

NEXT IAS

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Test - 2

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MTS IGP Batch 2023

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. :

1990-1995



(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



1. There is a need to resolve the ambiguity in the disqualification Provisions under section 8 of the Representation of people Act 1951. DISCUSS.

Section 8 under RPA Act 1951 provides for disqualification of a legislator for various reasons.

Ambiguity -

1. 2 year - jail term → leading to disqualification

↳ If stayed conviction → then reinstatement (However this provision is not mentioned clearly)

2. Practices like false affidavit, non-declaration of assets → Not declared as cause for disqualification.

3. No power to ECI to take strong action → leaves it with Judiciary.



Way forward -

1. Need to resolve the ambiguity with amendments in RPA 1951
2. Dinesh Goswami committee → to include electoral offences and corrupt practices as cause of disqualification.
3. Clear provisions on jail-term and subsequent disqualification
4. ↳ For stay / commutation of sentence

↳ In this way, clear provisions are needed under RPA 1951 to prevent criminalisation of politics as per Sily Thomas case guidelines.

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

Constitutionalism refers to the adherence to constitutional values and morality in the actions of executive, judiciary and legislative.

Constitution is a mere skeleton:

1. Constitution only mentions the provisions and goals/objectives of India as nation, such as,

1. ~~Secular~~ society - Sovereign, Socialist

2. Secular, Democratic country (Preamble)

2. Achieve social, economical & political justice (Fundamental rights and DPSP)

3. Promote equality and liberty etc.

However, the responsibility of various organs of government is to apply these and uphold constitutionalism.

Constitutionalism as soul -

1. To uphold separation of powers as

envisaged in Article 50 [eg] NJAC
Judgement of Supreme Court (SC)

2. Uphold fundamental rights vis-a-vis
secularism and right to freedom of religion

[eg] Sabarimala judgement to allow women
into temple

3. Protection of freedom of speech

[eg] Shreya Singhal judgement

4. Upholding Rule of Law and Equality
before law. [eg] Raj Narain case

5. Promoting federal principle with a balance
between centre-states [eg] SR Bommai judgement

As BR Ambedkar said, the
success of our constitution depends on the
morality of those who operate upon the
constitution, i.e. the Government.

Therefore, the primary objective
of governance should be to uphold
constitutionalism in every action.



3. "Electoral bonds are a double-edged sword, providing anonymity to donors while raising concerns about transparency in political bunding." To what extent have electoral bonds further legitimized opacity in electoral bunding?

Electoral bonds were introduced in 2017-18 to act as transparent tools in electoral funding. However, there are many limitations in its objectives.

Electoral bonds - Positive aspect →

1. Provides anonymity to donors - as the bonds are sold by SBI (an only bank) and donated to parties anonymously within 15 days
2. Protected the security of donors by preventing any harassment
3. Removes cash transactions → Promote transparency and keeps track online.

Challenges - further legitimized opacity in electoral funding →

1. Previous to electoral bond, any donation above 20,000 ₹ had to be declared by the political party & donors.

2. For corporations, a fixed portion of profit can only be donated to political party → This provision was withdrawn.
3. Allowing subsidiary companies of foreign ownership to take part in electoral bond scheme.
4. Alleged biasness in funding towards ruling party - [e.g] More than 80% funding through electoral bonds to BJP.
5. Election Commission's apprehensions against electoral bond → suggested for amendment in anonymity provision

Way Forward

Like USA, parties need to voluntarily declare their donors.

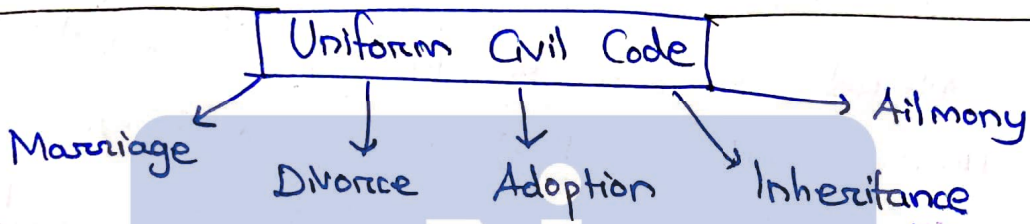
Recently JMM in Jharkhand declared their receipt publicly - States should follow such practice.

Partial state funding of election (Indrajit Gupta committee) can be initiated.



4. 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?

Article 44 under Directive Principles of State Policy provides that, the state shall endeavour to formulate an UCC throughout the territory of India.



UCC → Question of Gender Equality :-

1. Can address the discriminatory provisions of personal laws like polygamy, Triple Talak, Sati, Child Marriage etc.
2. Promote Right to Equality for women, as suggested by Supreme Court in Shayara Bano case.
3. Reduces ambiguity on laws like bigamy and inter-faith marriages (Sarla Mudgal case)

Challenges in reconciling UCC with Gender Equality

1. Perception as imposing of majority traditions on minorities like monogamy.
2. Against the spirit of Article 26
i.e. Right to manage own religious affairs.
3. Opposition from minorities like tribals
and religious minorities (Personal law boards)
4. Lack of consensus among citizens
including women - who are suppressed
from right to equality.
5. Against the spirit of diversity of
India, as UCC promotes uniformity.

Way forward

Adequate
Jan Samvads

↳ Ranjana Desai
committee in
Uttarakhand

Starting with
amendment in
personal laws

Create
conducive
environment
through
awareness
generation.

UCC can be a way to Gender
Equality for all religions. However, a comprehensive
participatory effort is required for its success.

5. 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?

Article 153 provides for the post of Governor in all states. He is appointed by the President and acts as nominal head of a state

Governor's office — neither decorative nor inconsequential

Active contribution to Governance →

1. Appoints state election commission & state finance commission
2. Gives assent to bills passed by legislative assembly
↳ can reserve or reject also
3. In case of hung assembly, he/she appoints the CM from majority.
4. He can ask for any report on day-to-day governance from CM.
5. He submits recommendations to President for use of Article 356 in case of constitutional breakdown.

To reinforce principle of federalism)

1. keeps a connecting link of state & centre.
2. Acts as agent of central government.
3. Helps resolve any centre-state disputes by providing mediation

Q. 2

Limitations in Governor's role

1. Alleged biasness in Governor's functions -
[es] Governor - CM dispute in West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Kerala.
2. Misuse of reservation of bill provision
[es] Anti-Lynching bill of Rajasthan
3. Misuse of discretionary provision like
[eg] Tamilnadu - dismissal of minister
4. Political appointment into Governor's post

However, Governor has a key role to uphold federalism. Therefore the recommendation of Sarkaria and MM Punchhi commission like non-political nature of Governor, fixed term etc need to be implemented by Central Govt.

6.

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.



7. There is a need for convergence of 'nutrition-specific' and 'nutrition-sensitive' interventions to effectively tackle child undernutrition in India. Examine.

As per Global Hunger Index 2022, India's 50% children are suffering from anaemia, 37% from wasting and almost 18% from stunting.

Schemes operating

- PM-POSHAN yojana
- ICDS scheme
- Poshan 2.0 Abhiyan

Need for convergence of nutrition-specific and nutrition sensitive interventions →

Nutrition Specific →

↳ Targetting of a particular nutrients - deficiency

e.g Iron and Folic Acid tablets, being given to school children.

Nutrition - sensitive →

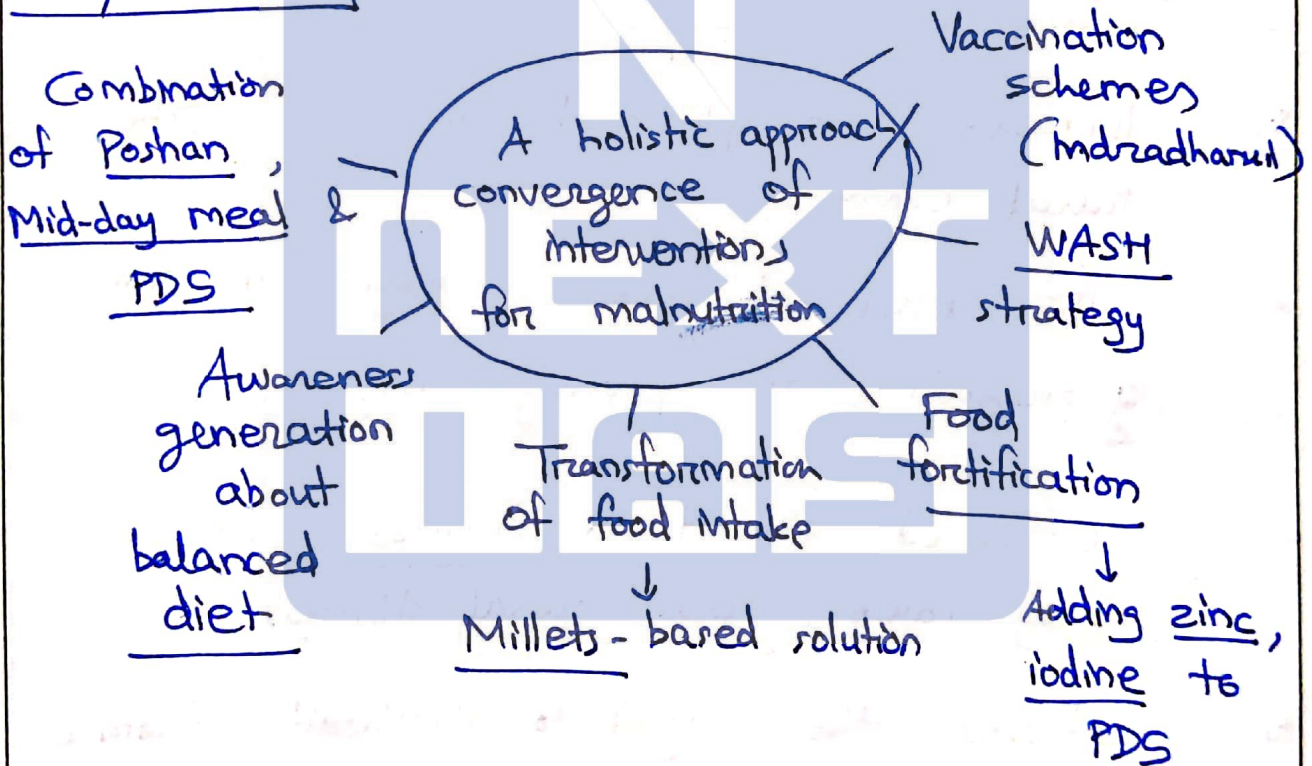
- ↳ Provision for balanced diet
- ↳ Food fortification initiatives
- ↳ Sanitation & Hygiene needs to prevent worm-infections



Advantages of convergence :

1. Holistic step towards nutritional needs.
2. From a piece-meal approach to integrated approach.
3. Cost-effective nature
4. Convergence of various departments improves efficiency and effectiveness.

Way forward



Therefore, a comprehensive effort can help address the malnutrition problems of India to ensure SDG 2.0 - Zero hunger & malnutrition.

8. "MGNREGA, the lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation, has become the victim of fiscal apathy." Critically analyze the statement in light of recent developments.

In post-COVID rural economy, there have been demand of higher MGNREGA work. However, budget 2023 has reduced fiscal allocation for the scheme.

Negatives of this fiscal apathy

1. Increase unemployment crisis in the rural economy.
2. ~~The~~ Lack of income may lead to aggregation of poverty issue.
3. Combined with farm distress it may cause overall rural distress.
4. Against the right to livelihood doctrine of DPSPs (Article 39)

However, the reduction in fiscal allocation has few positive aspects →

Alternate perspective of Govt -

1. To transfer people towards skilled alternatives for better income opportunities.
[e.g] Investment in skill programs increased
↳ PM Gramin Kaushal Yojana
2. Focusing on MSMEs & rural entrepreneurship
[e.g] Champions portal, MUDRA scheme
3. New initiative for farm sector -
Agro-processing plants in rural area to absorb excess labour
[e.g] Krishi Sampada Yojana
4. Promoting horticulture, fisheries, integrated farming etc. in rural areas.

MGNREGA scheme should not be an alternative for permanent employment or skilled employment. Therefore reduction in MGNREGA allocation should be complemented with other long-term rural development measures.

9. "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?

Post COVID - world is witnessing multiple global divides due to various reasons such as USA-China trade war, taking shape of cold war, Russia-Ukraine war, civil wars in Africa etc.

Current geopolitical churn → Paving way for India's rise to Global High table

Economic way -

1. Attracting industries being shifted from China to India.
2. Providing alternative exports -
 ↳ [eg] Wheat export (alternate to Ukraine)
3. Exploring new free trade deals with Indian interest [eg] with UK after Brexit

Military rise -

4. Being Net security Provider in west asia → to fill the vacuum after US withdrawal

5. Increasing its position in Indo-pacific
↳ Ties with Australia, ASEAN,
Japan etc.
6. Military deals and defence exports to
emerging economies [eg] Vietnam
Phillippines

Strategic Rise -

7. By posing itself as Leader of Global South
8. Improving ties with African Union,
Latin American nations.
9. New multilateral groupings like
I2U2, QUAD, RIC, India-Iran -
Armenia trilateral etc.

Therefore, India must utilise the
the opportunities provided by Global
divides to further its foreign policy
objectives in line with Multi-alignment
strategy.

10. "Berlin can be India's gateway to the European Union." Elaborate with respect to Germany's significance in India's relationship with the EU.

India - EU relationship has been re-energised in recent time with negotiations on BTIA (free trade agreement) and mutual investments

Germany's significance -

(For India's relationship with EU :

Economic

1. Germany source of India's FDI
2. India's service sector sees Germany as a major EU market

Strategic

3. Germany & India are part of [G4] group for supporting each other for UNSC permanent seat.
4. Collaboration in R & D and health sector.

People-to-people -

5. Student exchange programs
6. Germany's DAAD scholarship for Indian students
7. Collaboration on AI & 5G.

Challenges:

1. Slowdown in German economy
2. Rise of France over Germany as preferred partner in EU
3. Lack of high-level engagement
4. Episodic relationship of India-Germany.

However, India can strengthen its relationship with Germany through its presidency of G20 to further relations with EU.

11. 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.

52nd Amendment Act of 1985

added 10th schedule into the constitution,
which is known as Anti-defection Law.

Anti-defection Law - ADL

1. Disqualifies a MP/MLA if one resigns from political party or acts against the whip of the party.
2. Prevents independent member to join any political party.
3. Allows nominated member to join any political party within 6 months.

How ADL impacted relationship of political parties and legislators →

1. Prevented horse trading to some extent by enforcing loyalty to one's party
2. Reduced the significance of individual with respect to overarching party in debates & discussions

3. However, it treats nominated & independent members differently on defection.
4. Made speaker's role crucial to decide on disqualifications.

Recent Incidents :

1. Use of two-third merger provision
eg. Shiv Sena issue in Maharashtra
2. Large scale disqualifications
eg. Madhya Pradesh assembly
3. Misuse of provisions to break ruling coalition governments.

Unintended consequences it has on functioning of democracy :-

1. Provides opportunity for corruption — use of money power to break smaller party.
2. Removes differentiation between 'dissent' and 'defect' → Reduced quality of debates in legislative assemblies.

3. Makes speakers' role crucial -
but due to loyalty towards own party,
it has created partiality & partisan
decision making.
4. Makes Election Commission a
non-stakeholder in the process
5. Increased appeal cases against
speaker in Courts.

Way forward -

1. Decision on disqualification should be
taken by President / Governor
with binding advice of ECI →
(Dinesh Goswami committee)
2. Speaker needs to decide within fixed
time period (Keisham Singh case)
3. Judicial review of decision as
per Kihoto Holohan case

To ensure ADL to achieve its real
objective of democratic functioning of legislatures,
adequate reforms are need of the hour.



12. 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?

Basic Structure Doctrine was given by Supreme Court in Kesavananda Bharati case in 1973. The doctrine says that Parliament or ~~Executive~~ can amend any part of constitution, but can not alter its basic structure.

Structural ambiguity of the doctrine —

1. No written form of basic structures
2. Extra-constitutional interpretation
3. Provides discretion to judges
4. Asymmetric power structure →
Towards Judicial Supremacy
5. Brings subjectivity in application of the doctrine.

Therefore, to some extent the doctrine made judiciary more powerful than executive →



For example -

1. It has led to Judicial Activism -
with signs of supremacy of judiciary.

eg NJAC case - SC declared the 99th
amendment as unconstitutional, as
Independence of Judiciary as basic structure.

2. Prevented steps by executive to
advance Land reforms without interference.

eg IR Coelho case - 9th schedule was
made under Judicial Review - as
a basic structure.

3. Prevents any unilateral action
by executive against states

eg SR Bommai case - Federalism
was declared as Basic structure

4. Other such basic structures are -

- ↳ Secularism
- ↳ Parliamentary System
- ↳ Free & Fair elections.

Positive aspects of basic structure →

1. Prevented despotic tendencies of executive & legislative.
[eg] 39th constitutional amendment Act to provide immunity from Judicial Review.
2. Created separation of power with effective checks and balances.
3. Protected constitutional morality and constitutionalism.

However, looking at the elastic nature of Basic Structure doctrine, there needs to be codification of the same to prevent discretionary interpretation by judges.

Overall, Basic Structure doctrine has created a system of effective checks and balances by providing slight advantage to Judiciary over executive.

13. 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.

Fundamental rights are provided by constituent assembly to the citizens under Part III of the constitution, as protection against tyranny of the state and as few basic human rights.

FRs — Not Gifts rather individual possesses —

1. Fundamental Rights are enforceable by court of law.
2. Helps in achieving constitutional objectives of liberty and equality
3. Also provides opportunity to individual for holistic development
4. They can not be taken away without procedure established by law.
(Article 21)

However, there are several reasonable restrictions →

Desirability of reasonable restrictions →

1. FRs are not sacrosanct or absolute.
They can be taken away in specific situations.
2. To uphold public order, morality and health [e.g.] Restriction on Article 25 → Closure of temples, Mosques by Government in COVID-19
3. To protect national unity and sovereignty
[e.g.] Sedition Laws as reasonable restriction on Freedom of speech (Kedarnath Singh case)
4. To protect the fundamental rights of ~~one~~ other people or public at large.
[e.g.] Restrictions like Defamation provisions, against Hate speech etc
(section 153A, 153B, 296A of IPC)

5. To protect and uphold the law
and order situation or lives/livelihoods
of public

[eg] section 144 (CrPC), Ban on internet
etc. (Anuradha Bharati case)

However, the challenges
are the misinterpretation of 'reasonable'
word, that led to despotic tendency
in executive. For example:

- ① Sedition laws - < 3% conviction rate
- ② Unlimited internet ban - eg Manipur, Kashmir
- ③ Many defamation cases
- ④ Ban on voices of media - IT rules 2021

Therefore, as per SC's
decisions over various cases, the
reasonable restrictions should not violate
the 'test of proportionality' and there
should be minimum use of such
restrictions in exceptional cases.



14. 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.

In SR Bommai vs Union of India case of 1992-93, Supreme Court held that Article 356 on President's rule provision should not be ~~mis~~ misused to topple opposition-ruled state government.

Judicial Interpretation's significance

1. Brought the President's decision under Judicial Review.
2. On malafide intention, the state assembly to be restored.
3. President's rule should only be implemented, when there is a Constitutional crisis and not on the ground of maladministration or corruption.

4. The primary effort of Governor should be to find alternatives like coalition governments, if ruling party loses majority or in case of hung assembly.

5. It tried to interpret Governor's discretion in a narrow manner.

Impact of the judgement :-

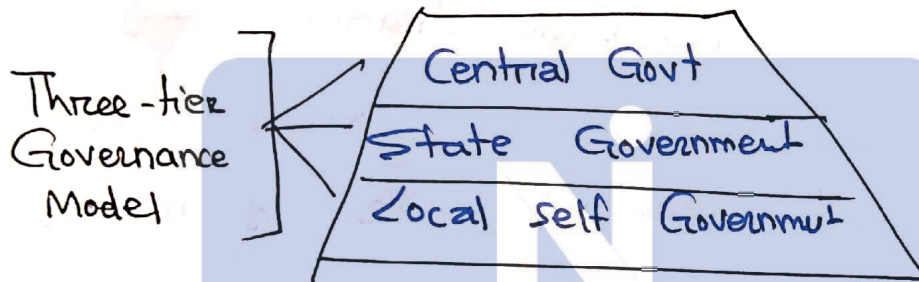
1. It reduced the implementation instances of Art 356 unlike the era of 1970s.
2. Ensured stability in state administration.
3. Created restraint on the side of Governor and Central Government.
4. Provided much needed autonomy to the state Government.

5. Judicial Review of President's rule led to protection of states' rights later-on. [eg] Supreme Court reinstated Uttarakhand, Arunachal Assembly through such provision.
6. SR Bommai case - also ~~made~~ declared Federalism as a basic structure → Restricted Parliament towards any unilateral changes in these provisions.

Overall, SR Bommai Judgement was a watershed moment, that became basis of future judgements on Federal structure like Nebam Rabia Judgement. In this way, it strengthened India's federal structure as 'Union of States'.

15. 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.

73rd and 74th Amendment
Acts provided for Local self Governments in India as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) respectively.



Key to effective decentralisation

① Political decentralisation :

Decision making power by Gram Sabha
Local elections to choose grass-root leaders.

② Financial decentralisation :

Allocation of financial resource
Ability of PRIs / ULBs to gather / collect their own monetary resources / Taxation

③ Functional decentralisation

Delegation of subjects mentioned
under Schedule XI & XII
Such as - control over primary
education, healthcare, water resource etc

Impediments faced by local governance -

Funds -

1. Lack of local taxation or levying fees for populism
2. Tied nature of funds by Finance Commission - limited discretion of Gram Sabha
3. Lack of adequate grants by states.

Functions

4. States like UP have delegated less than 5 functions under schedule XI
5. Absence of adequate trained manpower.
6. Lack of awareness, capacity to implement projects.
7. High level corruption → Bypassing Gram Sabha & social audit

Functionaries -

8. Multiple parastatal bodies doing same work like RD, PWD etc.
9. Lack of dedicated cadre for Panchayat secretaries, extension officers etc.
10. Objective of women empowerment - neglected with 'Sarpanch Pati' syndrome.

Way Forward

Iyer committee report suggested for regular monitoring, use of ICT tools, capacity building of all stakeholders.

NCRWC report suggested for more delegation of power by states.

Infrastructure needs must be fulfilled with a dedicated cadre of officials.

Local self Governance is desired under Article 40 to achieve Grandhian dream of village Republic.

16. 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?

Sustainable Development refers to the development which achieves the needs of present generation without affecting the ability of future generations.

SDGs are 17 goals & 169 sub-goals formulated by global community, to be achieved by 2030.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships required for achievement of SDGs →

By complementing government efforts through participation of Self-Help Groups, NGOs, Pressure Groups, private sector etc.

For collaboration in poverty alleviation

SDG 1 - Poverty alleviation -

↳ Creation of SHGs-led development model eg Kudumbashree (Kerala)

SDG-2 - Zero Hunger

↳ By cooperation of NGOs like Akhaya Patra Foundation for nutritious meals to school child.

SDG-3 - Health

↳ Need of PPP model in hospital infrastructure and quality improvement
eg. TATA memorial → collaboration in cancer hospital

SDG-4 - Education

↳ Role of NGOs like ASER group for evidence-based decision making
eg ASER report on education.

SDG-5 - Gender Equality

↳ Need of collaboration of various government departments as well as donor agencies like Bill & Melinda foundation

Localised Implementation efforts for SDGs :

Need to address the local problems in an interventionist approach by avoiding one-size-fit model.

For example -

SDG 7 - Renewable energy -

↳ Regional potential based development, involvement of local population

eg community managed solar irrigation (Odisha)

SDG-12 - Sustainable production & consumption

↳ By localised solutions - Jute-based packaging material, geo-textiles, circular economy, conservation agriculture etc

Therefore, a good governance model with multi-stakeholder participation is the way forward to achieve the SDGs by 2030.



17. 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.

POSH Act was formulated to prevent sexual harassment of women at workplace as per Visakha judgement of Supreme Court. However, the implementation is faced with various challenges.

Limited success in raising awareness

1. Lack of creation of Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) by various organisation.
2. Limited focus of district administration → Most of the districts don't have Local Complaints Committee

3. Absence of adequate awareness building strategies like advertisements by govt etc.
4. Lack of monitoring mechanism
5. Lack of political will and bureaucratic intent

Factors that have hindered its outreach to women in unorganised sector →

1. Limitation of the law to organised sectors
2. Women in unorganised sectors comes from poorer section → lacks financial capability to fight a case
3. Stereotype associated with sexual violence → prefers silence
4. Limited role of Government to spread the law to unorganised sector.
5. Limited access to education



Strategies to bridge the gap & comprehensive protection for women in unorganised sector

1. Extend the purview of act to unorganised sector
2. Effective monitoring of implementation by Labour department, Police and Women Commission.
3. Formal grievance redressal mechanism
4. Awareness program through labour groups, media and newspapers
5. Penalties on violator/employer for non-compliance
6. Sensitisation of all stakeholders

Sexual harassment anywhere affects the bodily autonomy as well as mental health of women. It must be dealt with strong intent to ensure gender justice and effective female labour participation rate.

18. '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.

Neo-liberal reforms of 1991 and subsequent globalization have reformed the role of government from service provider to facilitator of services. This has demanded significant change in the civil services and service delivery.

Challenges faced by civil services in service delivery:

1. Red-tapism - Delay in complex bureaucratic processes
2. Colonial attitude - Bureaucrats' behaviour towards citizens remained like colonial period.
3. Inefficient service delivery → Corruption & leakages.

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4. Lack of capacity building training → unaware about new technology, digital illiteracy etc.

5. General nature of civil service, while globalization demands specialist service

6. Goal displacement → More focus on rules, regulations than objective of a service.

Reforms required -

1. Hota committee suggested for domain specialisation after 15 years of service -

2. Capacity building training
[e.g] Mission Karmayogi

3. Use of e-Governance tools like CPGRAMS, UMANG app etc.



4. Enforcing Citizens Charter with adequate monitoring .
5. ~~A~~ Changes with regard to rule-based bureaucracy towards role-based bureaucracy
6. Time-based service delivery

Steps taken

1. Odisha Govt - 5T model of governance
2. Rajasthan - Jan Soochna portal
3. Central Govt - PRAGATI platform for monitoring
4. Mission Karmayogi

With changing society & economic demands , the above mentioned reforms ~~are~~ need to be taken to achieve a 21st century bureaucracy for efficient service delivery.

19. 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.

China's rise in global sphere in terms of military (3rd ranked) and economy (2nd largest) have made it a hegemonic power over Asia.

However, with rise of India as a competitor, China views it as 'Asian rival'.

Difficulties in India-China relations

Economic

1. Trade deficit reaching 100 billion \$
2. India blocking Chinese FDI in 5G tech (Huawei) as well as automobile sector (PYC).
3. Over-dependence of India on Chinese imports - APIs (70%), electronics etc.

Strategic

4. China's rising influence over India's neighbourhood

Through BRI & Debt trap

Nepal - Trans-Himalayan corridor
Pakistan - CPEC
Myanmar - CMEC

5. Dominance of China over groupings like SCO, BRICS etc.

Military

6. Disputes along border - Doklam, Galwan, Depsang plains

7. String of pearls around India

Areas of convergence

1. South-South cooperation

2. WTO trade deals/agreements - both collaborate against western dominance,

3. Climate negotiations - Both on similar footings

[E.g.] Phase-down of coal and not phase-out (COP-26)

4. Mutual dependence for economy

[eg.] Indian export of rice to China,
China's APIs for Indian pharma.

5. India - as a major market for
China's companies

[eg.] China's request for
liberal FDI regime

6. Common stand in global matters
like Ukraine war

7. Groupings like RIC, SCO,
BRICS, ADB, AIIB etc.

Therefore, India and
China must capitalise upon the
convergence aspects to carry
forward bilateral relations, which
will be in the interest of
global stability and mutual growth.

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में प्रश्न संख्या के
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20. 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?

Indo-Pacific region has emerged as focus of global geo-politics due to its importance as major trade route (60% energy trade) as well as presence of major powers in the region

~~Q1~~

Indo-Pacific : Zone of diverging interest and priorities →

1. China - It's interest lies with hegemony over Indo-Pacific.

- e.g.
- South China sea - Nine dash line claim, control over Taiwan
 - Maritime Silk route over Indo-Pacific
 - Defence infra / Bases along choke points like Djibouti



2. India - Interest to become Net-security provider over Indian ocean
To prevent Chinese hegemony
Advance trade interest

3. USA - Sees China's rise as threat to its traditional power
Want to secure semi-conductor supply chain
overall influence on Indo-pacific

4. ASEAN - Wants a ASEAN-centric Indo-pacific
To combat China's claim over South China sea

All these diverging interests have led to multiple groupings, militarisation etc over Indo-pacific.



Global Security Initiative vs QUAD

↓
By China

↓
By USA - India - Japan - Australia

Positives of GSI over QUAD

- Potential to use economic might
- Control over island countries through debt trap
- Tries to bring NATO like grouping - support of Pakistan, Turkey, Iran etc

Cannot supersede QUAD

- QUAD's strength → USA's military
- QUAD is a group of mature → India's strategic position
- democracy → Japan's technology
- goes beyond military ties
- QUAD's objective is more liberal and in the interest of rule-based order

Therefore, QUAD need to focus on forming QUAD+ with similar minded nations of Indo-pacific to tackle the GSI of China.