

Your content of the answers is quite good.
Your presentation and structuring of the answers is also good.

You have attempted all the questions timely.

Use of examples, case study, data, facts is good.

Keep it up.

Your handwriting is also clear and legible.

Keep writing answers.

You have potential to score high.

All the best.



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GS II PAPER

121.5

Date: 19th August 2022

Time: 2 PM to 5 PM

Time duration: 3 hours

Total Marks: 250 marks

GS II Paper Instructions.

- Total Marks: 250 marks, Time duration: 3 hours.
- There are 20 questions printed in ENGLISH.
- All questions are compulsory.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is printed against it.
- The medium of the answers will be English.
- Answers to questions no. 1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to questions no. 11 to 20 should be in 250 words.
- Keep the word limit indicated in the questions in mind.
- Any page or portion of the page left blank, must be struck off clearly.
- You are directed to scan/ take photos of your answer booklet and send the same to aptiplus.mains2022.openmock@gmail.com ONLY IN PDF FORMAT.
- Name the pdf format in the format (aspirant's full name)_(paper).pdf. For example, if your full name is Aman Kumar and the paper is on GS II then the file's name will be amankumar_GSII.pdf.
- The deadline for submitting the answer sheets is 19th August 5 30 PM



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1. Do you think India needs to change its Afghanistan policy owing to the Taliban's rising status in Afghanistan's power structure? Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Q. The Taliban taking over Afghanistan provinces rapidly calls for an re-examination of India's policy towards the country. **Intro is ok.**

Reasons for rethinking its outlook

- ① Taliban has previously provided safe harbour for terrorists eg allowing landing space for hijackers in Kandahar.
- ② Protection of massive investments done by India. eg Highway, Tarbela Dam, Afghan national Parliament building.
- ③ Protection of the Afghan people, especially women and minorities.





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must remain important for India.

(4) Preventing riots between Taliban, China and Pakistani forces which might prove to be detrimental against India's internal security.

(5) The Golden Crescent fordrug might be activated once again leading to opium inflow into India, hampering youth population and increased crime.

(6) USA's withdrawal will create a massive power vacuum.

Thus, India needs to re-examine its Afghanistan policy for promoting India's interest and also helping the local Afghan people.

3.5/10

Try to divide the question in many parts.



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2. What do you understand by Pressure Groups? Elaborate on their role in strengthening the Indian democracy.
(10 Marks, 150 Words)

A pressure group is a group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest. It acts as a liaison between governments & its members for advancing its interests.

Good intro.

eg) FICCI, ASSOCHAM = Commercial pressure group
Indo medical association } Bar Council of India -
Professional pressure group.

Role in strengthening the Indian democracy

① Act as agents of political socialisation by influencing orientations of the people towards the political process.

② Pressure groups plays vital role

in the legislative process, by acting as active agencies engaged in lobbying with legislators for securing desired laws and amendments.

(3) Pressure groups are actively involved with the process of administration by coalescing with the bureaucracy for enhanced efficiency.

(4) They play crucial role in formulation of public opinion which might greatly impact results of an election.

Thus, to conclude, Pressure groups play major role in strengthening the Indian democratic process.

Good points.

4.5/10



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3. Explain the major differences between the US, UK and Indian Constitutions in terms of the powers of the upper house. (10 Marks, 150 words)

The US, UK, Indian Constitution envisions Bicameralism at the center i.e. an upper house and a lower house.

Powers of US Upper house

① Called the Senate, it is a very powerful house, as it is on equal footing, if not more position than the other house called the house of representatives.

② It has the most important role of confirming federal level judges including SCOTUS as well as members of the President's Cabinet.



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Powers of UK Upper house

- ① Called the House of Lords, the body is very weak in comparison to the lower body called the House of Commons.
- ② It is merely an advisory body with no major powers for legislation.

Valid points.

Powers of Indian Upper house

- ① The Rajya Sabha possess equal power to Lok Sabha in most matters, lesser powers in terms of money bills, joint sitting of parliament as well as more powers than Lok Sabha in fields such as creating all India Services, passing legislations on state lists.

Thus, we can conclude that, the upper houses in US, UK and India possess vastly different powers.





4. Discuss how present circumstances in the West Asian region raises various concerns for India. (10 Marks, 150 words)

India and the West Asian region follow close tie up via economic and social people to people connect. **Intro is ok.**

Circumstances in West Asia concerns for India

① Increased volatility in the region due to influence of China in brokering peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

② Abrahamic accord between Israel and Gulf countries leading to rising new equations.

