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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 : Shobani Teberiwala

Roll No. : MT23 MACEN029

Registration Number : NIAS 2300018245 Date of Examination : 13/08/23

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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.

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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

MACRO COMMENTS



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.

Recent cases of courts staying disqualifications of MPs from Kerala, Inducherry and an MLA from Kerala highlights the need to solve ambiguity of disqualification provisions in section - 8.

Grounds of disqualification

↳ Section 8 provides for various grounds like 8(1) provides for offences in which conviction is for even one day ^{conviction} eg: dowry act, sexual harassment laws, rape law etc

↳ Section 8(2) provides for grounds under laws for disqualification when convicted for 6 months

↳ section 8(5) provides ^{disqualification for} conviction of 2 years & more

↳ subsequent sections in chapter - III provides other grounds

Section 8(4) was struck down by Supreme Court in Uy Thomas case which provides for process to appeal in courts, on grounds that Constitution provides for seat vacancy immediately if disqualified seat along with Article 102(1)(c)

Hence, there is a need to solve the various ambiguities like

- (i) streamline various grounds under Section 8 and subsequent sections in chapters-3
- (ii) provide for mechanism to appeal in courts
- (iii) remove ambiguity in laws like punishment varying from 6 months to 2 years (in defenation)
- (iv) create disqualification tribunal

In this context recent amendments to IPC, CrP, evidence act through new bills placed by Home Minister is step in right direction

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

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

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

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Constitution is the written, organic, law of land.
 Constitutionalism is doctrine of limited government
 provided in IF Coelho, Rameshwari Prasad Lal.

Dr. B.P. Ambedkar remarked that
 no matter how good a constitution is if those
 implementing it are ^{not} good, it will be bad.
 This forms the soul of this discussion that
 constitutionalism is more important than
 constitution itself.

Skeleton : Constitution

- ↳ It provides the framework of government and separation of powers between 3 organs as well as division of power at various level
- ↳ Provides accountability framework
 Ex: Article 75(3)

↳ Provides limit to power of Parliament, eg. Article 13 no law be made antithetical to fundamental rights

↳ Provides grievance redressal (eg: Article 32)

Soul: Constitutionalism

It is the day-to-day - implementation of constitution and how the articles are actually enforced.

It puts the onus on all legs of state to ensure checks on arbitrary powers of government :-

Judiciary → uphold fundamental rights & strike down laws ultra vires to constitution

Legislature → use Parliament & legislative assembly to check government use of power (eg: no confidence motion)

Further, constitutionalism also provides for important role of civil society to work such that good governance is ensured.

Q.3

'चुनावी बॉण्ड एक दोधारी तलवार है, जो दानकर्ताओं को अनामिता 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 रोक 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 were introduced through Finance Act 2017 with aim of curbing cash flows and black money. But many have challenged them and PIL is pending in Supreme Court.

Positives

1. Prevent cash-based donations above Rs 2000 to political parties
2. While developing KYC norms and SDI as institute to deliver bonds it has curbed black money
3. It provides anonymity to donors as they can now support even multiple parties at same time
4. Formalized election funding.

Negatives

1. There are no checks & limits and no information as to how much does companies donate to political parties
2. Many experts have argued that loophole of 2000 Rs can be misused by mere accounting gimmicks in balance sheets
3. There are fears of access to data by ruling government as SBI is PSB.

Way Ahead

There needs to be bipartisan consensus on need to reform bonds working mechanism. They are a positive step but merely needs addition of a transparency and accountability layer in which it functions.

- 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.

Constitution in Part IV emphasize on social order with social justice. Several articles provide to ensure gender equality (39(1), 39(3), 42) Article 44 provides for UCC with gender empowerment at its heart.

Challenges

1. The debate of UCC is seen from religious prism than from prism of reforming gender laws.
2. Several state assemblies are now passing resolution (eg- Kerala) against UCC showing politicization of UCC.
3. Saharanpur resolution shows grievances of minority community & misplaced allegation that it is against Article 25.

4. Some experts have argued for SM & SM schedule provisions making it difficult to have uniform code given tribal practices

5. Bombay High Court judgement of Narim Appa would have to be challenged

Way Ahead

↳ Law Commission in report has called for reform in personal laws, it will provide base for UCC in future

↳ Instead of uniformity across laws, there can be uniformity in principle across religious laws

↳ Build consensus by having discussions among communities & seeking feedback (eg: Uttarakhand Committee for UCC)

↳ IEC campaign on need for UCC

In 21st century India, child marriages, polygamy, dowry, Nikah Halala should have no place. UCC or no UCC these practices should go.

