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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1071)

Name of Candidate	NUPUR GOEL		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	6667
Center	KAROL BAGH	Date	14th sep 18

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Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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18	15	
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Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in **ENGLISH**.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

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5.

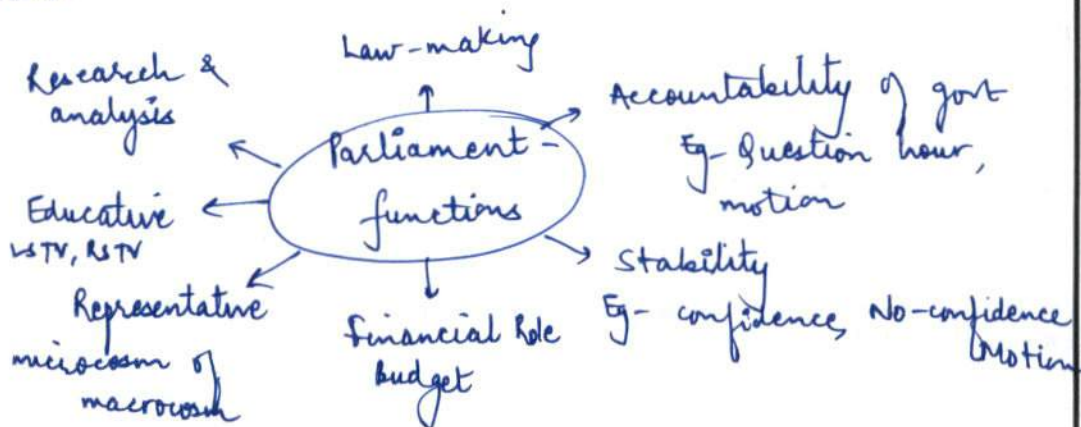
6.

All the Best

1. It has been argued that over the years there has been a steady decline in the efficacy of Parliament as an institution of accountability. Analyse and also suggest appropriate measures to address the relevant concerns.

(150 WORDS) 10

Parliament is the highest law-making body in India. It represents every section of society and is highest forum for deliberations & discussions.



However, its quality and efficiency is steadily declining :-

- i) No of sittings of Parliaments have reduced from 120 in 1950s to 69 in 2016.
- ii) Quality of debates, discussions going down.
- iii) Frequent disruptions, walk-overs, protests in Parliament. Eg - 30% of winter session was washed away due to walk-out this year.
- iv) Frequent use of guillotine
- v) Misuse of money bill - Aadhaar passed as

money bill in 2017.

- vi) Partisan role of speaker - in time allocation, disqualification of members etc.
- vii) Decrease in efficiency of Parliamentary committees.
- viii) Lack of research & analysis in Parliament.
- ix) Frequent use of ordinances bypassing legislature.

Measures to address them:-

- Fixed number of sittings at 120 and the calendar must be given at the start of calendar year itself.
- Speaker should be neutral (2nd ARC Commission)
- Proper research & analysis in its functioning
- Participation of civil society, NGOs, people etc.
- Electoral reforms to cleanse political parties.
- strengthening & empowering Parliamentary committees.

Parliament's efficiency is necessary to make sure that executive & judiciary are also working fine.

2. Panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) are simultaneously a remarkable success and a staggering failure, depending on the goalposts against which they are evaluated. Discuss. (150 WORDS) 10

PRIs were constituted according to 73rd constitutional Act, 1992 which gave way to democratic decentralisation in the country.

PRIs → Article 243 to 243O of constitution
- schedule 11
- 29 powers to be devolved

They are both regarded as success as well as failure.

Success:-

Women empowerment - They have mandatory 33% reservation for women in some states upto 50% of it. Out of all sarpanchs, 53% are women.

Local democracy - They have taken democracy at grass-root level.

Social Audit - Gram Sabha do social audit for MGNREGA which is recently praised by CAG.

Social justice - No of SC, ST, OBC etc in democratic system & leadership position have risen.

- Regular elections at local level.

Failure :-

- 3F - fund, functionary & function :- they don't have adequate fund, functionary & functions.
According to Devolution Index by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, ~~we~~ ^{states} haven't devolved adequate powers. Eg - Bihar, Jharkhand
- concept of Panch pati
- DRDA - Jharkhand hasn't constituted DRDA till date.
- Political interference - is very high at local level.
- Accountability - they aren't able to hold the executive responsible.

way forward -

- Regular Meetings of Gram Sabha.
 - Effective auditing mechanism.
 - Devolving of funds, functionary & functions.
 - Training them
- It A developed India is possible only by developed villages & PRIs are must for it.

3. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is more than just the keeper of our national accounts; it is also a conscience-keeper and a watchdog. Examine the statement in light of making the auditing process more effective.

(150 WORDS) 10

Dr BR Ambedkar regarded CAG as one of the most important institutions in free India. Article 148 along with CAG Act, 1971 define its role, power, functions etc.

CAG is responsible for auditing of Union & state accounts, PEs, PPP projects and other things referred by the government.

He audits the account not only by legal, technical lens but also by propriety.

He goes into the wisdom behind the expenditure done. He engages in comparative analysis (if any better policy available) as well as cost-benefit analysis of the expenditure. Eg - Bofors scam, Jeep scandal, coal block scam, 2G scam etc are all highlighted by CAG.

However, there are a number of shortcomings:-

- It does a post-mortem work i.e. after the expenditure is done.

- Its scope is limited as he is not able to audit all within a year.
- Lack of proper scientific data from ministries and departments.
- He submits his report to PAC but the Parliament isn't functioning effectively undermining CAG Report.
- Limited media coverage.
- Glamourisation of numbers by CAG. Eg - 1.76 lakh crore was the amount quoted by CAG as loss during 2G scam.
- PPP, political parties, NGOs not under its domain.
- ~~the~~ lack of adequate staff to CAG.

We must strengthen this watchdog to uphold ~~make~~ financial accountability in the nation by giving him comptroller functions, empowering him by giving adequate staff & taking PPP etc under its ambit.

4. The concern for transparency in political funding is at odds with the Electoral Bond Scheme notified by the government. Critically discuss.

(150 WORDS) 10

The government came out with electoral bond scheme to cleanse political funding and decrease black-money & corruption. Around $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of money in political parties come from unaccounted sources (~~Transparency~~ ^{Association of Democratic Rights} International)

Features of Electoral Bond :-

Any individual or corporate registered in India can buy it from registered bank (SBI or ICICI) at in the months of January, April, July & Oct.

They have to be encashed in the political party account in 15 days.

Only parties that have secured atleast 1% in state or Lok Sabha are eligible for this.

They'll lead to transparency as :-

Political parties:- They'll have to show these in their IT file returns.

Less use of cash → Move to digital payments.

A timeline of 15 days will lead to preventing it from becoming parallel economy.

- KYC norms in banks
- ECI will have power to monitor them.

But there are a number of cons too:-

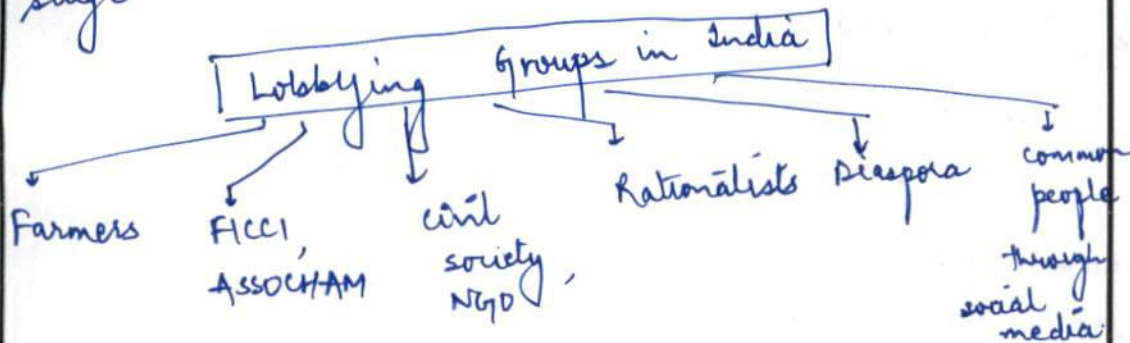
- Anonymous - These bonds will be anonymous.
- FCRA rules have been simplified to ease foreign funding to parties.
- The donors' name & details can be sought by ruling party giving undue benefit to them.
- It might lead to conversion of black money to white money.
- Lack of transparency in funding.

Measures to be taken:-

- We can go for state funding of elections (Binesh Gupta committee)
- strengthening of ECI (giving more teeth to it)
- Digital economy curbing use of cash.
- Promoting intra party democracy.

5. Lobbying in India exists in a perennially grey legal and policy arena. In this context, discuss the need to formally recognize and regulate lobbying in India. (150 WORDS) 10

lobbying is the act of influencing or pressurising the government in its policy formulation as well as implementation stage.



They have various ways to influence government through - debates & discussions, meetings, promoting awareness, protests, dharnas etc.

Advantages of Lobbying:-

- Awareness generation in citizens
- Enriches policy formulation & implementation
- strengthens democracy
- Effective grievance redressal mechanism.
- Uphold rights of all groups of citizens.

However, it is usually seen that :-

- Govt tends to make policies in the influence of big lobbying groups.
- It leads to bribery
- corruption
- Accountability decreases.

Thus, they need to be regulated as:-

- It'll increase transparency.
- Make the work of lobbying groups legitimate & streamlined.
- Uphold the fundamental rights of citizens in a better way.
- Institutionalisation of these groups.
- Accountability of these'll increase.
- Corruption'll decrease.

Thus, we need to regulate them

6. More than a decade after it was passed, the implementation of the RTI Act leaves much to be desired. Comment. Also discuss the issues associated with the recent proposals to amend the RTI Act. (150 WORDS) 10

RTI Act is regarded as the masterkey to good governance by 2nd Administrative Reform committee. It was passed in 2015 which gave a constitutional right to all citizens to know & have information about deeds of govt.

Its working has a lot of positives :-
40-50 lakhs RTI application filed every year.

strengthened the local people. Eg - Jan sunwai in Rajasthan.

Civil society, NGO etc use it as a tool for bringing justice to people.

Transparency & accountability have increased.

But, it has a number of challenges :-

Vacancy around 20% in PIO, CIC etc.

Huge backlog of cases at both national & state level.

It being used misused by vested interests to harass officials.

- More than 40 RTI activists killed.
- No penalty for wrong information.
- Political parties, Judiciary outside its ambit.
- Lack of awareness amongst people.
- So, we need to strengthen RTI.

Amendments proposed by govt:-

- Govt wants to decide the tenure, salary and service conditions of CIC & IC.
- It'll also have control on CIC & IC at State level.

Cons:-

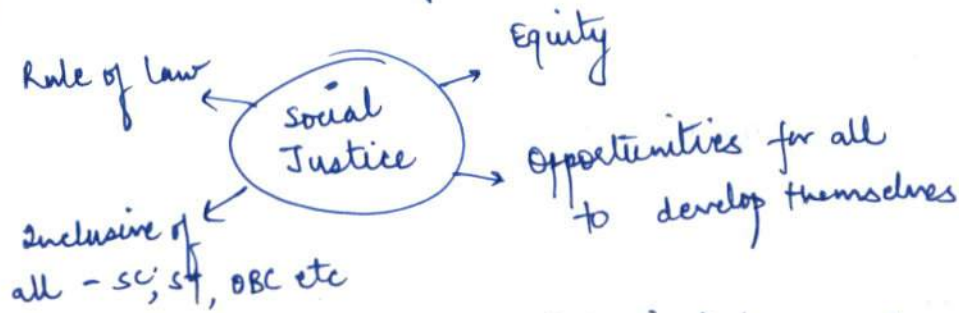
- This'll reduce the independence of information commissioners.
- Against cooperative federalism as states powers are being usurped.
- Govt might subjugate RTI Act.
- It'll dilute this act.

Thus, we should not move ahead with such amendments as that'll lead to subjugating the fundamental right of citizens to know.

