


SPM IAS ACADEMY
 SHAPING BRILLIANCE

APSC Mains 2023 TS - 16 (GS Paper 2)
Duration – 3 Hrs

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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium:

 English ☒

 Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: • There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. • All questions are compulsory. • The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. • The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 20 marks. • Content is more important than the number of words. • Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one. • Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
1	10		
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TOTAL:	250		Remarks: Signature of the Student: <i>Lintu Gohain</i>



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Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

Detail Feedback

Q1. Do you agree with the assertion that the higher judiciary in India needs to be more transparent and accountable? Share your views. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans In India the higher Judiciary is composed of Supreme Court at the top and High Courts in the Middle and below are the Lower courts.

Need for more transparency in Higher Judiciary to make it accountable

- ① To ensure that the Justice delivered is fair enough.
- ② Appointment of Judges on higher courts is not biased enough.
- ③ Collegium system needs to be reformed.

④ Delays in Judgments should be halted

⑤ Judicial Overreach should be in line with Constitutional values

Challenges in bringing Transparency and accountability

① Govt. being a major litigant.

② Less functioning of Higher Judiciary.

→ SC → 193 days in a year

→ HC → 210 " " " "

③ Frequent criticism by Government.

Yes, the Higher Judiciary has to be more transparent and accountable and steps like

live streaming of court proceedings are good step in this regard.

Q2. Comment on the utility and effectiveness of soft power for furthering national interest. Can soft power replace hard power in international politics?
 (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: Soft power is ability of country to progress its interests without coerciveness and domination.

It can be in the form of diplomacy, cultural exchange, people to people contact etc.

Utility and effectiveness of soft power in international politics

① It breeds Good will for nations.

② Less conflict among nations.

③ Reciprocal in nature.

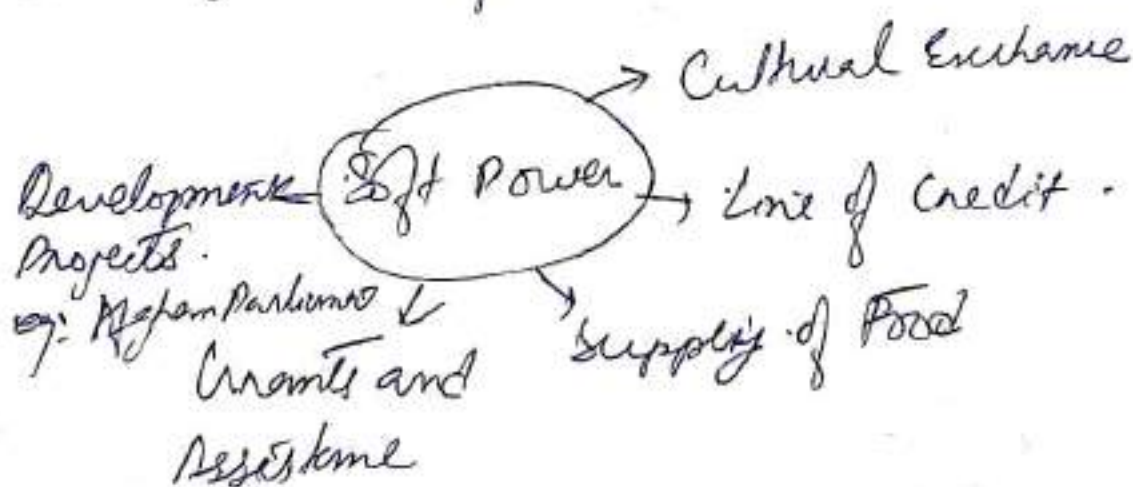
④ Example: India's Vaccine diplomacy.
 → 23.9 cr Covid vaccines to 101 Countries.

Usefulness of Hard Power

- ① Force and intimidation use.
eg USA,
- ② Negative feeling of the host nation

Challenges to Soft Power

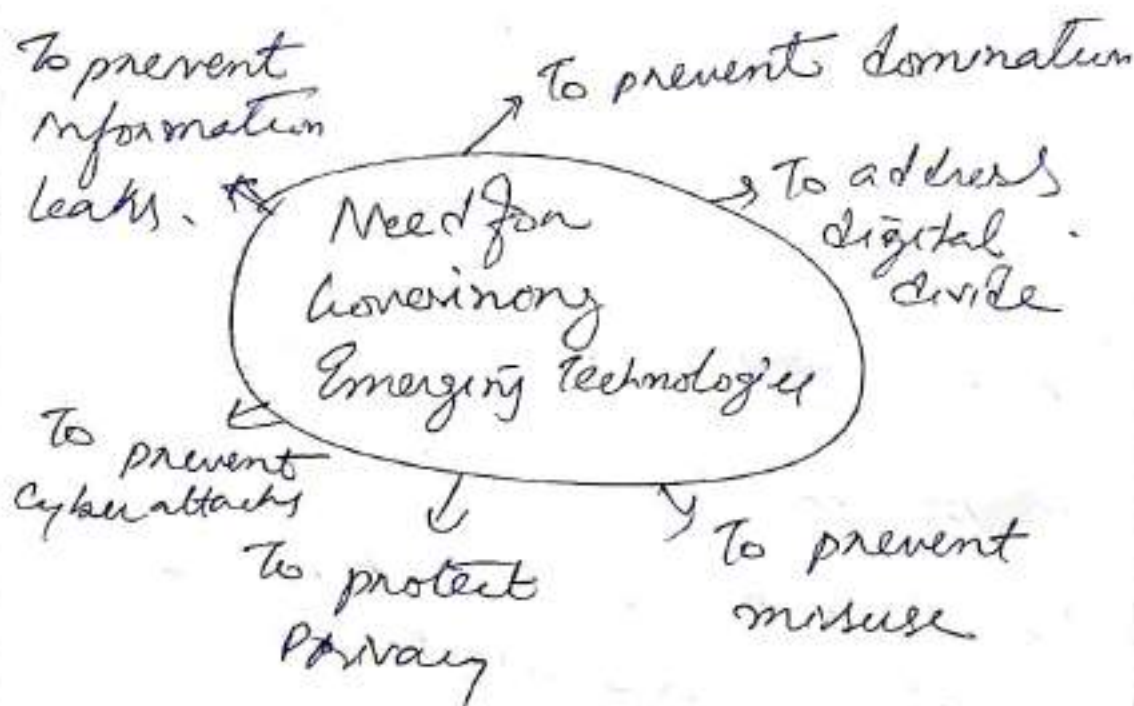
- ① Not getting enough attention
- ② Projection of a weak country.



Yes, Soft power can replace hard power at its foster good will but at times hard power is also necessary.

Q3. Governing emerging technologies and governing through technologies are both critical in the present era. Elucidate. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: Emerging technology such as Artificial Intelligence, Deep learning etc are essential in governing. as it helps in addressing the gaps of governance.



Governing through Technologies

① Land Record Management

Eg: Basundhara in Assam

② Delivery of Government Schemes

Eg: Aadhar.

③ Monitoring of Government Works

Eg. National Mobile monitoring in MGNREGA.

④ Providing information

eg: My Gov.

Thus it's both use and governing through emerging technology is necessary considering the huge population of the country.

Q4. Bureaucracy is not an obstacle to democracy but an inevitable complement to it. Do you agree? Substantiate your views. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans.

Bureaucracy helps in the continuation of government policies and schemes. Sardar Patel have described.

Bureaucracy as Steel Frame of India.

Bureaucracy is not a obstacle to Democracy

① It helps in bringing government to the people

② Implements Government Schemes.

eg: PM Rozgar Scheme, PM Vayashri Yojna etc.

③ Direct interaction with the People promoting democracy.

Challenges in Bureaucracy

- ① Red Taps : Holding of file
Culture.
- ② Corruption : Rampant corruption
by higher bureaucracy in some
states like Bihar, Jharkhand etc.
- ③ Elitism : Bureaucrats consider
themselves as elite people.

Yes, bureaucracy is inevitable
to democracy but at the same
time, reforms in bureaucracy
are much needed at present
time.

Q5. Identify key interventions being implemented by government to improve the quality and availability of household water. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: India ~~co.~~ has [18 %] of world population but has only [4 %] of available water resource.

Water is necessary for survival and performing daily chores.

Key interventions implemented by government to improve availability of Household water.

① [Schemes]

↳ [Jal-Jeevan Mission]: Functional tap water to every household by 2024.

↳ Mission: [Har Ghar Jal].

② Drip Irrigation

↳ To improve irrigation and
containment of surface water
run off ..

③ Raising

③ Water Harvesting : To improve
water in under ground aquifer .

④ Establish Central Ground Water
Commission to look into usage
and quality of ground water .

Thus, proactive measures are
being taken by the government
to improve the availability and
quality of household water .

Q6. What are quasi judicial bodies? Discuss their significance for governance.
 (10 marks/150 words)

Ans Quasi-Judicial bodies also known as Tribunals performs some of the functions of regular courts.

Examples are: National

- ↳ National Green Tribunal,
- ↳ Administrative Tribunal etc.

Significance of Quasi-Judicial Bodies for Governance.

- ① Lessen the burden of regular courts
- ② Experts are hired to deal with cases having technical issues.

③ Water dispute ~~tribes~~ tribunals helps in solving water sharing issues between states.
 eg: Cauvery water dispute tribunal.

④ Address specific issues of regions:
 Eg: Foreigners Tribunal in Assam help in identifying and deporting illegal immigrants.

Challenges to quasi-Judicial Bodies

- ① lack of 3F
 ↳ Funds
 ↳ Function
 ↳ Functionaries
- ② Administrative overlap with regular courts ..

Thus quasi-judicial bodies are necessary for solving specific issues and it helps in governance.

Q7. While fundamental rights have strengthened our democracy, fundamental duties are essential to strengthen our society. In this context examine the importance of fundamental duties for Indian society. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: Fundamental Rights helps in the overall development of an individual. Some fundamental rights are -
 Right to equality, Right of freedom etc.

Fundamental duties are essential because without duties there will be no respect of fundamental rights.

Fundamental rights are mentioned in [Part III] of the constitution and fundamental duties in [Article 51A].

Importance of fundamental duties in Indian society?

- ① Protection of Monuments and Cultural heritage
- ② Respect for national Ideals and Symbols.
- ③ Protection of Environment.
- ④ Betterment of Healthcare system.
- ⑤ Provide Education to wards.
- ⑥ Abide by the Constitution.
- ⑦ Respect towards all religions.

Thus, fundamental duties are necessary for creating a peaceful environment in our society.

Q8. What have been major changes in framework for Centre-state fiscal relations in recent years? Analyze their impact on the dynamics of Centre-state relationship. (10 marks/150 words)

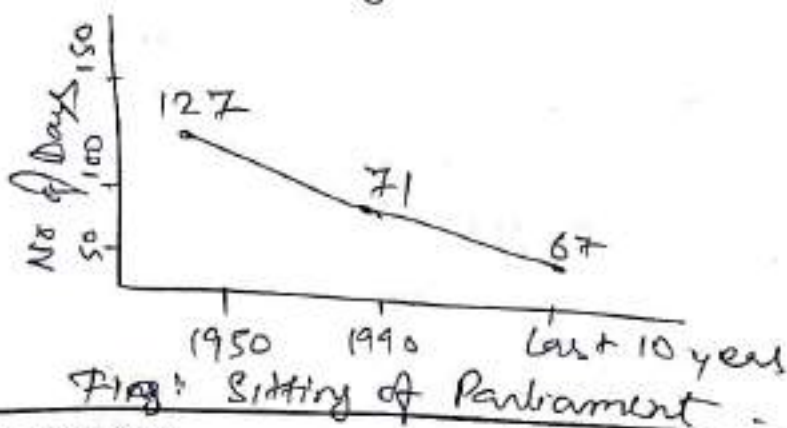
Ans: In the recent years there has been major changes in the Centre state relation with the introduction of GST reforms in 2017.

Q9. Concerns regarding Parliamentary performance most often relate to the drastic reduction in the level and extent of deliberation, representation and scrutiny. In this context, highlight the recent instances which have led decline in effective functioning of the parliament. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans. The performance of the Indian Parliament is on a gradual decline. In the initial years of the parliament formation there used to debate, discussion and deliberations but now parliament is reduced to [House of Protest].

Instances of decline in effective functioning of Parliament

① Less number of day.



② Holding of Function :

During the UPA II the parliament has seen most number of disruptions.

eg: 128 bills lapsed.

③ Less Representation of Women,

In the current Lok Sabha i.e 17th only 14% of MPs are women.

④ Low use of Parliamentary Committees :

Only 10% of bills were referred to parliamentary committees in the 16th Lok Sabha.

