NEXT IAS

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NEXT IAS Roll No.: GSPM23B13025 Date of Examination : 22/08/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☑ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

Test Code : TC056

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Program : FLT ☐ FLT+ ☐ SLT ☐ SLT+ ☑

MAIN TEST SERIES 2023
(TEST-10)

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.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....

[To be filled by the STUDENT]

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

[To be filled by the EXAMINER]

Evaluator's response

(For filling by Examiners only)

Evaluator Code :

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

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MACRO COMMENTS

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1. मानवाधिकार के मुद्दों पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के हालिया निर्णय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून और संधियों को न केवल प्रेरणा के स्रोत के रूप में बल्कि विधि के स्रोत के रूप में उपयोग करने में एक उल्लेखनीय बदलाव का संकेत देते हैं। प्रासंगिक निर्णय–विधि के संदर्भ में परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The recent Supreme Court judgments on human rights issues mark a remarkable shift in using International law and treaties not just as a source of inspiration but as a source of law. Examine with reference to relevant case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

The Supreme Court's role is not limited to protection of constitution and state laws but also human rights which includes gender justice, & environment protection and civil liberties.

Recently SC in a case regarding abortion of late stage pregnancy facilitate the delivery of the child and ensuring adoption of the child with proper procedure.

This shows how SC upheld human rights both of the women and the child and assured their safety.

Also, human rights violation takes place in the form of arbitrary detion of individuals.

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In such cases SC held that laws conferring arbitrary powers to the states must be critically examined and used in rarest cases.

~~SC upheld also the~~

SC also upheld Right to pollution free environment under Article 21 of Right to life in the M.C. Mehta case.

In Vellore Citizen Welfare forum vs Union of India, SC upheld the Polluter pays principle.

Thus, it makes a remarkable shift in using International laws and treaties not just as a source of inspiration but as a source of law.

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2. संवैधानिक प्रावधानों में समानता के बावजूद वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और भारत का अपना विशिष्ट न्यायशास्त्र है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The United States and India have their own distinctive jurisprudence on freedom of speech and expression despite the similarities in constitutional provisions. Analyse. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Freedom of speech and expression is a fundamental right enshrined in the constitution of India. The USA also provide for freedom of speech and expression in their constitution.

Discussion

Similarities in constitutional provisions

→ Both countries guarantees freedoms concerning religion, expression, assembly and right to petition

→ Citizens have right to express their views and opinions freely.

→ There are certain restrictions on the grounds of public interests, morality and national security

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Distinctive Jurisprudence

→ First Amendment protects rights to free speech and expression of individual from government in USA.

→ While in India Art 19(1) provides the freedom of speech and expression.

→ In USA, restrictions are properly defined as incitement, defamation, fraud, obscenity, child pornography, fighting words and threats.

→ In India, restrictions are broader in sense regarding public intent, morality, security etc.

This leads to various misuse of the restriction by the government including most prominent sedition charges which has very low conviction rate.

Thus, USA and India share same constitutional provisions however there is need for proper definition of restrictions in India to ensure that they are not misused.

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3. मौलिक कर्तव्य एक अनुस्मारक हैं कि नागरिकता मात्र एक निष्क्रिय प्रस्थिति नहीं है, बल्कि एक सक्रिय संलग्नता है। चर्चा कीजिए। इनके विधिक प्रवर्तन में कौन–कौन सी चुनौतियाँ हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Fundamental Duties are a reminder that citizenship is not merely a passive status but an active engagement. Discuss. What are the challenges in their legal enforcement? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Fundamental Duties are mentioned in Part IV A of Indian Constitution. They are inspired from USSR and put in article 51(A) of the constitution.

Fundamental Duties are not legally enforceable and acts as a guide for citizens to perform their duties. They are provided so that the citizens might not exploit their rights and bring anarchy.

Some of the provisions are:

→ to respects ideals and institutions.
→ to follow noble ideals which inspired national freedom
→ to develop scientific temper
→ to promote harmony and brotherhood.
→ to preserve rich heritage of our culture.

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Challenges in legal enforcement

→ No proper definition of ideals. It is very subjective in nature.

→ Every body are unique and there cannot be common scientific temper

→ Promoting harmony and brotherhood is intrinsic value which cannot be enforced externally.

Thus, there is a need to promote the fundamental duties and spread awareness for citizens to know their duties. One must remember Real rights are result of performance of duties (Gandhi).

As said by former Vice President, it must be promoted through huge posters in educational institutions.

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4. केंद्रीय प्रशासनिक न्यायाधिकरण (CAT) के अधिदेश पर चर्चा कीजिए। सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के पूर्व के निर्णयों ने CAT और उच्च न्यायालयों के बीच क्षेत्राधिकार संबंधी विवाद को किस सीमा तक हल किया है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the mandate of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). To what extent earlier SC verdicts have resolved the jurisdictional tussle between CAT and High courts? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Central Administrative Tribunal was established under Art 323 A of Indian constitution.

Mandate of CAT

→ It was established to look into issues and complaints in recruitment of public servants under the government.

→ It consists of 17 Benches and 21 Circuit Benches

→ It works on the principle of Natural Justice.

→ It has power of High court under

• Administrative Tribunal Act.

→ It can make its own rules of procedure

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Tussle between CAT and High Courts

The main tussle is about recruitment of people in public service and their transfers. While the HC views that it has greater jurisprudence in the state, the CAT considers it its power to resolve the issue.

SC verdicts helps in ascertaining that CAT's judgement can be appealed in High Court and there is no limit on time for invoking writ jurisdiction. However it must be under reasonable time.

Recently SC orders formation of higher bench to hear about the jurisdiction of the HC in the matter.

Thus, while SC upheld the power of appeal to HC, it is not still clear about the area of jurisdiction.

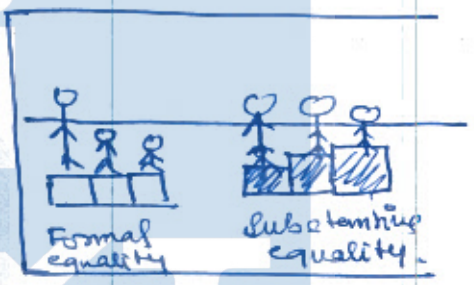
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5. 'भारतीय संविधान के तहत समानता केवल औपचारिक समानता नहीं है, बल्कि इसमें वास्तविक (मौलिक) समानता का विचार भी शामिल है।' संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और इस संदर्भ में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णयों के आलोक में कथन का विवेचन कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

'Equality under the Indian constitution is not merely about formal equality, it also incorporates the idea of substantive equality'. Discuss this statement in light of constitutional provisions and relevant Supreme Court judgments.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Formal Equality can be considered as providing equality among all irrespective of their status. (Equal share to everyone)

Substantive equality is giving equality according to the needs and status i.e. same group of people & receiving same equality.



Art 14 of Indian constitution provides for Right to Equality. It envisage Equal Protection of law and equality before law.

Art 15 → defined right against exploitation

Art 16 → equal opportunities to employment.

Art 17 → prohibits untouchability.

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This can be seen in following cases:

→ AK Gopalan Case → issue of detention of opposite political party

→ Shayara Bano Case → abolition of triple talaq.

→ NM Thomas Case → idea of equal treatment defined.

The recent judgement of EWS reservation was also upheld by the SC on the basis of substantive equality.

Therefore, in India, equality is focused on levelling everyone in a ~~level~~ common platform instead of providing everyone same piece of cake.

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6. दबाव समूह और राजनीतिक दल राजनीतिक प्रक्रिया को लोकतांत्रिक बनाने के अपने उद्देश्य में स्वाभाविक रूप से समान हैं, यद्यपि वर्तमान समय में अधिकतर दबाव समूह राजनीतिक दलों में रूपांतरित होने की महत्त्वाकांक्षा रखते हैं। उन कारकों का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए जो इस रूपांतरण को प्रोत्साहित कर रहे हैं।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Pressure groups and political parties are inherently similar in their objective to democratise the political process, however, more and more pressure groups today aspire to transform into political parties. Elaborate and highlight the factors that are encouraging this transformation. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Pressure Groups are defined as group of people who are not politically induced and put pressure to government to fulfill their needs and take benefits.

