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SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

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Evaluator Code :

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

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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.

The Representation of people Act (RPA) 1951 was enacted by Parliament under Article 327 to enforce Article 102(e) related provisions.

Section 8 of RPA 1951:

- (a) deals with disqualification related process
- (b) a member is disqualified if they:
 - ↳ promote enmity among masses
 - ↳ creates undue influence
 - ↳ any malpractices
- (c) if convicted with sentence ^{of not} less than 2 years, the member shall be disqualified

Ambiguity in Section 8

- (a) Section 8(3) states a member "shall be ^{does} disqualified" and ^{not} state when will the disqualification occur.
- (b) whether disqualification will be "automatic" or it will require court/government order?

© Who would disqualify the member - whether the Secretariat (lok sabha / Rajya Sabha) or President? (eg) as done in case of Shri. Rohul Gandhi

Other ambiguities

Section 11 gives power to Election Commission to reduce the disqualification duration. Thus imparting arbitrariness in process.

(eg) Sikkim former CM's disqualification period was reduced by ECI

Reforms needed

- (a) Section 8(3) — the President must disqualify MP/MLA on being convicted on advice of ECI.
- (b) the role of ECI should be of advisory in nature.

The sanctity of Indian democracy

rests on free & fair election and reducing money & muscle power. Thus, reforms are necessary.

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 a legal document which outlines the framework of government machinery and states the ideals/goals to achieve.

Constitutionalism is the philosophy which implies the functioning of government is "limited" within 4 walls of constitution.

Constitution as a skeleton

(a) it divides the powers among 3 organs.

(eg) Separation of Executive & Judiciary (Article 5)

and relationship between Executive & legislature (Article 74 & 75)

(b) makes the federal structure (Schedule 7)

(c) outlines values - liberty, equality, justice secularism (Preamble)

Constitutionalism as a the soul of democracy

- a) The functioning of government and the organs are the "flesh" which supplement the "skeleton" of constitution
- b) the political process of election, the functioning of Parliament and executive and holding executive responsible by legislature holds idea of "responsible government"
- c) the Judicial role of protecting the constitution as a guardian also ensures constitutionalism.
- d) the functioning of civil society and pressure groups through social audits, Panchayats also ensures protection of soul.

The constitutionalism in India makes the constitution function and is the soul of Indian democracy.

Q.3

चुनावी बॉण्ड एक दोधारी तलवार है, जो दानकर्ताओं को अनागिता प्रदान करता है जबकि राजनीतिक वित्तपोषण में पारदर्शिता के बारे में 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 2017-18

Budget aimed to cleaning the political funding
process.

features of Electoral Bond:

- (a) Can be purchased in denomination of ₹1000.
- (b) purchased from SBI branches.
- (c) available at every quarter's first 10 days
- (d) no limit — on corporates to fund parties
- (e) only parties who get at least 1% of votes in last general election are eligible.

Concerns associated — double edged sword

- (a) provides anonymity to both political parties & donors — no one under obligation to disclose to public or Election Commission
- (b) ~~just~~ encourage trust deficit among parties.

- (c) reduce transparency and may encourage
'crony capitalism'
- (d) SBI — a main channel — may be prone to political
pressure to disburse the funds released to
rival parties. The government can target the
entire funding of other political parties.

(e) reduce ECI's power to inspect the funding

Evaluation

- (a) As per Association of Democratic Reforms, more
than 90% funds go to party in power.
Thus, fanaticism in governance cannot be
overruled
- (b) Others are oblivious who funds whom and
how policies are framed.
- (c) the window of accepting cash donation
below ₹2000 is open to parties. Thus, it
hampers the transparency & accountability.

To ensure transparency, the disclosures
can be done voluntarily as done by Tharshond
Mukti Morcha which released ₹100 crore from
Hundals. to promote free & fair election.

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.

As per Delhi High court (July 2021) -

Indian society is moving towards Homogenisation

thus necessitating creation of UCC.

UCC is stated under Directive Principles

under Article 44 and aims to codify personal

laws with respect to

- inheritance
- marriage
- adoption
- divorce

Gender Equality and UCC debate

② Several personal laws like Parsi, Muslim,

Christian personal laws are biased against women

in terms of inheritance, adoption, separation &

which goes against Article 14 (equality)

⑥ The religion holds considerable influence on

secular activities like marriage which limits

gender equality.

- (c) the prevalence of polygamy is also allowed in some personal laws. Thus, going against Article 14 & 21

Challenges associated with reconciliation

- (a) some societies are matriarchal. (e.g) Khasi societies in Meghalaya, Tribals of Shola forests etc
- (b) under article Article 25 & 26 which guarantees right to religion & manage religious affairs
- (c) goes against protection given under Article 371(A) and Schedule 6 areas & management practices as per their customs & beliefs.

However, there needs to be debate around the need for UCC and consensus be generated among all sections. A brick by brick approach is needed and as Dr. Ambedkar said. "Any political reform must be preceded by social reforms".

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 सुदृढ़ 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 appointment of Governor by Centre is an unitary feature of Constitution
and a governor wears 2 hats - one of Centre and one of a state. to enforce constitution in the states.

Role of Governor

(a) In Governance of State

- ↳ gives assent to the state bills and upholds Constitutional spirit
- ↳ acts a "lighthouse" and advises government in times of help. (said by 2nd ARC)
- ↳ may ensure coordination among states when there individual is Governor of more than 1 state.

(b) in interformary federalism

- ↳ gives report to President about the

functionary of State as per Constitution

↳ can also recommend imposition of President rule (Article 356)

↳ can withhold the bill if it vienges power of high courts or central government.

Challenges associated with functionary of Governor

- (a) appointed by Centre — this goes to politicisation as seen in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu etc
- (b) no time limit to give assent to bills
- (c) encourages politicisation of government machinery.

Measures needed

- (a) Jain Commission says: Governor should be from outside the state & permanent tenure of 5 years be given. Also, impeachment on lines of President
- (b) As per Sarkaria Commission, the discretionary power must be "used sparingly" to ensure Constitutionalism.

As Dr. Ambedkar said, Governor should function not in interest of party but interest of whole state

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 laws relates to laws / regulations / policies that ensures more public participation and strengthens grass root democracy.



Social accountability & Good governance

(a) Inclusion of marginalised

↳ through gram sabha meetings (e.g. women, SC, ST in Gram panchayat plans.

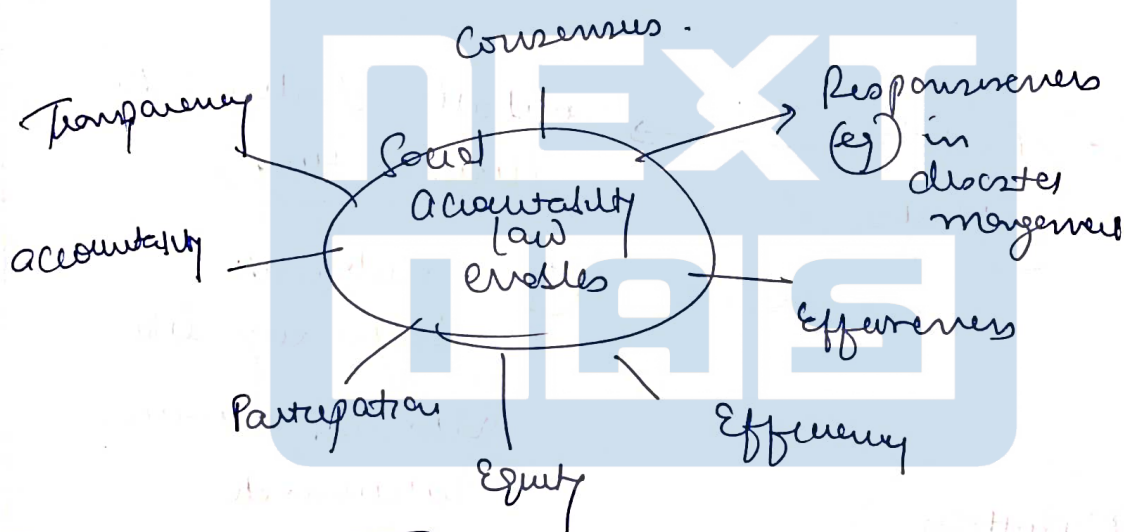
(b) transparency & accountability through information disclosure through RTI laws.

This gives more fodder to demand
accountability for malgovernance and malaction.

This induces morality in governance.

(c) Social audit ensures Rule of law,
effiveness, efficiency in schemes
and gives voice to marginalised.

(e) MGNREGS, PM-Awas Yojana etc



Measures needed

(a) Passage of citizen charter Bill 2011 and
Public Service Delivery Act like in
Madhya Pradesh

(b) Mandatory social audit of all schemes
as per 2nd ARC.

Social accountability makes democracy
meaningful & ~~is~~ ensures Good Governance.

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.

Food Security Act 2013 mandates
government to focus on convergence of
both nutrition specific and nutrition
sensitive measures to tackle food
insecurity and malnutrition.

For Nutrition Specific → entails dealing with
Hidden Hunger

(eg) nutrient deficiency like
Vitamin, Minerals,
Calcium etc

Nutrition Sensitive → deals with underlying
and foundational causes

(eg) WASH, women & child
education, awareness,
parental healthcare.

Needed - why?

(a) tackling undernutrition requires multi-dimensional approach - otherwise can lead to malnutrition & wastage of resource and reduced outcome

(b) food security without sanitation & water access can do irreversible damage
 ↳ cause cognitive & physical disabilities

Challenges

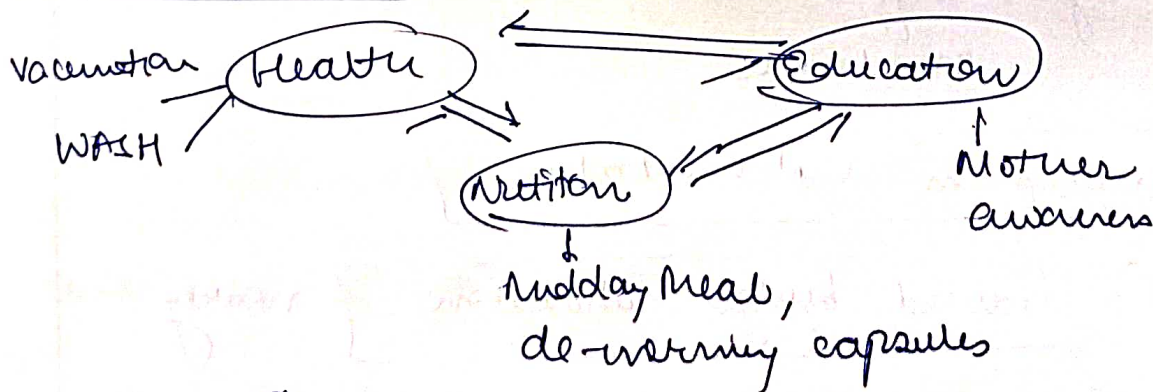
(a) ineffectiveness Anganwadi System it lacks

- ↳ water
- ↳ food
- ↳ electricity
- ↳ good workers
- ↳ accountability

(b) calorie diet based on wheat & rice
not millets, Eggs, pulses etc

Measures needed

Convergence of



Thrive convergence India can
 attain Kupushon Mukh Bharat

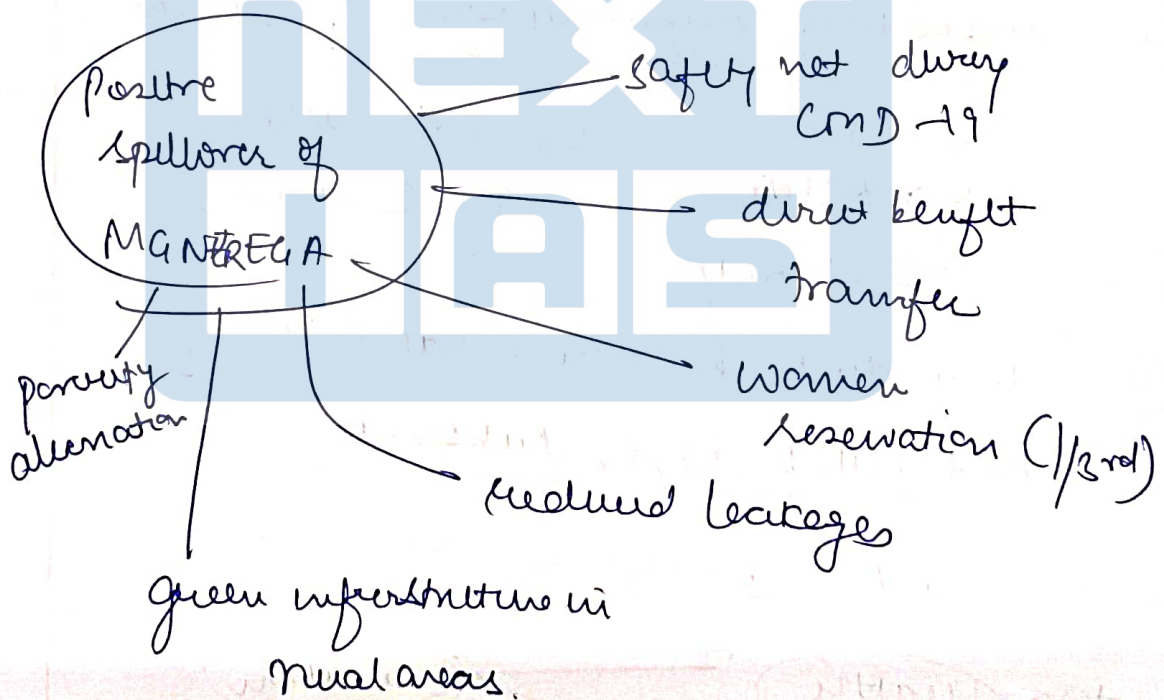
Q.8

ग्रामीण गरीबी उन्मूलन की धुरी मनरेगा, राजकोषीय उदासीनता का शिकार हो गया है।" हालिया घटनाक्रम के आलोक में कथन का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।
 "MGNREGA, the lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation, has become the victim of fiscal apathy." Critically analyze the statement in light of recent developments.

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

MGNREGA is a social security & employment generation scheme which aims to empower rural poor, empower women, give employment and support rural infrastructure creation.



Challenges in implementation

a) reduced budget allocation nearly ₹ 70,000 crore in 2023-24.

(b) poor utilisation by states and poor
discharge of funds by states for
material procurement — said by
Parliamentary Committee.

(c) delay in fund settlements — biased in
favour of SC/ST & unbiased in favour
of forward castes (MCNREGA portal)

Counter new:

(a) since it is demand side focussed schemes —
it is difficult to decide allocation based
on forecast. Thus more allocation can
be done in future months as per need
basis.

(b) more allocation are also done in PM-Awas
Yojana, Jal Teerav Mission, Swachh
Bharat that can complement MCNREGA

The state must reduce leakages
and increase scope of work under scheme

(c) in plantation workers, skilling jobs etc
to effectively safeguard interests of rural poor (Aardra)

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 is a multi-aligned sphere where the countries are divided based on ideologies and self interest and dynamic geopolitical & geo-economical changes have made it a tough powergame.

Geopolitical Churns like:

- (a) Ukraine conflict
- (b) expansion of NATO eastwards in Europe
- (c) rise of China in Asia and expansion through BRI
- (d) friction between US and Russia
US and China and European Union
- (e) rise of plurilateral organisations like Asean, IOFA, Supply Chain Resilience Initiative etc.

Leverage & Management

- (a) The soft power of India and its good mutual relationships with almost all Nations & groups can be leveraged for National Interest.
- (e) buy oil from Russia, \$-40s despite sanctions from USA
- (b) ~~the~~ India being a "swing state" can ensure emergence of interest of conflict parties. Thus, can advance its motto of "One Earth, One family, One Future" Palestine - Israel Resolution.
- (c) Through South - South cooperation
- (e) Through use of diaspora. India can get far better concessions (e) India - US Nuclear deal.
- (d) bargain deals through applying moral pressure by BRICS, SCO — (e) Chinese land dispute with India. To be a "Vishwaguru". India must only manage leverage but also manage the geopolitics.

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.

The Indo-German relationship have survived test of time since the cold war period and they have collaborate over several sectoral initiatives for the mutual benefit.

Gateway to Europe & Significance of Germany

- (a) Germany's position can be leveraged to fast forward India-EU FTA in future.
- (b) transfer sharing of technology in modern fuel cells run on hydrogen.
 India can benefit its National Hydrogen Mission
- (c) Germany has built hydrogen run trains.

(c) through educational exchange programs,
students can expand their countries to
seek education with better terms on
work visa. (eg) in Bio technology,
Green technology

(d) through joint collaboration, India can
pursue morally for UNCTE expansion
to include India, Germany, Brazil,
Japan (G4).

(e) through tech-partnership, Germany's
advantage in semiconductors technology
can be leverage for semiconductor mission
of India.

(f) joint defence manufacturing can also be
aided.

Germany's role in making India
a formable partner of EU and countering
Chinese BRI in Europe remains crucial.

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 Shiv Sena and NCP split has brought spotlight on Anti-defection law and related challenges with it.

Schedule X brought under 2nd Amendment Act 1985 talks about Anti-defection law.

Provisions :

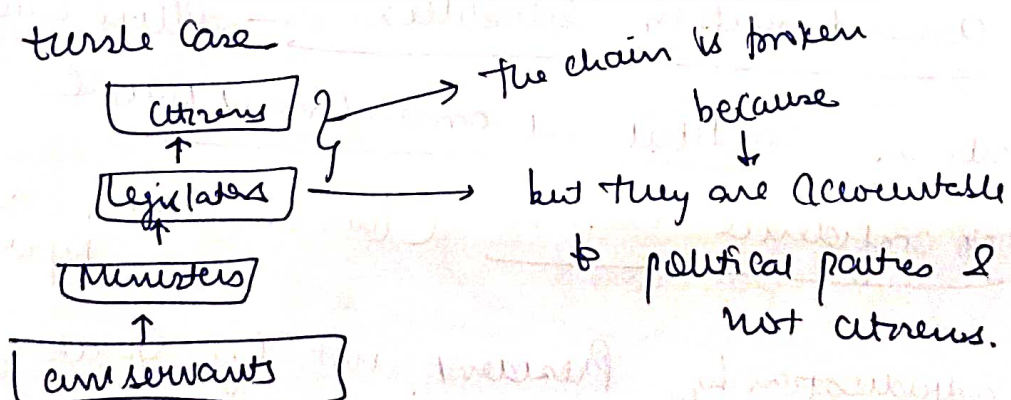
- (a) defection on grounds of
- voluntary resignation
 - voting against Whip of party, if not condoned within 15 days
 - nominated member joining party after 6 months
 - independent member joining any party

- (b) exemption
- speaker can resign & rejoin after his/her tenure
 - if 2/3 rd members merge with another party.

Impacted relation between parties & legislators

- (a) no real freedom of speech & expression as
MPs/MMLAs are bound by parties' whip.
- (b) It goes against Parliamentary Privileges
under Article 105 & 194.
- (c) political parties can decide when to merge and
with whom to merge. Thus individual
MPs/MMLAs have no say in this regard.
- (d) As per SC in this Sena case it is "political
party that decides" not the "legislature party"
in the House. Hence it breaks the "triple chain
of accountability" mentioned by SC in Delhi

triple case



Unintended consequences on democracy

- (a) the link between the legislators and citizens
is broken as primary accountability is

towards political parties

(b) the MPs/MAs can't raise their grievances in Parliament / legislature as they are bound by whips

(c) any deviation of vote from whip can result in disqualification - thus it hurts interests of constituency

(d) reduces overall trust in democracy

(e) recent incidents in Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra

Measures needed

(a) Amendments in Schedule X - allow whips only in Constitutional amendment Bills & no confidence motion (Law Commission 170th Report)

(b) adjudication by President, not by Speaker, on aid & advice of ECJ. (as per 2nd ARC)

To maintain sanctity of Parliament

Therefore, the amendments are necessary for free & fair democracy.

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.

Basic Structure Doctrine is based on idea of inherent limitation imposed by constitution on Parliament to amend its basic provision.

Basic Structure implies that there are certain pillars on which Constitution stands & if they are amended, the Constitution itself crumbles.

The Kesavananda Bharti case (1973) propounded Basic Structure doctrine as SC is "the guardian of Constitution". Its elements

include

independent judiciary

Parliamentary democracy

Ideals of justice, liberty, equality

free & fair elections

etc.

Criticism of Basic Structure doctrine

- (a) It gives unlimited powers to Supreme court as there are no defined parameters to define what are basic features.
- (b) The Parliament or executive do not have any power to define and include elements of basic structure — only SC can do that.
- (c) The Judiciary has also utilised for its own purpose and made itself a "super legislature". (eg) it declared 97th amendment null & void (NTAC) — it violated judicial independence. Thus, inhibited judicial reforms.
- (d) The "Judicial legislation" also restricts power of executive & Parliament.
- (e) Further, the "open ended nature" of Basic structure doctrine makes it malleable to judicial interpretation.

Judiciary more powerful than executive?

- (a) elasticity of doctrine gives more power to SC than executive and executive has to conform to the boundaries of Basic Structure.
- (b) The executive resolutions and ordinances can be declared null & void if they violate basic features.
- (c) further, executive cannot dissent in real sense on appointment of judiciary. It has to comply with norms of Supreme Court Collegium.

Measures needed.

- (a) delimitation of all basic features by Supreme Court
- (b) Parliament can keep a law in this regard.
- (c) Certain flexibility is needed (eg) in SC appointment process.
Even though, it makes Supreme Court more powerful, its acceptance by Parliament & Executive & masses gives credibility to Basic Structure doctrine.

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.

Fundamental rights under Part III of Constitution are set of political rights and negative injunctions against the state.

The Constitution provides for creation of State and gives the fundamental rights to citizens - hence the state does not bestow it on citizens, rather the Constitution does it and individual possesses them independently of the state.

Provisions & Rights

- (a) Right to Equality (A14-18)
- (b) Right to freedom (A19-22)
- (c) Right to Religion (A25-28) etc.
- (d) Right to Constitutional Remedies (A32)

↓

"Heart & Soul of Constitution"
(Dr. Ambedkar)

Fundamental Rights & Restrictions

- (a) the rights under Part III are not absolute but are reasonable and are justified on grounds of promoting individual liberty while at the same time providing for "social order and control".
- (b) the restrictions are desirable as they are necessary to maintain balance in society and preserve diverse individual/cultural interest.
- (c) Restriction on Religious practices in interest of public morality and health.
- (d) they are reasonable and are needed because of fulfillment of DPSPs (Part IV).
- (e) Reservations under Articles 15 & 16 & give effect to Article 46.
- (f) to enforce Articles 39(b) & (c) to reduce poverty, concentration of wealth and, restrictions are placed on Article 19(1).

(d) they are desirable to ensure foreign relations and fulfill commitments

under Article 51. It is also a grounds of

restrictions in Article 19 - (eg) in interest of friendly relations, rights can be curbed.

(e) to preserve tribal culture and practices, restrictions are needed to that the Integration through "hastening slowly" can be attained.

(eg) restriction on movement in Tribal areas, Inner line permit system etc

(f) to enforce social order and stability, the rights can be curtailed. (eg) restriction on internet to control public order.

The "test of proportionality" must be the yardstick to evaluate to reasonability of restriction while maintaining the right to political equality & liberty of individuals,

Q.14

एस.आर. बोम्माई 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 महत्व 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.

The landmark judgement of SC in S.R. Bommai vs UOI (1994) aimed at reducing discretionary power of Governor under Article 163 and cementing the federal structure in India.

Key highlights of case :

- (a) the President's rule is subject to judicial review in case of malafide.
- (b) the strength of leader / party can be ascertained only through a "floor test" in the assembly.
- (c) it ruled that "administrative breakdown" is not a ground for imposition of Article 356. That could be done in case of "constitutional breakdown".
- (d) it curbed discretion of Governor
- (e) outlined the procedure of appointing

leader of house as laid out in Sarkaria
Commission recommendations.

- ① "federalism & separatism" were made
part of Basic structure doctrine.

^{Impact}
Significance of judgement

- (a) the Governor could be appointed with
prior "consultation" of State CM.
- (b) the criteria of selection of Governor was
outlined — for instance:
- ← should be from outside the state
 - ↓ should not be politically attached
 - eminent person
 - had not taken part in politics in past few years

- ③ in case of "hung assembly", the following
steps need to be followed:

- call the single largest party
- pre poll alliance
- post poll alliance
- other parties with outside support

in
order

(d) The significance lies in fact that the arbitrariness in decision making was curtailed and made the functioning of Governors more impartial and fair.

(e) the impact was seen in various incidents like Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh etc where Strongly Party was determined through floor test only.

(f) in last 3 decades, the imposition of President's Rule has declined as compared to in previous 3 decades.

(g) it has also empowered the State governments and ensured political education of masses resulting in ↑ voter turnout and formation of stable governments.

Thus, Bommai judgement was the landmark case that heralded a new dawn in federalism in Indian democracy.

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.

The 73rd & 74th amendment 1992

institutionalised the local bodies : Panchayats
and Municipalities in India thus enabling
democratic decentralisation and grass root
democracy.

Key provisions

(a) creation of Schedule XI and Schedule XII

↓
Panchayats

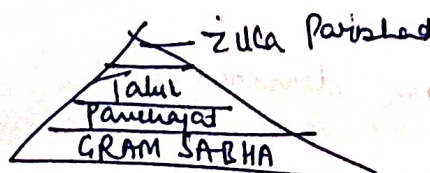
↓
Urban local
bodies

(b) State finance commission created

(c) Women, SC, ST reservation ensures.

(d) more authority devolved and ensured
"principle of subsidiarity".

(e) 3 tier structure in Panchayats



Impediments faced by local governments

- (a) political decentralisation without financial allocation has made these bodies handicapped.
- (b) Financial independence is the real independence which gives these bodies enough authority to take decisions. This is missing in India.
- (c) As per Economic Survey, Urban local bodies can generate nearly 40% of their revenue, and Panchayats are wholly dependent on State & Central grants.
- (d) further, "tied nature" of grants erodes political autonomy. Thus, reduces their ability to mould the solutions as per local felt problems.
- (e) the "functional dependency" on state governments: employees is also a limitation. The Panchayats lack their own staff and employees of State Government consider deputation as "punishment posting".

- (f) "lack of functional mapping" also hinders effectiveness. (eg) in Delhi, there are schools run by
- Central government
 - State Government
 - MCD

further, "parastatal bodies" in rural areas

- (g) Rural District Development agencies inhibit the role of Panchayats.

Measures & Suggestions

- (a) Justice Jeevaiah Committee suggested for share in GST for urban local bodies

- (b) Municipal bonds for urban bodies

- (c) Asset Monetization by local bodies to earn revenue

- (d) Separate functionalities for local bodies (as per 2nd ARC)

- (e) "functional Mapping" for effective delivery of service (2nd ARC)

only through effective decentralisation of funds, functions & functionaries Gandhian vision can be achieved (Article 40)

Q.16

सामूहिक विशेषज्ञता और नेटवर्क (संजाल) का लाभ उठाने के लिए बहु-हितधारक साझेदारी महत्वपूर्ण 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.

The idea of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lays out a multi-stakeholder and collaborative partnership that requires a networked approach to attain the aim of collective welfare and good of humanity.

Strength of Multi-stakeholder partnership

(a) it leverages the local strength of CSOs, NGOs who have local level connectivity and better social network & capital.

(c) Kailash Satyarthi's Bachpan Bachao Andolan for Education & Healthcare of child (SDG 3 & 4)

(b) the NGOs work on decentralised approach, thus they are aligned by purpose & values. They can assist in

in last-mile delivery and aid administration
and reduce corruption

(e) in midday meal schemes to reduce
hunger (SDG 1)

(c) effective forest management and protection
of tribal rights through several fora

(e) Advisory forums for preservation
of "Tal Turgu Jameen" and enforce
Forest Rights Act. It aids in
~~SDG 13 & 14~~ SDGs 13, 14, 15

(d) even Niti Aayog calls for localisation of
SDGs so that bottom up planning can
happen and planning & execution are
streamlined through involvement of
Panchayats & urban local bodies

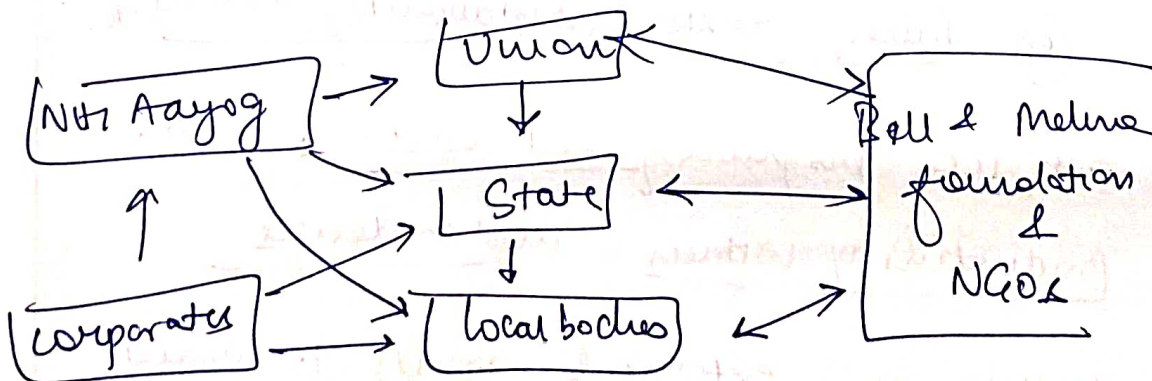
(e) Panchayat Development Plans for healthcare,
and education, infrastructure (SDG 4, 5,
6, 7)

Challenges associated

- (a) effective and stringent regulation
hampers administrative & financial
independence. (e) FRTA (amendment)
Act 2020.

- (b) Less awareness among masses and
social divisions on living, religion & caste
- (c) less financially & functionally empowered
Panchayats & municipalities (Economic
Survey)

Measures needed Whole of a Government &
networked Approach



Though bottom up & localised
planning & handholding by NITI Aayog &
Centre, SDGs can be attained before 2030.

- 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.

POSH Act 2013 was enacted to give effect to Vishaka guidelines (1997) given by Supreme court better workplace protection for women workforce.

Provisions of Act:

- (a) presence of "Internal Complaints Committee" (ICC)
- (b) encourage sensitisation of employees.
- (c) enlarge the definition of workplace
- (e) buses, taxis, restaurants/canteens etc.
- (d) ~~act~~ ICC has power of civil court to ensure production of witnesses and evidences.
- (e) presence of external agents to assist the organisation's ICC.

factors for its limited success

- (a) Lack of regular sensitisation programmes
especially among Males.
- (b) Lack of legal awareness about the PSH
Act - even in organised sectors
- (c) Lack of enough female employees due to
"patriarchal glass ceiling effect"
- (d) more than 90% 'in India' is "unorganised"
employment, hence, monitoring and
regulation is difficult
- (e) further, lack of enough courage to voice
grievances → as low salaries/jobs are
unpaid by employers
- (f) more chances of internal settlement
among employees
- (g) "bureaucratic apathy" especially police etc

Measures needed :

- (a) encourage formalisation of economy
- (b) promote awareness among women
- (c) creation of SHE-box in offices.
- (d) regular sensitisation of programs among
workstaff.
- (e) central helpline to ensure grievance
redressal.
- (f) disclosure by companies on their website
- (g) as done in SEBI, IFSCA etc.
- (h) personalised help through NGOs,
civil society, counsellors etc.
- (i) encourage monetary compensation, name
sharing of characters etc.

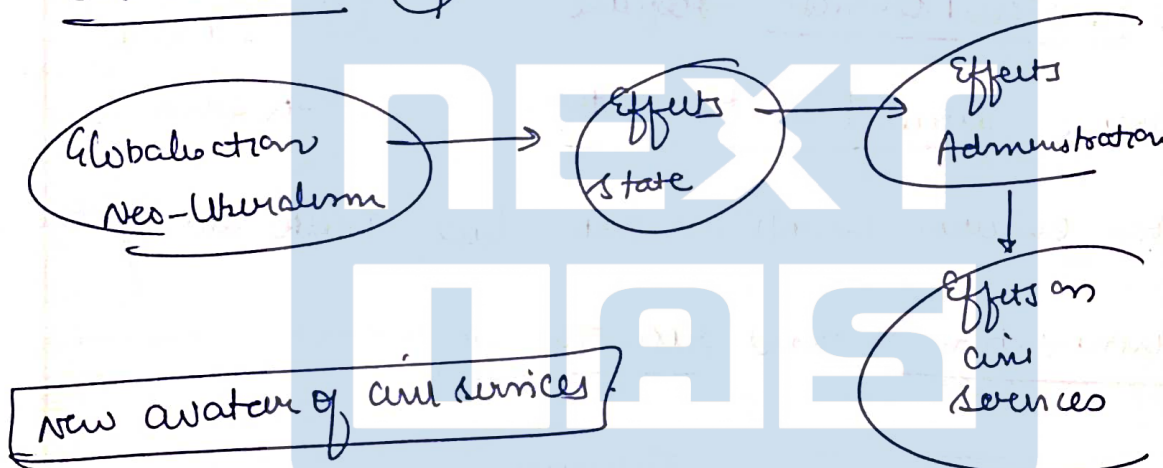
Through, proactive measures, the workplaces can be made safe. This would increase female workforce participation to 30% and ensure their dignity (Article 21).

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.

The new liberal reforms and globalisation has made the role of State of a "steerer" than a "rower". Thus, facilitating more private participation and collaboration (e.g. PPPs).



- (a) they are expected to be collaborative and ensure sharing of
- Roles
 - funds
 - space
- with private sector through PPPs
- (b) Several Mahatmas, Nawabkhan etc are made autonomous. Thus, unions are competing and managing PSOs. This requires entrepreneurial acumen.

(c) Charge of "welfarism" and character :

provision of service by
government

through subsidies

(eg) PM-KISAN, MSP

enabling
welfarism
through
private sector

through
viability Gap
funding

(eg) UDAN
scheme,
CSR schemes

(d) new or services require

more "light touch regulation"

than ensures compliance with laws while allowing
innovation and risk taking.

Challenges in service delivery

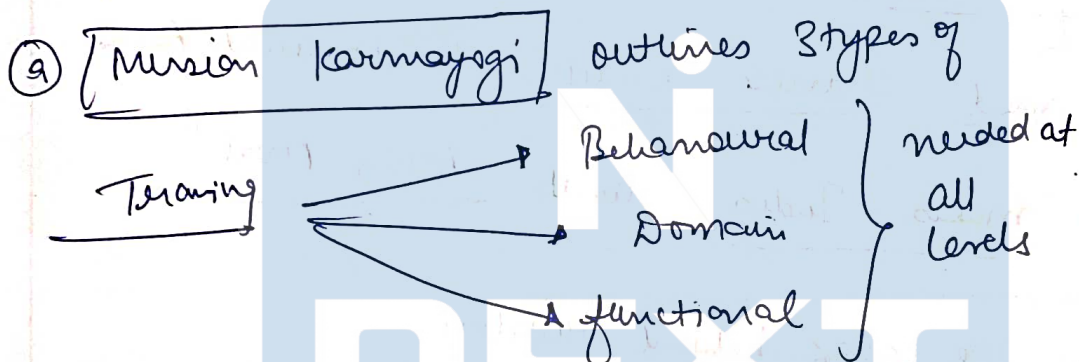
(a) Lack of effective framework for PPPs &
function — causing delay in delivery
services, dispute resolution being ineffective,
cost & time overrun

(b) The colonial attitude of "Mai-Baap culture"
thus causing high handedness in

Service contracts with private sector.

- (c) reduced roles of public sector in service delivery while increased responsibility with high public expectations.

Reforms & Suggestions



- (b) FRAC Approach — for rule based & role based service delivery & function.

- (c) Competency Mapping of services and aligning training modules as per service needs

- (d) more policy certainty & continuity

- (e) PPP laws & framework and effective dispute resolution mechanism (eg) ADR.

To make India developed in 2047, 'ambition reforms' as a key component in 'Amrit kaal'

- 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 ties are at all time low due to Galwan clashes and rising India in last few decades has alarmed Chinese ambition to dominate Asia. This makes India as its "Asian Rival".

Reasons & factors behind rivalry

- (a) India's "neighbourhood first policy" and its ability to use cultural relationship & affinity to bolster its soft power has made Chinese nervous.

- (b) The rising consumerism on back of India's rising middle class and demographic dividend has threatened Chinese economic hegemonic order in Asia.

③ the unique ability of India to forge relations
with all major powers (eg) US, Russia,
UK and side by side all developing
countries through "South South Cooperation"
has made India a "Swing State" and
enlarged its influence.

④ the alliances forged (eg) Indo-Pacific
QUAD, West Asian Quad (1202), the
new energy Quad (Saudi Arabia, UAE,
India, USA) has tilted the power balance
of power in India's favor.

⑤ the growing indigenisation of military
strength and border area development
and global ambition to become "Vishwa Gaurav"
has also made Chinese concerned

Thus, these challenges are cause of
friction in Indo-Sino relationship
However there are areas of convergence.

Areas of convergence

(a) Reformation of WTO — Indo-Chinese concerns align in WTO due to high handedness of US & Europe in trade matters.

(eg) India's food stockholding program and Chinese-US trade rivalry

(b) Climate Change — both can leverage the potential in technology & human resource and create "ASIAN GRID" for green energy.

(c) Counter hegemony influence of Bretton Wood Trims through BRICS Currency Reserve arrangement, BRICS currency etc

(d) counter excess US influence in West & Central Asia through SCO.

(e) counter terrorism in Afghanistan

(eg) ETIM is concern for China and Taliban for India

As Dr. Manmohan Singh says, in Asia there's enough space for India China to grow together, there is a need to revive the William and Chinese-Indian spirit in relations.

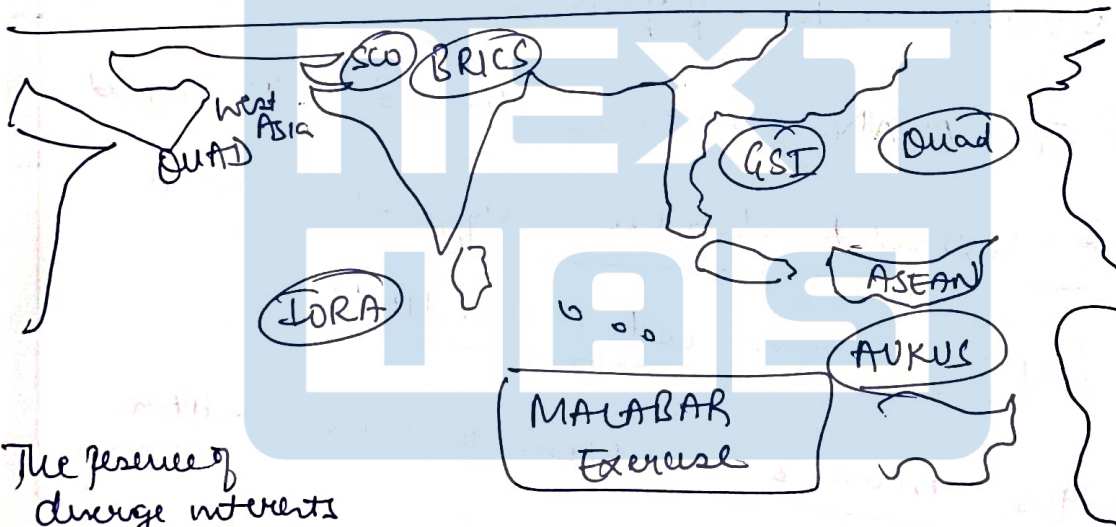
Q.20 हालिया दिनों में हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र अलग-अलग हितों और प्राथमिकताओं वाले क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है। चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि वैश्विक सुरक्षा पहल (GSI) इस क्षेत्र में क्वाड (QUAD) का स्थान ले लेगी

(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 is the region that signifies the expanse from coasts of Africa & west Asia till coasts of Americas. The presence of different groupings & diverse interests has made the region a new theatre of geopolitics.



(zone of diverging interests & priorities)

(a) the US wants to militarise the Indo-Pacific to counter the territorial aggression of Chinese, while India maintains a de-militarised approach in QUAD.

(2) The Australians want to focus on East Indian Ocean and South China Sea while India wants to focus on Indian Ocean. Thus, there's a divergence in areas of operation & influence.

(3) The nuclearisation & arm race though creation of ARCUS has made the region sensitive with proponents & critics divided.

(4) The ASEAN remain divided with respect to respond to Chinese aggression due to lack of "Common code of conduct".

(5) The French's ambition to form a coalition separate from US & Australia due to differences between US & European Union.

Global Security Initiative (GSI)

It is an initiative of China to form an alliance of like minded countries excluding India to protect the security interests.

of the region from the threats of
ASIAN NATO (Indo-Pacific Quad) as Chinese
call it.

The ability of GSI to supersede Quad
remains bleak due to reasons like:

- (a) the region is unanimous in belief that
Chinese threat of territorial aggression is
real & tangible.
- (b) the wolf warrior diplomacy and
clash trap diplomacy are evil trap designs
that threaten sovereignty of Nations.
- (c) further, credentials of China as a
democracy are weak while other countries
are democratic in nature.
- (d) Chinese ~~the~~ manoeuvres & establishment
of military islands in South China Sea,
9 dash line & possible invasion of Taiwan
are real concerns. Therefore, GSI superseding
Quad is low priority.

The key is to ensure dialogue & lay
an area of converging interest to maintain
stability in Indo-Pacific.

NEXT IAS

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Space for Rough Work

Candidates must not
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