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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1071)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG	Registration Number	74631
Center	ORW	Date	18/9/18

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		1. 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)। 2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे 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 के अंक उसके सामने दिए 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 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। 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए। 7. 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।
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Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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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.

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6.

All the Best

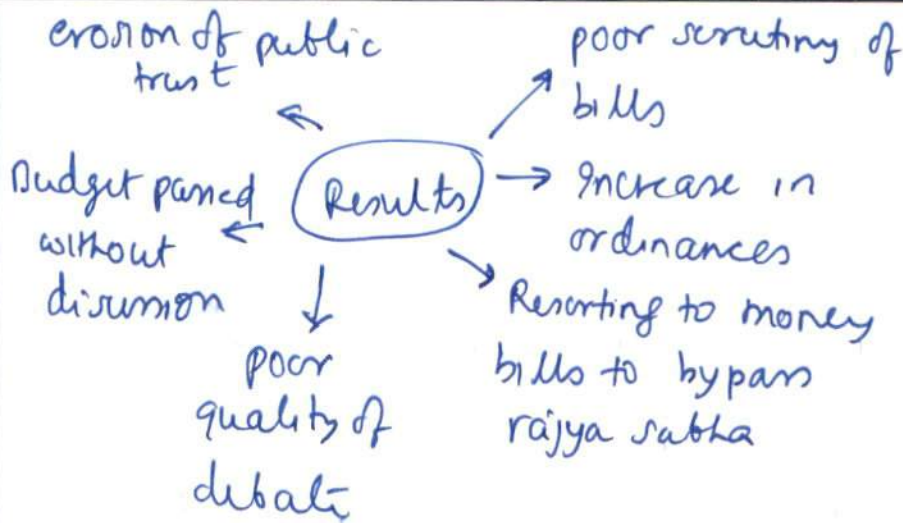
1. It has been argued that over the years there has been a steady decline in the efficacy of Parliament as an institution of accountability. Analyse and also suggest appropriate measures to address the relevant concerns.

(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।

The Parliament, or the legislative branch of the Government plays a key role in ensuring the accountability of the executive. But for that to happen, parliament must itself be accountable to the citizens. The reasons for decline in accountability are:-

- ① Declining Working Days :- From 100-110 in 1950s to 60-70 in recent times
- ② Frequent Disruptions
- ③ Criminalization of politics :- 34% of Lok Sabha has criminal antecedents this leads to poor decorum
- ④ Partisan functioning of parliamentary committees and their declining role



Measures to address the issue

- Set minimum number of working days
 - Provide for compensatory days and compensatory sessions
 - Speaker/Chairman can resort to disciplinary actions
 - Media should highlight the issue prominently
 - Forgoing salary if day/session washed out
 - Better co-ordination between the ruling party & opposition through all-party meetings prior to sessions.
- These measures can help restore the accountability of parliament.

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।

PRIs were given a constitutional status by 73rd & 74th amendments, thus giving a concrete shape to Gandhi Ji's vision and Article 40's intent. However, they have been both successes and failures ~~and~~ depending upon yardsticks used.

Resounding success

- Brought democracy to grassroots
- Promoted women participation (44% of PRI representatives are women)
- Promoted the participation of marginalized sections like SCs & STs
- PESA has been successful in developing self-governance commensurate with tribal customs, culture and practices
- Allowed gram sabhas to take up developmental projects as per its priorities

- Helped panchayats assert their control over local natural resources (Cf Vedant-Niyamgiri episode)

Staggering Failure

- The functions under 243-G and 243-W have not been devolved in entirety, thus autonomy remains a pipe dream
- Lack of funds curtails the development activities
- Bureaucracy creating roadblocks
- 'Panchayat Pati' syndrome exists side by side with woman empowerment
- Politicization of elections on partisan lines
- Lack of regular meeting, poor record keeping, poor attendance in gram sabha meeting
- Lack of social audit & Jan sunwai
⇒ deprivation of traditional resources and alienation of land continues.
Thus, PRIs have had both successes and failures.

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 बाँचडॉग (प्रहरी) भी है। लेखापरीक्षा प्रक्रिया को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के आलोक में इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Constitution under Article 148 to 151 provides for the office of CAG, who as per Dr. Ambedkar was envisaged as the 'most important officer' under Govt. of India. CAG is the guardian of public purse and ensures the accountability of the executive to legislature in the field of financial expenditure. However he is more than a keeper of our national accounts.

→ The can do performance and propriety audit other than legal and statutory audit. The performance audit helped expose lacunae in ~~CAG~~ CAG organization and NHM performance.

- CAG audits have helped expose various scams like GWG and 2G Scams
- CAG ensures that executive is observing the canons of probity, efficiency and economy in its expenditure
- CAG acts as the friend, philosopher and guide of Public accounts committee (PAC) that keeps a further check on the corruption and inefficiencies as well as wasteful expenditure of the executive.

It is due to these reasons that CAG is called the conscience-keeper of nation.

Auditing can be made more effective by

- Allowing CAG access to all relevant files, that are currently denied
- Updating the audit manual as per the needs of the time
- Better training of Audit officers
- Bringing autonomous bodies and PPPs within CAG's ambit

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 Political Funding in India is mired by lack of transparency.

As per ADR, between 2004-05 and 2014-15, almost $\frac{3}{4}^{\text{th}}$ of the funding of political parties was from anonymous sources. Lack of transparency is a grave concern because

- The donors expect quid-pro-quo
- Black money vitiates the electoral process
- Poor transparency aids the entry of money and muscle power into politics and leads to its criminalization
- It erodes the trust of the voters in electoral process & in particular and in democracy in general
- Thwarts the entry of clean people into politics.

In this context, electoral bonds were introduced recently



However, there are various lacunae in the scheme:

- ① Anonymous donations deprives the voters of the rights to know donors
- ② Shell companies can be created solely for this purpose
- ③ 7.5% limit on donations by political parties removed ⇒ disservice to company shareholders
- ④ Donations below 2000 can still be made in cash, allowing anonymous donations. Thus the scheme must be amended and made more transparent.

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।

Lobbying has been recognized as a key method used by pressure groups, along with electioneering and propagandizing. However, unlike the other 2 methods, lobbying is banned in India.

Lobbying means hobnobbing with the ministers and other ruling party leaders with the aim of securing executive actions and policies suitable to the interest of lobbyists. In USA, lobbyists spend millions of dollars to ~~per~~ influence the government.

While lobbying in India occurs in subtle ~~group~~ ways and often involves :-

(i) Gifts and entertainment

- (ii) Kickbacks
 - (iii) Promises of corporate donations as a quid-pro-quo
 - (iv) Promise of political support mobilization
- To regulate lobbying a need for regularizing it has been suggested.

① Regularizing it will help :-

- (i) Bring those activities above the table and in public eyes
- (ii) Better regulate it, for example by putting limits on gifts that can be exchanged
- (iii) Corporates influence policies by legitimate means.

However, lobbying ~~can~~ ^{might} also lead to legitimization of corruption. It can bias the executive and take away objectivity, accountability & public interest from government actions. Thus a wider public debate is needed on the issue before proceeding further.

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, 2005 represented a move from culture of secrecy and opacity to a culture of transparency and accountability. It enabled the citizens to ask questions to the officialdom about the utilization of public money and promised to make the government citizen-centric.

However, various lacunae exist in the implementation of the act

- Too many restrictions on the kinds of information that cannot be disclosed under section 8
- The promise of section 4 → self disclosure remains largely unfulfilled
- The state of digitization of information remains unsatisfactory, further hindering

- its efficacy
- Undue delays, and refusal of PIOs to give information, or giving erroneous information
 - Huge pendency at state and central information commissions that hardly work at their sanctioned strength (1 CIC + 10 IC)
 - Lack of awareness, particularly in rural areas
 - Poor whistleblower protection → 50+ RTI activists killed in last 12 years
- Recent proposals

- Further expand exemptions under section 8; and allow official secrets acts to ~~override~~ be overridden by section 8.

This will

- Increase information denials
- Decrease accountability of officials
- Might increase corruptions
- Lead to more files being marked 'secret'
- Lower transparency.

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।

Dr. Ambedkar argued that disadvantaged classes can compete on merit only if upper castes and classes give 'gracious concessions' to lower castes so that they can over time compete on an equal basis.

Thus 15% reservation for SCs and 7.5% reservation for STs was introduced in ~~Parliaments~~ ~~State Govt~~ Govt. Jobs. Similarly, reservation in proportion to population was provided in Parliament and State legislatures.

Evolving Policy

→ While Reservations were initially provided for 10 years, they have been extended time and again, and made applicable to promotions

- Post Mandal Commission, they have been extended to OBCs; but in Indra Sawhney case, SC observed that there should be no reservation in promotions.
 - In Nagaraj Case (2006), the petitioner contended that by 75th, 81st, 82nd and 85th amendments, the centre has in essence, negated the Indra Sawhney guidelines.
 - The SC disagreed, and allowed the centre to proceed with reservations in promotions, provided it can ensure that (a) efficiency will not be affected (b) it can present quantifiable data on representation of disadvantaged classes in services.
- With (a) & (b) not being fulfilled, reservation in promotion remains stuck. Balancing social justice with efficiency will remain the key to the success of reservation

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's foodgrain production stands at 270 million metric tonnes, enough to feed its people, and also to export a part of the produce. Moreover horticulture production is in excess of 300 million tonnes, promising nutritional diversity to people.

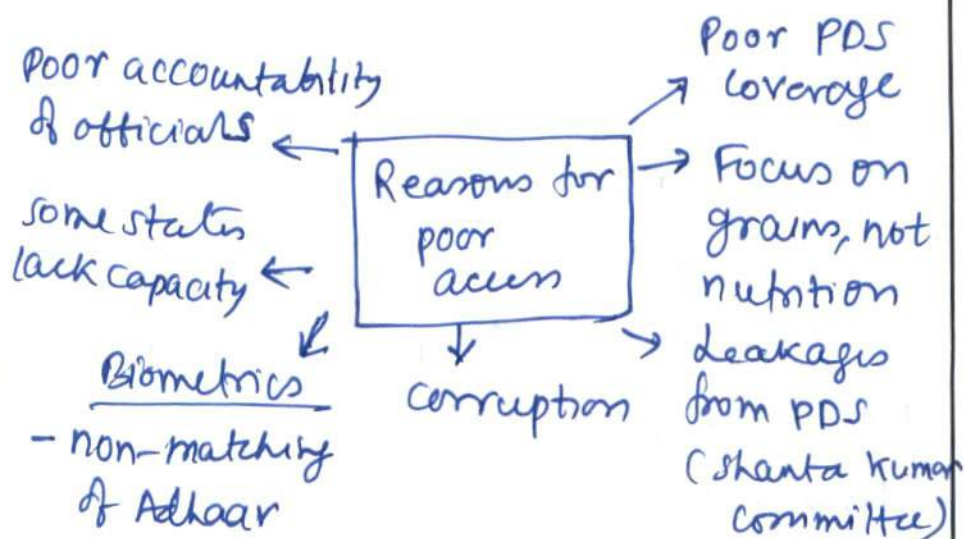
Yet, the distribution of food as well as nutrition is uneven

→ As per NFHS-4, 38% of India's children are stunted and 36% are underweight, clearly pointing to poor nutrition & food access

→ 37 crore people are under BPL, as per Rangrayan Committee

→ India ranks 100 out of 118 countries

In ~~Hunger~~ the World Hunger Index



Major Interventions

- National Food Security Act
 - 50% of urban & 25% of rural households covered (25 kg grains per family)
- Antyodaya Anna Yojana
- PDS digitization & linkage with Aahaar
- Mid Day Meal Scheme
 - + eggs and fruits being included
- Decentralized procurement in PDS
- Strengthening of ICPS (Anganwadi) programme for better nutrition

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।

The very name of 'Indian' Oceans shows the importance of the ocean for India. It is not just a water body, but a key enabler of continued economic, social and cultural dialogue.

① Economic :- 80% of world trade and 75% of oil trade flows through it

→ It is key to economic prosperity of Indian Ocean littoral nations

→ Blue-Economy further allows littorals to sustainable use ocean resources - fisheries, oil and gas, minerals like polymetallic nodules & so on.

① Social :- The prosperity enabled by

trade allows India to meaningfully improve the lives of rural population, MSME workers, fishermen, port workers, seafarers, SEZ workers and so on. It enables Indian society to embrace globalization and associated values.

0

Cultural

→ Project Mausam and ~~also~~ ~~space~~

- Spice Route initiatives strengthen the cultural connect with Indian Ocean littoral nations

→ Africa, ASEAN, SAARC and IORA nations all share cultural connect with India through age old civilizational ties enabled by Indian ocean.

Thus Indian Ocean plays a multi-faceted role in India's diplomacy and worldview and its potential must be suitably harnessed.

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 currently emits 6% of Green House Gases (compared to 18% for China and 28% for USA). Moreover historically developed nations have contributed a lion's share of GHGs currently in atmosphere.

In this context India has historically argued that :-

- (i) Developed nations have more culpability for climate change
- (ii) They should pay for mitigation & adaptation actions by developing countries
- (iii) India should be allowed to enjoy the fruits to growth without being

shackled by onerous environmental commitments.

However, recently there has been a shift in India's climate negotiation stance :-

- (i) India has accepted Common, But differentiated Responsibilities, within the overall limits of Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)
- (ii) India is willing to substantially reduce its emissions ^{intensity} (37-38% from 2005 levels by 2030) provided developed nations provide finance and technology
- (iii) India is willing to take leadership in Global Clean Energy architecture (e.g. International Solar Alliance).

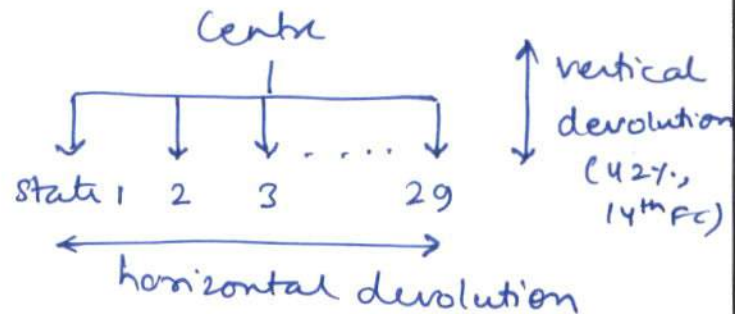
Thus ~~India's~~ evolving contours of climate policy has the potential to propel India to a position of low-carbon eminence

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।

Finance Commission (FC) has been established under article 280 of the constitution as the bulwark of Fiscal Federalism in India. Its role is as follows

- To recommend vertical and horizontal devolution of states' share of taxes from the divisible pool.



- To recommend measures to augment the consolidated fund (CF) of states to augment the resources of panchayat raj institutions
- To recommend grants in aid to states (Article 275)

→ To advise on such matter as referred to it by the president.

Thus, FC's role in ensuring that states have adequate resources to carry out developmental activities is paramount.

② Each FC is guided by a TOR in its final recommendation. However, various issues have been raised on the TOR given to 15th FC

1) Reference to the fact that it should use 2011 population in dividing the devolution

- 14th FC gave 17.5 weight to 2011 population and 10% weight to 2010

- Southern states argue that it penalizes the population limiting measures taken by them since 1971

2) Other issues

→ Centre has pointed out in the TOR that FC should consider the fact that it has already sanctioned 42% devolution (14th FC) and it amounts

- to rethink on centre's part that 14th FC has given too much
- TOR also points to the use of populist measures by states, but states argue that (i) populism is subjective (ii) Centre also resorts to it
- TOR says that FC should consider states' progress on Ease of Doing Business reforms; but EOPB index may not be suited without alteration to Indian context

Thus various points in TOR, as per states, can bias the final recommendation of FC in its award.

It is therefore needed that

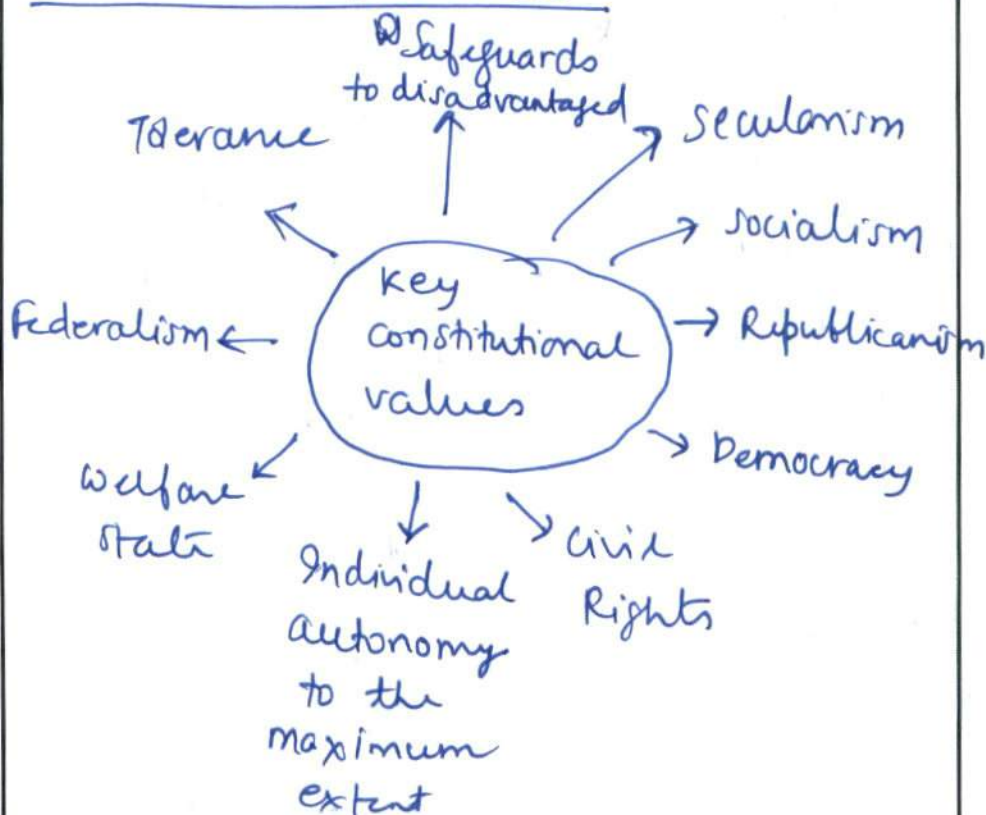
- FC does reward population control
- takes an unbiased view
- Upholds its independence
- Ensures fiscal justice

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।

Post-Independence, the constitution-making process was an exercise to ensure that its spirit represents ethos that can guide the Indian society in decades to come. The spirit represents :-

(i) A synthesis of values



(ii) Democratic and socialist movements
in the west

- French revolution inspired the ideals of liberty, equality & fraternity
- American Independence movement and its Bill of rights inspired Fundamental Rights
- Russian revolution inspired the socialist and welfare movement and the ideas of social, political & economic justice
- Welfare mentation also draws from socialist movement & Fabianism in UK and USSR

(iii) Independence Movement of India

- Inspired the preamble, rights and directive principles
- DPSPs have Gandhian as well as liberal-intellectual provisions guided by India's fight for a democracy

- Federalism and extensive power to states shows the desire to protect the Union from dissiparous tendencies.
- Special provisions for various states (A. 370 & 371) and 5th & 6th schedule (A. 344) further show the concern for upliftment of disadvantaged sections & regions.

Thus it can be said that the spirit of constitution represents a synthesis of various inspirations. Constitution does a remarkable work of reflecting the ideas and India has, over last 70 years fiercely guarded those ideas.

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।

A democracy is based upon the
promise of government of the
people, by the people and for
the people (Abraham Lincoln). To
ensure that people-centric promise
of democracy is maintained, and
to protect the people from the
tyranny of executive & legislature,
an independent judiciary is
paramount.

The importance of an Independent
Judiciary is further amplified by
the fact that it :-

- Acts as the protector & defender
of Fundamental Rights of Citizens
- Allows fostering of wide civil
liberties
- Creates a culture of accountability
in the other 2 organs of the

government - Executive and legislature

- Prevents the executive from arrogating the power of legislature and judiciary
- Acts as an arbiter between centre-state & state-state disputes, thereby protecting federalism
- Protects the ideals of Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity - Foundational values of our democracy
- Protects the rights bestowed upon the most disadvantaged sections of the society - SCs, STs, minorities etc.

Our Politico-Constitutional Setup
provides variety of safeguards to
ensure judicial independence

- Selection of Judiciary by itself, outside the interference of executive and legislature (exclusivity)
- The power of Judicial review under Article 13
- Fundamental Rights are sacrosanct

and they can only be amended if they do not alter the basic structure of constitution (Article 32 as the most important article)

- Security of Tenure
- The process of impeachment is tedious and has multiple safeguards
- Expenses of SC/HC charged to consolidated funds of centre/states
- The power of courts to punish for contempt
- Legislature cannot discuss Judicial conduct, except during impeachment motion
- Salary of judges cannot be varied to their disadvantage

These factors ensure that Judiciary remains independent and functions ~~its~~ as per its mandate envisaged in the Constitution.

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 काफी 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।

The constitution envisages India as Union of states, with the centre as states are members of the federal structure. Federalism is ensured by the constitution, which clearly divides the spheres of legislative & executive competence of centre of states through 7th schedule.

Indian Federalism has matured over the last 70 years and now states have far greater control of their economic and political management, for example

→ The devolution of taxes from divisible pool has increased from 10% under 1st finance commission to 42% ~~At~~ Under 14th.

- The states have grown & nurtured their own sources of taxes over the years.
- GST further increases tax flow to states
- States have fiercely guarded their right to equitable fiscal resources as the controversy over TOR of 15th FC shows
- Politically, the era of one-party government at centre and states has ended in 1960s; various regional parties have emerged; have become important in central coalitions; and have even given prime ministers
- Various regional parties have successfully steered the agitations for formation of separate states (e.g. ~~Orissa~~ in Jharkhand & Telangana)
- The demand for special ~~status~~ - category status and political mobilization around the same also affirms it (Bihar, Andhra Pradesh)

However, structural problems persist in Indian Federalism

- Frequent imposition of President's rule guided by political calculations
- states' dependence on central transfers (280) and grants (A.275)
- Unequal division of powers under 7th schedule
- Partisan roles of governors
- Demand for various small & unviable states (Gorkhaland & Bodoland)
- Various inter-state disputes
 - over territory (Maharashtra - Karnataka over Belgaum)
 - over river water (TN - Karnataka, Punjab-Haryana)

In spite of these, the federalism can be further strengthened by lowering central interference and promoting the spirit of cooperative & competitive federalism.

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।

Corruption is one of the most serious concerns hindering the socio-economic development of India. With the aim of rooting out corruption from elected representatives and bureaucracy, prevention of corruption act was enacted in 1988. However its failure to meaningfully curb corruption has led to recent amendments that;

- Increase the maximum sentence to bring corruption in heinous crimes category
- Allow for confiscation of ill-gotten property by corrupt means even during trial
- Allow for time-bound trial by special courts

At the same time;

- It mandates the prior approval of competent authority to proceed against a complaint
- Extends the prior approval clause to retired bureaucrats
- Allow for punishment for frivolous complaints
- Covers both coercive + collusive corruption and provides reasonable indemnity to a citizen forced to pay bribe in a coercive manner

The amendment thus strikes a balance between

a) need for stringent action against corrupt bureaucrats by increasing the sentence and by other means mentioned above

b) Enforcement overzealousness

② Protecting honest civil servants

against frivolous complaints & overzealous investigation agencies is important to:-

- Allow them to take decisions in public interest without fear or favour
- Promote efficiency & effectiveness
- guard against policy paralysis
- Make administration agile, accountable and responsible

Thus the amendments are a right step in this direction. At the same time, amendments would be a nullity unless guilty are brought to the book by quick operationalization of fast track courts and speedy trial. Summary dismissal if proven guilty would deter corruption further & in a more effective manner

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।

Voluntary sector ~~is~~ consists of various Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Voluntary sector plays a key role in

- Upholding civil liberties (eg PUCI)
- Democratic reforms (eg ADR and Lok Prahari)
- In aiding the implementation of government programmes (eg Akshay Patra Foundation towards mid-day meal)
- In protecting environment, animal rights etc.
- In making government accountable, participatory, transparent and citizen centric.

To promote the sector, Govt. had brought a National Policy on Voluntary Sector. However, various issues continue to plague the sector:-

①

The prevalence of fraud NGOs

- India has almost 20 lakh NGOs, a large number of which exist only on paper, do not file returns, ~~do~~ and act as a conduit for black money

②

Some NGOs have also been alleged to be working against national interests, guided by foreign influence (IB report)

③

Governance deficit:- Report on activities, finances and audited accounts neither presented to donors, nor to the government

④

Formenting dissent:- Some NGOs have also been accused for formenting manufactured dissent and acting as

front for LWE/terrorist organizations

② Lack of finances :- Many genuine NGOs/CSOs are not able to mobilize finances from donors

③ Stringent regulations, particularly under FCRA

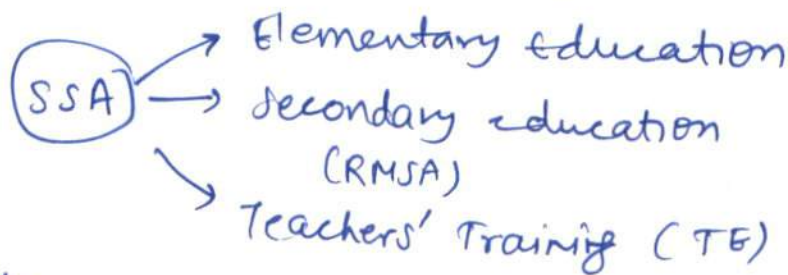
In this context, a national accreditation agency can rate credible NGOs. This will help

- Mobilize finances for genuine NGOs
 - Companies select implementation partners for their CSR activities under section 135 of Companies act
 - Weed out fraudulent NGOs
 - Detect irregularities during accreditation investigation
 - Help crack down on front organizations and shell companies in Garb of NGOs.
- Thus, an accreditation policy needs to be developed and credible, independent accreditation body needs to be urgently set up.

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?

India has invested significantly in school education after Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) was operationalized in 2002.



However the stumbling block of SSA has been the Teacher training component. The inadequacies in teacher training results in poor teaching learning process and sub-par learning outcomes as shown by various ASAR reports by Pratham.

The problems in present system of Teachers' Training are as follows:-

① Qualification :- Qualification levels have been diluted and teachers have been given time till 2019 to get mandatory minimum degree certification

① ~~①~~ Infrastructure :- Teacher Training Institutes lack minimum infrastructure like classrooms, digital labs, good teacher educators, good residential facilities.

① Quality of Training :- Modern pedagogic methods like use of digital tools, blended learning, immersive learning are not taught

① Funds :- Budgetary allocation by state governments have been insufficient

① Ad-hocism :- Reliance on para-teachers and unscientific regularization

① Work Ethics :- The training does not

infuse good work ethics that later shows up as absenteeism and dereliction of duty.

These can be addressed by

- ① Mandatory Certification exam and its renewal every 10 years as suggested by TSR Subramanian Panel.
- ① ~~Prevent~~ Upgrading Infrastructure
- ① Setting up an apex teacher trainers' university
- ① Setting up an Indian Education Service; its officers can ~~be mandated~~ to act as administrators of teacher training institutes and enable institutional reforms
- ① Focus on new-age teaching methods (e.g. using Massive Open Online Courses)
- ① Infusion of good work ethics
- ① Training in values so that students also imbibe good values.
- ① Setting up performance based appraisal and reward system.

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।

~~Even after a substantial investment~~

A Good Healthcare system is a foundational element of a healthy and productive society and a key enabler of socio-economic transformation.

However, the state of Indian Healthcare leaves much to be desired even after massive investments under National Health Mission (NHM).

To revitalise the moribund healthcare system, Ayushman Bharat was proposed in the 2018 budget. It has 2 key components

(i) Demand Side :- National Health

Protection Scheme (NHPS) with the following components:-

- ① 5 lakh insurance per household per year
- ② on a family floater basis

- ⊖ covering secondary and tertiary care
- ⊖ covering existing ailments
- ⊖ for 10 crore families

- (ii) Supply side :- Transforming 1.5 lakh sub-centres into Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs). They will :-
- ⊖ Focus on primary care
 - ⊖ Focus on prevention of diseases and promote healthy lifestyles
 - ⊖ Act as referral units
 - ⊖ deliver family planning, maternal and child care facilities.

Thus, Ayushman Bharat has the transformative potential to:-

- decrease out of pocket (OOP) expenses
- reduce illness-induced poverty & debt trap
- transform the quality of both private and public sector healthcare units
- increase insurance penetration
- decrease disease burden, most importantly of increasing non-communicable

diseases.

However, obstacles abound

- The initial central allocation of ₹ 2000 crore may not be sufficient
- Some states have insurance schemes with wider coverage (eg Bhamashah Scheme, Rajasthan)
- States demand to vertically & horizontally expand the scheme & co-brand the schemes
- Creating awareness
- Transforming quality of care in public institutions
- Regulating private sector malpractices by developing a schedule of standard costs
- Selection of beneficiaries (method used)

While obstacles abound, Centre should further strengthen the scheme by

- let states expand them at own expense
- increase budgetary allocation
- Develop regulatory and adjudication bodies.

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 and Africa face common developmental challenges, for example sustainable development, poverty alleviation etc. Moreover, both represent young demographics. Thus scope for cooperation abounds.

But in its quest for deeper cooperation with ~~the~~ Africa, India is confronted with the overwhelming presence of China in Africa, whose financial clout is hard to match.

→ China's trade with Africa is \$200 Billion (vs. about \$70 Billion for India)

→ China has built substantial current account surpluses and it is looking for places to invest; Africa fits the bill due to its substantial investment needs. Chinese FDI into

Africa is \$35 Billion (vs. about \$15 Billion for India).

Thus India is diversifying the way it can increase co-operation with Africa; eg

- 1) Economic :- Investment in Oil & Gas Blocks (eg Mozambique, South Sudan, Egypt) and in manufacturing concerns (South Africa)
- 2) Infrastructure :- Asia Africa Growth Corridor with Japanese partnership
- 3) Cultural :- Project Mausam and New Spice Route Projects
- 4) Diplomatic :- 3 India-Africa Summits have been organized; Recently AfDB held its summit at Gandhinagar
- 5) Technological & Capacity Building :-
- Through Indian Technical & Economic

Cooperation (ITEC) & Pan-Africa
e-network

6) Blue Economy :- Partnership with
Seychelles and Mauritius

7) Anti-Piracy :- Indian Navy has
emerged as a key net security
provider in the Indian ocean
region east of Africa

8) Disaster Management & Humanitarian
Cooperation :- MOUs with various
African countries.

Thus India's approach in
Africa is characterised by a
diversity in ways of enhancing
cooperation & building diplomatic
profile.

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।

Recently USA has passed
Countering America's Adversaries
Through Sanctions Act of CAATSA :

- ① to impose economic and other sanction on its 'adversaries' like ~~the~~ Russia, ~~the~~ ^{North} Korea & Iran
- ② Prevent other countries from doing business ~~with~~ ~~and~~ and engaging with such countries.

Impact on India

- ① In the context of Russia, it makes it difficult to import military hardware from Russia
eg - S-400 Triumph missiles
Kamov Helicopters

Russia is also building ^{just} 2 phases of Koodankulam plant and partnering with India on Rooppur Nuclear Plant in Bangladesh that may be jeopardized.

⑦ In the context of Iran

- Iran is one of the largest sources of oil imports in recent times
- India-Iran are also co-operating on Chabahar Project that has a huge investment component (\$1.5 Billion)
- It may put INSTC and Ashgabat agreements in jeopardy

~~⑧~~ ~~TAPE~~ - The Iran-Pakistan-India Pipeline may be affected

⑨ with respect to North Korea, India has little to worry.

Steps that India can take to shield itself

- ⑤ Look for alternate arrangement with Iran
 - Paying in rupee
 - Oil for food
- ⑥ Diversify oil imports
 - Africa
 - Other Gulf countries
 - USA
- ⑦ Be assertive in conveying to USA its strategic autonomy
 - India's foreign policy is not subject to interference by another nation
- ⑧ Work with Trump Administration to work around the imposed barriers
- ⑨ Convey that India's military hardware purchase from USA are contingent to USA's support for India's purchases from Russia