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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2090)

Name of Candidate	Komal Puroja		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1026090
Center	Online	Date	22/08/2023

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
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11	15	
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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 पुस्तिका 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 उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended

Strongly Recommended

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

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Punjab & Sind 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.

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All the Best

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1. पृथक्करणता का सिद्धांत क्या है? प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से विवेचना कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10
- What is the Doctrine of Severability? Discuss with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Doctrine of Severability is a judicial doctrine in order to examine the unconstitutionality of law.

According to it, a legislation is only that part is unconstitutional which is in conflict with constitutional principles.

Applicability

① While examining 3 lists

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graph TD
    A[3 lists] --> B[Union]
    A --> C[State]
    A --> D[concurrent]
  
```

↳ only repugnant part is held unconstitutional.

② Saves entire legislation from unconstitutionality [eg] Rajendra

Shah vs Union of India - Struck down Part IXA on state cooperatives while applicable on multi-state cooperatives.

Benefits of doctrine of severability

- ① checks on judicial overreach
 - ↳ can't struck down entire law.
- ② establish separation of power
 - ↳ executive & legislative leave to conform to constitutional ideals.

However, in NJAC case, judiciary struck down entire legislation was seen as bypassing of this doctrine.

Thus, in order to ensure checks & balance, this doctrine was propounded.

2. भारत में संवैधानिक शासन को संरक्षित करने के लिए राज्यपाल के पद को रूपांतरित करने की आवश्यकता है। राज्यपाल के पद से जुड़े हालिया विवादों के आलोक में विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

The office of Governor needs to be transformed to preserve constitutional governance in India. Discuss in the light of recent controversies surrounding the Governors' office. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Governor is both executed head of state as well as nominee of union government.

this dual responsibility often result in various challenges

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>① Conflict with <u>elected</u> ministers
e.g. <u>West Bengal</u> CM vs current
President <u>Jagdeep Dhankar</u></p> | <p>② Delays in passing <u>State Bills</u>
(Art 200) misuse
e.g. <u>Tamil Nadu Governor</u></p> | <p>③ Reserving bills for <u>President assent</u> without time frame
(Art 201)</p> |
|--|--|---|

In light of above challenges, office of governor needs to be

transformed to preserve constitutional
governance.

Required changes

- ① Time frame for assent - need
to amend Art 200 and 201 -
↳ 6 month time frame.
- ② Appointment through collegium -
↳ CM, PM and other ministers
- ③ fixed tenure of 5 years
(Punjab Commission recommended)
- ④ Governor should be - eminent in
some walk of life and
apolitical personality (Sarkaria)

The tenets of cooperative
federalism can be strengthened
by transforming this office.

3. "वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता की आड़ में लोक व्यवस्था में व्यवधान उत्पन्न करने या हिंसा भड़काने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती।" हेट स्पीच के संदर्भ में उच्चतम न्यायालय के हालिया निर्णय की सहायता से विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

"Disturbing public order or inciting violence cannot be allowed under the garb of the freedom of speech and expression." Discuss with help of the recent Supreme Court judgment on hate speech. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Hate speech refers to toxic or violent words aiming to incite violence or disturbing public order.

Hate speech vs freedom of speech and expression (FOSE) -

- ① Reasonable restrictions on FOSE
under Art 19(2).
- ② Hate speech threatens unity and security of India
(e.g.) Dharam Sansad incident
Haridwar.
- ③ can culminate into riots, violence
(e.g.) Nuh violence, Delhi riots

However, challenges with respect to hate speech are -

- ① Not clearly defined in any legislation.
- ② fine line between hate speech and FOSE
 - ↳ e.g. detention in name of hate speech to curb FOSE
- ③ hate speech's linkage with defamation and contempt.

Way forward

- ① Supreme Court asked centre to frame law with respect to hate speech.
 - ② Amending IPC sections to include punishment against.
- Curbing hate speech without impacting FOSE makes a democracy effective.

4. भारत में लोकतंत्र के प्रभावी काम-काज के लिए विपक्ष के नेता (LoP) की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10
- Discuss the role of the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) for the effective functioning of democracy in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Leader of opposition (LoP) is the leader of largest opposition party in India and is given weightage as 'alternative PM' by many.

Role of LoP

- ① Questioning and debating government policies.
- ② Ensuring constitutional ideals are respected and not bypassed.
- ③ formation of government if ruling party fails - hung assembly etc.
- ④ ensures checks and balance on functioning of executive.
- ⑤ voice people's interest in Parliament.

Thus, LoP is an important post to ensure substantive democracy. However, in recent times there are

Challenges

- ① Ineffective functioning of LoP.
- ② creation of controversies - hampering democracy.
- ③ Weakened opposition may lead to tyranny of executive.
- ④ popularising political issues rather than substantive ones.

Way forward

- ① Constructive vote of confidence in place of Non-confidence Motion
- ② playing effective role as Britain.

Proper functioning of LoP is essential for democracy to establish truly.

5. लोक सेवकों द्वारा कुशल सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण सुनिश्चित करने और भारत में परिवर्तन लाने के लिए उभरती हुई प्रौद्योगिकियों का उपयोग किन विभिन्न तरीकों से किया जा सकता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10
- What are the various ways in which emerging technologies can be utilised by civil servants in ensuring efficient public service delivery and affecting change in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Emerging technologies like ICT, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain etc provides a way for eradicating the problems that are ailing civil services.

Emerging technology in civil services

- ① Digitalisation for enhancing accountability and transparency
- ↓
 - ① Direct Benefit transfer.
