



APTI PLUS

Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.

CREATING CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE NATION

OPSC OAS MAINS EXAMINATION ANSWERS 2023

GS-II

GS II - 2023

GROUP A

1. While celebrating 75 years of the Indian Constitution there is discussion on "the woman in nine yard of saree who triggered First Amendment to the Constitution." Elucidate the case.

Introduction:

As India celebrates 75 years of its Constitution, the case of Srimathi Champakam Dorairajan, the "woman in a nine-yard saree," is notable for triggering the First Amendment in 1951. Her legal challenge against caste-based reservations reshaped India's affirmative action framework.

The government cited **Article 46**, which mandates promoting the education and economy of SCs, STs, and weaker sections.

Champakam Dorairajan, a woman from Madras, challenged the order in the Madras High Court (HC), citing a violation of her right to equality (**Article 14**).

Body:

Background of the Case:

In 1950, Champakam Dorairajan, a Brahmin homemaker from Madras, was denied admission to a medical college despite high marks, due to the **Communal Government Order (1927)** reserving seats based on caste and religion.

She challenged this order, arguing it violated fundamental rights under **Articles 15(1) and 29(2) of the Constitution**, which prohibit discrimination based on caste and ensure equal access to education.

Judicial Outcome:

- The Madras High Court (1950) struck down the Communal G.O. as unconstitutional. The State appealed, but on April 9, 1951, the Supreme Court upheld the ruling, declaring the caste-based classification a violation of fundamental rights.
- The Court prioritized fundamental rights over Directive Principles (Article 46), which promote educational advancement for weaker sections.

Impact and First Amendment:

The ruling exposed the Constitution's lack of provisions for reservations in education. To enable affirmative action, the government introduced the **First Amendment (1951)**, adding **Article 15(4)**, allowing special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes.

This amendment laid the foundation for India's modern reservation system in education.

Conclusion:

Champakam Dorairajan's case, driven by her challenge to discriminatory quotas, prompted the First Amendment, enabling affirmative action in education. Her legacy underscores the Constitution's adaptability, balancing equality with social justice, a cornerstone of India's democratic framework.

2. What do you understand by cooperative federalism? Does it exist in India? Discuss.

Introduction:

Cooperative federalism refers to a collaborative partnership between the Union and State governments, working jointly to achieve national goals while respecting regional autonomy. In India, it is enshrined in the Constitution but faces practical challenges, shaping the federal structure.

Accordingly, Indian constitutional law expert **Granville Austin** remarks that despite a strong Centre, cooperative federalism doesn't necessarily result in weaker States; rather, the progress of the Republic rests upon active cooperation between the two.

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM 2.0



Body:

Understanding Cooperative Federalism:

- It emphasizes shared governance, where Centre and States coordinate on policy-making, resource allocation, and development.
- Key features include mutual trust, consultation, and institutional mechanisms like the Inter-State Council and NITI Aayog to foster dialogue.
- It balances constitutional division of powers (Union, State, Concurrent Lists) with collective responsibility.

Aspect	Details
Existence in India	Evidence of Cooperative Federalism
Institutional Mechanisms	NITI Aayog's Governing Council with State Chief Ministers promotes collaborative planning (e.g., Aspirational Districts Programme).
Fiscal Cooperation	GST Council comprising Union and State representatives ensures joint decision-making; generated Rs.1.87 lakh crore in April 2024.
Policy Alignment	National schemes like Swachh Bharat and Ayushman Bharat involve State-level implementation, aligning national and regional priorities.

Challenges to Cooperative Federalism

Centralization Tendencies	Heavy reliance on Centrally Sponsored Schemes (e.g., 60% funding by Centre) limits the autonomy of States.
Political Differences	Partisan conflicts hinder cooperation; e.g., West Bengal's withdrawal from PMJAY in 2019.
Fiscal Imbalances	States' dependence on Union transfers (e.g., 42% devolution via 15th Finance Commission); disputes over GST compensation illustrate ongoing tensions.

Way Forward:

- Strengthening institutions like the **Inter-State Council** and ensuring equitable fiscal devolution can enhance cooperative federalism.
- Regular Centre-State dialogues and inclusive policy-making are vital.

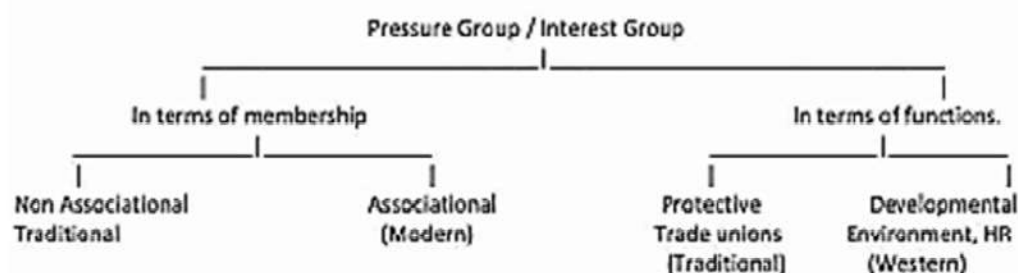
Conclusion:

Cooperative federalism in India exists through institutional frameworks and joint initiatives but is constrained by centralization and political discord. Strengthening collaborative mechanisms and respecting State autonomy are essential to realize its full potential, ensuring balanced development.

