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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 875)

Name of Candidate	MUKUL JAMLOKI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	28393
Center	Old Rajendra Nagar	Date	11-10-17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

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. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. Centralising recruitment through an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS) will not address the multiple problems in the judiciary and cause new ones instead. Critically evaluate.

अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा (AIJS) के माध्यम से केंद्रीयकृत भर्ती न्यायपालिका में विद्यमान विभिन्न समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं करेगा अपितु उसके स्थान पर नई समस्याएं उत्पन्न करेगा। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

*It's been long recommended
that there's a need to centralise recruitment
through an All India Judicial Service, which
could address the multiple problems in the
judiciary. (eg. ARC 1, Purkhi Commn)*

*However, the problems in the
judiciary are more of the fundamental nature
and require structural reforms.*

*• Inadequacy in the number of judges:
ratio of 15.5/million in India while 107/million
in the USA;*

*• culture of adjournments and reservation of
judgements → hence excruciatingly slow*

judicial process; more than 30 million pending cases in the entire judiciary;

- lack of adequate alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as plea bargaining, fast-track courts, etc;
- the failure of the collegium process to select and appoint the best brains to the Bench;
- lack of infra & revenue resources;
- docket explosion, particularly with respect to PILs;
- the government is the biggest litigant, and the attitude "let the courts decide"

AJIS, although has some merit, but won't change things much

until the above broad-based multiple structural reforms take place. It rather would create problems with respect to seniority, uniformity & pattern of syllabus clearly disadvantaging those from rural areas, and a problem for the settled collegium process.

Justice must be seen as a public good and a fundamental right by the State. Hence AIJS may also be institutionalised, but not without structural reforms and a broad-based consensus.

————— x —————

2. The roots of the most pertinent challenges faced by Indian politics today can be traced to the lack of intra-party democracy in candidate selection and internal elections. Discuss.

वर्तमान समय में भारतीय राजनीति द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों के चिन्हों को उम्मीदवार के चयन और आंतरिक चुनावों में दलों के भीतर लोकतंत्र की कमी में देखा जा सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Indian politics today is ~~are~~ plagued by the lack of democratic ethos and decline of ethical-moral principles in the functioning of political parties.

In some parties, there's dynastic succession, and in some tickets are distributed on the basis of money power. In some, pressure groups act as valuable instruments ⁱⁿ ~~white~~ candidate selection, while in some criminal elements have come together to pursue money laundering in the name of political parties.

There's criminalisation, communalisation, casteism and corruption in the inner politik of parties. Parliamentary democracy's emphasis on numbers exacerbates this crisis.

Even-~~ps~~ Intra-party democracy exists only for the name sake and candidate selection is usually made by the party high command. This culture of high command disrupts development of grassroots level politics and incentivises workers to copy up with the main leaders instead of focussing on social work.

To counter these challenges, the following measures can be institutionalised:

- codifying a separate chapter in the constitution wrt internal functioning of political parties;
- broad-based statutory provisions wrt

revocation of members indulging in not just illegal acts, but ethically immoral acts;

· giving punitive powers to Election Commission, esp under Schedule X;

· judiciary taking a pro-active role in implementing sections of RPA '50 & '51;

The Indian democracy can not flourish until inner-party democracy is nurtured in political parties.

_____ x _____

3. While the idea behind merger of autonomous bodies in India is to curb overlapping work and reduce expenditure, it may end up doing more harm than good. Discuss.

यद्यपि भारत में स्वायत्त निकायों के विलय के पीछे निहित कारण उनके कार्यों में व्याप्त अतिव्यापन को रोकना और व्यय को कम करना है, लेकिन यह स्थिति को सुधारने के स्थान पर अधिक नुकसान कर सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Autonomous bodies in India are usually quasi-judicial in nature, such as the CBSE, or the Competition Commission, or the Sports Authority of India, etc.

However, there's an idea increasingly occupying the political ideology that there's a need to ~~over~~ curb overlapping work & reduce expenditure, especially w.r.t. to tribunals established under Article 323A and 323B.

