NEXT IAS

MTS 2.0 - FOUNDATION BATCH (2025)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE: FEN625012

Name of Candidate: SUGANDHA GUPTA Mobile No [redacted]

Roll No.: GC25D1847037 Start Time ..... End Time.....

Date of Examination: 15-6-2025 Medium : English ☑ Hindi ☐

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
TOTAL MARKS - 100		

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	
TOTAL MARKS - 150		

GRAND TOTAL - ...../ 250 EVAL CODE: ..... EVAL DATE: .....

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 20 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.

सामान्य निर्देश

1. QCA पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर कृपया तुरंत जांच लें कि इस QCA पुस्तिका में कोई पृष्ठ या सामग्री आदि गलत छपी हुई या फटी हुई या गायब तो नहीं है। यदि ऐसा है, तो इसे एक नई QCA पुस्तिका से बदल लें।
2. अभ्यर्थियों को सभी प्रासंगिक विवरण जैसे नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर, मोबाइल नंबर आदि का आवंटित स्थान पर उल्लेख करना होगा ।
3. अभ्यर्थियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह आवंटित समय-सीमा के भीतर ही सभी 20 प्रश्नों के उत्तर-लेखन का प्रयास करें।
4. प्रत्येक उत्तर, प्रवेश के समय चुनी गयी भाषा के माध्यम में ही लिखे जाने चाहिए।
5. अभ्यर्थियों को विशिष्ट प्रश्न के उत्तर संबंधित प्रश्न के नीचे ही लिखने होंगे। आवंटित स्थान के बाहर लिखे गए किसी भी उत्तर को क्रेडिट नहीं दिया जाएगा।
6. कृपया साफ-सुथरा लिखें। अपठनीय लेखन से बचें।
7. QCAB में अप्रासंगिक तथ्यों को न लिखें / न ही चिह्नित करें।

REMARKS: .....

.....

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Student Concerns / Query	Evaluator's Feedback / Response
1	1 .....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
2	2 .....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
3	3 .....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 3.00	3.00 - 3.75	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.50	4.50 - 5.75	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

IMPORTANT QR CODES

Topper's Copy

Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB

Copy Scanner App

Next IAS Test Centre Location

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of MTS 2.0 Score Improvement Program (SIP) is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Candidates must not write on this margin

1. संविधान सभा में संस्थापक माताओं का योगदान और उनके नारीवादी दृष्टिकोण ने भारत के संवैधानिक विमर्श को कैसे आकार दिया है? चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The contributions of the founding mothers in the Constituent Assembly and their feminist perspective have shaped India's constitutional discourse. Discuss

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Women have played eminent role in Indian freedom movement and constitutional processes. Their impact is visible in empowering provisions of constitution.

FOUNDING MOTHERS IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

(1) Women were small but critical part of Constituent assembly.

(2) Even during freedom struggle, Sarojini Naidu, Margaret Cousins etc provided feminine perspective to movement.

(3) Individuals like Pandita Ramabai opened Mahila Arya Samaj and Margaret Cousins established All India Women Congress to mobilise women socially and politically.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Parvatita Nehru, sister of Jawahar lal Nehru, also helped in global outreach of India at UN etc

⑤ Provisions of women inheritance property, Equal educational rights etc were ~~were~~ ensured from ~~the~~ women movements ~~were~~.

Thus, feminism in India is integrally derived from freedom and constitutional movements.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. भारतीय संसद में विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव क्या होता है? विशेषाधिकार समिति ऐसे प्रस्तावों की जांच और निपटान कैसे करती है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What is a Privilege Motion in the Indian Parliament? How does the Committee of Privileges examine and deal with such motions? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Privilege Motion is a part of Parliament to provide for certain collective and individual privileges. Cont of Privileges plays important role in it.

PRIVILEGE MOTION

① Privilege motion is raised when a MP feels that Parliamentary privileges have been breached

② Parliamentary privileges

Individual	Collective
- Free speech in house	- Right to know. correct information from govt.
- Freedom from judicial service 40 days before and after session	- To hold secret meeting
- No arrest without permission of speaker	- Know status of MP Convicted, arrested etc
	- Publish its proceedings

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ A privilege motion must be passed unanimously for it to be accepted.

④ Privilege motion helps in punishing anyone guilty of breaching privileges of house.

CONT. OF PRIVILEGES

① Cont. of privileges is a parliamentary Cont. to examine & deal constitutionality of such motions.

② It consists of 15 Lok Sabha and 10 Rajya Sabha members.

③ It checks if motion to be raised is factually correct and only then presented.

④ It ensures that the parliamentary privileges are not breached and guide the punishments to be given.

Thus privilege motion helps in protecting interests of parliament and retaining faith in its functioning.

Candidates must not write on this margin

3. भारत और ब्रिटेन में राष्ट्राध्यक्ष के अधिकारों की तुलना कीजिए। इनके कर्तव्य और अधिकार उनके संबंधित संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों को कैसे प्रतिबिंबित करते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Compare the powers of the head of state in India and the UK. How do their roles reflect the constitutional principles of their respective systems? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Head of state in India - President and head of state in UK - Crown have many similar and dissimilar powers suiting their parliamentary system

PRESIDENT OF IND	CROWN OF UK
a) SIMILARITIES	
(1) Nominal head	(1) Nominal head
(2) Can issue ordinances and pardon	(2) Can also issue pardons and ordinances
(3) Final assent to make a bill → law	(3) Final assent
(4) Fulfil citizen of state	(4) Fulfil citizen
b) DIFFERENCES	
(1) Can't issue writs	(1) Can issue writs
(2) Can't confer titles except military, academic	(2) Can confer titles

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Can be removed by parliament	③ Can't be removed by Parliament
④ Elected head (Indirectly)	④ Appointed by birth in royalty

REFLECTION OF CONSTITUTION

IND - PRESIDENT	UK - CROWN
① Upholds the republican nature	① Upholds the monarchial nature
② Works as per council of ministers so much greater part of Parliament	② Not a very active part of parliament
③ Executive head of state	③ Titular holder of territories of United Kingdom

Thus, Indian head of state and British counterpart are similar yet different in positions. They are integral to the governing of their democracies.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4. "लोकतंत्र उतना ही मजबूत होता है जितनी उसकी विपक्षी पार्टी।" इस संदर्भ में, लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता की भूमिका का मूल्यांकन कीजिए और भारत में इस संस्था की प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के उपाय सुझाइए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"A democracy is only as strong as its Opposition." In this light, examine the role of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and suggest measures to enhance the effectiveness of this institution in India.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Leader of opposition' was not initially present in Constitution but the fact of opposition checking govt was underlaying. Recent political timeley has tainted govt-opposition relation.

ROLE OF LEADER OF OPPOSITION

(1) Leader of opposition is recognised as leader of party holding 1/10th of seats in lok Sabha

(2) This translates to him being leader of largest party in lok Sabha after govt.

(3) LoP plays an important role in highlighting and scrutinising govt actions and inaction

(4) He ensures that public finances and public support to govt are utilised in right Constructive fashion.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) LOP is an essential part of ~~appo~~ selecting many Constitutional positions like CVC, CBI Director, CAG etc.

(6) Opposition also has important role in strengthening Indian position globally eg LOP Atal Bihari Vajpayee leading delegation to UN against Pak

MEASURES TO ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS

(1) Need to curb above political conflicts to strengthen legislative process

(2) Efficient and valid criticisms to avoid politicization of govt offices and policy paralysis

(3) Party to party coordination to present united front in global geopolitics.

(4) Opposition parties can form shadow cabinet like in UK to suggest alternates to govt actions and enhance parliamentarian participation.

Candidates must not write on this margin

5. भारत में अल्पसंख्यक शैक्षिक संस्थानों से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधान क्या हैं? न्यायिक निर्णयों ने समानता के अधिकार और अल्पसंख्यक पहचान के संरक्षण के अधिकार के बीच संतुलन कैसे स्थापित किया है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What are the constitutional provisions related to minority educational institutions in India? How have judicial pronouncements shaped the balance between the right to equality and the right to preserve minority identity in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Constitution provides for Right to equality via Article 14-18 and Rights to Minorities via Art 29-30. Balance between these has been promoted judiciably.

MINORITY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

(1) Article 30 provides cultural and linguistic minorities to establish educational institutions of choice.

(2) It also provides that state will not differentiate with these institutions while granting finances [Article 30(2)]

(3) Also, procurement of property by state from minority educational institutions will be such that their fundamental rights are not harmed.

Candidates must not write on this margin

JUDICIAL INTERVENTIONS

① Supreme Court has held that provisions of Reservation are not applicable in minority institutions.

② In the Stephens' College Case, it was held that Constitution provides wide 'CHOICE' to minority institutions in matters of

- ~~Elect~~ Selecting teachers
- admitting students
- acquiring and controlling property

③ However, in St. Xaviers' College case, it was held that these provisions can't go against Right to Equality as other norms of social security, Sanitation etc are also applicable.

④ Also, method of admitting students may be different but qualifications cannot be and minority institutes have to open 50% seats for others.

Thus, Right to equality and minority identity are balanced by judiciary.

Candidates must not write on this margin

6. भारत सामाजिक उद्यमिता के वैश्विक केंद्र के रूप में उभर रहा है। क्या सामाजिक उद्यम राज्य की समावेशी विकास की उपलब्धियों में प्रभावी रूप से पूरक हो सकते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

India is emerging as a global hub for social entrepreneurship. Can social enterprises effectively complement the state in achieving inclusive development?
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Social entrepreneurship refers to startups and entrepreneurs focussing on social service sector. These are critical to complement state in equitable development.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(1) These provide R&D and startup services in sectors of food, housing, Children education, women sanitation etc

(2) They help in breaking rural urban and gender stigmas.

(3) India is witnessing rise in social startups and associated NGOs.

(4) This can challenge as well as support govt's actions

Candidates must not write on this margin

CHALLENGE TO GOVT

- Promoting anti-development in tribal areas
- Curbing anti-corporate attitude
- Centres of money laundering

SUPPORT

- Employment to youth
- Support in Capital development
- Finances for inclusive development

Steps like Social Stock Exchange of BSE etc can ensure co-ordination of state and social entrepreneurs.

Candidates must not write on this margin

7. स्व-सहायता समूह (SHG)-बैंक लिंकेज कार्यक्रम को भारत में गरीबी उन्मूलन के लिए स्वदेशी उपकरण माना गया है। ग्रामीण आजीविका सुधारने और बहुआयामी गरीबी कम करने में इसके प्रभाव का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme has been hailed as an indigenous tool for poverty alleviation in India. Examine its impact on improving rural livelihoods and reducing multi-dimensional poverty. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

SHG Bank Linkage Prog started in 1990s by NABARD to support SHGs has been a break-through in SHG development in India

SHG BANK LINKAGE PROG

① It aims to provide finances and support to SHGs especially women lead to help generate credit.

② This helps in formalising SHGs by providing initial investment of ₹50,000 after 6 months of SHG establishment.

③ It helps in easier formal lending, micro-financing and women empowerment.

Candidates must not write on this margin

IMPACT ON RURAL LIVES

(1) SHG Bank Linkage Prog has helped to put women in LFPR and enhance rural economy.

(2) It has reduced multidimensional poverty by supporting financial and nutritional needs of women and children

(3) More than 60% startups and most SHGs are women led in India.

(4) Financial profit stands as high as that of AMUL in Gujarat, SEWA in women employment etc.

(5) This has reduced dependence on agriculture and promotion to education and awareness of women businesses.

Thus, SHG Bank Linkage Prog is essential in transforming rural lives.

Candidates must not write on this margin

8. नागरिक-आधारित पर्यावरणीय आंदोलनों ने हाल के वर्षों में पारिस्थितिक संरक्षण के प्रभावी उपकरण के रूप में कितना योगदान दिया है? उदाहरण सहित व्याख्या करें। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

How far do you think Citizen-led environmental movements have proven to be effective tools of ecological preservation in recent years? Justify with examples.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Green Ecology or Deep Ecology refers to intensive citizen-led environmental movements to secure environmeal rights. This has its own challenges and advantages.

CITIZEN ENVIRONMENT MOVEMENTS

ADVANTAGES

(1) It helps in realigning state from mere economic pursuits to overall sustainable development

(2) Eg it has led to rise of Green GDP in Uttarakhand estimated at 95,000 cr

(3) It helps in increasing awareness and protection of pristine habitats

Eg Narmada Bachao Andolan by Medha Patkar

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ It has strengthened tribal and wildlife rights at global and national level

Eg Bishnois hugging Khejri Trees has inspired Tree-Hugging movements across world

⑤ COP to UNCCC in Baku highlighted need of local development and role of indigenous community in Baku Harmoniya Action Plan

CHALLENGES

① Often intense and violent green movements can instill anti-development attitude.

② It can lead to economic stalling of progress and underdevelopment of resource rich areas Eg Odisha, Chattisgarh etc.

Thus there needs to be a balance between the environment and economic pursuits.

Ecology is the ultimate economy.

Candidates must not write on this margin

9. "डिजिटल शासन वैश्विक एजेंडा का नया मोर्चा बनकर उभर रहा है, और भारत उदाहरण स्थापित करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।" इस पर विचार कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Digital governance is emerging as a frontier of the global agenda, and India seeks to lead by example." Examine (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Digital governance refers to use of ICT for administration and governance. India has great potential in the field.

E-GOVERNANCE

① e-Governance is the emerging form of Govt 2 Citizen administration

② It seeks to provide effective, cheap and corruption free govt. support.

③ India has high incentives and schemes to support digi governance.

INDIAN STEPS

① Schemes like PM DISHA, PM-G-DISHA to enhance digital education in urban and rural areas

Candidates must not write on this margin

② Initiatives like Wide Area Network, Public hotspots of wifi under Smart City initiative.

③ Digital support via CPGRAMS for grievance redressal and interconnected CCTNS for e-tracking of criminal records

④ POSHAN Tracker to track progress of POSHAN Mission.

⑤ DigiLocker, SVAMITVA scheme to enhance digitisation of records.

Thus, digi economy is on rise in India. Sufficient govt. support + private investments can help to prosper.

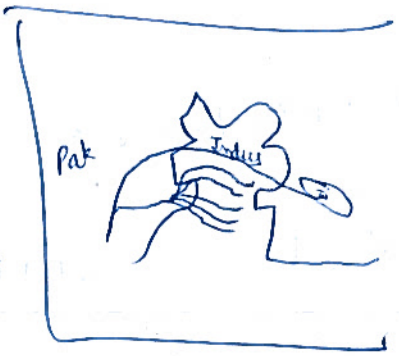
Candidates must not write on this margin

10. हाल की विवादों के संदर्भ में, भारत के पाकिस्तान और बांग्लादेश के साथ सीमा पार जल-साझाकरण की चुनौतियों की समीक्षा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Examine India's transboundary water-sharing challenges with Pakistan and Bangladesh in light of recent disputes. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

India and neighbourhood are rich in water resources. This also puts transboundary conflicts on water sharing at forefront.

