RECEIVED
01 SEP 2023

NEXT IAS

NEXT IAS (Head Office) : 27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar no. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro, New Delhi-110060
Bhopal Centre: Plot No. 46, ZONE-2, M.P. Nagar, Bhopal-462011
Ph: 8081300200, 8827664612 | E-mail : mts@nextias.com | **Web:** www.nextias.com

(To be filled by candidate)

Name of Candidate : ATIF

Roll No. : MT23RCA PA069

Registration Number : ..... Date of Examination : 30/Aug/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

Test - 6

Code : TC708

RCA Batch 2023

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This Question-cum Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 56 pages. Immediately on receipt of the booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.

Candidates must read the instructions on this page and the following pages carefully before attempting the paper.

Candidates should attempt the questions strictly in accordance with the instructions specified in the question paper and in the space prescribed under each question in the booklet. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.

Question paper will be provided separately and can be taken by the candidates after conclusion of the exam.

.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....

[To be filled by the STUDENT]

Student's Queries for the Evaluator (if any write them below)

[To be filled by the EXAMINER]

Evaluator's response

(For filling by Examiners only)

Evaluator Code :

Q.No	Pg No.	Maximum Marks		Marks	Total
1	1				
2	3				
3	5				
4	7				
5	9				
6	11				
7	13				
8	15				
9	17				
10	19				
11	21				
12	24				
13	27				
14	30				
15	33				
16	36				
17	39				
18	42				
19	45				
20	48				
Grand Total					

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.

DONT'S

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question-cum-Answer Booklet.
2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any leaves from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

Candidates must not write on this margin

1. "अंतरराज्यीय सीमा विवाद, यदि शीघ्र और निष्पक्षतः नहीं सुलझाए गए, तो स्थायी विवादित मुद्दों में परिवर्तित हो सकते हैं जो विकास में बाधक बनते हैं और टकराव या संघर्ष उत्पन्न करते हैं"। अंतरराज्यीय विवादों को हल करने के लिए संवैधानिक और विधिक ढाँचे पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, स्पष्ट कीजिए कि स्वतंत्र भारत अंतरराज्यीय सीमा विवादों को सुलझाने में क्यों विफल रहा है। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Interstate border disputes, if not promptly and impartially settled, can transform into persistent issues that impede development and generate friction". Highlighting the constitutional and legal framework to resolve interstate disputes, explain why independent India has failed to resolve inter-state border disputes. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Interstate border disputes in India has always been addressed in Ad hoc and issue based manner and not through consistent policy of Boundary demarcation. This leads to

(i) Impartial settled border.
(ii) Not properly/prompty settle
(iii) Emergence of persistent issue.
(iv) Creation of friction.

Eg: Assam border issue.
Maharashtra - Karnataka issue.

Framework to resolve issue

(A) **Constitutional**

(1) Inter state Council - to adress border issues - 2nd ARC recommended

(2) Parliament via Rajya Sabha debate

(3) Rajya Sabha as house of states

(4) Finance Commission for financial issue.

(5) GST council.

(6) Article 3, 4 - border reorganisation

Candidates must not write on this margin

legal framework

1. NITI Ayog. for Co-operative federalism
2. Regional council for regional issues
3. Chief Ministers conference to address issues.

Failure in resolution of border disputes

1. Ad hoc nature to deal with issues
2. No official policy to deal with border issue
3. Politically motivated reorganisation
4. Change in stances & recommendations of Committee - Eg JVP committee said no to linguistic basis, Fazl Ali approved it.
5. More of Political settlement less of Governance issue.
   - Eg North East reorganisation ignoring geography
6. Complacency in resolving (Eg) Delay in Telangana, though they demanded since independence

Hence, need coherent and streamline issue involving all stakeholders and utilising Constitutional body like Inter state Council to address issues.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. ऊर्ध्वाधर (केंद्र–राज्य) और क्षैतिज (अंतर–राज्य) अंतर–सरकारी सहयोग और समन्वय को बढ़ावा देने में अंतर–राज्य परिषद् की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Examine the role of the Inter-state Council in promoting vertical (Centre-State) and horizontal (Inter-State) Intergovernmental cooperation and coordination. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Inter State council is a constitutional body comprising of States and centre representatives headed by Prime Minister as Chairman

Role of Inter State Council in Vertical co-operation & Coordination

(1) To address Federal issues like
- (i) tax devolution (Eg) New GST regime
- (ii) Trade across nation.
- (iii) National Policy changes.
  (Eg) Trade Union laws 2020.
- (iv) Issues of Concurrent list.
  (Eg) Farm laws bill.
  Co-operation Ministry.
- (v) Use of Security forces in States
  (Eg) CBI - general consent.

(2) To bring & settle disputes like role of Governor appointments as suggested by Nat. Com. on working of Constitution

Candidates must not write on this margin

Role in horizontal Co-op & Co-ordination

(1) Address disputes like:
   (a) River water sharing. (Eg) Kaveri
   (b) Border disputes. (Eg) Maha-Karnataka
   (c) Trade & inter state migration
      (Eg) COVID lockdown.
   (d) Son of soil movement
      (Eg) Gujrat Maharashtra.

