

DETAIL FEEDBACK

ALL THE BEST

Q1. Discuss the key factors contributing to the low fiscal capacity of local self-governments in India. Also, highlight some innovative financing mechanisms that augment the fiscal resources of local bodies in India.
प्रश्न 1. भारत में स्थानीय स्वशासन संस्थाओं की निम्न राजकोषीय क्षमता के प्रमुख कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, स्थानीय निकायों के वित्तीय संसाधनों को बढ़ाने वाले कुछ नवाचारी वित्तीय तंत्रों को उजागर कीजिए।
(Answer in 150 words)

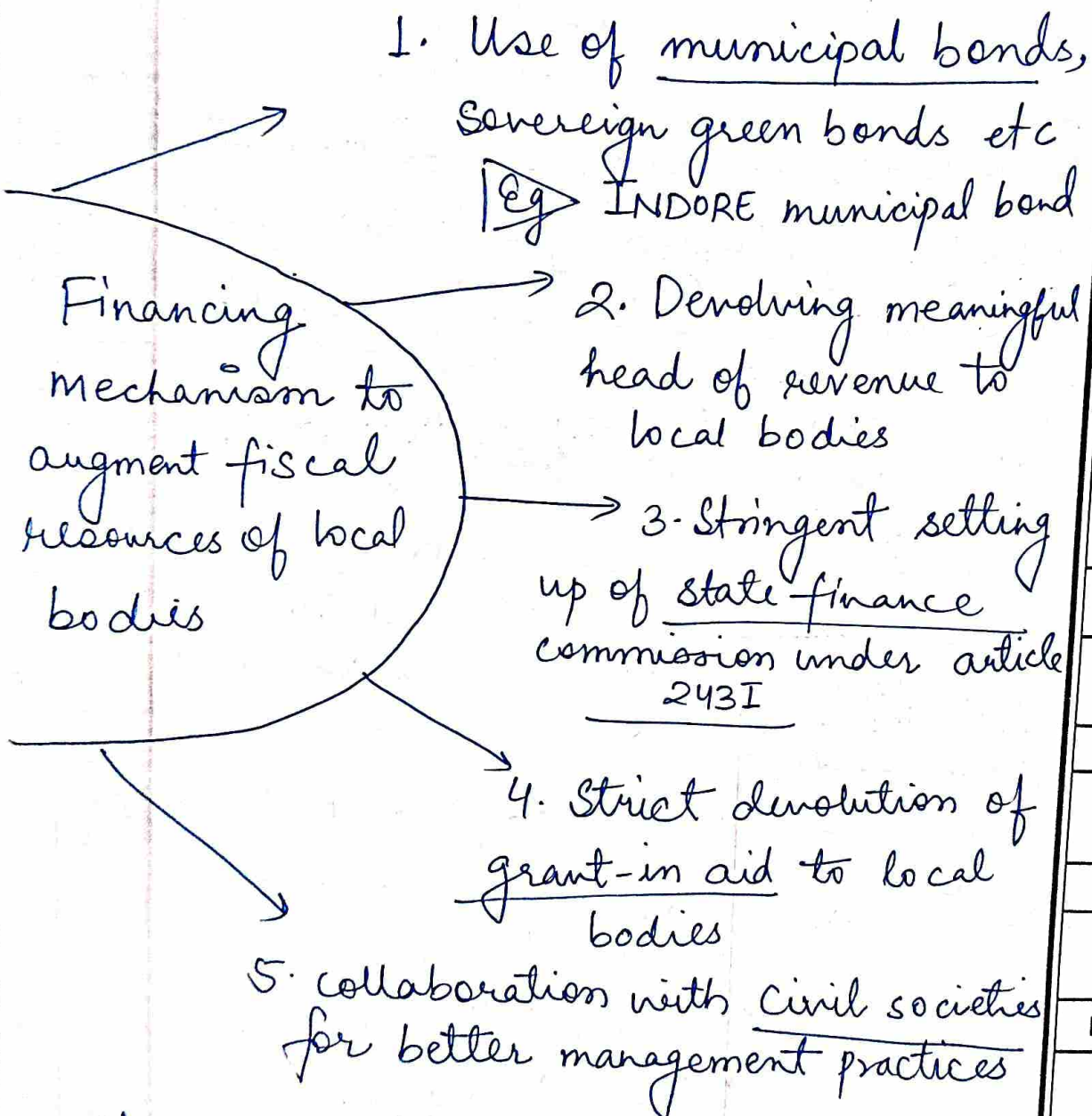
Local self-governments under Part IX and IXA of Indian constitution are important institutions for grass-root level democracy.

However, the local self-government bodies are often facing low fiscal capacity due to following factors.

- 1.) Negligence on the part of state government in devolution of funding
- 2.) Infrequent setting up of state finance commission.
 ↳ Eg. only 14 states have set up 4th state finance commission due in 2013.
- 3.) Recommendation of state finance commission are not binding. Thus, they are not accepted by many states.
- 4.) Independent head of revenue and

tax collection power is not granted to local bodies.

5-) Poor collection of taxes such as Property tax, etc.



Thus devolution of 3Fs [Fund, Functions and Functionaries] are key to realisation of efficient urban local bodies.

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Value Addition
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Q2. Discuss the various merits and demerits of bringing political parties under Right to Information Act 2005.

