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ENLITE MAINS TEST 2025

FULL TEST GS II

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		11	
2		12	
3		13	
4	4.5	14	
5	4	15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		18	
9		19	
10		20	
TOTAL			

Name

Prateek ~~982~~

Roll no

Subject

GS2

Date

2:30 - 5:30

Questions Attempted

EXAMINER REMARKS

GRADE PARAMETERS	BELOW AVERAGE	AVERAGE	GOOD	BETTER	OUTSTANDING
Understanding of question					
Conceptual clarity					
Structure					
Content					
Presentation & legibility					

Any other remarks:



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1. Citizen-centric governance is essential for restoring trust in public institutions and ensuring responsive service delivery. Examine how Indian administrative reforms have moved towards enhancing citizen-centricity. (10 Marks)

Citizen centric governance
hints Yogakshema, welfarist principle
present in Article 37 of Indian consti-
tution & embedded in Indian Ethos.

Citizen Centric Governance - Trust

~~Essentiality~~

- 1) Public service delivery - enhance trust in PDS system.
- 2) E-Shram portal addressing migration-r
rathion dichotomy
- 3) CPGRAMS - providing responsive
governance
- 4) Attempt at citizen charter &
Public service delivery bill hint towards
citizen centric governance.

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Anything on
the Margin

Indian Administrative Reforms towards
citizen centricity

- 1) From reactive bureaucracy to proactive beauracy (eg) Risk assessment
gap & governance

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- 2) Inclusion of e-technology to reduce touch points (eg) Icgate & ITR.
- 3) Inclusion of file noting practice post independence → increased accountability
- 4) Mission Karmyogi to provide career progression & remove generalist tendencies.
- 5) Decentralised Administrative framework through 73rd & 74th Amendment.
- 6) Removal of subsidy leakage through TAM trinity.
- 7) Ethical training of officers in LBSNAA & training agencies.
- 8) Time bound service delivery & sunset & outcome based programme for removal of Bureaucratic cholesterol

In lines with Nota Committee inclusion of technology & access to lateral service entries & mid career training can further enhance Administrative efficiency

Tamsoobhng

Molle to Pro-91dte
Data science
360°

AI
SIS
Feed back

1st part is weak

Don't
Any
the



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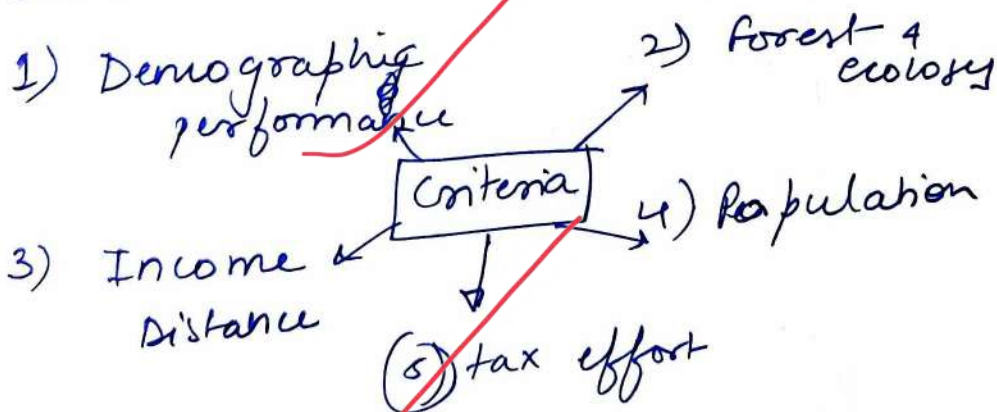
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2. What are the major recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission? Briefly discuss their significance for fiscal governance in India. (10 Marks)

15th Finance Commission constituted under NK Singh under Article 280 of Constitution provide for fiscal devolution thus upholding principle of fiscal federalism.

15th Finance Commission | Recommendations

Vertical Devolution of tax between Center & state on the basis of below parameters - totalling 41% of revenue devolution.



Initially 42% in 14th Finance Commission but creation of J&K additional UT of Ladakh.

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6) It is recommended for consolidation of state finance commission for devolution of funds.

7) Tied nature of grants in metropolitan region for water & sanitation. (eg) 100% tied.

8) Semi tied nature of fund in municipalities. i.e. 60% tied front.

9) Indicator based i.e. outcome based fund allocation. (eg) Extra fund for ODF+ + ODF++ districts.

Significance needs to be

Challenges → 1) Recommendation not binding
2) Tied nature erodes fiscal autonomy

3) Sterile Article 243H no creation of state finance commission

Solution → Room for fiscal autonomy
Mandatory devolution for panchayati system.

Finance Commission devolution provide for balance of fiscal prudence & fiscal conservatism promoting fiscal prudence.



