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NO
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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1071)

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Medium Hindi/Eng.	Eng.	Registration Number	84658
Center	ORN	Date	1/9/18

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Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
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.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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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.

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All the Best

1. It has been argued that over the years there has been a steady decline in the efficacy of Parliament as an institution of accountability. Analyse and also suggest appropriate measures to address the relevant concerns.

(150 WORDS) 10

In recent years there has been decline in Parliament's accountability, mainly due to frequent disruption and reducing number of days Parliament functions.

Reasons behind

- * Less working days of Parliament
 - ↳ has reduced 120-130 days to 70-80 days.
- * Less time to speak to opposition
 - ↳ because time depends on strength of party.
 - ↳ number of parties have increased.
- * Frequent disruption of house
 - ↳ Lack of coherence between government and opposition.
 - ↳ Disruption as a way to:
 - raise opposition's voice
 - roadblock governments agenda.

-How to resolve

- * Increase working ^{days} hours of Parliament
 - Back to original 120-130 days/year.
 - Prepare annual calendar in advance.
 - Take opposition into confidence.
- * Plan business of house in better way.
 - Can be planned at All-Party Business Advisory committee's weekly meeting.
- * Speaking opportunity to opposition
 - Britain gives 20 days a year to opposition to decide agenda.
 - Bunch of small parties could be grouped
- * Unruly MPs
 - Speaker/ chairman should give necessary warning.
 - If not, then members could be suspended.