(2) Coming on common platform. Ex issues like GST compensation.

(3) Role of Centre enchroachment into state & concurrent list disputes.

(4) State reorganisation Settlement

(5) Settlement for foreign policy coherence.
   (Eg) Tamils Issue.
   Teesta dispute.

Hence. Inter state council is required effective mechanism to promote co-operation & coordination federalism

Candidates must not write on this margin

3. लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) के प्रमुख कार्यों पर चर्चा कीजिए। सार्वजनिक धन के सच्चे संरक्षक के रूप में इसकी प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए लोक लेखा समिति (पीएसी) में सुधार के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए?
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the key function of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). What steps should be taken to revamp the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in order to enhance its effectiveness as a true guardian of public funds?
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Public Account Committee was created in 1921 and now act as Gaurdian of Public Purse.

Key functions

1. Scrutinise bills and grants before the house.
2. See the effectiveness and efficiency of proposed schem.
3. Suggest measures to enhance efficiency.
4. Non-political suggestions beyond party lines.
5. Role of Experts as invited to guide on specific issues.
6. Tabling of report to parliament.
7. CAG acts as freind, Philosphr & Guide to PAC.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Steps to be taken to enhance effectiveness :

(1) Reason by Parliament for non acceptance of recommendations.

(2) Promoting convention of non ruling party heading it.

(3) Greater Capacity building through digitalisation & by data Analytics

(4) Expansion of term from 1yr to determine with lok sabha term as when ~~the~~ member gain experience they have to learn.

(5) Support from executive in small details of project.

(6) Expanding mandate to recommend future policies.

This will help promote functioning & effectiveness of PAC.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4. राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक विकास के चालक के रूप में नगरीकरण की अहम् भूमिका को स्वीकार करते हुए, पंद्रहवें वित्त आयोग ने शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) के लिए प्रमुख सुधारों का सुझाव दिया है। भारत में यूएलबी को बढ़ावा देने और पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए पंद्रहवें वित्त आयोग द्वारा दी गई सिफारिशों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Recognizing the pivotal role of urbanization as a driver of national economic growth, the Fifteenth Finance Commission has suggested major reforms for Urban Local Bodies. Evaluate the recommendations put forward by the Fifteenth Finance Commission in promoting and revitalizing ULBs in India.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

NEXT IAS

Candidates must not write on this margin

Candidates must not write on this margin

5. मौलिक अधिकारों की तुलना में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के तहत् प्रदान की गई वाक् और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के दायरे में प्रमुख अंतरों पर प्रकाश डालिए। संसदीय विशेषाधिकार और मौलिक अधिकारों के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखना क्यों आवश्यक है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Highlight the key differences in the scope of Freedom of speech and expression as provided under Parliamentary privileges vis a vis Fundamental rights. Why is it necessary to maintain a balance between parliamentary privilege and fundamental rights? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Parliamentary Privileges under Article 105 overrides the Freedom of Speech & Expression (FOSE) under Article 19.

Key differences

Parliamentary Privilege	FOSE
(1) Nature: General privilege	Fundamental right.
(2) Only to Parliamentary	To citizens.
(3) Parliament can suo motu make & remove it.	Subject to basic structure.
(4) Fundamental to free discussion	Fundamental to human life.
(5) Generally disputes resolved via Privilege Committee	Resolved via Judiciary
(6) No Contempt notice	Can attract contempt.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Necessary ~~for~~ to balance both

1. Both complimentary (not different) to democratic governance.
2. Privileges should not be misused to limit or criticise general Public
   - Eg: Rahul Gandhi convicted in ~~defa~~ ~~defa~~ ~~defa~~
3. There should be robust in house Parliamentary mechanism to address its breech.
4. Privileges Committee should be non-political.
5. ~~Sta~~ Privileges should not be used to settle personal issues.

Hence, need robust balance to promote essence of democracy & Speech & Expression

Candidates must not write on this margin

6. नागरिक समाज संगठन, "सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्रवाई" को बढ़ावा देने में महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। स्थानीय संसाधन जुटाने (एलआरएम) और निगमित सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (सीएसआर) के माध्यम से कॉर्पोरेट (निगमों द्वारा) वित्तपोषण प्राप्त करने में उन्हें किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है? साथ ही सार्थक उपाय भी सुझाएँ। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Civil society organizations, play a pivotal role in fostering "collective private action for the public good". What challenges do they face in local resource mobilization (LRM) and corporate funding through corporate social responsibility (CSR)? Also, suggest measures. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Civil Societies are called as invisible engines as they play pivotal role in collective private action for public good.

Challenges they face

(A) local resource mobilisation

(1) lack of knowledge of local terrain, demography and profile.

(2) lack of access to govt data. of Poverty, hunger.

(3) lack of Connect with Gram Sabha

(4) Red tapism ~~tedeo~~ by bureaucracy when they harness local resources

(B) Pond collective farming needs govt approval.

Candidates must not write on this margin

CSR issue

1. Top down approach.
2. Lack of convergence between Govt institution & Pvt sector.
3. Lack of Convergence with SDG.

Ways to address it

1. Joint forum at district level.
2. Headed by MLA to know nitty gritties of local area
3. Handholding by Gram Sabha.
4. Decentralised CSR and coherence with national goal.
5. Mimic best practices of CSR.

How it will promote substantive democracy

Candidates must not write on this margin

7. गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में पहला कदम कार्यक्रम के डिजाइन, कार्यान्वयन और निगरानी के लिए आवश्यक विश्वसनीय गरीबी मूल्यांकन करना है। इस संदर्भ में नीति आयोग के राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक की पद्धति और महत्त्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The first step to eradicating poverty is reliable poverty assessment for program design, implementation, and monitoring. In this context discuss the methodology and significance of NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, NITI Ayg MPI said India took 13.5 Crore people out of poverty from 2015-2019

Methodology

(1) 3 dimensional approach.
12 parameters.
a) Health quality
b) Education (Eg) drop out
c) Quality of life
(Eg) Sanitation
Pucca house.

(2) Household Survey done.

(3) Extrapolating data to national level.

(4) Sector wise data analysis & result

Candidates must not write on this margin

Significance

(1) Sector wise scheme evaluation
(2) Analysis at regional & Block level
(3) Analysis at Rural - Urban level.
(4) Pan India reliable data.
(5) Almost all parameter Covers in general.
(6) Help in data driven policy making
   (Eg) Swach Bharat Mission.
(7) Help in creation of Public infrastructure.
   (Eg) Waste treatment plant

Thus, MPI helps in eradication of Poverty through data driven Policy

Candidates must not write on this margin

8. भारत के संदर्भ में, संवैधानिक प्रावधानों, कानूनी पूर्व–उदाहरणों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं की उपस्थिति के बावजूद, जो स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार के लिए एक मजबूत आधार स्थापित करते हैं, इस अधिकार की स्पष्ट कानूनी मान्यता का अभाव क्यों रहा है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In the context of India, despite the presence of constitutional provisions, legal precedents, and international commitments that establish a robust foundation for a right to health, why has there been a lack of explicit legal recognition of this right? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

35% of Indian face malnutrition accordg to NFHS-5.

Lack of Explicit recognitus

(1) Right based approach will increase fiscal burden

(2) Large population to address So humungus task.

(3) Lack of political will

(4) Reliance on Private sector & NGO to come up ~~with~~ filling loopholes.

(5) Lack of Civil sector actions in Health Sector

Candidates must not write on this margin

⑥ Lack of People activism & sensitivity towards health as right.

Mechanism

① UNDHR → right to health as human right

② Supreme Court → R2 health part of Fundamental Duty

③ Ayushman Bharat → Right based approach to universal

Way forward

① Promote sensitivity to health

② Right based approach via law.

③ Expand Public expenditure to 3% of GDP — Nat Health Policy 2017

Thus will address the right to health as basic human right.

Candidates must not write on this margin

9. ब्रिक्स राष्ट्रों की सामूहिक शक्ति असंख्य मुद्दों पर सार्थक सहयोग की अनुमति देती है, हालाँकि, द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के प्रक्षेप पथ को प्रभावित करने की मंच की क्षमता सीमित है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
The collective strength of BRICS nations allows for meaningful cooperation on myriad issues, however, the platform's ability to influence the trajectory of bilateral relationships remains limited. Do you agree? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, BRICS has expanded its membership from 5 to 11 including new developing countries like Argentina, Ethopia, Iran, Saudi and UAE

This shows collective strength of Global South, ~~and~~ developing world and alternative to west dominated Global order like New dev bank, Currency swap agreement, etc

Co-operation in issues

(1) Climate change and say of Global South
(Eg) CBDR

(2) WTO negotiations collective needs
(Eg) Agriculture peace clause

(3) Alternative to ~~co~~partial global governance institutions like UNSC.
(Eg) New development Banks.

(4) Address terrorism Collectively.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Bilateral issues may influence it

(1) China - India : dispute on border and trade deficit.

(2) Russia - China : border dispute.

(3) Saudi Vs Iran : Shia Sunni dispute

(4) Closeness of South Africa to China.

(5) Russia China nexus creating uneasiness to India.

They can resolve dispute as they have done it in past, through ways like

(1) Addressing bilateral issues bilaterally and not breaking Group
   (Eg) Mamallapuram Spirit India China

(2) Talks on Sidelines of BRICS to address bilateral issue.

(3) Role of neutral mediator.
   (Eg) Russia in India - China.

This is reflected in recent 2023 Summit where Indian PM & China Premier met despite issues on border to promote South South Solidarity

Candidates must not write on this margin

10. सिंधु जल संधि में संशोधन की हालिया माँगों के आलोक में, भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच जल-बंटवारा व्यवस्था पर पड़ने वाले इसके संभावित प्रभावों की चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In light of the recent demands to amend the Indus Waters Treaty, discuss the possible implications it could have on the water-sharing mechanism between India and Pakistan.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, Post Phulwama attack it was demanded to amend Indus water treaty.

Lacunae in treaty

1. Greater share to Pakistan.
2. Indias we only ~~can~~ limited to few areas like micro irrigation, run off projects etc.
3. Non resolution of historic disputes
4. Allegation of Pak or India encroachment (Eg) ICC ruling.
5. ~~Adoption~~ Small role of world Bank as mediator.

Implications of amendment

1. It would worsen already bad relationship.

   IWT is only silver lining in relations

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Could Give greater thrust to India as India was historically in disadvantaged position.

(3) India is at receiving end in other fields of China. So its stand will be reflected in those negotiations.

(4) Collective co-operation can enhance bilateral ties.

(5) Greater role of World Bank should be promoted as mediator.

(6) It can become launch pad for greater co-operation especially in SAARC.

Hence, IWC should be use Strategically to address the complex Geopolitical issues.

Candidates must not write on this margin

11. संसदीय संप्रभुता और न्यायिक सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत ने भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के संवैधानिक ढाँचे को आकार देने में अत्यधिक महत्त्वपूर्ण प्रभाव डाला है। प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयजन्य विधियों का हवाला देते हुए इन देशों में संविधान को प्रभावित करने में न्यायपालिका की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। क्या भारत में न्यायिक समीक्षा का दायरा व्यापक है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy has exerted considerable influence in shaping the constitutional frameworks of India and the USA. Citing relevant case laws discuss the role of the judiciary in influencing the constitutions in these countries. Is the scope of judicial review wider in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

India & USA are bothe Constitutional democracy founded on principles of Rule of laws.

Both believe in Parliamentary Sovereignty through Idea of Rousseau 'General will' is represented by elected representative of in Parliament.

They also accept Judicial Supremacy to Interpret laws and custodian of constitution. USA has Seperate Constitutional bench for Judicial review whereas India has doctrine of Basic structure.

Role of Judiciary in influencing Constitutions

(A) **India**

(1) Basic Structure doctrine: which stats

Candidates must not write on this margin

any law which affect basic structure will be unconstitutional through.
Keshav Nanda Bharti Case 1973

(2) Minerva Mill case: expanded Judiciary scope to Judicial review to promote "Rule of law"

(3) Maneka Gandhi Case: expanded scope of Right to life Article 21.

(4) S.R. Bommai Case: Federalism as basic structure.

(5) Shirur Mutt Case: essentiality principle in religion guis.

USA

(1) Seperate constitutional bench to review parliamentary law validity towards constitutionalism.

(2) "Rule of law" over "procedure establish by law" explicit in USA giving more scope to USA Judiciary for constitutional safeguard.

(Eg) Roe Vs Jade Case 2022.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Scope of Judicial review in India

1. Creative interpretation of Judiciary.
2. Implicit written in Article 32, 13, 226 & 142 not explicit.
3. Living document! Basic structure doctrine expanded over time.
4. Non-exhaustive: list of basic str.
5. Expansion of Human rights through use of natural rights (Eg) Privacy as fundamental right (Eg) Puttaswamy case

Here, we can say since there is no limitation in scope and power of Supreme court and there is not explicit limitation. So the Judicial review becomes endless and expansive giving large scope.

Judicial review by Upendra Baxi is called as Indian Silent revolution.

Candidates must not write on this margin

12. 'निष्पक्ष प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करने और एक मत, एक मूल्य के सिद्धांत को बनाए रखने के लिए सीटों का परिसीमन आवश्यक है।' निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में अप्रतिनिधित्व से उत्पन्न हुई चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए संघीय तनाव पैदा करने में जनसंख्या–आधारित परिसीमन के प्रभावों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Delimitation of seats is essential to ensure fair representation and uphold the principles of one vote, one value'. Highlighting the challenges posed by misrepresentation in constituencies analyze the ramifications of population-based delimitation in creating federal tension. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Periodic delimitation is essential role of Parliament via Delimitation commission to uphold fair representation & One vote, one value.

Distortion in Delimitation leads to dis enfranchisement of votes and delegation of lower say in democracy

(Eg) Recent 2011 delimitation freezed till 2026 to ensure representational deficit of south state as they have done good in population control, but it reduces value of voty of Northern States.

Challenges posed by mis-representation in constituencies

(1) loss of democratic value of voter, as it will not uphold equality of vote

(2) Equality of region & voters not adressed

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Distortion in political say of people.
(4) less representation in law making.
(5) If delimitation done on population lines it will create federal tension.
(6) ~~If delimitation~~ It will lead to distortion in fund allocation and policy influencing.

Ramification on Federalism

(1) North - South tension among states.
(2) lower representation in lok sabha.
(3) lesser say in Rajya sabha seat also.
(4) Fund allocation by Finance Commission heavily dependent on population. Therefore, south states will loose funds
(5) Southern States having higher per capita GDP thereby greater contribution in fund generation & GST collection

Candidates must not write on this margin

Ways to address it

(1) Go ahead with delimitations with following safeguards.

(i) Internal delimitation on basis of present ~~cen~~ latest census

(ii) Factoring the role of fertility rate ~~and~~

(iii) Factoring performance of Polygon population implementation

(2) Use of Inter state Council to address dispute — 2nd ARC Recom.

(3) Greater say and new rules to address concern of south states by finance Commission. — Sarkaria Committee Recomm

(4) Continuing with Population normalisation Policy.

Hence, this will address concern of different State and strengthen federalism & democracy.

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. देश में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव कराने की निर्वाचन आयोग की संवैधानिक ज़िम्मेदारी के निर्वहन में उसके हाथों को मजबूत करने में भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the role of the Supreme Court of India in strengthening the hands of the Election Commission in the discharge of its constitutional responsibility of conducting free and fair elections in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Upendra Baxi called Judicial activism of Supreme Court as Indias Silent revolution.

Role of Supreme Court in strengthening Election Commission

(1) 2023 Order of Collegium to elect Election commission including CJI, Prime Minister, leader of Opposition till new law is made.

(2) Declaration of Section 8(4) of Rep. of People Act 1951 as void to ensure non-criminalisation of Politics – Lily Thomas Case.

(3) NOTA as mandatory in polls in PUCL case.

(4) Subramanyan Swamy Case Supreme

Candidates must not write on this margin

court mandated the use of VVPAT to cross verify votes.

(5) Advocated for statutory backing to Model code of Conduct.

(6) Advice from ECI ~~for~~ during hearing ~~from~~ of Maharashtra Speaker assembly case. 2023.

Here, time and again Supreme court strengthens ECI in its role of free & fair elections

What more needs to be done

(1) - Charged expenditure of ECI - 2nd ARC recommendation

(2) Constitutional part of other two election Commissioners - Sarkaria Committee

(3) Simultaneous election stepped by ECI - NITI Ayog document

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) State funding of Election
- Indrajit Srinivas Committee

(5) Power to deregister political party
- ECI annual reports

Hence these steps further needed to ensure free & fair election. as basic Structure of Constitution

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. 'संसद की घटती भूमिका शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के मूल सिद्धांत को कमजोर करती है, क्योंकि यह कार्यकारी शाखा पर नियंत्रण रखने और सत्ता का संतुलित प्रयोग सुनिश्चित करने की विधायिका की क्षमता को कम कर देता है।' विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'The declining role of Parliament undermines the fundamental principle of separation of powers, as it diminishes the legislature's ability to serve as a check on the executive branch and ensure a balanced exercise of power.' Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Pratap Bhanu Mehta calls declining role of Parliament as signs of weakening of democratic institution.

Declining role

(1) lesser sitting hours in Parliament less than 100 days per year.

(2) Increasing indiscipline and unruly behaviour.
   - (Eg) 2023 session AAP MP Sanjay Singh
   - Suspended for unruly behaviour

(3) lack of table of bill in Parliamentary Committee.
   - 17th lok sabha → less than 20% bills went to Committees.

(4) lack of deliberation in house.

(5) Guillotining of bills for speedy pass.

(6) less time for important bill.
   - (Eg) EWS reservation

Candidates must not write on this margin

This declining role undermines seperation of powers as:

(1) large dependence on executive to frame by laws.

(2) Greater delegation of power to executive which should be ideally avoided as it is primarily function of Parliament.

(3) More Subordinate legislation

(4) Most blue print of bills are prepared by Executive

(Eg) Article 370 amendment.

Here we can see that role of Parliament as law makes declining & shifting to executive hence against Seperation of power. and reduces balanced exercise of power.

Reduces check on executive branch by

(1) Guillotining of bills.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Taking route of Money bill to avoid Rajya Sabha.

(3) less time to oversight of bill.

Ways to address it

(1) fixed number of sitting of house.
- 2nd ARC recomdat.

(2) Sending all important bill to committee - Nat. Com. for review of Constitution.

(3) Seperate research wing of Parliament for analyses of bills.

(4) Use of technology to streamline bills & works (Eg) New parliament building

Here, India needs to adopt modern ways to ensure substantive democracy via Parliamentary democracy.

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. भारत में लिंग–संवेदनशील कानूनों पर विमर्श को आकार देने में राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग को संवैधानिक संस्था बनाने से उसका प्राधिकार किस हद तक सुदृढ़ होगा? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the crucial role played by the National Commission of Women in shaping the discourse on gender-sensitive laws in India. To what extent the elevation of the National Commission for Women to a constitutional body would reinforce its authority. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

National Commission of Women

is a statutory body to ensure welfare of women and look at their specific grievans.

Crucial role in shaping discourse

(1) Advising Parliament: to make specific laws
(Eg) Triple talak to Amendment role by NCW.

(2) Collective wisdom: of NGO and civil society as they collect and share their opinion.

(3) Organising Conferences: to shape the gender sensitive discourse.
(Eg) Conference on Women Right at Delhi

(4) Research: on new areas of development of women. (Eg) Digital, Gender Sensitivity

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) Proactive enquiry into women cells and jails. and augment their capacity for better life.

(6) looking into cases of gross women atrocity
Eg NCW role in Manipur investigation

(7) Guide Courts in Gender sensitive issue of discussion.
Eg Recent LGBTQ+ Case in Supreme Court

Elevation as Constitutional body: Virtues

(1) Greater power: which will be derived from constitution.

(2) Reports: tabled in Parliament, needs reason for non-acceptance of suggestion.

(3) Greater financial autonomy if fixed charged fund given.

(4) Appointments: would be streamline

(5) Vacancies: would be addressed quickly.

Candidates must not write on this margin

What more needs to be done

1. Greater financial autonomy.
2. Mandatory to Parliament to address some suggestion.
3. Greater role in digital Governance of women.
   - Eg: Online harrassment.
4. More linked to civil society movement Eg: Metoo, LGBT+.

This will help in greater empowerment of women and realise SDG 5 goal of Gender inequality

Candidates must not write on this margin

16. 'शिकायतों का संतोषजनक और समयबद्ध निवारण 'न्यूनतम सरकार, अधिकतम शासन' की आधारशिला है।' इस संदर्भ में मौजूदा शिकायत निवारण तंत्र से जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए और इस प्रक्रिया को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Satisfactory and timely redressal of grievances is the cornerstone of 'minimum government, maximum governance.' In this context discuss the challenges associated with current grievance redress mechanisms and suggest measures to strengthen the process. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

World Bank has given formula for Good governance on 8 pillars namely transparency, accountability, proactiveness, sensitivity - etc.

Cornerstone of Min Govermt Max Governm

(1) Timely redressal of disputs: leads to low harrasmt and promotion of trust in Govt.

(2) Satisfactory delivery: leads to enhanced trust in democracy and increases peoples participation.

Challenges Associated with current grievance redressal mechanism

(1) Huge population: leads to large number of cases. leadig to delay.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) ~~FILE~~ Vacancy: in govt department reduces manpower, hence delay.

(3) Lack of digitalisation: leads to non transparent working and inconvinience.

(4) Lack of peoples empowerment: towards rights & time of delivery of grievance causes inconvinience.

(5) Improper co-ordination:

(i) Within department
(ii) Among departments
(iii) With people.

leads to red tapism and burreaucratisation.

Measures to strengthen process

(1) Digitalisation: of goverment machinery
(Eg) G2P in Digital Andra Mission.

(2) Rights based approach
(Eg) RTI

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Mandatory Citizen Charter in every govt department

(4) Citizen participation in proces.

(5) Empower Gram Sabha in Service delivery (Eg) DBT.

(6) Promoting SEVOTTAM model in every department (Eg) Meghalaya Mandatory Social audit

(7) Adress vacancies and delays

(8) Proper sensitisation of staff

(9) Proper training in line of modern day good governance

(10) 360° appraisal review with citizens review as utmost important.

(11) Strengthen interaction to promote co-ordination and trust based Governance.

(12) Weekly Camp by Govt for basic govern Services.

This will help realise the goal of (6) "Min Governance & Max Government"

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. 'भ्रष्टाचार शासन के ताने–बाने को जर्जर कर देता है, जिससे लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में जनता का विश्वास कम हो जाता है।' भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी शासन या व्यवस्था की प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम, व्हिसलब्लोअर संरक्षण अधिनियम (डब्ल्यूबीपीए), और लोकपाल और लोकायुक्त अधिनियम, 2013 के बीच समन्वय स्थापित करने के सामर्थ्य का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Corruption corrodes the fabric of governance, eroding the public's faith in democratic institutions.' Examine the potential for harmonizing the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act (WBPA), and the Lokpal & Lokayukta Act, 2013, to enhance the effectiveness of the anticorruption regime. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

"Honey in the tongue,
is impossible to taste" – Kautilya.

Corruption as said, 'greases the administrative machinery' is wrong but it corrodes fabric of governance, public faith in democratic institutions.

Types of Corruption
1. Co-ersive : Eg extortion blackmail
2. Collusive : ie with consent Eg 2G scam.
3. Value Corruption
Eg Non doing of your work, complacent attitude

Potential of RTI, WB PA, lokpal, lokayukta in to enhance effectiveness of anti corruption

(A) RTI :

1. 2nd ARC → RTI will end era of darkness & promote era of light.
2. Promote transparency, accountability

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Enhances Civil society activism.
(4) & Deterrence to Corruption in officials
(5) Section 4: open disclosure promotes proactive good governance.
(6) Timely delivery of services
(7) Creates institutions against corruption
   (Eg) CIC, PIO, etc.

(B) **Whistle Blower Protection Act**

(1) Ensures security to person who whistle blows wrong. in Govt.
(2) Penalises ones who are doing corruption.
(3) Enhanced protection ensures deterrence towards corruption.

(C) **Lokpal & Lokayukta Act**

(1) Creates institutions for anti-corruption. (Eg) Lokpal.
(2) Covers almost all govenrt officials
(3) Independence & Autonomy ensured via Strong laws.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Power of investigation.
⑤ Power to Suo Motue look at issues.

Other institutions → CVC
→ CBI
Interpol ↔ ED
CPGRAMS ↔ PMLA, Anti Corruption Act

Way forward

① Promote digitalisation. (Eg e-RTI in State govt also.
② Quick delivery of justice.
③ More use of Section 4 of RTI.
④ More protection in Whistle blower Act
⑤ Address independence issue of CIC through service condition autonomy
⑥ Empower citizen through Citizen charters
⑦ Greater role of Civil Society

This will ~~end~~ help in address the deep rooted menace of Corruption.

Candidates must not write on this margin

18. गरीबी का प्रभावी ढंग से मुकाबला करने के लिए हाशिए पर रहने वाले समुदायों के बीच कौशल विकास, उद्यमिता और आय सृजन के लिए एसएचजी का लाभ एक मंच के रूप में उठाने में शामिल संभावित चुनौतियों और लाभों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Analyze the potential challenges and benefits involved in leveraging SHGs as platforms for skill development, entrepreneurship, and income generation among marginalized communities to effectively counter poverty. Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

India has 1.2 Crore SHG and more than 80% owned by women.

Eg SEWA by Ila Bhat.

~~Challenges~~ **Benifits of SHG**

A **Skill development**

1. Through schemes of Govt like. PM Kaushal Vikas Yojna.
2. learning from other SHG best practices.
3. Sending members for formal training.
4. Training each member for specific Skills Eg Branding, Marketing.

Entrepreneurship development

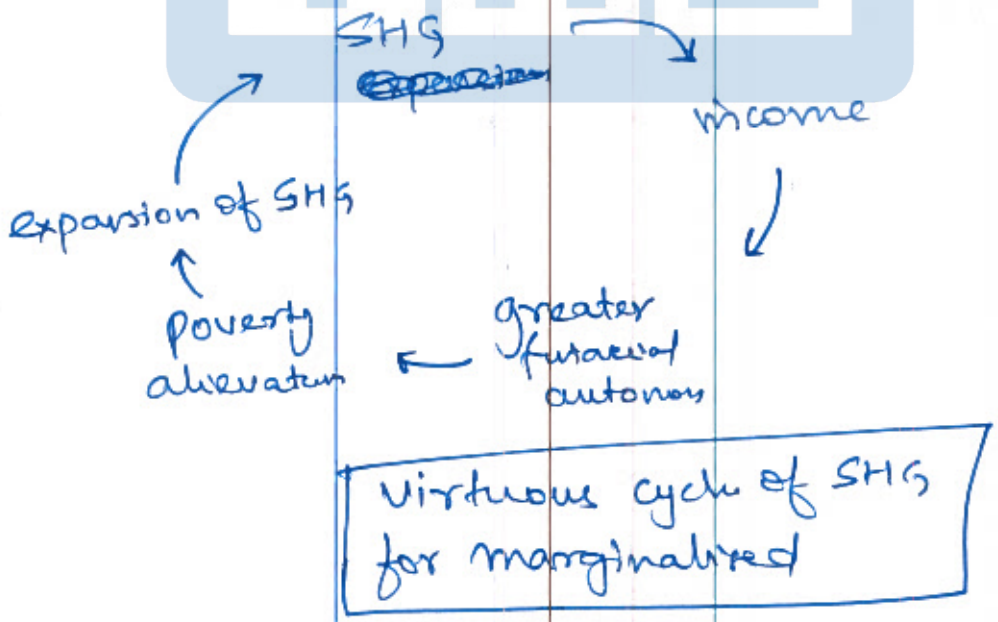
1. Give financial autonomy.
2. Promote rural growth.
   Eg Jeevika in Bihar.
3. Enhance allied activity of Agriculture
   Eg Food Processing - Lijjat Papad

Candidates must not write on this margin

Income generation

1. Financial autonomy leading gender equality :- Jaya Jaitley comitte.
2. Expansion of SHGs.
   - Eg Kudumbshree Canteen in entire Kerala
3. Greater market say and leverage.
4. Promote export of regional product
   - Eg Palash Brand - Jharkhand tribal SHGs export.

This will have overall impact in poverty alleviation as it will promote income in hands of marginalised sections like women tribals.



Virtuous cycle of SHGs for marginalised

Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges:

(A) Skill development:

1. less time away from household chores.
2. Skill dev. focussed more on Urban skill
3. low basic school level education
4. Shyness in communication.

(B) Entrepreneurial dev.

1. Credit: reluctance of bank to give loans
2. low & small collective saving.
3. Poor insurance coverage.
4. Improper idea of Branding, Marketing Packaging & Supply chain.
5. lack of integration to digital marketplace
6. Non-benifit of economy of scale.

(C) Poverty alleviation

1. Mostly dependent on unreliable Monsoon led agricultural produce.
2. Threat of loss of saving.
3. lack of insurance coverage.
4. Break due to maternity needs
5. Poor local rural market demand.
6. Competition from big companies.

Here, SHG promotion needs to be linked with Panchayat development and co-operative movement to realise full potential.

Candidates must not write on this margin

19. 'भारत अपनी समृद्ध संस्कृति के लिए विश्व मानचित्र पर अद्वितीय स्थान रखता है।' इस संदर्भ में भारत की सॉफ्ट पावर कूटनीति के साधन के रूप में संस्कृति, प्रवासी और लोकतंत्र की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। भारत किस हद तक खुद को 'स्मार्ट पावर' के रूप में स्थापित करने में सक्षम हो पाया है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'India is uniquely positioned on the world map for its rich culture.' In this context discuss the role of culture, diaspora, and democracy as instruments of India's soft power diplomacy. To what extent India has been able to position itself as a 'smart power'? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Rajiv Sikri calls India's unique position in Indian ocean as centre of five arches of Energy, Economy, instability, trade & Uncertainity.

P.M Modi called strength of India lies in 4D - ie Democracy, Demography, diaspora and diversity

Role in Soft power diplomacy

① **Diaspora**: India received highest ever remittances of $111 billion in 2022 showing its diaspora strength. Manifestion of it can be seen in 'Howdy Modi' event. They played significant role in Indo-US Civil Nuclear deal. It is also reflected in India's deep reach in Gulf countries and Africa.

② **Democracy** :

- India is the largest democracy.
- Graham Allison says that two

Candidates must not write on this margin

democratic countries going to war are very less, due to peoples aversion towar.
- Democracy is International relation is like Catagorical Imperitive i.e Greatest Value.
- India's presence in QUAD is seen as diamond of democracy in Asia Pacific.

③ **Culture**
- It is the greatest soft power tool.
- India cherishes it through Project Mausam
- India has institutionalised soft power diplomacy via Indian Council of Cultural Research.
- International "Yoga day", Chicken Butter masala, Bollywood craze in S.Asia are manifestation of it.

④ **Other Soft power tool**
- Educational research, Economy.
- Asian solidarity.
- Vasudhav Kutumbakam at G20 theme.

SMART power of India

Concept of Smart power was given by Hillary Clinto it is combination of Soft power + fast power.

Candidates must not write on this margin

India has over the years evolved to smart power with use of proactive Ministry of external affairs which is seen in it proactive role in "Vaccine Maitri", ~~Project~~ "Mission Ganga".

In strategic field it has evolved Global alliances such as Chusat, IPEF, AAGC to ~~stre~~ strengthen ~~set~~ SMART power.

This is coupled with energy diplomacy with cheap Russian oil during war and strengthing Supply chain resilien.

However, drawback remain in form of low human capacity of Ministry of External Affair, lack of specialised technical diplomats as highlighted by Shashi Tharoor committee.

Hence, India needs to strengthen them to adress the issues and emerge as "Vishwa Guru"

Candidates must not write on this margin

20. भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझा मूल्यों और जीवंत लोगों से लोगों के बीच संबंधों का सहक्रिया दोनों देशों के बीच दीर्घकालिक व्यापार संबंधों और रणनीतिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उपजाऊ जमीन तैयार करता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The synergy of shared values and vibrant people-to-people connections between India and Australia creates a fertile ground for fostering long-lasting trade relations and strategic collaboration between the two nations. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Hon'ble PM. Modi has called India-Australia relation as evolved from 3C (Cricket, Curry, Culture) to 3D (diplomacy, democracy and demography)

Shared Values

(1) Democracy: both number of Quad called as diamond of democracy

(2) Rule based Indo Pacific (Eg) IPEF

(3) Non Agression in Indopacific

(4) Denuclearisation of region

(5) Away from Great power politics & from Indian Ocean.

Vibrant people to people connections

(1) Visa liberalisation: to attract students for higher research.

Candidates must not write on this margin

② Mutual recognition to university degree agreed in Recent 2022 negotiations.

③ Joint work - study Visa for Indian students.

④ Australia has "Mini India" a small place reflecting diaspora reach.

These two things democracy and vibrant people to people contact creats fertile ground for trade & strategic collaboration which is seen in recent ECTA deal (Economic technical and co-operation agreement).

trade relations deepning

① Aim to expand bilateral trade from present $18 billion/yr to $30 billion.

② ~~Free~~ Zero tariff in 98% of Indian products.

③ Liberalised Norms for dairy and milk products.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4) Greater market Access to India.

Strategic relation deepning

1) QUAD: for free & open Indo-pacific.
2) Rule based world order
   Eg Malabar exercise.
3) Silicon mining deal with Indian PSU.
4) Supply chain resilience via IPEF.
5) China+1 strategy of both.
6) Strategic decoupling with China

Way forward

1) Greater economic co-operation.
2) Denuclearisation & concern over AUKUS
3) Greater sensitivity for violence towards Indian students

This will pave way for future of democratic Leader of Indo pacific and Asian Century.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS