



TEST 04

MAINS MAXIMA 2025

FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY			
GS - PAPER II			
Name Of Candidate	SREEJA-J.S		
Email Id		Mentor Name	Achuth Sir
Mobile No		Date	29/06/25

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE		INSTRUCTIONS	
Total marks	78 1/2	- Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile No in answer sheets. - There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory. - 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 a medium other than the authorized one. - Answers to Question Nos. 1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to Question Nos: 11 to 20 should be in 250 words. - Word limit in questions should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.	
Remarks:			
		Start Time : 10:00 a.m.	End Time : 01:00 p.m.
		Mode Of Examination :	Online ☐ Offline ☒

Q & No 16
Q 57

FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY

TABLE OF MARKS			REMARKS
Q NO	MAXIMUM MARKS	MARKS OBTAINED	
1	10	3.5	Question Understanding:
2	10	3.5	
3	10	3.5	Presentation(Neatness):
4	10	4	
5	10	3.5	Content:
6	10	3.5	
7	10	4	Innovation:
8	10	2.5	
9	10	—	Other suggestions:
10	10	—	
11	15	3.5	Example Space Management
12	15	6.5	
13	15	6	
14	15	6	
15	15	4.5	
16	15	6	
17	15	6	
18	15	5	
19	15	5	
20	15	7	

SECTION : A

1. "Can prior restraint be justified as a reasonable restriction under Article 19(2) of the Constitution?" Substantiate with examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

(P-R)

Prior restraint refers to the Government presupposing danger to sovereignty and other reasonable restrictions to the exercise of right to freedom under Article 19.

Justification

① Prevention better than cure + focus :

Preventing damage could usher in stability instead of apprehensions of chaos

eg) Riots, misinformation

② Detriment to general public : from engaging in exercise of freedom disrupting daily life and state's actions

eg) Strikes, Bandhs etc

Arguments against PR
needs better addressing
Mob vets
vagueness & arbitrary application
judicial prudence

③ Relevance in digital era: One of the areas where spread of information cannot be controlled. ✓

eg misinformation campaigns and deep fake circulation in media

④ Impact on foreign relations: Disinformation and harsh criticism could affect friendly relations. ✓

eg media campaigns during Operation Windoor unnecessary complications. ✓

However, there are issues

→ Improper ~~to~~ approach could infringe fundamental right to speech and expression ✓

→ Executive encroachment - unlawful preventive detention eg Stan Swamy case. ✓

Therefore, before ~~is~~ considering prior restraint as reasonable restriction, detailed understanding (possibly advisory jurisdiction) is necessary. ✓

2. "Though not mentioned in the Constitution, Cabinet Committees have acquired a quasi-constitutional status in India's administrative process." In the light of this statement examine the functioning of Cabinet Committees in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

3.5

Cabinet committees have become most important powerful quasi-constitutional bodies in India's administrative process, especially since the B&P the ruling party's ascendance to governance in 2014. *may avoid this!*

Functioning of Cabinet Committees in India

① Primacy of Prime Minister:

A majority of committees are headed by prime minister.

A cabinet committee on security; PM Modi had constituted committee for skill development.

② Dominance of cabinet-rank ministers.

Example of executive dominance

Give equal importance to culture

Some points are missing

→ executive decision making
→ specialisation
etc

is the Indian model of parliamentary system.

③ Swift decision making:

eg) Decisions on u.s.p.s and appointments

④ Goal/outcome oriented: In alignment with the incumbent government's broad goals

⑤ Parliamentary leadership: Cabinet committees have largely gained importance than other parliamentary committees.

Issues

- paucity, centralisation, political interference
- sidelining of parliamentary process
- decline in deliberations
- eg) 80% of budget passed without discussion - with Lok Sabha
- hampering of discretion of MPs

Cabinet committees are crucial, but they must work within constitutional limits.

Space management
Needs improvement

Add both
the &-ve path

Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

3. "The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) acts as the "friend, philosopher and guide" to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)." In the light of this statement critically analyse the relationship between these two organisations in ensuring financial accountability in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

3.5

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is a constitutional position outlined under Article 148. It is one of the responsibilities of CAG to act as "friend, philosopher and guide" to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) vested with the responsibility to ensure executive's financial accountability.

Good &
valid
intro - But
shorten
it

Relationship between CAG and PAC

Friend
Guide
Philosopher

* Audit and scrutiny: CAGs conduct audits of government expenditures and lay down reports before PAC to facilitate scrutiny.

* Empowerment of PAC: With data and accounts, enable PAC to conduct

measures and analyse government expenditures.

* Ensures legality of expenditure :

Helps PAC to understand whether the expenditure was ~~in~~ incurred on legitimate and permitted purpose

* It conducts propriety audit and lays down the reports : to enhance PAC's scrutiny to accommodate fiscal prudence, one of the core features of financial accountability.

* Boost to deliberative process : Question hours, two hours, motions etc.

