



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. : 01537720

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : ARYAN YADAV

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी
Medium: Hindi/English

ENGLISH

तारीख
Date

12-07-2025

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

केंद्र
Centre

GURUGRAM

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर
Invigilator's Signature

	<p style="text-align: center;">महत्वपूर्ण अनुदेश</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;">Important Instructions</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)					



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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

Article 30 provides for fundamental right of minorities to establish & administer educational institutions

Recent SC decision

⊗ In Naresh Aggarwal vs Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) SC upheld minority educational institution status of AMU

Impact on interpretation of Article 30

① A statutory institution can get minority status

② Control by a minority group is not necessary to provide minority status to any educational institution

③ Re-affirms autonomy of minorities

in running their educational institutions

④ Enables minimum govt intervention

in running of minority institutions

⑤ Protection of rights & autonomy of minorities (19.1% of population)

⑥ Will enable AMU to select its own board, design syllabus without intervention

Through this judgment, SC has protected minority rights

"Democracy is not law of the majority, but protection of the minority." — Thomas Jefferson

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

~~The~~ Supreme Court (SC) in Tamil Nadu Governor case prescribed time limits for governor to give assent to bills under Article 200.

SC Judgment

- ① No absolute / pocket veto for governor
- ② Governor may not reserve bill for president if state LA re-passes bill

Implications for cooperative federalism

- ① Will limit central govt intervention in state's legislative process

(Eg) TN governor keeping various bills pending

- ② Will help end bi-partisan role
being played by governor (Punchi
Committee)
- ③ Upholds principle of division
of powers as per 7th schedule

Implications for legislative accountability

- ① Limits power of governor to
challenge certain laws which
may be harmful
- ② Reduces oversight of presidential
referent (Art 200)
- ③ Empowers state legislatures
as independent bodies
- ④ Limiting powers of union to
hold state accountable may harm
national integrity (Sarkaria
commission)

SC judgment helps balance aspirations
of states with national integrity
hence ensuring cooperative federalism

3.

सहकारी क्षेत्र 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) 10

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

Cooperatives were provided Constitutional status by 97th CAA adding Article 43B, amending Art 19 & Adding a Part 9-B to constitution

Tussle between center & states in cooperative sector

- ① Enroachment on State list
(Cooperatives in state list under 7th schedule)
- ② Formation of multi-state cooperatives which are controlled by center reduces powers of States
- ③ Formation of a ministry of cooperation seen as enroachment on domain of state

Recent changes & initiatives

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

- ① SC held that 97th CMA would only apply to multi-state cooperatives
- ② States given autonomy under State rural livelihood mission
- ③ India joined international cooperatives alliance to share best practices
- ④ Cooperative University established in Mysore for research
- ⑤ AMUL model being adopted by states to replicate success of white revolution

UN has declared 2025 to be international year of cooperatives, enhancing cooperative federalism will help in sustainable growth of cooperative sector

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

Civil society acts as crucial
non-state actors bridging
gap between the state & its
citizens

Impact of use of social media
& digital mobilization by civil
society

Policy making

① Lobbying for social reforms

(Eg) #Me too campaign for
gender sensitive policies

② Raising awareness among
citizens via whatsapp groups

③ Online petitions used to
apply pressure to influence

~~ps~~ policies

Democratic Accountability

① Enabling online grievance redressal

Eg) Twitter seva on X

② Raising awareness online

③ Promoting transparency
via social media platforms

(Exclusion)

Digital Divide

→ only 11% dalit households have internet access

Challenges

↳ Narrow lobbying / coercion

↳ Leaking of data online

↳ privacy concerns

Internet is enabling civil society to promote participatory democracy

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 involves integration of social concerns into business operations by corporate sector

Solution for development challenges

① Reaching underserved populations in ~~area~~ remote areas

(Eg) TATA: education of tribals

② Promoting sustainable growth by addressing environmental challenges

(Eg) VEDANTA: Re-use of sewage water in plants

③ Partnership with civil society for public service delivery

(Eg) Ashray Patra foundation :
mid-day meal scheme

④ Addressing challenge of poverty
in rural areas

⑤ Promoting women's empowerment,
especially in rural regions

Eg) Mission Shakti by HUL

Challenges with CSR

- ① greenwashing of claims
- ② Difficult to measure impact
- ③ Only dealing with surface level issues, failure to address core problems

Way Forward

- ① Partnership with govt for better public service delivery (2nd ARC)
- ② Focus on long term, core issues

"Businesses must move beyond serving narrow interests to serving their own communities"
- Ratan Tata

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)

