



ENLITE IAS

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MAINS TEST SERIES 2024

POLITY, GOVERNANCE & IR

Question Paper Specific Instructions

1. There are **TWENTY** Questions printed in **ENGLISH**.
2. All the questions are **compulsory**.
3. The number of marks carried by each question (or part) is indicated against it.
4. Word limit in questions wherever specified should be adhered to.
5. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Answer booklet must be clearly struck off.

Qn No.	Marks Obtained	Qn No.	Marks Obtained
1	3 1/2	11	7 1/2
2	—	12	6
3	4	13	5
4	4 1/2	14	7 1/2
5	—	15	6 1/2
6	5 1/2	16	—
7	4	17	7 1/2
8	—	18	5 1/2
9	4.5	19	7
10	4	20	6 1/2
TOTAL			

Name

GODIKA B

Roll no

16/09/2024

Subject

POLITY

Date

Questions Attempted

16



1. To what extent cultural rights and constitutional morality goes hand in hand in the Indian context? (10 Marks)

India is a diverse country with several cultures.

Art 25-28 - protects right to freedom of religion

Art 29-30 - protects linguistic & cultural minorities.

Convergence of cultural rights & constitutional morality

① protection of minorities - by ensuring representation in govt & educational institutions.

eg: Art 15, 16.

② protection of language upheld by Supreme Court.

Art 350B - Special officer for linguistic minorities

Art 350A - instruction in mother tongue

③ Absence of official language and religion for the state.

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Divergence of cultural rights and Constitutional morality

① Supreme court upholding equality of all people clashing with local beliefs

eg: Sabamata case - temple entry for women.

② Protection of women & their rights - Constitutional morality but clashes with long practiced traditional customs.

eg: Triple talaq.

③ Constitution envisages to establish uniform Civil code expressed by religious minorities - as their ~~right~~ practices may get undermined by a majority.

④ Doctrine of essential practices - Shows Mullt case. Supreme Court's ability to identify essential practices questioned by religious groups as they should determine essential practices.

In India, constitution is supreme, so cultural practices need to give way to overarching values of the constitution.

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2. What is a select committee and how does it function? Differentiate between a departmental level standing committee and a select committee. (10 Marks)

A select committee consists of members of only one House - either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

eg: Estimates committee is a select committee.

Select committee - functioning

- ① elected by House members - by proportional representation by single transferable vote to ensure representation from all parties.
- ② appointed ~~by~~ for a tenure of 1 year.
- ③ scrutiny of assigned bills ~~and~~ working.
- ④ can seek the advice of experts.
- ⑤ can summon parliamentarians and hold detailed discussions.

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Department level Standing Committee

- ① Can contain members from both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha
- ② advisory power only
- ③ scrutiny of bills and detailed discussion
- ④ proportional representation ensured.

Thus both types of committees help to create detailed and informed debates in parliament and better functioning.



3. One of the main shortcomings of RTI Act is the absence of strong enabling laws to strengthen it. In this light explain the need of a robust whistle-blower protection mechanism by analysing the existing measures. (10 Marks)

The Rights to Information Act is a powerful Act to ensure the participation of citizens in a democracy.

Dilutions of RTI

- ① diluted by official secrets Act.
- ② exemptions within RTI - Section 8
- ③ poor strength of whistleblower protection Act.
- ④ latest draft of Digital Personal Data Protection Bill.

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loopholes of current whistleblower protection Act

- ① Anonymity is not ensured - as department head can access the name.
- ② Protection of only public whistleblowers are covered under the Act - private not covered.



③ exemptions to certain disclosures under whistleblower Act

eg: affecting foreign, economic, & national security of India.

Need of a robust whistleblower protection Act

① to ensure anonymity to safeguard their life

eg: 67 RTI activists died since RTI enactment.

② private whistleblowers to be protected
- to bring out corporate misgovernance.

③ to ensure transparency and accountability in the administration.

④ exemptions to be avoided - which restricts the capability of whistleblowers to bring out huge scams.

Thus, a robust whistleblower protection Act is necessary to ensure strong working of RTI.

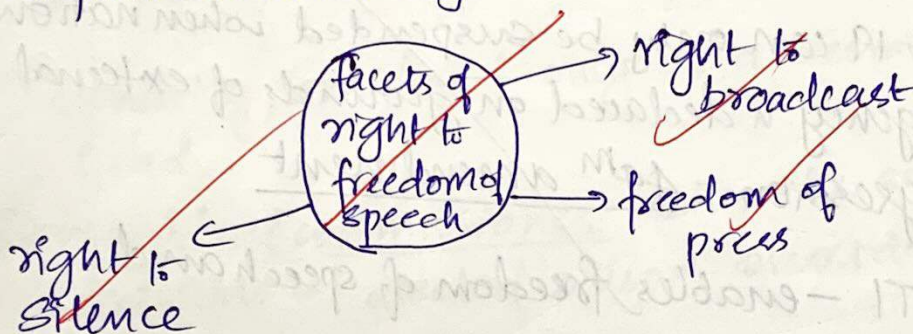
Suggestions

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4. Right to freedom of speech and expression is the hallmark of a vibrant democracy. Analyse how this right has evolved since India became a republic. Also comment on the role played by the state in making this right much wider in scope but with a pragmatic caution. (10 Marks)

Right to freedom of speech & expression
envisaged in Article 19 of the constitution, as
a fundamental right.



Evolution of right to freedom of speech and expression with caution

- ① 1st amendment - reasonable restrictions were added - public order, decency, morality, foreign relations with friendly States etc.
- ② Art 19 is automatically suspended during national emergency and automatically revived when emergency is withdrawn.
- ③ curbing of freedom of press during

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national emergency.

eg: blank editorials during emergency

④ freedom of speech and expression is a privilege in parliament and an MP or MLA cannot be sued for anything said inside Parliament.

⑤ Art 19 can only be suspended when national emergency is declared on grounds of external aggression - 44th amendment.

⑥ RTI - enables freedom of speech and expression

⑦ Steps taken by state

① Section 499 & 500 of IPC - Defamation

② inciting communal hatred or violence - electoral offence under RPA 1951.

③ recommendation of removal of section 124A in Bhacatiya Nyaya Samhita bill (BN)

④ violent overthrow of govt - now in a different section - Section 150 - which does not have vague terms like "disaffection towards govt" in BNS bill.

Thus Right to freedom of speech & expression is necessary for a vibrant democracy.



5. Directly elected mayors can bring about effective changes in India's urban governance. Critically analyse. (10 Marks)

The Mayor is the head of the municipal corporation in an urban local-self govt.

Necessity of direct election

- ① Currently, ~~considered~~ only as a ceremonial head.
- ② ~~municipal commissioner~~ makes the actual decisions - elected person overruled by a bureaucrat.
- ② Direct election can bring better delegation of functions to the mayor.
- ③ Direct election can ensure a fixed tenure which is currently missing, thus better discharge of duties.
- ④ Elected heads are more accountable to the people. thus it can ensure more transparency & accountability in Governance.

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Problems with direct election

- ① A directly elected person will be a layman having little expertise in administrative matters.
- ② Lack of clarity in 74th amendment - is an impediment to realise direct election
- ③ Delegation of fund, functions and functionaries are required for bringing effective changes - mere direct election of Mayor is not enough.
- ④ Directly elected mayor - ~~can~~ will be under-utilised if he cannot appoint a ~~can~~ cabinet of ~~its own~~ his own.

33 The 2nd ARC recommends a directly elected mayor for effective administration at the local self govt.



6. Critically examine the challenges that India faces while engaging with Central Asian countries and the initiatives taken by India to overcome these challenges.

(10 marks)

India recently conducted the India-Central Asia summit to enhance relations with these countries.

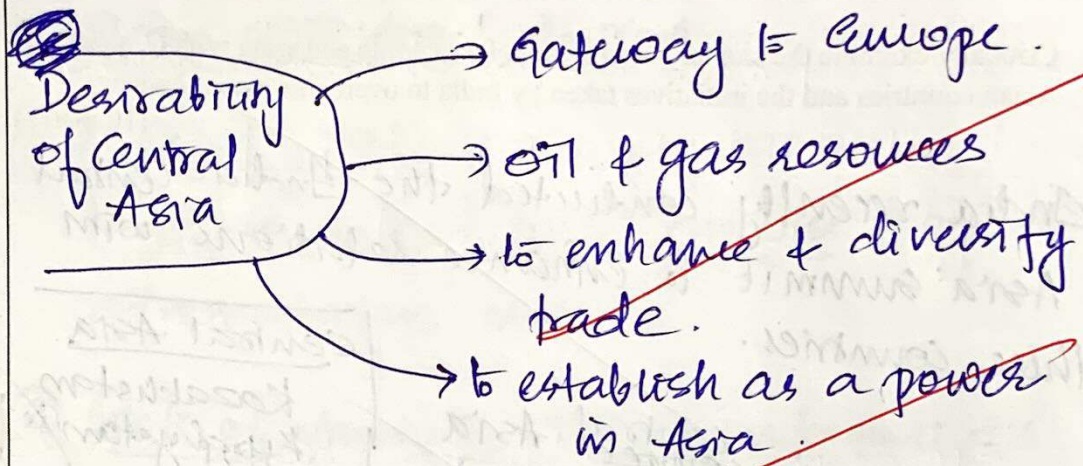
challenges in central Asia ~~countries~~ relations

Central Asia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Tajikistan
Uzbekistan
Azerbaijan
Armenia

Map

- ① connectivity :- lack of a direct access route
- ② Hegemony of China :- central Asian countries have good relations with China - part of Belt and road initiative
- ③ Tussle with China in SCO - hampering India's ability to use SCO to establish better relations
- ④ Waning Russian influence in Asia due to focus in Ukraine.
- ⑤ lack of economic might of India to complete projects and poor timely delivery

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Initiatives

- ① INSTC - International North South Transport Corridor - to enhance connectivity. development of Chabahar port
- ② Ashgabat agreement - joined by most Central Asian countries.
- ③ TAPI pipeline - Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India - gas pipeline
- ④ supplying arms to Armenia recently.
- ⑤ India-Central Asia Summit - to enhance relations.

Central Asian relations are vital for India to establish itself as an Asian superpower.

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7. "Despite irritants in India – Nepal relations, the recent initiatives have shown that a pragmatic approach and mutual sensitivity can re-energise bilateral relations". Discuss. (10 marks)

India and Nepal are historically tied by Buddhism.

Irritants in relation

- ① Kalapani – Gusta dispute – border dispute
- ② India's role in economic blockade during Maoist Andolan
- ③ Big brother attitude of India
- ④ recent map of Akhond Bhayat in new parliament – protested by Nepal
- ⑤ increasing Chinese influence – part of BRI
- ⑥ Agnipati recruitment – recruitment of Gorkhas affected

Recent initiatives

- ① policy of non-interference by India in internal affairs of Nepal
- ② Nepal President visiting India first after election – to ensure strong ties

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③ India agreed to construct hydroelectric power projects on Seti & West Seti River which was abandoned by China.

④ Aid during covid 19 - vaccinations provided.

⑤ Enhanced people-to-people and cultural ties.

⑥ Cooperation in BIMSTEC - part of BBIN - to enhance connectivity.

Thus Nepal is an important partner in South Asia.

WIT

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8. India's per capita food production has experienced a 50% increase in the last 15 years. However, the prevalence of undernutrition has remained stagnant. Analyse this contradiction between the significant growth in food availability and the slow improvement in nutrition and health indicators. (10 Marks)

India is one of the largest exporters of rice in the world and about 70% of international exports of India is agri-exports.

Yet India has the largest malnourished population in the world - 16%.

Nutrition Indicators

~~Contradiction~~

child stunting	32%
child wasting	19%
underweight	35%

NFHS-5
2021

Contradiction b/w food availability and nutrition

① Skewed diet basket - predominance of rice & wheat.

② PDS is available only for rice & wheat pulses & vegetables, fruits not included.

③ Existence of poverty - exacerbates malnutrition.

16% - multi-dimensionally poor

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Core of Qn



- ① gender discrimination in food availability
50% of women in India are anaemic.

Steps taken by govt.

- ① fortification of food - eg: rice fortified with Iron, Zinc, Vit B12 etc.
- ② promotion of millets - high nutrition, low glycaemic index - SHRI Anna initiative
- ③ Inclusion of local vegetables - and FPOS included in Poshan Abhiyaan - to ensure nutritious cooked meal.
- ④ provision of low cost vitamin supplements through Jan Oushadhi Kendras.

Thus, nutrition is required to ensure a healthy population to reap the benefits of demographic dividend of India.

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11. The landscape of the criminal justice system in India, needs a comprehensive overhaul. In this context analyse the issues persisting in the criminal justice system and recommend suggestions for its redressal. (15 Marks)

The criminal justice system in India needs an overhaul to ensure true justice delivery.

Issues persisting

- ① "Bail is the exception and Jail is the Norm in India" → bail is a right only in bailable offences.
- ② overcrowded prisons
77% inmates are undertrials
- ③ delay in justice delivery
average case takes 10-12 yrs for resolution.
- ④ colonial hangover - laws like sedition and preventive detention often misused by politicians.

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⑤ poor conditions of prisons in India

- ① vulnerable to prison violence
- ② poor living conditions.
- ③ no stress on reformatory justice.

⑥ custodial deaths and corruption in police system.

⑦ no compensation for wrongful preventive detention - as per ICCPR (International Covenant on civil & political rights).

⑧ Existence of capital punishment - more than 113 countries have abolished it.

suggestions for redressal

① Proper definition of bail in CrPC and Bail Act to be introduced
eg: Bail Act 1976 of UK.

② Provision of bail can reduce underbrials in prison.

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③ Model Prisons Act - to reform the prisons in India.

④ The draft Bharatya Nyaya Sanhita bill deletes Section 201A and adds much more well defined Section 150 - which does not have vague terms like "disaffection towards govt".

⑤ Reinstating of capital punishment - introducing humane methods of execution.

⑥ Proper training of police officers - to ensure proper procedure - avoid corruption & custodial deaths.

⑦ Promotion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms - to reduce the stress on judiciary.

These measures can ensure a speedy and true justice to all citizens.

Committee Recommendation

7/12

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12. The implementation of the Directive Principles of State Policy often faces challenges either as a trade off with fundamental rights or otherwise. Discuss. In the light of recent developments, explain how the application of harmonious construction doctrine resolves these trade-offs. (15 Marks)

The DPSP and fundamental rights are two wheels of ~~the~~ ^a chariot. ~~Both~~ Both are required in a balanced manner to ensure social, political and economic justice.

Trade off with fundamental rights

- when
- ① Article 39(b) and 39(c) comes in
Art 14 goes out.
for greater good of redistribution and
avoiding concentration of wealth -
equality as compromised.
 - ② Right to private property was abolished
as a fundamental right to ensure
effective implementation of DPSP.
 - ③ State is required to make extra interventions
to ensure welfare
eg: maternity benefit



- ① Art 14 - uniform civil code can clash
with Art 25-28 which ensure freedom
of religion to all individuals.

Doctrine of harmonious construction to help with
trade offs

- ① UCC introduced only after consultation
with all stakeholders - ensuring religious
rights are protected.

- ② State's decision to ensure EWS reservation
to bring economic justice - affects merit,
but proper & definite criteria can be
identified for EWS.

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- ③ As India is a welfare state - socio-economic
justice interventions are necessary.
eg. provision of PDS, free education

Thus, a harmonious balance is necessary to
ensure democratic spirit and also fulfill
duties of welfare state.



13. Apart from ensuring transparency and accountability, e-governance is vital for an inclusive and sustainable governance. Discuss. (15 Marks)

E-governance is essential for enhancing the effectiveness of administration. Leveraging technology and internet for administration is e-governance.

Transparency and accountability

① public disclosure
eg: Jan sachcha portal in Rajasthan.

② RTI - online filing of applications.

③ Proper record keeping - digitisation
eg: SVAMITRA - digital land records.

④ proper data collection and targeted application of schemes.

eg: DBT through JAM.

⇒ avoiding middlemen and leakage.

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Inclusive and sustainable governance

① Evidence-based decision making and policy design.

eg: through data analytics and machine learning

② Public participation enhanced.

eg: my gov portal - opinions on draft bill.

③ Reaching citizens - to enhance awareness about various govt schemes.

④ Policy feedback and evaluation - more effective through online surveys.

⑤ Policy implementation - more inclusive

eg: Rajasthan govt providing smartphones to women

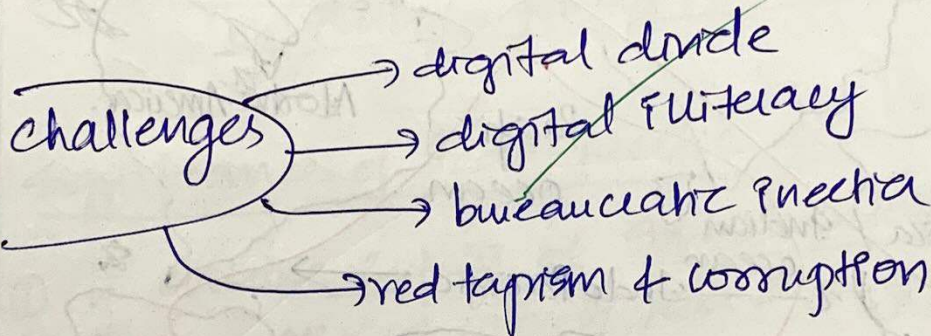
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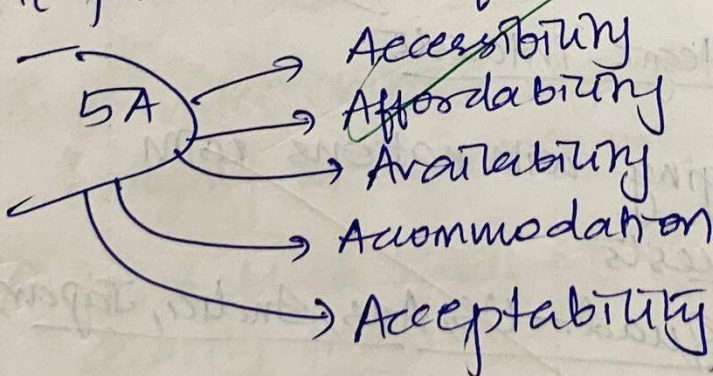
⑥ proper implementation & monitoring of schemes
eg: geotagging of MGNREGA assets for proper wage disbursement.

⑦ ~~E-governance has the 5As~~

⑧ Better service delivery
eg: COWIN portal
CMANG App.



E-governance is revolutionary because it follows 5As of service delivery.

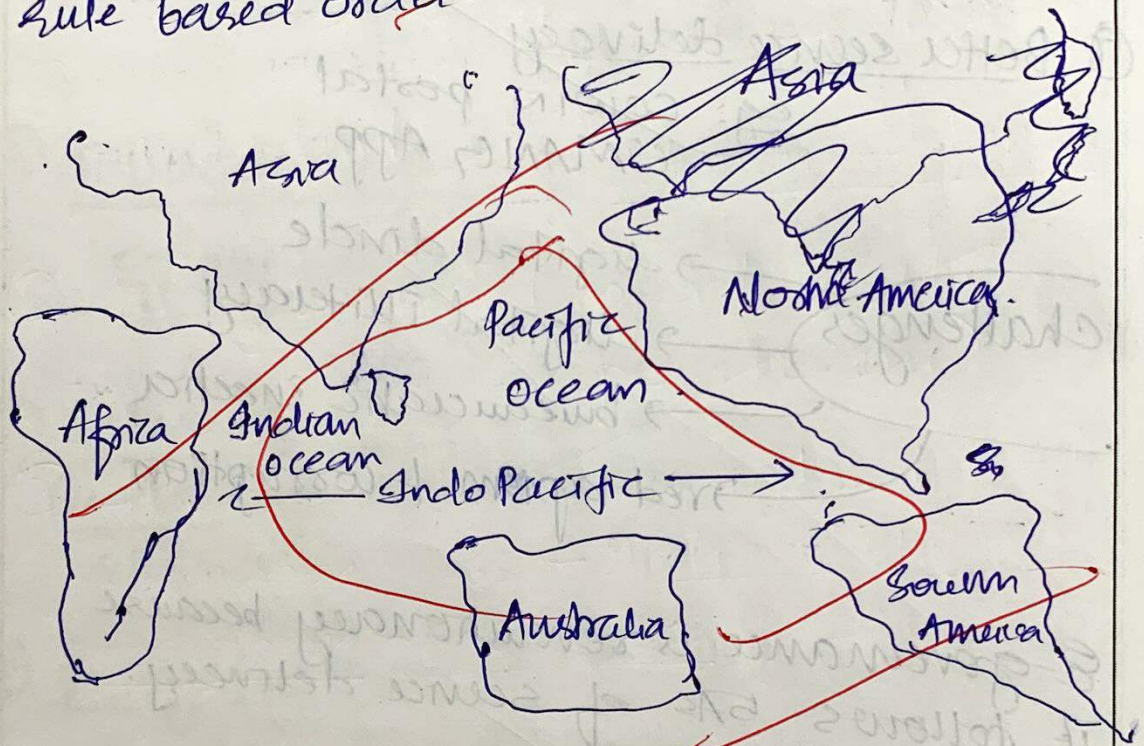


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14. "Effective coordination based on converging strategic interests and principles is the best way forward in operationalizing an Indo-Pacific partnership for India." Discuss. Also examine the significance of Indo-Pacific for India and the challenges that India faces in the region (15 marks)

India advocates for a free and open Indo-Pacific on the basis of international rule based order.



Converging strategic interests

- ① India engaging with nations with common interests

eg: Quad. - US, Aus, India, Japan

- ② Multilaterals like India-France-Australia trilateral to ensure better focus on



Indo-Pacific due to US focus on Ukraine.

② Indo-Pacific Economic framework - coordination between countries to ensure ~~free~~ fair and inclusive international trade.

④ Quad has the common goal ~~and of~~ of Indo Pacific and pursuing it through diverse mechanisms.

eg: Australia joining malabar exercises.

Significance of Indo-Pacific

① to ensure safety of India's international trade - 40% of which pass through here.

② protection of strategic chokepoints
eg: malacca strait

③ counter china's hegemony & constant bullying in South China sea.

④ to establish ~~itself~~ India as a net security provider in Indian ocean

⑤ To become a blue water navy.

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challenges in Indo-Pacific

- ① Limited Naval capabilities
- ② China countering Quad through its global security initiative.
- ③ China establishing its presence through small island nations
eg: Solomon Islands
- ④ waning US interest in Indo-Pacific
due to shift to Europe (Ukraine)
- ⑤ SPET - to further US interests and domination of US - India staying away from trade pillar of SPET.

Indo-Pacific is undergoing geopolitical turmoil & India needs to maintain its dominant role so as to not get sidelined.



15. The independence of election commission is necessary to ensure free and fair elections. Discuss the statement in the light of various criticisms faced by the commission and suggest some corrective measures. (15 Marks)

The election commission is a constitutional body established to ensure free and fair elections.

Criticisms faced by election commission

- ① Appointment :- currently by President
thus, can lead to appointment of people who favour the executive.
- ② Removal of other election commissioners
:- can be done by President at any time. Not provided security like chief election commissioner.
- ③ Post retirement employment and reappointment is not barred by constitution.
- ④ Appointment of bureaucrats and ~~extension of their tenure~~ appointed such that they do not complete the tenure of 6 yrs.

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corrective measures

- ① Supreme Court mandated a committee formed by Prime Minister, ~~one Union~~ Minister leader of opposition and a Supreme Court judge to select EC officials.
- ② Ban post-retirement employment and reappointment to ensure Independence.
- ③ Salary of CEC and all ECs should be charged on consolidated fund of India.
- ④ Appointment of EC such that they can complete full 6 years tenure - to bring long term policies.
- ⑤ Legal backing for model code of conduct - to ensure free & fair elections.



⑥ Power to de-register political parties to be given to election commission.

⑦ Power to ensure inner party democracy in political parties for ~~free and~~ ensuring true democratic spirit in India.

Thus ~~election commission~~ has to evolve to ~~an~~ truly independent body to ensure free & fair elections.

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16. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of adopting a 'One Health' approach. What do you understand by 'One Health' approach and analyse its significance. Also discuss the national and international efforts in this regard. (15 Marks)

One Health approach - to ensure health of humans, animals and environment - through holistic methods.

Significance

- ① Increase in zoonotic diseases.
- ② Deteriorating environment aggravating diseases.
eg: pollution - asthma, wheezing.
- ③ Anti-microbial resistance. Increasing (AMR)
- ④ encroachment by humans into animal habitat - causing mutations in virus strains - thus jumping species.
eg: Nipah virus.
- ⑤ To avoid widespread pandemics of global concern
eg: Monkeypox



National and International International efforts

- ① WHO - early identification and co-ordinating systems.
- ② Awareness about AMR
- ③ development & research into new spectrum of anti-biotics.
- ④ promotion of vaccination - for early intervention.

National efforts

- ① Promotion of traditional medicine as preventive & promotive care to reduce AMR.
eg: traditional medicine centre established by WHO in Jamnagar.
- ② Setting up microbiology institutes and diagnostic centres - for identification of outbreaks.

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Add specific efforts.



- ③ Deploying Innovative strategies like wastewater analysis - to identify new strains and the intensity of spread.
- ④ vaccination of cattle, poultry etc
eg. Anthrax, brucellosis.
- ⑤ Abatement of pollution of environment
eg. cleaning of Ganga.
- ⑥ Ensuring clean drinking water and sanitation.
eg. Swachh Bharat
Zal Jeevan mission

Thus "One-Health" approach is essential for ensuring a healthy future



17. "India – EU relations have transformed completely from a mere partnership to a critical partnership, that can shape the growth of 21st century." Discuss the significance of this relationship and the challenges that India face in its economic cooperation with EU. (15 marks)

Indian Prime Minister recently visited the European nations to assure India's relations with these European nations in the face of Russia-Ukraine war.

transformation

significance of the relationship

① EU - huge market - India has good trade relations with EU.

② Similar values - democracy, equality, liberty etc

③ diaspora - Indian citizens and Indian origin people living in EU.

④ Technology sharing and collaboration

~~cooperation~~

⑤ fight against climate change

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⑥ EU pushing against Chinese hegemony.

eg: G7's build back better world to counter BRI

challenges of EU relationship

① Connectivity :- currently only through Suez canal.

Development of INSTC is required.

② High quality standards and requirements acting as non-tariff barriers to Indian trade.

③ Divergence in key issues like Russia-Ukraine war.

④ India refused to join Economic Sanctions brought by US & EU.

⑤ EU planning to introduce CBAM - Carbon



Border Adjustment mechanism - CBAM -
carbon tax - which will affect Indian
exports adversely.

- ⑥ Absence of free-trade agreement restricting
diversification of trade with EU.
- ⑦ India's exports to EU are low value products
and imports are high value products.

~~Thus, India~~

Steps to
be taken

→ Negotiating free trade
agreement

→ ensuring quality stds
of exports

→ diversification of trade

→ opposing unfair policies like
CBAM at the international level.

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18. Citizen centric governance has been a focus of successive governments for a long time, but it still has not become a reality. Critically analyse the statement and provide reasons for the same. (15 Marks)

Citizen-centric governance to ensure governance that benefits the citizen the most and considering citizen as the most important stakeholder.

Initiatives for citizen centric governance

① Citizen charter - for effective service delivery.

② RTI - informed citizens
- accountability
- transparency.

public disclosure

eg: Jan Soochana portal
- RTI

③ 130d & 74th amendment - enhance participation of citizens in governance.



- ④ my gov portal - opinion of citizens on draft bill.
- ⑤ citizen feedback systems to enhance governance
eg: IRCTC ticketing system
- ⑥ eliminating middlemen and targeted approach
eg: DBT through IAM
- ⑦ whistleblower protection Act - to ensure protection to RTI Activists & whistleblowers.

failure of initiatives

- ① lack of political will - poor delegation of functions to local self govt institutions
- ② no legal backing for citizen charter.
- ③ exemptions under RTI Act

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- ④ Red tapism & corruption.
- ⑤ Hierarchical bureaucracy - rule based and not role based.
- ⑥ Digital divide and illiteracy proving as hindrances.

✓ Citizen Centre Governance is essential for efficient and effective administration.



19. Wealth inequality is inherently intertwined with the caste hierarchy. Analyse this relationship. Do you believe that addressing wealth inequality alone can eradicate the issue of caste discrimination?

(15 Marks)

Wealth inequality due to caste hierarchy

caste
→ Capitalism

① Traditional zamindars - upper caste

② Educational disparity - upper caste

highly more educated -

better jobs - hence

economically better placed

③ Social capital in upper caste families.

④ Lower castes - mostly tenants & labourers

dalits - manual scavenging

poor social mobility.

Addressing wealth inequality

① providing scholarships for better education

eg: SHRESHTA scheme

wealth inequality

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Ekalavya model residential schools.

- ② second generation bond reforms - for better socio-economic justice.
- ③ Proportional taxation regime & more emphasis on progressive taxation.
- ④ alternate livelihood assurance for people like manual scavengers

Other issues also to be addressed

- ① social mindset change.
eg: caste atrocities still rampant
a man in ~~Maharashtra~~ MP winning on dalit person.
- ② political representation to be more meaningful rather than symbolic
eg: reservation in LGs to be enforced.



④ Addressing issues like khap panchayats to eradicate caste from society.

~~④ Identifying~~

④ Promotion of equality of opportunity in jobs. ^{Part}
eg: priests

④ As Ambedkar said an "annihilation of caste" is required* to ensure truly equal society in India.

Tell why it can't
be eradicated

que eg

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