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NEXT IAS (Head Office) : 27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar no. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro, New Delhi-110060
Bhopal Centre: Plot No. 46, ZONE-2, M.P. Nagar, Bhopal-462011
Ph: 8081300200, 8827664612 | E-mail : mts@nextias.com | **Web:** www.nextias.com

(To be filled by candidate)

Name of Candidate : S. Christopher Aimal

Roll No. : MT23RCAPA017

Registration Number : ..... Date of Examination : 30/08/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

Test - 6

Code : TC708

RCA Batch 2023

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Question paper will be provided separately and can be taken by the candidates after conclusion of the exam.

.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....

[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					

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS

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1. "अंतरराज्यीय सीमा विवाद, यदि शीघ्र और निष्पक्षतः नहीं सुलझाए गए, तो स्थायी विवादित मुद्दों में परिवर्तित हो सकते हैं जो विकास में बाधक बनते हैं और टकराव या संघर्ष उत्पन्न करते हैं"। अंतरराज्यीय विवादों को हल करने के लिए संवैधानिक और विधिक ढाँचे पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, स्पष्ट कीजिए कि स्वतंत्र भारत अंतरराज्यीय सीमा विवादों को सुलझाने में क्यों विफल रहा है। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Interstate border disputes, if not promptly and impartially settled, can transform into persistent issues that impede development and generate friction". Highlighting the constitutional and legal framework to resolve interstate disputes, explain why Independent India has failed to resolve inter-state border disputes. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Interstate border dispute has been a constant issue in the federal functioning of the country.

⇒ Constitutional and legal framework

(1) Exploring Inter-State Council (Art. 263) for resolution of disputes in a peaceful manner.

(e.g Nagaland Declaration (Assam - Arunachal)

(2) Use of Zonal Council, North East Council for settling border disputes.

(3) Exploring (Article 3) so as to clear the ambiguity surrounding unclear demarcation of boundaries.

(4) Use of (Tribunals) such as inter-state river dispute tribunal for settling issues.

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⇒ Reasons for constant disputes b/w States

(1) Lack of clear demarcation of boundaries

(e.g) Between Assam & Mizoram - resulting into conflict & violence.

(2) Ethnicity factor complicating border disputes

(e.g) Maharashtra - Karnataka over Belgaum

(3) States Reorganisation still an ongoing process since 1956.

(e.g) Creation of Telangana from AP → border issue.

(4) Lack of political will by parties concern for vested political interest.

Need of the hour is a Second State's Reorganisation (on the lines of Fazal Ali Commission) and peaceful dialogue.

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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

Article 263, provides for Inter-state Council as a constitutional body, to promote cooperative federalism.

⇒ Role of Inter-state Council

(A) Vertical (Centre-State)

↳ act as a platform for cooperative federalism for Centre & States.

(e.g) GST Council – discussed deliberately through the council for its formation.

↳ Dispute resolution between Centre & states and promotion of common interest.

(e.g) GST Compensation issue.

↳ Act as a bargaining and effective platform for states as equal partner, not subordinate.

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(B) Horizontal (Inter-State)

↳ Resolution of disputes through peaceful dialogue

(e.g) Assam - Arunachal (Namsai declaration)

↳ Promotes competitive federation between states

(e.g) through NITI Aayog Aspirational Dist. Program

↳ Platform for promoting the interest of states by formulating common concern & interest.

Way forward

- permanent constitution of Inter-State Council (Sarkaria Commission)
- constitution of Inter-state council regular for promoting National Integration
- due recognition & fair representation to states.

Thus, ISC acts as the grease through which the wheels of federalism runs in the country.

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3. लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) के प्रमुख कार्यों पर चर्चा कीजिए। सार्वजनिक धन के सच्चे संरक्षक के रूप में इसकी प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए लोक लेखा समिति (पीएसी) में सुधार के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the key function of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). What steps should be taken to revamp the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in order to enhance its effectiveness as a true guardian of public funds?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is one of the three financial committee for ensuring executive accountability. It presently has 22 members.

⇒ functions of PAC

(1) Examine the CAG report on appropriation account, financial account presented before the Lok Sabha.

(2) Examine the audit repair on state corporations, trading concerns, manufacturing projects etc

(3) To ensure whether money made on appropriation & finance account were made legally available & conforms to the Authority that governs it

(4) Examine reports of autonomous & semi-autonomous bodies and CAG report on them.

