

Your Presentation is good, intro and conclusion format is maintained properly.
Keep practising and try to include some maps and diagrams.
All the best.

MAINS MOCK TEST-4 (2021)



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109/250

Q1.. Write a short note on India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework. Highlighting its main principles, examine how its full-fledged implementation can improve the existing governance landscape of India. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

IndEA is a holistic framework that aims to treat the government and its services as a single enterprise.

Main principles.

- integrated services provision - in line with minimum government, maximum governance
- data sharing among stakeholders.
- reusable applications eg: wide use of APIs for structured approach while building interface platforms
- need public expertise - open source

How it can improve governance.

- increase efficiency of government service delivery



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- less duplication of efforts due to interoperability
- reduction in cost of government
- speed, quality and data driven approach - so evidenced based policy making.

Cons - enterprises may need to build applications from scratch
one challenge is limited digital literacy of population

Ind EA is step in the right direction towards greater digitalisation.

It is much needed if we want to achieve and sustain our 5 trillion economy dream.

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Q2. "The Right to Information has started its journey but is far from its destination". Examine.
(10 Marks, 150 Words)

RTI Act 2005 allows citizens to get information about government affairs and activities as part of a legal right in time bound manner.

Good start to journey

- check corruption, e.g. exposed Adarsh Housing Society scam.

- empower common man to question and review financial / non financial matters of government

- participatory democracy and decentralisation of power.

~~Over~~ Far from its destination

- frivolous rejections of applications



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critique Official Secrets Act

- RTI misuse - harassment tool
- no provision for protection of whistleblower
- dilution of powers of information commissioners - ~~not~~ reduced independence of CIC / etc.

Way forward

- strengthening whistleblower's Protection Act - to punish those who leak / reveal identity of whistleblower
- RTI Act needs strengthening and not dilution if it has to live up to its name of "matter key to good governance"

Providing constitutional status to CIC.

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Q3. What is the rationale behind having a mandatory 'cooling-off' period for retired civil servants? In light of numerous instances of violation of this provision, do you think there is a need to have a relook at Civil Services Conduct Rules? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Civil servants have mandatory "cooling off" period before accepting any commercial engagements after retirement.

Define What cooling off period means?

Need and rationale

- prevent misuse of office power by granting favours for a commercial organisation.
- balance rights of civil servants to seek employment.
- time for the government to verify that civil servant is not prone to sensitive information.
- needed to ensure independence of bureaucracy eg: no quid pro quo.



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Need to relook Civil Service Rules.

- government has discretion to waive off cooling period norms
- no provision to prevent civil servants from joining politics and contest elections.
- consultancy work not debarred as per civil service rules.
- no provision to initiate disciplinary action against erring civil servants

Way forward -

- no exception the mandatory one year cooling period rule.

Civil service rules must be amended for reducing conflict of interest ✓

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Q4. Efficiency and Accountability are two foundational public service values. Do you think lateral entry of competent experts into the government will profoundly impact these values? Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Appointment of specialists largely from private sector in government organisations is called lateral entry. It is aimed at injecting domain expertise.

Lateral entry - upholds efficiency and accountability

- rise in competition.
↓
reduced inefficiency
 - encouraged to work on short term basis - for varied experiences
 - efficient feeling of recognition.
- due to competition with outside talent.



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Balwan committee recommended lateral entry to increase accountability too.

- push towards better performance due to competition from outside.

Existing issue - lack of ground level reality
✓ conflict with existing lobby

of bureaucrats
can lead to recruitment favouritism

Valid points.

Way forward.

- make public minutes of election process.
- initial district immersion of 1 year

- Today lateral entry is needed. But eventually, we need a system where civil servants are encouraged to gain

expertise in domain ✓

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Q5. ".....There is dire necessity to fill the existing gap by protecting the honest officers while making the corrupt officers realize that they are not above law....." What are these "existing gaps" in the Indian context and how can these gaps be filled? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The investigative and law and order framework of India tries to ensure that no person is above the law. A civil servant should be able to perform his/her duties fearlessly.

