

**APSC Mains 2023 TS - 12 (GS Paper 2)****Duration – 3 Hrs**

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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium:

English ☒Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions:
1	10		• There are TWENTY questions and printed in ENGLISH. • All questions are compulsory. • The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. • The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 15 marks. • Content is more important than the number of words. • Answers must be written in the medium authorised 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 authorised one. • Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
2	10		
3	10		
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11	15		
12	15		
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19	15		
TOTAL:	250		

Remarks:

Signature of the Student:



Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

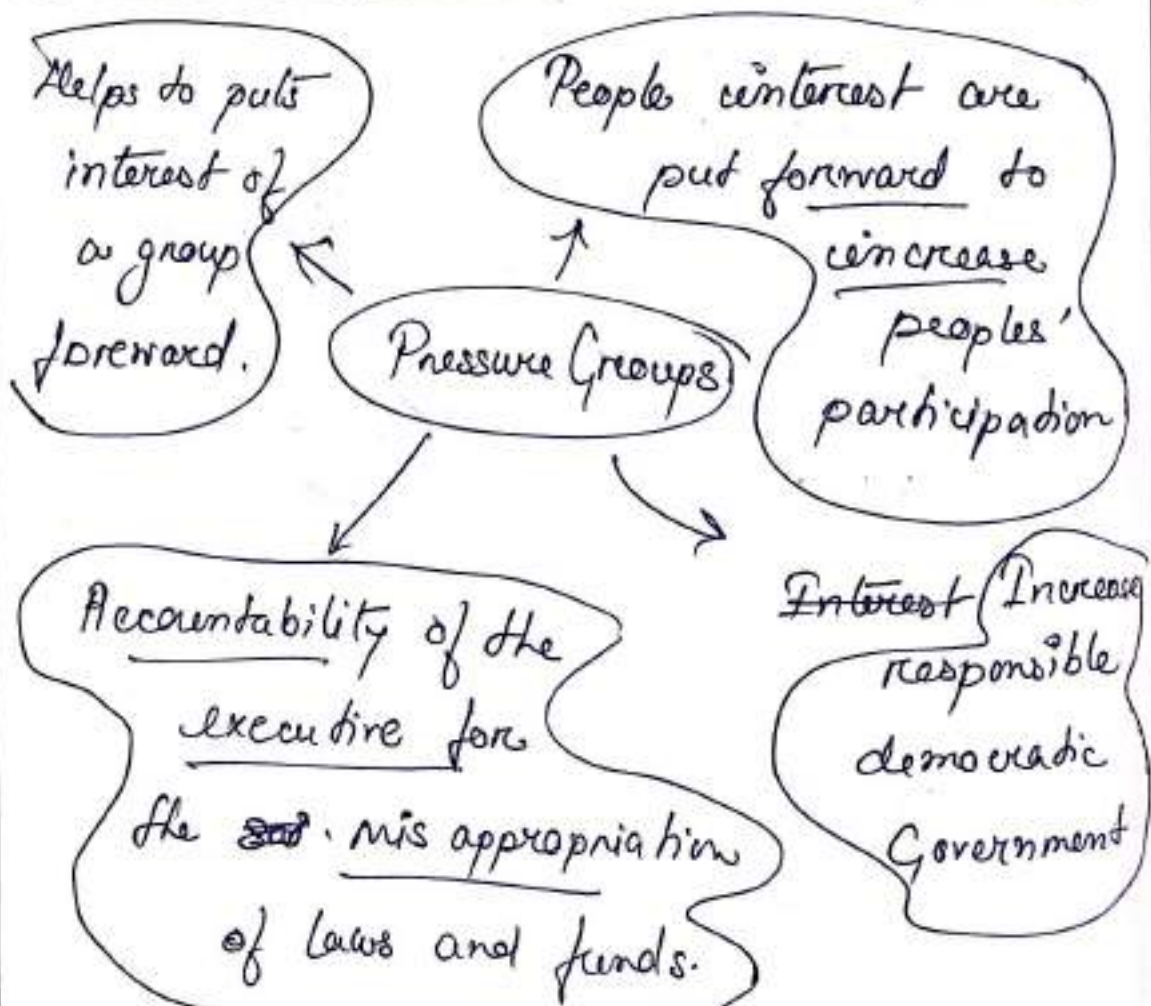
	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

