



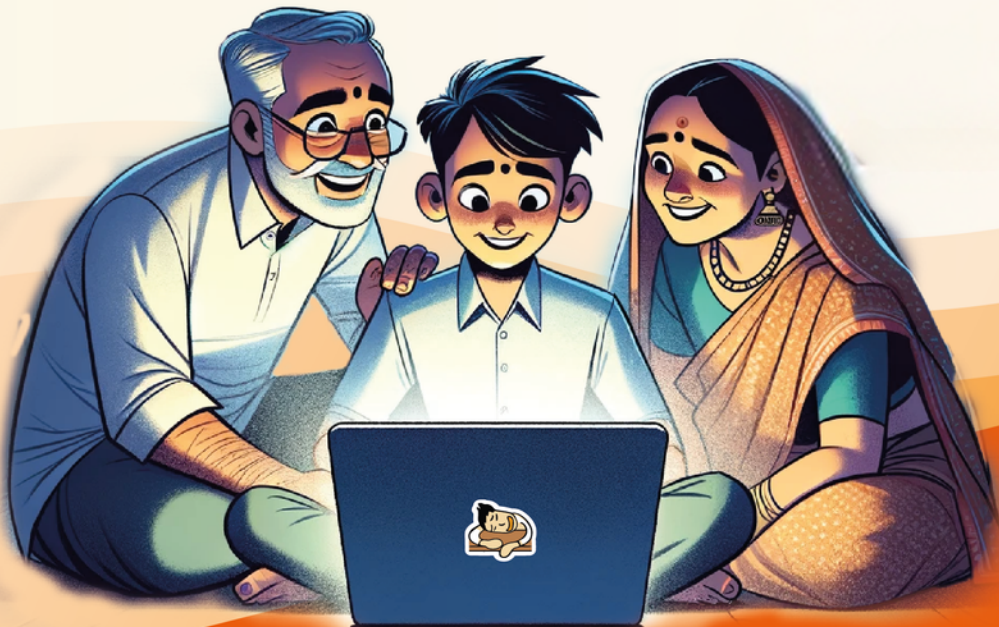
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# UPSC MAINS

# Solved PYQs

## 2021

## General Studies Paper 2



# How to Maximize Your UPSC Mains Score Using These PYQs

Transform Your Preparation into Your Success Strategy

## ✗ "I solve PYQs but still struggle in mock exam"

**Your Problem:** You're treating PYQs like MCQs - solving for the sake of solving without strategic analysis.

**Strategic Solution:** After solving each question, spend 10 minutes analyzing: What was the examiner testing? Which keywords were crucial? How can I improve my answer structure? Create a "mistakes point list" to track recurring weaknesses.



## "I can't finish questions within time limits"

**Your Problem:** You know the content but struggle with time management and answer structuring under pressure.

**Time-Bound Practice:** Set strict timers - 7 minutes for 10-mark questions, 12 minutes for 15-mark questions. Practice writing concise, impactful answers. Use bullet points and subheadings to save time while maintaining clarity.



## "My answers lack depth and examples"

**Your Problem:** Your answers are generic and don't stand out among thousands of similar responses.

**Content Enhancement:** For each PYQ, create a "example bank" - collect 2-3 specific case studies, data points, or contemporary examples. Practice weaving these naturally into your answers to demonstrate comprehensive understanding.



## "I don't know which topics to prioritize"

**Your Problem:** Without pattern analysis, you're studying everything equally instead of focusing on high-weightage areas.

**Smart Analysis:** Create a frequency chart of topics from last 7 years. Identify recurring themes and question patterns. Allocate 60% of your time to high-frequency topics, 40% to emerging trends. Also Sleepy Classes has a video on complete pattern analysis of UPSC mains.

### ⚠ Critical Mistake to Avoid

Don't just read solved answers and move on. The real learning happens when YOU attempt the question first, then compare with model answers to identify gaps.



## Remember: PYQs are your blueprint, not just practice material

Every question tells you exactly what UPSC expects. Use this collection to decode the examiner's mindset, not just to test your knowledge. Your success lies in understanding the 'why' behind each question.

# FREE - GS Mains PYQs Discussion

| Date         | Day       | Topic                        | Year |
|--------------|-----------|------------------------------|------|
| 02 June 2025 | Monday    | General Studies Paper 1      | 2024 |
| 03 June 2025 | Tuesday   | General Studies Paper 2      | 2024 |
| 04 June 2025 | Wednesday | General Studies Paper 3      | 2024 |
| 05 June 2025 | Thursday  | General Studies Paper 4      | 2024 |
| 15 June 2025 | Sunday    | General Studies Paper 1 to 4 | 2023 |
| 22 June 2025 | Sunday    | General Studies Paper 1 to 4 | 2022 |
| 29 June 2025 | Sunday    | General Studies Paper 1 to 4 | 2021 |
| 06 July 2025 | Sunday    | General Studies Paper 1 to 4 | 2020 |



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## Polity & Governance

1) 'Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions.

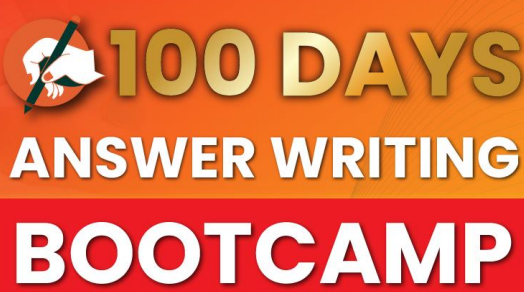
Define constitutional morality

Foundational principles- Rule of Law, Equality, Social Justice

Judicial interpretation of constitutional morality- Sabarimala case, Navtej Singh Johar case, Naz Foundation case, Recent Punjab and Haryana High Court judgement on reservation for locals

Critique- vague, enforceability, subjectivity

Conclusion -



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## 2) Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness.

