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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2714)

Name of Candidate	VARUN TOKAS		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	46100045
Center	ONLINE	Date	7 Aug 2025

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS	
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in HINDI & ENGLISH. इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।</p> <p>3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।</p> <p>5. 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 medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।</p>	
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Total Marks Obtained:			Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?	
Remarks:			Recommended	
			Strongly Recommended	

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

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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.

Q1.

प्रत्यायोजित विधान, विधायिका की सीमाओं के प्रति एक व्यावहारिक अनुक्रिया है, किंतु यह भारत में शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के लिए चुनौतियां भी उत्पन्न करता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

Delegated legislation is a pragmatic response to the limitations of the legislature but poses challenges to the separation of powers in India. Examine. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Delegated legislation has seen a rise in parliament - where key features are discussed but details are left to the executive to draft.

It helps deal with limitations of parliament

- ① Parliamentarians do not have adequate expertise in drafting laws
→ This helps shift burden to secretariat with time & resources
- ② Helps laws reflect spirit of executive and governance minutiae are dealt with adequately
- ③ Increases efficiency of Parliament by debating less on framing of laws and move on discussing new laws
- ④ Parliament can scrutinize the legislation

through the Committee on Delegated Legislation

However this poses challenge to separation of powers

- ① Scrutinization is rare in practice
→ 100/2000 actually scrutinized from 2000-2010 in Parliament
- ② Sidelines legislative powers of Parliament
→ Unclear wording of drafts leads to increased litigation (Malimath Committee)
- ③ Reduce debate & discourses on law & legislation
→ Lack of scrutiny prevents opposition to make cases and debate
- ④ The committee is understaffed and lacks resources to review a large amount of delegated legislation

Parliamentary legislative power requires resources to allow detailed scrutiny of all legislative

Q2. भारत की संघीय संरचना संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की संघीय संरचना से किस प्रकार भिन्न है?

How does the federal structure of India differ from that of the United States?

(Answer in 150 words)

10

As the oldest written Constitution, the federation defined in USA is significantly more in favour of state autonomy than Indian polity.

<u>USA</u>	<u>India</u>
① Residuary power to states	① Residuary power to centre
② Amendments to Constitution must require assent of $\frac{3}{4}^{\text{th}}$ of states	② Only special amendments need assent from a simple majority of states.
③ Senate has equal representation for all states	③ Rajya Sabha seats are proportional to population (4 th schedule)

④ Dual hierarchy of courts for state and centre

⑤ No provision for emergency

⑥ Governor is elected by people of state

⑦ State and Central citizenship

⑧ States have own constitution

⑨ Senate has qualified veto to overrule President

④ Single hierarchy of courts

⑤ National Emergency or President's Rule can remove executive and dissolve legislature

⑥ Governor is appointed by President

⑦ Only one citizenship notion

⑧ States do not have a separate constitution

⑨ Rajya Sabha has no corresponding power.

Hence Indian federalism is more centralizing than 'The American' federation.

Q3.

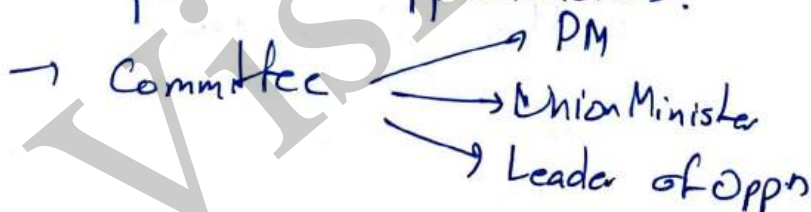
मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त और अन्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त अधिनियम, 2023 ने निर्वाचन आयोग की स्वायत्तता में कमी के संबंध में चिंताएँ उत्पन्न की हैं। समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 has sparked concerns about the erosion of the Election Commission's autonomy. Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The Act has provided for amendments in terms of service and appointment of members of the ECI which have sparked concerns.

It can erode the Election Commission's autonomy

① Election Commissioners are vulnerable to politicized appointments.



2/3 of these belong to ruling party
resulting in issues

② Members of ECI can serve in the govt after their tenure
resulting in conflicts of interest

③ Other issues exist such as discontinuation of ECCTV footage release → suspicions of misconduct & EVM manipulation

However there are also positives

- ① Members shall possess security of tenure which maintains their independence.
- ② The ECI member's salaries cannot be varied to their disadvantage
- ③ ECI can regulate its own procedure and work on its own conflict resolution mechanisms

Hence the need is to ensure autonomy and non-alignment of Election Commissioners to protect democratic nature of Indian Polity.

Q4.

