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1. परामर्श और आपसी सहमति के आधार पर बहुलवाद द्वारा उत्पन्न समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए संस्थागत व्यवस्था संघीय शासन की एक प्रमुख विशेषता है। क्षेत्रीय परिपदों केवल सलाहकार निकायों से कार्यवाई के लिए सक्रिय पंचों के रूप में कैसे विकसित हुई हैं (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Federal governance is characterised by institutionalized arrangements for solving problems generated by pluralism based on consultation and mutual consent. How have Zonal Councils evolved from merely advisory bodies to proactive platforms for action? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Ans.

Zonal councils were established to resolve the federal disputes among states as well as states and centre.

At present we have 5 zonal councils - North, South, West, East and North East zonal council.

Zonal councils: evolved from merely advisory bodies to proactive platforms for action

① These councils involve chief ministers of respective states and home minister
↳ vice chairman of council is one of the CMs, chosen on rotating basis.

② The participative decisions made by these councils
↳ are binding on states

③ These councils, meet twice in a year, mandatorily.

- ④ Zonal councils adopt the best practices being followed in other states.
- ⑤ Decisions made in zonal council are made public
↳ for inviting feedback.
- ⑥ Bottom-up approach is followed.

However, there are certain concerns

- ① Lack of spirit of federalism
↳ due to different political ideologies, states do not co-operate
↳ East zonal council
West Bengal v/s Orissa
- ② Veto power with state
↳ chairman of the council being home minister.

Supreme court in various cases declared federalism a basic structure of constitution. Zonal councils should be strengthened to ensure true federal polity.

2. भारतीय संविधान के तहत धर्मनिरपेक्षता समानता के प्रति संवैधानिक प्रतिबद्धता की व्यापक अवधारणा में समाहित है। चर्चा करें।
(150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Secularism under the Indian constitution is encapsulated in the broader concept of constitutional commitment to equality. Discuss.
(Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Ans Preamble of Indian constitution describes India as sovereign, Secular, democratic, socialist, republic.

Secularism in Indian constitution: supports broader concept of constitutional equality

- ① Unlike western secularism, Indian concept of secularism, treats all religions with equal respect.
- ② Article 25-28 provides right of religious freedom to all, irrespective of majority religion.
- ③ Article 15, denies discrimination in citizens, on the basis of religion.
- ④ Article 29, 30 provides cultural and educational right to minorities
↳ not treating unequals equally
↳ confirms to right to equality.

⑤ Universal adult franchise
↳ Right to vote to all irrespective of religion.

⑤ Representation of peoples act 1951

↳ A/Section 123

↳ prohibits asking votes in name of religion

↳ 'level playing field' to all participants.

However, recent amendment in constitution / citizenship amendment act 2019 is seen by critics as being violative of equality of religions.

↳ as it excludes 'muslims' from being given citizenship.

Indian government clarified its stance as - CAA 2019, is only for religiously persecuted minorities from neighborhood.

Therefore Indian concept of Secularism provides equality to all religions culminating into 'sarve Bhavanti Sukhina'

3. जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 8 को सजा की अवधि से हटाकर अपराध की गंभीरता पर केंद्रित करने की आवश्यकता है।' टिप्पणी करें कि धारा 8 के तहत वर्तमान वर्गीकरण किस प्रकार अपराधों के मनमाने वर्गीकरण की ओर ले जाता है। साथ ही, इस धारा के तहत अयोग्य घोषित व्यक्ति के लिए उपलब्ध उपायों का भी उल्लेख करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

'There is a need to shift the focus of Section 8 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 from the duration of the sentence to the gravity of the offence.' Comment on how the current classification under Section 8 leads to arbitrary categorisation of offences. Also, mention the remedies available to a person disqualified under this section. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Ans- RPA 1951 under section 8, disqualifies a legislator from contesting elections, if he is convicted and sentenced for more than 2 years

RPA, 1951 - Section 8 → leading to arbitrary categorisation of offences:

① Irrespective of heinous nature of crime or political nature, decision is based on duration of sentence

② It is leading to misuse of this provision for political vendetta.

eg → a certain MP, convicted in case of defamation - sentenced for 2 yrs (max. in this offence) → disqualified.

③ On the other hand, some guilty of a heinous crime such as murder, will also be treated similarly.

Remedies available to a person disqualified under section 8 of RPA 1951:-

- ① Disqualification → can be postponed until appeal in higher court is pending.
- ② Earlier → accused had option to file representation before parliament standing committee
↳ now removed

Way forward

- ① Instead of duration of sentence (i.e. 2 years), seriousness of offence should be the criteria.

- ② Political cases / frivolous cases

↳ should be disposed in fast manner.

↳ should not be the basis of disqualification.

RPA 1951, aims to cleanse polity from criminal elements. Doing so will help in establishing Gandhi's Ram Rajya.

4.

भारतीय संसदीय प्रणाली में विपक्ष के नेता का क्या महत्व है? लोकतंत्र में नियंत्रण और संतुलन बनाए रखने में विपक्ष की भूमिका किस प्रकार योगदान देती है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

What is the significance of the Leader of Opposition in the Indian parliamentary system? How does the role of the opposition contribute to the checks and balances in a democracy?

(Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Ans

Leader of Opposition is an official post in parliament, given to leader of political party having second highest no. of seats (>10%) and sitting in opposition.

Significance of LoP in Indian parliamentary system

① Provides leadership to all opposition members (may include different parties) in constructively criticising government

② LoP ensures that voice of opposition is heard in decision making.

③ LoP is briefed with all important updates → by executives

↳ ensures that decisions are taken in timely manner and in national interest.

Role of opposition to contribute to checks and balances in democracy :-

- ① Prevents hasty legislation
 - ↳ ensures debate discussions take place.
- ② Ensures interests of all sections of society
 - ↳ counters majoritarianism
- ③ Demands accountability for govt's acts of commission and omissions.
- ④ Ensures transparency
 - ↳ members of opposition are in various parliamentary committees
 - ↳ scrutinize govt. actions
- ⑤ Ask uncomfortable questions to govt.
 - ↳ so that it always aspires to achieve its commitment to public

In a democracy, role of opposition can not be emphasized enough. In simple words it prevents democracy from becoming autocracy

5.

"प्रस्तावना के मूल आदर्श - संप्रभुता, समाजवाद, धर्मनिरपेक्षता और लोकतंत्र - भारत को संवैधानिक ढाँचे की आधारशिला हैं।" स्पष्ट कीजिये। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

"The core ideals of the Preamble - sovereignty, socialism, secularism, and democracy - form the bedrock of India's constitutional framework." Elucidate. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Ans Supreme Court in various judgements described the ideals of preamble i.e. sovereignty, socialism, secularism and democracy as the basic structure of Indian constitution, which can't be altered.

Core ideas of preamble: forming bedrock of India's constitution

① Sovereignty

↳ India is free to manage its internal and external affairs.

↳ Art 2 → India can acquire any foreign territories.

↳ India in international relations using sovereignty.

② Socialism (42nd CA, 1976)

↳ It describes India as welfare state

↳ DPSPs → Art 38 → welfare state
Art 39(d) → equal pay for equal work

Art 39A → free legal aid

Art 46 → special provisions for weaker sections

③ Secularism

- ↳ 'sarwa dharma sambhava'
- ↳ Art 15 → no discrimination on the basis of religion
- ↳ Art 25-28 → freedom of religion

④ Democracy

- ↳ universal adult franchise
- ↳ any common citizen is free to reach upto highest level i.e. president
- ↳ Election Commission of India
- ↓
- Art 324 → free & fair elections

Apart from these provisions in constitution, several judgements by supreme court have further strengthened these principles. eg Sabrimata case → entry of women into temple

- ↳ abolition of electoral bond
- ↳ upholding democracy

Therefore Indian constitution has aptly provided these ideals, which ensured peace and harmony in society.

6.

103वें संवैधानिक संशोधन के निहितार्थों का आकलन करें, जिसने भारत में सामाजिक न्याय के सिद्धांत पर आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्गों (ईडब्ल्यूएस) के लिए दस प्रतिशत आरक्षण की शुरुआत की है। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दें) 10 अंक

Assess the implications of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which introduced a ten per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), on the principle of social justice in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans Following the constitutional mandate of Art 46 i.e. special provisions for weaker section of society, parliament enacted 103rd CAA, EWS.

Later Supreme Court upheld the validity of this provision as being constitutional.

Implications of 103rd CAA

- ① Social inclusion of upper caste poor
↳ as they will be provided reservation in education & jobs.
- ② changing social mentality
↳ uppercastes earlier considered reservation as charity
↳ now it will be considered as a tool for parity
- ③ Reduced social inequality
↳ on the basis of economic power.

However, critics argue that it may have certain negative impacts

① Forging income documents is relatively easier

↳ may be misused.

② This criteria breaches the 50% limit set by supreme court in

Indira Sawhney case

③ It may further discourage the meritorious candidates to apply for govt. jobs.

↳ reduced efficiency of government.

way ahead

① Income criteria should be periodically revised.

② Document forging should be strictly dealt with.

Affirmative action helps the society to achieve its potential. In case of India, it will help us reap our demographic dividend.

7.

भारत में कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का ध्यान "कल्याण" से "अति-निर्भरता" की ओर स्थानांतरित हो रहा है। इसके आलोक में, क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि कल्याणकारी योजनाओं ने भारत में "मुफ्त की संस्कृति" को जन्म दिया है, जिससे गरीबी और भूख उन्मूलन से ध्यान भटक गया है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The focus of welfare schemes in India is shifting from "well-being" towards "over-dependency". In light of this, do you agree that welfare schemes have inculcated a "freebies culture" in India leading to a divergence of focus from poverty and hunger alleviation? (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans

Recently, 15th finance commission recommended centre to discourage state governments from engaging in freebies culture.

Focus of welfare state: shifting from

'well-being' towards 'over-dependency'

① basic survival support is provided

① luxury goods are provided, as part of welfare schemes
eg free electricity

② efforts for skill development, capacity building

② No efforts for capacity building, just cash transfer

eg MP - Ladli behna yojna - 1200 ₹/month

③ limited burden on state exchequer

③ excessive burden

eg fertilizer subsidies
↳ ₹ 2 lakh crore/year

Yes, welfare schemes are leading to divergence of focus from poverty and hunger alleviation

① Due to these freebies, govt. is not left with enough money to spend on capacity building exercise

② Mainly to gain, electoral benefits these schemes are implemented, without checking fiscal viability.

