ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	D. ZENITH CHANDRA		
Roll No.	1910051056	Date:	11-12-2021

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
Q.1		
Q.2		
Total Marks:		

Remarks:

INSTRUCTION

1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English & Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part
3. One question in each part is compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. 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.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.

Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.

For Student Only

Start Time |	**End Time |**
Mode Of Examination:	**Online** ☐ **Offline** ☐

For Office Use Only

ECN CODE:	**EG:**	**Evaluation Date:**

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MARKING SCHEME

Parameter/Criteria	*Aspects Considered*	*Total Marks*	*Essay 1*	*Essay 2*
Basic Format	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
Content	Data/Facts/Interpretation/ Analysis	25		
Organisation	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
Language Skills	Punctuation/Grammar/ Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
Examiner's Discretion	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

Parameters	*Very Good*	*Good*	*Average*	*Poor*
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

Very Good	*Good*	*Average*
120 and above	100-120	Below 100

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SECTION – A

1. India's missing women
   भारत की गुमशुदा महिलाएं

2. Social media- a tool for engineering consent
   सोशल मीडिया– सहमति को निर्मित करने का एक उपकरण

3. Are big tech undermining state sovereignty?
   क्या बिग टेक राज्य की संप्रभुता को कम कर रही है?

4. Federalism in India - a paradox.
   भारत में संघवाद . एक विरोधाभास के रूप में

4. Federalism in India – a paradox

In early months of 2020, COVID19 pandemic hit the world. India is not an exception. India decided to impose lockdown to control disease transmission. Decision on subsequent phases of lockdown taken by Union Government & implemented at state level. Moreover, relaxation on restrictions during waning phase of COVID 19 first wave, have been taken in Delhi, with little flexibility to states. Union also invoked Disaster management Act to

control pandemic. The Act gives more powers to centre compared to states. Above circumstances, reveal that Federalism in India is a myth.

However, it is only one side of coin. Leaving from lessons during COVID first wave, Union Government decentralized the decision making with regard to lockdown, restrictions ~~va~~ testing to states during secondwave of COVID 19. This experience indicates Federalism in India is reality.

The present essay analyzes features of Indian Federalism and instances during ~~wit~~ which it exhibiting centralizing tendencies. Later, it analyzes the cooperation between centre and states and concludes it by key learnings from discussion.

Federalism in India

Federalism refers to existence of dual polity, where power is shared between centre and states. Both constituents are sovereign in their respective domain. However, constituent fathers envisaged Federalism with strong centre is in the best interest of country. As it will ensure national unity & integrity and reduce secessionist tendencies. Therefore India's federalism is referred as quasi-federal.

Features of Indian Federalism are Division of powers between centre & states, Constitution is written and has rigid features with respect to amendments which affects federal provisions. There is also independent judiciary, which promote constitution ideals while delivering verdicts.

India : Federal or Unitary form of Government

India's experiments with federal setup is quite interesting. Since independence, both Union and state governments are committed to federal principles.

However, first instance of violation of federalism observed when Union government with ruling Congress party dismissed communist elected government in Kerala in 1959. by imposing President rule under Article 356.

It appears that relations between Union and state government will be harmonious when both belong to same ruling party. After 2 decades of independence, in 1967, regional parties able to form governments in multiple states. Since then, there

were some instances of violation of federal provisions, by dismissing elected state government on frivolous grounds and imposing President rule under Article 356. States such as UP (Uttar Pradesh), Bihar, Punjab etc witnessed President rule.

Furthermore, Due to more powers to Centre, regional parties at states demanded reforms or amendments in Constitution to address such imbalance. Rajamannar Committee, Anandpur Sahib Resolution, West Bengal memorandum reflects state's demand for equal powers.

The major demands of states being, abolition of concurrent list and giving residuary powers to states, transfer of certain matters in Union list to state list are some among them.

In addition to it, recent passage of 3 Farm laws by Parliament represents strong Federalism with strong centre. Even though it was repealed later, ~~strer~~ states expressed concerns ~~by~~ as Agriculture is in state list.

Moreover, enactment of RTI (Amendment) Act 2019 also affect centre-state relations. It is because Union government have powers to decide tenure, service conditions of state Information Commissioners.

Further, states are apprehensive about Dam Safety Act 2021, which is passed in parliament recently. Since water is in state subject, such legislation may affect state's control over management of Dams.

Along with it, ~~va~~ some states like Tamil Nadu, protested against NEET exam (medical entrance test). southern states also expressed concern over imposition of Hindi as ~~la~~ medium of instruction through National Education Policy.

Another key issue between centre and states is Finance. Lack of adequate financial resources to state is cause of concern. Southern states viewed Terms of reference of 15th finance Commission and incorporating 2011 census instead of 1971 census, might affect devolution of revenues to states which are successful in family planning programmes.

Apart from it, appointment of Governor by centre and insensitive approach of Governor to state's concerns needs are being protested by states like West Bengal, Rajasthan.

Furthermore, All India services is conceived in Constitution to ensure uniformity in administration and to protect unity & integrity of nation. However, recent tussle between Union and West Bengal government over Chief secretary deputation highlights state's concern. with respect to All India services.

Having analyzed, how centre being powerful than states in Indian federal set up, let us analyze how government of India also accomodated needs, concerns of states.

Immediate challenged being faced by India post-independence is Reorganization of states. However, due to continuous demands from people, new states like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat formed in 1956, 1960 respectively.

Later, issue of official language became bone of contention between centre and states. This issue was resolved by enacting official language Act 1963 and continuing Hindi and English as official language of India.

Furthermore, Inter-state River water disputes highlights politics between ~~to~~ states. Inter-state river valleys is mentioned in Union list. Parliament has competence to ~~ad~~ enact law to adjudicate the river issues. Despite forming Tribunals by successive Union governments, it unable to resolve inter-state river water issues such as Cauvery, Godavari etc. It highlights ~~so~~ that states are powerful / influential in certain domains.

In addition to it, states are being exerting influence over centre.

It observed ~~during~~ ~~regar~~ when states passed resolutions against citizenship amendment Act, despite citizenship is in Union list.

Besides, states are even influencing India's foreign policy. For example, due to Bengal's opposition to sharing of Teesta, river waters with Bangladesh, India unable to conclude a treaty. same is the case with India's Sri Lanka Policy in respect of Tamil Question, in which Tamil Nadu exerts its influence over Centre.

Having analyzed, how Indian federalism exhibits strong centre, strong states in various circumstances let us analyze solutions to address federal disputes.

Way Forward

Constitution is law of the land. Both centre and state government need to uphold & cherish ideals of constitution.

The best possible solution is Cooperative Federalism, in which both Centre and states mutually cooperative with each other. It can be observed during enactment of 101 Constitutional amendment Act, which paved ~~by~~ way for indirect tax Reforms i.e. GST (1 Nation – 1 Tax – 1 market)

Furthermore, Union need to Constitute Inter state Council under Article 263 of Constitution. It will provide platform for dialogue to resolve federal disputes, mutual concerns.

Along with it, NITI Aayog needs to play proactive role. As it formed by replacing Planning Commission, it need to live up its ideals

Further, Union government needs to implement recommendations suggested by Punchi commission, Venkatachalaih Commission with regard to status of Governor, Finance Commission, Use of Article 356.

In addition to it, There is need of Competitive Federalism, in which states compete with each other in healthy way. It will lead to win-win situation, as states can share mutual best practices. Examples being School Education Quality Index, Composite water management index etc. and so on.

Ultimately, India's experiment with Democracy, Federalism will only be successful with a well-developed states, as states constitutes Nation. Giving autonomy to states in certain domains and mutual collaboration, cooperation between Union and States will make India as unique Federal country in the world

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Parapgraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading

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SECTION – B

1. Leaders become great not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others.

   नेता अपनी शक्ति के कारण नहीं, बल्कि दूसरों को सशक्त बनाने की अपनी क्षमता के कारण महान बनते हैं।

2. Fools multiply when wise men are silent.

   बुद्धिमानों के चुप रहने पर मूर्खों की संख्या बढ़ जाती है।

3. It's not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity.

   यह वह नहीं है जो हम दावा करते हैं बल्कि हम जो अभ्यास करते हैं वह हमें सत्यनिष्ठता प्रदान करता है।

4. Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrow.

   शांतिपूर्ण कल को बनाने के लिए युद्ध एक कमज़ोर उपकरण है।

3) It's not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity

Ounce of practise is worth more than tonne of empty words | promises. It highlights that what matters is what we do, rather than what we speak. It is because, tangible outcomes only be achieved by our concrete actions rather than sweet words. Moreover, The character of person is ascertained

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Concretely by his/her actions, which makes individual either trustworthy or untrustworthy.

It is reason why, people elders say Preach what you practise.

Throughout history, we can observe individuals, nations which earned respect not because of their promises but by their deeds.

In Ancient times, when there were instances of animal sacrifice, costly rituals, many would have spoken against it. But it was only Gautama Buddha and Vardhamana Mahavir had practised ideals such as non-violence, compassion. Their conduct inspired many and finally led to emergence of new religions like Buddhism and Jainism.

Even in medieval times, there were instances of communal antagonism, prevalance of social inequalities. Influenced by sufi ideals, emperor Akbar tried to promote communal harmony, peace by his policies like sulh-i-kul, Din-i-ilahi.

Later, in modern times, to address caste discrimination and caste-based inequalities, atrocities on Dalits, Dr. B.R Ambedkar committed to resolve them. He while professing ideals of social justice, equality also practised them by ~~establishi~~ Mahar water tank agitation and establishing All India Scheduled Caste Federation.

Further, there were prevalance of sati, inhuman treatment of widows. Only Raja Rammohan Roy, Eshwar Chandra

Vidyasagar spoke against them. And their efforts culminated in abolition of Sati, Widow Remarriage Act 1856 respectively.

Moreover, in 19-20th century, countries in Asia, Africa witnessed Colonialism & imperialism and human rights violation in colonial powers. Fighting against imperial powers may not be possible with force. Therefore Gandhiji invented new form of struggle with Non-violence & Satyagraha to drive British out of India.

His practice and commitment to non-violence can also be seen during Non-cooperation movement. During peak stage of movement, there was outbreak of violence at Chauri Chaura in 1922. It led to withdrawal of movement by Gandhiji,

despite severe opposition from Indian leaders of that time.

~~The~~ Ideals of Non-violence & satyagraha not only inspired Indians, but also foreigners. Nelson Mandela in South Africa, Martin Luther King Jr in America fought against Racism and inhumane treatment of blacks ~~wit~~ with Gandhian methods & ideology.

However, it is not just personal integrity, organizational integrity is also observed or established only if they profess and practice.

Companies main motive is profits. However, they also profess ideals like welfare of consumers, social responsibility. They can become only trustworthy only ~~if~~ with practice of such ideals. Companies such as Tatas, Wipro showed the way by practicing & doing welfare activities

at community level. Their generous donations for people's cause (health, education) establishes their credentials.

Moreover, even identity of Nations will only be shaped by their practices on the field.

During World War-I, Allied powers such as England, France professed that war was being fought for Democracy and Freedom. But post-war, Paris Peace conference reflected their ~~commit~~ actual intentions.

In 21st century, when world is witnessing Global warming, many countries specifically developed nations who are responsible for historical CO_2 emissions, are making grand claims or professing ambitious targets to achieve Net zero. But when

it comes to climate finance, they are abdicating their responsibilities. Their claim of world power falls short when they reluctant to assume climate leadership.

Further more, China recently claimed itself as largest Democracy. and their model of Democracy is unique. But when we observe violent suppression of Tianmen square pro-democracy protests in 1989, treatment of Uighur Muslims only highlights how democratic or autocratic China is.

China's neighbour India, tries to promote ideals like world peace, rules-based order, Vasudhair Kutumbakam. However, India able to become friend of most of countries by practising such ideals in form, Non-Alignment Policy Panchsheel,

Vaccine maitri and supply of HCQ drugs, PPE kits during COVID pandemic.

It is easy to profess or preach ideals / values, but it ~~is~~ requires efforts, commitments, energies to translate those ideals into practise. There are practical hurdles which also make individuals, institutions, nations ~~to~~ ~~pr~~ to limit themselves to preaching.

Instances of social backlash, from orthodox communities, make individuals to conform to existing practices, which are regressive in nature. For example people accepted sati, Triple Talaq as social norms, only few individuals protested against it.

Moreover, repressive practices of Authoritarian governments will not

make individuals, media persons to speak against Government. Low press freedom, hero worship in North Korea highlights above issue.

Further more, lack of support from family, community and absense of unity among individuals also limits initiative or action of individuals.

In addition to it, weak value system, ability to compromise to existing deplorable conditions are ~~del~~ limiting factors.

In order to eliminate social ills, political ills, and to question undemocratic authority to address economic woes, ~~it~~ and ~~is~~ ~~the~~ to promote wellbeing of all, global peace, following measures to be taken.

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Responsible Parenting is need of the hour. It is because family being primary agent of socialization. Role of father, mother is particularly important in developing personality of individual.

Secondly, Educationed is powerful to change the world. It enables individual to make informed decision making by rational thought process. It is even highlighted by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam that how his master impacted & shaped his life.

Thirdly, social capital is necessary. Like-minded individuals need to act in unison, so that they can challenge the backward-looking practices, superstition etc.

Fourthly, availability and accessibility to Funds is necessary in this world to bring any meaningful change. Various NGOs and civil society organizations can work efficiently towards cause of people with financial backing.

Furthermore, being in responsible positions with power and authority ~~out~~ administrators, countries can practise what they profess. TN Seshan, Armstrong Pame, Nations like India, Japan realized that with power, there is responsibility.

Achieving ideals like social justice, economic and political equality, liberty, promoting world peace, nuclear disarmament, curbing Terrorism, pandemics,

strengthening multi-lateral institutions, conserving environment & resources like water, land, are possible with collective and concerted actions &

All.

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