

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 : Mohd Ashfaq

Roll No. : MT23RCAPA040

Registration Number : Date of Examination : 30th August

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. :

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

Ans

In Independent India, Interstate Border disputes have remain unresolved in many instances.

Ex: issue between Maharashtra and Karnataka on Beiga Belagani.

Constitutional and legal framework available

Constitutional:

△ Inter-state councils:

↳ constitutional bodies

that provide a platform to resolve inter-state issues and build convergence.

△ Legal:

→ Zonal councils ⇒ non constitutional bodies to build zone wise consensus.

→ Article 141: original jurisdiction of supreme court regarding interstate issues

Reasons for failure in resolution

△ political reasons

↳ different political parties in both states.

△ delayed legal battle in SC due to dependency of SC cases.

△ non-functioning of interstate councils.

Therefore, the border disputes have remained intact among different states despite availability of resolution mechanism.

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

Ans

Interstate councils are constitutional bodies established by the act of parliament for inter-state and centre-state cooperation.

Inter-state / horizontal:

- △ Interstate council on GST, etc to build consensus on the new tax regime among states.
- △ Interstate council on trade & commerce etc ensure uniformity in taxes and fair and free trade.
- △ Interstate council on water dispute resolution: etc resolve the disputes

regarding sharing of ring water.

Centre-State Vehicle

△ council on traditional knowledge,
↳ to bring states onboard with
centre's AYUSH ministry.

△ council on panchayat raj and
local self governments

↳ to ensure smooth flow
of centre's funds, directions... etc to
the PRLs.

△ council on tourism ⇒ cooperation
b/w centre & state on
tourism development.

In these way inter-state
councils help in ensuring both
vertical and horizontal cooperation &
coordination and → ultimately
strengthen federalism and promotes
National unity.

Candidates must
write on this margin

Pg

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

Ans

Public accounts committee was established in 1921 with an objective of scrutinizing the Government's expenditure and receipts accounts and ensures executive accountability to legislature.

[Key functions]

△ Major function of the committee is to study CAG's report and recommend measures to improve Government's public finance management.

△ It scrutinizes the public account of the government to ensure

transparency in the
expenditure.

△ It acts as an guide to CAG
who computes and audits the
accounts of central government and
state governments.

Measures to improve effectiveness

- △ Making the recommendations
mandatory on the governments.
 - △ allowing scrutiny even before
the expenditure is made.
 - △ providing powers to halt & flag
transactions that are inconsistent
to parliament's recommendations.
- Strengthening PAC will
help in enforcing accountability of
executive

4.

राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक विकास के चालक के रूप में नगरीकरण की अहम 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

Fifteen finance commissions

has provided its reports on devolution

of central finances for the years

2021-2025. The commission was

headed by N.K. Singh. It also put

forward certain recommendations

for urban local bodies (ULBs)

Recommendations:

△ providing ULBs more power

of taxation $\rightarrow$ property tax,

land transaction tax,

urban infrastructure

development etc.

△ Allowing ULBs to raise loans and advances from the market directly by issuing bonds.

△ Clear distinction of planning and implementation works by increasing autonomy of metropolitan development authorities (MDAs).

△ formation of ~~dis~~ district planning committee and municipal planning committee to ensure democratic functioning.

△ De-politicisation of the ULBs by increasing autonomy and reducing state influence → financial independence

ULBs play a key role in India's development plans and to achieve SDG: sustainable cities.

5. मौलिक अधिकारों की तुलना में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के तहत 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

Ans
Freedom of speech & expression

is provided to the citizens under Article 19 of the constitution. and also in the

parliamentary privileges to the parliamentarians.

↳ prohibits interference of courts and discussion/adjudication of things/issues/words/conduct of members of parliament by the courts.

Differences:

Article 19

△ available to all citizens

parliamentary privileges

△ available only

to members of parliament & state legislatures.

NEXT IAS

Candidates must
write on this margin

Δ Scope is restricted
by reasonable
restrictions on grounds of

- integrity & sovereignty of India
- public order
- relations with foreign states.

Δ Scope is wide. One
maximum punishment for viola-
tion may be
suspension of
membership
temporarily.

