

NEXT IAS

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(To be filled by candidate)

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Bhopal ☐

Online ☐

Test Code : TC117

Time Taken : _____

MAIN TEST SERIES 2023 (ANUVBHAV GS-II)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. :

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Evaluator Code :

Q.No	PgNo.	Maximum Marks	Marks	Total
1. (a)	1			
1. (b)	3			
2. (a)	5			
2. (b)	7			
3. (a)	9			
3. (b)	11			
4. (a)	13			
4. (b)	15			
4. (c)	17			
5. (a)	19			
5. (b)	21			
6. (a)	23			
6. (b)	25			
7.	27			
8.	32			
9.	37			
10.	42			
11.	47			
12.	52			
Grand Total				

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS

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4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
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1. मानवाधिकार के मुद्दों पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के हालिया निर्णय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून और संधियों को न केवल प्रेरणा के स्रोत के रूप में बल्कि विधि के स्रोत के रूप में उपयोग करने में एक उल्लेखनीय बदलाव का संकेत देते हैं। प्रासंगिक निर्णय-विधि के संदर्भ में परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The recent Supreme Court judgments on human rights issues mark a remarkable shift in using International law and treaties not just as a source of inspiration but as a source of law. Examine with reference to relevant case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

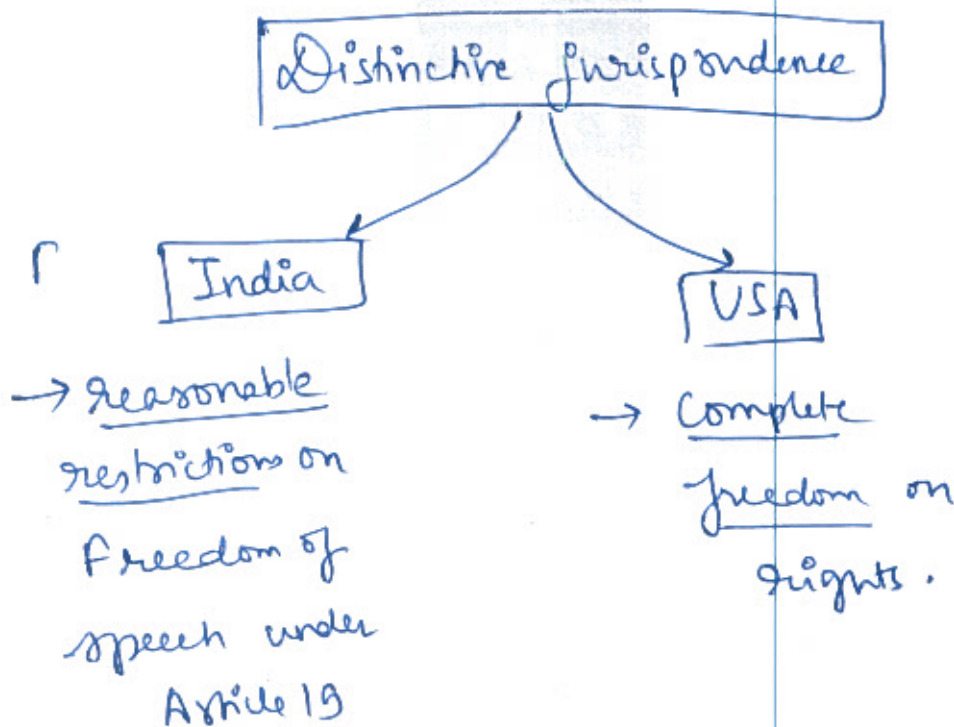
2.

संवैधानिक प्रावधानों में समानता के बावजूद वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और भारत का अपना विशिष्ट न्यायशास्त्र है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।
(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The United States and India have their own distinctive jurisprudence on freedom of speech and expression despite the similarities in constitutional provisions. Analyse.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

United States is the first
constitution giving Bill of Rights to
American citizens.

India has fundamental rights
in the Constitution.



India envisaged a balance between
freedom of citizens and society. while
US emphasised on liberty.

3. मौलिक कर्तव्य एक अनुस्मारक हैं कि नागरिकता मात्र एक निष्क्रिय प्रस्थिति नहीं है, बल्कि एक सक्रिय संलग्नता है। चर्चा कीजिए। इनके विधिक प्रवर्तन में कौन-कौन सी चुनौतियाँ हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक
- Fundamental Duties are a reminder that citizenship is not merely a passive status but an active engagement. Discuss. What are the challenges in their legal enforcement? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Part IVA provides for Fundamental Duties (A) which were added through 44th Constitutional Amendment

eg → Duty to protect the environment, renounce practice derogatory to women.

FDs as reminder → citizenship not passive status but an active engagement

① They promote bottom-top approach

eg. Building fraternity, unity and integrity
a duty of citizens not just government

② They protect cultural and natural heritage by engaging citizen.

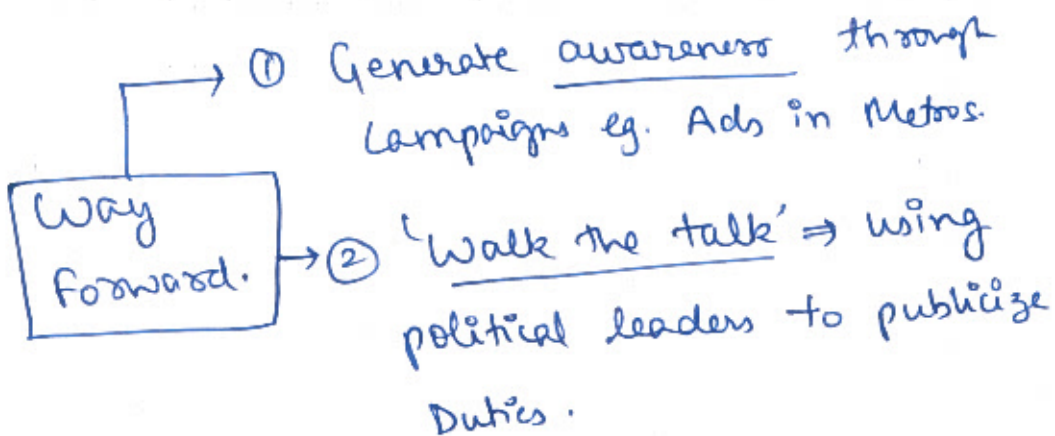
eg. PM LIFE campaign to protect environment resonates with FD.

③ They uphold values of integrity in public service

eg. Duty to strive for excellence ⇒ much needed to become India a global power

Challenges in legal enforcement

- ① Conflict with Fundamental rights.
eg. Duty imposes a restriction over liberty.
- ② Hard to make them objective due to
general nature of duty.
eg. Building scientific temper
- ③ May be challenged under Article 32, 13
- ④ May disturb federalism balance
eg. ^{violation of by states} duty may be used for imposing
President rule under Article 356.



Active engagement is needed as
Gandhiji said, "If everyone does its
duty, then rights are automatically
ensured",

4. केंद्रीय प्रशासनिक न्यायाधिकरण (CAT) के अधिदेश पर चर्चा कीजिए। सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के पूर्व के निर्णयों ने CAT और उच्च न्यायालयों के बीच क्षेत्राधिकार संबंधी विवाद को किस सीमा तक हल किया है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Discuss the mandate of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). To what extent earlier SC verdicts have resolved the jurisdictional tussle between CAT and High courts? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

CAT (Central Administrative Tribunal) are established under Article 232 of Constitution by Parliament.

① To resolve complaints/cases of Central Service officials regarding service conditions.

Mandate
of
CAT

② To provide compensation to the officers

③ To ensure justice is served

④ To lower down judicial pendency ^{with respect to officer cases} which is already burdened (~46 cases).

