

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 : ANKIT AGRAWAL

Roll No. : 0602108

Registration Number : PTTP220280 Date of Examination : 14/08/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐

Bhopal ☐

Online ☒

Test - 6

Start time: 9:00 PM

End time: 12:00 AM

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. :

Order of attempt → Q. 20, 19, 18, 15, 1, 9 (1st hour)
Q. 12, 13, 14, 17, 5, 7 (2nd hour)
Remaining (3rd hour)

[To be filled by the STUDENT]

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

Blank lined area for Student's Queries for the Evaluator.

[To be filled by the EXAMINER]

Evaluator's response

Blank lined area for 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

REPRODUCTION



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 Belgaon issue & last year's Assam-Mizoram violent clashes show increasing instance of Inter-state border dispute in country.

Constitutional & legal framework

- ① Inter-state council under Article 263
- ② Zonal council set up by state reorganisation Act 1957
- ③ Article 132 of constitution provide Supreme court exclusive & original jurisdiction
- ④ Article 262 provide for resolving Inter-state river dispute
- ⑤ River water dispute Act 1956
- ⑥ Niti Aayog, GST council & National Integration council
- ⑦ Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism through negotiation & mediation
(eg) Governor of Maharashtra & Karnataka met to resolve Belgaon dispute

Reason for failure to resolve disputes

- ① Lack of scientific surveys → to demarcate boundaries created ambiguities
- ② State reorganisation based on linguistic identity as one of the criteria
- ③ lack of acceptance of referendum & plebiscite in general
- ④ Ineffectiveness of tribunals due to delay & non-finality
eg Lawry tribunal took 17 years
- ⑤ Rising sense of regionalism due to competitive federalism
- ⑥ Vote bank & identity politics
- ⑦ transboundary nature of rivers and growing water scarcity.

Peaceful resolution of disputes between states necessary for building mutual trust & achieve ideals of team India for developed India by 2047.

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 set up under Article 263 of constitution by President. It was recommended by Sarkaria Commission in 1983.

Role of Inter-state Council

I Promoting Vertical Inter-governmental cooperation & coordination

a) Platform to discuss various issues with central government.

b) Strategy & Planning for centrally sponsored schemes

c) Grievance redressal related to financial devolution

d) Discussion on important border issues, international negotiation, etc.

(eg) West Bengal blocking Teesta negotiation.

II Horizontal cooperation & coordination

- a) Inter-state border dispute resolution
- b) Inter-state river dispute resolution
- c) Sharing of best practices in policy formulation, Implementation & monitoring
- d) Migration planning & Interoperability of subsidies

eg. One Nation, one Ration card scheme

- e) Planning for joint projects

eg. Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project

PM Modi commented that federalism is no longer seen as fault line but seen as Team India to achieve the objective of Developed India by working together.

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

Key functions

- Scrutinise expenditure of central government
- Scrutinise accounts (profits & loss) of state corporation, manufacturing companies & subsidiaries
- Study CAG report
- ascertain that the money raised through taxes are from legal authority

Steps to Revamp PAC

① Better relationship with CAG

a) PAC should be consulted before appointment of CAG

b) CAG report examination should be quick so that issues are dealt quickly.

② Wider Ambit

- ↳ suo-motu power
- ↳ examine financial wrongdoings

③ Discussion Parliament

In each session, at least 2.5 hours for action taken by Ministries on PAC recommendations

④ Public opinion → before finalizing their reports

⑤ Binding recommendations, help from external experts

⑥ Power to examine the retired officials also

PAC reamping is necessary to ensure expenditure incurred in a prudent manner by holding executive accountable, maintain high standards of public morality in financial matters, etc.

4.

राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक विकास के चालक के रूप में नगरीकरण की अहम 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 Finance commission under chairman ship of NK Singh suggested grants for municipal service in context of rapid urbanisation.

Recommendations

- ① Performance based grants for incubation of new cities & health grants to local government.
- ② Basic grants only for cities having population of less than 10 lakh
- ③ For Million plus cities, 100% of grants linked with performance through Million plus cities challenge fund.

④ Million plus cities challenge fund

←
Improve
air quality

↓
urban
drinking
water
supply

→
Sanitation
& solid waste
management.

Positives	Criticism
① Sustainable urbanisation (SDG-11)	① Against Independent decision making
② Address air pollution of local bodies Issue (World Air quality Index 22/30 cities in India)	② One size fit all approach
③ Improving civic facilities in slum areas	③ Against democratic decentralisation
④ Incentive for counter magnet thus controlling rural-urban migration	④ Certain municipal has natural & historic advantage
⑤ Provision of basic necessity	⑤ Reduce role of state government.

Cities are engine of growth and thus sustainable urbanisation by improving quality of life in urban area is of utmost importance.

5.

नैतिक 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 नैतिक 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 implicitly mention Parliamentary Privilege along with CrPC which provide protection from civil arrest 40 days prior & after the Parliamentary session.

Key Differences in Scope

Freedom of speech & expression under Article 19(1)(a)	Parliamentary Privilege under Article 105
① Available only to citizens of India	① Available to MPs, MLAs, Attorney General
② Important for Intellectual development & liberty	② Important for functioning of Parliament without fear & favour
③ Restrictions under Article 19(2)	③ No restrictions except that the behaviour & judgement of judiciary cannot be discussed
④ Grievance redressal by Article 32 & 226 in Supreme court & High court respectively	④ Grievance redressal by speaker & committee of Privilege

⑤ Related judgements
 Romesh Thapar case,
 Anuradha Basin
 case, Ramkila Maidan
 V/s Home Secretary
 case

⑤ Related judgement
 MSM Sharma case,
 Keshav Singh V/s Koorabha
 case, PV Narasimha
 Rao case

Need to maintain balance

- ① Journalist, citizens & civil servants mostly targeted
- ② Act as self-censorship & chilling effect on freedom of speech & expression
- ③ To prevent legislative tyranny and also to protect legislative dignity
- ④ to avoid becoming Police state
- ⑤ to publish proceedings to Parliament & decrease unruly behaviour of MPs & MLAs leading to disruption.

