

**BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI**

**Second Semester (2022-23)**

**GS F243: Current Affairs**

**Comprehensive Examination (Closed Book)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**12 May 2023**

**Max Marks: 80**

**Instruction: Read all the questions very carefully and answer them based on your readings, classroom interactions, and your own experiences.**

**Q.1** The SCO meeting of Foreign Ministers held in Goa recently should have been used as an opportunity to create an environment for the resumption of India-Pakistan dialogue, which has remained completely blocked for nearly a decade now. However, the Foreign Ministers of both the countries (India and Pakistan) stuck to their old stand and did not engage bilaterally. How do you see the outcome of this meeting? In your opinion, do you think the Foreign Minister of India was right in not engaging with Pakistan bilaterally during the SCO meeting? Write your opinion in about 350 words justifying your arguments. **(15 Marks)**

**Q.2** In recent months the Chief Justice of India and the Law Minister of Govt. of India have sounded at the loggerheads regarding appointments of judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court. It looks as if they do not trust each other. The counter arguments between the CJI and the Law Minister have created a feeling among the people that the Indian judiciary is averse to bringing any transparency and accountability in judicial appointments. At times they also feel that the government is trying to influence the judges' appointments which will ultimately affect the independence of Indian judiciary system. Analyze the above statement in the light of current tussle between the law ministry of government of India and the supreme court on judicial appointments in high courts and the supreme court. Write your answer in about 400 words specifying your stand on the whole issue. **(20 Marks)**

**Q.3** Artificial Intelligence has been the real disruptive technology which has impacted one and all in different ways. The disruption has been so deep, serious, and large that it has compelled the AI experts, researchers, technocrats, and business leaders to rethink on any further development in this field. Now AI has even been called "recipe for destruction" and compared with "Chernobyl". More than a thousand AI experts, researchers, technocrats, and business leaders have signed a letter asking for at least a six-month complete hold on AI related work. As a science and engineering student how do you see these developments. Write your answer in about 400 words justifying your arguments with convincing and appropriate examples. **(20 Marks)**

**Q.4** Based on our discussion in the class and also your own reading, mention three provisions in NEP 2020 which have the potential to bring a major change in Indian education system and briefly discuss why you consider them 'game changers'. **(15 Marks)**

**Q.5** Read the opinion article printed on the other side of this page and write a critique (strengths and weaknesses in the argument) of this article in about 300 words. **(10 Marks)**

\*\*\*\*\*