

VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1418)

Name of Candidate	MAMTA YADAV	Registration Number	936371
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Date	9 th Dec'2020
Center	ONLINE		

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- 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 उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit In questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar

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.

1. Discuss the need to strengthen the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to tackle the problems faced by the Scheduled Castes in India.

(150 words) 10

भारत में अनुसूचित जातियों द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं से निपटने के लिए राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग को सशक्त बनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

'National Commission for Scheduled Castes'
is a Constitutional Body mandated to
uphold the rights of SCs and recommend
policy or legislative reforms for upliftment of
SCs.

Problems faced by Scheduled Castes'

- Below average literacy rates at 66%.
- Lack of avenues for effective skill development to take up better jobs
- The menace of Manual scavenging which is violative of Right to dignified life (A-2) continues.
- Poor Conviction Rate under Prevention of Atrocities (SC/STs) Act, 1989
- Continue to face harassment & discrimination at the hands of upper castes especially in rural areas.

To enable greater role to tackle the above challenges, it is necessary to strengthen NCSCs. For this, following are some important reforms -

- Appointment of President of NCSCs by President based on recommendation of committee comprising PM, Leader of Opposition & CJI.
- NCSCs should recommend reforms every year to govt: which be laid in front of Parliament. Just like Finance Commission, non-acceptance of recommendations should be debated effectively.
- Greater role by undertaking field visits, surveys to better understand emerging needs & recommending policies to achieve them.

Widening the scope of activities taken up from by NCSC would strengthen it enable better upliftment of SCs.

2. Does the Representation of People's Act ensure an effective mechanism against criminalization of politics in India? Discuss. (150 words) 10

क्या लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण के विरुद्ध एक प्रभावी तंत्र सुनिश्चित करता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

Representation of People's Act deals with various elections related matters, for example, necessary qualifications, grounds for disqualifications, power of high courts in election complaints, etc.

Effective Mechanism against criminalisation of politics in India

YES

→ After SC's judgement in Ram Dabhi Case, Lily Thomas case, MPs/MLAs given imprisonment of 2 years or more are immediately disqualified.
→ Its for various provisions like disqualification for indulging in inciting violence, social crimes, etc.

NO

→ According to ADR, in the 17th Lok Sabha, 49% of the elected MPs were facing

Criminal charges.

- 60% of these were for heinous crimes.
- Even after disqualification, political persons hold positions in parties and influence government.
- Long Delays in giving judgement allows those ~~sub~~ with criminal backgrounds to continue.

Therefore, even though the Act is an important tool, it lacks effectiveness.

Some reforms

- 2nd ARC recommends amending RPA to provide disqualification for those facing charges for heinous crimes.
- Government should set up Fast Track Courts for ~~election~~ MPs/MLAs.
- Focus on Anti Party Reforms.

3. Discuss the challenges that are being faced by Gram Nyayalayas in their effective functioning. (150 words) 10

ग्राम न्यायालयों द्वारा प्रभावी रूप से कार्य करने में सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Gram Nyayalayas are tool to provide justice in a timely manner to people living in villages/rural areas & hence may not ~~be~~ have affordability or accessibility to approach subordinate or high judiciary.

Challenges faced by Gram Nyayalayas

Administrative

- The Bureaucracy has not endorsed the ~~the~~ nyayalayas in an effective manner.
- Lack of Resources, for eg, Internet Connectivity, Skill Personnel for management, etc.

Social

- Lack of awareness among people.
- ~~Stigma~~ People doubt their efficacy or effectiveness. Hence, often they do not approach approach them.

Financing

→ No focus by State Government on providing adequate funds for capacity enhancement.

Therefore, various challenges are being faced by Gram Nyayalayas & various reforms are needed to ensure they ~~are~~ become an effective tool for ensuring justice to all.

Suggestions

- Digital Connectivity, Bharatnet Project is a good step for achieving this.
- Giving them powers to hire personnel on contractual basis to meet emerging needs.
- Awareness campaign so that people ~~use~~ approach them more.

4. Explain the rationale behind setting up 'Alternative Mechanisms' in ensuring effective decision making in the governance of the country.

(150 words) 10

देश के शासन में प्रभावी निर्णयन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 'वैकल्पिक तंत्र' स्थापित करने का औचित्य स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Alternative Mechanisms are used
to overcome the various problems with
decision making ~~for~~ of governance

Problems

- Lack of consultation
- Rigid, Top-down
- Lack of Domain Expertise

1418

VISION IAS™

Don't write
anything this
margin
(इस मार्ज में
कुछ न लिखें)

5. The relationship between bureaucracy and democracy is both paradoxical and complementary. Comment. (150 words) 10
नौकरशाही और लोकतंत्र के बीच संबंध विरोधाभासी और अनुपूरक दोनों हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Bureaucracy refers to the arms of government which extends ~~the~~ its various policies to the people and act as a bridge between political executive & Citizens.

Paradoxical Relationship

- Democracy gives power to people whereas Bureaucracy leads to concentration of resources & power in hands of few.
- Bureaucracy is often used as the very tool to stifle democracy by curbing dissent, protests, etc.
- Reforms to strength Democracy by making governance citizen centric is seen as an incursion in ~~their~~ influence by Bureaucracy.

Complementary

- Democracy elicits the government & the government heads the bureaucracy.
- The complaints & grievances shared by people acts as a guide of reforms for bureaucracy & government.
- Civil society groups often take up audits of Welfare Activities/Schemes provided by Bureaucracy.

The goal of both Democracy & Bureaucracy is welfare of people.
Better engagement can enable better results towards achieving the common goal.

6. By transforming the way governments work and reinventing people's participation in the democratic process, e-governance empowers the citizen in multiple ways. Discuss in the context of India. **(150 words) 10**
सरकारों के काम करने के तरीके में परिवर्तन और लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया में लोगों की भागीदारी का पुनर्निर्माण करके, ई-शासन अनेक प्रकार से नागरिकों को सशक्त बनाता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

e-governance can be defined as the use of Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) by the government agencies to transform relations with citizens, business & other arms of government, hence, making governance effective, transparent & smart.

E-governance to empower Citizens

The way government works

→ Greater use of ICT in services like filing taxes, applying for licences has reduced discretion & harassment by government officers, hence, empowering people.

→ With ICT, there is transparency in schemes regarding to vulnerable sections like women, SCs, STs. Therefore, they can make better demands.

→ e-district initiative of Delhi Government.

Reinventing People's participation

- Better grievance redressal mechanisms for people to file complaints.
- suo-motu disclosure of information, for eg, Tan Sochna Portal of Rajasthan Government.
This transforms people from passive recipients to active participants.
- Right to Information with e-filing for most central govt. ministries.

Therefore, e-governance is mechanism for making governance - democratic, people centric. for further reforms, 2nd ARC recommends → Capacity Development of govt. employees

- Restructure process to make all transactions & works, e-governance adaptable
- Creating Legislative Mechanism with parliamentary Oversight to better promote e-governance.

7. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 dilutes the spirit of Supreme Court's NALSA judgement towards self-determination of gender. Discuss. (150 words) 10

उभयलिंगी व्यक्ति (अधिकारों का संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 2019 लिंग के आत्मनिर्धारण के प्रति उच्चतम न्यायालय के नालसा (NALSA) निर्णय की भावना को कमजोर करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently, the Parliament passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 which ~~has~~ ~~the~~ ~~feature~~ according to various critics does not uphold Self-Determination, i.e., Right of a transgender to identify one self as Male, Female or other identities.

Features of the Act

- The ~~Act~~ Act defines Transgender / Trans people. However, it does not encompass well the wide diversity among the community.
- The transgender ~~has~~ person has to approach District Certificate Magistrate for identification certificate -
- Lack of Clarity about Mechanisms, if the same is not timely issued or an individual wants to appeal.

The Supreme Court in its NALSA judgement,
gave weight to the Right to Self-
Determination of Gender Identities based
to Right to Life & Personal Liberty (A.21).

Therefore, ~~there is a~~ these should be
under consultation with the Transgender
Community to ensure that Act allows
for development of this vulnerable community.

Further, the Act does not make
provisions for various parts of SC's judgement

- Right to adopt children
- Right to inheritance
- Reservation in Educational Institutions
& Job Opportunities

These should also be included for
inclusive growth.

8. The worthwhile goal of Universal Health Coverage can be achieved by declaring the right to health as a fundamental right. Comment.

(150 words) 10

स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार को एक मूल अधिकार घोषित करके सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य कवरेज के सार्थक लक्ष्य को प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

According to NSSO's 72nd round, 82% Rural Households & 86% of Urban Households have no health insurance. High out of pocket expenditure at 65% is burden for poorer sections.

In this background, Universal Health Coverage is important. This can be achieved by declaring Right to Health as a Fundamental Right under Article 21.

Utility

- Constitutionally bound government to create better infrastructure for primary healthcare especially in rural areas.
- Enable people to utilise private health facilities which are out of bounds of many due to affordability.

- Citizens can approach SC or HC under A.32 and A.226 respectively to ensure right to health is upheld.
- Great tool to balance out the Regional inequalities, for g. backward infrastructure in Eastern & North-Eastern States.

However, it can also act as a great burden for government & administration which it may not be able to shoulder.

Even if not as fundamental right, VHC is important. This can be done gradually by first provisioning for most vulnerable (eg. Ayushman Bharat) & then covering all.

9. Indian Diaspora in the Gulf countries is an asset beset with multiple challenges. Comment. (150 words) 10

खाड़ी देशों में भारतीय डायस्पोरा अनेक चुनौतियों से घिरी एक परिसंपत्ति है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

India has a disapora of about 7 million in the Gulf Countries like UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, etc. Their importance & challenges were bought to fore as they migrated back during corona pandemic.

Asset to India

- A Very Importance of Remittances and foreign exchanges for India.
- Important role played in enabling India to have relations with various opposing poles of West Asia - Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran etc.
- enters soft Policy tools, for eg. Indian Cuisine, Culture, Movies, Music, etc.
- Strong relations with Gulf Countries via Diaspora enabled India to present International.

alisation of Kashmir Issue by Pakistan.

Challenges

- Many works in Blue-Collar Jobs where they face grave human rights violations.
- Poor Wages & Social Security provided to Indian Workers.
- Discrimination & Exploitation on accounts of Colour, Religion, etc.

Recently, India & Kuwait have signed a deal for better conditions to domestic house workers. This is a good step.

India should take greater engagements with Gulf countries to ensure better conditions & also assign them greater & clear role in foreign policy.

10. Briefly outline the genesis and functioning of World Food Programme (WFP). Also highlight its contribution to India's effort in addressing the issue of hunger and malnutrition. **(150 words) 10**

विश्व खाद्य कार्यक्रम (WFP) की उत्पत्ति और कार्यप्रणाली की संक्षिप्त रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, भूख और कुपोषण की समस्या को दूर करने के भारत के प्रयासों में इसके योगदान पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

1418

VISION IAS™

Don't write
anything this
margin
(इस मार्ग में
किस भी लिखें)

11. Action against civil society groups is seen as shrinking space for dissent by some while others point out to the imperatives of merit based action against certain groups. Examine with examples. (250 words) 15

कुछ लोगों द्वारा नागरिक समाज समूहों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई को असहमति के लिए कम होती स्वीकार्यता के रूप में देखा जाता है, जबकि अन्य लोग कतिपय समूहों के विरुद्ध गुणावगुण आधारित कार्रवाई की अनिवार्यता की ओर इंगित करते हैं। उदाहरण सहित परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Indian Constitution provides for Right to freedom of Speech & Expression (A-19) which includes the Right to Dissent against the government & its various policies. The SC has also asserted that 'Right to Dissent is a Safely Value to Democracy'

However, this often leads to various forms of social unrest.

Action ~~action~~ against Civil Society Groups leading to Shrinking space for Dissent

- During the protest against CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act), the administration took to blocking of internet & mobile services.
- The Police administration is claimed to often not allow protestors to permission to converge at ind designated places.

→ Use of force, force, displaying Central Armed Police force, use of water canons, etc. against protestors as seen during recent protests by farmers groups.

→ Disallowing funding of NGOs under FCRA leading to cash crunch & closure of offices for eg. Amnesty International.

Merit Based Action against Certain Groups

→ As highlighted by Intelligence Bureau, anti-developmental activities of various NGOs has costed India, a staggering 2-4% of GDP.

→ Various protests curb traffic movement in public spaces, hence, violating Right to Movement (A-19) of other citizens.

→ Destruction of public property like Buses, Railway tracks, etc. during protests costing public exchequer.

→ Instances of funding by foreign nations & organisations to create disharmony & destabilize the nation.

Striking the Balance between Right to Protest of people & Right to Movement, Trade of other citizens is very important.
Further, as citizens, fundamental duties must be upheld along with Fundamental Rights.

12. Discuss the implications associated with the Prime Minister's Office acting as the most powerful office due to its formidable influence in policymaking in India. (250 words) 15

भारत में नीति-निर्माण में अपने अत्यधिक प्रभाव के कारण प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय के सर्वाधिक शक्तिशाली कार्यालय के रूप में कार्य करने से संबद्ध निहितार्थों की विवेचना कीजिए।

In the Parliamentary form of Government, the Council of Ministers is considered to be most important center of power given its role in executive policy formulations, initiating legislations, etc. However, often Prime Minister's executive office becomes more powerful due to centralisation. This results in Parliamentary form becoming prime-ministerial form of government.

Implications with PMO acting as the most Powerful Office

- Council of Ministers or Cabinet is based on principles of division of labour which enables faster decision making. PMO's role can lead to delays & policy paralysis.
- It can create trust-deficit between various ministries & departments.

- There is a possibility of lack of active decision-making by other departments due to fear of reprimand. This hampers governance & welfare.
- Division of Work enables better policy-making after engagement with required sectoral experts. This can be imparted.
- It can give rise to a spoils culture as seen in American Presidential form.
- It can lead to dilution of Civil Service values like Impartiality & Non-Partisanship hoping for better assignments in PMO.

Therefore, acute centralisation of Policy Making with PMO can impart work culture with welfare of people becoming the ultimate sufferers. Further, Centralisation of Power in PMO can giving good results is dependent on the

efficiency of the Prime Minister & dilutes the
importance of aid & advise of Permanant
Executive.

The departmentalisation of various
aspects of government is good & should be
maintained especially in developing times
like now when domain specialisation &
expertise is important.

13. While judiciary's efforts to infuse accountability in the functioning of government institutions and engender human rights jurisprudence demonstrate the importance of judicial governance, it also leads to concerns around judicial overreach. Discuss. (250 words) 15

जहाँ सरकारी संस्थानों के कार्यकरण में जवाबदेही का संचार करने और मानवाधिकार न्यायशास्त्र उत्पन्न करने का न्यायपालिका का प्रयास न्यायिक शासन का महत्व प्रदर्शित करता है, वहीं यह न्यायिक अतिक्रमण के चतुर्दिक चिंताओं को भी जन्म देता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Judicial Activism can be defined as proactive role played by the judiciary in upholding the rights of peoples & promoting welfare of the society. However, when Judicial Activism becomes adventurism it is called Judicial Overreach.

Infuse Accountability in the functioning of Government Institutions

- The role played by various high courts in ensuring government takes active steps for vulnerable population during corona lockdown.
- The Administration has asymmetric control over power, resources & information vis-à-vis people, Judicial governance prevents its misuse.

→ It calls out violations of Constitutional Provisions by government, for eg., Right to Privacy under Aadhaar Act.

Engender Human Rights

- Right to Clean Air by banning the use of Cookers during divali.
- By striking down Article 377 it upheld the Rights of LGBTQ Community.
- Right of Muslim Women by highlighting the exploitative nature of Triple Talag.
- Sehromala Judgement upheld Right to Equality of Women by allowing them entry in temple.

Concerns around Judicial Overreach

- The judiciary is already overburdened with cases (~ 3 crore pending).
- It often leads to Judiciary being seen to work under the influence of

- Party in power leading to politization.
- Judgements like Liquor Ban around highways, Ban Provision of SC/ST Atrocities Act, etc. highlight gross overreach.
- Administration knows ground realities which are often not appreciated by the courts.

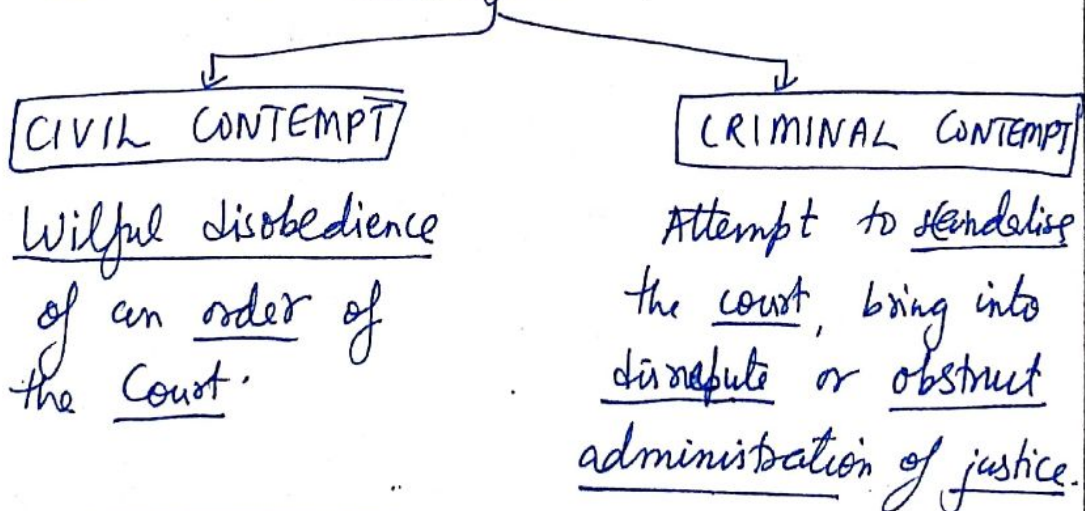
Given that Judiciary is already overburdened with cases pending for over a decade, it is best ~~the~~ it is limited to Judicial Activism in the interest of people but not take to Judicial Adventurism.

14. The power to punish for contempt of court is necessary for the administration of justice. Critically analyse. (250 words) 15

न्यायालय की अवमानना के लिए दंडित करने की शक्ति न्याय के प्रशासन के लिए आवश्यक है। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Recently, the Court used its power to punish for contempt against Advocate Prashant Bhushan for his tweets. This ~~was~~ has led to the debate over its necessity.

The Constitution provides higher ~~to~~ judiciary the power to punish for contempt. In the Contempt of Court Act, there are two types :-



Necessary for Administration of Justice

→ Civil Contempt & punishment thereof is vital to ensure the authority of judicial

- pronouncements → A-19 is limited by Contempt
or Defamation.
- It ensures that Court can take steps
against those spreading fake propaganda/
news to belittle the judiciary.
- Other organs of Nation, i.e. Legislature &
Executive also have it in the form of
Privileges, Section 124-A for sedition, etc.

[Not necessary for administration of justice]

- All modern nations, for eg., USA, Britain
have done away with it.
- Against the spirit of Right to freedom
of Speech & Expression.
- It leads to Politicisation of Judiciary.
- With the spread of Social Media &
Awareness, Judiciary should leave it
upto people to form opinions on
controversial matters.

→ It goes against the spirit of Principle of Natural Justice as judiciary is both the party accusing & deciding punishment.

↳ The Principles of Contempt & reputation are based on primordial concepts. Therefore, Judiciary should take a liberal approach towards miscreants as proceedings of contempt give such entities more limelight.

Recommendation of Law Commission, to only have provision for civil contempt is a good way forward.

15. What are the legal concerns associated with custodial violence? Discuss the challenges in curbing such incidents. Also, suggest some ways to address this issue.

(250 words) 15

अभिरक्षा में हिंसा से संबद्ध विधिक चिंताएं क्या हैं? ऐसी घटनाओं पर अंकुश लगाने में सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, इस समस्या का समाधान करने हेतु कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Recent incidents in Tamil Nadu of Death of a Father & son in custody has again brought the focus on legal, societal & ethical perspective of custodial deaths.

Legal Concerns associated with Custodial Violence

- Police have asymmetric power & can present custodial violence as self-defence.
- Difficulties in dealing with charges against government servants.
- Role played by Judicial Magistrate in allowing extended custody -

Challenges in curbing such incidents

Administrative

- Poor culture of physical violence at the

hands of police officers.

→ Instances of violence are overlooked by superiors with impunity, this encourages them further.

→ Shortage in various posts, high workload causes frustration which manifests as violence.

Political

→ Often political leaders demands torture for their personal interests.

→ Criminalisation of Politics & Politicisation of Police is a major challenge.

Legal

→ few incidents of punishing such acts leads to culture being continued.

Social

→ Recent incidences of celebrations of extrajudicial killings & support for harsh punishments inquiries show falling moral & ethical

hands of police officers.

→ Instances of violence are overlooked by superiors with impunity, this encourages them further.

→ Shortage in various posts, high workload causes frustration which manifests as violence.

Political

→ Often political leaders demands torture for their personal interests.

→ Criminalisation of politics & politicisation of police is a major challenge.

Legal

→ few incidents of punishing such acts leads to culture being continued.

Social

→ Recent incidences of celebrations of extrajudicial killings & support for heath punishments inquiries show falling moral & ethical

quotient of society in such matters -

Some ways to address this

- Special Investigation Team (STI) to look into incidences of custodial violence & ensuring timely punishments against these acts.
- Superiors should be made responsible & accountable for violence committed by sub-ordinates.
- CCTV surveillance in Police Stations/Custodes.
- India should sign convention against torture for better law-making in this regard.

Custodial Violence is a gross violation of Fundamental Right to Dignified Life & Principle of Innocent until proven guilty. Hence, this matter should be taken seriously.

16. Civil society interventions, ranging from confrontation to engagement with the government, have played an important role in ushering transparency and accountability in governance in India. Discuss with examples.

(250 words) 15

सरकार के साथ टकराव से लेकर जुड़ाव तक सिविल सोसाइटी के हस्तक्षेपों ने भारत में शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही का सूत्रपात करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

India has a diverse Civil society with over 30 lakh registered NGOs, various pressure groups, legal think tanks, etc. They have played an important role in reforms for transparency & accountability.

Confrontation with the Government

- Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) campaigns led to the election candidates being mandated to furnish information about education, finances & criminal background.
- Right to Information Act was the result of Civil Society Movement. Lakhs of Citizens use it every year to demand accountability from government.

→ Prevention of Children against Sexual Offences Act was the result of campaign by CRY (Child Rights & You) NGO.

→ Various NGOs have been responsible for highlighting the problems in EIA and hence better enforcement of environmental

laws - → Protests by Pressure groups have led to legal reforms in labour

Engagement with the Government Laws

→ NGO Pratham's ASER Report has made government accountable for poor learning outcomes of Indian education.

→ Akhay Pabra foundation's efforts in providing quality mid-daily meal encouraged people to demand ~~same effort~~ better efforts from administration & government.

→ Engagement with NGOs allows for better enforcement of provisions like Citizen Charters, SPE Box, etc.

Therefore, Civil Society Intervention
has enabled governance to become
transparent & accountable

2nd ARC recommends establishing a
Voluntary Associations Accreditation Council
for better regulation & engagement.

17. When it comes to hunger, India faces the paradox of plenty. Discuss. Also suggest ways in which this concern can be addressed. (250 words) 15

जब भुखमरी की बात आती है, भारत को प्रचुरता के विरोधाभास का सामना करना पड़ता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए, जिनके माध्यम से इस चिंता का समाधान किया जा सकता है।

India ranks 94th out of 107 countries
in Concern Worldwide 'World Hunger Index'
with a score of 27.2 highlighting serious
levels of hunger.

According to NFHS-4 (2015-2016), the
extent of stunting, ~~maln~~ wasting &
under-nutrition in children is 38.4%, 21%
& 35.8%.

Paradox of plenty

→ Hunger levels exist along with high
levels of production of food grains. India
is ^{one of the} the largest producer of wheat, rice,
pulses, milks, various fruits in the world.

→ The Public Distribution System is often
overflowing with food grains. Incidences of

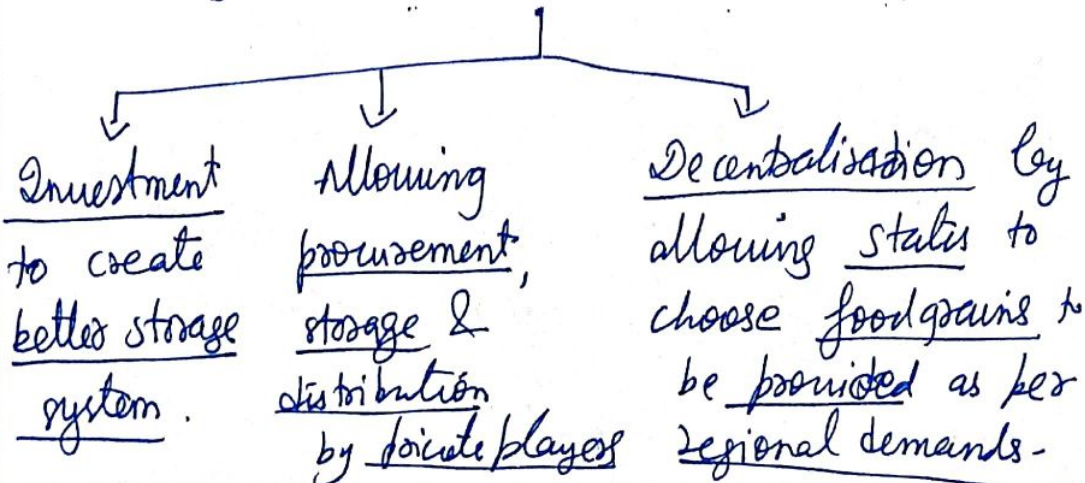
Wastage are plenty.

→ Existence of Hunger & Obesity also highlights this problem.

The cause for the pardon of plenty is due to regional imbalances, poor management, inefficient storage systems of FCI, lack of affordability among vulnerable sections, lack of focus on micro-nutrients, etc.

~~Suggest~~ Ways to address hunger along with plenty

→ Shanta Kumar Committee recommendations relating to PDS System



→ PDS system needs to move beyond
Rice & Wheat.

→ Fortification of food to tackle deficiency
of Micro-nutrients.

Niti Aayog's
Strategy for
New India @ 75

- Integrating Swachh Bharat,
WASH & Hunger concerns
- focussing on first 1000 days
of an infant
- Due focus on Mother's
health during pregnancy &
Lactation
- Exclusive breastfeeding
for first 6 months.

Recent initiatives like POSHAN
ABHIYAN, Bharatiya Krishi Poshan Kosh
are good steps.

18. What is the role of wage employment in alleviating poverty? How is the MGNREGA different from the earlier Wage Employment Programmes in India? (250 words) 15

निर्धनता उन्मूलन में मजदूरी रोजगार की क्या भूमिका है? मनरेगा (MGNREGA) भारत में पहले के मजदूरी रोजगार कार्यक्रमों से कैसे भिन्न है?

According to the Tendulkar committee the extent of poverty in India is 22%. Indian government has taken various steps to alleviate poverty - wage employment being one.

Role of Wage employment in alleviating poverty

→ It acts ~~as~~ as a cushion during lean seasons of agriculture, drought, etc.

→ Women employment under SHG-Bank

Linkage problems &

→ It provides local source of employment without the need of out-migration.

⇒

MGNREGA - different from earlier Wage Employment Programmes

- It provides a RIGHT to employment to each adult member of a rural household.
- Provides unemployment allowance if work is not provided.
- 33% of Jobs are provided to women. This has huge Multiplier Effect, in terms of Children, Health, Education, etc.
- Focus on creating infrastructure that suits the need of rural areas.
- Role of Panchayats make the scheme a step towards participative governance.
- Provision of social Audit of Muster Rolls ensures transparency & accountability.

Therefore, MGNREGA has been nothing less than a revolution in steps towards poverty alleviation.

However, to ensure better results,
wages & improvement in life conditions,
some reforms are needed.

- Creating avenues for skilling so that
people eventually become self-reliant
- Skilling is also necessary to ensure better
quality infrastructure is created.
- Proper provisions of funds for maintenance
of assets created.
- Ensuring wages is as per the Minimum
wage set by government.

19. China's aggressiveness in recent times presents not only challenges to India but also opportunities to strengthen itself internationally and domestically. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

हाल के दिनों में चीनी आक्रामकता न केवल भारत के लिए चुनौतियां खड़ी करती है बल्कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और घरेलू स्तर पर अपने आपको सशक्त बनाने का अवसर भी प्रदान करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recent clashes between India & China
in the Western Sector of LAC highlights
the challenges India faces ~~as China~~ due to
China's increasing Economic & Military Power.

Instances of
China's
aggressiveness

- String of Pearls Strategy
- Various Posts in Neighbourhood
Guadar Port, DUGM Port,
Hambantota, etc.
- CPEC under BRI is a
violation of India's territorial
integrity.
- Aiding Pakistan in internationali-
sation of Kashmir Dispute
- Doklam Standoff

Challenges to India created by China's
Aggressiveness

- Greater investment in Border Security &

- management acting as an economic burden.
- Threat to free & open Indo-Pacific which is vital for Trade.
- Possibility of a two-front war along LOC & LAC due to China-Pakistan Nexus.

Opportunities to Strengthen Itself

Internationally

- India's strategic importance has increased as it is a greater part of USA's strategy to curb China's rise. This has resulted in historically closeness in Indo-US Ties.
- India should align with other countries who feel threatened by China's aggressiveness for eg. Japan. India-Japan are working together in Asia-Africa growth corridor.
- As the unmisgivings in BRI are coming to the fore & implications of China's cheque-book diplomacy are becoming clear, Asian &

African countries are looking for alternatives,
India should use this opportunity.

Domestically

→ Strengthening Border Infrastructure -

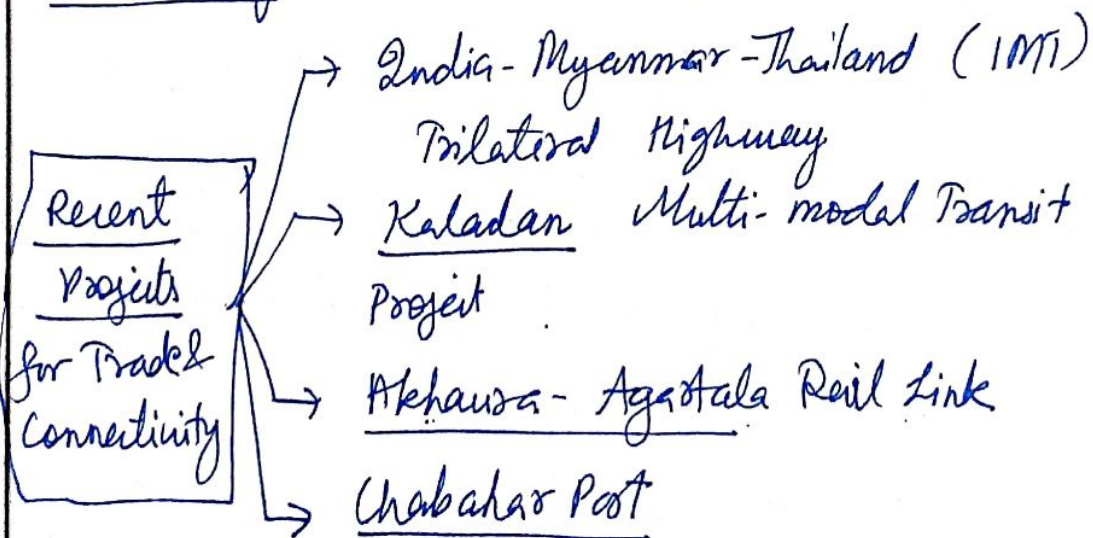
→ Public Support for ban of Chinese apps
allows an opportunity to give impetus
of Home grown startups in ICT, AI, etc.

Therefore, India should strategically
utilise the new world war is created
by China's aggressive rise. It should
partner with the western world &
also make better demands for national
interests.

20. Trade and connectivity hold the key for India to better engage its neighbours. Examine the opportunities and challenges in South Asia in this context. (250 words) 15

व्यापार और कनेक्टिविटी, भारत के लिए अपने पड़ोसियों से बेहतर तरीके से जुड़ने का सामर्थ्य रखती है। इस संदर्भ में दक्षिण एशिया में अवसरों और चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

India's 'Neighbourhood first Policy'
is an important part of foreign policy to
become a regional power. Trade &
connectivity is its important component.



Opportunities in South Asia

- Better engagement with SAARC & BIMSTEC nations, for eg. MVA-BBIN
- Energy security as South Asia is rich in resources like Oil, Natural Gas, etc.

- Trade & Investment in emerging nations like Bangladesh, Myanmar
- Counter China's rising footprint in South Asia.

* Challenges in South Asia

- Due to Bilateral Issues between India and Pakistan, various problems have emerged-
 - Logjam in SAARC which is an important platform for engagement.
 - SAARC Satellite was launched as South Asia Satellite as Pakistan refused to join
 - SAFTA has not been implemented in spirit due to which intra-region trade is at low of 5% (ASEAN-35%, EU-60%)
- India has taken up BIMSTEC as an alternative but it lacks the South-Asian identity provided by SAARC. further, it has

Weak Institutionalisation.

- Lack of Comparative Trade Opportunities given similar nature of economies.
- India's inability to deliver projects in a timely manner.
- Difficulty in handling in China's Raw Cash Power.
- Issues with Countries like Nepal as ~~the~~ seen in New Map aggression -
(cartographic)

South Asia offers various opportunities to India. To reap, there is need to focus on better project deliveries, utilising soft power based on religion, tourism, educational opportunities, Medis, etc.