

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

**सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)/GENERAL STUDIES (Paper-II) (2423)**

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. : 1471535

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : VISHNO SHRIKUMAR

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी  
Medium: Hindi/English

English

तारीख  
Date

26/08/2023

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

केंद्र  
Centre

Bwardkum (B)

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर  
Invigilator's Signature

[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>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.</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)		
सकल योग (A+B) / GRAND TOTAL (A+B)					



**सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)/GENERAL STUDIES (Paper-II) (2423)**

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. उपयुक्त उदाहरणों की सहायता से, चर्चा कीजिए कि पर्यावरणीय दबाव समूह भारत में पर्यावरण नीतियों के संबंध में सार्वजनिक भागीदारी और अनुक्रियाशीलता को कैसे बढ़ाते हैं। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)  
With suitable examples, discuss how environmental pressure groups enhance public participation and responsiveness with regard to environmental policies in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Pressure groups refer to informal groupings of people with tactics of persuading the govt to achieve their desired goals. India has seen various environment pressure groups advocating environmentalism

Environment pressure groups - enhance public participation & responsiveness

- 1) Input the demands of the tribals who are dependent on environment -  
Eg → Narmada Bachao Andolan
- 2) Raise voice to protect the sanctity of the protected areas & garner intellectual & public support. Eg Save Silent valley Movement

1) Raise consciousness among public regarding climate change impact

Eg - Fundays for Future

2) Give policy inputs on govt policies and schemes to make them more relevant

Eg - CPR providing suggestions on EIA 2020

3) Criticizing govt policies and mobilising public opinion, collecting data.

Eg - Pressure groups on Forest conservation Amendment

issue.

However, there are

4) Agenda driven Pressure groups hamper development in name of environment

Eg - Sterlite Copper plant in Tamil Nadu.

5) Prevent energy security by propagating myths - Eg Public protesting against Kudankulam Plant

Pressure groups must be soft regulated as per Vijay Kumar Committee

[www.visionias.in](http://www.visionias.in) to ensure A2I & A4P - Clean Environment is assured to all

2. हाल ही में, उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा सेक्स वर्क को एक 'पेशे' के रूप में स्वीकार किया जाना, भारत में सेक्स वर्कर्स के लिए बुनियादी अधिकार और समानता सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में पहला कदम है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The recent acknowledgment of sex work as a 'profession' by the Supreme Court is merely the first step in ensuring basic rights and equality for sex workers in India. Examine. (Answer in 150 words)

10

The acknowledgement of sex work as a profession by SC breaks the taboo of idignity and stereotypes around sex workers, giving them equal dignity. However certain issues persist

### Issues for sex workers

- 1) Article 19 of Constitution provides reasonable restriction on movement of sex workers on ground of public health, making them appear as threat.
- 2) High amount of trafficking & forced prostitution for women. This verdict can increase women trafficking.
- 3) Does not address the rehabilitation

- of sex workers as they find barriers to access other professions.
- 1) Do not address the issue of contraceptives and STDs which sex workers are susceptible to
  - 2) Stereotypes & prejudices against sex workers as they are seen as "polluted" "unethical"
  - 3) No formal social security net & welfare benefits compared with other professions

Way Ahead for Equality

- Moulin Rouge Model of sex workers where formal prostitution takes place keeping the rights of sex workers at centre.
- rehabilitation of sex workers & their children through civil society like Parishad
- Stand Up India - to promote entrepreneurship

Sex workers equality & security of basic rights is a test to ensure women led development which india emissions

3. भारत में निःशुल्क कानूनी सहायता प्रदान करने और कानूनी जागरूकता फैलाने में जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरणों (DLSAs) द्वारा निभाई जाने वाली भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)  
Discuss the role played by District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) in providing free legal aid and disseminating legal awareness in India. (Answer in 150 words)

10

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

## District Legal Services

Authorities came as a result of NALSA Act 1987 to provide free & legal aid as per the ~~the~~ obligations of welfare state envisioned under Directive Principles of State Policy.

DLSA - free legal aid & disseminating information

- 1) provide access to justice to vulnerable communities like SC, STs, Transgender increasing their well being.
- 2) Reduced legal hurdles & complexities by simplifying the procedure
- 3) Upheld their Right to free & fair trial as per Musarora thakore case

→ led to grassroot penetration of legal knowledge among the population

However issues  
persist.

### Issues

→ Judicial pendency & trials reduce the access & effectiveness of DLSA. (4.4 crore cases pending).

→ Complex nature of law with dominance of English reduces effectiveness of DLSA to spread legal awareness.

→ Poorly trained & incompetent lawyers sign up for DLSAs reducing efficiency.

→ Inequity in justice as poor go for DLSA while rich hire expensive lawyers.

