RECEIVED
29 AUG 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 : SHOIAB

Roll No. : PTTP 221500

Registration Number : MIAS 23000 18776 Date of Examination : 15th Aug. '23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☑ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

Test - 6

Code : TC076

MTS IGP Batch 2023

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

.....

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

Recent disputes of Karnataka - Maharashtra over Belgaum region is just one of many examples of Inter-State border disputes.

Border Disputes Impeding Development

(i) No clear Jurisdiction

(ii) No administration for growth & development.

(iii) Lack of Private Investment [conflict zone]

(iv) Lack of focus on development by politicians.

Border Disputes causing Conflicts

- Linguistic conflicts
  - e.g. Marathi vs Kannada
- Ethnic conflicts
  - e.g. Nagas vs Bengalis
- Feeling of Relative deprivation & Regionalism
- Communal feelings

Candidates must not write on this margin

Constitutional & Legal frameworks

- Article 3 → Union Government has authority to reshape boundaries.
- Article 263 → Inter-State council can be formed to solve issues.
- Regional Councils can be used. [State Reorganisation Act].
- Peace Accords → b/w Assam & ~~Assam~~ Nagaland [Mansan Agreement].
  - b/w Nagaland & Assam [Centre Mediated]

Why failed to Resolve

(i) Failure to demarcate clear boundaries & colonial legacy

(ii) Failure to use Inter-State Council

(iii) Ethnic & Tribal conflicts
- e.g. Nagas vs Bengalis.

(iv) Lack of State action for Peace deals & impartially actions for maintaining peace

(v) Lack of Development.

⇒ Proper Dialogue & Development can control any form of violence : PM.

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 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

Inter-State Councils are constitutional bodies constituted under article

- 263.
  - Sarkaria committee recommended for formation of Inter-State Councils.

ISC for Vertical Cooperation

- for Democratic Decentralization
  - esp. of funds, function & functionaries.
- for cooperative federalism
  - Implementing & ~~coop~~ coordinating centre's advice.
- Evaluating 7th Schedule & Concurrent Lists
  - adding new topics like disaster management
  - Agriculture & Inter-State Water coordination.
- Ensure State run through constitutional duty under article 365.

Candidates must not write on this margin

ISC for Horizontal Cooperation & Coordination

(i) Inter-State Border Disputes
- e.g. Punchhi Committee recommended ISC for Border Disputes

(ii) Inter-State Water Dispute & River sharing.

(iii) Competitive federalism
- Law Commission:- discusses them tool of cooperative & competitive federalism.

(iv) Sharing best practices
- for development of backward regions.

(v) Inter-State Trade & Commerce [article 301]
- can better coordinated & managed.

⇒ Therefore Inter-State Councils are apt platforms for effective cooperative federalism.

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

PAC is the oldest finance committee of Parliament. It was established in 1921.

Key Functions of PAC

(i) It functions as guardian of Public account.

(ii) It analyses reports submitted by CAG eg: appropriate account report, Public sector reports, etc.

(iii) It analyses various issues & irregularities with government spending.

(iv) CAG acts as guide, friend, philosophy of the committee.

(v) It give recommendations for various schemes.

Eg. Recent PAC report on MGNREGA wages issue

Candidates must not write on this margin

PAC → acts as guardian of Public funds
as it ensures accountability & transparency.
↳ But certain issues persists in PAC

Steps to Revamp PAC

(i) As it has only recommending power, so can be given Inquiry & Investigation power.

(ii) Actions should be allowed to be taken for corrupt practices under Prevention of Corruption act (1988).

(iii) Reverse VB Verpoth Reddy – Increased term from 1 year to 2 year.
Regularity & streamlining of efforts.

(iv) more powers on Investigation individual role in corruption.

(v) More debates on its Reports [In Parliament]

⟹ PAC should act as Parliament watchdog over executive actions.

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

Urbanization → The process of shift of Population to Urban areas.

- Census 2011 → 31.1% population urban.
- Report estimate → >40% population will be urban by 2040.

Urbanization & Drivers of Economic Growth

(i) Higher productivity & more GDP contribution
- 31.1% population → ~65% GDP contribution.

(ii) Higher social Mobility
- more job opportunities

(iii) Service Sector Dominant → more income, standard of living.

(iv) Higher Entrepreneur Development
- 4x multiplier effect [Economic Survey 2024]

(v) Latest Technologies & Adaptability
- more in Urban areas.

Candidates must not write on this margin

15th Finance Commission → analyzed the condition of ULBs and their importance in Urban development

Article 280

Reforms in ULB by 15th Finance Commission

(i) Revenue Independence - more sources of Taxation should be given.

(ii) Better financial self sufficiency
- Municipal Bond rental & guidelines
- Increase property Taxation.

(iii) Effective functioning - Transparency, e-governance & grievance redressal.

(iv) PPP model Infrastructure development for better service delivery.

(v) Grants to ULBs from Centre & State.

⇒ Local Bodies should become financially Independent from State & Centre for effective governance [2nd ARC 6th Report].

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 & Expression is key to democracy but it should be balanced with Individual dignity.

Freedom of Speech under Fundamental Rights

- provided under Article 19 (1) (a)
- They are subjected to reasonable restrictions under the Article 19 (2) (a)

Reasonable Restrictions - Contempt of court, security, sovereignty & integrity, Relation with Foreign States, morality, Public order etc.

Freedom of Speech under Parliamentary privileges

Born from Article 105 : no court can question speech in Parliament.

Candidates must not write on this margin

- There are no reasonable restriction under the constitution.

Necessity to balance Privileges & Rights

(1) Privileges if go beyond limit can threaten individual dignity

(2) Privileges are not codified, therefore no limit on privileges.

(3) Privileges can used to punish people out. e.g. a Journalists punished under violating Parliamentary privileges.

(4) But parliamentary speech if made accountable can result in restriction of speech. e.g. multiple Political action.

⟹ Recently [SC] → There is no prior restriction on speech of Public Office Holder. This show equality in assessing freedom of speech, this may be extended to Parliament.

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

CSOs are organisations which serves for needs of the society.

- They ensure proper delivery of Public goods through.

(i) Ensuring accountability from Public services

(ii) It advocates for rights of the vulnerable sections of the society.

(iii) It creates collective demand for a Social change.

Challenges faced By CSOs

(i) lack of Fund Mobilization at local level.

- Ineffective Participation

Candidates must not write on this margin

(ii) sources of funding questionable at times.

(iii) Corporate funding issues
- (a) influence vested interests.
- (b) It gives biased actions of the CSOs.
- (c) CSR funds are now focused on few sectors e.g. focus on education but shifting missed.

Measures to strengthen CSOs.

- Mobilization of people → effective participation with ensure action
- Collaboration with government action
  - supporting hand of government.
- Neutral stances, no biased actions.
- support from vulnerable groups.

⟹ CSOs are critical as it provide assistance, support and alternative to public development of government.

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

Poverty is estimated at 21.9% by Tendulkar committee and 16.4.1. by MPI. Poverty is a relative term thus thus poverty parameters also used.

Reliable Poverty Estimation

(i) Inclusion of Socio-Economic Parameters
- e.g. MPI Index ⇒ Health, Education, Living Standard

(ii) Income is Narrow Criteria
- Income doesn't ensure consumption.

(iii) Poverty is also knowledge related
- e.g. Learning Poverty of world Bank.

(iv) Nutrition ~~diff~~ diverges from availability.
- e.g. "South Asian Dilemma"
  - excess food but high Poverty

Candidates must not write on this margin

Methodology of Niti aayog's MPI Index

- Niti aayog launched the index to measure MPI in different regions within India.

(1) **Health** → given 33% ($1/3^{rd}$) of composition.
   - It includes Child mortality (PMJAY) and Nutrition (POSHAN 2.0) as parameters.

