GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE: 1067)

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Medium Eng./Hindi: ENGLISH
Center: JAIPUR

Registration Number: 419797
Date: 22/6/2018

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Total Marks Obtained: 150

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).

2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI.

3. All questions are compulsory.

4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.

6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.

7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Remarks:
## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence  
2. Content Competence  
3. Language Competence  
4. Introduction Competence  
5. Structure - Presentation Competence  
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  
6.

All the Best
1. What is the role that opposition plays in a democracy like India? In this context, discuss whether our Parliament can benefit from a shadow cabinet. (150 words)

Role of opposition is very critical to the functioning of any democracy:

- Prevents monopolisation of power
- Highlights deficiencies in government policies
- Provides an alternative to the people
- Debates legislations & providing criticisms to improvements

However, in recent years it has also been criticised for negative actions like:

- Disruption in the parliament
- Political horse trading to defeat the government
- Indulging in baseless allegations
Shadow Cabinet is a body in which mirrors the Cabinet of the government.

It helps in:
- tracking the govt policies efficiently
- maintaining continuity in administration at time of power change
- highlighting lacunae in govt policy making

However, its relevance to Indian Parliament is still not as strong.

- Generally works well in 2-party democracy

Whereas India has numerous parties

- vast options will lead to power struggle even for this body like seen in the government cabinet

Though the idea is credible, it is important to look into all the pros & cons before accepting it.
2. Where there is a right, there is a remedy. In this context, discuss the nature and significance of writs in India with adequate examples. (150 words) 10

Rights are powers & liberties enjoyed by the citizens of a country. However, they are not absolute & can be reasonably restricted.

If the restrictions are not reasonable, there is a remedy to ensure they can’t be enforced.

India has Fundamental Rights in Part III of the Constitution. In it under Article 32 is the Right to Constitutional Remedies which has 5 writs along with any other which the courts declare. SC can issue writs in India under Article 32 & HC under Article 226.

Significance → prevent misuse of power by govt → promote political democracy → ensure social justice → protect civil liberties.
Nature of Writs

1. Habeas Corpus - can't detain individuals without any right to have to present them before the court. E.g. Detain without notice.

2. Mandamus - instruct the officials to carry out particular action. E.g. Asking Metro to let a man travel.

3. Certiorari - prevent or cure any excess jurisdiction.

4. Prohibition - prevent a lower court to exercise jurisdiction outside its powers.

5. Writ Warrant - demanding the presence of any official.

In addition to these 5, other writs like 'Declaratory' can also be exercised.
3. Enumerate the objectives of NITI Aayog. Also, discuss the performance of this body since its inception and suggest measures to make it more effective. (150 words)

NITI Aayog के उद्देश्यों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। साथ ही, इसकी स्थापना के बाद से इस निकाय के प्रदर्शन की चर्चा कीजिए एवं इसे और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के उपाय सुझायें।

NITI Aayog was setup by an executive order to replace the erstwhile Planning Commission.

Objectives:
- Promoting cooperative federalism
- Promoting competitive federalism
- Top policy think tank
- Knowledge-based solutions eg ATL Labs
- Promoting innovation
- Reduce regional inequality

Performance:
- Many indices to poor performance
- Important policy papers like 3 year agenda to guide governments decision making
- Important initiatives like SATH, Atal mission
Many healthcare reports & studies give it statutory backing to make it more credible. Reforms instead of mere policy papers can make it more achievable. This will reduce overlap with other bodies like inter-state councils. More transparency in working.
4. In view of the political class's inability to develop and maintain conventions relating to the appropriate use of Article 356, the Supreme Court's decision in the Bommai case provided much needed clarity. Comment.

While debating in the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Ambedkar had said that he hopes that

Art. 356 remains a dead letter. However, it
has been evoked more than 100 times since
independence, thus belting the belief...

Post the emergency era, the Babri Masjid incident, the proclamations of the President
Rule under Article 356 have increased in
political motives were being fulfilled with its
help.

Thus the Bommai Judgement of 1994 provided
dead guidelines as to when the
proclamation be made, by laying down
the proper & improper grounds of proclamation.
Proper Grounds:
* There is no clear cut majority & no coalition party willing to form government.
* The majority seats party is unwilling.
* Loss of confidence to be shown by a composite floor test.
* There is breakdown of machinery in the state & subversion.

Improper Grounds
* Governor didn’t explore the possible options to form government.
* Mere internal disturbance is not breakdown.
* Allegations of corruption & misgovernance.
* No composite floor test.

In addition, the court said that it can reconstitute the dissolved assembly & government in case the Judicial Review strikes down the proclamation.

Thus the judgement provides clarity on the functioning albeit due to no political will, the conventions are still flouted.
5. Press freedom and good governance are not mutually exclusive. They support each other while promoting a country's economic and human development. Comment. (150 words)

Press freedom is very critical to achieve good governance because it protects rights of the minorities, promotes multiplfold public policy, and makes the process of democracy, participation, and making decisions meaningful.

These notes functions are very critical to the efficient functioning of the democracy, ensuring the quality of governance & decision making.

Press freedom shouldn't be seen as a license to criticise or spread propaganda. Constructive
Criminal activities in police stations can be identified only through the help of a free press.

It will also help in identifying the people who have missed out on the fruits of development & include them in the future actions, thus forming human development.

Hence, press freedom & good governance go hand in hand.
SHGs have succeeded in delivering financial inclusion, but for them to evolve as viable business enterprises requires a different approach. Analyze in the context of the twin goals of rural growth and promotion of women's entrepreneurship. (150 words)

SHGs have been a cornerstone in increasing financial inclusion in India through increased credit availability, peer group pressure to borrow, increased capacity to repay on time, and reduced financial risk. Most of the SHGs (nearly 90%) work in the area of women entrepreneurship. Examples like SEWA, Differt Papad are success stories.

They help in both rural growth and women entrepreneurship.

- Increased credit
- Reduced dependence on money lenders
- Increased insurance against financial failures
- Promote entrepreneurship in local handcrafts
- Self-employment
- Increased financial independence
- Educational benefits
- Self-owned business
- Empowerment
Changes to become viable

- Better financing from top institutions.
- Reduced rate of interest along with increased membership.
- Expansion in unserved areas to tap more people and hence increase scale of operations.
- Government support → financial, marketing, infrastructural.

They are the drivers & of women empowerment & rural growth & should be promoted.
The focus of higher education in India has been on a select few Central or autonomous institutions where as the ones in states remain neglected. Commenting on the statement, highlight the significance of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in this context. (150 words)

Higher education in India sees a irony as compared to primary education. Government institutions are less but people prefer them more. But the issue is that the quality remains poor due to lack of funding & poor infrastructural support. Public expenditure on education is less than 2%. Central & autonomous institutions join most of the funds to generate increased regulations make it difficult to generate funds. Additionally, lack of foreign collaboration by the state governments make it even more difficult to improve quality.
RUSA

Incentives by the Central govt to the State govt to fund the state universities.

Focus on better learning outcomes:
- Improved teacher quality
- Link with industry to promote job-oriented learning

The initiative is a helping hand to the state universities which should be promoted as much as possible.
8. Discuss the role played by PRIs in political empowerment of women. Also, suggest measures to further increase their political participation. (150 words)

पंचायती राज व्यवस्थाएँ (PRI) के रूप में PRIs (पंचायती राज संस्थाएं) द्वारा निर्देशित महिलाओं के राजनीतिक सम्मानित करण में भूमिका रोल खेलती हैं। साथ ही, उनकी राजनीतिक भागीदारी को और अधिक बढ़ाने के उपाय सुझाएं।

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) were set up after the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1993.

The major motive was to

(i) increase grassroot participation in democracy

(ii) decentralise decision making

(iii) political empowerment of women, &
    backward classes

The mandatory provisions (under Art. 293-293A) make it necessary to provide 1/3rd seats to women representatives, thus giving them their say in decision making.

Benefits

Women get to participate in important discussions

More women-centric & gender-neutral laws

Better education & health status of women in rural India.
Benefits

→ Women representatives moving from PRI to State to national level

Many States have as many as 50% women representatives.

Challenges

→ Male domination in society due to patriarchal mindset

Women are only proxy representatives with most of the work done by the husband.

Many are still illiterate & lack basic nuances.

Absence in meetings due to familial pressures & other social expectations.

Way forward

* Need to pass 103rd Amendment Bill to provide reservation in State Legislatures & Parliament.

* Better education & increased awareness generation.

* Leadership positions such as Chairperson.
9. What is Strategic Autonomy? Critically examine the elements of such a policy in India’s contemporary foreign policy in the context of recent developments. (150 words)

रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता क्या है? हाल के घटनाक्रमों के संदर्भ में भारत की समकालीन विदेश नीति में ऐसी नीति के तत्वों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

With the increasing Chinese hegemony & the US interests in Indo-Pacific, PM Modi talked about Strategic Autonomy in the Shangri-La Dialogue recently.

Strategic Autonomy means independence to make sovereign decisions keeping national interest in mind.

be not getting influenced by any groupings or alliances.

India’s contemporary foreign policy has elements of Strategic Autonomy:

* Sole stand to oppose China’s Belt & Road Initiative

* Equal collaboration with both US & Russia

* Not getting pressurised by US on cutting imports from Iran.
* Steps taken in the regional neighbourhood like South Asia Satellite.
* Challenging us at WTO but cooperating at strategic level.

However, a few elements of strategic subordination are also there:

* Dependence on foreign procurement for defence equipments.
* Steps taken to balance ties or preserve the regional space instead of taking them as per self-interest, e.g., Taiwan vs. China.
* Oil imports still play a huge factor in deciding the policy decisions.

Hence, there is a need to balance both autonomy as well as friendly relationships on a rules-based world order.
10. IBSA and BRICS are both examples of India's quest for multialignment, however there are key differences in their orientation. Discuss in the context of the relevance of these groupings for India. (150 words)

IBSA और BRICS दोनों भारत के व्युत्पीढ़ीय संरचना (मल्टीएलाइनमेन्ट) की तलाश के उदाहरण हैं, हालांकि उनके अभिव्यक्ति में मौलिक अंतर है। भारत के लिए इन समूहों की प्रासंगिकता के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

**BRICS**
- Brazil, China, India,
- Russia, South Africa
- focusing on asserting
  their role in the
  world economy
- network of
  developing countries
- more economic &
  financial clout
- shared vision of
  asserting themselves in
  a west-heavy world

**IBSA**
- India, Brazil
  South Africa
- focusing on
  economic
  cooperation
- mutual
  growth
- less economic
  clout
- shared history
  of slavery &
  imperialist past
11. What are the various modes of Alternate Dispute Redressal (ADR) mechanisms available in India? Identifying the problems being faced by them, provide suggestions needed to increase their effectiveness. (250 words)

ADR mechanisms have proved to be very effective in promoting quick decision delivery, especially in the backdrop of newly closed case pendency in India.

Various modes

- **Arbitration**: an arbitrator listens to both the sides of the argument and provides the decision at the end. It is an authority based on a pre-decided contract between the litigants.

- **Mediation**: the mediator facilitates discussion by both the parties in order to reach a mutual agreement.

- **Conciliation**: another form of mediation where
parties reconcile their arguments & viewpoints to reach a common understanding.

**lok adalat** - setup up by the National Legal Services Authority. They are one of the most successful mechanisms. They have power of civil courts but the decisions cannot be challenged against.

**Gram Nyayalaya** - setup to under the Gram Nyayalaya Act. They follow the local traditions & customs in mind while decision making.

Amicable dispute resolution easily accessible

Keep local traditions in mind.

Benefits of ADR

- Cost effective
- Litigant friendly
- Quick decision making, not bound by CPC or IPC
- Reduce burden on the court
Problems

- Lack technical expertise
- Decisions challenged under [Art. 136]
  leading to delayed justice
- Informal & hence people do not accept the awards
- Improper accreditation & quality standards

Justice Srikrishna committee had recommended various reforms to improve the ADR mechanisms in India.

Reforms

- Setting up Arbitration Council to accredit & grade
- Promotion, especially in small disputes in order to ease burden on courts
- Online portal to show the list of available arbitrators
- International advisors to aid India in international arbitration

Govt has brought the Arbitration & Conciliation (Amendment Bill) which is a step in the right direction to carry out the desired reforms.
12. While the power to punish for the contempt of court is a much needed tool to protect the administration of justice from being maligned, it is time that it be relooked into. Critically analyse. (250 words)

"Power to punish for contempt is given to SC the WJC under the status as Court of Record in Articles 129 & 225. The contempt of Court Act divides it into 2 parts:

- Criminal Contempt
  - Scandalizing courts
  - Attempting to delay the process

- Civil Contempt
  - Willful disobedience"

**Punishment To**

**Importance of 1 Contempt:**

- To carry out justice delivery without any fear or undue criticism
- To maintain the sanctity of the judicial process
- To avoid bringing disrespect to the constitution & its functionaries
- to prevent undue interference in the proceedings of the court.
- to ensure that the justice is delivered efficiently without any fail.

However, the power has been criticized on several grounds like:

- providing curbing the freedom of speech and expression.
- curbing dissent or attempts to state truth or fact.

It is a colonial legacy which is one has been taken away in UK but still being used in India.
Though the protection of sanctity of the constitution is very important, there have been instances where the power has been misused. There is a serious need to relook into the powers once again to balance the freedom of expression with it. Recent steps like accepting Truth as a valid argument/defence hint towards the reforms that are needed in the system.

Although there needs to be increased political understanding among the masses before such powers can be safely removed.
13. Criminalisation of politics remains a key concern for the Indian political system. In this context, analyse the role played by the Supreme Court and Election Commission over the years. Also, in what ways can the media play a positive role? (250 words)

राजनीति का अपराधीकरण भारतीय राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के लिए चिंता का एक प्रमुख विषय बना हुआ है। इस संरचना में, विभिन्न वर्गों में सवीच्छ न्यायालय और निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा निर्धारित गई धूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, कितने प्रकार मीडिया एक सकारात्मक भूमिका का निर्माण कर सकता है?

With nearly 60-70 legislators having some criminal charges levied upon them, criminalisation of politics is a reality in India. There are several causes for this -

* mutually beneficial relationship between legislators & criminals
* public apathy against such issues.
* governance failure which lets the criminals behave like Robinhood to earn public trust
* First past The post system allowing most popular person to win the elections hence tussles. * Absence of laws preventing it.

Concerns

Law breakers become law makers
* Hurts India's international standing as the politicians represent India at global forums

* Increased black money supply in the economy

* Increased corruption & lobbying in decision making

* Marginalisation of the poor

**Role Played by SC & EC**

* SC various judgements & directions:
  - 1977: asked HC's to suspend only the sentence in case of appeals under
  - 2003: Ramesh Dalal Case: Section 8(4) of RPA 1951 — nominations will not be accepted if a sitting legislator is convicted at the time of filing papers
2013: Lily Mathur case: Section 91(4) is unconstitutional in dequalification is instantaneous & automatic.

2003: Candidates have to give their antecedent info while filing the nomination.

2015: Special courts to fasttrack the cases against sitting legislators & dispose them in 1 year.

2019: Candidates have to give sources of income for spouse & dependents.

- Electronic Commission

- NOTA option in the poll.

- Use of EVMS & VVPATs in the poll.

- Asking the returning officer to not accept the nomination of convicted candidates.

Role of Media: Constructive debates on the issues highlighting the culprits instead of decrying the candidates.

- Stop paid news & fake news.

- Promote political participation by urging the masses.

Other than such civil society organisations, media etc., it is equally important to frame adequate laws.
14. Highlight, in brief, the mandate of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM). Identify the different challenges that the commission faces and suggest measures to address them. (250 words)

संकेत में, राष्ट्रीय अन्तर्जातिय आयोग (NCM) के अधिदेश पर प्रकाश डालिए। आयोग द्वारा सामान्यतः जा रही विभिन्न जुनौटियों की पहचान कीजिए और उनके समाधान करने के उपाय सुझाएं।

NCM

- Challenges
  - lack of powers
  - advisory nature
  - political interference

- Measures
  - powers of civil court
  - curb political influence
15. The recent decision of the government to open up positions at the senior levels in bureaucracy through lateral entry is an important but only small step in the direction of much needed reforms in the higher civil services. Analyse. (250 words)

With the advent of the concept of welfare state, the role of Civil Services has changed from policy implementation to policy formulation from control to coordination to the role of a change agent from being a generalist to getting expertise in a field becoming a specialist.

Reasons for the change:
- Globalisation & complex policy making
- New technologies like Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence
- Greater scrutiny under different civil society organisations, media etc.
Reforms needed in Civil Service

- Need to increase expertise & make the bureaucrats more specialists.
- At the same time, specialists also need to generalize due to interconnected nature of policy making.
- Performance based promotions to incentivize merit.
- Regular appraisal & peer review.
- 2nd ARC's recommendations like periodic reviews.
- Pushing for VRS for non-performers in order to filter the cream at the top.
- Promoting citizen charter to boost public service delivery & increase accountability.

The recent decision to push for Lateral Entry at the higher level is an important reform.
this direction:

**Advantages** - increased competition at the top which will increase efficiency
- it will bring in technical expertise
- holistic policy making
- promotion to merit & push for the civil servants to work harder.

**Concerns** are also there like -
- politicalisation of civil services
- interference by government & promotion to nepotism
- secrecy of operations go if the service is temporary
- feeling of inferiority in other officers

Although highly debatable, this is a much needed reform among many others as suggested before. Correct implementation such as transparent selection process (preferably through UPSC), limited influence & number of posts is needed to make this reform a really effective one. This should be backed by other reforms as well.
16. Identifying the broad contours of the ‘Transformation of Aspirational Districts’ programme, explain how it adopts a novel strategy to address backwardness. (250 words)

"व्यापक रूप से देखा जा सकता है कि यह प्रोग्राम नियर के लिए कितने प्रकार नवीन रणनीति अपनाता है।"

TAD programme by NITI Aayog is a first programme focusing on outcome oriented development of 115 selected districts across the country.

**Novel strategy** - District based Key Performance Indicators to measure the outcomes like literacy, sanitation, education, competitiveness amongst the districts.

Focus on social equality - SC, ST in backward classes.
17. How did India fare on the Millennium Development Goals related to health? In this regard, identify the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and evaluate India's capacity to meet them. (250 words)

MDGs were selected in the year 2000. Special focus was put on health goals given the critical nature of the sector.

India's performance in life expectancy increased, achieving medical exclusion of many. Improvements in infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate.

Despite several improvements, India couldn't perform as well as it desired. Hence a renewed focus was to be made in the.
Sustainable Development goals accepted in 2012-13.

- Universal Immunization
  - Mission Indradhanush was taken up.

- Mission to curb TB age
  - TB free status by 2025
  - Advance of the World by 2030
  - AIDS control - 90-90-90 programme

- Curb on antimicrobial resistance
  - Improvements in MMR & IMR

- India's capacity
  - Many schemes like MAA to boost infant care
  - Maternity Benefits Act to be amended, role of ASHA workers increased
  - Focus on more no. of institutional deliveries
- Various efforts are being made to curb AMR through stricter norms
- Increased inclusion in TB diagnosis like Genexpert Tests & ART for AIDS patients
- Focus on preventive care has increased rather than just curative
- Schemes like Aarogya Manthan & District Wellness Centres are going to help in meeting the goals.
18. What are the different rights recognized under the Forest Rights Act, 2006? Highlight the gaps in the implementation of community forest rights and community forest resource rights granted under the Forest Rights Act. Also, suggest measures to address the current scenario. (250 words)

Forest Rights Act, 2006 is an important legislation as it recognizes the individual and community rights of the forest dwellers for the first time, specially in the backdrop of Forest Conservation Act 1780 which led to alienation & displacement of many.

- Individual & Community rights of Scheduled Tribes & Other Forest Dwellers
- Land Rights - non-transferable & inheritable.
- Use rights - conservation of forests vs use.
- Produce - Forest Ownership of Minor forest produce.
Importance of the Act

1. Empowered the Gram Sabha to make decisions to recognize rights
2. Balancing the rights to use versus the protection of the forests
3. Many rights retrospective in action

Gaps in Implementation

- Lack of awareness amongst the masses about their rights
- Forest Authorities exploited the forest dwellers
- Gram Sabha was bypassed in many instances
- Consensus based decision making was not done

Improvements To Be Done

- Making the people aware of their rights
- Involvement of civil society to prevent exploitation by officials
- Giving more rights to the groom's wife other than just consultation.
19. Progress in India-US ties has been accompanied by equally significant divergences on important issues. Examine in the context of recent developments. (250 words)

India-US ties have seen the ebb and flow over the years ever since India decided to opt for Non-Alignment Movement during the cold war. Significant efforts over the years have seen the relations improve over time although many small divergences still remain.

**PROGRESSIVE TIES**

* Defence -
  - India procuring arms from the US
  - US giving STA-1 status to India – the only non-NATO country to get this
  - Joint exercises like Malabar & Vojn-Pomhar

* Economy -
  - India purchasing oil from the US 1st
  - The 2nd shipment arriving in 2017-18.
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- US foreign investments in India

Strategies
- Cooperation in Indo-Pacific-Russia groupings
- US calling India a key partner in Afghan peace process & asking for increased role in preventing terrorism
- Nuclear Deal in 2005

Others
- Technological exchanges
- US supporting India in NSG

DIVERGENCE IN TIES
- India not agreeing to US demands regarding Iran ties
- US H-1B visa policy hurting Indian workers
- Challenges at WTO over solar import duty, food grain subsidy
- Indian engagement with Russia in S-400 Triumph deal
- On and off relations between US & Pakistan
giving mixed signals to India.

- Capriciousness of Donald Trump administration

While the improvements over the years have been manifold, India needs to be aware of the ground realities that US is ceding space to India can't afford the Russia-China-Pakistan trilateral to get the ascendancy in order to safeguard its long-term security.

While many decisions of the US are economically motivated, like reducing the trade deficit, it is important for India to stick to its erstwhile non-alignment to any particular grouping or carve its own strategic autonomy.
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20. Despite bonhomic, the structural differences between Indian and Israeli national security situations, their worldviews and absence of explicitly shared enemies limit stronger strategic rapprochement. Critically discuss.

(250 words) 15

South Asian nations share a common concern with India and Israel in dealing with Islamic extremism and terrorism. They have a common interest in promoting peace and stability in the region. India and Israel share a common concern with China and Pakistan in dealing with terrorism and extremism. They have a common interest in promoting peace and stability in the region.

India-Israel relations recently completed their 25 years which was marked by state visits of both country's Prime Ministers, showcasing the signs of bonhomic & cooperation.

Convergence

Cooperation

- Defence technology of Israel is being used in India successfully
- Israeli's agricultural innovations are of significant importance for Indian agriculture
- The gift of a desalination vehicle is a sign of

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mutual convergence.

- Indian Intelligence Talent & Israeli Technology is being projected as India-Israel Ties for Tomorrow. ⇒ (ITIT = IIT)

- De-hyphenation of Israel-Palestine by India is a sign of increased cooperation & strategic alignment.

LIMITATIONS:

- Different security aims - whereas Israel has the regional hegemony in defence & wants to stay above others, Indian ambition has always been Neighbourhood first.

- Israel has hostile neighbourhood, India has friendly neighbourhood (except Pakistan) which shares common culture with 1000 years old.

- Israel economy is primarily capitalist & driven by arms sales. India has socialist goals.
aiming for inclusive growth.

- Israel has a strong all-weather ally in US but India has to keep a position of strategic balance between different groupings.

- Israel has hostile relations with the Arab world whereas India has strong economic partnership driven by oil imports. It is only recently that India deplomatic the ties in 1996 as the 1st country to recognize Palestine as an independent nation, which hurt Israel.

Thus, although, Indian-Israel economic relations have blossomed and are reaching new levels, the strategic divergence is hindering the possibility of a stronger engagement. However, both countries have done exceedingly well to carve out mutually beneficial relations in an increasingly protectionist world.