③ Turbulence in countries like Syria, Yemen, Iraq lead to potential

internal security issues for India.

Concerns for India

- ① West Asia is a part of India's extended neighbourhood
- ② Huge diaspora in countries such as UAE, Qatar, Oman
- ③ Oil dependency imports for India.
- ④ UAE-India free trade agreement will promote further economic cooperation.

Wayforward & Conclusion

Valid arguments.

- ① India must pursue close cooperation with the countries on case to case basis to ensure securing Indian interests



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5. Explain the rationale behind setting up 'Alternative Mechanisms' in ensuring effective decision-making in the governance of the country. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Governance in India is a complex, cumbersome process, thus, to ensure Alternative Mechanisms timely implementations,

have been developed, which is an empowered committee to decide on disinvestment of government companies, promote feedback based governance and reduce fiscal deficit of the govt. No timely decisions.

Good intro.

Rationale behind Alternative Mechanisms

① The motto of decentralization to ensure best decision is adopted.

② Leveraging the extended networks of government and bureaucracy.

③ In relation to the policy making

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and implementation, many ground realities and ambiguities crop up, an empowered mechanism helps to resolve dispute and provide stronger enhanced decisions.

④ It ensures the fulfillment of the maxim of 'minimum government, maximum governance'

Thus, alternative mechanisms will help in providing enhanced governance to the countrymen in the 21st century, as envisioned by the 2nd ARC report.

4/10



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6. Critically analyze the significance of the MEA's e-Migrate portal in protecting Indian workers. (10 Marks, 150 words)

The Online registration system named eMigrate system for foreign employers who wants to recruit Indian workers will help protect Indian workers. Apt intro.

Protecting the Indian workers

- ① It will allow foreign entities to seek permit to recruit directly, after careful screening and vetting by Indian authorities.
- ② The foreign employers will have to declare terms and conditions of the employment which will ensure safeguarding rights of the workers

3) Ino.
er

③ Indian nurses will be protected against exploitation and false recruitment with help of the e-migrate portal.

Issues with Indian workers protection

① Despite the existence of the portal, unfair protection exploitation via Kafala system continued for long in Qatar.

② Illegal seizing of passports by employers continue to harm Indian interests.

③ Unfair protection exploitation, exceptionally long working hours, poor perquisites and unfair remuneratory living conditions harm Indian workers.

The M.E.A's e-Migrate portal will serve in protecting Indian workers in the long run.

Good points.

5/10



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7. The quality of politics is an important determinant of governance in society. Do you agree? (10 Marks, 150 words)

There is a direct correlation between the quality of politics and the governance in society. Healthy democratic politics usher in good governance for the society.

Good intro.

Quality of politics \Rightarrow determinant of governance in society

① Healthy democratic practices lead to development of excellent leaders who can propel the country / society to increased prosperity.

eg \triangleright Abraham Lincoln guided USA during the civil war.

② Grassroot politics helps advancement of people centric governance with citizen-centric

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service delivery. eg Citizen Charter
implemented by Ministry of Amchayati Raj

③ Representative politics make growth of
leadership from all strata of the society
and helps in upliftment of the community
eg President Draupadi Murmu was is the
first tribal president of India.

Valid points.

④ Healthy opposition leads provide
adequate checks and balances to the
government and, provides, an alternative
for the better governance in society.

Thus, the quality of politics helps in
determining the good governance of the
society.

5.5/10

Nicely explained.



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8. Globalisation has enriched the Indian culture in the 21st century. Assess with suitable examples. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Globalisation, via, intermingling of foreign culture with Indian culture has enriched and contributed to the latter in the 21st century.

Intro is good.

Globalisation - positive contributions in Indian culture

① Increased opportunities for Indian youth, via, fusion foods like McDonalds Indian Tikka Masala, fusion music like Bhangra pop, Indie genre.

② Enhanced potential for festivals being celebrated in India, by combining elements of the East and the West. eg Halloween, Loopalasya music festival.



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- ③ Use of English and increased intermingling of the leading to creation of Hinglish, has, increased job potential for Indian youths.
- ④ Western Medicines, homeopathy (from Germany) has contributed and enhanced efficacy of Yoga and Ayurveda.
- ⑤ Western culture has impacted family systems in India with impetus to shared parenting responsibilities, diffusion of household work.
- Thus, we can conclude, that globalisation enhanced the Indian culture through intermingling of via people to people connect.

Valid arguments.

4.5/10



9. Implementation of UCC must be seen from gender justice. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Article 44 of the Indian Constitution highlights the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in India.

Intro is ok.

UCC & Gender Justice

- ① Gender justice across all communities can be implemented via UCC. Eg. equal marriage age for women and men.
- ② UCC will promote monogamy, giving equal status to husband and wife in marriage matters.
- ③ UCC will ensure upliftment of women by promoting education among women.
- ④ It will also curtail discriminatory practices such as female circumcision among Bahra Community.

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Gender justice via ~~VCC~~ without VCC

① Adopting piecemeal approach without need to implement VCC as a whole.
eg. Saut banned Triple Talag via legislation.

② Promoting awareness among the masses for gender justice. eg. Civil society discussions currently going on for equal age of marriage for girls and boys

Thus, we can say that VCC will be a right way forward for gender justice, however, we can promote gender justice via a piecemeal approach.

Good points.

4.5/10



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10. What is one nation one ration card. How it could play a big role in dealing with migration? (10 Marks, 150 words)

The one nation one ration card implemented under National Food Security Act, allows NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries to claim either full or part foodgrains from any fair price shops in the country through existing ration card with biometric/Aadhar authentication in a seamless manner.

Intro is good.

One nation - one Ration Card - dealing in migration

① Dalberg, has found out in its report that "One nation one ration card" has provided food safety to migrant families.

② ONORC has given households benefitting from PDS more choice and

flexibility to ~~ed~~ choose which fair price shops they can get their rations from.

③ The 'Mera ration' mobile application, is helping using ICT to provide real time data and tracking for the beneficiaries

⑤ The ONORC will help in achieving the target of eliminating hunger by 2030, by giving special focus on women and other poorer sections of the society.

Valid points.

Thus, we can conclude that one nation, one ration card will help in improving living conditions for the migrants.

4/10



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11. In the context of overcrowded prisons in India, discuss the reforms needed in bail laws and the prison system in India. (15 Marks, 250 words)

The Malimath committee report has highlighted the issue of overcrowding in the Indian prisons, and has called for reforms in the bail laws and the prison system in India.

Good intro.

Reforms in bail laws

- ① The Supreme court has called for uniformity and certainty in the decisions of the bail pleas as the "foundations of judicial dispensation"
- ② It has called for framing of a separate law that deals with the grant of a bail.
- ③ The Supreme court judgement emphasises that even for cognizable offence



arrest is not mandatory and must be necessitated

(4) The magistrates must routinely consider granting bail, without insisting on a separate bail application

(5) The SC has also directed all state governments to facilitate standing orders to comply with the orders and avoid indiscriminate arrests.

Reforms in prison system in India

(1) Emphasis on holistic infrastructure creation with focus on reformative and corrective facilities

(2) Emphasis on sanitation, healthy access to clean water and food is provided to inmates.

Good structuring of the answer.



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③ The concept of "open prisons" can be thought upon.

④ Separation of undertrials and convicted prisoners must be maintained.

Valid points.

⑤ The "Nelson Mandela" rules can be implemented in the Indian context along with proper modifications.

Thus, to sum up, we can say that the bail laws and the prison system must be reformed to solve the issue of overcrowded prisons.

