RECEIVED
01 SEP 2023

NEXT IAS

NEXT IAS (Head Office) : 27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar no. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro, New Delhi-110060
Bhopal Centre: Plot No. 46, ZONE-2, M.P. Nagar, Bhopal-462011
Ph: 8081300200, 8827664612 | E-mail : mts@nextias.com | **Web:** www.nextias.com

(To be filled by candidate)

Name of Candidate : Syed Adeel Mohsin

Roll No. : PTTP221113

Registration Number : ..... Date of Examination : 30/03/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☑

Test - 6

Code : TC708

RCA Batch 2023

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....

[To be filled by the STUDENT]

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

[To be filled by the EXAMINER]

Evaluator's response

(For filling by Examiners only)

Evaluator Code :

Q.No	Pg No.	Maximum Marks		Marks	Total
1	1				
2	3				
3	5				
4	7				
5	9				
6	11				
7	13				
8	15				
9	17				
10	19				
11	21				
12	24				
13	27				
14	30				
15	33				
16	36				
17	39				
18	42				
19	45				
20	48				
Grand Total					

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.

DONT'S

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question-cum-Answer Booklet.
2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any leaves from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

Candidates must not write on this margin

1. "अंतरराज्यीय सीमा विवाद, यदि शीघ्र और निष्पक्षतः नहीं सुलझाए गए, तो स्थायी विवादित मुद्दों में परिवर्तित हो सकते हैं जो विकास में बाधक बनते हैं और टकराव या संघर्ष उत्पन्न करते हैं"। अंतरराज्यीय विवादों को हल करने के लिए संवैधानिक और विधिक ढाँचे पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, स्पष्ट कीजिए कि स्वतंत्र भारत अंतरराज्यीय सीमा विवादों को सुलझाने में क्यों विफल रहा है। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Interstate border disputes, if not promptly and impartially settled, can transform into persistent issues that impede development and generate friction". Highlighting the constitutional and legal framework to resolve interstate disputes, explain why Independent India has failed to resolve inter-state border disputes. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

The recent instances of inter-state border disputes in case of Maharashtra and Karnataka, Assam & Mizoram among others shows that it can become a persistant issue.

If unaddressed it impedes development and generates friction between different states, hampers Co-operative federalism, damages fraternity & national integrity.

In this content legal and constitutional frameworks are :—

① original jurisdiction of Supreme

Candidates must not write on this margin

court to settle inter-state disputes.

(ii) Power of parliament under article 3 to redraw states boundaries to address disputes

(iii) Interstate councils, zonal councils, Conference of home ministers etc can also be used.

~~(v) to cases of SOR~~

(iv) Interstate disputes for water sharing
- ↳ River boards act
- ↳ article 262 etc.

Reasons for failure to resolve

(i) defunct inter state councils

(ii) Politicisation of issue.

(iii) delays in court cases → (e.g. Karnataka Maharashtra dispute)

(iv) haphazard boundaries
Special in North East states.

Thus there's a need for cooperative federalism & proactive use of existing framework to resolve such disputes.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. ऊर्ध्वाधर (केंद्र–राज्य) और क्षैतिज (अंतर–राज्य) अंतर–सरकारी सहयोग और समन्वय को बढ़ावा देने में अंतर–राज्य परिषद् की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Examine the role of the Inter-state Council in promoting vertical (Centre-State) and horizontal (Inter-State) Intergovernmental cooperation and coordination. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Inter state council under artule 262 provides for a platform for inter state deliberations & discussions over important issues.

Role in vertical cooperation

(i) brings together the central and state government

(ii) fosters cooperative federalism

(iii) helps in developing unified vision & unity of approach towards national development.

(iv) helps resolve disputes & conflicts between centre & states

(eg) used to develop consensus on GST.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(v) Provides platform for states collective grievance.

Role in foreign cooperation

(i) Can help address inter state disputes
   (e.g) border disputes.

(ii) Can promote cooperation in security issues
   (e.g) left wing extremism.

(iii) can help develop regional consensus
   (e.g) regarding issues of hill states.

(iv) it helps foster inter-state solidarity vis-a-vis centre to safeguard its rights.

However, ISCs face challenges such as irregular meetings (last in 2017) politicisation of meetings, lack of effective power etc - Thus need is to strengthen its mandate.

Candidates must not write on this margin

3. लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) के प्रमुख कार्यों पर चर्चा कीजिए। सार्वजनिक धन के सच्चे संरक्षक के रूप में इसकी प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए लोक लेखा समिति (पीएसी) में सुधार के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए?
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the key function of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). What steps should be taken to revamp the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in order to enhance its effectiveness as a true guardian of public funds?
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Public accounts Committee

is one of the three finance committee of the parliament. It was formed in 1921.

Key functions

(i) It examines all expenditure from the ~~Consolidet~~ Consolidated fund of India, Consolidated funds of States & UTs

(ii) Examines public account, Contingency fund of state and the union.

(iii) It examines accounts of all autonomous & semi autonomous bodies funded by the govt.

(iv) It examines reports of CAG.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Therefore its role is to act as guardian of public fund and to ensure parliamentary accountability but it faces several issues.

- only advisory role
- Postmortem nature of examination
- examines only limited no. of accounts
- absenteeism & irregular meetings.

These issues requires reforms.

Steps needed

(i) providing expert secretariat support.

(ii) ensuring regular meetings

(iii) extending duration from 1 year
↳ will allow members to specialise

(iv) members can be increased from 21 → will allow better coverage.

Thus effective Parliament - any oversight requires effective Committees

Candidates must not write on this margin

4. राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक विकास के चालक के रूप में नगरीकरण की अहम् भूमिका को स्वीकार करते हुए, पंद्रहवें वित्त आयोग ने शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) के लिए प्रमुख सुधारों का सुझाव दिया है। भारत में यूएलबी को बढ़ावा देने और पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए पंद्रहवें वित्त आयोग द्वारा दी गई सिफारिशों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Recognizing the pivotal role of urbanization as a driver of national economic growth, the Fifteenth Finance Commission has suggested major reforms for Urban Local Bodies. Evaluate the recommendations put forward by the Fifteenth Finance Commission in promoting and revitalizing ULBs in India.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

urbanization is the process of increasing urban population as well as of increase in number of cities.

driver of economic growth

↳ large contribution in GDP ~ 70%.

↳ large market ~ 37% of population

↳ large tax base

↳ supports industries, markets etc

15th FC reforms

↳ suggested ₹ seperate local body grants

Candidates must not write on this margin

↳ suggested performance linking of grants

↳ suggested use of financial instruments such as municipal bonds.

It can be helpful as

(i) promote financial decentralisation (ULB grants)

(ii) will promote self generation of resources eg Municipal bonds

(iii) enhance functionality & Performance

challenges

① govt dependency — 50% as govt.

② untrained staffs

③ less functional devolution

Steps required are ① shown in GST ② monetisation of municipal infrastructure ③ training of staffs.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

The parliamentary privileges (article 129) are special rights of the members of parliament, both individually & collectively to ensure their effective & free functioning.

scope vis a vis freedom of speech under fundamental rights

(i) It allows the parliament to restrict freedom of speech of outsiders while reporting about the parliament.
(e.g Secret sittings.

(ii) It can restrict people from participation in its meetings.

(iii) It allows the parliament to punish for breach of its privilege through

Candidates must not write on this margin

misuse of freedom of speech (e.g. Karnataka scribe case.

These rights go against fundamental right to speech & expression under article 19(1).

But Supreme Court in Searchlight case has upheld this power to limit article 19(1) under article 129.

Necessary to maintain balance

- In the same Searchlight case SC said that there should be balance between the two
- cases of misuse (e.g. Karnataka scribe punished
- article 129 itself allows "true account of the proceedings" can be published.
- not codified (2nd ARC) → potential for misuse. Therefore need is to ensure harmony between the two

Candidates must not write on this margin

6. नागरिक समाज संगठन, "सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्रवाई" को बढ़ावा देने में महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। स्थानीय संसाधन जुटाने (एलआरएम) और निगमित सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (सीएसआर) के माध्यम से कॉर्पोरेट (निगमों द्वारा) वित्तपोषण प्राप्त करने में उन्हें किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है? साथ ही सार्थक उपाय भी सुझाएँ। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Civil society organizations, play a pivotal role in fostering "collective private action for the public good". What challenges do they face in local resource mobilization (LRM) and corporate funding through corporate social responsibility (CSR)? Also, suggest measures. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Civil society organisations are a set of private, non-governmental entities that promote public welfare through collective action.

(e.g) NGOs, donor organisations, Philanthropists etc.

they play pivotal role

↳ supplement states resources & capacity (e.g) Akshay Patra ↳ mid day meal.

↳ ensure last mile connectivity & reach

↳ bring innovative solutions

(e.g) Agri-preneurs

Candidates must not write on this margin

↳ promote public interest & welfare of the most vulnerable.

(e.g) Save childs foundation.

Challenges faced

in local resource mobilisation

↳ lack of public enthusiasm in donations
↳ low resource pool (low per capita income)
↳ distrust among public

in mobilising CSR

↳ leakages of funds
↳ lage over heard expenditure
↳ problem of Sub-financing of NGOs
↳ lack of transparency
↳ companies have their own CSR arms fund directly.

Measures

vijay Kumar Committee

↳ single nodal interface for NGOs (eg) NGO DARPAN
↳ modernisation of registration process
↳ social impact findings & social stock exchange to channelise funds.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

The recent NITI Ayog MPI estimates national multidimensional poverty at 16%. Earlier it was 25% in 2015-16

The current systematic poverty assessment is based on 2011 census data and on Tendulkar committe report which is outdated leading to challenges in program design implementation & monitoring of its successes.

In this content NITI Ayog's NMPI plays a crucial role.

Methodology

(i) measures both (1) incidence of poverty
(ii) intensity of poverty.

Candidates must not write on this margin

incidence → if deprivation in more than 1/3rd of indicators

intensity → if deprivation in more than 1/2 of indicators.

(ii) indicators

Education | health | standard of living.

Significance

(i) fills the data deficit with respect to poverty estimation

(ii) measures poverty more comprehensively

(iii) policy targetting becomes easier

(e.g) identifying specific deprivations and addressing there

(e.g) sanitation & water → Swachh Bharat mission.

(iv) goes beyond income or calorie approach.

However, it can't be a complete substitute to a more comprehensive poverty estimation based on Census data & Consumption Survey.

Candidates must not write on this margin

8. भारत के संदर्भ में, संवैधानिक प्रावधानों, कानूनी पूर्व–उदाहरणों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं की उपस्थिति के बावजूद, जो स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार के लिए एक मज़बूत 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

Recently Rajasthan has passed a right to health act. This has raised the question of bringing similar legislation at national level.

Right to health in India

Constitutional & legal

- Mohinder singh chawla case : SC → right to health implicit under article 21.
- Mazdoor shakti sangathan case : SC → right to life also enjoins right to healthcare.
- article 47 → duty of State to provide healthcare.

International

Alma Ata declaration → India is a signatory.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Despite these precedents there's a lack of explicit recognition because of following reasons: —

(i) limited fiscal capacity of state

(ii) DPSP (article 47) → not legally enforceable.

(iii) lack of agreement over the extent of the right-
- e.g. → if only covers primary healthcare or all stages of healthcare?

(iv) lack of political will & lack of focus by civil society.

(v) vested interests & nexus between corporate hospitals & politicians

Thus, to learn from Rajasthan's act, similar legal enforcement should be brought at national level as also suggested by Parliamentary Standing Committee in 2020.

Candidates must not write on this margin

9. ब्रिक्स राष्ट्रों की सामूहिक शक्ति असंख्य मुद्दों पर सार्थक सहयोग की अनुमति देती है, हालाँकि, द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के प्रक्षेप पथ को प्रभावित करने की मंच की क्षमता सीमित है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
The collective strength of BRICS nations allows for meaningful cooperation on myriad issues, however, the platform's ability to influence the trajectory of bilateral relationships remains limited. Do you agree? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

BRICS is a minilateral grouping of 5 nations namely India, Brazil, Russia, China & South Africa.

In recent Summit @ South Africa it has expanded its membership effective from 2024.

Collective strength leading to cooperation

(i) accounts for nearly 50% of world population.

(ii) large share in global GDP.

(iii) one of the largest market for global good

(iv) New development Bank → financial cooperation.

(v) cooperation on vaccines, climate change, green technology etc

Candidates must not write on this margin

However its role in influencing bilateral cooperations is limited as can be seen as follows:—

(i) India-china differences exist despite frequent BRICS meetings
(eg) border dispute.

(ii) there exists internal bilateral differences
(e.g) Russia-ukraine war
India → neutral
China → pro-Russia.

(iii) low level of bilateral trade between India & Brazil & India & South Africa

Way forward

- The expanded BRICS will foster deeper cooperation & bilateral relations.
- will emerge as a leading voice of middle powers & of global South
- Can foster cooperation, bilaterally for technology transfer, AI, climate change etc.

Candidates must not write on this margin

10. सिंधु जल संधि में संशोधन की हालिया माँगों के आलोक में, भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच जल–बंटवारा व्यवस्था पर पड़ने वाले इसके संभावित प्रभावों की चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In light of the recent demands to amend the Indus Waters Treaty, discuss the possible implications it could have on the water-sharing mechanism between India and Pakistan.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently India has demanded amendment to Indus water treaty due to dispute over the mechanism of dispute resolution.

The Indus water treaty provides for bilateral mechanism to resolve disputes however Pakistan third party involvement to resolve water sharing dispute. This led to demand for its amendment.

Possible implications

(i) It may lead to more clear & well defined dispute resolution mechanism

(ii) will also address emerging issues

Candidates must not write on this margin

such as <u>non of the river dams</u>, <u>climate change</u>, slowing of ecological flow rate etc.

(iii) It can provide for a <u>more fairer</u> river water distribution as currently Pakistan gets bulk of the water.

(iv) <u>Fresh amendments</u> may also lead to <u>more conflict</u> and may leave the <u>issue unresolved</u>.

(v) The issue can be used by Pakistan as an excuse to <u>violate ceasefires</u>

Therefore in line with <u>Gujaral's doctrine</u> India needs to show magnanimity and try to resolve the issue amicably as the treaty is one of the most successful treaty between the two countries for several decades.

Candidates must not write on this margin

11. संसदीय संप्रभुता और न्यायिक सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत ने भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के संवैधानिक ढाँचे को आकार देने में अत्यधिक महत्त्वपूर्ण प्रभाव डाला है। प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयजन्य विधियों का हवाला देते हुए इन देशों में संविधान को प्रभावित करने में न्यायपालिका की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। क्या भारत में न्यायिक समीक्षा का दायरा व्यापक है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy has exerted considerable influence in shaping the constitutional frameworks of India and the USA. Citing relevant case laws discuss the role of the judiciary in influencing the constitutions in these countries. Is the scope of judicial review wider in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

while American constitution is based on judicial supremacy Indian Constitution is based on the bedrock of balance between judicial supremacy & Parliamentary sovereignty.

There doctrines have considerably shaped the constitution of the two countries in this content relevant case laws are follows:—

(i) Shankari Prasad case & Sajjan Singh case upheld doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty

(i.e) Parliament can amend

Candidates must not write on this margin

any part of the Constitution.

(ii) **Golaknath Case**: Supreme Court limited parliamentary sovereignty
↳ Parliament can't amend fundamental rights.

(iii) **Keshavananda Bharti case**: upheld Parliamentary sovereignty but only as long as it doesn't endanger the **basic structure**.

(iv) **Minerva Mills case**: judicial review is part of basic structure → this ensured balance between parliamentary sovereignty & judicial supremacy

(v) Other cases

Maneka Gandhi case → brought ~~procedure~~ due process of law to check Constitutional validity
↳ acts as limit on Parliamentary executive.

Candidates must not write on this margin

scope of judicial review

(i) In India not specifically granted (implicit under article 13) but explicitly provided in USA.

(ii) initially judicial review was only limited to procedure established by law while in USA also extends to due process of law.

(iii) After Maneka Gandhi case there exists equality in terms of scope of judicial review in both the countries.

However the concept is a continuously evolving one and dynamic nature and therefore may in future have wider scope than USA.

Candidates must not write on this margin

12. 'निष्पक्ष प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करने और एक मत, एक मूल्य के सिद्धांत को बनाए रखने के लिए सीटों का परिसीमन आवश्यक है।' निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में अप्रतिनिधित्व से उत्पन्न हुई चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए संघीय तनाव पैदा करने में जनसंख्या–आधारित परिसीमन के प्रभावों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Delimitation of seats is essential to ensure fair representation and uphold the principles of one vote, one value'. Highlighting the challenges posed by misrepresentation in constituencies analyze the ramifications of population-based delimitation in creating federal tension. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

currently the delimitation exercise has been frozen until 2026. under the delimitation process the delimitation Commission redraws the constituencies and redistributes them after each census. However freezing it has created challenges:

(1) Created disparity in voters per constituency

Eg South less voter/constituency
North more " "

(2) Size of constituency has become too large

Candidates must not write on this margin

this hampers effective representation.

(iii) this also endanger the basic principle of one person one vote

However population based delimitation can also create challenges.

(i) if fresh delimitation
↳ seat of North Indian states will increase, and of South Indian states will decline.

(ii) States who performed better in population control will set to loose → demographic penalty

(iii) This will reduce their say in federal issues
(eg) Reduced representation

Candidates must not write on this margin

in Rajya Sabha.

(iv) This may lead to neglect of their concerns due to low electoral significance.

This will create federal tensions

(i) entrench North-South divide

(ii) will facilitate regionalism

(iii) will question legitimacy of Southern States funding Northern states (less prosperous)
↳ will create financial tensions.

Thus next delimitation exercise should also be mindful of these concerns.

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

Recently Supreme Court in the [Arun Baranwal case] established an appointment committee to choose the ~~Chief~~ Chief election commissioner.

[ECI (artule 324)] is the chief election body empowered with the role of conduction free & fair elections.

However ECI faces several challenges such as:

[Institutional issues]

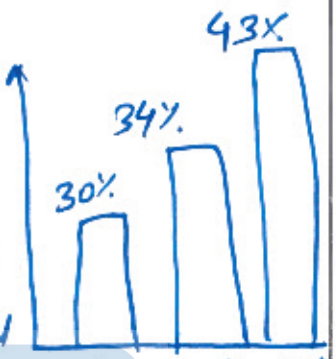
(i) lack of independence in appointment
(ii) no qualification has been prescribed for CEC
(iii) lack of independent secretariat

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iv) no bar on post retirement jobs etc.

other electoral issues

(i) Criminalisation of Politics



(ii) increasing use of money & muscle Power

(iii) issues of hate speech during election

(iv) low conviction rate of politicians etc.

In this context Supreme Court has played a key role in strengthening ECI's hands

(i) PUCL vs UOI → all MPs must submit affidavit stating their criminal antecedents.

(ii) Public interest foundation vs UOI

↳ brought NOTA

↳ will help ensure accountability.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(III) Lily thomas case → upheld immediate disqualification if convicted for a term of more than 2 years.

(IV) Ram Babu Singh vs Sunil Arora case

↳ parties should publish criminal antecedents online

↳ state reasons for selecting candidates with criminal past.

(V) Anoop Baranwal case:

- selection committee ← PM, CJI, Leader of opposition.
- also directed the govt to bring laws for appointment, regulatory conduct, qualification etc.

These judgements have helped strengthen ECI to conduct free & fair elections.

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. 'संसद की घटती भूमिका शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के मूल सिद्धांत को कमज़ोर करती है, क्योंकि यह कार्यकारी शाखा पर नियंत्रण रखने और सत्ता का संतुलित प्रयोग सुनिश्चित करने की विधायिका की क्षमता को कम कर देता है।' विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'The declining role of Parliament undermines the fundamental principle of separation of powers, as it diminishes the legislature's ability to serve as a check on the executive branch and ensure a balanced exercise of power.' Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Parliament is the deliberative body concerned with law making. It also ensures accountability of the executive.

Role of parliament is ensuring check & balance

(i) collective responsibility of parliament to executive under article 75.

(ii) motions → censure motion, adjournment motion etc.

(iii) Question hour, zero hour etc used to seek answers.

(iv) Parliamentary committees ensure accountability

eg Public accounts Committee

Candidates must not write on this margin

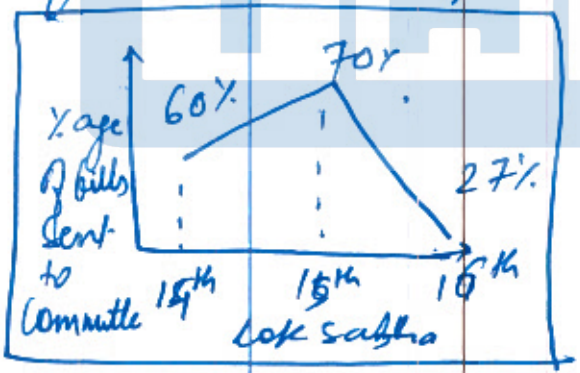
(iv) financial control through money bill, appropriation bill, demand for grant etc. control over.

However declining role of parliament has diminished this role

declining role

(i) Now it meets only for 60 days on average in a year (1960, 70s → 150 days)

(ii) only 27% bills go the committees



(iii) Anti defection law, use of whip limits members autonomy.

↳ they vote according to party line

↳ decided by executive itself.

↳ diminishes seperation of power

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iv) alleged Partisan role of speaker
↳ acts as agents of ruling party
↳ diminishes seperation of power.

(v) nearly 80% of time in the current session was lost due to disruption.

Impact

(i) ineffective parliamentary control.

(ii) executive dominance even in parliament.

(iii) declining accountability

Way forward

(i) NCRWC → minimum 100 days sitting for Lok Sabha
120 day for Rajya Sabha

(ii) SC → use ADL (xth schedule) only when stability of government is at risk.

(iii) sending all bills to committees as in case of UK

Strong parliament is prerequisite from strong democracy.

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. भारत में लिंग–संवेदनशील कानूनों पर विमर्श को आकार देने में राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग को संवैधानिक संस्था बनाने से उसका प्राधिकार किस हद तक सुदृढ़ होगा? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the crucial role played by the National Commission of Women in shaping the discourse on gender-sensitive laws in India. To what extent the elevation of the National Commission for Women to a constitutional body would reinforce its authority? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

National Commission for women is the apex body empowered with the role of upholding the rights of women in the country.

Role of National Commission of women

(i) It examines into specific complains related to violation of rights of women

(ii) It monitors & overlooks the functioning of schemes & programs for women.

(iii) It advises government on specific women related issues & in the process of planning, scheme formulation etc.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iv) It can ~~take~~ intervene into matters related to violation of rights of women in court proceedings.

(v) It promotes researches & studies in the field of women empowerment.

It's role in shaping laws in India

(i) Government often seeks its opinion on laws related to women

(eg) during Criminal law amendment act 2013 it was consulted.

(ii) recent amendments to POCSO were made in consultation with NCW

(iii) It had in the past suggested women's reservation bill.

(iv) time to time it proposes amendments to existing laws

(eg) amendment to IT rules related to indecent depiction of women.

Candidates must not write on this margin

making it a constitutional body would help as

(i) It will enhance its status → more respect to its reports.

(ii) It's reports will be laid in the Parliament → discussed more authoritatively.

(iii) will also ensure its independence & autonomy from the ~~govt~~ government.

(iv) will help in de-politisation of the body.

But challenges may remain

↳ only advisory role

↳ no power to investigate

↳ no power to punish

Thus it requires effective reform consistent with the need of the hour.

Candidates must not write on this margin

16. 'शिकायतों का संतोषजनक और समयबद्ध निवारण 'न्यूनतम सरकार, अधिकतम शासन' की आधारशिला है।' इस संदर्भ में मौजूदा शिकायत निवारण तंत्र से जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए और इस प्रक्रिया को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Satisfactory and timely redressal of grievances is the cornerstone of 'minimum government, maximum governance.' In this context discuss the challenges associated with current grievance redress mechanisms and suggest measures to strengthen the process. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

As per 2nd ARC one of the cornerstone of effective & good governance is effective grievance redressal (sevottam model of citizens charter)

However this has been lacking in India.

~~Challenges associated~~

effective awareness

timely tracking of grievance

Effective grievance redressal

Prompthly

Continuous update

a designated helpline

free & fair.

Challenges associated

(i) lack of awareness

Candidates must not write on this margin

↳ how to access grievance redressal
↳ whom to approach etc.

(ii) <u>lack of tracking facility</u> of grievances
↳ exists then only online
↳ difficult for digitally illiterate people.

(iii) <u>lack of designated nodal officer</u> in offices for grievance redressal.

(iv) <u>Complexity of the process</u>
↳ filling multiple forms,
↳ filling details.

(v) <u>harassment of Complainant</u> by the officers
↳ pressure to withdraw complaints.

(vi) <u>Citizen charter</u> ← not updated, not followed, untrained staffs

Measures

(i) <u>Sevottam model</u> of Citizen charter as suggested by 2nd ARC

Candidates must not write on this margin



(ii) Citizen feedback forms

(eg) Citizen report card of Bengaluru

(iii) Social accountability mechanism

(eg) Mo Sarkar of odisha → for grievances against officers.

(iv) periodic updation of citizen charter

↳ updated grievance helpline/portal

↳ clear & simple language.

Thus good governance requires Citizens working as watchdog. This requires an effective grievance Redressal mechanism.

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. 'भ्रष्टाचार शासन के ताने–बाने को जर्जर कर देता है, जिससे लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में जनता का विश्वास कम हो जाता है।' भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी शासन या व्यवस्था की प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम, व्हिसलब्लोअर संरक्षण अधिनियम (डब्ल्यूबीपीए), और लोकपाल और लोकायुक्त अधिनियम, 2013 के बीच समन्वय स्थापित करने के सामर्थ्य का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Corruption corrodes the fabric of governance, eroding the public's faith in democratic institutions.' Examine the potential for harmonizing the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act (WBPA), and the Lokpal & Lokayukta Act, 2013, to enhance the effectiveness of the anticorruption regime. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

As per the Prevention of Corruption act- 1988 Corruption is the misuse of public position for private gains.

- Corruption hampers good governance
  - ↳ Creates inequity against poor
  - ↳ vested interest of Corrupt officials to only work when paid.
- it erodes public faith
  - ↳ creates distrust
  - ↳ people begin to accept Corruption as inevitable.

In this content harmonising the RTI act, whistleblower protection act

Candidates must not write on this margin

and the Lokpal & Lokayukta act 2013 can enhance effectiveness of anti-corruption regime as follows :—

(i) RTI act

↳ 2nd ARC : "Sunlight is the best disinfectant"

↳ will reveal instances of wrongdoing

(e.g.) Satyam scam.

↳ will create deterrance

(ii) WBPA

↳ will empower whistle blowers & officers with conscience.

↳ will safeguard their identity

↳ can use RTI anonymously to reveal hidden informations → leading to encouraging of corruption.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iii) LALA 2013

↳ whistle blowers can complain anonymously (Cursently anonymous complaint not allowed)

↳ RTI information can be used to gather information and complain to the Lokayukta.

Therefore steps should be taken to

(a) operationalise WBPA.

(b) enhance effectiveness of Lokpal (Zero Conviction till date)

(c) Special & seperate fund for RTI & record keeping (2nd ARC)

Candidates must not write on this margin

18. गरीबी का प्रभावी ढंग से मुकाबला करने के लिए हाशिए पर रहने वाले समुदायों के बीच कौशल विकास, उद्यमिता और आय सृजन के लिए एसएचजी का लाभ एक मंच के रूप में उठाने में शामिल संभावित चुनौतियों और लाभों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Analyze the potential challenges and benefits involved in leveraging SHGs as platforms for skill development, entrepreneurship, and income generation among marginalized communities to effectively counter poverty. Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Self Help groups are peoples Collective who take collective effort to mobilise fund and improve their living conditions

(e.g) SEWA.

Benefits in leveraging SHGs

for Skill development

↳ can provide locally relevant skill

↳ captive skilling can be done by companies (hired by the same companies)

↳ more effective in skilling women

(e.g) DDU – Grameen Kaushal yojana → uses SHGs for skilling.

for enterpreneurship

↳ will facilitate access to credit (e.g micro credit)

↳ can help in building brand

Candidates must not write on this margin

(e.g) Lijjat Papad.

↳ Can promote Savings habit

↳ investment in business

(e.g) Mahila e-haat → online entrepreneurship among women using SHGs.

for income generation

↳ Mobilising collective resources → collective investment → collective earning.

↳ will promote economies of skill

↳ enhanced earning.

Challenges

(i) SHGs lack expertise & skilled workforce

(ii) most SHGs concentrated in South India (70%).

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iii) Issue of poor branding & marketing

(iv) microfinance → short term loans but businesses need long term loans.

(v) lack of awareness of its potential.

way forward

(i) digitalisation of SHGs
  (e.g) e-shakti.

(ii) Access to finances
  (e.g) Bank linkage program

(iii) promoting branding & market-ing
  (e.g) using ONDC, e-NAM etc.

(iv) providing interest subvention

(v) promoting cluster based SHGs
  (eg) one district one product
  Thus SHGs can help achieve the dream of Self Help & self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Candidates must not write on this margin

19. 'भारत अपनी समृद्ध संस्कृति के लिए विश्व मानचित्र पर अद्वितीय स्थान रखता है।' इस संदर्भ में भारत की सॉफ्ट पावर कूटनीति के साधन के रूप में संस्कृति, प्रवासी और लोकतंत्र की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। भारत किस हद तक खुद को स्मार्ट पावर के रूप में स्थापित करने में सक्षम हो पाया है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'India is uniquely positioned on the world map for its rich culture.' In this context discuss the role of culture, diaspora, and democracy as instruments of india's soft power diplomacy. To what extent India has been able to position itself as a 'smart power'? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

"India gave the world Buddha, not yudha (war)" PM

This statement encapsulates the role of India's rich culture in its diplomacy

Role of Culture

① **Buddhist diplomacy**

↳ plays key role in ASEAN diplomacy

↳ role in India Japan relationship

② **Cricket Culture**

↳ strong ties with England, Bangladesh Australia due to good people to people connect in relation to Cricket.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iii) Project Mausam

↳ to enhance cultural understanding in Indian ocean region.

role of diaspora

(i) American diaspora

↳ bipartisan support

↳ played key role in civil nuclear deal

↳ CEOs of major companies

(e.g) Satya Nadella.

(ii) British

↳ Prime minister → Indian origin

↳ large votes base → promotes India friendly policies

(e.g) Pressure to deal with Khalistani Seperatists.

(iii) west Asia

↳ India's rich Muslim culture taken to Gulf with Indians.

↳ Religious pilgrimage → leads to people to people connect.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Role of democracy

(i) India seen as largest democracy in the world.

(ii) treated as part of democratic club.

Positioning as smart power

Smart Power = Soft Power + Hard Power

→ Hard power
- 3rd largest economy (PPP terms)
- fastest growing economy
- 3rd largest military expenditure
- Nuclear powered.

Soft Power →
- largest diaspora
- Buddhist diplomacy
- Project Mausam
- Vaccine diplomacy

challenges

- china ahead of India
- Counter narratives against India
- Khalistan movement
- domestic issues such as CAA → diplomatic representation

Candidates must not write on this margin

20. भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझा मूल्यों और जीवंत लोगों से लोगों के बीच संबंधों का सामंजस्य 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

Recently India concluded free trade agreement with Australia.

Synergy of shared values

- ↳ shared democratic spirit.
- ↳ both favour free and open Indo pacific.
- ↳ both see china as regional threat to security.
- ↳ both seek deeper trade & people to people ties.

vibrant people to people connection

- ↳ large diaspora in Australia.
- ↳ Australia opening foreign campus

Candidates must not write on this margin

in GIFT City.

↳ Cricket diplomacy → Strengthen people to people connect.

This provides fertile ground for trade relations & Strategic partnership as :—

Trade relations

↳ leverage china + 1 & friendshore

↳ SCRI : both seek supply chain resilience.

↳ Indian diaspora → market for Indian consumer goods

(e.g) Basmati rice.

↳ Australian minerals reserve

Can address India's need

Candidates must not write on this margin

for critical minerals.

Strategic partnership

↳ shared interest of containing China

↳ Quad & Aukus provide opportunity to both to collaborate in strategic domain.

↳ both can collaborate in ensuring peace & stability in Indo-Pacific

↳ prevent chinese expansionism

Thus India & Australia can help tilt the balance against china in the Indo pacific.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS