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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2205)

Name of Candidate	Muskan Khurana	Registration Number	1 3 5 2 3 5 2
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Date	30th June 2022
Center	Karol Bagh Test Centre		

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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3	10	
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18	15	
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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 **ENGLISH & HINDI**.
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी 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।

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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.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. What do you understand by 'constitutionalism'? Highlight various ways in which the Indian Constitution underscores this principle. (150 words) 10

'संविधानवाद' से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारतीय संविधान में इस सिद्धांत को रेखांकित करने वाले विभिन्न उपबंधों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Ans

Constitutionalism means the supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law. In political philosophy, Aristotle is known as the father of Constitutionalism.

- While in the United Kingdom, the Parliament is sovereign, in the US, the judiciary is supreme.
- In the context of India, the Constitution is supreme and is the source of the origin of all rights and liberties.
- Indian Constitution has underscored this principle in many ways -
eg. → Article 14 - equality before law and equal protection of laws.
ie. no person is above the Constitution and its laws.
- Article 32 - Right to Constitutional remedies - anyone can approach the Supreme Court directly for violation of his fundamental rights.

- Under Article (51A) - It's a fundamental duty to abide by the Constitution and its ethos
- Even the First Citizen of India, i.e. the President can be impeached for violation of the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court has also taken steps to ensure supremacy of the core values of the Constitution -
eg. invented the Doctrine of Basic Structure in the Kesavananda Bharati judgement of 1973.
- It's a duty of all public servants to perform their duties while keeping in mind the values of the Constitution.

2. With adequate arguments and examples, elaborate your views on whether interest and pressure groups in India are undermining democracy or strengthening it. (150 words) 10

पर्याप्त तर्कों और उदाहरणों के साथ, सविस्तार अपने विचार व्यक्त कीजिए कि क्या भारत में हित समूह और दबाव समूह लोकतंत्र को दुर्बल कर रहे हैं या इसे सुदृढ़ कर रहे हैं।

Interest and pressure groups are formal and informal associations that are not a part of the government, and put pressure on the latter to include their demands in its agenda and policies.

They are often called as the hidden engines because of their powerful role in contemporary democracies.

→ Interest groups and pressure groups have played a constructive role - eg-

① eg. in Narmada Bachao Andolan led by Medha Patkar has created an environmental movement for protection of river Narmada and people living there

② Shikotiya Kisan Union and farmers' unions have evoked high MSP and subsidisation of inputs for farmers.

eg. the recent farmers protest were in success against 3 government's laws.

③ The Jan Lokpal Bill became an Act due to constant efforts of the pressure group & social movement

of civil society groups and Anna Hazare.

However, the interest groups, such as rich capitalists and MNCs, have also undermined their usefulness in a democracy.

↳ the rising trend of crony capitalism is unhealthy for Indian democracy.

↳ Crony capitalism has resulted in several scams eg. the 2G scam and coal scam.

↳ Role of rich business conglomerates to get their interests met has also led to criminalisation of politics.

Thus, interest groups and pressure groups have both strengthened and undermined Indian democracy at different junctures.

3. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) effectively reflects a shift from the era of Licence Raj to a conducive regulatory ambience for enhancing consumer welfare by encouraging competition in the market. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा को प्रोत्साहित करके उपभोक्ता कल्याण को बढ़ाने के लिए लाइसेंस राज के युग से एक अनुकूल नियामकीय परिवेश में स्थानांतरण को प्रभावी ढंग से प्रदर्शित करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Competition Commission of India is a statutory body created to act as a bulwark against monopoly in the market and to encourage competition, which will benefit the consumer.

→ Until 1990s, India represented a closed economy, with minimal exports. To start industrial units, licenses were needed and there was a lack of transparency in the same.

→ The state was involved in producing common goods like bread and shampoo.

→ However, with liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation, reforms introduced since 1990s, many MNCs have entered Indian market and has expanded choices for Indian customers.