Detail Feedback

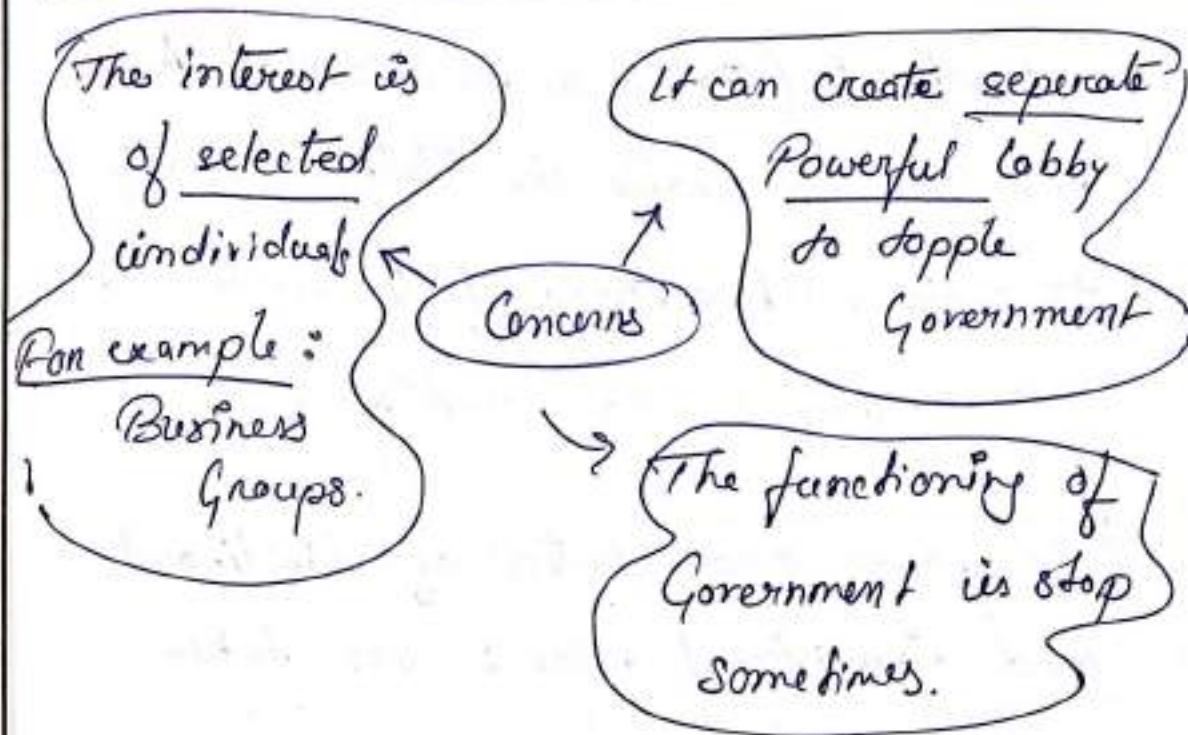
Q1. Do you see pressure groups as a genuine mechanism for ensuring broader and more participative democracy? Critically comment. (10 marks/150 words)

Pressure groups are generally group of organization formed to put their interest in front of the Government.

The pressure groups are seen as a genuine mechanism for ensuring broader and more participative democracy because:



Concerns associated with Pressure Groups:-



Thus, pressure group have been able to address various peoples' issue however it sometimes leads to vested interest of institution which needs to be stop.

Q2. The main objective of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is to enable tribal society to assume control over their livelihoods and traditional rights. Critically examine the implementation of the Act. (10 marks/150 words)

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is enable in tribal society in 10 states. These area falls under the 5th schedule of the constitution.

The power and control of livelihoods and traditional rights are taken into account :-

- President has the power to demarcate tribal areas.
- The parliament laws and state laws do not ~~in~~ apply in scheduled areas if applied with concurrence with Governor
- Tribals are allowed to follow their cultural laws.

- The sales of land by tribals is also prohibited.
- The functions of schedule II applies here with few modification
- The Tribal advisory Council is formed for recommendation

Thus, PESA is applied in 10 states for better decentralisation in these tribal areas for better participation

Q3. Examine the challenges of fiscal federalism in India.

(10 marks/150 words)

Fiscal federalism means fiscal powers between states and Union. In India President constitute Finance ~~com~~ commission Under Article 280 for devolution of finances (net proceeds)

The challenges associated with fiscal federalism in India are :-

- Main source of fiscal power is with the center.
- The GST council where decision are taken regarding finances, center has $\frac{1}{3}$ voting powers.
- GST (Good and Service tax) center ~~are~~ have more power for example. Coop Corporate Taxes.
- Proceed devolution is through

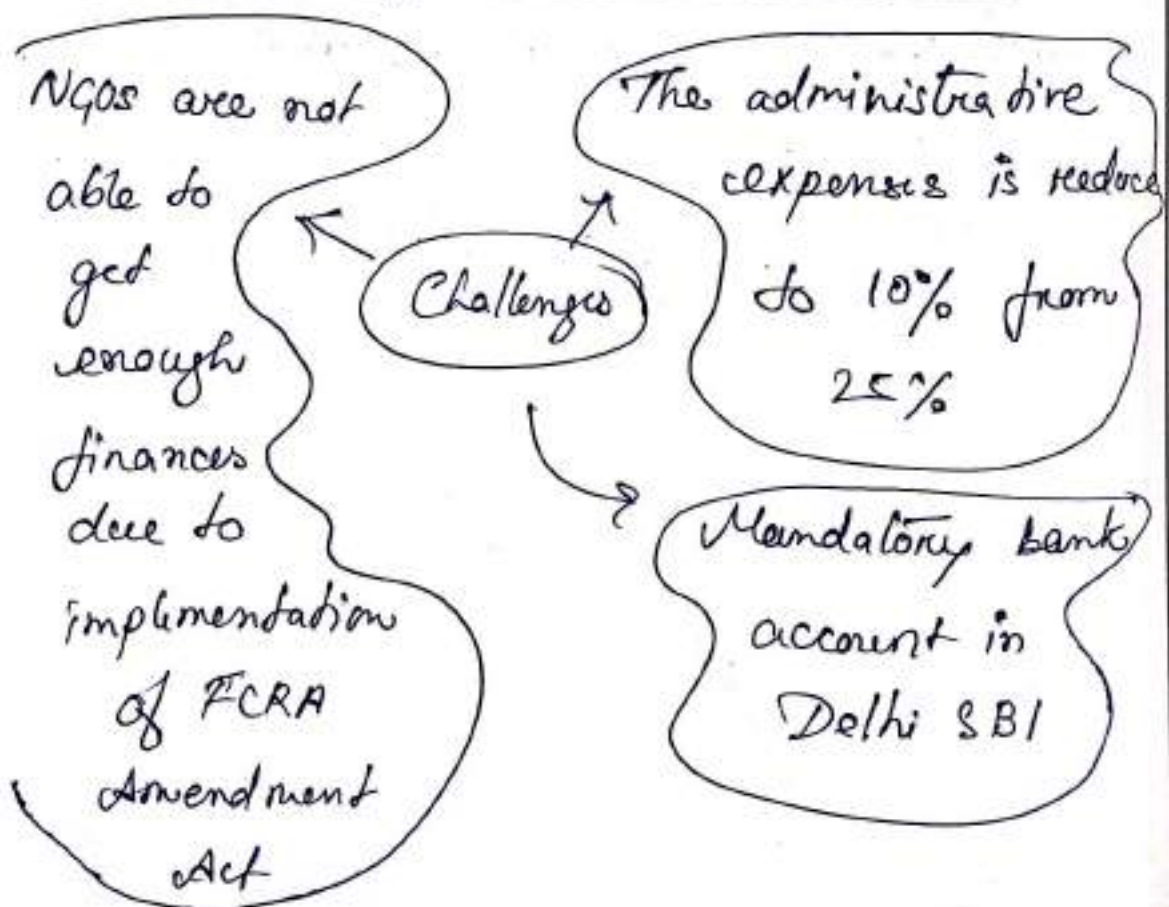
criteria assigned by Finance Commission
For example :- Population, GSDP etc

Thus, fiscal federalism in India is
tilted towards the center and states
are dependent on center for finances.
However, this doesn't mean state is
devoid of any financial power:

Q4. What are the challenges and issues regarding the functioning of NGOs in India? Analyse. (10 marks /150 words)

Non-Governmental Organisation are the institution which works for the better upliftment of people and also putting voices to bring change in the functioning of Government.

The challenges and issues regarding functioning of NGOs in India are :-



Issues

- NGOs are thought to work to hamper developmental activities
- NGOs put bad image of ^{country} countries in front of International media
- NGOs are financed by enemy organization countries to create conflict situation

Thus, NGOs are restricted from having unlimited access to finances and to monitor their movement. However ~~set~~ such movement should not dissent right to association.

Q5. How can e-governance initiatives help in increasing farmers' income? Illustrate. (10 marks/150 words)

E-governance ^{initiatives} ~~initiates~~ ~~basit~~ basically means electronic initiatives to ease the delivery of services to farmers for better farmer's growth and income.

The e-governance initiative from governments are also follows:-

- eNAM for ease produce sell and elimination of intermediaries
- The easy way to get loan in the nearby bank
- The JAM trinity
- The easy access to geospatial data for better mapping of land.
- Use of drone for pesticides and

fertilisers .

→ The new nano-fertilisers for effective growth of plants crops .

Thus, e-governance initiatives helps in increasing farmer's income and help to reduce the farmers distress and suicide rates .

Q6. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (10 marks 150 words)

Parliamentary ~~Part~~ Privileges given in 108 (Article) and Article 191 of the constitution. These are provided for effective discussion and deliberation in the houses.

The need for codification of parliamentary privileges are :-

It will define what amount to defamation

Codification

It will specify the restriction imposed on a particular member.

Speaker and deputy Chairman can effectively punish who are breaching the privileges.

Concerns → The codification is difficult
due to various interpretation
→ To ~~na~~ much restriction will
restraint voices

Members are required to have some
privileges to speak their thought.

Thus, codification of Parliamentary
Privileges should be done taking all
the rights of p members into account.

Q7. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system. (10 Marks/150 words)

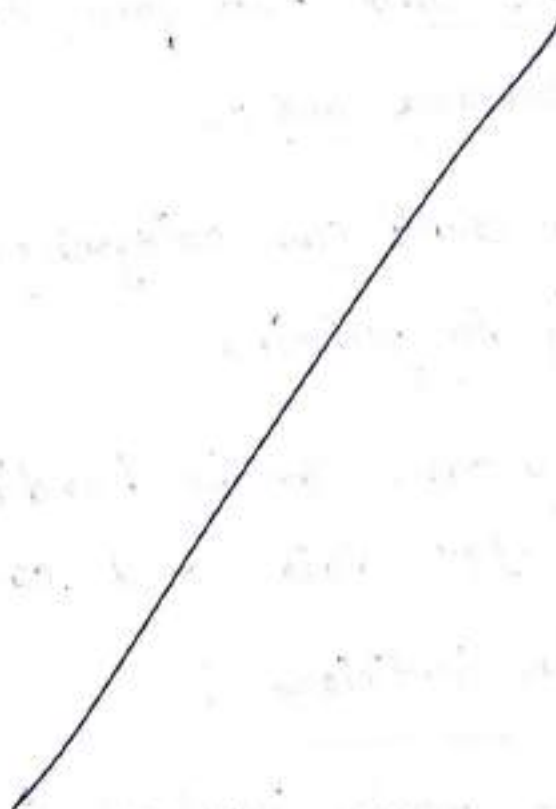
Reforms in Multilateral organization like WTO is required to meet the demand of present emerging challenges.

The reforms required to strengthen World Trade Organisation :-

- The definition of developing countries should be established to reduce ^{dominance} dependence of China.
- The Amber box clauses to include MSP is also need to taken into accounts.
- The restriction by developed countries on foods due to SPS requirement needs to be streamlined.

→ Developed countries should not pushed for reforms which the G33 are not able to cover.

Present scenario has change with India having a large population so, trade relations should take into account of the changing din dynamics and WTO needs to incorporate this changes.



Q8. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. (10 Marks/150 words)

Information and Communications technology is a revolutionary technology which help to ease the access of dispute redressal.
The ICT can help reduce pendencies of cases and provide a alternative solution to dispute through ADR.

ICT in courts and ADR for disputes resolution possesses are :-

- ICT in courts can categorized cases according to priority.
- Few easy cases can be handled through ICT data and can save time for judiciary.
- ADR are mostly involved in

negotiation which ICT can help to
resolved.

Thus, ICT can become a effective tool
for the proper functioning of dispute
resolution through courts and ADR.

Q9. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss. (10 marks/150 words)

Various Provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under ~~PR~~ RPA 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still prevalent because of lack of effective guidelines and well defined code to reduce ambiguities

The problem of criminalization of politics is unresolved in India because :-

- Unaware public of the consequences of such person being elected
- The lack of disclosure of criminal ~~rec~~ records in websites and newspaper (direction of SC).
- The parochial voting nature of

the people.

⇒ The caste based politics still exist in India which increase such criminal to be selected as representative.

Thus, due consideration is required by legislature, Judiciary to stop such person being selected as representative of people. People awareness needs to be created along with mandatory ~~that~~ disclosure of criminal records.

Q10. Bangladesh is critical not just for India's "Neighbourhood First" strategy, but also for the "Act East" policy. Discuss the efforts made by the two countries to develop their relationship in this setting. (10 marks/150 Words)

Bangladesh is one of the closest neighbours of India. Bangladesh and India share of a history of struggle.

Bangladesh is critical not just for
India's 'Neighbourhood first' strategy
but also Act East policy because:-

- India share a 4000 km boundary line with Bangladesh, ~~states~~
- The Northeastern region is connect to mainland ~~to~~ India through a corridor rest of it are surrounded by Bangladesh and Bhutan
- The Northeast is void of any

sea route which Bangladesh can provide.

- The insurgency take shelter in Bangladesh which can be curb with cooperation with Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh is also economically demanded depended on India. As India ~~is~~ largest provided line of credit of around 8 billion \$.

Thus, both the countries can work together to better utilized each other advantages to progress economically and increase trade relations.

Q11. Good governance needs good institutions, but it is the people manning the institution which impart it its true character. In this perspective, discuss the need for civil services reforms and challenges in implementation. (15 marks/250 words)

Good Governance needs good institutions along with good public official who impart good values to these institutions.

Civil servants are the main functionaries who act as an intermediate between institutions and people.

The need for civil services reforms to enhance the character of public institutions are :-

- Well defined code of conduct and codified ethical rules to have a well frame work culture
- The Trust deficit between people and public official needs to be reduce through making institution accessible.

- The staff and sub-ordinates needs to be trained to cater to the needs of people.
- The organisational framework should be transparent and open for public.

The challenges for implementation of the above measures are :-

- Too much transparency can affect administration which requires secret / conditional needs.
- The staff and sub-ordinates are reclanted to work upon changes.
- Ethical Rules are very ambiguous and cannot be framed in a set guidelines.
- Financial constraints also hamper

reforms requirement.

Way forward

- Well defined rules between Center and States to divide finances and function for better reforms.
- The Training should be done after every 6 months to be updated with require demands.

Thus, Institutions' character is dependent on public functionaries and will character functionaries help to achieve this.

Q12. How far do you agree that the Indian government system has a structural bias towards the executive while the role of other arms of the state is limited? Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

Indian Government is based on the principle of checks and Balances. The functions of each organ of Government legislature, executive and Judiciary is well defined.

However, due to parliamentary form of Government, there is a fusion of power where executive does the role legislation as well.

The structural Bias Towards executive can be seen in the following :-

→ President under Article 123 can promulgate ordinances, which have same power as parliament legislation

- The question Howe which is there for debate was removed during COVID-19 times which limits power of legislature.
- Executive delegation like SEBI regulation, Companies Act 2013, encroaches upon the domain of legislature.

The structural bias towards executive is there for effective function :-

- The executive delegation makes easy law formulation for particular departments for ease of administration.
- Ordinances are passed when houses are not in sessions thus, the working of parliament in sense continues.
- Arbitr Tribunals are created to reduce the pendencies of case in Judiciary.

→ The question how removal was due to extraordinary circumstances.

Way forward

Indian parliament form provide for fusion of power. However, transgression should not topple the functioning power of legislature and judiciary. As Balance of Power is basic structure of Indian Constitution

Q13. The preamble is not a mere solemn resolution; but majestic expression of philosophy, principles and purpose of the constitution. Elaborate.
(15 marks/250 words)

Preamble resemble the philosophy, principles and purpose of the constitution and is consider soul of the constitution.

The preamble helps the other organs of the Government to find meaning of the constitution if there exist a ambiguity in its interpretation

It is majestic expression can be understood through the following :-

→ Preamble states the principle of republic, sovereign nation which highlight India is sovereign country which takes decision on its own

→ The socialist states that Indian Government principle is of social welfare

- Secular Nation which represents the diverse culture of the India.
- Liberty, equality and fraternity to provide Indian with basic tenets of a democratic government.
- The principle unity and integrity talks about the right of Indian Union to work for a unity nation.

The following judgements made Preamble a enabling part of Constitution :-

- In Berubari Case, Supreme Court held that preamble is not a part of constitution.
- In LIC case, Supreme Court revert back the preamble position.
- The Kesavabharthi Case, Supreme Court held that preamble is a part of the constitution and is amendable.

Thus, preamble reflects the philosophy,
principle and purpose of Constitution and
it used by Executive, Judiciary, Legislature
to help decipher meaning and ~~end~~ end.
ambiguity of a legislation

Q14. Examine the significance of Representation of People's Act, 1951 in maintaining the sanctity of electoral politics in India. In light of recent events, evaluate the demands of Election Commission of India for reforms in RPA 1951 and Model Code of Conduct. (15 marks/250 words)

Representation of People's Act 1951 was enacted to streamlined the laws enacted in RPA Act 1950. The main provision of RPA Act 1951 are :-

- (i) Disclosure of Accounts of candidates.
- (ii) Disqualification regarding some electoral practices like
 - (a) Incitement to violence by creating disharmony among communities.
 - (b) derogatory speech regarding communities.

The demands of Election Commission of India for reforms in RPA 1951 and Model Code of Conduct are :-

Reforms in RPA 1951

✓ The election Commission is not

given power to derogate a political power who is found to be involved in corrupt practice.

- The provision of election from two constituency by single candidate create vacancy in one and requires by-elections (increases expenses).
- The rules allow promotion of religious values without hampering others, which is misused by political parties.

Model code of conduct

- These are guidelines which comes only during election phase and rest of time remains dormant.
- These are not binding as such and thus, well codified rules are required.
- Violation doesn't invite penal provision and only minimal fines is given,

which lack deterrence.

Way forward

RPA needs to be amendment to represent the present form of society. RPA 2020 amendment only had minimal change. Model code of conduct requires a codified rules for better deterrence against mischief behaviour by political parties.

Q15. The arrangements like 'Bi-laterals', 'pluri-laterals' and 'Mini-laterals' are gaining more traction over 'Multilaterals' in contemporary international relations. Give a reasoned account for such rise citing suitable examples and the challenges that come along with it. (15 marks/250 words)

Bi-laterals, pluri-laterals and Mini-laterals are agreements between countries at personal, regional level to increase trade, commerce and people ties.

The reasons for such agreements in place of multilaterals agreements are as follows :-

- Multilaterals are becoming redundant because of lack of consensus between countries
- The WTO function ~~has~~ have been reduced by not appointing the Director by USA.
- In WTO there is a conflict between developed and developing countries

regarding Amber box as well as SPS agreements

→ United Nations Security Council doesn't represents the need of the new emerging countries

→ Bi-laterals agreements allows easy conditions between countries for trade relations.

→ Pluri-laterals are generally region specific, or interest specific which works for a particular people's interest For example :- OIC, APEC.

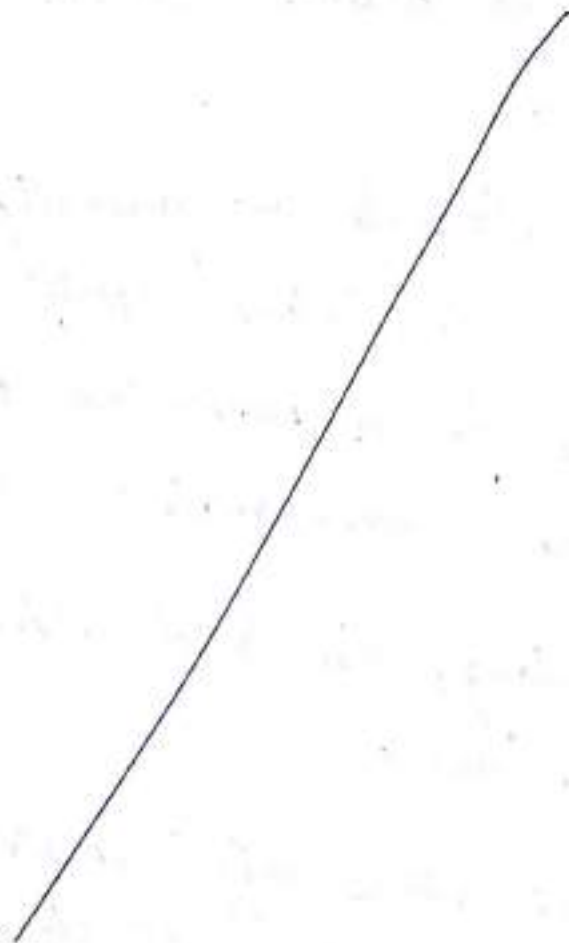
The challenges associated with this approach are :-

→ Pluri-laterals might create block of countries which will lead to conflict and unhealthy competition

→ The Multi-Nationals ^{laterals} works for

works order which is not seen in most of the pluri-lateral organization

Thus, Multi-lateral organization needs to be reformed in order to work for better world order and prosperity.



Q16. Do you agree with the assertion that the higher judiciary in India needs to be more transparent and accountable? Share your views. (15 marks/250 words)

Appointment of Judiciary is done through Article 124(2) where the provision states that Judicial Collegium would recommend judicial appointments with consultation with president.

The assertion that higher judiciary in India needs to be more transparent and accountable is because :-

- The collegium system is opaque and the way which the judiciary appoints judges is no where seen in the world.
- The transfer of judges is also done through a collegium system with president approval which create problem of ~~pro~~ interest oriented transfer

- Though Supreme Court open up it's Court for RTI application however, the Judges personnel space cannot be conquire upon.
- The CJI is called the master of Roster, the allocation of cases is on the discretion of CJI.

The collegium System benefits :-

- It helps to maintain a Independent Judiciary without any interference from executive.
- The Judiciary knows where the transfer of Judges is required so, it seen reasonable.
- RTI should not include or demand privacy of Judges to be public as Judges are also entitled to Article 21.

Way forward

However, a selection committee where Judges, Prime Minister and Opposite leader exist would provide a more fair appointment of judges.

Thus, collegium system should be changed but it should not become the domain of executive to appoint judges as it would create pre-judicial appointment

Q17. India and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenants on which the two political systems are based. (15 marks/250 words)

India follows a parliamentary form of Government whereas USA follows a presidential form of Government.

The basic tenants of India and USA system of Government are as follows:-

[India]

(i) Executive

(a) These are elected by people after a fixed interval.

(b) They bring in bills for the well functioning of democracy

(ii) Legislature

(a) They are also elected by people. Their main function is debate and discussion along with introduction of bills.

(iii) Judiciary

There Their main function is to interpret the constitution.

There is fusion of power between the executive and legislature and there exist a system of checks and balances

USA

(i) Executive

(a) President is electd through reeferendum

(b) The executive council is appointed by president

(ii) Legislature

(a) Their main function is to legislate on the various subjects

(iii) Judiciary

(a) There is a Supreme Court for federal laws and State Court for state laws.

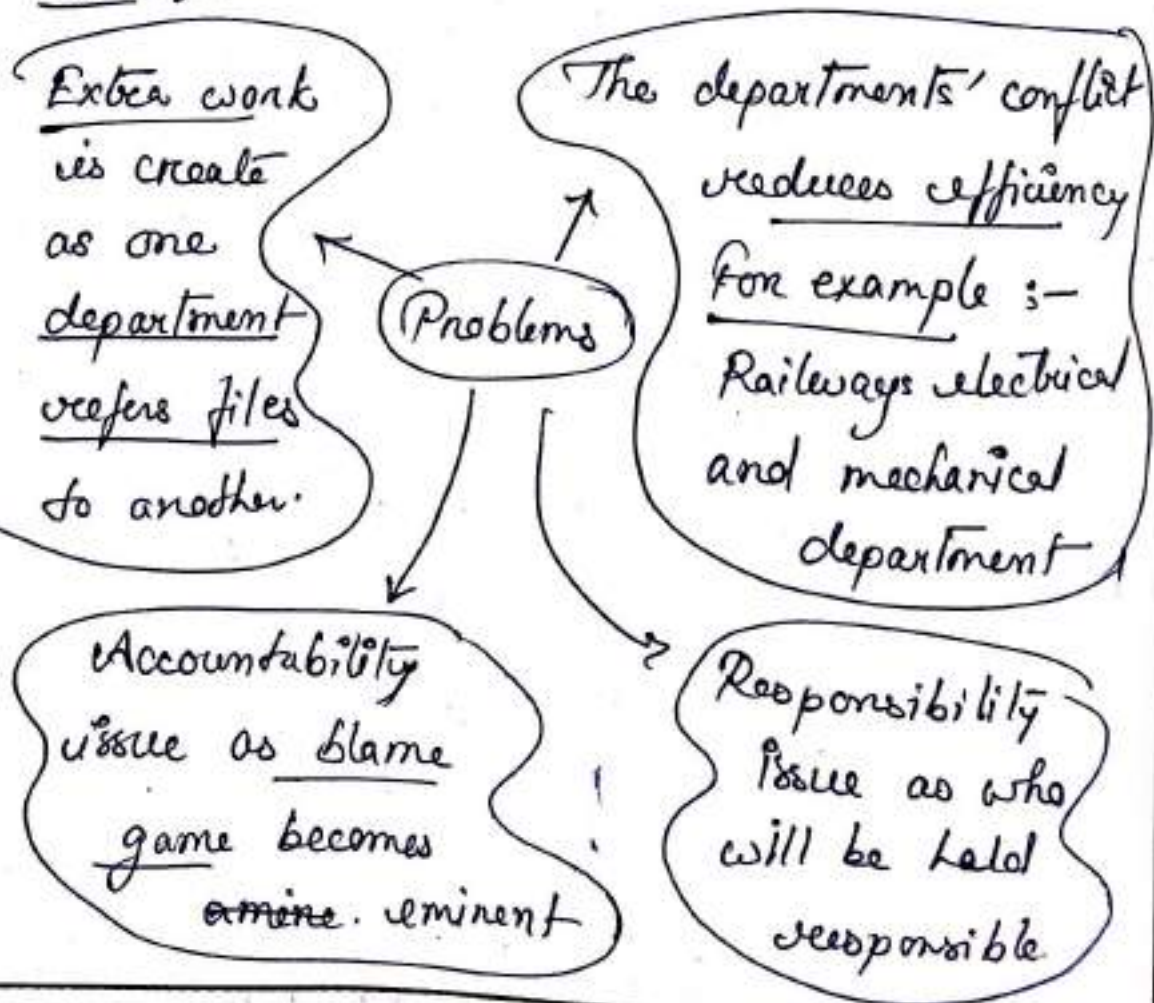
There is strict separation of power between the organs of the Governments

