

# VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1523)

|                   |                 |                     |          |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Name of Candidate | RICHHA KULKARNI |                     |          |
| Medium Eng./Hindi | ENGLISH         | Registration Number | 708164   |
| Center            | ONLINE          | Date                | 22/12/20 |

| INDEX TABLE           |               |                | INSTRUCTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q. No.                | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1                     | 10            |                | 1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).<br>उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2                     | 10            |                | 2. There are <b>TWENTY</b> questions printed in <b>ENGLISH &amp; HINDI</b> इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3                     | 10            |                | 3. <b>All questions are compulsory.</b> सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 4                     | 10            |                | 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.<br>प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5                     | 10            |                | 5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.<br>प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे। |
| 6                     | 10            |                | 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.<br>प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 7                     | 10            |                | 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.<br>उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 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:              |               |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

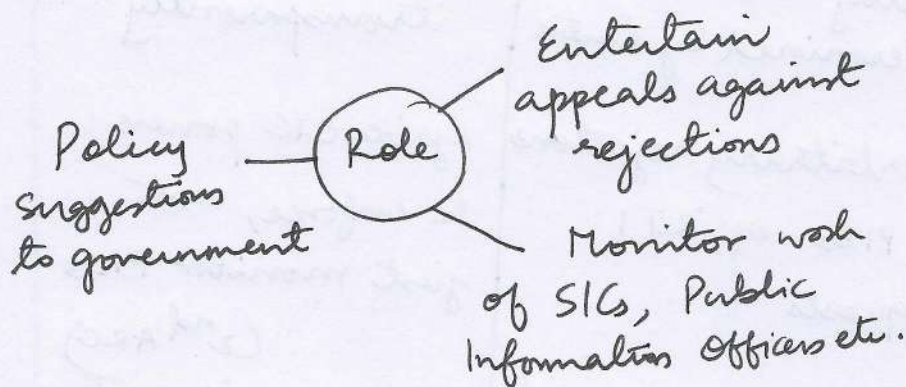


1. Enumerate the issues associated with functioning of the Central Information Commission. How can these issues be addressed?

(150 words) 10

केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग की कार्य प्रणाली से संबद्ध मुद्दों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इन मुद्दों का कैसे समाधान किया जा सकता है?

The Central Information Commission is constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005 as the apex body for its enforcement.



### Issues

- 1) Vacancies and dominance of bureaucratic members

### Measures

Including judicial members in bipartisan selection committee; at least 50% non-civil service members (2nd ARC)



## Issues

- 2) Large pendency of appeals - over 2 lakhs pending and delays
- 3) Erosion of independence feared due to 2019 Amendments - salary and term determined by Centre
- 4) Arbitrary rejections by PIOs of RTI requests
- 5) Suggestions ignored by government

## Measures

- Dispersal in at least 4 states, as permitted under Act (2nd ARC)
- Make statutory provisions for salary and term under Act, to be determined transparently
- Give CIC powers to enforce, not just monitor PIOs (2nd ARC)
- Set up parliamentary committee to consider.

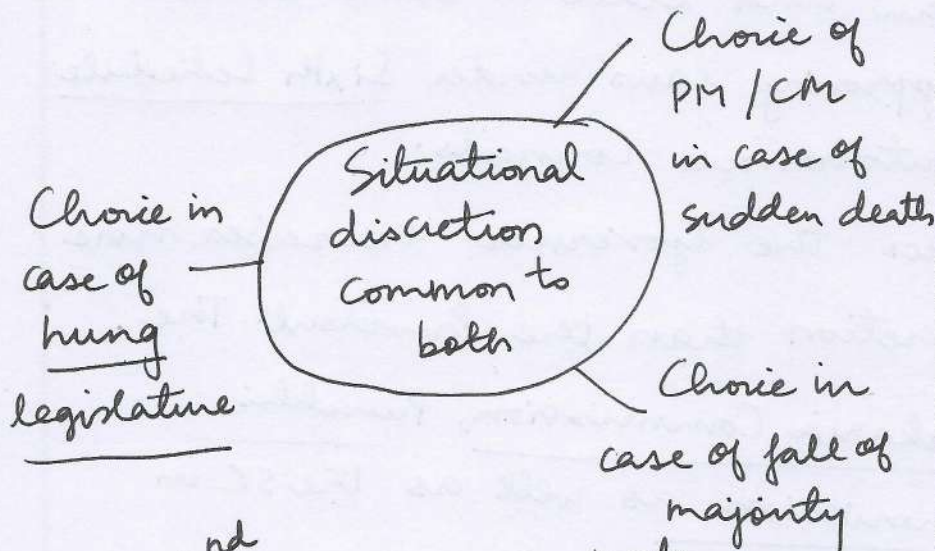
The CIC forms a bulwark of democracy. Strengthening it is necessary for transparent and good governance.



