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MAINS TEST SERIES 2024

POLITY, GOVERNANCE & IR

Question Paper Specific Instructions

1. There are **TWENTY** Questions printed in **ENGLISH**.
2. All the questions are **compulsory**.
3. The number of marks carried by each question (or part) is indicated against it.
4. Word limit in questions wherever specified should be adhered to.
5. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Answer booklet must be clearly struck off.

Qn No.	Marks Obtained	Qn No.	Marks Obtained
1	3½	11	7½
2	—	12	6
3	4	13	5
4	4½	14	7½
5	—	15	6½
6	5½	16	—
7	4	17	7½
8	—	18	5½
9	4.5	19	7
10	4	20	6½
TOTAL			

Name

GOPIKA B

Roll no

16/09/2024

Subject

POLITY

Date

Questions Attempted

16



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ENLITE MTS 2024 — POLITY-GOVERNANCE -IR

1. Transparency regarding the funding of political parties and election expenditures are essential for conducting free and fair elections. Analyse the challenges associated with electoral funding and suggest reforms. (10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Recently, a 5 member constitutional bench of the Supreme court unanimously struck down electoral bonds on account of poor transparency.



challenges in electoral funding

- ① No limit of expenditure for political parties
— only candidates have limits
- ② No audit mechanism for financial accounts of political parties
- ③ Uneven or skewed funding — new and small political parties find it difficult to

anyway

outside RTI



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get funding. More funding translates to better campaigning.

④ Corporate donations - can lead to crony capitalism and lobbying by these industries.

Reforms for electoral funding

① Following some global best practices
France - limits on expenditure and banned corporate donations.
USA - federal audit mechanism for political parties.

② ~~En~~ Mandatory disclosure of funds ~~by~~ by bringing a new legislation.

③ More power for Election Commission of India to ensure transparent electoral funding process.

Transparency in electoral funding is essential for ensuring a truly free and fair election process in a democracy.

(Don't write anything in this area)

Canada
more key points
State funds
Canada
RPI



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3. Discuss the key challenges faced by Indian judiciary today and propose reforms to enhance judicial effectiveness, integrity, and openness. (10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

The constitution establishes an integrated system of judiciary. Indian judiciary is plagued by several challenges.

Challenges faced by Indian judiciary

- ① Backlog of cases - very high
80,000 cases at Supreme Court level
5 crore cases at lower level (National judicial data grid)
- ② Poor infrastructure - lower courts lack basic facilities like multiple chambers, technology adoption etc
- ③ Poor representation of women, and OBCs, SC & STs
eg: less than 35% judges are women at ~~the~~ ^{lower} judiciary level which reduces to the higher levels.
- ④ Opacity of collegium system - judges appointing judges - violation of separation of powers.



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Reforms for judiciary

Judicial effectiveness

- ① Reducing frequent adjournments - restricting it to 3 per case.
- ② Technology adoption - for case management and allocation
eg: JUSTIS Mobile App
- ③ Setting up and strengthening National Judicial Infrastructure Authority
- for improving infrastructure of courts

Judicial openness

- ① Transparency in appointment
eg: Revising NJAC
- ② Accessibility improvement
eg: SUVAS - translates judgements in English to regional languages.
- ③ Live streaming of proceedings (Suoqut Tripathy vs Union of India)

Judicial integrity

- ① Avoiding possibility of forum shopping
- ② Ensuring accountability of judges through oversight of higher judiciary.

(Don't write anything in this area)



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4. Constitutional conventions are "non-legal, generally agreed rules about how government should be conducted and, in particular, govern the relations between different organs of government." Discuss the rationale behind various constitutional conventions with special reference to parliamentary conventions and precedents. Also analyze their application in India. (10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Constitutional conventions often play an important role in regulating the functions of legislature executive and judiciary.

Rationale and various conventions

- ① Special address by Governor/President
- after general election - new govt
 - first session of every year

Is that a Convention?

Art-87
Mentioned in Constitution

Rationale - to set the agenda and present the govt's goals and views to public.

This address is constitutionally mandated and not at discretion of Governor/President.

- ② Appointment of Pro-tem speaker
- not mentioned in constitution.
 - ~~the oldest member~~
 - the senior most member is appointed as pro-tem speaker
 - eg: recent controversy of violation



this convention in 18th Lok Sabha.

- ③ Appointment of Deputy Speaker from opposition party - not constitutional rationale - to ensure equity in parliamentary proceedings.
India did not have deputy speaker in 16th & 17th Lok Sabha.

- ④ Chairman of public accounts committee usually from opposition party

Rationale - to ensure proper financial accountability of ruling party.

- ⑤ Convention to apply senior most judge of SC as chief justice of India
Violation - when A.N. Ray was appointed
2nd judges case - changed this from convention to a mandatory requirement to avoid executive discretion.

