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Q1. Western secularism keeps the State away from religion, while Indian secularism lets the State step in to reform it. How far does this power to intervene weaken the State's neutrality? Comment. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. 'One nation, one election' is promoted to save money and reduce constant campaigning. Critically evaluate its likely impact on the accountability of governments to voters. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. Rights are enforceable, but duties are left to conscience. Does citizenship survive on rights alone, and what must hold the two together? Comment. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. When Parliament lays down only the principle and a ministry writes the rules, who is really making the law? How far should executive rule-making run before it trespasses on the legislature? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. Distinguish between the protection property enjoyed as a Fundamental Right before the 44th Amendment of 1978 and the weaker protection it has had since, as an ordinary legal right under Article 300A. Discuss what this downgrading, made to ease land reform, reveals about the balance between individual property and social justice. **(15 marks)**

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Q2. In the light of coalition allies and even ministers now dissenting in public without resigning, how far does the unwritten convention of collective responsibility still bind the Council of Ministers? **(15 marks)**

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Q3. At a jan sunwai under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), villagers reading the muster roll expose works paid for but never built. Comment on the potential and limits of social audit. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. Greater inner-party democracy would make India's parties more accountable to their members but harder to lead. Discuss.
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Q1. India's courts face mounting pressure to clear a vast pendency of cases. Should clearing this backlog take priority over the quality of justice? Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q2. Article 371 provisions were meant to be temporary, yet endure. What does their persistence reveal about Indian federalism? **(10 marks)**

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Q3. A State orders an All-India Services officer to halt a central-scheme audit; the Union directs her to proceed. Whose authority should govern her decision, and what does it reveal about whom the steel frame serves? **(15 marks)**

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Q4. Should Lok Sabha representation follow population when it penalises states that controlled theirs? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. Trade-union decline in India is better explained by liberalisation than by the unions' own politicisation. Discuss. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. The President normally acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers, yet a hung mandate or a contested bill can reopen genuine choice. Comment on the President's discretionary space in the Indian constitutional system. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Does a judge's acceptance of a government post soon after retirement cast doubt on the judgments delivered before it? Critically evaluate the implications. **(15 marks)**

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Q4. A bill is certified a Money Bill by the Speaker, leaving the Rajya Sabha only to recommend, and the certification is contested. When the Speaker's word is final, how far is bicameralism left intact? **(15 marks)**

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Q5. 'A disruptive opposition is democracy working, not democracy failing.' Do you agree? Substantiate. **(15 marks)**

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Q6. Private members' bills are almost never passed, yet defended as essential. Critically evaluate. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. India accommodated its many languages rather than impose one. Discuss whether this has been weakness or strength for national unity. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Ambedkar warned of a life of contradictions: political equality alongside social and economic inequality. Did universal adult franchise at once deepen that contradiction or begin to resolve it? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. Why did the same force of nationalism that unified Germany and Italy go on to tear Europe apart? Discuss its double-edged character. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. To what extent did the Russian Revolution shape India's freedom struggle and early economic thinking? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. 'Non-violence is a creed, not a policy.' Comment on whether, for Gandhiji, it was an unshakeable moral principle rather than a chosen political strategy. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. To what extent was independence won by ordinary people and forces the towering leaders did not control? **(15 marks)**

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Q3. The revolutionaries are honoured for their sacrifice while the ideas they fought for are forgotten. Has popular memory done them justice? **(10 marks)**

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Q1. Western education, meant to serve colonial administration, produced the leaders who challenged it. Discuss this unintended consequence. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. The colonial state passed the Vernacular Press Act in 1878, repealed it in 1881, then reached for censorship again in wartime. Critically analyse why a confident empire kept returning to press control, and what it reveals about the Indian-owned press. **(15 marks)**

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Q3. Critically evaluate how far Partition by 1947 owed more to avoidable political choices than to inevitable communal division, and suggest what this history teaches about handling deep social cleavages. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. A raga once sung only in a temple is now performed in a ticketed concert hall. Has the move from shrine to stage enriched the music or hollowed out its devotional soul? **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Distinguish between the Mughal court tradition of painting and the devotion-and-myth of the Rajput schools. Discuss whether such art reflected the society around it or only the tastes of its patrons. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. India shaped the art and architecture of Southeast Asia without ruling it. To what extent does this 'conquest without arms' reveal the nature of cultural power? **(15 marks)**

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Q4. A Bharatanatyam recital fills a state-funded auditorium while a Warli or Gond artist sells the same evening at a roadside stall for a fraction of the price. How do you explain this gap between cultural value and cultural status? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. Joshimath cracks under construction load, Mumbai's reclaimed wards settle, Kolkata's deltaic foundations soften, while neighbouring areas stay stable. Discuss why some Indian cities sink while others beside them do not. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Large Himalayan hydropower cannot be justified until glacial-lake outburst flood risk is mapped and managed. Critically analyse. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. A heat wave kills more outdoor workers in one Indian city than in another at the same temperature. Discuss what this asks of how cities are planned and built, not merely how they are warned. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. A flash flood strikes at 2 a.m. before any agency mobilises; the first responders are neighbours with boats. Does this make the trained community the real first line of defence, or only the unavoidable one until the State arrives? **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Faced with the next flood, a state can hold a relief fund or buy insurance that pays out on a pre-set trigger. Which should anchor India's disaster financing? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. A tiger reserve seeks to relocate a village whose residents hold Forest Rights Act titles. How far can genuine forest conservation proceed without the consent of those who live in the forest? **(10 marks)**

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Q2. When a herd raids a village, the State owes the farmer compensation and the elephant protection, and the corridor that would prevent the raid runs through his only field. Whose loss should the State weigh first? **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Invasive species like lantana do greater long-term damage than the visible pollution that dominates attention. Do you agree?
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Q4. India counts a monoculture plantation and an old-growth forest in the same tree-cover figure, even as natural forest shrinks. Discuss what this counting hides and what it encourages. **(15 marks)**

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Q5. A circular economy is a more durable answer to plastic than bans. Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. India loses topsoil far faster than it forms. To what extent is soil degradation a graver long-term threat to food security than any other resource constraint? **(10 marks)**

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Q2. The Sundarbans are retreating and the Godavari and Krishna deltas are starved of the silt that once built them. Discuss whether dams upstream or the rising sea poses the greater threat to the survival of India's deltas. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Western disturbances are shifting the sowing windows for North India's winter wheat. To what extent can better forecasting, rather than a change in the cropping calendar, protect the rabi harvest? **(10 marks)**

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Q4. India spans nearly two hours of solar time on one clock. How far is the case for a separate north-east time zone justified? **(15 marks)**

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Q5. The river basin, not the state, should be the unit of water planning. Critically analyse. **(15 marks)**

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Q6. The Arabian Sea, once far quieter than the Bay of Bengal, has produced a run of severe cyclones. Discuss what this overturns in the west coast's risk assumptions, and what Mumbai or Kochi must now plan for. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. India risks trading dependence on imported oil for dependence on imported minerals. Comment. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Ethanol blending leans on the crops that strain India's land and water. Discuss whether second-generation biofuels from waste can resolve this. **(15 marks)**

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Q3. A state can keep farm power free and watch its water table fall, or meter it and risk the next election. Which is the more defensible choice for a government answerable to both its farmers and its aquifers? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. On a city's edge, a single stretch of land is claimed at once by farms, a factory, a housing colony and the forest department. Comment on whether land has become India's hardest resource conflict to resolve. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Saving India's fisheries will require capping catches now, even at the cost of fishers' incomes. Discuss. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Dhanbad sits on coal, Keonjhar on iron ore, Bastar on bauxite, yet all three rank among India's poorest districts. Comment on why mineral wealth has so consistently failed to become local development. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. India's low and U-shaped female labour-force participation is driven more by the nature of the jobs on offer than by social norms. Critically analyse. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. 'The State has no business owning a hotel, an airline or a bank.' Do you agree? Substantiate. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. Corporate profits are high, rates have eased and taxes were cut, yet private firms have not invested at scale for a decade. Discuss this reluctance, and suggest what would crowd investment back in. **(15 marks)**

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Q2. To what extent does India risk the middle-income trap? **(15 marks)**

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Q3. The Reserve Bank of India should support growth and employment alongside its price-stability target. Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q4. A delivery rider values setting his own hours but has no cover when an accident stops him for a month. Comment on the bargain India should strike between his flexibility and his security. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. India softens inequality with cash transfers while taxes on wealth and inheritance are absent and the income-tax base is narrow. Critically evaluate whether its tax-and-transfer system can correct the rich-poor gap. **(15 marks)**

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Q2. Services-led growth created a small high-productivity sector while most workers stay in informal services. Comment on whether it can deliver good jobs at scale. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Do you agree that a legally guaranteed Minimum Support Price would serve Indian agriculture? Substantiate. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. The claims for natural farming, namely lower costs, restored soils and undiminished yields, rest more on advocacy than evidence. Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q5. A bumper crop crashes the onion price; an export ban rescues the consumer but brands India an unreliable supplier abroad. Which constituency should trade policy serve when consumer, farmer and foreign buyer pull three ways? **(10 marks)**

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Q1. India should permit commercial cultivation of genetically modified food crops to raise yields, despite ecological and health concerns. Discuss. **(15 marks)**

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Q2. To overcome small holdings, India can back Farmer Producer Organisations, contract farming, or land-leasing markets. Which best fixes the scale problem, and what does each cost the smallholder? **(10 marks)**

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Q3. As India processes more of its food, it eats more ultra-processed food and develops more diet-related disease. Comment on this hidden cost. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. How far would conclusive State-guaranteed land titles advance the unfinished agenda of land reform? **(10 marks)**

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Q5. More infrastructure spending will not lower India's high logistics costs without far better integration of its transport networks. Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. India has a respected space programme but a tiny share of the global space economy. Comment on whether opening the sector to private companies can close that gap. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. For the industries hardest to decarbonise, green hydrogen is a more promising route than efficiency and direct electrification. Do you agree? **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Regulate Artificial Intelligence now and risk strangling a young industry; wait, and risk its harms hardening before the law arrives. Which error should India rather make? **(15 marks)**

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Q4. A clinic offers to edit an embryo to spare a child a fatal disease, though the same tool could one day select for traits like height. Discuss where India should draw the line on editing the human genome. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. India's research and development spend is about 0.65% of national income and overwhelmingly state-funded, while innovation leaders had private firms doing the spending. Is the deeper problem the amount of research money or its source? **(10 marks)**

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Q2. A pensioner is turned away from her monthly pension because her fingerprints, worn by age and labour, no longer authenticate on the system that paid her for years. Comment on whether Digital Public Infrastructure at a billion-person scale inevitably trades some people's exclusion for everyone's convenience. **(15 marks)**

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Q3. Asset monetisation has been called both 'selling the family silver' and 'making lazy capital work'. Which is the fairer description of leasing out public assets to finance infrastructure? **(15 marks)**

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Q4. A growing share of the Union's revenue comes from cesses and surcharges, outside the divisible pool. To what extent is this eroding the states' rightful share of central taxes? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. An officer admits to herself that she carries an inherited dislike for a particular community, an attitude absorbed unconsciously from her upbringing, yet she also believes she has always served every citizen at her counter without discrimination. Critically examine the gap that can open between a privately held attitude and outward administrative behaviour, and explain whether a civil servant can be considered ethical merely by acting fairly while the underlying prejudice remains unexamined. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. During a disaster relief drive a District Officer faces a grieving family that pleads, with great emotion, for a benefit for which they are clearly not eligible under the relief norms. The officer feels deep sympathy and is tempted either to bend the rule or to turn cold and dismissive to end the encounter. Discuss how the competencies of emotional intelligence, particularly self-regulation and empathy as described by Daniel Goleman, can help such an officer remain both compassionate and honestly firm, and explain why mere emotional detachment is not the same as emotional intelligence. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. An honest officer may privately believe that a struggling shopkeeper should be spared a heavy penalty for a minor licensing lapse, yet the law and her public duty require her to impose it without favour. Ethics, law and personal morality usually point the same way, but in office they can pull apart. Critically examine whether what is morally good for a public servant in private life is always what the law and the public role permit, and bring out whether private conscience and public duty should be held to a single standard or kept distinct. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. The ethics a person owes to a close friend or to her own community is not the same as the ethics a public servant owes to the office she holds in trust for citizens. A quiet request from a friend, or an expectation from her own community, can pull against her impartial public duty. Discuss how the obligations of a private relationship differ from the obligations of a public office, and how a conscientious public servant should order the two when personal loyalty collides with public duty. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Objectivity asks a civil servant to decide on the evidence and the merits rather than on her own preference, and dedication to public service asks her to place the public good above personal advantage. Both can be hard precisely where she has discretion and a stake in the outcome. What do you understand by objectivity and dedication to public service as foundational values? Explain with examples how an officer can keep a discretionary decision objective and service-first when her personal conviction or self-interest pulls the other way. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. A young officer grows up absorbing the values of her family, her community and her school, and these inherited values shape her conscience long before she ever reads the Constitution. Sometimes a value she received at home, such as deference to elders within her own social group or a quiet preference for her own community, sits uneasily with the constitutional values of equality and impartiality that her office now demands of her. Comment on the roles that family, society and educational institutions play in inculcating values, and on what a public servant should do when an inherited social value conflicts with a constitutional value. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Kautilya writes in the Arthashastra, "In the happiness of his subjects lies his happiness; in their welfare his welfare; whatever pleases himself he shall not consider as good, but whatever pleases his subjects he shall consider as good." Elucidate what this teaching demands of anyone who holds public power, especially where the ruler's own preference or convenience pulls against the welfare of the people, and explain with an example how it can guide a public servant's everyday decisions. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Immanuel Kant writes in the Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, "So act that you treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, always at the same time as an end, never merely as a means." In administration, an officer is often tempted to treat a citizen, a subordinate or a beneficiary merely as a means to a target, a statistic or a desired outcome. Analyse what Kant's teaching demands of a public servant, and explain with an example how treating every person as an end in herself, never merely as a means, should shape an administrator's conduct. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, in his final address to the Constituent Assembly on 25 November 1949, observed: "However good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot." Elucidate what this observation demands of those who hold public office, and explain, with an example, how the personal integrity of a public servant can decide whether a sound law serves or fails the citizen it was written for. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. An administration that is strictly accountable insists that every officer act only by the written rule and remain answerable for each step, while an administration that is responsive expects the same officer to use discretion and bend the routine to meet a citizen's genuine and urgent need. Critically examine whether rule-bound accountability and responsiveness to the public are in genuine conflict in everyday governance, or whether a sound ethical work culture can hold the two together without either drifting into rigidity or into unaccountable favour. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. A professional who moves between a government department and a private firm finds that the two carry different first loyalties: the public office is meant to answer to the citizen and the public interest, while the private institution is meant to answer to its owners and the pursuit of profit. Discuss whether the ethical concerns and dilemmas faced in government and in private institutions are different in kind or only in degree, and examine what an individual should do when the loyalty owed to the institution that employs her collides with her own conscience and the wider public interest. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. Laws, rules and regulations give a public servant a clear and defensible standard to act upon, while conscience supplies an inner judgement of right and wrong that no rulebook can fully capture. Comment on the statement that the law and the rulebook should always be the first source of ethical guidance for a civil servant, and conscience only the last, and bring out what an officer ought to do when a lawful written instruction appears to her conscience to be plainly unjust. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. A public office is held in trust for the people who are governed, and not as a personal entitlement of the one who occupies it. Yet the same office carries real authority over funds, appointments and decisions, which can quietly be used for private advantage or to oblige one's own circle. Examine the idea that public office is a public trust, and bring out how this single idea separates probity in governance from the mere use of office as personal power. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. The Right to Information Act, 2005 made openness the norm and secrecy the exception, so that a citizen can see how a decision in government was actually taken. At the same time, officers worry that every file noting may be made public, and some grow cautious and slow in recording honest opinions on file. Discuss whether the citizen's right to information genuinely conflicts with the confidentiality and candour that honest file work seems to need, and whether transparency and frank decision making can be reconciled in the same office. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. A code of conduct lists what a public servant may not do and punishes the breach, while a code of ethics holds up the values a public servant should aspire to, and trusts conscience to do the rest. It is sometimes argued that only an enforceable code of conduct can actually secure probity, because an aspirational code of ethics asks for goodwill that cannot be compelled. Do you agree? Bring out the distinct roles of the two codes and consider whether probity in governance can rest on enforcement alone. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. A citizens' charter publicly promises a fixed standard and time limit for each service, such as a ration card or a pension within so many days, and so converts the citizen from a supplicant into a holder of an entitlement. In practice many charters are displayed on a wall and then quietly ignored, with public funds spent on the promise but not on its honest delivery. Comment on the gap between the promise of a citizens' charter and its actual delivery, and bring out what an ethical use of public funds demands of the officer who signs that charter. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. A civil servant is expected to remain politically neutral and to serve the government of the day with equal sincerity, whichever party holds office. At the same time, the same servant is expected to be responsive to the policy direction of the elected government and to carry out its programmes with energy. Critically examine whether political neutrality and non-partisanship genuinely conflict with responsiveness to the elected government, and explain where a public servant should draw the line so that loyal implementation does not slide into partisanship. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. While building the All India Services, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel advised the political executive in the Constituent Assembly that a civil servant must be allowed to express an opinion "without fear or favour", and warned that a service which cannot speak its mind freely will not hold the country together. Elucidate the human value of fearless and candid counsel that this lesson carries, and explain, with an example, how a serving officer can offer honest advice to superiors and the political executive while still respecting their authority to take the final decision. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. An honest officer adopts a means that is entirely proper, a fair and open tender, yet the outcome harms the very poor she meant to serve, while a colleague who quietly bends a procedure secures a far better result for them. A human action carries a moral weight in its intention, in the means it uses, and in the consequences it produces, and these three do not always point the same way. Examine whether the rightness of an administrative act should be judged chiefly by the propriety of the means it employs or by the goodness of the consequences it brings about, and bring out how a civil servant may hold the two together. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Tiruvalluvar, in the chapter on the Right Sceptre in the Tirukkural, writes: "The king all the whole realm of earth protects; And justice guards the king who right respects." (Tiruvalluvar, Tirukkural, Couplet 547). Here the one who wields authority protects the realm, yet his own protection rests not on the power he holds but on the justice with which he holds it. Elucidate what this couplet demands of a public servant who is tempted to use the powers of office for personal gain or favour, and explain, with an example, how the idea that fairness alone secures lasting authority can guide everyday administrative decisions. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Describing the conditions under which fair principles of justice would be chosen, John Rawls writes that behind a veil of ignorance "no one knows his place in society, his class position or social status, nor does anyone know his fortune in the distribution of natural assets and abilities, his intelligence, strength, and the like." (John Rawls, A Theory of Justice). The thought is that a rule is fair if we would accept it without knowing which side of it we will fall on. Critically analyse how this idea of deciding as if one did not know one's own place can help a public servant frame an impartial policy on the allocation of a scarce public good, and consider whether a decision-maker who already knows the circumstances of real, identifiable people can genuinely set that knowledge aside. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. It is often said that probity is rarely lost in a single large act. More commonly it wears away through many small accommodations, each one defended as harmless or as the way things are done here. A young officer who once refused even a cup of tea may, after a few years of overlooked files, hurried sanctions and quiet favours to seniors, no longer notice that her integrity has shifted. Critically examine why personal probity tends to erode gradually under everyday institutional pressure rather than collapsing at once, and bring out what allows some public servants to hold their integrity firm where others slowly give way. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. A municipal commissioner finds that the law clearly permits her to grant a building completion certificate to a developer who has met every written requirement, yet she knows that the approved plan, though lawful, will block the only natural drain serving a poor settlement downstream and expose those residents to flooding. The rule book points one way and her conscience points the other. Comment on how a public servant ought to resolve a dilemma in which a lawful course and an ethical course pull in opposite directions, and explain which principle should finally guide the decision when the letter of the law and the spirit of public good do not agree. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. A large company, after a costly fraud, sets up an elaborate code of conduct, an ethics training calendar and a confidential vigil mechanism for its directors and employees, and declares its governance reformed. A sceptic argues that ethics cannot really be taught to an adult, that codes and trainings only sharpen the dishonest, and that integrity rests on character formed long before anyone joins an office. Do you agree that ethical competence can be genuinely strengthened through training, codes and institutional safeguards, or does sound conduct ultimately depend on prior character that no programme can supply? Discuss with reference to both private institutions and public service. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. A senior official must decide on a regulatory clearance for a company in which he still holds a modest block of shares inherited some years ago. He is confident that so small a holding will not sway his judgement and is reluctant to step aside, since he is the most experienced person available to take the call. Examine whether a public servant's private confidence in his own honesty is a sufficient safeguard against conflict of interest, or whether the appearance of a private financial stake shadowing a public decision is by itself enough to require recusal. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. It is often said that a person of conscience should be able to speak up against wrongdoing without needing the shelter of any law. Yet in practice honest officials stay silent unless the system promises to protect them from retaliation. Comment on why institutional safeguards for whistleblowers are necessary for honesty to function inside an organisation, and bring out the limits of such protections in actually encouraging disclosure. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Neha Kulkarni is a newly posted Block Development Officer in charge of a rural housing scheme that pays subsidies directly to eligible poor families. While reconciling the muster rolls she finds that her immediate senior, who is also her reporting officer and a long-time mentor, has been entering the names of fictitious beneficiaries and routing the released funds to a few private accounts. The senior is widely respected, is months away from retirement, and has quietly helped Neha Kulkarni through her difficult early postings. When she raises the matter privately, he tells her that the leakage is small, that exposing it will damage the office and her own career, and that she should let it pass. Her colleagues advise silence, since complaints against seniors rarely succeed and often rebound on the complainant.

- (a)** Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues involved in this situation.
- (b)** What options are available to Neha Kulkarni? Evaluate the merits and demerits of each.
- (c)** What is the most appropriate course of action for her? Justify your answer with the rules, principles and protections that govern her decision.

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Q1. Ms. Asha Menon is the Public Information Officer of a district welfare department. An applicant under the Right to Information Act, 2005 seeks the complete file relating to the sanction of disability pensions in a particular ward, including the medical certificates of every beneficiary and the internal notings written by individual junior clerks who processed the cases. The applicant claims the file will expose favouritism. Ms. Menon finds that the file does contain a few irregular sanctions, but the same papers also carry intimate medical details and the disability status of dozens of poor beneficiaries who are not accused of any wrongdoing, along with frank personal opinions recorded by named junior staff. A senior officer privately advises her to reject the request outright in the name of privacy, while a local activist warns her that any refusal proves a cover up.

- (a)** Identify the stakeholders involved and bring out the ethical issues at stake in this request.
- (b)** What options are available to Ms. Menon between full disclosure and outright refusal? Examine the merits and demerits of each.
- (c)** What is the most appropriate course of action for her, and how should she balance transparency against the privacy of third parties? Justify with the rules and principles that govern her decision.

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Q2. Mr. Rajeev Bhatt is the head of a State Pollution Control Board regional office in a backward district. A large textile-dyeing factory there employs nearly two thousand local workers and is the area's only major source of formal jobs. Routine testing shows that the factory has for months been discharging untreated effluent into the river that supplies drinking water to several downstream villages, in clear breach of its consent conditions. The unit's owner, supported by a delegation of worker representatives and local traders, pleads that any closure or heavy penalty will destroy livelihoods and frighten away future investment, and offers to install treatment equipment slowly over two years. Senior functionaries hint that Mr. Bhatt should record a soft warning and look the other way for now. He must decide what enforcement action to take.

- (a)** Identify the stakeholders and the principal ethical issues raised by this situation.
- (b)** Discuss the options before Mr. Bhatt, weighing the merits and demerits of each.
- (c)** Recommend the course of action he should adopt, and justify it with reference to the environmental statutes and principles that bind him.

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Q3. Ms. Kavita Rao chairs the Internal Committee constituted under the workplace sexual-harassment law in a large government office. A junior woman employee on probation has filed a written complaint alleging persistent sexual harassment by a senior officer who is widely regarded as powerful, well connected and on the verge of a promotion. Soon after the complaint is filed, the complainant is informally warned by colleagues that her probation could be terminated, and Ms. Rao receives quiet messages from above urging her to treat the matter as a misunderstanding and close it without a full inquiry to protect the office's reputation. The accused denies everything and demands that the complaint be dismissed as motivated. Ms. Rao must decide how to proceed with the inquiry.

- (a)** Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues that arise in this case.
- (b)** Critically examine the options open to Ms. Rao, bringing out the merits and demerits of each.
- (c)** What is the most appropriate course of action for her, and how should she ensure a fair inquiry while protecting the complainant? Justify with the relevant law, guidelines and service conduct rules.
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Q4. Mr. Sunil Deshmukh is a procurement officer evaluating competing bids for a multi-crore supply contract. One of the bidders is a firm in which Mr. Deshmukh's brother-in-law is a senior partner, though the firm is not in his own name. As the evaluation enters its final stage, the proprietor of that firm sends Mr. Deshmukh a costly gift on the occasion of a family wedding, arranges an all-expenses-paid family holiday described as a goodwill gesture, and hints that a comfortable advisory position will await Mr. Deshmukh in the firm after his retirement, which is not far away. Nothing has been asked of him in so many words, and a colleague tells him that everyone quietly accepts such courtesies. Mr. Deshmukh must decide how to handle both the contract and the offers.

(a) Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues involved.

(b) Analyse the options available to Mr. Deshmukh, evaluating the merits and demerits of each.

(c) What is the most appropriate course of action for him, and how should he insulate the decision from any conflict of interest? Justify with the conduct rules and anti-corruption provisions that govern his position.

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Q5. Dr. Meera Iyer is the medical superintendent of a district government hospital during a severe seasonal outbreak of viral fever that has filled the wards. At one point only two intensive-care beds remain free, and three critically ill patients arrive at almost the same time: a young daily-wage labourer with the best chance of full recovery, an elderly farmer who came in first but whose prospects are poorer, and the ailing relative of a powerful local notable whose office telephones Dr. Iyer directly to demand priority and hints at consequences for the hospital if it is refused. The duty doctors look to her for a rule to follow. Dr. Iyer must decide who receives the two beds and on what basis.

(a) Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues raised by this allocation.

(b) Critically analyse the options before Dr. Iyer, bringing out the merits and demerits of each criterion she might apply.

(c) What is the most appropriate course of action for her, and what fair and defensible principle should govern the allocation? Justify with reference to medical ethics, the right to health and the duty to resist undue influence.

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Q1. Tara Sundaram is the product manager for a popular home water purifier at a large private manufacturing company. Three days before a nationwide launch already backed by heavy advertising, her quality team quietly flags that a faulty valve in one batch can, in rare cases, allow contaminated water to pass through undetected. A recall and redesign would delay the launch by two months, cost the company a large sum, and very likely cost Tara Sundaram her promotion, which her seniors have linked to an on-time release. Her marketing head argues that the failure rate is statistically tiny, that no incident has yet occurred, and that the company can fix it silently in the next production cycle without alarming customers or regulators. Tara Sundaram must decide what to recommend to the board.

- (a)** Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues involved in this situation.
- (b)** Evaluate the merits and demerits of the options available to Tara Sundaram.
- (c)** What is the most appropriate course of action for her, and justify it with reference to the duties and principles that govern her decision.

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Q2. Ravindra Naik, a District Collector, is directed to acquire land for an irrigation reservoir that will benefit several drought-prone districts downstream. A part of the submergence zone falls in a Scheduled Area where tribal families have farmed and lived for generations, and the Gram Sabha has refused consent, fearing that the promised rehabilitation will never reach them as it failed earlier displaced families nearby. Senior officials remind Ravindra Naik that the project is a state priority, that thousands will gain assured water, and that delay invites political and administrative displeasure. He is also told informally that the Social Impact Assessment can be hurried and the consent process treated as a formality. Ravindra Naik believes the public benefit is genuine, yet he cannot ignore the broken promises that haunt these families.

(a) Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues involved.

(b) What options are available to Ravindra Naik, and bring out the merits and demerits of each.

(c) Which course of action should he adopt, and justify it with the rules and principles that govern his decision.

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Q3. Sunita Joshi, a municipal officer, receives a written order to clear a long-standing cluster of street vendors who have spread onto a busy pavement near a market, causing congestion that residents have complained about for months. Most of these vendors are migrants who have sold vegetables and tea there for years, and the eviction would fall in the middle of the monsoon, when finding alternative space is hardest and a daily wage missed means a meal lost. The order is lawful and the encroachment is real, yet the local town vending committee that the law requires has never been properly constituted, and no survey or alternative vending zone has been offered. Her superior wants the pavement cleared within forty-eight hours and treats Sunita Joshi's hesitation as softness.

- (a)** Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues involved.
- (b)** Discuss the options available to Sunita Joshi and assess the merits and demerits of each.
- (c)** What is the most appropriate course of action for her, and justify it with the rules and principles that bear on her decision.

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Q4. Imran Qureshi heads the technology unit of a state welfare department that holds a large database of beneficiaries, including their Aadhaar-linked details, collected to deliver a food subsidy. His superior, a senior administrator, asks him to quietly extract the contact details and addresses of beneficiaries in a particular region and hand them over to a unit running an unrelated outreach drive, arguing that the data already exists, that it is for a good cause, and that seeking fresh consent would only slow things down. Imran Qureshi knows the people gave their information for the subsidy alone and were never told it could travel elsewhere. Refusing may be read as obstructing a well-meaning superior and could mark him as difficult, yet complying would use citizens' data for a purpose they never agreed to.

- (a)** Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues involved.
- (b)** Critically examine the options before Imran Qureshi, bringing out the merits and demerits of each.
- (c)** What course of action is most appropriate, and justify it with the principles and provisions that govern his decision.

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Q5. Deepak Sharma, a section officer who clears building-plan approvals, has on his desk an application from a small businessman, Mahesh, whose papers are entirely in order and who is legally entitled to approval. Mahesh's loan instalment is due and every week of delay bleeds him, so he offers Deepak Sharma a sum of money, framing it not as a bribe but as a thank-you to move his genuine, lawful file ahead of the long queue. Deepak Sharma feels real sympathy: the file deserves to clear, the man is not corrupt, and the office routinely sits on such files for weeks. Accepting would cost the public nothing visible and help an honest applicant, yet it would mean taking money to do what duty already requires, and would push others further down the queue.

(a) Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues involved.

(b) Analyse the options open to Deepak Sharma, evaluating the merits and demerits of each.

(c) What is the most appropriate course of action, and justify it with the rules and principles that should guide his decision.

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Q6. Lakshmi Nair chairs the interview board for a competitive recruitment to a state service. Among the shortlisted candidates is the nephew of a powerful official who has done much to advance Lakshmi Nair's own career and who now calls to say, warmly but unmistakably, that he would be grateful if the young man were helped across the line. The nephew is competent but clearly weaker than two other candidates who have no backing and whose families have pinned their hopes on a fair contest. Lakshmi Nair can adjust the interview marks within the board's discretion without leaving an obvious trail, and a small tilt would settle the matter quietly while keeping a valued benefactor pleased. She knows that the marks she awards will decide whether the selection is made on merit or on connection.

(a) Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues involved.

(b) Comment on the options available to Lakshmi Nair and the merits and demerits of each.

(c) What is the most appropriate course of action for her, and justify it with the principles and rules that govern her decision.

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Q1. Groupings like the Quad and the India-Israel-United States-United Arab Emirates (I2U2) bloc issue joint declarations for years without treaties or secretariats. Comment on what they have actually delivered, and whether informality explains the gap between rhetoric and result. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. India presents itself as the voice of the Global South, yet as it grows richer its interests on carbon, trade and debt part ways with the poorest nations. Discuss whether it can still credibly lead the Global South. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. 'A foot in every camp can become a leg in none.' As the world hardens into blocs, is multi-alignment India's shrewdest strategy or a comfort it can no longer afford? **(15 marks)**

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Q2. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor must cross a region in conflict and raise vast financing before it can move a single container. To what extent is it a realistic prospect? **(15 marks)**

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Q3. India stayed out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership to protect domestic producers. Critically analyse this decision, and suggest measures to safeguard those producers while keeping India's options in regional trade open. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. Despite 'Neighbourhood First', India's influence in South Asia has slipped. How far is this loss of ground of India's own making? **(10 marks)**

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Q2. India presses China to share data and consult on its upstream dams on the Brahmaputra, yet as the upper-riparian power on the Teesta and the Ganga it faces the same demand from Bangladesh. Critically evaluate whether India's conduct upstream matches the standard it asks of China. **(15 marks)**

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Q3. The World Trade Organization's Appellate Body has had no functioning members since December 2019, leaving its dispute-settlement system paralysed. Comment on how this loss of the one forum to challenge the trade actions of far more powerful economies affects India. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. After three decades of pressing for a permanent United Nations Security Council seat with little to show for it, is it time for India to stop asking? Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. India fields world-class commandos yet runs a constable-to-citizen ratio below the United Nations norm. On which does its internal security truly rest, and why has it invested in the first while neglecting the second? **(10 marks)**

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Q2. A young man self-radicalises entirely online, joins no organisation and meets no handler, so an apparatus built to watch groups never sees him. How far can a system designed for organisations counter radicalisation that reaches the individual? **(10 marks)**

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Q3. After every major attack an inquiry finds the warning existed but never reached the right desk. Is the surer fix a single fusion authority, mandated inter-agency sharing protocols, or a change of institutional culture? **(10 marks)**

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Q4. The armed forces are India's most capable instrument against its hardest internal threats, yet every internal deployment dulls their war-fighting edge and draws them into civilian affairs. Critically analyse. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. India's anti-terror laws permit years of detention but secure a conviction in a small fraction of cases. Is this low conviction rate the price of pre-emption, or proof that the law fails at both security and justice? Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q2. An adversary spreads disinformation, funds proxies and applies economic pressure, all while staying below the threshold that would justify a military response. How should India answer aggression that never quite crosses into war? **(15 marks)**

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Q3. Cryptocurrencies and virtual digital assets have opened a channel for money laundering and terror financing that India's banking-era controls cannot easily track. Comment. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. In the light of the view that securing India's frontiers depends as much on keeping its remote border villages alive and connected as on fences and troops, critically analyse how India should weight the two. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. Three decades after the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act banned sex determination, the child sex ratio remains skewed, and worsens in several prosperous, highly literate districts. Comment on why rising prosperity and literacy have not dissolved son preference. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Dowry in India shows that legal prohibition alone cannot eliminate a practice rooted in patrilineal inheritance and hypergamous marriage norms. Critically evaluate the claim that law is therefore a weak agent of social change. **(15 marks)**

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Q1. In the light of women navigating the Indian city around fear, avoiding streets, hours and routes that men use without a thought, discuss what this unequal access to public space costs Indian society and what would make the city belong equally to women. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. India's demographic dividend yields growth only when matched by jobs and skills, and its window is already closing in the ageing south even as it stays open in the north. Critically analyse whether India is equipped to seize the dividend before it passes. **(15 marks)**

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Q3. Advertising and social media place the lifestyles of the rich and of the West before India's young every day, lifting their wants well beyond their means. What is this widening gap between aspiration and means doing to their behaviour, from consumer debt to the pressure to migrate? **(10 marks)**

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Q4. A district's water, sanitation and housing schemes are run by state parastatals and special-purpose agencies, while the elected panchayat and municipality meant to deliver them look on. Discuss what this spread of parallel bodies does to local self-government. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. The one-third reservation of seats for women in panchayats reshaped local politics yet entrenched proxy rule through the 'sarpanch-pati.' Reserving seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will reproduce this proxy representation rather than transcend it. How far do you agree? **(10 marks)**

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Q2. As men move to non-farm work, women now perform most of India's farm labour, yet under 14% hold operational land titles and few are recorded as cultivators, denying them credit, inputs and scheme benefits. To what extent does invisibility in law and data, rather than effort, constrain the woman farmer? **(15 marks)**

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Q3. The statutory separation of kinship from property has turned the joint family from a property corporation into a domestic unit, severing the legal ties that once bound lineage to inheritance. Comment on the social costs and gains of this shift. **(15 marks)**

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Q4. "Communal conflict in India is less a clash of religious belief than a contest for political and economic power fought in the language of religion." Comment. **(10 marks)**

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Q5. The last full Census is now several years overdue and several large surveys stand delayed or disputed. Why does India keep framing far-reaching policy on so thin and dated an evidence base, and what does this cost the design and evaluation of public policy? **(15 marks)**

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Q1. Strong regional and linguistic identity in India, expressed through sons-of-soil sentiment, anti-migrant feeling and river-water disputes, is more a healthy feature of federal democracy than a threat to national integration. Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q2. The Right to Information (RTI) Act promised an informed citizenry, yet the applicant today meets delay, evasion and a mounting backlog of appeals. Critically analyse whether this gap between promise and practice owes more to the law's design, to weak implementation, or to an administrative culture that resists disclosure. **(15 marks)**

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Q3. Independent regulators in markets, telecom and electricity wield rule-making, executive and adjudicatory powers at once, yet answer to neither Parliament nor the electorate. Comment on the accountability deficit of this unelected 'fourth branch'. **(15 marks)**

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Q4. The Self-Help Group (SHG) model rests on peer guarantee, with members standing surety for one another's loans. When a shock like drought strikes every member at once, this collective liability turns from a strength into a shared fragility. Discuss. **(10 marks)**

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Q5. Welfare entitlements remain anchored to a single registered home, leaving India's hundreds of millions of internal migrants uncovered at both origin and destination, as the 2020 pandemic starkly revealed. Comment on portability, exemplified by One Nation One Ration Card, as the missing principle of Indian welfare. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. A metropolitan, dual-income professional family has given up its caste occupation and public ritual, yet still screens for caste in arranging marriages and choosing whom to trust. In urban India, education and prosperity change the form of caste more than they end it. Discuss. **(10 marks)**

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Q2. Political parties increasingly compete by promising free power, cash and goods, straining state finances even as basic public services stay underfunded. Comment on where welfare ends and unsustainable populism begins in India. **(10 marks)**

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Q3. Tighter foreign-funding rules and the labelling of advocacy groups as anti-development have curbed the watchdog role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), even as concerns over foreign influence and accountability are real. Critically analyse what these curbs mean for the health of Indian democracy, and suggest measures to regulate NGOs without disabling their watchdog role. **(15 marks)**

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Q4. Most welfare in India is delivered as discretionary schemes a government can expand or withdraw at will, while only a few benefits are legal entitlements. To what extent should welfare in India be founded on justiciable rights? **(15 marks)**

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Q5. India's expansion of insurance and health schemes masks the reality that out-of-pocket spending still deters the poor from seeking care. Do you agree? Substantiate. **(10 marks)**

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Q1. Three decades of opening to global trade and capital have produced an India deeply connected to the world economy beside one largely shut out of its gains. Distinguish between globalisation having widened economic inequality in India and its having chiefly made an older inequality more visible, and analyse why the distinction matters. **(15 marks)**

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Q2. The Right to Education Act drove enrolment above 96 percent, yet surveys find nearly half of Class-5 children cannot read a Class-2 text. By measuring inputs and attendance rather than learning, the system optimised schooling over outcomes. Critically evaluate. **(15 marks)**

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Q3. India's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has fallen sharply over the past decade, yet child undernutrition has barely improved and India's Global Hunger Index ranking remains poor. Discuss why a retreat of income poverty has not brought a matching retreat of hunger. **(10 marks)**

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Q4. "These people are the instruments. Remove them, and I see nothing but a picture of chaos all over the country." Sardar Patel defended a permanent civil service for its insulation from political change, yet every civil servant must loyally carry out the distinct agenda of each elected government in turn. Comment on the tension between the civil servant's permanence and political neutrality. **(10 marks)**

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