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(To be filled by candidate)

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Registration Number : 85 Date of Examination : 30 Aug 23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☑

Test - 6

Code : TC708

RCA Batch 2023

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SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....

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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

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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

Inter state border issues refers to conflicts arising out of ambiguity in boeder between states. Eg. Belgaum and Belgavi issues between Maharashtra and Karnataka.

They can create issues like inter state rivalries, limit cooperative federalism and affect resource sharing. Furthermore, governance in these regions is neglected.

Framework for disputes

1) constitutional:

(i) inter State Council (Article 263) can be used for dialogue mechanism

(ii) Judiciary: Supreme court under Article 131- original

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jurisdiction can resolve such disputes.

II Legal:

(a) Zonal Council (State reorganisation act 1956) can allow regional level discussion.

Reason for continuance
- Lack of proper delegated institutions for border management
- Politicisation of issues. Eg Berubari punjab-Haryana.
- Integration of ethnic identities Eg in North east India.
- overlapping claims. Eg. Bodos and Nagas in Assam.

Thus, need is for institutionalisation and scientific borders demarcation to resolve such disputes.

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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 formed under Article 263 came into force in 1990 after a presidential order.

Role in →

I) Vertical integration:

(i) coordination in policy making
Eg in concurrent list subjects

(ii) federal input on national issues in union list.

(iii) formulation in common guidelines
Eg in agriculture, health, prison.

II) Horizontal Integration.

(a) resolution of disputes between States.

(b) Collaboration on common policies.
Eg Regarding migrants.

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(c) Regional development by cooperation approach.

however, its role remains restricted due to →

(a) Low no of meetings: met only once in last decade.

(b) limiting powers: Eg cannot discuss issues of finance commission, in union list.

(c) Low multi stakeholder participation affects expertise.

Way forward → Punchhi Commission:
Make it a permanent body and recommendations binding.

This will boost cooperative federalism and further unity and integration in nation.

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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 Accounts Committee (PAC) was formed by government of India act 1919 and furthers financial accountability of the executive to the Parliament.

Key function
- → asses reports of CAG and acts as its 'friend, guide and philosopher'.
- → Assessment of government's financial performance in terms of output and outcomes.

However faced challenges such as Reports not implemented, post-dated reviews and low expertise.

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Steps for revamp:

- Increase intellectual capital with skilled personnel integration.
- greater budget and time for financial analysis.
- Mandatory answers to its report by the government.
- Set up time for debate around PAC report.
- power to conduct enquiry in cases of corruption.

Therefore, PAC should be given more teeth for fortifying financial accountability in India.

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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

Urbanisation refers to rising migration from rural to urban areas and industrialisation of regions.

It is estimated that 41% of Indian population will leive in cities by 2050. (World of State population report).

As cities already contribute to 60% of the national GDP, role of ULBs gain importance in their effective governance.

15th FC on ULB reforms

① Increase devolution of funds by states to LSG

② Use of technology to

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increase revenue collection capacity. Eg drones for land area assessment.

③ Performance linked incentives for ULBs.

Benefits

→ empower ULBs.

→ further public service delivery.

Negatives

→ Increase burden on states finances

Thus, 15th FC commission recommendation can go a long way in ensuring financial sustainable and inclusive cities as in SDG #11.

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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 are privileges enjoyed by the MPs (Art 105) for freedom of expression in Parliament.

Fundamental Rights (Part III) are claims of the public on the government that furthers their quality of life — freedom of speech (Art 19(1)(a))

Key differences in scope

Parliamentary Privileges	Fundamental Rights — Art 19.
① Absence of reasonable restrictions	~~as~~ reasonable restrictions like defamation, contempt of court exist.
② · No judicial impunity	Judicial conviction possible. Eg vinod Dua convicted.

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③ only parliament can take action against breach of privilege.	Action can be taken against individual under criminal justice system.
④ not codified.	Clear codification

Need for Balance →
- further representative democracy.
- balance citizen rights as well as parliamentarian rights. (Dual identity).
- ensure parity in ~~to~~ law.

Thus, parliamentary privileges allow proper functioning of parliament while fundamental rights ensure development of the citizen. They are common in the goal.

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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 society organisations refers to voluntary groupings of private individuals who come together for activities of common welfare.

Role in local resource mobilisation
- → Last mile service delivery Eg Akshay Patra - FPS shops.
- → Raise funds for important causes Eg. Change.org.

Challenges

(i) Trust issues among public due to negative image of CSO. Eg. Youtuber - fund for shopkeeper scam.

(ii) limited information on fund use - largely voluntary. ↓ corporate and public donations.

(iii) Less human resource for

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mobilisation from public.

(iii) Limited expertise and information about CSR initiatives.

(iv) Largely online with low physical presence.

Measures
- → Ease FCRA to allow fund flow across departments.
- → Rising digital awareness
- → ↑ public awareness about NGO coverage under RTI to ↑ trust.
- → CSR initiatives advertisement

Thus, CSO can fulfil developmental deficit and play complementary role with government in public welfare

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7. गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में पहला कदम कार्यक्रम के डिज़ाइन, 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

India suffers from multidimensional poverty with 20% population below poverty line as per MPI 2022.

India has undertaken various multidimensional poverty assessment steps eg.

↳ Tendulkar committee (calories intake)

VHH

This will help in proper identification and targetting of ~~of~~ poor with relevant schemes.

Niti Aayog's MPI → uses various indicators such as education level, health, ownership of

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cooking stove, refrigerator, no of earning family members, among others.

Significance
- holistic idea of poverty.
- understand type of deprivation - proper targetting with scheme
- understand socio-cultural linkages - eg gender and poverty.

Thus, poverty assessment by Niti Aayog has aided in proper ~~targetting~~ by States and central initiatives. It will help create an 'inclusive' and 'developed India by 2047'.

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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

Health refers to a state of mind & and body which is not only free of diseases but also capable of fuller development. (WHO).

Health commitments →
- Constitution: • Article 21 (Bandhua Mukti Morcha case)
  • Article 47 (DPSP)
- Legal precedents: Eg Rajasthan gave right to health.
- International commitments: WHO conventions

Reason for absence of explicit recognition:

(a) limited resources with the state (2.1% GDP on health) and large population burden (1.4 billion).

(b) Difficulty in defining limit - Eg- primary health care, mental issues

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(c) human resource limited : doctors : patient population ratio (1:1456) for allopathic. (WHO - 1:1000 recommended)

(d) health as a state subject → outside union list.

(e) can lead to diversion of funds from other human development sectors.

Way forward
- universalisation of healthcare (Singapore model)
- Amartya Sen: Bring health in public debate.

Thus steps like Ayushman Bharat are steps in right direction for furthering SDG #3 in 'new India'.

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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

BRICS was formed with the purpose of maintaining strategic autonomy and furthering a multipolar polar.

BRICS Nations — Brazil, India, Russia, China, S. Africa + 6 new expanded (2023) — Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Argentina.

Meaning multilateral cooperation

(1) Financial autonomy from Washington consensus.
↳ New Development Bank formed.

(2) coordination on issues like currency swaps to reduce $ reliance

(3) conversation on issues of institutional reforms (WTO).

(4) new age technology : digital currency. regulation.

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However bilateral relationship management is limited as—

(i) India - China land conflict continues.

(ii) Limited ties with countries like Brazil due to connectivity

(iii) different political culture:
Eg democratic India, Brazil, S. Africa
Authoritarian - Russia China

However, it provides an opportunity for bilateral dialogue as seen in latest Modi-Xi talks to reduce border tensions.

Thus, while BRICS remains a multilateral forum, it can serve as a bilateral platform for detente.

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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

The Indus water treaty (1960) distributes water of 6 rivers between India and Pakistan.

Recent events → Pakistan raised concerns regarding Indian projects (HEP) on Kishanganga and Ratle → approach court of Arbitration.

→ India asserted that legal dispute mechanism was violated as first 'neutral arbiter' was to be appointed.

→ Sought revision of IWT.

Possible Implications I) NEGATIVE

① Use of water for sanctions against terrorism.
- PM Modi: 'water and blood cannot flow together'.

② Development of HEP — affect water flow in lower riparian state

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- Create drought conditions.

(3) China can interfere by limiting Indus water flow in India.

II) POSITIVE.

(a) Renegotiation with fair terms.

(b) integration of climate change related changes

(c) Scientific hydrological analysis in Indus river system.

(d) greater collaboration among nations

way forward → South Asia water grid for sharing of hydrological information and grievance redressal.

Thus, an institutional mechanism should be sought to ensure proper hydrodiplomacy between nations.

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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

(1) (2) (3) 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

Indian system of Separation of Powers balances the ~~the~~ organs of governance ie Parliament and Judiciary. It is arrived after debates on concepts like –

I) Parliamentary Sovereignty: asserts that the parliament is the highest law making authority and can make law on any subject. This is followed in UK.