3. Discuss the role and limitations of the Public Accounts Committee in ensuring executive accountability in India. (10 Marks)

Public accounts committee constituted under Lok Sabha Rules provide for members from both Rajya Sabha + Lok Sabha. Comptroller + Auditor General is considered friend + philosopher of this committee.

Role

- 1) Scrutiny of appropriation account report
- 2) Scrutiny of revenue expenditure
- 3) Scrutiny of finance account report by CAG.
- 4) Provide for check proprietary expenditure by government.

Despite there there are certain limitations of public account committee.

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- 1) ~~Absence of technical specification~~
- 2) ~~Not permanent contribution~~
- 3) ~~Time constraints of CAG & MPS.~~
- 4) ~~Partisan nature due to party politics~~

- Steps
- 1) ~~Permanent contribution~~
 - 2) ~~Indian audit department direct supports~~
 - 3) ~~Provides legal structure to committees~~

Parliamentary committees have provided ~~enhanced~~ government control. As Woodrow Wilson remarked parties in congress are at public display actual work is done in committees.



4. Access to digital infrastructure alone does not ensure effective e-governance. Examine how digital capability and information relevance influence the outcomes of ICT-based governance initiatives in India. (10 Marks)

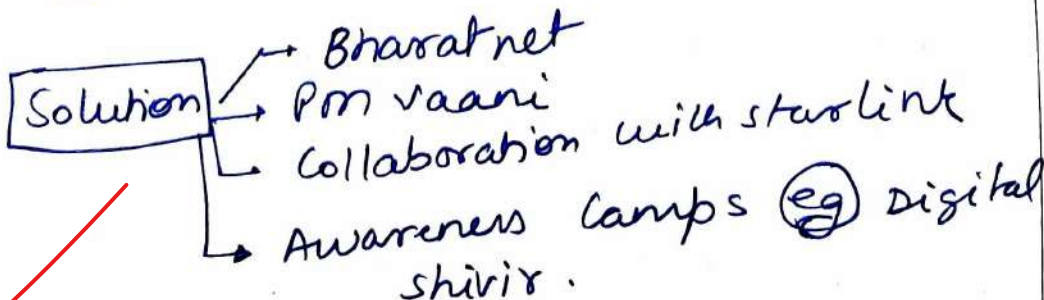
E-governance has emerged as a tool to facilitate the basic tenets of good governance, promoting accountability, transparency & responsiveness of institutions.

how digital infrastructure ensures e governance include that side of the answer also

Digital Capability

~~Predominance of vulnerable sector centered scheme require for digital capabilities~~

- 1) TRAI 2023 → Urban density of network 130% but Rural 50%.
- 2) In Rural areas less than 15% children ~~below~~ acunmy tech.
- 3) Only 15% above 60 years of age use internet service



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- 4) ~~Critical Information Center necessary for finance + energy~~
- 5) ~~Data Center capability need to be enhanced~~
(eg) ~~Google Investment in data center.~~

Information relevance

- 1) ~~State department - lack information relevance (eg) RTI.~~
- 2) ~~Availability of no. of vaccinated on Cowin portal but absence of centers.~~
- 3) ~~Krishi Vigyan Kendra - difficult terminology in science. - no correct~~

Solution

- 1) ~~Vernacular use~~
- 2) ~~Integration of public service center in UMANU~~
- 3) ~~Enhanced awareness of digital tech.~~

~~Outcomes of ICT based Governance rely on capability building, but information relevance, gives value to infrastructure, when every penny spent leads India to Viksit Bharat.~~



5. Equality may be a fiction, but nonetheless one must accept it as a governing principle." In the light of this statement, discuss how the principle of 'equal protection of laws' is being pursued. Examine the recent judicial position on sub-categorization within reservation and the challenges it poses to the existing framework of affirmative action? (10 Marks)

Article 14 of Indian Constitution embody the ideal of equality to address issue of layered sovereignty in Indian political landscape.

Pursuance of Equal Protection of laws

- 1) Through affirmative action - (eg) Reservation → Indira Sawhney judgement
- 2) Through gender equality & diluting patriarchal norms (eg) Sabrimata judgement.
- 3) By removal of religion based disabilities (eg) BV Nagarathna J. interpretation of section 125 of CRPC
- 4) Tribal discrimination & unhuman practices stopped (eg) Ashok Meena vs UOI.

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Is Equality Fiction

No 1st is an ideal - through Article 18 - abolition of title & Article (17) → abolition of untouchability & 15(4) & 16(4) enabling provision for reservation has provided for same.

Subcategorisation

Justice Rohini Commission reported that 27% obc control 74% jobs.

Judicial pronouncements

1) MK Nagraj v UOI - reiteration of obc creamy layer concept.

2) Recently State of Punjab v Devender Singh state talked of subcategorisation even in SC & ST categories.

Constitution of India seek delicate balance between article 14 & 395 which talk of government efficiency thus explicitly downtrodden without injustice to others.



6. Despite three decades of decentralization, local bodies in India continue to grapple with limited autonomy and weak institutional capacity. In this context, analyse the impact of functional and financial constraints on the effectiveness of local governance. (10 Marks)

73rd + 74th Amendment brought new era of governance, in line with Gandhian principles, yet the decentralisation has been a half hearted attempt.

Limited Functional Autonomy

Schedule 11 + Schedule 12 provide for functional devolution but except Tamil Nadu + Kerala its application has been half hearted.

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- 1) Non-devolution of functions
- 2) Absent functional capabilities
- 3) Presence of Pradhan pati culture
- 4) low remuneration - "Chavi Rathore highlighted as low as ₹ 4000 in rajasthan"
- 5) Continuous presence of parastatal bodies - absence of vertical integration

ion.

Limited Finances

- 1) Dependence of discretionary Grants
- 2) Absence of tax base due to vote-locality nature.
- 3) Non-usage of trade tax + property tax.
- 4) Absence of state finance commission consolidation under Article 243 A.
- 5) Absence of financial propriety + prudence.

Solution

- 1) Panchayati Karmayogi
- 2) Presence of panchayat secretary be made mandatory
- 3) Awareness of social audit
- 4) Record of Gram Sabha meetings with minimum number legally fixed.
- 5) Usage of Urban local bonds (eg Surat, Indore)
- 6) Enhancing state panchayat role in vehicle schemes reducing para statal roles.

73rd + 74th Amendment are tools of great practical importance, as they are embedded in Indian ethos.



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7. The Indian Constitution exhibits a unique blend of rigidity and flexibility in its constitutional amendment process. Discuss. Also compare it with the amendment procedure of the United States Constitution. (10 Marks)

Article 368 of Indian constitution provide for constitutional amendment process which under 368 of are two types.

How can Indian Constitution be Amended

- 1) Outside purview of Article 368 - simple majority (eg) Article 3 etc
- 2) Article 368 → $\frac{2}{3}$ rd majority both house
↳ $\frac{2}{3}$ rd majority + ratification by half states

Flexibility → 1) state reorganisation → 1956 Act
↳ 2) changing state borders / boundaries.

Comparative Flexibility - Rigidity

- ↳ 1) changes to Part III (eg) Amendment 1, 24th, 25th, 17th.
- ↳ 103rd Amendment - ~~Provisions of Amendment~~ EWS reservation.

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Rigidity $\frac{2}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$ state

↳ (9) 101st Amendment Act → GST
↳ Amendments that deal with federal structure.

India vs USA

- 1) USA require ratification of $(\frac{3}{4})$ states
- 2) In USA state can provide for initiation of constitution amendment not in India.
- 3) Highly rigid hence very few amendments.
- 4) Both the USA & India require $(\frac{2}{3})^{\text{rd}}$ majority in house.
- 5) Provision of Article 108 of Joint-sitting absent in USA hence must be approved by both house

Indian Constitution as held by Gowar Bhatia is a living tree document 106 amendments are example of such life, but doctrine of basic structure provide necessary safeguard.

Good



8. "The expansion of BRICS signals a shift in global coalition building among emerging powers." Discuss its geopolitical and economic implications. (10 Marks)

BRICS foundation was laid in 1997 post Bangkok declaration with Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa being members. Now its membership have increased with the most latest entry of Indonesia in 2025.

Geopolitical Implication

- 1) C. Raja Mohan has emphasised it as slow boat but not non-starter like SAARC.
- 2) Growing Heteropolarity + American isolationism require BRIC partnership.
- 3) It is seen as anti-west but India's Vikram Jairi called it neutral alliance.
- 4) It help secure critical mineral partnership → Data - china control supply chain.

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5) It acts as voice for global south due to democratic structure

Economic Implication

- 1) Ageing Economies of West → demographic dividend of Global south
- 2) Energy partnership with Russia & defence partnership help indigenous manufacturing
- 3) With china having 18% global gdp share BRICS become significant
- 4) New Development Bank (2014) emerge as potent alternate to bretton woods -

Challenges

- 1) China's revisionist nature
- 2) Absence of common philosophy
- 3) Dominance of underdeveloped nation
- 4) Chinese unipolarity

Solution

- Acting as voice of global south
- Enhancing & increasing membership by allowing african Union

BRICS provide an alternative world order opportunity with increasing protectionism & failure of WTO.



9. Despite deepening economic and strategic ties, India-Bangladesh relations remain fragile due to domestic issues, regional power dynamics and unresolved bilateral issues. Discuss. (10 Marks)

1971 war was result of Munroe doctrine of India which was also supported by Vijay Gokhale, post Pakistan dehyphenation India through Bangabandhu's awami league enjoyed significant bilateral ties.

shorter

Deep economic & strategic ties

- 1) Transshipment facility of Kolkata port allowed
- 2) Kaladaan multi modal project initiation
- 3) work on chittagong port
- 4) Textile import from bangladesh.

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Domestic issues

- 1) minority treatment after regime change of Awami league
- 2) Political alienation of opposition in Yusuf's regime

Regional Powers dynamics

- 1) Chinese lens - Yunus comment about north eastern region. 4 Silliguri corridors by minister
- 2) Increased cooperation with Pakistan
- 3) Influx of Rohingyas & security issues.

Bilateral Issues

- 1) Problem of absence of repatriation treaty
- 2) Constant demand of extradition of Sheikh Hasina.
- 3) Border-fencing issue & Assam water usage treaty

Way forward

- 1) Reversing further alienation eg) stopping transshipment in January
- 2) Implementation of CIBMs
- 3) Bilateral talks.

India remains in a state of instability with hostile neighbourhood but with past record of changing adversity to opportunity India can make best out of it.



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10. With a rising elderly population and increasing outmigration of youth from India, the traditional support structures for senior citizens are under stress. Critically examine the adequacy of India's social security and healthcare systems in addressing the evolving needs of the ageing population in this context. (10 Marks)

According to World population report 2025 India's TFR is 1.9, that is below 2.1 replacement level, the population will start dipping post 2040. Hence strengthening the existing system

Rising elderly population

- 1) Currently 68% of Indian population is working age 32% being dependent

Do not Write Anything on the Margin

Increasing Outmigration

- 1) India was receiver of \$135 mn of remittance + has 35 million diaspora.

Adequacy of social security

- 1) Presence of scheme like PM Vaya Vandana Yojana - for pension by investment.



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2) Presence of maintenance of parents act.

~~3) 80~~

Health Adequacy

- 1) Absence of tertiary public facility
- 2) 39.4%. Out of pocket expenditure
- 3) Inclusion of 70+ in Aashman Bharat Yojana.

Challenges

→ Traditional family care culture eroded

↳ Absence of developed care infrastructure

Way forward

→ Investment in care infrastructure

↳ ↑ necessarily health expenditure to 2.5% from 1.9%.

→ Establishment of old age homes

→ Civil society & NGO integration

→ Availing opportunity for silver economy

Indian ageing population both humanly, and from welfare state point of view require sufficient care.

More focus should be on party that which are directly asked



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11. "Access to justice for all remains an unrealized constitutional promise in India, especially for the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society." In this context, examine the performance of various legal services authorities in delivering free legal aid under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. What are the key challenges faced in ensuring effective legal assistance? Suggest measures to strengthen the legal aid framework in India. (15 Marks)

Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987 provided for National, state, taluk level authorities to fulfill constitutional spirit of Article 39 A.

Unrealised Constitutional promise

- 1) Black coat syndrome → fear among vulnerable.
- 2) Pendency data: - 5.12 crore total
68.6% pendency in supreme court. 78.6% in high court
4 more than 4 crore case in district court (National Judicial grid 2025)
- 3) Honorarium of lawyers in lakhs + crore.
- 4) Procedural complexity - rightly called paradise of lawyer.

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Performance of Legal Service Authority

- 1) Enhanced periodicity of Lok Adalats
- 2) Amendment in protection (eg) Delhi included Upper limit for senior citizen
- 3) Providing ADR facilities to expedite justice
- 4) Providing pre-litigation solution in compoundable offences.

Challenges

- 1) Judicial clog ubiquitous
- 2) State disparity in beneficiaries
- 3) Absence of resort due to low awareness.
- 4) Absence of pro bono practice by inexp reliable lawyers.
- 5) Considered as hub of incompetent legal service
- 6) Absence of tradition Client-Attorney relationship



- 7) Being Pro-bono - absence of ethical responsibilities
- 8) Infrastructural Underquery as per Judicial Infrastructure survey 2021

Measures to strengthen

- 1) Using Supreme Court Tech of ICIS for better coordination
 - 2) Presence of E-Suwas portal for translation issue.
 - 3) Mandatory inclusion of mediation & conciliation in compoundable issue.
 - 4) Clubbing mandatory practice of 3 years of Judicial aspirant in legal service authority thus solving dual problem.
 - 5) Addressing Infrastructural gap by enhanced expenditure.
- legal service authority can provide for decongestion of prisoners working on 130% occupancy thus not in one, but ~~are~~ in many ways ensuring justice.

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2. The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law." In light of this maxim, analyse how the Directive Principles of State Policy seek to translate constitutional ideals into a framework of welfarism. Also discuss the challenges in achieving this vision in practice. (15 Marks)

Article 37 of the Constitution provides DPSP to be fundamental to governance in line with principle of welfare state. Also as Ambedkar pointed no government responsible to citizen would neglect them.

DPSP → welfarism

1) Article 39(b)(c) prevent concentration of wealth + equitable distribution of resource

(eg) land reform - welfare of landless

2) Article 39A - provide for free legal aid.

(eg) Legal service authority Act.

3) Article 39 - also provide for equal pay for equal work.
↳ gender justice.

4) Article 40 - provides for village panchayat

73rd & 74th amendment

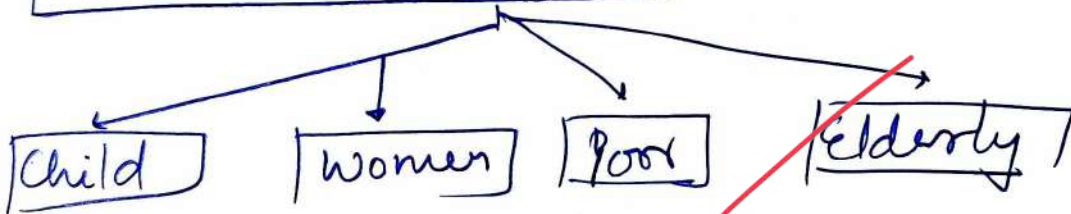


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- 5) Article 41 → provide for right to work + education
↳ maintenance of child, sick + elderly.
- 6) Article 43 - provide for living wage
- 7) Article 42 - Just + humane work conditions
- 8) Article 44 → Provide for UCC, thus provide common principle
- 9) Article 45 - Provide for child care education till 6.

10) Promotion of welfare



- Govt Steps → Labour wage code
→ RTE Act 2009
↳ Land reforms
↳ Bank nationalisation
↳ Maintenance of elderly act.

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Challenges

- 1) Economic deficiency → India still middle income
- 2) Non-judiciable nature of DPSP
- 3) Absence of coherent philosophy according to Ivor Jennings.
- 4) Inadequate data to understand outcomes
- 5) Opposing interest (eg) Industrial dispute Act.
- 6) Changing nature of economy from jabsian to mixed.

Way forward

- 1) DPSP mapped policy making
- 2) Inclusion of DPSP achievement in NCRU report
- 3) Constitutionalisation of necessary DPSP (eg) VCC.
- 4) Relook into principle of DPSP & FR debate like by DY Chandrachud J. in Mumbai Housing case

MC setalvad called DPSP

as beacon of light & resounding instrument of instruction.



13. The increasing political and administrative centralization in recent years has raised concerns about the erosion of India's federal spirit. Discuss the impact of such centralization on the functioning of cooperative federalism in India. Does Indian federalism still offer space for collaborative federalism, which may represent a step forward? (15 Marks)

Recent Governor of Tamil Nadu case has brought to light frictional nature of Indian federal structure which Granville Austin considers Quasi Federal.

Past Issues

- 1) Post 1967, government dissolution by Center
- 2) Increased Use of President rule before SR. Bommai judgement

Recent Issues

- 1) Governor power under Article 200 of constitution.
(eg) T.N vs Governor 2015.
- 2) Governor + vice chancellors appointment Issue
(eg) Md Arif Khan in Kerala.

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- 3) Lieutenant General vs Delhi con issue regarding Article 239 AA.
- 4) financial dissolution issue. (fin. Commission)
- 5) Tied nature of fund (eg) NEL 2020
3 language formula + Sarajra Shiksha abhiyan Tamil Nadu.

Impact - on Cooperative Federalism

- 1) Erosion of trust in body politics
- 2) Saliency bias in policy formulation
- 3) Justice Impacted (eg) Use of Section 6 of DPSE + withdrawal of [CBI] ~~con~~ general consent.
- 4) Challenging to implement pan India laws (eg) farm laws, Model APMC or prison laws
- 5) AIJS under Article 312 also dilutes trust.
- 6) Reactance attitude effecting social fabric (eg) Karnataka Maharashtra language issue



Space for Collaborative federalism

- 1) Interstate council under Article 263.
- 2) More frequent Zonal Councils to address issues
- 3) FRBM relaxation to states
- 4) Parity in devolution & lesser resort to discretionary Grant
- 5) Punchhi Commission recommendation for Governors chosen with concurrence of State CM.
- 6) Niti Aayog as facilitator of cooperative + collaborative federalism.
- 7) Addressing reactance of states by measures like Tamil-Hindi Sanyam.

Cooperative + collaborative federalism hold key to India's federalism & growth, where the development of units is reflected in development of whole.

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14. How do coalition governments and single-party majority governments differ in their structure and functioning? In the Indian context, assess their long-term implications on democratic institutions and the quality of governance. (15 Marks)

India witnessed coalition government era Post 1983 till 2014, where multiplicity of ideas + views merge, whereas since 2014 and previously from 1950-1967 + 1971-1977 and then again Rajiv Gandhi Government India witness single party majority.

For majority a party needs 270 seats in Lok Sabha.

Single party majority / Coalition government

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Centralised structure | 1) decentralised structure |
| 2) One whip | 2) Multiple whips may be present |
| 3) Coherent philosophy | 3) divergent opinions |
| 4) Resort to Kitchen Cabinet | 4) Absence of Kitchen Cabinet |
| 5) Party Democracy | 5) Different party different rules. |



- (eg) 1) In 2004-14 - Congress was dependent on left parties
- 2) In 1971 also Indira Gandhi was supported by left parties

Functional variation

- 1) Quick decision - Possible in single party
↳ Absent in coalition
- 2) Balanced decision - Present in coalition
- 3) Democracy as value → diversity present in coalition.
- 4) Political stability → Present in single party.
- 5) National reliance + trust + accountability
present in single party
- 6) Parliamentary efficiency - Present in single party

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Long Term Implication

A. Single party

- 1) Probability of sustained growth.



- (eg) Coalition era - Hindu Growth rate - 3.5-1.
- 2) Erosion of separation of power
 - (eg) 42nd Amendment in single party rule.
- 3) Enhanced Governance (eg) JAM trials, DPI-UPI
- 4) Charismatic personality for
 - (eg) Sawaran Singh committee TOR included possibility of Presidential system
- 5) Quick decision → Bureaucratic control ↓

Coalition

- 1) Confusion in Governance
- 2) Multiple department with ministers of different party - delay in decision
- 3) Increased democracy - check + balances
- 4) Increased judicial power when weak executive
- 5) Increased election Commission power
 - (eg) TN Seshan.

single party government for a long time is a recipe of authoritarianism, but coalition for long time leads to inefficiency. Periodicity of both is good.



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15. The conflict between the Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Rights has shaped the course of constitutional interpretation in India. With reference to various judicial doctrines and landmark judgments, such as the Minerva Mills case, discuss how the judiciary has sought to strike a balance between these two constitutional ideals, particularly in the context of property rights.
(15 Marks)

Recently Justice DY Chandrachud in Mumbai Housing Case changed the contours of meaning of "community use of private property" providing radically different interpretation from what V.R. Krishna Iyer held.

Issues

- 1) Article 39(a) & 39(b) with Article 19, 14 & 21
- 2) Article 44 with article 25 of Constitution.
- 3) Provision of 43 with article 19(g)

Shaping Course

- 1) Champakam Doraijan under Art 14
Kania held supremacy of FRs over DPSP.

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Shankari Prasad - HJ Kania held
consti amendment beyond ~~13~~ Article
13(2)

Result - 1st Amendment → Article 31A
→ Article 31B
↳ 15(4)
↳ 16(4)
↳ 19(2) - added restriction

→ Problem of 24th Amendment & 25th
Amendment which hold all article
39(a) not just 39(b) & (c) above
FR & beyond judicial review

Justice K. Subba Rao - found ⁱⁿ Golaknath
Case (1967) FR sacrosanct.

24th Amendment & 25th Amendment
Challenged in Keshavananda Bheri -
Justice Shelat, Grover & Khanna
provided Basic Structure doctrine.

finally in Minerva Mill - Supreme
Court held FRs & DPSRs two wheels
of same cart.

Do
Any
the



Having constitutional significance of 39(b) & (c) over golden triangle of Article 14, 19, 21 led to various socialist judgement under V.R. Krishna Iyer & Justice O.Chinnappa Reddy.

Socialism was so entrenched that Article 44th Amendment & removal of 31(f) was upheld.

Recent change

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud uphold that community right over property shall be narrowly construed not as to hamper right to personal property.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna in a concurring but separate judgement uphold previous need of socialism but highlighted necessary change in property rights.

India has evolved from one of Fabian Socialist state to free market with adequate safeguards for vulnerable.

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16. India has undertaken several electoral reforms to strengthen its democratic process, yet key challenges persist. Discuss the major reforms implemented so far, the critical issues that still remain, and examine whether the Election Commission of India is sufficiently empowered and independent to ensure free and fair elections. (15 Marks)

Current furor due to Special Intensive revision exercise in Bihar has raised significant issues regarding inclusion - exclusion error & also logistical challenges.

Electoral Reforms

- 1) 1st CEC Sukumar Sen, ensured integrity of election even if election delayed & Charismatic PM Nehru gountled.
- 2) T.N. Seshan introduce ~~Electronic~~ EPIC & voter Id Card.
- 3) Model Code of Conduct was also later included brought to life by Seshan
- 5) Mandatory filing of election expenditure & asset of candidate
- 6) Supreme Court mandated Criminal



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- second display.
- 7) First in 1990s Kerala election how VVPAT become new norm
 - 8) Supreme Court in ADR vs UOI mandated manual counting in 5 assemblies
 - 9) Electoral bonds were introduced but were removed by SC, in contravention with Article 19.

Issues that remain

- 1) Legal backing of Model Code of Conduct
- 2) Absence of postal voting for migrants
- 3) Opposition distrust with VVPAT.
- 4) Absence of alternate of electoral bond opened pandora box of black money.

Election Commission

gives power of superintendence, Article 324

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direction & control to election commissioners to ensure fair elections [Raj Narain vs Union of Indira Gandhi] (1975)

Election Commission Empowerment

- 1) Removal like judge of SC
- 2) Charged on Consolidated Fund
- 3) No possibility of reappointment.

Challenges → 1) Anoop Bariswal v UOI

overtaken by Election Commission Act 2023

- 2) Election Commissioner removed on advice of CEC.
- 3) Selection by LOP + PM + Cabinet minister predominance of ruling party
- 4) No independent investigative wing.

Way Forward

- legal backing model code of conduct
- Inclusion of Chief Justice in CEC appointment
- Dinesh Goswami Committee recommendation of state expenditure



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17. The ongoing US-China rivalry - manifesting through tariff wars, trade tensions and technological decoupling has had both positive and negative implications for India. Examine how India can strategically leverage emerging opportunities while mitigating the associated risks stemming from this evolving global dynamic.

(15 Marks)

Sanjay Baru remarked that world is economically bipolar, power wise unipolar but politically confused - hinting towards American Isolationism + protectionism.

Tariff Wars + trade tension

- 1) Reciprocal policy of tariff (eg) 125% on china
- 2) American isolationism + protectionism
- 3) Deglobalisation + trade convergence via friendshoring + enshoring.

Technological Decoupling

- 1) Increased techno-nationalism → IPR protection.
- 2) Data issues due to techno-feudalism with big Meta like company feudal lords.

Positive Implication

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- 1) Indonesia - 32%. tariff - less
Competitiveness
 - 2) Bangladesh - 37%. textile market
competition reduced benefit to
Indian MSME.
 - 3) High tariff on Vietnam provide for
mobile manufacturing opportunity
 - 4) Help remove China lens due to
Chinese engagement with USA.
- ⇒ Personal diplomacy of ~~Modi~~ PM
Modi with Trump.

Negative Implication

- 1) Protectionism lead to loss of
trade
- 2) Tariff differential of 20% in
agriculture threaten → fisheries
like shrimp
- 3) Free market was reason for
China growth from 4.5% of GDP
of world to 18% of GDP of world
- 4) Indian demographic dividend of 68%
can be reaped through globalized
world



S. Jaishankar consider foreign policy about maximising convergence & minimising divergences

Leverage

- 1) Increased investment in fertile
- 2) Secure FTA for critical minerals with china
- 3) Further ICET negotiation with America
- 4) Maintain strategic alliance over partnership.

Minimize divergence

- 1) Balance provocation & retaliation with china
 - 2) Balance China & USA relation
 - 3) Show realism & not in vanity challenge Trump's capricious nature
- India needs to follow 5 balances of Happyman jacob to be in line with traditional wisdom of convergence with dominant collaboration with like & competition with similar.

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8. G20 has emerged as a platform to shape global economic policies and promote inclusive development. Examine India's role in advancing the interests of the Global South. (15 Marks)

India's Delhi Summit of G20 saw inclusion of African Union a significant step to establish its image from balancing power of 2011 to leading power of 2023 in line with Ashley Telle's terminology

G20

- 1) Post globalisation world saw emergence of shift from G7 → G20
- 2) G20 nations is more inclusive than G7 nation
- 3) G20 nation include China + India with together potential of 36% to global economy

Shaping Global Economic policy

- 1) China in G20 control 68% RE & 92% of RE supply chain

(eg) Japan Senkoku issue - Chinese vessel released due to export embargo.



- 2) With Ageing population of western world emerging economies in Q20 hold power of transformation
- 3) Increased reliance on critical minerals require support of Congo, Argentina, Peru Bolivia
- 4) With increased protectionism, dysfunctional WTO & unreliable UN. Q20 serve as better platform

Inclusive Development

- 1) Q20 has been forum to address inclusive issue of other fora -
(eg) WTO reemphasis of Doha agreement
- 2) Inclusion of African Union, correct historical injustice of PS of UN.
- 3) Democratic nature remove leverage from developed economies.

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the Margin

India's Role

- 1) African Union inclusion G20
- 2) Doha agreement emphasise over Singapore Convention (WTO)
- 3) climate change emphasis on adaptation over mitigation **LADR**
- 4) Providing initiative like Project Nebra to improve Digital public Infra in Global South.
- 5) Highlighting Fisheries subsidies issues in WTO

Way Forward

- 1) Address Chinese Issue of Neocolonialism.
- 2) Steps to make G20 an alternative to UNGA.

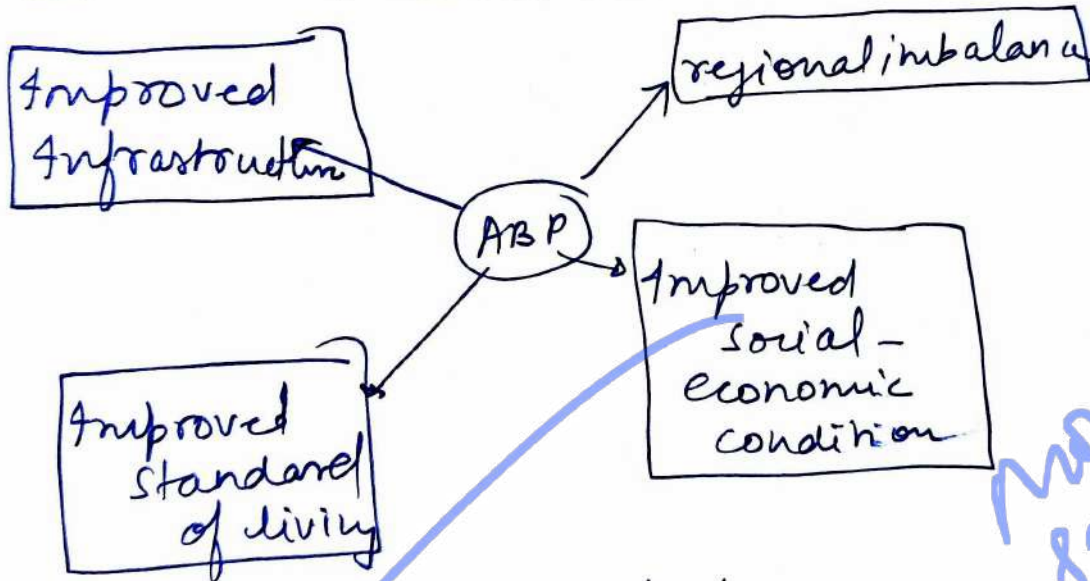
India's interest lies in Multipolar world but bipolar Asia, such multipolarities can be ensured by G20.



19. The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) aims to replicate the success of the Aspirational Districts Programme by targeting grassroots development. Discuss the key features of the ABP and analyse its potential and limitations in addressing regional disparities and improving governance at the block level. (15 Marks)

Aspirational district programme being a success has been replicated for more than 400 blocks which was previously limited to 112 districts, by Niti Aayog.

Key features of ABP



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More specific point needed

Other features include

- 1) Better connectivity
- 2) local market enhancement
- 3) Responsible governance.



Potential at block level

- Data driven
- Evidence Based*
- 1) Can provide for decentralised planning
 - 2) Address sporadic development in the district
 - 3) Provide for targetted improvement
 - 4) Enhance foundational development
 - 5) Provide functional role to Zila Panchayat
 - 6) Enhance ~~not~~ development of vulnerable sections
(eg) ghettoised areas.

Limitation

- 1) Block level functionary capability
- 2) funding problem for so many blocks.



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

1) Inefficient + slow working
district planning committee

2) Unlike aspirational district
absence of MPLADS like
scheme

Steps → 1) Niti Aayog Focus for
development analysis
→ 2) Provide local funding
via localised private
development model

→ 3) Integration with MPLAD,
hence along with district one
block adoption necessary.

Aspirational block
programme can help enhance
grass root level governance in
line with SDG 1, 2, 3 & 4.

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20. Midday meal programmes in India have a long-standing history in addressing child hunger and malnutrition. In this context, discuss the key provisions of the PM POSHAN scheme. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of such schemes in addressing nutritional deficiencies and in fostering the psychosocial development of school children. (15 Marks)

India has improved in hunger index, but only in Quantity terms, Nutritional deficiency remain a challenge leading to twin paradox of obesity + nutritional deficiency.

Midday Meal Programme

- 1) Currently gross enrollment ratio is 23.8% with mid-day meal having significant contribution to figure
- 2) Further integration with ICDS also improved dual nutritional challenge of maternal + children.

PM POSHAN Scheme

- 1) It focuses on Calorific value ~~with~~ along with Nutritional content.



Nutri
policy

- 2) Addresses macro + micro nutrient deficiencies
- 3) Provide for protein rich meal to improve protein deficiency problem
- 4) Addresses issue of Anaemia in girls.
- 5) Provide for prophylactic measures of nutritional improvement.
- 6) Provide for rice fortification with Zinc + Vitamin A.
- 7) Fortified food to be sold via PDS.

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Effectiveness of scheme

- 1) Addresses nutritional hunger
- 2) Provide for protein enhancement
- 3) Indirectly aid in human development
- 4) Ensure consumption diversity without severely food budget.



Psychological development

- 1) Such schemes addresses issue of deficiencies like B12. necessary for neural development.
- 2) Common source of food ensure social fabric + no ~~di~~ social discrimination.
- 3) Aid in Brain development of children in growthy age.

Challenges → 1) one school → fodder was given to students

↳ 2) Diversion of food

↳ 3) PDS leakage

↳ 4) Absence of national Uniformity

Steps → 1) Enhanced diversification of food (eg) Kerala boy biryani demand

↳ 2) PDS tracking

↳ 3) social audit of government + primary school.

These measures will ensure effective implementation + eradication of ~~po~~ nutritional deficiency