Deliberative session in PAC → dominance of ruling majority in PAC
← Issues → inefficiencies in CAG

Role of leader of opposition
[1st Lok Sabha didn't have one]

However, empowering the office of CAG could also empower PAC [Vinod Rai committee recommendations on CAG]

Valid point

Keyword critically analyse
∴ Give more space to issues

4. Compare and contrast the constitutional position and functions of the Vice-President in India and the United States. (10 marks, 150 words)

Vice-presidential office of India (vp) is borrowed feature from the US Constitution. There are certain similarities and differences between the two.

Similarities

Features/basis	US Vice President	India-VP.
<u>Role in Legislature</u>	• Head of Upper house (Senate)	• Chairman of upper house (Rajya Sabha)
<u>Voting power</u>	• Casting vote	• Casting vote
<u>Manner of election</u>	• Indirectly elected - election of President guarantees vice-presidential seat	• Indirectly elected but procedure differs.

Good inter

In polity question, try to bring constitutional articles wherever possible

Fair point

Differences

Baris	US	UP
Removal	Impeachment	By effective majority in LS
Becoming president	President's seat is vacant - becomes president	President's seat is vacant - Acting president
Election	No independent election	Independent election by no single vote?
	second to that of the US president - presidential system	transferable vote system second to that of president but is a parliamentary system

Nonetheless, the office of Vice-president is an important office in both countries.

3.5

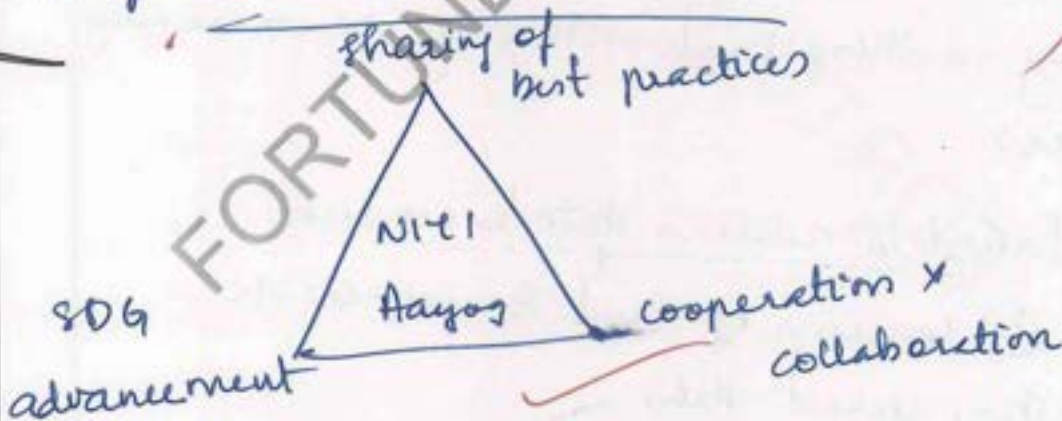
Manage spaces
add way forward

Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

5. "Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development." In the light of this statement assess the extent to which NITI Ayog has been able to achieve its stated objectives. (10 marks, 150 words)

National Institution for transforming
Govt NITI Aayog is an executive
body formed to foster cooperative
federalism and collaborative governance
in India. In 2015, with NITI Aayog,
one size fits all approach was replaced
by collaborative approach fostering
indigenous and individual practices.

shorten-
manage
space



Report card of NITI Aayog

Success of NITI Aayog

* State
central planning
* Policy
think tank
* Innovation &
entrepreneurship

→ Governing Council as a deliberative platform: States having opportunity to add their concerns and issues.

→ Facilitator role of central government

→ Promotion of research and coordination,

Data-driven - SDG Index Index

→ Best practices compendium (recently released)

Challenges and issues

* Limited
legislative
backing

→ No financial power: Has made NITI

Aayog, a think tank with only recommending powers.

Way Forward

→ Failed to address state's concerns.

(eg) Concern of West Bengal, etc -
opposition ruled states.

Manage
space
judiciously

→ Small tinge of 'one size fits all' approach
numerous reports ignoring indigenous practices - negative impacts of competitive federalism.

Nevertheless, NITI Aayog has emerged as a transformative body in advancing effective governance.

3.5

Substantiate your points
with relevant examples / state

Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

6. Assess the challenges impeding the effective implementation and substantive empowerment of Urban Local Self Governments (ULSGs) notwithstanding the institutional architecture established by the 74th Amendment Act. (10 marks, 150 words)

Urban Local Self-Governments (ULSGs)
are the urban union of Panchayati Raj
system established under the 74th Amendment
Act, 1992. They face a lot of challenges
affecting their competence.

can mention the institutional architecture briefly.

Challenges affecting implementation and
empowerment

① Lack of financial resources :

Reg 15th Finance Commission - devolution
to ULSGs in the ratio 32.5 compared to
67.5 of Rural bodies

Tax Revenue
Non Tax
Revenue
Grants

② Negligence of the importance of ULSGs

Despite the contribution of over 30% of
GDP

vague

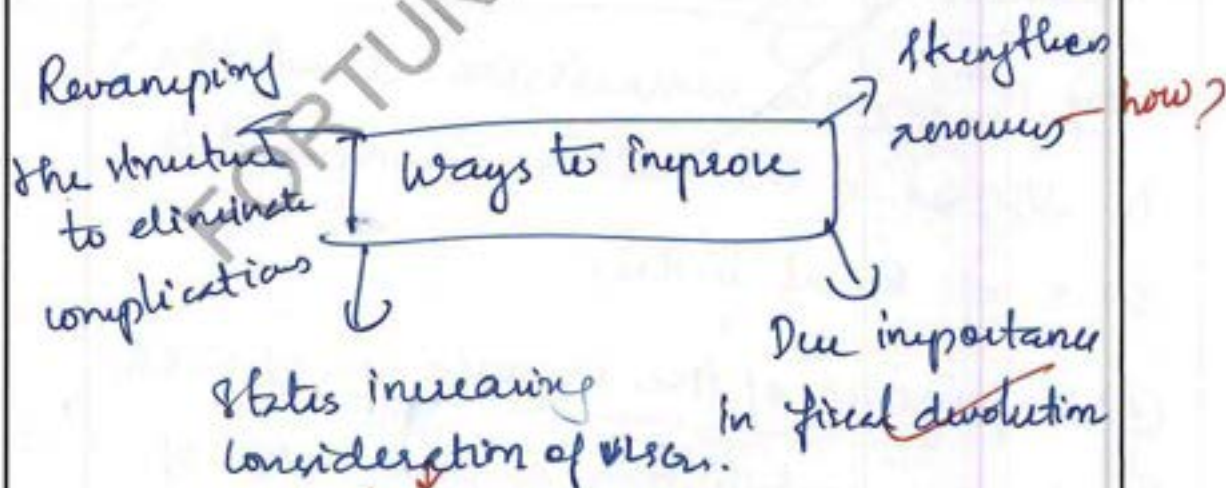
Lack of devolutions of Functions

③ Lack of resources: Constraints on manpower, infrastructure etc. *Add stat/example*

④ Lack of periodic elections: Hampering the democratic process and citizen involvement. *Eg:*

good point ⑤ Alternate systems with overlapping functions: *Eg* MPLADs and MLALADs

⑥ Urban apathy: Affects the effective functioning.



But like Panchayati Raj Institutions, ULGs are extremely important in democratic decentralization and gram panchayat democracies.

7. "Delimitation is not just a technical exercise; it is a political recalibration with federal implications." Critically examine how delimitation affects the balance of representation among Indian states. Should population be the sole basis for future delimitation? (10 marks, 150 words)

Delimitation refers to the proper demarcation of constituencies ^{for} elections based on the recommendations of Delimitation Commission. More than a technical exercise, it has a federal aspect, as seen in the recent debates where higher demographic performance, low fertility states raising concerns about it.

Impact of delimitation on the balance of representation

→ possibility of skewed representation

(eg) Higher population states - more number of states with low population. states - less number - one major concern.

4

82

Shorten
Intro,

Content
provided
in Intro
is repeated
again in
the
1st point

→ Concerns of not getting due attention from centre : In terms of fiscal support and political empowerment due to lack of representation.

→ Impact on developmental process : Centre may prefer, high population states for more funds.

→ Centralizing tendency.

However, delimitation is essential given the delay since early 2000s to amend the federal structure and state political representation.

Provide alternatives to population based approach
↓
demographic performance

Further, population should not be the sole basis for future delimitation

unequal population growth
importance of other factors
unequal development
chance of conflict & differences

Delimitation is a necessary exercise which should be done with proper stakeholder coordination.

2.5

8. "The Governor's role in the legislative process is not that of an adversary but a constitutional facilitator." Discuss (10 marks, 150 words)

Article 153 of the Constitution provides for governors in states. They are considered as constitutional facilitator, according to the Constitution.

Provides infra related to legislative powers Governor

Governor as constitutional facilitator

→ Bridge between central government and state government

→ Appointed by the President to act as guide and philosopher of the state.

→ Executive Head of the State :

Act as conduit of State Government's policy facilitator - announces bills, does governor's address in the legislative assembly

→ Upholder of federal spirit. When Governor act as constitutional facilitator to the state government.

Qstn's demand is Legislative process
Stick to that

Candidates must not write on this margin

→ Continuation of centre's policies: Being a centre government link - ensures centre's directions are implemented in the state.

→ Discretionary powers: To ensure constitutional stability in the state.

But often, governors have been acting as adversary.

→ overreach into state govt's jurisdiction

→ Delay in amending bills
eg. Tamil Nadu

→ Under criticism of State Government
eg. Kerala, Chhattisgarh

→ Acting as centre's agent even though independent constitutional office

Judicial activism

way ahead

Parliamentary commission
recommendation

2nd ARE
recommendation

Punchhi commission
recommendation

Governor is the constitutional link between centre and states and constitutionalism and federal spirit must be upheld.

9. Do you think the Collegium System is effective for appointing judges in India? Examine its strengths and weaknesses. (10 marks, 150 words)

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10. Critically analyze the National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT)'s efforts to expedite corporate dispute resolution and consolidate expertise, while also evaluating problems with delays and potential judicial overreach. (10 marks, 150 words)

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Intro →

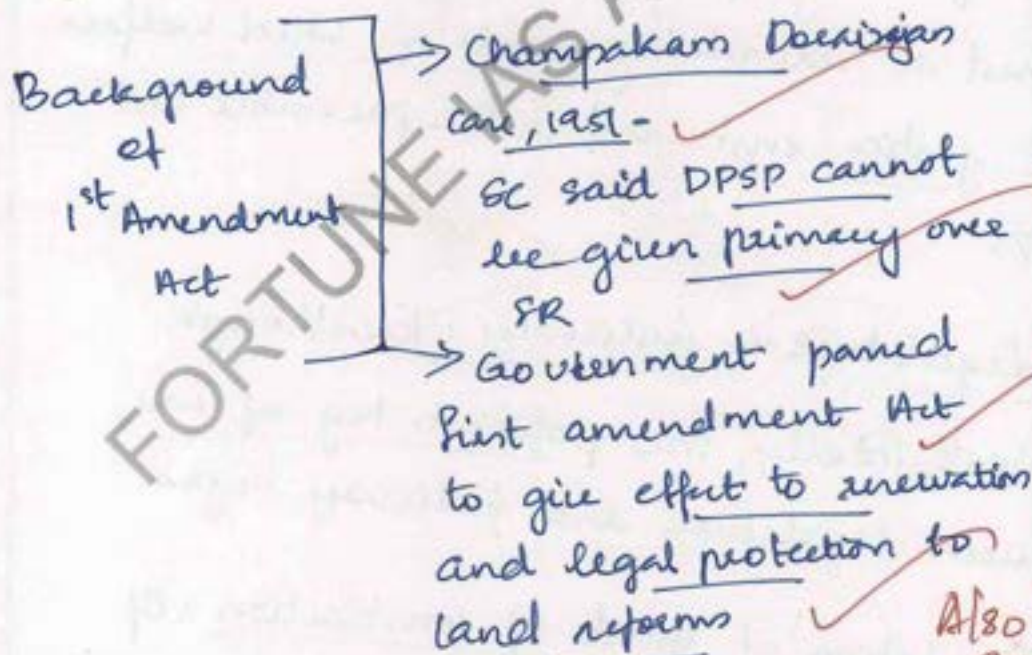
Constitutional
Dictatorship

1st
Dem

SECTION : B

11. "The First Amendment showed early signs of a ^①constitutional dictatorship emerging under the guise of democratic necessity." In the light of this statement critically analyse the 1st amendment to the Constitution of India and its impact on post-independence Indian constitutionalism. (15 marks, 250 words) ^②

Constitutionalism refers to the broad principle that guide the government to function within the constitutional limits. However, the 1st Amendment Act showed early signs of "constitutional dictatorship" going against the spirit of constitutionalism.



Role of [1st Amendment Act and Constitution]

① Beginning of constitutionalism

③ Major points are missing

↓
improve content

Also mention amendment to Art 19
↓
reasonable restrictions

First Amendment Act and Constitution: critical analysis

① Beginning of judicial discourse on Fundamental Rights ^(FR) versus DPSP:

→ Judicial Interpretations - supremacy of FR over DPSP

→ legislative interpretation - DPSPs have greater role.

② Beginning of transformative constitutionalism: Aimed at advancing goals of social welfare and justice enshrined in the preamble and DPSPs

③ Legislature vs judiciary: Even though implicit, initially, the political-leg-of-war between legislature and judiciary began.

④ (Enulation) of spirit of constitution: of removing inequality and ensuring decent standard of living
↳ land reforms, etc.

Schedule IX and curtailing scope of judicial review missing - important - there!

valid points

curtailed ment of Rights under Art 19(1) missing! Important theme

Repetitive theme diversify points

Impact on post-independence Indian constitutionalism

① Subsequent legislations and judicial interpretations

→ expanded the scope of mutual checks and balances, limiting government encroachment. Judicial Review - Basic structure (Kesavananda Bharati case, 1973)

② Frequent conflicts between legislature & executive: Often occurred during the turbulent decade of 1970s.

③ There was a social welfare policies:

enabled through laws and judicial interpretations led to the upliftment of people from poverty - Constitution as an instrument of social change

④ Causes of judicial overreach:

1. Kesavananda Bharati case, 1973 - Basic structure.

First Amendment Act was the starting point, which kindly proved for the first time the nature of living constitutionalism.

Major
whistle
blowing

↓
→ PPSP > FR
→ Executive
arbitrary
powers!
etc.

Important
conclusion!

12. Considering the significant role of constitutional bodies like the Central Election Commission in the implementation of substantive rights under the Constitution of India, analyze the nature of appointments to these bodies. To what extent does the present appointment system guarantee their independence? (15 marks, 250 words)

Constitutional bodies are institutions established under a constitutional provision, whose power cannot be thwarted unless provided for by it in the Constitution. They play a major role in advancing the implementation of substantive rights (right to vote, right to freedom etc) in India. *minority, equality, justice etc.*

Role of constitutional bodies

① Embodiment of spirit of constitutionalism:

→ Constitutional allocation of powers
→ Prevention of undue interference from the government unless provided by Constitution

Ex Election Commission of India
↳ conduct elections
↳ ensure right to vote.

② Ensure free and fair competition among citizens in cases of public employment:

eg UPSC Union Public Service Commission,
State Public Service Commissions provide
for equality of opportunity to eligible
candidates for public employment [Article 14].

③ Upholding the rights of marginalized
sections: to advance the cause of social
justice and Right to equality [Article 14].

eg National Commission for Scheduled
Castes, National Commission for Scheduled
Castes etc

financial
accountability

mention CAG

Nature of appointment in these bodies

① Appointment by president: On the
aid and advice of council of ministers

eg UPSC, NCBC etc

② Opaque process: Discretion of Prime
Minister and Council of
Ministers.

③ Bureaucratic supremacy: Often the chair
person and members are members of

good
points

mention

parliamentary
appointment

Snoop
Banarjee
CAG 2023

etc.

higher levels of bureaucracy.

eg UPSC chairperson - IAS/IPS/IRS etc.

④ Executive dominance:

eg Election Commission - recent Act -
appointment committee - PM, ^{Union} Home Minister,
leader of opposition. Majority - executive.

Extend of guarantee of independence

① Limited guarantee: the decision-making
heavily skewed towards executive dominance.

② Improper checks and balances: often
legislature and judiciary do not ensure
executive accountability.

③ Politicization of appointments: Recent
appointment of Election Commissioners according
to new law was heavily politicized.

way forward can be addressed better.
However, the current system has
proved to be useful at times. But there are
scope for improvement. For example, lateral
entry appointments, separate appointment
commission etc.

13. The fiscal health of state finances has garnered considerable attention, as fiscal well-being is indispensable for the attainment of sustained fiscal stability and comprehensive economic development. Analyse this statement in the background of the recently released Fiscal Health Index. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Government of India, recently released Fiscal Health Index to ensure the fiscal health and financial stability of the central and state governments to augment economic development.

NITI
Aayog



Good illustration

Status of fiscal health in states

- ⇒ Southern states discontent :
 - ⇒ Unequal devolution of funds from central government
- ⇒ Impediments on income generation :
 - ⇒ Due to elimination of numerous courses due to GST implementation

Valid & Good points

⇒ Soaring public fiscal deficits

↳ Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu - well above national average

⇒ Borrowing limits hampering effective governance

↳ Kerala government recently filed a case in Supreme Court.

Importance of fiscal well-being in ensuring sustained fiscal stability

→ Cushion against unexpected threats:

For example, pandemic, disasters.

↳ During COVID, states suffered due to nationwide lockdown and health burgeoning of health expenditure (FD)

→ To manage fiscal deficit: One of the major issues is highly GDP contributing states is increasing FD. Instruments like Fiscal Health Index can contribute to effective policy making

Add
① Attract investment
② Mass economic stability
③ Welfare & development

→ To control inflation: Fiscal Health Index's data driven approach can ensure fiscal stability ^{controlling} of inflation.

Fiscal well-being and economic development

→ Proper allocation for welfare schemes:

- prioritization of resources

→ Effective funding options for contingencies:

- such as disaster management funds

→ Focus on environment and sustainable development

- Targeted schemes and implementation

(eg) Green GDP of Chhattisgarh

→ Upliftment of marginalized sections:

Resource allocation and effective implementation

(eg) Free bus service for women in Tamil Nadu

→ Empowerment of local bodies

Therefore, Fiscal Health Index is a much awaited instrument to strengthen fiscal stability regime in India. Its effective working is the need of the hour.

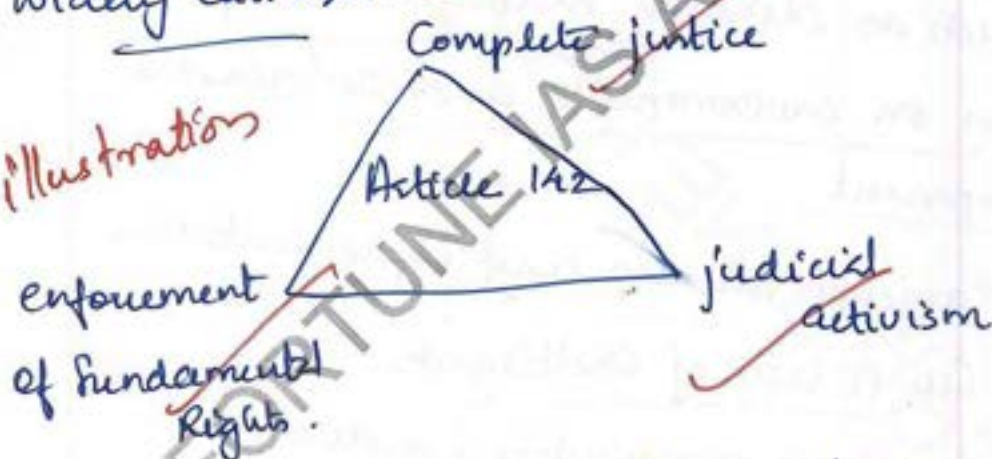
→ Repetition
of previous
part
↓
Bring the
analysis
part
instead

Mention how it complement existing laws → Vishekha guidelines

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. "Article 142's purpose is to complement existing law, not to replace or override legislative authority. Has the Supreme Court's application of Article 142 in recent years infringed upon the separation of powers doctrine in India? Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

In Supreme Court Bar Association vs Union of India, Supreme Court (SC) said that the purpose of Article 142 is not to replace or override the parliament, but rather to complement the laws. However, recent years the use of Article 142 by the SC has been widely criticized. eg Vishekar



Causes of infringement of separation of powers:

① Doctrine of separation of powers:

- Mutual checks and balances
- functional overlap
- Constitutionism

Article 142 has the potential to encroach upon the functional overlap established by Constitution.

eg Judicial legislation - Vishaka guidelines of 1997 & allegations of judicial overreach

② Setting limitations not permitted in the Constitution:

eg State of Tamil Nadu v Governor of Tamil Nadu - SC mandated timelines for Governor's assent to bills - deemed to bills withheld by Governor as passed under Article 142

③ Limitations on Parliament's legislative power: Addressing legislative vacuum gives rise to new laws - political conf differences

④ Newer and wider interpretations not in the law:

eg Shilpa Satish v Varun Srivastava - divorce case - SC annulled marriage citing "irretrievable break down of marriage" not in law

6
Judiciary filled leg. vacuum
↓
J. Activism

lengthy points - make comprehensive

Make sub-headings visible.

But Act 142 as ~~the~~

Article 142 : Strengthening social justice and empowering parliament.

① Advancing the goals of social justice:

eg SC recently, used Article 142 for a JEE qualified student to get admission in non-payment of fees, when it was denied by institution for

② Motivation for parliament to make laws:

eg Visaka guidelines of 1997 as inspiration of for prevention of sexual harassment at work place Act (POSH Act) in 2013.

③ Judicial activism: proactive role of judiciary

eg State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor of Tamil Nadu [Article 200 & Article 101]

Article 142 is an important instrument in the Constitution to achieve Constitutional morality. However, unless warranted by circumstances, judiciary must exercise judicial restraint.

Good conclusion

Write examples comprehensively

Don't repeat examples in tree & re side

Examples are almost nil

4.5

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. "Joint Parliamentary Committees are vital tools of legislative oversight, yet their functioning often mirrors the strength of the ruling majority." Critically evaluate the role and effectiveness of JPCs in ensuring executive accountability in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Joint ^(JPCs) parliamentary committees are crucial tools of legislative oversight that is aimed at ensuring the fulfilment of parliamentary democracy in India. However, their functioning is often tilted towards favouring the ruling majority, raising questions about their effectiveness.

Role of JPCs is ensuring executive accountability

- ① platform for detailed scrutiny:
of major executive decisions that involve serious conflict of interest between stakeholders and parties Eg.
- ② Cooperation between Members of Parliament: Ruling part majority and opposition ~~work~~ parties working in tandem

ex

JPC
ad hoc committee to examine a specific issue of national importance.
JPC on
Eg: Waqf bill, Bofors scam, Harshad Mehta scam, 2G scam etc.

Please substantiate with examples

to achieve consensus.

③ Important role of opposition party / alliance : Detailed scrutiny of executive, and through examining of its decisions.

④ Addressing of nuances : Wider participation of MPs bring in broad and narrow perspectives to address the issues.

⑤ Addition to executive decisions :
Through suggestions and recommendations.

[Effectiveness] : [An amendment]

① Upperhand of ruling majority : More members often are from ruling coalition - less number of opposition MP

② Democratic deficit decline in committees :

For ex → In the 17th Lok Sabha - committee discussions drastically dropped down - strengthening executive dominance. → JPC ?

③ Enhancing executive dominance : Due to sidelining of opposition reps and empowered role of Cabinet Committee.

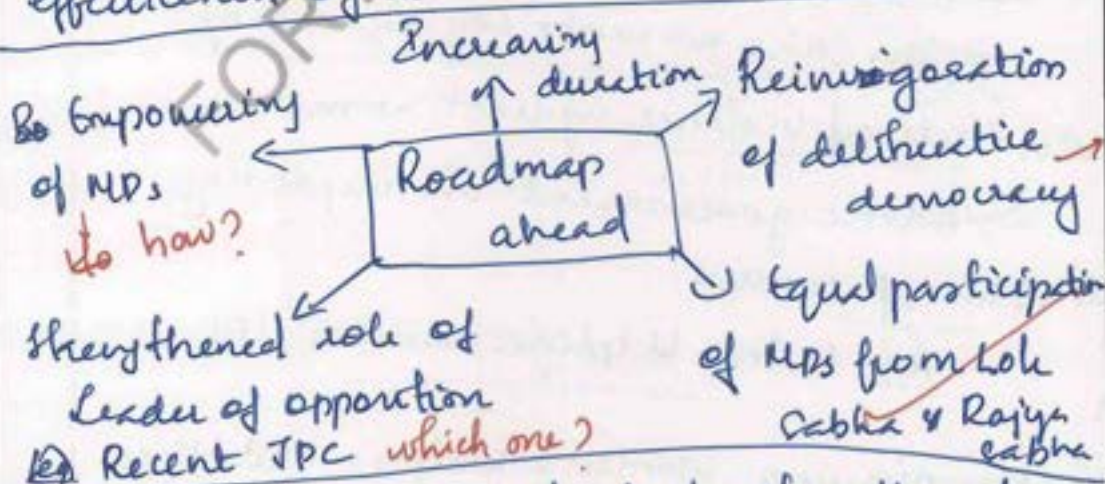
④ Lack of strong opposition :

eg 17th Lok Sabha did not have a Leader of Opposition.

⑤ Polarization of issues and TPCs :

Petty differences often amplify into blame game

⑥ Adhoc, advisory nature : Some TPCs with adhoc nature and advisory nature reduce the effectiveness of its sustained function.



Therefore, TPCs need to be strengthened in quality and character to ensure the mutual checks and balances between legislature & executive

* decisions are not binding.
* suppression of dissenting voices.

how?

Manage space
Add more examples
Add way forward

6

Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

16. Evaluate the role of the National Commission for Women in addressing gender-based issues in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

National Commission for Women (NCW)
is a statutory body established under
National Commission for Women (NCW) Act
in 1990s. This body is instrumental in
giving effect to Convention to Eliminate
All forms of discrimination Against women
and SDG 5 [Gender equality]. [(CEDAW)]

Role of NCW in addressing gender-based issues

① Advocacy for women's rights :

→ can take no motor cognizance of
gender-related violence against women
→ Advise government on improving
the status of women.

Reg. Mhra Helpline number - 181

② Championing women's welfare initiatives:

→ Various government schemes

to enhance women's education and girl's welfare.

Eg.

③ Address the gender-sensitive issues: → How?

- Seneca feticide
- Dowry deaths
- Domestic violence
- poverty among women
- marital rape

④ Role in running shelter homes and rescue centers for victims of rape, gender-violence.

⑤ Role in policy-making: Data-driven research for contributions in policy making.

⑥ Stakeholder coordination: Act Bridge between government, civil society organizations, Naes, pressure groups and women.

⑦ Awareness programs: Running advertisements in media and public art for information dissemination.

Eg.

⑧ Leadership of women: Ncw is headed by women leaders - empowerment of state Women Commissions.

However, challenges and issues persist.

① Limited to panic action: Especially in actual involvement in policy making

② Top-down approach: Ignoring intersectionality

in gender

- LCB + QIA +
- Dalit women
- urban middle-class women
- rural women.

Often, ncw is involved in addressing the issues of urban middle-class women.

③ Lack of last-mile service delivery:

the rural areas are often ignored and not given due consideration by ncw.

However, nevertheless, the role of

Ncw must be appreciated for strengthening the feminist movement in India (recent # Me too and protests against Bhangra apathy). The government must take initiative to # increase the role of Ncw in addressing gender-based issues.

17. With India having only 21 judges per million population—far below the recommended 50—judicial pendency remains a critical concern. Can the All India Judicial Services (AIJS) address this shortage? Examine its potential and the key impediments to its implementation. (15 marks, 250 words)

Judicial pendency is one of the pertinent problems affecting Indian judiciary currently. Statistics show that, India has only 21 judges per million, while it is about 150 judges per million in several European countries. It is in this context that All India Judicial Services (AIJS) under Article 312 was hailed as solution to address judicial pendency.

All India Judicial Service: A plausible solution

Analysis of its potential: position negation

① Structural development: Currently, higher judiciary appointments are by Collegium system and lower level by respective state governments [Bar, High Courts involvement]

⇒ AIJS could bring in structure & organisational efficiency

Shorten
intro

② Efficient appointment system and addition of vacancies: Institutionalization could bring in increased manpower and resources → data-driven → swift appointments and reporting of vacancies.

③ Uniform examination method: Similar to that of All India level exams such as CGLE, CHSL by Staff Selection Commission.

④ Addition of complications: Due to varied procedures and rules governing current practices → easy access for aspirants.

⑤ Reducing financial burden: Even though, initial period could result in huge expenses, eventually it could be reduced.

[Negatives]

① Systemic overhaul would be a herculean

tasks

- ↳ impact on federalism
- ↳ could fuel federal tensions
- ↳ possibly lead to increased executive dominance in judicial appointments

② Uncomplicated beginning

Key impediments

- ① Restraints from judiciary & legal fraternity : Apprehensions about executive overreach
- ② Gapance over the government : Increased monetary expenses to conduct exam, appoint officials, infrastructure etc
- ③ Arriving consensus : Between centre & states, may require constitutional amendment
- ④ Lack of research and data : Dedicated research is often not possible
- ⑤ Overburdened judiciary & procedures : therefore, even though ATJ is a good move it needs to be supplemented by proper stakeholder coordination and calculated approach to implement it and continue it

↓
includes
↓
Institutional barriers
Can undermine judicial autonomy
Reduced control of H.Cs over subordinate judiciary

18. How has the Indian Constitution, in practice, reconciled the conflict between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy? Support your answer with examples. (15 marks, 250 words)

Supreme Court (SC) in Kinnowa Mills case ruled that the Indian Constitution is founded upon the basic feature of balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).

Reconciling process of FR & DPSP

① Initial stage: Primacy of FR over DPSP

⇒ Champakam Dorairajan case, 1951 - FR is supreme over DPSP. FR cannot be amended or infringed to give effect of DPSP.

⇒ Government passed 1st Amendment Act → to give effect to renewal and land reforms.

⇒ Shankari Prasad case: land reforms: SC said Fundamental Rights could be

amended by the parliament.

② Sacrosanct nature of FR & conflict with parliament

→ Golaknath case, 1967: Supreme Court said, FR are sacrosanct and would not be amended.

→ Bank nationalisation ordinance was quashed by SC in R.C. Cooper case

→ DPSP could not be given primacy over FR was the stand of SC.

→ But, the government wanted to give DPSP primacy.

③ Basic Structure doctrine:

→ 24th Constitutional Amendment was added to 9th schedule - challenged in Keshavananda Bharti case in 1973

→ parliament can amend any part of the Constitution, but cannot violate basic structure - SC.

Relevant Content, but shorten this part so as to include the second part of the Qstn

Examples for reconciliation

Reservations, Right to education, land reforms, etc

Ask like MANJES A, Master with benefit etc

→ Mineva Mills Case, 1980: SC reaffirmed Basic Structure doctrine and said that, balance between FR and DPSP is part of basic structure.

→ Subsequently, equality, justice etc became part of basic structure.

→ I.R. Coelho case, 2007: 9th schedule - laws giving effect ~~of~~ to laws DPSP cannot be protected against Judicial Review.

It is through a prolonged process that the SC, as the guardian and protector of the Indian Constitution ensured the reconciliation of FR and DPSP. This upholds the principle of constitutional morality and constitutionalism.

19. The Basic Structure Doctrine was formulated during the time of an oppressive era of single party dominance. Does the doctrine have relevance in today's era of coalition governance? Give your views on the same. (15 marks, 250 words)

Basic Structure Doctrine, is perhaps the most important judicial innovation and a case of judicial work engineering to protect the sacrosanct nature of Indian Constitution. It was the product of judicial integrity during turbulent times in Indian democracy [one party dominance, emergency etc]

Relevance of Basic structure doctrine in the era of coalition governance

⇒ check on executive overreach:

Basic structure doctrine includes judicial review - review of ^{constitutional} laws and amendments made by the government to check their intent & purpose.

Can reduce size of Intro + Add keywords like keywords like keywords
Bhavatikan 1993

5

Some points, i.e. core idea $\Rightarrow$ today's coalition

$\hookrightarrow$ Against populist amendment $\Rightarrow$ must

$\Rightarrow$ Ensures executive accountability: Limits

the power of the government from encroaching upon the federal spirit of the country and giving undue importance to coalition partners.

$\hookrightarrow$ Kerala's case against centre's borrowing limits.

$\Rightarrow$ Limitation on legislature's law-making power: Checks on mutual checks and balances

$\hookrightarrow$ Quashing of 99th amendment aimed at institutionalizing NJAC.

$\Rightarrow$ Fosters coalition stability: By addressing misuse of power between different organs and limbs of government.

$\Rightarrow$ Address of corruption and other issues:

$\hookrightarrow$ In Narayan case, 2023 - SC ruled that parliamentary privileges does not cover corruption - highly relevant in coalition governance

But there are issues

→ Here too, idea of coalition govt's idea not

① Allegations of judicial overreach

properly addressed

Recently vice president called Basic Structure as an unguided missile hampering legislative dominance process.

↪ seen as check and balance
↪ Deepening democracy

② parliamentary supremacy vs

↪ frequency of amendment

Constitutional supremacy: major bone of contention between Judiciary and legislature as well as executive.

③ Differing opinions: Judiciary view Basic Structure as an instrument of nurturing constitutionalism while legislature as encroachment.

Given the circumstances, it is legitimate that Basic Structure is properly defined and codified to uphold mutual checks and balances and achieving the ideals of democracy.

20. "A few forward-leaning states are racing ahead, armed with better tools and deeper understanding of their competitiveness." In this context, critically analyse how competitive federalism may pose challenges to achieving inclusive and balanced growth in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

Competitive federalism refers to the increasing competitiveness among states to secure greater investments and quicker economic growth. Competitive federalism has led to unequal development among states, while few states are racing ahead such as Maharashtra, Gujarat & Tamil Nadu (TN)

(eg NITI Aayog SDG Index)

Challenges to inclusive and balanced growth

① Historical advantage: Certain states such as TN, Maharashtra, Karnataka had reaped the advantages of globalization.

(eg Bengaluru, Hyderabad - IT Hubs; Mumbai - financial capital.

② persisting backwardness among certain states: Opposite side of growth in developed states.

eg Bihar, Jharkhand despite being resource rich

③ skewed ^{financial} resource distribution: Due to political factors and finance commission (etc) recommendations

eg Kerala, in annual fc of not giving due weightage to demographic performance.

- skewed investment

④ Resource capacity: Forward-leaning states → better infrastructure → to conduct conclaves and global summits → to attract investments.

⑤ Role of competitive education standards:

Forward-leaning states have largely integrated modern subjects.

position → challenge → WP → conclusion
that would be better

Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

But, it also present several opportunities

→ competition as a catalyst

→ sharing of best practices

eg NITI Aayog

→ Collaboration in summit organization

→ Empowering weaker states to focus on economic development

→ Role of central government

Competitive federalism has its merits and demerits. However, without competitive federalism, there cannot be great development in the states.

At the same time it is essential to foster cooperation and collaborative governance.