



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1835)

|                   |               |                     |         |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------|
| Name of Candidate | Aditya Sharma |                     |         |
| Medium Eng./Hindi | English       | Registration Number | 814634  |
| Center            | Chandigarh    | Date                | 11.8.22 |

### INDEX TABLE

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

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
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.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. The withdrawal of general consent to the CBI by certain state governments in India threatens the spirit of cooperative federalism in India. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

CBI was established by the DSPE Act and its role has been to investigate cases having a national connotations or as decided by the Centre.

- It is required to get a 'general consent' from the States before initiating an investigation in the requisite State.

- But this 'general consent' has not been granted by various states  West Bengal and this is detrimental to the delicate balance of cooperative federalism.

Threatening of spirit of cooperative federalism:-

- ① Cooperative federalism involves mutual

trust and faith and not granting of consent amounts to mutual distrust among the stakeholders.

② This fans the flame of separatist tendencies and bad elements might take advantage of it.

③ This could involve a 'tit' for 'tat' in various other spheres like finance, health, education and culture.

④ Coercive action by centre would amount to breakdown of federalism and so would adamant stand by the States and set a bad precedent.

⑤ Cooperative federalism reverts back to confrontational federalism.

The key is to make CBI a constitutional body, implement the recommendations of Santhanam Committee and 2nd ARC and follow the middle path of Buddha for a peaceful resolution.

2. Stating the sources of finance for local self-governments in India, suggest ways to strengthen their financial position. (150 words) 10

The local self governments were created by the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> CAA and include the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Municipalities.

Sources of finance for local self governments.

- ① Devolution of tax <sup>receipts</sup> by the State government after State Finance Commi advise
- ② Grants-in-aid by Centre and State
- ③ Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) funds earmarked for certain policies
- ④ Self-taxation from people - local level
- ⑤ Philanthropy and CSR

In spite of the sources, the local self governments are solely underfunded and suffer from various issues.

Issues with  
taxation and  
finance

- Tied nature of funds
- Low taxation powers
- Difficult to tax place where you live

→ Lack of effective devolution of funds

Corruption

Bureaucratic inertia at district level

State Finance  
Commission

Non-bundled

Ways to strengthen financial position -

- ① Increased financial autonomy
  - ② 'Untied' funds → Since schemes are sponsored by Centre and State, hardly any fund remains for fixing the ground realities.
  - ③ Increase power of taxation → The areas under PRA domain must be expanded and effective taxation power be granted.
  - ④ Simplify oversight → A myriad of functional - Gram Sak at PRA level and State Minister for Commissioner of Municipality level along with BDOs delay the fund availability.
- "The success of the country lies in effective creation and devolution of powers to PRIs"
- Mahatma Gandhi

3. Cabinet Committees play an important role in reinstating collective responsibility and principle of homogeneity of the Executive in the Indian Parliamentary system. Elucidate. (150 words) 10

Cabinet Committees are specialised committees formed for a specific function and mull over all facets of issue to provide a uniform legislation.

△ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

Role in reinstating collective responsibility:-

- ① The Cabinet committees represent the viewpoints of the executive collectively.
- ② They are appointed from among the executive and their viewpoints can be challenged in the legislature. △ EIA Amended Bill, 2021
- ③ The Legislature can defeat a bill passed by a Cabinet Committee and can even pass a Censure Motion or No confidence motion, reflecting collective responsibility.

④ Collective responsibility refers to the phenomenon of 'swim together and sink together' and hence the whole executive stands behind the decision and recommendations.

Role in re-instating principle of homogeneity in the executive :

- ① The executive members have different views, but they have to abide by the cabinet committee recommendation, producing a uniform law. eg DNA Bill
  - ② The differing views are accommodated in the decision by the cabinet committee to produce a uniform law. eg Climate Change Bill
  - ③ If a bill is disliked by a minister, he must either resign or stick to it, promoting homogeneity in viewpoint and preventing splits in the house.
- Hence, Cabinet committees are the bulwark to ensure smooth functioning of the executive and a streamlined parliamentary democracy.

4. There is a need to overhaul the public procurement and project management (PPPM) framework of India for faster, efficient and transparent execution of government projects. Comment. (150 words) 10

The public procurement and project management framework has been brought about for implementation of various government infrastructure projects.

Issues with PPPM framework =)

- ① The procurement occurs behind closed doors and is often times biased, hence increased transparency.
- ② Rehabilitation is not done after public procurement -
- ③ No proper time line is given to the citizen for project completion → ↓ accountability
- ④ Projects stay put due to lack of government

funding, leading to excessive troubles  
for people and common citizens  kharaa flyover  
in Punjab

⑤ Issues of corruption

⑥ Environmental concerns

Steps that can be taken :

① Procurement after due tenders and  
auctions.