Thus, constitutional conventions ~~are~~ often act as checks and balances on different organs of the govt.

(Don't write anything in this area)



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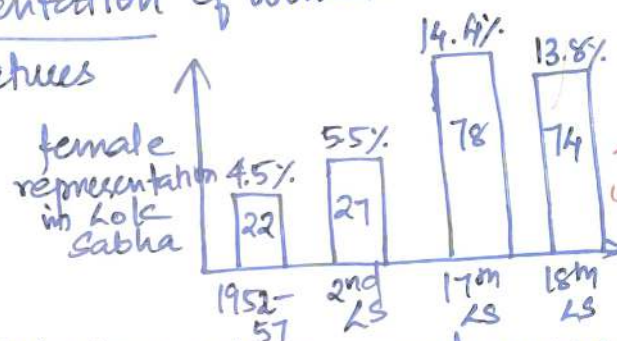
6. 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' 2023 is another landmark legislation to ensure the women participation and representation in Indian political forum. Critically analyse. (10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

The 106th constitutional amendment has brought in mandatory reservation of 33% seats in Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, and legislative assembly of NCT of Delhi.

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam - as a landmark

- ① To boost representation of women in all levels of legislatures



- ② To promote egalitarian values - and ensure a decision making body that truly represents society.

- ③ Can help improve rank in indices (Global) eg. Global Gender gap report (2023) - shows only 25.3% parity in political empowerment.

- ④ Success at panchayat levels - more than half states have now reserved 50% of



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seats for women (above mandated 33%).

challenges

- ① Difficulty in seat selection through delimitation — as no prescribed criteria.
- ② May not translate to grassroot level changes.
eg: patriarchal nature of political parties itself.
- ③ chances of voter apathy — eg: NOTA votes high in reserved seats of SC, STs
- ④ sunset clause of 15 years — other reservations continued for decades.
- ⑤ the women reservation is extended to seats reserved for SC & STs also — but no inclusion of OBCs explicitly.

Thus, these challenges need to be addressed effectively for ensuring true political empowerment of

(Don't write anything in this area)



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7. The codification of personal laws is an important step to fulfil the commitment to the right to equality, which requires immense caution. Examine. Also, discuss how the constitutional courts have expanded the scope of the right to marriage. (10 Marks)

Article 44 under DPSP of the constitution endeavours to bring in uniform civil code throughout the country.

Fulfilling right to equality

- ① Ensuring equality in case of marriage, divorce etc.

eg: Muslim women (Protection on Divorce Rights) Act — maintenance only during iddat period.

- ② Difference in succession — ^{absence of} ~~no~~ equal rights in inheriting ancestral property

eg: Hindu Succession Act brought equality ^{too} ~~to~~ women in succession — but such reforms could not be brought for other women.

Why caution is necessary

- ① pushback from religious groups — which view it as an attack on their religious rights.

(Don't write anything in this area)



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- ② should not lead to imposing majoritarian values on minorities.

Role of constitutional courts

- ① In Sugrta vs Union of India - SC said no fundamental right to marry.

But SC recognised right of trans people to get married.

- ② Madras HC recently asked TN govt adopt familial deeds to recognise and protect queer relationships.

Uniform civil code should be brought in only after consultation with all stakeholders.

The protection of rights of queer couples need to be done through a legislation.

(Don't write anything in this area)



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9. As the world grapples with the urgency of climate change, critically evaluate India's evolving climate change policy and its effectiveness as a leading voice for the Global South in international negotiations like COP- 28. (10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

According to the State of Global Climate Report (by WMO), world has breached 1.1°C of warming, thus racing towards 1.5°C .

India's climate change policy

- ① National Action plan on climate change - domestic legislation to fight against climate change.
- ② Pancharjit goals - COP 26.
(eg: 500 Gw of ren energy, net zero by 2070)
- ③ International initiatives by India
eg: International solar alliance
In COP28, India signed resolution to triple nuclear energy by 2030.
- ④ India agreed to phase down coal instead of phase out in COP28 - to protect development priorities.

Good.



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Effectiveness as ^{voice for} a global south

① India's emphasis on historical and per capita emissions. — CBDR (common but differentiated responsibilities)

② Demand for developed countries to donate climate funds for developing countries in global south.
eg: 100 billion dollar annual target.

③ Loss and damage fund finalized at COP 28 — India an active advocate
eg: State of Asia's climate report — South Asia most vulnerable to climate change.

④ India against initiatives regarding methane emissions — as it affects agricultural sector of the global south
eg: Methane action pledge by US & EU.

Thus, India has emerged as a dominant voice in climate change negotiations, also protecting the rights of the global south.

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Priority to top

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Depending on con

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for challenges

2 more content



10. The Indian democracy's complex dynamics and diverse contexts warrant a comprehensive assessment before implementing a transformative change like 'One Nation One Election' (ONOE). In this light critically analyse the implementation of ONOE. (10 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Recently, a high level committee under former President Ramnath Kovind submitted a report on bringing back simultaneous elections in India.

Positives of ONOE

- ① At governance level - avoids disruption by frequent imposition of MCC (Model code of conduct).
- ② Reduction in election expenditure - both expenses of state and political parties.
- ③ Can possibly boost voter participation - as voting needs to be done only once in 5 years.
- ④ Avoid constant deployment of CAPF personnel for elections, thus deviating them from their primary mandate.

add more points



Challenges of ONOE

- ① Opposition by states — as current state govt would have to be cut short or lengthened for synchronization.
- ② Centralization tendency — domination of national issues over regional issues thus creating bias in votes.
- ③ current infrastructure not sufficient
eg: EVMs need to be tripled, additional polling staff etc
- ④ difficult to convince all political parties on ONOE.
- ⑤ several constitutional amendments required
eg: Art 356 — President's rule
Art 172, 174 — term & dissolution of state assembly.

The high level committee has recommended in favour of ONOE. Its implementation ~~to~~ should protect the federalism & complex dynamics of Indian democracy.

(Don't write anything in this area)



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11. Trace the evolution of coalition governments in independent India. Do coalition governments offer better governance compared to majority governments. Discuss citing examples from Indian political history.

(15 Marks)

Coalition governments are formed when a single party is unable to command a majority on its own.

Evolution of coalition govt's

India was dominated by single party rule from 1952-1976.

In 1977 - first coalition was formed by Janata Party

1989-1990 - National Front govt

1996-1998 - United Front

1999-2004 - NDA

2004-2014 - UPA I & II

2024 - coalition by NDA

Advantages of coalitions over majority govt's

① It represent diverse regional parties
- ∴ better fulfilling of regional aspirations
eg: MGNREGA - was introduced by

(Don't write anything in this area)

Rajni K. Sharma
&
K. S. Jones



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UPA due to inclusion of several parties

② Policies often avoid one-size fits all approach

eg: UPA-II considered inputs of its partner parties while implementing FDI policy.

③ Promotes inclusivity and avoids dominance by single party.

④ Majority govt can introduce reforms without proper discussion with stakeholders

eg: Farm bills.

⑤ Risk of authoritarianism in majority govt

eg: Emergency during 1975-1977
- such unilateral decisions can be avoided in coalition govt

Disadvantages of coalition govt

① Inefficiency and time-taking

eg: coalition govt in 1996 struggled to pass economic reforms.

(Don't write anything in this area)

Add this
Strengthen
Federalism



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② Lack of clear vision - as dominated by regional interests & political appeasement
eg: policy towards Sri Lanka influenced by DMK

③ Accountability - leads to blame game in coalition govt but single party rules ~~are~~ remain more accountable for their policies.

④ Effective Implementation often requires single party rule
eg: introduction of GST

⑤ Lack of stability - affects parliamentary productivity and its activities

~~It also helps to for~~
stability of single party rule also helps to bring long term policies.
eg: Make in India

Analysis:
Therefore, coalition govt have their advantages and disadvantages but often represent the diverse nature of India.

(Don't write anything in this area)

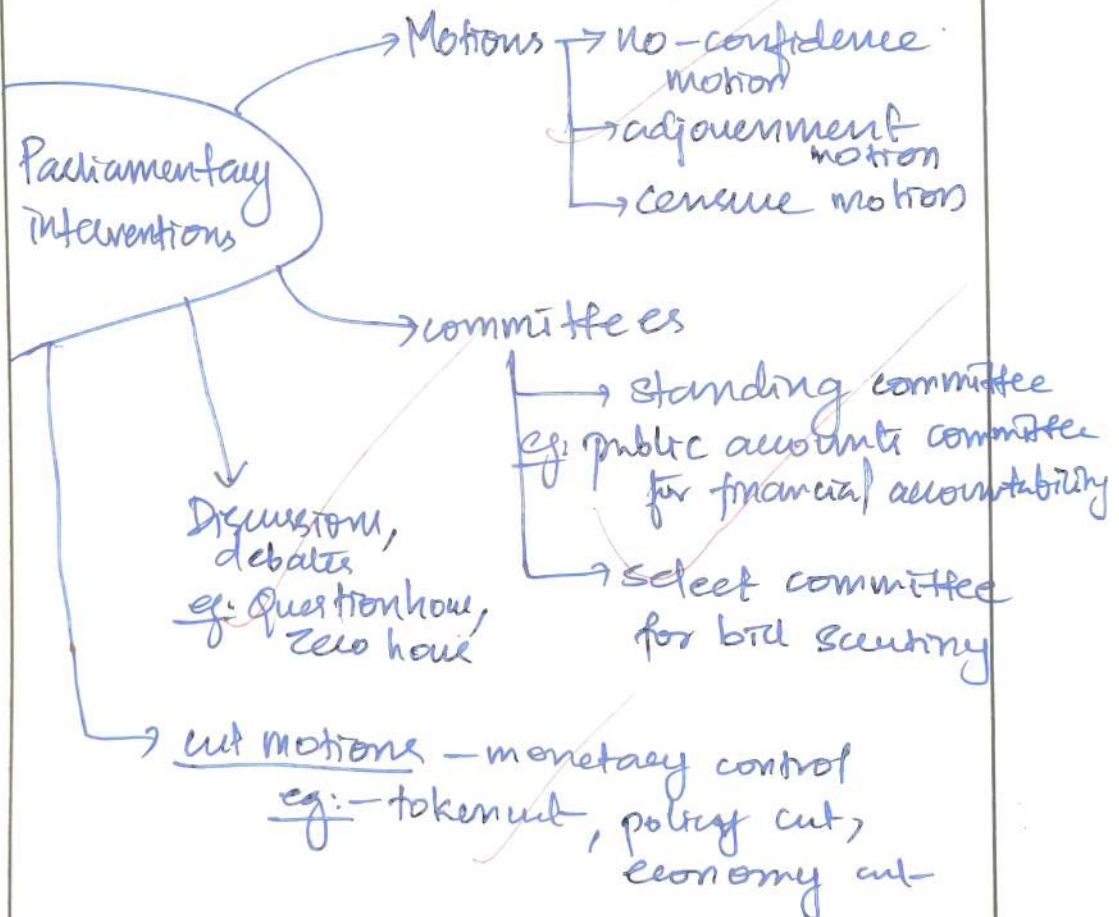
Can long
Accountability
vs
Stability
debate



12. Various types of Parliamentary interventions allow MPs to ensure executive accountability and remediate potential issues of the people. Discuss. Analyse how far such interventions were effective in strengthening our parliamentary democracy in the recent past? (15 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

Article 75 of the constitution states that the executive is collectively responsible to the lower house of the parliament. There are several parliamentary checks to ensure executive accountability.





Effectiveness of these measures

① using no-confidence motion to force the govt to discuss nationally important issues.

Eg.

② formation of select committee for recommendations on digital personal data protection Act

③ verification of audit reports presented by CAG on govt expenditure

(Don't write anything in this area)

Ineffectiveness of these measures

① Majoritarian govt can easily bypass various checks

eg: no-confidence motion cannot bring fall of govt.

② Partisan role of speaker

eg: suspension of opposition MPs.
expunging remarks of opposition
denial of introduction of motions
like adjournment.



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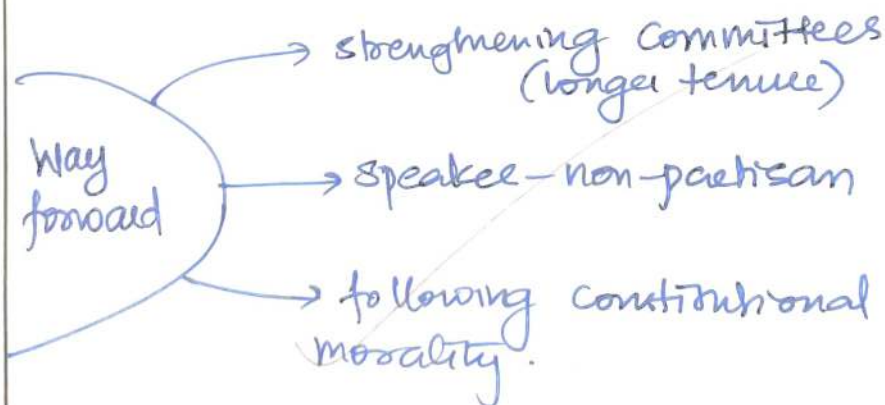
③ committee work is mostly post-mortem and no enforceability powers on findings.

④ Tenure of standing committees is only 1 year - hindering effective functioning.

⑤ In the 17th Lok Sabha - less than 25% of bills went to committee stage (PRS legislative research) - poor bill scrutiny.

⑥ Assumption of proceedings - reducing productivity

eg: In 17th LS - $\frac{1}{8}$ th of time lost
recent RS - $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of time lost.



(Don't write anything in this area)



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13. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution declares India as a sovereign republic. In this light, discuss the criteria that determine a nation as sovereign and examine the challenges to India's sovereignty arising from its international commitments and external and internal dynamics, and how the nation is addressing these threats. (15 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

The preamble of India declares India as a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic.

