

UDAN SERIES REFLECTS UPSC

CSE M- 2025 GS-2

1.) India-Africa digital partnership is achieving mutual respect, co-development and long-term institutional partnerships. Elaborate. **2025 GS-2**

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Q.10. "अफ्रीका के प्रति भारत की पुनर्संयोजित पहुँच प्रतीकात्मक एकजुटता से रणनीतिक अभिसरण की ओर बदलाव का संकेत देती है।" इस संदर्भ में, परीक्षण कीजिए कि अफ्रीका के साथ भारत का जुड़ाव उसकी ऊर्जा सुरक्षा गणना और भू-राजनीतिक प्रभाव को कैसे आकार दे रहा है। हाल के राजनयिक घटनाक्रमों और संस्थागत पहलों का संदर्भ लें। (10M)

"India's recalibrated outreach to Africa signals a shift from symbolic solidarity to strategic convergence." In this context, examine how India's engagement with Africa is shaping its energy security calculus and geopolitical leverage. Refer to recent diplomatic developments and institutional initiatives. (10M)

2) Discuss the 'corrupt practices' for the purpose of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Analyze whether the increase in the assets of the legislators and/or their associates, disproportionate to their known sources of income, would constitute undue influence and consequently a corrupt practice. **2025 GS-2**

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Q 16. Compare the key provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951. In this context, explain the rules governing the nomination of candidates in Indian elections and evaluate how they contribute to the fairness of the electoral process. (250 words)

Q 16. जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950 और जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के प्रमुख प्रावधानों की तुलना कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, भारतीय चुनावों में उम्मीदवारों के नामांकन से संबंधित नियमों की व्याख्या कीजिए और मूल्यांकन कीजिए कि वे चुनावी प्रक्रिया की निष्पक्षता में किस प्रकार योगदान करते हैं। (250 शब्द)

3) Comment on the need of administrative tribunals as compared to the court system. Assess the impact of the recent tribunal reforms through rationalization of tribunals

made in 2021. **2025 GS-2**

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Q 12. Tribunals in India were established to offer specialized, speedy, and accessible justice in specific domains, but several of them continue to grapple with concerns related to judicial independence, administrative inefficiency, and procedural delays. Critically evaluate the structural and functional challenges faced by tribunals in India. Specifically, assess the prospects and significance of the proposed GST Appellate Tribunal in resolving indirect tax disputes, reducing judicial pendency, and promoting cooperative federalism. (250 words)

Q 12. भारत में न्यायाधिकरणों की स्थापना विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों में विशिष्ट, त्वरित और सुलभ न्याय प्रदान करने के लिए की गई थी, लेकिन उनमें से कई न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता, प्रशासनिक अक्षमता और प्रक्रियात्मक विलंब से संबंधित चिंताओं से जूझ रहे हैं। भारत में न्यायाधिकरणों के सामने आने वाली संरचनात्मक और कार्यात्मक चुनौतियों का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए। विशेष रूप से, अप्रत्यक्ष कर विवादों को सुलझाने, न्यायिक लंबित मामलों को कम करने और सहकारी संघवाद को बढ़ावा देने में प्रस्तावित जीएसटी अपीलिय न्यायाधिकरण की संभावनाओं और महत्व का आकलन कीजिए। (250 शब्द)

Q 2. The success of ADR mechanisms depends not only on legal frameworks but also on public trust, institutional support, and professional standards. In this context, analyse the benefits and limitations of the Mediation Act, 2023 in transforming dispute resolution in India. (150 words)

Q 2. मध्यस्थता और विवाद समाधान तंत्र की सफलता न केवल कानूनी ढाँचे पर निर्भर करती है, बल्कि जन विश्वास, संस्थागत समर्थन और पेशेवर मानकों पर भी निर्भर करती है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में विवाद समाधान को बदलने में मध्यस्थता अधिनियम, 2023 के लाभों और सीमाओं का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्द)

4.) Discuss the nature of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. Briefly describe the powers and functions of the

Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. **2025 GS-2**

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measures to promote hatred.

Important Judicial Pronouncements

- Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan vs Union of India, 2014: Referred matter to Law Commission.
- Shreya Singhal vs Union of India, 2015: SC limited restrictions under Article 19(2) to incitement to violence/public disorder.
- Amish Devgan vs Union of India, 2020: Balanced free speech and communal harmony.

Global Measures Against Hate Speech

- Rabat Plan of Action (2012): Emphasizes responsibility of states and individuals to promote tolerance.
- UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech (2019): UN-wide action plan.
- UN Security Council Resolution 2686 (2023): Encourages addressing hate through global cooperation.

Way Ahead

- Legal Definition of Hate Speech: Recommend adding specific IPC offences.
- Judicial Measures: Promote alternative dispute resolution to prevent victimisation.
- Non-Legal Measures:
 - Religious leaders should promote peace across faiths.

ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

Why in the News?

Recently, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the Union Government's 2019 decision to repeal the special status of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution.

SC Judgement & Rationale

- No Internal Sovereignty:
 - Yuvraj Karan Singh's (successor to Maharaja Hari Singh) proclamation stated that provisions of Indian Constitution would govern J&K-India relations.
 - Apart from Articles 1 and 370, SC cited Section 3 of J&K Constitution declaring J&K an integral part of India.
- Nature of Article 370:
 - Recognised as a temporary and transitional provision.
 - Dissolution of J&K's Constituent Assembly does not limit President's power to abrogate Article 370.

Upheld Constitutionality of Presidential Proclamations (2019)

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5.) Women's social capital complements in advancing empowerment and gender equity.

Explain. **2025 GS-2**

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Q 15. In light of the Women's Reservation Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam), examine how greater representation of women in Parliament can contribute to inclusive governance and enrich democratic discourse in India. Substantiate with relevant examples. Also mention about constitutional amendment and various provisions of the act. (250 words)

Q 15. महिला आरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 (नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम) के आलोक में, परीक्षण कीजिए कि संसद में महिलाओं का अधिक प्रतिनिधित्व किस प्रकार समावेशी शासन में योगदान दे सकता है और भारत में लोकतांत्रिक संवाद को समृद्ध बना सकता है। प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों के साथ इसकी पुष्टि कीजिए। संविधान संशोधन और अधिनियम के विभिन्न प्रावधानों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए। (250 शब्द)

Q.3. भारत में महिलाओं का राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण धीरे-धीरे संस्थागत होता जा रहा है, लेकिन सांस्कृतिक रूप से अभी भी कमजोर है। इस संदर्भ में 128वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम (महिला आरक्षण) के दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (10M)

Women's political empowerment in India is slowly becoming institutional but remains culturally fragile. Analyse the long-term impact of the 128th Constitutional Amendment Act (Women's Reservation) in this context. (10M)

6. e-governance projects have a built-in bias towards e-governance projects have a built-in bias towards integration than user-centric designs. Examine.

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Q.12. भारत का 'डिजिटल सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना' (DPI) वैश्विक डिजिटल परिवर्तन के लिए एक आदर्श के रूप में उभरा है। वित्तीय समावेशन में इसकी प्रशंसित सफलता के अलावा, सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण, जवाबदेही तंत्र और सभी नागरिकों के लिए डिजिटल समावेशन और डेटा गोपनीयता सुनिश्चित करने की चुनौतियों पर इसके गहन प्रभाव का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (15M)

India's 'Digital Public Infrastructure' (DPI) has emerged as a model for global digital transformation. Beyond its acclaimed success in financial inclusion, critically evaluate its deeper impact on public service delivery, accountability mechanisms, and the challenges of ensuring digital inclusion and data privacy for all citizens. (15M)

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7.) Civil Society Organizations are often perceived as being anti-State actors than non-State

actors. Do you agree? Justify. **2025 GS-2**

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- **Encourage public-private partnerships for surveys.** E.g., Use startups and tech firms with accountability.
- **Use AI for dispute prediction and fraud detection.** E.g., Early alerts in mutation mismatch.
- **Benchmark with global practices and localize solutions.** E.g., Learn from Rwanda, Bangladesh, Indonesia.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Introduction

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are **voluntary and not-for-profit bodies** that play a pivotal role in development, service delivery, rights advocacy, and governance. They serve as a bridge between the state and the people, especially in areas where the state has limited reach or capacity. With diverse areas of work—ranging from education, health, disaster relief, to environment and governance—they contribute to inclusive and participatory development. However, NGOs also face operational, financial, legal, and credibility challenges that affect their long-term sustainability and impact.

Historical Evolution of NGOs in India

- **Pre-independence:** Inspired by Gandhian philosophy, NGOs focused on social reform, education, and constructive work aligned with the independence movement. Example: *Servants of India Society* by Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- **1950-70:** Emphasis on government-funded welfare; NGOs complemented with Five-Year Plans. Example: *Khadi Industries*.
- **1970-90:** NGOs challenged state-led development, emphasized participatory models. Example: *SEWA* (1972).
- **Post-LPG to Present:** NGOs increasingly participate in policymaking and implement SHG, micro-credit, and livelihood schemes. Example:

Types of NGOs	
Type of NGO	Description & Example
Activist NGOs	Serve as policy critics/watchdogs. Example: <i>Narmada Bachao Andolan</i> .
Social Partner NGOs	Support government objectives and public delivery. Example: <i>Oxfam</i> .
Research and Development NGOs	Innovate policies and solutions. Example: <i>Centre for Science and Environment</i> .
Service Provider NGOs	Contracted to deliver programs. Example: <i>Habitat for Humanity</i> .
Humanitarian NGOs	Provide disaster/relief aid. Example: <i>International Rescue Committee</i> .
Entrepreneurial NGOs	Promote social entrepreneurs. Example: <i>Ashoka Foundation</i> .

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 19(1)(c):** Guarantees freedom to form associations or unions, the constitutional bedrock for NGOs.
- **Article 43:** Directive Principle suggesting the promotion of cooperatives in rural areas.
- **Schedule 7, Entry 28:** Concurrent List includes 'Charities and charitable institutions, charitable and religious endowments, and religious institutions'.

Legal Frameworks

- **FCRA, 2010:** Regulates foreign contributions to NGOs, ensuring they are not misused.
- **Societies Registration Act, 1860:** Governs NGOs registered as societies.
- **Indian Trusts Act, 1882:** Applies to private trusts; public trusts governed by respective state laws.

8)"With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism." Elucidate. **2025 GS-2**

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Q.20. स्थायी संकट और आर्थिक अंतर-निर्भरताओं के बढ़ते शस्त्रीकरण की विशेषता वाले इस युग में, भारत का 'विकसित भारत' का लक्ष्य बाहरी आर्थिक अस्थिरताओं से काफी हद तक प्रभावित है। आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए कि वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला पुनर्गठन, त्वरित ऊर्जा परिवर्तन और व्यापार नीतियों के शस्त्रीकरण के व्यापक प्रभाव भारत के आर्थिक लचीलेपन के प्रयास को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं और इसकी रणनीतिक साझेदारियों को नया आकार देते हैं। इसके अलावा, इस उभरते भू-राजनीतिक परिदृश्य में जोखिम न्यूनीकरण के लिए नए ढाँचे बनाने और सतत, समावेशी विकास को बढ़ावा देने में भारत की सक्रिय आर्थिक कूटनीति की प्रभावकारिता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (15M)

In an era characterized by permacrisis and the increasing weaponization of economic interdependencies, India's pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat' is significantly conditioned by external economic volatilities. Critically analyse how the cascading effects of global supply chain reconfigurations, accelerated energy transitions, and the weaponization of trade policies impact India's drive for economic resilience and reshape its strategic partnerships. Furthermore, evaluate the efficacy of India's proactive economic diplomacy in building new frameworks for risk mitigation and fostering sustainable, inclusive growth in this evolving geopolitical landscape. (15M)

9))"Constitutional morality is the fulcrum which acts as an essential check upon the high functionaries and citizens alike... ." In view of the above observation of the Supreme Court, explain the concept of constitutional morality and its application to ensure balance

between judicial independence and judicial accountability in India. **2025**

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Question 2. "Parliamentary sovereignty is not just a procedural necessity but a foundational pillar of a functioning democracy." Comment in the light of recent public assertions by constitutional authorities emphasizing the primacy of Parliament in the democratic process over concerns of judicial overreach.

"संसदीय संप्रभुता केवल एक प्रक्रियागत आवश्यकता नहीं है, बल्कि कार्यशील लोकतंत्र का आधारभूत स्तंभ है।" संवैधानिक प्राधिकारियों द्वारा हाल ही में किए गए सार्वजनिक कथनों के आलोक में टिप्पणी कीजिए, जिसमें न्यायिक अतिक्रमण की चिंताओं के मुकाबले लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया में संसद की प्रधानता पर बल दिया गया है।

Q 3. 'The Supreme Court, through its advisory jurisdiction, acts as a constitutional conscience keeper.' Do you agree? Analyse in light of recent Presidential references and the evolving contours of judicial-state interaction. (150 words)

Q 3. 'सर्वोच्च न्यायालय, अपने सलाहकारी क्षेत्राधिकार के माध्यम से, संवैधानिक विवेक के रक्षक के रूप में कार्य करता है।' क्या आप इससे सहमत हैं? हाल के राष्ट्रपति के संदर्भों और न्यायिक-राज्य संपर्क की उभरती रूपरेखा के आलोक में विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्द)

10) Indian Constitution has conferred the amending power on the ordinary legislative institutions with a few procedural hurdles. In view of this statement, examine the procedural and substantive limitations on the amending power of the Parliament to change the Constitution. **2025 GS-2**

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UDAAN GS 2 TEST (2510)

Q.1. . "हाल के वर्षों में, मूल ढाँचे का सिद्धांत संवैधानिक विमर्श के केंद्र में फिर से उभरा है - न केवल एक न्यायिक सिद्धांत के रूप में, बल्कि संस्थागत शक्ति के एक सीमा-चिह्न के रूप में।" परीक्षण कीजिए कि हाल की न्यायिक व्याख्याओं ने इस सिद्धांत के विकसित होते दायरे को कैसे आकार दिया है। संसद की संशोधन शक्ति और भारत में संवैधानिक सर्वोच्चता के विचार के बीच संतुलन के लिए इसके क्या निहितार्थ हैं? (10M)

"In recent years, the basic structure doctrine has re-emerged at the centre of constitutional discourse — not just as a judicial principle, but as a boundary-marker for institutional power." Examine how recent judicial interpretations have shaped the evolving scope of the doctrine. What implications does this have for the balance between Parliament's amending power and the idea of constitutional supremacy in India? (10M)

11) Discuss the evolution of collegium system in India. Critically examine the advantages and disadvantages of the system of appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India

and that of the USA. **2025 GS-2**

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SUPREME COURT OF INDIA – 75 YEARS

OVERVIEW

Why in the News?

In 2025, India commemorates 75 years of the Supreme Court, established on 26th January 1950 as the apex constitutional court of the country.

Constitutional Basis and Jurisdiction

- Article 124(1) - Establishes the Supreme Court with a Chief Justice and up to 7 judges (can be increased by Parliament; currently 33 + 1 CJ).

Recent Technological Initiatives

- **Uncle Judge Syndrome** - 230th Law Commission Report flagged nepotism in judicial appointments.
- **Judicial-Executive Conflict** - Delay in Collegium recommendations; e.g., SC vs Govt tussle in 2022 over pending appointments.
- **Public Trust** - Calls for live-streaming proceedings (e.g., **Constitution Bench hearings in 2023**) to improve transparency.

Recent Technological Initiatives

- **eCourts Mission Mode Project** - IT enablement in courts; live cause lists, judgment tracking.

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- **Virtual Courts** - Enabled during COVID-19; still functional in many states for traffic violations, bail, etc.
- **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** - Monitors case disposal status and pendency.
- **NSTEP** - Online delivery of summons and notices to
- Replaced the Collegium System with NJAC to make judicial appointments more transparent and accountable.
- The NJAC was declared unconstitutional in 2015 by a 4:1 majority of the Constitution Bench in the Fourth Judges Case.

Q 7. Despite being the guardian of fundamental rights, the Supreme Court faces criticism for delays in justice and lack of transparency in judicial appointments. Discuss the need for institutional reforms to strengthen its credibility and efficiency. (150 words)

Q 7. मौलिक अधिकारों का संरक्षक होने के बावजूद, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय को न्याय में देरी और न्यायिक नियुक्तियों में पारदर्शिता की कमी के लिए आलोचना का सामना करना पड़ता है। इसकी विश्वसनीयता और दक्षता को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए संस्थागत सुधारों की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्द)

12) Examine the evolving pattern of Centre-State financial relations in the context of planned development in India. How far have the recent reforms impacted the fiscal

federalism in India? **2025 GS-2**

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Question 5. With growing demands from states for a greater share of central taxes and more untied funds, evaluate the evolving role of Finance Commissions in ensuring fiscal equity in India. How should the 16th Finance Commission address emerging challenges in fiscal federalism?

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केन्द्रीय करों में अधिक हिस्सेदारी और अधिक मुक्त निधियों के लिए राज्यों की बढ़ती मांगों के साथ, भारत में राजकोषीय समानता सुनिश्चित करने में वित्त आयोगों की उभरती भूमिका का मूल्यांकन करें। 16वें वित्त आयोग को राजकोषीय संघवाद में उभरती चुनौतियों का समाधान कैसे करना चाहिए?

13)What are environmental pressure groups? Discuss their role in raising awareness, influencing policies and advocating for environmental protection in India. **2025**

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • against paid news practices. • NITI Aayog (2023) Suggested structured voter awareness via media. • Oxford Internet Institute Proposed algorithmic transparency rules. • Ranjit Goswami Committee (1990) Highlighted need to monitor election coverage rigorously. • ADR and civil society Called for party-wise media access tracking. • Election Commission Issued advisories on hate speech and misinformation. <p>Global Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA FEC mandates disclosure and ad archives for campaign content. <p> @csp23info</p>	<h3>Environmental Governance in India</h3>	<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental governance refers to rules, institutions, and practices managing natural resources sustainably. E.g., Combines law, policy, civil society, and participatory approaches.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has a rich environmental jurisprudence linked to Article 21 (Right to Life). E.g., SC expanded Article 21 to include clean air and water. • Global pressure and climate change have influenced domestic environmental policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. E.g., Mandatory screening for industrial projects. • Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Rules. E.g., Regulates coastal development and biodiversity. • Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016. 	<p>137</p>

14) Inequality in the ownership pattern of resources is one OF the major causes of

poverty. Discuss in the context of 'paradox of poverty'. **2025 GS-2**

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evolving socio-economic landscape. (15M)

Q.18. "यदि परिवर्तन में कार्बन-मुक्ति की मानवीय लागत को नज़रअंदाज़ किया जाता है, तो भारत की स्वच्छ ऊर्जा महत्वाकांक्षाएँ बहिष्कारी हो सकती हैं।" एक न्यायसंगत और सामाजिक रूप से समावेशी ऊर्जा परिवर्तन प्राप्त करने की चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। नीतिगत ढाँचे जलवायु लक्ष्यों को असुरक्षित आजीविकाओं के संरक्षण और हरित कौशल एवं पुनर्कौशल पहलों के माध्यम से समान अवसरों के सृजन के साथ कैसे संतुलित कर सकते हैं? (15M)

"India's clean energy ambitions risk becoming exclusionary if the transition overlooks the human cost of decarbonization." Discuss the challenges of achieving a just and socially inclusive energy transition. How can policy frameworks balance climate goals with the protection of vulnerable livelihoods and the creation of equitable opportunities through green skilling and reskilling initiatives? (15M)

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15)"Energy security constitutes the dominant kingpin of India's foreign policy, and is linked with India's overarching influence in Middle Eastern countries." How would you integrate energy security with India's foreign policy trajectories in the coming

15 years? **2025 GS-2**

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Question 19. "In a world marked by intensifying geopolitical conflicts and regional instability, multilateral connectivity projects face uncertain futures. "Critically assess the progress of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) in light of the ongoing conflicts in West Asia, Ukraine, and the Red Sea region. How should India recalibrate its strategy to safeguard its long-term connectivity and trade interests through IMEC? (250)

"भू-राजनीतिक संघर्षों और क्षेत्रीय अस्थिरता को तीव्र करने वाली दुनिया में, बहुपक्षीय कनेक्टिविटी परियोजनाओं का भविष्य अनिश्चित है।" पश्चिम एशिया, यूक्रेन और लाल सागर क्षेत्र में चल रहे संघर्षों के मद्देनजर भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप आर्थिक गलियारे (IMEC) की प्रगति का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन करें। IMEC के माध्यम से अपने दीर्घकालिक कनेक्टिविटी और व्यापार हितों की रक्षा के लिए भारत को अपनी रणनीति को कैसे पुनः संतुलित करना चाहिए? (250)

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16)The reform process in the United Nations remains unresolved, because of the delicate imbalance of East and West and entanglement of the USA vs. Russo-Chinese alliance." Examine and critically evaluate the East-West poliCy

confrontations in this regard. **2025 GS-2**

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from UNGA resolution on Crimea referendum, 2023)
5. This approach protected India's ties with both Israel and Arab nations. [Example: PM Modi spoke to both Netanyahu and Palestinian President Abbas within 72 hours]

India's Stance

1. Reaffirmed commitment to a two-state solution and peaceful coexistence. [Example: India reiterated its position at UNHRC in May 2025]
2. Called for cessation of hostilities and humanitarian corridors. [Example: MEA press release on April 2025]
3. Condemned terrorism in all forms without singling out any religion. [Example: Speech by EAM at Raisina Dialogue 2025]
4. Maintained economic and defence partnerships with Israel while deepening ties with Gulf nations. [Example: I2U2 and India-Saudi Green Energy MoU]

5. Engaged in quiet diplomacy to avoid polarising votes. [Example: Backchannel talks with Egypt and UAE before vote]

Key Challenges



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UNSC Reforms and India's Bid for Permanent Membership – Strategic Imperative

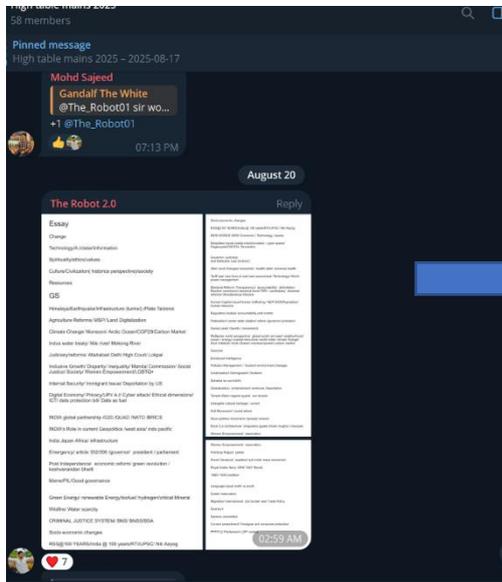
The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) remains an anachronistic relic in an increasingly multipolar world.

India's sustained bid for permanent membership is rooted in both its demographic heft and diplomatic activism.

According to Prof. Amartya Sen, legitimacy in governance is earned through participation and equity – principles which the current UNSC structure lacks.

3. Enhance democratic credentials through inclusive governance and SDG leadership. [Example: India's SDG 2030 Dashboard showcase at UN]

17.) Compare and contrast the President's power to pardon in India and in the USA. Are there any limits to it in both the countries? What are 'preemptive pardons'?



Remaining important topics discussed on the VC

Total marks coverage = 210

