VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1863)

Name of Candidate	Archita Goyal		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	**Registration Number**	622963
Center	Online	**Date**	25.12.21

INDEX TABLE

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

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

1. Parliament any oversight of administration is not an end in itself rather it acts as means to strengthen efficient functioning of administration. Discuss.

The Parliament acts as the 'Sanctum-sanctorum' of Indian democracy. It is the place for deliberation, Consensus making as well as Criticism.

Parliament acts as the oversight mechanism for the Executive. According to Art 75, Union government is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha.

However, merely presence of Parliament is not enough.

Currently, we see decline of Parliament -

- Criminalisation of Politics
- inefficient role of Opposition
- resembles 'chamber of anarchy'
- no discussions only grandstanding, disruptions, rowdy behaviour

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Hence, Parliament's efficient working as the legislature is also needed along with holding accountability of Executive.

Efficient working as legislature

- → discussions & deliberations should be done
- → bills should be referred to appropriate committees
- → pending important bills such as Dam Safety Bill, Data protection bill, Inter state water disputes bill must be passed
- → role of opposition must not be like an investigation agency

(Pratap Bhanu Mehta)

Hence, to strengthen administration as well as Indian democracy, Parliament must ensure its effectiveness.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

2. Xth schedule of constitution has weakened democratic credentials of Indian representative democracy. Critically discuss.

Frequent party hopping, floor crossing & the epithet 'Aya Ram Gaya Ram' evoked Indian political system in the 1970s-80s. This led to enactment of 52nd Constitutional Amendment 1985 inserting the Xth schedule.

- nominated members can't join party after 6 months
- independent members can't join party
- exception from disqualification - merger
- whips

Xth schedule weakening representative democracy :-

i) Bans retail defections but not wholesale

ex: recent defection of members in Madhya pradesh led to fall of government

ii) It is unclear why nominated members are allowed to join political party before 6 months

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

ex: recently Rajya Sabha member resigned to contest West Bengal elections from a party, later re-nominated after losing elections.

iii) According to renowned legal expert- Soli Sorabjee whip system puts party bossism at a pedestal in the name of discipline ⇒ stifles individual power of representative to vote

iv) Issue of Speaker neutrality.

However, the 10th schedule did help in controlling rampant defections in Indian political system-

- ensured stability of governments
- instilled discipline among representatives
- deterrent for corruption

To ensure effectiveness, recommendations of Halim & Dinesh Goswami committee must be implemented.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

इस हाशिए नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidate must not write on the margin

3. Art 246 of Indian Constitution is considered as cornerstone of Centre-State legislative relations. Discuss.

Art 246 provides for **legislative federalism** between the Union & the state. Legislative subjects are divided viz. Union list, State list & Concurrent list; subjects listed in the 7th schedule.

Art 246: Cornerstone of relations –

- divides subjects on the basis of '**principle of subsidiarity**' ex. foreign affairs under Union list, agriculture & water under State list
- separation between subjects ensures **no colourable legislation** is exercised.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

L Concurrent list provides for mutual cooperation for easy governance. ex: Contracts.

However, of late, there have been issues wrt.

Art 246 -

- Centre legislating on subjects in state list
  ex: farm laws (agriculture)
- Centre's role in legislating on matters in state list owing to globalisation & adherence to international treaties
- 42nd CAA 1976 — moved subjects from state to concurrent list - wildlife, forests, weights & measurements etc.
- & practice &

While coordination is needed on certain matters, cooperative federalism must be ensured. Practice of model laws is in right direction. Punchi Committee recommendations can be followed

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

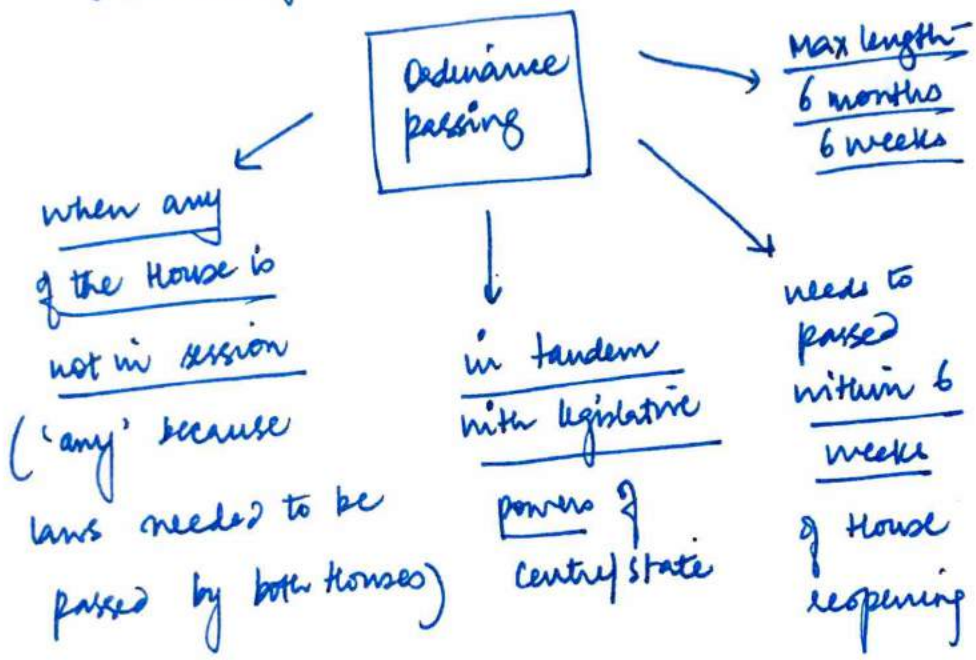
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

4. Although the provision of issuing ordinances amounts to usurpation of legislative power by Executive, both centre & states in India have taken unrestrained course to it. Discuss.

