

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

Forum IAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	VANAN VIDYAN		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910114539	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	Date/दिनांक	27/7/25

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

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

Q. No. प्रश्न	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक
1		
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Total/कुल अंक	250	

- 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।
- 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।
- 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।
- 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 (अद्वैतीय) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।
- 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 दिवेक :	Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :
	5:40 pm	8:55 pm
Total Marks/कुल अंक :	Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>

For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु

ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
	① ② ③ ④ ⑤	

*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 के विवेक से अंक आपकी लिखपट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, तालिकाएं, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या अन्य रूप में किसी अन्य विषय पर जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आया हो (लेखन टाई तक सीमित नहीं, पर दिए गए अंक हैं।

Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions on the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion of the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

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 your own words. Creative answer writing, sometimes missing the core demand, may fetch very high or very low scores, and exposes your answer to the subject examiner.
2. **CD & VA = Content Density & Value Addition.** Examiner will evaluate the quality and quantity of your content in the answer. In the answer, space limit have you (a) written what is asked (b) gone beyond what is asked (c) enriched answers through combination of (but not all!) 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 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. Affects subjective components of assessment.

Q.1) Explain how the terms 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble embody specific meanings in the Indian context. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

स्पष्ट कीजिए कि प्रस्तावना में 'समाजवादी' और 'धर्मनिरपेक्ष' शब्द भारतीय संदर्भ में किस प्रकार विशिष्ट अर्थ रखते हैं। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The 42nd Amendment 1976 introduced 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble due to existing domestic and international realities of the time.

- Justice RC. Lahoti in "Preamble"

SOCIALIST	
GLOBAL / western context	Indian context
<p>Maraist philosophy of full state ownership @ Soviet Russia</p> <p>Communist tendencies, of more same for all - <u>bourgeoisie</u> and <u>proletariat</u>.</p> <p>Ghosh and Prasad like as state model of development.</p>	<p>① Welfare state as against a <u>laissez-faire</u> free market (mixed economy).</p> <p>② Impliedly done for USSR support during 1971 war.</p> <p>③ To give effect to Sanction & Socialist DPSP.</p>

- (4) A view of individual citizen as mere beneficiary.
eg North Korea.
- To give Indian citizens full opportunity to strive for excellence.
eg Article 51A (k)

SECULAR

Global (western)

Indian context

- (1) Strict separation b/w state and religion
eg French 'laicite'
- (2) Church and state as mutually incompatible due to homogenous society
- (3) No state religion
- Principled distance model with equal involvement
eg Rylee Bhargava's Theory
- multicultural society with every major religion. eg 141: Islam and 791: Hindu (2011)
- Sarv dharma sambhava but no state religion

Dr Swami Vivekanand - "Religion is the Soul of India" highlights the success of Indian secularism and socialist model.

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Q.2) Article 21 - Right to life and liberty. Elucidate with the help of relevant case laws. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारतीय संविधान का अनुच्छेद 21 व्यापक रूप से जीवन और स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार की व्याख्या करता है। प्रासंगिक केस कानूनों की सहायता से स्पष्ट कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

"The Constitution is not a jelly dish but a highly evolved organism".

- Nani Palkhivala's quote highlights the dynamic nature of the Indian Constitution.

Article 21 → Right to life & personal liberty
 → Negative right - "No person shall be denied"
 → Procedure estab. by law - (Japanese Constitution)

BROAD IN Interpretation

① From Procedure established the
Due Process - (eg) Fazl Ali J.'s dissent in A.K. Gopalan case

② Not mere animalistic existence under Right to life. J. Bhargava, Manoj Chandra

③ Evolution of inclusion under Right to privacy

eg → Kharak Singh → Privacy not a fundamental right

→ Ram Jethmalani vs Union of India → Privacy is an FR under right to ~~the~~ personal liberty

→ K.S. Puttaswamy → Right under Life & personal liberty

④ Right to die under Art. 21 with dignity

→ Aruna Shanbaug case

⑤ Right of livelihood - → Olga Tellis case

⑥ Right to clean environment - MK Ranjitsinh case - 2002

⑦ Right of animals to right to life.

⑧ Right of information u/21 r/w 17(1)(g)

⑨ Right to quality education, - Unnikrishnan case

Article 21 continues to evolve, with

Kaushal Kishore case making it a

vertical & horizontal right enforceable against private citizen

Q.3) To what extent have farmer associations been successful in influencing public policies and governance in the country? (10 marks, 150 words)

किसान संगठन देश में सार्वजनिक नीतियों और शासन को प्रभावित करने में किस हद तक सफल रहे हैं? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

"A farmer is the only person who produces the goods, pays for its transport and sells it at a loss."

— John F. Kennedy

SUCCESS OF FARMER ASSOCIATIONS

IN INFLUENCING Public Policy

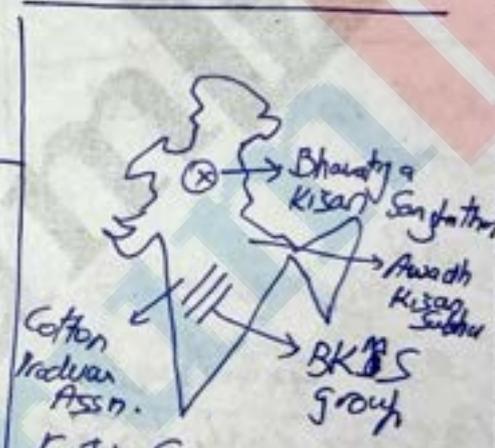


Fig 1: Farmer pressure groups

① Ensured consistent increase in MSP across cereals eg) 2024: MSP 2x higher than market rate.

② Success in ensuring effective procurement and transport eg) MSP for 22 crops

③ Pro-farmer loan waiver - eg) Maharashtra elections 2024

M Governance

① farmer issues as domestic political issues

- ② Act as negotiators with govt on equal standing - eg Punjab protests on Delhi border 2021.
- ③ Nudged towards an APMC-led autonomy farming model.

LIMITED SUCCESS

In Public Policy	In Governance
① MSP still not a legal guarantee.	① e-NAM's lack of farmer adoption eg only 1300 mandis on e-NAMs
② FTAs still giving access to dairy sector gradually. eg Australia early harvest agreement.	② Act as an <u>oppositor</u> rather than <u>collaboration</u> eg 937 farmers supported farm laws
③ No clear stance on <u>GM-crops</u> and innovation eg falling cotton yield	③ Frictional inertia to change, yield

The Annadata role of India deserves organisations that amplify their voice. Farmer associations should take cue from American model - and lead towards doubled farm incomes.

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Q.4) The role of State Finance Commissions in building regional equity and strengthening the federal link has largely been underutilized. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

क्षेत्रीय समानता के निर्माण और संघीय संबंध को मजबूत करने में राज्य वित्त आयोगों की भूमिका का व्यापक स्तर पर अल्प उपयोग किया गया है। चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Article 243-K establishes the State Finance Commission, via the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts.