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.

Our Constitution envisages a sui-generis federation model among the Union of States. Governor is the highest constitutional office at state level and plays an important role.

At times when opposition ruled states like West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu are making allegations of partisan role of Governor, we look at how he acts as important pillar in cooperative and competitive federalism —

- (i) Bills become Act only after his assent, he can return the bill for reconsideration or forward it to the President
- (ii) If Bill seeks amendment of Union law in subject, then Governor role becomes critical in forwarding it to President

- (iii) All actions are taken under his name. Important offices like State Election Commission, Finance Commission submit resignation to him
- (iv) He plays an important role in unity of nation. He conveys to Union Government if state is unable to function as per constitutional provisions. (Article 356)
- (v) During President Rule, Governor acts the key office enjoining executive as well as legislative decisions
- (vi) If no party has clear mandate, governor uses discretion to select chief minister thus ensuring stability
- (vii) In tribal areas Governor has to ensure 5m and 6m schedule provisions
- (viii) He appoints head of vidharbha, Sanskrit board and other such offices as mandated by constitution under special provisions for some states
- Thus governor actively contributes to state governance but must be bounded by principles laid under Shankel Singh, Bomunni, Nabia Judgments.

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 is a good governance tool in which common public and citizens ensure answerability of those in power and seek their grievances' redressal.

Currently, social accountability is practised in ad-hoc manner with different provisions from state to state or scheme specific provision. Eg: social audit for MGNREGA or citizens' plan participation under Gram swaraj model or Citizens charter.

Importance of law

↳ It will create uniform framework of social accountability tools

- ↳ Create more awareness among common public
- ↳ Provide legal basis to grievance redressal
- ↳ Enhance doctrine of trust in public services
- ↳ Address loopholes in current social accountability methods
- ↳ Lead of consensus-oriented and participative governance

Thus Parliament should come up with a law that provides a dedicated framework for social accountability measures to transition towards ethical 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

As per recent UNICEF report, India has highest cases of child malnutrition. NFHS-5 reports 32% stunting, 19% wasting and 36% underweight cases.

While PM-Poshan, Janni Suraksha Yojana aims to address these challenges, there is a need for holistic nutrition approach than piece-meal method.

<u>Nutrition specific</u>	+	<u>Nutrition sensitive</u>
	+	
↳ Address concerns of <u>hidden hunger</u>	+	↳ ensure better absorption of nutrition
↳ overcome <u>vitamin deficiency</u> / iron deficiency etc.	+	↳ ensure that excess nutrients are not provided (eg: food fortification be harmful to those suffering from <u>sickle-cell anaemia</u>)
↳ diversify diets with <u>millet</u> s	+	

- ↳ This means that one-size fit all approach is replaced with data^{based} and region specific approach (Eg: Ichan Tracker)
- ↳ Ensure targeted measures for most vulnerable sections (Eg: dalits, tribals having higher % of malnutrition cases)
- ↳ Diversify diets beyond cereals to include millets, fruits, vegetables, milk
- ↳ Ensure supplementation of vitamins through food fortification (Copenhagen consensus on fastest & cheapest mode)
- ↳ Leverage community mobilization programs (like Buddy program in Assam)
- ↳ Use conditional cash transfers (Eg: Manta Scheme in Odisha)

Thus we need to rework our approach in solving undernutrition in India and need to look at nutrition specific as well as sensitive measures.

- Q.8 ग्रामीण गरीबी उन्मूलन की धुरी मनरेगा, राजकोषीय उदासीनता का शिकार हो गया है।" हालिया घटनाक्रम के आलोक में कथन का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
- "MGNREGA, the lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation, has become the victim of fiscal apathy." Critically analyze the statement in light of recent developments. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

MGNREGA is a social security measure that provides 100 days employment in rural areas through statutory mechanism.