ई-कोर्ट परियोजना के मुख्य उद्देश्यों पर चर्चा कीजिए। ये भारत में न्याय तक पहुँच बढ़ाने और न्यायिक दक्षता में सुधार करने में किस प्रकार योगदान देते हैं?

Discuss the key objectives of the e-Courts Project. How does it contribute to enhancing access to justice and improving judicial efficiency in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Indian Judiciary has over 4 Cr cases pending with judgements lashing multiple years and prone to delays.

e-Courts aim to resolve this

① Tele-courts ~~help~~ to increase efficiency of judicial proceedings

② Programs like ICAP help centralize access to judicial documents and increase speedy justice

③ e-Hearings help to quickly dispose of routine hearings while avoiding court delays.

④ Promotion of online legal aid to prisons & undertrials.

⑤ Increase availability of justice to

vulnerable groups like elders, SC/STs
by NALSA free legal aid

It can enhance access to justice
and improve efficiency

- ① e-Hearings can reduce physical delays in proceedings
- ② LCAP can reduce delay in examining evidence and case details
- ③ Legal awareness can promote public knowledge about judicial measures available to them
- ④ Free legal aid upholds principles of Art 39A and promotes social justice

The Hussainara Khatoon Case's Right to Speedy trial is ~~is~~ ^{show} ~~is~~ ^{showing} promising signs of fulfillment by e-courts.

Q5.

स्वयं सहायता समूहों को सशक्त बनाने तथा उनके बाजार के साथ जुड़ाव और ऋण तक पहुंच को बढ़ाने में सहायक डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्मों की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the role of digital platforms in empowering SHGs and enhancing their market linkage and credit access. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Digital platforms are fundamental in empowering civil society through SHGs to promote economic and social empowerment.

Role in empowering SHGs

- ① Increase popular participation in SHGs by expanding outreach.
eg) e-Shakti initiative
- ② Improve access to knowledge and skilling through digital platforms like SWAYAM and MOOCs
- ③ Facilitating public outreach such as SEWAs digital skilling of women
- ④ Increases productivity and efficiency

Enhancing market and credit access

① Market Linkage

- Access to supply monitoring through Case of Logistics under e-Gati-Shakti
- Institutions like e-NAM empower marketability and sale of produce of crop for FPOs
- GeM allows single platform access for sellers & buyers

② Credit access

- Access to formal credit through PSL norms
- Reception of DBT via PM-JAY reducing leakage
- Promoting investment and security of funds Microfinance

Digital empowerment allows SHGs to serve as a vehicle of socio-economic transformation.

Q6.

भारत की उच्चतर शिक्षा को वैश्विक मानकों तक पहुंचाने में उत्कृष्ट संस्थान (IoE) योजना की क्षमताओं का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Analyze the potential of the Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme in elevating India's higher education to global standards. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The Institutions of Eminence scheme helps provide credit and financial assistance to world-leading Indian institutions.

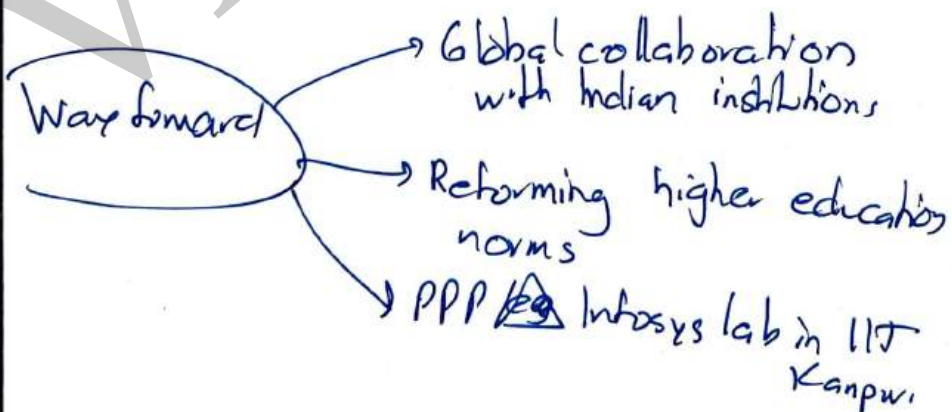
It has potential to uplift Indian higher education

- ① Ensures efficient utilization of funds in well-performing institutions like IITs and IISc.
- ② Augments deficient R&D spending in tertiary education (Only 0.6% GDP) to promote research
- ③ Helps procurement of latest machinery to compete with global research
by AI Centre of Excellence in IIT Delhi
- ④ Increases ~~state~~ investment in student education which is lacking by global

standards

However it has deficiencies as well

- ① Prioritizing well-performing institutions harms other institutions with shortage of resources
- ② Tax burden and compliance norms on universities reduces disposable income of ~~the~~ institutes.
- ③ Does not address core issues of low employability of graduates and professor - shortage in PhD programmes