2. In India, Governor's discretionary powers are wider than those of the President. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

भारत में, राज्यपाल की विवेकाधीन शक्तियाँ राष्ट्रपति की तुलना में अधिक व्यापक हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

The Governor and President occupy comparable positions at the state and Union level, but the Governor has both constitutional and situational discretion while the President has only the latter.



- The 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment made the President bound by ministerial advice ~~that power to send back a Bill/only once~~, but placed no restrictions on the Governor to comply.



## Wider powers of governor (Constitutional discretion)

1. Recommending imposition of President's Rule in the state
2. Reserving bills for President's assent
3. As administrator for adjoining UTs
4. Special responsibility for welfare, law and order in some states - approving laws under Sixth Schedule Autonomous Councils.

Thus the Governor exercises more discretion than the President. The Sarkaria Commission, Punchhi Commission as well as the SC in SR Bommai case, advised principled exercise of discretion to preserve federal polity.



3. Highlight the objectives that were sought to be achieved through tribunals.  
How successful have they been in meeting them? (150 words) 10

उन उद्देश्यों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिन्हें अधिकरणों के माध्यम से प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया गया था। वे उन्हें पूर्ण करने में कितने सफल रहे हैं?

Tribunals are constituted under Articles 323 A (administrative) and 323 B (other matters). They are quasi-judicial authorities dispensing judgements based on principles of natural justice and flexible procedure.

### Objectives

1. Reducing pendency in courts
2. Fast-tracking urgent matters
3. Bringing expertise into judgements  
e.g. National Green Tribunal,  
Income Tax Appellate Tribunal
4. Streamlining government's litigation as parties are often government agencies.
5. Leave constitutional courts with more time for constitutional cases.



### Performance

1. Judicial pendency has not significantly reduced - SC has upheld right of appeals to High Courts (Chandra Kumar case), making appeals a matter of norm.
2. Vacancies in tribunals lead to delays.
3. Complaints about biased awards as many are under related ministries

### Way Ahead

- Law Commission recommendations such as a National Tribunal Commission staffed by judicial officers, and delinking from related ministries may be considered to enable tribunals to fulfill their intended objectives



4. Instead of the government regulating Over-the-top (OTT) platforms, there have been calls for a self-regulating mechanism for such platforms, as in the case of print media. Discuss. (150 words) 10

सरकार द्वारा ओवर-द-टॉप (ओ.टी.टी.) प्लेटफॉर्म को विनियमित करने के स्थान पर, ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म के लिए एक स्व-विनियमन तंत्र हेतु आह्वान किया गया है, जैसे कि प्रिंट मीडिया के मामले में किया गया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The government has recently notified regulation of OTT platforms under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Need for regulation by government-

1. Need for certification and grading of content in accordance with national laws.
2. To bring parity with television and film media which are government regulated
3. Dominance of foreign companies (Netflix, Amazon, Disney-Hotstar) - to protect Indian industry.



### Arguments for self-regulation

1. Government regulation may curb freedom of expression and creativity - as seen in regular complaints against CBFCI.
  2. OTT platforms are on-demand, meaning that consumers are conscious of what they choose to watch.
  3. Companies are mindful of national laws to avoid litigation.
  4. Experience of print media - standards of quality and ethics have by and large been maintained.
  5. May encourage FDI and employment.
- OTT platforms represent the next shift in entertainment media in India. Care must be taken not to suppress their growth, while enforcing standards.



5. Bring out the arguments surrounding the issue of some states reserving jobs for locals in the private sector. (150 words) 10

कुछ राज्यों द्वारा निजी क्षेत्र में नौकरियों को स्थानीय लोगों के लिए आरक्षित किए जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे के चतुर्दिक तर्कों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

States like Andhra Pradesh have recently attempted to reserve private sector jobs for locals.

### Reasons

1. Low employment and skill development
2. Agrarian distress compounding unemployment
3. Perception that migrants reduce opportunities for locals.
4. Populist motivations of state governments.
5. Perceived discrimination by locals on migration to other states.
6. To give impetus to local economy through demand creation.



### Arguments against

1. Reservations in employment are permitted under Constitution only by Parliament and only in public sector under Article 16.
2. Increases load of training locals on companies, reducing investments in the long term.
3. Against right to freedom of Companies and migrant workers.
4. Reduced ease of doing business, a big disadvantage while states compete to attract investors.

Given the spirit of national integration enshrined in the Constitution, such a policy is harmful to states themselves in the long run. Focus would be better placed on boosting skill development and employability of locals.



6. Identifying the key elements of Mission Karmayogi, briefly explain how it can lead to holistic development of the human resources and state's capacity. (150 words) 10

मिशन कर्मयोगी के प्रमुख तत्वों की पहचान करते हुए, संक्षेप में स्पष्ट कीजिए कि इससे मानव संसाधन और राज्य की क्षमता का समग्र विकास कैसे हो सकता है।

Mission Karmayogi is the newly introduced National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building.

### Key Components

1. From "~~rules~~-based" to "roles-based" HR management
2. Building sectoral domain competencies throughout career (fulfilling recommendation of Yugandhar committee)
3. Overarching authority for all civil services training centres
4. PM's Public HR Council for policy direction
5. Training modules through iGOT platform.



### Impacts on human resources

1. Can bring specialisation to generalist services.
2. Reform work culture by rewarding good performance.
3. Equipping civil servants to leverage emerging technology, modes of communication etc.

### Impacts on state capacity

1. Better implementation of policies due to expertise among bureaucrats.
2. Better information flows at all levels
3. Better integration across various services

The need for civil services reform was recognised by the Second ARC.

Mission Karmayogi, with adequate resources and allocation of responsibilities, can help modernise the bureaucracy.



7. Highlighting the role played by ASHA workers in public health system of India, discuss the challenges faced by them. (150 words) 10

भारत की सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में आशा कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) are frontline community health workers, forming the first contact between people and the public health system.

### Role

- 1) Counselling and information on newborn care, breastfeeding, nutrition etc. to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- 2) Coordination with the Panchayat Sanitation and health committee.
- 3) Aiding delivery of health services along with auxiliary nurse midwives at PHCs and Anganwadi workers.
- 4) Monitoring and information dissemination, especially in COVID-19.



They are typically local women with primary education.

### Challenges

- 1) low pay and no social security
- 2) lack of cooperation from community
- 3) lack of resources, especially PPE kits during COVID-19 efforts.
- 4) Poor capacity building and training
- 5) lack of agency in households

### Way Ahead

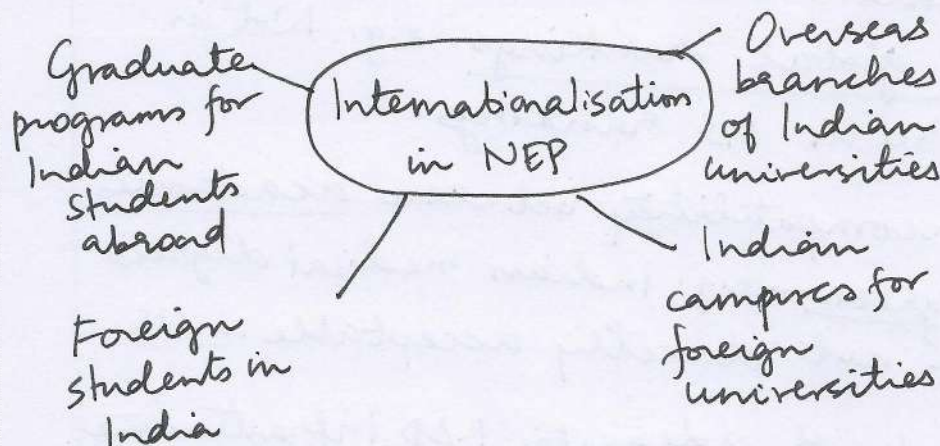
Budget allocation for preventive healthcare, presently under 2% of GDP needs to be increased, leading to security and benefits for ASHA workers. Working with private hospitals and NGOs to build capacity would also empower them to function better.



8. While internationalisation of higher education has many potential benefits for India, certain challenges will need to be addressed in this regard. Discuss. (150 words) 10

यद्यपि उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के भारत के लिए कई संभावित लाभ हैं, तथापि इस संबंध में कुछ चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता होगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

Internationalisation of higher education is a pillar of the new National Education Policy.



### Benefits

- 1) Access to superior courses and research support abroad.
- 2) Improving employability of students
- 3) Multipplier effects from foreign university campuses in India - impetus to local education system



- 4) Sharing of best practices
- 5) India as an education destination for Africa and West Asian students (Study in India programme)

### Challenges

- 1) Indian universities rank low on global rankings e.g. Not in top 50 in QS rankings
- 2) Incompatibility between academic degrees - e.g. Indian medical degrees are not directly acceptable in US
- 3) Lack of adequate R&D infrastructure
- 4) Lack of skilled education workforce

### Way Ahead

These challenges must be resolved, by increasing budgetary allocation to 6% of GDP as envisaged by the NEP, to make internationalisation beneficial for Indian students and universities



9. India needs to adopt a more pragmatic stance in the context of the ongoing intra-Afghan talks. Discuss, in the light of India's engagement with Afghanistan. (150 words) 10

भारत को वर्तमान में जारी अंतरा-अफगान वार्ताओं के संदर्भ में अधिक व्यावहारिक रुख अपनाने की आवश्यकता है। अफगानिस्तान के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

India's traditional stance in Afghanistan has been an insistence on an "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, Afghan-controlled" process. India has also refused to recognise the Taliban in negotiations

### Changing content

- 1) Withdrawal of US forces after US-Taliban deal
- 2) Weak position of Afghan government
- 3) Reality of Taliban control over areas of territory
- 4) Need to engage with Taliban given closeness of Taliban with Pakistan.
- 5) Taliban-Afghan government talks



### Pragmatic stance

- India sent an unofficial envoy to the multilateral talks.
- India will have to balance engagement with Taliban along with the elected government, continuing developmental presence.
- Care must also be taken to contain China's influence and debt diplomacy.
- India's own security from terrorist attacks as a pre-condition for engagement with Taliban.