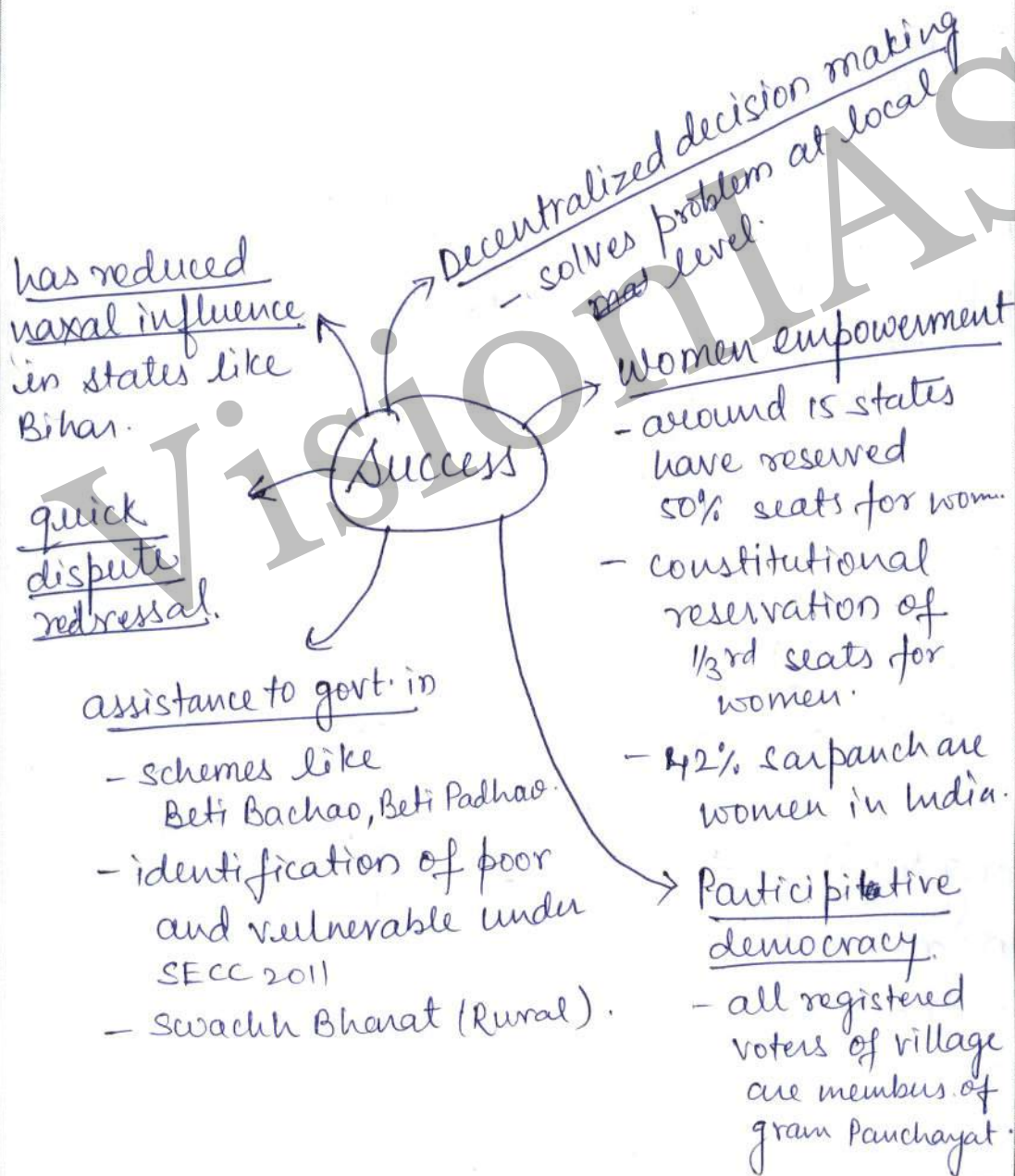
Epilogue

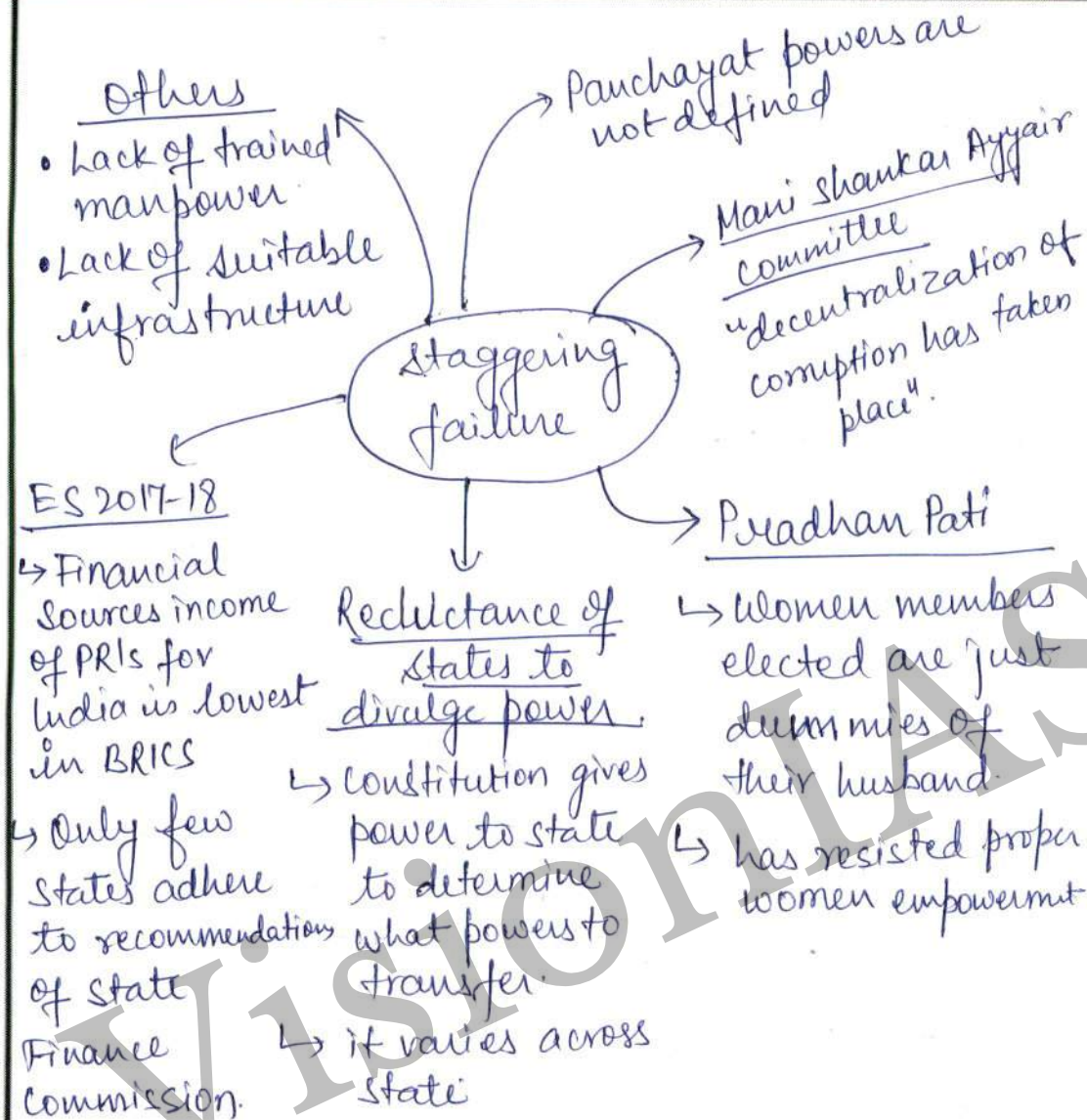
Parliament has been called "temple of democracy". Frequent question on its accountability actually is question on our democracy.

All stakeholders must come forward to maintain its decorum.

2. Panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) are simultaneously a remarkable success and a staggering failure, depending on the goalposts against which they are evaluated. Discuss. (150 WORDS) 10

73rd constitutional amendment (1991)
brought democratic decentralization
through providing constitutional
status to PRIs.