(2) **Education** → it is also given 33% ($1/3^{rd}$) composition in the Index.
   - Includes school attendance (MoM) and school years [Saksham Shiksha Abhiyaan].

(3) **Standards of living** → It includes total 6 parameters each contributing 1/15th in the Index.
   - Eg: Cooking Gas (Ujjwala), Sanitation (SBM), etc.

⇒ Therefore MPI includes diverse factors for more holistic view of society (parameters).

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 → Is established under article 21 of the constitution marked as right to life.

Constitutional → article 21 & article 47 under DPSP ensure right to life in spirit.

Legal Provisions →

- National food Security act 2013 :- established food accessibility as a legal right for the people.
- MSP, PDS & Buffer stock ensure food accessibility.

International → commitments under UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights various other conventions of WHO, ECOSOC, UNICEF, etc.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Explicit Legal Recognition

- In Constitutional format is missing.
- Such recognition will give Health services, active living right to every person.
  - e.g. Rajasthan government bill which enacted "Right to Health"

Reason for lack of Legal Right

- capacity of fiscal space - low spending (Govt e.g. 2.1% of GDP.
- low Health Insurance Penetration
  - Insurance density → 4.2% (Economic survey).
- low Development of Private Sector
  - e.g. In Rajasthan - huge patients.
- Govt. actions - like PMJAY through gave free care & through HWCs - provide primary care but still ineffective.

⇒ Combination of private participation → Health Insurance and State spending (40% of GDP) should be focused on.

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 started as grouping of 4 countries [Brazil, Russia, India, China], later South-Africa was added to it [2010].

Collective strength to solve issues

(i) Voice of the developing & emerging economies
- represent 16% GDP, 24% Population and 40% of land.

(ii) Issue of multipolar world
- voice against hegemony of west and for multi-alignment

(iii) Emerging Issues of Terrorism
- BRICS counter Terrorism Initiative.

(iv) Adding more members to the partnership [Multi-Continental].
- eg: 6 more member added
  - Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Argentina etc

Candidates must not write on this margin

Ability to influence Bilateral Relations

- Improve of India - China after LAC
- Better Coordination on Currency, Trade, Terrorism
  - eg: CAA
- Bring Both Country closer even in different continents

But there are various limitation to solve Bilateral Relations :-

(i) India - China - can't solve LAC issue through BRICS.

(ii) BRICS not able to reduce trade restrictions imposed by China on India Products [eg: - Pharma Export, IT].

(iii) Not able to Reform UNSC despite India's pursuit.

(iv) Our engagement with Brazil & South-Africa remains limited.

(v) Russia - China nexus emerging.

⇒ Thus it raises question multi-lateral grouping's ability to solve bilateral relations.

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

Indus Water Treaty — was signed in 1960 to share water of Indus River and its 6 tributaries

- Jhelum, Chenab, Indus → Pakistan to extract Max. water
- Ravi, Beas, Satluj → India to extract max. water.

↳ Due to various reason Recent Demands

(i) Amendment to Treaty
↳ due to Technological Barriers.
Eg. Desilting Technology usage, etc.

(ii) Opposition to Runs of the River Projects
↳ Eg: Ratle Dam.
↳ allowed under IWT but Pakistan opposes

(iii) Demand to amend Resolution
↳ 3 tier dispute resolution — simultaneously use by Pakistan.

(iv) Climate change & Renewed Demand

Candidates must not write on this margin

Due to these demands, This could result in Implications

(i) Renegotiation of Treaty
- selective provisions of Treaty.

(ii) Adapt Treaty to Technological Demands

(iii) Fresh Escalation on water disputes
- IWT considered one of most successful but may can escalate problems.

(iv) Allow Indian projects on Run of River

(v) Proper dispute Redressal can be set.
- Independent Investigator or PCA.

⇒ New challenges can open a Pandora box there, wise way is

- Negotiate few sections of Treaty
- Mediation of world Bank
- Transparent & Acceptable Mechanism for future.

