



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in



GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1071)

Name of Candidate	KANISHAK KATARIA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	417797
Center	JAIPUR	Date	4/9/2018

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

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 तर्क दिया जाता है कि वर्षों से एक जवाबदेह संस्था के रूप में संसद की प्रभावकारिता में निरंतर गिरावट आई है। विश्लेषण कीजिए और साथ ही, प्रासंगिक चिंताओं का समाधान करने हेतु उचित उपाय भी सुझाइए।

Indian 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 works for only 66 days a year
- * Budget discussion is only for 35 hours a day & only 6% of demands are discussed.
- * Frequent disruptions & adjournments over political issues

Reasons :

- * Lack of political space to opposition

- * 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 ^{& Whips} suggested by NCRWC & Law Commission. Also include pre poll alliances.
 - * Fixed calendar of sittings in advance to ensure minimum number of working days
 - * Increased role of Parliamentary Committees to look into demands for grants.
- Accountability is the soul of democracy & it should 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. (150 words) 10

पंचायती राज संस्थाएं (PRIs) एक उल्लेखनीय सफलता होने के साथ-साथ स्तब्धकारी विफलता भी हैं, यह केवल इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि इनका मूल्यांकन किन लक्ष्यों के आधार पर किया जा रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Panchayati Raj Institutions were setup under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment

Act 1992 with varied objectives such

- as - administrative decentralisation
- promotion to grass root democracy
 - financial empowerment of local self governments
 - protection of the minorities & vulnerable groups like women

SUCCESSSES

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

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

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

FAILURES - No autonomy of the PRIs

- Shortage of funds (they can generate only 5% of the funds by themselves)

- Bureaucratic interference (Sarpanch have to go to Block Development offices for clearances)

- No innovation in projects (funds are already allotted to earmarked schemes)

Thus as per the goalposts, 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) 10

भारत का नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) केवल हमारे राष्ट्रीय खातों के रक्षक से कहीं अधिक है; यह अंतःकरण का संरक्षक और वॉचडॉग (प्रहरी) भी है। लेखापरीक्षा प्रक्रिया को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के आलोक में इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए।

CAG has been given a very high position in Indian polity 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

- Quality of expenditure
- Property audits
- any leakages in the funds
- Utilization of Budget demands.

Issues

- post mortem audit - after expenditure done
- only recommendatory nature
- Agencies like RAW 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.

CAG needs to have controlling power then only its designation will be fully justified. However it shouldn't come at the cost of compromising administration efficiency by increased interference.

4. The concern for transparency in political funding is at odds with the Electoral Bond Scheme notified by the government. Critically discuss.

(150 words) 10

राजनीतिक वित्तपोषण में पारदर्शिता की चिंता सरकार द्वारा अधिसूचित चुनावी बॉण्ड योजना से असंगत है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The Electoral Bond Scheme was introduced in Budget 2017-18 in order to keep a curb on black money & enhance transparency.

~~As~~ Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) points to nearly 69% unaccounted for funds with the parties.

CONCERNS ABOUT TRANSPARENCY :

- promotion of criminal politics
- denigration 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 2000rs)
↳ promotes digital / online transactions

- It protects the anonymity of the donors thus preventing harassment of at the hand 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 & they account for nearly 88% 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 IT norms

Thus the scheme raises more concerns than it resolves. RTI ^{on} of parties is a must to ensure transparency in 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 लॉबिंग हमेशा से ही विधिक और नीतिगत क्षेत्र में अपरिभाषित रूप से विद्यमान रही है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में लॉबिंग 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. (150 words) 10

पारित होने के एक दशक से भी अधिक समय बाद, RTI अधिनियम के कार्यान्वयन में काफी कुछ वांछित है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। RTI अधिनियम में संशोधन के हालिया प्रस्तावों से जुड़े मुद्दों की भी चर्चा कीजिए।

RTI Act was passed in 2005 after the Supreme Court ruling that Right to Information is integral to Art 19 & Art 21 of the Constitution

It provided features like

- Increased transparency
- sunshine disclosures
- penalty for no disclosure
- time-bound reply to any petition
- Central & State Information Commissioners to overlook the implementation

CHALLENGES / LACUNAE IN PRESENT SYSTEM

- CIC rulings are not adhered to.
eg 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 the Information Officer despite penal provisions
- Multi sectoral RTIs face delays & get lost in the communication between departments
- ~~Recent~~ - No disclosures ~~to~~ quoting the provisions of Official secrets Act 1923.
- Recent proposal - Appointment of members to CIC & SIC & the conditions & terms to be decided by the Government as it is not constitutional Body.
- Issue - It will affect the autonomy of the CIC & 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.

(150 words) 10

सामाजिक न्याय के उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने की इसकी क्षमता पर विशेष बल देते हुए भारत में प्रोन्नति में आरक्षण पर विकसित हो रही नीति की समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Reservation in Promotions was denied under the Indira Rao judgement by SC.

However parliament in 77th Amendment Act brought in Art 16(4) which provided for the reservation

2506 Nagray case - SC laid down the guidelines like

- quantifiable data of backwardness
- a lack of presence at the top
- It shouldn't compromise the efficiency of administration

Yes to Reservation :

- socially backward classes which have been tormented for ages
- general lack of SC/ST at the top of hierarchy.

No :

- might affect the efficiency
- demotivated other officials
- promotion to mediocracy 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 politicised in the meantime for electoral gains

8. 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) 10

भारत अपने लोगों के लिए पर्याप्त खाद्यान्न उत्पादित करता है, फिर भी सभी लोगों को खाने के लिए पर्याप्त भोजन नहीं मिलता है। इस विरोधाभास की चर्चा करते हुए, इस संबंध में विगत कुछ वर्षों में उठाए गए कुछ प्रमुख कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

India has achieved food self-sufficiency
to food security since the Green Revolution

However the socio-economic ~~is~~ 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~~ Below Poverty Line
implying they don't earn enough to eat
healthy food

- 30% wastage in food due to poor storage
& transport infrastructure.

- Even quality of food is poor with wheat & rice overshadowing β pulses & millets leading to protein deficiency.

INTERVENTIONS

- Integrated Child Development Scheme which focusses on nutritious food to be given to children
- Mid Day Meal Scheme for school children
- Nutrient Fortification of flour & ^{rice} ~~pulses~~
- National Food Security Mission :
Rice, wheat, pulses at ₹ 3, 2, 1 to poor households
- Public Distribution System providing free ration to BPL families.

These interventions have to be made leakages free so that all the funds reach the denied 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) 10
- भारत, हिंद महासागर को मात्र एक जल निकाय के रूप में ही नहीं, बल्कि निरंतर आर्थिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक संवाद के एक वैश्विक मंच के रूप में भी देखता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Indian Ocean has been at the centre stage of World economy since the age of colonialism and has now become a theatre of geopolitics after the end of Coldwar. 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 Poly Metallic Nodules & sole exploring 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, Maldives & South East Asia carry the Indian tradition to outside
- Project Mausam & Spice Route give an opportunity to revive historical relations
- Aid in the form of drinking water to Maldives and training under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) establishes India's friendly & caring identity

The recent revival of recent foras such as Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), BIMSTEC, Mausam 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. (150 words) 10

भारत द्वारा ग्लोबल कॉमंस के प्रबंधन में बृहत्तर दायित्व ग्रहण करने के परिप्रेक्ष्य में, भारत के जलवायु परिवर्तन संबंधित वार्ता दृष्टिकोण में परिवर्तन आया है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत की जलवायु नीति के विकास का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

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

HISTORICAL - more focus on self consumption

- increase in thermal power generation (65% at present)
- Hydel 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 energy policies

CHANGES

- 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 &
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 ~~as~~ from an
island looking to a more wholistic world
view ^{is} 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) 15

वित्त आयोग (FC) की संवैधानिक भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उन मुद्दों की चर्चा कीजिए जिनपर 15वें वित्त आयोग के विचारार्थ विषयों (ToR) के संदर्भ में बहस की जा रही है।
(FC)

Recently, the 15th Finance Commission^(FC) 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-Aids 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

↳ evolution showing up of finances of 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 to improve

the Ease of Doing Business

- Steps taken to boost the collections under GST

- Quality of expenditure done by states, i.e., the Fiscal Deficit & capital development

- Performance in various NITI Aayog Indexes like Health Index

ISSUES

- Southern states, which have adopted Population ~~and~~ planning methods might be at 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%) ~~specially~~
- The states are not eligible to challenge the TOR in the courts under Article 131 (original jurisdiction)
- Centre eroding the State's financial space by looking into expenditures.

WAY FORWARD

Collaboration under Inter-state Councils to sort out any differences & more 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

भारतीय संविधान की भावना भारतीय मूल्यों, पश्चिम के लोकतांत्रिक व समाजवादी आंदोलनों एवं हमारे स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के संश्लेषण को निरूपित करती है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Indian constitution is regarded as a mixed bag of ideals & it has adapted 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
- ~~First~~ Fundamental Rights & No Taxation without Representation from the US Constitution

- Rule of Law, Parliamentary Democracy have their roots in the British polity.
- Directive Principles of State Policies are borrowed from Irish Constitution
- Russian Revolution provides the basis for socialism & social-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 & 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 ^{↳ Republics} has roots in the Indian village societies which even Gandhi ~~said~~ ^{called} as 'Village Republics'

Thus Indian constitution is a unique synthesis of a bag of ideals. & yet it is a novelty due to its ability to accommodate & 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 महत्व है? न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने हेतु हमारी राजनीतिक-संवैधानिक व्यवस्था में निहित रक्षोपायों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

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

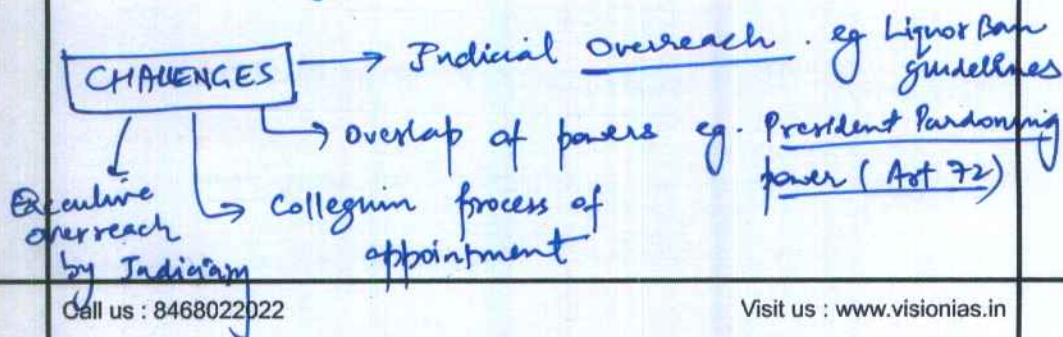
It has been envisaged under

- 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. eg It can strike down colourable Legislation or uphold incidental overlap of powers under Doctrine of Pith & Substance
- Protects Ensuring smooth functioning of the polity as in case of Judicial Review of President Rule or Whimsical removal of governors
- Judicial Activism (under Article 142) to fill the void left by the legislature.
eg VISHAKA guidelines, Vineet Narain case demanding CBI to be under CVC purview



SAFEGUARDS

- Judicial conduct of judges can't be discussed in public domain (except when removal is debated)

- Their salaries are charged Expenditure on consolidated Fund of India.

- Appointment of judges is done as per the Collegium ~~demands~~ recommendations

- Lower administrative staff is ~~not~~ 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 polity & 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. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि भारतीय संघवाद काफ़ी हद तक परिपक्वता प्राप्त कर चुका है जहाँ राज्यों को अपने आर्थिक और राजनीतिक प्रबंधन पर पर्याप्त नियंत्रण है, तथापि गंभीर संरचनात्मक समस्याएं अब भी विद्यमान हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian federalism has been modelled on the Canadian constitution and has unitary bias .. Over the years ~~the~~ 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 ~~the~~ regional autonomy under the constitution.

The maturity is being manifested in form of - Higher devolution to the states under by Finance Commission (42%).

- States having a say in foreign relations, through paradiplomacy. eg 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 MCOA Act is being adopted by other states.

STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

- Role of Governor is highly debated which has been acknowledged by Vankarshah Commission also.
- Interstate Councils (Article 263) are more of talking shops & do not ~~not~~ sit regularly.

- to promote cooperation
- Inter state River water Disputes are on an all time high. eg. Kavery, Mahanadi, Mahadayi etc.
 - The central control over All India Service is also an ^{Issue} ~~piece~~ of debate.
 - Mobilisation of Central Police Forces ~~again~~ in states for terrorism or anti-naxal problems is debated.
 - The Terms of Reference of Finance Commission are challenged by Southern States due to population data issue.
 - Many states demand for Special category States.
- WAY FORWARD - Increased collaboration through platforms like Inter state councils is needed to replace cooperative federalism by ORGANIC FEDERALISM where both federals work towards constitutional ideals.

15. The recent amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 strike a balance between enforcement overzealousness and the need for stringent action against corrupt public servants. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1988 में हालिया संशोधन प्रवर्तन के प्रति अतिउत्साह और भ्रष्ट लोक सेवकों के विरुद्ध कठोर कार्यवाही की आवश्यकता के बीच एक संतुलन कायम करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Prevention of corruption Act, 1988 helps
take actions against corrupt officials who
breach Public Trust & also utilise 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 law due to security of
tenure

Recent Amendments

- Section 13(1)(1): relaxes the provisions
to prove the gains received to
unamassed wealth which can't be accounted for
- * misappropriation of public resources for
self consumption

Section 19 - courts cannot take
cognizance of the case unless they have
a prior sanction from the government

Benefits - protects honest officials from

vested allegations

- Prevents risk free attitude & fear of
policy paralysis

- Also distinguishes between Bribe taker &
Bribe giver, 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 अवरुद्ध करने वाले विभिन्न मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए एवं इन पर काबू पाने हेतु एक राष्ट्रीय प्रमाणन एजेंसी की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

1071

VISION IAS™

Don't write
anything this
margin
(इस भाग में
कुछ ना लिखें)

1071

VISION IAS™

Don't write
anything this
margin
(इस मरल में
कुछ नर लिखें)

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? (250 words) 15

बच्चों के अधिगम परिणाम को प्रभावित करने में शिक्षकों के महत्व को देखते हुए, भारत में शिक्षक प्रशिक्षण की वर्तमान प्रणाली में विद्यमान समस्याओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। इनसे कैसे निपटा जा सकता है?

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

- Unable to read/comprehend lower class material (ASER by Pratham)
- Poor teacher quality & attention
- increased drop outs 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 Abhiyaan started by the government which integrates primary & secondary education along with Teacher Training & Education in an integrated manner: from Nursery to XIIth

- One time waiver under Sarva Shiksha Ashrayam / 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 & collaborating with the private sector under PPP models to provide test, & accredit the teachers.

Good Teacher Quality is intrinsic to success of educational initiatives & needs to be at the helm of the 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~~ was announced in Budget 2017-18.
and is one of the biggest ^{Public} Healthcare
scheme around the world.

Features - covers 10 crore households

1 lakh insurance cover per year

Digital, cashless payments

Portability across India

Both Public & Private empanelled
Hospitals are part. - Tertiary & Secondary care

1.5 lakh Health & Wellness centres to be
setup to provide Primary Health Care

- Benefits - increased public expenditure from 1.27% GDP
- Reduce Out of Pocket Expenditure of the poor (which is at present $\sim 70\%$)
 - Improved savings of the poor, thus leading to better socio-economic growth
 - It is a pan-India scheme, thus achieves equality & 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 scheme have generally proven to be costly across the world leading

to higher Fiscal Burden

- NHPS needs to cover primary health
care ^(PHC) also as most of the moral burden
lies on PHC

- Health & Wellness centres have to
meet the ^{increased} demands of drugs, medicines
as well as cover up for the shortage
of Human Resources in terms of doctors
and staff workers

IMPROVEMENTS - PHC ~~focus~~ has to be incorporated
- incentives for doctors to join public health
care
- setup a Public Health Cadre (~~1974~~ ^{Health Policy} - 2017)
- Regulation of private practices &
pricing needs to be done.

It is a very important scheme to achieve
social justice & should be implemented effectively
without resorting to populism

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 बराबरी नहीं कर सकता, यह देखा जा रहा है कि भारत ऐसे विविध तरीके अपना रहा है जिसके तहत यह अफ्रीका में सहयोग में वृद्धि और अपनी कूटनीतिक सक्रियता को बढ़ावा दे सके। 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 & QUAD do promote free & open Indo-Pacific
- Naval investments in Assumption Island & in Seychelles & Sabang Island, Indonesia

ROLE OF AFRICA

- India has been a fore runner ⁱⁿ South-South cooperation, specially 3rd world African countries
- Groupings like IBSA - democratic countries provide a platform to African nations

- UNSC reforms, blocked by china, have a demand for African presence, thus projecting India's inclusive approach.
- Asia Africa Growth Corridor for ~~Q~~ 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. (250 words) 15

चर्चा कीजिए कि अमेरिका द्वारा अपने विरोधियों पर लगाए जाने वाले प्रतिबंध भारत को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करते हैं। CAATSA का उदाहरण लेते हुए, विश्लेषण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार भारत ऐसे प्रतिबंधों की स्थिति में अपने रणनीतिक हितों की रक्षा कर सकता है।

US has been increasingly growing protectionist w.r.t. 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 S400 triumf missiles
 - Equipment purchases for older aircrafts & weapons
 - Technology transfer under Joint production initiatives eg BrahMos Missile

- 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 is also potentially counter China's 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 USA, Middle East & South East Asia
 - Defence from France, Israel, USA
- so that prices are not too high
- Sochi Declaration between India & Russia talked about mutual hedging against CRISIS 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 that.