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(To be filled by candidate)

Code : TC156

Name of Candidate : Anand Sharma

Roll No. : MT23RTRA001

Registration Number : NIAS2300019263 Date of Examination : 31/08/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☑ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

MTS - RAPID TEST-2 : 2023

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.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

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[To be filled by the STUDENT]

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[To be filled by the EXAMINER]

Evaluator's response

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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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write on this

Q.1 जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 8 में उल्लिखित निर्योग्यता प्रावधानों में उपस्थित अस्पष्टता का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

There is a need to resolve the ambiguity in the disqualification provisions under section 8 of the Representation of People Act 1951. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans - Recently an MP from opposition party was disqualified on grounds of defamation charges provided under Sec 8(3) of Representation of People Act 1951 (RoPA'51)

Disqualification under Section 8 of RoPA'51
- Promoting enemity on grounds of caste, religion, race, language
- Offence of bribery
- Cruelty towards woman
- Offence of rape (Sec 376)
- Adulteration, dowry etc

Ambiguity in Sec 8 of RoPA'51

(1) SC in its Lily Thomas judgement struck down Sec 8(4) of RoPA'51 for it provided 3 months duration to convicted MP/MLA to approach higher court

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(2) Ambiguity in terms of language of act, discretionary power of ECI

(3) lack of clarity on exceptions, conditions of disqualification

These overall concerns has led to increased criminalisation of politics.

Way forward

(1) Clarity of expression in language of act by revisiting the section 8.

(2) Conditions of disqualification and any exceptions must be clearly defined.

(3) Discretionary powers of ECI must be checked by suitable legislative amendment

(4) Any exceptions to elected convicts that hinders the right to equality must be struck down.

Thus, Sec 8 of RoPA '51 be modified that it doesn't hinders in electoral functions of India

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Q.2 संविधान मात्र एक कंकाल है जबकि संविधानवाद लोकतंत्र की आत्मा है। विवेचना कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Constitution is a mere skeleton whereas constitutionalism is the soul of democracy. Discuss.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans Constitutionalism is the idea that seeks to enforce social developments through a defined legislative framework, called the constitution

Constitution is a mere skeleton

(1) It provides for various laws, regulations and acts that has to be adhered by both the state and citizens
eg fundamental Rights, DPSPs by state etc

(2) It provides for the basic feature of India democracy which is both 'federal' but with a 'unitary tilt'

(3) It provides for "delegated legislation" by the executive

(4) Defines centre-state relationships
eg Art 263 provides for Inter State Council

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(5) Provides for Emergency Provisions (Art 352, 356, 360) that automatically turns federal polity into a unitary framework

Constitutionalism > Soul of Democracy

(1) Art 17 seeks to abolish untouchability which provides for upliftment of vulnerable strata and the 'antyodaya'

(2) Art 19 provides for freedom of speech which is the one vow in a democracy

(3) Art 301 provides for barrier free inter state commerce, giving thrust on the idea of common nationality and fraternhood

(4) Amendments of 1992 - 73rd and 74th empowered the grass root institutions - ULBs and PRIs

(5) Art 21 provides for liberty which again forms the soul of democratic order.

Thus Dr. Ambedkar's theory of constitutional morality has developed a legal document into a 'social text'

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Q.3 'चुनावी बॉण्ड एक दोधारी तलवार है, जो दानकर्ताओं को अनामिता प्रदान करता है जबकि राजनीतिक वित्तपोषण में पारदर्शिता के बारे में चिंताएँ बढ़ाता है।' चुनावी बॉण्ड ने किस सीमा तक चुनावी वित्तपोषण में अपारदर्शिता को वैध बना दिया है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Electoral bonds are a double-edged sword, providing anonymity to donors while raising concerns about transparency in political funding." To what extent have electoral bonds further legitimized opacity in electoral funding? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans - Recently, according to SBI data the donations through electoral bonds surpassed ₹10000 Crores.

Electoral Bonds: Double Edged Swords

Providing Anonymity

→ Helps maintain individual anonymity of individuals, NGOs or religious trusts

→ Preservation of one's identity protects them from political undue pressure

→ Key to safeguard one's electoral rights

Concern of transparency

→ Hinders "Right To Know" aspect

→ 'Shallow Anonymity' as the government can always know who donated to whom

→ Challenge of unauthorised donations leading to politico-business nexus

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Electoral Bonds: Legitimising Opacity in electoral funding

(1) Leading to crony capitalism

(2) Contradicts the basic idea of "transparency" in election funding

(3) Representative democracy rests on the notion that "electors must be aware" of their candidates. Electoral bonds diminishes this idea

(4) It is viewed often against free and fair elections as "money power" unresponsive rational decision making on outcomes

(5) Right to know is an integral aspect of Art 19 which this opacity has curbed.

Thus, in line with supreme court's decision that electoral bonds shall provide 'anonymity to donors' but 'anonymous donations' needs to be checked through legal mandate.

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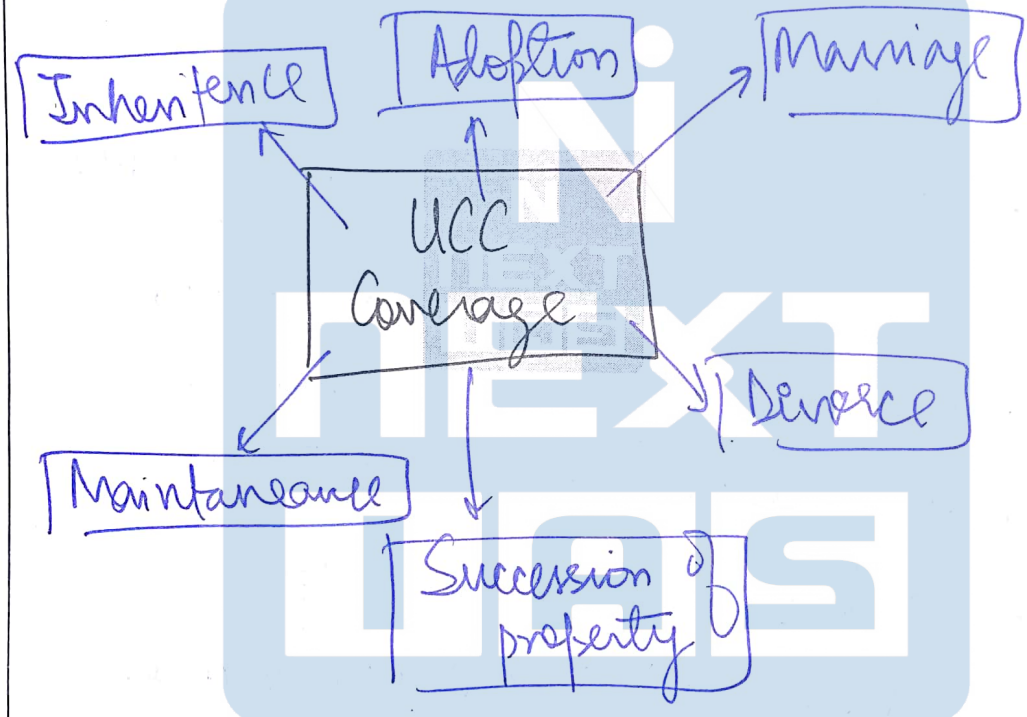
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Q.4 समान नागरिक संहिता पर बहस के केंद्र में लैंगिक समानता का प्रश्न है। इस आलोक में यूसीसी को संविधान में निहित लैंगिक समानता के साथ सामंजस्य स्थापित करने में क्या चुनौतियाँ हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The question of gender equality is central to the debate on Uniform Civil Code. In this light what are the challenges in reconciling UCC with gender equality as enshrined in the constitution?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans - Art 44 of the constitution provides for Uniform Civil Code structure. Presently Goa is the only Indian state to have employed UCC



Challenges in reconciling UCC with gender equality :-

(1) According to 21st Law Commission report amending family laws could lead to increased discrimination and gender inequality

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(2) Against cultural diversity of India — sects, cults, religions, castes etc

(3) Under Hindu Marriage Act 1954, marriage is considered a "sacrament", dissolution of which could lead to increased cases separation and divorces.