Art 123/213 provide for ordinance making powers

To President/governor.



Ordinance making power is a usurpation of legislative power – because:

- against principle of Montesquieu's separation of power
- re promulgation of ordinances has been considered

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

- fraud by SC (DC Wadhwa case)
- conscious suspension of assembly so as to pass ordinances is unconstitutional (~~Cooper~~ Cooper case)
  - ex: Bihar governor – 156 ordinances in 1980s.

Both centre & state have used the power –

- criminal law Amendment 2013 after Nirbhaya case
- ordinances ex: Deposit Insurance, Farm Reforms etc during COVID crisis (legislature couldn't meet)
- states during COVID crisis

while ordinances ensure stability & continuity in governance → must be used as emergency lamp

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

5. There has been manifold increase in the no. of ministries in central govt since independence. Do you agree with the view there is a need to phase out many ministries & amalgamate others in this context.

The Constitution empowers the central government to create new ministries under Government of India Allocation of Business Rules 1961. The President's executive power includes power to decide how execution has to be done in his name.

Increase in number of ministries -

positives	negatives
i) separation of powers	i) complicates executive structure
ii) better efficiency	ii) effect on exchequer as each ministry needs own budget. ⇒ difficult budgeting
iii) channelises expertise	
iv) helps streamline governance ex: Separate	

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

ministry for cooperatives

constituted recently → renewed focus which was not possible earlier

v) Denotes governments development priorities

ex: Ministry of Jal Shakti

iv) coordination among ministries becomes difficult

v) Ministries are headed by same minister

ex: Ministry of Home affairs)
Ministry of Cooperatives by same minister

In 2019, ministries of water resources, rivers was amalgamated to form Ministry of Jal Shakti. while in 2021, a new Ministry of cooperatives was formed. (earlier as department in Ministry of agriculture)

Hence, formation of ministries must be in line with the maxim- 'min govt max governance'.

For better coordination, similar can be clubbed, for better agenda level focus - new ministries can be created.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

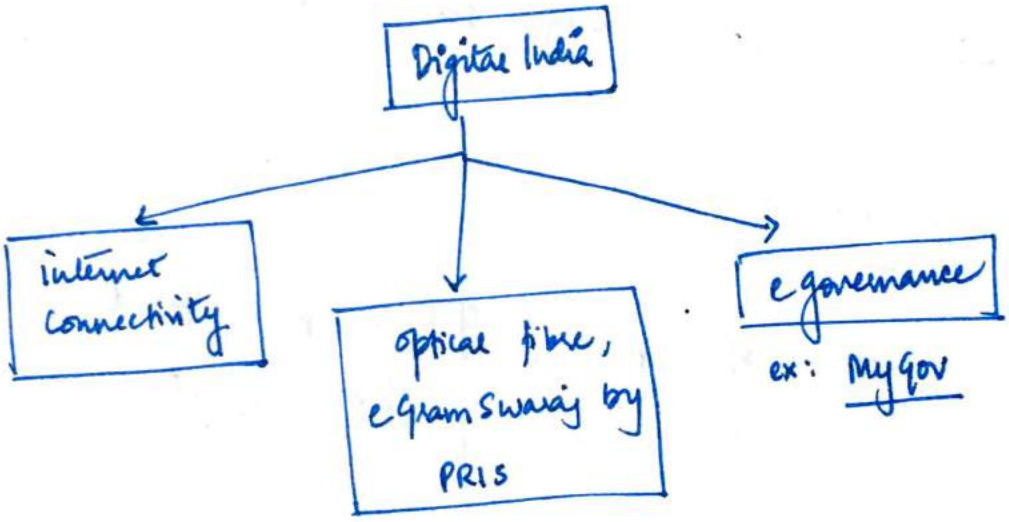
UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

6. Evaluate the success of Digital India in fulfilling its vision of transforming India into digitally empowered society & knowledge economy

India today has around 650 million Internet users. India also offers one of the cheapest data packs in the world.



Digital India — Empowering Society -

Achievements	Limitations
i) Internet penetration of around 90%. (rural + urban)	Digital divide between urban & rural India

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

egovernance – Digilocker, eSaarthi portal, Fastag, Mygov, digitisation of records, eJudiciary

ii) gender divide - only 46% women know how to use internet

iii) rise of cybercrimes (NCRB)

Digital India – knowledge economy :-

Achievements	Limitations
i) Growth of startups – mostly in ICT, fintech.	i) No policy for data protection, privacy
ii) Large skilled IT professional base	ii) Brain drain to US, Europe etc.
iii) Over 40 unicorns	iii) Inadequate infrastructure to use data volumes ex: Big Data analytics.
iv) On track to contribute $1 trillion by 2025 (Forbes)	

Digital India is hence panacea for KITE economy

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

7. Examine issues related to poverty measurement in India. Suggest measures to improve upon existing methodologies.

poverty is a state of deprivation. According to Amartya Sen, it is a state of unfreedom - where one is not able to realise true potential.

poverty measurement -

BPL categories identified according to Tendulkar committee recommendations - based on calorie consumption (2400/2100 calories rural/urban)

Issues -

i) Ignores multidimensional poverty - According to

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Oxfam International, multidimensional poverty includes
- access to electricity
- shelter
- food
- sanitation

i.e. basic necessities

ii) Doesn't include time measure of inflation

iii) Based on mere survival & sustenance not thriving & productivity (UNESCO)

Measures to improve

i) Factor in multidimensional aspects of poverty

ii) Regular updation of value according to current trends of inflation

iii) Include social, mental, psychological impact of poverty along with economical.

Universal Basic Income (Abhijit Banerji) can be implemented for the same.

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

8. As one of the recommendations of NEP 2020, discuss rationale behind internationalisation of higher education in India & associated challenges.

National Education policy 2020 provides for 'Study in India' concept.

promotes student exchanges → flexible credit system → portability of credits earned in foreign universities

Internationalisation of Higher Education → globalisation of educational paradigm

↓ competitive learning for students

→ improves learning outcomes ex: PISA test

→ students can get taste of foreign education, foreign students can study in India → symbol of soft power ex: Nepal, Bhutan, Afghan, African students.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges -

i) Syllabus differences - Since way of teaching is different in foreign universities → can become difficult to adjust.

ii) Incoming of foreign students in higher education colleges - narrows competition for domestic students. IITJEE, NEET already very competitive with very less seats.

iii) Subject Combinations might differ

iv) Logistical issues ex: visa issues for students travelling to US etc.

v) racism - Indian students in Australia

While internationalisation is a step to increase quality of human capital, above challenges must be addressed.

amBlitz

ease do not anything except uestion number this space)
या इस स्थान प्रश्न संख्या के तिरिक्त कुछ लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

9. Stating the significance of FTAs, examine whether they have been as beneficial as expected for India.

Free Trade Agreements are agreements signed bilaterally / multilaterally offering certain trade benefits such as zero import duties, free movement of goods & labour, national treatment etc.

Significance of FTAs

- participation in global value chains; in turn increases productivity (10% increase in GVC participation → 1.4% increase in productivity)
- helps realise David Ricardo's comparative advantage
- part of economic & trade diplomacy — theory of complex interdependence

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

FTAs & India -

positives	negatives
i) Bilateral relationships ex: with ASEAN increased ii) India negotiating FTAs with UK, EU (BTIA), US etc. denotes significance in foreign policy	i) Trade deficit in favour of other parties ex: with ASEAN ii) Inability to realise potential ex: CEPA with Japan iii) movement of labour is an issue iv) bypassing Rules of origin - incoming cheap chinese goods - India's reason to quit RCEP

FTAs hence must be negotiated keeping fair principles of economics in mind.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या को अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

10. Though multilateral devpt banks are crucial for holistic devpt of devping nations like India, there are certain legitimate concerns about their functioning. Discuss.

Multilateral development banks such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc. stand not only as a symbol of global cooperation & multilateralism but also serve as agencies helping developing countries like India in achieving development agenda.

MDBs for holistic development

- guidance, technical share, expertise
  - ex: World Bank with Human Capital
- mediation
  - ex: role of WB in Indus water Treaty
- development loans
  - ex: for DRIP (Dam Rehab) project etc., AIIB loan in COVID
- data based governance
  - Ease reports, indices

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों इस हाशिए नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidate must not write on th margin

Concerns with functioning -

i) Western bias - development agenda propagated by MDBs are based on western constructs of development - Washington Consensus.

ii) power politics -
- WB headed by US origin President/Chief
- recent controversy regarding Ease of doing Business report suffering from China bias.
- AIIB - China's role in domination

iii) Veto'racy - by bigger powers ex: US.

iv) Transparency & accountability issues.

Governance reforms must hence be taken to instil confidence in MDBs & so that they continue to remain relevant.

