

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT MAINS CAMP - 2025

General Studies FLT - 1 Test - 2 GS - 2	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:
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NAME:	ASEEM MAHASAN	Time allowed: 3 Hours
STUDENT ID.:	25UR99191	Email:
UPSC ROLL NO.:	3500549	Submission Date:
MOBILE NO.:		29-07-25

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**. All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/ part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1	/10	Q8	/10	Q15	/15
Q2	/10	Q9	/10	Q16	/15
Q3	/10	Q10	/10	Q17	/15
Q4	/10	Q11	/15	Q18	/15
Q5	/10	Q12	/15	Q19	/15
Q6	/10	Q13	/15	Q20	/15
Q7	/10	Q14	/15	Total	/250

Instructions:-

- Legible Scanning:** Exercise due diligence in scanning your scripts for clear legibility
- Submissions** marred by poor scanning, notably those with illegible sections or blackened pages due to improper scanning, risk being excluded from the evaluation process.
- Non-Adherence Consequences:** Failure to comply with the aforementioned instructions may lead to the disqualification of your submission.

For Student Only

Start Time - 1:30 p.m	End Time - 4:30 p.m
Mode of Examination	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
Receiving date	Dispatch date -

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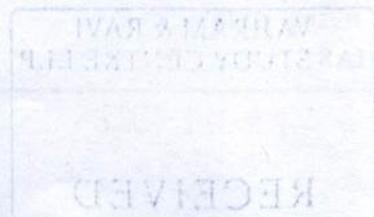
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Parameters		Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding				
Understanding Demand of Question				
Structure	Introduction			
	Body			
	Conclusion			
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.				
Language and Handwriting				
No. of Questions Attempted				
Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No				

Mentor's Feedback

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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



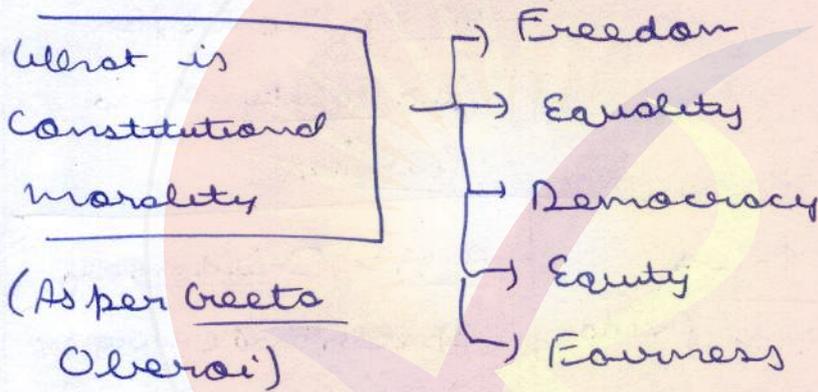
Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

1. 'Constitutional morality' is not a natural sentiment in India but has to be cultivated. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer with relevant examples. (10 marks / 150 words)

Dr. Ambedkar famously stated that constitutional morality cannot merely be imposed and has to be cultivated among Indian people.



Not a natural sentiment

Cultivation of Constitutional morality

① Inequity in society
 - 53% land held by zamindars at independence

① Art. 31A, B, C r
 Ensure end of zamindari and distribution of land → Equality

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ② <u>Casto system</u> -> <u>Perpetuates inequality</u> | ② <u>A.15, 16</u> - <u>Affirmative action - Equity</u> |
| ③ <u>Monarchical systems</u> for centuries | ③ <u>Brachell + A.324</u> - <u>Democracy and free and fair election</u> |
| ④ <u>Evil practices</u> like <u>Dowry and Sanyani</u> | ④ <u>Specific laws</u> like <u>dowry prohibition act</u>
<u>A.23</u> - <u>No began for equity and fairness</u> |
| ⑤ <u>Colonial laws</u> suppressing freedom | <u>A.19</u> - <u>Freedom of speech and expression</u> |
| ⑥ <u>Separate laws</u> for <u>Indians and Britishers</u> | <u>A.14</u> - <u>Equality before law</u> |

The Supreme Court has used constititutional morality as a sword for social reform in Shankari Prasad case and Manoj Joshi case and has even called it the 2nd basic structure

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2. "The anti-defection law was envisaged to curb unethical political defection but has ended up centralising power within party leadership". Examine the implications of this trend on federalism and intra-party democracy. (10 marks / 150 words)

The 52nd amendment introduced the concept of anti-defection to end the 'soya-ran → goya-ran' practice in Indian politics, but there have been unintended consequences.

Anti-defection for curbing unethical political defection

When it is unethical

- As a member of party - Vote against party lines
- As an independent - Join a party
- As a nominated member - Join a party after 6 months

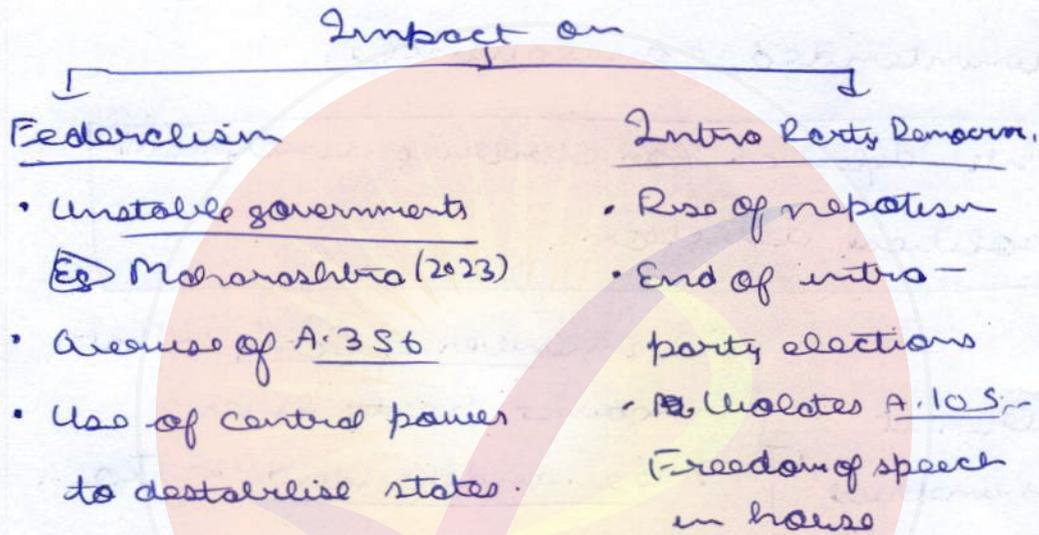
When ethical (Not disqualified)

- Elected as Speaker
- 2/3rd members merge with another party.

How it centralised power within party leadership

① No differentiation between dissent and defection

- ② Partisan role of speaker - Often sides with ruling party.
- ③ Encourages wholesale defections due to 2/3 rd rule
- ④ No time limits for action of speaker
- ⑤ No suo moto action -> Only on party notice



Solutions

- > By Judiciary
 - > Kihoto Hollohan -> Con judicial review decision of speaker
 - > Nehruvian -> Decide within 3 months
- > By Committees (Recommended)
 - > Independent tribunal instead of speaker (Law Commission)
 - > Differentiate dissent and defection.

Anti-defection powers must be given to an independent panel of judges to affirm

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3. "The Supreme Court's recent invocation of Article 142 to confer 'deemed assent' to state bills raises critical questions about the separation of powers. Critically examine. (10 marks / 150 words)

The recent judgement of state of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu saw supreme court use Article 142 to lay down set timelines for governors to act on legislative proposals

What is A.142

- Court can give any order to ensure complete justice
- Mand. Sidiq v. Mohant Suresh (Ram Mandir Case) :- Justice, equity and good conscience all find expression in A.142.

Use of A.142 for deemed assent judgement in conflict with separation of powers

① Restricts constitutional provisions

- A.200 :- Governor can ~~use~~ assent. withhold or return bill (No restriction)
- A.201 :- Governor can reserve bill for president

- ② Compensates 'discretion' directive in constitution
 - A. 163(2): If any decision taken by governor in discretion, cannot be questioned based on use of discretion.
- ③ Violates own directives of SC
 - Supriyo v. UOT - Supreme Court cannot dictate policy to centre
- ④ Intusion in legislative role of centre
- ⑤ SC as a super-national body over President and governor: As given power to review use of A. 200
- ⑥ Violates exclusivity principle of separation of powers

Solutions

- ↳ use of A. 142 only by a constitutional bench
- ↳ Legislation by centre on its own to prevent governor misuse
- ↳ Judicial restraint and set guidelines for use of A. 142

The Sarkaria Commission recommended non-partisan governors and their terms not to be disturbed for 5 years

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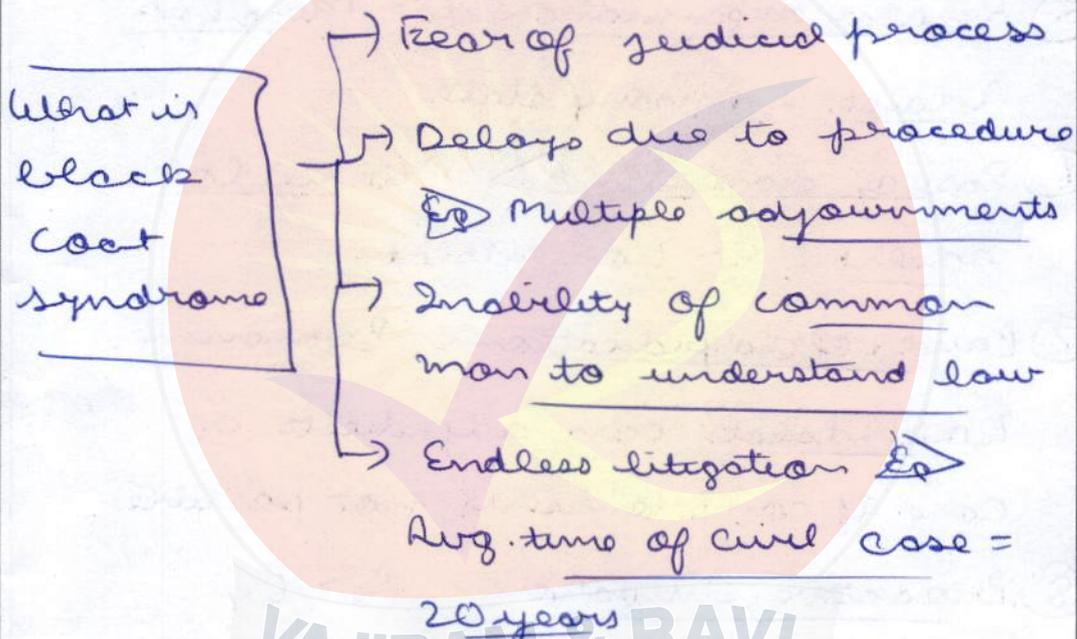
Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

4. "Justice delayed is justice denied" is a common adage. Explain how the Black Coat Syndrome challenges this principle and how Lok Adalats can restore faith in the justice delivery system. (10 marks / 150 words)

The 235th law commission highlighted the Black Coat syndrome, showing how anxiety due to complications of legal proceedings leads to many people losing faith in the system.



How Lok Sabha can restore faith in justice delivery

- ① Non-adversarial - The effort is to reach a compromise so that neither party loses
- ② Easier procedure - Not bound by

Code of civil procedure

- ③ Finality of judgement - No appeal shall lie against any judgement of Lok Adalat.
- ④ Reference from courts → S 89, CPC - If court sees that a settlement is possible, send to Lok Adalat.
- ⑤ Regular organisation → Mega Lok Adalats in many states.
- ⑥ Ease of access → Mobile Lok Adalat, E-Lok Adalat.
- ⑦ Power of adjudication - Permanent Lok Adalats can adjudicate a case if compromise is not possible.
- ⑧ Proactive litigation - → By NALSA for the rights of trans-gender people.

The government has started schemes like Scheme for Poor prisoners, where every eligible imprisoned person's case will be sent to a DLCA and then a Lok Adalat.

5. In light of the increasing relevance of uncontested elections and NOTA, critically examine whether electoral reforms are needed to ensure democratic legitimacy.
(10 marks / 150 words)

The recent order by Madheshwara SEC that anywhere where NOTA wins will be eligible for re-election, and the victory of an uncontested MP from the same state, raises new questions for need of electoral reforms

Why electoral reforms are needed for democratic legitimacy

- ① Increased corruption :- 44% of MP's have criminal cases, 28% have serious cases (ADR)
- ② Increased money power :- 55000-60000 Cr was spent in 2019 elections (ADR)
- ③ Loss of faith in system \Rightarrow SIR in Bihar has raised several questions regarding disenfranchisement
- ④ Tied hands of ECI :- No power to deregister parties (By SC in INC v.

ISW)

⑤ Use of social media for fake news and violation of silence period

⑥ Stagnant electoral participation
- Has not crossed 80% yet.

Proposed changes

→ Dinesh goswami committee: Fake affidavit punishment = 2 years

→ Indrajit Gupta - State funding of elections

→ NCRWC - Constitutional status to political parties

→ Best practices - Maharashtra SEC declaring elections null and void if NOTA wins

• Digital Observers in J and K during elections by ECI.

Amendments to RPA to ensure franchiseement of migrant workers

and new voting tech these include

voting in Bihar can be considered

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Marks:

6. Localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is not merely a policy choice but a governance imperative. Do you agree? Justify using suitable examples.

(10 marks / 150 words)

The principle of Subsidiarity states that any governance function which can be better performed at a lower level must be devolved, and localisation of SDGs is the best example of that.

How SDG localisation is a governance imperative

① Public participation Eg Tripura →
SHGs went from 800 to 8000
under Ranchayat Direction
(SHGs)

② Result orientation Eg Rooftop
solar panels are giving 14% of
our solar energy today (SDG 8)

③ Federal structure strengthened
Eg Uttar Bihar & Trischa

by Bihar (SDG1)

④ ~~SD~~ No 'one size fits all' formula;

↳ Eastern Uttar Pradesh capitalising on local crops available for balanced diet (SDG3)

⑤ Enhanced resources ↳ State involvement leads to innovative use of carbon credit markets (SDG13)

Localisation can be ensured by empowering and devolving all subjects to RLB's and ULB's and their regular elections

on time

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7. "The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) is both a regulatory necessity and a constraint on civil society." Critically analyse this statement in light of declining foreign aid and increasing scrutiny on NGOs.

