

Test Code: 31034

FLAS – 2020 – GS Paper 2

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ForumIAS

ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

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Email Id.		Roll No.	1910047119
Mobile No.		Date:	03-01-2021

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

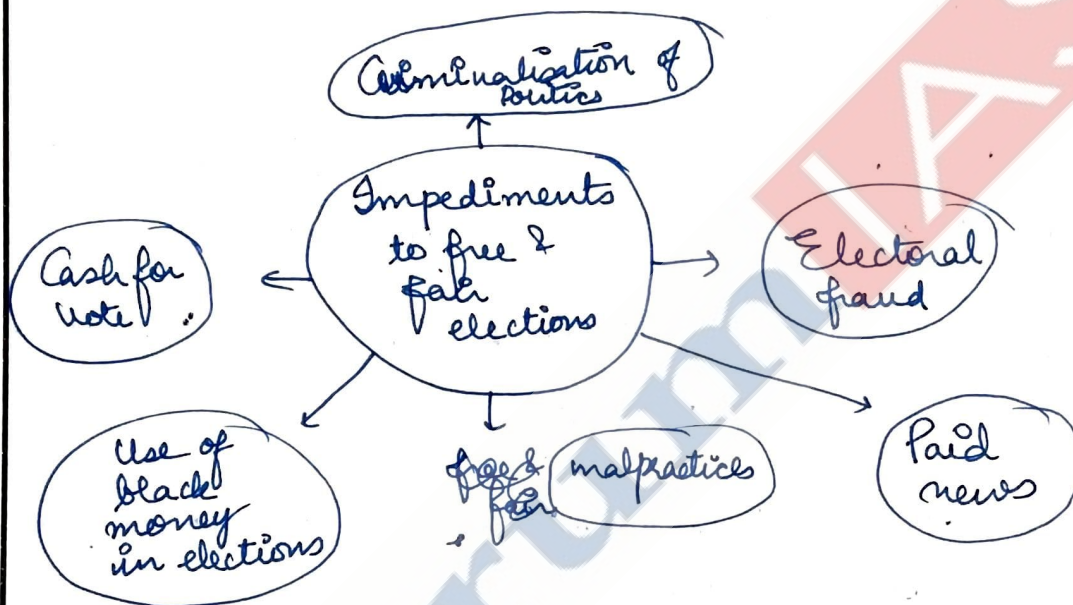
INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory.</p> <p>3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against 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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			ECN CODE:
			Evaluation Date:

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

Q.1) Electoral fraud and malpractice present threats to a free and fair election process. Do you think that legalization of Model Code of Conduct can be successful in checking these? Argue giving suitable examples. (10 marks)

Free and fair elections are the elections where every candidate has an equal chance of winning and uses legitimate means to campaign for himself/herself.



Benefits of legalising Model Code of Conduct in checking electoral malpractices

- (i) Punitive action ⇒ could be taken against those violating the code.
- (ii) More powers ⇒ to the Election Commission of India for ~~issuing~~ supervising the electoral campaign.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

(iii) Candidates would be mindful in their conduct.

(iv) Law would clearly define the violations.
It would help in removing ambiguity regarding it.

However, there would be certain issues with legalising the Model Code of Conduct :-

(i) Diminish the stature of ECI as the violation would be dealt by the courts.

(ii) Increase the work load of already over-burdened courts.

(iii) Increase the time taken for resolution of complaints due to legal complexities in contrast with the swift action now

The Model Code of Conduct would be followed in spirit when the parties adhere to its values.

An election tribunal to deal with such cases of violation of Model Code of Conduct with time bound resolution would help in increasing its compliance.

Q.2) National Council for Transgender Persons is a much-needed step in order to prevent further marginalization of the Transgender community in India. Critically Analyse.

(10 marks)

The transgender persons are the people who do not ~~can~~ belong to the binary sexual identity of male or female. Their gender does not conform to the sex assigned at birth.

Causes for marginalisation of Transgender Community → (i) Stigma associated to their identities (ii) Lack of education (iii) Lack of property rights in inheritance. (iv) They are stereotyped by the profession of majority - dancing & sex work. (v) Increased chances of HIV and other STDs

National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP) Act has been recently passed by the Parliament.

Role of NCTC in preventing marginalisation of Transgender community

- (i) Suo Moto powers to take action in cases related to transgender persons.
- (ii) Council would study laws related to transgender persons in detail with regard to ~~the~~ ^{its} impact on transgenders. & provide recommendations to the govt.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

(iii) They would present reports to the Ministry of social justice & empowerment.

