

U.P.S.C.

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Test-6 (GS-2)

Name - Jaideep Mali

email - [REDACTED]

Mobile - [REDACTED]

Ag - Sure shot Mains 2025 -
FLT

Student Id - 1870978

Test date - 28/7/25

UPSE CSE 2025

AIR - 645

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

प्रश्न संख्या
अथवा
(Don't enter anything
in this part)



U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

① Separation of power can be defined as division of powers among three organs of the state to maintain appropriate checks & balances.

Tussle between three organs ⇒ affecting separation of powers

1) Recent invocation of Article 142 by Supreme court in mandating timeline for Presidential assent, on State bill (State of TN vs Governor case, 2025).

2) Frequently resorting to ordinances by Executive and even re-promulgation
eg) CAQM for NCR Act

3) Presence of Executive Majority in tribunals

4) Legislature enacting NSAC Act,

2015 for appointment of Judges
with Majority of Executive members
⇒ affected Judicial Independence

5) SC in Anoop Baranwal case
included CJI in ~~the~~ CEC Appointed
However, Parliament enacted law
replacing him with Cabinet Minister

Need for checks & balances -

- 1) Maintain Executive accountability
to legislature
- 2) Prevent arbitrary & misuse of
power by one organ
- 3) Maintain democratic balance &
constitutional safeguards like
protection of fundamental rights
- 4) Uphold rule of law - limited power
& constitutionalism.
Steps like Judicial restraints using
Ordinances in emergency situation only are the
step forward.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कड़ु
न लिखें
Don't write anything
in this part.

②

Anti-defection law was brought by 52nd constitutional amendment, 1985 to prevent issue of political defections

Envisaged to curb unethical defection

↳ Defection leads to political instability.

↳ breach of voter's trust.

↳ Horse trading & corruption

Ended up centralising power with party whip:

1) Cannot vote or debate independently
— as defying directions of party whip amounts to defection

2) Party leadership decides agenda of voting or debate

3) Affects parliamentary privilege of free speech.

4) Lack of timely & uncertain
decision by Speaker further
affects MP/MLAs position
eg) Maharashtra Speaker in 2023

Implications on federalism

↳ Affects say on MP/MLA on
local issues - constituency
matters.

↳ Subsumes regional level matters
under National ~~level~~ matters

eg) Congress demand for Adani-
Hindenburg issue disrupted
other businesses.

Implication on Intra-party democracy -

1) Creates centralising top-down
tendency

2) Affects democratic functioning
incorporating say of MP/MLAs

Thus referring law to balance freedom of
Speech & create decentralised structure
way forward.

③

Free & fair election is a part of Basic structure of Constitution, propounded by Supreme Court in Indira Gandhi election case, 1975.

Allowing candidate to be declared elected without facing a poll:

- 1) Violates principle of popular sovereignty - voters electing a candidate.
- 2) Creates a ^{situation} ~~law~~ of Authoritarianism - as no role of people.
- 3) Goes against the principle of representative democracy & procedural integrity.

Also strikes at the root of
citizen's democratic right.

1) Violates citizen's constitutional
right to vote.

2) Violates constitutional morality
- principle of govt. by the people

3) Creates situation of tyranny /
arbitrary power - against idea of
Rule of law

Measures to prevent that -

1) Adequate checks & balances by
Judiciary, Election Commission.

2) Strengthening NOTA provisions

3) Adequate grievance redressal
mechanism (eg) C Vigil, SVEEP by
ECI.

Proper procedural integrity of election
is the bedrock of free & fair election

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कृपया
बिना किसी
सहायता के लिखें।
(Don't write anything
in this part)

④

Right to property is a constitutional right under Article 300-A.

Right to property deprivation must follow due process of law -

- 1) State cannot violate this right by arbitrarily depriving
- 2) Article 300-A provides for any deprivation by appropriate authority of law (Competent Authority)
↳ Rule of law ensured.

- 3) Supreme Court in various cases laid Doctrine of eminent domain - State can take private property for public use, but with due procedure & conditions like -

→ Fair compensation.

→ Consent of the property owner.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

→ Acquiring by adequate legal procedure & competent authority

4) SC recently in property owners association vs Maharashtra case

→ Private property does not directly become material resources for community use.

Recent direction on Demolition protocols

1) Adequate & timely notice to owner / resident by competent authority

2) Giving him/her right to challenge or represent his case (hearing).

3) After due process of law only (Eminent domain doctrine), go ahead with the demolition.

4) Apply proportionality test - find if there is any alternative.

Right to property remains an essential right of citizens, protected by constitution, thus due process essential.

⑤ PESA Act enacted in 1996 was aimed to create self Governance Institutions in Scheduled Areas (6th schedule).

Transformative Intent -

- 1) Self-Governance Institutions for tribal areas \Rightarrow political empowerment
- 2) Protection of their customary rights, traditional vocations, & culture.
- 3) Management of community resources land, according to their customary rights.
- 4) Empowering Gram Sabhas in carrying out development activities, social justice - prior say of Gram Sabhas in allocation of mining, large projects, etc.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

However,

Implementation remained uneven
& Inconsistent -

1) For years, Many states did not
notified their creation
eg Jharkhand, Odisha

2) Lack of Capacity building, technical
assistance & secretarial staff
in aiding their function.

3) Infrastructure & Manpower shortage
affects viability.
eg Sirohi district, Rajasthan

4) Security challenges & topographic
challenges.
eg Naxal affected area.

5) Large projects not involving them
in implementation, dilution of EIA

eg Vedanta project, Odisha.

Measures like Capacity building, better
funding & strengthening EIA are needed

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

⑥ Gender equality remains the cornerstone of both Sustainable development Goals 5.0 & our Constitution (Article 15, 16).

Need for Gender Sensitivity in legal system -

- 1) Failure to understand specific needs of women & their situation
↳ eg lack of appropriate women cells in prison (NCFB Report)
- 2) Failure to understand socio-cultural barriers & prejudices faced by women
↳ eg poor reporting of domestic violence despite legal provision
- 3) Lack of sensitivity in FIR registering
by poor women or rape victim
↳ perpetuates their agony.
↳ harassment

4) Lack of timely action

↳ eg not constituting Internet
complaints committee under Post
Act - Death of Odisha Girl
recently.

However, for true substantive equality
it needs to be reconciled with
gender neutrality →

↳ Gender neutral terms in laws/
Rules/ Regulation

↳ eg Rape cases, harassment
↳ To also incorporate specific
concerns of LG/BTQIAT
(third Gender).

↳ Will tend to dismantle prejudices
bias of patrilarchy

↳ eg Joseph Shine case of 2018
- Gender Neutral language
taught.

Substantive equality requires gender
neutral approach in dealing with their
issues & sensitivity towards specific
concerns & crimes against specific gender.

7

"One size fits all approach" tends to create a uniform single model for a problem, often lacking regional or local context.

Example of such approach ignoring regional heterogeneity -

1) Design of PDS scheme - with centralised procurement & uniform system of fair price shops
↳ Shankar Prasad Committee suggested decentralised model.

2) Centrally sponsored schemes
eg. Integrated development of wildlife habitat - often lack specific situation of wildlife-human conflicts like Kerala

3) Finance Commission's fund devolution

U.P.S.C.

— though involves area, population
as parameters, lacks specific
funds for regional challenges.

Implications on state level autonomy & Inclusive Development

1) Forces top-down model, ignoring
regional priorities & needs

eg) three language formula for
Tamil Nadu

2) Affects local bodies - role as
self governing institution - as
they mostly implement top-down schemes
(Against spirit of Article 40)

3) Affects state's autonomy in
making capital expenditure & borrowing
eg) Centre's imposition of net borrowing
ceilings to

Need →

flexibility in centrally sponsored
schemes
→ empowering local bodies
→ evidence based data driven
interventions

