



# VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2212)

|                   |                |                     |          |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Name of Candidate | AAYUSHI BANSAL |                     |          |
| Medium Eng./Hindi | ENGLISH        | Registration Number | 1195934  |
| Center            | ONLINE         | Date                | 15/08/22 |

### INDEX TABLE

| 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            |                |
| 11     | 15            |                |
| 12     | 15            |                |
| 13     | 15            |                |
| 14     | 15            |                |
| 15     | 15            |                |
| 16     | 15            |                |
| 17     | 15            |                |
| 18     | 15            |                |
| 19     | 15            |                |
| 20     | 15            |                |

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

### INSTRUCTIONS

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. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.** सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
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. 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. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
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।

16-B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Delhi- 110009

## 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.

VisionIAS

All the Best

1. What do you understand by 'constitutionalism'? Highlight various ways in which the Indian Constitution underscores this principle. (150 words) 10

'संविधानवाद' से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारतीय संविधान में इस सिद्धांत को रेखांकित करने वाले विभिन्न उपबंधों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Constitutionalism refers to ideology of Constitutional supremacy where all the three organs of Govt are subordinate to it.

Ways in which Constitution holds

- ① Principle of Judicial Review (Art 32, 226)
  - Ensures legislative Acts & Executive decisions are in accordance with Constitution.
- ② Fundamental Rights (Part III) (Art 12-35)
  - Restricts Govt from usurping authority.
- ③ Written Constitution → providing for creation of all 3 organs unlike unwritten in Britain.

- ④ Difference between amending & Law making powers of Parliament (Art 368) → Special majority & consent of States
- ⑤ Checks & Balances with separation of Powers → ensures all organs act as per Constitution  
 ↳ eg → Judicial appointment by Executive  
 ↳ Collective responsibility of Executive to Lok Sabha (Art 75)
- ⑥ No Parliamentary supremacy like Britain or Judicial Supremacy like USA → Parliament can't amend basic structure  
 ↳ limited judicial review.  
 (eg no jurisdiction in inter State water disputes)

Indian Constitution is a living, organic, dynamic document.

2. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) effectively reflects a shift from the era of Licence Raj to a conducive regulatory ambience for enhancing consumer welfare by encouraging competition in the market. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा को प्रोत्साहित करके उपभोक्ता कल्याण को बढ़ाने के लिए लाइसेंस राज के युग से एक अनुकूल नियामकीय परिवेश में स्थानांतरण को प्रभावी ढंग से प्रदर्शित करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

CCI is a statutory body created by an Act of Parliament to maintain competitive environment.

Conducive regulatory ambience & Consumer welfare.

① Prohibits anti competitive trade & business practices.

② Ensures legal & ~~smooth~~ mergers & acquisitions ~~for~~ discouraging hostile acquisitions.

③ Enforce rules of restriction on sectors of operations, ~~in~~ quantity & quality of production and

areas of operation are effectively eliminated barring few exceptions.

- (4) Prevents formation of monopolies in market → lowers prices for consumers.

~~CCI is as the~~

CCI has emerged conducive to liberalised economy post 1991.

3. Mention various initiatives taken for online delivery of judicial services in India. Also, discuss the challenges faced in their implementation.

(150 words) 10

भारत में न्यायिक सेवाओं की ऑनलाइन प्रदायगी के लिए प्रारंभ विभिन्न पहलों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, उनके कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian judiciary faces high pendency (~4.5 cr cases) which necessitated speedy online delivery.

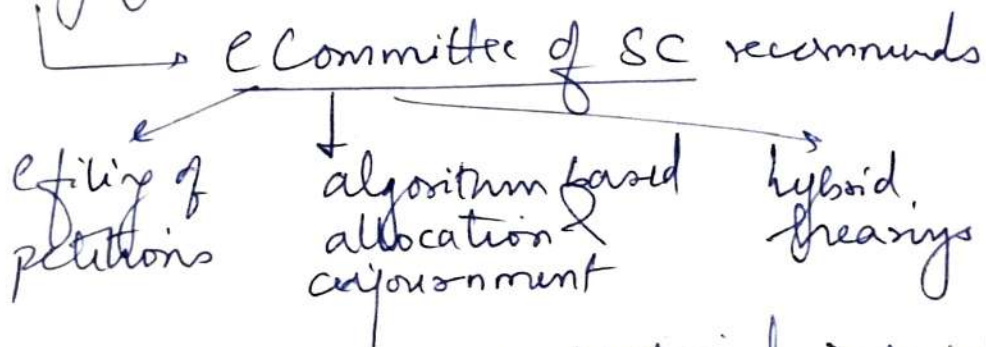
Initiatives taken

- ① FASTER → for safe, secured quick transfer of bail orders from courts to prison.
- ② Virtual hearings → During Covid, SC, HC & subordinate judiciary used video conferencing.
- ③ Upgradation of infrastructure like digital facilities, e conferencing etc via Central Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure.
- ④ SUPACE for document digitisation.
- ⑤ e Courts project.