→ The Competition Commission of India has created a regulatory ~~at~~ ambience to ensure that

there is a fair competition among all the players.

eg. in recent times, CCI has investigated e-commerce giants like Amazon and Walmart to ensure equal treatment of all vendors and no predatory pricing.

→ E-commerce rules have been made to ensure the same.

Thus, the Competition Commission of India will play an important role in creating an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

4. Mention various initiatives taken for online delivery of judicial services in India. Also, discuss the challenges faced in their implementation.

(150 words) 10

भारत में न्यायिक सेवाओं की ऑनलाइन प्रदायगी के लिए प्रारंभ विभिन्न पहलों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, उनके कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

~~The Covid 19 Pandemic created several~~
~~challenges, but~~

Indian Judiciary has reinvented itself by enabling access to online delivery of judicial services, especially need in the throes of a pandemic like Covid 19

Various initiatives have been taken in this direction—

↳ e-courts have been created, wherein benches of the Supreme Court and High Court adjudicate cases online.

↳ Provision for live-streaming of important judicial cases, to ensure greater ^{informed} citizenry ~~part~~.

↳ Even provisions have been made for online Lok Adalats for mediation of disputes.

→ Trials of several prison inmates have become online, thus avoiding huge public expenditure and presenting them in the courtroom.

However, several challenges are faced in the implementation of such schemes -

① Lack of digital infrastructure - especially in rural areas and amongst the poor.

Judiciary is for the protection of the most vulnerable, and the latter may not have access to digital resources.

② Lack of citizen acceptance to the idea of being able to present their case online - lack of humane touch in sensitive cases.

⇒ The government should take the required steps to build digital infrastructure and to take justice to the most vulnerable. e-courts will revolutionize justice delivery in India in the near future.

5. Bring out the similarities and differences in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United States and Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India. (150 words) 10

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के संविधान में उपबंधित बिल ऑफ राइट्स और भारत के संविधान में मूल अधिकारों के मध्य समानताओं और भिन्नताओं को रेखांकित कीजिए।

There are several similarities and differences in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of USA and Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India.

Similarities -

- ① utmost importance to Right to freedom - right to life and liberty
- ② Right to equality and equal protection of laws.
- ③ Right against discrimination on grounds like class, colour, race, etc.
- ④ Right to access to justice in case of violation of Fundamental Rights.

Differences

- ① Right to Property is the most important constitutional Fundamental right in USA, whereas it's only a legal right in India.

② Right to religious freedom is a fundamental right & in India and the state accords equal respect to all religions, the American Constitution and Bill of Rights limits state's interference in religious matters.

③ Indian Constitution is based on procedure established by law & except Articles 19 and 21, whereas Constitution of USA is based on due process of law for interpreting the bill of rights.

→ Fundamental Rights mentioned in Part III in India's Constitution is perhaps the most comprehensive and elaborative ~~explanation~~ detailing of rights of citizens, ~~and~~ compared to any other constitution.

6. It is often argued that the implementation of The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 has so far been tardy and ineffectual. Discuss. (150 words) 10

प्रायः यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि अभी तक वन अधिकार अधिनियम (FRA), 2006 का कार्यान्वयन धीमा और निष्प्रभावी रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Protection of Environment and its resources is a Directive Principle of State Policy under Article 39 of the Indian Constitution.

To enforce the same, ^{the} Forest Rights Act, 2006 was introduced.

However, its implementation has so far been tardy and ineffectual as -

- ① Due to the colonial mindset, the forests are still seen as ~~as~~ a resource at the state's disposal which can be used and exploited for human use.
- ② The Gram Sabha has failed to be an effective institution to check the exploitation of community and forest resources under the PESA Act, 1996.
- ③ Orony Capitalism - collusion between the state and capitalists has undermined the importance of

environmental impact assessments in granting ~~forest~~ clearance for undertaking activities in the forest areas.

