



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1429)

Name of Candidate	ANKUR DAS		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	670858
Center	ONLINE	Date	07/08/2019

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). 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. 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. 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		
7	10		
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19	15		
20	15		
<b>Total Marks Obtained:</b>			6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
<b>Remarks:</b>			7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 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.

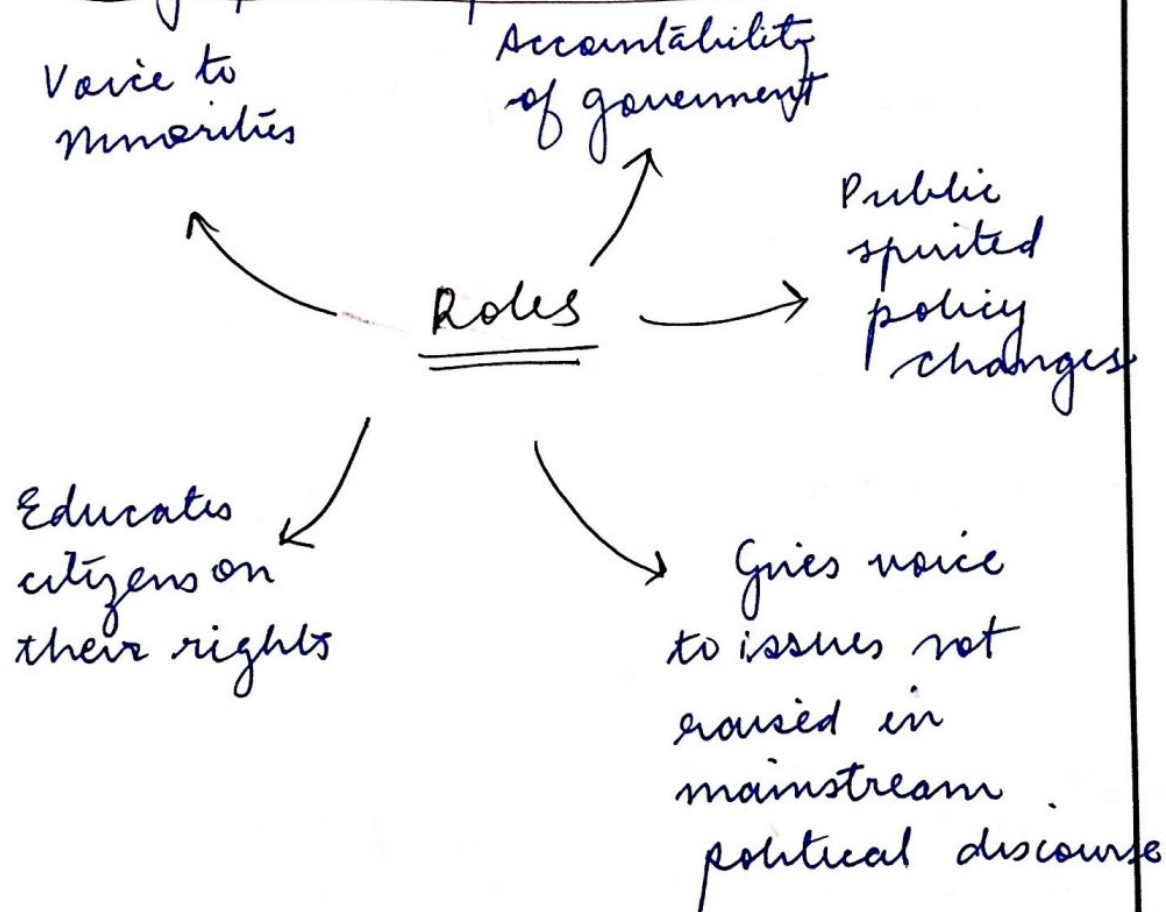
5.

6.

1. Illustrate how pressure groups have emerged as a strong mechanism for making democracy participatory and responsive. (150 Words) 10 Marks

उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए समझाइए कि किस प्रकार दबाव समूह, लोकतंत्र को सहभागी और अनुक्रियाशील बनाने हेतु एक सुदृढ़ तंत्र के रूप में उभरे हैं।

Pressure groups are a group of people who ventilate their opinions and try to influence public policy in their favour without directly taking part in politics



## Recent examples by Pressure groups to ensure vibrant democracy

- ① Peoples Union of Civil Liberties  
lobbied judiciously and ensured formulation of doctrine of "negative vote" and introduction of NOTA.
- ② India Against Corruption  
lobbied for introduction and setting up of Lokpal - ensuring transparency in public life.
- ③ NALSA : Recognition of Third Gender - giving them rights including voting rights

Healthy participation by pressure groups is essential in a democratic set up and their activities should be encouraged subject to greater national interest.

2. Explain the significance and controversies, if any, associated with the Article 35A of the Indian constitution. (150 Words) 10 Marks

भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 35A के महत्व और उससे संबद्ध विवादों, यदि कोई हो, की व्याख्या कीजिए।

Article 35 A of the constitution deals with the power of legislature of Jammu and Kashmir to define Permanent Residents of the State.

It was introduced under Article 370 of the Constl, giving Special Status to Jammu & Kashmir.

### Significance

- supposed to protect demographic identity of Kashmir Region.
- Gives its Permanent Residents certain rights with respect to acquiring property, employment etc.
- Provides greater autonomy to J & K Assembly.

Controversy

- Introduced by Presidential Order, circumventing amendment route under Art 368.
- Ultra-vires to Fundamental Rights (Art 14 - Equality before Law, Art 15 - Absence of Discrimination, Art 16, Art 21 & 19; Right to movement & settlement in any part of country)
- Discriminatory to women who lose PR status on marrying non J & K residents.

While Art 35 A has some specific purposes with regard to the unique socio-political history of J & K, it should be ensured that its provisions do not hamper enjoyment of sacrosanct Fundamental rights.

