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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 : Prajwal Chaurasia

Roll No. : 0409901

Registration Number : PTTP220258 Date of Examination : 02/09/18

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☑

Test - 6 **Code : TC076**

MTS IGP Batch 2023

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.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....

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

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Evaluator's response

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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

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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

Recent clashes along Karnataka - Maharashtra border for Belagum issue and Assam - Mizoram violent clashes reflect intensity of inter state border disputes.

Constitutional + legal framework

(I) Article 263 provides for Inter-state council by President

(II) Zonal councils to be formed under State re-organisation act 1956.

(III) Article 132 provides for original & exclusive jurisdiction to SC.

(IV) Article 262 provides for Inter-state river water disputes by Parliament

(V) NITI Aayog, GST Council, National Integration council etc.

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Reasons for failure to resolve disputes

(I) Lack of scientific surveys while demarcation of state boundaries

Ex: Assam - Meghalaya dispute.

(II) State re-organisation based largely on linguistic criteria (bone of contention)

(III) Lack of acceptance of rulings

Ex: Belagum issue not accepted by Maharashtra (Mahajan Commission)

(IV) fueling the regionalism sentiments

Ex: son of the soil concept

(V) vote bank and identity politics.

(VI) Rivers flowing through several states and growing water scarcity

Ex: Cauvery dispute.

Thus team India spirit should be followed by peaceful Negotiation of these disputes.

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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 established Inter-state council by President, based on Sarkaria Commission 1983.

Inter-state Council

(A) **Vertical Centre-state**

(1) Platform to discuss various issues with central government.

(2) Strategy & planning for centrally sponsored schemes.

(3) formulating discussions on legislation over concurrent subject

Ex: Education on concurrent list

(4) Grievance redressal related to financial devolution.

(5) Discussion on border / strategic issues

Ex: West Bengal – Teesta negotiation with Bangladesh – India.

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(B) **Horizontal (Inter-state)**

(i) Inter-state river water disputes

Ex: Narmada (MP - Gujarat)

(ii) Inter-state border villages dispute

Ex: Assam - Mizoram border districts

(iii) Sharing of best practices and monitoring of border projects

(iv) Planning for joint projects.

Ex: Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project.

(v) Co-ordinating efforts in times of emergencies

Ex: Balasore train accident (Odisha - Bengal Bus services)

Thus this helps in achieving co-operative as well as competitive federalism to make India a developed nation by 2047.

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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 ~~was~~ the oldest parliamentary committee set up in 1921 under Government of India Act 1919.

Key function

- Scrutinise Expenditure of Government
- Scrutinises accounts of state corporation, subsidiary companies
- analyses CAG report
- ascertain that money raised through taxes are from legal authority

Steps to revamp PAC

(i) PAC should be consulted before appointing CAG

(ii) Quick evaluation of CAG reports so that details are out quickly in

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public domain.

(3) wider ambit to examine financial wrong-doings (like suo-moto power)

(4) More time for discussion in PAC findings in Parliament

(5) Certain binding recommendations to make it an effective watchdog.

(6) more invitation to experts on fields of finance, cyber, Economists etc. to provide detailed analysis of reports

(7) More independence in its functioning

Thus PAC ensures that an expenditure incurred in a prudent manner and holds executive responsible so as to ensure highest standards of financial integrity.

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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

15th FC headed by N.K. Singh suggested grants for urban local bodies for their better governance.

Recommendations
- Performance based grants for incubation of new cities + health grants.
- Categorisation of ULBs
  - < 1 million population (basic grant)
  - > 1 mn populate (Million plus cities Challenge fund)
- Tied grants based on works associated
- performance based incentives to states
  - sanitation, air quality, drinking water supply etc.

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Evaluation

(i) To make cities sustainable (SDG 11)

(ii) Addressing rising air pollution in metro cities (Bengaluru etc)

(iii) Improving civic amenities to slum areas

(iv) Provisioning of basic amenities like water to all

(v) Increased autonomy in ULBs working

(vi) Reduced financial dependence on state.

Concerns

(i) one-size-fits-all approach with every cities having different issues

(ii) Mostly tied-grants affecting autonomy in executing projects

(iii) Against federalism.

Thus there is a need to empower ULBs to improve their services delivery in coming time.

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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

Article 105 mentions about parliamentary privileges to MPs for speaking in Parliament.

while Article 19(1)(a) provides for freedom of speech as a fundamental right to citizens.

