



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1418)

Name of Candidate	VARUNA AGRAWAL	Registration Number	647031
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Date	28/11/20
Center			

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 सुचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यापीठ, कक्षा 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 (प्रश्नोत्तर) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में दिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेगा।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ निर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

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

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

Q. 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

आम में अनुसूचित जातियों द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं में निपटने के लिए राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग को सशक्त बनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा की जाए।

Article 338 of constitution provides for the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) to monitor & investigate, recommend measures to improve the prospects of scheduled castes.

Need to strengthen

- Only Advisory Function
 - o with no binding powers, government does not follow NCSC recommendations.
- Facing vacancies / appointment issues
 - o Recently NCSC was without chairperson for vacant months, himping its functioning.
 - o Appointments are politically motivated with no proper search and selection committee.
- Poor condition of SCs
 - o faces marble heart of poverty, malnutrition (46% of SCs wasted compared to all India figure)

of 2017. - NFHS 4 Report)

o increasing discrimination cases with no suitable
action - around 12000 complaints are pending
against sexual discrimination faced by SL.
(NESC report)

Way forward

- Giving some binding powers - like in issues
related to sexual discrimination, implementation
of SL specific welfare program.
- Streamlining appointments - by giving an independent
committee the charge and preventing posts from
lying vacant.

Efficient implementation of SL, ST (Prevention of
Atrocities) Act and other welfare legislation
requires NESC to be strengthened to be able
to fulfill its mandate effectively.

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, 1951 provides for disqualification of candidates if convicted for certain offences. Despite this criminalisation is policies is increasing with 26% of MPs having serious criminal cases pending against them (PRS report)

Mechanism under Act

- During elections
 - o Disclosing criminal cases pending / decided against the candidate.
- Post elections
 - o disqualification if convicted
 - against corruption offences
 - for offences like intimidation, sedition
 - for imprisonment of more than 2 yrs.

~~not~~ effect The mechanism has been able to check convicted persons from being elected.

Not effective otherwise

- No action against candidates with pending criminal cases.
- No sufficient action for utilising money and muscle power in election.
- The disclosures do not deter the public from selecting these candidates.

Eg - According to ADR report, criminal candidates are more likely to win the elections.

In light of above inefficiencies, recently supreme court ordered publicity of criminal candidates of politician parties. election commission of India's recommendation to disqualify candidates against whom charge are framed for serious crimes must be implemented to prevent further criminalisation.

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 Act, 2008 was operationalised in 2009 with aim of establishing 5050 Gram Nyayalayas that will help in reducing pendency in lower judiciary by 50%. However only ~ 200 Gram Nyayalayas have been established till date.

Challenges in functioning

- Actions of state Governments / High courts
 - o No suitable fund allocation
 - o No proper appointments made regarding Gram Nyayadhishtari who is judicial magistrate of first class by High courts.
 - o Insufficient Infrastructure provided - Gram Nyayalayas are not equipped with mobile vans.
- Parallel Bodies
 - o various local courts, tribunals exist making

Gram panchayats independent.

- Lack of awareness

o People are not aware about the summary process at Gram panchayats.

Recently Supreme Court ordered state governments to functionalise Gram panchayats within a month. Further steps like providing state Finance Commission the mandate to monitor fund allocation, making high court committee for efficient appointments can be taken for efficient functioning of Gram panchayats.

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 निर्णय सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 'वैकल्पिक तंत्र' स्थापित करने का औचित्य स्पष्ट कीजिए।

'Alternative Mechanisms' in form of empowered groups and public private partnerships are in common use due to wide diverse needs of governance in country.

Rationale behind them

- More citizen centric
 - o By this participatory decision making, expert advice availability then can better assess policy needs.
- Diverse country Needs
 - o Due to wide geographic and socio-economic disparities, these groups help in assessing the differential needs better.
- Encourages transparency and accountability

Alternative Mechanisms are helpful in increasing efficiency and effectiveness of governance. In this regard, recently the government constituted

- 1) empowered groups to undertake better decision making

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 considered as the permanent executive with task of implementing the democratic principles with almost integrity, political neutrality, anonymity and efficiency.

Paradoxical relations

Needs - Means Conflict

- While political representatives in a democracy are better aware about the needs of the public, it is the bureaucracy that is better aware of means available with government to implement an action.

Issue of Accountability / Responsibility

- While bureaucracy is responsible for implementing a scheme, it is the political representatives that is held accountable for the functioning of a scheme. Bureaucracy hence is shielded from public accountability.

Complementary relations- Effective policymaking

- o While political representative provides the ground level report, bureaucracy through its domain expertise helps in better policy making.

- Principle of political neutrality

- o makes bureaucracy is harmless with changing political representatives.
- o It also establishes continuity in policies by bureaucracy being able to guide the political representatives.

Hence: bureaucracy and democracy functions hand in hand to establish good governance and achieve Minimum government, Maximum Governance

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 refers to usage of technology like Information and communication technology, digitisation of processes etc in order to impart governance to public.

Empowers citizens

- 1) By transforming the way governments work
 - o Ease of accessibility - people do not have to physically interact with government and can get their work done electronically.
Eg - Facile tax assessments.
 - o Increasing transparency - By providing more information to public and online grievance portals it has increased accountability.
Eg - CPCGAMS, MyGov.in
 - o Focus on work than earlier focus on process - by time stamping the requests made and time taken for processing.

1) conventory people's participation

- o citizen connectivity with government - by social media, twitter handles allows all better able to express their views to government
- Eg - Stranded citizens during yomam crisis

- o Holding government accountable - In age of technology, it is difficult to work in secrecy.

- o Citizen participation in decision making - ease of collecting and analysing suggestions.
- Eg - Recent National Education Policy 2020 had suggestions from 2.5 lakh people.

Hence e-governance has made government responsive, transparent, accountable and made governance participatory. The recent Nappur Resolution further these principles to effectively utilise e-governance mechanisms.

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

उपरोक्त 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।

The Supreme Court in NALSA judgement (2015) recognised the rights of third gender people. It provided them with right of self-determination and positive discrimination to achieve better human development.

Deletion by Transgender Persons Act 2019

1. Gender certificate requirement

o to be issued by District Magistrate
(no guidelines provided for appeal if rejected)

o after sex-realignment surgery, an individual has to apply to District Magistrate for changing the certificate.

This makes rights of third gender dependent on whims of District Magistrate. Self-determination means an individual should themselves decide their identification. The process is contrary to that.

2. Leave and Rehabilitation scheme

- o It ~~does not~~ consider transgender wishes regarding their settlement.
- o Imposes mandatory condition regarding staying at home.

3. Penalty for crimes

- o Numerous crimes like sape are punished with just 2 yrs penalty compared to life imprisonment / death if committed against females.
- o This goes against principles of equality and right to life.

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 which is a step forward by recognising transgender as right holders, it must be amended to incorporate self-determination principles and remove inequalities.

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 (UHC) refers to a system where health facilities are

- o accessible to all
- o affordable to all (generally free of cost)
- o without discrimination (equity principles)

Achieving by declaring right to health as fundamental

- Makes Government duty bound

- o to provide necessary infrastructure

At present India spends only 1.3% of its GDP while required is 6% of GDP - even National Health Policy provides 2.5% of GDP)

- o to focus on preventive healthcare
Issues like sanitation, nutrition will take centre stage.

- People can demand better health facilities

o Currently there are 1:1400 doctors :
population ratio in India while WHO
mandates 1:1000.

o out of pocket expenditure in India touch
almost 70%.

Right to health forms part of Right to life
as provided under Article 21. However to
achieve Universal Health coverage, mere such
declaration will not be enough.

Further steps needed

- o Resource augmentation and capacity building
 - by utilising traditional medicine personnel
 - by training nurses
 - by activating PPP model in infrastructure.
- o Equal focus on preventive, curative and
predictive healthcare.

9. Indian Diaspora in the Gulf countries is an asset beset with multiple challenges. Comment. (150 words) 10

खाड़ी देशों में भारतीय डायस्पारा अनेक चुनौतियों से घिरी एक परिसंपत्ति है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

India has a diaspora of 17.5 mn people with Gulf countries forming the major part of it.
Eg - Kuwait - 25% of population Indians
UAE - more than 2 lakh diaspora

Diaspora as an asset

- Remittances

- India receives \$ 85 bn remittances with remittances from Gulf countries forming more than 50% share.

- Political Influence

- Gulf countries are dominated by autocratic rulers. With such Indian diaspora, we can provide investment potential for their diversification.

- Controlling Resources

- Indian diaspora's investment in Gulf's rich oil and natural gas resources can prove beneficial for India.

challenges- Against discrimination

- o Laws - that binds unskilled labour force of India to unjust workplace - eg - Khalifa system.
- o People - with rising unemployment everywhere, natives discriminates against Indians as people taking away their employment.

- Conflicts

- o Gulf countries all mered in conflict resulting in humanitarian crisis for Indian diaspora
- eg - Yemen crisis

Recently Kuwait passed a law to reduce foreign diaspora. This will adversely affect Indian interests. In light of same, the government should proactively engage with Gulf countries to emphasise them of mutual beneficial capabilities of Indian diaspora.

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।

Recently, World Food Programme (WFP) was awarded Nobel Prize for Peace 2020 to celebrate its work against hunger and providing assistance in conflict-ridden areas.

Functioning of WFP

- Food aid programs

- o to distribute rations in countries
- Eg - 1970 post harvest loss, Yemen crisis.

- Financial aids

- o to governments to upgrade agriculture practices

- Technical assistance

- o to groups to achieve nutrition targets.

WFP has managed to distribute and facilitate millions of food rations to poverty stricken people since its inception.

Contribution to India's effort- Targeted PDS

- o making it more effective by undertaking Food ATMs

- o Pranishiksha scheme for better accessibility of foodgrains

WFP can play an important role in post COVID-19 world with increasing hunger. By channelising funds, streamlining supplies and building capacity it can help achieve SDG 2 of ending hunger by 2030.

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 like Non-government organisations, volunteer groups, charities etc. have come together to assist in reducing human suffering during various times. However, recently due to their non-transparent functioning various actions were taken under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation (Amendment)) Act, 2020 like -

- cannot transfer foreign funds to any other organisation
- need to open designated FCRA A/c at SBI branch, Delhi
- cannot spend foreign funds on administrative expenditure for more than 20%.

Action causing shrinking space for dissent

- Cancellation of licenses of NGOs - various NGOs like Transparency, Amnesty who have been critical of government has seen their licenses cancelled.

- o Imposing onerous obligations - by having to file audited accounts and re-registration after 5 years. Further asking for Aadhar of all trustees and functionaries makes difficult for them to find manpower.
- o Restricting sources - foreign funding is a major source and with FERA (Amendment) it will be hampered.
By restricting sources to other NGOs it prevent smaller NGOs from securing vital funding.
- o Does not appreciate the special role they play Re: COVID-19 pandemic saw NGOs and civil society organisations feeding, sheltering, educating wide amount of people. Their support in migrants crisis is undervalued.

Only merit based Action

- o Non-transparent functioning / corruption - Among more than 20,000 NGOs only 1,500 have filed audited report. Further despite Supreme court ruling that NGOs substantially

financed by govt. come under RTI Act, no suitable disclosures have been made.

- o Hindrance to development - Due to vested interests, NGOs are functioning as a roadblock to development.

Eg - Kundakulam protests.

- o Misuse of funds for disturbing peace - The recent anti-LTA protests and Deeti Riots are also seen to be promoted by NGOs with foreign links (CIA reports).

While civil society organisations form the third pillar of governance along with government and private sector, they must be sufficiently regulated to prevent them from causing hindrance. Government steps like creating improvised group to coordinate with civil society during COVID-19 pandemic negates healthy cooperation that can be harnessed for good governance.

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 में संबद्ध निहितार्थों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Article 75 of the constitution provides that the President shall act on aid and advise of council of ministers headed by Prime Minister. Further appointment to council of ministers is done by President on recommendation of Prime Minister.

Implication of PMO's powerful influence

→ Positives

- Prime Minister is the arch of the cabinet, leading the decision-making process.
- Prime Minister acts as a link between President and council of ministers; Parliament and council of ministers.
- can undertake visible monitoring
eg - PRAKATI portal where Prime Minister directly monitors the functioning of various schemes.

- o undeliberate policies that are devised by the masses.
Eg - Through Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister connects with masses and highlights steps for sustainable development.

→ Negatives

- o Excessive Centralisation - This can result in top-down approach making policy making a task of elites.
Eg - making of parallel bodies bypassing local governments like in SMART cities mission.
- o Chances of Misuse of power increases with such perceived influence, Prime Minister can run the government in authoritative manner.
Eg - Imposition of Emergency 1975-77, passing of 42nd Amendment Act.
- o Against federal spirit - with Prime Minister being the supra-officer, states lose space in

participation in policy-making.

Eg - Imposition of lockdown without state's
consultation during COVID-19 pandemic.

In a parliamentary democracy, ~~state~~ the
importance of mini minister in government and
policy-making is supreme. However, the same
must be balanced with effective decentralisation,
federal spirit and collective decision making
to prevent misuse of the pendable influence.

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 अतिव्रमण के चतुर्विध चिंताओं को भी जन्म देता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 32 empowers judiciary to act as the protector and guarantor of fundamental rights of citizens. In some regard, judiciary has taken various steps to make government organisations accountable to human rights. eg -

- o Ludalshah v. State of Bihar - against custodial deaths - compensation to victims.
- o Police v. State of Maharashtra - encounter guidelines.
- o Prakash Singh v. State - to make police force independent of political interference and accountable to citizens.
- o Vineet Narain v. UOI - against corruption.
- o Shatrughan Chauhan v. UOI - exercise of pardoning power by President.

o Manoj Kumar Assembly case - using Article 142 to instruct speaker to take action in anti-duplication cases.

o S. R. Bommai v. UOI - guidelines for functioning of office of Governor especially while exercising powers under Article 356.

Thus, in numerous cases through route of Public Interest Litigation (S.P. Gupta v. UOI), Judiciary has come to rescue against human rights violation.

Might result in judicial overreach

o Indulging in policymaking role that is the domain of executive and legislature -
Eg - imposing ban on alcohol shops near highway.

o Result in ad-hoc orders without careful analysis.

eg - banning of fireworks after the industry has produced goods for selling.

- Domain expertise is ignored.
Eg - Recent loan moratorium issue can be best handled by RBI by ascertaining the financial health of economy. Judicial orders cannot be made with some domain expertise.
- Leads to supreme autocratic structure.
Eg - Declaring 99th Constitution Amendment Bill providing for NTAC unconstitutional as it did not give supremacy to judiciary in judicial appointments. This is despite the fact the Constitution itself did not envisage such supremacy during appointments.

Thus, while judicial governance has safeguarded the human rights and imposed certain accountability, it must but be limited in cases within judicial domain. Separation of power to the largest extent must be maintained as it acts as checks and balances preventing concentration and misuse of power.

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।

Article 129 and 215 of the constitution provides that supreme court and high court has power to punish for contempt of court of itself and subordinate courts. This was further streamlined through Contempt of Courts Act.

Necessary for Administration of justice

- Prevents interference in administration of justice
Unwarranted naïvetes comments that shake public trust in judiciary hampers justice-delivery.
- Preserves Judicial Independence - Without power of contempt, judges would be prone to attacks on their integrity making justice delivery prone to influence of public.
- Gives backing to court orders - willfully disobeying court orders is punishable as contempt.

Thus, it makes individuals shy lest address despite diverse views. This is essential for resolution of disputes.

Acts as Hindrance

- Suppresses valid criticism

It goes against the fact that public has the right to freedom of speech and expression which includes criticism.

Eg - contempt cases against allegation of corruption in judiciary which has been accepted as a menace by judiciary itself.

- Does not keep public trust -

Such excessive contempt cases make public wary of judiciary. In age of information and technology, it further erodes judicial sanctity. Judiciary is no more respected but merely feared.

Way forward

- Contempt of court is inherent power, thus it is essential for preventing interference with judicial functioning.
- However, its usage must be limited to extreme cases only. As Lord Denning pointed out that judges are not immune from criticism. And mere criticism cannot amount to contempt.

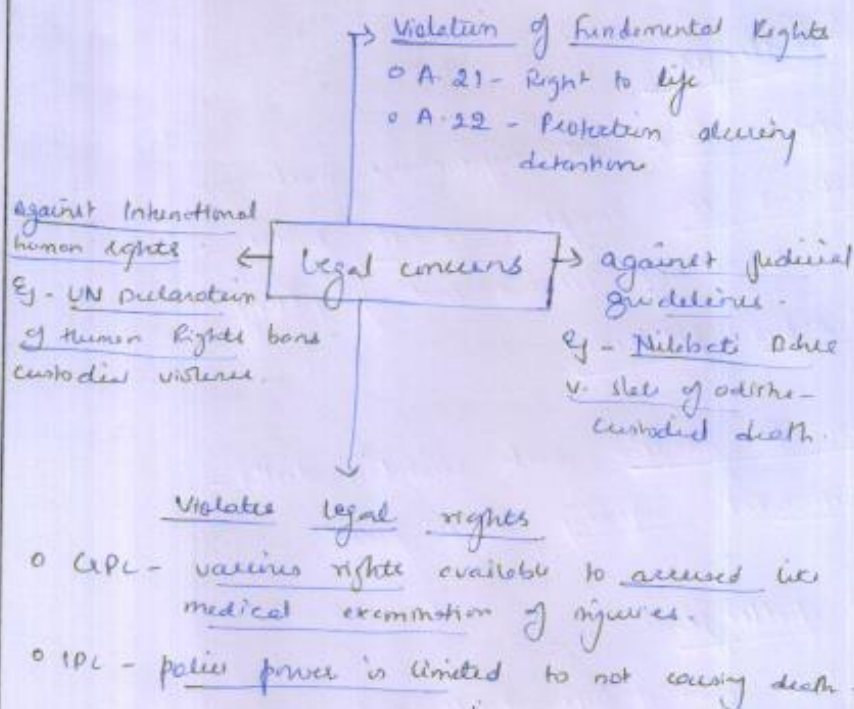
Contempt at law commission mentioned is required to instill public faith in judicial officers. Limiting its use is need of hour.

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 चिन्ताएँ 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।

Custodial violence cases have been rising in the country. The recent father-son duo's death in police custody in Tamil Nadu highlights the gruesome power of police. According to NCRB Report 2018, there has been a rise of 5.8% in custodial deaths.



challenges in curbing such incidents

I Administrative challenges

- o Lack of infrastructure and manpower - working at 77% of sanctioned strength, it makes police to overexert its authority.
- o Lack of judicial oversight - Judges sign on police custody orders mechanically without evaluating the circumstances.

II Legal challenges

- o No suitable laws or enforcement mechanism where citizens can complain against police outrages. Invariably citizens end up filing habeas corpus petition.
- o No laws to punish such custodial deaths - only departmental inquiry takes place.

III Awareness challenge

- o People are not aware of their rights and remedies.

ways to address issue

Administratively

- training of police force
- sensitisation of lower judiciary
- better infrastructure and suitable manpower
- better record keeping

Legally

- police complaints authority should be set up to ease access of citizens (Prakash Singh con guidelines)
- Holding officers liable for unintended death - making presumption under evidence Act

Awareness

- utilising civil society organisations to keep a check on police authorities.
- NHRI and NCH should engage with victims to create better understanding of their rights.

Police acts as a protecting force. To prevent it from becoming an oppressor, its powers must be checked by suitable judicial or statutory oversight.

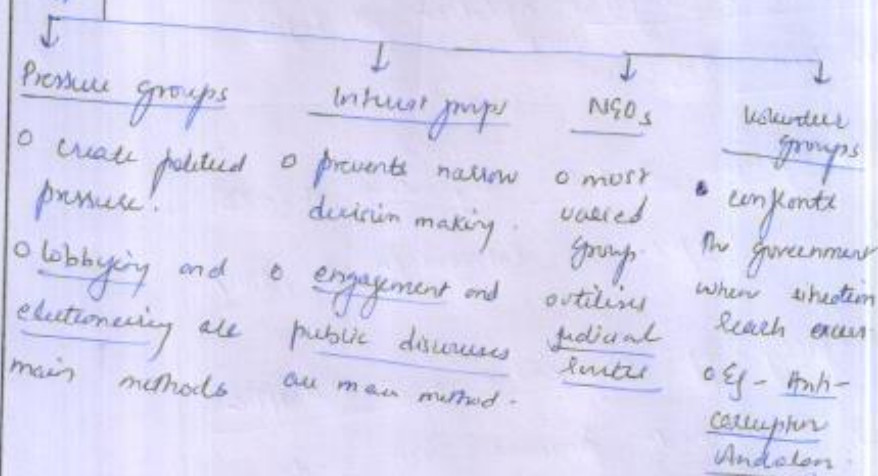
16. Civil society interventions, ranging from confrontation to engagement with the government, have played an important role in ushering transparency and accountability in governance in India. Discuss with examples.

(250 words) 15

सरकार के साथ टकराव से लेकर जुड़ाव तक सिविल सोसाइटी के हस्तक्षेपों ने भारत में शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही का सुवर्ण मानक बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Civil society organisations acts as independent oversight mechanism by prodding the government to move towards transparency and accountability

Types



Important Role in ushering transparency & Accountability

I Election Issues

- POLL v. UOI - paved way for disclosure requirements like election expenditure, income.

- o VOI v. ADR - Against criminalisation of politics, Supreme Court issued guidelines.

Hence by taking judicial note, various systems to make election process more transparent were brought in.

II Against Corruption

- o Mazdoor Bisen Singh's agitation for Right to Information Act, 2005
- o Anti-Corruption Andolan by Anne Hwale brought in Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2014

Hence, mainly by engagement and thorough confrontation, government process was made more accountable.

III Budget Policy - making / implementation

- o Kudomshree, Kule - acts as an oversight to Panchayats by conducting "Social audits". Further also engages in implementing various

Schemes:

- o NGO Pratham - The Annual Survey of Education Report acts as a base for policymaking and analysis.
- o Mid Day Meal scheme - large participation by NGOs to implement the same.

Hence, they engage with government to make policies more citizen centric.

IV Protecting Environment

- o Mamode Rao's Andolan - to provide a better rehabilitation plan.
- o Agitation against felling of trees in Nashik, Mumbai - holding government accountable for violating environmental norms.

Hence, majorly by engaging the government, environmental consideration is brought into policymaking.

apart from this, by engaging with government to

carry out various studies and comparing it
in case of other rights violations, civil
society interventions have made good governance
possible.



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। चिन्ता कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए, जिनके माध्यम से इस चिन्ता का समाधान किया जा सकता है।

The Recent Global Hunger Index (2020) ranks India at 96/107 and characterises India as facing severe hunger with score of 27. This is far below than all our neighbours except Uganda.

India facing paradox of plenty:

- Food exporting country

- India exports 71% of its agricultural produce.

(Economic Survey 2019-20)

- Ranks 1st in milk production, 2nd in fruit and vegetables and 1st in cereal production.

(Economic Survey 2018-19)

- Bulldozing shares with Food Corporation of India

- At present FCI holds half the amount of

foodgrains mandated by the government.

- Increasing wastage

- o India's losses in ₹ 93,500 crore in wastage of food.
- o According to World Bank, the quantity of foodstuffs wasted by India is enough to feed 1/3rd of its population.

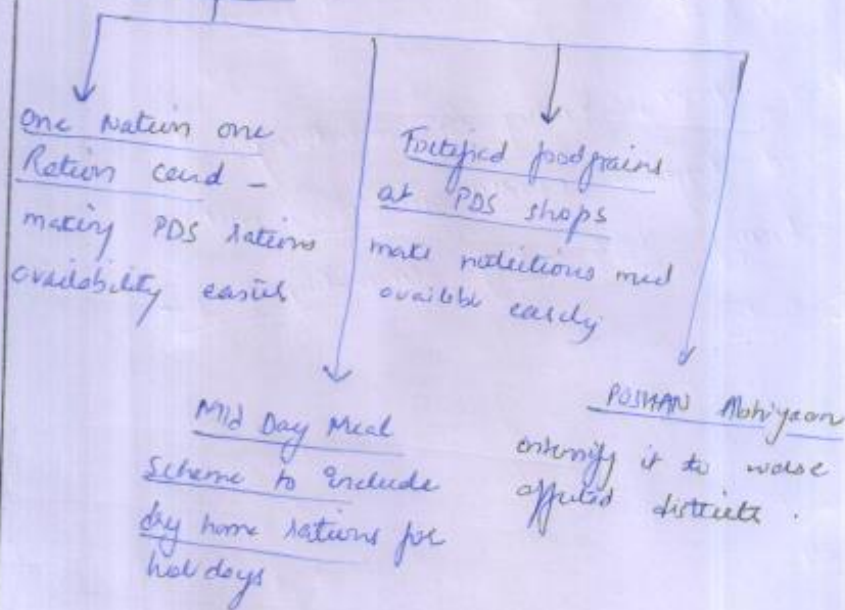
- Widespread malnutrition (NFHS-4)

- o Stunting in children - is 38%.
- o Wasting in children - is 20% (highest in world)
- o Anemic children - is 50%.
- o Anemic women - is 53%.
- o Obesity prevalence - is 2.4% (rise from 1.7%).

Thus, despite wide availability of food, India is unable to provide suitable nutritional food to everyone. This is due to issues related to access, affordability and equity.

ways to address hunger issues

1. Access



2. Affordability

- o distributary food corpus
- o utilizing Amma Centres, Indira centres and such systems to provide cost effective meals.

3. Equity

- o Engaging women in policy making. Implementation issues like patriarchy makes women nutrition needs secondary.

o Inclusive policies with SC, STs, minorities - better identification and targeting by utilising civil society groups.

Apart from above, focusing on maintaining sanitation and hygiene (WASH guidelines) will help in achieving SDG - 2 of eliminating hunger by 2030.

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

निम्नलिखित में मजदूरी रोजगार की क्या भूमिका है? मनरेगा (MGNREGA) भारत में पहले के मजदूरी रोजगार कार्यक्रमों से कैसे भिन्न है?

Wage employment refers to providing paying jobs to poor people who through are empowered to come out of poverty. Various wage employment schemes since 6th Five Year Plan have been functioning in India. Eg - PM Gram Sadak Yojana, MGNREGA, PM Gram Sakshari Yojana.

Role in alleviating poverty

- Focuses on capacity building
 - o By employing people it gives them a chance to attain necessary skill and experience. This can be utilised to get better jobs in future.
- Gives choice of expenditure
 - o As wage employment provides remuneration in cash, people can utilise it as some in

most effective manner depending upon their
specific needs.

Eg - A person who already has small parcel
of land to provide him food would not benefit
as much from the PDS ration as he would
by using the remuneration to access better
opportunities.

- Builds productive assets

As major wage employment programs involve
construction of public infrastructure like roads,
irrigation works - this raises standard of
living for all.

The role of wage employment programs in
alleviating poverty can be evidenced by the
success of MGNREGS, that has caused
reduction in poverty levels in rural India.

Eg - According to MPI Index, India lifted
225 mn people out of poverty between 2005-06
to 2015-16.

MGNREGA vis-a-vis earlier wage programs

- Less inclusion / exclusion errors

- o open to all non-skilled workers hence automatically eliminates non-poor people.

- Better women representation

- o $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of work is to be compulsorily reserved for women.

- o At present 43% of MGNREGA comprises all women.

- Better Gram Sabha empowerment

- o Gives suitable decision making power to Gram Sabha regarding what works to be initiated.

- o maintains 60:40 (workers : material) ratio at district level to give flexibility.

- Better monitoring

- o social audit is compulsory
- o DBT transfers plus 15 days upper limit to clear pending transfers.

Now MGNREGS is better targeted and effective than other wage employment schemes. In light of some recent PM's Karigya Yojana is built on some lines for providing 125 days work in 117 aspirational districts post COVID-19 job crisis.

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 चुनौतियाँ खड़ी करती है बल्कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और घरेलू स्तर पर अपने आपको मजबूत बनाने का अवसर भी प्रदान करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

China has recently transgressed on Indian borders in Ladakh region which has also resulted in death of 20 of our soldiers at Galwan. Apart from this aggression in South China sea and frequent patrolling / fishing boats in Indian Oceans also is a cause of concern.

Challenges to India

- National security

- o safeguarding land and maritime borders
- o preventing terrorist infiltration through Pakistan which is supported by China.
- o preventing insurgent / militant movements in North East / communist groups that can be triggered by China.

- Intentional Standing

- o harms our role as security provider in Indian ocean
- o harms our position as a rising superpower

Despite these challenges, the aggression can be looked as an opportunity also.

Opportunity to strengthen itself

1) Internally

- o infrastructure building at borders
- o better preparedness of border forces by providing them latest equipments.
Eg - Rafale jets, recent deal with USA regarding ROMEO anti-submarine helicopter and Apache attack helicopters.
- o Reducing dependence on Chinese products
Eg - building self-sufficiency in APIs (Key for pharmaceuticals), electronics, low skilled manufacturing products.
(₹ 20 billion Atmanirbhar Bharat Package)

- o Reducing Chinese technology reach
 Eg - banning Chinese apps because of their
 dubious security and privacy practices.
 (gives market to our local startups like
 Chingali, FAV4 etc)

The aggression has created negative sentiment
against China not only domestically but
 also internationally that can be effectively utilised.

2) Externally

- o Building coalition of like minded parties
 - Quad - for security and free and open
 maritime trade.
 - Supply chain initiative with Japan and
 Australia to diversify supply chains
 out of China.
- o Restructuring global governance
 - The reforms in WHO, UNICEF, WTO are
 more than ever required and can be

pursued more effectively now.

The aggression of crime goes against our fundamental principles and they must be tackled effectively by building our internal and external strengths.

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

आपार 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।

South Asia region is considered to be one of least connected with only 5% intra-region trade happening. This has caused hindrance to India to pursue its neighbourhood first policy. Hence, to better engage with its neighbours, India is pursuing measures of trade and connectivity.

Opportunities in South Asia

- BBIN Network

- o Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal can create a multi-modal transport network to increase inter-state trade.

- IMT trilateral highway

- o With India's Kaledan multimodal project in Myanmar, the effectiveness of India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway can be increased manifold.

- o This can serve as a gateway to Southeast Asia.

- Ferry services to Maldives / Sri Lanka / Islands
 - o with island countries predominately dependent on tourism, India can initiate connectivity through ferry routes to increase bilateral trade.
- Reducing tensions with Pakistan
 - o better trade relations can help in reducing tensions.
 - o It will also integrate Afghanistan into regional economy.

Challenges in South Asia

- Countries as competitors not complementaries
 - o India, Bangladesh - Jute, textiles, footwear
 - o India, Pakistan - Cotton, agricultural goods.

Thus increasing bilateral trade might be difficult.
- Tensions between India - Pakistan
 - o biggest hurdle behind lack of operationalisation of SAARC Free Trade Agreement.
- Difficult terrain - wide dense forests, multiple rivers make connectivity prospects difficult.

By pursuing valuable connectivity plans, India can better the trade relations with its neighbours. Already India is largest trade partner of Indonesia, it can harness this potential to achieve the aim of SAATH (Security through growth)