



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.	
1	10		Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: • 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		
4	10		
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11	15		
12	15		
13	15		
14	15		
15	15		
16	15		
17	15		
18	15		
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

QUESTIONS

- Q1. Do you see pressure groups as a genuine mechanism for ensuring broader and more participative democracy? Critically comment. (10 marks/150 words)
- 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)
- Q3. Examine the challenges of fiscal federalism in India. (10 marks/150 words)
- Q4. What are the challenges and issues regarding the functioning of NGOs in India? Analyse. (10 marks/150 words)
- Q5. How can e-governance initiatives help in increasing farmers' income? Illustrate. (10 marks/150 words)
- Q6. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (10 marks/150 words)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)

J, L, K, F
UKI.

MSM

MT.

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)

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)

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

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)

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

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

GS - II Test 12

Q. 1 Ans.

Pressure group is a group of people or an organisation formed having similar interest. Though directly they are not a part of govt. but indirectly they influence policies of govt. to protect their interest.

for eg. ASSOCHOM, FICCI,
KMSS - Krishak Mukti Sangram
Samithi, AASU etc.

Pressure groups as mechanism of ensuring broader and participative democracy —

- They generate awareness among ignorant and unaware masses.
eg. RTI was passed act was passed after an activist movement.

U.P.S.C.

इस भाग में कुछ
न लिखें
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in this part)

Thus it brings efficiency, transparency and accountability of govt.

for eg. due to pressure from leban saab sabhas of Haryana and Punjab, the central had to repeal the farm bill.

Similarly in Assam, the pressure groups KMSS & AASU influence various policy decisions of the govt.

eg. Preservation and promotion of language, culture etc.

Pressure groups limits majoritarianism of govt.
limits autocracy of govt.
helps to preserve democracy and its principles.
eg. liberty.

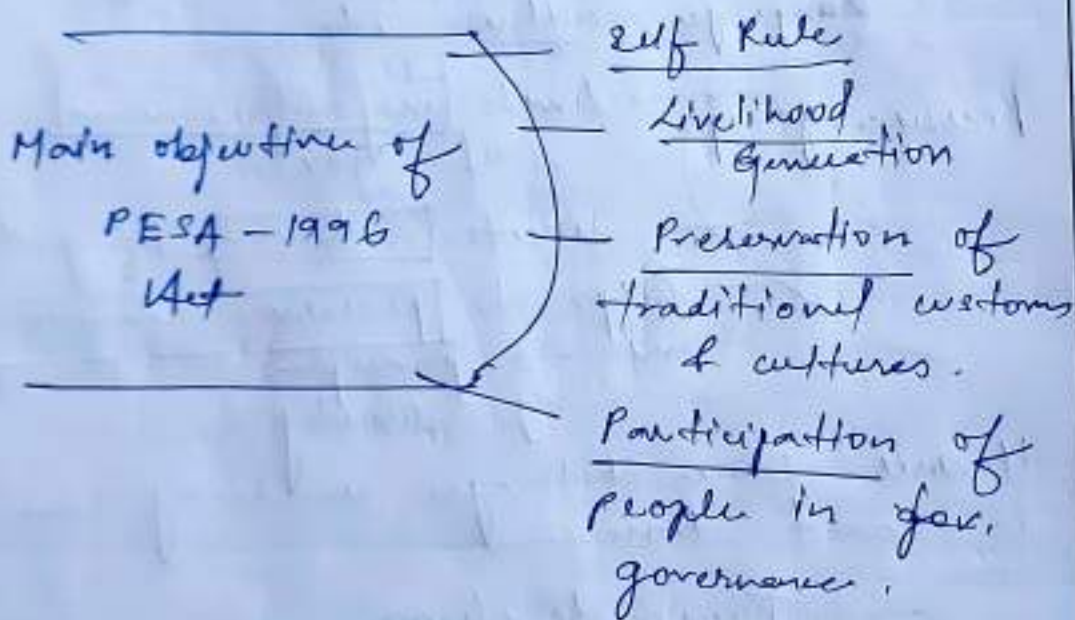
However some challenges are being seen in recent times —

Foreign donations
challenges — Influence of various other international power and pressure groups.
Threat to unity, integrity and security of country.

Pressure group is an important component of democracy, hence its sanctity should be maintained.

Q.2 Ans:

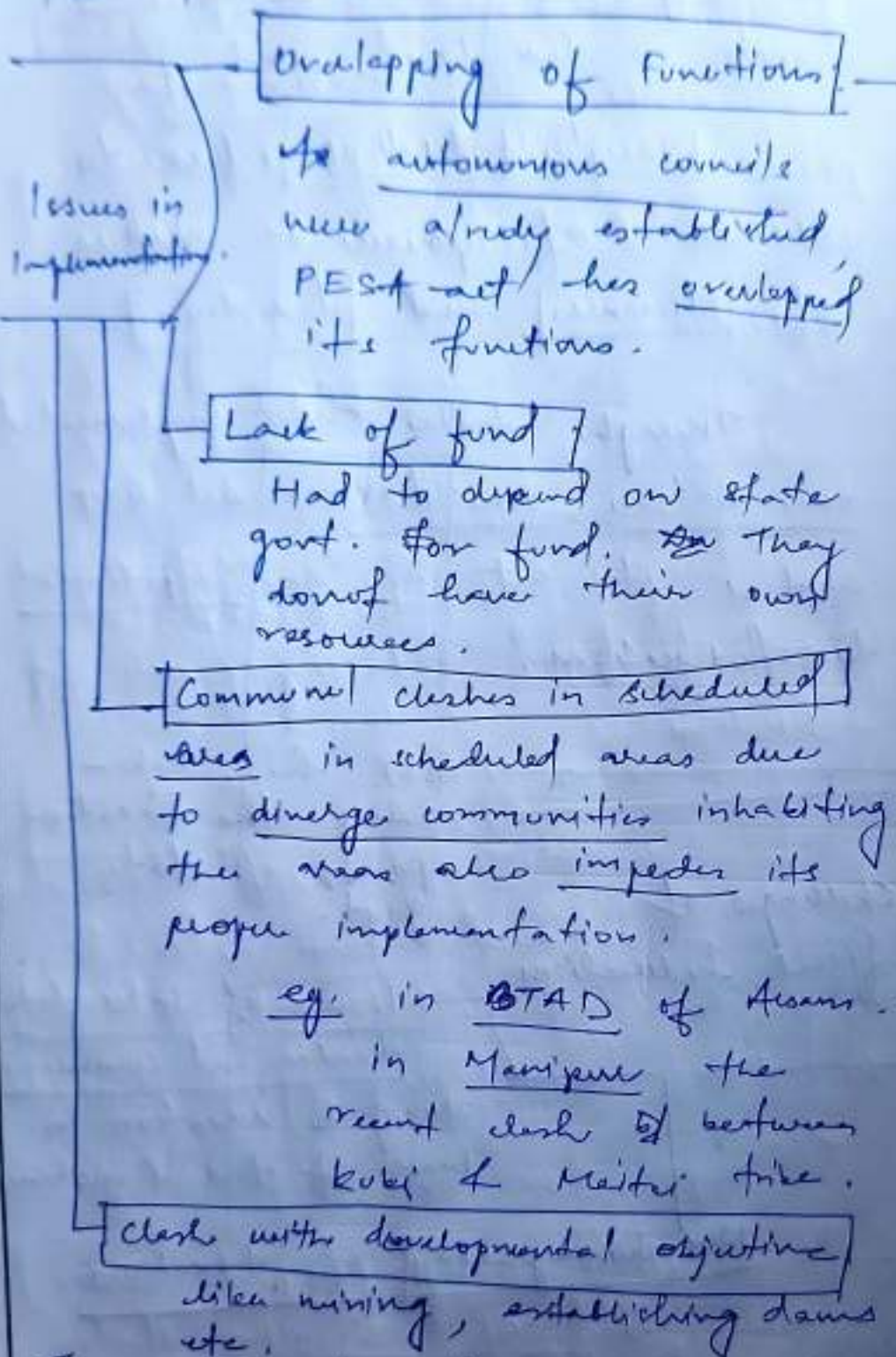
The PESA (Panchayat extensions to the Scheduled areas), 1996 was passed to establish 'Swaraj' or self-rule or to decentralise governance. The scheduled areas are spatially protected areas to preserve and promote the scheduled tribes with some autonomous power allotted to them.