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

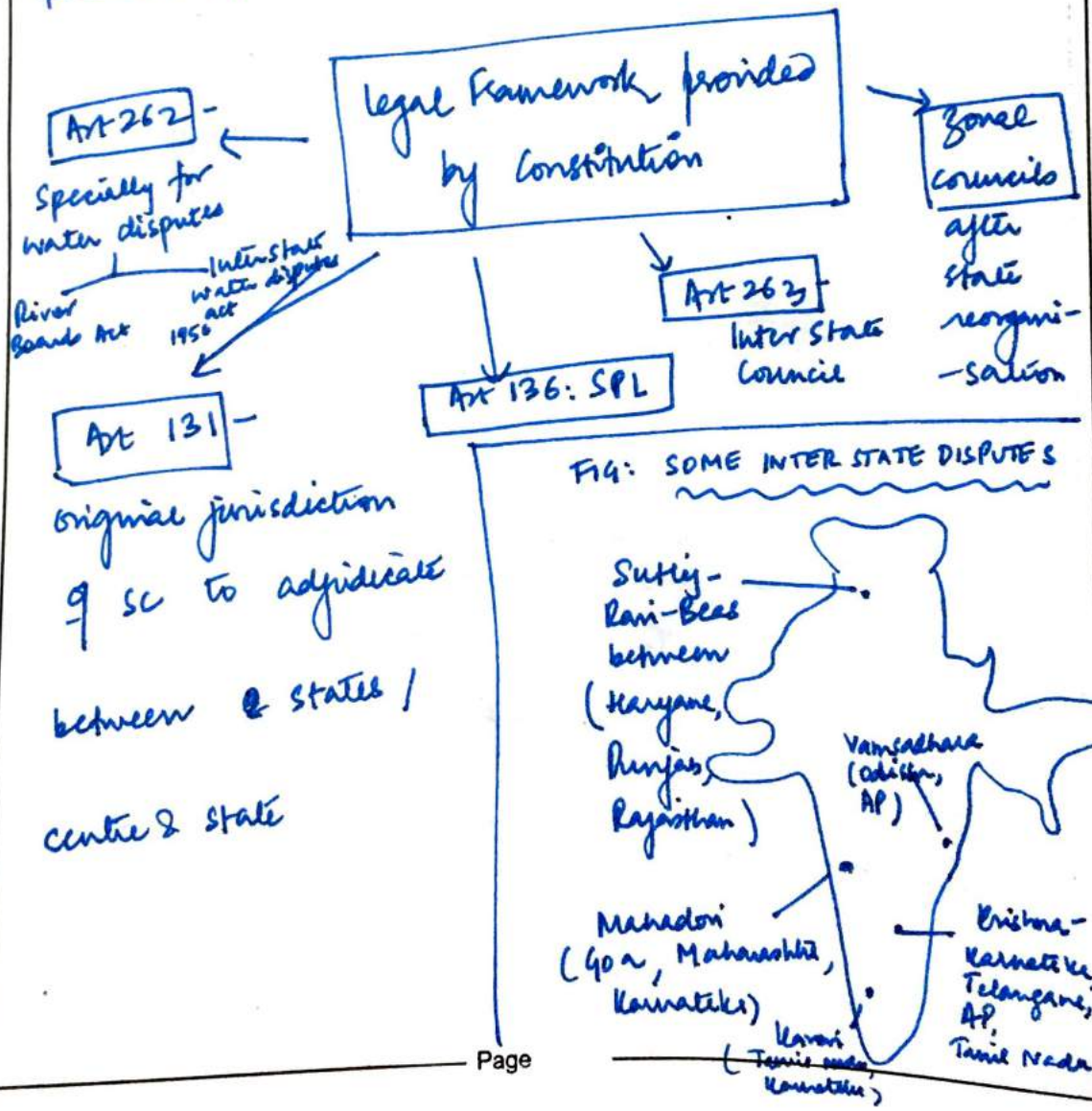
UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

11. Despite legal F/w to resolve inter state water disputes, why do they continue to exist? Also, discuss measures that can be taken to resolve such disputes in expeditious & agreeable manner.

South Asian economies are heavily dependent on water. Rivers in India not only have economic significance but also have socio-cultural & political significance - hence causing interstate disputes.



(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Issues with current framework

i) Zonal councils, Inter state Council → hardly used

ii) Interstate water disputes Act 1956 bars SC jurisdiction under Art 131.

iii) Issues with Interstate water disputes Act 1956 —

- politicisation —
  - frames regionalism ex: seen during Kaveri issue as Kannadigas vs Tamilians.
  - violence, hooliganism
  - used for electoral gains
- delays in constituting tribunals & giving awards —
  Took 20 years to create tribunal for Kaveri dispute, around 19 years for final award
- award not followed by states ex: Punjab didn't follow order, created colonies over disputed area.

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Measures that can be taken -

i) Inter state water disputes bill 2019 -

- permanent tribunal
- dispute resolution Committee for early settlement through ADR
- decrease total time from current 6 years (5years +1) to 4.5 years. (1year for DRC + 3.5 for tribunal)

ii) Move beyond politicisation → issues of social justice must be kept in mind ex: needs of indigenous communities.

iii) Integrate environmental protection - watershed development.

Rivers transcend political boundaries. Inter state disputes must be resolved amicably for public welfare.

amBitz

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

12. While use of technology is a welcome step towards improving the efficiency of judicial system, it must be understood that tech^y itself comes with set of challenges that make justice even more inaccessible. Discuss.

"Justice should not only be done but seem to be done"

Judiciary acts as —
- defender of constitution
- guardian of rule of law (Art 13, 142)
- upholder of fundamental rights (Art 32, 136, 142)

Digitisation of Judiciary —
- eCourts Committee
- eCourts, virtual hearings.
- LIMBAS for information management
- CCTNS, efiling for procedural reforms.

Benefits —

i) Increased accessibility —

Studies show 20% of cases filed in SC are from

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Punjab, Haryana. Virtual hearings have made Supreme Court accessible for other states especially southern

ii) decreased costs in legislation - parties can hire local lawyers since hearing is online.

iii) Judiciary SC as court of record - judicial proceedings of held online can help in maintaining record of proceedings (Art 145).

iv) Recently, launched direct portal to jails - bail orders can be transmitted instantly ⇒ criminal justice reforms

v) Saves judicial infrastructure costs - online hearings don't need huge investments in infrastructure.