Way ahead

India took a bold step with introduction of PRIs.

Among various ~~models~~ ^{difficulties} "Kerala Model" has been an inspirational one, where the decentralization of power was done in "letter and spirit"

It could be followed by others as well

3. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is more than just the keeper of our national accounts; it is also a conscience-keeper and a watchdog. Examine the statement in light of making the auditing process more effective. (150 WORDS) 10

Articles 148-151 of Indian constitution establish CAG and defines its roles and functions.

Functions

- * To audit all income and expenditure of :-
 - ↳ central government
 - ↳ state government
 - ↳ PSUs of government
- * External audit of companies
 - ↳ where government shareholding exceeds 51%.

Conscience-keeper and watchdog =

- * Assistance to Parliament
 - ↳ Report of CAG is used by Public Accounts committee to hold government accountable.
- * An unbiased platform
 - ↳ to review working of government
- * Has led to
 - ↳ expose of 2G scam, coal block allotment irregularities, etc.

Problems

- * Former CAG Vinod Rai demanded and enumerated :-
 - ↳ Currently CAG doesn't cover over 60% of government spending.
 - ↳ There should be bodies to audit spending of Panchayats.
 - ↳ Any new information sought by CAG is mostly denied.

Making auditing more effective

- * should cover most of government spending.
- * state based auditing bodies could cover Panchayat, while working under control of CAG.
- * Being a constitutional body, CAG could be given powers of civil court to summon persons and call any document or information.
- * keep platform open to suggestions of various stakeholders.

way ahead

Being one of the bulwarks of Indian democracy, a strong and effective CAG will strengthen democracy in India.

4. The concern for transparency in political funding is at odds with the Electoral Bond Scheme notified by the government. Critically discuss.

(150 WORDS) 10

Along with success of Indian democracy, came problem of criminalization of politics and unaccounted election expenses:

Problem of transparency (so far)

- * Political parties are exempted from Income Tax returns.
- * Political parties are exempted from RTI application.
- * Cash donations upto ₹ 20,000 could be from anonymous sources.
- * Use of extensive cash for election purposes.
- * Retrospective amendment of FCRA, 2010
↳ Allows parties for foreign funding.

Electoral Bond Scheme

Provisions

- * Bonds can be purchased at select Banks for selected time period.
- * These are bearer bonds
- donor remains anonymous.
- * For recognised parties only.

Does it promote transparency.

Yes

- * Cash donations lowered to ₹ 2000.
- * Parties have to encash bonds within limited time. (15 days)
- * Even ₹ 2000 must be paid online.

No

- * ~~Do~~ Donor remains anonymous.
- * Even 7.5% of profit limit on companies have been removed.
- * Moreover, stakeholders of company can't know which political party got funding.
- * Difficult for ECI, banks to determine donor and beneficiary.
- * Only for recognised party.
- * Government can know who donated to whom.

Way ahead

ADR data says 69% funding comes from unknown sources.

Electoral bond is a good attempt to bring transparency, but will further require major political will to push transparency.

5. Lobbying in India exists in a perennially grey legal and policy arena. In this context, discuss the need to formally recognize and regulate lobbying in India. (150 WORDS) 10

Lobbying is attempt to persuade, influence actions, decisions of another person.

In current context, it mostly refers to influence legislators, regulators, etc.

Existence in India.

- * Lobbying is among most controversial context of modern governance.
- * It's legal to lobby in countries like US.
- * Walmart has accepted spending millions to expand its Indian footprint by lobbying.

Grey area

- * Lobbying is not defined legally, nor by government.
- * No regulator is there to regulate lobbying.
- * Still lobbying is unofficially done.
eg- By retired bureaucrats, relatives of politicians, etc.
- * It has become synonymous with Bribe.

Need to recognise and regulate

- * It involves practices like making presentation etc.
 - ↳ Not illegal till a bribe is paid.
- * A way to voice opinion to government.
- * Lobbying provide high quality research while persuading legislators, regulators
- * will bring transparency
 - ↳ because lobbying happens anyway.
 - ↳ recognising will make company disclose their efforts.
- * Regulator
 - ↳ will ensure lobbying doesn't amount to corruption
 - ↳ ~~all~~ Big corporates/bodies don't get undue advantage over smaller ones.

Way ahead

While lobbying is legal in developed countries, and does happen anyway, there's isn't much wrong in recognising it.

However it must not be ensured that it doesn't amount to corrupt practices, and ensures fair play to all.

6. More than a decade after it was passed, the implementation of the RTI Act leaves much to be desired. Comment. Also discuss the issues associated with the recent proposals to amend the RTI Act. (150 WORDS) 10

RTI Act 2005 was passed to make governance more transparent and accountable to the public.

Achievements of RTI

- * Exposed corruption cases
- * Has made governance
 - ↳ transparent
 - ↳ accountable.
- * Citizens can take initiative
 - ↳ unlike government taking initiative.
- * If don't get reply.
 - ↳ appeal officer in same office
 - ↳ C.I.C.
 - ↳ Courts.

Failures of RTI

- * Denial of information
 - ↳ under national interests
 - ↳ Personal data
- * Attacks on RTI activists
 - ↳ along with dilution of whistleblower Act.
- * Overloaded C.I.C ; undermanned
 - ↳ To resolve RTI conflicts.

- * Reluctant Judiciary
↳ To come under RTI.

Recent proposed amendments

- * Changes in salary, allowances and service conditions of :-
↳ CIC
↳ State Information Commissioner
- * Service conditions, tenure will be decided by central government.

The issue

- * It will weaken the current immunity information officers enjoy from government.
- * will weaken spirit of RTI.

Way ahead

A strong and better governance can be ensured by a strong RTI.

This can be ensured by strong, transparent and active participation of Government, ~~activists~~ CIC, grievance redressal officers and by granting adequate safeguards to activists and CIC.

7. Critically discuss the evolving policy on reservation in promotions in India with special focus on its ability to meet the objectives of social justice.

(150 WORDS) 10

with aim to provide opportunity of advancement to historically depressed section, reservation has been part since ~~beginning~~ beginning after independence.

Evolving Policy.

* Indira Sawhney Case (1992)

- ↳ SC held that for SC, ST
 - reservation only in entry
 - not in promotion.

* 77th Amendment Act (1995)

- ↳ Added Article 16 (4) (da)
- ↳ allowed reservation in promotion.

* Ajit Singh v/s State of Punjab:

- ↳ SC introduced "catch up" rule.
- ↳ To regain lost seniority.

* 85th Amendment Act (2002)

- ↳ Introduced consequential seniority.
- ↳ Nullified lost seniority.

* Nagraj Case (2006)

- ↳ upheld validity of 85th A.A.
- ↳ But introduced a condition: -

- Government must show by reliable data that given community
 - is still marginalised
 - inadequately represent in government.

* 117th Amendment Act

- ↳ To nullify Nagraj judgement
- ↳ still in RS.

* Rajesh Kumar v/s UP Power Corp. (2012)

- ↳ SC struck down a reservation in promotion.
- ↳ Govt. had failed to show reliable data.

Meeting social justice

- * idea of "reservation in jobs and promotion is step to uplift historically depressed."

↳ It's a right move.

↳ But reservation alone can't uplift all, because we don't have so many jobs.

Way ahead

We should also focus on — eliminating social discrimination, capacity building of SC, ST, developing entrepreneurship abilities (standup India).

8. India produces enough food for its people, but not all people get enough food to eat. Discussing this paradox, highlight some of the major interventions taken in the past few years in this regard. (150 WORDS) 10

with nearly 1.7 mn km² of arable area, which is 2nd largest in the world, ironically India also has one of the largest hungry population, with :-

- 20% people sleeping hungry every night.
- 25% children (<5 yrs age) are malnourished.

Reason for this

* Wastage of produced food

- ↳ low food processing capacity.
- ↳ low cold storage capacity.
- ↳ poor integration of APMCs, Mandis.

* Food distribution

- ↳ leakages and corruption in PDS.
- ↳ exclusion of names of genuine beneficiary.

* Focus on quantity instead of quality.

- ↳ India produces sufficient wheat and rice.
- ↳ But other nutrients aren't sufficiently available in the food.

* Other reasons

- ↳ Illiterate population.
- ↳ difficulty in access to food.
- ↳ exclusion due to Aadhar requirement.

Government intervention* ICDS network

- ↳ 14 lakh anganwari centres across India.
- ↳ 10 crore beneficiaries.

* National Food security Act

- ↳ PDS reach 800 mn people under it
- ↳ at affordable rate.

* Mid Day Meal Scheme

- ↳ Reaches 12 crore children.

Way ahead

While India ranks 100/119 countries on Global Hunger Index, SDG-2 calls for zero hunger by 2030.

Although interventions have reduced poverty and hunger, elimination would require coordinated efforts of science, infrastructure, government, public, finance and International cooperation.

9. India sees Indian Ocean as not just a water body, but a global stage for continued economic, social, and cultural dialogue. Elaborate.

(150 WORDS) 10

For India, Indian Ocean doesn't simply derives its name from the former, but acts as global stage.

Economic dialogue.

- * India is negotiating RECP multilateral FTA with ASEAN+6 countries.
- * energy imports from Middle East are important for India's energy needs.
- * Int'l seabed Authority granted India permit to extract seabed minerals.
- * Various bilateral and multilateral naval exercises are to ensure free navigation and security at chokepoints like Malacca and Hormuz Strait.

Social dialogue

- * India started Indian Ocean Symposium for voluntary exchange of cooperation among neighbouring navies.

- * Indian Ocean Rim Association is group of countries in the region to cooperate for mutual benefits.
- * RIMES was started by India to provide disaster forecast to vulnerable countries in IOR.

Cultural dialogue

- * "BIMSTEC Bodhi Parva" was celebrated to share historical cultural values of the region.
- * India started "Project Mausam" to reconnect cultural ties with historical spice trading countries.

Epilogue

But growing Chinese presence is a cause of worry.

India must be able to tether its neighbours via means of Indian Ocean and act as responsible power using soft diplomacy.

10. In the context of India taking greater responsibility in management of the global commons, there has been a shift in India's climate change negotiation stance. In this context, analyze the evolution of India's climate policy. (150 WORDS) 10

With sustained economy growth, 3rd largest economy (PPP) and largest democracy naturally places India amongst leaders in global commons. India has also positively accepted this responsibility.

climate change negotiations

- * Despite being "developing country" in annexure-B of Kyoto Protocol, India recognises its responsibility.
- * It launched International Solar Alliance at Paris Climate Deal (2015)
- * India has made Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)
 - ↳ 30% reduction in CO_2 by 2035
 - ↳ 40% electricity by renewables by 2030
- * India has extended \$100-mn line-of-credit for African countries at ISA.
- * India supports shared responsibility in dealing with climate change.

evaluation of climate Policy.

- * The values of protecting environment is enshrined in Indian constitution.
- * Environment Protection Act, 1986
 - ↳ envisions 33% area under forest cover
 - ↳ to combat climate change.
- * Phasing out of GHGs
 - ↳ Most GHGs will be phased out by 2030.
- * Focus on renewables.
 - ↳ 175 GW of renewable capacity of 2022.
- * National Action Plan for Climate Change (2007-08)
 - ↳ Set of 8 target to meet diverse goals.

epilogue

India's efforts have been encouraging and positive.

But much more needs to be done to combat climate change.

11. Highlighting the constitutional role of the Finance Commission (FC), discuss the issues which are being debated w.r.t. terms of reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission. (250 WORDS) 15

Art. 280 provides for establishment of Finance Commission, by or before 5 years; by President of India.

Function of Finance Commission

- * Consider devolution of taxes b/w.
 - ↳ Centre-state (Vertical distribution)
 - ↳ State-state (Horizontal ")
- * Consider grant-in-aid to state
- * Make recommendations for strengthening of consolidated fund of state.

Debate w.r.t. ToR of 15th FC.

* ToR of 15th FC.

- ↳ Consider 2011 census instead of 1971 census for tax devolution.
- ↳ Consider if revenue deficit grant should be given.
- ↳ Performance based grants for Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- ↳ Condition for approving State borrowing
- ↳ Study impact of GST.

Issues involved with ToR.

* Southern states have successfully implemented population reduction/control.

↳ But adopting 2011 census will reduce their share in vertical distribution.

* Impacting of GST when GST council is already there.

* Gives further discretion to central government to decide contribution to scheme

How to resolve

* Usage of 2011 census

↳ will reduce share

↳ But many areas need funding for development

↳ A balance should be maintained between demand and development

* Centre has used cess and surcharge to bypass divulging 42% tax to states

↳ Less and surcharge should be applied: -

- to meet demands
- not to dodge 42% share.

Epilogue

Finance Commission must go for a reasonable balance between contribution of southern states v/s needs of un-developed areas.

Further, Centre's contribution in central sector schemes, centrally sponsored schemes and tax devolution must be in constitutional spirit of federalism.

12. The spirit of the constitution of India represents a synthesis of Indian values, democratic and socialist movements in west and our independence movement. Elucidate. (250 WORDS) 15

Indian constitution; made after: -

- ↳ long independence struggle.
 - ↳ studying many constitution
 - ↳ assembly debates
- is synthesis of various different ideas

Indian values.

* Freedom of religion. (Art 25-28)

↳ guarantees freedom to practice, profess religion.

↳ Maintains positive secularism

- there's interaction between state and religion

* Cultural and education rights (Art. 28, 29)

↳ Guarantees ^{lingual} ~~cultural~~ and religious minorities right to practice and preserve culture and educational institutions.

* Abolition of untouchability. (Art. 17)

Democratic and socialist movement

- * Right against exploitation. (Art 23, 24)
- * Right to equality. (Art 14-18).
- * Right to constitutional remedies. (Art-35)
- * DPSP's socialist principles:
 - ↳ Minimise income inequality (38)
 - ↳ Men and women to have equal right to adequate livelihood (39)
 - ↳ Equal justice and free legal aid (39A)
 - ↳ Participation of worker in management of industries (43A).
 - ↳ Uniform civil code (44).

Independence movement

- * Article 51 A (Fundamental duties).
 - ↳ Value and preserve rich culture.
 - ↳ To cherish and follow the noble ideas of freedom struggle
 - ↳ To uphold, protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.

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13. What is the importance of an independent judiciary in a democracy? Highlight the safeguards in our political-constitutional setup to ensure the independence of judiciary. (250 WORDS) 15

Executive, legislature and judiciary are 3 pillars of democracy. They have constitutional authority and protection to ensure checks and balances.

Importance of independent Judiciary

- * It prevents abuse of power by executive.
- * It ensures laws made by legislature aren't unconstitutional.
- * Maneka Gandhi Case.
↳ ensures that laws aren't arbitrary.
- * Kesavanand Bharti Case.
↳ ensures that basic structure of constitution is preserved.
- * Independence ensures that judiciary is unbiased.

Safeguards to ensure.

* Article 124 ensures security tenure to judges of SC.

* 2nd and 3rd Judges case.

↳ Names of judges for elevation for HC, SC shall be made by a collegium of SC.

↳ If collegium repeats a recommendation, government has no other option, but to appoint it.

* Art. 138

↳ Powers of SC can't be reduced

* Art. 129

↳ SC has power for its contempt.

↳ contempt of court Act, 1971

- jail upto 6 months

* Judges enquire Act, 1969.

↳ Motion of removal of SC/HC judge must be passed by both houses of parliament with special majority.

epilogue.

These various provisions ensure that Indian judiciary is not only free from interference of executive and legislature.

But it also ensures that Indian judiciary is most powerful in world, ensuring freedom of citizen.

VisionIAS

14. Even though Indian federalism has matured quite a bit, with states having far greater control of their economic and political management, serious structural problems still remain. Discuss. (250 WORDS) 15

Federalism means distribution of power between various various levels of government.

Maturity of federalism

Economic Maturity:

* 101st constitutional amendment

↳ has scrapped cess.

↳ In GST council

- states have 2/3rd votes.

↳ GST council will resolve dispute.

↳ States can levy service tax.

* 14th F.C

↳ recommended 42% share for state in Centre's pool.

* Abolition of Planning Commission

↳ PC had full powers to decide on discretionary grants.

↳ states had no representation in PC

↳ NITI Aayog will only have to make recommendations.

Political maturity.* President's rule.

- ↳ Art. 356, 365 were indiscriminately used to impose centre's rule.
 - around 114 times since independence.
- ↳ After S.R. Bommai Case (1994)
 - Judiciary ensured fair play.
- ↳ It has also reduced due to
 - Coalition government
 - President's activism.

* Role of Governor.

↳ was viewed as agent of centre.

↳ Hargovind Pant Case.

- SC held, he is not an agent of centre.

↳ Rameshwar Prasad Case (2006)

- Governor can't dissolve house before floor test.

* In Arunachal Pradesh (2016), SC restored a dismissed government

Structural problems* Inter-state water dispute

↳ States are going to SC.

↳ while there's Art 262 for

such kind of dispute:

* Deployment of CAPF

↳ Art 355 - duty of centre to protect states from aggression.

↳ alleged "unnecessary" and "excessive" deployment.

* Office of Governor

↳ still acts as centre's agent on many cases.

eg - which party shall have 1st claim to form Government.

Way ahead

* Use Inter-state council for river water dispute.

* Deploy CAPFs only as last resort

↳ in coordination with state

↳ strengthen state police.

* Punchhi Commission

↳ described governor as lynchpin of centre-state relation.

↳ Must exercise his powers without any bias.

15. The recent amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 strike a balance between enforcement overzealousness and the need for stringent action against corrupt public servants. Discuss. (250 WORDS) 15

with India still ranking 81st on Corruption Perception Index, Corruption had always been a big problem.

Hence, PCA, 1988 was introduced.

It led to

Reduced corruption
by prosecuting
officials

Policy paralysis,
because no intention
was needed to
be established in court.

Hence amendment was required to address corruption, while giving sufficient operational freedom to bureaucrats.

Removal of Policy Paralysis

* Earlier Sec. 13(1)(d) had broad definition for corruption.

↳ Even a selfless act, gone wrong, could have been counted as corruption.

↳ There was no need to establish intention

↳ 2nd ARC had recommended distinction between "collusive" & "coercive corruption"

* Now.

↳ Now there's concise and clear definition of corruption in sec. 13(1)(d).

↳ Can't preassume intention

* Earlier

↳ ~~bribe giver was free to accuse.~~

↳ No need to take government's sanction for prosecution.

Now

↳ Permission needed, for prosecution in court.

↳ even retired bureaucrats are protected

hence gives bureaucrats free-hand in working.

enforcement of anti-corruption

* even those who were engaged in giving bribe will be prosecuted.

↳ However, they can register a complaint within 7 days (at Police) of giving bribe to avoid it.

Hence all stakeholders in corrupt act could be punished.

Way ahead

Although amendment tries to give free-hand to bureaucrats, it also grants them excessive immunity.

Bureaucrats must be a reasonably accountable for decisions made.

Also PCA, 1988 must be made in sync with RTI Act and whistleblower protection Act.

16. Identifying the various issues plaguing the voluntary sector in India, discuss the need for a national accreditation agency to overcome them. Discuss.

(250 WORDS) 15

Apart from regular public sector and private sector, there's voluntary sector.

It mainly comprises of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Non-Government Institutions.

Issues Plaguing.

* Mushrooming of NGOs.

↳ In recent years

↳ Make it difficult to regulate them.

* Non-filing of income tax.

↳ As per government submission to Delhi HC, out of nearly 3 lakh NGOs,
- Only 1 lakh file IT returns.

↳ Out of these 1 lakh, most claim income tax exemption
- Under section 80G of IT Act.

* Foreign Funding.

↳ NGOs have received funding in thousands of crore.

↳ However, with non-filing of income tax, and filing of IT exemption, usage of funds is questionable.

* Vested interests

↳ Intelligence Bureau (IB) reports indicate that many NGOs have been used to fund anti-national, anti-development activities.

How to resolve

* Mandatory filing of income tax.

↳ To show proper utilization of funds.

* Amendment to FCRA Act, 2010

↳ To ~~stop~~/regulate foreign funding.

↳ Now FCRA license has to be ~~re~~ renewed every 5 years.

↳ Licenses of as many as 17,000 NGOs were cancelled.

* A proper regulatory body.

↳ To ensure NGOs aren't used for subversive activities.

However

- * Right to form association, do any business is a constitutional guarantee
- * Strict regulation of NGO might imply Government crackdown on dissent.
- * NGOs are voices of poor, vulnerable, etc.

National Accreditation Agency

SC → asked govt. to form panel for NGO regulation

↓
S. Vijay Kumar Committee

* Recommendation of committee

- ↳ Soft regulations of NGO.
- ↳ National Accreditation Agency.

- To maintain database of NGOs
- serve as NGO-Govt. contact
- ensure soft regulation.

* Government action

↳ Made NITI Aayog as Accreditation Agency.

↳ It launched portal: NGO Darpan
Way ahead

NGO darpan ensures quick interaction, soft regulation and positive development

17. Given the importance of a teacher in affecting the learning outcomes of children, discuss the problems in the present system of teacher training in India. How can these be addressed? (250 WORDS) 15

It is said that a nation's future is built in its classrooms.

However, all attempts to reform education at higher, secondary, primary levels won't bear fruits unless teachers are capable enough.

Current Problem in Teacher Training.

* Inadequate number of B.ed, M.ed colleges in India.

* RTE Act

↳ allows centre to lower qualification standards, if state doesn't have adequate infrastructure.

* Budget and schemes → more focus → infrastructure, students
→ less focus → teacher's training.

* No frequent upgradation of knowledge via seminar, conferences.

* Inadequate practical learning and infusion of technology.

* Teacher's recruitment exam.

↳ irregular

↳ alleged corrupt practices.

How to address

* Poonam Batra Committee

↳ train teachers in multi-disciplinary courses and environment.

* Rep Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Training

↳ will benefit \approx 20,000 teacher trainee.

* National Resource Centre.

↳ Access to books, journals, etc

* Other steps needed:-

↳ bridge gap between industry demand and academia.

↳ more infrastructure for B.ed and M.ed colleges.

↳ Proper conduct of teacher
recruitment exam.

Way ahead

Further, teachers must be encouraged
and given opportunity to undertake
research, innovative idea, to
ensure that education remains
getting updated with time.

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18. The implementation of a scheme with such scale and benefit as Ayushman Bharat is likely to face many obstacles. Critically discuss. (250 WORDS) 15

Central government recently announced Ayushman Bharat. It aims to provide health insurance to about 50 crore people.

Requirements

- * It needs to cover huge out-of-pocket expenditure currently being incurred.
- * Would require massive public spending for health infrastructure.
- * Large medical workforce.

Obstacles

* Funding

↳ No clear estimate of centre's funding.

↳ Further health is state subject

- They need to contribute 40%

- But they:-

- o haven't been consulted
- o have poor fiscal health.

↳ India spends only 1.4% of GDP on health.

* Infrastructure

- ↳ Nearly 2 lakh health and wellness centres are to be opened.
- ↳ But only few centres are ready.
- ↳ Even existing infrastructure is inadequately prepared.

* Manpower

- ↳ India is critically short of medical personnel.
- ↳ Even the idea proposal of bridge course for Ayush doctors was dropped.

* Beneficiaries and insurance.

- ↳ Nearly 50 crore beneficiaries have to be identified.
- ↳ Private hospitals can also become partner in Ayushman Bharat.
- ↳ It's difficult to
 - claim insurance
 - realize insurance amount
 at this huge scale.

What can be done.

- * National health Policy, 2017
 - ↳ increase healthcare expenditure to 2.5% of GDP gradually
- * Rope-in states
 - ↳ with cooperative and transparent approach.
- * Infrastructure
 - ↳ More focus on "prevention", rather than "cure".
 - ↳ strengthen basic healthcare.
- * Insurance
 - ↳ Policy should be simple and transparent.

Way ahead

A healthy population is key for nation's success.

Ayushman Bharat is a step in right direction. However, given its magnitude, all steps must be carefully planned.

19. Given the fact that India cannot match China's financial clout, it is seen to be diversifying the ways in which it can enhance cooperation and promote its diplomatic profile in Africa. Discuss. (250 WORDS) 15

China is almost 5 times bigger economy than India, and its growing activities are a matter of concern for India.

Chinese concerns for India.

* China has used checkbook diplomacy to tilt neighbour like

- Maldives
- Nepal

towards itself.

* From Hambantota Port, to Gdawan port, China wishes to encircle India by "Strings of Pearls".

* China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) violates India's sovereignty.

* Chinese projects are:-

- ↳ Non-transparent
- ↳ Causing debt trap (eg Maldives)
- ↳ Resource exploitation.
- ↳ One way benefit.

China in Africa.

- * In 2006, China displaced USA as largest trading partner with continent.
- * There are significant Chinese investment in: -
 - ↳ construction of road, building.
 - ↳ Railways.
 - ↳ Natural resources exploitation.
- * But, again, these investments are exploitative, unsustainable, etc.

India's approach to Africa.

To counter China, to expand its footprint, promoting cooperation, India has adopted multi-pronged approach.

- * African Development Bank [AfDB]
 - ↳ India is a non-regional member.
 - ↳ Recent AfDB summit was held in India.
- * ~~As~~ ↳ India has regularly extended line of credit.
- * Asia Africa Growth Corridor.
 - ↳ Partnership between India and Japan.

↳ To bring investment and development in Africa.

↳ Is seen as a counter to aggressive Chinese investment.

↳ Japanese expertise and economic might, along with India's soft power is gamechanger.

* International Solar Alliance:

↳ African tropical countries are largest group of members.

↳ India extended \$100-mn line of credit.

* Diplomatic Outreach:

↳ Indian President, VP, Prime Ministers have made 1st ever high level visits to many African countries.

Way ahead

While India has global aspirations, it has chosen to boycott OBOR.

India enjoys global goodwill and softpower advantage.

A sustained and positive engagement with Africa won't only counter China, but will be multiplier for India as well.

20. Discuss how American sanctions on its adversaries affect India. Taking the example of CAATSA, analyse how India can shield its strategic interests in face of such sanctions. (250 WORDS) 15

To maintain its global dominance and shielding its interests, USA has been using its Economic might to counter its adversaries.

Recent US sanctions

* On Russia.

— for interfering with US elections.

* On N. Korea

— for developing nuclear weapons.

* On Iran.

— for ~~not~~ allegedly not observing JCOPA plans.

Affect on India.

* Military interests

↳ US has demanded India to stop purchase of \$5bn sale of S-400 from Russia.

↳ India has purchased C17, Apache, Chinook from USA.

↳ While majority of hardware is from Russia.

↳ Hence military readiness depends on

availability of spares, etc from US, Russia.

* Global leadership interests

↳ India wants to build Chabahar port (Iran) to have access to Afghanistan.

↳ But US sanctions make it difficult to finance the project

↳ India was among few countries to provide humanitarian aid to N. Korea

↳ But US insisted India to stop it.

* energy security:

↳ India-Iran have enjoyed good relations
- Iran is 2nd largest oil supplier
to India, after Iraq.

↳ But US demands India to bring Iranian oil imports to zero.

How can India shield interests

* India has enjoyed global goodwill.
eg - Nearly 2/3rd of UNGA supported India
against Britain for ICJ post.

- * India is a big market for US
↳ Use this as a leverage to negotiate with USA.
- * India's refusal to succumb to US Pressure
↳ India went ahead with S-400.
↳ Said no to lowering Iranian oil.
- * ~~Goodwill and~~

Way ahead

India's goodwill, Indian opportunity, and its softpower forced US Senate to amend CAASTA and grant exemption to India.

However, India must

- start leading global voice.
- develop own alternate energy sources.
- develop domestic weapons industry to avoid being bullied by other powers.