## Challenges faced

- ① Lack of supporting infrastructure →  
~73% of courts have no video conferencing.
- ② Operational issues due to difficulty for judges to transition
- ③ ~90% of funds under CSS for Judicial infra unutilised.
- ④ Lack of supporting ecosystem across prisons & criminal justice system.

## Way forward



↳ Creation of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority (NJIA)

'Ease of Justice' is the need of the hour.

4. Bring out the similarities and differences in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United States and Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India. (150 words) 10

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के संविधान में उपबंधित बिल ऑफ राइट्स और भारत के संविधान में मूल अधिकारों के मध्य समानताओं और भिन्नताओं को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Indian Constitution adopted Fundamental Rights from US Bill of Rights but enlarged its scope much more than US.

### Similarities

- ① Equal Protection of Laws (Article 14)  
to ensure people in same situation are treated alike & in different circumstances treated differently.  
(eg → positive affirmation)
- ② Right to freedom of speech & expression
- ③ Judicial review to protect enforcement of FR.

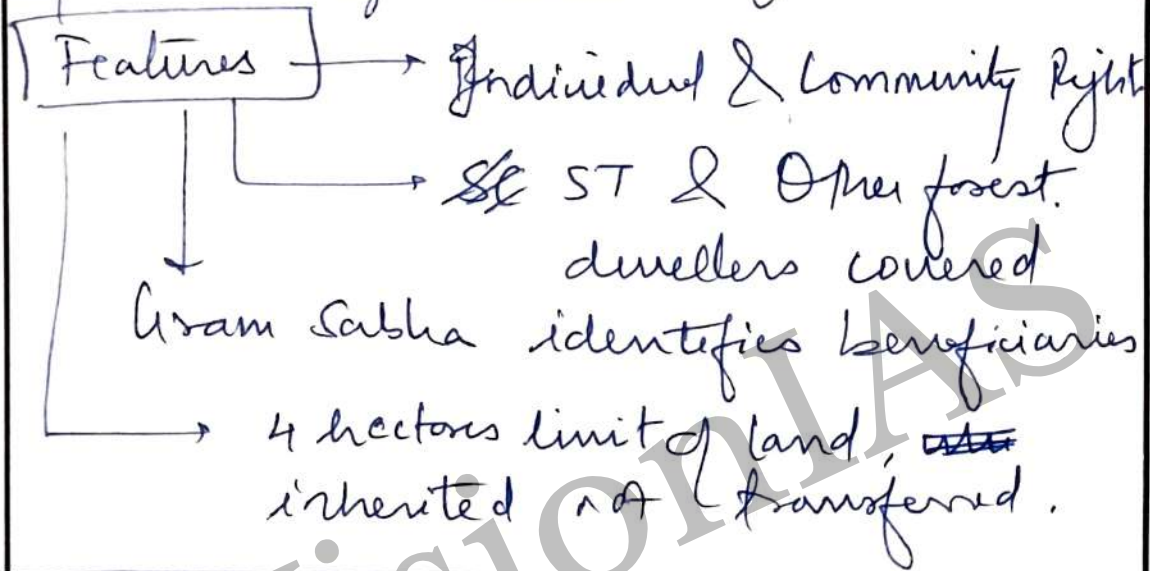
Differences :-

- ① Indian situation specific →  
→ Article 17 - Abolishing untouchability
- ② Presence of Preventive Detention  
(Article 22)
- ③ Due process of Law in US vs  
procedure established by law  
in Article 21 / However, Mistis  
effectively due process now after Maneka  
(Case)
- ④ Comprehensive religious rights  
which can allow State's intervention  
(A 25 - 28)
- ⑤ Protection to minorities in  
FR itself in India (A 29-30)
- ⑥ Balance of DPSP & FR →  
Society & individual (Article 31C)  
Indian FR has formed  
the most comprehensive across globe

5. It is often argued that the implementation of The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 has so far been tardy and ineffectual. Discuss. (150 words) 10

प्रायः यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि अभी तक वन अधिकार अधिनियम (FRA), 2006 का कार्यान्वयन धीमा और निष्प्रभावी रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

FRA 2006, came as a bulwark of protection of tribal rights



**Tardy & Ineffectual**

- ① Lack of proofs & documentation to claim rights.
- ② Bypassing using alternative laws by Coal Bearing Act used in Korba to acquire land
- ③ Implementation issues
  - ↓
  - lack of awareness
  - Corruption
  - cumbersome process

- ④ Large scale rejection of claims
- ⑤ Administration overriding authority of Gram Sabha.

