



VISIONIAS

INSPIRING INNOVATION

ABHYAAS MAINS

सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)/GENERAL STUDIES (Paper-II) (2423)

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time Allowed: Three Hours

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

सामान्य अनुदेश

इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका में 55+1 पृष्ठ हैं। प्रश्न-पत्र, क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका के अंत में संलग्न है, जो अलग (वियोज्य) किया जा सकता है और उम्मीदवार परीक्षा के उपरांत अपने साथ ले जा सकते हैं।

रफ कार्य के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंत में खाली पृष्ठ दिया गया है।

पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर, कृपया यह जांच कर लें कि इस क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका में कोई कमी न हो, फटा हुआ पृष्ठ न हो अथवा कोई पृष्ठ गायब न हो इत्यादि। यदि ऐसा हो, तो इसके बदले नई क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका प्राप्त कर लें।

General Instructions

This Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 55+1 pages. Question Paper in detachable form is available at the end of the QCA Booklet which can be taken away by the candidate after examination.

For rough work, blank page has been provided at the end of this Booklet.

On receipt of the Booklet, please check that this QCA Booklet does not have any shortcomings, torn or missing pages etc. If, so, get it replaced with a fresh QCA Booklet.

(उम्मीदवार द्वारा भरा जाएगा/To be filled by the Candidate)

पंजीकरण सं./Registration No. : 1026942

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : Garima Mundra

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी
Medium: Hindi/English

English

तारीख
Date

26 August 2023

सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II) GENERAL STUDIES (Paper II)

केंद्र
Centre

Delhi

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर
Invigilator's Signature

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर
Invigilator's Signature

	महत्वपूर्ण अनुदेश	Important Instructions
	उम्मीदवारों को नीचे उल्लिखित निर्देश सावधानी से पढ़ लेने चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर उम्मीदवारों को मिलने वाले अंकों में कटौती, उम्मीदवारी रद्द या आयोग के परवर्ती परीक्षाओं के लिए वर्जित करने इत्यादि के रूप में दण्डित किया जा सकता है।	Candidates should read the undermentioned instructions carefully. Violation of any of the following instructions may entail penalty in the form of deduction of marks, cancellation of candidature, debarment from further Examination of the Commission etc.
1	(क) अपना पंजीकरण सं. एवं अन्य विवरण केवल प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) में उम्मीदवार के लिए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें। (ख) इस पुस्तिका में अन्यत्र कहीं भी अपना नाम, पंजीकरण सं., मोबाइल नं., पता अथवा प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) संख्या न लिखें जिससे आपकी पहचान का खुलासा हो।	(a) Write your Registration Number and other details only in the space provided in the Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet for candidates. (b) Do not disclose your identity in any manner such as, by writing your Name, Registration number, Mobile number, Address, Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet No. etc. elsewhere in the Booklet
2	अपनी प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तर के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें जैसे कि कोई कविता/दोहा, अभद्र या अपमानजनक अभिव्यक्ति इत्यादि और न ही कोई ऐसा चिन्ह/निशान बनाएं जिसका उत्तर से सम्बन्ध न हो।	Do not write in the QCA Booklet anything other than the actual answer such as couplet, obscene, abusive expression etc., nor put any sign/mark having no relevance to the answer.
3	परीक्षक को प्रत्यक्ष/अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कोई भी प्रार्थना/धमकी भरी बातें न लिखें।	Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.
4	उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गंदी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।	Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.
5	उत्तर स्याही में ही लिखें। उत्तर लिखने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग न करें, हालांकि आरेख, चित्र इत्यादि बनाने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।	Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.
6	प्रवेश पत्र में उल्लेख किए गए माध्यम के अलावा अन्य किसी माध्यम में उत्तर न लिखें। अधिकृत और अनधिकृत की मिली जुली भाषा का भी उपयोग न करें।	Do not write answers in medium other than the authorized medium in the Admission Certificate. Do not use mixed language either i.e. authorize and unauthorized media together for writing answers.
7	प्रश्नों के उत्तर ठीक उसके नीचे दिए गए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें। निर्धारित स्थान के अलावा किसी अन्य स्थान पर लिखे गए उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जाएगा।	Write answer at the specific space (right below the question) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified places in the booklet shall not be evaluated.
8	यदि आप अपने किसी उत्तर को रद्द करना चाहते हैं तो उसे पेन से काट दें तथा उस पर "रद्द" लिख दें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है।	If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it and write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.

कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use	कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु For Official Use
परीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर Signature of Examiner(s)	

प्राप्तांक के विवरण (परीक्षक द्वारा भरा जाए)/ Marks Details (To be filled by the Examiner(s))

प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks		प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks	
1			11		
2			12		
3			13		
4			14		
5			15		
6			16		
7			17		
8			18		
9			19		
10			20		
उप-योग (A) Subtotal (A)			उप-योग (B) Subtotal (B)		
सकल योग (A+B) / GRAND TOTAL (A+B)					



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निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे

Time Allowed: Three Hours

अधिकतम अंक: 250

Maximum Marks: 250

प्रश्न-पत्र संबंधी विशेष अनुदेश

कृपया प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें:

कुल बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं जो हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।

सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए नियत अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुख-पृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

प्रश्न संख्या 1 से 10 तक का उत्तर 150 शब्दों में तथा प्रश्न संख्या 11 से 20 तक का उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए।

प्रश्नों में इंगित शब्द सीमा को ध्यान में रखिए।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए कोई पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिए।

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions.

There are **TWENTY** questions printed both in **HINDI** and in **ENGLISH**.

All questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

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 a medium other than the authorized one.

Answers to Questions No. 1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to Questions No. 11 to 20 should be in 250 words.

Keep the word limit indicated in the questions in mind.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Questions-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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

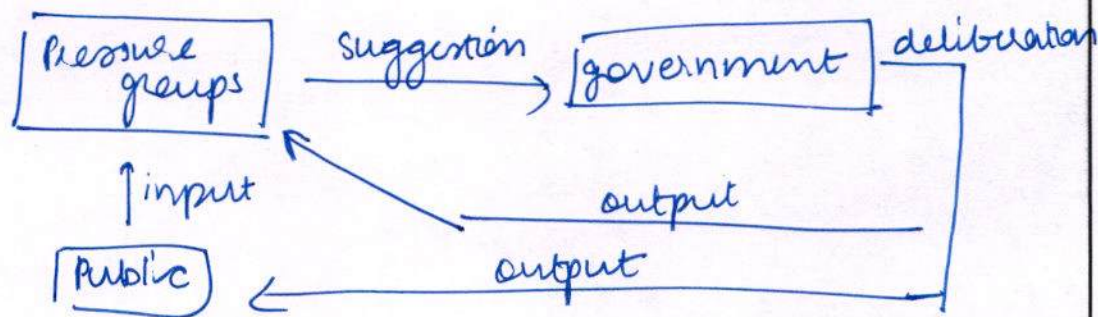
1.

उपयुक्त उदाहरणों की सहायता से, चर्चा कीजिए कि पर्यावरणीय दबाव समूह भारत में पर्यावरण नीतियों के संबंध में सार्वजनिक भागीदारी और अनुक्रियाशीलता को कैसे बढ़ाते हैं। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

With suitable examples, discuss how environmental pressure groups enhance public participation and responsiveness with regard to environmental policies in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारी को इस हाथिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Pressure groups ^(PG) are organised & unorganised groups that influence public policy for common cause through electorolling, ~~set~~ petitioning, lobbying & propagandizing.