⇒ This will ensure effective water-sharing across the border.

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

India + efforts for balance between Parliamentary Sovereignty (UK) and Judicial supremacy (USA).

Parliamentary Sovereignty & Judicial Supremacy

In India

(i) Doctrine of Basic Structure - maintained some part can't be amended.

↳ it establishes Judicial overhead on Amending powers [Kesavananda Bharati Case]

(ii) Article 368 - parliament can amend any law under the article 368

↳ Special Majority → 2/3rd Majority
Special Majority with 1/2 of states [For amending federal character]

Candidates must not write on this margin

- **Minerva Mills Case** - established balance b/w Fundamental rights & their amendability to implement DPSP.
  - **SC** :- when 21 (b) & (c) comes in fundamental right goes out.

- **9th Schedule** - Acts under it prohibit laws to questioned, but **IR Coelho Case** - brought it under Judicial Review.

- **USA** - In USA, there is "doctrine of Judicial Supremacy", i.e. Judicial can change & amend the constitution.
  - National Security Act → were questioned and removed on basis of violation human rights.
  - **Vishaka Case** - Famous Guidelines of CSOs, NGOs & activists were also relied by Judicial Supremacy.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Judicial Review

- The scope is wider in USA compared to India
- In India it questioned the procedure established by law [Gopalan case]

  But in USA it is due process of law.
- In India, JR seen in context of violation of constitution, while in USA it is related to any law or constitution violation.

⇒ But the purview of Judicial was expanded by Maneka Gandhi case to establish due process of law.

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

Delimination → It is the exercising of organizing of seats according to the population in the census.

It happened in census 1951, 1961, 1971, etc

Importance of Delimination

(1) One vote, principle i.e. all the votes are equal in the country.

(2) Equal representation i.e. each area represents equal number of residents
↳ every Constituency → equal votes.

(3) It ensures fulfillment of article 326

(4) Ensures free & pluralistic democracy.

(5) Equality before democracy [article 14].

Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges in Representing the democracy

(1) Delimitation stopped after 1971 census to incentivise population control.

(2) Different population of voters in constituency
- MP of South ≠ MP of North from different no. of people.

(3) Public Issues are not addressed
- One MLA representing large no. of voters.

(4) One vote equality principle is violated
- People in Bastar and people of Jaipur unequal share.

(5) Balancing population control v/s Equality of votes.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Ramifications of Population based Delimitation

(1) opposition from southern states
   └ who controlled population

(2) Difficult exercise to Delimit entire country.

(3) Questions & Allegations over opposition in constituencies.

(4) One vote principle will be upheld as every vote will be equal.

(5) people's views get more representation in parliament.

(6) ~~Equality~~ Democracy established in true sense.

⇒ The new Parliamentary building raised the question of new delimitation exercise in the country.

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 → under Article 324

have a constitutional responsibility

to conduct free & fair elections.

Duties of Election Commission

(1) → given under Constitution → Article 324.

(2) → under RPA 1951 → (a) it registers political parties and allots symbols (section 29)

→ (b) It gives status of National & State parties

(3) → under RPA 1950 → EC registers people as voters in voter list

(4) – Implements Model code of conduct

Candidates must not write on this margin

Supreme Court in assisting EC

(1) Freedom in Appointment – In recent judgement gave procedure of appointment through committee

↓

PM + leader of opposition + CJI (chief justice)

(2) Power to remove MPs/MLAs in sentence of >2 years

↳ Lily Thomas case – section-8(4) was removed by the court that appeal won't prevent disqualification under RPA 1951.

(3) Model code of Conduct – In implementing SC Emphasized on regular & proper implementation.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Allotment of symbols

- Recent Shiv Sena Party Case
  - SC gave guidelines for alloting symbols in case of conflict.

(5) Electoral Reforms

- Introduction of NOTA - Through PUCL Judgement.
- Open Ballot System in Rajya Sabha & No NOTA in RS.

⇒ Therefore ~~government~~ Election has taken various steps for proper fulfillment of EC's duties. But Election Re-poll should occur in these cases.

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

Separation of Powers - It is a doctrine which establishes that Executive & legislative functions shouldn't overlap. & should be separated.

↳ It is available in constitution after Art 77 but yet not mentioned or defined.

Declining Role of Parliament

(1) Less attendance → eg. < 70% in LS

(2) Less Parliament days - often parliament sessions are closed early

(3) Declining productivity - constant disruption

(4) Parliamentary Committees ↳ only 11% bill in this LS. [27th 14th]

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) Usual Cancellation of question hour

(6) Quality of debate – alleged to be more political & declining ethics.

Diminishes ability to check Executive

(1) Article 75 : No Confidence Motion
- e.g. recent No confidence motion, walkout before voting.

(2) Parliamentary Debates
- Question Hour – ask questions from Ministers.
- Explain work of government

(3) Bring Matter of Public Importance
- e.g. through adjournment motion.

(4) ~~No~~ Less People's issues, More political issues

Candidates must not write on this margin

(6) Parliamentary Committees - establishes accountability on government.

(eg) PAC → checks reports of CAG on govt. accounts.

(7) Non attendance & time

↳ bring more public issues to light.

ways to improve

↳ MCRUC - recommended fixing minimum number of days in Parliament.

↳ 2nd ARC - recommended minimum attendance from MPs.

⇒ Parliament represent representatives of people & their question & contest executive is basic ethos of Parliamentary 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 Women Commission - It is a statutory body established in 1990 to address the issues pertaining to women.

Role Played by NWC

(1) Highlighted sexual harassment at work leading bringing POSH act (2013)

(2) For dowry issue - Being Domestic violence act (2005)

(3) Role in bringing POCSO act and defining its stringent punishments under the act.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) It also helped in shaping anti-Nirbhaya Fund for safety & security of women.

(5) Other Role
- Taken up issues of crimes against women.
- Inquiry for any crime & recommendations to govt.

NWC as Constitution Body

Positives

- Give more powers - to take action against any complaints.
- Constitutional Status to body will bring gender justice equal to law of caste justice.
- Powers to take Suo-Moto action
- President ~~to~~ ask for suggestions for Issues of women.

Candidates must not write on this margin

- Help input in Policies & actions of the govt.

Solution

- No own Investigation & Power of Punishment even after constitutional status.
- Only symbolic in nature.
- No power to take matter to SC directly.
- Appointment should be made totally independent
- Representation from all sections of society.

⇒ For women development ht. Cof. Raj Shukla's work of Mari Shakti

Durga

Laxmi

Saraswati

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,

Idea is based on principle that with evolved role of state idea of government to give effective governance for 'ease of living'.

Importance of Grievance Redressal

(i) Ensures ease of doing business.
- e.g. reduced barrier in entry & exit from business.

(ii) Fulfill needs of public
- e.g. e-Mitra facility of Rajasthan govt.

(iii) It ensures effective Public Delivery of services

(iv) It Ensures accountability of the officers.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges with Grievance Redressal Mechanism

(i) Lack of accessibility
- e-Governance missing.
- Digital Divide

(ii) Lack of Accountability
- No particular authority or designated officer for grievance redressal.
  - eg. Grievance redressal officer in IT cells.

(iii) Awareness of People
- people not aware to access & effective grievance redressal
  - make part of citizen charter.

(iv) Grievance redressal not Timely
- delayed results in inquiries.

(v) Bureaucratic apathy :- approach is not democratic in nature.

(vi) RTI, etc. tools are ineffective

Candidates must not write on this margin

Measures for effective Grievance Redressal

(i) Establish dedicated department & officers

(ii) Help lines for public

(iii) e-Governance & Digital literacy
- ↳ National e-governance plan 2.0
- Digi Saathi
- PM GDISHA.

(iv) Implement RTI in true spirit.

(v) Citizen charter & effective delivery of services.

(vi) Removable attitude from Bureaucratic apathy.

(vii) Rationalisation of CSO, NGOs, etc. for effective demand of services.

⇒ Grievance Redressal serves as feedback mechanism and ensures "maximum governance" to public at large.

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

2nd ARC's 4th Report - Its preface states that "no society can sustain for long with corruption".

It highlights the importance of "corruption free governance".

Corruption Eroding Public faith

- It reduces accountability & trust in govt.
- It leads to difficult in "Ease of living" & "Ease of Doing Business" [Survey 2023].
- "Justice should seen to be done" for effective democracy.
- It reduce democratic participation.

Candidates must not write on this margin

But to establish Public faith there are various institution like CAG, EC, etc. called Integrity Institutions. Also apart from these certain acts are brought.

(a) RTI act in Governance
- Establishes accountability of Public authority [section (2)].
- Suo-moto declaration of information in public domain [section-4 of act].
- Best Practice - Mumbai Municipal Corporation open court open on Saturday Afternoon.

(b) Whistleblower act - It provides protection to whistleblowers i.e. people disclosing corruption in government or public office.
- Bring corruption into light.
- Accountability & openness preferred over secrecy.
- Protection to whistle blowers.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Lokpal & Lokayukta act – It establishes system of ombudsman to inquire corruption cases

- **Benefits**
  - Examine grade A, B, C, D category of civil cases against PM.
  - Make CBI & Independent authority. eg. Coal cases in MP's Jabalpur.
- **Limitations** – No Independent inquiry or Investigation team.
  - **RTI** – Diluted in 2019 amendment section-8 to hide information
  - **Whistleblowers** – No proper protection eg. Satendra Dubey case.

Measures to improve

(i) Use Integrity Institutions

(ii) Make power to RTI, Lokpal & whistleblowers.

(iii) **e Governance** – to reduce corruption. e.g. e Kranti mission.

(iv) **Literacy** of people.

⇒ Idea of **Maximum Governance, Minimum Government** should be realised.

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

SHGs – These are informal associations of people of similar socio-economic background coming together for small financial endeavour.

→ > 1.5 lakh SHGs in India of which 88% are women dominated.

SHGs can be leveraged for skill development, entrepreneurship and Income generation due to

- Reach to all areas
- Rural Targeting
- Underserved sections
- women dominating

Benefits [from such Endeavour].

(i) It will increase labour force participation
→ from current 41.6%.
→ especially in women [25.1%].

Candidates must not write on this margin

(ii) It will help in Productive employment
- e.g. upskilling of Unorganised sector
  - Vishwakarma Yojana
- Upskilling, Reskilling, etc.
- e.g. Rajasthan's govt's e-literacy to women through SHGs.

(iii) It will promote Entrepreneurship
- (a) e.g. Lijjat Papad.
- (b) SHGs to Cooperative Farming [PM's vision]
- (c) SHG will provide credit
  - SHG-Bank Linkage Program.

(iv) Income generation
- (a) Idea of Lakhpati Didi's in rural areas through SHG. [Recent scheme].
- (b) Benefit sharing among all people
  - reduce Inequality [Oxfam → top 1% 40% wealth]

(v) Achievement of SDGs - through all these action growth will become sustainable & green.

Candidates must not write on this margin

But despite all these benefits there are

some challenges

(i) **Capability** — To provide credit, skilling, etc is crucial for productivity.

(ii) SHGs fail to grow
- Reasons:
  - ineffective Mapping
  - lack Banking
  - quality testing of products.

(iii) Inequality with SHG [socio-economic Issues]
- → Dominance of few.
- → Lower castes ST/SCs less representation [Rich aapo's sub-export]
- → Power & Political Influence

(iv) lack of finance → formal sector missing.

way to solve
- SHGs to be linked with CSR & NGO efforts
- SHGs to products promoted & marketed e.g. Nandini Bab
- Sufficient credit formal

⇒ PM's idea of SHGs to MDGs i.e. National Development Groups is necessary for Entrepreneurship, skilling & Income security.

