



SPM IAS ACADEMY
SHAPING BRILLIANCE

First Mock APSC Mains 2024

(GS Paper V) II

Duration: 3 Hours

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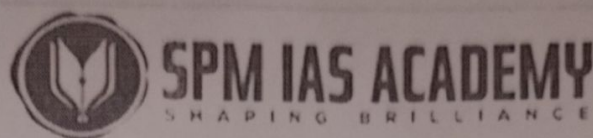
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Medium:

English ☒

Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	
1	10		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 250 words for 20 marks and 150 words for 10 marks. - 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. - Checking to be done with main aim of evaluating a candidate's ability of express ideas in lucid manner. - Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
2	10		
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TOTAL:		250	Remarks: Signature of the Student: [REDACTED] <u>PLEASE NOTE: The Evaluation Period for the Mock Mains Copy is 10 Days.</u>



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

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1

In India's Bicameral parliament; the Rajya Sabha is the upper house. Draw attention to how the Indian parliamentary system's constitution treats the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha differently..

India follows federalism in ~~its~~ its core as principle and follows bicameral parliament, the Rajya Sabha acts as the upper house and Lok Sabha as the lower house.

Constitution provisions of Rajya Sabha as upper house :-

① Article 67 → constitution provides the power for removal of vice president by a resolution moved by Rajya Sabha. is an special power of Rajya Sabha.

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② [A-249] Article 249 of constitution provides for the special power to Rajya Sabha where Rajya Sabha can make laws on state subject.

③ [Article 312] - Rajya Sabha has special power to make all India services.

Despite Indian constitution treats Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha differently due to following facets. —

① Lok Sabha has superior power regarding money bill.

② Joint sitting is chaired by speaker.

③ Rajya can discuss the budget, but can not amend it.

Although Rajya Sabha acts as check and balance mechanism where it checks any hasty decision of Lok Sabha.

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2. Elucidate the complexities associated with ensuring fiscal accountability in decentralised governance structures. How can local bodies strike a balance between financial autonomy and national fiscal disciplines?

Fiscal accountability is one of the important as well as complex component in decentralised governance structures.

Complexities associated with ensuring fiscal accountability.

① Evolution of money to the local level is itself a complex process.

② Leakage of fund while due to various reasons leakage of fund can be seen.

③ Corruption associated issues

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corruption acts as hurdle while ensuring fiscal accountability.

④ To ensure transparency and accountability

To ensuring transparency in fiscal accountability is a complex process ensuring fiscal responsibility.

Due to these complexities, local bodies faces several issues. Thus local bodies must strike a balance between financial autonomy and national fiscal disciplines through following steps. —

① To use of digital era

→ for eg - use of technology driven system → Aam sewa setu portal.

② Increase transparency

→ to reduce corruption

③ Use the funds in efficient manner.

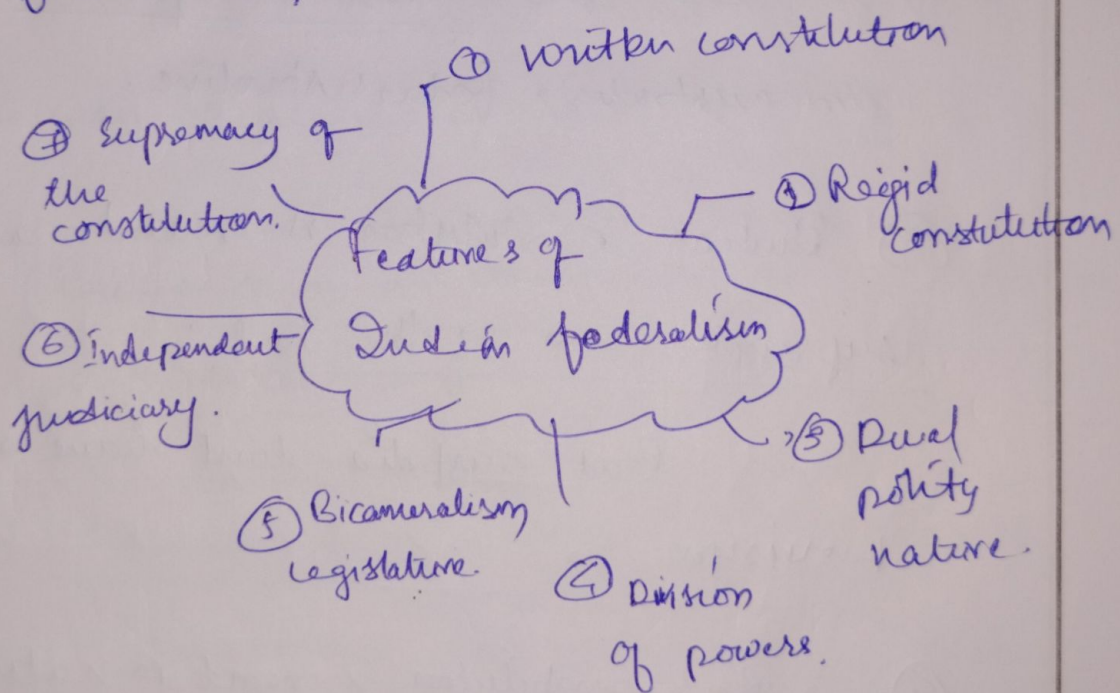
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Q.

differentiate between the federal structure of governance in India and Australia.

Indian Constitution /

India follows a federal structure of governance which has multiple features,



Thus with these features, India is unique on its own.

Difference with Australia's federal structure

① India's constitution is longest written

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Constitution of India which holds federal structure but there is no provision of Australia as such.

② India follows independence of judiciary from executive and legislature. ~~but~~

but there no such provisions in Australia's federal structure.

③ India's constitution is treated as supreme law of the land.

But Australia don't have such provisions.

④ India's constitution is rigid in nature.

But there is no such provision in Australia.

Despite these difference, constitution makers while making Indian constitution took help from Australian constitution in the aspects of friendship relations, joint sitting etc.

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4. The interplay between bureaucracy and democracy is marked by a paradoxical and complimentary dynamic. comment.

Bureaucracy is often termed as streetfame of government, as propounded first by Sardar B. Patel. It has an interplay between bureaucracy and democracy.

Bureaucracy and democracy as complimentary dynamic

- ① Act as change makers

↳ Bureaucracy acts as change makers or agent of change to ensure democracy.

- ② Ensuring rule of law Bureaucracy

ensures rule of law and maintains law and order which ensures democratic system to stir.

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4. The interplay between bureaucracy and democracy is marked by a paradoxical and complimentary dynamic. comment.

Bureaucracy is often termed as street frame of government, as propounded first by Sardar B. Patel. It has an interplay between bureaucracy and democracy.

Bureaucracy and democracy as complimentary dynamic

① Act as change makers

↳ Bureaucracy acts as change makers or agent of change to ensure democracy.

② Ensuring rule of law Bureaucracy

ensures rule of law and maintains law and order which ensures democratic system to thrive.

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③ Implementation of policy

Bureaucracy helps in implementation of schemes, welfare policies etc. which ensures democracy.

Despite their complimentary dynamic, there are some paradoxical dynamics of bureaucracy and democracy.

Paradoxical dynamics

① Corruption - Bureaucracy involved in corruption activities may deprive democracy creating a paradox scenario

② Use of power to the innocent. If

Bureaucracy starts to use their authority as power to discriminate and harass the poor then it can become a paradox.

Way forward - ① Increase proper training and review system as recommended by ARC reports.

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⑤ What impact does technology preference over human-centered solutions have on social welfare system's goals? Provide a well-rounded strategy that aligns the scheme's primary goals of social security and inclusion with technical improvements.

Social welfare goals are one of the significant direction of a welfare state to strive for.

While providing solutions to make efficient delivery of services technology can play a prominent role.

Importance of technology on social welfare system's goals

① Increase accessibility

→ technology increases the accessibility of welfare schemes.

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① Increase productivity

→ Technology increase productivity by reducing manual hardware.

② Increase efficiency, transparency and accountability :-

— Technology increases above all better achievement of welfare system's goals.

A well rounded strategy that aligns the schemes primary goals of social security and inclusion with technical improvement is urgent need.

Some steps in this regard

① Use of online website

→ for eg. e-nam (national agricultural market),

② Use of mobile phone

→ for eg - Janshon Aardhar kinty which ensures financial inclusion.

12.12
12.16

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⑥

Analyse supreme court of India's rulings
on living wills. Talk about the difficulties
in putting these recommendations into practice
and make recommendation for how to make
the process run more smoothly for patients
who are ^{near} ~~near~~ death.

Living will refers to the advance
written document of a person's willingness
after that person's demise.

Recent Supreme court of India's
rulings on living will have certain
impacts on Indian patients.

Impacts on India's patients who are near
death

① Help them to relieve from pain

Patients can arrange their wills to
get relief from pain.

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② Ethical concerns associated with such phenomena :-

Examples like passive euthanasia, have ethical concerns in society.

Though, Recommendations are given to smoothen process the living will, there are some associated challenges such as —

- ① Lack of awareness among patients
- ② Technology is complex in this regard
- ③ Stereotypes associated with living will

If these challenges are overcome, living will can have positive impacts on Indian patient's life.

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12.23

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⑦

Discuss the provisions of the BNS 2023 focusing on its approach towards fatal accidents, organised petty crime and theft.

Bharatya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, which is a replacement to age-old Indian Penal Code, and going to get implemented from 2 July, 2024 in All India level.

Provisions of BNS 2023 focusing on fatal accidents, organised petty crimes and theft :-

① Bharatya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS 2023) has made stricter provision for hit and run cases.

② BNS 2023 has made stricter provision for organised

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petty crime. with legal provisions for fine and custody.

③ Earlier IPC section 420 which was responsible for theft, now BNS 2023 has stricter provisions regarding theft.

BNS 2023 is definitely a progressive step in the law and order system of India.

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⑧ Analyse the potential conflicts between personal data protection and the public interest in context of journalism. What balance should be struck to protect individual privacy while ensuring Transparency and accountability in governance?

Journalism is often termed as fourth pillar (4th pillar of democracy).

In this regard, personal data protection and public interest have some potential conflicts.

Potential conflicts between personal data protection and public interest :-

① (maintaining right to privacy)

Indian constitution which mandates for right to privacy under Article 21. Thus journalist must ensure it while addressing the News correctly with proper evidence.

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~~for~~ correctly.

② Action against. Fake news, provocative
news → journalist must strive

for fact based news, while respecting
personal data protection, for better public
interest.

Thus a balance must be there
between to protect personal individual
privacy while ensuring transparency and
accountability in governance is utmost
important, (Following are some steps)

① To ensure journalistic ethics.

② To create free and independent
journalism from political influences.

Journalism can play a major role
in protecting democracy while ensuring
true facts and figures to the public.

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⑥

Elaborate significance of Indian hydropower projects in nepal in fostering bilateral relations, focusing on their mutual benefit for both nations.

India - and Nepal is often enjoys special bonds of friendship in numerous facets, which has rooted in kinship and shared culture.

(Special relation between India-Nepal)

① Defence cooperation

↳ gorkha regiment of Indian army recruits from Nepal.

② Hydropower projects and water sharing between both country.

③ Cultural exchange between both the countries.

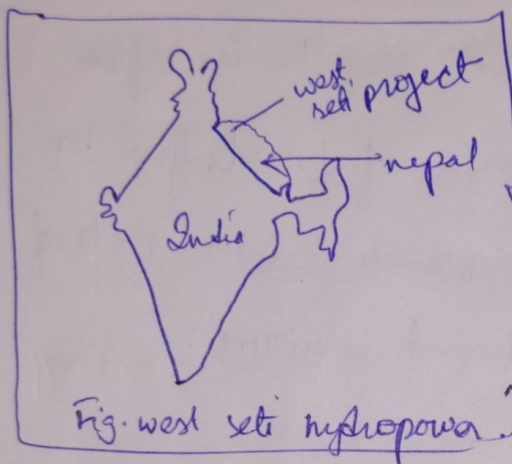
Significance of hydropower projects in nepal taken by India's efforts can

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foster the ~~the~~ bilateral relations between the two country.

Significance of hydropower
Projects in nepal

① Projects
like west seti



hydropower project-
can increase water
sharing by both
countries, which can
~~more~~ reduce power
dependence of nepal
on other country.

② Countering china's influence

India's increasing efforts and cooperation with nepal can ~~so~~ tackle china factor including BRI project.

③ Reducing Border Dispute India ~~china~~ nepal can reduce dispute regarding border sharing, through hydropower project.

Hydropower projects can have mutual > benefit for both country, since both the country are power deficient.

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⑩

Critically analyse the effectiveness of existing regional frameworks in addressing the strategic and economic challenges in IOR. Propose a roadmap for the formation of a new 'Indian ocean cooperation organisation'.

Indian ocean region which holds nearly 19.8% of world's total water; poses significant to global politics.

~~Though there are some~~
Significance of IOR in addressing strategic and economic challenges :-

① Countering China's BRI project

↳ BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) is an initiative of China to encircle India with its various projects.

② Efficient use of marine resources

India's exclusive economic zone is nearly 2.02 million square km area

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which has lot of potential for resources including rare polymetallic materials.

③ Potential for Blue economy

↳ nearly 1% contributes to India's GDP by Indian Ocean.

Despite these significant existing framework is failing to gain maximum benefits

ineffectiveness of existing framework

① Indian Ocean Rim Organisation is failing

② multilateral organisations like BIMSTEC
SAARC are failing.

∴ In these regard new organisation — like Indian Ocean cooperation organisation is

need of the hour. reasons are

① To implement secAR (security and growth in the region) initiative efficiently.

② foster cooperation and mutual respect
to counter expansionist policy such as BRF project of China.

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⑪

Conducting free and fair elections in the era of widespread social media poses several challenges. Discuss these challenges and highlight the steps taken by the ECI to address them. Additionally provide suggestions for further measures to enhance the integrity of Electoral processes in the digital age.

Free and fair election is one of the important component of ushering democracy in protecting basic human rights.

(Importance of Free and fair election)

- ① To ensure democracy and rule of law
- ② To provide representation to the all strata of society
- ③ To ensure transparency and accountability

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④ To increase trust in government

Though, in the era of social media conducting free and fair elections is becoming a challenge.

Challenges faced by social media

① Prominence of fake news

①.1 Fake news spreading through social media sites like facebook, twitter (now X),

①.2 Increase of money and muscle power through social media.

② Provocative news and hate speech

②.1 circulation of provocative news and hate speech often causes challenges while conducting free and fair election

For eg - communal speech ~~term~~ hurting religious sentiments by

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political parties.

⑥

In this regard Election Commission of India have taken various steps, such as -

- ① curbing fake news.
- ② transparent Election Commission of India's website where it publishes important notifications as well details.
- ③ Implementation of model code of conduct.
- ④ curb hate speech and provocative news.

Additional suggestions for further measures to enhance integrity of electoral process in digital age →

- ① Stricter imposition of model of conduct.
with legal backing.
- ② Punishment to the violators.
- ③ Online surveillance to reduce hate speech.

Free and fair election can strive democracy, if electoral process are conducted in transparent manner.

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- (12) Analyse the anti Defection Law in India, inserted by tenth schedule in 1985. Additionally suggest some measure to deal with associated challenges.

⇒ Anti Defection Law was brought by Indian parliament through 52nd ~~85th~~ amendment to Indian constitution and added in 10th schedule of Indian constitution in 1985.

Features of Anti Defection Law

- ① Disqualification of member
 - (1) If voluntarily ~~joins~~ give up membership.
 - (2) If s/he abstains from voting contrary to whip.
- ② If independent member joins political after election.

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⑬ (Nominated members)

If a nominated member joins political party after six months, his/her seat is disqualified.

Despite these important features Anti Defection Law has some challenges.

(Challenges of Anti Defection Law)

① (Lack of Intra party democracy)

Anti Defection Law reduces intraparty democracy since it punishes defectors.

② (Speaker's role is controversial)

Since deciding authority to disqualify is with speaker, sometimes now after speaker shows biasness.

③ (Cursing dissent) of freedom of speech of legislators.

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Thus to deal with these challenges, suggestions and reform are need of the hour.

Measure to deal with challenges

① Strengthening party Accountability

→ Increasing internal democracy
→ To increase earlier measure.

② Reconsideration to reduce 'split' and 'merger' loopholes in Anti Defection.

③ Effective implementation of recommendation of law commission reports.

The Anti Defection law can play a role in significantly increasing stability and accountability to usher democracy in India.

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To accomplish 'health for all' in India, appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is necessary. Elaborate. Additionally, enumerate the steps taken for betterment of the local healthcare system.

→ As per Lancet Study, India stands at rank 145 out of 195 countries in terms of Accessibility, affordability and availability of health. To accomplish 'health for all' appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is necessary.

Following are the reasons →

- ① To make affordable health sector.
- ② To reduce disparity of urban and rural health sector.
- ③ To increase human resource development.

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④ For better employment opportunity.

⑤ To increase potential of youth and use them as human resource.

despite there are challenges associated with health sector in rural India :-

① urban - rural disparity

→ ~~only~~ 73% of hospital in urban areas are serving only 32% of population.

② high public out of pocket expenditure.

↳ As per Economic survey, India's out of pocket expenditure is nearly 48% whereas world average is 18%

③ Low public expenditure

As per budget 2.9% of GDP is allocated for health sector.

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④) Low Research and Development

only 0.7% of current GDP of India is allocated to research and development.

⑤ Low doctor to patient ratio → 1 out of 1000
Low bed to patient ratio → 1 out of 1050

⑥ vacancy of doctors → mainly 6 lakh vacancy in hospitals as per parliamentary report.

To curb these challenges associated with local healthcare system steps are taken.

Government Initiatives

① Ayushman Bharat Health Mission (ABHM).

② PM Poshan for increasing enrolment in schools while ensuring nutrition.

③ Indradhanush for immunization of children

④ ICDS Programme for overall dev. of rural health.

⑤ PM-JAY (Jan Aarogya Yojana).

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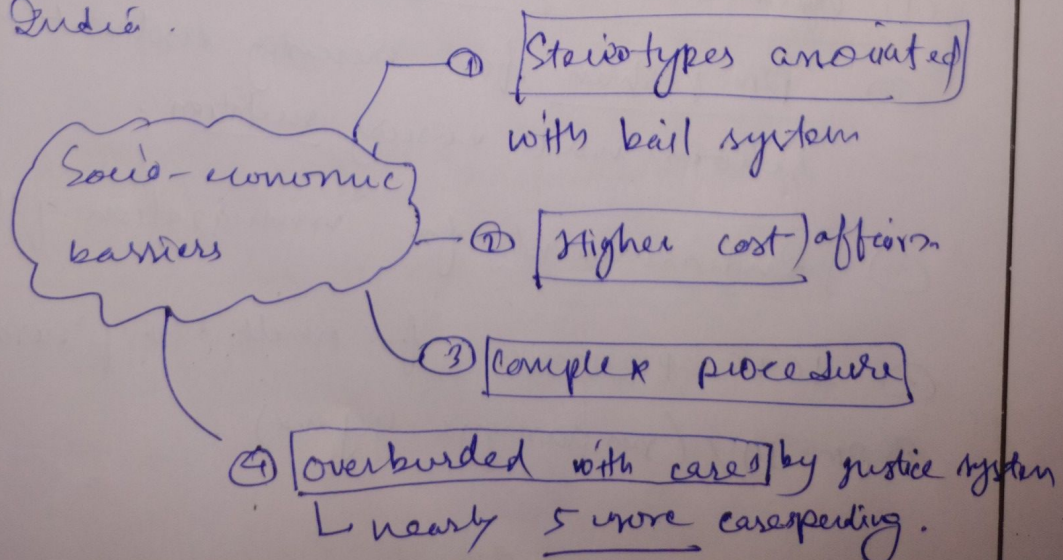
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⑭ Analyse the socio-economic and structural barriers that hinder undertrial's ability to comply with bail conditions in India.

Suggest some measures that legal system could implement to make bail more accessible to underprivileged section of the society, thus preventing unnecessary undertrial incarcerations?

As per reports nearly 76% of failed persons are undertrials.

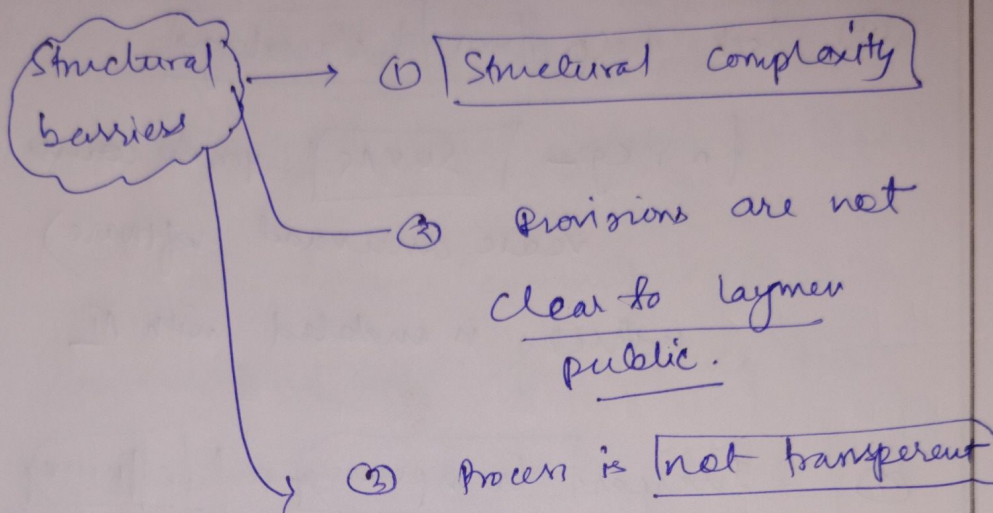
undertrials in India face hindrance to comply with bail conditions in India.



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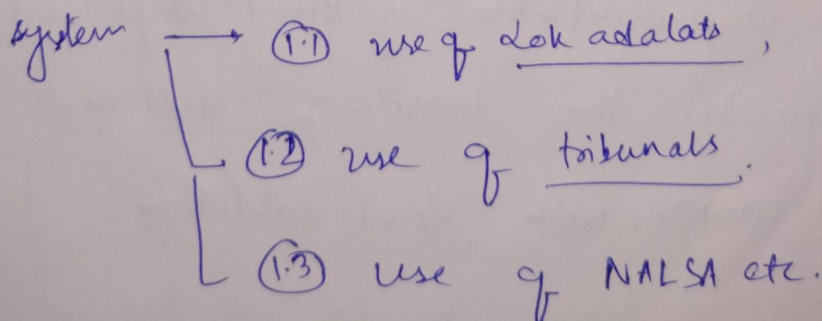
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To reduce unnecessary undertrial incarceration, measures can be taken by

legal system could implement such as —

① Affective Alternate dispute resolution



② To reduce time taken by justice system

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③ Look help from technology
for eg - SOVAS (supreme courts
vedic answered software)
which is enabled with AI

④ Increase Transparency and efficiency
→ For eg - ① SUPACE (supreme courts
portal for Assistance in courts
efficiency).
② Ecounts system etc.

⑤
Implementation of these steps can
reduce the barriers of underprats
to comply with bail revolution.

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(15)

The state finance commission is a unique institution created to rationalise and systematise state/sub state level fiscal relations in India.

State finance commission is a constitutional body formed under the 73rd constitutional amendment act for rationalise and systematise state/sub state level fiscal relation in India.

State finance commission as an
unique institution

① Role played by state finance commission

- ↳ ①.1 to promote cooperative federalism
- ↳ ①.2 citizens are assured minimum essential services.

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② Promoting federalism

↳ to augment resources to panchayats.

③ Decentralised government

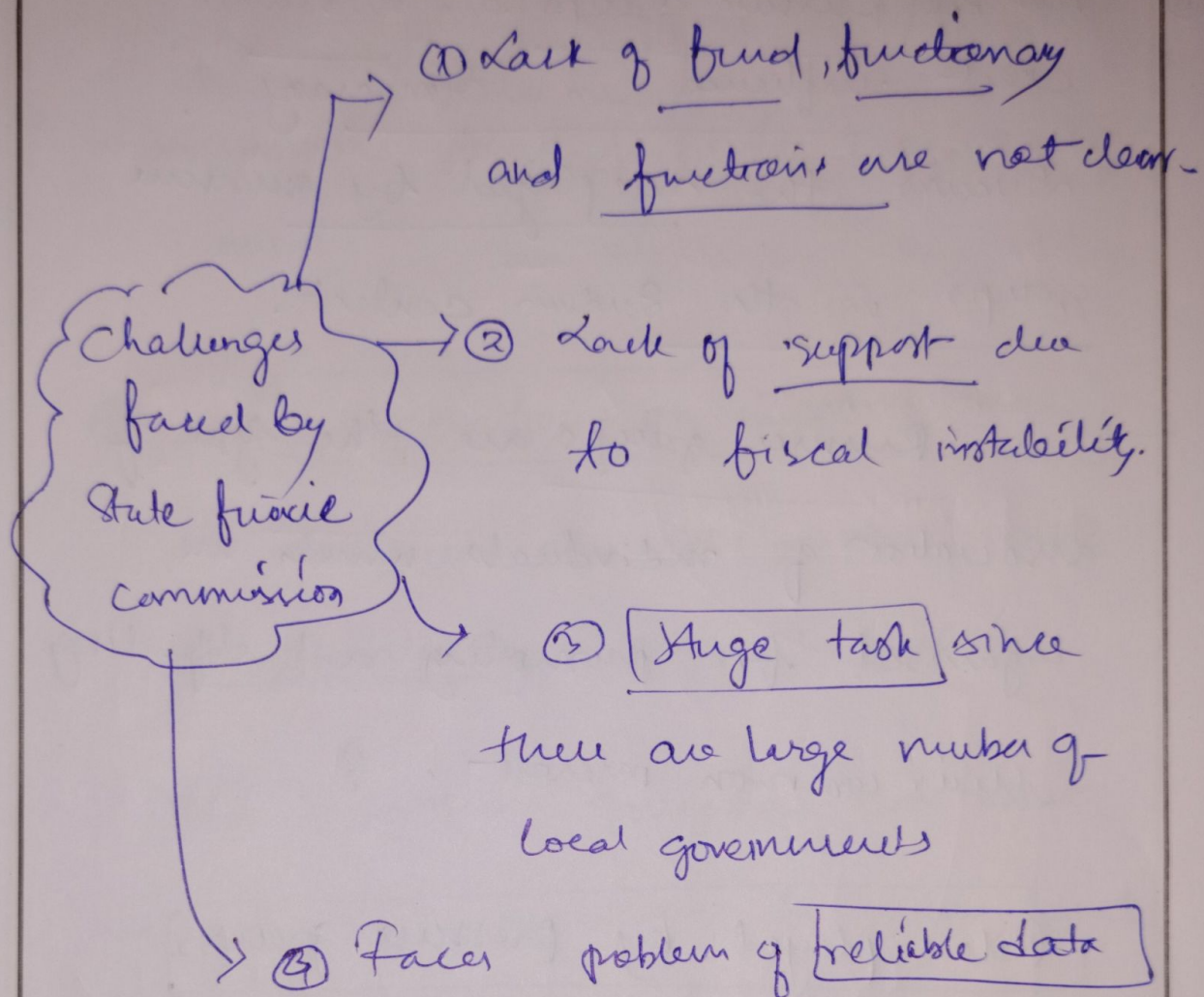
↳ state finance commission helps for striving a decentralised government emphasising on local self government.

④ Upholding democracy and rule of law

- ↳ ④.1 upholds democracy by increasing participation of citizen.
- ↳ ④.2 gives a platform to citizens.

Despite there significance as an unique institution state finance commission faces challenges, such as —

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India's democracy can grow only if its local self governments are performing at their maximum level, where state finance commission can play a major role by rationalising and systematic fiscal relation in India.

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- ①⑥ How do pressure groups and movement exert influence in a democracy? discuss the role played by pressure groups in the Indian context.

→ Pressure groups are the type of association of individuals which are organised for promoting and defending their common interest- . P

Role played by pressure groups

- ① Act as platform - pressure groups acts as platform for individuals to pressurise government.
- ② Voice for voiceless pressure groups gives a medium for the voiceless.

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③ Women empowerment

↳ pressure groups helps to upliftment of women.

④ To gain focus on important issue

↳ government can work on the issues highlighted by pressure groups.

Thus pressure groups can exert influence in a democracy in many facets.

Techniques used by
pressure groups

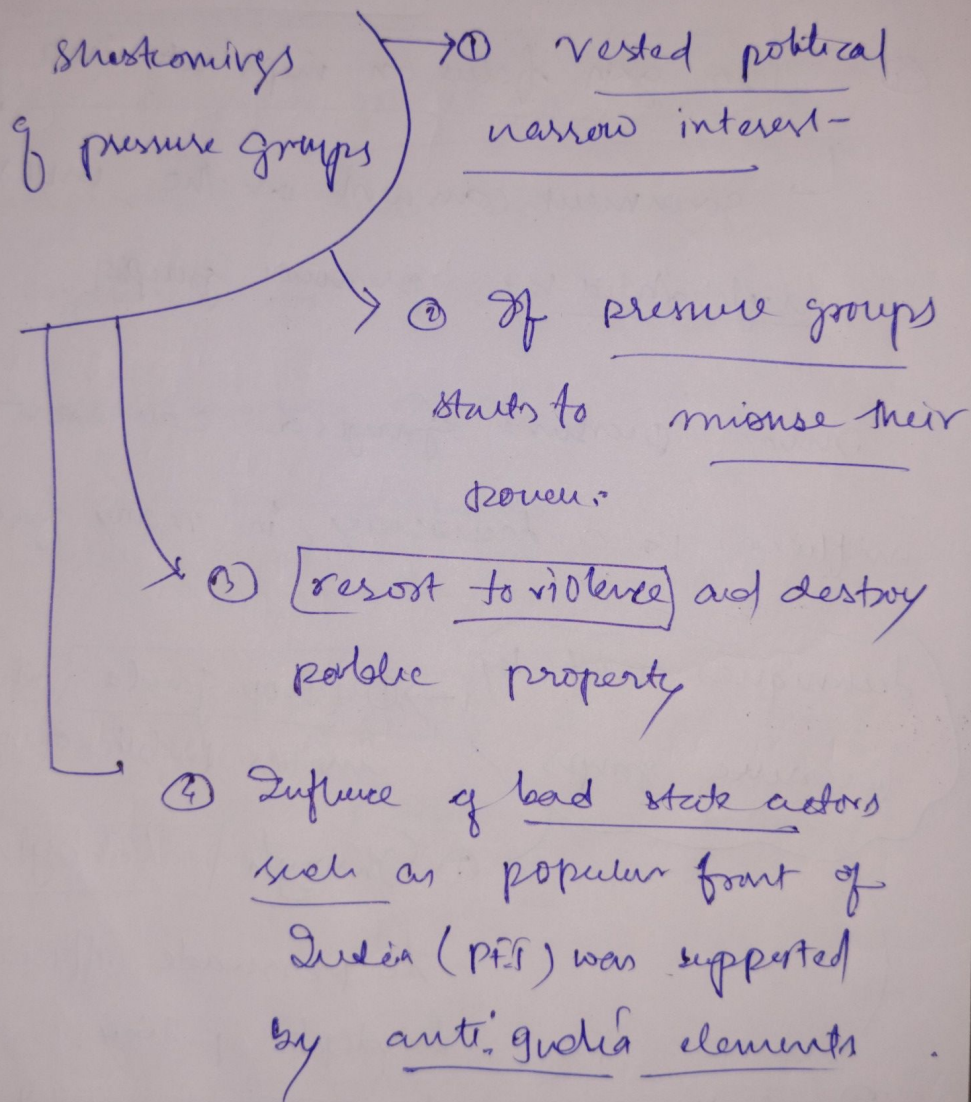
→ ① Propaganda which involves public opinion.

② Through Lobbying to persuade officials to adopt policy.

③ Electioneering → by supporting political representatives.

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Despite the significance of pressure groups there are some shortcomings associated with it such as —



Moreover, The pressure groups can play a important role democratic process to improve democracy.

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⑦ In the light of various Supreme court judgments discuss the representation of people's act 1951 has evolved over years to meet the challenges of electoral democracy in India.

Election commission of India is the watch dog of free fair election in India and article 324 provides for its establishments. In this context Representation of people's acts were enacted by Indian Parliament. in 1951 (RPA 1951).

Supreme courts have provided judgement line to time. in this regard with RPA 1951

Provisions of RPA 1951

- ① Delimitation commissions for constituencies.
- ② Election offences

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③ Electoral disputes

④ By election

⑤ Poll practice

⑥ Registration of political parties

Supreme court have held judgement regarding corrupt practice such as -

① 1994 SR Bommai case

↳ prohibits corrupt practice.

Challenges associated with RPA 1951

① Fair disclosure of assets and liability

② Misuse of government machinery

③ Corrupt practices are still rampant

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Electoral offences are still prevalent

^{can be}
[measures taken by BEP]

① Increase transparency

② Stricter use of model code of conduct.

③ Stricter law and order.

④ collaborate with district administrators
while conducting election. process.

If properly Implemented Representation
of people's act 1957 can contribute

immensely to conduct free and fair
election while protecting electoral
democracy.

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- ⑮ There are indications that judiciary is overreaching and intruding more and more into the exclusive space of legislature and the executive, thereby creating unhealthy asymmetry in the delicate balance among institutions in the country examine critically.

Indian constitution through its various article such as Article 50 mandates for separate judiciary from legislature and executive.

Importance of Independence of judiciary

- ① To maintain the trust in democracy
- ② To ensure federalism
- ③ To limit the legislature from any tyranny.

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④ To curtain wrong doing of legislative

Though in recent times judiciary in India is overreaching and intruding more into exclusive space through its judicial overreach scenarios.

Judicial overreach examples

① Supreme court's directions regarding blanket ban on firecrackers.

③ Supreme court's direction regarding ban and prohibit alcohol shops near 500 metre from highways.

These steps were comes under exclusive space of legislative

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and executive which is creating a
unhealthy asymmetry in the ~~for~~ all
the organs

The need of balance between all
the three organs → judiciary
→ legislature
→ executive.

- ① To ensure justice → social
→ economic
→ political.
- ② Balance will increase cooperation
- ③ maintaining law and order
- ④ To increase public trust in democracy.

Thus balance is utmost important
between all the three organs of government.

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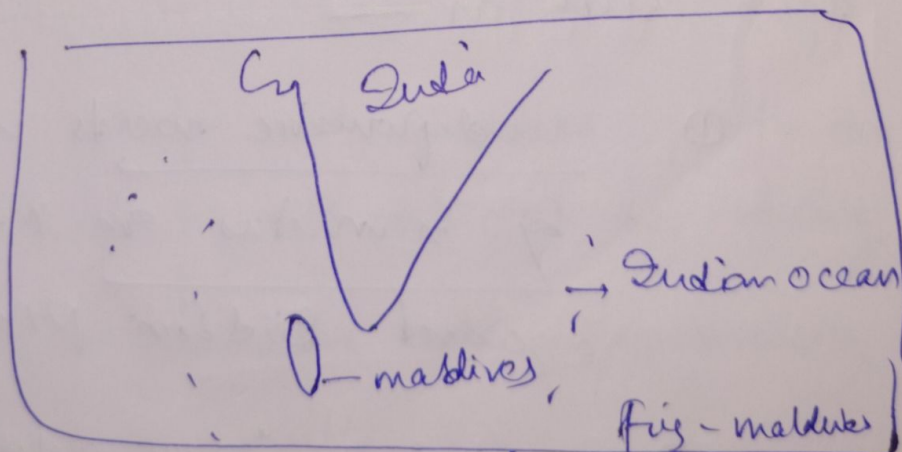
19.

Briefly discuss the crucial importance of maldives for India in the south Asian region. How can ongoing tensions between both nations be resolved to establish a balanced relationship.

India and Maldives share crucial importance due various reasons.

Maldives and India's significance

- ① Strategic location for maritime traffic and sea lines of communication



- ② Regional stability by coordination and cooperation

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For
Practice
Use Only,
निकट अस्थान
के लिए

③ Cultural link. of buddhism.

④ China factor to counter BRG project.

⑤ In disaster management of India → maldives tsunami preparedness can help India for its 7500 km long coastal protection.

Despite Recently contentions can be seen such as —

① undiplomatic words used by ministers on maldives against Indian PM, modi ji.

② President muizzu asked India military to withdraw.

③ growing china's influence in maldives

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India's efforts in this regard,
to curb the contention.

① SAGAR initiative to increase
security and cooperation.

② Neighbourhood, ^{first} policy efforts
of India.

③ Increasing transparent communication,

④ Strengthening people to people
ties.

India and maldives both can
mutually benefit each other by working
on their contentions and conflict resolving
as soon as possible.

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20

How do the multifaceted challenges in the India's energy diplomacy impact its international relations? What strategic measures can be employed to address and resolve these challenges effectively.

→ India is power deficient country, nearly 80% crude oil is imported from other country. Thus India faces multifaceted challenges.

India's challenges

- ① Import dependence in vegetable oil,
- ② Import dependence in crude oil
- ③ Import dependence in critical minerals. for eg - silicon from Taiwan.

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① Technology Deficient → collaborating
with developed countries. like US, Canada et.

Strategic measures taken by
India to resolve such issues

① Balancing with Russia for oil
and ~~technology~~ for US for technology.

② Harmonizing with China for
medicinal raw elements.

③ For oil Imports, maintaining good
ties with Arab countries.

④ Maintaining good relations
with countries like

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Israel, France for advance energy efficient technology.

India must increase its sheer diplomacy to maintain good relations with other countries while constantly working for self-reliant India in line with

Atmanirbhar Bharat concept of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.