Political parties on the other hand has political motive to come to power.

Similarities between them can be classified as:

- Democratic process of resolution
- Movement for their benefits.
- welfare of citizens.

However, some pressure groups aspire to transform to political parties. This is because:

(1) It can ensure they are in power to take decision favouring them.

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(2). Rise in consumerism which makes the pressure group greedy.

(3) The motive for welfare of masses becoming lesser with ~~or~~ more inclination towards exploitation of benefit.

Factors Encouraging this transformation

⇒ Mass movement becoming less effective

⇒ Political parties exploiting their powers

→ Rise in corruption and power politics.

~~→ To gain more profit.~~

Thus pressure groups are inclining towards transforming into political power.

However it is equally important to emphasise that all pressure groups are not inclined and some still ~~belief~~ believe in the power to persuade to and balance the political power through persuasion.


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7. "क्या भारत में उच्च शिक्षा की वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को बढ़ाने तथा वर्तमान गुणवत्ता चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए विदेशी शैक्षणिक संस्थानों का प्रवेश एक परिवर्तनकारी कदम हो सकता है?" तर्क सहित पुष्टि कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Can the infusion of foreign educational institutions be a transformative step in enhancing the global competitiveness of higher education in India and addressing the prevailing quality challenges?" Justify with reason.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

There is recent notification by UGC regarding establishment of Foreign ~~their~~ Higher Education Institution in India. It is a progressive step towards enhancement in the education sector.

It can increase competitiveness and enhance quality in following way.

① Most universities ~~will~~ invited are under Top 500 in the world which means quality education can be provided.

② The fee structure will be determined by the institutions which attracts better faculties.

③ Brain Drain will be reduced with many students now studying in the universities without going abroad.

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④ It can help in providing competition to the existing universities with increased number of universities and enhanced facilities.

However it poses certain challenges

① Transfer of faculties from existing university to newly formed foreign university making existing university inferior.

② Fee structure can exploit the financial resource thus becoming commercial institution

③ Assurance of same quality of education is not guaranteed.

Thus there is need for proper consultation among experts forming regulations to look into the drawbacks so that competitiveness and quality can be ensured.

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8. सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली की सीमाओं को संबोधित करने के हेतु निजी क्षेत्र किस प्रकार सभी के लिए समान और सुलभ स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सुनिश्चित करने के अंतर को पाटने में प्रभावी योगदान दे सकता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

To address the limitations of the public health system, how can the private sector contribute effectively to bridging the gap to ensure equitable and accessible healthcare for all? Discuss.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Public Health System are provided with the objective of easy access, proper availability of resources and inclusive health cares.

However, there are limitations to it-

(1) Lack of infrastructure : The infrastructure are in very low standard lacking various essential facilities.

(2) Lack of trained staff : The staff members lack capacity to handle work efficiently.

(3) Absenteeism of doctors : Doctors availability are less in number.

(4) Time taking process : More time is taken in registration and filling forms to admit.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Private Sector can bridge the gap by following ways:

(1) Developing projects in PPP model can help enhance the infrastructure with updated equipments and required facilities

(2) Private Sector ~~can~~ can help in training and upskilling workers.

(3) Proper policy and regulation can help in increasing number of doctors.

(4) E.g. Implementing technologies and digitisation can smoothen the process.

Thus, coordination of public sector with private sector can help in increasing quality and efficiency also along with access and affordability.

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9. गरीबी और भुखमरी उन्मूलन के लिए वैश्विक सहयोग की यथाशीघ्र आवश्यकता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग गरीबी और भुखमरी की चुनौतियों से निपटने के प्रयासों को कैसे प्रभावित कर सकता है? विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

There is an urgent need for global cooperation to eradicate poverty and hunger. In this context analyse how international cooperation can impact efforts to address the challenges of poverty and hunger.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Poverty and Hunger are the main concerns prevailing in developing countries hindering growth and development.