(iv) Transgenders would get empowered by their own legal body representation.

(v) Habitation rights to transgender persons in their family home.

However, there are still some shortcomings of the act -

(i) No right to self identification → District magistrate to provide certificate.

(ii) One person ~~or~~ would be in the council who actually ~~is~~ would be a transgender. Rest others are experts from various field.
→ No adequate representation in their own Body.

(iii) No affirmative action is entailed in the to help them ~~to~~ in increasing their representation in society.

NCTP is a milestone after the NALSA case & Navtej Johar case & Puttaswamy case.

Key to their empowerment lies in providing them employment & education for social assimilation. eg Kerala metro case where they employed transgenders.

Q.3) The dropping of the Question Hour goes against the grain of Democracy'. Comment. (10 marks)

Question Hour is the very first hour of the Parliament. Various kinds of questions viz short-notice, starred, unstarred are asked in this hour.

Recently it has been dropped from the monsoon session due to the Covid pandemic.

Dropping of question hour's implications

- (i) Question hour helps in making the executive accountable to the legislature.
- (ii) It act as a limit on the powers of executive and prevents authoritarian tendencies.
- (iii) It is a tool of micro democracy where every legislator has a right to question the government.
- (iv) It helps in evaluation of govt programs and finding their shortcomings.
eg Parliament question of migrant worker's benefits.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remark

(v) It helps in raising public's concerns with the govt by drawing attention to the issues through questions.

(vi) Unstarred questions do not even take parliament's time since they are responded in written communication.

Issues with question hour

(i) The longer time limit of 14 days to respond goes against the idea of accountability.

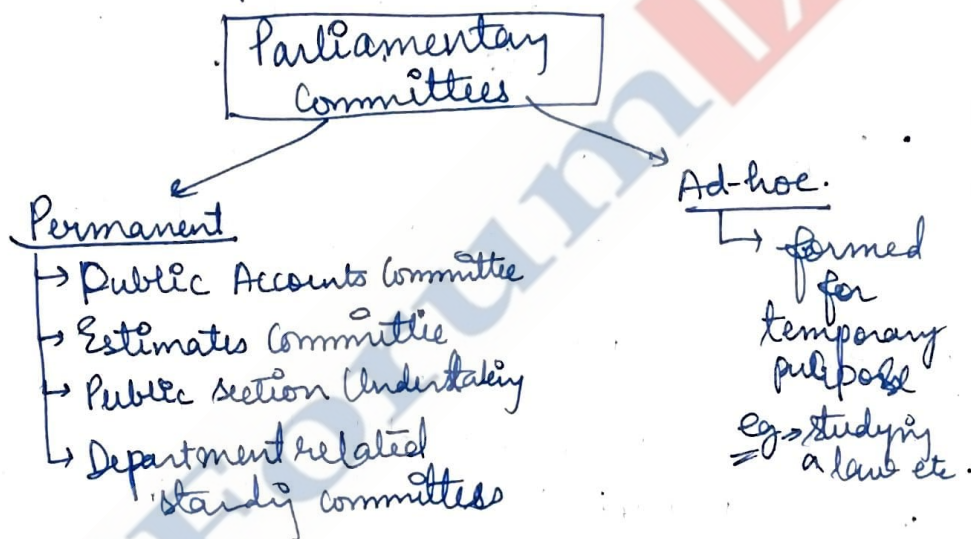
(ii) No meaningful debate takes place as the atmosphere is highly politicised with sloganeering etc.

Exceptional times call for exceptional measures. Due to the pandemic & subsequent distancing norms, the time duration of both houses has to be compromised.

It can be moved to online mode for better conduct & ease to parliamentarians.

Q.4) Parliamentary committees play a key role in preserving the foundational pillars of representativeness, responsiveness, and accountability in a parliamentary democracy. In this light, discuss the issue of marginalization of parliamentary committees in recent times. Suggest reforms to strengthen them. (10 marks)

Parliamentary Committees are formed by election using proportional representation or are elected by the presiding officer. They take the discussion on micro topics related to parliament.



Role of Parliamentary Committees

- (i) Representativeness ⇒ Due to single transferable vote in proportional representation.
- (ii) Responsiveness ⇒ Deals with micro issues regarding policies.
- (iii) Accountability ⇒ Studies every aspect of schemes & their implementation and gives recommendation on shortcomings.
- (iv) Easy to operate ⇒ Due to small sizes as compared to huge parliament.

Causes of marginalisation of parliamentary committees

- (i) Delay in forming them.
- (ii) Members of ruling party subverts the accountability mechanisms
- (iii) Not necessary for the govt to act on its recommendations.
- (iv) Post mortem tasks can only check the already running programmes.
- (v) Joint committees & House committees to study bills are slow in their process.

Reforms to strengthen

- (i) Members should be sensitised to act as parliamentarians rather than party workers.
- (ii) Make it compulsory for the govt to give action taken report on the recommendations
Just like that of NCST, NCSC, NCU, NHRC, recom-
mendations.
- (iii) The proposed schemes should be first run through the parliamentary committees.
- (iv) Making timelines for committees to recommend actions.

Parliamentary committees if reformed would act as an excellent tool of public accountability.

Q.5) The Indian Constitution does not envisage the President of India to be a power centre, leave alone set himself up as a rival power centre (to the Prime Minister). Yet, there is always considerable wiggle room for a President to have his presence felt. In light of this statement discuss that Indian President is not merely a rubber stamp. Give arguments in support of your answer. (10 marks)

In the Indian system President is envisaged as the head of state - De jure head.
Whereas the Prime Minister is the head of government - De facto head.

President is not merely a rubber stamp but has significant powers due to the following reasons

- (i) Manner of election → State MLAs have equal total votes ~~was~~ compared to the MPs.
- (ii) Assent to bills → by President can make them an act.
- (iii) Head of military & diplomacy.

Powers of president to make his presence felt

- (i) Veto power on Ordinary bills → the suspensive & pocket veto power of president are exercise by himself.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

(i) Giving assent to state bills reserved by the governor & veto powers thereof.

(ii) He can suspend the govt which has lost the confidence of Parliament.

(iv) Ranks the highest in order of precedence.

(v) Choosing the govt in case of no clear verdict

However his powers are constrained due to

i) Compulsory assent to the constitution amendment bills.

(ii) Bill once returned for reconsideration has to compulsarily be assented by him in cad of passage again.

(iii) The powers like ~~money~~ pardoning powers, emergency declaration are done only on of suggestion of cabinet and he does not have any say in them.

To allays the scope of tussle between the Prime Minister & President, the election of president is made indirect.

Q.6) The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light some of the fundamental flaws in India's healthcare system. Discuss. (10 marks)

The Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on India's healthcare system with the high number of deaths & community spread.

Fundamental flaws in India's healthcare system highlighted by Covid-19

- (i) Low number of doctors \Rightarrow we have a doctor:patient ratio of 1:1400 whereas WHO recommends it to be 1:1000.
- (ii) Lack of critical PPE kits \Rightarrow was highlighted due to the pandemic.
- (iii) Lack of safety net for doctors dying in the line of duty \Rightarrow An ordinance in epidemic diseases act had to be passed to give mandatory insurance to doctors.
- (iv) Lack of primary health care centres \Rightarrow which could help in quick response

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

(v) Lack of ICU and ventilators → theoretical shortage leads to many patients dying ~~to~~ without getting any treatment.

(vi) Skewed distribution of hospitals in rural areas as compared to urban areas → Patients had to travel long distances to get treatment.

(vii) Inability to focus on all fronts simultaneously → The pandemic led lockdown led to the closure of OPDs for all other issues.

(viii) It is therefore crucial to build capacities among centre and state health departments to tackle any other epidemic or pandemic in future.

Q.7) Media has now reincarnated itself into a 'public court' (Janta Adalat) and has started interfering in to court proceedings. Analyse the statement in the light of frequent instances of media trials. (10 marks)

The recent media trials in case of suicide of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh has brought to fore the issue of media reincarnating itself into a public court.

Reasons of media trial

- (i) To sensationalise the case & get more viewership.
- (ii) To push for a more active and impartial investigation in cases which have a deep impact on society eg Hathras case.
- (iii) To put the society's demand for complete justice eg Jessica Lal murder case was reopened to put guilty ~~to it~~ for punishment.
- (iv) To give quick verdicts as compared to the judicial system.

Effects of Media trial

- Negative violation of
- (i) The rights of accused as innocent until proven guilty.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

(i) Defamation of the accused or suspect by media without any investigation

(ii) Gives a sense of instant justice to the society while overlooking the due process of law.

(iv) Undermines the role of judicial system and builds up resentment ~~for~~ against them due to tardiness.

Positive

↳ Media trials at times put pressure on system to accelerate the judicial process.

In cases of media trial, the media becomes the investigator, the prosecutor and the judge, all in herself to settle a case.

However stopping the media from reporting a case leads to gagging of media.

Therefore the need is to maintain ethical standards in reporting with focus on transparent & objective reporting.

Q.8) The sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution plays a vital role in preserving tribal autonomy. Discuss in the light of recent demands from Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh for inclusion in the schedule. (10 marks)

Sixth schedule of the Indian constitution gives autonomy to tribal areas by introducing a ~~tribal autonomous~~ Autonomous District Councils with special powers. (ADC)

It is currently in force in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura & Mizoram.

Role of sixth schedule in preserving tribal autonomy

(i) Taxation powers are devolved to ADCs to raise their revenues.

(ii) ~~The~~ The ADCs have Judicial powers with respect to certain personal matters.

(iii) The autonomous councils give a nod to the planning & developmental ~~problems~~ issues for implementation.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

(iv) ADCs are mostly designed on the basis of one tribe one council leading to tribal cohesiveness.

(v) More autonomy to grass root level institutions as compared to Panchayat Raj Institutions.

Uttarakhand Pradesh & Ladakh have been demanding for inclusion in Sixth schedule due to sizeable tribal population and above noted reasons.

However, they are not the solution of tribal issues since -

(i) It doesn't necessarily have financial autonomy.

(ii) It doesn't encourage assimilation with non-tribal population.

Therefore the best way forward would be to give more resources & autonomy to the Panchayati Raj Institutions so that they can serve well to the interests of the population.

Q.9) "Changing to a presidential system is the best way of ensuring a democracy that works." Critically analyse the statement in the light of issues in the current setup of our parliamentary democracy. (10 marks)

In presidential system of democracy, the president is the de-facto as well as the de-jure head of the government.

Advantages of Presidential system as compared to Parliamentary system.

- i) Complete separation of power between executive & legislature.
- ii) Not stable govt \Rightarrow Not easy to impeach a president as compared to the vote of no-confidence against a P.M.
- iii) Swifter decision making \Rightarrow due to all the powers with president.
- iv) Citizens vote for the President and not for MPs who then vote for P.M.
- v) One clear power centre is the President as compared to Parliamentary system where P.M. & President are both the power centers.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

However, it is not always better when compared to Parliamentary system due to. -

- (i) Better representative government in Parliamentary system.
- (ii) Synergy between legislature & the executive.
- (iii) More deliberation on any issue.
- (iv) Keeps the govt on its toes due to the easier no confidence passage.
- (v) True form of representative democracy.

The recent issue of Presidentialisation of the Parliamentary system has led to the tilt towards Presidential system.

The citizens must be educated & made aware of their rights to make any system more effective.

Q.10) 'In order to ensure impeccable accountability, the need is to strengthen the RTI Act, not dilute or evade it'. Elucidate. (10 marks)

The RTI Act, 2005 made right to information a legal right.

Features of RTI Act

- (i) Access to all the citizens to any govt. information.
- (ii) No locus standi needed for accessing the information.
- (iii) Very cheap to obtain an information. Making it citizen friendly.
- (iv) The organisation has to respond within 30 days with information.
- (v) Section 2 of the act mandate voluntary disclosures.

Therefore it has proven to be shot in the arm for accountability.

Need to strengthen arises from the following

- (i) The section 4 of the act is frequently used to deny information.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

(i) Violence and attacks on RTI activists.

(ii) The slow process of cases adjudication by the Central or State Information Commissions.

However there have been recent amendments to the RTI Act which are seen to be diluting it -

(i) Appointment by central govt instead of an all encompassing collegium.

(ii) Service conditions to be determined by central government.

(iii) No bar on ~~post~~ post retirement govt jobs \Rightarrow case of conflict of interest.

Therefore these issues should be resolved to bring about a more transparent & accountable regime.

Q.11) UAPA, an anti-terror legislation intended for exceptional circumstances, is becoming routinized. Comment in the light of amendments and repeated invocations of UAPA in recent times. (15 marks)

Unlawful Activities Prevention Act was brought out to deal with terror activities as well as its supporting activities

Features of UAPA

- (i) Non-bailable arrest warrant.
- (ii) The accused can be held in custody for as long as authorities deem it fit.

Recent Amendments

- (i) Individuals can also be designated as terrorists. Earlier there were provisions only for Terror organisations.
- (ii) Immediate confiscation of accused pending prosecution.
- (iii) Money laundering also included in its ambit.
- (iv) Special courts to deal with these cases

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

It is intended for exceptional circumstances because -

- (i) It deals with crimes of grave concern that threaten the peace of nation.
- (ii) It helps in swifter prosecution of the people involved in such acts.

Causes for routine use

- (i) Easy to apprehend citizens on a non-bailable clause.
- (ii) Seen by many as ~~an~~ act tool for stifling dissent.

- (iii) Police action in case of suspected unlawful activity

Effects of frequent use of UAPA

- (i) Frequent use dilutes the sanctity of law.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

(i) Creates an atmosphere of distrust against the authorities.

(ii) The slow prosecution & custodial tortures lead to human rights violation.

(iv) Against the idea of a vibrant democracy with freedom of speech and expression.

The act when used for terror prosecution is a shot in the arm for authorities. But when used against citizens it leads to stifling of democracy.

It is therefore needed to use the act sparingly.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

Q.12) Autonomous bodies are a major stakeholder in the government's functioning. However, they face a number of issues which need to be reviewed and dealt with. Identify these issues and suggest suitable measures to streamline these bodies. (15 marks)

Autonomous bodies are the ~~to~~ organisations that have been instituted by the government but it works independently. eg Bhabha Atomic Research Institute. (BARC)

Issues ~~with~~ faced by Autonomous Bodies

(i) Lack of financial independence → dependence on government for funds allocation.

(ii) High government regulations hinders their functioning.

(iii) Nepotism → due to independent character.

(iv) Corruption → due to cross-crossing framework.

(v) High level appointments done by the government → government control exercised ~~by~~ ^{through} these functionaries.

(vi) Stiff competition from private counterparts
⇒ due to their flexibility, private parties have an edge.

Measures to streamline these Bodies

(i) Financial independence ⇒ should be granted and they should be allowed to raise funds from the market.

(ii) Transparent functioning should be ensured by encouraging voluntary disclosures.

(iii) De-politicisation of appointments ⇒ through introducing a merit oriented based system for induction at all levels.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

(iv) Light but tight regulations ⇒
The regulations should not hinder their progress but should take into account their misgivings.

Autonomous bodies serve as a unique platform for service delivery in governance. They should be moulded in such a way to encourage efficiency & transparency.

Q.13) The rising tensions between the U.S and China indicate the re-emergence of a New Cold War (Cold War 2.0). Do you agree? How is it different from the earlier one? What role should India play in the Cold War 2.0? (15 marks)

The recent tensions between US and China appearing as a trade war are seen by some as the New Cold War. (Cold War 2.0)

Causes

- (i) The rising economic might of China. It is now the second largest economy in the world.
- (ii) The increasingly expansionist & assertive policies of China e.g. South China sea issue.
- (iii) The unfair trade practices ~~by~~ by China like artificial devaluation of currency.
- (iv) Decreasing hegemony of USA internationally.

Difference between current scenario & Cold war scenario

Date:

Question No.

UPSC

Topic

Remarks

~~(i) It is purely economic in nature~~

China-US trade war

(i) Purely economic in nature

US-Soviet Cold war

(i) It was political-economic as well as technological

(ii) It is basically done from their own soil and bilateral in nature

(ii) It was fought on different places to exert military might
eg Cuba, Vietnam, Korea etc.

(iii) No component of alliances - military

(iii) Extensive military alliances were formed
eg NATO & CTSO for collective security.

(iv) Both are capitalist systems

(iv) It was a fight to declare their economic system better - Capitalism vs socialism

(v) Arms race ~~was~~ is non-existential here.

(v) Arms race was a crucial component & world had a constant threat of Nuclear war

Though it has ~~so~~ certain features of cold war like - fight to create

hegemony and increase their spheres of influence. It is not similar to earlier Cold war, therefore sometimes called Cold War 2.0

Role of India

(i) Just like the earlier strategy of NAM, we should not enter in any of alliances.

(ii) Multilateral Institutions to be strengthened → to resolve bilateral disputes, ~~as well as~~ ~~within~~

(iii) Protecting the smaller & weaker countries like African & South American countries should be India's priorities. It would help us in ~~so~~ furthering our role as Net security provider.

The policy of strategic autonomy as followed by India would go a long way in helping India deal with the turbulent times.

Q.14) "The corruption begins not after coming to power but before it." Elucidate in the light of opacity in electoral funding. Suggest practical steps to deal with the issue. (15 marks)

Elections are a crucial part of a democracy. The electoral funding forms a bedrock of ~~democ~~ this exercise.

Electoral funding

Opaque electoral funding is a part of corrupt practices because

- (i) It violates the right of citizens to know the source of funding.
- (ii) Increasing the chance of lobbying by corporates → To further their interests when the party comes to power.
- (iii) Black money is involved as a lot of cash transaction is not accounted for. Therefore electoral funding acts as white wash for black money.
- (iv) Combination of money and muscle power → Into the political arena.

(v) Criminalisation of politics \Rightarrow Since money from opaque sources is routed to them to push them to power.

Electoral Bonds had been introduced to increase the transparency in the electoral funding system. Though it has its own shortcomings like -

(i) Non disclosure of names of donors to each party.

(ii) SBI being the implementing agency is under the central government therefore it can be misused.

(iii) Removal of ceiling on corporate donations \Rightarrow increases the chances of lobbying.

Measures to make electoral funding more transparent

(i) Bringing political parties under the ambit of RTI Act.

(ii) Strengthening the donor disclosure norms for case funding - the

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

Current exemption of less than 2000₹ donation ~~is~~ acts as loophole.

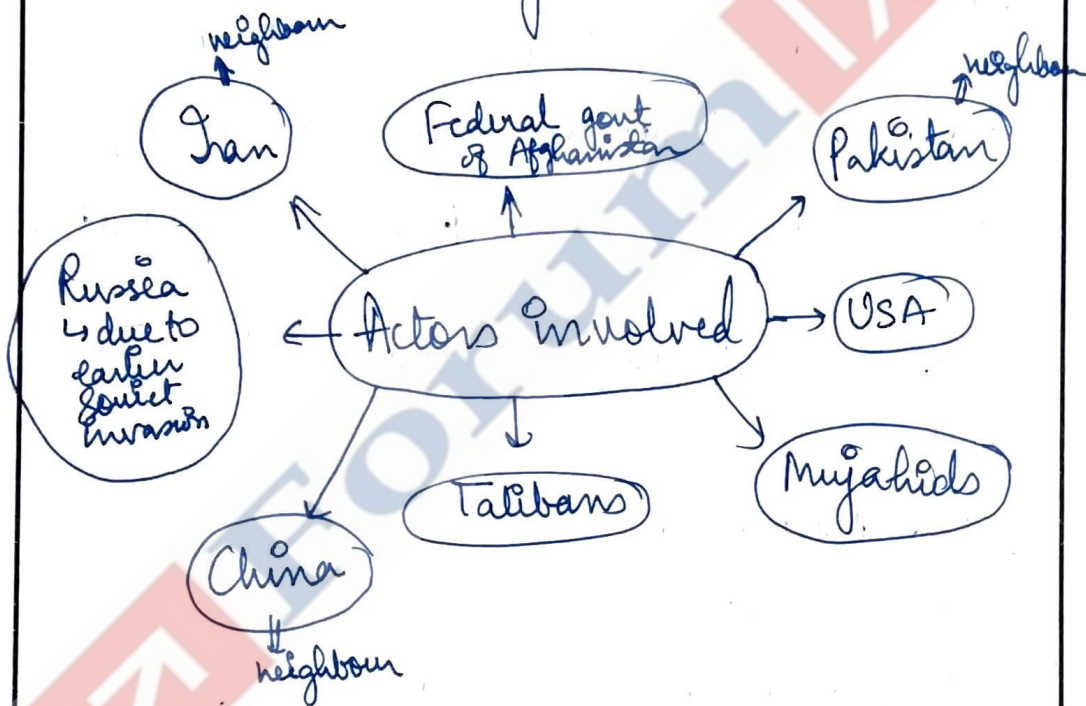
(iii) Bringing external auditors to audit the electoral expense of political parties.

(iv) Partial state funding of elections to eliminate the role of black money and create a level playing field for all.

Electoral funding has to be transparent to make the government that come to power more transparent and representative to the citizens.

Q.15) With US announcing its plans to leave Afghanistan, the politics in the region has become unstable with the involvement of the various super powers in the region. In this context, should India align with other actors or tread its path of strategic autonomy. Give arguments to support your answer. (15 marks)

The recent ~~the~~ announcement of the withdrawal of US from Afghanistan brings an end to the longest conflict in American history.



Implications of US withdrawal

- (i) Push for power sharing agreement between Afghan govt & Taliban
- (ii) Legitimising of Taliban → due to direct

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

Talks by America with them keeping Afghan govt out of the loop.

(ii) Vacuum created in Afghan polity. Other players would try to take advantage & fill it eg China, Pakistan

~~See~~ India has invested in reconstruction of Afghanistan by building roads, dams and even the Afghan Parliament.

Benefits of India in aligning with other actors

(i) Safeguarding her own interests in the region.

(ii) Staying as a major stakeholder in consultation process.

(iii) Helping in furthering the interest of Afghan govt through the process.

Benefits of treading her own path of strategic autonomy

(i) Preventing the legitimising of Taliban
↳ which other players consider as a major stakeholder.

(ii) Consistency in policy of non-engagement of non-state actors like Mujahids & Talib

(iii) Preventing the spillover of Afghan politics to India's security interests in the region.

(iv) Going by the spirit of democracy and encouraging it in other countries by supporting the Afghan federal govt.

India believes that a long lasting peace in the region would only be possible if the peace process is Afghan-led, Afghan owned & Afghan controlled.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

Q.16) "The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 heralds the beginning of a new era of consumer rights in India that are in sync with new-age consumer expectations." Elucidate while enumerating the provisions of the new Consumer Protection Act. (15 marks)

The consumer protection act 2019 has been enacted with the repeal of Consumer protection act 1986.

Need for bringing out a new consumer protection act

- (i) It was very outdated.
- (ii) It was implemented/enacted in a pre-liberalised era.
- (iii) Paradigm shifts have taken place in the market since then - Biggest one being introduction of e-commerce.
- (iv) Increased awareness of rights among citizens.

Salient features of Consumer Protection Act 2019

- (i) Clearly defines the consumer's rights.

- (ii) Right to know about the product being prime right.
- (iii) E-commerce is within the ambit of consumer protection Act.
- (iv) Liability on celebrities and/or advertisers in case of misleading advertisers.
- (v) Simplified grievance redressal system.
- (vi) Online dispute resolution with very nominal fees.
- (vii) No compulsion of hiring a lawyer to fight the case. Aggrieved consumer can do it on their own.
- (viii) No jurisdictional issues. Case can be filed where the consumer is resident.
Earlier it was only to be filed where the company was registered.
- (ix) Clear appeal mechanism.
- (x) Clear distinction on district, states national consumer court based on

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

the claim of the consumer.
monetary

(X) Consumer Awareness also a primary
right.

(xi) Constitution of a consumer welfare
fund which is to be used for
spreading awareness amongst
consumers.

The new act has brought out provisions
for speedy & cheap judication of consumer
disputes. Therefore it is also seen as
a new era of consumer protection regime.

Q.17) NGOs have a long history of providing and enabling access to social services for those in need. However, their repeated and over-regulation is gradually sounding death knell for them. Comment in the light of the recent amendments to the FCRA Act. (15 marks)

Non governmental organisations are the voluntary organisations constituted for a purpose of social welfare or advocacy of certain rights. eg Pratham NGO for education children's
Amnesty International for human rights.

Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) is used to regulate the foreign fundings received by these organisations.

Recent Amendments to FCRA

- (i) No transfer of funding from registered NGOs to unregistered NGOs.
- (ii) Foreign funding to be received in a specified branch of SBI.
- (iii) Increase in time limit for suspending of operations of an NGO for violating the rules.
- (iv) Only 30% of funding can be used for

administrative purpose. Earlier this
act was 507.

Effects of overregulation on NGOs

- (i) It makes it difficult for them to focus on their actual purpose.
- (ii) Deters foreign NGOs of repute to start operations in India eg Amnesty International winding up its operations after FCRA amendment.
- (iii) Makes it difficult to comply with the frequently changed regulations.
- (iv) Affects the small NGOs disproportionately since any marginal cost increase can hamper their operations.
- (v) Affects their rights as juridical entity for fair treatment on par with others.

Need for regulations

To bring transparency in their operations
(i) Counter the efforts of money laundering
through them.

NGOs have been working remarkably in
areas that are not served by government.

However, this doesn't mean that they
~~can do~~ have no accountability.

Their right to freedom of operations should
be balanced with the citizen's right
to know to create a well functioning
transparent system.

Q.18) "Capacity of Civil Services plays a vital role in rendering a wide variety of services, implementing welfare programs and performing core governance functions." In this light, comment on the importance and utility of 'Mission Karmayogi'. (15 marks)

Mission Karmayogi has been introduced by the union government for capacity building of civil servants throughout their career.

Importance

- (i) Continuous capacity building efforts take place throughout the service. Unlike earlier, when training only takes place after certain years.
- (ii) Mix of online & offline modules to encourage mobile/remote as well as a field training.
- (iii) Constant skill upgrading with changing needs and technology.
- (iv) Increasing the competence of civil servants to offer maximum citizen welfare.

Utility

- (i) Promotion of citizen centric governance.
- (ii) Constant skills assessment of civil servants.
- (iii) Transition ~~from~~ generalists to specialists as their progress in their careers.
- (iv) Better utilisation of issues understand among civil servants as well as experience sharing among the peer group.
- (v) Promoting principles of transparency, accountability & responsibility.
- (vi) Easier to bring about administrative reforms with continuous trainings.

The mission Karmayogi aims to bring out a new era with constant handholding of civil servants to newer areas.

Date:

UPSC

Topic

Question No.

Remarks

Q.19) In the recent years, there is a renewed vigour in the Indo-Japan relationship. This partnership can promote stability and security in the South Asian region. Elucidate. Also discuss some key challenges associated with Indo- Japan relation. (15 marks)

India- Japan friendship goes back to pre-Independence era when Subhas Chandra Bose was supported by the ~~British~~ ^{Japanese} to raise the Indian National Army against the British.

Renewed vigour in Indo- Japan relationship to promote stability & security in South Asia

- (i) Presence both India & Japan in Quad to keep the Indian Ocean open, safe & free.
- (ii) Investment in developmental initiatives in South Asia by the Asian Development Bank.
- (iii) Strengthening the developmental capabilities of India by equipping her with cheap developmental loans.
- (iv) Countering China's Cheque book diplomacy.

(v) Preventing weaponisation of supply chain by starting the supply chain resilience initiative.

(vi) Aiding disaster management & mitigation in the disaster prone south Asian region.

The Indo-Japan partnership is not limited towards south Asia. It goes beyond Africa too to aid a holistically stable & peaceful region.

Challenges in Indo-Japan relations

(i) Low trade between the countries.

(ii) India being a beneficiary of Japanese investment and aid, it is tough to ~~also~~ produce an equal partnership.

(iii) No military efforts can be brought out to secure peace ~~due to~~ Japan's self defense army policy.

(iv) Different levels of income - with Japan being high income & India being low middle. Difficult to find a common working agenda.

Despite the shortcomings India & Japan have worked to establish a developmental partnership.

Q.20) "The exemplary friendship between India and Nepal has been recently put to test."
Comment while suggesting a roadmap to reinvigorate the bilateral relations. (15 marks)

India - Nepal friendship has been recently put to test due to the dispute over Lipulekh, Limpyadhura, Kalapani & Susta region.

Exemplary friendship between India & Nepal can be seen by

- (i) Free movement regime between the countries.
- (ii) Employment of Nepali citizens at par with Indian citizens in government Indian jobs.
- (iii) Separate Gorkha regiment in the India Army.
- (iv) India providing port facilities to landlocked Nepal.
- (v) India being the highest development investor in Nepal.

Causes of Resentment in relations recently

- (i) Nepal feeling Insecure due to India's big brotherly attitude.
- (ii) The non-updation of outdated treaty on friendship.
- (iii) Nepal playing the China card in case of any issue between India & Nepal.
- (iv) The 2015 Madhesi protest & subsequent blockade by India.
- (v) Nepal giving safe haven to ISI operatives who act against India.

Roadmap to reinvigorate the bilateral relations

- (i) Updating the treaty on peace & friendship
 - Principle of equality in status of both regions should be focussed
 - would allay the fears in Nepal towards India's big brotherly attitude.

(ii) Using Guylal doctrine \Rightarrow Non interference
 in internal ~~relations~~ affairs.
 \rightarrow Non-~~rep~~ reciprocal aid to be given
 to smaller nations.

(iii) Starting bilateral talks to settle
 border disputes.
 \rightarrow would help in long term
 maintenance of peaceful relation.
 \rightarrow International arbitration arrangements
 could be used like the Bangladesh
 maritime boundary settlement.

The recent biggest change in Indo-Nepal
 relationship has been the increasing
presence of China.

India should counter this with her
developmental efforts.