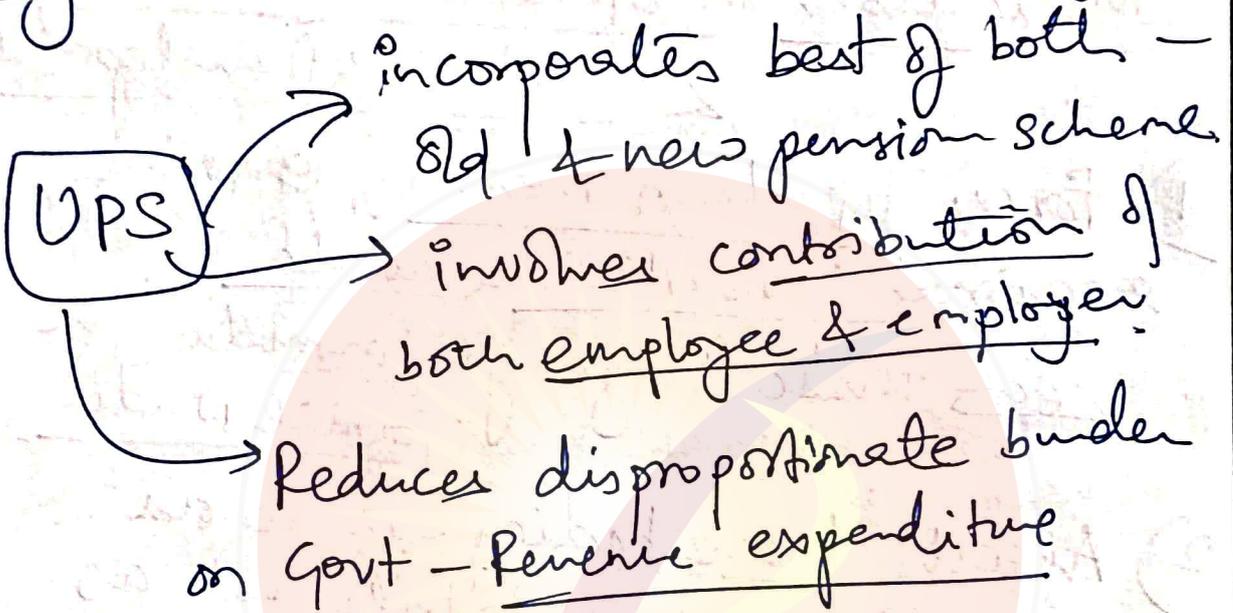
U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

8

Unified Pension Scheme aims to integrate different payment systems and ensure better management



Potential to ensure Inclusivity & Social Security -

- 1) Integrates schemes meant for informal workers by voluntary contribution
(eg) PM Swan Mandhan Yojna.
- 2) Growing middle class under the

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

net of pension benefits - Inclusive

3) Data driven approach - targeted
intervention & monitoring
↳ prevents leakages, corrupt
practices

4) Creates fiscal space for govt.
for designing new pension & social
security schemes.

However

Challenges in ensuring Inclusivity:

1) Digital divide in rural areas
(24% internet penetration
only - NSSO)

2) Lack of awareness among unorganised
workers hinder participation.

3) Inclusion - Exclusion error due to
Aadhaar based authentication.

Adequate awareness & digital literacy
can create enabling situation for more
employees to take benefits of VPS
scheme

9

Recently, BRICS summit held in Brazil, a multilateral group of 10 Nations.

Evolving world order

↳ Decline of US unipolarity marked by Multipolarity with rise of China, India, EU

↳ Democratic deficit of Global Governance Institutions
eg. UN, IMF

↳ Tariffs, protectionist measures upended Geo-economic

↳ Rising Geopolitical conflicts.

Such order kept BRICS relevant

1) BRICS advocating for Global Governance reforms → increasing representation of Global South.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

2) Calling for alternative to US dollar by BRICS currencies trade in local currencies

3) Challenge to Western led Multilateral finance by creating Institution like New Development bank, Contingency reserve, Asiengenerat

Strategic significance for India

↳ Main Strategic autonomy vis-a-vis USA.

↳ push for democratic reforms of Global bodies

↳ leadership platform for Global South.