Existing gaps

- CBI is not under RTI Act
- for initiating investigation above rank of Joint Secretary by CBI, prior sanction of union government is necessary.
- CVE has to recommend sanction of prosecution to the government in respect of civil servants within its jurisdiction



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How to fill these gaps

- CBI should solely be responsible to the Parliament
- 2nd ARC said CBI should have statutory backing based on a new Law
- sanction to prosecution should be extended to retired civil servants but with sufficient ~~backing~~ safeguards

It is the surety of punishment and not merely the severity of punishment which act as an effective deterrent

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Q6. India's inability to join APEC is not because of lack of interest on her part but due to a variety of other reasons. Explain. What are the expected benefits of such a membership for India? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

APEC is an intergovernmental forum that aims for free and open trade and investment in ~~India~~ ^{Asia} Pacific region. India has been trying to be a member since APEC's inception.

Reasons why India not made a member

- India does not border the Pacific Ocean.
- India is averse to implement radical reforms as well as India does not want to open up agri markets.

Good points.

- reservations of western nations to prevent APEC from getting the colour of an Asian body.



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Expected benefite of India.

- strengthen India's Act East policy
- India can take advantage of its cheap and Abundant labour supply
- expansion of free trade zone that would bring in economic prosperity in the region

Though REEP and TPA are considered better alternatives for India, joining APFC would expand India's economic ties ~~with~~ with the Apa Pacific region.

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Q7. "The Right to Information Act is a path-breaking legislation which signals the march from darkness of secrecy to dawn of transparency. It lights up the mindset of public authorities, which is clouded by suspicion and secrecy." Elucidate. Examine the various structural, procedural and logistical issues with the Act. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Under the RTI Act 2005, citizens can obtain information from state or central government departments and offices in a time bound manner as part of a legal right.

Features of RTI Act

- checks corruption - eg: exposed Adarsh Housing Society scam.
- Brings transparency - empowers common man to question, audit and review government activities.
- decentralisation of power.
- promotes participatory democracy.



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Limitations of RTI

- overuse / misuse of RTI as a tool of harassment.
- no provision for protection of whistleblower.
- recent dilution of statute of information commissioners - dependency on government
- does not call for more awareness and education

Way forward -

- strengthening Whistleblowers Protection Act to punish those who leak / disclose identity of whistleblowers.

2nd ARE has right called RTI as the "master key to good governance".
Strengthening of RTI Act is needed.

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Q8. Despite its enormous potential, social audit has been non-effective in reducing malpractices and detecting irregularities. Examine the reasons behind it. Suggest suitable measures to make it more effective. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Social audit is mechanism in which financial and non financial resources used by public agencies are made transparent in a public forum.

Advantages of Social audit

- accountability
- decentralisation of authority
- rise in transparency, check corruption

Reasons for non effectiveness of social audit process

- lack of political will
- data sharing is slow and tedious
- harassment of auditors
- limited people's participation due to illiteracy, lack of awareness



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• States do not constitute social audit body in time.

How to make social audit more
effective

- citizens groups to raise awareness.
- training programs for village level officials.
- statutory backing to social auditors that ensure timely access to all relevant records.
- grievance redressal and timely solutions as part of charter of social audit institution.

Social audit process must be strengthened as it has many forward and backward linkage.

Good. 5/10

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Q9. The 'Diamond of Democracies' in the Indo-Pacific is more than just a counter to expansionist China". Analyze. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The Quad Summit has proposed the ideology of "diamond of democracies" to portray their strong backing of democratic principles across the world.

More than just a counter to expansionist China.

- to tackle challenges of terrorism
- maritime alliance in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) for trade, commerce
- collective voice for Asian countries
- freedom of navigation in Indo Pacific region
- fostering mutual cooperation and end to boundary disputes

Vaccine development, supply chain initiative, Climate change angle, etc.



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Counter to Chinese expansionist attitude.

- open sea lines of communication
- counter to debt trap diplomacy of China eg: 70% of ~~China's loans~~ Maldivian Debt is from Chinese loans

Way forward.

- expand role of Quad - as a free trade bloc. **Quad plus group.**
- regular navy exercises eg: more exercises apart from Malabar Exercise

Diamond of Democracies indeed is a counter to China's String of Pearls. But it aims at more holistic involvement in line with rules based global order and democratic principles

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Q10. "Look west is as important as Look East." In light of this statement, analyze the growing relevance of West Asia as India's strategic partner. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

West Asia has been important for India since ancient times (eg: the Indus Mesopotamia trade) Good.

