GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1071)

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Medium Eng./Hindi: ENGLISH

Registration Number: 417797

Center: JAIPUR

Date: 4/9/2018

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Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

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

उपर पुस्तिका में सुचारू के लिए आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रमाण-पत्र कोड, विधायी प्रक्रम आदि).

2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI

इसमें भीम प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिंदी में छिन हैं।

3. All questions are compulsory.

सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

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

प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग को अंक उसके सामने लिखे गए हैं।

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.

प्रश्नों के उपर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रश्न पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-पत्र-उपर (बंदूकीपुत्र) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अन्वित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अन्वित अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उद्दर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

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

प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसार किया जाना चाहिए।

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

उपर पुस्तिका में खाली छोटा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से कटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

M-1/4, Plot No-A-12/13, 1st Floor, Ansal Building, Dr. Vidya Sagar Homeopathic Clinic, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009
### 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. It has been argued that over the years there has been a steady decline in the efficacy of Parliament as an institution of accountability. Analyse and also suggest appropriate measures to address the relevant concerns.

(150 words) 10

यह तरीके दिया जाता है कि वर्षों से एक जवाबदेह संस्था के रूप में संसद की प्रभावकारिता में निरंतर गिरावट आई है। विषयों कीजिए और साथ ही, प्रारंभिक प्रतिक्रियाओं का समाधान करने हेतु उचित उपाय भी सुझाव।

India Parliament performs several functions like deliberating laws, exercising financial & political control over the Executive, etc.

However, many statistics point to a steady decline in the efficacy such as

* Parliament on an average votes for only 66 days a year

* Budget discussion is only for 35 hours a day & only 69 out of demands are discussed.

* Frequent disruptions & adjournments over political issues

Reasons:

* Lack of political space to opposition

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* Politicisation of demands at the national stage
* **Anti-Defection Law & Whips** merely ensure presence & do not promote healthy debates.

**Measures**

* Check on Anti-Defection Law as suggested by NCRWC & Law Commission. Also include pre-poll alliances.
* Fixed calendar of sittings in advance to ensure minimum no. number of working days
* Increased role of Parliamentary Committees to look into demands for grants.

Accountability is the soul of democracy. It should not be compromised at any cost.
2. Panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) are simultaneously a remarkable success and a staggering failure, depending on the goalposts against which they are evaluated. Discuss.

Panchayati Raj Institutions were setup under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment at 1992 with varied objectives such as:
- administrative decentralization
- promotion to grass root democracy
- financial empowerment of local self governments
- protection of the minorities & vulnerable groups like women

**Successes**
- it has been able to achieve women participation (as much as 40%) despite a legal mandate of 33.

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Grass root democracy has flourished with higher number of voters & increased awareness amongst the masses.

- Integration with the national schemes for development such as Road construction or Digital India Programme.

FAILURES

- No autonomy of the PRIs
- Shortage of funds (they can generate only 59% of the funds by themselves)
- Bureaucratic interference (Surpanchhi have to go to Block Development offices for clearances)
- No innovation in projects (funds are already allotted to earmarked schemes)

Thus as per the good posts, they can be treated as success (failure). Increased autonomy financial & administrative is a must to improve their overall performance.
3. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is more than just the keeper of our national accounts; it is also a conscience-keeper and a watchdog. Examine the statement in light of making the auditing process more effective. (150 words)

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is more than just the keeper of our national accounts; it is also a conscience-keeper and a watchdog. Examine the statement in light of making the auditing process more effective.

CAG has been given a very high position in Indian policy like:

- Salary under Charged Expenditure
- Removal as per the process of
  - Supreme Court Judge, i.e., Security of Tenure
  - Separate oath like President & Ministers

It looks into the any leakages in the funds:

- Quality of expenditure
- Appropriation audits
- Utilization of budget demands
ISSUES

- post-mortem audit - after expenditure done
- only recommendatory nature
- agencies like RPWI etc. can't be audited in light of national security

IMPROVEMENTS

- binding powers
- more auditing autonomy & coverage of organisations &
- pre-expenditure auditing of various outlays & outcomes

CRG needs to have controlling powers; then only its designation will be fully justified. However, it shouldn't come at the cost of compromising administration efficiency by increased interference.
The concern for transparency in political funding is at odds with the Electoral Bond Scheme notified by the government. Critically discuss.

(150 words) 10

The Electoral Bond Scheme was introduced in Budget 2017-18 in order to keep a check on black money & enhance transparency. However, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) points to nearly 69% unaccounted for funds with the parties.

**Concerns About Transparency**

- Promotion of criminal politics
- Deregulation of electoral process
- Black money into the economy
- Shell parties being setup to divert the resources

**Benefits of the Scheme**

- It curbs cash donations (below 2000 Rs)
- Promotes digital, online & transparent
- It protects the anonymity of the donors thus preventing harassment at the hands of the parties.
- It enables linking of bonds which can be used to track down any illegal source of funding.

**ISSUES**

- It promotes anonymity in the name of transparency.
- The limits on corporate funding have been relaxed and they account for nearly 85% of funds which leads to lobbying & influence on policies.
- The bonds being issued at SBI gives the ruling party an edge due to government control of SBI. This is against transparency of other parties.
- Bonds are conveniently kept out of RTI norms.

Thus the scheme raises more concerns than it resolves. RTI on parties is a must to ensure transparency in the long term.
5. Lobbying in India exists in a perennially grey legal and policy arena. In this context, discuss the need to formally recognize and regulate lobbying in India.

(150 words) 10

भारत में लोब्बिंग हमेशा से ही विभिन्न और नीतितल्ल प्रमुख में अप्रतिमित रूप से विद्यमान रही है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में लोब्बिंग को औपचारिक रूप से मान्यता प्रदान करने और विनियमित करने की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।
6. More than a decade after it was passed, the implementation of the RTI Act leaves much to be desired. Comment. Also discuss the issues associated with the recent proposals to amend the RTI Act.

RTI Act was passed in 2005 after the Supreme Court ruling that right to information is integral to Act 19 of the Constitution.

It provided features like
- Increased transparency
- Regular disclosures
- Penalty for no disclosure
- Time-bound reply to any petition
- Central & State Information Commissioner's to overlook the implementation

CHALLENGES / LACUNAE IN PRESENT SYSTEM
- CIC rulings are not adhered to.
- Political Parties not coming under RTI.
- The term 'public authority' in the Act is not well defined, leaving room for manipulation.
- Bodies have not appointed information officers despite penal provisions.
- Multi-sectoral RTIs face delays in getting lost in the communication between departments.

Recent proposal - Appointment of members to CIC by SC in the conditions & terms to be decided by the Government as it is not constitutional.

ISSUE - It will affect the autonomy of the CIC in transparency & independent nature of the Act. The proposed amendment needs to be looked into with clarity & ensured that the provisions are not deleted.
7. Critically discuss the evolving policy on reservation in promotions in India with special focus on its ability to meet the objectives of social justice.

Reservation in promotions was denied under the Indra Rao judgement by SC.

However, Parliament in 73rd Amendment Act brought in Act 16(4)(g) which provided for the reservation.

**Nagauri case** - SC laid down the guidelines like:
- Quantifiable data of backwardness or lack only presence at the top
- It shouldn’t compromise the efficiency of administration.
Yes to reservation:

- socially backward classes who have been frustrated for ages
- general lack of SC/ST at the top of hierarchy

No:

- may not affect the efficiency
- demotivates other officials
- promotion to mediocrity if there is no talent

There has to be a balance between social justice & administrative efficiency.

A look into adequate data is needed to form the gut to proceed further.

The issue shouldn't be politicized in the meanwhile for electoral gains.
India produces enough food for its people, but not all people get enough food to eat. Discussing this paradox, highlight some of the major interventions taken in the past few years in this regard. (150 words)

India has achieved food self-sufficiency but food security since the Green Revolution. However, the socio-economic inequalities still lead to many people yearning for nutritious food.

[Issues] - 27% undernourishment in the Indian children showing lack of nutritious food.

- 22% people below poverty line empowering they don't earn enough to eat healthy food.

- 30% wastage in food due to poor storage or transport infrastructure.
Even quality of food is poor with wheat & rice overshadowing pulses & millets, leading to protein deficiency.

**INTERVENTIONS**

- Integrated Child Development Scheme which focuses on multivitamin food to be given to children
- Mid Day Meal Scheme for school children
- Nutrient Fortification of flour & rice
- National Food Security Mission - rice, wheat, pulses at ₹ 3/- per kg to poor households
- Public Distribution System providing free rations to BPL families

These interventions have to be made leakage-free so that all the funds reach the desired beneficiaries.
9. India sees Indian Ocean as not just a water body, but a global stage for continued economic, social, and cultural dialogue. Elaborate. (150 words)

India has been at the centre stage of world economy since the age of colonization and has now become a theatre of geopolitics after the end of Cold War.

Indian stakes in Indian Ocean are multisectoral:

(i) **Economic**:
- Most of the oil imports (80%) & foreign trade (90% by volume) go through Indian Ocean.
- Presence of Polymetallic Nodules & sole exploiting rights give a fillip to Indian energy security & export promotion

(ii) **Strategic**:
- The Sea Lanes of Communication in Arabian
Sea half & Bay of Bengal half is important for maritime safety
- Protection from terrorism & piracy is also a concern

Social & Cultural Exchange:
- Indian diaspora in East Africa, Maldive & South East Asia carry the Indian tradition to outside
- Project Mauzam & Spice Route give an opportunity to revive historical relations
- Aid in the form of drinking water to Maldives and training under Indian Technical & Economic Co-operation (ITEC) establishes India's friendly & caring identity

The recent revival of recent fora such as Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), BIMSTEC, Mauzam etc. point towards the important economic, political & socio-cultural relevance of Indian Ocean.
10. In the context of India taking greater responsibility in management of the global commons, there has been a shift in India’s climate change negotiation stance. In this context, analyze the evolution of India’s climate policy.

India considers itself as an important member of the climate change negotiations. It is willing to provide leadership to the countries to lead a path to a cleaner and sustainable future.

**Historical** - More focus on self-consumption

- Increase in thermal power generation (65% at present)
- Hydroelectric power plants for electricity generation by construction of dams
- Pushed for increased compliance by the developed world in the Kyoto Protocol
- Forests were subordinated to agriculture in 'green' policies

(150 words)
- Common But Differentiated Responsibilities

India is willing to undertake cuts although voluntarily (Kyoto Protocol II 2013-2020)

- Increased focus on Renewable Energy 40% by 2030 (175 GW extra by 2022)

- International Solar Alliance to help the Tropical countries - mainly Africa and Pacific Island countries - setup Solar technology

- Willing to undertake voluntary National Review of Intentionally National Determined Cuts (INDC) thus setting an example for others.

Thus India has shifted from an insured looking to a more holistic world view by being willing to help others meet their targets as well.
11. Highlighting the constitutional role of the Finance Commission (FC), discuss the issues which are being debated w.r.t. terms of reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission.

(250 words)

Recently, the 15th Finance Commission was setup by the President under N.K. Singh and its Terms of Reference were given.

**CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE**

- Article 280 mandates setting up of FC periodically as per the exigencies.
- It evaluates the fiscal needs of the states & sets out the guidelines to be observed for grant-in-aid under Article 275.
- It looks into the horizontal (across states) & vertical (between State & Centre) devolution of funds.
- It also recommends measures to consolidate the funds of the State in the Consolidated Fund.
Devolving taxation to local self governments.

- Constituent Assembly envisaged it as the balancing wheel of Indian Federalism.

TOR of 15th FC

- Importance to the 2011 census population data.

- Preference to the steps taken by States to increase investment & improve the Ease of Doing Business.

- Steps taken to boost the collections under GST.

- Quality of expenditure done by States, i.e., Fiscal Deficit & Capital Development.

- Performance in various NITI Ayog Index like Health Index.
ISSUES

- Southern states, which have adopted population planning methods, might be at a disadvantage.
- Performance based on competitive indexes puts backward states at a disadvantage.
- Concerns of North East about less weightage to forests & greenery (only 7.5%) especially.
- The states are not eligible to challenge the Tor in the courts under Article 131 (original jurisdiction).
- Centre eroding the States' financial space by looking into expenditures.

WAY FORWARD

Collaboration under Inter-State Councils to sort out any differences & make inclusive process of issuing Tor needs to be done.
12. The spirit of the constitution of India represents a synthesis of Indian values, democratic and socialist movements in west and our independence movement. Elucidate.

(250 words) 15

Indian constitution is regarded as a mixed bag of ideals & it has adopted the best administrative & practices & political ideals in itself, which range from western political ideals, Indian values & freedom struggle ideals.

**WESTERN MOVEMENTS**

- The ideals of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity are borrowed from the French republic.
- From Fundamental Rights & No Taxation without Representation from the US Constitution.
Rule of law, Parliamentary democracy have their roots in the British policy.

- Directive Principles of State Policies are borrowed from Irish constitution.
- Russian Revolution provided the basis for socialism & socio-economic justice to all.

**INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE**

- Equal pay for equal work (Art 39)
- Affirmative action for the socially & economically backward (Art 15, 16)
- Universal Adult Franchise or Suffrage (Art 326)
- Right to property by Karachi
- Educational Policies session of Congress.
INDIAN VALUES

- Secularism has been a part of Indian society from ancient times.
- Sovereignty - India neither annexed any other country, nor did it support annexation.
- Democracy has roots in the Indian village societies which even Gandhi called "Village Republics."

Thus Indian constitution is a unique synthesis of a bag of ideas. It is a novelty due to its ability to accommodate and assimilate different opinions.
13. What is the importance of an independent judiciary in a democracy? Highlight the safeguards in our political-constitutional setup to ensure the independence of judiciary. (250 words) 15

लोकतंत्र में स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका का क्या महत्त्व है? न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता मुनिशित करने हेतु हमारी राजनीतिक-संविधानिक व्यवस्था में निहित राज्यांशों पर प्रभाव डालिए।

Independent Judiciary is one of the pillars of Democracy and Federalism. As it helps

It has been envisaged under

- Article 50 which talks about separation of Executive & Judiciary

- [Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain case] where Supreme court talked about Judicial Independence

- It is a part of the Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution

Importance of Independent Judiciary

- Upholding the supremacy of the Constitution

- Protecting the Fundamental Rights of the citizens against arbitrary legislative action (Article 13(2))
Balancing the Indian Federalism through Judicial Review. E.g., it can strike down colorable legislation or uphold incidental overlap of powers under Doctrine of Pith & Substance.

- Protecting ensuring smooth functioning of the polity as in case of Judicial Review of President's Rule or whimsical removal of Governors.

- Judicial Activism (under Article 142) to fill the void left by the Legislature. E.g., VISHAKHA guidelines, Vincent Navair case demanding CBI to be under CVC purview.

Challenges: Judicial Overreach. E.g., Liquor Ban guidelines. Overlap of powers. E.g., President's Pardoning power (Art 72).

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SAFEGUARDS

- Judicial conduct of judges can't be discussed in public domain (except when removal is debated).
- They salaries are charged Expenditure on Consolidated Fund of India.
- Appointment of judges is done as per the Collegium's recommendations.
- Lower administrative staff is posted appointed by Chief Justice.
- Independence is a part of Basic Structure & can't be taken away by law.
- The removal of judges require special majority in both the houses.

Thus the independence is a critical part of Indian judiciary & needs to be preserved for efficient functioning.
14. Even though Indian federalism has matured quite a bit, with states having far greater control of their economic and political management, serious structural problems still remain. Discuss.

Indian federalism has been modelled on the Canadian constitution and has a unitary bias. Over the years, it has matured due to various reasons like:

- Increased economic capability of the states e.g., Gujarat & Maharashtra.
- Rise of regional parties & state politics after initial same-party era.
- Linguistic reorganisation & acceptance of regional autonomy under the constitution.

The maturity is being manifested in form of higher devolution to the states under Finance Commission (42%).
- States having a say in foreign relations through paradiplomacy. e.g. West Bengal in Bangladesh or Kerala in Middle East.

- Role of Chief Ministers has become important in the group of CMs platform.

- NITI Aayog envisages cooperative federalism as well as competitive federalism between states.

- State level laws such as MCC Act is being adopted by other states.

**STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS**

- Role of governor is highly debated which has been acknowledged by Venkaiah Commission also.

- Inter-State Councils (Article 263) are more of talking shops & do not sit regularly.
to promote cooperation

- Inter-state River Water Disputes are on an all-time high. e.g. Kaveri, Mahanadi, Mahadayi, etc.

- The central control over All India Service is also an issue of debate.

- Mobilisation of Central Police Forces again in States for terror management.

- Terms of Reference of Finance Commission are challenged by Southern States due to population data issue.

- Many states demand for Special Category Status.

- Increased collaboration through platforms like Inter-state Councils is needed to compensate federalism is to be replaced by Organic Federalism where both federal and autonomous constitutions fit.

LIAISON - IAS Forward
15. The recent amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 strike a balance between enforcement overzealouness and the need for stringent action against corrupt public servants. Discuss.

Prevention of corruption Act, 1988 helps take actions against corrupt officials who breach public trust and utilize the public resources for their own gains.

Issues due to corruption

- Erodes public confidence in the institutions of state
- Promotes socio-economic inequalities
- Loss to the public exchequer

Challenges

- Officials look for pecuniary as well as non-pecuniary gains from the office
- Difficulty in ascertaining the gains putting officials to the laws due to security of

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Recent Amendment

Section 13 (1)(a) relaxes the provisions to prove the assets received to

accumulated wealth which can't be accounted for

misappropriation of public resources for

self consumption

Section 17 - courts cannot take
cognizance of the case unless they have
a prior sanction from the government

Benefits - protect honest officials from
vested allegations

- Prevents risk free attitude of policy makers
- Also distinguishes between Bribe taken &
Bribe given, if the Bribe taking act is reported
to the authorities
This protects from the misuse of the earlier provisions.

**ISSUES**

- Highly relaxed provisions - do not consider the non-pecuniary gains
- Post retirement benefits & perks are hard to be ascertained as either unaccounted wealth or misappropriation of funds
- Extra protection to the officials from investigation, even though they have one at prosecution stage.

Though the amendments are aimed at protecting against overzealous application of earlier act, there are also valid concerns which need to be addressed. Otherwise the morality of administration will be compromised.
16. Identifying the various issues plaguing the voluntary sector in India, discuss the need for a national accreditation agency to overcome them. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत में स्वैच्छिक क्षेत्र को अवरोध करने वाले विभिन्न मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए एवं इन पर काबू पाने हेतु एक राष्ट्रीय प्रमाणपत्र एजेंसी की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।
17. Given the importance of a teacher in affecting the learning outcomes of children, discuss the problems in the present system of teacher training in India. How can these be addressed?

Learning outcomes of children depend on the inputs like infrastructure, medium of learning & the skills of the teacher. Indian students are suffering from issues like poor teaching, quality & attention. Unable to read, comprehend, low class material (ASER by Pancham) increased dropouts due to social reasons in rural areas.

Challenges in teacher training: quality

- Lot of non-teaching administrative work like managing Mid-Day Meal scheme.
- Lack of financial incentives
- Adequate career growth
- Teacher absenteeism in schools
- Poor performance review system
- Gap in lack of proper accreditation mechanism & tests to judge teacher quality

**Steps to Improve**

- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyam started by the government which integrates primary & secondary education along with teacher learning & education in an integrated manner from Nursery to 

XII
One time workers under Sarna Shiksha Ashram / RTE for 2.5 years to get skilled.

- Regular refresher courses to maintain the quality

- 360° peer review & student feedback to focus on better quality

- Setting up Training Institutes to collaborating with the private sector under PPP models to provide test, to accredit the teachers.

Good Teacher Quality is intrinsic to success of educational initiatives - needs to be at the helm of future initiatives to be taken.
18. The implementation of a scheme with such scale and benefit as Ayushman Bharat is likely to face many obstacles. Critically discuss. (250 words) 15

आयुष्मान भारत जैसी अति व्यापक और लाभकारी योजना के कार्यान्वयन में कई बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Ayushman Bharat Scheme has 2 components

- National Health Protection Scheme
- Health & Wellness Centres

It was announced in Budget 2017-18 and is one of the biggest / healthcare schemes around the world.

Features
- Covers 10 crore households
- 1 lakh insurance cover per year
- Digital, cashless payments
- Portability across India
- Both Public & Private empanelled
- Tertiary & Secondary care
- 1.5 lakh Health & Wellness Centres to be setup to provide Primary Health Care
Benefits
- Increased public expenditure from 1.27% of GDP
- Reduce out of pocket expenditure of the poor (which is at present 47%
- Improved savings of the poor, thus leading to better socio-economic growth
- It is a pan-India scheme, thus achieves equality and consistency in standards
- More options to the poor to get treated plus access to latest technology
- Keep a check on fraudulent practices by hospitals of charging high prices from poor

Obstacles
- Need to reach a price parity with the service providers which is cumbersome
- Health insurance schemes have generally proven to be costly across the world
to higher Fiscal Burden
- NHPS needs to cover primary health care also as most of the mental burden lies on PHC
- Health & Wellness centres have to meet the demands of drugs, medicines as well as cover up for the shortage of Human Resources in terms of doctors and staff workers

**IMPROVEMENTS**
- PHC needs to be incorporated
- Incentives for doctors to join public health care
- Setup a Public Health Cadre (Health Policy 2017)
- Regulation of private & practices needs to be done

It is a very important scheme to achieve social justice & should be implemented effectively without resisting by population.
19. Given the fact that India cannot match China’s financial clout, it is seen to be diversifying the ways in which it can enhance cooperation and promote its diplomatic profile in Africa. Discuss. (250 words) 15

इस तथ्य को देखते हुए कि भारत, चीन के वित्तीय प्रभुत्व की व्यावहारिक तरह से समक्ष, यह देखा जा रहा है कि भारत ऐसे विविध तरीकों द्वारा अपना रहा है जिसके तहत यह अफ्रीका में सहयोग में वृद्धि और अपनी पूर्वी अर्थव्यवस्था के बढ़ते हैं जो संसार में चर्चा कीजिए।

India & China, though at similar economic level in 1970s have now become hugely different with Chinese economy nearly 5 times that of India.

It has repercussions on the strategic autonomy of India due to its financial clout like:

- Belt & Road Initiative - China
- Pakistan Economic Corridor through PoK.
- Naval bases in Djibouti & Gwadar.
- Investments in Sri Lanka
- String of Pearls & The Maritime Silk Route.
India is adopting a nuanced approach to counter the financial prowess of China through:

- *Soft Power* - Mausam, cultural exchanges in Indian Ocean Island countries

- Strategic groupings like BIMSTEC & SAARC do promote free & open Indo-Pacific

- Naval investments in Assumption Island & in Seychelles & Sabang Island, Indonesia

**ROLE OF AFRICA**

- India has been a forerunner in South-South cooperation, specially 3rd World African countries

- Groupings like IBSA - provide a platform to African nations
- A UNSC reform, blocked by China, have a demand for African presence, thus projecting India's inclusive approach.

- Asia Africa Growth Corridor for India with Japan

- International Solar Alliance with Tropical African Countries

- Oil & gas investments in Western Africa

- Project Mausam to revive cultural relations

Thus India is opting for soft power along with financial investments to match China's financial clout.
20. Discuss how American sanctions on its adversaries affect India. Taking the example of CAATSA, analyse how India can shield its strategic interests in face of such sanctions.

US has been increasingly growing protectionist in resorting to sanctions against its rivals like countering American adversaries through Trade Sanctions Act (CAATSA) and Iranian Sanctions (after the failure of JCPOA deal).

**IMPACT ON INDIA**

- Russian trade is going to get a hit
- Defence procurements like S-400 missiles
- Equipment purchases for older aircraft & weapons
- Technology transfer under joint production initiatives eg BrahMos missile

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Iranian sanctions will have multi-dimensional repercussions:

- Oil imports from Iran (3rd most) will get affected which puts energy security under threat.

- Trade projects such as International North South Trade Corridor (INSTC) which connects to Central Asia & Eurasia.

- Chabahar port investments done by India to bypass Pakistan, access Afghanistan to also potentially counter China at Gwadar port.

- Issues in organisational participation such as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation which helps in anti-terrorism as well as access to Central Asia.
SHIELDING INTERESTS

- Diversification of imports
  - Oil from OSA, Middle East & South East Asia
  - Defence from France, Israel, USA so that prices are not too high
- Sacki declaration between India & Russia talked about mutual hedging against rupee showing the role of diplomacy
- India has iterated belief in only UN sanctions, therefore it can approach multilateral bodies such as WTO dispute settlement or UN General Assembly against USA
- Trade with Iran is being done in domestic currencies thus bypassing USA
- India needs to uphold sovereignty & strategic autonomy & the above steps help in ensuring