

Mainsure Test 13 Answerkey

1. **Critically analyse the role played by pressure group in Indian democracy. Do you think formal recognition of pressure groups can increase their efficacy? (10 Marks)**

Answer: Pressure groups are those interest groups joined together by a common interest or objective and who adopts different pressure tactics such as extra constitutional methods to pursue their goals. Eg: FICCI, INTUC etc.

Role played by pressure groups in Indian democracy:

- Influence the legislative, executive and financial policy of the government. Eg: Bank Unions fight for their rights where as Kisan Sabhas safeguard interests of farmers.
- Able to raise public awareness of matters affecting their interests or cause. Eg: All Out- a pressure group working for the rights of LGBT community.
- Tries to cleanse the political parties from corruption , enhance the intra party democracy by constantly publishing reports and statistics related to them. Eg: Association for Democratic Reforms which work to reduce criminalisation of politics in India.
- Remind Parliament about the importance of issues that public believe to be important. Eg: Environmental pressure groups like Narmada Bachao Andolan.
- Improve the transparency in governance and enhances the flow of information from the government to the people through the activities of pressure groups. Eg: Mazdoor Kisan Shakthi Sangathan and the enactment of RTI.

Yet, there are certain issues associated with them that hinder their role in upholding the ideals of Indian democracy:

- Non-formal pressure groups are formed only to spread the ideologies of their parent political party.
- Single issue groups are emerging rapidly in India which cause chaos and a lack of law and public order in the society.
- Groups formed on the basis of caste destroy the independent fight of people to remove the caste system from politics.
- Passionate members in the pressure groups often resort to illicit behaviours like criminal activities, violence etc. affecting the peace and security.
- Pressure groups are ideally required to exert influence on political process, yet they become tools to subserve political interests in India.

The pressure groups play important role in political development. They fight for the democracy. It is necessary to give them a formal recognition to increase its efficacy because such a recognition gives it legitimacy to involve in the affairs of people and become the voice of people.

2. **What is citizen charter? Analyse their success in ensuring transparency and accountability of government institutions. (10 Marks)**

Answer: Citizen's Charter is a document which represents a systematic effort to focus on the commitment of the Organisation towards its Citizens in respects of Standard of Services, Information, Choice and Consultation, Grievance Redress and Value for Money. It was institutionalised in the year 1997 during the Chief Minister's Conference.

It is a vital tool to ensure transparency and accountability in administration:

- Citizen's Charter aims to empower the citizen in relation to public service delivery with a clear understanding of service delivery standards, including timetables, user fees for services, and options for grievance redress.
- It provides a shift from rules based administration into citizen centric administration as envisaged by the Administrative Reforms Commission.
- It gives the list of Vision and Mission Statement of the Organisation as well. Therefore, the services which are provided will be enlisted in the Charter making the bureaucrats accountable for their actions.
- It takes the expectations of the clients or citizens as well. Therefore, the Charter will have met the demands of citizens which ensure speedier delivery of service.

However, it faces certain challenges while ensuring transparency and accountability such as:

- Citizen Charter does not have statutory status, and thus any non compliance with the charter does not guarantee immediate actions.
- In majority of cases Charters were not formulated through a consultative process.
- By and large service providers are not familiar with the philosophy, goals and main features of the Charter.
- Languages in the Charter are mainly in English itself, thus making it inaccessible for a major set of population across the country
- Adequate publicity has not been given to the Charters. In most Departments, the Charters were only in the early stages of implementation.
- No funds were specifically earmarked for awareness generation on Citizen's Charter or for orientation of the staff on various components of the Charter.

Inorder to make the Charter more effective, certain steps such as delegation of powers to the staff, setting up systems for feedback and independent scrutiny etc. are necessary.

3. "Representation of people's act is a pivotal cog in ensuring smooth functioning of election machinery".Critically analyse (10 Marks)

Answer: Representation of People's Act 1950 and 1951 deal respectively with the laws related to allocation of seats, delimitation of constituencies and the conduct of election of the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures. It is the legal mechanism which helps the Election Commission of India to discharge a free and fair election in India.

RoPA- A pivotal cog in conduct of free and fair elections:

- It provides for the allocation of seats and delimitation of constituencies for the election in Parliament and State Legislatures.
- It gives a definite organisation structure in the conduct of elections where the ECI is assisted by the officers such as Chief electoral officers, District election officers, Electoral Registration officers etc.

- The preparation of electoral rolls for the conduct of elections are mandated in this Act as well.
- In addition to that, it deals with the procedures to file election disputes in case of any disagreements over the results.
- It clearly specifies the conditions under which the election candidates will be disqualified. Such conditions are necessary to reduce the criminalisation of politics, booth capture etc.
- It deals in detail with the registration of political parties, gives the access to accept contributions etc.

However, the implementation of RoPA faces certain challenges as well in ensuring free and fair elections:

- Association for Democratic Reforms has reported a clear crime-politics nexus which indicate malpractices during elections.
- It is not yet able to solve the issues of booth capture, freebies during elections, the extravagant spending of black money during elections etc.
- Often elections and its outcomes are determined by the caste and vote banks associated with them.
- The intra party democracy is still very opaque in nature, RoPA cannot ensure in improving it. Also, the percentage of women candidates are very low in India compared to other countries.

The recent directives of Supreme Court in Abhiram Singh case, Lily Thomas Case etc. try to overcome the deficiencies associated with the conduct of election machinery in India. These steps need to be strictly enforced by the executive agencies to maintain transparency in elections.

4. "Success of e-governance programmes to a large extent depends on the accessibility and awareness at grass root level". Analyse (10 Marks)

Answer: e-Governance refers to carrying out the functions and achieving the results of governance through the utilization of Information and Communications Technology to realise the objectives of minimum government, maximum governance.

Eg: **Bhoomi Portal, PRAGATI, My Gov** etc.

United Nations E-Government Survey 2018 mentioned that India is in 96th place in the E-Government Development Index suggesting impediments associated with the development of e-governance in India. Major challenges involved are the security concerns with online service platforms, unequal access to the computer technology by the citizen, high initial cost for setting up the e government solutions and resistance to change by adopting the e-governance initiatives.

Success of e-governance programmes majorly depend on accessibility and awareness at grassroots level because:

- Awareness of its benefits can induce a change among the people to adopt e-governance programmes. Thus, it can reduce the bureaucratic involvement in delivering services.

- More awareness means that more services will be delivered through e-governance platforms, and as a result reduces the time taken while delivering services. Eg: Awareness about **Aadhar Enabled Payment System** can enhance the interoperable financial inclusion transactions in India.
- Awareness about the initiatives mean that less hours are wasted by frequent visits to the government office, giving spillover effects in economy and increasing productivity of the population.
- Service delivery can be operationalised completely through the e-governance platforms if universal accessibility can be ensured. Eg: **Direct Benefit Transfer** of subsidies can reduce the exclusion of beneficiaries.
- It helps people to contribute to the good governance practises as well by interaction through the Government- Citizen e governance apps such as My Gov, PRAGATI etc.
- Accessibility reduces the rural-urban divide in delivering services and ensure inclusive development.

According to International Data Corporation, digital transformation is expected to add an estimated \$154 billion to the Indian GDP. National e-Governance Plan and its provisions shall be implemented on a mission mode to successfully implement the programmes.

5. How is judicial activism different from judicial over reach? How do you think it affects the smooth functioning of democracy? (10 Marks)

Answer: Judicial review is a process under which executive or legislative actions are subject to review by the judiciary. Under the Indian Constitution, the power of judicial review is guaranteed under the Article 13. Unlike the judicial review, both judicial activism and judicial overreach are not backed by the constitution.

Judicial Activism:

- It is the use of judicial power broadly to provide remedies to the wide range of social wrongs for ensuring proper justice.
- Judicial activism holds its position with the aim of ensuring just and proper justice to all.
- The judiciary does judicial activism by means of interpretation and enlarging the scopes of exercising its power. Eg: Invention of basic structure doctrine in Keshavananda Bharati case.
- Similarly, judiciary interpreted the Article 21 to provide for a due process of law; that is arbitrary legislative powers cannot be used to take away the fundamental rights of its citizens by the legislature.
- Judicial activism is appropriate when it is in the domain of legitimate judicial review

Judicial overreach:

- When the judiciary crosses over the power by interfering the proper functioning of the legislature or executive organs of the government and by causing a grave breach of the doctrine of separation of powers, the judicial activism becomes judicial adventurism or judicial overreach.
- It is very difficult to determine a median line between these two concepts. The court's duty is to interpret the law and not to intervene in policy-making. In the case of

judicial overreach, they will interfere in the executive decisions and policy making as well.

- Eg: River interlinking guidelines was provided by the Supreme Court when it do not have any expertise on the matter.
- Strike down of 99th Constitutional Amendment Act by the Supreme Court citing the violation of independence of judiciary is another case of judicial overreach.

It impacts the smooth functioning of democracy in the following ways:

- It keeps a check on the Tyranny of the majoritarian government and its trampling of the basic structure with respect to any policy decisions.
- It increases the public confidence in the judiciary as the people can rely upon the judicial organ when any problems of human rights violation or authoritarian signs spring up from the legislature.
- It provides a system of checks and balances to the other government branches
- Judicial review allows a court to do complete justice in any case by using its powers under Article 142 and taking suo-motu action based on its own appraisal of the situation.

However, it has certain problems such as:

- It blatantly violates the principle of separation of power between Parliament, Executive and Judiciary, enshrined in the constitution.
- Judges exercise self-regulation and are insulated from any external control and thus accountable only to themselves. Thus it inhibits the accountability mechanism as seen in the strike down of NJAC Act.
- It reduces the trust people pose in the Parliament and elected representatives as well and can cause tussle of power between the two organs when it is supposed to work in harmony.

6. Discuss the effectiveness of parliamentary forums in bringing effective interaction between legislators and executives. (10 Marks)

Answer: The Parliamentary forum was created as an arena to discuss the critical issues related to any subject in a structured manner and raise issues effectively in the House and during the meetings of the Committees. The first Parliamentary forum created was the PF on Water Conservation and and Management in 2005.

The parliamentary forums bring effective interaction between legislators and executives through:

- Provision of a platform for the legislators to have interaction with the concerned Ministers, experts and officials from the concerned Ministry etc. Eg: Parliamentary Forum on Children will discuss about issues of the Children with Union Minister of Women and Child Development.
- It focuses on conducting meaningful discussions on critical issues with a result oriented approach for speeding up implementation process of any schemes and welfare measures.
- It sensitises the members about the key areas of concern and also about the ground level situation and equip them with the latest information, knowledge, technical know-

how etc. These shall be raised on the floors of the House during question hour, zero hour etc.

- They also prepares database on critical issues coming under their ambit and seek clarifications from Ministers and associated officers in the concerned times.
- It also supports the Departmentally Related Standing Committees of each concerned Ministry in collecting the details about the problems faced by each groups.

However, the efficacy is undermined by the factors such as they are not permitted to deal with the day to day affairs of each section, they examine the issues on a post mortem basis. Also, they do not have binding powers instead their recommendations are only advisory in nature. The members involved in each Parliamentary forum has to change their group after a stipulated time. Thus, they will not get more time to study in detail about the issues faced by the particular section or sector

Nevertheless, it is a vital forum to ensure the accountability of executives in the Parliament.

7. What is a quasi judicial body? Sighting examples comment on the role played by quasi judicial bodies in ensuring effective governance. (10 Marks)

Answer: A quasi-judicial body is a non judicial body having the power to interpret law. It is normally an arbitrator or tribunal board which has powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law or judge. It is obliged to objectively determine facts and draw conclusions from them so as to provide the basis of an official action.

Eg: Central Administrative Tribunal, Gram Nyayalaya, LokAdalat.

Role of quasi judicial body in ensuring effective governance:

- Providing an alternate means for dispute resolution which does not include the conventional judicial organs such as Supreme Court, High Court which has almost 3 crore pending cases among them. This can provide faster resolution of any dispute, thereby improving governance.
- Ease of problem solving which is not marred by the technicalities of the judiciary.
- Provide a platform to solve any specific disputes and fastens the governance process. Eg: **Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Tribunal** improving governance associated with IPR laws.
- It enhances the rights and powers of the consumers and can act as a check against exploitation of people. Eg: **Consumer Grievance Redressal Commissions.**
- Provide policy suggestions to make the governance more effective. Eg: **Competition Commission of India** releases guidelines to promote competitive market in India.
- It protects the rights of individuals and enhance the freedom of information from the government to the governed. Eg: Central Information Commission, National Human Rights Commission etc.

Yet, such quasi judicial bodies face challenges of delayed appointments at the top level, political appointments in the top level causing bias in decision making, ensuing judicial delays in them. Also the quasi judicial bodies are infamous for overreach of their powers as seen in the case of **Central Administrative Tribunals giving Non Functional Upgrades**

for the Army officers which is beyond their powers. The Law Commission of India has suggested to create uniform conditions of service, provide security of tenure to the top level executives. This can improve the efficiency of such quasi judicial bodies.

8. Critically analyse the recent amendments to the Right to Information act. How far it helps to achieve the intended objective of the act. (10 Marks)

Answer: The Right to Information Bill, 2019 changes the terms and conditions of service of the CIC and Information Commissioners at the centre and in states.

Provision	RTI Act, 2005	RTI (Amendment) Bill, 2019
Term	The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) (at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of five years.	The Bill removes this provision and states that the central government will notify the term of office for the CIC and the ICs.
Quantum of Salary	The salary of the CIC and ICs (at the central level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively. Similarly, the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the state level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Election Commissioners and the Chief Secretary to the state government, respectively.	The Bill removes these provisions and states that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central government.
Deductions in Salary	The Act states that at the time of the appointment of the CIC and ICs (at the central and state level), if they are receiving pension or any other retirement benefits for previous government service, their salaries will be reduced by an amount equal to	The Bill removes these provisions.

	<p>the pension.</p> <p>Previous government service includes service under: (i) the central government, (ii) state government, (iii) corporation established under a central or state law, and (iv) company owned or controlled by the central or state government.</p>	
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The RTI Act, 2005 envisions to achieve the following objectives like:

- Information dissemination from the public authorities to the citizens.
- Enhance transparency and accountability in the government administration.
- Reduce bureaucratic red tapism, corruption and adopt principles of good governance.

However the amendments are a little contradictory to these objectives because:

- Independence of the officials are affected due to removal of security of tenure.
- Reduce transparency in governance procedures because of erosion of powers of the Central Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioner.
- Citizens may lose their trust in CIC, SIC because they may become politically partisan.

Even though the government has given justification that CIC and SIC cannot be given equivalent status of Election Commissioner, adequate safeguards are necessary to realise the objectives laid down in RTI Act.

9. Discuss the role of central administrative tribunal in addressing the grievances and ensuring the smooth functioning of executive machinery. (15 Marks)

Answer: Central Administrative Tribunal is established for adjudication of disputes with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services with the affairs of the Union or other local authorities within the territory of India or under the control of Government of India. It is added into the Article 323-A under the Part- XIV of the Constitution of India.

Central Administrative Tribunal exercises jurisdiction over all service matters concerning the following:

- A member of any All-India Service
- A person appointed to any civil service of the Union or any civil post under the union
- A civilian appointed to any defence services or a post connected with defence

It proactively addresses the grievances and ensures the smooth functioning of executive machinery because:

- It follows the principle of natural justice rather than the rigid procedures and evidence ordeal of courts, thus being more flexible in justice delivery.
- It is a quasi judicial body which aims at easy and affordable justice. The procedures are easily understood by the applicants and thus ensuring grievance redressals.
- Executive machinery can rely upon the CAT to address their grievances by exercising jurisdictions over service matters of the public servants.

CAT however faces certain issues while discharging their duties such as:

- Parliamentary Standing Committee finds out that CAT is functioning at half its sanctioned strength, as 31 of the 66 sanctioned posts of members are lying vacant.
- Supreme Court Chief Justice opined that tribunals have become virtually non-functional, crippled by a chronic lack of infrastructure, manpower and an irregular appointment mechanism.
- The tribunals are quasi judicial bodies in which justice is delivered by the executives which is against the separation of power.
- The appeals to the verdicts of the CAT lie with the High Courts. This causes further judicial pendency and defeats the purpose of its establishment.

The Parliamentary committee recommended that the Department of Personnel and Training and CAT should sit together to chalk out strategy to overcome the procedural hurdles. The Law Commission of India suggested to have a security of tenure to have independence, uniform conditions of service to ensure impartiality in justice delivery.

10. Discuss how far the national commission for women has succeeded in addressing the issues faced by women. Do you think the manner of its setup does justice to the enormous task at hand? (15 Marks)

Answer: National Commission for Women is the statutory body generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women.

NCW is entrusted with certain functions to address the issues faced by women such as:

- Investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws
- As per section 14 of the National Commission for Women Act 1990, the Annual Reports of the Commission are to be laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament along with the Action Taken Report
- Make recommendations for effective implementation of such safeguards to Union or state governments.
- undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement
- Review women related to legislations and bring out inadequacies and shortcomings
- Take up cases of violation of law against women to appropriate authorities
- Look into complaints related to the issues faced by women and take suo moto action over them.

National Commission for Women has recently set up a joint research group to analyse the issues faced by plantation labour. Similarly, they undertake proactive measures and compel the police to take strong actions against those accused in the women rape cases such as in Unnao, Hyderabad etc.

The recent global surveys indicate that India is named as the most dangerous country in the world for women. Women face several issues in India such as female foeticides, sexual harassment at workplace, reduced nutrition and health standards etc.

- Parliamentary Standing Committee noted that there is no effective coordination mechanism between the NCW and the State Commissions for Women.
- National Commission for Women (NCW), the apex national body with the mandate of redressing such issues, is functioning recently without a single member.
- The recommendations of the NCW are not binding and it is only advisory in nature.
- NCW cannot take up all the cases related to women. They have limitations in case of time periods.
- There is no provision in the NCW Act to deal with the situation arising out of a vacancy and has caused problems when in 1995 and 1998 the NCW went without a Chairperson after their term expired.
- NCW is known to endorse retrograde measures as it recommends that women employees having two living children will not be allowed to claim maternity benefit under the Act.

11. "Appointment to constitutional posts needs close public scrutiny and meticulously selection process to ensure quality, however neither the mechanism nor the political will exist to ensure the same". Comment (15 Marks)

Answer: Constitutional bodies are those which derive its powers from the Constitution of India. Eg: Attorney General, CAG, Governor.

Appointments to the constitutional posts are generally done by the President of India with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

There are certain cases in which the appointments are not done as per the convention or by bending the laws. For example, the appointment of AN Ray as Chief Justice of India was done by superseding three senior judges at that time due to vested political interests.

Hence, appointments to such posts require close public scrutiny because these eminent constitutional posts are established for the welfare of citizens, safeguard the basic structure of the Constitution, realise the objectives mentioned in the Preamble.

Case Study: The office of Governor is an independent constitutional office and not an employment under the Central Government. Yet, often the governors are appointed as per discretion to meet their interests of Central government. They are alleged to impose Presidents rule in different states on arbitrary conditions affecting the cooperative federalism.

It is in this context that Sarkaria commission has recommended that the Governor should have a fixed security of tenure for five years to be apolitical in nature.

12. "Success of Indian democracy depends on the mutual respect that legislature, executive and judiciary have for each other, and restrain they exhibit in treading the wague line of separation between them". Comment (15 Marks)

Answer: The three organs of the government like the executive, judiciary and legislature represent the people and are responsible for running democratic government in our society. They are often envisaged to be kept separate and exercised by separate organs of the Government as per the doctrine of separation of powers.

However, often such separation of power is not clearly delineated and it includes cautious restraint and mutual respect between them. It can be seen in the following cases:

- Executive vs Judiciary: Article 50 suggests to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State. It is sometimes overlapping to each other.
 - Judiciary can use the power of judicial review and give directions to the executive in case of any vacuum.
 - Similarly, though judiciary recommends the appointment and removal of the executives, the judges are appointed by the executives as well.
 - Executives recently tried to constitute the National Judicial Appointments Commission as a selection mechanism for the judges.
 - However, this was later struck down by the judiciary as a violation of the basic structure.

Executive vs Legislature:

- India adopted a parliamentary form of government where the executives are responsible to the legislature.
 - The law making powers of the legislature are devolved to the executives through delegated legislation, yet the legislature exerts cautious restraint through accountability over such laws through the committees.
 - The laws, policies made by the legislature are implemented by the executives in general.
- Judiciary vs Legislature: Article 13 gives power to the judiciary to declare that every future law inconsistent with or in derogation of the Fundamental Rights, shall be void.
 - Judiciary can also give guidelines to the legislature if the latter fails to act on a time bound manner. Eg: Vishaka guidelines.
 - No discussion shall take place in Parliament with respect to the conduct of judges except in the case of a motion of removal of judges. The conduct of judges and the removal of judges are monitored by the Judges Enquiry Act, 1968.
 - Such a system enhances the accountability of the performance of the judges.

Thus, basis of Indian polity is not strictly based on the separation of power rather they act as checks and balances. The checks and balances provided under the Constitution are necessary for the smooth functioning of Indian democracy.

- 13. "CAG is probably the most important officer in the Constitution of India entrusted with the role of watchdog to make the executive accountable in financial administration"..In the light of this statement discuss his powers, roles and challenges in ensuring smooth financial administration.**

Answer: Constitution of India under the Article 148 provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Parliament enacted the CAG's(Duties, Powers and Conditions of Services) Act, 1971 to prescribe the powers and duties of CAG.

The office of CAG is the most important in Constitution because he is the Guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels- the Centre and the States.

The duties and powers of CAG as laid down by the Parliament and Constitution are:

- Audits the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, Consolidated fund of each state etc.
- Audits all expenditure from Contingency Fund of India and Public Accounts of India etc.
- Audits all training, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and other subsidiary accounts kept by any accounts of Central and State governments.
- Audits receipts and expenditure of the Centre and each state to satisfy rules are designed to secure an effective check on revenue collection.
- Submits audits reports relating to the accounts of the Centre to President.
- He ascertains and certifies the net proceeds of any tax or duty.
- Acts as friend, guide and philosopher of the Public Accounts Committee.
- Also, CAG supports three audit reports to the President such as audit report on appropriation accounts, audit report on finance accounts, and audit report on public undertakings etc.

However, there are certain challenges associated with the functioning of CAG such as:

- CAG has more freedom to audit the expenditure than with receipts, stores and stocks.
- He/she has no control over the issue of money from consolidated fund and many departments are authorised to draw money by issuing cheques without specific authority from CAG.
- Secret Service Expenditure is not under the auditing power of CAG.
- Similarly, some corporations are audited by private professional auditors appointed by Central Government in consultation with CAG where as some corporations like RBI are completely subjected to private audit.
- The existence of CAG office in India is itself an example of colonial legacy, the CAG does have only powers to check the money disbursed on post-mortem basis. That is, money appropriation is not subjected to the supervisions of CAG.

- 14. "Only by bridging the gap between governed and government can we bring effective governance".Discuss how this can be achieved in light of the influence of social Medias on public.(15 Marks)**

Answer: Effective governance is about how efficiently public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources. For governance to be efficient it's important that the major stakeholder, i.e. public be actively involved in every stage and not just limited to the ballot box.

Why bridge the gap?

- feedback mechanisms helps in course corrections and good legislations
- Engaging citizens in policy-making allows governments to tap new sources of ideas, information and resource
- creates public trust and avoids anti incumbency feeling.
- Creates participative and informed citizens
- strengthens the idea of democracy
- The government and legislators will feel more accountable.

BRIDGING THE GAP USING SOCIAL MEDIA

- Disseminating information about government programmes through social Medias.
- Interactive online platforms like mygov.in that conducts frequent surveys.
- Bringing awareness eg census department through Facebook page answers the doubts of citizens.
- Giving a proactive role to the public by allowing them to post complaints eg facebook page of election commission.
- Provides a cheaper and easier alternative to visiting government offices.
- Posting model bills and acts on social media page for the public to comment.

However the efficacy of using social media for bettering governance is subjected to access and awareness of the social media. Better internet penetration, awareness building can go a long way in this direction.

15. "The recent citizenship amendment bill is not in sync with the constitutional, administrative and legislative safeguards provided in the Assam accord". In light of this statement critically analyze the provisions of the act. (15 Marks)

Answer: The Assam Accord (1985) was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement in New Delhi on 15 August 1985.

- The accord brought an end to the Assam Agitation and paved the way for the leaders of the agitation to form a political party and form a government in the state of Assam soon after.
- As per the Accord, those Bangladeshis who came between 1966 and 1971 will be barred from voting for ten years. The Accord also mentions that the international borders will be sealed and all persons who crossed over from Bangladesh after 1971 are to be deported.
- Though the accord brought an endorsement to the agitation, some of the key clauses are yet to be implemented, which has kept some of the issues festering.

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- The Bill seeks to facilitate acquisition of citizenship by six identified minority communities namely Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Christians and Parsis from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who came to India before December 31, 2014.
- Migrants from these communities were earlier given protection against legal action in the years 2015 & 2016 and long term visa provision was made for them.

- Citizenship will be given to them only after due scrutiny and recommendation of district authorities and the State Government.
- The minimum residency period for citizenship is being reduced from existing 12 years under the present law to 7 years.
- The law will not be confined to the state of Assam but will also provide relief to persecuted migrants who have come through western borders of the country to states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh.

Part of the Assam Accord that came at the culmination of a movement against immigration from Bangladesh, Clause 6 reads: “Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.” .

The proposed CAB bill is perceived to threaten the provisions of Assam accord. Also there are issues over the dates used to accord citizenship and who constitutes Assamese people.