

201509 612301 1910128099 (2023-07-17 21:54:50)

Time Allowed : Three Hours

समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250

अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Yogesh Kumar Meena		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	6500154	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	Online	Date/दिनांक	17/07/23

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश	
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तिक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।	
1			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।	
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।	
3			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. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।	
4			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. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।	
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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :			Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय : 02:10 PM	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय : 05:30 PM
Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>
*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।			For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु	
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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Note: You can discuss your evaluated copy with the Mentor. Raise a ticket from your portal to schedule a mentor call or visit the offline centre to meet mentor (all 7 days, Timings - 11 AM to 6 PM). Further if you are unsatisfied with the copy.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

1. **AWIS = Answered What is Asked.** This means whether you have addressed the core demand of the question or not. Addressing the core demand of the question gets you an objectively fair score. It is examiner's perception if you have understood the question and if you know the answer in the first place. Creative answer writing, sometimes missing the core demand, may fetch very high or very low scores, and exposes your answer to the subjectivity of the examiner.
2. **CD & VA = Content Density & Value Addition.** Examiner will evaluate the quality and quantity of your content in the answer. In the same word limit and space limit have you (a) written what is asked (b) gone beyond what is asked (c) enriched answers through combination of (but not all!) suggestions, ideas, quotes, flowcharts, diagrams, facts and figures, data etc. This affects objective components of assessment.
3. **S & F = Structure & Flow =** Whether you have structured your answer properly or not. Whether the answer has been broken into parts and sub-parts and each part has been addressed appropriately or not. Whether the flow of the answer is maintained. Affects both subjective and objective components of assessment.
4. **P & R =** How your answer performs on the criteria of **presentation, ease of read, clarity and apparent effort** in writing the answer. This affects the subjective components of assessment.

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Q.1) Basic structure doctrine has prevented the Parliament, a creature of the constitution, from becoming the master of the constitution. Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (10 marks, 150 words)

बुनियादी संरचना सिद्धांत, संविधान का सृजन, ने संसद को संविधान का स्वामी बनने से रोक दिया है। प्रासंगिक केस कानूनों की मदद से इस कथन पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Basic structure doctrine as propounded in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) holds that the parliament can ^{amend} ~~alter~~ any part of the constitution without altering the basic features.

Restraining Parliament

1. Prevented parliamentary misadventure
 [eg] Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain case,
Judicial review is basic feature
2. Upheld rule of law over rule by law
 [eg] SR Chaudhary case, mere presence of constitution does not mean constitutionalism
3. Maintained Judicial independence
 [eg] Striking down 99th constitutional amendment (NJAC)
4. Preserved the federal nature of constitution
 [eg] SR Bommai case

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5. Maintained democratic values over
tyranny of majority

eg Shreya Singhal case : IT act 66A

However, the doctrine has invited
fair share of criticism

Criticism

1. Unprecedented power to the unelected
2. Judicial invention : nowhere envisioned
by the founding fathers
3. Has led to policy paralysis
eg Judicial reforms have taken a
back seat
4. Undefined basic structure (2nd ARC
suggests to list out all features)

Through the basic structure doctrine,
judiciary has differentiated the amendment
power from constituent power.

As Zia Mody highlights in book '10
Judgements that changed India', the doctrine
has given a uncertain democracy
but prevented a certain tyranny

Feedback

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Q.2) To what extent, in your opinion, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in India have enabled women led development at the grassroots level? (10 marks, 150 words)

आपकी राय में, भारत में स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) ने जमीनी स्तर पर महिलाओं के नेतृत्व वाले विकास को किस हद तक सक्षम बनाया है? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

SHGs are organisations of people from similar socio-economic background with aim to empower themselves.