Environmental PG → public participation & responsiveness

① Spread awareness

→ Realisation of fundamental duty under Art 51 A, i.e. to pay attention to environment

eg - Save Aarey movement

② mobilisation of public opinion

collective interests hold more power.

eg - Niyamgiri Revolt by women

③ Information dissemination, source of education
on important environmental issues

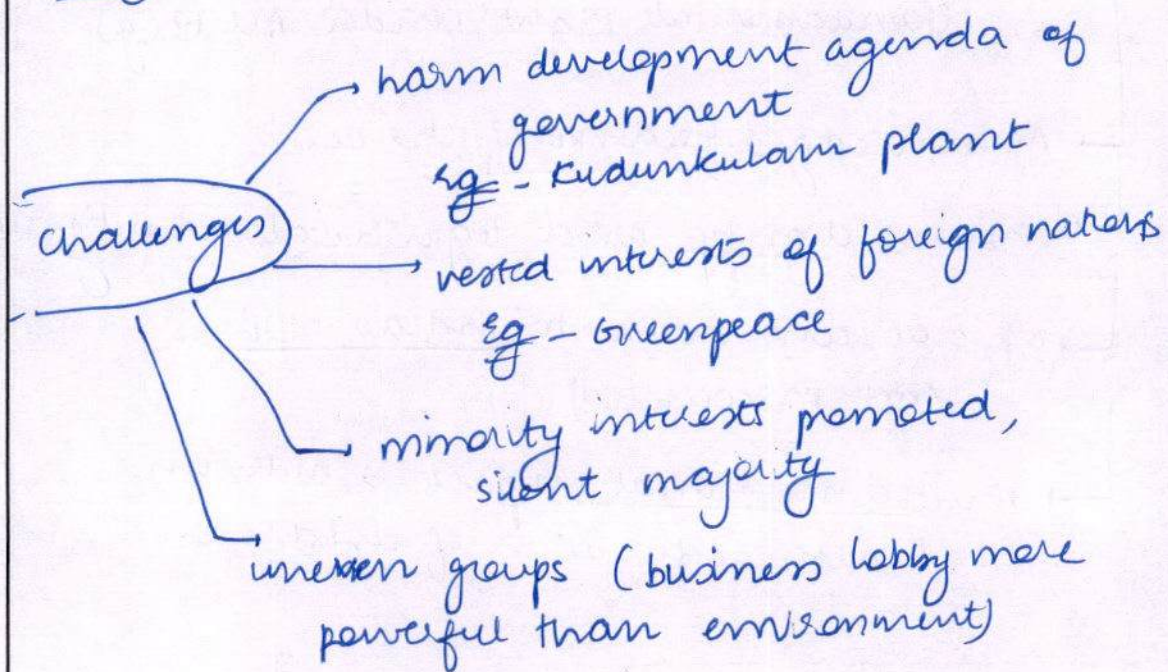
For eg - Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
publishes research

④ Form of direct democracy - influence policy

For eg Narmada Bachao Andolan had an
influence on LARR, 2013.

⑤ Advocacy for environmental rights,
use different methods

For eg - Anti-BALCO movement in Odisha



Pressure Groups are safety value of democracy.

Formulation of proper policy is required.

2.

हाल ही में, उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा सेक्स वर्क को एक 'पेशे' के रूप में स्वीकार किया जाना, भारत में 'सेक्स वर्कर्स' के लिए बुनियादी अधिकार और समानता सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में पहला कदम है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The recent acknowledgment of sex work as a 'profession' by the Supreme Court is merely the first step in ensuring basic rights and equality for sex workers in India. Examine. (Answer in 150 words)

10

In the recent case of Budhadev Karmaskar v/s West Bengal, Supreme court recognized sex work as 'profession'.

First step - Impact of judgement

- Recognizes freedom of profession
(Fundamental Right under Art 19(g))
- Acknowledges freedom of choice
- ensures dignity and legal social security
- official contribution to India's GDP
(not miscounted)
- multidimensional impact → nutrition, health, education of children.

'merely' the first step - Challenges prevalent

- ① social discrimination in society
for eg - bias toward children of sex workers

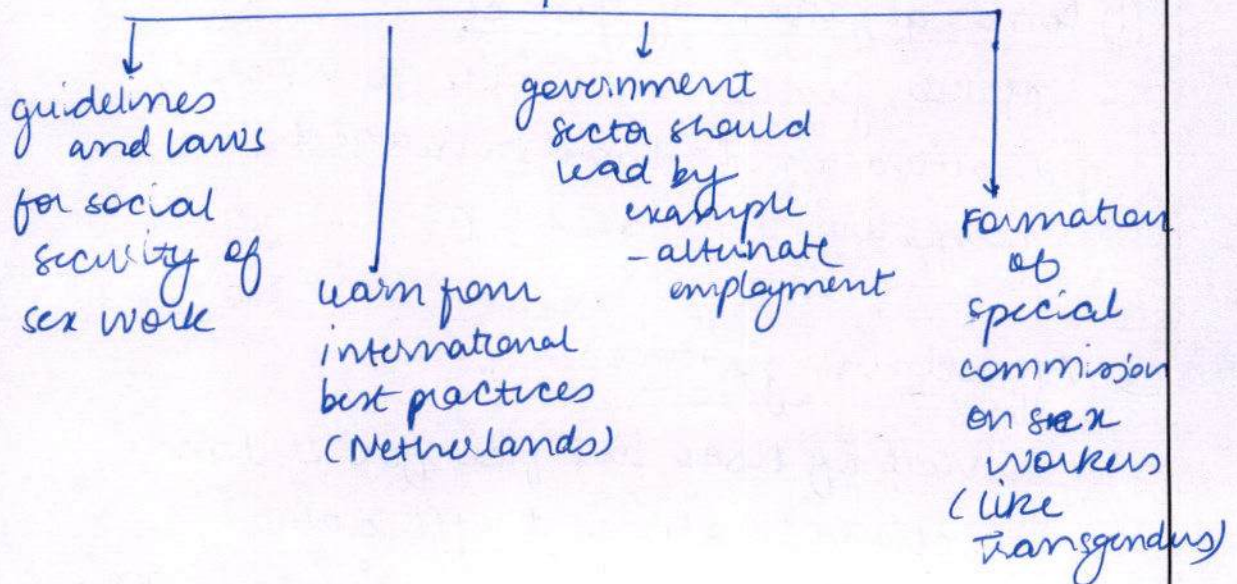
② unorganized industry
- lack social safety net

③ freedom of movement under Art 19(d)
restricted due to AIDS scare

④ difficult to differentiate between ~~sex~~
voluntary and involuntary sex
work.

⑤ vicious cycle - unable to move out due
to lack of other employment opportunities
eg - prejudice in private sector.

Way forward



'Every duty is holy and devotion to duty
is the highest service'
- Vivekananda

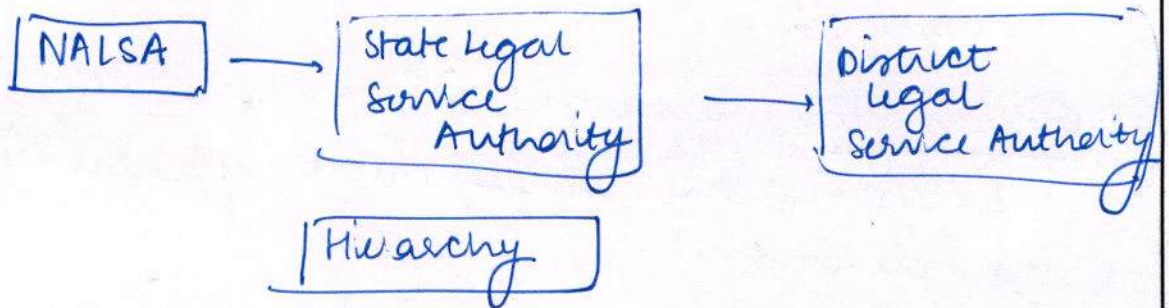
3.

भारत में निःशुल्क कानूनी सहायता प्रदान करने और कानूनी जागरूकता फैलाने में जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरणों (DLSAs) द्वारा निभाई जाने वाली भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
Discuss the role played by District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) in providing free legal aid and disseminating legal awareness in India. (Answer in 150 words)

10

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

The Directive Principle of State Policy under Article 39(a) provides for free legal aid to the underserved communities.