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's position lies in the middle of Ancient Silk route & historical sharing of ties with most of continents

Due to this its ranking in Soft Power Index stands at 28.

Ancient Trade route connecting with West. Asia & China

Unique Geographic location

USA
- 3rd generation migration
- Technocrats & IT experts
  e.g. Kamala Harris, Sundar Pichai

Russia
- Strong Bollywood culture.
- People to people connect.

South-East Asia
- Large Diaspora
- Linkage through Ancient cloth empire, etc.

Historical ties with Africa
- Anti-Colonial Struggle
- MAM.

EU & UK
- Strong Diaspora
  e.g. Rishi Sunak.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Culture as Soft Power

- Culture: Music of Caribbean
  - due to Indentured labour migration
- Famous Indian Cinema
  - esp. in UK, Russia & West Asia.
- Buddhist Diplomacy - origin & Religious sites.
- Multi-Religious & Multi-Ethnic Identity.

Diaspora as Soft Power

- Large Number
  - 3.14
    - 1.8 Person of Indian Origin & 1.3 NRIs
- Diffused
  - > 6 mn South East Asia
  - > 8 mn West Asia
  - Increasing in Europe & USA
- Good & Beautiful
  - Important position
    - e.g. Kamala Harris Indian Origin
  - Good paying jobs
    - Techno-savvy Job profile.

Democracy

- Democratic principles followed
- Equal Treatment
  - e.g. NAM
    - PANSHEEL
    - Decolonization
- Partnership with other democracies
  - e.g. USA
    - Australia
    - FRANCE.

Candidates must not write on this margin

India's Position As SMART Power

Smart Power is combination of both "Hard Power" & "Soft-Power"

(i) Use of Human Deal : Important role of Diaspora in negotiation and stand on NPT & CTBT.

(ii) Multi-Alignment - with Russia (Access oil purchase), USA (QUAD), Australia (ETCA), UAE (CEPA), etc.

(iii) Supporter of Global South
- long standing ties → MAM
- South-South Cooperation
- 1977.
- Advocacy for democracy around.

⇒ S. Jaishankar - "world wants to listen to India and deal with India". This is because of effort for 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 recently signed ECTA [Trade Agreement] reviewing its long lasting ties.

↳ Although after world war the alliignement was divergent but it changed to convergent on basis shared values & people to people ties.

(i) Democratic values : both countries share long democratic history.

(ii) Peaceful world Order & Rule based System
↳ e.g. cop. in India ocean Region.

(iii) People to People
↳ (a) India's demographic dividend & Australia's labour demand.
↳ (b) Mini India [Australia PM called].
↳ >5% of diaspora in australia
(c) Students travel for studies.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Ground for Long-Lasting Trade

(i) Demand - Supply
- Australia to trade Minerals
  - eg: Iron, coal, etc.
- India to Australia - Labour supply, IT services.

(ii) Increase trade to target of $ 30bn
- Through recent ECTA.

(iii) Collaboration on Trade Route & Indo Pacific
- eg: Policy of Peaceful & Open Indo Pacific

(iv) Supply of critical Minerals
- Australia one of largest reserves of Rare Earth-metals

(iv) Partnerships on critical Technologies
- can be done like with USA.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Ground for Strategic Partnership

→ Counter-China & Rule based Order
  └ in Indo Pacific.

→ Collaboration with other Countries
  └ e.g. QUAD - strategic dialogue

→ Minilateralism e.g. Australia - France - India and trilateral engagement

→ Net Security Provider
  └ India's role as because of its geostrategic location in Indian Ocean.

⇒ (PM), said India and Australia's partnership is of equality & prosperity for 21st century

There, ICLTA and people to people connect should be utilized to build peaceful Indo-Pacific.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS