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(To be filled by candidate)

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Test - 2

Code : TC072

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. :

(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.

Representation of People's Act 1951 provides for the procedure of elections, disqualifications, administrative machinery etc. for the elections to Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies

Section 8 provides for various disqualifications

Section 8(1) → on conviction for untouchability, corruption and certain offences in IPC, 1860.

Section 8(2) → on conviction for dowry

Section 8(3) → any offence which convicts a person for 2 or more years.

Yet, some ambiguities remain →

① clearly spelling out of offences

under IPC, 1860

↳ to remove any vagueness.

② The procedure for removal disqualification may be clearly defined in Section 8(3)

↳ whether conviction under Section 8(3) entails immediate disqualification or based on the notification by Lok Sabha speaker.

↳ what happens if the higher court stays conviction

↳ whether after disqualification, the election commission may begin the process of by-elections or wait for higher court's verdict.

Way forward

a) Remove ambiguity, especially in wake of striking down of Section 8(4) (Lily Thomas case, 2013)

b) Clearly spelling out the offences and procedures to be adopted.

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 defined as the fundamental law of the country based on which different institutions of government derive their power and citizens are provided with various rights.

Components of a constitution

- 1) Defining rights of people.
- 2) Distribution of powers among various organs.
- 3) Establishing institutions & bodies along with their mandate (eg election commission, Supreme Court).

However ~~can~~ it is the constitutionalism which is at the heart of democracy - constitutionalism is the theory and practice of limiting the

powers of the government and
empowering the citizens in the
true sense.

Constitutionalism as soul of democracy

a) Prevents authoritarian tendencies

↳ limits powers of the executive

eg → Art 21 → no one can be deprived
of rt to life except procedure established
by law

b) Prevents rights of people

↳ rt to freedom, religion, equality.

c) Helps in development

↳ without freedom of speech &

expression, rt to act, rt to
employment; development of people
is not possible.

d) Provides checks & balances

↳ like judicial review.

Thus constitutionalism
as a value needs to be thoroughly
ingrained.

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 वैध बना दिया है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Electoral bonds are a double-edged sword, providing anonymity to donors while raising concerns about transparency in political funding." To what extent have electoral bonds further legitimized opacity in electoral funding? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Electoral Bonds are funding mechanism to eligible political parties. (got more than 1% votes)

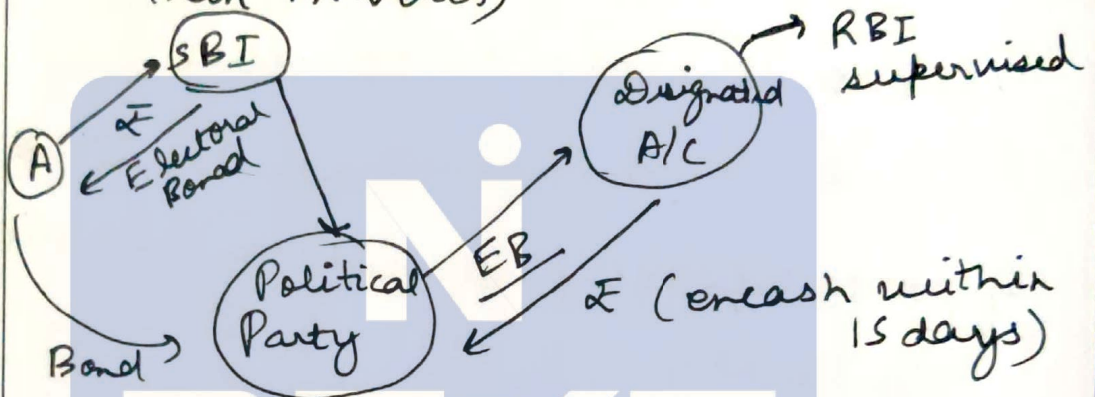


Fig:- Mechanism of electoral Bond

Electoral Bonds as double-edged sword

Positives

- (i) Promotes anonymity & secrecy of donor
 - ↳ ~~protects~~ prevents victimisation.
- (ii) Discourages cash donations
 - ↳ Political parties to disclose cash donation above ₹ 2000.
- (iii) enhanced supervision
 - ↳ money audited in RBI supervised A/c only

Yet some concerns remain

(i) Lack of transparency

↳ anonymity against Right to know (Act-1907a)
↳ PAN not required

(ii) Removal of upper limit

↳ of 7.5% for companies.

(iii) Centralisation

↳ only issued through SBI (Public sector Bank)

(iv) corporatisation

As per ADR, 99% Bonds worth > 10 lakh (shows corporates using it).

(v) Benefits to ruling party

↳ more than 60% went to the ruling party.

Thus, despite the intentions of promoting transparency and curbing black money, there are issues of opacity in electoral Bonds.

way forward

- Being political parties under RTI
- Prescribe upper limit
- Partial state funding of elections (Dinesh Goswami committee)
- Power to ECI for deregistering political parties

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.

Uniform civil code is a set of personal laws pertaining to issues like

- Marriage
- Adoption
- Inheritance
- Divorce
- Maintenance

Art. 44 of the constitution prescribes that state shall endeavour to implement Uniform Civil Code.

Gender Equality central debate on UCC

(i) Prevalence of gender based personal laws

↳ that perpetuate patriarchy

↳ Nikah Halala

(ii) Financial dependence and inequality

↳ Right to inheritance and fair maintenance remains elusive.

Thus VCC may bring in desired set of laws to uplift the status of women and end discriminatory practices.

Challenges in reconciling VCC with gender equality

- a) Right to religion v/s Right to equality
 - ↳ Art 25 provides for rt. to freedom of religion which entails following of religious practices.
 - ↳ may go against Art 14 (rt. to equality)
- b) Lack of consensus building
 - ↳ reluctance of religious leaders to come to terms with uniform set of laws.
- c) No draft for discussion

In light of the above, the recent move by Law Commission calling for suggestions for VCC assumes importance. With deliberation and discussion, a consensus may be reached to reconcile VCC with gender equality.

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.

Article 153 prescribes for the office of Governor in every state. ~~Constitution~~ and is the 'head of the state' with executive powers vested in him.

Constitutional role of profound essence

- ① Appoints CM and Council of Ministers on his advice.
- ② Summons, prorogues and dissolves legislative assembly.
- ③ Reserves bills for the consideration of the President.
- ④ Recommends President rule (Art 356) in case of breakdown of ~~at least~~ administrative machinery.

Contribution of Governor in governance & federalism

(i) Special role of good governance in 5th & 6th schedule areas.

(ii) Agent of centre

- ↳ to preserve sovereignty, unity & integrity of nation
- ↳ link between centre & states.

(iii) Discretionary powers

- ↳ to uphold constitutional principles and values.

(iv) Ordinance making powers

- ↳ in case of emergent needs.

Some challenges to the above are:-

a) Recommendation of President rule

- ↳ at times have been found arbitrary
- ↳ eg → ~~Attardkhand~~ HC restored the govt. in 2016.

b) Usage of discretionary powers

- ↳ reservation of bills, non summoning of legislature (Rajasthan, Punjab).
- ↳ Way forward → develop healthy conventions.

↳ Appointment of Governor in consultation with CM (Sarkaria commission, NCRWC)

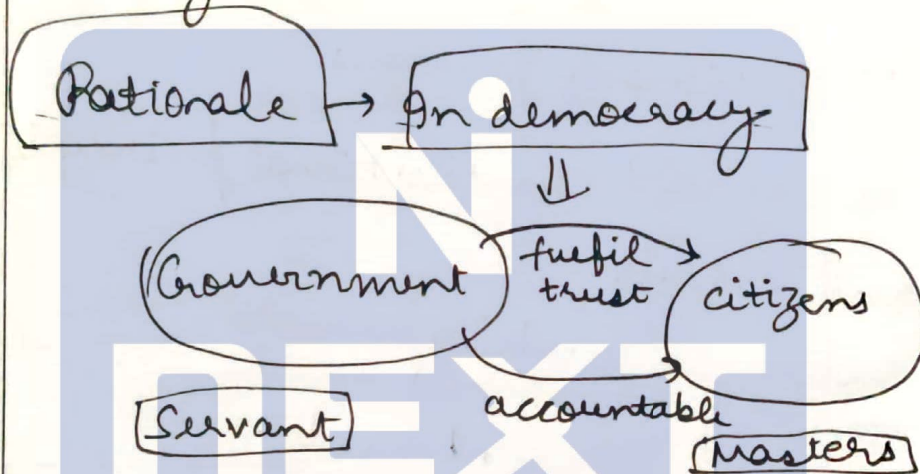
Q.6 हाल ही में एक राज्य में सामाजिक जवाबदेही कानून बनाने को लेकर माँग उठ रही है। इस तरह का कानून किस प्रकार सुशासन की ओर ले जा सकता है और निर्णय लेने में नागरिकों की भागीदारी को कैसे बढ़ावा दे सकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

(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.

Recently there have been demands for a social accountability law in Rajasthan.



even our DPSPs (under Part IV) of constitution envisages a welfare state where citizens are truly empowered.

Social Accountability Law leading to Good Governance

- a) Ensures accountability
 - ↳ timelines to be respected
 - ↳ responsibility fixed of officials

- b) Quality service delivery
- c) Grievance redressal mechanism
- d) compensation mechanism
↳ in case of non-delivery of public service.

Boost citizen's participation

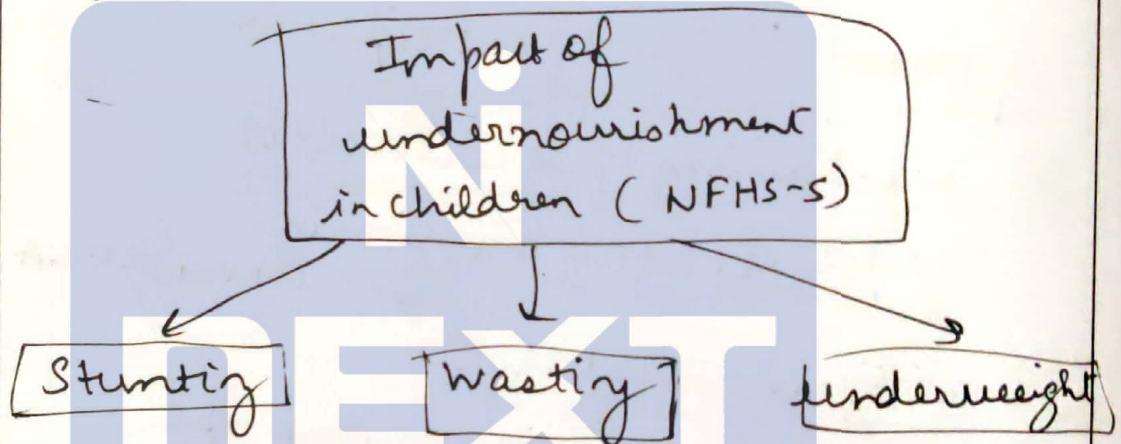
- (a) Mechanism of social audits
↳ for effective monitoring
eg → MGNREGS
- (b) citizen's charter
↳ in consultation with people -
eg → Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Transparency
↳ will attract public confidence & participation.

