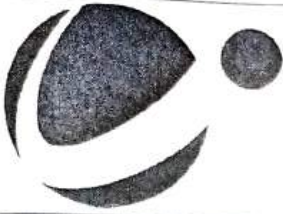


Time Control : Spread over multiple days  
Total time < 3 hrs



# VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1414)

|                   |           |                     |        |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------|
| Name of Candidate | ARTH JAIN |                     |        |
| Medium Eng./Hindi | ENG       | Registration Number | 488737 |
| Center            | ONLINE    | Date                | —      |

### 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

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

Sir please remark on:

1.
  - ① legibility of handwriting
  - ② introductions - all they apt?
  - ③ word limit seems fine?
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



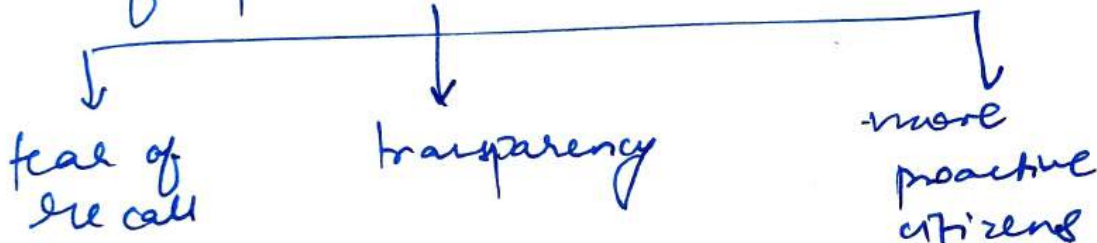
1. The right to recall is a much-needed step to deepen democracy in India. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

भारत में लोकतंत्र को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु 'राइट टू रिकॉल' एक अत्यंत आवश्यक कदम है। आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Right to recall is generally present in direct democracies such as Switzerland.

Much needed step

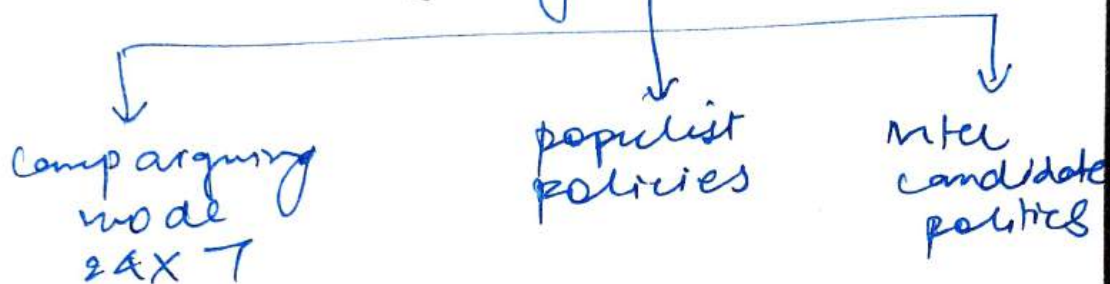
- In line with principles of participative democracy.
- May lead to increased accountability of politicians:



- Citizen centricity of democracy will be maintained.
- Successful international examples such as Switzerland's cantons.
- Local government will also get a boost since it suffers from non accountability.

## Issues with Right to Recall

- May lead to excessive politicization.
- Continuous focus of politicians will be on "saving their seat"



- Difficult to implement in a large country like India.
- Costly as reelection / recall initiative would need a dedicated machinery.

## Way Forward

Instead of recall, reforms in electoral process such as:

- One candidate from only one constituency.
  - RTI empowered citizens
  - Better disclosure of policies
  - "De-mineralization" of politics.
- This would help make democracy more citizen centric.



2. For the justice delivery system to work for the ordinary citizen, it is imperative that the issues affecting the functioning of the lower courts in India be urgently addressed. Discuss. (150 words) 10

आम नागरिक के लिए न्याय वितरण प्रणाली को कारगर बनाने हेतु, भारत में अधीनस्थ न्यायालयों की कार्यप्रणाली को प्रभावित करने वाले मुद्दों पर तत्काल ध्यान दिया जाना आवश्यक है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Constitution provides for a gradation of courts to implement and deliver justice.

Issues affecting lower courts

- High pendency of cases.  
~ 3.1 case per national judicial data good data.
- Low accountability
  - ↓ Cases of corruption
  - ↓ capacity <sup>is</sup> working
  - ↓ non uniform judgments
- High vacancies in courts.
- Quality of judgments is not uniform. This points to a skill defect in judiciary.
- Independence under concern. Since, judges tend to be influenced by powerful politicians.

These must be corrected to ensure:

- Timely and adequate justice
- upheld citizens faith in judiciary
- Society needs justice at large to function smoothly.

How can these issues be addressed

- Filling vacancies, India has only 18 judges / million people, much lower than USA / Korea.
- Promoting Alternative dispute resolution (ADR)
- Setting up tribunals
  - ↓
  - Speedy justice
  - Natural justice principles followed
  - ↓
  - Eg: NHT for environmental matters
- LINBS project to bring e-gov in judiciary and increase accountability.
- Reforms in Standard Operating Procedures and IPC.

Justice is a basic right of every citizen. Hence it must be protected.



3. Is anti-defection law a restriction on the freedom of choice of legislators? Examine and also highlight the role played by Speaker in this regard.

(150 words) 10

क्या दल-बदल रोधी कानून विधि-निर्माताओं (लेजिस्लेटर्स) की 'चयन की स्वतंत्रता' पर एक प्रतिबंध है? परीक्षण कीजिए और साथ ही इस संदर्भ में, अध्यक्ष द्वारा निर्भाई जाने वाली भूमिका को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Anti defection law is the popular name for provisions under the 10th Schedule. These were added by the 52nd amendment, 1985 to deal with defection.

### Restriction on Freedom of choice

- Individual parliamentarian is bound by whip.
- Party against party mes amounts to defection: thus individual dissent is stifled.
- Even voting in relation to bills, is guided by whip.

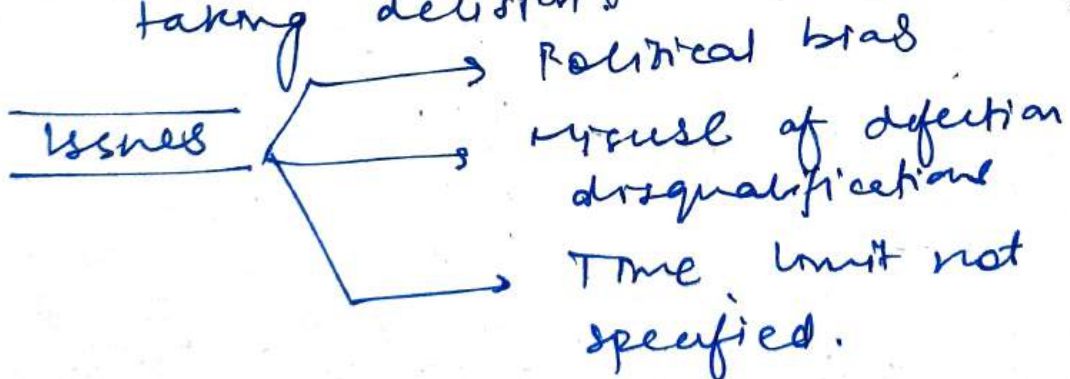
### Not a restriction on Freedom

- Anti defection law aims to curb the role of power (money).
- Without the law, "dissent" may be misused under the influence of ministerial beath or money.

- Party is at the core of democracy and supported by people.  
This means party line is not necessarily against ultraisms.
- Individual parties may foster internal democracy and scope for dissent.
- Whip is generally issued only for critical matters.

### Role of Speaker

- Decides on defection, as under Article 102.
- Subject to review, as determined by SC in Kihoto Hollohan Case.
- Acts independently of EC while taking decision.



To ensure a cleaner and participative democracy, certain provisions must be amended.



4. What are the various issues pertaining to functioning and performance of state legislatures in India? In this context, suggest some measures to make state assemblies more transparent and effective. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में राज्य विधान-मंडलों की कार्यपद्धति और निष्पादन से संबंधित विभिन्न मुद्दे क्या हैं? इस संदर्भ में, राज्य विधान सभाओं को और अधिक पारदर्शी तथा प्रभावी बनाने हेतु कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Constitutional scheme provides for a 3 tiered federal structure in India. In this regard, at the state level there is usually a unicameral or bicameral legislature.

### Various issues

- Fall in productivity.
  - ↓ Disruptions + Protests
  - ↓ Decreased sittings
  - ↓ Adjournments
- Bills are often blocked by the second house ~ Nidhan Parishad.
- Bills passed by legislature, may be reserved by Governor.
- Encroachment of jurisdiction which goes against doctrine of pith and substance. eg: Overriding act over concurrent list

- Efficacy of control through committees and voting has fallen. Due to:
  - Quorum measures
  - Ordinance route

### Possible Measures

- Constitutionally mandate minimum number of sittings per year.
- Empower parliamentary legislative committees such as:
  - DRSCs
  - Estimates Committee
- Live screening of all proceed proceedings. This would ensure that legislators behave well.
- Increased interaction with public during pre litigation stage.
- Voter literacy will lead to pressure on MLAs to perform.

Healthy functioning of state legislatures is crucial for good governance.



5. Social audit not only increases accountability and transparency but also facilitates good governance. Discuss. Also, highlight the impediments faced in institutionalizing social audits in India. (150 words) 10

सामाजिक अंकेक्षण (सोशल ऑडिट) से न केवल जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता बढ़ती है, बल्कि यह सुशासन को भी सुविधाजनक बनाता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में सामाजिक अंकेक्षण को संस्थागत बनाने में आने वाली बाधाओं को भी रेखांकित कीजिए।

Social audit refers to the auditing of government policies / schemes and construction by ordinary citizens.

Increases Accountability

- Highlights cases of misuse of funds.
- For instance, RTI + Audit has led to lesser leakages in road construction.
- Officers are scared to divert funds, for fear of being caught.
- Data is openly available for scrutiny.

Facilitates Good Governance

- Makes democracy participative, which is at the core of good governance.
- Through social audit, citizens can identify what they need

and how it is being delivered to them.

- increase in efficiency and equity which lead to good governance.
- Brings in inclusivity
  - ↓
  - majority of schemes benefit disadvantaged sections
  - ↓

the same sections can now audit the implementation.

### Challenges

- Institutional setup is weak
  - ↓
  - Incorrect data provided
  - ↓
  - Data is delayed
  - ↓
  - Harassment of activists
- Lack of political will in implementation.
- Grievance redressal in case of faulty audit is missing.
- Lack of well trained personnel who can carry out audit technicalities.
- Social audit and brings facilitates transparency about good governance.



6. Explain the idea behind introduction of citizen's charters in India. Also, discuss the problems faced in their implementation. (150 words) 10

भारत में नागरिक चार्टर के आरंभ के पीछे निहित विचार को स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, उनके कार्यान्वयन के समक्ष आने वाली समस्याओं की विवेचना कीजिए।

Citizen's charter outlines the expected standards of service a citizen is entitled to. It also provides for the grievance redressal in case of non-implementation.  
eg: Sarvottam Model

### Idea Behind Charters

- By outlining standards, citizens are aware of what they are entitled to.
- Sets standards for the institution with regards to service delivery.
- Grievance redressal allows for in spirit achievement of the objectives.
- These thus make good governance possible.
- Internationally, it is present in countries like Sweden & Denmark.

Problems in Implementation

- Citizen's charter is usually missing in most organizations.
- Often exists only as a formality.
  - ↓
  - Not implemented in spirit
  - ↓
  - copied from somewhere
  - ↓
  - Unrealistic in objective
- As pointed out by end ABC, grievance redressal mechanisms are usually missing.
- Officers in some cases are non-cooperative.

Way forward

- Citizen's charter if coupled with RTI, would increase its enforceability.
- Legal sanction to it will lead to proper implementation.
- Increasing awareness among public is also needed.

charters are an essential component to good governance and hence must be implemented.



7. The Public Distribution System in India has shown laudable improvements, however in the context of migrant workers and those still left out, it needs multiple adjustments. Discuss. (150 words) 10

भारत में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली ने प्रशंसनीय सुधार दर्ज किए हैं, हालाँकि प्रवासी श्रमिकों और इस प्रणाली से न जुड़ पाए लोगों के संदर्भ में, इसमें विविध समायोजनों की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recent COVID migrant crisis has shown, how vulnerable migrants are in the absence of PDS portability.

### Laudable improvements

- improvement in efficiency and transparency due to:
  - Geo-tagging of trucks
  - SMS based services
  - RTI and other grievance redressal
- Increased identification of beneficiaries using Aadhar.
- FCI's schemes relating to increased procurement and dispersal.
- Collaboration with NAFED has increased stock.
- Schemes such as Mid day meal and ICDS have increased the reach.

Multiple adjustments needed

- Beneficiary portability is still missing! Thus many migrants are unable to access.
- Inclusion and exclusion errors in beneficiary identification.
- Leakages and pilferages, due to corruption.
- Quality of grains is often of a lower quality. Grains have also found to be rotten.
- Many times PDS shops tend to be closed on working days.

Way Forward

- Suggestions of Shanta Kumar committee over universality (~50%).
- Transparent liquidation policy.
- One nation, One Ration Card.
- Blockchain based distribution.

Food security can be achieved if PDS reforms are implemented properly.



8. While India has shown improvement in a number of socio-economic indicators over the years, considerable work still needs to be done to improve India's performance in the Global Hunger Index. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

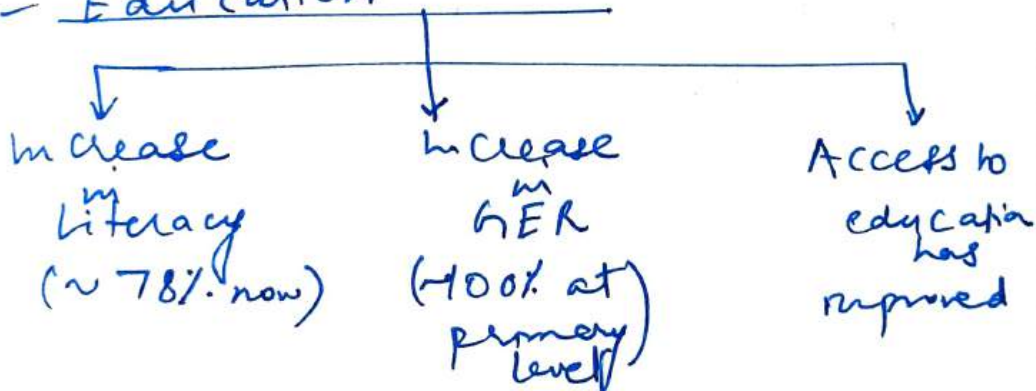
यद्यपि, भारत ने विगत कुछ वर्षों में कई सामाजिक-आर्थिक संकेतकों में सुधार दर्ज किया है, तथापि वैश्विक भूख सूचकांक (ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स) में भारत के प्रदर्शन को बेहतर करने हेतु अभी भी बहुत कुछ किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently Welfthungerlife released Global Hunger Index, in which India's rank fell to 102.

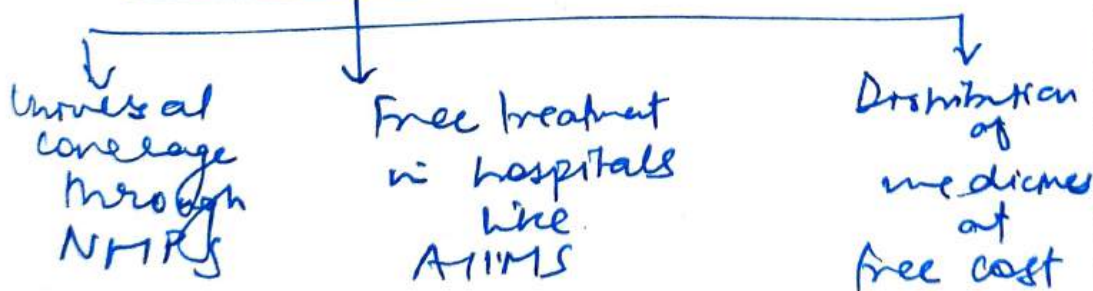
This puts India in the "severe" category, along with many African nations.

### Improvement in Various Indicators

#### Education



#### Health

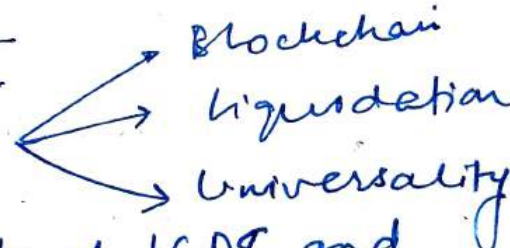


- Poverty eradication through schemes like MGNREGA / Aajeeke / NRLM.

However, hunger still remains a concern due to

- low accessibility of food:
  - PDS shops closed
  - Caste barriers
  - Gender divide
- low affordability of food due to poverty.
- Issue of "Hidden Hunger" due to micronutrients deficiency.
- Availability is also a concern:
  - food dependent on monsoon, thus vulnerable to climate.
  - Transportation system is not fully efficient.

### Way forward

- Reforms in PDS 
  - Blockchain
  - Liquidation
  - Universality
- Improving reach of ICDS and MDMS.
- Transparency in food distribution under Ration shops.

Right to food is a basic human right and cannot be denied.



9. Discuss the border issue between India and Nepal in view of the observation that it is both a testimony to the special relationship and a source of recurring frictions. (150 words) 10

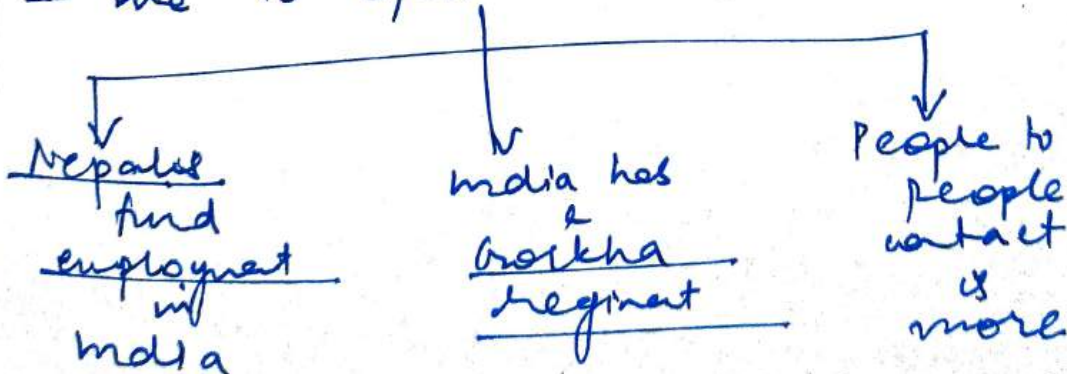
भारत-नेपाल संबंध वस्तुतः विशेष संबंध का एक प्रमाण होने के साथ-साथ बारंबार होने वाले टकराव का भी एक स्रोत है, इस अवलोकन के आलोक में दोनों के मध्य सीमा-विवाद की समस्या पर चर्चा कीजिए।

India and Nepal have historically enjoyed a close relationship as evident from Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty of 1950.

It is said to be a "roti-beti" ka suranta.

### Border Issue

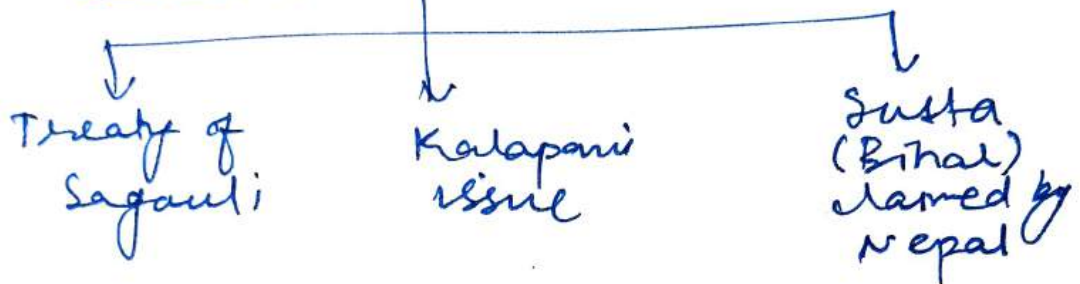
- India and Nepal have an open border, which allows movement of goods and people.
- India has such a provision only with Bhutan thus indicating a special relationship.
- Due to open border



- Further it also leads to increased trade.

### Source of friction

- Continuous border conflicts over demarcation



- Increased concerns over smuggling of weapons and people.
- China factor, which raises concerns over internal security.
- Madhesi led blockade was not liked by China.
- Issue of water sharing of Sharda/Gandhak.

### Way Forward

- Increased engagement at high level through meets.
- Bitateral and tri lateral engagement.
- Humanitarian aid can be reviewed.



10. The evolving global situation around Covid-19 simultaneously highlights the relevance of the World Health Organisation (WHO) as well as its existing lacunae. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

कोविड-19 के चतुर्दिक विकसित वैश्विक स्थिति, विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) की प्रासंगिकता के साथ-साथ इसमें विद्यमान कमियों को भी रेखांकित करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

WHO has been at the forefront of the fight against COVID. WHO has a close working relationship with UN and is the de facto leader in matters of health.

### Relevance of WHO

- Provides funding to poorer countries to fight outbreaks.
- Facilitates a coordinated response.
 

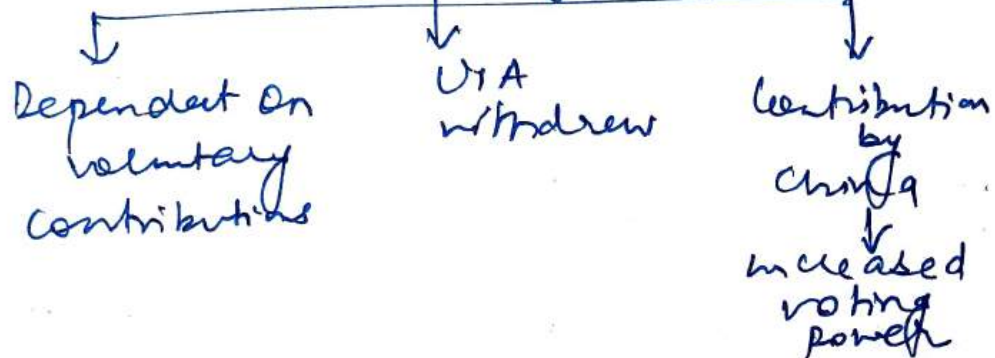
```

graph TD
    A[coordinated response] --> B[Ebola 2019]
    A --> C[Covid 19]
    A --> D[Zika Outbreaks]
          
```
- Facilitates monitoring and surveillance to find out disease spikes.
- Data collection, which can be used to make vaccines.
- PHICE mechanisms allows for a global fight.
- Reassurance in times of crisis, due to engagement with multiple countries.

Lacuna

- Opacity in functioning.  
eg: Criticised for protecting  
China during COVID.
- Opaque appointment process of  
director, WHO.

- Issue of funding



- Coordination mechanism is seen as "too little, too late".
- Developed countries have a higher say, due to contributions. This leads to lobbying by MNCs.

Way Forward

By bringing in transparency in appointment and functioning, WHO can better coordinate "World Health".



11. Identifying the different capacity gaps that exist in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), highlight the need for capacity building of these bodies. What steps have been taken by the government of India in this regard? (250 words) 15

शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) में मौजूद विभिन्न क्षमता अंतरालों की पहचान करते हुए, इन निकायों के क्षमता निर्माण की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालिए। इस संबंध में भारत सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

Urban local bodies were an outcome of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment, 1992.

They are an exercise in democratic decentralization and making development "participatory".

### Capacity Gaps

- Issue of funding

① Tied nature of funds  
eg: Roads funds linked to Gram Sadak Yojna.

② Leakages and pilferages due to corruption.

③ low budgetary support.

④ Devolution of financial powers is less.

⑤ Reluctance to tax people in locality.

- Skill gaps in functionaries  
- inefficient work culture.  
Politicization

- Proxy candidates such as Ami, Bahur, Beti.
- Apathy for local populace.
- Functions are not well defined.  
This leads to conflict with other para state bodies.
- Elections not held regularly.
- Finance Commission's issues:
  - ① Not setup in many states
  - ② Recommendations rejected
- Evidence based funds distribution is missing.

### Need for capacity Building

- International examples show that ULBs can lead to rapid development.

↓  
China  
~50% spending  
by ULBs

↓ Increased  
engagement  
in  
European  
countries

↓ Sweden's  
ULBs  
implement  
education  
smoothly

- Increased transparency and accountability.



- Citizen engagement will usher in participatory democracy.
- "Bottom up planning" will lead to better schemes, more suited to local people.
- will make citizens more engaged in politics.
- Essential services such as water, electricity can be provided efficiently.

### Steps taken by Government

- ① Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Urban Affairs to look into matters.
- ② District Planning Committees to form overall plan.
- ③ Involvement of local NGOs to increase awareness about the importance of ULBs.  
eg: MKSS or IAC.
- ④ Regular ward elections have now been mandated.

Grassroot development is crucial for overall development of India.

12. Assess the performance of the GST Council as a constitutional body vested with powers to take all major decisions relating to Goods and Services Tax. (250 words) 15

वस्तु और सेवा कर (GST) से संबंधित सभी बड़े निर्णय लेने की शक्तियों में लैस एक संवैधानिक निकाय के रूप में GST परिषद के प्रदर्शन का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

GST council was established by the 101<sup>st</sup> constitutional amendment. It is formed under Article 279-A.

### Composition of Council

- Centre: 1/3 weight in voting
- States: 2/3 weight
- Decisions need 3/4 majority.
- Quorum: 1/2 of members

### Analysis of Performance

#### Successes

- Promoted cooperative federalism, since states readily gave away power over many taxes.
- In the towards, one nation, one tax.
- Anti profiteering mechanism has benefitted customers.
- Distribution of CGST and IGST based on a well



concerned formula.

- higher taxes for sin goods.
- implementation of COSTN for e-filing of GST bills.
- involvement of experts in crucial financial matters.

### Issues / concerns

- Multiple tax slabs dilute the idea of One Nation, One tax.
- Arbitrary criteria for putting goods into different slabs.
- GST compensation Cts have been delayed and fall inadequate.
- Higher voting share to states, leads to blocking of some crucial decisions.
- Certain items still kept out of ambit: ATF / Petrol / Diesel
- Input Credits mechanism siphons from false receipts. This has not been looked into by

the council.

- Fall in overall tax collection, negatively impacts States. However GST Council still did not change allocation.

### Way Forward

- Close coordination with RBI and Ministry of Finance to ensure sound policies.
- GSTN technicalities must be looked into.
- Post of Vice chairman should be elected from "Opposition states" to foster debate.
- Recommendations of 15th PC over tax collection and sharing must be taken into account.

Fiscal decentralization and cooperation is crucial for a \$5 trillion economy. This calls for efficient working of the GST Council.



13. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Justice' in the 'Preamble'. Highlight some constitutional and legal steps taken towards each of them in India.

(250 words) 15

उद्देशिका में प्रयुक्त 'न्याय' शब्द से जुड़े प्रत्येक विशेषण की विवेचना कीजिए। भारत में उनमें से प्रत्येक की दिशा में उठाए गए कुछ संवैधानिक और विधिक कदमों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Our constitution begins with the Preamble. It highlights the basic philosophy on which the constitution is based.

Words attached to Justice are:

- Social
- Economic
- Political

### Social Justice

- Refers to justice towards all citizens that brings in Inclusivity.
- All sections must be treated equally and marginalized must progress.
- Basic amenities such as health, education must be available to all.

### Initiatives

- Protection of Civil Rights Act.
- Child Labour Prohibition, 1986.

- Safe guards under Right to Equality - Article 14-17.
- Special provisions for SCs/STs.
- SC/ST Atrocities Act, 1989.
- Reservation of seats under Article 330.

### Economic Justice

- Freedom and economic empowerment of all sections.
- Poverty eradication and financial inclusion of all sections.
- Economic freedom in corporate and public sphere.

### Initiatives / Steps

- Provisions relating to taxation. eg: Article 265 no tax without law.
- Finance Commission to ensure distribution of taxes between states.
- Poverty eradication. eg: MGNREGS



- Taxation powers and GST Council in line with federalism.
- RBI's financial inclusion strategy.

### Political Justice

- Equality in political matters
  - ↓
  - Right to Contest
  - ↓
  - Adult Suffrage
  - ↓
  - Political empowerment  
weaken  
sections
- Multi party system along with free and fair elections.
- Each citizen is politically empowered.

### Legal Steps

- Election Commission under Article 324.
- Adult Suffrage under Article 326.
- Reservation in PRLs/ULBs.
- PESA Act for bringing in disadvantaged sections.

Thus the constitution seeks to achieve "holistic justice".

14. Federal tensions in India highlight the need for reforming the Seventh Schedule through the addition, removal and appropriate placement of entries. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत में संघीय तनाव, प्रविष्टियों को जोड़ने, हटाने और उचित व्यवस्थापन के माध्यम से सातवीं अनुसूची में सुधार की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian constitutional scheme provides for a 3-tiered federal model.

It is based on division of powers in the legislative, executive and judicial sphere.

Legislative powers are divided as per 7th schedule into:

- Union List
- Concurrent List
- State List

### Federal Tensions

- states argue interference in domains by centre.  
eg: APMC ordinance seen as "disguised" interference.
- Against doctrine of pith and substance that divides powers between the 2 organs.
- Concurrent list is subject to overriding power.

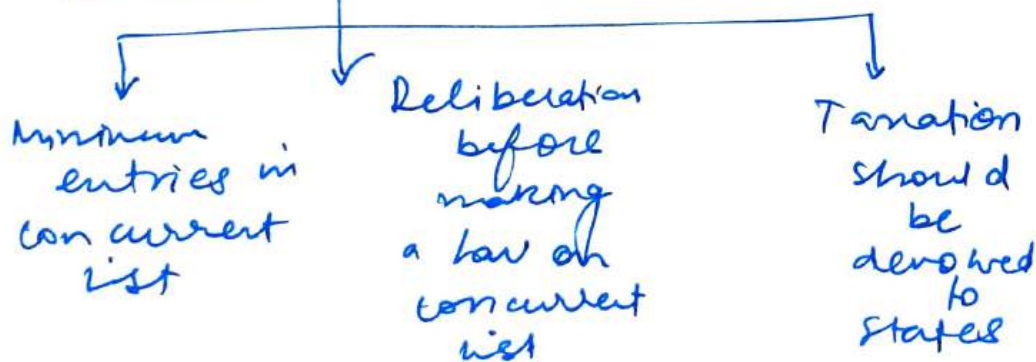


Here law of centre prevails.

- Distribution of legislative matters has also been criticised:
  - Important matters such as environment and disaster management not mentioned.
  - Taxation in concurrent list.
  - Land and family planning need crucial role of centre. However land is in state list.
- Governor's discretion with regards to reservation of bills is also a source of tension.

### Need for reform

- As recommended by Sarkaria Commission:



- Crucial matters such as education, health, Land must be in concurrent list.
  - Frequent conflicts over water sharing  $\Rightarrow$  water to be brought under concurrent list.  
(also said by Minor share Committee)
  - Contract farming and marketing can be delegated to states.
  - Certain matters such as admiralty and divorce can be placed in state list.
  - Since actual work of supplementation is done by states, centre should only control entries that are sensitive to national security.
- Federalism is <sup>part of</sup> basic structure as determined by SC. This calls for appropriate reforms.



15. The 'globalisation' discourse has reinforced the role of civil society in the management of many socio-economic areas that hitherto belonged to the State. Comment.

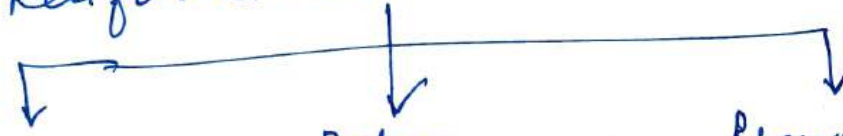
(250 words) 15

'वैश्वीकरण' से संबद्ध संवाद ने ऐसे कई सामाजिक-आर्थिक क्षेत्रों के प्रबंधन में नागरिक समाज की भूमिका को परिपुष्ट किया है जो अब तक राज्य से संबंधित थे। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Post 1991 reforms, India has seen a marked phase of globalization. It has been characterised by increasing inter connectedness and changing role of state.

### Reinforced role of Civil Society

- Shift in governance from provider to "enabler".
- This has created a policy space for civil society.
- Reinforced roles such as:
 



Policy  
formulation

Policy  
implementation

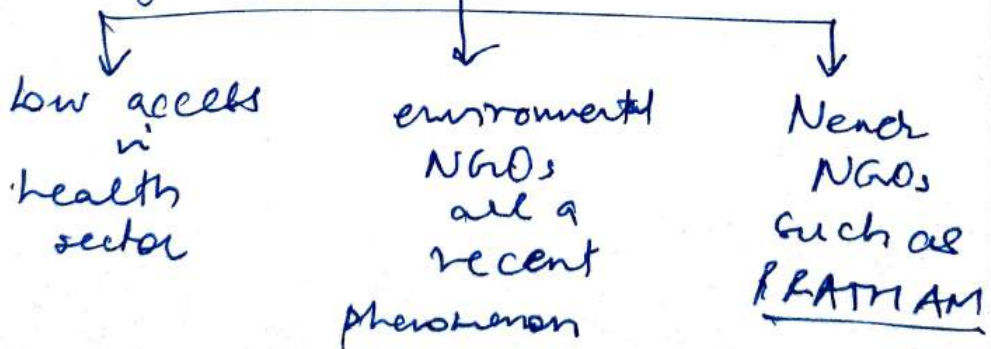
Promoting  
transparency
- Raising prominent issues among the public.
- Globalization has also led to emergence of many I-NGOs.

Examples

- NGOs such as Unnati working for poverty eradication.
- Swachh International working for sanitation.
- CKJ working for ending child labour.
- Jagori & Kudumbashree working for women empowerment.
- Greenpeace & Marmada Bachao in environmental matters.
- PULL/ADR in political reforms.

Management of socio-econ areas

- Many of these areas hitherto belonged to government.





- Provision of basic services has seen as an exclusive role of government.
- ~~More~~ However now NGOs such as Akshaya Patra are also providing MDMS.
- Political reforms had earlier been a demand of spontaneous movements such as Jay Prakash Jan Andolan.

### Some Issues still Remain

- Lack of an enabling policy environment for civil society.
- Issues of funding and misuse of funds due to laundering.
- Exclusive politicization.
- Some organisations promoting foreign propaganda. eg: Kudam Kulem protests.
- Informal nature of sector.

Recognising the role of civil society as the 2nd pillar, the need is of increased engagement.

16. Highlighting the need for reforms in civil services with special focus on the Indian Administrative Services (IAS), critically discuss the apprehensions associated with lateral entry in civil services. (250 words) 15

भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा (IAS) पर विशेष रूप से ध्यान केंद्रित कर तथा सिविल सेवाओं में सुधार की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करते हुए, सिविल सेवाओं में पार्श्व प्रविष्टि (लेटरल एंट्री) से जुड़ी आशंकाओं की आलोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए।

Last 2 decades have seen a shift in the role of government, from a "provider" to a facilitator/enabler. Along with this the role of civil services has also changed.

### Need for reforms

- Issues of accountability and transparency. Many cases of corruption.
- License Raj continues in other forms.
- Bureaucracy, seen to be apathetic to needs of people
- High handed approach and prevalent red tape.
- Excessive politicization, and loss of independence.

These issues are also true for IAS. It also suffers from:



- Centre state conflict over ultimate control and transfer.
- Method of appointment is seen as outdated.

- Concentration of power, due to secretarial positions going to IAS.

### Apprehensions with Lateral Entry

- Specialists have a narrow vision compared to generalists.
- May be absorbed into the very bureaucratic culture they sought to change.
- Not upto date with functioning of government. This leads to:
  - Issues of procedural correctness.
  - Non flexibility of such bureaucrats, a concern.
- Cannot be transferred across departments due to their specialised role.

At the same time it has many  
positives:

- Administration will be by experts  
and not generalists.
- Policies will be sound, and have  
the required depth.
- Involvement of private sector,  
will bring private sector's:
  - professionalism
  - competence
- May lead to increased transparency  
by bringing in dedicated people.
- Not everyone can clear exam  
to join. Such people would get  
chance to serve nation.

### Way Forward

- Some departments should take  
in bureaucrats on a "need basis".
- Reforms such as 
 → Mission Karmayogi  
 → 360° Review
- Better enforcement through CBI  
and CVC

Civil services reforms will lead to  
better governance.



17. Online education is gaining traction in India due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Identify the different challenges that need to be addressed before it can emerge as a feasible alternative to classroom learning in India. Suggest some measures to address the above-identified challenges.

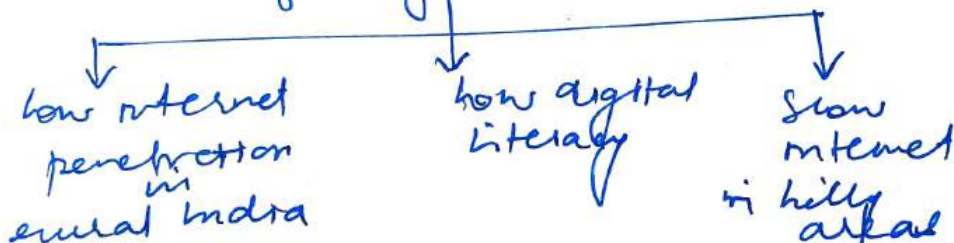
(250 words) 15

वर्तमान में जारी कोविड-19 संकट के कारण भारत में ऑनलाइन शिक्षा बढ़ रही है। उन विभिन्न चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए जिन्हें भारत में कक्षा अधिगम (क्लासरूम लर्निंग) के एक व्यवहार्य विकल्प के रूप में इसके उभरने से पूर्व दूर किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। उपर्युक्त चुनौतियों का समाधान करने हेतु कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

COVID crisis led to smelting down of schools, colleges and coachings. This led to a sudden increase in online teaching.

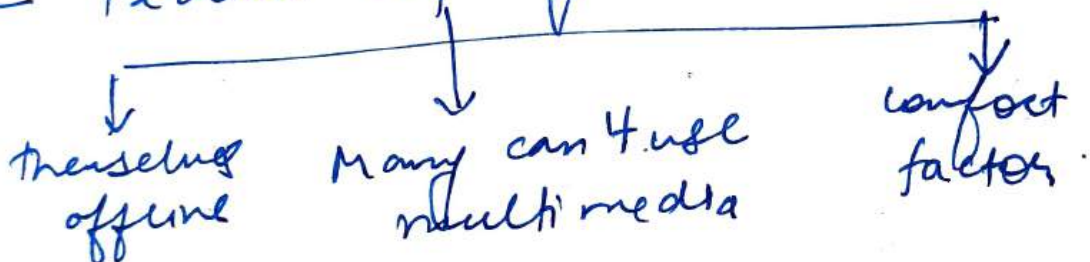
### Challenges Associated

- Issue of digital divide

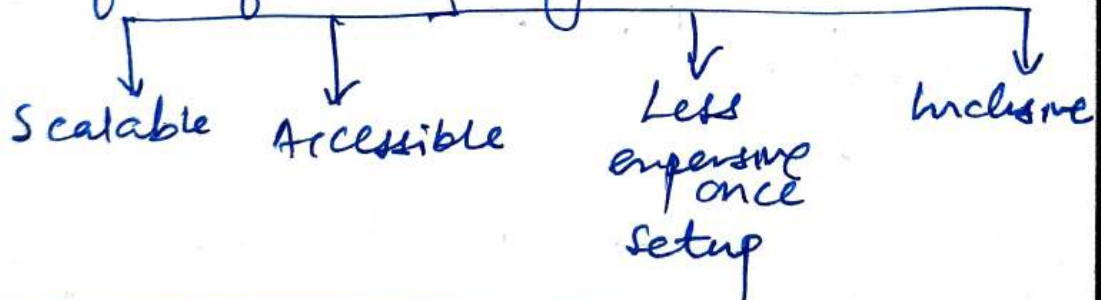


- Linguistic issue: Mostly content is still in major languages.
- Issue of cyberthreats such as:
  - Cyberbullying of children
  - Cyberstalking of girls
  - Adult content

- Lack of socialisation, due to anonymity. This is not good for mental health of children.
- Eye strain due to excess use of computer and laptop.
- Not "personal" in nature. The human element is missing.
- Infrastructural setup is expensive.
- Teacher Capacity



### Benefits of e-learning



### Measures to address issues

- Increase spending on education, from 4.6% of GDP to 6%.



- International collaboration such as World Bank's STARS Project.
- Increase digital reach, through Digital India Mission.
- Deal with cyber issues through:
  - ① CERT-In involvement
  - ② Raising awareness
- Role in private sector to provide platform. eg: Khan Academy.
- NGOs can offer teaching at low cost from decentralized places.  
eg: Teach for India.
- Create a policy for digital education. This is still missing.

### Way Forward

Education comes under concurrent list and hence calls for cooperative federalism. Further the case is for blended learning (BL)

BL = e Learning + offline Learning.

18. In recent times, Randomised Control Trials (RCTs) have acquired salience in policy debates. In the context of poverty alleviation programmes in India, discuss the role RCTs can play in policy formulation. (250 words) 15

हाल के समय में, रैंडमाइज्ड कंट्रोल ट्रायल (RCTs) नीतिगत बहस का महत्वपूर्ण भाग बन गया है। भारत में निर्धनता उन्मूलन कार्यक्रमों के संदर्भ में, नीति-निर्माण में RCTs द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका की विवेचना कीजिए।

RCTs came into prominence post the Nobel Prize being awarded to Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo.

What are RCTs?

- Conducting trials on randomised sample spaces.
- The external factors are controlled.
- Each factor is changed one at a time and the effect is noted.
- This leads to observation of overall impacts and their correlation with various factors.

Role RCTs Can Play

- Provide evidence based policy making.
- Policies will be more in line with demands of people.



- Will lead to a bottom up approach to governance.
- Shift focus from output to outcome.
- Increase transparency in funds distribution by identifying leakages.
- Better governance redressal mechanisms can be setup.

### Examples

- It was found that vaccine schemes were failing due to "vaccine hesitancy." Thus appropriate policy changes could be made.
- Toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat were not being used in many cases.
  - Issue of Output vs Outcome.
  - Need of "Nudge" in policy implementation.
- Role of poverty alleviation schemes could be studied effectively.

- issues of inaccessibility of schemes was studied in case of PDS.
- Why RCTs are not mainstreamed?
- low awareness about the role and usage of RCTs.
- Data governance is poor.
- Fudging of data is also seen in some cases.
- No policy with regards to usage of RCTs.
- Functionaries are not skilled in matters of data collection and interpretation.

### Way forward

Successful examples of African AIDS tackling has shown the importance of RCTs. The need is to incorporate RCTs into policy making.



19. Internationally the rise of protectionism and changing approach of many countries towards migration may have a significant impact on the Indian Diaspora. Explain.

**(250 words) 15**

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर उभरते हुए संरक्षणवाद और प्रवासन के प्रति कई देशों के परिवर्तित होते दृष्टिकोण का भारतीय डायस्पोरा पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव पड़ सकता है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।





1414

**VISION IAS™**

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

# VISION IAS

Don't write  
anything like  
this  
or you will  
lose marks

70. In the contemporary Indian context, how significant are women's representation in terms of the representation of their views and perspectives on national issues? (250 words) 15
- वर्तमान भारतीय संदर्भ में, महिलाओं की प्रतिनिधित्व का राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों पर उनके विचारों और दृष्टिकोणों के संदर्भ में महत्वपूर्ण है।
- महिलाओं की भागीदारी के माध्यम से, समाज के सभी पहलुओं का ध्यान रखा जा सकता है, जिससे नीति निर्धारण में अधिक समावेशी दृष्टिकोण प्राप्त होता है।
- यदि हम इसे एक विस्तृत रूप में देखें, तो महिलाओं की भागीदारी के माध्यम से, समाज के सभी पहलुओं का ध्यान रखा जा सकता है, जिससे नीति निर्धारण में अधिक समावेशी दृष्टिकोण प्राप्त होता है।



1414

**VISION IAS™**

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

Visit us : [www.visionias.in](http://www.visionias.in)

Call us : 8468022022, 9019066066