10

Such public consultations promote participatory governance

Positive impacts

① Representation to all citizens

⇒ ensuring all grievances are heard

② Promotes democratic & participatory governance

Es) Peoples plan campaign

⇒ Kerala

③ Promotes transparency in governance

Es) Social Audits

④ Ensures accountability of the govt

Es) Public hearing in EIA process

(5) Promotes active guidance
redressal

(6) Helps build connections
between public servants &
citizens

Challenges

(1) Can lead to delays in
process

(2) Often only done for show,
no attention given to citizens
recommendations

(3) Lack of awareness among
citizens

They are crucial to promote
ethical & transparent governance

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 Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan been in addressing substance abuse in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

NAPDDR & Nasha Mukh Bharat
Abhiyaan aim to rid India of
source of drug abuse

Successes

- ① Narcotics control bureau
→ Seized record amount of
drugs in 2024
- ② Creating a social stigma
towards drug use
- ③ Health clinics & de-addiction
centers setup for support
- ④ Youth awareness campaigns
- ⑤ Arrests under narcotics,
drugs & psychotropic substance
act
- ⑥ use of technology → Drones

to intercept heroin in Punjab

Shortfalls

① Drug smuggling across borders

⇒ Golden Crescent & Triangle



② Myorification of drugs by media & pop-culture

Eg) Animal (Movie)

Stronger reforms are needed
to achieve vision of drug
free India by 2047

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

Per ILO, 75 million jobs are
at risk of complete automation
due to AI highlighting rapid
adoption of AI in marketplace

How rote learning & neglect of
creativity is making India less
future ready

- ① Focus on exam centric education
limits creative thinking
- ② Outdated curriculum not
adapting to modern realities
- ③ Poor integration of technology
into education
Eg) only 34% of schools have
computers (VDISE)
- ④ Lack of industry relevant
education

↳ 88% of workers in India are in low competency occupations (PLQs)

⑤ Poor quality of foundational education

↳ 40% of Standard II students can't read basic texts (ASER)

Steps taken to address this]

① NEP 2020 → integration of technology, vocational education

↳ SWAYAM portal for online learning

② Promoting creative learning

↳ Pahad se Padh (Art integrated learning) in Rajasthan schools

③ Teaching of new technology

↳ A14 All initiative by CBSE + intel

Addressing these concerns is key to SDG-4 (Quality education)

& to secure India's future

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

G7 consists of USA, UK, France, Germany, Canada, Italy & Japan

Initially a symbol of Western Strategic Unity

- ① Included most major economies of the world
- ② Major nuclear powers of USA, UK, France
- ③ Had unified vision of Promoting democracy

Emergence of internal contradictions

- ① Removal of Russia after Crimean invasion 48 → 47
- ② USA ⇒ tariff policy under Trump alienating allies

- ③ Rising nationalism leading to divergence in vision among members

How India can navigate

- ① Leverage bilateral ties with the nations
- Eg) India - US trade agreement
- ② Pushing for UNSC permanent seat
- ③ Emergence as major advocate for democracy ⇒ largest democracy
- ④ Diversify arms imports
- ⑤ Opening up of markets for Indian exports

Indian ~~com~~ combine hard power & soft power to boost strategic interests

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

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इस हार्जिन में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए
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write on
this margin

The IMF was formed in the
Bretton Woods conference along
with World Bank in 1945

Role of IMF in development of
developing countries

① Provides short term loans
to countries facing Balance of
Payments crisis

Eg) India in 1991 received IMF
loans.

② Helps in debt relief for
defaulting countries

Eg) Sri Lanka in 2024

③ Promotes macro economic
reforms

Eg) opening up of India's economy
after 1991 (LPG reforms)

④ Provides direct financial support via loans

↳ Argentina in 2025

Key Criticisms

① Forcing of economic reforms (Washington Consensus) is seen as intouchment on state sovereignty

② Over reliance on austerity measures → leading to income inequalities in nations

③ Domination by USA (veto power) & western nations

④ politicization of IMF loans

⑤ Misuse of IMF loans

↳ Pakistan = terror funding

Reforms are needed to make IMF more inclusive like the New development bank (NDP) of BRICS

11.

103वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम, 2019 ने भारत में सकारात्मक कार्रवाई 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)

15

The 103rd constitutional amendment act introduced reservation for Economically weaker sections (EWS)

~~up to~~ upto 10% by amending Art 15 & 16

Positive implications

① Affirmative action for poor households having income below 8 lakhs annum

② Ensuring substantive equality under Article 14 by providing

support to EWS

③ Will help reduce high income inequality in India

3 top 1% own 40% of wealth
(Oxfam India)

- ④ Help address the lack of equal opportunities for EWS
- ⑤ Upholds principle of economic justice enshrined in preamble
hence is in lines with Constitutional morality (monos morula core)
- ⑥ Will help enable economic mobility for poor by providing reservation in education

Negative Implications

- ① Original purpose of reservation was social justice & not economic
- ② Would lead to further demands for reservation well beyond 50% ceiling of Indira Sawhney case
- ③ Potential for manipulation by falsifying income statements of households

- ④ Exclusion of SC/ST/OBC from EWS reservation
 - ⑤ SC/ST fear that income becomes main criteria for reservation
 - ⑥ SC recommended Creamy layer for SC/ST in Davinder Singh case
 - ⑦ The 10% cap has been questioned as arbitrary
 - ⑧ Income criteria must be updated regularly to account for inflation
- SC upheld 10% cap in Sonhit Abhayan case holding it to be a constitutionally valid method of affirmative action

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

DPC is formed under 73rd/74th
CAA providing for a draft
development plan for whole
 district

Success of DPC in grassroots planning

① Enabled participatory approach
 by involving locals

(Eg) People's plan campaign in
 Kerala

② Collaboration of urban &
rural bodies for comprehensive
planning

③ Raising issues of locals
 at grassroots levels & providing
of realistic solutions

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 इस हाशिए में
 नहीं लिखना
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④ Provides representation to people from Panchayats & Municipalities

Challenges faced by DPC

- ① Recommendations are only advisory (non binding) on State govt
- ② Creation of many parallel bodies by State govt encroaching on powers of DPC
- ③ Bureaucratic interference in functioning of DPC
- ④ Lack own funds to carry out any action
- ⑤ Frequent delays in formation of DPCs
- ⑥ Lack autonomy in functioning as powers not devolved by States

⑦ Members often lack knowledge/
expertise

Measures to enhance effectiveness of DPCs

- ① Timely constitution of DPCs
- ② State govt must give reasons
for not following of any
recommendations
- ③ Capacity building of members
Eg) Panchayat capacity building
Scheme
- ④ Providing funds to enhance
independence of DPCs

Powers must be devolved to
DPCs on lines of principle
of subsidiarity (2nd A/c) to
enable them to function as
institutions of grass roots
democracy

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

Under Article 293, center can put restrictions on borrowing powers of states.

Kerala has recently moved SC to challenge this provision

Reasons for Art 293

- ① Promoting fiscal discipline among states
- ② Prevent excessive borrowing & potential debt crisis
- ③ Incentivizes states to pay back pending loans
- ④ Enables center to limit levels of public debt

Hindrance on Fiscal Autonomy of States

① Reduces states power to fund
various social schemes

Eg) core of Kerala

② Seen as encroachment by
center on state's powers

Eg) Recent restrictions on
Punjab

③ States already highly dependent
on central devolution of funds
by Finance Commission (Art 280)

④ West Bengal govt accused
~~state~~ center of politicizing
powers by using it against
opposition ruled states

Disruptions of cooperative federalism

① Leading to increased disputes
between centre & states

② States wary of over centralization
of powers

③ States resorting to off budget

borrowings \Rightarrow poor fiscal discipline

Way Forward

- ① Constitution of interstate council (Art 263) to address disputes (Sarkaria commission)
- ② Creation of a fiscal council on lines of GST council to promote fiscal federalism (Parliamentary standing committee)
- ③ Increasing share of states in net proceeds of tax to 50% in 16th FC
- ④ Increase central grants to states under Art 275 (Punchhi committee)

Balancing fiscal autonomy of states & fiscal discipline is crucial to ensure sustainable & inclusive growth in India

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

The Representation of People Act (ROPA 1950, S1) enacted under Art 327 to ensure a free & fair electoral ~~pro~~ process in India

Right to contest elections

- ① Key part of any democracy is right to contest in elections
- ② crucial to ensure universal adult franchise (Art 326)
- ③ Upholds principle of political justice in preamble
- ④ Upholds right of people to choose their representative

Challenge of upholding electoral Ethics

उम्मीदवारों को इस ह्रासिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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① Fighting the rising criminalization of politics (46% of Lok Sabha MPs have pending criminal cases)

② Addressing declining political ethics

Eg) cash for query scandal in Lok Sabha

③ Abuse of political power ⇒ Conviction rate of MPs is 6% vs National average of 46%

④ RoPA only disqualifies those convicted for 2+ years & only temporary disqualification of 6 yrs

⑤ No disqualification for those undertrial even for heinous crimes

Case for lifetime ban on convicted criminals

① Reduce criminalization of politics

- ② Upholds retributive justice
- ③ Reducing growing influence of black money in politics

⇒ 93% of LS MPs have assets over 1 crore

Core Against Lifetime Ban

- ① Against principle of rehabilitative justice
- ② After serving time ⇒ convict is equivalent to citizen
- ③ Against principle of free elections in democracy

Way Forward

- ① Ban on undertrials for heinous crimes (ADR)
- ② Parliamentary ombudsman to address ethical violations (NCRWC)
- ③ Special courts for quick disposal of cases involving petitions (NCRWC)

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

BBBP scheme was launched to boost female participation in education & empower girl children

Positive achievements

- ① Increasing enrollments of girls in schools ⇒ Universalization of primary education achieved
- ② Gross enrollment ratio (GER) of women in higher education (28.4%) higher than men
- ③ Reduction in cases of female infanticide
- ④ Sex ratio in India now 1020 (NFHS-5)

(5) Reduced dropouts of girls
from schools

(6) Mindset change of parents

⇒ encourage education of
girl child

Shortfalls

(1) Literacy rate of women = 65%

vs Men = 81% (2011 census)

(2) Disparities in child sex ratio

remain ⇒ low in Uttar Pradesh, UP

but high in southern states

(3) Girls students 70% more

likely to dropout due to

family concerns (ASER)

(4) Sex selection at birth via

infanticide is still big

concern

Further Measures

① Shift from focus on enrollment of girls in schools to reducing dropouts.

② Social awareness campaigns like in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan needed for societal mindset change

③ Encourage female role models for girl children

④ Gender sensitive education in schools (Justice Verma Committee)

⑤ Empower local governments to carry out campaigns, collect data

Empowering girl children is crucial to SDG 5: Gender Equality & inclusive growth

16. 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)

उम्मीदवारों को इस शीट में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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15

SHGs are groups of people from similar socio-economic backgrounds that come together to achieve certain objectives

Vehicles of socio-economic transformation

① Women's empowerment ⇒ 1.2 crore + SHGs in India, 88% have all women members

② Enabling poverty reduction
⇒ 60% of rural SHG members reported increase in income from 2019-22

(Eg) Kudumbashree initiative Kerala

③ Promoting entrepreneurship

(Eg) Lijjat Pappad (SHG)

④ Promotion of financial literacy

↳ Bank Sakhis

⑤ Increasing financial inclusion

↳ SHG Bank linkage programme (NABARD)

⑥ Providing access to collateral free credit

↳ Visvas scheme

⑦ Enabling women's participation in governance

↳ Pramila Bisoi (Odisha)

SHG member ⇒ MP

⑧ Promoting socio-economic mobility of women

↳ Drone-Didis ⇒ women farmers

⑨ Increase financial independence of women

↳ Kakhpoti didi scheme to boost income

Role of government in scaling reach & effectiveness

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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① Financial support to enhance market competitiveness

(Eg) Janvan Yojana → Tribal SHGs

② Providing financial literacy

③ Teaching professional management & proper maintenance of accounts

④ SHG clusters to leverage economies of scale

⑤ SHG monitoring cells in every

district provide quantitative & qualitative data

⑥ Providing cheap access to credit via micro finance

SHGs are crucial tools

for ensuring inclusive growth,

bridging the rural-urban gap

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)

15

Despite being the 4th largest economy & fastest growing major economy, India has highest no of Multidimensional poor in the world at 23 crore per UNDP.

Underlying causes

- ① gender inequality causing feminization of poverty \Rightarrow 70% of world's poor are women (world ~~Bank~~ ^{Bank})
- ② High out of pocket healthcare expenditure of 48%, WHO recommends 15-20%.
- ③ Health burden of Non communicable diseases (caused 69% of all deaths in 2019)

④ Food insecurity ⇒ vicious
cycle of poverty & hunger

(ES) 11th on global hunger index
2023

⑤ 45% of workforce in agriculture
⇒ low productivity & rampant
disguised unemployment

⑥ Commercialization of private
education ⇒ unaffordable
for majority + wealth

⑦ Rising income inequality ⇒
Top 1% own 40% of wealth
(OXFAM)

Measures taken by government

① ~~Free~~ Subsidised food grains
to 67% of population under
NFSA

② Ayushman Bharat Yojana ⇒
largest health insurance
scheme in the world

- ③ Social services expenditure
grew at 15.1% CAGR over last
5 yrs
- ④ Guaranteed employment for
rural workers under MGNREGS
- ⑤ Improving quality of public
school education
Eg) Somagra Shiksha Abhiyan
- ⑥ SHK - Bank linkage programme
(14 crore households covered)
⇒ Largest micro-insurance
Scheme in the world
- ⑦ Income support to farmers
under PM KISAN (DBT)
- ⑧ Bridging digital divide
⇒ 2 lakh gram panchayats
connected under BharatNet
- Such steps are crucial to
achieve NO poverty (SDG 1)

