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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2090)

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Center	JAIPUR	Date	21/08/23

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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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. What is the Doctrine of Severability? Discuss with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Doctrine of Severability says that only that part of a legislation is struck down which is in violation of Constitutional Principles, rest entire legislation stands as it was i.e. perfectly legal.

Discussion via judicial decisions

- ① Rajendra Shah vs UoI → Supreme Court struck down 97th amendment application to State Cooperatives, but remains legal for multi-state Cooperatives
- ② NJAC 2014 Case - entire Article 124A was struck down as violative of hampering Judicial independence
- ③ Section 377 Read down by SC - decriminalise same sex relationship, but unnatural sex remained criminal [eg] Interspecies sex.

Above doctrine is a key guardian to uphold
fundamental rights, federal structure of the
Constitution and upheld constitutional supremacy.

2. The office of Governor needs to be transformed to preserve constitutional governance in India. Discuss in the light of recent controversies surrounding the Governors' office. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Article 153 of the Constitution details the office of Governor, who acts as Centre's nominee to the federal units. This is inspired by the Canadian Constitution.

Recent Controversies around Governor Office

- ① Transformation from Centre Nominee to a Centre's agent - due to lack of security of tenure
- ② Obstruction with general functioning of Council of Ministers [eg] TN Governor expelled Minister without CM advice
- ③ Misuse of Article 356 (Provincial emergency)
- ④ Reservation of important bills for Centre's assent without timeline [eg] Neet Bill in TN
- ⑤ Passing self as alternate centre of power to CM
- ⑥ Arbitrary dismissal of Government without floor

test ~~reg~~ SC decision on Maharashtra crisis

Preserving Constitutional governance - Steps needed

① Sarkaria Commission

- ↳ Power with State legislature to dismiss Governor
- ↳ Security of Tenure
- ↳ CM consulted before Governor appointment

② SR Bommai Case

- ↳ Responsible application of Article 356

③ Punchhi Commission

- ↳ Article 163 (discretionary powers) limited to
Certain conditions only - not perversive usage

The residents of Raj Bhavan must be above
party politics and ought to be guided by
spirit of Constitutionalism and Cooperative federalism.

3. "Disturbing public order or inciting violence cannot be allowed under the garb of the freedom of speech and expression." Discuss with help of the recent Supreme Court judgment on hate speech. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Freedom of Speech and Expression under article 19(1)(a) is vital fundamental right having both intrinsic and instrumental value. However it is not free from restrictions.

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graph TD
    A((restrictions)) --> B[Contempt of Court, decency, morality]
    A --> C[Defamation, incitement to any offense]
    A --> D[Friendly relations with foreign nations]
    A --> E[Security of State]
    A --> F[Sovereignty and territorial integrity]
    
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Recently Supreme Court defined hate speech in Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan Case as an effort to marginalise a person based on their membership of a group (religious, linguistic etc.)

Hate Speech - impediment to exercise of 19(1)(a)

① Calls for violence, intimidation and cultural isolation of a community

- ⑥ Disruption of Public Order by calling strikes and targeted processions [eg] Bihar Karm Naram Riots 2023
- ⑦ Inciting violence and radicalising mob [eg] Nuh Violence in Haryana 2023
- ⑧ Violation of Right to live with dignity (Article 21) and right to privacy

⇒ Supreme Court recently directed Delhi police to lodge suo-moto FIR on getting information on Hate speech. This can go a long way in securing fraternity and communal harmony.

⇒ Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita 2023 has separate Hate Speech provisions of fine, 3 year jail.

4. Discuss the role of the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) for the effective functioning of democracy in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

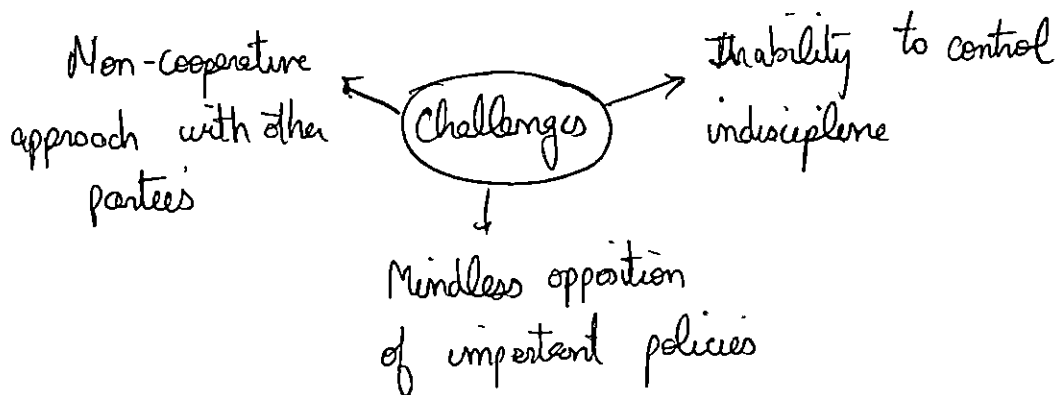
Leader of Opposition (LoP) is one of the most important offices inside the Parliamentary houses, tasked with leading the opposition and ensuring accountability - LoP remuneration Act provides conditions and salary -

LoP - crucial for democracy functioning

- ① From the opposition Party securing atleast 10% of Total house seats - thus has a greater level of acceptance among all opposition parties
- ② Keeps the opposition voices in synchrony against policies of government
- ③ Fosters consensus between opposition and ruling party over key policy issues
- ④ Cooperates with the Chair in maintaining

decorum in the house.

- ⑤ Involves himself in Constructive criticism
and strengthens tradition of debate, deliberation



The parliamentarians holding LoP office must be mindful of immense public responsibility on their shoulders. By promoting healthy discussions, they actively promote spirit of Constitutional democracy.

5. What are the various ways in which emerging technologies can be utilised by civil servants in ensuring efficient public service delivery and affecting change in India?
(Answer in 150 words) 10

Public service delivery is based on principles of RATER (Reliable, accessible, Tangible, empathy and responsiveness). E-governance can go a long way in meeting above goals alongside other emerging technologies.

Technologies for public service delivery

- ① Blockchain - advantage of immutability and transparency. $\Rightarrow$ Can be used for management of health workers and patient data, land records management.
- ② AI and ML - data analysis of huge data volumes $\Rightarrow$ useful for reducing exclusion errors of schemes, identification of vulnerable people and providing targeted schemes
- ③ Additive Technology - for construction of

pre-fabricated housing (70% less time) → solves India's housing crisis.

④ 5G - forms base of all technologies
↳ Important for direct Benefit Transfer,
income support, banking services

⑤ Augmented, Virtual Reality - heavy utility
in Education [eg] Visualisation of anatomy in
medical science, interactive online education
in Tribal areas (IAS Jitendra Dudi)

Civil Servants must be mindful in adoption
of above technologies concerns. A careful
impact assessment and emulation of global
cases (Smart Dubai) is the way forward.

6. To what extent, in your opinion, has the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana been successful in promoting skill development and employment in India? (Answer in 150 words)

10

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is a flagship skilling initiative launched by Union Government in 2015 - aimed at formalisation of workforce and quality employment

PMKVY - successes in skill, employment goal

- ① PMKVY - provision of certificate, ^{prior} recognition of learning helped informal sector workers.
- ② Especially helpful to meet Covid reverse migration → improved skillset alongside income support
- ③ Principle of gender parity = women participation encouraged
- ④ PMKVY 4.0 - Budget 2023 → focus on AI, Robotics to meet Industry 4.0 requirement

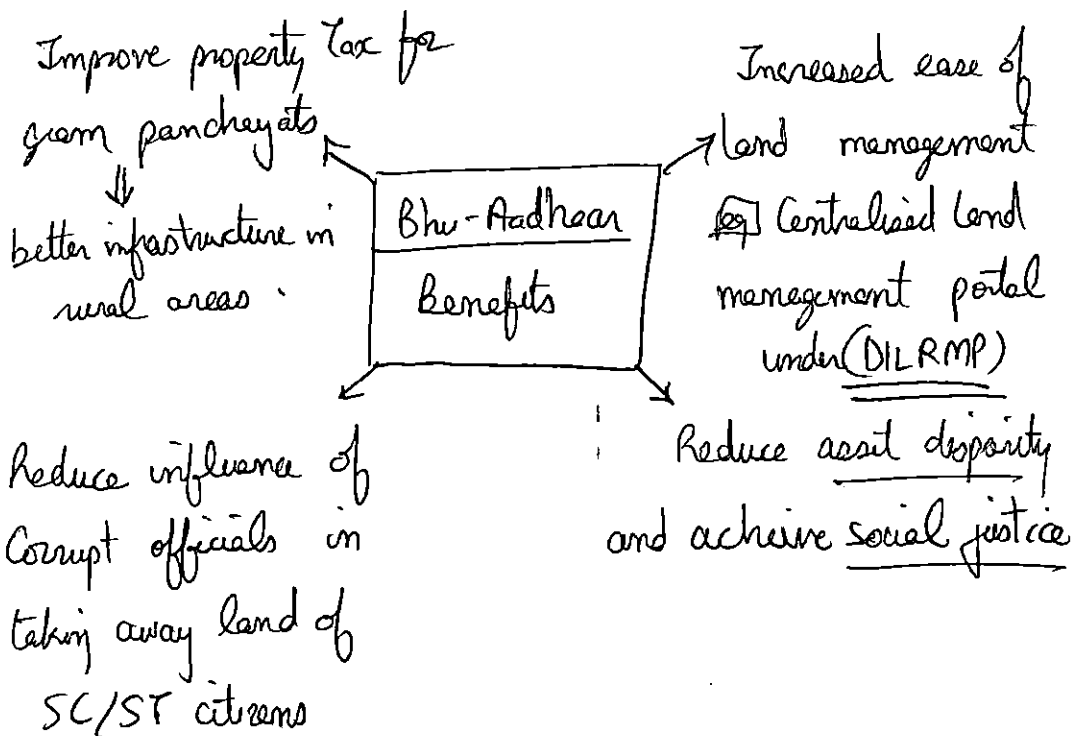
PMKVY - falling short of goals

- ① India still has >90% informal workforce
- ② Formal skilling proportion is still <6%
(46% in South Korea)
- ③ India Skills Report 2023 → poor employability
of only 50.3%
- ④ Unemployment crisis after Covid - above
7% levels consistently
- ⑤ Poor LFPR (48%) esp. lower for women
(only 23% Q4 data 2022-23)

India needs a combination of public and private initiatives (like NAPS, PM YUVA) to tackle the skilling and unemployment challenge alongside PMKVY.

7. Examine the potential of the Bhu-Aadhaar project in bringing significant benefits to India's land management system. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Bhu Aadhaar Project aims to provide unique identification to nationwide land parcels for conclusive land titles and economic growth



Associated challenges

- ① Need data scientists and analytics professionals for data management (poor employability of IT professionals - <20%)

- ② Finances - esp. in fibreisation and ground level data centres
- ③ Using GIS for land mapping by PM SVAMITVA
- ④ Legacy issues - continuation of foulty land records
- ⑤ Resistance to change in village officials

Bhu-Aadhar is a transformative step for
bringing inclusive growth in lines of the
poorest of the poor by asset security.

8. Discuss the different determinants of the occurrence of child labour in India. What measures can be taken to tackle the issue of child labour in the country? (Answer in 150 words) 10,

Child Labour is defined as per Child Labor (Prevention and Regulation) Act as employment of children in any activity below 14 years. ~~without~~ child labor is responsible for poor education and health outcomes (Bachpan Bachao Andolan)

Child Labor - determinants in India

- ① Economic considerations
 - Ⓐ High population density of poorer households and low income sources → push children to earn
 - Ⓑ Willingness of parents disregarding education
- ② Social factors - culture of neglect and acceptability of child labor in restaurants, mining, matchbox and crocker making
- ③ Poor law enforcement - Corruption and lack of female workforce further compound issue

- ④ Above factors lead to >1 Cr child labourers in India

Tackling child labor - way forward

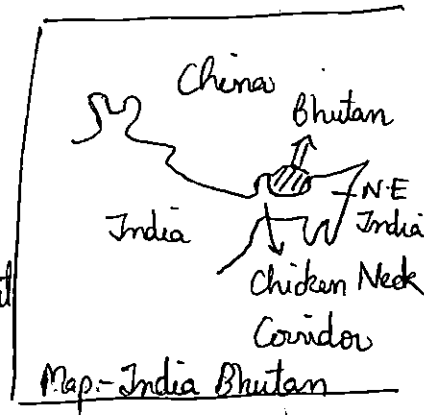
- ① Functional enforcement of Article 21A - improving school incentives (Abhijit Banerjee - clothes, food, books etc. should be free)
- ② Strict enforcement of Child labor laws - spot fines, property seizure
- ③ Opportunities for gainful employment for parents ☒ Urban employment guarantee (Rajasthan)
- ④ Awareness programmes - Sab Padhe Sab Badhe
Initiatives like Pencil Portal can help gain public support and crowd sourcing of child law violations.

9. Despite certain hiccups, recent developments suggest that continuity still looms large in the Indo-Bhutan relationship. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Indo-Bhutan relationship is a key facet of India's Neighbourhood First Policy. India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty 1950 was one of the earliest efforts of engagement between the two.

Certain hiccups in Relations

- ① Bhutan inacceptance to join BBIN citing environmental pollution



- ② China's increasing pressure on Bhutan to exchange Doklam plateau - Doklam Stand-off by Indian Army.
- ③ Deteriorating Trade deficit of Bhutan with India, renegotiation of power purchase agreements
- ④ Channeling of Chinese goods and insurgents camps in Bhutan against India.

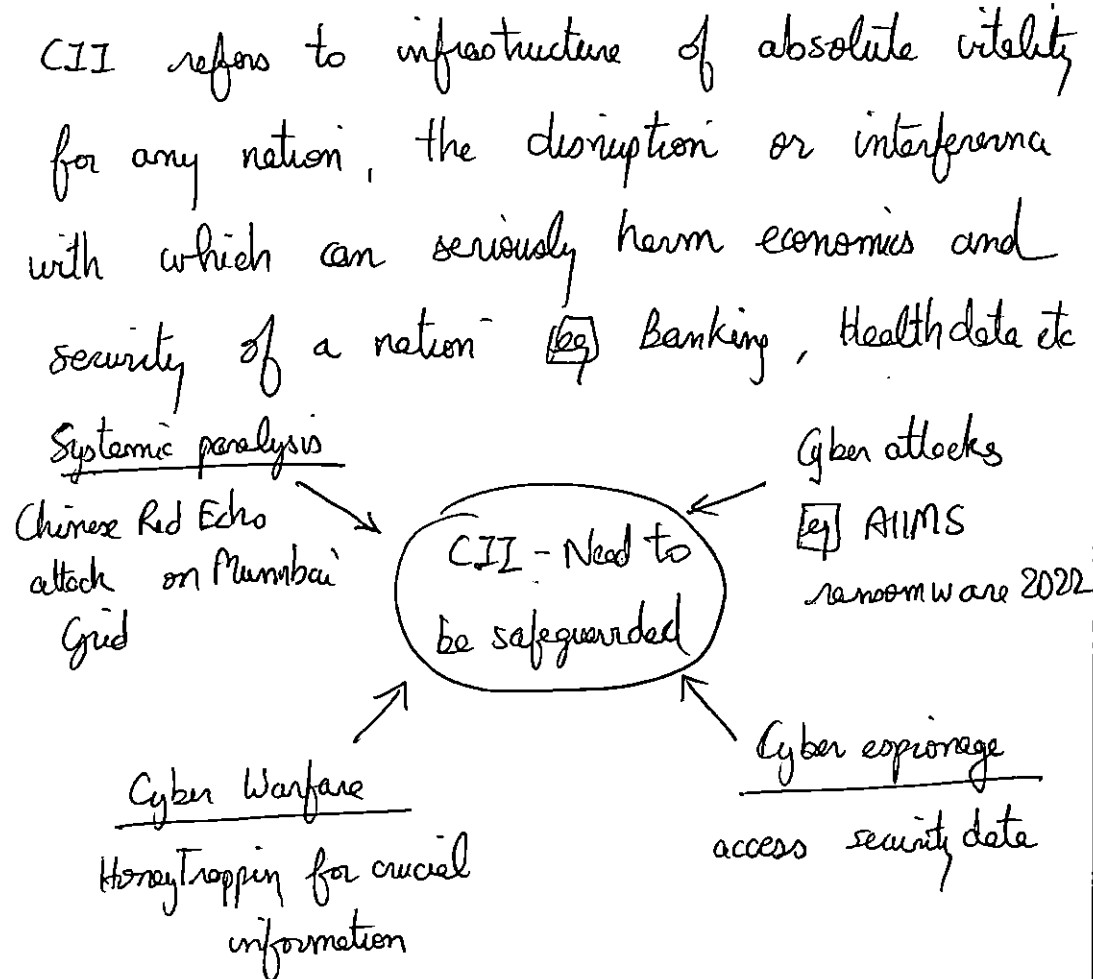
Continuity still prevails

- ① Megaddechhu project inaugurated by Indian PM
- ② Joint action plan to counter insurgents
- ③ Bhutan has been vocal supporter of India against Chinese Expansionism
- ④ Recent Heads of State meeting → improving infrastructure and hill connectivity

Bhutan plays a 'crucial role in safeguarding North East from China's Dagger Strategy.

India must timely address concerns of this significant neighbour

10. Critical Information Infrastructure ^(CII) has become a global good that requires global norms for its safeguard. What role can the G20 play to safeguard Critical Information Infrastructure? (Answer in 150 words) 10



Role of G20 in protecting CII

- ① Formation of global CII policy
- ② Active collaboration on CII disruptions
- ③ Technology transfer efforts from North to Global South

11. The tussle between the legislature and judiciary culminated in the 'basic structure' doctrine in the Kesavananda Bharati case. Discuss. What is the significance of the case in limiting the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution? (Answer in 250 words)

15

(BSD)
Basic structure doctrine emphasises that the Indian Constitution is based on certain foundational features which are so fundamental that without them the Constitution shall lose its essential spirit. Example - Rule of law, Federalism, Parliamentary form of government.

BSD - culmination of legislature - Judiciary tussle.

- ① Shankari Prasad Case 1951 - Supreme Court ruled difference in amending power of parliament in legislative and constitutional sense
- ② Golak Nath Case 1967 - Parliament cannot amend the Constitution whatsoever
- ③ Keshwanand Bharti Case 1973 - Parliament can amend the Constitution as long as it

- does not violate basic structure of Constitution
- Thus SC returned to its earlier interpretation in Shankari Prasad Case
- This judgement negated 25th Constitutional amendment which inserted article 368(5) saying Constitutional amendments were beyond judicial review. Also 368(4) said that Parliament can amend any part of Constitution.
- ⇒ Further amendment to Article 31C where Parliament was empowered to enact any DPSP by restricting any fundamental Right was negated in Minerva Mills Case - citing BSD

BSD - Significance of limiting Parliament's amending power

- ① Ensure judicial independence and fundamental rights are not restricted arbitrarily
- ② Provide a 'living' nature to Constitution - BSD

applied 16 times since 1973 - 4 bills approved,
1 unvalidated (NJAC), 6 partially validated.

- ③ Ensure the supremacy of the Constitutional spirit
embodied in preamble, fundamental rights & DPSP.

Similar to BSD, Canada has Unwritten
Constitutional principles. According to Rajiv Ramchandra
(Advocate) BSD acts as the only safeguard against
a majoritarian government and has truly passed
the tests of time.

12. The limited revenue generation capacity of municipal corporations has increased their dependence on taxes and grants from the states. What are the issues associated with this trend? What measures are required to improve the finances of the municipal corporations in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Municipal Corporations were envisaged by 74th
Constitutional Act under Urban local Bodies
governance framework. They are governed under
Part 10 of the Constitution along with Schedule 12

Financial situation of Municipal Corporations - precarious

- ① Very low property Tax to GDP Ratio India | 1%.
(lowest among G20) South Africa | 6%.
 - ② 40% grants from Higher governments are scheme specific - reduce financial flexibility
 - ③ 70% Revenue expenditure - only 30% Capital expenditure which can create infrastructure and future scope for taxation
- ⇒ Issues with above trend
- ① Culture of perpetual dependence on States.

- ⑥ Poor creation of social infrastructure like quality hospitals for geriatric and maternal care
- ⑦ Failure to fulfil idea of grassroot governance
- ⑧ Increased tax dependance causes social unrest and tax evasion by middle classes
(no perceived returns by taxation)
- ⑨ Taxation burden falls on poor and slum based population → increases urban inequality.

Improving Municipal finances - Way forward

- ① Better accounting practices - reduce scope for corruption and wasteful expenditure
- ② Long term Capital instruments - Blue, Green, Transition Bonds → improve financial health as well as environmental goals
- ③ Improve coverage of Wealth and Land Tax
→ help. reduce asset inequality (1% top own 40% wealth)

- ④ Regular system of audits - Separate Committee with State legislature for examination - 2nd ARC
- ⑤ Public private partnership projects - Only covers 31% of all infrastructure projects currently.

Financial health of Municipal Corporations can successfully transition into an inclusive, smart and people centric urban space, and help accommodate 60% of Indian population by 2050

13. "The purpose of having a Constitution is to transform the society for the better and this objective is the fundamental pillar of transformative constitutionalism." Discuss with the help of recent case laws. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Transformative Constitutionalism is the process of progressive realisation of rights by the State, with a duty to protect and enforce them. This keeps state power in check and leads to genuine empowerment of citizens.

Constitution's purpose - Social Transformation for good

① Equal protection of the laws

① Indira Sawney Judgement - OBC reservation under 15(4) and 16(4) upheld.

② Jarnhit Abhayaan Case 2022 - EWS reservation upheld by Supreme Court (15(6), 16(6))

② Constitutionalisation of Environment

① Sri Ram Gas leak Case (MC Mehta) - concept of Absolute Liability upheld by Court in line with Article 48A

⑥ SC discovered suo-moto jurisdiction of NGT in Anita Case - safeguard right to clean environment under article 21.

③ Safeguard Civil Rights

① Nawtej Johar Case - decriminalise Section 377 for transgenders (Article 21)

② Anuradha Bhasin Case - Freedom of expression on Internet (Article 19(1)(a))

③ Pithorwaj Chauhan Case - upholding amendments to Prevention of Atrocities act - spirit of Article 17

④ Protection from arbitrary police action -

↳ M-Selvi case - Right against Self incrimination

⑤ Article 21A - Right to Education inserted

⑥ Upholding Right to a dignified life - Aruna Shanbaug Case (passive euthanasia legal)

⑦ Shreya Singhal Case - Safeguard freedom of
speech by removing arbitrary Section 66A of IT
Act

Indian Constitution is a living force which
accommodates the aspirations of all citizens and
provides way for a social transformation, thus
leading India to development.

14. How can a 'rule of law culture' contribute towards promoting individual liberty and democratic governance in a society like India? What are the challenges in fostering such a culture? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Rule of Law Culture means a tradition, where citizens abide by rules without external sanction, where state respects citizen rights while upholding legal duties for all. It is the ultimate goal of any democratic polity.

Rule of Law culture → individual liberty

- ① Imbibe duty to uphold other's rights for enjoyment of one's own rights.
- ② Respect the reasonable restrictions associated with fundamental rights eg] No defamatory or hateful remarks.
- ③ Allow access to all for public spaces without discrimination (Article 15(2)) - uphold both internal and external liberty.

Rule of law culture → Democratic governance

- ① Reduce Corruptability in citizens and office holders
- ② Inculcate transparency - [eg] Quick and fair RTI replies
- ③ Ensure presence of accountability in governance
[eg] Regular updation of Citizen charter

Challenges in fostering above culture

- ① Resistance to change in public servants
- ② Lack of zero tolerance for corruption
- ③ Normalisation of Rule breaking from small (traffic signal) to large (scams)
- ④ Lack of social accountability tools to uphold spirit of law [eg] Community Score Card

Rule of law, being a basic structure of
Constitution, must be realised by upholding
laws in both letter and spirit.

15. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are not just engaged in charitable work but also involved in political processes for building a just, peaceful, humane, and sustainable future. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Civil Society Organisations (CSO) are non-State, non-profit organisations involved in filling the governance gaps ~~filled~~ left by the State. They range from NGO, SHG, Cooperatives to Pressure groups and donor agencies

CSO - engagement in Charitable work

- ① Donations : for social infrastructures like schools.
- ② Nutrition support for school children [eg] Akshay Patra delivers MDM to 2Mn children
- ③ Providing livelihood and Rehabilitative support to vulnerable sections during disasters

CSO - engaged in political processes with aims of :

(I) Just and peaceful future

- ① Political advocacy of tribals [eg] Green Peace NGO

- ⑥ On-ground data collection → support formation of inclusive policies
- ⑦ Inculcate democratic spirit [eg] Regular elections in Cooperatives
- ⑧ Economic Justice and empowerment [eg] Denlang SHG of Manipur

(II) Humane future

- ① Support rehab, rescue of ailing animals
[eg] Animal Aid Unlimited NGO
- ② Safeguard vulnerable populations [eg] Sarthak NGO for disabled, Laxmi Foundation for acid attack victims

(III) Sustainable future

- ① Environment protection and wildlife safety
[eg] Environment Society India
- ② Rural empowerment via millet farming [eg] Millet Sisters network

© Inclusive model of development - Cooperatives produce 10% milk, Amul employs 2L women

Thus CSOs are active bulwarks for India's transition to a green, developed nation where the mind is without fear, head is held high and knowledge is free

16. Self-help groups (SHGs) have contributed towards rural development and women empowerment, but their uneven geographical impact and rising loan defaults are serious challenges that need to be addressed. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Self Help Groups are voluntary associations of members (typically women) from similar socio-economic backgrounds who indulge in micro-finance (82 Lakh SHGs with 8.8 Cr Women)

SHG- Contributions

(A) Rural Development

- ① Rise of integrated farming and millet cultivation due to SHG loans
- ② Ending Vicious poverty cycle from moneylenders
- ③ Creation of enterprise and processing units for local products (PM-FME)
- ④ Quality employment under DAY-NRLM alongside skilling

(B) Women empowerment

- ① Better say in household decisions. - economic dependency on males reduced.

- ② Improved nutrition of girl children
- ③ Accounting, management and banking experience
(Bank Sakhis)
- ④ On target for Lakshmi Didi (by 2024)

SHG progress - challenges in the way

- Ⓐ Uneven geographic impact - 53% concentrated
in just 5 states (Andhra, Gujarat, Karnataka,
Maharashtra, Telangana)
- Ⓑ Rising loan defaults
 - NPA problem due to non-democratic character
(larger loans by powerful members)
 - Failure of bank support beyond a point
 - Involved only in low skill, low remuneration
enterprise (primary processing)
 - Poor profitability of SHG businesses
(only few successful ones like Lizet Papad)

Way forward

- ① Culture of Continuous auditing, internal lending
- ② Tie-ups with private e-commerce giants
eg Meesho - Ministry linkage, Amazon Saheli
- ③ Breaking geographical barrier - SHG promotion
in Bihar, North East (like Denlang SHG Manipur)

SHGs ought to be developed into National
Help groups (Prime Minister) and must be
empowered to meet economies of scale and
women progress in Amrit Kaal.

17. Do you agree with the view that the deep-rooted problems in India's school education system cannot be solved by digital transformation alone? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indian education system begins with the school classroom, a place of great significance in creating moral intellectuals - S. Radhakrishnan

School education - deep rooted problems

① Infrastructure deficit

- Only 30% schools have internet access
- <20% schools have separate girl washroom
- Lack of sports equipment (only accord 20% time for extra-curriculars)

② Culture of Rote-learning

- Poor grasp over concepts, focus only on passing

③ Teacher Shortage

- 1.2 L schools are single teacher schools - UNESCO
- Time poverty of teachers - 80% time in non-academic activities

④ Poor Foundational Learning and Numeracy (FLN)
→ ASER report (Pratham NGO) - 26% for
arithmetic, 20% for reading at grade 3

⑤ Lack of activity based learning, vocational learning
and skills needed for IR 4.0 (Coding, AI)

Digital Transformation - One of the solutions

① Break accessibility barrier - eg Padhai Tohar
Duan by IAS Sarveshwar Bhune - Tele education

② Better understanding by interactive AI, student
curated modules

③ Improve teachers learning and helps in
student assessment

Other solutions needed for school education

① Improve funding support (only 2.4% GDP
NEP recommended 6% GDP)

② Increase adoption of formal skilling and vocation

- ③ Special focus on primary children - special activity based modules, dedicated teacher Cadres
- ④ Credit based system with flexibility in high school - improve retention of subjects

Education opens doors where none seem to exist. Thus multi-dimensional interventions in primary and higher school education can help generate powerful demographic dividend for future.

18. Examine the impact of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on the effectiveness and transparency of welfare schemes for the vulnerable sections in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Direct Benefit Transfer refers to provision of monetary compensation (like subsidy support) directly to bank accounts of beneficiaries, this eliminates middlemen and improves targeted servicing

DBT - New horizon in welfare schemes progress

① Effectiveness

- DBT is hassle free mechanism with fast and easy access to government support
- Improved targeting of most vulnerable populations like elderly, widows, disabled.
- Revolutionised food subsidy programme (NFSA 2013 → PM GKAY)
- Helped in decarbonisation and adoption of cleaner fuels [eg] PM Ujjwala

→ Effectively reduced gender bias in scheme implementation (eg) DBT support for PM-ABY under female head's name.

② Transparency

→ Easier to fix accountability due to electronic record of transactions
→ Easy audit procedure

Challenges in DBT implementation

- ① Requires quality internet support for functioning
eg Poor fibreisation in rural areas
- ② Aadhaar linked with bank account is mandatory - leakage concerns in aadhar database,
lack of PoS machines and verification
thumb machines in far flung areas
- ③ DBT showed limited success for Aspirational Districts

- ④ Poor digital literacy in rural India (only 61% people acquainted with Internet phone)
- ⑤ Poor financial literacy (only 27-6 as per ADB)

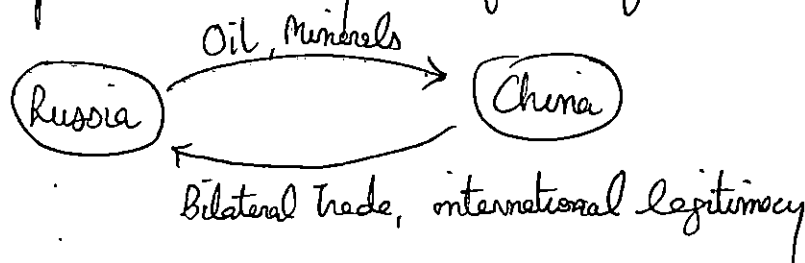
India, in order to fully utilise the dividends of digital public infrastructure, must focus on digital and financial literacy. DBT is an excellent strategy for targeting vulnerable sections and must be further strengthened.

19. The deepening China-Russia strategic relationship has been described by some as the 'most consequential undeclared alliance in the world.' How can this alliance impact India's national interest? What strategies should India adopt to protect her interests? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Russia - Ukraine War has led to re-invigoration of Russia - China strategic relationship amid Western sanctions to isolate Russia. This relationship has far-reaching global consequences.

'Most consequential undeclared alliance'

- ① Russia-China both are authoritarian regimes with priority to hard power to meet their goals [eg] Russia's offensive against Crimea 2014.
- ② This relationship normalises aggressive use of power for meeting political objectives. [eg] China's 9-dash line in South East Asia
- ③ Relationship is mutually beneficial for both



Impact on India's National Interest

- (a) Normalisation of China's Salami Slicing in Ladakh and no counter support from Russia.
- (b) Russia may be forced to end historic bonhomie with India (defense supplies) under China's pressure
- (c) Chinese Investments in Russia's Far East can undermine India's development plans in that regions (marine resources)
- (d) Russia-China duo can curtail India's access to Arctic Ocean
- (e) Pressure on India to give up Indo-Pacific Narrative (Quad) and fully adopt SCO, BRICS

Strategies for India to Safeguard interests

- ① Uphold Strategic autonomy without compromise
- ② Diversify supply chains and reduce dependence on Russian defenses (eg) US, France joint weapon

development agreements 2023)

- ③ Improve meaningful engagement with both blocs (SCO as well as Quad) by walking fine line.
- ④ Respect for International law along with NORMS for reforming international governance

India must leverage the dominant (USA, Russia),
Collaborate with the convergent (Quad 1 and Quad 2),
and manage the competition (China) according
to MEA Jauhankar.

20. India has placed soft power as an important pillar of its foreign policy to enhance its global standing and image abroad. Discuss the statement along with the initiatives taken by the government. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Soft power is the deft use of a nation's cultural attributes like religion, language, cuisine, people-to-people ties to influence decisions at international forums by way of persuasion.

Soft power - Key Pillar of India's foreign policy

① Religion -

① Buddhist Contacts used for Sri Lanka and Cambodia (recent idol sent by making special exemption)

② Islamic cooperation with Nations of Middle East, Egypt.

② Democratic tradition

↳ Central to India's engagement with USA, Britain, Australia and Japan

- ③ Diaspora → USA with 1% diaspora population but 6% Tax contribution is powerful force
- low skill diaspora in West Asia (Qatar Staduwins)
 - High skill in South East Asia, Global North
- ④ Ideals of Gandhiji - Cooperation with South Africa and Latin American countries
- ⑤ Bollywood, Music - China, Russia
- ⑥ Historical contacts - Central Asian Republics

Government initiatives for soft power promotion

- ① Ministry of Culture - Project Mausam - revival of ancient maritime Trade routes
- ② Nepal-India cultural Corridor - sister city network
- ☑ Ayodhya and Jamakpuri
- ③ STEM scholarships institutionalised by QUAD
- ④ Interaction with Diaspora - 'Howdy Modi' program

- ⑤ Presidential visit to Bangladesh Temples 2022
- ⑥ PM gifts to G7, QUAD leaders showcasing Indianness and respect for Green Diamond, Pink Minakari Brooch.

Soft power and hard power combined gives Smart power, as per Joseph Nye. India ought to leverage its cultural attributes to attain its place as a 'Pole' in international politics