



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2718)

Name of Candidate	Saniksha Dwivedi		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1430179
Center	Online	Date	21/7

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

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.

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended

Strongly Recommended

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 & Sind 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. Examine the implications of increased judicial legislation on the separation of powers in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The judicial legislation refers to autonomous amendment by judiciary of laws to constitution. It has become prevalent with cases like Anoop Baranwal case (2019) & Govt of Tamil Nadu Case 2015.

Implications on the separation of power

weakens it • Affect constituent power of Parliament to legislate.

↳ Against Parliamentary sovereignty  
(Vice President Shankar)

• Imposes arbitrary conditions without technical knowledge on executive

eg) closure of liquor shops on highway

• Increase in Public interest legislations

Hampers governance eg) stay on Waqf Bill 2014.

• Lack of Judicial Accountability

⊕ dismissal of NATC (CJMCAT) → collegial system opaque.

strengthen it • uphold constitutional spirit

(Basic structure Doctrine)

⊕ Anoop Baranwal <sup>IX Coelho case (schedule IX under judicial review)</sup>

• Push executive & legislature into Action

⊕ Anoop Baranwal case - process of electing Election Commissioners

• Protects rights of citizens for arbitrary

state action

⊕ Kanushal Kishore case (Article 19)

• Support sustainability in governance

⊕ Ranjit Singh case - protection of Great Indian Bustard

The judicial legislation should be exercised with 'judicial restraint' to reduce overreach & support harmonious relation between all organs of Constitution

2.

Who is a public servant under Article 14 of the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act? Critically examine the case for including constitutional courts (or higher judiciary) under the purview of Lokpal. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Lokpal & Lokayukta Act was introduced in 2013 to curb the institutionalised corruption & create a vigilance framework nationwide

Public servant - Article 14 of Lokpal Act

1. PM - for internal issues
2. Ministers under Centre / Union
3. Group A, B, C, D officials
4. MPs
5. Officials, societies, trust & bodies  
→ under ₹1 crore income from govt  
& foreign donation of ₹10 crore.

Constitutional Courts under Lokpal

Should be under Lokpal

• officials of government machinery ⇒ paid & served

by taxpayers money

- Rising cases of Corruption → E.g. Delhi HC justice case of burnt notes
- lack of third party vigilance on court (Bangalore principles - Judges adjudicate judges)

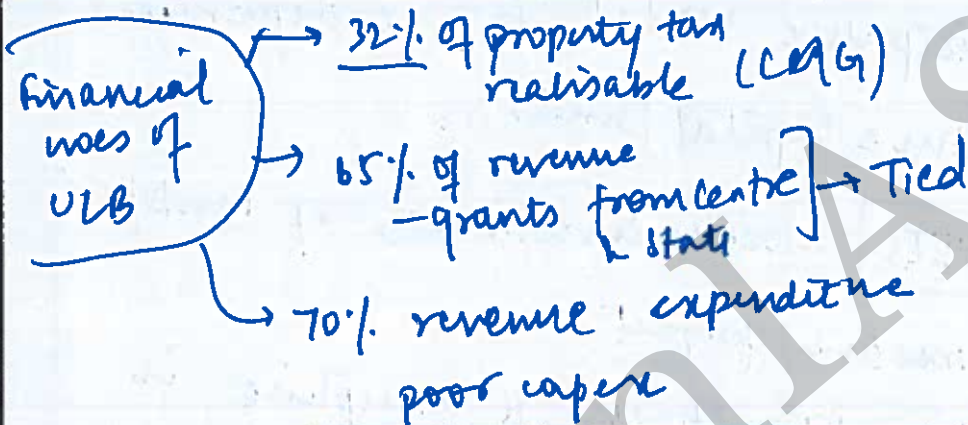
Should not be constitutional courts are constitutional authority superseding any legislative authority (SC)

- Separation of power - executive constituted quasi-judicial authority adjudicate judiciary
- Affect independence of court - can lead to political appeasement
- E.g. misuse of govt machinery (CO) against opposition

The matter is currently subjudice.  
However, judicial accountability needs to be developed with a third party oversight to balance accountability & independence

3. How can the financial woes of urban local bodies be tackled through innovative funding?  
(Answer in 150 words) 10

Urban Local Bodies suffer from low funding, with only 0.15% of GDP devolved to ULBs opposed to 6% in South Africa (RBI)



### Role of innovative funding for ULBs

- Impact Bonds - raise fund through impact bonds in project specific manner  
eg green energy, urban mobility
- Municipal Bonds - eg Indore for solar power plant, Bhubaneswar
- Reduce dependence on grants & devolution
- cheaper source with opportunity of profit

• Crowd funding - eg Armstrong Lane

People's road

Attract philanthropists

• Private shareholding and equity issuance

Participative model for entrepreneurs

& venture capital funds

• INVTs - seek investments of investor

Infrastructure project

↳ quality checks & discipline in  
project completion

• Monetisation of assets lease out revenue

rights of city assets.

Concerns in innovative financing

- need investment grade credit history to attract finance
- project based → proper identification & planning
- ↳ attracting investors → register on bond/stock exchange

The URBs should be financially strong  
proper infrastructure and dedicated - expert personnel  
to explore & efficiently utilise innovative financing

4.

Examine the constitutional and functional relationship between the President and the Prime Minister. Is the President merely a titular head in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

India has parliamentary system where President is 'de jure Head' while PM is 'de facto head' of the government.

Constitutional Relationship between President & PM

Article 75 — President Appoints the council of ministers headed by Prime-minister

• Has the right to direct PM to consider any matter important for country

• Ask for information from PM about working of government.