प्रश्न 2. राजनीतिक दलों को सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत लाने के विभिन्न लाभ और हानियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Right to Information Act 2005 aims to bring transparency in government functioning and accountability to people.

Merits of bringing Political Parties under RTI Act 2005

1. There will be efficient public policy decision making
2. Better formulation of public view via transparent functioning
3. Effective governance by adopting intra-party democracy
4. Judicious use of public funds and check on election expenditure → This leads to free and fair elections
5. Prevents corruption due to vigilant

Civil society organisation

Demerits of bringing political party under RTI Act 2005

- 1.) Threat to privacy of party workers
↳ Ethical dilemma.
- 2.) Electoral malpractices due to use of personal attacks and fake news.
- 3.) Provides a threat to democracy.
↳ Unequal field play for parties which are in minority
- 4.) Potential misuse of personal data of political parties.

Thus, a middle path that balances accountability with privacy such as masking critical information from public access (Schedule 2 of RTI) can be a potential way-forward.

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Q3. What are the constitutional and legal provisions pertaining to Administrative Tribunals in India? Do you think tribunal needs reform?

प्रश्न 3. भारत में प्रशासनिक अधिकरणों से संबंधित संवैधानिक और कानूनी प्रावधानों का वर्णन कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि इन अधिकरणों में सुधार की आवश्यकता है?

(Answer in 150 words)

Administrative tribunals were set up as extra judicial bodies to reduce case pendency on courts as well as hasten justice delivery.

Constitutional provisions pertaining to administrative tribunal

Article 323A empowers Parliament to set up administrative tribunals.

↳ Similarly article 323B is dealing with other tribunals.

In continuance of power granted under 323A, Parliament passed the Central Administrative Tribunal Act to set up

tribunals for dealing with administrative issues pertaining to government officials.

Need for reform in Tribunals

- 1.) Codifying the members of tribunal for effective justice delivery
- 2.) Supreme Court held that tribunals cannot issue guidance for policy making to government.
- 3.) Role of tribunal in speedy justice
↳ Need for technological update for inclusivity of public.
- 4.) Increasing outreach to generate awareness among citizens.
- 5.) Infrastructural upgradation such as better office, computer system etc.
- 6.) Streamlining the justice and grievance redressal.

Administrative tribunals can help create an effective and transparent justice delivery mechanism with proper reforms.

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Question Interpretation
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Penalty (If any)
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Q4. The recent judgement of the Supreme Court related to the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners is a welcome step, but several other issues still affecting the functioning of the Institution. Discuss. Also suggest necessary reforms to strengthen the election watchdog.

प्रश्न 4. मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त एवं अन्य चुनाव आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति से संबंधित हालिया सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का निर्णय स्वागतयोग्य है, परंतु चुनाव आयोग की कार्यप्रणाली को प्रभावित करने वाले अनेक अन्य मुद्दे अब भी विद्यमान हैं। इन मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा संस्था को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु आवश्यक सुधार सुझाइए।

(Answer in 150 words)

The Supreme Court in its recent judgement of ~~Rama Anoop~~ Anoop Barnwal v Union of India (2023) codified the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioner.

Judgement as a welcome step

- 1.) Streamline the appointment process via selection committee consisting of the PM, leader of opposition and Chief Justice of India.
- 2.) Keeps a check on arbitrary executive control over Election Commission.
- 3.) Level playing field by giving voice to the opposition.

Issues affecting functioning of Election Commission (EC)

1. Legislation by Parliament to overcome SC judgement
↳ Chief Justice of India replaced by Union Cabinet Minister

2. Executive control over appointment and selection process.

3. Opacity in functioning
↳ Eg Intensive revision of electoral roll in Bihar
↳ can cause exclusion error

Necessary reform to strengthen EC

- 1.) Constitutional amendment to codify eligibility, tenure and appointment process.
- 2.) Effective decision making through non-partisanship
- 3.) Dinesh Goswami report for electoral reforms must be implemented.

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Q5. The emergence of cooperative federalism as a dominant discourse in India reflects a shift towards greater collaboration between the Centre and the States. Discuss the key drivers of this shift and its potential benefits.

प्रश्न 5. भारत में सहकारी संघवाद का उभरता विमर्श केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच बढ़ते सहयोग को दर्शाता है। इस परिवर्तन के प्रमुख प्रेरक कारकों तथा संभावित लाभों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Cooperative federalism has emerged as the dominant ideology that reflects collaboration and cooperation among states and centre.

Key drivers of cooperative federalism

1.) Constitutional obligation under Article 263 for inter-state council.

2.) Replacing top-down approach with principle of subsidiarity

↳ Role of Gram Sabha

3.) Federal principles in finance and taxation

↳ GST Council (Art 279A)

4.) Government think tank such as NITI Aayog promote state participation.
↳ This strengthen federalism.

Q6. Elaborate on the following ranging from 6 to 10 marks

Competitive Federalism

1. India also promote healthy competition among states
2. State Fiscal Health Index , NITI Aayog's ranking based on Multi-dimensional poverty index → promote recognition of efforts

Potential benefits of cooperative federalism

- 1.) Ensures regional parity in national development
- 2.) Prioritisation of regional needs in accordance to demand.
- 3.) Efficient allocation of funds to states
- 4.) Promote unity and glorify national values

Thus, cooperative federalism can be strengthened via a bottom-up approach where aspirational districts leads

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Q6. Elaborate different types of emergency provisions provided by the constitution of India. State wide ranging effects these provisions have on fundamental rights, federalism and finances.

प्रश्न 6. भारतीय संविधान में प्रदत्त आपातकालीन प्रावधानों के विभिन्न प्रकारों को स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, इन प्रावधानों का मौलिक अधिकारों, संघीय ढांचे और वित्तीय प्रणाली पर पड़ने वाले व्यापक प्रभावों को बताइए।
(Answer in 150 words)

Part 18 of Indian Constitution deal with various Emergency provisions under article 352 to 360.

Emergency		
National Emergency	President's rule	Financial Emergency
<p>→ Article 352 provides for it in case of <u>external aggression</u> or <u>armed rebellion</u></p> <p>→ It must be passed by <u>special majority</u> in both houses of parliament within <u>1 month</u> of proclamation</p>	<p>→ Article 356 provides for it when state machinery cannot be run according to <u>constitution</u></p> <p>→ It should be passed within 2 months by <u>simple majority</u> (not exceeding 3 years)</p>	<p>→ Article 360 provides for it when there is a threat to financial security of country.</p> <p>→ It has never been proclaimed till date.</p>

Effects of emergency

A.) National Emergency

- (1) Article 358 suspends enforcement of article 19 (freedom of speech & expression)
- (2) All other rights can be prevented from being enforced (except article 20 and 21)
- (3) Federalism becomes unitary as centre gets excessive power even on state list matters.
- (4) Finance need to be planned as per canons suggested by centre (Art 360)

B.) Under President's rule

- (1) State's government and cabinet is dissolved, while the legislature may even be suspended
- (2) Parliament legislates on the state matter in which President's rule is invoked

Thus, emergency provision gives undue power to centre and shifts India's democracy towards unitary government.

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Q7. What are the committees of the President?
प्रश्न 7. राष्ट्रपति के समिति

Q7. What are the Issues Related to the Office of Governor in India? Explain the suggestions given by various committees to tackle the issues.

प्रश्न 7. भारत में राज्यपाल के पद से संबंधित समस्याओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। इन समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु विभिन्न समितियों द्वारा दिए गए सुझावों को भी स्पष्ट कीजिए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Article 153 establishes governor for each state in India who is the nominal head of state.

Issues related to office of governor

1.) Discretionary power against publically elected government

↳ Article 164 states that governor may act in discretion.

2.) Frequently reserve bills for President thus delaying legislative efficiency

↳ Article 200 power to reserve bills by Governor in Tamil Nadu

3.) Delays in assenting to state bills due to absence of any strict timeline

4.) Misuse of power to recommend President's rule under article 356.

5.) Potential clash with opposition ruled state. \rightarrow Kerala's issue of Chancellor of state university

Suggestion to tackle the issue

1. Sarkaria Commission (1963) provides for a governor who must be

politically neutral

2. Punchhi Commission suggested a governor must be from outside the state.

3. Governor must hold non-partisan and objective views.

4. Governor should be effective in continuing public policy by being high on his morals.

Governor is neither a saboteur, nor a sage. He is a constitutional office who must hold allegiance to his/her duty.

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Q8. Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions.

प्रश्न 8. 'संवैधानिक नैतिकता' संविधान में निहित है और इसके मौलिक तत्वों पर आधारित है। उपयुक्त न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से 'संवैधानिक नैतिकता' सिद्धांत को समझाइए।

(Answer in 150 words)

Constitutional morality is the ethical principle which upholds constitutional values as the guide to national progress.

- Rooted in Constitution itself
1. Based on limited government
Eg system of check & balance
 2. Upholds equality, liberty, fraternity in the nation
(Part III)
 3. Provides socio-economic justice via directive principles (Part IV)
 4. Promoting sense of duty that aligns with rights.

Thus constitutional morality is founded on the essential facets of Indian constitution that is in itself a product of deliberation based on adopting best practices conducive for human development

Q9. The Indian Constitution is characterized by its intrinsic features. State the statement.
प्रश्न 9. भारतीय संविधान के अंतर्गत विशेषताएँ बताइए।

Doctrine of constitutional morality

1. Balancing a harmonious relation between fundamental rights and DPSPs
 [Eg] Minerva Mills case (1980)
2. Limiting the Government's power to amend constitution
 [Eg] Basic Structure Doctrine under Kesavanand Bharti case (1973)
3. Expanding Article 21 to "due process"
 [Eg] Maneka Gandhi case (1978)
4. Right to clean environment under MC Mehta Case and Dehradun Quarrying case
5. Upholding gender rights under Vishaka guidelines - as well as for third gender in NALSA v Union of India (2014)

Constitutional morality, thereby, ensures that there is a rule of law and no one is above constitution.

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Q9. The Indian Constitution is one of the most comprehensive and well-drafted constitutions characterized by its intricate features, blending democratic principles, and socio-economic justice. In light of the statement, write salient features of the Indian Constitution.

प्रश्न 9. भारतीय संविधान एक विस्तृत और सुव्यवस्थित संविधान है जो लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों और सामाजिक-आर्थिक न्याय के मिश्रण को दर्शाता है। इस कथन के आलोक में भारतीय संविधान की प्रमुख विशेषताओं को लिखिए।

(Answer in 150 Words)

The Indian Constitution is indeed one of world's longest written document which adopts some of the best democratic principles of the world.

