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Test Code 31038

FIAS 2020 - GS Paper 2

ForumIAS ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	Kanishka Nair		
Email Id.		Roll No.	1910055290
Mobile No.		Date:	17/12/20

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory.</p> <p>3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.</p> <p>5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p> <p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
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Total Marks:			
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			ECN CODE: Evaluation Date:

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Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q1) "Criticism of the court that does not impair and hamper the administration of justice cannot be punished as contempt". Critically Analyze in the context of conflict between Freedom of expression and contempt of court in India. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

"अदालत की आलोचना जो न्याय के प्रशासन को बाधित नहीं करती है, उसे अवमानना के रूप में दंडित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए"। भारत में अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और अदालत की अवमानना के बीच विवाद के संदर्भ में उपर्युक्त कथन का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Contempt of court is the authority given to the courts to punish for non-compliance as well as scandalising the court.

It stems from Art. 129, 215 of the Constitution and is defined in the Contempt of Court Act, 1971.

The power of contempt should be used very responsibly as it lies in delicate balance with freedom of expression.

Mere criticism should not be treated as contempt as:

1. Criticism and dissent is recognised as the hallmark of democracy.

2. Courts are also susceptible to flaws that should be pointed out for future improvement.

However, the Contempt of Court provision is necessary as:

1. Lower courts need it to ensure compliance

2. Huge number of cases show case that it is needed.

3. Obstruction / Hampering of justice is a cause of concern.

4. People need to have faith in the Court of law.

Way forward

- need to clearly define contempt without vagueness
- Court may consider other mechanisms to establish contempt to cater to Principle of Natural Justice.

The SC in its wisdom should follow the precedent set in PN Dua Case, Pitam Lal case to use the provision judiciously.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q2) "Equal inheritance to daughters is one more step towards ensuring gender justice".

Discuss in the light of recent SC judgement on coparcenary. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

बेटियों के लिए समान उत्तराधिकार लैंगिक न्याय सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। समान उत्तराधिकार पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय के अलोक में उपर्युक्त कथन की चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The lack of parity and discrimination in inheritance laws showcased the precarious position of gender justice in India.

The SC judgement on coparcenary

1. It was a clarification on the 2005 Amendment to the Hindu Succession Act.
2. The amendment provided daughters with coparcenary rights on fathers' properties like sons.
3. future court judgements created contradictions on whether it is applicable retrospectively, or if the father had to be alive in 2005 to avail such rights.
4. Finally, the SC gave the verdict that the coparcenary rights of women is by birth irrespective of whether father was alive at the time of law.

Step towards gender justice

- The ^{erstwhile} succession laws based on the Mihatsara law reeked of patriarchy and was clearly discriminatory towards women.
 - Inheritance rights will help gain access to property by women which is a boost for financial empowerment.
 - It also strikes at the root of women being 'other's property', and sees women as legal equals with their male counterparts.
- eg. In Himachal Pradesh, Govt. is incentivising putting up women's names in property & name plates.

Thus, the SC has taken ~~the~~^a step in the right direction towards gender justice.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q3) Ensuring Law and order through internet restrictions needs to be balanced with protecting rights of the citizens. Elucidate in the context of SC judgement on internet restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir to uphold "Balanced Constitutionalism".

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

इंटरनेट प्रतिबंधों के माध्यम से कानून व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित करना नागरिकों के अधिकारों के साथ संतुलित रूप में होनी चाहिए। जम्मू और कश्मीर में इंटरनेट प्रतिबंधों पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के हालिया फैसलों के संदर्भ में 'संतुलित संविधानवाद' की चर्चा करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Constitutionalism means to limit the powers with the Govt. so as to safeguard the rights of people against abuse of power.

Balanced constitutionalism means that different tenets of the constitution need to be fulfilled which may be at conflict with each other.

eg. Right to Internet as freedom of Expression, and freedom of profession 19-1(a) versus the reasonable restriction of public order. 19-1(g)

In this light, the SC judgement on internet restriction strikes the right balance as:

① The District Magistrate is held responsible

for internet restriction, with clear reasons to be noted, so that it is open for judicial review.

- ② Indefinite restriction on internet should not be undertaken.
- ③ It should be done according to the law Temporary Suspension of Services Rules, 2017 and not via Section 144 of CrPC.
- ④ Constant review of conditions should be undertaken to find the right balance of revoking the restrictions.
- ⑤ The restrictions should thus follow the principle of proportionality & essentially for it to be valid.

In this way, people's fundamental rights are safeguarded without creating a law & order challenge.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q4) Critically examine the role of National Commission for Minorities in preserving, promoting and protecting the rights of minorities in India. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

भारत में अल्पसंख्यकों के अधिकारों के संरक्षण, संवर्धन और संरक्षण में राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग की भूमिका का परीक्षण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India consists of many religious, linguistic and cultural minorities whose rights need to be safeguarded.

In this light, the National Commission of Minorities was set up to preserve, protect & promote the rights of minorities.

Positives of the Commission

1. It takes suo moto cognisance of violations of rights of minorities.
2. It can undertake enquiries into the violation of such rights.
3. It can also advice the Govt. about furtherring the cause of minorities & their rights.

4. It also submits an annual report on its functioning for the minorities

Lacunas of the Commission

1. 'Minorities' itself is not clarified as to who constitute the linguistic minority, thus restricted to religion.
2. Considered to be a mere recommendatory body
3. Minorities still face challenges -
eg. mob lynching.
Delhi riots
Burning of churches
4. It is seen as a mere adage to the Human Rights Commission.
5. Has not given any good policy recommendations for empowerment.

Thus, an impact assessment of the Commission is needed followed by a revamp in its functioning.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q5) Critically analyze the proposed electoral reforms as suggested by Election Commission of India (ECI) towards ensuring free and fair elections in the country.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

देश में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में भारतीय निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) द्वारा प्रस्तावित चुनाव सुधारों का विश्लेषण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Election Commission (EC) is mandated to oversee the conduct of free & fair elections under article 324 of the Constitution. According to this role, it has recommended the following

Recommendation	Analysis
<p>1. <u>Constitutional changes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure of EC to be charged on CFI • Creation of independent Secretariat. • Constitutional protection for other election commissions 	<p>These steps will help improve the independence of the EC, and reduce the interference by the executive.</p> <p>This will help tackle criminalisation of politics</p>
<p>2. <u>Changes to parties & election</u></p> <p>(i) Cap on electoral expenses by political parties</p>	

- (ii) Bribery to be a cognisable offence
- (iii) Paid news to be added as electoral offence

Technology

- (i) Aadhar & Election card linking.
- (ii) Creation of electronic voter cards (EPIC)
- (iii) Adoption of totaliser machines

Other measures

- (i) 48 hours silence period on social & print media
- (ii) 4 dates proposed to assess age of voting
- (iii) Postal ballot system

These steps will reduce the money power involved in elections & ensure freedom of press.

- These steps can prevent impersonation of electoral voters and allow seamless voting even for internal migrants.

Maintain sanctity of elections.

It will enhance voter base.

Thus, ECI's recommendations should be taken up with political will for free & fair elections

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.6) "Women Self Help Groups (SHG) have not just played instrumental role towards women empowerment but also alleviated distress during pandemic". Elaborate.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

"महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह (SHG) ने न केवल महिला सशक्तीकरण के लिए महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है, बल्कि महामारी के दौरान संकट को भी कम किया है"। विस्तार से चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) are small groups of women of homogenous socio-economic conditions coming together to enhance savings & improve standards of living.

Instrumental role in women empowerment

1. Creation of capital for women by encouraging saving.
2. More employment opportunities for women eg. Kudumbashree tailoring.
3. Enhances credit worthiness of women to avail loans for entrepreneurship.
4. Acts as platform to even discuss and solve social challenges.

5. Enhanced self respect & agency for women with spending on health & education in families
6. In some states SHG has lead to increased political participation in PRTs.

SHGs alleviating distress during pandemic

1. Production and supply of sanitisers and masks by SHGs.
2. food distribution through community kitchens. eg. Kerala.
3. Providing essential items to houses under quarantine.
4. Enforcing lockdowns in Panchayats by coordination & surveillance.
5. Spreading awareness, acting as counsel for new challenges eg. Hidden pandemic of domestic violence.

Thus the SHG model has shown its resilience in creating social capital that paid dividends at this time of distress

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



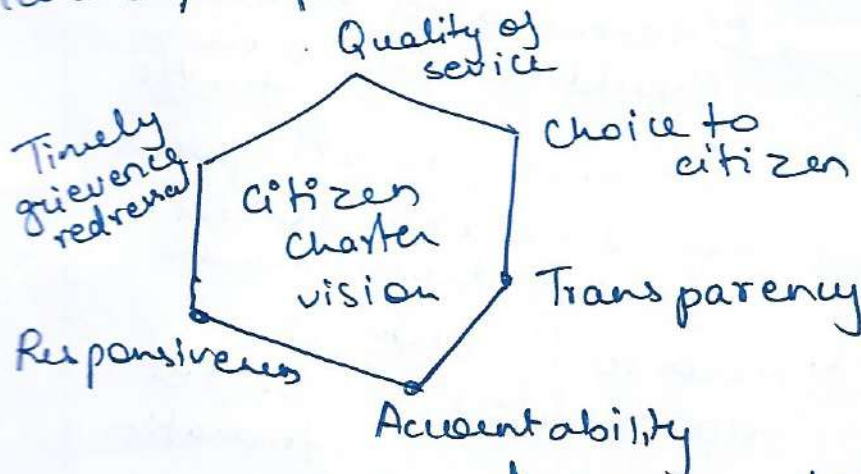
Q.7) People-centric service delivery requires transforming the citizens' charter from a piece of paper into an instrument for changing long-entrenched values and mindset. Elucidate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

"जन-केंद्रित सेवा प्रदाता बनने एवं लंबे समय तक चलने वाले मूल्यों और मानसिकता को स्थापित करने हेतु 'सिटीजन चार्टर' को एक मांगपत्र से एक उपकरण/संस्था में बदलना पड़ता है।" स्पष्ट करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

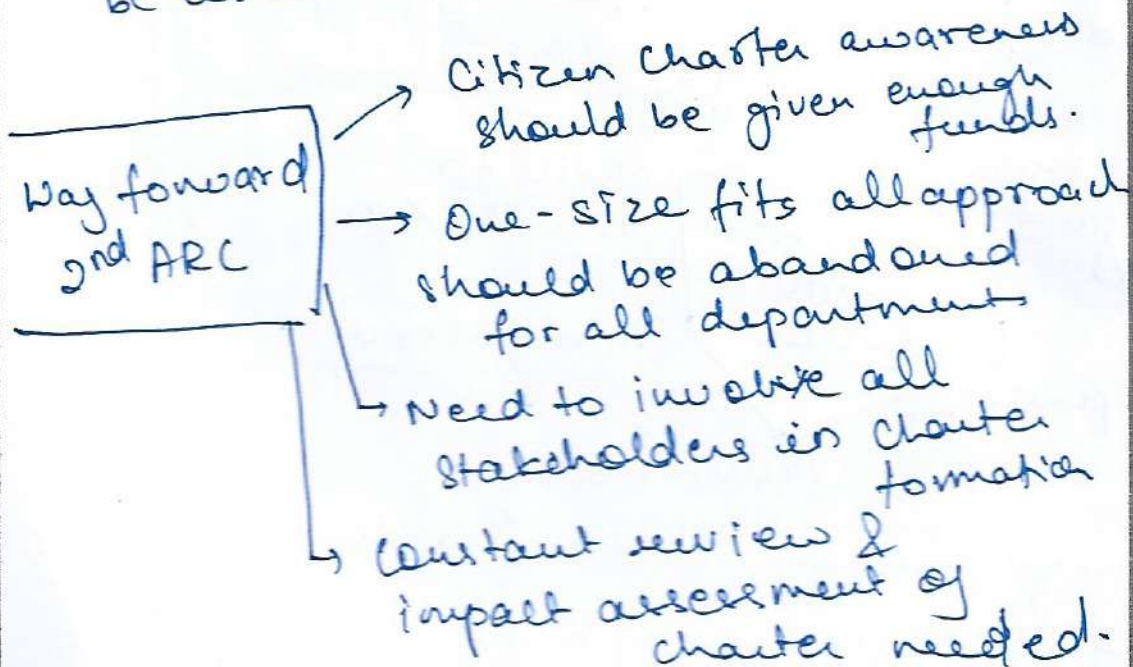
Citizen Charter is considered as a commitment by organisations stating the vision and mission to be achieved.

Citizen Charter was to bring about people-centric service delivery as it included, emphasis on:



However, merely releasing a document would not suffice as mindset change is necessary towards public service delivery as..

1. Citizen Charter spirit has to be imbibed in the work culture
2. Citizens should be viewed as active participants by officials.
3. Performance orientation is needed in public offices, to be brought through charter.
4. Citizens should be made aware of the citizen charter & how it can be used as a tool of accountability.

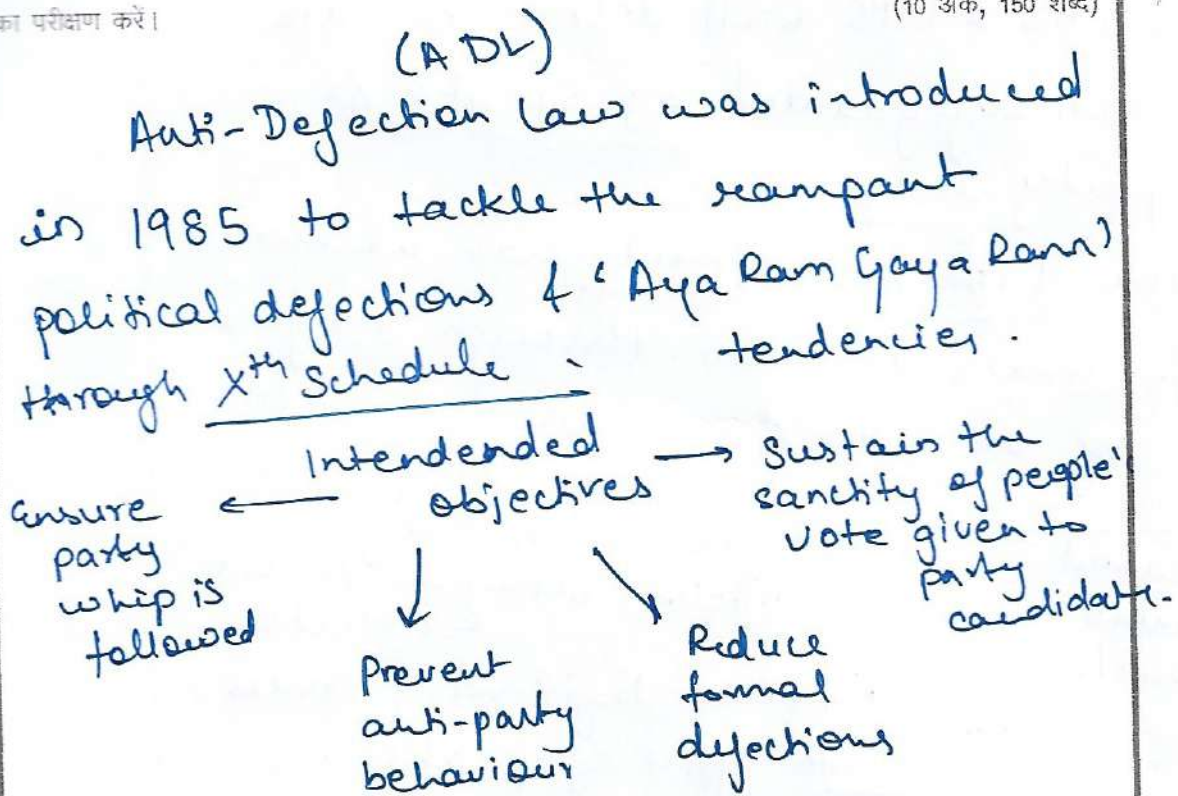


Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.5) "In terms of achieving its intended objectives, the Anti-defection law presents a case of more misses than hits". Examine. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

"अपने इच्छित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के संदर्भ में, दलबदल-निरोधी कानून विशेष प्रभावी नहीं रहा है"। कथन का परीक्षण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)



The ADL has been beneficial as:

1. It was a much needed piece of legislation.
2. It has reduced the phenomenon of defection to some extent.
3. It has created more discipline amongst party members against anti-party behaviour.

On the other hand it has ~~not~~ not served its purpose as:

- MLAs & MPs still defect and are seen safeguarded by Speaker & party in power.
- The 91st Amendment has allowed for mass defection through 'mergers' eg. as was done in the case of Goa.

Created more challenges

→ harmful to democracy
no difference between dissent & defection.

→ Raises legitimacy issues for office of speaker.

Amendments needed

→ It should be applicable only for No Confidence motions, not normal legislations

→ powers to be given to President or a panel to decide on defection, not to speaker.

Thus, while the law has served its purpose it needs to be amended to prevent the challenges

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	





Q.9) "The rapprochement of west Asian countries like Bahrain and UAE towards Israel present an opportune time for India for a more multidimensional engagement in the region, than merely playing the balancing act". Analyze. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

"इजरायल के प्रति बहरीन और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात जैसे पश्चिम एशियाई देशों का तालमेल इस क्षेत्र में भारत के लिए एक उचित समय प्रस्तुत करता है कि भारत यहाँ केवल संतुलन स्थापित करने के अलावा एक बहुआयामी संबंधों स्थापित कर सके"। विश्लेषण करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India has been diplomatically handling its relation in the West Asian region to balance between the Arab nations & Israel.

Such balancing was needed due to the conflicts amongst nations in the region.

With countries like UAE and Bahrain normalising relations with Israel, India has much to gain.

Multi-dimensional engagement

• Sourcing of fuel from the region will be more certain in the absence of conflict.

2. India can collaborate with the nations in new and emerging technologies.
eg. Cyber security, space technology, block chain technology, etc
3. India can also leverage good ~~at~~ relations in the region as strategic depth against arm-twisting by US & other players.
4. Investment opportunities in India can be promoted in the region which is trying to diversify its economy.
5. The west Asian region can help in India's fight against terrorism & reaching global consensus
Thus, India now has newer avenues to engage in a more stable west Asia.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.10) "It is important that India's engagement with her neighbors should not be event-oriented but process-oriented". In this context, do you think India's neighborhood policy needs reworking? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

"यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि अपने पड़ोसियों के साथ भारत के सम्बन्ध 'घटना-उन्मुख' नहीं बल्कि 'प्रक्रिया-उन्मुख' होने चाहिए।" इस संदर्भ में, क्या आपको लगता है कि भारत की पड़ोस नीति के लिए पुनर्मूल्यांकन की आवश्यकता है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India has been clear about its interests in the neighbourhood with the 'Neighbourhood First' Policy.

However, its engagement is more event-oriented than process-oriented as:

- ① Events dictate how process of engagement continues.
eg. ~~For~~ Post URI attack, SAARC has been stagnated
- ② With Nepal, the events were more prominent eg. Madhesi issue, event of Hydropower engagement, Maps issue.
- ③ with China too, events gain highlight eg. Wuhan Summit, LAC impasse rather than a process of engagement

India's neighbourhood policy needs reworking as:

- ① India should give up a big-brother attitude that is pushing smaller neighbours towards China.
- ② Need to fulfill the commitments made to boost confidence on India's engagement.
- ③ Need to revive SAARC and look at the entire region holistically, beyond country specific engagement.
- ④ Engage in new spheres - eg. vaccine development, cybertechnology, space cooperation, one health, etc

Engagement with neighbours should thus be multi-dimensional sparked with cooperation, rather than confrontation

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.11) The establishment of the National Council for Transgender Persons represents a milestone in ensuring the protection of rights of transgenders in India. However, institutional mechanisms need to be supplemented by progressive thinking of the society.

Discuss.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

ट्रांसजेंडरों के लिए राष्ट्रीय परिषद की स्थापना भारत में ट्रांसजेंडरों के अधिकारों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में नील का पत्थर साबित हो सकती है। हालांकि, ऐसे संस्थागत संरचनाओं को समाज की प्रगतिशील सोच के पूरक होने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 provided for setting up of National Council for Transgender Persons.

It is to be headed by Union Minister of Social Justice with representatives of the Govt. as well as the transgender community.

It is a milestone in protection for transgenders

- 1. It will be a dedicated institution for transgenders which is the first in India.

2. Its role includes assessing and recommending policies for the upliftment of transgenders
3. It would look at violation of rights of transgenders.
4. Act as a grievance redressal fora for the community.
5. It will thus act as a vital link in the interaction of the Govt. with the transgender community.

However, the problems faced by transgenders are more social in nature:

1. Social Discrimination & exclusion
2. Lack of access to livelihood, education
3. Lack of proper housing
4. Access to public spaces without humiliation
5. Concerns of identification and healthcare

In this light, the NCT needs to bring about social change as well:

1. Spreading awareness about the transgender community
2. Progressive housing policies to be inclusive of transgenders.
3. Society needs to accept them as equal citizens, and provide opportunities
eg. Kochi Metro hiring transgenders.
4. Culture of transgenders to be promoted eg. In the Heritage list Kanthal Kayamkulam was added.
5. Education policy should include curriculum that is inclusive of the community
6. Need to curb emotional, physical & sexual violence against community.

