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# NEXT IAS

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(To be filled by candidate)

**Name of Candidate :** AREA USMANI

**Roll No. :** PTTP 221371

**Registration Number :** ..... **Date of Examination :** 29/08/23

**Exam Centre :** Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☑

**Test - 6** (GS2) **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. :** .....

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*(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 | | | |
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| 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

The task of amalgamation of princely states and otherwise organisation of India's different regions as administrative units of states is still an ongoing one.

Constitutional & Legal Framework

- Part I, articles 2-5 deal with formation/renaming/readjustment of states. They can be done by parliament with simple majority, i.e. not under A368 (eg: Andhra Pradesh & Telagana Reorganisation Act)

- A-262 and A-263 call for setting up of inter-state body and river dispute settlement body respectively. Though not binding, they enable an institutional mechanism for states & centre to come together & discuss.

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- Parliament has passed various laws for reorganisation of states (also from UTs to States) from State Reorganisation Act of 1956 to recent- bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.
- Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction in federal matters for settlement of disputes.
- Sikkim was added as state via Constitutional amendment Act.

Failure to Resolve

- Linguistic diversity prohibits any clear boundary (eg: Maharashtra - Karnataka over Belgaum border, Andhra - Odisha border)
- Tribal diversity of northeast, with scattered and overlapping areas (eg: Kuki - Meitei in Manipur, calls for Nagalim).
- Assam being the parent state of all northeast states has border differences with all.
- Demands for claims claim over border areas overlap significantly.

Border disputes, esp in northeast, need to be resolved with dialogue and mediation.

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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 262 of the Constitution provides for Inter-State Council (ISC) for effective dialogue between the federal units.

Role

- Various Committees formed for improving centre-state & state-state relations have called to utilise this article more effectively (eg: Sarkaria Commission, Punchhi Commission, 2nd ARC etc).

- India being a federal country with unitary bias, friction in day to day administration b/w centre and state is an inevitable fallout. Instead of resorting to judiciary to iron out differences, ISC provides a mechanism for constructive dialogue.

- Centre-State Role of governor, issues wrt Concurrent list jurisdiction, Centrally sponsored scheme, release of funds (Finance Commission and GST),

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possibility of A356, b all-India bureaucracy personnel management etc are issues that ISC can take up.

- State-State sharing of resources (eg: river), border disputes, smuggling (eg: red sanders), intelligence sharing among police (eg: LWE), infrastructure projects, control of diseases (eg: bird flu, covid) are some of the issues that ISC can take up.

However, drawbacks like lack of regular meeting, recommendatory nature, agenda setting as per political parties interests etc have hindered the effective functioning of ISC.

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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

PAC was set up in 1921 to ensure financial accountability of the executive to legislature.

Functions

- It examines the various reports of CAG and reports on its findings. In fact, CAG is termed as the friend, philosopher & guide of PAC.

- It looks into the various govt expenditures and policies, and comments not only on their quantity but also quality, i.e. the effectiveness and outcome of the expenditure undertaken.

- It comprises of 17+5 (LS+RS) members. Thus, bipartisan functions & representation to all political parties (proportional representation) ensures effective debates.

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## Steps Required

* However, the major drawback is the recommendatory nature of PAC's advice. This can be given more teeth (eg: compulsory discussion of its reports by Parliament).

* The nature of its examination is after the expenditure has taken place. Shifting this to before authorising funds, at least partly, will enhance effectiveness.

* Support to undertake the objectives by providing subject experts to MPs by the Parliament secretariat.

PAC has a long tradition of ensuring financial accountability, and strengthening it further will improve India's democratic credentials further.

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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 (FC) 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 (2021-26) has furthered the reforms taken by 13th & 14th FC in strengthening ULBs.

Recommendations

- 15th FC has increased the devolved funds to local bodies from the central pool (~4.4 Lakh Crores). Thus, they have greater funds & independence w.r.t financial resources.

- It has reduced the amount of tied funds devolved, giving greater independence to undertake customised solutions.

- It has linked state's devolution subject to them undertaking greater devolution (and other reforms) to ULBs. This will ensure systemic improvement in ULB's standing.

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* They have recommended ways for ULBs to raise own-revenue by providing services etc. ~~They~~ ~~has~~ 15th FC has also recommended coming up with a standardised level of such services to be provided.

* They have called for privatisation of certain services (eg: sanitation) so that ULBs can focus on core functions.

* Recommendations wrt raising funds from market like masala bonds.

While FC has taken up the cause of ULBs, Real change has to come from the political will in states.

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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

A-19(1)(a) and A-105 provides for fundamental (FR) right of speech & expression to citizens and to parliamentarians respectively.

Differences

- ~~A-19(1)~~ FR provided to citizens has reasonable restrictions under A-19(2). These include ~~sovereign~~ sovereignty & integrity of India, defamation, Contempt of court, incitement to violence etc.

- However, freedom of speech & expression to MPs is much broader. They don't have any explicit restrichions (except discussing conduct of judges other than impeachment). Parliament has its own Conduct ~~to~~ guidelines, not subject to judicial oversight.

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Balance ?

- Parliament has been granted certain privileges to ensure its free functioning. It needs to be seen from the lens of separation of power between the various organs of govt.

- However, the parliamentary privileges have not yet been codified, thus bringing opacity to the process. While privileges are required, their codification will bring consistency & transparency, fostering trust & credibility in the parliament.

Thus, while not as restrained as an ordinary citizen, a balance b/w privileges and accountability is desirable.

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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

CSO

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

CSO is the non-market, non-govt space where individuals come together and mobilise for a social cause. For eg. the role of CSO in passing RTI Act.

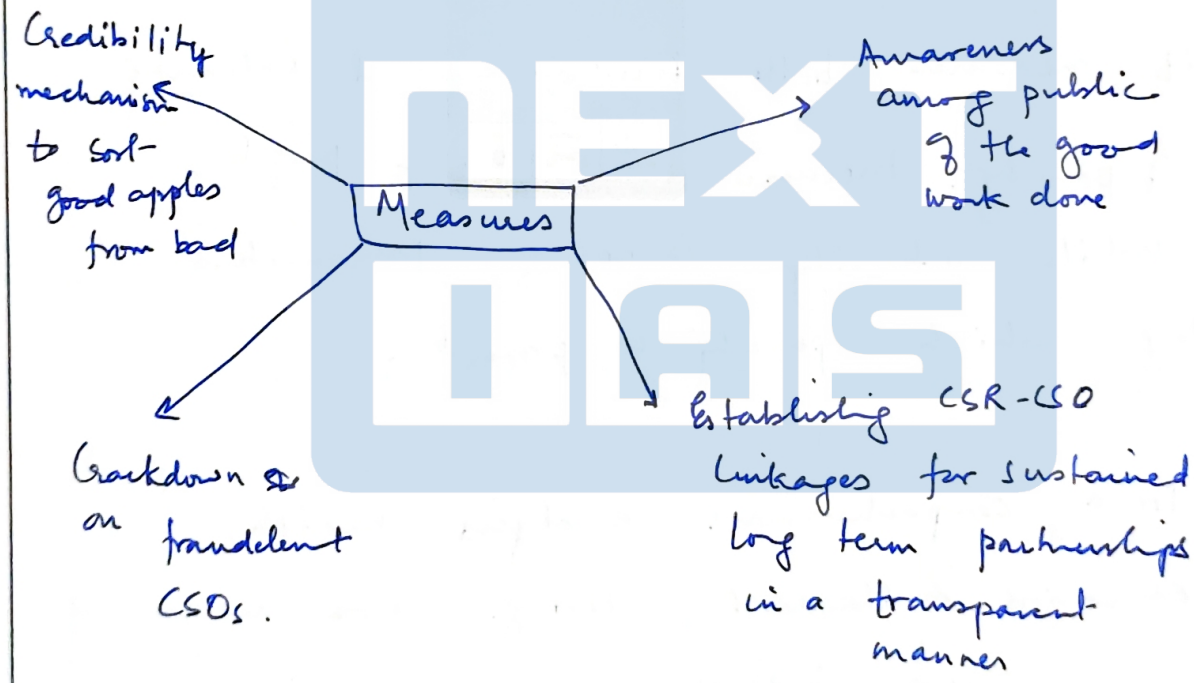
Challenges

- NGOs in India receive low local funding. Foreign funding has come under greater scrutiny after amendments to FCRA act.
- Popping up of NGOs for tax evasion & money laundering has lowered the credibility of even the authentic ones.
- Information asymmetry hinders CSR as well, as they find tough to trust credentials of CSO.

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- Competing demands on CSR and high number of CSOs lead to challenges of their own.
- Low awareness among public (eg: donations are tax exempted are not well known)
- Apathy among public / "chalta hai" altitude (complacency)




There is great potential for pvt sector to play a greater role in service delivery via CSO in India.

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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

(NMPI)

NITI Aayog's NMPI is a ranking of States released periodically to assess the progress made on this front.

Methodology

- It measures both, incidence and intensity of poverty. Incidence is no. of people, while intensity is no. of parameters along which poverty is present.
- For a comprehensive analysis, health, education & standard of living are measured broadly. 10 indicators under 5 heads are measured (sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, ~~tip~~ ~~cooking~~ education level, income etc).
- Poverty is then calculated as product of Incidence & intensity.

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Significance

- Comprehensive overview beyond just the traditional income/ calorie intake method.
- Helps in data collection to form policies, measure effectiveness of policies
- Improves India's ranking globally (eg: UN Multidimensional Poverty Index)
- Fosters healthy competitive federalism among states

As to UN MPI, >410 million were lifted out of multidimensional poverty b/w 2005-20. NITI Aayog's ranking will further strengthen this trend.

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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

Right to health is provided under DPSP.

Supreme Court has also enlarged ~~to~~ A-21 to include this right under its ambit (eg: ban regulation of firecracker during Diwali).

More recently, SDG 3 talks of universal access to quality healthcare as its goal.

Lack of Explicit Legal Recognition

* Main reason is lack of resources to back such a right, including no. of hospitals, trained staff, doctors, medicines, medical equipment etc required given India's population.

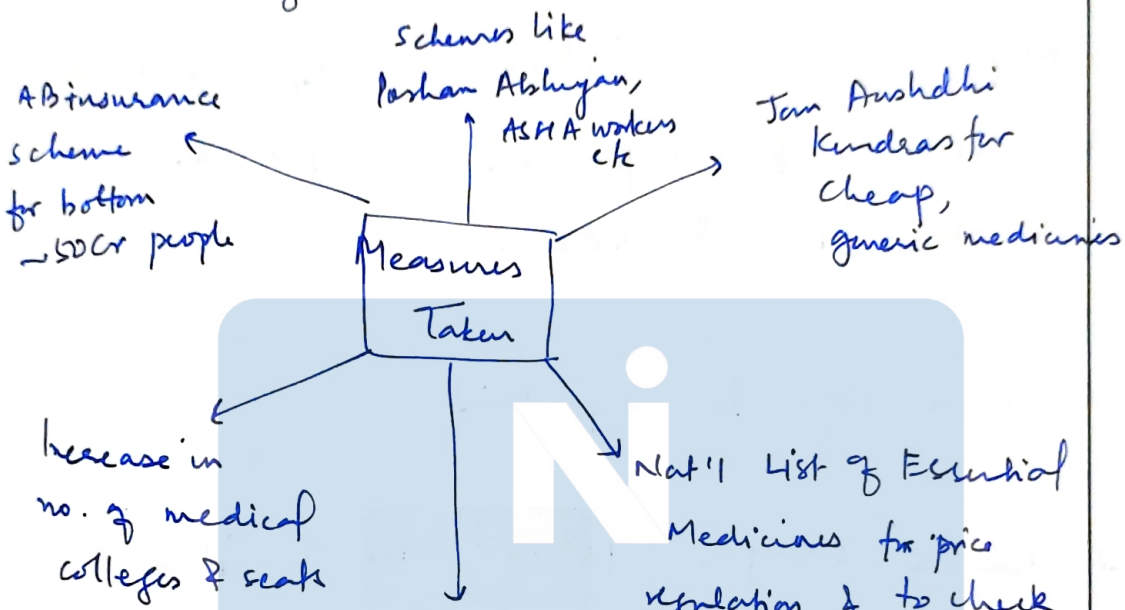
* Will also open up scope for huge number of litigations, jamming the justice delivery system.

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- Possibility of violence against doctors
- Lack of administrative capacity to ~~ensure~~ enforce such a right.




However, expenditure on health needs to increase to 3% from current 1.2% - 1.5% of GDP to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure of citizens.

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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

Candidates write on thi

BRICS is an organisation of emerging nations and its recent expansion has further strengthened its base.

## Common Issues for Cooperation

- Climate change, esp as voice of Global South
- Alternative financial mechanism (eg: NDB)
- Stance against terrorism
- Enhancing trade & investment
- Cooperation in space sector
- Collective actions against global challenges like covid (distribution of vaccines, masks etc)

## Bilateral Relationships & BRICS

- Stalemate on India-China border issues has not progressed via BRICS also

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- Hijacking of agenda by China to pose it as anti-West alliance (eg: attempts at de-dollarisation)
- Sanctions on Russia by West- (eg: participating via video conference because of ICC arrest warrant)

However, India has always preferred the route of dialogue, hence continues to engage with all, including China, via such organisations.

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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। IWT (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

IWT, brokered by World Bank in 1960, has been a largely successful mechanism of water-sharing b/w India & Pakistan.

* Under the treaty, eastern rivers Ravi, Beas, Sutlej are accorded to India, while western rivers ~~Indus~~ Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum are accorded to Pakistan.

* Both countries are allowed to use waters of non-assigned rivers as well for domestic use, in such a way that the other country's uses are not affected.

* It also has mechanisms for information sharing and regular meeting to review the treaty's working.

Recent Amendment Demands

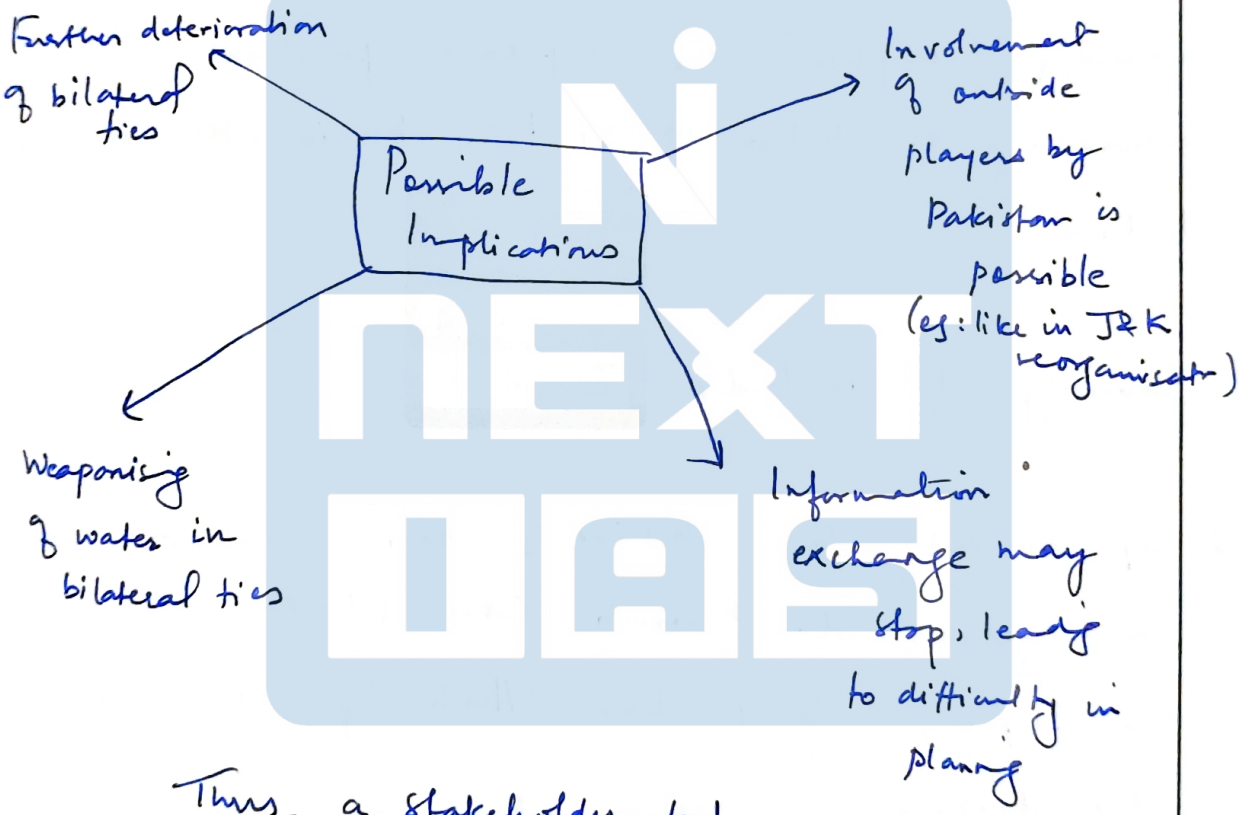
* India, which till now has been generous in its use, has now plans to set up

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dams on Chenab & Sutlej. Pakistan has raised concerns on this.

* The original terms have also been generous by India despite being the upper riparian state. There is a demand to ~~~~ relook this as well.




Thus, a stakeholder-led process is required for amendments acceptable to both parties so that general welfare of citizens is prioritised above all.

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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

Parliamentary sovereignty implies the supreme position of parliament (eg: UK) while judicial supremacy implies the supreme position of judiciary (eg: India in respect of basic structure doctrine).

Judiciary's Role in India

- By innovating the doctrine of basic structure in Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court has effectively removed the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty. Constitution makers too have ensured the supremacy of constitution (through courts) and not parliament in India.

- Judicial activism, esp via PILs, has shaped Indian constitution considerably.
  → ~~Struck~~ striking down of NJAC act wrt appointment of judges

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→ Expanding basic structure to include judicial review, Judicial independence, secularism, federal character etc

→ scope of fundamental rights expanded considerably (eg: Maneka Gadhi case wrt A21, Puttaswamy case for inclusion of right to privacy etc)

- Cases like SR Bommai has given clarity wrt Indian federalism (also wrt governance of Delhi).

Judiciary's Role in USA

- USA judiciary has shown greater restrain in playing an active role. USA's Constitution is based on the principle of strict separation of powers (presidential system).

- For eg. right to abortion given under Roe vs Wade was recently reversed.

- USA has dual system of courts, federal & state, whereas India has single integrated system with Supreme Court at top.

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* Way of appeal is used much more in India.

## Scope of Judicial Review

* A-13, A-226, A-32, A-136, A-142 all empower the constitutional courts to review the legislature/executive wrt enforcement of fundamental rights & any other measure required to ensure complete justice (142).

* For eg, recently triple talaq was struck down under A-142.

Thus, Indian judiciary has wider scope and has played a more active role in shaping the Constitution in practice on ground.

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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

While the original constitution envisaged delimitation after every census, the figures have been freezed acc to 1971 census by constitutional amendment (2001 census for drawing boundaries & SC/ST reservation).

Essential For Democracy

- Delimitation ensures the basic democratic principle of equal value of all votes. Current, one vote of UP has considerably less value than one vote of Tamil Nadu.

- The freeze was implemented to check population growth, so that the states containing population growth were not penalised by downward revision of their seats. (a temporary measure for greater good)

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## Challenges

- In effect, residents of backward states are being penalised for their govt's poor performance.
- This can brew ~~resentment~~ resentment among population and create region based fault lines.
- By not hearing their political choices enough, things can arguably go from bad to worse.

## Ramifications

- North-south divide can widen, with many Southern states already resenting giving more to central taxes and receiving less in comparison (via Finance Commission).
- Demands for splitting up large states like UP can increase to check their political weightage.
- Like the demonstrations seen in 1960s against use of Hindi solely as official language, protest against delimitation revision can be seen as well.

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## Way Forward

- Strengthening Rajya Sabha to truly function as Council of States
- Increasing states' share from central divisible pool (eg: via Finance Commission, Reducing cess/surcharge).
- Inter-state dialogue to iron out differences
- Transparent census & delimitation process.

Covid has already delayed 2020-21 census, and with 2026 fast approaching, delimitation is a sensitive issue in need to delicate handling.

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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

A-324 empowers Election Commission to conduct free & fair elections in the country.

Role of Supreme Court (SC)

* Recently, SC issued guidelines for a 3 member committee (PM, LoP, CJI) to appoint CEC. This was done to ensure independence of CEC.

However, a bill has been introduced to change this composition to PM, PM nominated Cabinet minister & LoP. Thus, it remains a dynamic issue as of now.

* RPA 1951, which deals with qualification & disqualification of members of legislatives, is enforced via SC. For eg, in Lily Thomas case, SC ruled no stay on disqualification while appeal is pending in higher courts.

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* SC has also pulled up executive & legislature wrt- criminalisation of politics. It has issued guidelines wrt declaration of criminal cases, educational qualifications, asset etc of contesting candidates. This has brought greater transparency in the election process.

* The SC has also dealt with challenges raised to EC reforms, like introduction of NOTA and use of EVMs. The SC ruled in favor of EC and upheld their constitutional validity.

* SC has also facilitated reforms like postal voting for certain ~~sec~~ groups of people (service personnel, those over 80 years of age etc).

* SC has taken proactive steps to conduct elections in violence hit areas (eg: left-wing extremism) by directing govt to provide adequate security to EC officials.

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While many steps have been taken.
many are pendg (eg: electroal bonds).

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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

India is a parliamentary form of govt, where the basic principle is the executive's responsibility to legislature.

Legislature as Check on Executive

- A-75 envisages executive's accountability to Lok Sabha.
- Motions like no-confidence motion, censure motion, adjournment motion etc
- Question hour, Zero hour
- Parliamentary committees like PAC, DRSC, Estimates Committee etc
- Passing of budget
- Passing of bills (through both Houses)
- Approval to emergency
- Check on ordinance making power

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## Declining Role of Parliament

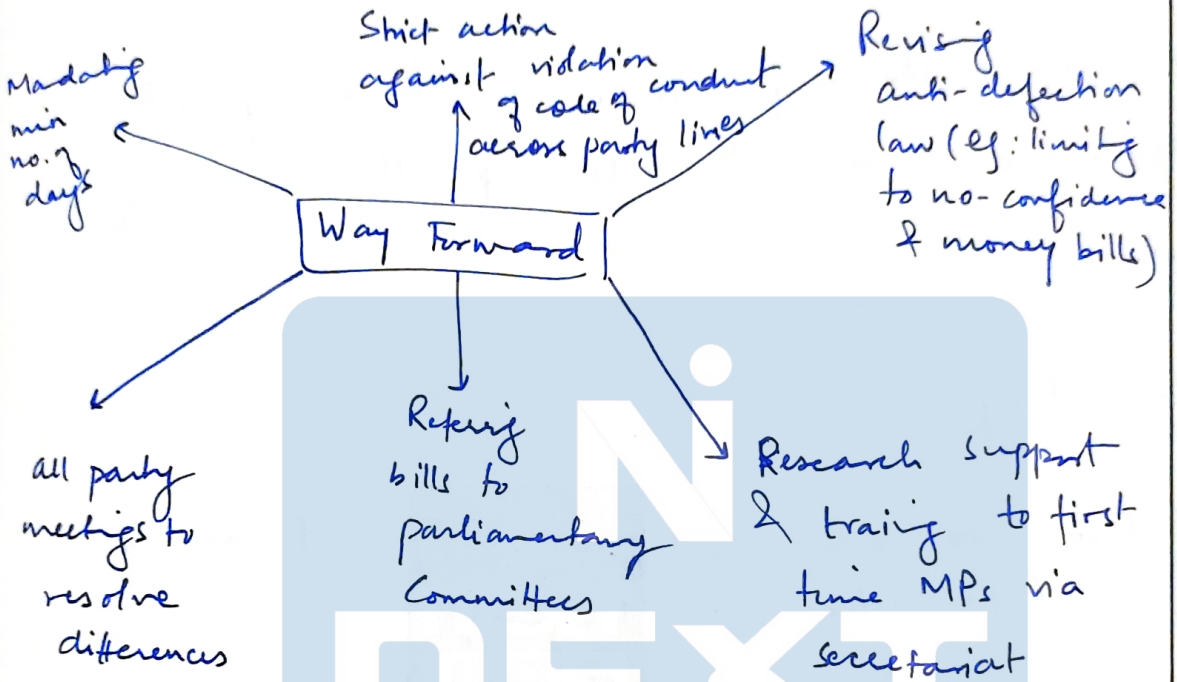
- Anti-defection law has undermined the role of individual MPs. As voting on all bills has to be along party lines (as issued by party whip), incentives to understand the issue has greatly declined. Quality of debates adversely affected.
- Frequent disruption leads to frequent adjournment by presiding officer.
- Partisan role of presiding officer (eg: not-admitting motions, delay in deciding on anti-defection complaints etc)
- No. of days the Parliament meets has nearly halved compared to 1950s.
- Code of conduct not followed by parliamentarians (eg: coming to the well, using chairs etc).
- Purpose of anti-defection law defeated by exploiting loopholes like delay in decision, entry via Rajya Sabha, winning in re-election etc. This lowers morale of honest parliamentarians.

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- No research support to MPs for framing bills, understanding complex policy issues etc.



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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

(NCW)

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 is a statutory, quasi-judicial body set up in the 1990s to take up the cause of women.

Role Played

- Suo moto cognisance of cases against women (eg: violence in Manipur)
- Policy input wrt women specific laws & ~~sch~~ schemes (eg: POSH, POCSO, Maternity Benefit Act, Poshan Abhiyan etc).
- Avenue for receiving complaints and providing ~~con~~ counselling/rehabilitation to women in distress (eg: rise in complaints during covid lockdown).
- Actions against human trafficking, violence against women, domestic violence etc

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* Raising awareness of women issues & relevant laws among public via conferences, seminars and work shops.

However, it has limitations like being under executive influence, recommendatory nature, overlap with other bodies like NHRC, limited capacity to look after half the population of India etc.

## Elevation as Constitutional Body

* Elevation would increase its credibility, and possibly reduce the executive influence. However, more than assigning the tag of constitutional body, what aspects are assigned in the constitution is more important.

* If even after constitutional status, nature of advise is not changed to mandatory, or punitive powers to grant compensation to victims are not-

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accorded, not much chage will be seen on ground.

Thus, an audit of NCW is required, and based on its findings, relevant changes can be made (including granting constitutional status & other necessary powers).

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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

Transparency & accountability in governance have no real meaning without an effective grievance redressal mechanism.

Current Mechanisms

* With the adoption of e-governance, grievance redressal has also strengthened.

* CPGRAMS, (Ministry of Personnel) is an integrated online umbrella mechanism to lodge grievance against various depts & ministries. It has features like online tracking, option to appeal, giving feedback on resolution provided etc.

* Almost all ministry has also come up with an option to lodge grievances (eg: Income tax website).

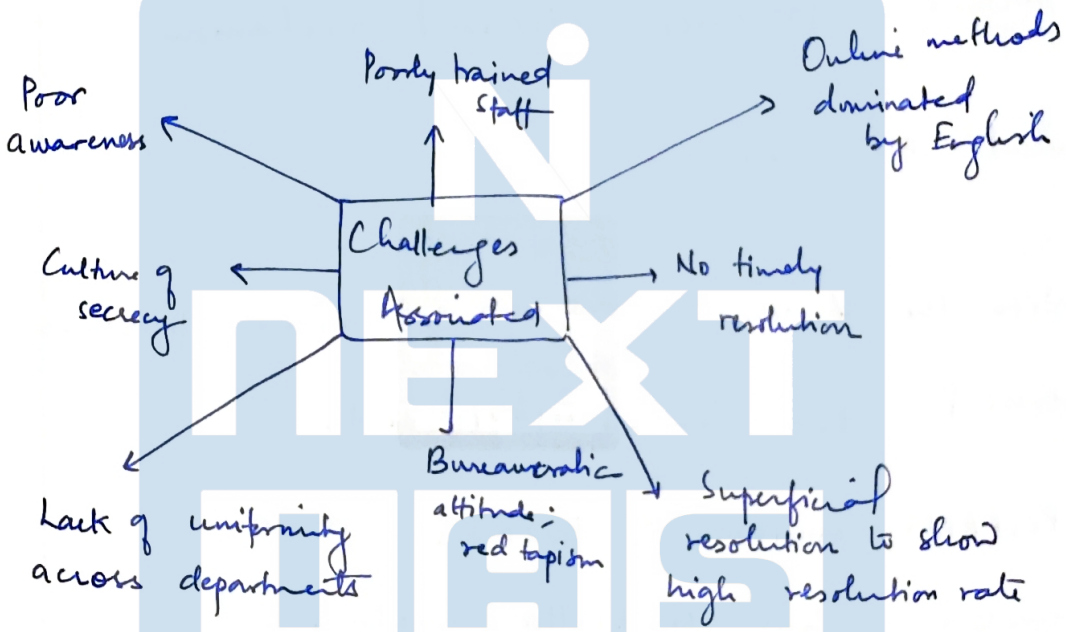
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- Ministries also have nodal officers which take up grievances lodged & assign them to relevant officer internally for resolution.

* RBI's ombudsman, SEBI's complaint registration are some examples of effective grievance resolution mechanisms in place.




## Suggested Measures

- Training of officer assigned with grievance redressal

- Effective citizen's charter, with highlighted method of how to lodge complaints

* Support to other languages

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- Time bound redressal
- Pyramid system, with conditions-met access to higher levels if lower officers are ineffective.

The recommendations of 2nd ARC are also relevant in this context.

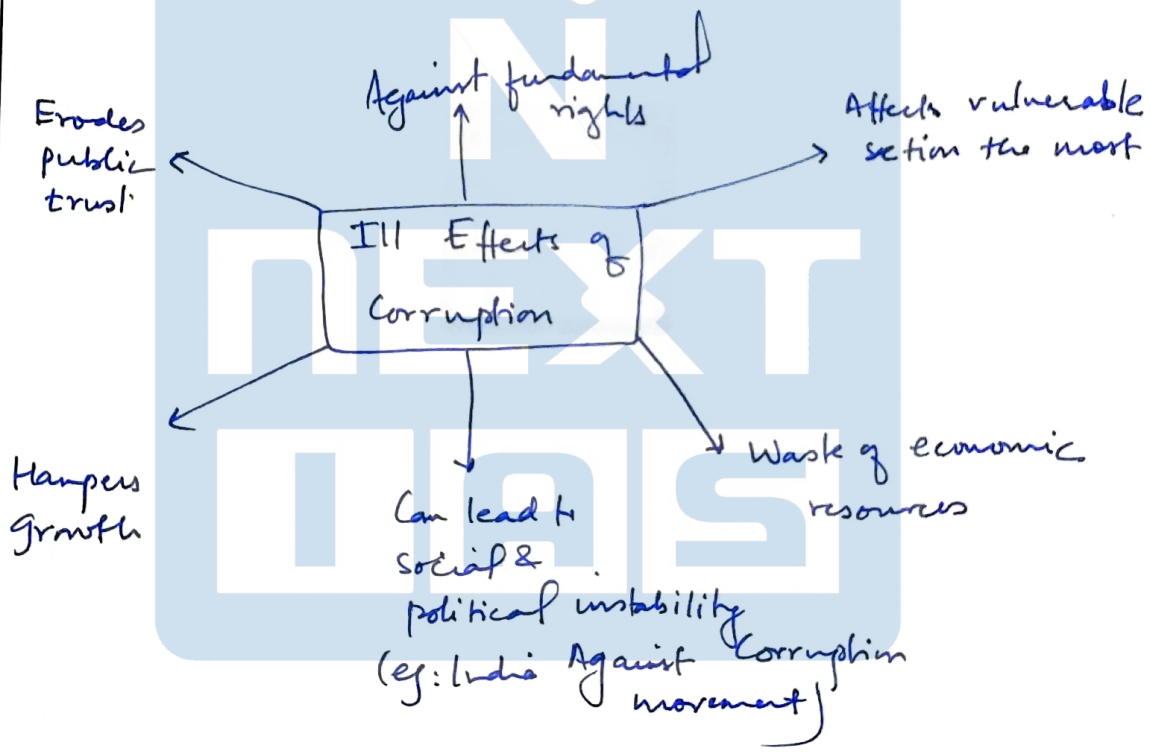
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17. 'भ्रष्टाचार शासन के ताने–बाने को जर्जर कर देता है, जिससे लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में जनता का विश्वास कम हो जाता है।' भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी शासन या व्यवस्था की प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम, व्हिसलब्लोअर संरक्षण अधिनियम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

Corruption is use of public office for private gains acc to Transparency International. India ranks low in its index as well.




Harmonising RTI, WBPA, Lokpal Act

* Often activists and journalists filing inconvenient RTI applications are threatened, harassed, even murdered. Providing them automatic protection under

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WBPA can check this chilling effect while exposing wrong-doers.

- No anonymous complaints are allowed under Lokpal & Lokayukta (LLA) Act. Either allowing anonymous complaints with reasonable supporting evidence, or providing protection under WBPA will strengthen it as well.

- ~~Expose~~ ~~Rev~~ Corruption unearthed via RTI applications should be linked with ~~to~~ LLA, so that a complaint can be filed based on prima-facie evidence. This ensures no delay and no opportunity to the accused to ~~tamper~~ with evidence.

- Those seeking protection under WBPA can also be linked to RTI & LLA for furthering their case and collecting more evidence.

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Thus, there is a need to look at anti-corruption laws & institutions in a holistic manner so that synergies are created, instead of loopholes which are exploited by corrupt officials.

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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 voluntary formation of like minded individuals based on common interest and objectives. Their coming together gives them scale and bargaining power.

Benefits & Challenges

⇒ * Skill Development: Traing of SHGs can be arraged since they are a small group and are usually looking to undertake some form of self-employment. They are usually the small poor, who dont have land or employment opportunities.

However, ensuring a feasible number, geography, literacy levels are a challenge.

For eg, skill development of tribals to undertake their craft in the modern context (eg: embroidery on modern shirts)

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Entrepreneurship : SHGs can also be encouraged to undertake their own business. They can be made aware of govt. schemes like SHG - Bank linkage, NABARD schemes or Mudra loans.

However, sometimes poor repayment of loans can lead to apathy of bank officials. Other challenges are lack of understanding of market demand, supply chain linkages etc. Relevant skill training may be required. CSR can also be roped in.

Income Generation Both skill training & entrepreneurship should ultimately lead to income generating activities to overcome poverty in a sustainable way. Availability of microfinance, along with ensuring peer pressure to check defaults, can ~~ether~~ make interventions successful.

✓ SHGs like SEWA, Kudumbshree, Lijjat Papad and more have been successful by capacity building of SHG members, and

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a push start in the form of credit/ loans initially.

Leveraging panchayats to create a conducive atmosphere for SHGs can also be a potential solution.

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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 स्मार्ट 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

India is renowned for its rich culture & heritage, which has given ~~its~~ it considerable soft power to further its interests.

Instruments of Soft Power Diplomacy

↓ India's culture, including festivals (Holi, Diwali), food (dosa, chhole bhature, Indian spices), music (classical, folk), dress (salwar, lehnga, kurta), art & craft (chikankari, banarsi saree, kanji silk sarees), tribal craft (madhubani paintings) and more all recognised world ~~wor~~ over.

↓ ⊖ India's diaspora, largest in the world at 30 mil (including OCI card holders) are present in almost every country. They have

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performed well and are known for their work ethics and assimilative attitude.

- India is world's largest democracy, and has defied naysayers ~~from~~ for the past 76 years. Though not without flaws, it has proven itself resilient and is a shining example among post colonial countries.

Thus, all 3 combined ~~are~~ hold great potential of soft power diplomacy. This was seen in India's G20 presidentship as well. Calls for mediation of Ukraine-Russia conflict is another example.

India as "Smart Power"

- India has emerged as an independent pole in the multipolar world order. It's a part of Quad as well as SCO/BRICS, it didn't take any sides in US-Iran and US-Russia conflicts, it remained neutral in Ukraine-Russia conflict as well.

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- In the Middle East also, it has good relations with Iran, Arab countries & Israel.
- India has good will in its neighbourhood (Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bdesh).
- India has also made strides in Africa, Southeast Asia and east Asia.
- India - Australia recently signed economic agreement.
- India has longstanding relations with France, UK and Germany.
- Though not a party to NPT / NSG, India is widely recognised as a responsible nuclear power, with civil nuclear deal with many countries (US, France, Canada etc).

Thus, India has leveraged its soft power & hard power both to establish strong relations with almost every country of importance. Border conflicts with Pakistan and China being exception.

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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 relationship is multi-faceted and has received great impetus recently.

+ Both India - Aus have shared values like respect for democracy & rule based world order. This has also opened up opportunities for collaborating on ensuring an inclusive Indo-Pacific (eg: Quad, Supply Chain Resilience Initiative)

+ India - Aus have recently signed an economic agreement aimed at increasing bilateral trade and investment.

+ There is congruence over the issue of climate change.

+ India - Aus have strong people-to-people connections as well (eg: cricket). India is also a major source country for students to Australia. There is considerable presence of Indian diaspora as well in Australia.

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- Australia provides minerals to India, while India exports IT services, automobiles, textiles, petroleum products and more.

- India & Australia both have good bilateral relations with countries like USA, Japan, UK, Canada, which makes collaboration easier.

- Australia too has strategic concerns with China (eg: ban on 5G) while having strong trade dependency on it. India is in a similar position, which is ~~the~~ a major factor of strategic partnership.

Friction Points

- Australia's demand of milk based exports has met with resistance in India (eg: RCEP of ASEAN).

- Lack of consensus over cross-border data flows rules.

- India's demand of free movement of skilled professional (export of services) has met with resistance in Australia.

- Attacks on Indian diaspora

- Activities of Khalistani insurgents in Australia (eg: attack on Indian offices)

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- AUKUS forcing on transfer of nuclear submarines to Australia by US - UK has left- India out.
- Bilateral trade below potential.

Thus, India-Aus partnership has great potential and active efforts are needed towards this end.