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KARISHMA NAIR

RANK - 14

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
MOCK - 2, PAPER II
TEST - 11**



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Mock 2 (Paper - II)
TEST - 11

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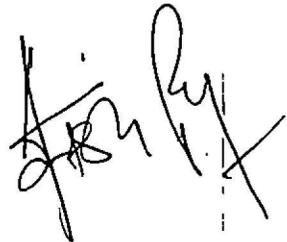
125

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate



- There are EIGHT question divided in Two Sections.
- 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 choosing at least one question from each section.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- 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 Question-Cum-Answer booklet must be clearly struck off.

Name Karishma Nair

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature (Kna)

1. Invigilator's Signature _____

2. Invigilator's Signature _____

SECTION-A

1. Comment on the following into 150 words:

(10 × 5 = 50)

- (a) Autonomy in the PSEs is a misnomer. Political agendas/ Ministers control the strings. Comment.
- (b) Civil Service Law is the need of the hour to better organise the Civil Services. Comment.
- (c) Ordinance making by the Executive should be appropriately restrained. Comment.
- (d) Comment on the impact of the Political culture of India on its Administration.
- (e) The Indian Administration of today is the resultant sum of Kautilyan, Weberian and Gandhian Influences. Comment.

(a) Public Sector Enterprises (PSE) in the era of post-LPG and Good Governance demands autonomy to be a key component in its functioning.

Need for Autonomy → reduce political interference
 → enhance competitiveness with priv. players
 → Reduces development burden & becomes truly enterprising

Good (6)

However, such autonomy to PSEs remains elusive:

- ① Appointments to key posts is determined by the Govt. of the day along with Board of Governors, thus affecting independence.
- ② Budgetary control of PSEs where profits are to be transferred to govt, thus not truly

Remarks

self-sustaining-

(3) Auditing Control by CAG reduces the initiative taking, risk taking business acumen of PSEs.

(4) PSEs made to implement Govt. wishes and demands. eg. LIC taking up NPA ridden bank.

(5) ~~High~~ Appointment of bureaucrats rather than specialists in PSEs, which causes bureaucrat - politician nexus to prevail

(6) Pricing of products of PSEs determined by political considerations rather than market demand.

(7) future expansions to new areas requires Govt. nods.

However, full autonomy without considerations for accountability might effect 'publicness' of such enterprise.

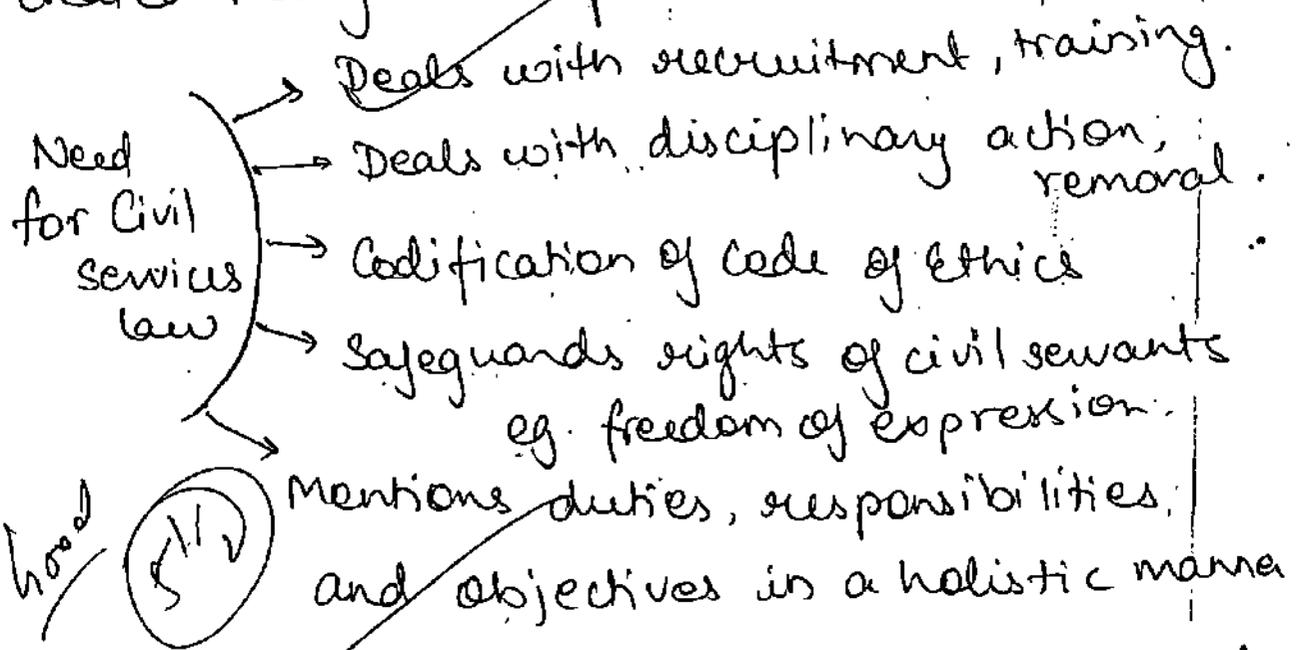
The Govt. is devolving more autonomy

Remarks

to PSEs by identifying them as Mini Ratnas, Nav Ratnas, Maharatnas etc

Principles of corporate Governance should & are also to be followed in PSEs for their effectiveness.

(b) Civil Service Law entails a single piece of legislation to deal with civil services in India. The absence of such a law has created many discrepancies in its functioning.



The absence of such a law at present leads to:

- ① Arbitrariness in training, promotions, etc
- ② Civil servants' rights not made aware of.

- ③ Relation & role vis-a-vis politicians not clearly mentioned.
- ④ Job description is vague causing arbitrariness in functioning.
- ⑤ Absence of effective, fast & responsive Grievance Redressal mechanism.

In this light, the 2nd ARC has also recommended formulation of Civil Services Law following international Best practices eg. Canada, etc.

- (c) Ordinance making (art. 123 & 213) involves formulating of laws by the executive which has the same legal footing as the legislations made by legislatures.

Need for ordinance making → To account for urgent & dire necessities
 → Lower House is not permanent may lead to legislative delay.

The current safeguards against ordinances include : ① It needs to be ratified by

both Houses of Parliament (Legislature) Within 6 weeks of

beginning of sittings.

② It cannot be used to amend the constitution

However further restraints are needed because

① Practise of repromulgation of ordinances without placing before parliament, after it lapses.

② Use of ordinances to bring legislations that do not warrant urgency.

eg. controversy against Triple Talaq Ordinance.

③ Repromulgation without even changing wordings of ordinances. ^{Good} (6)

former President Pranab Mukherjee raised concerns against rampant repromulgation of ordinances.

Courts have also cautioned against such use in a series of verdicts,

the recent one being Krishna Kumar case (2017)

Ordinance-making is a necessary evil which is an abhorrence to separation of power which requires political will to follow restraint.

(d) Political culture is the general attitude of people towards politics. It also shapes the politicians, their interactions with administrators, and the relation that administrators have with people.

The impact of political culture on administration is seen in:

① Mai-Baap/Sahab/Elitist culture

dis. as some + veg as well

The delayed development of political culture made ~~an~~ dependency on administration more prominent, which led to elitism. (5)

② Rise in corruption

As political corruption ~~rose~~ ^{increased} it had a trickle-down effect on administrative ethics as well.

③ Rise in efficiency

As political culture developed to become more positive & participative, there ~~was~~ ^{is} more emphasis on efficiency, transparency, citizen-centricity, etc.

Remarks

eg. The recent 'No Tolerance against Corruption' political culture in India, led to compulsory retirement of more than 80 IAS officials.

eg. Culture of 'Minimum Govt., maximum Governance' has tackled red-tapism and demanded more efficiency.

Due to the close interaction between administration & politics, participation & responsiveness of people towards administration is also driven by political culture.

(e) Indian Administration is fortunate to have many models of administration that it can imbibe from.

Present administration shows glimpses of these influences:

① Kautilyan influences

- Welfare-oriented administration.
- Merit-based recruitment.
- Administration grounded in ethics - against corruption.
- & Prevalence of hierarchy, unity of command etc.

Weberian Influences

- Steel frame of Indian administration based on legal-rational authority
- follows principles of - meritocracy, hierarchy, sphere of competence, remuneration, career services, rule-based functioning, etc.
- follows impersonal order, anonymity, political neutrality, etc.

(5/12)

Gandhian Influences

- Involved in development administration based on social equity & justice.
- Representation of all classes & castes of society.
- Upliftment of downtrodden - core value of Antyodaya followed.
- Work in districts using local resources, knowledge wherever possible.

Thus, modern Indian Administration cherishes these influences, modifying them according to societal demands.

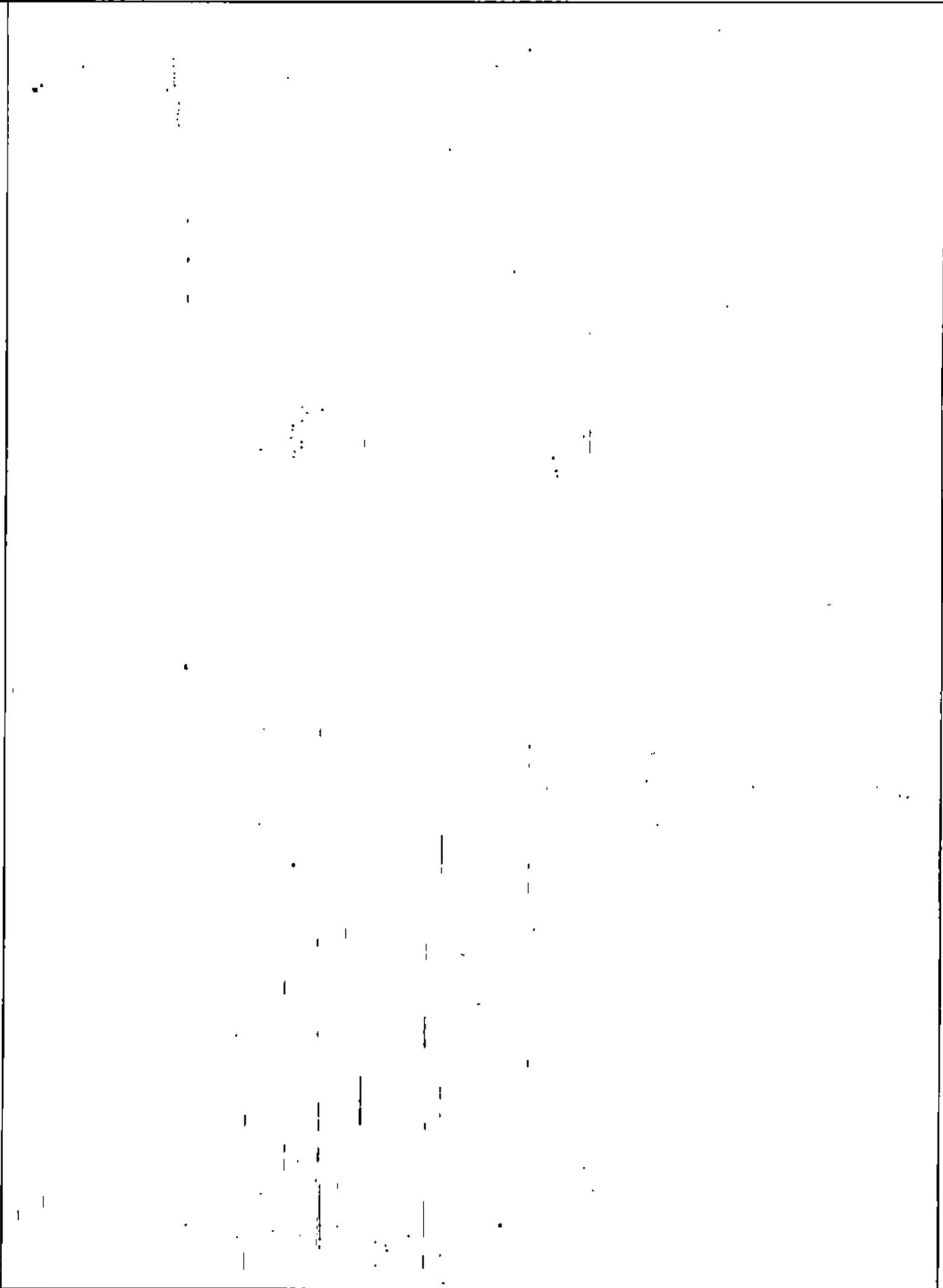
2. Answer the following questions:

- (a) The governments rely on public sector undertakings (PSUs) to mobilize resources. In the light of post economic liberalization that took place in early nineties and its effect on PSUs in India, analyse if the government's reliance on PSUs is a right step forward in mobilizing resources. (250 Words) (20)
- (b) NITI Ayog's "strategy for new India@75" is an attempt to give new thrust to development. Critically examine. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) "Listening to the voice of citizens not just during periodic elections but on an ongoing basis is the starting point of participation of citizens in governance". Comment with example(s). (100 Words) (10)

Remarks

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Remarks



Remarks

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Remarks

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Remarks

3. Answer the following questions:

- (a) In the light of demand by few state governments to create Legislative Councils in their respective legislatures, critically discuss the desirability of establishing such bodies in states. Do you think there should be a national policy to deal with their establishment? Examine. (250 Words) (20)
- (b) With regard to 'Fiscal federalism', the union government has chosen to spend nearly half of its fiscal stimulus through the state governments. Do you think states are administratively efficient to spend these funds prudently and productively? Critically examine. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) Aspirational District Programme heralds the new era in the administration and development at district level. Explain. (100 Words) (10)

3. (a) Legislative Councils are the second houses of Legislature at the state level, thus fulfilling the Parliamentary form of Govt in the level of states.

At present 7 states have Legislative Councils, with many others like Odisha demanding for the same.

Formation of legislative Councils is done by the Parliament on the proposal of states which it is not obligated to act upon.

Such demands and further inaction by Parliament raises the debate regarding the desirability of Legislative Councils.

Remarks

Reasons for desirability:

- 1° Provides representation to people in states who can be helpful in legislation but can not & do not wish to contest elections.
- 2° Provides representation to local bodies in state legislatures.
- 3° Delays legislations (by maximum of 4 months) that can check rash decision making.
- 4° Provides representation to teachers, university students, etc.
- 5° Can act as a permanent House on level of states.

Reasons for undesirability:

- 1° Legislative Councils are too weak and not analogous to Rajya Sabha.
- 2° States which once had Legislative Council have withdrawn them eg Tamil Nadu.
- 3° Leads to entry of people who have lost elections into ^{legislature} ~~politics~~ (nominations)
- 4° Does not act as a check on Legislative Assembly.

Remarks

5. May delay decisions, even if by 6 months. Notwithstanding the drawbacks, Legislative Council holds one very important advantage which is to provide representation to local bodies.

2nd ARC in its 6th Report has thus called for setting up of Legislative Councils in all states to provide such representation to local bodies. (9/2)

However, a national policy in this regard will have both positive & negative implications.

Positives

- All local bodies will have representation.
- Leads to standardisation thus not driven by arbitrariness of SLAs or Parliament

- more analysis req
Good effort
- ### Negatives
- Against principle of federalism.
 - Might be counterproductive in some small states.

The enthusiasm towards Legislative Councils should also look into strengthening them as well, such that their efficacy & relevance can be justified.

(b) The 14th FC recommended devolution of 42% of taxes to states in the spirit of fiscal federalism. Further the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other grants together ensure that the Centre spends a substantial amount through state governments.

Such devolution could be through direct agencies like DRDA, but is usually routed through the Consolidated funds of the States.

The administrative efficiency of states to spend these funds prudently & productively is questioned because:

① State finance Commissions (243-1 & 4) are not constituted regularly & their reports are not acted upon, thus expertise in handling funds is questioned.

- ② States along with IAS officers, have officers from State Civil Services whose selection, training, etc. may differ in quality from state to state.
- ③ Lack of push for fiscal sub-federalism by states is affecting the utilisation of funds, as most work in states are done through districts rather than PRTs.
- ④ The prudence of usage of funds is questioned in the absence of outcome budgetting of fund.
 write contextually
 write ques first, structure better
- ⑤ Productive use of funds is difficult to quantify as devolution is for schemes such as poverty alleviation that do not have set benchmarks. However, such a view can be countered by analysing the provisions & effectiveness in states.

8 1/2

- ① Audit in states level is also conducted by CAG itself. This prudence should & will be of desired quality.
 - ② States also have targets according to FRBM Act, that will inculcate prudence.
 - ③ Concept of Lokayukta to check for administrative irregularities is instituted in most states.
 - ④ Presence of AIS officers in level of states ensuring administrative productivity of fund usage.
 - ⑤ Niti Aayog has instituted many rankings to enhance productive usage of funds by inculcating competitive spirit.
 - ⑥ Media reports of fund utilisation ensures accountability to people. eg. Recent report of 0% utilisation of Nishkanya Fund by Maharashtra.
- Thus, while there will not be uniformity in performance of states, capacity building is the way forward for proper, prudent & productive fund utilisation.

Remarks

fund utilisation =

(c) Aspirational District Programme (ADP) is a flagship programme by Niti Aayog which aims to target 115 of the most backward districts in India, to achieve socio-economic targets.

It is considered to be a ~~new~~ ^{game-changer} in the administration & development at district level because: (8)

- ① Aims to usher in competition at district level amongst low achieving districts through ranking system.
- ② Focus on data-driven and evidence-based monitoring and intervention.
- ③ Many districts in the list have been long neglected due to axial presence.
- ④ Convergence of all schemes on different areas including Health, Nutrition, Sanitation, Education, Skill development, etc.

Remarks

⑤ Provides direct responsibility to administrator in the district.

⑥ Experiments by ensuring administrators of these districts have longer tenure so that they can achieve targets & become more accountable.

Thus, ADP provides a dedicated effort of a vision of development to tackle unique problems of such districts, having resemblance to Neo-localism

4. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Small Districts (geographical area) will provide relief to the overburdened and overworked Collector. Discuss. (250 Words) (20)
- (b) Both intra-governmental relations and inter-governmental relations need effective management. Examine their impact on the performance of the government. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) In a paper titled 'Towards India's New Fiscal Federalism', former Finance Commission chairman Vijay Kelkar has pitched for setting up of a 'new Niti Aayog' and giving it responsibility for allocating capital and revenue grants to the states. Why was it needed? Suggest composition and other measures which NITI Ayog 2.0 should adopt. (100 Words) (10)

Remarks

Remarks

Remarks

Remarks

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Remarks

SECTION-B

5. Comment on the following into 150 words:-

(10 × 5 = 50)

- (a) "Integrity Pacts" can be an effective tool to promote transparency and accountability in public contracts and lead to better governance. Comment with an example.
- (b) The concept of social audit is more comprehensive than that of traditional audit. Comment.
- (c) Budgetary support to nationalised banks is a necessary evil in light of NPA issues and the social purpose these institutions serve. Comment while keeping 'the Indradhanshi plan' in consideration.
- (d) Panchayat's functions can be enhanced by use of ICT and instil efficiency, transparency and accountability. Comment.
- (e) CRPF plays a critical role in law and order administration, despite it being a state subject. Comment.

(a) Integrity Pacts are undertakings by public agencies and bidders to follow ethical conduct in the fulfillment of their contract/interaction/bidding.

Integrity Pacts can be an effective tool to:

① promote transparency:

① Both parties agree to abjure from secrecy.

② Contract fulfillment based on information sharing & mutual trust.

③ Explicit mention against corruption, bribery, etc.

Remarks

II) Promote Accountability :

- ① Both parties can hold the other accountable → self regulation.
- ② Reneging on pact, can be ground for revoking contract.
- ③ Provisions to provide quality services as well.

example : ONGC became the first Indian ^{hood} company to enter into an Integrity Pact for its oil ventures abroad.

Thus, Integrity pacts can boost stakeholder confidence, mutual trust, which is vital for the success of contracts leading to better service delivery and better governance.

5. (b) Social audit is the audit of a policy, initiative, institutions, by the people affected by it.
- ③ Traditional audit generally restricts itself to financial auditing, authority auditing,

Remarks

propriety auditing, etc. which merely looks for any discrepancies, malafide, etc.

① Social audit on the other hand helps in gauging the impact of the scheme, functioning on the society.

It is more comprehensive because:

- * Includes participation of stakeholders & ^{inclusive method}
- * Is more qualitative than quantitative
- * Leads to more identification of externalities, lacunae, etc.
- * Enhances confidence, solution-finding initiative amongst participants.

② It can ~~also~~ contain further safeguards for more vulnerable eg. old aged, women, children etc.

However, its comprehensive becomes constrained because:

- * Lack of knowledge, skills, capacity in participants.
- * Lack of well-researched parameters or criteria of audit.
- * Lack of wholesome inclusion of all in social audit - discrimination prevails

A law in the lines of Meghalaya for Social Audit + country-wide ~~would~~ be a way-forward to realise the true potential of this traditional practise (Jan Senwa's).

5. (c) The recent capitalisation proposal of ₹ 70000 Cr in Budget 2019 for banks is the latest addition to budgetary support to Banks.

It is considered Necessary because:

- ⊙ Boosts liquidity in banking, enhances credit availability → crowding in effect
- ⊙ Prevents banks from falling into, or getting out of Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework due to NPAs.
- ⊙ Boosts investor sentiments in Indian banking & economy which is needed.

It is considered evil because:

- ⊙ Effects our fiscal deficit prudence.
- ⊙ Govt. would borrow for the same leading to crowding out effect.
- ⊙ Does not tackle Corporate Governance issues in PSBs.

Remarks

In this light, Indradhanush plans aims to tackle issues of Banks comprehensively, recapitalisation being just one of them:

Appointments

Banks Board Bureau

Capitalisation of Banks

Destressing of NPAs

Ensuring efficiency in banks.

framework of Governance for Banks

Such a comprehensive plan would reduce the need for further capitalisation by ~~the~~ sustaining reforms.

The PSB EASE reforms is the recent step on similar lines, where governance in PSBs is identified as the root of NPA problem.

(d) Panchayats have failed to realise their full potential due to poor capacity and paucity of funds, functions, functionaries.

ICT connectivity to Panchayats through e-Kranti and BharatNet Project will be a game changer for Panchayats as:

- ① Can enhance efficiency by implementing e-Panchayats on the lines of e-Office & e-District - reduces paper work.
- ② ICT enablement through PM Gramin Digital Sakshata Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) will lead to capacity building of Panchayats as well as villagers.
- ③ Usage of tele-medicine, tele-health, etc. can be converged in Panchayat offices due to enhanced connectivity 6
- ④ Reduces reliance of extra staff, will lead to better service delivery for citizens.
- ⑤ Many functions can be monitored through ICT, thus, Span of control of Panchayats will be enhanced.
- ⑥ Transparency enhanced as all information at Panchayat level can be voluntarily disclosed on single platform.
- ⑦ Accountability enhanced as people can monitor progress, functioning

Remarks

of panchayats, videos of meetings can be streamed, etc.

- ① Enhances avenues for grievance redressal becoming more responsive.
- ② Seamless connection to district & state administration. This potential that ICT opens up should be used responsibly & inclusively by first ensuring capacity building of every member including change in attitudes.

(c) CRPF is

Central Reserve Police force (CRPF) though primarily a central force is often deployed in states to undertake responsibilities where the state needs help. ^{More} ^{analy} ^{needed}

Art. 355 is used for deployment of CRPF as it is the Centre's responsibility to curb disturbances in states.

CRPF's Role in law & Order in States ^{Good} ^{effs}

- Assists states on demand or otherwise when situation goes out of hand.

Remarks

- Specially called to handle communal conflicts, riots, etc.
- Called for rescue & rehabilitation of law & order in cases of natural disasters.
- May be deployed in cases of curfew, etc.
- Presence in Naxal-affected states as it is part of their specialised duty.

CRPF thus acts as a contingent police force for the states whose sustenance, provisions, etc. is done by the Centre.

Remarks

6. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Accessibility to the civil servants is an important part of the grievance redressal mechanism and a measure of administrative responsiveness. Discuss and suggest measures to improve them. (250 Words) (20)
- (b) 2nd ARC identifies two seemingly contrary approaches to tackle corruption. Discuss. Also point out the factors identified by ARC which give rise to tendencies like corruption. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) "The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) makes a strong case for the principle of subsidiarity". Explain. (100 Words) (10)

Remarks

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Remarks

Remarks

Remarks

Remarks

7. Answer the following questions:

- (a) "Many of the weaknesses in budgeting reflect the failure to address linkages between the various functions of budgeting". What factors contribute to budget systems and processes that create a disabling environment for performance in the public sector, both by commission and by omission? (250 Words) (20)
- (b) A model policy for "Women in Police" is the need of the hour. Examine such a scenario and suggest the postulates of such a policy. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) is a positive step to create sustainable living in the congested and every expanding urban area. Comment. (100 Words) (10)

7. (a) Budgeting forms the core of POSDCORB as it provides funds for all the functioning of administration.

The various functions of budgeting include:

- ① Access to funds for functioning.
- ② Provides details about previous performances.
- ③ Accountability mechanism to be used by legislature.
- ④ Administration comes to know about its leeways & restrictions created by budgets.

These functions ideally should be linked, which is not followed, leading to budgeting failures.

Remarks

- ① Present divulution not dependent on past performance.
- ② Administration ~~does not~~ maintain accounts commensurate with its budgeting heads.
- ③ The accountability mechanism is used more as a political tool.
- ④ New principles of Zero Based Budgeting, Performance budgeting not successfully followed.

The budget systems have a direct impact on the performance of public sector which are characterised by many factors.

① By Commission

- * The politicisation of budgeting leads to populism that hampers efficiency of public sector by deflecting funds.
- * The taxation policy keeping in mind the electorate leads to skewed tax:GDP ratio that reduces

Remarks

competitiveness of public sector.

* Trade wars & other foreign contributions impact our fiscal position that reflects in fiscal policy, ~~not~~ affecting public sector.

II. By Omission

* Change in priorities leads to cut in funds to certain sectors (eg. ^{Health} ~~Defense~~) that can harm the existing performance of public sector in the field & also curb future innovations.

* Lack of gender perspective, though warranted, in many domains leads to poor gender sensitivity of public sector.

eg. Special funds were warranted by 10th FC for record keeping, which since not fulfilled has led to poor management in public sector.

Thus, the budgeting system needs to be made more responsible for the direct impact it has on the performance of public sector.

7b) 2nd ARC in its 5th Report has called for enhancing number of women in police force. ~~as~~ With women being around 50% of the population, their representation in police still remains below 25%.

"Women in Police" has become the need of the hour because:

- need (10)
- ① ~~Reducing~~ ^{Need to increase} gender sensitivity in police.
 - ② Rise in crimes against women
eg. Rapes, Domestic violence, Triple Talag, etc.
 - ③ To improve gender composition of police force that can deal with modern day challenges by healthy work culture.
 - ④ Women inmates in prison need supervision by women police to safeguard their rights. prevent violation.
 - ⑤ Instances of crime against women in police stations or by police themselves.

Remarks

⑥ Need for more women in higher posts of police & rather than only constable level.

This will create a light house effect where women will no longer be seen as weak & exploitable if the image is changed.

⑦ Women police needs to be given more diverse roles rather than only being restricted to women specific crimes.

⑧ With rise in crimes against children (POCSO offences) women are considered more trustworthy for children to open up to.

⑨ Acts as an encouragement for more women to consider police as an aspirational job.

CHALLENGES

- change in mindset needed.
- safety equipment for women needed.
- physical combat scenarios assessment.

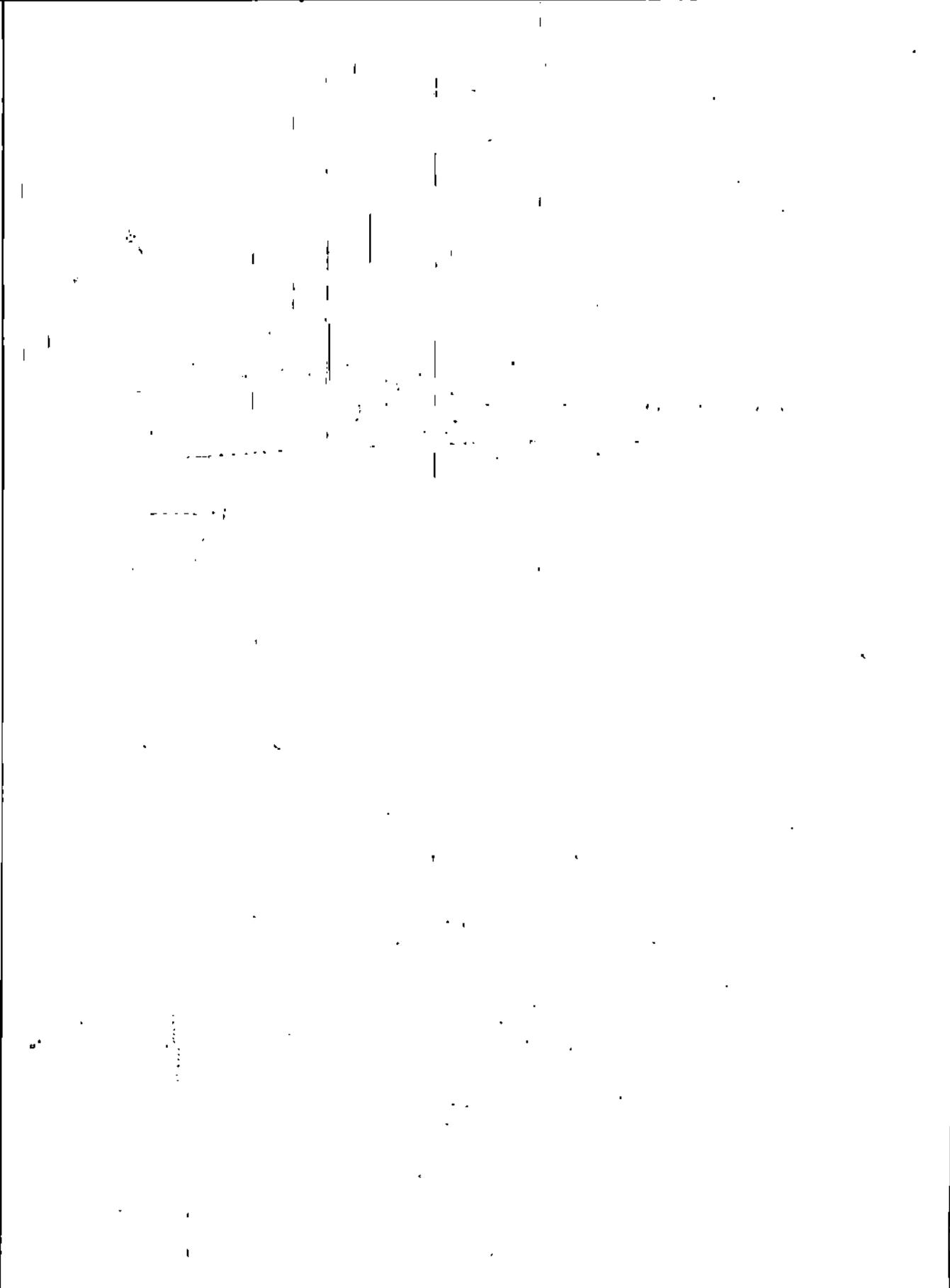
Remarks

Postulates of such a policy

- ① Inclusion of women in all levels of police force, reservation policy to be enhanced if need arises.
- ② Equipments (eg. body shield) for women should be made available.
- ③ Grievance redressal mechanism for women police officer.
- ④ Compulsory check, maintenance of crèche.
- ⑤ Gender sensitive training exercise even at constable level.
- ⑥ Gradual dilution of women only squads to reduce restrictions on women officers.
- ⑦ Special awards & incentives for service for women in Police.

Thus, the country should be ready to accept women in Police thus broader consensus through policy is needed.

Remarks



Remarks

8. Answer the following questions:

- (a) India's urbanisation template is clearly ripe for change. Discuss. Also highlight the mistakes in India's urban development strategy and how the smart city mission aims to correct it. Also suggest broad contours of the next-gen-urbanisation policy. (250 Words) (20)
- (b) Municipal governance in India is not sufficiently prepared to meet the challenges of frequent natural disasters. Elucidate the statement and add your own suggestions. (250 Words) (20)
- (c) Standing committees offer many advantages in the effective discharge of legislative responsibility of the Union Government. Discuss those advantages and suggest measures to further strengthen them. (100 Words) (10)

8. (a) Urbanisation in India is going through a fast-paced boost with 31% urban population (2011 Census) reaching to be 50% urban population by 2050.

The urbanisation Template exposes many flaws:

- ① Skewed urbanisation tilted towards Tier 1 cities.
- ② Haphazard urbanisation - unplanned congested cities with shrinking green spaces.
- ③ Poor consideration for environment and sustainability.
- ④ functional challenges - waste disposal, sewage management, water supply,

Remarks

transportation, rise in crimes, etc.

⑤ Challenges to functioning of ULBs.

⑥ Rampant distress migration →

Such a template demands change so that urban centres do not decay because of the entropy generated.

Mistakes in India's urban development strategy

1. Late beginning with JNNURM (2011-12) being the first major policy for urban development.
2. Does not envisage greater role for citizens.
3. Sustainability, monitoring & implementation of urban development strategy is lacking.
4. Equal consideration to environment not given. eg. 21 cities to run out of Ground water by 2022. (Niti Aayog Data)

Remarks

5. Strategy was not data driven & evidence based, without use of ICT.

6. Concept of networking not followed.

7. Development in silos

Smart cities mission aims to usher in

a new era of urban development for 100 cities by addressing aforementioned challenges:

① Is an area-based approach to holistically cover all challenges of an area.

② Seeks to use networking, smart ^② solutions to address problems.

③ Integrated Command & Control Centres (ICC) to monitor implementation

of smart cities. suggest next gen pol/ way of excess

④ will lead to reverse migration ~~the~~ people to be supported by other cities.

⑤ Greenfield development of Tier II & III cities before it is too late.

→ Thus, the urban landscape can be engines of growth in a sustainable manner through efficient urban development strategy

Remarks

(b) Natural disasters in urban areas in recent times eg. Chennai & Mumbai floods points to the unpreparedness of municipal governance to such disasters.

The frequent natural disasters further show the cyclic unpreparedness and poor adherence to the principle of BUILD BACK BETTER (Sendai framework).

- ⊙ Clogged drainage system with no conduits for removal of water.
- ⊙ Absence of disaster rescue & response strategy at municipality level.
- ⊙ Infrastructure not made disaster resilient
eg. collapse of Bridges during rains in Mumbai.
- ⊙ Poor awareness & no early warning system in place.
- ⊙ Mock drills are not followed.

Remarks

- ① Capacity of health system to respond to natural disasters & ensuing diseases has not been assessed.
- ② Absence of dedicated teams & funds for disaster preparedness in municipal level. (10)
- ③ Delineation of responsibilities not done amongst various agencies present in municipal level leading to blame game. Inter-agency coordination should also receive key attention.
- ④ Assessment^{of} seasonality of disasters, vulnerable hubs, citizens' needs to be undertaken.
- ⑤ Buffer stock of food, medicines, etc. needed.
- ⑥ Coordination with state & national Govt, networking with NGOs, etc. to have multi-stakeholder approach.

Remarks

Suggestions

- ① Formulation of disaster management strategy ~~policy~~ at municipal level.
 - ② Establish inter-agency coordination and responsibilities a priori.
 - ③ Awareness drive to involve RWA, NGOs, educational institutions.
 - ④ Vulnerability mapping needs to be undertaken at local level.
eg. Area Sabha level.
 - ⑤ Create Municipal level Disaster Resource Network for prompt action.
 - ⑥ Incorporate volunteers & undertake training for the same.
- States & Centre needs to devolve requisite funds to municipal bodies to enhance preparedness & resilience against disasters.

Remarks

(c) Standing Committees are permanent committees of Parliament. There are standing committees for important topics eg. PSUs as well as Departmentally Related standing committees.

Advantages in effective discharge of legislative Responsibility

- ① Effective scrutiny of bills in a non-partisan way.
- ② Expert opinion can be called for.
- ③ Post legislative scrutiny can be undertaken if so demanded.
- ④ Audit Reports of ministries are scrutinised, budget proposals assessed.

Woodrow Wilson said, "Congress in session is Congress on exhibition, Congress in Committees is Congress in work".

- ⑤ leads to effective policy suggestions and changes.

Remarks

Measures to further strengthen

Req. • Mandate that every important Bill should be sent to Standing Committee.

• Compulsory part - legislative scrutiny like in UK.

• Attendance of members to Committee to be presented to the House.

• Providing inter-committee liaisons for multi-pronged legislations.

• Action taken Report on Committee recommendations should be tabled.

The Committee system is thus an effective Parliamentary system that should be further strengthened for better legislative ends.