



GENERAL STUDIES (Test-

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time allowed: Three Hours

DTVF/23 (J-A)-M-GSM

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

Name:

Mobile Number:

Medium (English/Hindi):

Reg. Number:

Center & Date:

UPSC Roll No. (If allotted):

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.	8.5	11.	6.25
2.	4.0	12.	6.0
3.	3.75	13.	4.0
4.	8.5	14.	6.5
5.	2.75	15.	7.5
6.	3.5	16.	7.0
7.	2.75	17.	7.0
8.	4.0	18.	6.0
9.	3.5	19.	6.25
10.	4.0	20.	6.0
Grand Total (सकल योग)		92.75	

मूल्यांकनकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)
Evaluator (Signature)

पुनरीक्षणकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)
Reviewer (Signature)

www.drishtiiias.com

Contact: 8750187501, 8448485517

Dear student,

- ① It is really appreciated that you have attempted all the questions
- ② Your contextual understanding of the demand of question is really good.
- ③ You have very good understanding of the subject and able to bring out diversified content and good examples.
- ④ Introduction part is competent with the demand of question.
- ⑤ Handwriting is legible and to-the-point presentation is appreciated.

However, Need to focus upon:

- ① Conclusions can be improved by writing suggestions way forward, Recom. of committees/reports, SDGs, govt. schemes etc.
- ② scope for drawing flowcharts, maps & contextual diagrams.
- ③ Try to address all the parts of questions. eg. Q-14
- ④ more diverse points are needed
- ⑤ prioritise important points above general points

All the best!

1. The FIPIC initiative represents a significant endeavour aimed at enhancing India's involvement in the Pacific region.
comment. (10)

very well
linked
to the
current
affairs

Recently the 3rd India - FIPIC Summit
was held in Papua New Guinea
reflecting India's active
engagement in the region.

Also
define
what
is
FIPIC

FIPIC Initiative and involvement in the Pacific Region

① Forum for India and Pacific
Island countries (FIPIC) is
in tune with India's vision
of "Act East Policy".

② India is cooperating with
the Oceania countries as
a part of its India's
Indo Pacific ocean initiative (IPOI).

③ The co operation has enhanced
in recent times growing

Relevant
subpoints
are
discussed
as per
demand
of
question

Keywords
are
duply
mentioned
&
underlined

from defence, security to
strategic cooperation.

good
substantiation

Ex. Brahmas deal with
Philippines

④ India is helping in the
capacity building of the
countries against "Chinese
expansionism" in South China
Sea.
Ex. India provided INS
Kirpan to Vietnam.

Also,
Discuss

① South-
South
co-opm

② Backing
India's claim
for UNSC
permanent
seat -
etc

⑤ India is also a part
of Quad and IPEF which
reflects its strategic
engagement.

Kindly
be specific
to the
demand of
Qn -

These are
vague points
in the
context
of IPEF

⑥ Further India needs to
actively engage with the
ASEAN countries in the
region.

Kindly
discuss
few challenges
to IPEF

& add
way
forward

Thus, the Indo-Pacific has
emerged as the "geopolitical
centre of gravity", with active
involvement of India (2.5)

good
conclusion

2.

An active, diverse civil society often plays a valuable role in helping advance democracy. It can discipline the state ensure that citizens' interests are taken seriously and foster greater civic and political participation. Discuss. (10)

Civil society plays a key role in ensuring "vibrant democracy" because "republic ^{democracy} is not only the absence of monarchy but presence of active civic participation".

Role of civil society well defined

Need for active, diverse civil society:

① Helps in providing the "constructive criticism" to the government.

Ex. The chipko movement, Narmada Bachao.

② Facilitates the "trust based governance" with the right based legislations
Ex. the Environment Act 1986, Forest Rights Act 2006, RTI

Relevant points are mentioned

participatory

well substantiated

Act / Right to Education Act 2009

(3) Helps in promoting a participatory mechanism
Ex. ADR, PLCL, PLDR advocating for electoral reforms and rights of citizens.

(4) Facilitate government in efficient public service delivery.
Ex. Chattisgarh PDS model engaging NGOs, SHGs, PRIs.

Emerging Issues:

- conflict of interests
e.e. profit motive vs social motive.
- Erroneous capitalism hindering CSOs.
- Lacking financial viability (FCRA) and autonomy.

Thus, their role needs to be redefined in "Trinity model of governance" having government, market and the CSOs.

prints are good

Also discuss how it disciplines

effective as a measure to elections

good value adding

balanced conclusion

3. The Right to Information Act is one of the significant instruments that has reinforced the centrality of citizens in India. Critically examine (10)

Negative part need
more emphasize

very
well
introduced

The Right to Information (RTI) Act heralded the era of transparency and accountability based on the citizens' "Right to know".

RTI reinforcing centrality of citizens

① The Act mandates that the information sought has to be furnished within 30 days and in certain cases within 48 hours.

penalty
are
fine
on
per
demand

② It makes the government responsible ensuring "good governance".

③ Along with the digital governance it promotes the idea of "Minimum"

government and maximum
governance".

④ It bridges the "information gap" and "trust deficit"
and posers "trust based
governance".

⑤ It thus facilitates active
civic participation for
citizen centric governance.

challenges:

↓
Frivolous
RTI
petitions

→ Huge pendency of
RTI petitions
(4 lakh+ as per
Sataska Nagarik
Sangathan)

→ Reluctance of
authorities to
disclose information
on grounds like
"national security".

Thus, the act can be
revamped because "information
is the currency of democracy"
(Jefferson)

↳ please add some suggestions

good
substantiation

3.75

4. Discuss the challenges and opportunities for India in its engagement with the African continent and suggest ways to improve, enhance the partnership. (10)

India has actively engaged with Africa because of deep historical and cultural interlinkages i.e. post colonial identity.

Opportunities for India =

① cooperation in capacity building

Ex TEAM-9, ITEC, pan-e African network.

② South-South solidarity

Ex. BRICS, IBSA, 94

③ Demand for multilateral reforms.

Ex. Bretton Woods, UNSC

④ cooperation in infra development

Ex. Asia Africa growth corridor (AAGC)

well introduced

Relevant points

Also focus on

Geo-strategic
Geo-political &
Geo-econ. issues

Challenges for India:

↳ Chinese expansionism

Ex. BRI, String of pearls

↳ Africa-China engagement
Ex military base at Djibouti.

↳ "Resource curse" leading to poverty, ethnic strife, civil wars in region.

↳ Increasing tilt of Africa towards other countries like USA, Russia, China.

Need more diverse projects ↓

① Delayed projects by India

② Limited capabilities

③ Ethnic tension & civil wars

④ Terrorism & growing radicalisation

Kindly avoid similar group

Improving, Enhancing Partnerships

• Soft power diplomacy

Ex IIT campus at Zanzibar

• Indian peacekeeping operations

• Recent 15th BRICS Summit.

• Capacity building like infra development (Egypt)

thus, Liganda ten principles can help to pursue extended neighbourhood policy.

good value addition

conclusion is good

3-5

5. Analyse the role of India in promoting regional connectivity and economic integration in south Asia. (10)

*Contextual
info*
The South Asian region is one of the richest in terms of human capital and demography but lacks efficient connectivity.

Role of India in promoting regional connectivity:

① South Asia is one of the least integrated regions due to mutual hostility.
Ex Big brother perception for India by neighbours.

points are good
② However India promoted connectivity initiatives like Ashgabat agreement, TAPI UTAPI pipeline.

③ Chabahar project aims at linking "South Asia" to central Asia.

*Kindly
draw a
small map
of South Asia
locating various
connectivity
initiatives
by them*

well discussed
④ The INSTC further facilitates connectivity in central Asia.

⑤ India also promotes the Kaladan - Sitkewee project connecting Kolkata to Sittwe.

⑥ India is actively engaging in the IMT Trilateral highway project.

Deficit Economic Integration

↳ Though the idea of SAFTA failed but India had FTA with partners like Sri Lanka.

↳ currency swap agreements.

↳ push for local currency settlement system.

