

Educrat IAS Academy
Contact Details: 9163228921/8910154148

GENERAL STUDIES

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|-----------------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Name of the Candidate | Sahars Kumar | | |
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| Mobile No. | [REDACTED] | Date | 10/2/22 |

| INDEX TABLE | | | INSTRUCTIONS | |
|---|------------|----------------|--|---|
| Q.No. | Max. Marks | Marks Obtained | | |
| 1 | | | 1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No. and Mobile in the answer sheet. | |
| 2 | | | 2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory. | |
| 3 | | | 3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. | |
| 4 | | | 4. 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. | |
| 5 | | | 5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be struck off. | |
| 6 | | | | |
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| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | <i>Any specific messages for Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write here.</i> | |
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| 19 | | | Start Time: 9:30 AM | End Time: 12:30 PM |
| 20 | | | Mode of Examination: | Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Total Marks: | | | ECN CODE: | Evaluation Date: |
| Remarks: | | | | |
| <p align="center">Educrat IAS Academy Pvt. Ltd. <i>checked</i> Director</p> | | | | |

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Centre 12

Q.1) What is the underlying political philosophy of creating the upper house of the parliament or the Rajya Sabha? Explain. (10 100)

The Rajya Sabha or the Upper House of the Parliament is an important part of India's bicameral system of parliamentary democracy.

In the Constituent assembly, after the debate between ~~the~~ unicameralism or bicameralism, the latter was chosen because —

Importance of Rajya Sabha →

- 1) Checks and balances — This has found expression throughout the Constitution. The Rajya Sabha's power to vote on bills keeps the Lok Sabha in check.
- 2) Representative of Rajya Sabha, with its asymmetrical structure is demos-enabling, according to Alfred Stepan.
- 3) Holistic — It allows the discussion of concerns which might have been left out by Lok Sabha.

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4) Nominated members - The presence of 12 nominated members from different fields allows for more rounded debates

5) Certain special powers - Apart from being a deliberative body, the Rajya Sabha has special powers regarding creation of new All-India Services

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India's Rajya Sabha has stood the test of time as one of the important pillars of Indian democracy and we should be thankful for the role our Constitution makers played in this regard.

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Q.2) Do you think judicial overreach can be antithetical to the idea of democracy? Critically analyse. (10 100)

Judicial overreach can be described as the judiciary executing functions which are outside its domain of adjudication and entering the space of the executive ^{or} the legislature.

Judicial overreach in service of democracy →

- 1) Judicial activism - It is justified in instances where the executive or legislature have not performed their required duty. Eg → Visakhapatnam guidelines
- 2) Urgent action - It is acceptable in case urgent resolution is required.
- 3) Narrow separation of powers - India follows a system of narrow separation of powers between judiciary, legislature and executive.
- 4) Increase people's faith - It increases faith in judiciary as protector of the constitution.
- 5) Checks arbitrary state action - Judicial activism acts as a check on the other two organs.

In support of judicial activism, Justice Reed claimed that 'interpretation is in itself a creative function'

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[Judicial overreach antithetical to democracy] →

1) Judicial highheadedness - The judiciary may overstep the boundaries defined by the Constitution

2) Slippery slope - It may open the path to further instances of judicial overreach.

3) Non-elected - Judiciary is not the people's representative.

4) Pendency - Judiciary already has huge pendency to interfere in administrative function

According to Justice Katju - 'Judiciary should tell if there is one, don't make if there is none'

Considering India's narrow separation of powers and system of checks and balances,

the judicial overreach is welcome at times.

However, the judiciary should use this power sparingly and realise that they should not violate the Constitution themselves.

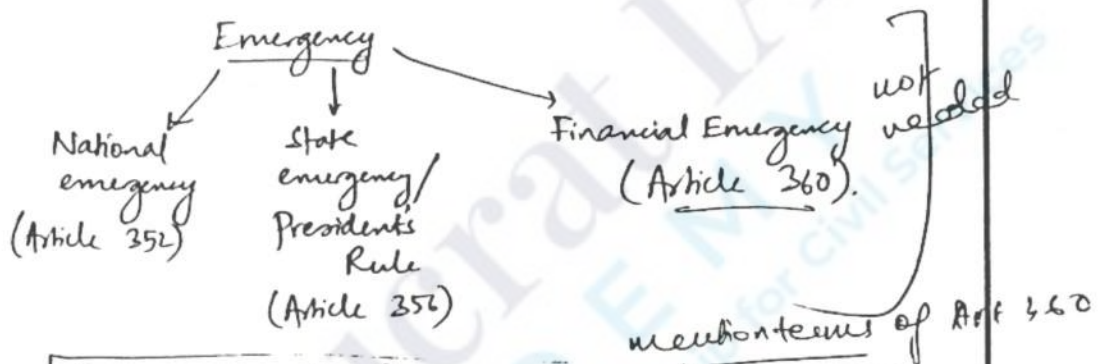
ideology of
judges diff
- personal
- against govt

2.5

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Q.3) Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? (10, 100)

Emergency is a unique situation which is proclaimed due to certain external or internal factors and results in extraordinary centralization of powers. } Describe financial emergency



Circumstances for financial emergency →

- 1) Financial burden - when suddenly, financial burden on the country increases
- 2) Recession - when the country is going through recession and the finances are in bad shape
- 3) Depleting reserves - when the country is on the verge of a balance of payments crisis
- 4) Others - similar reasons like stagflation, persistently high inflation, supply shocks, etc are instances when the President can declare a Financial Emergency under Article 360

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Consequences →

1) Extraordinary powers - The Central govt gets huge powers to maintain financial propriety

2) Reduction of salaries - Salaries of public servants, legislators, ministers, judges, etc may be reduced till emergency is enforced.

3) Reduced public expenditure - The govt is empowered to reduce any payment for schemes, pensions, etc

4) Trade - The govt can declare bans on import-export of items or even currency exchanges

In its 75 years of independence, India never had to go through financial emergency. However, by the provisions in our Constitution, we are well-prepared

↑ in executive authority

- Reserving money bills of state

- can be indefinitely suspended
- All President's orders can be revoked

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Q.4) Discuss the role of the Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people. (10, 150)

The Public Accounts Committee is the oldest Parliamentary Committee in India. Set up in 1921, as per the Govt of India Act, 1919, it recently celebrated 100 years. As such, the role of the Committee in these years have been instrumental for democratic functioning.

Importance of Public Accounts Committee →

1) Financial propriety - The Committee goes through the reports of the CAG and tables a report on the basis.

Chairman
from
Opposition

2) Accountability
Chairman
from
Opposition
no
bias

2) Representative - It has ¹⁵ members from Lok Sabha and 7 members from Rajya Sabha

3) Continuity - As a Standing Committee, it remains functional perennially.

4) Accountability - With the assistance of CAG, it assigns accountability to the policies and expenses of the govt.

5) Checks and Balances - It ascertains whether money is spent by the govt within the scope of the demand. proprietary audit

[Challenges of Public Accounts Committee] →

- 1) Limited tenure - Only 1 year tenure leads to some discontinuity in proceedings
- 2) Lack of technical expertise - It hinders the examination of CA's reports.
- 3) No teeth - The Committee is only tasked with auditing CA's reports and is not able to punish for financial impropriety
- 4) Politicisation - The Committee often has to table controversial reports, which get delayed or neglected

In spite of these challenges, the Public Accounts Committee is one of the most important Parliamentary Committee. The powers of the Committee could be renewed to ensure greater govt. accountability.

improve

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Q.5) Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution?
(10, 150)

The Government of India Act, 1935 is one of the biggest constitutional reforms done by the British govt and was the framework upon which most of the present constitution is built. ✓

[Features of GOI Act, 1935] →

1) Federalism - It divided powers among the centre and states/provinces. ✓

2) Lists - Under each govt, subjects were divided

- Federal List (centre)
- Provincial List (provinces)
- Concurrent List (both)
- Residuary List (viceroy)

3) Provincial autonomy - Dyarchy was abolished at the provinces. Responsible govt was established

4) Dyarchy at the centre - Subjects under Federal list were divided into

- Reserved
- Transferred

The legislature could make laws only on subjects in the transferred list.