(10 marks / 150 words)

As per a survey, over 60% NGOs have seen a fall in their donations after COVID-19, and 2018 also saw deregistration of 18000 NGOs ~~due to~~ due to various reasons

Role of FCRA as

Necessity

- ① To curb foreign influence → NGOs also overpay cost India 2-3% of GDP (IB)
- ② Ensure that legal funds flow in the system
- ③ Curb hawala practices in NGOs used for hawala via 'false administrative expenses' - Now limited to 20%.
- ④ Regulation not restriction : Fund flow is not banned

Constraint on civil society

- ① Necessity to open bank account in Delhi SBI branch - Increased hassle
- ② Foreign investors rettered by over compliance
- ③ Regulatory burden - ~~At~~ Renewal of registration every year.
- ④ Restrictions on use - Cannot use >20% funds for admin expenses.

Solutions

- Miyas Kumar Committee
- Light regulation
 - Online registration
 - Endless dealings

→ Use of social stock exchange

→ Raising domestic funds via CSR route

India can adopt best UK practice and create a separate law and ministry for NPO management

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Marks:

8. The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) seeks to integrate fragmented pension systems across sectors. Critically evaluate its potential to ensure inclusivity and social security. (10 marks / 150 words)

The centre has recently launched UPS, combining the best features of both OP S and N P S which led to a fragmented pension system.

Potential to ensure inclusivity

- ① Anyone, and not just government employees, can come under UPS
- ② Covers all central government employees
- ③ Increased payout by employers. The contribution by employees remains the same.

Ensuring social security

- ④ Returns employee contribution to ensure less burden on exchequer
- ⑤ Salary Minimum less salary

unlike OPS

⑥ Salary Pension is linked to dearness allowance \rightarrow Inflation rate.

⑦ Contribution of employees has not been changed

Challenges

- \rightarrow Central government employee pool is very small
- \rightarrow 90% Indians remain without any pension
- \rightarrow Maintains the market unpredictability that was in NPS
- \rightarrow Restrictions on withdrawing entire corpus

Despite these shortcomings, it is the perfect balance between fiscal prudence and social inclusion

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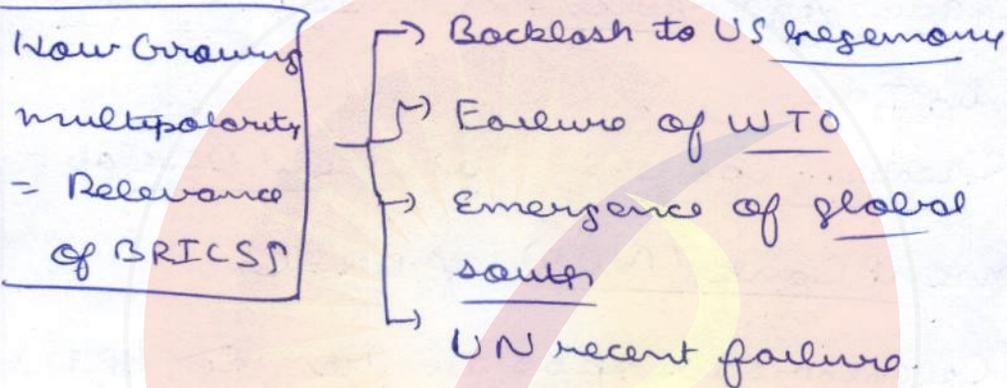
Conclusion

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Marks:

9. The growing focus on multipolarity has kept BRICS relevant in an evolving world order. Examine the strategic significance of BRICS for India and the Global South. (10 marks / 150 words)

The recent addition of 5 states like Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, etc. has shown the growing strength of BRICS as a multilateral forum



Strategic significance of BRICS

For India

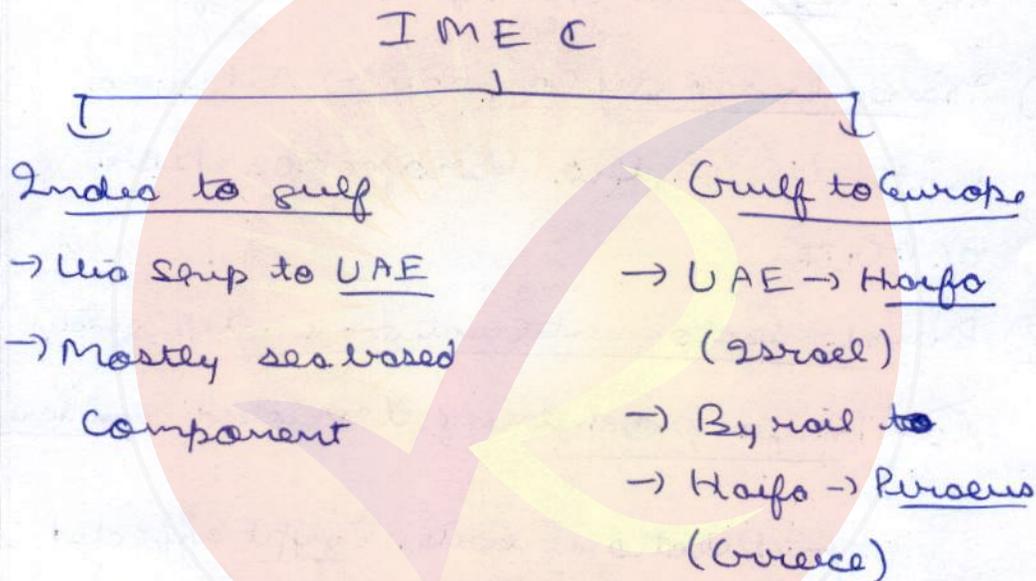
- ① Leadership of global south - As one of the policy makers
- ② Internationalisation of rupee - BRICS is attempting to check hegemony of Dollar.
- ③ New alliances - Eg → With Brazil, South Africa such as Global Biofuels Alliance

- ④ Africa outreach - The introduction of new members
- ⑤ Economic safeguard Eg Contingency reserve arrangement of BRICS
- ⑥ For global south
- ⑥ Representation in a major multilateral force Eg Africa has only 6% votes in IMF.
- ⑦ Cheaper loans - The new Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS
- ⑧ Collaborative opportunities Eg BRICS agri forum, BRICS science and Tech council.
- ⑨ Assistance in Crisis Eg BRICS vaccine facility

BRICS has been facing backlash from US President, but India has maintained the stance that it is not an Anti-US grouping and does not aim to remove dollar

10. "Corridor-based diplomacy marks a new phase in global connectivity politics."
Examine the strategic implications of India's participation in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). (10 marks / 150 words)

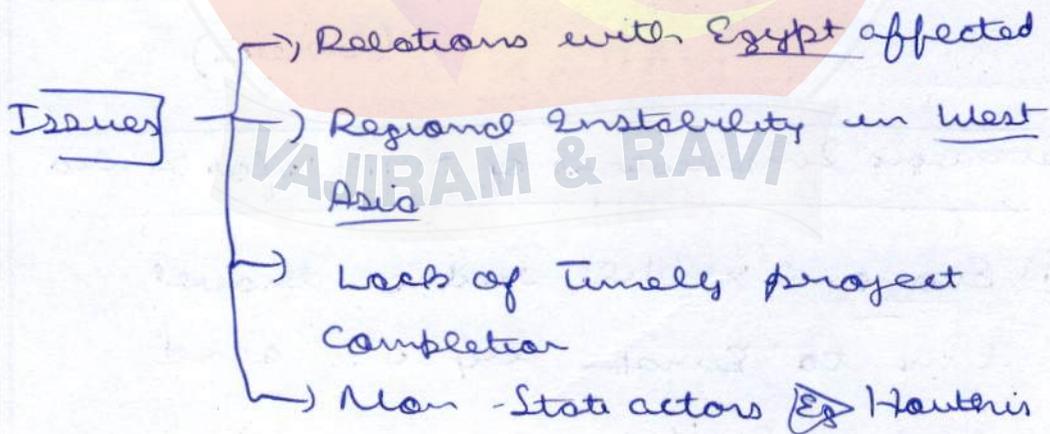
The IMEC is one of the many corridors developing such as INSTC, the arctic passage, the Belt and Road Initiative, etc, signalling the use of corridor based diplomacy



Strategic Implications of IMEC's for India

- ① Economic : Will reduce travel time to Europe by 30% and cost by 40%
- ② Geostrategic : Assets being built up in crucial West Asia

- ③ Energy - 40% of India's energy comes via west asia.
- ④ Counter to China \Rightarrow Countries like Italy have withdrawn from BRI \rightarrow IMEC can capitalise.
- ⑤ Bypassing chokepoints \Rightarrow Ship stuck in Suez Canal disrupted trade for 12 days.
- ⑥ Issue-based diplomacy \rightarrow Alliance with US in this project as part of PGII.
- ⑦ Private sector utilisation in diplomacy
 \Rightarrow Waifu port being developed by Adani.



India must ensure completion of the India-gulf log-in time to show its commitment to the project

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→ A. 15 U. A. 29, 30
State shall not discriminate based on religion
Every minority has right to protect culture.

② Non-binding nature of DPSP:-

A. 37 :- They are not justiciable

③ Relitigation of issues (Eg) Massive protests against Shayara Bano judgement ending Triple Talaq

④ Law Commission :- Recommended that UCC is not needed at this stage.

⑤ Flaws in existing UCC's

(Eg) Cross UCC :- A man can marry a 2nd wife if he has no child after 35 years, woman cannot.

⑥ New UCC's violating FR's

(Eg) Uttarakhand UCC :- Necessary to register live-in relationships → Violates privacy of love life U/A 21 (Goombai Grandjeu case)

⑦ Unity ≠ Uniformity (Eg) Orpc amendments in various states

Measures for national implementation

- ① Law Commission, 2015 : Adopt a piecemeal approach similar to how Hindu laws were codified
 - ② Codify all existing customs and test them against the touchstone of fundamental rights (Law Comm.)
 - ③ Involvement of religious leaders
Es) Ending wrong interpretations of Sharia
 - ④ Equality in approach - Not leading any particular religion as an example.
 - ⑤ Balancing FR's Es) Ending 'need to notify parents about live-in' requirement in Uttarakhand UCC
- As per Uthare, DPSP's are our 'manifesto of aims and aspirations' and thus the duty of government to implement them

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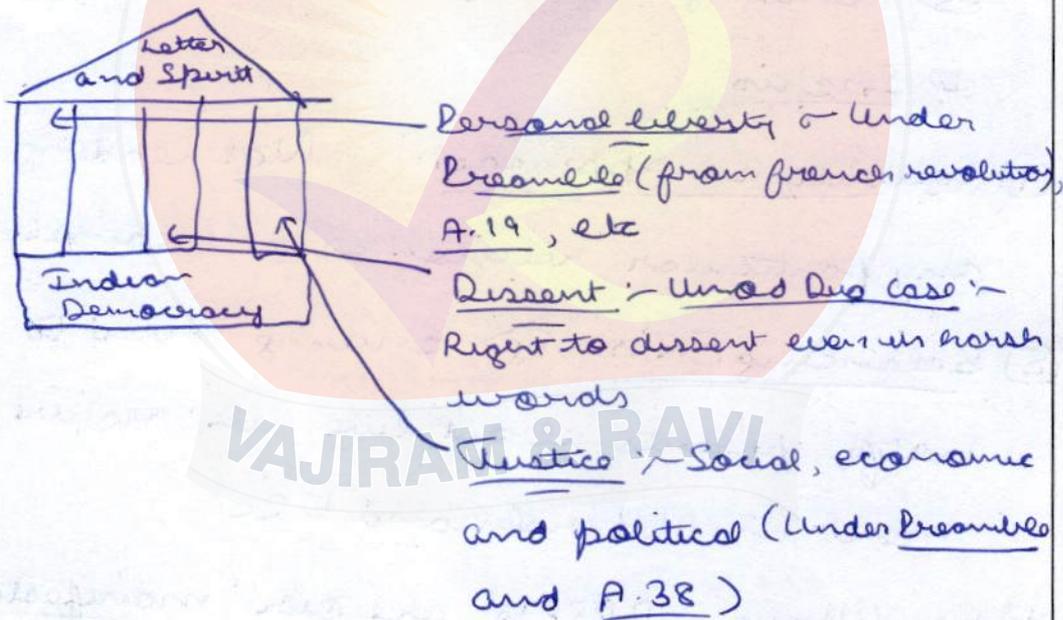
Marks:

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12. "Personal liberty, dissent, and justice are not merely abstract ideals but operational pillars of Indian democracy." In this reference, discuss the implications of Section 152 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on free speech and democratic dissent.

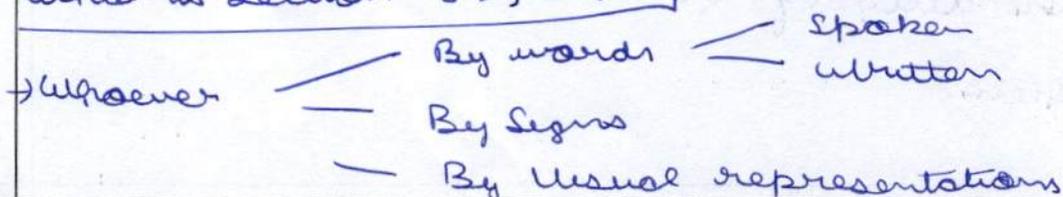
(15 marks / 250 words)

One of the major changes of the recently introduced BNS from IPC was abolishing S.124 of IPC (Sedition) and replacing it with S.152 of BNS (Acts prejudicial to sovereignty of India), which affects liberty, dissent and justice in its own way.



NOT MERELY ABSTRACT IDEALS

What is Section 152, BNS



- > Threatens or attempts to threaten
- > Unity or sovereignty of India
- > Acts prejudicial to national interest

is guilty under S. 152

Implications of S. 152 on free speech and democratic dissent

① Ambiguous definitions

↳ National interest has not even defined

② Definitions close to old S. 124

-> S. 124 was placed in Abeyance by SC in Editors Guild of India v. UOI case

③ Potential of misuse

↳ Unad Dns case: Reporter was arrested because of anti government statement.

④ Lack of guidelines in registering FIR

~~326~~ 326 cases under S. 124 in 2019,

6 convictions

- ⑤ Major retribution if charged : Man Compoundable, not bailable
- ⑥ Use to suppress dissent \rightarrow Balwant Singh case : charged merely for raising slogans.
- ⑦ Stifles media \rightarrow Rajkumari Singh arrested in Manipur.

HOWEVER, we need S.152 in certain situations for:

- Avoiding actual law and order issues
- Countering actual threats like urban vexation

Madhyamiko marg vik Editors Guild judgement

- Only SP or above can register case
- After prima facie investigation

The state has a prerogative for security but must balance it with the right of citizens to criticise government, even harshly.

- UU Lalit

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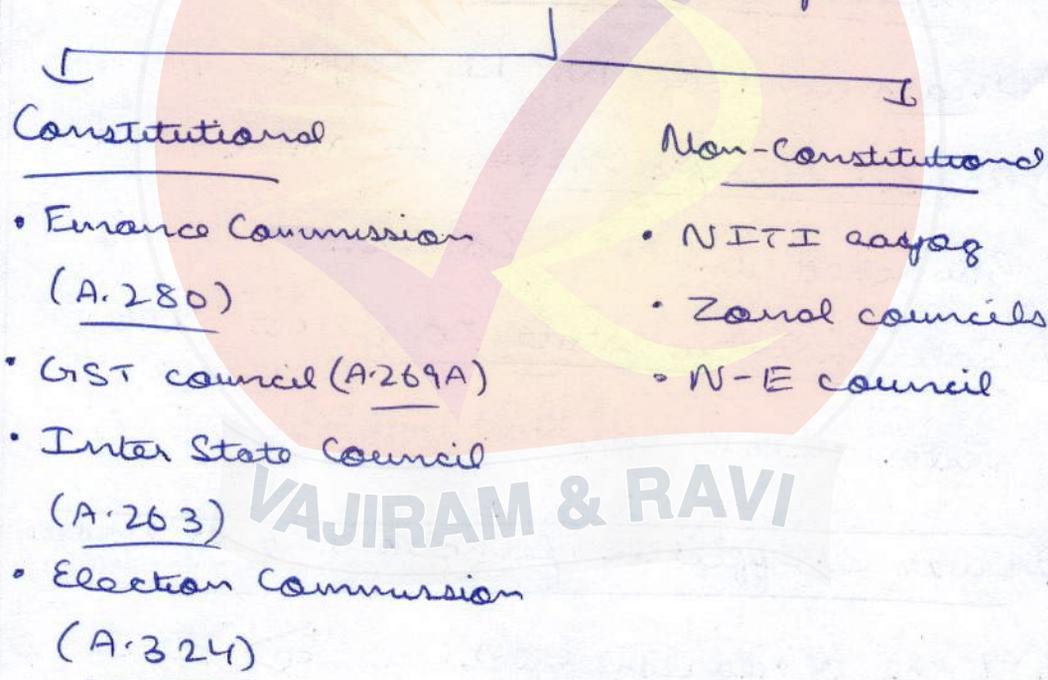
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13. The success of cooperative federalism in India depends on the effective functioning of constitutional and non-constitutional bodies." Do you agree? Discuss with examples. (15 marks / 250 words)

The recent labelling of zonal councils as 'Engines of cooperation' by our home minister, showing how 80% of issues under these councils were resolved, brings to light the importance of various bodies in cooperative federalism.

Bodies related to cooperative federalism



Success depending on their effective functioning

① Ensuring Constitutional mandates →

A.T → India shall be a 'union' of states.

- ② Diffusing secessionism / Eg → Inter-state Council ensures that state issues are addressed via debates.
- ③ Role in fiscal equivalency / Eg → 32 → 42%
Shares in revenue (13th → 15th FC)
- ④ Uniting the economy / Eg → GST Council
→ One nation - One market.
- ⑤ Adoption of best practices / Eg → Team India unit of NITI aayog
- ⑥ Region specific issues :- NER-AMC
launched in NE - Council.
- ⑦ Solving inter-state conflicts via
inter-state council.

Issues in effective functioning of bodies

- ① Lack of regular meetings / Eg → I-S Council has barely met 10 times in the last 10 years.
- ② Centre's domination / Eg → Veto in GST Council

③ Violation of principle of subsidiarity

↳ Tied grants given by finance commission.

④ Misuse of legal provisions ↳

Cesses and surcharges upto 25% in 2022-23 → Not shared with states.

⑤ Lack of powers to bodies ↳

NITI aayog is merely advisory in nature

Solutions

- ↳ Fiscal prudence by
 - ↳ Centre: End date for cesses
 - ↳ States: No freezes
- ↳ Minimum no. of meetings of every body
- ↳ % of GDP devolved to NITI → On lines of planning commission
- ↳ End of centre's veto in GST council

Cooperative federalism is strengthened by trust-building measures like centre's extension of 50 yr capital credit line to states

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Marks:

14. While India has a structured but rarely used process for the removal of judges, the UK emphasizes ministerial responsibility and in house mechanisms. Compare and evaluate these approaches in maintaining judicial accountability.

(15 marks / 250 words)

India's judiciary is meant to be completely independent and isolated from executive or legislative influences to ensure federal principles of checks and balances and is listed under A.124

India's structure of judge removal

① Under A.124

→ Can be removed in a special session

→ By a special majority of both houses; $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ majority of present and voting + majority of total members

→ If resolution is passed, president issues order

② Under Judges inquiry act

→ A Committee of CJI and 2 other judges investigates charges before they are brought up before the house.

③ Procedure set by V. Ramaswamy

V. UOI

→ First CJI of the concerned high court investigates charge

→ If found true, refers to CJI of India

→ He sets up a 3 member committee of 2 Hc CJI's + 1 Hc judge.

→ If they find guilty, then CTI proceeds

Approach of UK

① Every minister countersigns his own actions

② Every minister can be held responsible

for his own actions

③ There is an in-house procedure for judge removal by judge

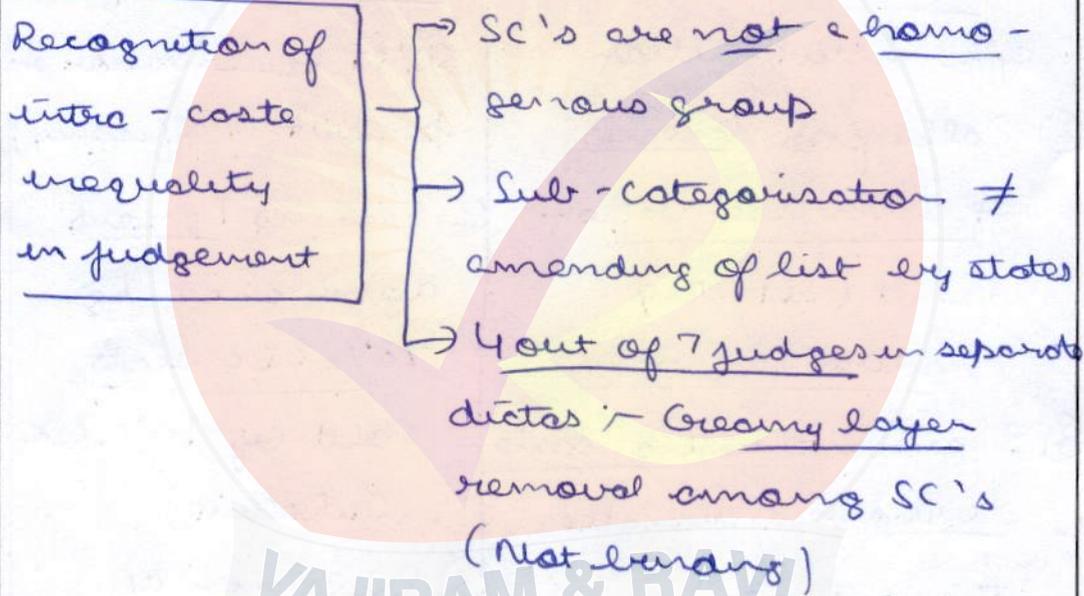
UK	India
① Lesser isolation of branches	① More isolation = More independence
② Procedure not laid under Constitution	② Procedure is laid under Constitution
③ Ministers are individually responsible	③ Ministers are collectively responsible
④ In house mechanism for all removals	④ Legislature involved in judicial impeachment

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15. "Judicial recognition of intra-caste inequality within Scheduled Castes opens new debates in affirmative action policies". Examine the challenges and opportunities this poses for social justice in India.

(15 marks / 250 words)

The recent State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh judgement has upheld sub-categorisation among SC's by the state of Punjab, recognising inter-caste inequality



New debates opened by this are:

- Whether creamy layer concept (Applied to OBC's via Indira Sawhney) must apply to SC's
- Barometers of sub-categorisation

- ↳ Whether objective of SC categorisation was social or economic justice
- ↳ Whether concentration of power in certain SC groups is factual

Challenges

- ① Renewed caste-group demands for more affirmative action
- ② Calls for breach of 50% reservation limit (Set by Indira Sawhney)
- ③ Increased intra-caste division (Undermines their unity)
- ④ Absence of quantifiable data due to lack of caste census.
- ⑤ Federated polity - Each state will work according to political needs

Opportunities

- ① Fulfillment of A-335 (Do not forget SC/ST reservation in pursuit of efficiency)
- ② Ending 1 group dominance Es 70% OBC seats held by 10% OBC (Or. Rahim)
- ③ Inclusion of SEBC's in spirit (A-16)
- ④ Cooperative federalism - States free to pursue own policies

⑥ Violation of merit principle (A.335)

⑤ Preamble's objective of justice is met.

⑥ A.16: Backward classes of citizens to be included

Steps to ensure removal of intra-caste inequities in sport

① Statistical - Conducting Caste census accurately

② Implementation - Closing backlog of SC/ST prevention of atrocities act.

③ Committee base - Committee on the lines of Dr. Rohini to make recommendations.

④ Legal - Considering creamy layer application to SC

The judgement's true impact can only be felt when supplemented by state policies

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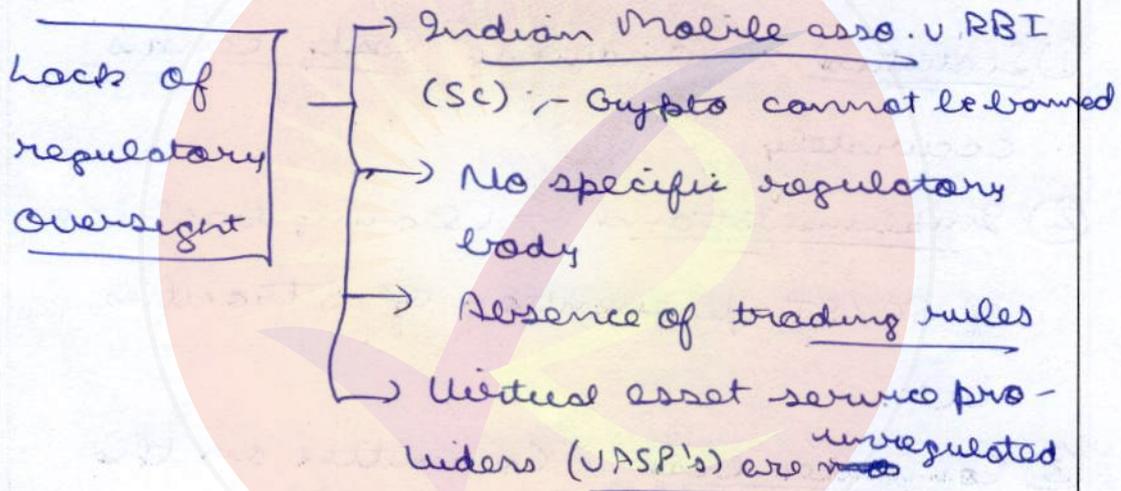
Conclusion

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Marks:

16. The lack of clear regulatory oversight on virtual digital assets (VDA) in India raises concerns about transparency, accountability, and misuse. Discuss the governance challenges and suggest institutional reforms to regulate the VDA sector. (15 marks / 250 words)

Virtual digital assets are any technology that hold and store economic value and are used for economic transactions such as blockchain based currencies, NFT's, etc.



Concerns related to VDA's

Transparency

- ① Lack of traceability of origin and destination
- ② Opaceness of blockchain systems
- ③ Foreign nature of VASP's

Accountability

- ④ Huge environmental burden due to proof of work concept → But no liability.
- ⑤ No specific laws to trace usage.

Misuse

- ⑥ Use in dark web transactions
- ⑦ Raising funds for terrorism
- ⑧ Use in cybercrimes Eg Colonial pipeline ransom was paid in crypto
- ⑨ New offences Eg Crypto-jacking

Governance challenges

- ① Jurisdictional :- VASPs are usually based abroad → Absence of VDA comes in extradition lists
- ② Establishing liability :- Impossible to trace blockchain
- ③ Seizure related ✓ ~~Other~~ Most agencies do not have a crypto wallet to keep seized assets

④ Technical lag \Rightarrow Failure of CERT to act on time.

⑤ Absence of Indian digital currency

Reforms to regulate UDA's

① Taxation : Budget 2025 : 30% tax on profits + 1% on transactions.

② Institutional : More finances to CERT and BPRD

③ Legal : New IT bill, 2025 to be passed.

④ Best practices : BPRD has developed a crypto wallet.

⑤ Innovation \Rightarrow Introduction of CBDC to use for legal transactions

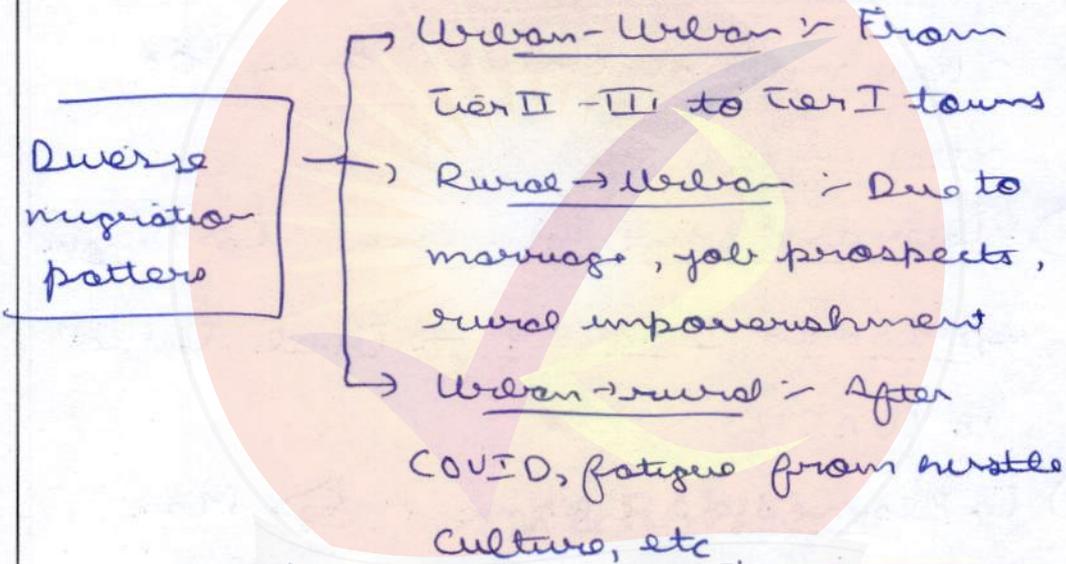
The China model of using national currency for necessary crypto transactions can be looked into

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17. As migration patterns diversify across India, newer urban centres face challenges of integration and service delivery. Analyse the implications for governance and suggest how migrant support systems can be strengthened.

(15 marks / 250 words)

India has around 453 million internal migrants (Census 2011) and the number is on the rise as 70% of population will live in urban centres by 2050, bringing new challenges



New urban challenges

Integration

- Due to increased population
- Law and order issues
- Sense of self backlash

Service delivery

- Decreased reach due to slums
- Inadequacy of infrastructure to handle load

Implications of challenges for newer urban centres

- ① Transport issues Eg → worsened situation in Greater Noida
- ② Log in service delivery Eg → 1.1 million excluded from ration schemes.
- ③ Resource concentration Eg → Smart cities mission covers only 100 cities.
- ④ Water and sanitation issue Eg → Dengue spread in Delhi → Triple Threat to WASH.
- ⑤ To Planned development Eg → Max deaths in Delhi floods of people living in Yamuna floodplains → Not zoned for residential.
- ⑥ To housing Eg → Skyrocketing prices in Gurgaon
- ⑦ Exclusion of marginalised Eg → Lack of disabled friendly buildings

Strengthening migrant support system

- ① By policies \rightarrow Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Area (PURA) concept
- ② By statistics \rightarrow E-Shram card being given to each migrant
- ③ Migrant specific policymaking
 \rightarrow PM SVANI DHI for street vendors.
- ④ Tech Innovations \rightarrow One Nation One Ration Card.
- ⑤ Best Practices \rightarrow Sarkar Wade Dwaar \rightarrow Keyak for service delivery
- ⑥ Legal \rightarrow Strengthen inter-state migrant workmen act

As per 12th FYP, migrants are not the cause of urban denuse but poor governance is, and they can become the engines of an urban endie

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18. India's poor human capital limits workforce productivity and impedes growth. Discuss the key structural constraints and suggest targeted reforms needed to strengthen human capital and effectively harness the country's demographic dividend. (15 marks / 250 words)

As per a recent India skills report, only 48% of India's workforce was found employable → A sad state of India's existing human capital and how it limits productivity and growth

Poor Human Capital

- Health → 33% stunting rate
- Education → 28% GER in HEC
- Skilling → Only 4.8% are formally skilled
- Innovation → Only 1 lakh patents last year
- Nature of employment → 95% are in informal sector

Limits worker productivity

- 4-5 times lesser than Chinese workers (McKinsey)
- Lack of skills (70% graduates cannot send E-mail)

Impedes growth

- Lack of technical skills
- Low presence in global value chains
- Lack of high value adding firms

Structural constraints

① Lack of investment

Education (2.5% of GDP)

Needed - 6%

Health (1.15%)

Needed - 3%

② Skilling and education separated;

Not treated as part of uniform whole.

③ Rudimentary education system

Es. ASER Program - 60% children are not ready for new age skills.

④ Digital divide Es. 67% access in

urban, 31% in rural (India Inequality report)

⑤ Absence of a skilling infrastructure

- Skills councils in districts are defunct Es.

⑥ Low levels of formalisation :- Only

5% formal industry.

⑦ Lack of innovation financing :-

Absence of a well developed bond market

Targeted reforms needed

- ① In education
 - Implement NEP
 - Skilling as part of curriculum
 - Focus on apprenticeship programs
- ② For health
 - Cover missing middle
 - Expand networks of insurance correspondents
- ③ For skilling
 - Skill loans (Budget 2024)
 - Review Skill Councils or districts (Scheme Committee)
 - Review ITI's
- ④ For innovation
 - KAPIL scheme
 - Atal innovation labs expansion
- ⑤ Employment/Entrepreneurship
 - Formal skilling (Santa Kores Model)
 - Develop local market

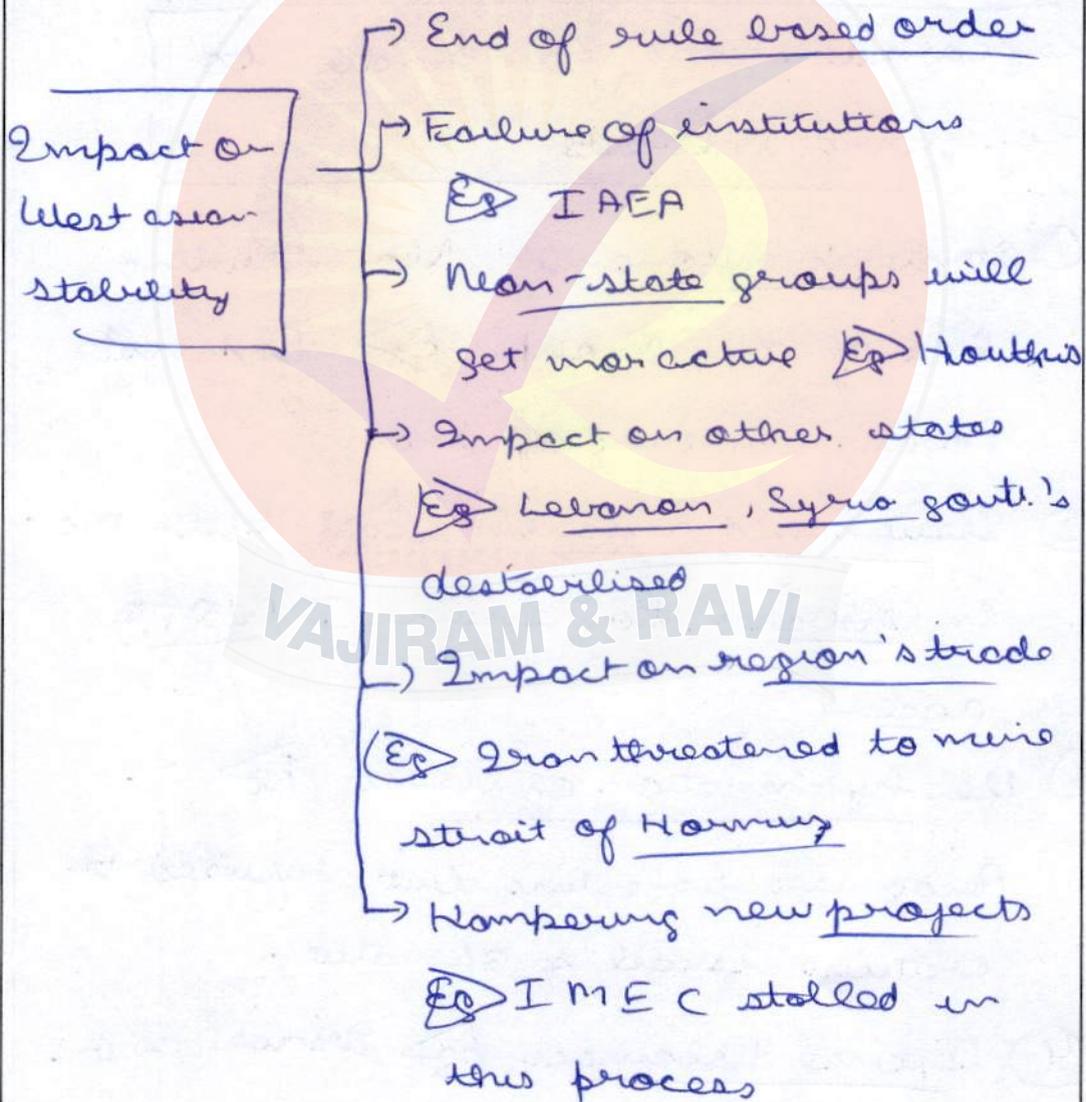
India needs urgent financing to capture its demographic dividend, as its labour force is going 20% up in next 10 years

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19. "How have the growing tensions between the U.S., Israel, and Iran affected regional stability in West Asia? In this context, evaluate the key considerations for India's foreign policy to safeguard its interests in West Asia."

(15 marks / 250 words)

The recent bombings of Iran's Natanz and other nuclear sites by US and Israel has ratcheted up tensions in the middle east and affected regional stability of the entire region



India's interests in west asia

- Energy :- 40% of oil / crs supply
- People :- 8 million diaspora
- Assets :- \rightarrow Crude oil port in Iran
- Projects :- IMEC in Israel
- Relationships :- With Israel for defence, Iran for oil

Key considerations for India to safeguard interests

- ① Strategic autonomy - Not towing line of any group \rightarrow Did not favour bombing of Iran
- ② Traffic based alliances \rightarrow With Iran on Crude oil to ensure INSTC access
- ③ De-hyphenation of issues \rightarrow Recognises palestine but refused to criticise israel's operation
- ④ Defence diplomacy \rightarrow Israel as one

of prime suppliers of arms.

- ⑤ Role of a mediator Eg PM Modi called India 'on the side of peace'
- ⑥ Focus on geostrategic assets Eg Investment in Haifa Port for IMEC
- ⑦ Diplomatic overtures to ~~traditional~~^{everyone} in the region Eg Supply of wheat to egypt in crisis
- ⑧ Countering Crisis - Concluded 30 year 400 bil \$ deal with Iran.
- ⑨ Dispersed diplomacy Eg using it to exert influence as mediator India needs to utilise the G-20 trials to assume leadership as a negotiator in the region and place its geostrategic assets as the prime consideration for its policies

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20. The evolving "Great Game" in the Arctic has opened new frontiers of strategic competition. Discuss its implications for India's (energy security, / scientific diplomacy, and multilateral engagement.)

(15 marks / 250 words)

The recent visit of US vice President to Greenland and reopening of old bases in Arctic by Russia are all part of a great game starting by discovery of resources and sea routes opening up in the arctic.

Evolving great game

- For control of resources Eg → US's offer to buy Greenland
- Control of new trade routes Eg → Arctic passage, northern passage
- Energy consideration → 20% of untapped oil reserves found in Arctic
- Security considerations Eg → Distance b/w rivals is very less in Arctic
- Multinational of bodies Eg → Arctic Council has become a forum to push security agenda

Implications for India

Energy security

- ① Share in new energy resources via the Chennai - Uledwastak link
- ② India's investment in Russian Far East (RFE to tap new resources)
- ③ Collaboration with Russia by KABIL in research

Scientific Diplomacy

- ④ Ind-ARC mission sent to Arctic in 2005
- ⑤ ~~Ministry of~~ National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NEPOR) to handle arctic concerns

Multilateral engagement

- ⑥ Observer in the Arctic Council for decades
- ⑦ Active participation in the arctic council

⑧ IPEF has arctic region as one of its issues of concern

⑨ Free and Open blue waters is insisted on by India in all fora like QUAD

Challenges

① No direct territory in Arctic

② Alienation from great game - Not a member of arctic council

③ Dominance of US-Russia-China trijects

Way forward

① Strengthen research infra in Arctic

② Capitalise on tech diplomacy

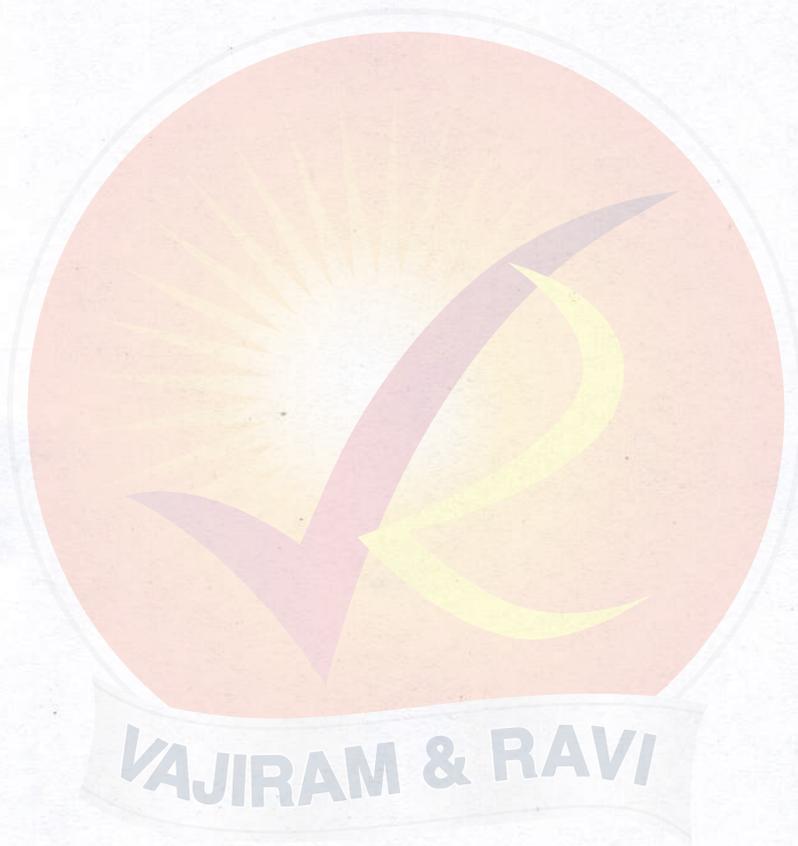
③ Avertures to neutral states like Iceland

④ Utilising KABIL to tie up with Russian firms

India must start investing in infrastructure like Icebreakers to be a global leader in the arctic great game

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Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work

