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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1429)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	377569
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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।

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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.

All the Best

1. Illustrate how pressure groups have emerged as a strong mechanism for making democracy participatory and responsive. (150 Words) 10 Marks

उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए समझाइए कि किस प्रकार दबाव समूह, लोकतंत्र को सहभागी और अनुक्रियाशील बनाने हेतु एक सुदृढ़ तंत्र के रूप में उभरे हैं।

Pressure groups refer to organizations which are political in nature but remain outside the scope of electoral politics and exert pressure on political parties to make their voices heard. Their methods usually include strikes, dharnas, lobbying.

Mechanism of increasing participation in a democracy:-

- (1) Voice to marginalised - They provide a platform for vulnerable sections to air their grievances against government policies. Eg - Bharatiya Kisan Union was formed to present farmers' concerns.
- (2) Increasing political awareness - They increase awareness about political issues amongst sections which are sometimes away from political influences such as

the youth of the country.

- (3) Policy formulation - Pressure groups often put forward policies to resolve certain social & economic problems, aiding the government in legislation.
- (4) Policy implementation - They close the gap between government and people. Eg - National Farmers' Union (NFIU) aids the government in implementing policies for farmer welfare.
- (5) Peaceful & constitutional - Usually pressure groups resort to constitutional means to put forward their views, acting as a safety valve. This ensures people do not turn violent to make the government responsive.

Therefore, pressure groups are an integral part of our democracy. There need to be checks to ensure their internal democracy and prevent lobbying so that their participatory nature improves.

2. Explain the significance and controversies, if any, associated with the Article 35A of the Indian constitution. (150 Words) 10 Marks

भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 35A के महत्व और उससे संबद्ध विवादों, यदि कोई हो, की व्याख्या कीजिए।

Article 35A of the Indian constitution allows the government of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) to choose the "citizens" of their state and ensure certain benefits to them such as state citizenship, property rights, educational and employment opportunities.

[Significance]- It creates a ^{separate} class within the Indian citizens leading to the following problems.

[Problems]

(1) A citizen of the country cannot buy land in J&K. In this sense, it creates inequality amongst citizens.

(2) A female whose domicile is J&K loses her state citizenship when she chooses to marry an

Indian from outside the state. This is not so for men. This is a case of gender inequality.

(3) The method by which Art. 35A was added to our constitution is seen by many to be anti-democratic. It was done so through a presidential order.

(4) Many are of the view that it prevents the complete integration of J & K with India as a result of which separatist tendencies find it easier to breed.

Way forward

It is important to allay the fears of residents of the Kashmiri valley about jobs and education by creating more opportunities in the state for the same.

The gender inequality issue also needs to be resolved. Over time, through consensus building, the Article can be watered down.

3. 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 Marks

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

Lobbying refers to the practice of using pressure, usually through monetary means, to ensure that political parties initiate legislations that are in favour of the lobbyist. It is a common practice in countries such as USA.

Arguments against lobbying in India

(1) Since corruption is rampant in our democracy, it is likely that bigger companies may use their financial resources to ensure that political parties legislate according to their needs. This is likely to lead to laws that are pro-rich and do not pay attention to needs of the poor.

(2) Vote bank politics may further spread as socially ascendant

caste groups usually have more economic resources. As a result, the ~~gov~~ politicians may further use the religion & caste cards. This can create social divisions.

(3) In all of this, the vulnerable sections such as SCs, STs, OBCs are more likely suffer as their lack of resources may not allow them to lobby.

(4) Tax cuts for the rich are very common in USA as companies such as Netflix & Amazon pay about 1% of tax while major burden falls on middle classes. This may be economically detrimental for our country.

Though lobbying allows various groups to put forward their grievances & needs, it takes away the participatory character of Indian democracy. Therefore, any move to legalise lobbying must keep India's unique political, social & economic situation in mind.

4. Independent India adopted a modified version of the Westminster model of government. In this context discuss the commonalities and differences between the political system of India and UK. **(150 Words) 10 Marks**

स्वतंत्र भारत ने सरकार की वेस्टमिंस्टर प्रणाली का एक संशोधित संस्करण अपनाया। इस संदर्भ में, भारत और UK की राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के मध्य समानताओं और विभेदों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Independent India adopted the Westminster model as our Constitution makers felt that the experience of working under the Government of India Act, 1935 had prepared them for this model.

Commonalities between the political systems of India & UK

→ Parliamentary form government with prime minister as head of the government.

→ The council of ministers is answerable to the lower house

→ Bicameralism - In India, the 2 houses are Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha while in UK they are called House of the People & House of Lords

→ The Lok Sabha and House of People

are both presided by a speaker.

→ Houses have a leader of the opposition who leads the 2nd ^{so as} largest party in the house to critique the government.

Differences

→ The head of state in UK is a hereditary monarch while in India, s/he is indirectly elected. Therefore, India is a Republic.

→ The speaker in UK has to necessarily quit their political party while in India, it is not required.

→ The leader of the opposition heads a shadow cabinet in UK so that when the government falls, they can easily take their place. It is not so in India.

→ In UK, the concept of Parliamentary sovereignty is followed. In India, the constitution is supreme.

→ UK is a unitary nation, while India is a federal state.

Therefore, while we adopted the Westminster model, we modified to suit our unique needs.

5. Political parties are an integral part of the democratic set up of India. In the context, discuss the need for strengthening the process of institutionalization of intra-party democracy in political parties in India.

(150 Words) 10 Marks

राजनीतिक दल भारत की लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था के अभिन्न अंग हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में राजनीतिक दलों में अंतः दलीय लोकतंत्र को संस्थागत किए जाने की प्रक्रिया को सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The Indian democracy is characterised by a multiplicity of political parties, each with their own agenda. However, these parties often face problems of maintaining a democratic functioning within them. It is important to ensure the same for the following reasons:-

(1) Divergent opinions - In India, politicians are required to follow the official party line. The use of a whip as well provisions of Anti-Defection law make it difficult for leaders to have their own opinion. Considering the diversity of India, it is necessary that politicians be allowed to put forward their views & the parties need to then focus on consensus.

(2) The ~~registered and~~ recognised political parties received funding from public purse - It is, therefore, absolutely fair to keep a check on their ^{other} sources of funding as well as activities.

(3) ~~Inter~~-party democracy is also important to reduce the rise of corruption & criminalisation of politics. This will lead to an overall corruption-free setup.

(4) Intra party democracy will also make legislators more account-able to their voters. The voters can take their MP/MLA to task if he has not sufficiently raised their grievances.

Way forward

→ The 2nd ARC recommended that any body substantially financed by public money is accountable under RTI. This should be implemented.

→ The culture of dissent & debate must be popularised.

→ The SC also raised its voice on criminalisation of politics. Changes must be made in laws to prevent the same.

6. 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 Marks

चुनावों की शुचिता बनाए रखने के लिए यह सुनिश्चित करना सर्वाधिक 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 is a body created under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution to conduct elections to the Parliament, State legislatures, President and Vice-President. As a bulwark of our democratic set up, there is a need to ensure the ECI's independence.

→ The ECI is appointed by the President on the advice of the Cabinet. This allows the ruling party to have an influence over the decision & consequently the office of the election commission is not free from political influence.

→ The removal of ECI is in the manner same as that of a Supreme Court (SC) Judge. This leads to the involvement of the Parliament in the decision. As a result, political influence remains.

→ Considering that free and fair elections are a part of the basic structure of the Constitution, it is imperative that the body that conducts elections also remains independent.

Way forward

→ The appointment of the ECI should be on basis of a consensus of the Selection Committee. It must consist of the PM, Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India.

→ ~~xx~~ Individuals who have ^{had} no political or bureaucratic affiliations must be chosen.

→ The ECI must have a separate secretariat & body of officers so that it is independent of the government.

7. 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 Marks

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

A post-liberalisation India is one where the state has less degree of control over the movement of goods, services, capital & individuals. This is due to the reduced barriers. In such a situation, the government needs to act as a facilitator because of the following reasons:-

(1) Foreign capital - Since capital for economic growth is scarce within India, the government should facilitate the entry of foreign capital which will help in increasing employment and improving infrastructure.

(2) Flow of technology - Technology which reduces the cost of production, increasing cost of profit margins & savings must be allowed entry.

(3) Global best practices - The state must take a backseat so that best human resource management practices can ensure growth.

(4) Skilling - To provide a strong & skilled work force, the government must focus on vocational education to provide the requisite human resources.

However, considering India's situation, the government must not leave behind the role of a regulator. Because:-

→ Foreign capital leaves as easily as it enters and this can lead to a crisis as seen in East Asia in 1997

→ As technology flows in, many employers may retrain workers. Therefore, government needs to ensure social security

→ Agriculture sector has faced the brunt of liberalisation. Therefore, as a regulator the state needs to ensure that its vulnerable section is protected.

Thus, the state in India needs to balance the twin roles of a regulator & facilitator:

8. 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 Marks**

प्रतिभावान नेतृत्वकर्ताओं के नए समुच्चय प्रदान कर, पार्श्व प्रवेश भारत में सिविल सेवाओं के समक्ष वर्तमान समय में व्याप्त सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता करेगा। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Lateral entry refers to the inclusion of professionals from the private sector in the bureaucratic set up of the country. Lateral entry will be beneficial to the civil services in the following ways:-

- (1) Expertise - The civil servants are often criticized for being too 'generalist' and lacking in specific knowledge. Professional who have worked in their field for several years will imfuse their service with their expert knowledge.
→ E.g. - Sam Pitroda brought the computer revolution.
- (2) Newer ideas - The civil servants are attacked for being averse to newer ideas, which can be questioned. However, this can be rectified through lateral entry wherein new ideas will be put forward by their colleagues.

(3) Management practices - The corporate sector is known for how to best harness human potential. The work ethic and human resource practices may reduce the red tapeism in Indian bureaucracy.

Problems with lateral entry

- (4) The private sector functions on the motive of profit. Therefore, they may not be able to reconcile with the values of social welfare that Indian bureaucracy functions on.
- (2) The lateral entrants may not be free from political influence as they have been chosen by the government. Therefore, they may not be neutral as civil servants are required to be.

Thus, while lateral entry has obvious benefits, the entrants need to be oriented with the functioning & ^{positive} values of Indian bureaucracy to ensure success of this policy.

9. 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 Marks**

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?

Self Help Groups refer to informal organisations of individuals to contribute to a common fund and this fund is then used for lending to its members.

There is a need to secure a healthy relationship between the Gram Panchayats and SHGs:-

(1) SHGs promote financial inclusion in rural areas. As Gram Panchayats are responsible for implementation of government policies that aim to do the same, SHGs can be of utmost help.

(2) women empowerment - In rural areas, policies for women empowerment can be better implemented through women-led SHGs who lead by example. They can create models for what

women can achieve if they have economic freedom.

(3) Digital literacy - Both SHGs and Gram Panchayats need to be digitally literate to access economic resources provided the government. They, in return, can educate others in the village in the same field.

(4) Infrastructure & Transportation Rural connectivity is a problem in India. Under the Aajeevika scheme of NRLM, SHGs can seek loans to buy e-rickshaws. As a result, they can associate with Panchayats to provide the much needed connectivity.

(5) Forest rights - Panchayats & SHGs can converge to ensure forest rights to tribals under Forest Rights Act as well as sell minor Forest Produce to give bargaining power in ~~the~~ groups. As a result, synergy between Gram Panchayats & SHGs can be catalyst for social change in rural India.

10. 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 Marks

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

Service delivery in India has been adversely affected due to multiple reasons. These are:-

→ The 2nd ARC commission state that bureaucracy is more concerned with the procedure than the overall outcome.

Thus, each civil servant focuses on completing his individual step but no one looks at whether the service has been delivered.

→ Requirement of multiple documents to avail government services makes it a hassle for common people.

→ Poor digital connectivity thwarts access to services. Eg - Farmers in India cannot have fast access to soil health cards due to slow internet which takes time to verify their Aadhar & other credentials.

- The overall infrastructure especially in terms of transport & communications is very poor in India.
- Rampant corruption in public service delivery leads to leakages and individuals have to bribe officials to get their way.
- Biometric identification sometimes fails as vulnerable sections often work with their hands & fingerprints recognition is not successful.

Way forward—

- 1) Better digital connectivity.
- 2) Single document such as Aadhar to fulfill all purposes
- 3) Delhi government has launched a scheme where services are delivered at home if required documents are available.
- 4) Decreasing human interface as done in this year's budget by introducing e-tax assessment
- 5) Improving overall infrastructure of the economy

11. Highlighting different Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms available in India, explain their importance. Also, mention different measures that have been adopted to further improve the framework of ADR in India. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

भारत में उपलब्ध विभिन्न वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (ADR) तंत्रों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनके महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में ADR के ढांचे में आगे और सुधार लाने के लिए अपनाए गए विभिन्न उपायों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Alternate Dispute Mechanisms (ADRs) refer to resolution of disputes by not using regular judicial channels.

Following are some of the mechanisms of ADR in India:-

(1) Arbitration - In this, the parties to a dispute select a neutral third party who pronounces his judgment regarding the dispute.

(2) Conciliation - In this, the parties to a dispute select a neutral third party who allows them to reconcile their decisions and reach a mutually agreed upon solution.

This is different from arbitration as in conciliation the judgment is mutually acceptable & not completely independent of the views of the disputed parties. This ensures greater success.

(3) Mediation - Here, the third party does pronounce a resolution. Rather s/he enables the disputed parties to resolve their differences and reach a solution on their own.

(4) Negotiation - Here, no third party is appointed. The two parties to a dispute talk with each other and reduce their ~~views~~ differences.

Importance of ADR

- 1) Cheap ~~and~~, easy and quick method of dispute resolution.
- 2) Decreases the burden on the judiciary.

3) In personal disputes, a mutually agreed solutions makes both parties feel that there is no winner or loser & can pave way for greater reconciliation.

4) In ADR, disputes are resolved privately while in court it is a public issue. Therefore, it maintains a certain degree of privacy.

Steps taken by governments to improve the framework:-

→ The principles of natural justice are to be followed & strict adherence to evidence is not required

→ The judgments of Lok Adalats have been made binding to reduce judicial appeals.

→ Legal experts in Lok Adalats, Gram Nyayalaya & Family Courts have been provided for.

→ Penetration to rural areas is a step to fulfill Art. 39A (Provision of free legal aid & equal justice)

→ Family Courts are also provided with counsellors to provide psychological aid.

12. Success of the institutions of local self-governance depends largely on the attitude of state governments. Discuss in the context of constitutional provisions and recent experience of the working of these institutions in India. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

स्थानीय स्व-शासन की संस्थाओं की सफलता मुख्य रूप से राज्य सरकारों की प्रवृत्ति पर निर्भर करती है। संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और भारत में इन संस्थानों के कामकाज संबंधी हालिया अनुभव के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

The 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts provided for a third tier of government in rural and urban areas of our country. However, the implementation of these institutions has been dependent on the state government due to following reasons:-

- (1) Voluntary provisions - Some provisions of the acts are voluntary & state government can choose not to implement the same. Eg- Reservation of seats for other backward communities (OBCs) is a voluntary provision. This may lead to their marginalisation if the state government chooses not to implement it.

(2) State Finance Commissions -

SFCs are not formed at regular intervals, even though it is provided for in the act. This hinder fiscal devolution of funds. Already, the Panchayats have a thin tax domain, lack of devolution further exacerbates the problem and they are not able to implement social welfare measures.

(3) Formation of parallel bodies -

To implement certain policies, the state governments form parallel bodies which takes away the authority & responsibility of the local government. eg In Haryana, Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) took away municipal functions.

(4) Lied nature of funds - The funds that local governments do get are scheme specific. This

leads to underutilization of funds as well as spending of services that may not be necessary.

~~(5) Infrastructure~~

(5) Specific policies of state government
Certain state governments have put educational requirements for panchayat elections. This excludes many from being part of the democratic set up. Rather than being seen as a failure of government policy, it is seen as individual's fault.

Therefore, a proper implementation of local self government requires a reduction in apathy of the state governments, which possible through ~~making~~ voluntary provisions compulsory, regular financial devolution as well as overall sensitivity in policy making.

13. Right to freedom of religion cannot be allowed to deny right to equality and individual dignity. Discuss in the light of constitutional provisions and recent judicial pronouncements. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

धर्म की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार को समानता और व्यक्तिगत गरिमा के अधिकार को नकारने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती है। संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और हाल की न्यायिक घोषणाओं के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

Under the provisions of the Indian constitution, right to freedom of religion is a fundamental right under Articles 25-28. However, this right is not above the right to equality & dignity. This can be seen in the following provisions of the Constitution:-

- (1) Article 15 of the Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of caste, race, religion, sex and place of birth.
- (2) Article 17 of the Constitution bans untouchability in all its forms.
- (3) Article 21 provides right to

and liberty to every individual. Taken together these provisions define the Indian idea of secularism which provides equal respect to all religions and intervention to remove social evils.

Certain social evils ^{& practices} prevalent in religions threaten equality and individual dignity. The Supreme Court, in the following judgments, tried to rectify the same :-

(1) Ban on instant triple talaq

The SC declared that ^{instant} triple talaq was not an essential religious practice of Islam. Besides that, it takes away a woman's rights as the ~~gover~~ husband can easily abandon the wife. Therefore, to secure individual dignity, the court banned the practice.

(2) Entry of women into Sabarimala temple

The court took the view that the temple discriminates against women on the basis of biological functions. "To do so is to treat them as the children of a lesser God". As the Constitution prohibits discrimination of access to public places on basis of sex and the court also saw it as a form of untouchability; entry of women was allowed.

Therefore, an individual's right to equality & dignity cannot be taken away on the pretext of religious sanction.

14. Identify the key areas of reforms required in the judicial system in India. In this context, examine the significance of the idea of putting in place an All-India Judicial Service. (250 Words) 15 Marks

भारत में न्यायिक प्रणाली में आवश्यक सुधारों के प्रमुख क्षेत्रों की पहचान कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, एक अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा स्थापित करने के विचार के महत्व का परीक्षण कीजिए।

The judicial system in India has protected the fundamental rights of individuals and has also been the torch bearer for social progress. However, the judicial system is fraught several problems which are as follows:-

(1) Large number of vacancies in lower judiciary - The subordinate courts in India have huge vacancies, as cited by the Economic Survey 2019-20. This has led to further problems.

(2) High pendency of cases - The cases in courts tend to lie for at a year before they are tried. This is an outcome of the previous problem.

(3) Lack of digitisation - The records of previous judgements

as well as new ones are not digitised properly. As a result, accessibility is reduced and progress one's case cannot be tracked.

(4) Constant adjournments - Courts are often adjourned due to actions of lawyers, which delays pronouncement.

Therefore, key areas of reform include:-

- Filling up the numerous vacancies that have arisen in District & session courts
- Reducing pendency by possibly even increasing work hours
- Initiatives such as e-courts need to be popularised so that tracking of cases & record keeping is more convenient.
- Adjournments of courts should be reduced

The Rajya Sabha ~~(Under Art. 249)~~
has the power to recommend
the formation of an All India
Judicial Services. Benefits of
the idea include:-

- 1) Decrease in vacancies & pendency
- 2) Uniformity amongst members
of lower judiciary
- 3) Better quality of judiciary
as they have gone through
rigorous testing.

However, it has been
argued that this may put
greater fiscal burden on the
government as the ^{central} government
will have to organise ^{exams} and
ensure salaries & pensions. At
the same time it may erode
the idea of federalism as states
will lose their power to appoint
judges.

Therefore, any effort to
introduce an AJS must first
address these concerns for their
successful implementation.

15. 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 Marks**

यद्यपि इस हेतु कानून विद्यमान हैं, तथापि आपराधिक 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 मुद्दों के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Efforts have been made to constantly reduce the criminalisation of politics, the most important being Section - 8 of the Representation of the People Act. However, criminalisation has remained rampant.

Causes of rising criminalisation

- ① Political parties focus on the 'winnability' of the candidate and not his criminal past.
- ② Criminals are also beneficial to parties as they are not averse to using money power to gather votes.
- ③ Similarly, they are not averse to rigging & booth

capturing, which benefits political parties.

- ④ Lack of integrity in political life. Gone are the days when leaders such as Lal Bahadur Shastri took moral responsibility for a rail accident. Today, the greed for power and money has destroyed the political life of India.

Impacts

- ① The most adverse impact is on the political life itself. People lose their faith in the democracy. Then, stricter laws are required to function as a true democracy.
- ② Increasing social problems. Criminalization in politics leads to social problems such as law and order issues.

riots & lynchings as criminals are shielded by parties.

- ③ Individuals accused of a crime can still contest elections. Therefore, there is a need to disallow candidates who have been even accused of heinous crimes such as rape, murder or kidnapping.

- ④ Legislators who get convicted of crimes must lose their seats straightaway.

Reducing criminalisation is of utmost importance, as even declared by Supreme Court, in order to protect the democracy in our nation.

16. On the recent World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) India ranks 140. Elucidate the significance of media in a democracy like India. Identify the major issues affecting the media in contemporary times. In this context, enumerate the measures to address these issues. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

हाल ही के विश्व प्रेस स्वतंत्रता सूचकांक (WPFI) में भारत 140वें स्थान पर है। भारत जैसे लोकतंत्र में मीडिया के महत्व को स्पष्ट कीजिए। समकालीन समय में मीडिया को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, इन मुद्दों का समाधान करने हेतु उपायों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Media has been called the fourth pillar of democracy. Its importance in democracy is as follows:-

- (1) Increasing political awareness amongst untouchable sections such as the youth who are disenchanted from politics, media plays an important role for increasing awareness.
- (2) Playing the role of an opposition especially when the government has an absolute majority. It asks the government questions and makes it more accountable to the people.

(3) Directing the grievances of the public about social issues so as to draw the attention of political parties as well as the voluntary sector.

(4) It also highlights the failure of policies.

Issues affecting media -

→ Threat to life if they speak against political parties
 Eg- ^{assassination} Death of MN Kalburgi,
Gauri Shankar, Syedimoy
Dev of Midday Sun

→ Often media houses are owned by big business houses so they don't address certain issues.

→ Of late many media channels & newspapers stick to one particular ideology & do not show the other side.

Some are biased towards govern-
ment & others biased towards
an ideology.

Measures to address these
issues —

- A culture of tolerance
must be developed.
- People must understand
that dissent is the safety
valve of democracy.
- Decrease in personal bias
of media houses.
- The I & B ministry must
release directives for free &
fair functioning of media
houses.
- Journalists speaking out
against govt. must be
provided protection.

17. 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 Marks

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।

18. 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 Marks**

भारत में सरकारी योजनाएं दीर्घकाल से निगरानी और कार्यान्वयन संबंधी चुनौतियों से 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।

19. 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 Marks

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

20. 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 Marks**

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।