5) Bicameralism - At the central level and ¹⁹¹⁹ also in some provinces. ✓

6) Federal court - For resolution of disputes between ~~the~~ provinces or between centre and provinces.

- JPSE
- state budgets

The 1935 Act shares many features with the federal constitution of India. However, most powers were still vested in the centre, that too most ^{important} were reserved for the viceroy. As such, the federalism was a nominal one. The viceroy could suspend a provincial govt and take over the administration. Only after our Constitution was enacted, that the provinces got greater powers and the country became more federal.

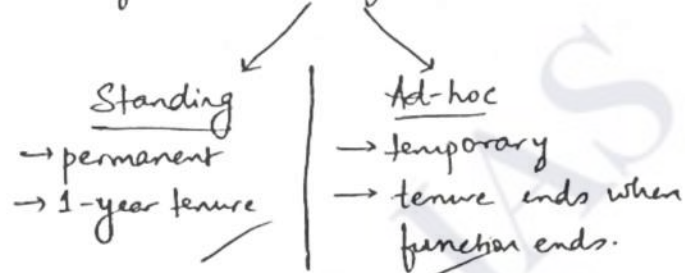
points

7.5

Q.6) With the help of suitable examples, explain the significance of parliamentary committees for the effective functioning of the legislature. (10, 150)

Parliamentary committees ^{extra mentioned in rules} play a vital role in the democratic function of the Parliament.

It can be either of the two types



Significance of Parliamentary Committees →

- 1) Inter-ministerial coordination - They work in collaboration with different ministries to provide holistic overview on bills or demand for grants.
- 2) Detailed scrutiny - They provide exhaustive reports on governance. They can include expert advice and get public opinion as well.
Eg- Public Accounts Committee.
- 3) Acts as Mini-Parliament - These committees are composed of legislators themselves and can collaborate here more efficiently without political agendas.
- 4) Informal - These committees work in a

relatively informal setting and are equipped to provide necessary training to newer and younger members.

Considering the importance of Parliamentary Committees, there is a need to extend their tenure and set up more such committees for other matters. The reports of the committees should be tabled in time and be thoroughly debated. There is a need to strengthen these committees for the sake of democracy.

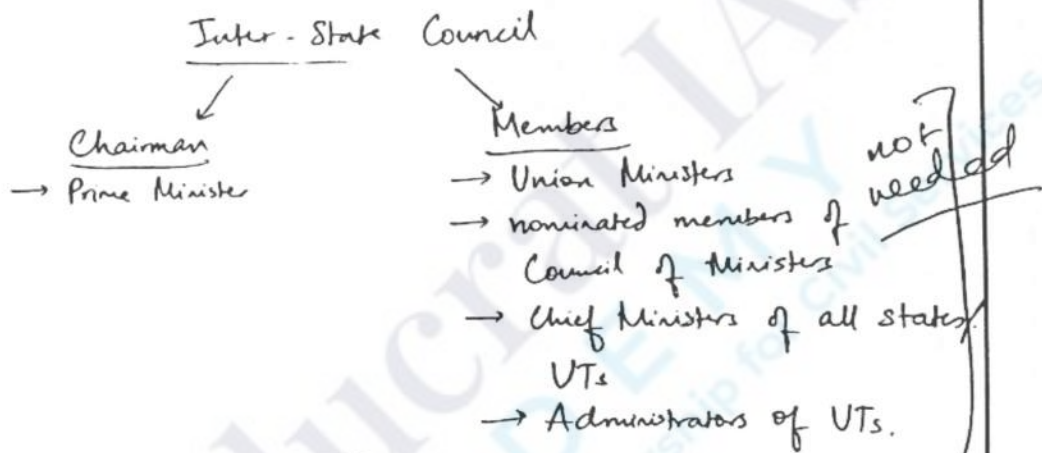
- scrutinize budget
- deal with ethical issues,
- print edges
- day to day procedures of House
- joint committees

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Q.7) What role can the Inter State Council play in the era of cooperative federalism? Illustrate with the help of suitable examples. (10, 150)

Article 263 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of Inter-State Council. It is one of the instruments of cooperative federalism, mentioned in the Constitution.



Role of Inter-State Council →

1) Resolving disputes between states - disputes are resolved under mediation by the centre.

2) Discussion on areas of common interest -

acts as safety valve

Inter-state councils can be instrumental in discussion on Belgaum dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka or collaborating on Covid-migrants.

3) Making policy recommendations - States can make use for newer / current issues - GST Draxlet

recommendations like policy on MSP.

The Inter-State Council has been largely non-functional. The mandate of 3 meetings/year are rarely followed.

Composition of the Inter-State Council could provide a common forum for grievance redressal and might reduce the pendency of cases in the courts.

India is often accused to be a quasi-federal state - unitary in spirit and federal in form. The govt needs to ensure real cooperative federalism with the help of the Inter-State Council.

6.5

give
more
examples

Q.8) What role can the Inter State Council play in the era of cooperative federalism? Illustrate with the help of suitable examples. (10, 150)

Repeat Question



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Q.9) In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement. (10, 150)

Non-state actors are people or groups which are not associated with the government, but play a vital role in governance. They may include civil society or even anti-state elements

Role of non-state actors in Indian governance →

- 1) Watchdog - Civil society acts as a guard against violation of human rights. Eg - Amnesty International India
- 2) Advocate - They act as the voice of the weaker sections. Eg - PILs are often filed by non-state actors
- 3) Agitation - The Chipko movement is an example of agitation propelled by civil society
- 4) Awareness - Civil society educates citizens of their rights, entitlements
- 5) Service provider - Civil society helps in providing grassroots assistance. Eg - Mobilizing people for Covid vaccination

Some great achievements of non-state actors include RTI Act, Lokpal Bill, etc

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Suggestions ->

issues
write more

1) Political opposition - Civil society often bows down to political pressure.

2) Arbitrary executive action - Using the FCRA or UAPA acts to silence civil societies should be checked.

Solutions

3) Sensitization of police - This must be done to ensure right to peaceful protest remains protected

4) Collaboration with local govt - To improve service delivery

After pillar of democracy

Non-state actors have played a vital role in various pieces of legislation and executive action, ~~how~~ and their impact cannot be considered marginal. However, there is huge potential for greater empowerment of civil society for greater benefits to the public.

Issues

- voice of marginalised not heard
- neutralised politicians & non state actors
- counter groups form -> no effective decision

6

of Rt to abortion vs Pro life.

Q.10) Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India. Comment (10, 150)

The bureaucracy is the permanent executive and is one the important pillars of Indian democracy. Sardar Patel considered the bureaucracy as the steel frame of the govt of India. However, traditional bureaucratic culture has been an obstacle to the organization

Issues with traditional bureaucratic culture | →

- 1) Corruption - The empowerment of the bureaucracy led to the development of license raj and inspector raj, which was detrimental to development
- 2) Red tapism - It has led to organizational inefficiency and avoidable delays. The culture of 'speed money' is an example.
- 3) Lack of forward thinking - Bureaucracy is resistant to change. There is no push for skill development or improving efficiency
- 4) Public mistrust - Traditional bureaucracy, while being disloyal to their office, is earning public mistrust as well.

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5) No stress on meritocracy - Partisanship is abound and bureaucratic hierarchy is decided on concerns of caste, religion, etc. - Rigid Hierarchy
↓ grievance redressal

Suggestions →

1) Citizens charter - List of duties of public offices along with time-bound resolutions

2) Periodic rotation - To introduce a sense of change and break circles of corruption

- Bottom up approach
- Goal oriented actions.

3) Sensitization - Bureaucrats should be made aware of the beauty in India's diversity

4) Grievance redressal - Portals like CPGRAMS to lodge complaints against bureaucrats.

The traditional bureaucratic structure is in dire need of a shakeup. Mission Kamayogi is a move in the right direction to ensure the bureaucracy remains at the vanguard of social revolution in India

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Q.11) Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing development projects? (15, 250)

Panchayati Raj was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi, when he wrote of village republics or Gramrajya. Panchayati Raj was constitutionalized by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. Since, then this institution has had a few hits and misses too.

Role of Panchayat system →

- 1) Local self-government - They represent the ultimate level of decentralization of powers
- 2) Democracy - They strengthen democracy at the grass roots level. ✓
- 3) Community participation - The Gram Sabha gives a voice to the vote. ✓
- 4) Rural development - The Panchayat system allows people to partake in localized planning and implementation.
- 5) Women empowerment - With women reservation, there have been many successful instances of women empowerment
- 6) Integrating SCs and STs - By reservation, tribals have been involved in governance as well.

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Sources of finance for Panchayati Raj (PRIs) →

- 1) Local taxes - The 11th schedule allows the Panchayats to levy and collect certain taxes
- 2) Devolution from state - Funds are devolved as per the recommendations of the state finance commission
- 3) Civil society - NGOs, CSR funds of corporates, public collection can be sources of finance too.
- 4) Loans - Cheap loans can be availed from NABARD, rural cooperative banks, etc

According to Mani Shankar Aiyar Report, Panchayati Raj has led to decentralization of corruption and rise of sarpanch raj. However, there have been examples of empowered PRIs too. Proper checks must be implemented to check financial propriety of funds and ensure good governance

Q.12) Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative. What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable? (15, 250)

Demographic dividend refers to a condition where the working-age population (16 - 64 years) are at a high. This signifies a peak in working-age population, denoted by a bulge in the middle of the age pyramid.

However, this dividend can only be capitalized if the labor force participation rate remains high and required skill level is found.



Measures to enhance the capacity of population →

- 1) PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana - Flagship scheme of Ministry of Skill Development to train youth in relevant schemes
- 2) Recognition of Prior Learning - Skill certificates are provided to experts to increase their marketability
- 2) Atal Innovation Mission - Different programmes are organized to generate entrepreneurship among students, incubate startups and provide mentorship
- 4) National Education Policy, 2020 - Focus on

Vocational training.

5) NETAP Scheme - National Employability through Apprenticeship Scheme to provide intern-roles for on-the-job learning.

6) Eklavya Model Schools - for education of tribal students

7) Schemes like SERB-POWER to improve interest of women in education and research.

- add women scheme
- Health aspect
- Inter sectoral collaboration

SHGs are another example the govt is promoting for increasing female LFPR.

Read JAI Topon Report - India's ageing population

India must reap its demographic dividend efficiently and in time, else it might lead to mass unemployment and become a demographic disaster. Proper implementation of these skilling schemes should be taken down on Mission Mode for speedy returns.

Q-5

Q.13) The Indian constitution is more or less copy-pasted from various constitutions, statutes, and laws made during British rule than of any of our own work. Comment. (15, 250)

The Indian Constitution has been one of the latest constitutions of the democratic world and is the lengthiest written constitution.

A closer study of the Constitution reveals ^{that} ~~here~~ many of its ideas ~~were~~ ~~are~~ also found in the constitutions of different countries.

Reasons why Indian Constitution is called borrowed →

- 1) Govt of India Act, 1935 - Federalism, Judiciary, Public Service Commission, Emergency provisions, etc.
- 2) Britain - Parliamentary democracy, Rule of law, etc.
- 3) Ireland - Directive Principles of State Policy, Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha, etc.
- 4) USA - Judicial review, Office of vice-President, Impeachment of President, removal of judges, ~~etc.~~ Preamble, etc.
- 5) Canada - Strong centre, residuary powers with centre, etc.
- 6) Australia - Joint sitting, concurrent list.
- 7) Russia - Fundamental duties.

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- 8) Japan - Procedure established by law
- 9) France - Liberty, equality, fraternity
- 10) South Africa - Basic Constitutional amendment
- 11) Germany - Suspension of powers during emergency.

From the above, it seems that our Constitution is indeed a bag of borrowings.

Justification by the Constituent Assembly →

- 1) Latest constitution - Most other democratic constitutions had experimented with different elements. There was not much scope for innovation.
- 2) Best of all - We have taken the best parts from different sources and created a unique Constitution for ourselves.
- 3) Mostly taken from GOI Act 1935 - There is no issue with taking elements from a British law passed in Indian interest.

In today's world, it does not matter if the Constitution is copied or indigenous. What matters is how it has served the country. 75 years after independence, we can agree ~~that~~ that it has helped in India's transition to a modern society.

10

not blind imitation
- inspiration
from others,
concept is
diff.
- add
example

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Q.14) The Speaker has to remain neutral and act independently of political morality and pressure. How can we guarantee the Speaker's impartiality? (15, 250)

The Speaker's office is one of the most important constitutional offices. As the Head of the Lok Sabha, it is vital to ensure that the Speaker maintains the sacredness of his office and works within constitutional boundaries.

Role of the speaker →

- 1) Smooth proceeding of the Lok Sabha - ensure smooth debates and discussions
- 2) Maintain discipline - The Speaker is empowered to take punitive action if any unparliamentary actions are done
- 3) Approves resolutions - Resolutions are discussed with the Speaker's approval
- 4) Approves questions - The Speaker approves the questions for Question Hour
- 5) Adjournment of House - Speaker can declare the House adjourned or adjourned sine die
- 6) Declare money Bill - Bills are declared Money Bills on the speaker's decision
- 7) Passage of Bill - Speaker conducts voice votes for the passage of bills

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8) Anti-defection law - Speaker has final say of declaring a member disqualified.

9) Appointment of Committees - The speaker appoints the different Parliamentary Committees.

Ways to guarantee speaker neutrality →

1) Non-party member - Like the British Parliament, Speaker should not be a party member.

2) Committee of Parliamentary Affairs should be empowered to report on the Speaker.

3) Narrow definition of Money Bill - to reduce scope for misnaming Bills.

4) Action on anti-defection law should be time-bound.

5) Voice votes for passage of bills should be stopped altogether.

The Lok Sabha requires a strong speaker to function. However, recent instances of unparliamentary action due to allegations of bipartisan behavior of the Speaker makes it urgently important to ensure neutrality of the Chair. The Lok Sabha can take a note from the Rajya Sabha's book here.

mention that speaker is from ruling party
- bias
- certain opposition (or in question how)
- suspensions
- lack of opposition
- discipline

Q-5

Q.15) With USA making abortion illegal in a landmark judgement, can India be seen as being ahead of the west in terms of reproductive rights. Discuss (15, 250)

The US Supreme Court recently overturned the Wade vs Roe judgement, which gave women in America rights to abortion. Abortion rights will be determined by different states now. India, recently amended the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, making it simpler for women to seek abortion.

Abortion is the termination of pregnancy by various methods, including surgery.

Status of abortion in India →

- 1) MTP Act, 1971 - initially enacted allowing abortion upto 20 weeks
- 2) MTP Act, 2021 - allows abortion upto 24 weeks, and upto 28 weeks with the opinion of 2 medical practitioners and after 28 weeks with the approval of state medical board
- 3) Unmarried women, abortions due to contraceptive failure, or victims of rape are allowed to abort as well.
- 4) Right to privacy - Women have autonomous bodily right according to the Puttaswamy Judgement

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and the Joseph Shine judgement

From the above, it can be seen that while India is being progressive towards women rights, USA has taken a giant step backwards. This goes against the American ideas of liberalism and human dignity. It is commendable that India has been able to maintain itself as an island of democracy, human rights, reasoning in a steadily changing world.

Mention issues too

- ↳ no choice - only in certain conditions
- ↳ decision by medical board
- ↳ transgenders not taken - "women"
- ↳ privacy issue.

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Q.16) India's Infant Mortality Rate isn't a Fringe Issue – Discuss. (15, 250)



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Q.17) What Do You Understand by Patriarchy? Analyze How Patriarchy Has Shaped the Position of Women in the Indian Society. (15, 250)



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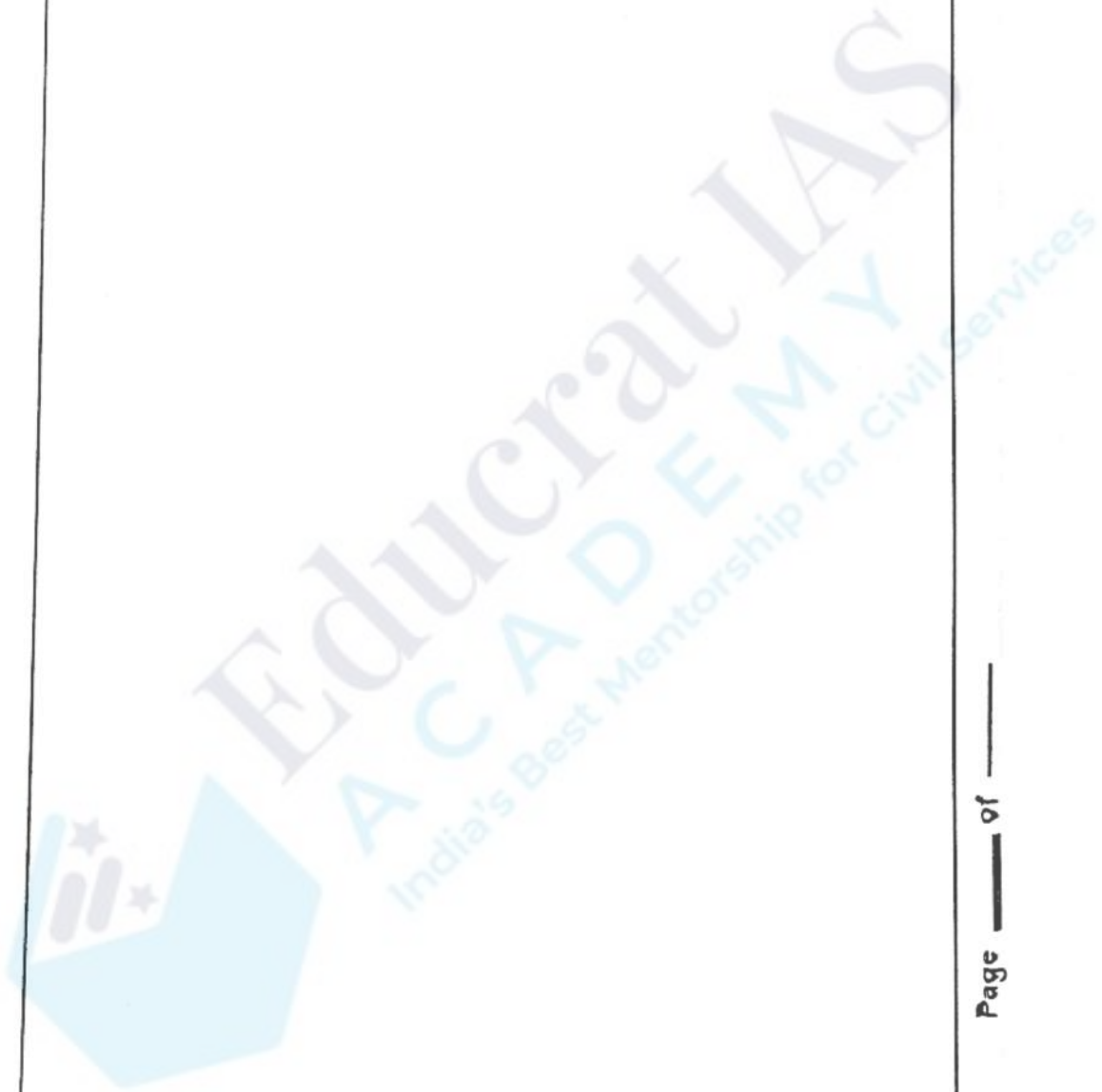
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Q.18) Discuss the various socio-economic impact of globalisation on youth in India.
(15, 250)



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Q.19) Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analysing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. (15, 250)



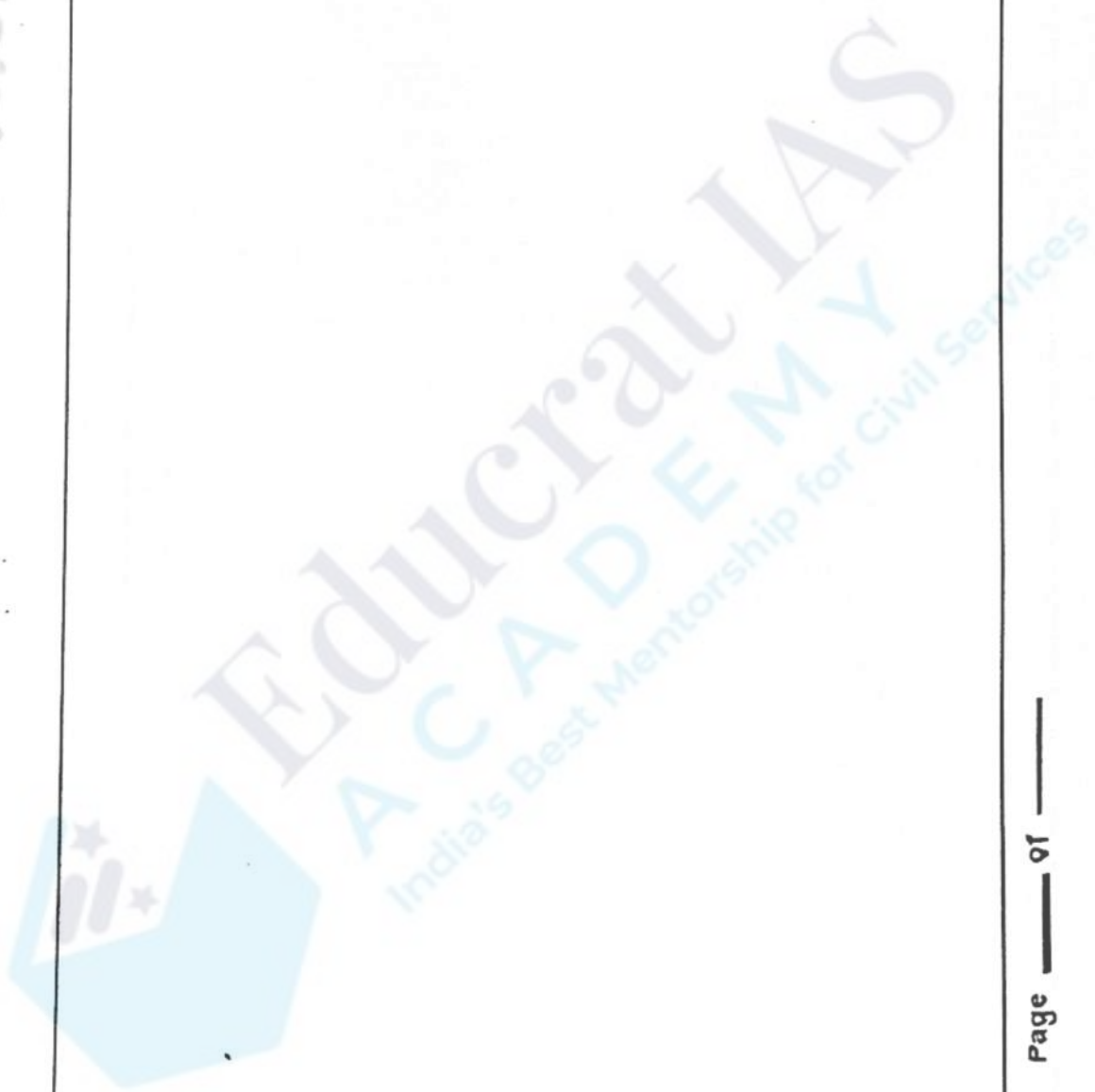
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Q.20) "Recent amendments to the Right to information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss (15, 250)





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