Indian Constitution

well-drafted by a Drafting Committee led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, after long deliberation by constituent assembly

Blending democratic principles

- Universal Adult Franchise
- Fundamental Rights
- Rule of Law

Socio-economic justice

- Directive Principles under Part IV
- Recognition of women's rights

Thus, Indian constitution is a collection of global ideas of thinkers.

Salient features of Indian Constitution

- 1.) Written document
- 2.) Borrows ideas from various constitution of the world
 ↳ Eg → DPSPs from Ireland,
 emergency provision from Germany etc ✓
- 3.) Promotes a limited government based on system of check and balance.
- 4.) It is formed by deliberation of most talented lawyers who were members of constituent assembly
- 5.) It recognises rights of citizens and grants them protection from arbitrary rule

Indian Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document. It is a living document whose spirit represents the aspiration of age.

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Q10. There is a view that absolute economic equality is neither possible nor desirable. It is argued that the most a society can do is to try and reduce the gaps between the richest and poorest members of society. Do you agree?

प्रश्न 10. यह मत प्रचलित है कि पूर्ण आर्थिक समानता न तो संभव है और न ही वांछनीय। कहा जाता है कि समाज का उद्देश्य सबसे अमीर और गरीब के बीच की खाई को कम करना होना चाहिए। क्या आप सहमत हैं?

(Answer in 150 Words)

Absolute economic equality is an ideology of the communism philosophy based on classless society.

◦ However, the Indian state is a welfare state that aims to reduce inequality based on equality of opportunity.

Economic Equality (absolute) is not possible nor desirable

1. In a society, there are certain jobs with higher pay depending on the skill set and role.
2. Absolute economic equality will lead to a society that offers equality of outcome irrespective of efforts.
3. It can lead to a pause in economic growth.

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4. Capitalism based on market forces of demand and supply will fail, thus production will suffer.
5. Article 39 (c) of constitution aims to keep a check on concentration of wealth in the hands of few.
6. Reducing gaps between rich and poor through equity

Advantages of absolute Economic Equality

1. It will promote an egalitarian and inclusive society.
2. It will ensure a peaceful society → lack of relative deprivation.
3. It will ensure a sense of worthiness and empowerment.

Article 39 (b) which states that material resources of community should be so distributed so as to subserve the maximum good.

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Q11. Indian Space Policy 2023, facilitate greater private sector participation in activities that have usually been the traditional domain of the ISRO. In this context, discuss the significance of opening the Space Economy for greater Private Sector participation.

प्रश्न 11. भारतीय अंतरिक्ष नीति 2023 ने पारंपरिक रूप से इसरो के क्षेत्र में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित किया है। इस संदर्भ में, अंतरिक्ष अर्थव्यवस्था को निजी क्षेत्र के लिए खोलने के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Indian Space Policy 2023 is a visionary policy that aims to promote the participation of private sector companies in exploration of space.

- There is a shift from traditional domain of keeping space sector for public sector only; i.e. ISRO.

Significance of opening the Space Economy for greater Private Sector Participation

- 1.) Technical expertise and high set of skills:
↳ Private companies such as SkyRoot Space have already made its own sounding rocket

2. Bring in more capital and funding into space sector

↳ Polaris Dawn Mission funded by tech-billionaire Issac Jaredman

3. Efficient use of resources

↳ Eg. Agnikul Cosmos building its Agnibaan through 3D printing

4. Integrating India with Global value chain

↳ Currently, India has 2% share of global space economy.

5. Improved competitiveness and global collaboration

↳ Eg. a. ISRO - NASA mission (NISAR)
b. Nayif satellite of UAE launched by India

6. Reverse Brain drain and investment in India

Challenges

1. Profit orientation of private sector companies.
2. Opening up of critical information that is important for India's security.
3. Infrastructural deficit
↳ Lack of expenditure on research & development ($\sim 0.6\%$ of GDP).
4. Lack of investment
↳ Space sector is capital intensive.

Thus, Indian Space Policy 2023 which aims to create an environment conducive for private participation must be fully-reaped to benefit India from improving global competitiveness.

Q12. Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyse the linkages between education, skill and employment.

प्रश्न 12. कौशल विकास कार्यक्रमों ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में मानव संसाधन की आपूर्ति बढ़ाने में सफलता प्राप्त की है। इस कथन के संदर्भ में, शिक्षा, कौशल और रोजगार के बीच संबंधों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana is an ambitious government programme that aims to develop skill among human resources in India

Success of skill development programmes

1. Training and skilling of labourer have improved productivity.

↳ India has become among the top producer of smartphones.

2. Better pay to workers due to improved skill set

3. National-schemes to guide youth regarding career options

↳ National Career Service

4. Use of digital technology for

inclusion.