Significance

- ↳ It cushioned the reverse migrants during COVID
- ↳ With MGNREGA demand higher than pre-pandemic levels it shows how it support rural economic consumption.
- ↳ Acts as platform to create productive assets
- ↳ For MGNREGA work on own fields, Economic survey agrees that it provides long-term agriculture benefits to farmers
- ↳ Provide security against seasonal nature of agri work & related unemployment

Recent challenges

- ↳ Budget has provided for merely 60,000 crore while last year expenditure was much higher
- ↳ There has been delay in payments (as conveyed by states like West Bengal)
- ↳ Mandatory use of apps/mobile phone create challenges for rural poor lacking digital literacy

Government counter points

- ① Finance Minister has clarified that given it is demand based scheme, allocations may be revised through additional grants.
- ② With schemes like PM-Awas, Sadak Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission in the year government envisage low MGNREGA allotment (due to high capex of 1066k crore)

A data centric approach with accountability at heart must be followed to resolve any concerns.

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.

Current geopolitics is seeing massive churn given Russia-Ukraine crisis, US-China rivalry, Taiwan issue, demands of small-island developing nations, perpetual instability in Middle East, Africa to name a few.

India's rise to global high table

- 1) Active voice of Global South
(Global South Summit with 120 countries participating)
- 2) Calls for reforms in global multilateral security architecture (Eg: NPT at UNSC, G20 foreign ministers meeting emphasis on reforms)
- 3) Prime Minister seen as ^{emerging} leader with his emphasis on "era not of war" now becoming common headline

- 4) Use of strategic autonomy in leveraging interests from Russia as well as USA (consider far East forum as well as recent state visit to US)
- 5) In middle East, New Delhi can use cultural and historic ties to collaborate on issues with both Saudi Arabia, UAE on ^{one} end & Iran on another.
(consider NSA visit to Saudi, I202 forum and Chabahar port construction)
- 6) In Africa, Latin America, Pacific island nations develop a voice that is inclusive, demand driven, partner led rather than debt-trap diplomacy
- 7) Use soft power like Yoga, neelots, AYUSH, digital public goods

G20 is an opportune forum to effectively communicate what we bring to table. But it must not mean that we should not try to manage global divide. We must follow constitutional principle of promoting peace as in Article 51.

- 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.

Last year, India celebrated 70 years of ties with Europe and Prime Minister visited Germany to strengthen bilateral relationship.

Significance.

1. Germany is the leading economy in EU alongside France, it has more weight at European Union than other European countries combined.
2. It can act as important partner in EU and help to enhance our trade and bilateral relations with other countries.
3. Strengthen India-EU FTA negotiations and expedite common concerns.
4. India can leverage Germany for

addressing concerns in climate negotiations with EU especially given new carbon border tax

5. Germany supports India in reforms at UNSC

6. Mobilize EU support for Indo-Pacific and strengthen participation in Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative

7. Through Technology & Trade Council support more FDI, technology transfer to India

8. Address mobility challenges for Indian students & workers

Thus Germany has huge role as important bilateral partner with whom we share strategic partnership for convergence on EU.

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।

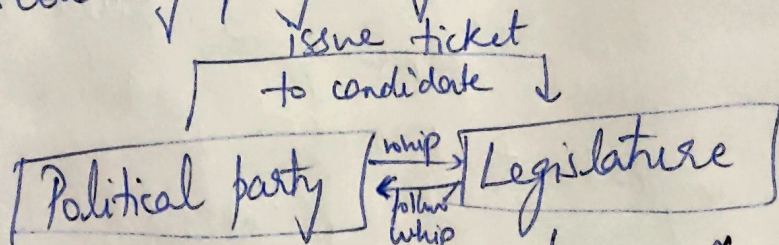
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

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.

Recently in dealing with Maharashtra defection crisis, Supreme Court distinguished between the legislature party and political party putting more emphasis on latter.

10th schedule brought by 52nd Amendment of Constitution was aimed to curb muscle & money power in legislature working to stop phenomena of Gaya Ram, Gaya Ram. It has altered the shape & discourse of polity altogether.



↑
accountable to party
as well as public

~~cut by~~
cut by
10th schedule

public

Thus, now the individual legislators have to follow the whip of the political party or they would have considered to be defected.

Earlier individual legislators are accountable to those who voted them but now they are accountable solely to their political party.

Example, they cannot raise individual voice against bill and have to toe the party line. Even after disqualification they can contest elections if other party gives them ticket.

Other unintended consequences

- 1) Arbitrary benchmark of two-third for merger provision misused for breaking and forming government (Eg: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh)

- 2) Created partisan role for speaker in deciding against defection cases which can solely political parties
- 3) Defections have not stopped rather parties with more money power to win elections have strengthened (through reelection)
- 4) Individual legislator cannot give independent opinion in Parliament or legislative assembly

Thus, 2nd ARC, Dinesh Goswami Committee has called for reforms in 10th schedule & giving power to either independent tribunal or President / Governor to decide on matter.

While Kihoto Holkon has upheld 10th schedule, there is a need to review it giving above challenges.

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.

Recently V.P. Dhankhar Ji has raised voice against supreme unchecked powers to judiciary under basic structure doctrine. Member of Parliament former CJI Gogoi Ji also said that there are ambiguities in basic structure doctrine.

In Kesavananda case 1973, Supreme Court in wafel-thin majority created this doctrine that our constitution has some basic structure i.e. soul of constitution that cannot be amended under Article 368 like federal structure, independence of judiciary, rule of law, welfare state mandate etc.

However, Supreme Court has not defined what is the basic structure actually rather it has evolved from cases like Minerva Mills, Raj Narain,

Manaka Gandhi, Romeshwar Prasad, S.R. Bommai and numerous others.

Some argue that it provides discretion to judiciary to add to basic structure doctrine as and when required and there are no checks & balances in this regard.

However, CJI DY Chandrachud has called it as "northern star" guiding the judiciary and effective interpretation of Constitution under Article 145(3) and ensure its powers for judicial review (Article 13, Article 32) to protect rights of citizens.

The elastic nature of doctrine is to make progressive interpretation of constitution. From Golaknath to Kesavananda Bharti courts position has evolved to accommodate the needs of people & their wishes as enforced by Parliament.

At outset, it appears that it makes

Judiciary powerful than executive and having upper hand but it would be limited and short-sighted analysis in Constitutional democracy.

Our constitutionalism itself provides for limited government and judiciary has to act as arbiter of rights and justice for citizens. Thus, every organ ^{is} divided by constitution in their domains with each imparted unique role under system of checks & balances.

Even executive (through presence in Parliament) can bring impeachment/removal motion, that too does not make it more powerful.

The way ahead is to recognize positive role of the doctrine and use it for enhancing legislations/executive actions that favour constitutional morality.

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.

Part III provides for fundamental rights to the citizens by the constitution inspired from "bill of rights" that provided for unalienable rights of life & liberty.

These rights are not provided by state but its strength flows from "we the people" and hence upheld by judiciary through Article 32 and Article 226.

However these rights come with reasonable restrictions. These restrictions are not to curtail individual rights but promote rights of all in a society under social contract.

Desirability

1. Importance of individual rights while balancing unique socio-cultural context of India (Eg: right to movement restricted for regarding tribals welfare)
2. Help to ensure one's right is balanced by another (Eg: freedom of speech is restricted to cases of defamation)
3. To put national and sovereign interests above individual rights (Eg: unity, integrity of India are reasonable restrictions)
4. To bring reforms in society (Eg: Article 25(2) allows state to reform religious practices like caste based discrimination)
5. Give primacy to public order and morality

6. Preventive detention exception under Article 22 provides state to maintain law & order & arrest those who are expected to hurt the same.

7. During emergency, state can take away fundamental rights (except Article 20 and Article 21) - it is due to unextraordinary circumstance of war, external aggression & armed rebellion.

Further, there are fundamental duties under Article 51A which aims for enhancing consciousness of citizens to also regard others' rights.

Also, there should be harmonious construction with the D.P.S.P. so that mandate of welfare state is fulfilled.

एस.आर. बोम्मई बनाम भारत संघ मामले ने संघ द्वारा किसी राज्य के प्रशासन पर नियंत्रण ग्रहण करने के संघ के अधिकार की न्यायिक व्याख्या में एक आदर्श बदलाव का संकेत दिया। इस संदर्भ में संघीय ढाँचे को मजबूत करने पर निर्णय के 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.

In S.R. Bommai case Supreme Court upheld that federalism is a basic structure of constitution. It also provided for guidelines for Governor to impose ^{reserved} President rule and gave primary for floor test.

Significance

↳ Through floor test concept it created a standardized mechanism for determining absolute majority at floor of house and not at political offices

↳ Ensured that sufficient conditions have occurred so that President rule is imposed and not mere law & order condition

- ↳ Detailed guidelines of what constitutes a constitutional crisis and failure to govern as per constitutional provisions brings clarity on imposing Article 356
- ↳ Provides that mere change of government of center does not mean President rule be imposed
- ↳ Provided that Secularism is part of basic structure
- ↳ Gave new filip to cooperative & competitive federalism

Impact

- ↳ significantly reduced imposition of Article 356
- ↳ Provided strength to state governments ruled by opposition parties at Union level

↳ Used by judiciary in subsequent cases to check arbitrariness of dissolution of state legislature

↳ Provides that state assembly cannot be dissolved without Parliament approval and judiciary has power to bring back dissolved state.

Thus S.P. Borimai was a watershed moment in 1990s which led to strengthening of federalism and secularism and effective use of discretionary powers of Governor.

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.

As India celebrates 30 years of decentralization of power to panchayati raj institutions and urban local bodies under 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment act, we analyze challenges faced.

Lack of political decentralization

Still state governments enjoy discretion over local governments. They have not devolved enough powers to them under 11th and 12th schedule.

State governments can merely pass resolutions to dissolve a local body.

States enjoy discretion to appoint finance commissioners and Election Commissioners at state level thus

having a political upperhand in governance.
 Consider SC judgement under Groa SEC
 selection that they should not be sitting
 bureaucrats. Recent violence in West Bengal
 was also manifestation of state control over
 election process & lack of action.

Lack of finances & funds

↳ They are dependent on grants and
devolution from both center & state
 (Aiyys committee report)

↳ They lack own sources of revenue

↳ Property tax collection is miniscule
 (< 0.2% ^{net} as per global standards)

↳ In many cases state finance commission
 are not constituted on time and
 their recommendations not accepted

RBI estimates about 0.58%
 devolution as % of GDP to local bodies

Lack functions & functionalities

- ↳ They don't have trained staff and officers
- ↳ They don't have enough powers under 11th & 12th schedule
- ↳ Interference in functioning by state government
- ↳ Need approval for big projects (Eg in UP any project above 16 lakhs require state govt approval).

For true devolution there is need to bring reforms as per 2nd ARC and Sumit Bose committee. As we move on development path there is need to localize our SDGs which requires strengthening PRIs & ULBS.

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?

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.

At UN, special secretary Sanjay Kumar J. presented India's approach of localization of SDGs created by NITI Aayog.

It calls for whole of society approach with distinguished responsibility and accountability matrix for different stakeholders and institutions.

Role of effective partnership

1. Cooperative and competitive federalism will ensure united framework to fight challenges like hunger, poverty

2. Create convergence on schemes like social overhead capital creation

3. Sharing of best in class practices across states & regions (Eg: Gujarat on dashboard, odisha millet initiative)
4. Provide more efficiency and effectiveness through double engines of effort, funds & functionaries
5. Ensure optimization of resources and synchronization of efforts (Eg: GATI shakti can lead to reduction of delays)

Localized implementation

1. Promote community participation
2. Leverage traditional knowledge (Eg: Bhuj houses that withstood earthquake)
3. One size does not fit all calls for local solutions based on context

- 4 Emphasis on local language,
local training thus strengthening
our PRDs, ULBs in larger sum
5. Adopt consultative and participative
approach
6. Track performance at last mile
(Eg: Aspirational districts program)

NITI Aayog has been at forefront
of SDG localization and also tracks
performance through various state-
level index like LEADS, NPI data of
States etc.

As Ban ki Moon said the war
of sustainability will be won or lost
in our cities, multi-stakeholder
partnership across govt levels, market
and civil society will ensure we achieve
the SDGs by 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.

Recent women useless protest at Janta Mantar and Indian Express investigation report of not constitution of Inter complaint committees at various spots bodies show gap in POSH.

Limited success of POSH

↳ Failed to bring attitudinal and behavioural change towards sexual harassment

↳ Many companies have not been created ICCs

↳ Diverted sexual harassment crime to being a mere company level issue

↳ Interference in working of POSH and lack of autonomy of complaints committee have eroded trust in grievance redressal process

↳ Companies find it burdensome to constitute ICC thereby don't hire women which acts as negative consequence of the act

Factors hindering outreach

↳ Unorganized sector employees have lack of formal contracts therefore can't push to have ICC selection (96% of women employed in informal sector)

↳ There is no job security, thus harassed women feel job less

↳ Lack of presence in companies of hinterland and less developed areas where English is not prominent language

Way Ahead

1. Bring the legislation in local languages
= and develop awareness about law
2. Make it mandatory for suspension of
= accused for fair trial
3. For unorganized sector, district
administration can create common
regional level complaints committee
4. Government should ask for compliance
report from every company
5. For MSMEs and small firms,
govt can bring list of these
sitting in complaints committee or
use crowdsourcing platforms

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 समझ आने वाली चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए और पर्याप्त सुधारों हेतु सुझाव दीजिए।

‘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.

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

LPG reforms have altered the role of civil servants from license raj and inspection raj towards service delivery and implementation of government schemes. There is minimum government and maximum governance.

Challenges faced

1. Institutional

- Red-tapism
- lack of effective training
- discretionary powers
- lack of coordination in department with others
- Lack of effective tracking mechanisms
- limited powers with local governments

2. Attitudinal challenges

- colonial mindset of "power" as prime driver of service delivery rather than dedication
- corruption perceived as oil of machinery (2nd ARC)

3. Political challenges

- Politicization of bureaucracy (Vohra Committee report)
- lack of political will to bring ground level reforms
- center-state tussle

4. fiscal challenges

- limited resources
- historically capex is less prioritised therefore infrastructure development has remained poor

References

1. Use technology for direct benefit transfers (Eg: DBT covers more than 300 center schemes & has saved 2.4 lakh crore)

2. Technology for coordination like Gati-shakti, Single Nodal Agency at PMK
3. Special project monitoring groups
4. Training of employees for dedicated areas (specialization & not generalization)
5. Emphasis on roles based governance than rules based (Karmayogi mission)
6. Use institutions like NITI Aayog for collaboration and convergence & healthy competition (Eg: Aspirational Districts Program)
7. Center-state cooperation

In this context, Competitiveness
Report on India @ 47 has provided
reform measures that can be
emulated.

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.

External Affairs minister has called for these mutuals in India-China relations — mutual respect, mutual interests and mutual sensitivity.

It highlights New Delhi's approach to capitalize on areas of convergence despite deeping difficulties:-

- Unresolved border issue (with unilateral aggression from China in 2020)
- CPEC violating sovereignty
- policy of encircling India through String of Pearls
- countering Indo-Pacific measures and calling it Asia-Pacific

Recent cases of stapled visas, raising issue against sanskrit use in G20 documents are ^{one of} many challenges in relation.

Areas of convergence

1. Tackling extremism and terrorism (Eg: RATS at SW)
2. Voice of developing world (BASIC) at WTO and other UN forums
3. Need for reforms in multilateral financial institutions dominated by west (consider NBB of BRICS)
4. Climate change issues and need to reinforce common but differentiated responsibilities
5. Water governance to solve common issues of floods, typhoons etc.

6. Address new global challenges like AI (eg: UNESCO resolution on Ethics of AI)
7. Ensure connectivity & trade with Central Asia (consider SCO)
8. Act as voice of Global South (though China wants to maintain hegemony in Asia)

Thus there are ample areas for convergence which can provide impetus to resolve difficulties amicably.

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.

According to Dr S. Jaishankar in his book 'The India way' no other region receives as much importance as Indo-Pacific and its only for right reasons. This calls for an Pacific Indian to analyse the recent churn in interests :-

Geo-political

- 1) Rising importance of need of enforcing rules based international order
- 2) US-China rivalry with china claiming territorial hegemony and unbound claims like 9-dash line countered by Phillipines, Vietnam (led by US)
- 3) Taiwan issue is gaining prominence
- 4) Japan, Australia, South Korea concerned on Chinese expansion
- 5) Gathering support of Pacific islands

Economic interests

1. More than 50% of world trade passes through Indo-Pacific
2. It hosts 16 mega cities including Hong Kong, Tokyo thus highlighting importance of urban development
3. Emphasis on sea lanes of communication and unimpeded trade & commerce
4. Huge oceanic resources like polymetallic nodules

Other interests

1. Concern on traditional threats like piracy, terrorism (eg: 26/11)
2. Rising disasters like cyclone and need for HADR response
3. Environmental issues like maritime pollution & rising oceanic levels

While Global Security Initiative has been floated for cooperation on issues in Indo-Pacific, Quad is here to stay :-

↳ It's not an alliance rather issue based coalition

↳ It emphasises on positive issues like vaccine coordination and humanitarian assistance

↳ With participation and involvement of more countries in ASEAN, Quad has expanded to cover more issues like economy, environment (eg: IPEF)

Recent virtual Quad Summit highlighted the importance all four countries - India, US, Japan and Australia put on Quad.