IND-PAK WATER CONFLICT



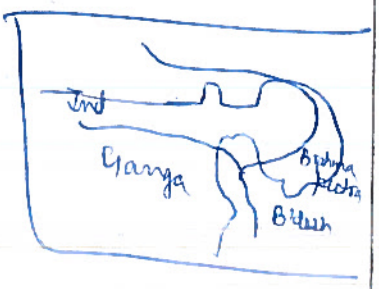
(1) Indus and tributaries pass from China (Tibet) to India to Pak

(2) As per Indus Water Treaty

- West ward Rivers
  - To Pakistan
  - India can make Run of River projects
  - Make up 70% of basin
    - Indus
    - Jhelum
    - Chenab
- East flowing
  - Sovereign control of Ind
  - 30% of water
    - Ravi
    - Beas
    - Satluj

Candidates must not write on this margin

IND - BANGLADESH



(1) Ganga and Brahmaputra basin fall in both India and Bangladesh

(2) They join to eventually fall in Bay of Bengal

CONFLICTS

(1) PM of Ind has highlighted how Terrorism and water can't flow together with Pak

(2) Water sharing conflict of Ganga over Farakka Barrage between Bengal and India

MEASURES

(1) Integrated talks to strengthen water sharing and prevention of disasters -

(2) Steam resistance to terrorism and support to renew Indus water treaty

Thus, growing conflicts need regional discussions to ~~prevent~~ a water war.

Candidates must not write on this margin

11. विपक्ष के राज्य में राज्यपालों की भूमिका केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों में विवाद का कारण बनी है। राज्यपालों के अधिकारों के अतिक्रमण से राज्य सरकारों की स्थिति पर किस प्रकार प्रभाव पड़ता है? ऐसी विवादों को कम करने के लिए क्या सुरक्षा उपाय अपनाए जा सकते हैं? आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The role of Governors in opposition-ruled States has been a flashpoint in Centre-State relations. Critically discuss how gubernatorial overreach challenges the position of state governments and suggest safeguards to mitigate such conflicts.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

The office of Governor is taken from British parliamentary practices. In recent times, conflict between Governors in opposition ruled states and state governments.

REACH AND OVERREACH OF GOVERNOR

(1) Constitution (Artt 16.3) provides for council of Ministers and Chief Minister to guide Governor

(2) Governor is also provided discretionary powers such as

- Amount to be paid by state as mining lease
- Recommendation to president for state Emergency
- additional charge of a UT etc

(3) Constitution does not clearly provide for time limits for some actions of Governor like granting assent to bill, recommending it to president etc

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Opposition ruled states are facing challenges due to hurdles by lack of decision making or obstructing decision of state.

(5) This stalls progress and good governance in state Eg Tamil Nadu govt. accused Governor of keeping 11 bills pending since long.

SAFEGUARDS TO CONFLICT

(1) Recently, Supreme Court provided for guidelines for timelimits for Governor and President to take action on state bills.

Eg 1 month timeline to give assent to reconsidered bill

3 months time to reserve bill for president.

(2) President has been guidelined to give assent in 3 months or provide reason for not granting assent.

(3) Centre-state coordination can be strengthened by regular meetings of Inter state council, NITI Aayog etc.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ The financial outlay to state governments must be strengthened for development.

⑤ Even in cases of discretion, governor should take advice of CM before denying assent to bill and returning to president or conduct floor test before recommending dissolution of govt.

Center-state coordination is must for Viksit Bharat 2047. Recent Supreme Court ruling is an evidence of apt use of judicial review to strengthen the same.

12. भारत के संवैधानिक सफर में मौलिक अधिकारों और राज्य नीति के निदेशक सिद्धांतों के बीच विकसित होता हुआ संबंध एक गतिशील विशेषता रही है, जिसके लिए न्यायिक हस्तक्षेप और संवैधानिक संशोधन आवश्यक होते रहे हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The evolving relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy has been a dynamic feature of India's constitutional journey, often necessitating judicial interventions and constitutional amendments. Discuss.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Candidates must not write on this margin

Fundamental Rights (Part 3) (FR) and DPSPs (Part 4) are essential components which formed strengthen Civic and social rights of individual and later supports economic and political rights.

FRs and DPSP Relation

(1) In order to provide for principles and rights in Art 31 and 39, 1st constitutional Amendment was brought which provided for

- 9th schedule → No judicial review
- Article 31A and 31B → to provide Community ownership of resources
- Restrictions on article 19

(2) Supreme Court in Kerala Education Bill Case held that caste based reservation can't be provided.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) 1st Constitutional Amendment brought Article 15(4) which provided reservation to socially and educationally backward classes.

(4) Reservation for EWS was brought in Art 15(5) and Article 16 in education and employment

(5) ~~Supreme Court in~~ 24th Amendment brought Constitutional amendment act out of judicial review.

(6) Supreme Court in Kesavananda Bharati case, held that fundamental rights can be amended but basic structure of constitution can't be changed

(7) Later on principle of Harmonious Construction was developed which provided balance between Fundamental rights and DPSPs ~~while~~ & without encroaching on each other.

Candidates must not write on this margin

DYNAMIC RELATION OF FRs AND DPSPs

(1) The relation between FRs and DPSPs has changed from primacy solely to one to balance between two

(2) In Shankari Prasad case, Supreme Court held that State can't encroach on Fundamental Rights to fulfill DPSPs

(3) In Menka Gandhi Case, Supreme Court held fundamental rights can be amended and balanced of harmony with DPSPs was developed.

DPSPs and FRs are wheels of the Chariot of Constitution. They are means to endgoal of Constitutionalism.

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. सहकारी संघवाद संविधान की रूपरेखा में निहित है, लेकिन राजनीतिक कारणों से प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक और टकरावपूर्ण संघवाद उभरा है। भारत के संघीय ढांचे में इन प्रवृत्तियों को संतुलित करने में संवैधानिक और संवैधानिक-से बाहर के संस्थानों की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

While cooperative federalism is rooted in the design of the Constitution, political considerations have given rise to competitive and confrontational federalism. Examine the role of constitutional and extra-constitutional institutions in reconciling these trends within India's federal structure. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Federalism is a feature of our Basic Structure Doctrine which provides for balance of power between states and centre. Many constitutional and extra-constitutional bodies have been developed to strengthen federalism.

COOPERATIVE AND COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM

(1) Cooperative federalism refers to support and coordination among states and centre to provide for effective checks and balances.

(2) Mechanism like Division of subjects, Finance Commission, Election of President, Similar roles of both centre and state.

(3) They aim to share resources substantially for development of region and nation and equal political upliftment.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Increasing forms, competitive federalism based on Carrot-stick model has been developed.

(5) Its aims to inspire states from each other's progress and incentivise success via competing.
Eg Different MGNREGA outlay for different states depending on progress shown

(6) However, excessive competition may lead to confrontational federalism where one state looks only self development and ignores other eg dengue of coal mound

INSTITUTIONS OF FEDERALISM

a) CONSTITUTIONAL

(1) Finance Commission under Art 280 provides for division of taxes vertically and horizontally

(2) Inter state and zonal council is a means for coordination and discussion between states.

(3) Inter state River Disputes Tribunal provide for amicable water sharing.

Candidates must not write on this margin

b) EXTRA CONSTITUTIONAL

① NITI Aayog provides for Governing Council with greater state representation for coordination.

② SDG Index provides measure of SDGs for competitive federalism among states.

③ Pressure groups also act as prudent channels of centre-state dispute resolution.

Thus, Indian federalism is Sui Generis as it provides for a powerful centre in division of power. But the ultimate aim is to reconcile the federal spirit.

14. भारत में बढ़ते हुए न्यायिक हिरासत में बंद कैदियों की संख्या आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली में प्रणालीगत और प्रक्रियात्मक खामियों को दर्शाती है। हाल के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देशों के संदर्भ में इस समस्या की मूल चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें और इसके समाधान के लिए बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण सुझाइए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The growing number of undertrial prisoners in India reflects both systemic and procedural lapses within the criminal justice system. In light of recent Supreme Court directions, discuss the underlying challenges and suggest a multi-pronged approach to address this crisis. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Candidates must not write on this margin

Undertrial prisoners are those people who are in police custody awaiting their trial to decide their innocence. India accounts for highest no. of undertrial prisoners.

UNDERTRIALS RISING

(1) Undertrial prisoners in India are rising substantially due to slow investigation and judicial processes.

(2) This puts a stress on limited prison capacity, potential of youth to act as evidence and harms the societal image.

(3) Aversion to granting bail is also prominent cause of rising undertrials at subordinate courts.

(4) Corruptional police and lack of substantial evidence also led to delayed trials and can result in extra judicial killings.

Candidates must not write on this margin

SUPREME COURT DIRECTIVE

① Recently Supreme Court directed that the undertrials who have completed 1/3rd of their punishment time, can be given bail.

② They have been directed to cooperate with police by regular reportings, location updates etc.

③ Use of foot trackers and home arrest has been suggested as well.

④ Supreme Court has held principle of JAIL IS EXCEPTION AND BAIL IS NORM

APPROACHES TO ADDRESS UNDERTRIALS

① Promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms to adjust in civil and less serious criminal disputes.

② Creating judicial infrastructure especially at lower level to increase there no. of hearings.

NEXT IAS

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Revision of working days of courts, mechanisms of e-trials, plea bargaining to reduce the burden of cases.

④ All India Judicial services can help to increase the extremely low 20:1L ratio of judges to population in India.

⑤ The recent BNS, BNSS provisions provide to support and expedite judicial resolution. The aim is to reform and free the undertrials for positive social development.

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. "उच्च सदन को पुनर्विलोकन कक्ष के रूप में कल्पित किया गया था, न कि निम्न सदन के प्रतिद्वंदी के रूप में।" इस कथन के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि समकालीन भारतीय राजनीति में राज्यसभा इस दृष्टिकोण को अभी भी निभा रही है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

"The Upper House was envisioned as a reviewing chamber and not a rival to the Lower House." In light of this statement, do you think the Rajya Sabha continues to fulfil this vision in contemporary Indian polity? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Bicameralism is an essential federal feature provided in Article 80 and 81 of the constitution. It provides for an elected Lok Sabha and indirectly elected Rajya Sabha.

IDEAL ROLE OF RAJYA SABHA

① Upper house was envisioned as a review chamber to bills and resolutions passed in Lok Sabha.

② Presence of Rajya Sabha ensured greater state representation due to special powers like Article 249, 312 etc

③ Role of Rajya Sabha in removal and election of constitutional bodies like President, Vice President ensures lack of arbitrariness.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Though Rajya Sabha lacks monetary powers, it can provide for recommendations and insights to Lok Sabha.

(5) Presence of specialised nominated members provides insight on special subject matters.

PRESENT POSITION OF UPPER HOUSE

(1) Upper house has became more redundant and obstructing in parliamentary proceedures.

(2) The political rivalry, lack of useful suggestions, absence of nominated members regularly etc do little to help the Lok Sabha.

(3) Rajya Sabha in last session recorded less than 50% of useful meetings and frequent adjournments.

(4) However, it can't be said that Rajya Sabha is not needed at all

POSITIVE ROLE

(1) Rajya Sabha is helping to strengthen legislative process by frequent deliberations.

Candidates must not write on this margin

② Role of Rajya Sabha to provide for All India Services can't be declined.

③ Many important bills and portfolio holders are part of parliament via Rajya Sabha.

④ Nominated members from cinema, art, music etc provide contemporary relevance to discussions.

Thus, Rajya Sabha's role in assisting Lok Sabha is integral to Parliament of India. Need is to rise above political skirmishes.

16. अच्छी तरह से संचालित सरकारी पहल तब भी विफल हो जाती हैं जब उनके संचालन और रखरखाव को कार्यक्रम की रूपरेखा में शामिल नहीं किया जाता। भारत में स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के संदर्भ में, सामूहिक प्रयास और समुदाय की सहभागिता इसकी दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता कैसे सुनिश्चित कर सकती है? चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Well-executed government initiatives often fail if operations and maintenance are not integral to the programme design. In the context of the Swachh Bharat Mission in India, discuss how collective action and community ownership can ensure its long-term sustainability. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Candidates must n write on this marg

Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2nd October, 2015 to provide for mission of Clean and open defecation free (ODF) India. With SBM 2.0 being launched, there's a need to ensure its effectiveness.

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

(1) The aim was to build community and household toilets to make every village ODF.

(2) Provisions to eliminate manual scavenging and upliftment of such downtrodden individuals via schemes like NAMASTE etc.

(3) SBM also provided for community sanitation centres to facilitate women and reduce gender stigma.

(4) It helped in urban waste disposal and domestic sewage treatment in cities.

Candidates must not write on this margin

FAILURES OF SBM

(1) Many toilets constructed lay non functional without waste collection, water facility etc

(2) Male dominance in villages has often prohibited use of community toilets by women.

(3) The plastic and domestic pollution is largest in India and most of it is dumped untreated into rivers.

(4) Lack of maintainence has led to decline of many sanitation and waste disposal centres.

SUSTAINABLE SBM

(1) SBM 2.0 aligns with maintaining ODF status with special focus on reducing open waste dumping, landfill site treatment, culture of 3R's etc.

(2) Vision of SBM 2.0 amid rising urbanisation can be achieved by engaging community support.

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ The planning must be bottom - top delivered by Gram Panchayats and ULBs.

④ Women SHGs and cooperatives can play essential role in awareness and women upliftment to reduce stigma.

⑤ Community and societal support can uplift Harijans and downtrodden castes from manual labour.

⑥ Bureaucratic intervention to reduce corruption of funds and effective regular maintenance, water supply etc will help.

Cleanliness is next to godliness. Action of one and all is necessary to uplift all and fulfill dream of clean India

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. चुनावी राजनीति में मुफ्त सुविधाओं ने भारत में शासन पर उनके प्रभाव को लेकर बहस छेड़ दी है। मुफ्त सुविधाओं और कल्याण उपायों के बीच अंतर स्पष्ट कीजिए और उनके शासन पर प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Freebies in electoral politics have sparked debate over their impact on governance in India. Differentiate between freebies and welfare measures, and examine their impact on governance.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Freebies refer to goods and services provided or promised in lieu of getting votes from public. Their rise has blurred the line of difference from welfare measures.

FREEBIES AND GOVERNANCE

(1) Political parties nowadays provide freebies like free electricity, bus service, cash to women etc before elections arrive.

(2) These are targetted to poor and vulnerable sections to divert public attention from lack of progress.

(3) They are touted as welfare measures to promote equitable resource distribution.

(4) Further they hinder the progress of state in real terms economically and politically.

Candidates must n
write on this marg

IMPACT OF

FREEBIES v/s WELFARE SCHEMES

FREEBIES	WELFARE SCHEMES
(1) No real and long time relevance	(1) Evident in long term upliftment
(2) Cost the state exchequer heavily	(2) Create more resources than utilised in human potential terms
(3) Lead to dependence on state and may reduce LFPR	(3) Increase LFPR by skilling and uplifting the needy
(4) Political remedies to poverty and hunger	(4) Constitutional remedies to poverty
(5) Eg Monthly cash to old women	(5) Eg Ayushman Bharat Yojana to give insurance to elderly

IMPACT OF FREEBIES

(1) Supreme Court held that freebie culture is leading to growth of parasites on state by increasing dependence on state.

(2) Freebies may help in short term but lead to underutilization of human potential.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Freebies lead to diversion of public funds from real development. Eg Many states are already under huge debt burden.

(4) Freebies lead to biased voting impacting the democratic nature of state and giving rise to power politics

(5) They often lead to conflict between communities over access to free resources.

Govt's purpose should be to make poor learn how to catch fish rather than making them feed on fish to make them dependent.

18. कई संस्थानों के होने के बावजूद एक मजबूत शोध वातावरण के विकास में संरचनात्मक बाधाएं लंबे समय से अवरोध बनी हुई हैं। अनुसंधान राष्ट्रीय निधि (ANRF) इन संरचनात्मक चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए कैसे प्रयासरत है? चर्चा कीजिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Structural barriers have long impeded the development of a robust research environment, despite the presence of numerous institutions. Discuss how the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) seeks to address these structural challenges.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Candidates must not write on this margin

India currently accounts for ~0.6% of GDP to R+D. This number is much higher in South Korea, USA, China etc which puts India at disadvantage in competitive world.

SLOW RESEARCH ENVIRON IN INDIA

(1) India shows lack of indigenous R+D due to major lack of private investments in competitive fields of defence, aerospace etc.
(2) Eg Indian pharma - 3rd largest in world majorly accounts for generic drugs and not neo-research driven drugs.
(3) The societal culture and need of quick employment and finances also stalls research.
(4) lack of enough good institutions leads to brain drain of youth to foreign.
(5) Recent report reveals, most R+D institutions working with contractual staff.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(6) This highlights lack of fulfilling permanent posts in higher academia, lack of incentivisation for R&D etc

(7) Institutions also focus merely on no. of research papers produced and not their quality.

ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

(1) ANRF aims to strengthen research culture in India by structurally and financially supporting R&D.

(2) Opening of >50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs in Higher Education institutions to promote culture of research.

(3) Support to startups, MSMEs based on defence, drones, space sectors via govt. and private investments.

(4) Schemes like INSPIRE, Incubation Hubs, NEP 2020 etc to incentivise and monetarily support research.

NEXT IAS

Candidates mu
write on this m

(5) ANRF aims to increase financial outlay to R&D by 2% of GDP to promote indigenous development.

(6) To prevent brain drain, ANRF to open incubation and research hubs and create awareness among school children.

In the world of rising tech, R&D is essential for economic and employment needs of India. It aligns with aim of MAKE IN INDIA, MAKE FOR WORLD.

Candidates must not write on this margin

19. भारत की रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और चीन के साथ संबंधों को संचालित करने में मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांत बनी हुई है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के सामने संभावित चुनौतियों और अवसरों का विश्लेषण कीजिए और भारत को इस नए अमेरिका-चीन प्रतिद्वंद्विता में कैसे अपना रास्ता बनाना चाहिए, इस पर विचार करें।(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

India's strategic autonomy remains the guiding principle in navigating relations with the United States and China. In this context, analyse the potential challenges and opportunities for India and how India should navigate this renewed US-China rivalry.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

In world of deglobalisation and neo-cold war, US China rivalry has risen to affect global geopolitics - India being a central player needs to strategically align with the global conflict.

US-CHINA RIVALRY

① After cold war and US hegemonic rise, world witnessed sudden expansion of Chinese economy in 21st C.

② Today, China is 2nd largest economy, accounts for 60% of critical mineral supply chains, largest exporter of world and ~~upcoming largest~~ 2nd largest army in world

③ US on contrary has witnessed decline in global economy due to deglobalisation talks, high govt debt, lack of manufacturing base etc

NEXT IAS

(4) This results in US viewing China as a greater threat than Cold war Russia due to high dependence of supply chains and high US deficit.

(5) China's rise in Indo-Pacific and dominance in South China sea is also concern to US hedgemony.

INDIAN CHALLENGES IN US-CHINA - IND RELATION

(1) India is attached to China geographically, economically → largest trade deficit and part of regional groupings like BRICS, SCO etc

(2) Ind-US relation has been strong in trade, defence, connectivity and coordination in groupings like QUAD, TRUST etc

(3) US-China rivalry can lead to weaponisation and conflict breeding in South Asia which is India's backyard.

(4) Chinese hedgemony like BRI, support to Pak sponsored terrorism, border disputes etc are threat to Ind's territoriality.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) Conflicts with US over technology sharing, tariff and non tariff barriers, high defence dependence are also concerns.

MEASURES TO NAVIGATE

(1) India as always should put national diplomacy at forefront over global alliances.

(2) Need to move away from binary rhetorics of Anti-US and Anti-China

(3) Support multilateral reforms with China along with free navigation and autonomy with US

(4) Garnering support of Africa, South East Asia etc via initiatives like SAGAR, MAHA-SAGAR, UNSC reforms etc

India should always support its stance of multilateralism and not safety provided of Global South.

NEXT IAS

20. भारत-मिडिल ईस्ट-यूरोप आर्थिक गलियारा (IMEC) की शुरुआत भारत की कनेक्टिविटी कूटनीति में एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ है। चीन की बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI) के मुकाबले इसकी भारत के लिए रणनीतिक प्रासंगिकता का विश्लेषण करें। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) marks a turning point in India's connectivity diplomacy. Analyse its strategic relevance for India vis-à-vis China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

G20 in New Delhi marked the announcement of a new global connectivity route - IMEC. It is of relevance to Indian economy and strategic importance.

IMEC AND DIPLOMACY

(1) India - Middle East Europe Economic Corridor is an initiative proposed to connect India → Qatar → Saudi Arabia → Jordan → Israel → Greece → Europe.



IMEC

(2) Thus it provides for global connectivity from South Asia to Middle East to Europe in multimodal fashion for goods, people etc.

Candidates must not write on this margin

CHALLENGE TO BRI

(1) IMEC stands as a strategic element of connectivity diplomacy as a counter to China's BRI launched in 2013.

(2) CPEC under BRI is a concern to Indian territoriality and threat of Chinese dominance over global trade and supply chains.

(3) Pan-global development of IMEC is also essential to counter debt diplomacy of BRI.

(4) IMEC will also help to boost India's trade and global outreach and help in its rise in global economies.

(5) Connection to Europe via Middle East will be a shorter connectivity route and enhance export competitiveness.

(6) Multimodal connectivity will boost globalisation and seamless movement of supply chains and human resources.

NEXT IAS

Candidates mu
write on this m

CONTEMPORARY HURDLES

(1) Conflicts in middle East have stalled IMEC development.

(2) Almost 1/3rd of world is already under China's debt of BRI who is accessing strategic locations like Hambantota, Gwadar etc

(3) IMEC is largely on paper due to many bureaucratic and diplomatic delays.

IMEC is essential element of India's ~~string of pearls to counter~~ necklace of diamonds to counter Chinese string of pearls.

Space for Rough Work

Space for Rough Work

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.

DONT'S

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question-cum-Answer Booklet.
2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any pages from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
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.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR CANDIDATE AVAILING ONLINE FACILITY

1. Scan the QCA booklet properly. We suggest the uses of the app CAM scanner (Scan QR code in page 2) based on our previous experiences.
2. Please scan the QCA booklet in ample light. Copies scanned under moderate light can hamper evaluation quality.
3. Any page/pdf having shadow needs to be rescanned. Please make sure that the pdf that you upload is as clean as possible.
4. **Candidates not using the QCA booklet** must mention their details on the front page. And leave the next page blank for the macro comments. It must be understood that the answer should start from Page no. 3 in of the scanned pdf.
5. Candidates not using the QCA booklet must follow the sequence of the answer as per the question paper.
6. Please check the sequence of the answer and total number of pages in the scanned version. Make sure it is in consonance with the physical version of the same.

NEXT IAS

महत्वपूर्ण निर्देश

अभ्यर्थियों को निम्नलिखित निर्देशों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ना चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर दंडित किया जा सकता है।

क्या न करें

1. इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका के भीतर कहीं भी अपना नाम या पंजीकरण संख्या न लिखें।
2. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तरों के अलावा कुछ भी न लिखें।
3. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका से कोई भी पृष्ठ न फाड़ें, यदि आपको कोई पृष्ठ गायब लगे, तो पर्यवेक्षक/निरीक्षक को सूचित करना न भूलें।
4. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका को अपनी टेबल पर न छोड़ें, परीक्षा समाप्त होने के पश्चात इसे निरीक्षक को सौंप देना चाहिए।

क्या करें

1. कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए निर्देशों को ध्यान पूर्वक पढ़ें और उनका सख्ती से पालन करें।
2. QCA पुस्तिका के कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए स्थान पर अपना पंजीकरण नंबर और अन्य विवरण लिखें।
3. स्पष्ट और पठनीय तरीके से लिखें। खराब/अपठनीय लिखावट में न लिखें।
4. रफ नोट्स या गणना के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंतिम से खाली पृष्ठों का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। रफ नोट्स को बाद में क्रॉस कर देना चाहिए।
5. यदि आप किसी कार्य को रद्द करना चाहते हैं, तो उस पर अपना पेन चलाएं या उस पर "रद्द" लिखें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है।
6. परीक्षा हॉल छोड़ने से पहले अपनी QCA पुस्तिका व्यक्तिगत रूप से निरीक्षक को सौंप दें।

ऑनलाइन सुविधा का लाभ उठाने वाले अभ्यर्थियों के लिए विशेष अनुरोध

1. QCA पुस्तिका को ठीक से स्कैन करें। हम चाहेंगे कि आप स्कैनिंग के लिए कैमस्कैनर ऐप (CAM SCANER) का प्रयोग करें। (यह कोई प्रमोशन नहीं है)।
2. कृपया QCA पुस्तिका को पर्याप्त रोशनी में स्कैन करें। कम रोशनी में स्कैन की गई पुस्तिकाएं, उनके मूल्यांकन की गुणवत्ता को बाधित कर सकती हैं।
3. स्कैन के दौरान छाया वाले किसी भी पृष्ठ/पीडीएफ को फिर से स्कैन किया जाना चाहिए। कृपया सुनिश्चित करें कि आपके द्वारा अपलोड की गई पीडीएफ यथा संभव स्पष्ट हो ।
4. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को अपना विवरण पहले पृष्ठ पर देना चाहिए और मैक्रो टिप्पणियों के लिए अगला पृष्ठ खाली छोड़ दें। यह समझना चाहिए कि उत्तर स्कैन की गई पीडीएफ में पृष्ठ नंबर 3 से शुरू होना चाहिए।
5. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को प्रश्नपत्र के अनुसार उत्तर के अनुक्रम का पालन करना चाहिए।
6. कृपया स्कैन किए गए संस्करण में उत्तर के अनुक्रम और कुल पृष्ठों की संख्या की जाँच करें। सुनिश्चित करें कि यह उसी के भौतिक संस्करण के अनुरूप है।