18. 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

Despite being 8th largest Agricultural exporter, producing 11.9% of global food grains, India ranked 111 out of 125 countries on global hunger index 2023

Structural reasons for this paradox

- ① High food wastage (15-20% post harvest losses per ICR) due to poor connectivity infrastructure (70% freight via roads)
- ② Insufficient storage^{capacity} ⇒ 145 MMT only as per FAO
- ③ Mostly focused on production of rice & wheat due to MSP procurement ⇒ import reliance on pulses & oil seeds (55%)

④ Lack of awareness about healthy diet

⑤ Lack of a diversified diet

⇒ micronutrient deficiency
(Hidden Hunger)

⑥ Poor focus on early childhood nutrition ⇒ 35.5% stunting
& 19.1% wasting

⑦ High poverty causes lack of affordability (vicious cycle)

⇒ 129 million in extreme poverty (World Bank)

⑧ Low protein diet is common

Reform Strategies

Supply side

① Private sector involvement in grain storage, modern warehouses (Shanta Kumar Committee)

② Promote growing of pulses,

Millets for nutritional diet

(Eg) PM AASHA

- ③ Promotion of food processing
- to reduce wastage (Polwar
Committee)

Demand Side

- ① Raise awareness about healthy diet

(Eg) Eat right india campaign

- ② Automation of FPS to reduce leakages in PDS

- ③ Address early childhood
nutrition

(Eg) Integrated child development
scheme (ICDS)

- ④ Fortification of food grains

(Eg) Golden rice (Vitamin A)

Ending hunger as per SDG-2

will require such reforms

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 has provided aid & support to both neighbours Sri Lanka & Maldives in line with Neighbourhood First doctrine of concessions to neighbour.

Impact on bilateral ties

Sri Lanka

① Strengthened economic ties
→ India largest trade partner

② Work progressing on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA)

③ Helped build mutual trust among the two

④ Shift away from Chinese sphere of influence

Maldives

① Quieting of India-out campaign of Muizzu govt

② Military cooperation with joint naval exercise

③ Welcoming of Indian tourists
reversal of earlier ~~boycott~~

Boycott Maldives campaign

④ Shift towards India away from Chinese influence

⑤ Creation of goodwill between the two

Steps to promote sustainable economic cooperation in Indian Ocean region

① India to act as net security provider in region

→ SAGAR initiative

- उम्मीदवारों को
दूस हथिय में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए
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this margin
- ② Creation of FTA among various nations of region
 - ③ Enhancing connectivity of the region
 - ④ Collaboration on early warning systems for disasters

(Eg) INCOIS vulnerability maps

- ⑤ Resolving fishing related disputes with Sri Lanka
- ⑥ Promoting stronger people to people ties
- ⑦ Collaboration ~~with~~ on green energy

(Eg) Adani solar in Sri Lanka

As said by PM Modi, "A stable, secure & prosperous neighbourhood is in India's direct interests."

20.

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

With the Taliban government

Coming into power post 2021,
India's relationship with Afghanistan
has altered significantly

Key strategic significance of
Afghanistan

- ① Acts as gateway to central Asia
- ② Crucial for energy connectivity
Eg) TAPI pipeline
- ③ Can unlock crude oil imports from Iran
- ④ Act as connectivity hub to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
⇒ rich critical mineral deposits like uranium

- ⑤ Enables bypassing of Pakistan
into central asia
- ⑥ Military significance in case
of potential war with
Pakistan
- ⑦ Crucial part of India's
connect central asia policy
- ⑧ Enable diversification of
imports & boost exports
from India

Impact of Taliban government

- ① Decline in diplomatic engagement
→ closing of embassy in Kabul
- ② India hasn't recognized
Taliban government
- ③ Stalling of various connectivity
projects
- ④ India has joined heart of
Asia process to promote peace
in region

⑤ Rising instability in region
hurting India's ambitions

Way Forward

- ① India can cooperate with Taliban on economic issues
(political realism: Realpolitik)
- ② Building of connectivity
infrastructure in region
- ③ Continue humanitarian efforts
in region ⇒ technical mission
in Kabul

Afghanistan is crucial as
the gateway to central Asia

India can act by separating
economic & political ties

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

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VisionIAS