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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

Name of Candidate	VIDUSHI SINGH		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1045416
Center	ONLINE	Date	30/09/2022

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		
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20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).

उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।

2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।

3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।

5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूआर) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में दिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।

7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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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.

All the Best

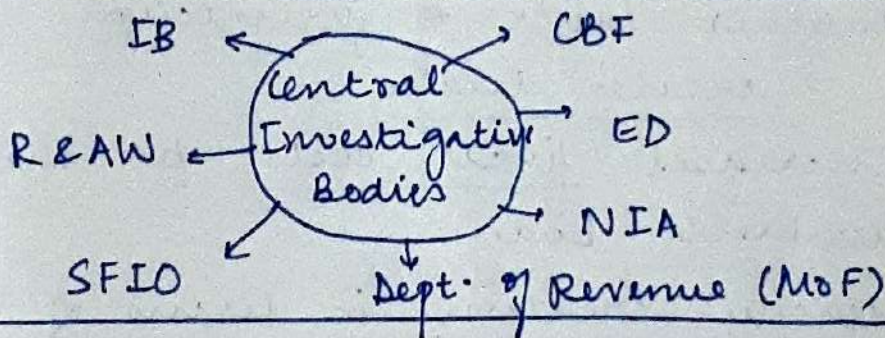
1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility. Discuss. (150 words) 10

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

CENTRAL INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES

are characterised by multitude of bodies working in silos. In order to engage cooperation, an umbrella body can be envisaged.

Benefits of Independent Umbrella Body:



- ① Engagement among bodies to reduce duplication of efforts
- ② Efficient utilisation of resources by effective division of labour

(eg.) ED & CBI both look for financial crimes

- ③ Ensure transparency in working and hold a member body accountable.
- ④ Bring objectivity in working
⇒ faster redressal of cases
- ⑤ will provide adjudicatory role in case of disputes
- ⑥ Support all members financially and provide infrastructural support.

Challenges

- ① Another layer of jurisdiction
⇒ creates delays
- ② Increased fiscal costs for the umbrella body
- ③ Capacity creation in terms of infrastructural support ⇒ ↑ burden

Features of
Independent
Umbrella Body

- ICT-enabled
- Politically neutral appointments
- Experts to be employed

Such an umbrella body can aid investigations and ensure JUSTICE for maximum

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

(150 words) 10

भारत में केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों के संदर्भ में तत्व एवं सार के सिद्धान्त और रङ्ग (अभ्यासी) विधायन के सिद्धान्त के महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

India is a quasi-federal polity, a federation with centralising tendencies. This brings Centre States disputes to the fore, which are resolved by supreme court's original Jurisdiction U/A 131.

Significance of Doctrine of Pith and Substance & Colourable Legislation.

Article 246 divides legislative powers of Centre & States in 3 lists. Encroachment on others' subjects is often seen.

Doctrine of Pith and Substance:

Opines that if legislation is outside the scope of Centre or State, it should be adjudged by its essence (pith) & value (-tance).

⑤ gave this in Kartar Singh Case.
Doctrine of Colourable Legislation
opines that what can't be done
directly should also not be done
indirectly.

Significance:

- ① Flexibility to statutes to be
judged on value and fair
means
- ② In consonance with consti-
tutional morality, i.e., if
upholds constitutional ideals,
legislation should not be ultra
vires.
- ③ Allows protection of Federalism
by judging the intent and
means of a state's statutes.
- ④ Upholds separation of power by
demarcating direct & indirect
actions.

Thus, Judicial doctrines have
paved way for smoother Centre-State
Relations.

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

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

ONE NATION - ONE ELECTION was recently supported by the Prime Minister to ensure upholding democratic values and reducing populist tendencies.

Benefits of simultaneous One Nation Elections:

- ① Reduced election expenditure
- ② will not impact / disrupt daily lives as in case of current elections with perpetual election mode.
- ③ Reduce 'freebies' and 'populism' as legislators will have 5 Years of office for productive work.
- ④ Promotes 'competitive democratic values' to ensure efficiency in democracy.

- ⑤ Provides efficiency in governance
with no burden of elections
every 6 months.

Concerns of Simultaneous Elections

- ① Will alter voters' behaviour
↳ will vote same for ruling &
state parties
- ② Will discourage Regional Parties
- ③ Will remove the popular
mandate, which is kept in
check with sequential elections
- ④ Reduces accountability as
leaders will get back to
public only after 5 years.
- ⑤ Expensive affair.

Parliamentary Standing Committee
suggested a gap of 2.5 years
between elections to ensure
accountability and efficiency in
democratic politics

4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (150 words) 10

भारत में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के बारे में अनिश्चितता और अस्पष्टता के अलोक में, उनके संहिताकरण की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES

to MPs and MLAs provide autonomy in their actions and immunity from proceedings in legislatures.

U/A 105 and 194 → individual privileges to MPs & MLAs

↓
Freedom of speech and arrest from civil cases.

Further, constitution provides for addition of any privilege through statute, but hasn't been codified yet.

Need for codification:

- ① Blatant misuse by disrupting parliamentary proceedings

(eg.) Adjournment sine die of RS in January 2022.

- ② Blanket Protection to speech used → leads to disruption of

sanctity of the house.

- ③ High percentage of criminals
Criminalisation of politics → 43%
in 17th LS → evade ^{civil case} arrest and
disrupt judicial proceedings.
- ④ To act as checks and balances
towards MPs and MLAs and ensure
accountability measures
- ⑤ To preserve RTI and apprising
citizens of their representatives
in legislatures.
- ⑥ To protect and prevent misuse
of privileges.

⇒ codification is necessary.

Privileges to MPs and MLAs must
be tandem with SC's judgement
as there being 'not absolute'
and used in good and positive
sense.

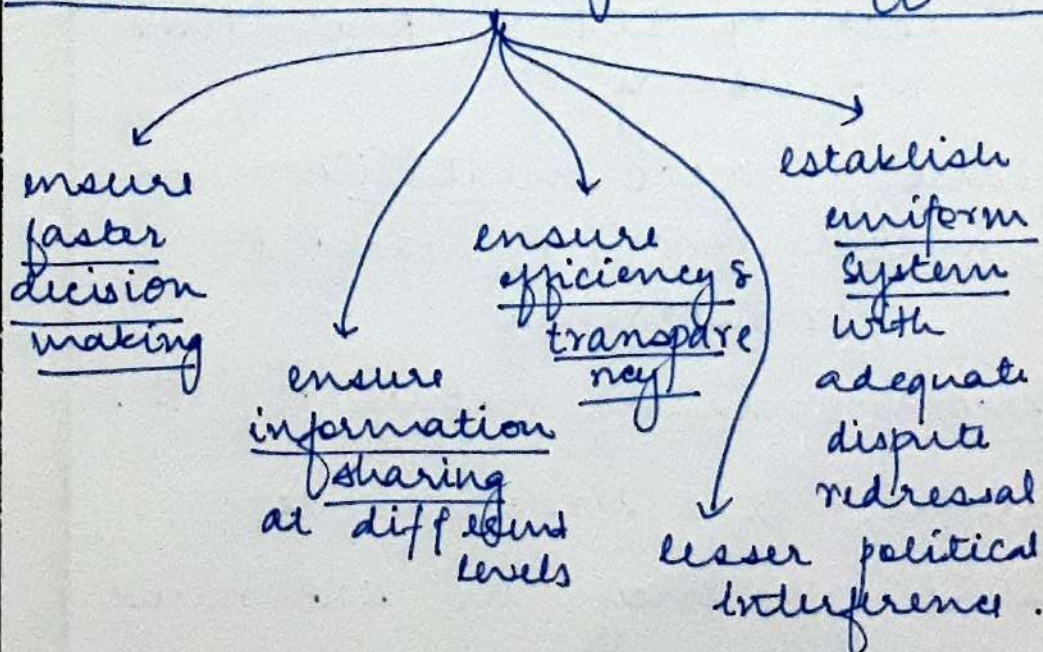
5. While the Civil Services Board can be a step forward in making the Indian bureaucracy more effective, it has its own issues which need to be addressed. Analyse. (150 words) 10

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

CIVIL SERVICES BOARD (CSB)

is the panel formed to oversee transfers and administration of civil servants. It is headed by Cabinet Secretary.

CSB: step forward to make bureaucracy more effective



However, it suffers from several

Issues.

CSB: issues plaguing it

- ① Political interference violates non-partisanship & neutrality
- ② Transfer punishments for good work by exposing criminal-bureaucracy-politician nexus
(eg) Manjunath (IPS) transfer - 40 times in 39 years
- ③ Lack of Infrastructural support
↳ lack of ICT & Real-time monitoring
- ④ Faulty accountability mechanisms & reduced transparency
- ⑤ Recommendatory nature of CSB.

Therefore, SC's directives to ensure efficiency in CSB must be fulfilled.

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

India Digital Ecosystem
Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 is an
initiative to rejuvenate service
delivery in India through
development of digital ecosystem.

Potential of IndEA 2.0:

- ① Ensuring Real-time monitor-
ing of service delivery for
faster, efficient, and transparent
governance.
- ② Upholds Good Governance ideals
by making citizen-centric
development of digital
ecosystem.
- ③ Promotion of Digital economy
to increase efficiency in all

spheres.

④ Plugging gaps of service-deficit
by establishing uniform and
standard service delivery system
through ^{use of} digital space.

⑤ Demand-driven service-
delivery by engaging ICT.

⑥ Participation by beneficiaries
is easier due to easier
access through digital
ecosystem

(eg): Megh EA → efficient citizen-
centric model

⑦ Dispute / Complaint redressal
mechanism gets ensubledened.

Ind EA 2.0 is aimed at enhancing
and revolutionising Governance in
India. States must adopt similar
practices like Meghalaya for
pan-India, pan-service good Governance

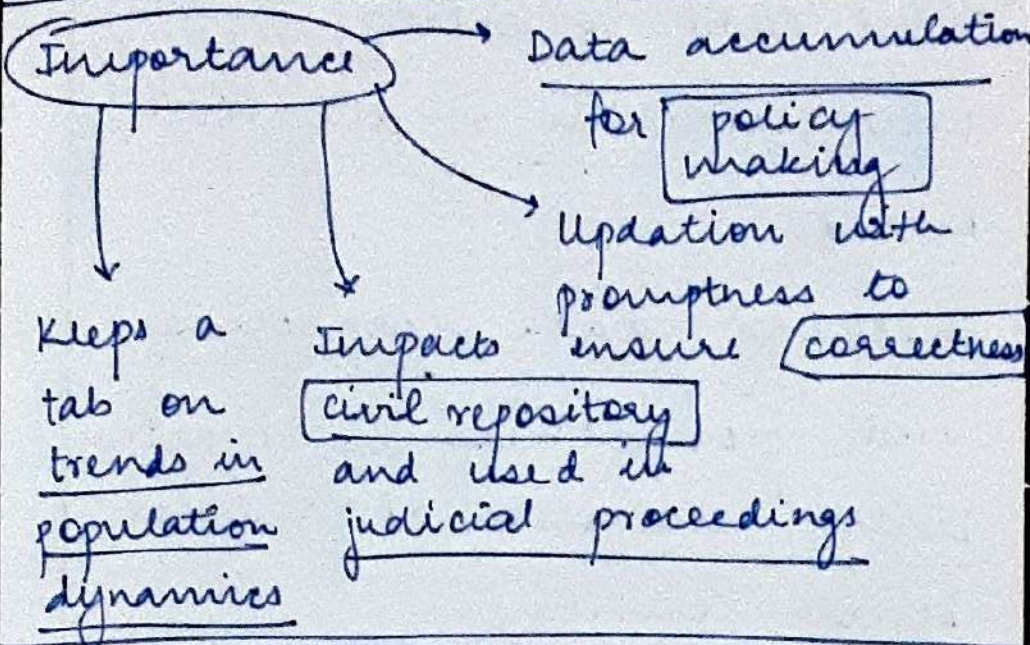
7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it.

(150 words) 10

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

CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM (CRS)

is the wide overarching system containing civil records such as → births, deaths, etc.



Several measures have been taken to bring improvements in CRS :

① Digital India Initiative : to

empower digital ecosystem for
real-time data accrual.

- ① National Population Register,
2020 - ICT enabled to ensure
convenience.
- ③ Census 2021 - digitally
aided data collection
- ④ Computerisation of all civil
records
- ⑤ checking data correctness
and promptness by creating
Digital ecosystem to reduce
double counting

CRS → is an important tool
for policy making & targeting.
It further needs to be strengthened
by use of technologies like
Blockchain & AI for effective ^{data} collection

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

हम से मैत्रा उम्मेद वाले कर्मियों के निरोधन का प्रविष्ट एवं उनका पुनर्वास प्रविष्टि, 2013 समाज में इच्छित लाभार्थियों के सशक्तीकरण के लिए एक प्रभावी तंत्र प्रदान करता है। समाजोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 makes provision to eradicate the most inhumane practice of Manual scavenging → practice of carrying human excreta.
Effective mechanism of Act:

- ① Prohibition of construction of Dry latrines

↳ Dry latrines are now negligible in India.

- ② Mandatory use of protective gear while cleaning sewers.

- ③ Identification and Rehabilitation of manual scavengers in a time-bound manner.

- ④ Making provisions for alternative employment opportunities.

However, it suffers from certain loopholes:

- ① Inadequate documentation for identification $\Rightarrow$ disproportionate impact
 $\hookrightarrow$ MOSE $\rightarrow$ 97% manual scavengers are dalits.

- ② Exclusion errors due to faulty mechanism.

- ③ Vagueness in provisions of alternative employment

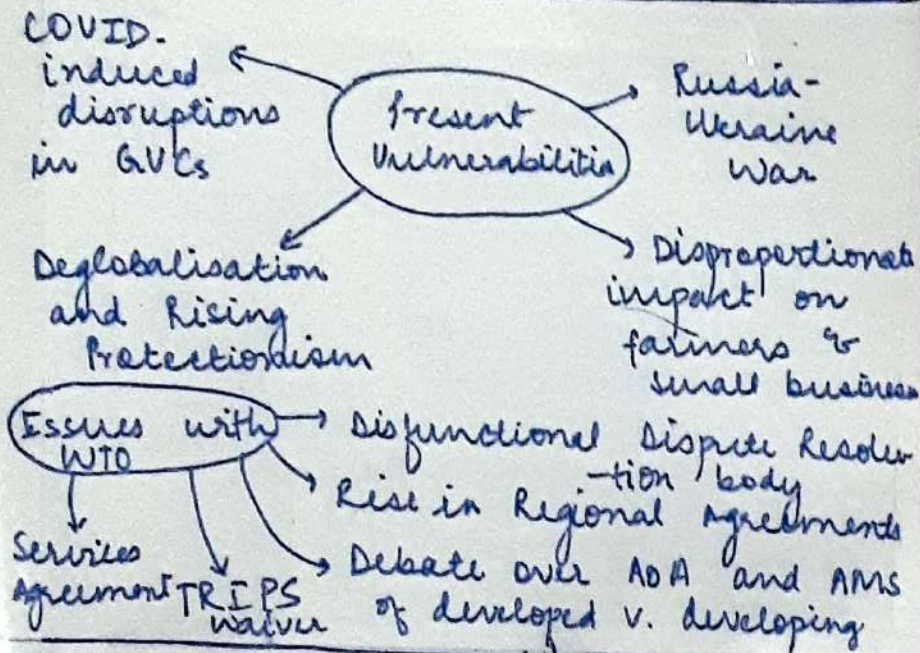
- ④ Rehabilitation measures are not expressly ~~to~~ mentioned.

Manual scavenging in reformed forms still persists and leads to deaths of thousands of sanitation workers each year. There is a need to ensure adequate safeguards for the same.

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

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

WTO (World Trade Organisation) is the only global organisation watching over trade and investment measures globally. It was established in 1995 as a successor to GATT in Uruguay Round.



Reforms that must be taken to strengthen WTO :

- ① Strengthen Dispute Resolution Body for Arbitration & Reconciliation

- ② services Agreement - from 12th WTO Ministerial to be further build upon
 - ③ AOA controversy - updating 1986-87 prices for de-minimis levels for subsidies
 - ④ Trust & confidence building between Developed and Developing
(eg: Peace clause)
 - ⑤ Extended Green Box subsidies for support to agriculture
 - ⑥ recognising bilateral & multilateral groupings and neutralising Most Favoured Nations (MFN) clause.
 - ⑦ Increased inclusion in decision-making
 - ⑧ Better technological diffusion for equity of access & affordability
- WTO** needs rejuvenation to promote inclusiveness and sustainable practices to recover from COVID Pandemic

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

(150 words) 10

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

UNCLOS is a legally binding treaty which extends territorial waters upto 12 nm and defines Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of countries for fair and defined distribution of oceanic resources.

UNCLOS BODIES: → International Seabed Authority
→ Commission on Limits of Continental Shelf
→ International Tribunal for Law of the Sea

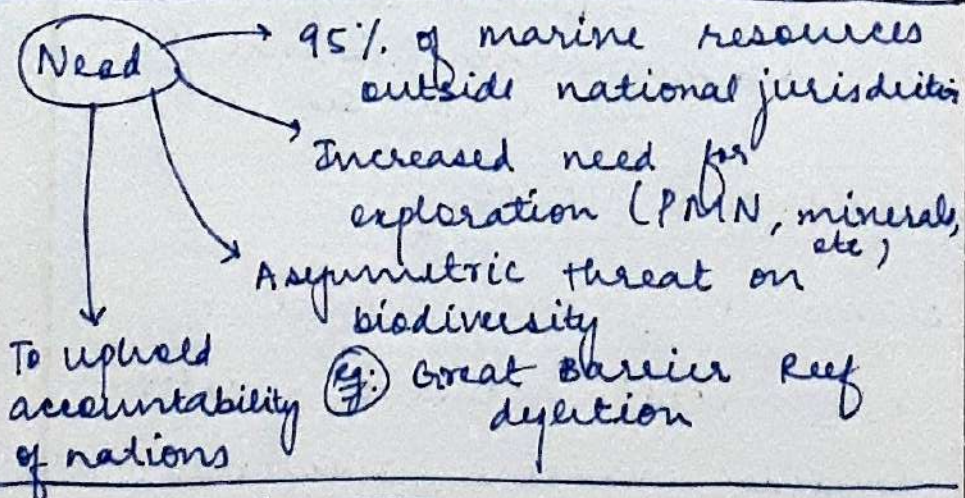
Significance of UNCLOS

- ① Defines EEZ and extent of commercial access of a nation towards marine resources.
- ② Only international convention regarding maritime access & move-
-ment

- ③ Tries to detail and elaborate on sea lines of communication for efficient movement of resources/products
- ④ supports ecological oversight over marine resources through ISA.

Need for legally binding BBNJ
(Biodiversity of Areas Beyond ^{National} Jurisdiction)

According to FAO, 75% of marine resources have depleted. Further in light of increasing demand of marine resources, a legally binding BBNJ is needed.



Therefore, SDE-14 can be fulfilled with making BBNJ legally binding.

11. Critically assess the role played by the National Human Rights Commission as a watchdog of human rights violations in India. (250 words) 15

भारत में मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के प्रहरी के रूप में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका का समानोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

National Human Rights Commi-
-ssion (NHRC) was established as a
Statutory Body under Prevention
of Human Rights Act, 1993. It is
the apex watchdog of Human
Rights in India.

Role Played by NHRC as a
watchdog of Human Rights

- ① NHRC issued guidelines for relief of sex workers during COVID lockdown, their relief & rehabilitation.
- ② NHRC also highlighted the need to protect Migrant workers during the lockdown.
- ③ NHRC undertakes prison assess-
ments and rights of prisoners are upheld.

④ NHRC can undertake suo-moto cognizance in case of Human Rights violations

(eg:) Manual scavenging report in early 2022

However, NHRC has been called a 'toothless tiger' / 'caged panther' by Supreme Court due to its inefficient working and underperformance.

Underperformance of NHRC:

- ① Can take retrospective cases only upto 1 year.
- ② test-mortem analysis and non-binding recommendation are the biggest hurdles for NHRC's performance.
- ③ Huge pendency of cases
- ④ Delayed appointments of NHRC.

- ⑤ Political interference and its impact on impartiality of NHRC.
- ⑥ cannot take action against armed forces
 (eg.) AFSPA and ^{killing of} ~14 civilians in Nagaland
- ⑦ Ineffective investigation measures due to ^{missing} burden of proof and documentation.

What can be done?

- ① According constitutional status to NHRC for efficient resource mobilisation
- ② Making recommendations binding in specific cases → w.r.t. vulnerable communities
- ③ Make supervising committees for each impacted section

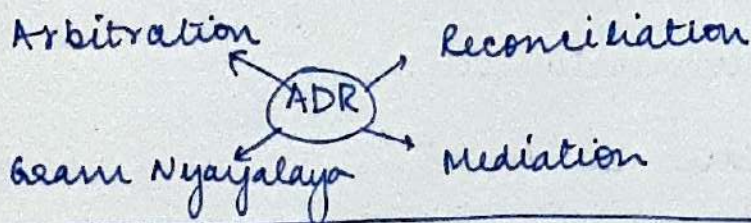
In line with UDHR, it is pertinent to provide adequate structural support to NHRC for 'inclusive growth'.

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

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

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

(ADR) Forums are avenues for settlement of disputes apart from the judiciary.



ADR have witnessed an increase after gaining recognition from law commission of India, NALSA

Model and Gram Nyayalayas Act along with traditional judicial courts.

challenges in functioning of courts and ADR Forums

① Huge Pendency

↳ 4.7 crore pending cases with

73 crore in subordinate courts.

② Technologically inept

↳ 73% courtrooms do not have
ICT Access

③ Manpower shortage and constraints

eg: large vacancies in lower
judiciary

④ Financial constraints of NALSA
Model and Gram Nyayalayas.

⑤ Binding award of ADR keeps
majority of civil disputes away.

⑥ Lack of documentation and
records

eg: Dalwai Committee → ~60% of
civil disputes are hand based and
witness absence of records.

How ICT in dispute resolution
can overcome these challenges:

① Faster, efficient and real-time
tracking of disputes

- ② Use of technologies like Blockchain for documentation of records
- ③ ICT can enable better investi-
gative techniques for ADR and
neutral third party involved
- ④ Tele Law consultations in line
with Article 39A will help in
dispute resolution.
- ⑤ Increasing internet penetration
(~ 55% by 2025) will facilitate
use of ICT-enabled courtrooms
- ⑥ Recent initiatives by SC like
SUVAAS, Faster, e-courts, etc.
use modern technologies of AI
to address pendency issues

Thus, ICT enabled dispute resolution
can enable faster judicial cases
and uphold Article 39A.

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

(250 words) 15

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

Criminalization of Politics (CoP)

is the increased tendency of persons with criminal record to be elected to legislature. According to ADR, 43% of MPs in 17th LS have criminal background.

Various provisions concerning disqualifications of legislators under RPA 1951:

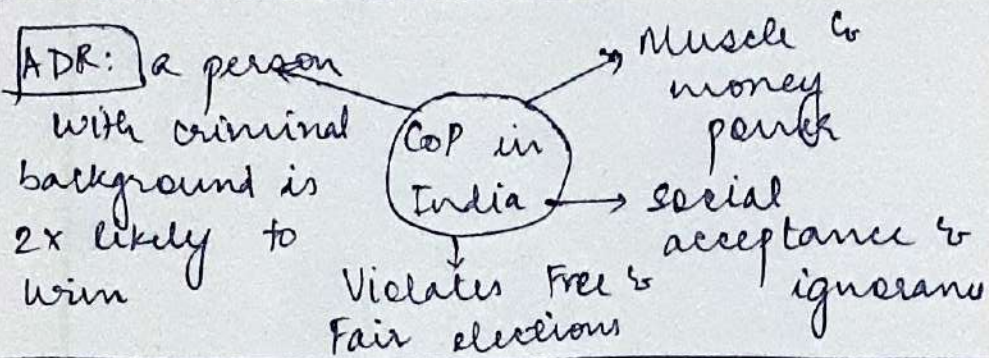
SECTION-6 of RPA 1951 makes provision for disqualification of legislators with

- criminal & illegal activity such as violations of FERA, PMLA, etc.
- corrupt practices
- criminal sentence of imprisonment of ~~upto~~ ^{more than} 2 years will be disqualified for a period of ⁶ years

→ involved with anti-social activities

Further, SC upheld disqualification of persons with criminal background under Hilly Thomas case (2013).

However, the issue of COP is still unresolved as:



① Wide Politicians and Criminal Nexus in India

② Availability of funding to criminals from illegal activities

③ ADR → 67% of election funding's source is unknown.

- ③ Lack of political will
↳ as seen in legislations negating
hily Thomas case
- ④ Polarisation of society due to
Vote bank & caste-based
politics
- ⑤ Inefficient supervisory powers to
ECI → eg: lack of legal backing
to MCC

What can be done?

- ① Uphold hily Thomas judgement
- ② Integrate MCC to RPA 1951
- ③ Best Practices from other
countries → eg: Britain's executive
committee for
political parties
- ④ Internal Party Democracy
(Indrajit Gupta committee)

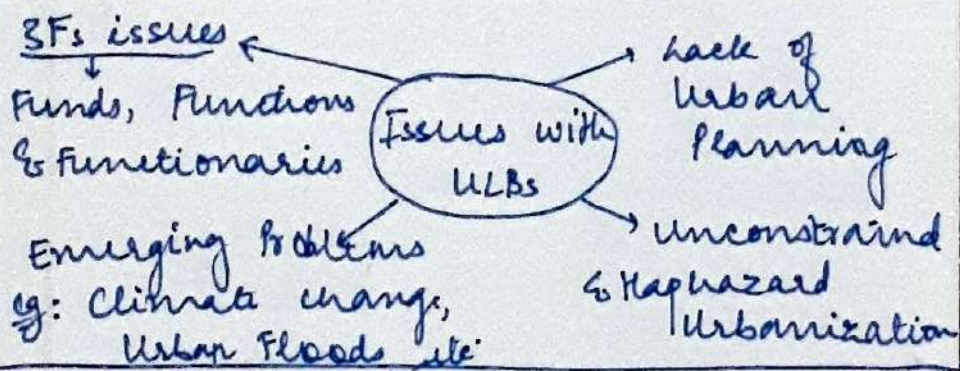
Free and Fair elections are a
part of basic feature of constitution
⇒ CoP must be reduced and
eradicated

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

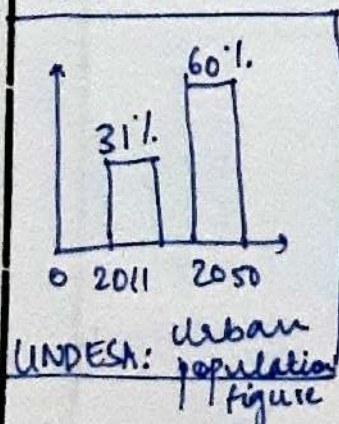
यह सुधारों का समय है जो यह पहचान करता है कि शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) को बढ़ती शहरी आबादी की बढ़ती मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए स्थायी, वृद्धिशील राजस्व स्रोतों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

74th constitutional Amendment

Act, 1992 added Part IX-A 'Municipalities' → according constitutional status to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).



Urban Population in India is 31% (Census 2011) and is expected to



reach 60% by 2050.

This has posed increased challenges to urban governance as:

- ① Haphazard Urbanization → creating

problems of sanitation, drainage and other associated factors.

- ② Increasing Urban Population with growing demands
- ③ Lack of infrastructure → social and physical for urban spaces
- ④ Lack of capacity creation and Disaster Risk Reduction
- ⑤ Problems of Unemployment, poverty, and inequality

These challenges necessitate the need for reforms in ULBs.

Reforms in ULBs' revenue sources to meet the growing demands:

- ① Increasing devolution from states and centre from SFC & FC for development resources.
- ② Increasing taxation powers of ULBs for targeted resource utilisation

- ③ Making statutory GST sharing basis with ULBs to enforce periodical revenue transfers to ULBs.
- ④ supervising District Plans & with outcome based budgeting
 - eg: 15th FC made provisions for performance based grants for ULBs
- ⑤ SDG Localization with targeted & budgeted revenue mobilization in line with bottom-up approach.

Following principle of subsidiarity is the need of the hour. Demand driven, bottom-up policies require efficient revenues for ULBs to ensure inclusive growth.

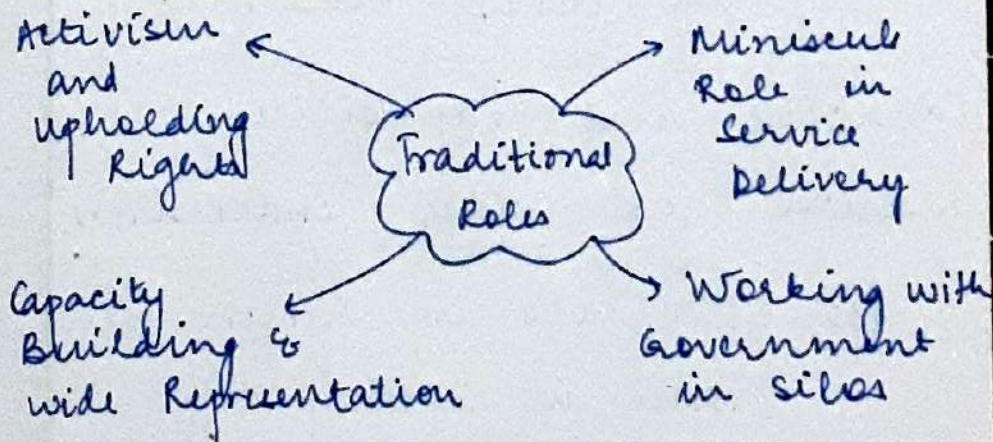
15. The role of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in India is changing in contemporary times and has become increasingly more complex. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

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

World Bank defines Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as an array of non-government organisations with a defined motive. CSOs in India are an important element for policy-making and execution.

Role of CSOs in changing contemporary times:



changing contemporary times
have never and asymmetric

challenges such as

- ① Covid-induced disruptions,
- ② climate emergency & migrants
- ③ communal tensions,
- ④ cyber warfare, etc

In light of this, role of CSOs has to evolve.

- ① working in convergence with government for effective resource utilisation

(eg:) NGOs during O₂ shortage in COVID Pandemic

- ② Capacity and capability creation for wider endurance

(eg:) CSOs role in cyclone Fani in 2019.

- ③ Increasing interconnectedness due to overlapping threats

eg: child nutrition and educa-
-tion CSOs to work in
consonance for better
results.

④ Politically Neutral to bridge
communal tensions and
trust deficits.

⑤ Multi-dimensionality in approach

eg: Participating in service
creation, execution &
delivery

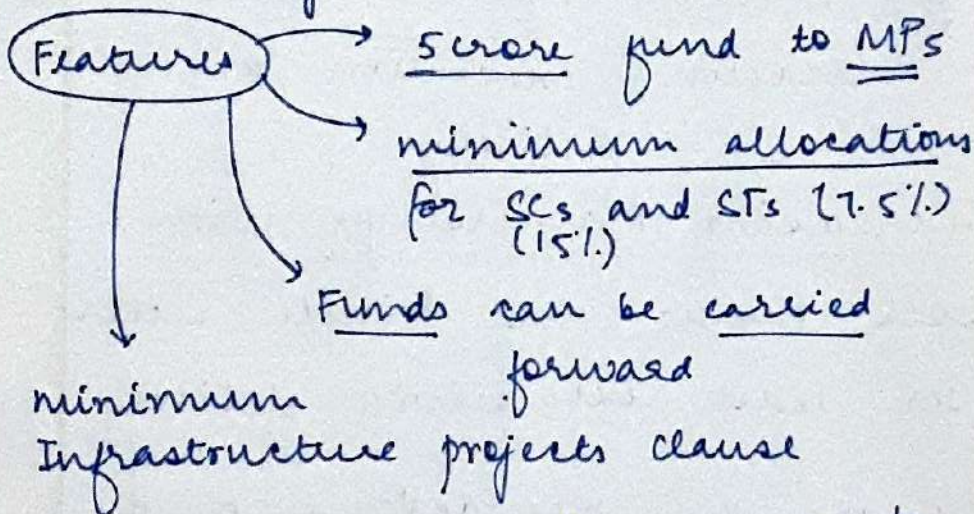
⑥ Increasing Partnerships with
both Public and Private Sectors
for least cost service delivery

CSOs are the foundations of the
civil society. Their role has to
be multi-dimensional in times
of increasing interconnectedness
of world.

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

वैषम्य के सुधार के लिए, विकास में अमान्यता को दूर करने के लिए, जो भारत में विकास प्रक्रिया को नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित कर सकती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

MPLADS Scheme is a Central sector scheme launched in 2015 to allow bridging of development deficit at the level of political constituency.



Objective of the scheme was to plug the ground-level inequities

Challenges and Issues in the Scheme

- ① Transparency and Accountability mechanisms are weak

- ② Social Auditing of schemes does not occur
- ③ No overarching regulatory fund or body to oversee execution
- ④ Used as source of freebies and populist promises rather than productive and developmental work.
- ⑤ Stopped / Paused scheme during COVID pandemic
⇒ lack of continuity in projects
- ⑥ Administrative delays in terms fund provisioning
- ⑦ lack of community participation
- ⑧ In violation of Democratic Decentralisation brought about by 73rd & 74th amendment.

What can be done?

- ① Establishing MPLADS Fund ~~for~~ as a separate body
↳ to ensure transparency & utilisation of fund
- ② Engage Gram Sabha for social audit as done in MGNREGS
- ③ checks and periodical review by PRTs and ULBs
- ④ Funds to not be carried forward for usage in development programs.
- ⑤ Community participation in scheme
MPLADS has a huge potential to bridge the development deficit at grassroot levels and uphold Democratic Decentralisation principle.

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

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

ED-TECH SECTOR is expected to reach \$ 4 Billion by 2025, and has witnessed a boom recently, with several firms gaining UNICORN status (eg: Byju's).

Factors responsible for growth:

- ① Regulatory Facilitation from the government
 - ↳ improved EODB
 - ↳ increased financial availability for start-ups
 - ↳ faster clearances
 - ↳ liberalised FDI (upto 100%)
 - ↳ start-up India Scheme
 - ↳ start-up incubators promoted
 - ↳ Initiatives - DIKSHA, SWAYAM, etc.
- ② Scope of market with high

returns in the sector

↳ India is a large market

③ scope of innovation by
use of technology

eg: Online and Blended
learning

④ Rising internet penetration in
India (~50% → urban, ~30% → rural)

⑤ large pool of skilled talent
available in India.

Benefits of Ed-tech:

① Reduced cost due to absence
of physical infrastructure
↳ reduced maintenance and
fixed cost

② High employment quotient
↳ educators, software developers,
logistics & supply chain
management etc.

- ③ Increased innovation and entrepreneurship
 - ④ Increased foreign investments and positive business environment.
 - ⑤ Better learning outcomes (↑ rate learning)
- Concerns

- ① False Promises with lack of rise in learning outcomes
- ② Increased inequity in access as only ~27% rural population can access.
- ③ Cyber threats and Privacy Issues (U/A 21)
- ④ Lack of regulatory mechanisms
- ⑤ Neglect of social skills by students
- ⑥ Ethical challenges → traditional values in violation

Hence, EdTech can emerge as a sunrise sector, but we need to build structured resilience first.

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

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

According to ILO, there are more than 10 lakh ASHA workers in India. ASHA workers have revolutionized public health systems, as recognized by WHO.

Role of ASHA workers in delivering health services in Rural India:

- ① Decentralized public health service
⇒ better targeting
- ② Better nutritional targeting for pregnant mothers.
- ③ Availability of cheap medicines

to rural population at doorstep

④ Large variety of services covered
by ASHA workers

(eg:) immunization, pre-natal,
post-natal, etc.

⑤ Role during COVID-19 → for
testing and vaccination in
rural India.

Challenges faced by ASHA Workers:

① ^{inadequate} Delayed compensation

(eg:) ASHA workers' protest in
Delhi

② Heavy workload

↳ due to varied work

③ Social constraints

(eg:) many leave job in quest
of patriarchal domination

④ Lack of convergence and overlap
with anganwadis

⑤ Lack of adequate training

⑥ Shortage of funds and infrastructure

Measures to overcome these challenges:

- ① Effective & adequate performance based incentive compensation
- ② Providing infrastructural support
 - ↳ Training
 - ↳ Head offices
 - ↳ Resources and Funds needed
- ③ Converging AWCs, ASHA, and Nurse midwives for targeting nutritional outcomes and distributing workload.
- ④ Career progression as nurses in PHCs and hospitals.

ASHA workers are the backbone of Primary Healthcare in India under NRHM. They need to be strengthened to achieve SDG - 1, 2, 3.

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

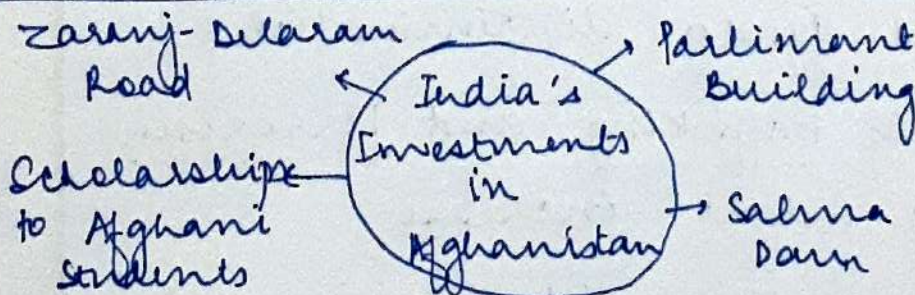
तालिबान द्वारा अफगानिस्तान पर अधिकार करने के बाद भारत के लिए उत्पन्न विभिन्न चिंताओं की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए जो इस संदर्भ में भारत द्वारा अपनाए जाने चाहिए।

TALIBAN took control over Afghanistan after >20 years on 15th August 2021, posing a foreign policy dilemma for India.

Concerns rising after Taliban Takeover:



- ① Status of India's Investments:



India invested more than \$1 Billion in Afghanistan, which

might seem to be in vain now

- ② India's policy conflicted: India advocated 'Afghan~~is~~ led, owned, and controlled' foreign policy, ~~with~~ which seems to be violated with opening talks with Taliban.

- ③ Diaspora: Immediate concern for India was to evacuate the diaspora → Operation Ganga Shakti conducted

- ④ Human Rights violations: with subjugation of female education and gender discrimination.

- ⑤ Drug Trafficking and Terrorism ~~too~~ might increase

- ⑥ closer ties with china and Pakistan → will affect India's position in South Asia

Measures that India should take

- ① Constructive engagement with regional partners in Central Asia as well as Afghanistan.
- ② using multilateral fora like SCO and UNSC to condemn and stop state support to terrorism.
- ③ Foreign Minister said that 'India has invested in Afghani People' and this goodwill should be maintained further.
- ④ Development cooperation
↳ TAPI Pipeline, Chahabar Port, Ashgabat agreement, etc.
- ⑤ Aid ~~develop~~ connectivity and people-to-people contacts.

Therefore, a positive outlook is the need of the hour to maintain Regional stability.

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

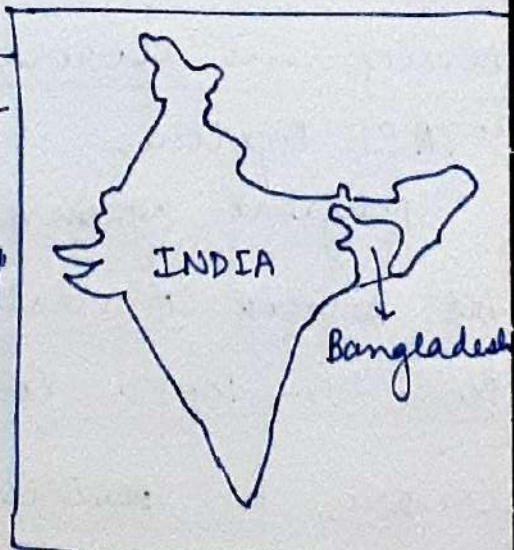
(250 words) 15

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

Bangladesh and India share longest boundary and close cultural contact. As the largest trading partner in SAARC, Bangladesh holds significance for India's Foreign Policy.

Part of Neighbourhood & First Policy & Act East Policy

- Regional cooperation in lines of security, trade, and development.



- boundary Agreement of 2015 through 100th Amendment Act

- Simplifying connectivity through BBIN - MVA

Bangladesh lies at the strategic position as gateway to South-East Asia → ACT-EAST POLICY

Moreover, building on ties from over 50 years after liberation of Bangladesh, necessitate its prime position in NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY

Steps taken by the countries to strengthen their relation-ship:

① ECONOMIC:

- BBIN - MVA for safe, economic and sound transport
- Increased trade over the years.
- Bangladesh is largest beneficiary of India's line of credit

- ② MILITARY : exercises like MILAN , SAMPRETI, etc.
- ③ Border Management → Land Boundary Agreement ; Check posts in Assam Border. (2015)
- ④ Connectivity → Friendship Pipeline, Kaladan Multimodal Project, etc.
- ⑤ Multilateral cooperation at SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA, etc.
- ⑥ Innovative diplomacy
 - ⑦ Mango diplomacy by Bangladesh Premier

Thus, India - Bangladesh ties are emboldened by these steps, and further should be strengthened through increase in people-to-people connect, resolving water disputes, and migration issues.