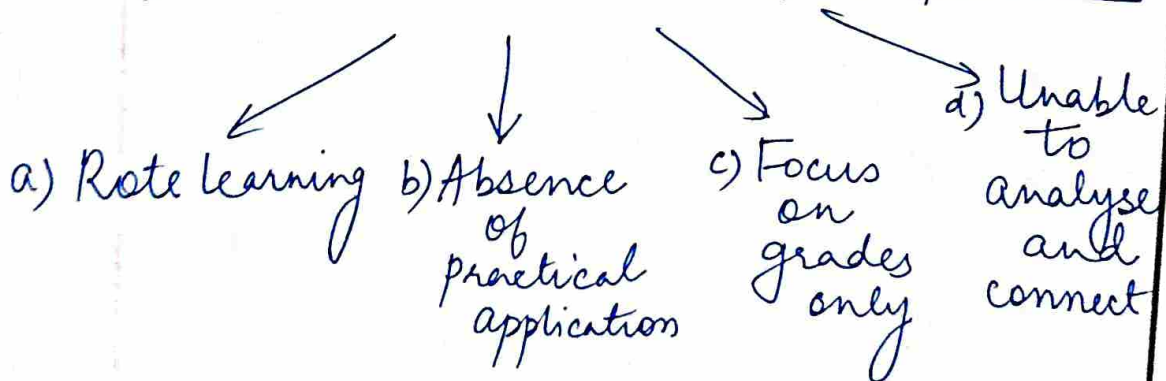
5. Promoting traditional craft skill
among society

↳ PM Viswakarma Scheme

Linkages between education, skill and employment

1.) Education is the solution to all the national problems of inequality, poverty, exclusion, etc.

2.) However, the education system is often struck with lack of competencies

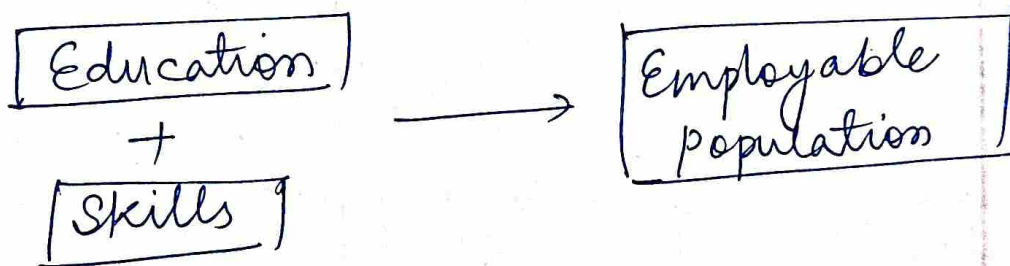


3) In India, most of undergraduate lacks employability due to lack of skill set

4.) Thus there should be a shift of focus on :

- a. vocational learning such as ITI, etc
- b. skill certification
- c. periodic training of staff.

This will ensure that workforce is equipped with necessary tools.



National Education Policy 2020 promotes vocational learning and imparting skills to promote an engaged, productive and contributing population.

Q13. Discuss the need and challenges of sub-categorisation of OBCs in India. How will it affect the existing reservation policy and the social justice agenda?

प्रश्न 13. भारत में अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (OBC) की उप-वर्गीकरण की आवश्यकता एवं उससे उत्पन्न चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। यह उप-वर्गीकरण वर्तमान आरक्षण नीति और सामाजिक न्याय के एजेंडे को कैसे प्रभावित करेगा?

(Answer in 250 Words)

Other Backward Classes (OBCs) refers to a large section of class in Indian population who have historically been subjected to injustice and are backward in terms of socio-economic participation.

Need for sub-categorisation of OBCs

- 1.) There are certain OBC groups which are better in socio-economic hierarchy as compared to other OBC.
- 2.) Provision of creamy layer applies to those OBC who have attained social mobility.
- 3.) Provide a level-playing field by prioritising those at bottom.

Challenges of sub-categorisation of OBC

- 1.) There is no objective scale to find which among them is better off.
- 2.) Issue of social unrest and agitation by affected groups.
- 3.) Exclusion error can lead to socio-economic injustice.
- 4.) There is no national level list that is common to all states
 - ↳ Thus, it is a huge accountability of states. Recently, Telangana applied subcategorisation to SC community.
- 5.) Misuse of loop holes, undue influence to keep extracting benefits.

Effect on
existing
reservation
policy

1. It will lead to revision of quota allotted to various groups.
2. Change in reservation require careful inclusion and removal of groups.
3. Sub categorisation can have domino effect

Social
justice
agenda

1. Reaching the last-mile by helping those at bottom.
2. Improved accessibility for those who are underprini-
leaged
3. Guarantees participation of all strata of society.

As held by Supreme Court, OBCs, SCs and STs are not homogeneous grouping. They have internal differences which can be addressed via judicious sub categorisation.

Q14. Critically examine the role and relevance of Rajya Sabha in the Indian parliamentary system. Suggest some reforms to enhance its effectiveness and accountability.

प्रश्न 14. भारतीय संसदीय प्रणाली में राज्यसभा की भूमिका एवं प्रासंगिकता की समालोचनात्मक समीक्षा कीजिए।
उसकी प्रभावशीलता और उत्तरदायित्व बढ़ाने हेतु कुछ सुधार सुझाइए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Rajya Sabha is the Upper House of Indian Parliament which is a reflection of Indian federalism as it signifies the interest of states.

Role of Rajya Sabha in Indian Parliamentary system

1. It represents interest of state and allocation of seat based on Schedule 4.
2. Enjoys greater power in formation of All-India Service (Article 312) which can be initiated by mandate of special majority in Rajya Sabha.
3. Similarly, Parliament can make legislation on state list if such resolution passed by Rajya Sabha under article 249.

4. Since, the Vice-President is the ex-officio chairman of Upper house, he/she can be removed by Rajya Sabha only.
5. Enjoys almost equal power in bills of constitutional amendment.

Relevance of Rajya Sabha

1. It prevents hasty and ill-conceived decision of Lok Sabha.
2. It is house of deliberation where states are able to put forward their demand (Bicameral legislature)
3. It is representative of nominated members who have contributed to art, science and social service
4. Rajya Sabha is permanent house as it can never be dissolved.

Reforms to enhance its effectiveness

1. Providing power to discuss general aspects of a Money Bill.

↳ Eg Decision to certify Aadhar Bill as money bill to bypass Rajya Sabha

2. Analyst Milan Vaishnav opines that states, with lower number of seats in ^{lok} Sabha after Delimitation, should be given more seats in Rajya Sabha.

3. Various states have skewed representation in Rajya Sabha.

↳ USA Senate has 100 members with 2 members from each of the 50 states

Thus Rajya Sabha is a reflection of Indian federalism. It is not as weak as UK House of Lords, nor as strong as US Senate.

Q15. Inclusivity is a theme in India's G20 presidency. Discuss the challenges and opportunities for making urban centres more disabled-friendly in India.

प्रश्न 15. भारत की G20 अध्यक्षता में समावेशिता एक प्रमुख विषय है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी क्षेत्रों को दिव्यांगजन के अनुकूल बनाने की चुनौतियों और अवसरों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

G20 is grouping of 19 countries along with European Union and African Union. The grouping was formed in response to the global financial crisis of 1999.

India's presidency of G20 in 2023 was instrumental in raising India's interest

1.) Inclusivity

African Union was added to the group in 2023.

2.) Digital Public Infrastructure

↳ UPI, Aadhar, DigiLocker promote social justice by catering to underprivileged.

3.) Reforming multi lateral institution for accessibility to 3rd world countries

4.) India's stance to forward the interest of "Global South"

↳ India vaccine maitri during covid-19 epidemic

5.) India's stand on promoting sustainable development to reduce poverty

↳ 24.82 crore people escaped multi-dimensional poverty in last decade

Urban Centres as disabled-friendly in India

1. Recognition of Right to Accessibility by Supreme Court under Article 21 (Rajiv Raturi case)

2. Urban centres must cater to the need

of disabled in India

Challenges for making disabled-friendly urban centres

1. Infrastructural bottlenecks
Eg No ramp in public places

2. Quality of civic services

Eg Poor public transport

3. No updation of citizen charter

4. Lack collaboration from civil societies and NGOs.

Opportunities for improving accessibility

1. Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan to promote access to disabled

2. Legislation to support disabled such as Rights of PWD, 2016.

3. Better infrastructure such as liners for blind and ramp for wheelchair

Thus, disabled are a key part of our society and must be catered through effective policy making.

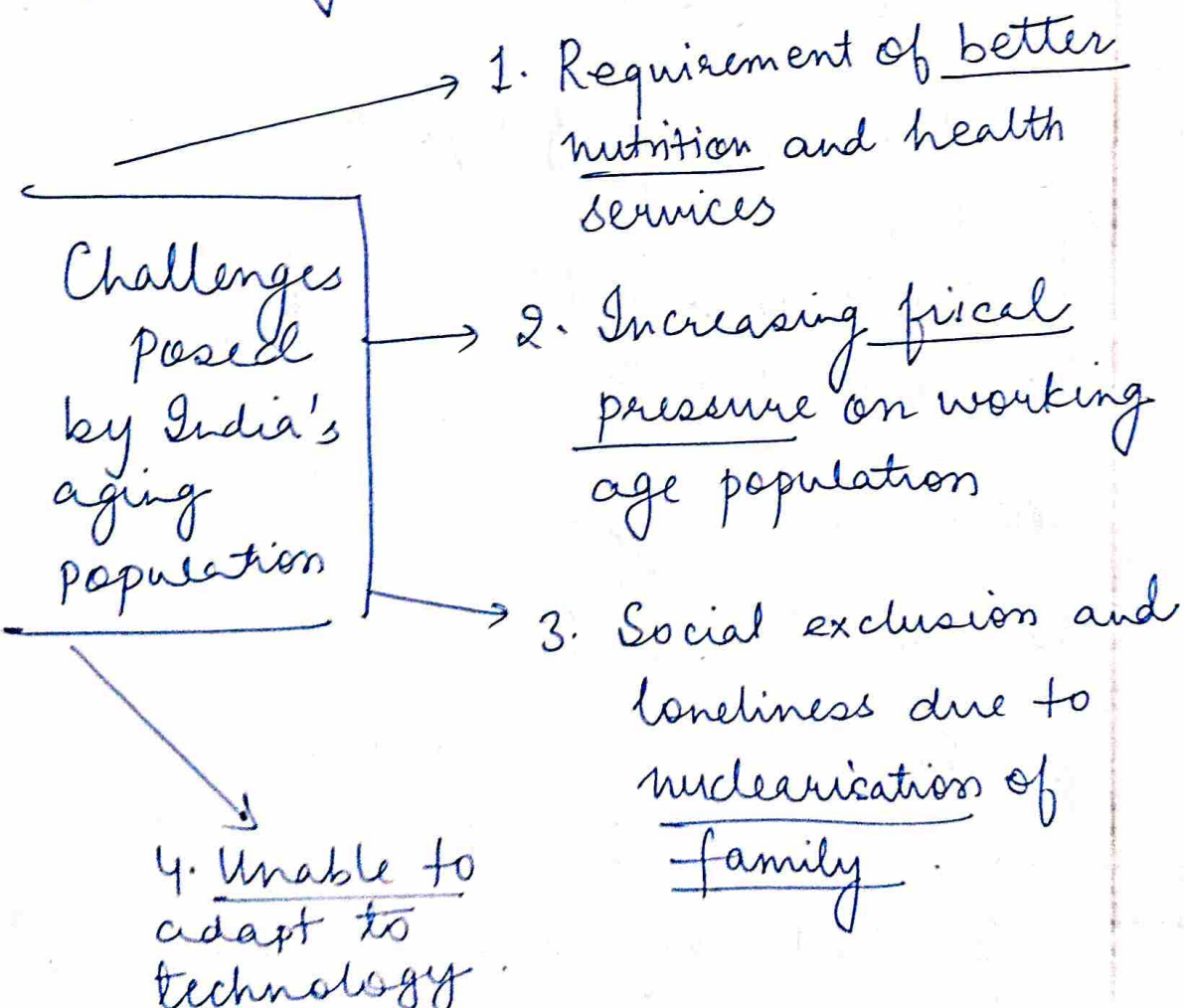
Q16. Analyze the challenges posed by India's aging population and suggest some measures to address those challenges.

प्रश्न 16. भारत की वृद्ध होती जनसंख्या से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण कीजिए तथा इनसे निपटने के लिए उपयुक्त उपाय सुझाइए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

India is a relatively young country which has median age of ~29 and rich demographic dividend.

However, at the same time India's aging population reflects another aspect of society.



Aging population, thus provides a unique set of problems which must be given attention and dealt with carefully.

1. Reap out longevity dividend
↳ Senior citizen's as experts in public service, counselling and better management
2. Ensuring quality of life through legislation
↳ Eg Maintenance and Welfare of Senior Citizens and Parent Act 2007.
3. Silver Economy to provide care to old age people.
4. Geriatric care and public expenditure on health
↳ Eg PM Jan Arogya Yojana.

5. Inclusivity via adapting them
to digital technologies

|Eg. online portal for Pension
to prevent them from
running to banks.

6. Strengthening social infrastructure

|Eg. video conferencing to talk to
grandchildren.

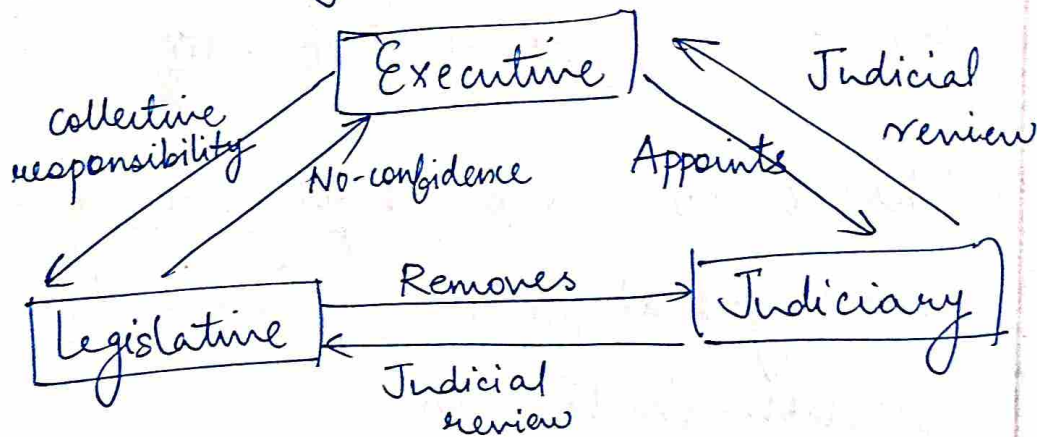
As the world celebrates
UN decade on Healthy Aging from
2021-30, the Madrid plan for
effective old age care should be
adopted in essence for ensuring
an inclusive, diverse and plural
society.

Q17. What do you understand about the doctrine of proportionality in judicial review? Examine how doctrine of proportionality led to Striking down of Electoral bond scheme?

प्रश्न 17. न्यायिक समीक्षा में 'प्रमाणिकता का सिद्धांत' (Doctrine of Proportionality) से आप क्या समझते हैं? इस सिद्धांत के आधार पर चुनावी बॉन्ड योजना को रद्द किए जाने की प्रक्रिया की विवेचना कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Judicial Review is an essence of a government following systems of checks and balances as it ensures a limited government.



Doctrine of proportionality refers to the practise of striking down certain laws and rules based on evident harm it causes to the functioning of polity.

↳ It ensures that there is proportionate action according to the effects

Recently, Supreme Court struck down Electoral Bond in ADR v Union of India (2024) as it diluted the free and fairness of election in India.

- 1.) Electoral bonds promoted opacity as it masked the identity of donor to a political party.
- 2.) Threat to level-playing field as regional parties could not sustain in the race.
- 3.) Donation was possible through select branch of State Bank of India → this ensured executive control over the amount of donation reached to any party.
- 4.) It could not let the accountability

and disclosure of source of funding
by political parties.

5.) Lack of information in public domain
could lead to poor decision making
and opinion formulation at public
end.

Thus, doctrine of proportionality
was invoked to counter the harms
that has evidently overlapped the
advantages that were outlined.

Therefore, Supreme court struck
down the electoral bond practices
citing a threat to democracy and
fair elections

Q18. Examine the significance and effectiveness of the Vaibhav and VAJRA fellowship programmes initiated by the Indian government.

प्रश्न 18. भारत सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई वैभव और वज्र फेलोशिप योजनाओं के महत्व एवं प्रभावशीलता की जांच कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Indian government has shifted its focus towards fellowship programme to boost global collaboration and push to research and development for higher growth rate.

Significance of Vaibhav and VAJRA fellowship

1. Higher research, development
Currently expenditure is mere ~0.6% of national GDP.
2. Boost national indicators of technology
Visitor Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) will encourage indigenisation of defense.
3. Ensure academia-industry linkage.
↳ Better employability of youth

Effectiveness of VAIBHAV and VAJRA Scheme

1. India as "GCC capital of the world"
↳ ensure employment to about 2.8 million by 2030.
2. Leader of "Global South"
↳ India's role in defense, space and energy sector
3. Sustainability of resources.
↳ Increase global competitiveness of Indian talent
4. Transfer of Technology
Partnership with international researchers including OCI cardholders etc.

Challenges to VAIBHAV and VAJRA fellowship

1. Infrastructural bottleneck
↳ low level of R&D facilities, laboratories in India

2. Level of Education

No Indian University is ranked among top 100 by QS ranking.

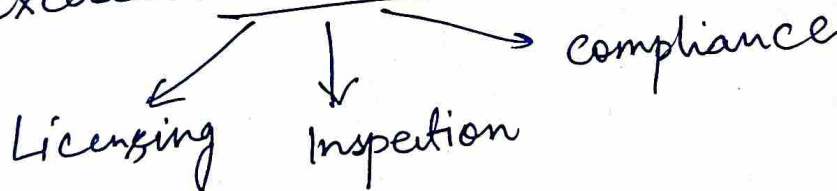
3. Brain Drain

Youth and talent shifting to west for better life-chances.

4. Bureaucratisation

Excessive government control and apathy to interests of citizens.

5. Excessive LIC burden



Thus, VAIBHAV and VAJRA fellowship scheme is a milestone in realising India's technological potential. However it requires meticulously balanced approach to reap benefits

Q19. Discuss the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law, and Justice to reform legal education in India. How can the establishment of a National Council for Legal Education and Research (NCLER) impact the quality and output of legal education, particularly in research?

प्रश्न 19. भारत में विधिक शिक्षा सुधार हेतु संसद की स्थायी समिति (कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत, विधि और न्याय) द्वारा दी गई सिफारिशों पर चर्चा कीजिए। विशेष रूप से अनुसंधान की गुणवत्ता और परिणाम को लेकर 'राष्ट्रीय विधिक शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान परिषद (NCLER)' की स्थापना के प्रभाव को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law, and Justice has been vocal on reforming legal education in India. The recommendation to reform legal education are as follows :

1. Improve accessibility of legal education among masses.
2. Promoting legal awareness.
→ This will prevent exploitation of marginalised communities.
3. Establishing formal education camp.

4. Role of NALSA and State Legal Services Authority
↳ They can promote free legal aid to marginalised.

5. Lok Adalat and Gram Panchayats to deliver justice at doorsteps.

6. Alternative Dispute Redressal (ADR) mechanism to be promoted

- ↳ Arbitration
- ↳ Mediation
- ↳ Negotiation
- ↳ Conciliation

The establishment of a National Council for Legal Education and Research (NCLER) can promote both the quality as well as output of legal education.

1.) Promotes social awareness about legal rights

2.) Enlightened citizens play a greater role in ensuring equitable Society.

3.) Role of NCLER in research:

- (a) Promotes collaboration at global level.
- (b) Adopting best legal practices
- (c) Promoting legal awareness.

Thus, quality of legal education and output of its reach to the last-mile can help benefit a larger section of population due to an approach to deliver justice at doorsteps.

Q20. Examine whether the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS) has been disadvantageous or problematic for marginalized and vulnerable groups in society.

प्रश्न 20. क्या आधार भुगतान ब्रिज प्रणाली (Aadhaar Payment Bridge System - APBS) समाज के वंचित एवं कमजोर वर्गों के लिए समस्याजनक सिद्ध हुई है? विवेचना कीजिए।

(Answer in 250 Words)

Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS) is a sunshine step towards digital integration of Indian to provide effective and efficient governance.

APBS has been advantageous for marginalised groups in society

1. e-governance for transparency
↳ ensures that corruption is reduced.

2. Digital solution through re-engineering
↳ over ₹44 lakh crore has been transferred through JAM trinity

3. Keeps a check on leakage of fund

↳ over ₹2.5 lakh crore was saved from getting leaked through digital payment.

- 4.) Ensures that money reaches to the genuine person
↳ Aadhar-based digital identity.
- 5.) Promotes digital transaction, thus promoting inclusivity
- 6.) Internet penetration in rural areas
↳ Eg Bharat Net project to provide optical fibre cable to all village panchayat
- 7.) Affordability and accessibility of internet
Compared to 2014 where cost was ₹260/GB data, it is mere ₹8/GB in 2024.

Disadvantageous to marginalised communities in society

- 1.) Aged population unable to adapt to technology

2.) Low adoption of smartphones among tribal population.

3.) Exclusion error

Many individuals lack e-identity in India

4.) Delay in receipt of money
Problems such as network coverage, server issues, persist

5.) Rural-urban digital divide
~ 24% of rural population is digitally literate.

6.) Exploitation by those who can access technology vs those who cannot.

Thus Aadhaar based payment bridge system is noble step in e-governance and ensuring efficiency. However, there is a need to ensure that no one is left behind.