↳ BIMSTEC, BBIN and SASEC initiative — elaborate further

Thus, India plays a key role in promoting prosperity in the region.

6. Cooperative federalism reflects an ideology of stable relationship between centre and state interaction. Despite this, there are certain issues and challenges pertaining to it. Discuss. (10)

very well defined

The idea of cooperative federalism believes in mutual cooperation and exchange between the centre and the states.

Cooperative federalism :

① Promotes unity and integrity of the country
Ex the ISC (Art 263), National Integration Council

② Facilitates effective engagement and smooth administration

③ Fosters idea of "federalism" as sui generis i.e. emerging on its own (K.C. Wheare)

④ Reflects federalism as the "basic structure" S.R. Bommai

very well argued

points are apt

Case 1994

- ⑤ Facilitates exchange and cooperative development
Ex: Via MTI Dayog

Issues and challenges:

- ① Emergence of "uncooperative federalism"

Ex: West Bengal, Tamil Nadu.

- ② contestation over financial devolution and revenues.
Ex: 4ST meetings.

- ③ state specific disputes
Ex: Tamil Nadu protests against NEET.

- ④ question on partisan role of governors and reservation of bills for President

Thus, there is the need to promote balance between state autonomy and centralisation as India is union of states (Art. 1)

Need more diverse content

① misuse of office & governance

② financial centralisation

③ Art - 356 etc

→ suggestion by Sarkaria Comm.

Kindly write some way forward

3-5

7. Analyse the nature of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) as an independent body. (10)

Also add
Art. 315

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is a constitutional body and serves as the guardian of merit based appointment system.

Nature of UPSC as an independent body

① under art. 312 it is mandated to make the recruitments for All-India Services (IAS, IPS, IFS).

② It has a federal character with the State Public Service Commissions.

③ consists of not more than 9 members who serve for 6 years or 65 years of age whichever is earlier.

④ conducts the recruitment

Relevant points are disorganised

more points related to Autonomy

- ① charged expenditure
- ② Appointment & removal
- ③ consultation by govt

tests and exams for various
central services, Group A, B
services.

good points

⑤ advises the government
on matters of recruitment.

⑥ Reports to the President,
and the report is laid in
the Parliament.

limited role over
disciplinary
action (CVC
plays key role)

The Issues :

aptly
discussed

Its
efficiency
not truly
reflected
in the
"officers"
because of
"politicisation of
bureaucracy"

Non binding
recommendations

No control over
postings, promotions
transfers (done by
DoPT)

kindly
write
some
suggestion

However, UPSC has
been the most transparent
body functioning effectively.

375

8. What are the challenges in the implementation of e-governance in India? what measures need to be taken to overcome it? (10)

Also define e-governance the e-governance in India has evolved with the idea of "Digital public service delivery".

Challenges in implementation of e-governance in India

① Lack of digital literacy (only 48%) hampers the e-governance vision.

② Digital divide, Rural-Urban divide
Ex: internet penetration

③ Lack of awareness among citizens.
Ex: CPGRAMS portal, GEM, e-NAM, my.gov.

④ The lack of accessibility to digital devices
Ex: debates over use of

Please Add
↓

① Data security

② privacy

③ Lack of infra

etc

Relevant
subpoints
are
already
discussed

NMMS in MGNREGA

⑤ Issue of "cyber crimes" and violation of privacy.

Ex. recent COWIN data breach.

Measures to be taken:

① Improve digital literacy,
ICT connectivity.

Ex. Bharatnet, PM-WANI,
E-Kranti.

② Foster civic participation

Ex. engage NGOs, MSMEs.

③ Doorstep public service delivery Ex. my gov.

④ Addressing privacy concerns
Ex. Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023

Thus, there is the need
for Gov Tech 4.0 in the era of
Industrial Revolution 4.0 for good governance.

good
point

V. good
is
very
substantive

Conclusion
is
good

4

9.

Discuss ways to empower NGOs in India to carry out development activities for safeguarding the environment. Also, throw light on the primary obstacles that may impede progress (10)

Intro is fine

the NGOs play a key role in public service delivery and realisation of the vision of the "welfare state".

way to ~~empower~~

Empowering the NGOs =

Kindly use specific words from question in subheading to show in sync with demand

① In order to ensure the welfare, the "environmental justice" has to be ensured.

Need to link to the demand & ways to environment

② NGOs like Varashakti, Kalpavriksha, Greenpeace, Germanwatch, TERI, BNHS promote "environmental sustainability".

good point

③ they can be empowered with enhanced "financial autonomy" and access to the finance.

Kindly write more imp. point in priority order

good point

④ there should for "single window clearance" for their registration.

⑤ Bureaucratic "red tape" needs to be checked.

Suggest Some

- ① Legal &
- ② Regulatory framework

Primary obstacles impeding the progress

↳ The FERA amendment act threatening financial autonomy.

↳ Issues of crony capitalism, conflict of interests.

↳ cancellation of licenses on alleged protests against environmental projects

Ex. Greenpeace questioning the coal power plants.

① Negative perception in society

↳ Anti-dep.

② targeted by bureaucracy

③ strict env. regulating

Relevant points

Add at least 4-5 points

conclⁿ is five

However, the NGOs have played remarkable role like in Chipko movement, Narmada Bachao movement for the climate, environmental equity.

3-5

10.

Discuss the emerging avenues of international relations and assess the preparedness of India in these area of expertise. (10)

contentful intro { the international relations is becoming ever complex and dynamic with emerging issues like "fragmented global order".

Emerging avenues of International relations :

① avenue of food grain sustainability in light of the crisis (Russia moving out of Black Sea grain deal)

② Avenue for promotion of region and global peace
Ex. Ukrainian crisis

③ Idea of "climate justice" Ex. Vanavatu

very well discussed & substantiated

approaching ICJ for climate reparations

Also held
① Decline of
CSA

② Multi-play
world

③ post-covid
pandemic
opportunities

④ Idea of Rule based free
and open world order.

③ Free flow of goods across
borders to facilitate
globalisation.

India's preparedness :

↳ "Vaccine Maitri" initiative
reflected India's proactive
approach.

↳ India leading initiatives
like ISA (OSOWOG) with
France for "solar energy".

↳ SCRI for supply chain
resilience.

↳ CORI, IRIS initiative for
disaster management.

Thus, India is aiming
to prepare itself with the
vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat"
and "Vasudhiva Kuttumbakam".

① NEST @
MOFF

② Act East

③ ICET

④ Multi-
lateralism

⑤ Atmanirbhar
Bharat
etc.

good
policy

Instead of
writing
random
initiatives -
you need to
discuss more
concrete policy
level of institutional
changes

④

11.

The quality of higher education in India requires major improvements to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of higher and technical education in the country? Discuss. (15)

good linked to current affairs
Recently India allowed the entry of foreign educational institutes in sync with its New Economic Policy (NEP) 2020.

the foreign educational institutions ^{As per NEP it is improving quality.}

① These institutions are now permitted to set up the campuses (those who are listed in top 500 in the world university rankings)

good points
② they can enhance the opportunities and avenues for quality education.

Ex. the knowledge transfer

③ they will provide an

engaging environment and ecosystem for the students.

Relevant dimension added

- ④ They will help in improving the accessibility and the affordability of education.

However, the challenges

remain:

- ① The question of the affordability by the vulnerable sections.
Ex they will have autonomy to decide fee structure.

Points are five

as per demand

- ② The rural-urban divide and digital divide in the country.

Ex concentration of the universities in urban centres.

- ③ May not provide similar quality and standards like in their home country.

good (4) The question of regulation and autonomy of the institutions.

Major improvements needed to improve the education sector,

(1) Focus should also be on the domestic institutions as only 21 Indian institutions are there in Qs world university rankings.

(2) Capacity building of the domestic institutions.
Ex. IOE initiative.

(3) Expanding Indian institutions
Ex. First IIT campus in Zanzibar (Tanzania)

(4) checking the issue of quality access, equity.
Ex. GER is 27.1% only in higher education.

You can also mention some govt. initiatives in this direction

good conclⁿ

Thus, the need is to revamp the system to emerge as "global knowledge superpower" for realisation of SDG-4 (quality education)

6.25

12. Comment on the constitutional validity of the 103rd constitutional amendment act 2019 which aims to bring the economically weaker section to the mainstream of development, in the light of recent supreme court judgements (15)

at providing "socio-economic justice" by providing 10% reservation in jobs and educational opportunities to the EWS population.

Jankit Abhiyan
vs.
Union of India
case

Constitutional validity of the 103rd amendment act 2019,

① Recently the supreme court has upheld the validity of the act by the majority of 2:1 3:2

kindly adhere
to factual accuracy

② Dissenting judgement was given by Justice B.V. Nagarathna who believed

points are relevant

that the EWS reservation should also extend to the other communities (SC, ST, OBCs).

③ The income ceiling limit was also contested but it was later agreed upon.

④ The court highlighted that it is not in violation to the Indra Sawhney judgement (1992) which fixed the 50% ceiling.

⑤ Thus the constitutional validity of the act was maintained by the court.

The 103rd Amendment act to bring the EWS to the mainstream of development

① It was brought for checking the rising income divide and economic disparities.

② It sets out certain conditions

good point
You need to discuss these points under two subheads
① In favour of EWS
② Against EWS reservation

Proper subtitles needed

like 28 lakh ceiling limit,
100 yards, 200 yards of plot
limits, agri land limits to
identify the EWS.

good points
(3) It is in tune with Article 46
of Constitution (DPSP) which
aims at educational and
economic empowerment.

(4) It helps in realisation of the
idea of "welfare state".

The 50% ceiling (Indra
Sawhney) still
remains contested.

good value addition
Emerging
Issues:

Debates around
ever expanding
reservations

↓
Politicisation
of the "affirmative action"

good suggestion
Thus, the need of hour
is to also focus on capability
enhancement (Amartya Sen) and
capacity building in sectors like
education and employment.

6

131

the proposed multi-state cooperative societies (Amendment) Bill 2022 seeks to revamp the operation of cooperative societies in India. Discuss the key provisions of the bill, emphasizing the importance of this amendment. (15)

The recent Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2022 i.e.

the MSCS Act aims at promotion of the 'cooperative movement' in India based on the vision:
"one for each, each for one".

Provisions of the MSCS Bill 2022

① In sync with the constitutional status provided to the cooperatives i.e via 97th Constitutional Amendment Act.

② Provides powers to the central government to regulate the MSCS.

③ central government will play a key role in the appointment

Please Add

- ① Setting up election authority
- ② co-operable central men
- ③ provide for merging of coop
- ④ More inclusive Board of directors → women, CLS etc.

These are general points

very well introduced

procedures for the appointments
to the cooperative boards.

④ ~~The~~ cooperatives will have
the dual status of enterprises
and associations.

⑤ Recently formed "Ministry of
Cooperations" to play a key
role in promoting the
interests of the cooperatives.

⑥ Enhanced market access for
their products across
different states.
Ex. MSCS like AMUL.

Importance of this Amendment

① It will help in the "capacity
building of the cooperatives
(Part IX B)

② It will provide the right
to form cooperatives, in
tune with Article 19(1)(c)

too
general
points

Need to
write
actual
provisions

more
specific
content
required

of the constitution

③ It will promote enhanced access and financial viability to the MSCS as underlined in Art. 43 B.

Although, points are relevant

④ the changing nature of MSCS reflected the need for the amendment.

but not an per demand

⑤ The supreme court struck down some sections of the 97th amendment act which led to the recent amendment.

⑥ the amendment thus reconciled with the judgement of the supreme court.

Adv

① promotes industry

② Regular election

③ Foster dispute resolution

④ loss making co-op to merge

⑤ Increase efficiency etc

balanced concl

Thus, there is the need to further ensure the protection and promotion of cooperatives to make India the "hub of cooperatives".

④

part-1

14.

A Governor should discharge his duty in accordance with the spirit of the constitution and not just act as an agent of the Centre. Discuss the issues associated with the post of Governor in this regard and suggest remedies for it. (15)

part-2

part-3

The constitution of India provides the Governor with the "dual capacity" i.e. the nominal head of a state and a representative of union government.

Also mention relevant article -

153

Also write duties of Gov. in accordance with const. of India

Issues associated with the post of Governor

① Governor acting as the "agent of centre" resulting in conflicts with states having different party's government. Ex West Bengal, Tamil Nadu.

Relevant points

② gubernatorial inaction of the Governor over the

State bills. Ex. In Tamil Nadu
the government asked the
President to look into the
issue of inaction.

Relevant
points
discussed

③ Even Supreme Court asked
for providing assent to the bills
as soon as possible.

④ Governor's active role in
"forming state governments"
Ex. Maharashtra crisis

In Tamil Nadu

→ Governor
dismissed
a minister

→ Inaction
over the
state bills

→ skipping some
parts of the
"motion of thanks"
and address.

Recent debatable
roles and
actions: The
case study

In Kerala

→ not
giving
consent
to the
bills.

→ Direct
confrontation
with elected
government
on "social
media".

Even there has been conflicts
with the Lg and elected Delhi

good
value
adding

good
argument

Government over the NCCSA
bill, Alderman issue and
GNCTD Bill.

Remedies to check the crisis:

① "Governors should see that
the government is formed
not get the government
formed" (Sarkaria Commission)

② B.P. Singhal vs Union of
India and Samsher Singh
Judgement asked Governors
to "act on aid and advice
of state government".

③ NAC for appointment of
non-partisan governors
(NCRWC).

④ Governors to defend the
constitution" (Natsam Rebia 2016)

thus, the Governors should
act as a "benign link between
the centre and States" (Dr. B.R. Ambedkar)

6.5

balanced
conclⁿ

very
well
argued

&
Substantive

15. throw light on the role of Parliamentary committees and give a contemporary evaluation of their functionings so far. (15)

The Parliamentary committees derive their legitimacy from Article 105 and 118 of the Constitution helping in the scrutiny of the bills.

Role of Parliamentary Committees

① Enhance accountability of the government making it more responsive.

② check the "hasty decisions" and provide in depth scrutiny.

③ Provide effective recommendations for the bills.

Ex The Recommendation on Data Protection Bill.

④ Help in ensuring enhanced

very good
use &
const.
provisions

Demand
&
question
rightly
addressed

transparency in the functioning
of the executive.

Ex. The joint parliamentary
committees.

⑤ Ensure "fiscal prudence" and
fiscal discipline.

Ex. The PAC acting as
guide, friend, philosopher
of the CAG.

contemporary evaluation of
their functioning:

① Their role has declined
with declined scrutiny.

Ex. 74% bills went to
committees in 15th Lok Sabha
while only 24% went to
them during 16th Lok Sabha
from 2014 - 19.

② The continuous disruption
of Parliament is also
affecting their functioning.

good
points

v-good

Relevant
subpoints

③ Decline of Parliament like the sittings of the house also impacted their role.

④ the frequent ordinance route taken by the executive 100+ ordinances in last 20 years has diminished their role.

⑤ The lack of parliamentary scrutiny is adding further to the conflicts between the government and the opposition.

⑥ However, they have been successful in promoting democratic spirit. Ex. they asked for revamping social sector initiatives (PM-ABRY, ONORC, Jal Jeevan mission).

Thus, Woodrow Wilson believed that "the Congress in session is one at public exhibition, while in the committee rooms it is at real work".

7.5
good attempt

well argued
use of
data &
examples
is
apt

good
conclⁿ

16. What are the grounds for disqualification for a people's representative under RPA 1951? Is it time to reconsider the Act? (15)

The Representation of Peoples Act (RPA) 1951 was passed by the Parliament under Art. 327 with the vision of "free, fair and regular elections in the country".

Grounds for disqualification

① Section 8 of the RPA 1951 provides for various grounds of disqualifications.

↳ Promoting enmity between various groups / sections.

↳ Holding an "office of profit".

↳ Violating the mandate of the Anti Defection

Recent
intro

well
argued
points are
capt

Law and the electoral mechanisms

↳ Promoting anti-social activities harming the society i.e. social evils like dowry, child marriage.

Relevant
subpoints
are
discussed
as per
demand

↳ Section 8(3) highlights that if the people's representative is convicted for sentence of 2 years or more then is disqualified for the 6 years in addition to the punishment period.

Lack of clarity
→ over disqualification proceedings.

The issues
with the
RPA 1951

→ not able to
check "Criminalisation
of politics".

↓
Loopholes
of the Act
are misused for electoral gains.

valid
points are
mentioned

The need to reconsider the act

① Supreme court in Lily Thomas
vs Union of India 2013 called
for the review of the act.

② The failure of the act to
promote "intra party
democracy" and "clean
politics".

③ the loopholes need to be
plugged to promote
free / fair elections.

④ Emerging dynamics like
Electoral bonds, VVPAT,
NOTA, frequent violation of
the MCC demand reform.

⑤ Need to make it more
"citizen centric".

thus, there is the need
to revisit the act to realize
the idea of "inclusive representative
democracy".

⑦

very
well
discussed

balanced
concl^y

17. G-20 presidency under India is an embodiment of inclusivity, ambitiousness and decisiveness.
Discuss. (15)

good intro
Also define
G-20
India through its G-20 presidency aims at promoting the vision of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' with the idea of 'one Earth one Family, one Future'.

India's G-20 presidency

① For the first time India has received the presidency and 'troika' consists of the 'developing countries' (i.e. Indonesia, India and Brazil)

② India aims at multipronged approach with seven priorities i.e. India's rainbow

- good points
- Green growth
 - Focus on SDGs
 - Inclusive development
 - The LIFE movement

points
are
good

- Technology transfer and Digital Public Infra (DPI).
- Multilateral reforms.
- Women led development.

India is aiming to promote:

Inclusivity:

↳ India emerging as the "voice of Global South" with unity of voice, vision and purpose.

↳ Promoting South-South solidarity.

↳ Reforms for Bretton Woods, WTO in interest of the Third World.

↳ Promotion of economic and social justice.

Also Add

① Invited friendly countries

② Divorce issues like env, energy etc. are included

good
points

Ambitiousness:

↳ India's rise as the "global leader".

↳ vision to emerge as the economic powerhouse.

well explained

↳ demand for permanent seat at UNSC.

↳ strengthening global peace and cooperation.

Decisiveness:

↳ India maintained pragmatic stand on "Ukrainian crisis" as "now it is not the era of war" and "India has given Buddha not yuddha to world".

Relevant points are discussed

↳ India maintained its fight against terrorism.

↳ critical of Chinese expansionism

↳ demand for "dedollarisation"

Thus, India aims at promoting a presidency of harmony, healing and hope for "international peace and security" (Article 51).

good use of terminology

7

18.

Discuss the role of Bureaucracy in the conduct of free and fair elections under the guidance of the Election Commission of India (15)

good
intro

The Indian bureaucracy is recognised as the "steel frame of India" promoting vibrant democracy.

Role of Bureaucracy in the
conduct of free, fair elections
under guidance of the ECI

① Free and fair elections are sine qua non for the representative democracy.

please discuss
role of
bureaucracy

② The non-partisan role of bureaucrats ensures smooth conduct of the elections.

kindly,
avoid similar point

points
are
relevant

③ Bureaucracy also provides neutral, non-partisan advice to the executive

which fosters effective and frictionless administration.

④ Under the guidance of the ECI, the bureaucracy has stood the test of time for maintaining the integrity of elections.
Ex. role of T.N. Seshan in reforming elections.

You need to discuss the role
in terms of

- ↓
- ① planning
 - ② preparedness
 - ③ during election
 - ④ post-election
- etc

points are valid

⑤ There has been contestation with the "appointment process" (the recent supreme court verdict) but the "personal character of the officials helped to maintain effectiveness".

Challenges:-

→ "Politicisation of bureaucracy" and "bureaucratization of politics".

↙ Increasing "criminalisation of politics".

↘ Involvement of bureaucrats in elections Ex. promoting a particular party.

points are relevant

The way ahead

① The bureaucracy should adhere
to the non-partisanship.

② Need for "code of Ethics" for
bureaucracy (P.C. Nota
Committee).

③ adherence to the civil
Services conduct rules 1964,
All India services Conduct
Rules 1988.

④ Lessons from personalities
like T.N. Seshan

⑤ Promoting reforms in
elections
Ex compliance with MCC,
MPAT, NOTA

⑥ Engagement with NGOs
Ex. SVEEP initiative

can make
as a
concluding

Thus, Indian bureaucracy
plays a core role in
ensuring regular, free, fair
electoral process.

This is
more repetition
of question
statement

Need more
concrete
statement

very
well
argued

19.

Examine the need for prison reforms in India. Discuss the significance of Model Prison Act 2023 in this regard.

(15)

write the content of model prison Act

The prison reforms in India is in sync with the fair "Criminal Justice System" for a "reformatory approach".

Need for Prison reforms in India

① Huge undertrials in India i.e. about 73%. (NJD4)

② Increased over occupancy of the prisons (117%).

③ Instances of ineffective prison management and violence among the prisoners
Ex. the recent Tihar jail issue involving violence.

④ Huge pendency of cases in India (about 4 crore + cases : NJD4, especially in lower judiciary).

points are good but can be diversified further

- ① prison atrocities
- ② huge prominence of SC, ST inmates
- ③ Security of women prisoners
- ④ Infra-issues

points
are
relevant

⑤ The dynamic nature of
the offences and need
for effective prison
management.
Ex. mental health issues
among the prisoners.

⑥ To make the "justice" more
accessible and affordable
with focus on prisoners'
rights also.

Significance of Model Prison Act 2023 :

① Aims at decolonisation of
Indian prison system
(replacing Prisons Act of
1884 which is colonial
in nature).

② Aims at promoting prisoner
centric prison reforms.

good
points

③ Police and prisons being the "state subjects" have great variation across the states.

④ thus, it aims at providing uniformity and harmony across the state laws.

⑤ ~~Rather~~ than simply punitive it is also reformative in approach.

⑥ It is in tune with the vision of "Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita" making the criminal justice system more robust and efficient.

⑦ ~~Even~~ focuses on the "open prisons" concept.

thus, there is the need to overhaul the prisons to have better citizen welfare centric approach to reforms.

Relevant
Subpoints
are
discussed

good
conclusion

6.29

20. High prevalence of stunting, wasting and anaemia continue to pose public health risks for children and women in India. Discuss how India should strengthen its existing social sector scheme like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to tackle these issues. (15)

good use
of
facts

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) placed India at 107th spot making it the country with one-third globally stunted and wasted children.

High prevalence of stunting, wasting and anaemia

① Issue of wasting, stunting reflects the "hidden hunger" i.e. micro nutrient deficiency.

② It hinders the health and educational outcomes of the children especially the girls.
Ex. increased dropout

Relevant
points
are
added

Rate from the schools during
covid-19 pandemic

③ It makes the children
more vulnerable to poor
health impacting their
productivity in long run.
Ex. learning regression
(World Bank)

④ Additionally about 50% of
Indian women are anaemic.

⑤ It results in high maternal
mortality rates (103/lakh)
and infant mortality rates
(27/1000) = NFHS - 5.

⑥ It negatively impacts women
participation in the workforce
and means of livelihoods.

⑦ Poor health outcomes result
in increased vulnerabilities
to diseases.

Ex. India having 1/4th global
burden of diseases (WHO).

good
point &
easily
substantiated

Strengthening the social sector schemes :

① Initiative like ICDS is based on "life cycle approach" including immunisation, early childhood care, supplementary nutrition.

② Initiatives like POSHAN, NFSM, ONDC and PM-4KY for food security.

③ Maternal interventions for good health
Ex. role of ASHA workers, SUMAN initiative, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).

④ Eat Right India, mid day meals (Samagra Shiksha) for the children.

⑤ Food fortification initiatives.

Thus, there is the need for multistakeholder approach to ensure "health for all" and SDG-3 (Good health, well-being).

Kindly suggest some reforms for their effective implementation

good concl

⑥

