



**VISIONIAS**  
INSPIRING INNOVATION  
**ABHYAAS MAINS**

**सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)/GENERAL STUDIES (Paper-II) (4511)**

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे  
Time Allowed: **Three Hours**

अधिकतम अंक: 250  
Maximum Marks: 250

**सामान्य अनुदेश**

इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका में 55+1 पृष्ठ हैं। प्रश्न-पत्र, क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका के अंत में संलग्न है, जो अलग (वियोज्य) किया जा सकता है और उम्मीदवार परीक्षा के उपरांत अपने साथ ले जा सकते हैं।

रफ कार्य के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंत में खाली पृष्ठ दिया गया है।

पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर, कृपया यह जांच कर लें कि इस क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका में कोई कमी न हो, फटा हुआ पृष्ठ न हो अथवा कोई पृष्ठ गायब न हो इत्यादि। यदि ऐसा हो, तो इसके बदले नई क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका प्राप्त कर लें।

**General Instructions**

This Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 55+1 pages. Question Paper in detachable form is available at the end of the QCA Booklet which can be taken away by the candidate after examination.

For rough work, blank page has been provided at the end of this Booklet.

On receipt of the Booklet, please check that this QCA Booklet does not have any shortcomings, torn or missing pages etc. If, so, get it replaced with a fresh QCA Booklet.

(उम्मीदवार द्वारा भरा जाएगा/To be filled by the Candidate)

पंजीकरण सं./Registration No. : 01217831

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : BHAVIKA CHOPRA

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी  
Medium: Hindi/English


ENGLISH

तारीख  
Date

26/07/2025

**सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)  
GENERAL STUDIES (Paper II)**

केंद्र  
Centre 007  
CHANDIGARH

  
निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर  
Invigilator's Signature

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>महत्वपूर्ण अनुदेश</b></p> <p>उम्मीदवारों को नीचे उल्लिखित निर्देश सावधानी से पढ़ लेने चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर उम्मीदवारों को मिलने वाले अंकों में कटौती, उम्मीदवारी रद्द या आयोग के परवर्ती परीक्षाओं के लिए वर्जित करने इत्यादि के रूप में दण्डित किया जा सकता है।</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Important Instructions</b></p> <p><b>Candidates should read the undermentioned instructions carefully. Violation of any of the following instructions may entail penalty in the form of deduction of marks, cancellation of candidature, debarment from further Examination of the Commission etc.</b></p>
1	<p>(क) अपना पंजीकरण सं. एवं अन्य विवरण केवल प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) में उम्मीदवार के लिए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें।</p> <p>(ख) इस पुस्तिका में अन्यत्र कहीं भी अपना नाम, पंजीकरण सं., मोबाइल नं., पता अथवा प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) संख्या न लिखें जिससे आपकी पहचान का खुलासा हो।</p>	<p>(a) Write your Registration Number and other details only in the space provided in the Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet for candidates.</p> <p>(b) Do not disclose your identity in any manner such as, by writing your Name, Registration number, Mobile number, Address, Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet No. etc. elsewhere in the Booklet</p>
2	<p>अपनी प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तर के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें जैसे कि कोई कविता/दोहा, अभद्र या अपमानजनक अभिव्यक्ति इत्यादि और न ही कोई ऐसा चिन्ह/निशान बनाएं जिसका उत्तर से सम्बन्ध न हो।</p>	<p>Do not write in the QCA Booklet anything other than the actual answer such as couplet, obscene, abusive expression etc., nor put any sign/mark having no relevance to the answer.</p>
3	<p>परीक्षक को प्रत्यक्ष/अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कोई भी प्रार्थना/धमकी भरी बातें न लिखें।</p>	<p>Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.</p>
4	<p>उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गंदी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।</p>	<p>Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.</p>
5	<p>उत्तर स्याही में ही लिखें। उत्तर लिखने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग न करें, हालांकि आरेख, चित्र इत्यादि बनाने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।</p>	<p>Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.</p>
6	<p>प्रवेश पत्र में उल्लेख किए गए माध्यम के अलावा अन्य किसी माध्यम में उत्तर न लिखें। अधिकृत और अनधिकृत की मिली जुली भाषा का भी उपयोग न करें।</p>	<p>Do not write answers in medium other than the authorized medium in the Admission Certificate. Do not use mixed language either i.e. authorize and unauthorized media together for writing answers.</p>
7	<p>प्रश्नों के उत्तर ठीक उसके नीचे दिए गए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें। निर्धारित स्थान के अलावा किसी अन्य स्थान पर लिखे गए उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जाएगा।</p>	<p>Write answer at the specific space (right below the question) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified places in the booklet shall not be evaluated.</p>
8	<p>यदि आप अपने किसी उत्तर को रद्द करना चाहते हैं तो उसे पेन से काट दें तथा उस पर "रद्द" लिख दें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है।</p>	<p>If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it and write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.</p>

कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use	कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use
परीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर Signature of Examiner(s)	

**प्राप्तांक के विवरण (परीक्षक द्वारा भरा जाए)/ Marks Details (To be filled by the Examiner(s))**

प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks		प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks	
1			11		
2			12		
3			13		
4			14		
5			15		
6			16		
7			17		
8			18		
9			19		
10			20		
उप-योग (A) Subtotal (A)			उप-योग (B) Subtotal (B)		
<b>सकल योग (A+B) / GRAND TOTAL (A+B)</b>					



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निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे  
Time Allowed: **Three Hours**

अधिकतम अंक: 250  
Maximum Marks: **250**

**प्रश्न-पत्र संबंधी विशेष अनुदेश**

कृपया प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें:

कुल बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं जो हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।

सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए नियत अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुख-पृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

प्रश्न संख्या 1 से 10 तक का उत्तर 150 शब्दों में तथा प्रश्न संख्या 11 से 20 तक का उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए।

प्रश्नों में इंगित शब्द सीमा को ध्यान में रखिए।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए कोई पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिए।

**QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS**

*Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions.*

*There are TWENTY questions printed both in HINDI and in ENGLISH.*

*All questions are compulsory.*

*The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.*

*Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.*

*Answers to Questions No. 1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to Questions No. 11 to 20 should be in 250 words.*

*Keep the word limit indicated in the questions in mind.*

*Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Questions-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.*

## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

**All the Best**

1.

अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम विश्वविद्यालय के अल्पसंख्यक दर्जे पर उच्चतम न्यायालय का हालिया निर्णय भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 30 की व्याख्या को कैसे प्रभावित करता है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

How does the Supreme Court's recent decision on Aligarh Muslim University's minority status affect the interpretation of Article 30 of the Indian Constitution? (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्गिण में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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The recent judgement restores AMU's minority status and provides a broad interpretation to cultural rights.

Article 30] → Right to establish and administer educational institutions for minorities

- ① Despite government aid, a minority institution
- ② Can set own curriculum
- ③ upholds principle of secularism.
- ④ Ensures autonomy to minority educational institutions.
- ⑤ Sets precedent for other universities run for and by minorities.

Hence, this broad understanding  
draws upon socio-cultural rights  
of minorities - setting the stage for  
sui generis Indian secularism →  
equidistance from all religions.

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस कक्ष में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
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write on  
this margin

VisionIAS

2.

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने अपने हालिया निर्णय में राज्य विधान-मंडल के विधेयकों पर राज्यपाल की स्वीकृति के लिए एक समय-सीमा निर्धारित की है। इस निर्णय के भारत में सहकारी संघवाद और विधायी जवाबदेही के लिए क्या निहितार्थ हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The Supreme Court, in a recent verdict, prescribed a time period for the Governor's assent to state legislative bills. What are the implications of this judgment for cooperative federalism and legislative accountability in India? (Answer in 150 words)

10

Under Article 200, the Governor could exercise the following options earlier:

1. withhold assent
2. give assent
3. refuse assent
4. with-hold for President

The Supreme Court judgment has brought about changes: (not to High Court powers)

1. Assent in 2 months or deemed passed;
2. Refuse assent - if resent without changes then deemed passed;
3. Presidential assent limit - one month.
4. Writ of mandamus applies to President and Governor

Implications for cooperative federalism:

1. Creation of legislative supremacy in a way - of state over Governor.
2. Constitutional question of President's office under writ jurisdiction.

3. Lack of discretion to Governor - seen as an agent of Union.

4. Time limit to President - an apolitical office.

5. Creates fiction between State Assemblies and Union government.

Implications for legislative accountability:

1. Fast-tracking legislative processes.

2. Increase in legislative productivity.

3. may lead to better governance outcomes.

4. may lead to hasty decisions.

5. may subvert union authority over state governments.

6. However, upholds legislative mandate:

Electoral → Legislature → Executive  
mandate

Triple chain of accountability.

Thus, with the Presidential Referral under A.143, the dust is yet to settle on this issue.

3. सहकारी क्षेत्रक में केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच के गतिरोध को कम करने के उद्देश्य से किए गए सहकारी संस्थाओं से संबंधित हालिया परिवर्तनों और पहलों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
- Discuss the recent changes and initiatives related to cooperatives that aim to smoothen the tussle between the Centre and States in the cooperative sector. (Answer in 150 words)

उम्मीदवारों को इस खण्ड में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Cooperatives such as AMUL have set the stage for development via joint

efforts.

Tussle between Centre and states and recent initiatives

- ① 93rd Amendment
- ② Ministry of Cooperation
- ③ Multi State Societies Cooperatives Act

Smoothening of Changes:

1. Increased coordination - via Ministry of Cooperation.
2. State Cooperatives under State Law.
3. Synergy in dealing with Multi State Cooperatives

4. Constitutional right for cooperatives formation under Article 19

5. Discussions and market reach via revamping Inter State Council.

Thus, this tussle is resolved yet more remains - for other unexploited opportunities in the millet, pulses and farming sectors.

4.

