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## POLITICAL SCIENCE

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

Max. Marks: 250

### Instructions to Candidate

- There are EIGHT questions. Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
- Question no. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
- Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
- Attempts of questions shall be counted in chronological order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the answer book must be clearly struck off.

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Name MUKUND

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Mukund

1. Invigilator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ *Ping*

2. Invigilator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS

GS SCORE

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## SECTION-A

Attempt all questions:

1. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each:

(10 × 5 = 50)

- Model Code of Conduct in Indian Elections.
- Rajya Sabha: Second or Secondary Chamber?
- Election Commission of India.
- Issues of Fiscal Federalism in India.
- Criticism of Directive Principles

Model Code of Conduct (MCC) refers to a set of guidelines issued by Election Commission in 1961-62 to regulate the political conduct of all the parties, contesting candidates, the mode of political advertisement and related activities.

It traces its origin to code of conduct developed by Kerala during its state election in 1959. Basically, it is a consensus based code to regulate behaviour during, before and after election. It doesn't have any legal backing.

Remarks

mention some specific  
DOX and points!

During the tenure former CEC T. N. Shehan in 1990s, the enforcement of Mcc during election was strengthened by using the power of EC and expanding its scope.

Recently, during 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha election, there were various allegation of violation of Lok Sabha.

Yogendra Yadav called Mcc a showpiece of democratic credential, in face of alleged inaction by EC.

EC in order to enforce mcc, launched app CVIGIL under which even citizens can record and lodge complain.

However, giving statutory backing to mcc under RPA, 1952 or EC Act is need of hour, to strengthen its application.

Remarks

(4) Good coverage of all key dimensions

⑥ Rajya Sabha : Second or Secondary Chamber  
 Alike any parliamentary democracy,  
bicameralism was adopted in India  
 on the lines of Westminster model  
 of democracies.

The 2nd house or House  
 of Elders, also called Council of States  
 was established to represent the interest  
of state. However, unlike US senate  
 where each state has equal representa-  
 tion, Indian Council of States has unequal  
representation based on population of  
 state, varying from 31 in UP to 1 in Sikkim.

- Rajya Sabha being second chamber :  
 It is second chamber as it has various  
 powers and checks on haste of Lok Sabha.  
Rajya Sabha is platform to represent the  
voice of state. Various special provision  
 of constitution under Article 249 (allowing

parliament to legislate on state subject);

Article 311 (Creating new All India Services)

etc. can only be done by Rajya Sabha.

Further, in Constitutional Amendment Bill,

Consent of Rajya Sabha by approval is needed.

5. RS being secondary chamber: as it has very limited power in case of money bill, ordinary bill, finance bill etc.

However, certainly as held by National Commission for Reviewing Working of Constitution (NCRWC), the existence of Rajya Sabha is great strength of democracy.

© Election Commission of India (ECI)

ECI was established under Article 324 of the constitution as an independent body to conduct, supervise and carry out election to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, President, Vice President and state Legislative Assembly.

Dr. Ambedkar in his speech in Constituent Assembly recognised ECI as one of the four "bulwark of democracy" along with UPSC, CAG, and Supreme Court.

However, the functioning of ECI has come under criticism, due to alleged lack of transparency over appointment, VVPAT, EVM malfunction etc.

- Changes suggested to make ECI robust as per Dinesh Goswami Committee (1996) and 255<sup>th</sup> report of Law Commission (2015) are:

- introducing a separate secretariat of ECI
- clear guidelines with respect to appointment, along with constituting <sup>Committee with</sup> members like PM, CJI, leader of Opposition as done in CBI.

- The charges of ECI be made 'charged upon Consolidated fund' and not subject to vote.

However, by and large, ECI has made democracy participative in India.

problems have been identified suggest a legal committee with members like PM, CJI, leader of Opposition as done in CBI.

(d) Issues of Fiscal Federalism in India

Fiscal federalism: refers to the distribution or decentralisation of financial power, to levy, collect and appropriate tax between center and state.

The constitution establishes Finance Commission under Article 280 as a "balancing wheel of fiscal federalism in India". Further, center distributes taxes under two categories: Statutory grant (under Article 275) and discretionary grant (under Article 282).

Since independence, for a long time, the existence of planning Commission as called 'super-cabinet', disturbed the balance of fiscal federalism, as Finance Commission role diminished largely, as discretionary grant by Planning Commission far outweighed statutory grant.



Further, disbandment of Planning Commission in 2014 and bringing of 101st CAA, 2017 (Goods & Service Tax) was seen as a step towards promoting cooperative fiscal federalism in India. Further, 42% tax devolution from central pool under 14th Finance Commission was step in right direction.

However, concerns remain, For example, shrinking taxation power of State under GST; no representation of state members in Finance Commission, unilateral deciding of TOR of FC etc. Hence, need to address these to promote true fiscal federalism in our country.

(e) Criticism of Directive Principles.

Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) was adopted by constituent assembly under Part IV A of the Constitution from Article 36 to 51.

P.T.O

Dr. Ambedkar called these DPSPs as 'novel feature' of our constitution.

It was based on 'Instrument of Instruction' given under GoI Act, 1935 to colonial government.

The gist of DPSP lies in the fact that it has been left on the will of state to implement these as these are non-enforceable in nature. The so-called 'public sanction' was seen as force behind implementation.

However, implementation of various DPSP remains distant dream. It is also criticised on the ground of illogical arrangement, with no legal back-up. Further, some directives like promoting welfare of SC/STs (under <sup>Article</sup> 46) is seen as repetition of Part III provision.

However, as mentioned under Article 36, it is nonetheless 'fundamental' in governance of country.

2. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Governor's role has been perverted to create a permanent threat to legislative assemblies. How is far is this statement true? Examine with help of constitutional provisions. (200 Words) (15)
- (b) Discuss the issues related to Concurrent List that are posing challenges to the idea of cooperative federalism in India? (200 Words) (15)
- (c) Enlist some of the major issues associated with Representation of People Act (RPA), 1951. (250 Words) (20)

rights mention some  
derived from

APSP!

Read about important  
judicial pronouncements

2/3

Remarks +

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*Remarks*

Remarks

*Remarks*

4

*Remarks*

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Remarks



Remarks

Remarks

3. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Right to Freedom of speech and expression vs Section 124-A. Elaborate.  
(200 Words) (15)
- (b) India must emulate best international practices and make CAG more independent.  
(200 Words) (15)
- (c) Provide an analysis of the issue of Criminalization of Indian Polity.  
(250 Words) (20)

Remarks

Remarks

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*Remarks*

*Remarks*

*Remarks*

Remarks



*Remarks*

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Remarks

4. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Education as eligibility criteria for elections is a debatable idea at best. Discuss with special reference to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's). (200 Words) (15)
- (b) Provide a detailed analysis of the performance on National Commission for Women till date. (200 Words) (15)
- (c) Elaborate on the challenges to the vision and functioning of Panchayati Raj Institution in India. (250 Words) (20)

(a) The state government of Haryana and some time later Rajasthan, introduced education as a criteria for elections in their respective Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Supreme Court in its landmark judgement in Rajbala Vs. State of Rajasthan (2015), upheld education criteria of Haryana government of PRIs. However, the prudence of apex court was questioned on various ground.

Education as eligibility criteria is debatable on various grounds - both positive and negative.

Remarks

- Positives of education as eligibility criteria are following:

- a) It shall promote literacy level overall in the country
- b) It shall increase the awareness the political representative at basic level.
- c) It may increase the overall functioning of SLAs, LS or PRIs

However, despite all presumed advantages, introduction of education criteria is not appreciated, as per various scholars like Yogendra Yadav, Atul Kohli etc. as:

- a) Against principle of grassroot democracy: as main objective of PRIs was to increase participation of people in decision-making. However, education as criteria disqualify a large mass from contesting election
- b) Education itself cannot be a criteria to judge leadership qualities of a

Remarks

structure and presentation  
is good -

person as beyond that ground-level experience along with know-how with local people is major attributes for governance

- c) Further, education as a criteria for PRTs is enforcement of 'top-down approach' and troubling; as state legislators members of parliament do not have education criteria.

Hence, unless education as criteria comes from ground-level, state can desist from enforcing its mandate. The recent step of Rajasthan government, to remove these criteria was welcome step.

- ⑥ National Commission for Women (NCW) was established in 1992 under NCW Act, 1992.

It was established with an objective to bring reform, positive changes along with promoting empower-

ment of women. It consist of 5 members having one chairman and four other members.

National Commission for Women, by and large, has not been as active as was expected upon its Constitution. There has been lackadaisical approach on part of NWC, to uphold the rights of women.

As per record of NCRB, the crime against women has increased multifolded in last quarter-century. The issue of rape, murder as in dowry death, domestic violence continues.

The sub-optimal performance of NWC can be attributed to various factors, like lack of power to prosecute offenders; lack of real power to

seek justice in a time-bound manner

Further, as recognised by NCRWC under M. Venkatchaliah, there is a overlapping role of these bodies like NHRC, NCPDR along with NCW - when it comes to women issues.

Hence, various reforms can be brought in to enforce mandate of NCW: For example, changes like introducing time-bound resolution of cases under NCW along with clear-cut division of functioning to avoid over-lap can be promoted.

Hence, NCW is an important institution with huge potential to improve lives of women in India, provided it gets due recognition of its mandate, functioning etc.

(5)

Make this section

Remarks

more rigorous in nature

### (C) Panchayati Raj Institution (PRIs)

Came into existence in India under 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

It came to fulfill the long-held vision of democratic decentralisation, to promote grass-root democracy along with overall empowerment of people.

The origin of PRIs can be traced to Community Development Programme (CDPs) introduced in early 1950s, for welfare of people at ground level. Further various committees like Balwant Rai Mehta Committee <sup>(1957)</sup>, Ashok Mehta Committee <sup>(1977)</sup>, L.M. Singhvi Committee etc. recommended establishment of PRIs in one form or other.

Vision and functioning of PRIs broadly was based on concept GRAM SWARAJ of Gandhiji. Under this,



Gandhiji envisaged to make village as unit of governance and make it self-sufficient to fulfill its need.

Further, direct participation of people to manage their affairs was sought to increase public delivery of goods, according to

"BOTTOM-UP APPROACH"

However, as opined by Manishankar Aiyer Committee (2013) to review functioning of PRI, the situation after 25 years largely seems as that of 'lost opportunity' as of now.

There exists various challenges as recognised by Manishankar Aiyer Committee.

These include, lack of consultation of Gram Sabha in decision-making and implementation with regards to welfare schemes, thus undermining people's participation.

Explain and function of PRI, 17

Further, lack of '3F' - Funds, Functions and Functionaries due to lack of devolution of taxation power, lack of enforcement of voluntary provision and absence of particular dedicated cadre has limited ability of PRIs, to achieve its vision and functions.

The so-called Bureaucratic inertia to devolve power has been recognised as major impediment to function. The irregular election until recently undermined functioning of PRIs.

Hence, as recommended by Aiyar Committee, PRIs needs to have clear devolution of taxation power and should be made stakeholder in all welfare schemes. Various other means, like raising money from bond market, as recommended by Ishwar Judge Ahluwalia Committee can be a way ahead.

Socio-cultural challenges? about

Remarks

found on constitutional division (S) of power, responsibilities etc -

## SECTION-B

Attempt all questions:

5. Comment on the following into 150 words:

(10 × 5 = 50)

- Critical Examination of the Anti-Defection Law
- While Secularism is a permanent feature of Indian Constitution, its nature and content are not.
- Justice delayed is justice denied
- Freedom of Speech and Fake news.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule areas: Need for empowerment

(a) Anti-defection law was brought in India under 52<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985 and added under a new 'Schedule X, Part

Anti-defection was brought to end the issue of horse trading in the parliamentary democracy as well as to end the use of money and muscle power in elections.

Under this law, any violation of whip orders and mergers with less than 2/3<sup>rd</sup> members of party and other criteria like independent members joining political party; nominated members

Remarks

Joining after 6 months has been described as a ground for disqualification.

However, the provision of anti-defection has come under criticism as it curtails the right of political representative to present their opinion, vote on the floor of the house, freely.

The defection has become 'en masse' where old members defect to bypass defection law.

Hence, recommendation like whip issuance only in matter of extreme importance has been sought, with adequate room to keep opinion by members. Anti-defection should not become a garb to curtail freedom of speech & expression of parliamentarian.

(b) Secularism refers to the relation shared between state, its institution and its people. According to Prof. Rajeev Bhargava, India follow a model of 'principled distanced' of secularism.

Remarks

Under 'principled distance' model, state maintains necessary distance in general but when need arises it does necessary interference  
 eg Triple Talag issue <sup>good</sup>

Secularism is a permanent feature of our constitution. However its content and nature is evolving with evolution of time. For example, in recent times, as highlighted by judgements like Indian Young Lawyers Association Case (2018) i.e. Substantial Verdict; along with Sharada Bano case i.e. Triple Talag outlawed; the state has recognised and emphasised over individual right over collective right of community.

