

Time taken - 4 hours

NEXT IAS

MAINS TEST SERIES 2.0 - 2025 (SLT)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : SLT2503

Test No. : 03

Name of Candidate: Chiranshu Tameja Mobile No.

Roll No. : MT25SLTON032 Start Time End Time.....

Date of Examination: 15/08/2025 Medium : English Hindi

| Q. No. | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | 10 | |
| 2. | 10 | |
| 3. | 10 | |
| 4. | 10 | |
| 5. | 10 | |
| 6. | 10 | |
| 7. | 10 | |
| 8. | 10 | |
| 9. | 10 | |
| 10. | 10 | |
| TOTAL MARKS - 100 | | |

| Q. No. | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 11. | 15 | |
| 12. | 15 | |
| 13. | 15 | |
| 14. | 15 | |
| 15. | 15 | |
| 16. | 15 | |
| 17. | 15 | |
| 18. | 15 | |
| 19. | 15 | |
| 20. | 15 | |
| TOTAL MARKS - 150 | | |

GRAND TOTAL -/ 250

EVAL CODE: EVAL 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 12 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.

सामान्य निर्देश

1. QCA पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर कृपया तुरंत जांच लें कि इस QCA पुस्तिका में कोई पृष्ठ या सामग्री आदि गलत छपी हुई या फटी हुई या गायब तो नहीं है। यदि ऐसा है, तो इसे एक नई QCA पुस्तिका से बदल लें।
2. अभ्यर्थियों को सभी प्रासंगिक विवरण जैसे नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर, मोबाइल नंबर आदि का आवंटित स्थान पर उल्लेख करना होगा।
3. अभ्यर्थियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह आवंटित समय-सीमा के भीतर ही सभी 12 प्रश्नों के उत्तर-लेखन का प्रयास करें।
4. प्रत्येक उत्तर, प्रवेश के समय चुनी गयी भाषा के माध्यम में ही लिखे जाने चाहिए।
5. अभ्यर्थियों को विशिष्ट प्रश्न के उत्तर संबंधित प्रश्न के नीचे ही लिखने होंगे। आवंटित स्थान के बाहर लिखे गए किसी भी उत्तर को क्रेडिट नहीं दिया जाएगा।
6. कृपया साफ-सुथरा लिखें। अपठनीय लेखन से बचें।
7. QCAB में अप्रासंगिक तथ्यों को न लिखें / न ही चिह्नित करें।

REMARKS:

| Student Concerns / Query | Evaluator's Feedback / Response |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 |

MARKING SCHEME *

| Marks Per Ques | Below Average | Average | Above Average |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 10 Marks | Below 3.00 | 3.00 - 3.75 | 4.00 and above |
| 15 Marks | Below 4.50 | 4.50 - 5.75 | 6.00 and above |

* Subject to change without prior notice.

IMPORTANT QR CODES

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| Topper's Copy | Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB |
|  |  |
| Copy Scanner App | Next IAS Test Centre Location |

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of MTS 2.0 Score Improvement Program (SIP) is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

Q1.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
| | | |

Q2.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
| | | |

Q3.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
| | | |

Q4.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
| | | |

Q5.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
| | | |

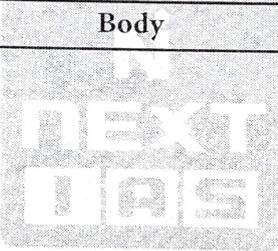
Q6.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
| | | |

Q7.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
| | | |

Q8.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|--|------------|
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Q9.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
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Q10.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
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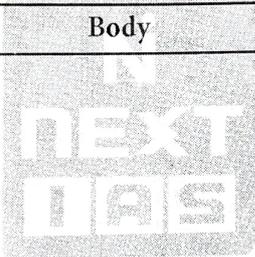
Q11.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q12.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q13.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q14.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q15.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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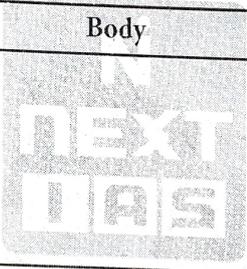
Q16.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q17.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q18.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
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Q19.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
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Q20.

| Introduction | Body | Conclusion |
|--------------|------|------------|
| | | |

The first step is to identify the key stakeholders and their interests. This involves understanding the power dynamics and the resources available to each party.

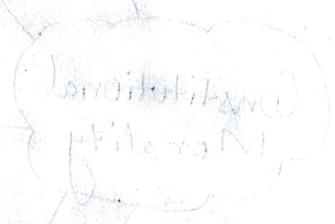


The second step is to analyze the interests of each stakeholder. This is done by identifying the values and needs that drive their behavior.

The third step is to develop strategies to address the interests of all parties. This involves finding win-win solutions that satisfy the needs of all stakeholders.

The fourth step is to implement the strategies and monitor the progress. This involves communication and collaboration among all parties.

The fifth step is to evaluate the outcomes and make adjustments as needed. This involves feedback and reflection on the process.