Growing relevance of West Asia for India

- connectivity - INCTE and TAPI pipeline.
- energy security - India imports most of its oil from West Asia.
- curbing radical wahabism that supports terrorism.
- maintaining peace in Afghanistan.

so that spill over does not take place in India



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Rising strategic importance for

India

- technological aid - Israel, Turkey -
new agricultural practices, water
conservation.
- large market for Indian agricultural
products.
- source of FDI investment - Saudi
Arabia is one of largest trade partners
for India.

Mention India's recent initiatives in the region.

West Asia provides a rich
market as well as provider of energy
security. Large number of Indian
diaspora makes West Asia even
more relevant.

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Q11. How can SAARC, ASEAN and SCO help India in realizing her geopolitical goals in Asia as well as Global fora? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

SAARC, ASEAN and SCO are important multilateral organisations, of which India is a member of SAARC ✓ and SCO.

[India's goals in Asia and global
fora] ✓

- gain support for UNSC permanent seat bid ✓
- multilateral reforms such as in UN, WTO, IMF ✓
- ensure stable and peaceful neighbourhood ✓
- thwart use of foreign soil for launching terror attacks against India ✓

[SAARC] ✓ - venue for south-south cooperation. ✓

platform for India and Pakistan to meet and iron out ✓ differences.



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Role of ASEAN ✓

- countries such as Myanmar, Vietnam and Malaysia are important players in India's energy security.
- pivot for India's Act East policy and connect North east policy.
- ASEAN countries by and large share India's concern over China's aggression.

Role of Sea ✓

- Regional Anti Terrorist Structure (RATS) allows cooperation among members over terrorism threats.
- key for stability post US exit from Afghanistan
- access and connectivity to central Asia



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Way forward ✓

India needs to maintain cordial relations in all the 3 organisations as they complement one another ✓

India must look for a trade agreement with ASEAN countries. ✓

India must seek to create an institutional mechanism in SCO ✓ while for SAARC, India

needs to push for an "ASEAN-X" similar

mechanism where members can take time

to join an agreement without affecting the

timely implementation of the agreement. ✓

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Q12. The Ashgabat agreement could be the beginning of constructive regional economic cooperation between Central and South Asia and could help bring stability to disturbed areas in the region. Critically examine. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Ashgabat Agreement of 2011 is a multi modal transport agreement that calls for transit and transport of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf

Beginning of constructive regional cooperation

- Chabahar port - that allows gateway to Central Asia via the shorter route.
- Afghanistan connectivity will improve trade relations.
- will facilitate trade and commerce with Eurasian region.
- INSTC - facilitates India's efforts



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to implement INSTC and allow good transport.

- energy security based connectivity boost that will connect India with the mineral rich region of central Asia.

Challenges of Algabat agreement

- lack of peace in the region - civil unrest.
- Iran is being sanctioned by US.
- China's belt and Road passing through - creates sovereignty concerns for countries eg: CPEC vs India
- protectionism push by the western nations.



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Way forward ✓

- need institutional mechanisms for timely implementation ✓ of development plans.
- usage of Regional Anti Terrorism Structure (RATS) to reduce risk of terrorism in central Asia ✓.

Central Asia's connection with South Asia is vital for long term prosperity of both regions. This also provides ✓ opportunity for India to reduce its dependency on middle east oil imports.

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Q13. Discuss with examples the role of the media in establishing accountability of the government to the people. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Media is the 4th pillar of democracy. It is a watchdog that uncovers errors and wrongdoings in the democracy.

Role of media in establishing accountability of the government to the people

- reporting - media reports on public affairs and investigations into wrongdoings
- audit - for policies and spending of the government
eg: awareness of the Commonwealth Games scam in 2010
- awareness creation among commoners
eg: awareness about stronger rape laws in 2012 led to Criminal Law (Amendment) Act.



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- platform for debate - debate over important topics eg: before general election.

- multitasking journalism

Negative role of media.

- incorrect reporting of information - resorting to sensationalism.

- paid news and politicisation of media houses.

- yellow paper journalism

Sometimes there is undue pressure on media to report in a certain way

Way forward



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- Judrajit Gupta committee on electoral reforms as well as and ARC said that paid news must be made into an electoral offence.
- making Press Council of India a statutory body with security of tenure of members, so that watchdog of free and independent media, can function properly.

Good answer.

Media's role in democracy is indispensable. Independence of PCI as well as steps to decouple media house financing from electoral note bank politics will maintain health of independent media.

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Q14. Give an account of the challenges that the multilateral rule-based trading system is facing. With special focus on WTO, discuss how these challenges can be addressed effectively. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Multilateralism refers to how many countries cooperate together to solve a particular problem, or on a certain platform based on certain agenda.

Challenges multilateral rule based trading system is facing

- trade war between China and US threatens to disrupt global value chain
- dispute settlement mechanism of WTO is procedurally defunct due to non election of members to the appellate body, due to opposition of USA

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• participation of global watchdogs of multilateral rules based trading bodies like WTO

• restrictions on welfare schemes run by developing nations eg: FDI in India - so erodes trust between developed and developing nations.

way forward - addressing these

challenges effectively

- recent pandemic pushed home the point that multilateral bodies like

WTO are necessary eg: for

negotiation of vaccine related IPRe during covid 19 pandemic



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• special emphasis of securing value chain eg: recent multilateral initiative of India, Australia and Japan - Supply Chain Resilience initiative

• immediate election of new members to WTO appellate body - to revive dispute settlement mechanism

Covid 19 has put the world in uncharted territory and has given us vital lessons for addressing challenges related to WTO functioning.

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Q15. Island nations of the Indian Ocean hold immense strategic value in shaping the geopolitical contours of the region and ensuring maritime security of India. Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Indian Ocean's island nations are vital for cultural as well as strategic reasons for India.

Strategic value of island nations

- maritime neighbours.
- Sea lines of communication are nearby.
eg. Maldives
- importance of countries to help quell common threats such as piracy eg: near Somalian coast.

Shaping geopolitical contours of the region and maritime security of India.

- Sri Lanka and Maldives have over dependence on climate loans — so debt

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trap diplomacy may lead to handing over of their national strategic assets to Chinese hands eg: Hambantota port in Sri Lanka.

Provide a map of the IOR mapping some islands and trade routes.

- Chinese naval base in Djibouti can tip strategic advantage in their favour
- position of Andaman and Nicobar islands close to Malacca Strait
- island nation such as Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles assumed importance
eg: India has established a listening post in Madagascar.

Way forward.

- Project Mausam - India's efforts to increase cultural tie with Indian Ocean ~~and~~ island nations.



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• lagar reason ✓ - India's role as overall security provider for Indian ocean island nations.

• joint naval exercises ✓ with the nations. eg: ekuverm exercise

• The cooperation and goodwill ✓ of the strategically important Indian Ocean island nations is necessary for long term security of India. multi track diplomacy must pave way ✓.

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Q16. Citizens' participation in governance embodies a shift in the development paradigm from citizens as passive recipients to active participants in the development process. What are the different mechanisms for citizens' participation in the development process? Illustrate. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Citizen's participation in governance increased accountability, transparency as well as timeliness of service delivery.

Different mechanisms for citizens' participation

- RTI Act — that allows citizens to get information from government offices in timely manner as part of a legal right.
- Suggestions can be given via mugov.in platform.
- citizen charter for every office that lists expectations of both service seeker

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and service provider, from one another

• social audit, eg: as institutionalised in the MGNREGS Act - that allows citizens to call for explanations, audit in public transparent forums.

• frequent elections - ensure accountability via universal adult franchise.

• groom sabha based social audit, passing of budget.

Issues

• social audit not regularly conducted

• RTI Act diluted - information

commissioners not given security of tenure

• citizen's charter has become just another



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routine exercise.

Way forward ✓

- statutory binding by state to citizen charter.
- greater awareness drive
- digital saksharata abhiyan - to raise digital literacy.

Citizen's participation is sine qua non for India's growth story and to achieve \$ trillion economy dream. Awareness and institutional evolution of existing mechanisms is key.

6.5/15



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Q17. For the first time in 25 years, WTO will be led by a woman. Discuss the current issues that WTO faced today. Also, comment upon the learnings for WTO from COVID-19 pandemic. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

WTO is the global watchdog for rule based trading among nations. Its effectiveness is vital for global order in the long run ✓

Issues faced by the WTO ✓ today.

- Non appointment ✓ of members - WTO membership has reduced - Appellate Body has just 3 members instead of 7.
- US has been blocking working of dispute settlement mechanism ✓
- politicisation ✓ of the appellate body
- domination by developed nations ✓



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- restriction of welfare schemes run by developing countries - eg: public distribution system (PDS) often is challenged at WTO - is detrimental to India's food security

- Threat to multilateralism

- trade war between USA and China threaten to reduce the relevance of WTO

Learnings for WTO from covid 19
pandemic

- need of global watchdog has to be re-established eg: to drive negotiations during covid 19 vaccine related.



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- statewide due IPR rights conflict.
- special emphasis on global value chain.
 - India cannot ignore FDI based social security even if it is conflict with WTO principle.
 - WTO appellate and dispute resolution mechanism must be remedied. So as to prevent future conflicts.

Covid 19 has put the world in uncharted territory and has vital role as guardian of multilateralism
WTO ✓

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Q18. Despite several attempts at resetting the ties, various barriers continue to be a cause of concern in the India-Nepal bilateral relations. Discuss. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Nepal has cultural ties with India which extend historically too. As per our Hon'ble Prime Minister, there is "Rohi Beti ka Rikhta". Yet concerns exist in the ties.

Various barriers to smooth India Nepal relations

- Nepal has contested the Kalapani over border Indo Nepal border - so territorial dispute goes against 1816 Treaty of Sugauli. **Show the disputed region.**
- India's reservation of Nepal's new constitution in 2015 and ensuing Indian trade blockade that eroded

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mutual trust.

- growing influence of china - invade made in infrastructure, education, health sectors - India worried that China's debt trap diplomacy will indirectly harm India's strategic importance

Way forward - attempts to improve
tie

- diplomatic efforts to resolve the present crisis must continue.
- India may revise stance on India, Nepal China economic corridor.
 - ↳ opportunity for greater tourism
 - ↳ reduce trust deficit between India Nepal as well as India China.



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• Nepal must proachively ensure that trust deficit due to involvement with China is reduced.

• strengthening economic ties

↳ RuPay card adoption.

↳ more energy import from Nepal.

• implement the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement

India and Nepal share deep ties that need to be rekindled for more cultural, economic as well as environment cooperation

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Q19. Substantiate with examples how the E-Governance promotes the idea of less government and more governance. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

E governance is the use of ICT (information and communication technology) to make governance processes smarter, simpler and more accessible.

E governance creates less government and more governance.

- digitisation of land records eg: Bhoomi Rakti portal.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has helped improved transparency as well as productivity.
- digital literacy eg: PM Digital Saksharata Abhyas.
- Digital payment systems such as UPI, Bhim, National Electronic Toll.

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Electronic

- online learning - ~~Integrated~~ Swayam and Swayam Prabha portals that provide online learning material

Issues with e governance.

- data security concerns
- lack of digital literacy - only 30% of women in India own a phone.
- lack of fixed line penetration of optical fibre cable - only 40% is done - so internet connectivity is not extensive.

Way forward.

- integrated approach for single window interface - eg; India



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Enterprise Architecture - Ind EA platform.

- legal clarity on data security via enacting the Data Protection Bill as per the Judge Krishnaiah committee report.

E governance is sine qua non for promoting of minimum government maximum governance as well as fostering accountability and transparency. There is need for increasing digital literacy in this regard.

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Q20. Trace the evolution of India's Foreign Policy since independence. Do you see a paradigm shift in this evolution (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Since independence India has always strived for independent foreign policy.

1947 to 1962

- idealistic phase of India's foreign policy.
- Panchsheel with respect to India China relations
- optimistic and idealistic
- Non Alignment movement was the keystone of India's foreign policy.

1962 - India China war

↳ major shift in Indian foreign policy.

- move from idealist to realistic approach.
- bend towards strategic dependence on Soviet Union.

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This continued till 1991 - fall of the Soviet Union - so shift in foreign policy stance.

- improve relations with US and other Western power
- also a period of pragmatic approach
- Pokhran tests cemented India's role as nuclear power

2014 onwards

- some key trends have been observed.
↳ deepened relations with US, Israel.
- focus on Neighbourhood first policy
eg: SAGAR policy in Indian Ocean Region.
- focused in importance of Indian diaspora in other countries.

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— strict unwavering stance on cross border
terrorism ✓

— focus on cultural ties eg: Project
Mausam ✓

India's foreign policy has indeed evolved over time and smoothly adapted to changing times. There has been gradual shift instead of paradigm shift. The foreign policy has stood the test of time. ✓

Mention how India's position at the world stage have improved.

6.5/15