 - ② e-mustarols in MGNREGA
 - ③ Bhoomi - Land records (Karnataka)

- ② Reaching last mile - inclusive development
- ↓
 - ① e-education. MOOC, Swayam
 - ② Telemedicine - eSanyeevani OPD

③ Reducing corruption and red tapism

↳ RTI Act 2005

↳ online portals for whistleblowing

④ Better feedback and grievance redressal

Lokwani
(UP) - GRM

BHASHINI -
AI language
translation

e-Kranti,
Lokmitras
(Common
Service
Centres)

However there are challenges

① Digital divide
↳ only 20%
Indians able
to use internet
(ITU)

② Data privacy
↳ prone to
misuse

③ resistance
to change
& status
quoist
nature.

Way forward

① Training and
Capacity building (iGOT)
Mission Karmayogi

② simple
technologies.

In Amrit Kaal, a reformed civil service
with technology tech can lead to 'Developed
India'

6. आपके अनुसार, प्रधान मंत्री कौशल विकास योजना भारत में कौशल विकास और रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने में किस सीमा तक सफल रही है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) [PMKVY] 10
- To what extent, in your opinion, has the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana been successful in promoting skill development and employment in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

PMKVY one of largest skill development scheme aiming to bridge skill gap and effectively utilise demographic dividend.

Success of PMKVY

- ① Am promoting skill development -
 - ↳ ① trained youths
 - ↳ ② apprenticeship scheme of informal workers
 - ↳ ③ free training and skill education.
- ② Promoting employment -
 - ↳ ① improved employability (currently only 45% students)

from HEIs are employable)

- ↳ ② provided industry-academia linkage - internship opportunities.

Effectiveness of PMKVY

- ↳ ① Skill development did not translated into employment
- ↳ ② lack of ICT related skills -
(e.g.) computer training etc.
- ↳ ③ lack of rural reach.
- ↳ ④ ineffective utilisation of funds.

Way forward

- ↳ ① convergence of schemes like Start up India with PMKVY.
- ↳ ② Skills suited to need of Industrial Revolution 4.0.

PMKVY has potential of reaping benefits of Amrit Pechhi.

7. भारत की भूमि प्रबंधन प्रणाली में पर्याप्त लाभ उत्पन्न करने में भू-आधार परियोजना की क्षमता का परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Examine the potential of the Bhu-Aadhaar project in bringing significant benefits to India's land management system. (Answer in 150 words) 10

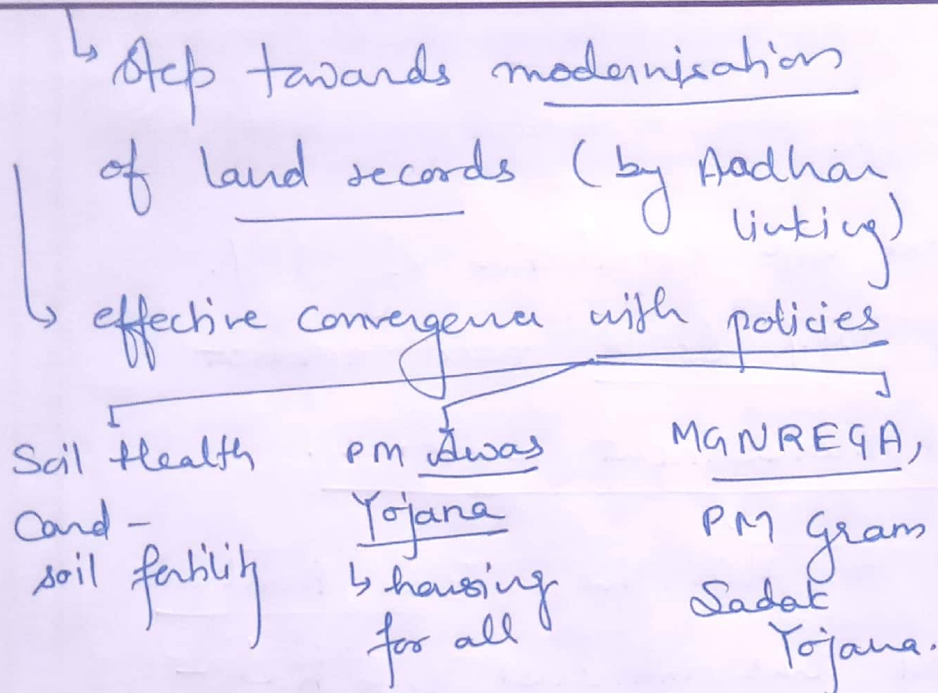
India with population of 18%
and 2.4% land need robust
land management systems.

In this line, Bhu-Aadhaar
Project has immense potential -

- ① Linking
land parcel
with Aadhar
- ② Real time
digital
information
regarding
land
registration.
- ③ Resolves
ownership
issues

→ Bhu-Aadhaar will help in
evidence based policy as -

↳ Unique Land Parcel Identification
Number.



Despite significant benefits, project has to go through various challenges of —

- ① fudging of Aadhar data
- ② Digital illiteracy among vast population

Barring challenges, Bhu-Aadhar yojana will usher robust land management systems. In this, schemes like Bhoomi (Karnataka) can guide the way ahead.

8. भारत में बाल श्रम की उपस्थिति के विभिन्न निर्धारकों पर चर्चा कीजिए। देश में बाल श्रम की समस्या से निपटने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

10

Discuss the different determinants of the occurrence of child labour in India. What measures can be taken to tackle the issue of child labour in the country? (Answer in 150 words) 10

As per census 2011, there are 33 million child labourers in India.

Determinants

- ① Issue of poverty leading to economic compulsion.
- ② Child labour laws and their effective implementation.
(eg) Prevention of child labour act
- ③ lack of education and skill, vocational training.
- ④ Relatively lower wages of child workers
- ⑤ Demands of many industries -
(eg) Matchstick industry, glass industry

Measures taken

- ① Constitutional safeguards - Art 23, 24 - prohibit child labour.
- ② Prevention of child labour Act
 - below 14 years - no labour
 - 14-18 - in non-hazardous industries.

Further measures required

- ① Rehabilitation of existing child labourers.