Role played by DLSAs

① Democratization of justice

makes justice accessible to women, disabled and disadvantaged communities : SC & ST

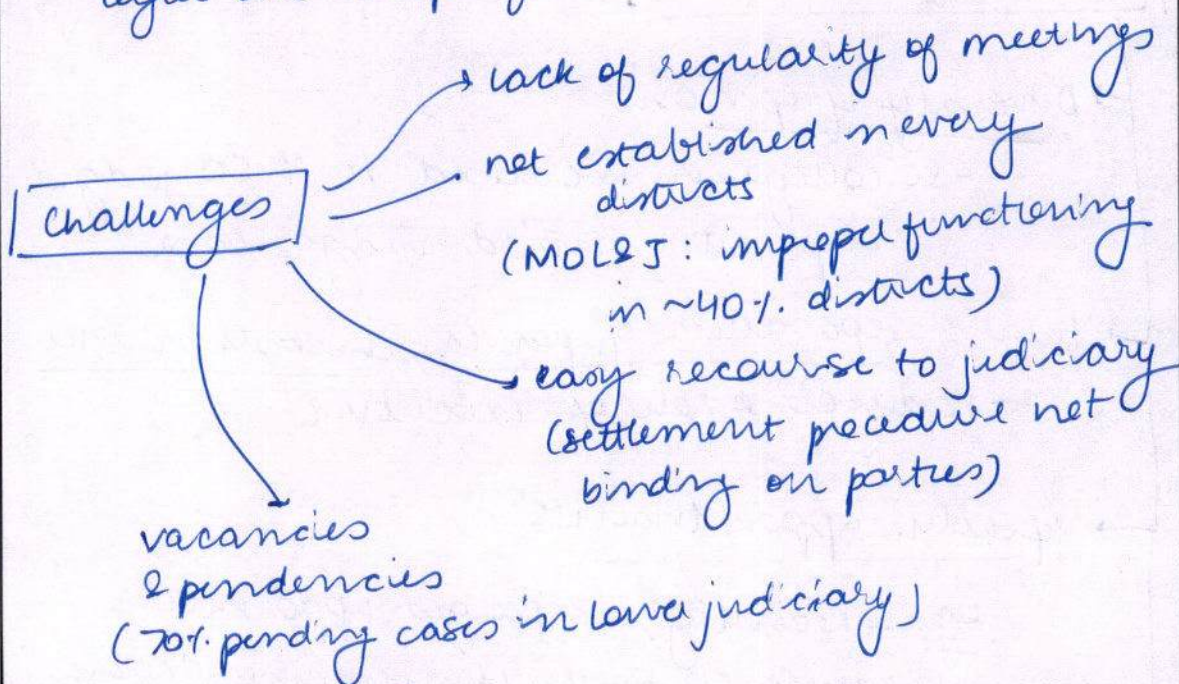
② Affordable justice

services of DLSAs are free for certain sections, making it affordable
(per capita income of India below ₹5000)

③ Binding declaration

No right of appeal to judiciary makes it quick

- ④ Flexibility of procedure
- Based on principles of natural justice
- ⑤ Reduce burden on judiciary
Petty issues like land settlement settled by DSAs
- ⑥ spreading awareness
legal aid campaigns held.



Way forward

- judicial impact assessment of DSAs (SC)
- compulsion to serve for a few years for new recruits
- monitoring of progress - merge under e-courts mission

NU Ramanna had said - in India, process itself is the punishment. DSAs can make grassroots change

4.

"कुछ लोगों के हाथों में शक्ति के संकेंद्रण के कारण, कॉलेजियम प्रणाली अपनी ही सफलता का शिकार हो गई है, जिससे इसकी वैधता पर सवाल उठने लगे हैं।" टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

"The collegium system has become a victim of its own success, with the concentration of power in the hands of a few, leading to questions about its legitimacy." Comment. (Answer in 150 words)

10

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

The clampdown on the 99th CAA establishing NJAC (National Judicial Appointment Commission) ~~has~~ in the Fourth Judges Case has re-established the supremacy of collegium.

Success of collegium

- Diversity of opinions
 - SC collegium increased to 4 SC judges except CJI in Third Judges case
- fulfills separation of power, checks & balance
 - no direct role of executive
- speedy appointments
 - Eg - Recently, 3 judges appointed within 72 hours of recommendation
- reduces fear and favour

But recently VP has called a rethink on the collegium system.

Questions on legitimacy

- ① violates separation of power as President acts on advice of executive council of ministers
- ② Time taking procedure, chances of prejudice
Foreg - UK HC judge recommendation not accepted without any reason
- ③ Uncle Judge syndrome
- chances of nepotism
- ④ Elitist procedure, limited transparency
- no reservation in judges appointment (only <10% SC & HC judges from SC/ST)
- ⑤ Spoils system
- post-retirement benefits offered
Eg - Ranjan Gogoi as RS member.

Way forward

- Binding collegium under RTI
- Amendment of memorandum of procedure to live stream proceedings
- Appropriate Grievance Redressal

The suggestion of ^{12th} law commission on National Judicial Commission should be adhered to

5.

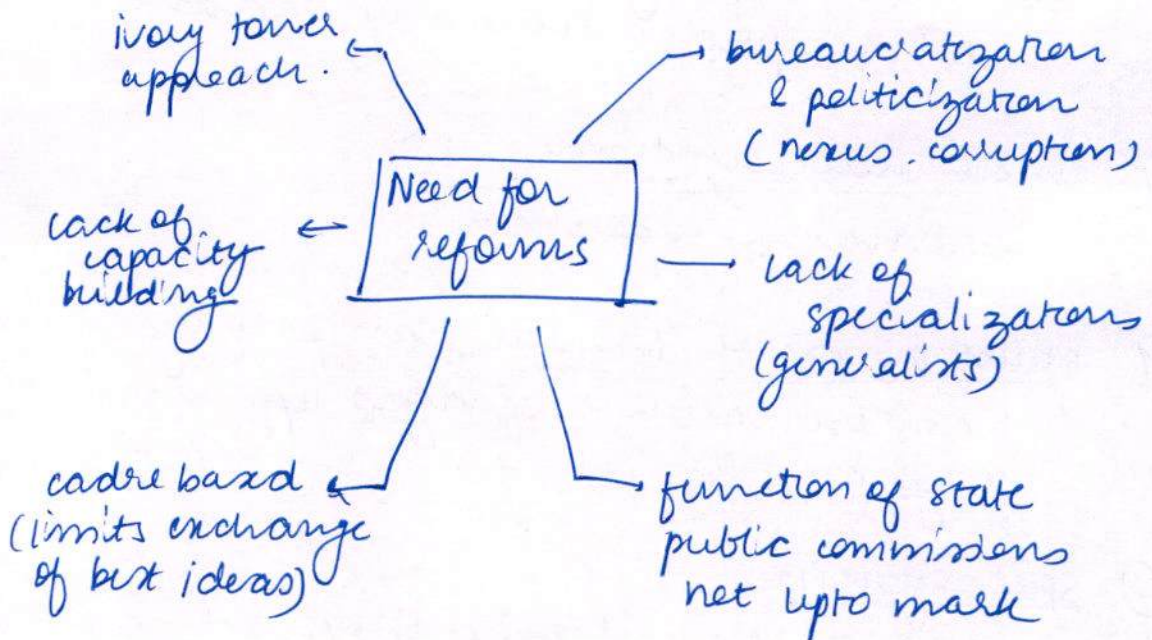
"सिविल सेवा सुधारों को वर्तमान दौर की चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए भर्ती और मानकीकृत प्रशिक्षण से आगे बढ़ाया जाना अनिवार्य है।" विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

"Civil services reforms must go beyond recruitment and standardised training to cope with the present day challenges." Analyse. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाथिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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The civil services was established in colonial times and continued as the steel frame of democracy (sardar Patel).



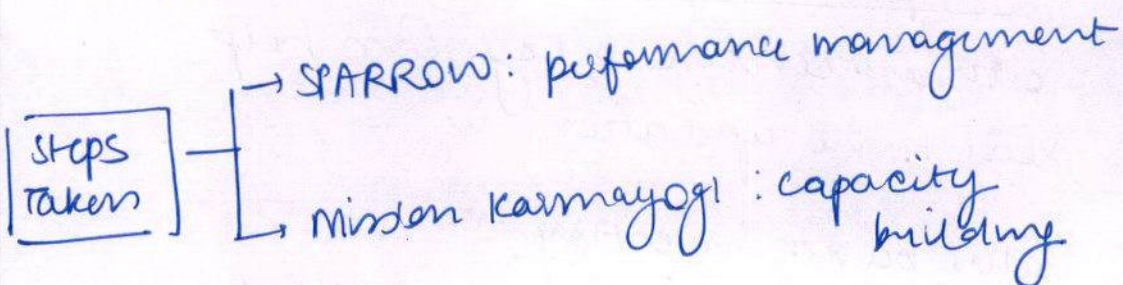
Reforms

① Recruitment and standardized training

- constitutional body - UPSC - free and fair recruitment
- Year long and on-ground training
(Bharat Darshan for citizen-
anthicity,

② Other reforms required

- Satyendra Nath committee
 - Performance management of civil servants
 - Mid-career performance review to weed dead weed out
- Bansari committee
 - Lateral entry for fresh blood
- 360 degree performance appraisal (citizen feedback)
- Hota committee - civil services board for transfers and promotions
- Niti 3 year action agenda suggested competition in established bureaucracy
- Domain specialization after 10 years in service (2nd ARC)



urgency in reforms is required to transform the rusted steel frame to rusted steel frame

6.

सामाजिक प्रभाव बॉण्ड्स जैसे परिणाम-आधारित वित्त मॉडल में वास्तविक रूप से परिवर्तन लाने और बड़े पैमाने पर सामाजिक-आर्थिक प्रभाव उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता विद्यमान है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Outcome-based finance models such as social impact bonds have the potential to truly catalyse change and deliver socio-economic impact at scale. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

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

Social impact bonds are those bonds that give returns based on achievement of the intended bond impact.

Potential to catalyse change

① monitoring and accountability

Investors will have surety of usage of bonds in right direction.

eg - If implemented for Swachh Bharat, outcome of number of toilets constructed.

② Transparent functioning

citizen-centric policy can help real time updation

③ value based investing

for wealth and social capital creation, not just profit creation.

(4) Gramsot level impact

Achieve various targets of schemes

(5) can be segregated based on gender,
environment, vulnerables

eg - like gender audit

Challenges

- no guarantee of returns
(dependent on impact)
- can be window-dressed /
greenwashing
eg - Greenwashing of ESG bonds
- puts performance pressure
- impact driven by multiple
uncontrollable factors.

Way forward

- creation of robust social impact bond
market
- learn from international best practices
- not one size fit all approach

The impact bonds will help move from
politics of promises to politics of performance

7.

प्रत्येक वर्ष ग्रेजुएट होने वाली और कार्यक्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या के मध्य का व्यापक अंतराल एक गंभीर समस्या है जिसे हल किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The wide gap between the number of females graduating every year and those entering the workspace is an issue of paramount importance that needs to be addressed. Discuss in the context of India. (Answer in 150 words)

10

India has an above ^{global} average number of females graduating (~47%) (global - 35%) from colleges, but below global average Female LFP - 22%. (average ~45%)

Reasons for wide gap

① Increasing female graduates

- push for female education in government policy

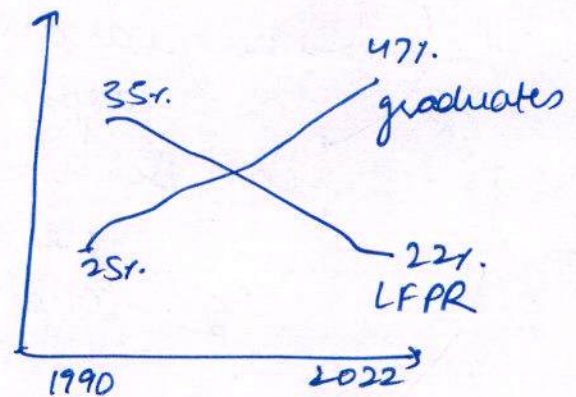
(eg - Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao)

- subsidy on girls education

- delayed age of marriage

(avg - 21.7 - Jaya Jaitley)

- increasing diversity of courses
- home science, arts



② Reducing workspace participation

→ challenge of supply

- women forced to marriage - household duties

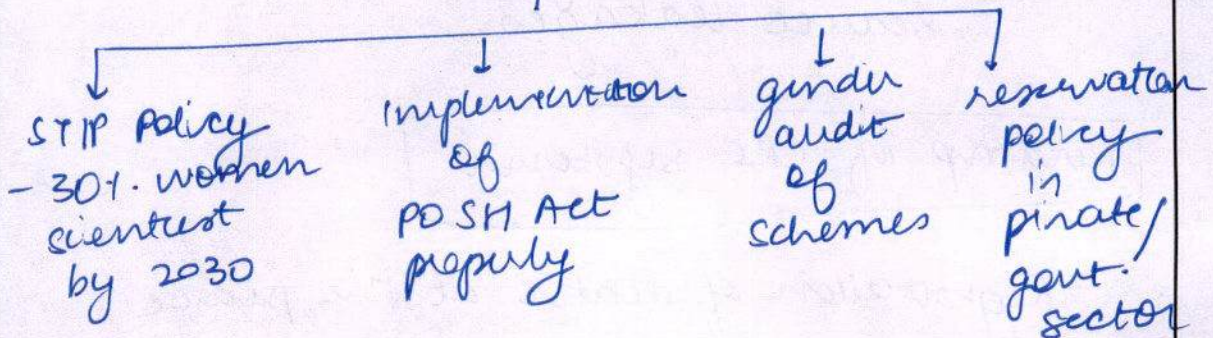
CNSO Time Use Survey - spend 60% more time than men)

- glass ceiling and cliffs
- sexual harassment at workplace
- 95% in unorganized sector

→ challenge of demand

- employers hesitant to hire
 - biological factors
 - maternity leaves
- care economy not counted (value of 3% of GDP)

Way forward



Only a sashakt naari can contribute to a samrath Bharat

8.

भारत में सामाजिक-आर्थिक नियोजन के लिए एक अद्यतित और कार्यात्मक नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली (CRS) अनिवार्य है। देश में CRS प्रणाली में सुधार हेतु केंद्र सरकार के हालिया कदम के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

An up to date and functional Civil Registration System (CRS) is essential to the socio-economic planning in India. Discuss in the light of the recent move of the Central government in revamping the CRS system in the country. (Answer in 150 words)

10

The CRS is a databax of the countries ^{recording} crude death and birth rate.

Essential to socie - eco planning

- Data-backed governance
- guides policy decisions
(eg - population control)
- equitable and inclusive growth
(eg - more focus on areas with high TFR - Bihar)
- last mile delivery of benefits
- reduce leakages.

Revamp of CRS system

- Registration of death at the place of death

- Reduce hassle for common citizen
- Inconvenience of place reduced
- digitisation of birth and death certificates

Challenges

- tech infra not well maintained
- limited awareness about CRS
- census conduction delay
- data doesn't reflect in policy
(blind policy)

We need a comprehensive CRS system to ensure demographic dividend.

move from a compartmentalised to an integrated nation wide approach.

9.

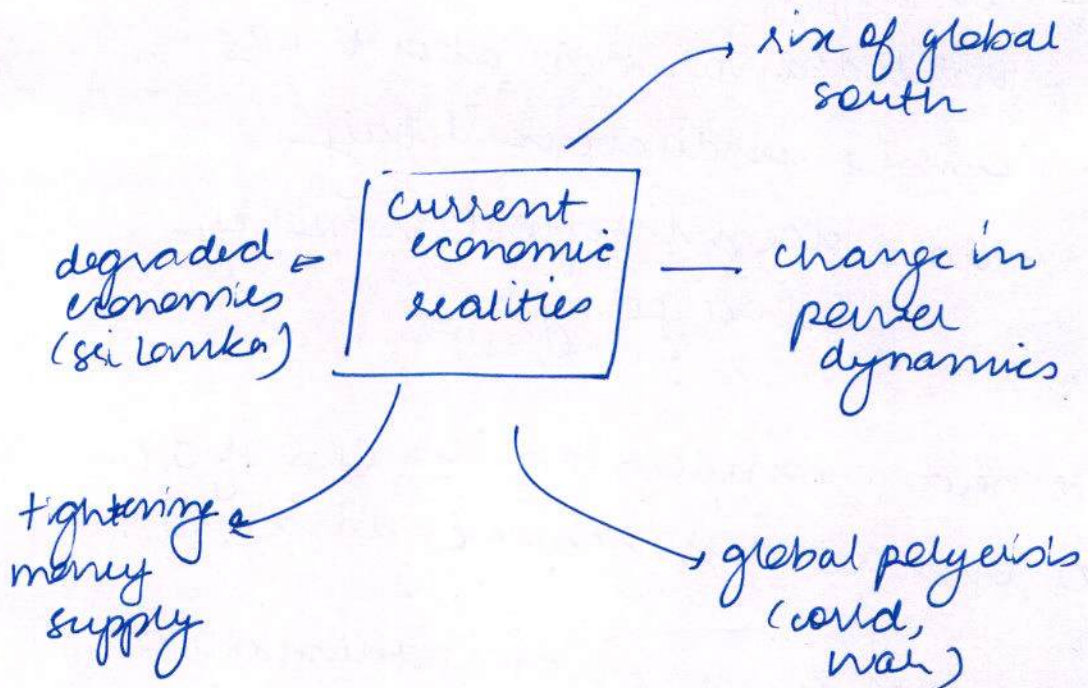
यदि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) को वर्तमान आर्थिक वास्तविकताओं के साथ समायोजित होना है तो इसमें सुधार के प्रमुख क्षेत्र कौन-से होंगे? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

What are the key areas of reform if the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has to align with the current economic realities? (Answer in 150 words)

10

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

The IMF is a Bretton Woods institution that is responsible for stability of global financial system.



Key areas of reform

- ① Increased quota of developing nations
 - rightful proportionate share
 - (India - 5th largest economy)

② Veto of US

- decisions with supermajority require $> 80+$ votes
- US share - 17%.

③ Other alternatives available

- eg - ADB, NDB
- sheer of IMF on finance deployment

④ unable to solve Sri Lankan crisis and Pakistan economic crisis

- no proactive measure

⑤ SOR basket needs rethink

- 5 currencies no longer held top 5 economic ranks.

Way forward

- should adapt with changing world order
- revamp quota shares
- more inclusive to developing nation demand.

While Bretton Woods Institute have stood the test of time, they need to prove their mettle.

10.

हाल के वर्षों में, पश्चिम एशिया के साथ भारत के संबंध भू-राजनीति के दायरे से आगे निकलकर भू-अर्थशास्त्र के आयाम तक पहुंच गए हैं। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

In recent years, India's relationship with West Asia has evolved from the confines of geopolitics to expanse of geoeconomics. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)

10

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

India and West Asia relationship is one of shared cultural history and values, defined by look west policy of India

Relationship of geopolitics

→ India having separate connects

- India - Israel
- India - Saudi - UAE
- India - Iran

→ De-hyperization on ^{Israel} India - Palestine issue

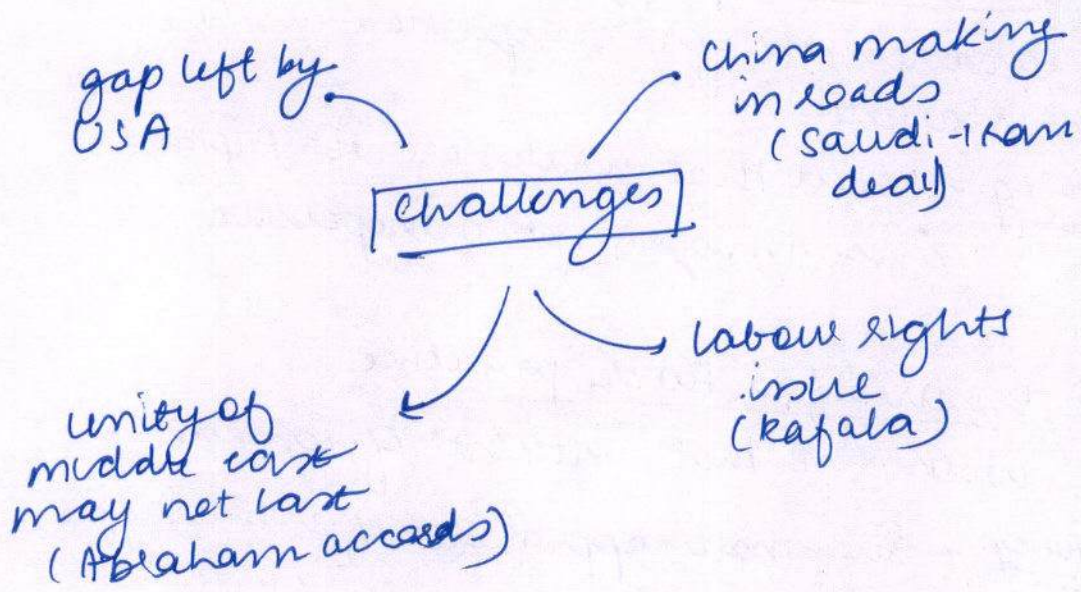
→ Formation of 1202 alliance and also Saudi + UAE alliance.

Moved to geoeconomics

→ West Asia : oil rich countries
~ 50% of India's energy imports

- Collaboration with Israel on technology (microsatellites, drones)
- FTA with UAE - also decision to use UPI and issuance of golden visa
- Chabahar port deal with Iran, even though USA sanctions under CAATSA
- Kuwait - LNG supply

Therefore, India is forming issue-based coalitions



India needs to follow a rules-based order to protect its strategic autonomy as West Asia moves from conflict to diplomacy

11.

हितधारकों को नवाचार और प्रभावशीलता में वृद्धि हेतु प्रेरित करने के लिए स्वस्थ प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को बढ़ावा देने में भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The role of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) is significant in furthering healthy competitiveness aimed at inspiring stakeholders to innovate and augment effectiveness. Comment. (Answer in 250 words)

15

The competition commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body established under the Competition Act to ensure free and fair functioning of the market economy.

Role of CCI

- ① Prevents monopolization of business
ensures enough competition in the market
for eg - ruled that policies of ~~Flipkart~~ Flipkart and Amazon not monopolistic
- ② Ensures fair trade practice
works in best interest of consumers
for eg - suo-moto appraisal of whatsapp's privacy policy
- ③ efficient functioning of market
protects domestic new entrants and keeps economy growing

④ Detection of consumer interest

- ensure that consumers don't suffer due to crony capitalism

For eg - took note of pricing strategy of
Oyo and Makenzie & P

⑤ Focus on mergers and acquisitions

- Not undertaken with unfair intention

For eg - Amazon - future deal paused

⑥ Promotes innovation and information dissemination

- promotes vigilance among consumers

Challenges of CCI

① Lack autonomy

- appointments by executive make it vulnerable to the ideology of the party in power

② Limited enforcement mechanism

appeals lie to NCRAT, prolonging the disputes

③ limited role in new, emerging areas
for eg - cryptocurrency, online gaming

④ limited powers compared to similar
bodies in foreign nations

for eg - Europe's competition commission
charged Google for monopolization

Way forward

① more autonomous functioning

② usage of technology to gather market
trends

eg - silent takeovers through Big
Data Analysis

③ International best practices

④ Research on emerging areas - act
proactively

The suggestions of the Injeti Srinivas
committee can be adhered to.

12.

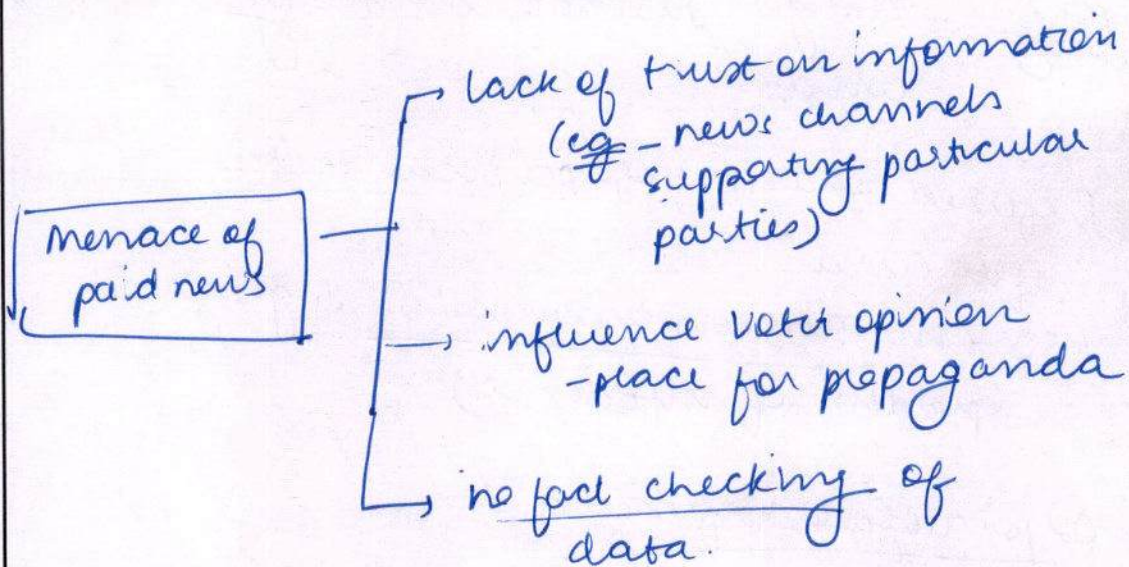
"पेड न्यूज का खतरा अक्सर चुनावों के दौरान अपना भयावह रूप दिखाता है।" भारत में पेड न्यूज को एक चुनावी अपराध बनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

"The menace of paid news often rears its ugly head during elections." Discuss the need for making paid news an electoral offence in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Art 19(1) that permits freedom of speech
and expression also has an implicit right
of freedom of press.

But rising menace of paid news erodes
trust and credibility



Need for making paid news electoral
offence

currently, not covered by Article 82
and disqualifications under Representation
of People Act, 1951

① majority people consume content through
media channels

(AOR - >60% get information about
elections through social media)

② Problems of yellow journalism

③ Paid news can lead to harming
brotherhood and promoting communalism

for eg - Tablighi Jamaat case during
covid

④ Preferred channel of political parties
after covid

(SC - in Tehseen Poonawalla - highlighted
problem of infodemic)

⑤ corporatization of media

Eg - outrage of senior management
of India Today post purchase by
Adani group.

⑥ spreads information like wildfire
'echo chambers'

Solutions

- ① Power to Election Commission (ECI) to enforce Model Code of Conduct
 - ② Amendment of RAA 1951 to add it as an offence
 - ③ Usage of fact check unit setup by PIB (IT rules)
 - ④ covering ambit of social media by ECI - guidelines on usage
 - ⑤ Also focus on alternate problems of hate speech and polarisation
- consensus of political parties and adequate consultation needs to be done to avoid false and frivolous cases

Media acts as the fourth estate of democracy and its efficient functioning is necessary

13.

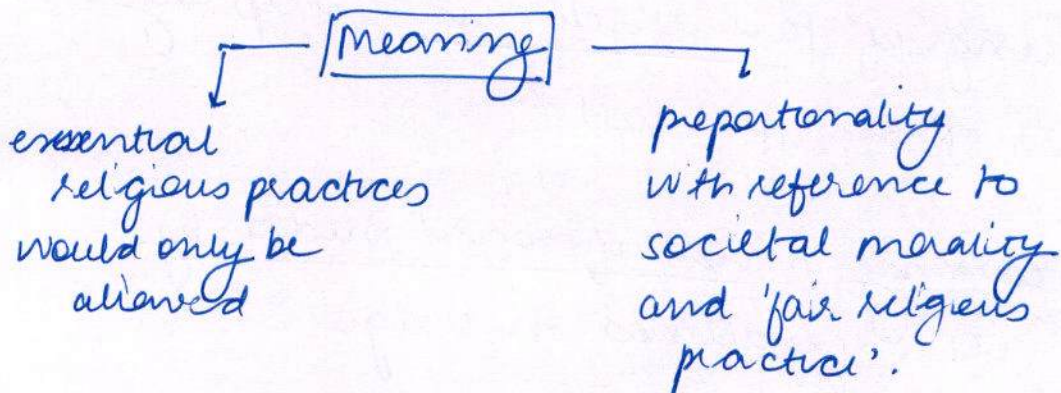
भारत में धार्मिक प्रथाओं के संदर्भ में, न्यायालयों द्वारा उद्धृत 'अनिवार्यता के सिद्धांत' पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the 'Doctrine of Essentiality' referred to by the courts in the context of religious practices in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हशिप में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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The Doctrine of Essentiality was propounded by the Supreme Court in the Shirur Mutt case.



Benefits of doctrine of essentiality

① India's idea of 'positive secularism'
Reformation of religions allowed for societal progress.

Eg - Sabarimala case

② ensure equality between and within religion
ensure that it doesn't overpower other fundamental Rights

Eg - 'Hijab' not part of school uniform

③ Renounce orthodoxy

In line with modern spirit of nation

④ Reduce blind following of religion

Rationality above religion

Eg - Triple Talac ban under Shaya Ban Case

⑤ Promote fraternity and brotherhood (Preamble)

Eg - Took note of Mand Margi sect for their beliefs.

Limitations of the doctrine

① Interference with Fundamental Right

Art 25 premises free profession, propagation and practice of religion

② Violated individual privacy

Recognized in Puttaswamy judgement
- no right of court to decide on way of worship

③ Leads to judicial tyranny

moves beyond official role of judiciary as protector of constitutional rights.

① Judiciary is not an ecclesiastic body
Justice Indu Malhotra said - what
is religious should be left to religion.

② relates 'principled distance' from religions
- no clear boundaries set

Way forward

→ Judiciary should interfere as a tool of last resort

→ no suo-moto power, but on basis of
PILs and petitions

→ establish panel of members of different
faiths to look into such problem

→ faster implementation of UCC Article 44
to uniformity in personal laws

India's values of sarva Dharma sambhava
should be adhered to by the judiciary
while exercising the doctrine.

14.

प्रधान मंत्री की आर्थिक सलाहकार परिषद (EAC-PM) की हाल ही में जारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में सरकार के आकार को सीमित करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

As per the recently released report of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), there is an urgent need to limit the size of the government in India. Do you agree? (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस इच्छा में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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The 91st Amendment limited size of council of ministers at centre to 15% the strength of Lok Sabha.

Recently, demand has been raised again to limit the size.

Need for limiting the size

- ① Too many cooks spoils the broth
doesn't require multiplicity of actions and ideas
- lead to divergence and delays
- ② Increased cost to exchequer
Increasing salary of ministers in line with inflation will put a huge cost on government finances
- ③ Curb the spoils system.
post-retirement benefits to government officers.
eg - diplomats turned ministers

④ Use money and muscle power

Promises of important posts in return for monetary support.

For eg - Post of Deputy CM constituted post the formation of constitution

⑤ Menace of coalition governments

'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram' practices in merger of parties keep increasing number of posts

For eg - Maharashtra rotating Deputy CM.

⑥ Loss focus on bigger goal

'Maximum government, minimum governance'

- occupied in power politics

But nevertheless, there are certain challenges to limiting government size

① Increasing pressure on government to act

Eg - Delimitation would increase number of seats in Lok Sabha, leading to increased demand of government.

② New and emerging areas

New ministries need to be created

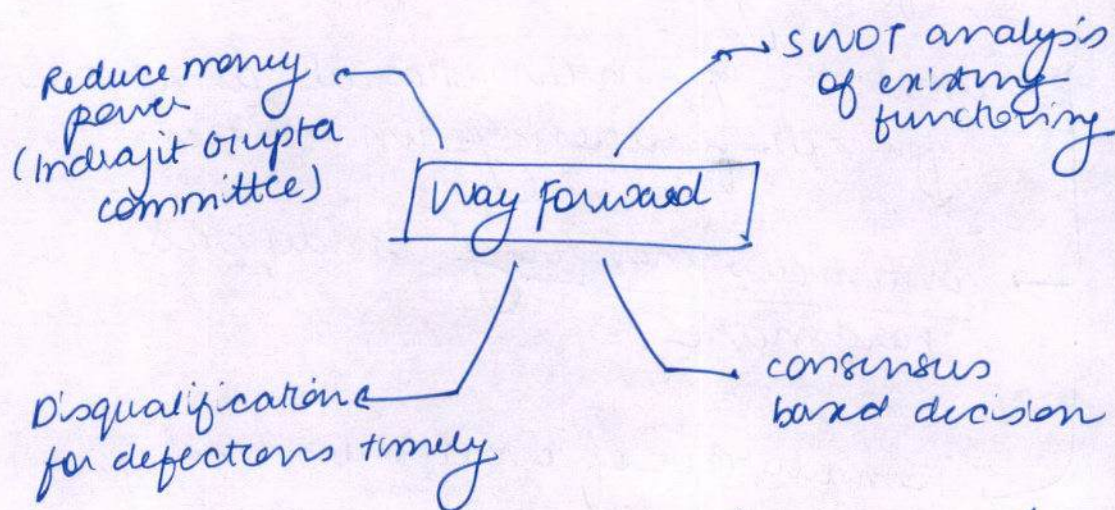
for eg - ministry of fisheries created post
7th 5 year plan

- areas like emerging technology,
disaster management need special
focus

③ lighten workload of ministers - efficient functioning

for eg - single minister handling multiple
portfolio

④ collective responsibility ensures government accountability



There is need to balance efficiency and
accountability for minimum government,
maximum governance

15.

इंस्टीट्यूट्स ऑफ एमिनेंस (IoE) योजना की कल्पना भारत में उच्चतर शिक्षा के 'विश्व स्तरीय' केंद्र विकसित करने के लिए की गई थी, लेकिन छह साल बाद भी, यह अभी तक गेम चेंजर नहीं बन पाई है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme was conceived to develop 'world-class' centres of higher education in India but six years later, it is yet to become the game changer it was intended to be. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

15

In the recently released QS world ranking, only 3 Indian institutes feature in Top 200.

Features of IoE scheme

- autonomous functioning of universities
- focus on quality pedagogy
- research support through government fundings
- establishment of international campuses for well-functioning universities
- continuous monitoring on defined parameters
- formulation of own rules and regulations, not one size fit all.

Merits of the scheme

- increased enrolment ratio in higher education (~37%)
- intake of foreign students increased
- increase in patents filed (by 50% between 2016-20)

Yet to become the gamechanger

- ① Lack of autonomy
 - disputes in appointment of vice chancellors and independent management
 - For eg - politicization in West Bengal
- ② limited funding of government
 - Budget of 3.2% for education far below 6% by Kasturibairan committee
- ③ Lack of research support
 - IIT and IIM share majority of research funding, other universities suffer
- ④ limited internationalisation of campus

- ⑤ Peer ranking on multiple indicators of QS rankings
eg - Teacher-student ratio peer.

Way Forward

- ① Prepe implementation of other schemes
eg - RISE and HEFA (Higher edu. financing agency)
- ② Improve budget outlay, social audit of universities
- ③ Indulge in knowledge diplomacy
eg - IIT Delhi campus in UAE
- ④ Radhakrishnan Committee recommendation on vernacular higher education to increase indigenment.
- ⑤ Merge of different bodies - UGC, NAAC (Yashpal committee)

The role of higher education institutions can't be downplayed for a Vision Bharat by 2047

डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (DPI) नवोन्मेषी और सुविधाजनक सार्वजनिक सेवाओं की अनुमति देता है, समावेशन या पहुंच संबंधी बाधाओं को दूर करने में मदद करता है तथा रियल-टाइम डेटा की मदद से पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही बढ़ाता है। उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) allows for innovative and convenient public services, help overcome inclusion or accessibility barriers, and increase transparency and accountability with real-time data. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Digital Public Infrastructure refers to the provision of government goods and services digitally and the foundation base for that.

Role of DPI

① Innovative and convenient public services

- Reduces public inconvenience
eg - Telemedicine, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
(only 30% hospitals in rural areas)
- Out of box thinking to traditional problems
eg - central bank digital currency to curb black money

② Help overcome inclusion barriers

- doorstep delivery of services
eg - Madhya Pradesh Dwar Pradey Yojana

- ensures inclusive growth
eg - ONDC for small businesses

• data-led governance

eg - JAM Trinity reduced subsidy leakage

③ Improve transparency and accountability

- real time tracking

eg - ADP dashboard

- grievance redressal

eg - e-citizen charter of Delhi

- improved answerability

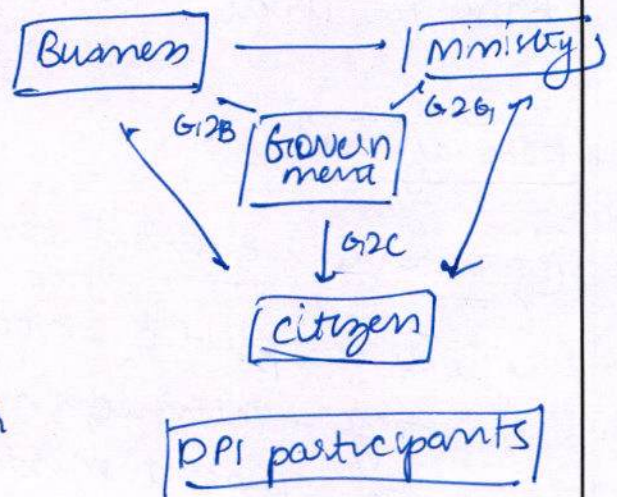
eg - Reggati portal

- convergence between ministries for efficient functioning

eg - Gati Shakti Platform

- transparency with corporates

eg - GSTN portal, faceless tax



Challenges

- ① limited digital literacy
(only 30% digitally literate - Digital empowerment foundation)
- ② low internet penetration
(currently at 37% in rural areas)
- ③ Cyber security risks
eg - Red Echo on Mumbai power grids
- ④ Privacy risks
eg - Breach of Aadhar data
- ⑤ limited infrastructure
eg - only 60% target achieved under Bharat Net.

Way forward

- passage of data protection law (Seikrishna comm.)
- focus on cyber security and deterrence
- increase digital literacy (digi-saathis like Bank correspondents)

Full utilisation of DPI requires us to move from ad hoc approach to whole of nation approach

17.

कानून के अलावा, भारत में 'सभी के लिए स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार' की पूर्ण प्राप्ति हेतु सामाजिक, वित्तीय और बुनियादी ढांचे की कमियों को दूर करने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)
 Besides legislation, the full realisation of the 'right to health for all' in India demands plugging of social, financial, and infrastructural gaps. Examine. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Recently, the Rajasthan government passed its Right to Health bill, ensuring universal coverage by inclusion of private hospitals.

Right to Health, though recognized under Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is not an explicit fundamental right.

Legislation made

- Ayushman Bharat Yojana
- National Health Mission
- National Digital Health Mission
- Health and Wellness centres
- Jan Aushadhi Kendras

Further requirement

① social gaps

- urban-rural disparity
 (70% of hospitals in urban areas focusing on 35% of population)

- vulnerable sections
(tribals have the second highest IMR in world - lancet)
- lack of behavioural change
(doctors not serving in rural areas, vacancies)

② financial gaps

- government funding - 2.1% of GDP
(goal of 2.5% by national health policy)
- increased out of pocket expenditure
(48.5% - ~~AE~~ EOD survey)
- limited private sector participation

③ infrastructural gaps

- doctor to patient ratio (1:1400, WHO demand 1:1000)
- limited bed capacity in primary health centres
- digital infrastructure poor in rural areas for telemedicine

Way forward

- ① Increased budget expenditure
 - ② Inclusion of traditional medicine
 - improve doctor-patient ratio (1:800)
 - increased acceptance among tribals
 - ③ social audit of existing health schemes
 - ④ increase insurance penetration
(currently at 4-7%)
 - ⑤ focus on preventive healthcare, not curative.
eg - Fit India Mission
 - ⑥ Holistic approach
eg - Manhattan principles on one health
 - ⑦ curb non-communicable diseases (~65%)
eg - Heart Attack Round campaign
- We need to follow the multidimensional approach to ensure 'sahi poshan, Dakh Roshan'

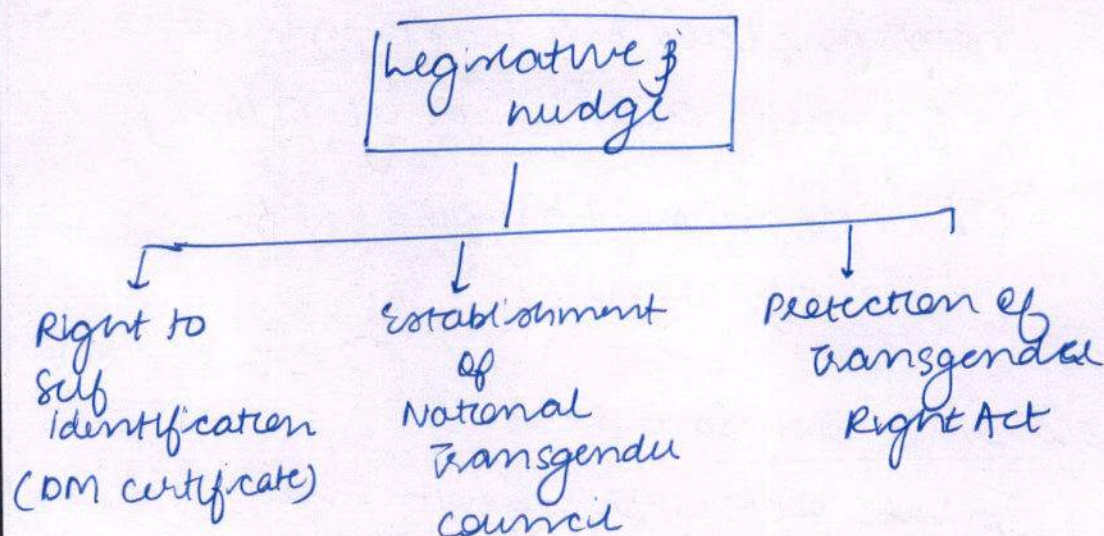
विधायी समर्थन के बावजूद 'थर्ड जेंडर' को अभी तक भारतीय समाज में मान्यता नहीं मिली है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The 'third gender' has not yet been engendered in the Indian society despite legislative nudge. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words)

15

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

The NALSA judgement of the Supreme Court was come as it reg recognized transgenders as the third gender.



Not yet engendered

① Political exclusion

- Not yet mainstreamed in Indian politics
- no political party has transgender focus, ~~nor~~ no MPs in Parliament

② Social exclusion

- marginalisation in society

- limited acceptance : negative perception
- limited access to health and education
(only 35% of transgenders access education)

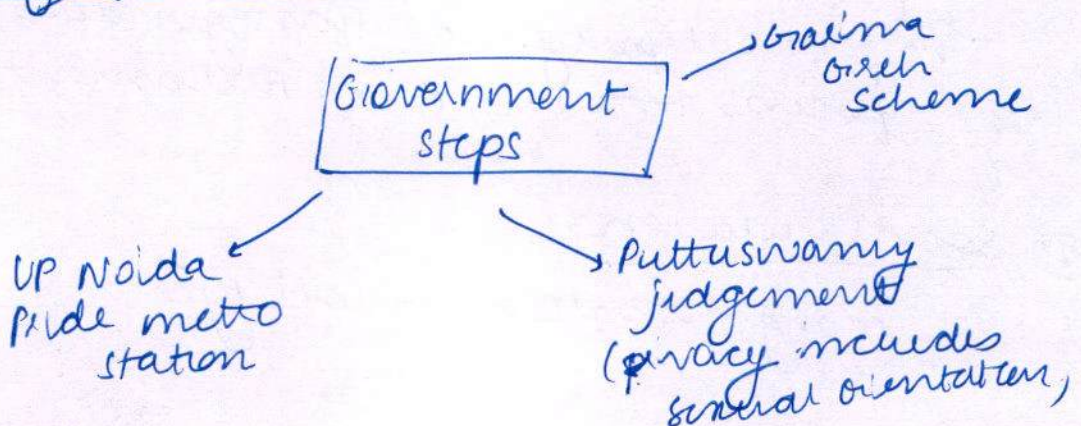
③ Policy barriers

- no proper data on transgenders
(census recognizes only 1.1 lakh)
- DM certification hampers self-identification

④ Economic exclusion

- private sector not eager to hire
- vicious cycle of poverty due to limited opportunities
- limited transgender-focused schemes

Way forward



Way forward

- ① mainstreaming of transgenders
- government should take first step
- ② possibility of reservation
- on line of disabled people
- ③ spread awareness and drive behavioral change
- sex education
- ④ National Commission on Transgenders
need to be more effective
- regularity of meetings, grievance redressal
- ⑤ data-based governance
eg - correct identification of number of transgenders.
- ⑥ International practices (Yogyakarta Principles)

The Indian society recognizes Shiva as Ardhpaishnavar and Shikhandi ~~and~~ in mythology. Tradition can guide modernity

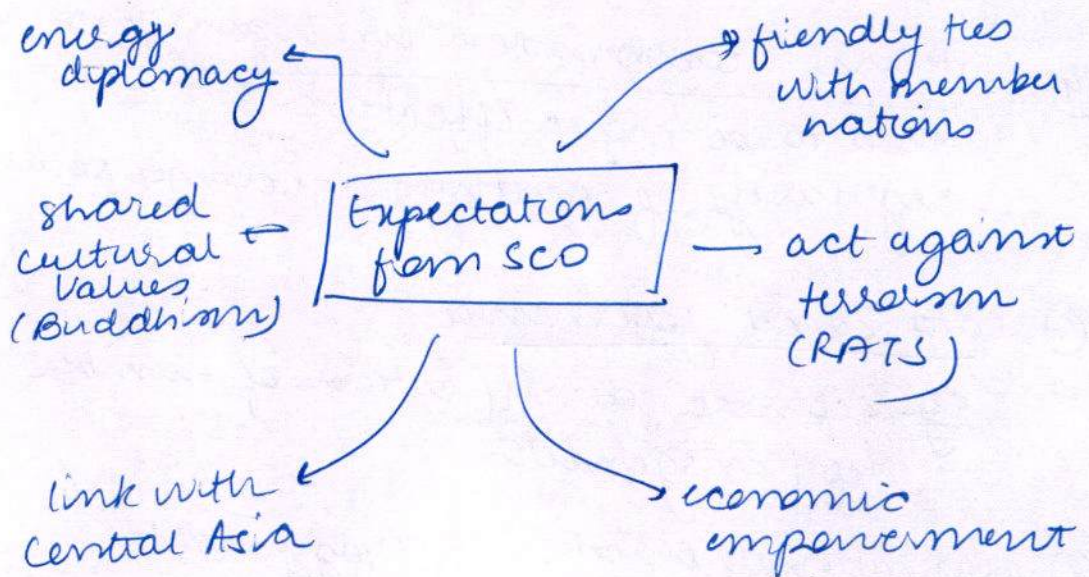
19.

अन्य कारकों के अलावा, चीन और पाकिस्तान के साथ तनावपूर्ण संबंधों ने भारत के लिए शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) से अपनी अपेक्षाओं को पूरा करना कठिन बना दिया है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)
 Among other factors, strained ties with China and Pakistan make it difficult for India to fulfill its expectations from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Recently, the SCO summit was held without the participation of Pakistan.

The SCO is an intergovernmental body consisting of central asian nations, Russia, China, India and Pakistan, headquartered in Shanghai.



Difficulty in fulfillment

① Strained ties with Pakistan

• Harms progress on terrorism talks.

- provides safe haven to terrorists
- way to Central Asia - India doesn't have direct connectivity
- POK issue hampers bilateral trade

② Strained ties with China

- making economic inroads in Central Asia (China - CS summit)
- debt trap diplomacy
- boundary disputes at LAC
- China's BRI and CPEC corridor harm progress on INSTC and Ashgabat Agreement

③ Other factors

- lack of FTA - unrealized trade potential
- differences in ideologies and government style
- India's balanced stand on Russia-Ukraine war
- Irregularity in meetings
- Indian PM skipped last SCO meeting

But, some successes are still there.

↳ bilateral summits held on the
sideline

Eg - resolution of beklam standoff

↳ minilateral among SCO

Eg - RIC grouping

↳ central Asia connect - part of
India's extended neighbourhood.

Eg - India - central asia summit

Way Forward

→ Speedy completion of the INSTC
and Ashgabat Agreement

→ utilization of Central Asia's rich
mineral resources through FTA
(eg - Kazakhstan Wamum)

→ Gather support for India's C-IT
(counter terrorism proposal) in UNSC
through RATS.

The SCO acts as bridge between India
and Eurasia, and holds immense
potential.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और भारत के बीच महत्वपूर्ण एवं उभरती प्रौद्योगिकी (iCET) पर हाल ही में संपन्न पहल, प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में इनकी साझेदारी में लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित परिवर्तन का वादा करती है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The recently concluded initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) between the United States and India promises a long overdue transformation of their partnership in the field of technology. Examine. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Recently, Indian Prime Minister visited USA on his first official visit and signed important agreements.

India and USA are bound by shared democratic values and vision of global rules based order.

Partnership in field of technology

① iCET initiative

- enables sharing of important technologies, open data access and important research agreement
- power of India's knowledge diplomacy
- 80% technology transfer promised can push India's innovative powerhouse

② Other initiatives

→ Innovation Pathway

- for hand holding and support of domestic startups

→ Clean Energy Partnership

- common fulfillment of international goals of Paris Agreement ($<1.5^{\circ}$ rise)

→ Defence technologies

- recognition as major defence partner
- 4 basic agreements signed (COMCASA, LEMOA, BECA, GSOMIA)
- construction of HEC engine in India (learnings for Indian industries)
- iDEX platform for defence exports

→ Mineral Strategic Partnership

Allows India to access ~~en~~ critical minerals needed for emerging technology

Challenges

- IPR issue : India's data localisation norms can be a problem
- piracy of sensitive data
- data as new mode of warfare
- previous technology transfer commitments not fulfilled
- US trade body highlighted India's currency manipulation
- protectionism of USA - America First

Way forward

- converge with other initiatives
- IPEF, QUAD
- push for visa norms
- H1B mishap
- diversify technology deals
(EU, UK)
- 2+2 dialogues frequently

The Indo-US partnership is one of convergence of two seas - the heart of Indo-Pacific

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

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