The same was implemented via the Finance Bill (Amendment) Act, 2017 to merge as many as eight tribunals, and

give executive control wth the rules for employment and appointment to these bodies.

The arguments given in favour of this rationalisation of tribunals is to produce efficiency, economy ~~and~~ and equity in their functioning. Hence they would discharge their original aim: imparting quick and inexpensive justice, in both letter & spirit.

However, this rationalisation and merger seems to be ~~reconciliation~~ in haste, because:

- unintelligent merger, eg. Airport Services Authority merged with Telecom Disputes Appellate Tribunal;
- sole executive control is a violation of principles of natural justice because the

governed itself is one of the biggest litigants;

- bypassing of Parliamentary oversight by misusing Money Bill route, sets a bad precedent;
- no efforts to delineate the responsibilities and jurisdiction according to modern principles;

There's a need to roll back on the phenomena of 'Tribunalization' but the same cannot be arbitrary and reactionary, that too on the sole basis of executory discretion.

_____ x _____

4. Well-defined electoral laws and greater powers for the Election Commission of India are required as the existing laws and mechanisms are inadequate to deal with new challenges. Analyse.

सुपरिभाषित चुनावी कानूनों एवं भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के लिए अधिकाधिक शक्तियों की आवश्यकता हैं, क्योंकि मौजूदा कानून और तंत्र नई चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए अपर्याप्त हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Election Commission of India is one of the four pillars of the Constitution, and is the guardian of the Indian democracy.

Today, the Indian system of parliamentary democracy is plagued by the ills of corruption, casteism, communalism, and criminalisation. The existing legislative provisions in the Constitution or statutory provisions in the RPA 1950 & 1951 are increasingly proving inadequate to deal with the challenges of our times.

Hence there's a need for well-defined electoral laws and greater powers for the ECI:

- powers under Schedule X;
- powers to countermand elections;
- electoral financing reforms, and not retrograde steps like electoral bonds;
- more resources allocated to ECI;
- some sort of contempt power;
- the members of the ECI should be appointed on the recommendations of a broad-based committee and not just executive discretion;
- codification of a separate chapter in the Constitution w.r.t inner functioning of political parties;

- revisiting the Lily Thomas Judgement, 2013;
- change 2 yrs to 1.5 yrs in Sec 84(3)
of RPA(1951);
- fast-track trials of legislators;
- asking candidates not just to give
details of property, but sources of such
property & reentraining them for
care of disproportionate assets

Progressive judgements like Gill VS
CEC (1977) can also help us in dealing
with challenges of electoral politics.

5. Privileges should be defined and delimited for the free and independent functioning of the legislatures. In this context, discuss whether there is a need to re-examine the balance between fundamental rights and parliamentary privileges in India.

विधानमंडलों के मुक्त और स्वतंत्र कामकाज के लिए विशेषाधिकार परिभाषित और सीमांकित होने चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में, चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या भारत में मूल अधिकारों और संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के मध्य संतुलन के पुनः परीक्षण की आवश्यकता है?

Privileges are special rights
available to the members of legislatures to
put forward the grievances of their people
and enable them to perform their responsibilities
to the best of their abilities.

The source of privileges are
Constitution, convention, rules of the House, etc.
The origin of ~~the~~ privileges lies in the
anxiety of British Parliament to protect
its independence against the despotic monarchy.

The privileges are not in
conflict with Article 14 of the Constitution
because ~~there~~ they enhance the rights

of citizens when the legislators give representation to the needs, concerns, grievances, etc of their people. In ~~a~~ ^{this} way, privileges enhance and broaden our fundamental rights.

But following the recent case ^{in Karnataka}, where a journalist was sentenced to one year imprisonment for writing about a legislator's alleged corrupt actions, there's a need to ensure that there are curbs on the extent to which privileges can be exercised.

Instead of pursuing defamation proceedings, use of privileges for personal interests, ethically constitutes breach of privilege and contempt of the House.

The courts must step in to balance Article 19(1)(a) with privileges here and there

must be a broad based ^{political} consensus over
what can be the limit to which privileges
can be leveraged.