Further, the issue of dignity has been recognised at core level to enforce Right to life and liberty under Article 21.

Hence, secularism is evolving in nature and not static.

new debate with old challenges posed by Hinduism nationalism



Remarks

revision source: old debates about secularism - also -

© It is rightly said that justice delayed is justice denied. As per the record of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), there are more than 3.3 crore cases pending in Indian judiciary, with more than 70% of these cases pending in lower courts.

In the face of delayed resolutions, the people suffer at multiple levels. More than 65% of those jailed are undertrials. The repeated adjournments, the hostile witness and issue of 'proof beyond reasonable doubt' has languished the justice-delivery mechanism in India.

In this situation, weaker section find it hard to seek justice and even loss of trust in public

institution like judiciary, police etc. causes discontentment among people.

'Right to Speedy trial' was recognised as a fundamental right by apex court in broader interpretation of Article 21.

Hence, recommendation of Economic Survey 2018-19, to increase appointments in lower level especially session judges (as more 70% cases pending are criminal), along with increasing Case clearance Rate (CCR) over 100% is much needed reform.

- (d) Fake news refers to those news which is untrue and has been deliberately circulated to cause confusion, chaos and thus destabilise law and order in extreme situation.

The constitution guarantees 'Freedom of Speech and expression' as fundamental right under

Article 19(1)(a) . However, fake news has emerged as a major obstacle of freedom of speech and expression .

Under the garb of legal fundamental right, the freedom of speech and expression is being misused ~~with~~ malign intention . Thus, Fake news has to be controlled as it has caused major law and order problem like mob lynching, rumours mongering, even riots like Muzaffarnagar (2013) .

Hence, as recommended by both J.S. Vishwanathan Committee on hate speech and Rajiv Gauba Committee (2018) on mob lynching, fake news must be regulated under reasonable restriction provision of law & order, sovereignty and integrity under Article 19(2). Ramachandra Guha in his book Democrats and Dissenters (2018) has recognised fake news as one of 8 major threat to free speech in India.

Remarks

4

is a threat to freedom of speech when state attempts to deal with fake news .



② 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule, under Article 244 was adopted to cater to the special needs of tribal areas in 4 states - Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

The tribal areas in these region, needed special attention and hence Autonomous District Council (ADCs) was established. These ADCs had wide ranges of power, with respect to executive, legislature and judiciary.

However, recently there has been demand of further empowerment of these ADCs, in face of depleting functioning of ADCs. The ADCs has been ignored in many cases, with regard to land acquisition, mining in tribal areas or as required under PESA Act, 1996 and FRA, 2006.

Remarks

→ need to discuss problem playing ADC in precise form -

Hence, need for further empowerment arises. These ADCs has to be given adequate financial power to manage their affairs. Further, powers to legislate on issues of local concern should be granted at maximum, without any interference by governor or state government.

Hence, proper functioning of ADCs is needed to tender to the special need of these tribal masses in constitutional spirit.

6. Answer the following questions:

- (a) The evolving profile of legislators in Indian parliament (200 Words) (15)
- (b) What are the major areas of concern pointed out in the report of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC). (200 Words) (15)
- (c) While judiciary is the institution to enforce accountability on Executive and Legislature, its own response to accountability is not commendable itself. Explain. (250 Words) (20)

3  
A general lack of precision  
in articulation and  
use of vague / broad words

Remarks

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*Remarks*

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Remarks

Remarks

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*Remarks*

*Remarks*



*Remarks*

Remarks

7. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Critically examine the provision of Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (200 Words) (15)
- (b) The Speaker is the guardian of Parliamentary democracy in India. Critically examine. (200 Words) (15)
- (c) Assess the utility of Tribunal system in India in providing speedy and effective justice. (250 Words) (20)

9) The Union Parliament under 102<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment, 2019 granted 10% reservation in government jobs; admission to schools, colleges to people from Economically Weaker Section (EWS).

Further, these 10% quota was granted over and above 50% quota reserved for OBC, SC, STs (OBC-27%, SC-15%, ST-7.5%). In addition, any person who enjoys quota benefit under earlier provision, are not eligible for benefit under EWS quota.

The Union Parliament brought new Articles - Article 15(e) to stipulate economic criteria as a ground

for affirmative action and under Article 16(6) brought provisions for reservation

The Union parliament or union government under BJP-led government cites apex court judgement in Ram Singh Vs. Union of India (2018), under which supreme court held that 'caste alone cannot be ground for affirmative action by state', and other criteria also be recognised. Further, it was held to bring socio-economic justice to hitherto deprived sections due to economic inability.

However, decision runs danger of judicial annulment as it is over and beyond 50% benchmark held by apex court in Indra Sawhney Case (1992). Further, in same case, Supreme Court held that economic alone cannot be criteria for reservation.

Hence, the issue at present is pending before apex court. The criteria of income less than 8 lacs is said to be too high by critics.

Nonetheless, it is quite ostensible that India needs revision of its reservation policy as opined by sociologist Satish Deshpandey in face of rising demand by Jats in Haryana, Marathas in Maharashtra, Patidars in Gujarat etc. Hence, reform needed, with holistic deliberation with all stakeholders.

(6) The speaker, is the highest officer inside the parliament. He/she is said to be fountain of parliamentary prudential method, as office of speaker is final interpreter of constitutional law or parliamentary law, inside parliament. The office of speaker

in Lok Sabha is established under Article 93 of the constitution under part V.

He/she is elected by simple majority of Lok Sabha, on a date decided by president. The speaker is guardian of parliamentary democracy as his role is over-arching and wide with respect to parliamentary affairs.

He maintain the order and decorum in the parliament and makes sure that function of parliament goes smoothly. He also certifies a bill as money Bill (under Article 109). Further he/she appoints the Chairman of all parliamentary committee.

Most importantly, speaker also decides on the question of disqualification of member under X<sup>th</sup> schedule, subject to judicial review, as held by apex

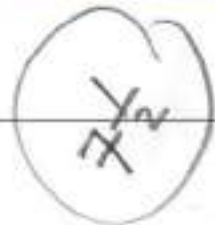
Contest in Kihotto Mallahan Vs. Zachilly Case.

But as every coin has two face, Speaker office has also been criticised for alleged violation of neutrality principle, ~~dis~~ favouring his own party, wrongful certification of money bill to curtail jurisdiction of Rajya Sabha.

Thus, various reform can be adopted. Like, office of speaker has to be made politically neutral. India can adopt UK Convention, wherein Speaker resigns from party before becoming speaker and in return no party contest election against him in next election.

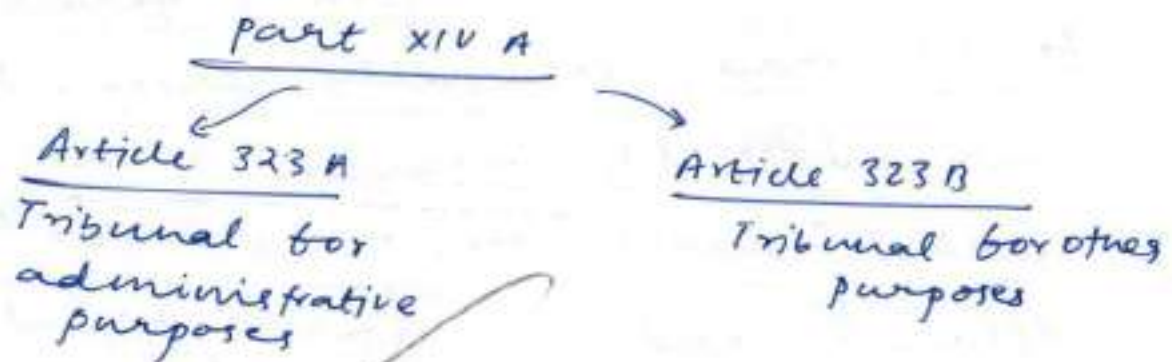
These type of reforms, along with robust judicial intervention can make office of speaker more robust, effective and neutral.

Good coverage of all key dimensions



© The tribunals in India was established based on recommendation of Swarn Singh Committee, to promote speedy and effective trial and dispensation of justice.

The <sup>42<sup>nd</sup></sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 added part XIV A in the Constitution. It has two provisions:



Thus, tribunals under Article 323 A could only be established by central government whereas for other purposes under Article 323 B, both central and state government can establish it.



The utility for providing Speedy and effective justice has been by and large appreciable to some extent. The establishment of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) under Article 323 A has given voice to Officers, Central Government employees, getting dismissed arbitrarily.

Further National Green Tribunal (NGT) under NGT Act, 2010 has promoted climate justice and has increased climate enforcement. Since, tribunals have flexible work model and not strictly binded by Civil Procedure Code (CPC-1909), rather by principle of natural justice; they promote speedy and effective resolution of dispute.

P.T.O

However, since orders can be challenged in High Court and further in Supreme Court, the issue of Cong-drawn Judicial process has languished tribunals as well.

The repeated challenges of its orders has been impediment to speedy justice delivery.

Hence, need to resolve these issues to make process quick and efficient in time-bound manner.

(3)

Need to critically talk  
about composition, appointment etc.  
Discern Tribunalization of Justice

8. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Examine the mechanism of Public Interest Litigation as a tool of justice in India. (200 Words) (15)
- (b) River Water sharing is the biggest challenge to the idea of cooperation among states. (200 Words) (15)
- (c) Women in Indian Politics. (250 Words) (20)

⑨ Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

emerged as a result of 'Judicial activism' in 1980s in India.

The PIL doesn't work on the concept of 'Locus Standi' and it can be sought by anyone in the public interest.

The apex court under Justice V R Krishna Iyer and justice P.N. Bhagwati, sought to empower poor, marginalised section.

It was seen as revolutionary mechanism for dispensing justice as apex court, broadened its reach to new

Remarks

areas which was until then considered outside 'boundary of judiciary'.

The origin of PIL can be traced to USA, where its apex court started using PIL after Meddison Case (1904).

The PIL has helped achieving justice, as various issues related to climate justice, poverty, sound pollution, environment pollution

has been resolved under PIL. eg banning of harmful firecrackers in Delhi-NCR in recent times, ban of old diesel vehicles in Delhi-NCR to curb pollution etc.

However, PIL has also been misused by vested interest like NGOs, rival companies etc. Many a time frivolous cases are raised which

results into loss of time of court.

Hence, recent steps by Supreme Court to levy fine on frivolous PIL, is much needed.

Further as held by Zia Modi in her book '10 judgement that changed India', PIL has been one of strongest element to seek justice.

(6) The issue of river dispute has been a 'bone of contention' between different states.

The emerging issue of depletion of ground water, errant deficit monsoon rainfall along with agrarian crisis, has further exacerbated the situation of

Water-crisis in India, between different states.

Some of the major water-dispute include: Kaveri water dispute (between T.N, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh); Sutlej dispute (between Punjab, Haryana, Delhi); Mandovi dispute (between Goa and Karnataka) etc. Overall, there are over 200 water dispute between different states in India.

Post-independence, after state reorganisation in 1956 under 7th CAA, 1956; the parliament brought Article 262 (to establish ISWD Act, 1956).

Under Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956; a tribunal was sought to be established to resolve water dispute in a time-

bound manner. Further, no court were permitted to deal with water-dispute except tribunal and award was tribunal was deemed final.

However, the prolonged delay in constitution of tribunal, like for Cauvery, it was established after 28 years, ~~that too~~ after apex court intervention reflects the lacunae or lack of political will to resolve water-dispute.

Further, disagreements were sought to be resolved by Supreme Court under Special Leave Petition (Article 136).

The recent amendment by parliament ISWA Act, 1956 to establish a permanent tribunal for all disputes along with time-bound resolution within 18 months is welcome step. Further, tribunalisation of water being mentioned in both Union list (entry 17) and state list (entry 5b) is much-needed.

Remarks

7 1/3

comprehensively addressed the demands of the Question

### (c) Women in Indian politics.

As per data of Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), the representation of women in legislature hovers around 12% overall since a decade.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha saw representation of 7% women (highest since independence) but still it is mere 14.7% (less than

15%). In contrast, countries like

Rwanda has 55% representation, Nepal over 30%, China has 21%.

The 108<sup>th</sup> CA Bill, is linguishing in parliament. The lack of political will has emerged as major impediment in passing 108<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bill, which seeks to reserve 33% seats for women in parliament.



Historically, during Indian national movement, women played crucial role in Indian politics. The work of Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, Amrita Kaur etc. has been laudable.

However, post independent, women's participation again declined, due to lack of adequate support from parties.

There is a need to promote women in Indian politics to secure their interest more holistically with direct participation of women. Further, women's participation makes laws more humane and gender-sensitive as highlighted by work of scholar like Catherine McKinnon; Care ethics of Carole Gilligan.

The steps taken by Biju Janta Dal to reserve 33% seats for women, yielded better results. Further, until 108th CA Bill is passed, parties can promote participation on voluntary basis to integrate hitherto disempowered section into mainstream politics.

6

Examine role of  
73rd and 94th  
Constitutional amendment  
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Remarks