



UPSC Mains 2023

4 am Batch Test

(DAY-35)

1) Examine the reasons for the criminalization of politics in India. Discuss the impact of this phenomenon on the functioning of democracy. Suggest measures to curb the spread of criminalization in politics.

UPSC Mains Syllabus topic	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
Why was this question asked?	<p>(Theme- Criminalisation of Politics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people (2017)
Introduction	<p>The criminalization of politics in India has become a grave concern, with a significant number of legislators having criminal backgrounds or pending cases against them. (Data Point [According to Association for Democratic Reforms]- The share of MPs with criminal and serious criminal cases increased to 43% and 29%, according to an analysis of 539 winners in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.)</p>
Body	<p>Reasons for Criminalization of Politics:</p> <p>I. Manipulative Vote Bank Politics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The susceptibility of a significant number of voters to manipulation and influence allows candidates with dubious backgrounds to be elected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploitation of organized vote bank politics further perpetuates the support for candidates associated with criminal activities. <p>II. Rampant Corruption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The escalating number of legislators with criminal records reflects the deep-rooted connection between crime and politics. • Corruption practices such as bribery and illicit funding contribute to the perpetuation of criminalization in politics. <p>III. Weaknesses in Election Commission Functioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct allows candidates to openly flout regulations without facing stringent consequences. • Insufficient measures to combat electoral malpractices facilitate the entry of criminals into the political arena. <p>IV. Impediments to Justice and Rule of Law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ineffectiveness of laws pertaining to convicted criminals contesting elections undermines the credibility of the justice system. • The backlog of pending cases and delayed judgments provide opportunities for criminals to sustain their involvement in politics. <p>Impact of Criminalization of Politics:</p> <p>I. Erosion of Public Trust in the Judiciary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presence of politicians with criminal backgrounds undermines public confidence in the impartiality and effectiveness of the judiciary. • Politicized law enforcement agencies hamper the delivery of justice, resulting in a decline in trust among citizens. <p>II. Violation of Democratic Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal activities during the electoral process impede the conduct of free and fair elections, which are the bedrock of a healthy democracy. • The presence of lawmakers with criminal records contradicts the fundamental principles of democracy.
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	<p>III. Deterioration of Electoral Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The perpetuation of criminalization in politics leads to a decline in ethical standards within the political sphere. • If criminals gain prominence in the political arena, the overall electoral culture suffers, undermining the legitimacy of the democratic process. <p>Measures to Curb Criminalization of Politics:</p> <p>I. Early Disqualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the recommendation of the Law Commission to disqualify tainted politicians at the stage of framing charges can act as a deterrent to the entry of criminals into politics. • Adequate safeguards must be established to protect innocent candidates from false charges. <p>II. Stringent Penalties for False Affidavits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing the filing of a false affidavit as a corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act can discourage dishonesty. • Conviction for filing a false affidavit should lead to disqualification, ensuring accountability and integrity in the political sphere. <p>III. Disrupting the Nexus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Election Commission must proactively undertake measures to sever the deep-rooted ties between criminals and politicians. • Rigorous enforcement and regular monitoring can help break this detrimental nexus, safeguarding the integrity of the political process.
Conclusion	<p>By addressing the underlying reasons, adopting comprehensive reforms, and ensuring the implementation of stricter measures, India can foster a political landscape characterized by integrity, transparency, and the true representation of its citizens' interests.</p>

2) Discuss the criticisms faced by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in India. Suggest reforms to enhance the effectiveness and scope of the CAG's role in ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.

UPSC Mains Syllabus topic	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
Why was this question asked?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Comptroller and Auditor General has very vital role of play. Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise. (2018)
Introduction	<p>The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in India holds a critical position in auditing government expenditures and ensuring transparency and accountability in governance. However, it has faced several criticisms, including the timing of its reports, limitations in auditing certain areas, and insufficient powers.</p>
Body	<p>Criticisms of CAG:</p> <p>I. Post-facto Reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAG's reports are retrospective, offering limited value in preventing financial irregularities and misuse of funds. Due to its after-the-fact nature, the CAG's role in improving systems and procedures is constrained. <p>II. Limitations in Auditing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAG's auditing role is restricted concerning secret services expenditure, lacking the power to call for specific individuals. Important areas like Public Private Partnership (PPP) investments, NGOs, and elected local bodies fall outside the CAG's audit purview. <p>III. Resource Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAG faces challenges in conducting extensive audits due to the wide range of areas it needs to cover and limited human resources. This may hinder comprehensive scrutiny and oversight of various government entities.

	<p>IV. Conflict of Interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointment of former civil servants as CAG raises concerns about potential conflicts of interest and impartiality. • Such appointments could undermine the credibility of audit reports. <p>Reforms to Enhance CAG's Role:</p> <p>I. Timely Submission of Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring prompt submission of audit reports to the legislature can make audit findings more relevant for decision-making and corrective action. • Real-time reporting enables timely intervention and rectification of financial irregularities. <p>II. Empowerment of CAG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granting the CAG powers of contempt and summons enhances its ability to hold entities accountable during audits. • Expanding the CAG's authority to cover PPP projects, NGOs, and elected local bodies can fill existing gaps in financial oversight. <p>III. Technological Upgradation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing modern audit techniques such as data analytics, big data, AI, and machine learning can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of audits. • Utilizing technology helps the CAG in keeping pace with the evolving governance landscape. <p>IV. Collegium-type Appointment Mechanism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a collegium-type mechanism for appointing the CAG, akin to the Chief Vigilance Commissioner selection process, promotes independence and transparency. • Diversifying the appointment process ensures that executive control does not exclusively determine the CAG's selection.
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>By embracing modern audit practices, expanding its jurisdiction, and ensuring impartial appointments, the CAG can reinforce its effectiveness in promoting good governance and safeguarding public finances. With an enhanced role and</p>

	empowered mandate, the CAG will foster a culture of accountability and integrity, contributing to the nation's progress and development.
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3) Discuss the demand to accord permanent status to the Finance Commission in India.

UPSC Mains Syllabus topic	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
Why was this question asked?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is the Finance Commission of India Constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? (2018)
Introduction	The demand to grant permanent status to the Finance Commission in India has gained attention, considering the challenges and complexities of fiscal federalism, especially in the era of uniform Goods and Services Tax (GST).
Body	<p>Pros of Permanent Status for Finance Commission:</p> <p>I. Enhanced Knowledge and Capacity Building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A permanent Finance Commission can accumulate knowledge and expertise over time, leading to better-informed decisions on fiscal matters. Continuity in the commission's functioning enables members to develop a deeper understanding of fiscal challenges and policy effectiveness. <p>II. Boost to Fiscal Prudence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a permanent status, the upcoming Finance Commission can engage in timely analysis and provide well-considered recommendations. Continuity in the commission's role enhances fiscal prudence by addressing financial challenges and ensuring consistency in fund allocation to states. <p>III. Addressing Implementation Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the intervening period between two full-fledged commissions, the permanent Finance Commission can

	<p>address issues arising from the implementation of previous recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This enables the commission to ensure effective utilization of allocated funds and resolve implementation bottlenecks. <p>IV. Ensuring Consistency between Commissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permanent Finance Commission can work towards greater consistency in its recommendations, ensuring predictability in the flow of funds to states. • This consistency aids in long-term financial planning for states and promotes stable economic growth. <p>Cons of Permanent Status for Finance Commission:</p> <p>I. Perception Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permanent Finance Commission may lead its members to perceive themselves as central government employees, potentially affecting their independence. • This perception could influence the commission's decisions and impartiality. <p>II. Limited Fresh Appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granting permanent status may restrict the appointment of new and fresh members, limiting the infusion of diverse perspectives and expertise. • New appointments bring fresh ideas and insights, contributing to the commission's effectiveness. <p>III. Ambiguity on "Continuity":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of permanent status on improving "continuity" in the Finance Commission's functioning remains unclear. • There is a need for clear articulation of how permanence enhances consistency and fiscal planning.
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>As India's fiscal federalism evolves, striking a balance between continuity, expertise infusion, and fiscal planning becomes crucial. The government needs to carefully deliberate on the implications of such a move and ensure that the Finance Commission's functioning remains unbiased, efficient, and responsive to the evolving fiscal needs of the nation.</p>

4) Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate.

International relations are built upon key pillars that form the foundation for global cooperation and stability. Strength, peace, and security are three critical pillars that uphold the framework of interactions among nations. These pillars foster trust, collaboration, and mutual respect, crucial for maintaining a harmonious world order.

I. Strength in International Relations:

- Military and economic strength play a vital role in shaping a nation's position in the global arena.
- A strong nation can deter potential aggressors and protect its interests.
- Economic strength enables countries to engage in trade and investment, promoting mutual prosperity.

II. Peace as a Pillar of International Relations:

- Peaceful coexistence is essential for fostering diplomatic relations and avoiding conflicts.
- Diplomacy and dialogue are key components of resolving disputes and promoting understanding.
- Peaceful relations contribute to regional stability and collective security.

III. Security in International Relations:

- National and international security measures safeguard against threats such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, and pandemics.
- Collective security agreements ensure mutual defense and protection against common challenges.
- Enhancing security builds trust and confidence among nations.

IV. Multilateral Cooperation:

- Multilateral organizations like the United Nations facilitate dialogue and cooperation on global issues.
- Platforms like the G7, G20, and BRICS promote joint action and decision-making.
- Collective efforts foster peace, security, and sustainable development.

V. Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping:

- International peacekeeping missions help stabilize conflict zones and prevent violence.
- Mediation and arbitration aid in resolving disputes peacefully.
- Collaborative efforts are critical in preventing conflicts from escalating.

VI. Humanitarian Aid and Development:

- Providing humanitarian aid fosters goodwill and solidarity.
- Development assistance improves living conditions and reduces socio-economic disparities.
- These efforts promote peace and stability in vulnerable regions.

Conclusion:

Strength, peace, and security form the bedrock of international relations. Emphasizing these pillars is essential for fostering global cooperation, resolving conflicts, and promoting peaceful coexistence among nations. By upholding these principles, the international community can work together to address global challenges and build a safer, more prosperous world for all.

5) Optional Self-Practice Questions:

HISTORY:

- The British Indian State experienced the Wind of change with the arrival of Lord William Bentinck. Comment.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION:

- “Fiscal policy should address the issues of inequity, intricacy and obscurantism.” Explain. (2020)

ANTHROPOLOGY:

- Paper-1 Revision Day

SOCIOLOGY:

- Write a critique of the structural and functional perspective used by M.N. Srinivas in the understanding of Indian society.

GEOGRAPHY:

- Trace the relationship between Atmospheric stability and frontogenesis.