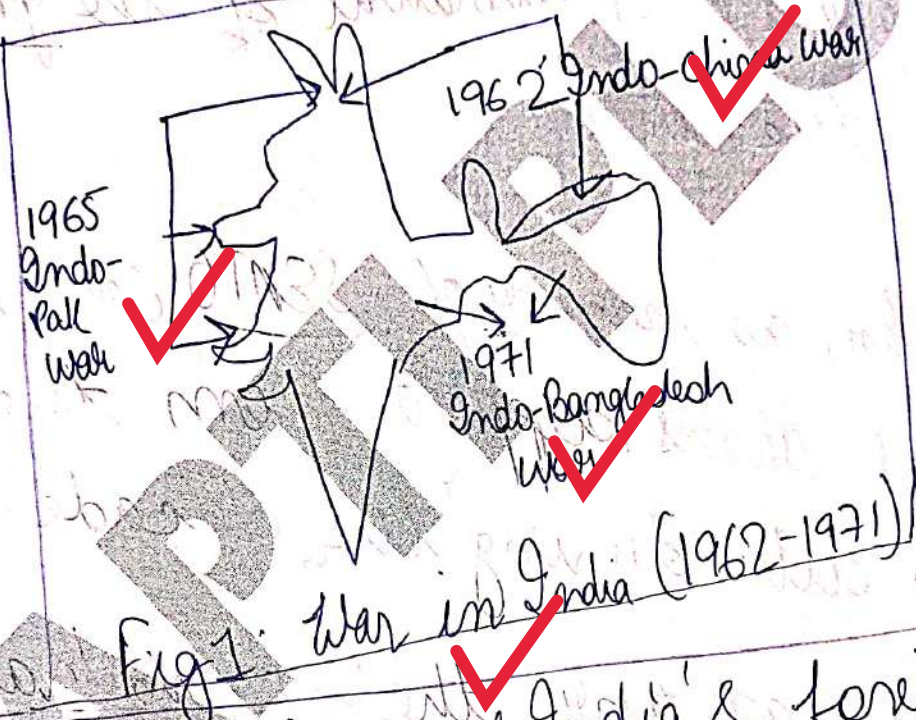
8/15

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12. India fought three wars in a space of ten years between 1962 and 1971. Was this due to the failure of India's foreign policy? Critically analyse. (15 Marks, 250 words)

The years between 1962 & 1971 ~~has~~ witnessed multi pronged warfare between India & her neighbours on various fronts

Intro could be better.



Wars - & failure of India's foreign policy

① The 1962 Indo-China war was a failure of pan-Asian unity and the widely proclaimed policy of "Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai"



② The 1965 war witnessed India receiving limiting support from the west, moreover, the Tashkent agreement failed to solve the Kashmir issue and marked a withdrawal of the gains made in the war.

③ Pakistan, as member of SEATO continued to get arms support from the USA and its allies during the decade.

④ In the 1971 war, the USA and its allies despite the Bengali genocide supported Pakistan, and allowed its warship to enter the Bay of Bengal.

Good points.

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the wars - A success of India's foreign policy

- ① USSR, despite being a communist country, refused to support China in the 1961 war.
- ② USSR provided tremendous support during the 1971 war.

③ USA allies such as UK, Germany, as well as, masses in within USA supported the Mukti Bahini in their struggle against Pakistani armed forces.

Thus, we can say in conclusion, that the foreign policy during 1961-1971 was a min of failure and success both.

Nicely explained.

7.5/15



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13. With SHGs increasing in numbers, size and variety of operations, SHG federations were formed to bring stability and financial sustainability to the SHG movement. Explain. (15 Marks, 250 words)

As per Hashim committee, self help groups were formed to provide a platform for providing financial and livelihood promotion services.

Intro is good.

SHG - role in today's India.

① With increasing numbers, size & variety of operations, SHG's are helping women and the underprivileged by providing cheap credit, sound financial management and proper aid and advice.

② With increased success, the role and scope of SHG is bound to increase in the coming years.

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SHG Federations → stability and financial sustainability

① SHG federations will help overcome the inherent limitations of small and informal groups i.e SHG such as limited resources, capacity, negotiation and bargaining power; hence, bringing in stability and economies of scale.

Valid points.

② SHG will thus, usher in financial stability, as well, by introducing scientific financial planning and management, by bringing in sound management.

③ SHG federation will, thus, bring in the benefits of small SHGs i.e individual actions with the large scale operations to ensure furtherance of prosperity²⁹



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among the members.

Risks involved with self help group federations

① Issues with regards to accountability fining

② Tendency of polity politicisation in the management

③ Lack of vision among the promoters of the self help group federation

Thus, to sum up it may be said in conclusion that self help group federation will advance stability and financial sustainability in the movement.

7/15



GS-2
Contd.



APTI PLUS
Academy for Civil Services
The Best for Aspirants of Various State Services 2016
No. 11C, 7/2017, 2018, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi

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14. Discuss the challenges of modern Indian bureaucracy in light of changing Indian society and suggest measures to reform this. (15 Marks, 250 words)

With the changing Indian society, bureaucracy has also evolved into a modern force, through the process of constant evolution and change.

Good intro.

Challenges of modern Indian Bureaucracy

- ① The bureaucracy of India continues to be in the shadows of colonial past characterized by myriad rules and separatism.
- ② Failure of the bureaucrats to adopt to the changing aspirations of the people and society at large. (eg Jirba in Santhal Villages look upto the district administration to provide top notch education to the children).



IAS GYAN
PREDICT THE UNPREDICTABLE



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③ Failure to adapt modern inventions such as Information technology, artificial intelligence to ensure transparency, accountability and responsibility of nation.

④ Failure of Indian bureaucrats to adopt to the efficiency of the private sector in resolving concerns of the people at large.

Measures for bureaucracy in changing society

① The bureaucrats must evolve themselves from a 'rule-based' to a 'role-based' organisation as envisioned in Mission Karmayogi.

② The manim of integrity pact, citizen charter and servotam model must be adopted to ensure adequate levels of

basic service delivery to the new society

③ Mid Career Retraining programme for bureaucrats to prevent obsolescence of skills, and, ensuring they are upto date with latest technology.

④ The bureaucrats must adopt international best practices such as, Singapore authorities being diligent in record keeping and soon.

Mention some of the measures taken.

Thus, we can aptly say, that the bureaucracy in India is constantly evolving and to suit the changing society and it will continue to do so in the coming years.

7.5/15



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15. There is a lack of preparedness on the part of Municipal Governance to handle frequent natural disasters.
Comment. (15 Marks, 250 words)

The recent Chennai floodings, Bangalore floodings, Kolkata Amphan cyclone has highlighted limited preparation by the municipal governance to handle natural disasters. **Intro is good.**

Municipal Governance - Role in natural disasters
As the decentralized government unit, municipal bodies play crucial role in all stages of natural disaster.

Before the disaster strikes, during preparedness phase, municipal bodies must coordinate with the disaster management authorities to in vulnerability mapping, keeping sewer clean, building capacity for immediate first aids and so on.

③ During the disaster phase, municipal governance helps in rescue, relief and rehabilitation of the victims of the natural disaster.

④ Post disaster, the municipal governance must ensure, adequate re-building to prevent future calamities.

Current scenario of municipal governance for disaster management

① The current major municipal governments, due to paucity of funds, and adequate manpower, is grossly unprepared to handle major disasters.

② This, unpreparedness, can lead to exponential increase in affliction for the citizens.



Wayforward

- ① The municipal bodies' funds must be augmented and specifically earmarked for disaster management.
- ② The municipal staffs must be trained to act as first-responders for the disaster relief operations.
- ③ International best practices eg Japan's city officials are well skilled for earthquake relief must be adopted.

Valid arguments.

Thus, municipal governments must be well prepared to handle frequent natural disasters as highlighted in the 2nd ARC report on disasters.

8/15

16. India and Japan are a multi-dimensional relationship. Comment. (15 Marks, 250 words)

India and Japan share deep ties since antiquities which has evolved into multiple frontiers at present.

Intro is ok.

Political relations

① Multiple visits between top leaders have occurred. eg PM Modi visited Japan on background of G7 Summit.

Economic relations

① The comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement have enhanced trade between the countries.

Major imports from Japan: High precision machinery, robots, tools and equipment.

Major exports from Japan: High grade iron ore, Jewellery, art & crafts.



Defence ties

① Joint exercises conducted between armed forces of the two countries -
eg Malabar exercise

People to people connect

① Tourists, student exchange programmes occur in vast number, fostering close cultural ties. eg Bollywood films widely popular in Japan, similar, anime (Japanese animated series) are very popular in India

Good points.

② Close exchange between the universities, research institutes occur between India & Japan
eg University of Delhi has special language classes to teach Japanese language.

Multilateral Organisations

① Japan has invested to boost connectivity in North East India.

② Quad, G20 are some of the bodies, where the two countries work in close collaborations.

③ Both these countries support each other's bargain for permanent seat in UN security council.

Thus, we can observe that India & Japan share close ties on various frontiers.

7.5/15



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17. Concerning the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021 discusses the issues faced by pregnant women for opting for abortion in India. (15 Marks, 250 words)

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2021 was passed to expand the access to safe and legal abortion to pregnant women in India.

Intro is good.

Key provisions of the Act

① It allows pregnancy to be terminated upto 20 weeks in case of failure of contraceptive methods

② Opinion of 1 registered medical practitioner for termination upto 20 weeks of gestation, 2 RMP for 20-24 weeks of gestation and a state-level medical board is essential for beyond after 24 weeks

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③ The details of woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed and remain confidential.

Issues faced by pregnant women opting for abortion in India

① Difficulty in accessing good quality doctors and healthcare facilities especially in Tribal and rural areas.

② Stigma attached with abortion prevents women from accessing quality healthcare facilities

③ Limited awareness among uneducated women hinders them from accessing reproductive justice.

Good structuring of the answer.



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4) Mushrooming of illegal abortion clinics with dubious claims and unsanitary conditions highlights plea of women in assessing good quality facilities.

Wayforward

- 1) Government must spread awareness with help of Aasha workers among poor, uneducated women.
- 2) Strict action against illegal abortion clinics must be taken to prevent unsafe procedures.
- 3) Awareness programmes to remove social stigma attached with abortion must be adopted.

Thus, a right to safe abortion will help India achieve SDG 5 (i.e. women equality)
Via the MTPA 2021.

8/15



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18. BRICS will inject more of its strength into global development and speak with a louder voice to uphold the common interest of the developing countries. Justify. (15 Marks, 250 words)

BRICS (an acronym for grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) representing 41% of the global population, 21% of global GDP and 16% of global Trade.

Apt introduction.

BRICS → strength into global development

① BRICS as representative of the emerging investment market will promote free and fair trade between the leading economies.

② Like Policies like Common Currency Swap agreement, building a reserve stock of currency, debt swap agreement will promote ease of doing business across these countries fostering global development.

BRICS payment system



- ③ The framework for E-commerce will further global development by leveraging ICT.
- ④ The New development Bank will promote infrastructure and sustainable development.
- ⑤ The Customs agreements will coordinate and ease trade transport between BRICS countries.

Valid points.

BRICS - Voice of Global South

- ④ BRICS as a bloc will cooperate on multiple international forums such as G20, IMF, World Bank and World Trade Organisation to promote interests of the Global South.

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② BRICS will also promote and give air to the ecological concerns of the south and promote precept of "common but differentiated responsibility"

③ Furtherance of cultural connect and people to people exchanges and cooperations will enhance solidarity among the global south and developing countries.

Thus, we can say, that BRICS will inject more strength into global development and speaking with a louder voice to uphold common interest among developing countries.

8.5/15



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19. Identify the bottlenecks in Anganwadis in India and suggest solutions. (15 Marks, 250 words)

Anganwadis are government sponsored
child care and mother care development
programmes in India. They were started
by Indian government in 1975 as part of
the Integrated Child Development Services
to combat child hunger and malnutrition.

Intro is good.

Bottlenecks faced by Anganwadis

- ① lack of education and training
given to the anganwadi workers by the
government for basic skill development.
- ② Poor service conditions such as
no job security, poor salary, no
pension and retirement benefits for
the anganwadi workers.

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③ Lack of basic infrastructural facilities at Anganwadi centres, such as clean toilets, functioning water taps hinders capacity in service delivery.

④ limited funds for service improvement and provisioning of basic medicines, crèches and so on.

⑤ Prejudices existing with parochial society members against Anganwadi workers.

Solutions for Anganwadi in India

① Upgrading Anganwadi infrastructure for better service delivery across the states and UTs.



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- 2) Capacity building and training for the workers under schemes like POSHAN Abhiyan.
- 3) Using ICT for accountability and tracking. eg POSHAN Track Software is adopted to track status of beneficiaries.
- 4) Better service conditions for the workers through job security and other perquisites.

Thus, we can say that with the help of Anganwadi centres, India will be able to improve health of its young and reap benefits of demographic dividend.

7.5/15

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20. What is SMART policing? Highlight the reforms required in the current system to realize this vision. (15 Marks, 250 words)

SMART policing is the modern day informative policing in India as envisioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Intro is ok.

SMART Policing - Acronym

- S = Strict & Sensitive
- M = Modern & Mobile
- A = Alert & Accountable
- R = Reliable & Responsive
- T = Technology & Trained

These qualities will ensure safe-securing society based on trust on police.

Current System of Policing

- ① Instances of police excesses and custodial deaths. (eg) Jayaraj and Benmicks death in Tamil Nadu



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- ② Claims of police delaying in filing FIRs on numerous incidents.
- ③ Overall lack of sensitising sensitivity among police especially with regards to victims of sexual assault.

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Reforms required in the current system

- ① Improvement in capacity and infrastructure of police forces through regular training, skill upgradation and sensitivity development.
- ② Technological scaling up for modernisation of the policing system to enhance accountability and responsibility fination.

Valid points.

- ③ Seeking regular feedback from

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citizens to improve better service delivery ✓

④ Developing infrastructure in the police stations ✓
eg disabled accessible police stations ✓
women-friendly infrastructure ✓
to make the police stations more inclusive.

Thus, to sum up, reforms in policing will make it SMART and in sync with the modern aspirations of the people and society ✓

7.5/15