7. Critically discuss the evolving policy on reservation in promotions in India with special focus on its ability to meet the objectives of social justice.

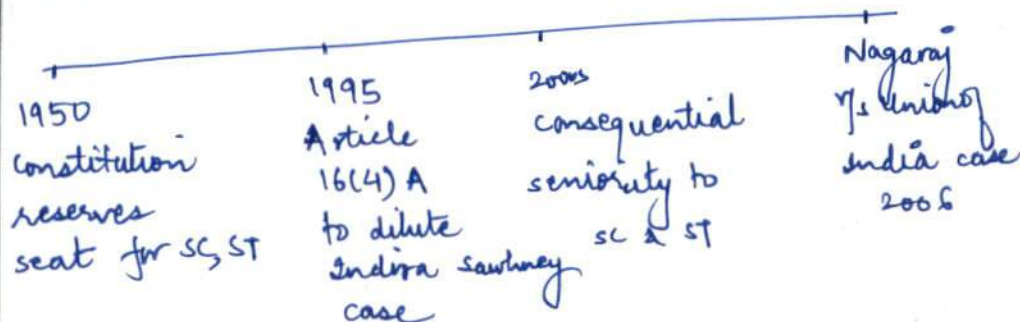
(150 WORDS) 10

Recently, the govt came out with a proposal to reserve seats for SC/ST in promotions. Supreme court also gave its nod to this.



In order to promote social justice, govt has taken an affirmative action to reserve seats for marginalised section of society under Right to Equality (Article 16).

Evolution :-



Arguments for reservation :-

- Inclusion of marginal section of society.
- Organisation will be benefitted by diverse opinions.

- Answer to all the years of exploitation that they suffered.
- Representation & increase in higher strata of government. Today, their representation is as low as 10% in higher jobs.

Against :-

- It might hamper the efficiency of govt.
- Against the 50% ceiling set by SC in Nagaraj case.
- Promotions must be based on merit to keep motivation & morale of employees high.
- They are already having reservation at entry level.
- It'll not address the structural problem of low literacy levels in community. Reservation is a beauty parlour approach.

We must empower them by enabling them through better education, skill development & health facilities (Capability Approach by Amartya Sen) so as to move towards an equitable society.

8. India produces enough food for its people, but not all people get enough food to eat. Discussing this paradox, highlight some of the major interventions taken in the past few years in this regard. (150 WORDS) 10

India is not only self-sufficient in food production but also export food to other nations.

It produces enough for its people:-

- 1st largest producer of milk, meat, highest livestock population.
- 2nd in rice, wheat, soyabean production.
- large stocks in FCI godowns & Right to food for everyone under NFSA.

But still, its people don't have enough food:-

- India has largest number of malnourished & poor people.
- 40% food is wasted in India.
- Double burden of malnourishment & obesity.
- Accessibility of food & its affordability a problem.
- Tendulkar line - 21.9% poor people in India.
- corruption & leakages in PDS system.
- Lack of political will.
- Role of intermediaries, hoarding & black marketing.

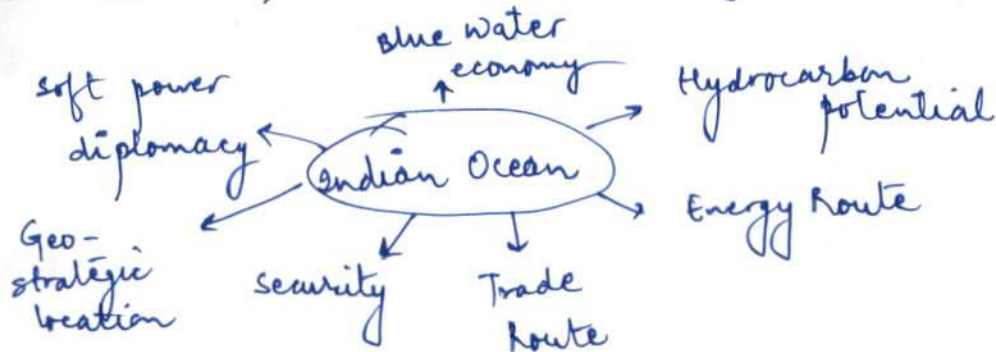
Major interventions taken by govt:-

- ICDS scheme in 2002 to cover all children in age 0-6 & lactating & pregnant mothers.
 - National food security Act, 2013 to provide right to food to 2/3rd of population.
 - Mid Day Meal scheme under SSA & RTE Act, 2006.
 - Fortification of food with vitamins etc.
 - Distributing iron folic tablets to girls in schools.
 - POSHAN Abhiyan, launched recently.
 - Chhattisgarh - PDS Model
- It is only by Poshit Bharat that we can attain Saksham & Sakshar Bharat.

9. India sees Indian Ocean as not just a water body, but a global stage for continued economic, social, and cultural dialogue. Elaborate.

(150 WORDS) 10

Indian Ocean has assumed large significance today not only in geopolitical but economic, social and strategic terms.



Economic Dialogue :-

- More than 80% of world's trade passes through it to strait of Hormuz, Malacca & Bab-el-Mandab.
- Potential for hydrocarbon.
- India's trade (2/3 rd by volume) pass through this.
- security against smuggling, piracy, narcotics, human trafficking etc.

social :-

- Bilateral cooperation with Indian ocean states.
- people to people contacts.

- Disaster Management - During water crisis in Male
- Soft power diplomacy in Maldives, Seychelles etc.
- Treaty with France for logistics arrangement in Diego Garcia
- India Ocean Naval Symposium by Indian Navy.

cultural significance:-

- Project Mausam seeks to revive silk route & spice route.
- Indian Ocean Rim Association.
- Tourism potential due to cultural links.
- Huge diaspora in these nations.

India govt has launched SAGAR - sea for security & growth for all in Region to realise its vision of 'vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

10. In the context of India taking greater responsibility in management of the global commons, there has been a shift in India's climate change negotiation stance. In this context, analyze the evolution of India's climate policy. (150 WORDS) 10

Of late, India is taking larger responsibility in world stages for management of global commons like space, hydrocarbon in oceans, Antarctica, climate change etc. It is not only promoting rules-based order but also actively participating in the formulation of policies at global level.

This can be shown as follow:-

- INDC - In Paris climate summit, India pledged INDC voluntarily to reduce its carbon footprint and increase reliance on solar energy.
- Launching of International Solar Alliance along with France with its headquarter in Gurugram to help increasing solar energy production in countries between Tropic of Cancer & Capricorn.
- Greater support to LDC & Island developing states in WTO as they are most affected by

climate change.

Its National solar Mission to increase solar production to 100 GW by 2022 is in line with COP 15.

Today, India has become more proactive in dealing with climate change & leading other IIIrd World countries in (Kyoto protocol) in the same rather than a passive recipient earlier.

11. Highlighting the constitutional role of the Finance Commission (FC), discuss the issues which are being debated w.r.t. terms of reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission. (250 WORDS) 15

Finance commission is the constitutional body set up after every 5 years by the President under Article 280.

It is also called the balancing wheel of fiscal federalism and is responsible for vertical & horizontal sharing of resources in the nation.

It is a quasi-judicial body which has the following role:-

- It sharing of net proceeds of taxes between Union and states is determined by Finance Commission along with the formula which determines this division.
- It governs the principle that gives the grants-in-aid to the state.
- Augments the consolidated fund of state to supplement the resources of local bodies.
- Any other matter referred by President.

The government recently set up 15th Finance

Commission under N.K. Singh. Along with the above constitutional role, it is also asked to find out performance-measurement tools in government.

The issues which are debated wrt 15th Finance Commission's Term of Reference are :-

- i) 2011 census :- As against 10% weightage of 2011 census population in 14th Finance Commission, this commission has to take 2011 census population only. It is opposed by southern state which have gone for population limiting factors.
- ii) GST Council :- GST Council overlooks the division of indirect taxes between Union & states & amongst them. The role of FC wrt GST Council isn't clear.
- iii) The TOR are unilaterally decided by centre without involving state. This is against cooperative federalism.
- iv) The 14th FC had led to increase in devolution from 32% to 42% to states. This is

to be reviewed by 15th FC as there are reports of underutilisation of these funds.

iv) TOR wants to curtail borrowing by states from 3% to 1.7% of GSDP curtailing their capital expenditure.

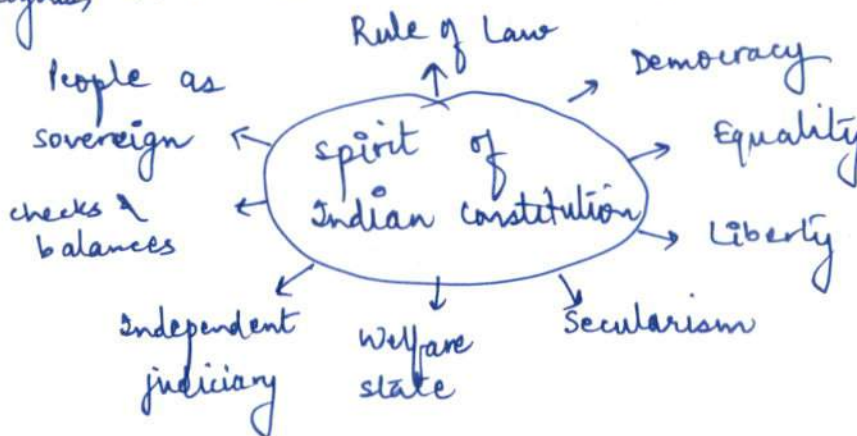
v) Ease of Doing Business :- It will promote this but it should not be at the cost of public welfare and development of society. Education, health, employment must be top priority for Union & states.

The TOR must be decided by a multistakeholder approach involving not only states but also citizens, civil society, NGO etc. It should be transparent & participative in its functioning with active involvement of experts, academia etc.

12. The spirit of the constitution of India represents a synthesis of Indian values, democratic and socialist movements in west and our independence movement. Elucidate. (250 WORDS) 15

Indian constitution was influenced by our rich history, Indian values, freedom struggle, other constitutions of that time and leaders ideology etc.

It came into being on 26th January, 1950 and it is one of the largest written constitution in the world defining union, states, their powers, citizenship, fundamental rights, DPSP etc all at one place.



Influence of Indian values :-

- Article 40 :- DPSP focusses of formation of village panchayats at local level.
- local self-determination - has come from ancient times (Vedas - ur, sabha, samiti) and

has given way to 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts (P.R.I. and Urban Local Bodies)

- Promotion to cottage industries (DPSP)
- Paying respect to our national flag, national anthem & other symbols (Article 51A - Fundamental Duties)
- Gandhian values in DPSP have largely been influenced by Gandhiji's idea of swaraj.
- Secularism - it is a part of basic structure of constitution and is a result of tolerance towards all religion & unity in diversity in India.

Influence of democratic & socialist movement:-

- French Revolution - The idea of equality, liberty and fraternity have been borrowed from here.
- American Revolution - The ideas of written constitution, independent judiciary, fundamental rights etc have been taken from here.
- Russian Revolution - socialism & welfare state as objective, fundamental duties have been derived from them.
- British constitution:- The westminister type of government, structure of our polity, office of

Prime Minister etc have been taken from here.

Influence from Indian Freedom struggle:-

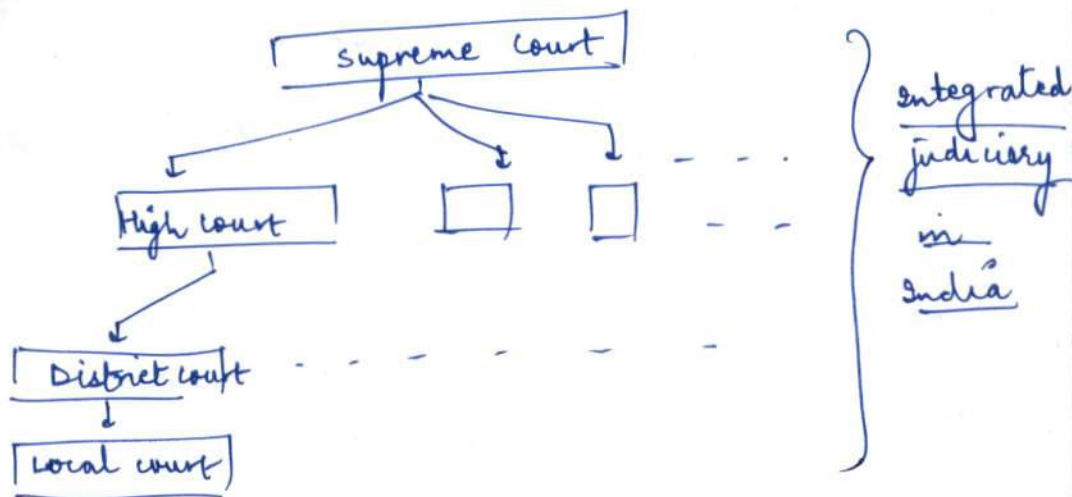
- Article 39A giving equal rights to men & women, healthy living environment is a tribute to workers' participation.
- Abolition of untouchability was taken from socio-economic reform movements.
- Universal Adult Franchise & a constitutional right to vote for all.
- The GoI Act, 1935 was a major act which determined the structural aspects of the Indian constitution.

This shows that we have borrowed a lot from other constitutions, our Indian Freedom struggle & assimilated them with Indian values so as to get a unique constitution fit for us.

13. What is the importance of an independent judiciary in a democracy?
Highlight the safeguards in our political-constitutional setup to ensure the
independence of judiciary. (250 WORDS) 15

Judiciary is the third organ of the state and is responsible for ensuring justice for all, grievance redressal and interpreting substantial questions of law.

Its independence is paramount & it is a part of basic structure of our Indian constitution (Kesavanand Bharti case, 1973).



Importance of independent Judiciary:-

Constitutionalism :- It is necessary for checking the misuse of power by legislature and executive. It declares any unconstitutional law as ultra-vires & quashes it. (Section 66A of IT Act)

- Upholds the accountability of the government
- It by judicial activism ensures proper functioning of state - Eg - Vishakha guidelines & directives of Police Reforms in Prakash Singh case.
- It ensures social Justice. Eg - Transgender case (NALSA case), quashing of Article 377 of IPC recently, Right to Education, Right to
- It comes out with modern & liberal judgements for development & advancement of society. Eg - Right to Privacy in Puttaswamy case.
- It comes out in support of people against govt's excesses. Eg - POSCO issue, Recent Sterlite issue etc.
- It is the guardian of fundamental Rights of citizens by 5 writs. Eg - Habeas Corpus, Mandamus etc.

As it is so important, it is safeguarded by our politico-constitutional set up:-

- Appointment: After 3rd judge case in 1998, the judges are appointed by collegium system

with no interference from executive.

The conduct of judges, their judgements etc can be discussed ~~etc.~~ in Parliament except in proceedings of removal of judge.

The salaries, pensions of supreme court judges & pensions of High court are charged upon consolidated

Fund of India.

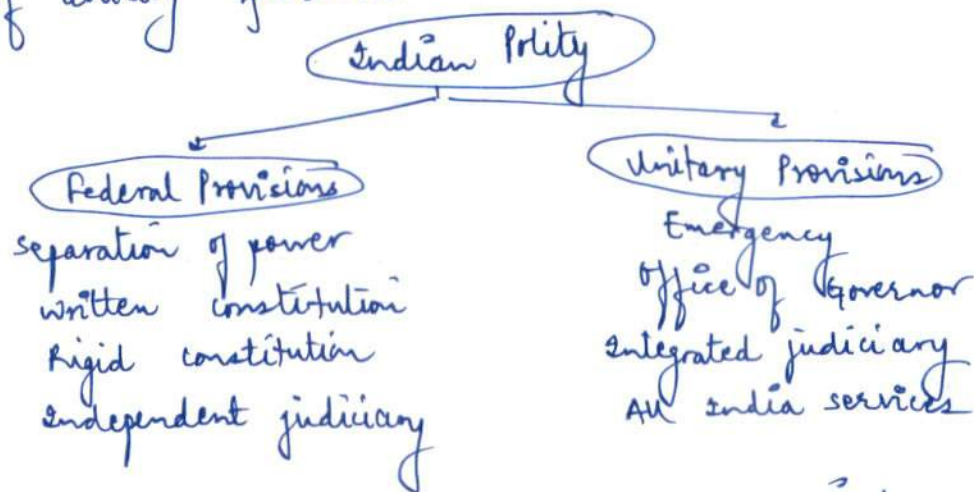
No say of govt in transfers, service conditions, appointment of staff of courts.

They are removed by a very rigorous procedure and requires a special majority in Parliament (Not even a single judge has been removed so far).

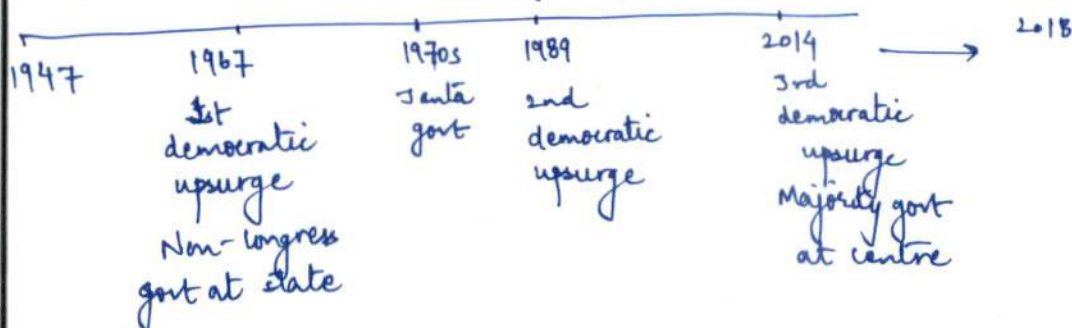
However of late, there are many issues like press conf conference by senior judges of SC, allegations of corruption on CJS, high vacancies in courts, around 3 crore cases pending in courts etc. We need to resolve this so as to make it empowered as well as accountable for its working.

14. Even though Indian federalism has matured quite a bit, with states having far greater control of their economic and political management, serious structural problems still remain. Discuss. (250 WORDS) 15

Indian polity is defined as quasi-federal in nature by Granville Austin, Ivor Jennings etc. Although we have a federal polity but along with a number of unitary features.



We have come a long way from single party structure in 1950s (Rajni Kothari, Riggs) to cooperative & competitive federalism today.



The Indian federalism has matured a lot
as :-

Fiscal federalism:-

- After 14th Finance Commission, the devolution has increased from 32% to 42%.
- Flexi funds have increased to around 34%.
- scrapping of Planning Commission and restructuring of centrally sponsored schemes (NITI Aayog)
- special category states removed &
- now states can borrow without centre's approval.
- implementation of GST & GST council giving 2/3rd voting rights to States.

Political Rights:-

- NITI Aayog came up in 2016 having representation of states.
- setting up of inter state council (Article 263), CM conference etc.
- inter-state water disputes to be solved through a standing committee (New water bill)
- More say to regional parties and their grievances.
- NITI Aayog's FAD scheme for balanced growth.

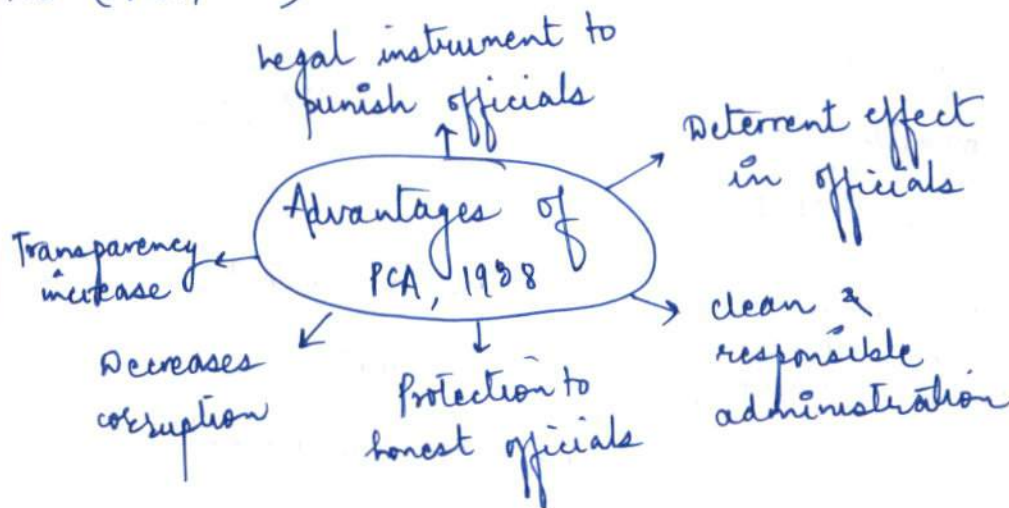
However, a number of structural problems remain:-

- Economic :- More power to centre vis a vis states in taxation.
 - still a number of tied funds.
 - central schemes although launched by centre but implemented by states.
 - scs category demand by Andhra Pradesh
 - states' fiscal health continuously declining due to UDAY bond, MLC etc.
- Legislative - Encroaching upon states' subjects.
 - GST Council deciding rates of taxes bypassing state legislature.
 - Role of Governor (Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Manipur)
 - Article 356 - President Rule
- Executive - All India services
 - frequent resort to President Rule
 - Deployment of ~~III~~ central forces. Eg - APSA in J&K
 - No adequate power to IIIrd tier i.e. local bodies.

We need to work on these issues and resolve them in an amicable and cooperative way so as to move towards collaborative & cumulative federalism -

15. The recent amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 strike a balance between enforcement overzealousness and the need for stringent action against corrupt public servants. Discuss. (250 WORDS) 15

India ranks 81 out of 180 nations on corruption perception index conducted by Transparency International. Government has recently come up with amendments in prevention of corruption Act, 1988 (PCA, 1988) to deal with it.



It prevents the honest officials from harassment

Prior approval for prosecution - For any civil servant (retired or working), if any investigation is to be done, it needs prior approval from higher authority.

Definition of misconduct - now includes only misappropriation of funds & amassing of

property disproportionate to the income.

At the same time, it takes stringent action against corrupt officials:-

- Bribery:- Not only giving bribe but giving it is also a criminal offence. The bribe-giver can report about this in 7 days to the concerned authority to escape punishment. It reduces collusive as well as compulsive corruption.

- Forfeiture of property - This helps to attach the property amassed by the corrupt officials so as to fasten the judgement.

- Fast-track courts - to punish & hear the cases under PCA, 1988 - Timely resolution in corruption cases will handle the less conviction rate & deter the officials.

But, it has certain problem areas like:-

- 7 days is a short period to complain against giving bribe. What if the police doesn't register an FIR.

- The prior sanction for app investigation & prosecution has been struck down by supreme court earlier.
- it has a number of vague terms like lawful sources of income etc.
- it doesn't address the institutional, structural & procedural lacunae in system which leads to corruption.

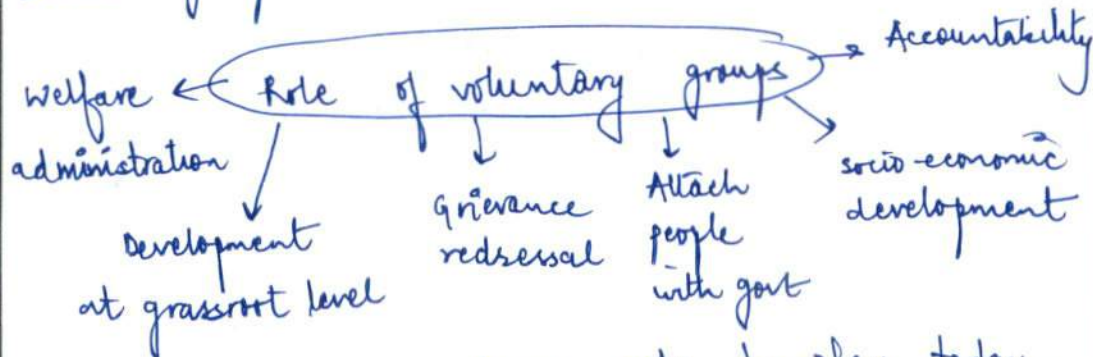
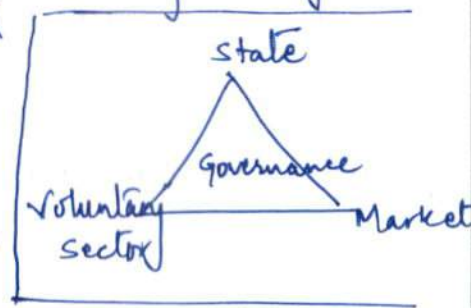
As ARC II recommended, we need to bring civil services code for civil servants along with institutional support and procedural reforms that support honesty and punish corruption in the govt.

16. Identifying the various issues plaguing the voluntary sector in India, discuss the need for a national accreditation agency to overcome them. Discuss.

(250 WORDS) 15

Voluntary sector is regarded as the IIIrd pillar of governance in new era of good governance along with market & state. It refers to organised institutional mechanisms or group of people who strive to make a better world by serving marginalised.

It comprises of NGO, civil society, media, pressure groups, interest group etc.



Thus, they have a large role to play today.

However, they are facing a number of issues:-

- legitimacy crisis:- The govt recently increased the strictness in regulating this sector. They are to be licensed every 5 years now & FERA norms have been streamlined.

- Security - According to 2015 IB Report, a lot of NGOs are foreign funded & are working for hampering development. Our GDP was negatively affected by 2-3% due to their protests.
- Accountability - Although they influence policy making, but are not accountable for their working to anyone.
- Internationalisation of Voluntary sector - Due to globalisation, there is an increase in Global voluntary groups which are very large. → Threat to small & local voluntary organisations.
- Corruption, nexus, money capitalism have influenced this sector also.
- Misappropriation of funds - There are allegations of funds going to naxalists & terrorist groups through them.

Thus, we need to regulate them. This ^{brings} need the need for a National Accreditation

Agency :- (NAAA)

Function - This ~~NAAA~~ body will monitor, regulate and give ratings to voluntary organisations.

- It'll be autonomous in nature.

- This will regulate the functioning of this sector.
- Has the powers to punish the ill-motivated voluntary organisations.

Benefits :-

- It'll increase the trust of citizen as well as state on them.
- Better coordination & cooperation in policy-making & policy-implementation.
- Accountability will increase.
- Security risks & development loss due to bad organisations will reduce.
- Better channelisation of scarce resources.

This is high time that we pass the adequate legal provision to set this agency. This will ensure 'sabka saath, sabka vikas' in true sense.

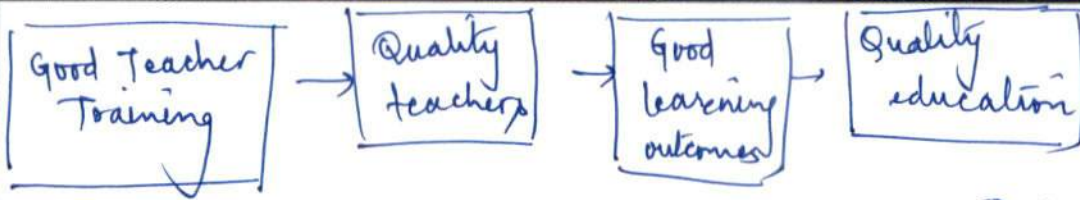
17. Given the importance of a teacher in affecting the learning outcomes of children, discuss the problems in the present system of teacher training in India. How can these be addressed? (250 WORDS) 15

A teacher is regarded as the one who moulds the future of the child and make him a better citizen who is able to reach to his potential (Dr APJ Abdul Kalam)

A teacher has a very important role in learning outcomes of children as :-

- she develops the cognitive skills of the children.
- Develops ethical & moral standards.
- Teaches him basic maths, sciences, history etc.
- Introduces him to the world.
- Develops various pedagogical methods for individualised teaching.
- sharpens his mind that is able to accept ideas.
- Makes him creative and innovative by making studies interesting.

for this, we require quality teachers that is possible by good teacher training.



But in India, teacher training is in dismal state :-

- Lack of adequate teacher training institutes :-
They are more in urban areas leading to regional disparities. Lack of adequate infrastructure in these (eg teaching labs etc)
- Lack of integration with ICT, e-education tools. Teachers aren't trained to handle computers, laptop etc.
- Curriculum - old & outdated, lack of periodic updation.
- Uniform size fits all approach instead of focus on individualised learning system.
- The students who go for teacher training are not good academically - its no more considered a noble profession.
- The program focusses on rote learning methods. (TSR Subramaniam Committee)
- Lack of motivation in candidates.
- Lack of adequate number of quality trainers

- Lack of internships and industry-academia linkage.
- Lack of proper regulation of these institutes.

Measures needed :-

- National Policy on Education by T.S.R. Subramaniam recommended setting up of Teacher Education Universities for quality teachers.
- Regular audit of these institutions.
- Behavioural change - Teachers to be respected.
- RTE - Better quality curriculum design for DIET etc with regular upgradation.
- Use of e-tools for education of teachers. Eg - NPTEL, SWAYAM.
- A national-wide exit test for teachers (as recommended for doctors)
- Focus on behavioural individualised teaching methods
- Increasing the number of quality teachers trainers.
- Using retired bureaucrats' experience (Anubhav app), civil society, NGO (Pratham etc).

It is only by good teachers can we light the way to New India.

18. The implementation of a scheme with such scale and benefit as Ayushman Bharat is likely to face many obstacles. Critically discuss. (250 WORDS) 15

Ayushman Bharat was launched in budget 2018-19 by Indian government. It has two components - i) Health & wellness centre and ii) insurance cover. It provides a holistic coverage of primary, secondary & tertiary healthcare.

Features :-

- i) AYUSHMAN Bharat will lead to establishment of 1.5 lakh health & wellness centre by upgrading PHCs and establishing new ones so as to cover the primary healthcare needs of India.
- ii) National Health Protection scheme - it leads to insurance to around 100 crore families upto Rs 5 lakh per family for secondary & tertiary healthcare.

Significance :-

- It is world's largest social security scheme.
- Holistic view of health.
- cover 50 crore people out of 1.2 billion population.
- use of SECC data by states to identify beneficiaries (more rational way)

Benefit :- It'll benefit the poor families.

- Decrease out of pocket expenditure.
- Focus on both preventive & curative aspects.
- Make health affordable, accessible for all.
- Right to life assured for everyone.
- Social capital increasing → better economic development.

However, it has a lot of obstacles to face :-

- Funding :- With government (central) offering just 10,000 crore rupees, the rest will come from states. But states are not fiscally so strong.
- Infrastructure :- We have a lack of adequate doctors in present PHCs also with around 30% vacancies. How will we sustain new 1.5 lakh centres.
- The services can be availed in NHPS in any government or private hospital. But, there is a huge price difference amongst two.
- Identification of beneficiaries by states might lead to political interferences.
- There is a risk of increase in litigations due to insurance claims by people.
- Although govt notified some few services, but that's not comprehensive coverage of diseases & services.

- Risk of misuse of scheme to divert funds due to increasing corruption in society.
- Lack of adequate awareness about scheme.
- seeding it with Aadhaar card may bring in same inclusion-exclusion error (PDS - Tharchand issue) & privacy concerns.

Although the scheme is promising and a right step, but as National Health Policy recommends, we should focus on health as well as nutrition like yoga, WASH, lifestyle changes, sanitation etc so as to lead to a healthy & prosperous nation. Only Swasth Bharat can lead to Saksham Bharat. (Vice President)

19. Given the fact that India cannot match China's financial clout, it is seen to be diversifying the ways in which it can enhance cooperation and promote its diplomatic profile in Africa. Discuss. (250 WORDS) 15

In the 21st century, we are living in an Asian century (Modiji). In this, both India & China are emerging as promising world leaders.

India
↓
 • Largest democracy
 • Huge soft powers
 • Good relation with almost every nation due to historic ties
 • Diaspora abroad - high remittances
 • Huge market

China
↓
 • Largest forex reserves
 • Huge economic power
 • Large funds on disposal
 • One country, one party
 • One of largest economy in the world.

India can't match China's financial clout :-
 China has huge foreign reserves & political stability to maneuver fiscal and monetary policy. Eg- Yuan devaluation to affect trade.
 In Africa, its contribution is around 5-7 times of that of India.
 Huge infrastructure development across the world - One belt one road, BR1 initiative in Asia & Europe and Africa (partially)

- challenge to international financial institutions like IMF & WB by ADB, BRICS bank, CRA etc.

India, on the other hand can't match china in economic terms but diversifying to increase its diplomatic profile :-

- 3C approach → culture connectivity & cooperation -

culture - India is home to origin of 3 major religions - Hindu, Jainism & Sikhism & has considerable Muslim population. It is promoting this as soft power there. Eg - Project Mausam

connectivity - increase in people to people contacts, increase in tourism, air trips to be increased.

cooperation in development - It is training their students (various scholarships), their army, youth, SHG etc.

- Asia Africa growth corridor - in Africa by India & Japan to develop industrial corridors, economic developments etc.

- solar energy - They are major beneficiaries of 'International solar Alliance'. 'solar Meme project' is a huge success in Africa.

- Increase in Trade - Agreement in pulse exchange,

import of diamonds, PTA with various nations in Africa.

- Indian Ocean - Indian Navy has also cooperated with Eastern littoral states & coastal states so as to provide safety & security in the region.
- We provide untied development assistance to these nations.
- Focus towards enabling them by capacity building, technical training, sustainable development instead of resource extraction, approach by China. (ITEC)
- India-Africa Forum summit - attended by a number of African nations.

Thus, India has diversified its operations in Africa promoting its diplomatic ties with Africa.

20. Discuss how American sanctions on its adversaries affect India. Taking the example of CAATSA, analyse how India can shield its strategic interests in face of such sanctions. (250 WORDS) 15

America under Trump administration has resorted to putting sanctions on a number of nations! The 2 on its hit list now are Iran & Russia. It is also engaged in trade wars with China, Mexico, Canada etc.

It has an adverse relations on India & its ties with these nations.

Indo-Iran Relation :-

- Chabahar deal was signed recently but it may not be able to reach its potential due to USA signing out of JCPOA unilaterally.
- India is also financing a number of infrastructure projects like Zaranj-Delaram connectivity etc, Farzad gas oil plant etc. They'll be hit.
- Energy security of India - we importing a large oil from Iran.
- Dollar imperialism - India, Iran'll have to find out back-channel banking routes.

- as was the case earlier.
- Indo Iran trade will be hit.
 - Not only this, the various infrastructure connectivity projects like INSTC, TAP pipeline are in limbo.

India-Russia :-

- America came out with CAATSA to prevent the deal of S-400 aircraft & military tanks import from Russia.
- Defence sector hit due to these sanctions.
- Russia is also inching close to China & Pakistan due to USA's pressure on India.
- SCO with Russia & China & Quad with USA on other hand needs careful handling.
- Russia is also necessary for energy security and trade relations.

Because of these sanctions not only our ties with Russia & Iran are affected but also with neighbouring states like Afghanistan, Middle East etc degrading Indian image as a sovereign independent nation.

USA's recent trade war with China, Mexico etc are also leading to dumping of steel &

aluminium affecting domestic industry.

steps to taken by India :-

- strategic Autonomy - it refers to having an independent stand according to economic & national interests irrespective of any unilateral pressure India's entry in SCO & Quad is an indication of same.
- Going ahead with Iran & Russia as the relations are historic and well-built, time-tested in nature.
- Diversifying relations with many nations by not depending on USA entirely.
- Use & encouragement of multisides-based multipolar world.
- Reforming UNSC, WTO, UNGA etc.
- Engaging Indian diaspora all across the world.