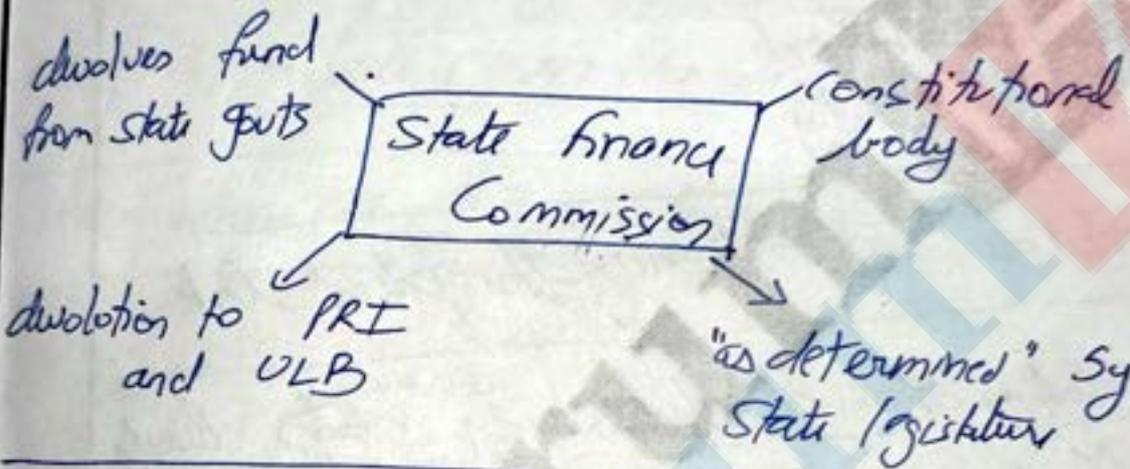


Fig 1: Roles of State Finance Commission

IN Regional Equity

Yes, underutilized	No, not underutilized
<p>① India's regional development imbalance is very extreme</p> <p>② Kerala & Karnataka = 2 highest devolves.</p>	<p>① Increasing rate of devolution in ULB & Binas → effects slow due to over population & scale.</p>

② Higher performance-linked incentives (83% - 15th FC) ensure greater regional division.

sub-granting model leads to lesser control with state FC, and higher with central govt.

③ State FC established across most states show higher adoption in trust-based decentralisation fiscally.

eg 44% of ULB funds from centre.

Underutilized role: strengthening the federal link

① Lack of adequate devolution by states leads to ineffectiveness of state FC.

eg Reports of state FC not tabled in Mizoram

② Unable to push towards revenue generation \Rightarrow only 0.66% of GDP revenue generated.

③ Top-down approach with lack of 11th & 12th schedule devolution leads to vicious cycle of broken federal link and underperformance.

For true gram Swaraj, State FC must be utilized.

Q.5) The contributions of the "founding mothers" of the Indian Republic are often under-acknowledged, yet they are crucial to understanding the evolution of gender-sensitive constitutional jurisprudence. Elaborate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

भारतीय गणराज्य की "संस्थापक माताओं" के योगदान को अक्सर कम आंका जाता है, फिर भी वे लैंगिक रूप से संवेदनशील संवैधानिक विधिशास्त्र के विकास को समझने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The 106th Amendment - Nari Shakti Adhiniyam, aims to recapture the spirit of the Constitution's founding mothers by re-invoking women in legislatures in the 21st century.

Under-acknowledged contributions

① Lack of awareness about role and unique perspectives

eg) Sarojini Naidu refused SCPT-like reservation for women.

② Women as forebearers of Constitution - beyond tokenistic representation

eg) Kamla Devi's insights on debates

③ Linguistic issues - passionate arguments by women members about unity

④ Article 14 and O/Ss - showed prevalence
of equality as a fundamental/natural right
forwarded by women members.
- Vijaylakshmi Pandit.

Crucial to understand gender-sensitive
constitutional jurisprudence

① Interpretation of Article 21 to include
a safe workplace - eg Art 38, 39B
for equality in treatment at work.

② Untouchability's true extent (eg Sabrimati's
judgment - J. Chandrasekhara relied on
debates to hold it as violative of Article 17).

③ Empowering women as leaders - and not
mere beneficiaries - eg Babita Puriya case -
SC mentioned funding mothers in allowing
permanent commission to women.

The funding mothers gives us a document
enshrined with empathy and leadership that guides
India on the right path.

Q.6) What do you understand by delimitation? Underlining the significance of delimitation exercise, throw light on the associated challenges. (10 marks, 150 words)

परिसीमन से आप क्या समझते हैं? परिसीमन अभ्यास के महत्व को रेखांकित करते हुए उससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The notification of the Census 2026 has brought with it the re-introduction of Delimitation - frozen since 1971.

Delimitation: meaning

- ① Two forms → total no of seats in a state (based on population)
→ size of each constituency & boundary adjustment

② Basis: Article 326 - one person one vote = equality

③ Composition - Delimitation Commission - comprises of Judge SC, EC and Regional Commissioners

④ Judicial review - Barred by Constitution.

SIGNIFICANCE

- ① Paused since 1971 for family planning
→ only allowed boundary readjustment

Four Delimitation Commissions, last being 2002.

② Ensures equality of votes - as far as practicable -
throughout \rightarrow The nation
 \rightarrow all seats with same value.

③ SC/ST representation also ensured by delimitation
(Article 330).

④ Constitutional exercise to ensure true adult suffrage

Associated challenges

① North-south population divide - due to better
family planning incentives by south \rightarrow fears
of losing seats - \rightarrow TN gets ₹0.60 for ₹1 contributed
 \rightarrow or seats ₹3 for ₹1 contributed.

② Political undertones allegation -
eg J & K Delimitation over Arantnag.

③ Non-completion of North-east delimitation.

Way forward

① 16th Finance Commission - to increase deduction on
population performance metric - to 15%.

② Address concerns of south - as equal partners in
federalism.

③ Grants for loss of seats

④ Arithmetic formula for minimum seat loss.

All persons of India are equal - Art. 14. Delimitation
ensures democratic values - and must be celebrated and welcomed.

Q.7) The Presidents of India and USA differ not just the manner in which they are elected but also with respect to their powers. Elucidate. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति न केवल उनके चुने जाने के तरीके में बल्कि उनकी शक्तियों के संबंध में भी भिन्न हैं। स्पष्ट कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India and USA, both have Presidents, but our systems could not be more different.

- BR Ambedkar at
Constituent Assembly.

Difference in manner of election.

USA	India
① Direct election by people eg- 2020 President elect	Indirect - voting by MPs and MLAs (elected)
② Electoral college constituted especially for this purpose	② No such electoral college.
③ Winner takes all - per state approach. eg Al Gore in 2002	Every MP & MLA votes as per party line.
④ Each concept of swing states eg Florida in 2024	All states are equally represented - Article 55

Differences in Powers

India USA

India

① Presidential system - both nominal & real head.

only ceremonial head of state - eg Article 55, 52

② Picks his own cabinet

Article 74 - Ministers cabinet on advice of PM.