Making sewing under DLSA mandatory for every law graduate

& unaclear medium of DLSA as a part of their duty can make grassroot Justice effective thro. Deen

4. "कुछ लोगों के हाथों में शक्ति के संकेंद्रण के कारण, कॉलेजियम प्रणाली अपनी ही सफलता का शिकार हो गई है, जिससे इसकी वैधता पर सवाल उठने लगे हैं।" टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)  
"The collegium system has become a victim of its own success, with the concentration of power in the hands of a few, leading to questions about its legitimacy." Comment. (Answer in 150 words)

10

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

Collegium system refers to a group of judges - 4 seniormost judges of Supreme Court & HC to look into appointments, transfers of judges in Judiciary. Evolved through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judges case.

### Collegium system - crisis of legitimacy

- 1) opaque functioning of collegium has led to questioning of its legitimacy
- 2) Against the principle of natural justice - Ambedkar said "~~It~~ No Imperio in an Imperium"
- 3) Skewed representation as women, SC, ST representation is very low.
- 4) Judicial pendency & inefficiency led to questioning of collegium system -

3) CJ's roster power - power to allocate cases to judges might lead to discretion of CJ

Thus these issues made the Law Minister a public question the legitimacy of Collegium

However Collegium has ensured undeniable benefits as

1) Independence of judiciary as executive cannot influence decision of collegium

2) Fourth Judges case - ~~ensure~~ Judiciary is a basic structure doctrine

3) Helps to keep executive accountable through Article 13 (Judicial review) through non partisan judges.

4) Upholds the Basic structure of our constitution

The Executive & Judiciary must reconcile & devise a new mechanism collectively to ensure people's trust in Judiciary & separation of powers remain.

5. "सिविल सेवा सुधारों को वर्तमान दौर की चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए भर्ती और मानकीकृत प्रशिक्षण से आगे बढ़ाया जाना अनिवार्य है।" विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)  
"Civil services reforms must go beyond recruitment and standardised training to cope with the present day challenges." Analyse. (Answer in 150 words)

10

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

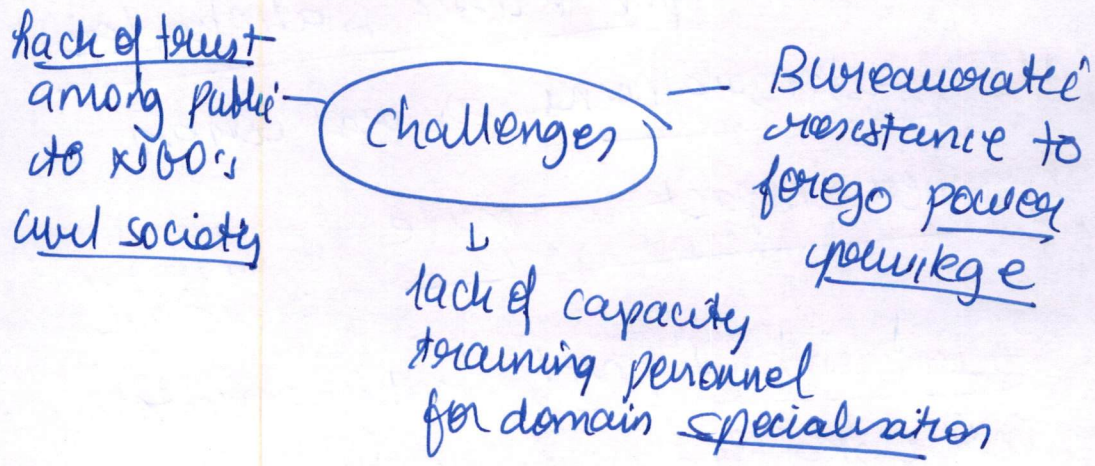
The colonial era bureaucracy cannot meet the challenges of present day world which is married with AI, creative destruction, Blockchain and e-governance. Thus the past era of recruitment & standardised training reform must be upgraded.

Reforms must go beyond recruitment & standardised training

- 1) ensure specialised training to churn out domain specialist for governance.
- 2) Reduce colonial hangover & idiotism through value education training as per Alagh committee

- 1) to usher in ~~the~~ technocrats through lateral entry and specialist generalists
- 2) improve representations from women and rural areas to reduce gender & rural-urban gap through women led development
- 3) Partnership with NGOs, civil societies to deal with climate change and food security issues. Eg IPFRI, CPR to collab with govt.

However, there are challenges to realise this.



A comprehensive reform of civil service by envisioning a new mode of public service delivery can ensure Minimum Government ~~Best~~ Have Governance

6. सामाजिक प्रभाव बॉण्ड्स जैसे परिणाम-आधारित वित्त मॉडल में वास्तविक रूप से परिवर्तन लाने और बड़े पैमाने पर सामाजिक-आर्थिक प्रभाव उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता विद्यमान है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Outcome-based finance models such as social impact bonds have the potential to truly catalyse change and deliver socio-economic impact at scale. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

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

Socio-economic services and goods are marred by the issue of financing leading to poor welfare for all. In such scenario, social impact bonds are true game changers to improve socio-economic sector.

Outcome based finance models - potential to change

- 1) Ensures that people are stakeholders as greater returns assured when greater impact is made.
- 2) Social impact bond makes investor interested in social venture, thus mentoring & supporting for its success.

- 1) leads to delivery of result at grassroot level due to efficient functioning.
- 2) Outcome based financing makes financing contingent on successful outcome, thus organisation becomes more committed.
- 3) Prevents leakage of funds & money laundering as funding is done through formal channels.

### Issues:

- 1) Regulatory burdens as SEBI not yet clearly defined what social impact investment is.
- 2) can hijack the agenda of organisation by investors for their gain.
- 3) can promote anti-national activities through anonymous funding by laundering <sup>money</sup>.

RAMBHAV model of Social Security Exchange can be a way forward for financing social-economic projects ensuring welfare for all.

7. प्रत्येक वर्ष ग्रेजुएट होने वाली और कार्यक्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या के मध्य का व्यापक अंतराल एक गंभीर समस्या है जिसे हल किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The wide gap between the number of females graduating every year and those entering the workspace is an issue of paramount importance that needs to be addressed. Discuss in the context of India. (Answer in 150 words)

10

## The Female Labour Force

Participation rate is meagre 28% while 52% of STEM graduates are women, indicating a big gap that needs to be addressed

### Why the gap

- 1) Educated unemployment as women are not willing to work for jobs below their qualification (Middle class)
- 2) Middle class women are forced to stay in homes as their husbands earn a good amount of salary.
- 3) Patriarchy seeing women as homemakers & below the dignity of man to send women to work

- 1) Lack of women safety infrastructures, especially at night
- 2) sexual harassment of women at workplaces deter women participation
- 3) Early marriages seen after graduation & early pregnancies reduce WCFPR.

### How to bridge the gap

- 1) KIRAN, women in STEM to incentivise women for higher research in pure sciences
- 2) Establishment of CCTV cameras, women police stations to ensure safe space.
- 3) Free transportation (TN model) increases women working as commuting is accessible
- 4) Work from Home & Hybrid working to break the glass ceiling, Menstrual leaves also.

Increasing the women LFPR can increase our GDP by 27% helping to achieve the goal of \$5 trillion economy.

8. भारत में सामाजिक-आर्थिक नियोजन के लिए एक अद्यतित और कार्यात्मक नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली (CRS) अनिवार्य है। देश में CRS प्रणाली में सुधार हेतु केंद्र सरकार के हालिया कदम के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

An up to date and functional Civil Registration System (CRS) is essential to the socio-economic planning in India. Discuss in the light of the recent move of the Central government in revamping the CRS system in the country. (Answer in 150 words)

10

## Civil Registration System

Required an update in the country's demographics began to change. The changes in both registration system we can attempt to make CRS updated

Up to date CRS for socio-economic planning necessary.

- 1) ensures updated data reducing exclusion & inclusion errors
- 2) prevents duplication of resource & efforts ensuring maximum efficiency
- 3) gives real time picture of impact of government welfare programmes
- 4) Helps in formulation, reformulation

and updation of socio-economic programmes.

It gives a time data on population size, composition and demographics enabling data analytics through NITI Aayog's NDAP.

Issues an updating CRS.

1) Might lead to exclusionary errors as some sections left off -

2) Fear of leakage of personal data.  
Eg COVID rental.

3) Not all births are institutional, therefore may leave out tribals.

4) Criminalising exclusion in CRS might deter updates by those who were excluded.

CRS revamping must be phased manner to ensure that everyone is included in the updates & updates.

9. यदि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) को वर्तमान आर्थिक वास्तविकताओं के साथ समायोजित होना है तो इसमें सुधार के प्रमुख क्षेत्र कौन-से होंगे? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

What are the key areas of reform if the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has to align with the current economic realities? (Answer in 150 words)

10

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

IMF (International Monetary Fund) is an Brettonwoods Organisation which seeks to promote economic stability by managing foreign exchange reserves, emergency funding during Balance of Payment crisis.

### Key Areas of Reform

- 1) to ensure greater representation & voice to global South.
- 2) to end coercive structural adjustment programme where conditionalities of austerity put on developing countries.
- 3) Inclusion of more currencies like in special drawing rights.
- 4) reduce discriminatory treatment

- IMF gave \$ 18bn to Ukraine without any conditionalities, but imposed severe conditions on Sri Lanka & Pakistan.

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

1) greater voting rights by updating IMF quotas.

### Why need to reform

Reform demands came from within the IMF because.

1) rise of alternative institutions like New Development Bank of BRICS.

2) De-dollarisation of Economy.

3) use of currency swap over SAP of IMF

4) rise of opaque debt instruments of China through BRI.

India through G20 and Voice of Global South has sought for

revamping of Development Financial Institutions under the idea of Reformed Multilateralism

10.

