RECEIVED
01 SEP 2023

NEXT IAS

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

(To be filled by candidate)

Name of Candidate : Nazia Parveen

Roll No. : PTTP 220956

Registration Number : ..... Date of Examination : 30/04/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

Test - 6

Code : TC708

RCA Batch 2023

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This Question-cum Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 56 pages. Immediately on receipt of the booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.

Candidates must read the instructions on this page and the following pages carefully before attempting the paper.

Candidates should attempt the questions strictly in accordance with the instructions specified in the question paper and in the space prescribed under each question in the booklet. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.

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

.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....

[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

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.

DONT'S

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question-cum-Answer Booklet.
2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any leaves from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

India has vast ~~land~~ terrulary with huge diversity. During colonial times it was divided on administrative convenience without taking into account composition of region.

This led to friction & issues. Eg Assam - Meghalaya dispute

Karnataka - Maharashtra over Belgaum

Greater nagalim issue

Constitutional framework to resolve inter-State border dispute

(i) States are not indestructible, they do not have sovereignty.

(ii) As under article 2, union can admit new states

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iii) Under article 3, union can reorganize, rename, states, provided need to ~~recom~~ send the bill to Concerned state, but can go against their will

(iv) Inter-State Council can be used Legal framework & can solve by using regional Councils, under Nehru's.

Failure to resolve inter-state border dispute

(i) Political stakes of parties at Centre & State Eg) Chandigarh issue between Punjab & Haryana.

(ii) one after the other comes to arise. Eg) demand of Bundelkhand.

(iii) rise of regionalism, can threaten unity. Eg) Gorkhaland will be like Nepali Land in Indian Territory.

Thus, need is to find deforestation of regions by democratic decentralization as per 2nd ARC & Sarkaria Commission recommendation.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. ऊर्ध्वाधर (केंद्र–राज्य) और क्षैतिज (अंतर–राज्य) अंतर–सरकारी सहयोग और समन्वय को बढ़ावा देने में अंतर–राज्य परिषद 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

Inter state Council ~~are~~ is Constitutional body under article 263, formed after Sarkaria Commission recommendation for Cooperation & Coordination.

Role of ISC in Vertical Cooperation and Coordination

(I) help to resolve issues between Centre and state.

(II) Centre understands the desires of state

(III) help to bring national perspective at state level.

(IV) help to solve issue, before it grows bigger.

Role of ISC in horizontal Cooperation

(I) It Can help neighbouring states to Collaborate
Eg on inter-state river project.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iv) It help to iron out differences.

(v) It fosters Competitive federalism.
Eg Learning best practices.

However Isc has not seen light of the day

(i) Inactive since a decade

(ii) Majority rule at Centre, ⇒ Isc sidelined

(iii) Niti Ayog, Executive body given more importance

(iv) Power politics dominate in Isc
Eg failure to solve Cauvery river dispute

There need today is to revitalise Isc to on short of Constitutional morality to Cooperate horizontally & vertically.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

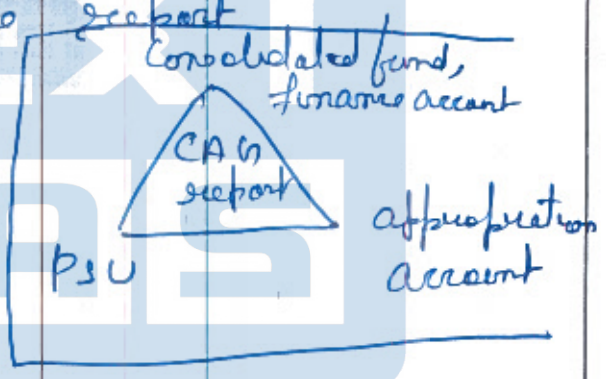
Discuss the key function of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). What steps should be taken to revamp the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in order to enhance its effectiveness as a true guardian of public funds?
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Public Account Committee is one of the powerful financial parliamentary standing committee, traced to government of India act 1919.

Key functions of PAC

(I) To analyse the report of CAG.

