

NEXT IAS

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(To be filled by candidate)

Code : TC001

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Roll No. :

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MTS - Full Length Test-1 : 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

Next IAS ID: MT23FLT8N004, TC006, 28-08-2023 06:05 PM



Ans1

Interstate disputes are increasingly becoming intractable problems and causing significant bad blood between states
→ Killings on Assam border disputes

Constitutional and legal framework to resolve disputes

- ★ Interstate Council under Article 263.
 - ★ Inter state water disputes (Article 262)
 - ↳ River water boards Act
 - ↳ interstate water disputes Act
 - ★ Zonal Councils Act; standing committee of Interstate Council
 - ★ North East Councils Act
 - ★ Meetings between CMs, chief secretaries etc
 - ★ Article 131 - original jurisdiction SC
- These promote inter state solidarity and communication and help resolve interstate disputes.

Why independent India failed to solve disputes

* Non-functioning of interstate Councils and zonal councils

→ They have remained non-functional. have met only once or twice in a year

* Political interests - for getting votes etc

* Regional and linguistic chauvinism

* Attitude of no-compromise between States

Unresolved disputes

↓
Kasaragod

→ Belgaum

→ Anam Border

→ between Haryana & Punjab

→ Hyderabad issue

Although many committees have been formed some disputes remain unresolved.

A joint approach which is proactive rather than reactive must be followed.

Ans 2
No nation can program without coordination and synergy between all parts of the government. To promote this synergy, inter-state councils have been envisaged under Article 263.

Role in promoting cooperation

- Inter state council harmonise centre and state relations. (vertical)
- Both can communicate grievances to each other
- horizontal cooperation - between states and state
- help them proactively solve inter-state disputes and stop other disputes from arising.

But interstate council has been inefficient in its role.

- ~~Met~~ Met only once in last 4 years
- Stand committee of ISC remains inefficient.
- Rise of other bodies like GST Council, ~~AI~~ NITI Aayog

There is a need to revitalise ISC, since it has immense potential to harmonise the relationship between state-state and Centre state. Recommendation

- A permanent secretariat
- At least two meetings per year
- Mandatory discussion in ISC before using 131 of SC or premier court.

ISC along with other bodies can play a central role to make new strides in cooperative federalism

Ans 3

Public Accounts Committee is a permanent financial committee of Lok Sabha that acts as the guardian of the public purse of the country.

Key functions of PAC

- Studying the reports submitted by CAG to the president
- Study the accounts and money withdrawn - demand grants from different ministries
- Study additional grants that are asked by ministries. and give consent.
- Any other function related to finance as the speaker decides.

Steps to be taken to revamp PAC

- Recommendations of PAC is only advisory. make it more powerful - by adding clause that why recommendations were not amented to will be explained.
- following examples of UK, US; making CAQ a part of PAC and increasing PAC - CAQ coordination
- provide research and secretariat support to PAC.
- make PAC as pre pre-mortem committee rather than a post-mortem committee w.r.t. budget.
- Reduce ruling party dominance in PAC.

(ex CAQ)

Vinod Rai in his book has also suggested these reforms to make CAQ and PAC - conscience keeper of Indian democracy.

Urban Areas while constituting only 5% of area, 35% of population add almost 60% of GDP.

Keeping this in mind 15th FC has suggested major reforms for URB

- Made constitution of State Election Commission and State Finance Commission (243-I) mandatory and uploading of audit and records mandatory for getting grants.
- For municipalities it has made entire 100% grant linked to performance (municipal challenge funds)
- In non-municipalities it is 40% tied.
- It has made provisions for additional grants for Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT and Jal Jeevan Mission

- It has devolved state government to devolve financial and political power to ULBs.

Evaluation of moves

- Though devolution has increased significantly, most of it is tied in form of central sector schemes and performance linked.
- It leads to inflexible utilization and funds remaining underutilized.
- Poor ULBs have a double whammy because they are unable to perform due to less funds (negative loop)
- mere formation of SER and SFC will serve no purpose.

There should be meaningful devolution of power to make ULBs an efficient unit of self governance

Ans To enable parliament to move as efficient chambers of debate, discussion and deliberation, parliamentarians are allowed to have certain privileges.