हाल के वर्षों में, पश्चिम एशिया के साथ भारत के संबंध भू-राजनीति के दायरे से आगे निकलकर भू-अर्थशास्त्र के आयाम तक पहुंच गए हैं। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

In recent years, India's relationship with West Asia has evolved from the confines of geopolitics to expanse of geoeconomics. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)

10

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

Initially India's concern with West Asia was for energy security, but recent agreements and visits by leaders show broadening of horizon in India - West Asia relations.

### Geopolitics to Geoeconomics

- 1) Rise in trade <sup>and</sup> investment deals with West Asia. Eg → CEPA with UAE
- 2) Agreement to trade in Rupees - UAE
- 3) focus on connectivity projects and co-development of projects - Eg Chabahar in Iran.
- 4) Increasing investments from Gulf to Indian Market. Eg - Saudi Arabia's promise of \$ 20bn investment.
- 5) Focus on space sector through collaboration with ISRO. Eg - UAE - ISRO collab

- 1) cooperation in diversifying supply chains and green energy finances.
- 2) DPI and UPE in Middle East - by India.
- 3) India MOU with UAE on development of blue economy, Diamonds & pearl industries.

Thus India has shifted the focus from security Secs, oil resources and choke points to security economic interest through foreign policy.

### Issues

- 1) China's clout in region → China brokering Iran-Saudi Rapprochement.
- 2) Jerusalem's & instability in Middle East
- 3) Pakistan factor can be an obstacle as GCC countries & Middle East members of OIC.
- 4) Violation of Human Rights for Indian labourers

India & west Asia can together usher in Asian century by broadening their cooperation to politics, economics & technology

11.

हितधारकों को नवाचार और प्रभावशीलता में वृद्धि हेतु प्रेरित करने के लिए स्वस्थ प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को बढ़ावा देने में भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The role of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) is significant in furthering healthy competitiveness aimed at inspiring stakeholders to innovate and augment effectiveness. Comment. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

## Competition Commission of India

is a quasi judicial statutory body, established under Competition Commission Act to ensure free and fair market competition in India.

### Role of Competition Commission

- prevents anti-trust behaviour by corporates preserving a healthy working competitiveness
- prevents formation of cartels and monopolies by looking at mergers and acquisitions
- looks at IPR violations, copying etc foster innovation in working sector.
- Gives sufficient environment & conditions

to Small and Medium Enterprises to compete with MNCs

It looks at anti-profiteering activities under current GST regime.

It therefore promotes healthy competition and inspires innovation as

- 1) fair grounds for competition
- 2) firms in a bid to cut costs ethically, try to look for innovations
- 3) Boosts Research & Development funding by firms

### Limitations in CCI

- 1) Time delay in awarding the verdict on anti-trust issues.
- 2) Article 142 & 136 used to appeal the judgements of CCI to supreme court, delaying the case.
- 3) Appeal to permanent court of arbitrators in Singapore (diluting CCI's verdict)  
Eg → Google's appeal to PCA

1) Use of money power: by big MNCs to hire specialist lawyers against small SMEs.

2) Lack of capacity and increasing vacancies as per P B Mehta & Devesh Kapur in "Rethinking Public Institutions in India".

3) Complex IPR laws and information asymmetry reduce the accessibility to CCI.

### Way Ahead

- vernacular mediums & simplification of corporate laws.
- CCI's decision to be made final & binding
- opening of new zonal branches of CCI
- Filling the judicial pendency vacancies to reduce pendency.
- Information awareness & campaigns to popularise & democratise CCI.

CCI's role is key to ensure a conducive environment for fair business to attract investment for Economic growth

12.

"पेड न्यूज का खतरा अक्सर चुनावों के दौरान अपना भयावह रूप दिखाता है।" भारत में पेड न्यूज को एक चुनावी अपराध बनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

"The menace of paid news often rears its ugly head during elections." Discuss the need for making paid news an electoral offence in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

Media is referred to as the "Fourth Estate of the Democracy", playing a crucial role in democracy's upkeep.

However rise of paid news is something which hampers free flow of information.

### Menace of paid news.

- paid subscription of news websites.
- sponsorship of programmes by parties or organisation for vested interest
- corporate ownership of media houses.
- large scale funding of media houses by vested interests

### Why paid news?

to keep up with updated technology

↓  
rise of private websites reduce revenue generation of media

to generate revenue to pay the employees, investors

Menace of paid news - gets ugly during election

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

Supreme Court in its verdict had stated that Right to vote is a form of right to expression under Article 19. Right to Expression (a) can be exercised only when people have access to free flow of information. Information's flow is biased or blocked when paid news comes in.

- ) used by political parties to manipulate people's choices.
- ) can flare communal tensions & disharmony in society.
- ) can flout Model Code of Conduct & display election symbols near booths.

Need for making paid news an electoral offence

Paid news must be an electoral offence and disqualification ground under RPA 1951.

- ) Ensures free & fair elections which

is a basic structure of constitution as per

Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain case.

- 1) Prevents manipulation of voters as voters can exercise their rights without any undue influence.
- 2) Deters political parties and candidates from putting malicious content on media.
- 3) Prevents communalisation of politics as hate based mobilisation would be reduced.
- 4) Gives equal chances to everyone to win
- 5) Reduces the role of money power in politics, thus reducing criminalisation of politics.
- 6) Gives greater power to ECI under Article 324 to take action against political parties.

Rosters of campaign slots for parties by ECI

Way Ahead

↓  
Ethical Standards & legalisation of HCC

↗ State funding of election (partial) as per Indrajit

Gupta Committee divide BoD & BoC of media

Free & fair elections

and a free media would ensure a quality Parliament insuring executive accountability

13.

भारत में धार्मिक प्रथाओं के संदर्भ में, न्यायालयों द्वारा उद्धृत 'अनिवार्यता के सिद्धांत' पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the 'Doctrine of Essentiality' referred to by the courts in the context of religious practices in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

Doctrine of Essentiality is a Judicial doctrine propounded in the Shirur Mutt case whereby the judiciary has the power to look at the essentiality of a practice in maintaining the fundamental nature of religion.

### Doctrine of Essentiality

→ Judiciary has power to see whether certain practice protected under Article 29, 30.

→ to see resolve clash b/w Article 29, 30 and Article 14, 15, 16

→ evolved through → Jehonovah case (Bijoe Emmanuel vs UOI)

↳ Multani Singh Case → allowed beard for Sikhs in Army but not Muslims

↳ Subramanyam case

## Doctrine of Essentiality - Strengthened Democracy

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

- 1) ensured social dignity and good standard of living for people. Eg - SC in Dawoodi Bohra case declared social ostracism not an essential religion practice
- 2) Promoted equality of status as per Article 14 → SC in Triple Talak case gave equal status to women
- 3) Reviewing of outdated practices which are against human hearts and morals  
Eg - SC reviewing Female Genital Mutilation in Dawoodi Bohra.
- 4) Prevented misuse of religious practices, promoting its sanctity.  
Eg → SC in Narasu Appa Mali declared bigamy as non essential
- 5) Promoted multiculturalism in society by upholding diversity & taking note of exceptional circumstances.  
Eg Mulrani Singh case → ~~SC~~ Sikhs allowed beard, helping in their integration

## Doctrine of Essentiality - issues

- 1) Judges not competent enough to declare which laws fundamental for religious existence as they don't have the knowledge.
- 2) Used by communal groups to create anxieties among minority communities to fan communal tensions.
- 3) Violation of Article 29, 30 providing special rights to minorities to practice, profess.
- 4) Judicial overreach as personal laws & religious laws are formulated by parliament.
- 5) Fear of judicial tyranny as per P.B. Mehta due to unchecked powers due to judicial doctrine.

Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

Way forward → reformation by religious leaders to undo irrational practices

Doctrine of Essentiality must be complemented with efforts from people to ensure coexistence of individual & group rights as envisaged by Constitution

14.

प्रधान मंत्री की आर्थिक सलाहकार परिषद (EAC-PM) की हाल ही में जारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में सरकार के आकार को सीमित करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

As per the recently released report of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), there is an urgent need to limit the size of the government in India. Do you agree? (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

According to Thomas Jefferson, "That government is the best which governs the least". Keeping the spirit of Minimum Govt, Maximum Governance, the EAC advised to limit the size of Govt.

### Current status of Govt

- multiple institutions having same mandate causing policy paralysis.
- lack of governance structure in emerging areas like AI, Data protection etc.
- large number of people manning multiple levels of bureaucracy leading to delays.
- overregulation of Govt in multiple sectors

Due to such issues, FM Nirmala Sitharaman had declared "The business of Govt is to not do any business but engage in governance only."