Such a position will enable India to maintain strategic autonomy and safeguard its own interests in the region.



10. In the geo-strategic context of West Asia, the recent efforts to normalise relations between Israel and UAE may open new possibilities for India. Analyse. (150 words) 10

पश्चिम एशिया के भू-रणनीतिक संदर्भ में, इजरायल और यू.ए.ई. के मध्य संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के लिए हाल ही में किए गए प्रयासों से भारत हेतु नई संभावनाएं उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं। विवेचन कीजिए।

The Abraham Accord between Israel and the UAE mark a breakthrough in West Asia, reducing traditional Arab-Israel hostility.

### Factors behind Accord

- 1) UAE's efforts to diversify economy away from petrol dependence
- 2) Withdrawal of US from West Asia
- 3) Closeness between China and Iran (25-year strategic partnership started)
- 4) Israel's interests in building regional allies

### Possibilities for India

- 1) India is interested in stability in West Asia, to keep oil prices stable



- 2) Indian diaspora in West Asia -  
employment opportunities would be  
reduced by instability and protectionism
- 3) India has always supported two-  
state solution - Israel's agreement  
to stop annexation of West Bank  
prevents the collapse of this possibility
- 4) Trilateral (India-Israel-UAE) and  
multilateral (India-GCC) cooperation  
on anti-terror measures where  
Israel has expertise.

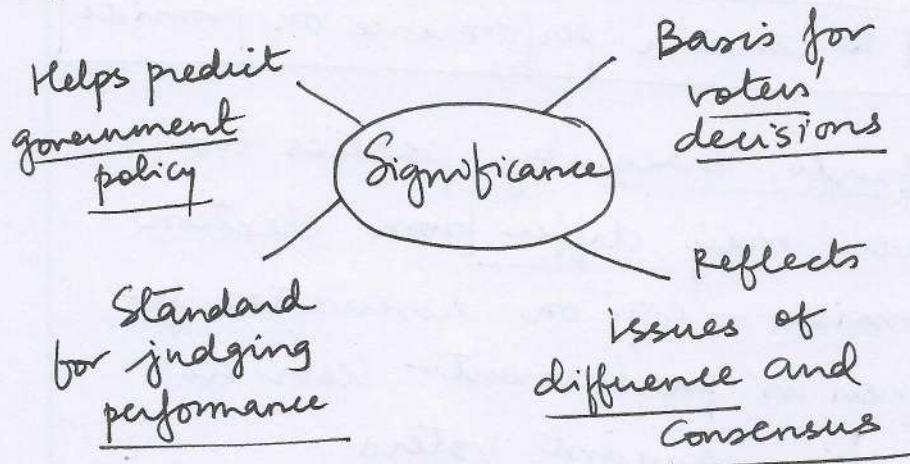
Thus normalisation of Israel-UAE  
and potentially Israel-Arab relations  
can bring benefits to India, given  
that care is taken to balance  
with India's interests in Iran.



11. It is not only the content of election manifestos but also the past performance with respect to promises made in election manifestos that need to be regulated. Discuss. (250 words) 15

केवल चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों की विषयवस्तु को ही नहीं, बल्कि चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों में किए गए वादों से संबंधित विगत निष्पादन को भी विनियमित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Election manifestos represent the policies, political positions and promises that parties commit to before elections.



- Demands have been raised to regulate election manifestos to enforce accountability on political parties.



• Content of manifestos must be regulated to ensure:

- (i) Appeals are not made to religion, communal feelings etc.
- (ii) Ruling party is not abusing power
- (iii) Fair practices are followed in campaigning.

Need to consider performance on promises

1. Stands taken by parties in power may differ from election promises — e.g. on reservation for women in parliament — seen as deception against voters.
2. To curb populism and false promises of freebies and ensure realistic promises are made.
3. To provide objective data, such as a performance score, for the



electorate to consider, moving away from choices shaped by caste and community.

4. To focus energies of government on developmental goals.

### Challenges

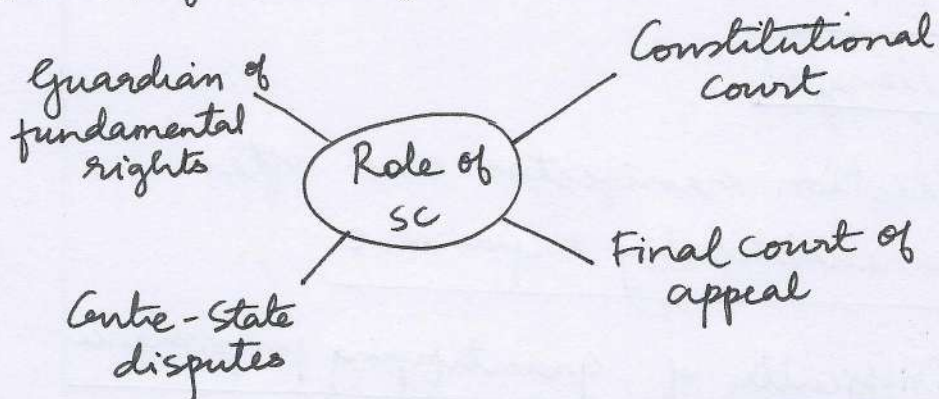
1. Election manifestos are often unrealistically expansive
2. Difficulty of quantifying performance on all fronts of government
3. Advantage to ruling party as it may influence any independent regulator constituted for the purpose

Regulating past performance is a promising step to bring accountability to political parties, along with other reforms such as bringing them under RTI.



12. In order to achieve a reduction in the pendency of cases and a return to the Supreme Court's original role as a final appellate court, setting up of a National Court of Appeal is the need of the hour. Discuss. (250 words) 15
- लंबितवादों की संख्या में कमी लाने और उच्चतम न्यायालय को अंतिम अपील न्यायालय के रूप में उसकी मूल भूमिका में पुनः स्थापित करने के लिए, एक राष्ट्रीय अपील न्यायालय स्थापित करना समय की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Judicial pendency is one of the most serious issues plaguing the Indian justice system.



### Need for a National Court of Appeal

1. Increasing number of cases going to the SC are writ petitions
2. Delays at the final stages of appeal contribute to high pendency
3. Slow procedure of justice causes costs to public



4. The Supreme Court itself in the 1980s suggested a bifurcation into Constitutional Court and National Court of Appeal.
5. National Court of Appeal may have regional benches to make justice more accessible to people.

### Concerns

1. Fear of dilution of authority of the SC
2. Lack of judicial officers
3. Scope for interference by the executive
4. Distinction between Constitutional cases and purely appellate cases not always clear



### Way Ahead

- A National Court of Appeal will go a long way in making justice more accessible and reducing pendency.

Concerns raised can be addressed through a comprehensive framework.

13. The Constitution of India reflects an amalgamation of spirit of Indian freedom struggle and various administrative provisions of different acts of British rule in India. Explain. (250 words) 15

भारत का संविधान भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष की भावना और भारत में ब्रिटिश शासन के विभिन्न अधिनियमों के अनेक प्रशासनिक प्रावधानों के मिश्रण को दर्शाता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

The Constitution of India emerged out of a long socio-political as well as administrative process of evolution.

### Spirit of the freedom struggle

1. Universal adult franchise at the very outset of independence.
2. Civil liberties, such as the freedom of speech and expression, freedom of movement under Article 19.
3. Equal opportunity in public employment under Article 16 - a major demand of the freedom struggle.



4. Affirmative action i.e. reservations in education and public employment, and in representation in legislatures, emerged out of awareness raised about caste system during the freedom struggle.

5. Unitary trend is a result of fears of disintegration and legacy of partition

### Administrative acts

1. The Supreme Court is based on the provisions of the 1935 Government of India Act.
2. The UPSC and SPSCs are similar to the Federal Public Service Commission set up by the 1935 Act.

3. Bicameralism in legislature was introduced in the 1919 Act.

4. The portfolio system of the Council of Ministers is similar to the system in the Viceroy's Executive Council under the 1861 Act.

5. Provisions for preventive detention were instituted under Defence of India Acts during wartime.

While the Constitution carries the legacies of both the freedom struggle and the British administration, it is also a living evolving document.



14. Mention the key components of the SVAMITVA scheme. Also, highlight its intended benefits and discuss the potential issues in its implementation.

(250 words) 15

स्वामित्व (SVAMITVA) योजना के प्रमुख अवयवों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके अपेक्षित लाभों को रेखांकित कीजिए तथा इसके कार्यान्वयन में संभावित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The SVAMITVA scheme aims to achieve integrated land assets mapping and validation in villages.

### Key Components

1. Continuously Operating Reference System (CORS) - a network of ground stations to complete the georeferencing process.
2. Drones will be used to map land parcels by the Survey of India.
3. Process of mapping will be integrated with Gram Panchayat.

## Development Plans.

4. Programme management units will be created at local levels, coordinating with state authorities
5. Community involvement is encouraged to speed up the process.

## Intended benefits

1. Land records can be formalised, leading to assets for the rural population.
2. Ownership of assets can have multiplier effects on rural economy - e.g. encourage entrepreneurship  
Credit

3. Land acquisition process will be made simpler by clear land titles



4. Improvement in ease of doing business.

5. Accurate estimation of resources can be made, improving the planning process.

### Potential Issues

1. large skilled workforce will be required.
2. High investments in technology- drones, ground control equipment, data analysis etc.
3. May lead to litigation and delays

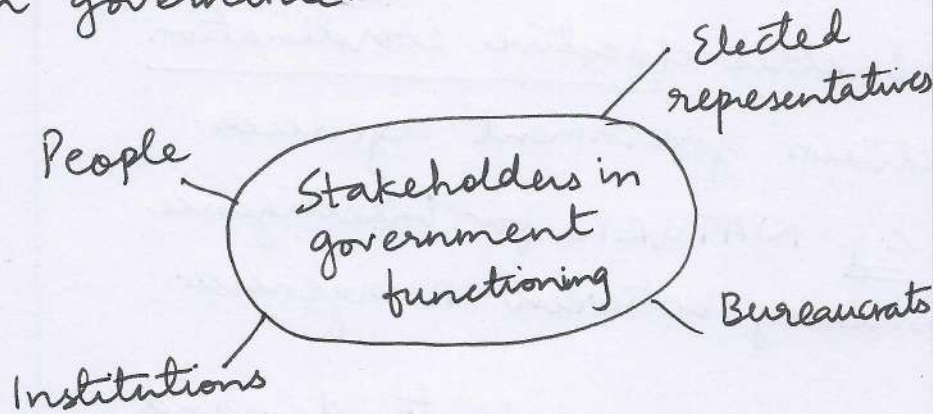
The scheme has the potential to accomplish a long-standing task pending since independence, which can give long-term impetus to rural economies.

15. Sharing of information among all stakeholders in government functioning is a leading practice towards good governance. Discuss with examples.

(250 words) 15

सरकारी कार्यप्रणाली में सभी हितधारकों के मध्य सूचना को साझा करना सुशासन के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण परिपाटी है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Good governance emerged as a paradigm along with economic reforms in India, signifying efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness in governance.



### Benefits of sharing information

- 1) Openness in sharing enforces accountability of government to people  
e.g. RTI



2) Information flows help inform  
public policy as well as implement  
it.

- e.g. • Local panchayat inputs being  
taken in District Development Plans
- Information about schemes  
disseminated widely

3) Enables effective coordination  
between government agencies.

- e.g. NATGRID for intelligence  
sharing between 11 agencies.

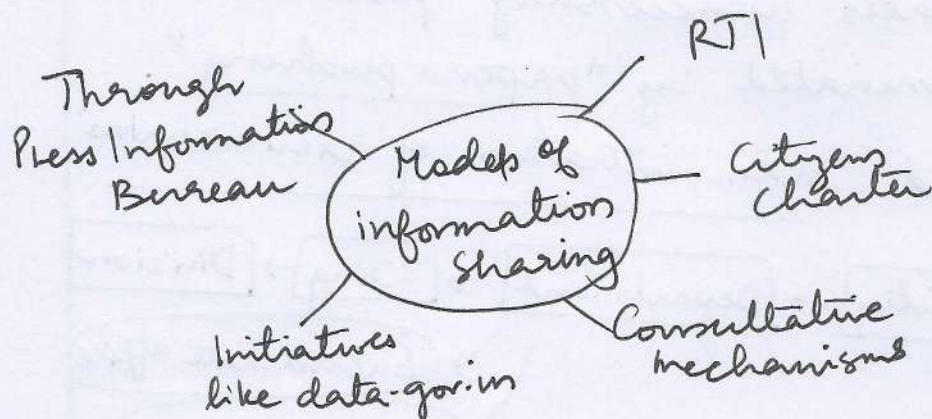
4) Empowers people to demand  
their rights and various services

- e.g. Rajasthan's Jan Soochna  
portal discloses performance of  
various schemes

- 5) Upholds public trust in government, encouraging people to participate proactively.

### Challenges to information sharing

- 1) Lack of suo motu disclosures
- 2) Bureaucratic culture of secrecy
- 3) Official Secrets Act → Second ARC recommended repeal
- 4) Delays in procedures like RTI.





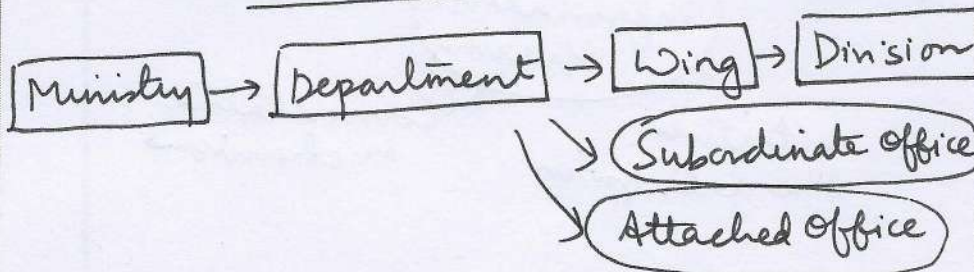
16. India has an oversized and bloated government which acts as a drag on economic efficiency and growth. Critically evaluate. (250 words) 15

भारत में आवश्यकता से अधिक आकार और अतिथय दायित्वों को वहन करने वाली सरकार है, जो आर्थिक दक्षता एवं वृद्धि के संबंध में एक अवरोध के रूप में कार्य करती है। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

India's governmental set up is often criticised for being oversized, leading to inefficiencies and corruption, and slowing down growth.

### Arguments supporting statement

1. Rigid division into hierarchies creates unnecessary positions dominated by "paper-pushing" and "administration of administrators".





2. Vacancies are dragged on for years obstructing tasks and delaying policy implementation, harming business
3. Huge burden of salaries and pensions
4. Engenders corruption by making procedures complicated and time-consuming, causing frustration among citizens

### Arguments against

1. Shortages exist in crucial positions such as IAS officers, police personnel, judicial officers etc.
2. Hierarchies are seen as necessary to reduce discretion and arbitrary decision-making.
3. Source of employment for all sections



Way Ahead

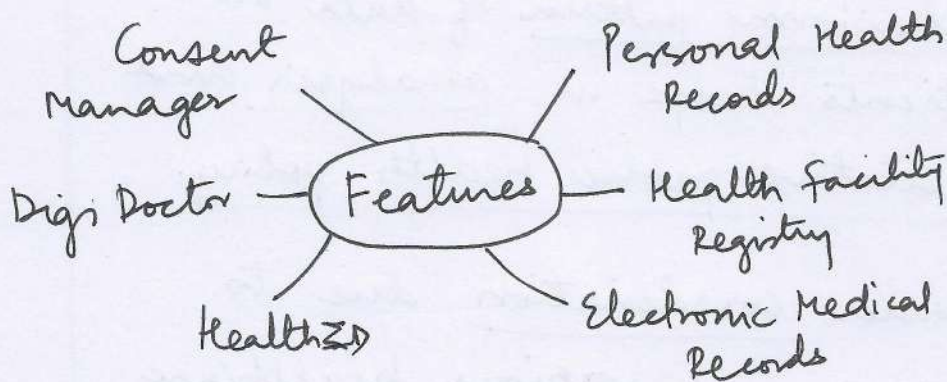
1. Principle of subsidiarity i.e. delegating decision making to lowest possible method as suggested by second ARC.
2. New Public Management framework followed in UK, Australia etc. involving outsourcing of non-core functions.
3. Flattened hierarchies, lateral entry scheme may be considered to a limited extent as suggested by the second ARC.

Reform of the government structure is necessary in parallel with continuing reforms in the economy to improve ease of doing business and ease of living.

17. Though the National Digital Health Mission is a step in the right direction for both patients and the healthcare system, concerns around data privacy need to be addressed. Examine. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन रोगियों और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली, दोनों के लिए उचित दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है, तथापि डेटा गोपनीयता से जुड़ी चिंताओं का समाधान किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) is a pillar of the National Health Policy 2017.



### Benefits for patients :

1. Cuts down repetitive documentation
2. Speeds up process by making records accessible through the database
3. Along with Ayushman Bharat, helps easy movement between



various healthcare institutions  
as per need.

### Benefits for healthcare system

1. Reduces administrative effort,  
allowing space for more investments  
in medical aspects.
2. Uniform pattern of data on  
patients helps in analysis and  
predictive public health policy.
3. Easier coordination due to  
directory of various healthcare  
facilities available.

### Concerns about data privacy

1. Medical records, if inadequately  
protected, may be leaked to third  
parties such as employers.

- Insurance companies etc.
2. Possibility of discriminatory treatment e.g. people who are HIV-positive.
  3. Breach of right to privacy of citizens.

### Other concerns

1. Digital divide among rural and urban areas, men and women etc.
2. Interoperability within IndEA enterprise architecture

### Way Ahead

As the NDHM develops, concerns regarding privacy of health data must be addressed, potentially in the framework of the Personal Data Protection Bill. Guidance can be taken from the EU laws on the subject.



18. One Nation One Ration card has the potential to significantly transform the lives of migrant workers in India. Analyse. (250 words) 15

वन नेशन वन राशन कार्ड में भारत में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के जीवन को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

One Nation - One Ration card is a measure to universalise the public distribution system in India.

### Features

1. Ration card may be used at any fair price shop across the country.
2. Aadhaar linkage of ration card
3. Aadhaar authentication at point-of-sale electronic machines may be required.

Presently, state-issued ration cards make PDS benefits inaccessible to

inter-state migrant workers, leading to hunger and poverty in an already disadvantaged population.

### Benefits for migrant workers

1. Food will be available throughout India without lengthy procedure of applying for change in ration card.
2. Safeguards such as 50% withdrawal at a time may be implemented.

### Concerns

1. Migrant workers will not be able to access state-specific schemes.
2. Infrastructure investment for ePOS machines.



3. Concerns regarding corruption in PDS still exist.

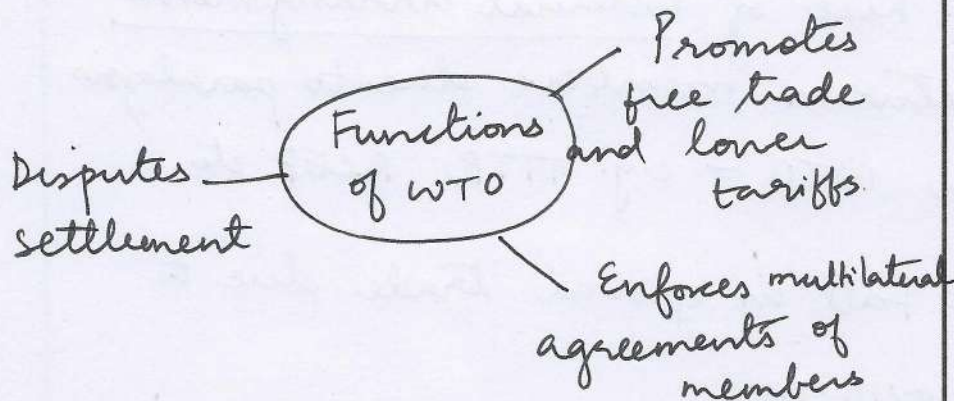
### Way Ahead

ONORC has great potential if implemented with proper groundwork and planning. Measures such as food coupons can also be considered.

19. The World Trade Organization is buffeted by multiple challenges which have eroded the credibility of the organization. Analyse. (250 words) 15

विश्व व्यापार संगठन कई चुनौतियों से ग्रस्त है, जिसने संगठन की विश्वसनीयता को समाप्त कर दिया है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The World Trade Organisation is an outcome of the Uruguay round (1995) of the General Agreement on Trade & Tariffs (GATT) system.



### Challenges in functioning

1. Stalled progress on the Doha development agenda due to North-South divide on issues of agricultural market access, subsidies etc.



2. Rising protectionist tendencies across the globe harming free trade.
3. Dependence on US - reflected in paralysed dispute settlement system.
4. Rise of external arrangements between members due to paralysis in WTO - e.g. TTIP, RCEP etc.
5. Fall in global trade due to COVID-19.
6. Lack of comprehensive policy on emerging areas such as e-commerce, data economy and localisation norms etc.

### Way Ahead

1. Deadlock in dispute settlement system is being sidestepped by Multi party Interim Arbitration Arrangement - can be made more equitable as demanded by India.

2. May allow multilateral agreements by some members that other members may join later - to avoid delays such as in Doha Round.

3. Reform organisation to give more voice to developing countries.

Given global upheavals, the role of the WTO is more important than ever to maintain a "rules-based international order".



20. BIMSTEC is indispensable for India's efforts in promoting regional cooperation and integration in the neighbourhood. Discuss. (250 words) 15  
बिम्स्टेक (BIMSTEC) पड़ोस में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग और एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में किए जाने वाले भारत के प्रयासों हेतु अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for MultiSectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional grouping of littoral states of the Bay of Bengal.

Significance for regional cooperation

1. Growing relevance due to paralysis of SAARC and better track record.
2. Role in balancing China's forays into the region.
3. Potential for cooperation on connectivity, infrastructure, technology transfer etc.

#### 4. Gateway to South East Asia and ASEAN

##### Significance for integration of neighbourhood

1. South Asia has very poor economic regional integration with intra-regional trade less than 5%.
2. Platform for India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies.
3. Platform to resolve issues hindering neighbourhood integration such as river water disputes.
4. Potential for India - BIMSTEC FTA, made significant by India's need to join FTAs after opting out of RCEP.



5. Integration via maritime cooperation through naval exercises.  
to bring strategic angle.

BIMSTEC also has great potential for cooperation on space, agri-business, humanitarian assistance etc.



The recently adopted BIMSTEC Charter upholds traditional Indian foreign policy values and paves the way for greater institutionalisation.