• PM in turn advises President  
 → To appoint / dismiss council of ministers  
 → Assent to bill  
 → legislature dissolution

Functional relationship b/w PM & President

- Act as link between Council & President
- Submission of Reports and putting it for legislative analysis (NCBS, NCSC)
- Moral pressure on states by President on behalf of Union

### President as 'Titular Head of India'

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Real power with PM</u></li> <li>• President bound by 'Council of Ministers' Advice</li> <li>• <u>Ceremonial head</u> - for receiving <u>dignatories</u>, head of all armed forces</li> <li>• <u>Suspensive veto</u> - can return bill only once</li> <li>• No suspensive veto on <u>money bill</u></li> <li>• Has to assent to 'Constitutional amendment' (24th)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Constitutional &amp; situational/discretion</u></li> <li>• (eg) Appointment of PM during <u>hung assembly</u></li> <li>• <u>denying advice</u> when PM loses support</li> <li>• Exercise of <u>veto</u> like <u>Pocket veto</u> (Press restriction Act in 1980s)</li> <li>• <u>Continuity</u> in governance</li> <li>• Formulates <u>rules of governance</u></li> </ul>

President and PM represent a trust based collaborative partnership to make India democratic republic

5. Discuss the role of ICT in improving healthcare delivery through e-governance in India.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10

With ubiquity of e-governance, it has become important to incorporate it into healthcare to achieve goals of National Health Policy 2017

### Role of ICT in Healthcare Delivery

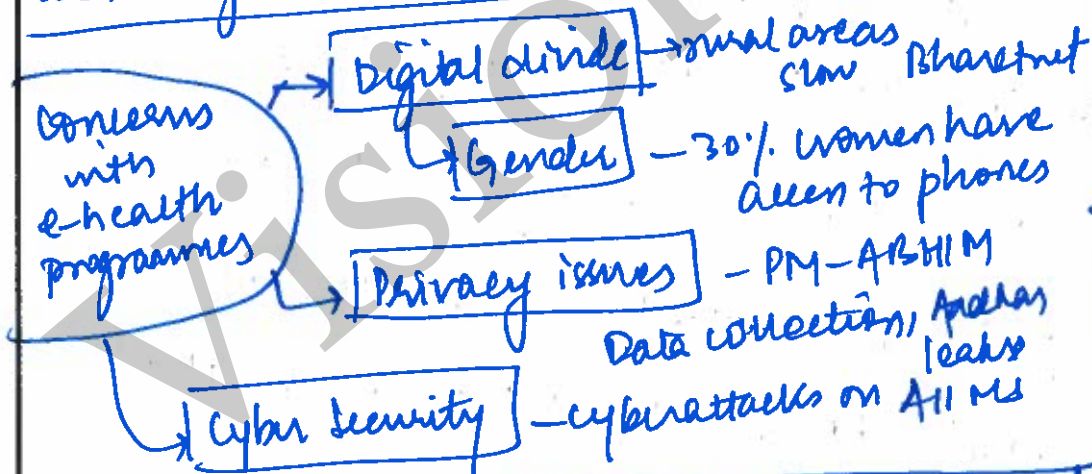
- Complement manpower insufficiency
- Use of Te-sanjivani and telehealth initiative for remote consultations
- Strengthen information architecture
- eg. PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure mission - Registry of Doctors & Laboratories
- Faster Emergency Response eg. Bhaskar cube for disasters
- Improve personnel management use of

application for attendance of AWW, ASHA

- Tracking health & progress Through applications like SEDS APP for ASHA, UWIN for vaccines

- Mental Health Initiatives - Telemans & Kiran Helpline

- Awareness programmes against NCDs and Neglected Tropical diseases.



Health initiatives with e-governance need swift progress in digital infrastructure, accessibility through data in regional language across sections & privacy initiatives to ensure security.

6.

Enumerate the key challenges encountered across various stages of policy formulation in India. (Answer in 150 words)

10

The policy formulation begins by introduction of problem statement and progressive analysis & development of a solution.

Key challenges in stages of policy formulation

Stage	Challenges
① Identifying problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political and administrative will of leaders</li> <li>Eg) delayed management of Obble landfill in Delhi</li> </ul>
② Set Agenda Data analysis, core goals & objectives Design vision Statement & aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of <u>groundlevel research</u> - Data deficiency</li> <li><u>Poor quantification</u> of goals - vague &amp; subjective</li> <li><u>Overpromising</u> - without Capacity &amp; infrastructure analysis</li> </ul>

### ③ Policy Development

• options developed for implementation

- Challenges
- lack of trained experts & ignorance of environment experts in CRZ notification, bureaucracy
  - Data - public non personalised & anonymous data
  - Funding gaps

### ④ Evaluating the options

- lack of third party audits
- reduced time on public consultation

### ⑤ Making decision

- Compromise public interest for expediency

### ⑥ Implementation

- Inexperience & inefficiency by civil servants
- lack of public participation

### ⑦ Feedback

- Waterfall approach, non regular inspection, social audits etc.

These challenges should be addressed by awared citizenry, consultations, agility with feedback in every stage & expert inclusion.

7.

How does gender inequality contribute to the intensification of poverty? (Answer in 150 words) 10

The feminisation of poverty is seen in India, with larger proportion of women (and third gender) in poverty bracket (BPL)

Gender Inequality with intensification of poverty

• Income poverty - female labour force participation  $\rightarrow$  41% (PLFS 2024)

Gender wage gap of 20%

• Lack of asset ownership - only 13% of women are agricultural land owners, of them 10% are small & marginal landholders

• Patriarchy - limits educational & employment opportunities, particularly in greedy jobs (IT, Finance)

⊕ AISHA  $\rightarrow$  50% of graduates women but low presence in STEM Field

## Informalisation of Female Employment

- around 90% of

female in informal jobs

- get low pay, poor protection (harassment)

- no social & job security

## Unpaid care work

Most of self-employed

female in this - childcare, elderly care

## Time poverty

- Time use survey 2019

women spend 5x more time on care work than male

↳ opportunity cost for learning, skill development etc.

(learning poverty, skill poverty)

## Nutritional poverty

→ 50% of women anaemic (NFHS5)

high health burden, lack of self development, miss work days.

Gender inequality needs to be addressed by SR approach - Recognise, Redress, Redistribute  
 Reward & represent to empower women and  
 rise in Global Gender Gap Index rank for India.

8. Malnutrition in India continues to persist despite numerous schemes and interventions over the years. What are the key reasons behind this persistence? (Answer in 150 words)

10

India is fourth largest economy, yet ranks 105/125 countries in Global Hunger Index and 50% of women anaemic (NFHS5)

Persistence of malnutrition in India

- 19% wasted (children)
- 32% stunted
- 25% undernutrition

Key reasons for Malnutrition Persistence

Issues in welfare scheme - 1) scope eligible

excluded for PDS under MFA (low census) 2021

2) reduced & delayed DBT transfer - PM-Matru Vandana Yojana, only Rs 5000

with delays

3) Anganwadis - overworked, underpaid and poor training. long strikes by Anganwadis in Delhi, Maharashtra

4) Corruption & Leakages - 46% leakage in PDS  
(by Shanta Kumar Committee)

• Poor knowledge - only 40% of women

feed children in first hour, 60% in first 6 months

• Hidden Hunger - Food basket dominated by carbohydrates → micronutrient deficiency  
or protein deficiency

• Poverty → chronic poverty (urban areas - 28% - Witayog)

[Caloric Consumption Puzzle] → higher investment in health education, reduction in nutrition

2) Inflation → 17% rise in inflation → 13% rise in malnutrition

Implications of malnutrition → Economic loss (4% of GDP)  
→ learning poverty in children → demographic dividend  
→ High health expenditure

Malnutrition requires awareness & training (Samprone project in Bonyanyi), collaboration with administration for schemes and balanced diet to achieve SDG 2 - Zero Hunger

9.

The rupture in the Trans-Atlantic partnership that has defined the Western world order post-World War II opens key opportunities for India. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The world war II permanently united date of US-west Europe for decades, but with Trump 2-0, Russia-Ukraine war & Israel-Hamas war, cracks are seen.

### Opportunities for India

Geopolitical opportunities - 1. India's role as swing state - strategic autonomy, strong bilateralism with France & Italy

Economic opportunities - 1. Trump Tariffs

Search for alternate trade partners & markets

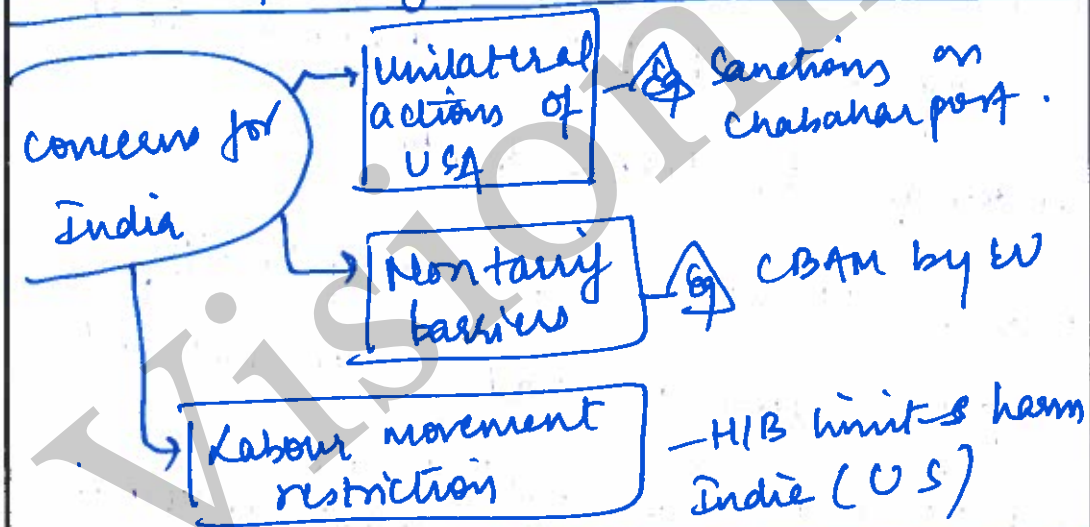
② BTIA negotiation, India-VK FTA  
2. FDI inflows and labour market remittances

Climate Change Negotiation - withdrawal of USA from Paris Agreement

Need of Greater Cooperation - ② Green Strategic Partnership of India - Denmark  
Strengthen ISA (India - France)

Multilateral Reforms Threat of Bipolarity,  
India can seek reforms under NORMS  
strategy (Multilateral Finance Institutions),  
UNSC etc..

Connectivity Projects (eg) IMEC, INSTC  
for increasing west Europe - South Asia  
Connect (eg) Italy (Messina), France (Marseille)  
members



India can emerge as 'Vishwanath' by  
acting as a bridge in Transatlantic Fault  
, at the same time balance geopolitics to  
protect its interest through negotiation, summits  
and strategic autonomy.

10.

Assess the mandate and effectiveness of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in curbing global terrorism financing. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Financial Action Task Force is international organisation focused on money laundering prevention and restricting terror financing and weapon of mass destruction.

Mandate and Effectiveness of FATF

- Released **40+9** directives to curb money laundering and terror financing

- Periodic Inspections** of the member countries to evaluate their protective regulations

(eg) India received highest rating in 2025

- Releases **'Grey list'** and **'Black list'**

to create awareness for nonadhering jurisdictions

(eg) North Korea & Iran in Blacklist

- Moral Pressure** on jurisdictions to uphold anti-money laundering & terror financing

Threat of exclusion & restriction in  
financial flows

Concerns with FATF

• Non-binding resolutions Provide only  
suggestion, adherence is voluntary

• Limited outcome on categorisation - Iran's  
support to non state actors, North Korea's  
nuclear programme continues

• Interest of developed  
countries - OECD's priorities  
are reflected

• Limitation of Evaluation (eg) Pakistan  
released by 'grey list' → attack on Pakistan  
(2015)

FATF needs to strengthen its sanction  
mechanism, improve evaluation mechanism  
and become more participative for effective  
AML & terrorfinancing.

11.

Critically assess the effectiveness of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). (Answer in 250 words) 15

The 73CAA provided constitutional status to Indian Panchayati system, promoting Gandhian vision of village republics (Article 40)

73CAA Empowered PRIs

• Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat Promoted grassroot democracy and

participative governance

• Functions Schedule XI to delineate

role of Gram Panchayat

↳ support principle of subsidiarity

• Social justice at least 33% reservation to women [actually 49% representation - wif] and proportional to SC/ST.

• Funds - Formed State Finance Commission (A243-I) for allocation of taxes & fees for financial services

• Democracy Through state Elections  
commissioner for fair & free elections  
(A-243K)

Concerns with 73CAA

• Voluntary provisions many provisions  
like devolution of functions voluntary

⊕ less than 18 states fully devolved schedule  
XI

• Funding 1/950% from centre & state grant  
(RS)

2) Reluctance to impose tax (political will)

3) State finance Commission (only 10 states  
constituted regularly - CA(1), recommendation  
ignored

• Functionaries 1) Dominated by state officials

⊕ Telangana → panch can be dismissed  
by District Magistrate

2) Panchayat Pati Syndrome - women as  
titular head, proxy to male members

3) Delays in DRG reservation - politicalisation  
without scientific analysis (Krishna Murthy Case)  
SI-Triple Test

• Expenditure → Tied grants limit

autonomy.

2) Mainly revenue expenditure - poor

infrastructure creation

• Delays in Election notification by SEC

Reforms in TSCAA

• Increase autonomy → Independence to

Functionaries

2) Training to leaders (eg) Panchayat Netai  
Sashaktikaran for women

• Funding → more power to SFC

2) Devolution of untied grants, self revenue  
generation (Impact Bonds etc)

• Quantitative Measures - Panchayat Devolution Index  
etc.

• Promoting model Panchayats for inspiration

The TSCAA needs to be strengthened  
for 'bottom up approach' to governance.

12.

How does Article 143 of the Indian Constitution facilitate a consultative relationship between the executive and the judiciary? Does this relationship strengthen or undermine the principle of separation of powers? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Article 143 elaborates the 'advisory jurisdiction of Supreme Court', where Presidential reference on legislative and constitutional issues are considered.

### Article 143 - Consultative Relationship Between Executive & Judiciary

- Clarity on constitutional procedure

⊕ appointment of judges (11 judges)

Case - Presidential Reference)

- Provides legal clarity on pre-independence

laws and treaties

- Reduce ambiguity of laws and provide constitutional interpretation

- Legal expertise for prelegislative research

- Discretionary - option to accept/deny both request (SC) & advice (President)

## Article 143 on Separation of Power

It strengthens separation of power :-

•) Supports system of checks & balances

validated through constitution

•) Reduce litigation and Judicial pendency

⊕ Govt responsible for 40% of judicial pendency → legal challenges to legislation.

•) Support pre-legislative research

•) Establish a constitutional mechanism

to overcome a deadlock

⊕ <sup>State</sup> Governor of Tamil Nadu case → suggested  
(2015) advisory opinion by Executive to address deadlock

However it can also harm separation of power:-

• Lack of Judicial accountability - ⊕ established

opaque collegium system, invalidated  
NJAC harming parliamentary sovereignty  
on law.

- Undertake Judicial amendment

Ⓔ Collegium system diluted 4-24 for  
appointment of Judges by Executive

- Undermine political accountability

President (Executive) abdication on  
politically sensitive matters

The Presidential Reference has been  
invoked recently on issue of veto by  
President & Governor. It reflects quests for  
Judicial clarity in transformative constitutionalism  
but judiciary shall practise restraint too to  
stop overreach.

13.

Discuss the mechanisms through which mutual checks and balances are maintained among the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The Indian constitution supports separation of power with system of checks & balance to promote accountability in governance.

Legislature undertakes checks & balance by:-

• Parliamentary control on Executive :-

- no confidence motion (Rules of Lok Sabha)

- Motion of Thanks, parliamentary debate

- Passing Budget/Annual financial

Statement (A-112)

• App Removal of judges - special procedure

to remove SC & HC judges

• Development of districts through MPLADS scheme

• Analysis of legislation Parliamentary

Committees (eg) PSC report on digital Personal Data protection Act.