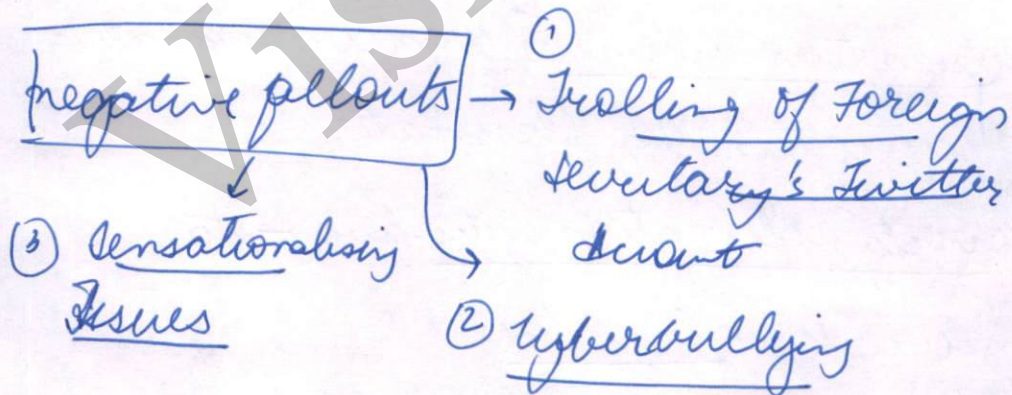
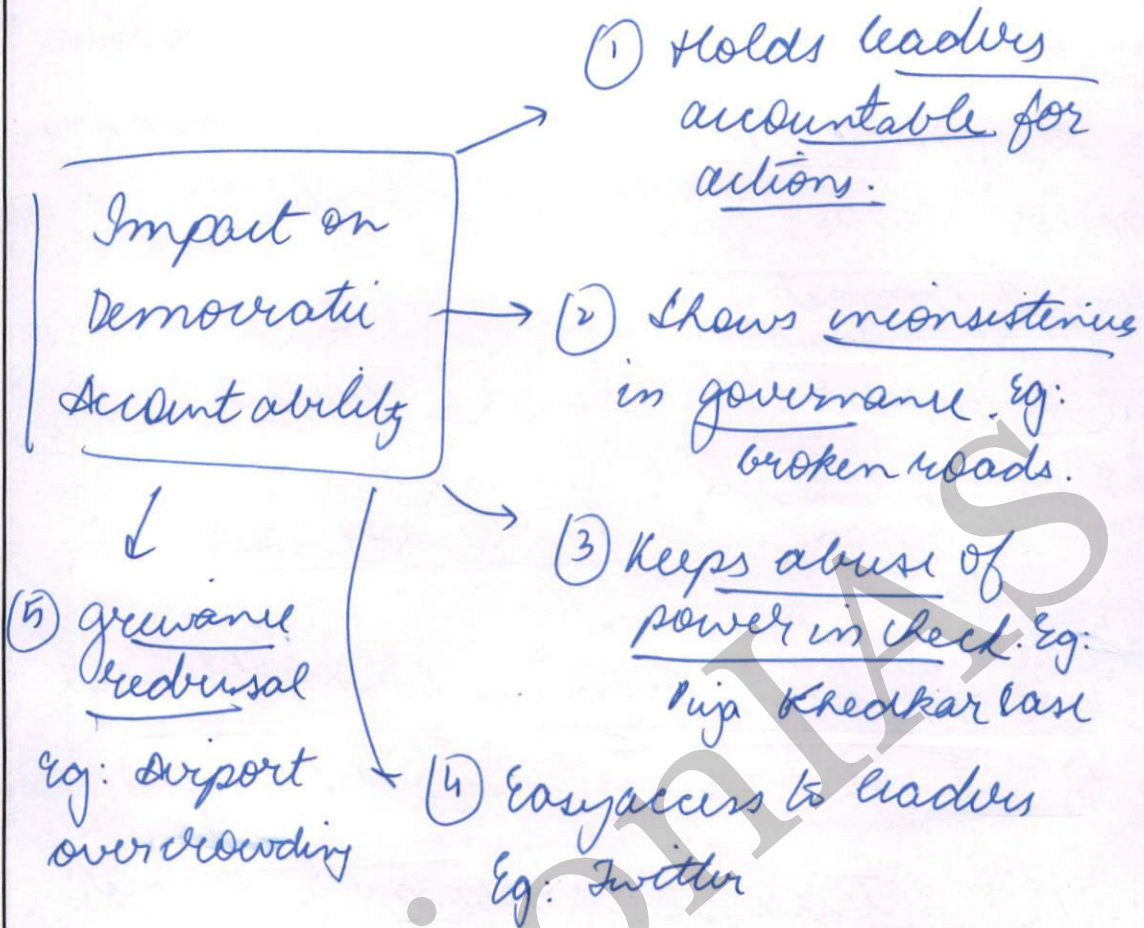
हाल के वर्षों में, नागरिक समाज द्वारा सोशल मीडिया और डिजिटल लामबंदी का उपयोग दबाव की राजनीति के एक सशक्त माध्यम के रूप में उभरा है। नीति-निर्माण और लोकतांत्रिक जवाबदेही पर इसके प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

In recent years, use of social media and digital mobilisation by civil society has emerged as a powerful form of pressure politics. Examine its impact on policymaking and democratic accountability. (Answer in 150 words)

10

social media has emerged as a powerful tool of horizontal mobilisation in recent times.

- Impact on policy making
- ① women's safety legislation eg: #MeToo
  - ② women's parliament legislation
  - ③ LGBT & movement and transgender law
  - ④ Foreign policy framing eg. for diaspora in middle East.



Thus, a delicate balance exists in the digital sphere, it must be used judiciously.

5. भारत में विकास संबंधी चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व किस प्रकार एक व्यवसाय-प्रेरित समाधान के रूप में उभर रहा है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

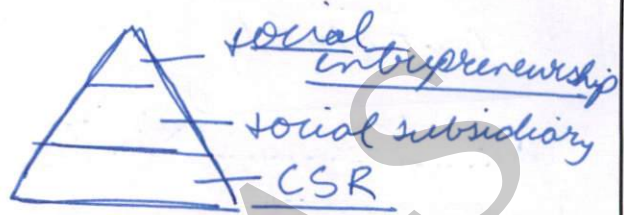
How is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) emerging as a business-led solution for addressing development challenges in India? (Answer in 150 words)

10

CSR is mandated by law, where companies must spend ~2% of their profits on social projects.

CSR model

3 tier CSR ] →



Developmental Challenges being addressed by CSR as a business led model:

1. Agro-entrepreneurs working for farmer well-being.
2. Education activities to address quality of education. Eg: Classmate.
3. Poverty alleviation initiatives - to ensure social justice.
4. Funding women-led small businesses  
Eg: Naveli Project
5. Climate change solutions - via R&D by technology giants. Eg: Microsoft

6. mapping out accessibility - Eg:  
development of Garbhini AI for  
maternal health.

7. use of drones for remote areas -  
research and development for  
medicine, disaster relief.

8. Health initiatives - supporting farm to  
food initiatives.

9. Research into sustainable development

Eg: road construction, plastics  
recycling etc.

Thus, the CSR model leverages:

- 1 → technical know how
- 2 → business capital
- 3 → skilled HR
- 4 → advanced technology.

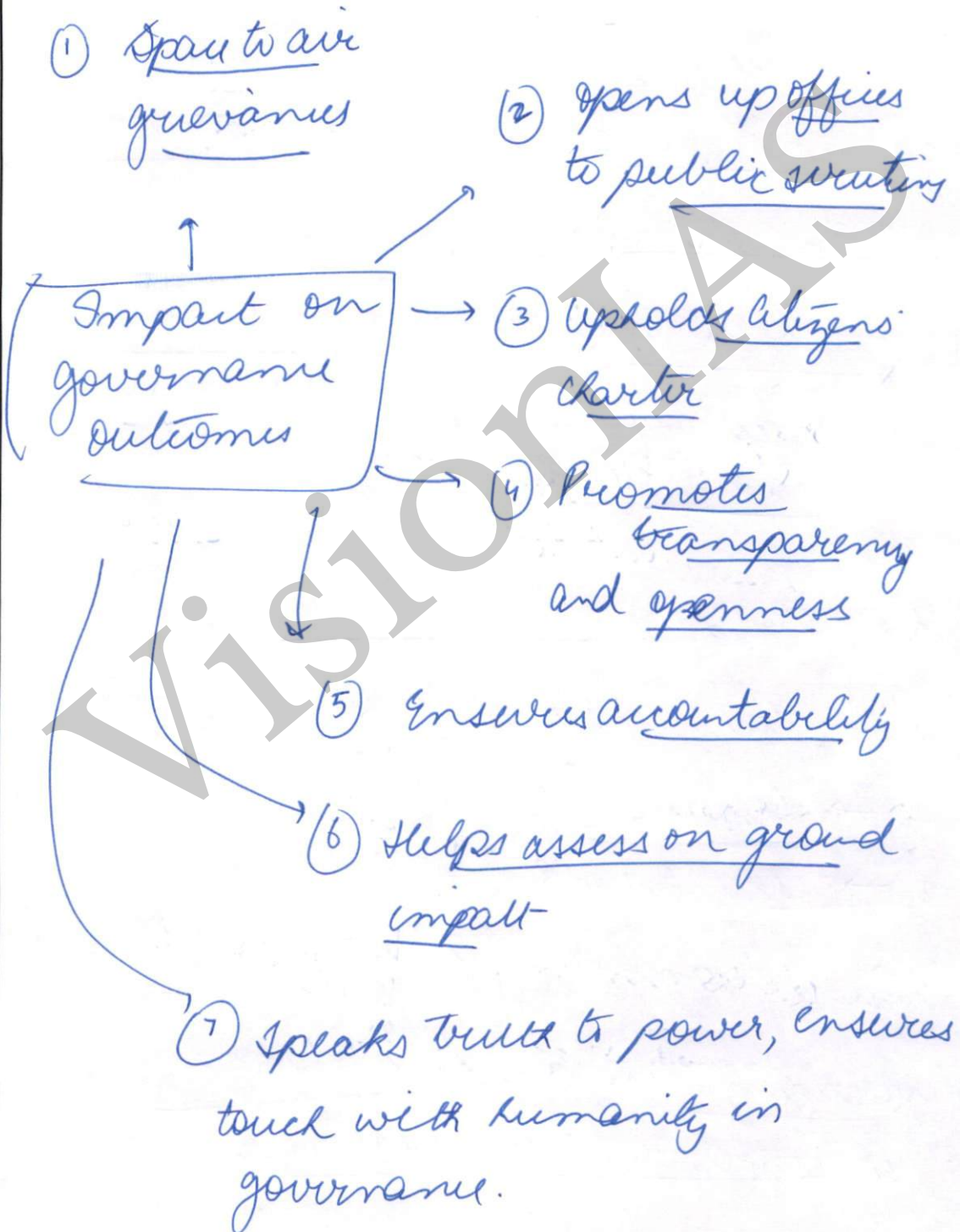
Leveraging this can help make a  
vibrant and inclusive Bharat by 2047.