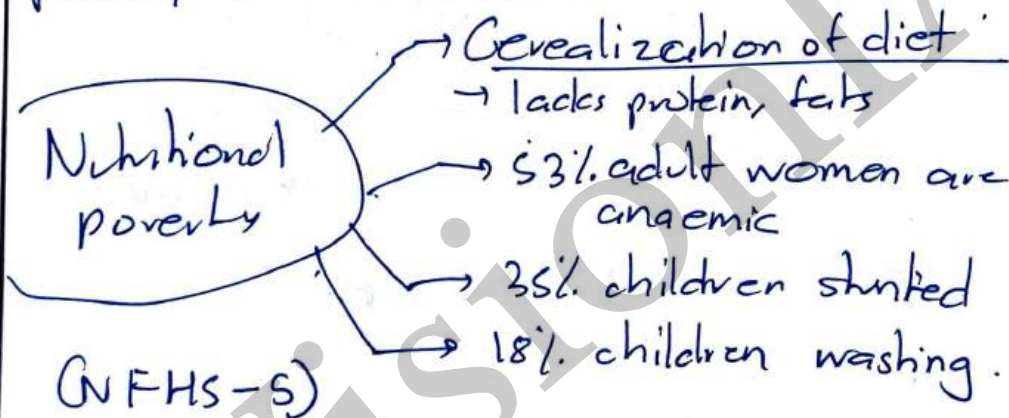
India's rise to 4th largest number of universities in QS ranking indicates potential of institutes of excellence in rejuvenating higher ed.

Q7.

यद्यपि आय निर्धनता में कमी आई है, किंतु भारत में पोषण संबंधी निर्धनता अभी भी बनी हुई है। इस चिंता का समग्र रूप से समाधान करने के लिए सरकार के वर्तमान खाद्य सुरक्षा उपयों को कैसे पुनर्गठित किया जा सकता है?

While income poverty has declined, nutritional poverty persists in India. How can the present food security interventions of the government be restructured to address this concern holistically? (Answer in 150 words) 10

India has witnessed reduction in extreme poverty from 15% to <3% in 2022 according to World Bank. Yet nutritional poverty is unaddressed.



Present Interventions of government should be restructured

- ① Promoting MSP for non-cereals such as Millets to augment diet.
- ② Directing research to high-nutrition seeds under National Seed Mission

to improve nutritional profile of
produce

- ③ Strengthening APMC Act to properly
enforce AGMARK criteria and
boost consumer confidence
- ④ Reforming PM AASHA to allow
private procurement of oilseeds to
increase dietary fat & protein from pulses
- ⑤ Augmenting PM Matsys Sampada Yojana
with cold chains to supply protein
to deficient Indian diets
- ⑥ Strengthening PM POSHAN outreach
to increase nutritional awareness
of citizens ~~key~~ Food pyramid awareness
in NEP.

SDG-2 goals require institutional
policy reform to promote nutritional
security of Indian population.

Q8.

भारत में ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों और भिखारियों की सुभेद्यताओं को दूर करने में स्माइल (SMILE) योजना के महत्त्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the significance of the SMILE scheme in addressing the vulnerabilities of transgender persons and beggars in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Beggars and transgenders have suffered historical injustice and social marginalization. The SMILE Scheme offers an alternative route to safeguarding their rights.

Significant features in addressing vulnerabilities

- ① Right to free legal aid for transgenders with income under ₹ 2 lakh and beggars
→ Legal empowerment under Art 39A
- ② Provides access to social security and institutional access under PM-JDY

- ③ Specifies remedy and trial procedure for injustices against transgenders and grants them legal protection
- ④ Forbids discrimination in public spaces under Art 15 rights.
- ⑤ Expands ambit of BNSS to specifically charge criminals with crimes against transgenders.

The SM/LG Act shows a significant step in righting historical wrongs done to transgenders and begins and promotes their social mobility.

Q9.

"जो महासागरों पर नियंत्रण रखता है, वह विश्व पर शासन करता है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, भारत की समुद्री रणनीति में सागर (SAGAR) से महासागर (MAHASAGAR) तक हुए बदलाव पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Whoever controls the oceans, runs the world. In this context, discuss the shift in India's maritime strategy from SAGAR to MAHASAGAR. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Oceans are one of the most important avenues for international trade and are crucial to national safety and economic resilience of supply chains.

Increased control over oceans is sought after by countries through institutions like

Quad → Indo-Pacific

String of Pearls → Indian Ocean shipping

IMEC → Arabian Sea ~~at~~ trade

To respond to global shifts, particularly China's rising influence India has upgraded its SAGAR policy to MAHASAGAR.