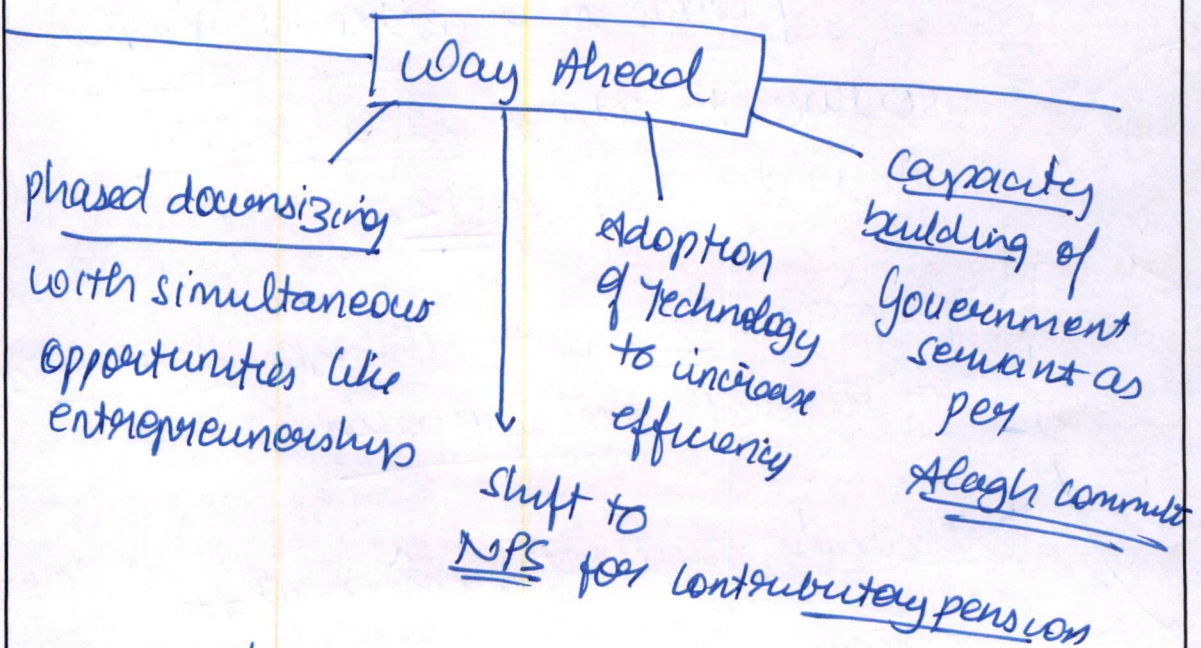
## Urgent need to limit government size

- 1) Reduces revenue expenditure as salaries, pensions payments reduced.
- 2) Increased productivity among employees as their marginal productive reduced.
- 3) decluttering of Bureaucracy leads to simplification, eliminating red tapism.
- 4) Stops the culture of working in silos as greater cooperation & synergy created.  
Eg- Jati Shakti plan.
- 5) enables governance & admin in new critical areas like AI, blockchain, 3D printing.
- 6) fosters adoption of technology to complement human resource.
- 7) Makes governance more accessible to people due to simplification.

# Issues with downsizing

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

- 1) Already a shortage of around 1300 IAS officers as per Department of Personnel & Training leading to delay in governance.
- 2) Reduce the P2P interaction in governance.
- 3) Reduce the diversity and inclusiveness of govt structures.
- 4) increased competition and unemployment as govt posts are contested by Indian youths.



Yes, Downsizing of Govt must initially happen at Cabinet & Ministerial level, setting a role model for different tiers to downsize their size.

15.

इंस्टीट्यूशंस ऑफ एमिनेंस (IoE) योजना की कल्पना भारत में उच्चतर शिक्षा के 'विश्व स्तरीय' केंद्र विकसित करने के लिए की गई थी, लेकिन छह साल बाद भी, यह अभी तक गेम चेंजर नहीं बन पाई है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme was conceived to develop 'world-class' centres of higher education in India but six years later, it is yet to become the game changer it was intended to be. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

Institutions of Eminence was a scheme which sought to give phased manner of investment payments as an incentive to increase their infrastructure to be in the TOP 100 global universities

IOE - conceived to develop world class centre of education

- incentives to set up research labs with partnership of CSIR
- promote MOUs with foreign universities for research collaboration.
- installment payment from Govt to improve digital infrastructure
- focus on curriculum updation, keeping global standards

However, the fact that none of the 6 IOE selected (Delhi University, IISC Bangalore, Jio Institute etc) featured in Top 100 @ 200 of QS World Rankings. It shows. it is yet to become a game changer.

### Reasons for uneffectiveness of IOE

- 1) Discrimination between private and public universities as private universities find hard to overcome red tapism & stringent criteria.
- 2) Institutes like Jio Institute have infrastructure bottlenecks reducing the effectiveness of schemes.
- 3) Private institutes charge high fees from students to match operating cost, thus reducing the penetration of benefits till grassroots.
- 4) Recent entry of foreign universities in India reduced the MOU & cooperation with Indian universities.

2) Difficulty in setting up research labs as funding is inadequate to commensurate the cost.

3) Delay in update of curriculum, especially in govt universities due to slow decision making.

4) Doesn't address reason for high dropouts

Way Ahead

→ UGC to oversee & penalise those institutes who don't oblige with the regulation

→ Syllabus update

→ Use of National Research Fund to foster original research for better rankings

→ Use of Social Security Exchange, Education Bonds to fund infra in Higher Education

IOE revamped can ensure our universities top the QS world rankings ensuring a quality human resource

16.

डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (DPI) नवोन्मेषी और सुविधाजनक सार्वजनिक सेवाओं की अनुमति देता है, समावेशन या पहुंच संबंधी बाधाओं को दूर करने में मदद करता है तथा रियल-टाइम डेटा की मदद से पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही बढ़ाता है। उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) allows for innovative and convenient public services, help overcome inclusion or accessibility barriers, and increase transparency and accountability with real-time data. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 250 words)

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

15

## Digital Public Infrastructure

refers to a host of government services & goods which is provided through digital means to public. DPI is the most important pillar of inclusive growth and E-Governance.