Thus, the Yogyaarta principles have to be inbibed by the society for empowering transgenders

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.12) Distribution of GST revenues provides an undue advantage to the Centre especially during extra-ordinary circumstances like the pandemic, thus hampering fiscal federalism in India. Critically Analyze. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

जीएसटी राजस्व का वितरण, विशेषकर कोरोना महामारी जैसी असामान्य परिस्थितियों के दौरान केंद्र को अनुचित लाभ प्रदान करता है, जिससे भारत में राजकोषीय संघवाद प्रभावित होती है। आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Fiscal federalism entails the distribution of taxes and fiscal resources between Centre and states, and ~~not~~ amongst states.

The GST system introduced in 2017 is said to be a game-changer in fiscal federalism as:

- States gave up many taxation rights in the spirit of one nation, one tax
- Uniform taxation was introduced across states bringing equity in horizontal fiscal federalism.
- States were also ensured compensation for revenue losses according to GST Compensation Act for

5 years at 14% annual growth rate assumptions (from 2015 base).

GST distribution thus did not give undue advantage to the centre in normal times as:

1. Rates of GST was fixed through GST Council (art. 279-A) with deliberations from states.
2. Decisions were largely taken in consensus.

However, the advantage arised as:

1. There were delays in the compensation payments due to the economic slowdown.
2. CAG Report suggested that funds for compensation were kept idle under other heads by the state ^{Union}.

In the crisis situation of pandemic this undue advantage increased as:

1. Resorting to 'Act of God' claims to prevent compensation.
2. States were asked to borrow the funds on their own volition.

However, in the spirit of fiscal federalism the issue was resolved with the centre agreeing to borrow from the market & passing on the funds to the states to get competitive uniform Rates.

Thus, the crisis situation posed challenge due to incapacity of both centre & states which was resolved through proper dedicated channels.

Way forward

- Need to relook the 14% compensation bandwidth.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

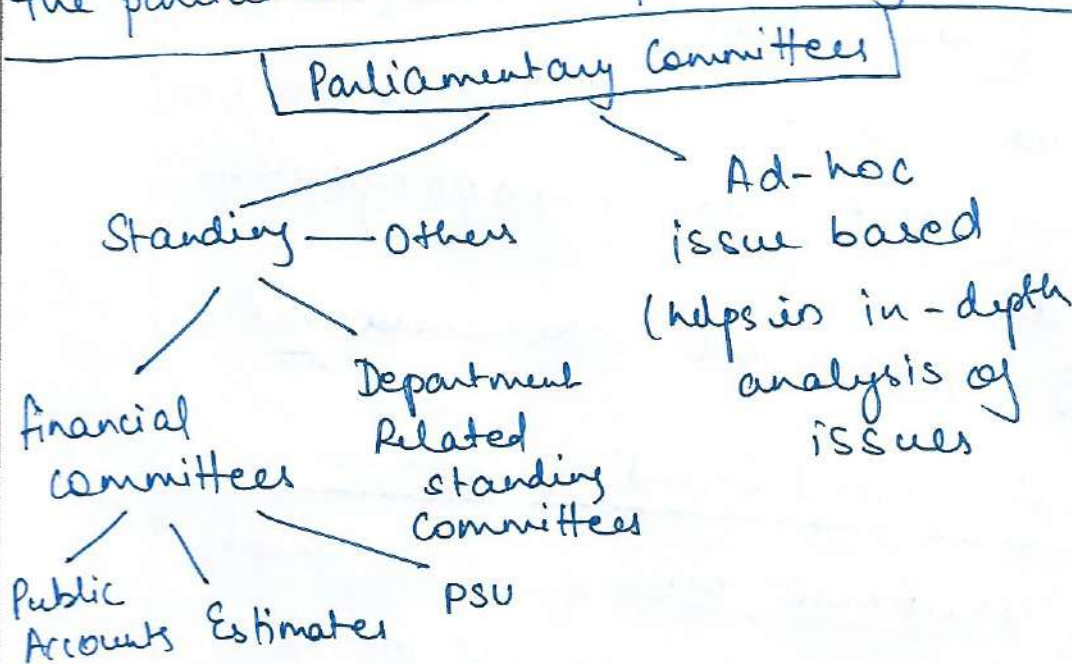
Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q13) How do the various Parliamentary committees assume a central role in the strengthening the parliamentary democracy in India? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

विभिन्न संसदीय समितियां भारत में संसदीय लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करने में केंद्रीय भूमिका कैसे निभाती हैं?

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Parliament through Rules of Business, 1961 provides for the creation of parliamentary committees to assist the parliament in its functioning.



The Committees assume a central role in strengthening parliamentary democracy as :

1. Financial Committees : They help in

ensuring fiscal prudence of the executive.
Estimates Comm.

- It examines the estimates submitted by the departments
- It provides for reforms in estimates as well.
- Prevents fiscal profligacy.

PAC

- It examines the appropriation and finance accounts of the Govt
- It is assisted by the CAG in its efforts.
- It thus checks for misappropriation of funds.
eg. 2G scam, etc. was un^a ~~re~~ ~~at~~ ~~h~~ ~~e~~ ~~d~~.

Department Related Standing Committees

- They scrutinise bills of a department in detail, which is not possible by Parliament due to paucity of time, expertise.
- Scrutinises the budget of every department thus assisting the Parliament

- It also involves the help of experts in the given field thus strengthening the democratic system.
- Takes up any issue regarding the Department and subject.
eg. Facebook was summoned by PRSC of Information Technology regarding Data leaks.

Ad Hoc & Joint Committees

They are formed for detailed enquiry regarding a topic which parliament is unable to do. eg. Committee on Bofors scam.

Way forward

- Bills should be sent to Committees as a rule.
- Increase the duration of Committees from present 1 year (VP's recommendation)
- Ensure attendance for the committees.
- Provide for offices & pool of experts.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.14) The huge pendency of cases in courts at all levels coupled with the pandemic induced lockdown has severely disrupted the delivery of justice in India. Discuss how various Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms can prove instrumental in this regard. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

लॉकडाउन के कारण न्यायालयों में मामलों की भारी पेंडेंसी भारत में न्याय के वितरण को बुरी तरह प्रभावित किया है। विभिन्न वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (एडीआर व्यवस्था) इस सबंध में महत्वपूर्ण साबित हो सकते हैं। चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Economic Survey 2018 mentioned 3.5 Crore pending cases in the Indian judiciary. It goes against the dictum of justice delayed is justice denied.

Over and above these pendencies, the pandemic has caused severe disruption of justice as :

1. Lack of access to digital mode by many.
2. Transport was hit due to lockdown
3. Bail applications and under trials also impacted.
4. Lack of capacity building of lower courts to adopt digital medium.
5. Training of all stakeholders involved was missing.

In this light, Alternative Dispute Redressal (ADR) mechanisms can be utilised to reduce the burden on Indian judiciary.



These ADRs can help in the following ways:

- ① Justice brought closer to people without having to travel to courts eg. at Panchayat level.
- ② They use principles of Natural Justice thus will prevent delay.
- ③ Innovations in judgements is possible that creates a win-win situation for all involved.
- ④ It is a more cost-effective mechanism for the people.

(5) Many cases can be passed on to ADRs, thus reducing the burden on traditional judiciary.

Steps to be taken

- awareness generation about ADRs
- Ensuring trained personnel present in ADRs
- Enhancing the outreach of ADRs throughout the country.
- Legal reforms by classifying offences to be taken up first by ADRs

The Malimath Committee and Law Commission call for adoption of ADRs to overhaul the entire criminal justice system.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.15) The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on women's work, which is often inadequately and inaccurately reported in official statistics. Discuss the need of a more gendered approach towards policy formulation and definition of work in India, especially in Rural India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

कोविड-19 महामारी का महिलाओं के कार्य पर व्यापक प्रभाव पड़ा है, जिसे प्रायः आधिकारिक आंकड़ों में अपर्याप्त और गलत तरीके से दर्शाया गया है। भारत में, विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण भारत हेतु नीति निर्माण में 'कार्य की परिभाषा' के लिए अधिक लैंगिक दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit women in a much more severe manner in its economic repercussions.

Reasons for impact on women's work

1. Most women work in the informal sector which was more severely hit.
2. Women working in the tertiary sector were also hit unlike the normal industrial disruptions.
3. Women face the brunt of double burden at home which has increased with schools being shut.
4. The rise in domestic work is not adequately captured in statistics.

Data suggests a female Labour Force Participation Rate of 18% (PLFS)

which does not take into account:

- domestic work
- care economy

which are dominated by women.

In this ~~big~~ backdrop a clear picture of the labour situation of women is missing in India.

In Rural India this becomes acute because →

- Most women work as agricultural labourers in farms.

- land holdings by women is a mere 13.9%, thus they are not even classified as farmers.

In this light, a gendered approach to policy formulation & definition of work is needed, to include:

1. Quantification of care economy and domestic work.
 2. We need to move beyond Gender Budgeting, to Gender Impact Assessment.
 3. Women Associations & NGOs must be involved in policy formulation.
 4. In rural areas, SHGs must be empowered to participate in all steps of plan formulation.
eg. Gram Panchayat Development Plans.
 5. In rural areas, non-farm rural economy should be supported to create more opportunities for women
eg. tourism, food processing.
- The MUDRA scheme, Stand Up India are steps in the right direction as if development is not endangered it is endangered.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.16) "While the civil services have earned itself some qualified praise, it has disillusioned many. An overwhelming majority today asserts that the services are no longer a 'steel frame' but have become a 'creaking structure'. Comment. Also, analyze why there is a need to reform and transform the civil services to serve the needs of "New India"."

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

हालांकि सिविल सेवा ने अपनी गरिमा स्थापित की है फिर भी बहुतों का इससे मोहभंग हुआ है। कईयों का यह मानना है कि सिविल सेवाएं अब 'स्टील फ्रेम' नहीं रही हैं, और अब यह एक 'चरमराती संरचना' बन गई हैं। टिप्पणी करें। इसके अलावा, विश्लेषण करें कि 'आधुनिक भारत' की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए सिविल सेवाओं में सुधार और परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता क्यों है।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Civil Services in India was envisioned as the steel frame to guide the country towards socio-economic development while maintaining necessary stability.

It has earned qualified praise in:

- being neutral & impartial.
- policy formulation & implementation.
- Exemplifying meritsocracy.

However over the course of time, it has been marred with many concerns:

- ① Rise in politicisation of bureaucracy - creation of cash nexus.



- ② Rise in corruption in civil services
eg. Neera Yadav of UP
Shiv Shankar in gold smuggling.
- ③ Apathy towards citizens
- arm chair legislations undertaken.
- ④ Delay and red tapism
- ⑤ lack of competition and performance
orientation. with
- ⑥ Concerns about accountability and
transparency

A New India characterised by growth that is dynamic, inclusive & sustainable needs a reformed civil services as:

- ① Need for innovation in service delivery through performance culture.
- ② faster decision-making needed
'Red Carpet not Red tape'
- ③ Empowered citizenry needs and demands citizen-centric administration

④ Need to inculcate competition in administration in the neo-liberal era

Steps taken to reform civil services to New India orientation

- 360° Appraisal System
- Performance Linked Incentive Scheme
- Compulsory retirement on non-performance
- Reforms at training stage (Kiran Aggarwal committee)
- Adoption of e-Governance
- Accountability - PROBITY & SPARROW portal

→ with the newly launched Mission Karmayagi India is embarking on a new generation of administrative reforms needed for New India.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	





Q.17) The inadequate devolution of functions, functionaries and finances has been the biggest challenge in realizing the true potential of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Critically Evaluate. Also suggest measures to rejuvenate local self-governments to meet the demands of modern India. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

"पंचायती राज संस्थाओं की वास्तविक क्षमता को साकार करने की दिशा में इसके कार्यों, कार्यवाहियों और वित्त का अपर्याप्त आवंटन सबसे बड़ी बाधा रही है।" मूल्यांकन करें। साथ ही आधुनिक भारत की आवश्यकता को पूरा करने के लिए स्थानीय सरकारों को फिर से जीवंत करने के उपायों का भी सुझाव दें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were institutionalised by the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 through Part IX of the Constitution.

More than 25 years since its formation, PRIs are considered to still have challenges and have not realised their true potential.

function, functionaries, finance challenge

- State Govts. have been given the option to devolve functions mentioned under Schedule 12.
- In the absence of such devolution, PRIs are not given a key role

to fulfill their potential.

Funds

1. PRIs depend on states & centre for their funds (95%). With poor devolution

PRIs face challenges of:

(i) fund crunch.

(ii) Tied funds leading to low equilibrium trap (Economic Survey 2017)

functionaries

1. PRIs lack dedicated, motivated persons

- el: for their effective functioning

2. Personnel on tenure system do not understand local demands.

However, Many other challenges remain

1. Parochial mindset leading to nuances like Sarpanch pati, not realising potential of women empowerment

2. Lack of own resource mobilisation by the PRIs.

3. Lack of accountability in PRIs.

4. Planning not undertaken at local

level - DPC (art 243-ZD) and State
Finance Commissions (art. 243 I) are
ineffective.

Measures to rejuvenate local self-Govt (2nd APC)

1. Structural change of creating a
District Council and representation
in State Legislative Councils.
 2. Incentivising local resource mobilisation
eg. village in Coimbatore selling wind
energy.
 3. Training of Panchayat members
to be undertaken.
 4. Local-level Ombudsman & Local
Audit Committees to be set up.
 5. Greater devolution of 3Fs to the
local Govts. eg. Kerala Model.
 6. Schemes such as Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
, Rajasthan's village ranking of SDGs to be
promoted.
- Corrective measures should thus be
taken to go from Gram Uday se Bharat
Uday

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.18) "It is by approaching poverty through the prism of human rights that we can lift it from the status of being merely a social problem." In the light of this statement, critically examine why and how the government needs to change its poverty alleviation strategies. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

"मानवाधिकारों के विभिन्न आयामों में से गरीबी निवारण द्वारा हम मनुष्य को सामाजिक समस्या की ग्रस्तता से ऊपर उठा सकते हैं" इस कथन के आलोक में परीक्षण करें कि सरकार को अपनी गरीबी उन्मूलन रणनीतियों को बदलने की आवश्यकता क्यों और कैसे है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

According to World Bank poverty is the marked deprivation in resources amongst the people. It has social, economic and political implications.

Poverty is largely seen as a social problem to be tackled with social protection schemes.

Such an ~~idea~~^{approach} views the poor as mere recipients of Govt's interventions.

Approaching poverty through human rights prism

1. It would help create more entitlements for the poor.

2. Human rights issue creates a

- sense of urgency rather than a social problem that may take time to tackle.
3. Human Rights approach would go beyond statistics of poverty (eg. 21%) to actual quality of life of people and the challenges caused by deprivation.

Govt's poverty Alleviation strategies include:

- PDS scheme
- MGNREGA.
- NRLM & NULM.

- Ayushman Bharat
- PM Awas Yojana.

Need for change in strategy

1. Emphasis on poverty line rather than dignity of life.
2. Greater dependencies rather than develop capabilities
3. Policies work in silos without an integrated approach of poverty alleviation
4. One-size fits all approach without

catering to regional ~~to~~ variations

How the strategy needs to be changed

1. Creation of capabilities amongst poor (Amarthy & Sen)
2. Need to create a dedicated poverty alleviation policy.
3. Involvement of people in policy making.
eg. in slum rehabilitation, slum dwellers to be including.
4. Involving civil society organisations
eg. Akshay Jatra, etc.
5. Creation of cluster wise approach
through constant monitoring & social audit.

Poverty is the worst form of violence
which needs to be checked to fulfil

SDG 1 of No Poverty

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q19) "Besides the challenges posed by various regional trade agreements like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the World Trade Organization (WTO) suffer from its own sets of challenges". Comment. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

"क्षेत्रीय व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी (RCEP) और कॉम्प्रेहेंसिव एंड प्रोग्रेसिव ट्रांस-पैसिफिक पार्टनरशिप (CPTPP) जैसी क्षेत्रीय संस्थाओं द्वारा उत्पन्न चुनौतियों के अलावा, विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) अपने स्वयं के चुनौतियों से ग्रस्त है"। टिप्पणी करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The WTO has been at an impasse at a time when it celebrates 25 years of its establishment (1995).

The WTO faces many challenges which can be seen in the rise of Regional Trade Agreements without opting for WTO mechanism.

Challenges faced by WTO

1. Stagnation in its Dispute Resolution System due to vacancies in the Appellate Board.

This means that any verdict given by WTO now has no clear mechanism to be appealed to resolve conflicts.

② Challenges in Agreements

The Doha Round has still not reached its logical conclusion with the impasse continuing on the Agreement on Agriculture.

③ Lack of dynamism in adopting new trade challenges like e-commerce, trade in new services, etc.

④ Lack of trust between developed and developing countries, with some countries asking for redefinition of 'developing status'

⑤ Since all decisions are taken in consensus it gives room for

constant disruption and non-agreement-

⑥ flouting of rules established by WTO eg. rise in protectionism and trade wars eg. USA & China.

⑦ The above reasons thus have strengthened the urges to create regional trade groups like RCEP which may not be fair for all involved (eg. India chose to walk out)

Way forward

- Move from consensus approach to majority approach.
- Revive the Appellate Body through global commitment
- Resolve long standing issues at the earliest.

WTO is thus at an important ~~junction~~ juncture where its next steps will determine its very existence

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.20) Examine how Indian multilateralism has evolved since independence. While highlighting the features of present world order, discuss how India can align and achieve its national interests. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

आजादी के बाद से भारत में बहुपक्षवाद कैसे विकसित हुआ है? वर्तमान विश्व की राजनैतिक व्यवस्था की पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, चर्चा करें कि भारत अपने राष्ट्रीय हितों को कैसे प्राप्त कर सकता है। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Multilateralism means the grouping of countries to solve common challenges and to gain opportunities by coming together.

Indian Multilateralism since Independence

1. Phase 1: Non-Alignment wherein the multilateralism was viewed through cold war lens.

India thus was a founding member of Non-Alignment movement.

2. Phase 2: participation in multilateral fora including WTO at the global level and regional cooperations like SAARC, BIMSTEC, etc

3. Phase 3: India is now not just participating in multilateralism, but also leading such initiatives.

eg. leadership of International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

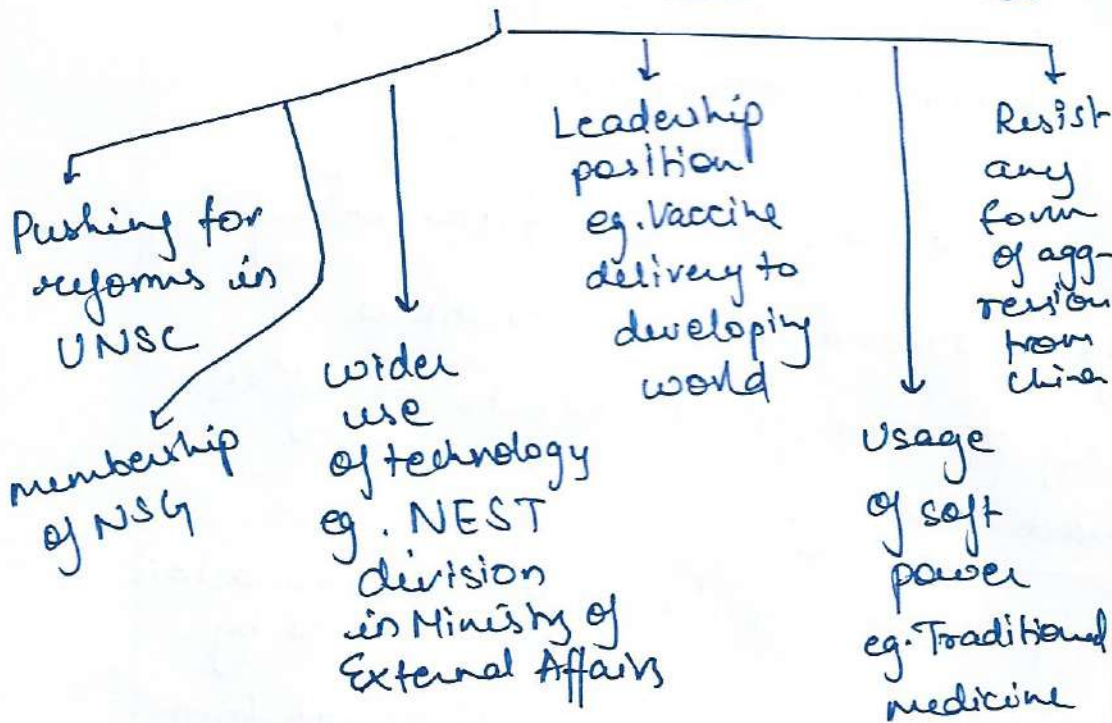
Thus India has evolved from being an infant, dependent and cautious country to one that exerts itself as a Smart power.

The present world order is characterised by -

- lack of reforms in multilateral fora eg. UNSC.
- lack of trust amongst nations.
- Protectionism & concerns of deglobalisation eg. BREXIT.
- Global threats like pandemic, terrorism, climate change
- concerns of China.
eg. 5 Eyes, India, ASEAN countries

India as it ^{sets to} ~~took~~ ^{take} the non-permanent-member seat in UNSC (2021) mentioned the need for NORMS

New Orientation ~~towards~~ ^{for} Reformed Multilateralism System



Thus, with a leadership vacuum in the global space India should take the lead in the global order with Five S approach / Samman, ~~energy~~ Samvad, Sahyog, Shanti & Samridhi.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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Question Interpretation		Total :	

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