Significant features of shift

① Increases domain of Indo-Pacific

to include East Africa

→ Indian counter to China's Djibouti base and influence through Vaccine Maitri and Team helps protect national interests

② "Necklace of diamonds" strategy

aims to counter Chinese influence in IOR.

→ Maldive and Sri Lanka outreach and military base in Myanmar

③ By Need to bypass China-Pak nexus

by building international ports

→ Chabahar Port to bypass Pak in Arabian trade via Iran

④ Diplomatic collaboration and outreach through BIMSTEC and IORA to safeguard mutual security concerns.

MAHASAGAR signals a more active role in ensuring oceanic security and national interests for India.

Q10.

भारत-यूके मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (एफ. टी. ए.) की, बाजार पहुंच और पेशेवर गतिशीलता को सुगम बनाने में भूमिका का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Evaluate the role of the India-UK FTA in facilitating greater market access and professional mobility. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The recent India-UK FTA is a big step towards growing mutual trade and cooperation and ~~the~~ bolstering economic development.

Role in market access

- ① Promotes duty relaxation of 99% of Indian exports to UK
- ② UK can access 90% of its trade lines duty free
→ But core Indian sectors like agriculture and dairy are protected
- ③ However, access of food processing giants of UK to Indian market results in ultra-processed foods being imported impacting health of Indian consumers

Role in professional mobility

- ① Liberalized visa regime allows for easy exchange of labour promoting mutual growth
- ② Indian workers are exempted from making social security contributions for 3 yrs → increases disposable income
- ③ Comprehensive economic cooperation helps mutual growth in industry under existing defence cooperation

The India-UK FTA has the potential to increase bilateral trade to \$100 bn by 2040 promoting Indian economic development and soft power.

Q11.

भारत में सहकारी संवाद को सुगम बनाने और महत्वपूर्ण शासन संबंधी चुनौतियों को हल करने में अंतर-सरकारी संस्थाओं की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Examine the role of inter-governmental institutions in facilitating cooperative dialogue and resolving critical governance challenges in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

~~Inter~~ - governmental institutions play a crucial helping role in establishing and utilizing cooperative links for mutual benefit.

Role in Facilitating Cooperative Dialogue

① ~~National~~ national institutions like NITI

Aayog promote competitive development with technology sharing between states to reduce regional disparities in development.

② International bodies like UN

provide for addressal and settlement of conflict by third parties.

~~Key~~ India-Pak war of 1950 was settled by UN.

- 3) They help in promoting regional cooperation and concerns through groupings like BRICS and G20
- 4) Carry economic outcomes in institutions like OPEC → regulate supply of oil globally
- 5) Form unified fronts to increase cooperation and increase negotiating power
eg Eurozone as a "single-market"

They also help tackle critical governance challenges

- 1) NITI Aayog tackles domestic challenges cooperating with state governments
→ Carries out surveys & releases data
→ Drafts model Rules for states to use in drafting legislation.

- ② Help in cross-border counter-terrorism in institutions like NATO and SCO
- ③ Institutions like North East council help tackle regional security challenges in North East ~~via~~ ULFA counter terrorism initiatives
- ④ Institutions like GST Council provide for uniform tax compliance solving problems of tax council and improving Ease of Doing Business.

Intergovernmental organizations are crucial to maintain domestic and international cooperation for India.

Q12.

भारत में निजी सदस्यों के विधेयक (प्राइवेट मेंबर बिल) विधायी पहल का एक महत्वपूर्ण साधन होने के बावजूद, शायद ही कभी कानून बन पाते हैं। इस प्रवृत्ति के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही, विधायी प्रक्रिया में निजी सदस्यों की भूमिका को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु उपाय भी सुझाइए।

Despite being an important instrument of legislative initiative, Private Member's Bills rarely become laws in India. Examine the factors responsible for this trend. Also, suggest measures to strengthen the role of Private Members in the legislative process. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Only ~~less~~ less than 80 Private Members Bills have been passed through Parliament with last being in 2019, undermining legislative function of Parliament.

Reasons

- ① Schedule → Hearings are on Friday afternoons when attendance is low in Parliament
- ② Lack of secretarial staff makes drafting legislation difficult for individual MPs
- ③ Anti-detection laws eliminate dialogue and frequently result in wholesale rejection of policies not in line with ruling party

ideals.

④ High disruption in Parliament leads to discussion overruns which lead to inordinate delays in debates
→ Pending laws for more than 5 years still have not been heard.

⑤ Low number of sittings → Parliament only worked 33 days in 2021 ~~vs~~ vs USA's 133 days ⇒ Results in backlog in Private bills.

Measures to Strengthen P.M. Member Role

- ① Shifting hearings to other slots to increase debate and discussion.
- ② Forming Review Committees for Private Bills to filter worthy and relevant bills for earlier discussion.
- ③ Making drafts available online for popular response and feedback
- ④ ECI's online petition portal can mandate discussions on issues.

- ④ Fixing minimum working days for Parliament as per NCRWC recommendations of 20 days
- ⑤ Establishing fixed periods for discussion per Private bill to increase number of Bills reviewed.
- ⑥ Dedicated secretarial staff to scrutinize and draft proper and effective legislation.
- ⑦ Instilling "Opposition Days" on the UK model to allow opposition to draft and showcase legislation.

Private member Bills are a cornerstone of the principle of representation and should be encouraged.

Q13. भारत में पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (पी.आर.आई.) को निधियों, प्रकार्यों और पदाधिकारियों के प्रभावी हस्तांतरण में आने वाली प्रमुख चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the major challenges in effective devolution of funds, functions, and functionaries to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The 73rd Schedule provides in-principle devolution of power to PRIs but in practice the institutions suffer from many challenges.

Major Challenges in devolution

① Funds

- Lack of autonomy 90% of grants to PRIs are tied, leading to loss of decision-making power
- <10% Panchayats raise sufficient revenue on their own as taxation power has not been adequately devolved
- Poor accounting in PRIs highlighted by CAG leads to inefficient use and misappropriation of funds

→ PRI's cannot raise money on their own security and bond unlike ULBs and are dependent on grants to work

② Functions

→ Adequate legislative and executive power has not been given in states like Bihar and UP

→ Overlap with ~~the~~ MPLADS leads to conflict in jurisdiction and causes delays in functions

→ Tied state grants cause political dependency of PRI's on state govt to function.

③ Functionaries

→ PRI's have a personnel shortage of over 30% vacancies

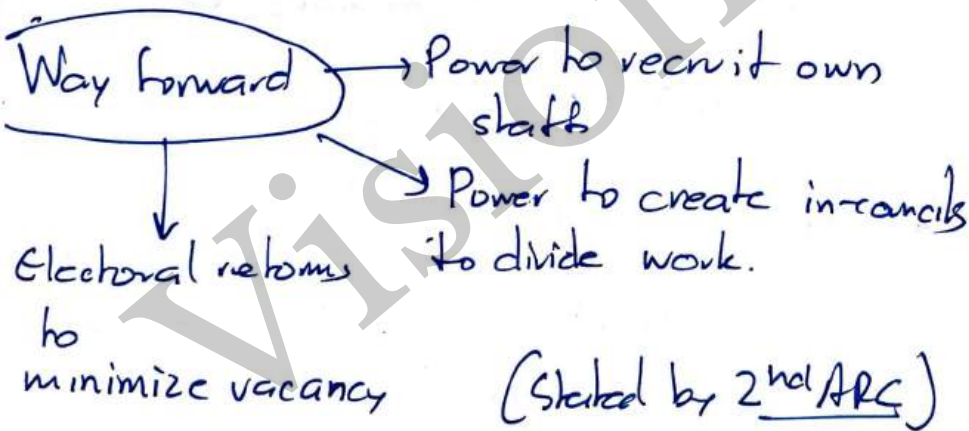
→ Leaders also remain prone to

Outside influence impacting autonomy

↳ "Sarpanch pati" phenomenon

→ PRI's lack administrative infrastructure and district level communities frequently ignore PRI feedbacks in district planning.

→ Delays in State Elections lead to vacancies in Gram Panchayats and skill development.



To uphold Gandhian ideals in directive principles Panchayats must be adequately granted the 3 Fs to act as true-self-govt institutions.

Q14. लोक अदालतों और वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान तंत्रों ने न्याय तक पहुंच में सुधार किया है, लेकिन इन्हें मूलभूत न्याय प्रदान करने में बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Lok Adalats and Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms have improved access to justice but face limitations in delivering substantive justice. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The Gram Nyayalaya Act showcased the beginning of ADRs and Lok Adalats in India's ~~text~~.

They have improved access to justice

- ① NALSA mandates regular composition of Lok Adalats to promote access to justice
- ② Usage is free of cost ~~and~~ cost for Lok Adalats improving access by marginalized people.
- ③ ADR measures reduce court delays in dispute resolution and promote conciliation and alternate modes to resolve disputes.

- ④ Judgements carry legal backing and are fully enforceable by law. ⇒ deliver substantive justice.
- ⑤ Courts can direct cases to Lok Adalats and ADR Councils to promote adoption and timely delivery of justice (legal fees are also refunded)

However there are limitations

- ① Only 10% of Sanctioned Lok Adalats and Gram Nyayals have actually been incorporated.
→ Only 11 states follow the guidelines.
- ② ADR's have not criminal jurisdiction and Lok Adalats can only investigate non-compoundable criminal cases.
- ③ Their decisions do not set legal

Precedent preventing legal development.

- ④ Lack of due process results in the institutions due to constraints in time and manpower
→ Convenes Art 44 rights
- ⑤ Arbitration and Mediation are frequently not free and have high costs of availing
- ⑥ The composition of the institutions is not uniform and varies in expertise and efficiency

"Justice hurried is justice buried",
hence ADRs must not only increase efficiency but also substantiate on justice delivery to the masses.

Q15.

भारत में संधारणीय शहरी विकास प्राप्त करने और जीवन की गुणवत्ता को बेहतर बनाने में स्मार्ट सिटीज मिशन का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Critically evaluate the Smart Cities Mission in achieving sustainable urban development and enhancing quality of life in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The Smart Cities Mission is a push to promote sustainable urbanization and develop "future ready" cities for Viksit Bharat.

Achievements in sustainable development and quality of life

- ① Growth of Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in India promoting agglomeration economies
- ② Mechanized service delivery has improved quality of public services
e.g. Indore is now cleanest city for 7 years
- ③ IoT initiative has resulted in development of automated metros and urban infrastructure like street lights

- ④ Digital infrastructure planning has led to rise of "planned cities" that have high quality of life and adequate green cover
- ⑤ Push to electric sector under initiatives like AMRUT has cut emission by public transit ~~eg~~ DTC electrification in Delhi
- ⑥ Transport Oriented Development has promoted walkable communities through initiatives like Kanpur Metro

However there are challenges

- ① Cities like Gurgaon suffer from inadequate municipal infrastructure leading to urban flooding in monsoon
- ② High cost of adoption has halted the push for EVs in Tier 2/3 cities

- ③ Only $\frac{1}{3}$ rd wastewater is treated, contributing to India's sustainability development rank of 99/130
- ④ Public transit suffers from delays and low profitability
- ⑤ Pollution has not reduced in cities like Delhi despite measures taken impacting public health

Achieving [SDG-11] goals requires consistent and substantial institutional effort to eliminate cost bottlenecks and prioritize quality of life of citizens.

Q16.

पिछले दो दशकों में शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने में सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 की प्रभावशीलता का आकलन कीजिए।

Assess the effectiveness of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in ensuring transparency and accountability in governance in the last two decades. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The RTI Act has been described a cornerstone of democracy in India. and promotes citizen oversight of public institutions.

However it has shortcomings

- ① High processing delays upto 388 days per case make it hard to access information
- ② The CIC suffers from understaffing with only 2/10 Information Commissioners currently appointed
- ③ Access to information limited by clauses such as
 - ↳ Official Secrets Act
 - ↳ Blocked access to Rafale deal details

- ④ Poor record keeping in Institution leading to rejection under "information not in computer form" clauses.
- ⑤ Threat to life of RTI activists
→ 99 activists died till 2019.
- ⑥ Political conflicts of interest
↳ Deputation staff in CIC is incentivized to protect their fellow departments from investigations.
- ⑦ Low enforceability → only 2% of RTI violations have been penalized.

However it also has outstanding achievements

- ① Information tool for public usage in cases such as 26 spectrum scan.
- ② Checks undemocratic function via

citizen oversight and accountability

③ Facilitates social audits through
RTI → MGNREGSA audit revealed
₹650 cr discrepancy

④ Serves as a tool for citizens to
enquire about detailed functions
and access documents

Hence the RTI Act has been
marred by some shortfalls but overall
has promoted substantial citizen
oversight of institutional proceedings.

Q17.

स्वास्थ्य देखभाल अवसंरचना और नीतिगत सुधारों में प्रगति के बावजूद, भारत को प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल क्षेत्रक में गंभीर चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Despite progress in healthcare infrastructure and policy reforms, India continues to face critical challenges in the primary healthcare sector. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India has made significant progress in health infrastructure and service delivery under policies such as Ayushman Bharat.

Achievements and progress in Infrastructure for health

- ① PM JDY has promoted insurance cover for more than 1.3 Cr families
- ② 36.6 Cr people have received PM-AB health cards and 7.6 Cr hospital admissions have been made under it.
- ③ Ayushman Arogya Mandals ~~are~~ are being developed as Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in all districts.
- ④ Policies such as National Health Mission set achievable concrete targets

for reaching health and nutritional targets.

- ⑤ Policies such as PM SMy have reduce maternal mortality to ①3/lakh and IMR to <25
- ⑥ Out of pocket expenditure has been reduced in accredited hospitals under Ayushman Bharat.
- ⑦ National Midwifery Portal has increased access to institutional delivery.