Various countries are trying to improve its status through various programmes like in India, implementation of ICDS scheme, POSHAN 2.0, antenatal care and various schemes of financial inclusion.

However challenges faced are:

1. Lack of effective implementation
2. Lack of funding.
3. Lack of technical knowledge and inefficient ~~output~~ result. etc.

Candidates must not write on this margin

International Cooperation can help address such challenges

(1) Various countries have different expertise. Sharing these can improve the effectiveness.

(2) Schemes by International institutes like WHO can help in providing aid to poorer countries to execute it.

(3) With the proper scientific method formulated by international cooperation, one can focus on their most vulnerable areas.

Examples: MDPI indicates the poverty status of countries with different developmental factors emphasizing on which indicator it lacks.

Thus, international cooperation can help address the challenges of poverty and hunger.

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10. बदलती वैश्विक गतिशीलता को ध्यान में रखते हुए विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) में प्रभावी और सार्थक सुधार किए जाने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है, ताकि आधुनिक व्यापार की जटिलताओं को दूर करने में WTO की प्रासंगिकता और क्षमताओं का उपयोग किया जा सके। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The changing global dynamics require prompt effective and meaningful reforms within the World Trade Organization (WTO), to ensure its relevance and capacity to address modern trade complexities. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

WTO in recent time has reduced its relevance with the formation of various regional ~~trade~~ blas and bilateral relationships.

Reasons:

- Lack of consensus building. The discussion of Doha meeting is still not resolved.
- Lack of members in dispute resolution thus making it non functional.
- Lack of fulfilling commitment by developed countries for statement.
- Issues of developing countries unadressed Eg:- fishing issue, subsidy issue etc.

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Thus there is a need for reform

→ WTO must ensure equal attention to all stakeholders resolving each country's issue and not favouring powerful countries.

→ Situational decisions must be taken for eg: in covid time, the relaxation of IPRs.

→ Proper redressal ~~mechanism~~ mechanism must be made with proper functionality.

→ Equal representation from every country with binding resolutions is essential.

Although trade blocs and regional forum are established through loop holes of ~~rules~~ regulation, ex. relevance of WTO must be restored for free and fair trade with every country

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11. 69वें संविधान संशोधन ने किस प्रकार दिल्ली में दोहरे शासन की दुविधा को उत्पन्न किया है? संविधान में परिकल्पित सहकारी संघवाद पर इसके प्रभाव की चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How has the 69th Constitutional amendment led to Delhi's dual governance dilemma? Discuss its impact on cooperative federalism as envisaged in the Constitution. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act gave the ~~Delhi~~ Delhi government the power to ~~the~~ legislate on ~~all matters except police~~ all matters with some exceptions like control on police.

Dilemma of Delhi's dual Governance

Delhi being capital of India and a union territory has lieutenant governor and also a State Legislature with Assembly.

Thus there is always a conflict on the issue of power and jurisdiction of control of services.

Any bill is to be passed by the Lt. Governor however it is being rejected on the ground that it is not in ~~the~~ the jurisdiction of government.

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The recent ~~just~~ bill on Ordinance power of the Lt. Governor of Delhi is the timing example of the dilemma.

It is impacted cooperative Federalism in following way

(1) Risk in State-centre conflict leads to lack of coordination

(2) This lead to power politics hampering development projects in the area.

(3) Increase in finding faults rather than solving issues,

(4) Mistrust among administrators leading to inefficient functioning

Thus there is need to change the present situation in following way

→ Proper regulation and redefining all ~~[illegible]~~ jurisdiction with all stakeholders having a say.

Candidates must not write on this margin

→ ~~Art~~ Art. Governors must act in impartial way not favouring the centre but keeping in mind citizen welfare.

→ ~~Art~~ Proper Demarcation of powers will increase the trust and can help in ensuring cooperative federalism.

→ More power must be devolve to the ~~state~~ ~~govt~~ legislature ensuring there is no harm to national security and integrity.