↳ facilitate trade & dialogue with Global South countries

Significance for Global South → prioritise their concerns

↳ better address their development challenges by Alternate arrangements

↳ check against Western hegemony

U.P.S.C.

उप प्रश्न
(Question No.)

एन सी ई आर
ए फॉर
(Don't write anything
in this part)

10

Onset of Bangladesh's PM Sheikh Hasina's & toppling of govt. created significant challenges for India - Bangladesh relations.

Impact on bilateral relations -

1) Trade affected - in significant sectors like textile, tourism, energy (GTRI Report)

2) Affected political engagement - trust deficit, anti-India stance by various sections.

3) People to people ties affected - with attacks on Minorities, challenge of illegal immigrants

4) Democratic order toppled - with

Radical outfits & military heavy
dominant say & failure to conduct
elections.

5) Security challenge - with rise
of Islamic radicalism & growth
of groups like Hurijyat ul Mujahideen

Impact on Neighborhood 1st policy -

1) Trading order upended - Bangladesh
being largest trade partner of
India in South Asia.

2) Playing chine card - Bangladesh
Introsim pm calling increased role
of chine & Bangladesh only Guardian
of SEA - Bay of Bangal

3) Regional organisation affected
like BIMSTEC, BBIN Motor
vehicle agreement

4) Development initiatives like energy
pipeline, etc gotta hit

Working on strengthening political ties with
all parties & banking on developmental
partnership is the key.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

11

73rd Constitutional Amendment Act
mandates constitution of SECs
for superintendence, control & conduct
of elections for panchayats & Municipalities

Constitutional Status not translated
into real functional independence:

1) Lack of timely election despite
constitutional mandate in many
states

(eg) Delay of over 2 years in
Tamil Nadu

2) Political Interference in their
function reported

(Mani Shankar Iyer committee)

3) Lack of effective powers &
authority, unlike ECI to enforce
strict check

(eg) violence in Bengal local
poll in 2023-24
bodies

- 4) Poor Staffing & Vacancies in the Institution in Many States
(eg) Rajasthan & Chhattisgarh
SEC
 - 5) Funds & expenses not charged upon consolidated fund of India rather subject to voteable part of state.
 - 6) Failure to evolve workable Model Code of conduct for local politicians & their enforcement.
- Impact on functioning of local bodies
- 1) Affects procedural part of democracy — due to lack of timely elections
 - 2) Election Integrity & democratic credentials gets affected due to political interference

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

3) Corrupt practices & Rigging
affects local self-governance in
true sense

(eg) Bengal POU violence &
intimidation of voters

4) Lack of real functional independence
goes against ethos of constitutional
morality.

5) Nexus of sarpanch & - criminals
& MP/MLAs emerges ⇒ affects
"power in people's hand" idea &
thus social justice & democracy.

Measures
needed

→ Effective powers &
Authorities like ECI,

→ Funds charged on
consolidated fund.

→ Bestowing Quasi-Judicial powers
for swift action against irregularities

Being a constitutional bodies SECs need
to be empowered in both letter & spirit

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
च लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

⑫ French follows the principle of Semi-presidential political system where both PM & President wield power, unlike India's system where President is just ceremonial head

French's Semi-presidential system -

1) President is directly elected by Universal Adult Franchise who holds sufficient executive power dealing with Matters like foreign affairs, etc

2) Alongside, it provides for Prime Minister & Cabinet directly responsible to legislature - Major role related to day to day administrative affairs

Co-habitation -

1) Situation in which President &

Prime Minister are of different parties because President's party failed to secure Majority.

2) Such situation forces both to co-habitat \Rightarrow co-operate, collaborate in policy making \rightarrow requires habit of consultation & consensus-building.

India's parliamentary system

Structurally prevents such arrangement -

1) Westminster style polity -

PM real head of govt. President only ceremonial head.