3. Discuss the role, impact and challenges of pressure groups in democracy and governance.

Introduction:

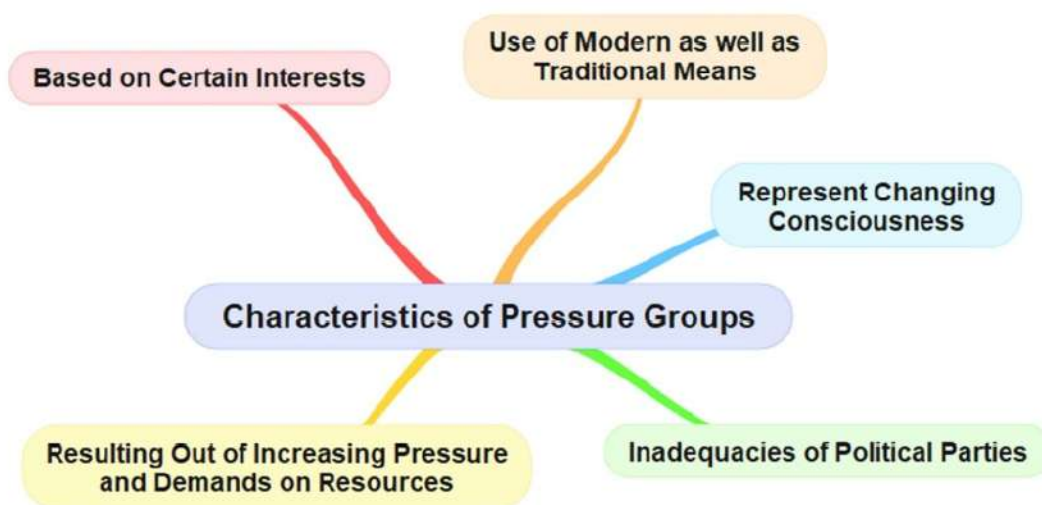
Pressure groups, organized entities advocating specific interests, play a vital role in shaping democracy and governance in India. By influencing policy and public opinion, they enhance participatory governance but face challenges that impact their efficacy.



Examples include environmental groups like Greenpeace, labor unions, and business groups.

Body:

Role of Pressure Groups:



- **Policy Advocacy:** Groups like FICCI and CII influence economic policies, contributing to reforms like GST (2017).
- **Public Awareness:** Organizations like Greenpeace India raise environmental concerns, mobilizing support for sustainable policies.
- **Representation:** Marginalized groups, such as the National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights, amplify voices in policy-making.

Aspect	Positive Impact	Negative Impact
Impact on Democracy	Strengthens democracy by ensuring diverse interests are represented.	Elite-dominated groups may skew democratic processes toward vested

	e.g., Farmers' protests (2020-21) led to the repeal of farm laws.	interests. e.g., Corporate lobbying.
Impact on Governance	Acts as a check on government power, promoting transparency and accountability.	Disruptive tactics like strikes and blockades can destabilize governance if not regulated.

Challenges:

- **Lack of Regulation:** Absence of formal registration or funding transparency breeds corruption risks.
- **Unequal Representation:** Urban-centric groups overshadow rural voices, limiting inclusivity.
- **Polarization:** Aggressive campaigns, like those by some religious groups, can deepen social divides.
- **Government Resistance:** Crackdowns, such as FCRA restrictions on NGOs (2020-24), curb their functioning.

Conclusion:

Pressure groups bolster Indian democracy by advocating diverse interests and fostering accountability but can distort governance if unchecked. Addressing challenges through transparent regulations, inclusive representation, and constructive dialogue will enhance their role in democratic governance.

4. What are the similarities and differences between the Indian and the French Constitutions?

Introduction:

The Indian and French Constitutions, foundational to their respective democracies, share democratic ideals but differ in structure, historical context, and governance models. A comparative analysis highlights their similarities and distinctions.

Body:

Similarities:

- **Democratic Framework:** Both enshrine democratic principles, ensuring popular sovereignty. India's Constitution (1950) establishes a parliamentary democracy, while France's Fifth Republic Constitution (1958) supports a semi-presidential system.
- **Fundamental Rights:** Both guarantee rights like equality, liberty, and freedom of expression. India's Part III and France's Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789, incorporated) emphasize individual freedoms.
- **Secularism:** India promotes a secular state (42nd Amendment, 1976), while France upholds laïcité, ensuring state neutrality in religious matters.
- **Judicial Review:** Both empower courts to review laws for constitutionality, thereby safeguarding rights (e.g., India's Supreme Court, France's Constitutional Council).

Differences:

Aspect	India's Constitution	France's Constitution
Structure and Length	Lengthy (395 articles), detailed, rigid-flexible	Concise (92 articles), focuses on governance framework, easier amendments
Government System	Parliamentary system with a ceremonial President	Semi-presidential system with strong President and Prime Minister
Federal vs. Unitary	Federal union with strong central authority	Unitary system with centralized governance, limited regional autonomy
Historical Context	Post-colonial nation-building, emphasizes social justice	Post-WWII political instability, prioritizes executive stability

Conclusion:

The Indian and French Constitutions share democratic values, rights, and secularism but diverge in structure, governance models, and historical purposes. India's federal, detailed framework contrasts with France's unitary, concise system, reflecting their unique socio-political contexts.

5. What is due process of law? How it differs from procedure established by law?

Introduction:

The concepts of "due process of law" and "procedure established by law" are fundamental to constitutional governance, defining the scope of legal protections in India. While both ensure lawful state action, their approaches and implications differ significantly.

Body:

Aspect	Due Process of Law	Procedure Established by Law
Definition	Originates from the U.S. Constitution; requires laws and procedures to be fair, just, and reasonable, protecting substantive and procedural rights. Courts can review fairness of laws and their application.	Enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution; mandates deprivation of life or liberty must follow legally enacted procedures, without assessing fairness of those procedures.
Features	Ensures natural justice, including the right to a fair trial, legal representation, and protection against arbitrary state action.	Focuses only on compliance with statutory law, not the inherent justice of the law; narrower approach prioritizing legislative authority.
Judicial Approach	Courts empowered to review both procedure and fairness (substantive and procedural justice).	Courts limit review to whether procedure was followed as per law, not the fairness of the law itself.
Example Case	<i>Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India</i> (1978): Supreme Court incorporated due process elements, emphasizing fairness in law and procedure.	<i>A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras</i> (1950): Supreme Court upheld procedure established by law doctrine, limiting judicial review to procedural compliance only.