Necessary to maintain balance.

⇒ Right to equality i.e. privileges
violate equality.

⇒ Immunity may promote uncivilised
behaviour of members in the house.
⇒ may derail the democratic process
by avoiding discussions on key
issues.

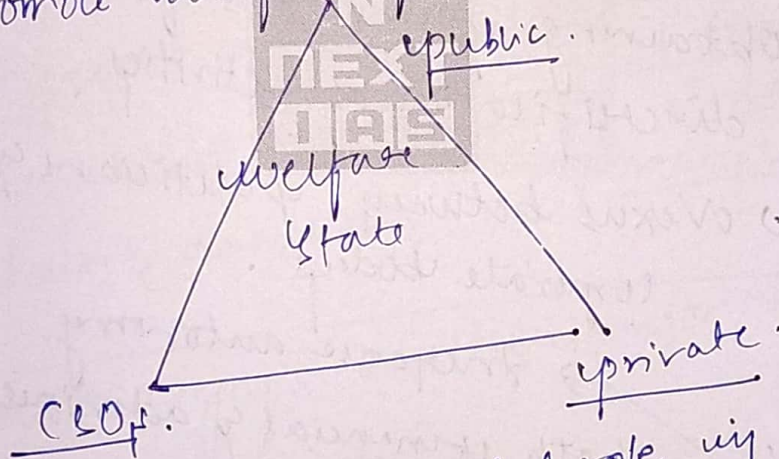
Hence, a fine balance is
necessary to ensure democratic
accountability of members.

6. नागरिक समाज संगठन, "सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्रवाई" को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण 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।

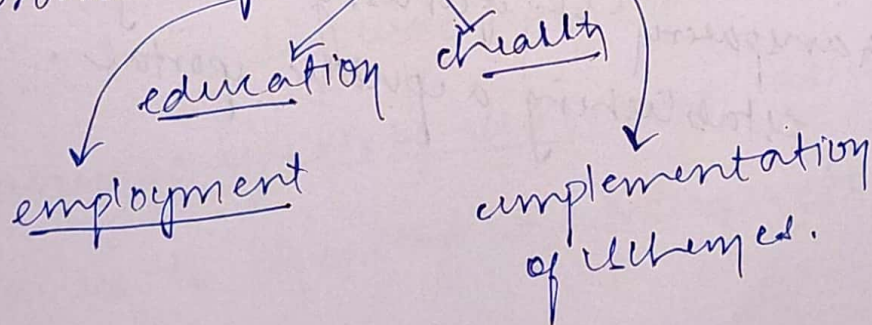
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

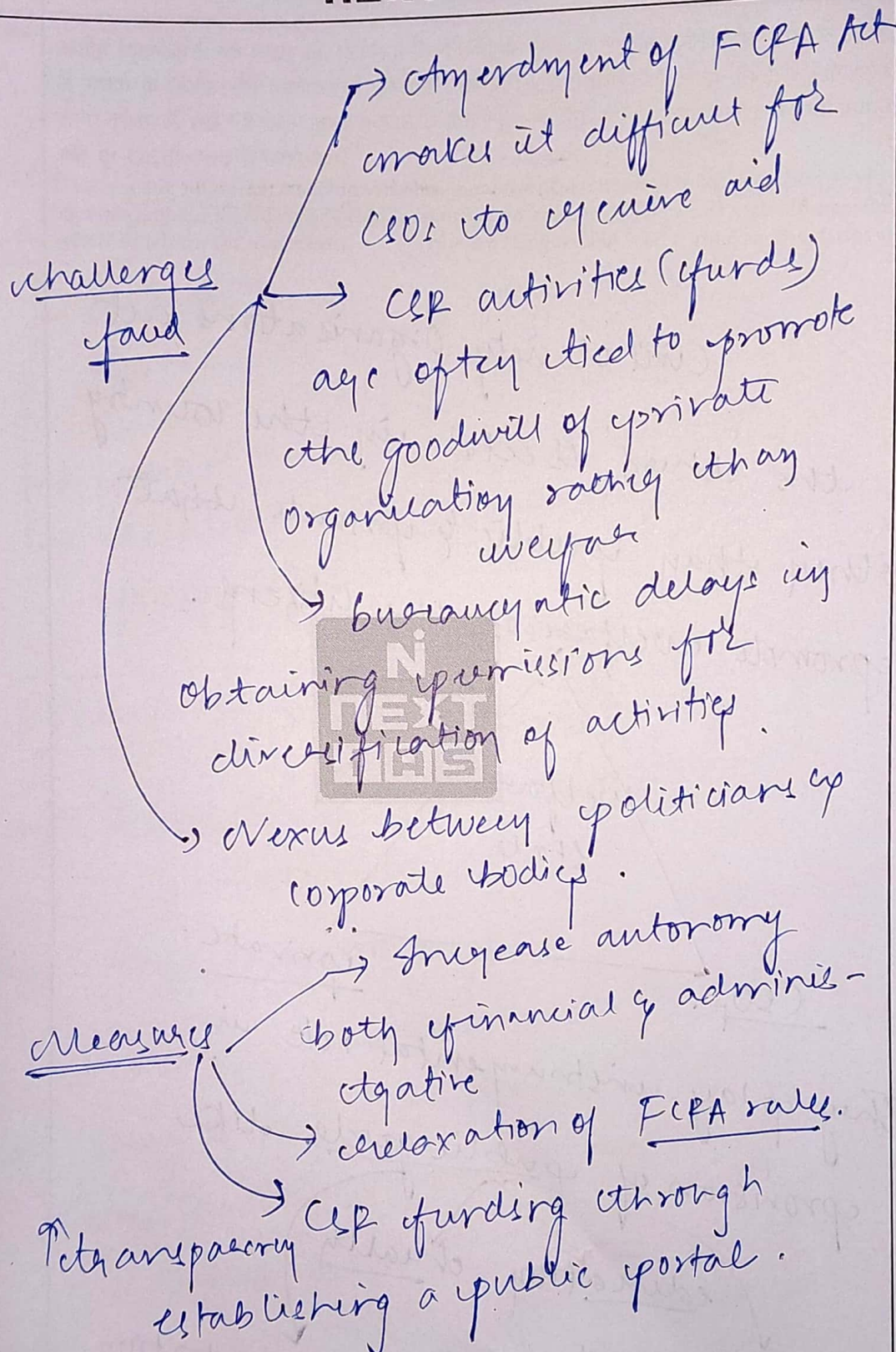
Civil society organizations, play a pivotal role in fostering "collective private action for the public good". What challenges do they face in local resource mobilization (LRM) and corporate funding through corporate social responsibility (CSR)? Also, suggest measures. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Civil Society organizations act as the third sector in the country other than public & private that promote welfare of the citizens.



They play instrumental role in provision of public goods. like





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 महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

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.

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Poverty measurement has been a statistical challenge in India since independence. Many committees have recommended different measures — calories intake, nutrition intake, poverty line, Sen, Dasgupta, Path & Dasgupta.

Niti Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index.

⇒ Indicators ⇒ Multidimensional —
↳ include per capita income, average years of schooling, assets, access to health, nutrition - etc

Methodology

↳ It assigns different values to each of its ten indicators based on performance and forms an estimate about overall poverty.

Significance

- Δ measures accessibility also and not just "money income"
- Δ Comprehensive: covers major dimensions of poverty.
- Δ Accurate: Nitiyog's methodology is robust that makes the estimates highly reliable.
- Δ helps in designing and better targeting of poverty alleviation schemes.

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

Ans

Right to health has been
recognised by the Supreme Court
as fundamental right under
Article 21.

International level → India is a
founding member of WHO.
Legal precedents

↳ Health is a state
subject and DPSP include
directions to state in
improving health of the
citizens.

Reasons for lack of legal recognition

△ Demand: lack of public demand

regarding the exercise of their
right due to lack of constitutional
awareness.

△ disparities: Health is a major
challenge to the poor people
and they lack representation in
political and legal forum.

△ Education and high illiteracy
prevents access to health.

△ Supply side: poor quality services
provided by public hospitals
discourages exercising the right.

However, with the launch
of Amish Kumar Bhagat and the
Indradanush 3.0, right to health
has achieved renewed recognition
especially in a post pandemic
world.

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

Ans

BRICS has occupied an increasing role in global power dynamics with recent induction of Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE and other nations into the grouping.

Role of BRICS

- Δ helps in reducing influence of western countries on domestic policies of emerging economies.
- Δ BRICS development bank may provide development loans to least developed countries.

Δ helps in de-dollarization by encouraging trade in local currency.

however it cannot influence the bilateral relationships of the countries to a significant extent.

Ex → not helping in solving India - china border dispute.

⇒ It has risk of turning into a political block against western organisations

⇒ It lacks democratic principles as there exists undue influence of China and Russia.

10.

सिंधु जल संधि में संशोधन की हालिया माँगों के आलोक में, भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच जल-बंटवारा व्यवस्था पर प्रश्न वाले इसके संभावित प्रभावों की चर्चा कीजिए।

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

Indus water treaty between
India and Pakistan was mediated
by World Bank.

Provisions

— exclusive use of water from
Ravi, Beas and Sutlej for
India
— navigation and irrigation
rights for India on Indus,
Chenab and Jhelum.

↳ exclusive use of water
rights for Pakistan on all other
six rivers.

Issues flagged recently

Δ Pakistan raised objection against India's check dam construction in Kashmir

Δ India has raised serious objection on dam as violative of sovereignty

Challenges of renegotiation

may never lead to agreement due to contrasting demands

may affect the water sharing and impact dependent farmers on both sides

may further deteriorate diplomatic ties.

11. संसदीय संप्रभुता और न्यायिक सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत ने भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के संवैधानिक ढाँचे को आकार देने में अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण 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

MM
100%
NTAC art.

Ans

Constitutional framework of both India and USA have considerable influence of the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy.

However, there is foundational differences between the two countries.

Ex In India, neither the parliament nor the judiciary is supreme. There exists supremacy of constitution and measures of checks & balances.

whereas in USA, the judiciary
is supreme, Active and sovereign
(non-interference).

Case laws and role of judiciary

S. Minerva Mills case: upheld the
judiciary's power of judicial
review cannot be curtailed by
the parliament.

① Keshavnanda Bhaskari case: landmark
judgement that led to the
doctrine of Basic Structure.

② Second judge case & fourth judges
case

↳ led to the formation and
strengthening of collegium
system. $\Rightarrow$ Independence of
judiciary.

Scope of judicial review

- Δ In India the judicial review is restricted only to the "gaparue" version of "procedure established by law"
- Δ In USA, the scope is wider as it rests on "due process of law" too.
- Δ However, successive Supreme Court judgements have led to emergence of due of process of law in India through wider interpretation of Article 21 and Basic structure doctrine

Indian judicial review is robust and effective, but its scope is narrower than that of USA.

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

Ans

Fair representation — (inclusive & diverse)
and one vote - one value
principles depend on the efficient
and effective delimitation of
constituencies

There has been increased instances
of politically motivated delimitations
that favour growth & victory of
a particular political party in
the elections $\Rightarrow$ This is done to
underrepresentation & misrepresentation
of particular communities
and groups $\Rightarrow$ This process is
termed as "gerrymandering"

Challenges of misrepresentation

- May lead to subversion of democracy as a certain section of population remains under-represented in the legislatures.
- May violate free & fair elections by benefitting a particular political party.
- May lead to inequalities among communities & caste groups and fuel unrest in the society.
- Multiple and fake voter Ids. Caste may manipulate the mandate and hinder fair elections.

Impact of population based delimitation

Δ will result in under representation of states in Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha.

↓
those who worked in controlling population. especially → southern states.

Δ may create federal tensions as the voice of the people of these states is suppressed at National level.

Ex) UP alone may decide the result of a legislative proposal due to very high parliamentary representation.

4 Issues like regionalism → especially in relation to language may gain prominence.

Therefore, Delimitation must be inclusive, transparent & fair.

Indikator

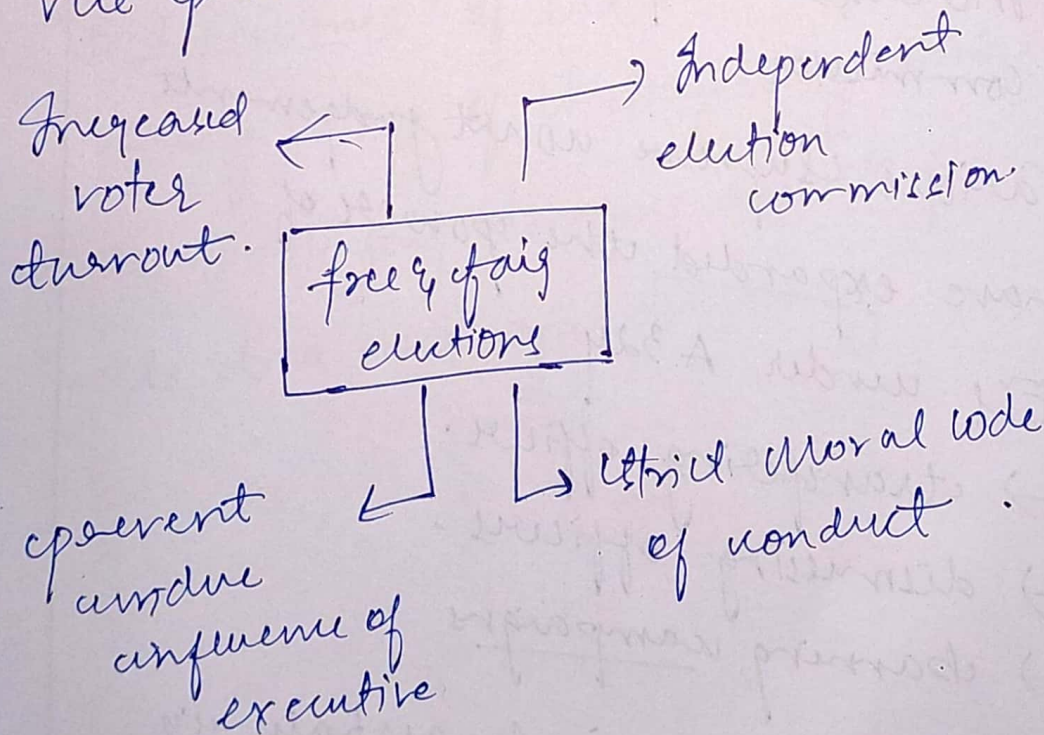
देश में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव कराने की निर्वाचन आयोग की संवैधानिक जिम्मेदारी के निर्वहन में उसके हाथों को मजबूत करने में भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

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

Ans

Election commission India is a constitutional body under Article 324 mandate to conduct & supervise elections for parliament, state legislatures, office of president and vice president.



Role of Supreme Court

Δ recent judgement of SC, changed chief the method of appointment of Election

Commissioner (CEC)



Recommendation of the committee consisting → PM, LoP and CJI.



Increases independence of the Commission.

Δ Various Supreme Court judgements have expanded the power of EC under A 324

- transferring officers.
- dismissing officers.
- banning campaigns

Δ SC has exercised restraint in

various instances to prevent interference in the ECI's electioneering work.

Δ During the pandemic it ensued that elections are conducted in safe and secure manner.

However, there needs to a robust framework that ensure "Independence" of ECI at each and every stage of Electioneering work. as free & fair elections are key to a successful democracy.

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

Ans

Indian constitutional framework is based on the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances. However, there isn't strict separation between the legislature and executive as we adopted a "parliamentary form" of government.

This however doesn't mean that there doesn't exist any strict executive accountability. Parliament plays an important role in

passage of bills, budgets, amendment of constitution, control of executive during emergencies, ratification of international treaties - etc.

Declining role of Parliament.

△ domination of ruling party in the parliament prevents enforcement of accountability.

△ Increased instances of opting quillstone, where, many provisions are clubbed and put to vote together → curtailed discussions.

△ Parliament has become a stage for political blame game.

△ Reduced role of parliamentary committee → highly politicised.

△ Biased role of speaker and the chairman of Rajya Sabha against opposition.

Despite its declining role, parliament plays key role in enforcing checks & balances. How?

△ adjournment motions.

△ censure motions

△ No confidence motions

play crucial role in controlling the dominance of executive in parliament.

15.

भारत में लिंग-संवेदनशील कानूनों पर विमर्श को आकार देने में राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई महत्वपूर्ण 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

Ans

National Commission of Women

is a statutory body entrusted with the responsibility of advising the governments on matters of gender sensitive policy making.

Other functions

Acts as a civil court in inquiring about the crimes against women.

direct policy

intervention for women

empowerment through different

programmes & schemes +

collaborations with NGOs.

like smile foundation & Nari Chakr.

कार्य
प्रकल्प

Role in shaping gender sensitive laws.

△ The recommendations of NHC played significant role in framing the provisions of the following Acts

- Surrogacy Regulation Act
- prevention of sexual harassment at workplace act.
- Medical termination of pregnancy Act.

△ It helped in framing bye-laws of the government bodies ensuring they reflected gender sensitiveness.

↳ the formation of Internal complaints committee in many departments.

Δ Also helped in the "permanent" commission of women in the armed forces.

Δ NCW argued against triple talaq in the SC.

Elevation to Constitutional position

(+ve)

Δ Adds weight to its recommendations.

Δ Improves investigative and inquiring powers

Δ upper hand over other statutory bodies.

(-ve)

Δ No changes in the nature of its recommendations → they

still remain only optional.

Δ No significant improvement in independence.

Along with elevating to the constitutional position it is also required to improve its independence and powers!

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

Ans

"Minimum government and maximum governance" is the key pillar of good governance. It can be achieved through

- ⇒ transparently predictable policy making
- ⇒ participatory policy making
- ⇒ professional bureaucracy that stands on the foundations of integrity
- ⇒ effective grievance redressal mechanism

↓
It is corner-stone - why?

Candidate
write on this

dates must not
be written in this margin

Importance of effective grievance redressal mechanism :-

- △ Improves citizens' satisfaction.
- △ reduces the burden on law making
- △ Ensures proper feedback of the services that can be utilized in amending policies accordingly.
- △ Improves "trust" among the public in government
- △ reduces social unrest and reduces burden on law enforcement agencies

Challenges of current mechanism

- △ No legal backing
↳ hence often leads to delays or non-resolution.

Δ Mechanism works by files

↳ lack of inter departmental and inter ministerial coordination for resolution.

Δ lack of awareness

↳ scheme prevents citizens from raising grievances.

Δ Utigma regarding the Government officers → often do not reflect empathy

Measures

- central, coordinated and comprehensive mechanism.
- transparent day providing real time tracking of grievance status.
- proper appellate bodies that can deal with unresolved complaints providing legal backing to the framework.
- inculcating empathy in the officers.

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, विसलब्लोअर 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

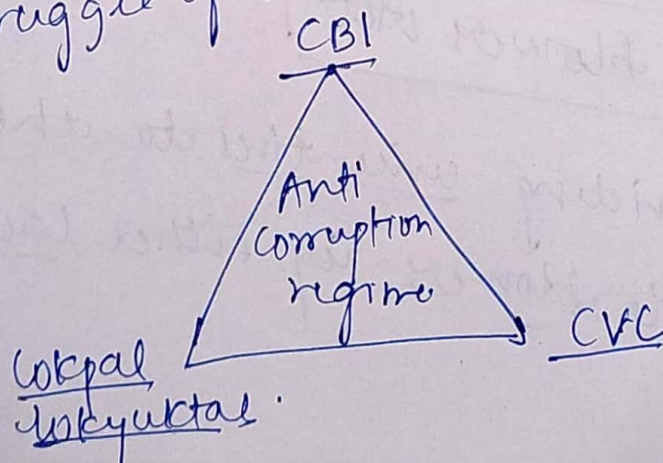
'Corruption corrodes the fabric of governance, eroding the public's faith in democratic institutions.' Examine the potential for harmonizing the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act (WBPA), and the Lokpal & Lokayukta Act, 2013, to enhance the effectiveness of the anticorruption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

Ans

Corruption is the worst form of violence. It leads to misappropriation of public funds and erodes public faith in democratic institutions.

Ex → 2G scam, National fodder scam, chawld case -- etc.

Anticorruption regime gained strength in India after the long struggle of Anna Hazare



The regime may be further strengthened if the provisions in the following Acts are strengthened.

Right to information Act

- △ Reduce the possibility of using "National Security" and exceptions clause.
- △ Bringing all the excluded public offices under its ambit
- △ Improving independence of the Chief information commissioner by bringing reforms in appointment, tenure and ~~conditions~~ conditions of service.

Whistle blowers Act

- △ Providing incentives to the whistle blowers in either cash or kind

Δ protection of their identity during investigation

Δ allowing anonymous reporting.

lokpal & lokpal Act

Δ By increasing the strength of investigative arm of these institutions.

Δ providing independence through changes in mechanism of appointment

Δ providing constitutional status.

Harmonization of the

provisions under this Act will strengthen the Anti-corruption regime and foster ease of doing business.

NEXT IAS

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

Ans

Self help groups have played an important role in rural development and women empowerment in India. Ex: Thakard SHGs of Kerala's Kudambini. To further strengthen their influence and leverage their potential the budget has proposed, turning SHGs into micro hubs of entrepreneurship and skill development.

Benefits involved

△ Improve financial independence of women [most of SHGs are women led and women based]

- △ provide employment opportunities to the rural population
 - ↳ in particular women, thereby improving female labor force participation ratio.
- △ Increases the formation of SHGs as income generation would act as incentive to the rural households.
- △ May lead to diversification of rural economy away from agriculture to other sector
- △ Increases "innovation" by increasing the rural participation in entrepreneurship
- △ May bring indigenous rural techniques, methods and products

into mainstream.

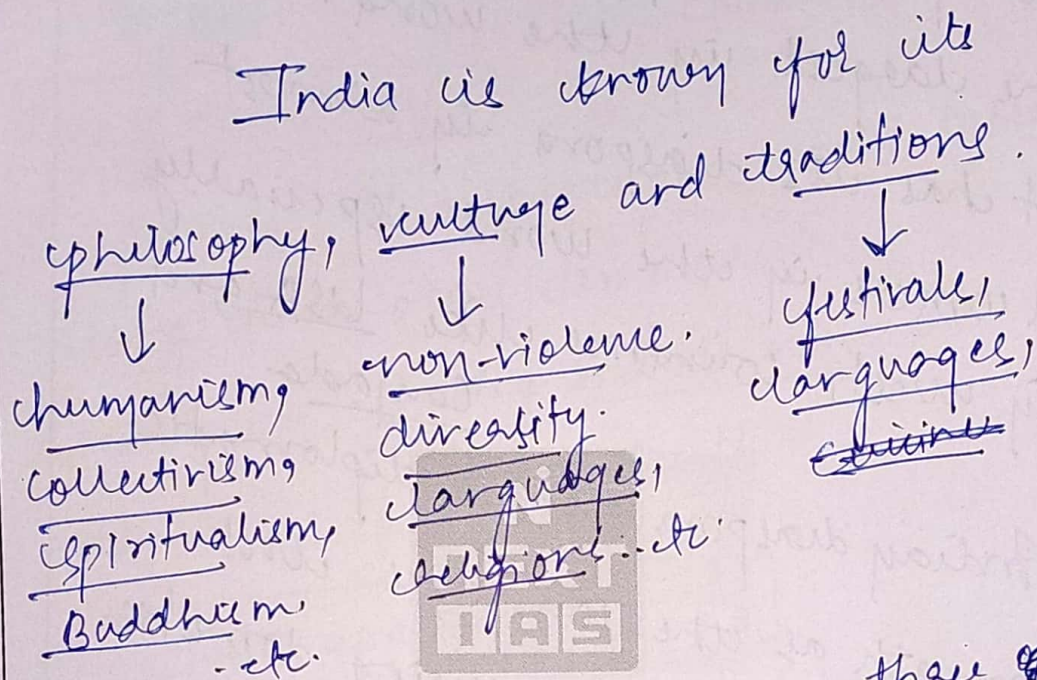
Challenges

- △ Influence of rich and upper caste woman in SHG may lead to exploitation of others $\Rightarrow$ unequal sharing of benefits
- △ Entrepreneurship will lead to independence of women that may strain the familial and social relationships of the villages.
- △ Competition from already established private firms is a major challenge
- △ Poor education and lack of enthusiasm may not provide response from the people.

SHGs have crucial role to play in rural development, as they stand as bridge between government and the people.

19. 'भारत अपनी समृद्ध संस्कृति के लिए विद्यमान 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

Ans.



India is the land of three of
major religions of the world. Hinduism,
Buddhism and Jainism. It is known
as mother of democracy and known
policy of non-aggression, non-alignment,
mutual respect, mutual co-existence
and mutual recognition.

Role of diaspora

- △ Indian ~~dis~~ diaspora is one of the largest in the world.
- △ It has its diaspora in almost all corners in the world especially in west countries like USA and Canada.
- △ Indian diaspora is its diplomatic strength as the countries look upon of India for ensuring domestic cooperation.

Role of Culture

- △ Yoga - universally celebrated.
- △ Ayurveda - being demanded globally.
- △ Pilgrimage and non-violence
 - ↳ often recognised by international agencies

Language, festival } being celebrated
 ↓
 one of the largest in foreign
 spoken countries too.

Role of democracy

- △ provides it a place on world table along with other democracies
- △ help in shaping India's voice as the voice of global youth

India as a smart power

- △ non-alignment with any major super power
 - △ strong relationships with major countries {ex} US - defence, Russia - defence, China - trade.
 - △ Non-interference in contentious issues {ex} Ukraine - Russia war.
- This way India has positioned itself as a smart power.

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।

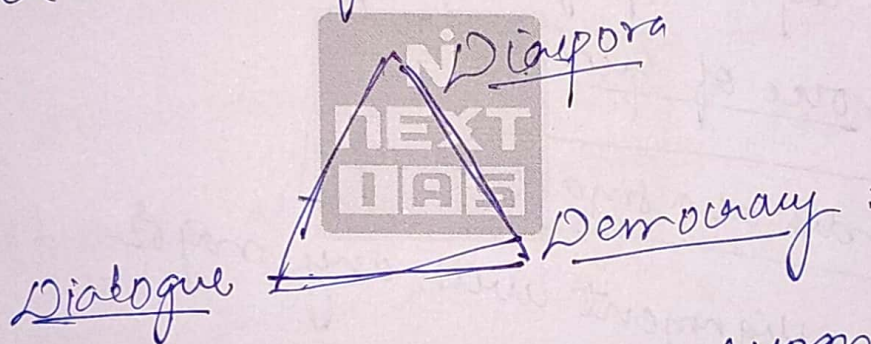
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

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

Ans

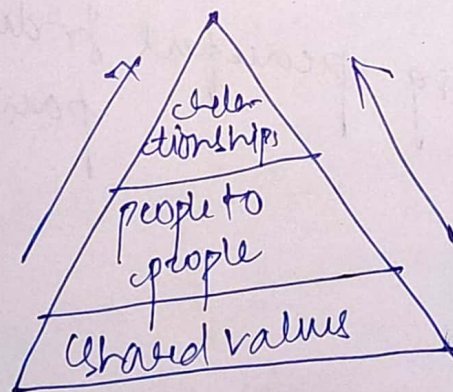
India and Australia share traditional relationship ties. These are based of 3Ps.



Shared values: Include recognition of human rights, freedom of speech, vision for a multipolar world, global free trade, effective global governance and reforms in international institutions + strong stance against terrorism.

people to people
connections : through migration
of Indians to cities like Sydney
and Melbourne for employment
and education.

These two act as the base on
which long term relationships
can be developed.



Areas of cooperation

△ trade in dairy sector, especially

milk products.

→ exchange of knowledge may
make Indian dairy sector competitive

Δ nuclear energy

↳ Australia has good
endowment of uranium.

Δ Quad

↳ Australia as part of Quad that
can help in collaborative efforts in
maintaining peaceful Indo-
pacific.