(4) Inheritence of coparcenary rights is a challenge to be met by girls & women due to patriarchal nature of society

(5) Issue of divorce and monthly maintenance [ep Shah Bano judgement.

Thus, UCC should be ~~for~~ brought by all round engagement of all stakeholders.

The purpose has to be rested on gender justice, principle of equality and safeguarding cultural rights of people as enshrined in the constitution

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Q.5 'राज्यपाल का कार्यालय न तो आलंकारिक है और न ही अप्रासंगिक है, यह गहन सारयुक्त संवैधानिक भूमिका निभाता है' राज्यपाल, किसी राज्य के शासन में किस सीमा तक सक्रिय रूप से योगदान देता है और देश में संघवाद के सिद्धांतों को सुदृढ़ करता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

'The Governor's office is neither decorative nor inconsequential, it assumes a constitutional role of profound essence' To what extent does the Governor, actively contribute to the governance of a state and reinforce the principles of federalism in the country? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans. Art 153 of the constitution Provides for the office of goveenor, who is appointed by the President of India for a teem of 5 years in general

Goveenor's role in goveenance of a state

(1) All ~~acts~~ bills passed by state legislature becomes 'acts' only when signed by the goveenor

(2) He acts as an agent of Union goveenment if President's Rule (Art 356) is deployed in a state

(3) Goveenor is the 'head of state' and appoints CM and council of Ministers (Art 163, 164)

(4) He hold constitutional as well as personal discretion eg Appointment of CM in case of hung assembly

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Governor's role in reinforcing the principles of federalism

(1) While he acts as agent of Union, he cannot arbitrary reject state legislatives's proposals

(2) The state cabinet is empowered to advise the governor and such a advice cannot be questioned in court of law

(3) According to Supreme Court judgement, a governor cannot remove the cabinet headed by PM, until it enjoys vote of confidence.

(4) Governor acts as a bridge to direct state's demand to Union
eg: Fiscal allocation etc.

Thus, governor's office is neither decorative nor inconsequential. However recommendations made by Sarkaria Commission (1983) in view of governor's office, his arbitrary dismissal by centre must be checked

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Q.6 हाल ही में एक राज्य में सामाजिक जवाबदेही कानून बनाने को लेकर माँग उठ रही है. इस तरह का कानून किस प्रकार सुशासन की ओर ले जा सकता है और निर्णय लेने में नागरिकों की भागीदारी को कैसे बढ़ावा दे सकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Recently demand has been rising in a state regarding the enactment of Social Accountability Law. How such a law can lead to good governance and boost citizens' participation in decision-making. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans - Social Accountability aims envisages for ensuring the accountability of the administrative framework with regards to its social obligations towards states' citizenry.

Optimum utilisation of public fund → Upliftment of vulnerable and 'antyodaya'

Social Accountability Realms → Awareness generation about citizen's rights and entitlements

→ Transparency and openness in functions

Timely delivery of public service

Social Accountability : Lead to Good Governance

(1) The key facets of good governance involves transparent and accountable public services eg RTI Act, 2005

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(2) Ownership of responsibility with the idea of 'People first'

(3) Social accountability ensures "trust based" model of governance that is sine qua non for good governance

Social Accountability: Boost Citizen's Participation

(1) 'Jan-Bhagidari' is a key aspect for inducing good governance model.

(2) Aware citizens seeks to engage constructively with the state

(3) Non-state actors like NGOs, CSOs are part of boosting social accountability

Ways of having social accountability:
- Making citizen's charter a statutory document
- Clear cut responsibility
- Penalise corrupt officials
- Strict adherence to ethical code of conduct

Thus a social accountability lens is the need for building good governance framework by 'jan-bhagidari' of all its beneficiaries

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Q.7 भारत में बाल कुपोषण से प्रभावी ढंग से निपटने के लिए 'पोषण–विशिष्ट' और 'पोषण–संवेदनशील' कार्यक्रमों को अभिसरित करने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

There is a need for convergence of 'nutrition-specific' and 'nutrition-sensitive' interventions to effectively tackle child undernutrition in India. Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans - According to Global Hunger Index, India ranked abysmally low with a rank of 107 out of 125 countries. categorised into "severe hunger" category.

Poverty and Deprivation → Adolescent pregnancy leading to malnourished fetus

Child Undernutrition [NFHS-5, ~32%] → foetal abnormal growth

→ lack of neo-natal care service

→ Irregular breastfeeding

→ low nutritional diversity

Nutrition Specific Interventions

(1) Through millets being involved in POSHAN Abhiyan

(2) Use of fortified cereals Eg fortified rice with iron, cobalt to fight anaemia prevalence (over 50%, NFHS-5)

(3) Use of local "cook book" to enhance dietary diversity Eg Odisha using dried

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fish powder

Nutrition Sensitive Interventions

(1) Apart from specific nutrients, adequate care of other socio-economic considerations
▷ Mother's health, breastfeeding for first 6 months etc

(2) Paying attention to geographical demands of beneficiaries

(3) Interventions through SBM (urban + rural), engaging NGOs like Akshaypatra for greater outreach and making Aganwadis "Saksham"

Convergence of the two efforts

(1) Feeding specific nutrients in accordance to particular bodily demand – ▷ Girls need more iron tablets (period poverty)

(2) Taking care of obesity among children and underweight demands simultaneously.

Thus, both these interventions have to work in tandem for "Swasthya Bharat" model.

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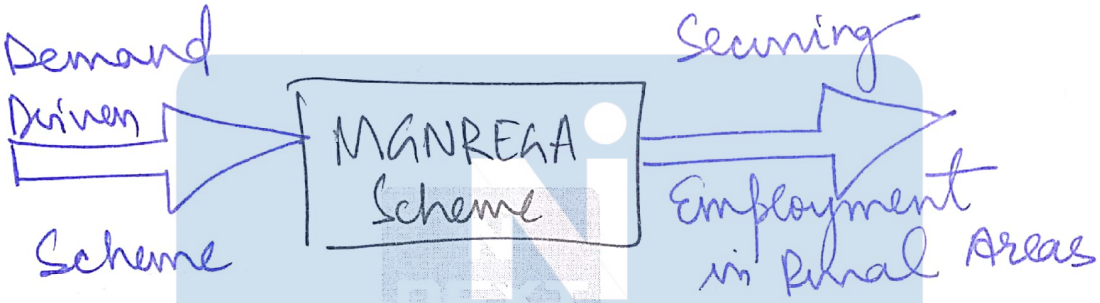
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Q.8 ग्रामीण गरीबी उन्मूलन की धुरी मनरेगा, राजकोषीय उदासीनता का शिकार हो गया है।" हालिया घटनाक्रम के आलोक में कथन का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"MGNREGA, the lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation, has become the victim of fiscal apathy." Critically analyze the statement in light of recent developments. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans- Budget for FY 23-24 saw an 18% reduction in the MGNREGA Scheme allocation which is currently about ₹60,000 cr.