Differences:

Aspect	Due Process	Procedure Established by Law
Scope	Examines both substantive (law's fairness) and procedural aspects	Focuses only on procedural adherence
Judicial Review	Allows courts to strike down unjust laws	Restricts review to legal compliance
Flexibility	Dynamic, evolving with justice principles	Rigid, tied to enacted statutes

Conclusion:

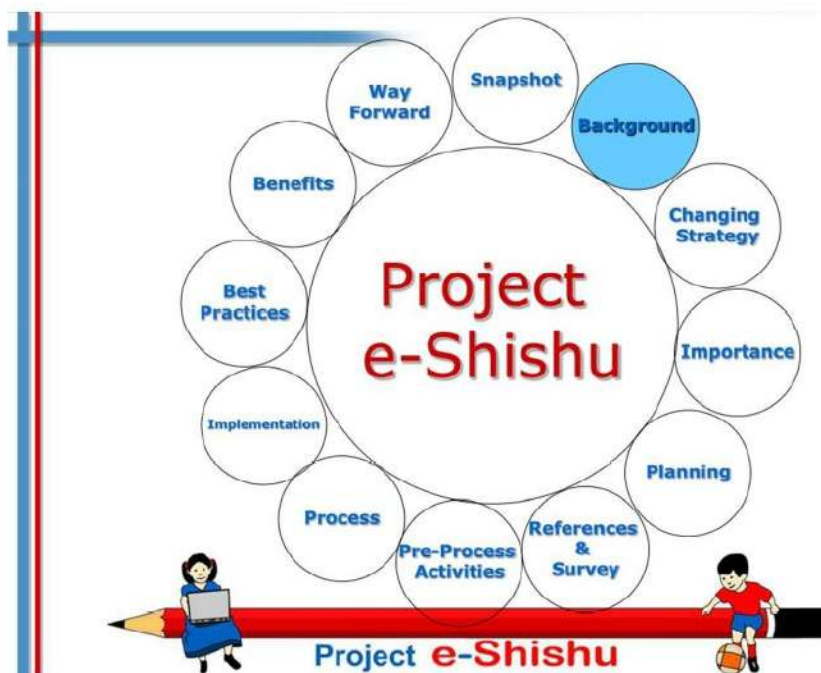
Due process of law ensures fairness and justice in legal processes, while procedure established by law emphasizes statutory compliance. Post- *Maneka Gandhi*, India has leaned toward due process, enhancing constitutional protections and judicial oversight.

6. Write about e-Governance initiative of Odisha Government in respect of e-Shishu project.

Introduction:

E-governance, meaning 'electronic governance' is using information and communication technologies (ICTs) (such as Wide Area Networks, the Internet, and mobile computing) at various levels of the government and the public sector and beyond, for the purpose of enhancing governance.

The e-Shishu project, an innovative e-Governance initiative by the Odisha Government, aims to enhance transparency and efficiency in the education sector. Launched under the **Odisha Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA)**, it tracks and manages data on schoolchildren, ensuring effective implementation of the **Right to Education (RTE) Act**.



Body:

Objectives and Features

Child Tracking System	Monitors around 103 lakh children across 80,000 schools in Odisha's 30 districts, capturing data on enrollment, attendance, and academic progress.
Database Management	Creates a comprehensive database of students aged 6-14 years, ensuring no child is out of school, as mandated by RTE (Right to Education Act).
Infrastructure Mapping	Maps school infrastructure to aid resource allocation and monitor facilities like classrooms and sanitation.

Implementation and Technology

Launch and ICT Usage	Launched in 2005; leverages ICT to provide real-time data access to education authorities.
Integration with SAMS	Integrated with the Student Academic Management System (SAMS); supports e-admissions and tracks student progress, improving administrative efficiency.
Local Development	Developed by local IT SMEs, ensuring scalability and adaptability.

Impact:

Enrollment and Dropout	Reduced dropout rates by identifying out-of-school children; achieved 98.5% enrollment in 2023-24.
Transparency	Improved transparency in fund allocation and infrastructure development.
Stakeholder Empowerment	Empowered stakeholders with data-driven decision-making, aligning with Digital India goals.

Challenges:

- Limited internet connectivity in rural areas hampers real-time updates.
- Training for teachers and officials remains inadequate, affecting data accuracy.

Conclusion:

The e-Shishu project exemplifies Odisha's commitment to e-Governance, ensuring inclusive education through technology. Addressing connectivity and training gaps will further strengthen its impact, making it a model for other states.

7. Explain the role status of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions in Odisha. Give suggestions to improve their role status. Also mention the recommendation of the Committee of Ministry of Panchayati Raj formed in 2023, in this regard.

Introduction:

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992) mandated women's reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), transforming grassroots governance. In Odisha, women play a pivotal role in PRIs, yet face challenges that limit their effectiveness.

Body:

Role and Status in Odisha:

- Odisha reserves 50% seats for women in PRIs, with 58% of sarpanches being women (2018), totaling 3,600 women sarpanches.
- Women drive initiatives like sanitation (e.g., Minati Barik's work in Odisha) and health, enhancing rural development.
- Challenges include proxy leadership ("Sarpanch Pati"), low literacy (41% female literacy in rural Odisha, 2011), and societal resistance, limiting decision-making autonomy.

Suggestions to Improve Role Status:

- **Capacity Building:** Expand training under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan to enhance governance and digital literacy skills.
- **End Proxy Leadership:** Enforce strict regulations against male interference, promoting women's independent decision-making.
- **Financial Empowerment:** Strengthen SHGs via Mission Shakti to boost women's economic independence, supporting leadership roles.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Promote gender sensitization to reduce patriarchal biases and community resistance.

2023 Committee Recommendations:

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's 2023 Committee on Women Sarpanches recommended curbing proxy representation through legal enforcement and awareness.