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges :

i) Digital divide - e-filing of cases, attending ~~only~~ online cases needs
- internet
- digital literacy; hence

disadvantageous for underprivileged, poor & weaker sections

ii) Data protection & security - loss of privacy if cybercrime occurs.

⇒ against Art 21

Hence, thrust must also be on digital literacy (ex: PMGDISHA scheme) & connectivity (ex: PM WANI scheme). Justice Srikrishna committee recommendations for data protection can be implemented.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

13. The current urban planning ~~capabilities~~ capacities in India are extremely skeletal & need systemic reforms & change in mindset. Discuss.

According to the Economic Survey, 40% of Indian population will live in urban areas by 2040, calling for renewed focus & reforms.

Urban planning capacities

→ 74th CAA 1992 provides for local urban bodies –
municipal corporations for bigger cities, municipalities for towns.

→ Metropolitan planning committees for metropolitan areas.

Issues with local urban governance –

i) **Structural issues** –

→ No provision of gram sabha as in PRIs ⇒ no direct democracy

Exam Blitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

→ mayors remain ceremonial heads → real power with states

→ term of mayors not fixed - 1 year in Delhi, 2.5 years in Mumbai

→ inadequate personnel - 946 per 1 lakh (South Africa's Johannesburg has around 3000)

→ presence of parastatal agencies under state's executive control

ii) Finance issues -

→ heavily dependent on property tax

→ no autonomous means of revenue

→ states reluctant to devolve funds

→ limited reach of municipal bonds

→ accounts audited by states.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

iii) Governance issues - ASICS survey by Jangaha:

→ only few states constituted MPCs.

→ citizen charters not made.

→ issues with governance.

Reforms needed -

i) Ministry of Urban Affairs suggests fixing 5 year tenure for mayors

ii) Mayors conference suggests partyless elections to mayorship posts.

iii) PPP model to generate funds. (NITI Action Agenda).

Since urban areas will drive India's social, structural & economic transformation; ULBs need to be revamped to realise current realities.

anBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

14. Reservation for women in PRIs has not translated into corresponding increase in women's representation in India's State legislatures. Bringing out reasons for the same, discuss how under representation of women can be corrected.

political empowerment is a major constituent for gender empowerment. (WEF)

while 46% of PRI representatives are women, the percentage is meagre 14.6% for Parliament.

- Kerala's Kudumbashree model
- 93rd CAA 1992 reserves 33% of seats for women candidates

Women in PRIs

- bring Social dividends as identified by Nobel laureate Ester Duflo
  - decreased crime rates, focus on effective eco tourism (Jharkhand) etc.
  - role models such as MBA Chavi Rajawat of Tonk, Aarti Devi in Ganjam district – focussed on
    - health
    - sanitation
    - education

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Reasons for low representation of women in upper tiers of govt -

- politics remains male dominated stream
- criminalisation of politics, corruption generates negative outlook against politics
- patriarchial mindset
- lack of access to
  - political parties
  - political connections
  - avenues to build political expertise & acumen
- prevalence of dynasty politics - women participation limited to those belonging to family enterprises
- issue of intersectionality - underprivileged, poor women further disadvantaged

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Measures to increase women representation -

- women empowerment
  - courses in public administration, politics as suggested by law commission
  - incentives to join politics
  - tap women leadership in student unions in colleges etc.
- electoral reforms
  - ethics in politics
  - deal with criminalisation (Dinesh Goswami committee)
  - accountability of political parties → ex: under RTI
- affirmative action
  - 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill
  - quota in political party positions

Forming around 50% of population, women are grossly underrepresented at political level. Women in politics can create virtuous cycle for women empowerment.

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

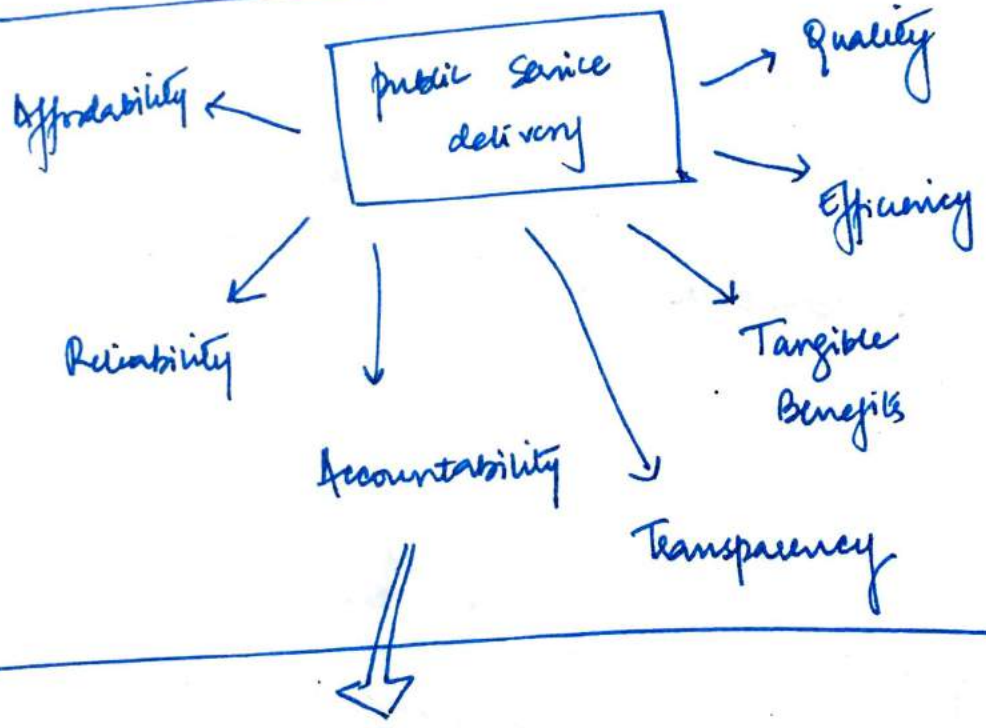
UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

15. For effective public service delivery, there is need to shift from traditional accountability mechanisms to social accountability mechanisms. In this context, discuss pre conditions for success of social accountability efforts & challenges associated with them.

Effective public service delivery is sine qua non for good governance.



Accountability = Answerability + Enforcement Mechanism

Traditional accountability mechanisms include-

vertical accountability through elections,

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

department seniors, CVC, CAG etc.

However, to gauge the true efficacy of public service delivery - Social accountability is needed.

Social Accountability - End users hold public officials accountable ex: civil society, citizens, media etc.

pre-conditions -

i) Effective decentralisation - local governments especially gram sabha has power to undertake social audit

ii) citizen awareness & information (RTI)

iii) Capacity building of citizens to undertake social audit

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

iii) political will to undertake Social accountability exercise

However, certain challenges also persist -

i) parochial nature of citizens - complacence & indifference towards social audit

ii) lack of political will to devolve powers.

Social accountability is the prime solution to ensure ~~inclusive~~ direct democracy; good as well as citizen centric governance.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

16. MNREGA remains one of the most ambitious programmes for public welfare & rural dept, but its objectives cannot be achieved without strong & capable PRI. Elucidate.

The MNREGA scheme is India's flagship scheme to deal with rural unemployment & at the same time boost PRI functioning.

MNREGA - public welfare & rural development

- 100 days of guaranteed work
- employment generation in creation of public utilities such as roads, public utilities, PMAY houses etc.
- wages release within 7 days of work
- unemployment allowances if work not given

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Role of PRIs in implementation of MNREGA -

- PRIs issue job cards for households
- PRIs are involved in groundwork such as
  - identification of beneficiaries
  - social ~~accounts~~ auditing of projects
- stronger gram sabha
- Grievance redressal in cases of delayed release of payments etc.

Role of PRIs hence demands

- funds
  - to effectively implement projects for rural development
- functions
  - power to make plans for social justice & economic empowerment (Art 243)
- functionaries
  - for social auditing

anBlitz

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Art 38 envisages 'welfare state', which also forms a part of basic structure. Gandhiji's dream of Ram Rajya & village republics hence needs 'atmanirbhar PRIs' in line with Gandhian DPSP of Art 40.

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

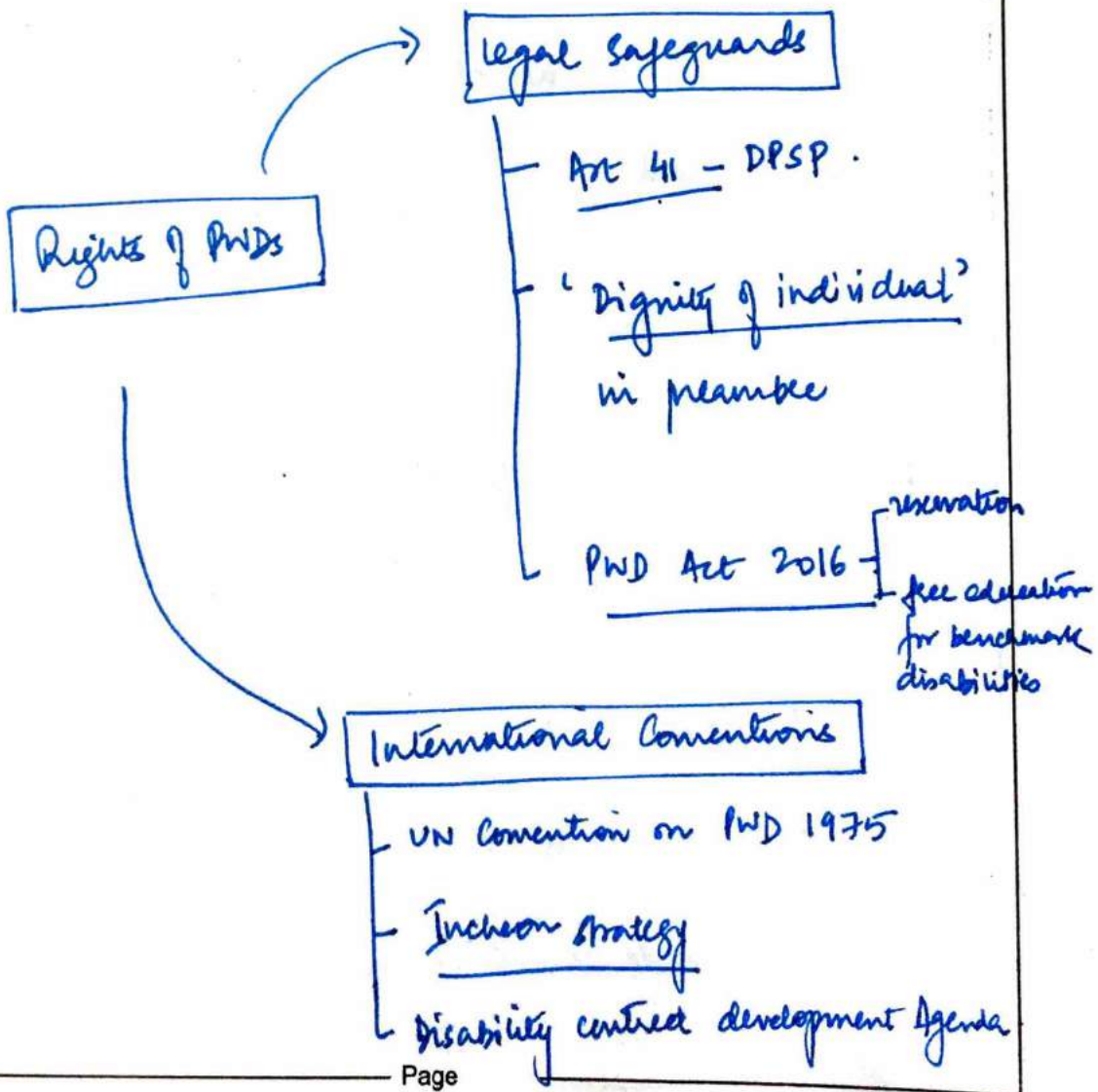
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

M. Despite legal safeguards & int'l conventions, the state has failed to uphold rights of PWDs in general & those with psychosocial disabilities in particular. Discuss in context of India.

UN convention on rights of persons with disabilities

1975 defines a PWD as a person who is unable to realise true potential, perform daily necessities of life & social contributions owing to physical, mental or congenital disabilities.



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Issues faced by PWDs -

- social stigmatisation
  - people with psycho-social disabilities ex: autism considered lunatic
  - seen as victim - 'beechara'
  - dependent on parents
- educational
  - only 25% of PWDs go to primary school
  - 45% illiteracy rate (census 2011)
  - no special schools for autistic persons
- employment — 1 out of 2 PWD unemployed
  - poverty ⇄ disability
- Implementation of PWD act 2016
  - (37%) of states have no state commissioner for PWD as mandated in Act
  - (86%) states have not constituted state funds for PWDs

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

GOI launched 'Accessible India - Sugamya Bharat' Scheme - accessibility of - transport, physical environment, ICT.

Initiatives such as Sugamya pustakalaya, RBI's MANI app for visually impaired are steps in right direction.

NITI Aayog's India at 75 doc suggests measures such as accessibility training for engineering, architects; community led development model.

Chattisgarh recently provided for reservation to PWDs in local government bodies.

Inclusion of disability in development paradigm is hence crucial for realising true demographic dividend.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

18. To what extent has the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) been successful in solving the problem of rural housing in India? Discuss with adequate arguments.

Under the Olga Tellis case, Supreme Court held that right to (habitat & livelihood) forms a part of the Right to life (Art 21)

Adequate shelter forms a part of the bare necessities (Economic Survey)

PM Awas Yojana – aims to provide living shelters to 3 crore households by 2022.

According to Eco Survey – Since 2014-15, appox 2 crore houses have been constructed.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

However, as per Surveys Basic necessities Index -

- disparities w.r.t. -
  - quality of House
  - kucha/ pacca House
- still remain state wise
- Socioeconomic level disparities remain - skewed towards upper classes & castes.

Moving forward, access to sanitation, toilets within house complex, connection to electricity, disaster resilience must be ensured to provide quality housing.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

19. Despite potential of India's neighborhood 1st policy, there have been several impediments to regional cooperation in South Asia. Discuss.

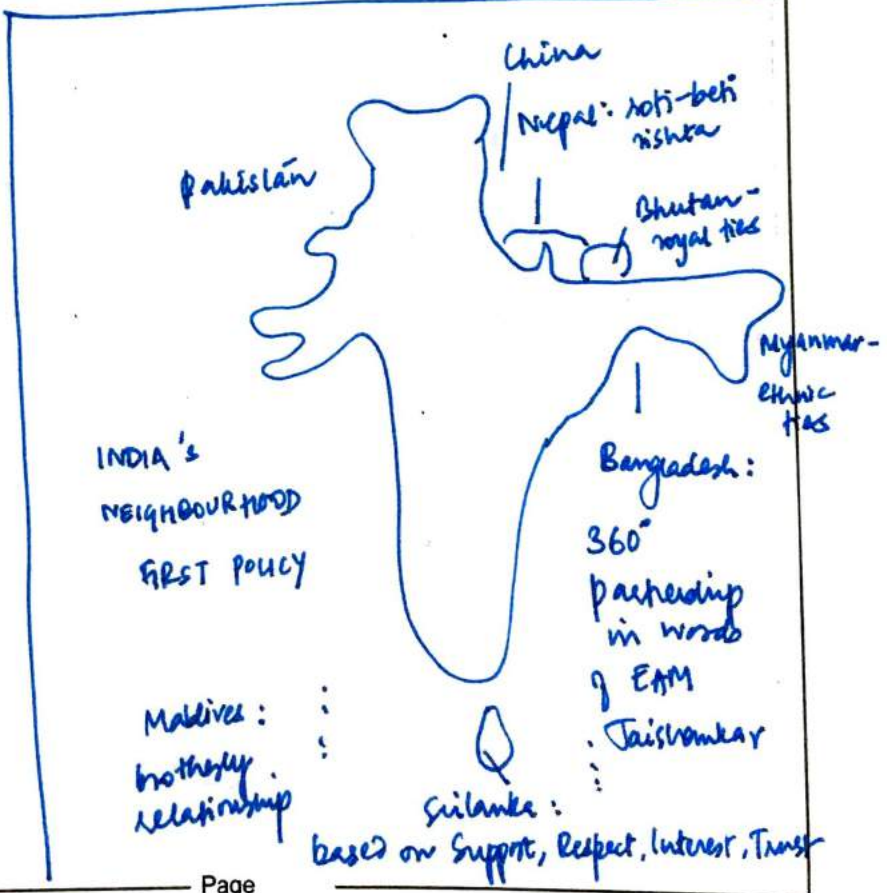
4

One can change one's enemies, but not one's neighbours" - Former PM Vajpayee.

India's neighborhood policy is based on the Gujral doctrine, institutionalised as the 'Neighbour-hood First policy'.

Bilateral ties strong with:

- Bhutan
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka
- Maldives
- Myanmar.



amBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Multilateral arrangements such as -

- SAARC, BIMSTEC
- BBIN
- India - Myanmar - Thailand Trilateral highway
- Energy diplomacy with Bhutan, Nepal.
- vaccine diplomacy during COVID.

However, there exists certain impediments to regional cooperation in South Asia -

i) Pakistan
- terroristic antecedents, state sponsored terror.
- considered as the camel blocking the caravan of regional cooperation
- Cold peace ties with India.
- all weather friend of China.

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

ii) China factor
- it is said - "India promises, China delivers"
- debt trap diplomacy
- economic, diplomatic heft
  ex: Myanmar, Nepal.

iii) Border disputes
- with Nepal ex: Kalapani, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura
- with Bangladesh - Tista river
- with China - Western & Eastern border.

iv) Unintentions of Indian diplomacy
- slow deliveries
- delay in completion of projects ex: 18 years for Nepal project
- domestic issues with ex: Bangladesh, Srilanka.

India must leverage its historical ties with its neighbours to maintain good bilateral relations & development of region.

amBlitz

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

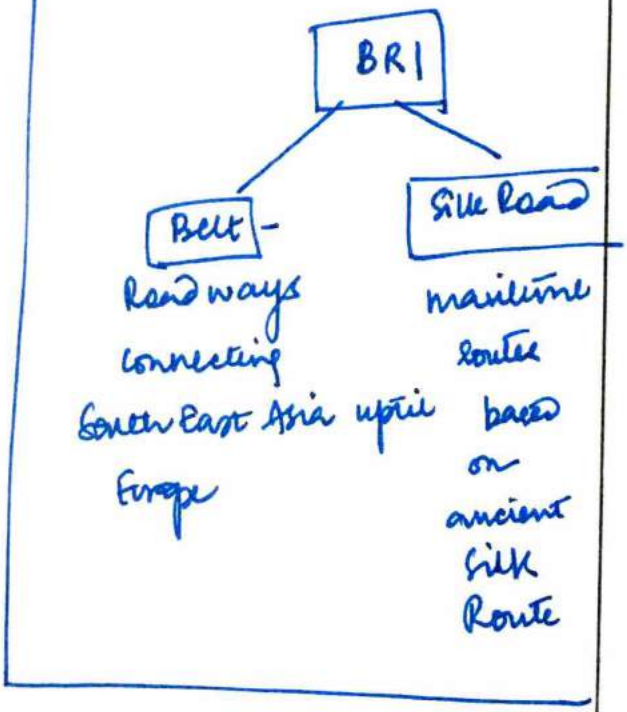
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

20. It is argued that China's BRI has resulted in unsustainable debt-for-Infrastructure deals in several countries across continents & it is a part of debt trap diplomacy. Discuss.

After its 100 years of humiliation, China aspires to become the global hegemon. Towards the same goal, china's ambitious Belt & Road Initiative - or One Belt One Road initiative aims to integrate Eurasia into single Chinese infrastructure system.

BRI - China's chequebook diplomacy



i) creation of ports by offering huge loans with high interest. Failure to pay loans → china gains access to port. ex: Sri

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Lanka's Hambantota port – given to China under 99 year lease on failure to repay debt.

ii) Most of African countries have huge pending loans to China → debt trap diplomacy

iii) Construction activities under BRI are unsustainable both – [economically, environmentally].

iv) Chinese model of imperialism – countries such as Myanmar under undue influence due to use of China's economic power & heft.

It is for these reasons that India denied to join the BRI. India's concern also emerge from the CPEC connecting China & pakistan

ars Blitz

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

which passes through illegally occupied Kashmir

BRI is also another feather in China-

pakistan's all-weather alliance.

Western Countries have come up with their

own initiatives as an alternative to China's

BRI. ex: EU. US, Japan & Australia's Blue

Dot Network is also another initiative.

China's chequebook diplomacy is hence a coercive

Sharp power tactic in conformity with

its larger strategic goals of global domination.