



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2714)

Name of Candidate	RAKHI	Registration Number	45942651
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Date	11-08-25
Center	Online		

### INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
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9	10	
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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, 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 & 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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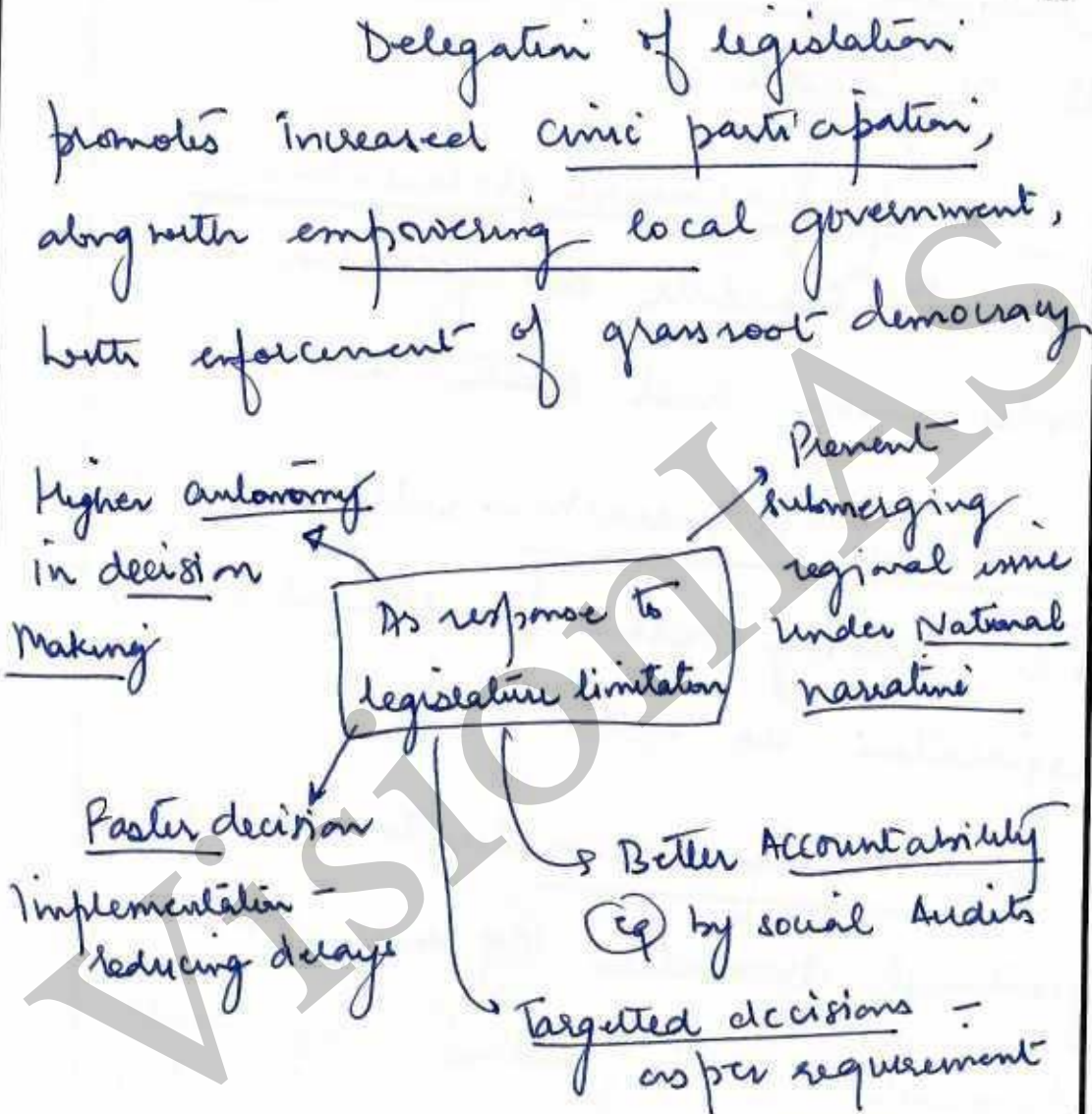
All the Best

Q1.

प्रत्यायोजित विधान, विधायिका की सीमाओं के प्रति एक व्यावहारिक अनुक्रिया है, किंतु यह भारत में शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के लिए चुनौतियां भी उत्पन्न करता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

Delegated legislation is a pragmatic response to the limitations of the legislature but poses challenges to the separation of powers in India. Examine. (Answer in 150 words)

10



As challenge to Separation of Power

(1) Merging of legislative and executive  
function (eg) - by higher role of nomin-

ated members (eg) in ward committee.

(2) Judiciary functions by executive (eg)  
As Magistrate

(3) Lack of functional delineation  
with 7th schedule list focussing on  
only union and state list.

(4) Judicial over-reach → with S.C and  
H-C passing orders for delegated  
legislation as well.

(5) State interference - due to lack of  
functional devolution (eg) only a state  
devolved all 18 functions (LAg report  
2014)

Thus, need is for proper  
guidelines and higher autonomy in  
decision making, by implementation of  
73<sup>rd</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment; in spirit.

Q2.

भारत की संघीय संरचना संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की संघीय संरचना से किस प्रकार भिन्न है?  
How does the federal structure of India differ from that of the United States?  
(Answer in 150 words)

10

Federalism refers to a system where units desire unity without uniformity (AV Dicey)

Federal structure of both US and India shares common features

- ↳ written constitution
- ↳ Separation of Power
- ↳ Independent Judiciary

(Yet, differences remain)

(1) Strict separation of power - present in US, whereas, in India overlap of powers (Ram J. Kapur case, 1955)

(eg) Power to make ordinance by executive.

(2) Separate judiciary for federal and state laws in US, whereas, overlap of jurisdiction in India (eg H.C verdict even on central laws)

(3) Audit of Accounts → separately in US, whereas, CAG accorded for both centre and state in India.

(4) Unitary features (eg Amendment process requiring approval of  $\frac{2}{3}$  states, in US, whereas in India, 50% states, only when federal feature compromised.

(5) Governor Appointment - by state specific direct election in US, whereas nominated by President in India.

Thus, India's federal structure was referred quasi-federal by KC Wheare, due to its difference with US.

Q3.

मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त और अन्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त अधिनियम, 2023 ने निर्वाचन आयोग की स्वायत्तता में कमी के संबंध में चिंताएँ उत्पन्न की हैं। समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 has sparked concerns about the erosion of the Election Commission's autonomy. Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)  
and EC Act, 2023 came in response  
to S.C directions to adopt legislative  
process for appointment of EC and CEC,  
as per Anoop Bhargava case of 2023

S.C recommendation - CJI ⊕ P.M ⊕ leader of  
opposition (Lok Sabha)

CEC x EC Act, 2023 → P.M ⊕ LoP (L.S) + Cabinet  
Minister

Concerns of Act

(1) Majority of government → with  
two of three members of same  
opinion.

(2) Erosion of Judiciary recommendation

→ with overturning of judiciary, reflecting  
executive over-reach.

- (3) Post retirement benefits - to bureaucrats,  
as was seen in recent appointment
- (4) Opaque Appointment process - both lack  
of selection committee recommendation  
criteria.

Yet, it has led to few positives

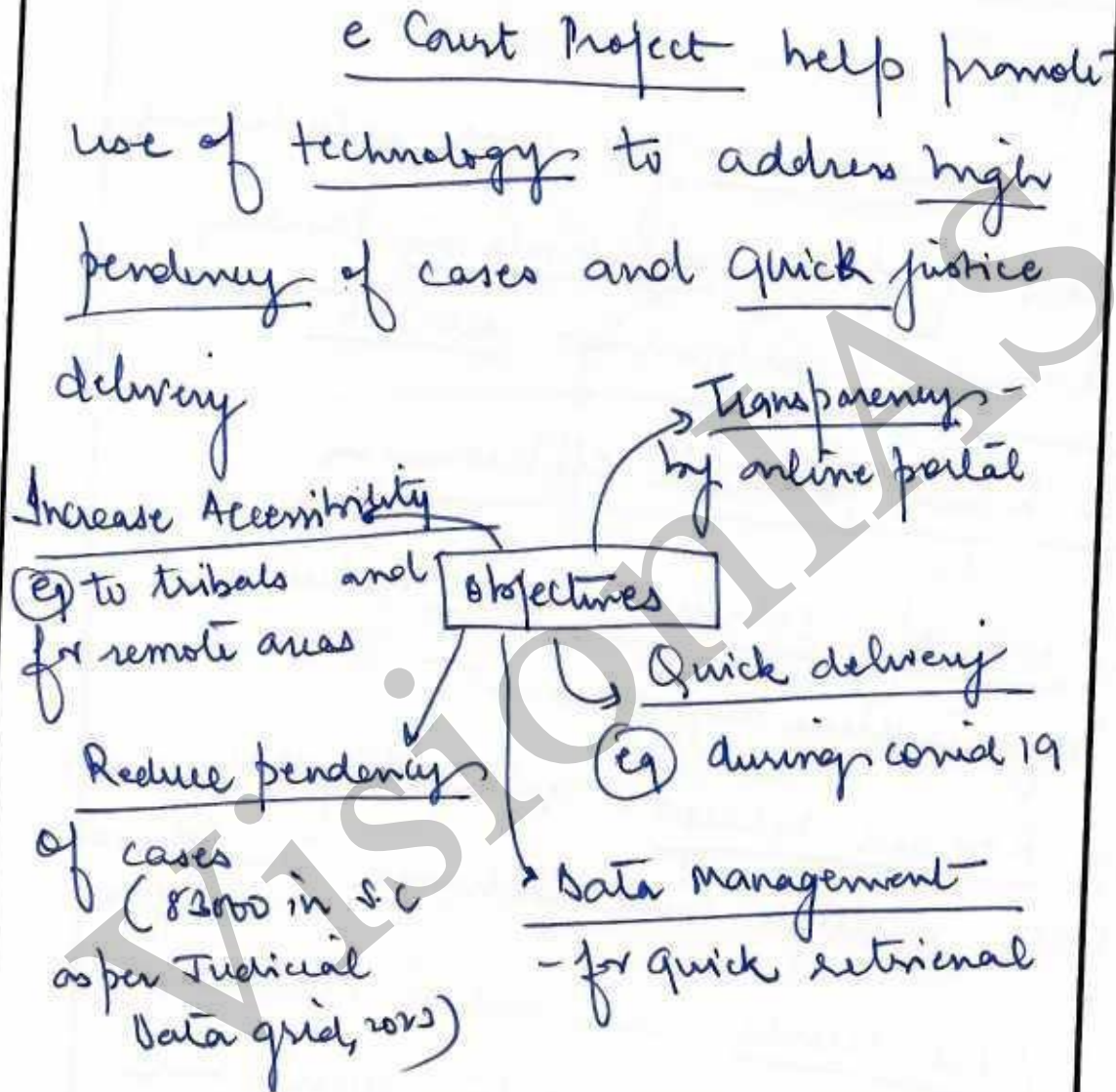
- (1) Deliberations - with LoP, ensuring  
allowing of objections
- (2) Prompt Parliamentary debate - due  
to presence of LoP, promoting citizen  
participation and accountability
- (3) Persistent Process - from previous process  
where, upper hand of executive present.
- Thus, need is for higher  
transparency and consensus on decisions,  
ensuring autonomy of constitutional bodies.

Q4.

ई-कोर्ट परियोजना के मुख्य उद्देश्यों पर चर्चा कीजिए। ये भारत में न्याय तक पहुँच बढ़ाने और न्यायिक दक्षता में सुधार करने में किस प्रकार योगदान देते हैं?

Discuss the key objectives of the e-Courts Project. How does it contribute to enhancing access to justice and improving judicial efficiency in India? (Answer in 150 words)

10



Contribution to increase access to justice

(1) Inclusive access (eg) for far away remote areas (eg) rural, tribal areas

(2) Women empowerment - Reducing their travel time and decrease hassle, enhancing safety

(3) Reduce cost - for poor, with reduced cost of filling affidavits (2) Printing documents, Supporting ART-19A

To improve judicial efficiency

(1) Ease of services - with reduced infrastructure requirement

(2) Reduced delays - quick disposal, with multiple cases addressed simultaneously

(3) Valid records - with online statements recording, increasing future access and accountability

Thus, need is for data security and increase internet penetration to remote region for promoting equitable justice delivery.

Q5.

स्वयं सहायता समूहों को सशक्त बनाने तथा उनके बाजार के साथ जुड़ाव और ऋण तक पहुंच को बढ़ाने में सहायक डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्मों की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the role of digital platforms in empowering SHGs and enhancing their market linkage and credit access. (Answer in 150 words) 10

SHGs refer to Self Help  
groups, which work on maxim of  
"safe first, credit later", to promote  
social justice and gender equality.

Digital platform in empowering SHGs

(1) Promote women participation - from  
different regions, enlarging them into  
Micro-entrepreneurs

(2) Spread Awareness - of the social  
Issues (eg) Kudumbshree, Break the  
chain campaign during covid 19

(3) Social Audits - easy and quick by  
effective data management leading

to better accountability.

Enhancing Market and credit Access

(1) HQ-Corporate nexus (eg) coordinating with business for marketing (eg) selling of fish in Mumbai to Tata Hotels

(2) NABARD Bank linkage Program → promoting loans at low interest rate on online platforms

(3) Use of Priority Lending by use of banks and RBI platforms.

However, challenges remain → digital divide (Rural vs Urban)

→ cybercrimes

→ Concentrated in south

→ Patriarchal Mindset

Thus, need is for better literacy

(eg) PMGDISHA, with effective data management and enhanced security (eg) NCIIPC, ITC.

Q6.

भारत की उच्चतर शिक्षा को वैश्विक मानकों तक पहुंचाने में उत्कृष्ट संस्थान (IoE) योजना की क्षमताओं का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Analyze the potential of the Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme in elevating India's higher education to global standards. (Answer in 150 words) 10

IoE scheme is a sub-scheme under New Education Policy of 2020 to promote higher education in esteemed university, as per international educational standards (eg IIT, IIM).

Potential of IoE scheme

- (1) Improve educational quality - adhering to international standards (eg collaboration with foreign universities)
- (2) Improve Ranking - of higher education Institution
- (3) Promote Innovation - by focusing on research (eg ANRF scheme).

(4) Multi-dimensional Skilling i.e.  
multiple departments within one university  
campus

(5) Reduce job-skill mismatch -  
focusing on placements and upskilling  
based on demands

(6) Internship Training - to foreign  
university students, allowing adoption  
of best practices

→ limited focus i.e. higher funding  
to IIT, IIM, than local universities

Challenges

→ High competition

→ high cost - of Admission

→ Brain drain i.e. of Talented Students  
outside India

Thus, need is to promote equitable  
funding, promote research and help retain  
talent by providing skill appropriate  
employment

Q7.

यद्यपि आय निर्धनता में कमी आई है, किंतु भारत में पोषण संबंधी निर्धनता अभी भी बनी हुई है। इस चिंता का समग्र रूप से समाधान करने के लिए सरकार के वर्तमान खाद्य सुरक्षा उपयों को कैसे पुनर्गठित किया जा सकता है?

While income poverty has declined, nutritional poverty persists in India. How can the present food security interventions of the government be restructured to address this concern holistically? (Answer in 150 words)

10

Nutritional Poverty refers to deficiency of enough dietary intake to promote healthy and active life as per United Nations, leading to Chronic

Hunger

Rise in Minimum wages

Decrease in extreme poverty (5% as per world bank)

Reduce Income Inequality (GINI=0.257)

in Middle Class (upper) as per world bank

focus on limited cereals (e.g) Rice, wheat

Reliance on packaged food → leading to obesity

Malnutrition (Stunting of 36.5% as per NFHS-5)

Anemia - 57% of 15-49 years women (NFHS-5)

## Restructuring of government intervention

- (1) Diversification of subsidy (eg) MSP to be extended to all crops
- (2) Expand scope of food security (eg) update list of PDS, as per latest census
- (3) Promote fortification (eg) millets and vitamin A fortified rice. in PDS
- (4) Labelling of food (eg) As per directives of ~~FSSAI~~ FSSAI, reducing intake of salt and trans fat
- (5) Inclusion of eggs and proteins - in schools (eg) Mid day meal scheme
- (6) Awareness (eg) in schools by CBSE on need for healthy food

Thus, need is to address hunger by focusing on malnutrition and under nutrition to decrease GHI of 105

Q8.

भारत में ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों और भिखारियों की सुभेद्यताओं को दूर करने में स्माइल (SMILE) योजना के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the significance of the SMILE scheme in addressing the vulnerabilities of transgender persons and beggars in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

SMILE Scheme promotes the intervention by NGO and civil society for rehabilitation of socially deprived persons, by health and education interventions.

Significance for Transgender

- (1) Ensure safety - by providing shelter (eg) Garima Greh scheme
- (2) Promote health intervention (eg) In hormonal Therapies
- (3) Spread Awareness (eg) regarding Transgender Protection Act of 2019 and induction of transgender in its council

(4) Promote employment (eg) by reducing stigma and normalising social behaviours.

### Significance for beggars

(1) Reduced forced begging - due to trafficking of children and disabled (eg) of Nanke Parishit (Railway Protection force)

(2) Alternative employment (eg) by schemes such as Urban MGNREGA

(3) Night Shelters - for beggars on footpath especially during winters

(4) Ensure safety of women and children (eg) Mahila Police Volunteers

Thus, need is for its expansion, higher fund allocation and spreading awareness regarding its applicability

Q9.

"जो महासागरों पर नियंत्रण रखता है, वह विश्व पर शासन करता है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, भारत की समुद्री रणनीति में सागर (SAGAR) से महासागर (MAHASAGAR) तक हुए बदलाव पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Whoever controls the oceans, runs the world. In this context, discuss the shift in India's maritime strategy from SAGAR to MAHASAGAR. (Answer in 150 words)

10

The oceans play a major role by domination of trade routes (eg Malacca Strait (Indian Ocean), which was called as key to 7 Seas, by AT Mahan

Shift of SAGAR to MAHASAGAR

(1) As security provider - in case of new geopolitical conflicts (eg Red Sea route blockings by Houthi

(2) Higher Investment - in neighbouring states of Indian ocean (eg Pinemalee port (Sri Lanka), Agalega Atstrip (Mauritius))

(3) Safety and Health Initiatives

(eg) Vaccine Maitri during Covid 19

Operation Braham (Myanmar earth quake)

(4) Ease of trade - by port development

(eg) Sagm Port (Oram)

Sibeng Port (Indonesia)

(5) Higher China dominance - under

String of Pearls Theory, requiring

India to increase presence

(6) Foreign Policy - as per Neighbourhood

1st policy (2008) and Non Reciprocity

by Gujral doctrine (1996), with renewed  
focus on Indian ocean neighbours.

Thus, need is for higher  
investment to promote easy flow of  
trade (90% of India's trade) and handle  
changing geopolitical shifts in Indo-Pacific  
region.

Q10.

भारत-यूके मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (एफ. टी. ए.) की, बाजार पहुंच और पेशेवर गतिशीलता को सुगम बनाने में भूमिका का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Evaluate the role of the India-UK FTA in facilitating greater market access and professional mobility. (Answer in 150 words)

10

India and UK is on path to sign the FTA with finalising of CETA in 2025, promoting easy flow of trade and reduced tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Role in greater Market Access

- (1) India's large Market - for selected products at reduced custom, benefitting competition
- (2) Higher export - in UK Market, helping in reducing trade deficit
- (3) Easy data sharing - allowing for data and Technology transfer (eg) helping in semiconductors and Quantum

development

- (4) Enact strict EU norms - due to Brexit,  
allowing for reduced tariff.

### Role in Professional Mobility

- (1) Migration and Mobility Partnership  
- for Indian diaspora, easing visa  
restrictions

- (2) Safety of workers (eg) visa-migrate  
Portal

- (3) Higher FDI and PPI - by relaxing  
norms in India, promoting investment

→ Higher data mobility → hindering  
Privacy

→ Hampers Agriculture and Autam  
Sector obile

→ Relaxed IPR norms

Thus, need is for public  
participation and civil society engagement  
for mutual benefits on an equal  
part.

Q11.

भारत में सहकारी संवाद को सुगम बनाने और महत्वपूर्ण शासन संबंधी चुनौतियों को हल करने में अंतर-सरकारी संस्थाओं की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Examine the role of inter-governmental institutions in facilitating cooperative dialogue and resolving critical governance challenges in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

## Inter-governmental Institutions

refers to promotion of co-operative federalism, by higher centre-state dialogues (eg) Interstate Council (Article 263)

### Role in co-operative dialogue

(1) Helps dispute co-ordinated decision making (eg) GST Council, with votes by states (weighted voting)

(2) Bottom up approach - by decisions at grassroot (eg) NITI Aayog

(3) Financial devolution - by cooperation in form of Finance Commission of India (FCI) - Article 280.

(4) Regular Meeting's (eg) under Zonal Council, for targetted decisions.

Role in resolving critical challenges

(1) Dispute Resolution (eg) Inter state Council under Article 263

(2) Water sharing issues - resolved by tribunals under ISWD Act, 1956

(3) Role of governor - as a mediator between State and Centre (eg) referring disputed bills to President

(4) Role of judiciary (eg) in resolving Inter state and Centre-state disputes (eg) Article 132 and use of High Court for solving election disputes

Yet, Challenges remain

- (1) Lack of Autonomy - with centralised governance (eg) FC1
- (2) Lack of timely meetings (eg) GST council
- (3) Lack of State Participation (eg) in research under NITI Aayog.
- (4) opaque Appointments - with higher say of centre (eg) CAG, ECI
- (5) Politicisation of Institution (eg) ED, CB

Way forward

→ Higher Autonomy and regular appointments

→ Cooperative federalism (eg) ~~equal~~ consensus in GST council

→ Higher State Involvement (eg) in ToR of FC1

Thus, need is for better cooperation for promoting cooperative and competitive federalism

Q12.

भारत में निजी सदस्यों के विधेयक (प्राइवेट मेंबर बिल) विधायी पहल का एक महत्वपूर्ण साधन होने के बावजूद, शायद ही कभी कानून बन पाते हैं। इस प्रवृत्ति के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही, विधायी प्रक्रिया में निजी सदस्यों की भूमिका को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु उपाय भी सुझाइए।

Despite being an important instrument of legislative initiative, Private Member's Bills rarely become laws in India. Examine the factors responsible for this trend. Also, suggest measures to strengthen the role of Private Members in the legislative process. (Answer in 250 words)

15

### Private Members Bill

is presented only on fridays in the legislative assembly, by non Ministers, with last bill passed during 1980's, showing its limited use.

Promote Participative democracy

Promotes diverse opinion

(against any party whip)

Important Instrument

ensure freedom of expression (Art-19)

Against Tyranny of Majority of Executive

Factors responsible for its limited use

(1) limited time allocated - i.e. - only on fridays, with permission

Obtained 1 Month prior to presentation  
(others - 7 day notice)

- (2) Lack of expertise - and non availability of research, as only one member to draft the bill
- (3) Lack of support - due to non allegiance to the government's focus and not in the priority business
- (4) Majority rule → (eg) 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, reducing active involvement of other members
- (5) Higher disruptions - impacting 40-50% of debate, reducing time for private bill.

Measures to strengthen Private bill

- (1) Higher Allocation of time (eg) from

one to 2 days <sup>a</sup> ~~and~~ week and  
reduced notice period, at par with  
ordinary bill

(2) legislative calendar - before commence-  
ment of financial year.

(3) Online scrutiny of bill by public  
participation and by committee, for  
analysing demand of bill

(4) Reduced disruptions - allowing for  
adequate functioning on allotted  
time

(5) Mandatory booking of slot - to not  
be taken over by other business

(c) Censure Motion

Thus, need is for better  
participation allowing for citizen  
participation and promote grassroots  
democracy, for rule by 'the people of  
India'.

Q13.

भारत में पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (पी.आर.आई.) को निधियों, प्रकारों और पदाधिकारियों के प्रभावी हस्तांतरण में आने वाली प्रमुख चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the major challenges in effective devolution of funds, functions, and functionaries to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

PRIs of India were  
enforced by 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act  
of 1993 by the recommendation of  
Gadgil committee of 1986, promoting  
empowerment of local government  
and higher citizen participation.

Major challenges in fund devolution

(1) lack of financial autonomy (eg)  
revenue only by 32% from own  
source (CAQ report, 2024)

(2) lack of expertise (eg) financial  
experts dearth, thus dependant on  
state and centre.

(3) Dependence on centre - for fund devolution, leading to lack of incentives to generate own fund.

Challenges in devolution of functions

(1) Voluntary functions i.e. not all LA functions devolved by centre (only done in 9 states as per CAG report, 2024)

(2) Lack of Infrastructure i.e. staff, funds, data to execute function without state interference.

(3) Administrative constraints - i.e. lack of capacity and higher lack of research facility at local level

## Challenges in devolution of functions

- (1) Higher Bureaucratic control - limiting the role of local officials
- (2) State Interference - due to presence of weak leaders at local level and fear of reduced state authority
- (3) Lack of Timely elections - due to irregular elections and mid term dissolution

Way Forward

- Higher Autonomy (eg) Subsidiarity Principle by 2nd ARC
- Use of Technology (eg) eVidhan
- Public participation, feedback and grievance redressal (eg) CPGRAMS
- Power of SEC similar to CEC (Kishan Singh Tomar case, 2016)

Thus, need is for development of organic circles (Gandhi) for empowerment of people

Q14.

लोक अदालतों और वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान तंत्रों ने न्याय तक पहुंच में सुधार किया है, लेकिन इन्हें मूलभूत न्याय प्रदान करने में बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Lok Adalats and Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms have improved access to justice but face limitations in delivering substantive justice. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

### Lok Adalats and ADR

help in resolution of non compoundable offenses, which was established by Act of 1987,

#### Improved Access to Justice

- (1) Fast resolution (eg) by non requirement of standard procedures (eg) Evidence Act of 1882
- (2) Resolution by Mediation - with cooperation and reduced requirement of prerequisite actions (eg) Negotiation in case of Corporate disputes
- (3) Lack of penalties (eg) during loan

repayment, by providing relaxation  
during ART

(4) Reduce overcrowding of prison

(131% of its capacity as per Judicial  
Data grid) → by amicable resolution  
of dispute

(5) Reduce delays - by reducing higher  
court burdening (5 case pendency)

Limitation in delivering substantive  
justice

(1) Underutilisation of ADR - both lack  
of formal mechanism availability

(2) limited Access to Lok Adalats -  
due to lack of infrastructure and  
lack of awareness among people.

(3) Lack of International Standards

- with corporates preferring nations

(eg) Singapore, hampering investment opportunity

(4) Priority of formal mechanism → to appeal and ensure following of standard procedures for long term dispute resolution

key forward →

- Higher classification of offenses as non-compoundable
- Mandating for civil cases
- Better enforceability
- Awareness (eg) legal education and legal aid (Art. 39A)
- Use of Technology for data management

Thus, to reduce delays and ensure justice delivery, alternate mechanism provide useful option

Q15.

भारत में संधारणीय शहरी विकास प्राप्त करने और जीवन की गुणवत्ता को बेहतर बनाने में स्मार्ट सिटीज मिशन का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Critically evaluate the Smart Cities Mission in achieving sustainable urban development and enhancing quality of life in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Smart Cities Mission was enacted in 2015 to promote use of technology and renewable energy for promoting sustainable cities, in line with international standards (Target of 100 smart cities)

Achieving urban development

- (1) Promote public transport - enhancing connectivity and reducing traffic and pollution (eg) Shimla
- (2) Infrastructure (eg) roads, railways, BRT, MRT (eg) Bangalore, reducing overcrowding during peak hours.

(3) Use of renewable energy (eg) use of hydrogen buses in Leh.

(4) Green buildings - reducing greenhouse emission and promote natural cooling.

### Enhancing quality of life

(1) Internet connectivity (eg) setting up of public wifi and broadband services

(2) Cycle and footpaths → for ensuring ~~set~~ renewable energy targets and mission life (eg) 15 minute walk concept in Bengaluru

(3) Green spaces - in every locality, for focus on walks, exercise and developing health

(4) Use of Internet of things (eg) Smart Meters, Smart traffic crossing

### Limitations

- (a) Lack of funding
  - (b) Inequality - i.e. focus on already developed cities
  - (c) Lack of achieving of target - even after a decade
  - (d) Lack of co-ordination - Inter Ministerial and Inter departmental
- High focus on PPP models

Way forward

- Time bound targets
- Regular Audits (eg) 6 Monthly
- expanding scope (eg) to under-developed cities
- Internet connectivity (eg) Broadband Mission.

Thus, focus on Smart governance and empowerment of people leads to smart cities, promoting SDG goals by 2030

Q16.

पिछले दो दशकों में शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने में सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 की प्रभावशीलता का आकलन कीजिए।

Assess the effectiveness of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in ensuring transparency and accountability in governance in the last two decades. (Answer in 250 words)

15

RTI Act, 2005 was enacted on demands of Mazdoor Kisan Sangath for proactive and on demand dissemination of information to ensure transparency and accountability for good governance.

Positive effect of RTI Act -

- (1) Enhance information dissemination - pro-actively (eg) criminal descendants of politicians, ensuring effective voting process
- (2) Transparent appointment process (eg)

during employment generation,  
helping reduce nepotism and favouri-  
tion.

- (3) Timely dissemination - from CIC,  
with limit of 30 days
- (4) Protection of Personal data - by  
non revealing of Strategic and personal  
data, upholding Right to Privacy  
under Article 21
- (5) Help in scheme Implementation -  
by reducing corruption and leakage
- (6) Merit based appointments - without  
any bias and reduced role of  
bureaucrat - politician nexus, keeping  
in check red-tapism

## Challenges

- (1) Recent Amendments (eg) DPDP Act of 2023, leading to higher scope of information restriction by classifying as private data
- (2) Higher pendency (eg) 4 lakh pending requests as per CIC Annual Report, 2024
- (3) Delayed Appointment - with 8 CIC posts lying vacant (CIC Report, 2024)
- (4) Politicisation of post - with appointment seen as reward postings, by government interference.

## Way forward

- Higher Autonomy
- Stringent time limits
- Staff and funds allotment
- Higher public participation (eg) CPGRAMS

Thus, digitisation must be used to empower citizens and not see them as mere 'entries in a ledger'.

Q17.

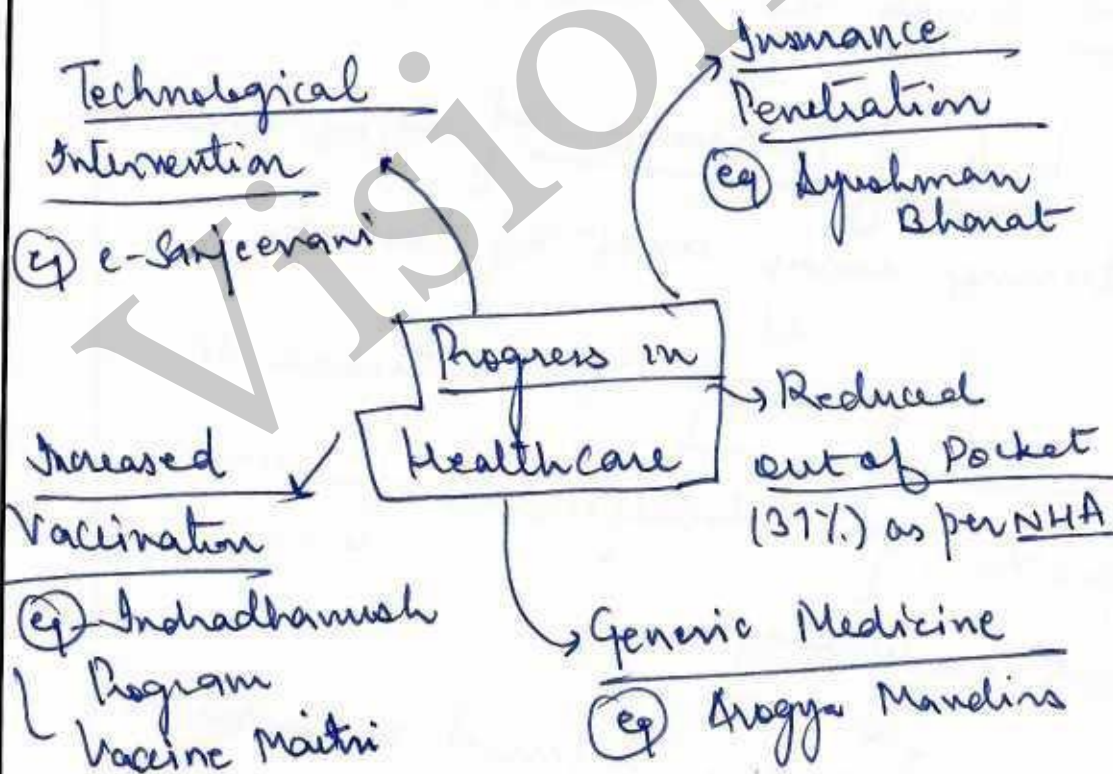
स्वास्थ्य देखभाल अवसंरचना और नीतिगत सुधारों में प्रगति के बावजूद, भारत को प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल क्षेत्रक में गंभीर चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Despite progress in healthcare infrastructure and policy reforms, India continues to face critical challenges in the primary healthcare sector. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

15

## Primary Health care Sector

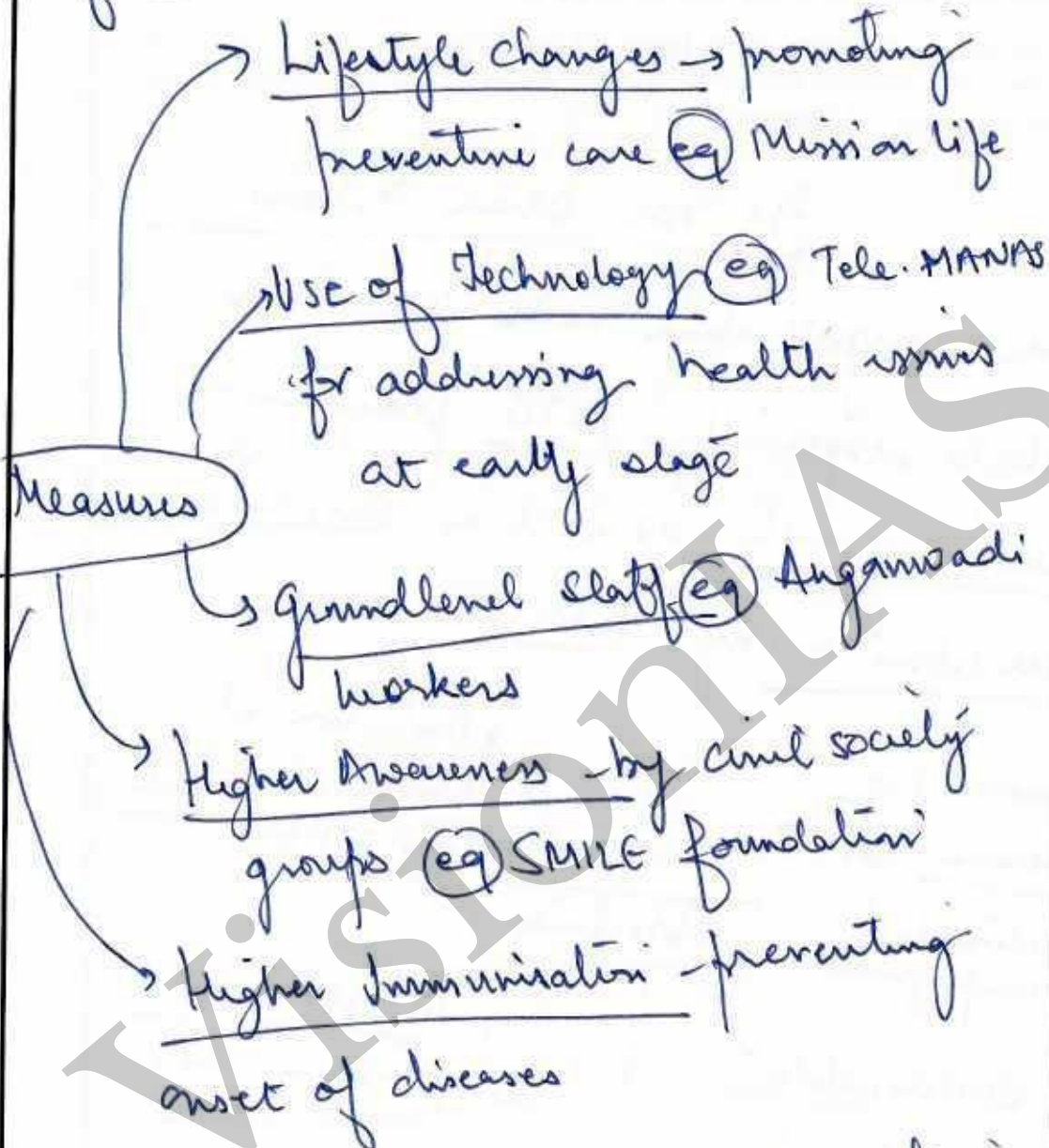
promotes India's demographic dividend by preventing escalation of a disease into higher riskier form, helping reduce expenditure of government and citizen.



## Critical challenges in Primary Healthcare

- (1) Lack of reach (eg) to rural and remote areas, especially tribals
- (2) Higher funds for Tertiary and Secondary  
- neglecting preventive care (eg) Ayushman Bharat
- (3) Inequality (eg) interstate disparity  
(eg) Punjab vs Bihar
- (4) Lack of Awareness - of symptoms during early onset of diseases
- (5) Lack of staff - for outreach to people, for identification of diseases at early stage
- (6) Home Remedies - referred with naive methods leading to escalation of severity

of disease.



Thus, need is for promoting preventive care and early identification by community involvement (eg) Mahalla Clinics (Rajyas) for healthy and prosperous India by 2047

Q18.

प्रधानमंत्री वन धन योजना (पी.एम.वी.डी.वाई.) के मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या हैं? यह योजना भारत में जनजातीय समुदायों के आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण में किस प्रकार योगदान देती है?

What are the key objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)? How does the scheme contribute to the economic empowerment of tribal communities in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15

## PM Van Dhan Yojana

was inaugurated with focus on tribals, especially PVTG, promoting inclusive growth as well as sustainable development, by 2030.

Promote eco-tourism for additional employment

Sustainable development - with environment and social impact assessment

Awareness among tribals of their rights  
(eg) PESA, 1996

Objectives

Protection of tribal livelihood  
(eg) MFP

Afforestation  
(eg) Achieving 33% forest cover

Reduced Intervention in 'way of life'  
(eg) focus on natural ways  
(eg) saved genes

Contribution to economic empowerment

- (1) Protection of tribal livelihood (eg) by depending on forest for Minor forest Produce, slash & burn Agriculture
- (2) Rehabilitation of displaced communities and provision for providing alternative shelter and employment.
- (3) Promote human development - by promoting education and health of tribals (eg) Eklaya Model Residential Schools
- (4) Protect biodiversity (eg) Saved groves which provide resources for economic development
- (5) Job opportunities (eg) MGNREGA,

PM JANMAN, by promoting model  
villages and acting as eco-tourism  
sites

(6) Promotion of heritage - by indigenous  
culture (eg) Chamba Rumal, and providing  
markets (eg) betlaat

Challenges

- Lack of Awareness of scheme
- High Isolationism - increasing  
extremism
- British legacy - fear of  
encroachment
- Lack of Inter Ministerial co-ordination

Way forward

- Better Awareness (eg) Community  
Involvement
- Sustainable (eg) Renewable  
development energy
- Reduced human-wildlife conflict
- Promote education, health (eg) PM JUA

Thus, need is for inclusivity,  
promoting sustainable living of tribes and promoting  
their empowerment

Q19.

भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंध, जो कभी साझा इतिहास और सांस्कृतिक निकटता के लिए जाने जाते थे, अब रणनीतिक कलन, क्षेत्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धा और दोनों देशों में बदलती घरेलू राजनीति द्वारा आकार ले रहे हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

India-Bangladesh relations, once marked by shared history and cultural proximity, are now shaped by strategic calculus, regional competition, and shifting domestic politics in both countries. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

## India - Bangladesh relation

owes its origin to 1971 liberation

war, where India acted as a mid-wife in the birth of Bangladesh

Sharing of borders

∴ exchange of  
People

Common Language

(eg) Bengali

Migrants

- for work  
(Temporary)

- as permanent (Agam Accord)

Shared history  
and cultural  
proximity

Sharing of rivers

(24 Transboundary)

(eg) Teesta

Part of Indian

Union pre-1947

India Major  
role in its  
liberation from  
Pakistan

Similar Culture

(eg) food, dressing

## Shaping of relation by strategic calculus

(1) Rise of refugees → (eg) Rohingyas,  
Chakma refugees, requiring fencing of  
borders

(2) Chicken Neck → short passage connecting  
north east to mainland India, requiring  
cooperation for safe passage

(3) Connectivity - to shorten distance with  
north east (eg) Agartala - Aakhama rail  
link

## Dry regional competition

(1) Export competitiveness - in Textile and  
jute sector

(2) Rise of China's influence - with  
Bangladesh becoming closer to China

(3) Teesta water sharing - influencing

relations with Bangladesh due to rising  
intervention by West Bengal

(4) Investment in Nepal and Bhutan -  
in hydropower projects

In shifting domestic policies

(1) Political Instability - due to evacuation  
of Sheikh Hasina, resulting in anti-  
India sentiments

(2) Rise of Islamic fundamentalism -  
due to rising proximity with China  
and Pakistan

Way forward → Engage Proactively with  
present government

→ Border Management (eg) Smart fencing

→ Higher Security (eg) BSF

→ Infrastructure development - in north  
east

possible thus, need is for 'engagement  
wherever necessary and containment where necessary'

Q20.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांति और सुरक्षा से संबंधित समकालीन संकटों से निपटने में संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (यू. एन. एस. सी.) की प्रभावशीलता का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। इसकी विश्वसनीयता और अनुक्रियाशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए कौन-से सुधार आवश्यक हैं?

Critically examine the effectiveness of the UNSC in addressing contemporary crises related to international peace and security. What reforms are necessary to enhance its credibility and responsiveness? (Answer in 250 words) 15

UNSC is a permanent organ of United Nations established in 1945 in response to World War II and the holocaust under Adolf Hitler promoting for peace and security across the globe.

Effectiveness of UNSC in contemporary crisis

(1) Prevent world war III - it has been 80 years since any major war, helping in reduced escalation of minor conflicts

(2) Internal stability (eg) redung

Civil wars (eg) African nations,  
with help of UN Peace Keeping  
forces (Dag H Sköld)

(3) Passing of Resolutions (eg) condemning  
conflicts during Kuwait war, unanimous  
ly

(4) Condemn Terrorism (eg) after 9/11  
attack on US twin towers

Yet, it faces limitations

(1) Outdated Norms (eg) extraordinary  
powers to P-5 and absolute veto

(2) Lack of passing of resolution - due  
to presence of conflicting interests  
between P-5 (eg) US vs Russia

(3) Lack of reforms (eg) lack of representa-  
tion of global south, as demanded  
by G4 nations.

(4) Humanitarian crisis - by using of  
unnecessary force by UNPKF

Increase representation (eg)

African, S Asian nations  
(Kofi Annan)

Reforms  
Necessary

→ Use of veto as last resort  
- to enable implementation of  
decision

→ Ensure Mandatory Implementation  
- of decisions, making binding for  
nations to follow

→ Use of defense as priority (eg)  
by UNPKF

→ Transparency - in appointment process  
(eg) of non-permanent members

→ Separate force - for ensuring ceasefire  
without bias for any specific nation

Thus UNSC needs reforms urgently  
due to change in world order and rise of  
geopolitical imbalance.