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(5) Examine the receipt of stores & stocks presented before it

Challenges
- post-mortem examination
- recommendations not binding
- not an executive body, hence cannot issue orders
- Not concern with day-to-day-administrations

Steps to be taken
- ensure CAG act as a true guide, friend & philosopher of PAC
- Extend the tenure of members to 2yrs (as recommended by NCRWC)
- increasing the number of its members can be considered so that it can handle more works
- recommendations not to be rejected unless arbitrary.

PAC is one of the bulwark of Parliamentary Committee & effective step needs to be taken up.

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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

The 15th Finance Commission was constituted under Artr. 280 of the Constitution.

⇒ Major reforms suggested for ULB

(1) Development of smart cities for urbanization

(2) Power reforms faced by ULBs for effective governance

(3) Incentive linked performance for ULBs

(4) Constitution of State Finance Commission on a timely manner.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Evaluation → aims at addressing key problems found by ULBs

→ ensure implementation of 74th Act in letter & spirit

planned urbanization.

Challenges → insufficient allocation to ULBs & States & political interference in functioning of ULBs

non-conduct of elections for ULBs.

non-constitution of SFCs.

Therefore, these challenges have to be addressed in a proactive manner to ensure efficient functioning of ULBs.

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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

Freedom of speech and expression is a vital part to ensure a vibrant democracy and its functioning.

⇒ KEY DIFFERENCES

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES	FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
↳ It is meant for Parliamentarians for raising the concerns of the people they represent.	↳ Meant for individuals to ensure proper socio-eco. & political democracy
↳ Constitutional provisions Art. 105 & Art. 164	↳ Constitutional provisions Art. 19 of Fundamental rights.
↳ MPs have more freedom of Speech & expression in the House.	↳ Subject to reasonable restrictions under Art 19 (eg Public order, morality etc.
↳ Unodified at present	↳ Clear constitutional prohibition, codified.

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⇒ Need for maintaining balance between the two

(1) Absolute parliamentary privileges impinges on fundamental rights of the people at large.

(2) Misuse of freedom of speech and expression by MPs for political gains.

(e.g) MPs resorting to frequent disruptions affects parliamentary functioning.

(3) Parliamentary privilege is uncodified, hence MPs enjoy relative absolute freedom of speech & expression - affects (social contract) theory

(4) Reasonable restrictions on individual as part of Fundamental Rights has to be, by and under constitutional obligations.

It is therefore, necessary to find the middle path between the two (Justice Venkatachaliah Committee)

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6. नागरिक समाज संगठन, "सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्रवाई" को बढ़ावा देने में महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। स्थानीय संसाधन जुटाने (एलआरएम) और निगमित सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (सीएसआर) के माध्यम से कॉर्पोरेट (निगमों द्वारा) वित्तपोषण प्राप्त करने में उन्हें किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है? साथ ही सार्थक उपाय भी सुझाएँ। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

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

Civil Society organizations are one of the key stakeholders for pursuing good governance (UNDP)

Challenge faced by CSOs

(1) Over-regulation by the government reducing their functioning.

(e.g) Recent FCRA 2020 (Amendment) Act reduces administrative expenses from 50% to 20%.

(2) Informal nature of Civil societies, thus effective local resource mobilization & corporate funding is an issue.