(II) It analyses budgetary provisions of government



(III) It checks optimal utilization of fund, with emphasis on fund utilization

(IV) It safeguards public purse via checking financial accountability to government

Candidates must not write on this margin

but there are limitations → post mortem audit - after fund is disbursed

→ recommendatory in nature

→ one year - dissolve - so Expertise gets wasted

Can influence policy formulation, implementation of govt.

Steps to revamp

- Extend number of years of its working
- above policy policies
- use Experts, civil society. from outside
- give power to disallow expenses, if discrepancy found.

← Thus, revamping PAC can help in better financial accountability of government & safeguard public interest.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

UN defines urbanization as increase in population in urban areas.

urbanization → 30% of population lives
→ Contributes 60% of GDP
↳ So called drivers of national growth

Recommendation of fifteenth finance Commission to revitalize ULBs

(i) to incentivize them as per their performance

(ii) promote municipal bonds to raise money

(iii) give them greater share of fund, if there is delay, then interest on penalty to be levied on states.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Needs → it will find resource crunch
→ it will influence pace of living of citizen.
→ Smart municipalities are needed for smart cities.

Issues → States are delaying
→ funds are of tied nature
→ funds not sufficient
→ Staff & skilling deficit at municipalities

Way forward → user charges can be levied like water cess
→ Collaborate with PPP
Eg on Gujarat - street lightings
→ online mode of crowd funding
Eg IAS Smile Subhrawal -
Fund your city initiative.

Thus, ULB need to be strengthened to make cities sustainable and future ready - which is one of the salient features of Budget

Candidates must not write on this margin

5. मौलिक अधिकारों की तुलना में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के तहत प्रदान की गई वाक् और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के दायरे में प्रमुख अंतरों पर प्रकाश डालिए। संसदीय विशेषाधिकार और मौलिक अधिकारों के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखना क्यों आवश्यक है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Highlight the key differences in the scope of Freedom of speech and expression as provided under Parliamentary privileges vis a vis Fundamental rights. Why is it necessary to maintain a balance between parliamentary privilege and fundamental rights? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Freedom of speech under 19(1)(a) is different under parliamentary powers which are rights & immunities of legislators under art 105 & fundamental rights of citizens

Fundamental right	Parliamentary powers
(i) Reasonable restriction of art 19(2) applies	(i) Not applied
(ii) Responsible for conduct and anything said in Court ⇒ defamation	(ii) Not responsible - Courts are barred from intervening in parliamentary proceedings.
(iii) Individual cannot punish on its own if denied right	(iii) They can punish, reprimand, admonish if powers breached ⇒ Search light case

Candidates must not write on this margin

Need to maintain balance

(i) MPs are representatives can not Claim more power than Citizens.

(ii) To balance with freedom of press

(iii) to seek accountability from MPs.

Way forward → Codify procedures as done in Australia

→ follow good precedent

⇒ UK started → ending people to Jail.

Supreme Court has recently remarked to legislate on knowledge specially in General matters.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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 organisation is voluntary Organization, registered or informal, aim to serve as watchdog of human rights and foster publicgood.

problem & challenges in local resource Mobilization & Corporate funding through CSR

(I) They lack transparency, so diminishes credibility.

(II) Some have engaged in actions on behest of foreign powers, so people loosing trust Eg: located on Kudankulam Nuclear power Plant.

(III) They do not come under RTI, so people & Corporates are

Candidates must not write on this margin

redundant.

(vii) problems of Corruption, misgovernance.

(viii) Reduction under FCRA — no transfer of fund to other CSO

Measures →

(i) They should come clean, foster transparency to generate trust

(ii) Selective handling of miscreant NGOs

(iii) Community participation on its work, it can generate trust

(iv) Government should appreciate their good work.

(v) funding via Niti Ayog.

