



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1418)

|                   |               |                     |         |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------|
| Name of Candidate | VIDHU SHEKHAR |                     |         |
| Medium Eng./Hindi | ENGLISH       | Registration Number | 32997   |
| Center            | ONLINE        | Date                | 6/11/20 |

### 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            |                |
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| 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।

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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.

4.

5.

6.

**All the Best**

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

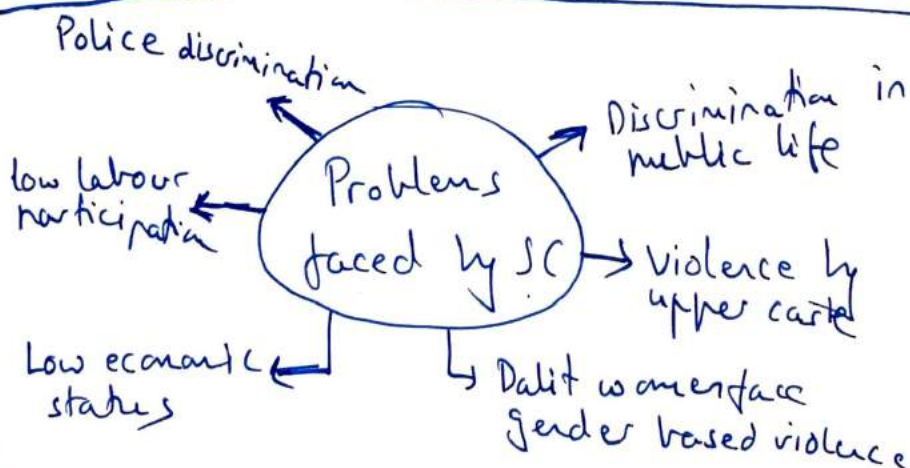
(150 words) 10

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।

The National Commission for Scheduled Caste is provided for by the constitution under article 338.

### Role

- To look into deprivations faced by members of scheduled caste
- To review working of scheduled caste related constitutional provision
- To submit to president report annually





## Measures to Strengthen

Government

- Parliament must present a action taken report on NCSC recommendation
- Increase NCSC teeth from being purely recommendatory body
- Proactive role in monitoring of FIR's filed in crimes pertaining to SC
- Increasing the quality of annual reports with concrete actionable suggestions
- Increased involvement of experts (current domination by bureaucrat)

Thus multiple reforms required to transform NCSC into the chief institution to safeguard the SC interests

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  
was enacted in pursuance to  
article 102 of the constitution to  
provide for instances of disqualification  
among others

### MECHANISM AGAINST CRIMINALIZATION - 100

→ Under section 8(1) and 8(2)  
numerous laws listed under which  
conviction results in barring for  
6 years (Eg Dowry law, Sati Law,  
corruption etc)

→ Under sec 8(3) conviction for  
≥ 2 years also bars for 6 years

→ Under Section 123 various  
electoral offences mentioned  
including asking votes on religious etc

ISSUES

- ① Failed to address criminalization.  
As 43% of MPs have criminal records (29% with serious ones)
- ② Section 8 only comes into play after conviction while the criminal justice system takes several years
- ③ Social media brought into play numerous challenges increasing criminalization eg Fake news etc
- ④ Election commission cannot deregister parties (under sec 29A) thus can't punish erring parties
- ⑤ Model code of conduct lacks statutory backing

Therefore need to reform RPA to address criminalization. ECI has made several suggestions which can be looked into



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 village levels courts having limited civil and criminal jurisdiction. They were created to ease the burden on judiciary and to provide expeditious grievance redressal.

### CHALLENGES FACED

- ① Appeals filed: in most cases in district courts thus defeating purpose
- ② Lack of manpower: The judge has to be ~~ch~~ judicial magistrate of 1st class however acute shortage
- ③ Lack of dedicated infrastructure

No separate buildings and staff for record keeping etc

- ④ Non uniformity across states
- ⑤ Mediation provisions before initiating judicial process has remained ineffective
- ⑤ Awareness is low when compared to traditional judicial system
- ⑥ Public trust is lower as compared to district court/HC/SC.

Thus need of the hour is to strengthen Gram Nyayalas to help reduce the load on higher judiciary and achieve the goal envisaged by article 39 A



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।

Alternate Mechanisms



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 is a part of permanent executive that is tasked with implementation of laws/policies created by the political executive.

### PARADOXICAL RELATIONSHIP

- ① Bureaucracy has to consider long term vision in assisting political class while the political executive to win elections, <sup>often</sup> resorts to populistic measures
- ② Bureaucracy has to assist political leadership in its vision and implement it while at same time maintain neutrality
- ③ Bureaucracy has to abide by



principles of rules based framework and neutrality while also undertaking development works requiring discretion.

### COMPLEMENTARY

- ① Bureaucracy helped maintained continuity in policy orientation despite government change
- ② It helped maintained uniformity in administration standards
- ③ Acted as experts and reservoirs of knowledge to aid political executive
- ④ Enhanced accountability towards citizens via Citizen charter, RTI, social audit

Thus bureaucracy relationship with democracy is not complementary but paradoxical. Bureaucracy plays instrumental role in development of NEW INDIA

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 is the usage of ICT in providing smart, alert, responsive and transparent governance.. It has become a revolutionary mechanism that is transforming governance.

### CHANGING GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONING STYLE

- Digitization of files: Has increased the record keeping resilience and monitoring
- Fund tracking: Has become easier transparent after PFMS and DBT
- Discretion: Has been reduced with multiple oversight eg Faceless assessment of IT returns



• Monitoring : Could be done in better way eg PRAGATI video conferencing

## Empowering Citizens by Participating

① Policy input : Can be given by citizens via mygov.in etc

② Government data : Can be viewed by data.gov.in

③ Online RTI & Grievance : Can be done for required actions

④ Public fund utilization : Can be seen in apps like UMANG etc

⑤ Social Media : Can be used to get instant grievance redressal eg Police handlers etc

Thus egovernance playing critical role in ushering good governance in India



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।

Transgender are one of the most marginalized communities in the country, numbering just 4.69 lakh (census 2011), they face numerous socio-economic stigma

### NALSA Judgement 2014

First step towards breaking the entrenched discrimination against Transgender, in this SC held:

- Transgender to be recognized as 3rd gender
- self identification to be acknowledged
- They should be provided benefits of affirmative action
- Prohibition of discrimination

Transgender Person Act 2019

- Defines Transgender
- Provides numerous rights (residence, treatment, against discrimination)
- Certificate by DM
- National Transgender Council

Diluting spirit of NALSA Judgement

↳ NALSA judgement provided for self identification while according to act certificate needed

↳ NALSA act directed for reservation while TG Act has not provided it mandatorily.

Thus though TG Act 2019 is progressive in number of aspects it has not fully realized the vision set out in NALSA judgement which is needed to liberate TGs from stigma



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।

Universal health coverage envisages a system where every individual is within the safety net of healthcare institutions and can access it at reasonable cost.

CAN UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE BE ACHIEVED BY RIGHT TO HEALTH?

Arguments in favour

- Would fulfill the true spirit of article 21 (Right to life)
- Would ensure equitable access across all social levels
- Expand the outreach of immunization (currently 170%), institutional deliveries etc.



→ Would help improve preventive health care (currently focus on curative care)

→ Would reduce out of pocket expenditure (currently 60-70%)

### Arguments against

→ Budgetary constraint: only 1.15% of GDP allocated to health

→ Lack of equipped health infra (only ~700 hospitals and ~460 medical colleges)

→ Doctor shortfall: According to WHO India has 2 lakh doctor shortfall

→ Geographical Inequity: States like Bihar, Jharkhand lagging in beds/person

Thus as of now making right to health a fundamental right is not desirable, instead focus should

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 nearly 7 million of its diaspora living in Gulf countries (max in UAE)

### DIASPORA AS AN ASSET

- Remittance : They have made India world's largest receiver of remittance (75 billion \$ 2019)
- Soft power : They are important source of India's soft power
- Drive Kerala economy : They play instrumental role in Kerala's economy
- Cultural ambassadors : They help spread Indian cultural facets which leads to tourism in India

- Radicalization : Recent times  
ISIS has attempted to radicalize  
many of Indian diaspora people

- local laws eg Kafala laws (which gets the migrants passport impounded) and Nitaqat laws (Saudi reservation)

- Discrimination : The migrants have to face ethnic discrimination

- Civil War / Extremism : As seen in Yemen may lead to massive reverse migration

Thus the diaspora are important aspect of India's west Asia policy and their interest must be kept in mind when in dialogue with west



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।

World Food Program was formed in 1961 to address the issues of food shortages across the globe. It is headquartered in Rome

### REASONS FOR FORMATION

- Disparity in food security across countries
- Newly decolonized countries suffering from acute food shortages
- Catastrophic famines in countries like China (1959-61)

### FUNCTIONING

- Assisting the needy country by providing
  - ↳ grain supplies
  - ↳ grants for food security

- Promoting collaboration for developing policies and approaches to tackle hunger
- Undertaking research in evolving food security scenarios

### CONTRIBUTION TO INDIA'S EFFORT

- ① Provided aid to tackle food shortage during the 1960s
- ② Policy inputs in formulation of PDS, National Food security act etc
- ③ Highlighting the issues of hidden hunger and malnutrition especially in tribal areas

Thus World Food Program is playing instrumental role in helping achieve SDG #2 and should be assisted by member countries



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।

Civil society groups are organizations where citizens ~~active~~ act collectively to express themselves over particular issues. They can be in form of NGOs, pressure groups, SHGs etc.

Recent times have witnessed an increase in stringent actions against civil society groups via:

- ① FCRA licenses of nearly 19,000 NGOs cancelled in last decade
- ② Licenses of many NGOs were revoked who were not filling IT returns
- ③ Search/seizure operation against several suspected NGOs
- ④ Recent FCRA amendments  
↳ Limit administrative expenses to 20% (from earlier 50%)



- ↳ Prevent disbursement of funds between NGOs
- ↳ Narrow the choice for opening bank account only to SBI Delhi branch
- ⑤ Criminal investigation against many activist under UAPA, PMLA etc

### SHRINKING SPACE FOR DISSENT?

- Some sections view it as unjustified crackdown on NGOs critical of government
- May have chilling effect on freedom of speech
- NGOs highlight lacunae of government functioning which may be hampered
- Would ~~increase~~ decrease the accountability of the government
- NGOs like Greenpeace have played role in environmental activism
- Amnesty International etc have

fight for the marginalized/deprived

### MERIT BASED ACTION

→ Action taken on credible intelligence and evidences

→ IB report of 2014 highlighted several NGOs involved in obstructivist activities at behest of vested interest.

→ FCRA licenses cancelled due to serious allegations of money laundering, extremist/naxal funding etc

→ Several NGOs were involved in conversion activities thus consequently banned

→ The recent FCRA amendment would help increase oversight over usage of fund and check laundering.

### WAY FORWARD

Thus overall it can be said that the recent cases of action against civil society groups is a part of the government's policy to check misappropriation of funds and induce transparency. However at the same time confidence must be



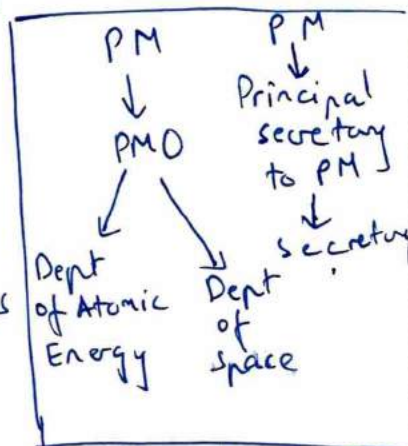
12. Discuss the implications associated with the Prime Minister's Office acting as the most powerful office due to its formidable influence in policymaking in India. (250 words) 15

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।

The Prime minister's office is the department under direct supervision of PM. It owes its origin to 1964 and has seen phases when it becomes the most powerful office.

### ROLE OF PMO

→ It deals with transaction of business rules that deal with PM



structure of PMO

→ Helps PM in discharging his duties as chairperson of NITI Ayog, Interstate council etc

→ Matters that don't fall within purview of any other ministry

→ Handles the public relationship of PM



## PMO Emerging most Powerful - Implications

### Positives

- Increased the level of accountability amongst the ministries
- Better coordination across the ministries
- Helps in preventing silos approach and developing unified perspective
- May help in reducing corruption as earlier multiple actors with lesser accountability

### ISSUES

- Decreases bureaucracy's accountability to the departmental ministers
- Overcentralization may create inefficiency due to delays

→ 'Top down model' may curb the autonomy of departmental secretaries/joint secretary

→ Difficulty in accessing the PMO as compared to ministries

→ PMO headed by retired bureaucrats ⇒ demoralizing for serving ones

Thus overall the emergence of PMO can help in increasing the accountability of the ministries and fostering the unified vision. But due care has to be taken to not curtail the autonomy of the individual ministries. Only the key initiatives requiring high level coordination should be coordinated by PMO.

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।

Judiciary has played instrumental role in ushering in social transformation by upholding true spirit of liberty, equality and fraternity.

### INFUSING ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

→ SC in the Indira Gandhi v/s Raj Narain case laid the foundation for right to information

→ SC in the Unnikrishnan case laid ground case for providing a right to education

→ SC in the ADR case stated



that candidates contesting for elections must disclose their criminal background (if any) and assets.

→ SC in the Hussainara Khatoon case introduced the concept of PIL and also provided relief to the undertrials.

### ENGENDERING HUMAN RIGHTS JURISPRUDENCE

→ SC in the Navtej Singh Johar struck down provisions of section 377 of IPC which criminalized homosexuality

→ SC in the Mareka Gandhi ('78) case introduced the concept of due process of law

→ SC in the Shayra Bano case held 'Talak-e-biddat' as unconstitutional

### Importance of such decisions

→ Helps fill the vacuum left by

- legislature and executive
- Upholds the spirit of constitution as a dynamic document
  - Helps bring societal attitudinal change
  - Upholds the interests of the marginalized
  - Puts a check on executive and legislature

### CONCERNS OF OVERREACH

- SC use of article 142 of constitution gives it unfettered power
- Concerns of encroaching into domain of legislature/executive (Eg in case of SC amending SC/ST Act in 2018)
- Subjectivity in interpretation eg dissenting judgements in Triple talak, Sabarimala case

### CONCLUSION

The judiciary has used its powers in a cautious and wise manner to empower citizens. However concerns overreach need to be addressed by



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।

The Supreme Court <sup>and High court</sup> has been provided with powers to punish for their contempt under the constitution under articles 129 and 215.

The parliament passed the Contempt of Courts act 1971 to further elaborate on it. It defines 2 types of contempt

### Civil Contempt

- willful disobedience of order of court
- No jail term for civil contempt

### Criminal Contempt

- scandalizes / lowers the authority of court
- obstructs judicial administration
- fine and jail upto 6 months

**NECESSARY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**



- Ensures compliance of judicial orders
- Infuses accountability in government functioning
- Creates deterrence for non compliance
- Upholds respect <sup>and trust</sup> for the judiciary amongst the public
- Helps in effective functioning of the lower judiciary who don't have contempt power

### ISSUES WITH CONTEMPT

- Subjectivity and possibility of arbitrary misuse
- Criticized for being relic of past
- UK the source of contempt power, abolished it
- May reflect the personal bias

- of the judge instead of the integrity of institution as whole
- Prevents fair criticism of Judiciary thus restrains article 19
  - Infuses opaqueness in the functioning of Judiciary

### WAY FORWARD

As the Supreme Court held in the Mulgaonkar Case (1978):

- Court has to be restrained in application of contempt
- Economic criticism of Judiciary is desirable
- Media must be given fair chance to discuss and critically evaluate judgement.

Therefore contempt powers are extraordinary devices at disposal of higher courts thus should be used sparingly. As SC said in Rajesh Kumar case (2007) contempt is for



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।

According to NHRC in 2018 there were instances of over 1600 custodial deaths. This points to the grave deprivation of rights of the accused and excesses on the part of police.

### Legal Concerns

- Violative of article 21 of the Constitution
- Supreme Court in the DK Basu case stated it as assault on human dignity
- Lack of proper investigation as police are violators and investigators
- Opaqueness in treatment in Jail



- Lack of laws prohibiting it
- India non signatory to UN Convention against Torture
- India faces difficulty in extradition due to it eg Vijay Mallya

### CHALLENGES IN CURBING IT

- Lack of independent probe done by state
- Media, civil society prevented from probing into it by police
- Slow criminal justice system to get grievance addressed
- Lack of scientific policing leading to forcing confession from accused
- Lack of deterrent penalties for inflicting custodial violence

## WAYS TO ADDRESS

### Legal / Administrative

- Signing of UN Convention against torture
- Separate act prohibiting custodial violence
- Independent probe of custodial death by CBI, SIT, STF etc
- NHRC to play proactive role in prison monitoring

### Societal

- Awareness building by media civil society
- Sensitization of police force by infusing emotional intelligence

Thus custodial violence is prioritizing ends over means and defeats the purpose of justice. Thus urgent measures required to address it

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।

Civil society has played a critical role in enhancing the commitment of the government towards the citizens by undertaking key activities in a number of domains.

### Environmental Domain

→ Activism during 1970s by the women of Uttarakhand helped save forest in 'Chipko movement'

→ In the M.C. Mehta v/s Union of India & court directed government to provide clean environment

→ Pressure groups such as



POSCO Pratirodh Sangathan prevented encroachment of tribal land of Niyangiri by POSCO mining company

### Transparency

→ Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan via it's Tan Sunwai helped usher in transparency culminating in RTI act in 2005

→ Organizations like ADR helped infuse transparency in electoral process

### JUSTICE TO MARGINALIZED

→ PUCL helped showcase the right of bonded labourers

→ CRY and Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Kailash Satyarthi) brought to light child labour

Thus civil society has played a critical role in enhancing the accountability and transparency of the government. The Government should increase its engagement with civil society to further its goals of good governance, in this regard National Policy on Voluntary Sector (2007) could play a guiding role

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।

Recently released Global Hunger Index showed - India at a lowly 94th place. This is paradoxical when compared to the fact that India is food surplus country and has increased production of cereals from 50mt (1950) to 285mt (2019).

### INDIA FACING PARADOX OF PLENTY

→ While cereal and horticultural production and being the largest milk producer in the world (185mt in 2018), health indicators are dismal.



- ↳ 14% population undernourished
- ↳ 38% under 5 stunting (NFHS-4)
- ↳ 53% women anaemic (NFHS-4)
- ↳ Significant proportion (>10%) of obese population

→ Deficiency of vital micronutrients like Zinc, Iron, folic acid.

→ Regional inequalities with tribal dominated states lagging far behind

→ FCI godowns have nearly double the grains of their installed capacity and frequent rotting of grain yet still many don't have access to food security

→ Inter state migrants struggle to get their due share of PDS in destination states

## WAYS TO ADDRESS

- Enhancing portability of benefits for interstate migrants
- Food fortification as well as biofortification
- Increasing FCI/CWC's scientific storage capacity by building new silos
- Addressing exclusion errors of DBT authenticated uptake
- Last mile ~~uptake~~ delivery in remote hills, tribal hamlets
- Improving logistics for inter state grain movements
- Promoting decentralized procurement at block level from small farmer

Thus hunger is a major challenge confronting us and effective action would



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?

MGNREGA is ~~now~~ a legislation that provides 100 days of unskilled labour to any member of a rural household who is willing.

### ROLE IN ALLEVIATING POVERTY

#### Decreased multidimensional Poverty

According to UN India took out 271 million people of poverty between 2005-15 and MGNREGA was instrumental in it

<sup>women</sup>  
• Gender empowerment : Of the 6.4 crore families benefitting from MGNREGA, 54% are women



- Boosting rural consumption: MGNREGA has large spillover effect in driving the overall rural economy
- SC/ST empowerment: MGNREGA has particularly helped marginalized section by saving them from bonded labour
- Nutritional Security: Assured income has boosted nutritional profile of worker
- Empowered Gram Sabha: By giving flexibility in utilizing fund which are used in poverty alleviation activities

### DIFFERENT FROM EARLIER PROGRAMS

Earlier numerous poverty alleviation programs had been undertaken such as Food for work, Sampoorna Rozgar abhiyan, TRYSEM, IRDP etc.

However MGNREGA is different a

- Backed by legislation guaranteeing work for anyone
- Empowered Gram Sabha for oversight
- Use of technology like DBT, NeFMS etc for tracking fund
- Convergence with other schemes such as PM Awas Yojana, PM Gram Sadak Yojana
- Guaranteed reservation of 33% for women
- Large budgetary allocation eg 60,000 crore in 2020 later enhanced to 1 lakh crore

Therefore it can be stated that MGNREGA has played an important role in achieving the Millennium development goal of halving



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।

China has seen remarkable transition in its approach to foreign policy from earlier Deng's approach of 'peaceful rise' to Xi's assertive diplomacy of claiming preminent place in global order

### Chinese assertiveness

- Belt and Road initiative
- Aggressive claiming of territories in Himalaya, South China sea etc
- Weaponising the supply chain
- Challenging the hegemony of USA on various fronts
- Building alternate institutions/group like AIIB, SCO etc



## CHALLENGES TO INDIA

- Aggressive intrusion into Indian territory eg June intrusion into Galwan, Pangon Tro etc
- Attempt to contain India's rise by blocking entry into multilateral groups eg NSG, UNSC
- Attempt to encircle India via string of pearls (port building, military base)
- Supporting Pakistan to disrupt India's growth via terror
- Internationalizing India's domestic policies eg Kashmir, CAA etc

## STRENGTHENING OPPORTUNITIES

### Internationally

- Building coalition of like minded

countries eg QUAD

→ Strengthening commitment to free and open commons especially Indo Pacific

→ Derisking the supply chain by decoupling with China economically (eg in pharma, electronics)

→ Alternate supply chain mechanism like supply chain resilience initiative by Australia, Japan, India

→ Blue Dot network for transparent infrastructure

Domestically

→ Strengthen border infrastructure

→ Strengthen military

→ Atmanirbhar Bharat to reduce import dependence

→ Build bipartisan foreign policy

Thus the Chinese challenge present us opportunity to reshape a new India to reclaim our rightful place in global order

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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।

PM has highlighted in the past that key to India's foreign policy would be culture, commerce and connectivity. While cultural linkages are strong, commerce and connectivity still have many issues to be dealt with

Trade and Commerce holding the key

### Opportunities

- ① Help in integrating the region
- ② Trade and commerce with south east asia would help in north east
- ③ Boost India's export as large market



- ④ Would help iron out differences in border perception.
- ⑤ Would strengthen cultural connect among the neighbouring countries Eg Hinduism - Nepal, Buddhism in South East Asia
- ⑥ Facilitate transfer in technology especially in defence
- ⑦ Myanmar has large oil and natural gas reserves and would help reduce Indian dependence on west asia
- ⑧ Help counter Chinese influence

## CHALLENGES

- ① Slow implementation
  - ↳ IMT, Kaladan multimodal project languishing for over 2 decades
  - ↳ Issues in delay in timely clearance
  - ↳ Lack of diplomatic resources to push through

- ② Low intra regional trade: The South Asian intra region trade only 5% of total trade of these countries
- ③ Difficult terrain making it difficult to build connectivity project
- ④ Chinese BRI: Tilting the countries diplomatic priority to China
- ⑤ BBIN: Bhutan Upper house stalled implementation
- ⑥ Institutional lacunae: BIMSTEC has had only 4 summit in 23 years

### WAY AHEAD

- ↳ Expedite projects
- ↳ BIMSTEC FTA finalize
- ↳ Increased political exchanges
- ↳ Involvement of 3rd countries like Japan