### DPI- benefits

- 1) Overcomes inclusion errors through AADHAR authentication. Eg AADHAR authenticated e-POS for Rations
- 2) Increases convenience for the public as they receive welfare benefits directly in their banks without need to go anywhere. Eg - Direct Benefit Transfer, DPI payments
- 3) Overcomes accessibility barriers as disabled can participate in governance. Eg - MyGovportal allows for governance redressal

- 1) Increases accountability and transparency as data is put out publicly -  
Eg - NITI Aayog & NDAP showing call data
- 2) Increase access to credit, improving investment in India, reducing debt trap  
Eg - Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN)
- 3) Promotes business & SMEs by ensuring free & equitable access to markets. Eg ONDC
- 4) Ensures public participation by inputting demands & suggestions. Eg → EIA policy suggestion through MyGov.In.
- 5) Public welfare through grievance redressal  
Eg - CPGRAMS

### Issues with DPI

- 1) Poor internet connectivity reduces access to DPIs especially rural areas
- 2) Domination of English & Hindi acts as

a barrier for other language speakers.

- 1) Difficult User Interface and Digital Illiteracy reduce the penetration of DPIs
- 2) Poor data protection & cybersecurity measures lead to breach of data - e.g. COVINS data leak
- 3) Frequent internet shutdowns affect DPI access

DPI to be made 'more equitable'

- > Bharat Net & e-Choupal to ensure WiFi access to all
- > Digital Shiksha Abhiyan by NGOs like iSPIRIT
- > Strengthening of Cyber security norms as per B.N Srikrishna Committee
- > C-Bhashini & National Translation Mission to translate content to vernacular medium

DPI 2.0 on equitable basis

can ensure India obliges the commitment of welfare state as per DPSP.

17.

कानून के अलावा, भारत में 'सभी के लिए स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार' की पूर्ण प्राप्ति हेतु सामाजिक, वित्तीय और बुनियादी ढांचे की कमियों को दूर करने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)  
 Besides legislation, the full realisation of the 'right to health for all' in India demands plugging of social, financial, and infrastructural gaps. Examine. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

Recently, Rajasthan introduced "Right to Health" Bill to ensure universal & free access to healthcare for all. However, this isn't enough as India's health care is marred by various problems.

### Right to health

- Anyone can approach any hospital for general or specialised need
- A Board constituted to oversee the implementation
- No one can be denied treatment
- Govt to compensate for hospital cost treatment

### GAPS in Indian health sector

#### Social gaps

- ↳ Inequitable access to health care owing to caste discrimination, untouchability

↳ Patriarchy relegated critical areas like Menstrual health, Sexual health to the sidelines.

↳ Poverty reducing access to health due to out of pocket expenditure (70% in India).

### Financial gaps

↳ Meagre 1% of GDP invested for public health care as per NITI Aayog.

↳ Poor private investment in geriatric health, primary health care.

↳ Poor insurance coverage (only 3%), leading to out of pocket expenditure.

### Infrastructural gaps

↳ low no of doctor per patient (0.9/1000) compared to China's (2.3/1000).

↳ Poor hygiene & equipment maintenance in public hospitals.

↳ Poor preventive and palliative care.

put burden on govt health system.

- Poorly equipped and unmanneel PHCs in districts reducing effectiveness of primary health.

Right to Health fails to address all the above gaps.  
It tries to fill the financial gap by making it accessible, but infra & social gaps remain.

Right to Health - to make more effective

- Increase - GDP allocation to atleast 2.5% for healthcare
- focus on PPP cooperation on Primary, Preventive Healthcare - Kelkar committee
- District Health Knowledge centres as per NITI Action Report on Health.
- Increasing number of beds & doctors through more infra building

Right to Health must be a govt-civil society venture to make it a grand success & ensure Right to Health.

18.

विधायी समर्थन के बावजूद 'थर्ड जेंडर' को अभी तक भारतीय समाज में मान्यता नहीं मिली है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The 'third gender' has not yet been engendered in the Indian society despite legislative nudge. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

The Transgender or "Fluid Gender" even after release of National Transgender Policy 2019, has not been mainstreamed & integrated into Indian Society.

Legislative nudge

National Transgender Policy

2019 provides a legislative nudge by

- 1) explicitly recognising transgender, thus giving legal recognition
- 2) Mandatory to give transgender as an option in various forms.
- 3) Discrimination based on gender punishable thus detering people.