One such privilege is freedom of speech in parliament (Article 105)

Difference in scope of 105 vis a vis 19 (freedom of speech)

<u>Article 19</u>	<u>Article 105</u>
→ Available to <u>all citizens</u>	Available to <u>only parliamentarians</u>
→ is qualified by <u>restrictions under 19(2) - contempt, hate speech etc</u>	→ It is an <u>absolute right</u> .

- Can be punished by court of our law
- cannot be punished by law
 - ↓ he is either punished by privilege committee or speaker/chairman
- speech is expunged from records

Balance between FRs and Privileges

Many times privileges encroach upon fundamental rights; which is an affront on the dignity of the individual

→ Also, parliamentary privileges are used for corrupt action (PV Narsimharao case).

→ Article 19 is subservient to privileges whereas Article 20, 21 is not (MSM Sharma, Searchlight case)

Following example of other democracies like US, there is a need to modify privileges to harmonize them with FRs

Ans 6

Civil Society is the collection of inteface between the private individual and the government. It may include NGOs, pressure groups, social movements -

Problems faced by CSOs

- lack of accountability
- vested interest
- can be against development
- ↳ lack of resources
- ↳ lack of human resource.

Challenges faced in local resource mobilisation and corporate funding

- Recent FCRA amendment, has made foreign funding more difficult.
- Companies are averse to give funding due to mushrooming of NGOs (400 person → 1 NGO)
- Companies prefer to start trust by own name for brand value.

- Lack of funding by general public due to lack of accountability
- Lack of sources for own fund mobilisation

Suggestions for resource mobilisation

- Setting up of social Organisation exchange like (BSE, NSE) and using innovative financing methods like Green bonds.
- Funding by govt. to organisation for last mile delivery and plugging service delivery gaps of Pradhan, Atishay Karta
- Proper auditing and transparency in Account

Applying recommendations of Vijay

- Kumar Committee regarding decentralised registration can also help.
- Step towards making people active participant in development

Ans

The recently released Multi Dimensional Poverty Index - Global has applauded India for pulling out people - (from 40% in 2005 to 15% in 2022) out of poverty. (SDG 1)

Taking cue from Global multidimensional poverty index, NITI Aayog has developed National Multidimensional Poverty Index

Committee Ptd.

- Tendulkar
- Ramprajan
- NITI Aayog HLC

Methodology | → Uses three indicators with $\frac{1}{3}$ weightage ⇒ Health, Education and Access to Resources.

Food, Health, Education has 2 indicators and Access to resources has 6 indicators under it.

- It takes approach of competitive federalism and encourages states to compete against one another to improve ranking.
- Each state is incentivized for improvement.
- Behavioral component: Usage of words like Aspirational, a shift instead of poor - good performance.

Thus, the National Multi-dimensional poverty index breaks the long held view of poverty as absence of money or food. It takes whole of life approach and looks at it from Amartya Sen's capability Approach.

It aims to enhance individual's capabilities and place them at the heart of India's growth story.

Ans Right to Health has been recognised as part of Article 21 by SC in Pashchim Banga Mazdoor Sabha Case

Further more under Part IV (DPSP) Article 39, 43, 47, Constitution empowers Government to make legislations for the same

Reason for lack of explicit mention of Right to Health

- Lack of financial and fiscal space - Expenditure on health is only 2.1%.
- Centre - state tussel → Health is a state subject.
- Huge committed expenditure - in terms of revenue expenditure, pension, salary, ~~and~~ subsidy etc

Although steps have been taken to institutionalise the right to health like PM - Ayushman Bharat Yojna, PM - ABHM, ICDS, Posham, NASH - Swachh Bharat scheme, LAQSNAY, PMMVY etc

There is a need to tap into innovative methods of financing like risk pool, bonds, insurance market, PPP models to overcome infrastructural and financial problems

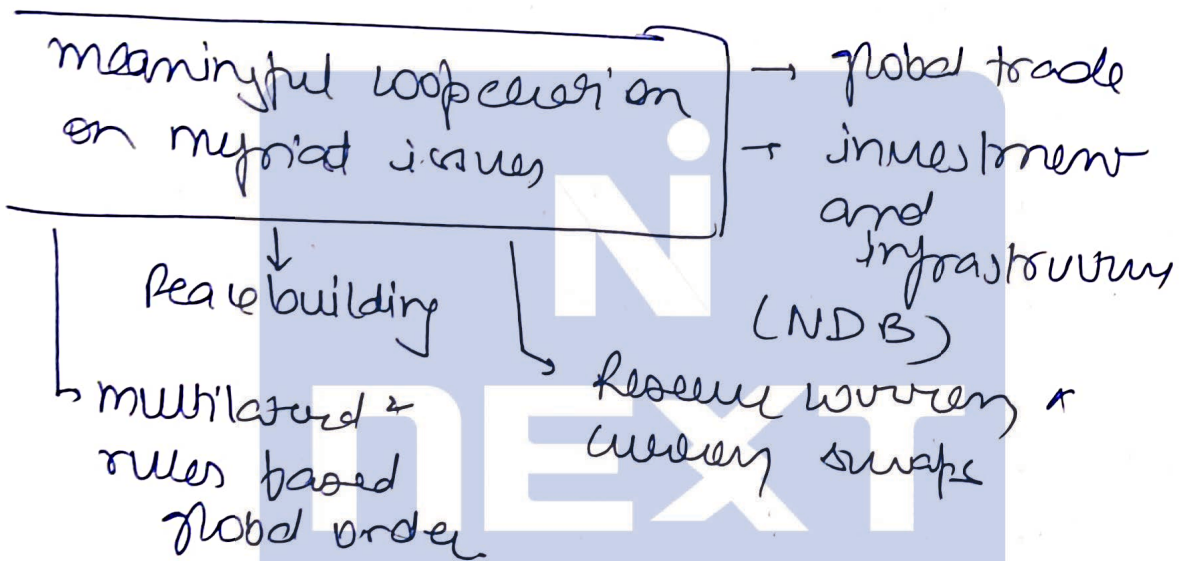
→ The new Digital Health mission with e-Sanjeevani can also play a great role.

→ Can learn from experience of NHS of UK.

To achieve the goals of Amrit Kaal, Health as a right - Accessible & Affordable need to be institutionalised

Ans 9

BRICS nations have emerged as the rising power of the global economy with their collective GDP surpassing that of US. (30% of world)



But the platform's ability to influence bilateral relations has remained somewhat limited.

- India's relation with Brazil and South Africa improved.
- But India's relation with China has remained intractable, although a thaw is seen during BRICS

Summit of Doha → when India hosted BRICS summit

But it soon escalates after the visit is over.

→ This is because BRICS is dominated by China, which constitutes almost 70-80% of the BRICS GDP and has trade surplus with ~~every~~ almost every country in BRICS.

→ BRICS is increasingly becoming China dominated. With the Ukraine war, even Russia is getting increasingly dependent on China.

The Recent Johannesburg Summit, ~~can~~ be with inclusion of 6 new countries will bring a new breathe to BRICS and rejuvenate it.

Ans 10 Hon'ble PM had recently remarked that 'Blood and water cannot flow together simultaneously.'

In addition to it, IWT was negotiated decades ago, with ~~recent~~ changing time, it has become expient to renegotiate the treaty

Implications on India-Pakistan water sharing

- Currently Pakistan is entitled to all water of Chenab, Jhelum and Indus.
- A renegotiated treaty might give India more share to these rivers.

- India would be able to build dams for hydro-electric projects.
 - will have spillover effects on health, education of people as well
-

→ It will also have other wide geostrategic and goeconomic ramifications,

- Might make other lower riparian states like Bangladesh concerned
- Maldives may China take unilateral steps on Brahmaputra river to support Pakistan

According to Brahma Uthellay

- the war in Asia will be fought over water, thus it is expedient to adopt a joint river basin management technique

Ans 11

The constitutional history of any country is an interplay between the premises of the Parliament and the Judiciary.

Case of USA

- Judicial Review was introduced by Justice Marshall in Marbury vs Madison case.
- Played a liberating role and enlarged the rights of the vulnerable sections like women, minorities etc.
- In Roe vs Wade - abortion was legalised.
- In Brown v/s Board of Education, racial discrimination and segregation was removed in schools.