**Introduction :** The fact that despite having more than 50 percent female population, we have never had a female Chief Justice of India is just the tip of the problem of Gender disparity our higher judiciary faces.

**Body - Part 1 - Justify there is gender disparity in higher judiciary using data**

**Body - Part - 2 - Why female inclusion is important - Diversity and perspective, Addressing Bias, promoting Gender Equality, Women as Role Models**

**Way forward to increase women participation in Higher judiciary - Life Cycle Approach - Encourage taking up legal profession, Reservation in lower judiciary, Flexible and supportive work environment, Awareness Creation**

**Conclusion - Thus as Former Supreme Court Judge Justice Indu Malhotra pointed out "Society as a whole benefits immeasurably when gender diversity is found even on the bench".**

## Still a male bastion

### Slow rise in number of women judges in SC

*% share of women judges in courts*



### 3) How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position?

**Intro : Article of Finance Commission**

**Tabular format of recommendations and their impacts - Increased devolution, Revenue deficit, local body grants, fiscal discipline**

**Issues with state finances - lack of capacity, increasing committed expenditure, increasing revenue expenditure, increased borrowing, lack of own revenue sources etc.**

**Expectations for Future Finance commissions - Greater weightage to population control, incentive based devolution to increase, dynamic monitoring and evaluation, increased role of green finance.**

**Conclusion - Promote balanced regional development and decentralised empowerment.**

| Increased Share of Tax Revenue |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aspect                         | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Devolution of Central Taxes    | The 14th Finance Commission increased the share of tax revenues raised to states from 32% to 42%. This enhancement provided states with greater fiscal autonomy, enabling them to fund their expenditure priorities.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Impact on State Finances       | Total devolution to states increased from Rs. 3.48 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 8.08 lakh crore in 2019-20. This increase significantly boosted the resources available to states for public expenditure.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Empowerment of States          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Aspect                         | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Fiscal Discipline              | Incentivisation of fiscal discipline nudges states towards achieving their FRBM Act targets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Investment in Infrastructure   | As per RBI State finances report, In 2019-20, states are expected to spend 64% more than the central government, a significant change from 46% in 2014-15. Hence, states are assuming greater responsibility in governmental spending in the country. States such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka significantly increased infrastructure spending, improving connectivity and economic growth. |

| Strengthening Fiscal Federalism      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aspect                               | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Revenue Deficit Grants               | For states with revenue deficits, the Commission suggested revenue deficit grants to close the difference.<br>These grants contributed to the states' economic stability by enabling them to meet their spending obligations without taking on unwarranted debt.              |
| Reduction in Inter-State Disparities | The increased fiscal autonomy and resources aimed to reduce inter-state disparities and promote balanced regional development. States were encouraged to invest in human capital, social services, and rural development to foster inclusive growth and bridge regional gaps. |

#### 4) To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?

**Introduction Kesavananda Bharti Case**

**Body Part 1 -mechanisms of parliamentary control -NCM, Question hour, parliamentary committees, budget, debates,**

**Body part 2 - constraints in maintaining accountability - Majoritarianism, limited time and resources, party discipline and anti defection**

**way forward**

**Conclusion - Symphony of democracy**

#### **Suggestions to improve functioning of parliament**

- Parliament can change its rules to give MPs more teeth in questioning the government and empower its committees to become critical stakeholders in the law-making process.
- The CJI has raised concerns over the lack of intellectuals and lawyers in the house. So, the legal community and lawyers should not confine themselves to their profession. They should take the lead and actively participate in social & public life.
- The government can amend the rules of procedure of both the Houses of Parliament under Article 118 of the Indian Constitution. It will make it mandatory to refer bills to the parliamentary committees and prescribing appropriate action against unruly members.
  - Article 118 deals with the rules and procedures of the House
- Review of Anti-Defection law:
  - In order to revive debate and deliberations in Parliament, the use of whip can be restricted to no-confidence motion only.
  - The adjudicating power of the speaker vis-à-vis anti-defection law can be transferred to the Election Commission of India.
- The government can introduce the Legislative Impact Assessment.
  - Every legislative proposal must incorporate a detailed account of social, economic, environmental, and administrative impact for wider awareness and subsequent legal assessment.
  - A new Legislation Committee should be formed in the Parliament to oversee and coordinate legislative planning.

- In order to strengthen the role of the opposition, the institution of the shadow cabinet can be formed in India like Britain.

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**5) Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policymaking in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. (2021)**

**Introduction : Define Pressure Group – WJM Mackenzie's definition/You can also mention since ancient times Trade Guilds and Shrenis Influenced politics**

**Body part 1 : Role of BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS : Advocacy and lobbying+Policy Research and Analysis+Public-Private Partnership+Capacity building and Training+Representation in government committees/task forces**

**Body Part 2 : Concerns regarding Business Associations : (FLOW CHART form) : Crony Capitalism+Influence through electoral funding+Crowding out other pressure groups+Lack of expertise in Public Management**

**Conclusion – Importance**

**6) Besides being a moral imperative of Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development." Analyze. (2021)**

**Introduction : Article 47 for Welfare State and Health and Nutrition**

**Body Part 1 : How Primary Health Care can achieve Welfare State**  
- Reduce OOPE leading to lesser poverty+ Increased Preventive Diagnosis+ Better Nutrition leading to better learning outcomes+ Rural-urban divide bridged+ Immunization leading to increased child survival – Productive demographic dividend