It emphasized Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan for training women representatives and holding Mahila Sabhas to boost participation.

Conclusion:

Women in Odisha's PRIs are pivotal to rural governance but face proxy leadership and societal barriers. Implementing targeted training, legal measures, and the 2023 Committee's recommendations will enhance their role, ensuring true empowerment and effective grassroots democracy.

8. Odisha state continues to have unresolved border disputes with Andhra Pradesh. Comment.

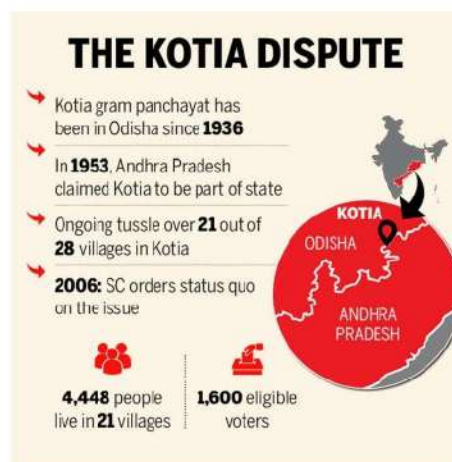
Introduction:

Odisha's unresolved border disputes with Andhra Pradesh, particularly over the Kotia cluster in Koraput district, highlight challenges in inter-state relations and cooperative federalism. These disputes, rooted in historical demarcations, impact governance and local communities.

Body:

Nature of Disputes:

- Odisha and Andhra Pradesh contest 21 villages in Kotia gram panchayat since 1960, with Andhra Pradesh claiming them under Parvathipuram-Manyam district and Odisha under Koraput.



- Historical ambiguities, like the 1936 Constitution of Orissa Order and incomplete surveys post-1955, fuel the conflict.
- Recent tensions escalated when Andhra Pradesh held panchayat elections in three Kotia villages (2021), prompting Odisha to file a contempt petition in the Supreme Court.

Impact:

- **Administrative Overlap:** Residents enjoy dual benefits (e.g., pensions, rations) but face confusion from overlapping governance, undermining administrative clarity.
- **Resource Conflicts:** The mineral-rich region (gold, bauxite) intensifies disputes, with allegations of encroachment linked to mining interests.
- **Social Implications:** Tribal communities, like the Kondh, are caught in political crossfire, risking alienation.

Challenges and Efforts	Details
Supreme Court's 2006 ruling	Limits judicial intervention, leaving resolution to Parliament
Chief Ministerial talks (2021)	Aimed at amicable solutions, but progress remains slow
Odisha's investments in Kotia's infrastructure	Rs.108 crore by 2024 to assert control

Conclusion:

Odisha's border disputes with Andhra Pradesh, centered on Kotia, persist due to historical ambiguities and resource interests. Strengthening inter-state dialogues, adhering to cooperative federalism, and expediting parliamentary resolution are crucial to ensure administrative clarity and safeguard tribal welfare.

9. What is the importance of MSME in the economic development of India? What are the major challenges faced by the MSME sector?

Introduction:

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are vital to India's economic development, acting as engines of growth, employment, and innovation. Despite their significance, the sector faces numerous challenges that hinder its full potential.

 New MSME Classification Criteria as per Union Budget 2025				
ENTERPRISE CATEGORY	CURRENT INVESTMENT LIMIT	REVISED INVESTMENT LIMIT	CURRENT TURNOVER LIMIT	REVISED TURNOVER LIMIT
MICRO ENTERPRISE	₹1 crore	₹2.5 crore	₹5 crore	₹10 crore
SMALL ENTERPRISE	₹10 crore	₹25 crore	₹50 crore	₹100 crore
MEDIUM ENTERPRISE	₹50 crore	₹125 crore	₹250 crore	₹500 crore

Body:

Importance of MSMEs in Economic Development:

- **Employment Generation:** MSMEs employ over 15 crore people (2023), accounting for 45% of India's total employment, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.
- **GDP Contribution:** Contribute 30% to India's GDP (2024) and 49% to exports, boosting foreign exchange earnings through sectors like textiles and handicrafts.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Promote entrepreneurship among women and marginalized groups, with 20% of MSMEs women-owned (2023).
- **Innovation and Regional Development:** Foster local innovation and reduce regional disparities through decentralized production.

Major Challenges Faced by MSMEs	Details
Access to Finance	Limited credit access; only 16% of MSMEs availing formal loans (2023) due to stringent collateral requirements and high interest rates.
Technological Backwardness	Low adoption of modern technology hampers productivity; 60% of MSMEs use outdated equipment.
Regulatory Hurdles	Complex compliance with GST, labor laws, and licensing deters growth, especially for micro-enterprises.
Market Access	Lack of digital marketing skills and global linkages limits competitiveness; only 10% of MSMEs export directly.
Infrastructure Deficiencies	Inadequate power supply, logistics, and industrial clusters increase operational costs.

Conclusion:

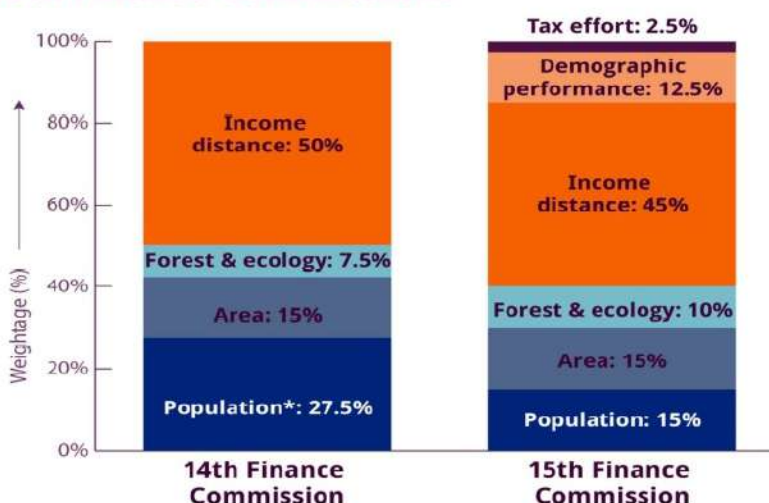
MSMEs are crucial for India's economic growth, driving employment, exports, and inclusivity. Addressing challenges through easier credit access, technological upgradation, simplified regulations, and enhanced market linkages via schemes like PMEGP and Digital Saksham will unlock their potential for sustainable development.

10. Discuss the role of the Finance Commission in Centre-State relations in India.

Introduction:

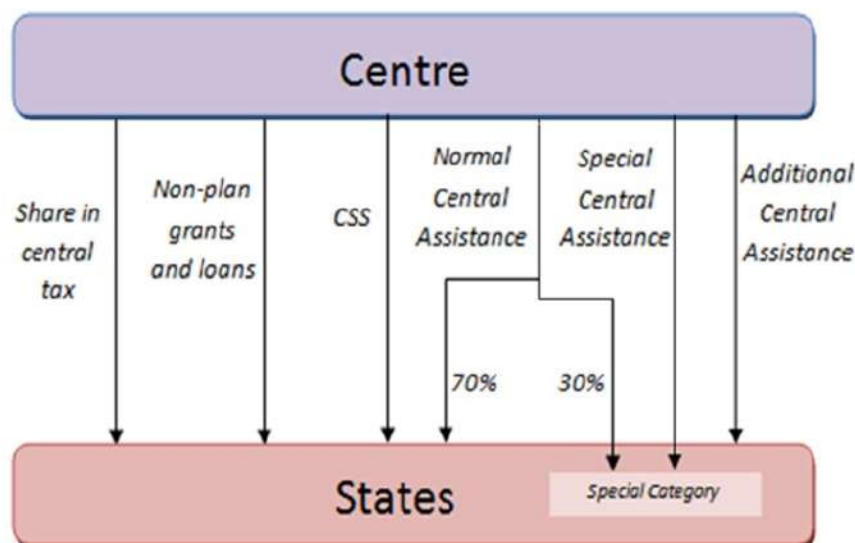
The Finance Commission, a constitutional body under Article 280, plays a pivotal role in fostering cooperative federalism by ensuring equitable distribution of financial resources between the Centre and States. It shapes Centre-State relations through fiscal recommendations.

Revenue-sharing formulas in the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions



Body:

Role in Centre-State Relations:



- **Tax Devolution:** The Finance Commission recommends the share of Union taxes to be devolved to States. The 15th Finance Commission (2021-26) allocated 41% of the divisible pool to States, strengthening their fiscal autonomy.
- **Grants-in-Aid:** It suggests grants to address revenue deficits, local bodies, and specific needs (e.g., Rs.4.36 lakh crore for 2021-26), supporting financially weaker States.
- **Fiscal Discipline:** Encourages prudent financial management by linking grants to performance indicators, like power sector reforms, fostering accountability.
- **Balancing Regional Disparities:** Allocates funds to bridge developmental gaps, e.g., special grants for States like Odisha with tribal populations.

Impact on Federal Structure	Description	Example/Details
Strengthening Federalism	Ensures States have resources for welfare schemes, reducing dependence on the Centre and promoting cooperative governance.	Helps States implement welfare schemes independently.
Conflict Resolution	Addresses State grievances over resource allocation, such as concerns about lower devolution based on population criteria.	Southern States' concerns over fund distribution.
Policy Coordination	Recommendations align Centre-State priorities for effective governance.	Disaster management funding: Rs.1.6 lakh crore (2021-26).

Challenges:

- **Central Bias:** States often perceive inadequate devolution, with demands for a higher share (e.g., 50%).
- **Data Disputes:** Reliance on 2011 Census data disadvantages States with effective population control.

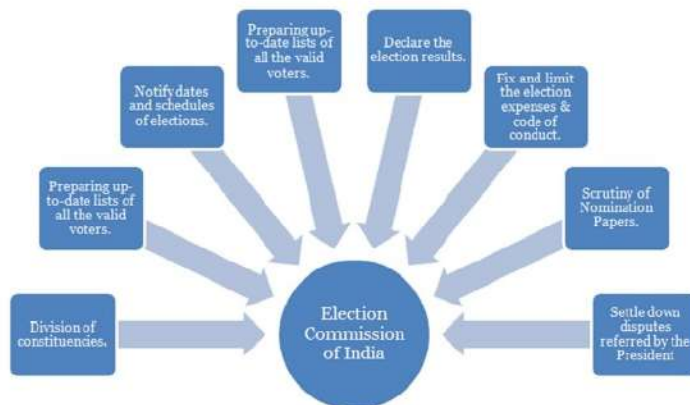
Conclusion:

The Finance Commission is a cornerstone of Centre-State relations, ensuring fiscal equity and cooperative federalism. Enhancing transparency, addressing State concerns, and updating data metrics will strengthen its role in fostering balanced development.

11. Discuss the process and procedure for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner of India and its functions, in brief.

Introduction:

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) leads the Election Commission of India (ECI) under Article 324, ensuring free and fair elections. The appointment process, recently amended, and the ECI's functions are central to India's democracy, though controversies surround the new law.



Body:

Aspect	Details
Legal Framework	The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023
Appointment Authority	President of India
Selection Committee	Comprises the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition (Lok Sabha), and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister
Search Committee	Led by the Law Minister; shortlists five candidates with Secretary-level experience, but the Selection Committee can consider others beyond this shortlist
Change from Previous Norm	2023 Act replaced the Chief Justice of India (CJI) with a Cabinet Minister in the selection panel
Previous Supreme Court Ruling	Anoop Baranwal (2023) ruling mandated a panel of PM, CJI, and Leader of Opposition to ensure Election Commission of India (ECI) autonomy
Controversies	Critics argue the new Act increases executive control over ECI, risking impartiality; legal challenges are pending

Election Commission of India-Structure



Functions of the ECI

- **Election Oversight:** Manages elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and offices of President and Vice-President, preparing electoral rolls.
- **Model Code of Conduct:** Enforces fair campaign practices, ensuring electoral integrity.
- **Quasi-Judicial Role:** Adjudicates disputes, like candidate disqualifications, and advises on electoral issues.

Conclusion:

The CEC's appointment under the 2023 Act, despite aiming for structured selection, faces criticism for undermining ECI independence. The ECI's role in upholding democratic elections remains crucial. Addressing controversies through judicial inclusion and transparency will bolster trust in the electoral process.

12. On 7th May, 1997, the Supreme Court in its full Court meeting passed resolutions/guidelines on Judicial conduct and ethics. Discuss the resolutions/guidelines.

Introduction:

On May 7, 1997, the Supreme Court of India adopted the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life, a set of 16 guidelines to uphold judicial conduct and ethics. These resolutions aim to ensure integrity, impartiality, and public confidence in the judiciary.

Body:

Key Resolutions/Guidelines:

Principle	Description
Impartiality	Judges must remain unbiased, avoiding relationships or actions that suggest favoritism or compromise independence.
Integrity	Uphold high moral standards, refraining from financial dealings with litigants or accepting undue hospitality.
Propriety	Maintain dignity in public and private life, avoiding controversies or social interactions that may raise doubts about neutrality.
Transparency	Disclose personal interests and recuse from cases involving conflicts, ensuring fairness in judicial proceedings.
Diligence	Deliver timely justice, maintain professional competence, and avoid delays in judgments.
Public Trust	Refrain from political involvement or activities that erode the judiciary's credibility.

Significance:

- These non-binding guidelines codify ethical standards to guide judges, addressing growing public scrutiny of judicial conduct in the 1990s.
- They reinforce the judiciary's role as a pillar of democracy, emphasizing accountability and public faith.

Challenges and Relevance:

- Lack of enforceability limits their impact, with occasional allegations of ethical lapses (e.g., judges attending political events).
 - Unlike statutory frameworks like the **Chief Election Commissioner Act, 2023**, these rely on self-regulation, prompting calls for a binding judicial code.
-

What the new bill proposes

WHAT THE LAW IS RIGHT NOW

CEC, ECs are appointed by the PM and council of ministers, under the seal of the President.

WHAT DID SC SAY ON MARCH 2?

A bench headed by justice KM Joseph said ECs and CECs will be chosen by a panel comprising PM, LoP and CJI, till Parliament passes a law.



THE PLAN AHEAD

The government tabled the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 that says:



- Search panel, led by the law minister with 2 secy as members, to shortlist five names.
- Selection committee – comprising PM, LoP and a Union cabinet minister – to review names and recommend appointments; the panel can also consider other names.
- President to ratify appointments.

"Functioning of ECI was and will remain impartial and transparent, and the govt is committed to ensuring that."

— Arjun Ram Meghwal,
Union law minister

Conclusion:

The 1997 Supreme Court resolutions on judicial conduct emphasize integrity, impartiality, and public trust. While guiding judicial behavior, their non-binding nature highlights the need for enforceable mechanisms to strengthen accountability and maintain judicial credibility.

GROUP B

13. "The Odisha Lokayukta is an institution for clean Governance." Discuss its jurisdiction and functions.

Introduction:

The Odisha Lokayukta, established under the Odisha Lokayukta Act, 2014, is a statutory anti-corruption ombudsman promoting clean governance. It investigates allegations of corruption against public functionaries, ensuring transparency and accountability in Odisha's administration.

Body:

Jurisdiction:

- **Public Functionaries Covered:** The Lokayukta has authority to probe allegations against the Chief Minister, Ministers, Members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, and public servants, including employees of state-controlled bodies, as per Section 2(1)(n) read with Section 14 of the Act.
- **Scope of Allegations:** It investigates corruption cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, or violations of conduct rules, with a seven-year limitation period for complaints.
- **Geographical Reach:** Covers public servants serving within or outside Odisha under state government control.
- **Exclusions:** Excludes personnel under military laws (e.g., Army Act, 1950).

Function	Description
Investigation and Inquiry	Conducts inquiries into corruption allegations, with powers of search, seizure, and asset attachment under the Civil Procedure Code.
Superintendence	Directs investigating agencies, ensuring effective probe oversight.
Legal Assistance	Provides legal aid to accused public servants to ensure fair defense during proceedings.
Public Awareness	Undertakes programs to educate citizens about its anti-corruption role, fostering trust in governance.
Judicial Proceedings (Conclusion)	All proceedings are treated as judicial, with confidentiality of complainant and accused identities maintained.

Significance:

- The Lokayukta enhances public confidence by offering a mechanism to address maladministration, resolving 166 of 1,418 registered cases in 2019.
- Challenges include limited awareness and delays in rule notification, hindering complaint registration.

Conclusion:

The Odisha Lokayukta is a cornerstone of clean governance, with wide jurisdiction over public functionaries and robust investigative functions. Strengthening awareness and streamlining processes will enhance its effectiveness in eradicating corruption and ensuring transparent administration.

14. Discuss the advisory role of Civil Servants in policy making and their accountability in service delivery.

Introduction:

Civil servants, as permanent executives, play a pivotal role in India's governance by advising on policy formulation and ensuring effective service delivery. Their advisory expertise and accountability are crucial for translating government objectives into actionable outcomes.

Towards a professional, strategic and innovative civil service

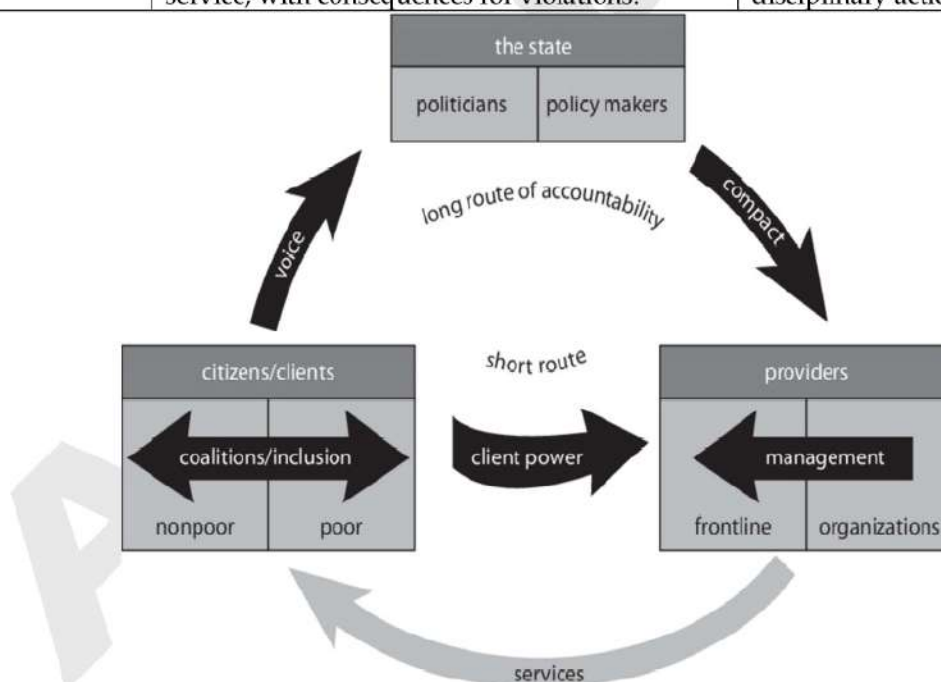
	Professional	Strategic	Innovative
Needs civil servants who are:	• Qualified • Independent • Values driven • Ethical	• Outcomes driven • Evidence based • Future oriented • Proactive • Networked	• Iterative • Data literate • Citizen centred • Curious • Storytellers • Insurgent
In a civil service which is:	• Merit based • Capable of integrating soft skills, ethics, talent management (future potential vs. past performance) • Able to structure the right balance of generalist and specialist professions and career paths	• Agile • Attractive to skilled job seekers • Planned and managed to ensure the right skills and competencies are effectively allocated to areas of current and emerging need • Future oriented and responsive	• Open and collaborative cultures, leadership and management • Engaged • Autonomous (e.g. work design) • Mobile • Diverse • Learning oriented
Led by Senior Civil Servants who are:	• Trusted policy advisors and effective transactional managers	• Transformational leaders, change managers	• Collaborative leaders and adaptive managers

Body:

Advisory Role in Policy Making:

- **Expert Guidance:** Civil servants provide technical expertise and institutional memory, advising ministers on policy feasibility, as seen in drafting the National Education Policy (2020).
- **Evidence-Based Inputs:** They analyze data and stakeholder feedback to propose policies, e.g., NITI Aayog's role in shaping Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.
- **Coordination:** Facilitate inter-ministerial and Centre-State coordination, ensuring coherence in policies like GST implementation (2017).
- **Neutral Advice:** Uphold objectivity, offering apolitical recommendations to align policies with constitutional mandates and public welfare.

Aspect	Description	Example
Implementation Oversight	Civil servants are responsible for implementing government schemes effectively, ensuring that intended benefits reach the target population.	Implementation of Ayushman Bharat , benefiting 50 crore beneficiaries (2024).
Public Accountability	Civil servants are answerable to the public through legal and institutional mechanisms that promote transparency and responsiveness.	Use of RTI Act (2005) and Citizen Charters to ensure transparency in service delivery.
Legislative Oversight	Accountability to the legislature through reports, audits, and questioning mechanisms to ensure funds are properly used.	CAG reports scrutinizing MGNREGA fund utilization (2023).
Ethical Responsibility	Bound by ethical norms and conduct rules to maintain integrity and professionalism in public service, with consequences for violations.	Governed by All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 , with disciplinary actions for lapses.



Challenges:

- **Political Interference:** Pressure to align with political agendas can compromise neutrality, as seen in allegations during election periods.
- **Bureaucratic Delays:** Red-tapism hampers timely service delivery, e.g., delays in PMAY-G housing approvals.
- **Capacity Gaps:** Limited training in emerging areas like AI and cybersecurity affects advisory quality.

Conclusion:

Civil servants' advisory role ensures informed policy-making, while their accountability drives efficient service delivery. Strengthening training, reducing political interference, and leveraging technology will enhance their effectiveness, fostering responsive governance aligned with India's developmental goals.

15. What is the meaning and scope of sustainable development? What are India's sustainable development goals? Explain.

Introduction:

Sustainable development, defined as development meeting present needs without compromising future generations' abilities, balances economic growth, environmental protection, and social well-being. India's commitment to the UN's 2030 Agenda shapes its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing national priorities.

Body:

Meaning: Encompasses economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, and social equity, as outlined in the 1987 Brundtland Report. It emphasizes intergenerational equity and resource conservation.

Scope: Covers poverty eradication, climate action, gender equality, and sustainable urbanization. It integrates cross-sectoral policies, stakeholder participation, and technological innovation to achieve long-term resilience.

Principles: Interdependence of economic, social, and environmental systems; inclusive growth; and global cooperation.

India's Sustainable Development Goals:

India adopted the 17 SDGs in 2015, aligning them with national policies through NITI Aayog's oversight.

Key goals include:

SDG Goal	Progress / Initiative
SDG 1 (No Poverty)	Reduced multidimensional poverty to 11.3% (2022-23) via schemes like PM Awas Yojana.
SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)	National Food Security Act ensures food access for 81 crore people (2024).
SDG 3 (Good Health)	Ayushman Bharat covers 50 crore people for healthcare (2024).
SDG 4 (Quality Education)	Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan boosts literacy to 79.7% (2021).
SDG 5 (Gender Equality)	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao improves sex ratio to 933 (2023).
SDG 7 (Clean Energy)	Achieved 43% renewable energy capacity (2024).
SDG 13 (Climate Action)	Aims for net-zero emissions by 2070, with 500 GW non-fossil energy by 2030.

Monitoring: NITI Aayog's SDG India Index tracks progress, with India scoring 66/100 (2023-24).

Challenges

- Regional disparities, funding constraints, and climate vulnerabilities hinder progress.
- Data gaps and urban-rural divides require enhanced coordination.

Conclusion:

Sustainable development integrates economic, social, and environmental goals for holistic progress. India's pursuit of the 17 SDGs, aligned with national schemes, reflects its commitment. Strengthening implementation, funding, and data systems will ensure India achieves sustainable development by 2030.

16. Analyze the powers and functions of a Governor of state in India. the role of the Governor merely ceremonial?

Introduction:

The Governor, appointed under Article 153 of the Indian Constitution, serves as the constitutional head of a state, wielding executive, legislative, and discretionary powers. While often perceived as ceremonial, the Governor's role is multifaceted, sparking debates over its significance.

Body:

Type of Power	Relevant Articles	Key Functions
Executive Powers	Article 154	- Appoints Chief Minister, Council of Ministers, Advocate General - Oversees state administration - Can seek information from the government
Legislative Powers	Articles 168–177, 213	- Summons, prorogues, and dissolves the state legislature - Addresses the Legislative Assembly - Promulgates ordinances when the legislature is not in session (Article 213)
Discretionary Powers	Article 163, 356, Sixth Schedule	- Reserves bills for the President's assent - Recommends President's Rule (Article 356) - Administers tribal areas under Sixth Schedule
Judicial Powers	Article 161	- Grants pardons, reprieves, and remissions - Consults on appointment of High Court judges
Financial Powers	Article 202	- Ensures presentation of the state budget - Approves money bills

Is the Role Merely Ceremonial?

Ceremonial Aspects: The Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers (Article 163), limiting independent action in routine governance, akin to a figurehead.

Substantive Role: Discretionary powers become critical during political crises, e.g., hung assemblies or dismissing governments (*S.R. Bommai v. Union of India* , 1994, restricted misuse of Article 356). Governors influence governance by reserving bills or delaying assent, as seen in Tamil Nadu (2023).

Controversies: Judicial rulings like *Nabam Rebia v. Deputy Speaker* (2016) clarified limits on Governors' discretionary actions, yet allegations of partisan conduct persist, e.g., Maharashtra (2022).

Conclusion:

The Governor's role, enshrined in Articles 153-163, blends ceremonial duties with significant executive, legislative, and discretionary powers. While largely guided by ministerial advice, their influence in crises and policy delays underscores a substantive role, necessitating impartiality to uphold constitutional integrity.

17. What do you understand by 'One Nation, One Election? Discuss the steps taken by the Govt. of India in this regard. Give arguments in favor and against the arrangement.

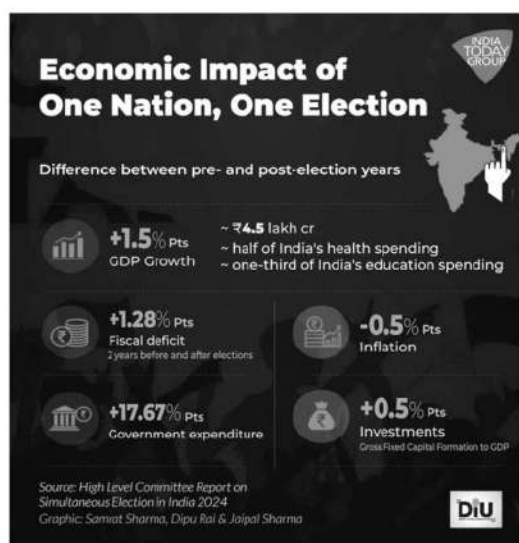
Introduction:

'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) refers to the proposal to synchronize elections for the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies across India, to be held simultaneously or within a short timeframe, aiming to streamline the electoral process, reduce costs, and enhance governance efficiency. Historically practiced until 1967, the cycle was disrupted due to premature dissolutions.

Body:

Steps Taken by Government

High-Level Committee (2023): Constituted under former President Ram Nath Kovind to examine ONOE feasibility, it recommended a two-phase approach—Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections together, followed by local body polls within 100 days.



Legislative Measures: The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, were introduced in Lok Sabha on 17th December 2024, proposing amendments to Articles 83, 172, and insertion of Article 82A. These were referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Consultations: The Kovind Committee engaged 47 political parties, with 32 supporting and 15 opposing ONOE, and sought public opinion, receiving 81% favorable responses.

Arguments in Favour of Simultaneous Elections	Arguments Against Simultaneous Elections
1. Cost Efficiency: Could save significant public funds; e.g., 2019 Lok Sabha elections cost Rs.60,000 crore.	1. Federalism Concerns: May weaken state autonomy, potentially violating federal principles under Article 1 and the <i>S.R. Bommai</i> judgment (1994).
2. Governance Continuity: Reduces frequent disruptions due to repeated Model Code of Conduct (MCC) impositions, allowing uninterrupted development.	2. Regional Party Marginalization: Risk of national parties dominating, thereby reducing the influence and representation of regional parties.
3. Higher Voter Turnout: Synchronised elections could boost voter participation, as seen in several international democracies.	3. Logistical Challenges: Managing over 96 crore voters at once poses significant challenges for the Election Commission in terms of manpower, security, and infrastructure.

Conclusion:

ONOE offers efficiency and cost benefits but poses risks to federalism and regional diversity. Robust constitutional amendments, state ratification under Article 368, and Election Commission strengthening are essential for implementation while upholding democratic principles.