Differences in scope

Parliamentary Privileges	Article 19(1)(a)
• Available only to MPs, MLAs, Attorney General	• only to citizens of India
• for functioning of Parliament without fear	• To express dissent and criticism of policies
• No restriction except judiciary authority cannot be questioned	• Reasonable restrictions ↳ law-order ↳ national integrity ↳ sovereignty etc.

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• Affected person approaches Speaker or chairperson	• Affected person can approach SC, HC through writs (Article 32, 226)

Need to maintain balance

(i) Journalists and constructive criticism should not be unduly targeted

(ii) To prevent legislative tyranny and to ensure accountability

(iii) To publish proceedings of parliament in public

(iv) To avoid Police State

(v) So that MPs, MLAs can speak without fear to aware about Policies & impact on public

Thus with codifying these Parliamentary privileges as done in UK, Australia should be the way forward.

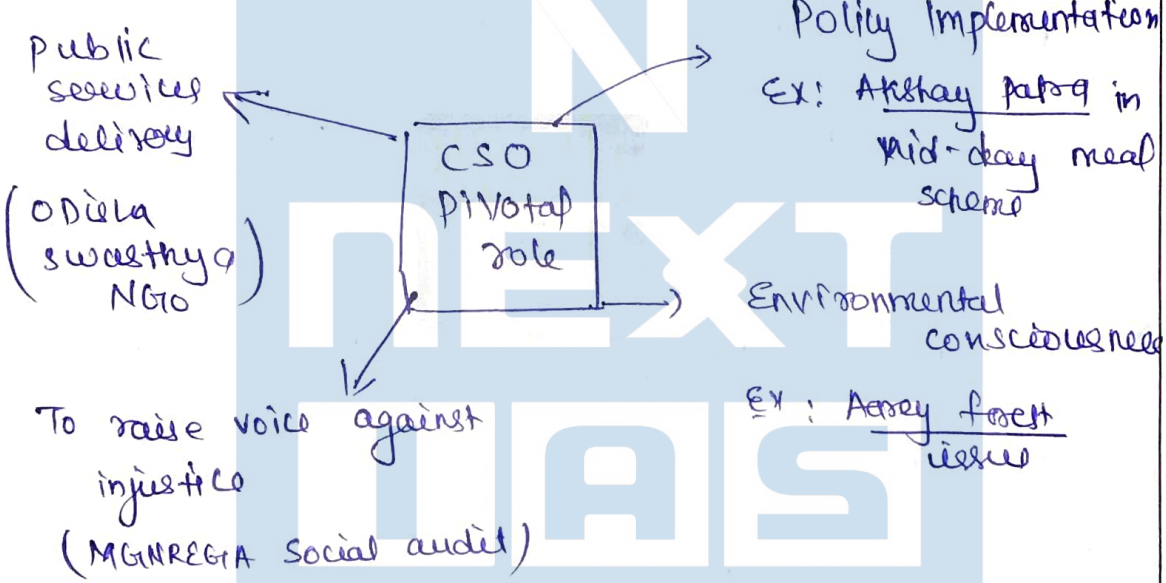
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6. नागरिक समाज संगठन, "सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्रवाई" को बढ़ावा देने में महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। स्थानीय संसाधन जुटाने (एलआरएम) और निगमित सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (सीएसआर) के माध्यम से कॉर्पोरेट (निगमों द्वारा) वित्तपोषण प्राप्त 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 organisations (CSO) are voluntary group of people organised for a cause with common interest.



CSO Challenges in ↓

local Resource mobilisation	corporate funding through CSR
① Negative perceptions in society Ex: NSA called CSOs as new Frontiers of war	① Diversion of funds.
② Lack of volunteers	② Heavy competition between CSOs

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because of low remuneration of their work

- Restrictions on foreign funding through FEMA act
- Increasing cost of operations with time

working in the same field

(iii) Credibility issues and audit (poor) mechanism

(iv) mostly Govt. organisations have pre-decided CSR activities

Suggested measures

(i) Transparency in usage of funds.

(ii) Social Stock Exchange will give new avenues & diversification of funds

(iii) Timely feling of IT (Income Tax Returns)
Ex: only 10% NGOs file ITR

(iv) Creation Dedicated funds for them.

(v) Portals like DARPAN will help in changing perception of NGOs.

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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

Niti Aayog's MPI is loosely based on UNDP's MPI but in addition to this, certain local parameters and State's comparison were added.

Reliable Poverty Assessment
- → Income criteria + Based on consumption and basic necessities + focus on capability approach (Amartya Sen)

Niti Aayog's MPI Methodology

① 3 Indicators + Several sub-indicators (12)

- Health ← Nutrition, maternal health
- + Education ← years of schooling, school attendance
- + Std. of living ← cooking fuel, sanitation, clean water, Bank account, Housing

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(2) Regional assessment – Political, geographical

(3) Intensity of poverty.

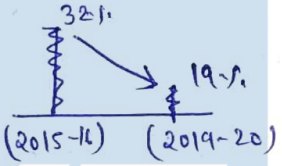
Significance

(i) Evidence based decision making

Ex: Intensity of poverty decreased from ~47% (2015-16) ⟶ ~44% (2019-20)

(ii) Addressing Regional disparity

Ex: More reduction in rural poverty



(iii) More incentives to states resulted in better reduction of MPI

Ex: Bihar, UP, MP progress

(iv) feasibility of welfare approach in poverty reduction

Ex: PM Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana etc.

(v) Upliftment of poor people.

Thus this will help in better targeting of policies in future.

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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

India spends only 1.5% of GDP on health, thus, raising concerns about Right to health principles.

Right to health

Constitutional	Legal	International
Article 39 to promote health	• Ayushman Bharat	• SDG 3 on health
Article 21 to have dignified & healthy life.	• Jan Aarogya Yojana	• Alma – Ata declaration
	• Rajasthan Right to health Bill	• Athena charter

Reason for lack of explicit legal recognition

(1) Health being a State Subject lead to sometimes duplication of policies

Ex: Biju swasthya kalyan Yojana (Odisha) with Ayushman Bharat

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(ii) Lack of Infrastructural capacities, overcrowding of govt. hospitals etc.

(iii) Opposition by private hospitals, doctors as seen in Rajasthan.

(iv) Low insurance penetration of health insurance policies

(v) Commercialisation of health leading to high health cost

Ex: 47% out-of-pocket health expenditure in India

Needed Steps →
- Reduce disease burden with immunization (Ex: Mission Indradhanush)
- Expansion of Ayushman Bharat to cover more than 50 crore members
- Increase health Expenditure on GDP to 2.5% GDP (National health Policy 2017)
- PM Janaushadi Yojana to reduce medicinal costs
- Promoting traditional medicinal approach.

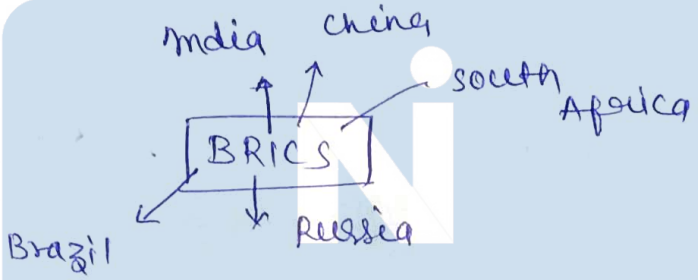
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9. ब्रिक्स राष्ट्रों की सामूहिक शक्ति असंख्य मुद्दों पर सार्थक सहयोग की अनुमति देती है, हालाँकि, द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के प्रक्षेप पथ को प्रभावित करने की मंच की क्षमता सीमित है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

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 is a inter-governmental organisation of 5 emerging economies, formed in 2009.



Meaningful Co-operation (BRICS)

(I) Multilateral reforms for institutions like UN, UNSC, WTO etc.

(II) providing alternatives to developmental finances

Ex: New Development Bank (NDB)

(III) Balance of payment crisis through contingency Reserve arrangement for developing nations.

(IV) Climate action, Terrorism issue called.

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for urgent action by BRICS.

Challenges → BRICS

① failure to resolve border dispute emerged between nations.

Ex: India - China along LAC (Ladakh)

② Limited Intra-BRICS trade is a cause of concern

Ex: India - Africa trade is very limited.

③ Differences in politics in nations

Ex: India - Democracy

China - Authoritarian

④ Diversion in support for global causes

Ex: China supporting Russia while others Vocal for west in Russia-Ukraine war.

Thus the recent expansion of BRICS with UAE, Iran etc. provides for new opportunities in future.

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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

Indus water Treaty (IWT) was signed in 1960, brokered by World Bank, facilitated water sharing amongst India & Pakistan.

Recent demands to amend IWT
- Construction of hydel projects
  Ex: Kisanganga (Jhelum)
  Ratle (Chenab)
- Pakistan approached WB for arbitration

Implications

+Ve	-Ve
• Increased allocation of water shares to India	• Increased conflict over water sharing
• Increased usage of ~~water~~ western rivers for hydropower generation	• Weaponisation of water as a form of revenge.

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- Prevent further confusion in terms of grievance redressal mechanism
- will inculcate climate change affect on melting hindukush glaciers.
- Removal of 3rd party (neutral) like WB.
- China could also manipulate in case of Brahmaputra
- Increased proxy war along border areas
- will further the refugee crisis

way forward

(i) Timely negotiation between the members with regular meetings as provided in IWT treaty.

(ii) Incorporate amendments based on scientific surveys to depict reality

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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

India adopted UK's Parliamentary sovereignty wherein Parliament is the supreme law-making authority.

Whereas in USA, Judicial supremacy allows judiciary having final say in law.

Parliamentary Sovereignty	Judicial Supremacy
• Article 368 - Parliament can amend the Constitution	• Through judicial review (Article 13) Judiciary can strike down a law by terming it as Unconstitutional
Ex: 101st Amendment Act in form of GST Council	Ex: NJAC Act termed Unconstitutional

Role of judiciary → influencing constitution (India)

① Keshvanand Bharati case 1973 : Certain provisions cannot be amended by Parliament that affects Basic Structure Doctrine.

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② Maneka Gandhi case 1978 :

↳ SC introduced elements of due process of law in addition to procedure established by law under Article 21.

③ Minerva Mills case 1980

↳ Constitution is found between bedrock of balance between fundamental rights and DPSP.

④ DC Wadhwa case 1987

↳ SC said that frequent promulgation of ordinances amounts to fraud on constitution.

⑤ Faheema Shirin case & K.S. Puttaswamy Judgement

2017

↓

Right to internet access is a fundamental right under Article 19

↓

Right to privacy is a fundamental Right.

⑥ **Judiciary → USA constitution**

① Marbury case → evolved the question of judicial review for first time.

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(2) Joe V/s Wade Case 1973 : established Right to abortion as a constitutional right.

Scope of Judicial review in India

(1) Certain articles like 13 provides for judicial review.

(II) Judicial activism
- ↳ Vishaka Guidelines
- ↳ Graded Response Action plan for Delhi-NCR

(III) wider judicial review power as it can also review state laws which is not there in USA

However, certain restrictions in terms of privileges of MPs (Parliamentary privileges), Governor's discretion etc. are there.

Thus, Judiciary act as a vital organ for healthy democracies like India & USA.

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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

Recently Ranjana Prakash Desai commission was set up for delimitation of J&K constituencies.

- Delimitation Commission
  - → Article 82
  - → appointed by President
  - → final + Binding decision

importance

(a) Challenges posed by misrepresentation

(i) Disenfranchisement means poor representation of a constituency by an elected leader

(ii) Too large constituency lead to poor governance.

(iii) Increased election expenditure on single constituency &

Ex: Breaching of ₹70 lakh limit for Lok sabha elections.

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(iv) Lead to over-centralisation

(v) Lack of representation of all class and section of society.

(vi) As per ADR, even lower vote shares (~30%) would be enough to win.

(vii) Multiple districts under one constituency can lead to conflicts of interests.

Ramification → federal tensions

(i) Decreased representation of southern India

Ex: Punishment for good performance in controlling population growth

(ii) Dominance of Northern States like UP, Bihar etc. in National Politics

Ex: Tension over Hindi language

(iii) may lead to reduced financial devolution by finance commission

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Ex: 15th FC used 2011 census for certain criteria

(iv) Impact regional parties especially in southern states

(v) will further sow the seeds of regionalism and sense of alienation.

(vi) will further the attack on migrants due to divide between North-South India

way forward

(i) Need for deliberation amongst political parties post 2026.

(ii) Ensuring fair distribution of resources to every regions of India.

(iii) New formula to ensure smooth transition to increasing seats in Parliament.

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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

Article 324 provided for the appointment of Election commission of India (ECI), to supervise and conduct elections.

ECI → [(1) CEC + (2) EC] appointed by presidents

→ 6 years / 65 years of tenure] whichever is earlier

Role of SC → strengthening ECI

(i) providing mode of appointment of EC through selection committee (Anoop Baranwal Case 2023)

PM LoP CJI

(ii) model code of conduct : SC taking action based on ECI complaint regarding violation of MCC.

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Ex: MP Minister banned for campaigning during 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

(III) Decriminalisation of Politics

↳ ADR case 2002: Political parties to publish criminal antecedents of their candidates

→ Lily Thomas case 2013 :- Disqualification applies instantly if convicted for > 2 years

~~DECEASE~~

(IV) PUCL case 2013 : SC provided NOTA as right not to vote any candidate

(V) Subramaniam Balaji case 2013 : SC checks out for freebies politics during election

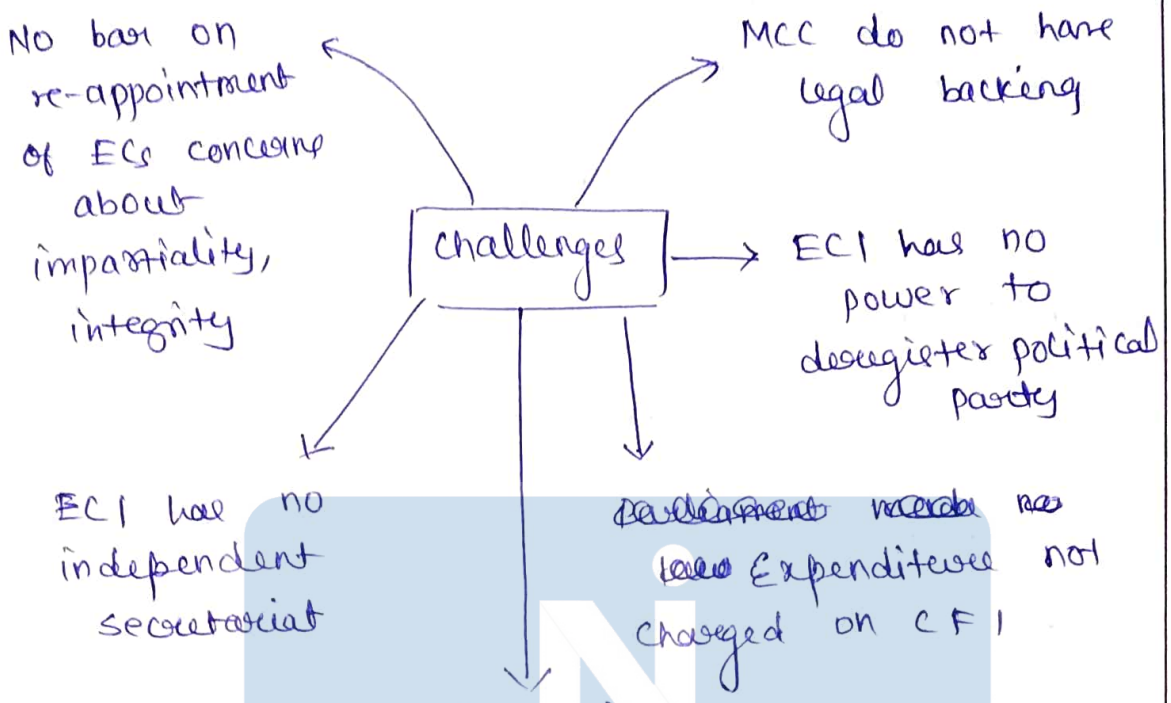
(VI) Symbol : In case of split of parties, SC also judges ECI orders and appeals by the aggrieved

Ex : Shiv Sena case recently.

(VII) Hold that VVPAT forms an essential part of Election.

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way forward

(i) Partial State funding of Elections
Ex: Indrajit Gupta Committee

(ii) Law for appointment of EC members
Ex: CEC and EC act 2023

(iii) Legal backing to MCC.

(iv) Power to deregister political parties

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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

As per ADR, productivity of Lok Sabha during 2022 winter session was only around 47%. and that of Rajya Sabha was 43%.

Declining Role of Parliament

(A) undermines separation of power

(I) Route of ordinance was taken by Executive to ~~prevent~~ surpass legislative power of law making

Ex: Farm Bill ordinance 2020

NCR ordinance 2023

(II) Anti-defection law has reduced voice of individual legislatore to hold the executive responsible

Ex: Article 75(3)

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(iii) Judiciary activism and over-reach due to legislature fails to act in time

Ex: SC views on Manipur violence

(B) Undermining Checks & Balances

(i) Lack of bill scrutiny and discussions

Ex: Data Protection Bill was passed without much debate.

(ii) Low referal to Parliamentary committees for better scrutiny

Ex: PRS data

only 11% bill was sent to Parliamen. committee in 17th LS.

(iii) Concern over Partisan role of speaker

↳ in suspension of opposition members

↳ in case of defection

Ex: Maharashtra v/s Arunachal Pradesh

(iv) Vacancy of Deputy speaker post was not filled for over 4 years.

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(v) Frequent disruptions in proceedings of house.

Way forward

(1) NCRWC → fixing minimum no. of sittings like 100 days for LS
120 days for RS

→ special sessions to compensate for disruption

(2) 2nd ARC

↳ certain Bills to be mandatory referred to Parliamentary Committee

(3) ~~Disp~~ Discipline and attendence of members should be strictly enforced to enrich the debate in Parliament

Thus these steps will further help in celebrating debate-discussions in Parliament law-making process.

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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

NCW Act 1992 provided for NCW as a statutory body, mandating to safeguard rights of women and to promote their concerns in laws & legislations.

NCW
- → Chairperson appointed by central Government
- → at least one member from SC, ST
- → Tenure of 3 years (at most)

NCW Role → Gender-sensitive laws

(i) NCW prepared a database on gender profiling to assess women in ~~a~~ different sections of society.

(ii) It helped in making the laws gender neutral

Eg: POCSO is a gender-neutral law.

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(iii) Awareness about women issues

Ex: Marital rape

(iv) fight against violence against women

Ex: Role in enactment of Domestic violence act

(v) filing PIL and taking suo-moto cognisance of cases. (Ex: Tripal talaq case)

(vi) frequent visits to jails & Swadhar Greeh to check violation of women's human rights.

(vii) Voicing for inclusive law making.

Ex: Gender Budgeting

NCW → constitutional status

(i) More resources at its disposal with funds charged on consolidated fund of India.

(ii) submit reports to President to be laid down on table of Parliament.

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(iii) security of tenure, service conditions will help them to work impartially and with integrity.

(iv) Power to summon officials and witness and civil courts under CrPC.

(v) Independent cadres of lower level functionaries

However, constitutional bodies like NCSC, NCST etc. face limitation in terms of

- Not binding decisions, only advisory functions
- poor delegation of powers and functions.

Thus, with NCW given more independence, evolving issues can be tackled with greater resources and power.

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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

Grievance redressal refers to the process to resolving the problems & issues faced by citizens which gets noticed in form of complaints.

Satisfactory + Timely redressal of grievances

(1) Ease of doing Business - so that businesses could resolve their issues with ease.

(2) Digital sphere : Increasing threat of digital fraud (online payment fraud)

Ex: RBI Ombudsman scheme

(3) Ease of registering Complaints - through apps, portals etc.

Ex: UMANG app

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Challenges associated

(i) Lack of specified timeline for grievance redressal

(ii) multiple bodies to tackle similar type of issues.

Ex: online payment fraud ← NPCI, RBI, Banks

(iii) Lack of awareness about safety guidelines

(iv) Lack of adequate infrastructure in place

Ex: Digital dyjcit in e-courts.

(v) Huge vacancies in

(vi) Low thrust on alternatives like mediation, conciliation etc.

(vii) low adoption of technology and digital illiteracy.

Suggested Measures

(i) focus on alternate dispute resolution mechanism like mediation, Arbitration etc.

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(II) Frequent monitoring of progress of grievances
Ex: CPGRAMS tracker

(III) Building infrastructure for better reporting of cases.

(IV) publishing citizen charter so that public can know about right person/channel to register grievances.
Ex: SBI Charter.

(V) following SEVOTTAM model
Ex: Mo Sarkar by odisha.

(VI) Lok-adalat for specific services.

(VII) using technology for better justice delivery

Thus these steps will help in strengthening feedback loop which will enhance good governance.

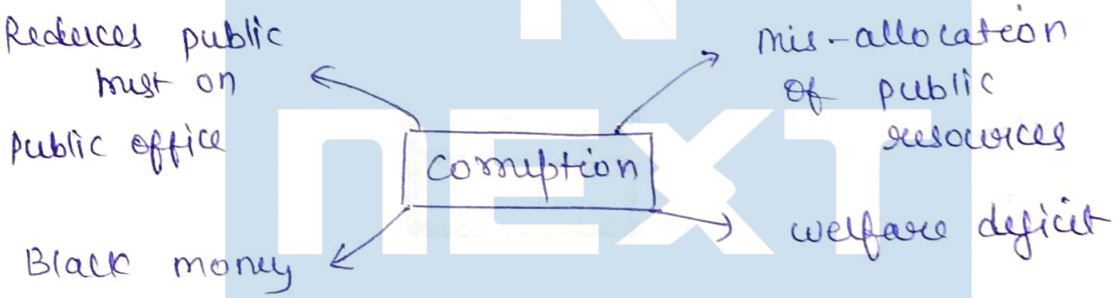
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17. 'भ्रष्टाचार शासन के ताने–बाने को जर्जर कर देता है, जिससे लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में जनता का विश्वास कम हो जाता है।' भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी शासन या व्यवस्था की प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम, व्हिसलब्लोअर संरक्षण अधिनियम (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

India ranked 85/180 in recently corruption Perception Index, highlighting the threat of compteon.



Harmonising (RTI + WBPA + Lokpal)

① Better protection to person voicing against corruption

Eg: RTI activist will get protection under WBPA

② Increased access to information (RTI) will help in exposing the corruption and give evidence to Lokpal body.

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(3) Reduces litigation cost and will help in exposing bigger scam

(4) Combined strength of

(Information Power) (RTI) + (Protection of complainant) (WBPA) + (Institutional backing) (Lokpal)

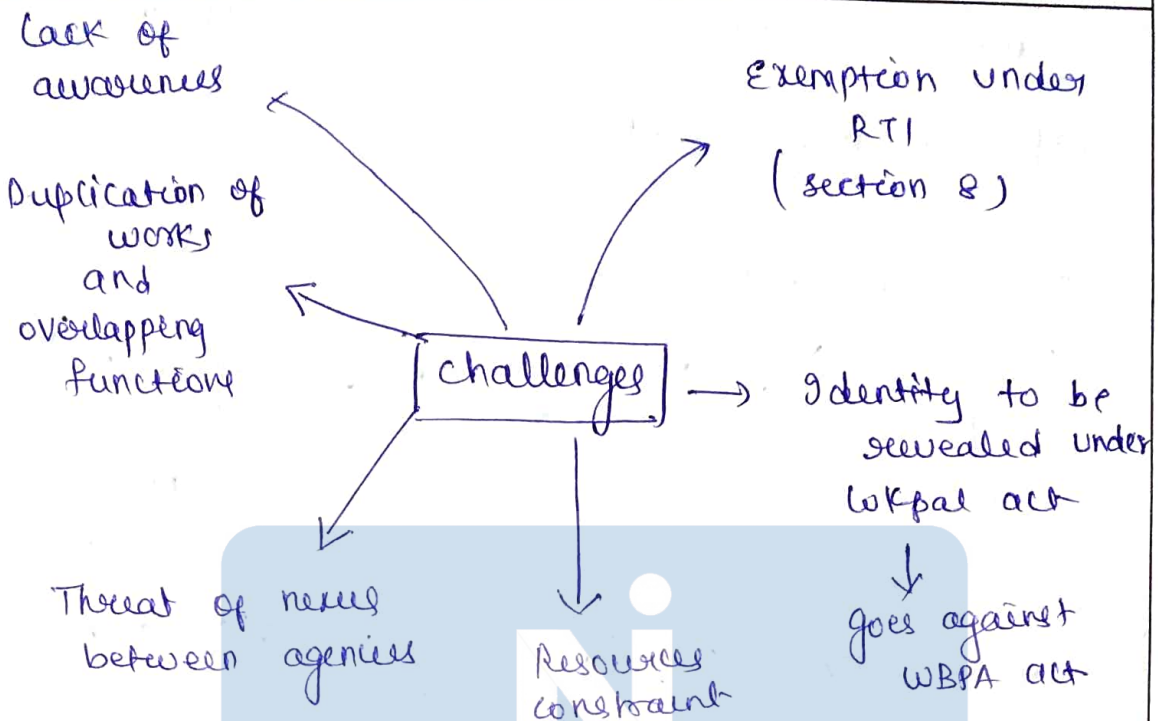
(5) with Lokpal covering larger ambit (even PM, Ministers), RTI & WBPA will help in shedding fear to expose bad news in politics.

(6) will further empower citizens and make them aware about the information as a tool to fight corruption.

(7) with Lokpal as independent agency, timely action could be taken with the help of CBI if RTI exposes ambiguities in governance process.

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way forward

(i) social audit should be promoted.

Ex: meghalaya's social audit law

(ii) Awareness about RTI

Ex: mandatory 1 day training of RTI (and ARC)

(iii) Independent action of agencies like CBI, ED etc.

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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 are socio-economic homogeneous groups working for collective benefit.

As per NRLM, there are around 70 lakhs SHGs as on 2020

Potential challenges

① Structural challenges
- lack of diversification. Ex: Agriculture domination
- Low technological adoption (rely on traditional practices)
- Low Entrepreneurship skill (poor branding, management)

② Resources challenges
- lack of formal credit availability
- Do not able to reap benefit of Economies of scale.
- Low profit margin
- Largely subsitence in approach.

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③ Other issues

- Patriarchial mindset
- Lack of regulation by RBI of microfinancing (Ex: Malegam Committee report)
- Politicisation of SHGs
- Low political Empowerment
- Regional disparities (More on rural areas)

Potential Benefits

④ Economic Empowerment

- Entrepreneurship qualities and leadership traits (Ex: Kudumbashree of Kerala)

② Creation of local rural assets by SHGs like Irrigation etc.

③ Incentive in form of cheap credit to grow as an organisation.

Ex: NABARD SHG-Bank Linkage program

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(4) Generation of additional income to women

Ex: Koraput turmeric soap SHG → additional income of ₹ 4000 / month.

(5) Social empowerment in terms of health, nutritional awareness

Ex: Taliya village in Jharkhand

MMR → 32% reduction through SHG intervention.

(6) Skill development through mahila Kisan sashaktikaran Pariyojanar.

(7) Political Empowerment to stop sarpanch pati type practices by electing to Gram Sabha & village panchayats.

Thus the target of increasing annual income of every women in SHGs to ₹ 1 lakh by 2024 will further strengthen SHG.

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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 श्स्मार्ट पावरश 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 the ability to shape the preferences of others through appeals and culture.

Role of —

(A) Culture

(1) Health diplomacy – by promoting yoga, Ayurveda as traditional practices

Ex: WHO Global centre on traditional medicines in India

(2) food diplomacy – by promoting rich and diverse cusines with gaining attraction in abroad.

Ex: Idli, Dosa, Chola-Bathure etc.

(3) films :- by depicting through movies and web series

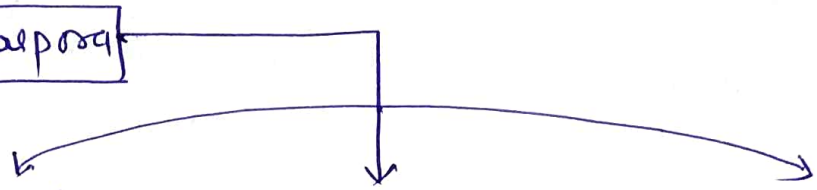
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Ex: "RRR" movie won oscar

(4) Media Diplomacy → wion, firstpost etc.

(B) Diaspora



Political	Economic	Strategic
Rising to the top political posts	Indian origins became the wealthiest diaspora	Lobbying for the cause of India to forge new agreements
Ex: Kamla harris as VP (USA)	Ex: Lulu group Sudha Murti	Ex: Indo-USA civil nuclear deal 2008
✓ Rishi Sunak as UK PM		

(C) Democracy

(i) Co-operation with like-minded nations like QUAD, I2U2 etc.

(ii) forging Economic co-operation like IPEF, iCET etc.

(iii) Becoming an important power in Emerging areas → Indo-pacific region.

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India's position as a smart power

(I) managing its interests in the era of Russian - Ukraine war

Ex: Cheap oil from Russia — Assistance to West in ending war

(II) Avoiding sanctions

Ex: CAATSA exemption in S-400 from Russia.

(III) Balancing its interests with west and china

Ex: QUAD → with USA
SCO, BRICS → with china

(IV) Increasing co-operation in west Asia

Ex: I2U2, CEPA with UAE etc.

Challenges → Increasing nationalism / protectionist policies
→ china's rising assertiveness
→ climate change issue

Thus notion of Vasudev kutumbakam with one family will further strengthen India's soft power..

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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 - Australia relations lies in the commonality of democracy, people - to - people interaction and trade agreements as seen in recent developments.



Long-lasting trade relations

(i) Demographic Convergence - Australia's ageing population and India's young demographic dividend provide much scope for trade.

(ii) Australia's policy of decoupling with

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china provides opportunities for India to usher PLI and manufacturing sector.

(3) Trade agreements in form of ECTA (Economic co-operation & Trade agreement)

Ex: Dairy sector will benefit

(4) Boost to Agricultural sector

Australia (FPI) ⟷ India (top grain producer)

(5) large Indian diaspora in Australia and support for education (university) in Australia for Indian students.

(6) Defence trade with India is also one such opportunity

Strategic Collaboration

(1) countering china's assertiveness and vocal for free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific

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Ex: QUAD, Malabar Exercise.

(II) Cyber security - Both became the target of cyber attacks

Ex: Mumbai DISCOMs failure

(III) Collaborative effort in Climate change affect on phenomenon like El-Nino, Monsoon etc.

(IV) Australia's support for UNSC reforms with India's demand for inclusion in UNSC

(V) Sports :- Cricket matches will further help in convergence of ideas.

Challenges
- → AUKUS by Australia
- → India out of RCEP
- → Russia - Ukraine war.

Thus India - Australia relation will see new heights in coming times.

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Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS