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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1229)

Name of Candidate	SHRUTI SRIVASTAVA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	30591
Center	ONLINE	Date	22/7/19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

1. It is of paramount importance to ensure that the Election Commission of India (ECI) be fully insulated from political pressure to maintain the purity of elections. In this context, discuss the need to have a relook at the process of appointment and removal of election commissioners to the ECI.

(150 Words) 10

चुनावों की शुचिता बनाए रखने के लिए यह सुनिश्चित करना अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है कि भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) राजनीतिक दबाव से पूर्णतया मुक्त रहे। इस संदर्भ में, ECI के निर्वाचन आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति और पदच्युति की प्रक्रिया पर पुनर्विचार करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The Election Commission of India (ECI) was set up under Art 324 to supervise free and fair elections in India.

Need to maintain independence

- level playing field in democracy is ensured
- ECI prevents polling in cases of corruption
- retains public faith in system

Current process of appointment/removal

- Chairman and members of ECI appointed by President (on advice of Council of Ministers)
- Removal of Chairman occurs in same manner as Supreme Court judge; but other members can be removed

by President based on Chairman's approval

Way Forward

→ a neutral Selection Committee (including leader of opposition and judicial members) should select candidates for ECI to prevent ruling party bias

→ removal of members should be similar to that of Chairman as both enjoy equal powers.

Reforms in ECI structure will ensure that it remains watchdog of democracy, performing its role fearlessly.

2. Public service delivery in India has long been marred by various issues leading to poor service delivery outcomes. While discussing the reasons for the same, suggest ways to make public service delivery more efficient.

(150 words) 10

भारत में सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण दीर्घकाल से विभिन्न समस्याओं से ग्रसित रहा है जिसका परिणाम घटिया सेवा वितरण है। इसके कारणों पर चर्चा करते हुए, सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण को अधिक कुशल बनाने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Public service delivery refers to providing government services (eg: roads, hospitals, schools) and welfare benefits (eg: subsidies, scheme rations, etc).

Poor delivery outcomes due to :-

- leakage of funds → too many intermediaries; study shows <50% of MGNREGS funds reach beneficiary
- large scale corruption in flagship projects eg. highway construction, river cleaning; presence of 'neta-babu - business' nexus
- delay in obtaining clearances
- poor identification/targeting of beneficiaries

→ top down policy making

Ways to Improve

- JAM (Jan Panch, Aadhar, Mobile Payments) Trinity for effective direct benefit transfers eg: success of 'PAHAL' LPG subsidy scheme
 - Aadhar identification reduces ghost beneficiary
- Involvement of gram sabha / local body in choosing development projects (bottoms up policy)
- Social audit to improve citizen vigilance
- Single window clearance system to speed up projects
- Citizen's charters spelling out aims of public service delivery
- Retraining bureaucracy and involving public is must to improve delivery outcomes.

3. Discuss the need for an effective and functional working relationship between Gram Panchayats and SHGs. How can an efficient synergy between the two be achieved? (150 words) 10

ग्राम पंचायतों और SHGs के मध्य एक प्रभावी एवं कार्यात्मक कार्यकारी संबंध की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। दोनों के मध्य एक कार्यक्षम सहक्रियता किस प्रकार प्राप्त की जा सकती है?

Gram Panchayats and Self Help Groups (SHGs) are both key to 'village democracy' envisaged in Art 40 of Constitution.

NEED FOR COLLABORATION

Gram Panchayats are Constitutional, political bodies charged with local governance.

SHGs involve active citizens, enabling financial mobilization and self employment.

Gram Panchayats can provide supportive environment for SHGs to thrive, expand membership and allocate special fund for credit provision to SHGs.

SHGs are often starting point for discussing social issues in public meetings → this agenda can be shared with gram panchayat for effective political change.

Gram Panchayats and SHGs can also join hands for women's empowerment. There is 33% reservation for women in gram panchayats, whereas women-led SHGs have performed successfully (eg: Kudumbastree in Kerala).

Synergy between gram panchayats and SHGs will help in bringing grassroots democracy in India.

4. In post-liberalised India, it is imperative that the role of state be that of a facilitator, and not one of a regulator. Analyse. (150 words) 10

उदारीकरण के पश्चात् के भारत में, यह अत्यावश्यक है कि राज्य की भूमिका एक सुविधाप्रदाता की हो, न कि एक नियामक की। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Since 1991, the role of the state in Indian economy has decreased :-

- abolishment of 'license Permit Raj'
- dereculation
- opening up economy : easing FDI
- abolishing many import duties / rationalizing customs / easing trade barriers

The role of the state must be that of 'facilitator' :-

- maximum governance, minimum government : creating ideal business climate



- support to MSMEs ; withholding support to sick/dying PSUs
eg: privatization of Air India is good step
- providing opportunities to marginalized groups eg: Stand Up India Scheme for SC, ST, women ~~enter~~ entrepreneurs
- support to start-ups

Way Forward



5. By providing new pools of leadership talent, lateral entry will help in addressing the most crucial challenges that the civil services in India currently face. Critically evaluate. (150 words) 10

नेतृत्वकर्ता प्रतिभावान व्यक्ति का नया समुच्चय प्रदान कर, पार्श्व प्रवेश भारत में सिविल सेवाओं द्वारा वर्तमान में सामना की जा रही सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता करेगा। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Recently, lateral entry was invited for joint-secretary level posts in government (on small scale).

[Benefits of lateral Entry]

- intake of fresh talent
- revitalization of bureaucracy with private sector experience; can lead to innovation in governance
- need for specialists in civil services due to technical nature of policy-making regarding economy, technology, etc.
- change of work-culture is much needed

[Problems of lateral Entry]

- outsiders lack field experience
- prior examples of private sector professionals managing public sector enterprises (such as Air India) has been poor
- can lead to graft, ~~for~~ favouritism in appointments → compromises independence of bureaucracy
- issue of reservations not addressed
- demotivating for direct recruits as it hinders promotion prospects

Way Forward :- experience of hiring outside professionals needs to be tested. While 'outsiders' like Raghuram Rajan, Anand Subramaniam, etc. have done ~~so~~ well ~~as~~ public ~~sector~~ ~~job~~ servants, experience of seasoned bureaucrats cannot be ignored.

6. The ambiguity surrounding lobbying in India is further exacerbated by the country's endemic corruption. In this context, critically examine the case for legalising lobbying in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में लॉबींग को लेकर विद्यमान अस्पष्टता देश में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार से और भी गंभीर हो जाती है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में लॉबींग को वैध बनाने के प्रश्न का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Lobbying is a means of influence (generally by companies) to favour private groups via policy.

Kaushik Basu has compared lobbying as a 'fee' paid by companies to navigate bureaucracy.

Should lobbying be legalized?

Argument 1: Yes

- will improve transparency of system
- is legal in countries like US, provided no law is broken
- can be used for revenue maximization

Argument 2: No

- validates corruption
- gives power to large, rich business groups (against Art 39)
- erodes democratic values

Improving systemic functioning
to making it difficult to
engage in corruption is must.

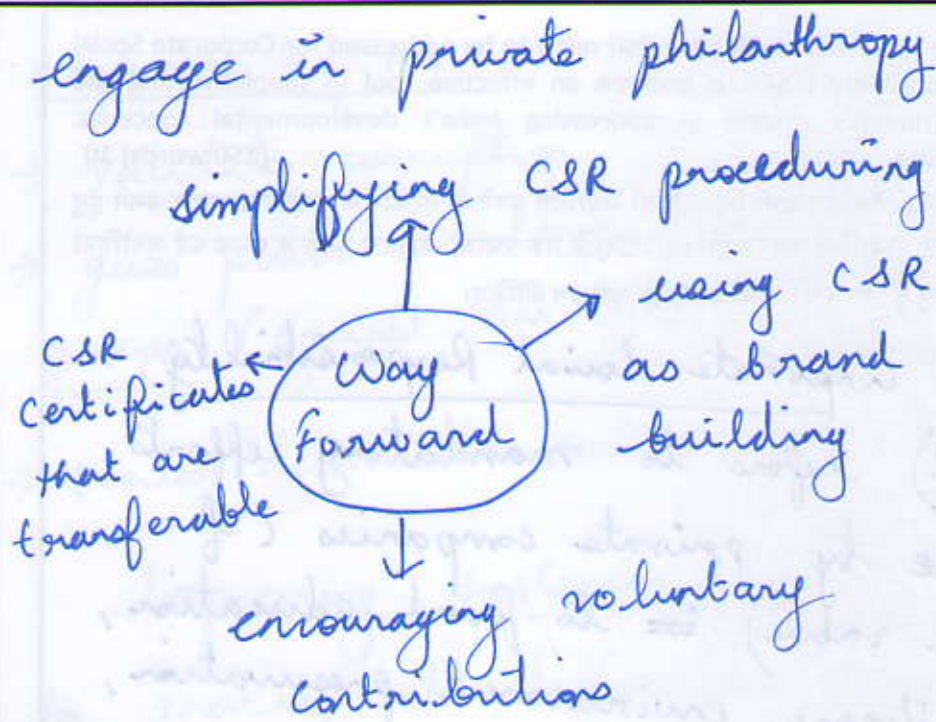
7. There are many challenges that need to be addressed for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to become an effective tool in supplementing the government's efforts in addressing India's developmental concerns. Examine. (150 words) 10