Thus, devolution of power and ensuring proper rules and regulation can ensure the ~~top~~ cooperative federalism.

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12. "संविधान एक स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका की परिकल्पना करता है, न कि पृथक न्यायपालिका की"; दिए गए कथन के आलोक में उच्च न्यायपालिका में न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति से जुड़े मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा वर्तमान प्रणाली के विकल्प तलाशिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

"Constitution envisages an independent judiciary, not insulated judiciary"; In the light of the given statement, discuss the issues associated with the appointment of judges in the higher judiciary and explore alternatives to the current system. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

In the land mark judgement of Kesavananda Bharti Case, the SC upheld basic ~~doctn~~ Structure Doctrine. One of the component is Independent Judiciary.

Thus there is a rising debate between the misuse of power by judiciary ~~to be~~ in the name of independent judiciary to turn it into insulated judiciary.

This can be seen with the issues of judicial ~~appointed~~ appointment.

→ The formation of Collegium System by the famous 3 Judges cases.

→ ~~Abhi~~ = Abolition

→ Removal of NJAC stating it undermines Judicial independence.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Issues with appointment of Judges in Higher Judiciary.

(1) **Lack of Transparency** : It does not declare the criteria of selection and ~~sel~~ selection procedure

(2) **Time taking Issues** : It takes very long time to appoint new judges It leads to wasting precious time of senior judges.

(3) **Vacancy** : There is huge impending vacancies in the courts.

(4) **Conflict between Judiciary and Government** It leads to various rejections and thus waste time and resources.

(5) **Issue of Nepotism** comes in with the appointment as judiciary is not accountable.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Alternatives to the current system

→ NJAC can be reinstated with proper amendments to the limitations.

→ Proper criteria and procedure to be published to ensure transparency.

→ Coordination between the three bodies i.e. Judiciary, Executive and Legislation to ensure smooth and fast process mechanism.

→ Formation of National Judicial Service to be held by UPSC to recruit judges.

→ Thus, proper consultation with all stakeholders and coordination is required to maintain ~~balance~~ checks and balances and ~~ensure~~ also ensure seperation of powers.

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग (NCST) प्रायः निगरानी और सलाहकार की भूमिका तक ही सीमित है। संवैधानिक दर्जा प्राप्त होने के बावजूद NCST के कामकाज में क्या बाधाएँ हैं? इसमें सुधार हेतु सुझाव भी दीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribe (NCST) has largely been confined to a monitoring and advisory role. What are the impediments in the functioning of NCST despite the constitutional status, also suggests reforms.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribe (NCST) was formed under 89th Constitutional Amendment Act and provisioned in Article 338A of Indian Constitution.

Role of NCST

- To investigate and monitor all matters relating to safeguards of STs.
- To enquire into specific complaints with respect to deprivation of rights
- to participate and advise in planning process of socio economic development.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Impediments in functioning of NCST

→ Pendency to resolve issue : In 2020-21, the pendency was around 50%

→ Lack of Man Power : leading to inefficient functioning. with lack of recruitment

→ Lack of Budgetary Support ~~that~~ results in low ~~Socio economic~~ rate of functioning

Thus despite constitutional status, it cannot implement any suggestions. It can provide only advisory role.

Some ~~Recommendations~~

Some Suggestive Reforms.

(1) Increasing the budget allocation to ensure that timely recruitment is ensured.

(2) Rationalizing the upper bar on qualification of ~~Hegu~~ recruitment.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Expanding its role to implementation of its suggestion for better socio economic development.

(4) ~~Enh~~ Technological enhancement of the commission to ~~ensure~~ lower pendancy and provide proper grievance redressal mechanism.

Thus proper updation and amendment to role of NCST is required ~~will~~ to ensure proper development of STs.

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. राज्यपाल किन–किन परिस्थितियों में किसी राज्य के विधेयक को राष्ट्रपति के विचारार्थ आरक्षित कर सकता है और यह प्रावधान विवादास्पद क्यों है? साथ ही इस संबंध में पुंछी आयोग द्वारा सुझाए गए सुधारों पर भी चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Under what circumstances can the Governor reserve a state bill for the consideration of the President and why is the provision controversial? Also, discuss the reforms suggested by Punchhi Commission in this regard. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Article 200 of India Constitution provided that Governor's assent is required to pass state bill. Article 201 empowers governor to reserve a state bill for consideration of President.

Circumstances to use Article 201

→ If the bill is against provision of constitution.

→ If it opposed the DPSPs.

→ If it is against larger interest of the country.

→ If it is on grave national importance

→ It is related to compulsory land acquisition under Article 31A.

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Reasons why the Provision is controversial

→ Governor uses this provision to delay a bill if it does not want to pass it.

→ Various cases where governors acts as an agent of centre to ~~withhold the~~ sit on the bill if it is against the interest of centre.
Eg:- Tamil Nadu Case, West Bengal Case.

→ It increases the Centre-State conflict and undermines seperation of powers.

→ Even if the bills are legitimate, there is rise in withholding rate in states where opposition ~~power~~ party is ruling.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Reforms suggested by Punchhi Commission

→ There should be a say of Chief Minister in Governor's appointment

→ Governor must stay away from politics for atleast 2 years before appointment

→ Committee comprising of Prime Minister, ~~Leader of Opposition~~, Lok Sabha Speaker, Home Minister and Chief Minister of concerned state must appoint Governor.

→ Governor's tenure must be fixed for 5 years

→ Removal must be by state legislators.

Also, SC in this regards emphasised that ~~but~~ the Governor must not withhold bills for invalid reasons and it must be passed on in time.

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. नौवीं अनुसूची ने संपत्ति के मौलिक अधिकार के तहत सामाजिक–आर्थिक न्याय से संबंधित कानूनों को चुनौती से बचाने के लिए एक संवैधानिक विरोधाभास उत्पन्न किया। क्या वर्तमान समय में नौवीं अनुसूची की कोई प्रासंगिकता है? आई. आर. कोएल्हो निर्णय ने इस विरोधाभास का कैसे समाधान किया? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The Ninth Schedule fabricated a constitutional paradox to safeguard laws related to socio-economic justice from being challenged under the fundamental right to property. Does the ninth schedule have any relevance in present times? How did the IR Coelho judgment resolve this paradox?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Ninth schedule was brought in under 1st Amendment Act to safeguard laws regarding abolition of zamindari rights.

Relevance of Ninth schedule

→ It contains central and state laws which cannot be challenged. This was done to protect the land reform from fundamental right of property.

→ It was to ensure equal distribution of land to ensure equitable economic development.

However with removal of right to property from fundamental right, it loses its prevalence.

→ It is mainly used by the states to bring in more reservations of minorities in various spheres.

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This can be seen in resolution of states like Chattisgarh and Jharkhand to increase reservation above 50% limit ~~and~~ so that it cannot be challenged.

IR Coelho judgement was a landmark judgement which resolve the issue. In this, the SC held that all the laws put in 9th schedule after the ~~Bas~~ Kesavananda Bharti case which ensures Basic ~~Str~~ Structure Doctrine are under Judicial Review. If it not legible retrospectively. Thus any laws after the case can be brought under Judicial Review to examine the basic provisions of constitution. If it violates the principles, the court can removed it.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Thus, the 9th schedule is relevant in present case as it only includes those laws which conforms the ~~constitutional~~ Constitutional principles after the IR Coelho Judgement.

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16. "केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग सुशासन के लिए अटूट प्रासंगिकता के साथ लोकतंत्र के संरक्षक के रूप में खड़ा है।" CIC के अधिदेश के संदर्भ में कथन को न्यायोचित ठहराइए। क्या CIC की वैधानिक स्थिति ने हाल के दिनों में इसकी प्रभावशीलता को सीमित कर दिया है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

"Central Information Commission stands as the guardian of democracy, with an unwavering relevance to good governance." Justify the context in terms of the mandate of the CIC. Has the statutory status limited the effectiveness of the commission in recent times? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Central Information Commission was appointed after the Right to Information Act was passed in 2005 to ensure transparency and accountability.

Role of C.I.C

- **Transparency** → It acts as guardian of democracy by allowing citizens to ask about the functioning of ~~for~~ public offices. Any ~~file~~ request filed must be delivered within the specified time limit.

- **Accountability** → It ensures the government work plan maintains records and are properly ~~of~~ updating the information so that it is provided when asked.

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- **Good Governance** → It ensures there is good governance by connecting citizens and officials through active participation.
- **Efficiency** → It helps ensuring efficiency of work in workplace by providing regulation for ~~maintaining~~ maintaining data resulting in less corruption.

CIC has statutory status, however its role has been reduced by recent amendment by the government :-

→ It's appointment is under the control of government

→ The salary will be decided by centre

→ Term of service will also be determined by centre.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Such amendments lead to reduction in independent functioning with centre having more control.

Thus, there is a need of constitutional status to CIC article.

Also, prompt and timely response, submission of annual reports, mechanism of online filing and policies like Open Data Policy is needed.

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17. यौन अपराधों के खिलाफ बच्चों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में POCSO अधिनियम के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। वर्तमान अधिनियम के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आप इसमें क्या परिवर्तन सुझाएँगे?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the significance of the POCSO Act in ensuring the safety and protection of children against sexual offences. What changes would you suggest to the present Act to enhance its effective implementation?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

POCSO Act was adopted in 2012 after ratification of UN Convention on Rights of Child in 1992.

Significance of POCSO Act

→ It defines children as those under the age of 18 years.

→ It protects children from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation

→ It is gender neutral as framing both on boys and girls.

→ There is ease of reporting which increases the protection.

→ The ~~Act~~ Act contains explicit definitions of various crimes against children.

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Challenges of the Act.

→ The act led to charging of assault on those who are involved in consensual sex.

→ It increases the number of cases due to prevalence of child marriage because in many areas, children above age of 14 years are married.

→ It has issue of improper implementation with lack of reports due to societal stigma.

→ ~~It needs to be amended to take in consideration recent changes according to the time.~~

→ Lack of women Representatives in Police force

→ Lapse in investigation and lack of Judicial examination by Judicial Magistrate.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Suggestion to enhance its effective implementation

1. Increase in women Representation
2. Availing facilities of e filing for faster investigation
3. Proper procedure of examination by medical professional and judicial magistrate.
4. Resolving age issue through surveys and proper scientific method.
5. Counselling and coordination with all stake holders.

POCSO Act helps in child protection, ensuring bright future and removing child abuse which may hamper their cognitive ability. However, there must be proper amendments to resolve the impending issues.

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18. 'प्रौद्योगिकी नौकरशाही की पारंपरिक रूपरेखा को पुनः आकार देने, इसे अधिक कुशल, पारदर्शी और नागरिक–केंद्रित बनने हेतु प्रेरित करने के लिए उत्प्रेरक के रूप में कार्य करती है।' इस कथन का आशय स्पष्ट कीजिए तथा यह भी पता लगाइए कि प्रौद्योगिकी का एकीकरण लोक सेवा के आधुनिकीकरण के सरकारी प्रयासों को कैसे तेज कर सकता है। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Technology serves as the catalyst for reshaping the traditional contours of bureaucracy, propelling it to become more efficient, transparent, and citizen-centric.' Explain and also explore how the integration of technology can expedite governmental efforts aimed at modernizing the civil service.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Civil service act as a conduit between the citizens and the government. They are crucial pillar to development of grassroot democracy.

Role of Technology in modernising civil service

→ Block chain technology can help in organising the functions efficiently ensure no duplications in work and timely completion.

→ Cloud storage service can help in integration of e-filling of grievances and maintaining proper record.

→ Use of e portals like GeM Portal can also help in reducing corruption

Candidates must not write on this margin

and urbanising local treaders.

④ Digitisation of all documents will ensure that they are properly categorised for swift process.

⑤ e-counselling of citizen and online grievance redressal mechanism can be ensure effective functioning of the office.

Thus technology can help improve e-governance and ensure there is smart governance.

However certain challenges can impede the progress.