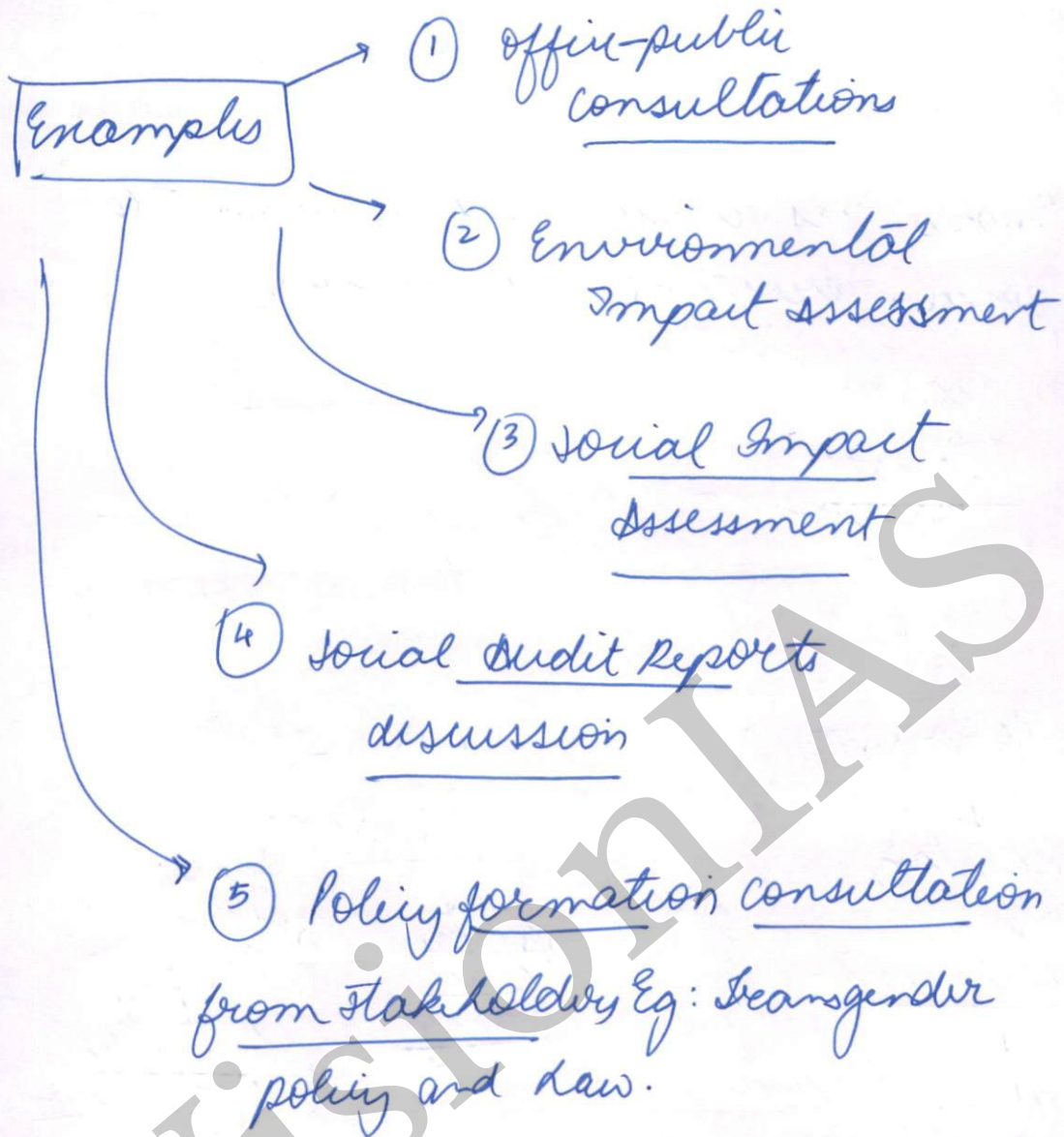
6. चर्चा कीजिए कि भारत में जन परामर्श और जन सुनवाई जैसे तंत्र गवर्नेंस के परिणामों को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
- Discuss how mechanisms like public consultations and Jan Sunwais in India impact governance outcomes. (Answer in 150 words)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्डिग में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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10

Public consultations are the ground-level form of participative democracy.





Democracy  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Participative} \\ \text{Accountable} \end{array} \right\}$  Public Consultation

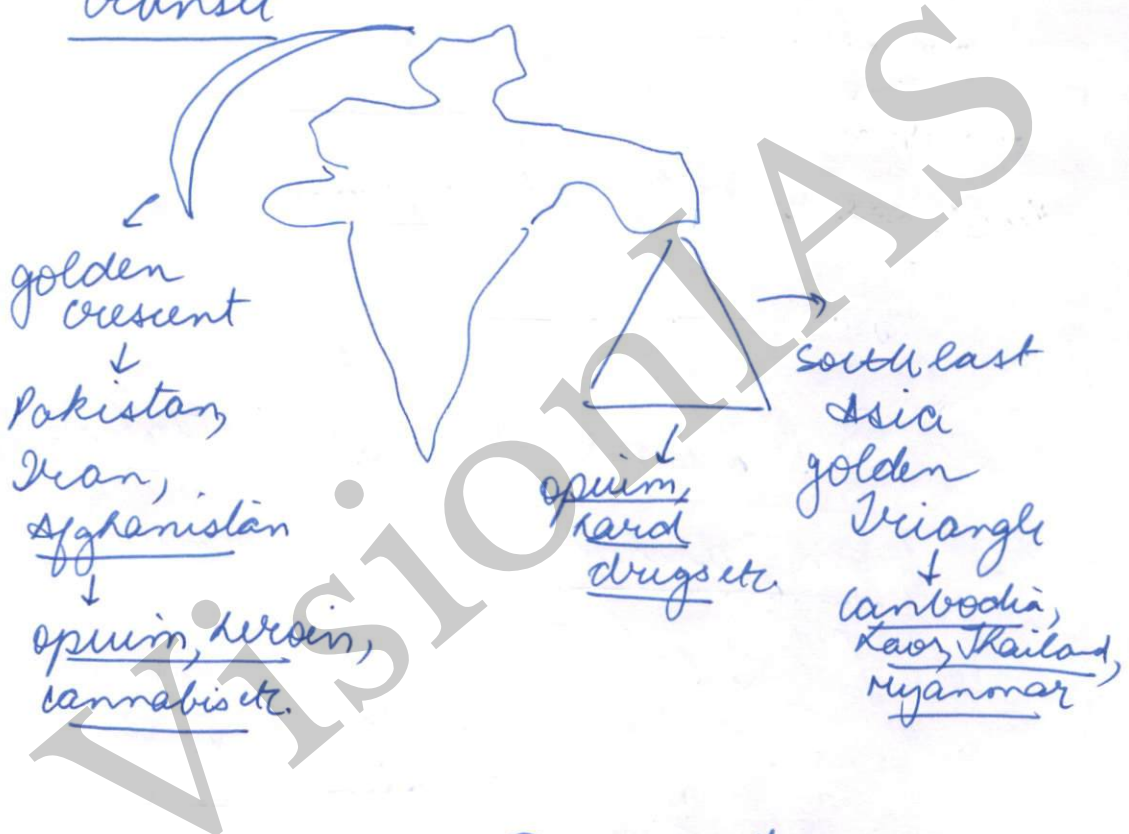
Ensures government is by the people, of the people and for the people.

7. भारत में मादक द्रव्यों के दुरुपयोग की समस्या से निपटने में राष्ट्रीय मादक द्रव्य मांग न्यूनीकरण कार्य योजना और नशा मुक्त भारत अभियान कितने प्रभावी रहे हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)  
 How effective have the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) and Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan been in addressing substance abuse in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारों को इस इच्छित में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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India lies sandwiched between the golden crescent and golden triangle, making it a hotspot for drug

transit



Nasha Mukta  
 Abhiyan and  
 NAPDDR

- ① Individual focus on behavioural change
- ② curbing drug trafficking
- ③ Provision of rehabilitation

## Successes in abuse addressing :

उम्मीदवारों को इस कक्ष में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

1. creation of rehabilitation centres.
2. De-stigmatising drug use - not an individual moral failing
3. De-romanticising small drug dosage carrying
4. Push for community efforts.
5. Counselling approach.
6. Provision of needles to prevent HIV-AIDS spread.

Thus, the way ahead lies in

- ① sewing border infrastructure
- ② providing development opportunities
- ③ community led approach to integrate individuals.

Thus, a drug free India can come from behavioural and supply chain changes.

8. भारत की बुनियादी शिक्षा प्रणाली में रटकर सीखने की प्रवृत्ति और रचनात्मकता की उपेक्षा, इसे आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस द्वारा संचालित हो रहे बाज़ारों के लिए पर्याप्त रूप से तैयार नहीं करती हैं। क्या आप इस मत से सहमत हैं? अपने तर्क से उत्तर की पुष्टि कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Rote learning and neglect of creativity in foundational education setup in India make it less ready for marketplaces that are now driven by Artificial Intelligence. Do you agree with this view? Substantiate your argument. (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारों को इस छवि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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As per ILO reports, AI threatens 23% of the jobs worldwide.

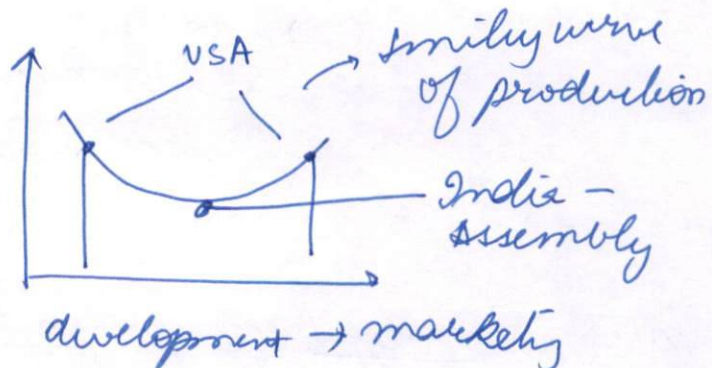
need for creativity in foundational learning } ① Skills needed for Industrial Revolution  
H.O

② need for out of the box thinking

③ AI to take away routine tasks of white collar workers.

④ Global value chain demands creativity

↑  
value of product



Thus, the way ahead should focus on:

1. vocational training for labour
2. Divergent thinking
3. Internships
4. PPP for on the job training
5. Upgrading Industrial Training Institutes

Thus, reaping a demographic dividend goes hand in hand with integration with global value chains.

9.

G7 के पश्चिमी रणनीतिक एकता के प्रतीक से आंतरिक विरोधाभासों से भरे मंच के रूप में रूपांतरण का विश्लेषण कीजिए। भारत द्वारा अपने रणनीतिक हितों की पूर्ति हेतु इस बदलते परिदृश्य को किस प्रकार उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Analyze the transformation of the G7 from a symbol of Western strategic unity to a forum marked by internal contradictions. How should India navigate this changing dynamic to advance its strategic interests? (Answer in 150 words)

10

For three years in a row, India has been a special guest invited to the G-7 summit.

- G-7 facts
- ① 7 most industrialised nations
  - ② Russia ousted (G7+1)
  - ③ contributes ~42% of global GDP
  - ④ Has close to 20% of global population

G-7 as a forum marked by internal contradictions:

1. Disagreement on Israel-Palestine issue. (France recognised state of Palestine, USA supports Israel)
2. US-UK fissures, UK withdrawal from EU.
3. Rise of right-wing sentiment in Italy and Germany → anti-refugee.
4. Bitterness of France towards UK and US after AUKUS and botched submarine deal.

## India navigating changing dynamics for strategic interests :

1. use role as that of a 'middle-power'  
(between global south and global north)
2. maintain strategic autonomy, deal individually - eg: India France, India US
3. Push forth global south agenda - for more inclusive institutions.
4. Initiate trade deals - eg: UK-India FTA, BITA ; push for EUFTA.
5. maintain neutral stance as veshwaguru.  
eg: Peace talks proliferated
6. Fill leadership vacuum.
7. Ensure integration. eg: Development of IMEC
8. Ensure continuity in diplomacy - even during ongoing polycrisis.

Thus, India as a 'south-western' power, should push for a rules based order and peace.

10.

विकासशील देशों के विकास में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। इसके दृष्टिकोण से जुड़ी प्रमुख आलोचनाएं क्या हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the development of developing countries. What are the key criticisms associated with its approach? (Answer in 150 words) 10

The IMF was established as a Bretton Woods Twin institution in 1945.

Role of IMF in development of developing countries:

1. membership pre-condition for World Bank loans.
2. helps maintain fiscal prudence. Eg: India's financial Bolevisis 1991.
3. Aids in governmental finance structure.  
Eg: Tax structure, market structure etc.
4. Provision of Quotas for borrowing and Special Drawing rights for emergencies.
5. Provision of Reserve arrangement for temporary mismatches.
6. Aids structuring of the economy. Eg: Pakistan's agricultural sector.

Thus, the IMF plays a pro-active role but is also seen as a tool of the US-

led western order.

Eg: IMF policies to benefit western market interests.

Criticisms faced:

1. Rigid approach - Joseph Stiglitz criticises for straitjacket approach - one size fits all.
2. Economic reforms not beneficial to all countries. Eg: Sri Lankan crisis
3. non-inclusive nature - has led to Chinese AIIB as competition.
4. 'skewing' of global south - eg: African countries - leading to political instability and coups.
5. voting skewed in favour of USA → hegemonic institution. (Quota based)
6. Far removed from ground realities Eg: agricultural poor in India.
7. Use of IMF as diplomatic tool. Eg: loan to Pakistan amid terror attacks - hypocrisy

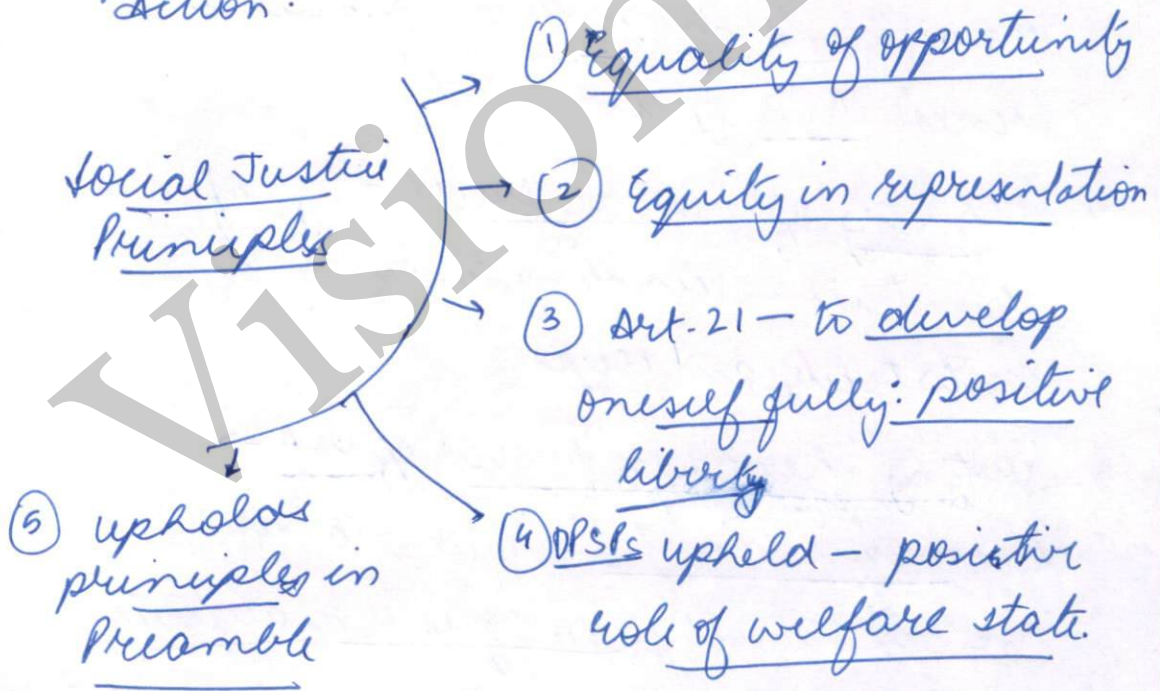
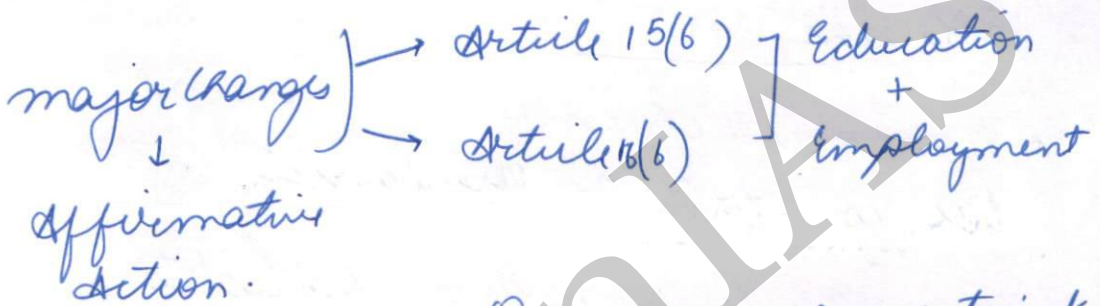
Thus, the IMF must be reformed for a rule based order to give voice to the global south - populous and rising.

11. 103वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम, 2019 ने भारत में सकारात्मक कार्यवाई के सिद्धांत को एक नया आयाम दिया है। सामाजिक न्याय के व्यापक लक्ष्य के लिए इसके निहितार्थों का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)
- The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019 has introduced a new dimension to the principle of affirmative action in India. Critically examine its implications for the broader goal of social justice. (Answer in 250 words)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिंग में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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15

The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act envisaged reservations for economically weaker sections in public institutions for Education and in public employment.



Implications for broader goals of social justice

1. Ensures income limit of ₹ 8 laka per

annum.

2. Includes people with asset ownership.
3. Provides opportunities to poor but unreserved categories
4. Breaks the cycle of poverty.
5. Moves beyond caste and tribal identity.

Issues with EWS Reservation:

1. ₹ 8 lakh per annum cap a very low threshold
2. Use of forged documents for availing benefits
3. no cap on parents/siblings/family income.
4. Difficult to establish asset ownership.
5. misuse by undeserving candidates.

However, given the need for poverty alleviation, the following can

done to improve upon it:

1. Proper background verification.
2. Family asset ownership verification
3. Social audit of certificates issued.
4. Transparency and disclosure of names / families.

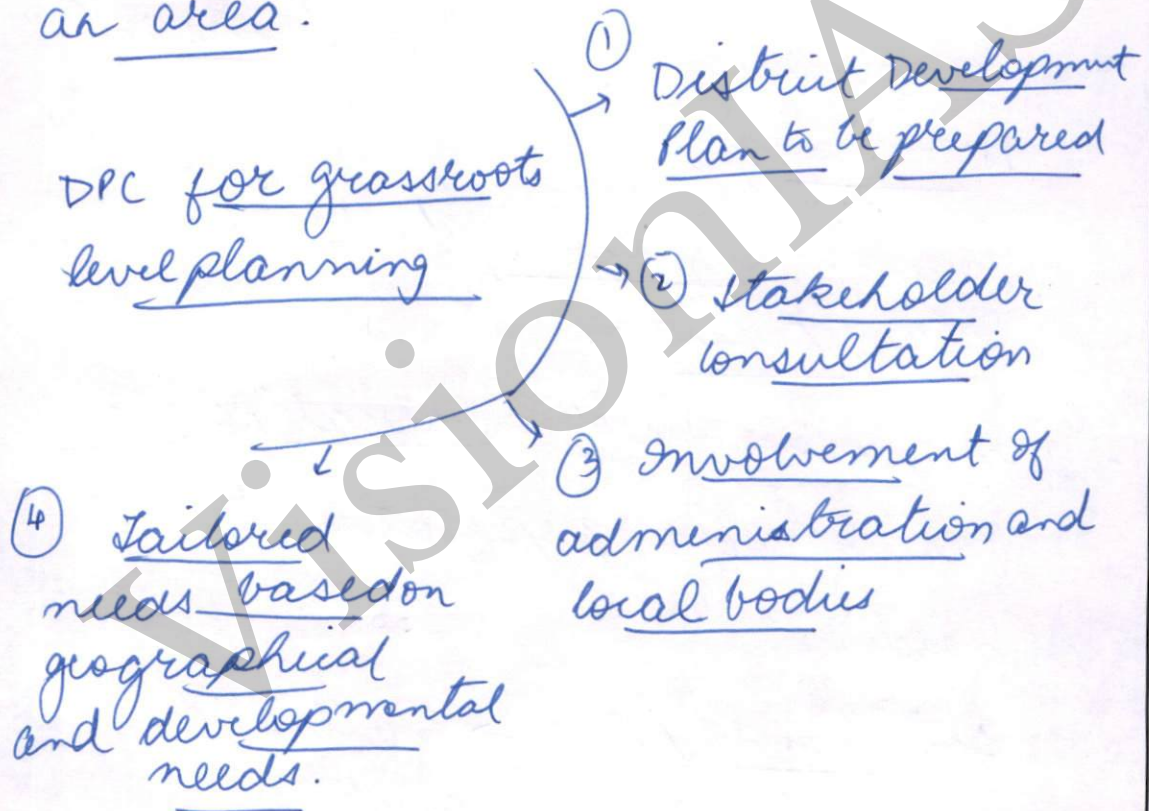
Thus, the initiative addresses inter-sectional inequality; upholding constitutional principles.

12.

जिला योजना समिति की परिकल्पना जमीनी स्तर पर नियोजन को सशक्त बनाने के एक प्रमुख साधन के रूप में की गई थी। यह इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में कितनी सफल रही है? जिला योजना समितियों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा उन्हें अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The District Planning Committee (DPC) was envisioned as a key instrument to strengthen grassroots-level planning. How far has it succeeded in achieving this goal? Discuss the challenges faced by DPCs and suggest measures to make them more effective. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The District Planning Committee came about as a mechanism to ensure tailored solutions met developmental needs of an area.



Assessment of DPCs in addressing needs:

Positive Impacts

1. Involvement of local bodies - makes body representative.

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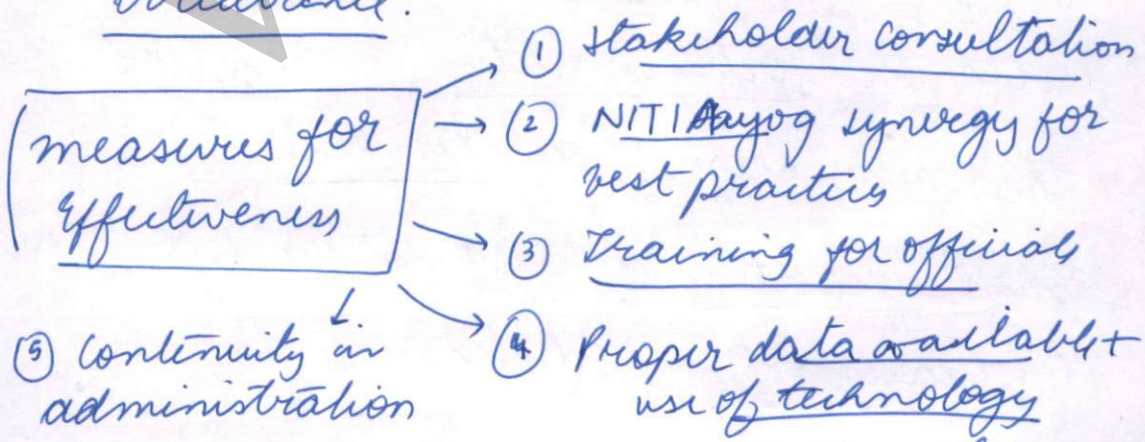
2. makes development planning democratic.
3. Followed bottom-up approach, opposed to top-down approach.
4. synergetic relation between administration (ongosang) and political executive.
5. Coordination with Think Tanks and NITI Aayog.
6. Focus on physical and social infrastructure.
7. mapping out of vulnerable sections (tribal, women populations to meet needs)
8. Activity mapping → to allow for principle of subsidiarity.

However, it faces the following challenges in working:

1. Discontinuity in administration.
2. Patronising elected heads of local

bodies by appointed executive.

3. Lack of proper training to officials.
4. Often overlooks stakeholder consultation
5. Delays in planning → leads to implementation lag.
6. Improper data to work with → issues in policy formulation and impact assessment.
7. Political pressures to further certain vested interests. eg: mining etc.
8. Complex governance challenges. eg: Rapid industrialisation.
9. Fast paced demographic change - policy irrelevance.



Thus DPCs can cause synergy and accelerate development at the grassroots level.

13.

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 293 के तहत राज्यों की उधार लेने की शक्तियों पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंध, यद्यपि संवैधानिक रूप से वैध हैं, लेकिन ये राज्यों की राजकोषीय स्वायत्तता को बाधित कर सकते हैं और सहकारी संघवाद को क्षति पहुंचा सकते हैं। हालिया घटनाक्रमों के आलोक में विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The restrictions imposed under Article 293 of the Constitution on State borrowing powers, though constitutionally valid, may hinder fiscal autonomy of States and disrupt cooperative federalism. Discuss in the light of recent developments. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The recent dispute under Article 131 where Kerala has filed against the union government for restricting borrowing under Article 293 speaks to the state's limited fiscal autonomy.

[Article 293] → States can only borrow from market if the Union government allows → if they do not owe debt to Union government, then no permission needed.

Limited fiscal autonomy of states:

1. more prevalent in southern states: with low fertility rates (average of 1.9) thus have huge fiscal burdens.
2. most grants tied to conditions. eg: Centrally sponsored schemes
3. Erosion of state discretion - development needs unique across states.

4. Limited pool of resources - less and surcharge and customs not part of divisible pool.

5. A-293 limits market borrowing.

6. GST → limited SGST discretion and eventual phasing out of compensation.

### Disruption of Cooperative Federalism

1. SR Bommai Judgement → States are not organs of Union government, independent units.
2. Lack of input from states for disbursement of funds.
3. Violative of principle of subsidiarity → development needs not democratised via decisional autonomy.

Thus, this limited fiscal autonomy leads to tangible fissures in the federal set up of the country.

① Share cess and surcharges beyond 10% cap. (Swind Paragariya and

② Tie funds to sectors, not schemes.

Way ahead for fiscal autonomy

↑ (Rangarajan)

③ Provide liquidity to meet day to day expenses.

④ Enforce FRBM -

⑤ Auditing of government dole-outs and freebies - impact based.

only borrowing for capital expenditure, not for revenue.   
↓  
from market.

Thus, cooperative federalism envisages devolution of funds, functions and functionaries. (changing the way states) — earn — borrow

can aid fiscal autonomy and cooperative federalism.

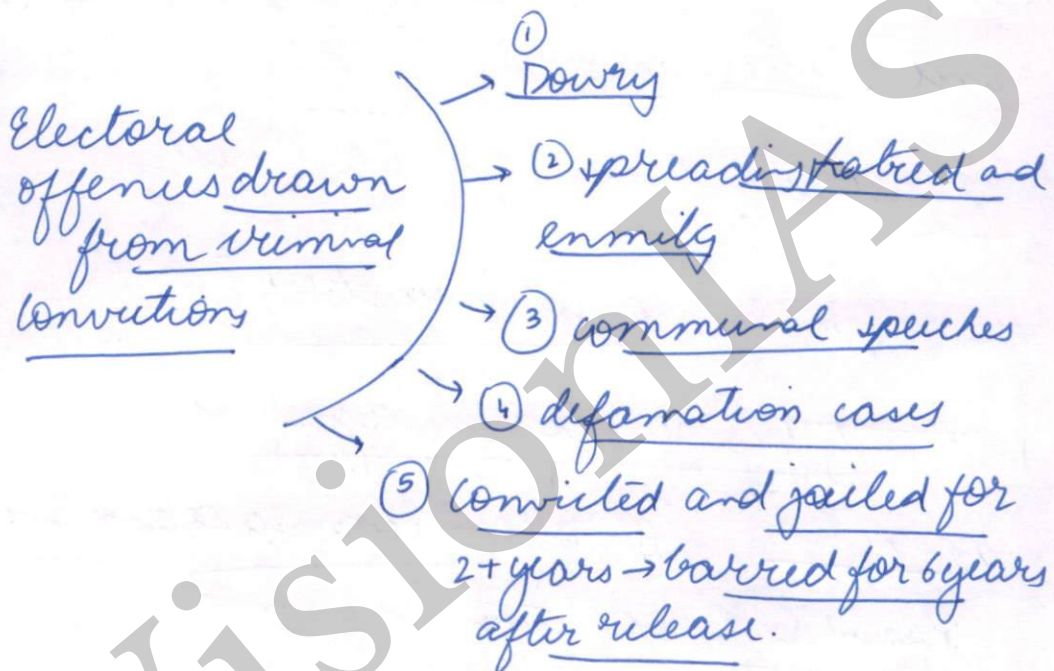
14.

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम के तहत चुनाव लड़ने के अधिकार और चुनावी नैतिकता बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता के बीच के तनाव का परीक्षण कीजिए। क्या दोषसिद्ध अपराधियों पर आजीवन प्रतिबंध लगाया जाना चाहिए? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Examine the tension between the right to contest elections and the need to uphold electoral ethics under the Representation of the People Act. Should there be a lifetime ban on convicted criminals? (Answer in 250 words)

15

Under the RoPA, 1951, certain electoral offences disqualify a candidate from assemblies or the parliament.



Tension between right to contest elections with electoral ethics; need for latter:

1. Law making in legislatures — temples of democracy — discussion, deliberation, debate
2. Criminal antecedents may speak of low moral character of legislator.

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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3. Large scale criminalisation of politics →  
33% MPs with criminal charges in 17<sup>th</sup>  
lok sabha

4. Erosion of moral fabric of elections and democratic polity.

5. leads to strong-man politics - money and muscle power.

6. leads to erosion of public trust.

However, a flip side exists:

1. Use of frivolous charges against opposition. eg: defamation case against leader of opposition

2. Suppression of dissent in houses.

3. Arbitrary use of power to prevent electoral participation

4. Troubled relation with political targetting - from colonial times to emergency era - political prisoners a legacy issue.

Thus, a lifetime ban on convicted criminals can be enforced for heinous crimes. Eg: Rape, sexual violence, atrocities against SC/STs, terror charges etc.

### Case against lifetime ban

1. Political weaponisation, VAPA misuse.
2. may lead to chilling effect. Eg: Stan Swamy case, Umar Khalid

Thus, existing provisions must be used judiciously:

1. Declaration of criminal antecedents.
2. Enforcing like Thomas judgement regarding section 8(4)
3. Use of powers by Election Commission.
4. Trusting the judgement of voters.

Thus, the electorate must be accorded the right to 'know' for free and fair elections, and for a criminal free political space.

15.

2015 में शुरू की गई बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ योजना घटते बाल लिंगानुपात को सुधारने और बालिकाओं को सशक्त बनाने में किस हद तक सफल रही है? जमीनी स्तर पर इसकी प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के लिए उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

To what extent has the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, launched in 2015, succeeded in addressing the declining child sex ratio and empowering the girl child? Suggest measures to enhance its impact at the grassroots level. (Answer in 250 words) 15

उम्मीदवारों को इस ह्रासिक में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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Recent headlines stated that a majority of the expenditure in the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme went to marketing, but favourable outcomes can be seen in the 'Country of missing women', where sex ratio is now 1020/1000.

Successes of Beti Bachao → ① Increase in sex ratio at primary level

② Economic incentives to parents induced behavioural change

④ Reduction in unsafe abortions and pre-delivery screening

③ Challenge to son meta-preference (eg: North Western Green Revolution Belt)

However, certain challenges exist in its 'full success':

1. High dropout rate for girls post 8<sup>th</sup> standard — education costs rise

2. Inadequate focus on vocational training - low financial progression and independence
3. women burdened with gender-norms. Eg: care work, child rearing
4. labour market opportunity cost is high. Eg: post 8+ grade - another set of earning hands.
5. low labour force participation post graduation.
6. women confined to 'public places - private places' dichotomy.
7. Education of girls still seen as a burden.
8. Burden of sanitation seen as a hindrance to education. Eg: improper facilities for menstruating girls
9. Issue of child safety for transportation.
10. Issues regarding co-ed schools.
11. Lack of quality education in several areas.

Thus, the measures to address this  
are as follows:



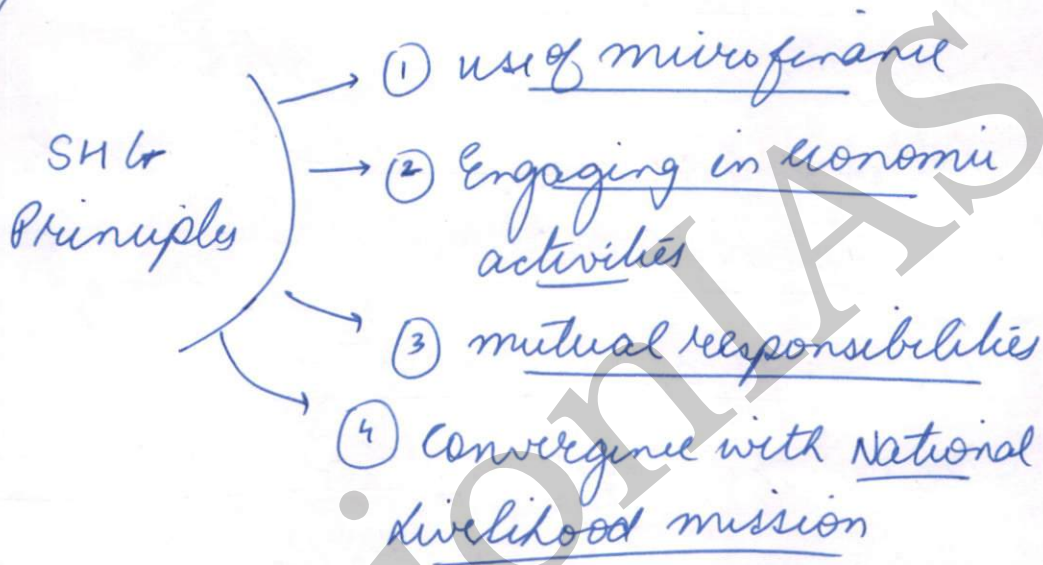
Thus, tangible results will lead to both -  
Education for — Intrinsic value (learning)  
— Goal based value (earning)

This [learning + earning] approach can aid grassroots impact of the scheme

स्वयं-सहायता समूह ग्रामीण भारत में सामाजिक-आर्थिक कायाकल्प के चालक के रूप में उभर रहे हैं। उनकी पहुंच और प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने में सरकार की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are emerging as vehicles of socio-economic transformation in rural India. Examine the role of government in scaling their reach and effectiveness. (Answer in 250 words)

Self Help Groups work with the cooperation of their members, on social capital drawn from local networks.



eg: ① Kudumbashree in Kerala  
② Dijjal Papad SHG for profits.

SHGs as vehicles of socio-economic transformation in rural India:

1. Financial independence. Eg: 144 lakh SHGs operational
2. women's participation in formal sector → gives economic agency.

3. linkages - backward and forward with larger economy. Eg: food processing sector
4. upliftment of rural poor out of poverty → 66 crore households.
5. gives sense of dignity to humans - own work.
6. Challenging gender norms - women as breadwinners.
7. Role in tribal upliftment → use of traditional knowledge Eg: looms of Ladakh
8. Role in changing waste-based occupations.  
Eg: mudra loans to women, SC entrepreneurs.

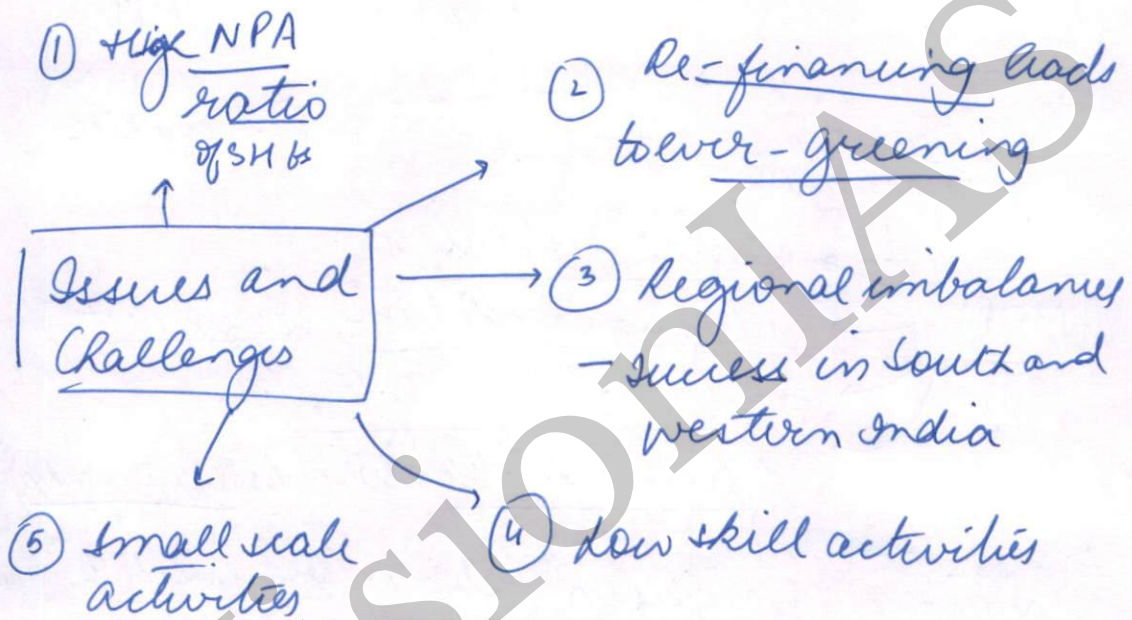
### Government Initiatives scaling back

1. Connecting with Regional Rural Banks.
2. Linking National Livelihood Mission to Cooperative Banks.
3. Push to cooperative societies - 93<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment.

4. Push to Panchayati Raj Institutions — playing role in fund disbursement.

5. Mudra Loans — for microfinance.

6. Establishment of SIDBI and NABARD for rural activities.



Thus, the way ahead lies in enhancing capacity, increasing scale of operations and ensuring full participation of members via training.

17.

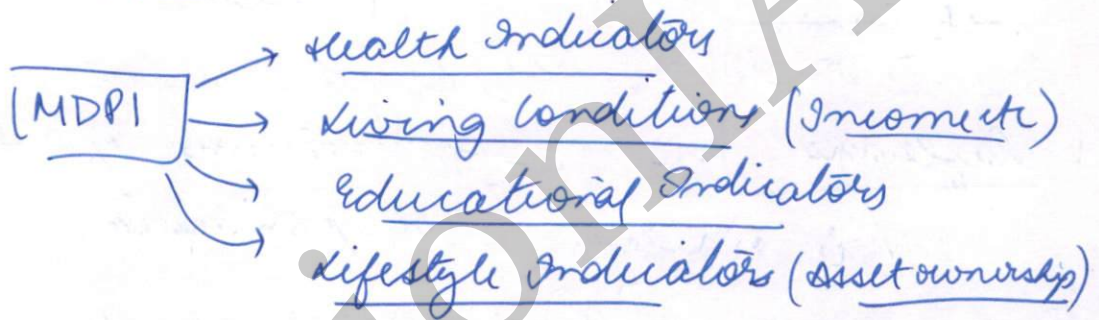
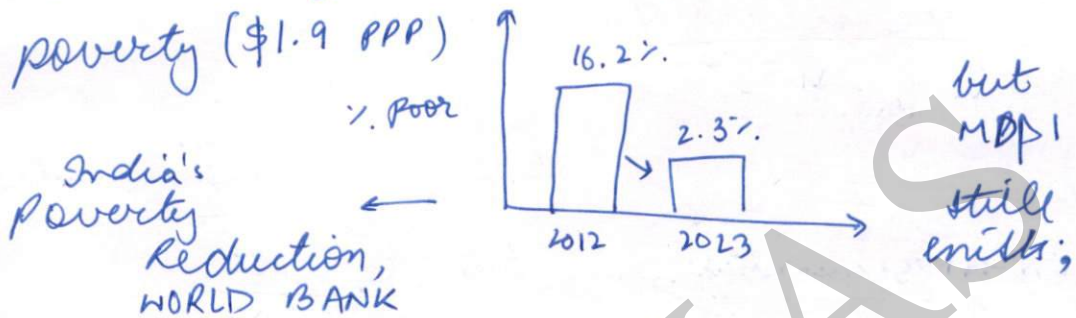
आर्थिक संवृद्धि के बावजूद, भारत में बहुआयामी निर्धनता बनी हुई है। इसके अंतर्निहित कारणों का विश्लेषण कीजिए और उन्हें दूर करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Despite economic growth, multidimensional poverty continues to persist in India. Analyse the underlying causes and discuss the measures taken by the government to address them. (Answer in 250 words)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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15

India is said to have drastically reduced the number of people living in extreme poverty (\$1.9 PPP)



However 17 people in India is believed to be multidimensionally poor.

Underlying causes of Multi dimensional Poverty:

- Rural-urban divide - MPCIE of rural areas ₹200, urban areas ₹7000.  
(NCEES, 2023)
- Gender disparity - 53% women out of labour force.

3. Asset inequality - feminisation of agriculture labour, but only 17% women own land they till.

4. Education attainment lower for SC and ST populations.

5. Cycle of poverty  
low skill → low paying job  
low education → low skill  
given by Banerji and Duflo

6. Informal rise of precarious class - low skill, small time, low paying jobs.

7. Low social security - insurance cover very limited for health and life - missing for middle class.

8. High OOPE for health - ~42% still private expenses.

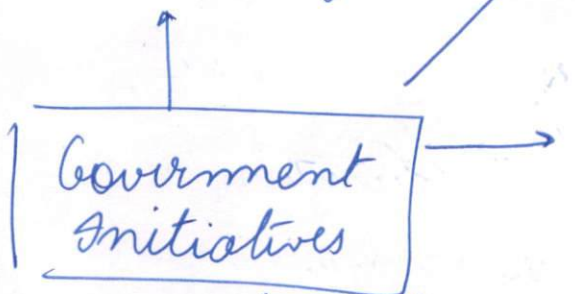
9. Higher cost of living due to globalisation planet. → inflationary pressures.

10. Climate and environmental poverty - lack of clean air and water.

11. Time poverty - due to increased corporate culture of overworking

1. Food: TOPS scheme, PM-KISAN Yojana, PM-AASHA etc. PM-Anna Yojana

2. Education: - mid Day meal, scholarships, for higher education, internships etc. - women in STEM etc.



3. Skilling: PM-KVY, Industrial Training Institutes etc.

4. PPP for internships and skills

6. Tribal, PNTs: PM-JAN MAN, Tri food scheme etc.

5. Microfinance schemes: Eg: MUDRA Yojana for women, SHGs, PAY-NRLM

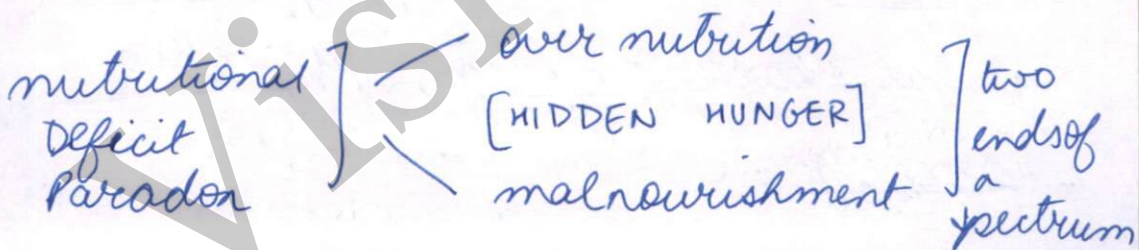
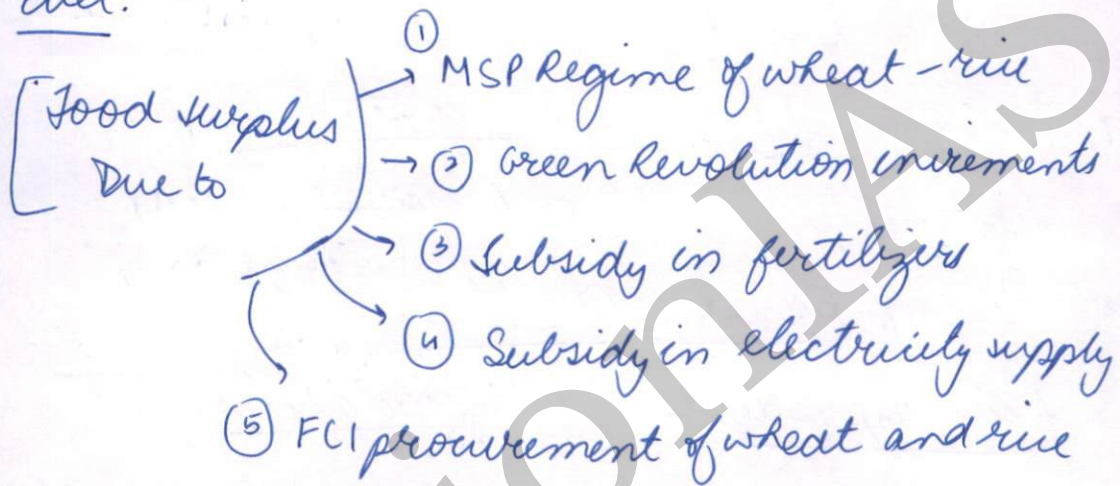
Thus, a viksit Bharat rests on the shoulders of the youth, the women, the farmers and the upliftment of the poor.

भारत खाद्य अधिशेष और पोषण की कमी संबंधी विरोधाभास का सामना कर रहा है। इस विरोधाभास के पीछे निहित संरचनात्मक कारणों का विश्लेषण कीजिए और सुधार हेतु रणनीतियों का सुझाव दीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

India faces a paradox of food surplus and nutritional deficit. Analyse the structural reasons behind this paradox and suggest reform strategies. (Answer in 250 words) 15

उम्मीदवारों को इस छवि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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As FCI godowns overflow with rotting stocks of wheat, about 10% of India's population remains unable to afford a nutritious diet.

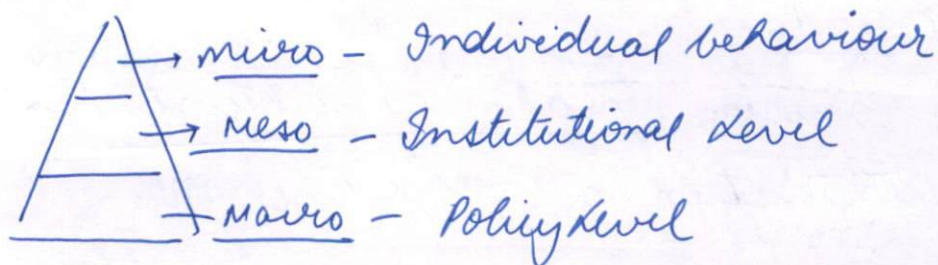


Structural reasons behind this paradox:

1. Focus on wheat-rice cultivation → no reduction in acreage since 1970s
2. Incentives for not growing other crops eg: pulses, millets etc.

3. nutritional basket skewed. Eg: low focus on proteins, fats, micronutrients
4. no diversity in mid-day meal → low focus on nutritional density. (fruits etc)
5. Focus on carb and calorie sufficiency.
6. Low fortification of food - only milk, rice and salt.
7. Lack of cold chain infrastructure → horticulture not part of diet.
8. Rising prices of poultry, milk and fisheries products. (unaffordability)
9. Low focus on mission mode campaigns  
Eg: Eat Right Campaign, fit India Campaign.

These reforms must operate at three levels:



### Micro level approach

1. Individual awareness - via government campaigns, marathons etc.
2. Behavioural change - via low sugar consumption (India is diabetes capital)

### Meso level changes

1. Increase procurement in FCI - of millet, pulses, oilseeds to incentivise
2. Devise curriculum in schools for healthy diet.
3. Mid day meal revamped for nutrition based meals. eg: (anaemia based, for women - IRON)

### Macro level changes

1. Diversify food basket - encourage farm to table agropreneurs.
2. Research into BM crops.
3. Re-look at MSP policy for millets etc.
4. make milk, eggs, fruits etc more affordable - manage inflationary pressures.

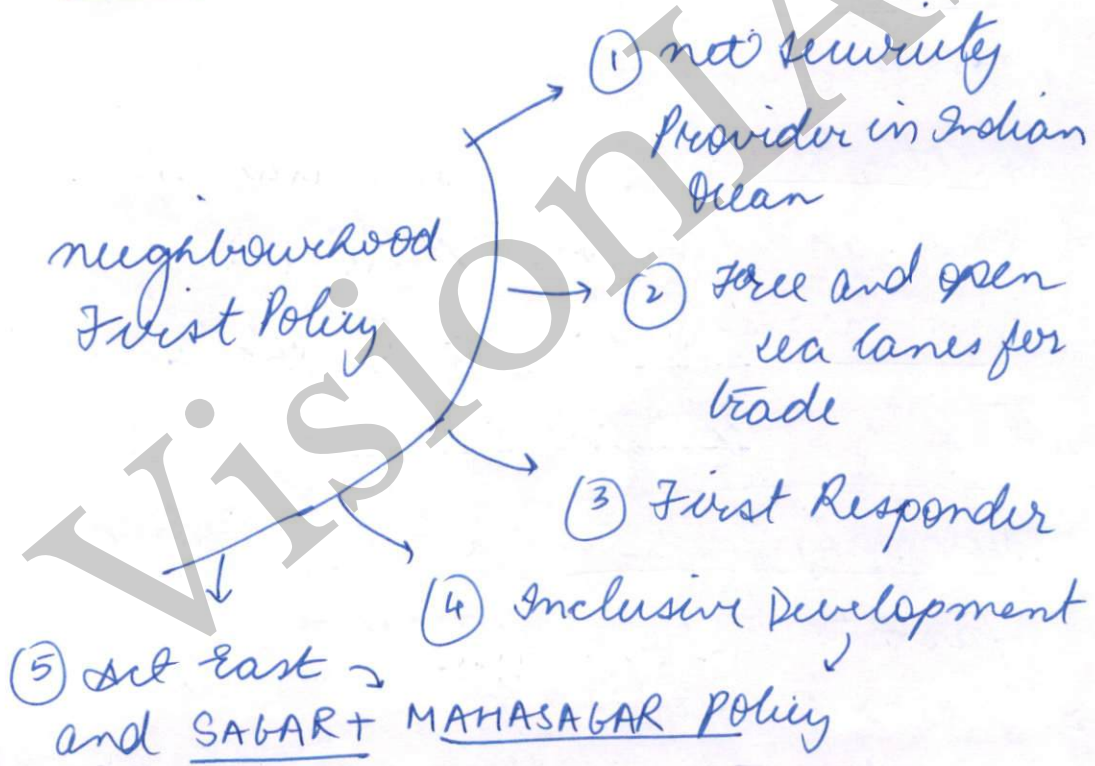
Thus holistic structural reforms can address nutritional deficiency.