Thus a social accountability

law is a good way to fulfil constitutional obligations towards citizens. Yet concerns of staff shortages, bureaucratic apathy, opaqueness in functioning etc. need to be tackled for its effective implementation.

- 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.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition Report, 2021 (FAO), there are 224 million undernourished people in India.



Reasons for undernourishment

① Hidden hunger

↳ lack of nutritious food.

↳ nutri puzzle, Asian Enigma

② High out of pocket expenditure

③ Lack of diversification

↳ in cropping pattern

↳ in dietary habits.

Convergence of nutrition-specific
& nutrition-sensitive interventions

a) Food fortification

↳ for specific nutrients.

↳ eg Iron folic tablets → girls

b) Diversification of crops

↳ millets, horticulture.

↳ eg millet sisters programme, MIDH,
clean Plant Programme

c) Early childhood care

↳ nutritious food in ICDS, midday
meal & Anganwadis.

d) Awareness generation

↳ for diversified dietary habits.

e) Enhancing food processing

↳ especially horticulture crops (Ashok
Dalwai committee → secondary agriculture)

Thus the entire value-
chain needs to be strengthened including
cropping pattern → supply and
accessibility → changing dietary
habits

- 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 provides for 100 days of assured employment in rural areas for unemployed people. Recently, in the Budget 2023-24, the fiscal allocation for the scheme has been reduced.

MGNREGA a lynchpin to tackle rural poverty

a) Guaranteed employment

↳ more than 11 crore people getting benefit.

b) Poverty reduction

↳ more than 43 crore people out of poverty in last 18 years.

c) Citizen's participation

↳ mandatory social audit mechanism.

d) Transparency

↳ DBT transfer in Bank A/c's

e) Gender equality

↳ approx. 52% beneficiaries are women

However, despite the successes there are some lacunae in MGNREGA:-

1) Poor Asset Quality

↳ substandard (highlighted by CAG report)

2) Delay in payments

↳ sometimes by 1.5 yrs.

3) Minimum wage rules flouted

↳ in states like Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand

Since MGNREGA is not panacea for all rural ills, therefore Govt. is focussing on other areas:-

a) Self employment → MUDRA, Stand up India, start up India.

b) Skill Development → Skill India mission, PMKVY

Thus scarce fiscal resources are being prudently utilised in tandem with implementation of MGNREGA.

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

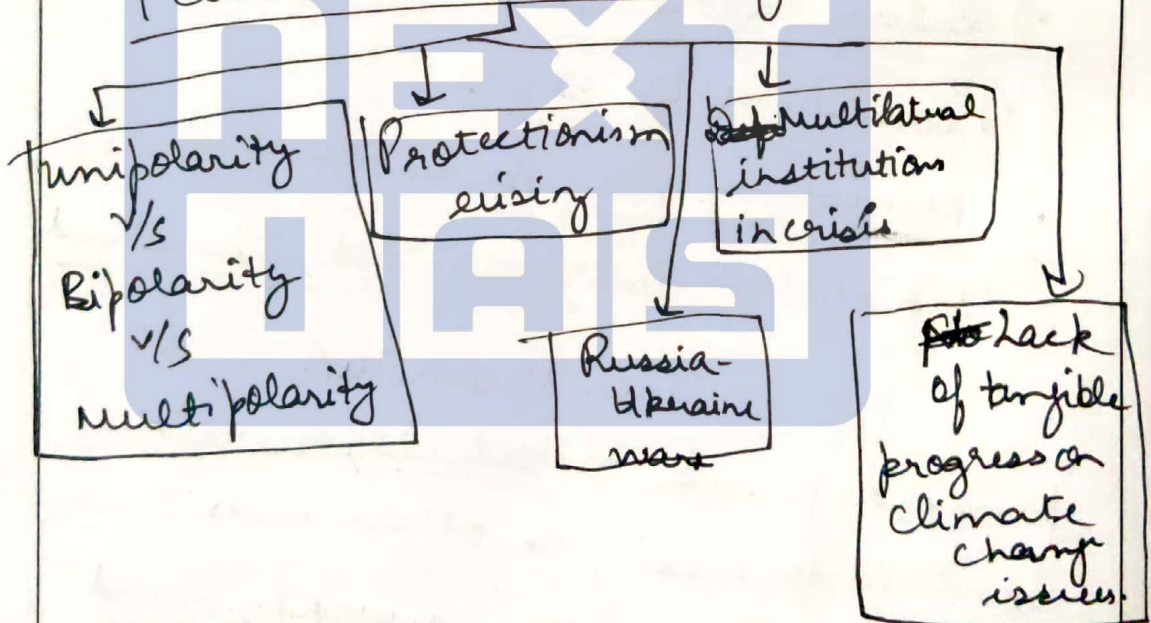
"India must leverage, if not manage, the global divides". How can the current geopolitical churn pave the way for India's rise to the global high table? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks.