MGNREGA : Lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation

Recently according to NITI Aayog's MDPI, India in last 5 years uplifted 13.5 crore poor people from poverty level.

MGNREGA
- → Ensures guaranteed employment within 15 days
- → Every individual from a household is eligible
- → Non-skilled work provides greater reach to masses
- → Provision for unemployment allowance, if work not given

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Amid covid-19 pandemic's reverse migration of workers sustained through MGNREGA scheme

However, in given years it has become the victim of fiscal apathy :—

(1) Reduced budgetary allocation
(2) Ageing of state finances erodes its efficiency being ineffective (rising debt/GSDP)
(3) Corruption and nepotism in allocation of work
(4) Urban local bodies and PRIs faces fiscal crunch
(5) Lack of social audit mechanism in letter and spirit

However, by better and focussed devolution of funds to states, timely allocation of jobs cards and engaging local panchayats for effective social audit mechanism, can the MGNREGA be effectively re-channelised

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Q.9 "भारत को इसका लाभ उठाना चाहिए, यदि प्रबंधन नहीं किया गया तो वैश्विक विभाजन हो जाएगा।" वर्तमान भू–राजनीतिक मंथन वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत के उत्थान का मार्ग कैसे प्रशस्त कर सकता है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"India must leverage, if not manage, the global divides". How can the current geopolitical churn pave the way for India's rise to the global high table? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans- With the ongoing Russo-Ukraine skirmishes, rising US-China axis conflict, division of global South and global North over climate finances the current geopolitical churn has set some challenges.

India must leverage if not manage global divides

(1) By engaging in dialogue and diplomacy with China over issues of border, trade deficit rising and consecutively putting forth its national interest and territorial sovereignty

(2) India's continuous ~~efforts~~ voicing for UN reforms is now gaining support from developed regions like UK, France

(3) New 'A-I' ie America-India can engage India in technology partnerships

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with USA to counter China's hegemony
eg India joining Minerals Security Partnership

(4) Negating war but engaging with Russia for import of oil has benefitted our fiscal resilience in crude purchase

(5) Sailing Global South that includes Africa, Latin America and Gizmitya Nations over climate concerns eg OSOWOG, CDRI and IRIS initiatives and Hon'ble PM's Mission LiFE initiative.

India's Rise to global high table

The presidency of G20 has provided New Delhi an avenue to boost its international prowess.

Engagements with business partners, regimes of G20 nations and most importantly cultural integration has resonated with the idea that India has given "Buddha" to the world and not "yuddha"

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Q.10 "बर्लिन यूरोपीय संघ में भारत के लिए प्रवेश द्वार हो सकता है।" यूरोपीय संघ के साथ भारत के संबंधों में जर्मनी के महत्त्व के बारे में विस्तारपूर्वक वर्णन कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Berlin can be India's gateway to the European Union." Elaborate with respect to Germany's significance in India's relationship with the EU. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Ans- Recently German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz made a bilateral visit to India and the visit concluded with signing of multiple agreements ranging from defence, space, climate, student visas etc.

Berlin: India's Gateway to the European Union

(1) India's bilateral trade with Germany is about $24 billion in fiscal year 2021-22. This provides us more scope to engage with Berlin more in trade terms

(2) India's rising stature of automobile industry (ranked third) and German technology could aid in better development of Product technology

(3) Indian students forms a part of majority and bound international students community in Germany.

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(4) Engagement in 'climate-tech' is a newly added dimension in bilateral relations
eg Green Hydrogen Mission support

(5) Rising influence of Indo Pacific in the global fora has added Berlin's interest to engage with New Delhi.

(6) With Brexit, India has now an opportunity to engage with EU and individual countries, simultaneously

(7) EU provides a diversed product market and with rising diaspora, the needs of Indian product is rising.

(8) New ties in defence relations

Thus, Berlin has been a partner in our struggle for independence since the days of Netaji Bose, however growing China's influence and lackadisical trade relations poses some challenges.

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Q.11 दल–बदल विरोधी कानून ने भारत में राजनीतिक दलों और वैयक्तिक विधायकों/सांसदों के बीच संबंधों को कैसे प्रभावित किया है? हाल की घटनाओं के आलोक में भारत में लोकतंत्र की प्रकार्यात्मकता पर इस कानून के अनपेक्षित परिणामों की भी चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How has the Anti-Defection Law impacted the relationship between political parties and individual legislators in India? In light of the recent incidents also discuss the unintended consequences it has on the functioning of democracy in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans- Schedule X^th of Indian Constitution provides for Anti-defection law (52nd Amendment of 1985).

Recent "aya-raam, gaya raam" kind of incident occured in Maharashtra causing political turmoil.

Anti-Defection Law Impact

(a) Relationship between political parties

→ Increases political rivalry because of unstable relations with incumbent regime

→ Increases the scope for de-stabalisig by means of "horse-trading" of legislators.

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→ Affects the moral of electors because of unethical trading of powers

→ Often makes the 'speakes' position of ceremonial importance

Ex However SC in 1992 judgement of Kihota Hollohan case made to bring the speaker's role under judicial review

(b) Relationship between individual legislators

→ Increase of money and muscle power is antithetical to democratic framework

→ Legislators are lured for powerful positions & get defected

→ Individual legislators' clout increases and this centralisation of authority leads to party getting split

Ex Chirag Paswan and his uncle

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Unintended consequences on functioning of democracy in India

(1) Erodes the principles of 'fair and just' governance framework.

(2) Erodes public trust, as 'government of maxims' is replaced by 'government of lure'

(3) Often legislators are threatened by Central law enforcement agencies in the form of sudden raid

(4) Threatens party democracy and puts forth party bossism.

(5) Overall federal structure is often challenged by such "buying and selling" of legislators.

Thus, "anti-defection law" has affected overall parliamentary framework for the better but certain reforms are needed.

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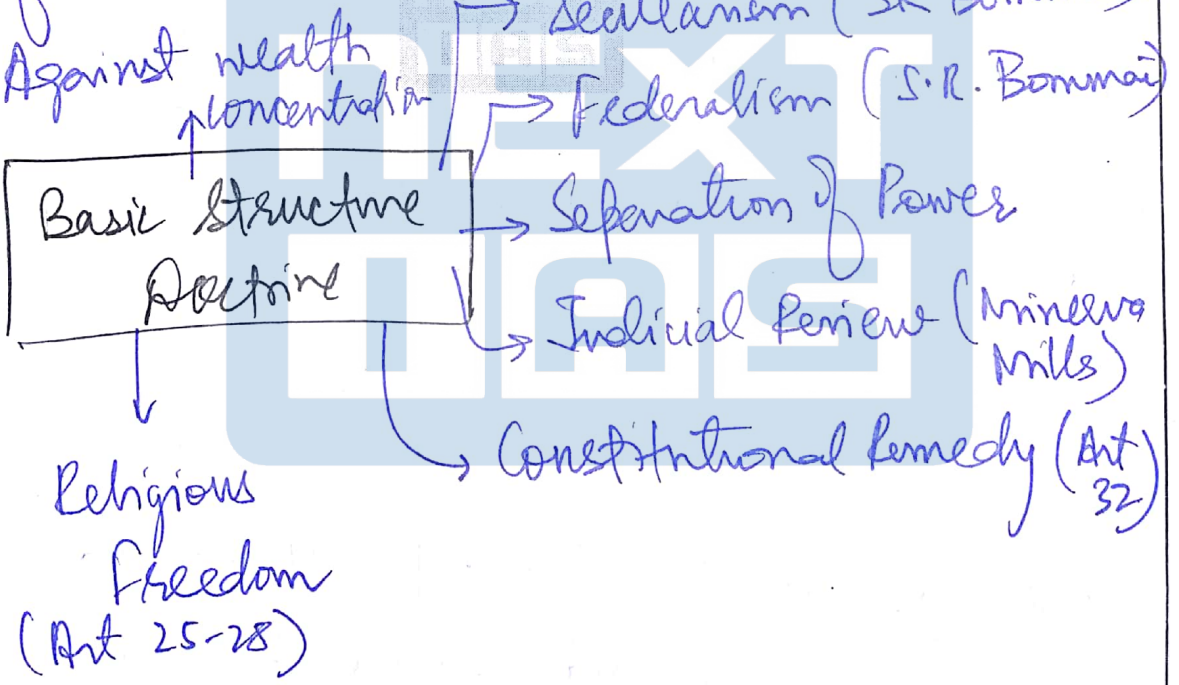
Q.12 आलोचकों का दावा है कि असीमित न्यायिक अधिकार मूल ढाँचा सिद्धांत की संरचनात्मक अस्पष्टता पर निर्भर है। क्या मूल ढाँचा सिद्धांत की लोचदार प्रकृति ने न्यायपालिका को कार्यपालिका से अधिक शक्तिशाली बना दिया है?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Critics assert that limitless judicial authority rests on the structural ambiguity of the basic structure doctrine. Has the elastic nature of the basic structure doctrine made the judiciary more powerful than the executive?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans With Kesavananda Bharti Judgement (1973) completing half a century, its doctrine of "separation of power" as part of basic structure has evolved as sine qua non for a parliamentary framework as ours.



"Limitless Judicial Authority" ⇌ Structural Ambiguity of basic structure doctrine

(1) Art 50 of the constitution provides for separation of power between the

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executive and judiciary

(2) However, ambiguity in delineating the basic structure doctrine has led to judicial activism turning into judicial adventurism

(3) However, executive is supreme in its stand and the constitution provides adequate "check and balance"

⇒ Yes, judiciary has become more powerful

(1) Supreme court in its 99th Constitutional Amendment Act held NJAC as "ultra-vires"

(2) Harsh criticism of Centre's policy decision often stems from lack of ground level reality and this can be avoided.

(3) As court of law, SC is mandated to verify the constitutionality of acts in

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accordance to legal framework

⇒ No, it has not

(1) Executive is supreme and holds every right to enact the legislations passed by the legislature.

(2) Executive holds "delegated legislation" making power and thus enforces and builds the structure of law in India.

(3) Basic structure doctrine has infact better demarcated each other's territory and through a constant check and balance it sees each other's effective functioning

Thus, basic structure doctrine reflects the idea of "living constitution" and more codification could give it into a legal text whose amendment may then become difficult

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Q.13 मौलिक अधिकार राज्य द्वारा प्रदत्त उपहार नहीं हैं बल्कि एक व्यक्ति उन पर राज्य से स्वतंत्र रूप से अधिकार रखता है। इस संदर्भ में विभिन्न मौलिक अधिकारों पर युक्तियुक्त निर्बंधन की वांछनीयता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Fundamental rights are not gifts bestowed upon by the state rather an individual possesses them independently of the state. In this context discuss the desirability of reasonable restrictions on various fundamental rights.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans - Art 12-35 under Part III of the constitution provides for fundamental rights which as described by Dr. Ambedkar are "fundamental" for checking the arbitrary executive action of state on its citizens.

- Fundamental Rights
  - Art 14-18: Right to Equality and Equal Protection of laws
  - Art 19-22: Right To Freedom
  - Art 23-24: Right against exploitation
  - Art 25-28: Right To freedom of religion
  - Art 29-30: Cultural and Educational Rights
  - Art 32: Right to constitutional Remedies

6 fundamental Rights enshrined

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Need for Fundamental Rights

1. Check State's tyranny (Art 32)
2. Needed to provide "political democracy"
3. Upliftment of vulnerable and marginalised strata (Art 17)
4. Provide freedom of Liberty, Speech and Expression, as sine qua non for democracy
5. Enhance human flourishing and resist exploitation

Reasonable Restrictions and their desirability

Reasonable restrictions refers to certain limits wherein the exercise of fundamental rights is curtailed by the state

Eg Art 19(2) ⇒ contempt of court, decency and morality etc are reasonable restriction to exercise of Right to freedom under Art 19

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Desirability

Yes needed

1. Checks arbitrary citizen actions.
2. Important for maintenance of law and order
3. 'National Interest' is supreme, so certain fundamental rights be curtailed
4. Prevents citizens from becoming an "unreasonable mob"
5. Helps sustain the importance of certain key institutions like courts

Not needed at all

1. Often arbitrary in nature and tyrannical in application
2. Impedes free expression
3. Restricts free mobility ⇒ Restriction in tribal areas etc
4. Threatens the federal structure of parliamentary forum

However, desirability of reasonable restrictions must not come at the cost of challenging political democracy and rational expression

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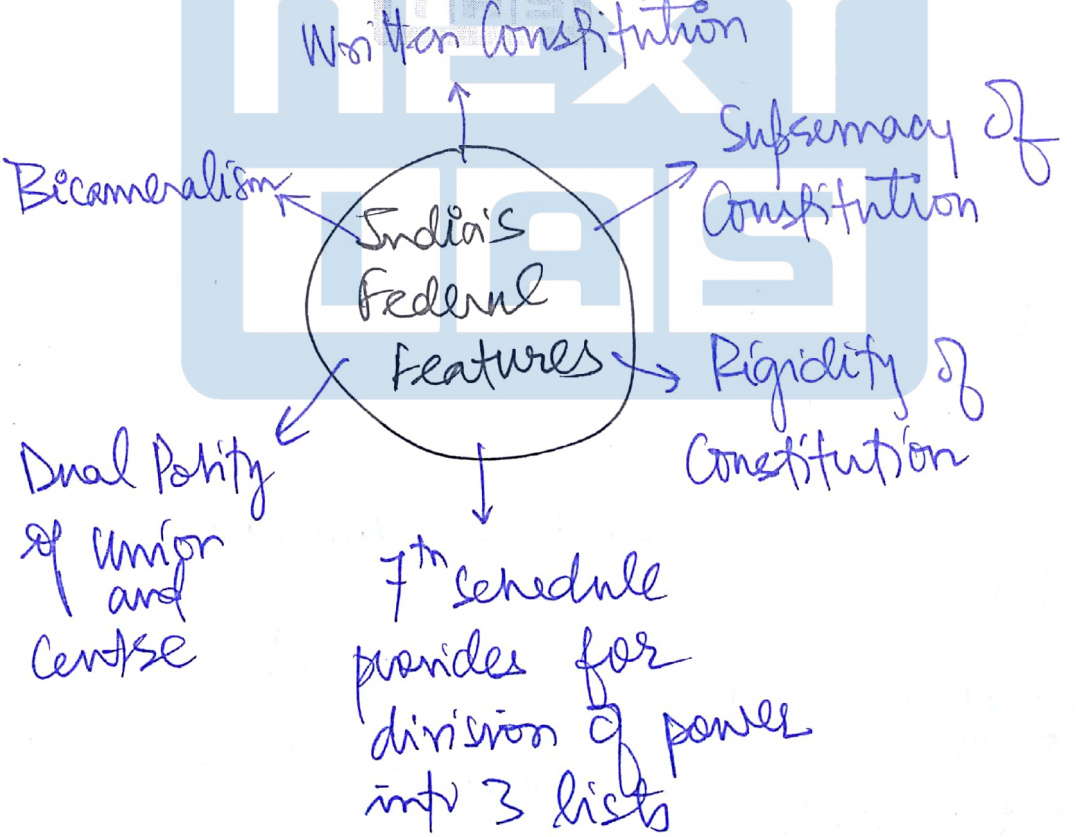
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Q.14 'एस.आर. बोम्मई बनाम भारत संघ मामले ने संघ द्वारा किसी राज्य के प्रशासन पर नियंत्रण ग्रहण करने के संघ के अधिकार की न्यायिक व्याख्या में एक आदर्श बदलाव का संकेत दिया।' इस संदर्भ में संघीय ढाँचे को मजबूत करने पर निर्णय के महत्त्व और प्रभाव पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'S.R. Bommai v. Union of India signified a paradigm shift in the judicial interpretation of the union's authority to assume control of a state's administration.' In this context discuss the significance and impact of the judgement on cementing the federal structure. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans - Supreme Court in its SR Bommai (1994) judgement held "federalism" as the basic structure of constitution and provided that states are not "mere appendages" of the Union, but have their own rey existence.



Even Dr. Ambedkar in his parliamentary

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Speeches advocated for "federalism" as an essential aspect of our parliamentary democracy

Significance and Impact of Judgement

(1) It made "federalism" as basic structure of the constitution.

(2) Seeks to control arbitrary encroachment of Union power over State's rights.

(3) Thrust on minimal use of President's Rule (Art 356) [as recommended by Sarkaria Commission]

(4) Seeks to strengthen the Inter State Council (Art 263)

(5) The 101st constitutional Amendment Act of 2017 provided for a GST Council (Art 279A) with members from both States as well as centre.

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The impact has been two fold

Restricted use of unitary powers

→ The Union power over State list is checked by 7th Schedule.

→ Delegation of powers by proper constitutional means (proposed by Rajya Sabha)

→ Engagement with States in Centrally Sponsored Schemes like RKVY, NSAP etc

Uncheck use of power

→ Shifting of subject from State list to Concurrent list (42nd constitutional Amendment Act of 1976)

→ Use of central machinery against opposition ruling ministers

→ Ineffective devolution of funds (Art 280)

→ Emergency Provisions

Thus, "federalism" is a vital aspect of our democracy whereby states must be strengthened but unitary feature blended with it often causes tensions.

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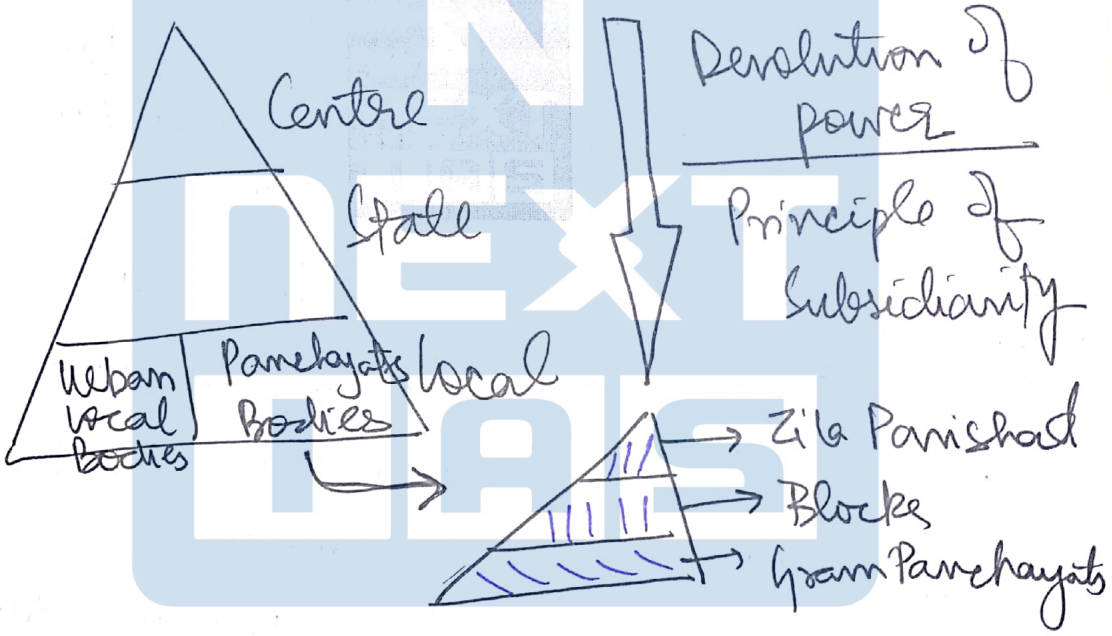
Q.15 प्रभावी विकेंद्रीकरण की कुँजी यह है कि राजनीतिक विकेंद्रीकरण को वित्त और प्रकार्यात्मक विकेंद्रीकरण का अनुगमन करना चाहिए। भारत में स्थानीय शासन के समक्ष आने वाली बाधाओं के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The key to effective decentralization is, 'political decentralization should follow finance and functional decentralization'. Discuss in the context of impediments faced by local governance in India.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans - The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment of 1992 provided for a three-tier democratic framework, thereby institutionalising and empowering the Panchayats and Municipalities respectively.



Political Decentralisation

It is only through political decentralisation of power, can fiscal and functional decentralisation be made effective.

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Financial / Fiscal Decentralisation	(+)	Functional Decentralisation

① Art 243I and 243Y provides for establishment of State Finance Commission in rural and urban areas respectively

② Power to collect tax @ Grazing tax, agri tax, professional tax etc

③ Collection of toll and imposition of penalties

① State Election Commissions under Art 243K and Art 243ZA for conducting elections

② Construction of local roads, village ponds, grounds etc

③ Gram Panchayats enabled for 1/3 reservation of women

However, there are certain impediments faced by local governance :-

① According to second ARC, presence of several parastatal bodies reduces the effectiveness of devolution of power

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(2) Several States have not constituted State finance Commissions and this overall affects devolution of funds to local bodies

(3) Presence of surrogate decision making with respect to women sarpanches ⇒ Sarpanch Pati

(4) Lack of funds overall affects the developmental activities at rural and city level
⇒ lack of rural connectivity to towns

(5) Overlapping jurisdiction of state government leads to ineffectiveness of decision making at local level

(6) Overall lack of social audit mechanism, lack of literacy and awareness posses a social threat to political decentralisation

Thus, as highlighted by GVK Rao Committee that robust fiscal and functional decentralisation is needed to avoid "grassroot democracy turning into grass without roots"

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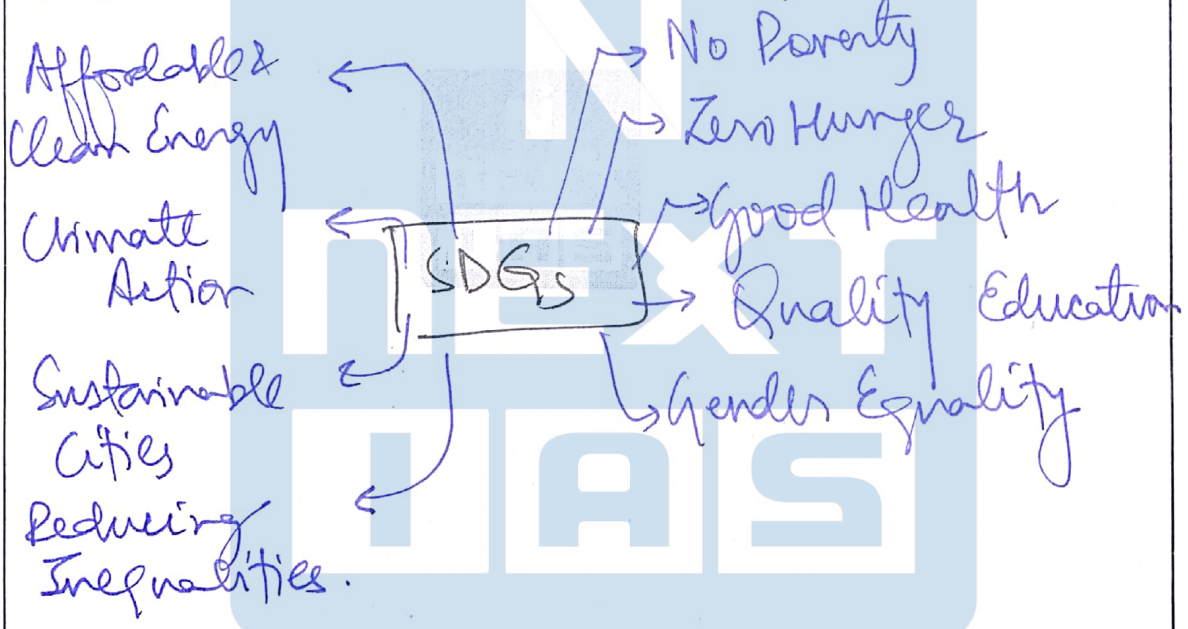
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Q.16 सामूहिक विशेषज्ञता और नेटवर्क (संजाल) का लाभ उठाने के लिए बहु–हितधारक साझेदारी महत्त्वपूर्ण है। भारत में सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (एसडीजी) की प्राप्ति में तेजी लाने के लिए प्रभावी साझेदारी और स्थानीयकृत कार्यान्वयन प्रयासों को कैसे बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are the key to leveraging collective expertise and networks. How can effective partnership and localized implementation efforts be fostered to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals which the member countries are obliged to meet in the time duration of 2015-30, seen as successors of MDGs.



Multi stakeholder Partnerships

These includes an array of partners

(a) National Regimes
(b) International Community
(c) Non-State Actors – NGOs, CSOs etc
(d) Sub National Government

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(e) Local government eg Municipalities, PRIs etc

(f) local communities - adivasis, Women SHGs etc

(g) Individual efforts

∴ Effective Partnership ⇌ Achieving SDGs

(1) Engaging ASHA workers, ANMs and making Aganwadis "Saksham" through PM POSHAN Abhiyan to fight malnutrition and Ranges (SDG 2.1)

(2) local communities involving tribal groups, adivasi based NGOs in preserving climate through traditional practices (SDG 13.1)

(3) To fight poverty (SDG 1.1), interventions like PM SVANidhi, DBT to farmers, Mahila Samman certificates are key initiative by Union government

(4) Efforts by Panchayats in reducing gender inequalities by mandatory

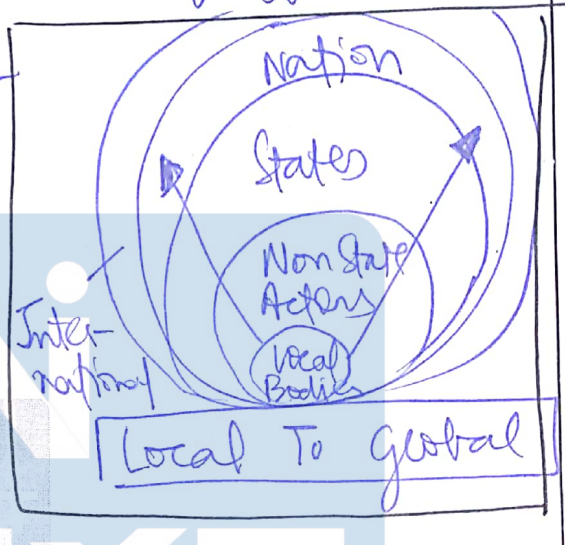
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One-third women reservation (Art 243D) helps achieve SDG 5.1

Localised Implementations of efforts



(1) Grass root implementation of efforts

Eg Miyawaki forests being planted by ULBs to oblige SDG 15.1 (terrestrial ecosystem)

(2) Through efforts of FLN, Saava Lakhsha Abhiyan, district schools are now becoming models for ending inequalities and providing quality education (SDG 4.2)

(3) PM KUSUM Provides for farm solar pumps helps meet SDG 7 for clean and affordable energy.

Thus, "jan-bhagidari" is a key aspect for realising SDGs which would transcend global community efforts.

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Q.17 पी.ओ.एस.एच. अधिनियम के कार्यान्वयन से यौन उत्पीड़न के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने में सीमित सफलता ही क्यों मिली है, और किन कारकों ने असंगठित क्षेत्र में कार्यरत महिलाओं तक इसकी प्रभावी पहुँच में बाधा उत्पन्न की है? इस अंतर को पाटने और असंगठित क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के लिए कार्यस्थल पर उत्पीड़न के विरूद्ध व्यापक सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए रणनीतियाँ प्रस्तावित कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How has the implementation of the POSH Act resulted in limited success in raising awareness about sexual harassment, and what factors have hindered its effective outreach to women employed in the unorganized sector? Propose strategies to bridge this gap and ensure comprehensive protection for women in the unorganized sector against workplace harassment. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans - The Vishakha Guidelines of 2013 that led to the enactment of POSH Act has completed a decade, but still cases of sexual harassment are on rise.

POSH Act Key features
- Constituting Internal Committee of atleast 10 members in every organisation
- Time based ruling
- Making office space "gender neutral"
- She-Box initiatives to address concerns

Limited Success in sexual harassment cases

According to NCRB report, cases against violence against women in public spaces and work organisation has seen an uptick by about 11%.

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Reasons:- (1) lack of awareness about one's own rights and entitlements

(2) Opaque nature of internal committee constituted to hear out women complaints

(3) Reluctancy on part of offensed and relative dominancy of the offensor

Factors that have hindered its effective outreach to women employed in unorganised sector are :-

(1) Literacy level of employee and employer are often sub-optimal

(2) Lack of awareness among women

(3) Informal and unorganised setups hardly have an internal complaints committee

(4) Patriarchal and feudal nature of working of unorganised sectors

(5) Government apathy in ensuring basic minimum rights

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Strategies to bridge the gap

(1) In line with Justice Verma's committee reports, an Employment Tribunal be instituted

(2) Unorganised sectors must be routinely audited with engagement of labour department

(3) District Administrators be required to supervise auditing and review activities

(4) local level NGOs and SHGs be roped in to ensure enactment of guidelines and awareness generation among women employees

(5) Apart from focusing women centric harassment, suitable amendments be made to make POSH Act, gender neutral

⇒ Ensuring transgenders protection

Thus, POSH Act although seeks to protect women but efforts be made to raise literacy levels and awareness about their own rights & entitlements

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Q.18 'नव–उदारवादी सुधारों और वैश्वीकरण ने कल्याणकारी राज्य की संस्थाओं को गहराई से बदल दिया है और एक नई प्रकार की सिविल सेवाओं के लिए आधार तैयार किया है।' इस संदर्भ में सेवा वितरण के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए और पर्याप्त सुधारों हेतु सुझाव दीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Neo-liberal reforms and globalization have deeply transformed the institutions of the welfare state and set the ground for a new type of civil services.' In this context examine the challenges faced in service delivery and suggest adequate reforms. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans – With rising population, increasing aspirations of the masses and technology penetration, it has set the ground for evolution of a new format of civil-servants, called the "Karmayogis" of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Factors
- Neo-liberal reforms
- Urbanization (50% by 2050)
- Industrialization
- Globalisation
- 'Techade'

New Type of Civil Services

New-Ness
- To meet public services in timely manner
- Increased level of awareness among citizens
- Rise of "technocrats" and innovative thinking
- Enhanced transparency and accountability

However, there are certain challenges being faced in service delivery. These are

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(1) Challenge of corruption and bribery, especially at lower rungs of bureaucracy
▷ India ranked 85th in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index

(2) Lack of suo moto disclosures by the administration
▷ Sec 4 of RTI Act, 2005 not followed in letter and spirit

(3) Challenge of transparency and accountability hindered by Official Secrets Act and Indian Evidence Acts.

(4) Misutilisation and underutilisation of public fund
▷ Nirbhaya fund only 70% used while 80% of allocations of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao spent on advertisements.

(5) Delay in public services adds to fiscal crunch
▷ MoSPI's report highlighted a delay of

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58% of union government projects deadly to cost overrun of 22%.

Suggestive Reforms

(1) Shourie Committee (1997)'s recommendation to amend OSA and IEA to add transparency in government functioning

(2) Citizen's charter be provided legal backing, in case of non-adherence to rules

(3) Transparency is essential for good governance and this can be ensured by e-governance

(4) DBT transfers, e-tendering of projects

Apart from these reforms, the civil servants need to assessed through a Multi Stake holder feedback Assessment model as suggested by NITI Aayog and Hota Committe to better track their performance.

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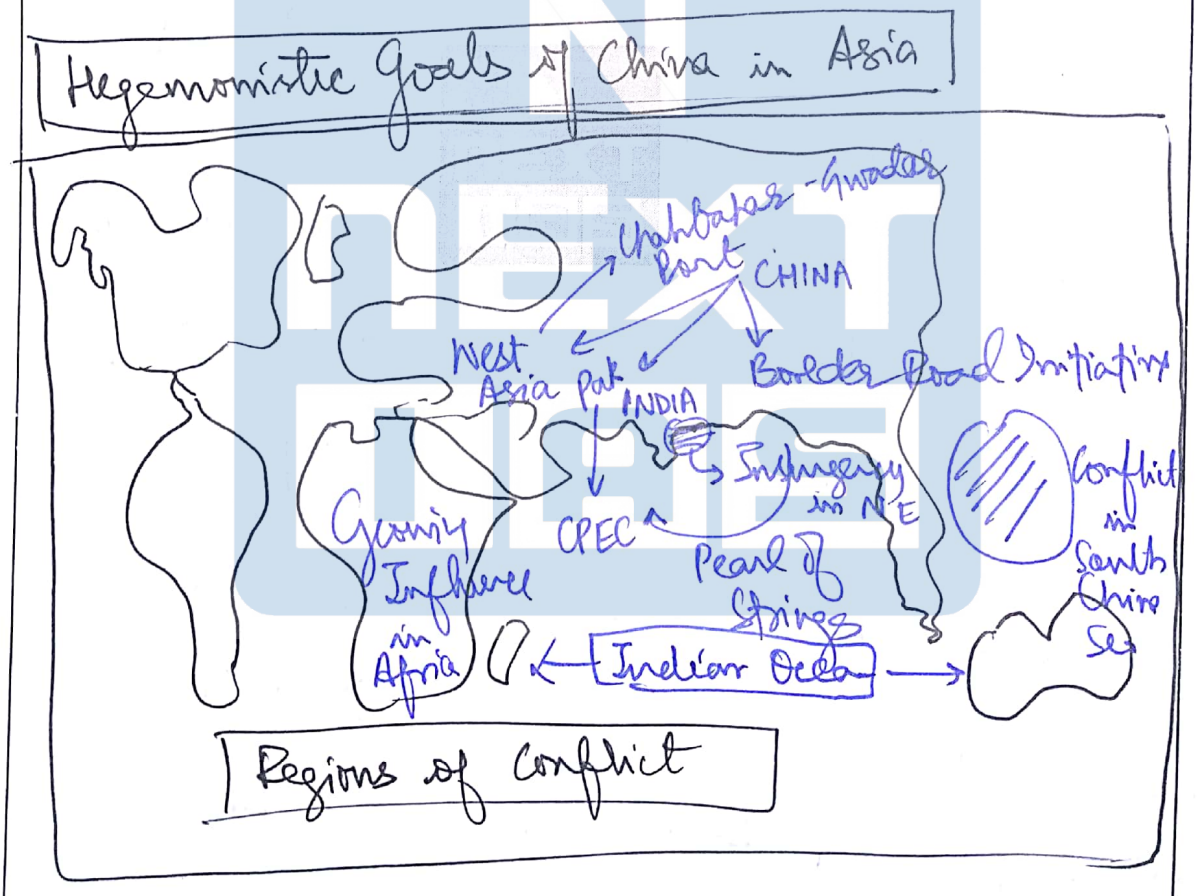
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Q.19 चीन भारत को अपने "एशियाई प्रतिद्वंद्वी" के रूप में देखता है जिसमें एशिया में उसके वर्चस्ववादी लक्ष्यों का मुकाबला करने की जन्मजात क्षमता है। भारत–चीन संबंधों में इन कठिनाइयों के बावजूद, अभिसरण के भी कई क्षेत्र हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

China views India as its "Asian Rival" with an innate ability to counter its hegemonistic goals in Asia. Despite these difficulties in India-China relations, there are also many areas of convergence. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans - From the Chinese debacle of 1962 to the present day gearing Prominence of India as world's 5th largest economy, China has viewed "India as its Asian Rival"



(1) China CPEC poses territorial conflict to India's northern region

(2) The BRI initiative poses issues with our territorial sovereignty

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(3) Recent skirmishes in Galwan, Ladakh and Doklam issue in Arunachal region are continuous challenges of China's Slicing Salami Policy

(4) Issue of stapled visas to Indian athelete with constant aggression over mapping of zones

(5) China's feeding insurgency in India's north east region

Convergence in India-China Relations

(1) G20 Presidentship of India has provided both the countries to align on different platforms like – business and trade, cultural homogenity, settle disputes of trade deficit etc

(2) RIC = Russia-India-China comes together as equals and this provides India to better its bilateral relations with China

(3) China and India are the most populous

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countries with India recently overtaking China as most populated, so it provides an opportunity to transform this 'demographic dividend' for global workforce

(4) Climate change action serves common ground for the Beijing and Delhi to unite against developed region and strongly voice the needs of Global South

(5) Groupings like BRICS Summit, and BRICST provides a common platform to engage with developing regions of Africa in developmental activities, as well as with the Latin America.

Thus, there are sufficient bilateral and multilateral forums of convergence but, first, trust has to be built up from both sides and frequent skirmishes on LAC adds enough to destroy this trust and leads to divergence in relations.

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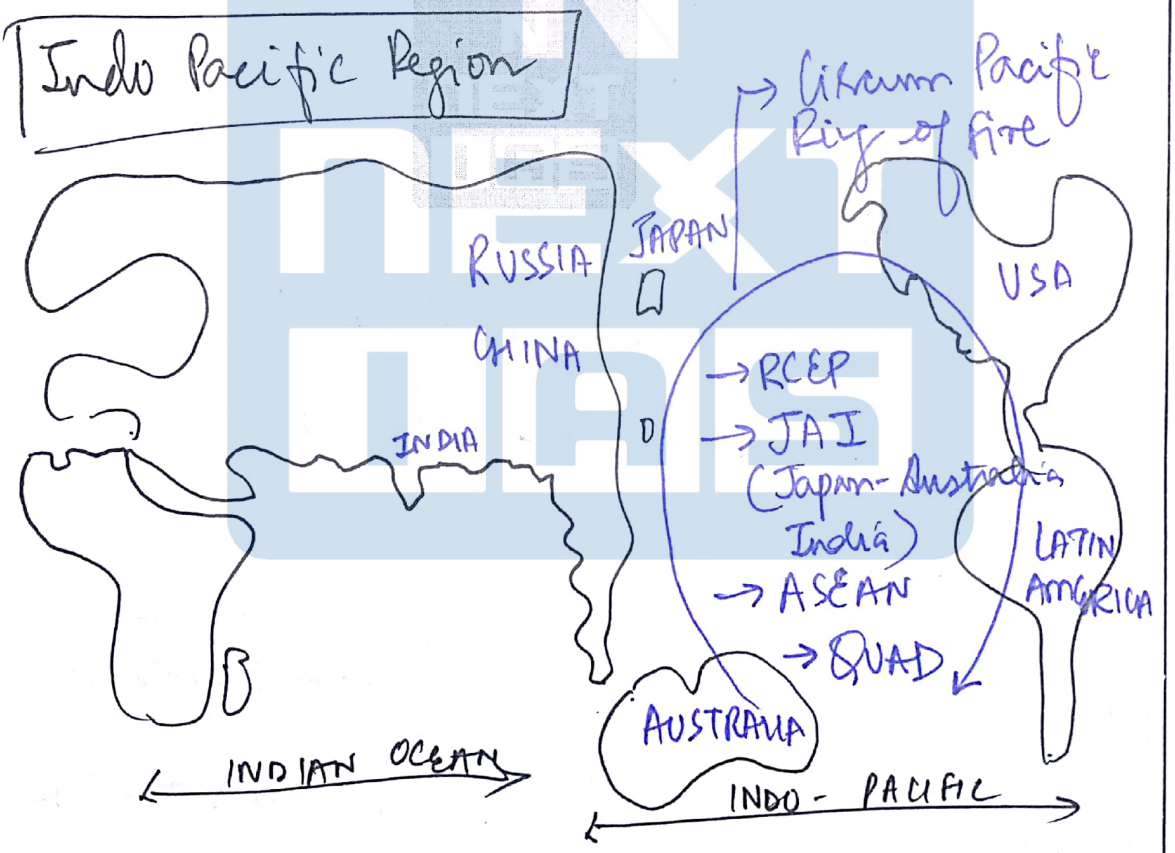
Q.20 हालिया दिनों में हिंद–प्रशांत क्षेत्र अलग–अलग हितों और प्राथमिकताओं वाले क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है। चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि वैश्विक सुरक्षा पहल (GSI) इस क्षेत्र में क्वाड (QUAD) का स्थान ले लेगी

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Indo-Pacific region in recent times has emerged as a zone of diverging interests and priorities. Discuss. Do you think the Global Security Initiative will supersede QUAD in the region?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Ans - With shifting of interests from the 'Atlantic Region', the Indo-Pacific Region has emerged as zone of several diverging interests and priorities.



Zone of diverging interests and priorities

(1) India's abstinence from RCEP framework but simultaneous bilateral engagements

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with ASEAN, Japan, Australia etc.

(2) QUAD grouping seeks to keep a check on China's growing hegemony in South China Sea

(3) USA - North Korea skirmishes over Guam Island in Indo Pacific and nuclear tests by former adds to challenge to global community

(4) Issue of Taiwan has gained prominence in USA Vs China as Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan despite China's refusal

(5) Challenging issues with respect to island sovereignty between China and Japan, China and Philippines etc

QUAD	Vs	Global Security Initiative
USA + India + Japan + Australia	→ AUKUS ⇒ Australia + US + UK	
Not a military grouping	→ GSI envisioned by China to check unilateralism and power politics	

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Global Security Initiative (GSI) envisioned by China as "indivisible security" fact, and it can supersede QUAD grouping

(a) China growing military dominance
(b) Abundance of critical minerals would enable China to control global supply chain
(c) Prominence of China in ASEAN countries through its debt trap diplomacy.

However it cannot completely supersede QUAD because

(a) Dominance of global power like US and Japan
(b) Soft power diplomacy has its own benefits
(c) Humanitarian efforts by the grouping in the Indian Pacific Region
(d) Engagements with small island nations and assisting them in developmental efforts.

Thus, QUAD alongwith coming of AUKUS and other engagements of western Powers in Indo-Pacific region seems to put strong resistance to China's Global Security Initiative.

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Space for Rough Work

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