90% of SHG members have been women.

women led development

1. led to political, social, economic awareness of women
2. Improved employment opportunities
eg Lijjat papad employs 1000s of women
3. Helped break shackles of patriarchy
4. Improved financial inclusion
eg SHG bank linkage program
5. Increased assets held by women
6. led to improved skilling of women
7. Psychological boost

However, several problems plague SHGs from becoming the panacea of rural development

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Issues with SHGs

1. Primarily involved in primary sector, leading to low productivity
2. Lack of market access
3. Poor availability of funds for tech adoption
4. Hindered by social ills:
 - a) Casteism
 - b) Patriarchy

Way forward

1. Formalisation of SHGs
2. Link PRI grants based on SHG reforms
3. Improved funding (use CSR mandates)

SHGs are a vital tool to achieve the goals of justice, liberty & equality as highlighted in the preamble

Feedback

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Q.3) The power of pressure groups lies not in their size or elaborate organization, but in their ability to mobilize public opinion and create lasting change. With help of relevant examples, discuss how informal pressure groups shape public policy. (10 marks, 150 words)

दबाव समूहों की शक्ति उनके आकार या विस्तृत संगठन में नहीं, बल्कि जनता की राय जुटाने और स्थायी परिवर्तन लाने की उनकी क्षमता में निहित है। प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों की सहायता से चर्चा कीजिए कि अनौपचारिक दबाव समूह सार्वजनिक नीति को कैसे आकार देते हैं। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Pressure groups are organisations of people sharing common interests and try to influence policy decisions in their favour. ASSOCHAM lobbying for counter-vailing duty on Chinese steel.

Methods to shape policy by PGs

1. Building public opinion
eg on usage of renewable energy
2. Lobbying
eg CII lobbying to share Gati-shakti portal data with private companies
3. Publishing papers, conferences, etc
eg FICCI business conclave
4. Bribes & corruption
5. Supporting political candidates
eg Donations through electoral bonds
6. Directly writing to govt
eg MKSS on farm laws
7. Demonstrations, strikes (anti-CAA)

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Impact of pressure groups on policies

1. Positives

- a) Incorporation of expert advice
- b) Holistic policy (considering diverse opinions)
- c) Deepening of democratic traditions (public participation)

2. Negatives

- a) Promotion of vested interests
- b) Bribery & corruption reduce public trust
- c) Against the tenet of equality as only the wealthy can lobby effectively.

Hence, pressure groups help in raising the consciousness of the people and act as a bridge b/w the govt and the citizens

Pressure groups help in transforming subjects into citizens.

Feedback!

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Q.4) "Bail not Jail" is the cardinal principle that upholds the sacrosanct ideas of individual's liberty and dignity. Explain the statement with the help of various judicial pronouncements.

(10 marks, 150 words)

"जेल नहीं जमानत" वह प्रमुख सिद्धांत है जो व्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और गरिमा के पवित्र विचारों को कायम रखता है। विभिन्न केस कानूनों का हवाला देते हुए कथन को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

According to NCRB, 69.1% of prisoners are undertrials.

Issues with 'Jail over bail':

1. focuses on retributive justice over reformative justice
2. Potential to get radicalised by other convicted prisoners
eg Lawrence Bishnoi
3. Poor prison infrastructure leads to denial of fundamental rights
4. Against international practices
5. can induce mental health challenges

way forward:

1. system of plea bargaining
(Amitava Roy committee)
2. Open prisons
(Mulla committee)
3. Empowering NHRC

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4. Concept of PR bonds
5. Release of undertrials who've served 1/3 of maximum punishment
6. Keep undertrials separate from convicted personnel

Judicial pronouncements:

1. Hussainara Khatoon case: on plight of undertrials
2. Chella Ram Krishna Reddy vs State of AP case: prisoners also enjoy fundamental rights

For India to be a developed nation by 2047, it must reform its criminal justice system. Inspiration can be drawn from bail legislation of UK

Feedback

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Q.5) Dispute redressal is the most important component of cooperative federalism. How does the Interstate Council facilitate the resolution of disputes related to states in India, and what are the challenges associated with this process? (10 marks, 150 words)