### Way forward

- ① Time bound identification of beneficiaries & land allotment  
(eg Orissa has kept 2024 deadline)
  - ② Autonomy to Gram Sabha to initiate & implement the process.
  - ③ Strike check to filter out bogus claims.
  - ④ Balancing development, environment with tribal rights & autonomy.
- FRA has potential to uphold Nehru's Panchsheel in true spirit.

write this

Don't write anything this margin  
(इस शीर्षक में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Explain the rationale behind the creation of a Social Stock Exchange in India. Do you think this move would boost social impact investing in the country?  
**(150 words) 10**

भारत में सोशल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज के सृजन के पीछे निहित तर्क की व्याख्या कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि इस कदम से देश में सामाजिक प्रभाव वाले निवेश को प्रोत्साहन प्राप्त होगा?

Social Stock Exchange facilitates non profit voluntary organisations, social entrepreneurs etc. to raise funds via market instrument.

### Rationale

- ① Increasing source of funds
- ② Funding private sector in development process.
- ③ Ensuring dual benefits →  
→ increased returns to investors  
→ social impact
- ④ Reduced state & CSR funding in Covid

## Boost social impact investing

- ① Increasing focus on welfare, rights & environment among investors across globe.
- ② Raise global reputation → increase investment
- ③ Scope of significant returns  
Education, health have strong  
eg \$1 in nutrition → \$35 in impact.

## Challenges

- ① Lack of viable models for short term returns
- ② Lack of on ground poor implementation can deter investors

## Way forward

Roping social entrepreneurs

multistakeholder & multi  
finance model  
Support of Niti  
Aayo for build  
viable models

7. The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) has the potential to bring a new revolution in India's health sector in multiple ways. Explain.

(150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NDHM) में भारत के स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में कई तरह से एक नई क्रांति लाने की क्षमता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

NDHM aims to digitalise health sector ~~in~~ across second management service delivery to consultation & drugs information.

Potential to bring new revolution

- ① Accessibility :- Reach remote & rural areas (~73% of hospital beds in urban areas)
- ② Affordability :- Reduced logistics, travel etc costs due to tele consultation
- ③ Maintain registry of doctors, staff & hospital to mobilise in crisis (eg pandemic)
- ④ Reduce ~~to~~ out of pocket (OOPE) expenditure (~48.8%), currently due to large scale privatisation.

⑤ Easy referral from primary to secondary health sector via integrated ecosystem.

**Challenges**

- Fragmented health sector
- reducing economies of scale
- poor digital infrastructure especially in PHCs
- Concerns of privacy & confidentiality → personal data

digital penetration & literacy (≈ 50%)

**Way forward**

- Linking Aadhar to digitise across all systems of medicine
- integration of PM-JAY (Ayushman Digital Mission)
- Jan Aushadhi Kendra linked to e-pharmacies
- increase health investment to 2.5% of GDP (NHP-2017)

**SDG 3** can only be fulfilled with accident health.

8. While participation of private sector in the higher education system of India is a necessity, it creates issues that need careful redressal. Discuss. (150 words) 10

हालांकि भारत की उच्चतर शिक्षा प्रणाली में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी एक अनिवार्यता है, लेकिन यह ऐसे मुद्दे उत्पन्न करता है जिनका सावधानीपूर्वक निवारण किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Quest for quality & employability has called for private sector participation in higher education.

Necessity

- ① Withdrawal of state from social welfare sector.
- ② Increasing accessibility & enrollment ratio ( ~ 27% currently - 37% global avg )
- ③ Linkage to industry to create employment opportunities ( ~ 45% employability currently )
- ④ Lack of accredited quality institutions especially at state level ( cater to ~ 80% of students )

## Issues

- ① Exclusion of vulnerable section like girls, SC, ST due to high cost.
- ② Pvt sector operate as 'trust' & engage in money laundering
- ③ Poor regulation (centralised), Case of corruption in UGC & AICTE decreases oversight.
- ④ Linguistic & cultural barriers, as most education is in English.

Redressal → NEP, 2020 provides for → Higher Education Funding Agency  
→ Higher Education Commission

- ① They must regulate pvt sector
- ② Building on PPP models than complete privatisation
- ③ Increase public investment to continue supporting women, SC, ST etc. (increase to 5-6% of GDP)  
- Higher to Hize must be higher education's goal.

9. Highlighting the significance of Central Asia for India, discuss the challenges in strengthening the Indo-Central Asian relationship. (150 words) 10
- भारत के लिए मध्य एशिया के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत-मध्य एशियाई संबंधों को मजबूत करने के समक्ष विद्यमान चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Central Asia constitutes Extended  
neighbourhood for India.

Significance of Central Asia

- ① Huge trade potential which is currently low at 2 Bn \$.
- ② Resources → Uranium in Kazakhstan, Gas in Tajikistan etc. are important for energy security.
- ③ Multilateral forums → Central Asian countries can support India's bid for permanent seat at UNSC.
- ④ Counter Chinese hegemony in Eurasian region.
- ⑤ Critical for connection to entire Eurasia & Russia.
- ⑥ Collaboration in Science, Technology & Climatechange.

## Challenges

- ① Lack of connectivity → rough terrain,  
Indo-Pak conflict; ② Spill over  
security issues
- ② Lack of sustained political  
engagement
- ③ Russian & Chinese dominance in  
trade & forums (Eg SCO started  
by Russia & China)
- ④ Low people to people ties due  
to regulatory issues & visa policies

## Way forward

- ① Implement Chabahar Port project  
& INSTC via Iran
- ② Build on cultural & civilisations  
ties
- ③ Support developmental projects  
under I TEC.

\* "Central Asia" is the  
gateway to continental policy of India.

10. Discuss the role that the Indian diaspora can play in the making of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India). Also, mention the challenges in this regard.

(150 words) 10

"आत्मनिर्भर भारत" के निर्माण में भारतीय डायस्पोरा द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में विद्यमान चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Indian diaspora is the largest in  
the world standing ~~at~~ ~1.8  
million strong

Role in Aatmanirbhar Bharat

- ① Transfer of technology, ideas & techniques of organisation to boost 'Make in India'.
- ② Encourage FDI & FPI investments (by Govt bonds for NRI)
- ③ Display India's soft power due to their skills & expertise. This can enhance investment in India
- ④ Improve bilateral ties → trade responses (by Indo US nuclear deal)

- ⑤ Build leverage for India in other countries → This builds strategic autonomy  
 ↓  
 eg Silicon Valley: contribution of Indians

### Challenges

- ① Low social security →  
 Kafala system, Nitagarat system
- ② Increasing protectionism ~~and~~  
 (eg Kuwait restricting quota on immigrants)
- ③ Stricter visa policies (eg decreased AIB in US during Trump's rule)
- ④ Crisis hampers functioning →  
 eg Covid → reduced wages  
 Oil price reduction → lost jobs.

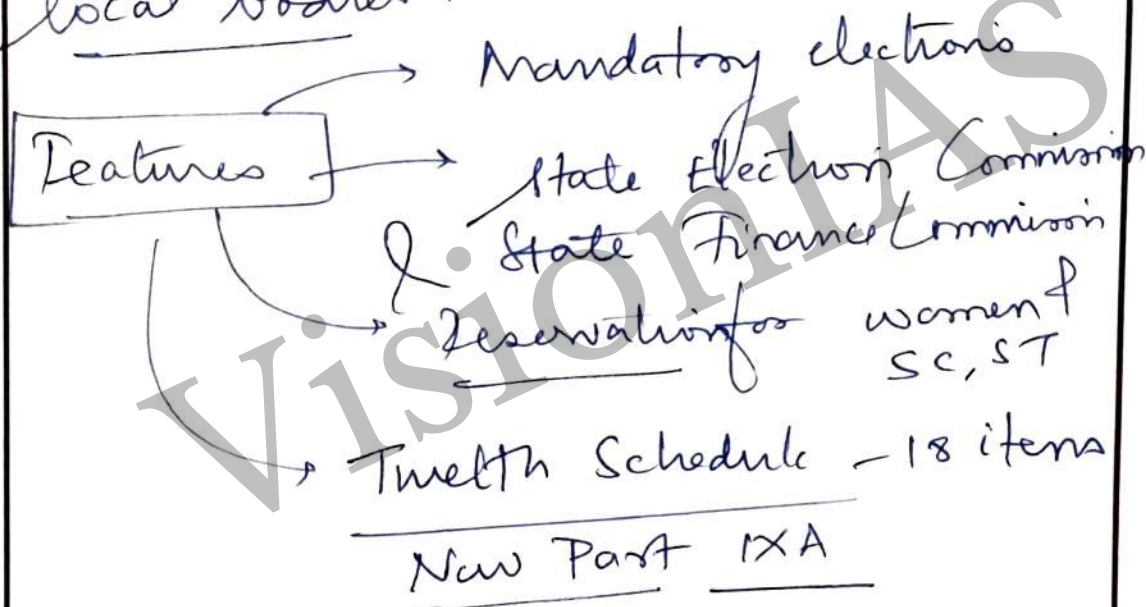
Way forward →  
 Labor Agreements bilaterally  
 Insurance policies  
 Political engagement

Indian diaspora can be a barometer  
 of ~~india~~ development in 75th year

11. A critical appraisal of the outcomes of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act underlines the need for second-generation reforms to strengthen decentralisation of urban local governance in India. Discuss. (250 words) 15

74वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम के परिणामों का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन भारत में शहरी स्थानीय शासन के विकेंद्रीकरण को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु दूसरी-पीढ़ी के सुधारों की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment gave  
a Constitutional status to urban  
local bodies.



Critical appraisal of outcomes

- ① Poor revenue collection →
- ↳ GST subsumed octroi tax
  - ↳ Lowest property tax (OECD)
  - ↳ dependence on Inter Governmental Transfers (IGTs)

② Lack of devolution of funds & functions by State Governments

③ Inability to handle crisis  
→ RBI report :- pandemic increased expenditure by ~70%, reducing revenues by ~71%.

~~④~~ → Lack of participation of Mayors in Covid task forces across States

④ II ARC remarked on overlapping of functions → dual efforts  
or  
→ no efforts  
eg → similar works of MCD & Delhi Govt on roads.

Positives → increased representation of women, SC, ST  
→ local delivery of services (eg Kerala - flattening curve)  
→ waste management  
governance redressal

## Reforms

- ① Funds :- Allocate a share of LST to ~~local~~ urban local bodies
  - Implement 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission performance linked grants
  - Market based instruments  
eg Municipality bonds
- ② Clear demarcation of roles  
(eg Delhi MCD unification)
- ③ Improving infrastructure & digitisation for service delivery. (Digital India & Smart cities)
- ④ Raising local taxation avenues.
- ⑤ Revise user fee charges regime

Urban local bodies

can help to Sustainable Development  
Goal of resilient cities (SDG 11)

12. It is argued that unchecked and rampant exercise of the power to insert laws in the Ninth Schedule results in undermining of Constitutional supremacy and creation of Parliamentary hegemony. Do you agree? Justify your stand with logical arguments. (250 words) 15

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि नौवीं अनुसूची में विधियों को सम्मिलित करने की शक्ति के अनियंत्रित और व्यापक स्तर पर प्रयोग से संवैधानिक सर्वोच्चता में कमी और संसदीय आधिपत्य का सृजन होता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? उचित तर्कों के साथ अपने मत की पुष्टि कीजिए।

Ninth Schedule is created under Article 31B by First Amendment Act of Constitution.

[Unchecked insertion of laws]

① Insertion of state laws related to Zamindari, land reforms etc. to save from Right to Property (before it was ~~removed~~ removed)

② Central laws to uphold DPSP provisions against FR.

(Due to judicial cases like Adar Nath case, 1967)

## Undermining Constitutional supremacy

① Saves from Judicial review  
(Art 32, 226)

② Overturns Judicial decisions

Leg → Indira Sawhney case - limited  
Tamil Nadu Reservation Act → reservation  
~ 69% reservation

③ Parliament can insert the  
law ~~is~~ retrospectively

④ Gives primacy to Parliamentary  
Laws, which can even violate  
~~the~~ Fundamental Rights (Article 13)

⑤ ~~It~~ Makes Constitution Amendment  
flexible. ~~It saves from A.~~

However, Constitutional supremacy was restored in IR Coelho case

- ① Parliament can't violate Articles 14, 15, 19, 21 using Ninth schedule.
- ② All laws are open to Judicial review inserted ~~post~~ post 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1973 (day of Keshwananda Bhorati judgement)
- ③ Ninth schedule laws can't violate basic structure of Constitution.
- ④ This has limited the insertion of laws post 2007 judgement.

Today, Constitution is governed by principles of Judicial Review ~~is~~ held as basic structure in Keshwananda Bhorati Case, 1973

13. Asymmetry is an important characteristic of federalism in India, which has helped in the accommodation of diverse demands inherent in our democracy. Discuss. (250 words) 15

असममिति भारत में संघवाद की एक महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता है, जिसने हमारे लोकतंत्र में निहित विविध मांगों के समायोजन में सहायता प्रदान की है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Federalism refers to Constitutional division of powers between national & ~~set~~ regional Govts creating a dual polity.

Asymmetric federalism implies dissimilar provisions for different federal units.

Asymmetry

① ~~50~~ seats in ~~Lower~~ Rajya Sabha as per population (Fourth Schedule)  
eg UP → 31 seats  
Jharkhand → 1 seat

② Special provisions for States  
②.1 Art 371 to 371J for  
Special provisions Assam, Manipur, Karnataka etc.

## ② Fifth & Sixth Schedule

(Art 244)

Fifth → Scheduled areas, 10  
states, special provisions

Sixth → Assam, Meghalaya,  
Tripura, Mizoram  
Creation of Autonomous  
District Councils

## ③ Creation of Union Territories

→ with Legislative Assemblies

eg Delhi, Pondichery

→ without Assemblies

eg → Ladakh, Chandigarh

## ④ Special Category Status to States

eg → 90% contribution to sponsored  
schemes for North Eastern  
States

## ⑤ Inner Line Permit for

Arunachal, Nagaland, Manipur,  
Mizoram. — restricts entry

## Accommodation of diverse demands

- ① Autonomy → eg 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> schedule to tribals.
- ② Ensuring balanced regional development (eg → local services reservation provision for Andhra & Telangana)
- ③ Safeguard of local cultural customs
- ④ Fulfilling ~~local~~ regional demands of self determination via UTs with effective Parliamentary control.

India diverged from US model of symmetric federation to accommodate its peculiar sovo-economic conditions.

14. In India, the Finance Commissions are established pursuant to the constitutional mandate. In this context, do you think the State Finance Commissions have been effective in promoting fiscal federalism? Substantiate with arguments. (250 words) 15

भारत में वित्त आयोगों की स्थापना संवैधानिक अधिदेश के अनुसार की जाती है। इस संदर्भ में, क्या आपको लगता है कि राज्य वित्त आयोग राजकोपीय संघवाद को बढ़ावा देने में प्रभावी रहे हैं? तर्कों के साथ पुष्टि कीजिए।

State Finance Commissions were created post 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Acts (Article 243)

Effective in promoting fiscal federalism

- ① Advise State Govt in financial devolution via taxation, grants to local Govt.
- ② Determine distribution principles between Panchayats & urban local bodies.
- ③ Coordinate with Central Finance Commission to augment state resources for local bodies fundng.

④ Submit reports to Governors which are presented in State Assemblies → ensures accountability

However, their effectiveness is challenged

- ① Lack of regular & periodic report submissions in several states
- ② No power to issue binding orders
- ③ Rejection of recommendations by State Govts.
- ④ Decreased state finances reducing scope of further devolution
- ⑤ Unable to create alternate ways of funding local Govts.

Way forward

- ① Mandatory presentation of reports with Action Taken Report (ATR) → using Assembly Committees
- ② Innovative models - collaborate with Centre & Niti Aayog
- ③ Inclusion of private sector to enhance revenues.
- ④ Pursuing devolution of taxation on 11th & 12th schedule items.
- ⑤ Fund allocation following principles of women & vulnerable section empowerment  
State Finance Commissions are the bulwark of financial autonomy of local govt.

15. Reduction in the overall size of the bureaucracy has been seen as the underlying idea behind civil services reforms. Is it a good idea to reduce the size of the Indian bureaucracy? Examine in light of the experience of India.

(250 words) 15

नौकरशाही के समग्र आकार में कमी को सिविल सेवाओं में सुधार के पीछे अंतर्निहित विचार के रूप में देखा गया है। क्या भारतीय नौकरशाही के आकार को कम करना एक उपयुक्त विचार है? भारत के अनुभव के आलोक में परीक्षण कीजिए।

Bureaucracy forms the steel frame of Indian administrative structure involved in both policy formulation & policy implementation.

Good idea to reduce overall size

- ① Reduces duplication of efforts due to multiple forums.
- ② Easier holding of accountability  
↳ ~~of~~ Public representatives & senior officers can map the person responsible.
- ③ Same resource expenditure → salaries, housing, transport etc.

(4) Increases responsibility & discretion on each bureaucrat → fostering innovation & risk taking.

Reduction in size - not a good idea

(1) Increases already overburdened bureaucrats → Neglect of less prioritised areas like emergency preparedness.

(2) Focus on short term reforms neglecting long term perspective due to staff shortage.

(3) Critical services → most affected  
↳ by police - mainly handled by constabulary

(4) High amount of discretion can foster 'rent seeking' corruption.

## Way forward

- ① Optimum sizing in different areas based on data based role allocations.
- ② Maintaining (rather increasing) staff in critical areas  
eg → current shortage in police personnel.
- ③ Partial lateral entry to bring specialist opinion.
- ④ Periodic training & one to one interactive performance appraisals to increase competency.

Indian civil services ~~are~~  
must uphold dedicated efficiency &  
effectiveness for good governance.

16. There is a need to ensure better ethical standards, accountability and management of temples in India. Discuss in the context of issues associated with state intervention in management of temples. (250 words) 15

भारत में मंदिरों के बेहतर नैतिक मानकों, जवाबदेही और प्रबंधन को सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है। मंदिरों के प्रबंधन में राज्य के हस्तक्षेप से संबंधित मुद्दों के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian model of secularism allows state intervention in secular matters of religion (Article 25(2))

Issues with state intervention in temple management

- ① Reduced autonomy of religious institutions violating Article 26.
- ② May violate essential religious practices, integral to religion.
- ③ Ineffective management can even create law & order issues (Eg recent Vaishno Devi stampede)
- ④ Induction of bureaucracy can hurt religious sentiments due to lack of knowledge / Eg

(eg → uproar in Uttarakhand on  
proposed state regulation)

However, there is need for regulation

- ① Possibility of corruption, mismanagement due to huge amount of funds involved.
- ② May carry violation of Fundamental rights in the name of religious freedom (eg → earthen denial of women in Sabrimala)
- ③ Handling of secular activities related to accommodation, queues, management of crowds (eg → high crowd in Tirupati)
- ④ Preparation of crisis situations for pilgrimages located in seismic zones (eg Aunamath)

## Way forward

- ① Engaging community & religious leaders ~~to~~ for self regulation.
- ② Encouraging proactive disclosures of funds & usage.
- ③ Supporting management of ~~low~~ pilgrims, accommodations.
- ④ Upholding Constitutional morality to ensure equal rights to all to enter & worship.
- ⑤ Balancing Article 26 with Article 25(2).

Indian temples are both sources of heritage and uphold ~~to~~ Indian idea of secularism.

17. What do you understand by feminisation of old age? Highlight the issues associated with it in the Indian context. Also, mention the measures taken by the government in this regard. (250 words) 15

वृद्धावस्था के नारीकरण से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारतीय संदर्भ में इससे जुड़े मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Feminisation of old age refers to disproportionate impact of ageing on women as compared to their male counterparts.

Issues associated

- ① Lack of financial independence
  - less scope for pension
  - poor digital literacy
  - 80% unemployed
- ② Increasing cases of gender violence (e.g. rape of ~80 year old in Delhi)
- ③ Higher life expectancy for women creates widowhood amplifying deprivations.

#### ④ Health issues

- ↳ Physical weakness & chronic diseases & asthma
- ↳ Mental health - due to isolation, family torture etc.

#### Measures taken

① Constitution:- Article 41 of DPSP

② Legal :- Maintenance & Welfare of parents & Senior Citizens Act making maintenance justiciable.

③ Policy:- → National Policy on Old Persons with focus on women ensuring food & financial security.

④ Institutions :- Govt old age homes

⑤ Employment → SACRED portal

## Way forward

- ① ~~Stage~~ Executive → Sensitising  
Police to needs of elderly to  
curb violence against old women.
- ② Targeted policy for widows,  
with focus on social security.
- ③ Maintenance & increased  
funding for old age homes with  
focus on geriatric & gerontology  
care.
- ④ Using technology →  
Health → Tele medicine  
(C Sanjeevani)  
Skill upgradation → PM DAKSH
- ⑤ Convergence of elderly insurance  
with Ayushman Bharat.

WHO has declared  
2020-30 as decade of old people. We must  
upward meet.

18. Given its impact on both individual resilience and the resilience of the economy, is there a case for strong universal social protection in India? Discuss. (250 words) 15

व्यक्तिगत लचीलेपन और अर्थव्यवस्था की प्रत्यास्थता दोनों पर इसके प्रभाव को देखते हुए, क्या भारत में सुदृढ़ सार्वभौमिक सामाजिक सुरक्षा की स्थिति विद्यमान है? विवेचना कीजिए।

Universal social protection refers to provision of income, health etc support in times of crisis.

Provisions → Code of social security, 2020

→ National Social Assistance Program

→ Private initiatives like SEWA

Impact on individual resilience

- ① Protects from falling into poverty (eg Covid → millions of people reached BPL)
- ② Maintains productivity & efficiency.
- ③ Ensures continued health & education → ensures

inter generational resilient outcomes.  
(eg Ayushman Bhasat - health insurance)

### Resilience of economy

- ① Keeps demand & consumption  
~~economy~~ economy strong →  
~~also~~ enhances production & employment  
(eg → cash transfers to women in  
Covid in Jan Dhan accounts)
- ② Increases financial inclusion
- ③ Reduces inequality due to  
differential ability to handle crisis  
(eg → contact based services  
suffered more than financial  
sectors in Covid)

However, despite a strong case  
for ensuring social security to  
all, it is hindered.

## Challenges

- ① Resource crunch → Competing demands of defence, Covid reduce incomes.
- ② May create a dependency culture.
- ③ ~~May~~ reduce investments in Can capital → required for long term growth.

## Way forward

→ Targeted protection to vulnerable section → By migrants, women, specially abled

→ building capacities via human resource to reduce vulnerability due to crisis.

→ involve private sector, FDI to reduce insurance premiums due to competition.

19. There have been arguments that with the old global multilateral order failing to manage rising challenges, issue-based coalitions are gaining traction and have become the arenas of functional cooperation. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

ऐसे तर्क दिए गए हैं कि पुरानी वैश्विक बहुपक्षीय व्यवस्था बढ़ती चुनौतियों का प्रबंधन करने में विफल रही है, जबकि मुद्दे-आधारित गठबंधन लोकप्रियता प्राप्त कर रहे हैं और कार्यात्मक सहयोग के क्षेत्र बन गए हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

A new world order is emerging,  
transitioning from unipolar to  
multipolar.

Failings of old multilateral order

- ① Poor representation of Global South, dominated by Global North → Eg WTO
- ② Failure to respond to changing realities → size of India & emerging economies  
Eg → PS of UNSC
- ③ Rising challenges
  - ③.1 Hegemony of China via BRI, debt trap

3.2 Climate change

3.3 Rising maritime security threats (eg Chinese aggression in South China Sea, Taiwan Strait)

3.4 Increasing protectionism, threatening free trade (eg US-China trade war)

WTO, UN & other bodies have failure to counter these

4 Increasing financial vulnerability, reduced investments → IMF & WB's conditions have been compromising sovereignty.

### Issue based coalitions

1 Economic → Regional blocs for free trade & reduced barriers  
eg RCEP

② Security → Alliances to counter both China & emerging threats  
eg AUKUS - for nuclear  
SCO - Central Asia  
submarine tech

③ Global South → Emerging economies have formed BRICS, BIMSTEC, ASEAN to assert themselves

④ Financial security → Failure of WB & IMF led to NDB, AIB & ADIF providing cheaper & faster loans.

⑤ Political engagement → High level leadership engagement to resolve regional & global issues  
eg QUAD for Indo Pacific  
I2O2 for West Asia.

Issue based coalition can help India maintain its strategic autonomy

20. India intends to achieve a balanced and optimal development of energy infrastructure in the South-Asian region through mutual understanding and cooperation. In light of this statement, discuss the need as well as existing gaps in South Asia's energy cooperation. (250 words) 15

भारत पारस्परिक समझ और सहयोग के माध्यम से दक्षिण-एशियाई क्षेत्र में ऊर्जा के बुनियादी ढांचे में एक संतुलन और उसका इष्टतम विकास सुनिश्चित करना चाहता है। इस कथन के आलोक में, दक्षिण एशिया में ऊर्जा सहयोग की आवश्यकता और इस संदर्भ में विद्यमान कमियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy encompasses robust partnerships across sectors including energy in South Asia.

Need for development

- ① Complementary seasonalities  
eg Coal in summer, India  
Hydro in monsoon, Nepal, Bhutan
- ② Better bargaining power against  
China & energy cartels (OPEC)
- ③ Realising untapped potential →  
eg scope of 11 lakh MW of hydro  
in Bhutan, Nepal - only 1% used

- ④ Addressing times of crisis →  
by global price rise of coal & gas  
during 2021
- ⑤ Spin off effect on regional  
integration & cooperation increases  
overall development.

### Existing gaps

- ① Lack of supporting infrastructure to  
harvest & transport.
- ② Regulatory barriers inhibiting  
trading of power. (e.g. India -  
Bangladesh border)
- ③ Less focus on renewables.
- ④ Border conflicts can impact  
(e.g. India Pakistan)
- ⑤ Geography → Difficult terrain,  
Himalayan seismicity

## Way forward

- ① Engaging Central Electricity Authority for supporting inter-country power exchanges (eg BBIN)
- ② Hiring of experts for hydrological & seismic study.
- ③ Liberalising & standardising regulatory barriers.
- ④ Increasing Connectivity → eg BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement
- ⑤ Including as part of One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)

South Asia holds the key for India's regional geopolitical aspirations & remains as net security provider