Thus, the parliament is suffering from deliberation, representation and scrutiny.

Q10. Despite excellent economic growth in the last two decades, India continues to suffer from 'alarming' hunger, and acute malnutrition amongst children. In the light of this statement, examine. (10 marks/150 words)

Ans: India is Ranked 107 out of 121 countries in the Global Hunger Index. Its hunger is termed as serious.

After the LPA reforms and India has achieved excellent GDP growth clocking at 9% during 2005 but yet it continues to suffer from alarming levels of hunger and malnutrition amongst children.

Reasons for hunger and malnutrition

① Poor implementation of schemes such as PM POSHAN..

② Poverty makes food inaccessible..

③ Deficit in SA $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Affordability} \\ \text{Accessibility} \\ \text{Availability} \end{array} \right.$

Steps taken to address Hunger and Malnutrition

① Food fortification: Adding essential micronutrients such as iron, zinc etc in food.

② Mid-Day Meals: In schools.

③ PM Matru Vayu Yojna:

↳ Providing maternity benefits to pregnant women.

Thus, hunger and malnutrition is a concern considering the young demography and right steps needed in the region

Q11. What is Learning Poverty? How does learning poverty threaten India's efforts to build human capital and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Suggest measures to address learning poverty. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans: Learning Poverty is a condition where a child is unable to read and write according to age and class appropriate.

For example: A student of class 3 is unable to read a textbook designed for class 1.

Reasons for Learning Poverty

- ① Poor Teaching-learning Pedagogy
- ② Malnutrition hindering learning capability
- ③ Poverty: unable to access basic things required for learning.

Schemes to Address Learning Poverty

- ① NIPUN Bharat: to address the learning gap.
- ② PARAKH: Assessment of learning outcomes

Learning poverty is a threat in achievement toward Sustainable Development Goals specially SDG-4 which is to achieve Quality Education.

Ways Learning Poverty Threatening to build India's efforts to build human Capital and achievement of SDG Goals...

- ① It is leading to a ~~vicious~~ vicious cycle of poverty.

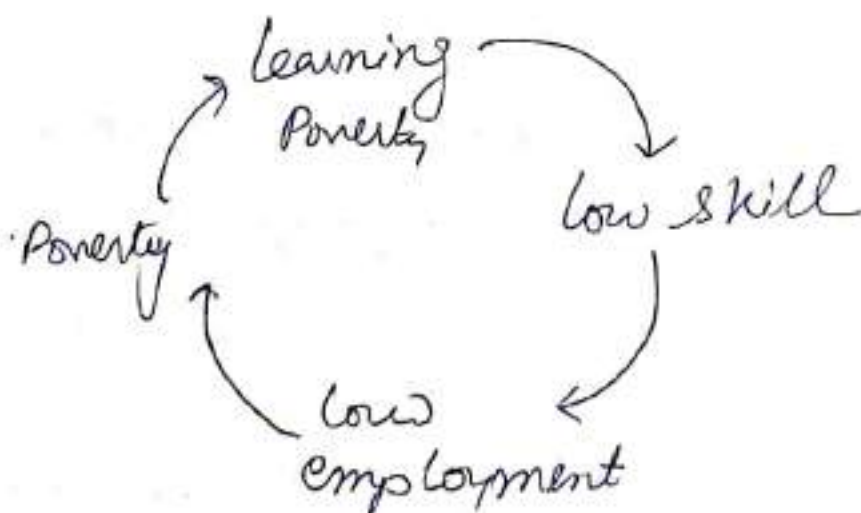


Fig:- vicious cycle of learning Poverty

- ② Young demography may turn into demographic disaster
- ③ Low skill development.
- ④ Will perpetuate more inequality

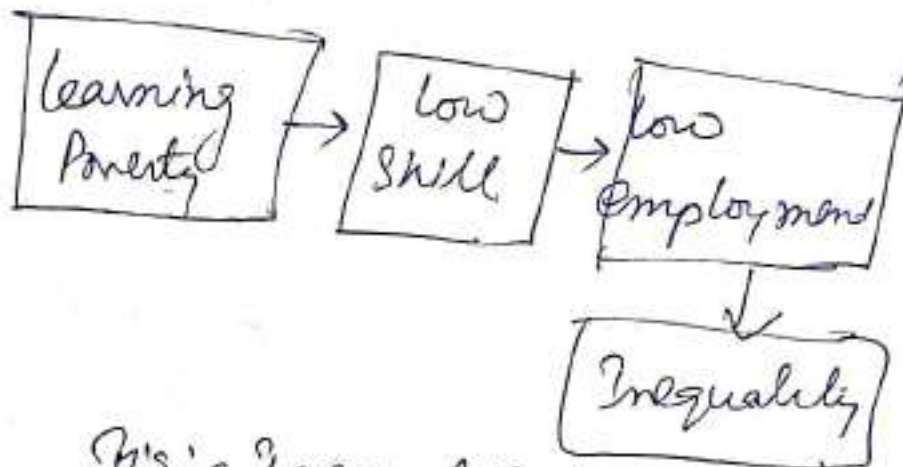


Fig:- Inequality due to learning Poverty.

Measures to address learning Poverty

- ① Schemes like POSHAN should be implement to address malnutrition
- ② Schools should have functioning toilet for girls.

③ Teachers should ~~by~~ be trained at period intervals.

eg:- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan should be implemented.

④ Funds should be made available to the schools.

Thus to achieve SDG goals it is imperative to address the learning poverty in the country.

Q12. The second decade of 21st century marks a collective failure of UN and its agencies. Examine this statement citing suitable examples. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans. UN is a global organization established to save the future generations from the scourge of war.

Yes, 21st Century collective failure of UN and its agencies

① Recently, the UN could not stop the Russia - Ukraine conflict.

↳ It failed in its primary purpose.

② During corid pandemic when it should have taken center place it got sidelined.

③ Unable to abate terrorism globally.

eg:- 9/11 Attack, Rise of ISIS, Al Qaeda, etc.

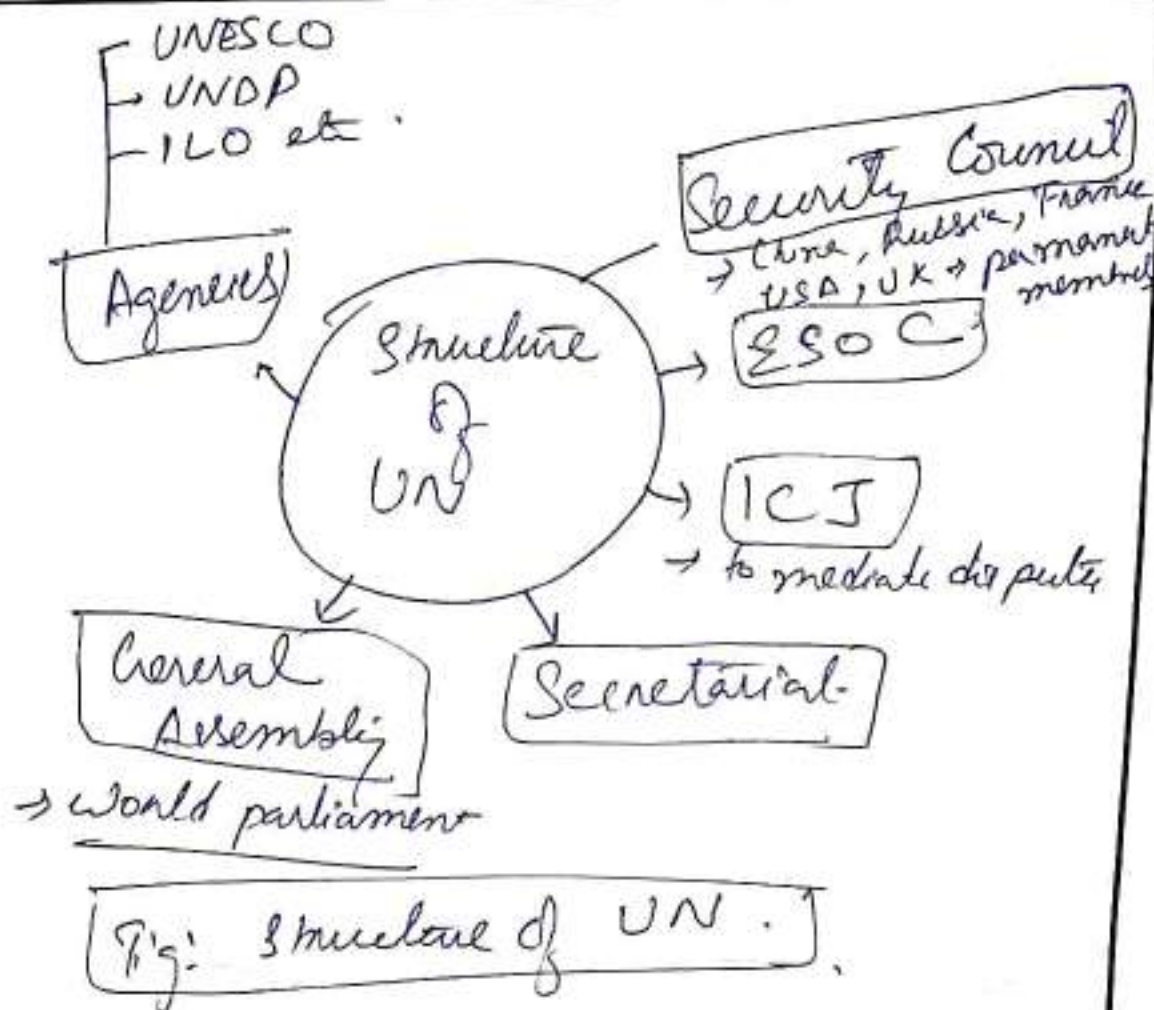
No, UN and its agencies not a failure in 21st Century

① World Food Programme received Nobel Prize in 2000 for addressing hunger crisis.

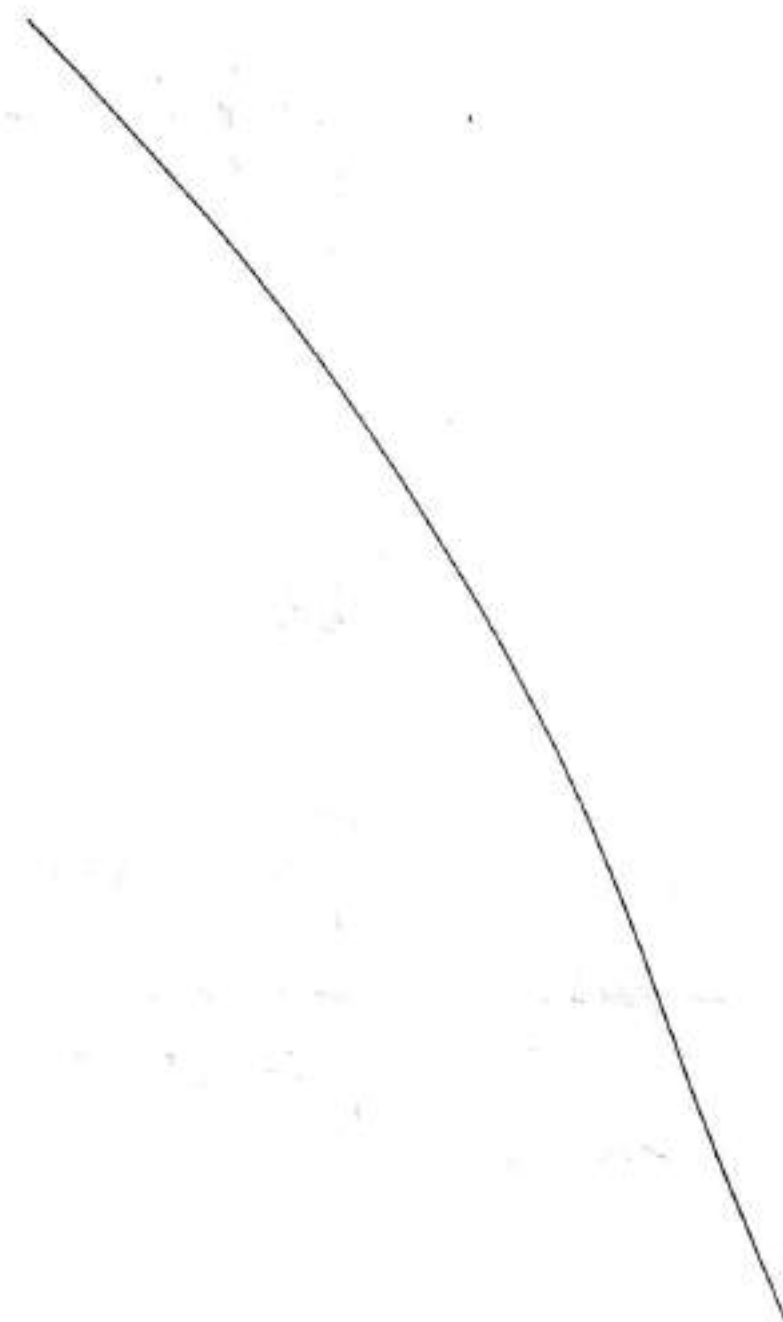
② In the mid of Russia-Ukraine conflict it was successful in negotiating Black sea grain deal

③ Maintaining Peace in hot conflict prone areas through its peace keeping forces in Syria, Sudan etc.

④ Successful in preventing outbreak of Third World War

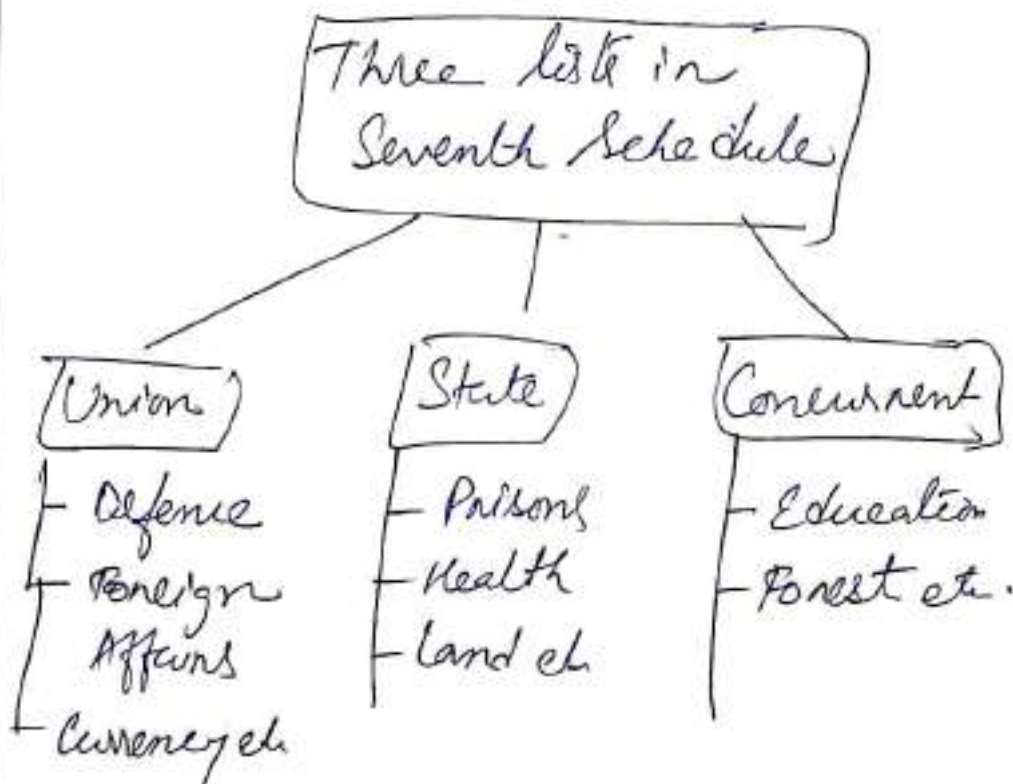


We cannot say that UN is a collective failure in 21st Century though it has ^{some} ~~reverted~~ ^{set} back like not able to ^{bring} ~~reform~~ UNSC but broadly it has been successful in preventing third world war.



Q13. Do you agree with the view that time has come to revisit the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution? Discuss with suitable arguments.
 (15 marks/250 words)

Ans. Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the distribution of subjects between Centre and states.



The states and Centre makes laws based on the distribution of subjects in the terms of State list and Union list. Both Centre and

State can make laws for the items listed in Concurrent list. In case of conflict the law made by Centre will prevail.

Time to Revisit Seventh Schedule of Indian Constitution

① In light of conflict between states and Centre regarding implementation of Agriculture schemes like PM Fasal Bima Yojna.

↳ Many states have pulled out like West Bengal, Telangana, etc.

↳ Reason - Erosion of state power

② States conflict between sharing of waters. Eg:- Cauvery River dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

③ Problem of sharing river water of International rivers such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Teesta etc. is some state like West Bengal creating problem :

Though, some problems exist between Centre and States, regarding the seventh schedule, but issues could be solved amicably through debates, deliberation and discussion.

Way Forward

- ① Respecting each others domain of law making.
- ② Adherence to constitutional provisions.

Q14. When the criminal elements enter the legislature, then securing any form of justice, be it social, economic or political, becomes a hollow promise. What makes criminal elements successful in politics? What reforms, in your opinion, are needed to decriminalize electoral politics? (15 marks/250 words)

Ans. In the current Lok Sabha i.e. 17th Lok Sabha there are 41% MPs i.e. 233/543 have serious criminal charges.

Entering of criminal elements into the legislature breaks the notion that "Lawbreakers cannot be law makers".

Criminal elements hindering Justice system - Social, Economic and Political:

- ① They create sense of fear among the people
- ② They are charged with heinous crimes like murder, rape.

Economic

- ① They are engaged in Corruption

- ② They are interested in self welfare rather than social welfare

Political

- ① low education hinders political development

- ② Not fit to rule

- ③ Poor implementation of social schemes like MGNREGA

Conditions that make criminal elements successful

- ① Having wide support base

- ② Perpetuating fear and intimidation of violence in case of non-support

③ Popular character leaves no alternatives to political parties.

④ Killing of Contenders to get tickets.

Reforms to decriminalize Electoral Politics

① Amendment to Representation of People Act, 1951.

↳ Ban people having criminal charges.

↳ List full details of candidates including criminal charges against them.

② Election Commission of India should be strengthened.

③ Strict Enforcement of Model

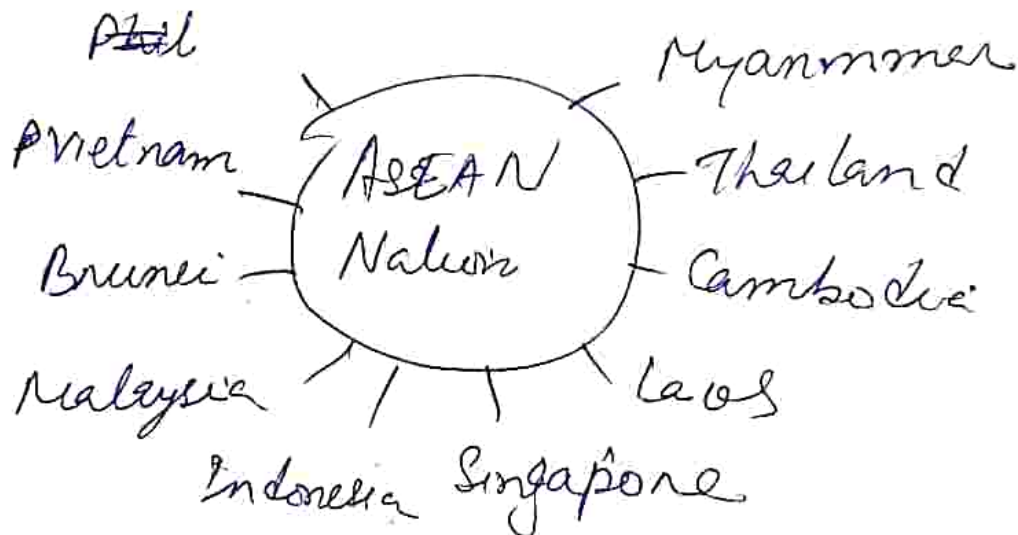
Code of Conduct during election

④ Monitoring money use, liquor
etc during election

For a democracy to be successful
it should have clean and fair
electoral ~~prop~~ process barring
the criminal elements from
entering the legislature.

Q15. ASEAN is not only important for development of North-East but also it remains India's gateway to East Asia and beyond. Comment (15 marks/250 words)

Ans: ASEAN consist of 10 South Asian Nations association. It is very important part of India's Act & policy.



Development of North East India is linked with ASEAN as it provides gateway to South East Asia.

Some of the projects undertaken to enhance connectivity with

ASEAN Countries are :

- ① Kaladom Multimodal Transport project : It aims to reduce distance between mainland India and NE India through sea, river and land connectivity through Myanmar.

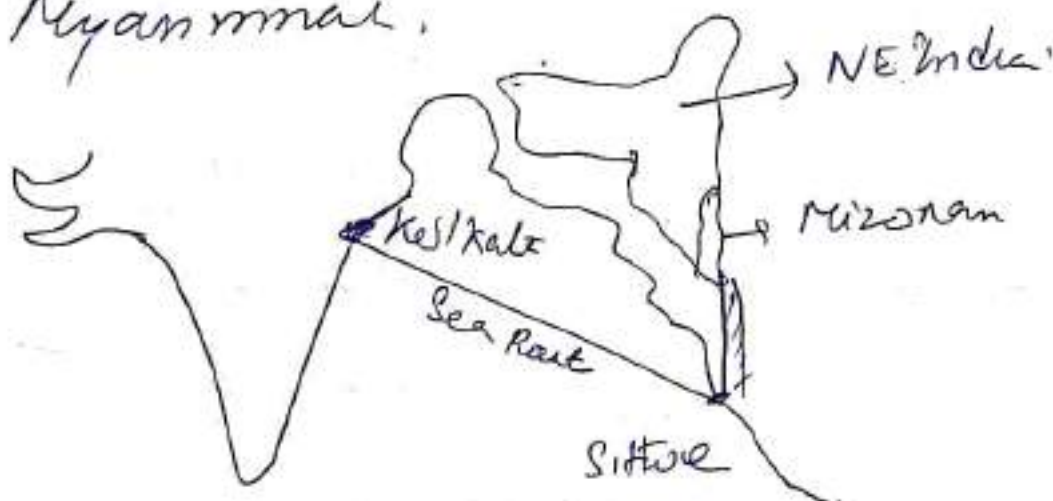


Fig : Kaladom Multimodal Project

- ② India - Myanmar - Thailand.

Trilateral Highway.

↳ It aims to connect (Moreh) of Manipur with (Mae Sot) of

Thailand through Myanmar.

Other dimension

① Economic: India has free trade agreement with ASEAN.

↳ Boost in international trade

② Security: Maintaining good ties is necessary for ensuring security for India.

For eg: Insurgents of NE India often operate/hide in Myanmar.

→ China's influence in ASEAN.

③ Cultural: Strong cultural linkage..

eg: - Ramayana & Mahabharat themes in Indonesia, Thailand etc.

Thus, ASEAN remains a strong
focus point for development
and connectivity with Nto India

Q16. Although the New Education Policy brings with itself a commendable vision, its success will depend on its ability to effectively integrate with the government's other policy initiatives. Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans: New Education Policy was brought in 2020 to reform the Education system of India from rote learning to experiential learning.

Its focus is to make India Knowledge of economy. Focus areas are science, innovation and critical thinking.

Changes in New Education Policy

- ① 10+2 system replaced with 5+3+3+4 system :
 - 5 years of preparatory school
 - 3 years of primary school
 - 3 years of middle school

- 4 years of higher education.
- ② Focus on bringing Top 500 global universities to India.
- ③ More focus on critical thinking of child.
- ④ Enhancing the learning outcomes.

Integrating various schemes of Government is necessary for the success of New Education policy.

Some of the measures that can be taken are :

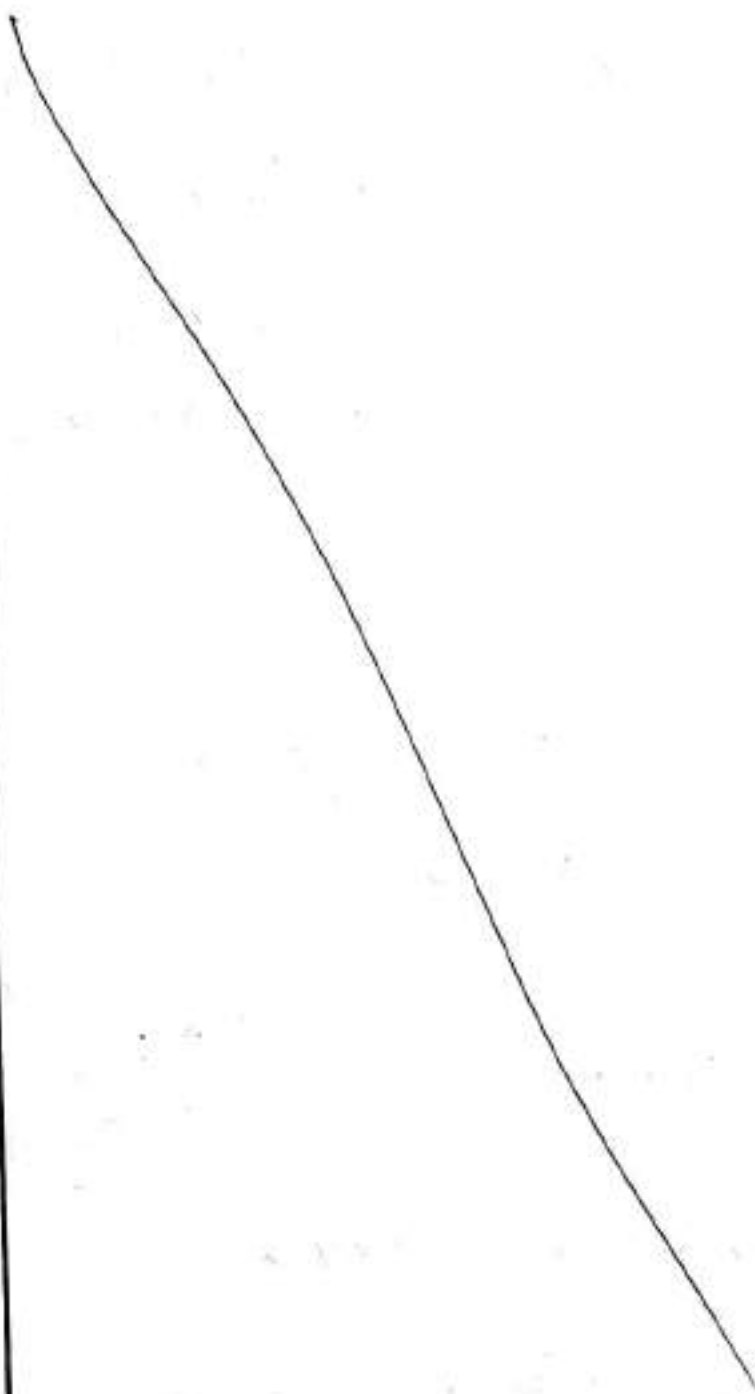
① NIPUN Bharat :

Enhancing ^{basic} numeracy skills.

② PARAKH : Assessment of learning outcomes.

- ③ STAR S Project : Enhance pedagogy of learning.
- ④ PM SHRI : To establish schools for rising India.
- ⑤ PM Kaushal Yojna :
↳ To focus on skill development.
- ⑥ PM POSHAN
↳ To address malnutrition and hunger issues.

For, success of New Education Policy it has to be integrated with various schemes of the Government to make it a wholesome approach.



Q17. The Indian Ocean region is a key geostrategic theatre for India. Do you agree? What measures has India taken to safeguard its interests in the region? Examine. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans: Indian Ocean Region is considered as the backyard of the Indian Navy. It holds economic, strategic and security significance for India.

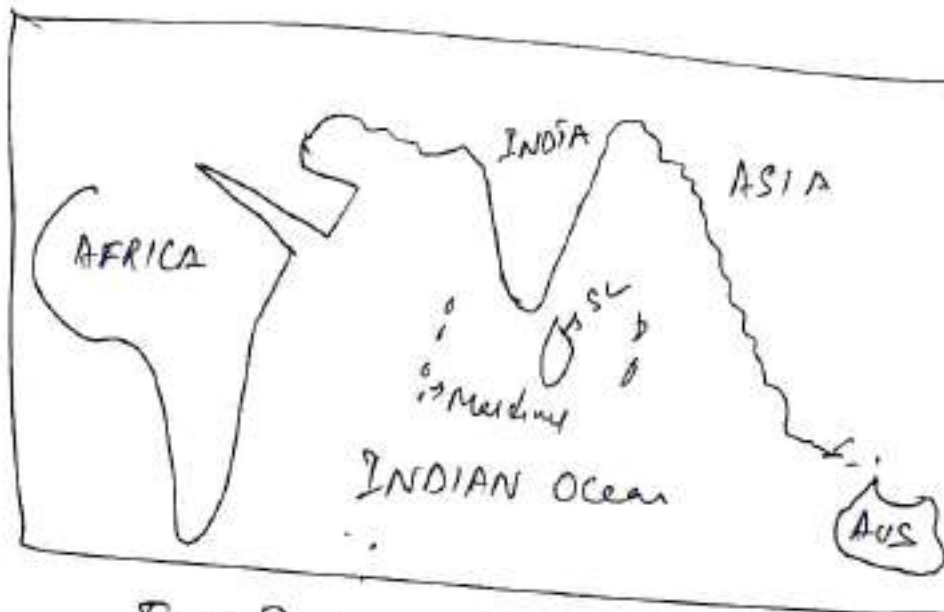


Fig: Indian Ocean Region

Significance of Indian Ocean

① Geostrategic:

↳ It holds important sea

lanes

- It connects West Asia, Africa, SE Asia and Australia.
- Contains critical choke points like
Strait of Malacca, Babel Mandep,
Strait of Hormuz.

① Economic:

- ↳ Almost 80% Indian trade passes through Indian Ocean
- ↳ 70% of Global trade through Indian Ocean

② Security:

- ↳ Continuous presence of China in Indian Ocean threat to Indian Maritime security.

Besides these the Indian Ocean

has huge Oil and Gas deposits
on the west Asia. It also
contains Polymetallic nodules.

Thus, it is agreeable that
Indian Ocean ~~has~~ is a key
geopolitical theatre for India.

Measures taken by India to
safeguard its interest in the region

① Indian Ocean Rim Association

- ↳ ~~Regional~~ Diplomacy with the
littoral states of Indian Ocean
- ↳ Promoting friendship, help and
cooperation.

② SAGAR Initiative

↳ It involves security and growth for all in the region.

③ Project MAUSAM

↳ To develop cultural linkages with India.

eg: World Hindi Conference.

→ Know India Programme

④ BIMSTEC:

↳ Initiative for technical cooperation with the countries lying within the Bay of Bengal region.

⑤ Military Exercises such as SIMBEX, MATRI etc.

Thus, the Indian Ocean Region holds key geostrategic significance for India.

Q18. State the reasons behind the poor performance of cooperatives in India. Also, discuss the reforms undertaken by the government to overcome the shortcomings. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans. Article 43 of the Constitution talks about the formation of Cooperatives.

Reasons behind poor performance of co-operative in India

① Lack of knowledge :

↳ People are unaware of schemes and policies of government about formation of cooperatives.

② Lack of funds :

↳ Cooperatives are unable to have access to funds.

③ Lack of Organisational Skills;

↳ People are unable to organise efficiently in co-operatives.

In spite of deficiencies in formation of Cooperatives, we have successful Cooperatives like AMUL, WAMUL etc.

Reforms undertaken by Government to overcome the short comings

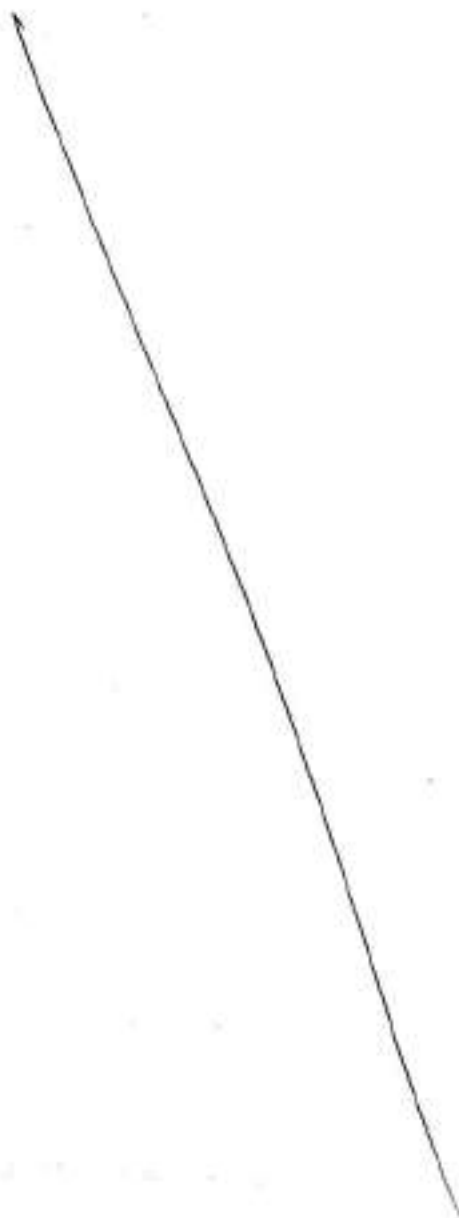
① Encouraging the Milk producers and agri. households to form Cooperatives.

↳ Providing subsidy and grants.

② Providing MSP to the crops.

③ Procuring for PM POSHAN
directly from farmers. etc .

Thus, with positive engagement
with Cooperatives India can
walk forward to reduce poverty .



Q19. Critically assess whether according statutory backing to the Model Code of Conduct will contribute towards free and fair elections in India. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans: Article 124 of the Constitution provides the Election Commission of India with powers to conduct elections and superintendence of the electoral process.

Statutory backing for the Model Code of Conduct: (Positive)

- ① It will enhance the responsibility of the Election Commission.
- ② More funds, functions and jurisdiction will be made available.
- ③ Strict enforcement of

Model code of Conduct .

④ Bogus voters can be eliminated.

Challenge for Statutory backing
of Model Code of Conduct

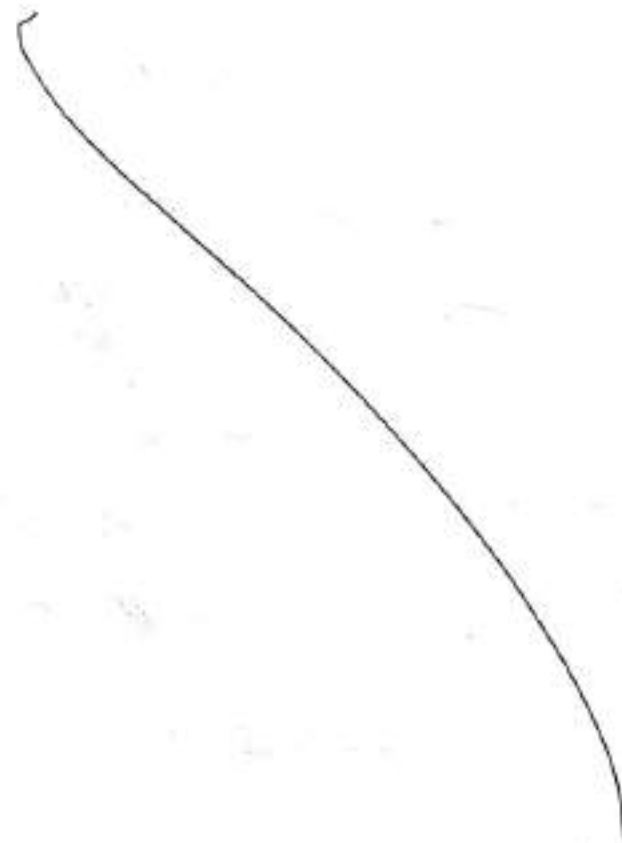
① Political parties are unwilling.

② Hampers the development
 process in the inter election
period from declaration of dates
to result.

③ Criminal activities will not
 be fully eliminated.

Because of enforcement of
 Model code of Conduct the
 ECI has been able oversee

The electoral process and it has
contributed to much fairness
and efficiency to the election
process in India.



Q20. Public-Private Partnership model, if harnessed properly, has the potential to bridge the gaps in India's healthcare system. Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

Ans. Public-Private Partnership model is a model wherein ~~at~~ both the Government and Private partners are equally involved in the development of a project..

Eg:- Development of Ports, Roads and Highways ^{through} under PPP model ~~through~~ under PM Aati Shakti initiative.

India's healthcare is plagued with deficiency in infrastructure and effectiveness.

Ways PPP model can boost the India's healthcare system :

- ① Developing critical health infrastructure such as ICU, Ventilation etc.
- ② Implementation of Schemes under PPP model such as AYUSHMAN BHARAT.
- ③ Sharing of Revenue model between developers and government.
- ④ Leasing government hospitals to Private players to ensure efficiency.

Challenges in PPP model in Health Care

- ① Increased cost for Public.

- ② Essential medicines may become inaccessible to the poor.
- ③ Public trust in the Government will decline.
- ④ It will undermine the DPSP Objective of providing Good health for all.

Thus, bringing PPP model in Healthcare can be good but at the same time downsides need to be addressed to prevent monopolization.