



# 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. : 0859079

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : Anushi Pradhan

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी  
Medium: Hindi/English

English

तारीख  
Date

26th August,  
2023

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

केंद्र

Centre

NIAT  
Computer education,  
Bhubaneswar

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर  
Invigilator's Signature

Jyotirmayee Raut



|   | <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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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

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) |              |  |                            |              |  |





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

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)

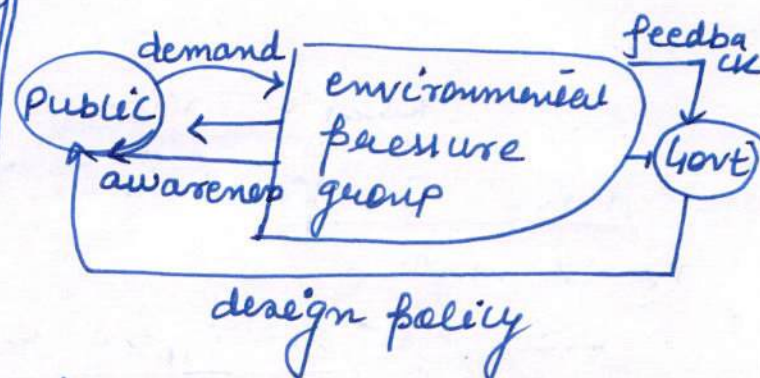
With suitable examples, discuss how environmental pressure groups enhance public participation and responsiveness with regard to environmental policies in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

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

## Environmental pressure

group help to mobilize public opinion regarding environmental issues.

Role of environmental pressure group



1) Increased public awareness

key bigating for bigat cause.

eg AERF pune fought to secure the sacred grove right of tribals.

2) Raise voice against projects harming environment

eg Narmada Bachao Andolan



③ Mass mobilization of public  
for conservation

leg Plastic ban

④ Feedback to govt on policy  
leg raised concern against  
recent Forest Conservation  
act amendment

⑤ Int waste management ↑  
leg Deonar Khushi - formal +  
informal integration for waste  
management.

Challenges

↑ resort to strike  
leg Aarey forest  
protest

↳ negatively impact GDP &  
national interest

leg Kundankulam protest

For Environmental pressure group  
can play a key role to make  
the "LIFE Movement" - success.

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

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

Recently, In Buddhadev Karmakushal vs Union of India

Supreme Court recognized the right of sex workers as part of Art 21 and Art 19.

First step - basic rights & equality

- 1) will ensure dignity of work
- 2) prevent harassment by police
- 3) More awareness - prevention of social stigmatization
- 4) Autonomy to choose Profession granted



## Challenges remaining

- 1) lack of proper legislation
- 2) high handedness by police
- 3) stigmatization by society
- 4) sex workers involved in human trafficking
- 5) No policy to treat HIV among sex workers.

## Measures needed

- check illegal trafficking
- sexual harassment of woman sex workers to be recognized
- use of contraceptive mandating
- Police sensitization
- Social awareness.

Acknowledging sex worker right to profession is a welcome step but must be accompanied by relevant legislation and social awareness program.



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

In "Hussainara Khatoon Vs UOI", SC held that access to speedy trial is part of Fundamental right of citizens. This is ensured through DLSA.

Role of DLSA

Free aid

- ↳ weaker section of society  
(eg) Transgender, OBC, SC, ST
- ↳ Free lawyer to Bight case

Legal awareness

- ↳ Judicial publicity of laws ensured  
(eg) cannot be arrested under 66 A of IT Act (Shreya Singhal case)
- ↳ Awareness about Bail  
(eg) Bail is <sup>en</sup>right - SC held



Bail is rule and Jail is an exception

- Legal right awareness  
eg Right against self incrimination  
cannot be forced to be witness (Pselvi vs state of Karnataka)  
- on line with 39(A) of constitution.

Challenges → Lack of Public Prosecutor  
↳ substantive issue  
↳ poor quality of lawyer provided

Measure needed → more volunteer - through OLSA (eg Nyaya Bandhu)  
↳ digitization for legal awareness (eg live streaming, courts, Tele law).

OLSA can help to achieve access to Justice for all (39A of constitution), thus ensuring Social Justice (SC in Babu Singh case - Right of Social Justice)



4.

"कुछ लोगों के हाथों में शक्ति के सेंकेंद्रण 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 दृष्टिकोण में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Collegium system has evolved in the 3rd Judges cases where the appointment to Judiciary is made by consulting 4 senior most Judges along with CJI.

### Success of collegium

- 1) ensure Judicial independence
- 2) prevented executive interference  
eg superseding of seniority during 1974
- 3) Basic structure of doctrine upheld
- 4) safeguarded democracy
- 5) ensure separation of power

### Question about legitimacy

- 1) lack of transparency  
eg Judges - appointing Judges  
(Nepotism)



- 2) Lack of objective criteria for appointment
- 3) "Judges appointing themselves" - Questions Judicial accountability
- 4) Less representation of minorities and disadvantaged section in Judiciary

### Measure needed

- 1) Board based NJAC - Include Bar member + advocate
- 2) Judicial standard accountability Bill - Proper timeline and procedure for appointment

Judicial independence needs to be balanced with Judicial accountability

Judicial oversight committee in vs → qualifications are publicly disclosed



5.

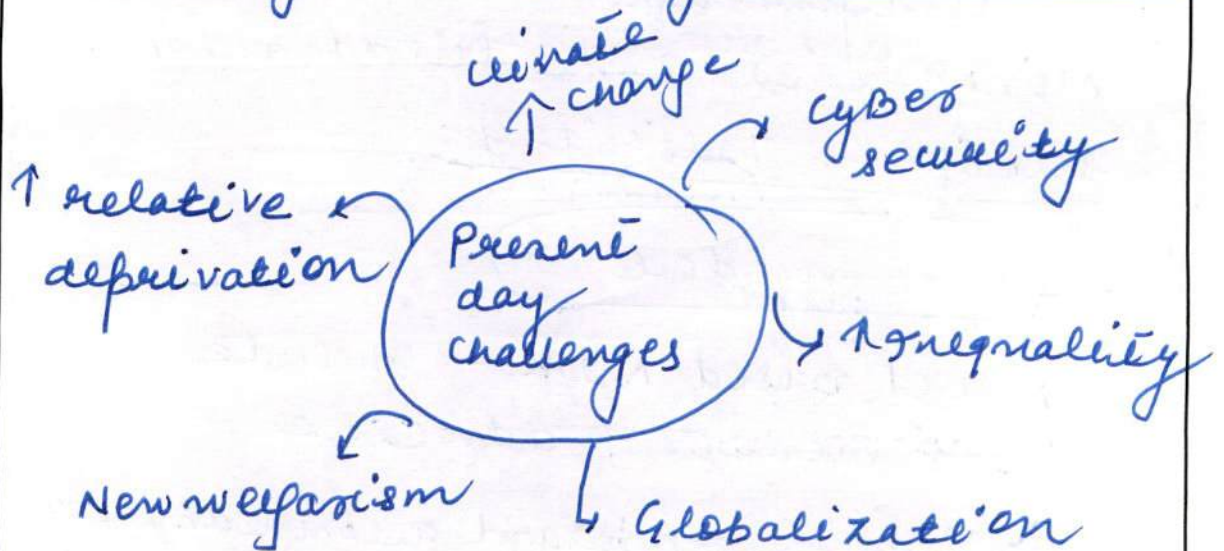
"सिविल सेवा सुधारों को वर्तमान दौर की चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए भर्ती और मानकीकृत प्रशिक्षण से आगे बढ़ाया जाना अनिवार्य है।" विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

"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 हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Civil service are the steel frame of India that play crucial role from policy framing to policy implementation



Civil service reform needed

Recruitment and training

1) sharing of good practices  
- create digitalized platform

2) Promote lateral entry

3) mid service training (NITI Aayog)



## Reforms needed beyond recruitment and training

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

- 1) Accountability to ensure public service delivery  
(eg) SPARROW PORTAL
- 2) Crisis management to deal with disasters  
(eg) cyclone, flood
- 3) Adaptability to work in "phydigital mode"
- 4) Domain based and role based training
- 5) Citizen centric approach
- 6) Agile methodology of working

Recently launched MISSION KARMAVATI is a step in the right direction to ensure civil service reform

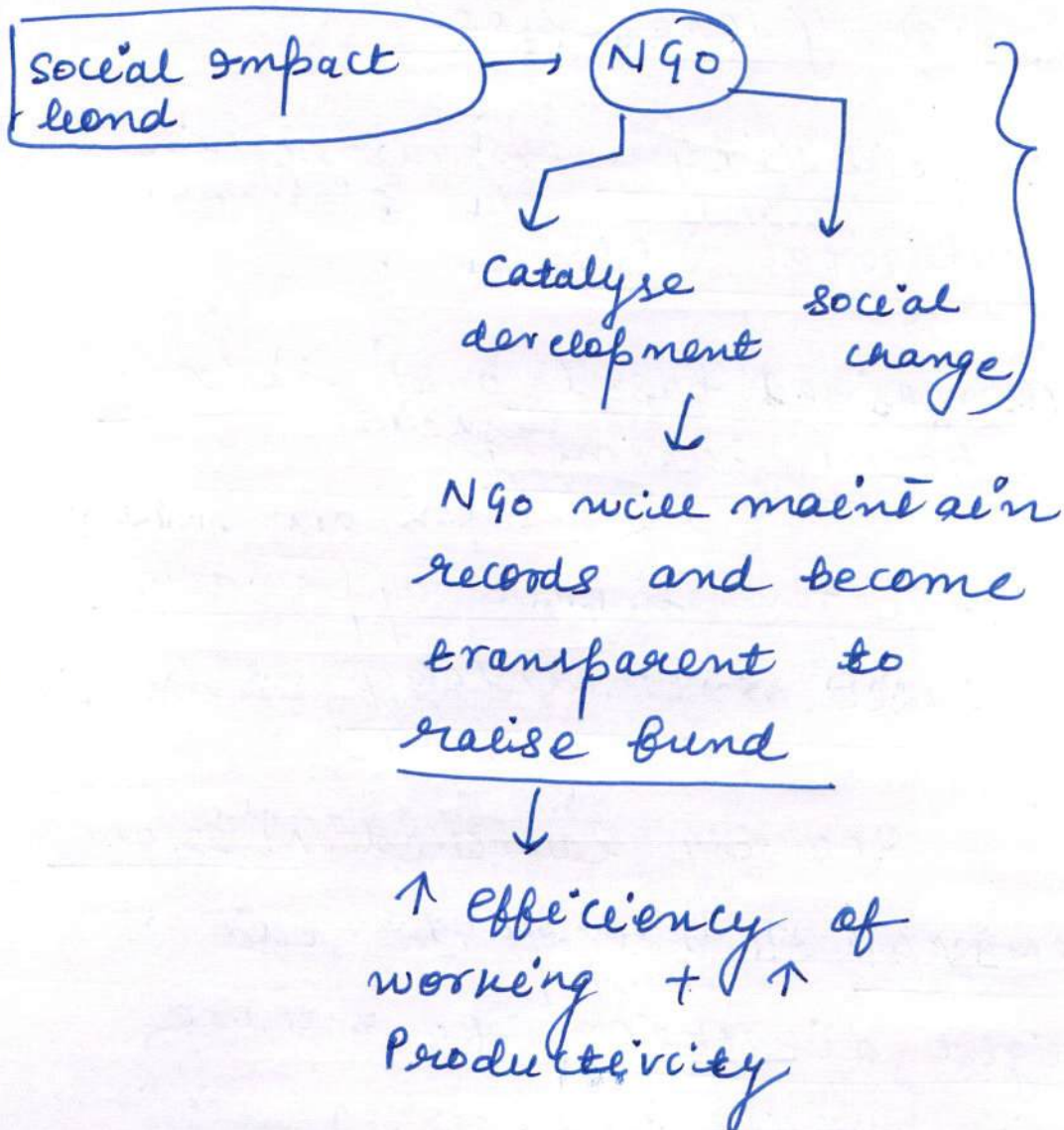
6.

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

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Social impact bonds are financing mechanism to ~~some~~ projects that have higher social output and return.





## Potential of Social Impact Bond

### ① Funding for social Projects

(eg) Funding to "Rural  
changemakers  
NGO"

### ② FCRA violation issue can be resolved

### ③ More transparency

(eg) only 10% NGO file  
annual audit statement —  
can be increased

challenges → weak bond market  
in India

lack of proper accounting  
mechanism

how to monitor outcome of  
a social Project? (No  
standard)

Social stock exchange is a

step in right direction to  
improve more social impact  
bond in India.

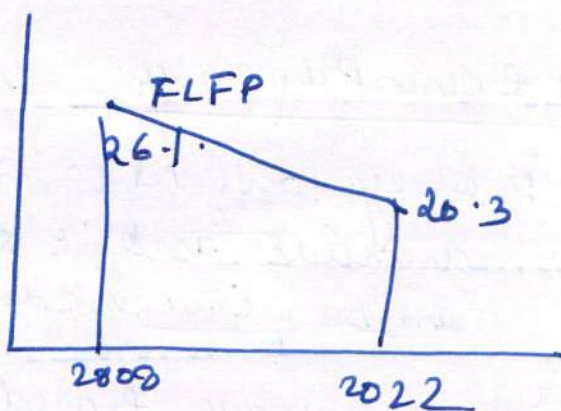
7.

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

As per AISHE report, 27.1% of Indians → higher education, with female outnumbering male, however FLFP. FLFP is a matter of concern



(Source World Bank)

Reason for same

① Gender pay gap eg 34.1% as per oxfam

② Societal burden

eg Time use survey - WEF - woman  
Spend 5-6 hr for domestic work



③ Sexual harassment at workplace

eg) FICCI - only 27.1% of company have ICC

④ Motherhood penalty

eg) Maternity Benefit act -  
disincentivize company

### Measures to address

① Proper accounting of care economy (3.1% of India's GDP)

② Sharing of domestic work

③ Tax Incentive to company for hiring woman

↑ ~~FF~~ Female labour  
force participation is essential  
to empower woman by giving  
her the agency to take  
decision

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 हद्दिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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## Civil registration system

Keeps track of all the birth, death record of citizen.

Changes → Digitization  
Real time updation

Role of CRS for socioeconomic development

- 1) Promote evidence based policy making
- 2) Better targetting of schemes
- 3) Recent real time updating  
will help for better monitoring
- 4) Proper demographic and population planning  
eg different strategy for



## North and south states.

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

5) health policy - better  
recording of IMR, MMR and  
CMR

6) Better maternal care - MMR

7) Better inclusion to dis-advantaged  
Section

8) Controlling epidemic through  
Better management of data.

Challenges - real time data  
up-dation difficult

↳ lack of internet in  
rural area

↳ internet in India - 40.1%  
2022

↳ risk of cyber attack on data

↳ Population profiling

↳ vote bank politics through  
data

CRS will help to ensure that  
data is used as a public  
good for .

9.

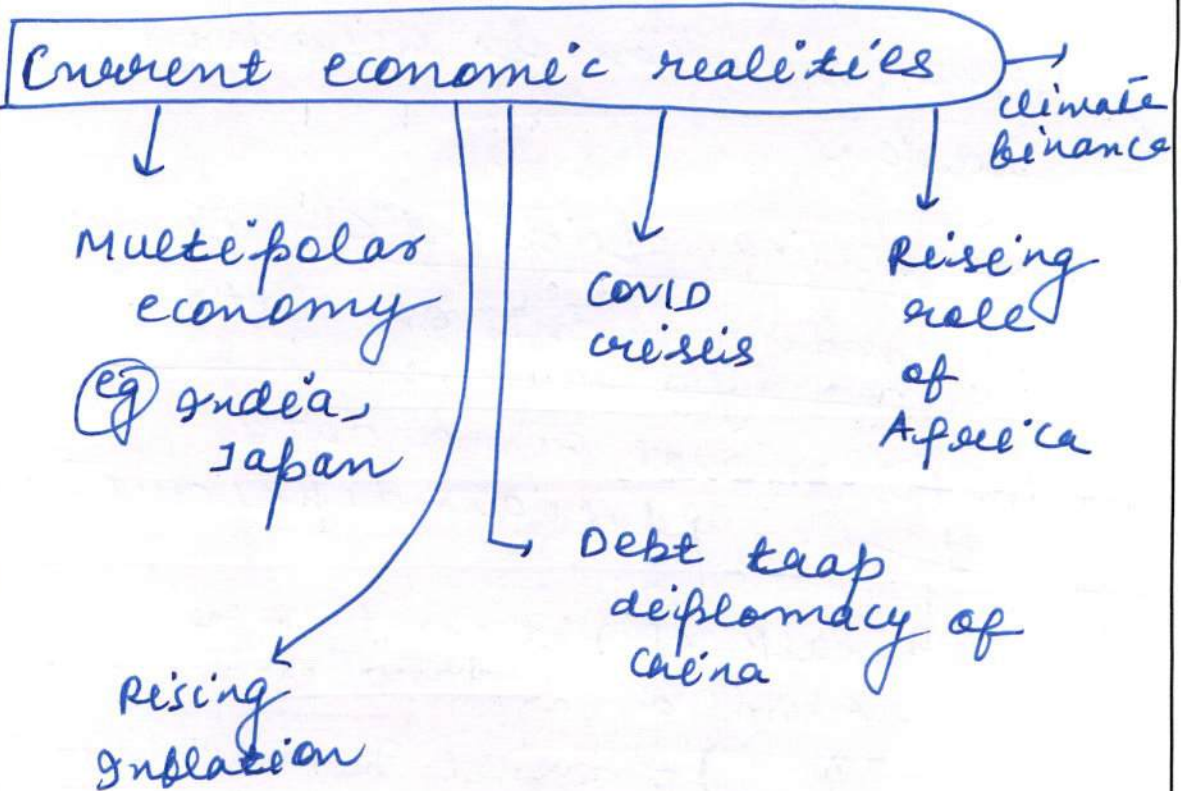
यदि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) को वर्तमान आर्थिक वास्तविकताओं के साथ समायोजित होना है तो इसमें सुधार के प्रमुख क्षेत्र कौन-से होंगे? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

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

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस खंड में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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International Monetary Fund was formed as a part of washington consensus to ensure credit stability



Key areas of reform needed —

- 1) More representation to other countries in SDG Basket (eg) India - Rupee



- 2) changing the IMF reserve quota share
- 3) Representation in President to African countries  
(eg) currently restricted to europe
- 4) sustainable debt policy  
(eg) to check <sup>another</sup> Sri Lanka crisis
- 5) lack of conditionalities  
in granting bail out to be done through consensuses and not forced.
- 6) Proper recording of minutes of meeting

Currently many UN organs like IMF are suffering from crisis of credibility. Above reforms are required to ensure legitimacy and trust of IMF.