In India, it is observed in certain cases – eg union list – however these laws are still subject to judicial review. (Basic structure, Minerva Mills case).

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II) Judicial supremacy : asserts that judicial decision is paramount and no law making body can breach it. Eg in USA.

In India, judicial supremacy doesn't exist as it is based on the concept of checks and balances and Parliament can overturn judicial orders.

Eg- Goaknath case refuted by 24th amendment act abridging fundamental rights.

Role of Judiciary

a) India

↳ doctrine of Basic structure (Kesavananda Bharati case) furthered spirit of constitution.

↳ Judicial review : prevent any wrongful or arbitrary amendment to constitution.

Eg: Article 13: cannot take away judicial review. ∈

b) USA

↳ Roe vs Wade removing abortion

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rights of women

Scope of Judicial review is wider in India as

(i) SC can review laws of Centre and State, US SC can only do that of union subject.

(ii) The ambit of 'law' is wider in India and judicial review extends to customs etc as well, unlike USA.

Thus, constitutional and institutional comparison provide greater insight in different political systems of world.

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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

Delimitation of seats refers to creating ~~constitution~~ constituencies in such a manner that population to seat ratio is balance in the state and across the State.

A delimination commission is formed under the constitution to undertake this job.

This ~~fuelt~~ures one vote, one value principle through proportionate division of seat to population ratio, time to-time.

Challenges

① Reducing representation of certain region → skewed results.

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⑨ Affecting contribution in policy making.

③ Governance deficit can arise. Eg in Assam.

④ Create Relative deprivation among people → can further Regionalism and based protests Eg. Delimitation halted in Manipur.

⑤ Further majoritarianism as views of all population might not be adequately represented.

⑥ affect centre-state relations creating conflictual federalism. Eg. South protesting against delimitation exercise.

Ramification of population based delimitation →

(i) Reduce share of Southern State → penalisation for population

Candidates must not write on this margin

control practices in 1970s and 1980s.

(ii) fuelled imposition of majority views
Eg. northern bias in central policy making.

(iii) Encourage population growth and race among states → creating 'demographic disaster'.

(iv) Affect national integration.

Wayforward
→ delimitation with consideration of other factors.
→ halting the exercise until TFR stabilisation across regions.

Thus, a proactive and evidence based approach is required in this regard.

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

The Supreme Court of India (Article 131) is the highest court in the land and plays a proactive role in protecting the autonomy and strengthening of institutions.

SC and EC

→ (i) Lily Thomas case: removed contradictions in Section 8 of RPA easing decision making regarding ~~to~~ disqualification of MPs and candidates for criminal conviction.

→ (ii) Abhiram case 2021: Clarity on "corrupt practice" under RPA 1951 – if garnering votes using deceptive

Candidates must not write on this margin

identities.

→ (iii) ADR case: Aid EC in reducing criminalisation in politics through introduction of affadavit regarding income, educational and criminal record.

~~However, these are contained.~~

→ (iv) furthering autonomy: in 2023 SC ordered CEC selection by committee of CJI, leader of opposition and PM.

However, certain challenges arise in this regard.

(1) Low conviction rate of violators of Model code of conduct.

(2) SC asserted that EC cannot 'derecognise' a party

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Way forward → 2nd ARC: strengthen ECI with reforms like tenure fixed for all election commissioners, penalising powers for model code of conduct, fund charged on consolidated fund.

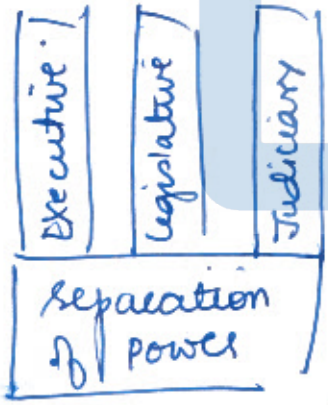
This will ensure a free and fair election regime in India deepening democracy.

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. 'संसद की घटती भूमिका शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के मूल सिद्धांत को कमज़ोर 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

The Parliament comprises of the Executive and the legislature. The former is in charge of policy formulation and implementation, while the latter ensures law formation. Both are central to a representative democracy.



The declining role of parliament is seen in →

(1) Reduced debates and discussions

Eg – Biodiversity Amendment Bill 2023 passed with 10 minutes debate.

(2) Limited use of Parliamentary Standing Committee –

Candidates must not write on this margin

Eg: less than 10% bills referred so far in the 17th LS.

③ weakening opposition due to low numbers → unable to seek accountability and shape agenda.

④ Low number of sittings → in covid the Parliament met for less than 30 days while most other parliaments met virtually.

⑤ increasing use of 'money bill' and ordinance route for passing the bills.

Eg. Aadhar act.

Impact →
- Executive supremacy.
- reducing accountability.
- low public representativeness in agenda.
- affect federal input in policy due to ↓ impact of Rajya Sabha.
  - ↓ conflictual federalism.

Candidates must not write on this margin

In contrast, Parliament continues to effective in holding government accountable. Eg- No confidence motion for debate on manipur issue.

[Way forward]

→ NCRCW: 9 parliament days to 120 for Lok sabha and 100 for Rajya Sabha.

→ Boost intellectual capital with larger R&D budget.

Thus, a representative and well functioning parliament will ensure greater use of substantive democracy in India.

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 formed under NCW Act 1997. It aims to prevent discrimination, oppression and exploitation of women and further gender equal society.

Positive role of NCW ⇆ Gender Sensitive laws

(1) Operationalisation of the Vishaka Guidelines (SC, 1998) into the Prevention of sexual Harassment Act, 2011.

(2) Strengthen laws for violence against women.
Eg Anti rape laws.

(3) Increase the ambit of laws

Candidates must not write on this margin

and their coverage.

Eg. Domestic violence law covers psycho-social, economic, physical violence.

(4) Reflect intersectional women perspectives → civil society ~~coo~~ co-ordination.

Limitations of NCW

→ Inability to protect women in increasing cases of violence.
(NCRB data : 88 rapes per day in India)

→ Institutional issues —

(a) high vacancies & productivity

(b) political appointments.

(c) patriarchal thinking
Eg victim blaming statements given by NCW chairmen.

(d) low civil society inclusion

→ cannot call for compensation of victim or investigation.

Candidates must not write on this margin

| Status of constitutional Body |

① give powers of a civil court.

② Mandatory consultation of NCW in women related laws.

③ ~~Inflaaan~~ Increase influence
Eg. 108th constitutional amendment - women reservation can be passed.

④ official mechanism for women's grievance redressal.

Therefore, NCW can be elevated to a constitutional body — learning from Rwanda's gender body (constitutional) — which will aid India's quest for gender mainstreaming and SDG #5.

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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

Grievance redressal refers to hearing out of public issues and requirements and using the administrative mechanism to solve them.

Satisfactory and timely redressal allows —

(i) Public trust building.

(ii) Reduces role of government in every stage

(iii) furthers citizen capacity and development.

CHALLENGES in current system.

① Digitised process with low digital awareness in population (average 38% in India: NSSO).
Eg - CPGRAMS.

② Low awareness of the

Candidates must not write on this margin

Systems of grievance redressal.
Eg- citizen charters not made or updated.

(2) Limited focus on long term solution → Bureaucracy is more reactive than proactive.

(4) Top down approach of management
Eg PRAGATI portal.

(5) Low on human resource → not dedicated to grievance redressal.

(6) Disconnect from public → 'Babu culture'.

Measures to strengthen →

(i) Proper implementation of citizen charter Act 2011 → Stringent norms and penalisation for non implementation.

(ii) 2nd ARC – public service code bill.

(iii) 2nd ARC – 360° performance

Candidates must not write on this margin

services for promotion of officials.

(iv) empower local self governments with grievance redressal powers
Eg- Kerala model.

(v) Digital grievance redressal for all sector - use of new technologies like AI, ML.

Therefore, a enlightened citizenry will lead to a productive nation — aiding India's growth as a global power.

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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

Corruption refers to the act of misuse of authority and public resources to gainer self benefit. It in an illegal activity under Prevention of corruption Act, 1988.

It corrodes governance as public welfare is disrupted due to divergence of funds for illegal purposes.

Eg. Vyapam case

Furthermore, it creates a deficit of public faith in governmental institutions reducing their credibility and weakening democracy ('How democracies Die' book).

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Harmonising the RTI, WBPA and Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013 →

Positive impact:

i) Cut down on duplication of provisions given in different laws.

ii) 'openness' in administrative will become political cultural norm. Eg. MKSS RTI activists working as whistle-blowers

iii) Integrate prevention of corruption (RTI), reporting (~~to~~ WBPA) and investigating (Lokpal act) corruption cases.

iv) Common bodies of personnel for enhancing checks on the bureaucracy.

v) deepen democracy and prevent sanskritisation of corruption (Kaushik Basu).

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However, it can lead to issues like →

(i) overlap in jurisdictions.

(ii) Reduce checks and balances established through different bodies.

(iii) Legal reforms require much political will.

way forward

→ PSC 2015 report: integrate CVC and Lokpal as similar functions.

→ 2nd ARC: 360° performance assessment, code of conduct.

thus, there is a need to further culture of transparency and accountability for establishing true democracy.

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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

Self help groups refers to grouping of homogenous rural women who come together with the aim of pooling savings and entrepreneurship.

India has over 12 million SHGs.

Challenges
- Regionally skewed. Eg. ↓ nos in Rajasthan, Bihar.
- Social discrimination & Hierarchy. Eg. casteism observed.
- Financial scarcity credit due to limited funding from banks.
- Low expertise limits their entrepreneurial spirit.
- Suffer from limits of scale due to capital investment.

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(contd.)

Challenges

- limited to rural areas
  low awareness in urban areas.
- digital literacy ↓
  impact availing of government schemes (<25% in rural areas: NSSO).

However, various benefits have accrued from SHGs.

(i) Reduction in rural poverty
Eg. in Kerala

(ii) women empowerment and leadership role.
Eg. Kudumbashree in Kerala undertook Kerala flood response

(iii) Entrepreneurship and financial development.
Eg. Lijat Papad enterprise.

(iv) Skill development of members
Eg. with NGO in UP skilling

Candidates must not write on this margin

SHG members to make sanitary pads from old clothes.

(v) Financial inclusion through Jan Dhan Yojana.

Way Forward

↳ SHG management centre in every district. (Budget 2023)

↳ Linkage with schemes such as PMudra.

Thus, SHG can be made into rational help groups (PM Modi) and aid in inclusive growth.

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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 श्स्मार्ट पावरश 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

Indian civilisation and contribution have been regarded as of greatest benefit to mankind. (Annie Besant). This is due to its rich diversity, cultural exchanges and varied ideological trajectory.

Soft Power Diplomacy of India

I. Role of culture:

(i) Unique ideological and knowledge systems like Yoga are practiced across the world.

Eg: June 21st International Yoga Day.

(ii) Traditional medicine emerged as alternative to allopathy.

Eg AYUSH spreading knowledge

Candidates must not write on this margin

through Indian cultural centres.

(iii) Bollywood movies make India a good household name and establish P2P links.

II. Diaspora

(i) Large numbers: with over 6.4% of world population, India has largest diaspora – spreading Indian values in various continents.

(ii) positions of leadership: Eg Mahendra Chaudhary in Singapore, SN Nathan, Kamala Harris. etc influence policy towards India.

(iii) Lobbying

Eg Indian community in USA for 123 agreement.

III. Democracy

(i) establish political linkages.

Eg with USA.

(ii) Furthering credibility and image of responsible power.

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India able to establish itself as —

Smart Power = Soft power + Hard power

through steps of pragmatism in foreign policy like —

(i) Balakot Strike (offensive defence)

(ii) Quad (counter China)

(iii) largest military in world

(iv) growing economy (5th largest in world)

Thus, India has balanced its Soft and hard power to emerge as a 'leading power' (S. Jaishankar)

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20. भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझा मूल्यों और जीवंत लोगों से लोगों के बीच संबंधों का साहचर्य 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

India and Australia are partners of modern age. As rising middle powers, both the countries collaborate due to civilisational cultural connections and common goals.

Shared values between the two nations is reflected in common democratic culture, rich diversity (Maori culture in Australia and diversity in India), respect for world order and rule of law (= Quad partnership for free and open Indo Pacific) and institutionalism and multilateralism (Eg demand for WTO reforms).

Candidates must not write on this margin

Furthermore they share people to people relations –

↳ Migration : Indian students in Australian universities (preferred destination)

↳ Skilled workforce : from India – (Mode 4 – services) to Australia.

↳ Bollywood linkages as Indian movies have audience in Australia.

This has contributed to potential for long lasting trade relations through recently signed ECTA (economic comprehensive trade agreement) – Reducing tariffs from over 90% exports. – ↑ market

Talks are ongoing for CEPA as well.

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Strategic collaboration is undertaken through common goals — countering China in supply chain and Indian Ocean.

- International Pacific Ocean Initiative
- Quad.
- Malabar exercise.

However, challenges arise —

1. racial discrimination faced by India.
2. economic threats from Australia ~~do~~ dairy industry.

Thus, need of the hour is to further cultural and economic cooperation to become 'natural partners' in dealing with 21st C challenges.

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Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS