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GENERAL STUDIES - PAPER II

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
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- There are 20 questions.
- All questions are compulsory
- The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.
- Answer the Question No. 1 to 10 not more than 150 words, whereas Question No. 11 to 20 should be answered in not more than 250 words.
- Answers must be written within the space provided.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Name ALOK SINGH

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REMARKS

SECTION - A

- Q1. If India is serious about its Africa initiative, a lot will depend on how it marshals its banking and financial sector there. Analyse. (10 Marks)

India & Africa have historically been in a very strong relationship since the time of Colonial Struggle & later during Non-Aligned Movement.

India-Africa relationship has again been taking a new shape. A few new initiatives are :-

- (i) Asia-Africa growth corridor - A joint project of India & Japan in Africa.
- (ii) Africa Pan-eu-network :- to provide ICT in East Africa.
- (iii) Africa-India summit.
- (iv) TEAM-9 with West African Nations.
- (v) Bases in Africa → Assumption Island in Seychelles & Agallega in Mauritius.

However, a few areas of concern are:-

- (i.) Insufficiency of growth capital.
- (ii) Reducing Social mindset in North-India.
- (iii) Influencing all the stakeholders in Africa to decrease tribal conflicts.

The above issues can be solved by the following:-

- (i) Increasing Capital investment in African Development Bank.
- (ii) Introducing the concept of Micro-Credit & Micro Insurance in African Nations.
- (iii) Helping Africa float green bonds.
- (iv) India needs to collaborate with other countries like U.S.A. in order to improve infrastructure investment in India.
- (v) Helping African Nations reduce NPA's & in balance sheet cleansing.

Above steps along with increasing People-to-people & business to business relationship would help strengthen the relation financially.

Remarks

- Q2. India must revise its nuclear policy and keep its strategy opaque. Critically discuss the statement. (10 Marks)

India is one of the 9 Nuclear States in the world. However, although India is not a member of NSG, India is a responsible Nuclear State. This can be seen from the existing Indian Nuclear policy:-

- (i) Nuclear decisions in the hand of Civil government
 - (ii) India's No-first use Policy
 - (iii) India's committed principle of disarmament.
 - (iv) India's commitment of Not performing any Nuclear tests.
-
- ```

graph TD
 NCA[Nuclear Command Authority] --> EC[Executive Committee
headed by NSA]
 NCA --> PC[Political Committee
headed by PM]

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A few experts have said that India should change its Nuclear policy & make it more opaque. The reasons for this are:-

Remarks

- (i) Unacceptable Loss to Civilians:- If a country attack India, only then will India use nuclear weapon. This could lead to Substantial loss of life of Indians
- (ii) Low level war:- As the enemy will know that India won't use its nuclear force, hence, can wage a low level war.
- (iii) Terrorist acting with Impunity.

However, These proposals, although thoughtful, have been criticized for:-

- (i) Responsible Nuclear state:- Due to its Nuclear policy, various nuclear agreements with France, U.S.A. & Japan has been signed.
- (ii) Champion of De-Nuclearizing the planet.
- (iii) Model Policy:- India's nuclear policy is model which has also been adopted by China.
- (iv) Humanitarian Care.

The present policy is a wonderful template and should be continued. It can be clubbed with other protections like Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems etc to protect civilians.

Remarks

- Q3. Malabar-17 demonstrates a shared determination to safeguard a free and open Indo-Pacific along with far-reaching geo-political impact. Discuss. (10 Marks)

Malabar exercise is the Joint Naval Exercise between India & U.S.A.. Japan has recently joined it. This showcases India's increasing importance in Indo-Pacific.

The importance of Malabar-17 is :-

- (i) Counters Chinese Aggression:- China's 'String of Pearls' & 'Maritime Silk Route' is countered by these exercises.
- (ii) Secures Sea lanes of Communication & Right to Navigation & over flight.
- (iii) Combats Piracy:- Indian Ocean near Somalia & near Malacca Strait is infested with pirates. Malabar exercise helps in combating piracy.
- (iv) Security of Littoral states:- States like Mauritius, Malaysia, Maldives.

Remarks

(iv) Secures trade passing through sea routes.

However, India should take care of the following issues:-

- (i) Antagonizing China:- Involving U.S.A. & Japan in antagonizing China further.
- (ii) Decreasing Regional Power Status of India:- As other states would increase their influence in the region.
- (iii) Distancing Russia:- India's proximity with U.S.A. can distance Russia which has already participated in a military exercise with Pakistan.

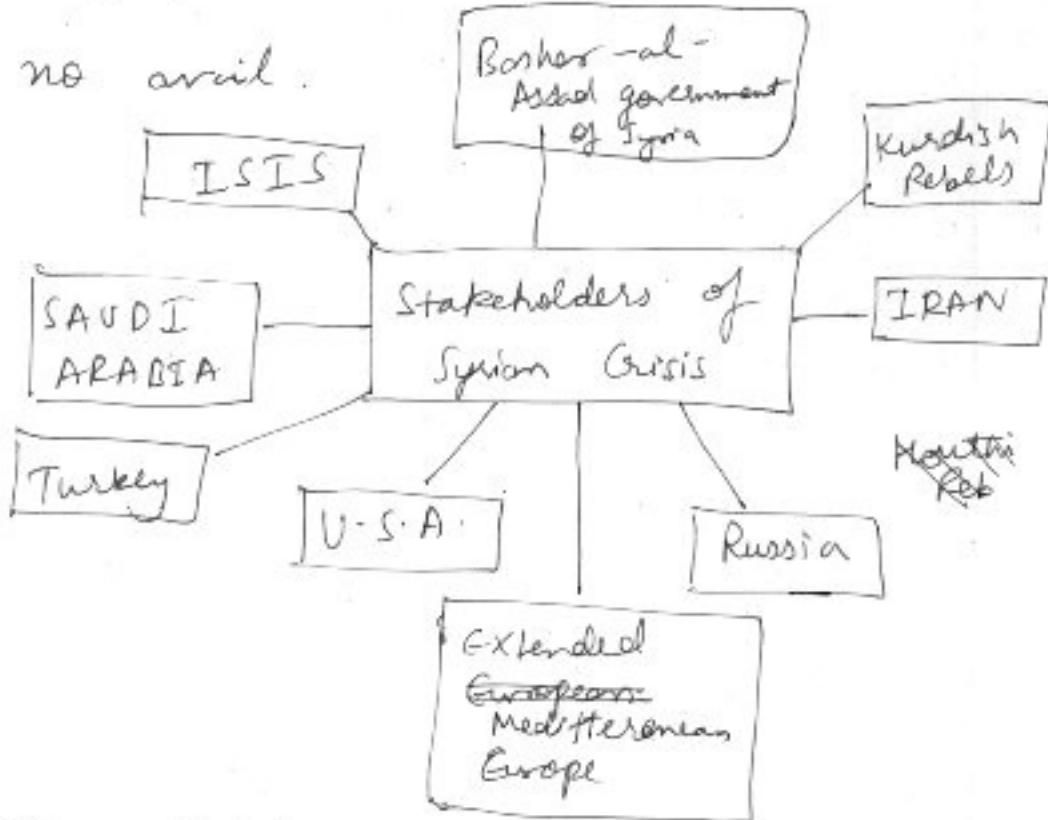
India should balance the above issues by increasing relations with Russia.

Quad exercise is also the step in right direction. India should consider inviting Indonesia & Australia to Malabar exercise in order to achieve SAGAR (Security & growth for all in the region.)

Remarks

- Q4. Multilateral diplomacy is the only way to resolve Syrian conflict and military action has only escalated the conflict even further. Analyze the statement. (10 Marks)

Syrian Conflict has been ongoing since the time of Arab Spring in 2011. Around 1 million civilians have been killed in the conflict till now. Superpowers like U.S.A & Russia have been involved in the situation but to no avail.



Military Action has led to the following in Syria:-

- (i) Proxy wars- Proxy wars between U.S.A & Russia, between Iran & Saudi Arabia,

Remarks

between Kurdish Rebel & Turkey.

- (ii) Increasing Civilian Casualty.
- (iii) Loss of Cultural heritage:- Damage to historical city of Idlib.
- (iv) Increasing Radicallization of muslim youth elsewhere.

There is a need to engage all the stakeholders in a multilateral diplomacy.

It will have the following benefit:-

- (i) Solving the war on negotiation table.
- (ii) Decrease in Defence expenditure.
- (iii) Decrease in loss of lives of civilians.

Basher - Al - Assad government needs to be strengthened in order to take back the conflict area. Saudi Arabia & Iran need to solve their differences amicably. Long standing demand of Kurdistan needs to be considered in a fair manner. Then only can we establish peace in Middle East.

Remarks

- Q5. The amendment to do away with the domicile requirement for elections to the Rajya Sabha has militated against the very purpose that guided the Constituent Assembly to create the Council of States and reduced it to a mere revising chamber. Critically analyse. (10 Marks)

The upper house of Parliament is known as Rajya Sabha. Elections to the Rajya Sabha are indirect and are elected by elected members of State legislative assembly's.

Initially, a Rajya Sabha member had to be domiciled in the same state in order to represent that state. But this domicile requirement was done away with. This was done for the following reasons:-

- (i) Representation of various leaders from different walks of life who can't face direct elections.  
Ex:- Sachin Tendulkar, Jaye Bacchan.
- (ii) Appreciating talent from other states.
- (iii) Increasing National Integration :- wherein a member person of North India will come to know about the problem of South India and vice - versa.

Remarks

(iv) Informed debate over a topic:- A person from the same region has the tendency to Grand-hand on various issues in order to appease local constituency.

However, Introducing this amendment has led to the following debilitating effects:-

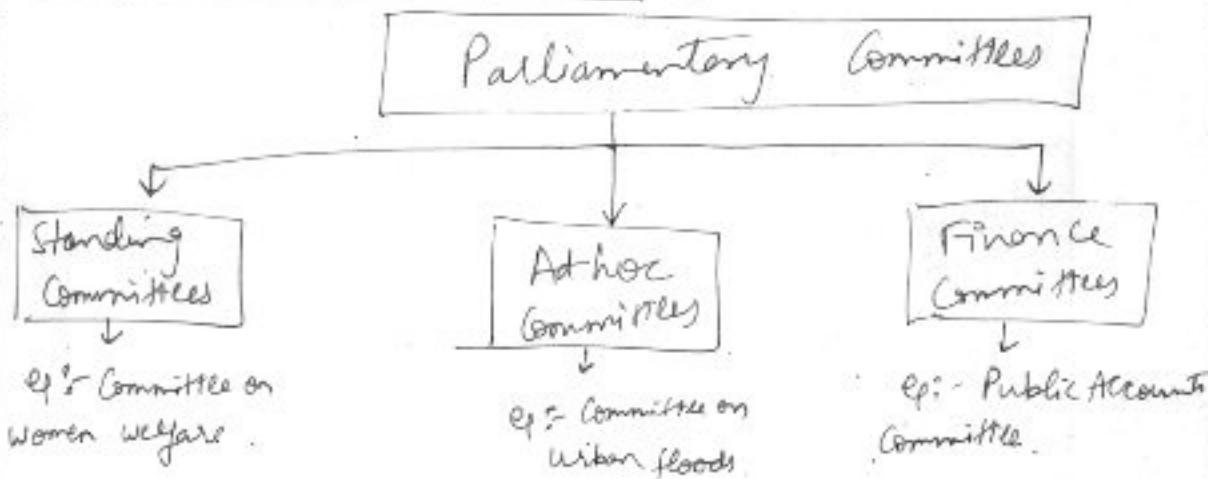
- (i) Mere Revisionist House:- As the local demands of states are not raised appropriately by the members.
- (ii) A fall back option for losing politicians.
- (iii) Violating the principle of representation of states.
- (iv) Problems in understanding language :- Due to different languages of the member & the local population.

Notwithstanding the above issues, this amendment has helped in representation of various leaders in the upper house. Further functioning of Rajya Sabha can be improved by increasing its say in Money bills.

**Remarks**

- Q6. The role of Parliamentary Committees in upholding accountability of the executive is continuous if not close. In the light of this statement, discuss the factors that limit the effective functioning of these committees? (10 Marks)

Parliamentary Committees are the committee of the Parliament which help in santizing a legislation or economy of budget. This helps in increasing legislature's check over the executive.



These Committees have the following advantages:-

- Increase control of legislature over executive.
- Increased quality of debate due to presence of experts.
- Refining a law:- For e.g.- After referring to Parliamentary Committee, FDI bill was withdrawn owing to 'bail-in' provision.

Remarks

However, there are the following factors limit the functioning of these committees:-

- (i) Vacancy:- Since 2014, these committees have > 50% vacancy.
- (ii) Political Pressure:- As these committees are generally appointed by the speaker.
- (iii) Paucity of Time:- The whole budget has to be scrutinized in almost 2 months.
- (iv) Lack of specialized Staff or Secretariat with these committees.

These issues can be resolved by:-

- (i) Filling all the vacancy timely.
- (ii) Making the appointment to these committees independent by forming a collegium of ~~as~~ a senior opposition leader or LOP.
- (iii) Increase the support system to these committees.

These committees are an inherent part of our Parliamentary legacy. We need to strengthen them in order to have evidence-based policymaking.

Remarks

- Q7. What are the provisions of 123<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2017? Does it address the issues and lacunae that existed in the statutory body- National Commission for Backward Classes? (10 Marks)

123<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill proposed the a Constitutional body:- National Commission for Socially & Educationally backward classes (NCSEBC). It's provisions are :-

- (i) Forming a Constitutional body in place of a Statutory body for fulfilling the provisions of Article 340 of the Indian Constitution.
- (ii) Subsuming the function of all State level bodies.
- (iii) Any further amendments & revision in OBC list will only be done by NCSEBC.

This step has addressed the following issues that existed earlier :-

- (i) Recommendations are binding :- NCB was just an advisory body.
- (ii) Combating vote-bank politics :- Ex:- Maharashtra

Remarks

provided 16% reservations to a well-off community of Marathas.

(iii) Centralizing the OBC list:- Therefore, they can avail reservation benefits all over India.

But the above amendment has following problems:-

(i) Undermining the Federal aspect:- State's power to revise the OBC list has been done away with.

(ii) Poor - evidence availability:- As the States are much closer to ground and much more clear in assessing backwardness of a community.

(iii) Vote bank politics by National Parties.

Need of the hour is to remove the lacunae in the amendment & strengthen state level bodies. State should be given the power to propose an amendment. Also, Amend the Kalakar Committee recommendations of identifying backward & most-backward classes should be followed.

Remarks

- Q8. "An institution must speak with one voice, lest it loses credibility and ends up confusing people." In this context, analyse the government's current impetus on making the office of Comptroller and Auditor General a multi-member body. (10 Marks)

Comptroller & Auditor General is one of the 4 bulwarks on which our polity stands. It has been formed by Article 148 of the Indian Constitution.

CAG has the following functions to perform:-

- (i) Auditing & keeping a check on government expenditure.
- (ii) Presents its report in the Parliament, thus, enhances the control of legislature on executive.
- (iii) Guide, friend and philosopher of Public Accounts Committee.
- (iv) Ensures economy & efficiency in government expenditure.

Government's proposal to make CAG a multi-member body will have the following effects:-

- (i) Increasing work load of CAG & making

Remarks

it more efficient.

- (ii) Well-discussed & check on expenditure.
- (iii) Better policy deliberation.

However, it can also lead to the following problems:-

- (i) Lack of consensus in CAG.
- (ii) Increased political influence.
- (iii) Political bickering for promotions.

Notwithstanding the above issues, the increase in members of CAG was long awaited process. It should be formed on the lines of Election Commission in order to ensure smooth functioning of CAG.

Remarks

- Q9. What do you mean by public authority as per the provision of RTI Act 2005? Do you think that there is a need to revisit this provision of the law? Give your argument in the light of the recent developments. (10 Marks)

Public Authority according to RTI  
Act 2005 is :-

- (i) Any public body delivering Public service.
- (ii) NGO's getting receiving >10 Lakh of Foreign contributions under FCRA, 2002.
- (iii) Any body Article 12 of the Indian Constitution

The problem with current shape of RTI Act are:-

- (i) Exemption of Political Parties.
- (ii) Exemption of Private bodies like BCCI.  
which are registered under Society Registration Act 1860.
- (iii) Non-disclosure of information by various departments & bodies under the guise of 'National Interest'.

These problems can be solved by following amendments in the existing legislation:-

Remarks

- (i) Making an explicit provision to include Political Parties, as was recommended by CIC in 2013
- (ii) Mudgal Committee report & Justice Lodha Committee recommended inclusion of BCCI in the definition of public authority.

Above steps along with other provisions like mandatory disclosure of information by departments need to be done. Applicability of RTI act on judiciary also needs to be discussed. These steps will help in refining & strengthening RTI.

Remarks

- Q10. The regional powerhouses India and Brazil share a relationship that is gradual and progressive, however, mainly dominated by trade and commerce. This relationship needs a fillip to engage in new area of co-operation to support mutually converging interests and strengthen this relationship. Discuss. (10 Marks)

India and Brazil are developing countries and are members of BRICS. They have also formed IBSA with south Africa for South-South Cooperation. The present status of India-Brazil Relation are:-

- (i) Trade:- India imports plantation products like rubber & exports pharmaceuticals & I.T. to Brazil.
- (ii) Renewable energy technology:- Both the countries are striving for renewable energy and are members of International Solar Alliance.
- (iii) Blue economy:- Being peripheral coastal powers, both the countries cooperate in sustainable use of blue economy.

Remarks

Further scope of improvement in relations

exists:-

- (i) G4 & UNSC Reforms:- Both are members of G4 alongwith Japan & Germany.
- (ii) Climate Change:- Both have participated enthusiastically in UNFCCC.
- (iii) Demographic Cooperation:- India <sup>will have</sup> has a surplus manpower of 97 million <sup>by 2020</sup> whereas Brazil will have a shortage of working population.
- (iv) Entry in to other groups like Committee of Latin America & Caribbean Countries & MERCOSUR.
- (v) Disaster Management & Humanitarian assistance of Pacific region countries.  
Both the Countries have a huge potential to cooperate and can set a template in sustainable existence and harmonious rise.

Remarks

## SECTION - B

Q11. Human trafficking the third largest organized crime violating basic human rights. Why has this menace been on rise? Do you think the trafficking of persons (prevention, protection and rehabilitation) bill, 2018 can help in tackling trafficking in India? Critically examine. (15 Marks)

Human trafficking is the trafficking of humans & exploiting their vulnerable conditions which may be due to persecution, climate, rural distress etc.

This menace has been on the rise because:-

- (i) Violence & Persecution :- Increasing persecution of minorities. e.g. - Rohingyas in Myanmar, Ahmadis in Pakistan.
- (ii) Climate change :- Increasing frequency of floods & droughts, increasing sea level. e.g. - Bangladeshi migrants to India.
- (iii) Economic push factors :- Non-Remunerative agriculture. e.g. - Migrants from Bihar & Jharkhand to Delhi.

Remarks

This situation can be tackled by the provisions of newly introduced trafficking of persons (Prevention, Protection & Rehabilitation) bill 2018 by :-

(i)

Remarks

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*Remarks*

- Q12. "Anti-defection law was enacted to enhance the credibility of Indian polity. While this enactment brought about some order in the system, some politicians found ways of circumventing it over the years." Critically comment on the statement in the light of the recent disqualification of two leaders by the Vice President. (15 Marks)

Anti-defection law was introduced in the 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian Constitution by 52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. It was further refined by 91<sup>st</sup> Amendment. The condition of Anti-defection is:-

- (i) If a legislator fails to act according to the whip of the party without taking due permission.
- (ii) If an independent legislator joins a political party.
- (iii) If a nominated legislator joins a political party after 6 months.
- (iv) Undertaking Anti-party activity.

Anti-defection law has the following

Remarks

advantages in the context of Indian polity :-

- (i) Stability of government :- legislations like Money bill & no-confidence motion can't be passed easily now.
- (ii) Reduces horse-trading.
- (iii) ~~Creates split~~ Demotivates split in the party.
- (iv) Reduces corruption in the party politics.

(v) However, Anti-defection hasn't been able to fulfil the needs of Indian polity :-

- (i) Crushes dissent :- legislators are not able to question the party high command.
- (ii) Reduces the accountability of executive to the legislators.
- (iii) Against Representative politics :- Legislators are unable to voice the demand of their constituents.
- (iv) Reduces legislators to mere counting heads:-

Remarks

This decreases the quality of debate in legislatures. For ex:- 127 hours were allotted to discuss budget in 1950's . This has reduced to 39 hours.

(V) Allows Wholesale defection :-  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of the merger of parties is allowed.

In order to reduce the disadvantages, various recommendations have been made:-

- (i) Dinesh Goswami Committee recommends that question of anti-defection should be decided by President/governor, rather than the Speaker, on recommendation of ECI.
- (ii) Anti suspension of a legislator to at least rest of the term if he/she resorts to Anti-defection.

Following above recommendations along with other electoral reforms like decriminalizing politics can strengthen our political scenario.

Remarks

- Q13. Discrimination in health insurance against individuals based on their genetic disposition or genetic heritage, in the absence of appropriate genetic testing and laying down of intelligible differentia is unconstitutional. Analyse the statement in the context of genetic discrimination in India. (15 Marks)

Health Insurance coverage in India is at dismal low levels. On the other hand, Out of pocket expenditure of an average Indian is 74%. This shows the bad state of affairs.

Genetic problems are the problems that are passed down from one generation to other with the transfer of genes. The following problems are encountered by the ~~the~~ individuals suffering from genetic problems:-

- (i) Insufficiency in availability of treatment:- These are rare in the population (<5%), thus, no sufficient clinical study hasn't been undertaken.
- (ii) High cost of treatment:- Due to requirement

Remarks

of special procedure of treatments.

(iii) Non-Coverage in health Insurance Schemes-

Insurance companies give the reason that since these diseases were present before taking medical insurance, patients won't be covered.

(iv) Right to Health- S.C. has interpreted Article 21 to contain the implicit provision of right to health. Patient's are made devoid of this fundamental Right.

In order to combat the above situation, following steps need to be undertaken:-

(i) Increasing R & D funding:- India should increase its funding from around 0.89% of GDP to atleast 3% of GDP (USA's expenditure on R & D).

Remarks

- (ii) Incentives to pharmaceutical companies to produce Orphan drugs.
- (iii) Incentivizing Health Insurance companies to provide cover to individuals with genetic disease.
- (iv) Data collection :- Profiling of the case study of individuals suffering from genetic diseases need to be done in order for sufficient availability of data for research & study.
- (v) Using technologies like Gene Transfer therapy during fertilization, in order to decrease the occurrence. This can be done either by Domestic or Gene germ cell therapy.

Indian government & state governments need to involve local NGO's engaged in health care sector. Then only will India be able to achieve Goal -3 of SDG which provides Health care to all.

**Remarks**

Q14. Citizen's charter are "expression of an ethical governance", but their real utility is questionable. Discuss. (15 Marks)

Citizen's charter ~~are~~ is a ~~set of~~ document which contains the various rights & entitlements of citizen. It underlines the importance of 'Right to service delivery' of various services by a government department.

Benefits of having a citizen's charter :-

- (i) Timely service delivery.
- (ii) Decrease in Corruption :- A) Citizens are aware of their rights.
- (iii) Increase in accountability of the administration.
- (iv) Fulfils the constitutional obligation of a welfare state.
- (v) Grievance Redressal :- A) the charter contains the grievance venting helpline & assures of grievance redressal.

Remarks

However, In practice, citizen charters haven't been as successful. This is because:-

- (i) Non-availability of such charters :- Majority of government departments are yet to formulate such a charter.
- (ii) Non-compliance with the provision.
- (iii) Lack awareness of public.
- (iv) Creative Corruption:
- (v) Insufficient publicization of the charter.
- (vi) Impractical promises within the charter.
- (vii) Lack of specific targets within the charter.

In Order to make citizen charter work, following changes need to be introduced:-

- (i) Participatory formulation:- Local population, local NGO's, experts need to be involved in the process of charter formation.
- (ii) Measurable outcomes:- For ex:- Ensuring

Remarks

the rigoury of quality of water according to International Standards.

- (iii) Regular monitoring & Compliance:- An Oversight Committee comprising of local citizens need to be formed.
- (iv) Social Audit :- For eg:- Meghalaya has recently introduced a social audit law.
- Citizen charter, along with other steps like Integrity Pact, using ICT etc can help in transforming governance in India & make the life of common citizen prosperous.

Remarks

- Q15. More than a decade after the Right to Information Act was passed by Parliament, its implementation remains inefficient. Examine the various structural, procedural and logistical issues with the act. What are the reforms needed to turn RTI into a true "master key to good governance?" (15 Marks)

Right to Information Act was passed in the year 2005 in order to provide the Right to citizens to ask for information regarding various topics. It has helped in further deepening the democracy & increased accountability of the government.

On an average, 70 lakh applicants apply for RTI every year.

However, various problems mar the efficacy of RTI.

(i) Structural issues:-

- (a) Low literacy & awareness of the legislation.
- (b) Presence of accompanying Whistleblowers Protection Act, various RTI activists like Pansare were killed. Around 70 people have lost their lives.

Remarks

- = (c) Non-adherence to the timeline.
- (d) Absence of enforcement of strict penalty against the erring public Information officers.

| Procedural issues :-

- (i) Various Information is not disclosed citing the provision of 'National Security', 'sensitive information' etc.
- (ii) Online application in a digitally illiterate country is impractical.

| Logistical issues:-

- (i) Huge Vacancy:- Various departments & Organization have no public Information officers.
- (ii) Low manpower:- Makes it difficult to search for & organize government records.

Remarks

(iii) Lack of digitization of records This makes it time consuming.

Various reforms that are needed to improve RTI are:-

- (i) Mandatory appointment of PIO in all departments.
- (ii) Filling vacancies.
- (iii) Providing for protection to applicants & whistleblowers.
- (iv) Encouraging all the departments to digitize their records.
- (v) strict enforcement of penalties.

RTI can further be strengthened by involving various NGO's to improve awareness of the local citizens. Further, including Political parties need to be covered in RTI according to CIC Order, 2013.

- Q16. Do you think strong India-Japan relations would help preserve a stable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific? Support your arguments. Also analyse, to what extent Japan and India made significant changes to their foreign and national security policies.

(15 Marks)

India & Japan, both are world's leading economies & a part of G-20. The bonhomie has been increasing for the past five years; more so after aggressive rise of China.

A Strong India-Japan relations would have the following impact on the Indo-Pacific region :-

- (i) Countering Chinese hegemony:- India & Japan can counter the 'string of pearls' & 'BRI' initiative of China.
- (ii) Sea lanes of communication & Right to Navigation and overflight:- Thus, maintain Rule based Order.

Remarks

(iii) Africa :- 'Af Asia - Africa Economic Corridor'

a joint initiative of India & Japan could help in increasing the goodwill of both the Countries & Counter boycott of China.

(iv) UNSC Reforms:- Both are members of G4 alongside Brazil & Germany. UNSC reforms will help in giving a greater say to both the Countries & balance the region.

(v) U.S. Asia pivot:- India & Japan can play an important role in it.

For achieving this balance, both the Countries have undertaken the following changes in their foreign & National security policies:-

(i) India :-

(i) Increased Strategic partnership with U.S.A. by signing LEMOA, COMCASA & participating in Quad.

(ii) Enhanced focus on Act East policy.

Remarks

- (iii) Increased emphasis on relation with Indian Ocean littoral states by IOR-ARC & BIMSTEC.
- (iv) Formulation of Sagar Mala, SAGAR (Security & growth for all in the region) & blue water policy.

Japan :-

- (i) Alliance & defence relation with U.S.A.
- (ii) Part of Malabar exercise alongside India & U.S.A.
- (iii) Partner in Quad.
- (iv) Removed 'Pacifist' provision in Japanese Constitution.
- (v) pushing for UNSC reforms alongwith India, Brazil & Germany.

Apart from the above region, India-Japan relations are also important in encouraging Democracy in other countries. India-Japan can further be strengthened by Increasing Defence relations.

Remarks

Q17. Recently, America withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal with Iran. Is this the right move? Highlight the implications on India and the world. (15 Marks)

P5 + Germany + EU signed an agreement  
(Joint Comprehensive Partnership of agreement) with  
 Iran in order to stop its Medium-enriched Uranium & ~~reducing~~ reducing its low-enriched Uranium by 97%.

However, even after complying with all the provisions (as confirmed by IAEA), U.S.A. withdrew from the deal sighting Iran to be a violator of agreement.

This step can lead to following issues:-

- (i) Decrease in Credibility of U.S.A. as a negotiator & a superpower.
- (ii) An excuse for Iran to enrich its Uranium supplies.
- (iii) Jeopardizing Rule-based International Order.
- (iv) Increased pressure of Conservative clergy on liberal Hassan Rouhani government,

Remarks

decreasing chances of any future reforms.

The steps will having the following implications on India & the world:-

(i) For India :-

→ withdrawing from JCPOA & legislating CAATSA will affect India by:-

- (i) Energy Crisis:- Iran imports around 30% of all LNG to India. This step would decrease trade.
- (ii) Chabahar question:- India's commitment to build Iran's Chabahar will take a hit.
- (iii) Connectivity to Central Asia:- Agreements like INSTC & Ashgabat agreement will be affected as Iran is an important part of the projects.
- (iv) Security situation & trade in Afghanistan:- Connectivity to Zerang - Delaram & Gariband highway via Chabahar will be difficult after this.

Remarks

For the world :-

- (i) Undermining of world order & punishing the performer will send a wrong message.
- (ii) Countries like North Korea will be reluctant to sign any such agreement.
- (iii) Deepening of Middle East Crisis:- Failing to bring Iran to the negotiator table again will increase violence in Iraq & Syria.

To The following steps should be taken to overcome this crisis :-

- (i) EU + Germany along with other P4 need to take the agreement forward.
- (ii) Engage with USA in order to convince them the importance of this deal.
- (iii) Regular monitoring & inspection of progress made by Iran in reducing its stockpile.

India, historically, has been a champion of Disarmament. It should seize the opportunity to influence all the stakeholders of the crisis using its soft power.

Remarks

- Q18. Elaborate the unique strengths of India and the Nordic countries. Discuss whether the relationship offers immense opportunities for trade and investment diversification and mutually beneficial collaboration. (15 Marks)

Nordic Countries comprise of the group of Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Finland & Sweden.

India & Nordic Countries have a special relationship which extends to the following:-

- (i) Democratic Setup:- India - Nordic countries share the idea of democratic ideals.
- (ii) NSG membership:- These countries back India's entry in to NSG.
- (iii) UNSC reforms:- These countries have supported India to permanent seat in UNSC.
- (iv) Renewable Energy:- Geogly like Geothermal in Iceland, Wind energy in Sweden & India's INDC's commitment of at least 40% of ~~non~~ renewable energy in energy mix by 2030 go hand in hand.

Remarks

(iv) Global order & Freedom of Navigation:-

Both the set of countries back freedom of Navigation & Securing SLOC.

This ~~short~~ relationship offers immense opportunity.

The potential to increase trade & investment diversification in the following areas:-

- (i) Socio-economic development :- Norway & other Nordic countries are a leader in socio-economic development. India can collaborate & ask for their experience in development.
- (ii) Energy exploration :- Exploring energy in Central Indian Ocean region & Arctic sea in collaboration.
- (iii) Space Science :- Both the set of countries can invest in R&D & help in the research of use of ICT to solve various problems like Disaster Management.
- (iv) Climate change :- Both the countries are vulnerable.

Remarks

However, India - Nordic Countries can suffer from the following issues, if not handled carefully:-

- (i) Difference in Development level :- e.g. Norway has very high HDI whereas India has medium developed HDI. This can present the problem of matching coordination in the same fields.
- (ii) Issue of MSP in the backdrop of agreement, Nordic countries are against MSP provided by Indian government to its farmers.

Notwithstanding the above issues, India & Nordic countries can engage in infrastructure by involving them in India's Smart City Mission. Also, demographic collaboration is a possible avenue, as Nordic countries are ageing countries & India is a young country with an excess demography of 47 million by 2020.

Remarks

- Q19. The older parameters, traditional variables and orthodox institutional thinking of the special relationship are now outdated and ineffective with respect to India-Nepal relationship. Analyze the issues and the opportunities on which both the nations need to work. (15 Marks)

India & Nepal signed the 'Treaty of friendship' in 1950. They both have a special relationship in terms of open-border & Roti-Beti Relationship.

Recent issues in India - Nepal relation are:-

- (i) New Oli government :- The new government is Anti-India & fuels Anti-India sentiments for vote gleaning.
- (ii) Blockade of 2015 :- The show of hard power by India in 2015 led to negative fallout for India - Nepal relationship.
- (iii) China's money offensive :- China used the India- Nepal blockade tension to initiate an infrastructure between Lhasa & Kathmandu.
- (iv) Issue of Tharu's, Madhesis & the new

Remarks

Constitution :- The issue of discrimination of plains people has led India to raise concerns about the issue.

Opportunities on which both the nations need to work are:-

- (i) Hydroelectricity :- Resolving issues like Mahakali dam will help in realising the hydroelectric potential of Nepal.
- (ii) Trade :- Nepal's 2/3rd of global trade is with India & its 90% of the exports go through India. This can further be enhanced.
- (iii) Connectivity :- Constructing inland waterways in order to provide direct connectivity of Nepal to the ocean.
- (iv) Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Management by vulnerability mapping.

Remarks

(v) Increasing defence Exercise :- ep!- Suryakiran.

Importance of "India - Nepal relation can be understood from the fact that around 60 Lakh Nepali's are living & working in India, Workers are in the Indian Army, & a Nepali Citizen can take up government job (except IAS, IFS & ITs).

This Closeness in relation can further be increased by bridging the trust deficit. Initiatives like BDIN Motor vehicle Agreement and following Gujaral Doctrine of principle of Non-Reciprocity would go a long way in strengthening this special relationship.

- Q20. What were the objectives of passing the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016 which sought to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002 and the Representation of the People Act, 1950? Also discuss the process involved in delimitation of constituencies and issues arising out of delimitation. (15 Marks)

Delimitation Act, 2002 extended the adjustment of seats till 2026 which was initially for 2000 according to 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act. 87<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act used the 2001 census for readjustment of seats within ~~the~~ a state.

The Reason for delimitation of constituencies were:-

- (i) Equality of Representation :- One M.P. per million population was envisaged.
- (ii) Easy management of election by the election Commission.
- (iii) Proximity of a political representative to voters.
- (iv) Making elections economic & manageable.

Remarks

~~however~~

The Problems with present delimitation Act are:-

- (i) Unequal Representation:- ~~Ass~~ Kerala has 6.3 ~~now~~ MP's / acre whereas Rajasthan has only 4.4 MP / acre.
- (ii) Inequality of Representation of States in Rajya Sabha.
- (iii) Doesn't reflect the reality as population in Northern States have increased & population in Southern States have decreased.

Process of Delimitation :-

- (i) Adjustment of seats & increment of seats:-

This follows the increase in population.  
With increase in population, the total seats increase.

- (ii) Adjustment of present Seats within the State:-

This emphasize on equality of representation.  
The seats are divided equitably amongst

Remarks

the existing population so as to reflect  
the equality within a state.

Remarks