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Question No.

However some some issues have
surfaced in the implementation of
the act like —



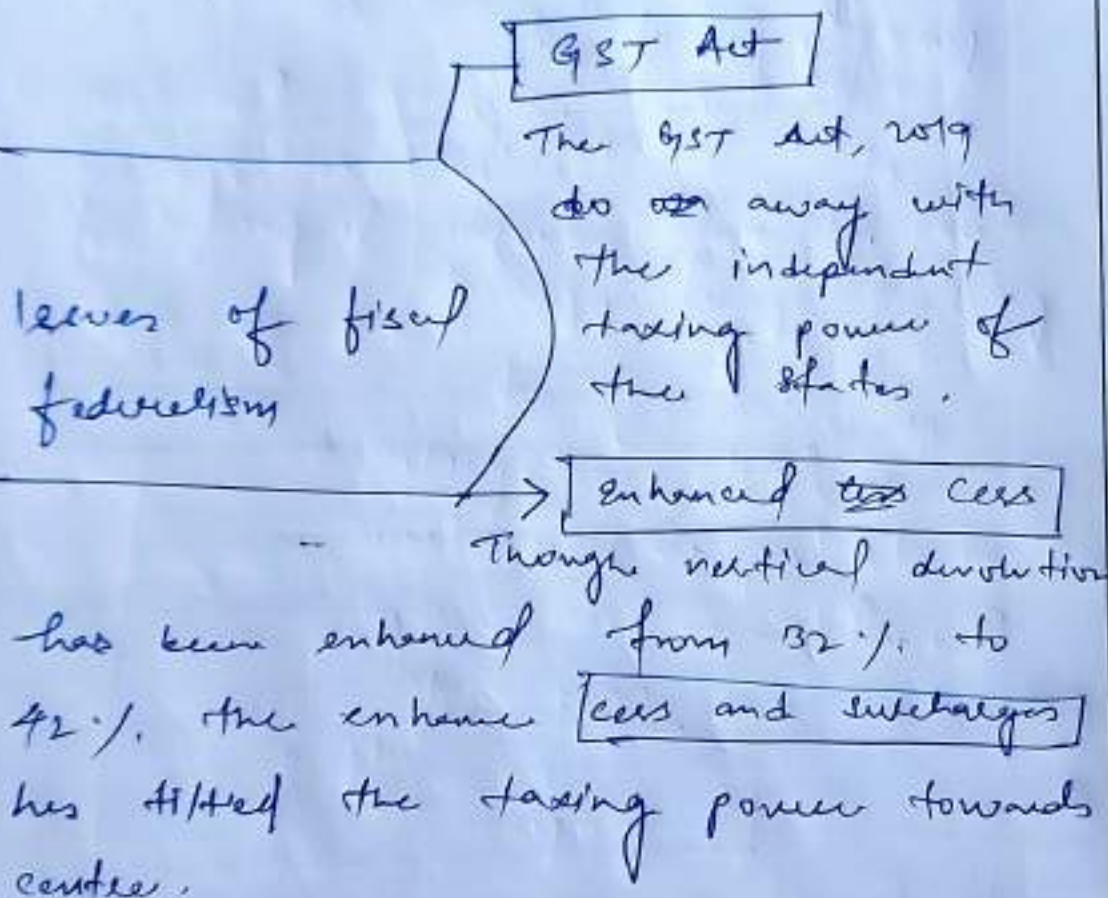
To achieve the dreams of Swaraj of
Gandhi, PESA needs to be implemented but
removing its impediments.

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Q.3 Ans:

Fiscal federalism refers to division of power with finances between federal, state and local govt.

with centralisation of power in political sphere, issues of fiscal federalism are also observed —



→ **Issues of centrally sponsored schemes**
There are 131 cess where states required to share a part of the cost.

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UPSC Sample
Question No. 1

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Suspension of MPLAD

and diverting its fund to CFI (consolidated fund of India) has ~~lead~~ led to centralisation of country's financial resources.

Issue of differential interest

States are forced to pay 10% differential interest as against 7% by union borrowed from market.

Limit on State Borrowing

from market which limits their financial autonomy.

Nationalisation of various important

resources like coal, minerals, oil etc limits the taxing power of the state govt.

Instead of forcing one size fits all approach periodic review through inter-state council to counter the issues and challenges will minimise the mistrust regarding fiscal federalism.

U.P.S.C.

Q. 4 Ans:

NGO or Non-govt. organisations are organisations that are formed independent from govt.

Off-lately some challenges and issues are being seen regarding its functions in India—

Issues and challenges in functioning of NGO.

Foreign funding:
As foreign groups with their vested interest tries to influence domestic politics through foreign funding.

for eg. There is allegation that the civil nuclear protest in India has been funded by china.

Complex legal compliances.

Complex laws and processes of India also hampers their functioning.

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

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vested elements like fundamentalist, communalist etc. works on the pretext of being an NGO hampering the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country.

International lobby's like commercial lobby's etc. also tries to influence domestic policies on the pretext of NGO.

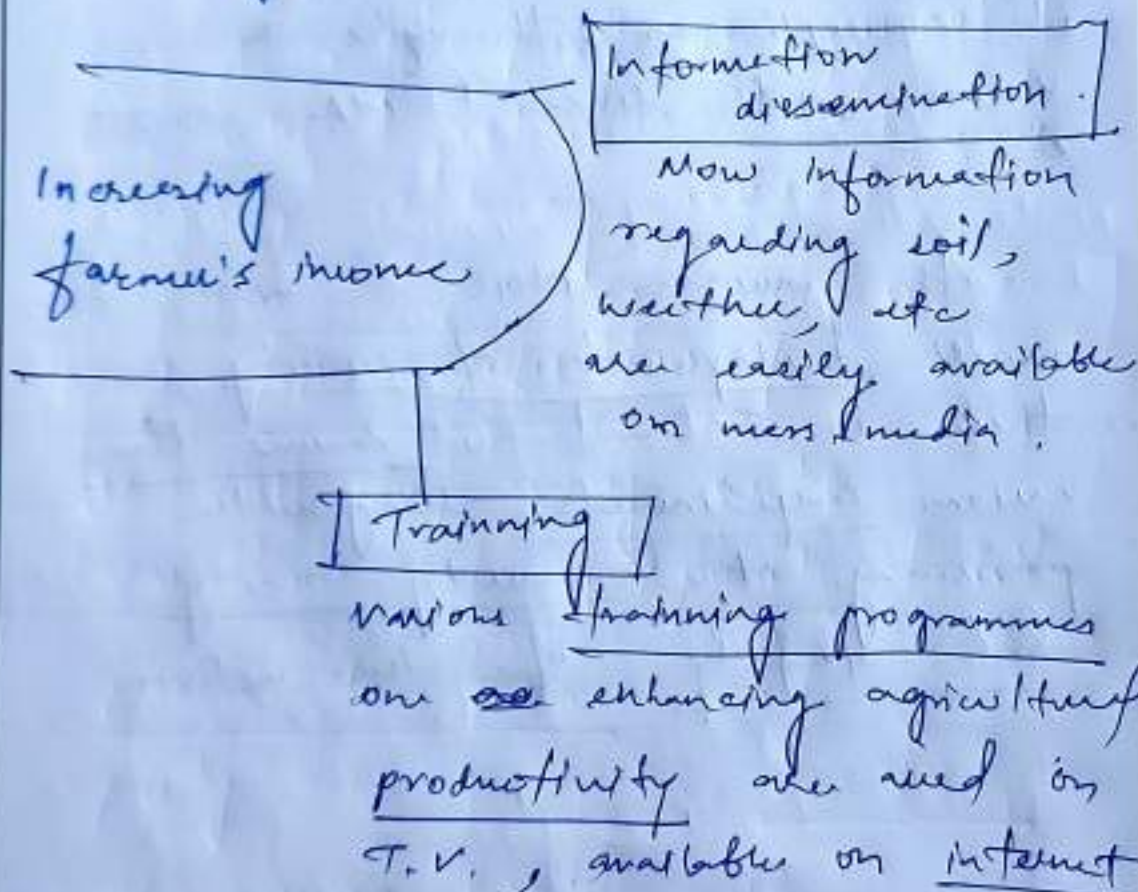
Thus, govt. has also enhanced its compliances through various acts like FEMA - 2005 etc.

As genuine NGOs work for overall development of society, there is a need to remove the various impediments along with preserving the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the nation.

5 Ans:

e-governance is electronic gov.
which means delivering various
products and policies of the
govt. to public through
electronic media.

e-gov. initiative has the
potential to achieve the aim of
doubling farmer's income by Govt.



[DBT scheme] - The direct benefit transfer of various [subsidies] as well as of other schemes like [PMKSY] help farmers ^{further} to invest in agriculture.

It do away with middle man and corruption.

[PMFBY] ~~the~~

Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana can be bought online.

[Supply chain link]

Information regarding MSP and supply markets are available online.

[e-NAM] - electronic ~~not~~ National Agriculture market connects the link between buyers and sellers.

Thus, if implemented in true spirit, e-gov. has the potential to increase farmer's income immensely.

(6) Ans:

Parliamentary privilege refers to the privileges enjoyed by members of legislature or the parliament. members of the parliament.

Currently the privileges are based on the decision taken by the Lok - Sabha speaker or the Rajya - Sabha chairman.

As the privileges has not been codified yet, uncertainty and ambiguity is being observed —

[Need for codification]

— It will do away with variation of judgments from person to person and party to party as ideology of various parties varies.

U.P.S.C.

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- It will reduce conflict among political parties.
- It will increase the discipline and increase healthy competition among various political opponents.
- It will enhance the efficiency of political and parliamentary democracy ~~by~~ by enhancing accountability and transparency.

127 rule lapsed in 15th Lok Sabha (UPA-II) due to various adjournments and unproductive sessions.

~~Codify~~ Codification of parliamentary privileges will do away with unproductive debate and discussions and save valuable time of parliament.

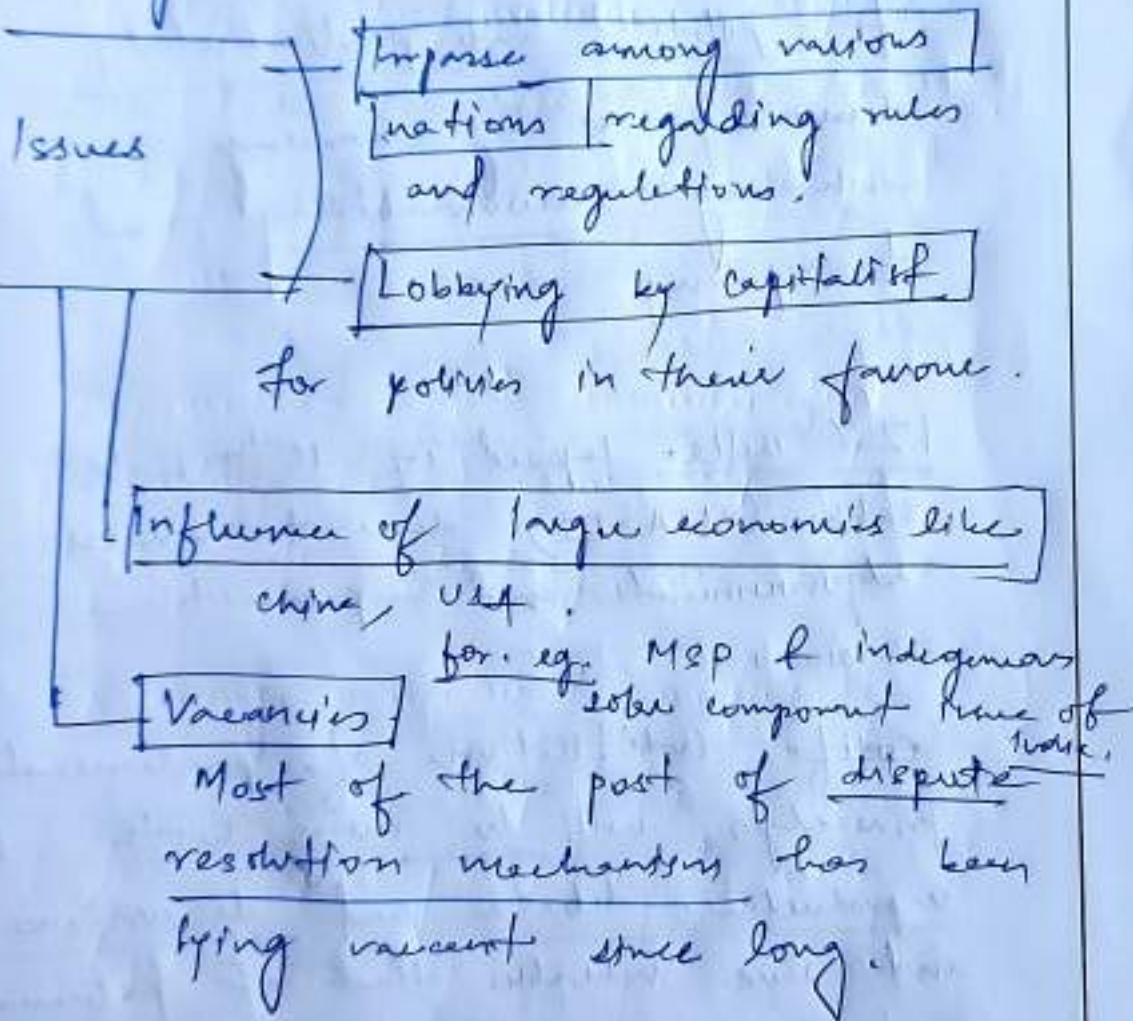
It will also enhance transparency, efficiency and accountability of parliament.

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7 Ans:

World Trade Organisation (WTO)
is global body which aims to
facilitate and streamline global
trade between various nations.

Offlate various issues are
being arisen in WTO —



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UPSC 2020
Question No.

इस भाग में बहुत
सिलेबस
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Reforms

Reform must be undertaken to address other vulnerabilities in the present global trading system —

— Robust system of dispute resolution without any favour and favoritism.

— Annualised meet and conferences.

— ~~Fast~~ Periodic review of various grievances.

— Equal voting power to all nations in line with UNGA.

Thus, to reduce vulnerabilities like 1998, 2008 etc. global financial crisis, reforms needs to be undertaken at WTO.

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इस भाग में कृपया
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Edm:

Currently around 4.52 crore cases are piling in Indian judiciary. The pupil to judicial position is very low in India which is 19.6/million compared to USA (107/p million) and Canada — 75/million. Despite this there are around 5400 vacancies lying vacant in Indian judicial system.

Information and communication technology (ICT) can help to tackle these challenges —

Reducing procedural complexity:

ICT can help to reduce the complexity associated with legal processes.

Information dissemination —

ICT helps in information

U.P.S.C.

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उत्तराखण्ड
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प्रश्न संख्या
Question No.

dissemination which in turn
will reduce filing of various
false and dubious cases.

Mutual settlements :
with reality available and fast
dissemination of information people
will opt for mutual settlements.

It will fast-track the decision
making process.

with ICT there will be
transparency, accountability in
dispute resolution mechanisms.

This will enhance public trust
upon systems which in turn
will enhance democratic
efficiency.

U.P.S.C.

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9 Ans:

The RPA-1951 (Representation of the People Act 1951) deals with various issues regarding elections.

It also provides with provisions for the disqualification of its legislators. Despite provisions of disqualification, the issue of criminalisation of politics is still persisting. In 16th Lok-sabha 34% of the legislators had criminal cases against them which increases to 42% in 17th Lok-sabha.

The reasons for the same are—

Criminalisation
of Politics.

Lack of state funding of elections provides the scope for political parties to get dependent on individuals funding despite their criminal records.

U.P.S.C.

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छोटी से कुछ
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→ Lack of provision in RPA act
banning politicians with criminal
cases from contesting elections.

Way Forward:

There should be fast-track
court for politicians for speedy
resolution of cases against
them.

Clear provision should be
inserted in RPA act banning /
disqualifying politicians with
criminal records.

There should be inter-party
democracy and political parties
themselves should not give tickets
to candidates with criminal history.

Law breakers should not be lawmakers.

Temples of democracy can be
established only with true
and honest zeal of everyone.

U.P.S.C.

10. Ans.

India shares the largest international
boundary with Bangladesh.
Bangladesh is important to
India not just as Neighbourhood
first strategy but also for
Act east policy.

Hence various efforts are
being taken by the govt. of
both the nation to develop their
relationship —

- E — Agartala Akhaura Rail Link.
 - F — Integrated Check + Post.
 - F — Border Haats.
 - O — Guwahati - Dhaka direct
 - R — Bus.
 - T — Joint development of Power
 - S — Infrastructure.
- Exchange of embassies
to resolve border dispute.
- Various & water sharing
agreements.

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UPSC
Question No.इस पत्र में कुछ
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Besides this there is co-operation in cultural exchange, joint training & development, providing soft line of credit, trade and investment etc.

Bangladesh being located on the Bay of Bengal of Indian ocean is crucial for establishing connections with South-East Asia through Indian ocean.

Bangladesh is strategically important to counter China's string of pearl policy and increased influence of China on India's neighbours.

Thus, Bangladesh is a strategically important neighbour to India.

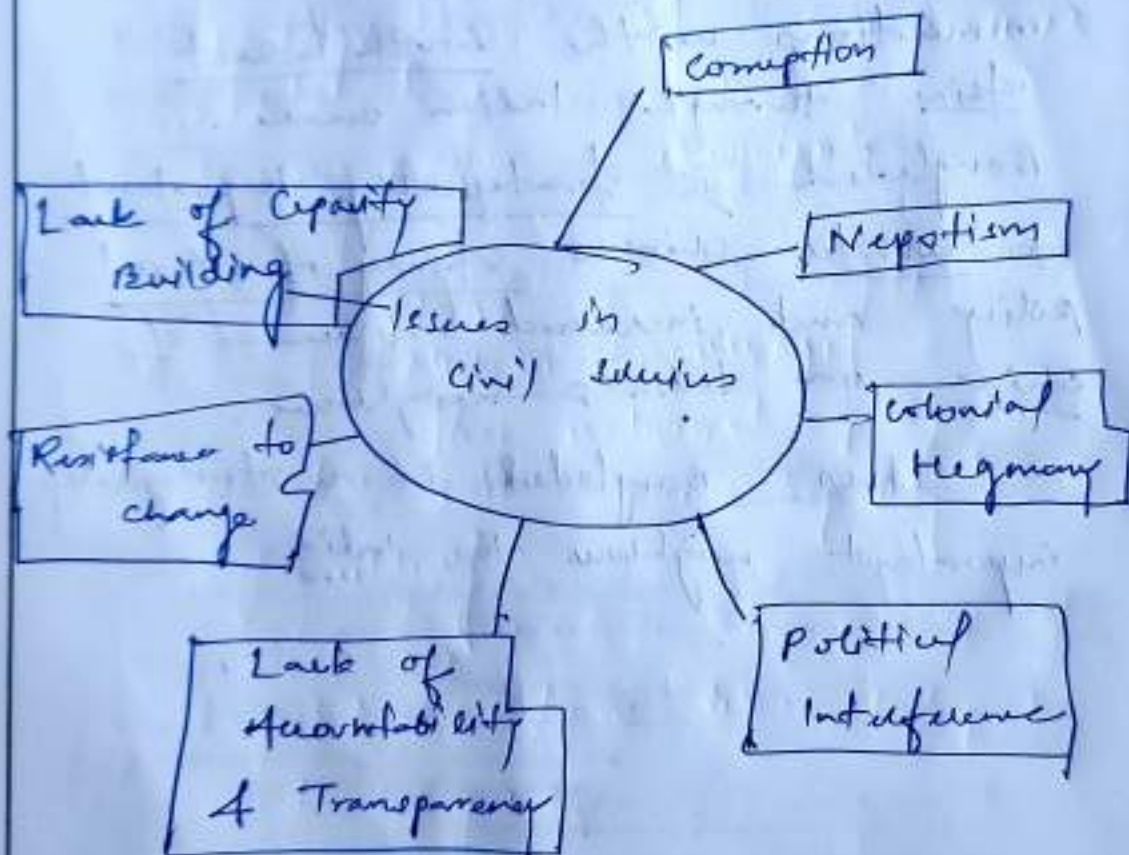
U.P.S.C.

UPSC 1998
(Question No.)

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11. Ans: Civil service is called the steel frame of India's administration. It was based on other frame that British had ruled 200 years in India.

However there are various issues which needs to be addressed to meet the emerging needs of the society.



U.P.S.C.

इस भाग में मुख्य
प्रश्नों
के उत्तर देने के लिए
प्रश्न (अंक)

प्रश्न संख्या
Question No.

Need for civil service reforms :

→ elimination of corruption will regain rebuild public trust upon other systems.

→ Capacity building will enhance efficiency and responding to emerging needs of society.

→ e-gov will bring transparency to and accountability.

Challenges in Implementation.

→ Resistance of civil servants themselves to change.

→ Colonial hangover of being it the elitist service of the country and its associated expectations.

→ Corruption to fulfill their personal vested needs.

→ Political interference to favor a group of people or a class of people etc.

U.P.S.C.

Thus periodic reforms are required to cope with the changing needs of the society.

Avoiding drastic changes at a time to curb resistance, positive changes step by step may be introduced in civil service.



1907
eg. Mission Karmayogi
the national programme for civil services capacity building.

- Legislative Reforms like Lokpal and Lokayukta.
- Institutional Reforms like strengthening state and central Vigilance Commission, Anti-corruption Bureau etc.

U.P.S.C.

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12. Ans:

Legislature, executive and judiciary are the three organs of the govt. To limit autocracy and authoritarianism form of govt the theory of separation of power between these three organ of govt. is put into practice.

However, it is alleged that the power is being tilted more towards executive than legislature and judiciary.

Dual Membership

executives are a part of both legislature and executive.

More powerful executive

Limited power to put private member bill

As ^{almost} all the bills gets introduced from executives.

Anti-Defections law

In fear of issuing whips from political parties, law makers often remains silent.

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More
powerful
executive

executives can decide
and recommend ~~on~~
sessions of parliament.

executives have a say
in appointment
and transfer of
higher judiciary.

~~Limited role of judiciary and legislature
in comparison to executive~~

Limited role of Legislature :-

→ The executives can decide on
starting and proroguing parliamentary
sessions.

→ Bills are initiated and introduced
by executives.

Private member bills easily gets
defeated.

15 Ans:

A preamble is an introductory statement document statement in a document that tells its philosophy and objective.

The preamble of India declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic.

[Sovereign] : means that India is independent and is not under any authority. It has its own decision making power and cannot be influenced by any outsider.

[Socialist] : It declares India to be a welfare state which works to remove inequality and establish a free and just society.

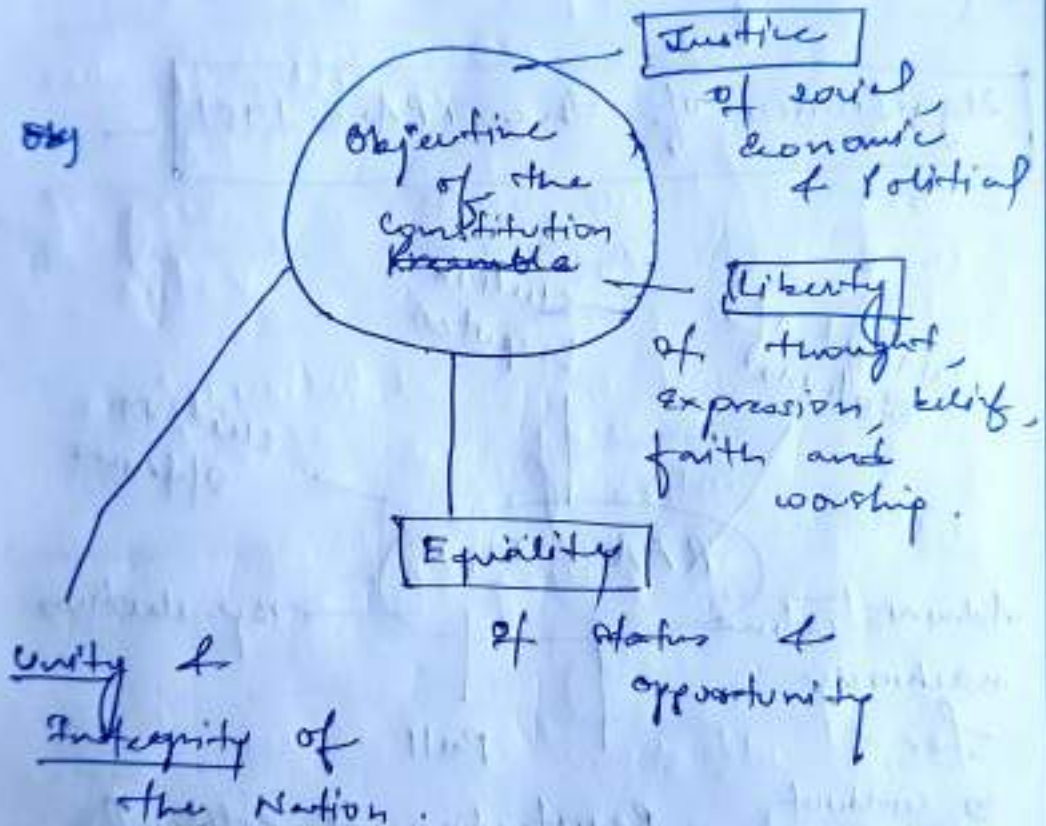
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[Secular]