Executive performs checks n Balance :-

Schedule 2 Anti-defection Act on the

MPS of cutting party

- Appointment of judges - President appoints SC & HC judges (A-194)

- Role in legislative process - Promulgation of certain bills require prior permission of President. (eg) money bill, state reorganisation & ordinance making power for emergency

- Assent and veto of legislation. President's assent makes bill an Act

- Appointment of Quasi-judicial Bodies (eg) NCT, NCLT etc.. (to reduce court pendency, corruption)

- Dissolution of Legislative Assembly - Advice president to dissolve

- Clemency powers of President/Governor in

Article-72 ⇒ to curb ~~noted~~ any  
injustice

Judiciary controls the other organs:-

• Judicial review of laws and amendments  
by (A-13) and Minerva Mills judgement

• Presidential Reference under A-143 for  
consultation by President

• Injustice in legislative  
procedures addressed (eg) notified 13  
laws in Tamil Nadu post Govt of Tamil  
Nadu case (2025)

• Seeks response from executive  
on jurisdiction (eg) Pegasus  
case

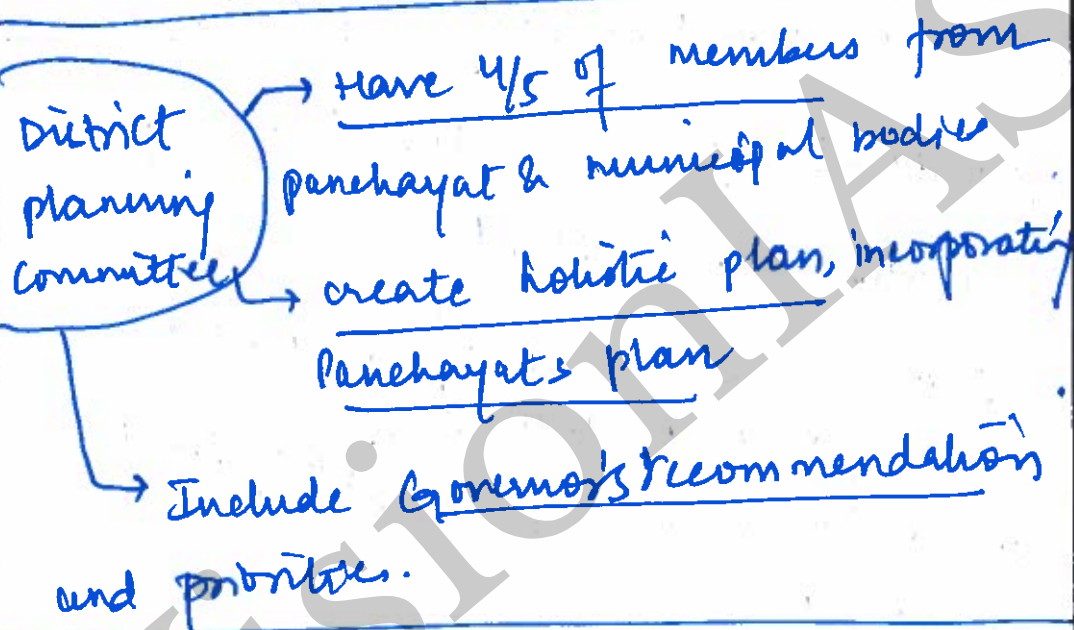
• Uphold fundamental rights &  
federalism (eg) Kesavananda  
Bharati case, SR Bommai case

Thus, the three organs need to work  
harmoniously by exercising restricted control  
over each other without encroaching on jurisdiction

14.

Critically assess the working of District Planning Committees in integrating rural and urban planning. Why have they remained largely ineffective? (Answer in 250 words) 15

District Planning committees were formed under A-243D with 74 Constitutional amendment.



### Importance / Significance of DPCs

Bottom up approach to planning - provide indication of priorities and plans of district

- Consolidation of Panchayats plans provide harmonisation of goals of district as a unit.

• Decentralisation of planning process - supports planned urban development

• Delineate roles and objectives of urban local bodies - certainty & efficiency in plan implementation

eg) Bhopal's Master plan for Green Infrastructure → goals, priorities & timeline.

Concerns with DPLs - Reasons for ineffectiveness

- Delay in constitution of DPLs - reduced time for work & inefficiency in tenure
- Lack of expertise - elected representatives lack technical expertise to create a full fledged plan
- Presence of Parallel Bodies - made of Bureaucrats and experts dilute their importance.

- Non Binding nature - Tokenism by states, do not act on plan recommendations
- Top Down approach of planning - imposed by states on ULBs and municipalities erode significance of DPLs.

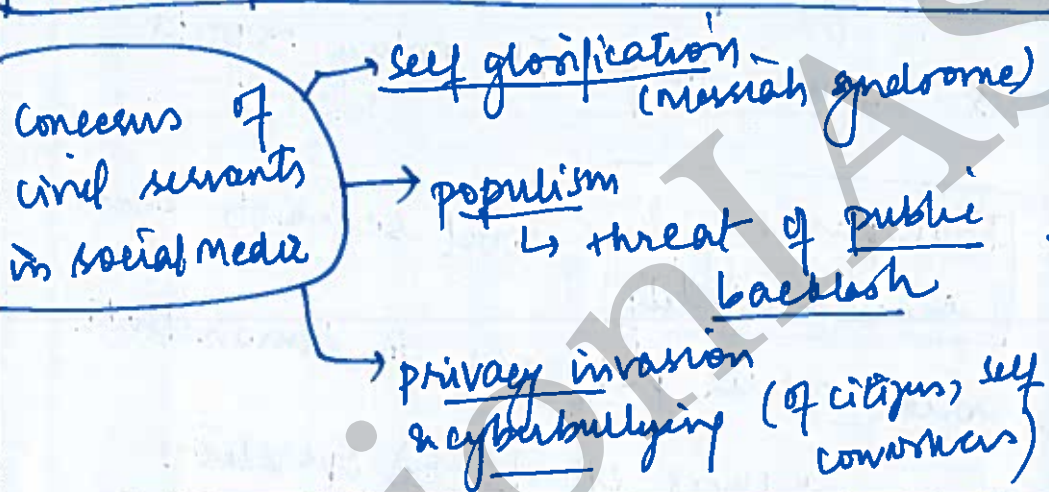
### Way forward

- Regular constitution along with working committee
- Experts include expert members & technical members, bureaucrats for holistic nature
- Action Taken Report for govt & representatives
- Promote culture of 'bottom up planning' through political will.  
The District Planning committee uphold democratic decentralisation, thus should be given resources, expertise & time for efficient work.

15.

How can civil servants utilize social media to positively shape public perceptions of their integrity and commitment to public service, while ensuring they do not compromise the principles of neutrality and anonymity essential to their role? (Answer in 250 words) 15\*

The 'neutrality' and 'anonymity' are part of foundational civil services value, which often ~~conflict~~ conflict with the presence of civil servants in social media



Effective utilization of social media by civil servants

• Government schemes - popularise welfare schemes through social media platform (eg) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.  
#swachhatsarva.

- Ease of Approachability & Grievance Redressal - citizens can

register complaint via X post to respective department

- Policy suggestions (Eg My Gov platform)

allows citizens to provide policy inputs

- Transparency & Accountability - civil servants can

use social media platform to demonstrate

outcomes of their efforts; (Eg operation

Suleimani and operation Kozhikode by

Prashant Kaur (IPS))

- Refrain from political posts & debate - civil servants refrain

from using public platform to share political views

• Crowd Funding initiatives - To finance social & developmental expenditure. (eg) Smita Sabarnal - Fund your city campaign (IAS)

• Public Awareness - act as social role model against evils/ malpractices through posts & reels.

(eg) IAs Chandramohan Thakur's guidance to students

The civil servants, as per PM Modi have duty to 'Reform, Perform & Transform'.

• They can use social media to further this goal, without compromising on their duty.

16.

Participatory governance is essential for deepening democracy and enhancing service delivery. Discuss the various tools of participatory governance in India and evaluate their effectiveness in promoting transparency and accountability. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Participatory governance refers to involvement of citizens in planning and evaluating the outcomes of the governance.

### Tools of Participative Governance

- Citizen Charter

Important part of Sevottam Model  
provides standard of expected service to citizens (eg) SBI Citizen Charter

- Social Audit

citizens to evaluate outcome of the schemes based on expenditure & claims by officials (eg) MGNREGSA Social Audit

- Citizen Report Card

released by CEOs to provide performance grading to the government periodically. (eg) Prasarit

in Karnataka

• Jan Sunvair's

Citizens can express their grievance  
directly to administrators

• Right to Information Act, 2005

To seek information about working of  
government (Eg) RTI day in Pune Municipal Corporation

Effectiveness of Participatory  
Governance Tools

Success - 1) Revelation of mismanagement  
and corruption

(Eg) Adarsh Society scam, 2G scam

2) Performance Evaluation of Schemes - proprietary

and efficiency audit (Eg) National Security  
Resistance Programme

3) Feedback - Tools like CPGRAMS provide

input to improve governance.

4) Citizen suggestions through platforms like

MyGov - 'BeSafe initiative' for children

Concerns - Limited success of social Audit

- Lack of political & administrative will
- Low technical expertise for audit
- Non binding, poor response of administrators on report

• RTI - 1. Misuse of section 8 (exemption)  
2. Delays & denial of information, dreadless State Information Commissioners (Satark Kaganik Sarpathan)

• Citizen charter - non-consultative, non-enforceable, poor awareness

- way forward
- 1) Popularise citizen participation tools
  - 2) Action taken report mandatory with timeline
  - 3) Mandatory regular interaction for public servants with citizens

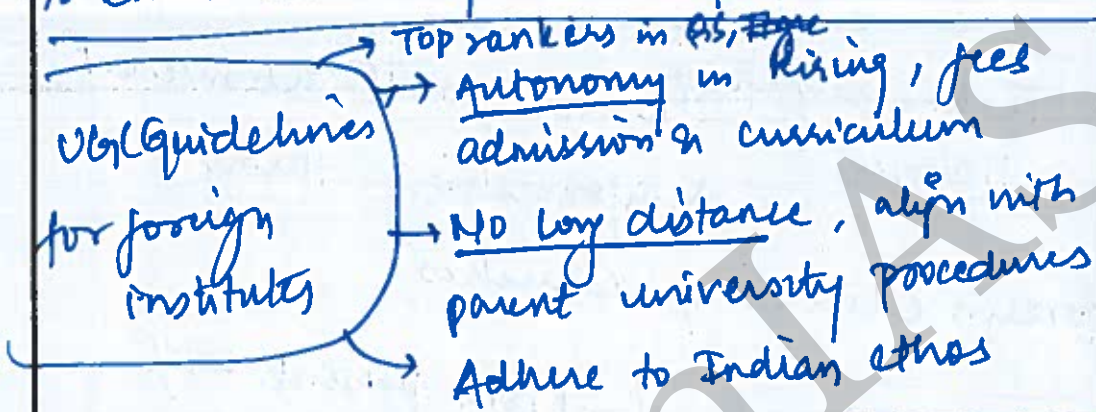
citizens are at centre of governance & their active participation will create 'sabka saath, sabka vikas', hence to be encouraged

17.

With foreign educational institutions establishing campuses in India, what could be the impact on the overall quality and international competitiveness of higher education?  
(Answer in 250 words)

15

The UGC guidelines recently introduced guidelines for foreign educational institutions to enter education sector of India



Impact of foreign entry in Indian Education System

**Positive** • **Enhanced competition** | improve quality of education upto global standards

• **Reduce 'brain drain'** | Retain demographic dividend by providing foreign level education to Indian youth

• **Save forex** - reduced immigration of

students

- **Employment Opportunity** - To Indian teachers/ professors in world

class university like Deakin's (Australia)

- **Technology Transfer** - learn global advancement & information through foreign education, researches

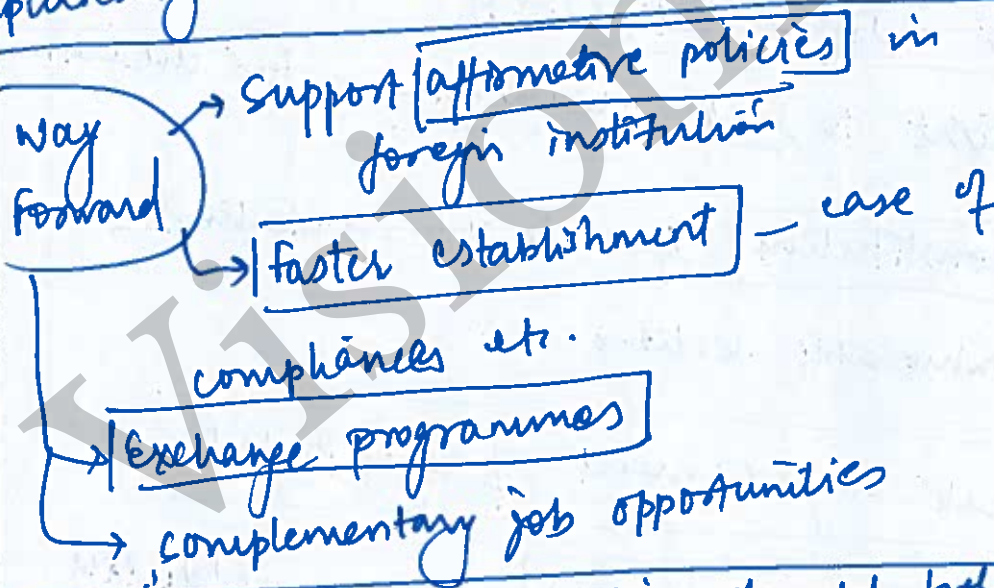
- **Increase Gross Enrollment ratio** - From present 25% to 50% aimed under NEP by increased capacity

**Concerns** • **Limited impact on immigration** - student immigrate for more than education → jobs, experience etc.

- **Competition with Indian institutions** in foreign education - Appropriate teachers shortage → high income

- **Lack of social justice** - Absence of reservation

- , vulnerable section may not derive benefit
- Higher fees - exclude large section of low & middle income students
  - Quality Issues - absence of ecosystem of parent institutions (teachers, infrastructure) impact quality
  - Delays in establishment - land acquisition, planning etc -



Alongside, Indian education should be strengthened by NEP, multiple exit & entry, curriculum revision & adequate funding to achieve SDG 4 in a holistic manner.

18.

Though legal protections exist for elderly persons in India, their enforcement remains weak. Examine the challenges in implementing laws related to senior citizens. (Answer in 250 words)

15

The elderly population in India will rise to 16% by 2041 (Economic Survey 2018-19), making them a substantial yet vulnerable section of society.

Legal protections for Elderly Persons

Maintenance & Welfare of ~~Elderly~~ Parents Act and Senior Citizens, Act (2007)

Right to seek maintenance for children

• Constitution Article 41 protection of vulnerable sections

Weak Enforcement of legal protections

• Lack of awareness - many elderly are not aware of the legal provision & protection

• Familial Attachment → normalisation  
of abuse and do not prefer to report

1) avoid scandal to family

2) children source of support - only  
alternative for security

• Financial Dependence | UNFPA → 40%.

of elderly's in poverty, 18% women

Reporting → lose financial support  
from children

• Eld age shelters - scarce and in  
poor quality infrastructure

• Security officials often lack empathy  
and soft skills to deal with elderly's

• Maintenance Tribunals | - under  
MWPSC Act are often non-functional

## Way forward

• Legal Reforms - Amend MWPSC Act

aligned to present needs :-

→ liability & penalty on children

→ maintenance tribunal - permanent bench

→ duties of the police officials + soft skills training

→ include role of NGOs & social workers

• Institutional Reforms → develop old age homes

with quality infrastructure in affordable prices

2) Avance of Mental Healthcare & counselling for elderlies

3) Financial Empowerment - second career, care work, financial products etc.

Elderlies are not liability but repository of experience & knowledge, who should be empowered & made self-sufficient for inclusive growth of India.

19.

Evaluate the strategic significance of the India-Sri Lanka Defence Cooperation Agreement 2025 for regional security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). (Answer in 250 words) 15

On the historic visit of PM Modi to Sri Lanka in April 2025, India-Sri Lanka signed a 'Defence Cooperation Agreement' for the first time in the history of relationship:

India-Sri Lanka Defence Cooperation for IOR security - Analysis

• Push to bilateral relations

Complement bilateral exercises like SLINEX and Mitra Shakti

• China factor nullified in relationship  
Sri Lanka - 'won't allow China to use Sri Lanka against Indian interests'

• Columbo security Conclave supported to enhance security of IOR

- Strengthen HADR initiatives of

India

- Sagar to Mahasagar Doctrine

India to advance as net security  
provider in IOR and develop  
relation across Asia & Africa for IOR  
security

Limitations of Defence Cooperation

- Sri Lanka heavily dependent on

China

- Areas of tift like fisherman issue  
Kachheem issue unresolved

- Unresolved - Amendment 13 to security  
of

Tamil Spoken

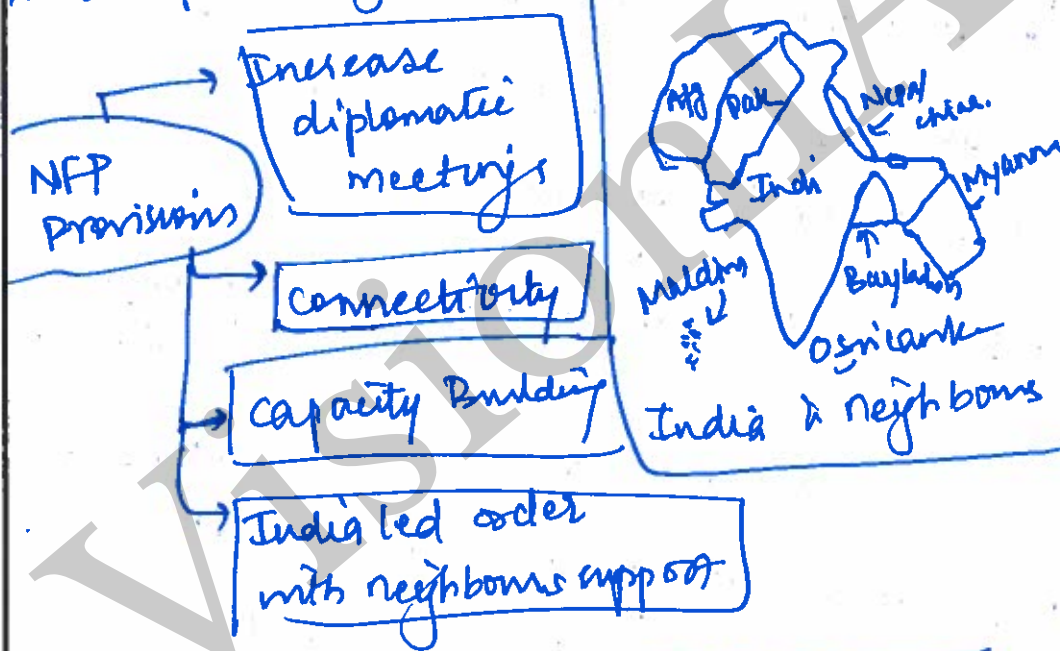
way  
forward

- maritime surveillance & exercises regularly
  - collaborate on security initiatives
  - strengthen regional organisations  
SAGRE & BIMSTEC
  - Increase connectivity & trade  
(ferry service, Panamb Bridge) to realise potential of relationship
  - Safeguard from third party interference (China)
- The India-Sri Lanka are like 'Siamese twins' thus, they should develop multilateral cooperation on wider aspects for mutual benefit

20.

China, Bangladesh, and Pakistan recently held their first official trilateral meeting in Kunming, signaling Beijing's growing strategic outreach in South Asia. In this context, to what extent has India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy succeeded in meeting its strategic goals? What steps are needed to re-energize and realign this policy in the face of emerging regional challenges? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Neighbourhood First Policy was introduced in 2008 and reenergised in 2015 to strengthen India's ties with its South Asian neighbours



Success of Neighbourhood First Policy

Increase engagement - Recent secretaries  
exchange with Bangladesh.  
Invitation to BIMSTEC partners to PM oath  
ceremony

- Connectivity projects - IMT Trilateral Highway  
Kaladan Multimodal Project
- Energy Cooperation - Chukha, Mangdechhu with  
Bhutan  
Nepal - India Bangladesh  
energy grid
- Infrastructure Development - (Eg) Golephu Mindfulness City  
(Bhutan)
- Security Cooperation - Colombo Security  
Conclave (India as Net Security provider)
- Softpower → HAADR initiatives Eg operation  
Brahme  
↳ Buddhism Circuit

Concerns in Neighbourhood First Policy

- Chinese incursion - Bangladesh - China  
cooperation (Bangsat, nuclear plant)
- Political ~~Instability~~ Changes India out campaigns  
in Maldives & skipping post visit for China
- Big Poacher Image - India seen as a

hegemon - use China card for bargain  
and bandwagon

• Delays in connectivity projects - stopped (delays  
in KMP (Myanmar instability))

• Rift in relations → 1) State sponsored  
terrorism by Pakistan. 2) Rift with Mohamad  
(denied landport access) 3) SAARC inactive.

Steps to reenergise/realign relations  
with Neighbors

• Increased engagement - Revive SAARC and hold  
regional conventions

• Faster project implementation - For increased trade &  
connectivity like IMT  
Amulhagan highway

• Humanitarian approach - HADR exercises  
continued, increased aid from  
budget (grants to Bhutan)

• Soft power promotion cultural conventions,  
exchange programmes etc.

India should strengthen outcome oriented  
consultative non-reciprocal approach to realise  
potential of South Asia.