Thus, India envisaged for a responsible government whereas USA envisaged for a stable government. Both have merits and demerits.

Q18. It is argued that having a large number of ministries good impedes governance. But it can also be argued that it brings in efficiency by decentralising decisions and accountability? What do you think? Share your views and arguments. (15 marks/250 words)

Large Number of Ministries impedes good governance because it creates a large of departments where files are not more and thus, public deliver suffers.

The problem of large number of ministries are :-



However, it can also bring efficiency and increase accountability because :-

- Separation of power to create more specialized department and reduce time to implement project.
- Accountability increases as the specialized branch will be responsible for one part of a project.
- Decentralisation helps to bring in new innovation in the works.

However, the following steps are required to bring efficiency

- (i) The specialized departments/ministers should have a dedicated officer who would act as a information exchanger between department department.
- (ii) The competition between department

should be ~~for~~ healthy without creating any trouble of delay.

Thus, decentralised departments increase efficiency however, a centralized authority to handle any dispute is needed as competition and conflict between department is natural. ~~is~~

Q19. The position of legislative councils in state legislatures is much weaker than the Rajya Sabha in Parliament Analyse. (15 marks/250 words)

Legislative Council are formed after State Government make a request to parliament for its formation. Whereas, Rajya Sabha is a permanent body where the reflection of federal structure is seen.

The position of legislative Council in state legislatures are:-

- State legislative Council existence is ~~demanded~~ dependent on state Assembly
- They cannot stop a legislation if state Assembly introduce it for the second time.
- If state legislative Council bill is rejected by state Assembly it is.

becomes dead.

↳ It cannot stop money bills beyond the 14th day.

The position of Rajya Sabha in Parliament are :-

↳ Article 312 allows for creation of All India Services which is special power of Rajya Sabha.

↳ The House is immune to dissolution. Hence when National emergency is passed (Article 352), it remain active provided Rajya Sabha passed it (Lok Sabha dissolve condition).

↳ Ordinary law needs separate agreement from both house.

↳ Constitutional bills needs agreement from both houses separately.

Thus, Legislative Council's position is

much weaker compared to Rajya Sabha
which acts as a barrier to stop hasty
legislation from parliament.

Q20. The Union list prevails the other lists in terms of distribution of legislative powers in the Indian Constitution. Discuss. (15 marks/250 words)

The 7th schedule of the constitution demarcates the subjects into three list Union, State and Concurrent list.

The union list contains more items compared to state and Concurrent list. The subjects which are included are important to maintain uniformity in the country.

[The distribution of legislative powers of Union, State and Concurrent list are:-

[State]

- The items contains are essential for the functioning of state machinery
- Law, order and agriculture falls under such list.
- The state can make laws in the state list with its own discretion

Union list

- The list contains items like national security, finances, international agreements etc
- The Union can make laws if state lampu trade under Article 301-307
- Main important items falls in the union list

Concurrent list

- The list contains items where both state and union can make laws.
- The laws made by state if from inconsistent with Union the union law will prevail over state laws.
- If Concurrent item is amended by Union then the item have precedence over state power.

Thus, Union have more power regarding list items as well as in relation to Concurrent list. Parliament also has residual power under Article 258