International law defines sovereign nations as

- 1) having a defined territory
- 2) a permanent population
- 3) an independent govt
- 4) ability to interact freely with other nations.

Challenges to sovereignty of India

① International commitments

↳ UN resolutions vs India's foreign policy

eg: resolution against Russia, pressure from other nations.



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- ↳ WTO - amber box subsidy vs Minimum Support price of India
- ↳ climate goals at UNFCCC COP vs development priorities of India

② Challenges from internal dynamics

- ↳ Separatist & secessionist movements
eg: Khalistani movement
- ↳ domestic unrest - destabilising state govts
eg: Left wing extremism (LWE), Manipur issue

③ challenges from external dynamics

- ↳ state-sponsored terrorism by other nations
eg: Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir
- ↳ threat of US sanctions (CAATSA) while engaging with Iran, Russia

Steps to address these threats

- ① Balancing interests and walking a diplomatic tight rope

(Don't write anything in this area)



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eg: ~~relate~~ growing relations with both
US & Russia.

② using institutional mechanisms
eg: peace clause used in WTO to
continue MSP

③ forceful action
eg: military action against
terrorism

deploying CAPF to handle LWE

④ Balancing national needs and international commitments.

eg: promotion of green hydrogen for
development which is also climate
friendly.

⑤ Innovative measures to protect own
national interests
eg: Rupee-ruble trade to circumvent
US Sanctions on Russia.

Thus, India takes several steps in order
to maintain its sovereignty and
avoid external interference.

(Don't
write
anything
in this
area)



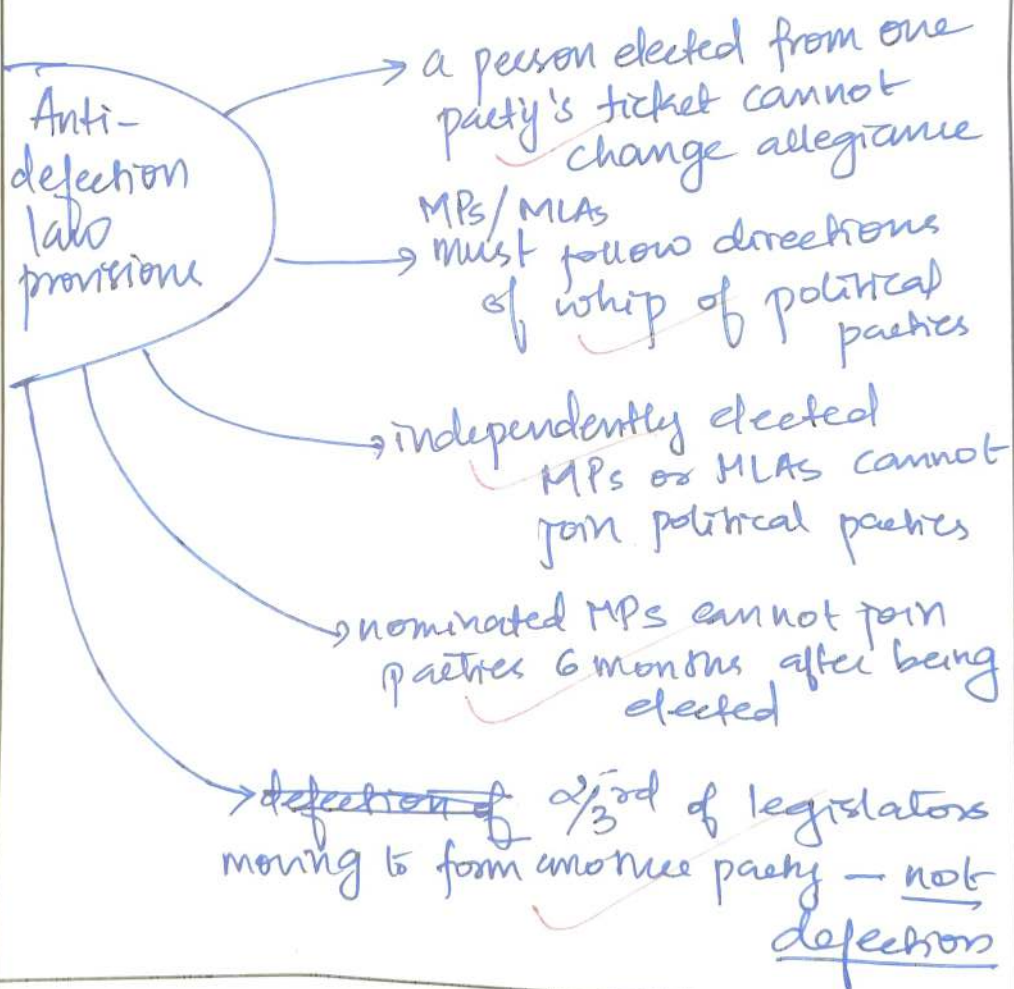
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14. The anti-defection law, found under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, was enacted to curb frequent floor-crossing by legislators. However, it is fraught with challenges. Comment. Also discuss how clarity for the law has unfolded by citing recent case laws. (15 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

The 52nd constitutional amendment added the tenth Schedule of the constitution in order to curb the 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram' phenomenon in Indian politics.



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Challenges of term schedule

- ① Speaker as adjudicating authority
 - ↳ lack of timely action
 - ↳ partisan role of speaker
- ② penalises individual defection but not wholesale defection — ∴ horse trading occurs at large levels now.
- ③ Against democracy — MPs have no freedom to go against party's will or vote their dissent.
(In Britain, MPs are free to cross floors)
- ④ distinction of provisions between nominated and independent MPs/MLAs — not logical.
- ⑤ 1st amendment — recognizes only a merger and not a split in the legislative party.
- ⑥ Affects debates and discussions — as it does not recognise difference between defection & dissent.

(Don't write anything in this area)



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Supreme Court judgements

1) Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachithu - the speaker's decision is subject to judicial review.

2) In recent Maharashtra case

- SC said speaker has to take timely action on defection laws

way forward

1) NCRWC - recommended removing speaker's powers & giving authority to President/Governors in consultation with ECI.

2) application of anti-defection law only in crucial questions of the govt like no-confidence motion.

(Don't write anything in this area)

M.H. case → Legis. Pk → WHP → Politea (17/11/14)



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15. The ongoing war in Ukraine has cast a shadow on the traditionally strong India-Russia strategic partnership. Analyse the evolving dynamics of this relationship in the context of the current geopolitical landscape. Discuss the challenges India faces in balancing its ties with Russia vis-à-vis its relationship with other major powers. What strategies can India adopt to navigate this complex situation and ensure its strategic autonomy?

(15 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

The declaration of war by Russia in Ukraine led to Russia's isolation in geopolitical landscape, but India's historically strong ties with Russia ~~can~~ is crucial to India's strategic interests.

Evolving dynamics in India-Russia ties

- ① Increased trade between the nations
eg: crude oil purchase by India at discount
bilateral trade value of 65 billion.
- ② Latest, annual bilateral summit to strengthen ties
eg: trade target of 100 billion by 2030
target to use new connectivity routes like INSTC, Chennai Vladivostok corridor.
- ③ Indian citizens being recruited into



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Russian army can potentially strain relations.

- ④ Rupee-ruble trade promotion to circumvent US sanctions.

Challenges faced by India

- ① Balancing ties with western nations & Russia.

eg: US wants India to join in sanctions against Russia.

- ② Isolation at global level pushing Russia into stronger China-Russia relations.

↳ affects India's ability to use Russia as a neutralizing power against China.

- ③ Development of a China-Russia-North Korea axis - can increase nuclear proliferation in the continent - against India's interests

- ④ poor rupee-ruble trade & Russian companies preferring Chinese Yuan.

(Don't write anything in this area)



Strategies adopted by India

- ① Exercise strategic autonomy - to protect national interests & pursue independent foreign policy. *how?*
- ② Call for dialogue and diplomacy - in recent bilateral summit by PM Modi.
- ③ Aid and humanitarian relief efforts to be pursued in Ukraine to be seen as a responsible global power.
- ④ Efficient utilisation of different organisations to balance between different powers -
eg: balancing Quad and SCO.

India

Russia is ~~India's~~ one of the most important strategic partners of India. As a responsible global power, India must help in facilitating talks between Russia and Ukraine for ending the conflict.

(Don't write anything in this area)

my 1st shipment

ref by for static content



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17. The financial impetus recommended by the 15th Finance Commission is indeed a welcome step for urban local bodies in India." Discuss. Additionally, analyse the other significant challenges faced by urban local bodies and explain the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to address these challenges effectively. (15 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

The 13th and 14th constitutional amendments gave constitutional recognition to local self govts at the urban and rural level.

15th Finance Commission recommendation

- ① Increased grants from centre to urban local bodies
- ② Performance-based grants
eg: for improving air quality, meeting service requirements — drinking water, solid waste management.
- ③ Also has a provision for health grants to local govts.

Challenges faced by urban local bodies

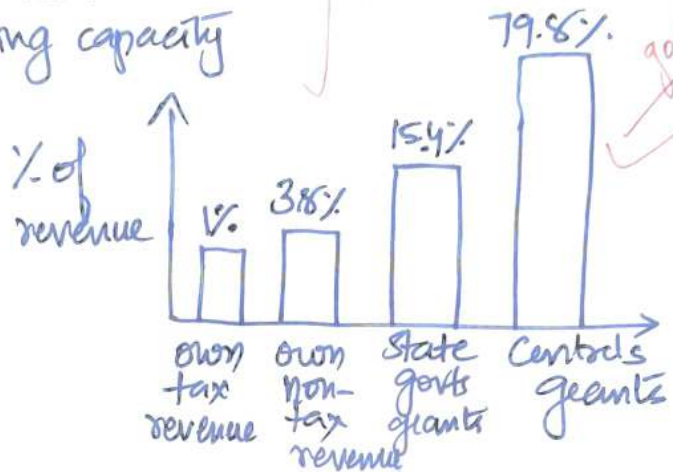
- ① Poor state of revenues — born generation & related to fiscal autonomy



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eg: RBI's report on financial status of local bodies - shows poor revenue generating capacity



(Don't write anything in this area)

② Existence of para-statal bodies - which usurp functions of local bodies

eg: Bangalore city has a special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up to monitor urban development.

③ poor devolution of functions mentioned under 12th schedule.

④ low availability of functionaries to carry out functions.

eg: poor tax collection due to poor capacity

⑤ domination of executive over elected



local bodies.

⑥ Reluctance by urban local bodies itself to raise taxes - political appeasement - fearing backlash.

eg: property tax rates are very low.

⑦ States ~~are~~ do not appoint state finance commission regularly for recommendations of devolutions.

Reforms
needed

→ promotion of financial autonomy - more taxation powers.

→ strengthening one cadre of local self govt officials.

→ proper disbursement of funds under various schemes

→ Effective implementation of central govt schemes like Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

Effective functioning of urban local bodies is necessary for the participatory governance & effective service delivery.

(Don't write anything in this area)

demand was "need" for reforms. Refer key for that part.



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18. Discuss the various areas where participatory governance is implemented in India. What are the challenges faced in promoting participatory governance, and how can they be addressed? (15 Marks)

Participatory governance ensures proper fulfilment of democratic ideals. It also ensures accountability and transparency in governance.

Various areas of participatory governance

- ① 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment - constitutional recognition of local self govts at rural and urban levels.
- ② Social audit - people involvement in auditing govt schemes.
eg: mandatory social audit for MGNREGS scheme.
- ③ People's plan campaigns - to promote decentralized planning.
eg: Implemented in Kerala

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(Don't write anything in this area)



④ public opinion on bills - citizens can provide opinions on draft bills introduced by govt

⑤ Gram Sabhas - for decision making
eg: Forest rights Act - to ensure land & title rights
permission of Gram Sabha for diversion of forest for non-forest purposes.

Challenges in participatory governance

① poor implementation and devolution
eg: LSGs (local self govt) struggle on account of fund, functions & functionaries.

② no enforceability.
eg: findings in social audit do not have enforceability

③ dilution by govt itself
eg: recent forest conservation amendment act subverts Gram Sabha's role.

(Don't write anything in this area)



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- ④ poor ability of citizens to participate
due to illiteracy, poverty etc.

Reforms for participatory Governance

- ① Recent, RBI Report on Financial Status
of panchayats recommends fiscal
autonomy & devolution of taxation
powers to enable proper governance.
- ② Mandating social audits for other
socially relevant schemes.
- ③ Improving awareness of citizens and
their rights
eg: improving citizen's charter

Thus participatory governance is vital
for achieving SDG 16 - peace, justice and
strong institutions.

More points can be provided in 2nd & 3rd
part of the question

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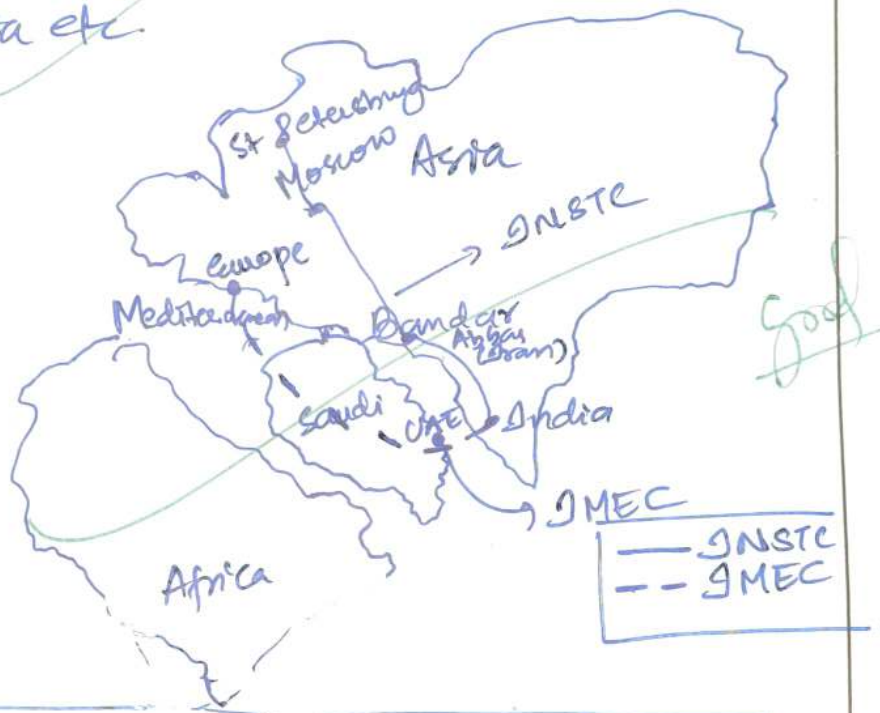
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19. In the context of the evolving global order, critically examine the significance and potential challenges associated with the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Discuss whether these initiatives can effectively counter China's hegemonic Belt and Road Initiative (OBOR). (15 Marks)

(Don't write anything in this area)

The India-Middle East corridor was recently introduced in the G20 summit to promote better connectivity and trade. INSTC has long been India's focus to ensuring connectivity to central Asia, Russia etc.



Significance of INSTC & IMEC

① Improve connectivity - reducing



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transit time and transportation costs.

② Bypassing Pakistan - to access Central Asia - INSTC

③ Faster route to Europe and middle East - IMEC - Combination of ship, rail + road.

④ potentially reduce emissions - due to longer shipping routes

⑤ Boosting of India's trade - exploring markets in Europe, Central Asia,

⑥ Bypassing the Red Sea route.
Challenges

① INSTC project is in limbo - due to sanctions on Iran by USA.

② Requirement of huge amount of funding - is an issue

reach express in less words

Fund constraint & cost overruns

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Delay in completion

(Don't write anything in this area)



- ③ In IMEC, multiple countries are evolved - s. several regulations, administrative baseless.
- ④ Geopolitical conflicts like Israel-Hamas conflict would lead to delaying of IMEC

Don't write anything in this area)

Effectiveness in countering OBOR

- ① IMEC has been added to Build Back Better - G2 initiative specifically to counter OBOR.
- ② INSTC can help challenge China's hegemony in central Asian markets.

challenges

- ① OBOR - is ahead and well established
- ② unlimited funds of china
- ③ less regulation + administrative challenges - as only china + a country is involved.

Thus, India must concentrate on alternative trade routes to become a significant part of the global supply chains and to boost trade competitiveness.



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20. Discuss the evolving dynamics of Centre-State relations in India, with special reference to the recent trends in fiscal federalism. What challenges do these dynamics pose, and how can they be addressed to ensure a balanced federal structure? (15 Marks)

Federalism has been recognised as ~~the~~ part of the basic structure of constitution in SR Bommai Case.

Evolution of centre-state relations

1952-1967 → single party rule at centre & states

1968-1989 → expressive federalism (rise of regional parties)

1990-2014 → coalition politics — multi-party federalism

2014-2024 → confrontational relations between centre and states.

Current dynamics and challenges

⇒ Better to have 2 subheadings

① Imbalance in grants given among the states

eg. southern states complaints regarding reduction in grants

② Article 293 — restricting borrowing power of state — by creating a ceiling on loans taken by state govt

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(Don't write anything in this area)



eg: Kerala govt's suit in SC against centre to remove ceiling under Art 293.

- ③ GST Council - was set up to promote cooperative federalism and joint decision making of centre and states.

but, virtual veto for centre

$\frac{2}{3}$ rd of votes - state
 $\frac{1}{3}$ rd - centre
 $\frac{3}{4}$ th votes - required for passing motions.

"off budget borrowing"

- ④ Inclusion of borrowings by PSUs, and other govt bodies also under state's debt - restricting fiscal autonomy.

- ⑤ Increase of cess + ^{surcharges} ~~grants~~ in central taxes.

- ⑥ Other challenges in federalism

↳ politicization of govt organisations.

eg: CBI, ED

↳ excessive centralization tendencies

eg: one nation one language

↳ Misuse of governor - tussle between states and governors.

(Don't write anything in this area)



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eg: WB, Kerala, ~~etc~~ Tamil Nadu etc

Steps to create balanced structure

① Revival of inter-state council - for effective discussions + resolution of conflicts

② Restricting cess & surcharge to 10% of total - so that state's shares can be protected. Any committee recommendation?

③ Panchhi commission's recommendations on governor - eg: consulting chief minister during governor's appointment.

④ More balanced grants devolution to be envisaged by 16th Finance commission.

Thus, smooth & centre-state relations can help in effective governance and better development of all states.

(Don't write anything in this area)