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Subject - PSIR Optional Test Series

Q.1)
a)

Discuss the factors responsible for growth of regional parties in Indian political system.

Indian political system today stands at the confluence of One party dominant system (BJP) and one party led coalition (NDA) thus, increasing the role of regional parties.

There are several reasons for growth of regional parties. Firstly, as Bidyut Chakravarty in "Winning the Mandate" writes, delinking between national and state election under federal model has led to rise of political parties in region.

Secondly, land reforms and rise of dominant castes which benefitted from land reforms led to birth of Bullock Capitalists (Rudolph & Rudolph) like Taclave, Jets etc. which brought OBC parties in states.

Thirdly, the developmental needs of states and welfare economists' (scoti, Kapda, nahaan) led to rise of regional leaders reflecting aspirations of population like - Lala Yadav (RJD, Bihar), Chaudhary Charan Singh, Nitish Kumar etc.

Fourth, the social identities and ascriptive politics (caste-religion axis) led to social mobilisation which was capitalised by parties like DMK, AIADMK (Tamil Nadu), Telugu Desam Party (Andhra) etc.

Fifth, popularity of leaders have further strengthened regional parties like Aam Aadmi Party (Kerala, Delhi), Telugan Desam Party (Andhra Pradesh), Samajwadi Party (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar), Trinamool Congress (West Bengal, Bengal).

Thus, regionalisation is influencing the political phenomenon & also strengthening Federalism (Yogendra Yadav).

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)Q.1)
b)

Discuss the reasons for the environmental movements in India.

Environmental movements are reflective of the citizens concern for Mother Nature's protection and preservation.

As Ramchandra Guha in "The Unquiet Woods" writes:

"polluted rivers, degraded lands and displaced tribals" are all we have after 70 years of India's Independence... " thus, environmental movements reflect these issues.

Firstly, India's environmental movements in contrast to the west are - movements of 'survival' rather than affluence. For instance, the Vedantu vs. Niyamgiri protest was concerned more about the survival & habital rights of jan-patis (tribes) in Niyamgiri hills of Odisha than environment per se.

Secondly, these are non-institutional and unorganised. As they arise on need-basis and are sporadic in nature. Like the treey forest protest in Mumbai against felling of trees for Metro.

Thirdly, ecofeminists like Vandana Shiva points these movements are reflection of failure of state's policies. For instance, the soil degradation, water pollution due to chemical fertilisers usage during Green Revolution.

Fourth, the urban-educated society's consciousness is reflected as voice for controlling air pollution in Delhi or [Bansiding Gandhians] protesting Industrialisation along Yamuna.

Western environmentalism is winning (Influenced UNFCCC) due to more institutional & government recognition. Barry Buzan-
"Securitise the environmental issues".

Q.11)
c)

Examine the impact of LCA on political discourse in India.

The 1991 economic reforms have been hailed for unearthing the CAGED TIGER of Indian economy and revolutionizing the Indian economic story.

However, these reforms left a different influence on political discourse.

Firstly, it led to rise of more national parties (25 to 41 in 2001) leading to deepening of Indian democracy (Yogendra Yadav).

Secondly, it led to more association of NGOs, pressure groups and CSOs influencing governance. For instance, CII, FICCI lobbying government to sign WTO-TRIPS agreement. Thus, some scholars

has pointed "reduced role of state" (Pranab
Bardhan).

Thirdly, the role of regional parties due to development and growth getting decentralized. Congress dropped the word 'socialist' from political manifesto.

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand (Nonal affected states) invited private sector investments / FDI in mining, construction creating State-Industrial complex.

Fourthly, education and globalisation has led to more political awareness leading to rights-based approach (soon politician - H. Arendt) demanding rights against political parties (like youth tickets, women representation).

However, Milan Vaidya writes in "When money pays", LDC led to cheque-book politics & use of money-muscle influence increasing criminalization of politics.

प्र-1)
d)

Discuss the objectives of land reforms implemented in post-independence India.

Aristotle writes that "Inequality is the greatest cause of revolution" and thus, land reforms sought to reduce inequalities from Indian agrarian society.

Amidst the zamindar's control over lands, fragmented holdings, poor land records and exploitation of tenants, JC Kumarappa Committee suggested five-fold strategy for land reforms.

Firstly, abolition of zamindari was the primary objective. It led to freeing of million of hectares of land and 2 crore + farmers got land rights (land to the tillers).

Secondly, reform of tenancy laws was the second most important objective. It led to reduction of rent on land by almost 50-60% and 40 million farmers got tenancy rights across India.

Thirdly, land-consolidation was emphasized to increase land-pool in hands of farmers to better capitalise on it. Land records were maintained.

Fourthly, cooperative movement was strengthened to increase bargaining-power, income of farmers and prosperity. Rise of AIUL, animal cooperatives etc. was seen.

Fifth, land ceilings were introduced to redistribute lands among SC/ST farmers (Gandhian economics).

However, India being soft-state (Channar Myedal), late implementation of land reforms happened reflective today in agri-scenario.

Q.1)
e)

Difference between old & new social movements.

Social movements are reflection of Hannah Arendt's concept of "surgeon's power" i.e., when people come together and collectively voice concerns against the state.

Social movements are thus, a society-mechanism to voice concerns.

India being prismatic society (FW Riggs) witness existence of both old and new social movements.

Old movements in early 60's & 70's focused on basic necessities of rooti-kapda-akaan (Ruhka) while the new movements has wider ambit of rights, justice and freedom.

Old movements arose on

need-basis like Chipko movement in 1970's, while the new movements are confined and organised movements like Bijra-Tol (women's rights).

Old movements inspiration were marginalized voices and national movement-struggle, while the new movements are inspired by western liberalism and globalization of ideas (Attheywood) like Black Panther (USA)'s progeny Balit Panthers (India).

Old movements had limited influence in impacting state while new movements have deeper impact on state like Uttarakhand guidelines by SC due to civil society protest against government.

Foucault writes that: "power can't be centrally located but functions throughout-society", reflected in Iran's Kijab protest, Palestine's liberation & India's Femin protest.

Q.2)
a)

Discuss the nature of demands of LGBTQ movements in India.

LGBTQ+ rights movement in India are the social movements demanding right to sexual orientation under the ambit of right to life under Article 21.

Shashi Tharoor writes that the demand of LGBTQ groups are demand for basic human rights denied to them due to "retrogressive thought-process of society against heterogeneity".

Thus, LGBTQ movements demand right to recognition, legalisation of same-sex marriages, right to residence and cultural rights in democratic society.

These demands are inspired by the global LGBTQ movements, gay-pride rallies and independent groups across countries like We are One in USA etc. Thus, these are essentially western in origin.

Secondly, these are rights demand directed against state. Carol Hanisch wrote that : "when she looks at the state, it appears male to her", thus, these movements challenge the state's discrimination of men, women and third sex in granting rights or framing policies.

Thirdly, these movements also align with radical feminist call

for challenging patriarchy with which enforces 'homogeneity'. Mila Davis writes that "by nature, societies have never just been heterogeneous and same-sex attraction has been the norm."

Fourth, these movements in India are still loosely organized amidst civil society organizations. These are also mostly urban-based educated people movements like pride rally in Delhi, Bhopal etc.

However, Supreme Court in Naveen Singh Johar case have given these movement a "social recognition" by de-criminalising homosexuality.

Love is independent and thus, LGBTQ association is important factor in extending rights to vulnerable.

Q-2)
b)

Critically examine the impact of ethnicity on Indian politics.

End of Ideology (Daniel Bell) has led to strengthening of identity-based mobilisation based on cross-cutting of caste, class, religion and ethnicity.

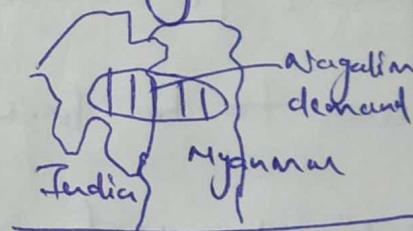
Ethnicity is an important factor in Indian politics, as India being a prismatic society (F.W. Riggs) suffers from demands based on ethnic-tensions, failure to meet leads to legitimation crisis (Habermas).

Ethnicity leads to demand for ~~separation and segregation~~ rights and justice as it has deepened democracy by empowering masses, argues Yogendra Yadav.

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It has led to rise of political parties in north-east which have mobilised people on ethnic grounds to meet concerns. Like the protest for self-governance has led to Indian state providing 6th Schedule rights (Autonomous District Councils) and Article 371 special provisions.

However, ethnic politics has also posed several challenges. It has given birth to Ethnic Regionalism (M.P. Singh). Like demand for Nagaland cutting across Indo-Myanmar border affects true-integration.



Secondly, it has given birth to several rebel-outfits with sectional interests like NSCN (IM) (Zai), Manipur

Liberation Front (Kukles) etc.

Thirdly, ethnic regionalism like demand for Bodoland, Morkhaland, Bundelkhand (in Central India) has led to divisive politics (Nerua Chandhoke), development deficit and delay in bringing progress.

Thus, ethnicity has several impacts on Indian politics. [Atul Kohli] suggest democratic-decentralisation and 6th schedule strengthening reforms for more power to these. Likewise, development has to be brought-forward by scholarship policies and special targeting of the left-outs (Abhijit Banerjee).

"Federalism is important but not at cost of national unity", we need to make sure ethnicity unites and not divide India.

Q-2) How has India's economic growth from liberalisation impacted social development, and what challenges remain for comprehensive socio-economic progress.

Liberalization was India's answer to the balance of payment crisis (1991) and the failure of India's Nehruvian socialist model to unleash the caged Indian tiger.

As a result several important liberal norms were introduced under the guise of IMF-inspired neo-liberalism model. It led to India becoming a Schumpeterian Competition State in global arena for exports, FDI attraction and investment-treaties.

Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee pointed several social-development avenues opening. India's agriculture witnessed 3-5% annual growth leading to increased

farmers income and capital-formation
in agriculture.

Likewise, increased investments in health & education sector was seen. Private sector participation increased in ushering development of multi-specialty hospitals, good-quality schools etc. It also led to rise of new Indian middle class.

Similarly, the services-sector growth had a multiplier effect as increased job opportunities opened in call centres / MNCs as well as in ancillary industries. This reduced unemployment and under-employment both leading to formalisation of economy.

Women empowerment was also an offshoot of LIC reforms with

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Increased job avenues in high economy,
in higher-education and politics. Likewise,
Dalit also saw higher intrusion in private
sector jobs (from 7% in 1991 to 17% in 2013)
- Economic & Political Weekly

However, it has also created
socio-economic challenges in Indian scenario.
It led to unequal development and
regional disparity (Pranab Bardhan) as seen
in Mumbai being financial hub while
Uttaranchal & Eastern Maharashtra perishes.

Likewise, Pratap Bhanu
Mehra argues that state has become
relatively-autonomous : it intervenes for
people's right only when sword is hanging
on neck, else favours the bourgeoisie class.

It has also increased Income Inequality and classes of haves & have-nots.
Oxfam suggests - India's top 10% holds
70% of wealth and this is only widening.

The FDI and global trade
has brought benefits only to 5 states (MH,
GJ, KN, TN, AP) which gets 78% of all FDI
while rest of India is left-out.

This requires a compreh-
ensive socio-economic plan for increasing
India's capability (Amartya Sen). Rather than
frackle-down economics, India needs
increased social expenditure and focus on
creation of social assets for its poor.

Sustainable India requires
8% growth annually to lift all out of
poverty by 2050 as World Bank predicts.

Q.5) a) Discuss the key factors contributing to the agricultural crisis in India?

MS Swaminathan famously said that - "If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will go right in India".

This is reflective in the fact that a farmer dies every minute and agriculture employs 52% of Indian workforce yet only contribute less than 17% to India's growth.

First factor contributing to crisis is the rainfall-dependent nature of agriculture & vagaries of weather affecting (70%). This has caused seasonal crop failure and poor-income realisation.

Secondly, poor-credit availability is hurting capital formation in

agriculture (Ashok Gulati). 45% of farmers are not able to access institutional credit which is causing informal loans with high rates leading to debt-trap & suicides.

Third, poor-mechanisation has led to reduced agri-productivity in economy (India-40%, China-70%, Israel-95%).

Fourth, irrigation is skewed towards usage of less efficiency sources and micro-irrigation is below 25% (canals-45%, wells/tanks-rest).

Fifth, poor government policies and lack of awareness are hurting farmers.

Need is to usher a Green-Revolution 2.0 with focus on micro-irrigation development, cheap-loans, agri-voltaic (solar farming), diversification of crops and Direct Benefit Transfer as per Ashok Dalwai committee.

Q. 5)
b)

write a short note on - Nature of pressure groups in India.

Pressure groups as part of development economics has been recognised as the 5th pillar of democracy (World Democracy Summit) for their role in development.

As per (structural-functionalist) approach (Almond & Verba), these perform role of interest-articulation. Like, the atomic pressure groups RSS, VHP influence elections based on their religious demands.

Indian pressure groups however are still immature (Bidyut Chakravarty). Western pressure groups are much more institutionalised & ideological aligned. Like National Rifle Association (Pro-gun lobby, USA) or Greens party (Australia).

Secondly, these are reflecting relative-deprivation need. Like campaigning for goribi-hatao or Bihar women groups to ban liquor to eradicate poverty in Bihar (due to more income savings).

Thirdly, these are less associational than western ones. Proper pressure groups would be FICCI, CII which have funds, institutional charters and mandate to exist (rest all suffering from existential crisis).

Fourth, Manza Aduni points, sometimes the deep-state functions as pressure groups in developing/post-colonial countries. (like economic/commerce lobby in India)

However, more strict monitoring of NGOs ~~and~~ (under FCRA) and knuckle-holding by central government threatens their existence.

Q-5/
c)

Mention primary reasons for emergence of human rights movement in post-independent India.

Thomas Paine in Lights of Man called "all humans as equal by the capacity of being human...". This is what the human rights movements aims to achieve.

Reasons for human rights movement to emerge were due to several happenings. Firstly, Neera Chaudhary points the Emergency communitarian led to birth of PUC which voiced concerns against government's 'curb on rights'.

Secondly, the basic necessities and their lack led to demand for mobilisation. Like garibi-hatao and roti-kapda-makaan, filing of PLs by these movements. (SC in Olga Tellis case gave right to livelihood as basic human right).

Thirdly, with increased right-based approach these came to forefront. Like Pinfra Tod demanding women's rights, Vandana Shiva led group protesting against 'food totalitarianism' (MNCs like Monsanto having monopoly over seeds).

Fourth, Pearab Bardhan points these also were directed against state's increasing authoritarianism. Like the - Naked Manipur's another protest against AFSPA removal.

Fifth, also demanded rights for tribals (Marmada Bachao Andolan), dalits (Bhim Army), environment (Silent Valley protest).

However, these are not properly organized as Rohu points. Whenever interests are met, these disappear. Against any sort of evil, these movements must come forward to speak out (Rohu).

Q-5)
2)

Influence of economic factors on electoral behaviour of Indian voters.

Milan Vatshtan defines "psophology" as the study of electoral behaviour of population to determine the Good, Bad and Ugly of politics.

Economic factors have a huge bearing on behaviour of voters. Sudipto Kaviraj has pointed how despite 7%+ average growth rate in UPA (2004-14) tenure, the inflation protest between 2011-13 led to loss of Congress led UPA.

Mukulika Banerjee in "How India Votes?" writes that - after surveys and exit poll studies in Indian elections, voters considers issues of unemployment and

Inflation as the primary factor for voting. Whichever party promises jobs attracts the most voters.

Subhas Patshikar writes that the current party system is BJP-dominant system due to its focus on 'developmental politics' amidst election scenarios. The promises of Nupur Model, Rozgar Mela, Make in India, Startup India have benefitted BJP party heavily in 2014, 19 elections and state elections.

On the contrary, Milan Valishnav argues 'good economics does not make for good politics'. India still votes for its 'castes', 'dharm' and ethnicity.

Yet, ascriptive politics has declined and developmental politics has triumphed as Francis Fukuyama shows in ^{today's} liberal times.

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Q.5)
e)

Comment on : Union Public Service Commission.

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
is a constitutional body enshrined in
the Constitution Article 325-33.

The role of UPSC is to
serve as the facilitator of conducting
examination to All India Services,
Group A services and other central
services. It periodically conduct
examinations and interviews for same.

Secondly, it also conducts
annual DPCs - Promotion Committees for
Group A officers and All India services
officers.

Thirdly, it might conduct disciplinary enquiry in cases involving violation of any rule/guideline, referred to by President. These recommendations are binding on President.

Fourth, it also advises State PSCs and Joint PSCs on request of Governors / Administrators of states.

Fifth, it also is responsible to recommend appointment of Director General of Police (DGP) from top 3 senior candidates - list sent by state (as per the Supreme Court's 2018 judgement).

Thus, UPSC has a transformational role to play in प्रक्रिया to select candidates who can contribute to India's success.

Q.8)
a) Discuss the role of ECI in generating awareness among voters to ensure free & fair elections.

"If temple of democracy is Parliament, Elections are the process to choose the pundits & papas of this temple..."

- Ex-Peer Ram Nath Kovind.

Election Commission's role is to preserve the sanctity of Indian elections and its process. Its constitutional role is to conduct free & fair elections, register parties, prepare electoral rolls etc.

However, in recent times ECI has taken special steps in ensuring voter-awareness and participation amidst the fact that globally voters

participation has declined by 5% from 1980s.

Firstly, BCI has started the SUBEP program to generate voter awareness and education regarding election process.

Under this campaign, voter-awareness drives are conducted on social media as 1/3rd of elections campaigning happen on it.

Secondly, BCI has focused on special targeting of people in rural-areas and untouched areas like tribal forests in participation with central government departments like Police, post offices etc. to generate awareness.

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Third, As per Supreme Courts' judgement in ADR case and Jan Chaudhary case, ECI has released guidelines making mandatory on political parties to reveal &

- i) list of all candidates;
- ii) expenses borne by political party's candidates;
- iii) list of all candidates and their details on social media and at least 4 local newspapers;
- iv) use of MYNOTA app = to list their asset holding, criminal records etc.

However, lack of manpower, and funds not charged on CFI are major hurdles in independent functioning of ECI to conduct free fair elections. These require special measures to address.

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Q.8)

b)

Examine how caste system in India shaped & influenced the formulation of political strategies for mobilising electoral support.

"Politics operates in social milieu" (Ambedkar)

and thus, India being a prismatic society (F.W. Riggs) sees increased infraction of politics with castes.

Caste politics has led to massive mobilisation of different castes together. Rajni Kothari talks about politicization of caste where caste-leaders are forming political parties to compete for reservation & power (Yadavs - Samajwadi party in Uttar Pradesh).

Likewise, R. Kothari also points "casteization of politics" where

parties appeal to voters on caste-lines and put SC candidate in SC dominant constituency.

Likewise, Myron Weiner talks about co-optation where upper-castes parties are urging Dalits under the call of Hindutva as "real-warriors of Hinduism" to not vote on 25% vote bank of Dalits.

Counter-mobilisation is seen in R. "Dalit Radicalism" inspired by Marxist & Neo-Arbedkarite call of (Educate, Agitate & Organise) leading to formation of Dalit Panthers, BHIM Army, Bhima-Koregaon mobilisation.

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However, as Milan Vaishnav writes: the most amazing caste based mobilisation is seen in OBCs rise in politics.

Being more than 40% of population, all parties have tried kissing their feet to gain votes.

In fact, Rohas Palsikar in his article writes that the rise of BJP-dominant system at Centre and in Hindu-belt is due to capitalisation on OBC's vote-share.

Yet, Christopher Jafferlot writes caste-reservation hitting ceiling (Mandal case), religion is the new tool for mobilisation. Call for caste-unity and developmental-politics are the way forward for democracy.

Q. 8

Analyse how the formation of coalition governments has diverged from the traditional centralising tendencies associated with Indian Federalism.

Indian political system is focused by the top-down federal model, electoral process and social cleavages operating in trinity with time.

Traditionally, after-independence India saw rise of the longest-dominant system (dominant party system) due to it being the single largest national party (offshoot of national movement) in India.

The centralization was reflected in its operation of the political structure by dismissal of governments (Article 365, state-emergency), imposition of emergency

~~Article~~ (1975) and 42nd constitutional amendment which put Parliament above Judiciary.

Yet, growing discontent, regionalisation of politics, decentralisation of government, all deepened democracy (Yogendra Yadav) and led to dismantling of government into : Coalition governments.

Coalition governments strengthen the federal-axis (MP Singh) as there are more diverse in representative democracy. It gives more space to State's demands and policies etc.

Likewise, there are more democratic as Council of ministers

and cabinets are representative of whole of India and different regional parties.

These also create a balance between centralising and federalising tendencies of democracy (Christopher Jeffreys). Thus, these put an end to single party's dominance.

Also better policy making and addressing development - deficit to ensure regional - development paradox are made sure. Winability of coalitions depends on managing these challenges.

However, there are problems associated with coalition governments.

Bidyt Chakravarty in Winning the Mandate

points that post-poll alliances is a cheating on democracy as these are driven by purely power-view of politics rather than ideological - leaning.

Secondly, policy-paralysis is inherent feature of it as reflected in Indo-US 123 Agreement (Nuclear deal) which took 3 years between 2006-08 to finalize during UPA-I.

Thirdly, coalitions are very less stable as seen in India between (1989-99).

India's growth story requires solid decision making and strong Executive is need of hour.