② Involve citizen in the planning process

③ Ensure accountability from both the  
public and private players via citizen  
and social accountability.

- Social Audits,
- Jan Sunwayi
- Citizen Report Card etc.

④ Adequate and timely rehabilitation of  
displaced person.

5. Adequate measures are required to overcome the challenges and vulnerabilities associated with undertaking social accountability initiatives and institutionalising them. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

Social accountability initiatives refer to transparency and openness enhancing actions by citizens and associated groups like NGOs, Civil ~~citizen~~ society organisations (CSOs) etc.

- eg. ① Social audit  
② Jan Sunwai by Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan in Rajasthan  
③ Citizen Report Card in Hyderabad

Challenges and vulnerabilities with social accountability initiatives :-

- ① Excessive pressure on government :-  
India being a developing country does not have many resources, the reason for Directive Principles being non-enforceable.
- ② Issues with Civil groups :- They often

are hijacked by influential groups and do not represent everyone equally.

- ③ The social groups would influence the government to act for short-term gains rather than long term.

△ Eg. Land Reforms were widely opposed but were an inevitable requirement.

- ④ Pleasing tactics → by govt to gain votes rather than reforms.

- ⑤ Mere eyewash and post-modern work

Measures  
required

→ Registered NGOs and CSOs must be involved

→ Timely accountability is necessary

→ Space must be provided to government to undertake tasks in national interests.

→ More inclusive and representative CSOs.

→ Commission to look into NGOs, SHGs and CSOs specifically

The way forward is to strengthen the social accountability because it has seen success in the creation of a vibrant democracy.

6. In view of the recent Parliamentary Standing Committee report, discuss the issues faced by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) and suggest measures that can be adopted to strengthen it. (150 words) 10

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes was established to look into the issues regarding scheduled tribes and suggest effective measures for them.

Issues faced by NCST =)

- ① The recommendations have not been adhered to.
- ② The advice is of a non-binding nature.
- ③ Inadequate representation in the Commission from most tribes.  
↳ skewed recommendations excluding some
- ④ Scheduled Tribes have no awareness about NCST and hence poor grievance

redressal and feedback issue :

⑤ Compound of retired bureaucrats and it has become a turdy and ineffective body.

Measures to strengthen it =)

- ① Increased representation of all sides as they are the main stakeholders.
- ② Make the advisory body and hence impartial.
- ③ Increase awareness about the NCST and improve the feedback loop.
- ④ Link NCST with tribal groups for social accountability.

The need is for an active NCST to mobilise the tribal and help them contribute effectively to the society.

7. While the Mid-Day Meal scheme was aimed at fulfilling the nutritional needs of students, it is far behind in achieving this objective. Discuss. Also, suggest remedial measures in this context. (150 words) 10

The Mid-Day Meal scheme was launched to serve the dual needs of education and nutrition by securing attendance of students.

Failure to achieve goals by Mid-Day - Meal scheme =)

- ① The malnutrition and stunting level is still ~35% as per WHO.
- ② India is 66/109 in the Multidimensional Poverty Index Report by OPHI.
- ③ COVID-19 pandemic halted the Mid Day Meal programme in most states.
- ④ 'Hidden hunger' or micronutrient deficiency is fast approaching.
- ⑤ ~40% of females have anemia in
- ⑥ Adulteration our country.

## Remedial measures for Mid Day Meal Scheme :-)

① Address issue of hidden hunger :-)

Biofortification of food  Golden Rice  
(Rice with Vit A), addition of eggs  
in diet (optional).

② Proper inspection and testing to check  
for adulteration.

③ Separate staff for implementation of  
Mid-Day Meal rather than school  
workers.

④ Procurement via MSP can be diverted  
to Mid Day Meal scheme, solving issue of  
storage and degradation of food.

⑤ Varied menu to ensure children  
compliance.

Children are 40% of the population and 100%  
of our future. We would do well to remember.

66 "A healthy mind can only thrive  
in a healthy body."

8. Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) remain critical for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, discuss the impediments in the fulfilment of SRHR in India. Also, mention the steps that can be taken in this regard. (150 words) 10

Sexual and Reproductive health and rights (SRHR) refers to two domains =)

- (A) Health =) (i) Sexually transmitted diseases like HIV-AIDS, Chlamydia, Herpes  
(ii) Urinary tract infections (UTIs)  
(iii) Anemia due to excessive menstrual bleeding  
(iv) Health of mothers during pregnancy and lactation
- (B) Rights =) (i) Family Planning → availability of contraceptives  
(ii) Abortion issue  
(iii) Rights of LGBTQ + community  
(iv) Right to a healthy gestational period

Impediments to SRHR =)

- ① Associated stigma =) Indians are

still hesitant to open up about issues relating to sexual health.

② Education → Lack of sexual education in schools

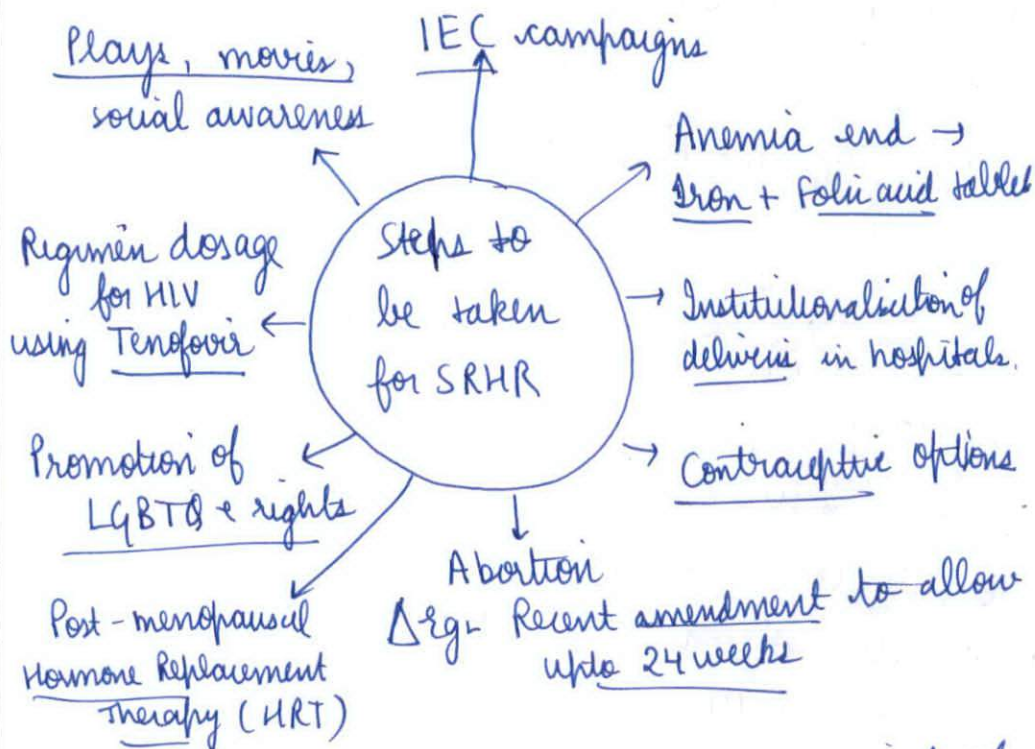
③ Health → • MMR is 33/100,000 and anemia prevalence ~50%.

• untrained 'dai' deliveries

• failure of family planning

④ Stigmatisation of LGBTQ & community

⑤ Lack of contraceptive education



A holistic developed society and achievement of SDGs is impossible with SRHRs and must be taken care of.

9. State the functions of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Also, discuss the issues faced by the Council in the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. (150 words) 10

UN Human Rights Council <sup>(UNHRC)</sup> is the watchdog of Human Rights at a global level.

Functions of UNHRC :

- ① Reporting of human rights violation around the world.

eg. Uighur Muslim issue in Xinjiang province of China

- ② Asking for rights of refugees and promoting them

eg. Rohingyas of Myanmar

- ③ Collecting data of the Human Rights and presenting them to the UN for effective sanctions.

- ④ Promotion of Human Rights and taking suo-moto cognisance of rights violation.

- ⑤ Spreading awareness and information

- ⑥ Partnership with NGOs and CSOs like

Amnesty International for effective resolution of such issues -

Issues faced by Council for promotion and protection of human rights around the world

- ① Non-binding recommendations → Their advice and data can be studied and analysed but are non-binding.
- ② No 'teeth' → Even after widespread reporting of HR violations in China and in Ukraine, nothing has materialised.
- ③ Countries do not allow → eg. Amnesty International had to relocate from India and its data is essential for UNHRC.
- ④ Issues of corruption → The UNHRC has less inputs about North and finds more faults with the global South. eg. Non-reporting of crimes in US.  
The key is to equip the UNHRC with adequate teeth to protect human rights in a rapidly deteriorating, war-stricken world order.

10. West Asia is an important strategic region for India with profound geo-political and geo-economic significance. Discuss. (150 words) 10

West Asia has been a key feature of India's 'look West' policy and has wide ramifications for India's tomorrow =)

- ① Geo-strategic → India has huge stakes in the area with China making inroads using BR1 (Belt and road initiative) and delay in India's efforts in the Chabahar port in Iran.
- It is a 'gateway to Europe' specially since a route is difficult for India due to Pakistan and Chinese animosity.

- ② Geo-political → (i) India has a profound diaspora presence and wants to safeguard it.
- (ii) India's engagement with them on the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Countries) has

recently taken a hit due to enhanced Pakistan involvement.

(iii) Various terrorist groups like ISIS, Lashkar-e-Toiba hold ground there and to eliminate them, India must have engagement with the governments there.

③ Geo-economic significance =)

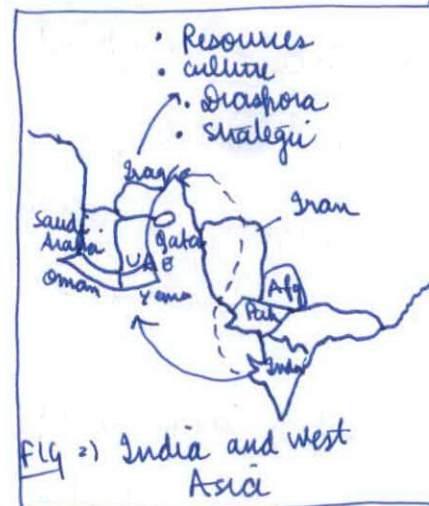
(i) Resources =) West Asia is one of the biggest supplier of oil to India in an era of uncertainty

(ii) Trade =) India would be keen to enhance trade which is maximised with VAE in the region

(iii) Remittances =) India is

the largest remittance receiver and this creates mutual interdependence.

With growing polarisation and US going protectionist, India must find key allies in West Asia for economic, military and energy security.



11. Disenfranchising prisoners desecrates a cherished value in a democracy i.e. 'right to vote', which should be guarded earnestly. Discuss in the light of The Representation of The People Act, 1951. (250 words) 15

The right to vote is a key right granted in our constitution and since independence, India has granted 'Universal Adult Franchise' which has led to a vibrant democracy.

The Representation of People Act, 1951, disenfranchises citizens who are prisoners.

This creates a key ethical dilemma in whether to grant them franchise or not.

Reasons for granting ->

- ① India is the world's largest democracy and has always been a champion of democratic rights, universal adult franchise being the most important one.

② The cause for imprisonment is in no way related to their voting rights. Like right to food in prison, the right to vote must be imperative too.

③ No such exception mentioned in the Constitution.

④ There are both political and violent prisoners and franchise has a huge impact on their lives.

⑤ At present ~75% in prisons are undertrials and this would lead to injustice because they are not yet proven guilty.

⑥ At times, parties in power may on purpose put people in prison to improve their electoral performance.

## Reasons for not granting franchise -)

- ① It would lead to politisaton of criminals and criminalisation of politi.
- ② A person who does not respect human rights and ethuality must not be provided this inherent right.
- ③ It would create an excessive burden on persons along with safely and security concerns.

India must certainly provide a minimum set of voting rights like granting right to vote to political prisoners and underbials, setting up EVMs and voting one by one, ban on campaigning in persons to preserve the vibrant, holistic demoray which is our foundation.

12. There are similarities and interactions between the affirmative action adopted by India and USA owing to similar historical injustices faced by their respective vulnerable groups. Discuss. (250 words) 15

Affirmative action refers to positive reservation that is given to some individuals on account of historical, social or economic drawbacks.

Similarities and interaction 2)

- ① US faced apartheid while India faced untouchability, hence both brought about laws to help them move.
- ② Art 16, 15 provide for positive affirmations in the Indian constitution and the US also at a later date inculcated them.
- ③ The group of LGBTQ+ has gained

support in both USA and recently in India with the abrogation of Art 377.

④ India provides special protection to scheduled tribes and also in some places to women and US does the same for Red Indian and Native American along with women.

→ Apartheid was against a race (Africans) while untouchability was against a class (depressed classes) and both struggled for years to attain social and economic emancipation.

⑤ Both have reserved seats in

educational institutes, jobs, public posts and rolled out several special schemes like 'Stand Up India' by India.

6 Famous personalities eg Martin Luther King Jr and Dr. Ambedkar had similar persistence.

The key is to make the whole process of justice more inclusive and promote positive affirmation till the time these classes have found their feet in the society and the socio-economic milieu.

13. Objections to domicile-based reservation in private sector jobs on the grounds of constitutional equality and freedom are misplaced. Critically discuss. (250 words) 15

Domicile based reservation means providing a set of secured vacancies for people belonging to the same state.

- This is aptly seen in recruitment to various State Government posts and admission to colleges, but it is a dilemma for its inclusion in the private sector.
- Art 15 and 16 provide for equality of appointment in posts without discrimination on caste, colour, religion, gender or place of birth. But it has only been mentioned for public employment, not private.

Reasons for ~~the~~ not agreeing to domicile based reservation in states by private sector -)

- ① Lack of meritocracy -> Private companies will be forced to hire candidates of the state rather than meritocracy, giving the deserving candidates no chance.
- ② The Constitution does not mention any such provision for private players.
- ③ The government has adequately provided for reservation based on residence in state government posts.
- ④ The private sector is built on the foundation of capitalism and to earn profits, not socialism.

- ⑤ Decreasing productivity  $\Rightarrow$  Less effort put by candidates to get a job and less efficient workers lead to decreasing productivity.
- ⑥ Freedom would violate the private company's right to hire persons of its choice.
- ⑦ The health of Public Sector Enterprises is failing and is a cruel reminder of public intervention in industries while the private sector is booming.

Hence, it may be necessary in some situations to hire workers of same state  $\triangleq$  eg where facilities are inadequate like Mampan, Mizoram, Uthalsgarh but on the whole, choice must be offered to the private sector if it finds the change feasible.

14. There have been arguments that sedition law is an attack on the very foundation of India's liberal democratic principles, as enshrined in the Constitution. Do you agree? (250 words) 15

Sedition law is mentioned in Section 124 of the IPC and has recently been put on hold by the Supreme Court.

Necessity of Sedition law -

- ① It helps to reign in certain elements that are threat to India's sovereignty and democracy.
- ② It helps in peaceful democratic process and deters riots and protests.
- ③ It helps to prevent secessionist tendencies and hate crimes.
- ④ Various parties like the CPI-M have tried to influence people to lead to anti-democratic change of power and this

law has been useful to thwart them .

Sedition law as an attack on India's  
democratic foundation :-

- ① It has been frequently used to quell  
the freedom of speech and expression -
- ② It is poorly defined and this ambiguity  
has been utilised by governments at times  
to crush dissenting opinions , failure of  
Art 19 .
- ③ Home arrests to various leaders  
have been given at times and  
this can have an impact on a  
fair democratic process .
- ④ Its use on Twitter posts and other social  
media has ushered in an era of  
~~terror~~ and people are afraid to give  
opposite opinions .

⑤ Sedition has been labelled as an 'Anti-National Law' and the individual so caught is widely condemned.

⑥ Freedom of media -> It is curtailed and even free and fair reporting may be forgotten.

⑦ The Constitution provides for an atmosphere of debate and discussion which has been trampled upon and it can become a weapon to turn democracy to autocracy.

The way forward is to have clarity in the Sedition Law by proper, clear and unambiguous guidelines which will help preserve national and internal serenity and smooth democratic process

without crushing the fundamental Rights of citizens. The Supreme Court has done well to suspend it till the time a clear legislation is provided.

15. Despite Government e-Marketplace facing certain challenges, it has brought about a significant improvement in the procurement of goods and services by various government agencies. Discuss. (250 words) 15

Government has brought about the Govt e-Marketplace (GeM) portal which has been instrumental in ushering in an era of digital business.

Challenges of GeM :-

- ① Monopoly → Most sellers are not able to exist and government sometimes ends up buying items from monopolistic seller.
- ② Lack of digital literacy - As per NFHS-5, only 35% of rural people have internet connectivity which is even less for women. Hence, small rural

businesses are unable to enlist .

③ Corruption → At times a department acts in collusion with seller and buys the product in return for remuneration .

④ Limited options ⇒ There are currently very limited options on the GeM .

⑤ Lack of digital know-how in public office leading to decreased harnessing of expected benefits .

⑥ Big players benefit more than small ones by cheaper products via economies of scale .

Improvement in procurement by GeM ⇒

① Fair, transparent process which increases accountability.

② Helps promote e-governance

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graph TD
    A((e-governance)) --> B[electronic]
    A --> C[effortless]
    A --> D[easy]
    A --> E[efficient]
  
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③ Small players can easily upload their items on the portal, without having to set up physical stores.

④ Better linkage between different department of government.

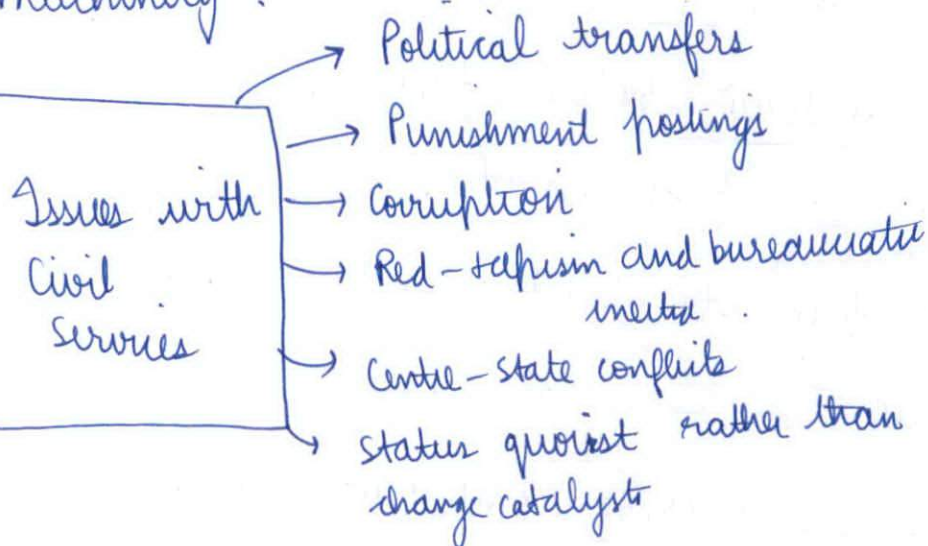
⑤ Helps promote digital literacy by example.

⑥ The rates become competitive and decision can be taken in an objective manner.

Hence GeM has the potential to transform the MSME sector and hence must be adequately transformed.

16. A reformed system of recruitment, training and evaluation needs to be put in place to take forward the development of a highly efficient and accountable civil service. Discuss in the context of India. (250 words) 15

The Civil Services is the bulwark of our society, the key change-catalysts and implementors of all policies to ensure smooth functioning of the government machinery.



Reforms in civil service =)

A. At the recruitment level =)

- (1) The Civil Services exam has done well to include GS Paper IV - ethics which will lead to increase in ethics.

- (2) The recruiting stage can include a bigger element of public administration to ensure better governance
- (3) New AIS for judiciary, health etc. as per Punchhi Commission recommendations.
- (4) The Case studies can be widened to showcase real-life examples.

### B. At training level :-

- (1) More focus on ground realities than theoretical textbooks.
- (2) example of eminent civil servants  
 Eg- Umakant Umrao of Dewas and  
IAS smita Sabharwal of ~~Hy~~ Warangal.
- (3) Cadre allotment based on subjective assessment during the foundational course (FC)
- (4) Better integration among the different  
All India Service (AIS)
- (5) Teaching of corruption laws and consequences.

(C) During service → • Strengthen corruption laws

(1) A regular check at 15 and 20 years of service and before promotion.

If found to be unsatisfactory, must be given voluntary retirement.

(2) Creation of Civil Service Board that must take care of transfers rather than political whims. eg Ashok Khemka issue

(3) The average tenure of a civil servant at a place is 11 months which is very less. Fixed tenure of some time must be given.

(4) Digital library → e-governance must be used in eg e-seva, Digi Locker, e-Kranti

(5) Lateral entry → to infuse professionalism in the static civil services.

“The country cannot run without an efficient, ethical and contented civil service.”

→ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

17. Despite initiatives taken by the Indian government to achieve critical goals in the education sector, major interventions are required to tackle learning poverty as well as the persisting inequalities. Discuss. (250 words) 15

The Indian government has rolled out the New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to achieve the existing ~~loopholes~~ in the education sector and fulfill our SDGs

Initiatives taken by Indian government in education sector

① NEP 2020 → Introduction of a global curriculum, addition of vocational skills.

② Mid-Day Meal Scheme ⇒ serving dual purpose of education and nutrition-

③ PISA → to help compare Indian Education with Western ones.

④ Setting up schools for children with special needs -

⑤ NITI Aayog's Vision for Inclusive Education.

Learning poverty =) Learning poverty refers to various disorders that affect learning ability like ADHD, dyslexia etc. and also the various impediments to effective learning like malnutrition, access and quality education.

Intervention required =)

① Setting up a separate cadre for

students with special needs.

② Giving industry-specific skills to private sector by involvement of private corporate

③ Health and nutrition must be improved.

④ e-learning and e-schools via satellite link can help during time like COVID pandemic

⑤ Effective rollout of NEP and Three language policy

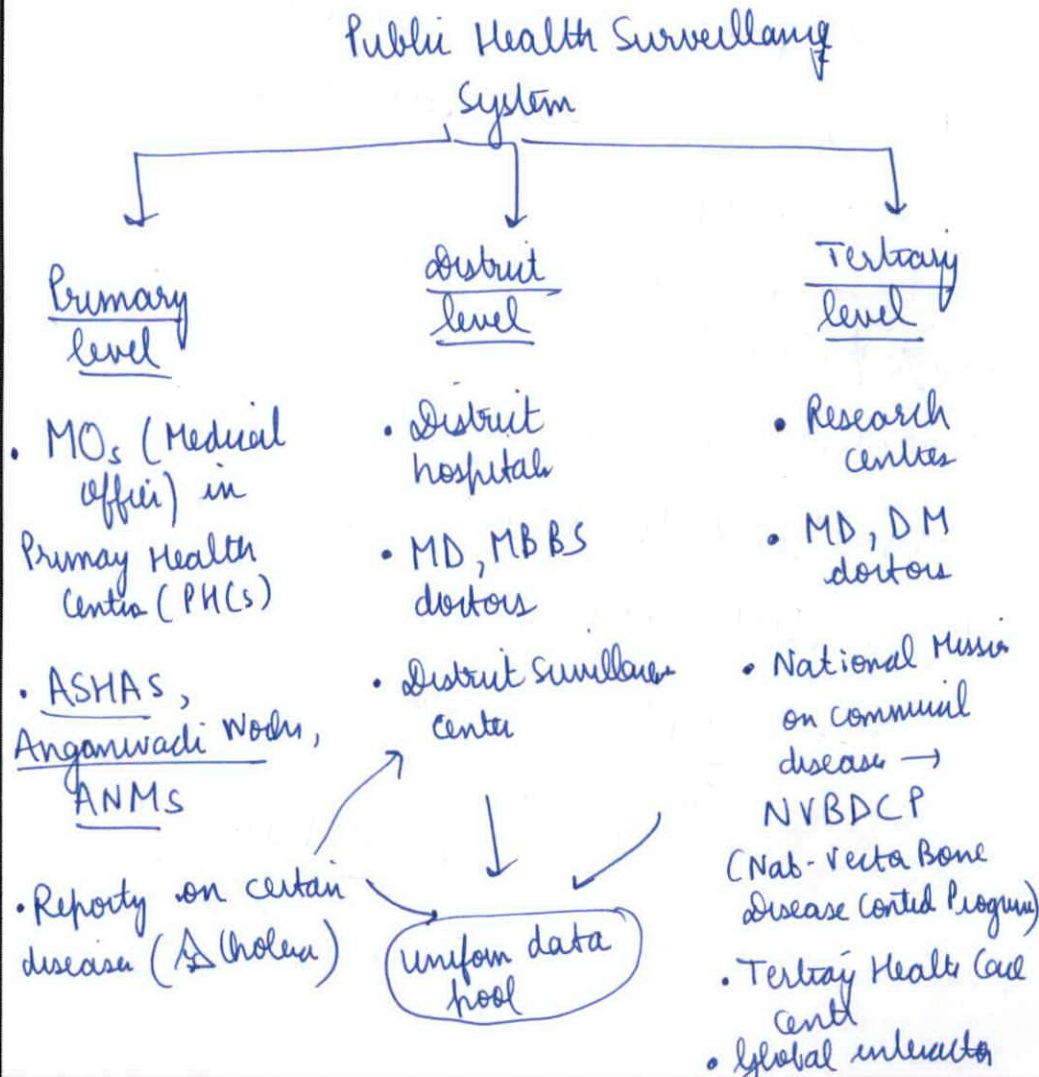
⑥ Inclusive higher education.

“The goal of the modern educator is not to cut down trees but to help irrigate deserts.”

— Amid Ray

18. In light of the burgeoning burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, there is a need to revamp the public health surveillance system in India. Discuss. (250 words) 15

The Health Sector in India is faced with a myriad of challenges. Earlier faced with the burden of communicable diseases, now India has become the 'diabetes capital' of the world, signifying <sup>increase</sup> ~~an~~ in non-communicable diseases.



## Need to revamp public health surveillance system $\Rightarrow$

- ① The public surveillance is all mostly on paper  $\rightarrow$   $\Delta$  ASHAs, ANMs, AWWs do not have requisite resources or motivation to visit all places.
- ② Fudging of data  $\Rightarrow$  With less accountability, districts and states manipulate data to show a rosy picture.
- ③ Unreported diseases  $\Rightarrow$  Various diseases like typhoid, cholera, diabetes and even COVID-19 were differently reported by national bodies and Intl<sup>l</sup> ones like WHO.
- ④ The Non-communicable diseases are difficult to monitor because of silent symptoms and hence an overhaul

of the system is essential for better reporting.

⑤ Poor integration of primary, district and tertiary level and hence the common data pool is sorely deficient.

⑥ Lack of digitization

⑦ Lack of funds - Health has only been given ~2% of GDP and this too was the increased version after the COVID pandemic.

Increase funds  $\Delta$  ~10% of GDP by Japan

Steps to revamp  
public health  
surveillance

↓  
Integration of  
three levels.

- Digitization of records
- Accountability at primary level
- Sops and motivation for increased reporting
- Free treatment for certain diseases → ↑ patient compliance

The way forward is to put more focus on health to fulfill our SDGs and Right to Health like Art 42.

19. The repercussions of the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka extend beyond its borders. Discuss with specific reference to India. Also, mention the steps that India has taken to assist Sri Lanka tide over the crisis.

(250 words) 15

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka has been catastrophic to its political, economic and social fabric and it is now in debt to the tune of ~ 35 billion dollars.

Repercussions extending beyond its border to India =>

① Political => • The political instability in Sri Lanka with fleeing of its PM and a free hand to military might invite bad elements to start terrorism in India.

• Any democracy being in danger is a threat to India.

② Economically => • The economy of

Sri Lanka has been hit, and it had been a key partner of India in various spheres for exports → ↓ economy & trade

- The rapid 'crowding out' by investors could lead to poor faith in entire South Asia.
- India had to extend a \$300 million line of credit due to diplomatic concerns.

### ③ Social issues :-

- Migrants illegally coming into India
- Ethnic tensions in Tamil Nadu and South India over treatment of Sri Lankan Tamilians.
- Human Rights Violation

### ④ Ethnic issue ↗

### ⑤ Chinese dominance :- Sri Lanka has

reaffirmed support to China and the Hambantota Port (a deep sea port) is already in Chinese control.

Steps by ~~Sri Lanka~~ India to assist Sri Lanka

① Stepping up to provide a \$300 million line of credit.

② Food aid to Sri Lanka

③ Garnering support globally

④ Shipments of medicines and vaccines to tide over dual effects of poor economy → malnutrition and COVID-19.

⑤ Currency swap agreement to help tide over the crisis.

⑥ Reducing trade duties on essential items.

India would do well to adhere to the Gyrfal doctrine and help Sri Lanka to form a permanent ally in the Indian Ocean.

20. India is a reliable partner in the Indian Ocean Region and can take on the role of being the net security provider in the region. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

Net security provider is a broad term not only encompassing peace and military security but also social, economic and political stability.

- India has helped set up the
  - ↳ Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
  - ↳ Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)
  - ↳ and set up the vision of SAGAR →
  - (Security and Growth of all in the region).

India as a net security provider →

- ① Militarily → • India has recently provided a naval surveillance system to Maldives.
- India has an active navy and can

help support allies if needed.

- India conducts regular exercises like Malabar, inspiring confidence
- Train to Maldivian personnel in LBSNAA & SVPNA

② Economically → • India has helped the countries by aid, medicines and vacines during the COVID pandemic.

- India extends line of credit (→ the aid to Sri Lanka of ~ \$ 300 million)
- currency swap agreements.

③ Cultural presence → • Indian diaspora  
→ Fiji

- Shared history of colonial presence.
- Presence of Bollywood films and common religion.
- Tourism.

④ ~~Politically~~ Politically → India is the world's largest vibrant democracy and stands for political stability

⑤ India better understands the concerns having a very long coastline.

Drawbacks in  
Indian  
approach

→ 'Big brother' attitude

→ Behind China in quickness  
and amount of funds

→ QUAD creates fear of  
marginalisation

→ SAGAR mission not actively  
pursued.

As our Prime Minister has stated, we must  
go for 'Blue Diplomacy' and harness the  
power of the ~~2~~ united Indian Ocean.

India must act rapidly and timely to  
prevent radicalisation of the region by  
economic and political interests eg Solomon  
Islands by China in the South China Sea.

We would highly benefit from economic  
and social resources and these countries  
would back us on the international platform  
eg UNSC Permanent Seat.