विवाद समाधान सहकारी संघवाद का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण घटक है। अंतरराज्यीय परिषद भारत में राज्यों से संबंधित विवादों के समाधान को कैसे सुविधाजनक बनाती है और इस प्रक्रिया से जुड़ी चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Interstate council as mentioned in art 262 of the constitution is one of the most effective way of solving challenges in center - state relations

Advantages of inter-state councils

1. Constitutional body and hence carry higher political capital
2. Mutual consensus based resolution as against enforcement based under art 131
3. High judicial pendency (70K pending cases in supreme court) makes ISC attractive
4. Center can act as mediator between inter-state conflicts.
5. Arena where disputes can be stopped from arising in the first place (debate on policy matters)

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However, so far, the ISC has turned out to be a blunt tool

Shortcomings of ISC

1. Irregular meetings (last held in 2017)
2. Obstructionist tendencies of govts
3. Narrow self interest based ideology
4. Poor follow up on meetings
5. Lack of understanding in frequent use of art 131

As states and central govts continue to remain at loggerheads as seen in recent Delhi ordinance, ISC must be used to shed narrow interests and adhere to constitutional morality as envisioned by Sarkaria committee

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Q.6) Anti-defection law has failed to address and resolve the evil of political defection satisfactorily. Discuss various issues surrounding the Anti-defection law and recommend some corrective measures. (10 marks, 150 words)

दल-बदल विरोधी कानून राजनीतिक दल-बदल की बुराई को संतोषजनक ढंग से संबोधित करने और हल करने में विफल रहा है। दल-बदल विरोधी कानून से जुड़े विभिन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए और कुछ सुधारात्मक उपायों की सिफारिश कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Recent MH political defections have shown how the anti-defection law has failed in its objective.

Anti defection law was introduced through 52nd amendment under 10th sch.

Issues with anti-defection law

1. Penalised individual defections but legitimised group defections (mergers)
eg MP defection case
2. Partisan role of speaker
 - a) Lack of time frame in law to decide cases
 - b) Ambiguity around the law (voluntarily given membership)
3. Curbed liberty of individual parliamentarian → increasing lack of intra-party democracy
4. Confusion btw political party and legislative party
5. Given rise to resort politics

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ways of improving

1. Questions on defection to be decided by president / governor on advice of ECI (Dinesh Goswami committee)
2. Permanent tribunal instead of speaker for 10th schedule (supreme court)
3. Ban defectors from re-election for 5 years or rest of the term
4. Remove the merger provision (2nd ARC)
5. Use of whip in only important resolutions such as no-confidence motion, demand for grants

The problem of defections is a blot on our democracy. Anti-defection law tries a legal solution to a political problem. Reforms as suggested must be brought to curb the menace.

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 Q.7) Decriminalization of Homosexuality by the SC in Navtej Singh Jauhar case remains a task half done, specially without the socio-political sensitisation about the issues faced by LGBTQIA+ community. Elaborate in light of ongoing debates on same sex marriage. (10 marks, 150 words)

नवतेज सिंह जौहर मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा समलैंगिकता को अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर करना अभी भी आधा अधूरा काम है. खासकर LGBTQIA+ समुदाय के सामने आने वाले मुद्दों के बारे में सामाजिक-राजनीतिक संवेदनशीलता के बिना। समलैंगिक विवाह पर चल रही बहस के आलोक में सविस्तर पूर्वक वर्णन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Navtej Singh Johar case decriminalised the section 377 of IPC holding it in contravention of right to privacy.

Task half done

1. Social ostracisation still prevalent
2. LGBTQIA+ friendly infrastructure still lacking
3. Frequent harassment at work
 [eg] UP teacher asked to hide identity, later sacked
4. Poor representation in govt institutions
5. Laws still discriminate against community
 [eg] Adoption laws, surrogacy laws

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Socio-political sensitisation needed

1. Add the issues faced by community to school curriculum
2. Reservation to enhance representation
 eg Recent controversy on appointment of gay judge to SC
3. Usage of doordarshan & radio to celebrate pride month
4. National institute for community without bringing the LGBTQIA+ community into mainstream, the goals of fraternity will remain mere ideals

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Q.8) Assess the relevance of lateral entry in civil services in making the governance structure more effective, efficient, and people oriented. (10 marks, 150 words)

शासन संरचना को अधिक प्रभावी, कुशल और जनोन्मुख बनाने में सिविल सेवाओं में लेटरल एंट्री की प्रासंगिकता का आकलन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Lateral entry refers to hiring industry experts at joint secretary or above on temporary basis (Montek Singh Ahluwalia)

Advantages

1. Bringing domain knowledge into policy making
2. Solve current man-power shortage (current short of 1500 IAS officers)
3. Increase competition among bureaucrats
4. ~~Int~~ Introduction of specialisation
5. Will bring the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of private sector
6. suggested by NITI Aayog

However, it would pose several challenges.

Challenges

1. Undermine reservation policy

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2. Demoralise the current batch of bureaucrats
3. Politicisation of recruitment
(give rise to nepotism & favouritism)
4. Lack general ground level experience
5. Private sector not immune from corruption
6. Sharing information important for national security with temporary employees

So, although lateral entries can help improve diversity of the services, they are not the panacea

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Q.9) Built upon common democratic values and shared vision of strategic autonomy, India-France bilateral ties exude a promise of stability, growth, and security in a time of geo-political flux and uncertainty. Do you agree? Substantiate your answer. (10 marks, 150 words)

सामान्य लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों और रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता के साझा दृष्टिकोण पर आधारित, भारत-फ्रांस द्विपक्षीय संबंध भू-राजनीतिक प्रवाह और अनिश्चितता के समय में स्थिरता, विकास और सुरक्षा का वादा करते हैं। क्या आप सहमत हैं? अपने उत्तर की पुष्टि कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

2023 marks the 25 year anniversary of strategic partnership (1st for India) btw France & India

Promise of stability, growth & security

1. Defence ties
 - a) India buying 26 Rafale M jets
 - b) 3 additional scorpene class subs
 - c) co-development of jet engine
2. Nuclear
 - a) France helping India with 6 reactors at Jaitpore
 - b) co-ordination in ITER project (fusion)
3. Socio-economic
 - a) High FDI from France to India
 - b) huge Indian diaspora in France
4. Indo-pacific
 - a) India - France - UAE tri-lateral agreement on patrolling
 - b) France only EU country with territory in Indian ocean

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However, challenges remain

Challenges

1. Failure to sign FTA
eg 15 year long negotiation on EU-BTIA
2. Disagreements on Russia - Ukraine war
3. High economic integration of France with China
4. Social instability in France
 - a) Pension reform protests
 - b) Protests on minor killing (Nebal M)

The relation btw India & France is strongly wedded on the promise of strategic autonomy and will be a defining partnership of 21st century.

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Q.11) Referring to the case laws through which the collegium system in India evolved, critically assess its functioning. (15 marks, 250 words)

उन केस कानूनों का उल्लेख करते हुए जिनके माध्यम से भारत में कॉलेजियम प्रणाली विकसित हुई, इसकी कार्यप्रणाली का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The central govt has put pressure on the collegium to reform the judicial appointment process. A private member's bill was introduced to form NJAC in budget session 2023.

Evolution of collegium system

- 1st Judges case: CJI's advice not binding on the president
- 2nd Judges case: reverted position from 1st judges case & held that CJI's advice is binding
- 3rd Judges case: formed collegium of senior most judges to tender advice to president on judicial appointments
- 4th judges case: 99th amendment, NJAC was struck down on account of impeding judicial independence.

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Advantages of collegium system

1. Maintained judicial independence
2. Held the test of time. Judiciary the most trusted institution amongst people (TIMES survey)
3. Upheld separation of powers
4. Shielded the judges from external pressure and allowed effective functioning

Disadvantages of collegium

1. Allegations of nepotism & corruption
 [eg] Appointment of Arun Mishra in MP HC
2. Against checks and balances
 [eg] Ram Jawaya Kapoor case, separation of powers not strict
3. Given rise to 'imperium in imperio'
4. Not constitutional (founding fathers did not envision a collegium for appointments)

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5. Judiciary already burdened with case pendency, must shed some administrative duties
6. No appointment from distinguished jurist category
7. Lack of framework leading to arbitrariness
8. Poor representation of women and marginalised section

Way forward

1. Memorandum of procedure for appointments
2. Open collegium to RTI
3. Increase representation of women, civil society in appointment process

Detailed consultations are required and reforms must be brought to the collegium system if needed.

Feedback
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 Q.12) Considering the non-enforceable nature of fundamental duties and directive principles of state policy, critically examine their impact in socio-political norms. (15 marks, 250 words)

मौलिक कर्तव्यों और राज्य के नीति निदेशक सिद्धांतों की गैर-प्रवर्तनीय प्रकृति को ध्यान में रखते हुए, सामाजिक-राजनीतिक मानदंडों में उनके प्रभाव की आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Part 4 & 4A containing the fundamental duties & DPSPs are non-enforceable as compared to part 3 of the constitution has been criticised for being 'pious aspirations'.

Positive impact in socio-political norms:

1. Fundamental duties (art 51 A)
 - a) constant reminder to citizens that while they enjoy rights, they also owe duties towards state
 - b) warning to anti-social elements (disrespecting flag, etc)
 - c) Many backed by law (WPA, EPA)
 - d) helps courts to decide on legality of laws → educative values
2. DPSPs
 - a) helps citizens assess the functioning of the ruling dispensation (Dr Ambedkar: political sanctions)

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- b) Highlights the aspirations of the founding fathers
- c) Framework to establish socio-political & economical democracy
- d) Used by opposition to hold govt accountable

Negative impact

1. Fundamental duties

- a) Openly flouted by citizens
 - eg] Casteism, patriarchy still largely prevalent
- b) Poverty in country \Rightarrow citizens not aware of rights let alone duties
- c) Ambiguous & vague in nature
 - eg] Develop scientific temper
- d) Legally enforceable in soviet union from where they're adopted

2. DPSPs

- a) Led to conflicts btw center & state
 • center & president
- over implementation

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b) Failed to usher in socio-economic equality

eg 1% people hold 70% assets
- OXFAM report

c) LPG reforms have rendered many DPSPs irrelevant.

eg art 39

Judgements :

1. AIIMS student union case: Supreme court held, FDs as important as fundamental rights
2. Minerva Mills case: Constitution based on the bedrock of DPSPs and fundamental rights

Non-enforceable nature of FDs & DPSPs give flexibility to the govts. Initiative must be taken by govt to oversee implementation. Recommendations of Verma committee can serve as guiding light

Feedback

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Q.14) Frequent reliance on the ordinance making power by the government, not only dilutes the basic tenets of executive accountability in a parliamentary democracy, but also overlooks the democratic traditions of building consensus. Discuss with relevant examples.

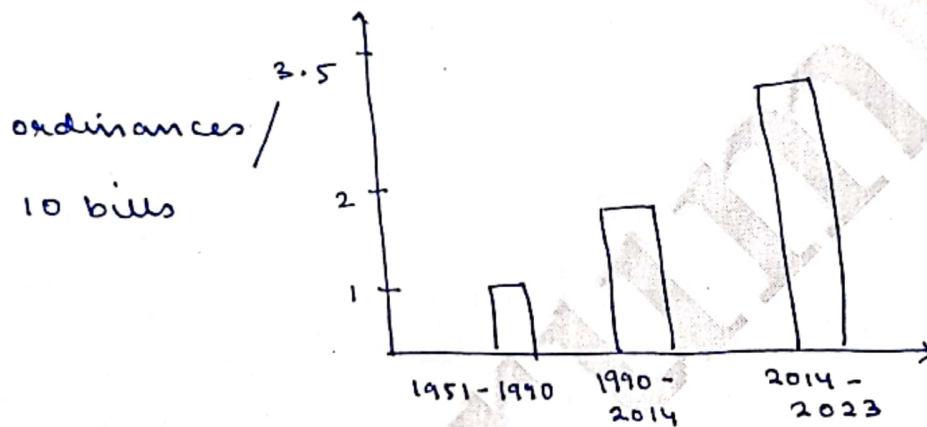
(15 marks, 250 words)

सरकार द्वारा अध्यादेश बनाने की शक्ति पर बार-बार निर्भरता न केवल संसदीय लोकतंत्र में कार्यकारी जवाबदेही के बुनियादी सिद्धांतों को कमजोर करती है, बल्कि आम सहमति बनाने की लोकतांत्रिक परंपराओं को भी नजरअंदाज करती है। प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The ordinance making power is vested with the president under article 123.

There has been a recent increase in



(As per PRS legislative)

Undermining democracy

1. Bypasses state representation in Rajya Sabha
2. Leads to hasty legislation
3. Against separation of powers
(law making domain of legislature)
4. Often used for controversial policies
(Delhi ordinance)
(Demonetisation)

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5. Promotes colourable legislation

[eg] Indian express case

6. Repromulgation of ordinances a fraud on constitution

[eg] Krishna Kumar case

7. Erodes public trust

However, certain situations necessitates the need of ordinance making power

Need of article 123

1. During disasters & state emergencies

[eg] 12 ordinances passed during covid emergency

2. Deterioration of law and order

[eg] Anti-CAA protests

Way forward

1. Judicious use of art 123

[eg] DC Wadhwa case

2. Convene sessions within 14 days of promulgation of ordinance to vote on the law

3. Special courts to check constitutionality

4. Adhere to constitutional morality

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The ordinance making power is an extraordinary power under the constitution and must be treated as such.

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 Q.19) The critical reason for poor public health indicators in India goes beyond recognition of right to health as fundamental right. Do you think that a statutory framework alone can ameliorate the situation? (15 marks, 250 words)

भारत में खराब सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संकेतकों का महत्वपूर्ण कारण स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार को मौलिक अधिकार के रूप में मान्यता न देना है। क्या आपको लगता है कि केवल वैधानिक ढाँचा ही स्थिति को सुधार सकता है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Recently, Rajasthan has brought a bill to make right to health an explicit human right.

However, the causes run beyond its ~~own~~ recognition.

Reasons behind poor public health indicators

1. Extensive focus on curative measures
 ⇒ ignorance of preventative health care
 eg cancer, cardiac diseases
2. High out of pocket expenditure
 eg 65% of total as per economic survey
3. Poor overall spend on health sector
 eg 2.1% of GDP as per budget
 budget 23
4. Health is a state subject ⇒ poor uniformity across the nation
5. Poor primary health care
 (first responders of care)

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6. Urban bias while 70% population lives in rural areas
7. Geographical imbalance
 [eg] Major tertiary care institutes in southern & western region
8. Near absence of palliative care
9. Ignorance on mental health
 [eg] \approx < 1% of health budget
10. Poor doctors to population ratio

In the light of given problem, mere statutory framework would not be enough. why?

1. Poor awareness amongst people
2. Lack of outcome driven approach
 [eg] as seen in right to education
3. Profit motive of private enterprises
4. Problems of triple divide
 - a) Gender divide
 - b) Digital divide
 - c) Rural divide
5. Affordability, accessibility issues

Hence, the focus must be on:

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1. Preventative care (focus on nutrition)
2. → Bridge rural gap through NGOs, anganwadi centers
3. Increasing use of ICT to increase awareness, access
 [eg] Ayushman Bharat digital mission
4. Improve insurance penetration
 [eg] 23% of GDP now
5. Increase GERD & healthcare spend as envisioned in national health policy

To become atmanirbhar bharat & achieve SDG, the govt must tackle issues surrounding health on war footing.

Feedback

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Q.16) Reforming the education infrastructure through digital interventions is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

डिजिटल हस्तक्षेप के माध्यम से शिक्षा के बुनियादी ढांचे में सुधार एक प्रगतिशील कदम है, लेकिन इसकी अपनी सीमाएँ भी हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

National education policy 2020 lays extra emphasis on digitalising education.

Advantages

1. Improved accessibility
eg) North east region, Ladakh
2. Quality education for everyone
eg) Good professors can teach a large audience
3. Reduced cost of education
4. Improved access to the vulnerable
 - a) women
 - b) disabled
 - c) SC/ST
5. Reducing the need for education based migration
6. Enhanced the breadth of available courses
eg) Language based, music, etc

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Limitations

1. Impersonal: removal of human touch reduces the sacred relation btw teacher & student
2. Easy to get distracted over the internet
3. Increased plagiarism in tests and assignments
eg use of ChatGPT
4. Problem of triple divide
 - a) Gender divide
 - b) Digital divide
 - c) Rural divide
5. Poor social capital
eg friendships, discussions, etc
6. Lack of peer to peer competition
7. Hard to inculcate value education
eg tolerance, discipline, trust

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way forward :

1. Hybrid approach
 [eg] combining the best of both worlds
2. Increase internet penetration
 [eg] ~52% of population connected to internet - Acrs Now report
3. Increase public private partnerships
4. International collaboration
 [eg] with Finland

Education is the cornerstone of modern economy. The policy makers must remember 'Padhega India toh badhega India'

Feedback

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Q.17) Electoral bond was brought in as a reform that was high on intent but has proved to be low on substance. Do you agree? Justify. (15 marks, 250 words)

चुनावी बॉन्ड को एक ऐसे सुधार के रूप में लाया गया था, जिसका इरादा उच्च था, लेकिन यह कमतर साबित हुआ है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Electoral bonds were brought to 'cleanse the system of political funding' in the country.

Recently, SBI informed that electoral bond funding had surpassed 10Kcr mark.

High on intent

1. Improve transparency
 [eg] 36% of funding sources unknown - ADR report
2. Curb black money
 - a) KYC norms
 - b) Redeemed within 15 days
3. Protect anonymity
 [eg] Prevent political harassment
4. Increase accountability
 [eg] Increased oversight by ECI
5. Promote digital economy

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Low on substance

1. Against citizen's right to know
2. Strengthened political - ~~business~~ business nexus
3. Favours national parties
 [eg] ~80% of funding (ADR)
4. Unfair advantage to ruling dispensation
 [eg] can get details of donors from SBI
5. Harder for new parties to compete
 [eg] Electoral bonds open to only parties gained 1% vote in last elections
6. Undermines art 324 (free & fair elections) ⇒ erosion of trust

way forward :

1. Indrajit Gupta committee recommendation
 a) State funding for elections
2. Bring political parties under RTI
3. Limit the total expenditure by a party

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4. Power for ECI to de-register
political parties

5. Companies to approve political
donations from all shareholders &
not only board members

For democracy to thrive, the
use of money must be curbed from
the elections.

Feedback

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Q.18) The profound impact of the data revolution and widespread smartphone usage has necessitated the use of digital tools in welfare programmes. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

डेटा क्रांति और व्यापक स्मार्टफोन उपयोग के गहरे प्रभाव ने कल्याण कार्यक्रमों में डिजिटल उपकरणों के उपयोग को आवश्यक बना दिया है। चर्चा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The govt of India has announced that DBT transfers have saved ~ 2.5 billion \$ in last 8 years by plugging leakages.

Data revolution & smartphone usage

1. One of the cheapest data costs in the world (NITI Aayog)
2. Very high data consumption per capita
3. Rapid increase in mobile manufacturing
⇒ lower smartphone costs
4. Preference to mobile over TV (OTT platforms)

Use of digital tools in welfare

1. PRAGATI portal : monitoring
2. SWAYAM portal : education
3. Aarogya seva : health
4. CPGRAMS : grievance redressal
5. SHE-BOX : prevention of sexual harassment
6. PM WANI

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Advantages

1. Reduced cost of services
2. Less inclusion/exclusion errors
 [eg] Aadhaar ecosystem
3. Higher reach to people
4. Fulfilment of social contract
5. Public trust & legitimacy
6. Improved quality of services
 [eg] ePOS in PDS shops
7. Reduced corruption & leakages
 [eg] DBT mechanisms
8. Empowering citizens
 [eg] MyGov

However, certain issues remain.

1. Largely in english or hindi, need more tools in vernacular languages
2. Poor availability of services
 [eg] GSTN portal down lots of time
3. Lack of follow up
4. Digital divide (only 27% women have internet access)

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5. Impersonal (lack of human touch
eroding social capital)

6. low literacy rate

[eg] Hindering adoption by elderly

way forward :

1. High expenditure on infrastructure setup
2. Consultation with civil society will building tools
3. Adoption of citizen's charters
4. Enforce grievance redressal system

Use of ICT has furthered the good governance revolution

Feedback

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Q.19) Presidency of G20 is but a reflection of India's quest for a more just and polycentric world order, where the voice of the global south is mainstreamed not muzzled. Elucidate.

(15 marks, 250 words)

G20 की अध्यक्षता एक अधिक न्यायपूर्ण और बहुकेंद्रित विश्व व्यवस्था के लिए भारत की खोज का प्रतिबिंब है, जहां विश्वव्यापी दक्षिण की आवाज को मुख्यधारा में रखा जाए, दबाया न जाए। स्पष्ट कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Recently, the honourable PM has floated the idea of giving African Union the full membership of G20

India and global south

1. Share colonial history
2. Lack of industrial base
3. Poor socio-economic indicators
 - a) literacy rate
 - b) malnutrition, etc
4. Agrarian economies (~50% population in India still dependent on agriculture)
5. Fighting for climate justice

India as voice of global south :

1. Lead interests of global south in multi-lateral platforms
 - [eg] Covid vaccine waivers in WTO
2. Restructuring sovereign debt
 - [eg] leading in talks for Sri Lanka

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3. Favourable climate reparations
 - a) Higher funds for mitigation
 - b) Adaptation based funding
4. Nudge developed countries for technology transfer
5. Increase representation
 - [eg] UNSC reforms
6. Showing the way with digital revolution
 - [eg] India stack
7. Protection from MNC exploitation
 - [eg] Global minimum tax
8. Maintaining free, open sea lanes of communication
9. Nuclear disarmament
 - [eg] Against discriminatory NPT
10. Provide platform to access space
12. Emphasis on territorial sovereignty

Hence, India can act as a bridge between the west & the global south

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Q.20) The new cold war between the USA and China may have the effect of casting a long shadow on India's strategic interests from Pacific to Atlantic. Evaluate. (15 marks, 250 words)

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और चीन के बीच नए शीत युद्ध का प्रभाव प्रशांत से अटलांटिक तक भारत के रणनीतिक हितों पर लंबी छाया डालने का हो सकता है। मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The semiconductor ban imposed by US on China shows how the world has transformed from post-cold war neo-liberal world to a geo-economic world.

Manifestations of new cold war

1. Trade war btw US & China
eg America first policy
2. Currency & reverse currency war
3. Export embargo
eg China restricting Gallium & Germanium exports
4. Proxy wars
eg support in Russia - Ukraine war
5. Heightened arms race

Positive impacts of on India :

1. Shifting global supply chains
eg Friendshoring,
China +1 strategy

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2. India can bandwagon

[eg] technology transfer for GE-414 jet engine

3. Global focus on open & free Indo-pacific [eg] QUAD

4. More diplomatic capital against China

5. Theatre of war away from India in the Pacific Ocean

6. More impetus to multi-polarity

Negative effects

1. Aggressive China in neighbourhood

2. Disruption in trade

[eg] Defunct WTO dispute resolution body

3. Currency wars bringing external shocks

4. Growing China - Russia axis

[eg] India dependent on Russia for arms

5. China asserting itself in Latin America

Feedback

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India must take a measured approach and look to pursue strategic autonomy in order to maximise its own national interests.