भारत की विकास संबंधी चिंताओं को संबोधित करने में सरकार के प्रयासों का पूरक बनने हेतु कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (CSR) के एक प्रभावी उपकरण बनने के समक्ष कई चुनौतियां हैं, जिन्हें दूर करने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

Corporate Social Responsibility
(CSR) refers to mandatory efforts made by private companies (of high value) ~~in~~ to fund education, healthcare, environment preservation, energy, etc.

Challenges in Using CSR as Governance Tool :-

- small number of high value companies
- lack of private sector interest
- lack of private sector faith in implementation of government schemes; CSR seen as 'waste' of private money
- high net individuals prefer to



As private sector grow, so does its responsibilities. Effective government rules can make sure they are fulfilled.

8. Explain the need for transparency in political funding in India. Do you think electoral bonds can help solve the problem pertaining to lack of transparency in political funding? (150 words) 10

भारत में राजनीतिक वित्तपोषण में पारदर्शिता की आवश्यकता की व्याख्या कीजिए। क्या आप मानते हैं कि चुनावी बंधपत्र (इलेक्टोरल बॉन्ड) राजनीतिक वित्तपोषण में पारदर्शिता की कमी से संबंधित समस्या को दूर करने में सहायता कर सकते हैं?

Electoral bonds, introduced in Finance Act, 2018, are an electronic means of transferring anonymous political donations into bank account of party.

Problems

- no limit on amount that can be donated via bonds
- anonymity = lack of transparency
- can lead to increased lobbying by companies

Although, mechanism of electoral bonds transfer is 'cashless', there is still scope for channeling in black money.

The ECI has strongly opposed electoral bonds scheme due to lack of transparency regarding donor identity and source of funding.

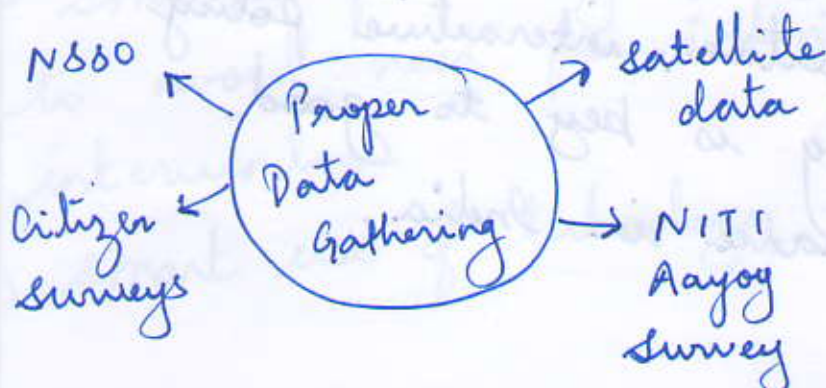
9. Discuss the issues plaguing public policy formulation in India. Also suggest measures to strengthen the policy formulation process. (150 words) 10

भारत में सार्वजनिक नीति निर्माण को बाधित करने वाले मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही नीति निर्माण प्रक्रिया को सुदृढ़ बनाने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।



MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN

→ evidence based policy making



- bottoms up approach : involving gram panchayat, municipal corporation ; inviting public feedback
 - engaging experts & stakeholders
eg: National Electric Vehicle Policy
needs to address concerns of automobile manufacturers
 - balancing short-term goals with long term vision
eg: NITI Aayog 3 year Action Plan, 7 year strategy, 15 year Vision Document
- Effective, interactive policy making is key to good governance in India.

10. An important aspect of curtailing corruption is to minimize the discretionary powers available to government officers. Analyze. Also, suggest ways in which this can be achieved. (150 words) 10

भ्रष्टाचार कम करने का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू सरकारी अधिकारियों को प्राप्त विवेकाधिकार शक्तियों को न्यूनतम करना है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों को भी सुझाएं जिनके द्वारा यह हासिल किया जा सकता है।

Curtailing discretionary powers of individuals reduces possibility of bias.

Ways to Achieve

→ Clear formulation of rules

Eg: General Financial Rules, 2017 followed in government tender

→ following protocol

→ codification of precedents

→ smooth functioning of system to avoid need for individual intervention

→ smart use of technology -

eg: computerization of Railways
ticketing system helped in
massive reduction of
corruption

While certain amount of
discretion is essential,
legal clarity reduces chances
of misuse.

11. While there are existing laws for the same, substantial efforts still need to be undertaken to prohibit people with criminal antecedents from entering into politics. Discuss in context of the problem of criminalization of politics in India and resulting issues. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि इस हेतु कानून विद्यमान हैं, तथापि अपराधिक पृष्ठभूमि वाले लोगों का राजनीति में प्रवेश रोकने के लिए अभी भी काफी प्रयास किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण की समस्या और परिणामी सुद्नों के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Nearly 43% of elected MPs in Lok Sabha have criminal antecedents of which 21% involve serious crimes (ADR Report, 2018). Although laws like Representation of People Act, 1951 aim to curb criminalization of politics, problems still remain.

REASONS

- lack of level playing field
- criminals assumed to be better at managing 'law and order' problems by citizens
- role of black money in election funding
- citizen perception that 'ordinary people' have no chance of winning elections

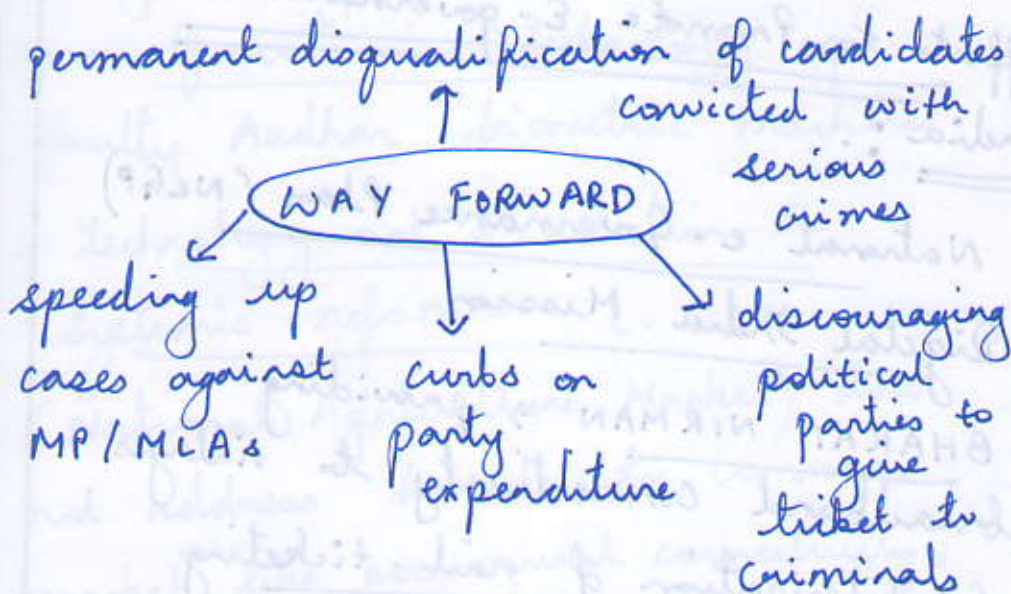
ISSUES

- increasing corruption in governance; waste of public money; reduces integrity of bureaucracy
- political party members enjoy impunity; spread of hoodiganism; violates Art. 14
- attraction of youth towards crime
- increasing law and order problems
- environmental exploitation → involvement of political mafias in illegal sandmining, mineral extraction, etc.
- decline in quality of Parliamentary discussions; hastily passed bills

STEPS TAKEN

- Dity Thomas vs. Union of India case - Supreme Court (SC) declared immediate disqualification of ~~poli~~ candidates

- convicted of crimes > 2 yrs imprisonment
→ publication of criminal antecedents
made compulsory in affidavit for
candidates contesting elections
→ disqualification of 6 years from
contesting elections after being
released from jail



Collaboration between ECI,
judiciary, public and political
parties must to reduce criminaliz-
ation of politics.

12. Focusing on technology without realizing that e-Governance is basically about ushering reforms in governance has meant that the potential of e-governance has not been realized. Discussing the statement, suggest what should be done to address this situation. (250 words) 15

ई-गवर्नेंस मूलतः शासन में सुधारों का सूत्रपात करने के लिए है, यह समझे बिना प्रौद्योगिकी पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने का अर्थ यह हुआ कि ई-गवर्नेंस की क्षमता का दोहन नहीं हो पाया है। इस कथन पर चर्चा करते हुए, सुझाव दीजिए कि इस स्थिति से निपटने हेतु क्या किया जाना चाहिए।

e-Governance is not just about using technology. Rather, technology is a means to reform governance.

Efforts to Promote E-governance in India :-

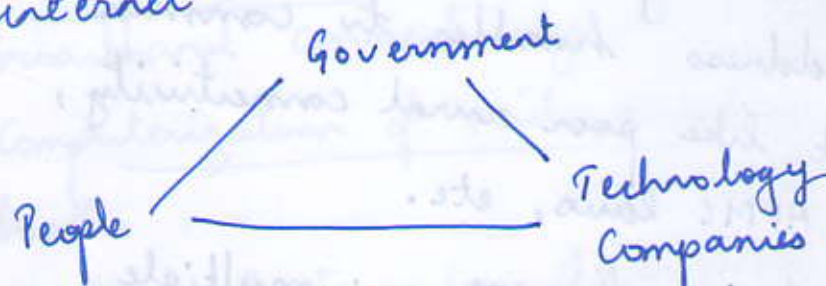
- National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)
- Digital India Mission
- BHARAT NIRMAN → providing broadband connectivity to villages
- Computerization of rail-ticketing booths
- E-Office System in Government Secretariate
- Biometric based Aadhar identification
- Operation Blackboard in schools

Challenges :-

- lack of digital connectivity ; physical infrastructure is lacking
- lack of digital literacy - makes people unable to use technology, vulnerability to fraud
- digital divide between rich & poor
- malfunctioning technology eg: faulty Aadhar biometric machines
- technology not a solution to systemic reforms - e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) does not address hurdles to common market like poor rural connectivity, state APMC laws, etc.
- abundance of apps eg: multiple woman safety apps defeat purpose of women's security

Way Forward :-

- expanding digital literacy
- greater digital connectivity
- functional Common Service Centres (CSCs) to provide digital services
- fixing technology snags
- new technologies like 5G, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics have potential in governance
- Google's Project Loon and similar innovative projects for spread of internet



Need for positive synergy to
create truly Digital India &
improve governance

13. Highlighting the importance of citizen charter, discuss the reasons behind its limited success. In this context, suggest measures to make citizen charters effective tools of accountability in public service. (250 words) 15

नागरिक चार्टर के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसकी सीमित सफलता हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, नागरिक चार्टर को लोक सेवा में जवाबदेही का प्रभावी उपकरण बनाने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Citizen's Charters are ^{government} ~~public~~ documents that outline the goals/objectives of particular ministry/dept.

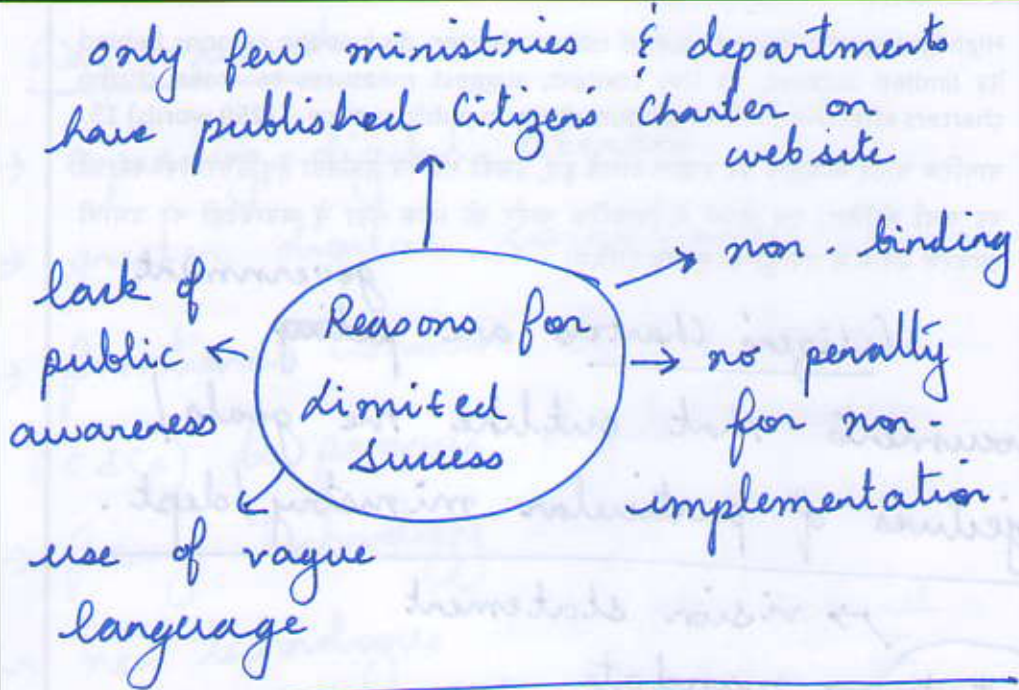
Contents → vision statement
→ mandate
→ grievance redressal (contact number/address of institution)

ensures public accountability

Importance → fulfills right to information of citizen

← Citizen centric governance approach

government as 'facilitation' rather than ruler; fulfills sovereignty of people



WAY FORWARD

- giving statutory basis to Citizens Charters
- effective grievance redressal system at local level
- compulsory uploading of charter online in English and vernacular language
- obtaining feedback from citizens

while outlining goals in
Charter

→ Economic Survey 2017-18 had
suggested passing Transparency
of Rules Act to complement
existing Citizens' Charters.

Citizens' charters help increase
government responsibility to
people improving quality of
democracy.

14. What are the challenges posed by paid news and political advertising in conducting free and fair elections? Discuss, in brief, the need to amend the Representation of People's Act to regulate this issue. What other steps can be taken to address it? (250 words) 15

स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनावों के आयोजन में पेड न्यूज और राजनीतिक विज्ञापन द्वारा प्रस्तुत चुनौतियां क्या हैं? संक्षेप में, इस मुद्दे का विनियमन करने हेतु लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम में संशोधन करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। इन्हें दूर करने हेतु कौन-से अन्य कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?

Paid news and political advertisements are being used as a political tool during election campaigning.

Challenge to Free & Fair Elections

- reduces level playing field → those with more money power have greater advantage
- use of mass media in influencing voter emotions → hinders voter ability to vote rationally
- lowers standard of journalistic ethics; reduces independence of fourth estate
- can be used for defamation

of political opponents
→ use of social media to propagate
fake news

Amending RPA, 1951 can help:

- ban paid news (recommended by ECI);
- curb political advertisements; even while ensuring Art 19(a) is not violated.

Other Measures

- specifying engagement of political parties & media in Model Code of Conduct i.e. listing out dos and don'ts
- citizen awareness programme by ECI → public should be encouraged to verify sources
- Paid news must be highlighted by newspaper as 'PAID' to distinguish from other news items

- filling out expenditure on political advertisement separately in affidavit

- regulating social media > need for special law

Controlling political discourse, making sure it is unbiased is key to free and fair elections.

15. Explain why the doctrine of separation of powers is considered as an indispensable part of a democratic setup. Also, discussing this doctrine in the context of India, explain the principle of 'checks and balances'.

(250 words) 15

व्याख्या कीजिए कि शक्ति के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत को लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था का एक अनिवार्य घटक क्यों माना जाता है। साथ ही, भारत के संदर्भ में इस सिद्धांत पर चर्चा करते हुए, 'नियंत्रण और संतुलन' के सिद्धांत की भी व्याख्या कीजिए।

'Separation of powers', a theory first envisaged by Montesquieu in The Spirit of Law, states that the executive, legislative and judiciary belong to separate domains.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

Executive	Legislative
- implements laws - ordinance making powers - obedience to party whip	- frames laws - collective responsibility of Council of Ministers to Lok Sabha - Question Hour, Zero Hour → government policy can be questioned - Scrutiny of demands for grants

Executive

- President appoints judges
- President removes judges

Judiciary

- can give directions to executive under Art. 142
- can strike down executive orders (Art 13)
- writ jurisdiction (Art 32, 226)

Legislative

- Parliamentary proceedings cannot be discussed in court
- ~~2/3 majority~~ special majority in both Houses must to remove judge

Judiciary

- can strike down laws (Art. 13)
- High Court hears election petitions regarding disqualification of MP/MLA
- Art 51: separation of judiciary from executive.

hence, the power of each branch is balanced out by the powers of other.

16. Explaining the importance of microcredit, highlight the issues related to microfinance institutions in India. How can these issues be addressed?

(250 words) 15

सूक्ष्म ऋण (माइक्रोक्रेडिट) के महत्व की व्याख्या करते हुए, भारत में सूक्ष्म-वित्त संस्थानों से संबंधित मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इन मुद्दों से कैसे निपटा जा सकता है?

Mohammad Yunus won the Nobel Prize for using the concept of 'microfinance' in the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh.

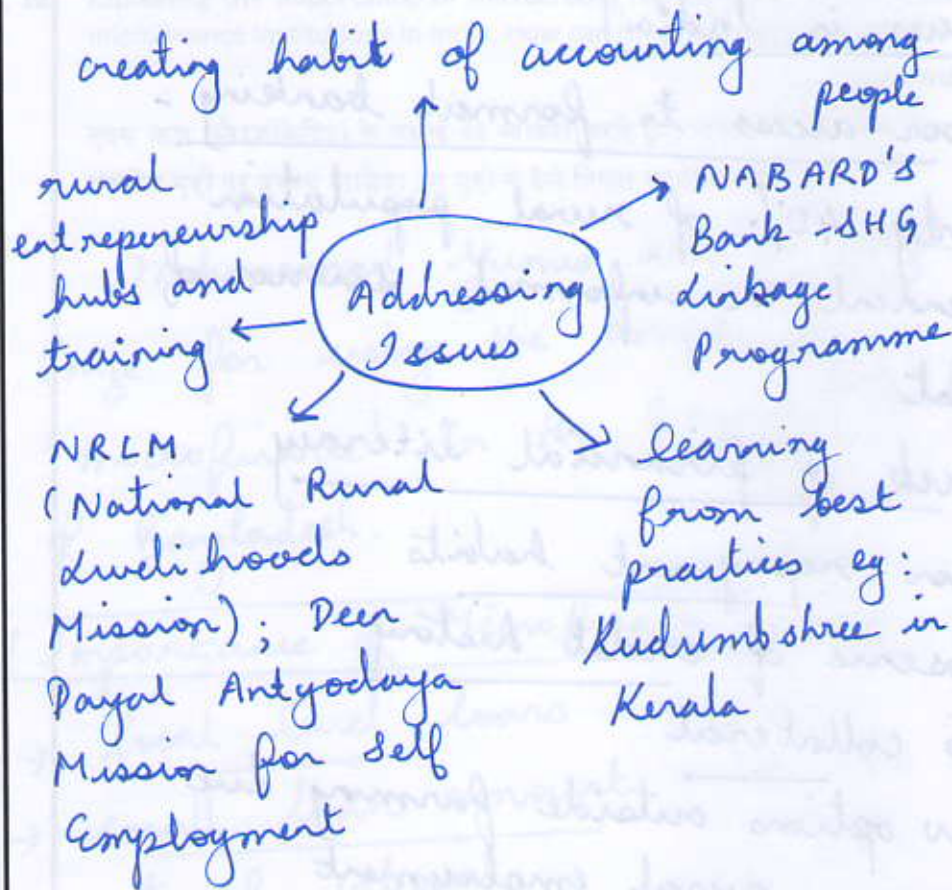
Importance of Microfinance

- local level loans
- small loan amount with low rate of interest
- gradual repayment process - with very small installments



Issues in India

- poor access to formal banking -
nearly 40% of rural population
dependent on informal sources of
credit
- lack of financial literacy
- poor repayment habits
- absence of credit history
- no collateral
- few options outside farming due
to poor rural employment
scenario
- urban microfinance institutes &
small finance banks hit by
demonetization
- lack of private sector investment
- lack of refinancing options
- frequent farm loan waivers
- bad asset accumulation in NBFCs



17. In the context of recent concerns related to functioning of NGOs in India, discuss the need for self-regulatory guidelines and transparency mechanisms to restore the credibility of voluntary organisations.

(250 words) 15

भारत में NGOs के कार्यकरण से संबंधित हाल की चिंताओं के संदर्भ में, स्वैच्छिक संगठनों की विश्वसनीयता को पुनर्स्थापित करने के लिए स्व-नियामकीय दिशानिर्देशों और पारदर्शिता तंत्रों की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Although NGOs have helped strengthen role of civil society in democracy, there are concerns such as :-

- misuse of foreign funding - erodes Indian sovereignty
- used for ~~road~~ routing in black money
- protests by NGO can be anti-development in nature eg: against highway construction
- fraudulent NGOs → scam for cheating people of their money

Need for regulation

Separate law can address

issues of :

- registration
- having clear mandate (to ensure genuineness) & public-spirited character
- listing funding sources
- audit procedure

However, NGOs should not be terrorized by unfair regulations. Abusing FCRA provisions and demanding constant renewal of licenses can hinder growth of well-meaning NGOs.

18. Highlight the potential areas of conflict in the relationship between the political executive and the permanent civil services. Also, discuss, in brief, the need for a more clear division of responsibility between the two.

(250 words) 15

राजनीतिक कार्यपालिका और स्थायी सिविल सेवाओं के बीच संबंधों में टकराव के संभावित क्षेत्रों पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, संक्षेप में दोनों के मध्य उत्तरदायित्व के और अधिक स्पष्ट विभाजन की आवश्यकता पर भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Potential areas of conflict between political executive & permanent civil services :-

→ elected leader may impose personal political agenda going against neutrality of bureaucracy

→ Mismatch of Priorities → elected leader → achieving visible results
→ civil servant → achieving outcome through proper rules & regulations

For civil servant means are just as important as end

→ political executive may give
oral instructions instead of
written orders leading to
future trouble for civil servant
Division of role & responsibility
will ensure better collaboration
and reduce friction between
political executive & permanent
civil services.

19. Government schemes in India have long suffered from monitoring and implementation challenges. What steps have been taken by the government recently in this regard? Also discuss the potential of social audit in addressing these challenges. (250 words) 15

भारत में सरकारी योजनाएं दीर्घकाल से निगरानी और कार्यान्वयन संबंधी चुनौतियों से बुरी तरह प्रभावित रही हैं। हाल में सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं? साथ ही इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सामाजिक लेखापरीक्षा की क्षमता पर भी चर्चा कीजिए।



[Recent Government Steps] :-

- Public Financial Management System to track progress of schemes at Prime Ministerial level
- Direct Benefit Transfer - ensures subsidy reaches beneficiary
eg: PAHAL scheme

- Aadhar based identification, better targeting, reduces ghost beneficiaries
- focusing on 'Champion Sectors' in services → building on strengths
- bottoms up policy making in AMRUT, Smart Cities Mission
- behavioural change - convincing people to follow scheme eg: Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao; Swachh Bharat Mission

How can social audit help?

- direct involvement of people in tracking spending of public money

- financial accountability
- utilizes political potential of gram sabha
- improves self-confidence of people eg. Bharatiya Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan, Rajasthan pioneered social audit movement leading to RTI Act, 2005

20. Discuss briefly why the definition of 'public authorities' under the Right to Information Act, 2005 has been a contentious issue. Also, explain the rationale behind Central Information Commission's directive that national political parties be covered under the purview of RTI Act. (250 words) 15

संक्षेप में चर्चा कीजिए कि क्यों सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत 'लोक प्राधिकरणों' की परिभाषा एक विवादित मुद्दा रहा है। साथ ही, केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग के इस निर्देश के पीछे के तर्क की व्याख्या कीजिए कि राष्ट्रीय राजनीतिक दलों को भी RTI अधिनियम के दायरे में लाया जाना चाहिए।

'Public authorities' under RTI Act, 2005 has wider scope than definition of 'state' under Art 13.

Contentious points → including political parties
→ including judiciary
→ including ministers

CIC claims ^{national} political parties are 'public authorities' because :-

- granted benefits like free use of Boardroom facilities for specified time
- enormous public influence
- have statutory recognition
- do not pay income tax i.e. enjoy special privileges

1. Do through the accompanying Annex to the answer the following questions, Registration Number and Test Code) and please do not write your name in this space. (10 marks)
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in English & Hindi and you have to answer the first 10 in each. (10 marks)
3. All questions are compulsory. (10 marks)
4. The number of marks earned by a candidate in this section is 10. (10 marks)
5. Answers must be written in the medium specified in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the Questionnaire Answer Book. The space provided for writing will be given for answer to question in English only and the candidate has to write in Hindi only. (10 marks)
6. Some multiple questions, if asked, would be asked in Hindi & you have to answer in Hindi. (10 marks)
7. The page or pattern of the paper left blank for the Questionnaire Answer Booklet must be clearly marked and the space provided for writing will be given for answer to question in Hindi only. (10 marks)