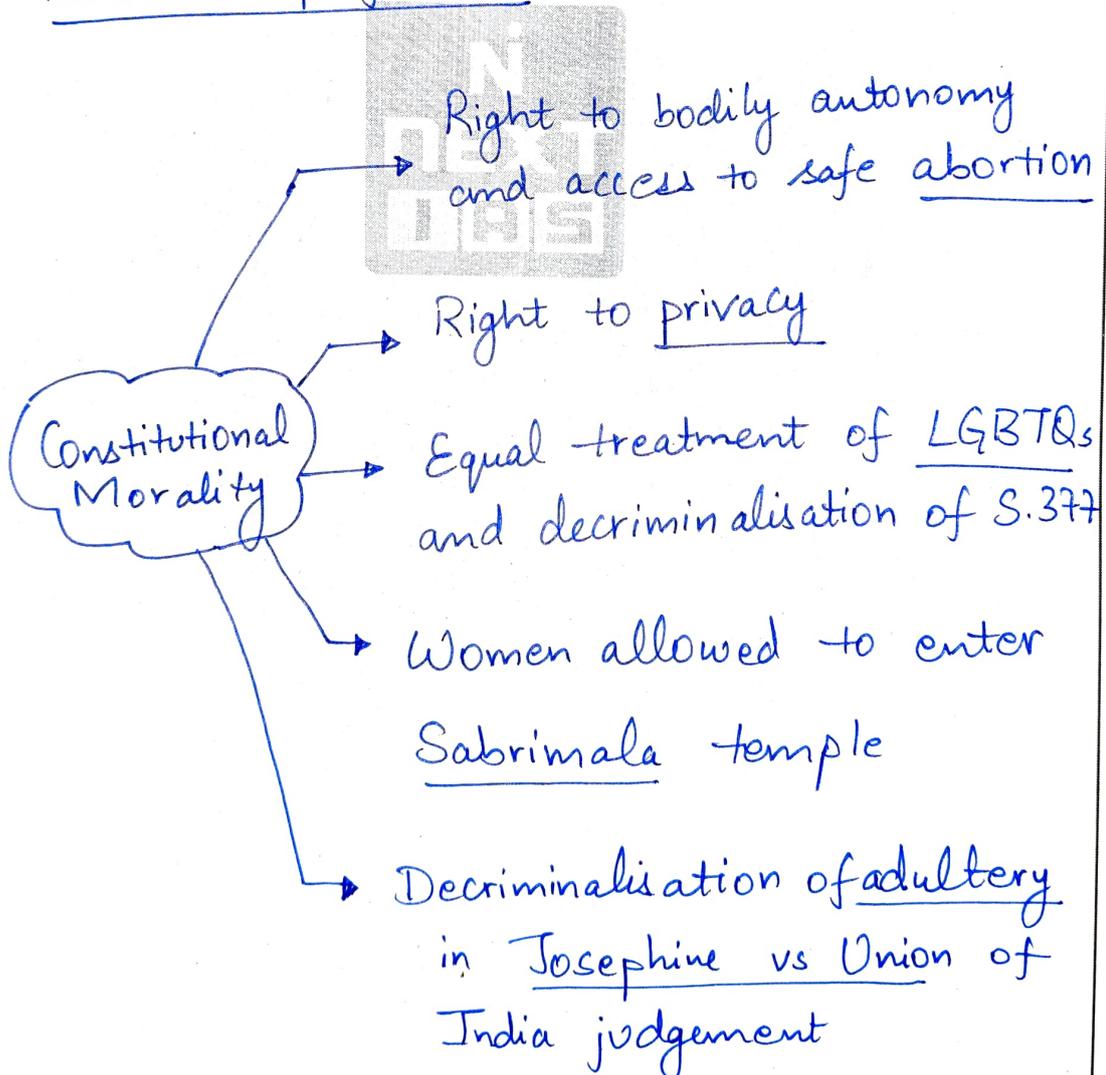
The final step is to conclude the process and ensure that the interests of all parties are satisfied. This involves documentation and evaluation of the process.

1.

संवैधानिक नैतिकता क्या है? समान नागरिक संहिता (यूसीसी) का कार्यान्वयन भारतीय संविधान में निहित संवैधानिक नैतिकता के दृष्टिकोण से किस हद तक संरेखित है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

What is constitutional morality? How far does the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) align with the vision of constitutional morality as encompassed in the Indian Constitution? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Constitutional morality refers to the adherence of moral standards and ideals set out by the constitution, even if it goes against traditional values and societal prejudices.



Uniform Civil Code (Art 44) involves application of same law in matters of marriage, divorce, maintenance, adoption and succession, irrespective of one's religious affiliation.

UCC and constitutional morality

- ① Implementation of UCC will ensure that parliamentary legislations decide family disputes, not personal laws.
- ② Most personal laws have provisions which go against gender justice.
- ③ Continuation of personal laws has prevented the transformation of Indian society through modern legal system.
- ④ UCC will ensure that all disputes are resolved in line with constitutional ethos.

Thus, UCC's implementation will go a long way in furthering the vision of constitutional morality.

2.

भारतीय संसद में विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव क्या है? विशेषाधिकार समिति ऐसे प्रस्तावों की जांच और निपटान किस प्रकार करती है?

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

What is a Privilege Motion in the Indian Parliament? How does the Committee of Privileges examine and deal with such motions?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

A privilege motion is a powerful instrument at the disposal of legislators which is used to prevent breach of privileges by a member or an outsider.

These privileges are enshrined in Art 105 and 194 of the Constitution and are meant to provide certain extra rights to the legislature and its members to ensure its independent and smooth functioning.

While the Constitution hasn't explicitly listed down these privileges, they are based on parliamentary norms and conventions.

eg) Absolute right to freedom of speech at the floor of the house

Candidates must
write on this side



Committee of Privileges

- ① It is constituted separately ^{by} the Presiding Officers for a term of 1 year
- ② Its strength is 15 MPs in Lok Sabha and 10 MPs in Rajya Sabha
- ③ Whenever a privilege motion is admitted by the House, it is sent to this committee for further investigation.
- ④ In case of breach by an MP, the committee summons the member to record their statement.
- ⑤ If an outsider is involved in the breach, committee has the power to act as a quasi-judicial body and punish the accused if found guilty.
- ⑥ It forwards its recommendations to the Presiding Office and the House take the final decision.

Thus Committee of Privileges through its elaborate procedure protects the dignity and independence of the House.

NEXT IAS

3.

संविधान का अनुच्छेद 143 राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ तंत्र के माध्यम से सर्वोच्च न्यायालय को सलाहकार क्षेत्राधिकार प्रदान करता है। इस प्रावधान के अंतर्गत सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के सलाहकार क्षेत्राधिकार के महत्व और दायरे की जांच कीजिए।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Article 143 of the Constitution confers advisory jurisdiction upon the Supreme Court through a presidential reference mechanism. Examine the significance and scope of the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction under this provision. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, President has invoked Art 143 to get Supreme Court's opinion on its judgement that specified timelines for taking decisions for President and Governors

Significance of Art 143

- ① It allows the President to seek a neutral opinion on a constitutional issue.
- ② It helps in judicial clarification in case of ambiguity eg Collegium
Composition - Third Judges' Case (Art 143)
- ③ Ensures that decisions taken by President are in line with

Candidates must write on this side



the constitutional interpretation of the judiciary whenever there is lack of clarity.

Scope of Art 143

- ① Supreme Court's opinion is not binding on the President
- ② Supreme is bound to give its opinion if the case involves a pre-constitutional law or agreement.
- ③ In other cases, Supreme Court can decline to give its opinion if it feels necessary. \triangleright In 1990s, Court declined the President's reference to tell which religious structure originally existed at the contested Ramjannabhoomi site.
- ④ Supreme Court's opinion doesn't set a precedent for its own future judgements.

Despite limitations in its scope, A143 has proved to a be great tool in our constitutional scheme.

4.

भारत और ब्रिटेन में राष्ट्राध्यक्ष की शक्तियों की तुलना कीजिए। उनकी भूमिकाएं किस प्रकार उनकी संबंधित प्रणालियों के संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों को प्रतिबिंबित करती हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Compare the powers of the head of state in India and the UK. How do their roles reflect the constitutional principles of their respective systems? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

While India inherited the British parliamentary system, they are significant differences between the two polities.

| India | UK |
|--|--|
| ① <u>President</u> is the head of state | ① <u>Monarch</u> is the head of state |
| ② He is <u>indirectly elected</u> by the legislators. | ② The position is inherited in the <u>royal family</u> . |
| ③ <u>Republic</u> | ③ <u>Constitutional monarchy</u> . |
| ④ Ceremonial head with real power in hands of the Prime Minister | ④ He too is a ceremonial figure with PM enjoying real power. |

Candidates must write on this page



⑤ He appoints the Prime Minister and rest of the Cabinet

⑥ He can dismiss the govt. if it loses majority in Lok Sabha

⑦ Governor is his counterpart at state-level.

⑤ He too formally appoints the PM and his council

⑥ He too can dismiss the govt if it loses majority in House of Commons

⑦ No such position as UK has a unitary structure

Reflection of constitutional principles

Both countries have parliamentary form of govt based on Westminster model. So the head of state is a nominal head in both the countries with elected ministers forming the govt.

In both systems, executive is held responsible to the legislature through parliament. The President can be impeached, however the king can never be removed.

5. स्वतंत्रता के बाद से, संसद सदस्यों (एमपी) की बदलती सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थिति के साथ भारतीय संसद की संरचना में महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन आया है। भारत में प्रतिनिधि लोकतंत्र की समग्र गुणवत्ता पर इस बदलाव के प्रभाव का विश्लेषण कीजिए।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Since Independence, the composition of the Indian Parliament has undergone a significant change with the changing socio-economic profile of the Members of Parliament (MPs). Analyse the impact of this shift on the overall quality of representative democracy in India.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

In the first Lok Sabha, independents formed 10% of overall strength. Today, it has fallen down to 1%. highlighting the shift from representative democracy to party-based system.

Changing socio-economic profile

- ① In the present Lok Sabha, about 45% MPs having pending criminal cases.
- ② Parliament is 'getting older' as average age of MP has increased.
- ③ % of MPs having completed graduation has increased tremendously.
- ④ Women representation, though higher, is still stagnant at 14%.



Impact of the shift

- ① As elections become a high value game, only rich candidates are able to sponsor their campaigns.
- ② Affiliation to political party has become to win election as independents don't have enough money and muscle power
- ③ Candidates from disadvantaged sections aren't able to compete with structural barrier continuing
- ④ Anti-defection law has turned the elected representatives into party spokes-persons as they are unable to raise the voice of their electorate.
- ⑤ People have started to vote based on party affiliation, rather than looking at candidate's performance (Lokniti Survey)

Therefore, there has been a marked shift towards dominance of political parties.

6. संविधान सभा में महिला संस्थापकों के योगदान और उनके नारीवादी दृष्टिकोण ने भारत के संवैधानिक विमर्श को आकार दिया है। चर्चा कीजिए।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक
- The contributions of the founding mothers in the Constituent Assembly and their feminist perspective have shaped India's constitutional discourse. Discuss.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

While the constitution makers are often remembered as "founding fathers", there were 15 women in the Constituent assembly who contributed significantly in shaping the constitution.

- eg) 1) Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
2) Sarojini Naidu
3) Sucheta Kriplani
4) Anne Mascarene
5) Vijaylakshmi Pandit

Contribution of founding mothers

- ① They ensured that constitution is enriched with provisions relating to gender justice eg) Art 15(3)



- ② They called for protection of women from exploitation which reflected in Art 23
- ③ Their relentless efforts resulted in pay parity becoming a constitutional provision (Art 39 (b))
- ④ They led the debate on untouchability and the multiple jeopardy faced by women from "depressed classes",
- ⑤ They infused the idea of welfare state in the constitution.
- ⑥ Universal adult suffrage (Art 32²) was passed without any debate, granting right to vote to women, much before several European countries like Switzerland

The founding mothers played a very critical role in ensuring diverse voices are heard in the longest Constitution.

7. "एक लोकतंत्र उतना ही मजबूत होता है जितना उसका विपक्ष।" इस संदर्भ में, लोक सभा में नेता प्रतिपक्ष की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए तथा भारत में इस संस्था की प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के उपाय सुझाइए।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

"A democracy is only as strong as its Opposition." In this light, examine the role of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and suggest measures to enhance the effectiveness of this institution in India.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Leader of Opposition (LOP) is the leader of the political party or pre-poll alliance with at least 10% seats in the Lok Sabha is per the LOP in Parliament Act of 1977.

Role of Leader of Opposition

- ① LOP represents the voice of the opposition parties and leads the debates.
- ② He provides constructive criticism of the govt.'s policies.
- ③ He is given the equivalent rank of Cabinet minister as per 1977 Act.
- ④ India has rarely seen ruling party

getting over 50% votes. So essentially LoP represents voice and concerns of the majority who didn't vote for the ruling party

Measures to enhance effectiveness

- ① Shadow Cabinet (UK Model) led by LoP can help provide quality debate with targeted criticism of policies
- ② LoP leading the shadow cabinet can act as alternative govt. if the current govt. loses majority.
- ③ Debates on the lines of US Presidential debates of USA, between LoP and ministers can improve quality of discussions
- ④ The 10% norm can be rationalized as it led to issues during 2014 to 2024 when no party secured 10%+ seats in Lok Sabha except ruling party.

LoP is a very significant office for a Parliamentary form of govt.

8. भारत में अल्पसंख्यक शैक्षणिक संस्थानों से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधान क्या हैं? न्यायिक घोषणाओं ने भारत में समानता के अधिकार और अल्पसंख्यक पहचान को सुरक्षित रखने के अधिकार के बीच संतुलन को किस प्रकार आकार दिया है? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

What are the constitutional provisions related to minority educational institutions in India? How have judicial pronouncements shaped the balance between the right to equality and the right to preserve minority identity in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Art 29 and 30 of the Constitution

Outline the provisions related to minority-run educational institutions (MEIs).

Art 29 empowers every minority, linguistic or religious, with the right to preserve its culture, language or script.

Art 30 Right to establish and administer educational institutions by minorities.

Judicial pronouncements:

① TMA Pai Foundation Case

Supreme Court held that Art 30 doesn't forbid state intervention in secular matters as long as the autonomy of MEI is not being challenged.

eg State can lay down technical qualifications for the instructors or implement fees caps.

② AMU Minority Status Judgement

.2024 : Court laid down an extensive criteria to determine minority character of an institution under Art 30.

③ While making grants, the State cannot discriminate against an MEI in line with Art 30(2)

Through its judgements, Supreme Court has tried to balance the interests of minorities and their right to preserve their culture with the responsibility of the State to ensure quality in educational institutions.

9. अधिकार-आधारित लोकतंत्र में, एनएचआरसी जैसी संस्थाओं को प्रतीकात्मक उपस्थिति से आगे बढ़कर वास्तविक समय प्रभाव तक विकसित होना चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के मानवाधिकार ढांचे के भीतर संरचनात्मक और कार्यात्मक मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।
(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक
- In a rights-based democracy, institutions like the NHRC must evolve beyond symbolic presence to real-time impact. In this context, discuss the structural and functional issues within India's human rights framework.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

After two deferrals, NHRC is at the risk of losing its 'A' status by GANHRI, raising concerns about its functioning.

Structural and functional issues

- ① NHRC doesn't have sufficient strength of investigating officers leading the criticism of "toothless tiger" (by former CJI HL Dattu)
- ② Despite the power to inspect jails and its 1997 guidelines, NHRC has failed to control custodial violence.
- ③ NHRC's listlessness and hard-to-

get sanction of the govt to prosecute
its police officers complicates the matter

- ④ While it has suo-moto powers, it hasn't used them effectively.
- ⑤ Persistent vacancies leads to backlogs and delays in disposal of complaints.
- ⑥ SHRCs are dysfunctional in several states due to lack of funds.

Solutions

- Grant Constitutional Status
- Augment manpower with independent supervision
- SHRC should be funded and made functional.

In order to turn NHRC from a "teasing illusion" (Soli Sorabjee) to a protector of human rights, efforts should be made to strengthen NHRC.

10.

परिसीमन 'एक नागरिक, एक वोट' के विचार को मान्यता देता है, लेकिन इसके निहितार्थ संघवाद के सिद्धांतों के खिलाफ जाते हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

Delimitation upholds the idea of 'one citizen, one vote', but its implications go against the principles of federalism. Comment.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

With the five-decade long pause in the allocation of seats to states coming to an end in 2026, debates ~~the~~ ^{have} started regarding a possible solution to the Delimitation Dilemma.

- ① Delimitation is carried out after every census (Art 82) by an independent body to ensure every citizen's vote values the same.
- ② However, this means that states with better demographic indicators who controlled their population stand to lose.
- ③ States with more population will get more seats according to "one citizen, one vote".

Candidates
write on this

- ④ This will skew the distribution of seats in favour of North-Indian states, thereby fuelling the North-south divide
- ⑤ Representation of Southern states would decrease, impacting the federal structure
- ⑥ However, if seats are increased in current proportion, federalism will survive but at the cost of votes of North Indians having less value than their counterparts from West and South.
- ⑦ A middle path would be to increase seats in proportion of population in Lok Sabha while giving more seats to smaller and less-populated states in Rajya Sabha
- ⑧ This US-like model of Congress, will help save federalism as well as principle of 'one vote for one citizen'

The delimitation debate can have serious repercussions and must be dealt with utmost sensitivity to prevent any further divide.

11. विपक्ष शासित राज्यों में राज्यपालों की भूमिका केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों में विवाद का विषय रही है। आलोचनात्मक रूप से चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार राज्यपाल का अतिक्रमण राज्य सरकारों की स्थिति को चुनौती देता है तथा ऐसे संघर्षों को कम करने के लिए सुरक्षा उपाय सुझाएँ।
(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक
- The role of Governors in opposition-ruled States has been a flashpoint in Centre-State relations. Critically discuss how gubernatorial overreach challenges the position of state governments and suggest safeguards to mitigate such conflicts.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Governors are the constitutional heads of states and expected to uphold the highest standards of non-partisanship. However, recent cases like Governor vs State of Tamil Nadu highlight the rising tensions between governors and state governments.

Gubernatorial Overreach

- 1) Office of governor has often been criticized for being an elected authority.
- 2) Governor has the power to send back a bill passed by the state legislature (Art 200)
- 3) He can even keep the bill pending indefinitely using pocket veto.

- 4) He is also allowed to reserve certain bills for President's consideration (Art 201), a provision criticized by proponents of a strong federal polity.
- 5) Governors also have several constitutionally-granted discretionary powers.

(Challenge to position of state govt)

- 1) State legislature would be rendered useless if their bills can be effectively vetoed by unelected heads.
- 2) Since the entire administration is carried out in Governor's name, rising conflicts are delaying implementation of major executive decisions.
- 3) Governors, being ex-officio ~~vice~~ chancellors of most state universities, have the authority to appoint key members. State govt. allege that the decisions are not being taken on aid and advice of State cabinet.

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Candidates must
write on this pageSignificance of office of governor

- 1) The office is crucial to ensure unity and integrity of the nation.
- 2) Governors ensure that state administration is running in line with the constitution.

Safeguards to prevent conflicts

- 1) Ensure independence of governors by giving them fixed tenures.
- 2) State govts. can be involved in the process of appointment of governors.
- 3) Governors should be bound to take decisions on pending legislations within a specified timeline (as highlighted in the Governor vs State of Tamil Nadu 2025 case).
- 4) Recommendations of Sarkaria Commission should be followed in true letter and spirit.

It is crucial to resolve these rising conflicts at the earliest to ~~protect the~~ strengthen the federal spirit.



12. राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व में वृद्धि के बावजूद, पंचायती राज संस्थाओं में निर्वाचित महिला प्रतिनिधियों (ईडब्ल्यूआर) को प्रभावी भागीदारी और नेतृत्व में बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, ईडब्ल्यूआर के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें तथा लिंग-समावेशी जमीनी स्तर पर शासन को सक्षम बनाने के लिए आवश्यक सुधारों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Despite increased political representation, Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions continue to face barriers to effective participation and leadership. In this context, discuss the challenges EWRs face and suggest reforms needed to enable gender-inclusive grassroots governance.

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Despite three decades of constitutional amendments (72nd), Panchiyati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are plagued by the problem of "Sarpanch - Patis".

Challenges faced by EWR in PRI

1. Patriarchal society continues to see elected women representatives as lieutenant^{em-} of their politically-powerful husbands.
2. Lower literacy rates amongst rural women prevents them from fully understanding the administrative process.
3. Lack of capacity - building measures, especially for EWR elected for the first time, leaves them unaware of their

powers and responsibilities.

[4] Seats reserved for women rotate after every delimitation. This brings back male counterparts in the political fight, who often have money and muscle power

[5] Despite an overall 46% representation in PRIs, EWRs rarely rise up the ladder to become MLA / MPs.

Reforms for gender-inclusive
grassroots governance

- [1] Strict punishment for 'sarpanch-pati'
- [2] Training and capacity building programmes for EWR.
- [3] Women MPs and MLAs of the state to be involved in their capacity building.
- [4] Using digital solutions like whatsapp groups to create a community of EWRs (Committee of MoPR suggested this).

- 5] Awarding best-performing EWRs at the block / taluk level.
- 6] Introducing reservation for women at the level of 'Panchayat-Secretary'.
- 7] Creating a pipeline of EWRs from Panchayat to Parliament through the 106th Constitutional amendment act 2023.
- 8] Ensuring that EWR lead all the official functions at the Panchayat level to bring a psychological change amongst the population.

The issue of proxy-leadership in PRIs and the need for empowerment of EWR was reiterated by the recent report of a committee setup by Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Its recommendations should be implemented in true letter and spirit.

13. फ्रांस में अर्ध-राष्ट्रपति प्रणाली राष्ट्रपति और प्रधान मंत्री के बीच सत्ता-साझाकरण का एक विशिष्ट मॉडल प्रस्तुत करती है। इस मॉडल की तुलना भारत की संसदीय प्रणाली से कीजिए, जिसमें कार्यकारी स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रत्येक द्वारा प्रदत्त संवैधानिक सुरक्षा पर जोर दिया गया है।
(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

The semi-presidential system in France presents a distinct model of power-sharing between the President and Prime Minister. Compare this model with India's parliamentary system, with emphasis on the constitutional safeguards each offers to ensure executive stability.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

The semi-presidential system in France was introduced with the enactment of Constitution of Fifth Republic in 1958

French System

Indian System

① Semi-presidential form of govt.

① Parliamentary form of govt.

② Dual executive: President and Prime-Minister

② President is the nominal head while Prime-Minister is the real head

③ President is directly elected by the public

③ President is indirectly elected by the members of state and union legislature.

French System

- ④ Prime-Minister is chosen from within the National Assembly
- ⑤ President appoints the Prime-Minister
- ⑥ President has significant powers especially wrt foreign policy and defence.
- ⑦ Prime-Minister is in-charge of domestic and day-to-day administrative decisions
- ⑧ PM can be removed through a no-confidence motion

Indian System

- ④ PM must be a member of the Parliament.
- ⑤ Here too, President appoints PM.
- ⑥ President is a ceremonial head of the state while Union Cabinet holds the real power
- ⑦ Prime Minister is much more powerful and also decides the foreign policy and defence matters.
- ⑧ Here too, removal is possible through no-confidence motion.

French System

⑨ Dual executive prevents concentration of powers in one authority

⑩ President can be impeach by the French Parliament

Indian System

⑨ PM being the head of the govt. prevents creation of two conflicting power centres.

⑩ Similar - Parliament can impeach the President for violation of Constitution.

Both the systems have their own pros and cons. The countries have chosen the executive structure based on what aligns with their institutional realities.



14. मौलिक अधिकारों और राज्य नीति के निर्देशक सिद्धांतों के बीच विकसित होता संबंध भारत की संवैधानिक यात्रा की एक गतिशील विशेषता रही है, जिसके लिए अक्सर न्यायिक हस्तक्षेप और संवैधानिक संशोधनों की आवश्यकता पड़ती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The evolving relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy has been a dynamic feature of India's constitutional journey, often necessitating judicial interventions and constitutional amendments. Discuss.

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Fundamental rights and directive principles of state policy (DPSP) have been the two drivers of transformative constitutionalism in India

Dynamic relationship between the two

- ① FRs (Part III, Art 12-35) constitute the justiciable civil and political rights.
- ② DPSP (Part IV, Art 36-51) constitute the non-justiciable social and economic rights.
- ③ In Champakam Dorairajan 1951, Supreme court laid down the need for prioritizing FRs over DPSP in case of any conflict.

- ④ This resulted in the first constitutional amendment 1951 to legalize affirmative action.
- ⑤ Later in Re Kerala Education Bill 1957 case, Supreme court gave the doctrine of harmonious construction.
- ⑥ FRs and DPSP must be interpreted harmoniously whenever there's a conflict.
- ⑦ Through the 25th Constitution Amendment Act 1971, any law giving effect to Art 39 (b), (c) will not be held ultra-vires for violating Art 14 and 19 (Art 31C).
- ⑧ This protection was later expanded to include all DPSPs through the 42nd Constitutional amendment 1976.
- ⑨ In Minerva Mills 1980, Supreme Court struck down the immunity's expansion to all DPSP.

(i) Thus, through a series of judgements and amendments, the relationship between FRs and DPSP kept on changing.

(ii) Today, both are interpreted in a way to further the vision of constitution makers

eg 86th amendment 2001 to convert Art 45 DPSP into Art 21A FR (Right to education)

eg 103rd amendment 2019 to give effect to Art 46 DPSP in form of Art 15(6), 16(6) (EWS reservation)

Therefore, DPSP remains a guiding light in expanding the canvas of FRs for citizens to attain a just and fair society.

15. उच्च सदन की परिकल्पना एक समीक्षा सदन के रूप में की गई थी, न कि निचले सदन के प्रतिद्वंद्वी के रूप में। इस वक्तव्य के आलोक में, क्या आपको लगता है कि समकालीन भारतीय राजनीति में राज्य सभा इस दृष्टिकोण को पूरा कर रही है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

The Upper House was envisioned as a reviewing chamber and not a rival to the Lower House.' In light of this statement, do you think the Rajya Sabha continues to fulfil this vision in contemporary Indian polity? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Constitution makers envisaged Council of States as the "House of Elders" where hasty decisions of the Lower House could be checked.

Upper House as reviewing chamber

- ① Every legislation requires passage of bills by both houses, enabling them to act as each other's reviewer.
- ② Rajya Sabha can also recommend amendments to the ordinary bills passed by Lok Sabha.
- ③ While its powers are limited wrt money bills, Rajya Sabha still enriches the Budget session through elaborate discussions.



- ④ Rajya Sabha can prevent any hasty constitutional amendment by a majoritarian govt.

Upper House as rival house?

- ① There have been instances where ruling party didn't have majority party in Upper House and it led to obstruction in passage of bills.

- ② Unnecessary delays in passage of bills gives rise to the allegation of Upper house acting like a hurdle.

Analysis of Rajya Sabha's Performance

- ① Rajya Sabha has, so far, been able to work in line with the path outlined by constitution makers, with few aberrations
- ② Today when Lok Sabha often witnesses frequent disruptions, Rajya Sabha provides a platform for quality debate

- ③ There have been cases where Lok Sabha obstructed the Rajya Sabha's legislative process. \Rightarrow Women's Reservation Bill 2010 passed by Rajya Sabha, not Lok Sabha
- ④ However, at times, important bills have been passed by Lok Sabha under the garb of 'money bills' preventing Rajya Sabha's scrutiny, possibly because of fear of its obstruction \Rightarrow Aadhaar Act

Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha need to work together and not obstruct each other's work to truly attain the parliamentary democracy envisaged by our founding fathers.



16. भारतीय संविधान में नियंत्रण और संतुलन के सिद्धांत को अक्सर विधायी और कार्यकारी क्षेत्रों में न्यायपालिका की बढ़ती भूमिका द्वारा चुनौती दी जाती है। कारणों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, विभिन्न अंगों के बीच कार्यात्मक पृथक्करण पर इसके प्रभाव का आकलन कीजिए।

The principle of checks and balances in the Indian Constitution is often challenged by the judiciary's expanding role in legislative and executive domains. Highlighting the reasons, assess its impact on the functional separation between various organs.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Unlike USA's ^{strict} separation of powers, India has separation of functions with checks and balances. This has often given rise to conflicts between the three organs of the govt.

Judicial intervention in legislative domain

This primarily happens because of legislative vacuum and the court's efforts to deliver complete justice to the victims (Art 142)

eg) Vishaka Guidelines to prevent sexual harassment of women at workplace

eg Shahen Abdulla vs Union of India

Court laid down strict guidelines to counter hate speech in absence of law.

eg Tehseen Poonawala case - guidelines against mob lynching

eg PVCL vs State of Maharashtra - measures against encounter killings

Judicial intervention in executive domain

This has often occurred due to executive's apathy and administrative listlessness even in glaring violation of rights

eg Hossainara khatoon case to release undertrials

eg MC Mehta case to protect Taj Mahal discoloration

eg Firecracker ban to contain pollution

Impact on functional separation

- ① Judicial overreach sometimes results in impractical order for executive
 eg removing street dogs from NCR
- ② Judicial guidelines aren't as comprehensive as legislature's bills
- ③ Legislature and executive perceive this as encroachment violation of their powers
- ④ This leads to inter-organ distrust amongst the three
- ⑤ Separation of functions works smoothly only as long as each organ respects its own boundaries

While there are concerns about judicial overreach, judicial activism has ensured that the victims don't suffer injustice in the name of separation of powers.

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17.

चुनाव प्रक्रिया की विश्वसनीयता चुनाव आयोग की स्वायत्तता और तटस्थता पर निर्भर करती है। क्या आपको लगता है कि भारत का निर्वाचन आयोग चुनावी लोकतंत्र में जनता का विश्वास बनाए रखने में विश्वसनीयता के मुद्दों का सामना कर रहा है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

The credibility of the electoral process rests on the autonomy and neutrality of the Election Commission. Do you think the Election Commission of India is facing credibility issues in sustaining public trust in electoral democracy? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Election Commission of India

(ECI) is an independent constitutional body setup under Art 324. Despite the ^{constitutional} guarantee, its autonomy has come under ^{question} criticism several times.

Allegations against ECI

Several allegations have been put against ECI from diverse quarters

- 1) ECI being controlled by the govt.
- 2) Political bias in its decisions w.r.t model conduct violations
- 3) EVM tampering
- 4) Electrol roll discrepancies
- 5) Lack of transparency

Reasons behind allegations

- 1) Perceived bias due to govt's dominance in the appointment process.
- 2) Social media rumors spreading like fire
- 3) Political opportunism
- 4) Involvement of non-state actors
- 5) Recent changes in conduct of election rules 1961

Nonetheless, ECI remains a credible institution because:

- ① Bulwark against electoral malpractices
ECI has brought several reforms from 1990s (under TN Seshan)
- ② Power transfer has always been peaceful in India due to public and political trust in ECI.
- ③ Procedural safeguards have high checks and balances and redundancies

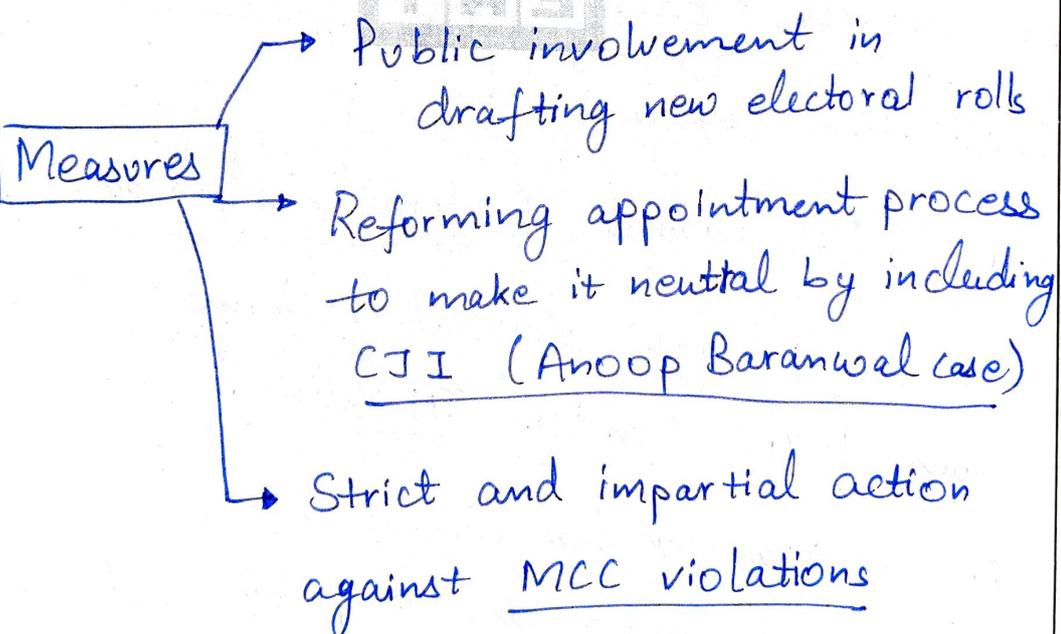
involved to prevent any mishappening.

④ Involvement of over 1 million personnel in the conduct of elections, ensuring transparency.

⑤ Timely and public display of data.

⑥ Use of digital solutions (eg mobile apps, govigil)

However, it is essential for ECI to counter the narrative to ensure public trust remains unflinched.



ECI has contributed by ensuring the birth of a flourishing democracy through free and fair elections and it must keep making efforts to not lose public trust.



जबकि सहकारी संघवाद संविधान के डिजाइन में निहित है, राजनीतिक विचारों ने प्रतिस्पर्धी और टकरावपूर्ण संघवाद को जन्म दिया है। भारत के संघीय ढांचे के भीतर इन प्रवृत्तियों को समेटने में संवैधानिक और संविधानेतर संस्थाओं की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए।
(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

While cooperative federalism is rooted in the design of the Constitution, political considerations have given rise to competitive and confrontational federalism. Examine the role of constitutional and extra-constitutional institutions in reconciling these trends within India's federal structure.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

In the past few decades, Indian federalism has seen the rise of competitive and confrontational strands which have threatened the roots of cooperative federalism.

Role of constitutional institutions

- ① Inter-State Councils constituted by the President under Art 263 can help provide a platform to raise concerns
- ② Rajya Sabha is a reflection of the federal polity. State can voice their concerns in the Parliament here.
- ③ GST Council (Art 279A) brings together federal units to debate the issues wrt fiscal federalism. The

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write on this

Composition and voting power ensures that states' voice is heard.

④ Finance Commission (Art 280) can help bring competitiveness in states' efforts to secure more funds by linking grants with performance.

⑤ Supreme court can help tone down the extent of confrontation between centres and states by resolving their conflicts amicably.

Role of ~~extra~~-constitutional institutions

① NITI Aayog helps bring together states and centre for national development. It has infused competitive spirit through its rankings.

② Zonal councils (State Reorganisation Act 1956) provide a platform for

states from a region to voice their concerns collectively (eg North East) or to resolve dispute (eg Haryana-Punjab)

Competitiveness amongst states is essential in taking the country towards Viksit Bharat as it fosters innovation. However, confrontation with the centre will lead to administrative delays and ~~more~~ more calls for autonomy. It is crucial to turn this confrontation into cooperation for furthering the federal spirit in India.