**Body Part 2 : Link the Primary health with Sustainable Development Goals in Tabular form**

**Conclusion : Accessbulity, quality, equity and sustainability of healthcare**

| SDG                       | How Primary Health care helps achieve it                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SDG 3 – Health            | Without an effective primary health structure, the sustainable development goal of ‘Ensuring Healthy Lives and Promotion of Wellbeing for all’ is not possible. |
| SDG 1 – No poverty        | OOPE will reduce + treatment costs reduce + early diagnosis and prevention                                                                                      |
| SDG 2 – No Hunger         | Nutritional Support +Immunization programmes                                                                                                                    |
| SDG 5 – Gender Equality   | Maternal Health + Ante natal and post-natal checkups+ maternity benefits                                                                                        |
| SDG 4 – Quality Education | Childcare and Health                                                                                                                                            |

7) “‘Earn while you learn’ scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful.” Comment

**Introduction : Demographic dividend**

**Body Part 1 : Features of Earn while you learn : Ministry of Tourism+ 18-25 years graduation/PG students+ 21 days training**

**Body Part 2 : Other Such Schemes : NAPS +NATS+PM Fellowship program +PM Internship Scheme**

**Body part 3 : Changes needed – Expanding reach and Accessibility + industry academia linkage deepening  
+practical learning focus+increased duration of training  
+Placements and internship numbers to incentivise+Entrepreneurial training**

**Conclusion :** With half of its population below the age of 25, India is investing in its youth to drive the knowledge economy of tomorrow. (Honourable President)

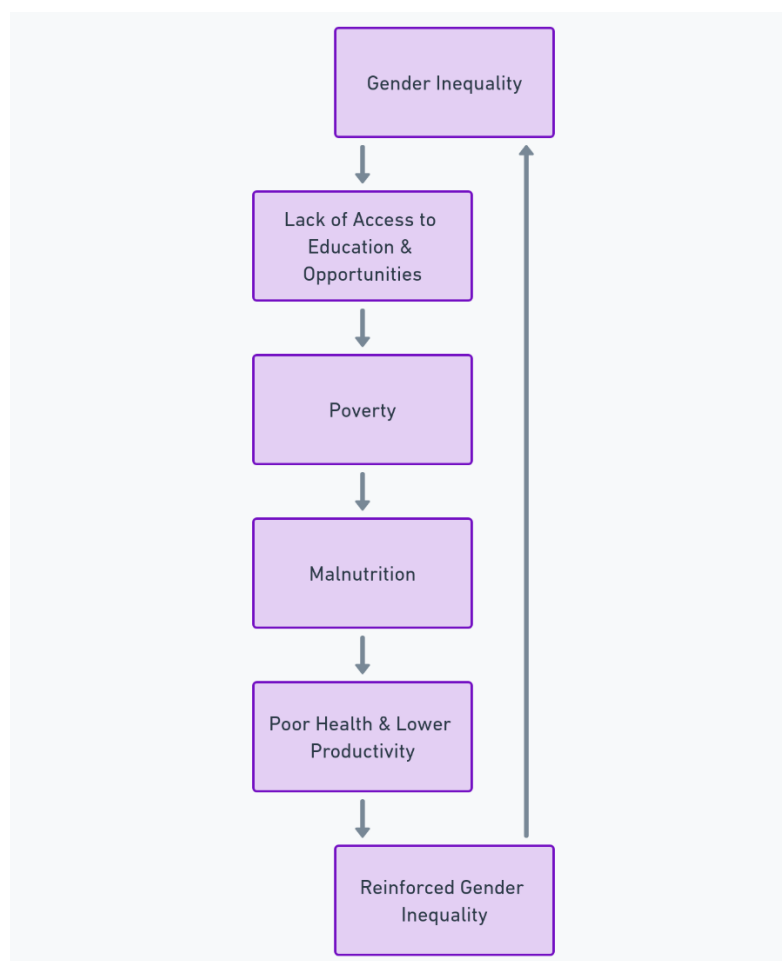
## 8) Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through the microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples. (2021)

**Introduction :** Start with Gender inequality index and how women are at the forefront of Inequality Rank 108 + Draw Vicious cycle

**Body Part 1:** Define SHG – Show from diagram how they work

**Body Part 2 :** How microfinancing helps SHG – Access to working capital+Reduces income disparity+Enhanced decision making power of women +Improved access to nutrition and health investment in children's education+ non farm employment opportunities

**Conclusion :** Thus 4 C's of SHG – Cooperation +Capacity building + Credit + Community Empowerment can lead to breaking the vicious cycle.



## Objectives of an SHG

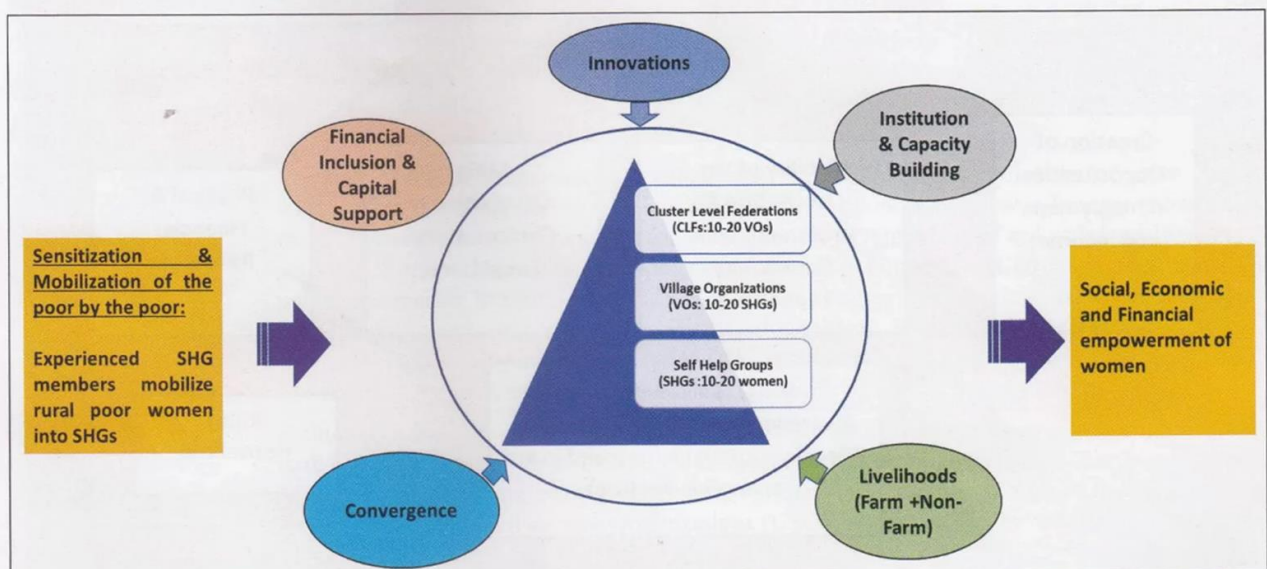
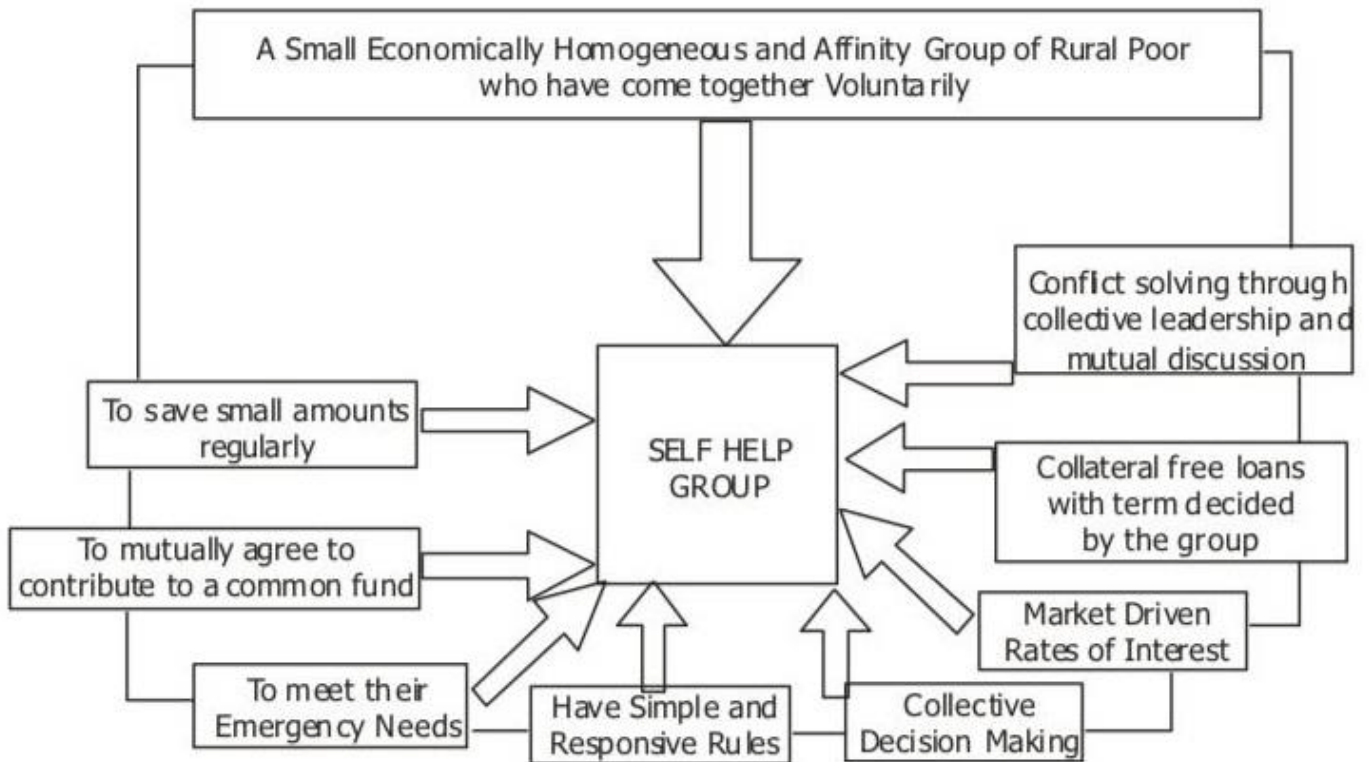
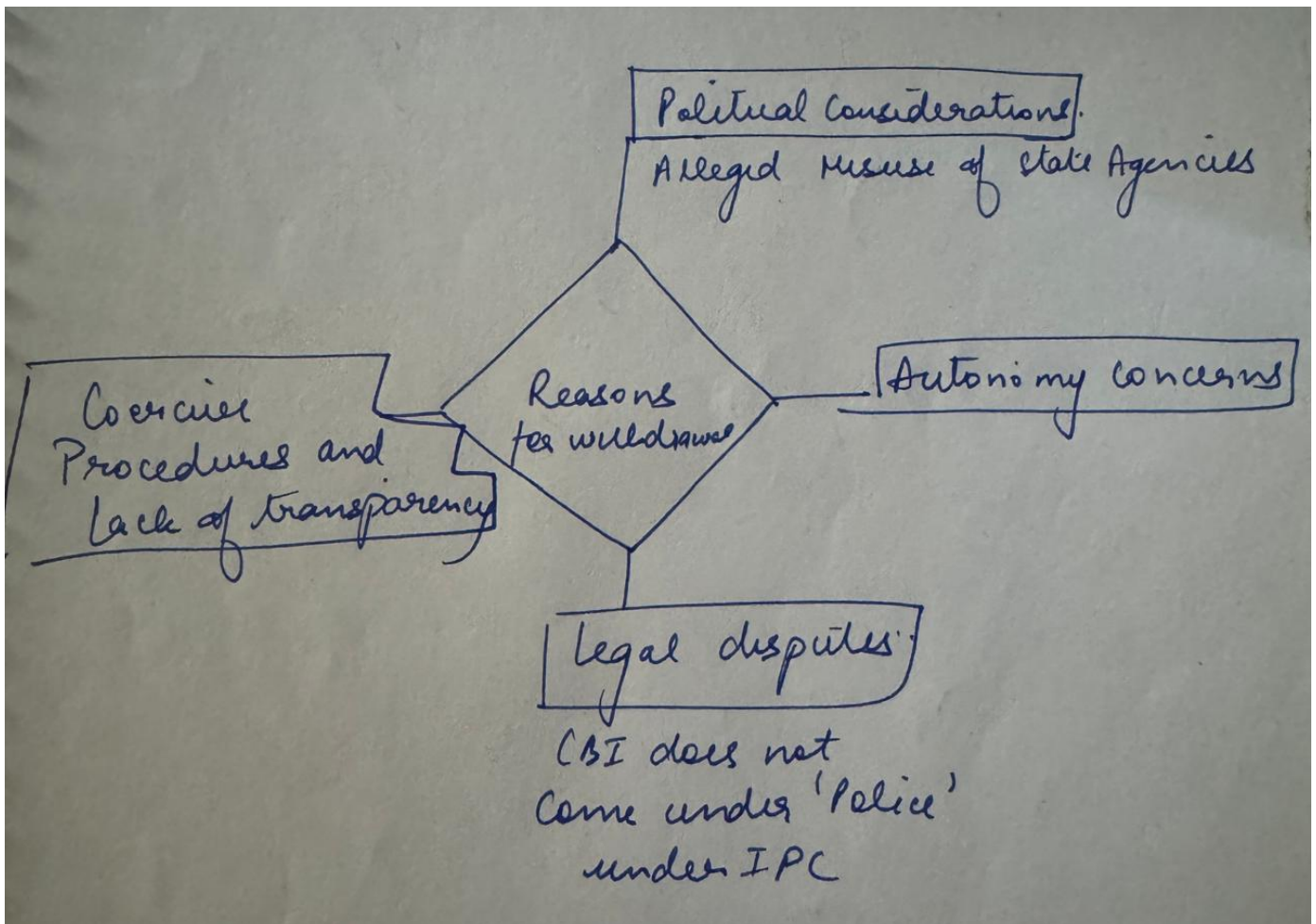


Figure 1: Key Features DAY-NRLM and Institutional Structure of SHGs

9) The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probes within a particular state is being questioned by various States. However, the power of States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India.



- CBI derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (DSPE Act), not from a constitutional provision.
- Under Section 6 of the DSPE Act, CBI needs the **prior consent** of the concerned state government to exercise jurisdiction in that state.
- **General Consent:** Allows CBI to operate without case-specific approval.
- **Specific Consent:** Required when general consent is withdrawn.
- India is a **quasi-federal state**, where **law and order is a State subject** (Entry 2, State List – 7th Schedule)
- Several states like **West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Kerala** have withdrawn general consent citing misuse of CBI
- Supreme Court or High Courts can direct CBI to investigate without State consent under Articles 32 and 226.

- Reiterated that **States can deny consent**, but **judicial orders override** state denial. (CBI v State of Rajasthan 2011)
- Held that High Courts and SC can direct CBI probes without state consent, preserving judicial supremacy.
- If Centre-State dispute over CBI jurisdiction arises, the State may invoke **Article 131**, though it's rarely successful. Although recently WB government suit was held maintainable.
- Federalism in India is **not absolute**; it allows **central agencies limited intrusion** when national interest or fundamental rights are involved.
- Political use of CBI has been alleged; hence, consent withdrawals are also seen as protective federal assertions.
- CBI is **not a statutory body with full independence**, and lacks **constitutional backing**, raising issues of credibility and federal friction.
- Courts have often emphasized the need to balance federalism with the rule of law and justice delivery.
- Multiple law commissions and SC have recommended **statutory status for CBI** and clearer federal guidelines.

### **Additional note**

Madras high Court directions to Central government to ensure CBI's independence and improving its capabilities.

- Consider and take a decision to enact a statute giving more power and jurisdiction to CBI at the earliest
- CBI be given complete financial independence by allocation of separate budget without any administrative control of government.
- CBI director to be given powers as that of the Secretary of Government of India
- CBI director directly reporting to Prime Minister without having to go through Department of Personnel and Training.
- Government should enhance infrastructure facilities at Central Forensic Science Laboratory and establishing at least one CFSL in each of the four zones of the country under the CBI.

10) Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analyzing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. (Answer in 250 words)

Contribution of NHRC - Investigation (Custodial deaths, child labour, forced labor) + Advocacy + Remedial Measures (compensation for 1984 riot victims) + Public outreach (annual reports)

Example of shortcoming- Armed Forces, Manipur, Prison Reforms incomplete

Structutral Limitations -Vacancies, Composition,

Procedural limitations - No enforcing powers, no punishing powers, lack of staff, Old cases cannot be brought etc.

Remedial Measures : Based on recommendations of Committee - Constitutionalisation, Diverse membership, Punitive powers , Increase budget etc.

## 11) Analyze the distinguishing features of the notion of Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India.

**Intro : Constitutional Background for Right to Equality in India/US**

**Body : Key Difference - Formal Equality versus Substantive Equality, Affirmative Action (Constitutional or not), Individual versus community rights , Judicial Activism and its role in equality**

**Table of Examples - Civil rights act 1964, voting rights of 1965, Indira Sawhney judgement**

**Conclusion:** Democracy... is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder; and dispensing a sort of equality to equals and unequals alike. : Plato. Both countries try to tow this line in their own ways

| ASPECT                                       | USA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | INDIA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Conceptualization of Equality</b>         | Emphasizes formal equality, guaranteeing equal treatment under the law regardless of race, gender, religion, or other characteristics. The Fourteenth Amendment ensures protection from discrimination by state governments.       | Adopts both formal and substantive equality. Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws. Articles 15 and 16 prohibit discrimination and ensure equality of opportunity in public employment.                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Affirmative Action and Social Justice</b> | The Constitution does not explicitly mandate affirmative action. Policies have been implemented through legislation and judicial decisions to promote diversity and equal opportunity in education, employment, and other sectors. | Incorporates provisions for affirmative action ("reservations") to address historical inequalities and social injustices. Articles 15(4) and 16(4) provide for reservations in education and public employment for socially and educationally backward classes, SCs, and STs. Article 46 directs the state to promote their educational and economic interests. |
| <b>Equality and Social justice</b>           | Primarily focuses on individual rights and liberties, with limited recognition of group-based inequalities. Laws prohibiting discrimination exist, but the legal framework prioritizes                                             | Recognizes social diversity and collective rights alongside individual rights. The Constitution extends equality to encompass socio-economic equality and protection of marginalized communities,                                                                                                                                                               |

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                             | <b>individual rights over group rights.</b>                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>acknowledging historical disadvantages faced by SCs, STs, and OBCs, and provides provisions for their upliftment.</b>                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Judicial Activism and Interpretation</b> | Equality interpretation has evolved through judicial decisions, with landmark cases like <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> (1954) and <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> (2015) expanding the scope of equal protection. | The judiciary has played a proactive role in interpreting and expanding equality. The Supreme Court has recognized the right to equality as fundamental, intervened to protect marginalized communities, upheld affirmative action policies, and promoted social justice. |



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**12) Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples.**

**Introduction – Westminster Model and parliamentary committee system**

**Body Part 1 – Background and membership of DRSC's,**

**Body part 2 – Functions – Scrutiny of bills, examination of demand for grants, oversight of implementation. Annual reports and policy docs, Special reports along with examples**

**Lacunae in their working – number of sittings declining, delayed process, led involvement, lack of expertise, recommendatory in nature**

**Conclusion – 5D FRAMEWORK**

### **5D Framework for way forward for parliamentary committees**

- **Define:**
  - Clear mandate and composition for each committee.
  - Subject matter experts where needed.
- **Debate & Deliberate:**
  - Pre-legislative scrutiny with stakeholder consultation.
  - Amendment power for refining bills.
- **Demand & Deep-dive:**
  - Scrutiny of government actions and spending.
  - Investigative power for specific issues.
- **Disseminate & Document:**
  - Regular reports with recommendations and action plans.
  - Follow-up mechanisms to track government response.
  - Public dissemination of committee work for transparency.
- **Develop:**
  - Capacity building for committee members.
  - Strong secretariat support with qualified staff.
  - Benchmarking best practices for continuous improvement.

**13) Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification.**

| Aspect                                       | Challenges Due to Digital Illiteracy & ICT Inaccessibility      | Impact on Socio-Economic Development                                                     | Example                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Employment and Economic Opportunities</b> | Lack of digital skills and ICT infrastructure in rural areas    | Limited access to online job portals, remote work, and career advancement                | In India, only 24% of rural households have internet access (NSSO), limiting job opportunities                     |
| <b>Education and Learning</b>                | Inadequate access to digital resources and online learning      | Disadvantaged students with limited digital literacy and access to educational materials | During the COVID-19 pandemic, rural students struggled with online classes due to lack of devices and connectivity |
| <b>Access to Information and Services</b>    | Limited digital literacy and ICT infrastructure in remote areas | Difficulty accessing healthcare, government services, and banking facilities             | Telemedicine programs in areas like Chhattisgarh are hindered by poor digital connectivity                         |
| <b>Digital Divide and Social Inclusion</b>   | Marginalization of elderly, low-income, and rural populations   | Increased social exclusion and perpetuation of socio-economic disparities                | In regions like Bihar, digital illiteracy among the elderly limits their access to social and economic programs.   |

## Digital India - Internet Connectivity Expansion

### Internet Penetration

- Total subscribers (March 2024): 954.40 million
- Rural subscribers: 398.35 million
- CAGR (2014-2024): 14.26%

### Village Connectivity

- Total villages: 6,44,131
- Villages with 3G/4G: 6,12,952 (95.15%)

### BharatNet Project

- Aim: Connect all Gram Panchayats with Optical Fibre Cable
- Total GPs targeted: 2.22 lakh
- Service-ready GPs: 2.13 lakh
- Amended BharatNet: Connect 42,000 uncovered GPs and 3.84 lakh villages on demand
- Target: 1.5 crore rural home fibre connections

### USOF Schemes

- Coverage: 35,680 remote/inaccessible villages
- 4G coverage to ~9,000 villages
- Budget: ₹11,000 crore

### Policy & Regulatory Support

- Licensing amendments (2022) for mobile towers in border areas
- Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules (2016 and updates)
- Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal for faster RoW approvals

14) "Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal." Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?

### Intro :

- Post-independence India has witnessed the rise of iconic women in politics (Indira Gandhi, Sushma Swaraj), science (Tessy Thomas), sports (P.V. Sindhu), and entrepreneurship (Falguni Nayar). However, **social attitudes towards women have remained largely patriarchal**, often expecting women to conform to traditional roles, and casting feminist movements as "anti-family" or "Western" disruptions.



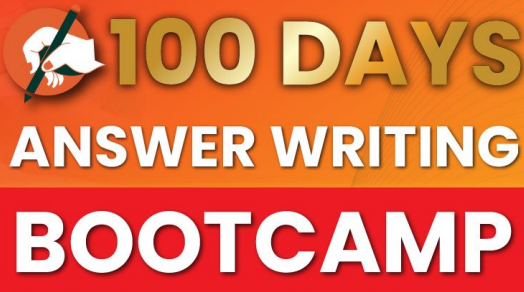
- Curriculum Reform and Gender Sensitization in Schools:** NCERT textbooks should include stories of grassroots women leaders and social reformers like Savitribai Phule. Initiatives like *Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS)* have shown success in Maharashtra.
- Media and Entertainment Responsibility:** Campaigns like *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* gained visibility through media. However, popular cinema must move beyond token feminism. Web series like *Delhi Crime* and *Gullak* are positive shifts.
- Involving Men and Boys:** Programs like *Men Engage Alliance* and *Parivartan* by NGOs work with boys to challenge toxic masculinity and normalize respectful behavior.
- Strengthening Legal Mechanisms:** Fast-track courts for gender-based violence, and community legal awareness drives (e.g., *Nyaaya* platform) can improve access to justice.

- **Grassroots Mobilization:** Women's self-help groups (SHGs) like Kudumbashree in Kerala have shown how economic empowerment can translate into social mobility and confidence.
- **Religious and Cultural Reform:** Encouraging reform within personal laws, as seen in the *triple talaq judgment* (2017), contributes to dismantling patriarchal religious norms.
- **Political Representation Strengthened by 106th Constitutional Amendment Act (2023):** The 106th Constitutional Amendment provides 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. While its implementation is linked to delimitation after the Census, it marks a constitutional recognition of women's rightful place in national leadership.
- To transform India's patriarchal social fabric, interventions must go beyond schemes and laws to reshape attitudes and institutions. With the 106th Amendment guaranteeing political representation, India has taken a historic step. Yet, for true gender parity, change must percolate to homes, communities, and cultural spaces – making equality not just a constitutional provision but a lived experience.

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**15) Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model.**

**Introduction : 1.5 million NGO's operating**

**Body part 1 : Alternative Model : Community Centric+Flexible  
and Innovative+Filling gaps in Bureaucracy**

**Body Part 2 : Challenges of the alternative Model : Ad  
hocism+Accountability mechanism+lobbying+Regulatory issues  
+ Organisational Structure**

**Conclusion - Not a substitute as of now**

**16) Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations.**

**Introduction : Bicameral legislature at state level, legacy of GOI act 1935**

**Body part 1 : Article 169 : Formation of council ; State assembly resolution followed by Parliamentary legislation+ States with councils**

**Body Part 2 : Composition of Council (Diagram) + Limit on strength+ Legislative Process +**

**Role of Legislative council : Deliberative house+ Raise issues of public interest+forum of participatory democracy +Divers perspectives**

**Conclusion - To each state their own**

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17) "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years.

### AFRICA Framework

- **A – Aspirational Diplomacy**
  - India sees Africa as a partner in **South-South Cooperation**.
  - **India-Africa Forum Summits (IAFS)** show commitment to long-term partnership.
  - Voice for **reformed multilateralism** – UN Security Council reform, etc.
- **F – Financial & Development Assistance**
  - **Lines of Credit (LoCs)** worth billions to over 40 African countries.
  - Key projects: **power plants, water projects, railways, ICT infrastructure**.
  - **Grant assistance** in education, capacity building (e.g., ITEC, Pan-African e-Network).
- **R – Resource Diplomacy**
  - Africa rich in oil, gas, uranium, and rare earth minerals.
  - India's energy security: Oil from Nigeria, Angola; uranium from Namibia.
  - India's interest in food and farm land investments.
- **I – Investments & Trade**
  - India is among top 5 investors in Africa.
  - **Bilateral trade** crossed \$90 billion (target \$150 bn).
  - Focus sectors: **Pharmaceuticals, IT, telecom, infrastructure**.
- **C – Connectivity & Culture**
  - Cultural diplomacy via diaspora (3 million+ of Indian origin).
  - Scholarships, yoga, ICCR programs, Bollywood popularity.
  - Maritime ties under SAGAR vision – Indian Ocean outreach.
- **A – Anti-China Alternative & Security Partner**
  - Africa cautious about China's debt-trap diplomacy; India projects itself as a credible, democratic partner.
  - Defence cooperation: Training African forces, joint exercises like AFINDEX.
  - Counterterrorism and anti-piracy operations in the Western Indian Ocean.

18) "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain.

### CHINA Framework

#### **C – Comprehensive Power**

- Unlike the USSR (military-focused), China poses a **multi-dimensional challenge**:
- Economic, Technological, Military, Diplomatic, Cultural
- China is **deeply embedded** in global trade, supply chains, and institutions.

#### **H – High-Tech Rivalry**

- China is closing the gap in **AI, semiconductors, quantum computing, 5G**.
- Example: Huawei vs US bans; TikTok data war; Chip manufacturing race.
- USSR never posed a tech innovation threat at this scale.

#### **N – Networked Economic Influence**

- China is the **largest trading partner** for over 120 countries.
- BRI (Belt & Road Initiative) expands China's influence across Africa, Asia, Europe.
- USSR lacked this level of global economic integration.

#### **A – Assertive Global Posture**

- Aggression in South China Sea, Taiwan issue, India border, and economic coercion.
- China is **redefining international norms** (e.g., debt, data, sovereignty).
- USSR was contained; China is actively **expanding and influencing**.

## 19) Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. what importance does it hold for India?

### 4C Analysis Framework

- **Context:** Understand the background and purpose of the SCO.
- **Content:** Examine the aims and objectives of the SCO.
- **Critique:** Critically evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges of these aims and objectives.
- **Connection:** Analyze the importance of the SCO for India, linking it to India's strategic, economic, and geopolitical interests.

### Context

- The SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organization founded in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.
- It evolved from the Shanghai Five (1996) to address regional security, counter-terrorism, and economic cooperation.
- Current members include China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and Central Asian states, with observer states and dialogue partners like Iran (joined 2023) and Turkey.
- The SCO covers about 60% of Eurasia's landmass, 40% of the global population, and a significant share of global GDP.

### Content- (Aims & Objectives of SCO)

- **Security Cooperation:** Combat the "three evils" – terrorism, separatism, and extremism; promote regional stability through the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).
- **Economic Integration:** Foster trade, investment, and connectivity through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) alignment and energy cooperation.
- **Political Coordination:** Strengthen mutual trust and good-neighborly relations among member states; promote a multipolar world order.
- **Cultural and Humanitarian Ties:** Enhance people-to-people exchanges, education, and cultural cooperation.

### Critique- Strengths

- Provides a platform for dialogue among major powers (China, Russia, India) and Central Asian states, fostering regional stability.
- RATS has facilitated intelligence sharing and joint counter-terrorism exercises.
- Economic initiatives promote connectivity in a resource-rich region (e.g., Central Asia's energy resources).
- Offers a counterbalance to Western-dominated institutions like NATO or the UN.

## **Critique- Weakness**

- Dominated by China and Russia, which may limit the influence of smaller members or India.
- Conflicting interests among members (e.g., India-Pakistan tensions, India-China border disputes) hinder cohesive decision-making.
- Economic initiatives like BRI raise concerns about debt traps and China's geopolitical dominance.
- Limited global influence compared to other multilateral organizations due to its regional focus.

## **Connection (Importance for India)**

### **Strategic Importance:**

- Enhances India's role in Eurasian geopolitics, providing a platform to engage with China, Russia, and Central Asia.
- Strengthens India's counter-terrorism efforts through RATS, especially against Pakistan-based terror groups.
- Offers a non-Western platform to project India's multipolar worldview, aligning with its non-alignment policy.

### **Economic Benefits**

- Access to Central Asia's energy resources (oil, gas, uranium) supports India's energy security.
- Potential for trade and connectivity through projects like the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), though India remains cautious of BRI.

### **Geopolitical Leverage**

- Balances India's relations with Russia (a traditional ally) and China (a strategic rival) in a multilateral setting.
- Enhances India's stature as a regional power, complementing its role in forums like BRICS and G20.

**20) The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario.**

### SPICE Framework

- **Situation:** Provide context on AUKUS and its formation in the Indo-Pacific geopolitical landscape.
- **Purpose:** Outline the aims of AUKUS and its focus on countering China's ambitions.
- **Impact:** Evaluate the strengths and impact of AUKUS in the current regional security and strategic environment.
- **Comparison:** Analyze whether AUKUS will supersede existing partnerships like the Quad, Five Eyes, or ASEAN-led frameworks.
- **Evaluation:** Critically assess the challenges, limitations, and broader implications of AUKUS for the Indo-Pacific region.

### Situation

- AUKUS, formed in September 2021, is a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, aimed at enhancing security in the Indo-Pacific.
- The Indo-Pacific region is a critical geopolitical arena due to China's growing military assertiveness, territorial claims (e.g., South China Sea), and economic influence.
- Existing partnerships like the Quad (India, Japan, Australia, US), Five Eyes (US, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand), and ASEAN-led frameworks (e.g., ASEAN Regional Forum) address regional security, economic, and diplomatic challenges.

### Purpose

- Pillar I: Focuses on providing Australia with conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines to enhance maritime deterrence and power projection in the Indo-Pacific.
- Pillar II: Emphasizes collaboration on advanced technologies, including AI, quantum computing, cyber capabilities, hypersonics, and electronic warfare, to counter China's technological and military advancements

### Impact

- Enhances maritime security through joint patrols and surveillance, deterring China's actions in contested areas like the South China Sea.
- Promotes economic benefits via defense industry growth and technology development, creating jobs and innovation.
- Signals a robust Western commitment to countering China, potentially encouraging other nations to align with AUKUS Pillar II.

- Recent developments, such as the 2025 US budget allocating \$79.8 million for Pillar II and discussions to include Japan, indicate growing momentum

## Comparison

- AUKUS is a focused, defense-centric pact, unlike the Quad's broader agenda (e.g., vaccines, infrastructure, maritime security). It complements rather than replaces the Quad.
- Five Eyes focuses on intelligence-sharing, while AUKUS emphasizes military hardware and technology development, ensuring distinct roles.
- ASEAN-led frameworks prioritize regional diplomacy and inclusivity, which AUKUS does not directly challenge but may sideline due to its exclusionary nature.

## Evaluation

- Regional Tensions: China views AUKUS as a "bloc-to-bloc confrontation," escalating tensions and potentially triggering an arms race.
- Nuclear Proliferation Concerns: ASEAN states like Indonesia and Malaysia worry about nuclear proliferation risks, despite AUKUS's focus on non-nuclear-armed submarines.
- Exclusionary Nature: Excluding France, India, and ASEAN states risks trust deficits and perceptions of an "Indo-Pacific NATO."
- Implementation Hurdles: Regulatory barriers (e.g., ITAR, EAR) and insufficient funding (e.g., \$79.8M vs. private sector R&D) limit Pillar II's scalability.

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