

(Ans) Speaker is considered the touchstone of the parliamentary process in India.

But the envisaged role of the speaker hasn't been achieved in lieu of partisan & power games in the parliament, thus making speaker act according to the interests of the party he has representation from.

Eg:- the certification of money bill is the mandate of speaker and the provisions of Aadhar, tribunals, etc that have no relation to financial matters have been passed as a money bill, thus negating the role of the Rajya Sabha in the discussion & passage of the bill.

Eg:- the no-confidence motion is considered the soul of the parliamentary system of governance by keeping the executive in check. Speaker by delaying the discussion of the motion citing lack of order in parliament instead of directing order is an abuse of the powers of speaker.

Eg:- the anti-defection provisions of 10th schedule kick in once the speaker acknowledges that the party swapping has taken place. Speaker acting in a partisan manner turned blind eye towards opposition parties' MLAs swapping sides into ruling party has led to engineered mandates for ruling parties in many states.

Eg:- Motions such as impeachment of president, adjournment motion etc need speaker's concurrence before admitting for discussion. Speaker by his discretionary power rejects the motions without valid cause thereby stifling the voices of opposition parties.

Thus speaker is becoming a sabatical politician these days to further ruling party's interests instead of being non-partisan.

This culture needs to be changed by giving speaker more independence in terms of appointment, impeachment, etc to ensure partisan interests don't brew & cherished role is ^{enjoyed} utilised fully.

Ans Chief Justice of India is considered as first among equals in the judiciary based on rule of primacy and not on supremacy because of the following reasons:-

- ① CJI and 4 other senior most judges forming the collegium select the judges to High Courts and Supreme Court implying that all the members of judiciary are considered equal in ensuring the independence of judiciary with no one man supremacy.
 - ② Though Supreme Court rules ^(Article 145 of constitution gives) mention that the judicial work needs to be allocated by CJI to other judges, but it is only an administrative decision to bring convenience and order into the work and not to give plenary powers to Chief Justice of India.
 - ③ In judicial capacity, the judges of a bench have similar responsibility as other CJI to provide justice to the aggrieved person and there are no veto rights or additional powers given to CJI implying all of them hold same powers.
 - ④ In the impeachment of judges of Supreme and High Court, no additional mechanisms are suggested for Chief Justice of India that sets him aside as a class upon himself, thereby making him ~~only~~ equal to ~~everyone~~ ^{every judge} in judiciary.
 - ⑤ Though there is a difference in salaries and allowances of CJI and other Supreme Court judges, it is only provided in lieu of other administrative and constitutional responsibilities that CJI is ought to perform like administering oath to president, etc.
- Thus CJI is only first among equals based on primacy and convention and not because of supremacy and the conventions need to be followed for effective functioning of judiciary in India.

(3 Ans) Interlocution process in Kashmir should involve right-minded approach in place of like-minded approach because of the following reasons:-

(3)

① the insurgency in Kashmir is because of complex reasons that are caused by historical blunders by successive governments. By ensuring all stakeholders' views are considered, effective & sustainable solution to the insurgency can be engendered for the problem.

② By including only like-minded people in discussion, false sense of certainty is created and makes it difficult to see the bigger picture.

③ Successive governments' attempts at bringing peace have failed because of utilizing similar practices of hard security approach using AFSPA provisions thereby alienating people and enabling separatist tendencies to brew.

By including fresh ideas, the need for such hard approaches can be negated.

④ Interlocutors' role is that of improving dialogue in Kashmir region with all stakeholders and get the situation into control, but Indian sovereignty & territorial integrity needs to be ascertained at all costs.

Thus it is imperative to get the separatists onboard the dialogue process with an open mind and strike middle ground to improve the situation in Pakistan.

(5 Ans) Issues of delimitation of states in India are:-

① By providing more Lok Sabha parliamentary and representation to the populous states, it provides an excuse for populous states to avoid family welfare measures and thereby benefits not reaching everyone equally.

② Also, the states that have contained population growth are effectively penalized by deducting their strength in the parliament.

① The ^{15th} finance commission recommends terms of reference by including more weightage to recent census (2011) has created a rift between advanced states and backward states which is bad for federalism and national integrity, which is true for delimitation of seats too

② But by freezing the delimitation till 2024, the following concerns are brewing up:-

① the population of India is too high and we are having a demographic dividend as of now. By denying more seats and by implication more resources to populous states, we are making losing economic development for everyone

② the populous states have not deliberately increased the measures for population growth and by further limiting their access to resources, the infrastructure and other investments are denied to ^{rest} population of India which is immoral and unethical.

③ the idea of one vote one value is being denied by freezing delimitation, thus curbing their political equality guaranteed by constitution of India

thereby the concerns of all the states need to be addressed by suitable methods of incentives and allowances to help every citizen of India regardless of state has similar economic development and enjoy the life to complete extent.

(Ans) Article 243AA and 243BB provide for the partial statehood of Delhi, thereby giving it a unique status in our constitution

The division of legislative & administrative subjects of Delhi are as follows:-

- ① Land, water, health, ^{power etc} being given to Delhi state government
- ② public order, etc being given to union government

the Lieutenant Governor is the head of the Delhi government who shall act on the aid & advice of the Council of Ministers elected by citizens of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

the Lieutenant Governor is an administrator appointed by the President of India.

the central government is empowered to aid & advice the President on the governance issues of Delhi, whose decision shall be binding on the state government.

the issues pertaining to demands for complete statehood are:-

① Delhi, being capital city of India is home to the central government machinery such as parliament, executive offices, Rashtrapati Bhavan etc.

Thus the governance of Delhi requires concurrence with the state government of Delhi and central government. By giving complete statehood central-state disputes are bound to erupt thereby stalling union government's governance.

② Also, Delhi is home to foreign embassies, head offices of constitutional bodies like UPSC, CAG, etc which require huge security. Public order being a state subject will make it impossible for central government to ascertain the best security apparatus for the bodies.

③ By giving complete statehood, it becomes difficult to enforce the laws of taxation and such in a vibrant city like Delhi with bustling activity.

But the necessity of Delhi citizens for a responsible government cannot be overturned because:-

① Population of Delhi being so huge requires a responsible and accountable government which is approachable. Being a union territory, often their wishes are thwarted by the central government.

② By giving administrative powers to Lt Governor, the will of people of Delhi represented through Delhi assembly is curbed by the absolute veto he enjoys via president

③ Effective decentralization has not happened with a lack of will on the ~~state~~ ^{central} government to give more powers to Delhi ^{municipal} corporation which would've happened if responsible state governments were present

→ thus more intuitive solutions are required to solve the demands of complete statehood of Delhi and meet the needs of people

(8Am) state flags are a symbol of feeling towards the territory of the state.

the positives of state flag	the negatives of state flag
① the constitution and the flag code of India do not prohibit states from having their own flags except that it must be flown below the national flag	① the states being destructable for the administrative convenience of central government, the feeling of National unity must be regarded most significant than states
② the flag represents the collective interests of the state and signifies the region's cultural heritage	② By brewing excessive regional feelings, we miss the National integrity and patriotism leading to regionalism and secessionary tendencies
③ the development and regional heritage are a complementary part of the region leading to overall development of India	③ With India becoming one market by cooperative federalism, affinity to one region should be secondary and acceptance be the norm

(9 Ans)

Constitution of India is a visionary and modern document while the people of India are backward because of the following reasons:-

① the constitution of India provides equality for all via Articles 14, 15, 16^{and} 17 wherein discrimination based on race, caste, religion, sex are prohibited.

But, atrocities against dalits are still felt to this day despite constitutional guarantees

② Women are still denied equal opportunities and respect that men enjoy in the society and there exists an imaginary glass ceiling to women's growth

③ Constitutional guarantees of freedom to life and personal liberty are violated by citizens in the name of honor killings by khap panchayats

The extended fundamental rights of clean environment, health etc are denied to a lot of unprivileged citizens of the society

④ Right to Education as per Article 21A giving primary education to all children is only achieved in letter by the number of enrolments but in spirit it is violated by poor teaching methodologies and age old labors regarding education

⑤ the freedoms to practice, profess and preach one's own religion and the ^{other} religious rights are violated in the name of communal hatred leading to communal riots

thus the cherished goals of constitution makers are yet to be realized and India has miles to go before the multitudes accept, adopt and reform the new mindsets required

⑦

(10A) simultaneous elections in India are feasible in India because :-

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(1) Post 1950, we had simultaneous elections in India till late 1960's as INC was the major party in India, so historically it was possible earlier

(2) Articles 324, 225 gives Election commission plenary powers to conduct elections in India

Articles 74, 75 gives the ~~state~~ ^{union} legislatures, the mandate to hold executive on account (similarly for states).

thus read together, the states legislatures & union legislature can be dissolved simultaneously and elections conducted together if the situation so arises that they are dissolved together

(3) With elections in India being a costly affair, the need for simultaneous elections is felt to reduce the load on election machinery and focus on administration

(4) With perpetual elections throughout the year, the focus on campaigning in huge and on governance is reduced thereby impacting economic development by virtue of model code of conduct

Simultaneous elections are not feasible in India because:-

① The need for regional parties was felt in 1960's which can project the state's demands better. Hence the advent of multiparty democracy today. and asynchronous ^{elections} By returning to simultaneous elections, regional parties are at a loss because of the huge reach of national parties.

② The constant elections gives local conditions national broadcast thereby giving a chance to voters to get limelight

By limiting the voters' role to once for every 5 years, the accountability of administration is reduced

③ By creating simultaneous elections, the existing tenure of parties and by extension will of people is reduced leading to discontinuation of policies and loss of development

Constitutional provisions give every member of legislature (states & central) 5 years tenure. (9)

By having simultaneous polls, the tenure of the state assemblies are shortened leading to violation of constitutional principles.

=> A sound state government machinery with clear mandate ^{in assembly} cannot be dismissed for following the constitutional norms and heeding the basic structure of constitution. Thus dissolving tenures of state government in advance is ~~frivolously~~ ^{frivolously} unconstitutional.

(HAns) Hybrid electoral system has the following pros and cons in the Indian democracy

Cons
~~Pros~~ of hybrid system

Pros
~~Cons~~ of hybrid system

① The first past-the-post system utilized in India doesn't give the true picture of voter interests as only the majority among contenders is needed (leading to alienation of those who didn't vote for ^{winning} from electoral process)

② Because of the system, vote banks are created and perpetration of caste, religion etc which is not healthy for democracy of India

③

(11 Ans)

Pros of hybrid system

It gives a chance for the voters to select their true representative instead of the ones selected by FPTP system.

It gives every citizen and community a say in the democracy instead of development of vote banks leading to effective democracy and good governance.

It gives a chance for all citizens get due attention in governance instead of only poor or other communities.

Cons of hybrid system

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It is a difficult process in terms of administrative acumen and the awareness of the citizens. (as FPTP is an easier system to use)

Voters need to be either made to wait for longer duration or asked to be available again because of hybrid system which becomes a nightmare for administrative machinery.

The areas of focus of parties shifts from voters towards communities leading to sectarian politics and regionalism first, is bad for sovereignty & integrity of India.

(12 Ans)

Fake news is any information that is deprived of factual reality engineered for partisan causes to trap gullible citizens.

Fake news is a menace today because of the following:-

- ① With advent of internet and social media, the information gets ubiquitous instantly leading to spread of false information and causing paranoia in the society.
- ② With more fake news, legitimate news becomes sidelined and the society starts living in illusory world leading to low awareness and more disillusionment.
- ③ The evils of communal disharmony and prejudices can be falsely legitimised with the help of social media leading to brewing social unrest.

④ Ideological radicalization and its extreme form (terrorism) can be perpetrated by spreading fake news thus causing internal & external security concerns

challenges to countering fake news are:-

① Because of ubiquitous nature, it gets impossible to remove fake news once it enters public domain leading to unforeseen troubles

② The social media platforms thrive on information. It is impossible for them to curb or regulate the information because of the profit associated with the information

③ Right to freedom of expression is constitutionally guaranteed to everyone with limitations. But these limitations are eroded by the advent of social media thereby the fake news overload, and regulatory hurdles

④ Anonymity guaranteed by social media platform companies cannot be reduced that effectively even by good laws because of trans-boundary nature of internet leading to unstoppable fake news

⑤ Often times, fake news are engineered by parties with deep pockets leading to controlling it getting difficult for any single institution.

(13 And)

President's rule

→ It is imposed in the states of India other than J&K when breakdown of constitutional machinery occurs

→ It has sanction from Indian Constitution.

→ Based on the governor's report or otherwise, the president can introduce presidential rule in any state in India and he rules via office of governor in the state.

Governor's rule

→ It is imposed in J&K when the constitutional breakdown occurs in the state.

→ It has sanction from J&K constitution

→ Governor rules the state autonomously without the presidential involvement

It has to be followed by elections ^{in 6 months} to the state government or further president's rule continues.

Maximum duration can be 2 years from the date of suspension of government

It has to be followed by elections in 6 months, to J&K or further president's rule can be imposed on the state
→ maximum duration can be only 6 months

(12)

(14 Ans) Article 35A gives the following rights to citizens of J&K:-

① No citizen of India other than those in J&K can purchase land in the state

② The women of J&K on marrying citizens of India other than those in J&K stand to lose the citizenship of J&K and all inheritance rights

③ Article 35A affects the federal relations between centre and states because:-

① the principle of one citizenship, pivotal for unity of India is compromised leading to constrained ties between centre and J&K.

② the land holding rights restrict investment in the region thereby leading to excess devolution of funds to the state and denying the same for other states this is discriminatory and affects the morale of other states badly.

③ the denial of citizenship to women is a cause of concern as it violates fundamental right to equality of citizens of J&K and also other states.

④ Demands for similar provisions from other states to protect their culture leads to protectionist measures and causes centre-state relations to derail. (13)

thus article 25A is discriminatory and needs to be reformed keeping several safeguards for cultural integrity of Jammu & Kashmir.

(15A) Indian foreign policy has shifted pivot to Eurasia because of the following reasons:-

- ① Indian membership to SCO to gain security, political and economic opportunities in Eurasia can help in stabilizing Indian interests in Eurasia.
- ② the North-south International Corridor planned that connects St. Petersburg in Russia to Mumbai in India is an attempt to extend India's reach to mineral rich areas of Eurasia.
- ③ CHAHABAHAR port that is constructed in Iran is a gateway for India to the Eurasian region, thereby getting Afghanistan the much needed economic development.
- ④ the Bull of global terror organizations are camped in middle east and west Asian region, thereby the Indian focus on thwarting terror has resulted in security operation under RATS framework of SCO thereby pivoting towards Eurasia.
- ⑤ Chinese footprint in Indian ocean has led to increased focus of India to encircle China through a doctrine of Iron curtain thereby developing friendly ^{bilateral} ties with Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan etc.

Thus Indian foreign policy is observing a pivot towards Eurasia for better economic and security prospects from India. (14)

(16 Ans) USA's changing trade policy includes :-

- ① A protectionist attitude towards American economy showcased by increased tariffs on imports, halting of mergers with foreign companies, thwarting trade by placing embargoes on countries
- ② Revisiting the trade policies with foreign nations and resigning from initiatives of multilateral nature like Trans Pacific Partnership, ~~the~~ ^{PAN} climate summit under UNFCCC where significant American investments are needed
- ③ Curbing immigration into the USA by discriminatory embargoes on countries and revamping H1B visa programme impacting the diversity scheme of USA and thus restricting ~~and~~ hiring options for ~~foreign~~ foreign nationals.

Changing trade policy impact on India would be :-

- ① Reduced options for Indian sellers to USA because of import tariffs on Indian goods
- ② Skilled Indian professionals denied a chance to work in USA
- ③ Reduced foreign investment into India because of America's first campaign of USA.
- ④ Appreciating value of Rupee against dollar leading to capital outflow from Indian capital market
- ⑤ Increased sanitary & phytosanitary standards for India increasing the cost of production
- ⑥ India getting caught in the cross hairs of global powers trade wars

(17A) USA's changing security policy can be figured by the following examples:-

- ① A neo protectionist measures are undertaken wherein citizens of Muslim majority nations are exempted, from getting visas to USA.
- ② Proposals to limit Mexican immigration by resorting to child separation policies and proposals to build a massive wall to prevent cross border immigration
- ③ Deportation of children of illegal immigrants by reviewing comprehensively the DACA Act of US Congress thereby furthering xenophobia in the nation
- ④ The above policies are exaggerated by being insensitive to the rampant gun culture in USA and snapping the executive orders that are designed to plug loopholes.

Impact of USA's security policy could be :-

- ① Indian muslim citizens can be denied visas and treated in a humiliating way thereby violating their dignity and causing bilateral strains in relations
- ② Tough visa regime can lead to loss of livelihoods to plethora of Indians who made USA their residence
- ③ The prevailing gun culture puts the lives of everyone including Indians at risk and this isn't healthy for anyone
- ④ The lone wolf attacks in USA could spread to India leading to ISIS inspired attacks in India too

Thus a thorough revamp of bilateral ties with USA is needed at the diplomatic level to enable safety & security to both nations and address Indian concerns

(18 Ans) Local self government is the decentralisation of the governance in India to resolve the diverse needs of the country.

Municipal bonds can reform local self government in the following ways:-

- ① the bonds from the capital market help in raising revenue that are needed for developmental needs.
- ② though state finance commissions and central finance commission devolve funds from the divisible pool, the moneys are not sufficient to address the vast infrastructure needs for which municipal bonds come in handy.
- ③ with access to capital markets, the financial literacy and business acumen of the local bodies is improved leading to sound and accountable finances and plugging the leakages that are witnessed.
- ④ Local government bonds result in more inclusive development as everyone in the public has been made a stakeholder in the development process.
- ⑤ the terms of trade are stringent as per SEBI leading to more transparency in bond management.
- ⑥ and since it bears municipal backing, the threat of bankruptcy or dishonouring the arrangement is absent leading to more public interest.

thus, municipal bonds need to be utilised as an effective tool to raise resources from the capital market and ensure decentralized governance.

(17) (Ans) Goods and services tax has resulted in better cooperative federalism in India in lieu of GST council that is a representation of all states' and centre's interests.

changing relations because of GST are as follows:-

- ① the ^{indirect} taxation matters have been subsumed under 1 tax leading to unified control of states and centre on the goods and services which was earlier absent
- ② the discretionary power of states and centre has vanished and GST council's mandate has been to take control of the decisions on taxation
- ③ Taxes on all goods & services are shared equally between the destination state and centre making them at par as regards to resource mobilization
- ④ the destination states are the beneficiaries of the tax revenue instead of the origin state that was earlier leading to redundancy of ~~card~~while policies of progressive states. This has a bearing on centre-state relations as the producer states are at a loss.
- ⑤ there cannot be multiple rates of tax other than ones prescribed by GST council leading to comparative advantage of states being minimized in terms of taxation
- ⑥ the local governments that are reliant on state governments for resources are at a loss as they don't find any mention and voice in the GST structure

These new issues will keep cropping up in centre-state relations that has to be met with dexterity and statemanship to improve centre-state relations in lieu of GST formation.

(20A) Conventions are mechanisms that evolve out of necessity and are the invisible norms that further the cause of democracy in India.

(18)

Ex:- the president of India and governors of states need to give assent to the bills passed by parliament and assemblies to give it the force of an Act.
→ this is a convention that has been borrowed from British parliament and is the sine qua non of the democracy in India.

Ex:- the president of India or the governor of states invite the party or coalition with largest number of candidates to form government.

→ this is a convention and is upon the discretion of the president/governor to follow and leads to subjectivity sometimes in government formation.

Ex:- the post of the speaker is reserved for the ruling party and that of the deputy speaker is reserved for the opposition parties in India.

this is a convention followed to prevent speaker/deputy speaker from acting in a partisan manner.

Ex:- the UPSC submits its list of recommendations to various services to the president who shall either accept or reject them as per the aid of council of ministers.

the recommendations are generally accepted and it has become a convention to give more autonomy to UPSC.

Ex:- the referral of bills to parliamentary standing committees for further scrutiny is a convention that helps in furthering stakeholder consultation.

thus conventions ensure that the constitutional machinery functions effectively.

(6) And challenges of department related standing committees are as follows:- (19)

- ① the discretion of referring to the standing committee is within the government and thus not all bills that need wider stakeholder consultation are referred
- ② the duration for the stakeholder consultation tends to be less for bills having far reaching impact
- ③ the recommendation of the standing committees are not binding on the government and can reject all or any of the recommendation
- ④ the portal for prelegislative consultation is not centralised leading to multiple portals for multiple bills and making it difficult for stakeholders to contribute
- ⑤ the minutes of the consultation process are at the discretion of the standing committee to publish and often times do not give complete picture by withholding information
- ⑥ the consultations that happen by the standing committee are beyond public gaze making it difficult for citizens to contribute
- ⑦ the stakeholders that are impacted are not consulted by the standing committee because of their discretionary power of choosing consultations leaving many voices stifled.

Thus reforms are urgently needed to strengthen the Parliamentary standing committee mandates by:-

- ① Making the reference to standing committees mandatory for every bill
- ② Making the recommendations binding on the government to include in the bill
- ③ Providing for transparency in the stakeholder consultation by providing for an institutional setup

- ④ Providing for centralized forum for the citizen to provide feedback
- ⑤ Extending the window of consultation for better and effective consultation instead of brushing up legislation.

(20)