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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 : Jaswant

NEXT IAS Roll No.: MT23FLTRA027 Date of Examination : 20/08/23

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☑ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

Test Code : _____ Program : FLT ☑ FLT+ ☐

MAIN TEST SERIES 2023
(FULL LENGTH TEST-6)

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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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 inter-state border dispute between Manipur and Assam had led law and order situation, cross filing of FIR yanist state police, in recent times.

Constitutional and Legal Framework

1) Art 263 allows for setting up of inter-state council to resolve inter-state disputes.

2) Original jurisdiction of supreme court (Art 131) to adjudicate on inter-state issues and conflicts.

3) As part of residuary powers, central government can also intervene.

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4) Art 262, allow central government to set-up tribunals for state-water issues.

Independent India failed to resolve

1) Narrow political gains, by regional political parties

2) Colonial factors like empirical boundaries, poor cadastral maps etc.

3) pendency of cases in Judiciary

(eg) Maharashtra-Karnataka Belgavi Issue

4) Social-cultural factors; as population is divided along two regions

(eg) Kerala-Karnataka border area Kasargod district.

Way forward

1) Faster resolution of conflict with third party approach

2) use of Arbitration, mediation.

Necessary to resolve for a stronger India and developed nation.

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

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

Article 263 in Indian constitution, allows president to set up a Inter-state council for better coordination between union-states.

Role of Inter-State Council

1) Provides a common platform to raise issues requiring greater coordination.
   (eg) water-sharing issues
2) Promote convergence of efforts with greater collaboration
   (eg) Migration issues between source and destination states
3) Helps in bridging trust between unions and states.
4) Sharing of best practices among states.

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5) Helps in forming an inclusive public policy incorporating interests of all states

(eg) Aspirational districts programme, Swachh Bharat.

Issues regarding Inter State council

1) Remains dysfunctional with no regular meetings.
2) Lack of political will to participate
3) No common agenda formed to discuss
4) Other institutions like NITI Aayog, Zonal councils, GST Council used.

Way forward

1) Revitalize the council
2) organise regular meeting with an inclusive and participative approach.

Inter-state council plays a vital role in strengthening Indian federalism.

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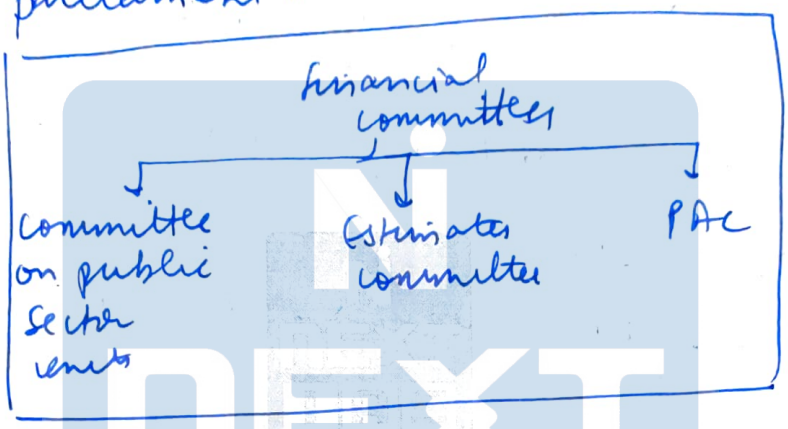
3. लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) के प्रमुख कार्यों पर चर्चा कीजिए। सार्वजनिक धन के सच्चे संरक्षक के रूप में इसकी प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए लोक लेखा समिति (पीएसी) में सुधार के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

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

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

PAC is one of three financial committees pamanently formed in the parliament.



Key functions of PAC

1) Ensures the funds designated are spent by the designated authority for the specific purpose.

2) Checks executive discretion.

3) Prevents misallocation of funds and corruption.

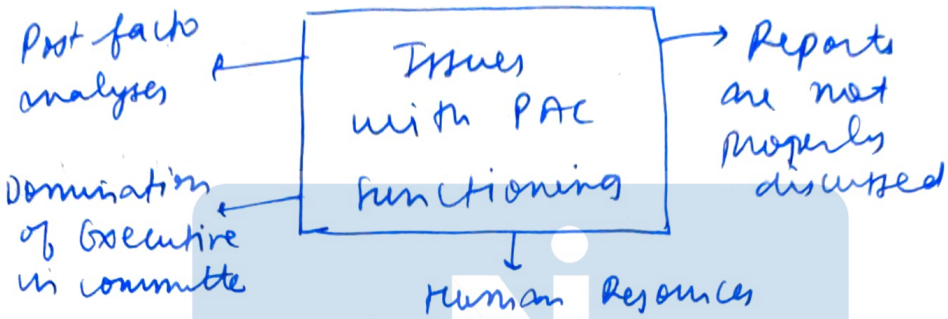
4) Discusses and studies in detail the reports of comptroller and Auditor general.

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5) Enhances Efficiency and effectiveness of the parliament.

6) Ensures financial accountability.



Measures to Enhance effectiveness

1) Build technical capacity of members and provide proper secretarial assistance.

2) Ensure due diligence in report filing and discussion in parliament.

3) Need to ensure greater diversity in committee.

PAC is an important instrument to strengthen accountability of executive.

NEXT IAS

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

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

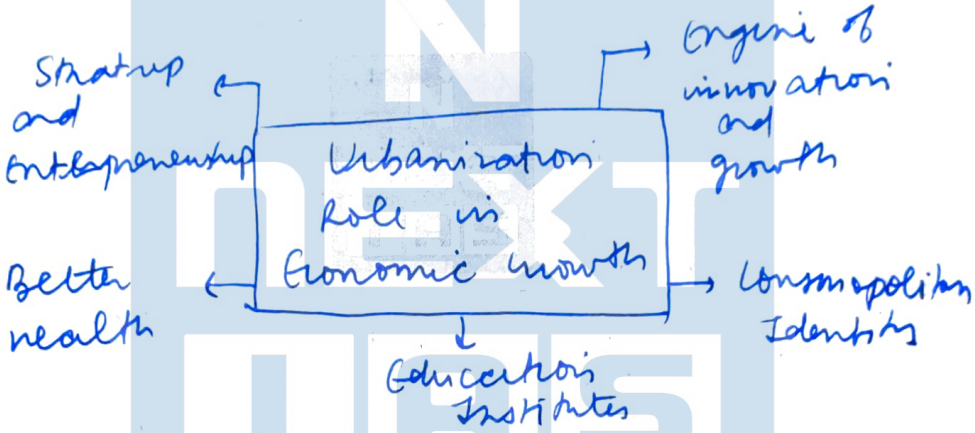
Recognizing the pivotal role of urbanization as a driver of national economic growth, the Fifteenth Finance Commission has suggested major reforms for Urban Local Bodies. Evaluate the recommendations put forward by the Fifteenth Finance Commission in promoting and revitalizing ULBs in India.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

The urban areas in India with

1/3rd of total population contributes to

2/3rd to the Gross domestic product (GDP).



Major Reforms for ULBs by 15th FC

1) Performance linked grants (100%)
for million plus cities.

2) for other municipalities 60-70% of grants are linked to reforms.

3) State governments are encouraged

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to substantive decentralization of powers and functions.

4) Incentives to enhance resource-generation capacity of ULBs

5) Grants for building climate-resilient infrastructure.

Evaluation of Recommendations

1) 63% of total revenue of ULBs still comes from centre, states grants.

2) Dependence on state governments for functionaries and funds.

3) High compliance norms with a uniform population criteria

(eg) Patna competing with Mumbai for Performance grants.

there is a need to enhance resource generation capacity of ULBs for their autonomy and better functionis.

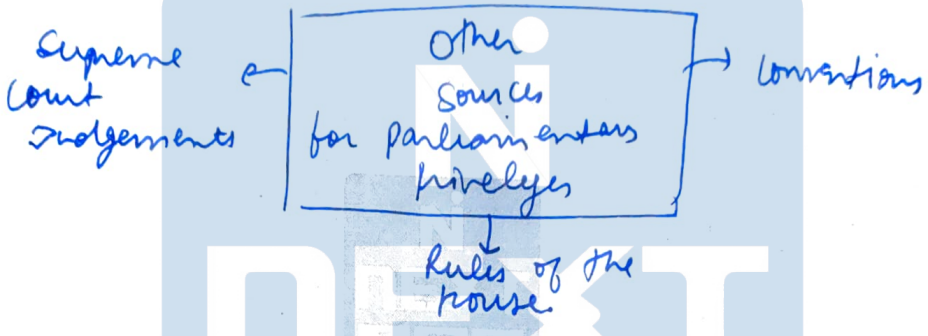
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5. मौलिक अधिकारों की तुलना में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के तहत् प्रदान की गई वाक् और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के दायरे में प्रमुख अंतरों पर प्रकाश डालिए। संसदीय विशेषाधिकार और मौलिक अधिकारों के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखना क्यों आवश्यक है?
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Highlight the key differences in the scope of Freedom of speech and expression as provided under Parliamentary privileges vis a vis Fundamental rights. Why is it necessary to maintain a balance between parliamentary privilege and fundamental rights?
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Art 105 and Art 194 in Indian constitution provides for parliamentary privileges.



Difference in freedom of Speech

Parliamentary Privileges	Fundamental Rights
1) Individual and collective protection for speech in parliament	1) Reasonable restrictions like maintaining friendly relations, public order applies.
2) Not liable for defamation	2) Defamation cases filed for speech hurting interests of people.
3) can't be taken into court of law for their speech	

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4) Also gives publishing rights, freedom from Jury duty etc.	No such rights mentioned in part-3 of Indian constitution.

Necessary to maintain balance between the two

1) "Equality of law" a foundational value of Indian constitution

2) Lack of codification against principle of limited constitutional power.

3) Prone to misuse

(eg) Arrest of Journalist in Karnataka.

4) Against principle of natural justice

(eg) Speaker is judge, jury and executioner

Way Forward

1) Clear codification to prevent misuse

2) Independent tribunal to hear complaints.

Need to maintain balance between the two for peace, stability and healthy democracy.

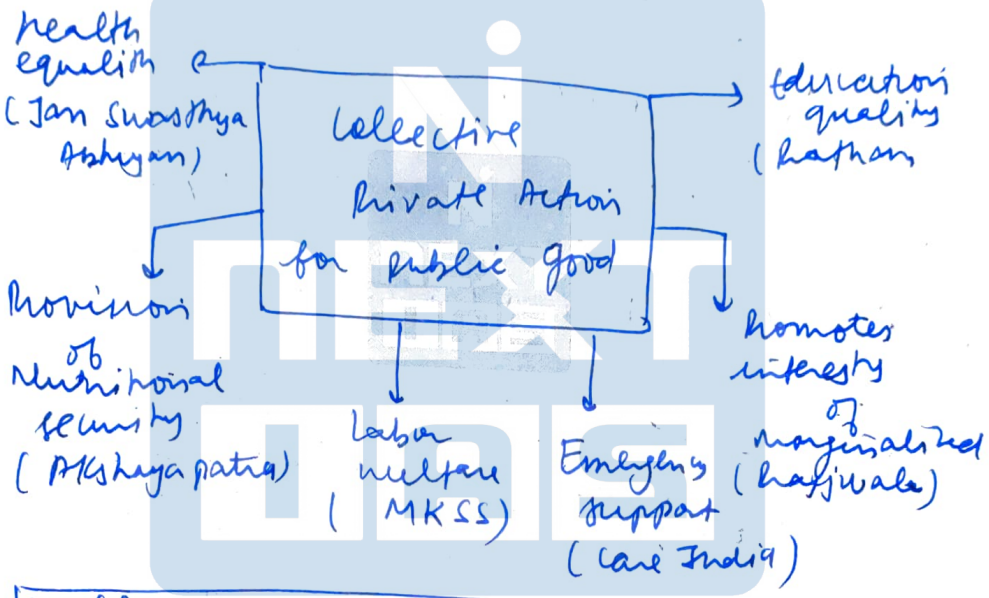
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6. नागरिक समाज संगठन, "सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्रवाई" को बढ़ावा देने में महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। स्थानीय संसाधन जुटाने (एलआरएम) और निगमित सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (सीएसआर) के माध्यम से कॉर्पोरेट (निगमों द्वारा) वित्तपोषण प्राप्त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

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

India has more than 3.3 million registered civil society organisation playing pivotal role.



Challenges in LRM and CSR

1) lack of citizen awareness about civil society organisations.

2) Traditional barriers of caste, gender, religion present true solidarity.

3) complex financial regulatory regime

(eg) some donations to organisation not come under 80G.

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4) poor capacity building of employees

5) Lack of culture of volunteership and philanthropy in India.

6) Perception issues

(eg) "Information warfare" — NSA statement on NGOs.

Measures to Enhance

1) Simplification of rules and regulations.

2) Promotional and awareness initiatives

3) Create collaboration with government

(eg) NGO Darpan

4) Reduce trust deficit

5) Greater democratization of administrative structure of civil society.

Need to implement S. Vijay committee recommendations for enhancing capacity and increased role in society.

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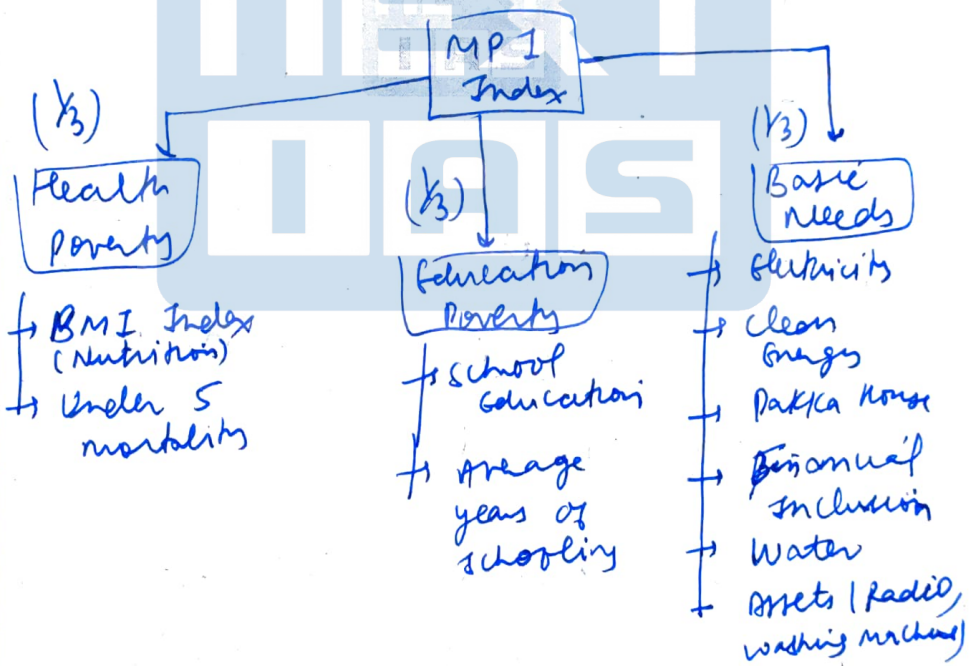
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7. गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में पहला कदम कार्यक्रम के डिजाइन, कार्यान्वयन और निगरानी के लिए आवश्यक विश्वसनीय गरीबी मूल्यांकन करना है। इस संदर्भ में नीति आयोग के राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक की पद्धति और महत्त्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

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

The latest NITI Aayog report on Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has shown improvement in poverty reduction from 25% in 2015 to 15% in 2021.

Methodology of MPI



1) 1/3rd weightage is given to 3 major dimensions

2) A family is treated as poor if its score is less than 1/3.

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Significance of MPI

1) Helps in tracking progress of anti-poverty initiatives.
2) Shifts poverty definition from monetary (calorie) to health and education
3) Promotes inter-state competition and promote competitive federalism.
4) Helps identification of priority areas for focussed interventions.
5) International comparison

Way forward

1) Create district and Block level estimates for greater focussed action.
2) Add other indicators on jobs to make it more holistic

"Poverty is a crime against humanity" — Nelson Mandela. Need to eliminate it.

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8. भारत के संदर्भ में, संवैधानिक प्रावधानों, कानूनी पूर्व–उदाहरणों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं की उपस्थिति के बावजूद, जो स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार के लिए एक मजबूत आधार स्थापित करते हैं, इस अधिकार की स्पष्ट कानूनी मान्यता का अभाव क्यों रहा है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In the context of India, despite the presence of constitutional provisions, legal precedents, and international commitments that establish a robust foundation for a right to health, why has there been a lack of explicit legal recognition of this right? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Right to health is necessary in India because of high out of pocket expenditure annually push 55 million Indians to poverty (world bank)

A. **Constitutional Provisions**

1) Article 21 → Right to life encompass a healthy life

2) Art 47 → Importance of enhancing public health.

B. **International Commitments**

1) Alam-Ata agreement (1967) → provision of universal primary care

2) Sustainable Development goal-3 → Access to quality healthcare to all.

C. **Legal Precedent**

1) Right to health in Rajasthan state

2) Schemes like Ayushman Bharat, national health mission → Towards universal health care.

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Lack of Explicit legal Recognition

1) No major public movement to build pressure on governments.

2) Lack of financial resources
   (eg) only spend 2.1% of GDP on health

3) Human Resource Challenges
   (eg) .7/1000 doctors against UN Norm of 1/1000.

4) Infrastructural deficits with regional, rural-urban divide

5) Lack of political will.

Way forward →
- Recognize UHC (Universal health care) for all as legal Right
- Build UK inspired National Health Scheme
- Promote preventive Health care.

Right to health is a vital step towards universal Health coverage and achieve SDG-3.

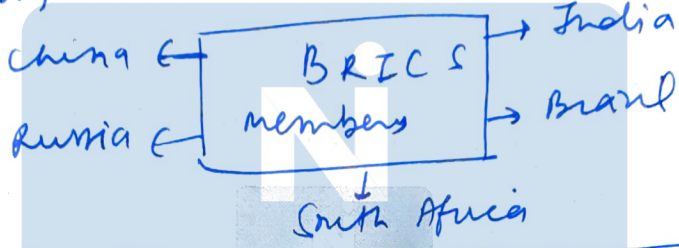
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9. ब्रिक्स राष्ट्रों की सामूहिक शक्ति असंख्य मुद्दों पर सार्थक सहयोग की अनुमति देती है, हालाँकि, द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के प्रक्षेप पथ को प्रभावित करने की मंच की क्षमता सीमित है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The collective strength of BRICS nations allows for meaningful cooperation on myriad issues, however, the platform's ability to influence the trajectory of bilateral relationships remains limited. Do you agree? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

BRICS is an intergovernmental organization for promoting economic development, connectivity and collaboration among members.



Collective strength → meaningful cooperation

1) Provision of funds for infrastructure development
   (eg) set up New Development Bank.
2) Enhance greater connectivity and trade
3) Collaboration of technology development and dissemination.
4) Raises voice of South-countries and developing nations in Environment global forums.

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Limited Ability to influence Bilateral Relationship

1) India - China Issues unresolved
   - Border issues (Galwan Clash)
   - Skewed trade, high deficit for India
   - Restricting India in UNSC, NSG membership

2) Brazil and Indian trade has remained stagnant for past many years

3) South African and Indian relationship has not moved to next strategic level.

4) India - Russia issues of greater defence tech transfer, concern over Russia - Ukraine war remain unresolved.

Way Forward

1) Greater people-to people connect

2) Enhance discussion on BRICS Economic union

3) Resolution of bilateral issues with open discussion.

Incoming BRICS summit in South Africa should address above issues.

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

The Indus water treaty (1960) signed by India and Pakistan to share waters from Indus river system, was mediated by World Bank.

The Eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej) waters is for India and western rivers (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum) for Pakistan.

Recent Demands to Amend

1) Pakistan has raised objection to Kishenganga and Ratle project on Chenab river.

2) Climate change led uncertainity about water supply and increasing demand on both sides.

Implications on Water-Sharing Mechanism

1) Unilateral diversion from treaty could contribute to geopolitical conflict.

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2) Water insecurity could further rise in Pakistan (Lower Riparian state) with non-cooperation.

3) Food insecurity due to reduced access to irrigation sources.

4) Conflict resolution mechanism require reforms (Arbitration, Neutral Expert, Commissioner)

5) Water-sharing conflict could spill over into trade, economic and security sectors.

Way forward

1) Need to bridge trust deficit

2) Independent scientific studies to ascertain true status

3) Incorporate changed situation (climate change) since 1960.

Indus-water treaty is one of the rare cooperative initiative between India and Pakistan. Need to be strengthened and reformed.

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

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

India follows parliamentary system of democracy while USA has a permanent executive in form of President. Both systems have differing roles of Judiciary specific to local context.

Role of Judiciary in Influencing Constitution

A) India

1) Through forming Basic structure doctrine, created a check against executive (Kesavananda Bharti case 1973)

2) Protected Judicial Independance
   (a) Rejecting NJAC Bill 2016.

3) Expansive scope of Article 21
   (a) Olga tellis case 1985 → Right to livelihood
   Puttuswamy case → Right to privacy.

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4) ~~Court~~ Led the way in bringing a rights based approach to welfare

5) Balancing fundamental Rights and DPSP

(eg) Minerva mills case

USA

1) In Board of Education, 1954 case, SC declared segregation policies against constitution.

2) Affirmative Action policies by colleges declared illegal by US Supreme court in recent Harvard university case.

3) Overturned Roe vs wade verdict to dilute women's right to access abortion services

Scope of Judicial Review in India

1) Not under

↳ India follows procedure established by law and not due process of law.

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12.

↳ Indian system establishes constitutional supremacy that restricts Judicial review.

Wider Scope in following context

1) Basic Structure doctrine

↳ Doctrine of essential religious practice (Eg Shirur Mutt case 1954).

These doctrines as not well codified give wide scope.

Need to maintain judicial restraint for effective separation of power in governance process.

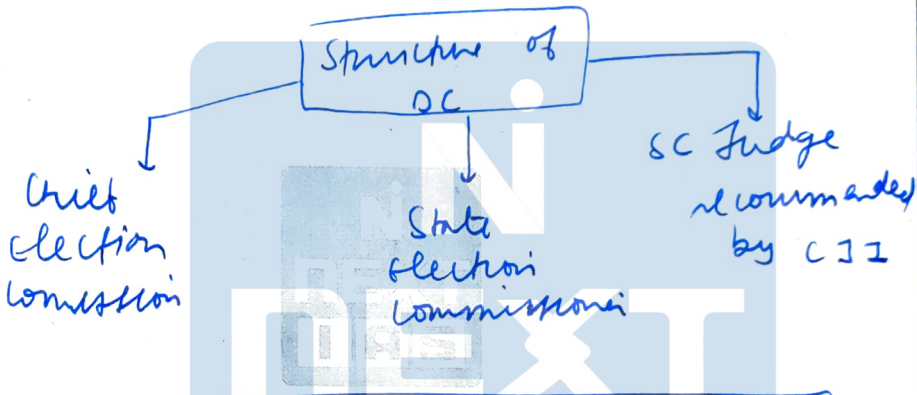
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12. 'निष्पक्ष प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करने और एक मत, एक मूल्य के सिद्धांत को बनाए रखने के लिए सीटों का परिसीमन आवश्यक है।' निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में अप्रतिनिधित्व से उत्पन्न हुई चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए संघीय तनाव पैदा करने में जनसंख्या–आधारित परिसीमन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

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

Article 83 of constitution empowers ~~central government~~ President to set up a Delimitation Commission (DC)



Challenges posed by misrepresentation

1) Dilutes and violates principle of one vote - one value

2) Skewed representation of densely populated region vis-a-vis sparsely populated.

(eg) Average size of a UP constituency higher than in Himachal Pradesh.

3) Governance challenges in managing a big constituency.

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4) Prevents effective connect between elected and representative (MP) and dilutes citizen participation.

5) Issues of marginalized sections may get ignored in a large ~~section~~ constituency.

Ramifications of delimitation in creating federal tension

---

1) Political gerrymandering to create winnable constituencies.

2) Disturbing status-quo

(eg) Increasing seats in Jammu when compared with Kashmir valley.

3) Organize constituencies to favor a particular political party.

4) Not adopting a uniform criteria in re-organization.

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Way Forward

1) Greater coordination and communication between Centre-State to reduce conflict.

2) Strengthen the autonomy of Election Commission

3) Use of updated population data across India to reduce any confusion.

Delimitation exercise as necessary to continuously update and evolve election systems.

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13. देश में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव कराने की निर्वाचन आयोग की संवैधानिक ज़िम्मेदारी के निर्वहन में उसके हाथों को मजबूत करने में भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the role of the Supreme Court of India in strengthening the hands of the Election Commission in the discharge of its constitutional responsibility of conducting free and fair elections in the country.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Art 324 establishes election commission (ECI) to direct, manage and regulate the elections of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

Role of Supreme Court in strengthening Hands of ECI

---

1) In ADR vs UOI (2002) case, Supreme Court made declaration of criminal antecedents, assets and liabilities of candidates mandatory.

2) In Abhiram singh case (2017), seeking votes in the name of religion is termed as a corrupt practice under sect 123, of representative of people's Act (RPA), 1951.

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3) In Lily Thomas case (2013), section-8 of RPA-1951, was declared illegal, SC allowed convicted members to hold their seat if they file appeal in a higher court

4) SC judgement in PUCL Vs UOI (2014) made (NOTA) an option → expands voters choice + Increase participation.

5) SC judgements on hate speech used as precedent by ECI to take action against candidates in election.

6) VVPAT in Subramanyam Case, made mandatory → greater transparency.

Limitations of SC Intervention

1) Judicial overreach, interfering in executive domain.

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2) Provides short term relief

(eg) ECI appointment judgement overturned by Central Government by bringing a new bill.

3) Creates dependance on SC and reduce viability of popular pressure.

Way forward

↳ Reforms need to be build through political consensus

↳ Using public awareness through Jan Andolan

↳ Approaching Judiciary as last option

An independent ECI is a sine-qua-non for a well functioning electoral democracy like India.

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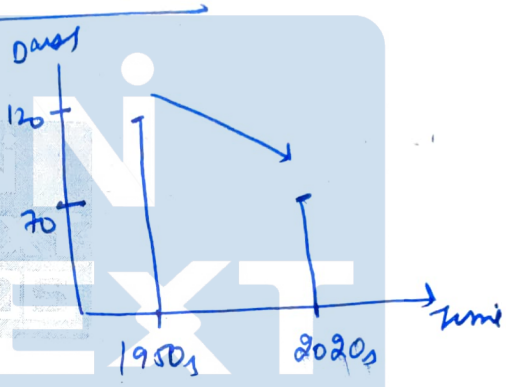
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14. 'संसद की घटती भूमिका शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के मूल सिद्धांत को कमज़ोर करती है, क्योंकि यह कार्यकारी शाखा पर नियंत्रण रखने और सत्ता का संतुलित प्रयोग सुनिश्चित करने की विधायिका की क्षमता को कम कर देता है।' विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)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

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

" Parliaments are modern day temples in a democracy "
— Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Declining role of Parliament



1) Number of days of meeting have come down substantially

2) Productivity in Budget session 2023 @ 34% is one of the lowest.

3) Frequent disruptions, unruly behaviour by members have reduced the prestige of Parliament:

Diminishes legislature Ability to serve as a check

1) Bills are passed without effective

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debate and discussions.

2) Frequent adjournments and reduced meeting days encourage ordinance route (Art 123)

3) Referrals to parliamentary committees have fallen substantially

(a) 71% of bills referred in (2009-14), now (2019-2023) only 10%.

4) Use of delegated legislation by executive to evade scrutiny.

5) Executive has concentrated powers without parliamentary oversight.

6) Opposition parties have been marginalized without parliamentary functioning to contribute in law making.

Way forward

1) Impartial role of Speaker to maintain decorum.

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2) Link salaries with minimum number of days working of parliament.

3) Legally mandate >100 days of attendance.

4) Best practice from UK

↳ Speaker allows opposition to set the agenda of day once a week.

5) Revitalize the role of parliamentary committees

Separation of powers and checks and balance doctrines require an active role of legislative body in governance.

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

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

National commission of woman (NCW) was set up in 1992 as a statutory body to promote gender justice.

Role of NCW in discourse on gender sensitive laws

1) Highlights the cases of gender rights violation to raise public awareness
(eg) Bhawari Devi case in Rajasthan in 1990s → POSH Act

2) Enhance accountability of executive to implement gender-just laws and policies
(eg) NCW intervention in dowry case for faster arrest of culprit.

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3) NCW tracks and monitor the implementation of legal, constitutional safeguards

4) NCW organizes national workshops, conferences to share and publish Best practices.

5) NCW advices government bodies in policy making and implementation.
(eg) Women perspective in water and sanitation schemes

6) Helps in creating a vigilant citizenry through state and district level offices.

Elevation of NCW to a Constitutional body

1) Strengthens autonomy in functioning.
2) Greater certainity and availability of funds
3) Reports will be sent to president for discussion in parliament
like NCSC, NCST.

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4) what powers of a Civil court to summon

5) Security of tenure for officials

Way forward

1) Need to give actionable powers, as recommendations are rarely followed.

2) To enhance legitimacy, appointment of NCW chief has to be through a collegium (like CBI)

3) Enhance public education and sensitization initiatives (Eg Beti Bachao Beti Padhao etc)

4) Increase gender-Budgeting

5) Enhance woman representation in police, bureaucracy

A strong, autonomous NCW is crucial for achieving SDG-5 goal of Gender Justice for all.

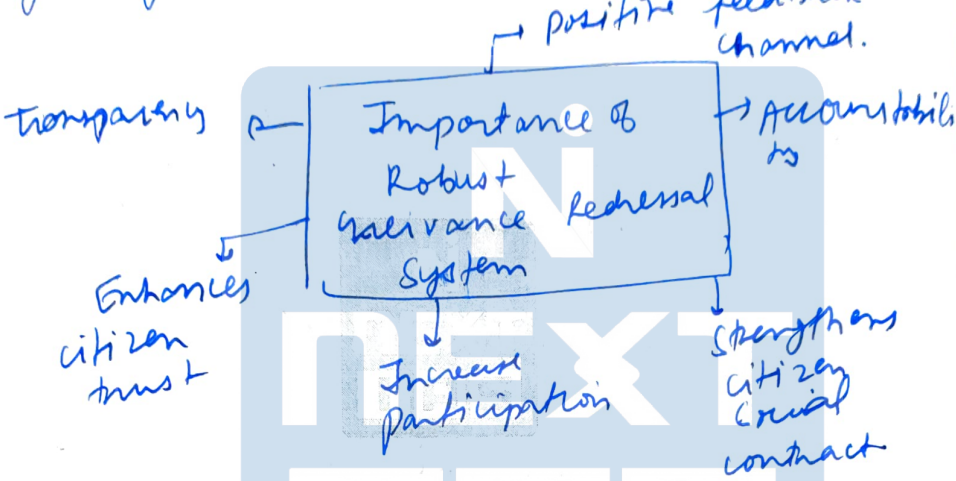
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16. 'शिकायतों का संतोषजनक और समयबद्ध निवारण 'न्यूनतम सरकार, अधिकतम शासन' की आधारशिला है।' इस संदर्भ में मौजूदा शिकायत निवारण तंत्र से जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए और इस प्रक्रिया को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15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

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

Satisfactory grievance ~~redg~~ redressal system is an important pillar of good governance model (UNDP)



Challenges of Current Grievance Redress

1) Legal Enforcement of grievance system remains absent in most welfare schemes.
2) Poor capacity building of employees to design and maintain grievance system
3) Non-responsive complaint registration

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system.

4) No penal provision for delay in redressal

(eg) >3 lakh appeals pending in RTI

5) Poor work culture in government offices

6) Lack of funds allocated for building and maintaining a robust system

7) Awareness of citizens lacking

measures to strengthen Grievance Redressal

1) legal mandate for citizen charters for effective implementation.

2) Leverage technological tools to broaden accessibility

(eg) MEE-SEVA portal in Andhra Pradesh.

3) Training and capacity building of employees.

4) Awareness and sensitization of citizens.

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5) Strict penal provisions

(eg) Delay in resolution → fine on employee

↳ Compensate citizen.

6) Make compulsory provision of social audits in welfare schemes

(eg) Meghalaya public service Act.

7) Continuous updation of protocols, third party audits to maintain faster resolution.

The Sevottam model of Governance by 2nd ARC envisages a robust grievance redressal for better service delivery.

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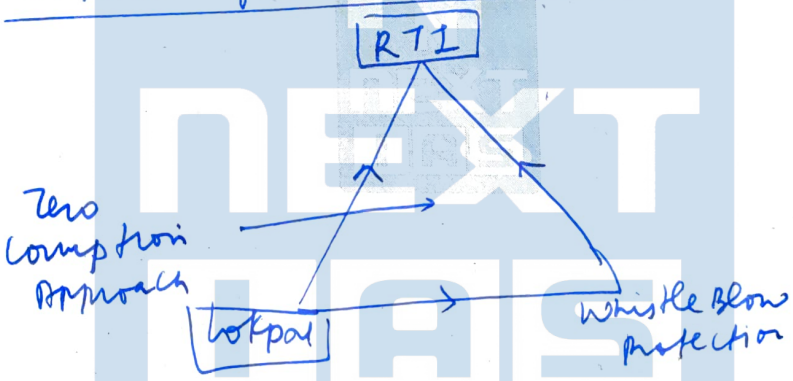
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17. 'भ्रष्टाचार शासन के ताने–बाने को जर्जर कर देता है, जिससे लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में जनता का विश्वास कम हो जाता है।' भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी शासन या व्यवस्था की प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम, व्हिसलब्लोअर संरक्षण अधिनियम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

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

India performs poorly in Corruption Perception Index. Ranked 85/180 countries.

Potential for Harmonization



1) Increase convergance in efforts of government agencies.

2) RTI promotes greater public scrutiny, enhances citizen participation.

3) Brings a culture of transparency by exposing scams.

(eg) Adarsh Housing Society, CWG Com.

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4) Stronger whistleblow protection Act (WPA) would strengthen citizen's trust and encourage in participation.

5) Lokpal and Lokayuktas could greatly benefit from public-spirited and proactive citizenry nurtured by RTI and WPA.

6) Lokpal would get complaints (genuine) without fear or favour with stronger WPA.

7) Other measures required for to enhance effectiveness

→ ① Autonomous investigation agencies CBI, CVC

→ ② Public sensitisation against "petty corruption", speed money

Challenges in harmonization

1) Administrative issues as handled by different ministries.

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2) WPA, 2014, passed, but no rules have been published → delayed implementation

3) (5 RTI activists got killed since 2005)

3) RTI regime challenges
   - → High pendency (>3 lakh appeals)
   - → Vacancies at Information Commission level

4) Lokpal and Lokayukta challenges
   - → Rigid complaint format & high rate of rejection
   - → 7 year window

Way forward

↳ Start a "Jan Andolan" against corruption

↳ Break political-Bureaucratic-Corporate Nexus

Corruption remains to be eliminated to achieve goals of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" and $5 trillion economy.

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

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

In India, there are close to 75 lakhs SHGs registered that play an active role in the governance of the country.

Benefits of SHGs

A) **Skill Development**

1. collaborate with government agencies under National Rural Livelihood programme
2. CSR based funding utilized by SHGs for local training and capacity building

B) **Entrepreneurship**

1) Through promotion of savings, invest in new ventures

(eg) Cafe Kudumbashree in Kerala

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2) SHGs help in building networks for easier access to raw materials and potential markets.

5) **Income Generation**

1) SHGs give inter-member loans to set up Beauty Parlours etc

2) Chitya Udyog Vikas Kendra in Maharashtra has a network of SHGs

3) **Other Benefits** → Women Empowerment
→ Create decentralization of governance
→ Financial Inclusion
→ Convergence in policy making and implementation.

Challenges of SHGs

1) Poor financial literacy of members, mismanagement of Accounts.

2) Unable to leverage technology to enhance efficiency.

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3) Traditional barriers of caste, religion, prevent true solidarity.

4) Lack of integration and access to institutional finance.

5) Awareness about government schemes and initiatives lacking.

Way forward

1) Bridge digital Divide → Access, Literacy

2) Regular training and capacity building

3) Convergence at local level institutions like cream cabbs.

SHGs are crucial pillar in nation's growth and development.

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

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

India has a large diaspora (32 million) that is spread around the world contributes actively to India's soft power diplomacy.

Instruments of Soft power Diplomacy

A) Culture

1) Religious convergence of interests

(eg) Buddhism in south-east Asia.

2) Shared linguistic heritage with Bangladesh.

B) Diaspora -

1) Acts as exporting vehicles of India's culture

(eg) Diwali celebration in white House

2) Popularization of food culture (Chicken-Tikka) in UK.

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3) Tamil movies extremely popular in Thailand, Malaysia etc

c) **Democracy**

1) World's largest democracy
2) Ancient values of debate, deliberation and diplomacy in resolving international conflict
3) Promote a rules based world order
4) Free and inclusive and representative multilateral Institutions.

Able to position as 'Soft Power'

1) Operation Ganga to rescue Indian students during Ukraine-Russia war
2) US based diaspora helped in India-US civil nuclear deal
3) Model minority in world, and Indian diaspora now heads global institutions
   (es) Ajay Banga as World Bank Chief.

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4) used ideas of "Varsuder Kutumbkam" in climate change negotiations for Equitable policies

Not used effectively

1) Reports of human rights violations spoils image
2) Border conflicts with pakistan and china unable to resolve
3) Hard power matters
   - low per capita income

Way forward

1) Spending on cultural ambassadors
   (eg) S Korea in popularising BTS band
2) Set up people-to people exchange programmes.

Soft power needs to be complemented with Hard power to attain foreign policy goals.

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20. भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझा मूल्यों और जीवंत लोगों से लोगों के बीच संबंधों का साहचर्य दोनों देशों के बीच दीर्घकालिक व्यापार संबंधों और रणनीतिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उपजाऊ जमीन तैयार करता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The synergy of shared values and vibrant people-to-people connections between India and Australia creates a fertile ground for fostering long-lasting trade relations and strategic collaboration between the two nations. Analyse.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

India and Australia have recently upgraded their relationship to strategic level with a roadmap till 2035.

Synergy of Shared Values

1) Both are mature democracies
2) Respect for rules-based world order
3) Free and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Vibrant people to people connection

1) A large India diaspora in Australia
2) Lakhs of Indian students go to Australia every year
3) A healthy cricket rivalry between the two.

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Fostering Long-Lasting Trade Relations

1) Bilateral trade has reached $48 Billion dollar.

2) India is largest imports of coal from Australia → contribute to energy security.

3) New partnerships in technology exchange in Agriculture

4) Multilateral organization members

(eg) QUAD, IPEF

5) Defence collaboration

(eg) Malabar Exercise

6) common strategic interests in containing china.

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Challenges in the Relationship

1) Lack of Diversity in trade
2) Different conceptions of Indo-pacific
   India → Security Australia → Trade & Economy
3) New AUKUS deal lead to greater militarisation of Indo-pacific.
4) Hate crimes against Indian Diaspora

Way forward

- Active steps to reduce trade deficit
- Relax entry barriers for Indian professionals
- Greater convergence on Chinese actions.

Huge potential in Indo-Australia relationship to contribute to global safety and prosperity.