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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2086)

Name of Candidate	RITIKA RATH	Registration Number	1213334
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Date	01.08.2023
Center	ONLINE		

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

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).  
उत्तर पुरितका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **HINDI & ENGLISH** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.** सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.  
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- 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।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- 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 उसका अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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## EVALUATION INDICATORS

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

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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All the Best



- Q1. क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत में न्यायिक जवाबदेही मनिश्चित करने के लिए एक नया कानून बनाने की आवश्यकता है?  
Do you agree with the view that there is a need to enact a new law for ensuring judicial accountability in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q2. भारतीय संविधान के लागू होने के बाद में मूल अधिकारों और राज्य की नीति के निर्देशक तत्वों (DPSPs) में संवैधानिक रूप से सामंजस्य स्थापित करना एक कठिन कार्य रहा है। प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से चर्चा कीजिए।  
Constitutionally reconciling Fundamental Rights with the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) has been a tough task since the inception of the Indian Constitution. Discuss with the help of relevant case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q3. प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) द्वारा किए जाने वाले कार्यों और भारत में नीति-निर्माण को आकार देने में इसकी भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।  
Discuss the functions performed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and its role in shaping policy-making in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q4. भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC) की धारा 124A के प्रावधानों का पुनरीक्षण करने और उन पर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए नागरिक स्वतंत्रताओं एवं मानवाधिकार सत्रधी चिंताओं तथा भारत की संप्रभुता एवं अखंडता को बनाए रखने और उसकी रक्षा करने के बीच संतुलन बनाने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।  
Re-examination and reconsideration of the provisions of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) requires striking a balance between concerns of civil liberties and human rights, and maintaining and protecting the sovereignty and integrity of India. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q5. "ग्रामीण भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस प्रयत्नों की सफलता के लिए नागरिक भागीदारी महत्वपूर्ण है।" टिप्पणी कीजिए।  
"Citizen participation is key to the success of e-governance initiatives in rural India." Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q6. आपके अनुसार आकाशी जिला कार्यक्रम अपनी शुरुआत के बाद से अपने उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति में कितना सफल रहा है?  
How far do you think the Aspirational District Programme has been able to achieve its objectives since its inception? (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q7. NGO क्षेत्र को आगे बढ़ाने और लाभार्थियों के लिए आउटकम को बेहतर बनाने में प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है। उदाहरण सहित विवेचना कीजिए।  
Technology has a crucial role to play in advancing the NGO sector and improving outcomes for beneficiaries. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q8. तकनीकी और उच्चतर शिक्षा के लिए विदेशी शिक्षण संस्थानों के भारत में प्रवेश से जुड़े निहितार्थों पर चर्चा कीजिए।  
Discuss the implications associated with the entry of foreign educational institutions for technical and higher education in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q9. भारत और लैटिन अमेरिका के देशों के बीच फलता-फूलता संबंध भारत की विदेश नीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग बन गया है। परीक्षण कीजिए।  
The flourishing relationship between India and countries of Latin America has become a critical element of India's foreign policy. Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10



- Q10. कृण-जाल कृतनीति क्या है? चीन की कृण-जाल कृतनीति भारत के पड़ोस में भारतीय हितों को कैसे प्रभावित करती है?  
What is debt-trap diplomacy? How does China's debt-trap diplomacy impact India's interests in its neighbourhood? (Answer in 150 words) 10
- Q11. विश्व भर के विभिन्न संविधानों का मिश्रण होने के बावजूद, भारतीय संविधान अपने विभिन्न प्रावधानों के माध्यम से सामाजिक न्याय, बहुलवाद और समानता को आत्मसात किए हुए है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।  
Despite being an amalgamation of various constitutions from across the world, the Indian Constitution imbibes social justice, pluralism, and equality through its various provisions. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q12. हाल के कुछ घटनाक्रमों ने भारत में वैवाहिक बलात्कार को अपराध घोषित करने के मुद्दे को प्रकाश में लाया है। देश में वैवाहिक बलात्कार के पीड़ितों के लिए कानूनी संरक्षण सुनिश्चित करने के निहितार्थों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।  
Recent developments have brought to light the issue of criminalizing marital rape in India. Analyse the implications of ensuring legal protection for victims of marital rape in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q13. "संघवाद के भारतीय मॉडल की अत्यधिक केंद्रीकृत होने के कारण आलोचना की जाती है, लेकिन यह राज्यों को पर्याप्त अवसर और स्वायत्तता भी प्रदान करता है।" विश्लेषण कीजिए।  
"The Indian model of federalism has been criticized for being too centralized, but it also provides adequate space and autonomy to the states." Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q14. भारतीय निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) में नियुक्तियों को लेकर उच्चतम न्यायालय के हालिया निर्णय ने नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को मूल रूप में बदल दिया है और इसके संभावित दूरगामी निहितार्थ भी हो सकते हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।  
The recent judgment of the Supreme Court on appointments to the Election Commission of India (ECI) has fundamentally changed the appointment process and can have potentially far-reaching implications. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q15. वैश्विक बदलावों के साथ समेकन और अर्थव्यवस्था के खुलने के परिणामस्वरूप लोक सेवाओं के लिए विविध चुनौतियां उत्पन्न हो गई हैं, जिनके कारण कुशल सेवा वितरण के लिए उनमें समग्र सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।  
Integration with the global trends and opening up of the economy has resulted in diversified challenges for the civil services, which require holistic reforms for efficient service delivery. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q16. भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेहिता को बढ़ावा देने में ओपन डेटा क्या भूमिका निभा सकती है? देश में ओपन डेटा की गुणवत्ता और विश्वसनीयता सुनिश्चित करने में कौन-सी चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं?  
What role can open data play in promoting transparency and accountability in e-governance in India? What are the challenges in ensuring the quality and reliability of open data in the country? (Answer in 250 words) 15
- Q17. भारत में 'जीरो फूड' बच्चों की व्यापकता को कम करने के लिए मातृ पोषण को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।  
To reduce the prevalence of 'zero food' children in India, maternal nutrition needs to be made a priority. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15



Q18. हाल ही में, केंद्र सरकार ने दुर्लभ रोगों के उपचार हेतु व्यक्तिगत उपयोग के लिए आयातित सभी खाद्य सामग्रियों और दवाओं को सीमा शुल्क से छूट प्रदान की है। भारत में लोक स्वास्थ्य के मद्दे के रूप में दुर्लभ रोगों में संबंधित चिंताएं क्या हैं? इतका किस प्रकार समाधान किया जा सकता है?

Recently, the Central government exempted all foods and drugs for rare diseases imported by people for personal use from customs duty. What are the concerns related to rare diseases as a public health issue in India? How can these be resolved? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Q19. हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में यथार्थवादी और प्रभावी सहयोग के लिए, इस क्षेत्र में संबंधित विभिन्न देशों के प्रमुख हितों को स्वीकार करने और उनकी पहचान करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

For realistic and effective collaborations to take place in the Indo-Pacific region, there is a need to acknowledge and recognize the underlining intention of the various countries with stakes in the region. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Q20. भारत और उसके पड़ोसियों के बीच एक महत्वपूर्ण संपर्क स्थल के रूप में स्थापित होने से पहले, भारत को अपने पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र की आंतरिक और बाह्य दोनों तरह की अंतर्निहित चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

There is a need to address the underlying challenges, both internal and external, in the North-Eastern region of India before it can serve as a pivotal connecting space between India and its neighbours. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

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Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

Ans 1.

Judicial accountability means holding judges accountable or responsible for the decisions they take.

Need for <sup>law on</sup> judicial accountability

- ① It ensures impartial decision-making
- ② It enhances transparency in decision making.
- ③ It improves public trust in the judiciary when people know that the judges will be accountable for their decisions.
- ④ It ensures checks and balances and acts as a strong deterrence against judicial misconduct and abuse of power.

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⑤ It improves decision-making as judges are held responsible for the correctness of their decisions.

⑥ It discourages corruption which can lead to miscarriage of justice.

Requires pro-activeness from the judiciary

might disturb separation of powers.

Challenges

Need to ensure judicial accountability does not hamper judicial independence

difficult to standardise the manner of ensuring judicial accountability.

Judicial accountability is crucial to maintain its integrity and trust of the people in the institution

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Ans 2.

The constitution makers incorporated Fundamental Rights and DPSPs with a common aim of ensuring the development of its citizens & the nation.

However, confusion arises when both seem to be at odds with each other.

### Reconciliation of FRs with DPSPs

- ⊙ This issue first came up in the Champakam Dairamanjan case (1951). The SC held that the FRs were superior than DPSPs but could be amended by the ~~const~~ Parliament.
- ⊙ This decision was over-ruled in the Golaknath case when the SC declared that the FRs cannot be amended and enjoy primacy over the DPSPs.

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① The Parliament enacted responded by enacting the 24th Constitutional Amendment Act and 25th Constitutional Amendment Act.

② This was challenged in the court. The SC, in the Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973), held the amendments as unconstitutional (except some provisions) and stated that the Constitution is based on the balance between FRs & DPSPs. The FRs generally enjoy supremacy over the DPSPs except those under Art 39(b) and Art 39(c) which are superior to Art 14 & 19.

③ This was reiterated in the Minerva Mills Case (1980) where the SC compared FRs & DPSPs to two wheels of the a chariot.

Thus, FRs and DPSPs are essential and must be given equal importance while governing.

Ans3-

Prime Minister's office (PMO) is a department under the government of India which provides secretarial assistance to the Prime Minister (PM)

## Functions

- ① It coordinates files and issues to be discussed or addressed to the PM.
- ② It acts as the residual legatee of the govt. for wings like RAW, IBI etc.
- ③ It speedens decision-making by ensuring inter-ministerial dialogue and convergence.
- ④ It, however, does not handle the PM's Cabinet affairs which are handled by the Cabinet Secretariat

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⑤ It acts as an advisory body to the PM as well.

### Role in policy-making

- ① It ensures that the vision of the PM is implemented by various ministries in their capacity.
- ② It monitors and reviews the work of other ministry.
- ③ It plays a crucial in policy formulation and ensuring policy coherence across the government — works as a think-tank.

Thus, the PMO, coordinates and collaborates to aid the PM in achieving his/her mission and vision.

Ans 4.

Section 124A of The Indian Penal Code forms part of a British era law used to curb political dissent which has continued in India.

However, the law requires a re-examination and reconsideration as—

- ① times have changed — the act was enacted in 1860
- ② New forms of threats to security, sovereignty and unity have emerged
- ③ there is a need to reconcile the provisions to account for greater political freedom and free speech in India.

However, this process must strike a balance between civil liberties and the need to protect the sovereignty & unity of India.

- ④ The amendments must allow for enough

# UPSC

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space for expression of well-intentioned & constructive dissent.

⊙ There is a need to de-link statements against India as a nation and statements against the political government.

The former must be treated strictly while the latter must be permitted as a means of ensuring accountability.

⊙ New threats including cyber security & cross-border aided threats must be incorporated.

⊙ There should be an independent body to examine the cases of sedition under the new law.

Section 124A can become an effective means to tackle anti-national elements if it is changed to suit the present needs.

Ans 5. E-governance as a concept rests on the requirement of a proactive citizenry for its genuine success.

Citizen participation  $\Leftrightarrow$  success of e-governance initiatives

- ⊙ It serves as a medium for grievance redressal. Citizen participation can ensure govt accountability.
- ⊙ Citizen participation is essential for effective & timely delivery of services especially in rural areas.
- ⊙ It leads to citizen-centric model of development.
- ⊙ It allows for <sup>generation of</sup> newer and innovative ideas and solutions.
- ⊙ Active citizens participation can help to

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में केवल  
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Specimen Booklet

For Practice Purpose Only

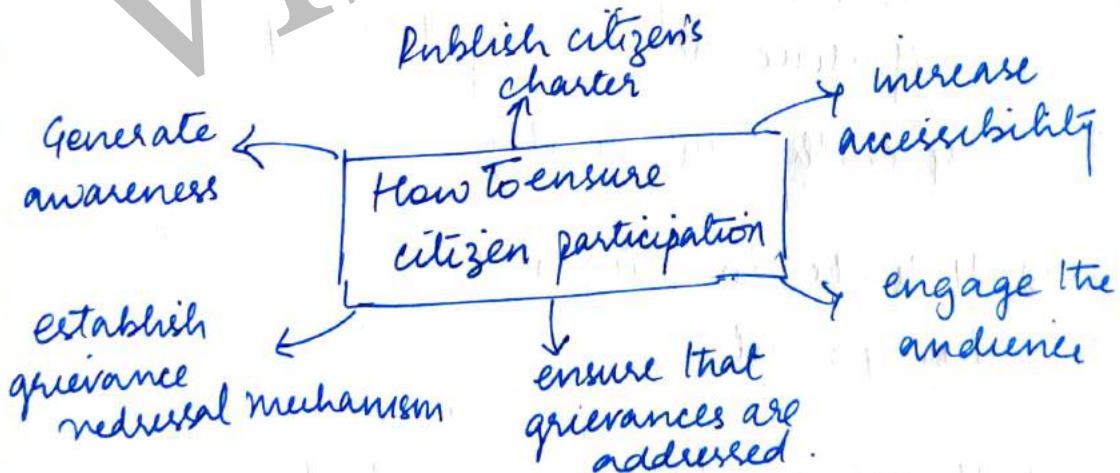
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identify loopholes in the system and address them pro-actively.