3. The ambiguity surrounding lobbying in India is further exacerbated by the country's endemic corruption. In this context, critically examine the case for legalising lobbying in India. (150 words) 10 Marks

भारत में लॉबिंग को लेकर विद्यमान अस्पष्टता देश में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार से और भी गंभीर हो जाती है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में लॉबिंग को वैध बनाने के प्रश्न का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Lobbying is defined as furtherance of a particular political / economic agenda by directly dealing with political / bureaucratic offices.

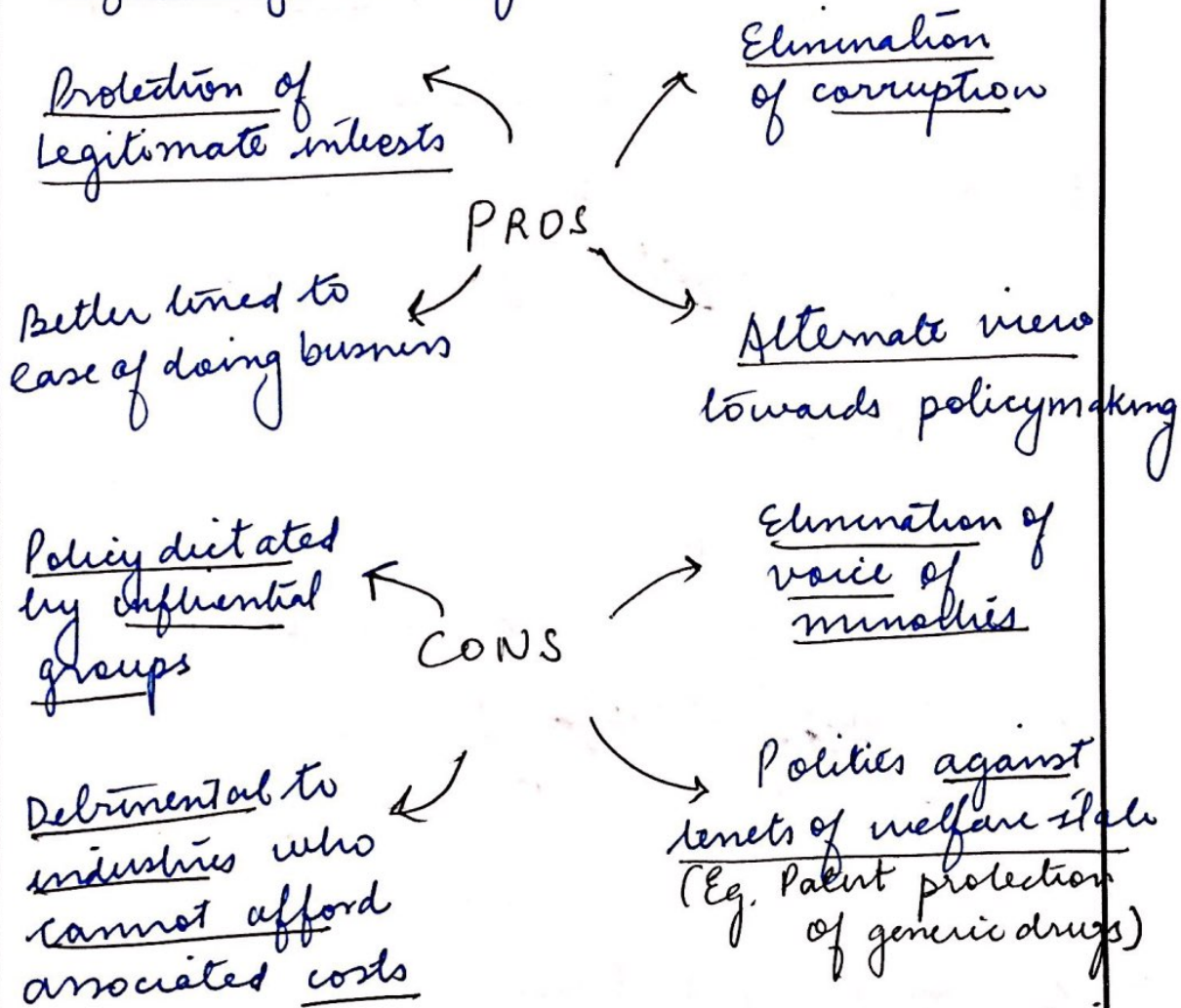
→ Lobbying is often accompanied by exchange of monetary transactions, often illegally causing corruption.

→ Augusta Westland Case:  
Alleged corruption in purchase of VVIP helicopters.

→ Crony Capitalism:  
Allegations of awarding large scale govt. contracts to certain parties (Eg. awarding airport modernisation works to Adani Ltd).

→ Various MNC's lobbying for government policies conducive to their business interests.

### Legalising lobbying



Corruption has been a feature of certain political decisions in the past. While legal lobbying can increase transparency adequate safeguards are needed to ensure values are not lost.



4. Independent India adopted a modified version of the Westminster model of government. In this context discuss the commonalities and differences between the political system of India and UK. **(150 Words) 10 Marks**  
 स्वतंत्र भारत ने सरकार की वेस्टमिंस्टर प्रणाली का एक संशोधित संस्करण अपनाया। इस संदर्भ में, भारत और UK की राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के मध्य समानताओं और विभेदों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian Polity is heavily influenced by the Westminster system of Government prevalent in Great Britain adopted by our founding fathers for its simplicity and familiarity.

Similarities:

- ① Real & Nominal Executive (Prime Minister is Head of Government while Queen / President is Head of State)
- ② Majority Party Rule.
- ③ Executive Part of Legislature.
- ④ Collective Responsibility of Executive (Council of Ministers) to Legislature
- ⑤ Harmony betw Executive & legislative organs of govt.
- ⑥ Leadership of Prime Minister.

Differences :

- ① Head of state in UK is Hereditary (Queen) while in India, President indirectly elected.
- ② Prime Minister from House of Commons in UK while he can be from any House in India.
- ③ Mandatory Membership of Ministers of Parliament in UK, in India, can be elected within 6 months.
- ④ No legal responsibility of Ministers in India - do not need to countersign Acts.
- ⑤ No institution of Shadow Cabinet in India.

While being influenced from the Westminster System, Indian Polity has its own features dictated by socio-political necessities of Indian polity and society.

5. Political parties are an integral part of the democratic set up of India. In the context, discuss the need for strengthening the process of institutionalization of intra-party democracy in political parties in India.

(150 Words) 10 Marks

राजनीतिक दल भारत की लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था के अभिन्न अंग हैं। इस मंदर्भ में, भारत में राजनीतिक दलों में अंतः दलीय लोकतंत्र को मंस्थागत किए जाने की प्रक्रिया को सुदृढ करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

While India has a vibrant democracy at parliamentary level, intra party democracy is not prevalent in India.

Political parties - integral part

- Give voice to all sections of society.
- Ensure accountability of government.
- Enables ideologically inclined individuals to participate in democratic set-up.

Intra Party democracy world wide

- ~~largest~~ <sup>oldest</sup> democracy USA: Presidential candidate chosen by Primary Election by party members
- UK: leader of house (PM) chosen by all members of political party

→ Party leadership democratically elected by members

Need for strengthening intra party democracy

→ Provides opportunities for grassroots leaders to contest for political posts

→ Youth can aspire for leadership roles

→ Checks Dynastic Policies and Nepotism

→ Ensures free flow of ideas within party.

→ Ensures evolution of ideology with times.

Institutionalisation of intra-party democracy may be statutorily enforced by amending the Representation of Peoples Act (1951). Such a measure will ensure transparency (financial + political), accountability and strengthen grassroots level democracy in India

6. It is of paramount importance to ensure that the Election Commission of India (ECI) be fully insulated from political pressure to maintain the purity of elections. In this context, discuss the need to have a relook at the process of appointment and removal of election commissioners to the ECI.

(150 Words) 10 Marks

चुनावों की शुचिता बनाए रखने के लिए यह सुनिश्चित करना सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण है कि भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) राजनीतिक दबाव से पूर्णतया मुक्त रहे। इस संदर्भ में, ECI के निर्वाचन आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति और पदच्युति की प्रक्रिया पर पुनर्विचार करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Art. 324 provides for independent Election Commission to conduct free and fair elections.

Recent allegations:

- ① Political influence in controlling campaign period in West Bengal during 2019 elections.
- ② Lack of punitive action against members of outing party.
- ③ Allegations of EVM malfunction and Tampering.

Mode of Appointment:

→ Chief EC and ECs appointed by President on advice of Responsible Prime Minister

- ⇒ leads to doubts on independence
- ⇒ Independent + Consultative  
appointment procedure needed  
involving Govt., Leader of  
Opposition and Chief Justice  
of India.

### Mode of Removal:

→ Can be removed in some manner  
as Judge of Supreme court.

⇒ Ruling Party with majority  
may misuse this privilege.

⇒ Removal must be independent,  
preferably through Judicial  
route

The independence of ECI is essential  
to a healthy democracy. Adequate  
measures should be taken to ensure  
the same

7. In post-liberalised India, it is imperative that the role of state be that of a facilitator, and not one of a regulator. Analyse. **(150 words) 10 Marks**  
उदारीकरण के पश्चात् के भारत में, यह अत्यावश्यक है कि राज्य की भूमिका एक सुविधाप्रदाता की हो, न कि एक नियामक की। विश्लेषण कीजिए।





8. By providing new pools of leadership talent, lateral entry will help in addressing the most crucial challenges that the civil services in India currently face. Critically evaluate. **(150 words) 10 Marks**

प्रतिभावान नेतृत्वकर्ताओं के नए समुच्चय प्रदान कर, पार्श्व प्रवेश भारत में सिविल सेवाओं के समक्ष वर्तमान समय में व्याप्त सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता करेगा। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Lateral entry is defined as the induction of government officials directly through from industry and academia without going through regular recruitment process.

→ Pros

- ① will allow entry of new + fresh talent
- ② provide alternate viewpoint to govt. policymaking.
- ③ Technical expertise through professional involvement.
- ④ Allows domain experts to contribute to national development.

→ Concerns

- ① Scuttles independence of civil services.
- ② Allegations of nepotism.
- ③ Indirect influence by industry by placing their professionals in leadership roles.
- ④ Lack of experience in govt functioning.
- ⑤ Generalist civil service helps consider all viewpoints which specialists may lack.

Way forward:

- ① Appointments vetted by independent body (UPSC) : Baswan and Hota Committee
- ② Allowing civil servants to develop specialised skills after certain years of general service : Hota Committee
- ③

9. Discuss the need for an effective and functional working relationship between Gram Panchayats and SHGs. How can an efficient synergy between the two be achieved? **(150 words) 10 Marks**

ग्राम पंचायतों और SHGs के मध्य एक प्रभावी एवं कार्यात्मक कार्यकारी संबंध की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। दोनों के मध्य एक कार्यक्षम सहक्रियता किस प्रकार प्राप्त की जा सकती है?

Adequate development at village level can be ensured through proper convergence of all entities working there

SHGs and Gram panchayats work in many mutually inclusive areas like skill development, education, health services etc.

Need for effective co-operation

- Funding for SHG can be achieved from Gram Panchayat resources
- Effective interaction between SHG's and Government through Gram Panchayat
- Augmenting health and educational programs of

Gram Panchayat by effective  
linking with communities.

— SHGs often work with women,  
with reduced political exposure.

Synergy will help in political  
empowerment.

Ways to ensure synergy:

- ① Nomination of SHG leadership  
as participants in Panchayat  
meetings.
- ② Training of women in political  
empowerment by Panchayat  
members.
- ③ Inclusion of SHG activities  
in ~~the~~ Constitutional provisions  
of discretionary functions of Gram  
Panchayats.

Synergy between Panchayat and  
SHGs will strengthen grassroots  
level democratic setup and development  
in India.

10. Public service delivery in India has long been marred by various issues leading to poor service delivery outcomes. While discussing the reasons for the same, suggest ways to make public service delivery more efficient.

(150 words) 10 Marks

भारत में सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण दीर्घकाल से विभिन्न समस्याओं से ग्रमित रहा है जिसका परिणाम निम्नस्तरीय सेवा वितरण है। इसके कारणों पर चर्चा करते हुए, सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण को अधिक कुशल बनाने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Reasons for poor delivery outcomes:

- ① Lack of effective monitoring mechanisms
- ② Lack of grievance redressal mechanisms
- ③ Absence of standardised service delivery protocols
- ④ Jurisdictional overlap between implementing agencies
- ⑤ Corruption + Misappropriation of funds.
- ⑥ Lack of awareness among beneficiaries
- ⑦ Lack of effective citizen charters.

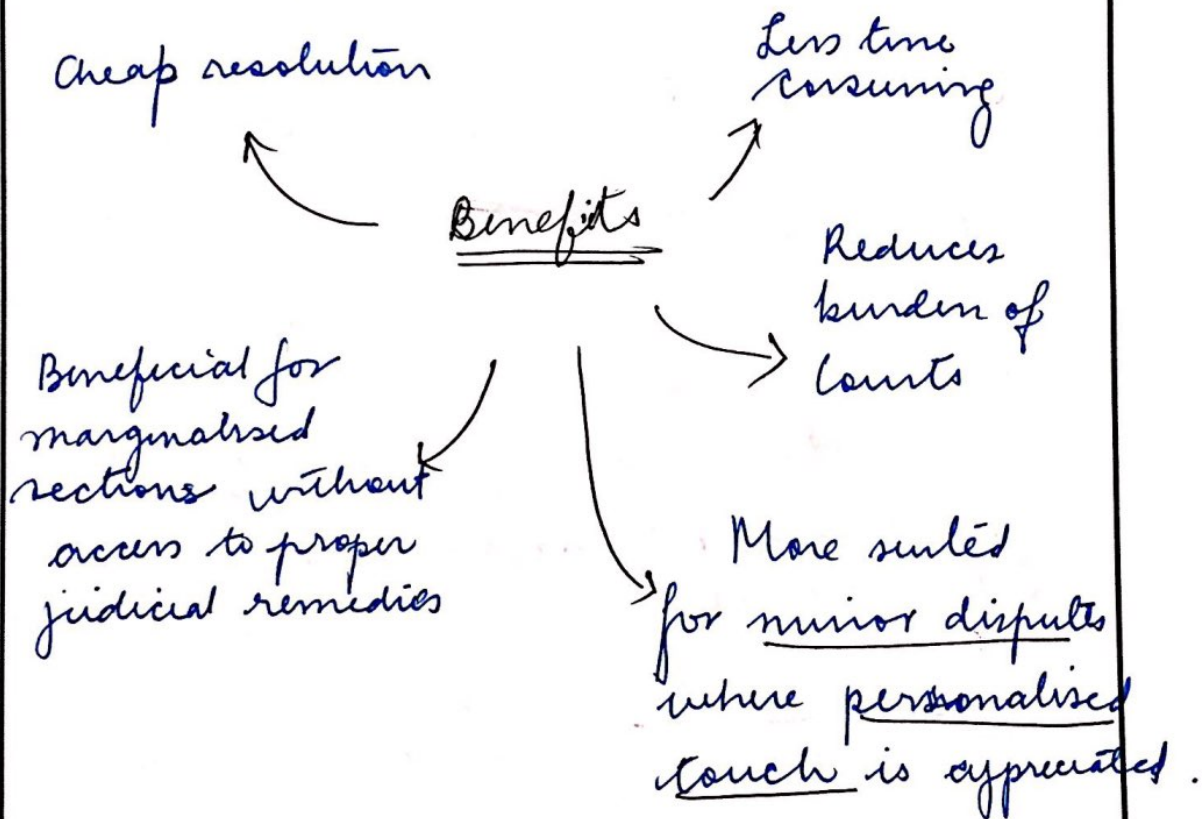
Measures to improve efficiency.

- Effective monitoring mechanisms  
(e-Sampika, Social Audit)
- Strengthening of Citizens  
Charters - proper drafting,  
implementation and awareness.
- Effective Grievance Redressal  
Mechanism (Eg. CPGRAMS)
- Senstam Model - ensuring  
efficient delivery + accountability.
- Developing standardised delivery  
protocols
- Using e-Governance in service  
delivery (UNANG App)
- Channeling private agencies  
and NGOs in last mile  
service delivery (Delhi Govt  
initiative, Akshaya Patra Foundation  
role in providing mid-day meal)

11. Highlighting different Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms available in India, explain their importance. Also, mention different measures that have been adopted to further improve the framework of ADR in India. (250 Words) 15 Marks

भारत में उपलब्ध विभिन्न वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (ADR) तंत्रों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनके महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में ADR के ढांचे में आगे और सुधार लाने के लिए अपनाए गए विभिन्न उपायों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Alternate Dispute Resolution is defined as the process of mediation and resolution of disputes without judicial involvement.



ADR Mechanisms available in India

- Lok Adalat: involves resolution of minor civil and compoundable criminal cases, reduces burden of courts.
- Permanent Lok Adalats: Prevalent in areas with specialised nature of disputes like Pension Adalats, complaints relating to telephone and Electricity bills & tariffs.
- Integrated Grievance Redressal Mechanism for Consumers (INCRASAM): initiative of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, allows speedy resolution of consumer disputes between consumers & companies.
- Various Tribunals which encourage



## Alternate Dispute Resolution

### Measures to further Improve ADR Framework

- Encouragement of International Arbitration - especially of Commercial matters.
- Declaring New Delhi Centre for International Arbitration a institute of National importance
- Emphasis on ADR by lower courts - mandating District Legal Services Authority to explore possibility of ADR in civil cases.
- Encouragement by Judicial Officers for parties to opt for ADR

ADR ~~also~~ plays a vital role in reducing judicial pendency and improving delivery of justice. The process should be encouraged.

12. Success of the institutions of local self-governance depends largely on the attitude of state governments. Discuss in the context of constitutional provisions and recent experience of the working of these institutions in India. (250 Words) 15 Marks

स्थानीय स्व-शासन की संस्थाओं की सफलता मुख्य रूप से राज्य सरकारों की प्रवृत्ति पर निर्भर करती है। संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और भारत में इन संस्थानों के कामकाज संबंधी हालिया अनुभव के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Local self government has been an integral part of Indian polity since historical times (Rig Vedic Sabha, Chola Village Assembly).

Constitutionally, the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment provides mandatory provisions for local self government in states.

→ Constitution of State Election Commission to ensure free and fair elections to LSG in state.

→ Constitution of State Finance Commission for effective devolution of ~~power~~ finances to LSGs.

→ Reservation of 33% seats for women + reserbat<sup>n</sup> for SCs/STs.

→ Mandating Mandatory provisions like 3 tier institutions, periodic elections etc.

However, bulk of these provisions require active participat<sup>n</sup> and initiative of state government.



→ it is seen that states do not devolve taxation powers to ~~STATE~~ LSGs.

→ Inadequate funding for infrastructure (office spaces, IT infrastructure).

### Recent issues

① WEST BENGAL: Panchayat lolls marred by violence - ruling party elected unopposed in many seats.

→ MEGHALAYA: Reluctance of state to set up Self Governing Institutions citing conflict with customary laws

→ J & K: Large scale boycott of elections due to ~~of~~ allegations of inadequate security:

While Self Govt. Institutions are essential to idea of democratic decentralisation, placing them at the disposal of states <sup>often</sup> leads to abuse / lack of political will.

→ Need to set up independent constitutional authority to ensure tenets of ~~A~~ 73rd & 74th Amendments are followed in letter & spirit.

13. Right to freedom of religion cannot be allowed to deny right to equality and individual dignity. Discuss in the light of constitutional provisions and recent judicial pronouncements. (250 Words) 15 Marks

धर्म की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार को समानता और व्यक्तिगत गरिमा के अधिकार को नकारने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती है। संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और हाल की न्यायिक घोषणाओं के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

Individual dignity is <sup>one of</sup> the foundry principles of our constitution, finding mention in the Preamble.

That apart, certain constitutional provisions ensure individual dignity:

Art 14: Equality of laws - cannot be discriminated on any grounds, including religious.

Art 19: Freedom of speech & expression.

Art 21: Right to life.

Additionally, Constitution provides for Religious Freedom by:

"Secularism": Part of Preamble + Basic Structure.

Art 25: Freedom of Religion

Art 26 & 27: Freedom with respect to religious practices.

Hence, certain recent issues have threatened dignity of individual at the altar of religious freedom

- Sabarimala issue
- Triple Talag issue.
- Issues of "Love Jihad".
- Godkrish Gupta Case.

Some recent Judicial pronouncements on these issues give clarity:

Sabarimala Case:

Supreme Court has ruled that the practice of preventing entry of women was discriminatory and quashed it.

Triple Talag Issue:

The S.C. in Shayra Bano Case ruled that the dignity of women is threatened in the practice of triple talag and hence it is unconstitutional.

Goolbrukk Gupta Case:

Mrs. Gupta, a Parsi married to a Hindu was restrained from performing last rites of father by the Parsi Association. SC ruled woman doesn't lose identity after marriage and hence practise is unconstitutional.

In conclusion, it can be stated that while religious freedom is the cornerstone of a secular state, rights of an individual take precedence and are sacrosanct.

14. Identify the key areas of reforms required in the judicial system in India. In this context, examine the significance of the idea of putting in place an All-India Judicial Service. (250 Words) 15 Marks

भारत में न्यायिक प्रणाली में आवश्यक सुधारों के प्रमुख क्षेत्रों की पहचान कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, एक अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा स्थापित करने के विचार के महत्व का परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Judicial system of India is bogged by systemic inefficiencies which hamper the delivery of justice.

Key issues.

- High pendency (2.3 million cases)
- Low judge - Population ratio  
(19.6 judges / 1 million citizens - Law Commission. Ideally should be 40-50 / million)
- Outdated civil + Criminal procedures (leads to loopholes, delays justice).
- Low penetration of technology  
Reluctance to use IT in lower judiciary
- Specularised Cases - Lack of expertise (IP Law, Taxation).



Key Reforms needed.

- Reduce pendency - adopt time bound justice delivery - prevent undue adjournments / postponement of hearings
- Reduce Govt litigation
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Adoption of Technology (e Courts, Nat<sup>l</sup> Judicial Data Grid)
  - allow appearance through video conference.
- Specialised Courts for niche subjects like Intellectual Property Law, Taxation
- Filling of vacancies in lower Judiciary
- Establishing All India Judicial Service.

All India Judicial Service: (AIJS)

- Provided in Art 126 of Constitution
- will help in forming standardised recruitment of judicial officers
- Ensure uniform quality of officers.
- Prevent delays / allegation of corruption in current pattern.

Concerns

- ① Hampers Federal Structure
- ② Lack of knowledge of local customs, language.
- ③ Commercialisation of recruitment, difficult for rural / poor candidates to prepare.

While the idea of an AIJS is promising in the realm of Judicial reforms, it has to be implemented with proper safeguards and in tandem with other equally important measures.

15. While there are existing laws for the same, substantial efforts still need to be undertaken to prohibit people with criminal antecedents from entering into politics. Discuss in context of the problem of criminalization of politics in India and resulting issues. (250 words) 15 Marks

यद्यपि इस हेतु कानून विद्यमान हैं, तथापि आपराधिक पृष्ठभूमि वाले लोगों का राजनीति में प्रवेश रोकने के लिए अभी भी काफी प्रयास किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण की समस्या और परिणामी मुद्दों के मंदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Criminalisation of politics is detrimental to national interest. and various statutory and legal provisions are enacted to prevent it

Representation of People Act (1951):

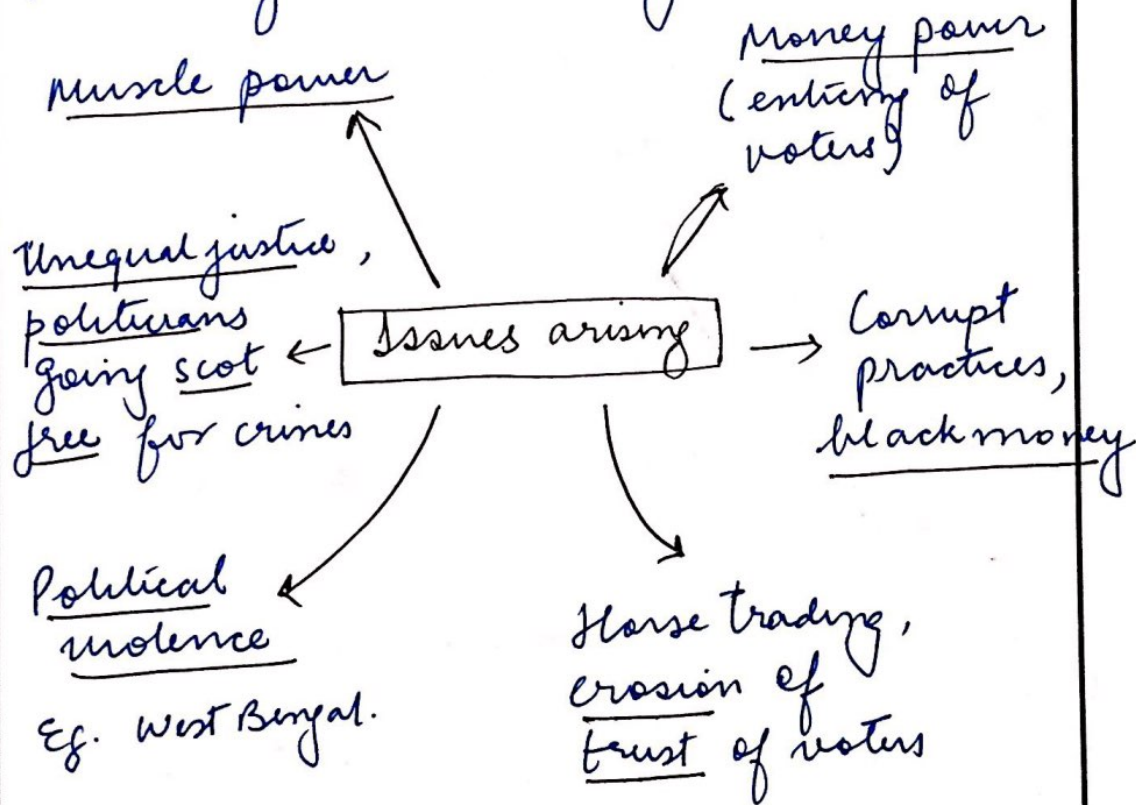
- ① Disqualification of elected legislators found guilty of electoral offences
- ② Disqualification if convicted with imprisonment for 2+ years

Judicial Pronouncements -

- ① Lily Thomas Case: Immediate disqualification on conviction - no 90 days period to appeal.

- ② Cases misusing criminalisation  
of politics to be decided within  
1 year
- ③ setting up of special courts to  
try such cases

Additionally; 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule provides  
for disqualification on defection —  
preventing horse trading



Recently, the Unnao Rape Case occurred where NCA from Ruling party - accused - has allegedly scuttled the delivery of Justice

### Solutions

- Implementing Lily Thomas guidelines
- Sensitisation of police to political violence
- Robust Audit mechanism to check misuse of funds
- Flying Squads, Expenditure disclosures during elections.
- Electoral Bonds to reduce unaccounted wealth.
- Speedy trial of cases of involving politicians.

For a healthy democracy to function, it is imperative that its leaders are free from criminal antecedents. Judicial + legal provisions in this regard should be adhered to..

16. On the recent World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) India ranks 140. Elucidate the significance of media in a democracy like India. Identify the major issues affecting the media in contemporary times. In this context, enumerate the measures to address these issues. (250 Words) 15 Marks

हाल ही के विश्व प्रेस स्वतंत्रता सूचकांक (WPFI) में भारत 140वें स्थान पर है। भारत जैसे लोकतंत्र में मीडिया के महत्व को स्पष्ट कीजिए। समकालीन समय में मीडिया को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, इन मुद्दों का समाधान करने हेतु उपायों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

India's recent dismal performance in WPF index is a cause of concern. Media is regarded as fourth pillar of democracy and its health is paramount.

### Issues

- ① Stifling freedom of speech:  
Censorships, indirect coercion.
- ② Violence against journalists  
eg. Gauri Lankesh murder.
- ③ Paid news, affecting journalistic ethos
- ④ Judicial Misadventure: Recent case of Meghalaya High Court initiating contempt proceedings against local daily.

- ⑤ Misuse of Parliamentary privileges  
(Contempt against journalists  
in Karnataka by Legislative  
Assembly)
- ⑥ Erosion of Management autonomy -  
media houses owned by vested  
interests.

### Significance of Media

- ① Checks executive and legislative  
over-reach
- ② Fosters public opinion on national  
issues.
- ③ Keeps people informed of government  
decisions
- ④ Ensures accountability of public  
offices.
- ⑤ Reports on performance of  
government functions

Measures to address issues

- ① Strengthening of Press Council of India - giving it powers on the lines of NHRC, CIC.
- ② Stringent action against paid news.
- ③ Providing adequate security to media-personnel
- ④ Codification and curbing use of parliamentary privileges.
- ⑤ Usage of social media as an alternative source of news.
- ⑥ Insulation of media from government management misadventures.

The role of media in a healthy democracy is paramount and requires all round efforts by different organs to maintain its sanctity. Media erosion will mean erosion of transparency + accountability and is unhealthy for democracy.



17. Explain why the doctrine of separation of powers is considered as an indispensable part of a democratic setup. Also, discussing this doctrine in the context of India, explain the principle of 'checks and balances'.

(250 words) 15 Marks

व्याख्या कीजिए कि शक्ति के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत को लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था का एक अनिवार्य घटक क्यों माना जाता है। साथ ही, भारत के संदर्भ में इस सिद्धांत पर चर्चा करते हुए, 'नियंत्रण और संतुलन' के सिद्धांत की भी व्याख्या कीजिए।

Doctrine of separation of powers is integral to democracy.

- ensures proper checks & balances
- Prevents tyranny of executive
- Ensures sanctity of Constitution and fundamental rights
- Provides avenues for citizens who have been wronged by any one organ

Constitutional provisions in India

Art 50: Separation of Executive from Judiciary.

Art 121, 211: Conduct of Judges cannot be discussed in Parliament / L.A.

Art 122, 212: Courts cannot inquire into proceedings of legislature

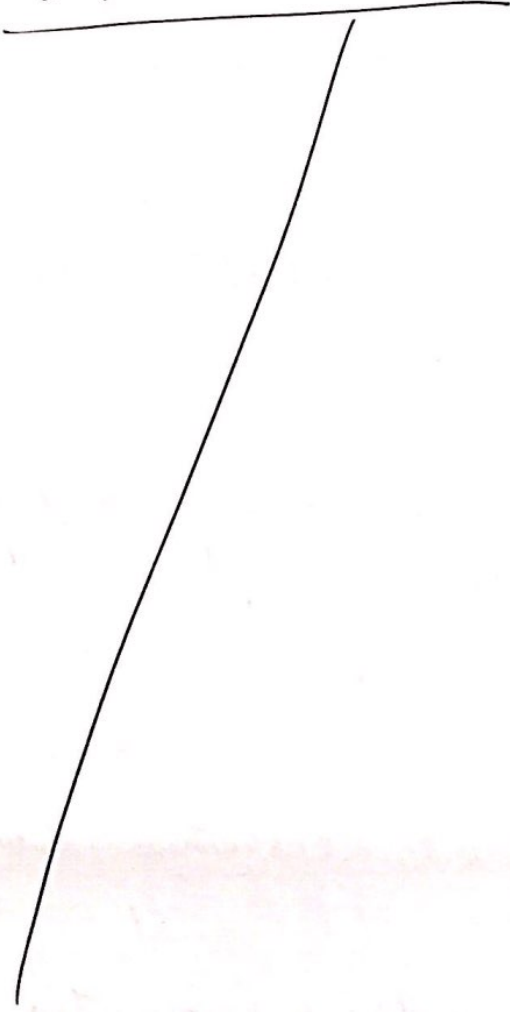
→ Parliament cannot curtail powers of SC & HC's.

→ Judges have security of Tenure and fixed service conditions.

The principle of "checks and balances" stands for protecting citizens against over-reach by any one organ

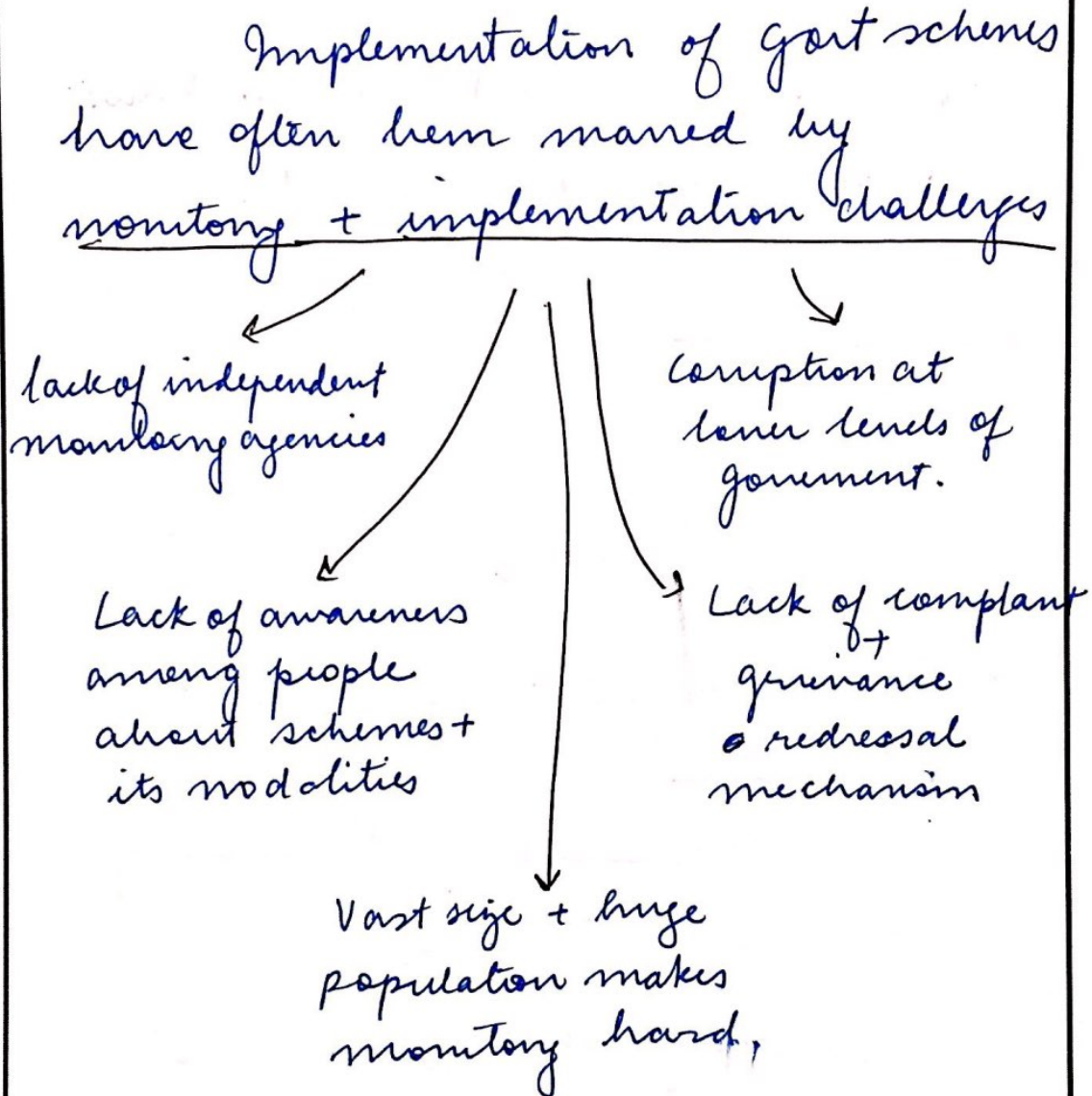
- Judicial Review : Courts can enquire into legislative + executive decisions
- Impeachment of Judges : Parliament can exercise control on conduct of judges
- Ban against repeated promulgation of ordinances : As observed by SC in Wadhwa & Krishna Kumar Cases, attempt to subvert legislative domain unconstitutional.
- Parliamentary Committee scrutinizing Executive action.

The functioning of each organ in a democratic polity is important, while also ensuring they do not overstep their boundaries. Various constitutional, legal and judicial safeguards are in place to ensure separation of powers



18. Government schemes in India have long suffered from monitoring and implementation challenges. What steps have been taken by the government recently in this regard? Also discuss the potential of social audit in addressing these challenges. **(250 words) 15 Marks**

भारत में सरकारी योजनाएं दीर्घकाल से निगरानी और कार्यान्वयन संबंधी चुनौतियों से प्रभावित रही हैं। हाल में सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं? साथ ही इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सामाजिक लेखापरीक्षा की क्षमता पर भी चर्चा कीजिए।



Recent steps by Government:

- e-Samiksha Portal: Enables PMO to directly monitor implementation in states.  
3-Tier mechanism: PMO, Secretaries, Chief Secretary
- CPCGRAMS: Integrated grievance redressal mechanism
- Digitisation of service delivery: plugs leakages, corruption
- Aadhar based biometric POS machines: Enables real time monitoring and tracking of PDS distribution
- Encouraging use of social media and whats App for on-ground monitoring
- Social Audit.

## Social Audit

Process by which beneficiaries of a particular scheme directly audit on-ground performance and report to implementing authority.

### Benefits:

- ① Direct perception and communication by beneficiaries
- ② Elimination of false reports by middlemen
- ③ Constructive criticism, since beneficiaries know lacunae.

Implementation of schemes need to be followed by proper monitoring. Measures like e-Governance and Social Audit assist effective monitoring.

It is necessary to further widen Social Audit and statutorily include it in implementation process (Meghalaya Model).

19. In the context of recent concerns related to functioning of NGOs in India, discuss the need for self-regulatory guidelines and transparency mechanisms to restore the credibility of voluntary organisations.

(250 words) 15 Marks

भारत में NGOs के कार्यकरण में संबंधित हाल की चिंताओं के संदर्भ में, स्वैच्छिक संगठनों की विश्वसनीयता को पुनर्स्थापित करने के लिए स्व-नियामकीय दिशा-निर्देशों और पारदर्शिता तंत्रों की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

### Recent concerns on functioning of NGOs

- Selectiveness in beneficiary selection - often based on religion
- Negative lobbying against projects of national importance (guerrilla activism against Kudamkulam Nuclear Plant)
- Engagement in anti-National activities [Zakir Naik foundation, ultra-left leaning organisations]
- Channeling of funding from foreign sources for anti-India activity
- Trying to negatively influence public discourse through

unverified propaganda activities

Self Regulatory Guidelines and  
Transparency Mechanisms:

- Reporting of funds under FCRA
- listing aims and objectives on websites ~~or~~ in public domain.
- Disclosure of accounts and assets under public domain.
- Full disclosure of leadership, their nationality and political backgrounds
- Disclosure of assets + remuneration of leadership.

Need for Self Regulation

- Building trust among members of public

PRO -



- Resting speculation about indulging in anti-national activity.
- Effective engagement with government on concerned issues.
- Allaying concerns on threat to national security.

While the role of NCCs has been important in civic activity in India, it is imperative that they conform to all regulatory and statutory guidelines and dispel allegations of illegal and questionable activities against them

20. Focusing on technology without realizing that e-Governance is basically about ushering reforms in governance has meant that the potential of e-governance has not been realized. Discussing the statement, suggest what should be done to address this situation. (250 words) 15 Marks

ई-गवर्नेंस मूलतः शासन में सुधारों का मूत्रपात करने के लिए है, यह समझे बिना प्रौद्योगिकी पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने का अर्थ यह हुआ कि ई-गवर्नेंस की क्षमता का दोहन नहीं हो पाया है। इस कथन पर चर्चा करते हुए, सुझाव दीजिए कि इस स्थिति में निपटने हेतु क्या किया जाना चाहिए।

E-Governance involves delivery of government services to citizens through an electronic medium - ensuring transparency, speed, convenience and reducing instances of corruption and negative discretion

Need to usher reforms in Governance

- Lack of proper training of government officials.
- Reluctance to shift to e-Governance platforms
- Absence of standardised protocols which hampers automatic service delivery.

- Lack of digitisation of records, rendering e-Governance futile
- Absence of adequate infrastructure to facilitate e-governance.
- Lack of citizen focused delivery attitude among public servants.

The above issues have stifled the relevance of e-governance in service delivery.

### Way forward:

- Strengthening of Citizens Charters and developing awareness thereof.
- Developing adequate standardised protocols for service delivery.
- Digitisation of records and other data
- Training of staff to use IT.

- Development of proper infrastructure for introduction of IT based tools.
- Change in attitude among govt. officials
- Development of trust among public to use e-Gov services.
- Utilising role of youth & NGOs in spreading awareness.

The full benefits of e-governance can only be realised once proper reforms are ushered in administrative practices through active public effort and citizen engagement.