2) Responsible govt & Executive part of legislature

3) Immense diversity of India and newly independent country — necessitated Constituent Assembly to create stable polity over a situation like co-habitation which is prone to instability & disruption

4) Majority Party Rule — Majority party ~~is~~ remains in both legislature & also forms Govt (executive)

Lessons, India can draw from this —

1) Habit of consultation & co-operation
⇒ will help during coalition govt (like present govt of 18th LS)

2) Avoiding disruptions & deadlock for healthy democracy & policy making

Thus French co-habitation situation is semi-presidential significantly differs from India's parliamentary system

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

13) In recent State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor, 2025 case, Supreme Court has given a timeline of 3 months to Governor under Article 200 for assenting bills.

Absence of timelines \Rightarrow enables Constitutional Subversion

- 1) Affects legislative business and increase pendency.
- 2) Affects policy making and impacts society at large
(eg) Delay in assent to Digital personal data bill.
- 3) Creates legislative vacuum in the given area.
- 4) Creates political uncertainty.

5) Affects federalism - Governor's role seen as bumping State's legislative autonomy.

6) Uncertainty creates situation of constitutional subversion - by not adhering to constitutional morality & intent.

However, rigid timeline of 3 months also has challenges -

1) Affects Executive checks & balance on legislature

2) Affects Governor's role in scrutinising State's bill for any hasty action or arbitrariness or violation of constitution.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

3) Affects India's unique
federal polity where greater
check by Governor needed on
state to check any subversion,
security challenges, etc.

Way ahead in timeline under Article
200

- 1) An indicative timeline should be
given rather than rigid
- 2) Option be given to exceed in
certain circumstances, requiring
adequate reasoning, subject to
Judicial review.

Above steps will ensure legislative
continuity & also ensure separation
of power principle upholding Article
361 - powers & duties of President &
Governor can't be inquired into any
Court.

14) Article 39A directs state to ~~provide~~ ^{enable} equal justice & provide free legal aid to weaker sections.

Role of legal services authority in ensuring equal access to legal aid:

1) Provided by Legal Services Authority Act, 1987, it provides for institutional framework at National, State & district level.

2) Promotes legal awareness & knowledge
eg Jodhpur legal services authority.

3) Organises legal camps & aid clinics to reach to vulnerable
eg Kanpur legal aid clinic.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

यहाँ भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

4) Visits & monitors prisons by providing adequate legal aid to prisoners

eg) Representing them in courts
- consulting them on legal matters

5) Takes up matters of rights & claims of vulnerable sections

eg) Caste based discrimination
in Prisons & Prison Manuals

Challenges & failures in their role -

1) lack of expert lawyers involvement
mostly interns & freshers

2) lack of adequate remuneration
& incentives hinders effectiveness

3) vacancies & infra gaps in

U.P.S.C.

Various institutions across states

↳ (highlighted by NALSA)

4) Poor sensitisation of lawyers towards underprivileged sections

3) Lack of funding & technical expertise of scale by state.

Key reforms to enhance role:

1) Dedicated funding channels to incentivise lawyers.

2) Reforming existing schemes like Nyaya Bandhu & Nyaya Mitra to include expert senior lawyers & their consulting.

3) Addressing Manpower & Infra Gaps

4) Supporting states with funding & technical staff to revamp SALSA

Above steps will realise Article 39A in letter & spirit.

15

Public Account Committee is an important finance committee of Parliament, which enables executive accountability to legislature in financial sphere.

Conscience keeper of Parliament

- 1) Examines Govt accounts in light of light of CAG report like appropriation & finance account.
- 2) Examine not only from view of technicalities but also legality, economy & propriety.
- 3) Examine whether money allocated have being legally disbursed for the service shown.

U.P.S.C.

यस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

4) Examine whether expenditure conforms to the authority governing it.

However, Structural & Political constraints

1) Post-Mortem nature of examination
— only after expenditure made.

2) Not involving in policy matters or day to day administration

3) ~~Not~~ Only advisory role.

4) On many instances, faced issue of expert guidance

5) Lack of active involvement of Ministers and their support as headed by opposition

Effectiveness in ensuring transparency & accountability:

1) Examines accounts from legal, technical & economical point.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

यह भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

2) It actively comments on propriety & prudence on fiscal matters

3) Ensures adequate regulatory checks & balances

eg) PAC recently took up review of regulatory bodies like RBI, SEBI.

4) checks the economy of different schemes & policies

eg) MGNREGA

However, faces challenges

1) Poor co-operation by ministries & regulatory bodies.

2) Only Advisory role hinders effectiveness - CAG himself highlighted this issue.

3) Scholar Devresh Kapur says, tenure of only 1 year leads to waste of expertise gain & affects depth of examination.
PAC remains a crucial instrument of financial check on executives

(16)

Digital health has become an
important pillar Digital India and
an effective strategy to realise
Universal health coverage

NOT just a technological solution,
but a Governance Imperative:

- 1) Unique digital health ID - enables
tracking person's health profile &
risk vulnerability
- 2) Better Research - by having a
database of health records &
disease trails of population
eg ABDM
- 3) Comprehensive targeting & tracking
eg Vaccination efforts under
U-WIN portal

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

- 4) Reaching last mile delivery
eg) COWIN vaccination efforts
& telemedicine
- 5) Online consulting to rural areas & tier-3 & tier-4 cities
eg) Practo App
- 6) Online delivery of medicines
through prescription uploading
eg) Netmeds
- 7) Effective monitoring & tracking
key variables on health outcomes
eg) Blockchain based Malnutrition tracking in Gadchiroli

Digital info strengthening Universal health coverage

- 1) Consulting & Medicine to door step \Rightarrow addresses issue of doctors in rural areas

U.P.S.C.

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

2) Inventory management of different vaccines & support system in rural areas
eg) e-VIN portal.

3) Adequate registration & timely reminders ⇒ no one left out
eg) U-WIN, CoWIN

4) Integrates different medical approaches in holistic manner
eg) Nutrition guidance, physical fitness, etc.

Challenges to be addressed -

1) Digital penetration in rural areas - Only 24% in rural areas (NSSO)

2) Digital awareness & knowledge issue

3) Cyber vulnerability of digital infra

4) Risk of Misinfo & AI based disinform

Steps like awareness generation, Bharat Net expansion way ahead.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

17

Lateral entry in civil services aims to reserve dedicated posts & seats in higher civil services posts for specialists & experts from different areas at later stage of services.

Lateral entry: Aims to bring efficiency ~~to the services~~

1) Experts & Specialists involvement
eg Nandan Nilekani heading
UIDAI

2) Need in increasingly technical & competitive world

eg AI, Bigdata disruption challenges & Governance.

3) Complements Generalists officers in

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Ministries & dept, facilitate
cross exchange of knowledge
(eg) MEA involving strategic experts

4) Better for nuanced economic
dec decision making

(eg) Sanjeev Sanyal in PM-EAC

However, challenges of Accountability
remains -

1) Understanding responsibility of
towards diverse sections of society

2) Corporate culture made them
profit driven, less regard for
Sustainable development

3) lack holistic approach catering
to different domains like Generalist
Civil services

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

4) Affects Reservation policies -
to include least advantaged section.

Imperative of Striking Right balance:

1) Transparent & holistic selection
process by UPSC

2) Considering diverse background - limited reservation
can be considered.

3) Clearly demarcating areas of
expertise for selecting candidates
(eg) Financial management,
law, Science, etc

4) Maintaining dedicated seats
every year to ensure smooth flow
of recruitment.

Thus limited lateral entry will
ensure efficiency, accountability & overall
effectiveness in civil services

(18) Pressure groups plays crucial role in democracies by creating platform for meaningful participation in Governance through lobbying, claiming rights and employing pressure tactics on Govt.

Informal Pressure Groups: early warning system in Democracies.

1) Advocates for rights, enforcing duties on State

(eg) Farmer pressure groups like Bhartiya Kisan Union.

2) Checks against tyranny & authoritarian tendencies

(eg) Filing PIL on bulldozer densitior

3) Early warning system resembling

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Social tensions or security
challenges

eg) Social movements,
Assam agitation (1980s)
against illegal immigrants

4) Protection of plurality and
cultural traditions.

eg) Caste associations like
Jat Sevak

5) Lobbying for communities' interest
or economic interest

eg) Dairy pressure groups
against FTAs like RCEP

6) Creates consciousness of rights &
liberties of democratic societies -

eg) PVCL, ADP groups.

