2017 Q1] "The local self-government system in India has not proved to be an effective instrument of governance". Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation. (150 words, 10 marks)

The 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India added a new part IX in the Constitution which provided for the local self-government and brought uniformity in the Panchayati Raj structure in India. Key points: Representation: In the past 26 years, local governments have successfully provided political representation to over 3 million elected representatives.; Reservations for SCs and Women: It provides for the reserved seats, which helps in their overall empowerment.; Planning from below: Representative bodies like Gram Sabha helps in effective formulation of policies through bottom up approach.; Implementation of policies: several welfare schemes and services are effectively delivered by local governments.; Conceptual confusion: There is also no clarity about the relationship between local governments and the other administrative organisations and not considered as a part of institutional framework for the development of masses.. Overall, even though the...

85. [2017 Q2] Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgment on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. (150 words, 10 marks)

The 99th Constitutional Amendment introduced National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) Act 2014, which established a Commission for the recommendation of persons for the appointment of judges in the judiciary as an alternative to the collegium system. Key points: Confidence of public: The diverse members in the selection committee of NJAC with the scientific selection criteria will help in building trust of people in judiciary.; Efficiency: It will fill the large number of vacancies of judges which will address the issue of pending cases.; Check corruption: It will also address the problem of nepotism and provide fair and equal

opportunity to talented people.; Undemocratic process: The collegium system was not proposed by the Constitution, it evolved by the judiciary itself and judges are not accountable.; Transparent procedure: There is no official procedure of selection and selective publication of meeting...

86. [2017 Q3] ‘Simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will also reduce the government’s accountability to the people’. Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

The term “Simultaneous Elections” is defined as structuring the Indian election cycle in a manner that elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are synchronized together i. e., on a single day and at the same time. Key points: e., on a single day and at the same time.; ears 1951 till 1967.; As per 79th report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee: Simultaneous election will cut huge expenditure incurred in separate elections every; The deployment of manpower like teachers and security forces in the election duty frequently creates extra burden and affects security and educational curriculum.; It will help the ruling parties to focus more on governance and long-term planning & policy goals.; The frequent imposition of Model Code of Conduct for a longer period disrupts the development programmes and activities.. Overall, but to ensure its...

87. [2017 Q4] How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful as formal pressure groups in recent years? (150 words, 10 marks)

A pressure group means any interest group whose members have shared common interest, occupation, opinion & aspirations and which organize themselves and claims on the other groups and the political process. Key points: Lobbying via petitions, letters, and deputations; Business groups like The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) exert pressure to influence planning and business policies.; Consulting with ministers or senior public servants; several community and religious groups use it for achieving their interests.; Taking legal action through injunctions or appeals to higher courts; For example: Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), etc.; Campaigning & Demonstrating- many farmers and students’ groups like- All India Kisan Party, All India Students Federation, etc.; Using strikes for political purposes: Trade unions like All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) exert pressure for monetary...

88. [2017 Q5] Discuss the role of the Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people. (150 words, 10 marks)

The Public Account Committee (PAC) was first set up in 1921 under the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. Key points: It is constituted every; ear by the Parliament for the audit of revenue and expenditure of the government of India to ensure accountability.; It examines audit reports on appropriation accounts and finance accounts of the Union government and acts as the watchdog of the public purse.; It also examines the annual audit report of the Comptroller Auditor General (CAG) and submits its findings to the Parliament.; It also makes recommendations to streamline the administration for efficient, speedy, and economical implementation of policy.; It has diverse membership and representation from nearly all political parties and the head is from the opposition party to make democracy meaningful.. Overall, administrative accountability to the legislature through these Committees has been the hallmark of our political...

89. [2017 Q6] “To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs the identification of the beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes.” Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme. (150 words, 10 marks)

The WASH i.e., Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene program provides expertise and interventions aimed at saving lives and reducing illness by improving global access to healthy and safe water, adequate sanitation, and

improved hygiene. Key points: It is committed to SDG6 i.e., clean water and sanitization which is fundamental for ensuring public health and sustainable development.; It significantly reduces incidence and spread of microbial causing diseases like- diarrhea, which is responsible for death amongst children under five; It also reduces the use of antibiotics, which facilitates in controlling Antimicrobial resistance.; It involves both Central and Local governments, which is promoting a bottom-up planning approach.; The lack of WASH facilities can prevent students from attending school, impose a burden on women and diminish productivity of people.; In the long run it also impacts poverty reduction and socio-economic development.. Overall, a...

90. [2017 Q7] Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss. (150 words, 10 marks)

According to the 2011 population census in India the population of persons with disability is around 26.8 million, which constitutes 2.21% of India's total population. Key points: It defines disability as a dynamic and evolving concept to increase coverage.; It increased the number of disabilities and added the important issues like mental illness, acid attacks etc.; It also increased the quantum of reservation to disabled people from 3% to 4% in Government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education.; Every child between the ages of 6 to 18; ears with disability shall have Right to free education.; It focuses on making the public building accessible for disabled people through the Accessible India Campaign.. Overall, without whom the path towards Sustainable Development Goals realization and universal health coverage will remain a distant goal.

91. [2017 Q8] Hunger and poverty are the bigger challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement. (150 words, 10 marks)

According to the Global Hunger Index 2020, India ranks 94 out of 107 countries and has the highest prevalence of wasted children under five years in the world. Key points: ears in the world.; Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005: It provides 100 days of assured employment to every rural household and 1/3rd of the proposed jobs would be reserved for women.; Annapurna Scheme: It provides food to senior citizens who cannot take care of themselves and are not under the National Old Age Pension Scheme.; Mid-day Meal (MDM): It aims to improve nutritional levels among school children and increase enrolment ratio and attendance in schools.; Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS): It envisages comprehensive early childhood care and development by focusing on children within the age group of 0-6; ears, adolescent girls, and pregnant women.....

92. [2017 Q10] What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. (150 words, 10 marks)

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organizations of the United Nations (UN) established in 1945. Key points: Commission on Population and Development; Commission for Social Development; Commission on Human Rights; Commission on the Status of Women; Commission on Narcotic Drugs; Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Overall, it can strengthen by improving links between ECOSOC and the other main intergovernmental organs; enhancing cooperation between the United Nations with other multilateral organizations; and creating a more focused profile of the Council's functions and responsibilities.

93. [2017 Q11] Explain the salient features of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough "to remove cascading effect of taxes and provide for common national market for goods and services"? (250 words, 15 marks)

The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016, introduced a national Goods and Service Tax (GST) in India from 2017. Key points: It applies a single tax on goods and services and amalgamates a large number of Central and State taxes like service tax, value added tax, octroi, etc.; It is a destination based

consumption tax which is applicable on the supply side of the goods.; It inserted Article 246A in the Constitution and gave the Central and State governments concurrent power to make laws on taxation.; It constitutes a GST Council to develop a synchronised and harmonious national market for goods and services.; It also provides compensation to States for revenue losses because of the implementation of GST.; It has multiple rates for different goods and services which are mutually decided by both the Central and State government on the recommendation of the GST Council.; Cascading tax effect is also termed as “tax on tax”.; It created a unified common national market for goods and services and provided a boost to investment and the Make in India campaign of the government.; It provides for a uniform tax structure for the whole country and streamlines the tax structure.. Overall, yet, reform needed to impart greater competitiveness, a gradual course correction should continue for a comprehensive tax mechanism.

94. [2017 Q12] Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. (250 words, 15 marks)

A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court in the case of Puttuswamy vs. the Union of India has declared that the Right to Privacy is a Fundamental Right protected under Part III of the Constitution of India. Key points: The SC confirmed that the Right to Privacy is a Fundamental Right that does not need to be separately articulated but can be derived from Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India.; It protects an individual from the scrutiny of the State in their home, of their movements and over their reproductive choices, choice of partners, food habits, etc.; Any action by the State that results in an infringement of the right to privacy is subject to Judicial Review.; The Fundamental Right to Privacy is not absolute, but subject to reasonable restrictions.; State can impose restrictions on the Right to Privacy to protect legitimate State interests, but it can only do so under the following test; Existence of a law that justifies an encroachment on privacy.; It must pursue a legitimate aim.; The means adopted by the State are proportional to the objects and needs sought to be fulfilled by the law.; It has also recognized the effect that non-State actors can have on personal privacy particularly in the context of informational privacy on the internet.. Overall, n Shrikrishna committee and prepare a comprehensive right oriented based data...

95. [2017 Q13] The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint sessions of the two Houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reason thereof. (250 words, 15 marks)

The Parliament of India is bicameral in nature and concurrence of both Houses is required to pass any bill. Key points: Article 87 provides two special occasions on which the President addresses a Joint Sitting.; Address of the foreign dignitaries to the Parliament.; It is also summoned for deliberating on the bill in the following situations; A Bill passed by one House and it is rejected by the other House.; Both Houses have finally disagreed on the amendments to be made in the Bill.; There are more than six months elapsing from the date of the reception of the Bill by the other House without the Bill being passed.; To resolve the situation of deadlock between the Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha and ensure smooth functioning of the Parliament.; It also establishes checks and balances by Rajya Sabha to hasty legislation of the government.; It has two exceptions i.e., Money Bill and Constitutional Amendment Bill.. Overall, joint Sitting is an extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution to resolve a deadlock and ensure synergy between both the Houses of the Parliament.

96. [2017 Q14] To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful? (250 words, 15 marks)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) was established in 1950, under the Article 324 of the Constitution. Key points: To give Constitutional protection to the chief election commissioner and other members.; The budget of ECI should be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.; A permanent secretariat for commission to be

set up.; The common electoral roll should be used for Parliament, State Legislature, and local bodies.; An option of proxy voting should be given to NRIs.; The use of totalizer machines for the counting of votes.; The maintenance of accounts by political parties should be compulsory.; The use of electoral bonds for funding political parties.; The number of star campaigners in elections should be limited.. Overall, the Election Commission is the watchdog of the Indian electoral system and its suggestions can help build a transparent, efficient, and inclusive election system, so that the people may feel sovereign in the true sense.

97. [2017 Q15] Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)

The National Commission for Women was set up as a statutory body in January 1992, under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women; recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate redressal of grievances, and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women. Key points: It investigates and examines all matters relating to the safeguards in both government and private spheres provided for women under the Constitution and other laws.; It presents to the Central Government, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of the safeguards.; It provides recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards for the improving the conditions of women by the Union or any state.; The commission reviews, from time to time, the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments.; It takes up cases of violation of the provisions of the Constitution and of other laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities.; It looks into complaints and take Suo Moto notice of matters relating to; Deprivation of women's rights.; Non-implementation of laws.; Non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to women.. Overall, the National Commission for Women organized workshops, constituted expert committees on economic empowerment of women, conducted seminars for gender awareness and...

98. [2017 Q16] "The emergence of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the State from developmental activities." Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs. (250 words, 15 marks)

Self-Help Groups are informal groups of people who come together to address their common problems. Key points: Financial inclusion: It provides cheap collateral free loans, promotes saving and teaches financial management to people.; Delivery of essential services: SHGs are effective delivery channels for several government schemes and programmes.; Women empowerment: It provides economic benefits to the women by providing income generating activities.; Political empowerment: SHGs are self-governing in nature, which improves the decision-making power, develops leadership and team work of people.; Rural development: It plays a major role in self-employment by raising the level of income and standard of living among rural people.; Create awareness: It creates awareness about rights, policies, and schemes of government among people and acts as a powerful vehicle for socio-economic development.; Economic empowerment: It provides skill and training to people for gainful employment and to involve the poor in productive activities; Social development: It increases community participation, social cohesion, creates strong bonds of sympathy, provides a forum for sharing ideas and works as a collective guarantee facility for people.; National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) or Aajeevika: It aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.. Overall, yet, there are some shortfalls which can be addressed by capacity building, financial empowerment, and proper monitoring systems.

99. [2017 Q17] "Poverty Alleviation programs in India remain mere showpieces until and unless they are backed up by political will." Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation

program in India. (250 words, 15 marks)

Eradication of poverty remains a major challenge of planned economic development. Key points: There is no systematic attempt to identify people who are in poverty, determine their needs, address them, and enable them to move above the poverty line.; The resources allocated to anti-poverty programmes are inadequate, thus the targets get curtailed according to fund availability.; There is a lack of adequate methods to ensure that programmes reach the targeted section.; The programmes lacked understanding of chronic nature poverty, thus unable to address the dynamics of poverty.; Lack of awareness about the programme, no formal system for information dissemination, corruption and lack of proper implementation.; According to the poverty estimate of 2011-12, 22 percent of the population was below the poverty line, suggesting a sharp reduction compared to the 2004-05 estimates.; According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), between 2006-2016, over 271 million people in India moved out of poverty, recording the fastest reductions in the multidimensional poverty index values during the period.; As per estimates, the NREGA programme had successfully reduced poverty up to 32 percent.; Focus on the geographical dimension of poverty, the poor States and District should be provided with specialised plans and greater assistance.. Overall, while the experience with such programmes is not as encouraging as one envisaged, there have been pockets of good performance which give enough reason to be hopeful.

100. [2017 Q18] Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services? Comment. (250 words, 15 marks)

The Civil Service has long been regarded as the 'steel frame' of administration in India. Key points: According to the Baswan Committee Report (2016), there is shortage of personnel in the middle and higher level of service, which leads to delay in service and burden on existing staff.; Lack of professionalism and poor capacity building specially in lower strata of services.; Inefficient incentive systems that do not appreciate upright and outstanding civil servants but reward the corrupt and the incompetent.; Outmoded rules & procedures and lack of innovation restrict the civil servants from performing effectively.; Systemic inconsistencies in promotion and empanelment and lack of adequate transparency and accountability procedures and lack of safety for whistle-blowers.; Political interference, arbitrary and whimsical transfers – insecurity in tenures impedes institutionalization.; A gradual erosion in values and ethics, lack of compassion, corruption, etc., are being observed.; The mid-career training should be conducted to develop the domain of knowledge and competence required.; A National Institute of Good Governance can be set up by upgrading one of the existing institutes, to identify, document, and disseminate best practices and also conduct training programmes.. Overall, but the Civil Services reform cannot be seen in isolation and it has to be undertaken along with administrative reforms for effective results.

101. [2017 Q19] The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyze India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries. (250 words, 15 marks)

With a population of 1.3 billion and one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price is important for the development and economic progress. Key points: India has adopted the 'Look West Policy' for developing greater cooperation and engagement with West Asian countries.; India is developing bilateral relations with several countries like Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia etc. through agreements and strategic partnership developing strong links with nations.; It has also shifted towards a revenue sharing model from production sharing in oil and gas exploration policy.; India has taken up an important role in the region and engaged in developmental activities like Chabahar Port in Iran etc.; It is also engaged in several infrastructure projects like TAPI gas pipeline, International North South Corridor, etc., will have a positive effect on India's energy engagements with the West Asian Nations.; Its increasingly multidimensional relations with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states supports

India's energy security efforts.; India lacks skilled and able personnel in its embassies and missions abroad which has a serious effect on its relations with those countries.; The internal insecurity in the countries like Iran, Yemen, etc., is creating threat to India's development activities and diplomatic efforts.; The narrow bureaucratic approach of India for the region, by looking at it through the prism of energy security and Pakistan is a major roadblock in relations.....

102. [2017 Q20] Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian diaspora in South- East Asia in this context. (250 words, 15 marks)

Southeast Asia has been hugely influenced by India in the realms of art, culture, architecture, court etiquettes, religion, and many other things. Key points: Folklore singers and artists played a very important role in popularising and modifying Indian literary works in Southeast Asia and it was the most popular and effective way of propagating Indian culture.; The artists who popularised the epics like Ramayana and Mahabharat and contributed to the process of adaptation of these in localised forms.; Sculptors and artists also combined original Indian motifs with local artistic motifs to create distinctive Southeast Asian style.; The Hindu priests and Buddhist monks accompanied by mercantile class assumed a leading role in spreading the message of Indian thought and culture to the entire Southeast Asian region.; In the political realm also, Indians are not well represented, but the administrative machinery constitutes few Indians which has very little influence on the policies.; In the economic realm several communities like Sikh, Sindhi and Tamils engaged in several business activities like textiles, construction, etc.; At present the migration of Indian professionals holding senior positions in local and multinational companies in the fields of IT, education, and technology among other aspects in several countries like Indonesia, etc., which contribute significantly to the Southeast Asian countries' economy.; Indians are also present in Judiciary, Armed Forces, and Civil Services in several countries like Singapore, etc., strengthen people...

103. [2018 Q1] In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India? (10 marks, 150 words)

Elections constitute the signpost of democracy; it is a medium through which the people's attitudes, values, and beliefs towards their political environment is reflected. Key points: EVM security issue: several political parties complain that EVMS are being manipulated and demand to bring back the ballot system.; There is a lack of competent polling officers for operating EVMs, and several reports and cases show last-minute glitches in the machines, which raises doubt about their functioning.; Ensuring an independent and robust verification system in the whole exercise of election through EVMs is still a big task for ECI.; The technologically advanced countries like Germany, Ireland, U.S.A., and Italy have also doubted the transparency of EVM machines and banned their use.; The criminalization of politics: The influence of money and criminal elements in politics and violence and electoral malpractices.; Abuse of...

104. [2018 Q2] Whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSCs) is a Constitutional body in the sense that it is directly established by Article 338 of the Constitution. Key points: Investigates and monitors matters related to SCs; Inquire into specific complaints; Reporting to the President; Participate and advise in planning; Take measures for the protection and welfare Religious Minorities and Rights of Educational Institution; National Commission for Minority Educational Institution Act, 2004 has defined the term minority as a community which is defined as according to the Central government based on religion under Article 30 of the Constitution.. Overall, the rights of religious or linguistic aided minority institutions in the administration of

the institutions were absolute and the State could not compel them to implement its reservation policy; it should be done within the framework of the Constitution and the laws.

105. [2018 Q3] Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? (10 marks, 150 words)

Articles 352 to 360 under Part XVIII of the Constitution contain Emergency provisions to deal with the abnormal situations effectively by the Central government and safeguard the unity, sovereignty, integrity, and security of the country and the democratic system. Key points: The President can proclaim a Financial Emergency, under Article 360 of the Constitution, if he/she is satisfied that a situation has arisen because of which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is under threat.; The Indian Constitution does not provide any specific situation where a financial emergency can be invoked.; Increase in fiscal deficit; Increase in the current account deficit; Reduction in the credit rating of the country; Doubt on financial stability. Overall, thus, it should only be provoked in an extraordinary circumstance, with proper checks and balances.

106. [2018 Q4] Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for Parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee. (10 marks, 150 words)

The functions of Parliament are very vast, complex, and voluminous; it has a lack of time and expertise for detailed scrutiny of all matters and legislative works. Key points: Coordination: These committees establish inter-ministerial coordination among different ministries and departments and look into the demands for grants of the ministries concerned, examine Bills pertaining to them, consider their annual reports, and look into their long-term plans and report to Parliament.; Scrutiny: These committees provide important information regarding governance for the value addition in the policymaking and acts as an instrument of Parliament for its own effective functioning.; Mini- Parliament: The committees consist of MPs from both Houses across political parties, and they function throughout the year as Mini- Parliament.; Efficiency: Parliamentary committees work as an informal institute compared to the codes that govern parliamentary proceedings; these are also...

107. [2018 Q5] “The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play.” Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise. (10 marks, 150 words)

Article 148 of the Indian Constitution envisages the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) as the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. Key points: He is provided with the security of tenure and can be removed by the President only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution.; He is not eligible for appointment under the Government of India or any State after he ceases to hold his office.; His salary and other service conditions are determined by the Parliament, which is equal to that of a judge of the Supreme Court.; His salary and other service conditions cannot be altered to his disadvantage after his appointment.; The conditions of officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and the administrative powers of the CAG are prescribed by the President after consultation with the...

108. [2018 Q6] “Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate protection and prevention of degradation to the environment.” Comment with relevant illustrations. (10 marks, 150 words)

Article 48A (DPSP) and Article 51A (g) (Fundamental Duties) of the Constitution ensures the protection of the environment. Key points: First, the pollution load has increased, sometimes beyond the carrying capacity of the environment because of the rapid economic development without adequately managing the environment.; The lack of coordination and consciousness among different ministries, public institutions, and several stakeholders is responsible for rapid environmental degradation.; The Ministry of Power

exempted some power cooperatives from meeting the environmental compliances to fulfill their mandate of maximum power production in the country.; Infrastructure development requires huge land; it is responsible for deforestation and land damage which are causing environmental degradation.; Several construction projects through several protected areas are encroaching habitat of important wildlife species and responsible for frequent man-animal conflict and extinction of important species.; With the rapid growth of urbanization...

109. [2018 Q7] Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve 'Health for All' in India. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

Article 47 of The Constitution of India is one of the Directive Principles which directs the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health as among its primary duties. Key points: It is the first source of comprehensive and accessible health care that meets the immediate needs of individuals.; It addresses the issues at the primary level and results in risk screening for early disease detection bringing down the overall disease burden of the country.; Provision of preventive services like vaccinations and family planning, nutrition & maternal care, etc., at the local level, can reduce the need for secondary and tertiary healthcare services.; The management of chronic health conditions and palliative care at the local level can also reduce the out-of-pocket expenditure for people.; Maintaining the physician-patient ratio at...

110. [2018 Q8] E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about the critical importance of the 'use value' of information. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

E-Governance is understood as the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at all levels of the Government to provide services to the citizens, interaction with business enterprises and communication and exchange of information between different agencies of the Government in a speedy, convenient, efficient and transparent manner. Key points: E-Governance has moved beyond government departments.; It allows several business to transact with each other more efficiently (B2B) and brings customers closer to businesses (B2C); it also aims to make the interaction between government and citizens (G2C), government and business enterprises (G2B), and inter-agency relationships (G2G) more friendly, convenient, transparent, and inexpensive.; The meaningful interaction among policymakers, industry leaders, and academicians for an actionable strategy for good governance improves the standard of services rendered to the common man.; From utilizing ICT for elections, census, computerizing all the government...

111. [2018 Q9] "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

India and Israel are two important democracies in South Asia and the Middle East. Key points: Defence: India has a very close defense relation with Israel, and it is the largest buyer of Israeli arms.; During the Kargil war, Israel's MOSSAD helped India's RAW by providing critical intelligence inputs.; Barak 8 missile was jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and India's Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO); it is capable of protecting sea vessels and ground facilities from aircraft and cruise missiles.; Recently India signed a nearly \$ 2 billion defence deal with Israel.; Economic and Commercial Relations: From US\$ 200 million in 1992 (comprising mainly trade in diamonds), bilateral merchandise trade stood at US\$ 5.65 billion (excluding defense) in 2018-19, with the balance of trade being in India's favor by US\$ 1.8 billion.; Trade in diamonds...

112. [2018 Q11] Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

Article 239AA of the Constitution of India granted Special Status to Delhi among Union Territories (UTs) in the year 1991 through the 69th Constitutional amendment by the Parliament, thereby providing the Legislative

Assembly and a Council of Ministers responsible to such Assembly with appropriate powers to deal with matters of concerns to the common man. Key points: ear 1991 through the 69th Constitutional amendment by the Parliament, thereby providing the Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers responsible to such Assembly with appropriate powers to deal with matters of concerns to the common man.; There is co-existence of Article 239 and 239AA of the Indian Constitution, which leads to jurisdictional conflict between the government of NCT and the Lieutenant Governor who acts as representative of the Union government.; According to the Union government, Article 239 empowers the Lieutenant Governor to act independently of his Council of Ministers.; As per the State government, Article 239AA of the Constitution bestows special status to Delhi of having its own legislatively elected government.; The Delhi Chief Minister had accused Lieutenant Governor (LG) for taking decisions of an elected government and delaying work several times.; Article 131 of the Constitution of India, Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in solving the dispute between the Government of India and one or more States.; In NCT of Delhi vs.; The court said that “The status of the Lt....

113. [2018 Q12] How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution; it established Tribunals as quasi-judicial bodies under Article 323A or 323B by an Act of Parliament and State Legislature. Key points: The disposal rates of the cases in tribunals in comparison to the filing of cases per; ear are around 94%, which is welcoming.; The tribunals follow the principle of natural justice; they also provide efficiency in dispensing justice with cost and time effectiveness.; The tribunals help significantly in reducing the burden of the judiciary and involve specialists for effective justice delivery.; Article 50 of the Indian Constitution provides for the doctrine of separation of power; it requires states to separate executive and judiciary.; The Supreme Court in the Chandra Kumar case (1997) held that the power of the High Court under Article 226 and 227 of the Constitution to exercise judicial superintendence over the decisions of all courts and tribunals.; Tribunals have replaced the High courts for disputes under the Companies Act, Competition Act, SEBI Act, Electricity Act, Consumer Protection Act, among others.; Any person aggrieved by the order of an appellate tribunal can directly appeal to the Supreme Court, side-stepping the high court.; Tribunals do not enjoy the same Constitutional protection as High courts and ordinary courts.. Overall, gandhi (2010) case can be considered to strengthen the working of tribunals and ensure effective &...

114. [2018 Q13] Indian and the USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based. (15 marks, 250 words)

The United States and India are the largest democratic countries of the world and are focused on the Constitutional system of federalism. Key points: Written Constitution: The Constitution of India, like America, is a written Constitution; it is a very comprehensive, explain, and detailed document.; Federalism: Both the Indian and American Constitution is based on federalism.; In contrast, India has Asymmetric federalism and only one Constitution, where the Central government is more powerful and interferes with functions of State governments.; According to KC Wheare, in practice, the Constitution of India is quasi-federal in nature.; In American, there is an indestructible union of indestructible states; on the other hand, India has an indestructible union of destructible states.; Separation of power: In the American Constitution, there is a strict separation of power between different organs of the government.; Judiciary: Both Constitutions are based on judicial independence without the interference of the executive.; Removal of Supreme Court and High Court judges: Removal of Supreme Court and High Court judges are almost the same in both countries.; Judicial review: Both the Constitution has the provisions of judicial review.. Overall, despite the difference, both the systems worked successfully and have effectively and preserved national independence with a different history and challenges.

115. [2018 Q14] How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Finance Commission is a Constitutionally mandated quasi-judicial body that is at the center of fiscal federalism. Key points: It is constituted at such an earlier time as he considers necessary.; The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President.; They are eligible for reappointment and hold office for such a period as specified by the President in his order.; The Constitution authorizes the Parliament to determine the qualifications of members of the commission and the manner of selection.; The Parliament has specified the qualifications of the chairman and members of the commission.; A judge of the High court or one qualified to be appointed as one.; A person who has specialised knowledge of finance and accounts of the government.; A person who has wide experience in financial matters and in administration.; A person who has special knowledge of economics.. Overall, yet, there are several concerns, such as decrease in the share of devolutions of the southern states from the central government, etc. which are required to be addressed for redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers.

116. [2018 Q15] Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources can the Panchayats look out for financing developmental projects? (15 marks, 250 words)

The term Panchayati Raj in India signifies the system of rural local self-government in India. Key points: Local government is the government closest to the common people.; Local government believes that local knowledge and local interest are essential ingredients for democratic decision making.; The advantage of local government is that it is so near the people.; It is convenient for the people to approach the local government for solving their problems both quickly and with minimum cost.; Democracy is about meaningful participation.; It is necessary that in a democracy, tasks, which can be performed locally, should be left in the hands of the local people and their representatives.; They are also more concerned with what local government does or has failed to do as it has a direct bearing and effect on their day-to-day life.; Land tax (agricultural and non-agricultural); Water, drainage, and sanitation taxes. Overall, thus, developing capacities of the faculty of state panchayat resource centres and district resource centres, sufficient funds should be given for meeting critical gaps in infrastructure and other development requirements, strengthening schemes like PESA and Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan, promote devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats according to the spirit of the Constitution and PESA Act, etc. can strengthen the local self-governance system in India.

117. [2018 Q16] Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case. (15 marks, 250 words)

The vulnerable groups that face discrimination include Women, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Children, Aged, Disabled, Poor migrants, etc. Key points: Duplication of efforts and overlapping jurisdictions in dealing with complaints and addressing grievances.; Duplications of data lead to narrow implementation, and it negatively impacts the intended outcomes.; Low financial independence, the politicization of commissions, the absence of checks and balances, etc., also hinders the functions of Commissions.; Resources will be used more efficiently as there will be no use of overlapping of functions.; There will be less contradiction in the judgments as in the case of different commissions.; It will promote the holistic development of all vulnerable sections and secure, dignified living conditions, and protection of human rights.; It will remove the municipality and data duplication and will help in more sector-specific policy formulation keeping in mind the different vulnerabilities faced by them.; The umbrella commission will be more fiscal and policy prudent and have fiscal independence and power to enforce legal provisions, which will strengthen its mandate.; It will overburden the Human rights commission.. Overall, the emerging technology can be employed to promote more coordination and to promote analysis, policy formulation, and

implementation for better realization of the socio-economic development of the vulnerable sections of society.

118. [2018 Q17] How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India? (15 marks, 250 words)

As per FAO, Hunger is an uncomfortable or painful physical sensation caused by insufficient consumption of dietary energy. Key points: In 1995 India launched Mid-day meal program where one meal is provided to all children enrolled in government schools, local body schools, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC), maktabas, and madrasas supported under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.; Only about 50% of the public-school children who attended school reported benefitting from the program.; The Targeted Public Distribution System represents the largest social protection programme in the world, reaching 800 million people with subsidized cereals that can be purchased from more than 5 lakh fair price shops across the country.; Despite all its achievements, India tops the list of countries in the world with the largest share of the global extreme poor, with 37.2 % of the population (more than 400 million people) that is officially estimated to be living in absolute poverty, the country has the unenviable record of being home to a third of the world's poor.; In spite of India's rapid economic growth, there has been a sustained decline in per capita calorie consumption during the last twenty-five; Ninety percent of the development of a human brain occurs up to the age of six; ears; intervention of the State has to be in these early formative; yet, there should be more resources or government effort.; Thus, problems not only...

119. [2018 Q18] The Citizen's Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters. (15 marks, 250 words)

A Citizens' Charter represents the commitment of the Organisation towards standard, quality, and time frame of service delivery, grievance redress mechanism, transparency, and accountability. Key points: It increases the participation of people in governance.; It helps in reducing corruption by ensuring the accountability of public officers.; It also makes the administration citizen-friendly and convenient.; Citizen charter increases morality in administration.; It raises efficiency and effectiveness in the public delivery system and reduces cost.; It also prevents delay and red-tapism and promotes good governance.; The general perception of organizations that formulated Citizens' Charters was that the exercise was to be carried out because there was a direction from the top.; For any Charter to succeed, the employees responsible for its implementation should have proper training and orientation, as commitments of the Charter.; Sometimes, transfers and reshuffles of concerned officers at the important stages of formulation/ implementation of a Citizens' Charter in an organization severely undermined the strategic processes which were put in place and hampered the progress of the initiative.. Overall, citizen charter is important in ensuring good governance; urgent steps are needed to make it more effective for better delivery of services.

120. [2018 Q19] What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (15 marks, 250 words)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in 1995 after replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Key points: A trade war is an economic conflict between countries that involves implementing protectionist policies in the form of trade barriers.; The USA imposes 'tremendously high' tariffs on American products like Harley Davidson motorcycles.; The US has been raising this demand in the context of countries such as China and India continuing to enjoy 'Special and Differential Treatment' (SDT).; The focus should be to arrive at a broad consensus on as many issues as possible, even if they are modest in terms of ambitions.; The dispute settlement body should be reformed and strengthened for speedy settlements.; The WTO members should demand a special session to discuss necessary reforms to make its

'jewel in the crown' as effective as it used to be in the first decade of its establishment.; There should be a separation of political and human rights issues from trade disputes.; WTO reform will be incomplete without achieving limitations on digitalization of trade.; Rules need to be developed regarding the liberalization of e-commerce, e-services, and electronic payments.. Overall, India has maintained that it is committed to working alongside other countries to reform the organization to ensure that it continues to be an 'engine for global trade'.

121. [2018 Q20] In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? (15 marks, 250 words)

In 2015, the P5+1 (USA, the UK, Iran, China, France, Russia, Germany, and the European Union) and Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to restrict Iran's nuclear enrichment activities and prevent Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability in the immediate future. Key points: Energy security: Energy is the most critical component of bilateral trade, and Iran contributes significantly to India's energy security.; According to the BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2018, India's dependence on crude oil imports to meet its domestic consumption is an extremely high 95 percent.; India also buys natural gas from Iran, and hence the total value of energy imports from Iran is even higher, accounting for 80-85 percent of its overall imports from Iran.; It might be difficult for India to meet the shortfall in crude oil imports because of USA sanctions on Iran.; Connectivity: In 2015, India agreed to help develop Iran's Chabahar Port and an associated railway that would enable India to trade with Afghanistan and Western countries.; It may also effect the (International North- South Transport Corridor) INSTC plan, in which India is the founding member.; Bilateral ties: The ongoing conflict may negatively affect India- USA, and India- Iran bilateral ties; it also affects India's strategic autonomy that guides the country's foreign policy.; Investment: India has invested in Iran's natural gas field, built pipelines, and developed other infrastructure development...

122. [2019 Q1] Do you think that the Constitution of India does not accept the principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain. (10 marks, 200 words)

According to the Constitution, there are three organs of government: the Legislature, the Executive, and the Judiciary. Key points: Article 50 (DPSP) of the Constitution separates the Executive from Judiciary.; Under Article 123 of the Constitution, the President, being the executive head, is empowered to exercise legislative powers (Promulgate ordinances) in certain conditions.; Articles 121 and 211 provide that the legislatures cannot discuss the conduct of a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court, except in case of impeachment.; Under Article 361, the President and Governors enjoy immunity from court proceedings.; to prevent the misuse of power by any one branch of government, the Constitution says that each of these organs exercises different powers and acts as a check on the other organs of government; this ensures the balance of power between all three.; The power of the Judiciary to exercise judicial review over Legislative and executive actions.; The provision of judicial review and writ under Article 32 and 226 of the Constitution, empowers the Supreme Court and the High Courts, respectively, to check the Constitutional validity of the Executive and Legislative actions....

123. [2019 Q2] "The Central Administration Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority." Explain. (10 marks, 200 words)

The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution, which is titled as 'Tribunals' and consists of Article 323A, which empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of public servants. Key points: It is a multi-member body consisting of a Chairman and members; the members have been given the status of judges of High Courts in 2006.; The members are drawn from both judicial and administrative streams and are appointed by the President.; The members hold office for a term of five; ears

or until they attain the age of 65; ears, in the case of Chairman and 62; ears in the case of members, whichever is earlier.; The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it.; Its jurisdiction extends to the All-India Services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre, and civilian employees of defence services.; The Delhi High Court has held that the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which adjudicates...

124. [2019 Q3] What are the methods used by the Farmers organizations to influence the policy- makers in India and how effective are these methods? (10 marks, 200 words)

Farmers' organizations are one of the most effective organizations in our country, which aim at socio-economic developments of the farmers. Key points: These organizations create mass awareness related to their problems and try to gain public sympathy through campaigns, organize meetings, etc.; They also try to influence the media and sensitize people, and bargain with the government.; There are certain powerful farmers' groups like sugarcane farmers of Maharashtra and UP.; They often organize strikes, disrupting general administration, etc., and keep their methods of protest largely non-violent.; Farmer's activism includes publicizing important issues, petitioning courts, and preparing draft legislation.; Farmers organizations have recently started some innovative methods like spilling milk, vegetables on highways, etc.; In 2008, Government waived the farm loan all over the country because of the pressure of the Farmers organizations.; These organizations also played a key role in the removal of the incumbent government in the elections.; The government schemes such as Kisan sammanYojana, New land acquisition policy, hike in MSP of certain crops, etc., can be linked with the success of Farmers organizations struggles.. Overall, the government should engage all...

125. [2019 Q4] From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of Legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain. (10 marks, 200 words)

In Indian Constitution the word 'federalism' is nowhere mentioned, but it constitutes the basic structure of the Indian Constitution. Key points: Federalism calls for the division of power; the Constitution confers in the Union Parliament the constituent power or the power to initiate the amendment of the Constitution.; When provisions fall in both State and Union lists, then the Centre would have the dominant legislative power, and the State and Concurrent lists are subordinate to the Union list.; In the West Bengal case of 1963, the legislative competence of the Parliament to enact a law for compulsory acquisition by the Union of land and other properties vested in or owned by the State was examined.; The Court held that both the legislative and executive power of the States are subject to the respective supreme powers of the Union.; SC also said that the Indian Union as provided by the Constitution one is centralized, with the States occupying a secondary position vis-à- vis the Centre.; The term harmonious construction means such construction by which harmony or oneness amongst several provisions of an enactment is arrived...

126. [2019 Q5] What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism? (10 marks, 200 words)

Secularism is the constitutional principle that provides the separation of the State from religious institutions. Key points: France is a secular democratic social Republic guaranteeing that all their citizens, regardless of their origin, race, or religion, are treated as equals before the law and respecting all religious beliefs.; It emerged as a secular state as per the law of 1905, which separated churches and states.; Both have a separate sphere of their own with independent jurisdiction, no policy of the State can have an exclusively religious rationale, and no religious classification can be the basis of any public policy.; The European countries like France have struggled to find a middle way between the State and religion that combines national and religious identity and where ethnic and religious minority groups can co-exist within the State.; After several terrorist attacks like Charlie Hebdo etc. in 2015 and 2016, numerous legal actions were taken by the French

government to counter religious intolerance.; because of the lack of support from the State in western secularism, minorities get marginalized; this can be seen in the banning of Islamic clothing...

127. [2019 Q6] Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. (10 marks, 200 words)

After the economic reforms of 1991, India has witnessed rapid economic growth. Key points: Jobless growth: The report of NSSO (2017-18) reveals that India's Unemployment rate is highest (6.1%) in the last four decades.; Illiteracy and poor health care: In India, there is a low gross enrolment ratio, and a large number of adults are illiterates.; India has a high prevalence of malnutrition in children, which is reflected in a high percentage of Child stunting, wasting, and underweight.; Very poor sanitation facilities and low access to essential life-saving medicines lower life expectancy.; Caste system: Indian society is divided on the basis of caste.; Gender discrimination: Indian society is patriarchal in nature; women are not given equal status and opportunity in the social, political, and economic sphere in the society.; Women who constitute 50% of the population have a lack of education, poor sanitation, and health facilities.; The government should increase the expenditure on the education and health sector.; More emphasis should be given on female education, health care facilities and creating equal opportunity for them.. Overall, the government has initiated several schemes like Ayushman...

128. [2019 Q7] There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on Non- Food essential items squeezing their food budget - Elucidate. (10 marks, 200 words)

India spends less on social sector schemes; the government spends only 2.3 % of GDP on health which is less than the world average of 10.02%. Key points: According to the data released by the Planning Commission in mid-2012, the overall HCR has declined by another eight percentage points to 22% in just two; The prevalence of hunger in India is still more.; India is experiencing the condition of food-budget squeeze, owing to shrinking social expenditure by the government.; This increases the dependence of urban and rural poor on private entities for essential services like education and transportation, which are expensive.; The poor, rather than being a matter of choice, have been increasingly forced to spend more on non-food essential items such as healthcare, education, transportation, fuel, etc.; The increased non-food expenditure has absorbed all the increase in real income over the past three decades and led to a "food budget squeeze".; Between 1987-88 and 2009-10, average inflation- adjusted non-food expenditure increased by 52%, but the corresponding expenditure on food declined by -0.19.; It has several detrimental consequences such as malnutrition, stunting, wasting, low...

129. [2019 Q8] Implementation of information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects / Programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors and suggest measures for their effective implementation. (10 marks, 200 words)

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is a broader term for Information Technology (IT), which means all communication technologies, including the internet, wireless networks, etc. Key points: Low Literacy: The low digital literacy level of India is a huge obstacle in the implementation of e-Governance projects.; Non-inclusive: The nature of technology is not friendly for senior citizens, differently-abled, illiterate persons because of the complex design of ICT-based solutions.; Geographical barriers: There is lack of connectivity in remote areas and difficult terrains like North- eastern states, Andaman and Nicobar, etc.; Lack of integrated services: Most of the e-governance services which are offered by the State or Central Government are not integrated.; Cost: In developing countries like India, the cost is one of the most important obstacles in the path of implementation of e-Governance where a major part of the population is living below the poverty line.; India has limited financial resources so as to implement and maintain the e-Government

projects properly.; Privacy and Security: The privacy and security of an individual's personal data that he/she provides to obtain government services is a major issue.; There is...

130. [2019 Q9] The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment. (10 marks. 200 words)

India and Japan's relation has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong culture and civilization. Key points: Defence and security aspects; because of growing convergence on strategic matters, its significance is growing from the common outlook on issues of peace, security, and stability of the Indo-Pacific Region.; Both countries are negotiating cross-service agreements, which will give access to each other's military facilities and could foster much closer military to military relations.; Economic and Commercial aspect; Japan is regarded as a key partner in India's economic transformation.; Japan's interest in India is increasing because of a variety of reasons, including India's large and growing market and its resources, especially the human resources.; Japan is taking the North-East Road Network Connectivity improvement project in India; this will be a important link in India's Act East policy.; Japan ranks third among the major investors of India in FDI in sectors like automobile, telecommunications, electrical equipment, infrastructure development (Mumbai economic corridor, Bullet train, Delhi Metro), etc.; Both countries have jointly organized a series of workshops to exchange information on policy and measures on disaster risk reduction...

131. [2019 Q10] 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'. (10 marks, 200 words)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was established in 1945. Key points: The United States and Israel were members but left in 2018, asserting that the organization had an anti-Israel bias.; America's annual contributions amounted to roughly \$80 million, or 22 percent of UNESCO's budget.; UNESCO is facing a financing crisis since 2011, when it voted to admit Palestine as a full member state and Washington responded by halting payment of its annual \$80 million in dues.; Washington and Tel Aviv had declared their intention to leave the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization as early as 2017.; UNESCO was founded after World War II; it was basically a club of Western states, its cultural and educational work necessary for establishing a post- fascist, liberal order in Nazi-destroyed Europe.; The U.S. has played an important role in many Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) programs, which are critical to the ocean health and wellbeing of coastal communities.; Without funding, UNESCO, which employs around 2,000 people worldwide, has been forced to cut programs, freeze hiring and fill gaps with voluntary contributions.; The number...

132. [2019 Q11] On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Representation of The People Act, 1951 is an act to provide for the conduct of elections of the Houses of Parliament and to the House or Houses of the Legislature of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of those Houses. Key points: Under Section 8, the disqualification on conviction for certain election offenses and corrupt practices in the election.; offence of bribery, promoting social crimes such as dowry, sati, etc.; Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, which provides for punishment for the preaching and practice of "untouchability"; The offence of insulting the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India and preventing singing of the National Anthem.; The disqualification on conviction for certain offenses.; A person convicted of an offence punishable under the offense of promoting enmity between different groups on the ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc; offences relating to rape, cruelty towards a woman by husband or relative of a husband.; The person convicted of any

offense and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two; Under Section 9 and 9A, disqualification for Government contracts, dismissal for corruption or disloyalty, etc.. Overall, the RPA 1951 has given a clear view on the disqualification of members of both houses of Parliament and State Assembly and their remedies.

133. [2019 Q12] Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power." In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? (15 marks, 250 words)

Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of the Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure. Key points: The Court said that, under Article 368 of the Constitution, the Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution but without affecting the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.; In the *Minerva Mills vs Union of India* Case (1980), the Supreme Court struck down clauses (4) and (5) of Article 368 inserted by 42nd Amendment, on the ground that these clauses destroyed the essential feature of the basic structure of the Constitution.; In *Chandra Kumar vs Union of India* (1997), the court held that every provision of the Constitution was open to amendment provided the basic foundation or structure of the Constitution was not damaged or destroyed.; et to define what constitutes the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.; Supremacy of the Constitution; Secular character of the Constitution; Federal character of the Constitution; Unity and integrity of the nation; The Sovereign, democratic, and republican nature of the Indian polity. Overall, it also helps in maintaining the supremacy of the Constitution and upholding the Constitutional spirit.

134. [2019 Q13] "The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self- government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process." Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

Local Self Government entrusted with rural development has been established in all the states of India by the Acts of the state legislatures to build democracy at the grass-root level. Key points: The lack of time seems to be the most widely shared problem faced by women politicians.; The elected women have lack of training; only a few of the women representatives received formal training for their job.; There is male prejudice on the part of fellow councilors and of officials, which can take several forms, from not taking their women colleagues seriously to active discrimination in the distribution of important positions.; There is an under-representation of female corporators in the more important committees of municipal corporations and Committees.; In many areas, there is no effective political power and decision-making; it is wielded by husbands or other male relatives of elected women representatives under the title of "Sarpanch Pati".; The women have less experience in politics and exercising their political responsibilities, which hinder their participation.; The reservation of seats has provided fertile ground for the long-term political empowerment of women.; In some areas, women representatives have done considerable development work on the ground.; Elected women representatives are also more accessible than their male counterparts.. Overall, through the active participation in the local bodies and in the development programmes the women will grow in social awareness and political consciousness and would...

135. [2019 Q14] "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India." Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

Article 76 of the Constitution has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India. Key points: As the chief legal adviser of the Government of India, the duties of the Attorney General include the following; To give advice to the government on legal matters, which are referred to him by the President.; To perform such other legal duties that are assigned to him by the President.; To discharge the functions conferred by the Constitution or any other law.; The President has assigned the following duties to the Attorney General as chief lawyer of the Government of India; To appear on behalf of the government in all cases in the SC in

which the Government of India is concerned.; To represent the Government of India in any reference made by the President to the SC under Article 143 of the Constitution.; To appear (when required by the government) in any high court in any case in which the Government of India is concerned.; The Attorney General has the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India while performing his official duties. role and represent the aspirations and issues of the people.. Overall, he not only defends any matter of the government inside the courtroom, but the reputation of the government in front of the entire country.

136. [2019 Q15] Individual Parliamentarian's role as the national lawmaker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss. (15marks, 250 words)

The role of a Member of Parliament (MP) is a multi- functional one. Key points: The role of Individual parliamentarians as national lawmakers has been on a decline; from 2014-2018, about 900 private member Bills were introduced in the Parliament, but not even 2% of these bills were discussed.; The absenteeism in the Houses has increased in proportion to an increase in the indifference of Politicians towards public issues.; The parliamentarians and state legislators lack vision, quality, commitment, and competence for nation-building.; The use of the Parliament as a body of legitimization of personal and class dominance by the party is common.; There are frequent disruptions and logjams in the Parliament, without any specific reason, which are also indicating parliamentary decline.; Even a short-duration discussion or calling attention motion does not; ield results and reduces the efficiency of the Parliament.; According to the ADR report, around 34% of the MPs in the 2014 Lok Sabha faced criminal charges, as compared with 30% in 2009 and 24% in 2004.; The frequent issue of whips and rigidity of party discipline has tied down party members to follow the party guidelines.. Overall, unless the polity becomes more transparent, responsible, and bipartisan in our actions, the trust of the public in institutions cannot be ensured, and the Parliament will only fade further, ultimately weakening the foundation of our democracy.

137. [2019 Q16] In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages.'- Discuss. (15marks, 250 words)

Till the 1960s the emphasis in development planning was on resource development via investment allocations in sectors to fuel the growth engine by way of spin-off effects on other (related) sectors. Key points: The neo-liberal paradigm of developmental planning involves a policy model taking account of political, social, and economic dynamics.; Multi-level planning involves decision-makers at all spatial levels in the planning process through negotiations, deliberations, and consultations by way of communication through information flows and mutual partaking of perspectives which makes policies relevant and need-based, and set up process mechanisms/institutions for affecting such cooperation at each required stage.; Multi-level planning is expected to facilitate factoring of such diverse concerns in plans through detailed attention at the local level by development planners, which ensures better productivity through more efficient resource use and also 'sustainable development' practices since the externalities/ unintended impacts of policy would be better understood.; It is also expected to make operations cost-effective by providing better linkages between important sectors and ready access to required information, which would remove many implementation blockages.; It can reduce regional disparities and bring more equity in development since the chief factor behind persistent regional imbalances has been diagnosed as the unstudied application of the macro plan at micro levels without necessary modifications/ detailing by the local development planners to address the particular requirements of an area/ target group.; It can also bring...

138. [2019 Q18] Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process – Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

The vulnerable sections include SCs, STs, OBCs, backward classes, senior citizens, women, children, Divyang, third gender, minorities, etc. Key points: several public services programmes function inefficiently because of lack of motivation, accountability, absence of performance appraisal, absence of a system of incentives and penalties, understaffing and poor working conditions on the one hand, and large-scale leakages on the other; Studies suggest that the 'leakage' is estimated to be between 20 and 70 percent in numerous rural development programs; The weak track record of implementation of these programmes and failure to deliver intended benefits to the poor have been documented in several reports and studies, including the Comptroller and Auditor General reports and surveys by international agencies and other independent bodies; The targets of the schemes are too realistic or optimistic, based on technical and non-technical parameters without the knowledge of the local situation, proper database, and resource constraints, making the policies suffer at last; There is a lack of strict time frames, financial mechanisms, and inter-agency cooperation pose challenges; There is no adequate, user-friendly grievance redressal mechanism to make the schemes efficient and effective; The implementation of development programmes by the State Governments must be more effective; Close monitoring can be organized in selected areas such as implementing schemes relating to primary health, primary education, watershed development, empowerment of the local people to discharge their responsibilities effectively at the...

139. [2019 Q19] “The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order” Elaborate (15 marks, 250 words)

India's foreign policy is based on the philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” and “Sarve Jan Sukhino Bhavantu”. Key points: The end of the Cold War and the growing impacts of globalization made India redefine its position and role both at the regional and global levels; In the recent past, the Indian government's foreign policy priorities have tilted towards the US and the neoliberal framework; The new found pragmatism began to emerge by the late 1990s; India now places its own national interest ahead of broader ideas of global justice and equity; India's high rates of economic growth ushered through domestic reforms, attracted international investors, and gave the country space to engage the rest of the world on its own terms; Now India secures its strategic interests and, at the same time, be flexible and engage with the rest of the world to achieve win-win outcomes; Economic development is a major agenda, which is now reflected in India's foreign policy; In NAM Summit Havana (2006), India focused on anti-terrorism, energy security, nuclear disarmament, investing in Africa, etc., which are vital to India's growth; India's involvement in QUAD, RIC, etc., shows its focus on Indo Pacific Regional growth and countering China as a top priority; India uses regional forums like SAARC to boycott Pakistan, which resulted in the non-functioning of SAARC and delaying of development projects of SAARC in our smaller neighboring nations.....

140. [2019 Q20] “What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self-esteem and ambitions” Explain with suitable examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

Post-Cold War global politics is witnessing changes in the power equation. Key points: Trade, Tariffs, and Visa Regimes: The US's “America First” policy and repeated references to India's tariffs on American products such as Harley-Davidson motorcycles reflect the increasing trade differences; Besides slapping tariffs of 25% and 10% on steel and aluminum imports, Trump has also repeatedly cited the US trade deficit with India; The US administration has taken several steps to revamp the H-1B visa programme and related visas that have hit thousands of Indians, the largest beneficiaries of these visas; Sanctions on Iran and Russia: These sanctions have led to US pressure on India to reduce its dependence on Iranian oil imports and Russian weaponry; The US has pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement and imposed sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) on Iran; US officials have called on India to cut Iranian oil imports to zero, and other sanctions could hit India's plans to buy

Russian S-400 missile defence systems, reflecting Washington' disregard for New Delhi's sovereign policy decisions.; Climate Change: The US withdrew itself from the Paris accord on climate change, but India has reiterated its commitment to fight global warming through initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance.; The withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan has major implications on New Delhi.; Terrorism and Pakistan: There has...

141. [2020 Q1] "There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act". Comment. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Elections are a very potent and periodic tool at the hand of Indian citizens to hold the government accountable. Key points: Section 8A of RPA provides for disqualification of candidates on the grounds of corrupt practices.; Criminal Offence: Section 8(3) of the Act states that if an MP or MLA is convicted for any other crime and sent to jail for 2; ears or more, he/she will be disqualified for six; ears from the time of release.; Section 123 of Representation of People's Act,1951 provides for disqualification on the grounds of corrupt practices like; Bribery i.e., any gift/offer/promise/ gratification to any person as a motive or reward.. Overall, if RPA is made sufficiently simpler and explain on the processes, it will be easy for voters to demand for the just representation of people.

142. [2020 Q2] "Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have a profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Right to Information Act 2005(RTI) mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information. Key points: Threat to Doctrine of Separation of Powers: The amendment allows the interference of the executive in the functioning of Information Commissions, which are quasi-judicial bodies.; Independent Structures: These are vital for a democratic state to deliver justice and constitutional guarantees by ensuring regulation and monitoring of the government.; Affects the Spirit of Federalism: The amendment also affects the constitutional principles of federalism, as now the central government can change terms of service of the State Information Commission.; Decline of Participative Democracy: Unilateral power of the central government will lead to centralization of power, which is not conducive for the exercise of the freedom of expression.; Difficulty in accessing Information: The amendment has the potential to make access to information difficult which is...

143. [2020 Q3] How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

A federation is a political entity characterized by a distribution of power among a union and its units/ states. Key points: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is the result of extended consensus among states including the GST Council.; Collaboration was also evident during the Covid-19 pandemic when states and Centre acted as one in the fight against the virus outbreak.; With the liberalization reforms of 1991, there has been a competition among the states to attract foreign investment and industries.; NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission.; An "Ease of Doing Business Index" for the Indian States, with annual rankings pointing to the areas they lag, introduces the sense of competition among different states, to encourage corrective actions and make India, a much better and easier destination for investment.; The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Swachh Bharat Ranking...

144. [2020 Q4] The judicial systems in India and the UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

India and the United Kingdom are Parliamentary Democracies with some shared colonial past. Key points: Rule of Law: Both countries follow the principle of Rule of Law, where no individual is granted any special privilege before the court of law and the laws apply equally to all citizens irrespective of their social-

economic or other difference i.e., equality before law.; Writ Petition: Instrument of writ petitions to uphold Rule of Law and that the judiciary of both nations can review the acts of the executives.; Independent Judiciary: In Britain as well as in India, the judges can only be removed from the office for serious misbehavior and with the consent of both Houses of Parliament.; Ultra-vires: Courts in both UK and in India can declare the action of an executive as ultra vires i.e., acting or done beyond one's...

145. [2020 Q5] 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implication for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India? (150 Words, 10 Marks)

The Speaker is the Constitutional and ceremonial head of the House, who plays a important role in issues like disqualification under the Anti-defection law, the validation of money bill, maintaining the decorum in assembly, passing of critical motions like censure motion and no confidence motion. Key points: The UK practice of 'Once a Speaker, Always a speaker' suggests that once elected, the speaker gives up all party affiliations and remains in office until retirement.; In Ireland, a parliamentary system, the position of Speaker is given to someone who has built up credibility by relinquishing his/her political ambitions.; Speaker not being an Apolitical entity: Speaker is appointed from the party/coalition enjoying the majority in the lower house.; Defection: In deciding the question of disqualification under the tenth Schedule, the speaker's decision is absolute.; For example, the instance of suspension...

146. [2020 Q6] In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Social development reflects the improved well-being of every individual in society. Key points: Health induced poverty: This is a common norm because of the high cost of health care which makes it difficult to address other social requirements like education.; Enhanced Human Capacity: Health care has the potential to enhance human capabilities and can aid in economic development which will result in further contribution towards growth of the nation.; The National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE); Integrated Programme for Older Persons; Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana; Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). Overall, this can potentially help in realizing the goal of a \$5 trillion economy even faster and also aid in sustainable development of the country.

147. [2020 Q7] "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance". In this context, suggest reforms in Civil Service for Strengthening Democracy. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

"If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost"- Aristotle Institutional quality is a broad concept that captures law, individual rights and high quality government regulation and services. Key points: The Institutional Quality impedes the positive effects of foreign direct investments (FDIs) and trade openness on economic growth.; Institutional development unlocks growth potential and does not intrinsically suffer from diminishing returns.; Performance Evaluation: Performance records being mostly prepared by superiors, leaves a lot of scope for personal biases and prejudice.; Relationship between the Bureaucracy and Political Executive: The bias of a political executive to prefer loyalty over efficiency in selecting civil servants to higher posts, has impacted the rational and meritorious suggestions to the political...

148. [2020 Q8] "The emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government". Discuss (150 Words, 10 Marks)

The First Industrial Revolution used water and steam power to mechanize production. Key points: Better Policy measures: Newer technologies such as Big Data, Data Analytics, Data Mining etc., have the ability for better identification of important aspects from a large dataset.; Faster Resolution of Grievances: Artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies have helped in bringing new grievance resolution techniques

to the table, such as bots.; Transparency: Technology growth has created new opportunities for ensuring transparency in the governance.; It centres around improving public service delivery, exhausting digital platforms, particularly concerning health, agriculture, education and land.; Digital India: Through technology improvement and Digital Revolution, easier access to government services has been ensured.; UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance): It is developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to drive...

149. [2020 Q9] Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the COVID-19 Pandemic. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

The World Health Organization (WHO) matters in the global governance of health and disease. Key points: Carelessness on the part of WHO: The WHO has been accused of mismanaging the Covid-19 crisis and failing to vet information and share it in a timely and transparent manner.; Influence of China on the functioning of organization: Today's global institutions are extremely dependent on their contributors for funding, and they often become pawns for their political agendas.; Helping countries in preparation and response: The WHO has been providing critical support through guidelines, convening, and coordinated programs.; Busting dangerous myths and providing accurate information : To ensure information is correct and helpful, WHO provides everyone access to timely, accurate and easy-to-understand advice, from trusted sources.; Training Health Workers: The health agency benefits from the expertise of a global network of health professionals...

150. [2020 Q10] "Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries". Comment with examples. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

According to the report 'International Migration 2020 shows', by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), India has the largest diaspora population in the world with 18 million people from the country, living outside their homeland in 2020. Key points: Electoral Power: Many people of Indian origin hold top political positions in many countries, such as in the US; they are a major part of Republicans and Democrats, as well as the government.; Diplomacy: Diaspora matters in influencing policies and politics of its host country in favor of its country of origin and also, development of good ties and relations between both countries.; Influencing the World: Some of the top positions are held by people of Indian origin in IBM, Microsoft, Google, Deloitte, Adobe, Palo Alto Networks etc.; Soft Power: The spread of Ayurveda, Yoga...

151. [2020 Q11] Indian constitution exhibits centralizing tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

The term 'federalism' means the constitutionally allocated distribution of powers between two or more levels of government in the modern nation- state system—one, at the national level and the other, at the provincial, State or local level. Key points: Union of States: Article 1 in the Constitution states that India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States; an indestructible Union of destructible States.; More Subjects in Union List: As compared to the State List, the Union List contains more subjects, with a precedence to Union Law in a case of disagreement between the union and states over the subject in the Concurrent List.; Provisions of Constitution: Centralization is also evident by the provisions like All India Public Services, single citizenship, etc.; The Epidemic Diseases Bill was tabled on January 28, 1897, during an outbreak of bubonic plague in Mumbai (then Bombay).; The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 provides for better prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases where the state governments have the prerogative.; The Central government has so far followed a mostly top-down approach in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic with directing the State governments to diligently enforce every new set of guidelines which included taking steps for inspecting and detaining persons travelling out of or into the country during the epidemic; The States are yet, only allowed to increase and not dilute the restrictions.; Major agricultural market...

152. [2020 Q12] Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of a large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Doctrine of Separation of Powers: Separation of powers is the division of the legislative, executive, and judicial functions of government. Key points: The power to make policy decisions and implement laws is vested in the Executive.; The reviewing of the functioning of the executive and issuing enactments falls under the purview of the Legislature.; Adjudicating disputes is the responsibility of the Judiciary while also exercising Judicial Review over the Executive and Legislative action (Article 32 and 226).; Even though there were no laws to the effect, the Supreme Court fixed timings for bursting Diwali fireworks, in Arun Gopal case (2017).; In MC Mehta case (2018), the rule 115(21) of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 was annulled by the court, when it was directed that only BS-VI vehicles can be sold after March 30, 2020.; Need for Public Interest Litigation(PIL); Social Justice meets Social Ends: Public interest petitions are instrumental in bringing about a new code of something when there is no legislative framework for it, nor it is possible to have it in the near future.; Non-performance of Duty: Often the legislature fails to make the necessary legislation to suit the changing times and the executive fails to perform their administrative functions.; Help to Marginalised Section: PILs falling under the categories such as bonded labour matters, neglected children, non-payment of minimum wages to workers and exploitation of casual workers...

153. [2020 Q13] The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funds' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality'. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

"When the panchayat raj is established, public opinion will do what violence can never do."- Mahatma Gandhi Constitutional status was given to the local institutions i.e. the panchayats in the rural areas and urban local bodies in urban areas, by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts. Key points: Three-tier system for the local government with constitutional status.; Gram Sabha as foundation of the Panchayati Raj System.; Direct election by people of all members of local bodies and reservation of seats for SC/ST and women at all three levels.; State Election Commission for supervision of the elections.; Formation of the State Finance Commission every five years for reviewing the financial provisions of local bodies.; Limited Reach: The state governments have yet to delegate the actual functional autonomy excluding Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh etc., as most states have conformed to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts only on paper. Overall, challenges to Functionality of Local Institutions: y Limited Reach: The state governments have yet to delegate the actual functional autonomy excluding Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh etc., as most states have conformed to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts only on paper. • One-Size-Fits-All

154. [2020 Q14] Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in the past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

The role of Rajya Sabha has notably increased in recent times because of the increase in formation of coalition governments, requirement of well-informed opinion on certain important issues and Prime Minister being a part of the Rajya Sabha, among others. Key points: Growing Regional Politics: The Rajya Sabha provides a collective voice to the Indian States.; Emerging Populism: Doing justice to its role of a 'Deliberative Body', Rajya Sabha has a tendency to make unpopular; yet necessary decisions since it is not popularly elected.; Cooperative Federalism by Niti Aayog: States have been provided more say in governance which has led to a healthy federal balance, thus reasserting the role of Rajya Sabha as second chamber.; Specialists and Experts in the House: The continuously emerging domain of legislation demands Specialist Opinion.; Prime Minister being part of the Rajya Sabha and as head of the government, imparts Rajya Sabha

with enhanced weightage.; The ruling party doesn't have a brute majority in Rajya Sabha unlike the House of People and this balance of numbers upholds the key position held by Rajya Sabha.; It wards off hasty legislation and acts as a 'check and balance' method.; It keeps functioning even when the Lower house is dissolved as a permanent house.. Overall, s Radhakrishnan, "The Rajya Sabha no doubt, can't make or unmake governments, but can be an effective deliberative body".

155. [2020 Q15] Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

A total of 4,05,861 cases of crime against women were registered during 2019, showing an increase of 7.3% over 2018 (3,78,236 cases). Key points: A bill is introduced under Article 368 to amend the Constitution, it provides for the power of Parliament to amend the constitution.; Then the Bill needs to be passed by both the houses by special majority.; After this, the Bill is given assent by the President.; When the bill is passed in each House by a prescribed majority, subject to the President's assent, the constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Bill.; Power of a Civil Court: It will provide the National Commission for Women(NCW) with the power of a civil code enabling NCW to safeguard women's interest in an active manner.; Mandatory Tabling of Reports: The discussion of NCW reports by Parliament would be made binding by the constitutional status, thus enhancing the reach of women's voice.; Autonomous Nature: NCW would be provided greater autonomy to act and regulate its own procedures.; Constitutional bodies such as the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes(NCST) are merely recommending bodies.; The recommendations of the commission have been pending for a long time.. Overall, granting constitutional status to the NCW would help in ensuring greater gender justice and empowerment to the women of the country.

156. [2020 Q16] "The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyze the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Defining Poverty: According to the World Bank, the population living under \$1 income/day is considered poor. Key points: the 'incidence', which is the percentage of people who are poor.; the 'intensity' of multidimensional poverty (A) which considers the average percentage of dimensions in which poor people are deprived; three dimensions of poverty- health, education, and standard of living.; The MPI is calculated as, $MPI = H \times A$ (Incidence x Intensity).; Around 1.3 billion people are still living in multidimensional poverty.; One in every three (under; and every second child (under; is multidimensionally poor.; In 2019, around 19.3% of Indian population was vulnerable to multidimensional poverty.. Overall, india ranks 62nd among 107 countries with an MPI score of 0.123.

157. [2020 Q17] "Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India". Evaluate the role of Self-Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

According to the 2018 report of the World population, much of the Indian population resides in rural areas with lack of facilities and knowledge and has a minimum amount of development indicator. Key points: Microloans: These loans are major as these are provided to borrowers with no collateral.; Microsavings: These accounts allow entrepreneurs to operate savings accounts with no minimum balance.; Microinsurance: It is a type of coverage provided to borrowers of microloans.; Help to the Underdeveloped Sections: In India, the Microfinance scenario, dominated by Self Help Group (SHGs), is an effective mechanism for providing financial services and to strengthen the collective self-help capacities of the "Unreached Poor", leading to their empowerment.; Goal of Self- Reliance: Micro finance is a tool to overcome exploitation, create confidence for economic self-reliance of the rural poor, particularly among rural women.; Alleviating

Women's Status in Society: They provide a major contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment through their contribution to women's ability to earn an income and in turn initiate a wave of change in economic empowerment, and wider social and political empowerment.; Reach for Society Building: Aimed at pro-poor development and civil society strengthening, Micro-finance programmes not only give women and men access to savings and credit, but reach millions of people worldwide bringing them together regularly in organized groups.; Aid to Small Businesses: Microfinance programmes provide a boost to the initiatives...

158. [2020 Q18] National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

In the 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was formally adopted. Key points: that aims to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030" with seven targets and three means of implementation.; Promote free primary and secondary education and universal literacy and numeracy (SDG 4.1 and 4.6): This aims at universalization of education from preschool to secondary level with 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.; By proposing the extension of the Right To Education(RTE) to all children up to the age of 18, the policy aims to achieve inclusion in education.; Eliminate all discrimination in education(SDG 4.5): NEP focuses on bringing 2 crore 'out of school' children back into the mainstream through an open schooling system.; Equal access to quality pre-primary education(SDG 4.2): Policy also emphasizes on the importance of the important early stage for the development of mental faculties of a child by bringing an uncovered age group of 3-6; ears under School curriculum with 3; ears of Anganwadi/ pre-schooling.; Access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, Vocational and tertiary education, including University (SDG 4.3); NEP emphasizes on vocational education from class 6 with internships.. Overall, so, with the of a war, which is not in the interest of members and may hamper global peace. right implementation of...

159. [2020 Q19] 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Recent tensions with China have led to renewed talk in India about using the 'Quad' alliance as countermeasure. Key points: Blue Dot Network: It is a multi-stakeholder initiative (led by the US along with Japan and Australia) to bring together governments, the private sector, and civil society for promoting high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development.; Inclusive Indo-Pacific Region: Long-term geo- economic interests of all countries in the region and of the world at large, can only be achieved by the idea of a free, open, prosperous, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.; Supply Chain Resilience Initiative(SCRI): The need for improving the resilience of supply chains and self-sufficiency has been highlighted because of COVID-19 and trade tensions between China and the United States.; Other Concerns of Global Importance: Quad also foresees addressing of the common challenges of terrorism and proliferation linkages impacting the region, and would have its focus on enhancing connectivity.; Integration: All the trade associated initiatives launched by the Quad nations are independent.; Lack of Cooperation: So far, the Quad nations have not been able to sort out their trade related differences.; Clarity in Vision: Indo Pacific vision needs to be explained by the nations, in an overarching framework with the objective of facilitating everyone's economic and security interests.; This will reassure the littoral states that the Quad will be a factor for the regional benefit, and a far...

160. [2020 Q20] What is the significance of Indo-US defense deals over Indo-Russian defense deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (250 Words, 15 Marks)

India has been diversifying its defense purchases over different countries. Key points: US, France, Israel have emerged as leading defense partners for India.; The India-U.S. defense trade has grown to \$21 billion in 2021.; The US considers India as a 'Major Defense Partner' and given Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 Status.; The signing of the four foundational agreements to enhance military-to-military cooperation between the two countries.; General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA); The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA); Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA); Industrial Security Annex and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) India's Partnership with Russia; Because of its trusted age-old friendly relations with Russia, India's partnership with Russia in defense deals has continued since Soviet Era.. Overall, but to deal with security issues because of China and Pakistan, India needs to balance relations with both its defense partners to gain the maximum benefit in defense related issues.

161. [2021 Q1] 'Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Constitutional Morality (CM) means adherence to the core principles of the Constitution in a democracy, i.e., a moral obligation of an individual to uphold constitutional values with utmost dignity and faithfulness. Key points: In his book "A History of Greece," the British Classicist George Grote proposed the concept of constitutional morality in the nineteenth century.; It means that while citizens would respect the Constitution and obey Constitutional authorities, they would also have the freedom to criticise those Constitutional authorities, and Constitutional authorities would have to act within the limits imposed by the law.; Navtej Singh Johar (2018): To protect the rights of the LGBTQ community, the Supreme Court issued a decision that partially overturned Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.; Using the doctrine, the judges determined that the court must be guided by constitutional morality rather than...

162. [2021 Q2] Discuss the desirability of greater representation of women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusiveness. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

In the context of recent cases involving women in the judiciary, India's Chief Justice, N.V. Key points: Achieving equality for women judges in terms of representation at all levels of the judiciary and on policy-making judicial councils should be our goal, not only for women but also for the achievement of a more just rule of law.; Women judges are strengthening the judiciary and gaining public trust.; The admission of women judges into spaces from which they had previously been barred has been a positive step toward judicial systems being perceived as more transparent, inclusive, diverse and representative of the people whose lives they affect.; Women judges increase the legitimacy of courts and make them more inclusive simply by being present, sending a strong signal that they are open and accessible to those seeking justice.; Women judges make...

163. [2021 Q3] How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The President established the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) in 2013 under Article 280 of the Constitution to make recommendations for the period 2015-20. Key points: The 14th Finance Commission increased the share of states in the central divisible pool from 32 percent to 42 percent, the largest increase in vertical tax devolution ever.; The FFC has also proposed a new horizontal formula for distributing the states' share of the divisible pool among the states.; Grants: Should be distributed to states for local bodies based on 2011 population data; grants are divided into two broad categories based on rural and urban population — constituting gram panchayats and municipal bodies, respectively.; Basic grants and performance grants are available, with the ratio of basic to performance grants being 90:10 for panchayats and 80:20 for municipalities.; States will have more "untied" funds...

164. [2021 Q4] To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The executive is accountable to Parliament in a parliamentary democracy. Key points: There are two broad perspectives on the functions of Parliament in relation to the Executive.; Question Hour, Zero-Hour, motion to call attention, motion to adjourn, motion to no-confidence, motion to censure, and through other discussions the Parliament can ensure the accountability of the Executive.; MPs may ask ministers questions about the government's implementation of laws and policies.; Budgetary control for grant appropriation and post-budgetary control through committees such as the Public Accounts Committees; The committee system, which includes standing committees, select committees, ad hoc committees, and so on, allows for greater scrutiny of the executive's actions and activities.; Avoiding debates/discussions/checks, as in the case of the Aadhaar Act (money bill route), farm laws (use of voice vote mechanism), and so on.. Overall, it is also...

165. [2021 Q5] "Pressure Groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

A Pressure Group is a group of individuals who have come together to support or advance a common cause. Key points: Numerous formal and informal organisations have an effect on the polity of any nation, from the establishment of government to issues with daily governance.; Interest groups come in many different forms and sizes, but they are referred to as pressure groups when they become active in an effort to influence public policy at the administrative or legislative levels to further their objectives.; Any pressure organisation can be distinguished from political parties by, among other things, trying to influence governmental actions without having any direct control over them.; In the process of formulating policies, interest groups take on a position of significance.; Interest groups have a greater immediate influence on policy making in politics where there are weak...

166. [2021 Q6] "Besides being a moral imperative of Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development." Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Welfare State is a concept of government in which the state plays a key role in protection and promotion of the economic and social well being of its citizens. Key points: Health and Happiness of Citizens: For a welfare state, it is important to look after the health and healthcare of its citizens.; Human Right: Under the Universal Declaration of Human Right health is a part of the right to an adequate standard of living.; Poverty: Those living below the poverty line find it very difficult to afford even basic healthcare facilities.; Primary health structure is necessary for sustainable development.; The out of the pocket expenditure can be reduced with affordable healthcare.; The United Nations through SDG-3 is making efforts to eradicate diseases, strengthen treatment and healthcare, and address new and emerging health issues.. Overall, india needs to...

167. [2021 Q7] "‘Earn while you learn’ scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful." Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The "Earn While You Learn" Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Tourism. Key points: Graduates between the ages of 18 and 25 or college-going students enrolled in graduation programmes are eligible for the training programme.; The demographic dividend in India is the potential for economic growth brought on by the population shift.; Young people are deterred from enrolling in vocational training because of the burden of supporting their families, which leaves a gap in daily revenue.; When income is guaranteed, it has the potential to entice more people to participate in such programmes.; Give students real-world experience to better prepare them for future employment.; As India's population ages, assist in the country's transition from an unemployed growth economy to an employable economy.. Overall, to encourage inclusive growth, there should also be an emphasis on infrastructure facilities...

168. [2021 Q8] Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, India is ranked 140th out of 156 nations. Key points: Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are unofficial organisations where people gather to discuss how to better their living circumstances.; Nutritional indicators: Better nutritional outcomes for the entire family are associated with microfinancing of the women's SHGs.; Community involvement: The microfinancing of women's SHGs contributes to increased community involvement while breaking down social barriers and gender ideologies.; Decision making ability: Women's SHG members' capacity for decision-making is enhanced by microfinancing. has more say over issues like family planning, resource use, etc.; Socio-economic empowerment: Better socioeconomic indices among tribal women are the result of the Orissa government's Mission Shakti project.; Credit availability: The microfinancing of women's SHGs is associated with members' enhanced creditworthiness.. Overall, in addition, there has to be a shift in patriarchal...

169. [2021 Q9] "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Asian countries have experienced tremendous growth during the past few decades. Key points: Africa is one of the world's growth poles, with more than half of the nations with the fastest economic development this decade, including Rwanda, Senegal, and Tanzania.; ears, real GDP growth in Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa has exceeded that of the 1980s and 1990s by a factor of more than two.; Africa is a resource-rich continent dominated by commodities like crude oil, gas, pulses and lentils, leather, gold, and other metals, all of which India does not have in sufficient quantities.; Despite seven decades of growing ties with Africa, India has not, until recently, developed a clear strategic strategy for how to make use of these alliances.; While it is true that India has not completely benefited from the goodwill it has amassed during the...

170. [2021 Q10] "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The USA's reputation as a powerhouse has been somewhat damaged as a result of its departure from Afghanistan and the Taliban's subsequent revival. Key points: First, the Soviet Union literally created an "empire" in the Eastern Bloc during the Cold War by its military force and ideological influence, which was then formalised by the Warsaw Treaty Organisation.; China has long since repudiated and disapproved of this ideological outlook and has adhered staunchly to the nonalignment diplomacy ideal.; Second, the Soviet Union openly and officially saw the US as an adversary with whom it could not live in peace.; In contrast, China desires to establish a "new paradigm of major nation relationship" with the US.; Political vision and one's own self-perception are major since China's self-portrait and view of the United States are different from those of the former..

171. [2021 Q11] The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probe within a particular state is being questioned by various States. However, the power of States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The CBI is India's top federal investigation agency, which looks into serious criminal cases or corruption-related issues. Key points: It is an elite force that contributes significantly to maintaining public morals and safeguarding the strength of the economy at large.; Police is a State Subject: The Police are exclusively a state subject and fall under List II.; Jurisdiction of CBI: The CBI's jurisdiction frequently comes into direct conflict with the state police, which frequently results in the repeated occurrence of federal problems.; Red-Tapism Causing Delay: yet, before starting an investigation in the state, CBI must obtain "general approval" from the state government.; States Withholding Consent to CBI: Two types of consents are available to CBI.; Specific

Consent: The CBI must ask the relevant state government for permission to investigate on a case-by-case basis.; General Consent: When a state grants the CBI general consent to investigate a case the agency is not needed to request new authorization each time it enters the state for an investigation or for every case.; Weak Central Government: A weak central government, yet, can harm the unity of the country.; Political Confrontation: When there are several political parties present at the state and centre levels, the conflict between the state and centre over CBI is frequently more pronounced.. Overall, thus, there is a need to encourage transparency in the CBI's operations, which can be made...

172. [2021 Q12] Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analysing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Under the Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and different State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) were established. Key points: Since its creation, the Commission has taken on a number of major projects and, through its reviews, reports, and recommendations, has fought for the rights of bonded labourers, prisoners, asylum patients, people with disabilities, women, children, and those living in economically and socially disadvantaged parts of the country.; The Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2007, and the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2007, were both closely evaluated by the Commission at a “National Conference on Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons” held in New Delhi.; The Commission filed a writ case in the Supreme Court on the violence that followed the Godhra incident in Gujarat and made sure that those responsible were prosecuted.; Inadequate access to healthcare in Adivasi communities of south Orissa was recognised as a problem by the NHRC.; In April 2021, the NHRC rejected an application concerning an unfair inquiry and police abuse against a lawyer in Gujarat on the grounds that the case was sub-judice.; In Patna High Court, Gopal Marwari & Ors; Emperor and in Allahabad High Court, Sheo Raj; State cases were dismissed by NHRC without addressing the complete issues.; Toothless Tiger: because of its overwhelming caseload and lack of adequate resources to address them, the NHRC has earned the...

173. [2021 Q13] Analyse the distinguishing features of the notion of Right to Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The two greatest democracies in the world are the United States and India, both of whose constitutions place a strong emphasis on Equality among citizens. Key points: Origin of Right to Equality: The Declaration of Rights and, more importantly, the Bill of Rights were the sources from which the United States drew this right.; Equal Protection Clause: U.S follows the idea of “Equal Protection of the Law”, which means treating everyone fairly in all situations.; Original Constitution: Discrimination was not prohibited by the United States’ original Constitution.; Rights of Children: There aren’t many differences between the legal protections for kids in the two nations.. Overall, both adhere to the British common law heritage and grant constitutional courts considerable judicial review powers, including the ability to nullify laws.

174. [2021 Q14] Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

India has two Houses of Parliament or a bicameral system. Key points: Art 169 (Creation and Abolition of Legislative Councils): A simple majority, or a majority of the members of each House present and voting, is required for the Parliament to abolish or establish a Legislative Council if the legislative assembly of the relevant state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.; Article 171: This Article states that a state’s legislative council must consist of no fewer than 40 members and no more than one-third of the State Assembly’s total membership.; The Legislative Council is a continuing chamber, similar to the Rajya Sabha, meaning it is a permanent institution that cannot be dissolved.; Current Status of Legislative Council;

Currently, six states—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh—have Legislative Councils.; Jammu and Kashmir previously had a legislative council as well, but it was disbanded after the state was split into Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir as separate UTs.; It is a Check for Hurried Legislation: In the States, the second chambers defend the interests of the people against hasty and poorly thought- out legislation that is proposed and passed by the lower Houses.; Non-Controversial Bills Can Be Introduced in Upper Chambers First: Bills that are expected to move smoothly, without any trouble can be first presented in the Upper House.; Serious and Fruitful Discussion: Discussion by...

175. [2021 Q15] Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

All of the Ministries and Departments of the Indian Government are represented by the Department- related Parliamentary Standing Committee. Key points: By keeping the administration on its toes frequently, the Committees have established a standard for Parliamentary control.; They investigate and report on the requests for funding made by the relevant ministries and departments.; They examine bills that the Chairman or Speaker has referred to that are from the relevant ministries or departments.; These committees provide emphasis on the long- term plans and policies that govern the executive's activities and provide the required direction, advice, and inputs for broad policy formulations.; They make it easier for experts and anyone who might be directly impacted by a law or policy to contribute.; Till 13th Lok Sabha, each Standing Committee consisted of not more than 45 members 30 to be nominated by the Speaker from amongst the members of Lok Sabha and 15 to be nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha from amongst the members of Rajya Sabha.; yet, with restructuring of Department- Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) in July, 2004 each DRSC consists of 31 Members - 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.; Consideration of Demands for Grants.; Examination of Bills referred to by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha as the case may be.. Overall, thus, increasing its effectiveness is necessary; simply realising its importance...

176. [2021 Q16] Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio- economic development? Examine with justification. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The capacity of people and groups to comprehend and apply digital technologies for worthwhile acts in real-world contexts is known as “digital literacy.” It would improve the quality of life for rural residents, particularly in the areas of healthcare, income creation, and education. y yet, there are difficulties connecting to the internet in remote regions, a lack of access to information and communications technology, frequent internet/electricity outages, and high internet costs. Key points: yet, there are difficulties connecting to the internet in remote regions, a lack of access to information and communications technology, frequent internet/electricity outages, and high internet costs.; Educational: The ability of children to study and grow will be impacted by the digital divide in India.; Social: Internet adoption is related to a country's social development being more advanced.; Political: Without digital access, political empowerment and mobilisation in the age of social media are challenging.; Economic: The economic gap between those who can afford technology and those who can't widen as a result of the digital divide.; Governance: Connectivity to the internet is necessary for transparency and accountability.; Government initiative called “Digital India” aims to increase internet access throughout the nation.; By implementing numerous improvements from the secondary to the post-secondary levels in the Indian educational system, with a focus on digital education, the National Education Policy, 2020 seeks to “make India a global information superpower.”; Internet Saathi...

177. [2021 Q17] “Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal.” Apart from women education and

women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The socio-economic and political climate in India after independence has continuously evolved, affecting women's status. Key points: Inculcating concepts of gender equality must begin in the home, in the attitudes of parents, spouses, and siblings.; Important life decisions that affect women, such when to get married and what career to pursue, must be left up to them.; The establishment of courts (Fast Track Courts) specifically created for hearing cases of violence against women.; Balance between maternity and paternity leaves will advance the cause of gender equality at work.; Gender inclusion must be taken into account in administrative reforms, particularly in the police.; Concepts like "24-hour cities" can integrate urbanisation with the requirement for public safety and encourage more women to participate in the workforce and in public life.; Women who are strong, educated, and empowered are better able to boost economic output and the socioeconomic advancement of the following generation.; Health, social protection supported by anti-discrimination laws, income-generating opportunities to enable wealth accumulation, and the support of gender-aware social movements are key policy levers to boost women's empowerment.; There are obstacles to physical access to services (such as in remote rural regions) as well as socially imposed limitations on women's access to healthcare that must be overcome to achieve the newly included MDG target on reproductive health.. Overall, to assist the feminist movement, education and empowerment programmes are essential...

178. [2021 Q18] Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The term "civil society" means the communities and organisations that work independently of the government to support and promote certain individuals or social causes. Key points: The government can access a ready supply of volunteers and resources from civil society organisations.; Public service delivery inconsistencies can be fixed.; CSO involvement can increase the efficacy of skill-enhancement and livelihood support programmes like the National Rural Livelihood Mission.; CSOs are more qualified to provide support and services in relation to situations like domestic violence, undertrials, sex workers, and administrative and legal support for marginalised groups.; NGOs and CSOs can serve as effective conduits for the public to express their needs to the government.; Lack of consistency and ad-hocism in the delivery procedure.; The problem of financial misappropriation is occasionally brought to light.; There have also been instances of NGOs influencing lawmakers and utilising the media to their advantage.; The "big brother" mentality of government officials, who view non-profit organisations as little more than staffing agencies.. Overall, it is necessary to implement administrative reforms for the sake of effectiveness, efficiency, and good governance.

179. [2021 Q19] Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a political, economic, and military body with Eurasian members, was established in 2001 with the goal of preserving regional peace, security, and stability. Key points: To improve the political, security, and economic cooperation amongst the member states.; To work toward joint collaboration to combat challenges coming from terrorism, extremism, and separatism.; The SCO seeks to advance the creation of a just and democratic global political system.; To assure collaboration in maintaining the region's stability, security, and peace.; To increase involvement in the areas of business/trade, transportation, tourism, the environment, cross-cultural connections, education, research, and technology.; China has not exhibited much adherence to the global system of rules.; China has pushed its BRI scheme through SCO under the pretence of economic cooperation.; There are concerns about the RATS process because Pakistan and China are known to have backed terrorist and separatist organisations.; India's goal of connecting to Europe through an INSTC and the greater Eurasian region will be aided by India's membership in the SCO.. Overall, the success of Indian diplomacy will rely on how it handles its adversaries.

180. [2021 Q20] The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

AUKUS, is a trilateral security agreement between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States for the Indo-Pacific region that was announced in September 2021. Key points: The United States may exclude India and other nations from the regional security architecture by pushing security partnerships with its allies.; The ASEAN's prominence in the area might be reduced.; It might be detrimental to QUAD's more comprehensive/balanced goals.; It will strengthen the military capabilities and give its members more effective deterrent power against China.; It intent to improve the patrolling and surveillance capabilities of its members in the Indo-Pacific and re-establish the integrity of the region's norms and rules-based order.; It will bolster the ability of nations with similar ideologies in the developing fields of artificial intelligence, quantum technology, cyber security, etc.; The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and US-EU relations may suffer severely as a result of AUKUS, and the international alliance in the Indo-Pacific may be weakened.; Australia, France, and India's foreign ministers were supposed to meet at the UN, but France called off the meeting.; It is unclear whether the QUAD and AUKUS will complement one another or continue to be antagonistic.. Overall, thus, moving forward with talks and partnerships will be a wise course of action.

181. [2022 Q1] "The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalisation of environmental problems by the Supreme Court." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Write an intro with an associated directive article and duties article given by the Indian Constitution. • Mentions environmental problems related cases and judgments. • The answer concluded that natural resources are the assets of the entire nation. Key points: Mentions environmental problems related cases and judgments.; The answer concluded that natural resources are the assets of the entire nation.; Excise Commissioner (1954): The Supreme Court, while deciding the matter relating to carrying on the trade of liquor in Cooverjee B.; Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra vs.; Union of India (1987): The right to live in a pollution-free environment was recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.; Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum vs.. Overall, it is the obligation of all concerned, including the Union Government and State Governments to conserve and not waste these resources.

182. [2022 Q2] "Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute." Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction The expression "reasonable restriction" signifies that the limitation imposed on a person in the enjoyment of the right should not be arbitrary or of an excessive nature beyond what is required in the interest of the public. Key points: The expression "reasonable restriction" signifies that the limitation imposed on a person in the enjoyment of the right should not be arbitrary or of an excessive nature beyond what is required in the interest of the public.; Article 19(1)(d) of the Indian Constitution entitles every citizen to move freely throughout the territory of the country.; This right is protected against only state action and not private individuals.; also, it is available only to the citizens and to shareholders of a company but not to foreigners or legal persons like companies or corporations, etc.; yet, under clause (5) of...

183. [2022 Q3] To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralization of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments were passed by Parliament in December 1992. Key points: 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments were passed by Parliament in December 1992.; Conflict is reduced when the federal government shares power with the state and local governments.; The majority of concerns and problems are best resolved locally.; People are more aware of the issues in their own communities.; They are more adept at budgeting and effective resource management.; Direct involvement of

local residents in decision-making is common.. Overall, realising the full potential of decentralisation and allowing local communities to direct their own development depends on bolstering the capacity of local institutions, securing enough resources, and fostering participatory decision-making procedures.

184. [2022 Q4] Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Article 63 of the Constitution of India provides that there shall be a Vice-President of India Articles 64 and 89 (1) provide that the Vice-President of India shall be ex-officio Chairman of the Council of States i.e., Rajya Sabha and shall not hold any other office of profit. Key points: As Presiding Officer of the House:- As the Presiding Officer, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is the unchallenged guardian of the prestige and dignity of the House.; As Principal Spokesman of the House:- He is also the principal spokesman of the House and represents the collective voice to the outside world.; Casting of Vote by the Chairman:- Under the Constitution, the Chairman exercises only a casting vote in the case of equality of votes.; Powers and Duties of the Chairman, as laid down by the Constitution of...

185. [2022 Q5] Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. (150 words, 10 Marks)

The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is a constitutional body in India that plays a major role in addressing the concerns and upliftment of backward classes. Key points: Prior to its constitutional status, the NCBC was established as a statutory body through the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.; The constitutional status of the NCBC was conferred through the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018.; The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members in the rank & pay of Secretary to the Govt of India and their condition of service and tenure of office has been notified vide Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Notification dated 23 August 2018.; Identification and Recommendation: The NCBC plays an important role in identifying socially and educationally backward classes and recommending their inclusion or exclusion from the...

186. [2022 Q6] The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction The Gati-Shakti Yojana, an initiative launched by the Indian government, aims to enhance connectivity and infrastructure development across several sectors. Key points: The Gati-Shakti Yojana, an initiative launched by the Indian government, aims to enhance connectivity and infrastructure development across several sectors.; Resource Mobilization: The government has access to public funds and regulatory authority, while the private sector possesses expertise, capital, and technology.; Expertise and Efficiency: The private sector's specialised knowledge and experience in executing large-scale projects can be leveraged through collaboration with the government.; Innovation and Technology: Collaborating with the private sector allows the government to tap into its expertise in adopting and implementing cutting-edge technologies.; Risk Sharing: Involving the private sector helps share the financial risks associated with infrastructure projects.; Project Delivery and Timelines: Meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector results in...

187. [2022 Q7] The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 is a major legislation aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of individuals with disabilities in India. Key points: The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 is a major legislation aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of individuals with disabilities in India.; Awareness and Understanding: Sensitization initiatives are essential to raise awareness

and improve understanding of disabilities among government functionaries and citizens.; Implementation Support: Sensitization programs can provide government functionaries with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively implement the provisions of the act.; Attitude Change: Sensitization efforts can help challenge negative stereotypes, biases, and misconceptions surrounding disabilities.; Collaboration and Partnership: Sensitization initiatives facilitate collaboration between several stakeholders, including government bodies, civil society organizations, and disability rights groups.; Access to Information: Sensitization efforts can emphasize the importance...

188. [2022 Q8] Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme is a progressive initiative aimed at reforming the government delivery system by directly transferring subsidies and benefits to the intended beneficiaries. Key points: The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme is a progressive initiative aimed at reforming the government delivery system by directly transferring subsidies and benefits to the intended beneficiaries.; Targeted Delivery: The DBT Scheme ensures targeted delivery of benefits, reducing leakages, and eliminating intermediaries.; Financial Inclusion: The DBT Scheme promotes financial inclusion by encouraging beneficiaries to open bank accounts and facilitating the transfer of funds electronically.; Cost Efficiency: By eliminating middlemen and streamlining the delivery process, the DBT Scheme improves cost efficiency.; Empowerment and Choice: Direct benefit transfers provide beneficiaries with the freedom to choose how they use their subsidies.; Data Management and Monitoring: The DBT Scheme relies on robust...

189. [2022 Q9] India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in light of the preceding statement. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction The relationship between India and Sri Lanka, dating back more than 2,500 years, is rooted in a rich legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious, and linguistic interactions. Key points: The relationship between India and Sri Lanka, dating back more than 2,500 years, is rooted in a rich legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious, and linguistic interactions.; ears have witnessed close contact and mutual cooperation at multiple levels.; The crisis, caused by a mix of external shocks and official incompetence, led to inflation rates exceeding 50%; Misguided policies, such as the sudden switch to organic farming in 2021, resulted in major agricultural disruption.; Shortages of foreign currency have resulted in a fuel crisis impacting essential services.. Overall, this continued engagement shows the age-old friendship between the two nations and underscores their interconnected futures.

190. [2022 Q10] Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organization like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organization? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi- Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) are two regional bodies that share a focus on promoting regional cooperation and socioeconomic progress. Key points: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi- Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) are two regional bodies that share a focus on promoting regional cooperation and socioeconomic progress.; Evolution of SAARC: Over 34 years, SAARC has cultivated mechanisms in areas like agriculture, space research, and remote sensing, setting a distinct footprint in regional cooperation.; SAARC as a Gateway to West Asia: Apart from its role in South Asia, SAARC is vital for India's westward policy, with countries like Afghanistan in its ambit.; South Asian Identity: SAARC has fostered a...

191. [2022 Q11] Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on

which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to the case laws. (250 words, 15 Marks)

The Representation of the People Act, of 1951, a major piece of legislation in India, prescribes the procedures for settling election disputes involving Members of Parliament or State Legislatures. Key points: An aggrieved party may file an election petition in the relevant High Court within 45 days of the declaration of election results.; The High Court hears the petition and determines the validity of the election.; Corrupt practices: Election may be declared void if the returned candidate is found guilty of any corrupt practices such as bribery or undue influence.; Illegal practices: The election may be declared void if the candidate is found guilty of illegal activities.; Non-compliance with election rules: Non-compliance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act or any other related rules may result in the election being declared void.; Disqualification of Candidate: If the returned candidate was disqualified from contesting the election at the time of the election, the election may be declared void.; The aggrieved party may appeal to the Supreme Court of India within 30 days from the date of the High Court's decision.; For disqualification issues, the final decision-making authority lies with the President (for Members of Parliament) and the Governor (for Members of the State Legislature), acting on the advice of the Election Commission of India.. Overall, this comprehensive approach aids in maintaining the integrity of the electoral...

192. [2022 Q12] Discuss the essential conditions for the exercise of the legislative powers by a Governor. Discuss the legality of the re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Introduction The Constitution of India vests the Governor with several legislative powers. Key points: The Constitution of India vests the Governor with several legislative powers.; Presence of a Legislative Session: The Governor can exercise his legislative power to address the houses of the state legislature at the commencement of the first session each year and whenever necessary.; Right to send Messages: The Governor can send messages to the houses, in respect to a pending bill or any other matter.; Assent to Bills: Under Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, the Governor has the power to give assent to bills passed by the State Legislature, withhold assent, or reserve the bill for the President's consideration.; Ordinance-Making Power: Under Article 213 of the Indian Constitution, the Governor can promulgate Ordinances during the recess of the Legislature.; The legality of the re-promulgation of Ordinances without placing them before the Legislature is a contentious issue.; The Supreme Court of India, in the case of D.C.; The Court stated that the power to promulgate an Ordinance is essentially a power to be used to meet an extraordinary situation and it cannot be allowed to be "perverted to serve political ends".. Overall, it is paramount to ensure that these powers are used judiciously and not circumvent the democratic process.

193. [2022 Q13] While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment. (250 words, 15 Marks)

The term 'federalism' means the constitutionally allocated distribution of powers between two or more levels of government in the modern nation-state system—one, at the national level and the other, at the provincial, state or local level. Key points: The 73rd and 74th Amendments provide for democratic decentralization.; The 14th finance commission devolved 42% of the funds from the Central pool to the States.; GST Centre and State both gave up their indirect taxes to frame policies together.; Niti Aayog places the voice of the States at the upper level.; Single vision and agenda: National parties prioritise issues at the national level in an effort to develop a single vision and agenda for the entire nation.; As Guardians of Federalism: The national parties believe that the constitutional bias in favour of the centre is justified by the centralization of power and policies.; Negotiating Federalism: By limiting the state's ability to plan and make policies, the national parties hope to hold it in check.; Top-down planning: Allocating resources and planning from the top of the hierarchy to the levels below.; Regional parties form to represent a certain state or region's special interests, goals, and

concerns.. Overall, india's political system continues to struggle with how to strike a balance between the need for state autonomy and the requirement for a cohesive national vision.

194. [2022 Q14] Critically examine the procedures through which the President of India and France are elected. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Introduction Both France and India are democratic and republican nations, but France chose a semi-presidential system of government where the president and prime minister are in charge of the legislature, whereas India chose a parliamentary system where the president is only a nominal executive as provided for in Article 52 of the Indian Constitution. **Key points:** Both France and India are democratic and republican nations, but France chose a semi-presidential system of government where the president and prime minister are in charge of the legislature, whereas India chose a parliamentary system where the president is only a nominal executive as provided for in Article 52 of the Indian Constitution.; **Nomination:** A candidate must be nominated and seconded by at least 50 electors to be considered for the position of President.; **Electoral College:** An Electoral College that consists of elected members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and elected representatives from the state and union territory legislatures elects the president of India.; **Weighted Voting:** Taking into account the demographic factor, the votes of the members of the Electoral College are weighted, giving the votes of MPs and MLAs equal weight.; **Indirect election:** India's president is chosen in an indirect election, which means voters do not cast their ballots for him or her directly.; **Preferential vote:** India's presidential election uses the preferential vote system.; **Nomination:** To be formally nominated, a candidate...

195. [2022 Q15] Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Introduction The Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates is a set of norms that has/have evolved with the consensus of political parties who have consented to abide by the principles embodied in the said code and also binds them to respect and observe it in its letter and spirit. **Key points:** The Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates is a set of norms that has/have evolved with the consensus of political parties who have consented to abide by the principles embodied in the said code and also binds them to respect and observe it in its letter and spirit.; **The Kerala Assembly elections in 1960** marked the beginning of the MCC, at which time the state government created a "Code of Conduct" for political actors.; **The code** was subsequently distributed by the ECI to all recognised political parties and State governments in time for the Lok Sabha elections in 1962, and it was adhered to religiously.; **The EC** decided to implement the MCC more rigorously in 1991 as a result of ongoing corruption and numerous violations of election rules.; **General Conduct:** Political parties should only be criticised in relation to their work, historical performance, and plans and programmes.; **Meeting:** to make the necessary security measures, parties must notify the local police authority of the location and time.; **Processions...**

196. [2022 Q16] Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of the society. Discuss. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Article 38 Constitution of India, allows the implementation of several schemes to serve the poor and underprivileged sections of society. **Key points:** The rate of unemployment is excessively high despite the existence of assistance programmes.; because of the lack of informal employment, a larger population is dependent on welfare schemes.; As LPG prices rise, the poor turn to firewood and kerosene.; Low-income households have less money to spend on food and nutrition, and they also spend less on education, which lowers HDI.; Numerous social evils, including petty crime, theft, alcohol, gambling, marital violence, and child labour, are bred by unemployment.; Jobless people are easy targets for terrorist propaganda.; Because tax revenue is down because of inflation, the government is unable to increase welfare spending.; **The central bank** should pursue prudent monetary policies that limit inflation while guaranteeing sufficient credit flows to economically productive sectors.; **By encouraging entrepreneurship**, luring investment, and improving the

employability of the workforce through skill development programmes, the government should concentrate on fostering an environment that encourages job creation.. Overall, conclusion The government may reduce poverty, raise living standards, and promote inclusive growth through upholding price stability, fostering employment opportunities, and implementing targeted social programmes.

197. [2022 Q17] Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process ? Justify your answer. (250 words, 15 Marks)

The role of donor agencies in financing and supporting development projects has become increasingly major in many countries. Overall, successful development requires a collaborative effort, with donor agencies and communities working together to create meaningful and lasting change.

198. [2022 Q18] The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse.(250 words, 15 Marks)

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) is a important legislation aimed at ensuring every child's right to education in India. Key points: Lack of Awareness Programs: The RTE Act does not have comprehensive awareness programs to highlight the significance of education, especially in marginalized and remote communities.; Absence of Incentives: The act does not incorporate sufficient incentive-based mechanisms to encourage parents and children to prioritize education.; Quality of Education: While the RTE Act focuses on free and compulsory education, it does not adequately address the issue of the quality of education provided.; Addressing Socio-economic Barriers: The act does not effectively address socio-economic barriers that hinder children's access to education.; Community Involvement: The RTE Act does not emphasize community involvement in promoting education.; Teacher Training and Motivation: The success of an incentive-based system relies on well-trained and motivated teachers who can effectively deliver quality education.. Overall, additionally, community involvement and teacher training should be prioritized to create an environment that fosters enthusiasm and commitment towards education, ensuring that every child can access and benefit from their right to education.

199. [2022 Q19] How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's Position in global politics ? (250 words, 15 Marks)

Introduction The I2U2 grouping, consisting of India, Israel, UAE, and the USA, represents a major geopolitical alignment that holds the potential to transform India's position in global politics. Key points: The I2U2 grouping, consisting of India, Israel, UAE, and the USA, represents a major geopolitical alignment that holds the potential to transform India's position in global politics.; Strategic Alliances: The I2U2 grouping allows India to forge strategic alliances with like-minded nations, enabling it to address common challenges and leverage collective strengths.; Counterterrorism and Security Cooperation: Given the shared concerns of India, Israel, UAE, and the USA regarding terrorism and regional security, the I2U2 coalition can enhance cooperation in intelligence-sharing, counterterrorism operations, and defense technology.; Economic Partnerships: The I2U2 grouping brings together strong economies with complementary sectors, creating opportunities for enhanced trade, investment, and technology collaboration.; Diversification of Foreign Policy: The I2U2 alignment allows India to diversify its foreign policy engagements and reduce dependency on a few countries.; Technology and Innovation: Israel and the USA are known for their technological advancements and innovation.; Regional Influence: Through the I2U2 grouping, India can extend its influence in the Middle East, a region of critical geopolitical importance.; The Abraham Accords signed between Israel, UAE, and the USA in 2020 demonstrate the potential of cooperation within the I2U2 framework, fostering peace and stability in the Middle East.; India's collaboration with Israel in defence technology, such...

200. [2022 Q20] ‘Clean energy is the order of the day.’ Describe briefly India’s changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Clean energy and climate change have become pressing global priorities, and India has been actively changing its policy towards climate change in several international fora. Key points: Paris Agreement Commitments: India has been actively participating in international climate change negotiations, most notably in the Paris Agreement.; International Solar Alliance (ISA): India co- founded the ISA in 2015, which is a coalition of countries aiming to promote solar energy deployment globally.; G20 and BRICS Engagements: India actively engages in climate discussions within groups like G20 and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).; International Climate Funds: India has sought and received financial support from international climate funds to implement its clean energy projects and climate adaptation measures.; Focus on Renewable Energy: India has been steadily increasing its efforts to boost renewable energy deployment.; Partnerships with Developed Nations: India has engaged in partnerships with developed nations to access technology, finance, and expertise for clean energy initiatives.. Overall, as the world transitions towards clean energy, India’s evolving policy in this domain plays a important role in shaping the geopolitics of climate change and fostering global cooperation for a sustainable future.

201. [2023 Q1] “Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy.” Comment. (10 Marks)

Define judicial independence with constitutional context. • Cover essentials of judicial independence, constitutional provisions, SC judgments, comparative global cases. • Way Forward: Suggest reforms. • Judicial independence as Basic Structure, vital for democracy. Key points: Cover essentials of judicial independence, constitutional provisions, SC judgments, comparative global cases.; Way Forward: Suggest reforms.; Judicial independence as Basic Structure, vital for democracy.; Freedom in passing judgments without pressure: Judges must be insulated from political or popular pressure to ensure impartial verdicts, even in sensitive cases like electoral disputes or constitutional amendments.; Autonomy in appointments, transfers, and tenure: Independence is undermined if appointments or transfers are dictated by the executive.; Functioning as a separate branch of state power: Judiciary must operate as a co-equal organ, not subordinate to legislature or executive, maintaining balance through judicial review.. Overall, nALSA has been pivotal in...

202. [2023 Q3] “The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially.” Comment. (10 Marks)

Mention constitutional background (74th CAA, Article 40). • Constitutional provisions, reasons for reluctance, functional and financial constraints, expert observations. • Way Forward: Suggest reforms. • Link empowerment of ULBs with constitutional vision and SDG 11. Key points: Constitutional provisions, reasons for reluctance, functional and financial constraints, expert observations.; Way Forward: Suggest reforms.; Link empowerment of ULBs with constitutional vision and SDG; Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were granted constitutional status through the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 to promote decentralised urban governance.; Article 243W: States may delegate powers and responsibilities, but it is not mandatory.; Twelfth Schedule: Lists 18 functions such as urban planning, land regulation, water supply, and public health.. Overall, state reluctance has undermined constitutional intent, but genuine devolution of powers and finances is essential for ULBs to become effective democratic institutions and drivers of sustainable urbanisation.

203. [2023 Q4] Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty. (10 Marks)

Define parliamentary sovereignty and set UK–India context. • Tabular comparison of British vs Indian approaches, overlapping themes and changes. • Highlight convergence/ divergence in contemporary context. Key points: Tabular comparison of British vs Indian approaches, overlapping themes and changes.; Highlight

convergence/ divergence in contemporary context.; Parliamentary sovereignty implies the supremacy of Parliament in law-making.; In the UK, EU membership and human rights norms imposed constraints, though Brexit restored much autonomy.; In India, Parliament enjoys broad powers (especially on Union and Concurrent subjects), but the Basic Structure Doctrine ensures the Constitution prevails over legislative supremacy.; Both face challenges of globalisation, judicial activism, and international obligations, which redefine sovereignty in practice.. Overall, both systems, yet, are evolving to balance legislative supremacy with constitutionalism, rights, and global obligations.

204. [2023 Q5] Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices. (10 Marks)

Introduction/Context: y Presiding Officers of state legislatures, whether Speakers or Chairpersons, are constitutional authorities entrusted with ensuring orderly conduct, impartiality, and democratic accountability in assemblies and councils. Key points: Presiding Officers of state legislatures, whether Speakers or Chairpersons, are constitutional authorities entrusted with ensuring orderly conduct, impartiality, and democratic accountability in assemblies and councils.; Maintaining Order: Ensure debates proceed without disruption, exercise powers to suspend unruly members, and prevent sub judice or irrelevant discussions.; Impartiality: Despite being elected on a party ticket, Presiding Officers must uphold constitutional morality.; Legislative Business: Decide admissibility of bills and motions, regulate debates, and ensure bills passed conform to constitutional provisions.; Adjudicating Disputes: Under the Tenth Schedule, they decide on defections and disqualifications.; Facilitating Democratic Practices: They safeguard legislative conventions, encourage constructive debate on topical issues, and act as custodians of members' rights.....

205. [2023 Q6] The crucial aspect of the development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy. (10 Marks)

India, despite being a \$3.7 trillion economy (2025) and one of the fastest-growing nations, ranks only 134th in UNDP HDI 2024. Key points: Industrial Priority: Post-independence policies prioritised heavy industries, dams, and infrastructure, sidelining investments in schools and healthcare.; Resource Limitations: Fiscal constraints led to underfunding of education and health sectors compared to defence and industrial growth.; Agrarian Weakness: Low farm productivity and rural poverty reduced state capacity to focus on human capital investments.; Policy Orientation: Socialist economic models emphasised state-led industrialisation, but ignored reforms for skill, education, and health creation.; Urban Bias: Policies were urban-centric, neglecting rural development where most of India's population resided.; Low Public Spending: India spends less than 3% of GDP on education and about 2% on health, far below global standards, limiting service delivery.. Overall, strengthening HRD alongside economic expansion is essential for..

206. [2023 Q7] Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multinational Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions. (10 Marks)

Introduction/Context: The Competition Commission of India (CCI), a statutory body under the Competition Act, 2002, safeguards fair competition and prevents market distortions. Key points: /Context: The Competition Commission of India (CCI), a statutory body under the Competition Act, 2002, safeguards fair competition and prevents market distortions.; Preventing Anti-competitive Practices: Eliminates conduct that creates entry barriers or forecloses market access.; Consumer Protection: Ensures consumer choice and prevents exploitation through unfair terms or excessive pricing.; Ensuring Level Playing Field: Checks predatory pricing, tying arrangements, and restrictive contracts by MNCs.; Market Regulation for Global Giants: Ensures foreign corporations respect Indian laws in sectors like telecom, digital platforms, and e-commerce.; Competition Advocacy: Educates stakeholders and promotes competitive neutrality for long- term growth.. Overall, to ensure a level playing field in India's digital and globalised economy, it must adapt rapidly with stronger enforcement...

207. [2023 Q8] E-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features? (10 Marks)

E-governance means the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) for delivering government services in an efficient, transparent, and citizen-centric manner. Key points: Security vulnerabilities: Weak cyber-security mechanisms make platforms prone to hacking and ransomware attacks (e.g., recent AIIMS ransomware attack, 2022).; Privacy concerns: Risks of misuse of citizens' personal data, especially with Aadhaar and facial recognition projects.; Interoperability gaps: Lack of seamless data-sharing across ministries and states hampers integrated service delivery.; Digital divide: Low internet penetration in remote areas and weak infrastructure limit inclusivity.; High implementation cost: Setting up robust ICT infrastructure, data centers, and cybersecurity frameworks is capital-intensive.; Maintenance burden: Continuous upgradation and bug fixing require recurring expenditure, straining public finances.. Overall, by advancing dialogue, inclusivity, and developmental cooperation, India can help neutralise conflicts and strengthen SCO's role as a stabilising force in Eurasia.

208. [2023 Q10] Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India. (10 Marks)

The Indian diaspora, numbering over 32 million, is the largest in the world and a important resource for India. Key points: Remittances: India received \$125 billion in 2023, highest globally, stabilising foreign exchange reserves and strengthening rural consumption.; Investment flows: Diaspora entrepreneurs channel funds into startups, IT, and real estate, boosting entrepreneurship and employment in India.; Technology & business networks: Diaspora professionals bridge Indian firms with global innovation hubs like Silicon Valley and London, accelerating knowledge transfer.; Tourism & culture: Through Bollywood, oga, and cuisine, the diaspora draws foreign tourists and global curiosity, enhancing India's soft economy.; Lobbying & advocacy: Diaspora groups like USINPAC influence host policies, seen in the Indo-US Nuclear Deal and India-friendly trade stances.. Overall, with proper engagement and safeguards, it can serve as India's strongest soft power instrument and a critical partner in achieving...

209. [2023 Q11] "The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society." Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty. (15 Marks)

Introduction/Context: The Indian Constitution is often described as a living document because of its adaptability and resilience in addressing new challenges. Key points: /Context: The Indian Constitution is often described as a living document because of its adaptability and resilience in addressing new challenges.; The amending provisions under Article 368 allow changes to meet new social, political, and economic realities.; Fundamental Rights are open to judicial reinterpretation, enabling courts to derive new rights from broad constitutional language.; Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) guide legislation and policymaking in line with changing societal needs.; Judicial interpretations by the Supreme Court and High Courts have consistently read progressive meanings into constitutional text.; The Basic Structure Doctrine ensures that while the Constitution can change, its core democratic and rights-based framework remains intact.; The federal and parliamentary structure allows adaptation to regional, cultural, and political diversity, making the Constitution responsive to the people.; Right to Fair Procedure and Dignity: Maneka Gandhi; Union of India (1978) broadened "procedure established by law" to mean fair, just, and reasonable procedure.. Overall, the expansion of Article 21 demonstrates the living nature of the Constitution, ensuring that Indian democracy remains responsive to new realities such as digital privacy, gender justice, environmental sustainability, and health rights, thereby making it truly progressive.

210. [2023 Q12] Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws. (15 Marks)

Gender justice means fairness in social, political, and economic relations between genders, ensuring dignity, autonomy, and equal opportunities. Key points: Preamble: Emphasises justice (social, economic, political), equality, and dignity of the individual.; Article 14: Provides equal treatment under the law, preventing arbitrary state actions based on sex.; Article 15(1): Outlaws discrimination on grounds of sex, caste, religion, race, or place of birth.; Article 15(3): Enables special provisions for women and children, balancing equality with affirmative action.; Article 16: Ensures equality in public employment opportunities.; Article 21: Guarantees right to life with dignity, privacy, and reproductive autonomy.; Article 23: Prohibits trafficking, begar, and forced labour, which disproportionately exploit women and children.; Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs); Article 39(a) & (d): Equal access to livelihood and equal pay for equal work.. Overall, through constitutional provisions, statutory reforms, and proactive judicial interpretation, India has moved closer to bridging gender gaps.

211. [2023 Q13] Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid- 1990s. (15 Marks)

Article 356 of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to impose President's Rule in a state on the grounds of "failure of constitutional machinery." Though extensively misused during the 1960s–1980s for partisan reasons, its use has reduced since the mid- 1990s because of judicial interventions, coalition politics, and the maturing of India's federal system. Key points: Union of India (1994): Laid down that Article 356 is subject to judicial review, a floor test in the Assembly is mandatory, and dissolution of assemblies cannot be done before parliamentary approval.; Judicial Activism: Rameshwar Prasad; Union of India (2006) invalidated arbitrary dissolution of the Bihar Assembly, stressing the need for objective material.; Uttarakhand Case (2016): SC restored Harish Rawat's government, holding that floor test is the only method to prove majority.; Arunachal Pradesh Case (2016): SC reinstated the Nabam Tuki government, emphasising limits on Governor's discretion and curbing central misuse.; Maharashtra Case (2019–2020): SC ordered an immediate floor test after the controversial swearing-in of a CM, highlighting transparency in power transfers.; Role of President: K.R.; Sarkaria Commission & Inter-State Council: Recommended restraint in applying Article 356 and encouraged consultative mechanisms.; Coalition Politics: Since the 1990s, coalition governments at the Centre have been dependent on regional parties, making misuse politically costly.. Overall, landmark judgments like Bommai (1994), Uttarakhand (2016), Arunachal Pradesh (2016), and Maharashtra (2019) have fortified judicial checks.

212. [2023 Q14] Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India. (15 Marks)

Civil society groups — including NGOs, advocacy coalitions, and grassroots movements act as a bridge between the state and citizens. Key points: Advocacy for Legislative Reforms; Consistently pushed for the Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, now a constitutional amendment mandating 33% reservation in legislatures.; Platforms like Bharat Jagruthi (led by K.); Influenced state-level debates, e.g., Rajasthan and Bihar Assemblies passed resolutions supporting greater political participation of women.; Groups like Indian School of Democracy, Stree Shakti, NETRI, and Shakti launched campaigns such as "She Leads", preparing; ough women for electoral politics.; Civil society has engaged media and local communities to challenge patriarchal perceptions of women as "secondary candidates."; Capacity Building and Training; NGOs conduct training workshops on campaign management, fundraising, leadership, and legislative functioning.. Overall, while legislative reforms like the Women's Reservation Act provide a legal foundation, the sustained role of civil society is essential to translate law into meaningful representation in state legislatures.

213. [2023 Q15] Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism? (15 Marks)

The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016 introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST), replacing multiple indirect taxes levied by both Centre and States. Key points: Simplification of Tax Structure; Unified more than 17 central and state taxes into a single tax.; Reduced cascading effect of taxation (tax-on-tax), improving efficiency.; Example: Before GST, goods like automobiles were taxed separately under excise, VAT, and entry tax.; Creation of a Unified National Market; Facilitated free movement of goods and services across states.; Reduced logistical costs and eliminated entry/ Octroi taxes at state borders.; Example: E-way bill system has replaced multiple state checkpoints, lowering transport time and costs.; of a technology-driven GSTN platform for registration, return filing, and input credit verification.. Overall, while issues like compensation delays and tax slab complexities remain, GST represents a major step towards strengthening federal cooperation and economic integration in India.

214. [2023 Q16] Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalization of Indian Parliament? (15 Marks)

Parliamentary Committees are small groups of Members of Parliament that function outside the direct glare of the House to examine specific matters in detail. Key points: Two Types: Committees are broadly of two types – Standing Committees, which are permanent and work continuously, and Ad-hoc Committees, which are temporary and dissolved after their assigned task.; Standing Committees: Classified into six categories: (a) Financial Committees, (b) Department- related Standing Committees, (c) Committees to Scrutinise and Control, (d) Committees on Day- to-Day Business, (e) Housekeeping Committees, and (f) Committees of Inquiry.; Ad-hoc Committees: Formed to examine specific issues or legislation, such as Select Committees and Joint Committees on Bills, or for inquiries into pressing matters.; Membership and Appointment: Members are drawn from both Houses, elected or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman, ensuring representation across parties and expertise.; Expert Function: By operating in smaller groups, committees enable detailed discussions, expert consultations, and non-partisan consensus- building, often beyond what is possible in heated parliamentary debates.; Public Accounts Committee (PAC): Scrutinises government expenditure against parliamentary approval and examines CAG reports.; Estimates Committee: Examines budgetary estimates, suggests economies, and assesses whether funds are used efficiently.; Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU): Evaluates functioning and autonomy of PSUs like ONGC, NTPC, and SAIL.; Institutionalization Role: Collectively, these committees strengthen Parliament's role in financial oversight, prevent executive dominance, and build a system of continuous accountability.. Overall, financial Committees, in particular..

215. [2023 Q17] “Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach.” Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. (15 Marks)

The Preamble and Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) envision India as a welfare state ensuring justice and equality. Key points: Target-specific focus: Many schemes are directed at selected groups like SCs, STs, women, or disabled, creating a perception of differential treatment.; Resource diversion: Large welfare outlays sometimes divert funds from universal public goods like healthcare and education, creating inter-sectoral imbalance.; Inclusion–Exclusion errors: Targeting leads to bureaucratic inefficiencies where genuine beneficiaries are excluded, while non-deserving individuals sometimes avail benefits.; Social labelling: Tagging groups as “backward” or “beneficiaries” can stigmatise them, reinforcing social stereotypes and dependency.; Correcting historical injustice: They address long- standing social, caste, and gender inequalities, ensuring substantive equality rather than mere formal equality.; Inclusive growth: By providing safety nets like MGNREGA or NFSA, vulnerable populations are empowered to participate more fully in economic and social life.; Reducing stratification: Such schemes uplift weaker sections, reducing resentment and fostering social harmony, which is vital for nation- building.; Equity over equality: These schemes operationalise the constitutional principle that treating unequals equally perpetuates inequality; thus equity requires special focus.; Leakages and corruption: Welfare delivery is often plagued by middlemen, reducing

effectiveness.. Overall, thus, reforms must ensure that such schemes empower the vulnerable without perpetuating dependency, thereby achieving equity with efficiency.

216. [2023 Q18] Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyze the linkages between education, skill and employment. (15 Marks)

India has trained over 5.56 crore people under Skill India Mission, PMKVY, and related schemes. Key points: outh, showing how education, skills, and employment are interlinked.; Education as foundation: Education builds literacy, numeracy, and analytical skills essential for skilling.; Skill development as bridge: Skill training connects theory with industry needs, making; It also upgrades existing workers to match new technologies like AI, EVs, and renewable energy.; Employment as outcome: Education and skill have meaning only if they generate jobs.; Government initiatives: Schemes like PMKVY, SANKALP, UDAAN, STAR, and NAPS offer structured pathways from classroom to workplace through certification and apprenticeships.; Industry linkages: Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) align curriculum with market demand.; Skill mismatch: Many trained; outh remain jobless as courses often fail to match sectoral demand.. Overall, by addressing quality gaps and making training future- ready, India can transform its demographic dividend into a global skilled workforce.

217. [2023 Q19] ‘The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.’ What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.(15 Marks)

The Russia–Ukraine war and NATO’s expansion to include Finland and Sweden have revitalized the US-Europe security partnership. Key points: Democratic Values Alignment: NATO’s commitment to democracy and rule of law complements India’s global democratic identity.; Counter-Terrorism Cooperation: NATO’s experience in peacekeeping and counter- terrorism aligns with India’s fight against cross- border terror.; Maritime Security Synergy: NATO’s naval role can complement India’s SAGAR vision, helping curb piracy and trafficking.; Balancing China: A stronger NATO indirectly reduces China’s room for expansion, easing India’s Indo-Pacific pressures.; Technology Access: US-Europe leadership in defense and green tech provides India with opportunities like the jet engine pact with GE.; Climate Collaboration: EU’s green agenda and US climate finance support India’s energy transition and solar projects.; Economic Gains: Stability in Europe ensures better trade flows, while India’s IT and pharma exports benefit from Western partnerships.; Multilateral Leverage: NATO-backed US-Europe support strengthens India’s position in G20, WTO, and UNSC reform efforts.; Geopolitical Polarisation: Stronger NATO risks hardening bloc politics, shrinking India’s multi-alignment space.. Overall, india’s best strategy is to pursue multi-alignment, balancing great power interests while safeguarding its national interest in a multipolar order.

218. [2023 Q20] ‘Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos’. Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting the environment and enhancing maritime safety and security. (15 Marks)

Oceans, covering 71% of Earth, regulate climate, sustain biodiversity, and enable 90% of world trade. Key points: Regulation of Shipping Emissions: Through MARPOL, IMO 2020 sulfur cap, and ECAs, IMO reduces SOx, NOx, and GHG emissions from ships.; Energy Efficiency Measures: Tools like EEXI and CII enforce efficiency and carbon-intensity reductions across the global fleet.; Marine Plastic & Waste Control: IMO’s 2021 strategy curbs marine plastic litter from ships, complementing SDG-14 targets.; Ballast Water Management: The Ballast Water Convention prevents invasive alien species spread across ecosystems.; Oil Pollution Response: Global cooperation frameworks mitigate oil spills and hazardous chemical accidents at sea.; Ship Recycling: The Hong Kong Convention ensures eco-friendly, safe dismantling of vessels, reducing toxic marine pollution.; Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS): Establishes global norms on ship design, equipment, and operation for safety.; Security against Threats: ISPS Code enhances security standards at ports and ships to

tackle terrorism and smuggling.; Piracy and Armed Robbery: The Djibouti Code of Conduct enables coordinated international efforts against piracy in high-risk zones.. Overall, by addressing enforcement gaps and scaling climate action, it can safeguard the oceans — a vital component of the cosmos — and ensure sustainable maritime futures.

219. [2024 Q1] Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to “one nation - one election” principle. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Recently, the Union Cabinet unanimously approved the “One Nation - One Election” (ONOE) proposal, which seeks to synchronise elections for the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies (SLA), and local bodies (Municipalities and Panchayats). Key points: Frequent Elections and Governance Disruptions; Frequent elections disrupt governance because of the repeated imposition of the Model Code of Conduct, delaying development work and policy implementation.; Conducting separate elections for the Lok Sabha, SLA, and local bodies imposes a huge financial burden on the government, diverting funds from developmental activities.; Frequent elections and coalition governments often result in political instability, slowing down governance and policy making.; Two-Step Approach for Simultaneous Elections (SE); First Step: Synchronise Lok Sabha and SLA elections.. Overall, proceedings are private and confidential.

220. [2024 Q2] Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases? (150 words, 10 Marks)

y Lok Adalats are alternative dispute resolution mechanisms established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Key points: Arbitration Tribunals are formal dispute resolution bodies where disputes are resolved by one or more arbitrators, based on the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.; Lok Adalats offer a fast, informal, and cost-free solution to civil and compoundable criminal cases through mutual settlement.; Arbitration Tribunals provide a formal process for civil matters, especially commercial disputes, with privacy and legal representation but at a higher cost.. Overall, both Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals are effective mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution but serve different needs, allowing parties to choose the most appropriate based on the case, costs, and confidentiality preferences.

221. [2024 Q3] “The growth of cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalisation of the parliamentary supremacy.” Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words)

India’s parliamentary democracy was founded on the principle that the executive is accountable to the legislature. Key points: Inefficiency and Decline of Parliamentary Functioning; The Indian Parliament, designed to act as a forum for robust debates and scrutiny of government policies, has become slow and inefficient over time.; Bills are increasingly passed without meaningful debate, undermining the legislative process and turning parliament into a mere formality.; Important bills like the Farm Laws were rushed through Parliament, with little debate, mainly because of the ruling party’s majority.; Decline in Executive Accountability; ears post-independence, the executive, led by towering figures like Nehru, often operated independently, exerting major influence on governance.. Overall, majority Rule and Marginalisation of Opposition: • The strength of the ruling government often results in the marginalisation of the opposition. • Parliament, which ideally belongs to the opposition...

222. [2024 Q4] “The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety.” Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

y Article 148, 149: Constitutional provision related to Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. • CAG is described as a friend, philosopher, and guide to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in the Parliament. • CAG is appointed by the President of India to audit the accounts of Union & state governments (along with the government of Union territories), including Public Sector Enterprises etc. • Comptroller and Auditor General’s (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971: provides for further powers of CAG. Key points: CAG is

described as a friend, philosopher, and guide to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in the Parliament.; CAG is appointed by the President of India to audit the accounts of Union & state governments (along with the government of Union territories), including Public Sector Enterprises etc.; Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers...

223. [2024 Q5] Analyse the role of local bodies in providing good governance at local level and bring out the pros and cons merging the rural local bodies with the urban local bodies. (150 words, 10 Marks)

y Decentralised Governance: Local bodies comprises Rural Local Bodies (Panchayati Raj Institutions) and Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities). • Constitutional Provisions: Part IX and Part IX-A of the Constitution, empowered by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992), to deliver grassroots governance. y Good governance is marked by transparency, accountability, participation, efficiency, and inclusivity. Key points: Constitutional Provisions: Part IX and Part IX-A of the Constitution, empowered by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992), to deliver grassroots governance.; Good governance is marked by transparency, accountability, participation, efficiency, and inclusivity.; Democratic Decentralisation: People from local communities can elect their representatives among themselves.; Representation of Women and Marginalised section: Reservation for women and SCs/STs in local bodies.; Programs like MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) have been implemented through Panchayats.; Fiscal Decentralisation: 15th Finance Commission increased grants to...

224. [2024 Q6] Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India's development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment. (150 words, 10 Marks)

y Public charitable trusts play a vital role in enhancing the inclusivity of development in India by addressing critical social issues. Key points: By targeting these areas, these trusts aim to uplift marginalised and underserved communities, ensuring broader access to development benefits.; Filling Gaps in Government Services; Public charitable trusts often focus on areas where government services may be lacking or insufficient, such as healthcare, education, and rural development.; Healthcare Access and Improvement: Public charitable trusts invest in health services, including hospitals, mobile clinics, and health camps, to make healthcare accessible to underserved populations.; Tata Trusts has been instrumental in improving healthcare access in rural areas through its mobile healthcare initiatives and cancer care programs.; It has also collaborated with state governments to create comprehensive healthcare models in some states.. Overall, these trusts act as catalysts for progress...

225. [2024 Q7] Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle? (150 words, 10 Marks)

Introduction y Poverty and malnutrition are two sides of the same coin. Key points: Poverty and malnutrition are two sides of the same coin.; Improve the Implement programs that provide nutritious meals and supplements to vulnerable populations; Midday Meal Program (MMP); The Midday Meal Program has struggled to achieve a transformative effect because of several implementation issues, including irregular meal delivery, corruption, hygiene concerns, and insufficient nutritional content.; Implementing community monitoring, social audits, decentralised grievance redress systems, and publicly displaying information about beneficiaries and menus can help reduce corruption and enhance accountability in the Midday Meal Program.; Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS): It provides supplementary nutrition, health check-ups, and education, helping to reduce malnutrition and enhance maternal and child health.. Overall, by addressing immediate needs and systemic issues through targeted strategies, we can uplift marginalised communities and...

226. [2024 Q8] The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Democratic governance is the quality of a political system where it consistently generates legitimate governments, elected through fair and transparent voting, capable of effectively promoting inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic and social progress. Key points: Civil servants are tasked with implementing government policies and programs that directly affect the welfare of citizens; Civil servants are responsible for managing public resources, including funds raised through taxes.; The presence of integrity among civil servants leads to good governance.; Integrity in civil services is vital for maintaining public confidence.; Commitment to ethical standards helps counter corruption and promotes transparency in public administration Neutral Civil Servants in India; Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel emphasised the need for a unified civil service that would maintain stability and integrity in a diverse nation.. Overall, implementing strategies that promote ethical conduct like strict enforcement of code of...

227. [2024 Q9] The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China's political and economic dominance. Explain this statement with examples. (150 words, 10 Marks)

The global order has been undergoing major shifts, particularly with the rise of China as an economic powerhouse and its assertive foreign policy stance. Key points: The U.S. and Western countries are fostering India as a manufacturing hub to reduce their dependence on China, especially in critical industries like electronics, pharmaceuticals, and defence.; Apple Inc. has significantly increased its iPhone production in India.; Western countries have engaged India in multilateral initiatives to build resilient supply chains, especially for critical technologies and materials.; The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) launched by India, Japan, and Australia aims to reduce dependence on China by creating a "China-alternative" supply chain network in the Indo-Pacific region.; Production-Linked Incentive (PLI): It encourages domestic and foreign companies to manufacture in India.; Geopolitical Importance: India's democracy and growing economy make it a natural ally for the...

228. [2024 Q10] Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics. (150 words, 10 Marks)

The 21st century is increasingly recognized as the Asian Century, with Central Asia emerging as a pivotal region at its heart. Key points: Global Bridge: The region sits strategically between East and West.; Geographical Significance: Mackinder's theory states that Eurasia (CARs) serves as the 'geographical pivot of history' and that control over its heartlands means control over the world.; Geostrategic importance: Central Asia serves as a buffer zone among major powers, including Russia, China, and the West.; Cultural dialogue: The cultural richness of Central Asia can serve as a bridge for dialogue and understanding among civilisations.; Energy Power-house: Turkmenistan holds the world's fourth-largest natural gas reserves.; First India-Central Asia Dialogue, a Track-II initiative, was organised in Bishkek in June 2012 with the aim for long-term partnership with the region.. Overall, India's inclusion in the Eurasian Economic Union would...

229. [2024 Q11] What are the aims and objects of recently passed and enforced, The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024? Whether University/State Education Board examinations, too, are covered under the Act? (250 words, 15 Marks)

The integrity of the public examination system in India, which was put to question by the recent NEET and NET paper leak, was provided a boost with the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. Key points: Frequency of Leaks: Numerous instances of question paper leaks have occurred in recruitment exams nationwide, with at least 48 cases affecting 16 states over the past five years, disrupting government job hiring processes.; effect on Applicants: These leaks have impacted approximately 1.51 crore applicants for around 1.2 lakh positions.; Examination Delays: Malpractices in exams have led to delays and cancellations, negatively affecting millions of job seekers.; Prevent Information Leakage: Restricts the leakage of

examination-related information prior to the exam, ensuring controlled access to materials.; Combat Cheating and Malpractice: Defines 15 specific unfair practices, including theft of exam materials, computer tampering, and fraudulent exam conduct.; Tight Security in Exam Halls: Prohibits unauthorised access to examination halls, safeguarding the exam environment.; Strict Penalties for Offenders: Offenders can face imprisonment of 3–5; ears and fines up to ₹10 lakh, with harsher penalties for service providers involved in organised malpractices (up to ₹1 crore fine and 5–10. Overall, way Forward: y Enhanced Security: Improving security at exam centres with advanced surveillance and biometric systems can help prevent cheating, the National Technical Committee will oversee this. • Effective Implementation: Successful implementation requires clear guidelines and mechanisms at...

230. [2024 Q12] Right to privacy is intrinsic to life and personal liberty and is inherently protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. Explain. In this reference discuss the law relating to D.N.A. testing of a child in the womb to establish its paternity. (250 words, 15 Marks)

The right to privacy is a fundamental aspect of personal freedom and dignity. Key points: Supreme Court's Landmark Judgment (2017): In the Justice K.S.; The judgement overturned previous rulings and established privacy as a fundamental right.; Scope of Right to Privacy: Privacy includes several aspects such as personal choices, sexual orientation, bodily integrity, informational privacy, and the right to be free from unwarranted state or third-party intrusion into one's personal affairs.; Interconnection with Dignity and Autonomy: Privacy is tied to an individual's dignity and autonomy, allowing people to make personal decisions without external interference.; State's Role and Restrictions: While the right to privacy is fundamental, it is not absolute.; ears the Indian judiciary has passed several judgements over DNA testing vs privacy.; Bhabani Prasad Jena vs Orissa State (2010) acknowledged that while DNA tests are a powerful tool in establishing paternity, they should not infringe upon personal rights without consent.; Technology vs Privacy: The Supreme Court in 2022 held that compelling an unwilling person to undergo a DNA test would be a violation of his/ her personal liberty and right to privacy.; Courts have ruled that DNA tests should also not be ordered if there was other material evidence at hand to prove the case.. Overall, it not only safeguards personal autonomy and dignity but also imposes checks on state power, ensuring that citizens' privacy is respected and protected within...

231. [2024 Q13] What changes has the Union Government recently introduced in the domain of Centre- State relations? Suggest measures to be adopted to build the trust between the Centre and the States and for strengthening federalism. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Centre-State relations in India have seen both cooperative and contentious events over recent times. Key points: National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Implementation: While education is mainly a state subject, the NEP 2020 involves consultations with states.; PM Gati Shakti Plan: This infrastructure initiative saw the Centre and states collaborating for improving connectivity through a multi-modal network.; One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC): The ONORC scheme, launched to ensure food security for migrant workers across states, required cooperation between the Centre and states.; COVID-19 Vaccination Drive: The COVID-19 vaccination rollout was a prime example of cooperative federalism, where states and the Centre coordinated efforts in procurement, distribution, and administration of vaccines across the country.; The GST Council, which includes both central and state representatives, continues to function as a platform for cooperative federalism.; Revitalize the Inter-State Council: Regular meetings of the Inter-State Council can facilitate dialogue, resolve conflicts, and promote cooperation between the Centre and states on contentious issues.; Strengthen Fiscal Federalism: Ensure timely disbursement of GST compensation to states and reassess revenue-sharing mechanisms to maintain fiscal autonomy for states.; Decentralize Policy Formulation: Involve states in the formulation of policies in sectors like health, education, and agriculture to ensure their concerns are addressed and foster ownership of the policies.; Reform the Role of Governors: Need to establish clear guidelines to prevent the misuse of governors' powers, ensuring they act as neutral...

232. [2024 Q14] Explain the reasons for the growth of public interest litigation in India. As a result of it, has the Indian Supreme Court emerged as the world's most powerful judiciary ? (250 words, 15 Marks)

Introduction y Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is a legal mechanism designed to broaden access to justice, particularly for marginalized groups and public causes. • Justices P.N. Key points: Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is a legal mechanism designed to broaden access to justice, particularly for marginalized groups and public causes.; Bhagwati and V.R.; This mechanism permits any individual or organization to file a case on behalf of others.; It aims to address social and environmental issues, ensuring that courts actively safeguard constitutional rights and promote public welfare.; Judicial activism: The Indian judiciary, especially the Supreme Court, began to take a more active role in addressing social issues.; Socio-economic conditions: High levels of poverty, illiteracy, and lack of access to justice for many Indians created a need for an alternative mechanism to address grievances.; State of Rajasthan led to guidelines on sexual harassment in the workplace, which were later codified into law.; People's Union for Civil Liberties; Union of India resulted in the Supreme Court ordering the implementation of a mid-day meal scheme in government schools to address malnutrition.. Overall, as PILs evolve, there's a need to balance effectiveness with preventing misuse.

233. [2024 Q15] Discuss India as a secular state and compare with the secular principles of the US Constitution. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Introduction y A secular state is a country that is officially neutral in matters of religion and does not support or oppose any religion. • Secularism is a principle that advocates the separation of religion from the affairs of the state. • In the Indian context, it means a state that remains neutral towards all religions, neither favoring nor discriminating against any particular faith. • India's secularism, as defined by its Constitution, follows the principle of "Sarva Dharma Sambhava", which stands for equal respect for all religions. Key points: A secular state is a country that is officially neutral in matters of religion and does not support or oppose any religion.; Secularism is a principle that advocates the separation of religion from the affairs of the state.; In the Indian context, it means a state that remains neutral towards all religions, neither favoring nor discriminating against any particular faith.; India's secularism, as defined by its Constitution, follows the principle of "Sarva Dharma Sambhava", which stands for equal respect for all religions.; No Official State Religion: Article 25 to 28 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion, allowing every individual to profess, practice, and propagate their religion.; Religion and State It protects individual and community rights, allowing for cultural and religious expression while ensuring equality among all religions; Freedom of Religion The Constitution guarantees equality and religious freedom through...

234. [2024 Q16] The Citizens' charter has been a Landmark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them. (250 words, 15 Marks)

Introduction y Citizen's Charter is a written, voluntary declaration by service providers that shows the standards of service delivery that they must subscribe to, availability of choice for consumers, avenues for grievance redressal and other related information. • This initiative was launched in India in 1997 with the aim of improving public service delivery by ensuring transparency, accountability, and citizen- centric governance. Key points: Citizen's Charter is a written, voluntary declaration by service providers that shows the standards of service delivery that they must subscribe to, availability of choice for consumers, avenues for grievance redressal and other related information.; This initiative was launched in India in 1997 with the aim of improving public service delivery by ensuring transparency, accountability, and citizen- centric governance.; Issues in implementation: Despite the introduction of Citizen Charters by several government departments in India, their implementation has been inconsistent.; Insufficient awareness and participation: In India, people residing in rural areas are unfamiliar with their rights and entitlements under the Charter.; Limited legal enforceability: For instance, although the Right to Public Services legislation In a largely Christian culture, secularism gained ground and concentrated on preventing the formation of a state religion.

exists in some Indian states, it is not uniformly implemented.; Inadequate Training of Personnel: Government officials and service providers often lack the necessary training to implement the Charter effectively.; Absence of Accountability Mechanisms: While Citizens' Charters...

235. [2024 Q17] In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level. (250 words, 15 Marks)

y The marketization of healthcare means the idea of applying market-driven practices such as Privatisation, Market-based pricing, Competition etc. • The marketization of healthcare often leads to inequitable access, especially for the poor. Key points: The marketization of healthcare often leads to inequitable access, especially for the poor.; The Indian healthcare market, which was valued at US\$ 110 billion in 2016 is now projected to reach US\$ 638 billion by 2025.; 58% of hospitals in the country are privately owned and account for 81% of doctors in India.; Strengthening Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs); Upgrading PHCs in rural areas with adequate staff, modern equipment, and supplies.; Example: Under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, the government aims to establish 1.5 lakh wellness centres by 2025.; Increasing Public Health Expenditure; Raise public health spending to at least 2.5% of GDP (National Health Policy, 2017 target).; Since 2010, India's public spending, in proportion to the GDP, has hovered around 1.12% to 1.35%.. Overall, should aim to achieve universal healthcare, learning from global best practices such as the NHS of UK etc.

236. [2024 Q18] e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance. (250 words, 15 Marks)

y E-governance represents more than just a technological shift; it emphasises transparency, accountability, and active citizen engagement. • The Interactive Service Model in e-governance goes beyond mere service delivery, fostering two- way communication between the government and Role of the Interactive Service Model in E-Governance: y Transparency and Accountability: • By allowing real-time feedback from citizens, the Interactive Service Model enhances transparency in governance. • Example: MyGov Platform in India, where citizens can directly interact with the government, provide suggestions, and participate in decision-making. • Grievance Redressal: • This model creates a structured platform for citizen grievances, allowing governments to promptly address concerns and improve service quality. • Example: The Lokvani Project in Uttar Pradesh provides an interactive platform for citizens to lodge complaints and track their resolution. • Participatory Governance: • Encourages citizen participation in governance through interactive tools like surveys, polls, and forums, which gather public opinion and insights. • Example: Kerala's participatory budgeting process, facilitated through digital platforms, enables citizens to provide input on budget allocation. • Enhanced Efficiency and Responsiveness: • Interactive services like chatbots, automated responses, and 24/7 assistance improve the speed of service delivery, making governments more responsive. • Example: e-Sampark Portal, used by the Chandigarh administration • Real-Time Monitoring and Feedback: • Governments can monitor the real-time effect of policies and programs by collecting data and feedback from citizens. • Example: Poshan Tracker..

237. [2024 Q19] 'Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security.' Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level. (250 words, 15 Marks)

UNGA defines terrorism as Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the public, a group of persons, or particular persons for political purposes. Key points: deny all forms of financial support for terrorist groups.; prevent the terrorists from acquiring safe havens or subsistence.; cooperate with governments in the apprehension of terrorists.; create domestic laws that criminalise terrorism.; participate

in the relevant anti-terrorism conventions.; Under resolution 1535 (2004), the Security Council established the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to assist the work of the CTC.; CTED is divided into two sections: an Assessment and Technical Assistance Office (ATAO), which is further divided into three geographical clusters and an Administrative and Information Office (AIO).; Monitors the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly.; Facilitated several capacity-building initiatives, offering technical assistance to member states.. Overall, with enhanced global cooperation, strong political will, and greater cohesion, the UN Counter- Terrorism Committee can transform into a formidable organisation capable of effectively addressing the threat of terrorism.

238. [2024 Q20] Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India with a focus on global trade and energy flows. Further also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition? (250 words, 15 Marks)

India and Maldives share close cultural, ethnic, linguistic, religious, and commercial links. Key points: India is Maldives 4th largest trading partner.; Maldives' Exclusive Economic Zone lies at the heart of Anti-piracy naval missions launched by China and USA that effect India's maritime security.; India supplies Maldives with its everyday essentials like rice, spices, fruits, vegetables, poultry, medicines and life-saving drugs.; Maldives lies at the core of India's SAGAR doctrine.; Cooperation via common platforms such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.; Maldivian archipelago comprising 1,200 coral islands lies next to key shipping lanes which ensure uninterrupted energy supplies to countries like China, Japan and India.; A comprehensive Action Plan for Defence was also signed in 2016 to consolidate defence partnership.; Situated along important maritime trade routes between the Gulf of Aden and the Strait of Malacca, the Maldives acts as a "toll gate" for nearly half of India's external trade and 80% of its energy imports.; Despite its small size, the Maldives is currently being wooed by a number of developed and developing countries.. Overall, india and the Maldives have a long-standing and resilient partnership, and their enhanced collaboration will be mutually beneficial for both regional and global cooperation.

239. [2025 Q1] Discuss the 'corrupt practices' for the purpose of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Analyze whether the increase in the assets of the legislators and/or their associates, disproportionate to their known sources of income, would constitute 'undue influence' and consequently a corrupt practice. (Answer in 150 words)

Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, corrupt practices include bribery, undue influence, appeal to religion, booth capturing, false statements and misuse of official position to affect electoral choice. Undue influence means direct or indirect interference with the free exercise of electoral rights. A disproportionate rise in assets of a legislator or associates may indicate corruption, abuse of office or illicit enrichment, but it does not automatically become an electoral corrupt practice. To qualify as undue influence, a connection must be shown between the asset increase and interference with voters, election agents, candidates or the election process. If illegal wealth is used for bribery, coercion, inducement or campaign manipulation, it may amount to corrupt practice. Otherwise it may fall under income-tax, anti-corruption, money-laundering or disqualification-related scrutiny. Thus disproportionate assets are serious evidence, but legal proof of electoral influence is necessary.

240. [2025 Q2] Comment on the need of administrative tribunals as compared to the court system. Assess the impact of the recent tribunal reforms through rationalization of tribunals made in 2021. (Answer in 150 words)

Administrative tribunals were created to provide specialised, quicker and less formal justice in service, tax, company, environment and regulatory matters. Compared to regular courts, tribunals can combine legal and technical expertise, reduce docket pressure and offer focused adjudication. They are especially useful where disputes require sectoral knowledge. However, tribunals must remain independent, accessible and

procedurally fair. The 2021 rationalisation attempted to merge or abolish some tribunals, streamline appointments and reduce institutional fragmentation. Its positive impact lies in simplifying the tribunal landscape and improving administrative efficiency. Yet concerns persist about executive dominance in appointments, short tenure, vacancies, transfer of cases to overburdened courts and weakening of specialised justice. Rationalisation should not mean dilution of expertise or independence. Tribunals are needed, but their credibility depends on security of tenure, adequate staffing, transparent selection and judicial oversight.

241. [2025 Q3] Compare and contrast the President's power to pardon in India and in the USA. Are there any limits to it in both the countries? What are 'preemptive pardons'? (Answer in 150 words)

In India, the President's pardon power under Article 72 extends to Union law offences, court-martial sentences and death sentences. It is exercised on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and is subject to limited judicial review for mala fides, arbitrariness or irrelevant considerations. Governors have a similar power under Article 161, except in some matters. In the USA, the President's pardon power flows from Article II of the Constitution and covers federal offences, but not state crimes or impeachment. It is more personal and discretionary than India's, though political accountability remains. Courts generally read it broadly. Limits exist in both systems: it cannot erase legislative disqualifications in all situations, cannot cover future crimes, and cannot override constitutional checks. Preemptive pardons are pardons granted before trial or conviction for offences that may have been committed. They are recognised in the USA but remain constitutionally doubtful in India's advice-based framework.

242. [2025 Q4] Discuss the nature of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. Briefly describe the powers and functions of the Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. (Answer in 150 words)

After the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, Jammu and Kashmir became a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly, broadly comparable to the Delhi and Puducherry model, while Ladakh became a Union Territory without an Assembly. The J&K Assembly can legislate on matters in the State List and Concurrent List as applicable to Union Territories, except areas reserved for the Union such as public order and police. It can discuss budgets, pass appropriation laws, question the executive and represent regional aspirations. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Assembly, but the Lieutenant Governor has significant discretionary and supervisory powers. Parliament also retains law-making power for the Union Territory. Thus the Assembly provides democratic representation and local accountability, but within a constitutional structure where Union control remains stronger than in a full-fledged state.

243. [2025 Q5] The Attorney General of India plays a crucial role in guiding the legal framework of the Union Government and ensuring sound governance through legal counsel. Discuss his responsibilities, rights and limitations in this regard. (Answer in 150 words)

The Attorney General of India, appointed under Article 76, is the highest law officer of the Union. The Attorney General advises the Government of India on legal matters, appears for the Union in the Supreme Court and High Courts, represents the government in important constitutional cases and performs duties assigned by the President. The office helps ensure that executive action and legislation remain legally defensible. The Attorney General has the right of audience in all Indian courts and may participate in parliamentary proceedings without voting. However, the office is not a cabinet post and does not enjoy a fixed tenure. The Attorney General is expected to maintain professional independence, but works within the government's legal brief. Limitations also arise from conflict-of-interest norms, constitutional morality and judicial scrutiny. Thus the office bridges law and governance, but its authority rests on expertise, integrity and independence.

244. [2025 Q6] Women's social capital complements in advancing empowerment and gender equity. Explain. (Answer in 150 words)

Women's social capital refers to networks of trust, cooperation, mutual support and collective action among women and between women and institutions. It complements empowerment by converting individual aspiration into shared capacity. Self-help groups, cooperatives, panchayat networks, producer collectives and digital communities improve access to credit, information, markets, legal awareness and public services. In India, SHGs under DAY-NRLM have strengthened savings, livelihood and local leadership among rural women. Social capital also challenges patriarchal isolation by creating solidarity against domestic violence, early marriage, exclusion from property and wage discrimination. It improves bargaining power within households and public institutions. However, networks may reproduce caste or class barriers unless inclusion is ensured. Women's social capital is not a substitute for rights, education or jobs, but it makes these more accessible. It advances gender equity by linking confidence, voice, resources and collective agency.

245. [2025 Q7] e-governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine. (Answer in 150 words)

Many e-governance projects focus more on databases, dashboards, portals and departmental integration than on the lived experience of citizens. This technology-first bias leads to complex interfaces, language barriers, exclusion of persons with disabilities, dependence on intermediaries, weak grievance redress and difficulties for people without smartphones or digital literacy. Back-end integration is necessary for efficiency, but it cannot be the sole measure of success. A user-centric design would begin with citizen needs: simple forms, local languages, assisted access, offline alternatives, accessibility standards, privacy safeguards and time-bound service delivery. Aadhaar-enabled systems, land records, welfare portals and municipal platforms show both the promise and risk of digitization. E-governance should reduce discretion and delay, not create digital gatekeeping. Therefore projects must combine technology architecture with field testing, social audits, feedback loops and inclusion of vulnerable users at the design stage.

246. [2025 Q8] Civil Society Organizations are often perceived as being anti-State actors than non-State actors. Do you agree? Justify. (Answer in 150 words)

Civil society organizations are non-state actors, not inherently anti-state actors. They work outside government but often support public goals through service delivery, rights awareness, research, humanitarian relief and community mobilisation. In India, NGOs have contributed to literacy, health, environmental protection, gender justice and disaster response. They also perform a watchdog role by questioning state excess, corruption or exclusion. This critical function may be perceived as anti-state, especially when it challenges powerful interests or policy failures. However, dissent within constitutional limits strengthens democracy and accountability. At the same time, concerns about opaque funding, political fronts or misinformation cannot be ignored. Regulation should ensure transparency without choking legitimate civic space. A mature state treats civil society as a partner, critic and knowledge resource. Thus CSOs may oppose particular state actions, but that does not make them anti-state; their legitimacy depends on lawfulness, transparency and public purpose.

247. [2025 Q9] India-Africa digital partnership is achieving mutual respect, co-development and long-term institutional partnerships. Elaborate. (Answer in 150 words)

India-Africa digital partnership is based on shared development rather than a donor-recipient model. India offers low-cost, scalable digital public goods, capacity building and technology cooperation suited to African needs. Initiatives such as Pan-African e-Network, e-VidyaBharati, e-ArogyaBharati, digital payments experience, telemedicine, education platforms and IT training show co-development. The partnership respects sovereignty because it builds local capacity instead of imposing closed systems. African countries benefit from affordable digital infrastructure, health access, skill development and governance solutions,

while India gains trusted partners, markets and diplomatic goodwill. Long-term institutional links are strengthened through universities, hospitals, start-ups, lines of credit, India-Africa Forum Summit processes and South-South cooperation. The model also counters extractive or debt-heavy approaches by emphasizing human resources and technology sharing. Challenges include connectivity gaps, data protection and financing. Overall, the partnership reflects mutual respect, practical development and durable institutional engagement.

248. [2025 Q10] With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism. Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words)

The post-Cold War phase was marked by open markets, global supply chains, multilateral institutions and liberal internationalism. In recent years, however, globalization has weakened due to financial crises, pandemic disruptions, inequality, migration anxieties, trade wars and geopolitical rivalry. States are reasserting sovereign nationalism through border controls, industrial policy, protectionism, data localisation, strategic autonomy and securitisation of technology. The USA-China rivalry, Brexit, reshoring of supply chains and sanctions politics show this shift. Countries now seek resilience and national control rather than pure efficiency. Yet globalization has not disappeared; digital flows, climate negotiations, finance and migration still bind states together. The world is therefore moving from hyper-globalization to selective globalization, where national interest and sovereignty dominate policy choices. Sovereign nationalism can protect strategic autonomy, but if excessive it may weaken multilateralism, cooperation and global problem-solving.

249. [2025 Q11] In view of the Supreme Court's observation that constitutional morality acts as an essential check upon high functionaries and citizens alike, explain the concept of constitutional morality and its application to ensure balance between judicial independence and judicial accountability in India. (Answer in 250 words)

Constitutional morality means fidelity to the values, procedures and limitations of the Constitution. It requires public functionaries and citizens to respect liberty, equality, dignity, rule of law, fraternity, secularism and institutional restraint. It is not merely obedience to text but commitment to the spirit of constitutional democracy. In the judiciary, constitutional morality is crucial because courts must be independent enough to protect rights and review state action, yet accountable enough to avoid arbitrariness, opacity or misuse of authority. Judicial independence is secured through security of tenure, contempt power, separation from the executive, financial protection and appointment safeguards. Accountability requires reasoned judgments, open courts, disclosure norms, ethical conduct, in-house mechanisms, review and curative jurisdiction, parliamentary removal for proven misbehaviour and public scrutiny consistent with dignity of courts. Constitutional morality helps balance these by rejecting both executive domination of judges and unaccountable judicial supremacy. It asks judges to act with restraint, transparency, impartiality and respect for democratic institutions. Collegium reforms, live-streaming, asset disclosure and clear recusal norms can strengthen trust. Thus constitutional morality is the moral compass that protects independent judging while demanding responsibility, humility and public confidence.

250. [2025 Q12] The Indian Constitution has conferred the amending power on the ordinary legislative institutions with a few procedural hurdles. In view of this statement, examine the procedural and substantive limitations on the amending power of Parliament to change the Constitution. (Answer in 250 words)

Article 368 gives Parliament the power to amend the Constitution, but that power is neither ordinary nor unlimited. Procedurally, some amendments require a special majority of each House: a majority of total membership and two-thirds of members present and voting. Certain federal provisions, such as election of the President, distribution of legislative powers, judiciary, representation of states in Parliament and Article 368 itself, require ratification by at least half of the state legislatures. Money-bill shortcuts cannot be used for

ordinary constitutional amendments, and presidential assent is required. Substantively, the basic structure doctrine is the main limitation. Since *Kesavananda Bharati*, Parliament cannot damage essentials such as supremacy of the Constitution, republican democracy, secularism, federalism, separation of powers, judicial review, rule of law and free elections. Later cases applied the doctrine to strike down amendments that excessively curtailed judicial review or constitutional balance. The amending power allows adaptation, but not destruction of constitutional identity. Thus India follows a middle path: more flexible than rigid constitutions, but protected against majoritarian overhaul. The limitation preserves both democratic change and constitutional continuity.

251. [2025 Q13] Discuss the evolution of the collegium system in India. Critically examine the advantages and disadvantages of the system of appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India and that of the USA. (Answer in 250 words)

India's collegium system evolved through the Judges Cases. The First Judges Case gave primacy to the executive. The Second Judges Case shifted primacy to the Chief Justice of India and senior judges. The Third Judges Case clarified the consultative collegium process. The Fourth Judges Case struck down the NJAC, preserving judicial primacy. Its advantages are protection of judicial independence, insulation from partisan politics and preservation of constitutional review. Its disadvantages are opacity, limited diversity, allegations of favouritism, delayed appointments and weak accountability. In the USA, Supreme Court judges are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. This ensures open hearings, public scrutiny and democratic involvement. It also allows examination of philosophy, record and integrity. However, the process has become highly partisan, ideological and media-driven, risking politicisation of the Court. India's system protects independence but lacks transparency; the US system is transparent but vulnerable to political polarisation. A better Indian model should retain judicial independence while improving criteria, diversity, secretariat support, timelines, reasoned disclosures and meaningful executive input. The goal is neither closed judicial control nor partisan capture, but appointments based on merit, integrity and constitutional values.

252. [2025 Q14] Examine the evolving pattern of Centre-State financial relations in the context of planned development in India. How far have the recent reforms impacted the fiscal federalism in India? (Answer in 250 words)

Centre-State financial relations in India have evolved from centrally planned resource allocation to a more rule-based and competitive federal framework. In the planning era, the Planning Commission and centrally sponsored schemes gave the Union strong influence over state priorities. Finance Commissions handled tax devolution, but plan grants and discretionary transfers were equally important. Liberalisation, coalition politics and decentralisation increased state bargaining power. The replacement of the Planning Commission by NITI Aayog, higher tax devolution recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission and GST marked major changes. GST created a common market but reduced states' independent indirect tax powers, making compensation and Council decisions crucial. Recent reforms such as FRBM limits, borrowing conditions, performance-linked grants, disaster funds, health and local-body grants have reshaped fiscal federalism. They encourage discipline and standardisation, but states complain about cesses and surcharges outside the divisible pool, delayed compensation, conditional schemes and limited fiscal autonomy. The GST Council represents cooperative federalism, though political asymmetry remains. Overall, reforms have improved transparency, common markets and coordination, but a healthier fiscal federalism requires predictable transfers, greater state flexibility, stronger local finances and reduction of off-budget centralisation.

253. [2025 Q15] What are environmental pressure groups? Discuss their role in raising awareness, influencing policies and advocating for environmental protection in India. (Answer in 250 words)

Environmental pressure groups are organized civil society actors that seek to influence public opinion, policy and administrative decisions for ecological protection. They may be NGOs, community movements, research bodies, citizen collectives, tribal groups or legal advocacy networks. In India, such groups have raised awareness on deforestation, river pollution, mining, displacement, air quality, wildlife, climate change and waste. Movements such as Chipko, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Save Silent Valley and local anti-mining campaigns made ecological issues part of democratic debate. They influence policy through petitions, public hearings, research reports, media campaigns, environmental education and litigation. Public interest litigation has led to important judicial interventions on pollution, forests and environmental impact assessment. Pressure groups also help affected communities articulate concerns and demand rehabilitation, consent and transparency. However, their role is contested. Some may lack internal accountability, rely on selective data or be accused of delaying development. State regulation of funding and activities also creates tension. The best approach is not to treat them as obstacles but as democratic correctives. When transparent and evidence-based, environmental pressure groups strengthen sustainable development by ensuring that economic growth accounts for ecological costs, community rights and inter-generational justice.

254. [2025 Q16] Inequality in the ownership pattern of resources is one of the major causes of poverty. Discuss in the context of 'paradox of poverty'. (Answer in 250 words)

The paradox of poverty is that regions or societies rich in resources may still contain large numbers of poor people because ownership, control and benefits are unequally distributed. Poverty is not caused only by scarcity; it is often produced by unequal access to land, water, forests, minerals, credit, education, technology and markets. In India, landlessness among agricultural labourers, insecure tenancy, tribal displacement from mineral-rich areas, gender gaps in property ownership and concentration of assets limit income opportunities. When a few control productive resources, the poor sell labour on unfavourable terms and remain vulnerable to debt, low wages and social exclusion. Resource-rich districts in central and eastern India often show poor human development because mining revenues do not translate into local capabilities. Inequality also reduces political voice, making it harder for the poor to claim services. The paradox is visible when food-producing regions have malnutrition or mineral belts lack schools and hospitals. Solutions require land records reform, women's property rights, community forest rights, access to institutional credit, quality education, health, skill development, fair markets and local benefit-sharing from resource extraction. Thus poverty reduction must address distribution of assets and power, not only income transfers.

255. [2025 Q17] In contemporary development models, decision-making and problem-solving responsibilities are not located close to the source of information and execution defeating the objectives of development. Critically evaluate. (Answer in 250 words)

Development often fails when decisions are centralised far from the people and field institutions that understand local realities. Central schemes may use uniform designs despite differences in ecology, culture, livelihood and administrative capacity. This creates mismatches: schools without teachers, assets without maintenance, welfare lists without genuine beneficiaries or infrastructure unsuited to local needs. Information about problems is located with communities, frontline workers and local governments, but authority and funds often remain at higher levels. This weakens accountability and innovation. Decentralisation through Panchayati Raj, urban local bodies, gram sabhas, district planning committees and community monitoring can bring decision-making closer to execution. Local bodies can identify beneficiaries, monitor works and adapt solutions. However, decentralisation is not automatically effective. Local elite capture, weak capacity, corruption, poor data and inadequate finances can also defeat development. Therefore the answer is subsidiarity with safeguards: decisions should be taken at the lowest competent level, while higher levels provide finance, standards, training, technology and oversight. Contemporary models should combine local knowledge with professional planning and digital transparency. Development succeeds when power, information and responsibility meet at the point of implementation.

256. [2025 Q18] The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has to address the challenges faced by children in the digital era. Examine the existing policies and suggest measures the Commission can initiate to tackle the issue. (Answer in 250 words)

Children in the digital era face cyberbullying, online sexual exploitation, addictive design, misinformation, privacy violations, gaming-related harms, body-image pressures and exposure to harmful content. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights must respond through law, awareness and institutional coordination. Existing frameworks include the POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice Act, IT Act and rules, school safety guidelines, cybercrime reporting portals, data-protection principles and child helplines. However, enforcement is fragmented and parents, teachers and police often lack digital literacy. The Commission can issue model child online safety guidelines for schools, hostels and platforms; recommend age-appropriate design; push for quick takedown of child sexual abuse material; and coordinate with cyber police, CERT-In, education departments and social-media intermediaries. It can promote digital literacy modules for children, parents and teachers in local languages. Periodic audits of ed-tech platforms, gaming apps and data practices are needed. The NCPCR should also strengthen counselling and rehabilitation for victims, support child-friendly reporting mechanisms and encourage research on screen use and mental health. Protection should not deny children access to beneficial technology. The aim must be safe, inclusive and rights-based digital participation.

257. [2025 Q19] Energy security constitutes the dominant kingpin of India's foreign policy, and is linked with India's overarching influence in Middle Eastern countries. How would you integrate energy security with India's foreign policy trajectories in the coming years? (Answer in 250 words)

Energy security has long shaped India's engagement with the Middle East because the region supplies a major share of India's crude oil, gas and remittances, and hosts a large Indian diaspora. In coming years, India must integrate energy security with a broader foreign-policy strategy. First, it should diversify suppliers across the Gulf, Africa, Russia, the Americas and domestic production while maintaining stable ties with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Iran and Iraq. Second, long-term LNG contracts, strategic petroleum reserves and rupee or local-currency settlement options can reduce vulnerability. Third, India should deepen investments in refining, petrochemicals, shipping, ports and storage with Middle Eastern partners. Fourth, the relationship must move from hydrocarbons to green hydrogen, solar, critical minerals and grid connectivity. Initiatives such as IMEC, I2U2 and India-UAE cooperation can link energy, logistics and technology. Fifth, maritime security in the Arabian Sea, Red Sea and Persian Gulf must protect sea lanes. Sixth, diaspora welfare and balanced diplomacy amid regional rivalries are essential. India's approach should be multi-aligned, commercially pragmatic and future-oriented. Energy security should become part of a wider West Asia policy combining supply stability, clean-energy transition, investment and strategic trust.

258. [2025 Q20] The reform process in the United Nations remains unresolved, because of the delicate imbalance of East and West and entanglement of the USA vs Russo-Chinese alliance. Examine and critically evaluate the East-West policy confrontations in this regard. (Answer in 250 words)

UN reform remains stalled because the institution reflects the power structure of 1945 while the world has become multipolar. The sharpest deadlock lies in Security Council reform. Western powers support reform in principle but hesitate to dilute influence; Russia and China resist arrangements that may strengthen US-aligned states; and regional rivals oppose each other's claims. The USA versus Russo-Chinese confrontation has deepened after conflicts over Ukraine, sanctions, Taiwan, cyber governance, human rights and development finance. East-West divisions also affect peacekeeping mandates, humanitarian interventions, climate finance, trade rules and technology governance. Veto politics often paralyses collective action, making the UN appear ineffective during major crises. Yet the picture is not simply East versus West. The Global South demands representation, development justice and respect for sovereignty. India, Brazil, Germany, Japan and African states seek expansion of permanent and non-permanent seats. Critics fear that

expansion without veto reform may only enlarge symbolism. A practical path may include wider permanent membership, longer elected terms, voluntary veto restraint in mass atrocity situations and stronger General Assembly roles. UN reform is unresolved because power holders benefit from the status quo, but legitimacy requires that global governance reflect today's demography, economy and geopolitical realities.