10.

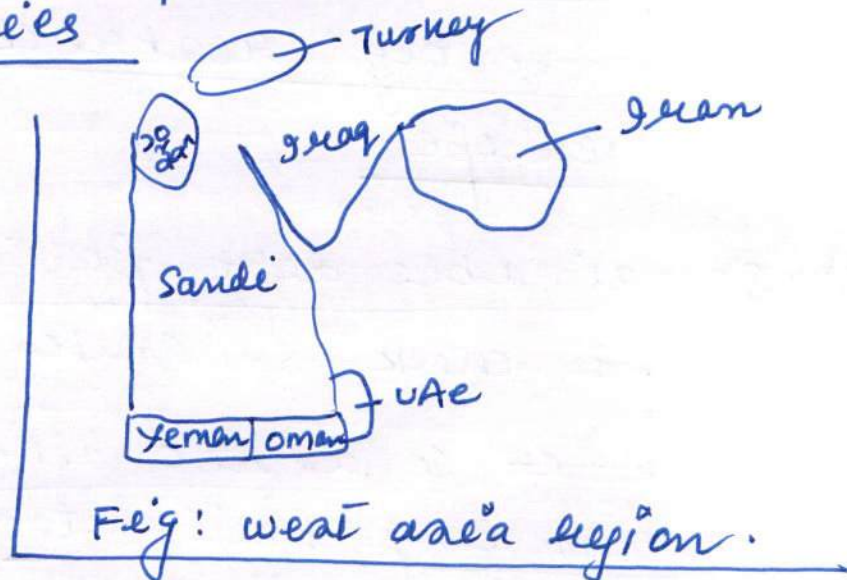
हाल के वर्षों में, पश्चिम एशिया के साथ भारत के संबंध भू-राजनीति के दायरे से आगे निकलकर भू-अर्थशास्त्र के आयाम तक पहुंच गए हैं। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

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 हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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India shares a long civilization and strategic relationship with west Asian countries



evolution of India's relationship

Geopolitics phase

- Arab diplomacy for Kashmir issue
- maintaining Iran-Saudi Balancing
- Israel-Palestine issue → neutrality



## Recent geoeconomics

- ① Investment and Trade  
eg India - UAE CEPA agreement
- ② Finance eg India - UAE for  
UPI
- ③ oil, natural gas eg export from Oman
- ④ collaboration, FDI eg Aramco Company -  
in India
- ⑤ workers eg UAE, Saudi

## Factors leading to evolution

- 1) Diversification of West Asia  
from oil to other sectors  
eg Davos Summit, Saudi  
Arabia
- 2) Demographic dividend of India -  
cheap labour force in West Asia
- 3) Global geopolitical factor - Abraham  
accord, 1202 <sup>saudi-iran</sup> leading to more  
collaboration by removing past  
enmities.

Overall India's relationship with  
West Asia has aimed at minimizing  
divergences and maximizing  
convergences.



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

Competition Commission of India was formed under Competition Act to ensure free and fair market policy, curb dominance by one player

Role of CCI

1) Dominance check : Allows entry of new private players in market

eg Fine on Google play for restricting third party app providers

2) Regulates Merger and association : to curb monopoly

eg Reliance and Future Group merger



③ Spurs innovation : by ensuring  
level playing field for startups.

eg Paytm Paytm rise

④ Effectiveness of market forces → ensures

invisible hand of market forces  
brings price stability.

eg checks Predatory Pricing

⑤ Removes entry barrier → for new  
startup.

This inspires innovation and  
effectiveness as -

① Entry of more players - spurs  
competition  
eg cheap data Price.

② Efficiency - operational efficiency  
↳ Better product design to capture market  
↳ Possible due to level playing field



## Limitations

- ① Rising duopoly could not be curbed eg Jio, Airtel
- ② Digital economy - traditional brick mortar regulations are ineffective.  
eg deep discounting in e-commerce
- ③ Lack of substantive powers.
- ④ Lack of sufficient technical expertise to check efficacy of mergers and acquisition.
- ⑤ Delayed judgement

The recent CAI amendment act is a welcome step that ~~can~~<sup>will</sup> further empower it - by fixing timeline, widening ambit and scope (merger & acquisition > 2000 crore) requires permission, efficiency clause etc. It will further help in innovation and more effectiveness.



"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)

Currently paid news is prohibited under model code of conduct, however it is not an electoral offence under RPA 1951.

Menace of paid news

Free and fair election process is violated

subverts democracy

deep fakes are used sometimes

Need for making paid news an electoral offence

1) Rising social media and internet users in India

(eg) 1M+ 700 mn internet users in India

2) To ensure free and fair elections. (eg) Raj Narain vs India's Gandhi - free and fair election is part of basic structure.



3) will allow citizen to make informed choice

eg In Abraham Singh case  
Supreme Court raised concern  
about bribery, paid news subverting  
the election process.

4) To make sure "right candidate"  
is chosen as representative.

5) To prevent "echo chamber" and  
~~self~~ "confirmation bias" created  
by paid news.

6) Prevention of foreign  
power interference in election  
process.

eg Cambridge analytica  
Case

7) safeguarding "right to know" of  
citizens.



8) Ensuring level playing field for all candidates and political parties.

(eg) Small political party cannot afford paid news.

### Challenges

- 1) enforcement issue
- 2) anonymity feature of Internet
- 3) Mass reach of single news.
- 4) Differentiating between genuine information and paid news.

### Measures needed

- 1) Power to ECI - to disqualify candidate for paid news
- 2) voter awareness (eg) SVEEP, CVIGIL app
- 3) clear cut guidelines of what constitute paid news.

Making paid news an electoral offence is essential to ensure legitimacy of election process in India.



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 हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
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Doctrine of essentiality was propounded by supreme court in [Shirur Math Case].

Doctrine of essentiality

1) To check if Article 25 and 26 can get preference over other fundamental rights.

2) If a religious practice is core to a religion, it is protected under Article 25.

Eg In Triple Talag case, supreme court ruled that Talag e biddat is not essential to Islam

3) It is used to check the constitutionality of religious practice

Eg used in recent Hijab case.



4) It ensures other fundamental rights are not violated

eg Sabari'mala Judgement →  
found restricting woman not a  
core part of religion → preferred  
Art 14 and Art 21 over 25.

5) In line with Indian model  
of secularism - where state can  
bring about reforms.

eg Shayara Bano case for  
maintenance of Muslim woman,

eg Daniel Latifi case (Muslim  
woman  
maintenance)

### Challenges.

1) Vague and ambiguous: what  
constitutes essential religious  
practise is subjective and  
open to various interpretation

eg split verdict for Hijab case.

2) Judicial paternalism : where  
Judiciary has power to  
decide what is essential or  
not

3) lack of consultation with  
religious scholar

(eg) Ismail Farooqi case, use of  
loudspeaker is not an essential  
practise of religion, was criticized  
by many.

Measures  
need

→ clear guideline to  
decide what will  
come under essential  
Indi. religious practise

→ consultation with religious  
scholars, experts.

Doctrine of essentiality  
in religion has helped in  
transforming the medieval  
hierarchical society into a modern  
egalitarian one.



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

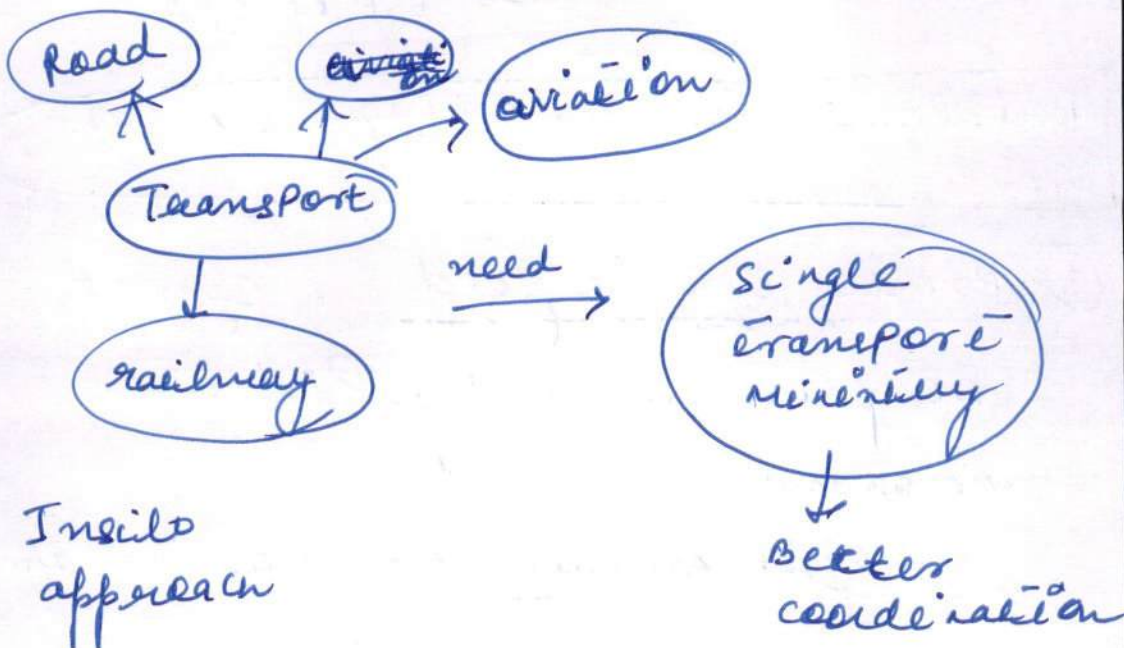
Currently govt became one of the major component in delivering service, maintaining law and order, providing public goods etc.

Need to limit size of govt

1) To reduce redtapism and bureaucracy

eg 10 years taken to build building by NHAI

2) To ensure better coordination



3) Better synchronization of services.

4) More efficient public service delivery

eg BSNL vs Jio

5) To save revenue of govt in giving pension, maintenance

6) Revenue saved  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  capital expenditure  
 $\downarrow$   $\uparrow$  social sector expenditure  
 eg education  $\rightarrow$  3.1 % of GDP  
 $\downarrow$   $\rightarrow$  6.1 % of GDP

Problems in limiting size of govt

① Public service good  $\rightarrow$  cannot be provisioned by private company

eg profitability motive of private.



## ② Past examples of success

eg) India uplifted 415 million  
people out of poverty from  
2004-2005 to 2019-20

(C MPI Index 2022)

## ③ World moving toward Cornwall Consensus from Washington Consensus

eg) New mercantilism < ↑ role of  
govt sector.

Overall, there is need to  
optimize and make the govt  
sector efficient rather than  
cutting down. This can be done  
through regional social audits,  
citizen scorecard, multi-stakeholder  
feedback, training through  
Mission Karmayogi etc.

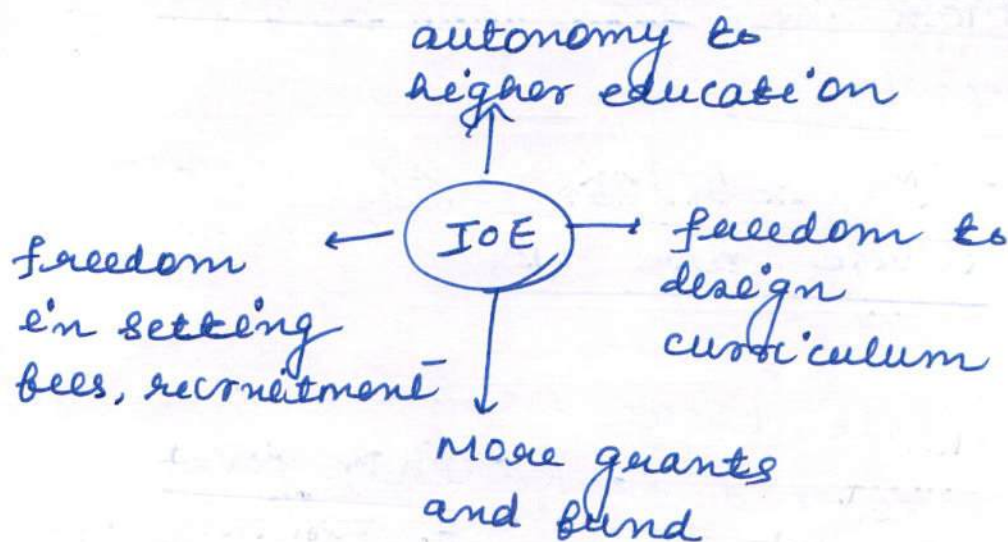
15.

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

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

15

Institutions of eminence  
scheme was designed to facilitate  
high quality modern education  
in India



(eg) IIIT, IIM, IIT

IoE - yet to become Game changer

1) lack of top institutions

(eg) Recent QS world ranking  
none featured in top 100.



2) Discrimination in IOE

(eg) Rising ILT suicide cases.

3) lack of energy patent and  
research through IOE

(eg) Israel - 8000 patents per 1 lakh  
India - less than 1000 per 1 lakh

4) lack of academia-industrial  
linkage with IOE

|      |                         |   |                                     |
|------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| (eg) | C++<br>Java<br>(taught) | → | Python for AI,<br>ML, deep learning |
|      | supply of<br>IOE        |   | demand in<br>Industries             |

5) huge capitalisation fees in IOE.

6) Concentration of IOE in few  
state

(eg) Recent AISHE ranking - majority  
of top institute (⇒ 50%) in private



3 states - Delhi, Kerala,  
Karnataka.

7) lack of real autonomy to IOE

eg Recent IIM amendment →  
power of central govt in  
board of governor

Yet few positives -

1) R&D encouraged eg IIT Madras → ECI  
for blockchain (remote voting)

2) social impact - developing customized  
solutions for rural area by IOE

3) ↑ enrolment and gender parity  
seen in IOE

Measures needed → align IOE scheme

with other scheme like  
Academic Bank of Credit

→ foreign collaborations.

→ offshore campus ↑ (Radhakrishna  
committee)

Revamping IOE scheme will ensure  
institutes become temple of learning  
rather than mere degree shops.

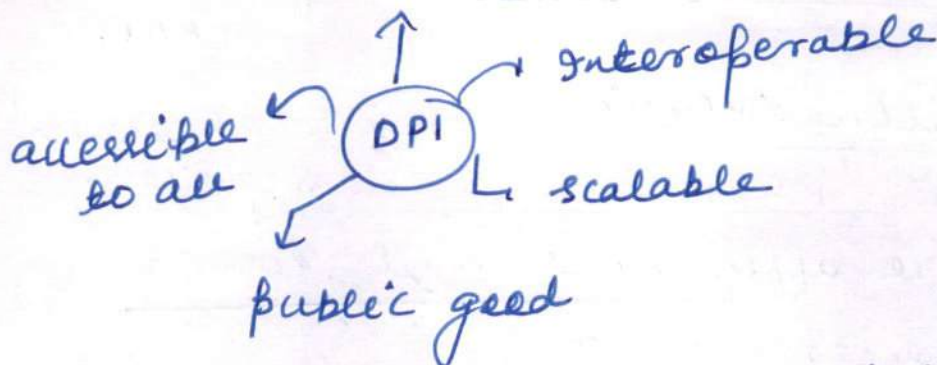


डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (DPI) नवोन्मेषी और सुविधाजनक सार्वजनिक सेवाओं की अनुमति देता है, समावेशन या पहुंच संबंधी बाधाओं को दूर करने में मदद करता है तथा रियल-टाइम डेटा की मदद से पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही बढ़ाता है। उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

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

Recent Economic survey  
2022-2023 highlighted the role of  
"DPI as a public good".  
real time data



eg) ONDC, UPI, Aadhar (JAM TRINITY)

Innovative and convenient public service

1) allows customized services

eg) Agri stack for farmers

2) ensures accessibility

eg) JAM TRINITY for financial inclusion.



- ③ Better quality of delivery  
eg India stack

### Overcoming barrier

- ① Financial Inclusion eg JAM  
TRINITY
- ② Educational Inclusion eg SXAWAM  
PRABHA
- ③ Health inclusion eg Telehealth  
services
- ④ more affordable and lower  
transaction cost  
eg UPI

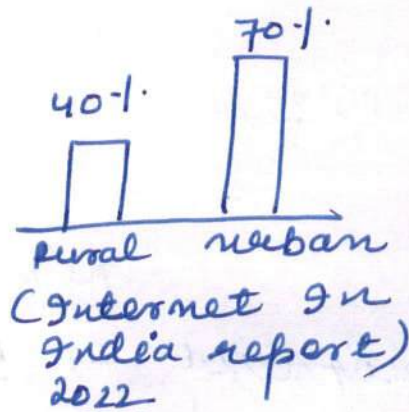
### ↑ transparency and accountability

- ① check corruption eg DBT
- ② real time data monitoring -  
evidence based policy making  
eg UDISE portal for education
- ③ Better monitoring eg my gov.in
- ④ Better grievance redressal  
eg PRAGATI portal

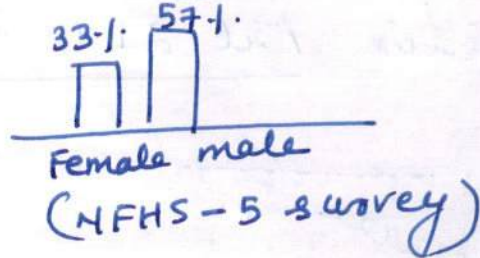


yet, challenges -

① Digital divide →

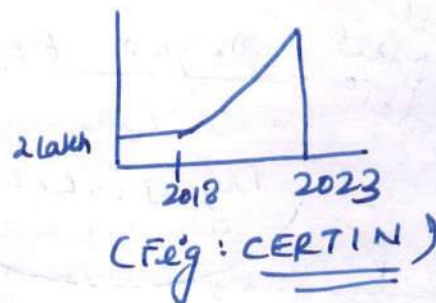


② Gender divide →



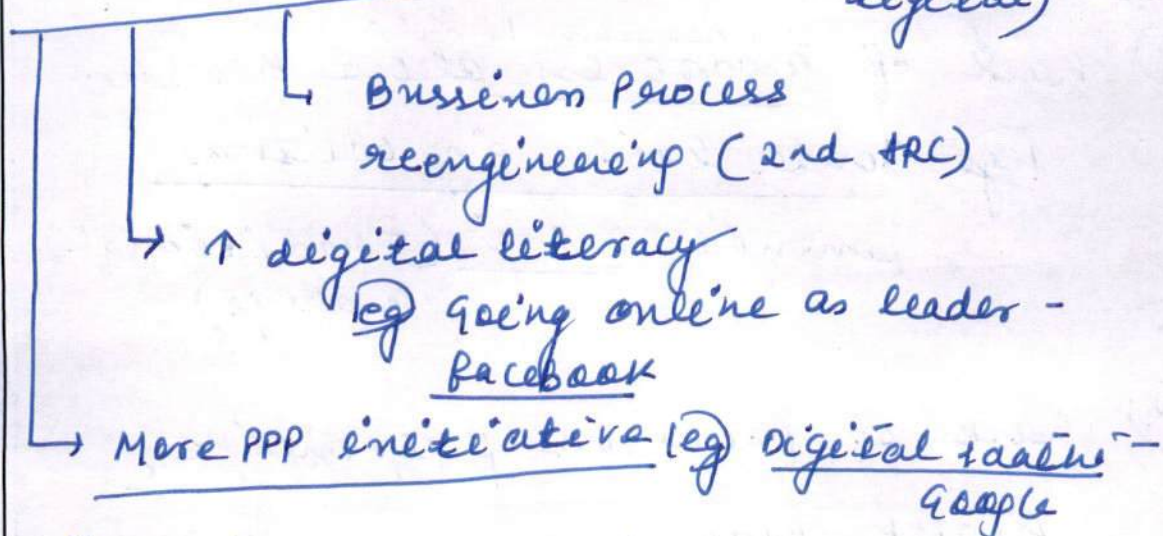
③ Rising cyberfraud & cyber crime

eg → Biggest 2 months of 2023 - 2 lakh cases (CERTIN)



④ Interoperability & maintenance issue.

Measures needed → Phygital (Physical + digital)



"Indian Talent + Information Technology = India tomorrow"



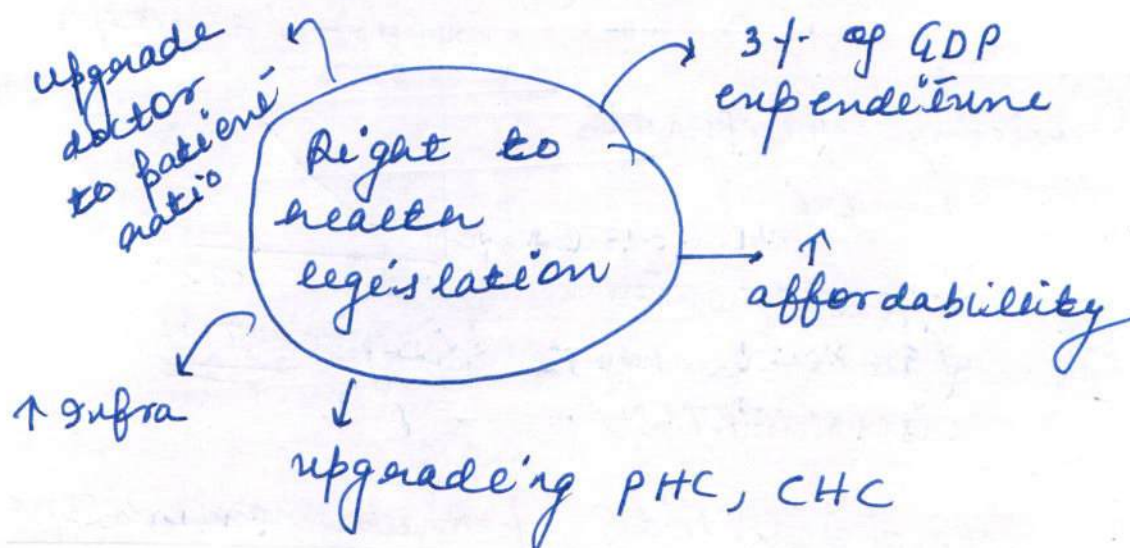
17.

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

Right to health is  
 recognized as fundamental right  
 under Art 21 (right to life)



### Social Gaps

- ① lack of awareness about health.  
 eg Bonda tribe in Odisha  
 consultant Desai (Traditional healers)
- ② lack of focus on preventive  
health care  
 eg poor sanitation



- ③ unhealthy nutritional practices  
(eg) Junk food, cereal centric diet.

### Financial

- ① Lack of adequate funding  

$$\frac{1.6\% \text{ of GDP}}{3\% \text{ of GDP} \rightarrow \text{desired}}$$

- ② Regional disparity

(eg) Kerala - high state GDP  
 • UP, Bihar - very less

- ③ Corruption in Ayushman Bharat scheme  
 (eg) Recent CAG report highlighted 76,000 fake health card issued

### Infra Gap

- ① low patient to doctor ratio.  
 (eg) 1 lakh  $\rightarrow$  1456 doctor  
3000 required as per WHO.



② lack of hospital beds  
eg 10,000 per 1 lakh

③ PHC, CHC lack advanced testing facilities, laboratory

### Measures needed

① Public health management cadre  
(Niti'ayog @ 75)

② Public-private partnership to ↑ funding, ↑ finance  
(Niti'ayog @ 75)

③ digitization and tele health  
eg zipline drone - medicine delivery in MH.

### DAMAN: ODisha

long Guste'isidal net, awareness and behavioural campaign by involving community participation to counter Malaria in Malkangiri

Ensuring right to health is essential to raise the productivity of India. It will help to reap effectively the demographic dividend.



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

Third gender category refers to group of person whose biological identity at birth does not match with the self perceived identity.

legislative nudge

"History owes an apology to transgender" - Indu Malhotra

Prevention to any sort of discrimination

right to self determination of gender

Transgender protection act 2019

Sexual harassment with consent

National Board for Transgender Protection

NALSA foundation vs UOI → Gave right to self determination

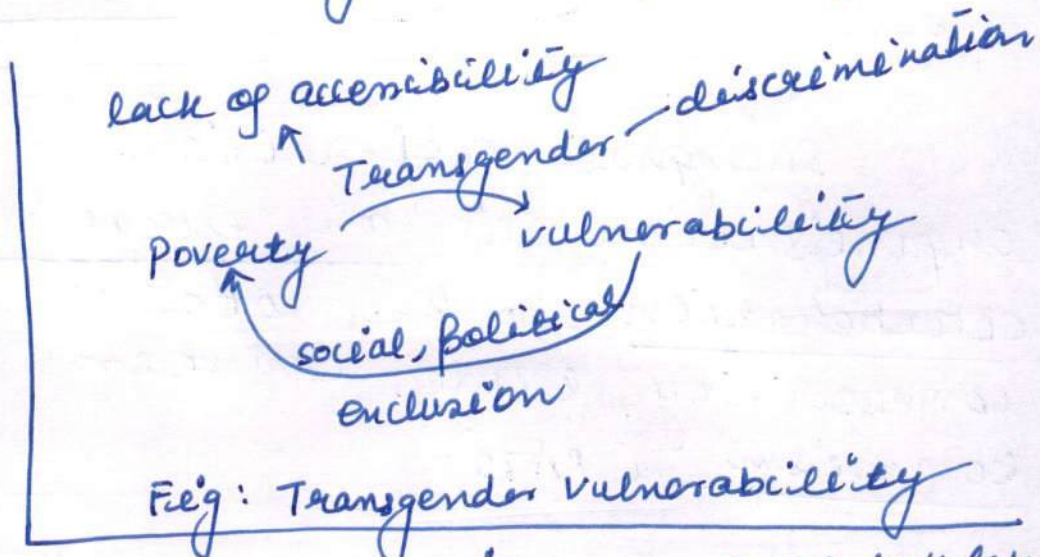


## Transgender - yet not engendered

- 1) lack of real right to self determination  
eg have to get certificate from a
- 2) No right to appeal against the certificate
- 3) Discrimination faced  
eg NHRC report - 90% of transgender are economically marginalized
- 4) lack of reservation  
eg Ram Singh vs UOI - recognized need to give Transgender reservation
- 5) social stigma and discrimination
- 6) lack of statutory power with National Board for Transgender



## 7) vicious cycle of poverty



8) Political exclusion - out of 4.4 lakh, only 21000 registered for voting

### Measures needed

① More social awareness

eg Prominent figures like Naaz Joshi, Trineeta Kaldas

SWEEKRUTI MISSION - Right to live with dignity for transgenders by caanmaal Rana (IAS)

② Job eg Kochi station - by transgenders

③ Reservation facility.

There is need to move from current gender bipolarity to gender continuum.



19.

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

15

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

Shanghai cooperation organisation is an eurAsian collaboration to promote connectivity, trade, counter terrorism (RATS)



Fig: Current members of SCO.

Difficulty in fulfilling expectations from SCO

1) China and Pakistan Block :

hinders effective discussion against terrorism

eg RATS dysfunctional



2) single definition on terrorism  
could not be agreed

(eg) Pakistan - exclude  
action of self determination  
from terrorist act

3) Frequent disruptions of  
meeting

(eg) "victims of terrorism and  
propagator of terrorism  
cannot sit together to  
discuss terrorism"

S Jaishankar ex  
S to Foreign  
minister meet

4) lack of progress on  
infrastructures

(eg) Focus on CEPA and BRI by  
China → less focus on TAPI,  
INSTC project



## Other factor

- 1) Debt trap of china → Central Asian country closer to china
- 2) <sup>u</sup> "No limits for friendship" of Russia, china
- 3) Lack of connectivity

## Measures needed

- engage with Central Asian countries bilaterally
- ↳ eg connect Central Asia policy
- ↳ Better relation with Russia and Central Asia -
- ↳ soft power diplomacy

So it's vital for India's counter terrorism and Central Asia policy. Thus it should be revamped on priority basis through multi-stakeholder engagement and diplomacy.



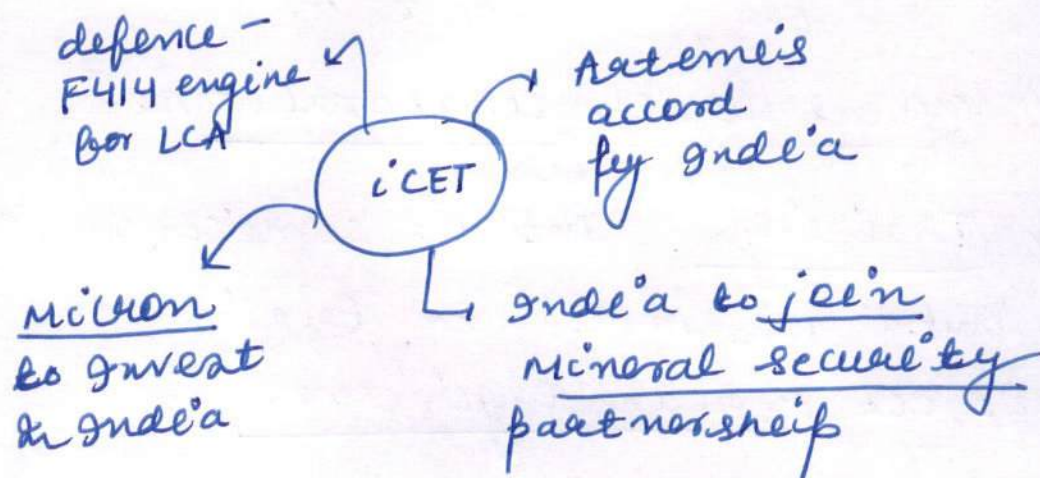
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और भारत के बीच महत्वपूर्ण एवं उभरती प्रौद्योगिकी (iCET) पर हाल ही में संपन्न पहल, प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में इनकी साझेदारी में लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित परिवर्तन का वादा करती है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

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)

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

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"India and US are natural allies" AB Vajpayee



iCET - transformation in field of technology

1) space technology : more sharing of data and modules b/w India (ISRO) & NASA

eg) deep in Gaganyaan mission

2) Defence : More Joint venture for manufacturing

eg) BECA allows more geospatial sharing



3) Semiconductor : India - Key  
part of friendshoring by  
USA

4) AI : More ~~a~~ modules on  
transformer working  
for generative AI

5) Cybersecurity collaborations

6) Training : ~~Ind~~ US semiconductor  
company (LAMBS) to train  
20,000 Indian engineers.

7) More investment by Micron to  
invest in Gujarat for  
Semiconductor manufacturing.

### Limitations

1) India removed from  
Generalized Service of  
Preference

2) Weak Intellectual Property of  
India - India in 301 Special  
Report of USA.



3) Policy uncertainty of US  
eg America's recent policy

4) Visa restriction by USA  
eg H-1B Visa restriction

5) WTO issues eg USA against  
solar panel tariffs of  
India

Measures  
needed

→ Iron out differences  
through joint discussions

↳ align iCET with boarder  
agenda of Quad and  
Indo Pacific strategy

iCET marks a paradigm  
shift in technology collaboration  
of US with India - by promoting  
more joint partnership, data  
exchange, space collaboration,  
semiconductor collaboration, securing  
supply chain etc.



## SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

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