



# 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. : 1040829

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : Saurabh Sharma

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी  
Medium: Hindi/English

English.

तारीख  
Date

26/Aug/2023

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

केंद्र  
Centre

JVSG School  
Karnal Bggh.

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर  
Invigilator's Signature

|   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>महत्वपूर्ण अनुदेश</b></p> <p>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।</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Important Instructions</b></p> <p>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.</p>                  |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <p>(क) अपना पंजीकरण सं. एवं अन्य विवरण केवल प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) में उम्मीदवार के लिए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें।</p> <p>(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।</p>          | <p>(a) Write your Registration Number and other details only in the space provided in the Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet for candidates.</p> <p>(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</p> |
| 2 | <p>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।</p>                                                                                             | <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3 | <p>परीक्षक को प्रत्यक्ष/अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कोई भी प्रार्थना/धमकी भरी बातें न लिखें।</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4 | <p>उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गंदी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5 | <p>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।</p>                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6 | <p>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।</p>                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                              |
| 7 | <p>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।</p>                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Write answer at the specific space (right below the question) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified places in the booklet shall not be evaluated.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 8 | <p>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।</p>                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it and write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                                                  |                                             |
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| कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु<br>For Official Use      | कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु<br>For Official Use |
| परीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर<br>Signature of Examiner(s) |                                             |

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

| प्रश्न सं.<br>Q. No.              | अंक<br>Marks |  | प्रश्न सं.<br>Q. No.       | अंक<br>Marks |  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1                                 |              |  | 11                         |              |  |
| 2                                 |              |  | 12                         |              |  |
| 3                                 |              |  | 13                         |              |  |
| 4                                 |              |  | 14                         |              |  |
| 5                                 |              |  | 15                         |              |  |
| 6                                 |              |  | 16                         |              |  |
| 7                                 |              |  | 17                         |              |  |
| 8                                 |              |  | 18                         |              |  |
| 9                                 |              |  | 19                         |              |  |
| 10                                |              |  | 20                         |              |  |
| उप-योग (A)<br>Subtotal (A)        |              |  | उप-योग (B)<br>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

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

(EPG)

Environmental pressure groups are organizations exerting pressure on political system for furthering of interests of environment, nature, actions against climate change etc.

EPG enhancing public participation

- PETA → animal rights awareness
- enabling smooth functioning of EIA where clause of public hearing is present in before appraisal stage
- Greenpeace : organising protests against Kudankulam nuclear power plant.
- Promoting public interest litigation.  
thus ~~is~~ ~~into~~ incorporating judiciary  
(cracker ban)

- Medha Patkar led Narmada Bachao Andolan, Rajender Singh's Pani

Panchayat are efforts for roping in larger public for environmental cause

EPG promoting responsiveness

- Centre for Science & Environment (Under Sunita Narain) providing Scientific insights for policy formulation
- Greta Thunberg and similar such climate activist promoting awareness through social media campaign.
- New middle class environment movement (e.g.) Delhi Air pollution, Chennai floods etc.

Thus role of EPG is crucial in promoting environmental centric governance in India.

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

Voluntary sex work as a matter of professional choice has been legitimized by Supreme court ruling

[Ensuring basic rights and equality] :

Sex workers suffer from following challenges which can be solved by this ruling :

- Social boycott and ostracization by society
- STD (sexually transmitted diseases)
- harassment by police
- lack of dignity and respect
- exploitation

## Consequence of the ruling

### ~~Posst~~ Positive

- Enforcement of Article 14, 19, 21
- expansion in horizon of notion of "work"
- greater attention by State for promoting their social security

### Negative

- Legitimization of prostitution
- human/sex trafficking, organized crime may increase
- This ruling when seen combine with decriminalization of adultery may lead to breakdown of marriage.

Thus the ruling has opened a Pandora's box. For ensuring basic rights, State needs to come forward with suitable legislation and framework.

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

Article 39-A ( <sup>equal justice and</sup> free legal aid )  
enshrined in DPSP (directive principles of state policy) has been complimented by NALSA so as to democratize justice. The offshoot of the same lies in DLSA

Role played by DLSA :

— Promotion of principle of natural justice by opportunity of free and fair trial especially to under-privileged.

(a larger proportion of undertrial prisoner belong to SC, ST community, lack resources for fighting for their justice)

— Promoting Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism

in form of arbitration, conciliation etc  
thus reducing the burden on court

(4.7 crore cases pending in the judiciary)

- Enabling Gram Nyayalas,  
Family Courts for amiable  
resolution of disputes
- Disseminating awareness by  
setting up campes, melas etc.
- Works under supervision of  
High Court of State to ensure  
uniformity.

Thus DLSA plays a crucial  
role in enable the provision  
under Article 14 i.e. equal  
protection under law.

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

Collegium system was born/  
borned in second judges case  
and has remained a mechanism  
for appointment of judges.



→ Evolution of collegium system.  
(4 Judges case)

### Success of collegium

- Enforcing Article 50 (i.e. Separation of power of executive and legislature)
- Free, fair working of judiciary in past 77 years (without fear, favour, ill will)
- Judges can best determine merit

## Victims of own success

- Allegation of nepotism (by law commission)  
As de facto judges appoint judges
- violation of principle of natural justice in NJAC as judiciary was itself a party
- lack of inclusivity (i.e. no female CJJ till date) reflects the closed and biased nature of collegium
- no objective criterion of selection
- non-disclosure of minutes of meetings of collegium breeding a culture of secrecy.

## Way forward



Balance of power is

Law Commission suggest Search and Selection Committee  
Justice Chandrachud's remark for just collegium to be more open and objective  
essential for maintaining constitutional

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 हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Civil services often described as "Steel Frame of India" need to adopt to challenges of 21st century which may require domain specialisation. (Climate change, 4th Industrial Revolution)

### Need for Civil Service Reforms

- as recommended by IIrd ARC
  - departure from generalist approach, giving option for domain specialisation after (13 years) ; also backed by Sarindernath Committee, Plotta Committee
- Lateral Entry as suggested by (NITI Aayog Strategy for India@75) for inviting domain experts-

## • Performance or perish culture

- based on mid term career evaluation (13 years, 25 years)
- going beyond ACR (Annual Confidential Report) towards 360°, holistic review process.
- doing away with time bound promotion and only officers with merit and competence should get promoted [Swendarnath committee]

## • Reforms in training and recruitment

- National Institute of Public Administration [IInd ARC suggested]
- Specialised training - Mentoring (Kiran Aggarwal committee)

Mission Karmayogi is a first step in this direction and needs to be backed by similar such initiatives.

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 हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Shift from outlay to outcome based budgeting is the need of the hour.

Potential to catalyse change:

- ① Departure from 'favouritism' or 'populist' budgeting where "Sunset clause was absent".
- ② Social Impact Bonds are offering platform to catalyse private sector investments as state suffers from limitations of fiscal deficit.
- ③ Greater efficiency and unking of leakages ensuring better performance of schemes.

Deliver socio-economic <sup>impact</sup> ~~bond~~ at scale

- ① Provisions of social-audit, Accountability, transparency get upheld promoting civic consciousness
- ② Ability to reach last mile can be ensured as trust would be on outcome rather than input.

Thus efficient and satisfactory delivery and uptake of public services can be enabled through social impact bonds and such output based financial models.

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

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हार्डिप में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
Candidates  
must not  
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female labour force participation  
rate has nearly reduced by  
50% in past two decades

(~45% in 2004-05 to ~23% today)  
despite rising female literacy.

### Reasons for gap

① Rising family affluency leading to  
confinement of women to households.  
(e) Green Revolution Belt

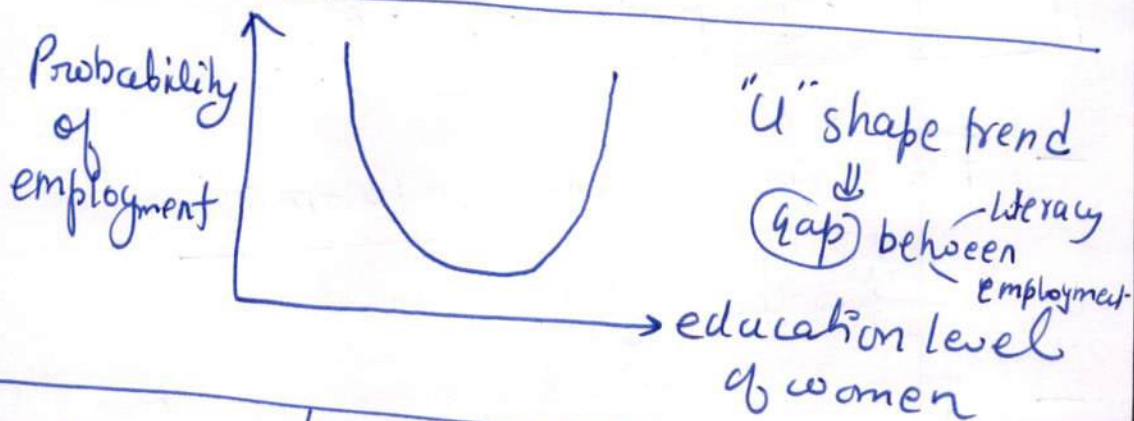
② Women take employment opportunities  
only as a last resort to supplement  
family income due to patriarchal nature  
of Indian society.  
(e) feminization of agriculture  
due to male migration to city.

### ③ Gap between urban and rural households

- Greater participation rate in rural areas has resulted in feminization of poverty as compared to city where male is breadwinner.

### ④ Unsafe infrastructure and public places

- discouraging women to join workforce
- ⊕ Sexual harassment at workplace.



#### Way forward

Conclusive  
pay - equal  
pay for  
equal  
work

(current gap 33%)

Boosting  
care  
economy  
and  
labour  
intensive  
industry

Enhancing  
safety  
Stringent  
law  
enforcement

Steps to  
reverse  
pink  
collarisation.

All these are necessary  
to ensure fulfilment  
of SDG-5

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

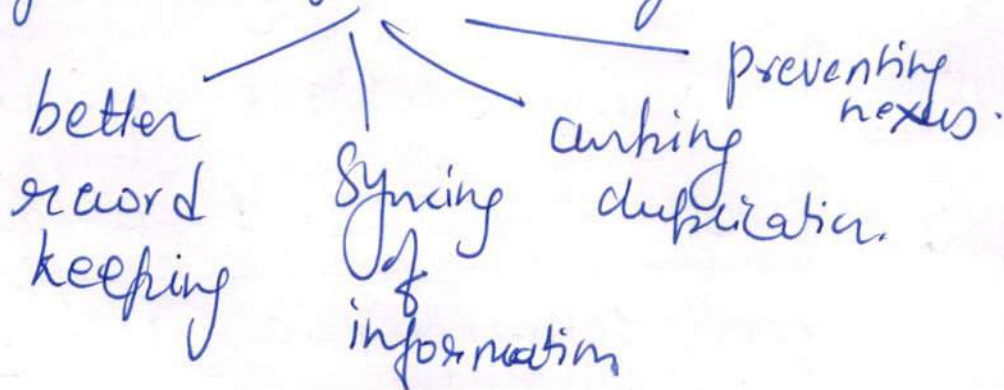
उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हार्डिप में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
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this margin

Civil Registration System (CRS)  
tries to capture live birth and  
death, thus forms an essential  
tool in tracking socio-economic  
progress.

Need for up to date CRS

- For real time information  
to policy makers
- Informed and targeted  
decision making by identifying  
the vulnerable / "hotspot" zones.
- For driving incentive-disincentive

Thus CRS should adopt to  
digitization for ensuring



Up to date CRS would ensure

— Timely birth registration  
 Timey ↓  
Bridge for childhood care  
 → vaccines.

— Mapping the areas of high mortality  
and introducing corrective  
policies.

Thus recent move of reforming CRS  
 aligns with Digital India mission  
 for making policies ready for  
 21st century challenges.

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 की इस क्राफ़ में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank were established as a response to Bret Woods Conference inflicted destruction in Bret Woods Conference.

Over the years, demands of reformed multilateralism have resulted in demands for reforms in IMF.

① Voting Power to be made more equitable rather than being based on contribution

② Ending the domination of USA-EU in appointment of presidents

- ③ Expansion in number of currency (currently 5) which are used in determining SDR (Special Drawing Rights) rate
- ④ Frequent meeting of board of governors
- ⑤ Too much conditions not be imposed while granting 'Short Term Credit' and enabling the underdeveloped economy to grow at our pace
- ⑥ Frequent meetings to check stability of economy to act in preventive ways rather than doing post mortem.

Thus by adopting above measures, IMF can adapt to changing economic reality.

10.

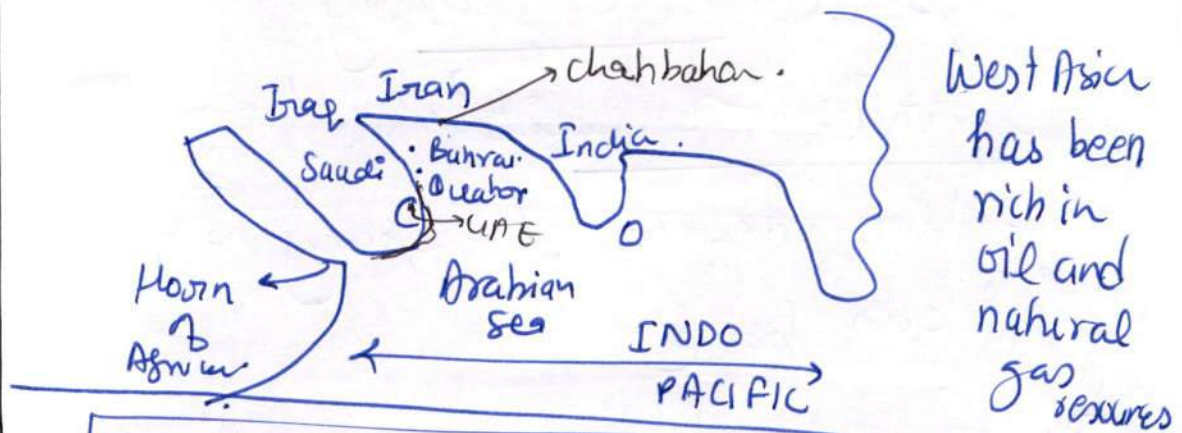
हाल के वर्षों में, पश्चिम एशिया के साथ भारत के संबंध भू-राजनीति के दायरे से आगे निकलकर भू-अर्थशास्त्र के आयाम तक पहुंच गए हैं। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

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 हार्डिंग में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
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India's relationship with West Asia has marked a strategic shift past decades reflecting a larger paradigm shift of moving from <sup>diplomacy</sup> ~~diplomacy~~ based in ideology to interest.



Earlier confines of geopolitics

- Arabian countries favoured Pakistan for they were inspired by religious nationalism and were against India-Israel relations

## Recent expunse to geo economics

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हार्शिए में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
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- Abraham Accord : and formation of I2U described as West Asian QUAD marks the Arab-Israel tie
- Stance towards Iran : Ruppee-Rial agreement, buying Iranian oil despite threat of CAATSA reflects India's stand of upholding national interest
- Interest of diaspora : Blue collar workers
- Diversification of energy basket : With discovery of shale gas (America), push towards decarbonization, India is not that 'dependent' for crude oil in West Asia.
- West Asia especially Saudi Arabia looking to ease their legislation to attract foreign investments.

In this context, it's the right time for India to move from Look West to West (Act to west)

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

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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Competition Commission of India (CCI), a statutory body plays a significant role in ensuring level playing field.

furthering healthy competition

— By imposing penalties on anti-competitive policies

↳ Fine on Google forcing smartphone manufacturers to install android.

— Prevents 'cartelization' and 'monopolizing' trends which may harm consumer interest.

## Inspiring stakeholders

- Thinking and promoting the interest of end consumer so that they get effective price without compromising on profit share of companies

⚡ fine on Amazon, flipkart on flash sales, hurting brick and mortar store

- Setting the ground for low cost innovations which may give good companies competitive edge for their product

- Promoting corporate governance and checking on unethical corporate practices

- Collaboration with SEBI
- ⚡ regulation insider trading.

## Challenges in CCI

- delay in appointment
- vacancies
- lack of some domain experts
- allegations of over-regulation  
thus stifling ~~regulation~~ innovation

## Way forward

- Reforms in CCI Act as per  
changing needs of time
- lateral entry - 'show cause  
notices'
- inviting public opinion.

Thus by adopting above measures,  
CCI can strengthen its teeth  
for becoming an effective  
watchdog of corruption.

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)

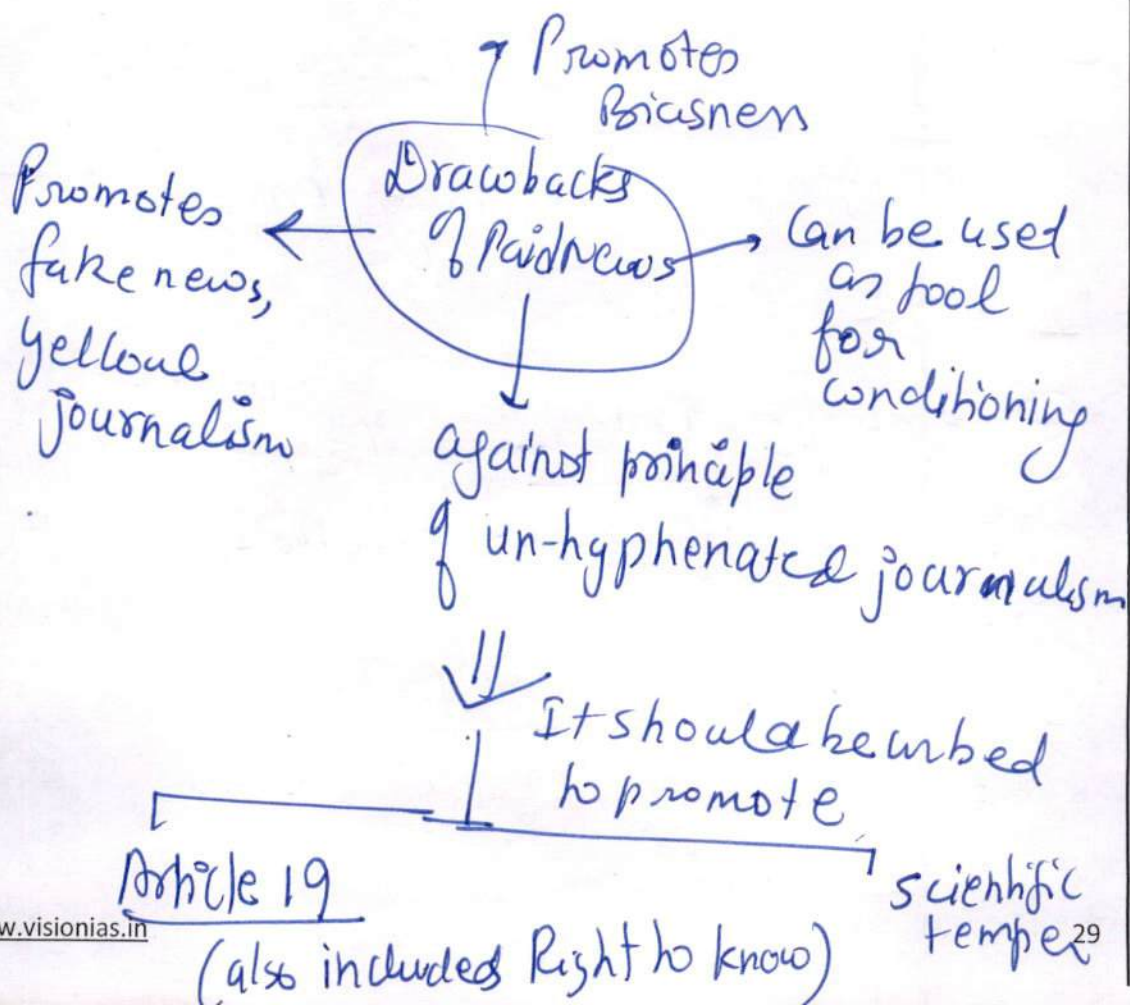
"The menace of paid news often rears its ugly head during elections." Discuss the need for making paid news an electoral offence in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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Media is described as fourth pillar of democracy. In this context paid news stifles the very purpose of neutral and <sup>wide</sup> impartial media.

Need for making <sup>regulation against</sup> paid news



# Impact of paid news on election

## ① Electoral manipulation

(ex) Facebook accepting to favour Trump through targeted campaign

(De-facto)  
② Rigging of election not ensuring a level playing field for all.

③ Breed money and muscle power

④ It will further crowd capitalism as business houses may enter into media house.

⑤ Deprives voters of <sup>legitimate</sup> ~~legitimite~~ <sup>legitimate</sup> right to know truth.

⑥ Fuels post truth politics based on emotion rather than facts.

# Making it an electoral offence ??

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हाशिए में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
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## Arguments in favour

- Will act as an effective deterrent
- will make media as neutral as Election Commission

## Arguments against-

- Definition of 'paid news'
- Illegal/Backdoor channels to promote paid news covertly
- Deliberate use against opposition party by ruling party.
- Litigations in courts leading to delays.

Thus, a self imposed code can be a way forward. Code of Ethics (as suggested by Jna ARC).

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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Article 25-28 prescribes right to freedom of religion, albeit with certain reasonable restrictions.

In this context 'doctrine of essentiality' emerges as a judicial innovation to determine essential practices of a particular religion.

Need for this doctrine

- For acting as check against social evil which at times get promoted in name of religion.

④ Denial of women entry in Sabrimala against the tenants of Right to Equality

- For deciding the allocation of resources and other public cause vis-a-vis promotion of religion.

☞ Mosque was declared as not constituting an essential part of Islam ~~was~~ by court in 1994. Thus that land would be utilized somewhere else.

- For promoting social change in lines of modernity.

☞ Hijab verdict : for promoting uniformity and confining religion to private sphere

- For public order, morality, health

☞ Parsi's practice of leaving the dead body in tomb of silence for rows to eat was stopped in COVID-19 <sup>lockdown</sup> time period by courts.

## Criticism of this doctrine

- Judges mayn't have attimes the required knowledge of scriptures and text to judge the essentiality
- Intervention in private life of individual - individual faith, sentiments
- Promotes alienation if enforced top down (especially among minorities).

Never the less, this doctrine has been deployed even in constitution (in Article 17: ~~Prevention~~ Prohibition of Untouchability) as a healthy balance between essential religious practice and secular state's goal is necessary

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 हार्डिप में  
नहीं लिखना  
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Gandhiji emphasized on the  
idea of minimum governance  
(through his ideals of self governance)  
for which size of state needs to  
be reduced to have minimum.

Merits in reducing size of government  
in India.

① Checking overlap of functions  
thus ensuring better accountability

④ Ministry of Panchayati Raj and  
Ministry of Rural Development

② Fiscal Prudence as reducing  
the size of government would  
save funds of public exchequer

### ③ Privatisation ushering efficiency

Economic Survey<sup>(23)</sup> has highlighted how companies privatised during PM-Vajpayee's era have turned their balance sheet profitable (eg Hindustan Zinc Limited) due to professional management and profit orientation.

④ Rising Fiscal Deficit (in the range of 5.9%) as against FRBM 2003 target of 3%.

⑤ Reducing the notion of "big state" or state as 'mahaap' thus reducing dependency culture and ushering neoliberal development paradigm.

## Demerits in reducing size of government

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इस इलाक़े में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
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① 21st century challenges demanding specialized knowledge and expertise of climate change  
→ need for separate ministry

② Developmental Needs,  
(As per NITI Aayog Multidimensional Poverty Report (2023), still 14.96% of population are poor require state support)

③ Failed Reforms in times of Margaret Thatcher offer lessons  
(e) England outthinking to privatize ~~nationalize~~ railways.

④ Privatization can't guarantee  
a public service motive

Thus a judicious balance need to be adopted to realize the goal of

15.

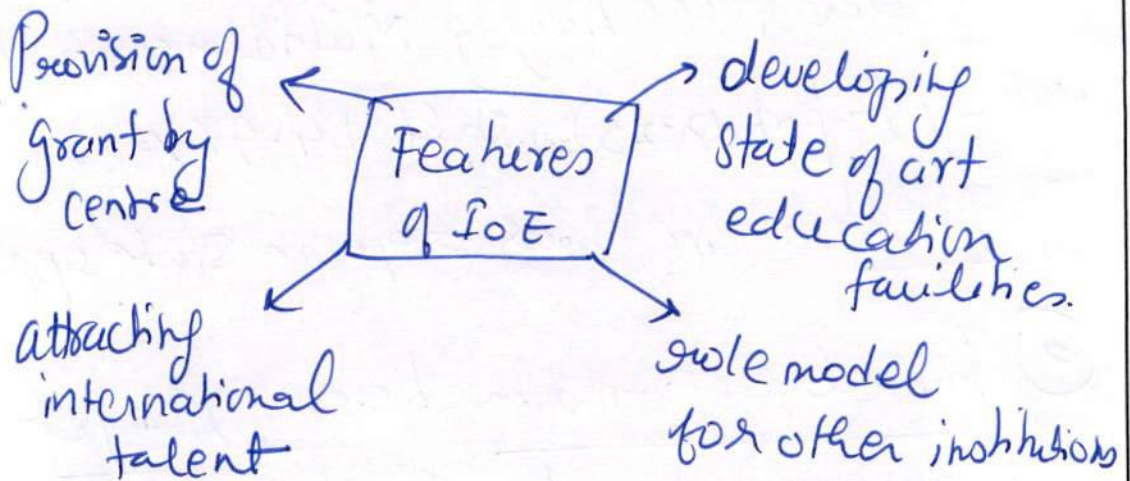
इंस्टीट्यूशंस ऑफ एमिनेंस (IoE) योजना की कल्पना भारत में उच्चतर शिक्षा के 'विश्व स्तरीय' केंद्र विकसित करने के लिए की गई थी, लेकिन छह साल बाद भी, यह अभी तक गेम चेंजर नहीं बन पाई है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

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

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

With gross enrolment ratio at 27% (for higher education), Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme was introduced with a positive intent



• In lines of New Education Policy which aims for :

- Gross enrolment ratio  $\rightarrow$  50% by 2035 (higher education)
- setting up branches of international institutes in India

IoE had potential to develop India as 'education centre'

## Why has it yet to become gamechanger??

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हार्डिप में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
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- No objective criterion for classifying "IoE" status  $\Rightarrow$  If University got IoE status.
- Small quantity of grants and less overall spending on higher education.  
↳ spending on education (center + state) revolves around 3.6% of GDP.
- Lesser trust in Research and development ↳ only 0.65% of GDP spent
- Absence in QS rankings of institute due to :
  - higher student: faculty ratio
  - lesser no. of patents filed
  - abysmally low number of international students

## Way Forward

- Increasing the thrust on research; Spending on education
- Interdisciplinary approach as highlighted by NEP (flexible entry-exit) (credit bank system)
- Scholarships for international students, attracting researchers and scientists through schemes like VAIIRA, UERIE
- Objective accreditation criterion.
- Setting up of IoE in foreign countries  
④ IIT-Delhi campus in UAE.

IoE scheme thus need to be reformed to restore the age old glory of Nalanda, Taxilla when India was centre for higher education

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" <sup>(DPI)</sup> are

crucial public services enabled

through IT (Information Technology) for promoting ease of living.

DPI  $\Rightarrow$  allowing Innovative and Convenient

Public Services



- State of the art technology is deployed so as to provide solutions to problems in everyday life

☞: UPI (Unified Public Interface)

Solving for problems of cash management

- DPI promotes inclusivity and last mile delivery of services without leakages ☞: Direct Benefit Transfer has enabled a saving of ₹3 lakh crore till date.

## DPI helping in inclusion and accessibility

- Initiatives like ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) solve for inclusion of small sellers and retailers who haven't reaped benefit of e-commerce till now.
- Agri-Stalk: enables provisioning of extension services and fair price assurance for farmers in remotest villages.
- Health Stack: Ayush Bharat Digital Health mission will come a long way in reducing the out of pocket expenditure (presently 65%).
- ~~SWAMI~~ DIKSHA portal, SWAYAM portal have revolutionized and democratized education especially in times of pandemic.

DPI promoting transparency and accountability : Portals like e-Daakhil, BHUMI (Kannatak for digitization of land record) have curbed discretion of public officials.

- CPGRAMS, e-RTI, e-Courts are initiatives for ushering an era of transparency over ~~secrecy~~
- e-NAM has ensured that farmers get realtime info of fair price
- Faceless Assessments, GST-N has helped reduce tax terrorism.

Thus DPI has been a revolution for bringing India at the brink of a techade.

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

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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Right to Health has been made implicit under Right to Life (Article 21) by the judiciary.

### Need for legislation

- Akin to Right to Education Act, a legislation for Right to Health would provide necessary statutory backing.
- Effective mechanism for enforcing affordability would come under One umbrella law ~~for~~ Price of medicines currently controlled by Essential Commodities Act at times.
- In line with Directive Principle of State Policy (Article 46)
- Would help enhance the current status of health (only 1.6% of GDP spending)

## Plugging of social gaps

- Maternal mortality rate (currently stands at 130), <sup>for reducing</sup> it requires greater thrust on promoting awareness about institutional delivery, pre-natal and ante-natal care.
- For addressing malnutrition (Child Stunting = 35% of population, wasting - 19%) among children: greater emphasis on nutritional quality of food.
- For ensuring that SC, ST, minority population are <sup>(eg)</sup> provided customised solutions.  

↓  
anemia  
sickle cell anemia

↓  
declining population of Parhi

## Plugging financial gaps

- Following the WHO recommended 5% of GDP spending on health.
- Reducing out of pocket expenditure (currently 65%)

- Greater thrust towards affordable care in wake of privatisation of healthcare  
( $\hookrightarrow$  only 30% of medical graduates join government hospitals)
- Expanding the penetration of health insurance.

### Plugging infrastructural gap

- Doctor : patient ratio stands at 1:1450 (as against WHO recommended 1:1000); similarly bed/patient not adequate.
- Need for accommodation and including traditional medicine in institutional healthcare.

Thus all these gaps are needed to be filled apart from legislation in order to fulfill SDG goal -3

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 कक्ष में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

In Navtej Singh Johar case, Supreme Court decriminalised Section 377 of IPC, triggering set of reforms for inclusion of third gender.

Transgender (Protection of Right) Act, 2019 gave the required legislative nudge, still lots needs to be done for engendering third gender due to following following gaps:

### Social Stigma

- Treating third gender as "unnatural"
- Social exclusion and ostracization
- Renouncing of homosexual couple
- Seen as going against ritual texts (e.g.: Manusmriti)
- Wreak by orthodox section

## • Economic exclusion

- Lack of dignified employment opportunity pushing them to resort to  
begging | petty crimes  
drug peddling | sex-work
- Enforcement of horizontal reservation needed.

## • Political Representation missing

- Lately only 1 MLA has been elected in history of independent India.
- LGBTQIA+ constitute a minority thus can't act as effective pressure group.

## • Psychological trauma suffered by community (Mental health issues)

## • Flaws in legislations

- ↳ Surrogacy right not recognized
- ↳ right to self determination not available.

(Other challenges) → Same sex marriage  
(a matter subjective)  
involving a lot of social  
ostracization by orthodox  
Stigma about opening up  
for revealing their  
third gender identity.

(Measures needed) → Dedicated body on lines  
of National Commission of Women  
→ earmarking of fund  
→ Broadening of dimensions of  
"gender inclusion"  
→ Supportive legislation.

Engendering 'third gender' is essential  
for achieving SDG-10  
(Reduced inequalities)

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)

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)  
represents around 40% of world population and 23% of GDP.

India's expectation from SCO

- ① Channel for negotiations with Pakistan, China (one of the few multilateral forum left, post disfunctioning of SAARC)
- ② fight against terrorism, extremism, radicalisation through RATS
- ③ Greater outreach in Central Asia, in the backdrop of Afghan takeover of Taliban
- ④ leveraging old friendship with Russia for addressing 21st century challenges like climate change

Difficulties in realising expectations :

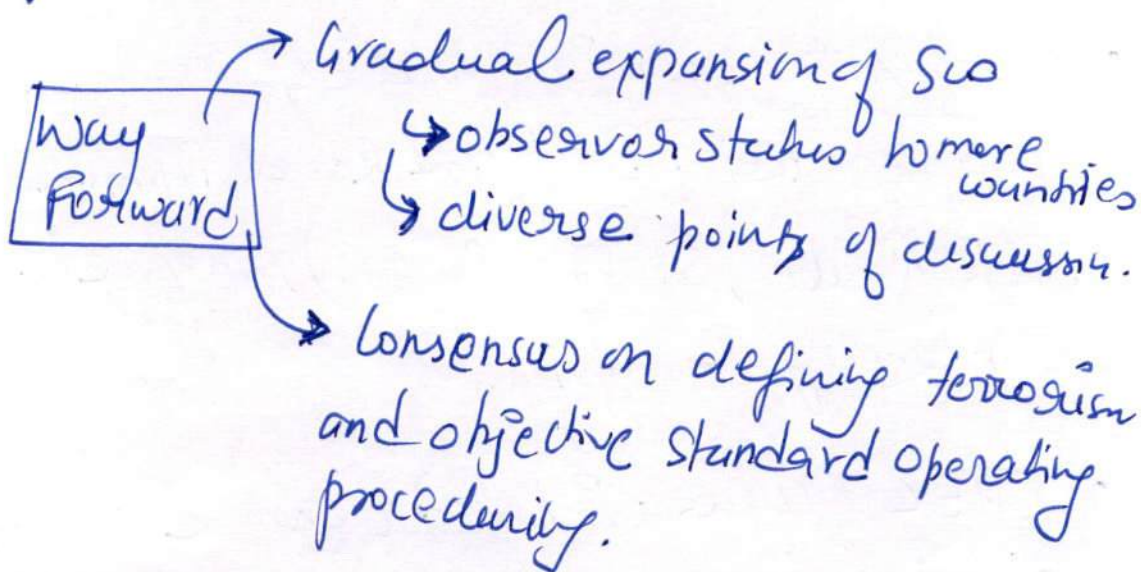
Strained ties with China and Pakistan

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस कक्ष में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
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write on  
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- Border disputes, ceasefire violation across LoAC, LoC respectively
- Divergence in terms of curbing terrorism  
( $\hookrightarrow$  definition of terrorism not accepted on consensus)
- China's veto in UNSC for listing terrorist under 1267 resolution.
- China's adventurism and expansionist policies ( $\hookrightarrow$  Belt and Road, Maritime Silk Route, String of Pearls); chequebook diplomacy in Africa.
- CPEC (China-Pakistan) Economic Corridor
- $\odot$  violation of territorial integrity for India
- Russia-China axis

## Other factors

- SCO seen as an anti-west block
- rising hostilities of world against Russia and China, thus putting pressure on India to balance its interest
- lack of direct access to Central Asia
- limited agenda of SCO (terrorism)
- India not engaging very actively with Taliban.



Overcoming these challenges can help India utilize SCO as a force for advancing interest of global south.

20.

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)

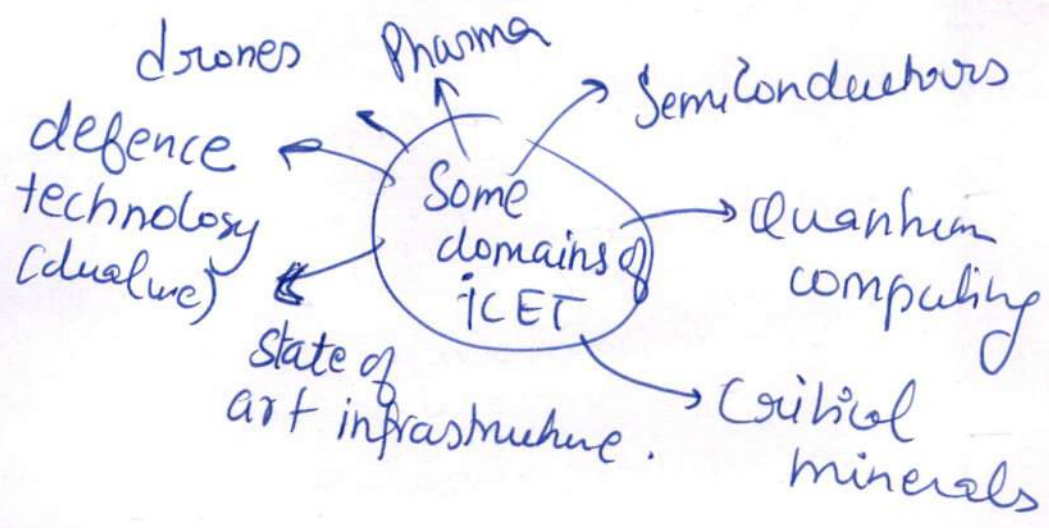
The recently concluded initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) between the United States and India promises a long overdue transformation of their partnership in the field of technology. Examine. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्डिंग में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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Technology diplomacy has gained momentum in past decade as reflected in greater convergence of India and USA (AI).

iCET promising long overdue transformation



iCET offers an opportunity for QUAD to expand its dimensions from ~~low~~ strategic informal grouping.

## Transformation in field of technology

- Greater collaboration

- Indian and American researchers on cutting edge researches
- for emerging challenges such as climate change, cyber and space warfare

- Shifting from technology import

- to technology transfer and capacity building
- to joint collaboration for product building

- checking the rise of China

- China +1 strategy (diversification)
- robust supply chain

## Some challenges



- ① Divergences over Patent (IPR) regimes
  - ② Social obligation / developmental needs of India
  - ③ Need to diversify collaboration rather than over-relying on USA
- ④ Partnership between India & France

ICET thus has potential  
to revolutionize Indo-US  
relation as they stand  
"Closer than ever before"

## SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

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