Jurisdictional tussle between CAT and HC

Before SC Judgement → High Courts cannot listen to any appeal from CAT (HC were at par with CAT)

→ Appeals to CAT were only be made to SC

After SC Judgement → SC in L Chandra Kumar Case held that the appeal to CAT can be decided by HC

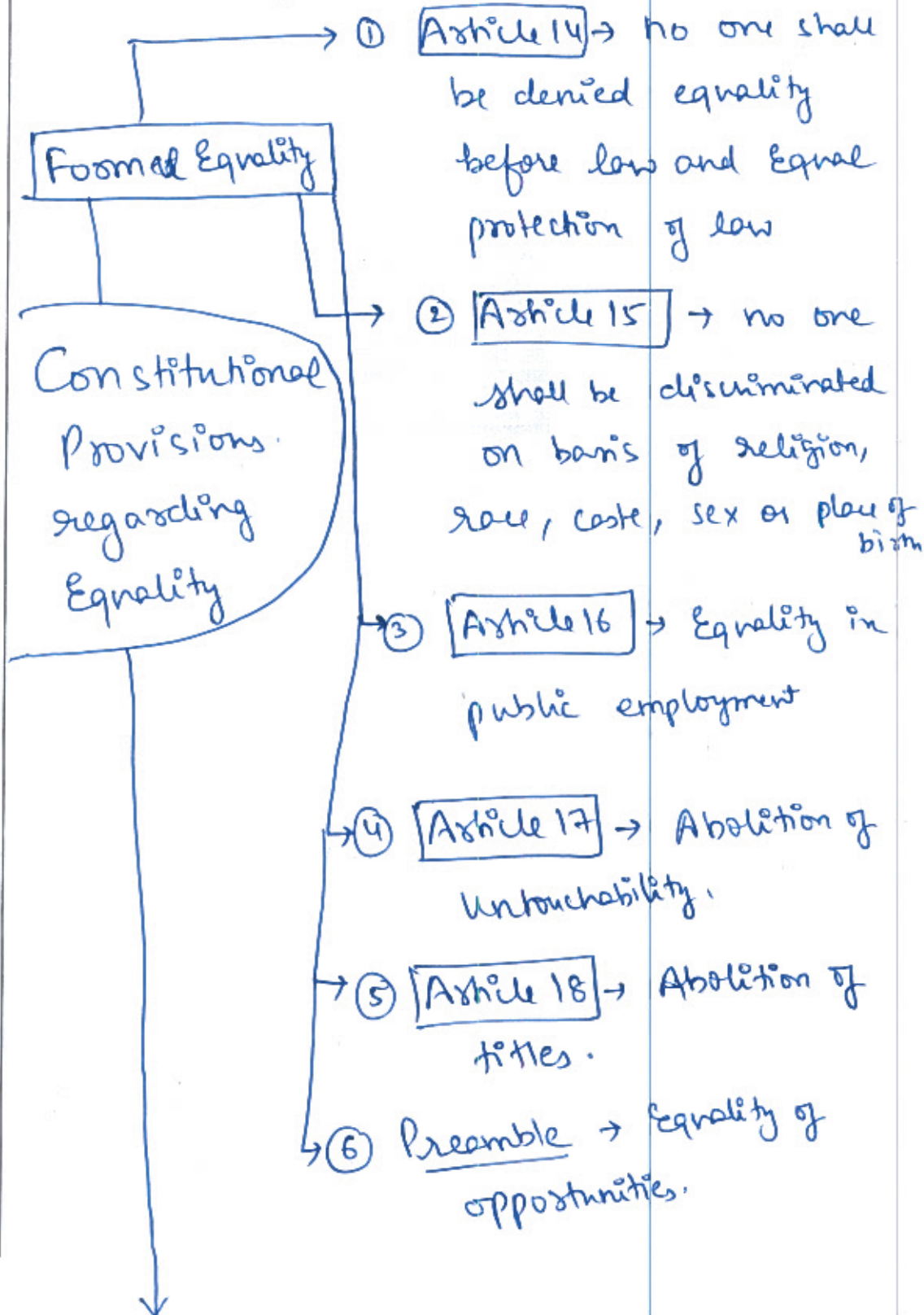
→ CAT are subordinate to HC

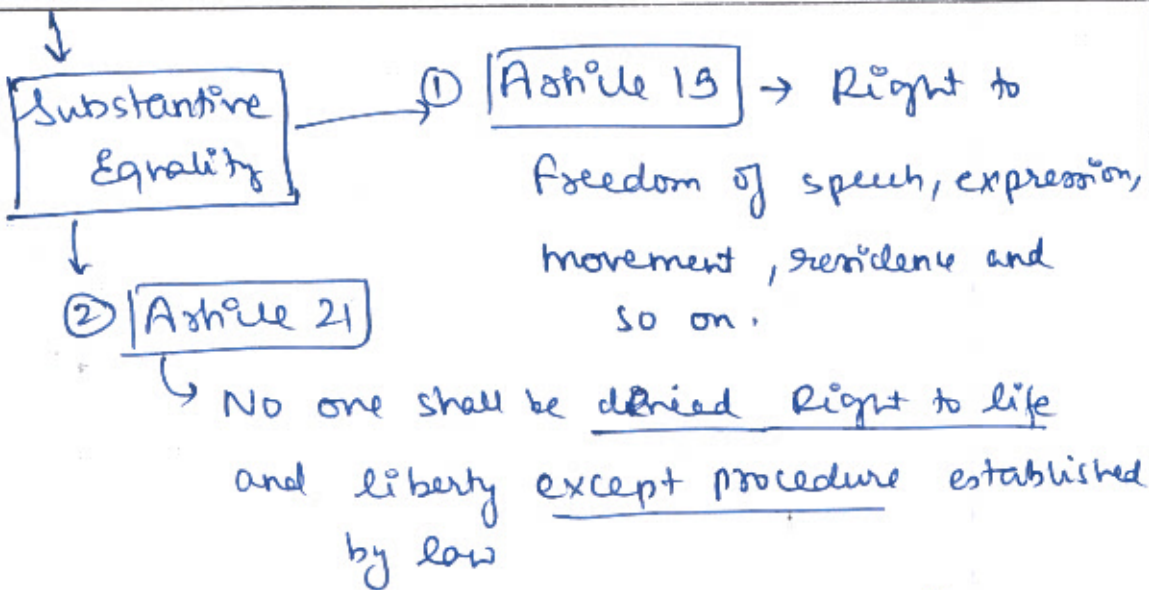
The judgement has resolved the tussle by clearly specifying the jurisdiction of CAT and HC.

5. 'भारतीय संविधान के तहत समानता केवल औपचारिक समानता नहीं है, बल्कि इसमें वास्तविक (मौलिक) समानता का विचार भी शामिल है।' संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और इस संदर्भ में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णयों के आलोक में कथन का विवेचन कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

'Equality under the Indian constitution is not merely about formal equality, it also incorporates the idea of substantive equality'. Discuss this statement in light of constitutional provisions and relevant Supreme Court judgments. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Article 14-18 establishes the Right to Equality under Indian Constitution.





However, this substantive equality comes with restrictions (reasonable) can be applied against state only. while formal equality is absolute and can be applied against state and individuals.

Recently, SC has expanded substantive equality in Krishna Kumar Case wherein it held that Rights under Article 19 are applicable against individuals also

Other Cases

- ① Maneka Gandhi Case → expansion of Article 21
- ② Indira Sawhney Case → Rule of law as Basic Structure

SC has expanded the Equality

However, certain practical difficulties are there to implement them. Substantive Equality is part of constitution implicitly

6. दबाव समूह और राजनीतिक दल राजनीतिक प्रक्रिया को लोकतांत्रिक बनाने के अपने उद्देश्य में स्वाभाविक रूप से समान हैं, यद्यपि वर्तमान समय में अधिकतर दबाव समूह राजनीतिक दलों में रूपांतरित होने की महत्वाकांक्षा रखते हैं। उन कारकों का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए जो इस रूपांतरण को प्रोत्साहित कर रहे हैं।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

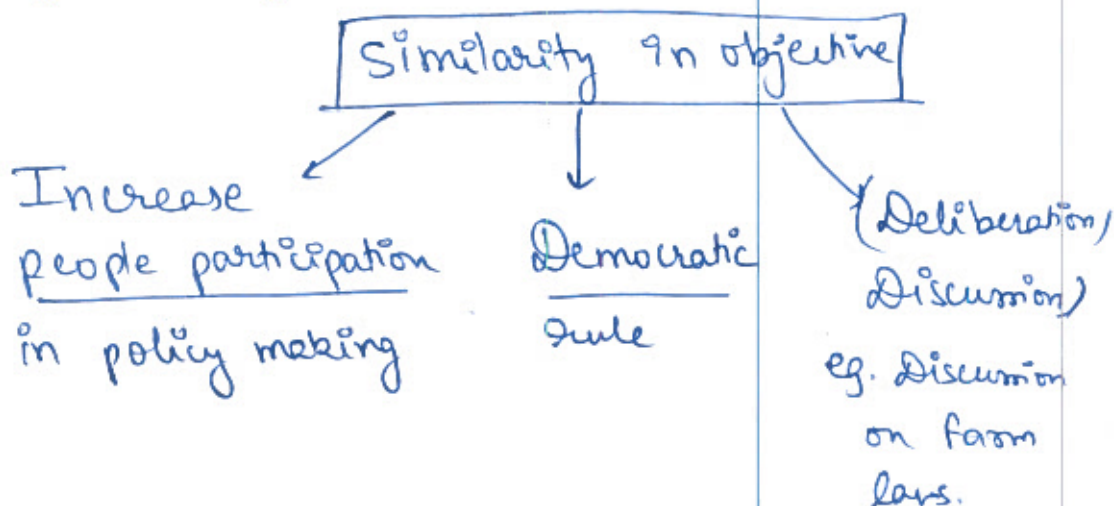
Pressure groups and political parties are inherently similar in their objective to democratise the political process, however, more and more pressure groups today aspire to transform into political parties. Elaborate and highlight the factors that are encouraging this transformation. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Pressure groups are the group of people which come together to raise a specific issue against government.

eg. Farmer groups protesting for farm laws (BKV)

Political parties are the organisations which aim to participate in elections to influence policy making and make laws.

eg. Bharatiya Janta Party → current ruling party.



However, today many pressure groups are transforming as observed in Anna Hazare movement converted

to AAP (Aam Admi Party)

- Factors.
- ① Large movements gives citizen support encouraging them to become political parties.
eg. parties forming after JP Narayan movement
 - ② Lack of adequate platform with pressure groups.
↓
 - ③ Belief that by getting in power, they can improve better eg. AAP.
 - ④ Lack of public discussion in India
eg. Mostly political leaders are engaged over media debates.
 - ⑤ Rising social media culture
↓
increases pressure groups reach.

Both are key for healthy functioning of democracy and upholds socio-political-economic democracy as per Preamble of Constitution.

7. "क्या भारत में उच्च शिक्षा की वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को बढ़ाने तथा वर्तमान गुणवत्ता चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए विदेशी शैक्षणिक संस्थानों का प्रवेश एक परिवर्तनकारी कदम हो सकता है?" तर्क सहित पुष्टि कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Can the infusion of foreign educational institutions be a transformative step in enhancing the global competitiveness of higher education in India and addressing the prevailing quality challenges?" Justify with reason.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Recent QS rankings highlight only 4 Indian Higher Education institutions in top 300 as compared to USA (more than 50). Thus, questioning the quality of Higher education in India. (HEI)

To overcome this, National Education Policy ~~overcome~~ 2020 envisages establishment of Higher Education Institution of foreign origin like Harvard in India.

Infusing of Foreign HEI

Transforming Competitiveness of HE in India

- ① This will lead to competition due to high student and MNCs demand for global institutions like Harvard.

- ② Advanced Research & Development will improve India's research industry
- ③ Better infrastructure will motivate Indian institutions to augment their infrastructure.
- ④ Better Professors will drive Indian institutions to improve their Professor skills

Address prevailing quality challenges.

- ① Low investment in R&D
(0.65% of GDP is invested by government)
- ② Lower Professor-Student ratio
- ③ Poor Infrastructure $\Rightarrow$ many do not have adequate labs.
- ④ Lack of industry-academic linkage
- ⑤ Poor Quality curriculum

However, there are certain challenges which remain with respect to Accessibility, Affordability and reaching last mile. Foreign HEIs need to have adequate welfarist approach for poor students and vulnerable.

8. सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली की सीमाओं को संबोधित करने के हेतु निजी क्षेत्र किस प्रकार सभी के लिए समान और सुलभ स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सुनिश्चित करने के अंतर को पाटने में प्रभावी योगदान दे सकता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

To address the limitations of the public health system, how can the private sector contribute effectively to bridging the gap to ensure equitable and accessible healthcare for all? Discuss.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

India's Public Health system was severely affected during COVID-19 highlighting its limitations [Data source = Economic Survey 2023].

① Low Health expenditure from government
(~2.1% of GDP against recommended by National Health policy = 2.5%)

② Low Doctor-patient ratio
(0.7/1000) (WHO recommended → 1/1000)
(only allopathic doctors considered)

③ Out of pocket expenditure is high (~50%)
↳ severely impacting poor.

④ Lack of infrastructure ⇒ eg. Many district hospitals do not have CT scans.

⑤ High Tertiary Health care dependence and Rural-Urban divide
(70% of rural population have only 20% of hospitals)

Private Sector role in bridging gap to ensure equitable & Health care for all

- ① Providing infrastructure → can provide machines like CT scans. at affordable cost
- ② Reach the last mile through Digital Health delivery eg. Practo like apps.
- ③ fulfilling shortage of Doctors, Nurses, beds through skill training
- ④ Reducing OoP through Insurance coverage
- ⑤ Supporting Health Wellness Centres under PPP mode
- ⑥ Bringing funding much needed through insurance, credit, mutual funds etc

As recommended by NITI Aayog 2017 report, Private Sector can fulfill help in achieving SDG-3 (Health & Well Being for all) but adequate safeguards are required to prevent monopoly & corrupt practices.

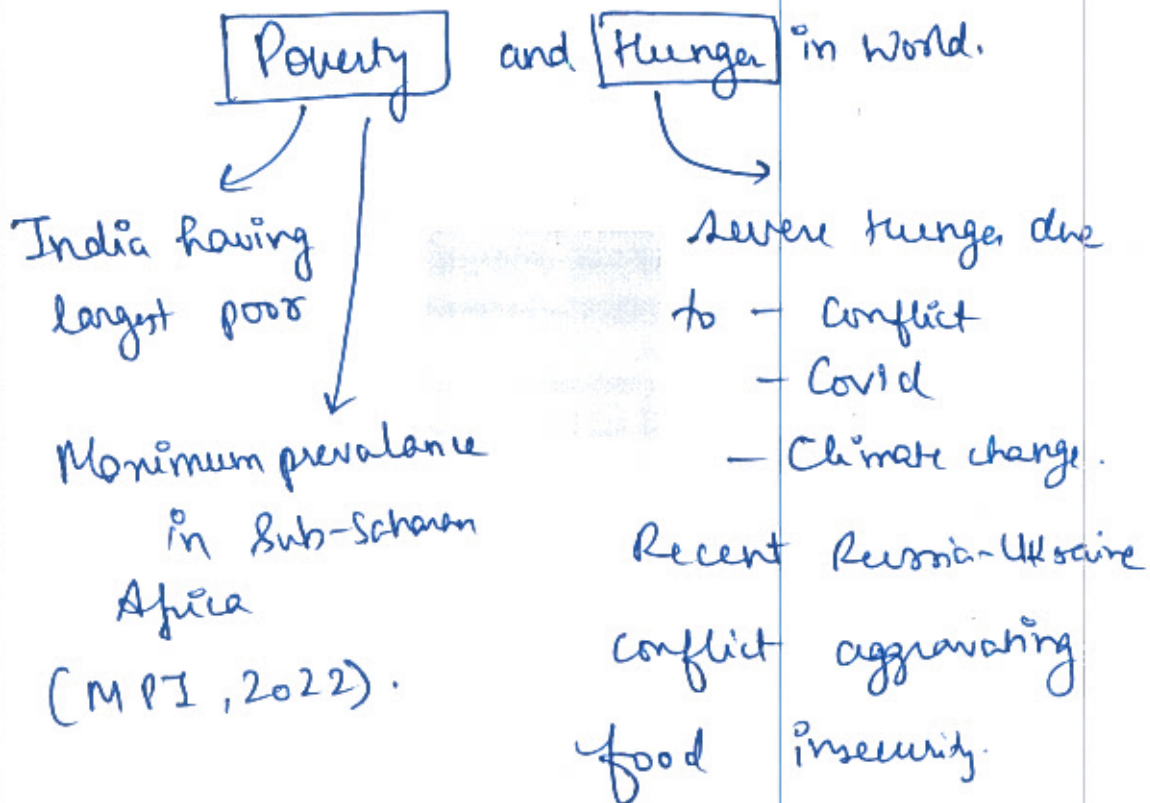
9. गरीबी और भुखमरी उन्मूलन के लिए वैश्विक सहयोग की यथाशीघ्र आवश्यकता है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग गरीबी और भुखमरी की चुनौतियों से निपटने के प्रयासों को कैसे प्रभावित कर सकता है? विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

There is an urgent need for global cooperation to eradicate poverty and hunger. In this context analyse how international cooperation can impact efforts to address the challenges of poverty and hunger.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

SDG-1 calls for Zero Poverty
and SDG-2 calls for Zero Hunger

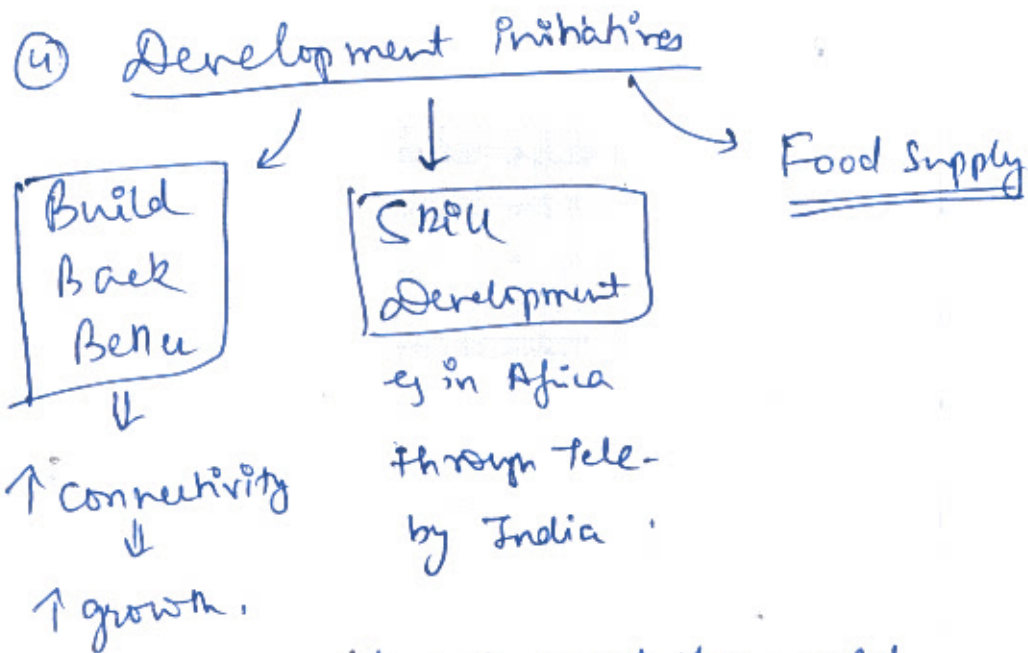


International Cooperation role

- ① To address shortage of funds

② Devise better technologies for
Climate Agriculture $\Rightarrow$ food security
(Technology Transfer is needed)

③ Preventing conflicts through Dialogue
eg. Russia-Ukraine conflict is blocking
food supply to world.



Urgent need for world
Cooperation to achieve SDG-2+13

10. बदलती वैश्विक गतिशीलता को ध्यान में रखते हुए विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) में प्रभावी और सार्थक सुधार किए जाने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है, ताकि आधुनिक व्यापार की जटिलताओं को दूर करने में WTO की प्रासंगिकता और क्षमताओं का उपयोग किया जा सके। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The changing global dynamics require prompt effective and meaningful reforms within the World Trade Organization (WTO), to ensure its relevance and capacity to address modern trade complexities. Discuss.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

WTO is organisation which is formed to ensure free trade and better trade relations with countries.



This calls for reforms to
address modern trade complexities.

① Rising Bilateral FTAs and group
FTAs like RCEP reduces WTO
role $\Rightarrow$ WTO should facilitate for
better trade engagements.

② Balanced between developing and
developed countries aspirations is
required

eg. India agri subsidy issue

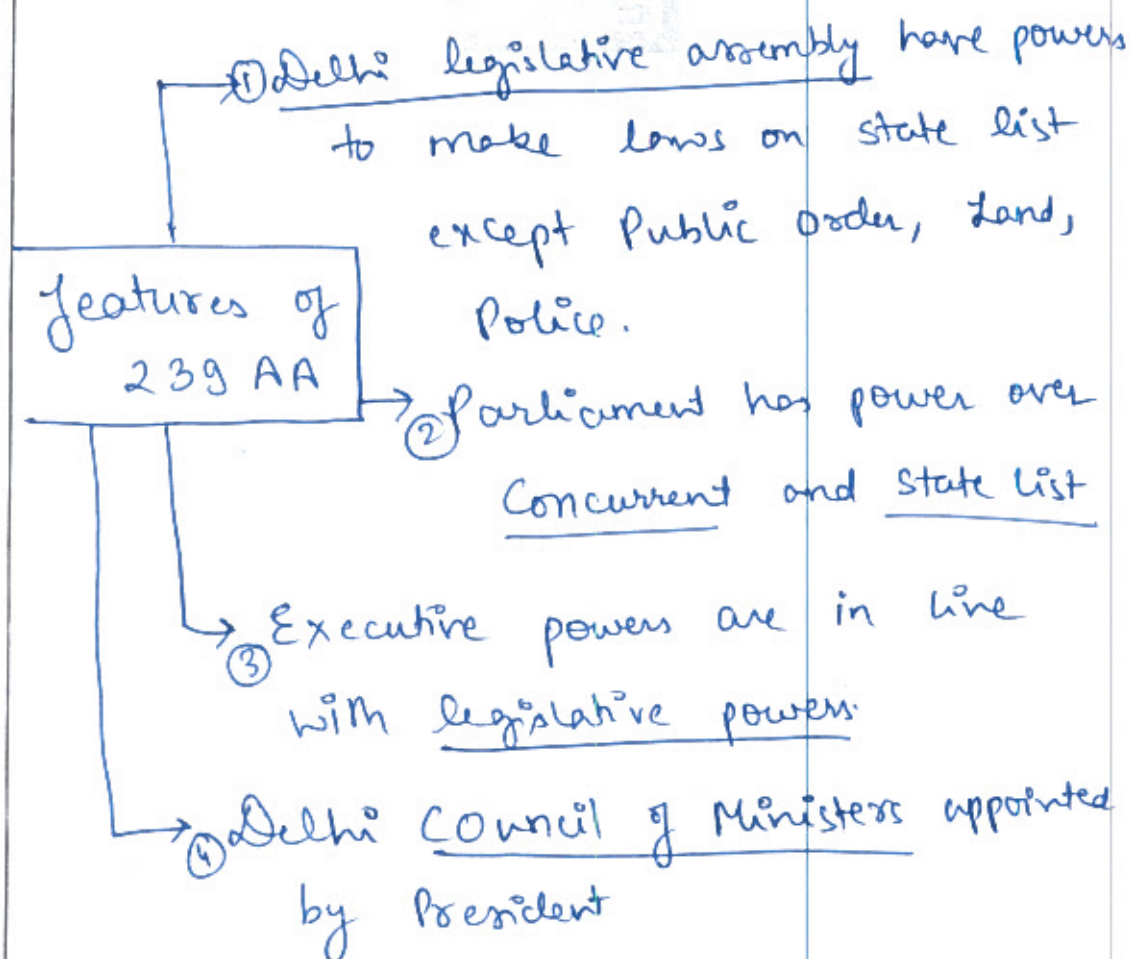
③ IPR issues needs to be handled
eg. Compulsory licensing due to
COVID.

WTO can help in achieving
better trade and should be strengthened.

11. 69वें संविधान संशोधन ने किस प्रकार दिल्ली में दोहरे शासन की दुविधा को उत्पन्न किया है? संविधान में परिकल्पित सहकारी संघवाद पर इसके प्रभाव की चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक
- How has the 69th Constitutional amendment led to Delhi's dual governance dilemma? Discuss its impact on cooperative federalism as envisaged in the Constitution. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently Government of India has put up GNCTD (Amendment) Bill which was passed by Parliament which has led to issues between Delhi and Union over matters related to 'Services'.

69th Constitutional Amendment added Article 239 AA giving special status to Delhi as UT.



- ⑤ Delhi to have a Lieutenant Governor as administrator appointed by President
- ⑥ LG has discretionary powers over matters not in State list of Delhi and there is a conflict
- ⑦ In case of conflict, LG have discretion to reserve it for President or take immediate action.

These provisions led to Dual Governance dilemma leading to power struggle between Delhi COM and LG. as often LG has used its discretion in conflict.

Further, GNCTD (Amendment Act) 2018 made 'LG' as the Executive head of Delhi Government. It has to act on aid and advice of COM for matters in Delhi State list (except Public Order, Police, Land).

Now, the 63rd amendment along with new judgments has led to impact in Cooperative federalism.

① Balances regional aspirations along with national security concerns as Delhi being the capital.

Positive
impact

② Ensures cooperative federalism through provision of dispute resolution in Article 239AA

③ Greater Union power to deal with any exigency over capital

④ Balanced development → National Capital + as a regional state

① Rise of conflict over matters like services

Negative

② Lack of power with Delhi on land ⇒ hindering development

③ LG as executive given primacy over elected Delhi Assembly in case of conflict

④ Power tussle → in case of change in party in either Union or Delhi

Need of wider Dialogue engaging all stakeholders (Delhi people, Union, Delhi) to ensure Cooperative Federalism

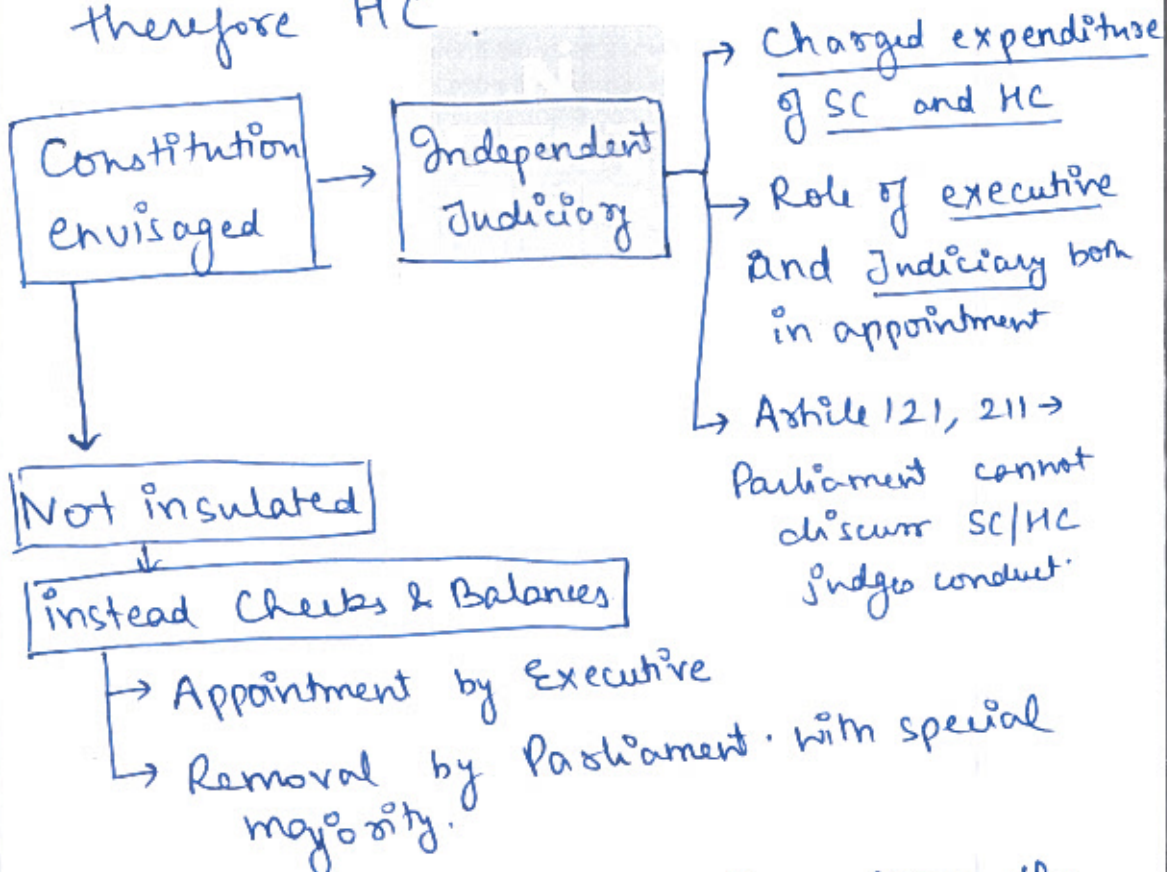
12.

"संविधान एक स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका की परिकल्पना करता है, न कि पृथक न्यायपालिका की"; दिए गए कथन के आलोक में उच्च न्यायपालिका में न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति से जुड़े मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा वर्तमान प्रणाली के विकल्प तलाशिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

"Constitution envisages an independent judiciary, not insulated judiciary"; In the light of the given statement, discuss the issues associated with the appointment of judges in the higher judiciary and explore alternatives to the current system.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Article 124 of Constitution deals with appointment of judges in Supreme Court.

It states that President in consultation with Chief Justice of India (CJI) should appoint SC judges. Similar provision is therefore HC.



However, In various cases, the Judiciary have introduced Collegium system

1st Judges Case	Collegium System introduced	3rd Judges Case	4th Judges Case
(SC held Consultation equal to consultation only)	2nd Judges Case (consultation = Concurrence)	Collegium system expanded	(NJAC was struck down)

Y's: Collegium System evolution

Collegium System is a committee of CJI + 4 senior most SC judges for appointment of judges.

Issues associated

- ① Prevalence of Corruption and Nepotism
eg. Uncle Judge Syndrome.
- ② Lack of women representation in
Collegium $\Rightarrow$ low women representation
in higher judiciary
($< 15\%$ of total)
- ③ Primacy of Judiciary over Executive
violates principles of 'Checks and Balances'
- ④ Violation of 'Separation of Power'

eg. 4th Judges judgment struck down NJAC
saying it is done to secure independence of
judiciary

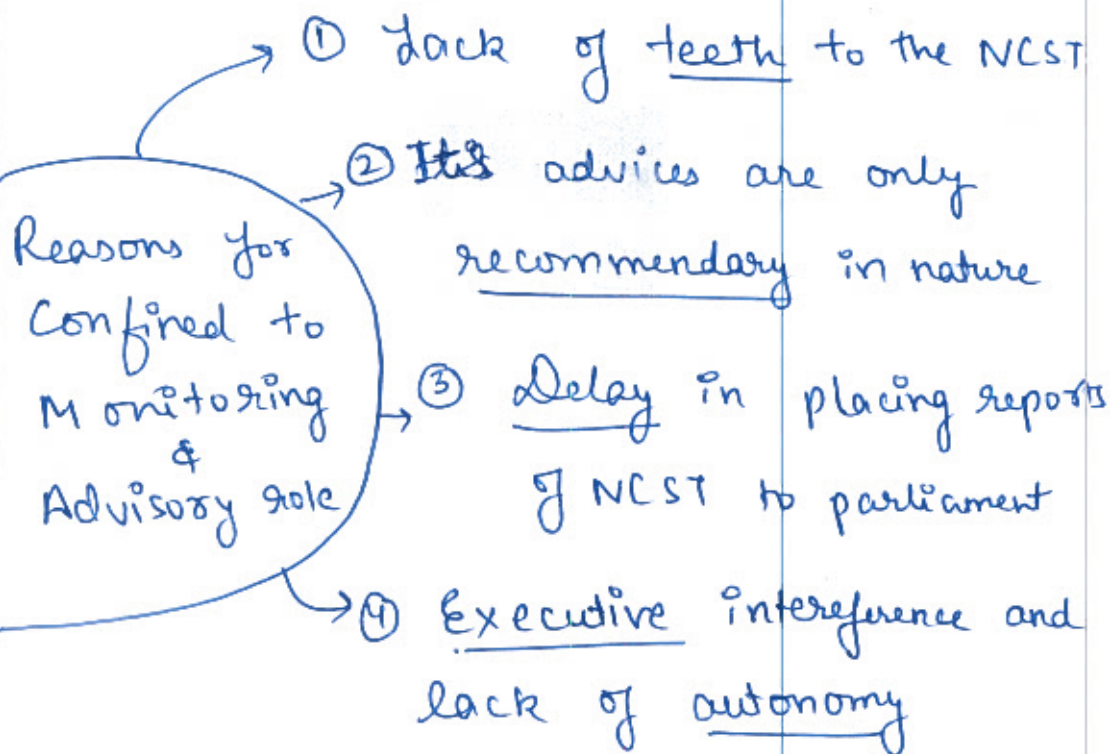
⑧ Alternatives

- ① Building Consensus between Executive and Judiciary over NJAC Act
- ② Implementation of Model code at earliest
- ③ Affirmative Action $\Rightarrow$ increasing women representation as suggested by EXCJI
eg. Relaxing strict eligibility criteria.
- ④ Disclosing the details of collegium public
[Sunlight is best disinfectant]
- ⑤ Best Practices $\rightarrow$ learning from US model where Senate appoints Judges after thorough evaluation.
- ⑥ Upholding Checks & Balances and Separation of Power
Adequate safeguards to balance independence of Judiciary is required as it is the guardian of rights in country

13. राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग (NCST) प्रायः निगरानी और सलाहकार की भूमिका तक ही सीमित है। संवैधानिक दर्जा प्राप्त होने के बावजूद NCST के कामकाज में क्या बाधाएँ हैं? इसमें सुधार हेतु सुझाव भी दीजिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribe (NCST) has largely been confined to a monitoring and advisory role. What are the impediments in the functioning of NCST despite the constitutional status, also suggests reforms.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

NCST was established under Article 338 A of the Constitution to safeguard rights of Tribals which constitute 8.9% of population as per Census 2011.



Impediments in functioning

- ① Lack of staff and resources
eg. more than 20% vacancies.

- ② Shortage of 3Fs - Funds, Functionaries and Functions
- ③ Underutilisation of funds for campaigns
- ④ Lack of trained personnel in Tribal areas.
- ⑤ Lack of adequate field visits.

As a result, its role is limited to Monitoring as observed from →

- ← Violence against tribals
eg. Recent gender violence in Manipur
- ↓ low conviction rate
($< 1\%$) (NCRB).
- Poor implementation of FRA, PESA
Pendency of Cases
(95% pending in some states)

Reforms for NCST

- ① Adequate trained staff, funds and resources should be provided.
- ② Use of E-governance ⇒ single window portal for filing complaints.

- ③ Ensuring reports are tabled before Parliament along with Action taken report as scheduled.
- ④ More autonomy in appointments
- ⑤ Taking action against officials not engaging in field visits in tribal areas
- ⑥ Giving more teeth → make advice binding or at least reasons for not taking action communicated to Parliament
- ⑦ Generating Awareness among tribals especially in LWE areas and North East (Use of vulnerable languages).

This will help in ensuring NCST is able to fulfill the goals of Social Justice for tribals as envisaged in Article 46 of Constitution.

14. राज्यपाल किन-किन परिस्थितियों में किसी राज्य के विधेयक को राष्ट्रपति के विचारार्थ आरक्षित कर सकता है और यह प्रावधान विवादास्पद क्यों है? साथ ही इस संबंध में पुंछी आयोग द्वारा सुझाए गए सुधारों पर भी चर्चा कीजिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Under what circumstances can the Governor reserve a state bill for the consideration of the President and why is the provision controversial? Also, discuss the reforms suggested by Punchhi Commission in this regard.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Article 163 of the Constitution provides discretionary powers to the Governor (appointed by Article 155) in cases when to reserve a bill for consideration of Parliament.

Recent Controversy in Tamil Nadu over NEET bill also highlighted this provision and issues.

Circumstances under 163

- ① When Governor on his discretion feels that the bill should be reserved for President.
- ② When the legislation deals with changes in High Court provisions
- ③ When it deals with inter-state trade and commerce

Why Controversial?

- ① Frequent use of discretion under Article 163 by Governor
eg. recent Kerala controversy.
 - ② Supreme Court (SC) judgement in Nabam Rebia Case said that Article 163 powers of discretion are limited.
 - ③ Lack of any time limit under which the Governor has to assent or send for reservation.
(SC recommended for assenting within 6 months).
 - ④ Political tussle → Interference of Union.
- ### Reforms Suggested by Punchhi Commission

- ① Governor should assent or reserve the bill within 6 months.
- ② Governor should convey the reasons to assembly regarding its decision for reservation.

- ③ Governor appointment should be made apolitical → fixed tenure by impeachment like
↓
→ appointment by President including CM in panel.
- ④ Article 163 powers should be used sparingly.

There is a need for reforms in Governor position on reserving state bill as per Supreme Court judgments to strengthen Cooperative Federalism.

15. नौवीं अनुसूची ने संपत्ति के मौलिक अधिकार के तहत सामाजिक-आर्थिक न्याय से संबंधित कानूनों को चुनौती से बचाने के लिए एक संवैधानिक विरोधाभास उत्पन्न किया। क्या वर्तमान समय में नौवीं अनुसूची की कोई प्रासंगिकता है? आई. आर. कोएल्हो निर्णय ने इस विरोधाभास का कैसे समाधान किया? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The Ninth Schedule fabricated a constitutional paradox to safeguard laws related to socio-economic justice from being challenged under the fundamental right to property. Does the ninth schedule have any relevance in present times? How did the IR Coelho judgment resolve this paradox?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Ninth Schedule was added by 1st Amendment Act to protect land reforms laws from being challenged by against fundamental rights under Article 13.

Article 31B deals with Ninth Schedule laws like UP Land reforms act are placed under it.

It fabricated a Constitutional paradox wherein the very basis of Judicial Review envisaged under Article 13 of Constitution was taken away by an amendment including a schedule.

This could be misused for safeguarding any law from scrutiny of judiciary

eg → More than 200 laws are currently in IX schedule. Many related to reservation.

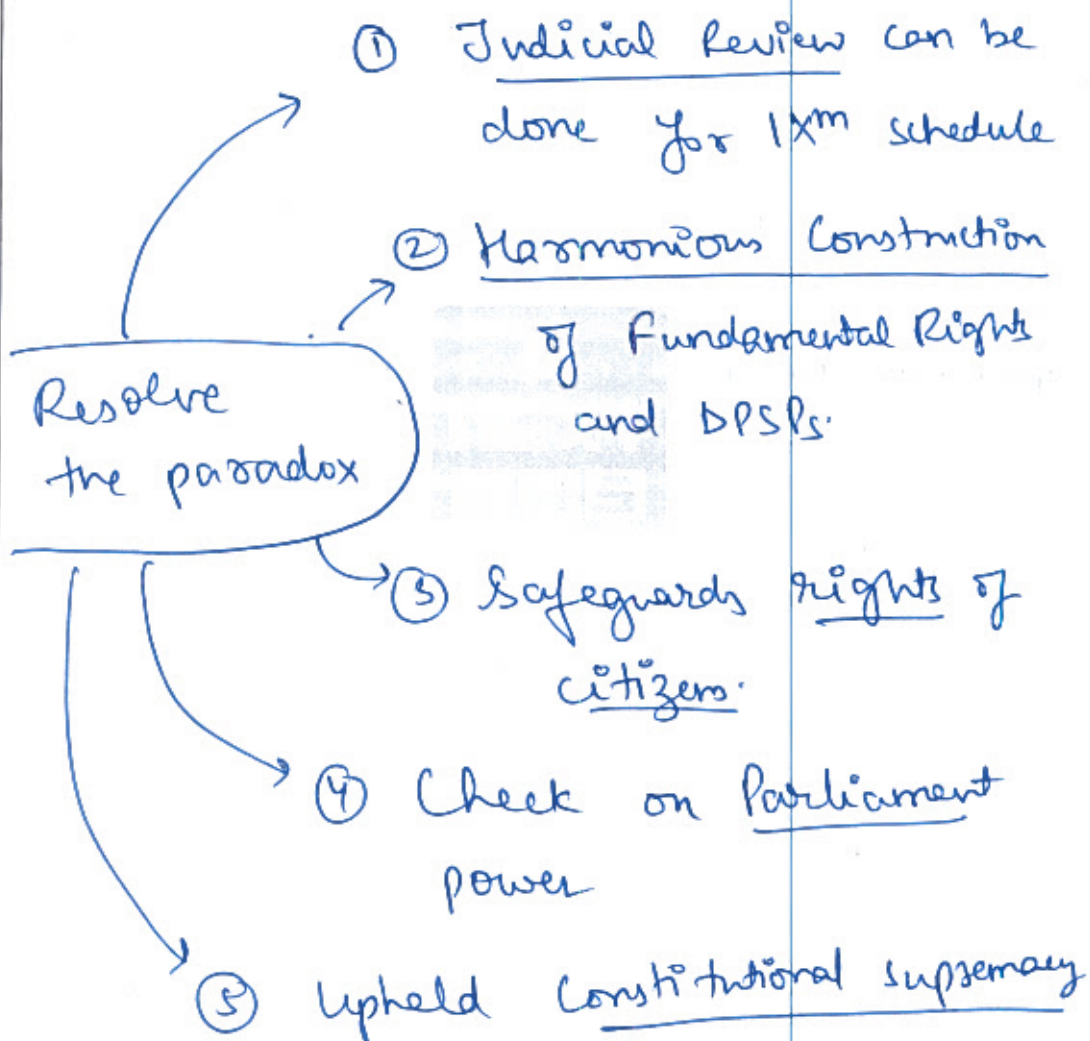
Recently, a state asked Union to put reservation law in Ninth Schedule.

Thus, the IXth Schedule affects the balance between Fundamental Rights and Socio-Economic Justice envisaged under Preamble and DPSPs (directive under Article 38, 39).

Relevance in Present Times

- ① against the principle of Checks and Balances
- ② Land reforms have limited success despite IXth Schedule
- ③ Many irrelevant laws have been added to bypass judiciary
- ④ against the Fundamental rights of citizens.
- ⑤ Against Basic Structure Doctrine of Keshavananda Bharti Judgment 1973

IR Coelho Judgment held that 1X^m Schedule is under Judicial review retrospectively from the date of Keshavandanda Bharati Case 1973



SC has once again through its innovation has protected Constitutionalism balancing socio-economic justice with rights.

16. "केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग सुशासन के लिए अटूट प्रासंगिकता के साथ लोकतंत्र के संरक्षक के रूप में खड़ा है।" CIC के अधिदेश के संदर्भ में कथन को न्यायोचित ठहराइए। क्या CIC की वैधानिक स्थिति ने हाल के दिनों में इसकी प्रभावशीलता को सीमित कर दिया है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

"Central Information Commission stands as the guardian of democracy, with an unwavering relevance to good governance." Justify the context in terms of the mandate of the CIC. Has the statutory status limited the effectiveness of the commission in recent times? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Central Information Commission (CIC)
is a statutory body established under
Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

Mandate of CIC

① protects citizen's right to information under Article 21, 19 of Constitution.

as guardian of
democracy

→ ② CIC has powers to
take action against
defaulting officials.

↓
promoting accountability
(Key ingredient of democracy).

③ promotes
social-economic
democracy

eg. RTI used by Maharashtra villagers
in improving service delivery.

④ An active citizenry can take informed vote
strengthens Right to vote under Article 326
of Constitution

① Promotes Transparency and strengthens
8 characteristics of Good Governance
as per UNDP.

(Rule of law, Accountability,
Participation)

in Good
Governance

→ ② An active citizenry can
participate in policy making,
implementation.

eg. Social Audit.

③ Expose Corruption Scams

eg. Teacher recruitment, attendance scam.
promoting probity

④ Ensures Speedy resolution of application

(~1400 a day) ⇒ CIC rate is to
are RTI filed. ensure RTI is answered
all over India within 30 days or 24 hrs.
in case of emergency.

Has Statutory Status limited Effectiveness

Yes

① lack of adequate powers to punish

defaulters PIOs.

② Lack of autonomy $\Rightarrow$ Government can vary its service conditions as per recent RTI amendment

③ Bureaucratic & Executive Interference

$\hookrightarrow$ Government can decide its tenure.
 $\downarrow$

④ Thus, reducing its status below other independent Constitutional bodies like CAG.

⑤ Shortage of staff, resources, funds.

⑥ Poor record Management due to lack of efficiency.

This calls for Constitutionalisation of CIC for enhancing its effectiveness but as a statutory body also, the effectiveness can be improved by giving more funds, powers to penalise defaulters, independence in tenure and service conditions (changed expenditure)

17. यौन अपराधों के खिलाफ बच्चों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में POCSO अधिनियम के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। वर्तमान अधिनियम के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आप इसमें क्या परिवर्तन सुझाएंगे?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Discuss the significance of the POCSO Act in ensuring the safety and protection of children against sexual offences. What changes would you suggest to the present Act to enhance its effective implementation?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently, a ^{Government} Delhi official has been caught in sexual harassment case against a minor.

POCSO Act was enacted to curb these sexual harassment cases against children.

According to NCRB, a child faces violence sexually in every 8-10 min.

- Significance of POCSO
- ① Ensures stringent punishment as the burden is on accused
 - ② Defines sexual harassment which was earlier not in IPC for children.
 - ③ Protects right to life and liberty under Article 21 of Child.
 - ④ Years of Punishment → minimum 7 years.

⑤ Ensures Healthy development of children (Article 39CF) as the mental stress is reduced by justice.

① Define consensual sex among minor as sexual offence

(court reviews more than 50% POCSO cases of consensual sex)

Challenges
in
Implementation

② Even court faces difficulty in convicting consensual sex of minor with adult.

(recently, some courts released such accused).

③ Definition of a 'child' not in sync with other laws.

Reforms required.

① Reforming the law based on court judgements on consensual offences.

② Ensuring POCSO cases in fast Track Courts.

- ③ Rehabilitation for child as priority
- ④ Rights based approach required for child.
- ⑤ Better investigation to ~~reduce~~ improve conviction rate
- ⑥ Definition of 'child' in sync with other laws

POCSO is crucial for justice to children and thus, needs to be strengthened. in letter and spirit

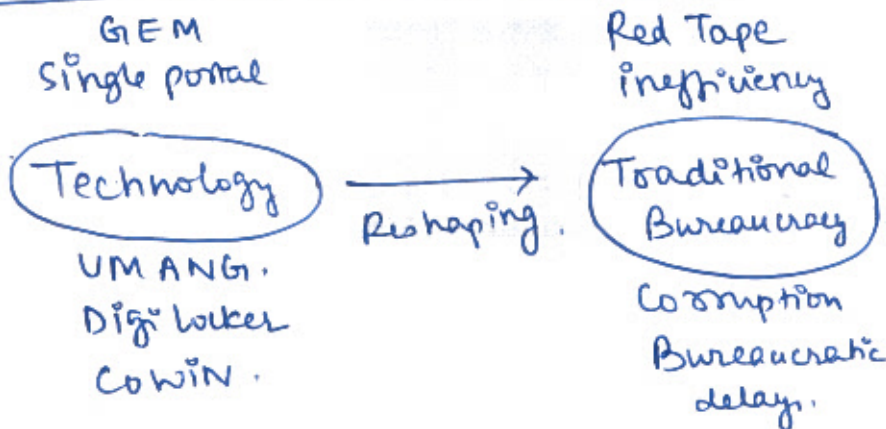
18.

प्रौद्योगिकी नौकरशाही की पारंपरिक रूपरेखा को पुनः आकार देने, इसे अधिक कुशल, पारदर्शी और नागरिक-केंद्रित बनाने हेतु प्रेरित करने के लिए उत्प्रेरक के रूप में कार्य करती है। इस कथन का आशय स्पष्ट कीजिए तथा यह भी पता लगाइए कि प्रौद्योगिकी का एकीकरण लोक सेवा के आधुनिकीकरण के सरकारी प्रयासों को कैसे तेज कर सकता है।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Technology serves as the catalyst for reshaping the traditional contours of bureaucracy, propelling it to become more efficient, transparent, and citizen-centric.' Explain and also explore how the integration of technology can expedite governmental efforts aimed at modernizing the civil service.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

According to World Bank report, India is expected to have 900 million internet users by 2030. This makes Technology as Catalyst in achieving Good Governance.



- ① It can reduce Bureaucratic delays and Red Tape ⇒ promoting Ease of Doing Business
eg. India's ranking improved to 63 in doing business after Digital India
- ② It can provide end to Corruption

by minimising Human interference

eg. UMANG for service delivery.

③ Monitoring through portals like E-office reduces inefficiencies and delays.

④ Transparency provided by RTI portal changing the Secret to Transparent bureaucracy

How it can expedite government e-govern.

① Poverty → through employment generation using Skill India portal, it can help in removing 16.21% Multi-Dimensionally poverty. (MPI).

② Education → better quality through interventions like Digi Saksham, Swayam Prabha ⇒ Knowledge driven Economy

③ Hunger → reduce malnutrition (eg. Stunting → 36%) through POSHAN app

- ④ Health → universal health coverage through Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, Tele Medicine

In Modernizing Civil Service

- ① From Rule Based to Role based Governance ⇒ by upskilling through interventions like Mission Karmayogi
- ② Key Performance Indicators ⇒ targeted monitoring of projects implementation.
- ③ Plugging leakages ⇒ Automation of PDS system.
- ④ Faster Quality Service Delivery
↳ eg. through Geotagging under Digital land mission.
- ⑤ Better record management -
eg. through DigiLocker.

Thus, technology can play key role in achieving SDGs and reforming civil service. Business Process Engineering as recommended by 2nd ARC is need of hour.

19. भारत और अमेरिका के बीच अतीत में उतार-चढ़ाव वाले संबंध रहे हैं। हाल के दिनों में संबंधों में कितनी प्रगति आई है? रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध के मुद्दे पर वाशिंगटन के साथ तीखे मतभेद के बाद नई दिल्ली को अमेरिका के साथ अपने संबंधों को कैसे आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

India and US have had an oscillating relationship in the past, to what extent has the relationship acquired depth in recent times? How should New Delhi navigate its relationship with the US after its sharp divergence with Washington on the issue of the Russia- Ukraine war?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

India is the largest democracy while USA has the oldest democracy

Oscillating
relationship
in past

→ ① USA covert support to
Pakistan Mujahideens in
Afghanistan ⇒ Impacted
internal security in India.

② India's closeness to Russia (USSR)
drifted US towards Pakistan
during cold war

③ India-US engagement in supply of wheat
(P program) for food security

④ US sanctions on India after
Pokhran test

⑤ India-US Nuclear Deal reviving
relations in 2010s.

Recent times

Recent PM visit to USA has been showing significant change in relationship with USA.

USA and India released the joint statement calling their relationship as
Defining relationship of 21st century

① Free, Open and Inclusive Indo Pacific

↓
formation of QUAD bloc, IPEF ^{inclusion in}

Convergence

② India being accommodated
by USA in Mineral Security
Partnership and Artemis Accords.

③ Supply of Critical technologies

(GE-HAL Deal of fighter jet engine)

④ Defence → Military exercises like MALABAR
(recent exercise on indo-china border)

⑤ People-2-people ties → strong diaspora,
talks on relaxation of visas.

Thus, US and India are moving
towards more depth in relationship.

However, there have been divergence of India over Russian Ukraine war.

India is navigating it through its 'Strategic Autonomy principle' and belief in 'Multi-lateralism' and making relations with both

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graph TD; both --> Russia; both --> USA;
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(Buying oil from Russia)
(calling for dialogue to end war)

(concession for \$400 deal)
(Diversification in defence trade)

Thus, India is upholding Strategic Autonomy to balance its interests with both Russia-USA

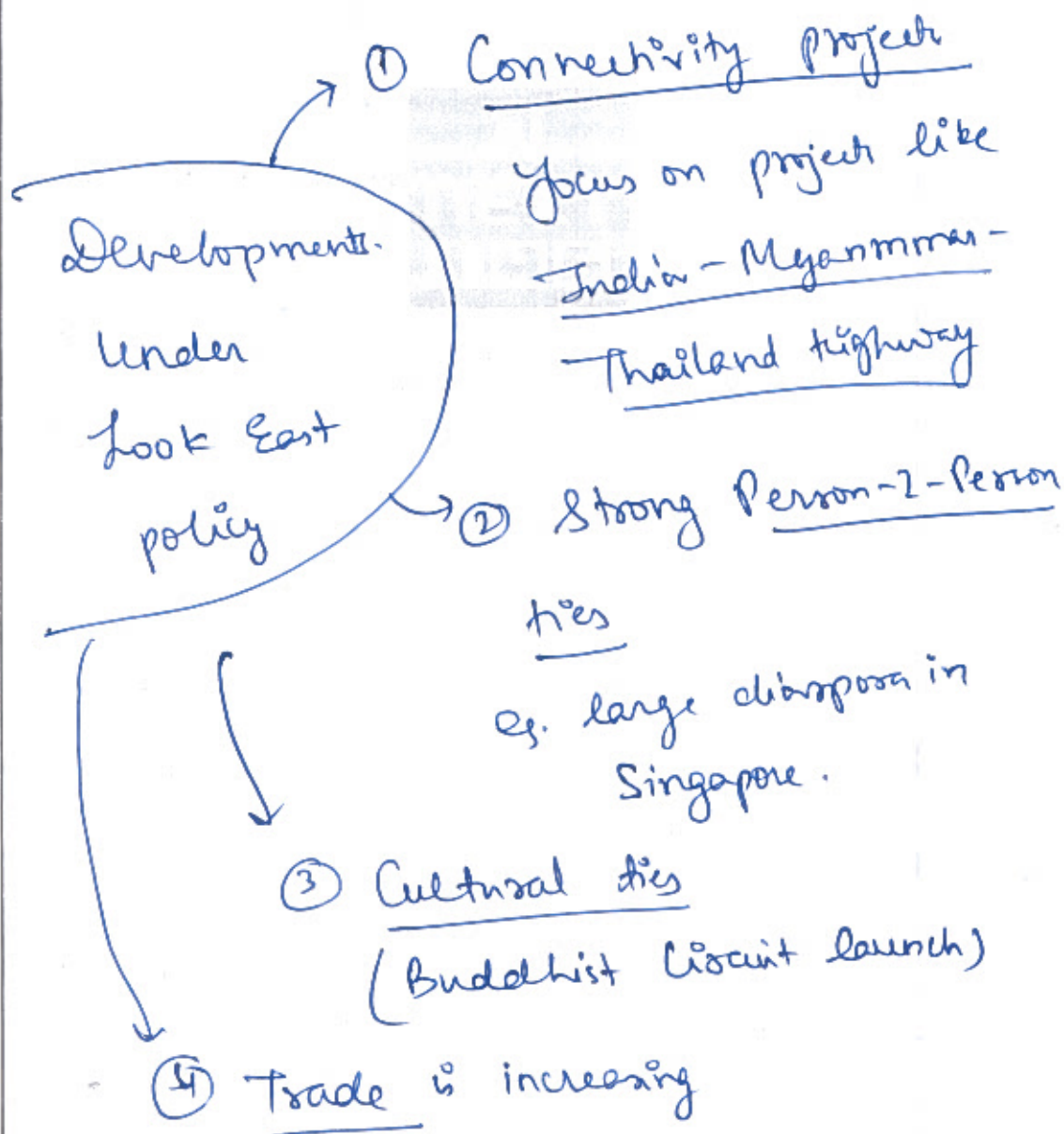
20.

'पूर्व की ओर देखो नीति' के कार्यान्वयन के पश्चात् भारत-आसियान साझेदारी किस प्रकार विकसित हुई है? भारत भू-राजनीतिक वास्तविकताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपनी अर्थव्यवस्था की बढ़ती ताकत का लाभ किस प्रकार से भारत-आसियान संबंधों को घनिष्ठ बनाने के अवसर के रूप में उठा सकता है?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How has the India-ASEAN partnership evolved since the implementation of the 'Look East Policy'? In what ways can India leverage the increasing strength of its economy alongside geopolitical realities as opportunities to foster closer India and ASEAN relations? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

India-ASEAN partnership is a special and privileged relationship, complemented by its 'Look East Policy'



Geopolitical realities in current times

Economy
opportunity

Strategic
Value

- Diversification
of Supply chain
after COVID
- Emerging Economies
in ASEAN
(Vietnam)
- India's trade
barrier can increase
fulfill goal of
(\$2 Trillion export
by 2030)
↓
ASEAN as market.

- the Indo-Pacific
as new theatre
- rising ASEAN
focus of like
mind countries
like India, USA
(ASEAN Centrality)
- Counter Chinese
aggression
(South China
Conflict)

Opportunities to foster closer India ASEAN

- ① Defence → India's Brahmos supply to Philippines.
↳ India can leverage Defence exports
- ② Supply Chain Resilience initiative of India-
Japan-Australia can be extended to ASEAN
- ③ Disaster Resilience → The region is
disaster affected ⇒ India HADR can
be extended
e.g. in Tsunami
- ④ Culture → Buddhism as link
- ⑤ Indo-Pacific → Making region peace and
inclusive

India-ASEAN relations are key
for growth of Asian Century

Space for Rough Work

Candidates must not
write on this margin