



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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

Political Science & International Relations

Crash Course & Test Series - 2022

Test 2

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

Name ISHITA KISHORE
Test Date 17 JULY 22
Email Address _____
UPSC Roll No 5809986

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						

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Que.1 (a)

What are the key points of Marxist historiography regarding Nationalism? (10 Marks)

Marxist historiographers remarkably differ from Western & post-colonial ones in their description of Nationalism.

Marx believed that state is an instrument of capitalist class. Taking his ideas forward, Neo Marxists of instrumentalist school believe that nationalism is for the convenience and benefits of elites.

Benedict Anderson believes nationalism is a tool of the bourgeoisie class for continued subjugation of the workers.

In post colonial societies like India,



Marxist scholar MN Roy called the Indian National Movement as a bourgeois movement.

However, Anderson differs only slightly from the liberal scholar Gellner, who gave an evolutionary approach to Nationalism.

Marxist scholars of dependency school show how Nationalism is promoted to enhance powers of state (Hamza Alavi's overdeveloped state).

Thus Marxist historiography portrays nationalism as an instrument of bourgeoisie.



Que.1(b)

Independence of India was not, like the end of British Empire in other places. Comment. (10 Marks)

It is said that with the end of World War II, the sun was finally setting on the British empire.

Independence of India was not like other places as

- i- Gandhiji led one of the largest controlled mass movements by mobilising all sections of society
- ii- It was ideological, as Gandhiji's War of Manoeuvre was preceded by a war of position wherein he convinced people of the satanic nature of British rule. (Convergence w/ Gramsci)
- iii- The reactionary policies of British



Showcased its insecurity for losing its most prosperous colony. Eg: sending the Cabinet Mission after Quit India Movement.

-iv- Unity in all schools of thought was visible as socialists, capitalists, revolutionaries, Gandhians, all remained within the fold of INC. Opposing Gandhi was outward political suicide.

-v- Ideas like Satyagraha, Ahimsa, Swadeshi were not only unique but also effective.

Independence of India created positive ripple effects globally as Gandhi's ideas empowered humanity.

(Oceanic circles)



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Que.1(c)

Fundamental Rights may be said to Constitutionalize social values of existing societies. Comment. (10 Marks)

Fundamental rights in India are recognised under Part III of the Constitution and are guaranteed which make our democracy substantive.

They constitutionalize the social values of existing societies. There are multiple reasons. First, they extend to not just citizens but also friendly aliens.

This gives it an inclusionary character

Eg: A Jew ~~is~~ visiting India can practice her religion under Art 25.

Second, it accommodates India's vast social diversity by making provisions

Eg: Art 15 allows affirmative action.



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Further, cultural and minority rights are protected under Art 29, 30. This gives liberty & freedom to tribals, different regions etc.

Plurality and participation in public sphere (Habermas Ideal Speech situation) are facilitated by Art 19. The expanding interpretation of Art 21 ensures it captures modern social values as well.

eg: Privacy.

The reasonable restrictions, though sometimes arbitrary, constitutionalize public order, territorial integrity etc.

Thus, Fundamental Rights have wide scope and are inspired from US Bill of Rights.



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Que.1(d)

Right to Privacy is the most fundamental of all fundamental and human rights. Comment. (10 Marks)

Puttaswamy Judgement recognised Right to Privacy as a fundamental right under Art 21 of the Indian Constitution.

21st century is fast becoming synonymous with the 'Age of Data' f

'Data is the new oil'. This makes Privacy the most fundamental of all fundamental and human rights.

With emergence of technologies like AI, Big Data Analytics, it is propelling a 'creative destruction' envisaged by Schumpeter.



Use, abuse and misuse of data by governments (Pegasus snooping), corporates (Cambridge Analytica case), criminals (data leakage on dark web) can have serious & far reaching consequences on socio-political aspects.

This has the potential to destroy the social fabric. It is a pertinent crisis of modernity where evil can become banal. (H. Arendt).

Personal, community and national privacy must be the centre of policy making. India's push for data localisation and Personal Data Protection Bill (BN Srikrishna) are steps in right direction.



Que.1(e)

Describe the powers and functions of UPSC. (10 Marks)

UPSC is a bulwark institution in Indian democracy as it is the vanguard of our merit system.

The powers and functions of UPSC include recruitment for the All India Services and Central Services, wherein it recommends suitable candidates.

It also provides support to SPSC at the request of the Governor to provide institutional guidance.

Powers of UPSC include taking decisions on disciplinary matters regarding Grade A & B officers.



UPSC plays a crucial role in identifying suitable candidates who will form the 'Steel Frame of India' as envisaged by Sardar Patel.

However UPSC is curtailed by various institutions like CVC (in corruption matters), CB in investigation, DoPT in transfers and training. Overlap in jurisdiction can limit scope of organisation.

Yet, UPSC remains the watchdog of fair play in recruitment, which is essential in the current trend towards lateral entry.



Que.2(a)

What are the main differences between the colonial and the nationalist perspective on Indian National movement? (20 Marks)

According to R.C. Pradhan, ^{varied} perspectives on the Indian National Movement are like '6 blind men trying to understand an elephant'

The above line shows how diverse interpretations can be drawn from a single situation.

The colonial perspective of Spear, Namier & Seal believes that it was the British who triggered a hitherto non-existent national sentiment. It holds that India was a mere backward and tribal land ruled by despots with no unifying



culture, no sense of time & space and deep rooted inequality.

According to Stratchey, there was and will never be any 'India'. John Seeley believed that India is a 'grave error' that must be avoided at all costs. The leaders of Indian National Movement - Congress; was called a microscopic minority by Lord Dufferin.

Nationalist perspective on the other hand evolved over the decades. B. C. Chatterjee made the first attempt to find cultural roots but used western methods. SN Banerjee held that we are not a nation but a 'nation in making'.



This was strongly refuted by Aurobindo who advocated cultural nationalism & talked about Spirit of India. He believed in striking at the root of colonialism with Swadeshi, Boycott. But Moderates like Dadabhai Naoroji believed in appealing to the British sense of justice. (Drain of Wealth). MK Ranade believed the British rule was a blessing in disguise.

~~The~~ GK Gokhale held that it was through the failures of moderates that the struggle would emerge, it did with Entrepreneurs like Lal-Bal-Pal.

Tilak used cultural symbols and festivals to foster nationalism.



He subscribed to Hender's 'cultural nationalism', but this gave a communal turn to the movement.

The Nationalist perspective evolved and cemented with the unifying force of Gandhi, giving India its freedom. The survival of India is testimony to its eternal existence as a nation, not limited by the colonial definition.



Que.2(b)

"The Revolt of 1857 was the culmination of many big and small rebellions which occurred in the preceding 100 years of British rule."
Comment. (15 Marks)

VD Savarkar calls the Revolt of 1857 as 'India's first war of independence'

It was preceded by many rebellions across the country.

B.C. Chatterjee's 'Anand Math' captures the Sanyasi Revolt, its impeccable Hindu-Muslim unity & role of Devi Chaudhurani.

Tribal revolts due to the oppressive land policies of British led to rebellions of Santhals, Berisa Munda, Ho, and tribes of North east like Hayong. There was clear displeasure with



an alien rule.

In Odiha, Baxi Jagabandhu led a revolt against the 'king maker' disruptions by the British who recognised rebels as rulers.

A rebellion among the Sepoys due to cancellation of 'Batta', transfers across the sea (disregarding loss of caste), use of animal remains in guns, ^{was} sparked. The hanging of Mangal Pandey was mere days before the revolt causing hue & cry.

Coercive policy of Lord Dalhousie like 'Doctrine of Lapse' sparked rebellion by small kingdoms. Rani Lakshmi Bai



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was fighting not just for her own rights but for the countless other kingdoms usurped.

The meaningless annexation of Awadh on grounds of mismanagement was another pertinent cause.

Thus, the Revolt of 1857 was due to anger and frustration among various sections of society encompassing tribals, rulers, sepays and common persons. It was the culmination of many big & small rebellions.



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Que.2(c)

Many voices had strengthened and enriched the Nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. (15 Marks)

The Indian National Movement encompassed diverse ideas and ideologies united under the leadership of Gandhi.

The Irish inspired Home Rule League in India ~~was~~ flourished under the leadership of B.G. Tilak and Annie Besant. It filled the vacuum of politics in hinterland.

The revolutionaries in the Gandhian phase utilized the 'truce' phase with their lone attacks.

Eg : Chapekar brothers shot dead Plague Commissioner Rand

Socialism also emerged as a dominant trend. The 'Hindustan Socialist



Republican Association' of leaders like Bhagat Singh envisaged a Welfarist approach.

A National Planning Commission was established at Haripura Session of INC presided by S.C. Bose. Though later suspended, he formed the 'Indian National Army' which received all India support during INA trials.

Communism, inspired by the Russian Revolution was another idea that was voiced. M.N. Roy formed India's Communist Party. He even made the pioneering demand of a Constitution.

Modern and liberal ideas of fundamental rights, minority protection



were part of the Nehru Report,
enriching the movement.

The voice of various economic
sectors emerged, eg: AITUC, All India
(ULKai)
Kisan Sabha (Swami Sahjanand Saraswati)
which brought into fold labourers,
peasants, farmers.

The disadvantaged sections
too voiced their concerns. Dalits point
of view was put forth by Ambedkar &
his Republic Party, Ramaswamy Naicker,
GNDP Movement. This led to Gandhi
owning the Harijan cause.

Thus the various voices not
only led to inclusive politics but also



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enriched the movement ideologically.



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Que.3(a)

It would have been difficult for the constituent assembly to complete its task in just 3 years had there been no Government of India act 1935. Discuss.(20 Marks)



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Que.3(b)

“Pluralism is the keystone of Indian culture and religious tolerance is the bedrock of Indian secularism.” Critically examine the above statement with the help of relevant constitutional provisions and Supreme Court judgments. (15 Marks)



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Que.3(c)

Critically evaluate the role of government of India towards fulfilling the objectives enshrined in the Part IV Directive Principles of the State Policy. (15 Marks)



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Que.4(a)

Governor's office is sui-generis. The Governor in our system does not function as the constitutional head for the whole gamut of its responsibilities. Examine the statement in light of Sarkaria Commission Report. (20 Marks)

Sarkaria Commission calls Governor as the 'lynchpin' in India's federation, as the constitutional head of states.

In Hargobind Pant case, it was held that office of Governor is an office of dignity. There is no difference in the constitutional status of Governor and President.

However, the office of Governor has been subject to misuse. Nehru made a Gentleman's promise for the office yet it has not functioned well.

The discretionary powers of



Governor has been subject to arbitrary use. The lack of Constitutional morality as advocated by Ambedkar is the root cause of this.

In an era of regional parties, coalition politics and wide defections, role of Governor requires neutrality, as ~~yet~~ it can otherwise cause political instability. However it is not practiced
eg: Midnight emergency in Maharashtra CM who lost confidence in one day.

Further the constant tussle with elected offices undermines its dignity
eg: West Bengal Governor and CM feuds

This reduces the office from a lynchpin to an 'agent of the centre'.



It makes our polity 'quasi federal' (KC Wheare). Governor reserves crucial bills for President. It can lead to policy paralysis in state.

Further, the recommendation for President's rule is also duty of Governor under Art 365. It was widely misused in 1960s when Congress lost majority in states.

However, after the SR Bommai case, the scope of misuse is reduced. Judicial Review curtails arbitrary transfers.

While Gautam Bhatia suggests abolishing the office, the need of the hour is to reform it. Manmohan Singh



prescribes 4 Mantras : listen to your voice, give importance to national interest, abide by constitutional values and listen to the people's demand.

Punchhi Commission's recommendation

to create a list of eminent persons in consultation with Inter State Council can help in reforming the office.



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Que.4(b)

"Power of Parliament to amend the constitution is wide but not unlimited." Explain the statement with reference to the doctrine of Basic Structure. (15 Marks)

Kesavanand Bharti Case 1973 is a landmark judgement which gave the 'Doctrine of Basic structure'

It holds that Parliament under Art 368 can amend all features of the constitution without distorting the basic structure. Thus giving wide but not unlimited power to Parliament

It resolves the decades long constitutional crisis. While Shankari Prasad case held that there is ^{is both} ~~no~~ difference in constitutional and legislative powers with the Parliament, Golaknath case



held that Constitution gives procedure but not 'power' to amend. This led to the 24th Constitutional Amendment which edited Art 368 as 'Power to Amend and Procedure thereof'. However, as stated above, Kesavanand Bharti case limited this power.

PB Mehta calls judiciary as a self perpetuating organisations that enhances its power at every opportunity leading to 'judicial sovereignty'. It is the judiciary that decides what is the basic structure.

Bhikhu Parekh holds that it has created a unique model of judicial co-governance



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Eg: Judiciary struck down 99th Constitutional Amendment of NJAC.

However, Zia Mody believes that such judicial activism is necessary for any modern democracy. It keeps in check the Bonapartist executive, as witnessed in the Emergency era, when not only free press was gagged but even judges were superseded by appointment of Justice AN Ray.

Thus, the ideals of the Constitution Makers are preserved and reinterpreted in light of social evolution by the judiciary under its 'basic structure' doctrine. While this activism is progressive, we



must make provisions to avoid overreach or adventurism. Eg - banning alcohol on highways.

The primary role of law making is the mandate of legislature as even Aristotle held that

‘Common men working together can arrive at better decisions than philosophers in isolation’.



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Que.4(c)

Free and Fair Elections is a basic structure of Indian constitution and heart and soul of Democracy. However, widespread criminalization weakens the very heart. In light of above evaluate the efforts of Election Commission towards ensuring free and fair elections. (15 Marks)

The 17th Lok Sabha comprises of 29% MPs with serious heinous criminal cases pending against them. (PRS data)

This shows the deepening of criminalization of Indian Politics. This weakens free and fair elections as the money-muscle power nexus strengthens.

The average asset size of present Lok Sabha is ₹21 crores, undermining democracy.

To curtail this trend, Election Commission has undertaken many initiatives



TN Seshan, former CEC brought revolutionary changes like EPIC i.e. election photo ID card. This has prevented boogus voting and swaying of electors with money or muscle.

ECI conducts 'SVEEP' to enhance voter participation via education, ICT tools, student ambassadors. This led to record 67% turnout in 2019 elections. Higher turnout reduces the risk of criminals who take advantage of First Past the Post System.

ECI's strict action in enforcing Model Code of Conduct has helped overcome sensitive situations like Shahen Bagh protests where it disqualified the Star



Campaigner of ruling party.

However, many complex challenges are yet to be addressed by EC. Eg- Fake News creates an 'infodemi' as per ~~Sas~~ Sonya Swaminathan. Further Paid News is a menace that propels Criminalisation.

While PUCI v. COI initiated affidavits of its publication with existing criminal charges, EC must make it mandatory on social media as well.

With its own secretariat and a dedicated staff, the functioning of EC can be more effective in curbing the trend of criminalization. This will



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ensure our democracy becomes
substantive (C. Jaffrelot).



Que.5(a)

National Human Rights Commission is handicapped by its jurisdictional limitations. Discuss (10 Marks)

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has a mandate of providing a life of dignity to all individuals. (Categorical imperative as per I. Kant).

NHRC is however often labelled as 'toothless'. It is a non constitutional body. While it has suo motu powers, it can look at cases only within one year of their occurrence.

Further, unlike NCST, NCSC, NHRC does not have powers of a civil court. It cannot enforce attendance or evidence.

NHRC also lacks the power to



Impose penalties of punishments.

NHRC jurisdiction is limited in cases related to AFSPA. The time for response by Centre in these cases are 3 months.

Despite these limitations, NHRC places a report to Central Government. In popular sovereignty, no government can avoid such a report.

Further NHRC has been successful in lobbying for legislations against bonded labour, manual scavenging, dowry deaths.

To fully achieve goals of UDHR, there is a need to empower NHRC



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Que.5(b)

"Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens should not be viewed in isolation from each other." (10 Marks)

~~In the famous Minesweeper Mills Case,
Supreme Court held that Fundamental~~

According to Laski,

'Rights are claims not empty of duties'

This inspired Mahatma Gandhi as it was in line with the Indian ethos of 'Dharma'.

Fundamental Rights under Part III of the Indian Constitution are guaranteed. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1970 introduced Fundamental Duties of citizens (Part IVA)

It is based on the maxim that 'For every right, there is a correlated duty.' Rights and Duties thus cannot be seen



in isolation from each other as they are inter-related and interdependent.

Eg: A right against discrimination includes the duty to respect all citizens

A case in point is the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act 2002 which inculcated Art 21A as a Right to Education as well as a corresponding duty of parents.

Even as per Kautilya, the right of citizens to material well being was the duty or Rajdharma of the monarch.

Western emphasis on rights without duties have led to unsustainable consumption of resources. (Earth Overshoot Day Report). Thus rights & duties can't be isolated from one another.



Que.5(c)

Evolution of ethnicity as a feature of Indian politics. (10 Marks)

James Manor in 'Ethnicity and Politics in India' describes ethnicity as religion, race, caste or language diversity.

TN Madaan believes that religion cannot be separated from politics in Indian subcontinent, while MN Srinivas believes caste is part of our subconsciousness.

It is the mosaic of Indian Politics
(C. Jaffrelot)

This shows that ethnicity has always been a key defining feature of Indian Politics. Our identities as 'Punjabi' or 'Bengali' are centuries old, whereas as 'Indian', only 70 yrs old (Sanjib Baruah)



This happens when modern features are included in a traditional prismatic society. (FW Riggs). It leads to

'Traditionalisation of Modernity & Modernisation of Traditions'

- Rudolph & Rudolph

However in recent times we are moving from ascriptive to developmental politics. Election Manifestos include promises like free electricity (Punjab), LPG for women (Lok Sabha 2019).

Yet ethnicity remains a crucial force for polarization and vote bank politics.



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Que.5(d)

Business Groups are the most important pressure group in India. (10 Marks)

Business Groups like FICCI, CII are paving way for Track II diplomacy as they are part of foreign delegations.

Pressure Groups are often called 'Invisible empires'. But the role of business groups has been prominent since one of independence. Eg: Bombay Plan endorsed by Tata, Birla, Purshottam Das.

In the neoliberal era, businesses have become imperative in fulfilling developmental agenda. (Jagdish Bhagwati's trickle down effect). This gives them immense importance in policymaking.



Industrialists like Nandan Nilekani played important role in 'digitisation'.

Jio brought an internet revolution with its rates.

Thus, their role as pressure groups has enabled streamlining of GST,

Indian leadership in digital payments,

PLIs for sunrise industries.

Lobbying by business groups impacts politics at both domestic and international level (WTO challenged MEIS scheme, industry ensured replacement with RDTTEP).

Thus the rising role of business in policy making is testimony to Marx who held 'Economic structure is basic structure'



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Que.5(e)

Inter-state Water Dispute Act creates more disputes than resolving them. (10 Marks)

Inter State Water Dispute Act ^(ISWD) 1956 aims to resolve water disputes by Centre. It categorically excludes jurisdiction of Supreme Court in adjudication of this.

The original Act envisaged creation of a Tribunal. However as seen in Cauvery Water Dispute, it took 20 years to first form a tribunal and another 17 years for the award.

Despite that, Supreme Court was involved due to lack of implementation. Decades of disputes later, problem remains unresolved.

Former Justice Fali S. Nariman believes



we must go back to the pre 1956 era to minimize confusion.

The recent 2019 Amendment is a step in the right direction as it creates a single Dispute Resolution Committee whose award can be appealed in a Tribunal.

This gives the much needed impetus to river dispute resolution.

However it leaves unaddressed concerns like height of water in Dam (Eg: Mekadatu) or jurisdictional overlap (Eg: Mullaperiyar).

I. Seldagin held that the next world war will be for water. To prevent it Niti Aayog's cooperative federalism must be practiced in letter and spirit



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Que.6(a)

Do the local bodies in India enjoy autonomy in performing their goal towards the constitutional objective of ensuring economic development and social justice? Explain in light of the relevant constitutional provisions and the working of Panchayati Raj since the passage of 73rd Amendment act. (20 Marks)



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Que.6(b)

Do you think history of Reservation in India show that it has been an instrument of governance, a mechanism for social and political representation and a way to achieve social justice? Comment (15 Marks)



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Que.6(c)

"The notion of welfarism in India has changed quite significantly in the last three decades"- Hillal Ahmed. Substantiate (15 Marks)



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Que.7(a)

What are the fundamental issues of concern in the current method of appointment of judges of Supreme Court and High Court? Give suggestions to improve the system of appointment of Judges in Higher Judiciary. (20 Marks)



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Que.7(b)

The debate over federalism has come up time and again despite the Constitution explicitly demarcating the powers between the Centre and states in terms of legislative, administrative and financial functions. Comment (15 Marks)



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Que.7(c)

CAG serves as the watchdog of the finances of the Government.
Explain. (15 Marks)



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Que.8(a)

"Caste has been a decisive factor in Indian politics." Explain the relevance of the statement in context of recent assembly elections. (20 Marks)

'Caste is the mosaic of Indian Politics'

— Christophe Jaffrelot

It plays a decisive factor in Indian politics, as Indians don't cast their vote but vote their caste.

The recent Assembly elections bear testimony to this. Punjab elections were postponed in light of the Ravidassia Jayanti showing how ECI had to revise dates based on a crucial caste festival.

While a shift is noticed from ascriptive to developmental politics with promises like free electricity,



MN Shrinivas believes that caste forms part of our subconsciousness. As long as secular benefits will depend on caste identities, the trend of politicisation of caste cannot be halted (Rajni Kothari).

However, C. Jaffrelot in 'India's silent revolution' shows how the rising middle class is fast breaking the caste-class overlap.

This middle class has been a crucial voter base in the recent Assembly elections. The dominant castes continue their fight for reservation
eg: Jat Reservation despite affluence.

With 42% population, and now cumulative wealth, OBCs have become the primes of Indian politics, according to Satish Deshpande. They are strategically unavoidable in any political or electoral calculus.

The 'desanskritisation' trend to hold on to benefits ensures that caste remains a decisive factor. While all parties are moving towards uniform economic manifestos (Daniel Bell), caste becomes crucial for elites to maintain their position.

This end of ideological differences

leads to 'Catch All Parties' and alliances across historically divergent groups eg: MAJGAR, Jat-Yadav-Muslim alliance in UP. What Gandhi could not accomplish, democracy did.

As per Yogendra Yadav, caste has ensured that democracy is no longer top soil. Yet CP Bhamber warns caste can lead to communalisation. Thus such trends must be contained.



Que.8(b)

Do you think that India appears to have ushered in a new dominant party system premised on the unique set of political principles showing a clear break from the previous systems? Elaborate (15 Marks)

Scholars across the horizon agree that era of 'Fourth Party System' has arrived in India.

Indian politics began on the eve of independence with a 'one party dominant system' (I. Jennings) which evolved into factions and culminated with the 'coalition politics'. With 2014 election results followed by 2019, we have again entered an era of single party majoritarian government.

This shows a clear break from previous systems. First, while congress

was a 'rainbow Coalition' of ideologies (Rajni Kothari), the current system is uni-ideological. Prof. Badri Narayan calls it 'Hindutva'

Second, there is a break from the policy paralysis witnessed in the Coalition era. Eg: GST pending since 2011, was passed in 2016.

Third, there is a decline in the culture of Parliamentary Committees

As per PRS, number of bills referred have declined from ²⁰70% to 27% in 16th

LoK Sabha. This undermines a deliberative

democracy (JS Mill). The legitimacy of

laws are under threat. Eg: Roll back of three farm laws.



Fourth, a departure is witnessed from the socialistic welfare approach towards neo liberal ideals. Eg:

'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'

State's role is that of a facilitator and not 'Commanding heights'.

However, some similarities in political principles remain. The culture of defection, famously termed 'Aye Ram Gaye Ram' in 1980s is still a concern.

The centrality in policies reflects the centralised planning approach. Eg-
Implementation of GST curtails federal taxation powers.



The Bonapartist nature of executive was prevalent in Emergency era. Its reminiscence is felt in decisions like Demonetisation. (S. Tharoor)

Thus the current political system shows both continuity and change from the previous principles.



Que.8(c)

Evaluate the nature, dynamics, composition, methods of functioning and the agenda of Women Movement in contemporary India. (15 Marks)

'Women are the largest reservoir of unutilized potential

- Hillary Clinton

Women Movements in India until 1970s were in their grey years as they believed that right to vote and equal status will suffice in journey of empowerment. They envisaged a 'paternalistic state' would take care of their well being.

With UN decade for women in 1970s, Indian Government's 'Towards Equality' report showcased glaring statistics, in dowry deaths, sex-ratio, education, health, labour force participation.



This combined with the backlash against Mathura rape case, raised Catherine McKinnon's view in India 'When I look at the state, it appears male to me'

While historically, enlightened men like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, IC Vidyasagar were crusaders of women rights, it was now time for women to rise up to the cause.

A number of organisations sprang like 'Forum Against Rape'. With LPG 1991 reforms, NGOs took roots. Women emancipation became a key agenda, which pushed the government to establish National Commission for women.



These movements led to active lobbying for laws like Prevention of Sexual Harassment at work place, schemes like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' etc.

However they remained fragmented and issue based. They have been reactive rather than proactive.

eg: Protests after Nirbhaya Rape case or NCW's interference in Boys Locker Room controversy.

They have failed to present a comprehensive charter of demands.

Bipartisan political support exists for women reservation (Sonia Gandhi, Shushma Swaraj) yet it is not cohesively voiced by any organisation.



Environmentalists like Gaura Devi (Chipko), Medha Patkar (Narmada Bachao) need to join hands with those lobbying for better health (57% women have anaemia as per NFHS V), education to ensure holistic inclusion of women (they are only 22% women participating in labour force).

Women movements must arise, awake, & UNITE & not stop until the goals are achieved.



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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

Space for Rough Work



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