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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1691)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	87661
Center	Jaipur	Date	31 st Oct, 2020

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2	10		2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3	10		3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4	10		4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5	10		5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6	10		6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7	10		7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
8	10		
9	10		
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14	15		
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16	15		
17	15		
18	15		
19	15		
20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. The practice of passing of bills without the scrutiny by the parliamentary standing committees undermines their significance and sets a wrong precedent. Discuss. (150 words) 10

संसदीय स्थायी समितियों द्वारा संवीक्षा के बिना विधेयकों को पारित करने की परिपाटी, उनके महत्व को क्षीण करती है तथा गलत दृष्टांत स्थापित करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Parliamentary standing committees (PSC) are constituted as per rules of respective house of parliament. These committees are constituted for specific objectives such as Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to scrutinize expenditure by Govt. and LAY reports.

Recently, bills were passed without referring them to parliamentary standing committees.

Undermines significance

- (1) parliamentary control over executive is reduced.
- (2) important provisions requiring expert advice are not scrutinised adequately.
- (3) party in power with members easily pass the bill without deliberation defeating whole purpose of parliament.

(4) Opposing or dissenting views do not get appropriate attention

for eg. PAC is chaired by opposition party member. Thus, this ensures better scrutiny of CAG reports.

Sets wrong precedent

(1) state legislatures may adopt same practice

(2) party in opposition today may adopt same route when in power.

(3) Party in power generally gets 30-35% votes while opposition cumulatively gets 60-65% during elections.
This means majority voice is not listened to.

Way forward is to utilise the PSCs especially, those of economic nature, Speaker may play an important role in ensuring this.

2. The right to recall is a much-needed step to deepen democracy in India. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

भारत में लोकतंत्र को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु 'राइट टू रि कॉल' एक अत्यंत आवश्यक कदम है। आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Right to recall refers to the right to voters to recall the chosen representative, if not satisfied with the work.

Advantages

- (1) Deepen democracy by acknowledging people's right/control over representative even after election
- (2) Elected representative has to perform throughout tenure.
- (3) Promises made during promis elections will be carefully made. Thus, check false promises.
- (4) Encourage public participation throughout the tenure of government

Issues

- (1) Difficult to implement as logistical and financial burden increases

- (2) encourage local populist demands
over national needs
- (3) how to ascertain who actually
voted in elections and who didn't?
Thus, whom to give right to recall?
- (4) Recall at any time would add
to financial burden
- (5) leads to political instability
- (6) Generally, in first past the post
system, winning party gets ~35-40%
votes. Thus, 60-65% people would
always be against the elected

What can be done?

- (1) Strengthen ECI and MCC
- (2) Awareness about NOTA and some
real meaning to it.
- (3) Periodical review of work of MLA/MP
by respective parties / EC / third party

Thus, right to recall have some
practical problems in implementation. A
better way is to choose & field honest and
dedicated candidate.

3. Is anti-defection law a restriction on the freedom of choice of legislators? Examine and also highlight the role played by the Speaker in this regard.

(150 words) 10

क्या दल-बदल रोधी क़ानून विधि-निर्माताओं (लेजिस्लेटर्स) की 'चयन की स्वतंत्रता' पर एक प्रतिबंध है? परीक्षण कीजिए और साथ ही इस संदर्भ में, अध्यक्ष द्वारा निभाई जाने वाली भूमिका को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Anti-defection law was included as schedule X in India constitution through 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

Restriction on freedom of choice?

- (1) legislator is disqualified if he/she votes against the whip
- (2) independent legislators cannot join a political party.
- (3) Nominated legislators are allowed to join political party within 6 months of taking oath and not after that
- (4) legislator cannot have a view contrary to party view, thus, against individuality and article 19 of Indian constitution

Advantages

- check horse-trading post elections
- ensures stability of government
- rational to disallow independent candidates as they fought & won against the parties' manifestos
- legislator who won on manifesto of party should also adhere to its ideals.

Speaker's Role

- (1) decides on disqualification under anti-defection in Lok Sabha
- (2) ~~but~~ decides whether to admit party's complaint against legislator
- (3) Impartial role of speaker in deciding cases is expected
- (4) Decision should be made in time bound manner [supreme court]

Kihoto Nohkhon case has perfected the Schedule X at places, however, more still needs to be done such as speaker's role may be given to President

4. Inter-state river water disputes have been among the most pressing issues faced by the Indian federal system. In this context, examine the potential of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in addressing the issues involved. **(150 words) 10**

अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद, भारतीय संघीय प्रणाली द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले सर्वाधिक अहम मुद्दों में से एक रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, इसमें सम्मिलित मुद्दों के समाधान में अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2019 की क्षमता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Inter state water disputes arise from time to time and parliament is empowered by Indian constitution to resolve such disputes through constituting Tribunal by law.

In past various water inter-state water tribunals have been constituted such as Cauvery Tribunal, Mahadyi Tribunal, Krishna Tribunal. etc.

Inter-state water Disputes (Amendment) Bill

↳ Features → permanent tribunals
 ↳ timelines for resolution of dispute
 ↳ discourage appeal in supreme court.
 ↳ supersedes other tribunals

↳ Potential → continuity in hearing of recurring disputes of Cauvery Tribunal.

- uniformity in application of laws to water disputes
- timely disposal of disputes
- substantiates role to be played by centre in such disputes
- decrease burden on judiciary as appeal is discouraged.

Concerns

- ↳ ^{historical} data for adjudication needs to be studied & institutionalised.
- ↳ uniformity may not address the specific needs of an issue related to specific river

Despite various concerns, the Inter state water dispute bill is a welcome step in right direction.

5. The expressions 'equality before the law' and 'equal protection of the laws' may seem to be identical, but, in fact, they mean different things. Elaborate. **(150 words) 10**

'विधि के समक्ष समता' और 'विधियों का समान संरक्षण' वाक्यांश एक-समान प्रतीत हो सकते हैं, किन्तु, वास्तव में, उनके अर्थ भिन्न-भिन्न हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Article 14 of Indian constitution provides for right to equality which includes both 'equality before law' as well as 'equal protection of law'.

Equality before law

British

① → American interpretation of right to equality.

② → Absence of any privileges in front of law to anyone.

③ → Rule of law as given by A.V. Dicey

↳ ordinary courts giving ruling in ordinary manner uniformly to everyone.
↳ Separation of power.

⑨ ↳ Thus, everyone is as equal as other in ~~from~~ the eyes of law.

Equal protection of law

- ① ↳ American interpretation of equality
- ② ↳ treating ~~likes~~ equals alike and unequals differently
- ③ ↳ allows reasonable classifications
- ④ ↳ allows states support such as affirmative actions to underprivileged.
- ⑤ ↳ Example:- Those who are convicted under different crimes are treated differently.

Though, they both are different but they try to achieve same thing that is PREAMBLER ideal of right to Equality.

6. Idea of the Civil Services Board has been widely hailed as a key civil services reform, however it is not without its own limitation. Comment.

(150 words) 10

एक महत्वपूर्ण सिविल सेवा सुधार के रूप में सिविल सेवा बोर्ड के विचार का व्यापक रूप से समर्थन किया गया है, हालांकि इसकी भी अपनी सीमाएँ हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Civil Services Board is formed at each state level so as to check improper transfer and change in service conditions of bureaucrats due to political interference.
Eg. Recently constituted in Uttarakhand.

Key civil service reform

- contributes to
- (1) enhance independence of bureaucracy from political executive
 - (2) checks illegitimate transfer of bureaucrats
 - (3) strengths morale and resolve of bureaucrats towards civil services
 - (4) checks political leanings of bureaucrats by ensuring protection from political interference
— thus, contributes to apolitical, neutrality role [ARC II]

- (5) check red tapism which is sometimes not procedural but intentional due to demands of political leaders
- (6) contributes to transparency, accountability and efficiency by establishing rule of law.

Limitations

- (1) civil service board to be constituted by state.
- (2) limited to transfers, conditions of service only.
- (3) cannot check morale corruption in day-to-day work of bureaucrats

Thus, civil services board ~~can~~ solve many issues but it is not a panacea. Its independence and overall independence of civil servants needs to be ensured, through civil service model code of conduct and codification of terms of service.

7. It is argued that the introduction of compulsory voting in India would strengthen its democratic credentials. Critically analyze. (150 words) 10
यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि भारत में अनिवार्य मतदान की शुरुआत से इसकी लोकतांत्रिक साख सुदृढ़ होगी। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Compulsory voting means to make it mandatory for voters to vote in election.

Strengthen Democracy

- (1) More voters implies more public participation in voting and hence, democracy
- (2) Better representation to the voters as the elected representatives will be chosen by all and not by some 60-65% of voters.
- (3) Poor and vulnerable section will have to make choice for their leader
- (4) Election manifestos will cater a bigger voter base

Issues

- (1) Poor might lose their daily wage on the day of vote.
- (2) Compulsion and democracy do not go hand and hand.

- (3) Right to vote also implies right not to vote just as right to speech means right to silence also.
- (4) logistics would be required to handle large voter base as EVM can store only limited no. of votes.
- (5) Right to compulsory voting does not mean that elected representative will necessarily fulfil his/her promises.
- (6) Law Commission opined against compulsory voting.

Way forward is the better education of voters and encourage voter participation. Election Commission of India is working on this through its various measures such as SVEEP, CVIGIL app etc.

8. Setting up of an Open Government Data (OGD) Platform can potentially be a game-changer for transparency and accountability. Analyse. Also, identify the challenges that remain in translating this potential into reality.

(150 words) 10

ओपन गवर्नमेंट डेटा (OGD) प्लेटफॉर्म की स्थापना संभवतः पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही के लिए गेम-चेंजर हो सकती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संभाव्यता को वास्तविकता में परिणत करने के समक्ष विद्यमान चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए।

Open Government Data (OGD) intends to host & data from various govt. departments and ministries in public domain accessible to all.

Game-changers

- (1) Transparency can be ensured as public will get to know what ^{data} is being processed at ministries/departments.
- (2) Accountability: as any errors, discrepancies and misuse can be pointed out by public.
- (3) Utilisation of large amount of data for better targeting of welfare schemes.
- (4) Technology such as AI can further help in establishing relations between

data from various sources and removing discrepancies.

(5) Enable various schemes of Government such as

- Direct Benefit Transfer
- Public Distribution Systems using POS
- eNAM etc.

Challenges

(1) Available data is not organised in the required form and hence, requires lot of efforts to make it usable.

(2) Data privacy concerns as it is available and accessible to all.

(3) Infrastructure to store the huge amount to data.

(4) Technology to utilise and process data is at infant stage in India.

Way forward is to pass laws such as Data protection bill (B.N. Srikrishna Committee) to ensure data privacy ^{and} international collaborations for technology transfer. This will also help in realising National Data Analytics Platform (NDAP) of NITI Aayog.

9. There have been concerns related to foreign funding to NGOs in India. In this context, examine the current framework regulating the same.

(150 words) 10

भारत में NGOs की विदेशी फंडिंग को लेकर चिंताएँ रही हैं। इस संदर्भ में, इसे विनियमित करने वाले वर्तमान ढांचे का परीक्षण कीजिए।

NGOs receive funds from various sources.

It is seen that a lot of funds is received from foreign countries specially by NGOs in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore etc.

Current framework

- (1) FCRA - foreign currency regulation act under Ministry of Home Affairs
- (2) FEMA - foreign exchange management act under Ministry of Finance
- (3) NGOs need to register themselves to obtain foreign funds.
- (4) Single account of NGOs should have all the information about the funds received
- (5) ^{Foreign} funds received cannot be used in administration of NGOs completely - only 50% utilisation is allowed.

Concerns

- (1) Strict regulation over utilisation of funds discourage foreign funding
- (2) Multiple laws to regulate foreign funding leads to ambiguity.
- (3) foreign funds are received for specific purpose most of the times -
Eg. for religious activities, thus, influence communal activities.
- (4) Registration and renewal of NGOs registration of NGOs is a long and tedious bureaucratic procedure.

Way forward

- ↳ single window mechanism for registration
- ↳ regular audit of accounts of NGOs receiving foreign fund.
- ↳ easing compliance requirement such as use of fund without any relaxation in good practices such as single account.

10. Social audit not only increases accountability and transparency but also facilitates good governance. Discuss. Also, highlight the impediments faced in institutionalizing social audits in India. **(150 words) 10**

सामाजिक अंकेक्षण (सोशल ऑडिट) से न केवल जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता बढ़ती है, बल्कि यह सुशासन को भी सुविधाजनक बनाता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में सामाजिक अंकेक्षण को संस्थागत बनाने में आने वाली बाधाओं को भी रेखांकित कीजिए।

Social audit refers to the audit carried out with community participation and mainly for community related projects. Such as :- social audit of pond constructed under MGNREGS

Increases accountability & transparency

- (1) Involvement of public means more vigilance and hence better accountability
- (2) helps people understand the process of development
- (3) vigilance at all stages of development of project leads to better transparency

facilitates Good governance

- (1) public participation in governance
- (2) ownership of projects by the public

- (3) better vigilance results in timely delivery of service/good/project
- (4) fulfills the aim of good governance that is communication, timely delivery of service and involvement of people (ARC-II).

Impediments

- (1) illiteracy and poor awareness about the audit process
- (2) lack of legislative backing, thus, makes social audit optional
- (3) Influencing public through various means by the promoter.
- (4) decrease in period of days in which audit has to be carried out.

Eg. Environment Impact Assessment Notification (Draft), 2020

To realise the SEVOTTAM model of good governance, social audit needs to be institutionalised and legislative backing should be given as done by Meghalaya Social

11. Highlight the Quasi-Judicial and Advisory functions of the Election Commission of India. Do you think the powers of the Election Commission need a relook in context of the challenges it has faced in recent years?

(250 words) 15

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के अर्द्ध-न्यायिक और परामर्शी प्रकार्यों पर प्रकाश डालिए। क्या आप मानते हैं कि हालिया वर्षों में निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा सामना की गयी चुनौतियों के संदर्भ में इसकी शक्तियों को पुनरीक्षित करने की आवश्यकता है?

Election Commission derives its powers from article 324 of India constitution, RPA 1950, RPA 1957 and Model code of conduct (MCC).

Quasi-judicial and Advisory functions

- (1) Act as court in recognising political parties and allotting symbols to parties
- Section 29A of RPA, 1957
- (2) Advise President/Governor over disqualification of candidates for assembly elections.
- (3) Advise President with respect to holding elections in state where President rule is applied.

Challenges faced by ECI

(1) MCC is not legally enforceable

Thus,

- ↳ violations by parties during elections
- ↳ no certainty of action
 - ↳ emboldens the violator further
 - ↳ allegations of partiality on ECI.

(2) Independence of ECI is less with respect to other constitution bodies

- ↳ expenditure ~~charged~~ ^{made} that is voted by parliament
- ↳ terms & conditions of service not codified in constitution
- ↳ removal of EC and CEC all have different procedures.

(3) Discretion under schedule X of constitution is decided by speaker.

Thus, powers of ECI needs a relook

What can be done?

- (1) Making MCC legally enforceable in order to strengthen ECI
- (2) Constitutional provisions to enhance independence of ECI
- (3) Deputation case should be decided by President on recommendation of ECI (Law Commission)
- (4) Equal powers to Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner
- (5) Contempt powers to ECI may be deliberated further.

ECI forms an important pillar of Indian democracy and thus, its powers need to relooked and further strengthened.

12. Increase in the number of judges at the Supreme Court is a welcome step, nonetheless efficient functioning of the judiciary requires broader reforms at all levels of judicial hierarchy. Discuss. **(250 words) 15'**

उच्चतम न्यायालय में न्यायाधीशों की संख्या में वृद्धि एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है, फिर भी न्यायपालिका के प्रभावी कामकाज के लिए न्यायिक पदानुक्रम के सभी स्तरों पर व्यापक सुधार की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently, vacancies in supreme court were filled and thereby no. of judges are also increased by the parliament.

This is a welcome step

- (1) address issue of pendency of cases.
- (2) vacancy in supreme court is filled.
- (3) no. of judges per lakh population is increased
- (4) more benches such as constitutional bench may be constituted

Requires broader reforms

- (1) No of judges per lac population at supreme court is still less.

(2) pendency of ~~case~~ 65,000 cases at supreme court may not be addressed fully

(3) issues at high courts not addressed

↳ pendency of around 45 lac cases [cumulative no.] - National judicial data grid.

↳ cases are appealed to supreme court anyway - thereby increasing pendency and burden.

(4) issues at lower subordinate courts not-addressed

↳ vacancies in subordinate courts

↳ limited down-ward filtration of reforms carried out by SC
Eg. Digitalisation of records.

(5) issues at Alternative Dispute Redressal

Mechanism

↳ non-constitution

↳ pendency of cases

↳ fast track courts not constituted

as per requirements

What can be done?

- (1) Digitalisation at all levels to track progress of cases.
- (2) All India Judicial service to attract talent and fill vacancies at subordinate courts [law commissions]
- (3) National Tribunal Commission to bring efficiency in working of tribunals
- (4) Similar cases may be combined and disposed off together

However, reforms like All India Judicial service are contested on grounds that it may give control from state to centre.

Yet, the reforms can be deliberated and a media-via may be found out to bring all broader reforms at all levels as suggested by MALIMATH COMMITTEE.

13. Federal tensions in India highlight the need for reforming the Seventh Schedule through the addition, removal and appropriate placement of entries. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत में संघीय तनाव, प्रविष्टियों को जोड़ने, हटाने और उचित व्यवस्थापन के माध्यम से सातवीं अनुसूची में सुधार की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Seventh Schedule of Indian constitution deals with segregation of powers between centre and state via union list, state list and concurrent list.

In the past, some subjects like forests, education etc. were removed from state list and added to concurrent list.

Issues

- (1) States claim that centre encroaches on their powers by placing entries from state to concurrent list.
Eg. forests, education etc.
- (2) Water is state subject but irrigation is not, illogical separation of similar subjects.

- (3) Important subjects like communications, education etc. are either in union list or state concurrent list
- (4) Demands from time to time are raised for rational reappropriation of subjects in 7th schedule
- (5) Residuary subjects are not defined and by default given to centre.

Addition of Subjects

- (1) Emerging issues like e-commerce, e-trade, e-business.
- (2) Gender justice such as for transgenders.
- (3) Any subject related to changing socio-political state of affairs which is not already present

Removal of subject

- (*) Obsolete and old subjects which are no more relevant

(2)

Appropriation from one entry list to other

(*) Most of the entries should be transferred to state list except defense, communication, external affairs etc. [Rajamannar Committee]

(*) GST should be appropriately placed such as SGST in state list
IGST in concurrent list

Contrary views

(1) Instead of appropriation, deletion, and addition, state should be strengthened through devolution of powers from centre. [Sarkaria Commission]

(2) A list for panchayati raj system may also be deliberated.

To conclude, entries in 7th schedule have been carefully listed over decades of experience which includes performance of Government of India Act, 1935 also. Hence, re-calibration should be done carefully.

14. What do you understand by doctrine of eminent domain? How can it be applied to understand the evolution of right to property under the Indian constitution? (250 words) 15

सर्वोपरि अधिग्रहण-अधिकार के सिद्धांत (doctrine of eminent domain) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारतीय संविधान के अंतर्गत संपत्ति के अधिकार के विकास को समझने हेतु इसे कैसे लागू किया जा सकता है?

As per doctrine of eminent domain, the rights and constitutional provisions require a change in relevance with the change in context due to changing socio-political conditions.

Thus, the fundamental rights may be relevant in past but need to change as per changing domain.

Right to property

Right of Indian citizen over his/her property and safeguards given against the arbitrary actions of the government. The right has evolved since Indian independence from fundamental right to constitutional right.

EVOLUTION

- Right to property as fundamental right, ~~at the time of~~ ^{after} independence, when constitution was enacted in Jan, 1950, Right to property was fundamental right under article 31 of the Indian constitution.
- later on, articles 31A, 31B and 31C were added as exceptions. This was done to acknowledge the needs of the time, that is, land re-distribution.
- 44th constitutional amendment Act removed article 31 and added article 300A. This made Right to property a constitutional right.
- Fundamental rights are given immunity against legislative as

well as executive action

→ But constitutional rights are immune to only arbitrary executive action. They can be taken away through laws.

→ This was done to acquire private property in public interest by the state.

→ However, article 31A, 31B and 31C still exist in part III that is fundamental right as exceptions.

This safeguards agricultural land and land belonging to minority educational institutions.

Thus, doctrine of eminent domain was applied to right to property to change its status from fundamental right to constitutional right.

15. Explain the structure and function of the National Commission for Backward Classes. What is the significance of recent changes made in its status? (250 words) 15

राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग की संरचना एवं प्रकार्यों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। इसकी प्रस्थिति में किए गए हालिया परिवर्तनों का क्या महत्व है?

Recently, National Commission for backward classes was given Constitutional status through 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

Structure

- It is headed by a judge of supreme court either retired or sitting or judge of High court eligible to become judge of supreme court
- It has representation from Ministry of social justice and empowerment.
- Member should be experienced in cases related to backward classes
- Representations from backward communities

function

- (1) To advise on addition/removal of castes from OBC list.
- (2) To advise government on matters related to backward communities.
- (3) To investigate on complaints made by person of backward community.
- (4) To report on the status and issues related to backward communities periodically.
- (5) To take and study on matters referred to it by the central government.

Significance

- (1) Strengthened NCBC by giving it constitutional status.

- (2) Separate commission dedicated to the needs of backward communities.
- (3) Dedicated machinery and resources to work towards empowerment of backward communities
- (4) Repositioning of trust & confidence in the government
- (5) Better management of conflicts within the backward community
eg- most of the benefits are siphoned off by the richer lot within the backward community.

To conclude, recent change in status of NCBC will definitely strengthen India's resolve towards its PREAMBULAR ideals of socio-political and economic justice and equality.

16. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Justice' in the 'Preamble'. Highlight some constitutional and legal steps taken towards each of them in India. (250 words) 15

उद्देशिका' में प्रयुक्त 'न्याय' शब्द से जुड़े प्रत्येक विशेषण की विवेचना कीजिए। भारत में उनमें से प्रत्येक की दिशा में उठाए गए कुछ संवैधानिक और विधिक कदमों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Preamble of Indian constitution
is a summary of what Indian
constitution intends to achieve.

It ensure JUSTICE :- SOCIAL, POLITICAL
and ECONOMICAL

Justice:-

It means giving one one's due,
that is, due to him/her as he/she
is citizen of India [KANT]

Social justice:-

It means justice of social status.
It ~~event~~ is invariable related to
social equality.

Constitutional provisions:-

Fundamental rights : article 14, 15, 16
(Right to Equality)
and non-discriminations based on

Caste, religion, creed.

- article 17: → Right against untouchability
- article 18: → use of titles not allowed.
- article 19: → Right to freedom of speech & expression to all.

DPSP (Directives of state policy)

- ↳ ideal of welfare state
- ↳ free legal aid to vulnerable

Legal provisions

- ↳ Prevention of Atrocities Act to prevent discrimination on basis of caste
- ↳ Prevention of Sexual Harassment at workplace to ensure enabling environment for women.

POLITICAL JUSTICE

↳ Fundamental rights

- ↳ article 19 — freedom of speech & expression
- ↳ article 20, 21, 22 → rights during detention, arrests, right to life etc.

Directive principles of state policy (DPSP)

↳ Cooperative industries to be encouraged.

Legal provisions

↳ right to form political parties, unions ^{etc.} backed by laws.

Eg. Trade unions act
Industrial dispute act.

ECONOMICAL JUSTICEFundamental rights

↳ right to freedom of trade & business - article 19(1)

Directive principles of state policy

↳ equal pay for equal work
↳ free legal aid to poor & old.

Legal provisions

↳ minimum wages act

↳ Code on wages (WITI Aayog)

↳ Code on Occupational Hazards (WITI Aayog)

↳ Rules of Business & Trade.

Thus, justice social, political and economical is backed by constitution as well as laws.

17. What are the challenges in conducting free and fair elections in the era of proliferation of social media? In this context, identifying the steps taken by the ECI, suggest further measures. (250 words) 15

सोशल मीडिया के प्रसार के युग में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव के संचालन में आने वाली चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं? इस संदर्भ में, ECI द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की पहचान करते हुए आगे के उपायों को सुझाइए।

Social media platforms such as facebook, twitter etc. have started influencing the choice of voters. For instance, Cambridge analytics used facebook data to influence Presidential elections in USA.

Challenges

- (1) Outreach of social media platform is very high
of millions of facebook users are Indians
- (2) Expenditure incurred on social media ^{by part} is difficult to calculate for the purpose of elections
- (3) Anonymity provided by digital world makes them prone to fake news - used to manipulate users.

- (4) Profiling of users using browsing data to influence them can be done
e.g. through AI.

Steps taken by ECI

- (1) cVIGIL app to increase public participation in election process and enable reporting of violations of MCE at social media.
- (2) Virtual observers to observe the activities of candidates on social media platform
- (3) Inclusion of advertisement on e-media / social media in definition of paid media/news
- (4) SVEEP to increase participation of voters in elections.
- (5) Online registration of prospective users at the age of 17 years

(6) PPRTMS → political parties registration tracking management system to track political parties.

What more can be done?

(1) Self regulation by social media platforms such as adoption of IMAI code of conduct.

(2) e-awareness, that is, creating awareness among voters through social media platforms — increased outreach.

(3) Mandatory disclosure of pending criminal cases on parties social media account
— at present, disclosure in newspapers is mandatory [supreme court guidelines]

(4) Disclosure of income, asset & source of income on parties' website and link on social media platfo.

Thus, regulation of social media is required to conduct free & fair elections.

18. Explain how the linkage between banks, NGOs and SHGs helps in facilitating access to microfinance and contributes to the development of rural areas. (250 words) 15

स्पष्ट कीजिए कि बैंकों, NGOs और SHGs के मध्य संपर्क किस प्रकार सूक्ष्म वित्त तक पहुँच को सुविधाजनक बनाने में सहायता करता है तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के विकास में योगदान देता है।

Self-help groups are group of people from similar background, coming together to do a common activity and pooling resources.

SHGs were linked to banks in 1992 in India. This idea was successful and thus replicated ^{adopted} by many countries.

Similarly, SHGs & NGOs linkage ^{is} also promoted to bring funds & efficiency.

Access to finance

→ SHG & Banks linkage

↳ loans are given without requiring collateral on assurance of the group.

↳ mostly successful in repayment of loans, thus strengthening linkage → 90% SHGs repay loan.

→ SHGs & NGOs linkage

- ↳ NGOs help in improving financial literacy of SHG members
- ↳ loans are given by banks on collective security assurance from SHG members & NGOs
- ↳ devolution of funds from centre & state via NGOs.
- ↳ NGOs are incentivised by government for success of SHGs

Contribution of to Development

- ↳ success of SHGs directly related to easy access to finance.
- ↳ women empowerment as it gives them identity apart from a mother or home-maker
- ↳ Increase political & economical bargaining power of members of SHGs

- ↳ improvement in social status
thus fulfilling goals under DPSP
- ↳ alternative source of income to
the family
- ↳ it is seen that rural areas with
more no. of successful SHGs are
more developed.

EXAMPLE

KUDUMBASHREE in Kerala

- ↳ highly successful
- ↳ 3 tiered structure
- ↳ linked to Banks
- ↳ undergoes audit by either DIFA
or Kerala state auditors

Thus, SHG linked to Bank and
NBFDs are able to access microfinance
easily and contribute to development

19. Identify the different issues associated with the design and implementation of MGNREGA. What reforms have been taken in recent times to address the above-identified issues? (250 words) 15

मनरेगा (MGNREGA) की अभिकल्पना और कार्यान्वयन से जुड़े विभिन्न मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए। उपर्युक्त चिन्हित समस्याओं का समाधान करने के लिए हाल के दिनों में क्या सुधार किए गए हैं?

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Act (MGNREGA) aims at providing alternative employment to the rural area.

Issues in Design

- (1) only 100 days of employment per year per person is promised.
- (2) universality, that is, person 'irrespective of employment status is treated as eligible
- (3) Reduce incentive to work as government is ready to pay for menial works.
- (4) Urban poor is neglected, though a large no. of poor live in slums in urban areas

Issues in implementation

- (1) delays in payments to the beneficiaries
- (2) do not focus on asset creation for long-run
Eg. MGNREGA work includes digging of roads, filling of potholes etc.
- (3) manipulation at the hands of government officials
- (4) limited government resources to cater the needs.
Eg. digitalisation of such a large base of beneficiary is difficult.
- (5) financial burden on exchequer

Success story of MGNREGA

- (1) MGNREGA is one of the most successful poverty alleviation programme of Govt of India [WORLD BANK]

- (2) Able to reduce poverty in past few decades
- (3) women empowerment — as 33% reservations for women — but around 50% is women beneficiaries.
- (4) Gives choice & bargaining power to the people

Reforms

- (1) DBT — direct benefit transfer to check leakages in the process
- (2) Rationalisation of areas under MGNREGA
- (3) Digitalisation of beneficiaries in process.
- (4) Merger with other schemes such as PMAY-G
- (5) focus on community asset creation
Eg. ponds, wells etc.

MGNREGA has been more or less able to address the needs of Indian rural economy, however, it cannot be continued forever to avoid FREE-RIDER problem.

20. A sound legal framework, robust institutional mechanism for establishing rule of law, competent and dedicated workforce and decentralization and delegation are some of the necessary preconditions for good governance. Elaborate. (250 words) 15

एक सुदृढ़ विधिक ढांचा, विधि के शासन को स्थापित करने के लिए मजबूत संस्थागत तंत्र, सक्षम और समर्पित कार्यबल तथा विकेंद्रीकरण एवं प्रत्यायोजन सुशासन हेतु कुछ आवश्यक पूर्वपिछाएं हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Good governance refers to the continuous improvement in service-delivery in a timely manner, clear communication between citizens & government and within government departments in order to achieve socio-political justice and goal of welfare state under directive principles of state policy.

Legal framework

Need

- ↳ to enforce laws and rules related to governance
Eg. deadlines etc.
- ↳ to support the case against state during litigation.
- ↳ for judiciary to act as reference that is minimum reputed benchmark.

Status in India

↳ RTI Act, 2005 → to empower citizens through information.

↳ Shortcoming :- Citizen charter is not justiciable. Thus, it merely lays down expectations without enforcement.

Robust institutional mechanismsNeed

↳ to take action if any law related to governance is breached.

↳ to ensure transparency & accountability in bureaucracy.

↳ to act as lighthouse to citizens and redress grievances.

Status in India

↳ CVC to ensure accountability

↳ CBI, ED etc.

↳ Shortcoming

↳ political interference in working

Competent & dedicated workforceNeed

- ↳ They act as interface between citizen and executive.
- ↳ to ensure efficiency in delivery system
- ↳ sensitized workforce to understand issues & grievances

Status in India

- ↳ dedicated bureaucracy with chief info. commissioners, vigilance commissioners etc.
- ↳ issue! - ~~to~~ ivory tower, isolation, red tapism etc.

Decentralization & delegation

- ↳ to ensure direct democracy
- ↳ to ensure public participation in governance
- ↳ status → PRs and ULBs
- ↳ ADR mechanisms etc.

India is dedicated towards cause of good governance. In fact, today we are aiming at e-governance to improve user experience through SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS and SABKA VISHWAS.