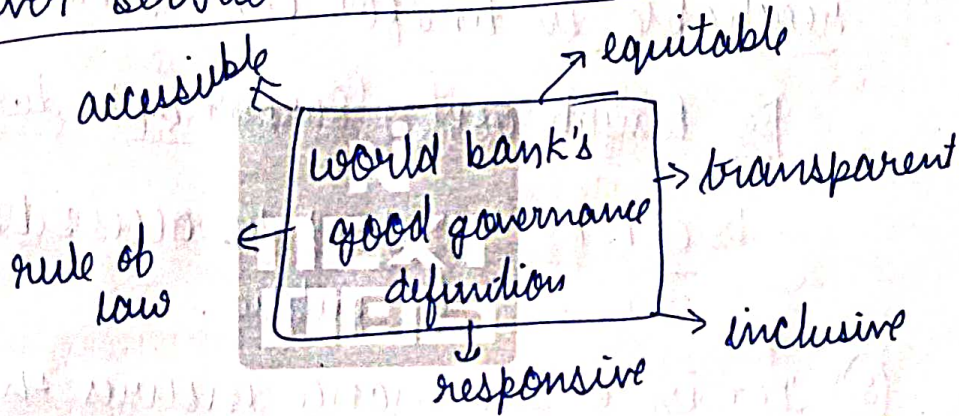
③ Lot of beneficiaries are ~~are~~ not poor.

However, we can't outrightly reject the need of welfare schemes. What we need is rationalised subsidies and campaigns like #giveitup

Such approach will not only help India financially but also, to build a inclusive society.

8. ई-शासन केवल दक्षता के संबंध में नहीं है; यह प्रत्येक नागरिक के लिए शासन व्यवस्था को सुलभ और समावशी बनाने के संबंध में है। व्याख्या करें।
(150 शब्द, 10 अंक)
E-governance is not just about efficiency; it's about making governance accessible and inclusive for every citizen. Explain.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans E-governance is a tool of good governance which uses information and communication technology (ICT) to deliver services.



E-governance is conventionally associated with efficiency due to its use of ICT. as it makes public service faster, targeted and more reliable.

eg DBT using JAM trinity.

However, E-governance is about accessible and inclusive governance

① ICT ensures benefits reach to all beneficiaries.

↳ inclusion/exclusion errors are minimised

↳ thus ensuring inclusive governance.

eg Delhi govt's → education scheme

↳ modified schools with e-learning

↳ benefited all sections of students.

② ICT makes sure the government is reachable in time for common citizens

eg Punjab govt → 'Sarkar apke dwaar'

↳ e-FIRs → makes police accessible to public.

③ ICT in e-governance insures that corruption and citizen harassment is minimized.

eg faceless assessment in income tax department.

However more needs to be done

① digital inclusion of all citizens

② changing apathetic attitude of bureaucracy.

To realise our vision of developed

India 2047, e-governance is a revolutionary tool.

9.

QUAD, AUKUS, I2U2 आदि जैसे नए क्षेत्रीय और बहुपक्षीय समझौतों के आगमन के साथ, गुट निरपेक्ष आन्दोलन (NAM), दावोस और G77 जैसे संगठनों द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व की जाने वाली पुरानी वैश्विक व्यवस्था अपनी प्रासंगिकता खो रही है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

With the advent of new regional and multilateral agreements like QUAD, AUKUS, I2U2 etc the old world order represented by organizations like NAM, Davos, and G77 is losing its relevance. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans

In the changing world order, today we have many new regional and multilateral organisations such as - Quad (India - US - Japan - Australia), AUKUS (Australia - UK - US), I2U2 (India - Israel - US - UAE)

Older organisations : losing their relevance

① NAM (non alignment movement)

↳ In the era of cold war, it was to safeguard the interest of 3rd world countries.

↳ Today these regional organisations are providing developing nations with opportunity to join groups which align with their interest

eg India needs UAE → for energy security

USA → for countering china

Israel → for defence

② Davos 8 G77

↳ these groupings contained
large number of 3rd world countries

↳ difficult to arrive at a
consensus

↳ lack of monetary resources
to make a difference.

New world order : Quad, AUKUS, I2U2

① These are formed with a specific
purpose.

↳ Quad → regional stability in
Indo Pacific

AUKUS → to strengthen Australia's
nuclear submarine capabilities

② Smaller in size → decision making
is easy

③ Regional in nature → synergy in
operations.

Therefore with changing times,
India has adapted to the changing needs
and has benefitted from groupings such as - I2U2,
Quad

10.

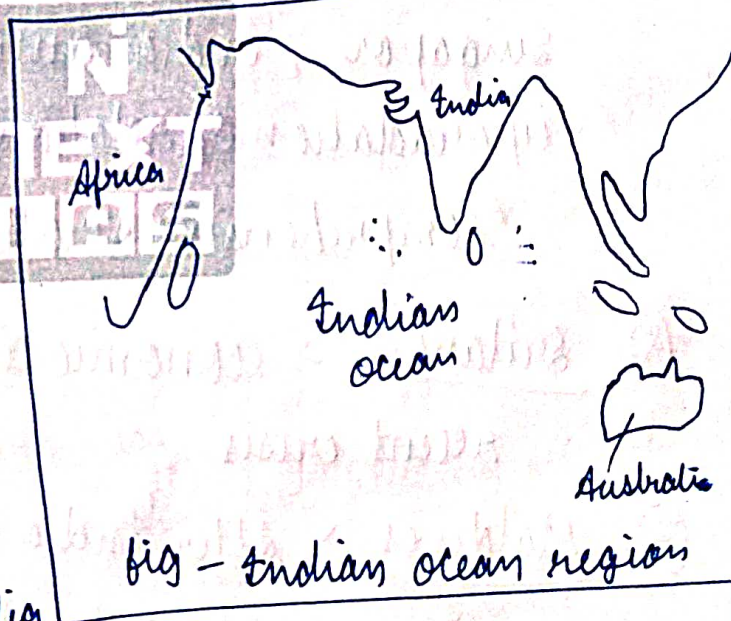
दक्षिण प्रशांत से अफ्रीकी तट तक के द्वीपीय राज्य और क्षेत्र भारत के बदलते रणनीतिक भूगोल में नए केंद्र बन गए हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के लिए इन द्वीपीय राज्यों के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें और इन राज्यों के साथ संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत द्वारा की गई पहलों पर भी प्रकाश डालें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The island states and territories from the South Pacific to the African coast have become new nodes in India's changing strategic geography. In this context, highlight the importance of these island states for India and also throw light upon the initiatives taken by India to strengthen ties with these states. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans

Indian ocean region is emerging as new power theatre due to chinese expansionism and USA's revived interest in this region.

Islands and territories in region extending from south pacific to African coast have strategic importance for India



to counter chinese expansionism in this region.

Importance of these island states for India

① To counter china's 'string of pearls' strategy

↳ India is working with Sri Lanka, Maldives, Singapore, Brunei etc.

② To secure India's economic interests

↳ secure trade routes

↳ take action against piracy

↳ Against houthi rebels in red sea

Initiatives taken by India to strengthen
ties with nation:

① Singapore - on his recent visit to Singapore, India announced upgradation of relations to 'comprehensive strategic partnership'

② Sri Lanka → economic aid in time of recent crisis

③ Maldives → After 'India out' campaign by incumbent party, India is working with Maldives again
↳ petrol vessel for surveillance
helicopter → for medical purposes

By ensuring co-ordial relations and SAGAR doctrine, India can secure its strategic interests in the region.

11.

भारत में चुनावी वित्तीयन विधिक खामियों और राजनीतिक अक्षमताओं की दोहरी मार से भरा हुआ है। इस संदर्भ में, चुनावी वित्तीयन की चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें। इस संबंध में भारत वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं से क्या सीख ले सकता है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Electoral funding in India is fraught with the double whammy of legal loopholes and political inefficiencies. In this context, discuss the challenges to electoral funding. What lessons can India draw from global best practices in this regard? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Ans Recently Supreme Court (SC) struck down the Electoral Bond Scheme as unconstitutional, as it violates the right to information of voters.

Electoral funding is an important issue for India because :-

- ① 18th LS election → >1.3 lakh crore ₹ spent
↳ most expensive elections in the world
- ② Increasing dominance of money & muscle power in election
↳ denying level playing field for all

Electoral funding in India : fraught with legal loopholes

- ① No restriction / spending limit on political parties

- ② contributions more than ₹ 20,000 only have to be reported.

↳ large number of contributions go un-noticed.

③ Earlier electoral bond scheme.

↳ does not publish donor name

↳ no limit on contribution
(some donated more than profit)

↳ company need not mention in
its annual reporting.

④ Equivalence of cash donation.

⑤ Political party outside RTI

↳ no accountability towards
citizens.

India's electoral funding: political inefficiencies

① Political parties not willing to
disclose expenditure

↳ mandatory auditing post
election is not taken seriously.

② There have been incidents of
quid pro quo electoral funding

③ Incidents of cash for vote

④ Parties spending irrational
amount on expensive - advertisements
in print media/social media

India can draw lessons from global best practices

① USA → transparency in declaration of funding received after a certain interval

② France → They have a pool, where donors donate money.

↳ from this pool, funds are distributed to different parties.

↳ Therefore level playing field for all parties.

Recommendations by various committees

① Sreenivas Gupta committee

↳ suggested use of digital transactions and mandatory disclosure of all donations.

② Parliamentary standing committee

↳ suggested creation of National electoral fund, on lines of France.

By implementing these practices, we can ensure democracy in its purest form.

12.

दबाव समूह लोकतंत्र की सामाजिक नींव का निर्माण करते हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में श्रमिकों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा उपायों को बढ़ावा देने में दबाव समूहों के प्रमुख योगदान पर चर्चा करें और बताएं कि वे मौजूदा नीतियों में उपलब्ध खामियों को किस प्रकार दूर करते हैं। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Pressure groups form the social foundation of a democracy. In this context, discuss pressure groups' key contributions in promoting social security measures for workers in India, and how they address the gaps in existing policies. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Ans

Pressure groups are organisations that influence government policies to ensure justice to a section of society or society as a whole.

key contributions of pressure groups in promoting social security measures for workers in India:

① Trade unions such as AITUC, organise protests and strikes for providing benefits to workers

↳ Railway strikes for increasing dearness allowance.

② Pressure groups agitate for making temporary workers permanent.

↳ thus ensuring his/her social security benefits.

③ Pressure groups demand equal pay for women employees.

- ④ Pressure groups such as - Bhartiya kisan mazdoor sangh, fought for MGNREGA to unemployed rural.

Pressure groups: addressing gap in existing policies

- ① All India women's conference played a key role in factories act, 1948

↳ human condition of work
↳ equal pay for equal work

- ② Pressure groups are aware of ground realities → convey it to officials

↳ Sexual harassment of women at work place

- ③ Pressure groups have expertise to find loopholes in law, being exploited by owners.

- ④ These pressure groups, with petitions in courts, ensure that gaps in policies are addressed.

However, these pressure groups are also reeling under certain concerns:

- ① Undemocratic functioning of these pressure groups
- ② Misuse of funds and allegations of moneylaundering.
- ③ Politicization of issues and thus misusing the power they wield.
- ④ Accused of mis-allegations against government due to vested interests.

way forward

- ① Light but tight regulation (II ARC)
- ② Taking opinion of these pressure groups in policy formulation.
- ③ Directly engaging with citizens for feedback ~~by~~ My Gov platform.

Democracy is required for functioning of pressure groups. Pressure groups are essential for vibrant democracy

- Rousseau

13.

संविधान में भारतीय संघीय राजनीति के कार्यकारी क्षेत्र में "संघीय सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत" की परिकल्पना की गई है। प्रासंगिक संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और वाद एवं विधियों का हवाला देते हुए चर्चा कीजिये। शक्तियों के वितरण से संबंधित विवादों में मुद्दों का समाधान किस प्रकार किया जाता है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

The Constitution envisages the "principle of federal supremacy" in the executive space of Indian federal polity. Discuss while referring to the relevant Constitutional provisions and case laws. How are contentious issues regarding the distribution of powers resolved? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Ans. Indian constitution provides for federal government. Though not exclusively mentioned, but provisions such independent of judiciary, bicameral legislature etc. make it clear.

Constitutional provisions : providing for federal supremacy in executive sphere :

- ① Schedule - 7, clear separation of Union subjects and state subjects
↳ separate executive powers
- ② Separate cadre of officers for union and state
- ③ Political executives in the state - council of ministers, chief minister are having their own sphere of power.
- ④ Financial powers with states, make them less dependent on state.

However, constitution also has some provisions that dilute the principle of federal supremacy

① Emergency powers (Article 352, 355, 356, 360)

↳ state's executive powers are limited

② Institution of governor (A-200)

↳ accused of acting as a state of centre

Case laws : upholding principle of federal supremacy

① Keshwananda Bharati case, 1973

↳ federal nature of state considered as a basic structure of constitution

② S.R. Bommai judgement

↳ Governor can not use powers of Art 356 irrationally.

↳ upheld federalism.

③ State of Punjab v/s principle secretary to governor

↳ governor can't sit on state bills indefinitely, since state govt.

has mandate of public.

Res Resolution of issues regarding distribution of powers:

① Supreme Court
↳ Being the interpreter of constitution under its power of judicial review (Art 13) Supreme Court resolve these issues.

② Constitutional amendments
↳ Using powers under Art 368, parliament make amendments to the constitution.
eg Education moved to concurrent list in 42nd CA.

Way ahead

↳ states should be given more autonomy in their sphere of power
(Sarkaria Commission)
→ Institution of governor should be reformed - promoting non partisans person in this post (Punchi commission)

Therefore, a federal structure of government has been beneficial for growth of India in last 78 years. We should take above steps to ensure federal co-operation.

14.

निष्पक्ष प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करने और एक वोट, एक मूल्य के सिद्धांतों को बनाए रखने के लिए सीटों का परिसीमन आवश्यक है। निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में गलत प्रतिनिधित्व से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए संघीय तनाव उत्पन्न करने में जनसंख्या-आधारित परिसीमन के प्रभावों का विश्लेषण कीजिये। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Delimitation of seats is essential to ensure fair representation and uphold the principles of one vote, one value. Highlighting the challenges posed by misrepresentation in constituencies analyse the ramifications of population-based delimitation in creating federal tension. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Ans

Delimitation is an exercise of drawing political boundaries of a constituency to ensure 'one vote, one value'.

Indian constitution empowers parliament to setup a delimitation commission and conduct the exercise. So far India has had 4 delimitations, latest one in 2002.

~~4th 83rd~~ CAA,

Challenges posed by misrepresentation in constituencies

- ① Defeats the purpose of 'one vote, one value'
- ② Not a level playing field for all candidates in election.

for on average, in Tamil Nadu → one constituency has 18 L voters, while in UP, one constituency has 26 L voters

- ③ Both efforts and funds required vary.
- ④ In constituencies with large population, difficult for representative to be touch with voters.
- ⑤ This leads to concerns of these voters → neglected.

Ramifications of populations ~~or~~ based delimitation on federal tension

① North-south divide

↳ high TFR in northern state

if population based delimitation was conducted in 2023

MP, UP, Bihar → gained 22 seats

Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhrapradesh

↳ would lose 17/18 seats in Lok Sabha.

- ② Therefore it is opposed by southern states → as they will lose representation in parliament.

② This ~~for~~ will further deepen the neglect of small states such as - N-E states.

Way forward

① As suggested by Bhranab Mukherjee in past

↳ we should increase total no- of seats in Lok Sabha to 1000, and proportionality in Rajya Sabha, ↳ each state will be represented.

② As practiced in USA, upper house ↳ irrespective of population, equal representation to all states

In a federal polity like India, fair representation to states must be provided so that federal co-operation is maintained.

By considering above suggestions, we can evolve such a delimitation, which provides equitable representation to all states.

15.

उच्च न्यायालयों का ध्यान "संवैधानिक मामलों" से हटाकर रोजमर्रा के मामलों पर केंद्रित करने के लिए जनहित याचिका प्रणाली को किस सीमा तक जिम्मेदार ठहराया जा सकता है? उच्च न्यायालयों पर समग्र बोझ को कम करने में ट्रायल कोर्ट क्या भूमिका निभा सकते हैं? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

To what extent can the PIL system be held responsible for shifting the focus of the higher Courts from "constitutional matters" to day-to-day matters? What role can the trial Courts play in reducing the overall burden on higher Courts? (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Ans

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) system enables a non-related party to file petition in certain case to ensure justice.

PIL system: responsible for shifting the focus of higher courts from 'constitutional matters' to day to day matters

① Since generally, a person filing PIL, seeks remedy upto the last level

i.e. supreme court

↳ pendency before court increases

eg 4.4 (8 cases)

pending with judiciary (2006)

② Supreme court takes up these matters as they are generally matters of public concern.

③ Similarly high courts are burdened with day-to-day cases of PIL.

However, it can't be solely put on PIL as,

① structure of judiciary is also responsible.

↳ Supreme court → only 34 judges
difficult to dispose of so many cases.

② long vacations of court

↳ increases pendency of cases.

③ Adjournment culture

↳ drags on cases for long.

Since PIL mechanism is extremely important for ensuring justice to poor, illiterate, non-living entities such as environment, we should encourage it.

However to reduce burden on judiciary, we can use trial courts, as

① speedy justice

↳ involving experts of the respective domain.

- ② separate cadre of judges
↳ ensures expertise and willingness to do justice.
- ② reduced burden on higher courts
↳ these can focus on 'constitutional matters'

Precautions, we must take

- ① sufficient infrastructure for these trial courts.
- ② availability of lawyers
- ③ quality justice is dispensed
↳ otherwise it will defeat the whole purpose of PIL.
- ④ Discourage frivolous PILs
↳ so that these trial courts are not overburdened.

Therefore, by taking above precautions, we may have a judicial system that takes care of PIL as well as allow higher courts to focus on 'constitutional matters'

16.

भारत की उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को वैश्विक मानकों के अनुरूप बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। नई शिक्षा नीति (एनईपी) 2020 का लक्ष्य इन चुनौतियों का समाधान करना किस प्रकार है, और भारत अपनी उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रथाओं से क्या सबक सीख सकता है? चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

India's higher education system needs significant reforms to align with global standards. How does the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aim to address these challenges, and what lessons can India learn from international practices to enhance its higher education system? Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans

Economic Survey 2024

highlighted that 51% of college graduates in India are not employable due to lack of relevant skills.

India's higher education system: need for reforms:

① Changing skill requirements

↳ cutting age technologies such as - AI, robotics, semiconductor

② To reap demographic dividend

↳ we have largest working age population (15-59 years)

↳ to achieve economic growth, these must be productive.

③ China+1 opportunity → possible with skilled youth.

④ as world university rankings → only 2 in top 200.

NEP 2020: Address these challenges:

- ① updated curriculum for students
- ② vocational training made compulsory
- ③ internship for graduates
- ④ 'Professor of practice'
↳ industry relevant skills
- ⑤ Industry - academia linkage will be facilitated

Apart from NEP-2020, several other steps also have been taken:

- ① Internship in top 500 companies
- Budget 24
- ② National research foundation (NRF)
↳ financial and technical support
- ③ Academic bank of credit (ABC)
- ④ Holistic assessment of students (PARAKH)
- ⑤ Multiple entry, multiple exit
↳ easy for student to complete courses.

Lessons India can learn : from international best practices to enhance higher education system

① Nordic countries

↳ education is free of cost and accessible to all.

↳ It has helped achieve near perfect literacy and enrollment in higher education.

② USA

↳ Industry is very well interlinked with higher education

↳ better R&D facilities

↳ best brains are attracted from all over the world.

Steps India has taken

① Autonomy to higher education institutes

↳ IITS

② Foreign universities → allowed to set up campus in India ↳ Deakin univ, GIFT City

Therefore, to achieve vision of

(developed India 2047), we have to support higher education.

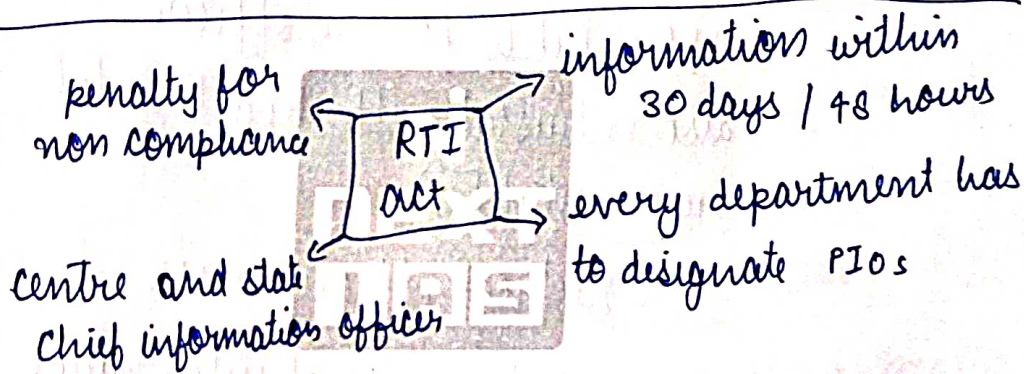
17.

सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम को भारतीय शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की तलाश में परिवर्तनकारी प्रभाव के लिए सराहा जाता है। हालाँकि, बहुआयामी चुनौतियाँ और प्रणालीगत सीमाएँ इसके प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में बाधा डालती हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही इसके प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन के लिए उपाय भी सुझाइये। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

The Right to Information (RTI) Act is hailed for its transformative impact on the quest for transparency and accountability in Indian governance. However, multifaceted challenges and systemic limitations impede its effective implementation. Discuss. Also, suggest measures for its effective implementation. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans

Right to Information act was enacted with a purpose of bringing transparency and accountability in the system thus ensuring good governance.



Multifaceted challenges and systematic limitations : impede its effective implementation

① Section 8 of RTI act → Information can be with-held if it is private information

↳ being misused by PIOs.

② Appointment and terms of service of CICs in centre and states

↳ greater control with government

↳ hence this institution is not autonomous, as desired.

③ Trivial RTIs by citizens

↳ increasing unnecessary workload of PIOs

eg Delhi, a govt. teacher, after being dismissed from service, filed more than a dozen trivial RTIs.

④ Insufficient manpower

↳ PIO is not a standalone responsibility for an officer (also entrusted with departmental responsibilities)

↳ reduces effectiveness.

⑤ In many states, post of information commissioners are vacant.

⑥ Sack of penal powers with commission

↳ toothless tiger

⑦ Sack of political will to implement this law in letter and spirit.

↳ political parties kept outside purview of RTI.

⑧ Still in this era of digital revolution, some departments are using hardcopies making the process very slow

Measures for RTI's effective implementation

① Make ~~election~~ information
commission a constitutional body.

- ↳ star salary charged on CFI
- ↳ reports tabled in parliament
- ↳ more autonomous

② Increased use of AI and data
analytics

- ↳ for segregating frivolous
RTI applications.

↳ making the process faster.

③ Increased fees for RTI application

- ↳ only serious persons will
apply.

④ Increased penalty on PIOs in case
of non compliance.

Citizen's right to information is
quintessential for decision making in
a participative democracy.

18. ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की तुलना में शहरी क्षेत्रों में स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी) को मिलने वाली अनूठी चुनौतियों और अवसरों पर चर्चा कीजिए, और शहरी गरीबी से निपटने के लिए सूक्ष्म ऋण को किस प्रकार अनुकूलित किया जा सकता है।

(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Discuss the unique challenges and opportunities Self Help Groups (SHGs) encounter in urban areas compared to rural ones, and how can microfinance be adapted to tackle urban poverty.
(15 marks, 250 words)

Ans

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

are a group of ~~the~~ people having similar economic background, that have come together for a specific purpose.

Unique challenges SHGs encounter in urban areas compared to rural areas

- ① In urban areas women's LFPR is lower compared to rural area.
- ② In urban areas, women are largely engaged in construction sector whereas in rural areas it is agriculture
↳ makes it difficult to form SHGs in urban areas.
- ③ Domestic unpaid care work is more in urban areas → due to nuclear families
↳ leading to time poverty with women.

Unique opportunities for SHGs in urban areas compared to rural areas

- ① in urban areas, market is more accessible.
↳ more beneficial ^{to} form SHGs
- ② Education levels in urban areas are generally higher.
↳ can engage in semi-skilled work. → better incomes
- ③ Higher population density in urban areas → SHG formation is easier

Adaptation of microfinance to tackle urban poverty

- ① Urban poor get access to credit
↳ can start their own work
- ② Relief from trap of informal moneylenders
↳ could have led to vicious cycle of poverty.
- ③ microfinance also helps in enhancing social and human capital.

↳ raising levels of health,
education, skill etc.

④ Model of microfinancing is based
on less interest, easy accessibility
↳ less burden on urban poor.

⑤ Microfinance will also encourage
women to take up work.
↳ inclusive growth

However, microfinance in India is
reeling under certain issues

① Lack of transparency
↳ no proper auditing
↳ leakages and corruption

② Regional imbalance
↳ highly concentrated in
western & southern India

way ahead → Schemes such as Susanidhi,
Mudra loan etc.

↳ Enhanced social security net by
government.

By eliminating urban poverty, India
can realise its potential growth.

19.

विश्व, विशेषकर पश्चिम के साथ भारत के संपर्क (कनेक्टिविटी) के लिए हाल ही में परिकल्पित भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप गलियारे के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें। क्या आपको लगता है कि हाल के दिनों में भारत की विदेश नीति में परिवहन और ऊर्जा पहल को प्राथमिकता दी गई है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Highlight the significance of the recently envisaged India-Middle East-Europe corridor for India's connectivity with the world, especially the West. Do you think, in recent times, transport and energy initiatives have taken precedence in India's foreign policy? (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans

Recently on the sidelines of G-20 summit, India announced IMEC corridor to boost social-economic connectivity between Asia and Europe.

Significance of IMEC corridor, for India's connectivity with the world, especially the west

① Being a multimodal project (shipping, railway, road) it provides multiple connectivity routes between India, middle east and Europe (also with USA, though not directly)

② Alternative to Suez canal route

③ Will significantly reduce transit time

~~12~~ from JNPT to Greece port

earlier 11-12 days

now 7-8 days

④ Significant for energy trade with middle east and Europe.

However, due to instability in middle east region (Israel - Hamas conflict), this project is getting delayed.

Further in recent times, As a part of its foreign policy, India is giving weightage to connectivity and energy initiatives.

① Transport initiatives

- i) Agartala - Akhaura rail link with Bangladesh
- ii) Kaladan multimodal transit project
- iii) Chabahar port + Delaram-Jarani highway

These projects are not only beneficial for foreign countries but also significant for us from strategic point of view:

- i) help counter China's BRI
- ii) provided connectivity for us.

→ Chabahar → connectivity with Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.

② Energy initiatives:

- i) South asian grid → connects India, Bangladesh, Nepal
- ii) Maitree thermal power plant
50:50 joint venture between India & ~~Pakistan~~ Bangladesh
- iii) Salma dam (earlier Maitree dam) in Afghanistan.
- iv) Power purchase agreement with Nepal

These initiatives will help India in

- i) establishing its good will in region
- ii) countering Chinese expansionism

way ahead

↳ India should complete these projects on war footing basis.

Therefore, following its doctrine of SAGAR, India is working with our neighbours to ensure their development and establishing itself as vishvabandhu.

20.

राजनीतिक रूप से विवादास्पद मुद्दों में हालिया वृद्धि के बावजूद, भारत-कनाडा द्विपक्षीय संबंध लोकतंत्र, बहुलवाद, आर्थिक जुड़ाव के विस्तार और लंबे समय से चले आ रहे लोगों से लोगों के संबंधों के साझा मूल्यों के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। भारत-कनाडा संबंध के महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत और कनाडा के मध्य सहयोग और सहभागिता के संभावित क्षेत्रों पर चर्चा करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Despite the recent rise in politically contentious issues, the India-Canada bilateral relationship has remained committed to shared values of democracy, pluralism, expanding economic engagement and long-standing people-to-people ties. Highlighting the significant pillars of the India-Canada relationship, discuss the potential areas of cooperation and collaboration between India and Canada. (15 marks, 250 words)

Ans

Killing of a Khalistani extremist Canadian citizen recently, has strained the ties between India-Canada

However, ~~the~~ despite these temporary tensions, India-Canada relations are too deep to be derailed.

Significant pillars of India-Canada relationship:

① Indian Diaspora

↳ Only ~~the~~ Sikh community has more than 8 lakh members in Canada.
↳ Other religions - Hindu, Muslim, Buddhists also in good numbers.

② Education

↳ A lot of student go to Canada for graduation and post graduation every year.

③ Economy

↳ tourism by Indians is a great contributor to Canadian economy.

↳ Canadian companies see India as big market.

④ Democracy

↳ Both India and Canada are multiparty democracy.

↳ Indian federalism is inspired by Canadian model.

However, there are certain concerns in this relationship:

① Canada government protecting Khalistani terrorists under the pretext of freedom of speech.

② Canada trying to blame India on international level.

↳ Nijjar killings

③ Canada and India recalling respective diplomats and restricting

visa issuing.

Despite these concerns, there are many potential areas of co-operation and collaboration.

- ① Technology → both the countries can further R&D in cutting age technologies.
- ② Climate change → being a global problem both countries have to co-operate.
↳ Montreal protocol → important role of Canada
- ③ Economy → India being the largest market, is helpful for Canadian economy.
- ④ Diaspora → like civil nuclear deal with US, Canadian diaspora can also further Indian interests in Canada.
- ⑤ Tourism → By easing visa processing, both the countries can benefit from this.

Therefore by working on above areas, India-Canada relations may further be strengthened and will ensure the growth of both nations.