19.

श्रीलंका और मालदीव में आर्थिक संकटों के दौरान भारत द्वारा समय पर की गई कार्रवाई उसकी "नेबरहुड फर्स्ट" की नीति की सक्रियता को दर्शाती है। परीक्षण कीजिए कि भारतीय सहायता ने इन देशों के साथ द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को कैसे प्रभावित किया है। हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में सतत आर्थिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आगे क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

India's timely response during the economic crises in Sri Lanka and the Maldives reflects its "Neighbourhood First" policy in action. Examine how Indian aid has impacted bilateral ties with these nations. What steps can further be taken to promote sustainable economic cooperation in the Indian Ocean region? (Answer in 250 words) 15

India's neighbourhood First Policy is in alignment with its larger policy focus on it being the voice of the global south.



Timely responses in Sri Lanka and maldives crisis:

1. line of credit to Sri Lanka during economic crisis in 2022.

2. line of credit to maldives for development.
3. Fresh water crisis and aid to maldives
4. maldives army cooperation and ocean bridge building.

Impact of aid on bilateral ties between Sri Lanka - India and maldives - India.


1. move to no strings attached development.  
Eg: unlike BRI - Hambantota port.
2. Big brother attitude - opposition in maldives. eg: Election of pro-china miyazgi and India out campaign
3. India as a trusted friend
4. India as a first responder in crisis.
5. India's push for inclusive development.

However, certain challenges do persist:

1. 'Dealing in pairs' with China in the min.
2. Lack of maritime dominance of Indian Navy.

3. China's string of pearls strategy.
4. China's debt-trap diplomacy.

steps to be taken for sustainable economic cooperation in IOR - on basis of MAHASABAR policy:

1. Expand domain of influence beyond immediate neighbourhood 
2. Joint exercises for naval security  
Eg: MALABAR exercise
3. 90% ~~of~~ India's trade via Indian Ocean - push for open lanes of seas.
4. Uphold rules based order - in South China Sea etc (via diplomatic pressure)
5. Focus on BIMSTEC for regional integration.  
Eg: Koladan MMT project.
6. Push for trade with ASEAN - FTA to be exploited.
7. Keep forums open - Eg: IORA, information sharing etc.

Thus, India's path to be a vishtwagum start with influence over the Indian Ocean - he who controls the oceans, controls the world.

महाद्वीपीय संपर्क (कनेक्टिविटी) और मध्य एशिया तक पहुंच के संदर्भ में भारत के लिए अफगानिस्तान के भू-रणनीतिक महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। 2021 के बाद बदले राजनीतिक परिदृश्य ने भारत की कनेक्टिविटी और ऊर्जा गलियारे की महत्वाकांक्षाओं को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the geostrategic significance of Afghanistan for India in the context of continental connectivity and access to Central Asia. How has the altered political landscape post-2021 affected India's connectivity and energy corridor ambitions? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Since the Taliban takeover of 2020,  
Afghanistan's importance has increased  
for India.

① Central to bypassing Pakistan  
for Central Asia

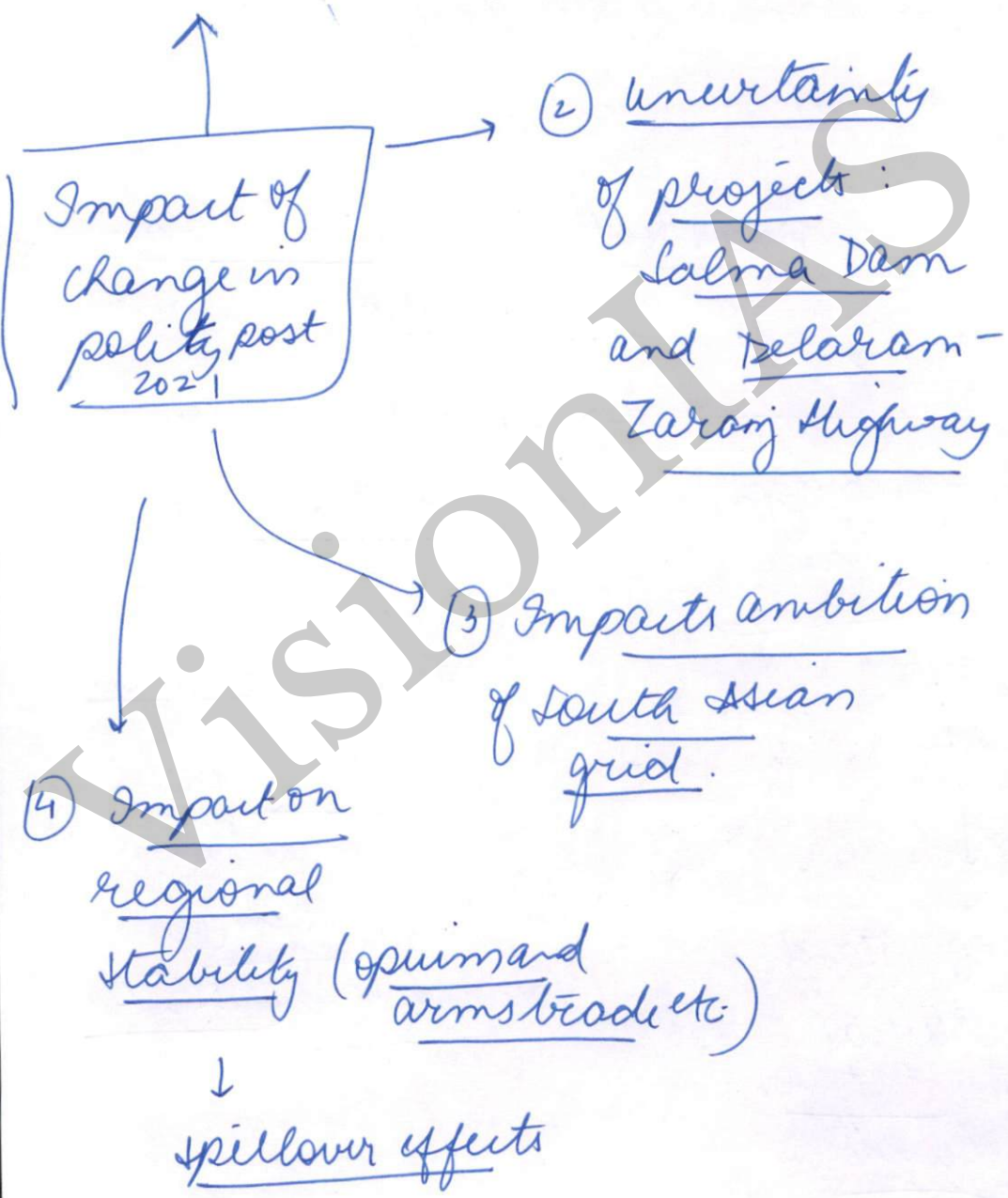
Geo-strategic  
significance

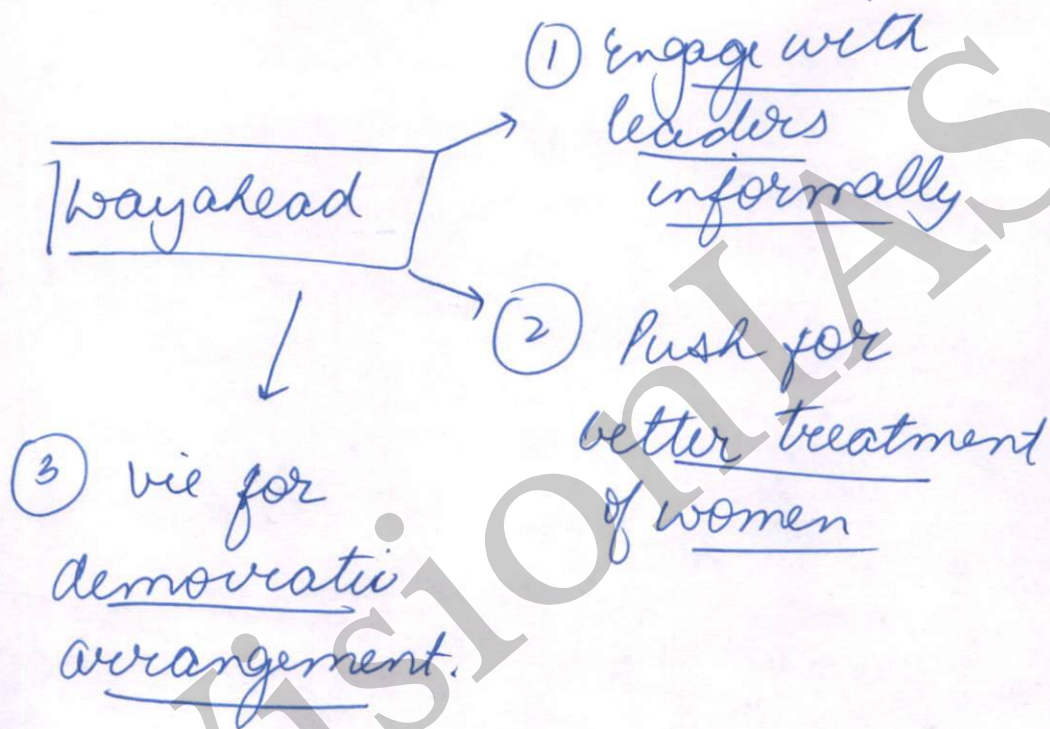
② Integral for  
strategic autonomy  
↓  
access to central  
Asian resources  
↓  
Gasfields etc

④ Long standing  
cultural  
ties between  
countries

③ Part of Energy  
Corridor and INSTC

① change in government → instability,  
source of terrorism in Afghanistan





Thus, as voice of Global south, India must be a friend to the Afghan people.

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