Thus CSO can bridge the developmental gap, work for upliftment of vulnerables, need is to promote transparency, it will make finance mobilization easier. ⇒

Candidates must not write on this margin

7. गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में पहला कदम कार्यक्रम के डिज़ाइन, कार्यान्वयन और निगरानी के लिए आवश्यक विश्वसनीय गरीबी मूल्यांकन करना है। इस संदर्भ में नीति आयोग के राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक की पद्धति और महत्त्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The first step to eradicating poverty is reliable poverty assessment for program design, implementation, and monitoring. In this context discuss the methodology and significance of NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Niti Ayog has come up with Multidimensional poverty Index to presents holistic picture of incidence of poverty that can guide evidence based policy making

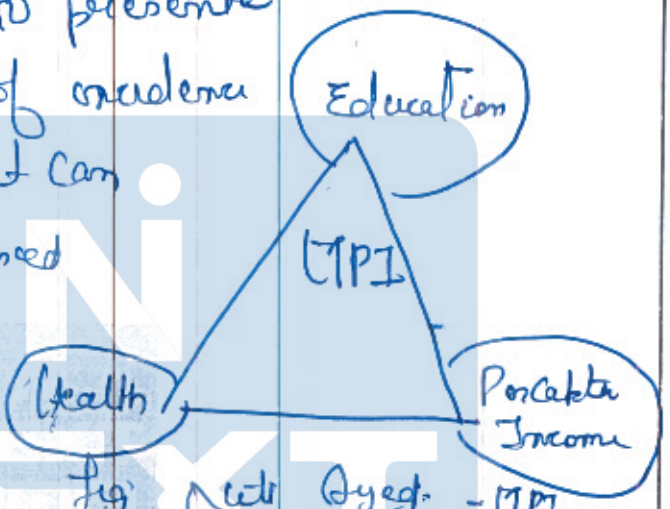


Fig Niti Ayog - MPI

Methodology of MPI by Niti Ayog

(I) It takes into Account 10 deprivations

(II) If a person is deprived in $\frac{1}{3}$rd indicator considered multidimensionally poor.

(III) It takes into account, calculates poverty Estimate by including Sanitation, hygiene, health, Education, resources, Etc.

2

Candidates must not write on this margin

Significance of MPI

(i) It helps in tailoring policies
Eg: Aspirational block programme

(ii) It helps in targeting (on having) fronts @ Education, sanitation

(iii) It goes beyond income level.

(iv) It presents holistic picture.

However it is also criticized for methodological tinkering, but in long run it will promote inclusive growth and achieve SDG of ending poverty, hunger, good health & Education

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

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

Right to health has been recognized as basic human right and fundamental right U/A 21- right to live life with dignity.

Recently Rajasthan passed Right to health bill. UDHR also makes Right to health fundamental

Reason for lack of Explicit Legal recognition

(i) Less Expense on health sector - Now has reached 2.2% of GDP.

(ii) Public health sector lacks personnel, medicine and Conditions to be in shambles

(iii) Lobbies of private health Care & opposed Rajasthan bill also

Candidates must not write on this margin

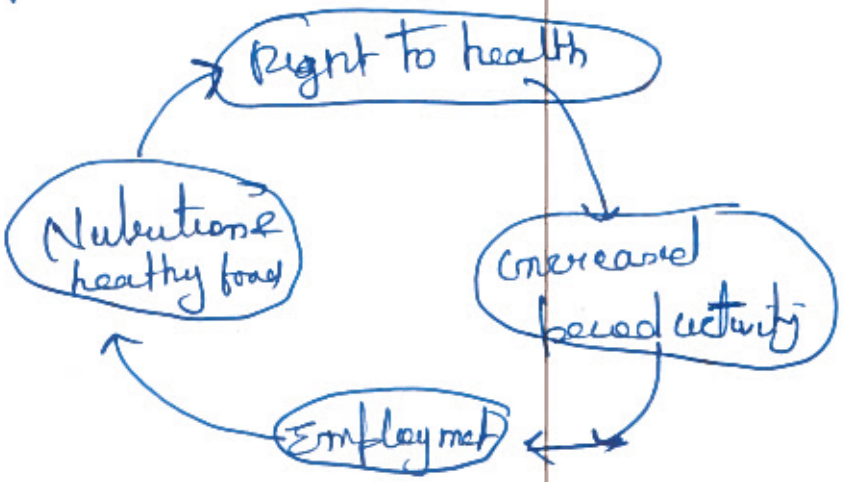
(iv) Lack of trust on public health delivery system

(v) People neglect health care & go to hospital when situation Aggravate as told by Amartya Sen

Way forward → increase Govt. health spending to 3%.

→ formulate law on lines with Rajasthan.

This will help in attaining SDG goals and in healthy body, resides healthy mind, it can help reap demographic dividend



Virtuous cycle of good health

Candidates must not write on this margin

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 is the grouping of 5 nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. It represents developing countries, which aim to balance geo-Economic and international Economic order.

Collective strength → Contingency reserve agreement
on Myriad issue → BRICS - New Development bank
huge Economic trade against neo-Colonialism of global north
talk of Brics Currency.

However, trajectory to influence of bilateral relationship remains limited

① India - China unable to solve border dispute being both BRICS member.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(ii) Unable to solve CPEC passing through PoK

(iii) Bilateral trade deficits not dealth in BRICS

(iv) No talks of bilateral connectivity.

(v) No bilateral Collaboration to curb terrorism, Climate change etc.

Reason → It is dominated by china's huge Economic might

→ Russia has become weak & dependent on China.

→ All countries are member of BRI

Way forward → India must strive to balance its national interest. Via other platform like ~~BRI~~ IBSA, it should strengthen domestic manufacturing.

Recently 6 new members were invited to BRICS, showing growth to be counter weight to west, not a mechanism to solve bilateral issue

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

"Blood and water Cannot flow together"

Indus water treaty was mediated by world bank between India and Pakistan in 1960, to share water of Indus river system.

Recently there has been raised to revise treaty, as India being upper riparian state, is perceived at disadvantaged position.

Potential complication

(i) It can lead to stopping of vital data sharing.

(ii) It can further lead to conflicts and confrontation.

(iii) Pakistan can sabotage Indias developmental projects -

Candidates must not write on this margin

(10) It can internationalize the issue.

(9) It can make these two dispute redressal mechanism defunct.

way forward

(11) We negotiate treaty given the population pressure and Impact of climate change in water resource on Indus.

(11) Pakistan must be made to stop support to non-state actors if it wants cooperation from India.

Thus, need to solve the issue diplomatically, as South Asia is already poorest & least integrated and vulnerable region, cannot afford another war.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

The Doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty means Legislature having sovereign power to make laws. There is no difference between normal procedure & Constituent power to make laws, but remains under review of Judiciary.

Parliamentary sovereignty making shaking Constitutional framework of India

(I) Parliament Enacted various amendments that shaked constitutional provisions.
Eg 1st Amendment, 42nd Amendment.

(II) Parliament Exercised sovereignty by overwriting judicial pronouncements
Eg Overturning decision on delhi Services judgement.

(III) However, ~~Or~~ Judiciary Can review

Candidates must not write on this margin

and interpret laws, if found ultravires, can struck them down.

Eg 99th Amendment NJAC, struck down.

Judicial supremacy means ⊙ Judiciary Checking due process of law ie- fairness, reasonableness of law. It gives Judiciary more powers.

This is followed in US - checks whether laws are just or not?

Eg Recently US federal court overturned Roe vis wade judgement and stopped Reservation plans of Biden Administration Exercising Judicial supremacy.

Alladi Krishna Swamy Iyer

held Indian Judiciary most powerful in the world due to →

art 131 → original Jurisdiction

art 142 → Complete Justice

art 136 → Special Leave petition

Candidates must not write on this margin

and various appellate Jurisdiction

After Menaka Gandhi Case, Jurisdiction of Supreme Court has widened on Judicial review.

However, of due process of law is not Explicit, but implied, on US, it is Explicit. so

In India there is no Strict Separation but checks and balance, and is Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy; so US has wider Scope of Judicial review

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

Delimitation is the Constitutional Exercise of dividing Constituencies as per Population to Ensure fair representation. after every Census

Present status → Lok Sabha electrons as per 1971 Census.