- ④ The traditional forest dwellers have been displaced from forests and due to a lack of political will in ensuring protection of forests - their primary source.

There is a need of effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, not just to protect India's environment, but also its cultural heritage which continues to live with the life of traditional forest dwellers.

7. The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) has the potential to bring a new revolution in India's health sector in multiple ways. Explain.

(150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NDHM) में भारत के स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में कई तरह से एक नई क्रांति लाने की क्षमता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

Ans National Digital Health Mission is the flagship mission of the Modi government to improve the health ecosystem in the country, while incorporating technological innovations and decentralised access.

↳ It will be implemented by the National Health Authority.

↳ Creating of a digital health of I.D. of all citizens - with their past health record and health vulnerabilities.

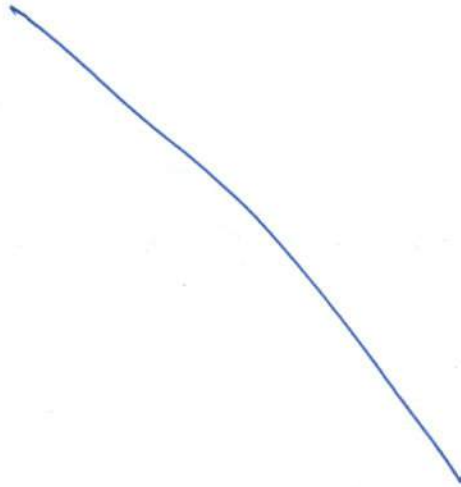
This will be digitally accessible for the doctors to ensure better diagnosis.

↳ Focus on primary healthcare - dissemination of best practices to ensure basic primary healthcare and sanitation.

↳ Better access to the beneficiaries of Sayushman Bharat - India's flagship health insurance scheme for deprived sections.

~~Thus~~ The National Digital Health Mission will ensure better access to healthcare and bring

a new revolution in India's health
sector.



8. Explain the rationale behind the creation of a Social Stock Exchange in India. Do you think this move would boost social impact investing in the country? (150 words) 10

भारत में सोशल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज के सृजन के पीछे निहित तर्क की व्याख्या कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि इस कदम से देश में सामाजिक प्रभाव वाले निवेश को प्रोत्साहन प्राप्त होगा?

Ans Social Stock Exchange is an instrument of Capital Market for companies that invest in social services like health, education, old age assistance, etc.
→ It is regulated by SEBI in India.
→ Social Stock Exchange is created to encourage companies to participate in the provision of social services and to create more avenues for seeking capital. Even foreign players will be able to now invest in these companies through this mechanism.
→ This move will boost social impact investing in India. India is still a developing country and needs a lot of capital for building its basic foundation - of health, education, old age assistance, etc.

- Startups in the field of ensuring greater access to menstrual hygiene and sanitation have ^{been} launched.
- Tax benefits from the government for these companies will further help in supporting them.
- Companies in the sector of social services are often not considered attractive in the National Capital markets, as there they compete with giants in the Consumer Market.
- Thus, a dedicated Social Stock exchange will give them more avenues to seek capital and make India a hub of social impact investing.

9. Broadly explain the composition and functions of the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). Also, discuss the issues in the effective utilisation of DMF funds. (150 words) 10

जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन (DMF) की संरचना और कार्यों की विस्तृत व्याख्या कीजिए। साथ ही, DMF निधियों के प्रभावी उपयोग के समक्ष मुद्दों पर भी चर्चा कीजिए।

The District Mineral Foundation (DMF) will be formed in all districts where mining of minerals are undertaken, in order to ensure restoration ~~and~~ of land and rehabilitation of the people affected by mining.

- These are statutory bodies and will include members of the municipalities and the Panchayats in their composition.
- ~~At~~ The environmental cost charged due to polluting activities like mining minerals eg- coal, steel etc., will be acquired in this fund.
- However, there are several issues in its effective utilisation -

- ① Lack of accountability and monitoring by an active local citizens' body -
- ② Lack of transparency and corruption in disbursement of funds
- ③ Lack of social auditing by the local people.

Thus, there is a difference between theory and practice.

There is a need for transparent utilisation of funds of the DMF funds to ensure rehabilitation of the displaced people, afforestation activities and restoration of degraded land.

10. Illiteracy and poverty are hindrances in the formation of healthy public opinion on public policies. Discuss with suitable examples. (150 words) 10

निरक्षरता और निर्धनता सार्वजनिक नीतियों के संबंध में स्वस्थ जनमत के निर्माण में बाधक हैं।
उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans "Access to food, shelter and basic education are the fundamental requirements for civil existence of any human being". (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948).

- Lack of literacy and poverty are hindrances in the formation of healthy public opinion on public policies.
- A deprived citizenry, which is trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty since generations, will always be cynical and critical of government's policies - eg.
- eg. the recent farmers protests, as the poor farmers are apprehensive of crony capitalism and the government colluding with capitalists like Adani's.

→ The recent Agnipath scheme of military recruitment is seen as a government's ploy to introduce contractualisation in the Indian Armed Forces.

Thus, an impoverished citizenry will always suspect the intentions of the government.

→ ~~Also~~ Thus, the state must focus on eradicating poverty and illiteracy, then only a rational mindset will develop among the people regarding public policies.

→ "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyan" is a right step in this direction. This will also reduce female infanticide.

11. A critical appraisal of the outcomes of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act underlines the need for second-generation reforms to strengthen decentralisation of urban local governance in India. Discuss. (250 words) 15

74वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम के परिणामों का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन भारत में शहरी स्थानीय शासन के विकेंद्रीकरण को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु दूसरी-पीढ़ी के सुधारों की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Since ancient times, India is known for its urban governance and cities. Indus Valley Civilization was one of the oldest urban civilisations.

However, in current times, urban local governance has taken a back seat.

→ Even after the passage of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, the urban local governance has not taken a big leap as -

- ① Lack of devolution funds, functions and functionaries (3Fs) - Lack of political will
- ② Existence of parallel institutions and special purpose vehicles with overlapping functions have undermined the morale of urban local bodies and there is a lack of accountability
- ③ The post of Mayor is only a ceremonial post and power continues

to be exercised by the bureaucracy.

- ④ Lack of homogeneity in organisation -
eg. some cities have Municipal
corporation, ~~some~~ some have
townships, cantonments etc.
This creates new challenges.

- ⑤ Lack of Political Will is the
biggest factor in retarding
their progress.

→ In recent times, the Municipalities
have been politicised for
political ~~or~~ gains - eg.
in Delhi, the Municipal Corporations
have become an issue of
politics between the Sam
Admi Party government and
the BJP.

- ⑥ Poor institutional infrastructure
and heavy headedness of
bureaucracy are further roadblocks.

→ There is a need for a
second satyagraha to
strengthen these bodies.

Governance should not be only supply driven, rather it should also be demanded by ~~the~~ the citizens.

Thus, the ^{state} government should devolve greater funds, functions and functionaries, and people should lead a movement for the same.

12. Asymmetry is an important characteristic of federalism in India, which has helped in the accommodation of diverse demands inherent in our democracy. Discuss. (250 words) 15

असममिति भारत में संघवाद की एक महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता है, जिसने हमारे लोकतंत्र में निहित विविध मांगों के समायोजन में सहायता प्रदान की है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian federalism is a Basic feature of the Constitution (S.R. Bommai Case).

While the US federalism is an example of symmetric federalism, Indian federalism is asymmetric.

→ All states do not have equal representation in the Rajya Sabha and membership is based on population, thus to ensure equity.

→ Several states of India get special treatment as all laws may not be applicable there. eg. under Article 371(A), Nagaland gets special treatment.

States like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are hill states and thus get state assistance for sharing up revenue as special category states.