However, due to social mindset & issues transgender

have not yet engendered

## Issues

- 1) National Transgender Policy 2019 ~~has~~ calls for certification by medical board, denying their right to sexuality, means of asserting their identity
- 2) Transgenders forced into prostitution due to lack of dignified jobs
- 3) Prejudices & stereotypes of transgenders as criminals and beggars
- 4) Lack of transgender friendly toilet & public spaces making them inaccessible
- 5) Denial of adoption rights and reproductive rights, making them lonely in old age
- 6) Culture, media humiliating them through portrayal as "Hijras" reducing their dignity

- 1) Trivialization of their issues
- 2) Lack of representation in lawmaking, judiciary and educational institutes.

The regulative bodies fail to account these social realities as per Amartya Sen, thus reducing their capabilities

### Way Ahead

- 1) Justice CJ Deepak Mishra - Affirmative action for Transgender by identifying them for reservation
- 2) Employment opportunities through Stand Up India, Kochi Metro model.
- 3) Shed gender friendly toilets under Swachh Bharat Abhyas.
- 4) Use of NGOs & civil society to rescue them & spread awareness. Eg Mathathera in Delhi

Sabha Sath, Sabha Usthaar  
Sabhar Vikas can be achieved when the 49

19.

अन्य कारकों के अलावा, चीन और पाकिस्तान के साथ तनावपूर्ण संबंधों ने भारत के लिए शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) से अपनी अपेक्षाओं को पूरा करना कठिन बना दिया है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)  
Among other factors, strained ties with China and Pakistan make it difficult for India to fulfill its expectations from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

is a multilateral grouping with major members from Central Asia, China, Pak, India. India recently hosted virtual Summit of SCO, being the chair of SCO

Factors making India difficult to realise expectation from SCO

Strained ties with Pakistan and China

- ↳ New Delhi declaration prevented a consensus document on SCO emerging due to strain with Pak & China
- ↳ Pak-China axis threatening a two front war for India reducing India's reliance
- ↳ Expectation on terrorism & terrorism

financing not fulfilled as Pak & China block  
India's attempt to call out state sponsored terror

- ↳ connectivity from Central Asia hampered  
as Pakistan block TAPI & China  
aggressively invests in Eurasia.
- ↳ Reduced trade potential & development  
as the 3 countries put restrictions on  
each other for security interests.  
Eg → FDI from land based countries monitored

However, there are  
other factors as well.

- 1) SCO seen as Anti-West and Anti-USA  
thus uniting America's enemies.
- 2) increased animosity among Central Asian  
members reduce bloc's effectiveness  
Eg - Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan in border disputes
- 3) geographical distance a barrier for  
close cooperation with SCO countries

- उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin
- 2) Russia-Ukraine war reduced the effectiveness of SCO due to sanctions on Russia

However, India has fulfilled many of its national interest through SCO.

- 3) SCO's avenue provides India strategic autonomy to balance against West.

C. Rajamohanam said "India simultaneous visit of SCO summit shows capacity to balance"

- 4) RATS provides joint cooperation & info sharing on terrorism
- 5) promotes collaboration & consultation on connectivity projects - eg INSTC

SCO must be leveraged by India to achieve national interests. A comprehensive integration of SCO + INDO PACIFIC + G20 can ensure India becomes a Ushwaaguru

20.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और भारत के बीच महत्वपूर्ण एवं उभरती प्रौद्योगिकी (iCET) पर हाल ही में संपन्न पहल, प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में इनकी साझेदारी में लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित परिवर्तन का वादा करती है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The recently concluded initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) between the United States and India promises a long overdue transformation of their partnership in the field of technology. Examine. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

Anthony Blinken, the US

Secretary of State commented that India-US ties shifted from geopolitics to geotechnology.  
US has shed the hesitation to share critical technology with India. " iCET b/w USA & India is a manifestation of same

Initiative on Critical & Emerging Technology

→ iCET to ensure collaboration b/w USA & India on semiconductor; AI, robotics, drones etc.

→ enables technology transfer & co-development.

→ scope for public - private partnership

## ICET- long overdue transformation on technology partnership

- 1) Represents a shift where USA was hesitant to share cryogenic technology to where USA is keen to equip India
- 2) ensure co-production and co-development of technology through initiatives like INDUS-X
- 3) promote domestic manufacturing of critical jet engines like GM, GE engines
- 4) indigenious production of critical tech like semiconductors. Eg Micron investing in Gujarat
- 5) Helps USA & India to balance Chinese dominance & assertiveness in India
- 6) complements other efforts like

## QUAD critical technology supplies group

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

- 1) Helps in resource and supply chain diversification which both countries aim for.

### Issues

- 1) Fear of US technology ~~assessed~~ by Russian due to close Indo-Russian defense cooperation.
- 2) US CHIPS Act ~~for~~ gives power to US semiconductor industry to monopolize & attract investment in US, defeating iCET.
- 3) IPR issues for USA - US wants IPR regime & evergreening of patent which India is against.
- 4) Unpredictability in US Foreign policy as per Marsh v Pant - US giving \$ 450 mn to Pak for F-16.

The 2+2 Ministerial conference and iCET review can ensure India truly becomes Major Defense Partner of USA.

# SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

AL