



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

25, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi 110005. ☎ 011 45612719

Political Science & International Relations

Crash Course & Test Series - 2021

Test 02

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

Name Utkarsh Dwivedi
Test Date 24/12/21
Email Address _____
Mobile _____
UPSC Roll No 0804881

Instructions:

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS and candidate has to attempt five questions in all.
2. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any three are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each section.
3. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. Write the test in exam atmosphere.
9. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

S. No.	a	b	c	d	e	Total
1						
2				X	X	
3				X	X	
4				X	X	
5						
6				X	X	
7				X	X	
8				X	X	
Grand Total						

	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Understanding of Questions					
Structure & Flow					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Conclusion					
(c) Overall					
Subject Knowledge					
Presentation					
(a) Underline					
(b) Paragraph					
(c) Overall					

Overall Remarks:

Dear Student,

All the best for next test...!!!



SHUBHRA RANJAN

25, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi 110005. ☎ 011 45612719

Always Ahead

ue.1 (a)
Contribution of Chipko movement in the evolution of India's environmental movement. (10 Marks)

"Disappeared forests, polluted rivers and displaced tribals, are what we have after 70 years of Independence."

- R C Guha in Unquiet Woods.

India's environment has seen many movements but Chipko stands out among them. It was initially started in Rajasthan in 18th century when people led by Amrita Devi hugged trees from felling.

In 1973, Sunderlal Bahuguna, Gaura Devi and Chandi Prasad Bhatt led Chipko movement - in Uttarakhand to prevent felling of trees due to infrastructural projects after the 1962 Indo-China war.

Contribution of Chipko movement is that
It created "new consciousness" in the country and led to enactment of certain acts like Forest Act, 1980, Environment Protection Act, 1986.

It also led to "eco-feminism" as women came out in large numbers to support. It broke the myth that environmentalism is a preserve of urban middle class and the poor had no stakes in it.

Recently people hugged trees in Aarey forest movement in Mumbai. The greatest strength of Chipko movement was its participative, inclusive and non-violent approach.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Q.1(b) GST is a mantra for a cooperative federalism or fiscal centralization?
Comment. (10 Marks)

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was brought in 2016 by 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. It subsumed many taxes at state and central level and was based on the vision of "one nation, one tax."

GST as a mantra for co-operative federalism

Since GST is a combination of Central GST + State GST, it is seen to promote harmonious tax relations and equal stakes of centre and states.

Also since GST is a destination based tax, it ~~was~~ promised to ~~full~~ bridge the economic inequality between the less and more developed states, further promoting the spirit of cooperative federalism. In the GST council, the centre has

one third voting powers while states have 2/3rd.

But GST has also been criticised for fiscal centralisation. Recently, the ~~the~~ centre-state controversy erupted over GST compensation cess. Also due to rising petrol prices, there was controversy over ~~ways~~ including petroleum in GST. Also states have been demanding increase of time period from current five years for compensation.

In recent times GST has been clocking above ₹1 lakh Crores revenues which suggests its success.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Critically evaluate the role of revolutionaries in Indian freedom struggle (10 Marks).

The Indian national movement was a series of historic events with the final aim of ending British rule in India. In this regard the role of revolutionaries was ~~an~~ important.

The philosophy of revolutionaries was based on striking terror in the hearts and minds of the British. They believed that no sacrifice was too great for the good of the nation. They rejected 'Benevolent guidance' of the English.

The revolutionary leader Anand Mohan Ghosh in his article 'New lamps for the old' criticised the moderate approach of the Congress. He along with his brother Barindra Kumar



Chosh was involved in Alipore Bomb case and started secret society "yugantar"
VD Sawarka had started "mihra
meb" to organise revolutionary youths.

Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad formed Hindustan Socialist Republican Association and assassinated Saunders. They also threw bomb in Central Assembly.

However the violent approach of revolutionaries was criticised by moderates as going against Gandhian philosophy. Also the revolutionaries failed to organise any mass movement.
 However they received lot of "non hood" of Indians - Bipin Chandra.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Parliamentary committees form the soul of Parliamentary democracy.
Comment. (10 Marks).

Congress in session is congress at display,
Congress in committee is congress at work.

— Woodrow Wilson.

The history of Parliamentary committees goes back to Government of India Act, 1919 when committees like Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, were formed.

Parliamentary committees have been called as soul of parliamentary democracy because they help in detailed scrutiny of bills and policy actions.

Public Accounts Committee ensures financial propriety by examining reports of CAE on government expenditure.

Estimates Committee suggests economies

in budget programs. Parliamentary standing committee scrutinises actions and policies of various government departments.

These committees deepen participatory governance as they call civil society representatives for their comments.

However in recent times, the number of bills being sent to committees is declining: 71% in 15th Lok Sabha, 27% in 16th Lok Sabha and 11% in 17th Lok Sabha.

Also use of ordinances for from bills, increasing tenure of CBI/ED Director further bypasses Parliamentary committees as these help in upholding the spirit of accountability.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Urban local governance in India is perpetually afflicted with lack of financial autonomy. Elaborate. (10 Marks)

Urban local governance was the urban counterpart of panchayati raj that was formed with 74th amendment Act. It was made to realise "ease of living in Indian cities."

However it is perpetually afflicted with lack of financial autonomy. This is because its taxation powers are very much limited. It has limited powers to charge fees for services like water, road, electricity, etc.

Also many states do not form the State Finance Commission and cause delay in its implementation of its recommendations.

The central grants too are



aid funds which local urban governments are not autonomous to use.

The increasing use of special purpose vehicles to implement projects further reduces the financial autonomy of urban local bodies.

Judge Abheer had remarked there cannot be smart cities without smart municipalities.

Use of municipal bonds like Ludhiana and Bangalore can be implemented.

NK Singh, Chairman, 15th Finance Commission recommended synchronisation of Central and State Finance Commissions.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



SHUBHRA RANJAN

25, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi 110005. ☎ 011 45612719

Always Ahead

a) Governor as an appointee of centre becomes a potent weapon in centre's armory and often fail to fulfill its designated role as the first citizen of the state over which he reins but does not rule. Comment. (20 Marks)

Article 153 of the constitution envisages the office of Governor. He acts as the link between the centre and the state. According to Jajcaria commission, Governor is the lynch pin of co-operative federalism in India.

His designated role as the first citizen of the state is to ensure that there is no breakdown of constitutional machinery and ensure harmonious federal relations between the state and the centre.

However in recent times, the office of the Governor has been criticised for becoming a potent tool

In the hands of the Centre. According to Joshi Sarabjee in his book "Governor: Sage or Saboteur" the misuse and frequent use of discretionary powers under Article 163 of the Constitution has converted India's federalism from co-operative to bagging federalism.

Various examples include, the Rajasthan Governor not calling session of the house even after recommendation from the government. In Nebam Rabia case 2016, Supreme Court ruled that Governors must stay away from internal politics and calling or not calling a session is not his discretion.

Recently, in Maharashtra, the Governor called Devendra Fadnis to take oath at 5:00am even when he did not have a majority. Fadnis as a result of it had to resign in a single day. In SR Bommai case 1994, Supreme Court had ruled that the majority of the government can only be tested on the floor of the house.

In Nagaland, the Governor came in verbal spat with the CM, accusing the government of extortion. In West Bengal, the Governor and CM are not at good terms.

In Manipur and Goa, the Governor did not call the party with maximum seat. In Uttarakhand, the Governor imposed President's rule that was eventually

overlooked by Uttarakhand High Court.

Paul R Brass says this happens

because the office of governor was not created in the backdrop of hope, but in fear and trepidation due to partition and secessionist movements. Hence the governor acts as eyes and ears of the Centre.

1st ARC recommended consultation with CM before appointing governor. While Punchi Commission recommended only impartial and men of integrity to occupy the office of governor for better federal relations.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

The real purpose behind the Constitution (69th Amendment) Act, 1991, is to establish a democratic setup and representative form of government. Analyse this statement in the light of recent National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021. (15 Marks)

The Constitution 69th (Amendment) Act, 1991 established the government of National Capital of Territory under article 239 AA. According to the act, land, police and public order were under the purview of Lieutenant Governor (LG) ~~was~~ who would be a representation of the President of India. Rest, the ~~of~~ NCT government is free to make laws upon.

But recent Amendment to NCT Act have created controversy regarding the states and powers of government of Delhi. According to the amendment:

① The word government would mean the

Leaquent Governor for all policy decisions and laws.

- ② All policy decisions must pass through the LG.
- ③ The rules of Delhi assembly had to be aligned with that of Lok Sabha.
- ④ The Delhi assembly cannot interfere in day to day functioning of Delhi government.
- ⑤ Pro LG has to reserve certain bills for the President.

The above amendments have been challenged by the Delhi government as violative of the spirit of the constitution and federalism.

The amendments reduce the accountability of executive to the legislature that forms the basis of



SHUBHRA RANJAN

25, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi 110005. ☎ 011 45612719

Always Ahead

Parliamentary system . Also these amendments flout the spirit of representative democracy as the powers of unelected LG become more than elected Delhi assembly.

On the other hand, Delhi being seat of the capital has peculiar needs . Due to presence of government headquarters and embassies, the presence of central government in affairs of Delhi automatically increases.

Capital cities like London and

Washington DC have more presence of union government . But at the same time, centre and Delhi government must follow the judgement of Supreme Court that suggested "co-operative federalism"

Understanding of Questions	
- Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.2(c)

What are the constitutional provisions related to freedom of speech and expression in India. Analyse some recent controversies related to the status of freedom of speech and expression in India. (15 Marks)

According to JSMill, freedom of speech and expression is one of the most important rights in a liberal state. This is because it leads to deliberation and discussion and further strengthens democracy.

- Constitutional provisions related to freedom of speech and expressions
- ① Article 19(1)(a) & freedom of speech and expression, with certain limitations. Right to Information Act was provided under this article.
 - ② Article 21: that links freedom of speech and expression to right to life.

- (3) Article 25 § that gives freedom of religion as a form of expression.
- (4) Article 29, 30: to establish minority institutions and protect local scripts for speech and expression.
-

Recent controversies related to freedom of speech and expression are:

- ① Use of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 § Recently some people have been charged under this for speaking about Bhimai-Koregaon violence.
- ② Use of section 258-A, i.e. Sedition § People have been charged for sedition for speaking against CAA and NRC. Also in Chattisgarh, a person was charged for sedition for speaking against power cuts.

③ Section 66A of the IT Act 2000 was struck down by Supreme Court under Shreya Singhal case as it curbed freedom of speech on internet -

④ Recent IT rules & talk of breaking WhatsApp's end to end encryption that affects free speech.

According to Supreme Court in Kedarnath Singh case, the use of sedition must be limited and the law properly defined.

Also, freedom of speech helps people to reclaim public sphere and perform communicative action [Arendt]

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que. 4(a)

The progress with regard to decentralisation and panchayats having modest degree of autonomy is slow due to numerous systemic bottlenecks and institutional challenges. Discuss. (20 Marks)

Democratic decentralisation refers to shifting of decision making at the lowest level of the organisation. It is based on the ideas of Gandhi's gram swaraj, MN Roy's radical democracy and Hannah Arendt's participative governance.

73rd constitutional amendment, 1991

~~established~~ gave constitutional recognition to panchayats under the Eleventh schedule. It led to formation of Gram Sabha under article (243A), Gram panchayat (243B), State Finance Commission (243I) and State Election Commission (243K).

However in the words of Rajni Kothari "democratic decentralisation"

has been nothing but false promises and catchy slogans. This is because the substantive provisions related to autonomy of panchayats have been made voluntary.

Substantive but voluntary provisions

- Making panchayats autonomous bodies.
- Giving taxation rights
- Enabling the panchayats to form and execute their own plans.

Other/systemic challenges include, lack of 3Fs: funds, functions and functionaries as highlighted by Mamleshankar Aiyer Committee. The Committee also highlighted that 73rd amendment act has only led to decentralisation of corruption and Sarpanch Raj in India.

Progres gram sabha meetings take place. The gram sabha has been reduced to "rubber stamp" and decisions are taken by the village panchayat.

Systemic cha Institutional (Challenges) include the lack of dedicated bureaucratic cadre for panchayats. The sarpanch has to visit block offices many times to get things done.

Also due to patriarchal attitude, the women pradhans are not given due respect and recognition. The power is actually exercised by the husband of the women Pradhan, a phenomenon called as "Panchayat Pati" by Sudha Pai.

There is also a fear that since panchayats are more closely related to

people's day to day lives, it could create alternate sources of patronage and power, hence state governments are reluctant to devolve power.

2nd ARC has recommended "subsidiarity principle" to devolve powers to panchayats. Vijay Kelkar has recommended that a portion of GST be shared with the panchayats.

Best practices like Kerala's model code of conduct for local bureaucracy and Bihar's Empowerment Based Development Planning will deepen democracy and empower the weakest link Panchayat administration.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que. 4(b)

The need for a Uniform Civil Code flows from the very definition of secularism. Comment. (15 Marks)

Secularism was coined by G. J. Holyoke in 1651. It is a contested concept that refers to complete separation of state and religion in the west (neutral model) and envisages porous boundaries between state and religion in India (equidistant model).

Uniform Civil Code refers to uniform laws across the religions for civil purposes like marriage, divorce, inheritance, etc. In India, since the British, the Hindus and Muslims have been governed through different laws and courts.

After independence, the Hindu laws were codified under Hindu Marriage Act but there are separate laws for religions minorities like Anand Marriage Act for the

Silchs and the Sharia law for the Islam.

Since secularism demands uniform laws for religions, it is demanded that UCC be brought to rationalise the personal laws and align them with constitutional principles and morality. Article 44 of the Directive Principles also suggests to bring UCC.

UCC is based on religious neutrality, universal citizenship and rationalism. According to supporters of UCC, separate laws for religious minorities affects their complete integration in ~~to~~ the Indian society.

It also increases the scope of vote bank politics and religion in politics as it keeps the minorities insecure about

state intervention in their laws.

However rights activist Flavia Agnes says "UCC is not a ~~one~~ silver bullet." Even after secularisation of Hindu Law, the position of women has not improved. Recently Law Commission suggested UCC is neither possible nor desirable. A uniform unified nation does not need uniformity in laws.

However scholars like Yogendra Yadav have suggested to reform the illiberal provisions of personal laws rather than bringing UCC. NCRWC has suggested to form Inter Faith Commission that can take a decision on UCC with consensus.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.4(c)

Autonomy of civil society is critical for proper functioning of Indian democracy. Critically analyse (15 Marks)

Civil society refers to the voluntary associations of people who come together to achieve certain political, social or economic objective.

Civil society forms the fifth estate of democracy after legislature, executive, judiciary and media. It helps in keeping the government accountable for its acts of omission and commission.

The development of civil society and its movements in India happened after 1975 Emergency, wherein the political leaders were arrested and hence people realised importance of mobilisation.

outside political party. After LCA reforms of 1991 and 2nd and 3rd amendment, since democratic decentralisation increased, the role of civil society also increased.

From earlier marxist movements that demanded greater economic and worker rights, the civil society has now moved towards new social movements that take up issues like sexual harassment at work place, racism, body shaming, freedom of internet.

Other civil society movements include the movement for lokalpal that resulted in lokalpal and lokayukta Act of 2013. Civil society has also demanded human rights from violations in the form of AFSPA, custodial deaths in jails,



UAPA, etc.

However, Upendra Basri criticises

India's civil society movements as professional
run by MBA graduates rather than masses.
He says there are vested interests of
corporate lobbies that give rise to such
movements.

However the autonomy of civil
society is needed to realise the popular
will (Rousseau) of the people. Hobbes suggests
to resist unjust laws and ~~Hans~~ Habermas
suggested that real strength of democracy
comes from civil society movements.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que. 5(a)

Define constitutional morality and its linkages with transformative constitutionalism (10 Marks)

Constitutional morality refers to deriving one's values and ethics by keeping constitution as the source.

Indian constitution has been called as "transformative constitution" because of its provisions like fundamental rights, duties, DPSPs, etc. However due to lack of constitutional morality, such provisions fail to realise their objective.

The misuse of office of governor through discretionary powers affects the spirit of co-operative federalism.

The misuse of office of speaker through antideflection ~~that~~ leads to overturning of governments in state. This leads

to further stress in Centre State relations

The use of ordinances by central and state governments breaches constitutional moral of separation of powers.

Also judicial activism turning into judicial overreach is against constitutional morality.

Hence commissions like Sarkaria, 2nd ARC, NCRWC have suggested only men of high integrity must ~~be~~ occupy high offices as they would discharge their duties keeping constitutional morality and realise vision of our Constitution.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Compare liberal perspectives on Indian national movement with that of Marxist. (10 Marks)

Que. 5(b)

The Indian national movement was an inclusive movement of various classes.

It was led by different leaders coming from different socio-economic backgrounds.

Hence the movement has been analysed from different perspectives. In this regard, the liberal perspective forms the hegemonic school and the Marxist perspective forms the counter hegemonic school.

The liberal perspective says that India was not a nation, but a nation in the making [J N Banerjee].

On the other hand, Marxist scholars reject the idea of nation and talk of proletarian internationalism.

The liberal perspective viewed

the British as agents of modernisation. While the Marxist perspective views British as a class of capitalists.

The liberal perspective realises the contribution of Congress and Gandhi in the freedom movement. Marxist perspective sees Congress as a representative of aspirational youthful bourgeoisie (MN Roy).

According to RP Dutt, Gandhi was a "mascot of bourgeoisie".

However both perspectives fail to capture the Indian national movement in its entirety. Gandhi, Congress and the peasants, all helped achieve India's independence.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que. 5(c)

Discuss the role of pressure groups in Indian politics with reference to the effectiveness of farmer's organization. (10 Marks)

Pressure groups are voluntary associations of people who come together to achieve a certain objective. It is so called as it exerts pressure on the government to implement its policies.

Role of pressure groups in Indian politics has been significant. Alfred calls them as "invisible empires." Richard Dhambert calls them as "unofficial government." Because of their influence in policy making they have been called as "legislation behind legislature."

In this regard the farmers have organised themselves in the form of co-operatives, farmers produce organisations and farm unions like

Bharatiya Kisan Union

Their effectiveness can be gauged by the fact that they pressurised the government to repeal the three farm laws. Also the dairy pressure group, led India to withdraw from RCEP as it was anxious of influx of dairy products from Australia and New Zealand.

However, farmer unions lack a systemic character. They disperse as and when an issue is resolved. This is the reason farmers in India still continue to suffer. Farmer unions are aligned to political parties and become their junior members. However they help in farmer's interest articulation.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

The AFSPA debate reveals the biggest dilemma before India's human right movement. Comment. Examine the effectiveness of National Human Right Commission. (10 Marks)

"Rights are those conditions of life, without which no man can seek to be at his best."

- Harold J Laski [Grammar of Politics]

The Armed Forces Special Powers Act was brought in 1967 against Naga rebels. However it has become the biggest dilemma before India's human right movement.

This is because on one hand AFSPA is necessary to operate in nasal, opmentist and insurgency affected areas.

It gives powers of arrest, seizure, search and shoot to kill in certain circumstances.

But on the other hand, the armed forces have been accused of violation of human rights in the form of



rape and false encounters.

In this regard NHRC was formed in 1993. But it has been criticised by former chief of NHRC, HL Dattu as "toothless tigers." Soli Sorabjee calls NHRC as "India's teasing illusion" because it has no practical power of holding the government accountable.

On the other hand NHRC has started HRCNet portal for online complaints. It has issued notice to Rajasthan government for death of infants and Maharashtra government for death of migrants. NHRC has ushered new conscience with regard to human rights in India.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

The deeper crisis in Indian agriculture can be overcome through overhauling of land relations. Comment. (10 Marks)

In India, 86% of farmers own 2-4 acres of land and are qualified as small and marginal. This shows that the agenda of land reforms is still incomplete.

Due to less land, the farmers are not able to realise economies of scale and remain under poverty trap.

Less land also disincentivises investment in technology. This creates deeper crisis in Indian agriculture.

Daniel Thorner says land reforms in India are interesting case study due to its size and diversity. However Gunnar Myrdal coined the term "soft state" due to poor land reforms in India. Atul Kohli says

the government lacks the courage to confront the propertied class in India.

The Green revolution has reversed gains of land reforms as according to Vikram Rao, it has made farming non-profitable for small farmers.

Hence there is need for civil society and intellectual class to bring the agenda of "land reforms" in public sphere. Land pooling and land consolidation would further help in land reforms.

Taking the model of Kerala and West Bengal on the national level would reduce land disparity among farmers.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Reservation introduces a form of identity politics that makes caste visible, when the goal ought to be the eradication of caste. Comment. Discuss the politics of reservations in India (20 Marks)

Justice is the archetronic principle of society. In the words of John Rawls "justice is the first virtue of society." Since the dalits and OBC have been historically marginalised and oppressed, the Indian state made provisions for reservations in jobs and admissions to schools and colleges under article 15 and article 16 of the fundamental rights.

Initially reservation was seen as a form of "affirmative action" and a method of giving equality of opportunity to the historically marginalised, but in recent times, reservation has been seen as a method of asserting caste identity that has made caste visible.

This trend has increased particularly after the recommendations of Mandal Commission were implemented by V.P. Singh Government in 1990 that gave 27% reservation to OBCs.

This led to anti reservation movements by the upper castes of the society who felt injustice. After 1992 LPG reforms, the government jobs have been declining due to privatisation and disinvestment. Also since agricultural growth has remained stagnant, different caste groups now see reservation as the only way to secure jobs.

The recent Patidar agitation in Gujarat, the Maratha agitation in Maharashtra and the Jat agitation in

Haryana and West-UP point towards the congenital relationship between caste and reservation.

This happens because according to Andre Beteille, the government had abolished untouchability but not caste. In fact caste has been made a basis for state policies in India. Recently there has been demand for new caste census. According to Badrinarayan of UP Pant Institute, such activities further strengthen the role of caste in prismatic societies like India.

According to Rajni Kothari and Yogendra Yadav, caste based reservations have helped the marginalised to assert themselves. But critics of caste based reservations like C P Shambhəri say that it has created

vicious cycle of caste and politics in India
 According to Yogendra Yadav, the reservation policy in India has come to a dead end. Hence we are witnessing new forms of reservation like reservation based on economic class [EWS] and reservation based on locality, (ex) jobs reserved for locals in MP and Madhya Pradesh.

The goal of Ambedkar was to make India a casteless society but reservation has only strengthened caste. But Pranab Khattry praises India's reservation for reducing socio-economic inequality unlike the west.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

NITI Aayog has emerged as the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India fostering the spirit of cooperative federalism. Substantiate. (15 Marks)

National Institute for Transforming India

(NITI Aayog) was formed in 2014 as a replacement of the erstwhile Planning Commission. Few reasons that led to

this action of the government are :

- ① The Planning Commission had financial powers to give grants to state. This came in conflict with the powers of Finance Commission that is ~~not~~ constitutionally mandated to give grants.
- ② The power of financial grants and policy making made Planning Commission as a direct challengee to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- ③ After LPG reforms of 1991, there was

Structural shift in the economic policies of India. We jettisoned the 5 year plans in 2017 as it was seen as a relic of communist regions and hampered free market economy.

Due to this, the NITI Aayog as an institution was formed as government's premier policy think tank. In this role it comes out with various reports :

- ① Logistics Index
- ② Competitiveness Index
- ③ Reports on school education and health.
- ④ Tracks SDG Index and comes out with Multi Dimensional Poverty Index

As an instrument to foster ~~co-op~~ co-operative federalism, NITI Aayog's reports create healthy competition between the states. It also guides the planning commission of various states.

Through annual meetings in the format of 'Team India', the PM discusses matters of public importance with respective Chief Ministers. Through its 'Aspirational Districts programmes, Atal Tinkering Labs, etc NITI Aayog is helping states in field of poverty alleviation and innovation.

In words of Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, "NITI Aayog is like a funnel that takes input from states and forms them into policy."

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.8(c)

The study of electoral politics and political behaviour in India reflect the centrality of distributive politics, role of ethnicity, deinstitutionalisation of political parties and the subnational dynamics. Discuss (15 Marks)

"Electoral behaviour refers to analysis of voter choices of people and determine why and how they vote."

- Plano and Riggs.

The rise of electoral behavioural study in political science is attributed to two factors:

- ① Rise of Behavioural movement in political science that integrated data and facts with normative political philosophy.
- ② Rise of comparative politics as a discipline. Since there was difference between text and context in condition and ~~the~~ practice in developing societies,

Voters' choices and electoral behaviour became important.

According to Milan Vaishnav, determining political behaviour is difficult in India due to size and diversity. However studies and surveys by CSDS-Lokniti and Axis - My India suggest few trends in India's political behaviour.

The centrality of distributive politics is seen from the fact that politics of India has moved from identity politics to identity plus politics. The state's resources are distributed on the basis of caste and religion. This creates particular vote banks of various parties. Like dalits vote for BSP, yadavs vote for Samajwadi Party, etc.

Other factors like role of ethnicity determine voting. In North East,

local parties are supported by national parties to form government. In south people vote for TRS, TDP, DMK, etc.

Deinstitutionalisation of political parties have led to many people opting for None of the Above (NOTA) as an option on EVM.

Subnational dynamics like region, language also play a role and have been key to rise of political parties like TDP in Andhra, IAD in Punjab and TMC in West Bengal.

Hence electoral behaviour helps to understand the depth of democratic politics and effect of revolutionary ballot box.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	