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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1691)

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Center	<i>Pune</i>	Date <i>16/11/2020</i>

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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. The practice of passing of bills without the scrutiny by the parliamentary standing committees undermines their significance and sets a wrong precedent. Discuss. (150 words) 10

संसदीय स्थायी समितियों द्वारा संवीक्षा के बिना विधेयकों को पारित करने की परिपाटी, उनके महत्व को क्षीण करती है तथा गलत दृष्टांत स्थापित करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recent data shows that only 13% of bills passed through committee stage. — NCWC Report 2018-19.

Reasons

- 1] Delegated legislation.
- 2] Lack of expertise of parliamentarians in critical domains
eg: Taxation, land reforms, disinvestment
- 3] Pendency of bills and lack of time allotment issues

Effects on Parliament

- 1] Crucial and important details are unaddressed.
- 2] Parliamentary control over executive weakening.
- 3] Dominance of ruling majority

5. Separation of power undermined
as legislature reduced to only
final stage of bill

6. It sets a wrong precedent :

- for future governments.
- ultimately leads to undermining
people's trust in legislatures.
- legislature seen as a wing
of government for formal / titular
assent to laws.

Reforms in the form of :

- improving session and sitting hours
- prevent disruption of proceedings
- improve expertise by advices from
domain experts, hosting them
in standing committees

Bypassing of committee stage
is neither productive nor desirable.

2. The right to recall is a much-needed step to deepen democracy in India. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

भारत में लोकतंत्र को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु 'राइट टू रिकॉल' एक अत्यंत आवश्यक कदम है। आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Of the several mechanisms of Direct Democracy, right to recall is an important one.

Features

- 1.] Right to recall allows the voters to remove their representative from his political position.
- 2.] It establishes political accountability.
- 3.] A new candidate is elected by fresh bye-elections.

Advantages

- 1.] It allows channelises the dissatisfaction of the constituency.
- 2.] It establishes good governance principles of accountability, responsibility.
- 3.] Citizen participation makes it a true democracy.

4.7 It is not just a "Suffrocracy",
establishes continuous democratization.

Concerns

- 1.7 Basis of recall not defined anywhere
even in Switzerland.
- 2.7 Undefined number of recalls,
- 3.7 Stagnant progress
- 4.7 Country always in "election mood".
- 5.7 Huge costs on ECI, men, money,
material.

To make it viable

- 1.7 Restrict the number of ~~bas~~ recalls
- 2.7 Mid-term review as an alternative
to recall.
- 3.7 Pilot projects at URB and PRI
level

It to be a success require the
political socialisation and vigilant
Vibrant Democracy.

3. Is anti-defection law a restriction on the freedom of choice of legislators? Examine and also highlight the role played by the Speaker in this regard.

(150 words) 10

क्या दल-बदल रोधी क़ानून विधि-निर्माताओं (लेजिस्लेटर्स) की 'चयन की स्वतंत्रता' पर एक प्रतिबंध है? परीक्षण कीजिए और साथ ही इस संदर्भ में, अध्यक्ष द्वारा निभाई जाने वाली भूमिका को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Anti-defection law as enumerated under Schedule 10 of Constitution establishes a continuous government and checks "Aya Ram Gaya Ram" culture of the 1970-80s.

As a restriction

- 1.] Legislators are not allowed to defy Party whip orders.
- 2.] Legislators have to stand by any party statement or face defection.
- 3.] Legislators cannot vote / comment in favour of policy from other parties.
- 4.] Ironical situation where parliamentary privileges are exercised with authority of whips and party leaders

5.7 Even legislators cannot remain absent without permission.

In this light, speaker's role is crucial

- Speaker is empowered to deal with defection cases and his/her decision is final.
- Most times speaker usually belongs to ruling party and acts in its favour. ~~As~~ seen in Assam, Madhya Pradesh
- Opposition legislator defection is welcomed but ruling party defection is ~~not~~ declared void.
- Supreme Court guidelines & 2nd ARC states that ~~anti-defection~~ should be used only in
 - no confidence motion.
 - major policy statements
 - Budgetary provisions.

4. Inter-state river water disputes have been among the most pressing issues faced by the Indian federal system. In this context, examine the potential of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in addressing the issues involved. (150 words) 10

अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद, भारतीय संघीय प्रणाली द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले सर्वाधिक अहम मुद्दों में से एक रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, इसमें सम्मिलित मुद्दों के समाधान में अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2019 की क्षमता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Inter-state River Water Disputes have been a bone of contention for federal units of India.

Issue

- 1] It leads to competitive federalism.
- 2] Upstream state dominance over smaller or down stream states.

In this context the Inter-state River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 [holds promise]:—

- 1] It establishes a Permanent body to adjudicate all river disputes.
 - Eliminates ad-hoc river-specific bodies
- 2] It establishes a body for all river water data collection

for scientific adjudication of disputes.

3.] It allows, pre-litigation settlement for 18 months.

4.] Timelines have been fixed

What more needs to be done?

1.] Speeding the process of implementation

2.] Develop a culture of cooperation among states.

3.] Put in place infrastructural mechanism

4.] Adequate data support.

5.] Promote ADR mechanisms.

6.] Array of Experts to head / support the Tribunal.

Policy reforms are challenging but it is needed to establish Cooperative Federalism.

5. The expressions 'equality before the law' and 'equal protection of the laws' may seem to be identical, but, in fact, they mean different things. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

'विधि के समक्ष समता' और 'विधियों का समान संरक्षण' वाक्यांश एक-समान प्रतीत हो सकते हैं, किन्तु, वास्तव में, उनके अर्थ भिन्न-भिन्न हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Article 14 promotes equality before law and equal protection of law.

Equality of law

- It is inherently a British concept from A.V. Dicey's Rule of Law.
- It means no one is above the law.
- Everyone is treated equally before the eyes of law.
- It establishes negative equality, wherein the state is prohibited from interfering in equality.
- It favours limited government action.
- It follows the "Rule of Law"

Equal Protection of Law

- It is inherently an American concept
- It promotes positive justice where in state action is not only encouraged but desired.
- It states "likes treated alike".
- It favours classification of people.
- Persons who are situated alike are to be subjected to equal law.
- It allows distinctions of reasonable basis.
eg: rich-poor, upper-lower castes, affluent-destitute, etc.
- It follows "Procedure Established by Law" although the concepts mean different things they aim at establishing equality, political justice.

6. Idea of the Civil Services Board has been widely hailed as a key civil services reform, however it is not without its own limitation. Comment.

(150 words) 10

एक महत्वपूर्ण सिविल सेवा सुधार के रूप में सिविल सेवा बोर्ड के विचार का व्यापक रूप से समर्थन किया गया है, हालांकि इसकी भी अपनी सीमाएँ हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Recently, Punjab government set up 3-member Civil Services Board.

Features

- 1.] It is headed by Chief Secretary of State
- 2.] It recommends :
 - a.) appointments
 - b.) promotions
 - c.) transfers
 - d.) any other issues related to civil services.

Advantages

- 1.] officials will have fixed tenure thus better administration.
- 2.] The venue between political heads and bureaucrats will be broken for lucrative postings, promotions.

3.] A rule-based, non-arbitrary system with transparency.

Although there are certain

concerns

1.] The final decision remains with political heads

eg. in Punjab's recent setup.

2.] The venue will be shifted from political head to heads of the civil services board.

3.] functional and structural problems

4.] Another problem in implementing a reform is the lacadaisical approach by political executives.

Civil services reforms require a consensus-based decision of all stakeholders.

7. It is argued that the introduction of compulsory voting in India would strengthen its democratic credentials. Critically analyze. (150 words) 10

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि भारत में अनिवार्य मतदान की शुरुआत से इसकी लोकतांत्रिक साख सुदृढ़ होगी। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Democracy etymologically means "Demo" → people and "cracy" as rule; meaning rule of the people. Thus voting is an essential feature of democracy.

Current scenario

- voting percentage is very low in India.
- voter turnout is increasing but is snails-pace at 53% (2019 elections).
- majority section do not have an voter ids.

For: Compulsory voting

- 1.] Increase voter turnout.
- 2.] Effective demo-cracy established.

- 3.] As a responsibility of Indian citizen.
- 4.] More accountable government formed.
- 5.] Untouched sections will also get their due / voices heard.

Against it

- 1.] Hampers Freedom of expression.
- 2.] Right to vote also has right to not vote.
- 3.] Compulsory voting leads to unintended results like candidate on top of ballot paper wins.

Way Forward

- 1.] Voter awareness and education
- 2.] Informed choice
- 3.] Political socialisation since adolescence. stage.
- 4.] Role models and opinion-makers to induce importance of voting.

8. Setting up of an Open Government Data (OGD) Platform can potentially be a game-changer for transparency and accountability. Analyse. Also, identify the challenges that remain in translating this potential into reality.

(150 words) 10

ओपन गवर्नमेंट डेटा (OGD) प्लेटफॉर्म की स्थापना संभवतः पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही के लिए गेम-चेंजर हो सकती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संभाव्यता को वास्तविकता में परिणत करने के समक्ष विद्यमान चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए।

Open Government Data means publishing data collected by government in its entirety.

Importance

- 1.] Ensures transparency in policy-making. Thus, enable good governance.
- 2.] Strengthen citizen participation in governance.
- 3.] It will further the right to information proactively.
- 4.] It allows scope of technology-guided innovations, thus e-governance.
- 5.] Public service delivery will improve along servotam model.

Examples

- 1.] Hospital infrastructure data.
- 2.] Study by PWC → open data can add 1.5% to GDP.

Concerns

- 1.] Data shared is fragmented.
Coordination issues.
- 2.] Misuse of data by officials.
- 3.] Cyber threats - hacking, thefts
- 4.] Data protection and privacy issues

Measures to address these concerns

- 1.] Clustering relevant data.
- 2.] Establishing Open Data Council.
- 3.] Ensure policy formulation for rules-based implementation.

Data is the fuel of 21st century and government must proactively use it for social welfare.

9. There have been concerns related to foreign funding to NGOs in India. In this context, examine the current framework regulating the same.

(150 words) 10

भारत में NGOs की विदेशी फंडिंग को लेकर चिंताएँ रही हैं। इस संदर्भ में, इसे विनियमित करने वाले वर्तमान ढांचे का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Several NGOs recently were cancelled registration due to unauthorised foreign funding.

Concerns

- 1.] Shadow organisations facade as NGOs.
- 2.] Anti-national activities and funding insurgent movements
eg: alleged case of Greenpeace NGO.
- 3.] Diversion of funding as shell companies.
- 4.] Black money to white money

Regulation Framework

- 1.] Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

→ it establishes reporting of funding above 10 L with Mo Home Affairs.

2] Right to Information Act

↳ brings NGOs substantially funded under RTI as "public authority".

3] ~~FEMA~~ Foreign Exchange Management Act, 2003

↳ also provides for regulation of foreign with NGOs.

4] Societies Act → registration.

Way forward

1] NGOs without any activity above 2 years must be de-registered.

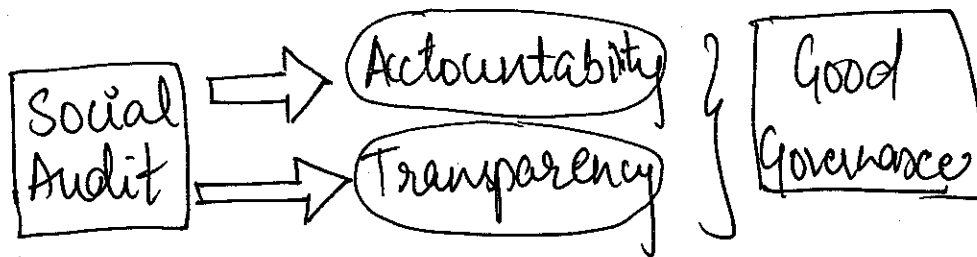
2] All NGOs, organisations, societies to be clubbed under one comprehensive law.

3] Mo Home Affairs to set up Council to regulate the functioning

10. Social audit not only increases accountability and transparency but also facilitates good governance. Discuss. Also, highlight the impediments faced in institutionalizing social audits in India. (150 words) 10

सामाजिक अंकेक्षण (सोशल ऑडिट) से न केवल जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता बढ़ती है, बल्कि यह सुशासन को भी सुविधाजनक बनाता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में सामाजिक अंकेक्षण को संस्थागत बनाने में आने वाली बाधाओं को भी रेखांकित कीजिए।

Social audit is a technique to understand, measure, verify, report on and to improve social performance of the organisation.



Advantages:

- 1.] It fixes accountability of public servants.
- 2.] Increases efficiency and effectivity furthering citizen participation.
- 3.] It promotes rule-based, transparent governance.
- 4.] It leads to ~~the~~ minimum

Government, Maximum Governance"

5.] It promotes "Jan Bhagidari" as Stakeholder Approach.

Impediments in Institutionalisation

- 1.] There is no legal framework
- 2.] Apathy of implementing agencies
- 3.] Top-Down ~~to~~ bureaucratic approach
- 4.] Lack of awareness of people.
- 5.] CAG report: social audit reports are either unprepared, unavailable to Gram Sabha in local languages.

Way Forward

- 1.] Inclusion of social audit in all major schemes, policies. as done in MGNREGA.
- 2.] Role Model of Servotam as guideline for social audits.
- 3.] Responsibility of officers to implement it.

11. Highlight the Quasi-Judicial and Advisory functions of the Election Commission of India. Do you think the powers of the Election Commission need a relook in context of the challenges it has faced in recent years?

(250 words) 15

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के अर्द्ध-न्यायिक और परामर्शी प्रकार्यों पर प्रकाश डालिए। क्या आप मानते हैं कि हालिया वर्षों में निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा सामना की गयी चुनौतियों के संदर्भ में इसकी शक्तियों को पुनरीक्षित करने की आवश्यकता है?

Election Commission of India
is a constitutional body under
article 324 of Indian Constitution.

Quasi-Judicial Functions

1.] It has the power to remove/
reduce the period of disqualification
under RPA Act, 1951.

2.] It has power to prohibit a
candidate ^{from} contesting elections
who has failed to lodge election
expenses.

3.] It decides upon the election
disputes and advises the same
to the President.

Advisory Jurisdiction

- 1.] Matters of post-election ineligibility of candidates
- 2.] Ineligibility of sitting members of Parliament and state legislature
- 3.] It has the advisory power to recommend the continuation of President's Rule in a state under article 356 beyond one year at the pretext of failure to conduct elections.

- These advises are binding on the President.
- It is the sole authority to advise on election related matters to the President.

Reforms

1.] Election disqualifications of all MPs, MLAs can be decided by ECI alone.

• Currently is scattered between High Courts.

2.] Judicial powers further need to be strengthened:

a.) Setting rules for disqualification.

b.) adjudicate ~~poli~~ election disputes directly; with appeals to High Court.

c.) Appellate Jurisdiction over State Election Commission cases.

ECI is a bulwark of democracy in India. It should be strengthened and functions must be constitutionalised.

12. Increase in the number of judges at the Supreme Court is a welcome step, nonetheless efficient functioning of the judiciary requires broader reforms at all levels of judicial hierarchy. Discuss. (250 words) 15

उच्चतम न्यायालय में न्यायाधीशों की संख्या में वृद्धि एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है, फिर भी न्यायपालिका के प्रभावी कामकाज के लिए न्यायिक पदानुक्रम के सभी स्तरों पर व्यापक सुधार की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The United Nations recommends 222 Judges per 1 lakh population and India has a poor ratio of 93 to 1 lakh. Thus increase in number, is a welcome step.

Broader reforms are needed in:-

1.] Judicial appointments

- vacancies immediately filled.
- discrepancies between executive and judiciary reduced to fasten the process.
- list of recommended names be out in public forum.

2.] Case Handling :-

- Judicial case management system as employed in USA be replicated
- final judgement cases to be heard in the morning.
- Court timings extended.

3.] Bench appointment :-

- avoid "Bench Hunting" and "bench firing" practices.
- guidelines on "Judicial Recuses" which have increased recently.
- constitution benches to be fixed for some cases, to reduce time in explanations.

4.] Appellate Jurisdiction :-

- Classification of cases eg land disputes, land disputes to be settled in High Court as final.

→ Delegation of appellate jurisdiction to separate body or bench in the SC.

5.7] Non-judicial reforms: —

- improved criminal investigation
- fast track courts for grave cases.
- government cases to be handled by a separate bench or court as: majority of cases are party to govt government.

Justice delayed is justice denied and this should be reversed with citizen-centric adjudication like Lok Adalats, Family Courts, etc.

13. Federal tensions in India highlight the need for reforming the Seventh Schedule through the addition, removal and appropriate placement of entries. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत में संघीय तनाव, प्रविष्टियों को जोड़ने, हटाने और उचित व्यवस्थापन के माध्यम से सातवीं अनुसूची में सुधार की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

The federal division of power in India originates from Schedule 7 of the constitution

- The 3 lists Union, States, Concurrent require several reforms :

- Addition

- 1.] Cyber security in concurrent list
- 2.] social media as another addition
- 3.] State Defence deals in state list
- 4.] minority protection in state list.
- 5.] Climate Change Actions in National List

• Removal

- 1.] Removal of stamps from state list.
- 2.] Registration of property to come under land reforms.
- ~~3.] Weights and~~
- 3.] Elections to be shifted to complete Election Commission domain.

Although major improvement according to Sarkaria Commission favour re-adjustments within the lists:

- 1.] Police in concurrent →
due to growing intra-state and inter-state crimes, cyber crimes
→ more uniformity desirable
- 2.] Agriculture in concurrent list

to promote more uniform policy implementation.

3.] Health: due to growing importance during Pandemic need uniform policy with state specific implementation. Thus, to be shifted to Concurrent List.

4.] Devolution of Taxation from Centre to state lists

• Concerns

- 1.] due to GST Act, 2017 the intrusion of Centre has risen
- 2.] Centrally sponsored schemes too allow more leverage to Centre.

According to Punchhi Commission devolution to states is a positive step towards cooperative Federalism. It promotes more accountability within the states.

14. What do you understand by doctrine of eminent domain? How can it be applied to understand the evolution of right to property under the Indian constitution? (250 words) 15

सर्वोपरि अधिग्रहण-अधिकार के सिद्धांत (doctrine of eminent domain) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारतीय संविधान के अंतर्गत संपत्ति के अधिकार के विकास को समझने हेतु इसे कैसे लागू किया जा सकता है?

Doctrine of Eminent Domain
is regarded as an inherent
right of the state, essential
incident of sovereignty to take
private property for public use.

- It proposes superior power of state over all property within its boundaries.
- In the constitution, previously Article 31(1) and 31(2) established the doctrine of eminent domain.

- Article 31(1) was shifted to 300-A as a legal right to property by Constitutional Amendment.
- Due to several litigations and "compensation" amount disputes Government brought addition of 3 new articles :—

31(A) → acquisition of property

31(B) → acts placed under 9th schedule out of judicial review.

31(C) → acts to implement Directive Principles (DPSPs)

Abolishes 2 articles :

14(1(f)) → right to hold, acquire and dispose property.

Article 31 → government to pay adequate compensation to property holders.

- Although, some sections are allowed to hold property.
eg: Minority Educational Institutions,
SC Scheduled Areas & Tribes, etc.

This shows the transition
of right to property from fundamental
right to a legal constitutional
right.

15. Explain the structure and function of the National Commission for Backward Classes. What is the significance of recent changes made in its status? (250 words) 15

राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग की संरचना एवं प्रकार्यों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। इसकी प्रस्थिति में किए गए हालिया परिवर्तनों का क्या महत्व है?

Recently the National Commission for Backward Classes was redesignated as the Constitutional body by 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018.

Structure of NCBC

- It is under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Composition :-

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

3 members

Other members

All posts appointed by President by warrant under his hand and seal.

- Commission has power to regulate its own procedure.

Functioning

- 1.] It considers inclusion and exclusion of communities to the Notified list.
- 2.] It has powers of a civil court.
- 3.] Investigate matters relating to safeguards provided in Constitution, laws or order of Government.
- 4.] Advise president on any matter of backward classes.
- 5.] submit report annually to the President or others.
- 6.] Discharge function assigned to it by parliament or President.

Significance of Recent Changes

- 1.] Earlier the Commission was not empowered to look into grievances of OBC like the NCSC.
- 2.] Now it has the powers to do so.
- 3.] NCBC can now recommend policies and this will have to be implemented and if not government has to report on reasons.
- 4.] Constitutional status accords permanent nature, robust institutional mechanism to it.

NCBC must be given more teeth with suo moto investigations, representation in courts in OBC cases, etc.

16. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Justice' in the 'Preamble'. Highlight some constitutional and legal steps taken towards each of them in India. (250 words) 15

उद्देशिका में प्रयुक्त 'न्याय' शब्द से जुड़े प्रत्येक विशेषण की विवेचना कीजिए। भारत में उनमें से प्रत्येक की दिशा में उठाए गए कुछ संवैधानिक और विधिक कदमों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

One of the principles to be achieved as described in the Preamble to Indian Constitution is Justice - Social, Economic, Political.

Social Justice

It means just treatment to all ~~or~~ irrespective of social barriers of gender, caste, creed, colour, etc.

• Constitution in Right to Equality from 14 to 18 promotes social justices and establish equality. It abolishes titles, discrimination. It abolishes social evils like untouchability.

• Legal measures like :

Special Marriage Act, Prevention of Atrocities Act promote social harmony

Economic Justice

Reduction in economic status, opportunities, resources and access to them.

Constitution

- 1.] Article 15, 16 → freedom of employment public service employment to all.
- 2.] Article 38, 39 → reduce concentration of wealth, redistributive justice.

Legal measures

- 1.] Competition Act, 2002
- 2.] Priority Sector Lending.
- 3.] Companies Act has provision of Social Responsibility.
- 4.] Taxation system of regressive nature
- 5.] Food, water subsidies to poor.

Political Justice

It establishes just political system where there is distribution of power, people are supreme and equal access to political posts to Everyone.

Constitution

- 1] Reservation / Affirmative Action for SC, STs, OBCs in Parliament and State Legislature.
- 2] NCBC, NCST, NCSC for investigation, review and promotion of welfare.

Legal1) PESA Act

- 2] special area development funds
eg: Vidharba, Samashkta etc..

India needs to act in complete whole-hearted implementation of the provisions to improve the and achieve Justice.

17. What are the challenges in conducting free and fair elections in the era of proliferation of social media? In this context, identifying the steps taken by the ECI, suggest further measures. (250 words) 15

सोशल मीडिया के प्रसार के युग में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव के संचालन में आने वाली चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं? इस संदर्भ में, ECI द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की पहचान करते हुए आगे के उपायों को सुझाइए।

Social media is the virtual forum for the exchange of information, ideas, data across a common platform.

Challenges of social media to the conduct of free and fair elections:

1.] Use of Artificial Intelligence in vote bank manipulation.

eg: Cambridge Analytica episode in US Elections 2016.

2.] Virtual vote bank politics

lower presence online translates into lower votes.

3.] Info-demic →

overflow of information, spamming

other candidates.

4.] Hacking and cyberwar

used as a weapon to get advantage of opposition.

5.] International events impact domestic elections rapidly due to social media.

6.] Money power speaks louder on social media eg: political advertisements, polls, etc.

Need for Control

Social media is a rapidly developing arena wherein voter manipulation is easily, quickly and more impactfully done. There is a need to check this.

Steps by ECI

- 1.] "Forward message" tags on WhatsApp.
- 2.] Political message scrutiny cell of Fb.
- 3.] Political parties to ~~not~~ share details of all social media handles of political parties and candidates.
- 4.] Criminal records to be displayed on social media.
- 5.] Hate speeches online as election offences

Further measures

- 1.] Social media funding included in election expenses.
- 2.] ECI presence online increased.
- 3.] Use of AI and Machine Learning to study and counter vote bank manipulation.
- 4.] Level playing field for smaller parties and individual candidates.

Supreme Court guidelines in this regard also need to be followed.

18. Explain how the linkage between banks, NGOs and SHGs helps in facilitating access to microfinance and contributes to the development of rural areas. (250 words) 15

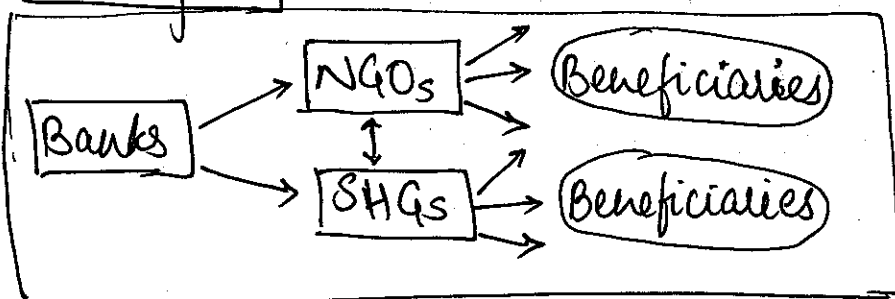
स्पष्ट कीजिए कि बैंकों, NGOs और SHGs के मध्य संपर्क किस प्रकार सूक्ष्म वित्त तक पहुँच को सुविधाजनक बनाने में सहायता करता है तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के विकास में योगदान देता है।

Microfinances is the transfer of funds and loan allowances to targetted sections, areas in smaller proportions.

Need for microfinances

- 1.] More suitable to financial needs of cottage industries, MSMEs.
- 2.] 85% farmers in India are small and marginal.
- 3.] SHGs requirements and recovery more suitable for microfinances.

Linkages :-



- 1.] Banking presence in rural areas is marginal.
- 2.] NGOs can act as Banking correspondents for target sections
eg: elderly, women, Singarman, marginal farmers.
- 3.] SHGs → can avail loans & further lend to their members especially women entrepreneurs, farmers
- 4.] Beneficiaries → who cannot get loans easily and are financially illiterate will have SHGs or NGOs as intermediaries to avail loans.
- 5.] Rural livelihoods will get a boost with better suited financial packages.

• Challenges

- 1.] Banks facing NPA problems,
NPAs from agriculture on the rise.
- 2.] SHGs lack technological literacy
to avail digital & mobile banking
facilities.
- 3.] NGO activities are not focused
on comprehensive but divisional
sectors.

Overall rural development needs
focus on holistic, - multi-sectoral
development; proper implementation
and beneficiary led microfinance
packages.

19. Identify the different issues associated with the design and implementation of MGNREGA. What reforms have been taken in recent times to address the above-identified issues? (250 words) 15

मनरेगा (MGNREGA) की अभिकल्पना और कार्यान्वयन से जुड़े विभिन्न मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए। उपर्युक्त चिन्हित समस्याओं का समाधान करने के लिए हाल के दिनों में क्या सुधार किए गए हैं?

MGNREGA scheme is an important for employment generation and asset creation in rural areas.

Concerns in design

1.] It guarantees only unskilled labour without the use of machines or technology.

→ This reduces quality of work,
→ increases time and cost.

2.] It guarantees only 100 days of work to entire family.

→ This translates into only 1 member is guaranteed a job.

3.] Non-permanent nature

→ there is no security of tenure

of tenure to workers.

✱

Concerns in implementation

- 1.] "Khudai-Bharpai" trends →
no quality asset creations.
- 2.] women workers are not entertained
as the lack in manual labour
- 3.] material cost is insufficient.
- 4.] Wastage of money without any
durable asset creation.

Recent Reforms

- 1.] Permanent registry of workers
with regular updation.
- 2.] Geotagging of assets to check
durability.
- 3.] NABARD has published the

list of works to be done on priority.

4.] Linking MGNREGA with other schemes eg: PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, NRLM, Aajeevika scheme, PM Kirshi sinchai Yojana.

Way forward

- 1.] MGNREGA to be extended to urban areas especially slums
- 2.] 100 days per worker basis, not family.
- 3.] Use of technology be encouraged along side manual labour.
- 4.] Skill training to workers.

MGNREGA is aimed at poverty alleviation through employment generation and this should further continue.

20. A sound legal framework, robust institutional mechanism for establishing rule of law, competent and dedicated workforce and decentralization and delegation are some of the necessary preconditions for good governance. Elaborate. (250 words) 15

एक सुदृढ़ विधिक ढांचा, विधि के शासन को स्थापित करने के लिए मजबूत संस्थागत तंत्र, सक्षम और समर्पित कार्यबल तथा विकेंद्रीकरण एवं प्रत्यायोजन सुशासन हेतु कुछ आवश्यक पूर्वपिकाएं हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Good Governance as defined by World Bank as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development.

Essential Elements of Good Governance

1. Sound Legal system

- it promotes the aspect of rule of law of good governance.
- corruption is minimised
- protection of human rights.

2.] Robust institutional mechanism

- It promotes stability, continuity and efficiency in implementation
- It establishes skilled, dedicated workforce.
- Efficiency and effectivity are achieved with this

3.] 3Ds →

- Decentralisation
- Delegation
- Debureaucratization

are to be followed by government to promote citizen-participation, stakeholder-based policy formulation

- protection of minority rights
- giving voice to weaker and most vulnerable sections of society.

Good governance is essential
is establishing Ease of living
Indian Prime minister thus
emphasises on

"Minimum Government
Maximum Governance" with
sabka beth, beth vihas and
sabka vishwas