- ① Citizen participation forms part of the 8 aspects of Good Governance stated by UN.
- ② Citizen participation ensures that every voice is heard and addressed.
- ③ It puts greater control in the hands of the public thereby fulfilling the objective of Preamble — "We, the people of India, ..."



Citizen participation is essential to ensure  
"Sabka saath, Sabka vikaas".

Only write question number in this margin

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
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Ans 6.

The Aspirational District Programme was initiated with an aim to transform the 111 least developed and most backward districts of India.

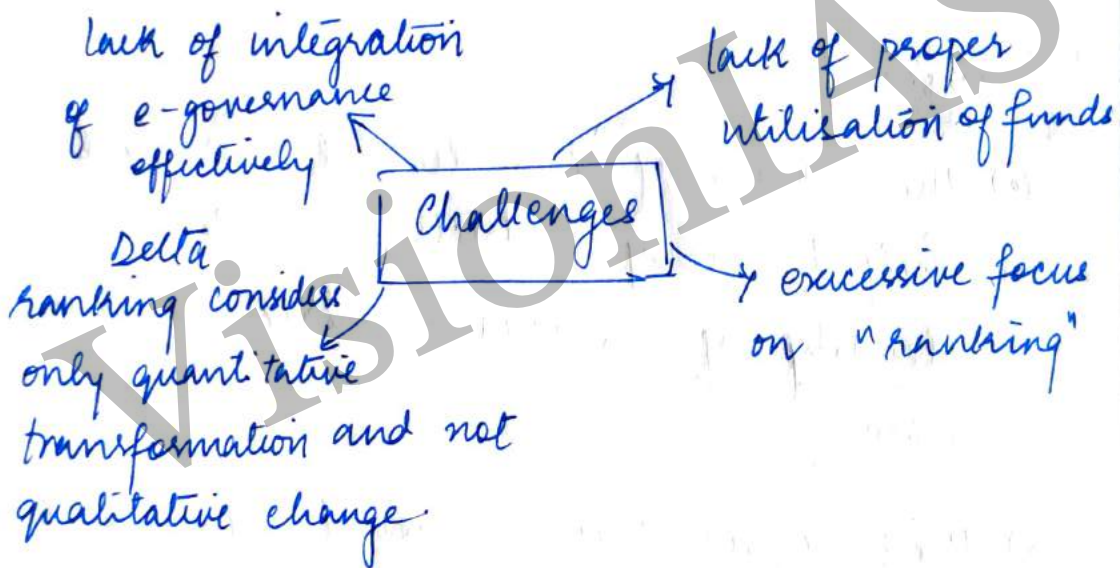
## Successes

- ① The scheme of "one district one product" helped many districts create a distinct identity of its own & create an industrial base.
- ② These areas have received additional funding support which has aided their fast development.
- ③ It has improved the status of health, education, skill development, agriculture and infrastructure in these areas.

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⊙ It has promoted convergence of central & state schemes, collaboration among centre, district collectors & prabharis and competition among the Aspirational districts on the delta ranking.



Though the ADP has achieved considerable success, it needs to be streamlined further to fill in the gaps.

Ans 7.

Technology is a force-multiplier in the fight against Indian problems of education, health, skills etc.

## Role of Technology in NGO Sector

- ① It can increase operational efficiency especially with the advent of AI  
Ex - Softwares are available which can suggest best use of limited resources.
- ② It can help track progress in terms of outcome  
Ex - POSHAN tracker tracks the health status of children
- ③ It can increase accessibility of basic services like education & health.  
Ex → SWAYAM portal  
↳ DISHA initiative  
↳ telemedicine

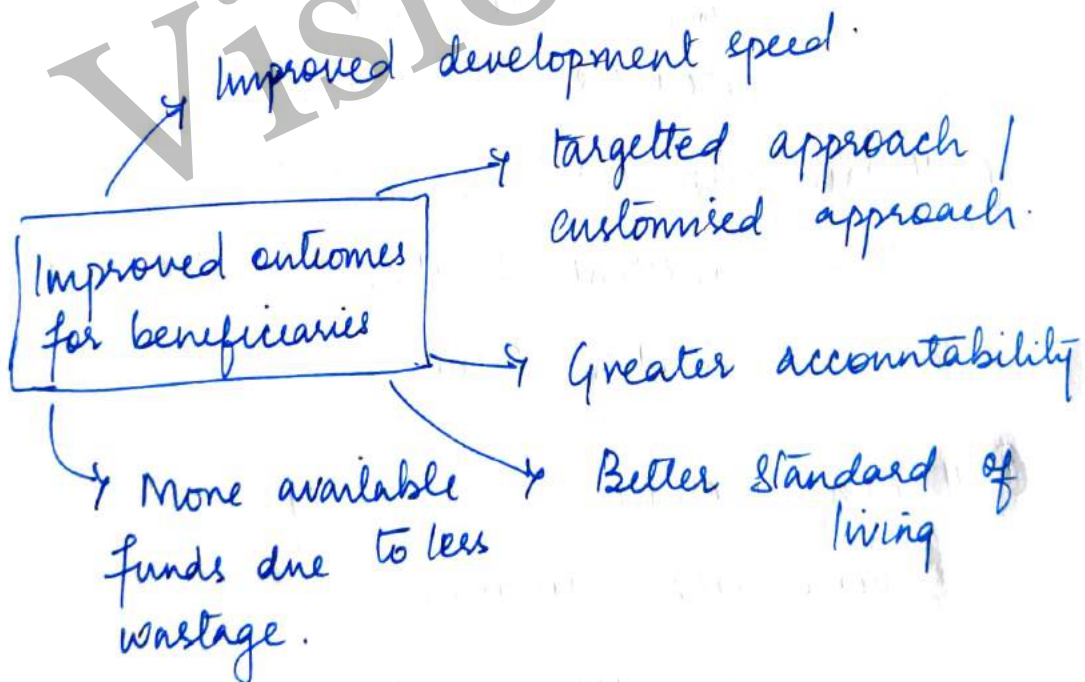
# UPSC

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① Government can also use technology to ensure transparency and proper utilisation of funds by NGOs through auditing.

② Technology provides a platform for people to collaborate for a cause.

Ex - Give India allows citizens to donate money for a cause/NGO and keep track of it.



Thus, Technology must be used to improve and augment developmental works

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Ans 8. Under the New Education Policy <sup>2020</sup>, the government has permitted foreign educational institutions to set up campuses in India

### Implications — Students

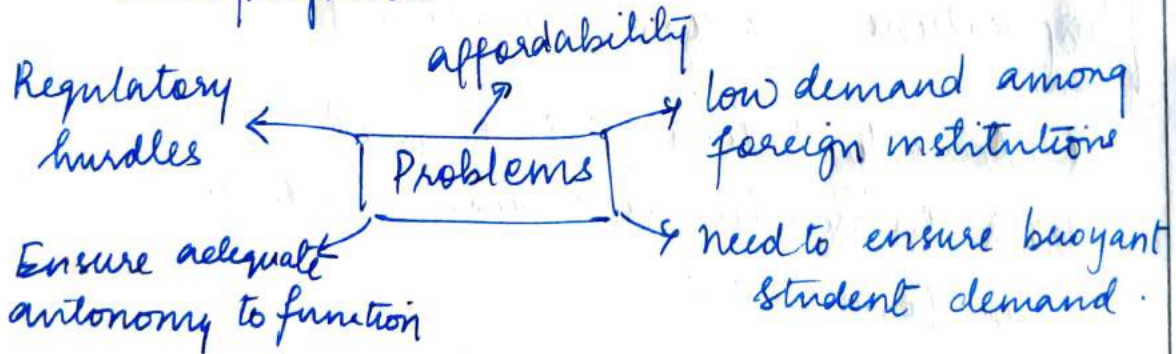
- ⊙ Reduced cost of education
- ⊙ Greater accessibility
- ⊙ Good quality & ~~also~~ international standard education.
- ⊙ More cross-learning opportunities.
- ⊙ More choice for subjects and colleges.

### Implications — Foreign institutions

- ⊙ Access to Indian talent pool.
- ⊙ Better <sup>academic</sup> results as Indian students usually perform better.
- ⊙ Tax incentives and other benefits provided by the government.

## Implications - government

- ① Reduced Brain Drain
- ② Accessibility to good quality education which can be used to improvise govt. colleges.
- ③ Improve the education system through inter-disciplinary curriculum of international standards.
- ④ Improved global perception.
- ⑤ Potential rise in investments as Indians would have better skills → reduced unemployment.



The entry of foreign institutions hold the potential to make education dynamici.

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Ans 9.

India and Latin America have enjoyed historical ties which are diverse and strategic.

## Critical element of India's foreign policy

- ① India collaborates with many Latin American countries in the field of critical minerals like lithium, cobalt etc in a bid to diversify its supply chain and reduce reliance on China.
- ② India has also provided aid to many countries
- ③ Latin America is an integral part of South-South cooperation. This envisages a greater integration and collaboration between India & other countries in the Global South for

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mutual prosperity and strategic interests

- ① India aims to posit itself as the "Voice of the Global South". Latin American countries are key to realising this goal.
- ② Having shared similar colonial histories, both the India and Latin American countries can collaborate to fight against neo-colonialism and neo-imperialism.

Thus, Latin ~~Am~~ America is an important part of India's foreign policy and is key to ensure its goal of becoming a "Vishwaguru".

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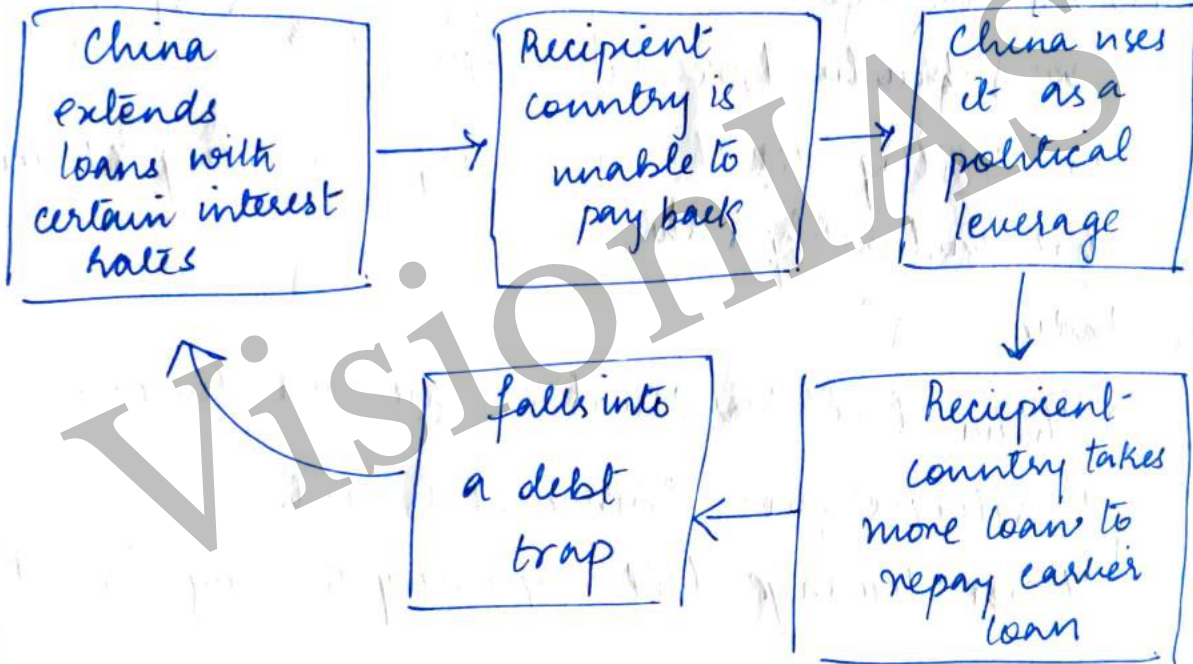
# UPSC

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Ans 10

Debt-trap diplomacy or debt diplomacy is a strategic tool employed by China to exert its influence overseas. Under this it—



Fig— cycle of debt diplomacy

Ex → Sri Lanka had to lease out its Hambantota port to China for 99 years as it could not pay back the loan.

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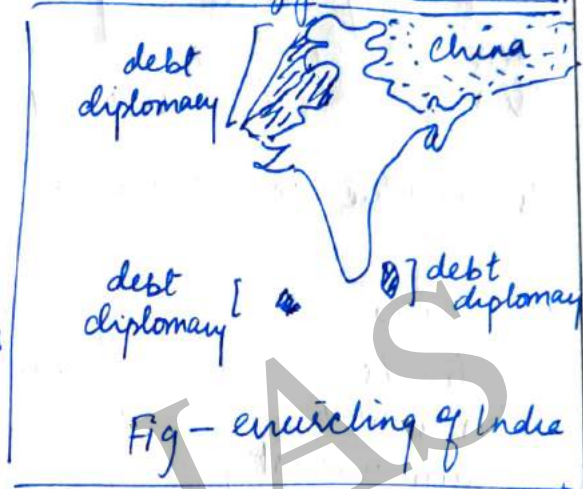
## Impact of India's interests

① China has used this strategy to encircle India which has security implications.

② An unstable neighbourhood results in spilling over of that instability into India.

③ China has territorial claims over Indian territories in Arunachal Pradesh & Ladakh. It can leverage debt diplomacy to buy support.

④ China sees India as a rival in the Indian Ocean region & Asia — greater debt-ridden countries would mean greater international influence.



Thus, India needs to strategically deal with debt-trap diplomacy so as to fulfill its goal of being a 'Vishvraguru'

Ans 11

The Indian Constitution reflects Indian polity and diversity. Though inspired from multiple other constitutions, it adapted the provisions to suit Indian needs.

Some provisions which were borrowed

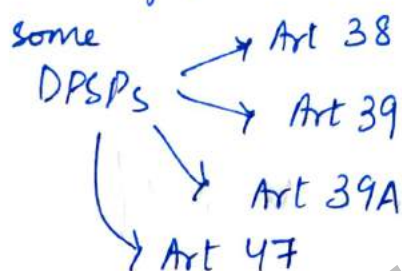
<u>Feature</u>	<u>Country</u>
⊙ Fundamental rights	⊙ USA
⊙ Procedure established by law	⊙ Japan
⊙ Emergency Provisions	⊙ Germany
⊙ Liberty, equality, fraternity	⊙ France
⊙ Fundamental duties	⊙ USSR
⊙ DPSPs	⊙ Ireland

# UPSC

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## Provisions for Social justice

- ① Directive Principles of State policy seek to establish a welfare state which includes social justice



- ② Fundamental rights like Art 15, 16, 17 & 18 and Art 29-30.

## Provisions for pluralism

- ① Fundamental rights like "Right to Freedom of religion" including Art 25-28.

- ② Fundamental duties under Art 51A which call for tolerance and celebration of India rich heritage & diversity.

# UPSC

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## Provisions for equality

① Fundamental Rights "Right to Equality"  
under Art 14-18.

② DPSPs through welfare provisions (Art 38),  
right to work & education Art 41, Art 39  
for equitable minimising income inequalities  
etc.

③ Art 326 - universal adult franchise.

④ Fundamental duty under Art 51A(e) to  
treat women with dignity & respect.

Thus, the Indian Constitution imbibes values  
of social justice, pluralism & equality. These  
are also reflected in the Preamble of  
the constitution.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
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Ans 12.

Marital rape refers, <sup>to</sup> rape within the institu-  
-tion of marriage i.e. when a husband violates  
the dignity of his wife or indulges in sexual  
relationships with her without her consent.

The Indian Constitution has provisions to  
safeguard the dignity of women. These include  
Fundamental Rights Art 21 (which allows for  
bodily autonomy in its broad interpretation),  
DPSPs (Art 39), Fundamental Duties (Art 51A)  
etc. However these do not explicitly cover  
marital rape.

## Implications of ensuring legal protection

- ⊙ The state will have to determine the extent of intervention that would be appropriate in a private institution like

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marriage

- ① Additionally, what would be permissible as evidence would also ~~be~~ need to be determined.
- ① The law must not promote <sup>mis</sup>use of the provision ~~as~~ for blackmailing against innocents.
- ① ~~It want~~ The state would also need to define the term "consent" which is a difficult task.
- ① While marital rape is also often unders-  
-stood as a violation of the dignity of the  
wife, there is a need to explore the  
possibility of husbands being the victim.
- ① The state would also need to decide the  
legal options available before the victim

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- ① Additionally, it raises questions on whether an external authority like the State or the judiciary should intervene and 'decide' whether an act counts as rape within marriage.
- ② The State also needs to determine whether there would be a time limit within which a case should be filed as well as the implications of not having a time limit.
- ③ While deciding the punishment or judgement, there is a need to accommodate mitigating factors and external influences as well.

Marital rape is undoubtedly an assault on the dignity of the victim. However, legalising it must be carried out in caution so as to protect the genuine victims while strictly dealing with frivolous cases.

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Ans 13.

Granvill Austin described India as a "cooperat  
-ive federalism" wherein the states and the  
union cooperate within a broadly federal  
structure.

Indian federalism is unique ("sui generis")  
in the sense that it seeks to accommodate  
regional diversity and autonomy while  
ensuring unity at crucial times and in  
crucial matters. It, thus, has both centralising  
and federal features.

### Centralising features

- ① Single constitution - both the union & the states have a common constitution
- ② The distribution of powers under article 246

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are biased towards the centre which has got more important subjects, residuary subjects and ability to overrule state in case of a conflict in the concurrent list.

② The states are destructable by Parliament under Art 3 and these can be passed with a simple majority (Art 4).

③ The centre can legislate in state subject in certain special circumstances mentioned in Art 249, 250, 251 etc.

④ During emergency, especially President's rule under Art 356, the Parliament/govt acquires power over the state administration.

⑤ Other features

- Integrated judiciary
- Integrated audit machinery (Art 148)
- All-India Services (Art 312)
- Flexible Constitution
- Veto over State bills (Art 200, 201)
- office of Governors (Art 153, 155)
- Single citizenship
- unequal representation in RS

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## Federal features

- ① The constitution ~~clearly~~ delineates the division of powers between the union & states under Art 246
- ② There exists an independent judiciary to decide federal cases
- ③ The constitution is rigid especially in federal matters where simple majority of states is required to pass a law.
- ④ Supremacy of the constitution is established
- ⑤ Other features → Bicameralism (Art 79)  
→ Dual Polity.

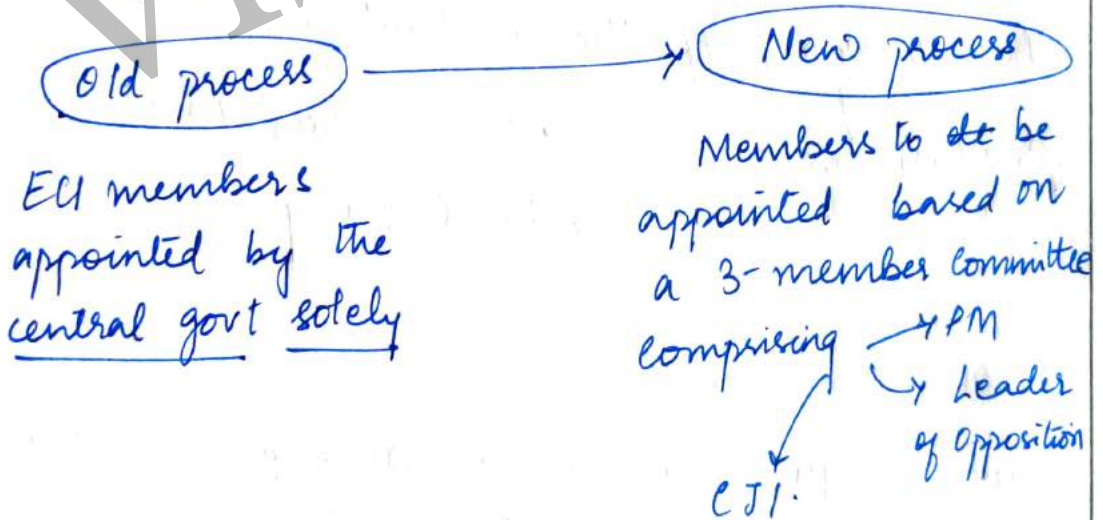
Thus, though there are centralising tendencies in the Indian union, it is broadly federal as the states derive their power from the Constitution and not a law made by the union - Ambedkar

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Ans 14.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body established under Article 324 to supervise, superintend and conduct elections to the Parliament and State legislatures in India.

The recent judgement by the SC changed the appointment process -



Thus, under the new system, the autonomy of the central govt has been reduced.

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## Potential Implications

- ⊙ This would lead to greater independence in the ECI as the members would now be selected by a committee instead of <sup>only</sup> the central government.
- ⊙ This increases the influence of judiciary in the legislative wing of the government. Critics argue that it jeopardises the separation of powers between the executive, legislature & judiciary.
- ⊙ The new committee incorporates the view of the opposition as well.
- ⊙ However, it may make it difficult to reach a consensus as the opposition would likely take a different view from that of the ruling party. In case of such a tie, the ultimate decision-making

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vote lies with the CJI who is from the judicial wing of the government.

① Many have criticised the judiciary for making effectively legislating in a manner matter which falls in the domain of legislature.

② This might increase cause a potential face off between the government & the judiciary in which justice and welfare of the people is the first casualty.

The ECI is essential to the conduct of free & fair elections in India and steps must be taken to ensure & preserve its independence.

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Ans 15

With the 1991 Economic reforms, India entered <sup>into</sup> a new phase of liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation which affected every sector including the civil services.

## Diversified challenges

- ① Opening up of the economy has led to increased private competition. This has made it difficult for PSUs to function efficiently and thereby subsidise the facilities for the poor. The workers at PSUs including the management needs to imburse new skills to remain relevant.
- ② An open country also poses security risks which the servants need to be trained to deal with.

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- ③ with the entry of international NGOs, the civil services needs to deal with international players who have their own motives
- ④ There has been a transition from a closed government outlook (which keeps information confidential) to an open government outlook (boosted by the RTI)
- ⑤ There is a greater flow of information which allows people to compare the performance of the government with international practices
- ⑥ Additionally, many Indian jobs in MSMEs are placed at a disadvantaged position vis-a-vis multinational companies. The government needs to balance the interests of small ~~ret~~ entrepreneurs with the need to improve Ease of Doing Business.

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Holistic reforms for efficient service delivery

- ① There is a need to constantly update, reskill and upskill civil servants so that they are up to date on the latest trends.
- ② Need to usher in greater e-governance systems.
- ③ Bring about change in governance style which is more open, citizen-friendly and sensitive.
- ④ Establish an incentive-based promotion system similar to the private sector to ensure greater dynamism in the civil services.

The reforms must aim to make the civil ~~services~~ <sup>servants</sup> accessible, responsive and transparent and follow the motto of "Maximum governance, minimum government"

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Ans 16. Open data refers to data which is freely & easily accessible by all. It is essential to ensure transparency and accountability

## Role of Open data in promoting transparency

- ① Openly accessible data ensures that citizens can track and follow the status of government work.
- ② It entails the public officials to update the progress of their work.
- ③ It reduces the role of bias, partisanship and nepotism as open data is easily accessible.

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## Role of open data in promoting accountability

- ① In case of lack of progress on govt work, the citizens can hold the government accountable.
- ② Grievance redressal portals are effective in gauging needs of the target population.
- ③ Open data enables citizens to compare performances of government and thus make informed decisions during elections.

## Challenges in ensuring quality & reliability

- ① Challenge of reducing duplication of data points
- ② The data available is of good quality only when it can be simply understood by the citizens especially those with low literary

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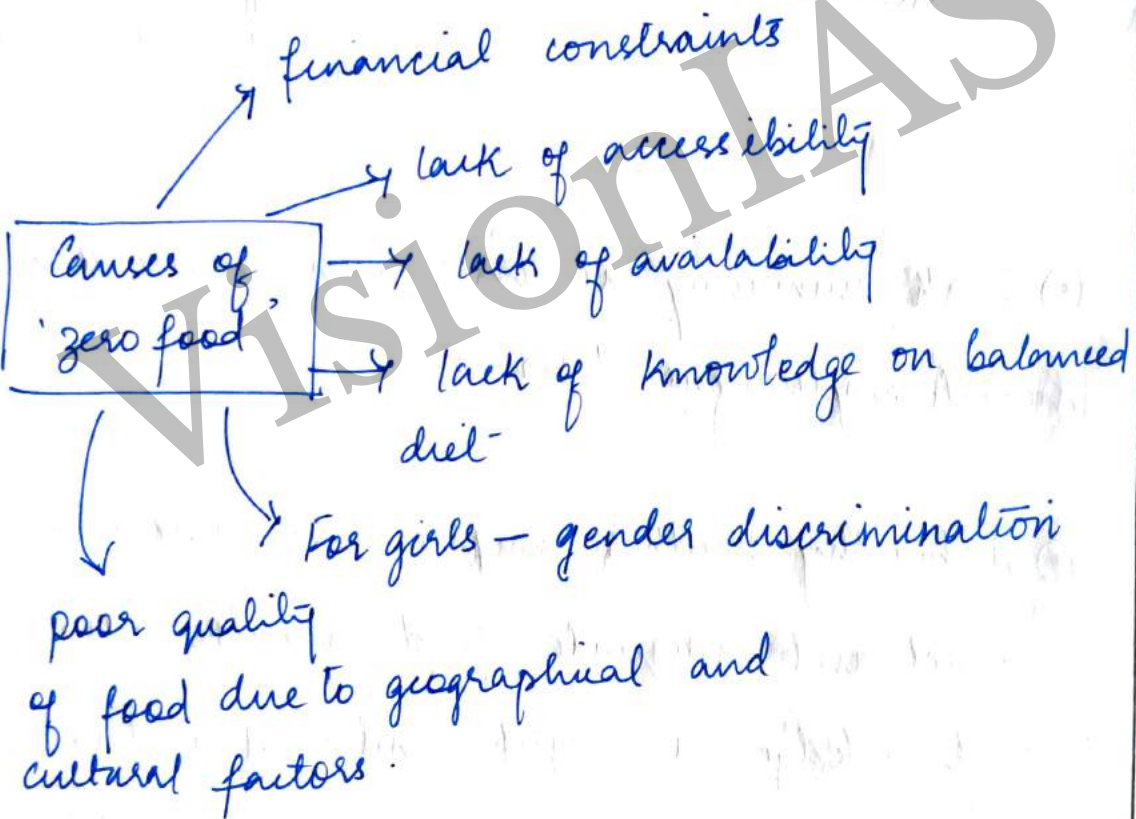
- ③ Adequate data collection methods need to be followed to ensure reliability.
- ④ It is preferable to carry out third-party checks to ensure data integrity.
- ⑤ Active, informed and vigilant citizenry is crucial to ensure that the data provided is accurate and valid.
- ⑥ The data should be triangulated to ensure that it is authentic.
- ⑦ If the data provided should be as detailed and specific as possible to reduce ambiguity and improve quality.

Open data which is reliable and of good quality is es sin-qua non of effective, efficient and empathetic governance.

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Ans 17.

'Zero food' children refers to children who did not have access to any calorie-significant food. It is a serious cause of hunger in India.



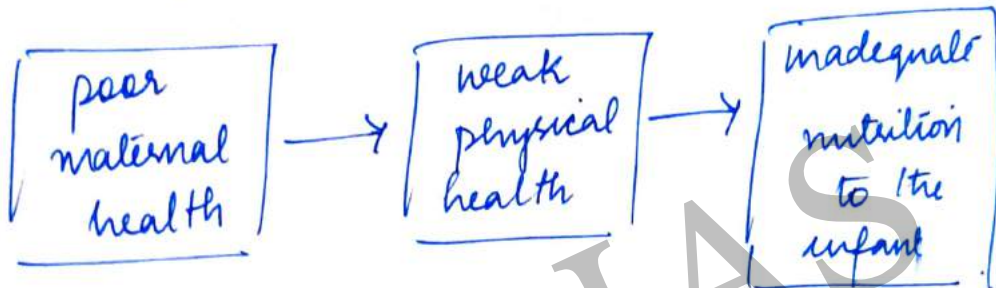
**NEED TO MAKE MATERNAL NUTRITION A PRIORITY**

⊙ About 30% of infants in India suffer from

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'zero-feed' problem. (NFMS-5)

- ⊙ Poor maternal nutrition impairs a child's future growth as well



- ⊙ Weak immunity at birth can cause serious health implications later on.

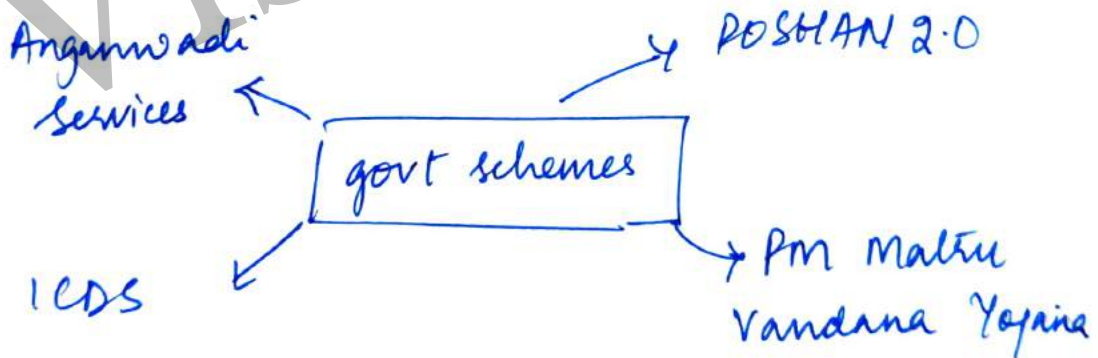
- ⊙ A healthy mother implies awareness on correct and adequate food habits including a knowledge on right nutrition profile. This ensures that the mother would arrange for a healthy diet for her children as well.

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⊙ Improved nutrition during pregnancy ensures healthy child birth.

However, these measures should be supplemented with other measures like -

- Increased accessibility of food.
- Schemes aimed at reducing malnutrition related deaths factoring in local factors.



Thus, maternal nutrition focused programmes supplemented by complementary measures are the need of the hour to fulfill SDG-2 (zero hunger) and SDG-3 (Good health & well-being)

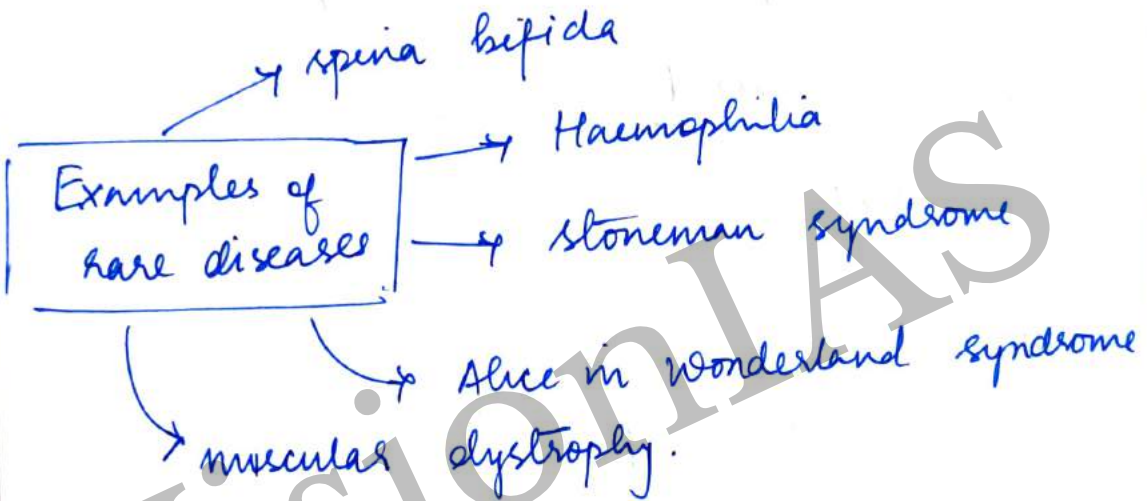
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Ans 18.

Rare diseases are diseases affecting very low percentage of population.



Concerns of rare diseases as a public health issue

① There is lack of adequate research on the origin of these diseases i.e. their causes.

② There is insufficient knowledge on the curative and preventive therapy for these diseases

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- ③ Most of the rare diseases are genetic in nature and there is a greater need to study the role of the causative gene.
- ④ These diseases might disproportionately affect a selected group of population due to its genetic origin.
- ⑤ There is social stigma and discrimination associated with many of them -
- ⑥ The potential of the disease-causing gene or pathogen is unresearched - it may cause a public health crisis in the future.
- ⑦ A disease is categorized as rare due to its incidence rate - so if it rises, it could potentially become a common disease. There is a need to control it in its initial stage.

## Resolution

- ① Set up research labs and institutions either domestically or in collaboration with international players to study rare diseases.
- ② Generate awareness to reduce stigmatisation.
- ③ Carry out a study to gaug the spread of a rare disease and the demography it infects or affects.
- ④ Promote research in biotechnology to develop genetic engineering which can be used ethically.
- ⑤ Offer initiate government schemes to help those affected with such diseases.

It is crucial to deal with rare diseases to improve the well-being of those who are affected and thereby fulfill the SDGs of SDG-3 (good health & well being)

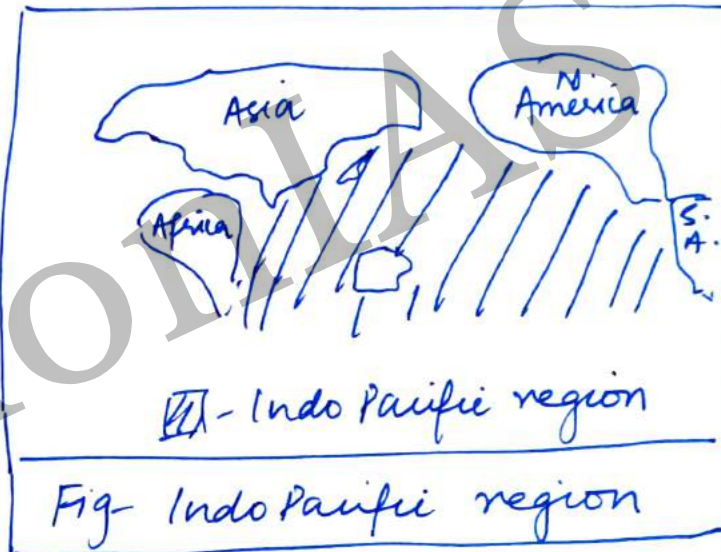
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Ans 19.

The Indo-Pacific region is a ground for international cooperation, competition and collaboration simultaneously.

Different countries have different motives to do which determines interaction in the region.



Underlying intentions of various countries

⊙ India -

→ India seeks to ensure an open, free and rules-based order in the region

→ It is against hegemony which risks the security of other nations

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## ① China -

→ China seeks to establish itself as a global superpower and hegemon.

Supremacy in the Indo-Pacific is key to achieve this goal.

→ Through its "debt diplomacy", "tried-aid" and wolf warrior diplomacy, China seeks to dominate the area.

## ② USA -

→ The USA also seeks to reassert its historical dominance in the region.

→ It also aims at countering Chinese influence.

## ③ Japan & Australia

→ Both the countries seek to contain Chinese influence and ensure free trade including movement.

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⊙ Russia -

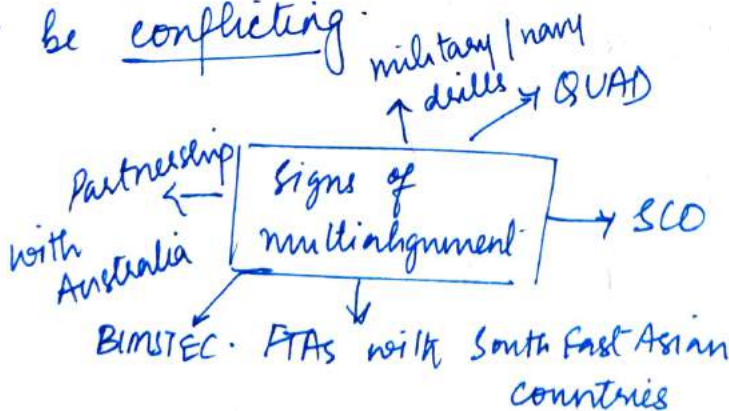
→ Russia seeks to counter American influ-  
-ence in the region.

⊙ Africa (Eastern Africa) -

→ Most of the African countries are under  
China's debt trap.

→ They, however, support Indian cause  
as it traces its relations with India  
since decolonisation.

Realising this difference in intentions of various  
states, India has been using its policy  
of multi alignment to balance interests which  
might be conflicting.



Thus, the Indo-Pacific has become the new  
ground for international realpolitik

Ans 20.

The North-Eastern region of India is crucial for India's "Act East Policy" and internal security.

## Internal Challenges in NE India

- ① Strong feeling of regionalism which sometimes radicalises into separatism and secessionism
- ② porous borders which lead to illegal migration thereby causing demography imbalances.
- ③ Strong opium and drug trade and human trafficking racket
- ④ Lack of development and a feeling of disenfranchisement disconnectedness.

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⑤ Ethnic diversity leading to ethnic clashes which can be violent and disruptive.

Ex - Manipur Violence @ 2023.

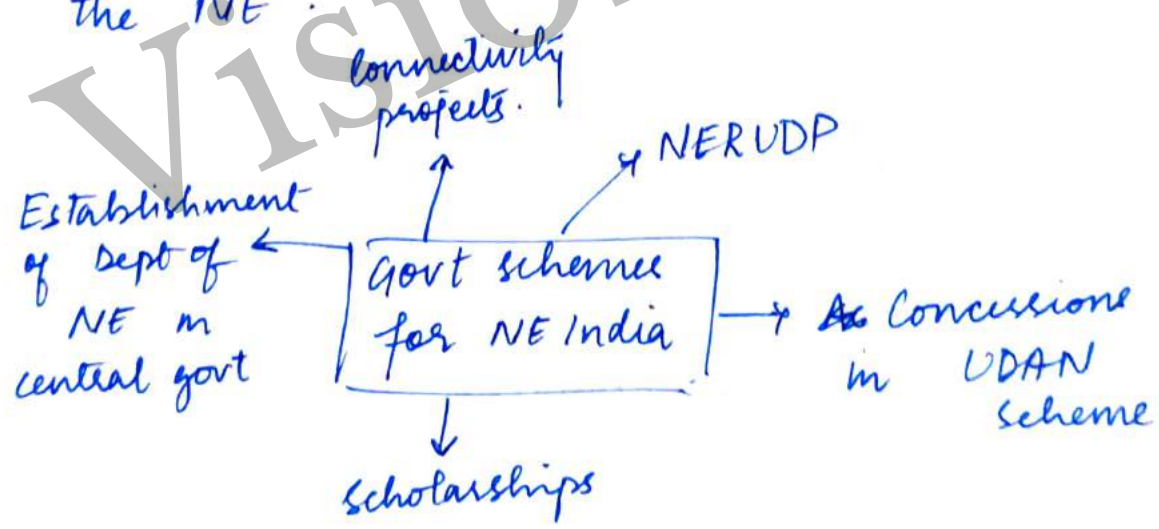
## External challenges in NE India

- ① Cross-border terrorism and instability
- ② Illegal migrants being used to carry out illegal activities thereby posing a security threat.
- ③ Arms and ammunitions trafficking and training of anti-national elements by external actors.
- ④ NE is adjacent to the Golden triangle.
- ⑤ Risk of spillover of political instability from neighbouring States

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## NE as a pivotal connecting space

- ⊙ It is India's gateway to South East Asian countries
- ⊙ Its stability is crucial for stronger bilateral relations with countries
- ⊙ India shares cultural and ethnic ties with many neighbouring countries through the NE.



As an integral part of India, the security & stability of NE India is crucial to India's goal of becoming a "Vishwaguru".