① Technological Divide

- Lack of Access
- Digital Illiteracy

② Lack of proper implementation

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(3) Misuse of the facilities with irrelevant filings.

(4) Cyber threats which can lead to problem of data security.

Therefore there is need of proper training and enhancing the capabilities of civil servants. One such initiative is Mission Karmayogi by Government of India to enhance the competency of public servants.

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19. भारत और अमेरिका के बीच अतीत में उतार-चढ़ाव वाले संबंध रहे हैं, हाल के दिनों में संबंधों में कितनी प्रगाढ़ता आई है? रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध के मुद्दे पर वाशिंगटन के साथ तीखे मतभेद के बाद नई दिल्ली को अमेरिका के साथ अपने संबंधों को कैसे आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

India and US have had an oscillating relationship in the past, to what extent has the relationship acquired depth in recent times? How should New Delhi navigate its relationship with the US after its sharp divergence with Washington on the issue of the Russia- Ukraine war?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The relation between India and US has always been dynamic with various ups and down.

This can be viewed from some activities of past like:

→ Sanction for Nuclear Test

→ Supporting Pakistan in Indo Pak war

→ Intervening in deals with Iran etc.

However, the relationship recently has deepened due to following reasons:

(1) To counter Hegemony of China and India has close border with china,

(2) Demographic Dividend of India and Large Market

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(3) Rise of India in technology, space and innovations

(4) ~~Democ~~ Democratic principles to counter the communist principle.

(5) Free and Open Navigation in Indo Pacific Region.

This can be seen with recent ~~develop~~ developments like formation of QUAD, I2U2 and recent deal in semiconductor and I.C.T. Also, there is enhance collaboration in field of STEM.

In recent geopolitical dynamics, every country now realises that the world is now evolving with multilateral relations and maintaining national interest as priority.

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Thus, with recent divergence of Washington and New Delhi on Russia Ukraine conflict must not hamper their current relation.

The current relation has its own merits with each country having their national interest.

USA understands India's relation with Russia which is a long term friendship and also understands the significance of India as a growing leader.

Thus, New Delhi must prioritize its interest setting aside other things and take advantage of the sharing knowledge and technology advances to further the country's development.

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20. 'पूर्व की ओर देखो नीति' के कार्यान्वयन के पश्चात् भारत–आसियान साझेदारी किस प्रकार विकसित हुई है? भारत भू–राजनीतिक वास्तविकताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपनी अर्थव्यवस्था की बढ़ती ताकत का लाभ किस प्रकार से भारत–आसियान संबंधों को घनिष्ठ बनाने के अवसर के रूप में उठा सकता है?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How has the India-ASEAN partnership evolved since the implementation of the 'Look East Policy'? In what ways can India leverage the increasing strength of its economy alongside geopolitical realities as opportunities to foster closer India and ASEAN relations? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

India - ASEAN partnership has evolved with the time with ASEAN being 4th largest trading partner.

After implementation of Look East Policy it evolved in following ways.

(1) Increase in bilateral trade
(2) Rise in military exercise
(3) Connectivity projects like IMT and Kaladan Multimodel project.
(4) Common threats and security issues.
(5) Initiatives like SAGAR.
(6) Cultural connect like Buddhism.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Ways in which India can leverage the increasing strength of its economy :

(1) Attracting FDI in E India and also contribution to developmental projects there.

(2) **Education** : Opening education branches can help in fostering closer bonds sharing the qualitative knowledge.

(3) **Defence** → Deals like recent export of Brahmos to Vietnam and Philippines and its integration with IRNSS can boost India's influence.

(4) Increase in tourism can help foster soft power with sharing of cultures.

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However there are certain challenges

(1) Difference in preferences between ASEAN countries. Some are favouring China and wants to continue with China's BRI.

(2) Lack of common interest with ASEAN countries mainly focusing on Pacific Ocean Region.

(3) Skewed trade with huge trade deficit in India.

Thus there is a need for more collaboration combining both hard power of geopolitics status and soft power of culture and diaspora to strengthen the relation.

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Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS