

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2090)

Name of Candidate	Shoham Teberwal		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	995791
Center	Online	Date	06-09-23

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **HINDI & ENGLISH**.
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए 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. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended

Strongly Recommended

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.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. पृथक्करणियता का सिद्धांत क्या है? प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से विवेचना कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10
- What is the Doctrine of Severability? Discuss with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Doctrine of Severability means that if any part of statute or law is inconsistent or ultra vires to constitution then the part will be struck down and not the whole act.

This doctrine helps the courts in their judicial review process under Article 145(3). Supreme court is the arbiter of justice can ensure fundamental rights are protected (Article 13(2), Article 32).

Thus, the doctrine helps the court in effectively striking down

the part anti-thetical to constitution.

It also helps legislature to reform a particular part rather than bringing a new bill altogether. Thus, it ensures win-win

Judicial cases

- (i) Lily Thomas Case — Section 8(4) of RPA 1951 was struck down
- (ii) Kihoto Holhan Case → provision of not allowing judicial review in 10th schedule was struck down
- (iii) 97th Constitutional Amendment Act — parts of Act that apply to state cooperatives were struck down

Hence, it ensures constitutional principles are upheld by court & checks legislative powers.

2. भारत में संवैधानिक शासन को संरक्षित करने के लिए राज्यपाल के पद को रूपांतरित करने की आवश्यकता है। राज्यपाल के पद से जुड़े हालिया विवादों के आलोक में विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

The office of Governor needs to be transformed to preserve constitutional governance in India. Discuss in the light of recent controversies surrounding the Governors' office. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Constitution of India envisages the office of Governor as the head of state and all decisions to be taken in his name.

Despite the high constitutional importance, several controversies dilute it -

(i) Address to Assembly - Article 167 mandates Governor to speak at inauguration session as said by Council of Minister (upheld in Habibullah case). In Tamil Nadu, it was not followed.

(ii) Dismissal of Council of Minister - Article 163 and Article 164 ensures

that appointment made on advice of Chief Minister. Doctrine of pleasure is limited (ignored in Tamil Nadu)

(iii) Passage of bills → Tamil Nadu Governor

has neither passed NEET bill nor given it for reconsideration (pocket veto)

(iv) In Punjab, Governor has asked for information from council of ministers, which they failed to provide

(v) In Maharashtra, Supreme court warned that Governor should not interfere in party politics

(vi) In Manipur, many experts agree that Governor should recommend President rule under Article 355 & Article 356

Way ahead

- (i) Consult states in appointment of Governor
- (ii) Lay down guidelines for conditions of Governor (non-partisan background)
- (iii) If a resolution passed by special majority then Governor be removed (like President removal)

In this context, Sarkaria and Punchi commission recommendations should be followed for cooperative federalism

3. "वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता की आड़ में लोक व्यवस्था में व्यवधान उत्पन्न करने या हिंसा भड़काने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती।" हेट स्पीच के संदर्भ में उच्चतम न्यायालय के हालिया निर्णय की सहायता से विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

10

"Disturbing public order or inciting violence cannot be allowed under the garb of the freedom of speech and expression." Discuss with help of the recent Supreme Court judgment on hate speech. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Section 153-B of IPC defines hate speech as any action or speech given to invoke hatred or violence against a community.

It's based on Article 19(2) which provides "reasonable" restrictions to freedom of speech and expression such as security, public order, defamation etc.

Thus, a fine balance is required. It is also provided in fundamental duty Article 51A(e) which calls for inculcating a spirit of brotherhood. Further, it's constitutional morality to have unity, integrity of Nation (Preamble).

Supreme Court while dealing with cases of hate speech has come down heavily on accused and warned

them of limitations under constitution

- (i) In Azam Khan case (MLA of V.P.), Supreme Court convicted him for hate speech case
- (ii) Supreme Court had similarly upheld sedition provision which calls for violence against government

However, there have been safeguards & tests. For example, in Ravan Khera case, Supreme Court held that there should be clear incitement to violence and principle of "man on cladiophus omnibus" should be leveraged.

In conclusion, a balance is created and also safeguards to prevent politicization and misuse of provision

4. भारत में लोकतंत्र के प्रभावी काम-काज के लिए विपक्ष के नेता (LoP) की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Discuss the role of the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) for the effective functioning of democracy in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Leader of opposition is like a shadow government that keeps check on the executive and ensure limited government.

In Lok Sabha, while there is no leader of opposition (as no party has 10% seats), Adhir Rajan Choudhary of INC is leader of largest opposition party.

Similarly in Rajya Sabha, we have Mr Icharge as LoP. There are also LoP in legislative assembly (eg: Mr Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh)

Role

1. He rallies the opposition parties against the government arbitrary actions & ensure check & balance (eg: no confidence motion, zero-hour discussion, adjournment)
2. LoP ensures checks to hasty legislation brought by treasury benches
eg: Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill

demand to refer to Parliamentary Committee

3. He/she ensures members are part of Parliament committees

4. He/she ensure budget provisions are as per DRSC recommendation and

initiate cuts (policy cut, token cut etc.)

5. Raise voice of suspended MLs (politicization)

Limitations

1. If treasury benches have clear majority, then effectiveness is reduced

2. Role limited to raising voice but may not ensure action (Eg: demand for JPC for Adani issue)

3. Perception of partisan role of speaker or chairperson (allegation by opposition)

4. Lack of deputy speaker (from opposition)

This calls for holistic parliament reforms like opposition days, fixed schedule and portal for MLs/MLAS performance as propounded by Mr. Om Birla

5. लोक सेवकों द्वारा कुशल सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण सुनिश्चित करने और भारत में परिवर्तन लाने के लिए उभरती हुई प्रौद्योगिकियों का उपयोग किन विभिन्न तरीकों से किया जा सकता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

What are the various ways in which emerging technologies can be utilised by civil servants in ensuring efficient public service delivery and affecting change in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Mission Karmayogi asks the civil servants to be tech-savvy and transparent. In techade, potential of emerging technology is immense.

[G26]

- 1) Inter government coordination — Gati (used GIS mapping) Shakti Mission
- 2) Ensuring transparency & efficiency
— Eg: Jal Jeevan Mission Dashboard
- 3) Tracking assets of civil servants (accountability)
— Eg: PROBITY portal, sparrow portal, eSAMRADA
- 4) In disaster management — GIS technology can be used for tracking assets
- 5) AR/VR technology can be used for better training

G2B

- 6) While coordinating with businesses, technology like blockchain can be used (Eg: land records management)
- 7) Promotion and coordination with new age startups in nano-technology (IFFCO - nanousea), bio-technology (GM-Mustard, BT cotton), food fortification
- 8) space technology should be promoted (Eg: Inspace for better teletransfer for private sector)

G2C

- 9) Direct communication (faceless dispute resolution - AI/ML)
- 10) Natural language processing for translation (Bhashini Portal)

Thus, it take equivalence abroad beyond to new emerging technologies

6. आपके अनुसार, प्रधान मंत्री कौशल विकास योजना भारत में कौशल विकास और रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने में किस सीमा तक सफल रही है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

To what extent, in your opinion, has the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana been successful in promoting skill development and employment in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Recently, budget 2023 announced under 'Amrit Pechhi' Saptrishi PM-KVY 4.0 showing the resilience & benefits of scheme.

Positive outcome

As per latest Economic Survey data, overall Kaushal Vikas Yojana has trained more than 2 crore young workers and many have already been given training certificates and many other given job offers.

- ↳ It's promoting human capital formation
- ↳ It also ensures absorption into the market by linking to job fairs etc.
- ↳ For tribals, special PM-DAKSH scheme was started

Limitations

There are fiscal constraints as the amount of workers to be trained is humungous. According to some estimates, 18 mn people join workforce every year.

↳ thus, yojana should be expanded
 (skill India report - 50% workers employable)
 ↳ there is need for proper skill mapping
 (ASEEM is step in right direction)

↳ entire women are directly targeted (Urban FLPR is merely 24%).

↳ link the scheme with other schemes like PM Mudra, Standhi so that small entrepreneurs get quality opportunities

↳ ^{need to} address challenge of rising self employment

↳ create academia-government-industry partnership (Jean Dreze)

Thus, government could further revamp the scheme for increased effectiveness

7. भारत की भूमि प्रबंधन प्रणाली में पर्याप्त लाभ उत्पन्न करने में भू-आधार परियोजना की क्षमता का परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Examine the potential of the Bhu-Aadhaar project in bringing significant benefits to India's land management system. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Bhu-Aadhaar is a flagship program under Digital India Land Records Modernization Program by creating ULPIN.

Potential & Benefits

- 1) For individuals
 - ↳ reduced litigation burden with clarity on records
 - ↳ increased bargaining power
 - ↳ access to formal credit
 - ↳ empower vulnerable (exploited by middle men) - inclusive growth
- 2) for economy
 - ↳ better land acquisition
 - ↳ promote landpooling
 - ↳ formalisation of economy
- 3) for Government
 - ↳ more data
 - ↳ more tax (property tax)
 - ↳ curb corruption

Current Challenges

1. Most of records are based on presumptive land titling making it difficult to digitize
2. Huge case pendency in courts
3. Benami transactions issue
4. oral deeds (especially in rural areas)
5. Multiplicity of departments working in sites (eg: state government land revenue and municipality office)
6. Need to effectively train employees

If these challenges are not mitigated, then land reforms under Bhu-Aadhar will remain incomplete.

Further, we need to shift to conclusive land titling for sustainability in Bhu-Aadhar. NITI Aayog Model Act is step in right direction.

8. भारत में बाल श्रम की उपस्थिति के विभिन्न निर्धारकों पर चर्चा कीजिए। देश में बाल श्रम की समस्या से निपटने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

Discuss the different determinants of the occurrence of child labour in India. What measures can be taken to tackle the issue of child labour in the country? (Answer in 150 words)

10

Despite constitutional ban (Article 23 and Article 24 - right against exploitation), child labour still persists.

Determinants

1) Demand factors

- ↳ Cheap labour with low bargaining power
- ↳ Small hands efficient for industries like beedi-rolling, carpet making
- ↳ in mining, there is demand for getting in smaller areas
- ↳ vested interests and organised criminal networks that evade the law

2) Supply factors

- ↳ Poverty & children seen as earning hands (more children, the better)

- ↳ Seen as vocational training platform
- ↳ Lack of awareness on negative human capital development due to child labour
- ↳ Ineffectiveness of public education system (higher drop outs)
- ↳ Used in family enterprises (street side repair shop)

Measures

1. Government

- ↳ Apply Children Labour (Prevention) Act in letter & spirit, use PENCIL portal
- ↳ conduct surveys for targeting hotspots
- ↳ Promote education (NEP 2020 reforms)

2. Civil society

- ↳ organizations like Bachpan Bachao Andolan be funded & promoted

3. Industry

- ↳ Adopt ESG and ensure suppliers don't do child labour
- with whole of society - approach we should stop child labour.

9. हाल के घटनाक्रमों से ज्ञात होता है कि कुछ बाधाओं के बावजूद, भारत-भूटान संबंधों में अभी भी निरंतरता बनी हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Despite certain hiccups, recent developments suggest that continuity still looms large in the Indo-Bhutan relationship. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Recently, Butan king visited India and signed several partnership projects sharing resilience in relation.

India adopts Neighbourhood first policy and Act-East for which Bhutan is a central element. However, there have been some challenges —

(i) Image of India as big brother
(ii) Border issues (involving China) — example Doklam standoff

(iii) New voices to renegotiate 1948 Treaty

(iv) Delays in power projects

(v) Bhutan hesitation to start BBIN corridor

Recent developments

1) State visit of Bhutanese king emphasizing

- important role of India
- 2) renewed emphasis on stalled power projects
 - 3) Creation of Integrated check posts
 - 4) Butan's involvement of India while negotiating with China (Tawang border issue)
 - 5) Active participation in forums like BIMSTEC (which recently adopted a Charter)
 - 6) local currency trade (& digital platform)

Butan and India share a deep civilization, cultural and people-to-people ties. India has been instrumental partner in Butan's growth.

Any concern of interference be checked as per Gujral doctrine and entire border negotiation with Chinese doesn't impact India at chicken's neck corridor.

10. महत्वपूर्ण वैश्विक भूमिका
Critical global Critical

IT
informa
disse
secu
sou

Glob

↳
↳
↳

Role

Re
help
inter
CI
L

10. महत्वपूर्ण सूचना अवसंरचना एक वैश्विक सुविधा (ग्लोबल गूड) बन गई है जिसकी सुरक्षा के लिए वैश्विक मानदंडों की आवश्यकता है। महत्वपूर्ण सूचना अवसंरचना की सुरक्षा के लिए G20 क्या भूमिका निभा सकता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Critical Information Infrastructure has become a global good that requires global norms for its safeguard. What role can the G20 play to safeguard Critical Information Infrastructure? (Answer in 150 words) 10

IT Act 2008, defines critical information infrastructure as the infrastructure whose disruption or destruction will have national security implications (beyond economic & social impact).

Global nature of CII

- ↳ Connected internet
- ↳ Decentralized technology (like blockchain, cryptonetwork)
- ↳ Satellite communication (future of Geography noted by Tim Marshall)

Role for G20

Recently, National Cybersecurity Coordinator helped adopt a Delhi Declaration emphasizing international community role in safeguarding

CII

- ↳ create standards for interoperability

- ↳ prevent cyber attackers working beyond national boundaries
- ↳ work to address newer challenges (like zero-day exploits)
- ↳ raise voice against state sponsored cyber terrorism (eg: Pak's DG ISPR)
- ↳ address framework for cryptocurrency (eg: INF & FSB synthesis paper)
- ↳ share best-in-class practices (eg: Talinn Manual)
- ↳ Invest in human capacity development (eg: Indus-X bridge under ILET)

Thus, G20 signifies common united action by countries representing 85% of world GDP and two-thirds population most vulnerable to attacks at CII.

11. विधायिका और न्यायपालिका के बीच टकराव की परिणति केशवानंद भारती वाद में 'आधारभूत संरचना' के सिद्धांत रूप में हुई। विवेचना कीजिए। संविधान में संशोधन करने की संसद की शक्ति को सीमित करने में इस वाद का क्या महत्व है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The tussle between the legislature and judiciary culminated in the 'basic structure' doctrine in the Kesavananda Bharati case. Discuss. What is the significance of the case in limiting the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Constitution envisages clear roles for legislature & judiciary. However, a tussle that began with amendments to constitution and different judicial interpretations concluded in Kesavanda Bharti case 1973, decided in 7-6 majority, 50 years ago.

Evolution

- 1) 1st Amendment Act challenged in court under Shankari Prasad case, Court clarified Constitutional Amendment not covered in Article 13(2)
- 2) Several legislations of Parliament like Zamindari Abolition, Pony Purse Abolition, Bank Nationalisation declared ultra vires
- 3) Golaknath case, Sajjan Singh case held no power to amend under Article 368

→ With constitutional amendment act Article 368 was amended giving "power" as well as "procedure"

→ In Kesavananda Case, Supreme Court upheld power to Parliament to amend Constitution but it should not violate a basic-structure

→ It was reaffirmed in Rey Nalain, Minerva Mills, Kanwar Rao Case

Significance

Chief Justice, called 'basic structure doctrine' a north-star, hence the importance of case is

- Establishes constitutional supremacy over Parliamentary supremacy
- Acts as check against majority government (Eg: 42nd Amendment during National Emergency)

- Upholds the principle of checks and balances (Article 14, Article 32, Article 226)
- Ensures that rights of people are given utmost importance and cannot be taken by popular government (despite a strong mandate)
- Helps in progressive interpretation of laws of Parliament (by courts)
- Ensure constitutional morality and constitutionalism (limited government)
- Make constitution both a rigid and flexible document

The importance can be seen in fact that it was adopted by other countries like Bangladesh, Malaysia.

It helps our realize the values of constituent assembly makers so that India truly awakes to life & freedom

12. नगर निगमों की सीमित राजस्व सृजन क्षमता के कारण राज्यों के करों और अनुदानों पर उनकी निर्भरता बढ़ गई है। इस प्रवृत्ति से जुड़े हुए मुद्दे क्या हैं? भारत में नगर निगमों की वित्तीय स्थिति में सुधार के लिए किन उपायों की आवश्यकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The limited revenue generation capacity of municipal corporations has increased their dependence on taxes and grants from the states. What are the issues associated with this trend? What measures are required to improve the finances of the municipal corporations in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Recently, RBI published an exhaustive study of municipal finances of all municipal corporations and highlighted worsening case of lack of finances.

Key trends

- ↳ Declining own source of revenue
(Eg: GST subsumed some taxes)
- ↳ Increased dependence on grants
- ↳ Property tax is minimal at (0.2%)

Issues associated

- 1) Lack of effective decentralization —
Aiyar Committee noted lack of 3Fs — funds, functions, functionaries
- 2) State Finance Commissions are not composed on time (6th FC only composed by less than 10 states)

- Recommendations of SFC are ignored
- Tied & untied grants are often not released due to inability to make reforms noted by 16th FC
- Lack of transparency & accountability as balance sheets / accounts are not maintained
- Municipal bonds issue is limited (poor credit ratings)
- Excessive interference of state government (Eg: BMC elections postponed)
- Need state approval for big projects (Eg: in UP projects beyond 16 lacs require sanction from Lucknow)
- Rising politicization (Eg: Delhi Alderman Case)

Measures

- Adopt Sumit Bose & 2nd ARC recommendations for more devolution under 12th Schedule (similarly for PRI under 11th schedule)

→ Use innovative measures for raising money

- Municipal bonds - two or more corporations can come together for better credit
- Municipal tax ^{savings} (with VLPIN)
- Lease out land (landas service)
- Leverage unique capital funds under PPP (Eg: smart city SPV)
- Leverage blended finance

→ Reforms in constitution of state finance commission (with independent financial experts)

→ Competitiveness — Municipal Performance Index

In this context, we should adopt Ahmedabad Urban 20 declaration which calls for holistic principles for urban governance that can help in localization of SDGs

13. "संविधान का उद्देश्य सुधार लाने के लिए समाज को रूपांतरित करना है और यह उद्देश्य रूपांतरणकारी संविधानवाद का मूल स्तंभ है।" हालिया न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

15

"The purpose of having a Constitution is to transform the society for the better and this objective is the fundamental pillar of transformative constitutionalism." Discuss with the help of recent case laws. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Constitution of India is living organic law of land enshrined with principles of justice - social, economic and political whilst bringing reforms in society.

- 1) In Kesavanda Bharti case - doctrine of basic structure was given which included India as a welfare state
- 2) In Minerva Mills case, doctrine of harmonious construction was provided so as to ensure balance of fundamental rights with fundamental duties
- 3) In Shah Bano case, rights of Muslim women during divorce was enforced, similarly Shahyara Bano, Supreme court spoke against ill of Triple

Talag that led to establishment of Triple Talag bill in Parliament

- 1) In Sarla Mudgal case, reforms for personal laws and need for VCC was highlighted
- 2) In Tanhit Abhayan case, economically weaker sections of people were given right for reservation
- 3) In Indra Sawhney case, a new direction was given for socially and educationally backward classes (Mandal movement)
- 4) In Sarvimata case, right of women were established and scope of untouchability practise expanded
- 5) In NALSA judgement rights of transgender were upheld which led to passing of a bill for self-identification

- In Naveen Johar Case, rights of LGBTQIA+ and their sexual autonomy was upheld
- Animal rights were upheld in AWBI v/s Nagaraj case that led to reforms and state regulation in Talikattu
- Supreme court also passed several environment judgements like Godavarman case for effective forest conservation
- Expanded right to life to include right to privacy (Puttaswamy judgement)
- Women participation & equality upheld in Permanent Army Commission, Vishalcha Guidelines

The list goes on-and-on. Even as we discuss this, Supreme Court is ensuring constitutional morality and transforming society for better

14. भारत जैसे समाज में व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और लोकतांत्रिक शासन को बढ़ावा देने में 'विधि के शासन की संस्कृति' कैसे योगदान दे सकती है? ऐसी संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने में क्या चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

How can a 'rule of law culture' contribute towards promoting individual liberty and democratic governance in a society like India? What are the challenges in fostering such a culture? (Answer in 250 words) 15

In a speech by former Chief Justice Ramanna, he remarked importance of rule of law as story of rule of law is story of human civilization.

Rule of law principle given by A.V. Dicey ensures (i) supremacy of law, (ii) equality before law and (iii) pre dominance of legal spirit

Individual liberty

Rule of law ensures that rights of an individual including those of life & liberty cannot be taken away by arbitrary action of government.

Further, even legislature cannot pass law to abridge the

liberty. As rule of law involves just rights as against to rule by law which was there in colonial rule.

Further, courts are there for remedy (writ jurisdiction) and everyone will be given equal treatment.

Thus, all vulnerable sections are protected & minority rights upheld

Democratic governance

It will ensure that governance is accountable & transparent (Article 75(3)) and subject to scrutiny of both Parliament and Judiciary (Article 13, 14).

It provides for principles of equality and fairness (Article 15, 16) and hence ensures participative and responsive governance.

Else, there are constitutional & legal methods to ensure a consultative decision is taken (Eg: freedom to speak led to withdrawal of farm laws)

Challenges

1. Institutional

↳ poor functioning of Parliament
($< 4\%$ productivity in Lok Sabha in last session)

↳ dilution of legislations like RTI

↳ LVC powers are recommendatory
(bypassed by departments)

↳ Poor training (need for police reforms)

↳ Poor working of institutions (India Justice Report)

2. Social

↳ lack of awareness among common citizens (voter apathy)

↳ declining role of civil society organization and distrust with government (eg: FRPA)

3. Rule of Law index ^{notices} challenge of accountability towards procedure & not effectiveness or outcome

Thus, we need holistic reforms as provided in 2nd APC or independent researches like Vidhi Center

15. नागरिक समाज संगठन (CSOs) न केवल धर्मार्थ कार्यों में लगे हुए हैं, बल्कि न्यायमंगल, शांतिपूर्ण, मानवीय और संधारणीय भविष्य के निर्माण के लिए राजनीतिक प्रक्रियाओं में भी शामिल हैं। उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are not just engaged in charitable work but also involved in political processes for building a just, peaceful, humane, and sustainable future. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Civil Society organizations refer to non-market, non-government pillar of governance for service delivery.

Engaged in charitable work

- ↳ Mother Teresa organization working for poor & vulnerable
- ↳ SEWA foundation involved in upliftment of poor
- ↳ Akshay Patra foundation working at removing hunger
- ↳ Vision India foundation working for child education
- ↳ Animal charitable hospitals like Grav-Seva Sansthan working for animal welfare
- ↳ Rotary working for polio awareness

Political movement

Just
Society

→ Ensure rights of most vulnerable are addressed
(Eg: child labour stopped by Bheem Bichao Andolan of Kailash Satyarthi)

→ CSO working for rights of transgender community

→ CSO working for person with disability

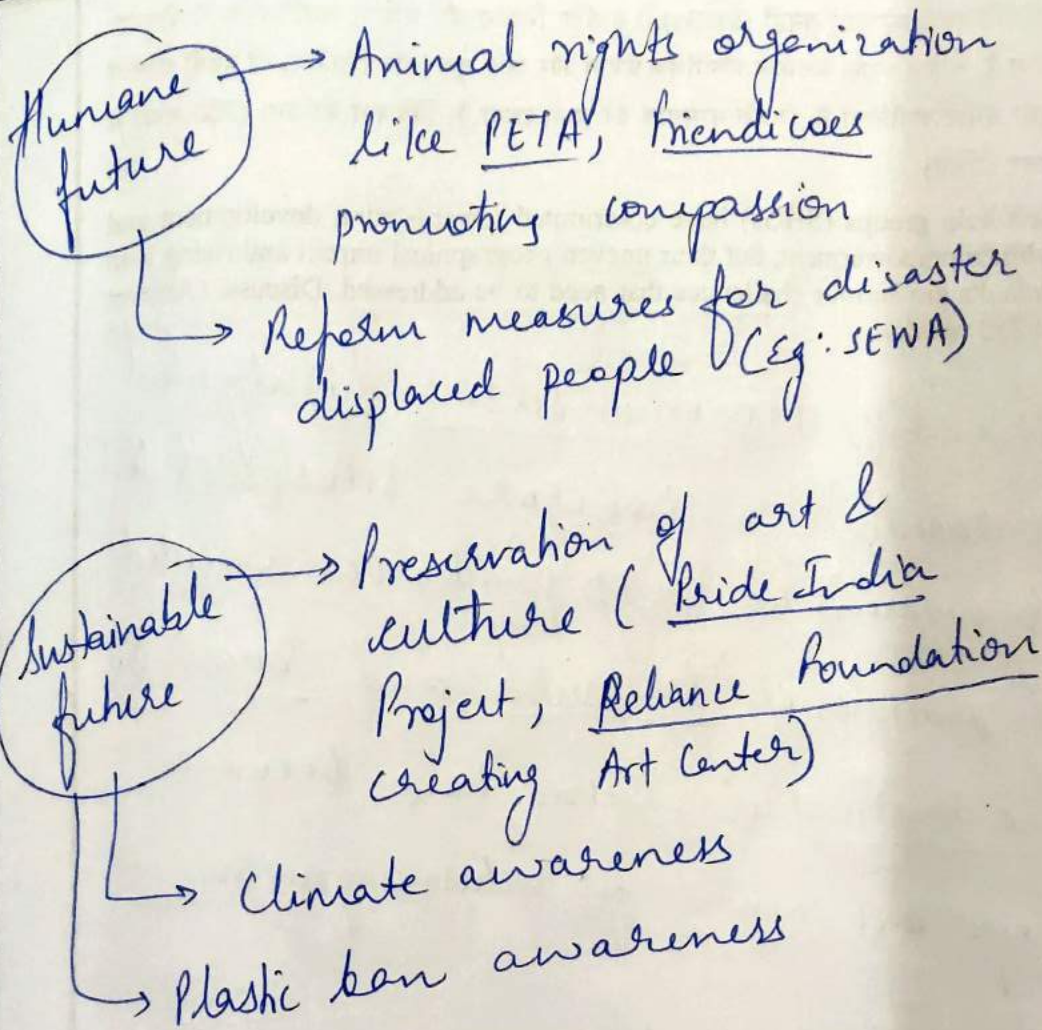
→ Safai Karamchari Andolan for prevention of manual scavenging

Peaceful
Society

→ Awareness against nuclear proliferation (ILANRO)

→ Refugee organization working for Rohingyas, Tibetans
(Eg: Ruchi Foundation)

→ ORF and Think tanks for reforms at UNSC



Thus, CSOs work at multiple front. Their challenges of lack of training & fund availability should be resolved. Social stock exchange, Darpan Portal, Triset Srinivas Committee recommendation are right steps.

16. हालांकि स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) ने ग्रामीण विकास और महिला सशक्तिकरण में योगदान दिया है, लेकिन उनका असमान भौगोलिक प्रभाव और ऋण चूक (लोन डिफॉल्ट) की बढ़ती घटनाएं ऐसी गंभीर चुनौतियां हैं, जिनके समाधान की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Self-help groups (SHGs) have contributed towards rural development and women empowerment, but their uneven geographical impact and rising loan defaults are serious challenges that need to be addressed. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Recently, Economic survey highlighted contribution of 1.25 crore SHGs (88% led by women) in COVID pandemic. Guided by principles of 'Panchsutra' and 'Sangathan Se Samridhi', SHGs have become important model for inclusive growth.

Rural development

- 1) They ensure provision of basic services like Clean masks, sanitary napkins during COVID
- 2) They raise awareness of basic challenges (eg: Pabrakar Didis)
- 3) Shift beyond agricultural services (eg: floating market)

- 4) Art as link of women and Panchayati Raj institutions (Gram Swaraj Abhiyan)
- 5) Develop a culture of thrift and savings & ensure financial inclusion at grass root level (microfinance model)
- 6) Provide social mobility across caste, gender lines

Women Empowerment

(Successful models of Kudumshtree, Mahila Arohis Vikas in Maharashtra are self explanatory for women empowerment)

- 1) Provide training & skill development (Eg: Bank Sakhis, Lakpati Didis)
- 2) Ensure income opportunities (Eg: Lashu Sakhi)
- 3) Promote financial literacy in women (Eg: 50,000 crore samadhan bank-linkage programme)
- 4) Help raise voice of women & ensure mobility

Challenges

- ① Uneven geographical spread - More prevalent in southern states especially Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra.
- ② Rising loan defaults - NPA cases have increased as women lack training & effective capacity
- ③ Other challenges include lack of mobilization due to caste bias and skill mismatch with upcoming areas of economy

Way Ahead

To truly leave no woman behind & cover 10 crore rural women, NRLM should incorporate dedicated training programmes.

Reforms like eSHAKTI (digitization) and SHG fund are steps in right direction. Sanchidhyaja also provides an urban market for SHGs.

17. क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत की स्कूली शिक्षा प्रणाली में गहरी जड़ें जमा चुकी समस्याओं को केवल डिजिटल रूपांतरण से हल नहीं किया जा सकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Do you agree with the view that the deep-rooted problems in India's school education system cannot be solved by digital transformation alone? (Answer in 250 words) 15

COVID-19 exacerbated digital adoption across all sectors as we went under lockdown. Education particularly ed-tech sector saw huge boom

with digital platforms, Mool (massive open online courses) or simple teaching whatsapp groups, it was ensured that learning continues.

However ASER report that showed that one-third students did not have mobile phone access and half of students did not have opportunity for usage expose challenges.

Other challenges of ed-tech

- ↳ Lack of infrastructure (internet, power, computer)
- ↳ content quality is often poor

↳ small children may not know how to best access the technology (digital divide, gender divide, class divide noted by oxfam inequality)

↳ need to train teachers

Thus, it cannot completely solve deep-rooted challenges like

- (i) teacher apathy (eg: Muraffarnagar, Karthau)
- (ii) content challenges and lack of multi-disciplinary approach
- (iii) rote learning culture
- (iv) high drop-out rates (at higher levels)
- (v) foundational literacy poor (eg: 20% can read text - ASER)
- (vi) poor infrastructure in government schools (eg: in small schools, classes are combined for say 1st - 3rd class students)
- (vii) low funds (~2.9% of GDP expenditure)

While digital can solve some issues like personalized content, data driven monitoring, reaching last mile but more fundamental reforms are needed —

- (i) Effective teacher training
(Eg: NISHTHA portal)
- (ii) Curriculum redefining
(Eg: NCERT NEP)
- (iii) Teaching in vernacular language
(Eg: 3 language formulae)
- (iv) Inter-disciplinary approach
(Eg: Academic Bank of credit)

Thus, we should now implement NEP 2020 without any political bias at all states, which addresses these challenges.

18. भारत में कमजोर वर्गों के लिए कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की प्रभावशीलता और पारदर्शिता पर प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT) के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Examine the impact of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on the effectiveness and transparency of welfare schemes for the vulnerable sections in India.
(Answer in 250 words) 15

DBT is hailed as a marquee initiative championed through JAM trinity as shining example of financial inclusion & digital public infrastructure during COVID.

Impact

Effectiveness

↳ Rs 2.4 lakh crore saved
as leakages prevented
(Economic Survey, 2023)

↳ Directly send money to last mile

↳ Deliver financial inclusion
for women, dalits, tribals

↳ Money spent during COVID
under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
led to social security

↳ Effectiveness can be gauged from fact that there is demand for DBT for agricultural subsidies and MSP as well (deficiency price payments)

② Transparency

↳ Both citizen can track bank account balance and Government can check delivery on Public financial Management system

↳ Reduced middlemen and Cash trails

↳ online portals for monitoring

↳ Raised accountability as well

(Eg: CAG can monitor that in PM-JAY 7.5 lakh accounts are fake)

Challenges

↳ Issues of commission and Omission (Eg: PM-JAY, Ration Card)

- ↳ Fake beneficiaries included (dead people also transferred money)
- ↳ At times, banks stop further payments and try to clear own dues
- ↳ Digital divide challenge in rural areas
- ↳ Internet infrastructure challenge in remote areas
- ↳ Lack of access to mobile phone (to check payments)
- ↳ Lack of digital literacy

Thus, to overcome this, there should holistic rural infra reforms (Eg: Bharat net 2.0), with training (Eg: MGDSHA).

Commission & commission be rectified by constantly updating beneficiary list.

19. चीन-रूस के बीच गहरे होते रणनीतिक संबंधों को कुछ लोगों ने 'विश्व में सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण अघोषित गठबंधन' के रूप में वर्णित किया है। यह गठबंधन भारत के राष्ट्रीय हित को कैसे प्रभावित कर सकता है? भारत को अपने हितों की रक्षा के लिए क्या रणनीति अपनानी चाहिए? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The deepening China-Russia strategic relationship has been described by some as the 'most consequential undeclared alliance in the world.' How can this alliance impact India's national interest? What strategies should India adopt to protect her interests? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Before Ukraine's special military operation (aka invasion) Russia and China declared a partnership of no limits. As both countries develop staunch anti-western stand, this alliance is bound to strengthen.

Effect on India

- 1) India has huge dependence on Russia for military equipments, in case of possible conflict at LAC, there are apprehensions of continued Russian support.
- 2) Newer axis are developing including Pakistan; former PM Imran

Khan even visited Moscow on 24th February 2022; this could enhance possibility of two-front war (China & Pak are already all-weather ally)

3) Reduced space for India in multilateral platforms like SCO, BRICS (Eg: Reports of Russia & China making BRICS an anti-western forum)

4) China claiming more proactive role in Global South could deter Indian vision for region (Eg: Iran-Saudi mediation)

5) Effect is already visible in Statement of joint communique over Ukraine war passage (G20)

6) Challenges to Quad & Indo Pacific

Indian strategies

At international level

↳ Promote reforms of multilateral forums so that Indian voice be heard (NORMS)

- ↳ Raise voice for rules based order
- ↳ Collaborate with like-minded countries (Eg: ASEAN)
- ↳ Counter chinese debt trap diplomacy with fair, transparent, partner led development projects
- ↳ Balance Russia, China with strategic autonomy & engage with West

2) At national level

- ↳ Emphasis on Athmanirbhar to reduce Russian reliance on defence and chinese reliance on imports
- ↳ Develop economic resilience
- ↳ Reform defence forces (Eg: Tri-service Command, Agnipathi)

Thus, a multi-dimensional policy approach can help address the challenge and help India truly emerge as voice of Global South.

20. भारत ने अपनी वैश्विक स्थिति और विदेशों में छवि को बेहतर बनाने के लिए सॉफ्ट पावर को अपनी विदेश नीति के एक महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ के रूप में स्थापित कर लिया है। सरकार द्वारा की गई विभिन्न पहलों के साथ-साथ इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

India has placed soft power as an important pillar of its foreign policy to enhance its global standing and image abroad. Discuss the statement along with the initiatives taken by the government. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Soft power refers to use of aspects like culture, trade, values, economic connect to influence international relations.

Government Initiatives

1. Promotion of Yoga at international stage and 21st June as Yoga Day
2. 2023 adopted as year of millet (India has largest production & exports in Asia)
3. Promotion of green energy - International Solar Alliance; One Sun, One World One Grid

4. Creation of coalition of disaster resilient infrastructure (CDRI)
5. Showcased India as mother of democracy for natural, value based connect with comprehensive strategic partners like US, Japan, EU
6. HADR response (Eg: operation Post - Turkey)
7. Project Mausam, creation of Information fusion center at Gurgaon for disaster response
8. created great connect with our diaspora (OCI card, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas) who act as living ambassadors & lynchpins for Indian cultures & values

9. International Hindi Diwas
(recently celebrated along with
Fiji)
 10. Leveraged religion (Eg: Buddhism)
and hosted first Buddhist
international conference
 11. Showcased Indian values like
"Vasudeva Kutumbakam" as force
of global good
 12. Humanitarian assistance to
Afghanistan, Sri Lanka (\$4bn in 2022)
- ✶ Certainly, its non-exhaustible
list of initiatives given the grand
and rich tapestry of our softpower as
tool for engaging with world.