However there are also challenges in primary healthcare

- ① Many PHCs are not accessible due to lack of ambulances and road connectivity
- ② Many PHCs have not utilized infrastructure funds under PM-AB
- ③ High processing delays have impacted

constructions of AAMs in rural areas

④ Nutritional security has not been addressed while \rightarrow 50% of Indian women are anaemic

\rightarrow 35% children are stunted (NFHS-5)

⑤ Reliance on digital primary healthcare impacts vulnerable groups due to digital divide

⑥ Timely access is not available to PHCs despite ~~every~~ presence in road accidents for example \rightarrow 50% fatalities are due to ambulance delays

Despite this,

To uphold goals of SDG-4

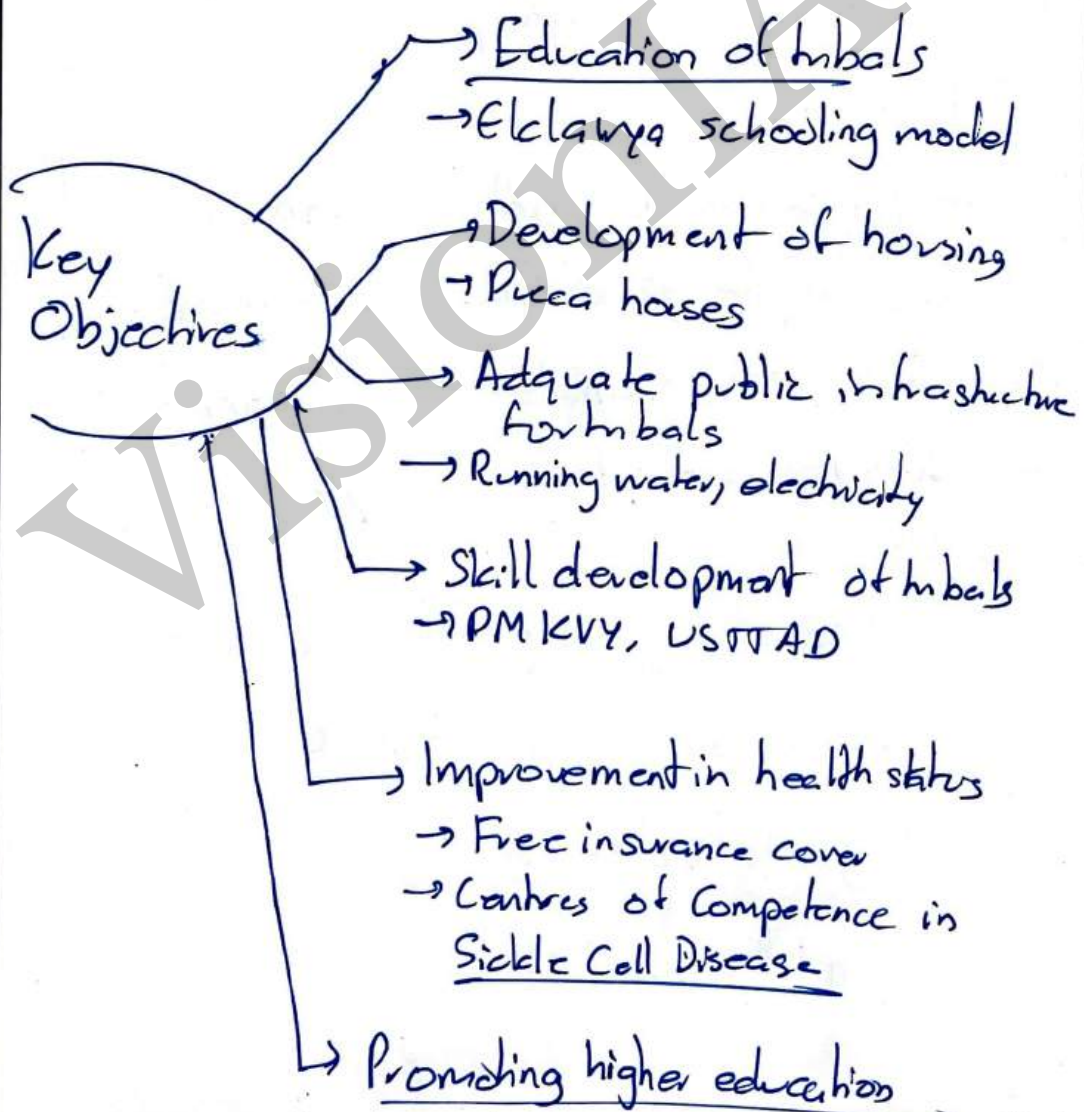
India has made significant steps in correcting its deficiencies through PM-AB and National Health Mission.

Q18.

प्रधानमंत्री वन धन योजना (पी.एम.वी.डी.वाई.) के मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या हैं? यह योजना भारत में जनजातीय समुदायों के आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण में किस प्रकार योगदान देती है?

