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Name of Candidate : Amit Meena

Roll No. : 0619715

Registration Number : MAS 22000 12613 Date of Examination : 02/09/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☑

Test - 6

Code : TC076

MTS IGP 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.

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SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....

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(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				

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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

The recent Assam - Arunachal Pradesh crisis leading to violence is a threat to the security of the nation.

Constitutional & Legal framework

(1) Art 3 → Parliament can alter the boundaries of any State.

(2) Art 131 → Supreme Court's original jurisdiction in interstate disputes.
(eg:- Telangana - Andhra issue.)

(3) Art 263 → Inter-State Councils to facilitate discussion.

(4) State Reorganisation Act (1956)
↳ est. Zonal councils.

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(5) NITI Aayog governing council
↳ discuss emerging issues, including boundary issue.

Failed ⇒ little success

(1) Reorganisation based on language
e.g. Belgaum region.

(2) North East ⇒ geographical as well as ethnicity issue make it difficult.

(3) Public sentiments → can lead to chaos & disruption of public order.

(4) Dysfunctional ISC.

Way Forward
- revive ISC & Zonal councils
- est. Joint Border Commission.

There is a urgent need to solve such issues to prevent future crisis.

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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

Art 263 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an Inter State Council (ISC).

Role → Vertical Cooperation

(1) Cooperative federalism by better policy coordination.

(2) Dispute resolution through discussion & deliberation.

(3) Advisory Role in policy formulation & execution.

(4) Address regional imbalances by focusing on backward region.

Role → Horizontal Cooperation

(1) policy coordination among states.

(2) Sharing of best practices.

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③ Information sharing & collaborative projects.

④ Helping in resolution of smaller disputes as well as interstate water disputes.

Issues with ISC

- almost disfunctional ⇒ doesn't meet thrice a year.
- has become obsolete & redundant.
- very restricted scope.

Way Forward

- regular meetings at particular intervals.
- wider scope of discussion
- independent permanent secretariat.

These suggestions can help in evolving "cooperative federalism."

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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

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has 22 members (15+7) and upholds the financial accountability of the executive.

Key functions of PAC

(1) Examination of accounts of expenditure, annual finance accounts etc.

(2) Examines the reports of CAG.

(3) Examines accounts showing income & expenditure of state corporations etc.

(4) Examine the excess expenditure & the reasons for it.

(5) Ensures accountability.

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Issues with PAC

- post facto analysis ⇒ no remedy
- lack of technical expertise
- no power to limit expenses
- huge lapsity due to no time limit.
- politicisation & lack of consensus

Steps to revamp

1. Fixed time limit to submit report.
2. Discussion of report & actions to be taken.
3. CAG should be made accountable to the Parliament.
4. Provide experts to analyse the spendings.

Thus the est. of Parliamentary Budgetary office as an independent body can be a step in the right direction.

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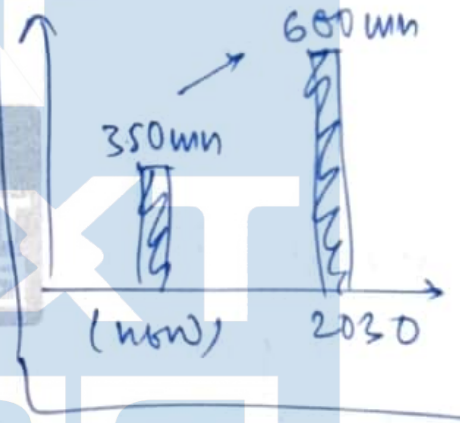
4. राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक विकास के चालक के रूप में नगरीकरण की अहम् भूमिका को स्वीकार करते हुए, पंद्रहवें वित्त आयोग ने शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) के लिए प्रमुख सुधारों का सुझाव दिया है। भारत में यूएलबी को बढ़ावा देने और पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए पंद्रहवें वित्त आयोग द्वारा दी गई सिफारिशों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(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

As per the World Urbanisation Prospects report more than 50% of the population will live in cities by 2050. Hence the urban local bodies (ULB) become instrumental.



15th FC recommendations :-

① Categorisation → million plus
→ all others

② Challenge fund to achieve better facilities like air quality etc.

③ Tied grands → 60%.

④ Funds to states for new cities.

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⑤ performance based grants.

Advantages

- Proactive steps for better service delivery.
- reduce financial dependence on states.
- increased autonomous functioning
- localised solutions.

Issues

① Conditional grants ⇒ huge increase.
- disproportionate flows in few areas
- "one size fits all".

② Reduce their status to 'just an implementing agency.

③ Non optimum distribution irrespective of level of urbanisation.

Thus the "principle of subsidiarity" should be followed in letter & spirit.

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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

MPs & MLAs enjoy freedom of speech & expression under parliamentary privileges (Art 105 & 194). On the other hand, citizens enjoy it as part of FR under Art 19(1)(a).

Key differences in scope

Parliamentary privilege	FR
(1) only to the representatives (MP, MLA)	(1) to all citizens of India
(2) Only inside the Parliament	(2) Everywhere in Indian territory.
(3) To protect the representatives from any undue influence	(3) ensure liberty, equality & freedom.

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④ Usually beyond judicial review	④ ensured by Art 32 & 226
⑤ No reasonable restriction	⑤ Art 19(2)

Maintain Balance

① Should not be used to insult or promote hatred.

② Right to prohibit publication of proceedings in conflict with FR.

③ ~~prohibit~~ restricts RTI.

④ To ensure social contract is upheld and public trust is maintained.

⑤ cannot overshadow the FR.

Thus this right should be used to strength the democratic culture rather than overpowering.

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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

CSO → non profit, voluntary citizens group oriented for the common intrest of people.

Challenges ⇒ local resource mobilisation

(1) Poor resource availability & no institutional mechanism.

(2) Restrictions on foreign funding.

(3) poor financial expertise
↳ wastage.

(4) Political Interference and bureaucratic red tapism.

(5) No scope for onward grants.

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Challenges → CSR

1. Tied in nature & lack of autonomy.
2. Shift from welfare to "market approach"
   - ↳ sustainability, viability.
3. Sovereign funds like PM CARES, NDRF make them less attractive.

Way Forward

- relax regulations → "light but tight"
- Sector based approach → better efficiency.
- govt support like social audit etc.
- institutional credit as well as crowdfunding.

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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

NITI Aayog MPI – Methodology

(1) 3 dimensions
- Health
- education
- Standard of living.

(2) 12 indicators ⇒ for proper study.

(3) Headcount ratio ⇒ proportion of MP individuals in total population.

Significance

(1) Art 38 – welfare state

(2) Complements monetary approach.

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(3) more qualitative study rather than quantitative.

(4) Helps understand the depth & poverty

(5) Different dimensions
↳ better suggestion.

(6) Objective Targeting
eg:- TPDS.

(7) Coordinated efforts for a better tomorrow.

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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

Right to health: access to proper healthcare services.

Constitutional → Art 21, Art 38, Art 39(e), 41, 47

international → Alma Ata Declaration

lack of explicit legal recognition

① Poor availability of manpower (1:1456 doctors; WHO → 1:1000)

② lack of proper infrastructure.

③ State list → "health"

④ private sector huge presence.

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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 grouping has a huge collective strength → 27% area
→ 28% GDP
→ 42% population.

Meaningful cooperation

① Strong financial architecture based on → NDB & CRA → help create resilient economies.

② Economic → BRICS trade agreement and consists of the emerging & fastest growing economies.

③ Security → ensuring peace & stability. (eg) BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan.

④ Focused on more representation to the global south in the UN.

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(5) Alternate payment system to the SWIFT mechanism.

Ability to influence bilateral relations is limited

(1) Border disputes and going against national sovereignity (eg: LAC.

(2) Huge trade imbalance with China (> $100 bn trade deficit)

(3) Trust deficit due to lack of proper communication & aggressive policies.

(4) China centric grouping ⇒ reducing autonomy of others.

(5) Different value system → democracy v/s communist (dictatorial).

Thus the groups should focus on economic growth & sustainability through confidence building measures.

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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

As per the Indus Water Treaty (1960) between India & Pakistan, all the water of Eastern Rivers was allocated to India while of western rivers was largely allocated to Pakistan.

However, the recent turmoil and the parliamentary panel demanding re-negotiation has brought it to light.

Possible Implications

① Addressing impact of climate change ⇒ due to changes in precipitation patterns.

② Constant disputes especially with respect to the hydropower projects like Ratle & Kishanganga

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(3) To bring in reforms as per new technologies and thus align the letter & spirit.

(4) Strategic nature: PM calls for "water & blood cannot flow together".

(5) International rules of water sharing like Berlin, Helsinki rules can be incorporated.

(6) Pakistan's critical situation due to droughts & floods might improve and can lead to better strategic ties.

(7) Dispute resolution mechanism ⇒ a neutral expert can be brought in.

(8) Reduce role of China.

In this context, revisiting the IWT due to climate change & changing dynamics is a prudent & necessary step.

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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

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

In USA, 'judicial supremacy' is enshrined in the Constitution and is a key feature.

But in case of India, the Constitution provides for both parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy. The SC has the power to strike down unconstitutional laws, but Parliament can also amend the constitution & override court decisions.

This tussle has shaped the constitutional framework.

Role of judiciary → India

① AK Gopalan and L. Chandra case

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SC was power to review any law under Art 13.

② Golaknath case (1967) → Art 368 doesn't include power to amend the Fundamental Rights.

③ Keshavananda Bharati case (1973) → amending power of Parliament restricted by the doctrine of "basic structure".

④ Maneka Gandhi case → expanded scope of Art 21.

⑤ Minerva Mills case (1980) → harmonious relation between fundamental rights & DPSP.

⑥ NJAC (2014) → struck down the 99th Constitutional Amendment.

⑦ Constitutional morality through Navtej Singh Johar case, Triple Talaq etc.

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USA

- Marbury vs. Madison ⇒ est. principle of judicial review.
- Roe vs Wade ⇒ right to abortion constitutional right.

Judicial Review in India

- Art 13, 32 and 226
- IR Coelho case (2007) reiterated
- **Limited** :-
  1. Privileges & rights of MP & MLA
  2. Role of speaker in Anti defection law
  3. Role of governor, and his discretionary power.

Thus there is a need to balance the power of judicial review and prevent judicial overreach.

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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

The Delimitation Commission is set up by the Union govt as per the Act and Art 82. It is the process of fixing boundaries of territorial constituencies.

Importance of delimitation
- better representation
- voice of people heard
- equal representation
- one vote, one value

Challenges posed by misrepresentation :-

① Can lead to regional disparity if not well represented.

② Suffer from political & administrative apathy.

③ Reduced representation and

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disenfranchisement of the area.

④ Disturb the ~~fiscal~~ federal fabric of the country.

⑤ Disturb peace & harmony → can lead to feelings of enmity & injustice.

⑥ Violates the principle of free & fair election.

Population based delimitation ⇒ Federal tension

① Penalises states with low population ⇒ lesser representation.

② Political priority to larger population states ⇒ leading to central state disputes.

③ Rising regionalism → mutual distrust → separatist tendencies

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(4) 15th Finance Commission opposition was based on similar lines.

(5) Population control efforts of Southern states being punished
↳ losing out on number of Lok Sabha seats.

Therefore in order to have an all inclusive political participation & smooth transition to larger Parliament, there is a need for properly discussed Delimitation process.

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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

SC in Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain case (1975) held free & fair elections to be part of basic structure.

Art 324 → gives Election Commission (EC) the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections.

Role of Supreme Court in strengthening the Election Commission

---

① In the recent Anoop Baranwal v. UoI (2023), SC provided that the EC be appointed by President on advice of committee. (new Act overturned)

② Right to know → about the candidates. EC to publish the data.

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(3) Common cause case (1995) → SC directed pol. parties to file IT returns. ⇒ EC1 monitor expenses.

(4) Model Code of Conduct to be put in place during the election period.

(5) Power to reject nomination if complete details not provided.

(6) Lily Thomas case ⇒ reduce criminalisation of politics.

(7) Appeal for votes on grounds of caste, religion, language etc can amount to corrupt practices under Sec 123 of RPA (1951).

(8) Subramanian Swamy case: VVPAT are indispensable for free & fair elections.

(9) PUCL case (2013) → introduce NOTA ⇒ power to reject.

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Further Reforms required :-

① legal backing of MCC

② ECI → doesn't have power to deregister a pol. party.
↓
power to deregister.

③ Reforms in electoral bonds → as anonymity & opaqueness is making it difficult to track expenses.

④ Indrajit Committee: state funding of elections in "kind".

Thus the recent ECI Act (2023) in this regard is a step in the right direction to ensure the objective of free & fair elections.

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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

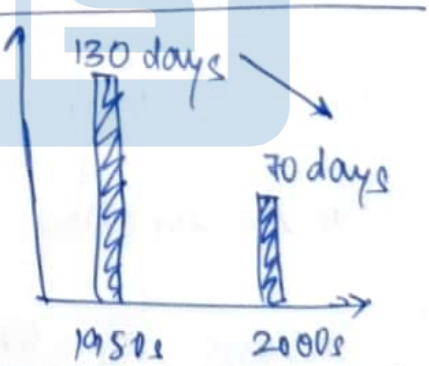
'The declining role of Parliament undermines the fundamental principle of separation of powers, as it diminishes the legislature's ability to serve as a check on the executive branch and ensure a balanced exercise of power.' Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The Parliament being the voice of the people has the important role of holding the government accountable for its policies.

Our democracy is based on the principle of checks & balances, as well as seperation of powers.

Declining Role of Parliament

① Average sitting days ⇒



② lack of proper debates & discussions in the house ⇒ less scrutiny of bills.

↳ disruptions.

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③ Only 15% of the bills in 17th LS were referred to committees.

Undermines seperation of power

① Art 75 → the CoM are collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
→ diminished productivity & poor debates

② Function encroachment → since opposition lacks numerical strength, Bills are passed as per the choice of executive.

⑤ Poor scrutiny → bypassing the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

④ Overuse of ordinance making power
eg → 3 farm bills.

⑤ Delegated legislations → where the executive designs & details the Acts.

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(6) Anti Defection Law → ruling party members cant voice concerns as bound by whip.

Way forward

(1) NCRCW: anti defection law only for non-confidence & money bills.

(2) Power to convene parliament should be with parliament only.

(3) A minimum number of sitting days should be put in place.

(4) Mandatory scrutiny of bills except money bills.

(5) Parliamentary Secretariate to help MPs through expert advice.

After all the parliament is the pillar which makes India is "representative democracy".

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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

The National Commission for Women is a statutory body est. in 1990 to ensure women empowerment.

Role of NCW
- → equality & equal participation
- → effective formulation & enforcement strategies to solve specific problem.

NCW ⇒ gender sensitive law

① Data collection and gender profiling to assess the level of empowerment of women → of different groups.

② Review of legislation like POSH Act, etc. to advice on the revising of the laws.

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③ Suo moto notice → about deprivation of rights of women.

④ Awareness generation through camps, events and discussing.
↳ gender justice

⑤ Special studies & investigations to find Limitations & way to curb it.

Constitutional body ⇒ better gender justice

① Have better resources at disposal and finances to function effectively.

② Have powers of civil court in investigating complaints.

③ Obligatory for the Union & State govt to consult NCW in policies affecting women.

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④ Security of tenure — act impartially & swiftly.

⑤ Obtain any records & documents.

Certain challenges will still remain :-

① only a recommendatory body and not binding. (eg. NCST.

② Limited role in changing socio-cult. sphere ⇒ can be dealt at grassroot level only. (eg. dowry.

③ No trickle down effect and poor delegation of functions.

Thus, a multistakeholder approach while making NCW independent & quasi judicial body, can help in ensuring gender justice.

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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

The goal of minimum government and maximum governance cannot be achieved without putting in place a proper grievance redressal mechanism (GRM).

GRM, the process to resolve a complaint filed by a citizen or consumer.

Challenges associated

① Huge pendency of cases.
(NJDG → 4.5 crore cases pending)

② Low case clearance rate of 88%.

③ No proper setup and lack of awareness about ADR.
(eg) Lok adalats.

④ Human resource deficit → lack

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of quality mediators etc.

(5) "low cost & timely manner" is a very difficult combination to find.

(6) Structural bottlenecks → no proper mechanism and no officer appointed

(7) low rate of technological adoption
↳ reduced efficiency.

Measures to strengthen GRM

(1) Investment in capacity building through proper training and infrastructure creation.

(2) Technological adoption → online
- complaint registrations.
- e-governance (CPGRAMS)
- SUVAAS, SUPACE (judiciary)

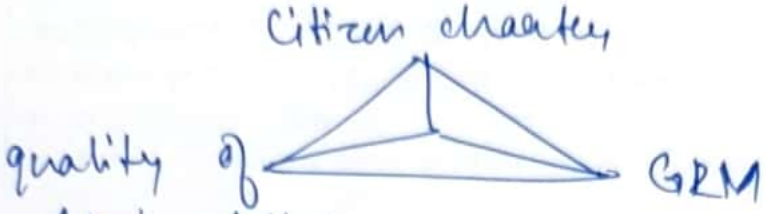
(3) Create awareness about ADR → less time taking.

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④ Sentham model:



Other mechanisms for better governance

① Digital public infrastructure.
(eg- Adhaar, UPI

② DBT through JAM trinity.

③ e-gov initiatives like myGov.in.

Thus to ensure proper service delivery and making justice equitable & accesible, proper grievance redressal mechanism is necessary.

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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

As per Dr Klitgaard, corruption happens when there is discretion, monopoly and lack of ~~trans~~ accountability

Corruption = monopoly + discretion − accountability

RTI Act → to increase transparency

WBPA → to protect the whistleblowers & ensure accountability

Lokpal Act → to investigate corrupt officials.

Harmonising the three

① Common agenda to bring transparency, efficiency & accountability

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(2) Efficiency → better coordination and cooperation and sharing of crucial information.

(3) Protecting whistleblowers by integrating the three ⇒ promote more to come out.

(4) Timely action → as per lokpal as independent enforcement agency.

(5) Remove legal gaps & loopholes and make them consistent.

(6) Comprehensive as lokpal covers all govt employees.

(7) Increase public faith and lead to trust based governance.

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These 3 harmonising and sharing info can help in better tracking of fault-lines and thus enhance the effectiveness of anticorruption regime.

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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

There are over 13 million SHGs and over 90% of them are women exclusive.

SHGs → group of people having a collective aim to save money and bring financial empowerment.

Role & Benefits

(1) Skill development & entrepreneurship:-

(a) Pooling up resources and getting access to credit (banks)

(b) proper training in a particular field. (eg) Lijjat Papad

(c) promotes employment in niche skills. (eg) mask making.

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(d) inculcates entrepreneurial skills in women → better utilisation of govt schemes.
(eg) → Stand Up India.

(2) Income generation :-

(a) Solidarity & coming together to create assets.

(b) virtuous cycle of investment & return.

(c) create buffer against emergencies like disaster.

(d) SEWA → income security through skill development.

Potential challenges

(1) lack of knowledge & proper orientation.

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(2) Patriarchal mindset of society
↳ creates hurdle for women.

(3) Reluctance among members to return loans.

(4) Misappropriation of funds.

(5) lack of skills → limit them to menial production.

(6) lacks economics of scale.

(7) Discrimination and power capture by elites.
e.g. dominant caste.

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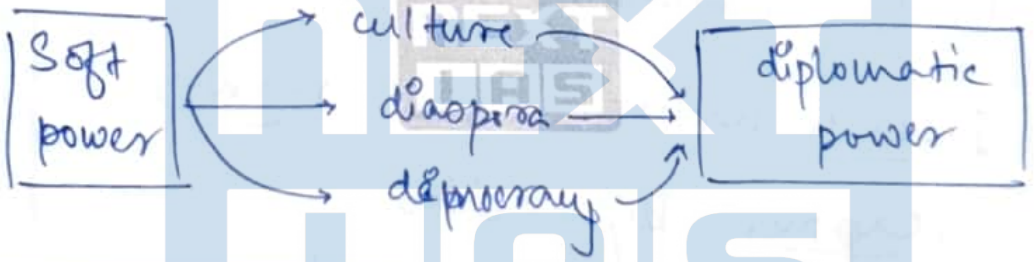
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19. भारत अपनी समृद्ध संस्कृति के लिए विश्व मानचित्र पर अद्वितीय स्थान रखता है।' इस संदर्भ में भारत की सॉफ्ट पावर कूटनीति के साधन के रूप में संस्कृति, प्रवासी और लोकतंत्र की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। भारत किस हद तक खुद को स्मार्ट पावरश के रूप में स्थापित 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

India's rich cultural heritage along with its soft power has positioned it uniquely on the world map. India's focus on "peaceful coexistence" has made it a diplomatic power.



Instruments of soft power

① Culture :-

ⓐ promotes tolerance and universal brotherhood ⇒ composite culture.

ⓑ "Peace" as a foundational value
eg → UN Peacekeeping

ⓒ Food, music, yoga, spiritualism attract people.

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(d) Strengthen bilateral relations.
(eg) Buddhist diplomacy with SEA.

(2) Diaspora :-

(a) Huge numerical strengths → influencing govt policies in foreign nations
(eg) India US civil nuclear deal.

(b) facilitates cultural exchanges & people to people contact.

(c) Heading various important posts.
(eg) Rishi Sunak (UK PM)

(d) Skilled workforce ⇒ >$100 bn remittances

(3) Democracy :-

(a) largest democracy in the world.

(b) Voice of the global south and equal respect to smaller nations.

(c) facilitates dialogues & discussions

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with like minded countries.

India ⇒ smart power

① Principles of Panchsheel and against aggresive policies.
eg → oppose China's debt trap.

② No First Use → responsible nuclear power. → lead to memberships in MTCR etc.

③ Crucial leadership role in WTO, G20 and demands for multilateral reforms.

④ Soft power → has increasingly improved its global outreach.

⑤ Development & sustainable growth.

Thus India has to a large extent emerged as a smart power that strategically uses soft power as well as hard diplomacy.

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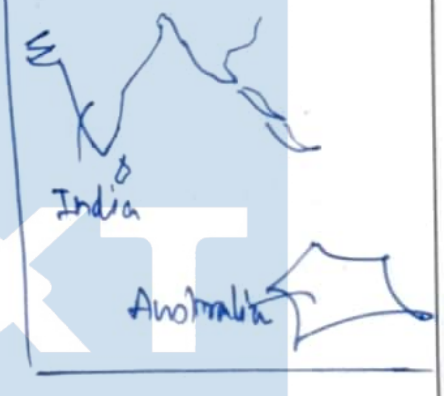
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20. भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझा मूल्यों और जीवंत लोगों से लोगों के बीच संबंधों का साहचर्य दोनों देशों के बीच दीर्घकालिक व्यापार संबंधों और रणनीतिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उपजाऊ जमीन तैयार करता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)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

The India - Australia relations have shifted from divergences to convergence and the recent PM visit as well as ECTA are a case in point.

Synergy of shared values



(1) Historical commercial ties during the British era.

(2) multipolar Indo pacific ⟶ strategic equilibrium

ensures free & open Indopacific

(3) People to people interactions → huge diaspora, students etc.

(4) Mutual respect for sovereignty.

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(5) Sports & culture → common interests in field of cricket as well as a multicultural society.

Our Hble PM Modi thus mentioned that the relation has evolved from 3Cs ⟹ 3Ds ⟹ 3Es

- 3Cs
  - commonwealth
  - cricket
  - curry
- 3Ds
  - democracy
  - diaspora
  - dosti
- 3Es
  - energy
  - economy
  - education

Fostering trade relations

(1) ECTA → 1st FTA by India with a developed country in last decade.

(2) $ 30 bn bilateral trade in 2022 with the aim to make it $50bn in next 5 years.

(3) Reduction of duty to zero → 96% Indian exports
↳ 85% Australian exports.

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④ Investment is rising both ways through FDI & FPI.

⑤ Increased areas of cooperation.

(a) → green energy, green H_2

⑥ SCRI → to ensure a robust supply chain.

Strategic collaborations

① QUAD → strengthening partnerships as emerging power in Indo pacific.

② elevated status to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

③ Malabar exercise → joint military.

④ Maritime security and balancing China.

Thus as expert C. Rajamohan has mentioned there is a need for deeper regional cooperation along with the FIPIC nations to enhance partnership.

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Space for Rough Work

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