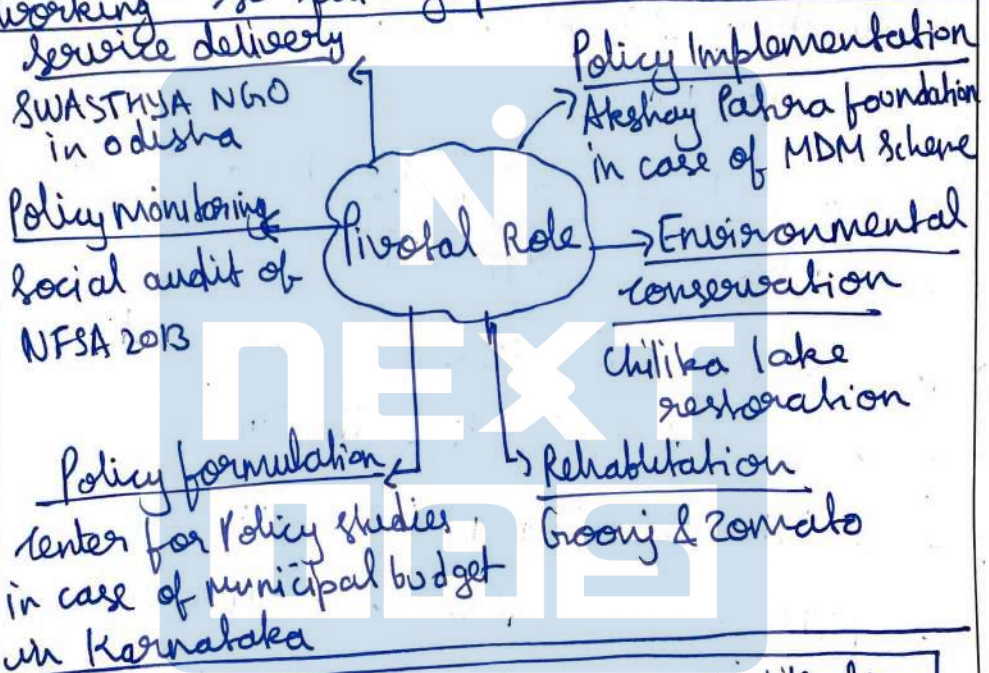
Supreme Court & several committees have suggested for codification of Privileges as done in Australia, UK & US to bring certain level of objectivity

6.

नागरिक समाज संगठन, "सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्रवाई" को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण 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 are private group or informal agent of society working to fill gaps in development process.



Challenges in Local Resource Mobilization & CSR

① Negative perception & lack of awareness of their work

eg. NSA Ajit Dorai called CSOs as new frontier of War

② Lack of functionaries & volunteers due to unpaid nature of work

eg. ASORE India

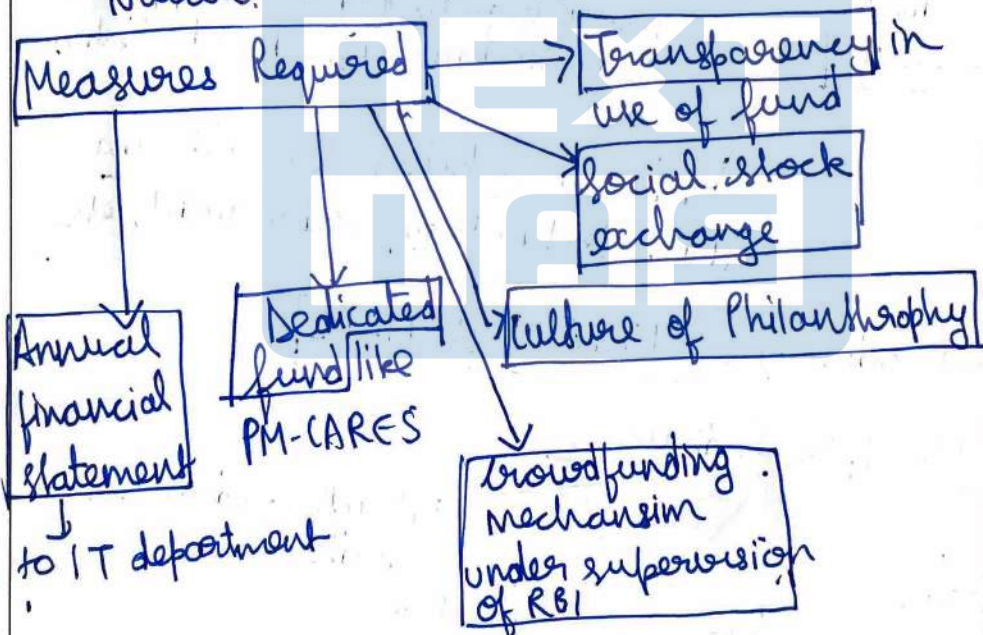
③ Competition for funds → limited corporate networking

(eg) 90% Informal sector thus only 10% potential CSR companies

④ FERA licencing issue → since 2014, 15000 FERA licence cancelled

⑤ Misuse of fund → resulting in increased regulation

(eg) IB report → money used to heroin Naxals.

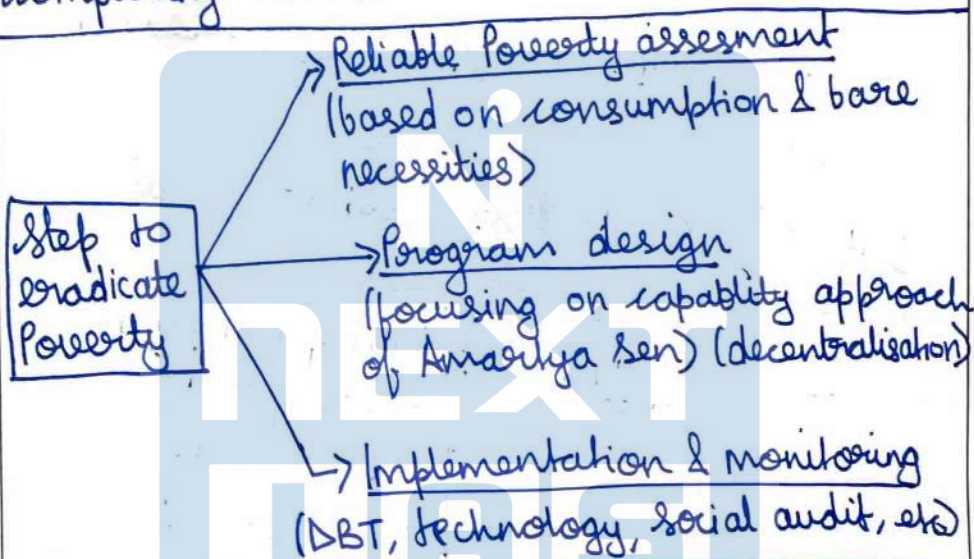


Civil society organisations are important part of development process at grassroots which is also promoted by SDG-17 by advocating for partnership with different stakeholders.

7. गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में पहला कदम कार्यक्रम के डिजाइन, 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

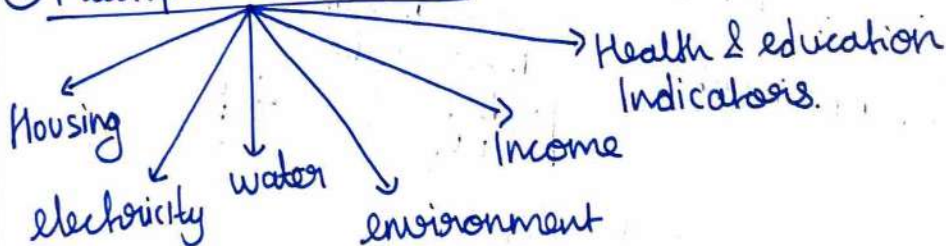
The first step to eradicating poverty is reliable poverty assessment for program design, implementation, and monitoring. In this context discuss the methodology and significance of NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Niti Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index is based on idea of UNDP's MPI but on more local level assessment comparing states & districts.



Methodology of Niti Aayog's MPI

① Multiple Indicators



② Incidence & extent of Poverty

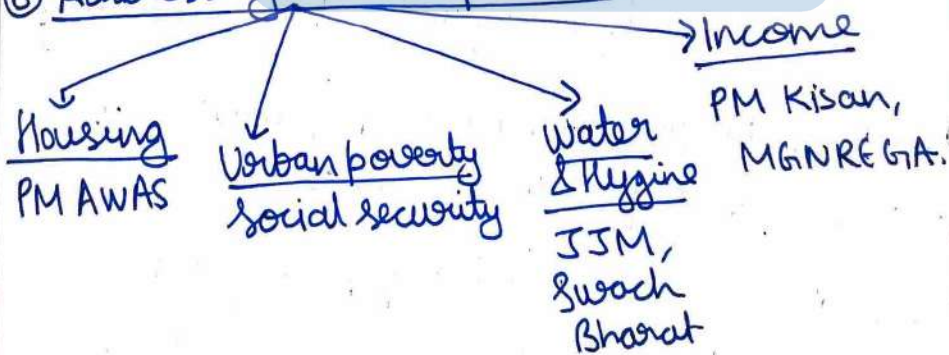
↳ measuring level of deprivation

③ Regional assessment

↳ factors inhibiting such as geographical, social, economic & Political.

Significance

- ① Quality Data collection → evidence based policy making
- ② Addressing Regional disparity → eg. focus on EAG states, Islands, Aspirational districts & Aspirational blocks.
- ③ Target approach → policies focusing on vulnerable sections like SC, ST, women, etc.
eg. PM DAKSH, Mission Shakti in Odisha
- ④ Sector specific planning → Agriculture sector
- ⑤ Localisation of SDGs → decentralisation of Policy Planning & Implementation.
- ⑥ Addressing core deprivation



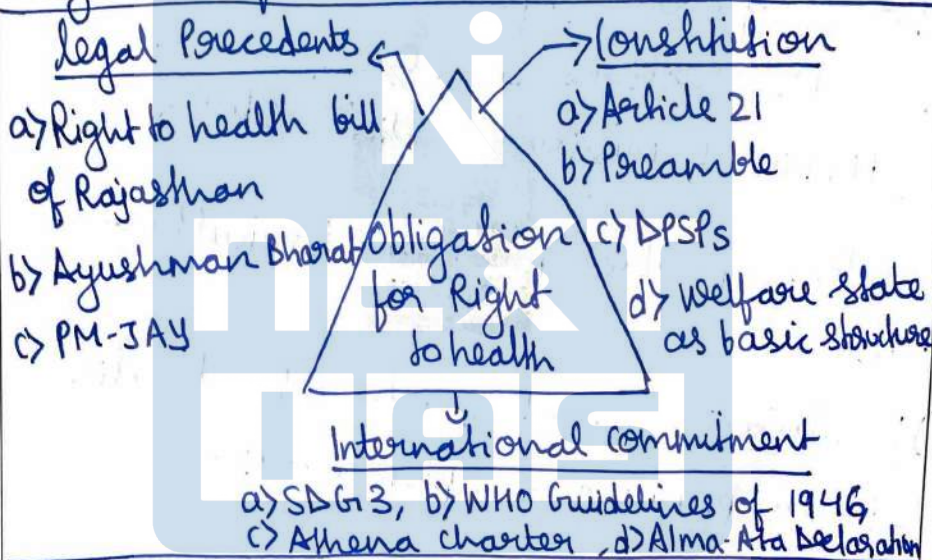
To remove poverty from the root there is need to follow capability approach by Amartya Sen for self sustaining Poverty alleviation.

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

According to Global Health security Index India is ranked below some of the sub-Saharan African country. It spends only 1.5% of GDP on health.

