

NEXT IAS

GRADED ASSESSMENT TEST 2025

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE: M25GAT02**TEST NO.: 02**Name of Candidate: PAKSHAL SECRETARYRoll No.: MTS 25 FLTRA 046 Start Time 2:00 End Time 3:30Date of Examination: 07/07/25 Mobile No.

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10		6	15	
2	10		7	15	
3	10		8	15	
4	10		9	15	
5	10		10	15	
Total Marks : 50			Total Marks : 75		

GRAND TOTAL -/ 125

EVAL CODE: GRADED DATE:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 10 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.
8. Only those copies that are submitted on the date of exam till 5 pm will be graded.

REMARKS:

MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 2.50	3.00 - 3.50	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.00	4.00 - 5.50	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice

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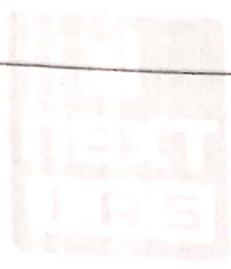
MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.'

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

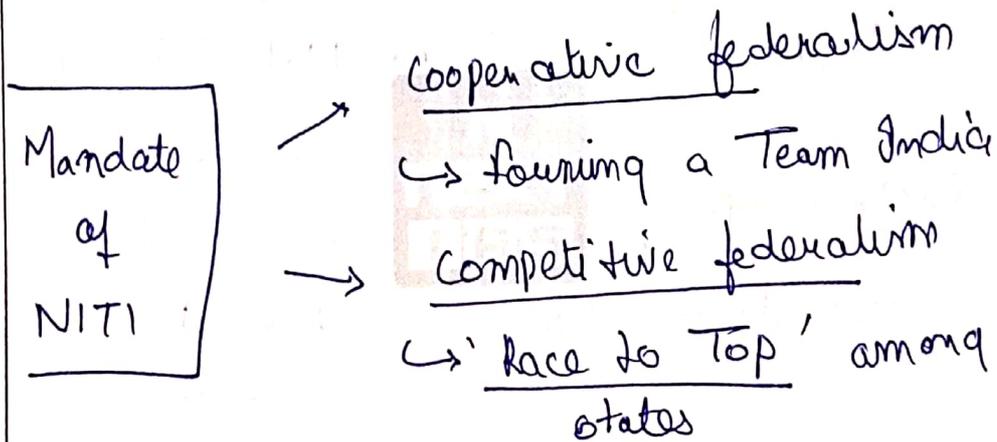
AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS



1. "One of the mandates of NITI Aayog is to promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs." In this context evaluate the role of NITI Aayog in strengthening cooperative federalism and encouraging innovation in policy making since 2015.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

NITI Aayog has successfully completed 10 years of existence, promoting competitive & cooperative federalism by making a "Team India" face holistic progress ✓



Role in cooperative federalism

- ① Platform for deliberation among states
- ② Equal representation to all state, irrespective of size ✓
- ③ Allows for collective thinking and recommendation to solve disputes

④ Monitoring collaborative implementation of projects \Rightarrow SDG Index

Encouraging innovation in policy making

① Seising as a think tank for innovative solutions

② Incentivizing innovation in ~~think~~ children & school. \Rightarrow Atal Tinkering Labs

③ Bottom up planning \rightarrow Region specific innovative solution \Rightarrow Aspirational District

④ Promoting competitive race among state \rightarrow drive further innovation \Rightarrow NITI Innovation Index

Issues \rightarrow Politicisation of Body
 \rightarrow Non-statutory status ✓
 \rightarrow Only recommendatory role

• Buoying states and developing trust is key to fulfill mandate of NITI Aayog

Cont. marks
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Examine the ~~str~~
 contempt power

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2. Examine the structure and jurisdiction of courts in the United States and India. How do the contempt powers of courts differ in both countries? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

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While the United States upholds the Principle of Judicial Supremacy, India follows concept of Constitutional Supremacy.

Structure of courts

India	USA
① Single <u>integrated</u> <u>judiciary</u> ② <u>Hierarchically</u> <u>in</u> <u>nature</u> ③ <u>Organic</u> <u>linking</u>	① Separate judiciary ② Supreme Court (federal) court outside State Supreme court ③ Separate procedure for judges of states & fed



Jurisdiction of Court

India	USA
① follow procedure established by law (as per constitution)	① Based on <u>Due process of law</u> .

Similarity

② <u>Supreme Court</u> → All over India	③ <u>Federal Court</u> → <u>Only federal laws</u>
③ Jurisdiction in Centre-state dispute	② No such procedure for centre state

"Universal base
 may hinder r
 perspective
 R

Power for Contempt

India	USA
① Implicit mentioned in law (Contempt of Court Act)	① Derive from the constitution <u>directly</u> .
② Not an <u>absolute</u> <u>power</u>	② Absolute nature of power
③ Can be overruled by higher court	③ Upper court <u>Can't</u> overrule power ✗
④ To protect dignity of Judge & Judiciary	④ To protect institution of Judiciary

Indian version of power is thus
adapted version from USA

3.

"Universal basic services and targeted welfare are fiscally sound, but competitive populism may hinder productive investment." In this context highlight the constitutional and legal perspectives on welfare provisioning and discuss the impacts of the rising freebie culture.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Recently in S Gulamamium Case, SC directed ECI to formulate guidelines against freebies, holding that "freebies are perpetual to fiscal disaster"

fiscally sound → only cost 4-5% of GDP in total.
→ justified in name of social security payment.

Constitutional and legal perspective

(A) Constitutional.

(i) Article 38 → establishes welfare state and mandates duty on state to ensure welfare

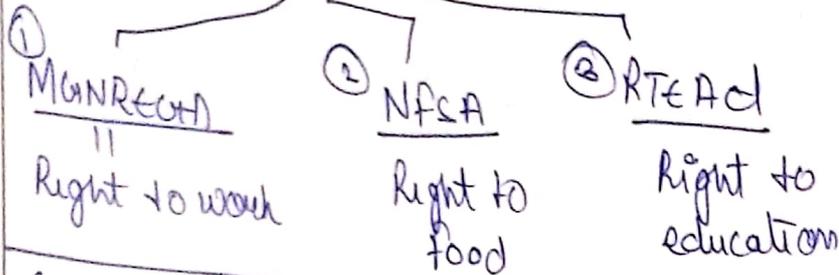
(ii) Article 39 → Advocates for reducing wealth inequality.

(iii) Article 42 → Mandates providing Maternity Benefit and workers

Welfare

(iv) Preamble → Establishes Socialism as core principle

(B) Legal perspective



Impact of Raising freebies culture

Positive also

- ① competitive populism → Race to bottom ②
- ③ fiscal unsustainability of freebies
- ③ Unfair advantage to the incumbent → Against MCC
- ④ Does not improve productivity → as they are revenue expenses
- ⑤ low budget for investment ~~work~~ expenses of government

Way forward

- ① Mandatory Review of promises by party.
- ② fiscal council to check populism

4. "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India."
Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Article 76 provides for President to appoint attorney general of India under his hands and seal.

Office of Attorney General

- Tenure - pleasure of President
- Qualification → same as Judge of SC.
- Salary → no salary but a retainer = SC Judge Salary

Chief legal adviser of Government

- ① Advises government on any legal matter referred by President
 (eg) on Wage Bill
- ② Closely consults with law ministry to ensure smooth passage of law.
- ③ Can attend meeting of Parliament

to give legal advice in house

- ④ Can attend meeting of parliamentary committee to provide legal advice to committee

Lawyer to government

- ① Represents government of India in all the cases involving govt
- ② Has audience to any court of India for representation
- ③ Can not undertake private practice against the government.

Other functions

- Contempt proceeding require his nod.
- Serves as Amicus Curiae (friend of court)

Thus, due to importance of office the constitutional makers gave it a constitutional status

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"Lokpal is not a panacea, but a vital step towards ensuring accountability in public life." In this context, discuss the significance of the institution of Lokpal, along with the limitations it faces. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks



6. "Municipal corporations are key to urban governance, yet states often show reluctance to empower them functionally and financially". In this context, examine the key challenges faced by municipal corporations and suggest measures for a paradigm shift in urban local governance. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

74th Amendment Act, established three different types of Urban local government including, Municipal Corporation, Council and Nagar Panchayat.

Corporation as key to urban governance

- ① Represents wishes of people → democratically elected
- ② Understands people's problem more effectively → one from amongst people only.
- ③ Can provide local solution to local problems eg Indore's Dwaru Panchayat Yojana.

Challenges faced by corporations

- ① Reluctance to Empower functionally
 - ⊗ Non transfer of functions
 - ⊳ MCD has only 4/18 devolved subjects

(i) Creation of parallel agencies
(work in parallel)
eg. Indore Development Corporation
(IMDC)

(ii) Non-powerful Mayor → all the
powers vested in the Chief Magistrate
(no power to Mayor)

(iv) Lack of devolution in cases
of scheme implementation.

(3) Reluctance to empower financially

(i) Own funds → only 5% of
total revenue.

(ii) CAG Report → stuck in "low
equilibrium trap" for finances

(iii) Municipal Bonds → only 1% of
GDP (vs 10% in USA)

(iv) Non-constitution of finance
Commission & non implementation
of reports

eg. Karnataka 4th etc

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write on this margin

Intro :
Body :
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Total :

other issue → lack of expertise of members
 → ~~lack~~ lack of decentralisation
 in ULBs.
 → Decline trust in corporations

Measures Suggested

- ① Economic Survey 2022-23 ✓
 - i) Developing Municipal Bond Market
 - ii) Pooling based financial mechanism
for corporation.
- ② Devolution of functions to corporation
- ③ Strengthening office of Mayor
- ④ Bottom up planning by the
'ward committees' in urban area.

Idea of "grassroot democracy" turned
 to be grass without roots, thus
 comprehensive reform is need of hour.

7. Discuss the constitutional provisions governing the imposition of President's Rule in India and its significance within the federal framework. Examine the challenges and criticisms related to its misuse. Mention key Supreme Court observations that have shaped the constitutional understanding of President's Rule. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Article 356 @ allows President of India to impose President Rule in State in case of failure of "constitutional machinery" in the State.

Provisions governing

- ① Article 356 - allows for procedure to declare President Rule
- ② Article 355 - Duty on centre to prevent State from external aggression and internal disturbances
- ③ Article 365 - Mandatory for state to follow union direction related to railways, communication + transport

Significance of President's Rule

- ① Ensures government of state is carried as per provision of

Constitution

- ② Prevents Successionist tendency among the State — ensures unity
- ③ Places a responsibility on centre to ensure internal peace in states
- ④ Constitutional Necessity to uphold idea of "Union of States"

Challenges Related to PR

① Used as tool to score political gains \Rightarrow dismissal of opposition government in 1977.

② Against principle of federalism
 \rightarrow Makes Centre \gg State

③ Used as tool of first resort instead of last resort
 \Rightarrow Mahantua in last term \rightarrow Precedent??

④ Constant fear of dismissal in minds of State government
 \Rightarrow SR Bommai Case

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⑤ Non-Transparent Report of the Governor - not speaking document

Supreme Court Observation

① SR Bommai Case (1993)

- ① To be used only as last resort
- ② Governor's report should be speaking document
- ③ giving strict warning instead of dismissal

② Rameshwar Prasad Case

- ① Judicial Review of dismissal
- ② legislature can be revived in case found flaws in imposition

③ Nabam Rebia Case → Not discussion of governor but depends on President

Way forward

④ Sahawia Commission

- ① Use as tool of last resort ✓
- ② Governor should place objective facts highlighting breakdown of machinery ✓
- ③ Non-politicisation of Article 356 ✓

8. "Delay in disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law weakens governance and undermines democratic stability." Discuss the provisions of the Anti-Defection Law and the role of the Speaker in its implementation. How does the delay in disqualification affect governance? Suggest reforms needed to strengthen the law.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

52nd Amendment Act, added 10th schedule and Article 102(2) providing for disqualification in case of Anti-Defection ~~Law~~ by elected members

Provision of Anti-Defection

- ① For members of party → disqualification if "voluntarily give up" membership or joins any party
- ② For independent members → stay independent and not join any party
- ③ For nominated members → can join within 6 months
- * ④ Exceptions
 - ① Merger by more than 2/3rd of members is not defection
 - ② Speaker / Deputy Speaker can voluntarily give up membership

Role of Speaker

- ① Acts as Quasi - Judicial body for anti-defection pleas
- ② Decides disqualification of the members in the law.
- ③ Decision allowed for Judicial Review (Nabam Rebia Case)

Impact of Delay in Disqualification

The Anti Defection does not provide any time limit on speaker to act thus leading to delays.

Impact

- ① Defeats the very purpose of the law → no action against defectors
- ② Makes the government of the day vulnerable to fall → affecting governance
- eg → Maharashtra speaker delay lead to fall of government

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③ leads to election of defected people again before disqualification

eg MP (2019) case

④ leads to rise of Money and Muscle power in governance

→ checkbook democracy

→ Resort politics → Bunige governance at stall

Reforms Needed

① Dinesh Goswami Committee

→ Transfer powers to governor / president

→ 3 month timeline for action

② SC in Krishnam Meghachandran Case

→ Permanent Tribunal for anti-defection cases

→ use restricted to case of fall of government

③ Constructive Motion of No confidence (Yeoman Concept)

ADL has change the culture from "Aayu Ram, Yaya Ram" to "Hey Ram!" thus requiring reform

9

Examine the key mechanisms available to the Indian Parliament to scrutinise the executive. What are the major gaps in these mechanisms, and how can they be strengthened to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

India follows a parliamentary system of governance, with Article 75 mandating Council of Ministers to be responsible to lower house.

Key Mechanism for Scrutiny

- ① Question Hour → Ask direct question to government
- ② Zero hour → Raise matter of public importance
- ③ No-confidence Motion → To express displeasure with working of government.
- ④ Budgetary Motion (eg) cut motion to stop funding to executive.
- ⑤ Debates and discussion → on various policy aspects (eg) Calling Attention Motion

① Parliamentary Committees → for detailed scrutiny of working of government

Major gaps

① Reducing productivity of Parliament

req fall in no. of sitting

→ Bills referred to Parliamentary Committee (only 11% in 17th LS)



② Bypassing of parliament req use of money bill route, Ordinance Raj

③ Continuous disruption → (PRS) → only 36% time spent on debates

④ Government majority in the house → early bypass scrutiny

⑤ Suspension of opposition members + not allowed to raise matters
req Dec (2023) - 145 MPs suspended

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⑥ Politicisation of office of speaker)
Chairman of house

Strengthening Mechanism

Ala
1/2

⑦ NCRCW

① Adopting Parliament any calendar
— fixed sitting — 100 days (RS)
+ 120 days (LC)

② Mandatory sending of Bills to
Standing committee

⑧ Recommendation of Veinbah Naichy

① Research support to MPs ✓

② Increasing tenure of MPs in
committee to promote specialisation

⑨ Best practices

① UK → one day fixed for
opposition agenda
→ Question to PM

② Formation of shadow cabinet

" Parliament should not be a
deserted chamber but
thriving forum of debate "

10. "The powers of the Governor, particularly with respect to state bills, have sparked recurring tensions between the Centre and the States." Discuss the constitutional powers of the Governor in this regard. Highlight the key concerns arising out of the Governor's role in the legislative process. What reforms can help address the Governor-State disputes? Refer to the case laws. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently in State of TN vs Governor of TN case (2025), Supreme Court gave a time frame for Governor to act on pending bills under Art 201.

Recurring Tension between State & Centre

- Pocket veto to bills ✓
eg TN case
- Overstepping authority ✓
eg WB Governor Summon to D/G of state
- Acting as agent of Centre ✓
- Criticising state policies ✓
eg Punjab Governor.

Constitutional Powers

- ① Article 154 → Head of State
- ② Article 163 → Whether a power is discretionary is decided by Governor himself.

- ③ Article 200 : Can reserve bills for Presidential consideration
- ④ Article 356 → can recommend imposition of President Rule
- ⑤ Article 371 → special powers to governor of Maharashtra, Gujarat etc

Key concerns out of office

- ① Politicisation of the office → Acts as agent of centre in state
- ② Unnecessarily delay in governance
 ✓ eg → Telangana → bills pending for more than year.
- ③ Misuse of discretionary power
 * eg → Maharashtra governor → confidence motion leading to fall of government
- ④ Against Federal principle → Restricts state autonomy.
- ⑤ Non-Recognising of authority of state government.

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⑥ Overstepping Powers

↳ eg modifying governor's address

Measures To Improve

① Salaries Commission

(i) Governor to non-political person

(ii) fixed tenure of 5 years

(iii) Mandatory consultation with CM of state

(iv) Provision for impeachment of Governor

② Case Law

(i) Narban Rebia → Judicial Review of decision possible

(ii) State of TN vs Governor : 3 months time line to act for Governor

(iii) SR Bommai Case → Report should be speaking document in case of Article 356.

* Gol: S Somayajee has called for "Minimalistic Governor"