What are the key objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)? How does the scheme contribute to the economic empowerment of tribal communities in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15

PMVDY helps uphold principles of DPSP in promoting welfare of marginalized tribal groups of India,



→ GER of tribals is 18 vs national average of 24

→ Promoting land rights and preventing tribal alienation from land.

It also contributes to their Economic development

- ① Access to education promotes skill development and increases literacy (54% vs national 77% average)
- ② Skill development under PMKVY helps in vocational training and increases employability of tribal workers.
- ③ Initiatives under One District One Programme promotes marketability of tribal handicraft
 eg. Saura Art in Odisha → online demand increasing.
- ④ There is a focus on ensuring

tribal ~~to~~ rights over land and forest produce to safeguard their employment.

⑤ Access to higher education helps tribals access high-paying jobs and increases their income

⑥ Financial inclusion promotes saving and security of money
→ Zero balance bank accounts

Hence PM ~~K~~VDY represents a significant step to eradicate historical marginalization of tribals and promote their empowerment.

Q19.

भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंध, जो कभी साम्राज्य इतिहास और सांस्कृतिक निकटता के लिए जाने जाते थे, अब रणनीतिक कलन, क्षेत्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धा और दोनों देशों में बदलती घरेलू राजनीति द्वारा आकार ले रहे हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

India-Bangladesh relations, once marked by shared history and cultural proximity, are now shaped by strategic calculus, regional competition, and shifting domestic politics in both countries. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Bangladesh shares the longest land border of any of India's neighbours and there has been historical closeness between the countries.

Shared ties historically

① Indian role in Bangladeshi Liberation Movement against common enemy Pakistan
→ led to mutual cooperation and respect

② Common Bengali diaspora across the border promotes cultural proximity

③ Mutual cooperation and dialogue such as BIMSTEC and SAARC increased ties

④ Trade with Bangladesh has been high amounting to \$9.7 bn

⑤ Open car borders under BBIN agreement signified mutual trust and open borders.

However this has shifted

① Strategic Calculus

→ China's outreach to Bangladesh under String of Pearls policy has sparked tensions with India

→ Illegal migration by Bangladeshis has forced India to close and fence off borders.

→ Disputes on water sharing such as in the Barak river have impacted cooperation.

② Regional Competition

- India & Bangladesh compete in export of products like textiles and jute
- Protectionism of trade has hindered free trade between the countries

③ Shifting domestic Politics

- Bangladesh's Interim Govt under Muhammed Yunus has focused on Islamic fundamentalism against India
- Violence against minority Hindus in Bangladesh has caused ethnic tension
- Indian humanitarian asylum to Sheikh Hasina has antagonized ~~the~~ Bangladesh.



As ~~or~~ a former part of undivided India, all measures to cooperate with Bangladesh should be taken.

- Q20. अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांति और सुरक्षा से संबंधित समकालीन संकटों से निपटने में संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (यू. एन. एस. सी.) की प्रभावशीलता का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। इसकी विश्वसनीयता और अनुक्रियाशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए कौन-से सुधार आवश्यक हैं?

Critically examine the effectiveness of the UNSC in addressing contemporary crises related to international peace and security. What reforms are necessary to enhance its credibility and responsiveness? (Answer in 250 words) 15

The UNSC is a council composed of global nations that adjudicate on security concerns and international peace issues

It has been effective in international sphere

- ① Promotion of NPT has helped denuclearize the global powers
- ② Rotating membership allows different countries to ~~be~~ have a share in international policy
- ③ Resolution of the Cold War ~~has~~ help and Korean War has helped it gain credibility.

- ④ Help in providing humanitarian assistance and arbitration in Syrian Civil War

However it suffers from drawbacks

- ① Permanent Members — US
— Russia
— UK
— France
— China

their veto to act in personal interests.

→ China has blocked Indian attempts to pass resolutions of Pakistani terrorism

- ② No ~~per~~ permanent members have been appointed from Africa resulting in its exclusion

- ③ Failure to intervene in Russia-Ukraine conflict shows limitations of UNSC

- ④ UNSC also could not control nuclearization of North Korea resulting in security threats

Reforms are necessary

- ① Increase in permanent council's seats to increase representation of world nations
- ② Stronger accountability of permanent partners to curb misuse for personal gains
- ③ Adequate enforcements of resolutions
 eg) Israel-Hamas conflict → resolution passed but not actual action due to US influence
- ④ Cognizance of contemporary activities instead of politicization
 eg) Sanctions against Pakistan blocked by China to counter India.

Reforms are hence a must to fulfill the UN's original goal to "keep guard and secure peace for all"