But judiciary was also found lacking
in Dred Scott case → slavery was
upheld (old case later overturned)

Recent case → overturning of Roe vs Wade
and affirmative action case

The case in India

Judiciary in India has become more
powerful and moved from a textual
to a contextual approach and towards
judicial activism in coming times.

Textual and narrow approach → AK
Gopalan case, Sajjan Singh case,
Kharak Singh case (privacy)

New approach started with judges like Just-
P.N. Bhagwati, Justice V.R. Krishnaiah,
Justice H.R. Khanna.

- Enlarged Article 21 in Mandla Gandhi, R. S. Puttaswamy Case
- Upheld federalism in J. R. Bommai Case
- Other significant cases like Minerva Mills.

Scope of Judicial Review is more expansive in Indian context. Especially due to development of Basic Structure Doctrine in Kesavananda Bharati Case, which has given power to the Court to define and protect basic structure.

Although, it is criticised as having jurisdictional dispute. It has never meten

protected our Constitution and people from the tyranny of majority and sliding into dictatorship.

Ans 12

Delimitation of constituencies refers to the rationalizing of constituencies after a period of time so that they are able to reflect the population and adhere to the one vote person one vote, one value principle.

Indian constitution in Article 82, directs government to undertake delimitation after ~~at~~ every census.

Challenges posed by misrepresentations in constituencies

- gerrymandering: when constituencies are willfully disorganised to benefit a particular party.
- misrepresentation can also lead to heightened sense of alienation and regional disputes and riots eg Mangaldai constituency in Assam = influx of

migrants, which led to riots.

- Destruction of social capital
- Alienation of people and breaking of trust on democracy → it might lead to feelings of secessionism and nationalism
- Emasculation of the voice of the people:
as some people artificially dominate other people.
 - it might lead to misrepresentation of issues in the parliament.
 - It is a fraud on people, on constitution and on principle of democracy.

Ramification of population based ramification in federal tensions

- In India, North and South form two distinct units in terms of population

UP states dominates with 80 seats.

→ Southern states have lower seats.

→ Further, due to better family planning Southern States will get further less seats if delimitation happens.

→ It is paused till census after 2021 for time being.

→ There already tension regarding financial inclusions.

→ Thus, delimitation based on population has potential to further flare up the dissensions between small and

large states. and between states and Centre (Centre is seen favouring large states)

Symmetrical federalism (equal seats in Rajya Sabha) as practised in USA can be an effective antidote to this problem.

Art 13

Sy Qureshi former CEC had described Election Commission under Article 324 playing the most important role in preservation and flourishing of democracy in India

Supreme Court has further strengthened the Constitutional mandate of Election Commission

- In Mohinder Gill case, SC held that EC had extensive power to fill up the legislative gaps and form procedures under Article 324.
- It has further strengthened this provision in ADR case.
- In T.N. Chechan case, SC while accepting creation of post of

2 election commissioners, held that they must be indeed independent and uphold neutrality and impartiality.

→ In Anoop Brahwal case, SC acted on the appointment problem (seen as biased in favour of the ruling party) and suggested a collegium consisting of Leader of Opposition, CJI and PM. to elect the CEC.

Other problems with EC

→ funds not charged upon CFI

→ lack of secretariat

→ lack of permanent staff

→ silence on re-appointments

Other imp. Supreme Court cases

→ ADR - on criminal matters

→ PULL Case - NOTA

→ LoC Brahm case - discovery financial liabilities

Reformation of EC is one step in safeguarding the election process.

Many problems like criminalisation of politics, money and muscle power etc. remain intractable

In order to fully realize the value and goals of democracy - These need to be upheld = Allowing recommendation of Indrajit Gupta Committee, Dinesh Goswami, LC 244th Report etc. will be a step forward.

Milam Vaishnav, in his book 'When Crime Pays' further says that this is not a legal problem, it is a political problem - can only be solved by voter education and mass mobilisation of the people.

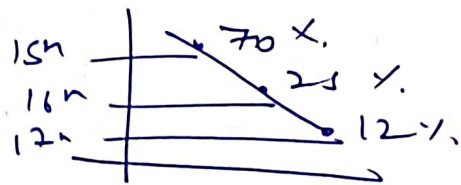
Ans 14

Parliament serves as the repository of the general will of the people. It holds the govern of the day accountable and serves as a chamber of discussion, deliberation and debates.

The declining role of parliament is an affront on the vision of our constitutional forefathers, who chose a parliamentary form - wholly to extract accountability from the executive (Dr. BR Ambedkar speech in CA).

Declining Role of Parliament evident in

→ Reduction in bills referred to select committees



→ Non election of deputy speaker - when

members of opposition party by ~~defeat~~ convention.

- The 17th Lok Sabha will be shortest in history.
- Non-functoring of committees like committee on private member bills.
- Disruptions and protests in the house.
- No-discussion on Budget; 70-90% of budget gutted.
- Rising criminalisation (42% - ADR) and low representation of women (14%).

Due to brute majority in Lok Sabha and reachable majority in Rajya Sabha, opposition stands emasculated to challenge the government of the day.

→ The concentration of power in PMO has also led to presidentialisation of system. with party members acting as rubber stamp

Suggested Reforms

- Reform in Anti Defection Law - so own party members can oppose and hold party accountable.
 - Establishment of shadow cabinet and increasing power of opposition
 - Referring to committees as a rule
 - Giving more power to DRSCs with to opposition members
 - Expansive reading of 29A(5) of RPA for internal democracy of the parties
- Pressure from the electorate only can vices in these reforms, else we fear having an emasculated parliament.

Ans 15

The National Commission on Women was formed in consonance with the UN Convention on Women signed by India and Paris principles.

It is entrusted with looking into women issues and making recomm-
endation for betterment of women
in the country. It also exercise civil
court power when deciding / investigating
an issue. It is prime organisation for
policy inputs

Shaping discourse on gender sensitive
 Laws

- Recommends on policy and law.
- gives inputs from women point of
view
- It had played important role in
child marriages law and crimin-
alisation of sex with underage

bridges (independent thought case).

→ Provided input to Law Commission on discriminatory laws → Personal civil laws, Marital rape exception etc.

→ SC in Arora Bhat case held that some judgements of courts lesses of patriarchal bias. Thus, National women commissions can help here as well.

Constitutionalising of the NCW

- Problems
- lack of permanent cadre
 - appointment - biased
 - ^{at least} ~~total~~ better between - Chairman and ^{Secretary}
 - funding issues
- ad hoc character - not the supreme body
NCT/NCSL can overturn NCW recommendation

Constitutionalising can help ~~it~~ with many problems.

- provide it with permanency.
- give its decisions more heft and

Weightage

- Help iron out issues in appointments
- Solve issue with funds.

But as we have seen more constitution-
ality commissions do not solve
problems (eg) NCST - remains dysfunc-
ional . We need to

Pravraj Bhanu Mehta in his book
'Remaking Institutions in India' holds
that the only way to make institutions
effective is through political will
to put in structural , transformations
processes and follow the
spirit of the law .

Ans 6

The vision of Amrit Kaal i.e. becoming a developed country by 2047 is underpinned by the values of minimum government and maximum governance and people as active partners in governance rather than passive beneficiaries.

This is only possible when when citizens can hold the government responsible and extra accountability through grievance redressal.

Challenges associated with current grievance redressal mechanisms.

- Lack of awareness among people → PEW research only 1/3 knew how to file RTI.
- Lack of accessibility - not available in

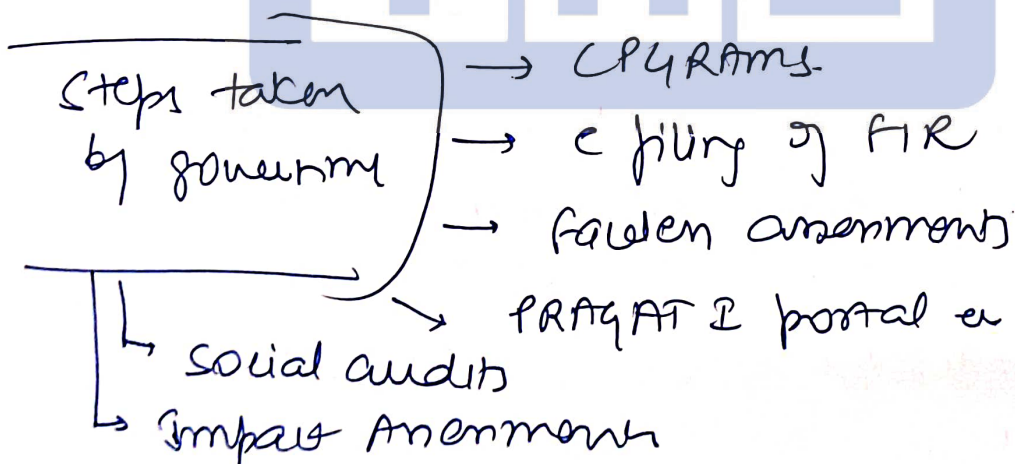
local language. Website for di-Pwds is not disable friendly.

* Dysfunctional laws - not following spirit of law - no proactive disclosure under RTI, rejection of RTIs

* Lack of follow up action on ground

* Issues of corruption in the methods

* Lack of funds, functionalities and infrastructure with grievance redressal cell.



Measures to strengthen the process

- Enactment of mandatory social audit
by Meghalaya + service delivery system
of Raunotaka
- Make the process of food to end digitized
by CPGRAMS.
- Make people aware about their rights
through Information, Education and
Communication
- Make grievance redressal accessible -
using vernacular language, low friendly
- Using AI/ML/Big data Analytics to identify
usual and regular misdoers
- Strengthen infrastructure, funds and
training of functionaries.

Grievance redressal can help in
unlocking the potential of the
economy and holistic developm-
ent of state.

17

Transparency International describes corruption as the 'abuse of entrusted power for private gain'. It corrodes the fabric of governance, eroding people's trust in democratic institutions

Harmonizing the three Laws

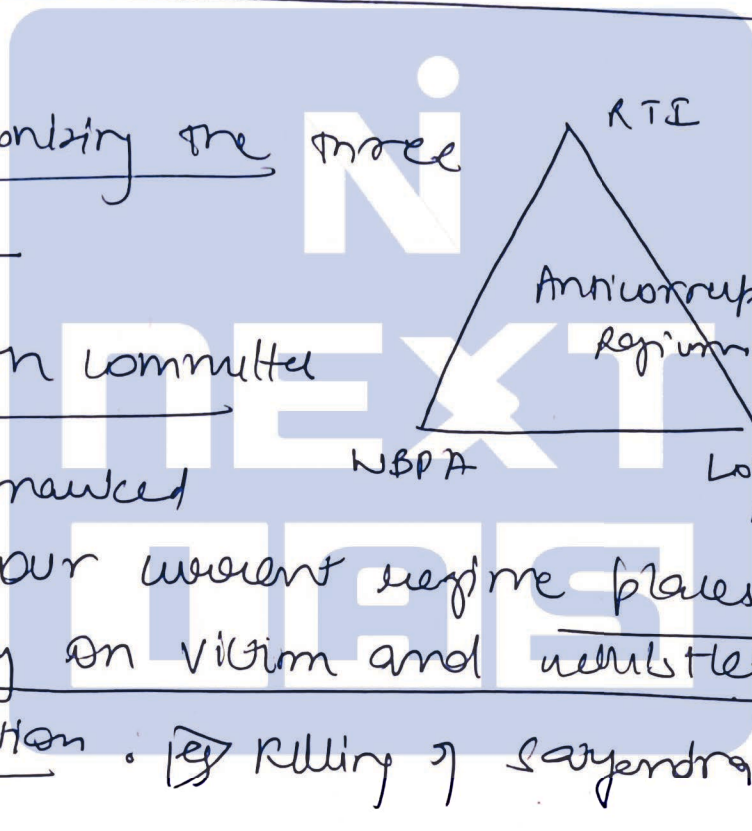
Malimath Committee

has recommended

that our present regime places low priority on victim and whistleblower protection. eg killing of Jayendra Dubey

Further, Lokpal and Lokayut Act

has also underperformed & Lokpal has not convicted single person till date. Routinely fails to submit application because they are not



submitted in name and proper format.
→ harassment of RTI Activists.

Therefore, there is a need to strengthen

The Whistleblower Protection Act -

to protect the physical, emotional
and psychological aspects of a
whistleblower.

→ If this is guaranteed, people will
not be afraid of filing Lokpal
complaints by their name and
proper format for the fear of victimisation.

→ It would also give a fillip to
RTI activists and protect them
from victimisation.

→ Furthermore, there is need of strengthening
The internal provision of each
Act.

Lokpal Act → Appointments.

RTI Act → proactive disclosure, limitation law, provision of funds

Witch blower protection → to protect identity and social ostracisation

Amendments to Article 311, and prevention of corruption Act and bringing private terror under

POCA, as recommended by 2nd ARC can also be looked into

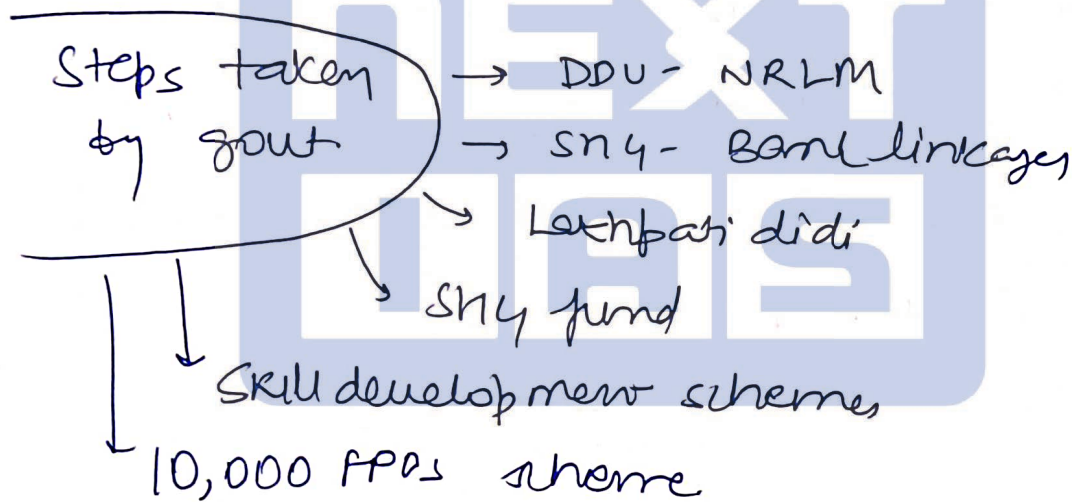
The nexus of criminal-politicians and businessmen needs to be broken (NN Vohra Committee)

N. Ram in his book 'Why corruption is here to stay' says that this will require huge public mobilisation and political will

Ans 15

Self Help groups are small collectives
of mostly women that use cooperation
and innovative financial methods,
for skill generation development,
entrepreneurship, income generation.

India has almost 12 ^{mn} lakh SHGs,
88% of whom are women SHGs.



Benefits of SHGs

→ Help in skill development of
marginalised communities and

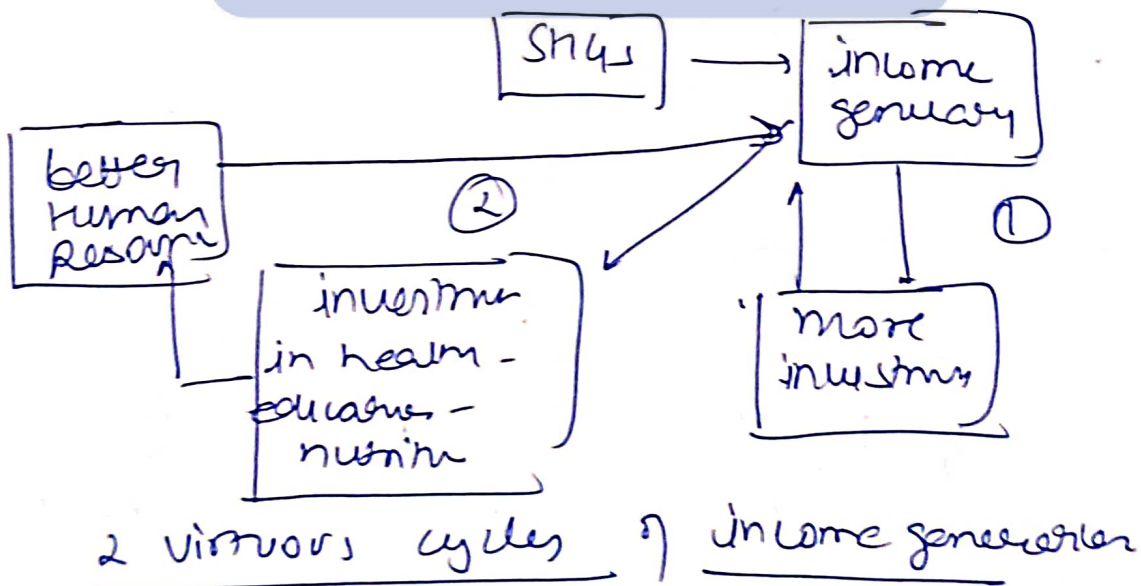
help them to emerge as employer-
generation by UP SHGs → Corona crisis,
marks us during Corona pandemic.

→ Help create a culture of entrepreneurship
and innovation → SEW A group

and Kudumbastree and MAVIM
in Kerala and Maharashtra

→ It increases women's access to resources
and gives them agency and self-confidence

→ Spill over effects on health, education
and nutrition



Challenges

- * Patriarchal attitude of society.
- * SHG capture by vested interest and elites.
- * Bad accounting practices - leads to low credit
- * Lack of access to Banks.
- * Lack of skill development
- * SHGs are not able to self sustain without govt help
- * No Information Asymmetry - about market, remunerative options etc

Govt has taken many steps to overcome these problems. Furthermore

creation of a dedicated cooperative society will go a long way in turning self help groups into 'national help groups' (Moniblo PM)

Ans 19

'India will be a different power.'
- Indira Gandhi.

The world today stands at the cusp
of transformation. The old world

order is giving way to the new.

It is an Age of uncertainties,

- Crisis in multilateralism.
- Conflict in Europe
- Great power rivalry in Africa
- Global slowdown
- Food, energy and fertilizer insecurity.

In such case, India with its rich
cultural values stands as a beacon
guiding the world.

(Role of culture) - Indian values of
brotherhood, peace
and solidarity. India's G20

vision of One world, one family,
one future holds salience for the
world.

Diaspora - Monbile PM called them
as unofficial ambassadors of India.
Drilling Indian interests and
leading people to people interaction
adding to India's foreign policy.

Democracy → India's democratic
nature and ethos holds special
appeal amongst the world. & is
an inevitable part of India's
soft power.

But soft power in itself is not enough
it needs to be combined with
hard power to give effect to
Smart power.

India with its fifth largest economy and third largest army holds a formidable place in the world.

It has been able to secure its interest across the world and shape the world order.

But much can be improved, India remains highest importer of weapons.

Indigenisation of weapons, better integration of the armed force, theorisation, civil-military-industrial complex etc can be used to further India's smart power.

India can guide the world out of present geopolitical crisis and lay the foundation of a multipolar world order guided by rules.

Ans 20 /

According to Anthony Albanese,
India and Australia are close
strategic partners with shared
values of democracy, peace
and common wealth traditions.

The recently concluded EFTA is
a testimony to the close friendship
that both the countries enjoy.

India has a sizeable diaspora in
Australia who migrate there for
better educational and job
opportunities.

Australia too has recently announced
setting up of two universities in
41st city. Ahmedabad

This synergy of people and values has led to geopolitical, geoeconomic and geostrategic convergence

Geo-economic → better trade relation in investment, securities, labour, goods, import-export especially with signing of ECTA. Australia was dismayed when India refused to sign RCEP but now trade relations are up.

→ Trade in critical minerals like Rare Earths and Uranium is also on the cards

Geopolitical + Geo strategic

→ Convergence in Indo-Pacific manifested as QUAD, joint

military exercises (MILABAR, VIKRAM),
containing a belligerent China.

- A multipolar, international rules based order.
- Technology transfer, Research and space collaboration

But there are some problems like

- Racism faced with Indian diaspora
- AUKUS → seems to replace QUAD
- On data localisation and e-commerce trade
- Huge trade balance with China & Australia

In spite of all the challenges synergy of shared values and vibrant people to people connections between India and Australia creates a fertile ground for fostering long lasting trade relations.