

GENERAL STUDIES

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INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS		
Q.No	Max.Marks	Marks Obtained			
1	10	3.5	1. Please write your Name, Email, UPSC Roll No. and Mobile number in the answer sheet 2. There are 20 questions printed in English, all questions are compulsory 3. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it. 4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate (English), which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. 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.		
2	10	2			
3	10	4.5			
4	10	4.5			
5	10	4.5			
6	10	2	Any specific message from Educrat IAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Mentor's Remarks:		
7	10	2.5			
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16	15	6.5	Start Time: _____ End Time: _____ Mode of Examination: Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>		
17	15	5			
18	15	6.5			
19	15	6.5			
20	15	6.5	Medium of Examination: _____		
Total Marks		250	84	TEST CODE:	

1. Do you think the exercise of delegated legislation by the executive goes against the principle of separation of powers? Discuss in the context of India. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

'Delegated legislation' means the practise of creating details of rules & regulations of a particular act by the permanent executives i.e. the bureaucrats.

Since, ~~the~~ law making is the task of the legislature only and the executives task is to implement the law, it is often argued that delegated legislation is violative of separation of power principle as the ones who will implement the law are making the laws.

However, this is not wholly ~~true~~ true because

① The broad idea of the law is passed in parliament and discussed in detailed by the political representatives

can use
Supreme
Court's
definition
of 1973
"Subordinate
legislation"

of both houses to become a law.

② since the elected representative might not have required technical knowledge to frame minute details of a particular act, help of executives is taken. This is again verified by the parliamentary committees to make sure ~~that~~ no executive interference in law making.

③ Executives ~~also~~ who frame the law and who implement them on field are different individuals — thus removing the chance of conflict of interest.

Hence, delegated legislation not violative of separation of

power.

Supreme Court

↓
decide the non-violation of separation of power
↳ "Policy and Guideline Test"

2. The noble purpose of the anti-defection law is to bring stability to governments. However, it is sometimes said to be against the true spirit of democracy. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

MISSING!

Schedule VI of the constitution provides for anti-defection law to prevent the horse trading of politicians - brought by fifty secas

Purpose & criteria

to prevent frequent change of political parties by elected representatives.

Write the features in short

- A elected member changing political party is subjected for suspension
- A nominated member is subjected to suspension if he defects after 6 months from joining
- If 2/3rd of a political party joins the other party, it is considered as merging into the party & not subjected to suspension.

Introduction

Body

a) Anti-defection law bring stability

- ↳ protect the decision of electorate
- ↳ prevent lure of office or material benefits.

b) Against true spirit of democracy

Yes / No

Discuss

Conclusion

→ speaker is the final authority to ~~decide~~ decide on the matter of suspension.

Against the spirit of democracy?

→ It is often argued that it restricts the parliamentarian's power to voice their opinion free from the effect of party whip, but most defections have been found to be inspired by motives of elicit financial gains.

Hence this cannot be called against the spirit of democracy, as defection negatively affects the public trust. Hence it is right to address it through Anti defection law.

→ NO freedom to vote their judgement.

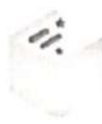
→ Undermine the constructive deliberation of policy/bud budget.

→ Rather than accountability of in Lok Sabha the focus is on accountability to the political party.

→ Reduce inner party democracy.

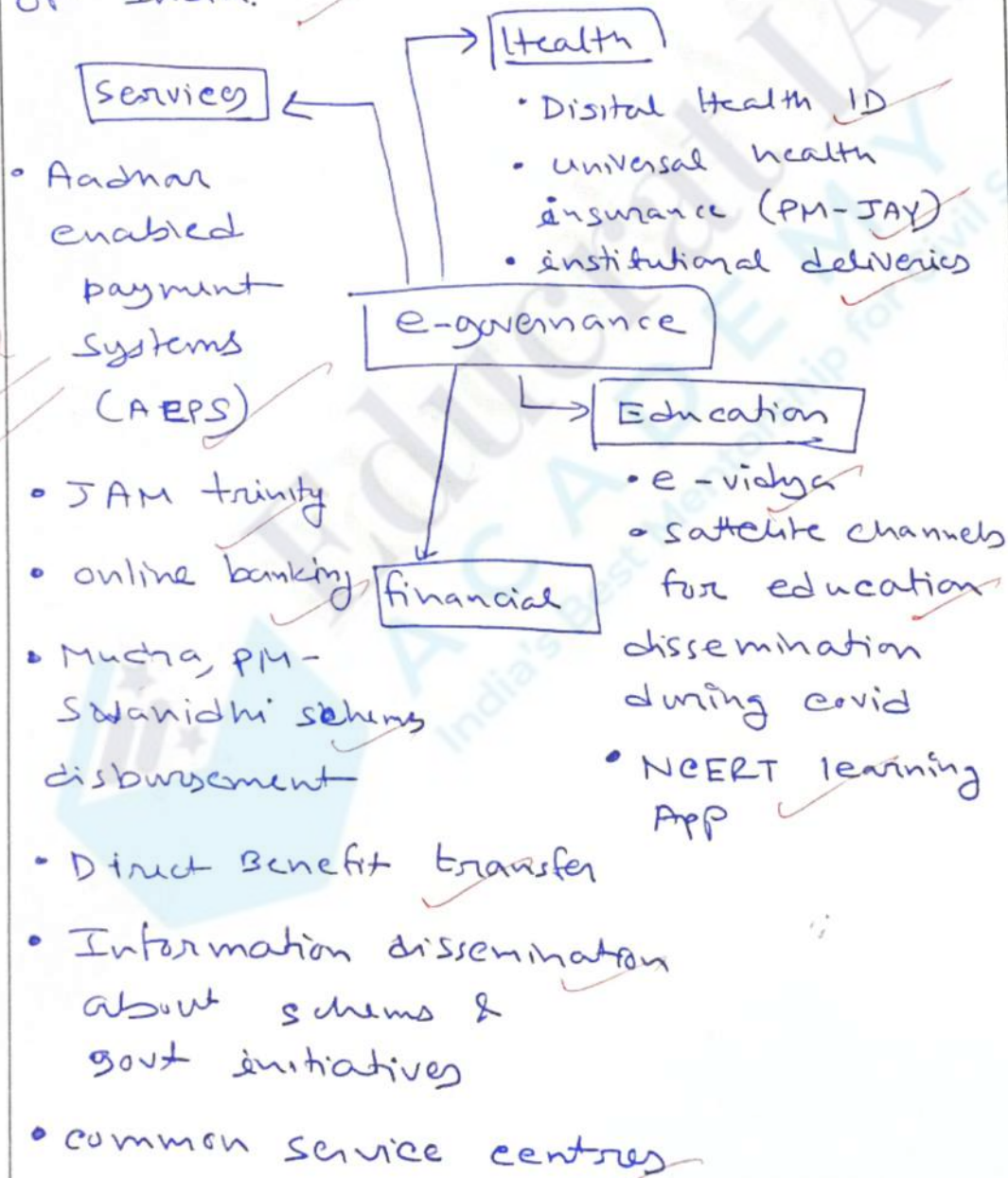
→ Speaker outside Anti defection law.

More points needed



3. How have technological innovations such as e-governance impacted the way that Government functions and interacts with citizens in India? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Technological innovations have significant impact on e-governance of India.



Thus, e-governance has touched every sector of society & also ensured transparency & accountability ushering good governance practices.

- Faster delivery of services (ABT)
- Reduction in corruption and good tapism (RFID-on PDS vehicles)
- Better performance due to synergy between ministries (Aarti Shakti Portal)
- Citizen centric governance (CPGRAMS)

→ Can highlight few challenges/issues - e-governance in India + way forward.

- Digital divide
- Privacy issue (Malware)
- Data localisation and storage.
- barrier of language.

4. Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) can be a game-changing transformation in the justice delivery framework of India. Discuss. Also state the challenges in its wide-scale adoption in India. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Online dispute resolution

System can be a game changer if effectively utilised.

challenges

→ digital divide

→ lack of seamless transmission of case documents between regions and various courts

→ lack of skilled operators to run the ODR system

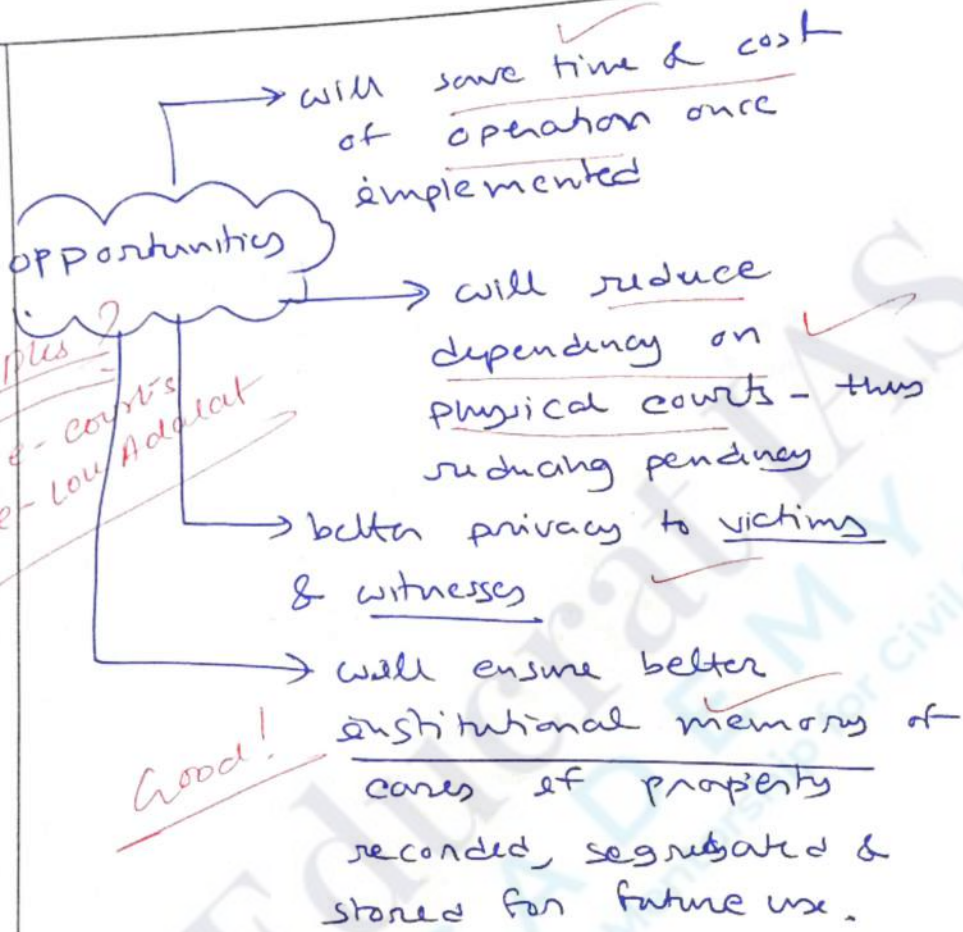
→ lack of sufficient physical infrastructure for ODR system.

→ Need of victim protection system & privacy of victim/witness in ODR system - need of change in duty of police, judiciary etc.

→ Issue of data breach & cyber attack.

→ Barrier of language

→ lack of digital literacy



Examples -
 1. e-courts
 2. e-Lou Adalat

Thus, online dispute resolution mechanism can turn out to be a game changer with initial level of technical handholding by competent organisations & resolving the various challenges mentioned.

5. Citizens' Charters only have a symbolic presence and have not been successful in making a difference in altering the state of public administration and service delivery in India. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Citizen's charters are a list of services to be delivered by an office mentioned in a timebound manner along with proper grievance redressal mechanism.

Challenges of citizen charter (cc)

① many offices do not display cc in vernacular languages

② lack of awareness of public about their rights

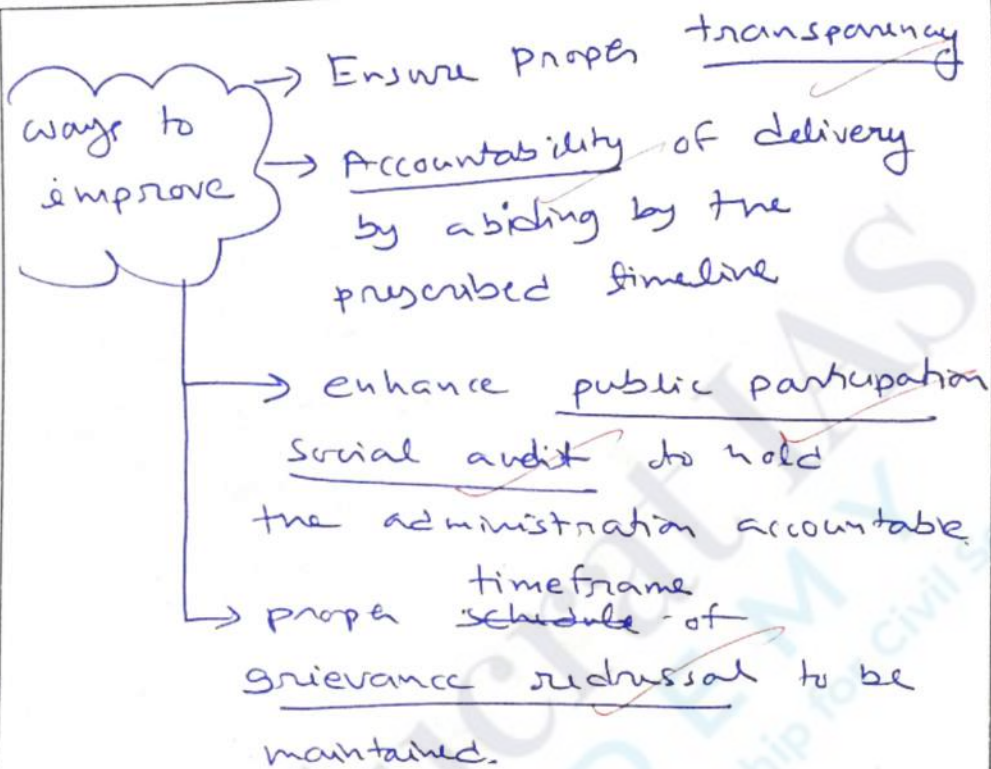
③ lack of institutional capacity of the organisation to deliver promised services in promised time frame

④ lack of bottom up approach in framing the charters - thus neglecting field level issues

→ No legal backing (voluntary / no statutory backing)

→ No timely updation.

→ Lack of bureaucratic will to implement the charters.



If implemented properly, citizen charters can be an effective tool of ensuring accountability & fostering good governance.

6. Give an account of the institutional mechanisms available to ensure the accountability of civil servants in India. Also, discuss the challenges in ensuring such accountability. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

↳ ??
Accountability of civil servants in india can be maintained by both institutional measures & non-institutional measures like social audit, citizen charter etc.

Institutional Mechanisms to ensure accountability

- ① CVC - central vigilance Commission - for corruption prevention - moral accountability & financial
- ② CAG - Comptroller & Auditor General - for regular auditing of accounts of offices - financial accountability
- ③ Courts / CBI & other investigative & justice delivery organs.
- moral & financial accountability

④ Lokpal & Lokayukta Act -
to prevent corruption

⑤ Whistleblowing & protection of
whistleblowers
to maintain institutional
integrity

⑥ Annual confidential report -
for regular analysis of
performance

⑦ Departmental proceedings -
for accountability

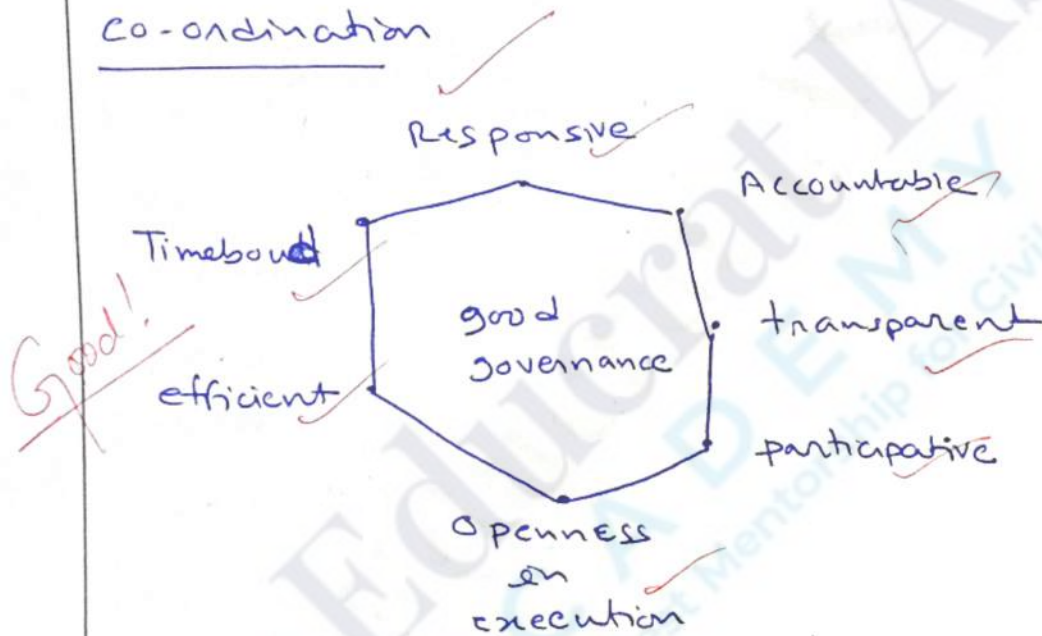
⑧ Annual declaration of assets
to avoid building assets
disproportionate to own salary

These methods are
put in place to ensure accountability
on part of civil servants a proper
maintenance of these are necessary
to uphold the integrity & public
trust in civil servants

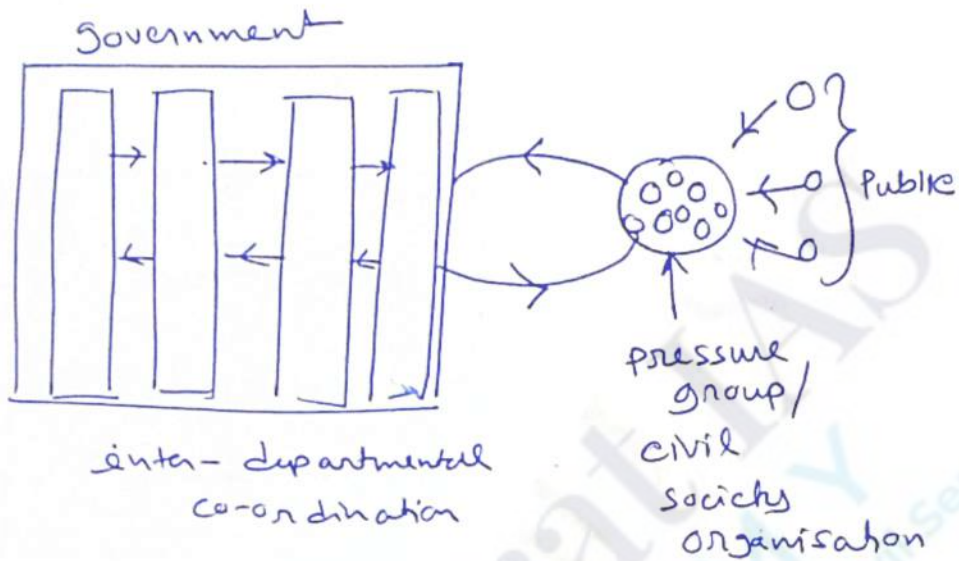
7. A key factor behind poor governance is a system of thinking and working in silos. Discuss in the context of public services in India.

(Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Good governance needs public participation, & interdepartmental co-ordination



To maintain the above qualities there is need for co-ordination among departments & also co-ordination among government & public for policy demand, policy formulation, implementation & evaluation.



(eg) → for a particular service delivery, data synchronisation from various departments eg. Finance, housing, Land records needs to be fetched to decide on a financial status of a citizen, then after giving a service, social audit, public evaluation is needed to ensure benefit reaches its

More points needed
→ slow down organisational growth.
→ Duplication of work.
→ Resistance to change and lack of innovation.

way forward
↳ Integrated approach.
↳ E-governance (collaboration and coordination).

8. Election Commission has been working as a watchdog of the elections in India. In light of the above statement discuss the issues under which ECI is reeling under and what needs to be done to make it an independent watchdog of Indian democracy? (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

Art 324 provides for setting up of ~~an~~ Election Commission of India for conducting free & fair elections.

Issues

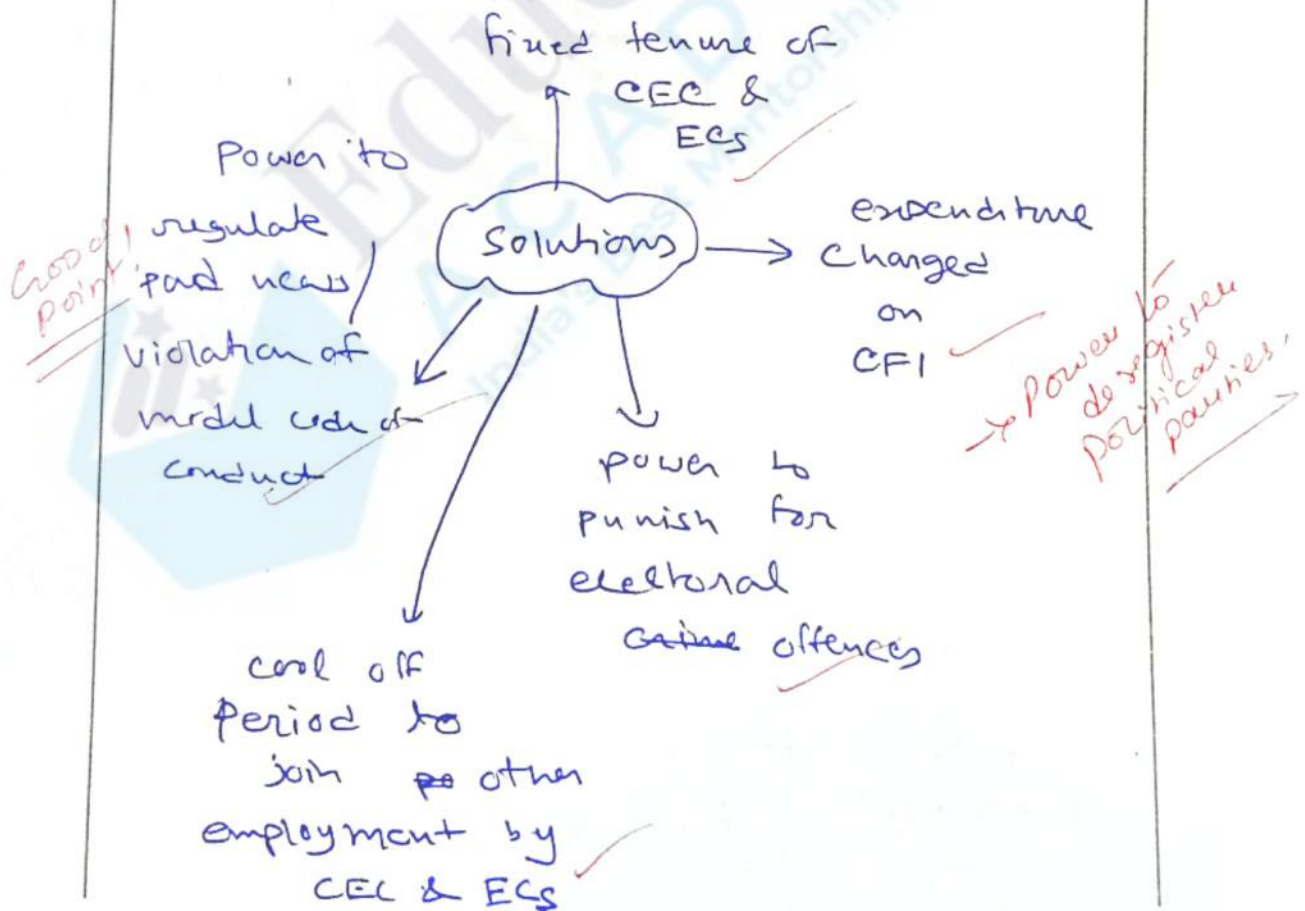
- ① tenure of only CEC is fixed other two Election Commissioners do not have fixed tenure.
- ② Lack of power to amend Representation of Peoples act to enforce election related laws.
- ③ Lack of dedicated staff & Secretariat → depends on DoPT for appointments.
- ④ Expenses not charged on consolidated fund of India but

voted by parliament.

→ Increased political interference

⑤ No bar on CEC & ECs taking up further employment with ~~central~~ government - thus hampering accountability & independence.

⑥ No power to investigate on electoral crimes - dependence on central govt agencies



9. The reason for malnutrition/ hunger are multidimensional. In this light, discuss the factors contributing to malnutrition and also suggest suitable measures to improve malnutrition in India. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)

~~Malnut~~ Malnutrition refers to lack of proper nutrition and can be divided into over and under undernutrition. Though India has pulled out 13.5 crore people from multidimensional poverty (which includes malnutrition) as per the latest NITI Aayog MPI report, Reasons for malnutrition are —

10. Despite consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. (Answer in 150 words, 10 marks)



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11. Self Help Groups play a crucial role in providing self-employment, training and social mobilization, thereby ameliorating the standard of living of the rural people. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Self help groups are organisations of rural locals who come together for a specific purpose eg. economic empowerment. 80% of SHGs in India are women-only groups.

Role of SHGs

① self employment

1.1 provides employment & empowerment to rural people
eg. local industries, micro, small enterprises.

1.2 increased credit worthiness of people in SHG - formal credit availability increased

② training

2.1 formal training helps improve employability

2.2 skill development, reskilling
needs for financial
empowerment

3 Social mobility

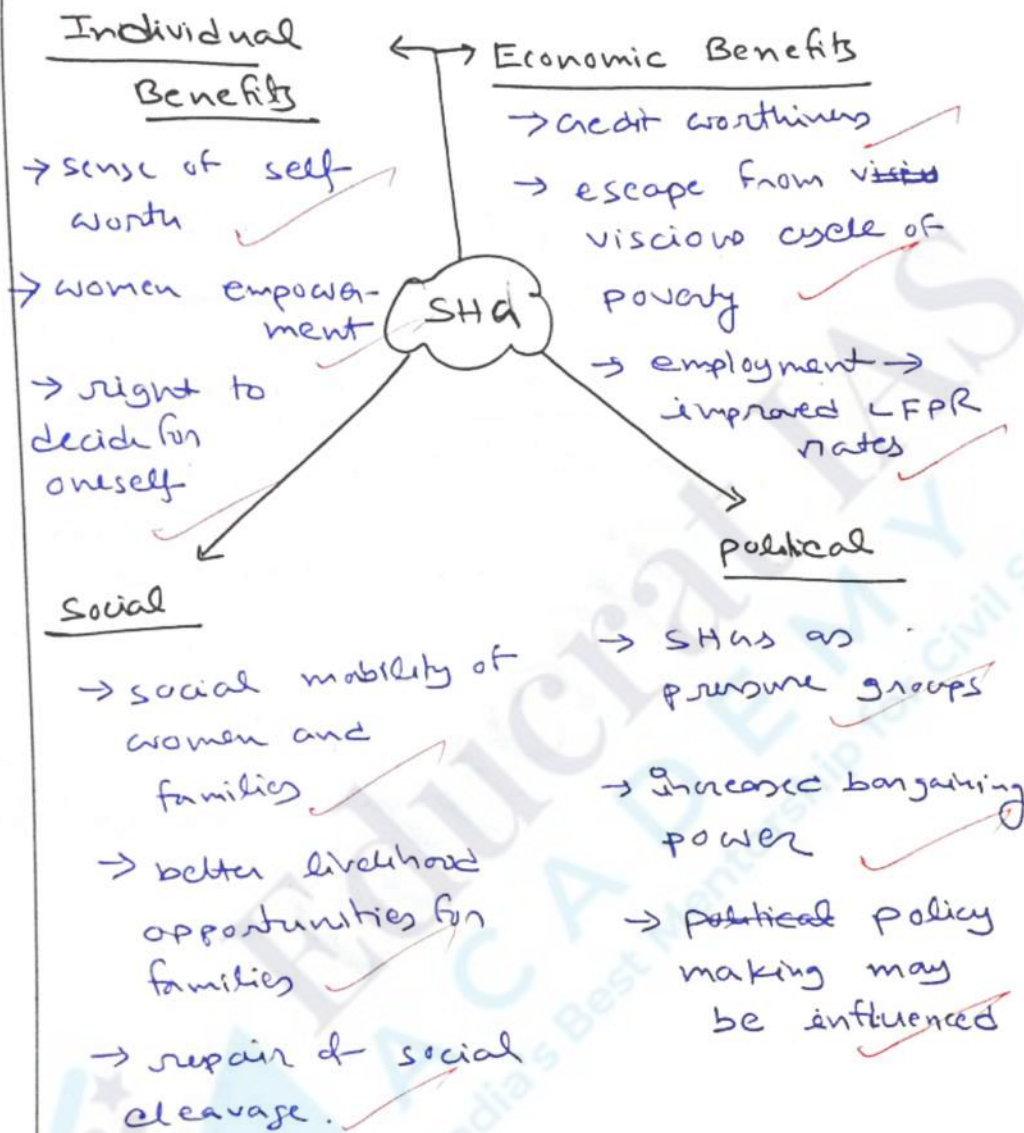
3.1 sense of self worth in
women

3.2 fights ability to fight
against domestic violence,
liquor etc.

Ex) (women took forefront in
fight against liquor in
Bihar

3.3 SHA-Bank linkage, bank-
Sathi programmes help women
play leadership roles - thus
empowering them from
within.

Improved standard of living of
rural people

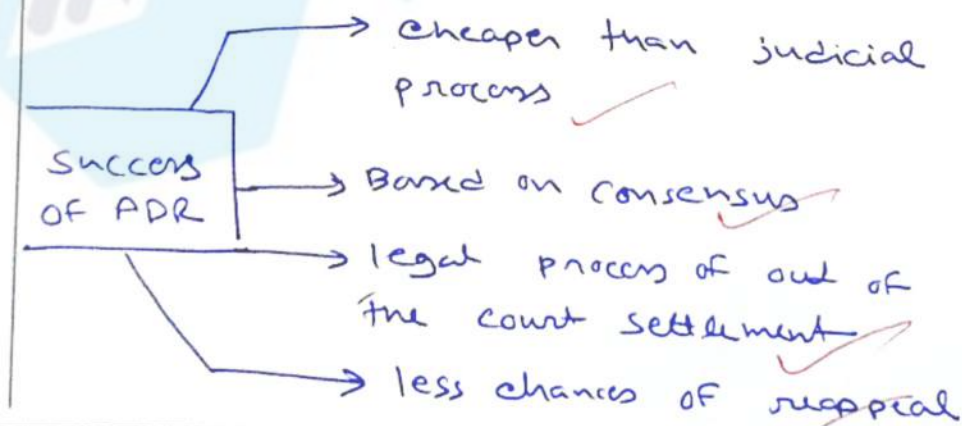


Thus, SHGs play an important role in improving life and living standards of rural people.

12. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, though successful in parts, have failed to take off on a larger scale in India. Analyse. Also, suggest measures that can be adopted to strengthen the ADR mechanisms. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Alternate dispute resolution mechanisms are process of dispute resolution outside the purview with court with help of a designated arbitrator through consensus among the parties.

With the huge burden of pendency in lower courts (more than 2 crore cases pending) ADRs can prove to be successful in ~~so~~ significantly ~~decr~~ decreasing case burden in lower courts.



failed to take off on a large scale
- issues with ADR

① No process of ~~scope~~ appeal
- have to go through judicial process is parties do not agree to the resolution - thus wasting time and money again

② Lack of qualified arbitrators

③ Runs on principle of natural Justice and not on Evidences Act.

④ Lack of efficient mechanism & innovation

⑤ Lack of technical knowledge in most arbitrators to be able to resolve disputes of special type eg- financial, legal, corporate, technical

⑥ Lack of formal training, designated dedicated staff strength & regularity of functioning

?

Measures to structure ADR
Mechanisms

- ① training, skilling for ADR arbitrators
- ② Ensuring firm legal - financial frameworks for functioning of arbitrators
- ③ Financial support to arbitrators to continue as many pursue other channels of livelihoods — not as remunerative as lawyers involved in judicial process

④ Support for Infrastructure

↓
human

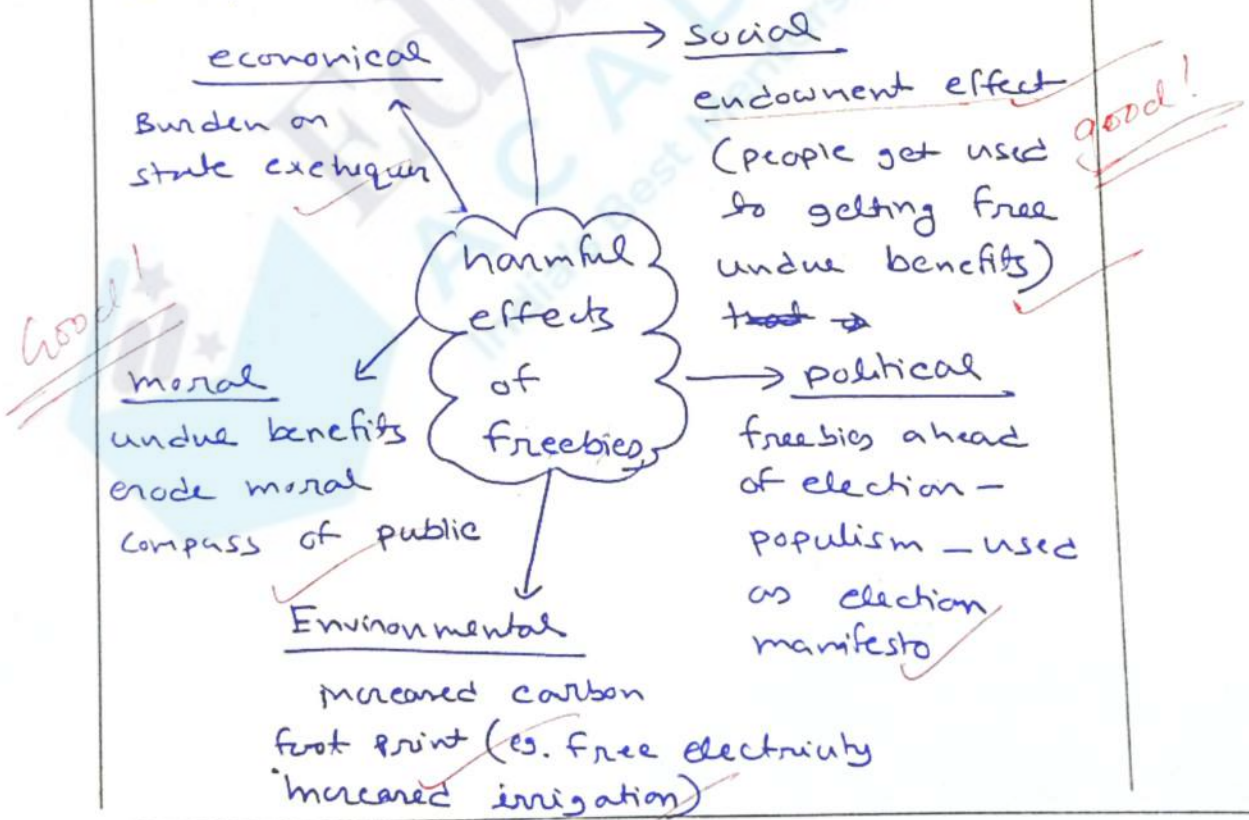
(skilled resources
dedicated staff strength)

↓
physical

These methods ~~steps~~ steps, if taken well help India in successfully utilising ADR mechanism to reduce burden on judiciary.

13. Freebies, especially ahead of elections, do more harm than good to the society. Do you agree? Give logical arguments in support of your answer. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

'Freebies' ~~are~~ is a term coined by economists to denote items and privileges given out to public for free in addition to the support needed to generally maintain their livelihood. Freebies is generally co-related with populism rather than requirements of public.



Why freebies are harmful -

Repeated → ① 'freebies' on a 'retro' culture' as termed by many leading politicians focus on short sighted populist measures rather than long term socio-political gains

② shift public's focus from important deliverables by government in terms of governance & service delivery to short term financial gains ✓

③ often exploit socio-economic cleavages of the society.

eg. free sewing machine to women, cycle to people

'people do not caste their vote, they vote their cast' ✓

④ encourages race to bottom to gain free benefits ✓

Suggestions

① Since there is a very thin line between social security to be provided by government and freebies to attract public's votes - the political parties need to be very careful in Promising these.

② public awareness is needed to look beyond myopic benefits. ✓

③ Many economists suggests that political parties should disclose how they plan to fund the extra expenditure ~~cost~~ caused by freebies. ✓

Overall, general conscientious behaviour by both public & political parties and long term vision is needed to provide social security to the needy but not freebies. ✓

14. The frequent promulgation of ordinances is an assault on the democratic structure of the Constitution. Critically analyse. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Art 123 of the constitution gives power to the president to promulgate ordinance when ~~either~~ either house of the parliament is not in session. Features

→ The president can promulgate ordinance on advice of the council of ministers. When the parliament is back in session, it has to be placed and passed by parliament within 6 weeks of reassembly.

→ Presidents can re-promulgate ordinance any number of times if deemed necessary.

→ Maximum term of ordinance can be 6 months and 6 weeks

Repeated

before passing by parliament.

→ It is an alternate / responsive mechanism for ~~just~~ executive action when parliament is not in session

→ holds power as any law passed by parliament.

~~Whether~~ Whether Assault on
Assault democratic structure

This is the question, elaborate this part

often criticised as a way to pass parliamentary procedure

repeated repromulgation without placing before parliament demerits political accountability

often used to pass ordinances that would otherwise not be passed by parliament due to opposition

Suggestions

- ① → supreme court in multiple cases has mentioned that ordinances should be promulgated sparingly and only as a temporary arrangement - and not to bypass parliamentary proceedings
- ② D. C. Wadhwa case - governor of Bihar (empowered to promulgate ordinance through Art 213) issued 256 ordinances with the same text between 1987-1992 - SC struck it down as unconstitutional and called it a fraud on constitution

Thus, prudent promulgation & re-promulgation of ordinances is advised for efficient functioning of democracy.

15. Do you think the demand for full statehood to Delhi is logical? Critically comment considering the merits and demerits of granting complete statehood to Delhi. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

The long stretched debates on granting statehood to Delhi brings about questions regarding whether such demand is legal and logical.

logically Logic behind Delhi's

demand of full statehood

① ~~Being~~ Being a part of National Capital Territory, the prime functions of police, land etc are not under control of Delhi government ✓

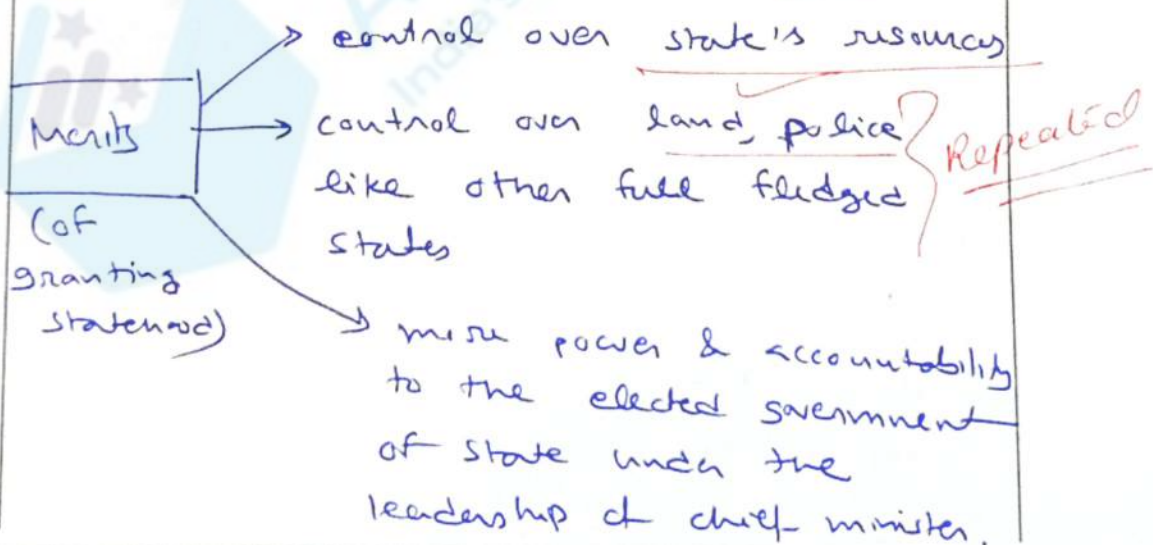
② The need of the national Capital being under direct supervision of central government does not need the whole state

Not adequate point

being deprived of focused state based interventions.

③ proposal is to grant full statehood to Delhi barring the specific region of National capital territory.

④ Recent Amendments of NCT of Delhi Act, giving giving over arching power to the Lt Governor and tussle over municipal powers in Delhi have ~~ent~~ caused to further the demands.



Demerits
of
Delhi's
Statehood

① vicinity to NCT →
malhandling of police
forces & security can
cause heavy impact
on the nation

② Development of the
state will have impact
on all aspects of the
NCT - for India's
perception in the international
forum - it is necessary
that this region stays under
central control.

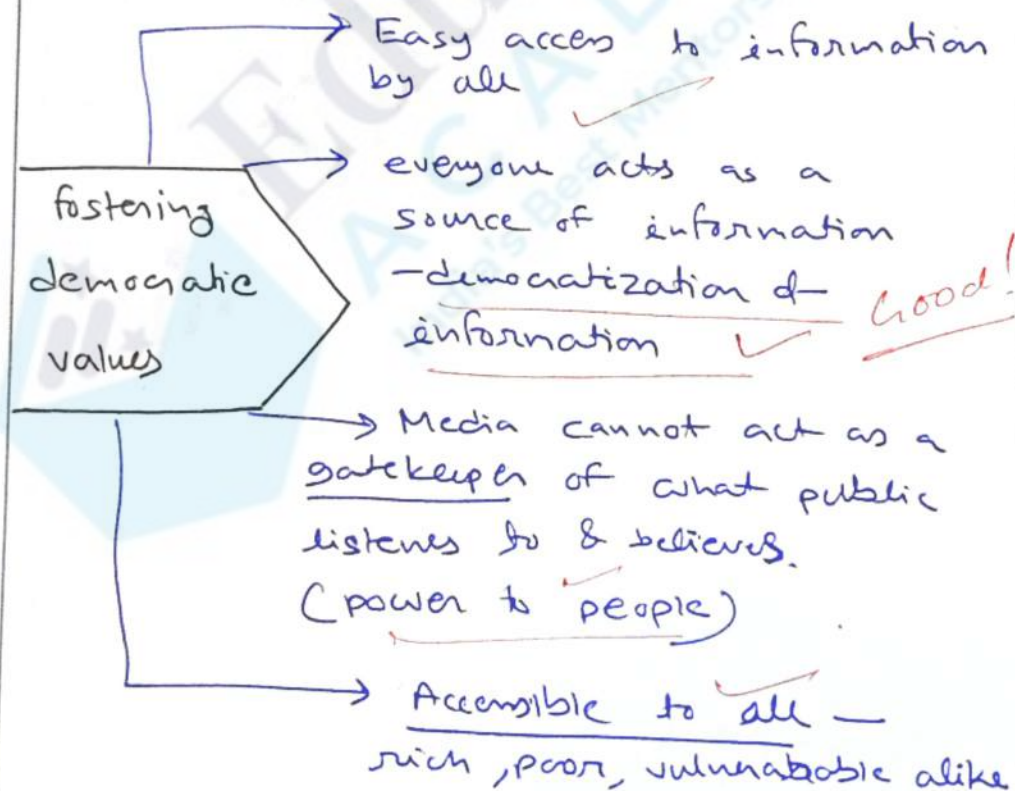
*Better
points
needed*

considering the above, statehood
may be granted to Delhi,
with ample safeguards and provisions
to maintain security, development,
transport & other facilities of the
NCT & surrounding area.

*Demand
of the
questions
not
addressed*

16. Discuss the implications of online free speech in the digital age, examining its role in fostering democratic values and the challenges it poses to regulation and governance. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

The constitution of India provides for right to freedom of speech (Art 19(1)) to all its citizens. However, the advent of digital era has both empowered and threatened democracy in terms of free speech.



Challenges
posed to
regulation
&
governance

- Digital divide (many lack digital literacy) - thus increasing the social cleavages
- cost of digital devices, data further increase the divide
- rural area with less physical infrastructure to support data revolution & digital changes - suffer more
- old aged, women significantly lack digital access (only 70% women have access compared to 90% men)
- Issues to data governance - privacy vs wide use of data
- local storage issue of data - incurs huge cost
- Issue about false news and disinformation

- way forward → Accelerate implementation of Digital Data protection Bill ✓
- Provisions for reducing economic & social cleavages caused by digital divide ✓
- (eg) Schemes like PM-WANI, Common service centre can help ✓
- public awareness about disinformation & fake news ✓
- implement recommendations of B N Srikrishna committee ✓
- ~~Save~~ de-personalised data can be stored in servers outside India & only critical data ^{good!} can be stored in local servers in India, thus reducing the overall cost. ✓

~~But~~ Digital empowerment is a key to a vibrant democracy if used properly. ✓



17. Critically examine the role and relevance of Rajya Sabha in the Indian parliamentary system. Suggest some reforms to enhance its effectiveness and accountability. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Rajya Sabha is the upper house of Indian parliament. The role and relevance of Rajya Sabha in Indian parliamentary system is as follows—

- ① RS is a body of state's representatives.
- ② states have different representation in Rajya Sabha based on their population. (Sch - IV of Indian Constitution ^{has} detailed out this provision)
- ③ Members of RS ~~is~~ are not directly elected by public. They are indirectly elected by the state legislatures and directly elected representatives.
- ④ RS ~~now~~ is never dissolved.

$\frac{1}{3}$ rd of its members retire every two years.

Role and Relevance of RS needs to be elaborated

⑤ Nominated members - apart from the indirectly elected members, there are few nominated members in RS from fields of social services, art & culture etc.

⑥ Rajya Sabha ~~is~~ is often criticised of being less powerful than the lower house i.e. the Lok Sabha.

Suggestions to improve efficiency & Accountability

① Improved working hours of parliament - to ensure proper debate and deliberations on issues of national ~~importance~~ importance.

② Appointment to Rajya Sabha should ~~be~~ be strictly based on

experience & merit in certain fields
and not political affiliations

③ cooling off period to join Rajya
Sabha after retirement from
specific services as judiciary or
executive — to ensure accountability

④ To not exploit parliamentary
privileges to one's own advantage.

⑤ Referring important issues to
parliamentary standing committees
for detailed deliberation.

Rajya Sabha is an important
organ of the parliament as the
representative of aspirations &
ideas of states. Proper functioning of
it is a must for a vibrant
democracy.

18. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been facing a crisis of credibility and confidence due to various factors. Analyse the causes and consequences of this crisis and suggest measures to restore the public trust and reputation of the CBI. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

The central Bureau of investigation (CBI) is the prime investigation agency of central govt. responsible for investigating various charges against central & state govt officials, public & ^{private} institutions & even public representatives.

Issues - crisis of credibility & confidence :-

① In 2013, termed by Supreme court as 'eager parrot speaking its master's voice' for political interference by central government.

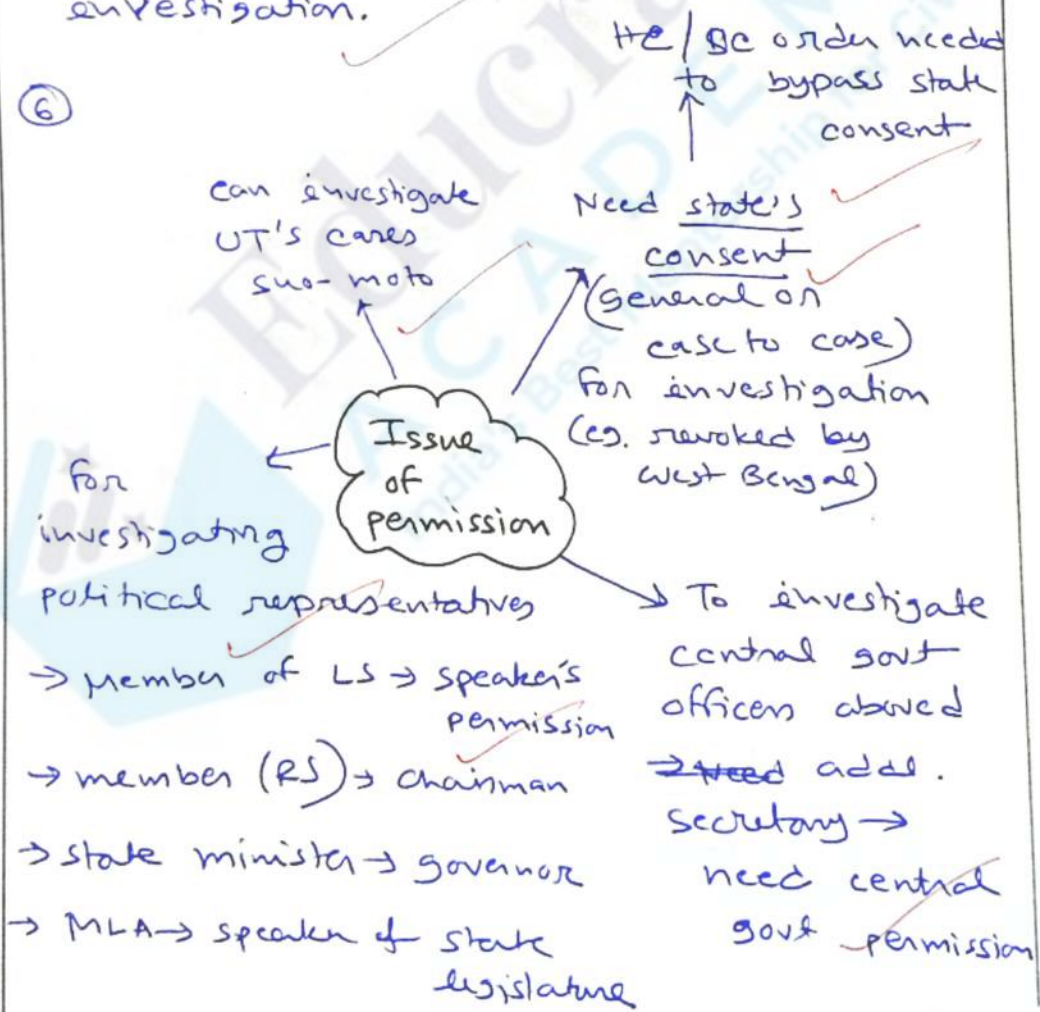
② often criticised for being used to threaten the opposition and state governments ruled by other parties

③ ~~statutory~~ Non statutory body gaining power from Delhi special police establishment Act (under DPPP)

④ Lack of dedicated staff, interference in selection of officers - charges of credibility of ^{senior} officers for corruption

⑤ use of old technologies for investigation.

⑥



Suggestions

① L.M. Singhvi committee & 2nd
ARC suggested to give statutory
basis to eBI

② Ensure autonomy in functioning

③ Proper staff & technical support
- not using political ~~inter~~ interference
in posting, promotion, transfer
of officers

④ Bringing under ambit of RTI -
to usher transparency & credibility.

Peace, justice, & strong
institutions are to be achieved for
development as per SPA # 16.

Empowering independent functioning of
prime agencies like CBI is a must
for a vibrant India.

19. How has the Supreme Court of India interpreted the law on sedition in various landmark judgments? Analyse the impact of these judgments on the freedom of speech and expression in India. Do you think sedition law is still relevant in a democratic country like India? Give reasons for your answer. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Sedition law was framed during the colonial era to suppress dissent against government views. Many argue that in today's context of a free India, this law holds no merit.

In various landmark judgements, Supreme court has pronounced that there is difference between dissent to the government opinion & sedition.

for eg. ① striking down of section 66 A of Information technology Act as unconstitutional → had positive impact on free speech and opened new dimension of digital free speech & freedom of

expression through Shreya Singhal
case.

② In Prakash another famous
sedition case, Supreme court
noted that dissent not amounting
to sedition is a mark of vibrant
democracy if the speech was
contained under reasonable
restrictions es. Internal security,
friendly relation with neighbouring
states, decency, public order &
morality etc.

If sedition is still relevant

① Sedition needs to be
specifically & quantifiably
defined in order to be kept
valid in current context

② Proper demarcation of ambit of
sedition must be done to prevent

its possible misuse.

③ In a diverse country like India, sedition as a law can be kept alive only by proper definition and demarcation of the term and its ambit.

④ There is a thin line between dissent & sedition which need to be kept in mind.

Thus, in a democratic country like India sedition law needs to be properly amended to include necessary provisions if it has to be kept ^{as a} part of the statute.

More points needed

20. India's courts are well known for huge pendency of cases. Critically discuss their magnitude, consequences of this problem and remedies to address this issue. (Answer in 250 words, 15 marks)

Judiciary is the most independently operated organ of the democracy of India. Indian Judiciary is said to be one of the most powerful in the world. However, there are huge pendency of cases in lower courts.

Magnitude

More than 2 crore cases are pending in lower courts.

Consequences of pendency

① Justice delayed is justice denied

→ reduced ~~trust~~ reverence for judicial system in public mind.

→ Reduced approachability of

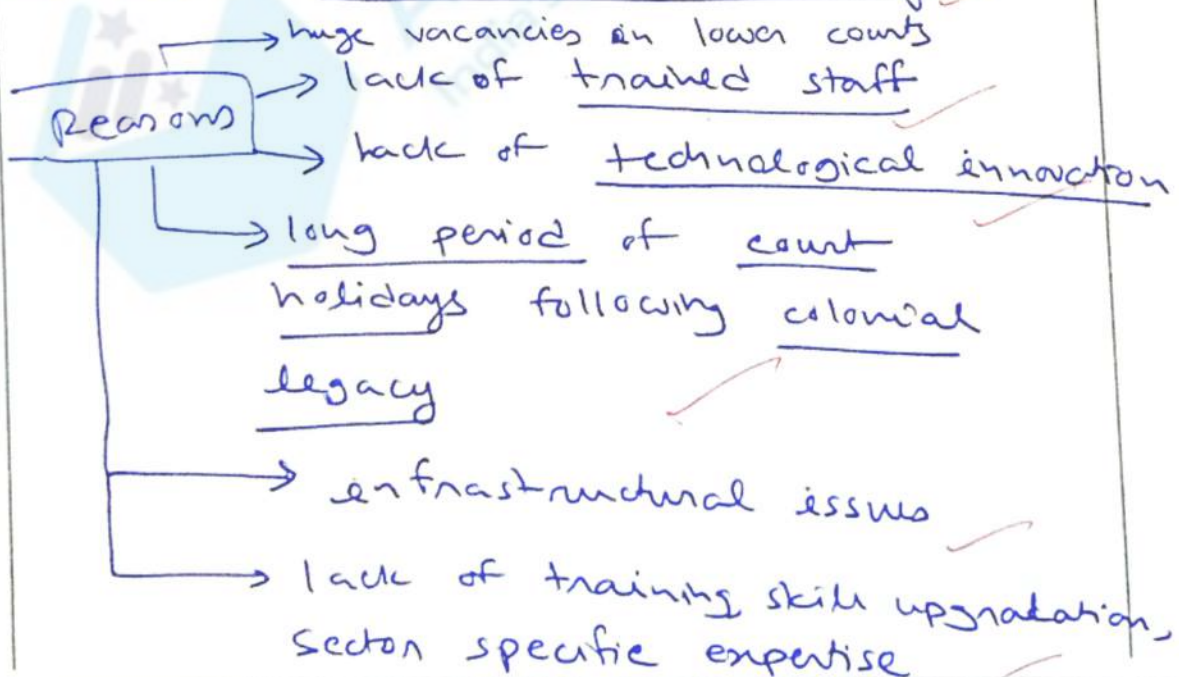
courts by the poor & vulnerable due to long pendency - limited chance of getting justice ✓

② Non-competence to create deterrence ✓

- due to long drawn cases
- ~~not~~ criminalization of politics ✓
- increased incidence of crime in all sectors. ✓

③ Huge no of under trials - effecting to humanitarian crisis - poverty - need of prison reforms ✓

④ Overall ill effect on democracy ✓



Remedies to address

- Good points*
- ① Filling up vacancies in lower courts ✓
 - ② considering All India Judicial Service for higher courts ✓
 - ③ Expertise building in certain sectors ✓
 - ④ e-courts ✓
 - ⑤ tribunals - alternate dispute resolution ✓
 - ⑥ women representation to deliver ^{speedy} justice to women victims. ✓
- A vibrant judiciary system

is integral part of a vibrant democracy & pendency of cases should be handled at war footing to ensure speedy justice to uphold the lost glory of Indian judiciary system. ✓