_____ x _____

6. The principle of accountability is an essential part of the rule of law. In this context, discuss the lacunae in government's approach and judiciary's response to the phenomenon of extrajudicial killings in India.

उत्तरदायित्व का सिद्धांत विधि के शासन का एक अनिवार्य अंग है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में न्यायेतर हत्या की घटनाओं के प्रति सरकार के दृष्टिकोण एवं न्यायपालिका की प्रतिक्रिया में विद्यमान कमियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The principle of accountability refers to the answerability of the public servant for the action taken and the possibility of enforceability, i.e. penalty if found that the action was illegal.

Extrajudicial killings in India constitute gross violation of fundamental rights and abrogation of principles of natural justice. Fabricated encounters, prison-deaths, killings ~~under~~ under AFSPA, UAPA, and other draconian legislations constitute ~~even~~ extra-judicial killings, where the life of a person is taken away in a manner

other than the procedure established by law.

The main lacunae in government's approach that leads to repeated instances of extra-judicial killings is the lack of accountability and vested interests. The government aims to amass power at the cost of freedoms enjoyed by the ~~just~~ citizens, to ~~not~~ pursue its own interests. There's a need for police reforms, which can bring professionalism in the working of law enforcement agencies and enforce and fix accountability for lapses and illegal acts committed.

The judiciary has always tried to uphold the rule of law and preserve the fundamental rights of the citizens. Since the ADM Jabalpur case where there was a gross violation of the principles of natural justice, the judiciary has progressively ruled in the

favour of victims. But weakness in investigative mechanisms and weak prosecution makes conviction difficult, as seen in the Harkimpura massacre in 1987.

The apex court gave a landmark ruling in 2016 when it withdrew the complete immunity given under AFSPA, and also held that each death's cause must be investigated to determine if the fundamental rights were jeopardised.

But this is mere incrementalism. We have to move over the piecemeal approach, strengthen the NHRC that investigates into such complaints and bring police reforms to fix accountability.

————— X —————

7. Explain the rationale behind enacting the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. Discuss how it can help in revitalizing consumer confidence in the real estate market. Also highlight the hurdles that remain in implementing it.

स्थावर संपदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) कानून, 2016 {रियल एस्टेट (रेगुलेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट) एक्ट, 2016} को अधिनियमित करने के पीछे निहित तर्क की व्याख्या कीजिए। चर्चा कीजिए कि यह स्थावर संपदा बाजार में उपभोक्ताओं के विश्वास को पुनः सशक्त करने में किस प्रकार सहायता कर सकता है। साथ ही इसके क्रियान्वयन में विद्यमान बाधाओं पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 is considered a transformational legislation that'd help stem the hazards of unplanned urbanisation, enable securing the interests of home buyers and curb the parallel black money economy.

The main provisions of this legislation are:

all real estate developers will have to get registered with state RERA bodies, affiliated to the Union RERA authority.

- transparency & clarity in terms of contract and clear information about the ^{built-up} area and facilities offered;
- 70% of the booked amount would be kept in separate escrow account which cannot be used until delivery of homes;
- timeliness in delivery of homes, otherwise pecuniary fines;
- adequate safeguards & quality monitoring of quality of the construction;

The legislation brings a balance to the so-far ~~real~~ practical situation where unscent & gullible buyers faced uncertainty and sometimes even cases of fraud.

The hurdles that remain in implementing it are :

- lack of digital land records;
- ~~jurisdiction~~ ^{administrative} jungle in urban areas, eg.
Delhi → MCD, DDA, Delhi govt, Union govt;
- failure of States to legislate local RERA laws by 01-05-17;
- no respite for existing cases of citizens' despair → ~~As~~ such as in Greater Noida;
- no body to certify the new advts of real estate houses;

The Act must be implemented in letter & spirit, along with structural reforms such as digitisation of land records, to bring tangible results.

— x —

8. Moving the subject of water from state list to concurrent list will solve the issues related to governance of water resources. Comment.

जल को राज्य सूची के विषय से समवर्ती सूची में स्थानांतरित करने से जल संसाधन के प्रशासन से संबंधित मुद्दों का समाधान हो जाएगा। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

'Water' has always been an emotive issue when it comes to inter-state relations. Given the fact that climate change is going to exacerbate water crises in the future, the interstate relations ~~is~~ are going to get hampereed and deadlocked on the issue of sharing of interstate rivers.

A major reason for ~~this~~ these interstate water disputes lingering on for years is that the Interstate Water Disputes Act, 1956 being totally ineffective. The tribunals set up have been adhoc, the award has taken years to be declared and after the upper riparian state has

refused to comply with the award given. Then the River Basins Act, 1956 has so far remained a deadwood.

Then, although the subject has been in the State List and Union cannot legally intervene, yet the Union should've ideally because it has even a Water Resources Ministry. But the Union govt has always adopted a minimalist approach when it comes to water disputes because of political vested interests.

Last but not the least, although the Water Disputes Act, 1956 prohibited any intervention by the courts but the apex court last year accepted a PIL filed by the Karnataka govt therefore

further complicating the case.

To solve this issue, the recently introduced Interstate River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 is a welcome step. It establishes a permanent tribunal, and would announce a binding award within 4.5 years.

In addition to that, ideally 'water' should be moved to the concurrent list.

This would enable the govt more legal space to act, but politics - bureaucratic will would be needed still to resolve the issues.

_____ x _____

9. Give an account of the areas of potential conflict in the relationship between the political executive and civil servants. Also discuss why a healthy working relationship between the two is critical for good governance.

राजनीतिक कार्यकारी और सिविल सेवकों के मध्य संबंधों में संभावित संघर्ष के क्षेत्रों का विवरण दीजिए। साथ ही चर्चा कीजिए कि सुशासन के लिए दोनों के बीच स्वस्थ कार्यशील संबंध क्यों महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

The civil services is an instrument of governance under the constitution. The political executive which gets the mandate from the people has the legal & ethical right to employ this instrument to fulfill this mandate.

The problems arise when the civil services begin to view themselves as an institution in its own right and refuse to work ^{simply} ~~simply~~ as an instrument.

Ideally, its role is policy implementation but conflict arises when it begins to exercise policy formulation to the disregard of the political executive.

Problems also arise when civil servants don't display impartiality & non-partisanship in their functioning and give politically motivated advice to the political executive.

The ~~same~~ 'anonymity' role of the civil servants can also be abused, when the political executive, innocent of the technicalities of administration, have to ^{pay} ~~take~~ the political cost of misadministration. eg. Mendon scan (1953)

A healthy working relationship between the two is critical for good governance because it enables the best possible utilization of the capabilities and competences of the two. The political executive understands the problems of the citizens and enjoys public trust, and can

implemented even tough-to-digest reforms
if they're beneficial in the long run.

The civil servants, though often conservative
to ~~an~~ insensitive to grand realities, can
help suggest the best reforms in
administration to ameliorate people's sufferings.

The civil services, ^{as an instrument} must accept the
primacy of the political executive, which gets
the people's mandate to exercise this
instrument of governance.

_____ x _____

10. Despite their location in the non-political domain of civil society, NGOs have ended up playing a key, if indirect, role in India's politics. Comment.

सिविल सोसाइटी के गैर-राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में स्थिति होने के बावजूद भी गैर-सरकारी संगठन (NGOs) भारत की राजनीति में भले ही अप्रत्यक्ष, लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण, भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

NGOs are groups of people united to pursue a common cause by sensitising the government and the citizenry via public platforms and speech and advocacy.

In the political domain, NGOs like ADR, PUCL, Common Cause, etc. have enabled new norms of transparency in working of parties & electoral funding, and enhancement of civil liberties, eg. Lily Thomas case (2013), additional affidavit in candidates' nomination, etc.

In the socio-economic domain, NGOs have led advocacy campaigns for Right to

Information, Right to Education, Right to Food, etc. Legislations have been subsequently enacted on these subjects;

In the environment domain, NGOs have led campaigns against developmental projects which disrupt livelihoods, or nuclear-thermal power plants being set up without proper EIA and SIA, or in the grant of traditional forest rights to tribals;

NGOs have also advocated disarmament, preservation of media freedom, leading campaigns against archaic social traditions like khaps or child marriages, etc

Challenges in working of NGOs

They often working in silos, and hence allegations of money-laundering & indulging in anti-state activities;

- less than 10% file annual income tax returns under FCRA rules;
- increasingly resorting to protection under FEMA, when ideally FCRA is the broad umbrella;

The 2nd ARC credited the N40s for building 'social capital'. There's a need to balance the need to pursue advocacy of public causes ~~free~~ with independence, at the same time maintaining concerns about security & integrity of India.

— x —

11. Magnitude of India's urbanisation is not unusual but the pattern is. In this context, examine the issues in the governance of cities in India. Also suggest the reforms required to make Indian cities dynamos of competitive sub-federalism.

भारत के शहरीकरण का विस्तार असामान्य नहीं है लेकिन पैटर्न असामान्य है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरों के प्रशासन से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही भारतीय शहरों को प्रतिस्पर्धी उप-संघवाद के डायनेमो बनाने के लिए आवश्यक सुधारों हेतु सुझाव दीजिए।

According to census 2011,
population
31% of Indian ~~cities~~ lives in urban centres
and by 2031, it's going to exceed 50%.

However, the urbanisation
witnessed in India isn't planned and
hence we are facing ^a plethora of governance
issues in the governance of cities.

- unmitigated and rampant migration;
- slums, ghettos, suburbanisation at unplanned-rapid scale;
- pressure on water & electricity utilities;
- pollution of natural resources;

- increasing crime, esp against women;
- administrative jungle, eg. Delhi $\rightarrow$ DDA,
- MCD, Delhi govt & Union govt;
- ineffective governance due to inadequate capacity-building of functionaries;

However, it isn't too late and structural reforms can go a long way in improving the governance.

- careful delineation of responsibilities according to Schedule VII A;
- adequate devolution of funds, functions, functionaries, and framework;
- capacity building of functionaries;
- reform real estate, taxation laws;

- politico-bureaucratic will to carry out
structural reforms

Cities are the engines of growth,
contributing to nearly two-thirds of GDP.

The above reforms are required to make these
cities dynamos of competitive sub-federalism.

_____ x _____

12. Social boycott should be treated as a criminal offence, rather than being considered as just another form of social evil plaguing the Indian society. Examine.

सामाजिक बहिष्कार को वस्तुतः भारतीय समाज को अभिषेक करने वाली सामाजिक बुराई का केवल एक अन्य रूप मानने के बजाय, एक आपराधिक कृत्य माना जाना चाहिए। परीक्षण कीजिए।

Social boycott is an adverse form of social behavior that's used to perpetrate psychological and social violence on individuals.

It's usually used as a weapon against those elements in the society that intentionally or unintentionally violate the established norms of the society, such as intercaste marriages, changing generations, old traditional profession, adopting new forms of cultural traditions or paraphernalia.

In most cases, it's perpetrated

against the marginalised sections, such as Dalits, minorities, women, etc. The psychological harm done is long-lasting and can take dangerous forms such as even suicide. It can cause despair and depression and prevents social mobility, hence the society cannot evolve and hence degenerates.

However, not all forms of social boycott are undesirable. It's absolutely right to socially boycott the bootleggers, those who are daily drunkards, those who engage in domestic abuse, those who don't vote or don't pay taxes and ^{don't} perform fundamental duties, such as keeping our environs clean.

Use of social boycott ~~is~~ is a perverse tool to penalise ethical and legal behaviour has to be criminalised, such as the dictates of khaps or fatwas of sharia courts that violate any of the fundamental rights. In this regard, Maharashtra has recently introduced a Bill, criminalising social boycott, in 2018.

Unethical social boycott for vested interests is a perverse evil that must be ripped in the bud, using legislative & statutory provisions.

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13. Human Trafficking in India has emerged as a serious issue, which calls for understanding the complexity of the problem and devising an effective strategy to combat it. Discuss.

भारत में मानव दुर्व्यापार एक गंभीर समस्या के रूप में उभरा है, जो समस्या की जटिलता समझने एवं इससे मुकाबला करने के लिए एक प्रभावी रणनीति तैयार करने का आह्वान करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Human trafficking is a perverse form of social violence that violates the fundamental rights of the victim and in process, violates a number of legal dictats.

Human trafficking is a complex and rampant issue in the whole of South Asia, particularly at the India - Nepal and India - Myanmar borders. It takes place due to need for bonded labour & sex trade. Innocent and gullible individuals are lured by benefits and ^{promised} jobs, only to be pushed into the dark world.

However, it's not just a social problem which creates demand for human trafficking.

It points to ineffectiveness & corruption in the law enforcement machinery in carrying out its duties.

The comprehensive strategy to combat it comprises the following steps:

- stringent checking at borders;
- local law enforcement agencies taking note of domestic helps and prostitutes in the areas;
- punishing the ~~convicted~~ criminals via fast-track trials;
- rehabilitation of victims;
- formalisation of domestic helps and prostitutes

by bringing them under labour laws;

· inter county & inter-state coordination to
bust trafficking cartels;

The recently introduced Human
Trafficking Bill, 2016 is a step in the right
direction. To effectively implement it,
inter-agency coordination & cooperation shall
be the key.

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14. A weak teacher education system is at the core of India's problems in school education. Evaluate. In this context, also enumerate the recommendations of the High-Powered Commission on Teacher Education constituted by the Supreme Court of India.

कमजोर शिक्षक शिक्षा प्रणाली स्कूली शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भारत की समस्याओं के मूल में है। मूल्यांकन कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा गठित शिक्षक शिक्षा पर उच्च-स्तरीय आयोग की अनुशंसाओं को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

The Indian education system suffers from a number of challenges that have reduced the quality of outcomes and hence India is finding it hard to realise its demographic dividend.

One of the challenges is the weak teacher education, which manifests in the form of :

- only 79% teachers in rural areas possess the relevant educational qualifications, as per ASER 2014 report by Pratham foundation;

- even in the case of those who possess relevant qualifications, there are qualitative deficits;
- teacher absenteeism;
- teachers have been overburdened with administrative responsibilities under the CCE system, which affects teaching outcomes;
- casualisation → guest teachers → lack of job security affects efforts;
- delays & leakages in salaries kill the motivation to teach better;

In this context, a HPC on Teacher Education constituted by the apex court gave the following recommendations:

- uniform and high quality syllabus to be formulated, with ample scope for incorporating local designs;

- only those possessing relevant qualifications should be allowed under RTE (2009);
- periodic tests to weed out the non-performers,
- skill training missions to enable the teachers to contribute towards the better quality and outcomes

In the light of the above recommendations, the recent amendment to the RTE giving a 2 year - window to unqualified teachers is one step forward, two steps backward. There's a need to penalise non-compliance & shift focus from outlays to learning outcomes.

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15. It has been argued that the recent order of the Supreme Court to prevent the misuse of Section 498A institutionalises the prejudices and rehabilitates the myths, which the women's movement in India has battled over decades. Discuss.

यह तर्क दिया जा रहा है कि धारा 498A के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट का हालिया आदेश वस्तुतः उन पूर्वाग्रहों को संस्थागत एवं उन मिथकों को पुनर्स्थापित करता है, जिनसे भारत में महिला आंदोलन ने कई दशकों तक संघर्ष किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

From 2012 to 2014, nearly 48000
dowry-related deaths took place in India
and FIRs were filed in 93.1% cases
under Section 498A of IPC. However the
low conviction rate of barely 14% made the
apex court issue the recent order to prevent
misuse of Sec 498A, originally meant to
prevent cruelty towards women.

Provisions in the new order:

- formation of district welfare committees
which would examine all complaints under
Sec 498A on whose recommendations police
would use to approach the case;
- out of station accused will not be asked

to be present for hearings;

- direct arrest only if tangible observation of physical violence or death;
- penalty if false cases discovered;

The main issue involved here is the perception of the alleged misuse of Sec 498A

among the patriarchal society. ^{But} Arbitrary arrests by the police can be used for extortion and end the possibility of any reconciliation.

Then there's a social stigma attached to arrest, particularly for the unmarried women members of the accused's family.

But there's a need to understand that the low conviction rate is due to the excruciatingly slow moving judicial process, which compels women to eventually

withdraw the cases. The fact that FIRs are filed in 93.1% cases even when the police isn't empathetic and cooperative enough, points to the miniscule number of fake cases among the total numbers.

The 2014 judgement which gave a 9- check point list was progressive enough.

The 2017 judgement now effectively dilutes Sec 498A, and the protection provided to millions of genuine victims now stands jeopardised.

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16. As strategic interests between India and US continue to converge, defence has emerged as a major area of cooperation between the two. Discuss the significance and possible implications of this development.

जैसा कि भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के बीच रणनीतिक हितों का एकीकरण जारी है, रक्षा दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग के एक प्रमुख क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है। इस विकास के महत्व और संभावित निहितार्थों की चर्चा कीजिए।

In terms of geopolitics, USA is a waning superpower, trying to hold on to its pre-eminent position in the world order, while India is a rising world power, trying to grow faster and take care of its socio-economic and geo-strategic challenges.

It's a unique opportunity that these two powers, which were at the different ends of spectrum when it came to world politics, are finding a convergence on a host of issues. The China-factor, stabilisation of Afghanistan and fighting extremist terror are the

foundation of this new relationship.

The 123 Nuclear Deal and signing of the Strategic Partnership in 2010 have taken the relationship to new heights. In 2016, India signed Le MoA with the USA, giving permission to each other's navies to use domestic berthing facilities during humanitarian relief and disaster rescue.

The Malabar Naval Exercise, the joint army & air force exercises, sale of 20-
raptor UAVs, and possible sale of 5th
gen F-16s of Lockheed Martin have set the course for future defence cooperation.

This relationship can jointly check the rise of an assertive & belligerent China, uphold freedom of navigation of the

seas, fight state proxies of terror & destroy
their safe havens and stabilise Afghanistan
and Central Asia. We can together emerge as a
net security provider across Asia-Pacific,
foiling China's String of Pearls strategy.

However, our ^{own} domestic ^{foreign} policy flipflops
and Trump's reactionary policy moves can
foil our plans. India, however, no doubt is
emerging as a great swing state in the
global governance structure.

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17. India's contribution to peacekeeping missions of the United Nations has remained steadfast despite changes in the nature, form and variety of UN peace keeping missions. Examine.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति स्थापना अभियानों (UN peace keeping missions) की प्रकृति, ढाँचे और आयामों में परिवर्तन के बावजूद संयुक्त राष्ट्र के शांति स्थापना अभियानों में भारत का योगदान निरंतर बना हुआ है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

18. India's partnership with Africa is an amalgam of African development priorities as well as India's development objectives. Discuss. Also highlight the initiatives taken by India in this context.

अफ्रीका के साथ भारत की साझेदारी अफ्रीका के विकास की प्राथमिकताओं के साथ-साथ भारत के विकास लक्ष्यों का सम्मिश्रण है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही भारत द्वारा इस संदर्भ में की गई पहलों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

Africa is an important ^{piece} ~~part~~ of the great jigsaw puzzle in our quest for a big role in world politics by successfully tackling our socio-economic & geo-strategic challenges.

India had trade worth \$65 bn with Africa in 2014, and a net investment of \$35 bn. Indian MNCs have acquired valuable stakes in domestic industries of countries like Zimbabwe, Kenya and South Africa. Support of the 54 member states from Africa is crucial in the democratisation of UNO & the success of Paris Climate agreement.

Africa is crucial for oil & gas, nuclear, and other strategic resources like zinc, iron, copper and bauxite. There's a vast untapped potential of polymetallic nodules along the African littoral states in the Indian Ocean. Africa can provide a big boost to Make in India, Digital India and Skill India.

At the same time, Africa stands to benefit from the Indian capacity - building efforts and investments & transfer of technology.

Some initiatives taken by India are:

- \$10 bn line of credit promised;
- EXIM bank → \$8bn approx loans;
- Indian Navy providing security to littoral states against pirates & disaster relief;
- e-Pan Africa network → tele-medicine,

tele-education;

- Africa Asia Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) → for capacity building efforts;
- generating local employment through exploitation of domestic potential of economy;

India must walk the talk on investments & transfer of technology. The envisioned Asia-Africa Growth Corridor is going to be the next big step in our relationship.

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19. Comment on the role of International Court of Justice in upholding the values of international law. In this context, also highlight the association of India with the ICJ over the years.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विधि के मूल्यों को बनाए रखने में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय की भूमिका पर टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, विगत वर्षों में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय के साथ भारत के संबंध को भी प्रकाशित कीजिये।

The International Court of Justice is one of the most important institutions under the United Nations, having its HQs at the Hague, Netherlands.

It pronounces rulings and advisory judgements over legal issues submitted to it by member states to resolve mutual disputes according to principles of natural justice and international law. Though the awards aren't binding on the member states, they carry huge moral weight. It's a 15-member body.

India has been associated with

the ICJ in a number of ~~years~~ ways.
Many Indians have served with distinction
on the ICJ Bench. India has amicably
resolved border demarcation issues, both
territorial & marine, with its neighbours
under the auspices of the ICJ.

India ~~is~~ has also upheld the freedom
of navigation of seas, according to the
UNCLOS principle of the Permanent Court
of Arbitration. It actively promotes peaceful
resolution of conflicts on the basis of
advisory jurisdiction of the ICJ.

In the immediate scenario, both
India and Pakistan approached the ICJ
in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case where

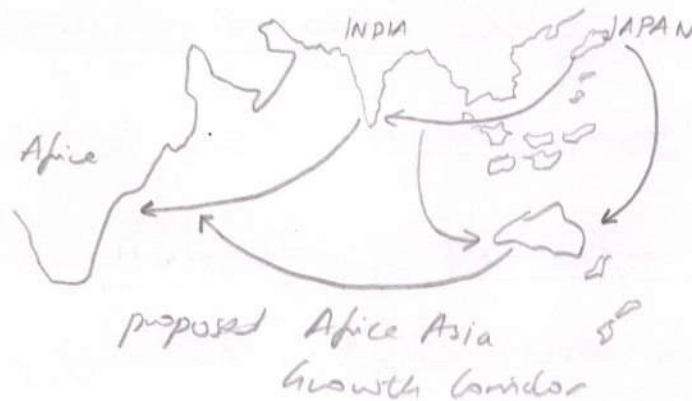
the ICJ asked Pakistan to put on hold Jadhav's death sentence until its final decision and grant India consular access to him under the Vienne Convention, 1963.

The ICJ shall continue to be of great importance in the multipolar world order, in which India is also emerging as a powerful pole.

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20. In view of the focus on trans-regional economic corridors and changing regional geo-politics and geo-economics, critically discuss the idea of an Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor.

पार-क्षेत्रीय आर्थिक गलियारों एवं बदलती क्षेत्रीय भू-राजनीति और भू-अर्थनीति को ध्यान में रखते हुए, भारत-प्रशांत आर्थिक गलियारे के विचार पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।



The 21st century is witnessing the development of trans-regional economic corridors, encompassing both geo-politics and geo-economics.

The Chinese Belt and Road Initiative is a prime example of this strategy. It aims to link more than 4.4 billion people across 65 countries in Asia, Europe and Africa. While its main purpose is to

ensure security of supply of raw materials to the rising industrial giant, but also to erode the strategic space of its neighbors with whom it has conflicts like India, Vietnam and Japan.

With the TPP in limbo, and failed negotiations over TTIP, China is ~~ext~~ increasingly aiming to establish its economic and military hegemony over Asia-Pacific and replacing USA as the next superpower.

In this context, there's an idea of an Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor taking shape that links the economies of Asia, Oceania and Africa, based on principles of mutual equality and respect for territorial sovereignty and strategic concerns. The idea is not to score geo-strategic brownie points

in the garb of connectivity plans, but to share the prosperity and benefits of trade in goods, services, investments, etc.

At a time when China is pursuing its BRI in an assertive and belligerent manner, there's a need for like minded partners like India, Japan, South Korea & Australia to write and counter such reflexive Chinese designs.

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