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Name of Candidate : ARFA USMANI

Roll No. : PTTP 221371

Registration Number : ..... Date of Examination : 19/08/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☑

Test - 2 (GS2) **Code : TC072**

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			
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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Q.1 जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 8 में उल्लिखित निर्योग्यता प्रावधानों में उपस्थित अस्पष्टता का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

There is a need to resolve the ambiguity in the disqualification provisions under section 8 of the Representation of People Act 1951. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Section 8 of RPA 1951 deals with disqualification on grounds of corruption (sec 123) for elected MPs and MLAs.

* The acts of corruption include bribery; arousing enmity b/w groups of people on grounds of cast, religion etc, using undue methods to influence elections, booth captrue among others.

* Once an election petition is filed and the court decides in favor of corruption charges, the matter is formarded to President who has to disqualify the winning candidate (with consultation of ECI).

* Thus, there is ambiguity in the provn, as there in no immediate disqualification.

* There is also scope to expand list of offence under sec 123 to include offences like filing false affidavit, fake news, hate speech etc.

* Stay on disqualification on grounds of appeal has been removed by the SC in Lily Thomas case.

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Thus, a comprehensive overview of disqualification under sec 8 is required to make elections free and transparent and maintain public trust.

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Q.2 संविधान मात्र एक कंकाल है जबकि संविधानवाद लोकतंत्र की आत्मा है। विवेचना कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Constitution is a mere skeleton whereas constitutionalism is the soul of democracy. Discuss.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Constitution is the body of semi-fixed basic laws that decide the distribution of powers in a state, along with checks & balances, type of govt system and more.

* Constitutionalism, in contrast, is the ideology and spirit of a democracy, where adherence to constitution and principles of natural law is followed more in substance and spirit than a mere superficial compliance.

* Ambedkar too had famously remarked on this when he said that even a bad constitution is better than a seemingly good constitution when in the hands of right people.

* For eg. the constitution of USA vs China. More than the text, it is the society and people running it which influence the ground reality.

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* UK is a functioning liberal democracy for centuries, without a written constitution, again an eg of constitutionalism.

Thus, constitutionalism is a more comprehensive concept, which shows principles like respect for law and due process. The SC in India too has expanded on this (eg: DC Wadhwa case on ~~re~~ repromulgation of ordinances).

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Q.3 'चुनावी बॉण्ड एक दोधारी **तलवार** है, जो दानकर्ताओं को अनामिता प्रदान करता है जबकि राजनीतिक वित्तपोषण में पारदर्शिता के बारे मे चिंताएँ **बढ़ाता** है।' चुनावी बॉण्ड ने किस सीमा तक चुनावी वित्तपोषण में अपारदर्शिता को वैध बना दिया है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Electoral bonds are a **double**-edged sword, providing anonymity to donors while raising concerns about transparency in **political** funding." To what extent have electoral bonds further legitimized opacity in electoral funding? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Electoral bonds, introduced in 2018, is a major structural change in the election funding landscape of India.

Features

* Anonymous bonds can be bought for political donation from govt-designated SBI in denominations of ₹ 1000, 10k, 1L, 10L, 1Cr.
* They normally only open for fixed days in Jan and every 4th month thereupon.
* Time bound ~~en~~ cashification of bonds is reqd by parties.

Legitimised opacity

* Identity of donor is concealed. However, SBI being a PSB, scholars have raised concerns on govt's access to such data.
* Limit on corporated funding has been removed. ∴ Coupled with opacity, this raises concerns of vested interest influencing policy making.

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~~For~~ From Lens of Reform

* Electoral bonds have also brought in an element of formalisation of election funding. There exists a digital trail. This will also help in checking flow of black money (via cash) in funding.

* ~~To~~ Time bound encashing brings an element of level playing field among political parties (no reserves can be built up).

Concerns of ECI & RBI raised wrt electoral bonds need to be looked into for further reforms in election funding of India.

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Q.4 समान नागरिक संहिता पर बहस के केंद्र में लैंगिक समानता का प्रश्न है। इस आलोक में यूसीसी को संविधान में निहित लैंगिक समानता के साथ सामंजस्य स्थापित करने में क्या चुनौतियाँ हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The question of gender equality is central to the debate on Uniform Civil Code. In this light what are the challenges in reconciling UCC with gender equality as enshrined in the constitution?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

UCC, mentioned in DPSP, has been a long standing issue of debate in India. It holds great potential of social reform and gender equality, but needs a very delicate handling.

UCC & Gender Equality

* Women rights like in inheritance will become equal to that of men across India.
* Other issues like dowry, divorce rights, marriage, adoption of will also be affected desirably by UCC.
* The question of LGBTQ is also undecided (eg: marriage rights).

Challenges As in Constitution

* Articles 25-28, which give religious freedom, is the major hurdle. Many gender unjust laws are draped under tradition and religious practices (eg: hijab, temple entry in Sabrimala

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* Indian concept of positive secularism, further enlarged by SC via the doctrine of essential practices, will also lead to questioning of constitutional legitimacy of UCC.

* The balance b/w FRs & DPSP is tricky, and the SC will likely be the final adjudication authority in this tussle as well.

Not just UCC, entire India's legal system needs a relook from the lens of gender equality (eg: gender neutral language is absent).

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Q.5 'राज्यपाल का कार्यालय न तो आलंकारिक है और न ही अप्रासंगिक है, यह गहन सारयुक्त संवैधानिक भूमिका निभाता है' राज्यपाल, किसी राज्य के शासन में किस सीमा तक सक्रिय रूप से योगदान देता है और देश में संघवाद के सिद्धांतों को सुदृढ करता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

'The Governor's office is neither decorative nor inconsequential, it assumes a constitutional role of profound essence' To what extent does the Governor, actively contribute to the governance of a state and reinforce the principles of federalism in the country? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

The office of Governor is an important constitutional part. She is appointed by the President and remains in office & as long as she holds Presidents' pleasure.

Decorative Role

* The Governor has to perform his wide ranging functions on the aid & advise of CoM, a fact made clear by SC as well in various cases.

* However, his discretionary powers are greater than that of Presidents'.

Active Role

* Can dissolve the assembly if the CM has lost majority.

* Discretionary powers in appointing CM in case of hung verdict.

* Can report to President for imposition of Presidents' rule under A-356.

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* Can reserve State bills for considerat^n by President.

~~* F~~ Governor & Federalism

* Enhanced powers in 5th and 6th Schedule areas (eg: reporting on law & orders to President, constitution of Tribal Advisory Council).

* Governor acts as link b/w Centre and State governments. However, the friction when parties in power are different has been present since 1960s.

* Provisions like reserving bills for President have been allegedly misused acc to State govts (eg: Tamil Nadu's NEET bill)

India is a federal state with unitary bias, and committees like Sarkaria & Punchhi hold answers on balancing this ~~trea~~ tricky endeavor.

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Q.6 हाल ही में एक राज्य में सामाजिक जवाबदेही कानून बनाने को लेकर माँग उठ रही है. इस तरह का कानून किस प्रकार सुशासन की ओर ले जा सकता है और निर्णय लेने में नागरिकों की भागीदारी को कैसे बढ़ावा दे सकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Recently demand has been rising in a state regarding the enactment of Social Accountability Law. How such a law can lead to good governance and boost citizens' participation in decision-making. Comment.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Social accountability includes audit of govt- schemes by beneficiaries. Meghalaya already has such a laws, while MGNREGA also includes provision of social audit by Gram Sabha. Recently some other states have also seen such demand rising.

Social Accountability

* It leads to good governance by bringing transparency and accountability. Information wrt- funds allocated, spent-, functionaries involved etc are made available to citizens.

* This also provides feedback, which improves the design of policies.

* Social audit involves citizens, and increases their capacity. This has ripple effects to local governance and civil society participation.

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Thus, Social accountability should become part of good policies. However, hijacking of the process by ~~local~~ Social elites or vested interests need to be looked out-for.



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Q.7 भारत में बाल कुपोषण से प्रभावी ढंग से निपटने के लिए 'पोषण–विशिष्ट' और 'पोषण–संवेदनशील' कार्यक्रमों को अभिसरित करने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

There is a need for convergence of 'nutrition-specific' and 'nutrition-sensitive' interventions to effectively tackle child undernutrition in India. Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Child undernutrition as highlighted by figures of under-5 children suffering from anemia, stunting, wasting and underweights in NFHS-5 is a grave problem with ramifications for future if not effectively handled.

Convergence of Schemes

- The grain-emphasis in PDS needs to incorporate a richer nutrient profile as well (eg: millets, rice fortification)

- Mid day meal in schools need protein inclusion via eggs/ bananas/ chikkis as seen in some states.

- Early childhood care & edn, via Anganwadis need more focus and infusion of funds. Also, effective implementation of NEP in this regard is also required.

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* Schemes of maternal care (eg: Janani Suraksha Yojana) are also step in right direction.

* Special focus is needed on girl child to tackle social challeges of gender discrimination. Esp after covid, efforts are needed to bring out-of-school girls back & prevent Child marriages.

Child undernutrition is a grave problem, and social, economic & political measures all are needed to work in tandem.

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Q.8 ग्रामीण गरीबी उन्मूलन की धुरी मनरेगा, राजकोषीय उदासीनता का शिकार हो गया है।" हालिया घटनाक्रम के आलोक में कथन का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"MGNREGA, the lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation, has become the victim of fiscal apathy." Critically analyze the statement in light of recent developments. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

MGNREGA, which provides 100 days of unskilled labor to every rural HH has been a landmark legislation ✓. It is a demand driven model, and has given right to work a legal backing for the 1st time.

Positive Effects

- Contained rural-urban migration.
- Insurance against poverty
- Increased female participation
- Creation of durable assets (eg: water conservation)
- Strengthened local governance.
- Employment in off-season of agriculture
- Increase in expenditure on edu & health
- Introduced social audit by Gram Sabha.

~~Negative of~~ Shortfalls

- Low allocation of funds has been a major problem. This ~~has~~ is seen in the increased allocation by crore in revised estimates.

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- Delay in disbursal of funds by centre/state, effectively delaying salary to workers.
- Mandating biometric attendance (twice a day) has led to problems because of lack of smartphones, connectivity etc.
- Corruption and leakage due to cash disbursal of salaries. In areas of DBT, problem of accessing banks (far, or servers down etc).
- 100 days, as mandated, not provided in many states.

However, the surges in demand in Covid is telling of the faith people hold in MGNREGA, and it provided a cushion for many families.

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Q.9 "भारत को इसका लाभ उठाना चाहिए, यदि प्रबंधन नहीं किया गया तो वैश्विक विभाजन हो जाएगा।" वर्तमान भू–राजनीतिक मंथन वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत के उत्थान का मार्ग कैसे प्रशस्त कर सकता है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"India must leverage, if not manage, the global divides". How can the current geopolitical churn pave the way for India's rise to the global high table? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

The world, since the downfall of USSR, had been unipolar around USA. However, recent developments have led to a churn, with many opportunities for India.

India's Rise Potential

- The strategic competition b/w USA and China has increased India's importance for USA, as seen in recent agreements on jet tech transfer and wide ranging agreements of tech between India - USA. India needs to leverage this without losing its strategic autonomy.

- Russia-Ukraine conflict has also opened opportunities for India to emerge on the global high table by playing a key role in negotiations (leveraging strong ties with both, Russia and the west).

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* The world's focus on Indo-Pacific, and containing China's aggressiveness in South China Sea is also an opportunity if managed strategically. Increasing partnership with Japan, Australia & South East Asia are a case-in-point. (eg: Quad)

* USA-Iran conflict also opens a door for India to play ~~as a~~ the role of a mediating party.

* Reconciliation b/w Arab countries & Israel (Abraham accords) is also favorable for India, for it has good relations with all (I2C2).

India's non-alignment has effectively transformed to multi-alignment on issue basis, and needs to be leveraged going forward as well.

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Q.10 "बर्लिन यूरोपीय संघ में भारत के लिए प्रवेश द्वार हो सकता है।" यूरोपीय संघ के साथ भारत के संबंधों में जर्मनी के महत्त्व के बारे में विस्तारपूर्वक वर्णन कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Berlin can be India's gateway to the European Union." Elaborate with respect to Germany's significance in India's relationship with the EU. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

After Brexit, Germany and France have gained more prominence in India's foreign policy to further enahance its relationship with EU.

* Germany's Significance in EU Relationship

- Trade relationship b/w India - Germany is robust, and it can play a key role in ironing out differences in India - EU FTA.
- Focus and thrust on containg climate change is common, and via Germany, mobilisation of relevant funds & tech transfer can be accelerated.
- Energy trade, in the context of Russian sanctions has also gained prominence (eg: increase in oil imports from India)
- Germany has significant no. of Indian diaspora & students and that can act as a link.
- All 3 share the common goal of containg China's aggression (eg: ban of Chinese telecom companies)

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* Germany being the largest economy of EU, and its robust relations with India are both favorable points.

* India-EU collaboration of emerging issues like regulation of cryptoassets, cross-border data follows, combating terrorism, money laundering, war against opium etc. all can be channelled via Germany.

Thus, Germany has double significance for India, both as an independent partner and for EU.

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Q.11 दल–बदल विरोधी कानून ने भारत में राजनीतिक दलों और वैयक्तिक विधायकों/सांसदों के बीच संबंधों को कैसे प्रभावित किया है? हाल की घटनाओं के आलोक में भारत में लोकतंत्र की प्रकार्यात्मकता पर इस कानून के अनपेक्षित परिणामों की भी चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How has the Anti-Defection Law impacted the relationship between political parties and individual legislators in India? In light of the recent incidents also discuss the unintended consequences it has on the functioning of democracy in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

The Anti-Defection Law (52nd Amendment Act of 1985) was introduced to check the menace of political defections in the country ("aaya Ram gaya Ram"). However, more than 3 decades of its operation has led to many unintended issues.

Anti-Defection and Political Parties & legislators

* Political parties control over legislators have increased manifold. They issue whips which have to be adhered (eg: voting on bills). This has greatly reduced individual autonomy of legislators, affecting their interest and reducing the quality of debate.

* Bipartisan voting has all but disappeared. Voting is entirely along party lines.

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Even in US Congress, Cross voting is regularly seen in the Senate.

* Election to Legislative Council, Rajya Sabha is also dictated by party by issuing whips.

Unintended Consequences

* Since presiding officer is the deciding authority on disqualification, delay in decision making is seen (∵ presiding officer belongs to ruling party)

* The scope of anti-defection is not just limited to No-Confidence Motions & money bills. Thus, every bill sees voting along party lines.

* The menace of political defection still exists (eg: Maharashtra) by exploiting loop holes like delayed decision making, re-wining of candidates, etc.

* The advent of "resort politics" when election results are declared are a case-in-point.

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Two, certain reforms like limiting scope of anti-defection, a time-bound decision making on disqualification, decision by neutral authority and more are needed to check the corrupt practice of political defection w/o affecting the quality of democracy.

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Q.12 आलोचकों का दावा है कि असीमित न्यायिक अधिकार मूल ढाँचा सिद्धांत की संरचनात्मक अस्पष्टता पर निर्भर है। क्या मूल ढाँचा सिद्धांत की लोचदार प्रकृति ने न्यायपालिका को कार्यपालिका से अधिक शक्तिशाली बना दिया है?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Critics assert that limitless judicial authority rests on the structural ambiguity of the basic structure doctrine. Has the elastic nature of the basic structure doctrine made the judiciary more powerful than the executive?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

The judicial innovation of the ~~doctrine~~ doctrine (BS) of basic structure emerged from the 13 bench judgment of SC in Kesavanda Bharati case in 1973. Since then, it has been a contentious issue.

* The BS doctrine puts a limit on Constitution amending power of Parliament as envisaged under article 368. Acc to BS, the parliament can't amend the Constitution such that its ~~bas~~ BS is altered.

* The SC has not defined or provided an exhaustive list of what constitutes BS. ~~One~~ Through case by case basis, features like ~~bt~~ balance b/w FR & DPSP, judicial overview, secularism, federalism etc have emerged as BS.

* All amendments ∵ 1 Apr 1973 can be questioned in court on the basis of alleged

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violation of BS.

* Thus, the ambiguity in the BS doctrine, along with the constitutional courts being the final authority, there have been concerns of limitless judicial authority.

Judiciary more Powerful?

* First, the very doctrine of BS can be overruled by a 15 judge bench of SC. Thus, it is a very dynamic space.

* The judiciary has shown restraint in exercising powers under BS, and only essential features have been included in the list.

* The executive too has various controls over judiciary. ~~Ei~~ The ongoing tussel in courts over appointments can also lead to a re-negotiation of power of balance between the 2.

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So far, the BS doctrine has served India well, and even the executive and legislature have agreed and ~~ag~~ adjusted to this framework. Neither of the 3 have limitless powers, and all operate harmoniously within the Constitution.

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Q.13 मौलिक अधिकार राज्य द्वारा प्रदत्त उपहार नहीं हैं बल्कि एक व्यक्ति उन पर राज्य से स्वतंत्र रूप से अधिकार रखता है। इस संदर्भ में विभिन्न मौलिक अधिकारों पर युक्तियुक्त निर्बंधन की वांछनीयता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Fundamental rights are not gifts bestowed upon by the state rather an individual possesses them independently of the state. In this context discuss the desirability of reasonable restrictions on various fundamental rights.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

(FR)

As the name suggests, "fundamental" rights evolved in the political theory of democratic states from the likes of John Rawls who argued that they are intrinsic to human beings, and are required for their liberty and attainment of potential. The American Constitution was the pioneer through its "Bill of Rights" in the 19th century.

* FRs include rights like speech & expression, movement, profession, religious freedom, protection from legal persecution. They are thus independent of state in a liberal democracy. In a liberal democracy, by definition, these rights are to be endowed.

* Most democracies of 21st century have too codified these laws for clarity and effectiveness.

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Reasonable Restrictions

* However, none of these FRs are absolute. The doctrine of social contract theory postulates that an individual gives up some of these rights when he decides to leave the jungle and comes to live in an organised society. For eg. freedom of speech cannot include hate speech or incitement to violence.

* Some rights are also to be balanced against collective welfare (eg: national security).

* In ensuring the same FRs to all, a certain compromise is needed. For eg. right to speech can't violate another's right to exist in silence.

Thus, in view of this, our constitution makes too imposed reasonable restrictions to FRs. The SC

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has also upheld their constitutionality. No country in the world provides absolute rights. However, potential misuse of such restrictions by the executive is a concern. (eg: preventive detention laws and low conviction rates in them).

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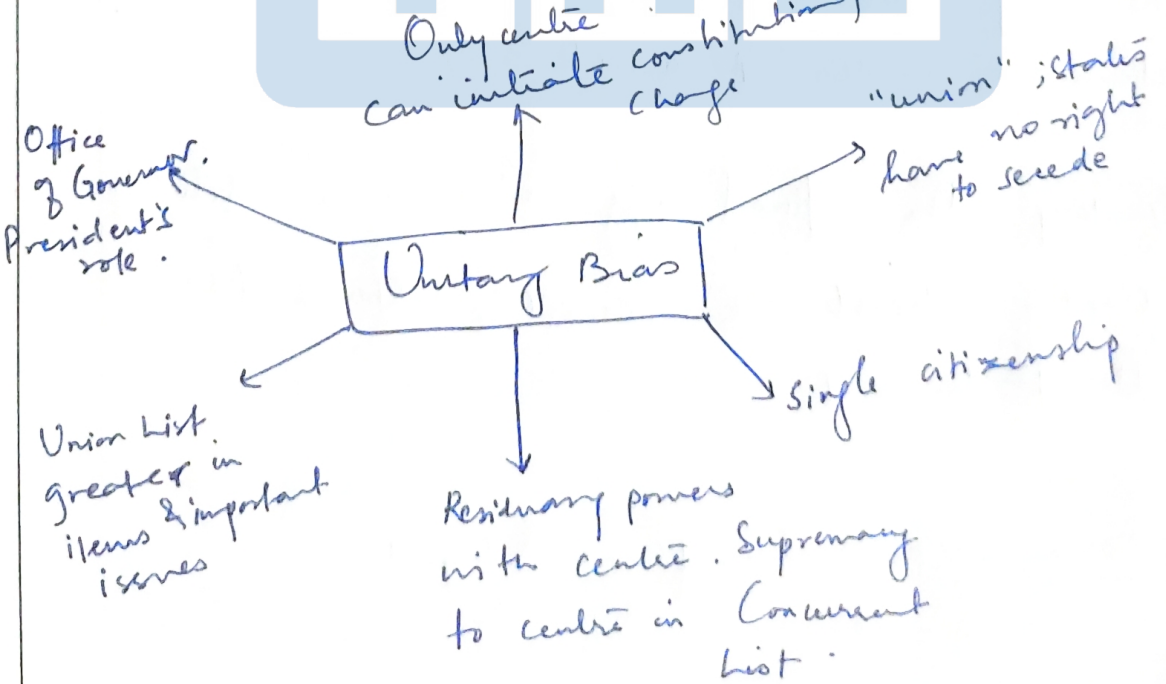
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Q.14 'एस.आर. बोम्मई बनाम भारत संघ मामले ने संघ द्वारा किसी राज्य के प्रशासन पर नियंत्रण ग्रहण करने के संघ के अधिकार की न्यायिक व्याख्या में एक आदर्श बदलाव का संकेत दिया।' इस संदर्भ में संघीय ढाँचे को मजबूत करने पर निर्णय के महत्त्व और प्रभाव पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'S.R. Bommai v. Union of India signified a paradigm shift in the judicial interpretation of the union's authority to assume control of a state's administration.' In this context discuss the significance and impact of the judgement on cementing the federal structure. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Indian constitution has envisaged a federal State keeping in view India's mind-boggling diversity, albeit with a unitary bias.





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Union Controlling the States

* Via President's Rule. The late 1970s saw the suspension of state govts with change in party at centre.
* Via the office of Governor (eg: delaying assent to bills by President)
* Fiscal federalism is skewed in centre's favor (via Finance Commission). Advent of GST has led to states lose some of their economic sovereignty.
* Union can issue directions to state under article 365.
* The very existence of states is owed to parliament under article 3.
* Similarly, the final say in case of abolishing or creating legislative concil of states lies with Parliament.

SR Bommai case : Significance & Impact

* It is a landmark case in the history of Indian federalism. It included federalism as a basic structure, thus beyond parliament's

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constitutional amendment perview.

* The court ~~dire~~ laid clear guidelines for imposition of President's rule. Causes like "maladministration" was removed. The court also directed ~~Parties~~ centre to show restrain in invoking this article (only as last resort).

* The instances of President's rule have come ~~tow~~ down drastically since the judgement, even though there is political friction b/w centre and opposition governed state.

* The office of governor was also advised to conduct in a way becoming of such a high post, and embodying the principles of federalism.

Thus, SR Bommai case helped ~~in~~ shape Indian federalism in a healthy manner.

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Q.15 प्रभावी विकेंद्रीकरण की कुँजी यह है कि राजनीतिक विकेंद्रीकरण को वित्त और प्रकार्यात्मक विकेंद्रीकरण का अनुगमन करना चाहिए। भारत में स्थानीय शासन के समक्ष आने वाली बाधाओं के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The key to effective decentralization is, 'political decentralization should follow finance and functional decentralization'. Discuss in the context of impediments faced by local governance in India.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Local governance, though constitutionalised by 72nd & 73rd amendment acts, face impediments in effective discharge of their duty due to many factors.

Political Decentralisation

* Part IX (Panchayats) and IXA (municipalities) lay down detailed provisions for the 3rd tier of govt ©. It contains provisions like State Election Commission, State Finance Comission, Conduct of elections & more.

* However, it contains them under 2 heads, voluntary and mandatory. While mandatory provisions have created reliable institutions of local governance, low adoption of voluntary provisions by states have hindered their effectiveness.

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Finance Decentralisation

- >90% of funds come from state & centre devolution, grants etc. There is a need to increase own revenue. Funds from higher levels of govt are often tied to projects, a "one size fits all" approach.
- Own revenue can be increased by charging fee for services provided, effective collection of property tax, more devolution of powers by state, by issuing masala bonds and more.
- Innovative methods like crowd funding and CSR is also required.

Functional Decentralisation

- Subjects listed under 11th and 12th schedule have not been devolved by states.
- Lack of skill training to candidates elected (eg: first time winners, esp women)

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* Lack of gender sensitisation traing, esp in rural areas, hinder functioning of women.
* Political interfence
* Bureaucratic maze of BDO, district office etc.
* Treatment like vote-bank instead of treating like opportunities for effective governance.

Local governance, by design, holds great potential to transform the quality of life of citizens. Meaningful devolution is a pre-requisite for this.

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Q.16 सामूहिक विशेषज्ञता और नेटवर्क (संजाल) का लाभ उठाने के लिए बहु-हितधारक साझेदारी महत्त्वपूर्ण है। भारत में सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (एसडीजी) की प्राप्ति में तेजी लाने के लिए प्रभावी साझेदारी और स्थानीयकृत कार्यान्वयन प्रयासों को कैसे बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are the key to leveraging collective expertise and networks. How can effective partnership and localized implementation efforts be fostered to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

~~SDGs, laid~~ unanimously u

SDGs, agreed upon unanimously by the world via UN, includes 17 noble goals like no poverty, edu, health and more to be achieved by 2030.

* The goals are interconnected to a great deals, and positive feedback loops will help in achieving them.

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

* The goals are too ambitions to be achieved by govt alone. Market & civil society both need to be roped in for their expertise and networks.

* The amount of fundig and execution capacity required can only be met by bringig together all stakeholders (eg: PPP for executing infrastructure)

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* Effective Partnership

→ Partnerships are required at all levels to create synergy. World Bank working with State govt to improve education outcome is a case-in-point.

→ Partnership b/w countries is also required. For eg, the massive investments required to shift to low carbon energy needs the active involvement of developed countries (eg: Paris Deal).

→ In India, partnership b/w all 3 levels of govt is required to remove duplication of efforts and streamline efforts (eg: competitive & collaborative federalism by NITI Aayog).

* Localised Implementation

→ Principle of subsidiarity ensures greatest outcome. A one-~~size~~ size-fit-all approach doesn't works. For eg, Rajasthan needs water management solution, while

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Uttarkhand needs to focus on landslides more.

→ local governance needs to be strengthened. Schemes like Smart City hold great potential, but structural changes are also needed (eg: financial devolution).

→ Involving local community, for they are direct stakeholders and also hold practical knowledge of the envt over the generations (eg: policy consultation; Envt Impact Assessment).

Thus, there is a need to look holistically at SDGs, while adopting principles like multi-stakeholder partnership. India has taken steps in this direction, as evident throughout the state-wise ranks released by NITI Aayog.

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Q.17 पी.ओ.एस.एच. अधिनियम के कार्यान्वयन से यौन उत्पीड़न के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने में सीमित सफलता ही क्यों मिली है, और किन कारकों ने असंगठित क्षेत्र में कार्यरत महिलाओं तक इसकी प्रभावी पहुँच में बाधा उत्पन्न की है? इस अंतर को पाटने और असंगठित क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के लिए कार्यस्थल पर उत्पीड़न के विरुद्ध व्यापक सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए रणनीतियाँ प्रस्तावित कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How has the implementation of the POSH Act resulted in limited success in raising awareness about sexual harassment, and what factors have hindered its effective outreach to women employed in the unorganized sector? Propose strategies to bridge this gap and ensure comprehensive protection for women in the unorganized sector against workplace harassment. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act, 2013 is a landmark legislation for women empowerment in India. It has the potential to increase economic participation of women while making the society a safe place for women.

Limited Success

* The ICC (Internal Complaint Committee) has not been constituted across organisations (eg: Wrestling federation of India).

* No protection of complaintant against retribution.

* Anonymity of complaintant has often been compromised, compromising their safety while having a chilling effect on future complaints.

* Time bound resolution found wanting. Reluctance in filing FIR by police.

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- Lack of understanding of what constitutes sexual harassment by members of ICC (eg: normalisation of casual "sexist" jokes)

Effectiveness In Unorganised Sector

- The unorganised sector has largely been left-outside the legislations ambit because of not meeting the threshold requirements of no. of workers.
- Lack of awareness is greater, both among employers and employees.
- Economic compulsion of females is greater, leading to exploitation.
- Lack of education, alternate employment, social factors etc are other reasons.

Women In Unorganised Sector

- A separate legislation/provision can be contemplated for unorganised sector keeping in view its unique requirements.
- Awareness campaigns in vernacular languages.

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Q18

* Separate govt body, or specialisation of NCW for ~~Comple~~ dealing with unorganised sector.

* Skilling of women in general, so that they have opportunities of alternate employment, and thus are not afraid to complain.

* Traing of mgmt constitutes sexual harassment to all (advertisements, workshops, etc).

* Surveys to collect data (eg: maid survey)

The women in unorganised sector face greater challenges, and a comprehensive approach is needed to understand and solve the problems like sexual harassment.

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Q.18 'नव–उदारवादी सुधारों और वैश्वीकरण ने कल्याणकारी राज्य की संस्थाओं को गहराई से बदल दिया है और एक नई प्रकार की सिविल सेवाओं के लिए आधार तैयार किया है।' इस संदर्भ में सेवा वितरण के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए और पर्याप्त सुधारों हेतु सुझाव दीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Neo-liberal reforms and globalization have deeply transformed the institutions of the welfare state and set the ground for a new type of civil services.' In this context examine the challenges faced in service delivery and suggest adequate reforms. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

In the last 3 decades, India has seen profound chages in its institutions of welfare State.

* The role of pvt sector has expanded, and greater economic freedom is granted (eg: abolishment of licuse-permit raj)

* Globalisation has solved some problems and brought some new challenges. FDI inflow has increased substantially, while also leading to greater Informalisation.

New Type of Civil Services

* The role e-governance has increased and set to grow (eg: online appointment fixing of Passport)

* While % income poverty has reduced, Infromatim poverty and hidden hunger has increased.

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- Question of sustainable development has gained importance.
- Disaster management has become part & parcel of civil service.
- Rapidly growing tech has necessitated staying up-to-date for effective policy formulation (eg: covid, blockchain, chatGPT)

Challenges in Service Delivery

- Digital illiteracy and digital divided (male-female, rural-urban, ~~SCs~~ SCs STs) pose challenge to adoption of e-service of delivery.
- Lack of legislation and regulation in emerging tech (eg: legality of crypto)
- Lack of infra (eg: servers down, lack of computer in lower courts)
- Rising trend of cyber crime and cyber attack.
- Threats related to data privacy and data leaks. No international law on norms of data localisation.

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Reforms Required

* Enhancing digital public infra (eg: Bharat Net)
* Capacity building of civil servants (eg: Mission Karmayogi)
* Leveraging tech to deliver services (eg: CPGRAMS, online filing of tax).
* Global discourse on problems via platforms like G20.

Thus, modern 21st century welfare States needs to be dynamic while maintaining the goal of effective service delivery to its citizens.

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Q.19 चीन भारत को अपने "एशियाई प्रतिद्वंद्वी" के रूप में देखता है जिसमें एशिया में उसके वर्चस्ववादी लक्ष्यों का मुकाबला करने की जन्मजात क्षमता है। भारत–चीन संबंधों में इन कठिनाइयों के बावजूद, अभिसरण के भी कई क्षेत्र हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

China views India as its "Asian Rival" with an innate ability to counter its hegemonistic goals in Asia. Despite these difficulties in India-China relations, there are also many areas of convergence. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

India - China relations have had ups and downs ever since the conflict of 1962. After relatively peaceful period and pacts of 1990-2015, there again have been rise in hostilities in 2017 (Doklam) and 2020 (Galwan).

Difficulties

* China views India as a South Asian power, and wants to contain its rise in the global world order (eg: veto in UNSC, blocking of NSG membership). This is adversial to India's ambitions of emerging an independent pole in the multipolar world.

* China has deployed systemic measures to contain India's regional rise.

→ Growing presence in Indian Ocean.

→ String of Pearls (ports in Pak, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Djibouti)

→ Strategic support to Pakistan ("all weather friend")

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→ Projects in Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh etc
→ Growing influence in Middle East (Iran), Central Asia (~~Iran~~ Afghanistan), Africa and South East Asia (eg: BRI).

* Unresolved border disputes (eg: claim of Arunachal Pradesh). Building roads & railways on borders.

* Checking India and supporting Pak-sponsored terrorism in organisations like SCO and UNSC.

Convergence

* Despite these difficulties, China has called for continued partnership by ~~setting~~ putting the issue of border dispute in its right place (a proposal rejected by India).

* China is India's largest import-~~origin~~ country, and bilateral trade is ~100B$. The ~~imp~~ trade has increased recently despite calls for boycott. The gap b/w export-import is also growing.

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* Global issues like climate change and tax evasion by multinationals have incentives aligned for both countries.

* Issue of South China Sea, presence in Indian Ocean can be solved through dialogue.

* Both countries have a shared past of colonial subjugation, and suffers from its aftermaths.

Thus, India-China relationship is complex, and their dynamics will largely determine Asia's growth story.

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Q.20 हालिया दिनों में हिंद–प्रशांत क्षेत्र अलग–अलग हितों और प्राथमिकताओं वाले क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है। चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि वैश्विक सुरक्षा पहल (GSI) इस क्षेत्र में क्वाड (QUAD) का स्थान ले लेगी

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Indo-Pacific region in recent times has emerged as a zone of diverging interests and priorities. Discuss. Do you think the Global Security Initiative will supersede QUAD in the region?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Indo-Pacific region, extending from east coast of Africa to South East-Asian region has emerged as an important sector in the world's geopolitics.

Reasons For Emergence

* China's growing aggression in the region, and especially in the South China Sea (SCS), is the main reason. China claims the entire SCS via its nine dash line, a claim refuted by Vietnam, Pihlippines, Taiwan & others.

* The region has also seen renewed interest by the US, who regular conducts freedom & navigation exercises in the region (often in collaboration with other litteral countries).

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- China's island disputes with Japan is also an issue.
- The Indo-Pacific is strategically located as well, with significant amount of trade going through the region (eg: Strait of Malacca, connecting Indian & Pacific Ocean).
- The region also holds significance wrt international law (eg: China's refusal to abide by arbitration courts' award; rules of UNCLOS; rules of mining resources in EEZ and international waters).
- China is among the largest trading partner of many South East-Asian & African Countries (including India), which further complicates response to its strategies like wolf-warrior diplomacy and salami slicing.

GSI vs Quad

- Quad is an alliance of USA, India, Japan & Australia. India has maintained that it is not a military alliance against any country, while China has dubbed it as "Asian NATO".

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- Quad has enlarged its agenda by including topics like Semiconductor, vaccine, climate change and trade.

- Global Security Initiative is an alliance led by USA, including Japan, Australia, South Korea and others. It is more assertive in its anti-China stance.

- Both organisations thus have their own separate existence, though some countries and areas of focus are common. The question of supersedig may not be relevant here.

Thus, the role of Indo-Pacific in the foreign policy of many countries is set to grow, and many collaborations may be seen in the future.