Schaffer and Schaffer in their book:

"India at the global high table"

highlights that India with its skillful diplomacy and alacrity in geo-political response can rise as a global power.

current world faces global divides



How can India leverage the divides

a) striving for multipolarity and multi-alignment

↳ to restrict aggressive rise of china

↳ To counter western hegemony.
 ↳ BRICS, SCO & Quad, I2U2, IPEF

b) Stress for peaceful resolution of Russia-Ukraine war

↳ India's stand - not an era of war appreciated in global forums.

c) Lead in multilateral institutions reforms

↳ like IMF, WTO, World Bank to incorporate issues of global south.

d) Global South leadership

↳ ~~global~~ "voice of the global south summit" in G20, NAM

e) Soft power enhancement

↳ initiatives like CDRI, ISA, IRIS, Green Grid, HADR etc.

Thus with deploying great amount of diplomatic capital with swift response & delivery India can gain its rightful place in the comity of nations as predicted by our first PM Jawaharlal Nehru

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 चर्चा 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.

India and Germany have historically enjoyed cordial and strong relationship. Both countries are strategic partners and are engaging on a range of issues: →

a) Trade & economic relationship

↳ current trade stands at \$ 11bn

b) Anti-terrorism

c) Human rights

d) Climate change

↳ Both adaptation & mitigation

↳ working together on clean energy.

e) Technology

f) education

↳ Indo-German projects

(eg) YMCA, Faridabad.

g) Robust people to people ties.

with the recent visit of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to India, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to become global partners.

Significance of Germany vis-a-vis relationship with EU

① Germany's economic strength

- ↳ EU's largest economy
- ↳ world's 4th largest economy.

② Beesit

- ↳ UK was the traditional gateway for India in EU
- ↳ Germany can replace UK for the same.

③ considerable influence in EU

- ↳ highest budgetary support provided by Germany to EU

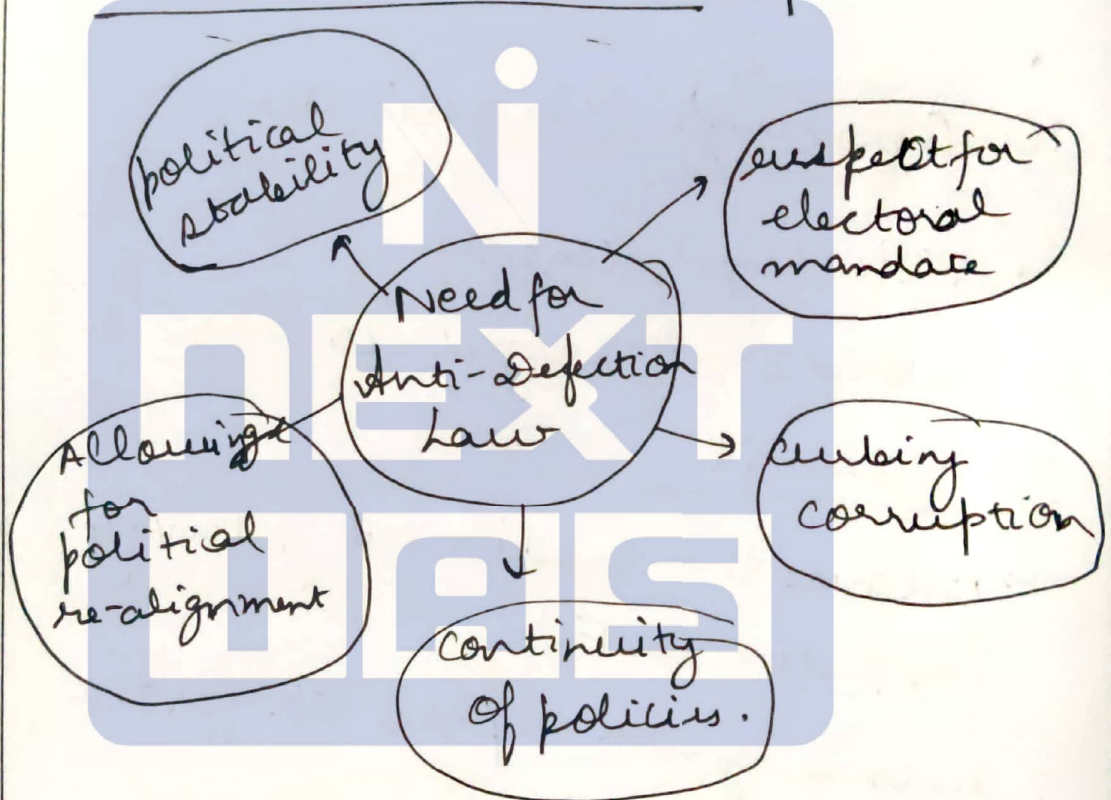
→ Germany & France always recognised as "Europhiles".

Thus relationship with Germany can be harnessed for strong relationship with 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।

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. (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Anti-Defection law was introduced vide 52nd Amendment Act, 1985 to curb the phenomenon of "AAYA RAM GAYA RAM" politics.



Impact on relationship between political parties & individual legislators

- a) Supremacy of political party
 - ↳ any action against political party

may invite disqualification.

b) Power of whip

↳ individual legislators to follow.

c) Opinion & voting in line with
party position

Thus anti-defection law
^{pivotal}
strengthens and cements the position
of political parties in Indian
parliamentary system.

unintended consequences on functioning
of democracy

a) Against freedom of speech & expression

↳ as provided by Art 19(1)(a)

b) Bulk trading allowed

↳ 2/3rd split/merger provided for.

(eg) phenomenon of 'RESORT POLITICS'
→ Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, MP

c) Partisan role of speaker

↳ as alleged in Maharashtra,
Karnataka.

d) No timeframe for decision making by speaker →

↳ SC in Reisham Meghachandra Singh case advised for taking decision in reasonable time (6 months)

Therefore Anti-Defection Law may require some modification as per the need of times: →

a) voting/speech contrary to party line in not so exceptional circumstances (No-confidence motion, Budget) may be exempted from Anti-Defection Law.

b) Tribunal may be set up (as recommended by SC, NCRWC) to adjudicate on disqualifications.

c) Stringent punishments for unethical defections (Barring for lifetime in electoral politics)

Thus, changes in Anti-Defection would instil more confidence in our democracy.

Q.12

आलोचकों का दावा है कि असीमित न्यायिक अधिकार मूल ढाँचा सिद्धांत की संरचनात्मक अस्पष्टता पर निर्भर है। क्या मूल ढाँचा सिद्धांत की लोचदार प्रकृति ने न्यायपालिका को कार्यपालिका से अधिक शक्तिशाली बना दिया है?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Critics assert that limitless judicial authority rests on the structural ambiguity of the basic structure doctrine. Has the elastic nature of the basic structure doctrine made the judiciary more powerful than the executive?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Constitution of India from the very beginning envisages Supreme Court not as a passive spectator but as an active participant in fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Supreme Court of India is one of the most powerful judiciaries in the world and its powers stems from:→

(i) Guarantor of India's fundamental rights

↳ Art 32 (Writ jurisdiction)

(ii) Judicial review

↳ Art 13

(iii) original jurisdiction

↳ Art 131

(iv) Power to do complete justia

↳ Art 142

(v) To decide upon constitutional cases

↳ Art 145 (3)

Basic structure doctrine - propounded

by Supreme Court in Keshavanand Bharti case (1973) entails limits on amending power of parliament subject to basic structure of Constitution.

Further enhancement of powers of judiciary by Basic Structure Doctrine

a) Doctrine not mentioned in Constitution

↳ hence a judicial innovation.

b) Power of Supreme Court to define what constitutes basic structure

↳ utilised in waman Rao case (1981)

↳ added Rule of law (Indira Sawhney case)

↳ added federalism, secularism (C S R Bommali case, 1994)

e) no clear list of basic structure

Therefore the elastic nature of basic structure provides for more powers to the judiciary since it is the final interpreter of the constitution.

Yet, won't be right to say it as more powerful than executive

→ as separation of powers is also a fundamental feature of constitution (Art 50)

→ executive also very powerful in its own domain

→ executive part of the legislative process (as India follows parliamentary system).

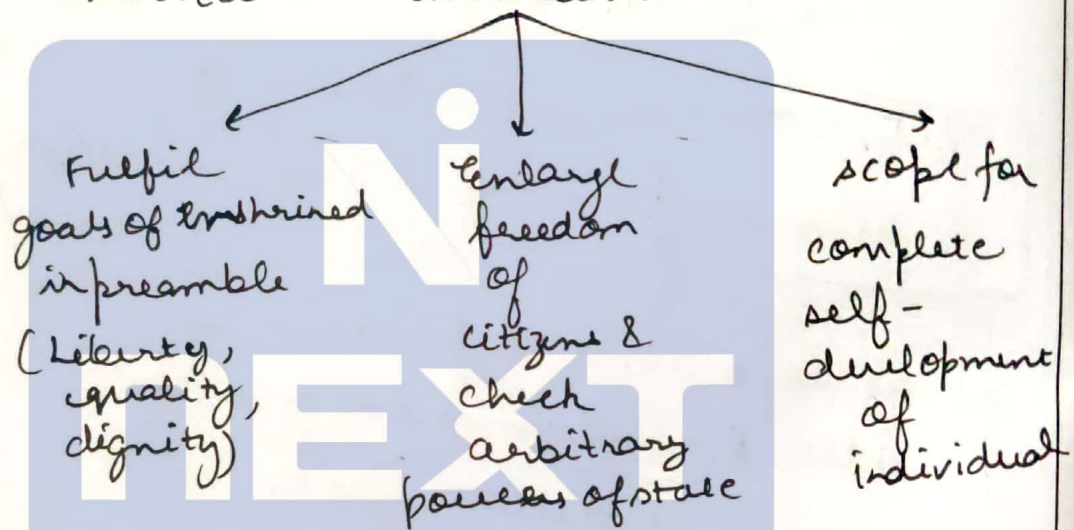
Despite, its lack of codification, Basic structure Doctrine has played a positive role in making our constitution a 'living document'.

Q.13 मौलिक अधिकार राज्य द्वारा प्रदत्त उपहार नहीं हैं बल्कि एक व्यक्ति उन पर राज्य से स्वतंत्र रूप से अधिकार रखता है। इस संदर्भ में विभिन्न मौलिक अधिकारों पर युक्तियुक्त निर्बंधन की वांछनीयता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Fundamental rights are not gifts bestowed upon by the state rather an individual possesses them independently of the state. In this context discuss the desirability of reasonable restrictions on various fundamental rights. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Fundamental rights are provided in Part 3 (Art 12-35) of the Indian constitution and aims to :-



Individuals possessing them independent of state →

a) Provided by constitution

↳ thus they flow automatically

↳ not dependent on any law/ executive order.

b) Supreme court as guarantor

↳ ~~at~~ individuals can directly

approach the supreme court in
case of violation

eg) writ jurisdiction (Art 32)

c) Laws/ executive actions null & void if they contravene fundamental rights. (Art 13).

Yet, no right can be absolute

as any absolute fundamental
right may lead to: →

-) Chaos & public disorder.
-) curbing similar & equal rights of others.

In this backdrop, reasonable restrictions
have been provided for: →

① Freedom of speech & expression (Art 19(1)(a))

reasonable restrictions → public order,
decency, sovereignty and integrity,
incitement to violence, friendly relations
with other states.

Rationale → absolute freedom of speech
& expression may disrupt public
order, hate speech, incite violence
etc.

② Freedom to assemble (Art 19(1)(b))

↳ restrictions → without arms, peaceful and ~~no~~ without violence, public order.

Rationale → As an annual assembly may be dangerous.

③ Freedom of profession (Art 19(1)(g))

↳ restrictions → Govt may prescribe for educational qualifications, may nationalise some profession/trade.

Rationale → ① A person without a medicine degree dealing in medicines may threaten public health.

② some professions like atomic energy, defence have national security implications.

④ Rt to religion Art (25)

↳ restrictions → public health, order, morality and decency.

Rationale → checking the religious gatherings, prohibiting inhumane practices. Thus to make them fundamental

- ntal in real terms, reasonable restrictions ~~is~~ play a key role.

Q.14

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 महत्त्व और प्रभाव पर चर्चा कीजिए।

'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.

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

S.R. Bommai v's union of india case, 1994, is considered a land mark judgement in Indian democracy and jurisprudence.

In this case, Supreme court has utilised the doctrine of Basic structure to curb the arbitrary action of the centre to ~~to~~ impose president's rule in the state of Kerala.

Some of the highlights of judgement are:-

- ① No arbitrary action by Governor
 - ↳ the Governor can't recommend president's rule on arbitrary grounds.
- ② Majority test only on floor of house
 - ↳ confidence / No-confidence to be decide in assembly

Thus Bommai judgement curbed the misuse of instrument of President's rule (Art 356) which was by then had been applied nearly 100 times.

Post-judgement there has been a marked decline in usage of President's rule instances

other important features

⇒ Added the following to Basic structure

- Federalism
- Secularism
- Social justice
- Socialism

⇒ The most comprehensive addition to the list of Basic structure by judiciary.

cemented the place of federalism as a non-violable

feature of the constitution which
can't be tempered upon by Centre /
Governor.

Significance of judgement

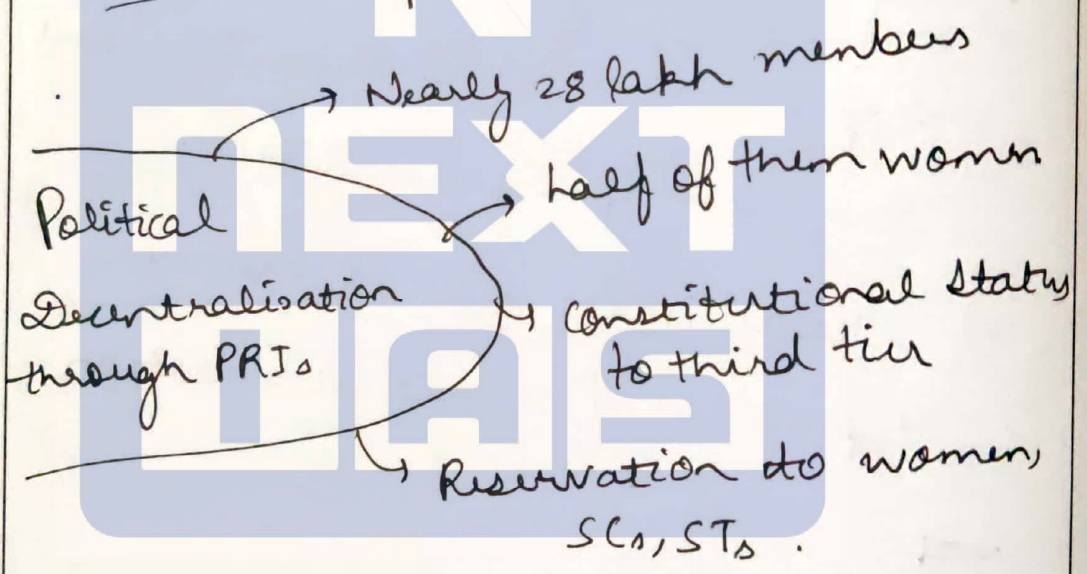
-) Made constitution truly
a living document'
 - ↳ by creative interpretation
-) Strengthening democratic virtues
 - ↳ prevent majoritarianism that
can trample federalism.
-) Establishing federal balance
 - ↳ prevented over-centralisation

~~→~~

Q.15 प्रभावी विकेंद्रीकरण की कुँजी यह है कि राजनीतिक विकेंद्रीकरण को वित्त और प्रकार्यात्मक विकेंद्रीकरण का अनुगमन करना चाहिए। भारत में स्थानीय शासन के समक्ष आने वाली बाधाओं के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The key to effective decentralization is, 'political decentralization should follow finance and functional decentralization'. Discuss in the context of impediments faced by local governance in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

The constitutional amendments 73rd and 74th (1992) provided for a decentralised governance apparatus as envisaged in Art 40 (Gandhian principle).



Yet, effective decentralisation can only happen when political decentralisation is accompanied by “funds” (financial decentralisation) and functions (functional decentralisation).

Impediment being faced

- a) lack of effective devolution
 - ↳ except states like MP & Kerala
 - ↳ most of 11th schedule functions not devolved.
- b) lack of financial autonomy
 - ↳ non-assigning of taxes & fees
 - ↳ dependence on state grants (upto 35%.)
- c) Bureaucratic apathy
 - ↳ ~~no~~ lack of support from district administration.
- d) lack of development planning
 - ↳ following topdown approach.
- e) Ineffective Gram Sabhas
 - ↳ Not consulted on major issues
 - ↳ irregular meetings
 - ↳ ~~less~~ powers prescribed.
- f) Irregular elections →
 - ↳ against spirit of constitution.
 - ↳ ~~eg~~ elections held for Panchayats after 8 yrs in Haryana.

Steps need to be taken for effective decentralisation

(i) Effective devolution

↳ 'BIG BANG APPROACH' of Kerala and MP.

(ii) Capacity Building of members

↳ RAISA

(iii) Use of IT

↳ e-Gram Swaraj → digitisation of monitoring, accounting functions

(iv) Financial powers

↳ user fee (canal), minor forest produce, property tax

(v) Development planning

↳ 'SABKI Yojana SABKA VIKAS'

(vi) Assigning crucial services

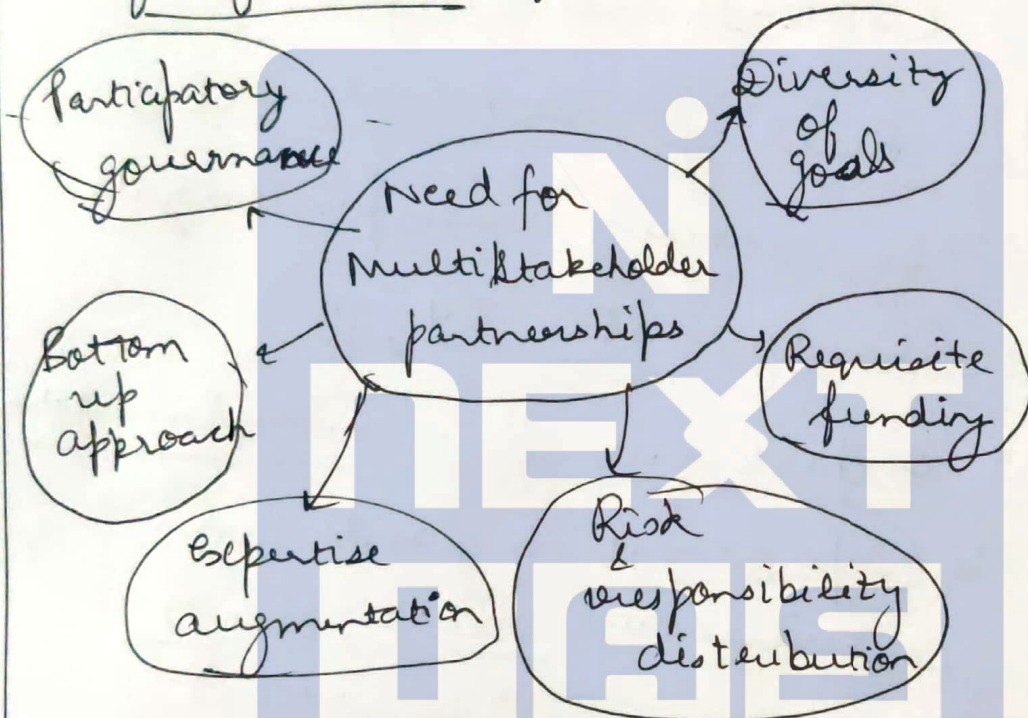
↳ flattening of curve (Kerala), Total Sanitation (Dakshin Kannada ZP),

social security benefits (Beachchatty ZP, TN)

only with effective devolution of funds, functions & functionaries, grass root democracy could be implemented.

- Q.16 सामूहिक विशेषज्ञता और नेटवर्क (संजाल) का लाभ उठाने के लिए बहु-हितधारक साझेदारी महत्वपूर्ण है। भारत में सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (एसडीजी) की प्राप्ति में तेजी लाने के लिए प्रभावी साझेदारी और स्थानीयकृत कार्यान्वयन प्रयासों को कैसे बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships are the key to leveraging collective expertise and networks. How can effective partnership and localized implementation efforts be fostered to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

SDG-17 prescribes for formation of effective partnerships for the fulfillment of SDGs.



Effective partnership & localised implementation

a) Diversity of partners

↳ Govt, NGOs, civil society organisations, individual volunteers.

b) Lessen Government responsibilities

↳ especially in SDG 5, 6, 7 → requires civil society support -

c) Adequate resources

↳ required for tackling poverty (SDG-1) and hunger (SDG-2).

d) Reaching the last mile

↳ by involving Gram panchayats (handy in SDG-3, 4, 10)

e) Expertise in effective implementation

↳ corporates, tech giants can contribute in SDG-3, SDG-9 (infrastructure & innovation).

f) Fostering grassroots democracy

↳ involving all tiers of government
↳ leveraging strength of Gram Sabha.

→ Neutral villages (Ralegaon Sidhi) → SDG-11 (Climate Action).

g) Regional partnerships

↳ platforms like BBIN (energy security)
clean & affordable energy (SDG-7)

h) Multilateral institutions

↳ like BRICS, G-20, World Bank
can effectively fund and
- monitor progress of SDGs in
developing countries.

Since the goals are
diversified and challenges are many
only with effective partnership
building (internal & external) and
localized implement (PRI, Gram
Sahaj, ULB), we ~~can~~ can
achieve 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.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) at Workplace Act, 2013 was passed to give legal backing to the 'Vishakha Guidelines' (1997) of the Supreme Court.



Limited success in raising awareness

- a) 36% ~~not~~ corporates & 25% MNCs have not constituted Internal

Complaint committees (FICCI)

- b) 70% women not reporting sexual harassment instances
- c) Half of the women ~~are~~ not aware about ^{features} ~~procedure~~ of the act

Factors hindering effective outreach in unorganised sector

- a) Lack of awareness generation
- b) Lack oversight mechanism
- c) Fear of ostracisation & stigmatisation
- d) Instances of intimidation.
- e) Fear of job loss

Strategies required →

- a) Awareness about the act
 - ↳ NGOs, civil society can play a big role.
 - ↳ Higher education institutions, skill development institutions can guide about the act
 - ↳ Audio/visual guides can be prepared.

(b) Action against non-compliance

↳ Compulsory formation of local complaints committee.

(c) ethical & moral training of employees

↳ on job ethical competency development courses.

(d) Innovative solutions

↳ online portal like SHe-Box developed by Ministry of Women and Child Development

(e) compensation to victims

↳ from the accused and/or perpetrator and also the employee

only with effective implementation of the POSH Act, 2013 we could ensure dignity to women as

said by Dr Ambedkar ⁶⁰ "The ~~best~~ worth of the society can only be known how it treats its women".

Q.18

‘नव-उदारवादी सुधारों और वैश्वीकरण ने कल्याणकारी राज्य की संस्थाओं को गहराई से बदल दिया है और एक नई प्रकार की सिविल सेवाओं के लिए आधार तैयार किया है।’ इस संदर्भ में सेवा वितरण के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए और पर्याप्त सुधारों हेतु सुझाव दीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

‘Neo-liberal reforms and globalization have deeply transformed the institutions of the welfare state and set the ground for a new type of civil services.’ In this context examine the challenges faced in service delivery and suggest adequate reforms. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

Since 1990s, the world is witnessing the phase of hyper-globalisation and neo-liberal reforms (Washington consensus).

India too with its new-economic policy (1991) has ushered into the phase of 2PG era.

Transformation of welfare State

a) Roll back of state

↳ as the only provider of social & public goods.

↳ Privatisation of telecom sector, PSU disinvestments.

b) Government as facilitator

↳ more regulatory and facilitation role

↳ Competition Commission of India (2002), SEBI (1992)

- ① Enhanced role of private sector
 ↳ in all sectors → Defence, Insurance, aviation etc.

Ground for new type of civil services

- ↳ with requisite expertise
- ↳ Democratic attitude
- ↳ Fast track governance
- ↳ Embracing new age technology
 (IT, AI, Quantum computing)

Challenges in service delivery

- a) Financial demand-supply mismatch
 ↳ rising fiscal deficit
- b) Lack of adequate training
 ↳ especially in new age tech
- c) Generalist services
 ↳ lack requisite technical skills.
- d) Slow pace of e-governance
 ↳ for enhancing transparency

- e) Bureaucratic apathy
f) Prevalence of red-tapism

Reforms required are →

a) Adequate capacity building & training

- ↳ all throughout career.
- ↳ to match with job roles.

eg → Mission KARMA-YOGI

b) Lateral entries

- ↳ especially in technical field
- eg → Space, health, agriculture, science (also suggested by parliamentary standing committee).

c) Ethical competency development

d) Involvement of ~~private~~ industry - academia - government interface

- ↳ for better understanding of ~~their~~ mutual needs & requirements.

Only with a reformed civil services can India become a developed country by 2047.

- 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.

China and India are regarded as the two pillars of the 'ASIAN CENTURY'. However the relationship between the two have been strained and 'not normal' post the Galwan clashes.

India as an Asian rival to China

- (i) Indian economy size
↳ 3rd largest in Asia & 2nd largest in terms of PPP.
- (ii) Military power
↳ According to SIPRI, India has world's 4th most powerful military.
- (iii) India as a nuclear weapon state.
- (iv) Convergence of India with US, Japan, Australia
↳ eg Quad, IPEF

↳ India's rise as a maritime power

↳ NECKLACE OF DIAMONDS strategy,
Blue water navy, strategic development
of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Thus in the present times
relations have been marked with
suspicion, conflict and competition

Despite differences, ~~But~~ there are areas of
convergences & complementarities: →

① Stake in multipolarity

↳ to prevent unipolar world order
↳ eg → BRICS, SCO.

② Reform in multilateral institutions

↳ especially IMF and World Bank

↳ to counter western hegemony

eg → BRICS New Development Bank,
currency Reserve Arrangement.

③ convergence of issues in WTO

↳ for development of developing countries

eg → Areas like food security, agricul-
-ture and irrational subsidies
by western countries -

③ Strategic Sea Lanes of communication

↳ Malacca Strait, Strait of Hormuz
hubs of Int'l energy trade & transit
and equally vulnerable to conflict.

④ Piracy, organised crimes

↳ Horn of Africa, Golden Triangle
~~present~~ under turmoil

China has launched its Global Security Initiative as a counter to QUAD.

Features of Global Security Initiative

- ① Indivisibility of security
- ② mutual respect and openness
- ③ Against sanction regime
↳ western sanctions in particular
- ④ Asian model of security

Features of QUAD

NEXT IAS

Candidates must not
write on this margin

① Quadrilateral grouping of India, US, Japan and Australia

② Non-military alliance

③ Free & open Indo-Pacific

④ Respect for International law

⑤ Against unilateral actions of states

Thus by very design
GSI of China is touted against
Quad. China is a great power
in the region with considerable
influence in region (9dash line),
military presence (Djibouti).

However so far there
have not been many talks of GSI.
On the contrary QUAD is a positive
grouping with diversified agenda
and has more appeal for the regional
countries.

Thus at present QUAD
looks more tangible and action-
oriented in comparison to
GSI.