③ Pardon people as per own discretion - eg Hunter Biden pardon 2021

Pardoning power u/A-72 on advice of CoM. eg Pravara sudhakar case

④ Supreme Commander of armed forces + nuclear

no nuclear power, Supreme commander in name

Albert Smitkovitien

Both are de jure heads of state

Both enjoy some discretion

All executive actions in her name

Accepts Envoys' credentials

Both have Pocket veto

State representative (eg Queen's funeral - President Monroe)

None, while their election and powers are different, neither of them is a rubber stamp.

Q.8) The office of the Speaker is not only a referee, but also an active player in the politics of government formation and survival, leading to controversies and criticisms. In this context, examine the need to bring reforms in the office of the speaker. (10 marks, 150 words)

स्पीकर का पद न केवल एक रेफरी जैसा है, बल्कि सरकार बनाने और अस्तित्व की राजनीति में एक सक्रिय खिलाड़ी जैसा भी है, जो विवादों और आलोचनाओं को जन्म देता है। इस संदर्भ में, अध्यक्ष के पद में सुधार लाने की आवश्यकता का परीक्षण कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Speaker is a high constitutional office that must act in a non-partisan manner, with dignity.

— Supreme Court in Shriyanth
Balashahib Patel case

Speaker : as a Referee	as an active player
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① Enforce of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha Rules = neutral.

① Admits / rejects motions as per constitutional discipline

② Constitution: Final authority of interpreting Constitution → decision cannot be challenged.

② No confidence motion may be rejected by speaker.

③ Defection: 10th Schedule: Quasi-judicial authority

③ Maharashtra disqualification case - Speaker acted partisan (Supreme Court)

④ Give equal chance of speaking to Opposition.

④ Witnesses calls and may administer Oath

Controversies and criticisms

① Parlison acts - as agent of govt.

② UP Speaker disqualifies SP-MLAs.

③ Not appointing Deputy Speaker since 2014
- violation of Constitution.

④ Not referring motions and Bills to Select Committee - only 147 Bills in 17th LS
(747 in 15th LS)

⑤ 100+ MPs disqualified - winter session 2024

Need to Bring Reforms

① Democracy and parliamentary discussions are sine qua non - (Sita Soren case - CJI Chandrachud) 7J

② Speaker should resign on appointment
8 OK Speakers + Exception in 10th Schedule.

③ Deputy Speaker - a must for parliamentary (Art 105) conventions.

④ Healthy discussion on floor - no suspensions.

The Speaker is a high constitutional office and its neutrality will ensure a healthy Lok Sabha.

Q.9) 'Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an independent body responsible only to the Parliament.' What are the provisions that ensure independence of CVC? Also, discuss the issues that limit its effectiveness in tackling corruption in the country's public administration. (10 marks, 150 words)

केंद्रीय सतर्कता आयोग (CVC) एक स्वतंत्र निकाय है, जो केवल संसद के प्रति उत्तरदायी है। CVC की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने वाले प्रावधान क्या हैं? साथ ही, उन मुद्दों पर भी चर्चा कीजिए जो देश के सार्वजनिक प्रशासन में भ्रष्टाचार से निपटने के खिलाफ इसकी प्रभावशीलता को सीमित करते हैं। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The Vireil Narain case finally freed the CVC from a caged parrot into an agile eagle.

Independence of CVC provisions

- ① Statutory body - under CVC Act, 2003
- ② Composition - CVC + Vigilance Commissioners, appointed by ACC of Cabinet = neutral.
- ③ No answerability to executive -
statutory responsibility to Parliament only -
submissions and scrutiny of reports
- ④ Apex anti-corruption watchdog,
with superintendence over

↓

CBI appointment
& CBI directors

↓

ED Director
appointment.

- (5) Allows PIDPI and whistleblower protections -
(not anonymous by).
- (6) Autonomous functioning with security of tenure.
(Vineet Narain)

Limited Effectiveness

- (1) Paper Tiger: no real investigative powers due to CBI political interference.
eg CBI - 2G scam - all acquitted.
- (2) No anonymous whistleblower complaints of PIDPI.
- (3) Provision for penalty against private complaints
→ discourages real complaints.
- (4) CVC Tenure: often not completed.
- (5) ED- Partisanship allegations.

REFORMING CVC-

- (1) 5 year tenure - give CAG Vinod Rai type security.
- (2) Reduce reliance on internal vigilance dept's
- (3) Higher autonomy for CBI director
- (4) Anonymous complaints on PIDPI.

The CVC must be a beacon of fight against the ferocity of corruption.

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Q.10) "The creation of All India Judicial Services (AIJS) shall enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Indian judiciary". Comment. (10 marks, 150 words)

अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवाओं (AIJS) के सृजन से भारतीय न्यायपालिका की प्रभावशीलता और दक्षता में वृद्धि होगी।
टिप्पणी कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

The 42nd Amendment constitutionally permitted the creation of an AIJS, but despite repeated calls by the Law Commission - that dream is yet to be realised.

Present	AIJS
① every state has own recruitment & transfer. ② HC + state PSC	① one uniform recruitment ② UPSC - for civil servants
② no standardisation for promotions	② uniform conduct rules.

Enhancing effectiveness by AIJS

- ① Regular appointment notification by UP Judiciary - PCS exam every 3yrs. only.
- ② Fair examination with spirit of Unfair means Act - by Rajasthan judiciary exam cancelled due to cherty.

- ③ Merit-based all-India transfers = unified judiciary and spirit of federalism.
- ④ Promotions based on diverse all-India pool → HC will have more women + merit.
 - ⊗ only 11% HC judges women,
 - while 34% subordinate judges women.

Enhancing Efficiency

- ① Standardised legal training → higher disposal rate → reduced pendency [5 crore pending cases]
- ② ^{more} better women → better workplace culture (Oxfam)
- ③ AINS will prompt better legal education and reform in BCI - ⊗ more HLU established.
- ④ Efficient case tracking - as similarity in language - ⊗ e-filing all-India level.
- ⑤ Accessibility through online justice - ⊗ Lawyer from Kerala could appear in Delhi - ⊗ no state divisions

However, challenges around vernacular language, diverse hiring, and SC/ST-localisation problems must be addressed, before committing to AINS.

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Q.11) Although upholding the spirit of the Constitution through judicial activism is noble in its intent, in practice it runs the risk of undermining the delicate balance of power that the Constitution sought to achieve. Critically examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

यद्यपि न्यायिक सक्रियता के माध्यम से संविधान की भावना को कायम रखना अपने इरादे में नेक है, लेकिन व्यवहार में यह शक्ति के उस नाजुक संतुलन को कमजोर करने का जोखिम उठाता है जिसे संविधान हासिल करना चाहता था। आला. वनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

If allowed to unleash without restraint, judicial activism can emerge into a Frankenstein's monster.

- Prof. Upendra Baxi

Noble in its intent - Judicial Activism

① Evolved through PIILs to give access to Article 32 justa to the last man.

↳ Hussara Mera Khatoun letter petition

② Relaxes locus standi to give weightage to principles of natural justice such as audi alteram partem over rigid CPC.

③ For immediate public service & justice
↳ MC Mehta case: Taj Trapezium - national heritage

④ RISK OF UNDERMINING BALANCE OF Power

- ① Constitution - delicate separation
 - ↳ Article 50 (judiciary & executive)
 - ↳ Article 122/211 (judiciary and legislature)
- ② Judiciary as third chamber (Pt. Nehru) is against constitutional spirit & morality.
[Manoj Narula case]
- ③ Public faith and credibility at risk due to executive domain ⇒ political polarisation
eg) Supreme Court paused Jaganmohan Yadav to proceed
- ④ Allegation of usurping of power
eg) V. Venkatesh Gupta's speech
- ⑤ From a constitutional court into the Executive court - eg) Gautam Bhatia and the dilution of Article 32

⑥ Publicity in forest litigation giving rise to increased backlog - \rightarrow 82,000 in SC \rightarrow 5 crore in HC & subordinates

⑦ Overzealous judiciary leads to a politicised judiciary - \rightarrow Chief Justice of Pakistan

⑧ From court of law to court of personal opinion
 \rightarrow Shantanu Chauhan's case - National anthem in cinema hall

Way forward: Preserving the balance

SC in Balwant Chauhan vs State of Uttarakhand

① Only for genuine public interest, and no private interest strictly.

② Judges should exercise caution to not go into legislative sphere (\rightarrow In re: migrant labourers)

③ Public faith and trust depends on accessibility of the court.

Constitutional courts are the bedrock pillar of India and must preserve the delicate balance.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
S & F			
P & R			

Please put tick marks in the above table.

Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.12) Governor is neither a saboteur nor a sage; he is a constitutional functionary who needs to be solely loyal to the Constitution. Critically examine the statement in the light of recent events.

(15 marks, 250 words)

राज्यपाल न तो विध्वंसक है और न ही संत; वह एक संवैधानिक पदाधिकारी है जिसे पूरी तरह से संविधान के प्रति निष्ठावान रहने की आवश्यकता है। हाल की घटनाओं के आलोक में कथन का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The Governor is a friend, a guide
and philosopher - not a political
functionary of the union.

— Justice Pardiwala in
S. Subramanian v. Gov. of TN (April 2025)

Governor: neither saboteur nor sage

① Neutral entity - to ensure checks &
balances while giving space to
elected govt. [Article 153]

② Governor's discretion must be exercised
at advice of Council of Ministers.
[Shamsher Singh v. Union of India]

③ Governor cannot order floor tests on his

own whims and fancies | Shrimanth Bakeshiv Patil vs Karnataka

④ Governor's role is of a friend to the state govt - not to sabotage its functioning.

Recent events: State of TN judgment u/ Article 200 - Timelines set

1 month → when assent to be withheld

3 months → to withhold assent against Com advice

u/ Article 142 - 10 Bills reserved for President considered passed.

Governor solely loyal to Constitution

① J. Paridwala & J. Mahadevan highlighted that Governor's sole duty is to enable elected state govt to function, without being "meddlesome interference".

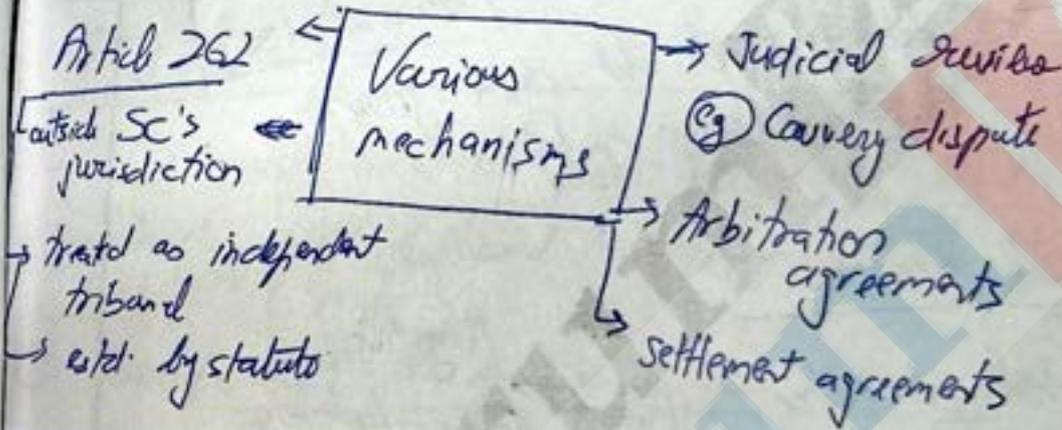
② Constitutional loyalty is not loyalty to the appointing union government.

- ③ By putting timelines on Article 200,
loyalty to Constitution is assured as
timelines are in spirit of Constitution.
- ④ In other factors too — Constitutional discretion
only for extraordinary circumstances —
of Art. 356 President rule subject to
Judicial review — 15K Bonmai
- ⑤ Even leading power of Article 161 subject
to Com advice
→ Judicial review — Manu Ram vs
Union of India
- ⑥ Situational discretion of Governor is limited
to political situations — and which are to
prevent constitutional deadlock — Subhash Desai
[Shiv Sena] case
- The Governor's instrumental role as
mediator of federalism can be ensured
by following Sarkaria Committee's advice of
fixed terms, apolitical appointments, and CM consult later.

Q.13) Throw light on the various mechanisms for the settlement of disputes related to the equitable sharing of river water among states. Also, evaluate the effectiveness of these mechanisms in the resolution of inter-state river water disputes in the country. (15 marks, 250 words)

राज्यों के बीच नदी जल के न्यायसंगत बंटवारे से संबंधित विवादों के निपटारे के लिए विभिन्न तंत्रों पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, देश में अंतरराज्यीय नदी जल विवादों के समाधान में इन तंत्रों की प्रभावशीलता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 262 of the Constitution allows setting up of an inter-state river water dispute tribunal.

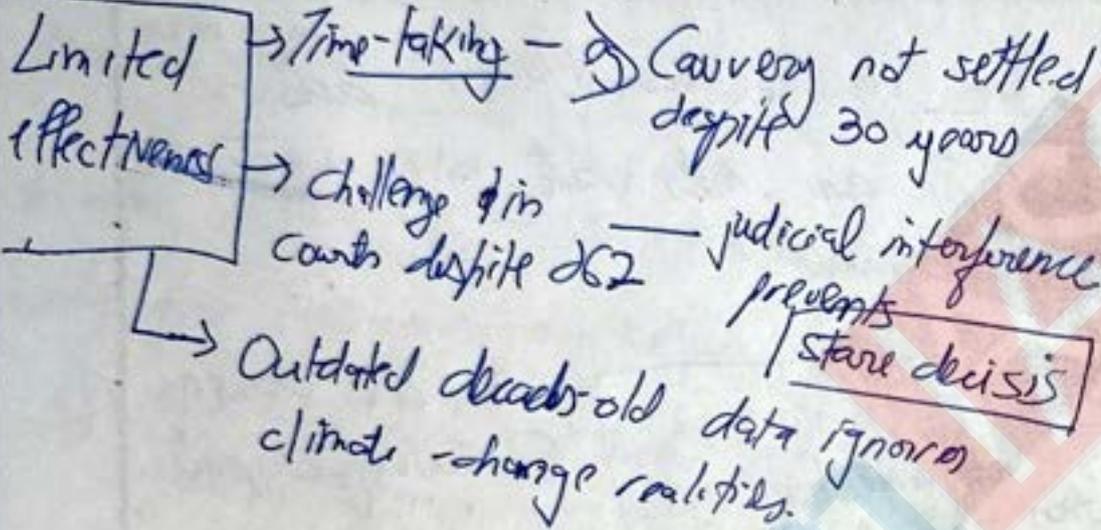


EFFECTIVENESS OF MECHANISMS

① Article 262 Tribunals

- Led to various inter-state tribunals
- Scientific riprous analysis for equitable division (eg. Mullaperiyar dam dispute)

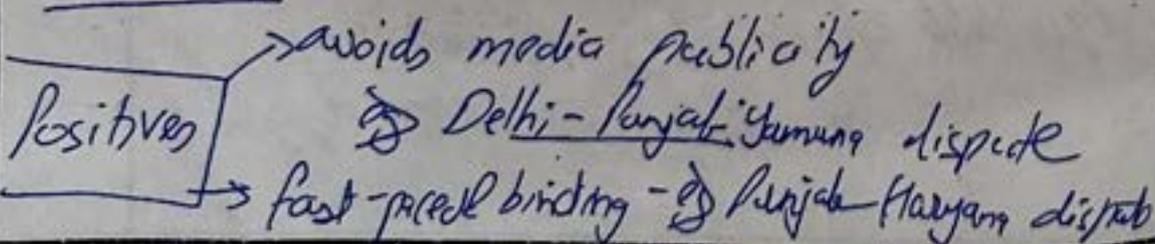
- Allow dialogue & negotiation outside adversarial proceedings.



③ Judicial Review:

	Negatives
- Neutral arbitrator - judiciary provides semblance of equality	- Time-taking
- Binding judgment \Rightarrow settled <u>Hamdard Punjab division of Suttley</u>	- against spirit of <u>judicial exclusion.</u>
	- People-centric water is not a legal issue.

③ Arbitration:



- Negatives**
- Helsinki principles not followed as binding
 - S. 31 of Arbitration Act invoked to lead to judicial challenges
 - No successful model of arbitration-driven water-sharing agreement in India

WAY FORWARD

- Not much success seen by any of the methods still followed. Hence, necessity of -

- ① Scientific data-driven. population data need dynamic studies -
 - water catchment area
 - para of flow
 - dependent population
 - fertility & irrigation area
 - scope of groundwater/aquifers
- ② Judicial role as neutral observer - not settler - spirit of Article 262

③ Create permanent expert body on river water dispute on model of France Commission

Water is the new diamond - and as climate change threatens to melt India's glaciers, we must focus on water security @ a priority.

Feedback

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P & R				

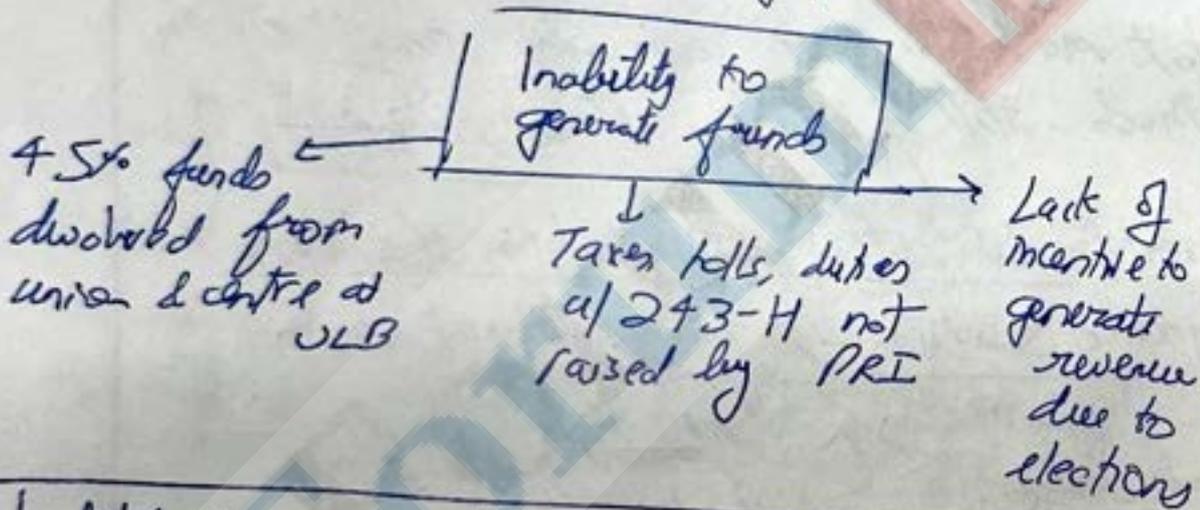
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TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.14) How does the inability of local bodies to generate their own funds affect their ability to function effectively? Suggest necessary measures to empower local governments in generating independent revenue streams. (15 marks, 250 words)

स्थानीय निकायों की स्वयं की धनराशि उत्पन्न करने में असमर्थता उनकी प्रभावी ढंग से कार्य करने की क्षमता को कैसे प्रभावित करती है? स्वतंत्र राजस्व उत्पन्न करने में स्थानीय सरकारों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए आवश्यक उपाय सुझाएँ। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

The revenue generated by local bodies is merely 0.01% of GDP, highlighting this overt dependence on union and states for 3F - Funds, functions, Factoring production.



Inability to generate funds → affects ability to function effectively

- ① Performance-linked central funds [85% as per 15th FC] have one-size fit-all approach → not outcome achievable

- ② Statelike evolution of subjects of Part 2 & 3 of 11th - 12th schedule is lagged due to paucity of funds.
- ③ Unable to hire more officers → poor service delivery
 China: 2 in 3 officers = local body
 India: 1 in 8 [The Economist]
- ④ India unable to move from literacy to quality education, and from curative to preventive healthcare
 → [Health care expenditure - 1.8%]
 Target - 2.5% of GDP
- ⑤ Functioning subject to Block-level and appointed executive - e.g. DM-raj replaces panchayat-raj
- ⑥ Lack of funds → criminalisation of local politics and muscle-power
 e.g. Milan Vaishnav: when crime pays
- ⑦ Lack of last-mile delivery of public service
 e.g. no Nagar Nigam in Delhi slums

measures to empower local govt for own revenue

- ① Higher mandatory devolution of subjects - from state list [7th Sch → 11th/12th Schedule]
- ② State Finance Commission [2024] to have higher devolution powers = give binding value
- ③ Balwant Mehta Committee: Taxation and tolls must be made a mandate for minimum PRI & ULB. Doctroi tolls
- ④ Perception of self-govt, not tax collection - to be spread through training & socialisation of Malabarhad Mukhad Natak
- ⑤ Educated Sarpanch → higher tax collection by awareness
⑥ Chhawi Rajawat + MBA sarpanch
- ⑥ Social audits of MGNREGS → confidence of probity among villagers
- ⑦ Microfinance, FPO and SHG model of fund generation - by village as a whole. This shall lead to a true Gram Swaraj: fulfilling Sandhiya's vision.

Q.15) Critically examine the functioning of National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) apex institution entrusted with the protection of human rights in the country. (15 marks, 250)

देश में मानवाधिकारों की सुरक्षा के लिए सौंपी गई एक शीर्ष संस्था के रूप में भारत के राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार (NHRC) की कार्यप्रणाली का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250)

The Protection of Human Rights Act 1993 gave India its own national human rights watchdog - fulfilling commitment under the ICCPR - 1948.

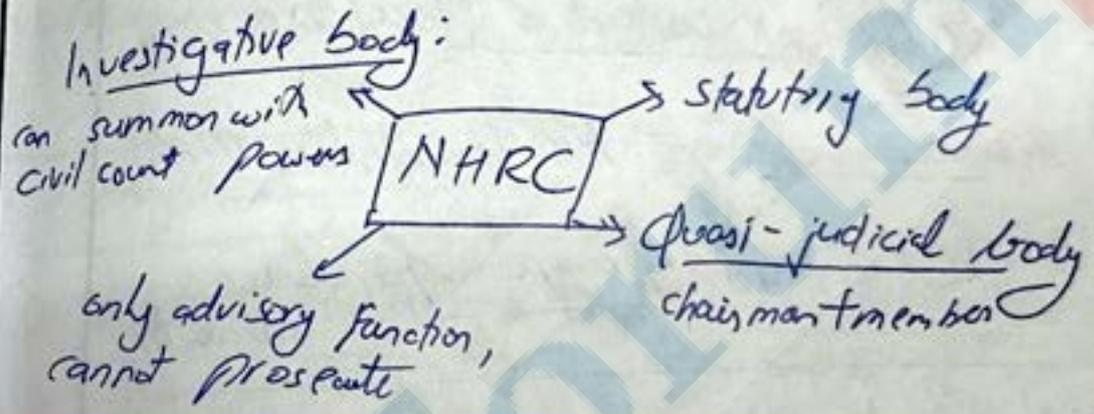


Fig 1: NHRC's functions and role

NHRC: A successful protector

- ① An action-oriented agency prompting immediate activation of machinery
- Hathras case got momentum after NHRC intervention.

② True intent of Article 23 of Constitution -
rescue begar and forced labour victims

③ Accessible body → Toll free number
→ Manavadhikar portal
→ email responsiveness

④ Adjudicatory powers - gives quasi-judicial
authority - eg) Kashmir custodial violence case

⑤ Several awareness drives + Manavadhikar mela
→ NHRC - internship program for Law students

Limited functioning powers as Article 32 guardian

⑥ SC: NHRC a toothless tiger

no enforcement

no investigation
why

(action on police)

only a
non-binding
recommendation

Continuous human rights violation.

-> crime against women on rise (NCRB)
1 rape every 14 minutes

- ③ Lack of deterrence effect due to slow actions
- ④ Multiplicity of proceedings: NHRC cannot take a case when state SHRC has been invoked → Limited accessibility of justice
- ⑤ Non-signature of ICCPR Protocol → NHRC faces downgrade of rating risks by UNHCR (2023).

Strengthening NHRC

- ① Statutory Re-charges → give investigative wing, like CBI
 - binding powers
 - punitive action for non-enforcement
 - from caged parrot to agile eagle
- ② Active role: NHRC notices always bring media spotlight. It must be leveraged.
- ③ Independent appointments: suggested by PM + 20 + CJI = neutrality.

The violations in Gaza show that human rights protection must be domestically strengthened not relied on *ejusdem generis*. Make NHRC a guardian

Feedback
(For OFFICE)

#	③
AWB	
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P & R	

Please put tick marks in the above table.
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.16) "Right to vote is fundamental to democracy, and depriving undertrial prisoners of this right while allowing contesting elections reflects a flawed legal framework." Comment. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

मतदान का अधिकार लोकतंत्र के लिए मौलिक है, और विचाराधीन कैदियों को चुनाव लड़ने की अनुमति देते हुए उन्हें इस अधिकार से वंचित करना एक दोषपूर्ण कानूनी ढांचे को दर्शाता है।* टिप्पणी करें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Despite popular sentiment, the Supreme Court has held time and again, that right to vote is a statutory right, and not a fundamental right under Article 326.

Right to vote: fundamental to democracy

① Democracy a basic structure of our Constitution - and voting is the most popular form of expression - Kesavananda Bharati case

② Voting is also a form of expression, and must come with complete information for aware voters.

↳ SC: NOTA case

↳ SC: ADR vs Union of India

↳ SC: electoral bonds case (2024)

① Voting → vote-bank of marginalised → forces executive to pay attention

↳ Mandal politics → OBC upliftment

② Voting guaranteed by universal suffrage of 326, cannot be statutorily taken away for undertrials - still not guilty.

↳ 75% prisoners undertrials, and 68% of them illiterate. [India Justice Report]

Depriving prisoners to vote while allowing contesting elections → flawed legal benchmark

① Statutory Paradox:

RPA Act 1951 - can contest elections

if not convicted - | Lily Thomas v Union of India

However, EC and Prison manual hold that undertrials cannot vote.

② Encourages criminalisation of politics

↳ 45% MP in 18th LS = criminal cases (ADR)

③ Right to contest elections should have higher moral framework than voting
eg) Anritpal Singh under NSA detention took oath as MP in 18th LS.

④ Law misused by separatists and anti-Indian elements by misguiding
eg) S. Engineer = MP in 18th LS from Kashmir

⑤ Undertrials, if found free, have no recourse to vote or get compensation.
eg) Bhim Singh v/s J&K case

REFORMING the flawed law

① Vohra Committee on criminalization of politics → reforms implement.

② Address ^{voter vs} prisoner vs contestant dichotomy as violation of Article 14.

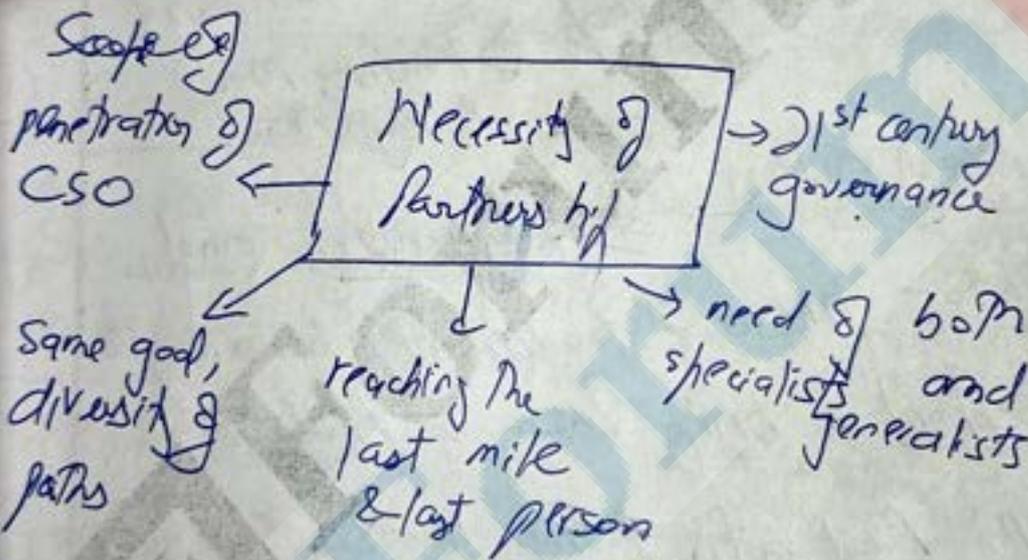
③ Election booth is prison for undertrials - basic human dignity
In reformist system - a prisoner is also a human and an Indian citizen. Incarceration without conviction must not disenfranchise him.

Q.17) Examine the scope of partnership between the State and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) towards improving public service delivery to benefit the common citizen. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

आम नागरिकों को लाभ पहुंचाने के लिए सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण में सुधार लाने की दिशा में राज्य और नागरिक समाज संगठनों (CSOs) के बीच साझेदारी की संभावनाओं की परीक्षा कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

"State and civil society are not at opposite ends of the spectrum. In fact, they are the steam and coal powering the same train of governance."

— Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General



Scope of Partnership: state & CSO

① Higher penetration of CSO → higher targetted public service delivery

eg) India: 1 NGO 1000 persons
1 policeman / 706 persons

② Specialised nature of CSO-work helps in targeted beneficiary identification →
 → lesser wastage of resources → higher impact
 ⇒ All SECC data on caste discarded

③ Subsidy delivery: State = gives funds,
 while CSO → beneficiary identify
 → distribution targeted - eg Akshay
 → feedback loop - eg Kitchens meal
 in Rajasthan

④ Preservation of culture - ⇒ Kala-vriksh and
 Kalp vattu - preserve traditional handicrafts.
 Govt support = bring them in trade festivals
 eg FM Modi gifts Kerala handicraft in G 20

⑤ Enable Govt-academic collaboration -
 ⇒ NRF Anusandhan works with
 PRS and Vidhi for techno-legal solutions
 to judicial back log.

⑥ Tech-penetration in service delivery -
 Enhance data analytics of DBT through UI → understand suburban expenditure
 → provide welfare through e-rupi coupons → reduce out of pocket expenditure.

⑦ Education: State focuses on education, while women-led CSO deliver nutritious food to children ⇒ multidimensional education - NEP goal.

⑧ Awareness generation Domestic violence -
 by CSO on Darwaza band campaign
 Govt-shared initiatives Traffic rules - CSO nuktah natak
 movie screenings - by Mrs. movie or patriarchy

Way to collaborate

- Memorandum of understanding, without financial outlay but infra support
 - Award NGOs & CSO by NITI Aayog
 - Encourage FCRA → only 2% NGO registered
 transparency → lead to loss of 2-3% of GDP
 only 80% of total bill returns
- These steps will ensure a Viksit Bharat - CSO supported.

Feedback

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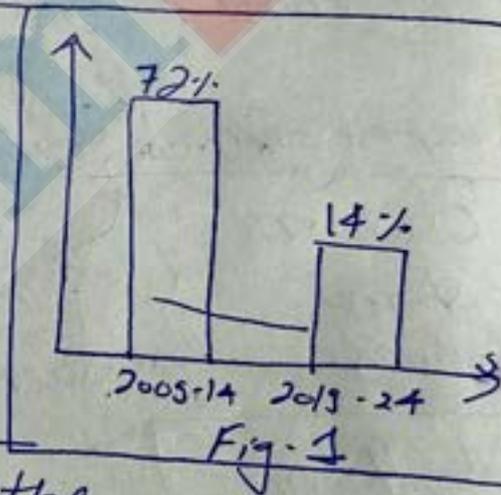
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P & R				
Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.				
TOTAL MARKS				

Q.18) "Parliamentary democracy would be incomplete without Parliamentary committees." In light of the statement, examine the role of the Public Accounts Committee in establishing financial accountability of the executive. (15 marks, 250 words)

"संसदीय समितियों के बिना संसदीय लोकतंत्र अधूरा होगा।" कथन के आलोक में, कार्यपालिका के लिए वित्तीय जवाबदेही स्थापित करने में लोक लेखा समिति की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Parliament is the chariot - visible and grand. Parliamentary committees are its wheels - ensuring the forward movement, no matter the pathless politics.

Fig 1 - Declining role of Parliamentary committees - No. of bills referred to Committees in 15th vs 17th LS.



Public Accounts Committee

ROLE

- To conduct an expenditure and propriety audit of demand for grants during pre-budget passing stage.

① Assistance of the CAG (Art. 148) as
the friend, philosopher & guide.

② Making policy recommendations to the
department - for fiscal prudence and
canons of financial propriety. to
avoid an Article 360-like situation.

③ Neutral role: → led by / chaired by Opposition
Leader

Shashi Tharoor - PAC function more
cordially than Parliament

④ Detailed examination → executive accountability
and checks & balances.

⑤ Success → No financial emergency
→ No scams since 2012 coal
scam.

Limited Role

① Budgetary activity: only 10-15%
of entire budgets examined → rest
mechanically passed → Guillotine method.

- ① CAG's limited assistance — not covering PSU, SBI, RBI, etc.
 - ② PAC and Estimates Committee overlapping functions → double-effort for single result.
 - ③ Lack of significant oversight → PNB scam
↳ CAG scam
↳ IL&FS crisis
 - ④ 21st century crimes & corruption is smarter & technical — eg cryptoware → PAC lacks technical help.
- Way forward: Financial Accountability & PAC

- ① AI-driven big data analytics of public fund
(eg Develop Bharat-AF with C-DAC help)
- ② Discussion and minutes to be made public of PAC → accountability by publication.
- ③ Opposition involved even at making demand for grants stage — eg UK shadow cabinet

PAC is the left wheel of the chariot. Also Estimates Committee and pulled forward by CAG as charioteer, we can enter an era of executive financial accountability.

Q.19) While the NCST has made significant contributions to tribal welfare, a multi-faceted approach is necessary to complement its efforts and ensure the holistic development of tribals. Elaborate. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

जबकि NCST ने जनजातीय कल्याण में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है, इसके प्रयासों के पूरक के लिए और जनजातियों के समग्र विकास को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण आवश्यक है। सविस्तर वर्णन कीजिए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Article 338-A of the Constitution established the NCST, for all around protection to ST while enabling them for holistic development and national development contribution.

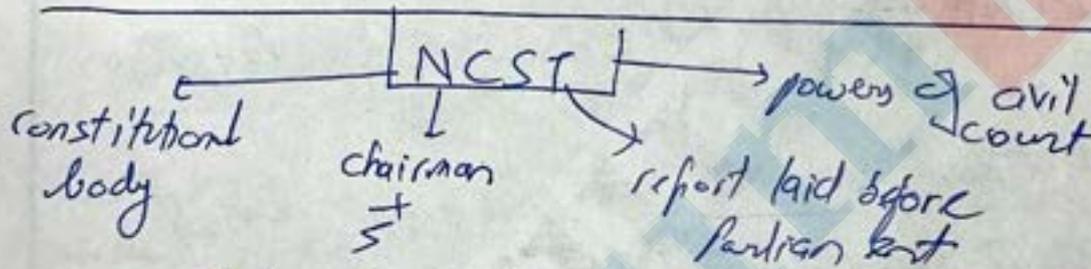


Fig: Role of NCST

CONTRIBUTIONS TO Tribal welfare: NCST

- ① An open forum for grievance redress and redressal -
- ② powers of civil court, to -
 - summon
 - record appearances
 - issue show-camp notice
 leads to deterrence.
- ③ Reports on tribal welfare → laid before Parliament → executive accountability

eg 2023 report on state of tribals discussed by ministers of tribal affairs.

④ Accountability of govt policy: eg 2024 NCST disagreement of forest Rights Act dilution

⑤ Less Consultation role in issues of forest diversion under Forest Conservation (Act) Rules — eg new Eco-sensitive buffer zone rules.

⑥ Quasi-judicial powers → hearings and enforcement of Protections of Civil Rights Act
eg MP ST-man writation - harassment incident → NCST support.

NEED of multi faceted approach

① Continued harassment and discrimination against ST — eg ST INS officer not allowed to ride horse in wedding.

② Lack of representation — 85% ST posts in central universities vacant (2025)

- 3) Need of Subcategorisation need in STs
- Under State of Punjab - SC
- 4) Educators in tribal way of life with contemporary knowledge - NEP in Eklaunq model school.
- 5) Complement NCST efforts with Pr. Sanjatiya
as umbrella scheme for all PVTs.
- 6) Health approach - highest level of malaria
NCST must conduct studies → child marriages (Odisha cases)
→ tribal-specific leukemia
and work with ICMR and IMA.
- 7) Industry - NCST collaboration to address-
 - a) mining-related displacement (Niyamgiri)
 - b) tribal rehabilitation - (ST population but FSI-displacement)
 - c) modern jobs in factories - (Jamshedpur and tribal - Giridih)
 - d) Environment (Uranium poisoning in Jharkhand).

Dhruva Anba Birsa Munda had always said that tribals were the first owners of land - and faced discrimination. NCST can take the next step in helping in integration.

Feedback

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	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
S & F			
P & R			
Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.20) What do you understand by Alternate Dispute Redressal (ADR) mechanisms? What are the reasons for their low adoption as the primary mode of dispute resolution in the country? Suggest measures for improvement. (15 marks, 250 words)

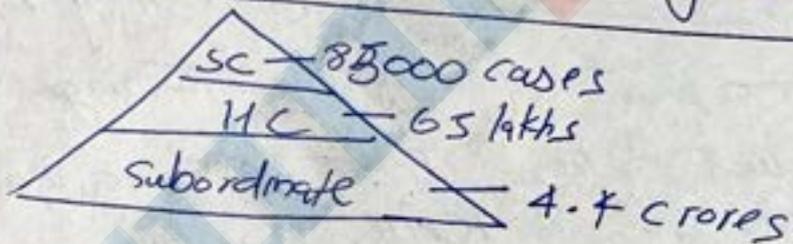
वैकल्पिक विवाद निवारण (ADR) तंत्र से आप क्या समझते हैं? देश में विवाद समाधान के प्राथमिक माध्यम के रूप में इन्हें कम अपनाने के क्या कारण हैं? सुधारात्मक उपाय सुझावें। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

ADR will be the future of dispute resolution - preferred by corporates for speed and by individuals for cost - in the 21st century.

— CJT N.V. Ramana at TAMC Hyderabad.

Need of ADR

- ① Backlog in judiciary
- ② Cost of adversarial litigation
- ③ Pendency of dispute



Ex SC senior advocate - ₹20 lakhs per hearing

Ex Finance Ministry: Land dispute timeline = 20 years avg.

Meaning of ADR:

- out of court settlements
- party-driven, with neutral / no observer.
- lower cost, faster, convenient.

① Arbitration → Binding
→ UNCITRAL model

Reasons for low adoption

See measures for improvement

① Section 34, Arbitration Act - leads to frequent challenges → non-binding in practice

① Enforce s. 29A: fast track courts.

② S. 11, appointment always under challenge eg BALCO vs Union of India

② Institutional arbitrations - eg IACM Hyderabad

③ Higher costs - fees not followed outside court-appointed arbitrations

③ India as hub of seat of arbitration → collab. with Singapore's SIAC
allow foreign law firms by OCI

① Mediation → mediator = neutral party to facilitate, not awarded
→ cheaper, party-driven

Reason for low adoption

measures

① Treated as formality by lawyers, despite mandatory under -

① Strictly enforce - Mediation Act 2023

a) Family courts
b) Commercial Courts Act

② Law students for mediation competition eg RMLNLU mediation competition = globally recognised.

② Lack of awareness

③ considered as non-binding, until recent statute.

③ Free spaces for mediator eg ICD Chamber of Commerce

3. ODR - Online Dispute Resolution

Reasons for low adoption

Measures

- | | |
|---|--|
| ① Digital illiteracy - only 37% women = access to internet. | ① PPP-driven model for institutional ODR. |
| ② New concept (eg. Same ODR platform) | ② Promote aggressively - much cheaper than other ADR forms |
| ③ Lack of trust due to small scale of brands for corporate disputes | ③ Partner with banks for contractual provision of ODR (eg. ICICI ODR market) |

4. Lok ADALAT - (statutory)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① offer challenged in HC. | ① minimum fees for lawyers by DLSP & SLSA |
| ② very limited role in criminal cases | ② expand jurisdiction under LSA Act 1987. |
| ③ Not adopted by lawyers due to low fees. | ③ Judicial restraint by HC in entertaining appeals - (eg. MP HC declines appeals) |
| ④ stuck for the 2 challan disputes only. | |

India's Ease of doing business ranking suffers due to lack of contractual disputes enforcement. By adoption of ADR, we can reach faster, convenient and affordable dispute resolution.

Mentor Feedback Questions - Please please help on Presentation

- 1 Handwriting, legibility, underlining, boxes & headings
- 2 Is Tabular format decent?
- 3 Questions where I missed making diagrams - where they were mandatory
- 4 Examples - enough or more needed?
- 5 Any major mistakes?
6. Tips which are easy to fix - and more rewarding?

Test Goal

- 1 Copy should look neat and readable
- 2 Finish in time
- 3

Outcomes

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Marking Scheme

Mark	Good	Average	Below average
10 Marker	3.75 - 5.0	3.0 - 3.5	< 3.0
15 Marker	5.75 - 7.0	4.0 - 5.5	< 4.0
20 Marker	7.75 - 10	6 - 7.5	< 6
✓✓	Key / Relevant Point		
✗	Vague / Irrelevant		

* Subject to change without prior notice.