



GENERAL STUDIES (Test-18)

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time allowed: Three Hours

GSM (M-I)-2418

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

Name: Aakash Gang

Mobile Number: [REDACTED]

Medium (English/Hindi): English

Reg. Number: DKBG-3423

Center & Date: Karol Bagh

UPSC Roll No. (If allotted): 0833621

प्रश्न-पत्र के लिये विशिष्ट अनुदेश

कृपया प्रश्नों का उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें:

इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं तथा हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।

सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न के अंक उसके सामने दिये गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहियें जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुख-पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिये। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिये।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर-पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिये।

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting questions:

There are **TWENTY** questions printed both in **HINDI** and **ENGLISH**.

All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.

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 a medium other than the authorized one.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

केवल मूल्यांकनकर्ता द्वारा भरा जाए (To be filled by Evaluator only)

Question Number	Marks	Question Number	Marks
1.		11.	
2.		12.	
3.		13.	
4.		14.	
5.		15.	
6.		16.	
7.		17.	
8.		18.	
9.		19.	
10.		20.	
Grand Total (सकल योग)			

मूल्यांकनकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)
Evaluator (Signature)

पुनरीक्षणकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)
Reviewer (Signature)



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Feedback

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Context Proficiency (संदर्भ दक्षता) | 2. Introduction Proficiency (परिचय दक्षता) |
| 3. Content Proficiency (विषय-वस्तु दक्षता) | 4. Language/Flow (भाषा/प्रवाह) |
| 5. Conclusion Proficiency (निष्कर्ष दक्षता) | 6. Presentation Proficiency (प्रस्तुति दक्षता) |
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1. संसदीय उत्तरदायित्व के स्तर को निर्धारित करने में विपक्षी दलों की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है। चर्चा कीजिये।

(150 शब्द) 10

The role of opposition parties is critical in determining the level of parliamentary accountability. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस
हाशिये में नहीं
लिखना चाहिये।
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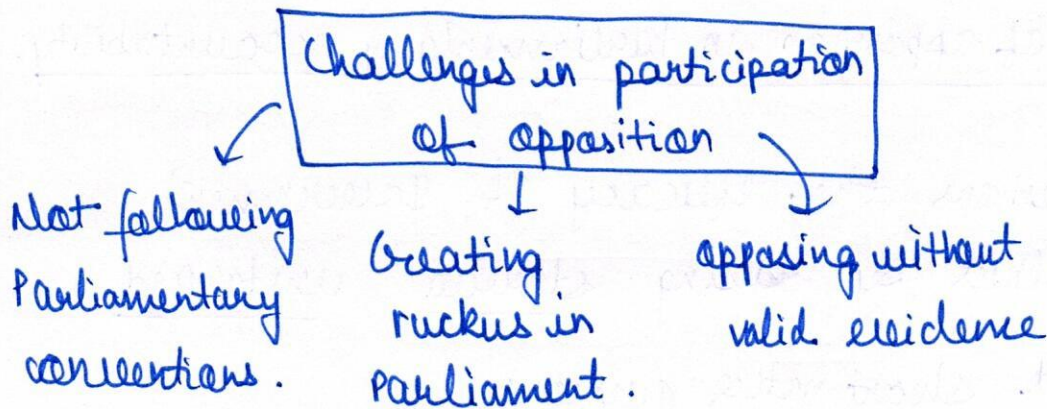
The recent results of Lok Sabha elections has been hailed for return of a strong opposition in the Parliament.

Role of opposition in Parliamentary accountability:

- 1) Questions the efficacy of government policies by raising starred, unstarred and short notice questions.
- 2) Opposition is member of various Parliamentary committees and scrutinize the bills and legislations.
- 3) The Public Accounts Committee (conventionally headed by member from opposition) ensures financial accountability of the government.

4) opposition parties raise awareness regarding government policies among the mass.

5) Provisions for half hour discussion, calling attention motion to question government on issues of national interest.



The task of opposition parties is to ensure smooth and efficient functioning of government.

A collaborative approach should be followed.

British traditions like Shadow Cabinet can also be experimented.

2. महिलाओं की श्रम बल भागीदारी को बढ़ाने में स्वयं सहायता समूहों की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10
Discuss the role of Self-Help Groups in widening women's labour force participation. (150 words) 10

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Self Help Groups are informal associations of people belonging to similar backgrounds to achieve common objectives.

Role of SHG in women labour force participation:

- 1) Financial Inclusion: Access to formal credit allowing women to start up small enterprises, e.g. SHG-Bank linkage Project.
- 2) Financial Autonomy: Allows women to take economic decisions and break patriarchal norms.
- 3) Collective responsibility of SHG ensures equal participation by all members.

4) Many organisations like SEWA, Kudumshree and Mahila Aarthik Vikas Sangathan has engaged women with SHGs.

Challenges in increasing women participation:

- 1) Small nature of SHGs does not allow for sufficient resource mobilisation.
- 2) SHGs can be exclusionary in nature in rural areas based on caste, religion etc.
- 3) Factors like marriage leads to migration of women.

Recent initiatives like National Rural
Livelihood Mission and Lakshmi Didi

scheme can further enhance women participation in labour force.

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3. कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (CSR) के माध्यम से निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा मिलने से समाज के कल्याण के प्रति समग्र दृष्टिकोण को बल मिला है। चर्चा कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10

The approach to welfare is wholesome and whole-of-society, with increasing private sector participation through Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR). Discuss. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।
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CSR in India is a legal obligation on companies under Companies Act, 2013 so that they contribute certain amount to fulfill responsibility towards society.

Role of CSR:

- 1) Augment government's task of providing essential services like health and education
e.g: Azim Premji foundation.
- 2) Allows for community participation by engaging NGOs and civil society organisations in welfare activities targeting grassroots problems. e.g. Nanki Kali by Mahindra Group
- 3) Increases trust as well as brand reputation.
e.g. Image of TATA group.

4) Helps in sustainable development by augmenting resources and taking up activities like pollution control etc.

Challenges in CSR:

- 1) Using loopholes: Companies can share lesser profits invading tax and CSR.
- 2) Money Laundering: Many companies use NGOs or other fronts to launder black money as CSR.
- 3) Not impactful: Corporate companies are profit oriented and not motivated for CSR.

The concept of CSR enumerates the Constitutional morality by providing for distribution of resources and ensuring equal participation in societal development.

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4.

व्यक्तिगत और राष्ट्रीय विकास के क्रम में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, कम ध्यान दिये जाने वाला लेकिन प्रभावशाली चालक है। चर्चा कीजिये। इस संबंध में सरकार की सकारात्मक नीति क्या है? (150 शब्द) 10

Mental health is a less seen yet principally impactful driver of individual and national development. Discuss. What is the Government's positive policy momentum in this regard? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Mental Health is one of the underlying health challenge in India with about 22% of adults suffering from mental disorders especially those between 18-44 years of age.

Role of mental health in development:

- 1) Mental fitness allows to overcome normal stress of life and contribute in the development of community.
- 2) Increase productivity of the individual.
- 3) Allows for better inter-personal relations creating social capital.
- 4) Less tension, social conflict or suicides.

Despite its benefits, the overall expenditure on mental health has been very less (45%).

of total health budget.

Policy momentum:

- 1) Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 : Decriminalises suicide, calls for mental health cells in every district etc.
- 2) National Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2023 to reduce suicides by 10% by 2030.
- 3) Initiatives like Mandakpan by Ministry of education and KIRAN helpline for Counselling.
- 4) UMFED guidelines for students by Ministry of education.

WHO says that being healthy includes being socially, mentally and physically healthy.

Mental health is an important part of overall health strategy.

5. ग्रामीण भारत के शासन में सुधार हेतु शुरू की गई विभिन्न डिजिटलीकरण पहलों पर चर्चा कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10

Discuss the multiple digitization initiatives that have been unfolding in rural India to improve governance. (150 words) 10

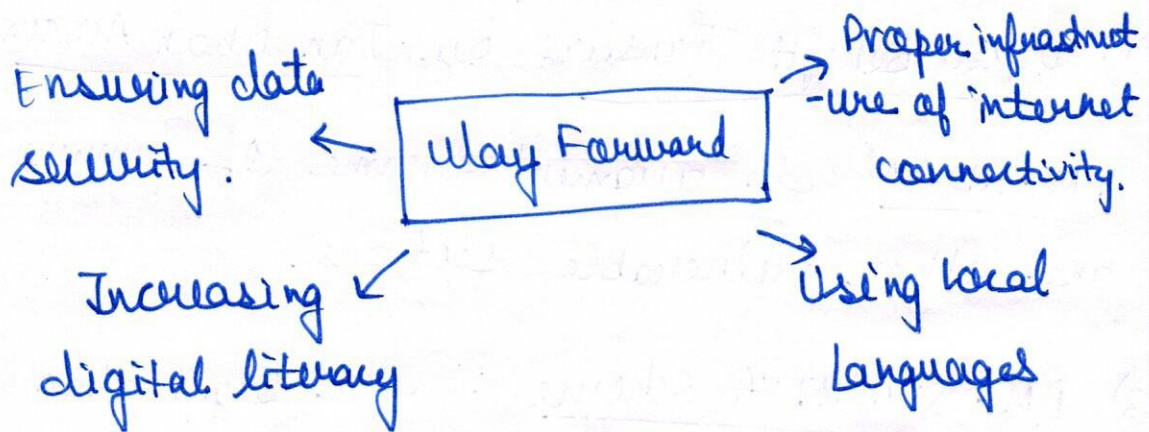
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The increased emphasis on e-governance in rural areas has led to better accessibility, transparency and accountability of government.

Digitization initiatives:

- 1) e-Gram Surooj : For better planning and allocation of resources, budgeting etc.
- 2) Direct Benefit Transfer: by Jan Dhan Accounts, PM-KISAN to augment income of farmers and other vulnerable sections.
- 3) PM-SVAMITVA Scheme : for Digitisation of land records by survey using drones.

- 4) National Land Records Modernisation Programme as expansion of continuous land reforms.
- 5) Ayushman Bharat Digital Centres for enhanced healthcare in difficult and underserved areas.
- 6) Electronic - National Agriculture Market for better price realisation for farmers.
- 7) Common Service Centres under Digital India -



Digital initiatives can help in reducing leakages, curbing corruption and ultimately strive for good governance.

6. भारतीय संविधान की एक प्रमुख विशेषता यह है कि इस लिखित संघीय संविधान को नम्यता (Flexibility) प्रदान करने का प्रयास किया गया है। विस्तारपूर्वक समझाइये। (150 शब्द) 10

A distinctive feature of the Indian Constitution is that it seeks to impart flexibility to a written federal Constitution. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Indian Constitution is a midway between highly flexible British Constitution and highly rigid American Constitution.

Under Article 368, the Parliament can access its constituent powers and amend Constitution without affecting its basic structure.

Importance of flexibility:

1) Changes according to need of time:

e.g.: Acceptance of Right to Privacy as Fundamental Right.

2) Bring about social change: e.g. Reservation to women in local government, lak saba

and State legislative assemblies.

3) Allows for check on excessive powers of government: e.g. 44th Amendment Act making provision regarding emergency more strict.

4) Other amendments like anti defection law (52nd amendment) and 1st amendment introducing the IX schedule has responded to the need of time.

In the past
has been done
for specific
benefits.

Drawbacks of
Amendment
Procedure.

Limited
participation
of states.

Challenge to
basic structure which
leads to judicial intervention

Inconsistent
views making
process
difficult.

With 106 amendments, the Constitution of India has been rightly governing the functioning of Indian union.

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7. न्यायिक कार्यों की पारदर्शिता तथा जवाबदेहिता एक सुदृढ़ एवं प्रभावी विधिक प्रणाली की आधारशिला है, जिससे लोक विश्वास सुनिश्चित और न्यायिक सिद्धांत का कार्यान्वयन संपुष्ट होता है। चर्चा कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10

The transparency and accountability of judicial function form the cornerstone of a robust and effective legal system, ensuring public trust and upholding the principles of justice. Discuss. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Under the doctrine of separation of powers, the legislature, executive and judiciary work independently of each other acting as a way for maintaining checks and balance.

Importance of transparency and accountability of Judiciary:

- 1) Judiciary is the protector of fundamental rights of an individual.
- 2) Ensures rule of law and not rule by law.
- 3) Can direct government to discharge its duties effectively by issuing writs. (Article 32)
- 4) It maintains public trust which allows people to raise their voice against any high-handedness by state.

5) Judges are appointed and unlike the politicians, it is difficult to ensure their accountability.

Without trust in judiciary, the people will cease to believe in the law and order system of country.

Challenges to transparency and accountability:

- 1) Opaque appointment procedure by the collegium.
- 2) Not under RTI Act (except Office of CJI)
- 3) Judicial activism where judges often blur the line between the executive and judiciary.

With more than 4 crore cases pending, expedient trials will boost trust in judiciary as justice delayed is justice denied.

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8. राज्यों की राजनीतिक कार्यप्रणाली के संबंध में राज्यपालों के गैर-पक्षपातपूर्ण बने रहने से संबंधित संवैधानिक अवधारणा गहन जाँच के दायरे में है। चर्चा कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10

The constitutional conception of state governors occupying a non-partisan position with regard to the political functioning of states has come under severe strain. Discuss. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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The governor of state fulfills dual role as head of state as well as an agent of centre.

Contemporary Issues regarding role of governor:

1) Article 200: While the governors are mandated to act as soon as possible on bills passed by legislature, there has been extended delays along with reservation of usual bills for President's assent.

2) Appointment of Vice Chancellors in universities going against state government directives.

3) Constant tussle in governance of Delhi between

appointed governor and elected council of ministers.

4) The issue regarding summoning and prorogation of assemblies not on advice of state government.

Recently, Supreme Court has held that governors should expeditiously respond to bills in Tamil Nadu and Punjab government cases.

Way Forward:

- 1) Engaging state government in appointment of governor.
- 2) Following recommendations of Sarkaria and Punchi Commission for making governors non partisan.
- 3) Allowing for check of government majority only on floor of house.

These reforms can make the position truly non partisan.

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9. "कारागार सुधार न केवल एक नैतिक अनिवार्यता है, बल्कि एक विधिक एवं सामाजिक आवश्यकता भी है।" इस कथन के आलोक में भारत में कारागारों की स्थिति का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10

"Prison reform is not just a moral imperative, but a legal and social necessity." In light of this statement, critically analyze the state of prisons in India. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Prisons and persons detained in them are matter of State list under 7th schedule. As per NCRB reports, more than 65% people in prison are undertrials.

State of prisons :

- 1) Overcrowding : Due to high number of undertrials and infrastructure constraints.
- 2) Less women officers : Only 13% of total jail personnel threatening women safety.
- 3) Spread of diseases due to unhygienic conditions
- 4) Issue of smuggling of banned items inside jail premises, corruption and death of inmates.

Reforming Prisons:

- 1) Implementing Model Prisoners Act which has provisions for open prisons, digitalisation etc.
- 2) Recommendations of JS Verma Committee regarding undertrials.
- 3) Enforcing the rule - 'Bail is rule and jail is exception' especially for those who have served at least one third of maximum punishment.
- 4) Increasing expenditure on education of prisoners and upgrading existing infrastructure. Prisons are place of rehabilitation so that delinquents can become part of society again. Prison reforms are necessary to achieve the same.

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10.

भारत में अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा (AIJS) की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा करते हुए इसके कार्यान्वयन संबंधी प्रमुख मुद्दों एवं चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिये। (150 शब्द) 10

Discuss the need for an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS) in India, highlighting key issues and challenges in its implementation. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Recently, the President of India has called upon for implementing All India Judicial Services to enhance effectiveness of judiciary.

Need of AIJS:

- 1) Large number of vacancies: About 30% seats remains vacant in lower judiciary.
- 2) Pending cases: More than 4 crore as per National Judicial Data Grid.
- 3) Representation of backward sections of society including scheduled castes, scheduled tribes etc.
- 4) Uniformity in selection procedure boasting

transparency.

The 42nd amendment of constitution allocated for AJS for posts of district judges and above. However, certain issues exist:

- 1) Diverging view by different high courts regarding selection procedure for lower judiciary.
- 2) Centralised recruitment of All India Services has not tackled the vacancy issues.
- 3) Languages used in courts also pose a challenge for centralised recruitment.
- 4) It may lead to further exclusion of certain communities.

Detailed discussions with all relevant stakeholders is necessary to frame appropriate policy for implementing AJS.

11. सराहनीय प्रयासों के बावजूद, भारत की जनजातीय जनसंख्या तक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के सफल वितरण में विभिन्न चुनौतियाँ विद्यमान हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Despite commendable efforts, there are several obstacles that hinder the successful delivery of healthcare services to the tribal population of India. Analyse. (250 words) 15

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Tribal population suffers from varied health problems like malnutrition, genetic diseases like sickle cell Anaemia etc. Difficult geography, lack of resources has hindered healthcare delivery.

Government Efforts:

- 1) Ayushman Bharat Yojana providing ₹ 5 lakh per family per household for secondary and tertiary care.
- 2) Tan Aushadhi Kendras to provide medicines at affordable rates.
- 3) National Health Policy, 2017 with aim to increase expenditure on health to 3% of GDP.

4) PM-JANMAN and PM-PVTG Mission to saturate all tribal households with basic facilities including health.

5) State governments has deployed mobile medical units to reach areas with difficult geography.

Obstacles:

1) Tribal people are geographically isolated with low population density making accessibility difficult.

2) Apprehensions towards modern medicines compared to traditional medicines.

3) Lack of granular data at level of state, block and districts.

4) Barrier in communication leading to lack of awareness among tribal people.

Way Forward:

- 1) Enhancing accessibility by proper roads in tribal areas. (e.g. expansion of PM-Gram Sadak Yojana)
- 2) Training people among tribal community for better trust regarding medicines.
- 3) Fusion of traditional and modern medicine.
- 4) Genome mapping for population specific vulnerabilities' cure.

Tribal people contribute 8.6% to Indian population. Ensuring healthy well being will promote inclusive growth and help in achieving SDG-3 (good health and wellbeing).

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12.

विधायी अंग के रूप में संसदीय कार्यों की गणना कीजिये। क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि संसदीय संस्था और उसकी प्रक्रियाओं को प्रभावी बनाने हेतु सुधार एवं तत्काल उपचारात्मक कार्रवाई अनिवार्य है? (250 शब्द) 15

Enumerate the functions of Parliament as the legislative organ. Do you agree that reforms and urgent remedial action seem imperative for making parliamentary institutions and processes effective?

(250 words) 15

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हाशिये में नहीं
लिखना चाहिये।
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Parliament is the supreme legislative body where debates and deliberations shape the public policy affecting 140 Crore Indians.

Function of Parliament as Legislative Organ:

- 1) Draft bills and undertake extensive debates and deliberation regarding its impact.
- 2) Allows the respective members to raise issues of their constituencies.
- 3) Refer bill to committees for detailed analysis, call for expert opinion and circulate bill for public views.
- 4) Exercise power of delegated legislation allowing the executive to make rules and

regulations regarding laws passed by Parliament.

5) Ratify international treaties.

Need for reforms:

1) Decrease in referral to committees:

In 17th Lok Sabha, only 17-1 bills were referred to committees impacting the effectiveness of Parliamentary control.

2) Many bills were passed on same day of their introduction.

3) Suspension of MPs which take away their right of putting forward the concerns and opinion of people who elected him/her.

4) Decreased productivity due to long adjournments reducing time for debate.

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5) Committee recommendations are not binding

Way Forward:

- 1) Amending the X schedule so that Parliamentarians can speak freely even against party position on regular matters.
- 2) Setting guidelines and procedure for referring bills to committees.
- 3) Increase minimum days of sitting as recommended by National Commission to Review Working of Constitution.
- 4) More time for opposition to present it's issues and support to Parliamentarians to draft private member bills.

Proper functioning of Parliament is also necessary to ensure the accountability of the government in power.

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13.

वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान तंत्र कम विरोधाभासी होने के साथ विवादों को सुलझाने के पारंपरिक तरीकों का बेहतर विकल्प प्रदान कर सकते हैं। चर्चा कीजिये। इस दिशा में परिवर्तनकारी बदलाव लाने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रयास किये गए हैं? (250 शब्द) 15

Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms are less adversarial and can provide a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes. Discuss. What are the government's efforts to bring out a transformative shift towards it? (250 words) 15

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Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) allows for settlement of disputes outside the courts by methods like Arbitration, Mediation, Negotiation etc.

Advantages of ADR:

- 1) Less time consuming as judiciary is having high case pendency.
- 2) Lesser cost making justice accessible to people who can't afford hefty lawyer fees, transportation costs etc.
- 3) Finality as decisions are binding on both parties.
- 4) Amicable settlement without any animosity in future.

Challenges to ADR:

- 1) Lack of awareness among people.
- 2) Lack of professionals like trained and experienced mediators.
- 3) Poor decisions sometimes lead to matter being brought before the court.
- 4) Complex government guidelines depending on nature of dispute- international, commercial etc.

Efforts by Government:

- 1) Legal Services Authority Act (1987) which led to formation of NALSA which helps in organising Lok Adalats.
- 2) Permanent Lok Adalats for disputes regarding utility services.

3) Mediation Act, 2023 : It provides for mediation by Registered mediators within fixed time period. Establishes Mediation Council of India to form rules and regulations.

4) Arbitration Act (1986) to legalise arbitration in financial and commercial matters.

5) Formation of consumer courts, specialised tribunals etc.

6) New Delhi International Arbitration Centre. for arbitration of international issues.

Pushing for ADR can help in ensuring Right to Speedy Trial under Article 21 as well as fulfill conditions under Article 39A of providing equal justice and free legal aid to all.

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14. दिल्ली के शासन और भारत के संघीय ढाँचे पर इसके संभावित प्रभाव पर विचार करते हुए दिल्ली राष्ट्रीय राजधानी राज्य क्षेत्र शासन (GNCTD) (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2023 के प्रावधानों का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिये।

(250 शब्द) 15

Critically examine the provisions of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) (Amendment) Act, 2023 considering its potential impact on the governance of Delhi and the federal structure of India.

(250 words) 15

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The NCT of Delhi has a complex administrative mechanism with dual role of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) and the Council of Ministers.

Provisions of GNCTD Amendment Act, 2023:

- 1) Establishes National Capital Civil Services Authority headed by Chief Minister with Principal Secretary and Chief Secretary as members for appointing, transferring etc. civil servants in Delhi.
- 2) The decisions of the authority will be taken by majority of members present.

3) In case of disagreement between LG and the recommendation by the authority, opinion of LG will prevail.

4) For certain important directives like summoning or proroguing assembly, all orders will go via LG.

5) LG can bypass ministers for getting information on matters of importance for administration.

Impact on governance:

- 1) Breaks triple chain of accountability as said by Supreme Court i.e. civil servants are responsible to ministers, ministers to legislature and legislature to electorate.
- 2) Opinion of Chief Minister can be bypassed in

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giving recommendations.

- 3) Supremacy of appointed LG over elected Chief Minister in controlling service related matters.

Impact on federal structure: It dilutes the power of states and empowers appointee of central government even on matters mentioned in the State list.

Way Forward:

- 1) Proper demarcation of powers of LG and ministers.
- 2) LG should act on aid and advice of council of ministers except when acting in discretion.
- 3) Following guidelines laid down by Supreme Court in previous judgements.

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15. भारतीय लोकसभा और ब्रिटिश हाउस ऑफ कॉमन्स में अध्यक्ष की भूमिका की तुलना कीजिये। चर्चा कीजिये कि ये भूमिकाएँ अपने-अपने विधायी निकायों की कार्यप्रणाली को कैसे प्रभावित करती हैं। (250 शब्द) 15

Compare and contrast the role of speaker in the Indian Lok Sabha and British House of Commons . Discuss how these roles impact the functioning of their respective legislative bodies. (250 words) 15

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The office of Speaker is a Constitutional post in India who is responsible for ensuring proper functioning of Parliament.

Speaker in British House of Commons :

- 1) Based on principle of 'once a speaker, always a speaker'.
- 2) His constituency during election goes uncontested for ensuring neutrality.
- 3) He ensures proper discussion in house of commons by giving proper opportunity to both ruling party and opposition.
- 4) Has a casting vote to break deadlock.
- 5) Also act as medium of communication with the Crown.

Impact of British Speaker on house of commons:

- 1) Impartiality allows for healthy discussion
- 2) He has trust from both the sides and upholds Parliamentary Conventions.

Speaker in Indian Lok Sabha:

- 1) He is elected by the members of Parliament by simple majority.
- 2) Interpreter of parliamentary rules, regulations and Constitution in the Lok Sabha.
- 3) Decides whether bill is money bill or not.
- 4) Also decides on cases of anti-defection law against Parliamentarians.
- 5) Does not vote in first instance but has a casting vote.

Impact of speaker in Lok Sabha:

- 1) He is a party appointee and may not always be neutral.
- 2) His power to decide on anti-defection law matters can be biased.
- 3) Declaring bill as money bill bypasses the scrutiny by Rajya Sabha.

Way Forward:

- 1) Ensuring independence by following British convention of uncontested elections or compulsory resignation after appointment to post.
- 2) Cases of anti defection law shall be decided by governor acting on aid and advice of Election Commission of India.

Neutral speaker is necessary to uphold trust in Parliamentary conventions and functioning.

16.

राजकोषीय संघवाद सुनिश्चित करने एवं केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों की राजकोषीय शक्तियों के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखने में वित्त आयोग की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Critically evaluate Finance Commission's crucial role in ensuring fiscal federalism and maintaining a balance between the fiscal powers of the central and state governments. (250 words) 15

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The Finance Commission is appointed by President after every 5 years under Article 280 of Constitution.

Finance Commission maintains balance of fiscal federalism in India through following role:

- 1) Decides on the distribution of net proceeds between the union government and state governments. (16th Finance Commission: 41-1)
- 2) Decides on horizontal distribution between states by creating formula considering area, population, income gap etc.
- 3) Augments consolidated fund of states to provide sufficient funds for working of

Panchayats and Urban Local Governments.

- 4) Decides on other matters as referred to it by the Parliament.
- 5) Decides grant-in-aids under Article 275.

Evaluation:

- 1) The horizontal devolution based on income gap and population has put richer states in disadvantage who are calling for increased devolution.
- 2) Taxes and surcharges (about 25% of total central revenue) are not added in the divisible pool.
- 3) Grant-in-aids to states has reduced.
- 4) The recommendations are not binding on central government and state governments can't

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claim funds based on recommendations of the commission.

5) Primacy of central government in appointment procedure can make it biased.

Way Forward

1) Make the commission permanent body under Ministry of finance.

2) Increased role of states in deciding the vertical and horizontal devolution.

3) cesses and surcharges beyond certain limit to be included in divisible pool.

States have a greater role in undertaking essential functions like health and education.

Proper devolution will promote inclusive growth and sustainable development.

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17.

क्या भारत ने अपनी वैश्विक स्थिति और प्रभाव को बढ़ाने के लिये अपनी सॉफ्ट पावर का लाभ उठाया है? विश्लेषण कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Has India leveraged its soft power to enhance its global stature and influence? Analyze.

(250 words) 15

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Soft power refers to use of culture, diaspora and other non military tools to achieve the goals in international relations.

Leverage of Soft power of India:

1) Large diaspora (more than 31 million)

which is one of the wealthiest and most prosperous communities in many countries with significant economic and political clout.

e.g.: Samosa Caucus of USA.

2) Economic Benefits: Indian diaspora sent \$125 billion in remittances in 2023 (World Bank), highest for any country.

3) Projection of culture:

- a) Theme of G20 summit based on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam calling for unity in action.
 - b) Celebration of June 21 as International Yoga Day
 - c) Indian food, movies and music are famous across the world.
- ### 4) Environmental Action by initiatives like International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- ### 5) Humanitarian aid: e.g. Operation Dast during earthquake in Turkey.

The use of soft power and spread of ideals of peace and non violence along

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with rising as voice of global south has increased India's stature globally.

Way Forward:

- 1) Develop strong relations between countries in fields of technology, defence etc. by using diaspora.
- 2) Push for reform of multilateral institutions like IMF, World Bank, UN-Security Council etc.
- 3) Strengthen cultural relations in line with Neighbourhood First Policy with Nepal, Bhutan, SE Asia etc.

The optimum use of smart power (soft power + hard power) will help India in achieving the foreign policy objectives.

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18. अपनी स्थापना के बाद से पिछले दो दशकों से अधिक समय में, बिस्मटेक (BIMSTEC) ने अपनी विशाल क्षमता का उपयोग करते हुए सामूहिक उन्नति की दृष्टि वाले समूह के रूप में अपनी अलग पहचान बनाने में एक लंबा सफर तय किया है। टिप्पणी कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

In the past more than two decades since its establishment, BIMSTEC has come a long way in distinguishing itself as a group with a vision for collective advancement utilizing its vast potential. Comment. (250 words) 15

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BIMSTEC brings together countries of South Asia and southeast Asia including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Thailand etc.

Success of BIMSTEC:

- 1) Helped India in overcoming the 'Big Brother Syndrome' and calling for balanced regional development.
- 2) Overcame shortcomings of SAARC by achieving consensus on trade related projects, connectivity projects etc.
- 3) Helped in achieving objectives of India's

Neighbourhood first and out east policy.

- 1) Differentiation of focus areas among countries has led to cooperation in Science and Technology, HA DR operations, trade, maritime security etc.

Shortcomings:

- 1) Trade related issues: South Asia remains one of least economically integrated regions with less than 5% of inter regional trade.
- 2) Irregular summits and no update of goals and objectives has pushed the grouping off track.
- 3) Rise of China due to its economic clout

has sidestepped Indian efforts.

- 4) Political instability in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka further hinders effective participation.

Way Forward:

- 1) Synergy between countries on issues of maritime security, piracy, climate change etc.
- 2) Completing projects like BBIN highway and Kaladan Multimodal projects.
- 3) Build on cultural relations.
- 4) Use digital public infrastructure as soft power.

South Asia has become region of political instability. Multilateral cooperation via SAARC and BIMSTEC can help tide over the problems.

19.

उभरती और विकासशील अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में बढ़ते वैश्विक ऋण संकट के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों पर पड़ने वाले प्रमुख परिणामों का परीक्षण कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Examine the major outcomes of soaring global debt crisis in emerging and developing economies on international relations. (250 words) 15

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COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts like Russia-Ukraine war, global slowedown and rising inflation has put many countries under severe debt crisis.

Impact in developing economies:

- 1) Political unrest: e.g. In Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh where political instability led to conflict and protests.
- 2) Increasing debt has led to countries rely on institutions like IMF. Their strict conditions challenge sovereignty of countries by imposing changes on economic policies.

- 3) Countries like China has used cheque-book diplomacy and has now acquired strategic locations like Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka.
- 4) Capital flight has further made imports costlier by fall in value of domestic currencies.
- 5) Such countries are highly vulnerable to impact of climate change. There has been agreements regarding debt for climate swaps.
- 6) Cost of living has increased leading to migrant crisis and conflicts in host countries.

Way Forward:

- 1) Collaboration on global forums like G20 for solving debt and inflation crisis.
- 2) Focus on import substitution and development of local manufacturing capability.
- 3) Synergy between monetary and fiscal policy.
- 4) Debt resolutions via institutions like Paris Club.
- 5) Grant-in-aid from multilateral institutions like World Bank.

Globalisation has integrated world economies.

The ripple effect calls for collaborative approach to tackle the global debt crisis.

20.

यूरोप का हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र पर बढ़ता ध्यान तथा भारत के साथ गहराता आर्थिक और तकनीकी सहयोग परस्पर लाभ प्रदान करता है। चर्चा कीजिये। (250 शब्द) 15

Europe's increased focus on the Indo-Pacific and the deepening economic and technological collaboration with India offer mutual benefits. Discuss. (250 words) 15

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European Union is India's 3rd largest trading partner. The convergence on political and security issue has led to enhanced possibility of fostering greater collaboration.

Europe's focus on Indo-Pacific:

- 1) 50% global trade passes through Indo Pacific
- 2) The involvement of UK with Australia and USA in AUKUS for enhancing security and ensuring rule based order in Indo Pacific.
- 3) Announcement of IMEC during G20

Summit for connectivity between India and Europe.

- 4) Talks of EU with India and other countries to counter dominance of China in trade related aspects.

Economic and Technological Collaboration with India!

- 1) India - France Vision 2047 document and International solar alliance.
- 2) TEPA of India and EFTA countries.
- 3) Talks of FTA with European Union and UK.
- 4) India - Germany Mobility and Partnership agreement.

Mutual Benefits:

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- 1) Transfer of technology to India in exchange for access to India's large market.
- 2) India's security enhancement of Indian Ocean Region helps in maintaining free trade. e.g: Action against pirates in Red Sea and Arabian Sea.
- 3) Flow of FDI and FPI in Indian market reducing current account deficit.
- 4) Impact role in China+1 policy in decoupling from China.

The enhanced collaboration can help in resolving issues like WTO disputes, patent related issues and India's concerns like EU- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

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