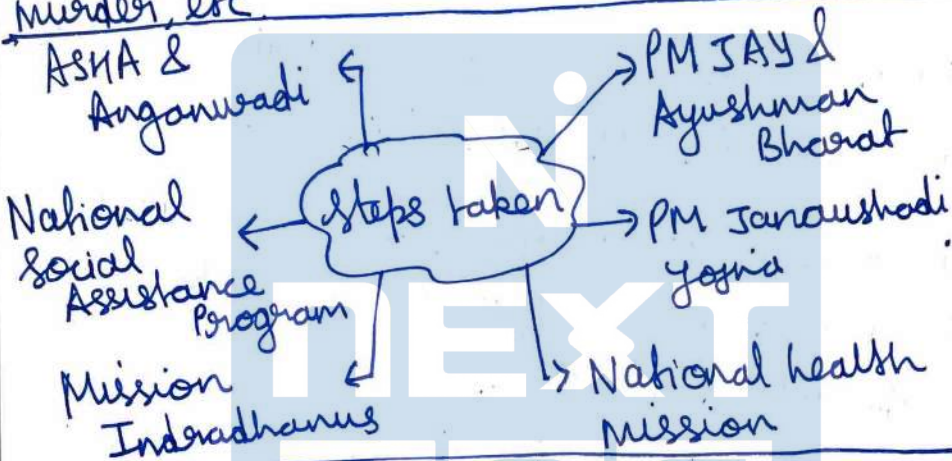


Reason for lack of explicit legal Recognition

- ① Lack of Resources → huge population & low fiscal capacity of states
- ② Infrastructure deficiency → Hospitals concentrated in urban areas, Inter-state disparity
- ③ Health is a State Subject → duplication of policies

eg. Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojna in Odisha overlap with Ayushman Bharat.

- ④ Opposition by Doctors → eg. Rajasthan due to poor compensation
- ⑤ Dominance of Private Sector → In terms of total doctors & beds
- ⑥ Legal Issues → Police verification required in case of hit & run cases, attempted murder, etc.



Way Forward

- ① Economic survey mentioned 30 Bhat Program of Thailand
- ② 100% Insurance coverage
- ③ Nursing colleges (eg. Budget 2023-24)
- ④ Mo Hospitals of Odisha (collaboration with Private Sector)
- ⑤ Opening more Jan Aushadi Kendras

To provide right to health explicitly there is need for improvement in Infrastructure & developing human resources & addressing regional disparities

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 group/Inter-governmental organisation of 5 emerging economies. The term ~~at~~ was coined by Jim O-Niell (Goldman Sachs Analyst).

Meaningful cooperation on Myriad Issue

- ① Multilateral reforms → countering western hegemony in UN, WTO, WHO, etc.
- ② Development finances → through NAB
(eg.) Several Investment in rural project in Himachal Pradesh.
- ③ Balance of Payment crises → through contingent reserve arrangement (CRA) for developing countries
- ④ Global food security → 40% of global food production with china & India top 2.
- ⑤ Global population planning → 35% of world's population.
- ⑥ Climate Action → China, India & Russia among largest emitter of GHGs, rapid depletion of Amazon in Brazil.

⑦ Global trade → India & China world's top 5 economies.

Challenges of BRICS / Limitations



India need to use BRICS to engage with China & push for multilateral reforms by engaging with Russia, China & Brazil. S. Jaishankar recognised BRICS role in shaping economic decentralisation of world.

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 between India & Pakistan after 9 years negotiation facilitated by world bank which is also a signatory.

Recently India put formal demand to Pakistan for renegotiation of treaty in context changing situation.

Possible Implications.

Positives	Negatives
① Increase allocation to India in overall share	① cascading effect on region by creating water tension
② Increased use of western rivers for multiple purpose	② China Intervention in case of Brahmaputra
③ Construction of Hydropower projects in Valley	③ Re-negotiation may lead to unfavourable judgement in case of India ↳ reduced allocation
④ Reduced objection by both parties	④ Distrust among other
⑤ Pakistan opposing	

Rakle & Kishanganga
project in chenal

⑤ clarification regarding
Run of River projects

⑥ consideration
of climate change

eg. UNDP report on
Hindukush $\rightarrow$ 100% melting
by 2100

⑦ Removal of third
party Intervention like
World bank thus asserting
sovereignty

neighbours due to
Big Brother attitude

⑤ One of the positives
fill now an India-
PAK relation may
turn into point
of conflict.

⑥ Spill over effect in
case of affected East
Pakistan region in
case of water scarcity
in form of refugee
crises.

India & Pakistan should
settle out difference through objective
dialogue and thorough Helsinki & Berlin
principle of water sharing.

11.

संसदीय संप्रभुता और न्यायिक सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत ने भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के संवैधानिक ढाँचे को आकार देने में अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण 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

Parliamentary Sovereignty is defined as supremacy & functioning of Parliament without any external interference. It is antithetical to judicial supremacy in form of judicial overreach. Recently the issue was raised by VP or Rajya Sabha chairman.

Role of Judiciary in Influencing Constitution

① Basic Structure Doctrine → by 13 judge bench in Keshavananda Bharati case of 1973

↳ certain provisions of constitution cannot be amended by Parliament under Article 368.

② Due Process of Law → In Maneka Gandhi case 1978, Supreme court introduced doctrine of due process of law

↳ Indian constitution only mention procedure established by law under Article 21.

③ Preamble status → In Keshavnanda Bharati case 1973, Supreme court held that it is part of constitution & can be amended.

④ Right to Privacy → In [Puttaswamy] Judgement 2017, recognised it as part of Right to life (Article 21)

⑤ Balance between DPSP & Fundamental Rights
In [Minerva Mills case 1980], & [Champakam Dorairajan case] identified that certain DPSP has overpower over certain fundamental rights.

Scope of Judicial review in India v/s USA

① Due process of law v/s Procedure established by law

② ~~In India mostly~~

② In India it is wider as it has led to judicial activism

②g. Vishaka guidelines, recent change in procedure of appointment of CEC.

③ Wider territorial jurisdiction as Supreme court has power to review even state laws which is not there with federal court of USA.

Supreme court in several instances as asked judges to follow judicial restraint & be wary of boundaries of separation of power and check & balances to ensure effective coordination between 3 organs of government

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 of seats are provided by RPA 1950 where President appoint delimitation commission & Parliament enact Delimitation Act based on recommendation of commission which is final & binding.

Challenges posed by misrepresentation

① Disenfranchisement or underfranchisement of constituent (violation of Article 325)

② Too large constituency leads to poor governance

③ Increased election expenditure on single constituency (breaching of Rs 70 lakh limit in case of Lok Sabha).

④ Lack of representation of all class & section of society

eg. ADR report → In large constituencies 30% vote share enough to win in FPTP method.

- ⑤ MPLAD scheme become ineffective as it is not enough for whole constituency
- ⑥ over centralisation against the idea of democratic decentralisation
- ⑦ Multiple districts under one constituency

Ramification of Population based delimitation

- ① Decreased representation of Southern India
 - ↳ Punishment for good demographic performance.
- ② Dominance of Northern India in National Politics
 - ↳ Reward for poor demographic performance
- ③ May lead to reduced financial devolution by finance commission
 - (eg) Southern states opposed inclusion of 2011 population criteria by 15th finance commission
- ④ Impact regional parties → Southern & Eastern India mostly regional party

led governments

eg. DMK, BJD, TMC, TRS, YSR congress,
etc.

⑤ Growing sense of Regionalism & Inter-state conflict

eg. Impact migration

⑥ Threat to unity & Integrity of nation
sense of seprahem may arise

⑦ May Impact federalism

To address the issues
there is need to ensure stakeholder
deliberation & new formulae to ensure
fair distribution of seats & demarcation
constituentcy before taking decision of
increasing Parliamentary constituentcies.

13.

देश में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव कराने की निर्वाचन आयोग की संवैधानिक जिम्मेदारी 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 (ECI) is a constitutionally body vested with power of conducting election under provisions of Article 324. ~~the~~ free & fair election is life blood of functioning democracy where ECI & its independence become crucial.

Role of Supreme Court in strengthening ECI.

① Appointment Procedure → Supreme Court set up a high powered committee consisting of PM, LoP and CJI to appoint CEC.

② Power under Article 324 → Supreme Court clarified that ECI is empowered to control entire administration for conducting free & fair elections.

③ Model code of conduct → Supreme Court take action based on ECI complaint regarding violation of MCC

eg. MP Minister banned for campaigning during 2019 Lok Sabha elections

④ Decriminalisation of Politics

- a) Rambabu Takehur V/s Sunil Arora case → Publishing criminal antecedent 3 times in Newspaper & social media
- b) PIF case 2004 → Voters right to know about candidates
- c) Lok Prahari judgement 2018 → Informing ECI about selection of candidate within 48 hours.

⑤ Number of Election Commissioners → President to fix number of EC (2)

- ⑥ Other steps
- a) NOTA judgement 2013
 - b) Inclusion of VVPAT
 - c) ECI empowered to cancel election in case of large scale bribery & rigging
 - ↓
 - d) CEC has same status as judge of Supreme Court & CAG.

Challenges

- ① No bar on reappointment to any other post
- ② Qualification procedure not defined
- ③ No power to deregister political parties

④ Lack of clarity regarding role of ECI in case of section 8 of RPA 1951

⑤ No power to check on freebies & using government machinery to influence voter

⑥ Expenditure not charged on CFI

⑦ Lack of Independent secretariat

⑧ Dependency on law ministry, Home Affairs ministry & DoPT for election reforms & other matters.

Many committees including ECI has suggested reforms to further the objective of free & fair elections such as National electoral fund (Indrajit Gupta committee), fix number of ECs by law, power to deregister, funds charged on CFI, etc.

14.

संसद की घटती भूमिका शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के मूल सिद्धांत को कमजोर 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

According to ADR report, Lok Sabha productivity during winter season was only 47% & Rajya Sabha was 43%, Attendance in Parliamentary committees has declined to less than 50% since 2014.

Declining Role of Parliament

I Undermine Separation of Power

a) Judiciary & legislature → in form of judicial activism & overreach

(eg) Recently SC set up High Powered Committee to appoint CEC

b) Judiciary & Executive → lack of accountability to legislature resulted in Judiciary holding executive accountable

(eg) SC views on Manipur clashes & transfer of FIRs to CB

c) Executive & legislature → Anti-Defection law has reduced voice of individual legislature to hold executive responsible

under Article 75(3).

II. Undermine check & balances

a) Lack of bill scrutiny → recent disruptions during monsoon season

(eg) Data protection bill, Forest Conservation (Amendment bill).

b) Low referral to Parliamentary Committees → 11% in 17th Lok Sabha & 17% in 16th Lok Sabha (PRS)

c) Partisan role by Speaker → suspension of opposition members criticised, Passing of Aadhar bill as money bill

d) Ineffectiveness of Speaker → in controlling disruption through prompt action against both ruling members & opposition.

e) Absence of Deputy Speaker → violation of Article 93, since last 2 years.

f) Non-functioning question hour → speaker blamed it on continuous disruption of house.

Way forward

① NCRWC

- a) ↳ special session to compensate disruption
- b) ↳ Additional sessions along with existing sessions
- c) ↳ Fix 120 days for Rajya Sabha & 100 days for Lok Sabha

② 2nd ARC

- a) ↳ compensation based on number of hours attended in parliament
- b) ↳ 100% referral of bills to Parliamentary committees

③ Enactment of Parliament Productivity (enhancement) bill 2017.

Kapil Sibal commented that judicial activism occur when legislature fail to perform their function but what is more dangerous is not judicial activism but lack of scrutiny of executive by legislature which is against constitutionalism.

15.

भारत में लिंग-संवेदनशील कानूनों पर विमर्श को आकार देने में राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग द्वारा निर्माई गई महत्वपूर्ण 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 Act
1992 set up NCW as statutory body
with mandate of reviewing safeguards
provided to women under constitution
& laws & promote their interest.

Crucial Role of NCW in gender sensitive laws

① Raise issues important for women

(eg.) Enactment of Dowry prohibition Act
due to pressure from NCW in 1980s.

② Force Amendment to unjust laws

(eg.) Amendment to Hindu Marriage
Act ~~2005~~ 1955 removing epilepsy as
ground of divorce.

③ File PIL & encourage judicial Intervention

(eg.) Shyama Bano judgement on Triple
Talaq.

④ Fight against violence against women

(eg) Major role in enactment of
Domestic Violence Act 2005

⑤ Rehabilitation of victims → grants to
NGOs & CSOs

(eg) Acid attack victims

⑥ Other Impact on laws

Amendment
to Juvenile
Justice Act

advocating
for criminalisation
of marital rape.

Gender budgeting

Need for constitutional status for NCW

① For giving status of civil court under
CrPC

② Power to summon officials & witness

③ Power to award relief to victims

④ Power to punish & interfere in
judicial proceedings

⑤ Independent cadre of lower level
functionaries

⑥ funds charged on consolidated fund
of India.

- ⑦ Annual report to Parliament
- ⑧ Better able to conduct research & seminar
- ⑨ Invitation to Parliamentary committees

PM Modi highlighted that with evolving needs of women in 21st century there is need to broaden the scope of NCW to meet the mandate of women protection & women led development.

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

Sevottam Model of good governance consisted citizen charter & grievance redressal mechanism as important component. Government in 2014 gave the slogan of Minimum Government Maximum Governance.

Satisfactory & Timely redressal of Grievance

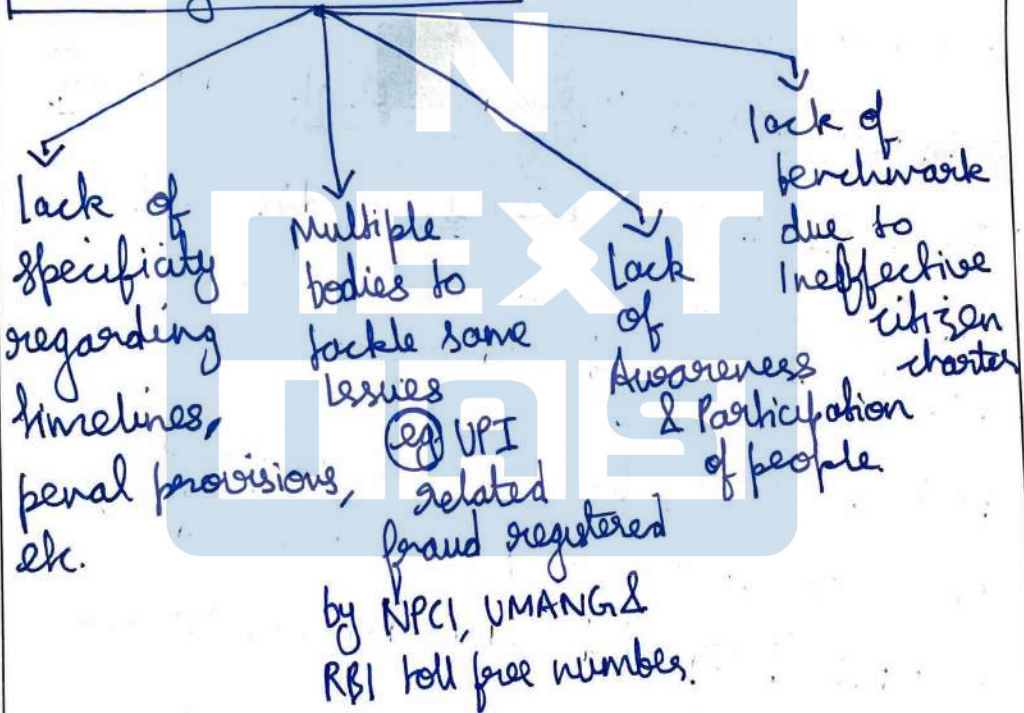
- ① Ease of Doing business → India still lack in enforcement of contract & Tax dispute related indicators
- ② Digital safety → Increasing threat of e-commerce & online payment fraud
eg. RBI's Integrated ombudsman scheme
- ③ e-governance → Umang App to file complaint regarding Government services
- ④ citizen centric Governance → PMGDISHA, My Gov.in & Mo Sarkar of Odisha

⑤ Citizen satisfaction → recourse & service premium provided by Indian Postal service through its citizen charter.

⑥ Online Dispute resolution → cost & time effective & reduces pendency of cases

⑦ e-Court project

Challenges Associated.



Measures Required

① Online Grievance Redressal

② Setting up tribunals to fast track the trials.

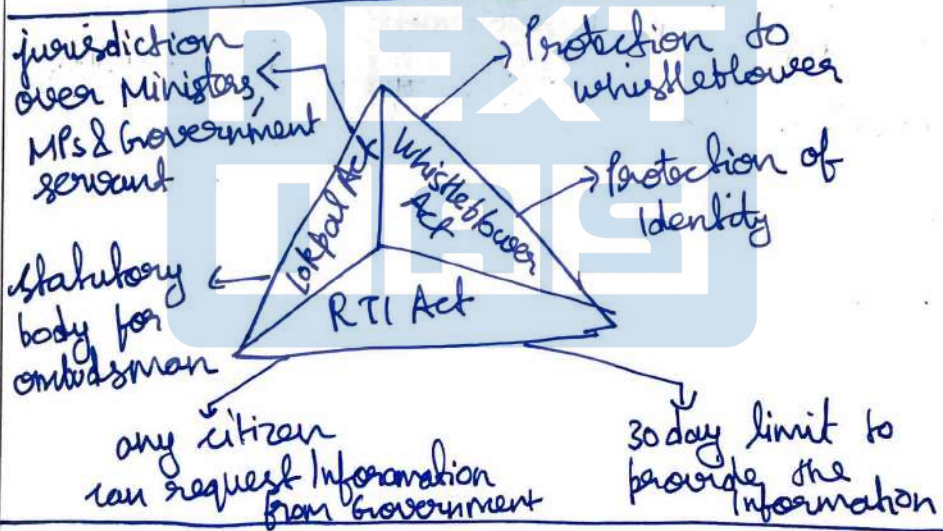
- ③ Specificity by mentioning timeline & resource availability
- ④ Revising & updating citizen charter
- ⑤ following ST model & Mo Sarker of Odisha
- ⑥ Lok-Adalat for specific services.

Grievance redressal is important for channelising the feedback into improvement of service delivery to achieve the objective of good governance.

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

According to ~~to~~ corruption perception Index by Transparency International India is ranked at 90 reflecting high level of corruption which is also reflected in V-Dem Institutes Democracy Index where India is ranked lower as electoral autocracy.



Potential for Harmonizing

- ① Increased Access to Information resulting in transparency & accountability through RTI Act
- ② Act as deterrent for corruption by creating preventive & curative process.

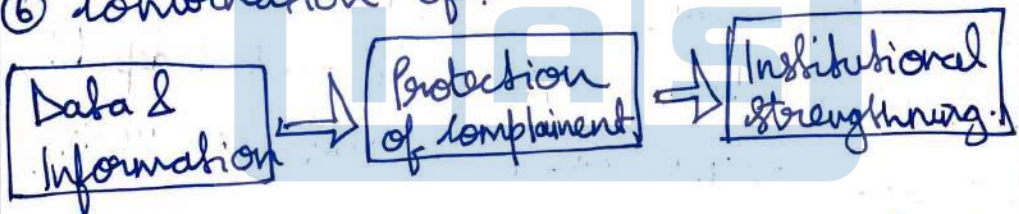
③ Protection of RTI Activist from harassment & death threat under Whistleblower Act

(eg) More than 36 activist in Bihar killed from 2006 to 2019

④ Protection of Identity will create more people to come forward & whistleblow through RTI Act.

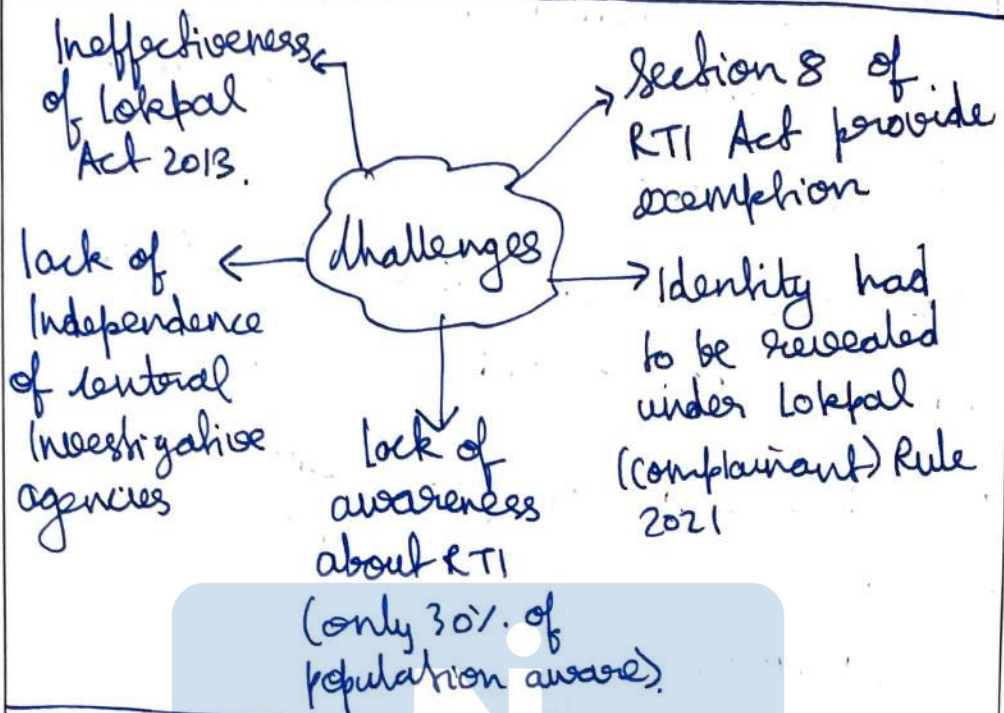
⑤ combining with ~~RTI~~ Lokpal Act 2013 it can create faster investigation of corruption cases.

⑥ combination of:-



⑦ Lokpal Act along with RTI can further make RTI process efficient as government departments will have to follow orders of Lokpal

⑧ Lokpal has power to use service of CBI & CVC thus prompt investigation of complaint under whistleblower Act.



To control corruption 2nd ARC has suggested creating actionable social audit, local level lokpal, Integrity pact which can be harmonised with RTI & Whistleblower Act through Independent National commission to control corruption.

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।

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.

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

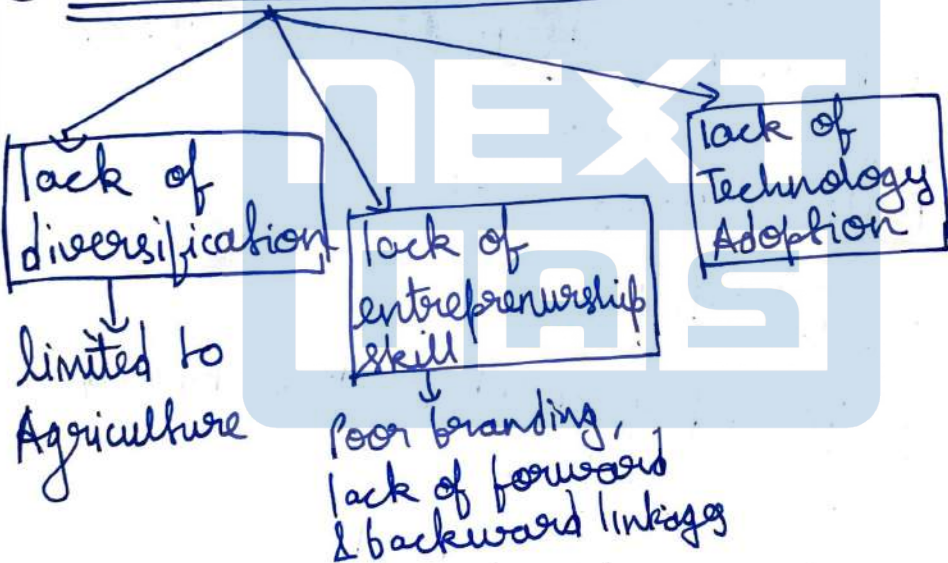
Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

SHGs are socio-economic homogenous group working for collective benefit.

According to NRLM data there are 6.9 million SHGs till the year 2019.

Potential challenges

① Structural challenges



② Social challenges

- a) Patriarchy, low status of women, Marriage causes change of residence
- b) low literacy, lack of expertise, poor networking with ASHA & Anganwadis

③ Legitimacy & Credibility Issue

a) Malegam Committee highlighted lack of regulation by RBI of Microfinancing leading to loan default

(eg) Andhra Pradesh range of suicides due to aggressive collection methods

b) SKS scandal → poor regulation of credit disbursement, aggressive collection & poor accounting practices

④ Other issues

↳ a) Regional disparity (North East only 3%, lack of urban SHG).

↳ b) Politicisation & Casteism

Potential Benefits

① Economic empowerment → entrepreneurship & income generation.

↳ a) Creation of rural assets like irrigation, storage, etc.

(eg) Budget 2023 → largest cooperative grain storage scheme.

↳ b) Interest subvention under Agriculture Infrastructure fund

↳ c) Capacity building and income augmentation through training

② Koraput Turmeric Soap SHG generating additional income of Rs 4000 per month

② Social empowerment → skill, Health etc.

↳ a) Awareness regarding hygiene & sanitation

↳ b) Improved health indicators

② Teliya village in Jharkhand → 32% reduction in MMR & 28% in IMR through SHG Intervention

↳ c) Skill development of women under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojna.

③ SHG not only promote economic & social empowerment but also ~~see~~ Political empowerment by capacity building of women for Panchayats, acting as pressure group & conducting social audits.

19.

भारत अपनी समृद्ध संस्कृति के लिए विश्व मानचित्र पर अद्वितीय स्थान रखता है। इस संदर्भ में भारत की सॉफ्ट पावर कटिनीति 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

According to Joseph Nye (professor of Geopolitics), soft power is a power to influence behaviour of another country based on culture, democracy, diaspora, food, music, quality of life, etc.

Instruments of India's Soft Power

I Culture

- a) Health Diplomacy → yoga, Ayurveda & medical tourism, Natamaste diplomacy, Vaccine Maitri
- b) knowledge diplomacy → Indian students, Indian philosophy of Vasudev Kulkarnibhakam, UGC inviting foreign universities, IIT being set up in Africa
- c) food diplomacy → Indian cuisine ranked 5th in popularity in foreign countries by a list survey.
- d) Media Diplomacy → Wion, Firstpost, Bollywood, Indian actors in Hollywood, etc.

II Diaspora

Political Arena

Kamla Harris,
Rishi Sunak,
PM of Ireland,
Success of ~~Mr~~ Modi, etc.

Strategic Cooperation

Role of
diaspora
in US-Indo
Nuclear
Agreement

Economic Arena

Indian-American
wealthiest immig-
rants, Lulu group
in Middle East,
etc.

III Democracy

- a) cooperation with west → eg. QUAD
strategic forum of four democracies
- b) Economic cooperation eg. IPEF has
one pillar as Democracy.
- c) Indo-US Relation → often described as
relation of largest & oldest democracy.
- d) Respect for India's Strategic autonomy →
based on democratic principle

Positioning as a Smart Power

- ① Rebalancing of west & Russia during
Russia-Ukraine war.

② Managing divergence & leveraging convergence with major powers (S. Jaishankar).

③ Strategic autonomy & energy security
(eg) Discounted oil from Russia

④ Avoiding CATSA sanctions for purchasing S-400 missile defence system

⑤ Strategic partnership with countries like UAE, France, Egypt, etc.



PM Modi advocated for five pillars to enhance soft power → a) Samman (Respect), b) Samvad (Dialogue), c) Sadachara (empathy), d) Samridhi (development), e) Suraksha (security).

20. भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझा मूल्यों और जीवत 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।
- 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.
- (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

The foundation of India-Australia relation lies in commonality of west Minister style of Democracy, Commonwealth tradition, people to people interaction & high level exchanges in recent times.

Long lasting trade Relations

- ① Demographic convergence → Australia's ageing population & India's youth population provide scope for services trade.
- ② Australia's objective of decoupling with China provide opportunity for India's PLI & Make in India scheme.
- ③ Trade in Agriculture has huge scope with Australia one of the leading nation in processing whereas India one of the largest grain producer.
- ④ Recently concluded agreement on Free Trade Agreement will further boost trade between the nations.

- ⑤ large Indian diaspora create demand for Indian goods in Australia
- ⑥ Defence trade has huge scope under context of QUAD & Indo-Pacific collaboration

Strategic collaboration

- ① Countering China → through QUAD, IPEF, etc.
- ② Climate change → collaboration as global telepathy of El-Nino & South west monsoon.
 - eg. Drought of 2022 in Australia & excessive rainfall in India in 2022.
- ③ Cyber security → both India & Australia have been target of cyber attack from China in past
 - eg. Mumbai power grid failure during COVID
- ④ Multilateral reforms → Australia supports India's membership bid for UNSC.
- ⑤ Sports diplomacy → cricket serve as part of cultural diplomacy.



India-Australia to leverage the potential of the growing relation need to engage more on trade & people to people front to play major role in global politics as middle powers.