



ENLITE IAS

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MAINS TEST SERIES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & GOVERNANCE

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	Qn No.	
1	✓	8	5	15	8
2	4½	9	5½	16	7½
3	5½	10	5½	17	8
4	5	11	7½	18	7½
5	5	12	7	19	8½
6	4	13	7½	20	7½
7	4½	14	6		
TOTAL					

ET: extra time : 30 min

Name

LAKSHMIPRIYA - P

Subject

IR & Governance .

Questions Attempted

19 .

Roll no

Date

EXAMINER REMARKS

GRADE PARAMETERS	BELOW AVERAGE	AVERAGE	GOOD	BETTER	OUTSTANDING
Understanding of question					
Conceptual clarity					
Structure					
Content					
Presentation & legibility					

Any other remarks:



1. "India grows at night while the government sleeps." Critically analyse the contemporary relevance of this perspective considering India's trajectory of economic development. (10 marks)

Many important governance measures are a result of movements that arose in the absence of adequate governmental measures. ~~This~~

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Contemporary relevance in the trajectory of economic development



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

ENLITE IAS 2024 — INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Q. "The power to shift the balance of power" (Crick) is a key to understanding the international system. Discuss the role of the United Nations in maintaining the balance of power.

Many important governance measures

are a result of movements that arose in the
absence of adequate governmental measures. This

Contemporary relevance in the trajectory of economic
development

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2. The defects of minilateralism pale in comparison with the stalemate that characterizes 21st-century multilateralism. Enumerate the factors that have led to the growth of minilateralism. Also, elaborate India's engagements with these minilaterals.

(10 marks)

The ~~growing~~ Multilateral organizations once hailed as the key to international diplomacy is facing issues and this has led to use of minilateralism: involving smaller, yet closer units of association.

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Factors that led to the growth of minilateralism:

① Defe stalemate of multilateral organizations

② SAARC - due to continuous disruption from Pakistan

③ Regional groupings which hampers a larger organization

④ ineffectiveness of so.

it's a minilateral

⑤ Unique trade benefits of exit from multilateral

⑥ Brexit deal of UK



4) Defects of multilateralism

smaller size

lesser impact

regionalistic rather than global

become relatively irrelevant

amidst ~~g~~ changing world order.

India's engagements with multilateralism

- ① Armenia-Iran-India: to boost connectivity in central Asia and counter the Pak-Azerbaijan-Turkey axis
- ② India-Australia-France dialogue channels
- ③ India-Thailand-Myanmar trilateral highway project

Such multilateralism helps in:

establishment of strategic autonomy

easier negotiations for deals

foster dispute resolutions

solidification of commitments

And hence favoured.

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3. The Indian bureaucracy is frequently criticized for indecision and risk aversion. What could be the potential reasons for this, and what corrective actions could be suggested? (10 marks)

The Indian bureaucracy with its colonial legacy of ruling bureaucracy are criticized for indecision (eg: delays in project delivery, red-tapism) and risk aversion (eg: Non change agents, poor adaptation of technology etc).

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Potential reasons :-

- ① ~~Colonial legacy~~ historical reasons - of high 'discretionary power' (ruling bureaucracy) with limited checks on ~~the~~ omission of duty.
- ② Fear of 3Cs - CBI, CVC and courts - with potential to harass the bureaucrats.
- ③ Huge political overlordship : restricting the bureaucracy's ~~the~~ abilities for quick response



- ④ Corruption and Neta-Babu-Lalla criminals nexus in bureaucracy (identified by Vohra Committee)
- ⑤ Permanent nature of job - which doesn't necessitate regular updation.

Corrective actions :-

- ① Keeping Accountability checks for mistakes of omission and commission (eg RTI, Social audits etc)
 - ② Protection to honest bureaucrats from political harassment
 - ③ Capacity building for RULE BASED rather than RULE BASED - Mission Karmayogi
 - ④ Training and equipment to deal with political pressure
 - ⑤ Regular 360° assessment and project appraisal
 - ⑥ Weeding out corrupt officials to create deterrence (eg VDS scheme)
- Such will ensure the growth of 'out of box thinking' needed in bureaucrats of 21st century.

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4. What do you mean by "Strategic Autonomy"? Elaborate the reasons for adoption of such a stance in Indian foreign policy and the challenges that India faces in its execution. (10 marks)

Strategic autonomy in international relations refers to the maintenance of pragmatic approach ~~being~~ balancing the national interests and potential to deal with issues independently without external influence.

India has taken such a stance. Reasons :-

① growing polarity of the world - a need arises to secure sovereign interests without being pulled into bloc politics

② India abstaining to vote against Russia despite US pressure

③ Need to counterbalance the developmental ties with principles

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eg Strategic autonomy in dehyphenation of issues with Israel despite human rights allegations

③ ~~from~~ Centering the power politics in the neighbourhood by China.

eg Indian response to Myanmar junta coup is ~~not~~ of cooperation to minimize the internal security threats in North East.

Challenges India faces :-

① Criticized for not taking humanitarian stand

eg Ukraine war context -

② Loss of historical ties

eg Establishment of ties with Taliban - means losing relations to Afghan led, Afghan government

③ Difficulty to maintain neutrality amidst interconnected global order

However ~~strategic~~ ~~interests~~ foreign policy should be guided by 'national interest'

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5. "Block-based development has been India's historical priority and remains relevant today." Discuss the significance of choosing blocks as development units considering the recently launched "Aspirational Blocks Programme." (10 marks)

The transition of focus from district to block level in Aspirational Blocks Programme of NITI Aayog highlight India's priority for maximum decentralization.

Block based development

Significance -

① Been a historical priority In Gram Panchayat mode, the intermediate levels are significant
Extension programmes of Indira Gandhi era.

② Adopts Principle of Subsidiarity: ~~to~~ finishing developmental goals at the most decentralized level possible

③ In line with Gandhian vision of grass root governance

④ Enables the programme ~~to~~ be adapted to local needs at more minute level

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⑤ The involvement of local in administration improves → participative governance

⑥ Bottom-up planning : rather than a one size fits all approach.

⑦ Allows for competitive spirit thereby realizing the goals better.

However issues at this level may be:

1. Lesser competence of officials due to poor capacity building of blocks

2. Reliance on higher levels will continue for funds, functions and functionaries.

3. ~~Poor~~ Coordination Potential for unequal target focusing

The shift is appreciable and will enable achievement of good governance goals of welfare State

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ADP Success



6. The Ukraine war has brought in a unique geo-political challenge that India has to meet. Examine these challenges and what measures have been adopted by India to counter these challenges? (10 marks)

The Ukraine war and ~~major war~~ ^{its fallouts including} ~~major war~~ ^{Human Rights} witnessed in the 21st century has made ~~the~~ India realize that 'This is not the era of war' (PM's Statement).

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It presents a unique geo-political challenge :-

- ① Historical friendship with Russia - as strategic friend and defense partner - forcing India to not take an anti-Russia stance

(eg) abstaining to vote at UNSC resolution

- ② Global pressures to take anti Russia stand

(eg) US and West (UK etc) - formation of newer alliances like AUKUS

- ③ Growing defense tie between Russia and China: amidst ~~difficulties~~ ^{for India} - China ~~rising~~ ^{rising} suspicions.



④ Disruption of global supply chains eg wheat exports from Ukraine

⑤

However the Indian measures highlight strategic autonomy of India in dealing with the issue.

① Pragmatic approach : during the UNSC stint India took steps addressing humanitarian crisis in the region

② Establish Route of dialogue and diplomacy

eg Black Sea grain initiative

③ Keeping relationships open to both the poles — exerting India's resolve to non-alignment

④

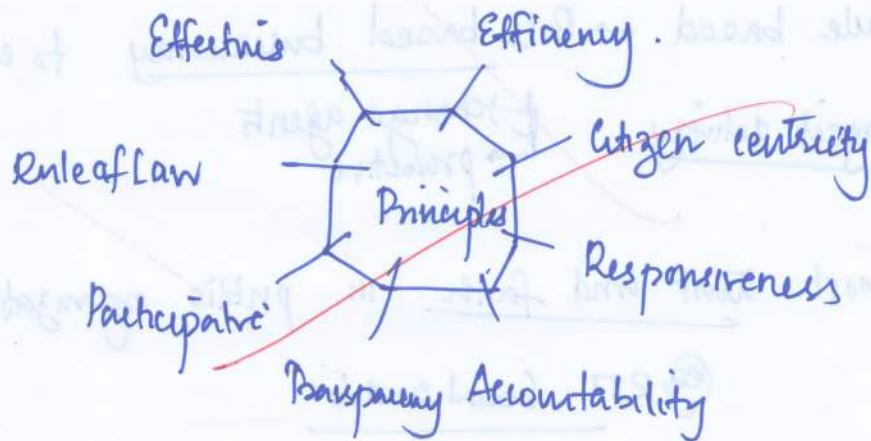
However the situation presents additional opportunity for strengthening India's soft power — by acting as a partner trusted by both Russia and Ukraine to bring resolution to the conflict.

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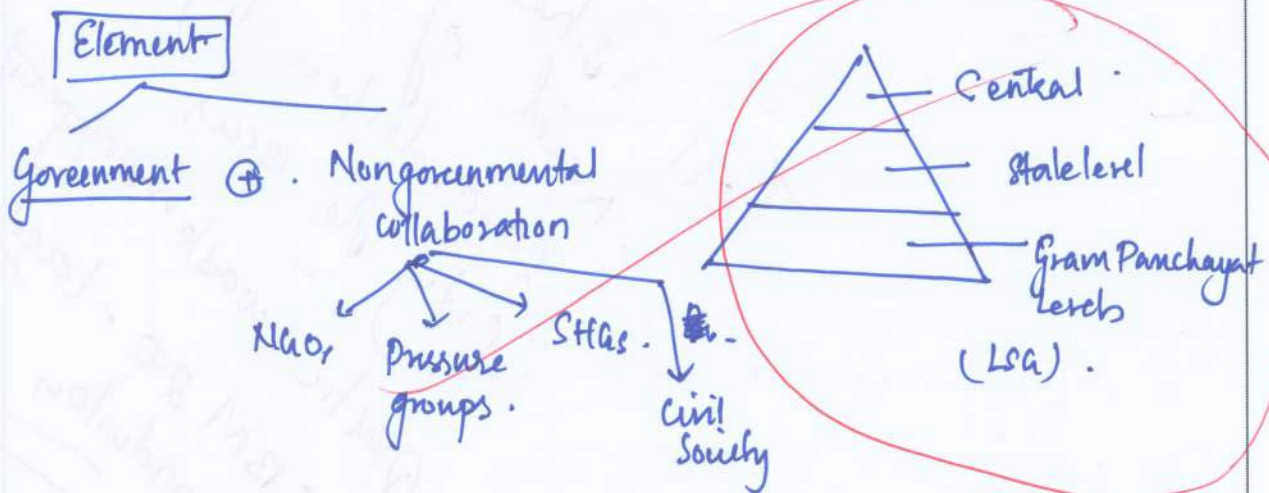
7. What is meant by a "whole of government" approach? Discuss the rationale behind its incorporation in the Indian governance system. (10 marks)

The whole of government approach ~~is~~ identifies the with the government's resolve to ensure good governance indicators in its entirety.



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It also includes involving governance at all levels.





Rationale

- ① ~~grass~~ Representative → participative governance
- ② Principle of subsidiarity for maximum effectiveness and efficiency in administration
- ③ Rule based → Role based bureaucracy to enhance project delivery
↳ change agents
↳ proactive
- ④ Boost trust and faith in public organization
(eg) RTI, Social audits
- ⑤ Ensuring transparency and accountability in welfare state

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Tell the need of co-ordination by city de issues
eg: Plastic waste management in SBM 2.0 - laeg
co-ordination



8. For India to be heard as the voice of the Global South, it must reflect on the aspirations of the other nations and amplify them, as a true leader of the developing world in global politics. What is the significance of Global South and examine the challenges that India faces in pursuing this leadership? (10 marks)

Global South refers to the ~~at~~ nations (typically the 3rd world nations) who face similar socio-economic-political conditions. ~~the~~ Their Significance

- ① developing economy-power of future
eg India, Vietnam
- ② Common & Challenges but differentiated responsibility
eg In climate negotiations
- ③ Need to focus on individual strengths & development

~~Significance of Global~~

- ④ Represents large share of world population
- ⑤ Need a collective voice for representation

India as a leader of global South has voiced the aspiration of these countries :-

- ① Non Alignment movement : need to take a pragmatic approach to development rather than pulled into power politics

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- ② - Stressing on common but differentiated responsibility at climate negotiations eg Paris deal
- ③ Attempts of decolonization in 1980s.
- ④ Voicing out US violations in Vietnam
- ⑤ Presently India leads forums like South-South Cooperation, key member of BRICS, SAARC etc.

But challenges :-

- ① - Aspirations of economy post 1991 LPG reforms to open markets
- ② Involvement of overpowering multilateral organization - IMF, WB etc.
- ③ - Continued neo-imperialistic tactics
eg debt trap diplomacy of China which affected Sri Lanka.

However like the efforts done as 'guarantor' to Sri Lanka assistance from IMF, India can use its strength to further leadership roles.

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9. The role of ICT lies not only in effective policy design but also in removing bottlenecks during project implementation. Analyse. (10 marks)

Internet and Communication Technologies

have the potential to revolutionalize governance.

Effective policy design

- ① Data based decision making: powered by AI tools
- ② Collation of public opinion
eg opportunity for online discussions, evaluation etc.

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Removing Bottlenecks during Project Implementation

- ① Prediction of bottlenecks - through data forecasting
tools of Machine Learning
- ② Upfront identification of issues in implementation
eg fake beneficiaries, repeated ~~names~~ names
- ③ Direct benefit transfer eg JAM Trinity
- ④ Minimizing the no of levels ~~reduces~~ of human
interaction - reduces corruption



⑤ Optimization of logistics

eg FCI stockhouses etc

Flowchart issues :-

① Data breach potential and exploitation by anti-state elements
eg bank information

Breach of AIIMS database

② Loss of privacy of citizens - fundamental right under Article 21 (Puttaswamy judgement)

③ Deep fakes interfering with implementation

eg facial recognition ~~is~~ of rapist victims

④ Financial targeting Digital illiteracy (only ~17% are literate)

⑤ Rural-urban divide, gender divide in access to

ICT

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10. Over decades, the UN has turned into a pliable tool in the hands of a few powerful nations rather than an institution to resolve global conflicts and hence is fast losing its relevance. Critically examine the need for UNSC reforms and why India is rightfully entitled for a permanent membership in the council? (10 marks)

UN - formed post the World War 2 with the objective to prevent another global war is currently not able to adhere to its charter principles @ Ukraine war

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It is fast losing relevance and hence Need for UNSC reforms. -

1. Inability to stop global wars if any UNSC powers are involved - due to Veto power
2. Inability to ensure humanitarian stance against own superpowers
@ US - in Vietnam, Afghanistan etc.
3. Biased tool - amidst the global power politics.
@ pro-Israeli stance v/s anti-Palestine due to US influence.
4. Lack of adequate representation of nations in UNSC - inadequate Africa, Asia compared to size and no of nations
5. Increasing trends of unilateral withdrawals from UN



bodies @ us from UNESCO

In this context India is uniquely placed for a permanent membership:

- ① As the leader of the global South : forums like South-South Cooperation, BRICS etc → backed by these countries (as)
- ② India's stint of 2 years in 2021-22 created unique resolutions identifying Indian leadership
@ Resolution on terrorism, Taliban etc.
- ③ Historical stance taken against terrorism and humanitarian crisis
- ④ Contribution to UN peacekeeping forces.
@ Recent UNITE-AWARE programme to reduce the violence against blue helmets
- ⑤ Indian adherence to principles — democracy, non violence etc — key to peace and prosperity in this era

Thus India deserves a permanent seat at the horse-shoe table to uniquely guide the world order in a free, open and inclusive path.

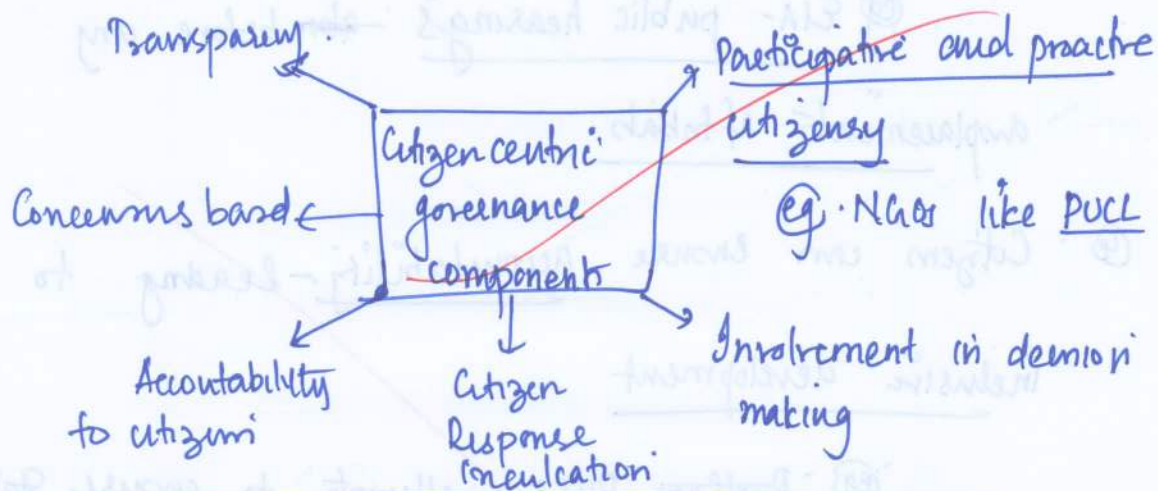
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11. What is meant by citizen-centric governance? Discuss its relevance in achieving sustainable and inclusive governance and explain how it can be realized. (15 marks)

Citizen centric governance refers to the form of decision making in which citizens are the central elements — as participants, stakeholders, decision makers, accountability checks etc.

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Relevance in achieving sustainable and inclusive governance

① Participation of all stakeholders will enable the policy formulation to include diverse perspectives.

eg. grass root level — Gram Sabha involvement in identifying beneficiaries of PM-JAY.



② Involvement in decision making - will help reduce further conflict at implementation stage

eg Disruptive Silver line green rail protests in Kerala

③ Responding to the citizens grievances : will ensure pro-people, pro-environment development

eg EIA- public hearings ~~also~~ before any displacements of tribals.

④ Citizens can ensure accountability - leading to inclusive development

eg ~~Pratham~~ PUCCL's attempts to ensure state's responsibility for Right to food

⑤ Consensus orientation helps in minimization of conflict

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⑥ Transparency ensures the commitment of a social contract theory state towards financial responsibility, accountability etc

eg: Justice Clocks of Gujarat HC - informing the ~~citizens~~ citizens of its attempt to reducing pendency.

Thus it can be achieved by

1. Responsible governance.
2. Principle of subsidiarity - at the most basic level
3. Devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to grass root levels.
4. Empowering civil society organizations.
- 5.

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12. Bolstered by historical ties, and buffeted by present-day geopolitical turmoil, it is clear that India and Egypt are now essaying a closer relationship. With reference to the recent developments, discuss the significance of Egypt for India and challenges faced in pursuing the relation. (15 marks)

The recent visit by Egyptian President to Delhi highlight the growing significance of Indo-Egypt ties. Sharing bonds as historical as ~~the~~ Harappan-Egyptian civilizational ties, the 2 nations are bolstered by present geopolitical turmoil.

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Significance of Egypt for India

- ① Historical partnerships for mutual benefit
eg Nehru-Nasser during Non Alignment movement
- ② Members of Global South both aspiring to be global power.
eg Egypt part of Next 11 and India - part of BRICS the 2 groupings identified for economic power
- ③ Egypt is the key to India's relations linking West Asia - Look East policy.



④ Egyptian relations will help India to go beyond the present form of multilateral grouping association in Africa to individual ties.

⑤ Viewed as a mild ~~and~~ Muslim power, it will solidify Indian association with the ~~Arab~~ Arab world eg OIC relations.

⑥ ~~Due to its~~ Economic interests due to the geostrategic Suez Canal and location at Red Sea - securing Sea Lines of Communication in Indian Ocean Region.

⑦ However challenges faced include:—

① Growing Chinese associations in Egypt and nearby regions → Chinese dwarfism

② Economic turmoil faced by the nation - inflationary pressures, debt issues etc.

③ Political challenges amidst regime change



- ④ Impact of Israel - Palestine conflict and Indian dehyphenation policy amidst Abraham accord.

Way forward :

- ① Solidification of relationships: from episodic ties to regular high level interactions necessary
- ② Economic ties ~~that~~ aimed at establishing free/partial trade agreements: as entry to African markets etc.
- ③ Developmental assistance - especially in hydroelectric power projects etc.
- ④ Collaborations on science and technology field.
- ⑤ Strengthening people to people ties.

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13. Sport governance in India is facing severe criticism due to various recent issues. Discuss the challenges affecting our sports organizations and the significance of an effective governance mechanism. (15 marks)

The sexual violence allegation against the head of Boxing federation by the athletes shook the nation recently.

Challenges affecting sports organizations :-

①. Non transparent working style :

eg BCCI closed door meetings

② Lack of accountability

eg Non appointment of PosH committee in several sports organizations

③. Authoritarian attitude : towards sports persons.

eg as displayed in movies like Chakde India,

④ Disproportionate facilities for female sports persons

v/s male eg Female cricket team

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⑤ Lack of adequate fund allocation — has resulted in reduced support for International sport meets etc

⑥ Overfocus of certain sports at the cost of others.

⑦ Cricket v/s volleyball in India -

⑧ Non inclusive: ~~at~~ key national sports institutes have an urban bias.

However if there is an effective governance system, it will ensure:-

① Increase participation ~~and~~ ^{will} identification of true talent from every social backgrounds.

② Consensus based working rather than authoritative: to bring a sustainable action plan with all stakeholders in perspective.

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③ Accountability checks : (eg opening to purview of RTI)

will ensure social audits of Institutional efficiency.

④ Transparency initiatives eg: Sports council charter

can be displayed for sportspersons to feel empowered for grievance redressal

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⑤ Incubation of change : through ICT technology will aid talent hunt, training etc to do better at international sports meets

⑥ Indian sports organizations must uphold the fundamental duty of abjuring practices offensive to the dignity of women by constituting Internal Complaints Committee (POSH Act)

These steps will ensure true development of Indian sports potential - at Olympics, Asian games etc



14. India evidently does not yet benefit as much from investments in cultural diplomacy as many other countries. Do you agree? Also elaborate the challenges that country faces in its successful implementation (15 marks)

Cultural diplomacy refers to the utilization of the nation's cultural elements to boost diplomatic relations with nations. ~~It is~~

- For us — It might be influence of Hollywood or McDonalds or 'Friends' sitcom.
- For South Korea — the popularity of 'Kpop' and BTS.
- Comparatively, Indian popularity may be less.

However, investments in cultural diplomacy has evidently benefitted India:

① Creation of huge good will — especially among global South.

PM's statement: "India has given the world Buddha and not Yuddha"

② Establishment of tourism circuits based on the cultural diplomacy.

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(eg) Ayodhya - Tanakpura (Nepal) part of India's Ramayan heritage.

③ Recognition for Indian cultural elements even from nations hitherto unexpected -

(eg) Celebration of Yoga day by Saudi Arabia.

④ Establishment of people-to-people ties in transcending continents

(eg) Border Gavaskar trophy cricket championship with Australia.

⑤ Identification with Indian cuisine, bubble tea etc.

⑥ Success party of RRR and elephant whispers at Oscars

~~However, China too is~~

However several issues can be found

① ~~Utilization~~ China's aggression in seizing cultural symbols:

(eg) attempts to instate the next Dalai Lama in Buddhism reducing Indian influence

② Organizations of Buddhist conferences more aggressively

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- in South East Asia questioning Indian authority
- ③ growing 'hindutrophobia' in ~~the~~ ^{the world} as seen in the bill for preventing it in US
- ④ Global perception of assertive Indian diaspora
⑤ comments against Rishi Sunak
- ⑤ ~~Reduced~~ ~~stance~~ ~~Counterbalance~~ Aggressive counter rhetorics.

New Delhi's ~~government~~ ^{flowered} stance is
very clear: a revival of cultural ties based on cultural ties. The ~~Mamala~~ definitions like Mamallapuram spirit, Vaananasi declared as cultural capital of tourism in Sco and Rudrakesha centre by Japan etc are indicators highlighting a growing Indian spirit in diplomacy.

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15. The choice of informal pressure groups is often seen as a way for citizens to voice their concerns in government. Explain this statement with appropriate examples and explore possible reasons for such choices. (15 marks)

Pressure groups refers to associations that work to influence policy making and pressurize decision making in their favour using tools like lobbying, propaganda etc. They can be both formal and informal.

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Informal pressure groups voice the concerns effectively by:-

① Voluntary associations to spread awareness among the members of society @ # MeToo united victims of sexual abuse.

② Bring the attention of the social issue to the Government - acting as bridge between civil society and Government.

③ Attempts to be 'voice for the voiceless' to further policy development

@ Nirbhaya movement → Nirbhaya Act, SHE cells etc.



④ 'Helps the formation of formal associations if there is a larger question at hand

eg Women in Cinema Collective (Kerala) - post protest against sexual harassments in the industry

⑤ Helps to unite common grievances

Black lives matter campaign

LGBTQ Marches etc.

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Why the choice of informal pressure groups?

1. Can be formed without time delays/registration formally.

2. It gives anonymous face - which emboldens people to voice concern freely

3. It can be formed out of a sudden sentiment and can exist as long as it stays relevant

eg # MeToo movement.

4. Enables the crowd to protest against powerful



authorities which may be suppressed if done by formal groups.

eg Arab Springs movements in West Asia against monarchy.

↳ Quick resolution of issue

eg Pressure exerted by Disha movement, # Black Lives Matter movements.

However issues are:-

① Sometimes forces government to take unethical stance.

eg Encounter killing post Disha movement

② May be majoritarian minority interests over majority

~~eg Trade Unions, Students etc~~

③ Occasionally violent.

④ Informal associations end sooner than formal.

~~Des~~

Thus informal pressure groups have their own advantages - Yet formalized groups are found to stay longer, persist the protest till completion etc.

eg Trade Unions, Student groups etc.

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16. A growing aggressive Chinese policy towards India's growth have made several policymakers to think about establishing formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan. Evaluate the significance as well as the benefits of this partnership. Critically analyse the risk that India may face, while engaging so. (15 marks)

Aggressive Chinese policies

New Land Border Law
Naming 15 places in
Arunachal Pradesh
(Zangnan - South Tibet)

Violent clashes @ 20 deaths at
Dhoklam valley 2021

have made Indian policymakers evaluate a return
strategy based on aggression — by establish countering
'One China' and establishing Taiwan relations.

Significance of Taiwan relations and Benefits

1. Economic significance as the major hub for
semiconductor chips.

Benefits

↳ Will enable the Indian dream of being a semiconductor
manufacturing hub

↳ Ease the tie ups with Ata Foxconn - Vedantu
to establish chip assembling centre in Gujarat

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2. ~~In line~~ Countering Chinese stance — 'Salami Slicing' and aggression in Arunachal Pradesh — violating India's strategic autonomy.

3. In line with US policies eg Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

Benefit:-

This has potential for establishing stronger anti China rhetoric with Washington

4. Access to the Taiwan market : for India's high valued ~~however India has never~~ export items

6. Strategic significance in East and South China Sea — key to Indian vision of free, open and inclusive Indo Pacific

However, India has hence officially taken stance ~~violating~~ One China policy. This is due to Risks involved:

① Clear Chinese instructions : Anyone violating One China policy will have to face a hostile China — a risk

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that can't be taken with the neighbouring power

② The diplomatic ties with China are more important than that with Taiwan' - \$135 bn bilateral trade

③ ~~Defended~~ China-Pak nexus in the neighbourhood necessitates cautious positioning of economic ties w/ US which is in a different continent.

④ Taiwan itself has not requested any individual relationship bypassing China.

↳ fearful of the need for 'porcupine strategy' of ~~self~~ war in case.

Thus India's ~~relations~~ ^{obsession} with ~~any nation~~ China should not come in the way of securing national interests. Hence it is better to maintain status quo. However with China the strategy of strategic autonomy with 'firm ground positioning' at border should continue.

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17. Critically analyse the various steps taken by state and non-state actors to ensure transparency and accountability in the Indian governance framework. (15 Marks)

Transparency and Accountability are 2 key pillars of good governance as identified by World Bank in its report on Subsaharan African governance. (1991).

Steps taken by different State and nonstate Acts include:

State → ~~Executive~~ Legislature @ RTI Act
→ Executive @ Social audit of MUNREHA works.
→ Judiciary @ Justice Clocks, live streaming of cases.

Non State → Movements to enhance transparency
@ 'Jan Sunwayi' by MSS.
→ For accountability
@ .

Analysis of these steps :-

Advantages :-

1) Helps in ensuring the goals of a welfare state according to Social Contract theory

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eg. grievance redressal ensured under citizen charters

2) Enables the citizens' access to quality service delivery and realization of value for money

eg. Citizen's Charter at Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

3) ~~But~~ unearths financial misappropriations of State

eg. Fake muster rolls identified in Kerala Social audit of MANREGA

4) Brings in popular movement to curb corruption thereby increasing transparency

eg. India against corruption movement (Anna Hazare)

However several issues persist :-

① Citizen charters : ~~don't~~ often contains jargons (technical words) which are difficult for common man to understand

② Non availability of key documents due to official secrecy

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~~How~~ Act etc hamper implementation of Right to Information.

- ③ Exemption given under Section 8 of RTI as well as non disclosure of voluntary information in Section 4 highlight lack of political will in RTI
- ④ Politicization of social audit agencies minimize their utility in checking transparency and accountability
- ⑤ Occasionally violent nature of non-state actors/movements

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Way Forward :-

1. Simplification of citizens charter and awards for best by DARPH
2. Stringent punishments for corruption. (Increasing conviction rates)
3. Apolitical social audit groups (eg: SSAAT in AP)

'Transparency is the norm. Secrecy is the exception' - this shall be vision for Indian governance system



18. While West Asia is critical for Indian geopolitics, the tremendously rising Chinese influence in the area, is a grave concern. Discuss. Also throw light on the challenges faced by India in engaging with West Asian partners (15 marks)

West Asia is crucial element of India's 'Look West' policy.

Significance :-

- ① ~~Data~~ Energy security : ~52% reliance on ~~energy~~ fossil fuels from West Asian regions
- ② Presence of major choke points : key to geopolitical interests in Indian Ocean region
eg Bab-el-Mandeb, Strait of Hormuz
- ③ Significant diaspora in the West Asia - especially Arabian peninsula
- ④ Significant to Indian vision of being Net Security Provider in Indian Ocean and
eg Gwadar Port in Pakistan
- ⑤ Ties with individual partners. — Iran, Saudi Arabia etc.
- ⑥ Securing sealanes of communication

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Chinese interference is visible

1. Belt and Road extension to many key partners in the region

2. Success of Chinese diplomacy : in establishing Saudi-Iran ties recently.

3. Chinese Disaffection : felt by India amidst the developmental assistance given v/s incomplete projects of India.

@ Chabahar port

to

Challenges faced by India in engagement :-

①. geo-political rivalries : in ~~being~~ establishing ties

@ Sunni-Shia rivalries

②. Iran and Israel : as constant bones of contentions.
in relation

③. The influence of US v/s ~~the~~ growing influence of China : keeping alliances divided.

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④ Allegations of humanitarian violation against muslims by Indian State - isolating India from Gulf Cooperation Council.

⑤ System Exploitative systems like KAFALA affecting Indiani diaspora.

However some successes seen recently include: -

① West Asian QUAD - India Iran US and UAE (2022)

② 2nd ~~QUAD~~ West Asian Quad - India Saudi US and UAE (2022)

India being engaged as a key partner in both the definitions highlight the Indian strength in the region

In addition, ties with Saudi Arabia for Hajj, Free Trade Agreement with UAE ~~for~~ cultural diplomacy with OIC etc are some of India's step in the right direction to engage this area

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19. To what extent can one argue that corruption is a socio-economic issue? Discuss how a coordinated approach among all stakeholders can mitigate this problem. (15 marks)

Corruption refers to the utilization of a public office for private benefit. It can be of different types

- collusive
- coercive
- favoritism
- bribery etc.

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Corruption can be seen as a socio-economic issue :-

Social

① 2nd ARC evaluates the cause of corruption in India as the historical British corruption legacy

② Vohra Committee : identified that there is poor social organization of corruption. There is social acceptance for corruption.

③ NATBARS identifies that 'Sanitization of Corruption' has happened in India: Lower bureaucracy imitating the upper levels.

Economic

① Greed and materialistic demands overpower ethical stance.



2) Economic gains more than deterrence factors :
as conviction rates are less (25%)

However it can be seen that there are max factors :-

① Political : Electoral corruption is the root cause of corruption in India (Santhanam Committee)

② Legal : Ineffectiveness of Prevention of Corruption Act 1971

③ Institutional drawbacks : of CVC, CBI, ED etc in increasing conviction rates

④ Ethical : due to lack of moral code as well as departmental code of ethics.

To solve this a coordinated approach is needed

① Stringent punishment to create deterrence : for this strengthen investigative officers, forensic teams etc.

② Steps to weed out corrupt officers - for omission and commission

eg ver provisions recently to IPS officers.

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③ Bureaucrats: minimization of discretionary power and reduction of number of levels of contact (2nd ARC)

④ DBT.

④ Civil Society: regular social audit, demands for Swamata RTI declaration to bring in transparency and accountability in the system

⑤ Society: social ostracization of corrupt officers
⑥ Singapore model.

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Through these steps the corruption can be weeded out and correct bureaucracy from masterly approach to true servants of democracy. It will help improve India's standing in Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International - presently 85th rank)

Brilliantly written



20. "To achieve the export target of \$2 trillion by 2030, India is going the whole hog on free trade agreements (FTAs)." Discuss the benefits and challenges for India on engaging with such FTAs. Suggest the approach India should adopt to make its full utilisation (15 marks)

Free Trade Agreement represents a system of open trade, minimized trade barriers with a key partner. India has recently concluded FTAs with UAE and Australia and is aggressively pushing for FTAs with Israel and Europe to achieve \$2 trillion export target.

Benefits of FTAs :-

- ① Direct access to the markets of the nation.
- ② Minimized trade barriers give competitive edge to Indian exports
- ③ Diversification of products in Indian markets - improving the choice to customers on key items.
- ④ Reduction of trade barriers is 1st step towards

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establishment of greater association on economic-political and strategic fronts

⑤ ~~Drinks market for India's~~ Facilitate India's indigenization policy eg Make in India Make for the World

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⑥ Establishment of \$5 trillion economy and 3rd largest economy by 2050 will require free trade.

Challenges faced :-

① ~~Inequal~~ Threat of trade deficit ~~has led~~ ^{eg} India ~~did~~ not join RCEP alliance due to dumping potential of Chinese goods

② Quality control (eg Retention of Indian exports especially dairy from Europe) — such issues may be further aggravated

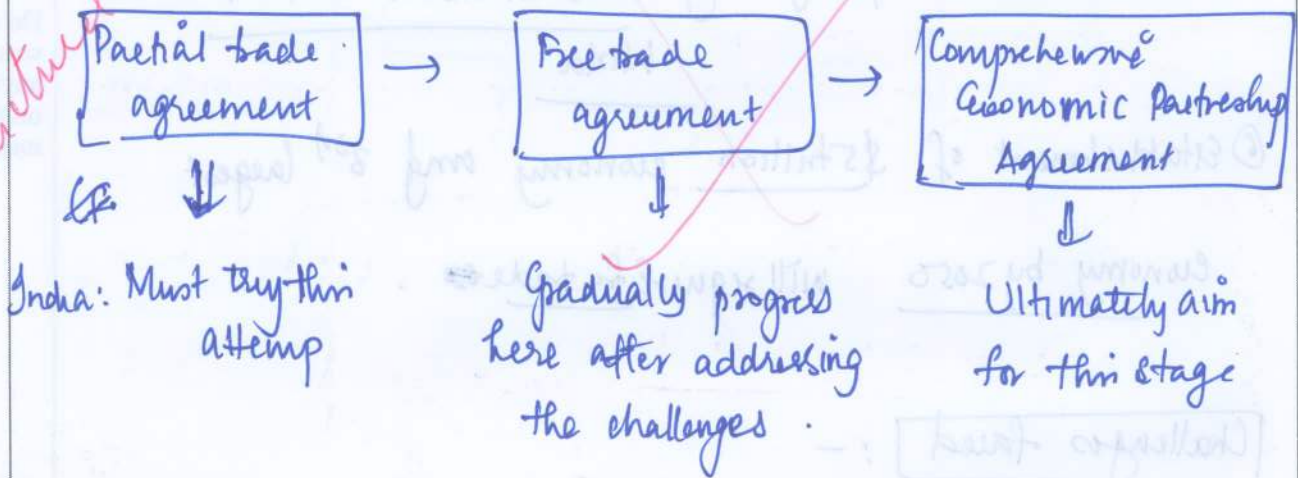
③ Open trade opens market to volatilities in trade too. — especially in current context.



① The ~~the~~ regulations of WTO may be challenging

② Non preferential status

Thus the approach of India shall be: -



For that

- ① Clear evaluation of economic ties
- ② Objective assessment of national achievements
- ③ Changing global scenario assessment

all are needed.