

**GS Advanced Program 2023****Generic Booklet**Test Name/Code/No. : **692041**

Name			
Email ID.			
Roll No.			
Mobile No.		Date	

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes**Instructions to Candidates -**

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard -
<https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on -
<https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
Overall Grade/Score	

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

 **ForumIAS**

Start Writing Here

Q.1)

Article 280 of the Indian constitution provides for a Finance commission as a quasi-judicial body.

It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.

Functions of Finance commission

The finance commission makes recommendations to the president of India on the following matters.

- 1) The distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the centre and the states and the allocation between the states of the respective shares.
- 2) The principles that should govern the grants-in-aid to the states by the centre.
- 3) The measures needed to augment the consolidated Fund of a state to supplement the resources of the panchayats and the municipalities in the state on the basis of recommendations made by the state finance commission.

4) Any other matter referred to it by the president in the interests of sound finance.

The commission submits its report to the president.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.2)

Indian federal nature is sui generis because it is a unique blend of unitary bias and federal provisions

Federal features include-

- (i) dual polity
- (ii) written constitution
- (iii) Division of power - 7th schedule
- (iv) supremacy of the constitution
- (v) Independent judiciary
- (vi) Bicameralism

unitary features

- (i) Integrated judiciary
- (ii) Residuary powers to the centre
- (iii) provisions of money Bill.
- (iv) single constitution
- (v) Emergency provisions
- (vi) All India services

The Federal structure has been held to be a part of the Basic structure in S.R. Bommai case, 1994 and in other subsequent judgements.

The unitary tendency of

Indian constitution is an exceptional feature and not a general rule of thumb. It is so to uphold the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India.

India though sui generis in federal structure is a case of cooperative federalism.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.3)

Legislature controls the public Finance in the following ways-

- (i) The govt. can withdraw funds from CFE only in accordance with laws passed by parliament.
- (ii) president places Annual Financial Statement before parliament every financial year (Art. 112)
- (iii) withdrawal of money from CF only after passing of the Appropriation Bill.
- (iv) Provision of vote on credit, grants etc
- (v) Examination of detailed demand for grants and proposals for sanction by the Departmental Standing Committees.
- (vi) Committee on public Accounts, Committee on public undertakings, scrutinise govt receipts and expenditure ~~and submit it to~~.

Challenges

- (i) Control through committees sometimes not effective.
- (ii) Accountability issues are disregarded
- (iii) Audit effectiveness issues.

For healthy functioning of the Indian political system, it is necessary that the parliament has an effective oversight over the executive in public finance matter.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.4)

Article 3 of the Indian constitution says that the parliament by law can—

- (i) Form a new state
- (ii) Increase or decrease the area of a state
- (iii) Alter the name or the boundary of the state.

And such bills will be introduced with the prior recommendation of the president.

Though the states are asked of their views they are not limiting to the amends power of parliament under Article 3.

Article 3 reflects the asymmetric nature of Indian federalism in the following ways—

- (i) States have no say
- (ii) Parliament alone can create/alter a state's area etc.
- (iii) The president acts on aid and advice of CoM.

This reiterates the fact that India is an undestructible union of 'destructible states'

The territorial sovereignty of the states is subsumed to the powers of the parliament under Article 3.

Thus Article 3 appears to contradict 'Cooperative federalism'

Article 3 is a clear aberration from federal scheme of things by allowing the parliament an excessively unilateral prerogative to reorganise state territories.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.5)

Demand for statehood has been there since the advent of Independence.

Initially, the demand for new states was largely based on language, culture, ethnicity, religion etc.

Later, the basis for separate statehood largely centred around demand for better governance and greater participation, administrative convenience, economic viability in the development needs of sub regions.

As the democratic roots deepen in the country more and more sections of population realise their aspirations and raise demands for new states.

For e.g. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Telangana in the recent times.

Recent demands include—
Bodoland, Purvanchal, Bundelkhand, Jaxhem Pradesh, Delhi, Vidarbha etc.

The constitutional provisions are in place under Article 3 to reorganise such states.

Reasons for Demand

- (i) These demands usually stem from regions which are poor on socio-economic indicators despite being rich in natural resources and disputes with mother state over sharing and utilisation of natural resources
- (ii) Competition for local resources
- (iii) Lack of good governance
- (iv) Improper allocation of resources including mismanagement of allocated resources
- (v) Difference in culture, language and religion etc.
- (vi) The economy's failure to create enough employment opportunities especially in states where the states are in expanding stage of demographic transition.
- (vii) poor mobilisation of resources and democratic political process
- (viii) sons of the soil sentiments

Challenges

- (i) may lead to community / caste / tribe dominance.
- (ii) Intra-regional rivalries among the sub-regions
- (iii) possibility of increase in the inter-state water, power and boundary disputes
- (iv) The division of states would require huge funds for building new capitals and require administrative machinery & resources.

Clearly, the demand has shifted from lingual-cultural sphere to good and better governance

There is a need to assess these needs on rational basis such as economic and social viability, check unreasonable demands, better governance in all states, balanced regional development and growth for all.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.6)

Criteria used by FC for horizontal distribution —

1) population (15%)

Based on 2011 census (15th FC)

2) Area (15%)

As states with larger area to incur additional administrative costs to deliver services.

3) Income distance (45%)

Distance of the Gross state domestic product (GSDP) of a particular state from the state with the highest GSDP.

To maintain inter-state equity, the states with lower per capita income would be given a higher share.

4) Forest cover (10%)

Indicates that states with large forest covers bear the cost of not having area available for other economic activities. Therefore, the rationale is that these states may be given a higher share.

5) Demographic performance (12.5%)

It rewards efforts made by states in controlling their population. It is computed using the reciprocal of the total fertility ratio of each state.

⑥ Tan effort (2.5)

This criteria has been used to reward states with higher tax collection efficiency.

Issues

- ① Change in Terms of Reference
use of 2011 as TOR.
 - (a) South Indian states have raised concern for reduction in fund allocation.
 - (b) South Indian states implemented population control measures in much more effective manner leading to slowing down of their population.

Thus, the South Indian states are uncomfortable with changing TOR from 1971 to 2011.

There is a need for balanced approach—

- (i) Include 1971 + 2011 census and subsequent reduction of 1971 weightage
- (ii) providing incentives to the states which have better performance in the population control reforms.
- (iii) Equalisation approach as in Australia and Canada wherein the financial resources are allocated so as to ensure that services are provided in each of the states at comparable levels.

provided the states make comparable efforts in raising the revenues.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.7)

COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented challenge ~~to~~ in many ways including for that cooperative federalism in India.

India's response can be broadly categorised as—

- (i) unilateral centralised decision-making in the first wave
- (ii) unilateral decentralised decision making in second wave.

First wave

It was characterised by—

- (i) Imposition of nationwide lockdown by the centre without consultation with the states.
- (ii) The centre 'notified' pandemic as a 'disaster' under NDMA 2005 and imposed blanket decisions and stringent measures regarding lockdowns, containment zoning, travel ban, movement etc to contain the spread of virus.
- (iii) It brought unilateral tendency of the center to full display in the early phase.
- (iv) There was fiscal centralisation
- (v) clear cut lack of coordination between centre and states

Second wave : Unilateral decentralisation

There was a marked shift in dealing with pandemic in the 2nd wave in the following ways -

- (i) The centre did not issue protocols and guidelines on treatment. Instead states were allowed to take tailored measures suited to their situation to contain the spread.
- (ii) Though the states tried procuring vaccines, the responsibility ultimately was shouldered by the centre as in the first wave.

The process of coordinating vaccination, talking with vaccine manufacturers, trials, clearances, logistical and financial incentive could be done better by the centre owing to greater resources, technical knowhow with it.

- (iii) The third-tier government also played a great role in decentralisation. For eg. Odisha govt designated the sarpanch the powers of a.m to control the movement of migrants, oversee physical distanced norms

Kerala Govt. allowed local bodies to do contact-tracing, conduct health camps and sanitation drives

Therefore, COVID-19 was indeed a test for limits of federal system all over the world including India.

However, both the Centre and the states rose up to the occasion to tackle the challenges posed by pandemic.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

ONLINE & OFFLINE

A Mains specific Foundation Program for IAS 2023 by ForumIAS

GS Advanced Program 2023

Mentor guided Mains specific Guidance Program for Civil Services Examination