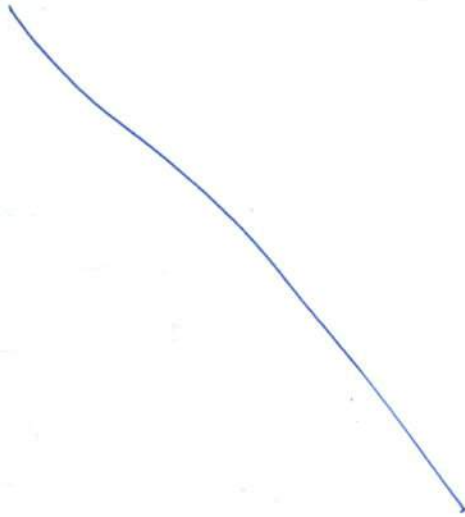
→ The Finance Commission makes special allocation for the special category states to

ensure equality in access to resources to states that may not be equipped to access the same.

→ The above mentioned features of Indian Constitution have enabled accommodation of diverse demands inherent in our democracy.

→ These steps have helped to check secessionist trends in states like Nagaland and Mizoram, as special provisions have been made.

→ These steps have also strengthened Indian unity and diversity as even the small states see a purpose and meaning in being a part of India.



13. It is argued that unchecked and rampant exercise of the power to insert laws in the Ninth Schedule results in undermining of Constitutional supremacy and creation of Parliamentary hegemony. Do you agree? Justify your stand with logical arguments. (250 words) 15

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि नौवीं अनुसूची में विधियों को सम्मिलित करने की शक्ति के अनियंत्रित और व्यापक स्तर पर प्रयोग से संवैधानिक सर्वोच्चता में कमी और संसदीय आधिपत्य का सृजन होता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? उचित तर्कों के साथ अपने मत की पुष्टि कीजिए।

Ans. India is formed on the bedrock of Constitutional supremacy.

However, steps have been taken by various governments in the form of executive overreach to disturb this balance.

↳ While Article 31 of the Constitution ensured Right to Property, the Parliament passed the 1st Constitutional Amendment Act in 1951 to amend the same. It led to the creation of the 9th schedule as a way to protect laws from judicial review.

↳ Several land reform laws were put in the 9th schedule to ensure their protection. However, the Parliament (dominated by the executive) started using it to expand its power to amend the Constitution.

eg. 24th Constitutional Amendment Act 1971 gave protection to all Parliamentary Acts which enforced article 39 (b) and (c) from judicial review.

Passage of the 42nd Amendment Act in 1976 further removed the restrictions set by the 24th Constitutional Amendment Act, (i.e. article 39 (b) and (c)).

→ Thus, Parliament has tried to expand its powers and undermine the supremacy of the Constitution.

→ The Supreme Court played an activist role in arresting this trend and passed the Kesavananda Bharati judgement in 1973 ~~law~~ and gave the Basic structure of the Constitution.

Thus, any law introduced in the 9th schedule after 1973 is open to judicial scrutiny.

Thus, Supreme Court has risen to the occasion. The Munira Mill judgement of 1980 further said that

The Indian Constitution is based on the bed rock of Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Rights - thus need of a harmonious construction

14. Though the antecedents of the Indian Constitution can be traced to a series of British colonial legislations and other Constitutions of the world, in spirit and practice it has been completely Indian. Discuss. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि भारतीय संविधान की पृष्ठभूमि ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक कानूनों की श्रृंखलाओं और विश्व के अन्य संविधानों में देखी जा सकती है, तथापि सिद्धांत और व्यवहार में यह पूर्णतः भारतीय है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Acc to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, "Indian Constitution has proudly adopted the noble ideas and features of several ^{existing} Constitutions as it would be foolish to ignore the tested values and ideas on which the modern democracies are based."

→ while several provisions of the Indian Constitution can trace themselves to other constitutions eg. the idea liberty, equality and Fraternity has been borrowed from the French Constitution; Fundamental Duties from USSR's ^{former} constitution; the Parliamentary system from the conventions of the United Kingdom, yet the Constitution is Indian in spirit and practices.

- Idea of federalism - India has moulded the idea to be that of asymmetric federalism - to ensure balanced development in an erstwhile underdeveloped country.
- Idea of secularism - Indian secularism is not about separation of state and religion, rather equal respect and recognition of all religions. eg. the state supports pilgrims going for Hajj in Saudi Arabia.
- Idea of equality - To correct the past injustices, India ensures affirmative action under Articles 15 and 16 to SC, STs, EWS and OBCs.
- Idea of freedom, the Supreme Court has further expanded the meaning of freedom under Article 21.
- Indian state is not a limited state, rather enables capacity building - eg. free elementary education under Article 21(A).

Thus, the Indian Constitution and its working has ensured the miracle of Indian democracy, which was considered impossible by the world until 1947.

15. In India, the Finance Commissions are established pursuant to the constitutional mandate. In this context, do you think the State Finance Commissions have been effective in promoting fiscal federalism?

Substantiate with arguments.

(250 words) 15

भारत में वित्त आयोगों की स्थापना संवैधानिक अधिदेश के अनुसार की जाती है। इस संदर्भ में, क्या आपको लगता है कि राज्य वित्त आयोग राजकोषीय संघवाद को बढ़ावा देने में प्रभावी रहे हैं? तर्कों के साथ पुष्टि कीजिए।

Federalism is a basic feature of Indian Constitution and fiscal federalism is its core value without which no form of federalism can be brought about.

→ The Finance Commission has been set up under Article 280 of the Constitution to ensure fiscal federalism. It recommends a division of resources among the Centre and the states, every five years.

→ The State Finance Commissions have been set up after the passage of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts to ensure greater fiscal federalism for Tier 3 i.e. the Panchayats and municipalities.

→ The State Finance Commissions give recommendations to the state

governments and to the Finance Commission to enable greater access to resources for the local governments.

However, the state Finance Commissions have not been effective in promoting fiscal federalism:-

- ① Their recommendations of ~~the~~ state are seldom tabled and taken in cognisance by the state governments.

There is no way to ensure mandatory implementation of the recommendations.

- ② The ^{State} Finance Commissions' autonomy and expertise is often challenged.

- ③ The Finance Commission has also failed to incorporate the views of the state Finance Commissions in its Terms of Reference.

→ There is a need to strengthen the state Finance

Commissions to ensure greater access to funds and independent tax resources to the local governments.

There is a need of political will and people's movements to ensure materialisation Gandhi's dreams of self sufficient villages.

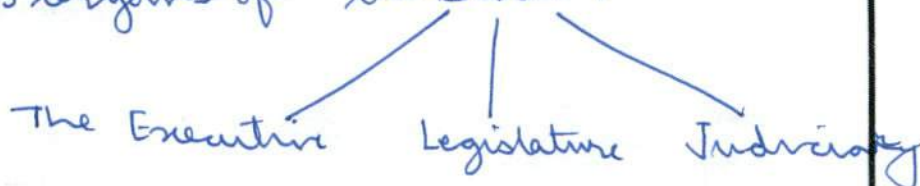
16. In India's political system, the Executive and Legislature are not strictly separated; instead, their relationship is intimate and non-dichotomous.

Comment.

(250 words) 15

भारत की राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में, कार्यपालिका और विधायिका पूर्णतः पृथक् नहीं हैं, अपितु इनके मध्य अभिन्न एवं अविच्छेद संबंध हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

India is a Parliamentary democracy based on the bedrock of 3 organs of the state.



→ Unlike the political system of USA, where there is a strict separation of powers between the executive and legislature, in India, their relationship is ~~under~~ intimate and non-dichotomous.

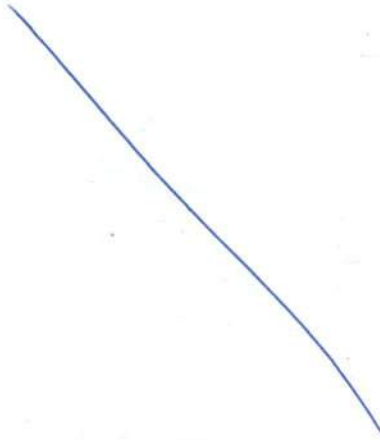
→ The executive headed by the Prime Minister is a part of the Parliament. The President of India is also a part of the Parliament, although not its member.

→ The Parliament, led by the opposition ensures the

accountability of the government
through various Parliamentary
instruments like the Zero
Hour, the Question Hour, etc.

→ The Prime Minister chooses
his ministers and recommends
their appointment to the
President. All Ministers
must become members of
the Parliament within 6
months.

→ Thus, the executive and the
legislature aren't strictly
separate in India. This
has also created challenges like—
— The executive has often not
been able to ~~pass~~ implement
its plan of action as
the opposition in the legislature
has created challenges for the
same.



17. Reduction in the overall size of the bureaucracy has been seen as the underlying idea behind civil services reforms. Is it a good idea to reduce the size of the Indian bureaucracy? Examine in light of the experience of India.

(250 words) 15

नौकरशाही के समग्र आकार में कमी को सिविल सेवाओं में सुधार के पीछे अंतर्निहित विचार के रूप में देखा गया है। क्या भारतीय नौकरशाही के आकार को कम करना एक उपयुक्त विचार है? भारत के अनुभव के आलोक में परीक्षण कीजिए।

The neo liberal state is based on the philosophy of a limited state. eg. Thomas Jefferson said "The best way to govern, is to govern the least".

→ Similarly, reduction in the overall size of the bureaucracy has been seen as the underlying idea behind civil services reforms.

→ However, in a country as diverse and large as India, still struggling to overcome poverty, illiteracy, etc, this may not be a good idea as:-

→ Bureaucracy is the steel frame of India as is responsible to bring socio-economic transformation on the ground.

→ Reducing the size of bureaucracy
will further exacerbate the crisis
of an understaffed system.

It will overburden the existing
officers and reduce their morale

→ Reducing the number is like throwing
the baby out with the bathwater.

Bureaucrats must be given better
training, there is a need to
ensure greater accountability
via auditing, rather
than downsizing the bureaucracy.

→ Honest civil servants have
ensured access to basic service
to citizens. There is a need
to sustain and bring such officers
and check corruption.

Thus,
+ There is a need to overcome
the colonial mindset,
and to bring reforms like
better training, accountability,
check corruption, use of
digital technology to ensure

honest governance, rather
the downsizing an already
understaffed bureaucracy.

20/11/22

18. There is a need to ensure better ethical standards, accountability and management of temples in India. Discuss in the context of issues associated with state intervention in management of temples. (250 words) 15

भारत में मंदिरों के बेहतर नैतिक मानकों, जवाबदेही और प्रबंधन को सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है। मंदिरों के प्रबंधन में राज्य के हस्तक्षेप से संबंधित मुद्दों के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

India is inherently a religious country and thus, there is a need to ensure mechanisms for an ethical, accountable management of religious institutions.

→ In the past, a mismanagement of religious institutions had become a sensitive issue - eg. the Shivomansi Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee was set up before independence to check corruption in the sikh gurudwaras.

→ India's constitution is a transformative document via which it intends to transform Indian society on progressive lines. While Article 25-28 have ensured religious freedoms for all citizens, the ^{state} ~~supreme court~~ has retained the right to intervene in secular affairs like ensuring better ethical standards,

accountability and management.

→ eg. the government intervenes to ensure security for pilgrims undertaking the Amarnath Yatra as its located in a sensitive geography.

→ The Supreme Court passed the Sabarwal judgment to ensure equality in access to all genders.

However, there are issues associated with state intervention in management of temples -

- ① People consider religion as a sensitive subject and despise state intervention in the same. eg. the Sabarwal judgment has still not been implemented due to opposition of temple mahants.
- ② The state itself doesn't want to appear as intervening in religious freedom of citizens as secularism and religious rights are fundamental rights.
- ③ Any imposition of restriction by the state, eg. restriction of loud speakers by Muslims for Namaz

has put the state in a
bad light of promoting
Hindutva.

Thus, the state needs to take
care of religious sentiments of
all communities while ensuring
better standards and accountability.

The recent tragedy in Vaishno
Devi Temple - which witnessed
a stampede, requires a
greater role of the state.

19. Over 15 years of the Right to Information Act have thrown up multiple experiences, some of which need to be built upon, while others necessitate steps to uphold the act in its letter and spirit. Explain with examples.

(250 words) 15

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम के 15 वर्षों ने अनेक अनुभव प्रदान किए हैं, जिनमें से कुछ के आधार पर कार्य करने की आवश्यकता है, जबकि अन्य अधिनियम को उसकी मूल भावना के अनुसार बनाए रखने के लिए कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता पर बल देते हैं। उदाहरण सहित स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Right to Information Act was passed in 2005 to ensure greater accountability and citizen participation in governance.

- Over 15 years of Right to Information Act have thrown up multiple experiences -
- RTI Act has revealed instances of corruption amongst the bureaucracy on several occasions eg - the Coal scam case of ~~2007~~.
- It has increased the confidence of the citizens as they can get any public information in a limited time - eg. regarding disbursal of MGNREGA funds.

→ ~~a recent~~ ^{use} RTI Act

→ Recently, information acquired through RTI Act revealed that over 70% of funds of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan have been spent on advertisements.

However, ~~there~~ is a need to take steps to uphold the act in its letter and spirit.

→ Recent Constitutional Amendment in the ^{National} Information Commission ~~have~~ reduced the independence and autonomy of Information Commissioners. ~~and~~

→ "Justice delayed is justice denied,"
Thus, there is a need to ensure timely access to information to those who file an RTI.

→ The bureaucrats should not arbitrarily rate/categorise any public information ~~and~~ as sensitive and deny its access, rather some over-arching criterion must be followed.

Right to Information Act
is a revolutionary step
and must continue to
ensure active participation
of citizenry in Indian
democracy.

20. The issuance of Citizens' Charters alone cannot change the mindset of staff and clients overnight; rather, regular, untiring and persistent efforts are required to bring about attitudinal changes. Discuss. (250 words) 15

केवल सिटीजन चार्टर जारी करने से कर्मचारियों और ग्राहकों की मानसिकता में ऐसा एक परिवर्तित नहीं किया जा सकता; बल्कि व्यवहार में बदलाव लाने के लिए नियमित, अथक और निरंतर प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Citizens Charter is an instrument of ensuring accountability of the organisation. It's a written document which enumerates the rights of the citizens / receivers of services, and makes provision for grievance redressal.

- While its introduction is a good first step in ensuring accountability and access to better services from any organisation, however its not enough.
- Just like the effectiveness of a Constitution is determined not just by its organs and articles, rather by an awakened citizenry and a public will, similarly, there is a need of attitudinal changes in the mindset of staff and clients.

→ The staff of any organisation must recognise its core duty as customer satisfaction.

→ The staff members should be rewarded for better delivery of services to the clients. Thus, need for incentives to recognise performance.

→ The clients must understand the legitimate limitations of the service providers and be understanding.

→ Both service providers and clients must understand that they are not just engaging in a transaction, rather ~~to~~ building a client - service provider relationship.

→ Emphasis should be on trust and consumer satisfaction.

Thus, there is a need for an
attitudinal change.

Better grievance redressal
system is also needed to
ensure no one is left behind.