- ② Education provision (Art 21A)
- ③ State-NGO concerted efforts -
eg. Bachpan Bachao Andolan
(Kalash Sahayee)
- ④ effective implementation of ICDS, POSHAN 2.0.

Children are leaders of tomorrow.

Curbing child labour will lead to their full fledged development.

9. हाल के घटनाक्रमों से ज्ञात होता है कि कुछ बाधाओं के बावजूद, भारत-भूटान संबंधों में अभी भी निरंतरता बनी हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10
- Despite certain hiccups, recent developments suggest that continuity still looms large in the Indo-Bhutan relationship. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

India-Bhutan relationship is based
on historic ties of friendship
since 1949.

Certain hiccups

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ① Bhutan's
disagreement
with <u>BBIN</u>
motor vehicle
agreement. | ② <u>China</u>
axis -
Bhutan
sandwiched
between
India &
China. | ③ <u>large</u>
<u>trade</u>
<u>imbalance</u>
and
<u>big brother</u>
<u>attitude.</u> |
|---|--|---|

Continuity in relationships

- ① Mangdechhu hydropower project -
6720 MW project - hallmark of
strengthening ties.

② Unity against china -

↳ demonstrated in Doklam Standoff.

③ Cultural linkages

Buddhism

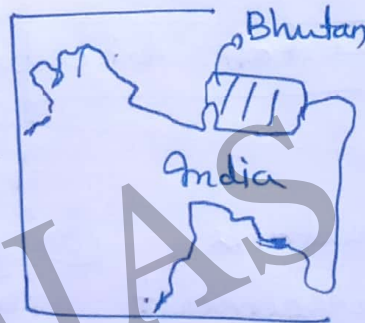
history

Values like sustainability

Vaisudhaiva

Kutumbkam

④ Connectivity through
India - Bhutan -
no maritime connection.



Importance for India

- ① Strategic location - connectivity to
North-East [Siliguri Corridor]
- ② Can learn concepts like Gross
National Happiness from Bhutan.
- ③ Digital market - taking RuPay &
UPI to Bhutan.

India-Bhutan partnership is
embedded in cultural ethos and
historic ties.

10. महत्वपूर्ण सूचना अवसंरचना एक वैश्विक सुविधा (ग्लोबल गुड) बन गई है जिसकी सुरक्षा के लिए वैश्विक मानदंडों की आवश्यकता है। महत्वपूर्ण सूचना अवसंरचना की सुरक्षा के लिए G20 क्या भूमिका निभा सकता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Critical Information Infrastructure has become a global good that requires global norms for its safeguard. What role can the G20 play to safeguard Critical Information Infrastructure? (Answer in 150 words) 10

As per Information Technology Act 2000, Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) is set of computer sources, and power network, destruction of which have debilitating impact on national security.

CII as global good

① globalised world -

interconnected communication
(eg) Satellites.

② deeply linked cyberspace

(eg) Google, cloud etc.

③ airspace - airlines - intercontinental coverage.

(eg) Air India

Due to interlinkages, safeguarding
requires global norms -

Role of G20

- ① Safeguarding digital infrastructure
↳ evolving regulatory framework
like Europe's GDPR, PDP Act
(India)
- ② Ensuring smooth semiconductor
supply chain - currently monopolised
by US, China & Taiwan.
- ③ need for a comprehensive CII
protection mechanisms agreed by
all.

In age of Industrial Revolution,
CII has become extremely important
in world development. Its protection
is need of hour with G20 as
forebearer.

11. विधायिका और न्यायपालिका के बीच टकराव की परिणति केशवानंद भारती वाद में 'आधारभूत संरचना' के सिद्धांत रूप में हुई। विवेचना कीजिए। संविधान में संशोधन करने की संसद की शक्ति को सीमित करने में इस वाद का क्या महत्व है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The tussle between the legislature and judiciary culminated in the 'basic structure' doctrine in the Kesavananda Bharati case. Discuss. What is the significance of the case in limiting the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Basic structure doctrine as propounded
in Keshavananda Bharati case 1973

is a judicial invention of
examining constitutional validity of
legislative act subject to 'basic
structure' of constitution.

Evolution

① Golaknath case - S.C. withheld
narrow interpretation of legislative's
Constituent power.



② 24th Constitutional amendment Act -
↳ unlimited amending power
to parliament -



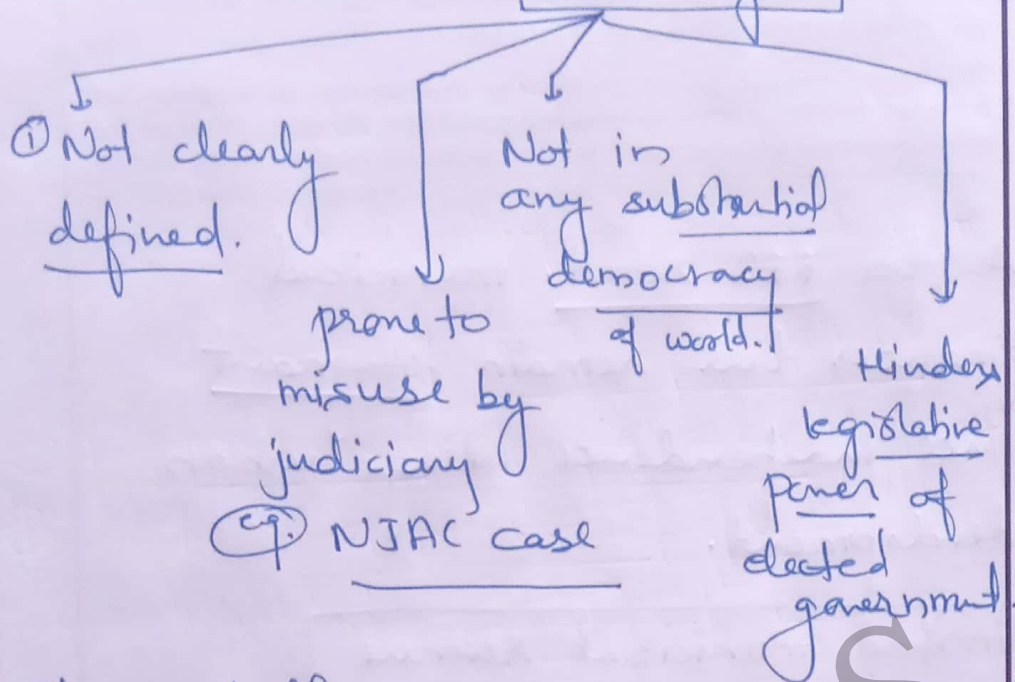
③ Keshavnand Bhaurai Case -

- ↳ Basic structure doctrine.
- ↳ evolving and dynamic concept.

Significance in limiting power of Parliament

- ① establish supremacy of constitution
- ② upholds concept of limited government
- ③ Judicial check against arbitrary legislation
 (eg) Minerva Mills case
- ④ preserving constitutional morality and constitutionalism.
- ⑤ Establish separation of power
- ⑥ Upholding Rule of law
 (eg) Mareka Gandhi Case -
ruled protection of life & personal liberty.

However there are challenges



These challenges require —

- ① a substantive definition of basic structure.
- ② Mechanism to prevent judicial misuse.

Doctrine of basic structure has expanded constitutionalism and evolved constitutional morality as reflected in Naraj-Singh Johar case.

12. नगर निगमों की सीमित राजस्व सृजन क्षमता के कारण राज्यों के करों और अनुदानों पर उनकी निर्भरता बढ़ गई है। इस प्रवृत्ति से जुड़े हुए मुद्दे क्या हैं? भारत में नगर निगमों की वित्तीय स्थिति में सुधार के लिए किन उपायों की आवश्यकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The limited revenue generation capacity of municipal corporations has increased their dependence on taxes and grants from the states. What are the issues associated with this trend? What measures are required to improve the finances of the municipal corporations in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15

As per RBI report, municipal finances has remain stagnant since independence ailing urban development.



This leads to dependency on states for grants & taxes. Challenges associated with this.

↳ ① tied grants - lack of financial freedom

- ↳ ② Not suited to demands of municipality.
- ↳ ③ hinders growth and innovative solutions.
- ↳ ④ Politisation due to financial dependency.
- ↳ ⑤ Increase wastage of funds on unnecessary & more popular schemes.
- ↳ ⑥ Lack of credit & finance hinders urban development
- Issues of slums
- Mobility challenge
- Sanitation & cleanliness.

Measures required

- ① Municipality Bonds - capital market exposure (RBI)

- ② Constitution of Special purpose vehicle for deficit financing & fund raising (eg. China)
- ③ Inflation indexing profession tax.
- ④ Reducing state control.
- ⑤ Rationalising property tax.
- ⑥ Priority sector lending (PSL) to municipal corporations.
- ⑦ Associating CSR funds to municipal development.

These steps will ensure financial independent municipal corporation effectively contributing to urban development. (SOG-11)

13. "संविधान का उद्देश्य सुधार लाने के लिए समाज को रूपांतरित करना है और यह उद्देश्य रूपांतरणकारी संविधानवाद का मूल स्तंभ है।" हालिया न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

"The purpose of having a Constitution is to transform the society for the better and this objective is the fundamental pillar of transformative constitutionalism." Discuss with the help of recent case laws. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Constitution is a set of rules and regulations established by founding fathers. It is the fundamental law of land.

Purpose of constitution; transformation of society.

① Reforms outdated practices
(e.g.) Art 15, 16 - discrimination prohibited.

② Evolving needs of society
(e.g.) Constitutional morality
in Naveet Singh Johar case -
decriminalised homosexuality.

↳ ③ evolution of rights -

(eg.) Right to marry under Art 21.

Right to remain silent (Art 19(1))

Thus transforming society is
fundamental pillar of TRANSFORMATIVE
CONSTITUTIONALISM - as -

↳ transformative constitutionalism
is about transforming
societal ideals and norms
to meet need of modern
society.

It is reflected in recent

supreme courts judgement like -

① Anoop Barnwal vs UoI 2023

↳ S.C. set up collegiums

system for selection of Election Commissioners to fill perceived legislative gap.

- ② Common cause vs Union of India
↳ expounded concept of living will.
- ③ Decriminalisation of adultery
↳ Joseph shine case

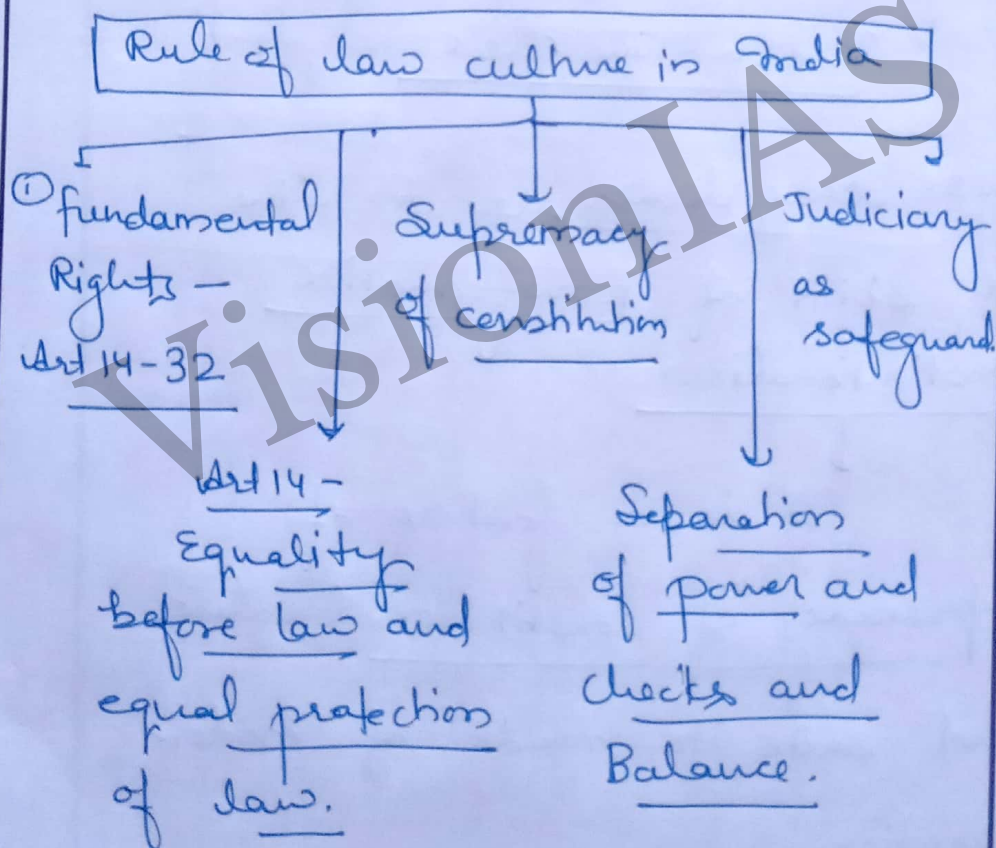
These case laws are in line with spirit of transformative constitutionalism.

↓
It is a feature of supremacy of constitutional values and suits to needs of modern societies.

14. भारत जैसे समाज में व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और लोकतांत्रिक शासन को बढ़ावा देने में 'विधि के शासन की संस्कृति' कैसे योगदान दे सकती है? ऐसी संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने में क्या चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

How can a 'rule of law culture' contribute towards promoting individual liberty and democratic governance in a society like India? What are the challenges in fostering such a culture? (Answer in 250 words) 15

'Rule of law' culture refers to
predominance of legal spirit and
respect for law or rule of men.



Rule of law promoting individual liberty -

- ① protection against arbitrary executive action (Art 32 & 13)
- ② prohibit arbitrary legislation -
 - ↳ Basic structure
 - ↳ concept of limited government
 - ↳ Struck down 97th Constitutional Amendment Act.
- ③ freedom of speech & expression and right to life as fundamental rights

Promoting democratic governance

- ↳ ① free and fair elections (Art 324)
- ↳ ② Right to universal adult suffrage (Art 326)
- ↳ ③ Ideals of democracy - liberty,

freedom, fraternity, equality.

However there are challenges -

- ① Sedition (Section 124 A) -
curbing dissent - safety
value of democracy.
- ② Preventive detentions -
arbitrary and malafied.

- ③ Bypassing legitimate procedure
 - ↳ frequent ordinance promulgation
 - ↳ misuse of Art-
200, 201 by
governor.

Way ahead

- ① Awareness about Rule
of Law.

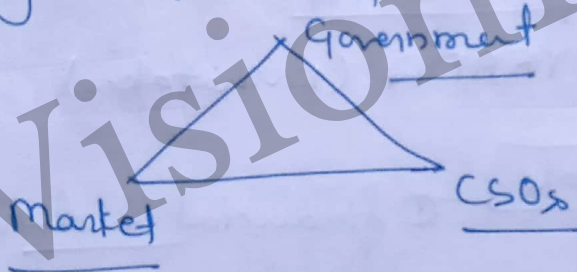
e.g. Constitutional literacy campaign

in Kerala will ensure people as
safeguards of democracy.

15. नागरिक समाज संगठन (CSOs) न केवल धर्मार्थ कार्यों में लगे हुए हैं, बल्कि न्यायसंगत, शांतिपूर्ण, मानवीय और संधारणीय भविष्य के निर्माण के लिए राजनीतिक प्रक्रियाओं में भी शामिल हैं। उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are not just engaged in charitable work but also involved in political processes for building a just, peaceful, humane, and sustainable future. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 250 words) 15

CSOs are informal, voluntary organisations of non-state actors contributing significantly to welfare of people.

CSOs are one of important players of developmental process.



Role and functioning of CSOs

① Political empowerment

↳ advocacy for rights
(BMMA - triple talag)

↳ spread legal awareness —
Association for democratic
reforms (ADR)

②

Social role

↳ i) eradicating derogatory
practices.

rehabilitation of victims

↳ (e.g.) Chaya foundation
(Acid attack)

women empowerment

(e.g.) MYRADA (Karnataka)

③

Economic role

↳ financial inclusion

↳ breaking vicious cycle
of poverty (e.g.) Society for

integrated development of

Himalayas — promoting
inclusive development.

④ Miscellaneous

↳ gap filling
↳ reaching last mile.

However there are challenges

① foreign funding misuse

lack of transparency -
(only 10% file audit - CBI)

hinders development
Green Peace
(As per IB)

Way forward

→ Social Stock exchange.

① RTI applicability -
(PUCL vs UoJ case)

② Better state-market-cso linkage.

③ Independent funding mechanisms.

As this National Policy on Voluntary Organisations 2007 can guide for

their effective contribution in nation building

16. हालांकि स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) ने ग्रामीण विकास और महिला सशक्तिकरण में योगदान दिया है, लेकिन उनका असमान भौगोलिक प्रभाव और ऋण चूक (लोन डिफॉल्ट) की बढ़ती घटनाएं ऐसी गंभीर चुनौतियां हैं, जिनके समाधान की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

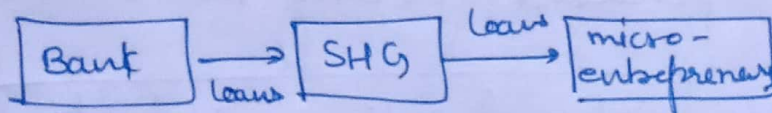
Self-help groups (SHGs) have contributed towards rural development and women empowerment, but their uneven geographical impact and rising loan defaults are serious challenges that need to be addressed. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

SHGs are a group of women pooling their finances to provide microfinance facilities to micro-entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Contribution in rural development

① provide credit facilities to break vicious cycle of poverty.

② financial inclusion -

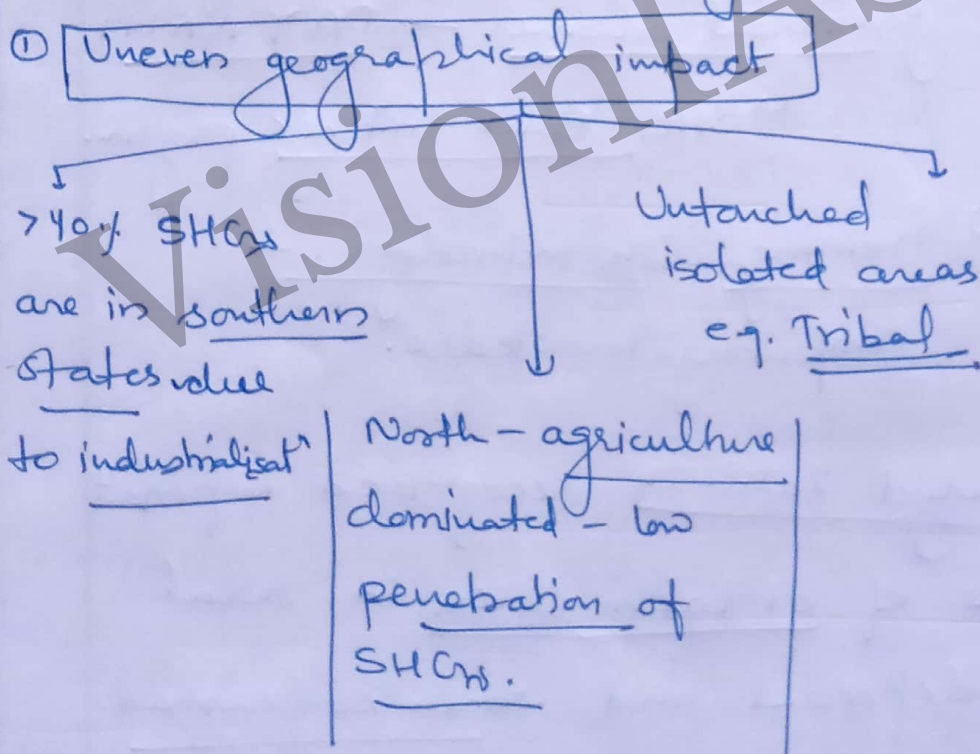


③ help small cottage industries.

Contributions in women empowerment

- ① financial literacy to women
 (e.g.) Women as Bank
Correspondent.
- ② Self sufficiency in finance
- ③ Improve societal awareness and
uplift respect for women.

However, there are challenges like -



② Rising loan defaults

- ↳ i) charge high interest rates
- ↳ inability to pay back of microentrepreneurs.
- ↳ Rising NPA's of banks due to priority sector lending (PSL).

Way forward

- ① Effective implementation of government schemes - DAY NALM
 - ↳ SHGs - Bank linkage program
- ② Training with technology - computing knowledge.

Budget 2023-24 recognised important role of 81 lakh SHGs in rural development and women empowerment.

17. क्या आप इस बिचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत की स्कूली शिक्षा प्रणाली में गहरी जड़ें जमा चुकी समस्याओं को केवल डिजिटल रूपांतरण से हल नहीं किया जा सकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Do you agree with the view that the deep-rooted problems in India's school education system cannot be solved by digital transformation alone? (Answer in 250 words) 15

As per census 2011, literacy rates in India - men (80.9%), women (64.63%) but still as ASER report highlighted poor learning outcomes among children.

This shows deep rooted

problems in education system -

① lack of trained teachers

② lack of vocational education

[India - 5% while South Korea - 95% - ASER]

③ poor employability -

(only 45% students from Higher Education Institutions)

Potential of digital solutions

- ① Teachers training (e.g.) NISHTHA
and DIKSHA portal.
- ② Improving reach of education
↳ (e.g.) to inaccessible areas
with online classes.
- ③ Affordability - MOOC - SWAYAM -
free online best quality education.
- ④ Child progress tracking -
↳ (e.g.) UDISE+
- ⑤ Integrated and holistic - online
skill training (Newton school)

However, they alone are not sufficient
as there are many challenges -

- ① Digital divide across genders

geographies and age.

② Digital accessibility - As per ITU
only 20% Indians able to use
internet.

③ Not suited for all age groups -
↳ Early childhood care & education
(ECCE) need offline care.

Way ahead

① Hybrid education -
↳ offline - where needed
↳ online - where feasible.
② need a regulatory policy
for edtech startups

National Education Policy 2020

envisages a mix of online & offline
education to shape India into
Knowledge Superpower.

18. भारत में कमजोर वर्गों के लिए कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की प्रभावशीलता और पारदर्शिता पर प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT) के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

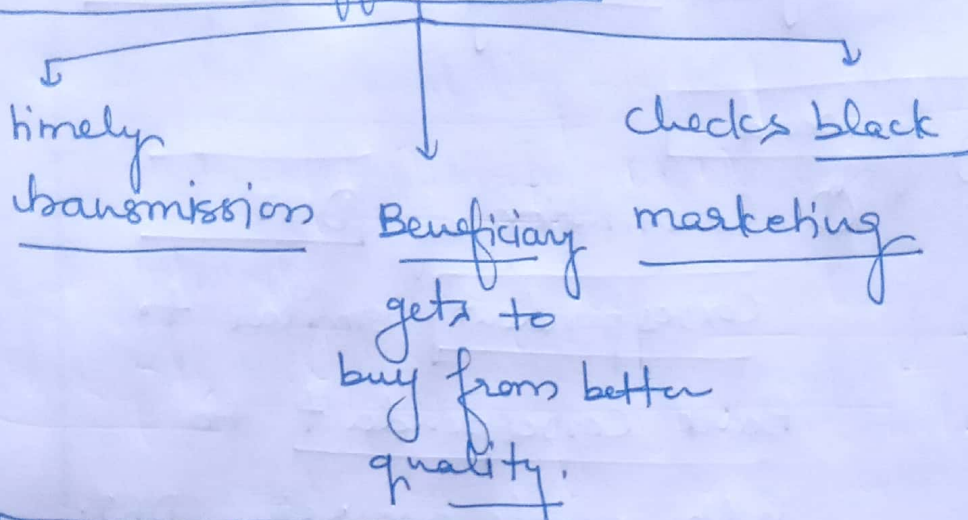
Examine the impact of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on the effectiveness and transparency of welfare schemes for the vulnerable sections in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) refers to directly transferring monetary benefits into beneficiaries' account.

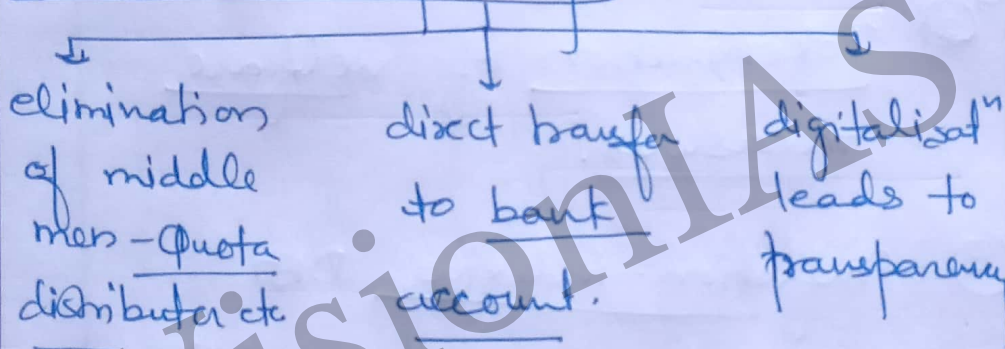
Benefits of DBT

- ① Reduced leakages - better transmission of subsidy.
(eg.) LPG DBT subsidy.
- ② Reduced economic cost in PDS.
transportation storage.
- ③ Reduced corruption and delays.
- ④ Enhance transparency due to digital trail.
- ⑤ Choice to beneficiary regarding money.

Increased effectiveness



Increased transparency



Still, challenges persists

- ① DBT is not inflation indexed.
- ② lack of autonomy of women as males get to use the money.

③ Digital illiteracy and skepticism.

Way forward

① Constitution of DBT
Correspondent similar to
Bank Correspondent to
help people accessing DBT.

② Tokenisation of welfare
measures.

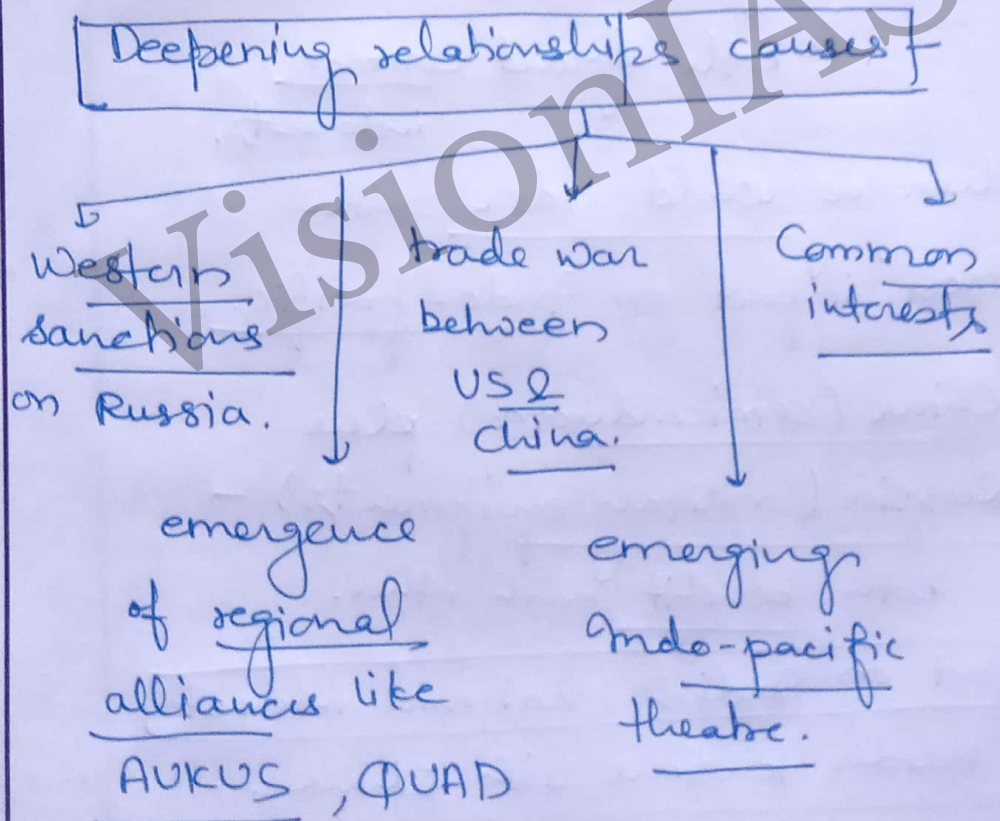
③ Inflation-indexing DBT
to shield market vulnerabilities.

These measures will ensure
effectiveness of welfare measures
to truly establish aim of
welfare state (DPSP).

19. चीन-रूस के बीच गहरे होते रणनीतिक संबंधों को कुछ लोगों ने 'विश्व में सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण अघोषित गठबंधन' के रूप में वर्णित किया है। यह गठबंधन भारत के राष्ट्रीय हित को कैसे प्रभावित कर सकता है? भारत को अपने हितों की रक्षा के लिए क्या रणनीति अपनानी चाहिए? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The deepening China-Russia strategic relationship has been described by some as the 'most consequential undeclared alliance in the world.' How can this alliance impact India's national interest? What strategies should India adopt to protect her interests? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Russia-Ukraine war has polarised world strengthening China-Russia partnership at unprecedented level.



most consequential undeclared
alliance -

- ① Russia (former superpower) & China (rising economically and militarily)
- ② Thucydides trap - USA fearing China's rise as well as sanctioning Russia -
↳ both found common interests.
- ③ changing world order with most impact on Indo-Pacific.
- ④ China (semiconductor) plus Russia (military equipments) - both benefit each other.

Impact on India's national interest

- ① Border tensions with China.

- ② changing orientations of historic ally Russia.
- ③ Threat of China-Pak-Russia axis
- ④ Strategic dilemma between western sanctions and Russia.

Strategies

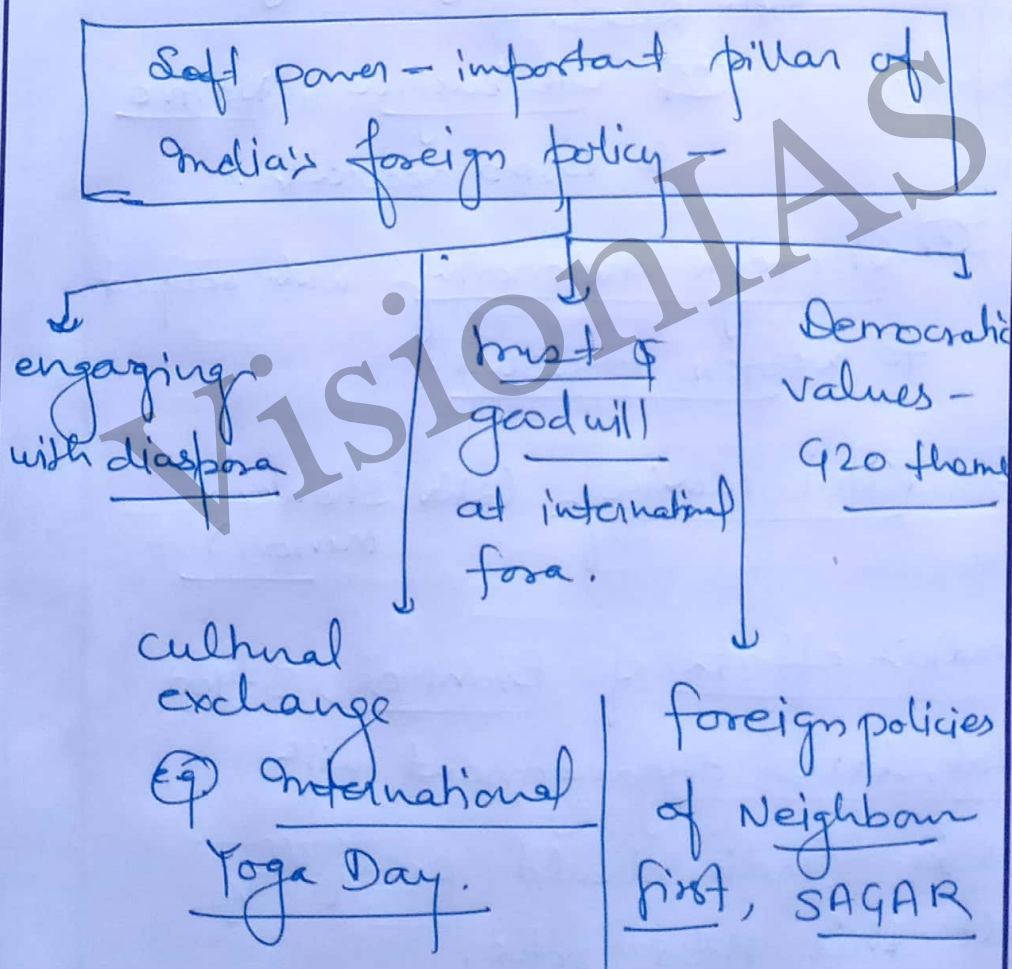
- ① Strengthening ties with Russia -
 (e.g.) Oil buying, Nostro & Vostro accounts.
- ② Strategic autonomy with respect to western pressure.
- ③ Mini-maxing (Shiv Shankar Menon)

India's efforts of Brahmos, S-400 deal, stress engagement with Russia. India should carefully walk this tight rope.

20. भारत ने अपनी वैश्विक स्थिति और विदेशों में छवि को बेहतर बनाने के लिए सॉफ्ट पावर को अपनी विदेश नीति के एक महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ के रूप में स्थापित कर लिया है। सरकार द्वारा की गई विभिन्न पहलों के साथ-साथ इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

India has placed soft power as an important pillar of its foreign policy to enhance its global standing and image abroad. Discuss the statement along with the initiatives taken by the government. (Answer in 250 words) 15

As per Joseph Nye, soft power is pursuing national interest through power of persuasion and attraction rather than coercion.



Initiatives taken

- ① Vaccine Maitri - to fight COVID
- ② Operation Dost - Turkey earthquake rescue.
Operation Gange - Russia - Ukraine war impacted Indians.
- ③ development of Soft power matrix - to quantify the impact.
- ④ promotion of indigenous products -
↳ millets (International year of millets 2023)
↳ gifting Assamese Gamocha to Japanese PM.
- ⑤ promoting sports, bollywood etc.
- ⑥ Sri Lanka's help - line of credit
- ⑦ Cultural diplomacy cell in foreign ministry.

challenges associated with use of
soft power

- ① difficult to assess the impact.
- ② Intangible power and lack of instant results.
- ③ Western media - derogating India's image (e.g) Railway cartoon.

Way ahead

- ↳ ① Smart power - judicious mix of both soft & hard.
- ② Strengthening domestic capabilities.

Effectiveness of soft power can be significantly enhanced by improving domestic capacity.