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Role in safeguarding Public interest:

- 1) Protection of their rights & liberties - checks & balances
eg) Environmental pressure groups
- 2) Safeguards interests of vulnerable & marginalised communities
eg) Workers & Farmers pressure groups
- 3) Role in conflict resolution
eg) Civil society organisations
reconciliation efforts in Manipur
- 4) highlights Governance Gaps
eg) During COVID-19

Challenges however, are →

- ↳ Security challenges by Anonime pressure groups eg) Naxal Groups
- ↳ Protests & demonstrations sometimes hinder policy making eg) Farm laws
- ↳ Different groups having competing agendas.
Informal pressure groups enhances democratic base

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

19

India - Russia shares "special
and privileged "strategic" relationship

Rooted in Cold War Solidarity:

- 1) Foundation laid by Indo-Russia
friendship treaty 1971 - strategic
coupling.
- 2) America's embrace of Pakistan
& coming of US-China-Pak Nexus
in 1970s brought both USSR & India
even closer
- 3) Strong defence ties amidst war
with China & Pakistan forged
strong Defence Industrial co-operation
- 4) Since Independence, nuclear
co-operation, science-tech co-operation
brought both together.

U.P.S.C.

5) India's emphasis on Socialistic policy & centralised planning made natural convergence.

Faces Strategic inertia in fast
changing Multipolar World.

1) Geopolitical pivot to Indo-pacific led India to strengthen co-operation with USA. -

2) QUAD, I2U2 created divergences in India - Russia approach

3) India's diversification of defence supply chains by buying from US, France, Israel reduced reliance on Russia

4) Sanctions on Russia, its conflict with Ukraine created strategic inertia
eg CAATSA, ousting from SWIFT

5) Russia-china's 'friendship without
no limits'.

U.P.S.C.

6) India's rising economic profile
(4th largest) creating imperatives
of Multiple engagement.

Need of pragmatic reset -

1) changing Geopolitical & Geoeconomic
order - Cold war bipolarity to
Multipolarity.

2) Rising economic heft of India -
need of diversity

3) India's Regional competitors with
China and Russia's role in
balancing.

4) India's growing ties with EU,
USA & imperative of ties in critical
& emerging tech.

Despite changing realities, Russia remains
India's time-tested ally rooted in
strong foundation. India's step to abstain
from UN resolution on Ukraine & buying
Russian oil signals strategic autonomy
in pushing relations
with Russia.

20

Arctic polar region has become a new arena of Great power politics, wedged on every front.

Great Game opened new frontiers of strategic competition:

- 1) Rush for natural resources - with melting of Arctic region, untapped mineral base will lay open (eg) Crude oil, Natural Gas, critical minerals -
- 2) New trade & economic routes - connecting Asia & Europe - bypassing long Suez route -
- 3) Competition for scientific researches and new discoveries in new region -
- 4) Defence - Military competition - with new bases, new claims & new fronts .

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कठोर
प लिखें
(Don't write anything
in this part)

5) Strategic competition for territories & areas will increase among littoral & non-littoral states.

Implications for India

On energy security

- ↳ Getting involved in resource exploration & extraction.
(eg) Kharij Bidesh
- ↳ Diversified supply chain for energy & critical minerals (80% import dependence)
- ↳ effective trade route & better connectivity.
(eg) linking INSTC with Arctic route.

On Scientific Diplomacy

- ↳ India can take 1st mover advantage in scientific researches
(eg) Himadri station, Arctic

- ↳ Tapping such knowledge base & experience from scientific discoveries.
- ↳ platform for multilateral scientific collaboration
eg) Cryospheric research.

Multilateral engagement

- ↳ Imperative of effective collaboration with all stakeholders like Arctic littoral states
- ↳ Can help negotiate Multilateral treaty for rules-based engagement in region
- ↳ Enhanced trade & connectivity ties through multiple routes

Thus "Great Game" in Arctic has various implications for India. India needs to tap the first mover advantage.