→ State electrons as per census figures latest

→ Challenge of misrepresentation

(i) It violates the idea of one person / one Value

(ii) It undermines Equal & proportional representation. Some MP representing large population, some less.

(iii) It increases gap between people & representatives.

Population based delimitation Causes federal tensions →

Candidates must not write on this margin

(i) It is resented by southern state who have worked hard to Control population

(ii) It would be like penalizing good work

(iii) It creates power Assymetry, with Hindi belt determining result of General Elections

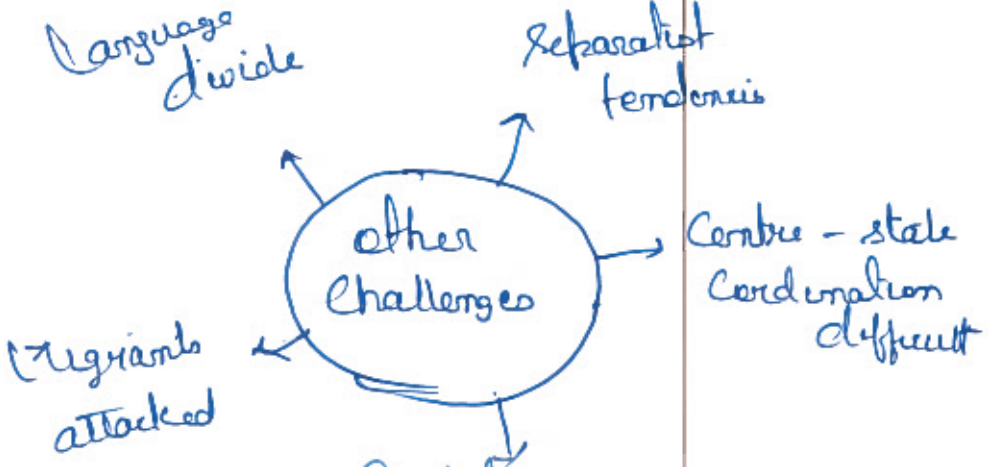
Eg around 70 seats of Lok sabha in UP

(iv) It leads to divide of North & south, and challenges national unity

(v) However, limiting it to 1971 Census, creates bias against populous states.

(vi) Challenge has also been created in other spheres like Terms of reference in Finance Commission, devolution of taxes.

Candidates must not write on this margin



Combative federalism

Way forward → using Inter-state Council, to find out solution to political questions

→ Socio-Economic development of northern state to control population

→ democratic decentralisation for real Empowerment of people.

One Vote, One Value is principle of democracy, needs to accomodate grievances of population-based delimitation. with multi stakeholder approach.

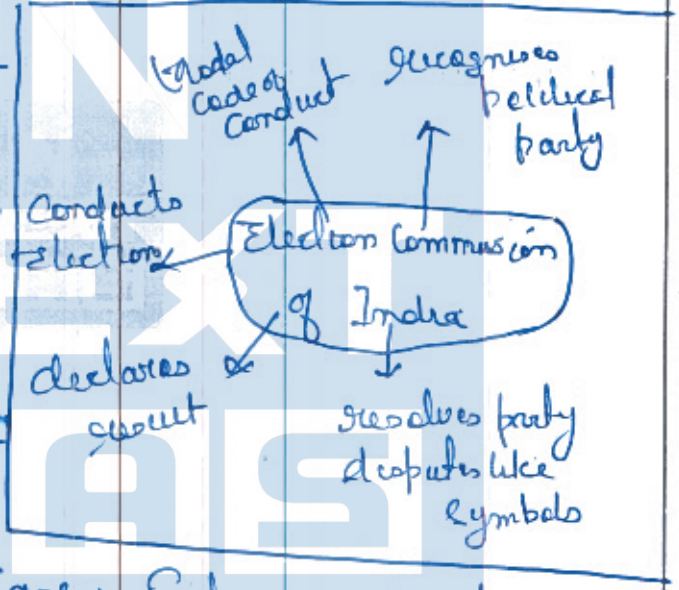
Candidates must not write on this margin

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

Election Commission of India under article 324 is constitutional, independent body to Conduct free and fair Elections, Its power is Strengthened from time to time

Role of Supreme Court in Strengthening of hands of Election Commission



(I) In Raj Narain Case → Supreme Court held free and fair Election as basic Structure of Constitution, Empowering ECI

(II) Lily Thomas Case invalidated section 8(4) of Convicted for 2 or more years, it made ECI more Vigilant

(III) Gave direction to Election Commission

Candidates must not write on this margin

to deliberate on freebies to ensure level playing field for all

(iv) Recently Supreme Court remarked concern on appointment of appointment of Chief and other Election Commissioners, to make it more strong and Curb any political interference.

(v) Supreme Court nudged to introduce NIOTA and increase transparency by VVPAT, Embroidering, ECI.

(vi) Supreme Court made recently mandatory for political parties to publish on Social media, all Criminal antecedents of Candidates and made ECI responsible to Communicate to Court if there is any Contempt of order.

Thus, SC has tried to strengthen hands of ECI for free and fair Elections.

Candidates must not write on this margin

However some Concerns remain

(i) Recent bill introduced for EC appointments, Excludes Chief Justice of India

(ii) EC has no separate staffs or Secretariat

(iii) Not barred from post-retirement work with government

(iv) Impression has been created that EC is favouring ruling party in announcing election dates.

Way forward:

- Charging EC fund to Consolidated account of India
- Separate personnel & Secretariat
- Transparency in appointment in EC
- Banning post-retirement appointments

Thus to further Strengthen EC, electoral reforms is needed along with EC appointment through and Consultation like in Srilankan Model

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

Parliament is the Centre of gravity of a State. It Confuses General will, deliberate, discuss, make law and Establishes accountability of government

our Constitution is based on checks and balance to Ensure Executive do not unleashes tyranny or majoritarianism. However there is declining role of parliament, undermines the principle of ~~check~~ & separation of power.

Declining role of parliament:

(i) use of ordinance, to bypass Scrutiny of parliament

(ii) less use of parliamentary Committees

Eg 25% bills referred on 16th Lok Sabha as opposed to 71% in 15th Lok Sabha

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iii) quality is declining due to disruptions lack of debate, etc

(iv) Single party majority.

(v) weak opposition

It has led to demonstrating the legislature's ability to serve as check on executive branch

---

(i) passing of bills without legislature Scrutiny

Eg: three farm bills.

(ii) Least debate - discussion on bills

(iii) Labour Codes were not deliberated properly

(iv) Legislature ability is also questioned due to rukus created on parliament

(v) financial accountability cannot be checked by opposition

(vi) Parliament is bypassed by introducing bill as 'money bill'

Eg: Adhar bill → Rajya Sabha has limited power

Candidates must not write on this margin

Way forward

(I) Depoliticisation of head of speaker.

(II) Fixing no: of days to take note of Opposition
Eg: reserving Friday slot in Britain

(III) Effective use of Parliamentary Committees

(IV) Electoral reform to reduce Generalisation of of politics.

(V) Reforming Anti-defection law for open debate and discussion.

Parliament represent voice of people. There must be effective check and balance on Executive power, and role of @ strong opposition is required for vibrant democracy.

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. It is tasked with reviewing women issues, help in bringing female perspective on laws & End gender discrimination

---

Role played by National Commission of Women in shaping discourse on gender-sensitive laws

---

(I) It was a major push for ~~reforms~~ Maternity benefit act 2017. It gave 26 week paid leave to pregnant women.

(II) It raised national voice & awarness on sexual harrassment of women at workplace, leading to act in 2013

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iii) It has time and again campaigned for preventing child marriages.

(iv) It promoted gender budgeting & analysing law & its effect on women.

However, there are shortcomings also

(i) It has failed to change life of women on ground

(ii) It has no separate staff code, over dependent on Ministry of women.

(iii) It has become a political arm of government. Excessive bureaucratized & lack of civil society engagement

(iv) There is hustle between secretary and chairperson.

(v) Marital rape, UCC, as is burning issue, it failed to forge consensus on women rights.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Some have suggested to give it Constitutional status to reinforce authority

(i) It's report will be presented in parliament, which will make government accountable

(ii) It's moral weight will increase

(iii) Streamline appointment, funds, personnel policy & making body transparent, independent

(iv) It will increase legitimacy & credibility of institution in eyes of public

Thus to tackle various issues of women and Bringing gender perspective in laws. Constitution status is one way, along with it moral authority and character of person holding office is also important Refer TN Seshan

=

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

Minimum government, maximum governance has been Emphasized by IInd ARC. It means streamlining laws, Rules, reducing Regulatory chalestrol ~~with~~ and Effective grievance redressal.

Challenges with Current grievance redress mechanism

(i) Whistle blower act → fails to give adequate protection to whistle blowers.

(ii) Lokpal act ~~to~~ deters person. if allegations are fake. it discloses identity, no provision of Anonymous Complaints.

(iii) No Coordination between bodies like CVC, CBI & CAG

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iv) RTI lies in shambles, with lack of funds, function, functionaries.

(v) Many people are not aware about mechanism like ~~Ego~~ mygov.in, Online Complaints, ombudsman due to illiteracy and digital divide

Measures to strengthen grievance redress Mechanism

(i) Adopting Citizen charter in all department for clarity.

(ii) Sevottam model for efficient grievance redressal.

(iii) awareness among people to register grievances.

(iv) Timely response and problem solving

(v) Audit by third party

(vi) Reducing hierachy, for clear responsibility, it helps in grievance redressal.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Way forward → Increase openness in governance

(Eg) Soochna portal of Rajasthan government

→ Citizen participation in governance, can reduce corruption and grievances

→ Timely response

→ Focus on crowd effect.

Thus, for ease of living and good governance, grievance redressal mechanism must be strengthened.

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, विसलब्लोअर संरक्षण अधिनियम (डब्ल्यूबीपीए), और लोकपाल और लोकायुक्त अधिनियम, 2013 के बीच समन्वय स्थापित करने के सामर्थ्य का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

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

Corruption is one big ailment in democratic constitutions. It erodes public trust and faith in administration

Issue in India → multiplicity of law leading to ambiguity

→ IInd ARC & National Commission to review working of Constitution has suggested streamlining.

Harmonising RTI, whistle blower protection, Lokpal & Lokayukta act to Enhance Effectiveness of anti-corruption regime →

(i) RTI activist can be given protection under whistle blower act, if they are threatened

(ii) Lokpal, to hear grievances of

Candidates must not write on this margin

RTI activist and whistle blowers on timely basis

(iii) Lokpal and Lokayukta can be made easily accessible by RTI.

(iv) harmonization will create deterrence to corrupt practices

(v) It can help uncover malpractices early

However, mere harmonizing law will not be sufficient.

(i) functioning of institution depend on office holder, so ethical foundation need to be strengthened

(ii) As for Law Commission, not severity, but certainty of punishment deters, harmonization may create load of cases.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Measures to strengthen

(i) Need to be effective investigation

(ii) Separate policing from investigation

(iii) reform police as per Prakash Singh Badal Judgement

(iv) Code of ethics on every department as per IInd ARC

(v) Vigilant citizen, active complaining and timely grievance redressal.

Samiksha portal, pragati platform, Vigil app, Sajag Karmayogi initiatives are step in right direction. Need to complement them in letter and spirit.

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 are voluntary association of individuals to achieve objectives like skill development, income generation among other.

Eg Kudumbashree has Empowered the lives of women through SHGs

~~Challenges~~

benefits of SHGs, for skill development

→ It can create pool of local resource person for skilling

→ It can collaborate with NGOs, private organisations, etc

Eg Tailoring, Carpentering

SHGs → Entrepreneurship

① They can pool finance & lend to start business

→ They provide assistance like market knowledge.

Candidates must not write on this margin

→ It Explores opportunity in local areas
eg: starting transport service.

SHG – income generation among marginalized community

→ Skill training, loans provided help to start business and enhance income.

→ It helps to access bank credit at cheaper rate, it provides finance to invest in productive and to counter poverty.

Challenges

(i) Generally dominated by powerful members as opposed to marginalized

(ii) due to illiteracy, dominants are able to take larger chunks of benefits

(iii) They are mostly engaged in primary activity

(iv) Most men have intervened for marginalized section

(v) Women face difficulties due to

Candidates must not write on this margin

Caste barrier, hierarchy, etc.

Solution for SHGs to counter poverty

(I) Take cues from successful models like Kudumbashree

(II) Collaborate with NGOs for Skill Enhancement

(III) Financial assistance from NABARD under SHG – bank linkage programme

(IV) Engaging in productive activity.

Thus, SHGs can be a tool for holistic development, Eradication of poverty, need is to support them to grow from local to national level.

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

India has such Culture Embedded in Civilizational ethos. ancient Scriptures, teachings of great men like Gandhi, Gandhi & Vivekanand.

Role of Culture as instrument of Soft power diplomacy

* Soft power → given by Joseph Nye, it denotes attractiveness of a Country to achieve a goal by persuasion, rather than Coercion.

(1) Rich Culture fascinates minds across globe and help to achieve acceptance of own demands.

Eg Diwali being made official holiday in US, it Enhances Soft power of India

Candidates must not write on this margin

(11) Rich Culture like food, dress, Songs, dance. help to gain recognition, and manover at global level known Easy

Eg K-pop · BTS of Korea.

Diaspora → they have been called living bridges Connecting Country with world

→ they help disseminate information, values, Culture of Country

Eg Yusufzai of Low groups

Democracy → It helps to gain legitimacy of voice at global level.

Eg India boasts of world's largest democracy, makes relation with EU, US more friendly.

But soft power has limitations as her Neighbour Jaishankar as it takes time, uncertain, so Smart power Concept has come to picture

Candidates must not write on this margin

Smart power is the ability to combine hard (military) & soft power effectively to achieve own goals.

Indias ~~hard~~ Smart power → positions

(I) 4th largest military, at the same time wants nuclear disarmament, projects image of responsible nation, generally smart power.

(II) Strategic balancer like SCO as well as Quad member.

(III) Has nuclear triad as well as largest democracy.

(IV) Ongoing Covid, tackled Galwan clashes as well as helped world under. various Crisis.

Thus India has projected itself as smart power, today world want to listen to India, to be seen with India as for S-J Jaishankar.

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 has recently signed Economic cooperation & Trade Agreement and recent high level visit by PM to Australia shows Energetic diplomacy between two nations

Shared value → Democracy, human rights → open & free Indo pacific rule based world order.

People to people Connection → Large number of students goes for Education, Called "Mini India in Australia. → Cricket, Curry, binds people.

Shared value & people to people Connection leading to long-lasting & trade relations & strategic Collaboration

Candidates must not write on this margin

(i) It leads to bipartisan Consensus on this

(ii) Provides strong foundation to Cooperation in multiple domains.

(iii) CECTA Can be upgraded to full fledged FTA with peoples Support as both are robust democracies

(iv) They can Collaborate strategically under QUAD, Malabar Exercise

(v) Can Curb assertive Chinas ques

(vi) Can collaborate on Pacific Island Countries for Curtailing chinas cheque book diplomacy

(vii) Can Collaborate on Renewable Energy domain

(viii) Can deal together with climate, change, disaster management, drug trafficking. etc

Candidates must not write on this margin

However, Challenges remain

(i) India not able to open dairy sector
(ii) Manufacturing sector not strong to take full fledged advantage of ECTA
(iii) India out of RCEP, Australia part
(iv) Both Countries are not able to de-target from china.

However India-Australia partnership has limitless possibilities from IPEF to SCRI, both Countries should continue to strengthen relation and bring stability & prosperity in Indo-Pacific or region

Candidates must not write on this margin

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS