UPSC MAINS 2020
MODEL HINTS

GENERAL STUDIES
PAPER-2

UPSC MAINS 2020

GS PAPER - 2

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.   *Max. Marks: 250*

1. **"There is a need for simplification of Procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of peoples Act". Comment.**
   (Answer in 150 words) (10)

2. **Recent amendments to the Right to information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission. Discuss.** **(Answer in 150 words) (10)**

3. **How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation of India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer.**
   (Answer in 150 words) (10)

4. **The judicial system in India and UK seem to be converging as well diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices.** **(Answer in 150 words) (10)**

5. **'Once a Speaker always a speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implication for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India?** **(Answer in 150 words) (10)**

6. **In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss.**
   (Answer in 150 words) (10)

7. **Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance. In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy.** **(Answer in 150 words) (10)**

8. **"The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government". Discuss.** **(Answer in 150 words) (10)**

9. **Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the COVID-19 pandemic.** **(Answer in 150 words) (10)**

10. **'Indian Diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples.** **(Answer in 150 words) (10)**

11. **Indian constitution exhibits centralizing tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts.** **(Answer in 250 words) (15)**

12. **Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities.** **(Answer in 250 words) (15)**

13. **The strength sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funs' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality'. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times.**
    (Answer in 250 words) (15)

14. Rajyasabha has been transformed from a 'useless Stepney tire' to the most useful supportive organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as areas in which this transformation could be visible. *(Answer in 250 words)* **(15)**

15. Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons. *(Answer in 250 words)* **(15)**

16. "The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyse the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report. *(Answer in 250 words)* **(15)**

17. "Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India". Evaluate the role of Self-Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India. *(Answer in 250 words)* **(15)**

18. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement. *(Answer in 250 words)* **(15)**

19. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)' is the transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times. Discuss. *(Answer in 250 words)* **(15)**

20. What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. *(Answer in 250 words)* **(15)**

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UPSC MAINS EXAMINATION, 2020
(GENERAL STUDIES PAPER - 2)

HINTS

1. *"There is a need for simplification of Procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of peoples Act". Comment.*

> ### Approach
>
> 1. *Briefly mention the provisions and procedures related to the disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the act. (20 words)*
> 2. *Explain why there is a need to simplify the procedures or complexities involved in the procedures. (30 words)*
> 3. *How to simplify the procedures for disqualification. (80 words)*
> 4. *Conclusion (20 words)*

Hints:

Section 8A of Representation of People Act 1951 provides procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt activities **and Section 123 of RPA 1951** defines the corrupt practices. Despite these sections lot of people who are guilty of corruption are getting elected to parliament and state legislatures undermining the electoral process of Indian democracy.

Procedure involved for disqualification

• Election petition is filed against the corrupt person in High Court.

• High Court gives the judgment, if the person found guilty then the matter is referred to President of India through Secretary General of RajyaSabha or LokSabha or State Legislature of India.

• After this president sends the matter to Election Commission of India. (As per the provision of Constitution)

• After analyzing the matter or verdict of High court ECI sends back its recommendation to the president

• Finally President issues a notification for the disqualification of member guilty of corrupt practices and barred from contesting election.

Need of simplification and Complexities involved in the procedure

• Judicial process itself is time consuming. There are nearly 50 lakhs cases are pending in the High Courts.

• Judgment often delayed and low conviction rates.

• Election Petitions are admitted only after elections are over, so there is inordinate delay in filling election petitions in high courts.

• It has been seen that there is delay while referring the decision of High court to president.

- ECI with inadequate staff delays the recommendation to president.
- Influential people mostly manages and escape the conviction.

All these process stretches the procedure and by the time president issues a notification for disqualification, the corrupt person has already **served for 5 years.**

Ways to simplify the procedures.

- Decisions of High courts should be directly sent to Election Commission of India which will avoid inordinate delays.

- There is urgent need to bring reforms in ECI - providing them with adequate staff so that they can process the entire procedure faster.

- Fast tracking the processes related to election petition by establishing Fast track courts.

- Establish more benches of High court on a priority basis to resolve the election petition which will increase the conviction rates and will check corrupt persons entering the electoral process.

- **Amending RPA 1951** to bar the candidates even at the trial stage for corrupt practices and heinous crimes

- Finally, election petitions should be admitted before election.

Conclusion:

In the recent times Indian electoral system is facing various issues like criminalization of politics, increasing use of money and muscle power etc because of low conviction rate of corrupt persons in politics. So, the need of hour is to reform and simplify the procedures related to disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the **Representation of peoples Act 1951**.

2. Recent amendments to the Right to information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission. Discuss.

Approach
1. *Briefly introduce the RTI Act (20 words)*
2. *Discuss Amendments Done in the RTI Act (50 words)*
3. *Discuss profound Impact of Amendments. (40 words)*
4. *Conclusion (40 words)*

Hints:

The objective of the RTI Act is to establish a practical regime for citizens to access information held by Public Authorities. This in turn led to increased transparency and accountability at the Public Authorities. RTI since its enactment led to many stories of defacing corrupt practices.ButThe Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 has made amendment in the status, salary and tenure of the Central Information Commissioners (CICs) and State Information Commissioners.On the account of amendments made in the RTI Act, the civil society has raised concerns regarding accountability, autonomy and independence of the Information Commission.

Issues with Amendments Done in the RTI Act

- The amendment empowers the Central government to unilaterally decide the tenure, salary, allowances and other terms of service of Information Commissioners, both at the Centre and the States.

  - Due to this, civil society asserts that this amendment may affect the autonomy of the information commission and force it to function as a mere department of the Central government.

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Hints: UPSC Mains 2020

- Also, the status of the Central Information Commissioners (CICs) has been brought on par with the Election Commissioners and the status of State Information Commissioners with the Chief Secretary in the States.

  - However, the amendment has neglected the recommendation of the parliamentary standing committee that the Information Commissioner and CIC were to be made on par with the Election Commissioner and the Chief Election Commission, respectively.

What are the government's stated grounds for bringing the amendments?

- The statement of objects says "**the mandate of Election Commission of India and Central and State Information Commissions are different**. Hence, their status and service conditions need to be rationalised accordingly.**CIC has been given the status of a Supreme Court Judge**, but his **judgments can be challenged in the High Courts**.

- Therefore, the amendments Have been brought to correct certain anomalies in the RTI Act. It does not dilute the Act in anyway and it was passed in a hurry in 2005. **RTI Amendments would strengthen the overall RTI structure**.

Impact of Amendments

Challenging Autonomy

- In the form of the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019, they seek to amend Sections 13, 16, and 27 of the RTI Act which carefully links, and thereby equates, the status of the Central Information Commissioners (CICs) with the Election Commissioners and the State Information Commissioners with the Chief Secretary in the States, so that they can function in an independent and effective manner.

Giving central overarching power

- The deliberate dismantling of this architecture empowers the Central government to unilaterally decide the tenure, salary, allowances and other terms of service of Information Commissioners, both at the Centre and the States.

- These amendments fundamentally weaken an important part of the RTI architecture.

- They violate the constitutional principles of federalism, undermine the independence of Information Commissions, and thereby significantly dilute the widely used framework for transparency in India.

- It was because of these reasons that MP Shashi Tharoor called this bill as an "RTI elimination Bill" that removes the organisation's independence.

Conclusion:

The 2nd ARC held that **RTI is the master key to governance.** The RTI law has been a constant challenge to the misuse of power, a threat to arbitrariness, privilege, and corrupt governance.These amendments may undermine the independence of Information Commissions and affect the transparency & accountability architecture in India. Therefore, in the pursuit of good governance, the RTI Act requires strengthening of the provisions rather weakening.

3. *How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation of India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer.*

Approach

1. *Introduction - Define the type of federalism India has adopted. (20 words)*
2. *Explain how there exists a cooperation between Centre and States and States and States with examples. (40 words)*
3. *Explain how there exists a competition between States and States with examples. (35 words)*

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4. *Explain how there exists a confrontation between Centre and States and States and States with examples. (35 words)*

5. *Conclusion. (20 words)*

Hints:

Federalism essentially means both the Centre and states have the freedom to operate in their allotted spheres of power, in coordination with each other. India is a federal system but with more tilt towards a unitary system of government. So it is sometimes considered as quasi-federal system.

The nature of federalism kept changing since Independence, there exists cooperation, competition and confrontation between the federal units in India.

Cooperation

In cooperative federalism both Centre-State and State-State shares a horizontal relationship and cooperate in the larger public interest. Cooperation federalism has emerged as one of the principle in Indian federalism.

Centre - States

- Cooperation during COVID Pandemic and solving migrant crisis shows cooperation between Centre and states.

- Establishment of NITI Aayog redefined the relationship between Centre and States. It enables states' participation in the formulation and implementation of national policies.

- Acceptance of 14th finance commission's recommendation, which significantly enhanced devolution of finances from 32% to 42% shows the cooperation between Centre and States

- Cooperation on implementation of various central sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes.

- Implementation of Goods and Services Tax where the states have given up a significant part of taxation powers shows the cooperation between Centre and states

- Constitution bodies like Inter-State councils (Article 263) fosters cooperation.

State - State

- Statutory bodies like Zonal Councils are established to promote interstate cooperation and coordination. It aims to establish a climate of cooperation among the states for successful and speedy execution of development projects.

- States like Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh are coordinating and cooperating on the issues of Naxalism.

Competition

Competition between states emerged because states are competing among themselves to attract funds and investments, to get funds from Centre and incentives from Finance commission on the basis of performance on various indicators. The idea of Competitive federalism gained significance post economic reforms of 1991.

State - State

- NITI Aayog played an important role in promoting competitive federalism- ranking states on various socio-economic parameters

  - Health Index- Healthy States, Progressive India Report

  - School Education Quality Index

  - SDG Index

  - Transformation of Aspirational District

- State wise Ease of Doing Business ranking helps to build a sense of competition among states to attract investments.

- Swachh Bharat Ranking Systems

- Investment Summits to attract investments

To resolve the regional imbalance and inequalities between the states, competitive federalism has become an efficient tool to enhance the socio-economic development of individual states

Confrontation

Till 1967 after the independence there was hardly any confrontation between the federal units as there was a single party at the Centre and the states. But after 1967 there exists a massive confrontation between Centre - States and States-States

Centre-States

- Imposition of Presidents rule on the states. Misuse of Article 356 for political reasons.

- Misuse of discretionary powers by Governor.

- Encroachment by the Centre on the state list. For example recent Farm acts encroach upon the state list because agriculture and markets are state subjects

- GST Compensation to States - refusal GoI of its legal commitment to compensate GST shortfall on account of lower revenue.

- In 2019 Kerala has challenged Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 in Supreme Court - shows confrontation between Centre and states.

- Imposition of Hindi Language on Southern States. States like Tamilnadu has consistently agitated on this matter.

States - States

- Inter-State River water sharing disputes. For example Cauvery water dispute between Karnataka and Tamilnadu, Mahanadi River dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh

- Border disputes between states. For example Belgaum border dispute between State of Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Conclusion:

To resolve the confrontation issues, there is a urgent need to implement the recommendation **of Sarkaria and Punchi Commission** in letter and Spirit. A diverse and large country like India requires a proper balance between the federal units which will help in realizing various socio-economic developmental goals.

4. *The judicial system in India and UK seem to be converging as well diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices.*

Approach

1. *Introduction - Mention how various features of Indian Judicial system adopted from other countries. (20 words)*
2. *Explain the Divergence between Indian and UK Judicial System. (55 words)*
3. *Explain the Convergence between Indian and UK Judicial System. (55 words)*
4. *Conclusion. (20 words)*

The Indian Constitution has established an Integrated Judicial system adopted from Government of India of 1935 which enforces both Central as well as state laws. Features of Judicial system has been adopted from countries like UK and USA. India is synthesis of both, that is, the American principle of judicial supremacy and British principle of Parliamentary supremacy.

Divergence

- UK Judicial system follows Procedure established by law. In UK the judiciary does not look into the fairness of the laws. Basically they cannot review the acts made by the Parliament. Whereas Indian Judicial system also followed Procedure established by law till Meneka Gandhi Case, after the case India is following due process of law. So Judicial review with Indian judiciary is far much wider than that available to Judiciary of UK.

- Jury System still exists in UK but not in India

- Judicial Appointments - In India judges are appointed by collegium system (opaque process) while in UK there is a judicial appointment commission(transparent process)

- Act of sedition is no longer valid in UK but sedition act is often used in India.

- Similarly Contempt of Court proceedings are rare in UK while it is often used in India

- Remedy of Special leave petition (SLP- Article 136) of Supreme Court is available in India and not in UK.

Convergence

- Integrated judiciary mechanism both in India and UK

- Judicial Independence prevalent in the both countries

- Efforts are being made in both countries for Alternate resolution of disputes

- Efforts were made by the Indian Government to introduce some form of judicial accountability by enacting National Judicial Appointment commission Act but was declared null and void by the Supreme Court as it was violating the basic structure of constitution.

- There exists similar instruments of writ petitions in both countries to uphold the rule of law.

Conclusion:

Hence, both countries UK and India should learn and adapt best global practices associated with judicial system.

5. *'Once a Speaker always a speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implication for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India?*

Approach

1. *Introduction - Role of speaker in Indian Parliament. (20 words)*
2. *Explain the issues with respective to the position of speaker and reason associated with it. (40 words)*
3. *Explain how Practice of once a Speaker always a speaker should be adopted. (40 words)*
4. *Mention about other reforms also. (30 words)*
5. *Conclusion. (20 words)*

GS SCORE

Speaker holds important position in the Indian parliament. Speaker is the head of the LokSabha and its representative. Speaker is vested with vast, varied and vital responsibilities. But in the recent times it has been seen that the role of speaker has been severely criticized because of various issues.

Issues

- Role of speaker has been criticized for favoring political parties and remaining biased to the party in majority as speaker are usually elected to the house on a political party's ticket. So there exists a political liability on the speaker to favor his party and he/she does not able maintain impartiality

- Discretionary power of speaker in case of declaration of bill as money bill. For example this power came under criticism when Aadhar bill was introduced as money bill in LokSabha.

- In recent times, role of speaker has been questioned for disqualification of MLAs under the Anti-defection law.

- Less time is allotted to opposition members in the house to debate and discuss.

Possible reasons for biasness exists because speaker belongs to ruling party - he works under a fear and favor of the ruling party. Unlike, in UK the speaker is strictly a nonparty man. There is a convention that speaker has to resign from his party and remain politically neutral.

So there is need to adopt the principle of Once a Speaker always a speaker in order to infuse greater objectivity and impartiality in the functioning of parliamentary business in India. India should adopt the UK system - Speaker should resign from his party and be political neutral.

But this is not the only reform required. Other reforms like:

- Power of Disqualification under Anti-defection law should be transferred to Election Commission of India

- Power to declare a bill as money bill should be decided by a committee of parliament. This will bring transparency and objectivity in the process.

Implications

- It will lead to more comprehensive discussions and debates in the parliaments

- It will lead to objective interpretation of issues rather than subjective interpretation.

- Balanced emphasis to the opposition parties -by giving greater opportunity in voicing their concerns on government policies and actions

- Ultimately it will bring more credibility to the institution of speaker.

Conclusion:

The speaker enjoys great honour, high dignity and supreme authority within the house. Thus impartiality of the office is very important to make the parliamentary democracy work in true sense.

6. *In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss.*

Approach

1. *Give a brief introduction on current health care scenario of India. (20 words)*
2. *Discuss the need and significance of health care policies for social development of the nation. (50 words)*

3. *Discuss about current health care policies related to geriatric and maternal health care. (50 words)*
4. *Conclusion (30 words)*

Hints:

Over the past decade, healthcare services available in India have increased dramatically. The doctor-to-population ratio in India is 1:2148. The infant mortality rate is 64 per 1,000 live births. The overall mortality rate has declined from 27.4 in 1991 to 8 per 1,000 populations in 2002, and life expectancy at birth has increased from 37.2 years to 60.6 years over the same time period.

India is going through a demographic transition with a fall in fertility rate and increase in life expectancy. A positive side of this is rise in working class thereby decrease in dependency ratio. Soon, we will face another challenge with a rapid increase in the number of aged and the associated health and social issues, as large bulk of population will move from working ages to old ages, thereby increasing the old age dependency.

Need and significance of health care policies for social development of the nation

*   **Health system strengthening**: Important issues that the health systems must confront are lack of financial and material resources, health workforce issues and the stewardship challenge of implementing pro-equity health policies in a pluralistic environment. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched by the Government of India is a leap forward in establishing effective integration and convergence of health services and affecting architectural correction in the health care delivery system in India.

*   **Health promotion**: Stopping the spread of STDs and HIV/AIDS, helping youth recognize the dangers of tobacco smoking and promoting physical activity. These are a few examples of behaviour change communication that focus on ways that encourage people to make healthy choices.

*   **Public health policy**: Identification of health objectives and targets is one of the more visible strategies to direct the activities of the health sector. In India, we need a road map to "better health for all" that can be used by states, communities, professional organizations and all sectors.

*   **Living conditions**: Safe drinking water and sanitation are critical determinants of health, which would directly contribute to 70-80% reduction in the burden of communicable diseases.

*   **Urban planning**: Provision of urban basic services like water supply, sewerage and solid waste management needs special attention. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission in 35 cities works to develop financially sustainable cities in line with the Millenium Development Goals, which needs to be expanded to cover the entire country.

*   **Reducing the impact of climate change and disasters on health**: Thermal extremes and weather disasters spread of vector-borne, food-borne and water-borne infections, food security and malnutrition and air quality with associated human health risks are the public health risks associated with climate change. India's "National Action Plan on Climate Change" identifies eight core "national missions" through various ministries, focused on understanding climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural resource conservation.

Current health care policies related to geriatric and maternal health care

*   **For Elderly people**

    *   **Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP):** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is a nodal agency for the welfare of elderly people. The main objective of the scheme is to improve the quality of life of older persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities, etc.

    *   **RashtriyaVayoshri Yojana (RVY):** This scheme is run by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. This is a central sector scheme funded from the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund. Under the RVY scheme, aids and assistive living devices are provided to senior citizens

belonging to BPL category who suffer from age-related disabilities such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and locomotor disabilities.

- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):** Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to person of 60 years and above and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. Central assistance of Rs 200 per month is provided to person in the age group of 60-79 years and Rs 500 per month to persons of 80 years and above.

- **Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY):** This scheme is run by the Ministry of Finance. The Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY) was first launched in 2003 and then relaunched in 2014. Both are social security schemes for senior citizens intended to give an assured minimum pension on a guaranteed minimum return on the subscription amount.

- **VayoshreshthaSamman**: Conferred as a National award, and given to eminent senior citizens & institutions under various categories for their contributions on International day of older persons on 1st october.

- **For Maternal health care**

  - **LaQshya – Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative:** This program focuses on Public Health facilities to help. They will be assisted by helping them improve their maternity operation theatres, and help augment the quality of care in labour rooms.

  - **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** This Maternity Benefit Program is implemented in all districts. On fulfilling certain conditions, the beneficiaries would receive Rs 5,000 in 3 instalments. Cash benefits would be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

  - **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):** This scheme is completely sponsored by the Government of India. JananiSuraksha Yojana comes under the National Health Mission.

  - **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):** This program was launched with the objective of detecting and treating cases of anaemia.

Conclusion:

India has made striking progress in health standards in the post-independence era. Still, many feel that the budgetary resources for the health sector should be increased. International developments in information technology need to be utilized at the national level in an attempt for health data documentation. The sustained efforts to control the country's population and the political will to march towards the millennium development goals in health will help India to make a significant impact in the international health scene.

7. Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance. In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy.

Approach

1. *Briefly introduce the Civil services and its importance (20 words)*
2. *Discusschallenges faced by civil services (60 words)*
3. *Suggest the Reforms inCivil Services. (50 words)*
4. *Conclusion (20 words)*

Hints:

Institutional quality in a democracy determines how successful the government machinery adheres to the principles of public service, rule of law, and social justice. One such institution is the Civil Services, which acts as a link between the Government & Citizenry and strengthens democracy.

Importance of the Civil Services

- **Basis of Government:** There can be no government without administrative machinery.

- **Implementing Laws & Policies:** Civil services are responsible for implementing laws and executing policies framed by the government.

- **Stabilising Force:** Amidst political instability, the civil service offers stability and perfomance. While governments and ministers can come and go, the civil services is a permanent fixture giving the administrative set up a sense of stability and continuity.

- **Instruments of Social Change & Economic Development:** Successful policy implementation will lead to positive changes in the lives of ordinary people. It is only when the promised goods and services reach the intended beneficiaries, a government can call any scheme successful. The task of actualising schemes and policies fall with the officers of the civil services.

However, there are many challenges faced by civil services, which act as a roadblock in the path of democracy

- **Status Quoist:** As instruments of public service, civil servants have to be ready for change. The common experience, however, is that they resist changes as they are wedded to their privileges and prospects and thereby, have become ends in themselves.For example, the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution have envisaged democratic decentralization.However, due to the reluctance on the part of the civil servants to accept the changes in control and accountability, the intended vision has not been achieved.

- **Rule-Book Bureaucracy:** By the rule book bureaucracy, it meant mainly following the rules and laws of the book without taking care of the actual needs of the people.Due to rule book bureaucracy, some civil servants have developed the attitude of' bureaucratic behavior', which evokes issues like red-tapism, the complication of procedures, and the maladapted responses of 'bureaucratic' organizations to the needs of the people.

- **Political Interference:** The political representative for the sake of fulfilling the populist demand, influences the functioning of administrative officials. Hence, an administrative official has to adhere to the will of the political master.This interference sometimes leads to issues like corruption, arbitrary transfers of honest civil servants.Also, this led to substantial inefficiency where the vital positions are not held by the best officers and ultimately this can lead to institutional decline.

Civil Services Reforms for economic performance and strengthening democracy.

- **Prompt Delivery Of Services:** Every department should seek to simplify their processes to cut administrative delays and ensure participatory feedback mechanisms for efficient service delivery.

- **Reducing Discretion & Enhancing Accountability Mechanism:** There is an inherent need to set key responsibility/focus areas and progressively reduce discretionary aspects to evaluate civil servants.**Online Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW)** should be instituted in all central and state cadres.Also, as suggested by many committees, there is a need to develop benchmarks to assess the performance of officers and compulsorily retire those deemed unable to meet the benchmarks.

- **Incorporation of Code of Ethics:** As suggested by **2nd ARC**, along with streamlining of code of conduct rules, there is a need to inculcate ethical underpinning in the civil servants by implementing Code of Ethics.This will sensitize civil servants to problems of people and help in the resolution of ethical dilemmas, which tend to emerge frequently in the public sphere.

- De-politicization of bureaucracy: the bureaucrats' primary purpose of providing non-partisan and efficient administration. So training in how to remain non- partisan need to be inculcated.

Checking the Politicians – bureaucrats – Businessman nexus: The nexus was borne out of license quota raj where politicians and bureaucrats had discretionary power over allocation of natural resources in the country. This led to this unholy nexus and crony capitalism. It has undermined the democratic credentials of the country. So there is need of creation of check and balance

Conclusion:

Sardar Patel considered the civil service "**the steel frame of government machiner**y" as its main intent is to strengthen the administrative capacity to perform important government functions. However, without adequate reforms, this steel frame may start to get corrosion and may collapse. Therefore, in order to deal with present-day challenges and strengthen democracy, there is a need to carry out Civil services reforms in a holistic way.

8. *"The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government". Discuss.*

Approach

1. *Briefly introduce the Fourth Industrial Revolution (20 words)*
2. *Discuss The impact of Fourth Industrial Revolution on government (60 words)*
3. *Discuss the step for government (50 words)*
4. *Conclusion (20 words)*

Hints:

Unlike the other three industrial revolutions, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is just not driven by technology only. It is about the **convergence of physical, digital and biological spheres** where technologies with the purpose of creating an inclusive growth environment come together helping every stakeholder to harness this change and progression. Since the digital world is important to facilitate the reach of physical and biological worlds, e-Governance has become an integral part of the government .

The impact on government

- The Digital India campaign has taken the telecom data accessibility to the nook and corner of the villages of India. In the past four-and-a-half years, the government has taken the initiative to strengthen the country's telecom infrastructure by investing six times more than before in this infrastructure.

- While there were only 70 million people in India with a digital identity in 2014, today more than 120 million people of India have Aadhar card, their digital identity.

- India is going to achieve the goal of connecting all the 2.5 lakh panchayats in the country with optical fiber.

- Today India is reckoned as one of the world's largest digital infrastructure countries. Unique interfaces like Aadhaar, unified payment interface i.e. UPI, e-sign, e-national agricultural market ie ENAM, government e-market place i.e. GEM, digi-locker are helping India become a technology leader through Artificial Intelligence.

- India has already developed a national strategy to prepare for the development of AI research based robbers eco system in India. Following the vision of inclusive growth "sabkasath, sabkavikas", the government has now given a call of "Artificial Intelligence for all".

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) confronts governments with a good news, bad news scenario.

- As the physical, digital, and biological worlds continue to converge, new technologies and platforms will increasingly enable citizens to engage with governments, voice their opinions, coordinate their efforts, and even circumvent the supervision of public authorities.

- Simultaneously, governments will gain new technological powers to increase their control over populations, based on pervasive surveillance systems and the ability to control digital infrastructure.

- On the whole, however, governments will increasingly face pressure to change their current approach to public engagement and policymaking, as their central role of conducting policy

diminishes owing to new sources of competition and the redistribution and decentralization of power that new technologies make possible.

What Can Be Done by Goverment?

Governments need to address four key areas if they hope to harness the full potential of 4IR.

- **First**, governments must cultivate as full an understanding of the future as possible, knowing what the opportunities and risks ahead are, as well as what their applications would be to the world, to individual countries, and to the specific workings of government. .

- **Second**, they need to ensure their countries have the infrastructure in place to benefit from the enormous advantages of technological change, and they need to address the risks of cybersecurity —whether criminally or politically motivated. Government needs to be an enabler of change, even if it does not itself seek to "pick winners" or manage the market.

- **Third**, they must develop an understanding of the potential impact of change on the role of government, the relationship between individual citizens and companies, and other organizations, in the future. I

- **Fourth**, governments need to maintain a social cohesion in an era of potentially major disruption, such as instability in the labor market and significant changes in wealth distribution.

Conclusion:

In the end, We need to shape a future that works for all of us by putting people first and empowering them. In its most pessimistic, dehumanized form, the Fourth Industrial Revolution may indeed have the potential to "robotize" humanity and thus to deprive us of our heart and soul. But as a complement to the best parts of human nature—creativity, empathy, stewardship—it can also lift humanity into a new collective and moral consciousness based on a shared sense of destiny. It is incumbent on us all to make sure the latter prevails

9. *Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Approach

1. *Briefly introduce the WHO and its role in handling covid-19 (20 words)*
2. *Discuss the Issues that have plagued the World Health Organization. (60 words)*
3. *Suggest Reforms needed in WHO (50 words)*
4. *Conclusion (20 words)*

Hints:

World health oraganiation was established in 1948 to work for Global public health security ,But the COVID-19 pandemic has put a sharp focus on the functioning of World Health Organisation (WHO), a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) responsible for global health management. From the start of the outbreak, the organisation has been at the centre of many controversies.

The World Health Organization (WHO), role in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Helping countries to prepare and respond:** WHO has issued **COVID-19** Strategic Prearedness and Response Plan, which identifies the major actions countries need to take, and the resources needed to carry them out.

- **Providing accurate information, busting dangerous myths:** The internet is awash with information about the pandemic, some of it useful, some of it false or misleading. In the midst of this "infodemic", WHO is producing accurate, useful guidance that can help save lives.

- **Ensuring vital supplies reach frontline health workers:** Personal protective equipment is essential to ensure health professionals are able to save lives, including their own. WHO has shipped more

than million items of personal protective equipment and diagnostic teststo 126 countries, in all regions, and more are being sourced

Issues that have plagued the World Health Organization

- The **first** relates to the sharing of data during the COVID outbreak. The organisation only relied on Chinese government for data about the outbreak and did not pay heed to information that came from other sources, leading to mischaracterisation about the severity of the virus in the early days of its spread

- **Second** the current pandemic shows that many countries including the developed and developing ones lack national health capacities to deal with infectious diseases despite being signatories to IHR (2005). Likewise, it also reveals the dearth of visionary leadership in WHO. The transnational corporations and pharmaceutical companies often influence the organisation's decisions vis-a-vis affordable global health solutions.

- **Finally**, the three-tier structure of the WHO further complicates its ability to coordinate international cooperation. Each regional office acts as a sphere of influence in which they elect their own Director. These self-governing regional offices make decision making difficult for Geneva and the success of policy outcomes is mostly dependent on the relationship between them.

Way forwad/Reforms needed in WHO

- **Strong sanctions:** Unable to assert authority, WHO has to rely on soft power strategies to gain countries' cooperation, leading to many of the criticisms the organization receives. The International Health Regulations currently mandate that governments report any "public health emergencies of international concern" and cooperate with WHO to take action, but WHO has no legal ability to enforce this. The regulations must be reformed to include enforceable sanctions against countries that fail to comply with their mandate.

- **Narrow mandate:** WHO's mandate must be clarified and narrowed. The organization has a very broad scope — in theory, all activities that can improve the health of all populations worldwide are under its purview. Instead, WHO should focus primarily on activities where it can bring the most added values.

- **Increased untied funding:** Many experts have pointed to WHO's limited budget, which is less than the budget of many major U.S. hospitals, as the main culprit for its current failings. The share of unearmarked funding is also ridiculously low, with membership dues representing less than 20% of the agency's total budget.

- **Open governance:**Alongside its budget, the governance of WHO must also be reformed to facilitate the inclusion of alternative voices, such as from the civil society, and to better channel the influence of private philanthropists.

Conclusion:

Unless a strong democratic coalition of countries emerges to push for these reforms, they are unlikely to happen. But a wider reflection on the role of WHO is necessary to ensure that the next time a public health threat emerges, the world has a strong global health agency to confront it. Because the question is not whether another threat will emerge after COVID-19, but when.

10. 'Indian Diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples.

Approach

1. *Give a brief introduction on Indian Diaspora. (30 words)*
2. *Discuss its role in the politics and economy of America and European Countries. (45 words)*
3. *Give some examples on the same connecting the dots. (45 words)*
4. *Way forward. (30 words)*

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Hints:

The Indian Diaspora is estimated to be second largest in the world and has a diversified global presence. The Diaspora, estimated at over 25 million, is spread across more than 200 countries with a high concentration in regions such as the Middle East, the United States of America, Malaysia, and South Africa. The Indian Diaspora has not only increased in numbers but has been gaining universal recognition for the unique contributions to its host countries, be it skilled and semi-skilled work force in the Gulf region or technocrats and educated professionals of Indian origin. Members of the Indian Diaspora do play a significant role in mobilizing political support for in their country of residence on issues of vital concerns to India.

Its role in the politics and economy of America and European Countries

- **Economic Front**

  - Indian Diaspora is one of the richest minorities in many developed countries, this helped them to lobby for favourable terms regarding India's interests.

  - The migration of less-skilled labour has also helped in bringing down disguised unemployment in India.

  - Migrants' remittances have positive systemic effects on the balance of payments. Remittances of $70-80 billion help to bridge a wider trade deficit.

  - The migrant workers facilitated the flow of tacit information, commercial and business ideas, and technologies into India.

  - In Europe region, many Indians are working in private sector of countries like UK, Germany and France and Norway. Thus contributing in their economies.

- **Political Front**

  - Many people of Indian origin hold top political positions in many countries, in the US itself they are now a significant part of Republicans and Democrats, as well as the government.

  - Indian Diaspora is not just a part of India's soft power, but a fully transferable political vote bank as well.

  - It played in turning around doubting legislators into voting for the India-U.S. nuclear deal.

  - On political front, Indians hold position in many countries of Europe like England, Germany and Even in recent time in Norway also.

Some examples

Indian Diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries.

- India was the world's top remittance recipient with $79 billion in 2018. The top positions held by people of Indian origin in **IBM, Microsoft, Google, Deloitte, Adobe, Palo Alto Networks** etc. have a profound impact on global economic output and have decisive implications for how their contribution to this output influences the political dynamics not only in **America and European countries** but also across the world.

- When Donald Trump attended the **'Namaste Trump' event in Gujarat**, he had 4.4 million Indian Americans in mind impacting the political and economic arena, considering that there were candidates like **TulsiGabbard and Kamala Harris**.

- **RishiSunak** who became chancellor is referred to as a "**possible Britain's future prime minister"** by many.

- There are over 2 lakh Indians in **Italy** playing a part in dairy, **agricultural and domestic service sectors.**

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- Indian Diaspora is **instrumental in public healthcare** delivery in the **EU.**

- Recently, in **Ireland,** there has been substantial demand for **skilled healthcare workers**. These are some tangible reflections of India's soft power.

Conclusion:

In the past couple of decades, the overseas community has grown into an energetic and confident Diaspora over 25 million strong that has given India a presence in many parts of the world. A successful, prosperous and politically influential Diaspora is an asset to India, for it acts as a vibrant bridge between two countries, adding sustenance to their bilateral relations. It is not a one-way interaction that benefits only one side; both India and the Diaspora have something to gain from the connection, in real as well as intangible terms.

Maintaining the bonds between India and the people of Indian origin is an emotional need for overseas Indians; it has economic advantages for India and helps in good bilateral relations between India and the country where the overseas Indian are domiciled. India and its Diaspora can enrich each other in a spirit of mutual interest. The Indian Diaspora is like a mass of variegated strands with differing forms and textures, each with its own needs and expectations.

11. *Indian constitution exhibits centralizing tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts.*

Approach

1. *Briefly discuss the centre in overriding certain acts such as the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and other subjects under state list. (40 words)*

2. *Discuss the how did centre use The Disaster Management Act 2005 to override Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. (80 words)*

3. *Discuss how has Agriculture reforms overrode state's jurisdiction. (90 words)*

4. *Conclude how has central actions reflected centralizing tendencies of Indian federation as strong centre with states. (40 words)*

Hints:

Centralizing tendencies which have been inculcated in Indian constitution due to pre-independence imperial legislation which started with Regulating Act of 1774. In accordance with current political setup, Sir Ivor Jennings believed India to be a "federation with strong centralizing tendencies". Use of Disaster Management Act of 2005 and overriding the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 variably by central government during COVID-19 pandemic has reflected the centralizing powers of Indian federation. Further, despite agriculture being a state subject, formulation of farm laws via subsidiary route also undermined the role of state government.

The Disaster Management Act 2005 Vs Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897

- It provides for better prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases where the state governments have the prerogative over central government.

- It provides powers to the state governments to prescribe regulations regarding any person or group of people to contain the spread of COVID-19.

- However, central government used the Disaster Management Act 2005 to regulate and manage COVID- 19 pandemic, diluting the provisions of the Disaster Management Act 2005.

- The main motive of overriding state's jurisdiction was to act swiftly and promptly during the event of COVID-19 like disaster.

- But, the action underlined the centralization of powers in Indian democratic setup.

Agriculture reforms: Overriding state's jurisdiction

- Central government made three farm laws by promulgating ordinances. However agriculture is a subject under state list.

- It brought following bill through ordinance under article 123 the constitution:

  - The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020,

  - The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and

  - The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- However, centre did not bring the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 under subject mentioned under state list but under the subject 'Agriculture Marketing' which has not been mentioned in any of the list of the constitution.

- According to Article 248 in Part XI of the constitution the Centre has power to legislate on any item which is not mentioned in any of the three lists.

- Further, for the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, the government has not clarified about the provisions of the constitution under which it has brought

- Further, entry 33 under concurrent list provides for both the state and the Union government to legislate regarding production, trade, supply and distribution of a range of foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials.

- Entry 34 under it mandates central government to legislate in matters of price control, under which it brought 'The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

- Although, the central government has brought the three farm bills in accordance with constitutional provisions but are directly and indirectly related to agriculture which is subject under state list of the constitution.

Maintaining unity and integrity of the nation

- Although both actions of the Central government signified the centralizing tendency of Indian federation, it has also showcased pan Indian unified effort to fight pandemic.

- Further, 'One India, One Agriculture Market', which has been envisaged in the farm will unify the agriculture sector of a country like India where more than 60% of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture.
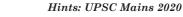
Conclusion:

In both of the above cases, central government has exercised powers under its jurisdiction but the presence of both subjects in state's jurisdiction underlines the fact that despite willingness to legislate or act on particular subject matter, the state's role has been limited. It justifies the centralizing power of the Indian federation underlining a strong centre with states. Further, this centralized laws help in maintaining 'Unity in diversity' of Indian Fedration.

12. Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities.

> ### Approach
>
> 1. *Briefly discuss about Judicial Legislation and doctrine of 'Separation of Powers.' (40 words)*

> 2. *Discuss how is Judicial Legislation antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers? (90 words)*
>
> 3. *Discuss judicial legislations on different subject matters in recent past due to PILs. (80 words)*
>
> 4. *Conclude with role of judiciary in maintaining separation of powers among different organs. (40 words)*

Hints:

'Judicial Legislation' can be defined as laws which are created by the pronouncements of a judge who departs from a strict interpretation of law according to the manifest intention of the legislature. Judicial legislation in context of Indian constitution is opposed to the doctrine of separation of power. The constitution of India provides the power to legislate only to Indian Parliament and states legislatures. However, any judgment of Supreme Court and High Court regarding any legislation is considered as law in Indian context, which infringes the separation of power jurisdiction.

How is Judicial Legislation antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers?

- The power of judicial review over legislative action vested in the High Court under Article 226 and in the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution.

- It is an integral and essential feature of the Constitution which constitutes part of its basic structure.

- It empowers the Supreme Court and High court to curtail any legislation which infringes fundamental rights of the citizens.

- But, a large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities under article 32 and Article 226 has called the courts to intervene in number of cases.

- These petitions are completely based on loopholes of different legislations citing need of court's intervention for social welfare and public interest.

- When the court intervenes in such conditions, it sometime pronounces changes in legislation which undermines the power of parliament.

- Further, some of the petitions are related to those subjects which do not come under any legislations.

- Under such circumstances the court legislates by judgments instead of directing the legislature to enact laws upon the aforesaid subject.

Judicial legislations on different subject matters in recent past due to PILs

- In recent past judiciary has intervened in matters pertaining to subjects such as bonded labour matters, neglected children, non-payment of minimum wages to workers and exploitation of casual workers, and petitions from jails complaining of harassment, against police for refusing to register a case, harassment by police and death in police custody, against atrocities on women impact the lives of the marginalized and disadvantaged.

- In absence of any appropriate statutory arrangement for these subjects issuance of directives or guidelines by the judiciary is a clear case of judicial intervention.

- Although, these subjects are related to infringement of fundamental rights, but the judiciary should direct the central government for guidelines instead of its own guidelines.

Conclusion:

Although judicial review is part of basic structure of the constitution, it provides for 'Checks' on government's legislative overreach rather than providing an instrument to judiciary to legislate. As 'Custodian of the Indian Constitution', the apex court must limit the use of instruments such as 'Public Interest Litigations'. It must maintain 'Separation of Powers' among different organs of the government i.e. Legislature, Executive and Judiciary by exercising instrument of 'Checks and balances'.

13. *The strength sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funs' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality'. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times.*

Approach

1. *Briefly discuss the evolution of local institutions in India. (40 words)*
2. *Discuss in detail challenges faced by these local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent past. (160 words)*
3. *Conclude with need of strengthening the local institutions to realize decentralized distribution of goods and services as envisaged by Gandhian Philosophy. (50 words)*

Hints:

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as envisaged by 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts respectively have evolved recently in Indian democratic horizon and have started to yield better results, leaving behind its formative state. Now democratic credentials as shown by these local bodies and ground level development envisaged by them has started to quantify in India's development process. However, there are some of the challenges faced by these local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times.

Challenges faced by these local institutions in terms of their functionality

- Apart from some of the states like Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh e.t.c. Most states have conformed to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts only on paper and are yet to devolve powers and autonomy to their local bodies.

- Financial constraints of these local bodies are yet to be fully realized as these bodies rely on central grants and limited revenue sources in their periphery.

- Further, there are limitations in terms of exercising power as there are various subjects where power of state and PRIs overlap. These subjects are related to management in area of education, health, sanitation and water.

- Intervention of state's executive in functioning of these institutions further belittles their autonomy and powers.

- There is lack of clear demarcation of powers in administrative setup and inconsistency across vertical and horizontal cooperation.

- PRIs and ULBs have been inconsistent in delivery of services due to lack of human resource and physical infrastructure.

- In some of the states, log pending elections and deliberate scrapping of PRIs by state government has shown the loopholes which need to be corrected.

Conclusion:

Although, Indian constitution clearly mandates for division of subjects among different level of governance, there are some overlapping powers assigned at different levels. These powers are exploited by legislatures and executive at higher rung of the government leading to limited exercise of power by lower rung. Further, financial and infrastructure constraints of local institutions have limited their role in democratic setup. Decentralization of power was the motive of "Gandhian Philosophy' which can only be realized by strengthening local institutions. Then only India will be able to deliver 'Citizen Centric Services' to the tizens on the last rung of democracy.

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14. Rajyasabha has been transformed from a 'useless Stepney tire' to the most useful supportive organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as areas in which this transformation could be visible.

Approach

1. *Give Brief Introduction about the RajyaSabha (40 words)*
2. *Discuss in detail about the importance of RajyaSabha (60 words)*
3. *Discuss in detail how in recent decades the role of RajyaSabha has been enhanced(60 words)*
4. *Highlight the factors along with the areas responsible for transformation (60 words)*
5. *Conclusion (30 words)*

Hints:

The Upper House of Indian Parliament has been playing a pivotal role in India's much cherished parliamentary democracy, keeping the bicameral structure alive, setting new records and creating history since its inception.

Thus, Rajya Sabha as the second chamber of the parliament is considered as a permanent house (it never dissolves as LokSabha and one-third of its members retire every two years), revisionary house (reconsidering bills passed by the LokSabha) and offers a degree of continuity in the underlying policies of laws passed by parliament.

Importance of Rajya Sabha

- **Equilibrium -** The RajyaSabha is required to maintain the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of the states against the undue interference of the Centre.

- **Review -** The second chamber enables a second and reflective expression of representative opinion.

- **Checks and Balance -** Both the Houses check one another and hence instances of parliamentary tyranny can be avoided. In other words, it can ensure that the majoritarian thrust of the Lower House does not undermine rule of law and public institutions.

- **Promotes Federalism -** It represents the interests of the States as a federal chamber.

- **Important Body -** It acts as a deliberative body holding high-quality debates on important issues.

- **Public Policy -** It helps to initiate proposals for public policy.

- **Citizen rights** - RajyaSabha can be the voice of sanity, of the excluded, and of citizen rights.

How in recent decades the role of RajyaSabha has been enhanced?

The Upper House has played significant role in the socio-economic transformation of the countryat the stroke of freedom marked by poverty, illiteracy, poor healthcare, low level of industrialization and economic growth, social orthodoxy, poor infrastructure, unemployment etc. are now a leading engine of economic growth and a voice being heard in the complex global order besides substantially improved quality of life of the people.

The Constitution has placed both Houses of Parliament on an equal footing in some important matters such as:

1. Equal right with the LokSabha in the election and impeachment of the President (Articles 54 and 61);

2. Equal right with the LokSabha in the election of the Vice-President (Article 66);

3. Equal right with the LokSabha to make law defining parliamentary privileges and to punish for contempt (Article 105);

4. Equal right with the LokSabha to approve the Proclamation of Emergency (issued under Article 352)

5. Proclamations regarding failure of the Constitutional machinery in States (issued under Article 356) and even a sole right in certain circumstances; and

6. Equal right with the LokSabha to receive reports and papers from various statutory authorities, namely:

   (a) Annual Financial Statement [Article 112(1)];

   (b) Audit Reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India [Article 151(1);]

   (c) Reports of the Union Public Service Commission [Article 323(1)];

   (d) Report of the Commission to investigate the conditions of the Backward Classes [Article 340(3)]; and

   (e) Report of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities [Article 350B (2)].

The factors, which have been responsible for the transformation of RajyaSabha into an essential organ, are:

- **Coalition Government -** It requires wider consensus and when there is no single party having a majority.

- **Prime Minister from RajyaSabha** - As a head of the government, he imparts RajyaSabha with enhanced weightage. example Manmohan Singh

- **Opinion -** The requirement of informed opinion on the issues such as climate change, surrogacy law, DNA bill.

- **Principle of Federalism -** Increased principle of Federalism in Indian polity and the rise of regional parties.

The areas where this change is visible

- Role of RajyaSabha in enacting important legislation like the RTI act and also in opposing discriminatory legislation such as POTA act 2003.

- Making the government is accountable by the passing of amendments to the President's address.

- Making government to agree on amendments on important legislation of the Lokpal Act and Food Security Act 2013.

- The support of RajyaSabha in passing critical bills like the abrogation of article 370 was crucial.

Conclusion:

Even through the ups and downs of Indian politics, the RajyaSabha has remained a vanguard for political and social values, a melting pot of culture and diversity and over all, a relentless flag-bearer of sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic called India.

15. Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons.

Approach

1. *Introduce by defining the term constitutionalization. (30 words)*
2. *Discuss in detail about the steps required for constitutionalization. (50 words)*
3. *Highlight the benefits of giving constitutional backing to NCW (80 words)*

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> 4. *Justify the benefits of constitutional backing to NCW with proper reasons. (60 words)*
> 5. *Conclusion (30 words)*

Hints:

Constitutionalisation is the term used for the attempt to subject the exercise of all types of public power, whatever the medium of its exercise, to the discipline of constitutional procedures and norms.

Steps required for Constitutionalization of commission

When something is constitutionalised, it is made subject to the provisions of a country's constitution.

- **Approach -** Approaching the government for granting it constitutional status.

- **Passing of the bill** - parliament passes a bill to provide constitutional status to the commission.

- **Article 368** - Provides power to the parliament to amend the constitution.

  - Parliament can amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the constitution in accordance with the procedures.

- **Amendment -** An amendment is initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of parliament, or when the bill is passed in each House by a prescribed majority.

- **President Assent -** subject to President's assent, the constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the bill.

  - Example - Article 338 was amended and a new Article 338A was inserted in the constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003 to establish the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).

Need of giving constitutional backing to NCW

Though Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 are of specific importance ensuring greater gender justice and empowerment, women at the grassroots level are highly vulnerable. The NCW needs rights available to the NCBC, the NCST and the NCSC to redress the grievances of women.

Benefits of Constitutionlization

After getting constitutional backing Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to it, have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and particularly in respect of the following matters, namely:

- summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;

- requiring the discovery and production of any document;

- receiving evidence on affidavits;

- requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;

- issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; and

- Any other matter which may be prescribed.

Reasons for giving Constitutional backing to promote gender justice.

In spite of positive aspects of women commission and great achievements, there are also some shortcomings such as:

- Although the NCW is an autonomous body, it is functioning as if it is under the ministry of women and child development.

- The commission is dependent on the grant from the Union Government.

- The commission does not have the power to select own members. The power is vested with the Union Government.

- The commission has no right to concrete legislative power. It has only to power recommend amendments and submit reports which are not binding on state or Union Government.

- Financial assistance is so less that it is difficult make awareness of legal program.

- The National Commission for women in India seizes women's cause only when it is brought to light. Unreported cases of oppression and suppression of women are not attended to.

- In rural sector, there is lack of mindfulness education, opportunities and basic facilities for women for economic of empowerment.

Conclusion:

Constitutionality reflecting constructions, practices, principles and values of a 'constitution' makes all governmental action truly answerable therefore it is the need of hour to provide constitutional backing to NCW.

16. *"The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyse the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report.*

Approach

1. *Introduce by defining poverty in brief (30 words)*
2. *Discuss in detail present scenario of poverty w.r.t to India. (80 words)*
3. *Highlight how Multidimensional Poverty index measures poverty (80 words)*
4. *Conclusion (60 words)*

Hints:

Poverty can be defined as a condition in which an individual or household lacks the financial resources to afford a basic minimum standard of living. Economists and policymakers estimate "absolute" poverty as the shortfall in consumption expenditure from a threshold called the "poverty line". However the official poverty line is the expenditure incurred to obtain the goods in a "poverty line basket" (PLB). Whereas Poverty can be measured in terms of the number of people living below this line (with the incidence of poverty expressed as the head count ratio).

Committees for poverty estimates

Six official committees have so far estimated the number of people living in poverty in India — the working group of 1962; V N Dandekar and N Rath in 1971; Y K Alagh in 1979; D T Lakdawala in 1993; Suresh Tendulkar in 2009; and C Rangarajan in 2014.

- The government did not take a call on the report of the Rangarajan Committee; therefore, poverty is measured using the Tendulkar poverty line.

- As per this, 21.9% of people in India live below the poverty line.

Global Scenario:

- **Status -** 1.3 billion People are still living in multidimensional poverty. More than 80% are deprived in at least five of the ten indicators used to measure health, education and living standards in the global MPI.

- **Status of Children -** The burden of multidimensional poverty disproportionately falls on children - half of multidimensional poor people are children under age 18.

- **Positive -** 65 out of 75 countries studied significantly reduced their multidimensional poverty levels between 2000 and 2019.

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- **Asia -** About 84.3% of multidimensional poor people live in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- **Other countries -** 67% of multidimensional poor people are in middle-income countries.

Indian Scenario:

- **Current Status -** India lifted as many as 270 million people out of multidimensional poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16.
- **Neighbourhood Scenario-** In China, 70 million people left multidimensional poverty between 2010 and 2014, while in Bangladesh, the numbers declined by 19 million between 2014 and 2019.
- **Impact of Covid-19 -** Covid-19 is having a profound impact on the development landscape.
  - The study finds that on average, poverty levels will be set back 3 to 10 years due to Covid-19.
- **Sustainable Development Goals -** The index emphasises on measuring and monitoring progress under the goals to reach 'zero poverty by 2030-Goal 1 of the SDGs'.

Multidimensional Poverty index: Report

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) identifies multiple deprivations at the household and individual level in health, education and standard of living. It uses micro data from household surveys, and—unlike the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index—all the indicators needed to construct the measure must come from the same survey. The MPI reflects both the incidence of multidimensional deprivation (a headcount of those in multidimensional poverty) and its intensity (the average deprivation score experienced by poor people)

MPI provides a practical and beneficial complement to income-based poverty measures, it doesn't directly incorporate income. The inclusion of income as an indicator could result in the counting of people's deprivations twice. The standard of living, one of the key dimensions of the United Nations MPI, is a key representative input of economic wellbeing. The MPI, which also takes account of other dimensions of wellbeing like poor health, lack of education, poor quality of work, the danger of violence, and residing in environmentally harmful locations, is considered as a corresponding measure of income poverty that underscores the progress beyond a stated limit of the monetary side of people's lives. This way, we can say The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone

Conclusion:

The best thing about the MPI is that it not only provides a comprehensive and in-depth description of global poverty in all its dimensions but also observes progress towards SDG 1 – to end poverty in all its forms. That becomes more important when the key findings of the 2020 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) state that India has recorded the biggest reduction in the number of multi-dimensionally poor people about 273 million between 2005-06 and 2015-16.

17. *"Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India". Evaluate the role of Self-Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India.*

Approach

1. *Briefly introduce by defining Micro credit system (40 words)*
2. *Discus the core idea about the micro financing being the anti - poverty vaccine (70 words)*
3. *Discuss in detail about the role of self-help group and also how it will help empowering women in rural India. (80 words)*
4. *Conclusion (60 words)*

Hints:

Granting of very small loans to impoverished borrowers and enabling the borrowers to use that capital to become self-employed and strengthen their businesses is referred as micro financing.

- For instance Loans given as microcredit to people who may lack collateral, credit history, or a steady source of income due to which it has gained much traction as a tool for ensuring the welfare of the most impoverished in the society but also there are certain flaws in the model.

Micro financing being the anti – poverty vaccine because

Micro finance Institutions, also known as MFIs, a microfinance institution is an organisation that offers financial services to low income populations.

Usually, their area of operations of extending small loans are rural areas and among low-income people in urban areas.

MFIs provide the much-needed aid to the economically underprivileged who would have otherwise been at the mercy of the local moneylender and high interest rates.

The model had its genesis as a poverty alleviation tool, focused on economic and social upliftment of the marginalised sections through lending of small amounts of money without any collateral to women for income-generating activities. .

Some of the MFIs, that qualify certain criteria and are non-deposit taking entities, come under RBI wings for Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Regulation and supervision. These "Last Mile Financiers" are known as NBFC MFI.

Role of SELF – HELP Group

- **Credit availability**– Individual poor are not familiar with the formal banking system, but by forming a SHG, there are make better prospects for bank credits. (Often without collateral). Under the SHG-Bank linkage programme, many SHGs have become institutions of micro-credit.

- **Entrepreneurship**– IncreasedOpportunities for self-employment through setting of micro-enterprise.

- **Skill development–**SHGs generally undergoes with some kind of Skill development program to improve employability of members involved.

- **Rural poverty–** SHGs have become a vehicle to lift people from below poverty line. There is a Positive correlation between SHGs and poverty that can be inferred from the fact that southern states with high number of SHGs (71%) have average poverty rate at 9% as against nation's average of 21%.

- **Improved living standards–** As a result of increased jobs there is rise in income which enhances access to food, health services and overall rise in living standards.

- **Women empowerment–** By providing employment opportunities, financial and social security SHGs help improve the status of women and creating awareness regarding their rights and responsibilities, as pointed by the 2nd ARC report.

- **Literacy rates–** with more women participation and their enhanced status address issues such as nutrition poverty and low literacy rate.

- **Social capital–** The SHGs provide a forum in which people can meet on a regular basis and discus various issues or concerns that the members face in their day-to-day life which acts as the basic source of social capital generation.

Some of the examples

- **Kudumbashree in Kerala.**

- **Pressure groups for policy framing in Bihar.**

- **Tamil Nadu used SHGs to inculcate sanitation habits among the community**

- **Haryana government used SHGs for making betibachaobeti**

- **SHGs like SEWA, Lizzatpapad promotes entrepreneurial culture among women.**

- **Andhra Pradesh Government programme of poverty alleviation.**

Conclusion:

As we all know financial institution is the integral part of our economy as it plays key role in economic development. Therefore, India financial institution is very strong but operations of the same are adverse, somewhere we are lacking in its implications. However micro finance plays the major role in the alleviation of poverty from the society. Many banks in India have initiated to lend money to the micro finance institution. It works towards the empowerment of women which is the great move towards the development of the country.

18. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement.

Approach

1. *Briefly introduce theNational Education Policy 2020 (40 words)*
2. *Discuss how National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). (90 words)*
3. *Analyse how the NEP 2020 intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. (80 words)*
4. *Conclusion (40 words)*

Hints:

The government unveiled the new National Education Policy bringing a number of reforms almost after 34 years..The NEP committee under **Dr Kasturirangan's** leadership recognises the fundamental differentiators, and has laid out a far-reaching vision to create learning environments that are multidisciplinary, that cater to a well-rounded education for all individuals, and has the immense potential to transform India's human capital development.

National Education Policy 2020 and Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030)

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) is the education goal .It aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."The following are the areas where the **National Education** policy reforms intersect with the SDG 4:

SDG 4.2 Equal access to quality pre-primary education.

• Under NEP the biggest win is that there is special attention to 3-6 years of age. This was a major drawback of the Right to Education Act, 2008.

SDG 4.3 Equal Access to Affordable Technical and Vocational Education

• Under NEP vocational education will be provided at a younger age and technical skills such as coding will begin from as early as 6th standard.

SDG 4.4 Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success

• Under NEP the curriculum design in higher and school education has shifted from the erstwhile 10+ 2 model. With a 5+3+3+4 model, clearer benchmarks are defined which will lead to better outcomes.

SDG 4.5 Eliminate Discrimination in Education

• Under NEP, the Digital Divide is proposed to be bridged by setting a new unit which addresses Internet-based e-learning, Digital learning, infrastructure and capacity building.

SDG 4.6 Universal literacy and numeracy

• Under NEP a National Foundation of Literacy and Numeracy will be set up to provide basic literacy and numeracy skills by 3rd grade.

How NEP 2020 intends to restructure and reorient education system in India

- **The NEP proposes sweeping changes** including opening up of Indian higher education to foreign universities, dismantling of the UGC and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), introduction of a four-year multidisciplinary undergraduate programme with multiple exit options, and discontinuation of the M Phil programme.

- **In school education**, the policy focuses on **overhauling the curriculum**, "easier" Board exams, a reduction in the syllabus to retain "core essentials" and thrust on "experiential learning and critical thinking".

- In a significant shift from the 1986 policy, **which pushed for a 10+2 structure of school education, the new NEP pitches for a "5+3+3+4"** design corresponding to the age groups 3-8 years (**foundational stage**), 8-11 (preparatory), 11-14 (**middle**), and 14-18 (**secondary**). This brings early childhood education (also known as pre-school education for children of ages 3 to 5) under the ambit of formal schooling. The mid-day meal programme will be extended to pre-school children. The NEP says students until Class 5 should be taught in their **mother tongue or regional language**.

- The policy also proposes **phasing out** of all institutions offering single streams and that all universities and colleges must aim to become multidisciplinary **by 2040**.

Flaws in proposed restructuring

- Regional and local languages will be promoted but somehow, English will take a back seat.

- The proposed institutional framework for higher education clearly reflects even more governmental control with considerable levels of centralization than what is already the case.

- Implementing so many regional or local languages in different states will be difficult to assess whether they all are on the same platform or syllabus.

- According to the national education policy 2020, students willing to complete their graduation have to study for four years while one can easily complete his/ her diploma degree in two years. This might encourage the pupil to leave the course midway

- Neglected the question of Under-Represented Groups (URGs) who are outside school education currently.

Way forward

- **Language:** A language is mainly a utilitarian tool for acquiring knowledge. While learning new languages is indeed beneficial, compulsory learning should be restricted to one's own mother tongue.

- **Consensus:** Education is a concurrent list subject. In addition to the consensus between the centre and the states, all the other stakeholders such as educational institutions, public and academicians should also be consulted.

- **Natal and prenatal studies:** should also be included in the Indian education system to create awareness about the issues regarding the mother and infants, in view of the high Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the country.

- **Teacher Training:** There should be a course of Masters of Teacher Education. Furthermore, there is a need to establish good teacher training institutions.

Conclusion:

National Education Policy 2020 is sweeping in its vision and seeks to address the entire gamut of education. It acknowledges the 21st century need for mobility, flexibility, alternate pathways to learning, and self-actualisation and can prove to be a game changer for India.

GS SCORE *Hints: UPSC Mains 2020*

19. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)' is the transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times. Discuss.

Approach

1. *Brief introduction about QUAD and its members. (40 words)*
2. *Discuss various significances of QUAD in the present world order. (80 words)*
3. *Explain how the group is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance. (80 words)*
4. *Way forward. (50 words)*

Hints:

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) also known as QUAD is an Inter-governmental security forum. It comprises of 4 countries India, the United States, Japan and Australia. The member countries of the QUAD organise summits, exchanges the information and military drills. The objective is to ensure and support a "free, open and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region. The idea of QUAD was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007.

Significances of QUAD in the present world order

- **Countering China:** In the event of any chinese aggression on borders, India by cooperation with Quad countries can potentially disrupt chinese trade.

- **Net Security Provider:** There is a growing great power interest in the maritime sphere, especially with the arrival of the concept of 'Indo-Pacific'. For instance, many european countries have recently released their Indo-Pacific strategies.

- **Long-term interests of all countries**: Free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region serves the long-term interests of all countries in the region and of the world at large.

- **Terrorism and proliferation**: It can help in tackling common challenges of terrorism and proliferation.

- **Rules-based order**: Upholding the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific and respect for international law, freedom of navigation and overflight.

- **Inclusion of great powers:** Involving the U.S. and Japan in development projects in South Asia will yield the necessary finances.

- **Significant for India's policy**: By joining the QUAD India has taken a significant turn in its policy for the subcontinent. It gives India a powerful platform to advance its interests in East Asia, coordinate strategies with powerful friends and add more strength to its Act East initiative. It will deepen India's ties with US, Australia and Japan with benefits in diplomatic leverage and sharing of burden in defence.

Why and how the group is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance?

In the recent time, Analysts are already calling the RCEP a coup by China because of the manifold increase in its influence in the region because of the formation of this trade bloc—a bloc whose key China will hold. On the face of it, China may be a "mercantilist" power, but in reality, it is an imperialist power, where it uses trade as one of the means for empire-building and world domination.

In this context, if the Quad wants to be successful as a security alliance, it must be a strong economic alliance as well.

It is significant that the meeting of the Quad foreign ministers in Tokyo in September talked about the need to build "resilient supply chains", which essentially means non dependence on one particular country as a manufacturing base. Japan proposed a "Supply Chain Resilience Initiative" (SCRI), comprising Japan, India and Australia. This has the potential to develop into an alternative trade bloc—a Quad and Quad-plus trade bloc.

- **Marked change towards becoming a trade bloc:** It is making a marked change towards becoming a trade bloc when its nations call for responding to the challenges emanating from Covid-19 including financial problems, improving the resilience of supply chains, easing access to affordable vaccines, medicines and medical equipment, coordinating efforts to help countries vulnerable to harmful and coercive economic actions in the Indo-Pacific region.

- **Regional infrastructure projects for trade:** The Quad nations are planning to work together on regional infrastructure projects extensively, for example, the Blue Dot Network. They affirm their collective vision of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, which has scope for trade activities when Australia wants to minimize its trade dependency on China.

- **India's real GDP could increase**: In a Quad trade agreement where bilateral tariffs are scrapped, India's real GDP could increase by 0.2% or $2.7 billion a year, while exports could rise by 2.5% or $5.7 billion.

- **Gains in manufacturing Sectors**: where India's exports are competitive such as clothing, textiles and light manufacturing would gain the most.

- **Tariffs and lowers trade costs**: Quad does away with tariffs and lowers trade costs by 25%, India's real GDP could increase nearly 2% or $23.5 billion a year.

Conclusion:

In times to come, it will be interesting to see how the four countries balance the desire to stop China's aggression on security issues on one hand and maintain their economic interests with China on the other. This is a big challenge which would be difficult to surpass.

India's role in the success of Quad 2.0 is most important. All the four democratic countries not only want to counter China but want to create stronger economic ties. India can play a pivotal role in getting QUAD countries closer on issues like Technological cooperation, healthcare, Cyber security etc. If QUAD 2.0 succeeds, then India can take the lead in increasing the scope to Quad Plus where there can be other countries like Israel, UK, Brazil, South Korea, Vietnam, and New Zealand who can also join the alliance.

20. What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Approach

1. *Give a brief introduction on Indo-US and Indo-Russia relations. (50 words)*
2. *Discuss significance of Indo-US defence deals and Indo-Russian defence deals and explain how Indo-US defence deals are overcoming Indo-Russian defence deals. (90 words)*
3. *Connect the dots with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (80 words)*
4. *Way forward. (30 words)*

Hints:

US-INDIA relations enjoy a bipartisan consensus, especially on defence and security relations (DSR) which are the original drivers of their comprehensive global strategic partnership. India expects the US administration to catalyse DSR by implementing the Defence Technology Trade Initiative to provide high-end defence technology, change the buyer-seller mode to joint development and co-production, now that the Defence Industrial Security Annexe and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) are signed. A Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CATSA) waiver on India buying Russian defence equipment, like the S-400 air defence system.

India-Russian is the bilateral relations between India and Russia. During the Cold War, India and the Soviet Union (USSR) had a strong strategic, military, economic and diplomatic relationship. Russia inherited its close relationship with India which resulted in both nations sharing a Special Relationship. Russia and India both term this relationship as a "special and privileged strategic partnership".

Traditionally, the Indo-Russian strategic partnership has been built on five major components: politics, defence, civil nuclear energy, anti-terrorism co-operation and space.

Significance of Indo-US defence deals and Indo-Russian defence deals

- **India-US defence deals**

    - **The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement**: It largely pertains to geospatial intelligence, and sharing information on maps and satellite images for defence. Anyone who sails a ship, flies an aircraft, fights wars, locates targets, responds to natural disasters, or even navigates with a cell phone relies on geospatial intelligence.

    - **The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**: It allows the military of each country to replenish from the other's bases: access supplies, spare parts and services from the other country's land facilities, air bases, and ports, which can then be reimbursed. This is extremely useful for Navy-to-Navy cooperation, since the US and India are cooperating closely in the Indo-Pacific.

    - **The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)**: It allows the US to provide India with its encrypted communications equipment and systems so that Indian and US military commanders, aircraft and ships can communicate through secure networks in peace and war.

- **India-Russia Defence Deals**

    - **S-400 Anti-missile System:** It is an anti-missile system.The radar fitted in the S-400 anti-missile system has a range of about 600 km for surveillance and can track 300 targets simultaneously.

    - **Kilo-class Submarines:** In 1986, the first INS Sindhughosh was commissioned. In 2000, the Indian Navy inducted the youngest Kilo-class submarine. Till now, the Kilo-class fleet has been upgraded several times in terms of SONAR system, electronics and weapons, etc.

    - **T-90S Battle Tanks:** The T-90S tank can target low-flying helicopters up to 5 km of range, has an infrared jammer, a laser warning system with four laser warning receivers, a grenade discharging system that produces an aerosol screen and a computerised control system. It also has nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) protection equipment.

    - **India-Russia Defence Deals at DefExpo:** During DefExpo 2020, India and Russia signed 14 MoUs (memorandums of understanding). The MoUs consist of development and production of land, air and naval systems and hi-tech civilian products.

Indo-Pacific region

- **The United States**

    - It is the leader of the "Indo-Pacific Strategy". At present, the United States has put forward the "Indo-Pacific Strategy" which reflects the attention of the United States to the Indian Ocean region.

    - Through its economic rise in recent years India has has become a leader among emerging economies.

    - On the other hand, after the retreat of Obama's"Asia-Pacific rebalancing" strategy, the Asia-Pacific power structure involved corresponding adjustments.

    - Allies in the Asia-Pacific region have been skeptical of Trump's foreign policies. This time, the objective why Trump returned to the "Indo-Pacific Strategy" is very clear The "Indo-Pacific Strategy" is the expansion and revision of the "Asia-Pacific rebalancing strategy." The purpose is to contain China's rise and safeguard U.S. leadership in the region.

- **Russia Opposes an Indo-Pacific Order**

    – Its interests in the APR are based on the Russian Far East's proximity to China, Japan, and the two Koreas; its political history with these countries; and its perception of these East Asian countries as 'gateways' to greater economic and political ties with Southeast Asia.

    – Reaffirming the importance of ASEAN's centrality to Southeast Asian politics and dissuading China's exclusion is a natural extension of Russia's desire to maintain its neutral image in the region.

    – Russia's participation in the so-called "Axis of Revisionists" is not only driven by normative challenges to the US-led global order but also by the idea of an imminent medium-term US-China conflict in the Pacific; a conflict Russia believes it will have to participate in.

Conclusion:

As a foreign policy move, incorporating Russia in the IPR gives weight to the concept as a free, fair, and open space. Russia's normative and strategic calculations have undeniably put it on an opposing path. With growing US-China and India-China tensions, Russian acceptance of the IPR looks unlikely.

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