



# VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

Name of Candidate	Komal Punia		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1026090
Center	Online	Date	25/02/23

### INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

### INSTRUCTIONS

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)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**  
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.  
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
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।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
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।

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

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Delhi- 110009

## 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.

VisionIAS

All the Best

1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility.  
Discuss. (150 words) 10

एक स्वतंत्र अम्ब्रेला निकाय जो विभिन्न केंद्रीय जांच एजेंसियों को एक छत के नीचे लाता हो, उनकी विश्वसनीयता को बढ़ाने की कुंजी है। विवेचना कीजिए।

To enhance coordination and bring in effective regulation between various central investigative agencies [eg] CBI, NIA, CVC etc, there is a need for an independent umbrella body.

### Need of umbrella body

- ① bring in transparency and accountability.
- ② provide effective communication
- ③ reduce duplication of efforts
- ④ better coordination in crisis management.
- ⑤ Non-traditional threats - cybercrime, drug trafficking, use of social media - need multi-pronged approach

⑥ effective utilisation of manpower and resources.

[eg] CVC doesn't have its own investigating staff.

⑦ Capacity building and use of modern tech.

### Way ahead

① Statutory umbrella body through legislation passed in parliament.

② Autonomy, and adequate transparency.

③ Uniformity of provisions is needed - CBI recently used 'general consent' or 'case by case consent' - hampers functioning.

Umbrella body will reduce multiplicity of efforts and enhance efficiency.

2. Discuss the significance of the Doctrines of Pith and Substance and Colourable Legislation with respect to Centre-state relations in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों के संदर्भ में तत्व एवं सार के सिद्धांत और छद्म (आभासी) विधायन के सिद्धांत के महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

Supreme Court has come up with various principles, doctrines for interpreting centre-state relations.

Doctrine of pith and Substance: Significance

involves interpreting the ambit of entries in Schedule VII lists.

- ① If actual substance or intent falls in list - then that entry is saved from overreach.
- ② Centre's legislations overreach on state subjects is protected.
- ③ federalism is basic structure -  
↳ doctrine of pith and substance - an example of Cooperative federalism

## Doctrine of Colourable legislation

means legislation can't circumvent directly or indirectly provisions of Constitution —

based on maxim, "what can't be done directly, can't be done indirectly."

- ↳ prevent provisions against interests of states.
- ↳ checks on colourable legislation
- ↳ federal interests protected.
- ↳ shows states as autonomous, independent identities.
- ↳ regional demands can't be overlooked.
- ↳ checks hasty legislation.

Supreme Court has made use of above doctrines to establish harmony between centre and states.

3. Do you agree with the view that there should be simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies in India? Discuss with suitable arguments. **(150 words) 10**

क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत में लोक सभा और राज्य विधान सभाओं के निर्वाचन एक साथ होने चाहिए? उपयुक्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Law Commission, Election Commission and various other bodies have recommended to hold simultaneous election as a step towards - 'one nation, one election'.

### Arguments for

- ① synchronised timings of elections - reduce wastage of resources.
- ② reduction in election expenditure and corruption, black money.
- ③ will increase electoral participation currently 67%.
- ④ Election Commission will ensure smooth conduct of elections.

However, last time simultaneous elections held in 1967. There are certain challenges in ensuring this-

- ↳ ① agreement between parties
- ↳ ② deployment of election machinery and security forces
- ↳ ③ synchronising timings  
↓ lead to  
bypolls.
- ↳ ④ challenge of hung assembly in certain states.

### Way ahead

- ① phase wise synchronisation can be done.
- ② Instead of one, there can be two or three periods to organise elections.

4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (150 words) 10  
भारत में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के बारे में अनिश्चितता और अस्पष्टता के आलोक में, उनके संहिताकरण की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Parliamentary privileges are mentioned in Art 105 of Indian Constitution.

They are of two types

↓  
Individual MP  
privileges

↳ freedom of  
speech in  
house

↳ immunity against  
words said in  
parliament.

Parliament's  
privileges

↳ Art 122, 212

courts debarred  
from interfering  
with  
Parliament.

However, with increasing instances of breach of privileges and ambiguity around them — there is need for 'Code of privileges' —  
e.g. recent disruption during PM's speech.

Codification will ensure

- ↳ ① clarity of punishment
- ↳ ② Speaker's biasness and error will be removed.
- ↳ ③ discipline, debate and discussion instead of disruption.
- ↳ ④ Rules Committee and Committee of Ethics can aid framing of code and implementation.

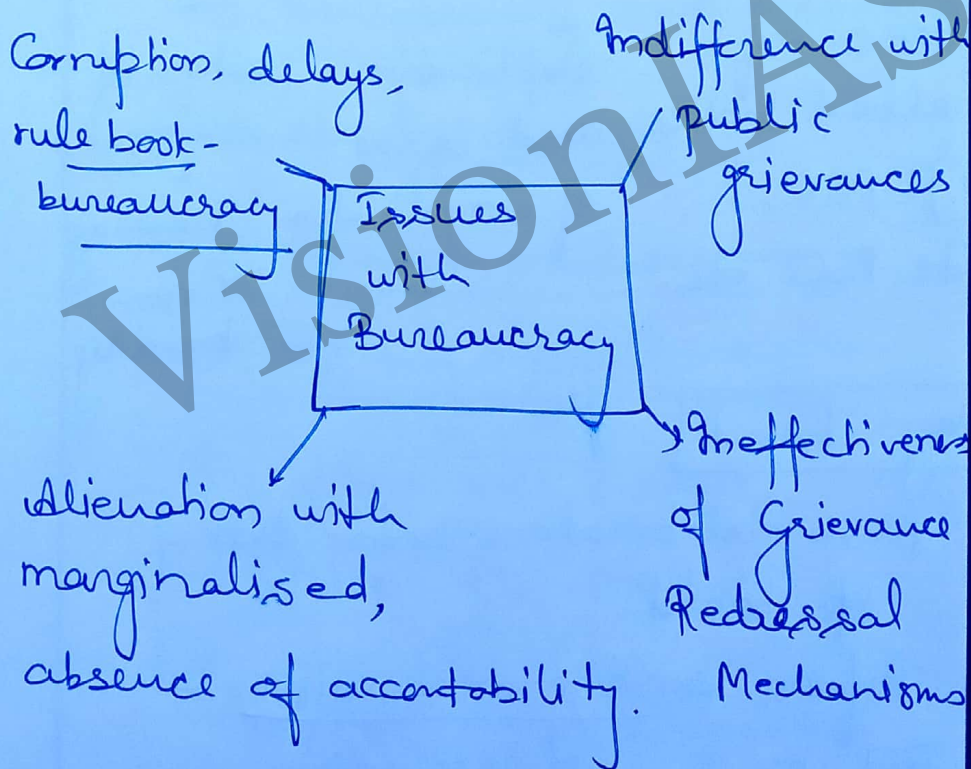
Way ahead

- ① ARC-II recommended - 'Code of Conduct' for MPs.
  - ② 83<sup>rd</sup> All India Presiding officer's conference - also demanded for code to govern behaviour.
- A code on lines of 'Nolan Committee' will strengthen democracy.

5. While the Civil Services Board can be a step forward in making the Indian bureaucracy more effective, it has its own issues which need to be addressed. Analyse. (150 words) 10

हालांकि, सिविल सेवा बोर्ड भारतीय नौकरशाही को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने की दिशा में एक अग्रणी कदम हो सकता है, लेकिन इसके अपने मुद्दे हैं जिन्हें हल करने की आवश्यकता है।  
विश्लेषण कीजिए।

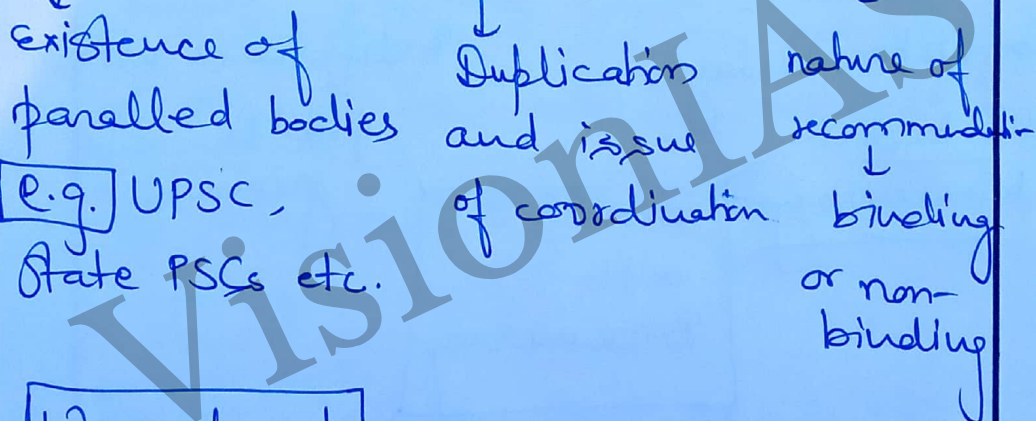
Indian bureaucracy is ailing with many issues such as red tapism, corruption etc. which calls for setting up of 'Civil Services Board'.



Civil Service Board will usher in accountability, transparency.

- ↳ implementation of 'Code of Conduct'
- ↳ grievance redressal.
- ↳ streamline recruitment, training, and periodic performance evaluation.

### Challenges with Board



### Way ahead

- ① More deliberations before setting up board.
- ② Reform existing mechanisms -  
e.g. Karmayogi (iGOT)

'Civil Services Board' should precede with internal reformation.

6. Highlight the potential of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 in transforming the ecosystem of service delivery in India. (150 words) 10  
भारत में सेवा वितरण के पारितंत्र को रूपांतरित करने में इंडिया डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) 2.0 की क्षमता पर प्रकाश डालिए।

IndEA 2.0 is rooted in good governance  
by digitising service delivery as  
a step towards e-governance.

Potential of IndEA 2.0

- ↳ ① transparency, and accountability.
- ↳ ② speedy disposal.
- ↳ ③ feedback mechanisms -  
digitally suggestions
- ↳ ④ aligns with NeGP,  
PRAGATI, Meghraj.
- ↳ ⑤ single window Grievance  
redressal.
- ↳ ⑥ reduce red tapism and  
corruption.

## Challenges

- ① data privacy and in absence of legislation like Personal Data Protection Bill.
- ② Digital Illiteracy - 90% Indians
- ③ exclusion of poor and marginalised
- ④ creation of digital inequality.

## Way ahead

- ① IndEA 2.0 supplemented with digital literacy campaigns.
- ② Integration of far flung areas with welfarist governance
- ③ IndEA 2.0 will usher in India of IR 4.0 (Industrial Revolution 4.0) with informed and better served citizenry to fulfill vibrant democracy

7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it. (150 words) 10

नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली क्या है? इसके महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए और इसमें सुधार करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Civil Registration System (CRS) is registration of people of India. It is ~~like~~ a step towards formalisation.

### Importance

- ① Organised and formalisation- currently govt. informal workforce
- ② helps in NPR, CAA and other data formulation.
- ③ aids evidence based policy
- ④ helps targeting of beneficiaries.

Government has undertaken several steps to improve it.

### Measures taken

- ① digitisation of registration process
- ② Adhar linkage for better results.
- ③ Expanded reach - to remove exclusion error.
- ④ Capacity building of staff

Civil Registration System is a democratic exercise - aimed for evidence based policy making.

8. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, provides an effective mechanism for empowerment of the intended beneficiaries in the society. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

हाथ से मैला उठाने वाले कर्मियों के नियोजन का प्रतिषेध एवं उनका पुनर्वास अधिनियम, 2013 समाज में इच्छित लाभार्थियों के सशक्तीकरण के लिए एक प्रभावी तंत्र प्रदान करता है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The inhumane working conditions of manual scavengers catalysed the need of ~~the~~ <sup>2013</sup> Act for their rehabilitation.

### 2013 Act benefits

- ① rescue and rehabilitation of manual scavengers.
- ② Mechanising desludging process.
- ③ prohibiting discrimination as most of scavengers from lower cast.
- ④ Victims compensation in case of damages.
- ⑤ brings in societal consciousness with respect to Human Rights.

However the Act has been ineffective

- ↳ ① Ineffectiveness in providing alternate livelihood options.
- ↳ ② Rehabilitation efforts inadequate.
- ↳ ③ Continued discrimination
- ↳ ④ large section of population still not benefitted.

Multipronged approach of rehabilitation, alternate livelihood and adequate social security measures are needed.

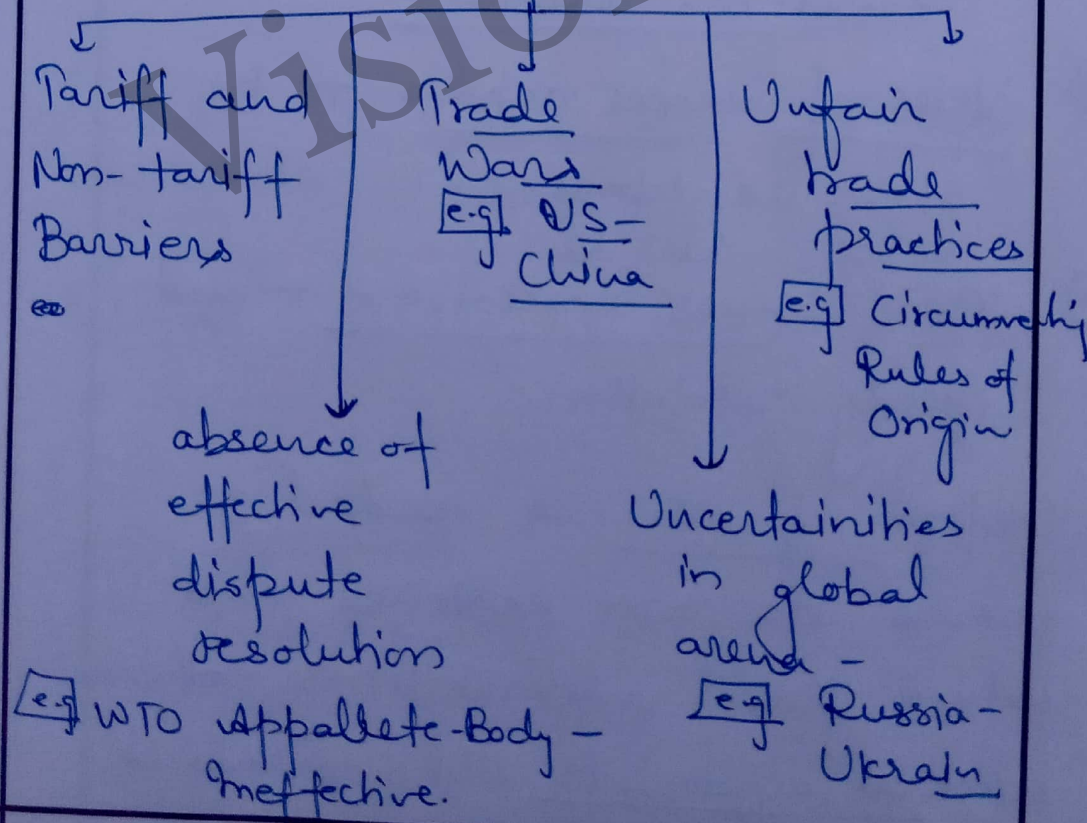
Budget 2023-24 ~~is~~ announced  
mechanisation of desludging process.

9. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system. (150 words) 10

वर्तमान वैश्विक व्यापार प्रणाली में विद्यमान कमियों को दूर करने के लिए विश्व व्यापार संगठन को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु उस पर किए जाने वाले सुधारों की विवेचना कीजिए।

World Trade Organisation (WTO)  
is the multilateral forum for  
trade negotiations and ensuring  
free trade across globe.

Vulnerabilities in present global  
trading system



Reforms needed

① decisions influenced by developed economies - need for recognition of ~~de~~ challenges and issues of developing economies.

[e.g.] food security - Issue over MSP.

② Need for effective dispute resolution

[e.g.] Developed nations - not reducing amber-box subsidies

③ Voice of weaker nations to be given weightage.

④ Many issues unresolved - need speedy resolution.

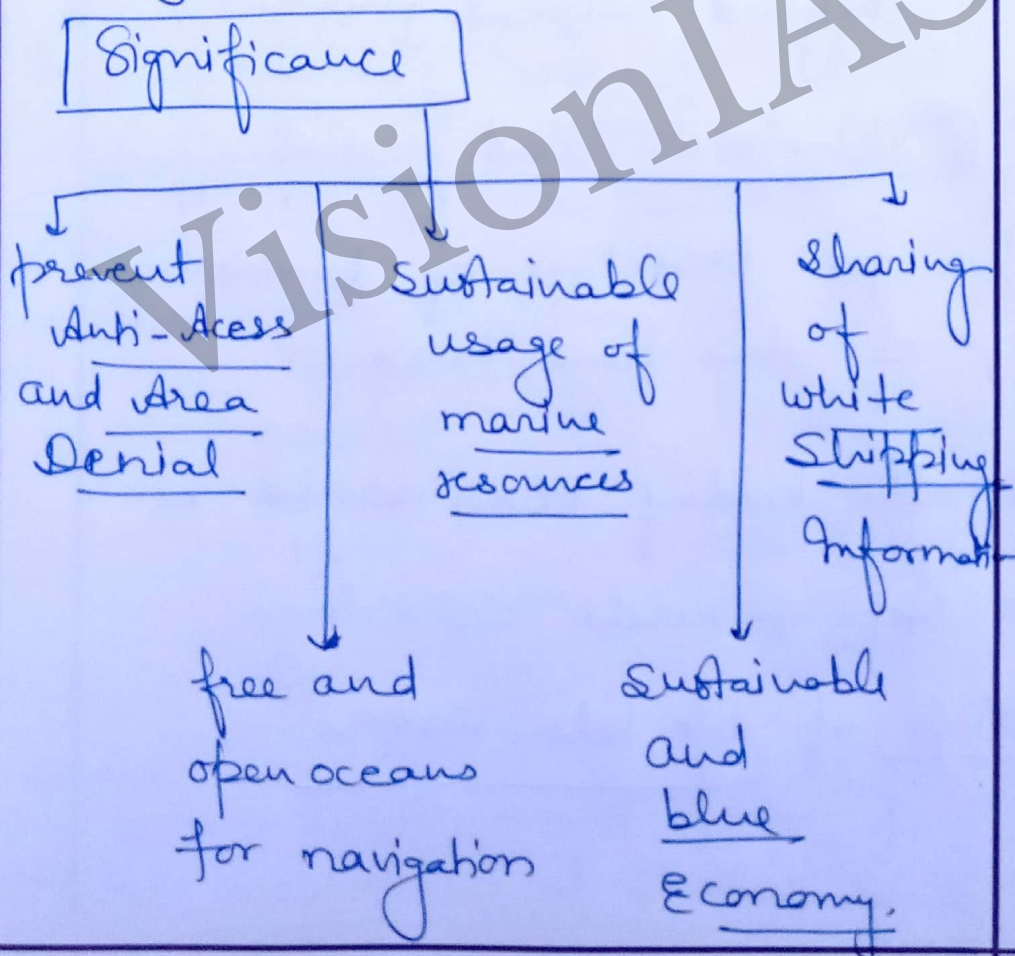
Reform of WTO is needed to ensure its own existence and reduce global vulnerabilities - otherwise bilateral agreements will supersede it.

10. State the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Also, discuss the need for a legally binding Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement.

(150 words) 10

संयुक्त राष्ट्र समुद्री कानून संधि (UNCLOS) के महत्व का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी राष्ट्रीय अधिकार से परे क्षेत्रों की समुद्री जैव विविधता (BBNJ) समझौते की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

UNCLOS aims to ensure free access of seas to all nations for peaceful and equitable navigation.



## Need for legally Binding BBNJ

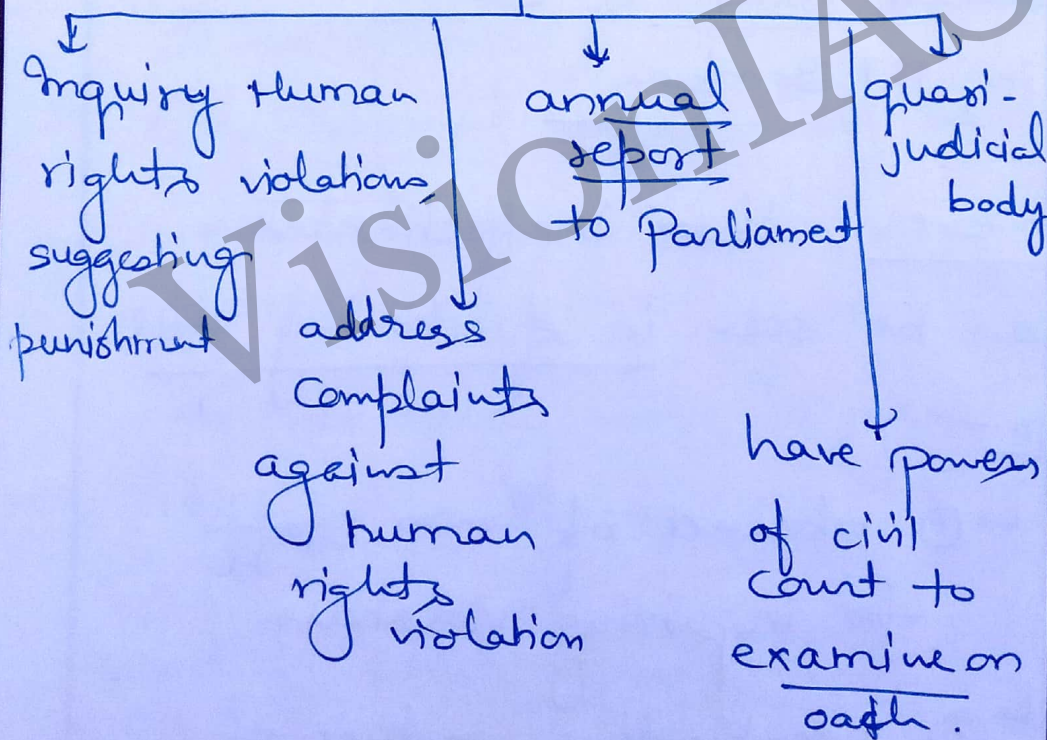
- ↳ ① protection of marine ecosystem.
- ↳ ② protect endangered animals  
and flora.  
[eg] sounds disturb deep  
sea animals and communication
- ↳ ③ Around 90% ocean lies  
beyond national jurisdiction
- ↳ ④ Uniform and global efforts  
for protection of biodiversity  
of this huge area.

legally binding BBNJ would be  
a step towards achieving  
SDG of 'life below waters'.

11. Critically assess the role played by the National Human Rights Commission as a watchdog of human rights violations in India. (250 words) 15
- भारत में मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के प्रहरी के रूप में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

NHRC is a statutory body established by Human Rights Act 1992 as a watchdog of Human Rights in India.

### functions of NHRC



Assessment of role played by NHRC in protection of human rights

in India —

- ① Spread awareness regarding human rights.
- ② Campaigns against sexual exploitation
- ③ Role of NHRC visible in POSH guidelines, Ayodhya Case, recent death of Dalit student in IIT Bombay.

However, ~~there~~ ineffectiveness can be seen in functioning due to —

- ↳ ① absence of own staff for inquiring violations.
- ↳ ② non-binding nature of recommendation
- ↳ ③ Can't examine violations

1 year before.

↳ ④ reports not tabled timely  
in parliament.

↳ ⑤ ineffectiveness in dealing  
cybercrimes, marital rapes etc.

### Way ahead

① Own staff for inquiry - need  
to be provided.

② Constitutional status can be  
accorded.

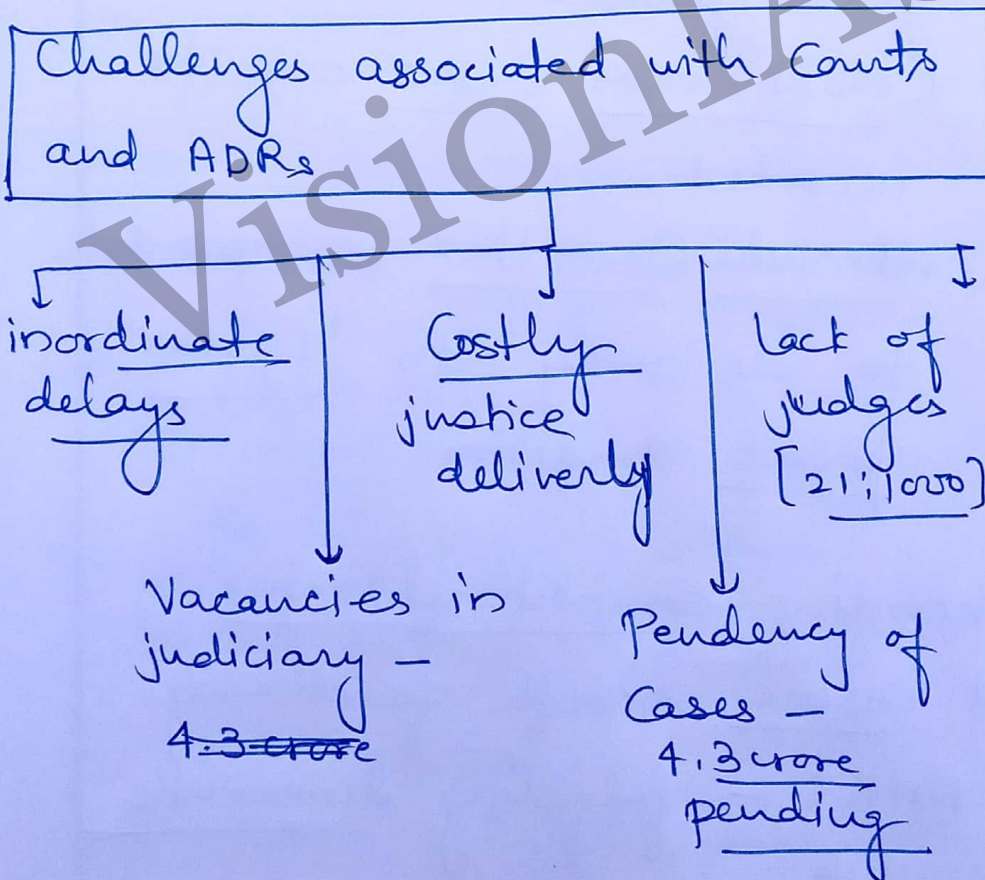
③ Ahmadi Committee recommended  
to do away with '1 year'  
period condition.

According constitutional status  
will ensure smooth functioning  
of NHRC - fulfilling democratic  
mandate.

12. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. (250 words) 15

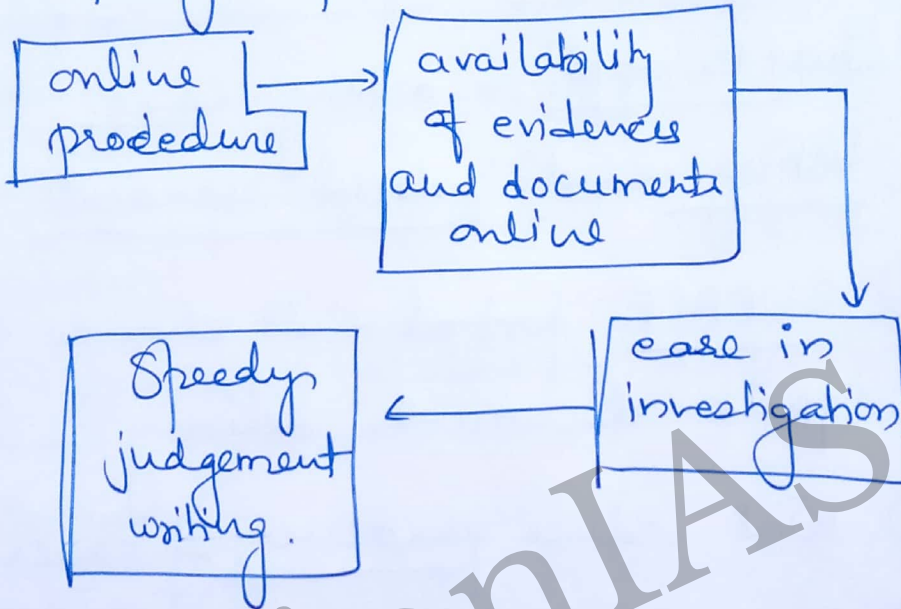
विवेचना कीजिए कि विवाद समाधान प्रक्रियाओं में सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी (ICT) का एकीकरण अदालतों एवं वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (ADR) मंचों के कामकाज से जुड़ी चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में किस प्रकार सहायता करेगा।

Digitisation of courts and ADRs,  
in wake of Industrial Revolution 4.0  
will usher speedy dispensation  
of justice.



## ICT as solution to above challenges

↳ ① Speedy disposal -



↳ ② Increase Accessibility - to far flung areas - currently only 1 Supreme Court - difficult for people across geographies to come Delhi.

↳ digitisation will enhance accessibility.

- ↳ ③ Reduce cost - will make justice more affordable.
- ↳ ④ Schemes like e-Court Mission, Just IS app, - aiding case listing and judicial research.
- ↳ ⑤ SUPACE portal - will enhance quick documents delivery.
- ↳ ⑥ Will reduce pendency of cases.
- ↳ ⑦ Unobstructed justice dispensation even during Covid.

Thus, there is a need of speedy integration of ICT with courts and ADRs. For this a Special Purpose Vehicle - can be constituted to aid digital infrastructure.

13. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत विधायकों की निरर्हता से संबंधित विभिन्न प्रावधानों के बावजूद, भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण का मुद्दा अभी भी काफी हद तक अनसुलझा है। विवेचना कीजिए।

RPA, 1951 provides elaborate provisions for disqualification of legislators.

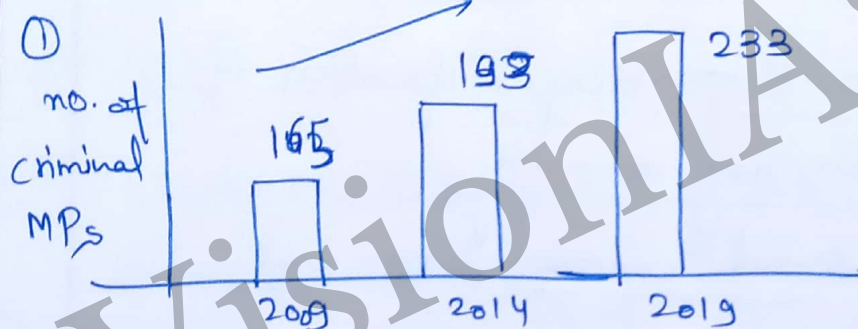
RPA provisions related to disqualification

- ① Section 8 - disqualification if
  - ↳ promoting enmity
  - ↳ social crimes like Sati
- ② Section 8A - Corrupt practices -  
defined under section 123 -
  - bribery, Corruption
  - false information on affidavit
- ③ Section 9, 10, 11, 12 - deals with disqualification on holding

shares in company where government  
is >25% stakeholder, etc.  
↳ trade of goods and services etc.

Despite above provisions, criminals  
in politics continue to ail democracy.

### Criminalisation of Politics extent



'A growth not to be proud of'

- ② First Past the Post (FPTP)  
system favours popular candidate
- ③ Loopholes of RPA provisions —  
as escape route for disqualification

e.g. Earlier Section 8(4) was misused

Lily Thomas Case 2013 - declared  
it unconstitutional.

### Way ahead

- ① Internal Party democracy -  
Election Commission Recommendation.
- ② Informed electorate - awareness
- ③ campaigns e.g. Kerala organising  
Constitutional literacy campaigns.
- ④ Need of simplification of  
disqualification under corrupt  
practices [RPA 1951]

The idea of 'substantive democracy'  
can only be fulfilled by eliminating  
criminals from politics - lest India  
will reduce to 'Psephocracy'.

14. It is time for reforms, which recognise that urban local bodies (ULBs) need permanent, buoyant revenue sources to match the growing demands of an increasing urban population. Discuss. (250 words) 15

यह सुधारों का समय है जो यह पहचान करता है कि शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) को बढ़ती शहरी आबादी की बढ़ती मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए स्थायी, वृद्धिशील राजस्व स्रोतों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Urban population is projected to increase to 50% in next decade.

Rising urban population demands robust ULBs for better urban planning.

Current status of ULBs

- ① Revenue deficit due to dependency on state government.
- ② less avenues for own revenue -
 

Property tax - lowest (OECD report)	Professional tax limit (2500 ₹)	GST subsumed many taxes.
---	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------
- ③ Reluctance in levying taxes

- ④ Absence of Capital market for loan.
- ⑤ Budget passage need State government recommendation.
- ⑥ Challenge of funds, functions and functionaries.

So there is urgent need for alternate sources of revenue -

- ① Municipal Bonds [RBI report]  
↳ to raise loans for urban development.
- ② China model of financial agency for municipal bodies - providing loans especially to them.
- ③ Removing limit on professional tax.
- ④ New taxes like - Carbon tax - for sustainable development and revenue generation.

⑤ making recommendation of  
State Finance Commissions binding  
on state government → will  
ensure better devolution.

Rising urban populace need  
sustainable urban planning —  
Municipalities have crucial role  
to play.

A permanent, buoyant revenue  
source will ensure independence  
achieving ~~SDG~~ SDG of  
sustainable urban spaces.

15. The role of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in India is changing in contemporary times and has become increasingly more complex. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

समकालीन समय में भारत में नागरिक समाज संगठनों (CSOs) की भूमिका बदल रही है और निरंतर अधिक जटिल होती जा रही है। चर्चा कीजिए।

CSOs are voluntarily formed organisations

to work for public welfare -

fulfilling the mandate of  
democracy.

Traditional role of CSOs

① Pre-Independence -

↳ social reforms - voice

against evils of sati,  
widow remarriage, etc.

↳ educating and politically  
empowering people. -

↳ mobilising women - [e.g.] Bharat  
stree Mahamandal.

↳ Some examples - Brahmo Samaj,  
Arya Samaj, SEWA etc.

② Post-Independence role

↳ Political mobilisation -

[e.g.] passing of Domestic  
Violence Act.

↳ Environmental Conservation -

[e.g.] Vandana Shiva (Eco-  
feminism)

↳ feminism and awareness of  
rights - BMMA,

Contemporary times; more complex  
issues

① Temple entry - Sabrimala Case.

② Gender equality [SDG-5]

- ③ Cosmopolitanism - voice for rights on global platforms -
- ④ acting as pressure groups - e.g. [Kisan movement and farm bills]
- ⑤ Service providers - Akshaypaba
- ⑥ Advocacy - PUCL, ADR, RTI Act
- ⑦ Research - policy formulation aid - [e.g.] Pratham's ASER
- With decreasing role of government and expanding neo-liberal market model - role of NAO has become increasingly complex.

16. Though the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) aims to address the inequity in development in India, there are a number of issues which plague the scheme. Discuss. (250 words) 15

हालांकि संसद सदस्य स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना (एमपीएलएडीएस) का उद्देश्य भारत में विकास में असमता से निपटना है, लेकिन ऐसे कई मुद्दे हैं जो इस योजना को प्रभावित करते हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

MPLADS scheme suspended past few years has been controversial in achieving its objectives.

### MPLADS objectives

- ↳ ① funds to MPs for local area development - reduce inequity
- ↳ ② local MPs knows - local constraints and local resources thus - aiding development.
- ↳ ③ funds lapsable ⇒ utilisation in same year to ensure implementation.

Issues with scheme

- ① Corruption and non-transparent utilisation of funds.
- ② Ineffective spending due to lapsable nature.
- ③ Loss of public money due to inefficiencies.
- ④ MPs spending fund for populist measures.
- ⑤ changed the culture of freebies.

ARC-II recommended to discontinue

MPLADS - Instead schemes

like Sansad Gram - adopting villages for development.

## Way ahead

- ① transparency in spending
- ② digitisation of spent funds
- ③ social audit by NCOs
- ④ reducing the funds allocated.

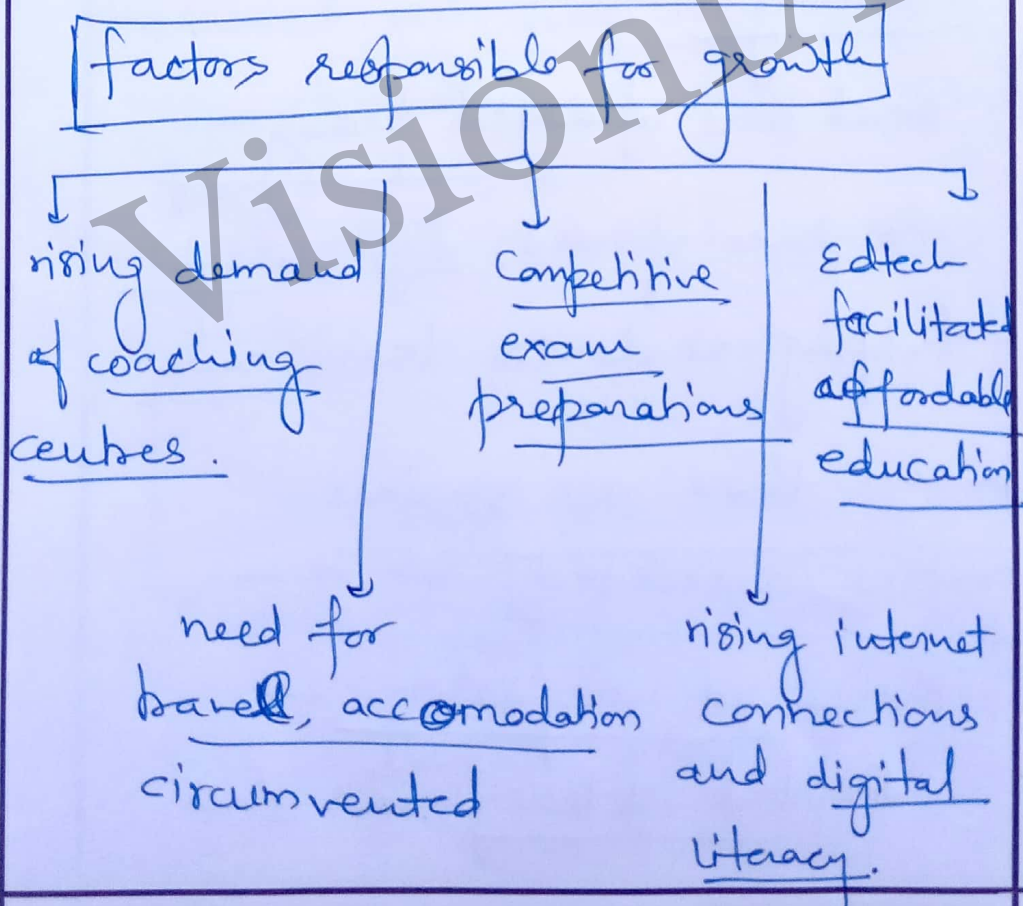
MPLADS has lost its significance given its suspension. As recommended by ARC-II, either it can be discontinued or above recommendations can be followed.

17. Highlighting the factors responsible for the growth of EdTech sector in India in recent times, discuss its benefits. Also, state the concerns associated with it. (250 words) 15

हाल के दिनों में भारत में एडटेक क्षेत्रक के विकास के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके लाभों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इससे जुड़ी चिंताओं का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

The onset of Industrial Revolution

4.0 has resulted in growth of EdTech sector worldwide. This especially became significant in aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic.



## Benefits of EdTech.

- ① Increased accessibility to  
far flung areas - hitherto  
unreached can avail benefits.
- ② Enhanced affordability -  
no need for costly accommodation.
- ③ Provided avenues for blended  
learning.
- ④ Real time updated pedagogy
- ⑤ emergence of AI, eg chatgpt -  
helping students learn codes.

However there are various

Concerns associated with it -

- ① Increased inequality -  
Digital illiteracy aids this

- ② Commodification of education
- ③ Mental health issues aggravated  
↳ increased screen time.
- ④ Privacy challenges - data collection  
might be misused.
- ⑤ Spread of wrong/false facts -  
degraded quality of education.
- ⑥ Increased vulnerability towards  
cyberattacks.

There is need to create robust  
infrastructure → reduce digital  
illiteracy  
↳ cyber secure environment  
↳ national policy on  
edtech sector is need of  
hour.

18. Bring out the role of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in delivering health services in rural India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken to overcome the challenges faced by them. (250 words) 15

ग्रामीण भारत में स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं प्रदान करने में मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (आशा) की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों को दूर करने के उपाय भी सुझाइए।

ASHA play crucial role in expanding reach of Primary Health Care (PHC) in India.

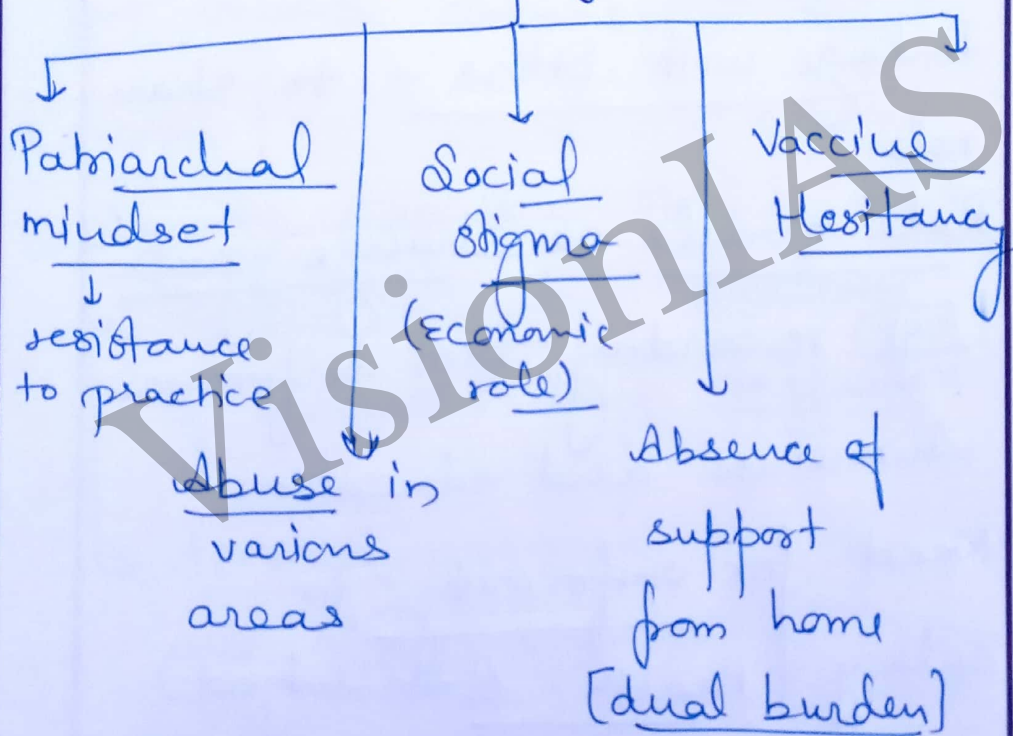
### Role of ASHA

- ① Maternal and childcare -  
↳ implementation of schemes like ICDS, POSHAN 2.0 etc  
↳ Vaccine coverage under  
Andradharush program.
- ② Institutional deliveries -  
87% (NFHS-5) - progressive  
step.
- ③ Reproductive education to women

④ Crucial role played during Covid vaccination drive.

⑤ role in tackling Communicable Diseases.

Challenges faced by them



So there is need for certain measures to overcome the challenges.

Measures

- ① Capability building - technological training
- ② Equip with technical instruments [e.g] power point slides - better awareness generation.
- ③ Linkage with SHGs - to share role.
- ④ Role models as change agents [e.g] rewarding best performers.
- ⑤ awareness and education.
- ⑥ Need for uniformity in salary (Health - State subject)

ASHA play crucial role in achievement of SDGs - 2, 3.

19. Discuss the various concerns that have arisen for India after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Also, suggest the measures that India should take in the given context. (250 words) 15

तालिबान द्वारा अफगानिस्तान पर अधिकार करने के बाद भारत के लिए उत्पन्न विभिन्न चिंताओं की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए जो इस संदर्भ में भारत द्वारा अपनाए जाने चाहिए।

Recent withdrawal of US security forces from Afghanistan and subsequent takeover by Taliban put various concerns for India.

### Concerns

- ① Security concerns - Taliban part of Golden crescent - challenge of increased drug trafficking
  - ↳ terrorist organisations might use Afghanistan soil as harbour.
- ② Instability in neighbourhood -
  - ↳ challenge of potential collusion of China - Pakistan - Afghanistan

- ③ India undertake various developmental projects in Afghanistan -  
[e.g] Construction of Parliament.
- ④ Afghanistan - gateway to Central Asia - Taliban takeover might impede connectivity.
- ⑤ Human rights violations in Taliban raises concerns for global community.
- ⑥ India fears mass refugees

In light of above challenges,  
India can undertake following  
measures -

- ① usage of multilateral fora  
like UNSC, UNGA - for

Voicing Human Rights Protection.

② Aiding food supplies etc. to  
food insecure Afghan populace.

③ quick passage of Comprehensive

Convention against Terrorism.

④ Negotiations with Taliban for  
future ties — conditionally —  
when no Human Rights  
Violation occur.

⑤ Security modernisation to  
deter non-traditional threats.

India can't afford to stay away  
from Afghanistan as China will  
form China-Pak-Af tripple axis.  
So navigating through challenges is  
crucial.

20. Bangladesh is not only a key part of India's "Neighbourhood First policy" but also crucial for the "Act East policy". In this context, discuss the steps taken by the two countries to strengthen their relationship.

(250 words) 15

बांग्लादेश न केवल भारत की "नेबरहुड फर्स्ट पॉलिसी" का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, बल्कि "एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी" के लिए भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस संदर्भ में, दोनों देशों द्वारा अपने संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

India shares largest land boundary with Bangladesh (→ 4000 km) while Bangladesh being India's largest trade partner in neighbourhood.

Importance of Bangladesh

- ① Political and diplomacy -  
↳ NFP, Act East policy, BBIN, BIMSTEC etc
- ② Connectivity to North East  
↳ Sitiguri corridor (Chicken neck)
- ③ Inter-State rivers - [eg] Brahmaputra, Ganga & tributaries.

- ④ Historical - 1971 War of Liberation -  
India's aid.

### Challenges in relationship

- ① Refugee influx - Rohingyas
- ② Tecota agreement not  
consolidated.
- ③ Terrorism and security threats  
- proximity to golden triangle.
- ④ China's BRI and Bangladesh  
e.g. Chittagong port.

### Steps that has been taken

- ① Recent Kushiyara river agreement
- ② Land Boundary Agreement -  
100<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment  
Act.

- ③ regional partnerships - BBIN, BIMSTEC etc.
- ④ Cooperation over interstate rivers.
- ⑤ Line of Credit given by India to Bangladesh.
- ⑥ Leveraging soft power - historical ties.

### Way ahead

- ① Need to conclude Teesta Agreement.
- ② solve issue of refugee.
- ③ Strengthened soft power -  
[eg] Bangali language, Bangladesh national anthem - by Tagore.

Above steps need to be taken to foster ties of both countries.