Indian state cannot adopt any particular religion and citizens are free to follow any religion they ~~believe~~ believe.

[Democratic Republic] :-

The head of the state is democratically elected by its people.



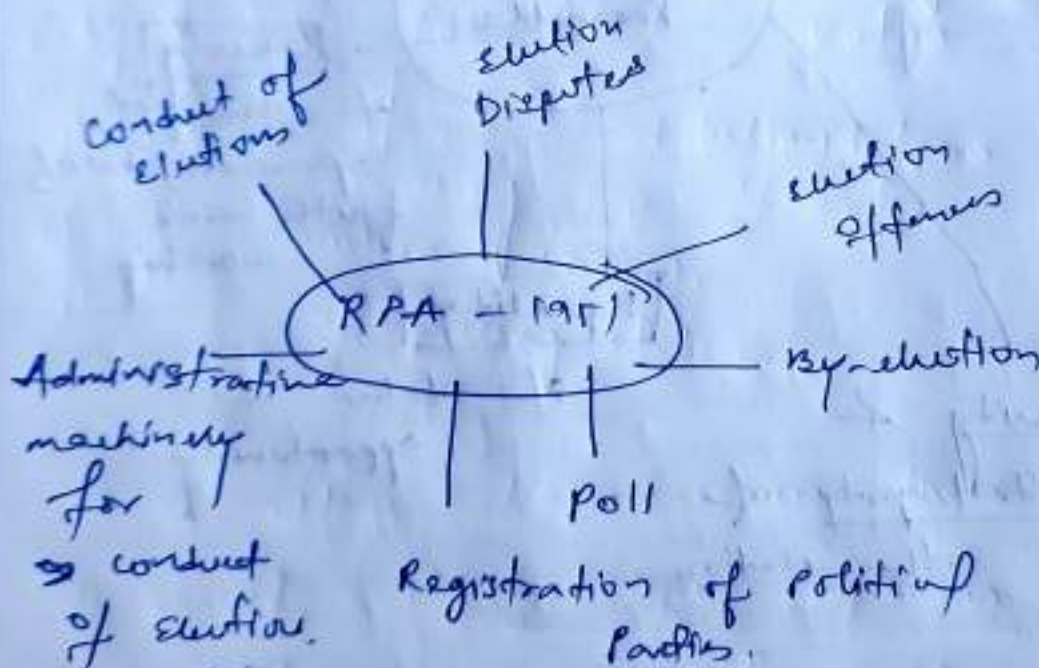
The preamble also declares the source of authority is the people of the country which means it establishes a democratic country.

U.P.S.C.

14 Ans:

The RPA (Representation of People's Act) - 1951 deals with all the electoral processes to be conducted in the country. For eg. The power of election commission in dealing with qualification, disqualification of the members of the House etc.

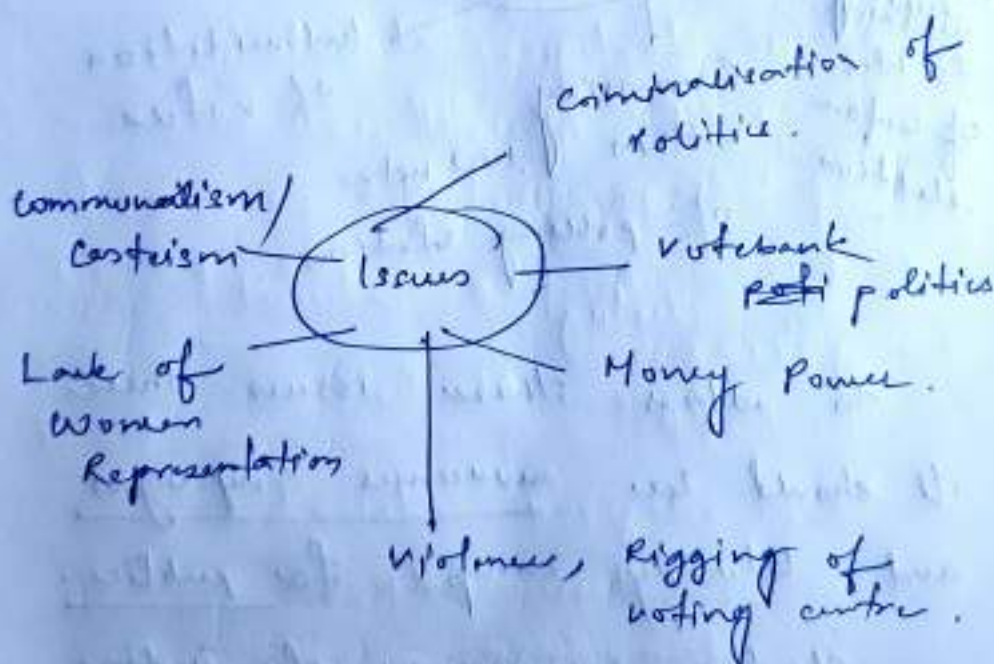
Significance of the RPA - 1951



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The RPA provides for conduct of election for within the Houses of Parliament, state legislatures, qualification / disqualification of for membership of the Houses, the corrupt practices and other offences in connection with election and the decision of doubts and disputes arising in connection with such elections.

However issues are being arisen in maintaining the stability of electoral politics



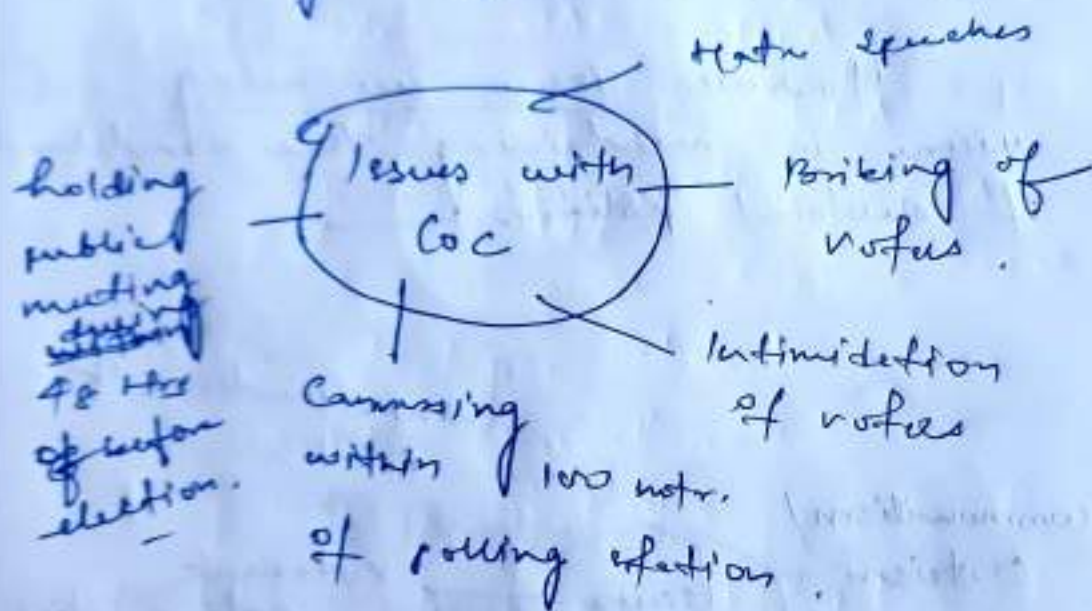
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उपनाम
(Question No.)

Henceforth demands of reforms
has been arising

Model code of conduct is the
set of guidelines to be followed
by candidates and political parties
during elections mainly with
speeches, election manifestoes,
processions etc.



To address these issues there
should be awareness campaigns
and literacy camps for public.
election commission of India

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प्रश्न संख्या

(Question No.)

should ~~vigilantly~~
should clearly set out guidelines
to ~~vigilantly~~ control hate
speeches and other electoral
offences.

15 Ques:

In contemporary international relations, the arrangements like bi-lateral, plurilateral and multilateral are gaining more traction to maintain their own strategic national interest.

Interest of Trade and Commerce:

eg. India - China
India - UAE - CEPA.
India - Japan - CEPA.
India - Afghanistan - PTA

For strategic interest

India - Mauritius
India - Sri Lanka.

For ideological interest

China - North Korea.

For religious interest

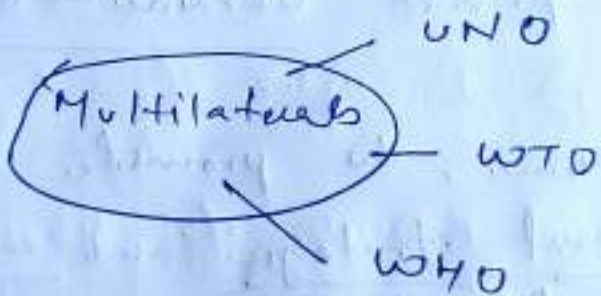
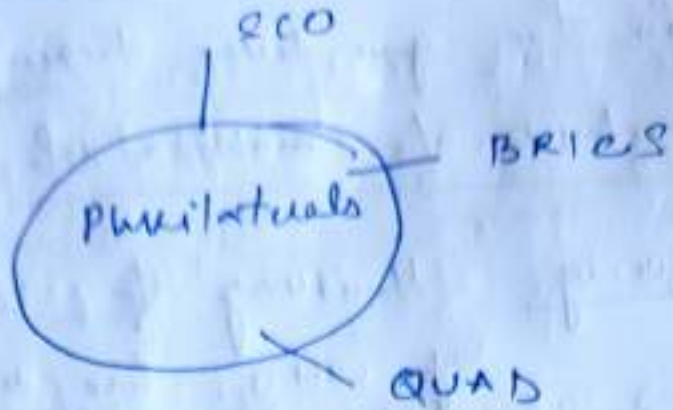
Pakistan - UAE
Iran - Syria.

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उप सवाल
(Question No.)

P10



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Reason for gains decreasing
importance of multilateral organisations

for eg. Handling of Covid-19
by WHO. has diminish
its credibility.

eg. Lack of any real power with
organisations by UNO to
enforce its laws rather than
discussion and deliberations.

eg. Inability of UNO to
prevent Ukraine - Russian war.

Hence, to promote their own
national, strategic and commercial
interest, bilateral, multilateral relations
are gaining traction over
multilateral ~~organization~~ relations.

16 Ans:

~~There~~ Around 9.52 crore cases are pending in Indian judicial system, with around 5400 judicial positions lying vacant.

~~There is~~ Justice delayed is justice denied. To bring back the public faith upon the system, periodic reforms are required to cope with the requirements of the time.

Needs of transparency and accountability in Indian judiciary :-

- to bring back the public trust.
- to provide justice to people.
- for efficient functioning of democratic principles.
- to diminish the long pendency of cases.
- to fill up judicial vacancies.

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Ans.

India and USA are the two
large democracies of the world.

Similarities of the two political systems

↳ Supremacy of the Constitution

↳ Federal politics

↳ Individual Independence

↳ Separation of Power

↳ Rule of Law

↳ Principles of Secularism

↳ Principles of Liberty and
equality

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UPSC 1998
Question No. 1

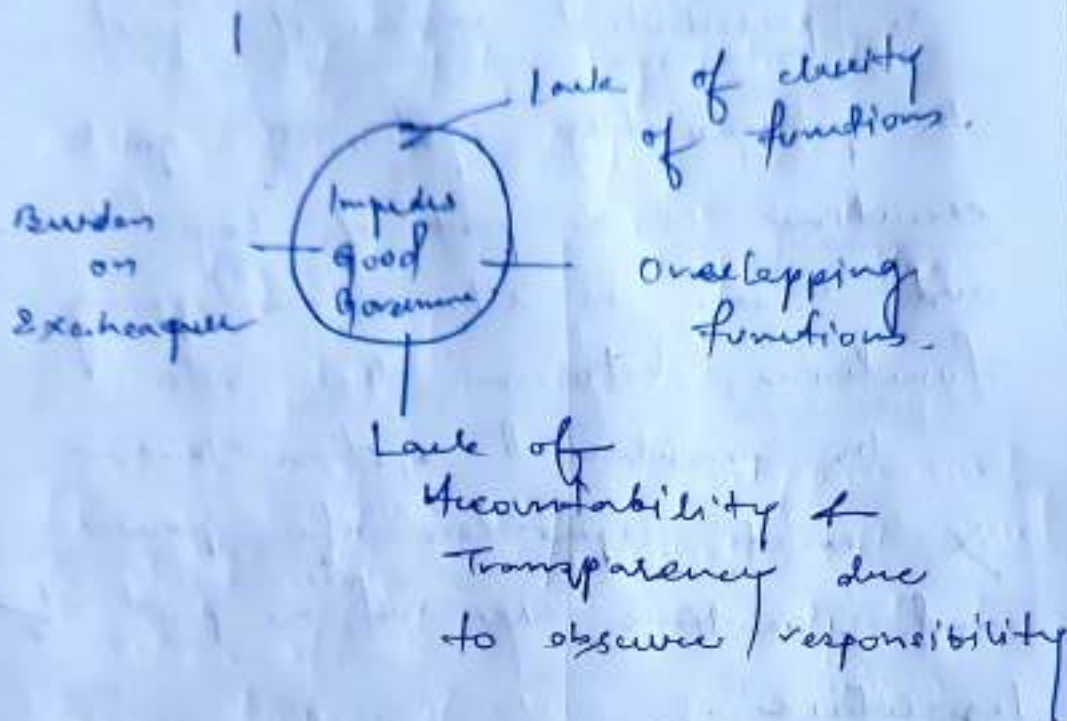
Indian
India follows a parliamentary
system of govt. and USA follows
a presidential system of govt.

In parliamentary system of govt.
executive is a part of legislature
and there is some overlapping
functions between the both.

In presidential system there
is strict separation of power
and executives are not a part of
legislature.

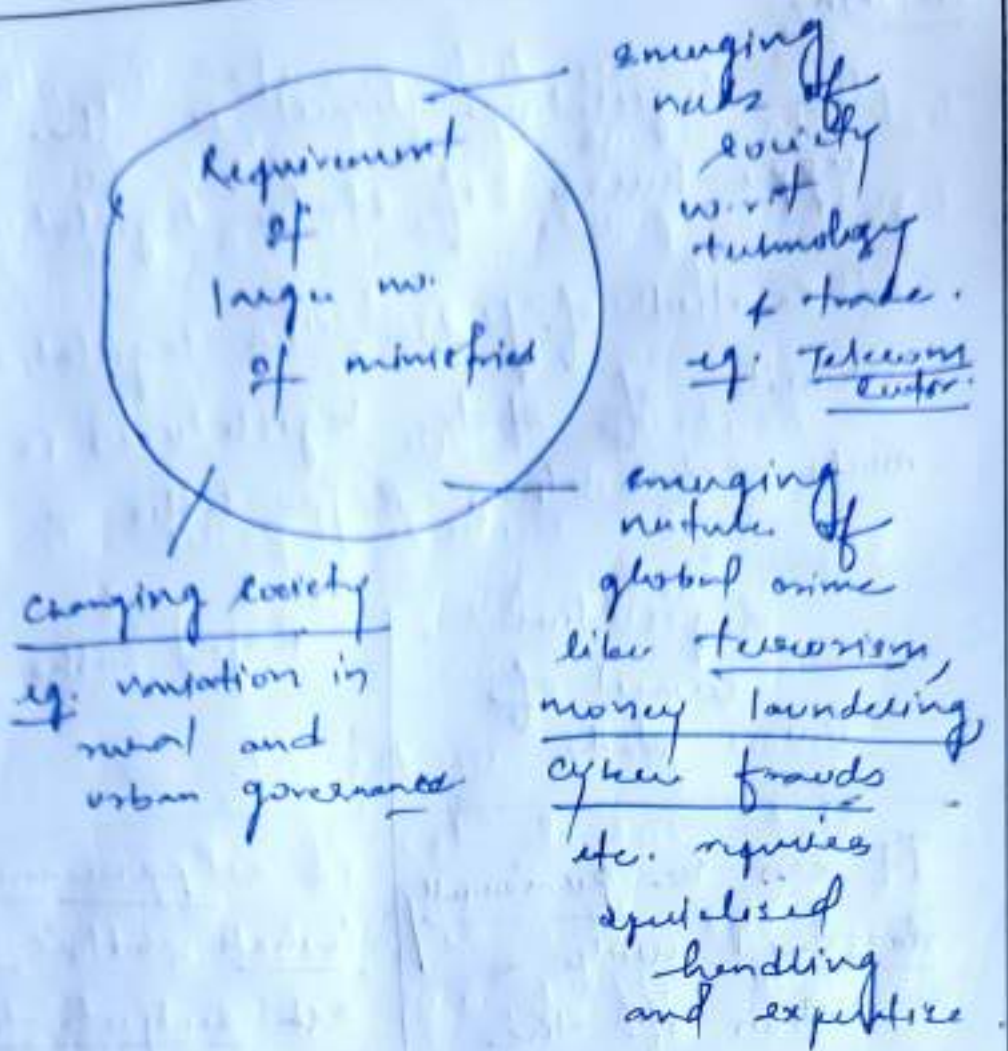
12 Ans:

It is argued that a
large no. of ministries impedes
good governance due to —



It is also argued that
it brings in efficiency by
decentralising decisions and
accountability —

Requirements



Thus, to meet the changing ~~new~~ needs of the society as well as to cope with functional specialisations no. of ministries need to be expanded. However, it also to be taken care that the ministries should not remain idle due to lack of clarity of functions and become a burden on ~~publ~~ public exchequer.

19 Ans:

The Legislative Council is the upper-house of state legislature.

In context of India, the legislative councils of state legislatures is much weaker than Rajya Sabha —

Legislative
Council of
State

Rajya Sabha

It can be permanently dissolved with a resolution of the lower house of the state legislature

It is a permanent house and it is not subject to dissolution.

It has no veto power

It has special power with regard to All India services under article 312.

If Lok Sabha wants to legislate on state subject under article 249

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

Legislative
Counsil has
no such
power

Rajya Sabha has
to pass a resolution
to that effect.

No such
power is
removed
of
Governor.

Removal of Vice-
president can be
initiated only in
Rajya Sabha.

Thus, from the above facts
we can conclude that the
powers of legislative council of
state is limited in comparison
to that of Rajya Sabha.

20 Ans:

The union list prevails the other list in terms of distribution of legislative powers in Indian constitution, in the following context:—

Residual Power:

The residual power lies with the central govt.

Union govt. can legislate on state subjects too if Rajya Sabha takes a resolution to that effect.

Governor can reserve any legislation of the state to take the concurrence of the president.

During emergency, the central govt. can take upon the legislative power of the state into union legislature.

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During President's rule also the role of state legislature is limited.

To maintain foreign relations, security, unity and integrity of the nation the power is tilted towards union legislature than the state legislature.

Thus, we can say the union list prevails over other lists in terms of distribution of legislative powers in the Indian constitution.