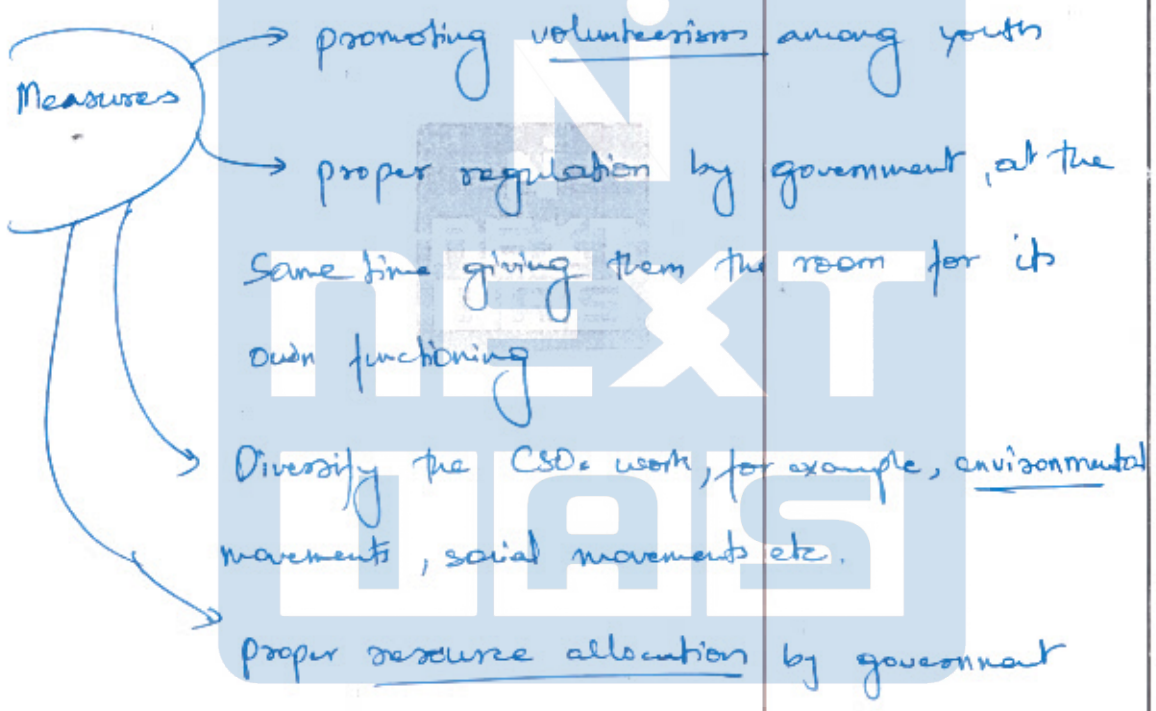
(3) CSOs in India represents diverse & heterogeneous groups hence they tend to promote their own good over public good.

(e.g) Recent Meira Paiba case in Manipur

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(4) Lack of human resource for its proper functioning. This is a pertinent issue faced by them.

(5) Corporate sectors unwilling to contribute CSR to civil societies as it has no immediate utility for them.



Can be taken up as well.

If these challenges are addressed, CSOs have a great role in ensuring effective governance.

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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

According to MPI report of UNDP, India is home to 22 crore poor people and this pose significant challenge for India.

⇒ Methodology use by NITI Aayog (MPI):

↳ It is based on UNDP and Oxfam Information MPI Index, parameters are

1. Life expectancy (e.g. Health outcomes)
2. Education (e.g. Mean school year)
3. Standard of living (e.g. Per capita income)

Based on this, if a person is deprived in any of 1/3 of its parameters & indicators, he/she is considered to be multidimensionally poor.

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Significance of the Index

(1) It covers poverty from multiple aspects (socio-economic) in sync with Amartya Sen's Capability Approach.

(2) It also measures the incidence and intensity of poverty, thus ensures targetted delivery of poor alleviation.

(3) Crucial input for planner & administrator to understand the gravity of poverty issue and take affirmative actions

Steps taken by govt.
- → MNREGA in rural areas
- → PDS, NFS Act 2013 etc
- → PMGKY (food security for poor)

Addressing poverty is essential to achieve UN SDG 1 and the Saptarishi goal of reaching the last mile in India.

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8. भारत के संदर्भ में, संवैधानिक प्रावधानों, कानूनी पूर्व–उदाहरणों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं की उपस्थिति के बावजूद, जो स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार के लिए एक मजबूत आधार स्थापित करते हैं, इस अधिकार की स्पष्ट कानूनी मान्यता का अभाव क्यों रहा है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In the context of India, despite the presence of constitutional provisions, legal precedents, and international commitments that establish a robust foundation for a right to health, why has there been a lack of explicit legal recognition of this right? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

"Health is wealth" and therefore citizens are entitled to have the right to health.

=> Presence of constitutional, legal, international commitments

(1) Art. 21 (Right to Life & Personal Liberty)

– covers implicit right to the right to health.

(e.g) SC case on Delhi firecracker case during Diwali reflects this

(2) Air pollution Act (1981) ensures redressal of the right to health, so is Water Pollution Act 1974.

(3) India is a part of Alma Ata Declaration, where it commits the right to health for its citizens.

(4) Fundamental duty, DPSP etc also have implicit provision for right to health.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Reasons for lack of explicit legal recognition

(1) Healthcare expenditure only 2.1 % of GDP (FY23)

Thus, there is budgetary allocation constraints.

(2) Lack of political will to enforce free and legal right to healthcare

(3) Lack of 3As in India which creates policy concerns.



(eg) Doctor to patient ratio 1 : 1456 / WHO → 1 : 1000)

(4) Right to health will put the state under the obligation to serve the citizens with limited resources.

Nonetheless, Right to health is necessary and must be given legal recognition to achieve UN SDG 3 (health) by 2030. Steps taken by govt include Ayushman, PMJAY etc. ↓

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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 summit recently happened in Johannesburg. It is an amalgamation of 5 countries (Brazil, China, India, Russia & South Africa).

⇒ **BRICS - meaningful cooperation on myriad issues**

(1) Economic growth through the creation of Contingency Reserve Agency (CRA), ensuring adequate financial & credit access to the members.

(2) On issues of climate change, the nations have been working as a group collectively.

(3) Promotion of soft power - (e.g) Declaration of Varanasi as cultural town recently.

(4) Challenge western hegemony and promotes multilateralism against WTO, WEF, IMF - western countries dominated platforms.

Candidates must not write on this margin

⇒ Impact on bilateral relationships remain limited

① China obstructing India's participation in NSG, UNSC as permanent member.

② Border confrontation between China & India creating trust deficit

③ Russia & China are authoritarian government against democratic countries of South Africa, India etc thus creates difference in political ideology.

④ Issue of terrorism - countries have different perspectives. (eg) China blocking terrorist blacklisting

Nonetheless, the organisation have also provided for effective handling of bilateral relations such as Wuhan Agreement, Mamallapuram Declaration etc and peaceful resolution of disputes.

Thus, BRICS is an important organisation which have key role in global geopolitics.

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10. सिंधु जल संधि में संशोधन की हालिया माँगों के आलोक में, भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच जल-बंटवारा व्यवस्था पर पड़ने वाले इसके संभावित प्रभावों की चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In light of the recent demands to amend the Indus Waters Treaty, discuss the possible implications it could have on the water-sharing mechanism between India and Pakistan. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The recent case of Pakistan taking the treaty directly to the Permanent Court of Arbitration has led to strain between India and Pakistan.

⇒ Possible impact on water-sharing mechanism

(1) The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 have stepped mechanism for dispute resolution (3 verticals). Amending the treaty could create hydrological impact on the region.

(2) India can use the eastern rivers to its maximum level and also create run of the river projects in the western Rivers.

(3) Implication on border dispute and bilateral relation can escalate resulting into increased tension in the region.

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(4) It can impact the functioning of SAARC, BIMSTEC and other regional councils/organisations like SCO.

(5) Pakistan is raising issue over construction of Kishanganga project and amendment can lead to resolution of the issue in a peaceful manner.

Way forward

- No unilateral exit mechanism, hence both must follow proper rules & procedures of IWT
- Consensus is required to resolve the issue in a way beneficial for both.
- preventing overlapping of dispute resolution (institutionalized & hierarchical approach)

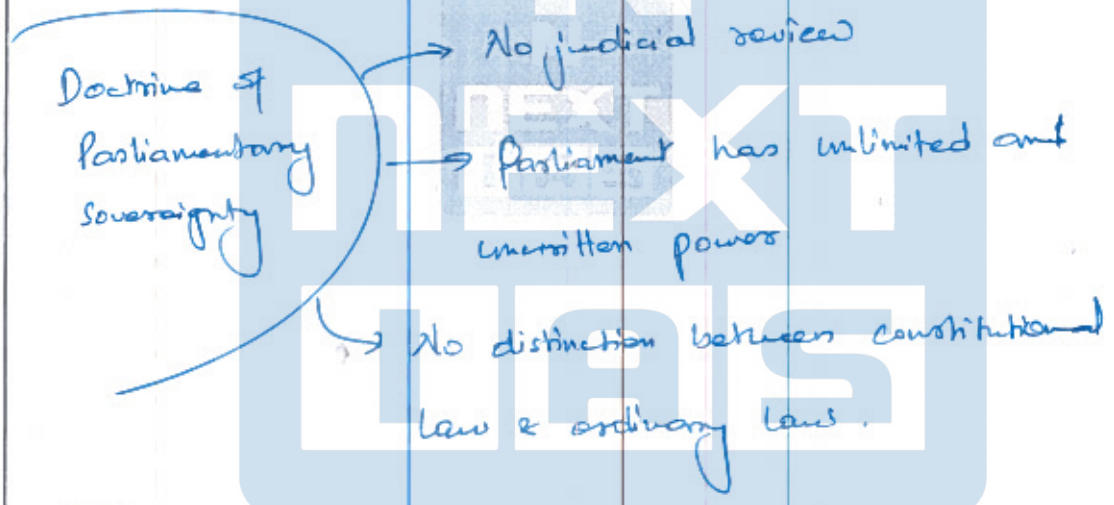
The Indus waters Treaty can have geopolitical repurcussions and hence must be handled in a mature way by both countries.

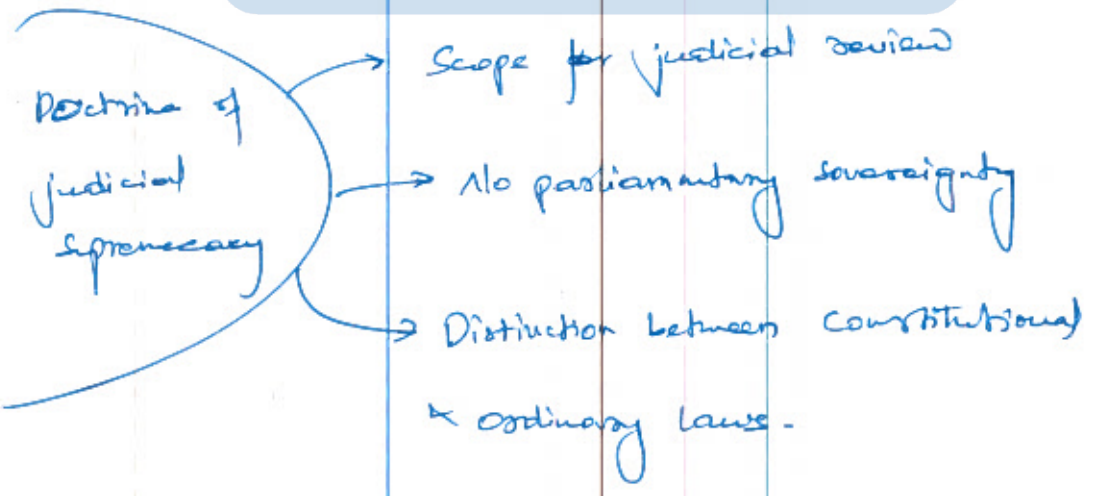
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11. संसदीय संप्रभुता और न्यायिक सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत ने भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के संवैधानिक ढाँचे को आकार देने में अत्यधिक महत्त्वपूर्ण प्रभाव डाला है। प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयजन्य विधियों का हवाला देते हुए इन देशों में संविधान को प्रभावित 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

Doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty is prevalent in UK and judicial supremacy in USA. Indian system is an amalgamation of both aspects.





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⇒ Role played by judiciary in these countries

1. India

- Keshavanda Bharti case (1973) - judiciary innovated "Basic Structure of the constitution" which is inviolable by the Parliament. This protects constitutionalism.

- National Judicial Appointment Committee (99th AA) Strike down by judiciary for violating judicial independence (Basic structure)

2. USA

- SC recently overturning the Roe Case of Abortion for protecting rights of the people

- Due process of law concept of judicial review (both substantive + procedural process) by the judiciary in enforcing constitutionalism.

- Capital Capture case (2022) - SC asserts constitutional authority.

Candidates must not write on this margin

⇒ Judicial review scope in India

↳ Judicial review limited as India follows procedure established by law, not due process of law as is the case in USA.

↳ Judiciary can only review the substantive ground, not the procedural ground.

↳ Judicial review limited in the sense that Art. 13 only provides for it when it is violative of the fundamental rights.

Thus, judicial review is more narrower in India and India adopts both the synthesis of judicial supremacy & parliamentary sovereignty.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

Fair and equal representation is necessary for effective functioning of federal system in the country. For that dilimitation of seat is the foremost step.

⇒ Challenges posed by misrepresentation in constituencies

(1) Asymmetric federalism

(eg) UP has 3 digits in LS, NE states like Tripura has 2 seats only. This creates federal tension.

(2) Under-representation of constituencies promote social disharmony and creates deprivation issue, resulting into vote bank politics.

(3) Affects cooperative federalism - cooperation between Constituencies, States.

(4) Promotes regionalism (e.g) Southern States V/s Northern States.

Candidates must not write on this margin

⇒ Ramifications of population based delimitation

(1) The 15th Finance Commission "Terms of Reference" based on demography (census 2011), creates negative feeling in southern states affecting ~~regional~~ national integration.

(2) States like UP, Bihar will have increased representation, while other states like Tamil Nadu will have more or less the same number.

(3) It can derailed population planning and family planning taken up by states in the long run.

(4) Cooperative federalism to Confrontational federalism, thus creating federal tensions and negative feeling.

Nevertheless, the Delimitation Commission (Art. 82) ensures fair representation to all constituencies through the principle of one vote - one value

Candidates must not write on this margin

Concept.

Way forward →
- incentivising states such as the Southern States by increasing allocation from centre.
- Use of appropriate Census data, acceptable to all stakeholders.
- providing fair and equal representation to all.

In this way, the population based delimitation in creating federal tension can be minimized.//

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

Discuss the role of the Supreme Court of India in strengthening the hands of the Election Commission in the discharge of its constitutional responsibility of conducting free and fair elections in the country.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Supreme court and Election Commission are two important bulwark of democracy according to B. R Ambedkar.

⇒ Role of SC in strengthening ECI

(1) Implementation of [Art. 324] (free and fair election) in letter & spirit.

(2) Addressing criminalisation of politics (ADR report - 43% of MPs with criminal cases), SC and ECI together can address this.

(e.g) SC directing ECI to let political parties disclose criminal antecedants.

(3) Challenge of election to President, Vice President etc handled by Supreme Court and ECI through Art. 324 have a key role in this.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Highlighting the issue of freebies by political parties to ECI and advising ECI to take proactive measures.

(5) Implementation of Model Code of Conduct by political parties. SC have a crucial role in this regard.

(6) Anti-defection law

(e.g) Negachandra Case v/s State of Manipur, SC provided for proactive handling by speaker for fair & free election.

(7) Lily Thomas Case (2013) -> SC provided for immediate disqualification of MPs, thus strengthening the hands of ECI.

Challenges
- criminalisation of politics (ADR - 43% of MPs)
- ECI - no power to deregister political parties
- limited role in election funding
- lack of interse intra party democracy.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Need of the hour is to implement recommendations of 2nd ARC, Dinesh Goswami such as state funding of elections; Collegium system as suggested by CJI for ECI appointment (PM, CJI, Leader of Opposition).

Ensuring free & fair election is, therefore, a must in the country.

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. 'संसद की घटती भूमिका शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के मूल सिद्धांत को कमज़ोर करती है, क्योंकि यह कार्यकारी शाखा पर नियंत्रण रखने और सत्ता का संतुलित प्रयोग सुनिश्चित करने की विधायिका की क्षमता को कम कर देता है।' विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

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

Effective Scruting of Parliament is necessary for a vibrant and active democracy.

⇒ Declining role of Parliament

(1) Decreased parliamentary functioning

(eg) Frequent disruptions, walkouts by MPs reducing its functioning to 40% less than all average Lok Sabha functioning.

(2) Decreasing bills referred to committees

(e.g) 16th Lok Sabha – only 25% bills referred

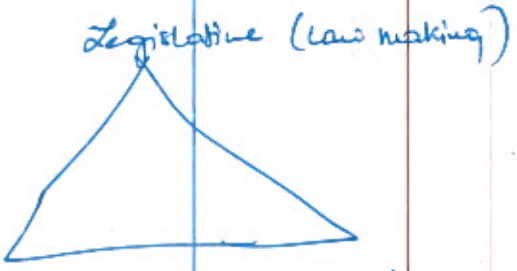
15th Lok Sabha – 71%

(3) Guillotine and Kangaroo bills passed without much discussions and deliberations on the matter.

(4) Increasing adjournment of parliament.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Impact on Separation of power



(1) Increasing use of delegated and subordinate legislation undermines legislative role and gives executive the free hand.

(2) Increasing use of ordinances route due to frequent disruptions, without intention to pass.

(e.g) KK Singh case (2017) - repeated promulgation of ordinances is a fraud on the Constitution.

(3) Authoritarian Executive, as legislative role in general and role of opposition have decreased

(4) Passing of bills as money bills to bypass Rajya Sabha.

Candidates must not write on this margin

e.g. Aadhar Act

The need of the hour is to ensure effective coordination and functioning of each organ of the government so as to repose the trust on Parliament as an institution.

Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain Case, which provides for proper check & balances, is the key ://

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. भारत में लिंग–संवेदनशील कानूनों पर विमर्श को आकार देने में राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग को संवैधानिक संस्था बनाने से उसका प्राधिकार किस हद तक सुदृढ़ होगा? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the crucial role played by the National Commission of Women in shaping the discourse on gender-sensitive laws in India. To what extent the elevation of the National Commission for Women to a constitutional body would reinforce its authority? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

National Commission of women is a statutory body created for women right protection in the year 1992.

⇒ Role played by National Com. of women

(1) Protecting women's right

(e.g) Against domestic abuse, violence, dowry cases.

(2) Advisory role

It advise and send recommendations to the government on policy affecting women.

(3) Safguard constitutional rights

(eg) Against gender discrimination, harassment at workplace etc and providing constitutional measures for safeguarding their rights.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Handling complaints, on suo moto case or otherwise.

(e.g) Recent mob justice in Manipur taken cognisant view by the commission.

(5) Conduct research & policy analysis impacting and affecting women, ensuring their enfranchisement.

Challenges

- political interference (members appointed by government)
- Limited capacity & allocation to the Commission
- Lack of human resource and staff
- Recommendations are non-binding to the government.
- lukewarm response to the Manipur case, hence criticised recently.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Constitutional Status to the Commission

(1) Its recommendations will carry more weightage and government will be bound to give reasons if they deviate.

(2) Address the political interference as giving Constitution status would ensure proper selection Committee of its members

(3) More budgetary allocation will go to NCW, hence more capacity & fiscal room for the body.

(4) Proactive role in promotion of women's right from the current passive role.

Therefore, its elevation to a constitutional Status will have multiplier effect on women empowerment.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

Timely redressal of grievances is one of the 8 pillars of good governance highlighted by UNDP.

⇒ Challenges associated with current mechanism

(1) Lack of appointment of officials for grievance redressal.

(e.g) Non-appointment of PIOs under RTI Act, 2005.

(2) Top-down approach, which creates bureaucratic approach and lack of democratic approach.

(3) Lack of consultation of citizens & stakeholders

(e.g) Citizen charter lacks people's consultation

(4) Unsatisfactory & untimely, insensitive grievance redressal.

(e.g) Authorities using/providing incomplete information under RTI.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) Lack of periodic review and monitoring of grievance redressal. This leads to alienation of the citizens.

(6) Digital Divide, thus reduces accessibility to grievance redressal.

(7) Lack of awareness on the people and stakeholders

(8) Lack of vernacular language for handling of e-grievance redressal.

Measures to strengthen

→ promotion of e-governance grievance redressal
(eg) CPGRAMS initiative

→ Bottom-up approach and effective consultation & participation of the people & stakeholders

→ timely appointment of grievance officer and ensuring proper timeline for redressal.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Measures → Conducting awareness programs - Campaigns

→ promotion of Social Audit

(e.g) Meghalaya Social Audit Initiative

→ decentralized grievance redressal mechanism at local level.

If grievance redressal is not done, it will result into maximum government, minimum governance.

Therefore, this needs to be taken up at the earliest.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

According to 2nd ARC report, corruption is one of the major challenge for effective & participative governance.

⇒ Harmonizing the acts to enhance effectiveness

(1) Will ensure coordinated and integrated approach, address the silos approach which is witnessed presently.

(2) Ensures timely and satisfactory grievance redressal against corruption cases.

(3) Creates deterrance factor for corrupt officials and acceptance of bribery.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Protection of whistleblowers and victimisation of whistleblowers can be addressed effectively.

(5) Ensure synchronisation of Acts and address vague terms use.

Eg Lokpal only have a timeline of 7 yrs to investigate cases.

Challenges
- may hamper decentralized way of corruption handling
- They are created for different purpose though for corruption
- harmonization may be challenging as they come under different ministries & departments.

Nonetheless, harmonizing those Acts can curb corruption & promote effective governance.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Candidates must not write on this margin

18. गरीबी का प्रभावी ढंग से मुकाबला करने के लिए हाशिए पर रहने वाले समुदायों के बीच कौशल विकास, उद्यमिता और आय सृजन के लिए एसएचजी का लाभ एक मंच के रूप में उठाने में शामिल संभावित चुनौतियों और लाभों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Analyze the potential challenges and benefits involved in leveraging SHGs as platforms for skill development, entrepreneurship, and income generation among marginalized communities to effectively counter poverty. Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Self help Groups (SHGs) are a group of people who promotes their common interest, often with a homogeneous socio-economic background.

⇒ Challenges in leveraging SHGs as platforms

(1) Lack of skill development among SHGs at presently is a big issue.

(2) Focuses mainly on agricultural activities and there is lack of diversification of SHGs.

(3) Lack of credit access to SHGs and thus resorting to moneylenders (48% as per report)

(4) SHGs presently generate low income, focus more on basic activities and therefore, members are facing economic diversification problem.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) Political interference in the functions of SHGs is another challenge

(6) Exploitation of member by more dominant and well off member, thus limiting the capacity building of SHGs as a whole.

Benefits associated with it

(1) Promotion of skill development, entrepreneurship etc can diversify the functions of SHGs.

(2) Can lead to women development to women led development through capacity building (imparting skill and entrepreneurship).

(3) Access to market for their produce

(e.g) E-Meesho, through which the products of SHG are marketted

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Socio-economic upliftment for the marginalised to counter poverty

(e.g) It will enhance their income by diversifying their activities, Self help food grain

(5) Address feminisation of agriculture & poverty by promoting financial independence and empowerment.

Therefore, SHGs have great role to counter poverty especially for the marginalised sections.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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 पावर के रूप में स्थापित करने में सक्षम हो पाया है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'India is uniquely positioned on the world map for its rich culture.' In this context discuss the role of culture, diaspora, and democracy as instruments of India's soft power diplomacy. To what extent India has been able to position itself as a 'smart power'? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Soft power diplomacy is an arm of foreign policy which promotes cultural exchange and fosters long lasting impact.

⇒ Instruments of India's soft power

① Culture → rich culture & heritage

e.g. Origin of Buddhism provides soft power diplomacy around the world.

→ idea of Vasudheva Kutumbekam (One family), which is the theme of G20 meet in India.

→ repository of various culture since ancient civilization such as Indus Civilization, different religion etc (Jainism, Muslims, Christians etc)

Candidates must not write on this margin

Diaspora
- → 8 million diaspora around the world
- → contributes effectively to socio-cultural and economic development of their country (thus important for soft power diplomacy)
- → great presence in most parts of the world (FIPIC countries, Africa, Europe, America etc)

democracy
- → Largest democracy around the world
- → periodic, free & fair election
- → rising global image as champion of democracy.

⇒ Extent to which India has position itself as "smart power":

(1) Establishment of Indian Cultural Exchange Centre in various parts (e.g. Japan.

(2) Nuclear power deal with France, America; soft power + smart power play effectively role.

(e.g. Lobbying by diaspora for the agreement.

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Promotion of Buddhism ideas in the global arena

Eg: its foreign policy with ASEAN countries.

Challenges → Smart power (India is lagging in hard power, only soft power, could not work)

→ Focuses mainly on its diaspora, thus limited impact.

→ presence of volatile neighbours like China & Pakistan, containing India's smart power.

Therefore, India has to effectively use soft power to gain its status as a global smart power.

Candidates must not write on this margin

20. भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझा मूल्यों और जीवंत लोगों से लोगों के बीच संबंधों का साहचर्य दोनों देशों के बीच दीर्घकालिक व्यापार संबंधों और रणनीतिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उपजाऊ जमीन तैयार करता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The synergy of shared values and vibrant people-to-people connections between India and Australia creates a fertile ground for fostering long-lasting trade relations and strategic collaboration between the two nations. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

"India and Australia are natural partners"

— PM Modi

⇒ Relationship between India & Australia

(1) Shared values → Democracy ideas
→ respect for international rule
→ freedom of navigation & maritime security
→ Hostile China – need for containment
on the issue of climate change.

(2) Vibrant people to people → huge diaspora presence
→ Signing of Migration & Mobility Agreement.
→ Good relation between people
→ Cricket bonding between India & Australia.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Reinforcing trade relations & strategic collaboration

(1) Economic partnership (trade & commerce)

(Eg) Mode 4 of GATS (India has demographic dividend advantage)

(2) Partnership in bilateral trade needs a major upturn. Australia - heavily dependent on China.

(3) Nuclear Energy cooperation, Australia rich in minerals & especially uranium.

(4) Strategic collaboration in maritime security, ensuring freedom of navigation.

(5) Rise of China's assertiveness - ground for collaboration.

(6) Ensuring sea lines of communications (SLOCs) such as the Malacca Strait.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Thus, the relation needs to go beyond shared values & people to people connections. y

Candidates must not write on this margin

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS