



# VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1418)

Name of Candidate	SOURAV SINHA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	458407
Center	ONLINE	Date	

### 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 (vi Name, Registration Number and Test Code).  
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.** सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
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. 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 a medium other than the authorized one.  
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उरी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपकी प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्था पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
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.

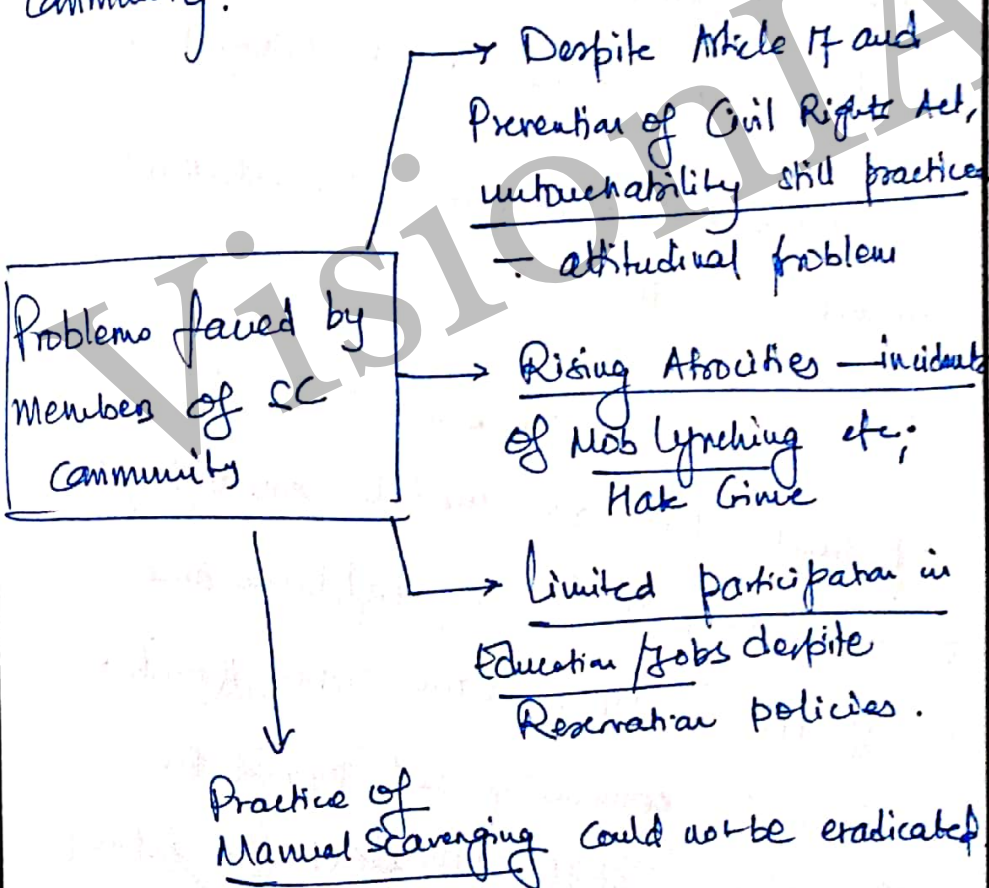
VisionIAS

1. Discuss the need to strengthen the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to tackle the problems faced by the Scheduled Castes in India.

(150 words) 10

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

National Commission of Scheduled Castes under Article 338 is a constitutional body aimed to address all round problems faced by the SC Community.



In light of the problems faced, it is paramount to strengthen NESC:-

↳ Increase Budgetary support and technical manpower to make its functioning efficient

↳ Power to hold executive accountable for non-adherence to its recommendations.

↳ Currently it has less regulatory teeth.

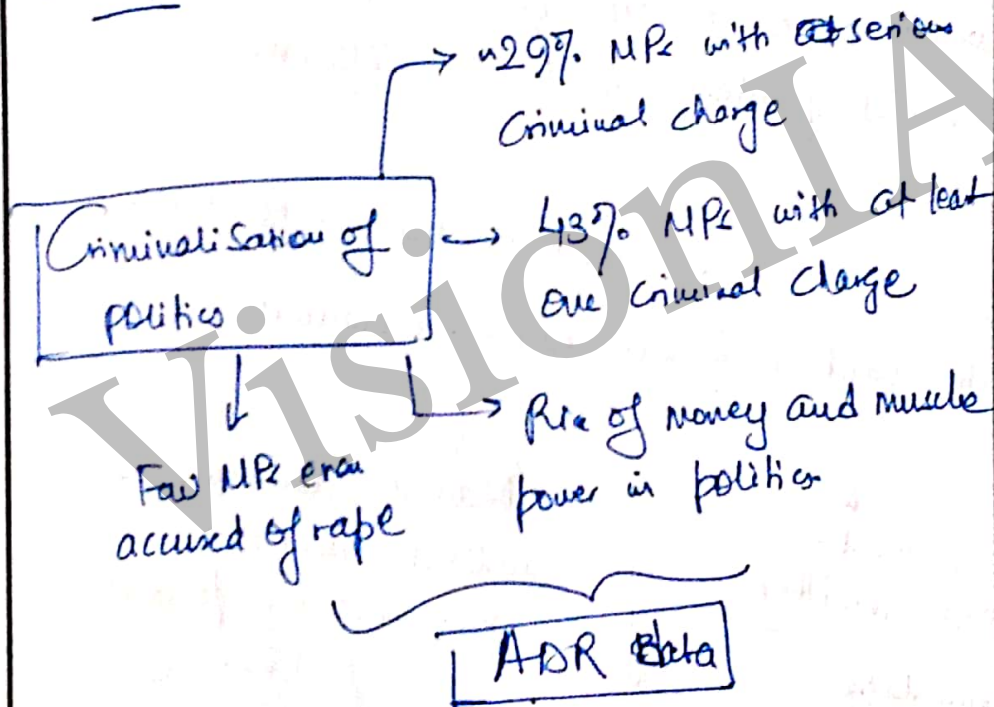
↳ Lay down transparent criteria for selection of members of NESC.

~~↳ Fed~~

At the same time, it is very important that role models come out of the SC community to infuse confidence among the SC youth. In UPSC exam 2018, Kavishak Kataria from SC community had topped the exam. This should set the precedent for future trajectory of the aspiring youths from SC.

2. Does the Representation of People's Act ensure an effective mechanism against criminalization of politics in India? Discuss. (150 words) 10  
क्या लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण के विरुद्ध एक प्रभावी तंत्र मुनिश्चित करता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

Representation of People's Act 1951 governs various aspects related to elections in the Country.



Effectiveness of RPA

↳ Does not have provision to disqualify chargesheeted and convicted politicians either from contesting or membership.

↳ No penalty specified for Paid news.

↳ Inter-party Structures are not regulated

- Lack of ~~in~~ party democracy and  
parties are not required to show  
reasons behind selecting a candidate.

However RPA bans MP if convicted for a  
crime with punishment greater than 2 years.

Criminalisation of politics  
must be tackled in an effective manner

↓

Implement  
Vohra Committee  
recommendations

↓

Mandatory disclosure of  
Candidates and their  
backgrounds by political  
parties:

Debate  
around State  
Funding of  
elections.

3. Discuss the challenges that are being faced by Gram Nyayalayas in their effective functioning. (150 words) 10  
ग्राम न्यायालयों द्वारा प्रभावी रूप में कार्य करने में सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Gram Nyayalayas were established under Gram Nyayalaya Act 2008 to bring justice delivery system to the doorsteps of citizens.

Gram Nyayalaya face challenges:-

1. Less Awareness among the citizens
2. Vacancy and delay in appointments:- to the post of Nyayadhikari by the state governments
3. Lack of finality in the judgment — adds to vacancy in the higher judiciary.
4. Less attractive career option due to posting in villages and less remuneration.
5. Technical and funding challenges.

6. Multiplicity of judicial bodies with similar jurisdiction — e.g. Lok Adalats, Family Courts etc.
7. Adequate numbers of GNs are not set up by state governments.

### Way forward

- \* Separate cadre for the post of Gram Nyayadhikaris with definite career progression — to attract recent law graduates
- \* Budgetary support by state has to be increased on the recommendation of state finance commission.
- \* Proactive role of High Courts in monitoring the activities of GNs.

Right to timely justice is an inherent part of Article 21 and GNs can play an important role in that direction.

4. Explain the rationale behind setting up 'Alternative Mechanisms' in ensuring effective decision making in the governance of the country.  
(150 words) 10

देश के शासन में प्रभावी निर्णयन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 'वैकल्पिक तंत्र' स्थापित करने का औचित्य स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Alternative Mechanisms  
Alternative Mechanism  
(for decision making).

VisionIAS

5. The relationship between bureaucracy and democracy is both paradoxical and complementary. Comment. (150 words) 10  
नौकरशाही और लोकतंत्र के बीच संबंध विरोधाभासी और अनुपूरक दोनों हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Paradoxical relationship

↳ Top-down approach and indifferent democracy.

↳ Weberian model of bureaucracy -  
मार्क-बाफ सिस्टम!

↳ Distant from ordinary citizens -  
Unreachable bureaucracy.

↳ Rigid system, Hierarchical model  
and less willingness to change hampers  
democratic processes.

↳ Often corruption and etc. limits  
growth and development.

## Complementary relation

↳ Channel and interface between citizens and government.

↳ Agents of change - eg IAs officers like Armsbury Payne, Vinod Khanna.

↳ Mentocratic bureaucracy - essential for sustaining growth.

↳ Agents of national integration and ~~benefits~~ levers to bring about meaningful changes in society.

6. By transforming the way governments work and reinventing people's participation in the democratic process, e-governance empowers the citizen in multiple ways. Discuss in the context of India. (150 words) 10
- सरकारों के काम करने के तरीके में परिवर्तन और लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया में लोगों की भागीदारी का पुनर्निर्माण करके, ई-शासन अनेक प्रकार से नागरिकों को मशक्त बनाता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

E-governance refers to the use of ICT tools and digital technologies for efficient delivery of public services and governance to the citizen;

E-gov transform the way governments work

↳ Re-engineering of internal processes to make departmental activities online.

↳ More responsive and repairable bureaucracy due to increased reach of citizens and potential to hold them accountable.

↳ less cumbersome procedure and paperwork.

E-gov reinvent people's participation

↳ Computerisation of various G2C services has involved wide section of population.

- e.g. Common Services Centre, Direct  
Benefit transfer etc.

↳ Revolutionised financial inclusion through  
JAM Trinity - Jan Dhan Aadhar, Mobile.

↳ online Monitoring Dashboards to track various  
government activities - meaningful social audit

Government has taken  
several measures to revolutionise e-governance  
architecture - such as NIC was established;

launch of INDEA (Indian Enterprise Architecture);

adopted Shillong Declaration on e-governance;

all government departments now have own website.

etc.

7. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 dilutes the spirit of Supreme Court's NALSA judgement towards self-determination of gender. Discuss. (150 words) 10
- उभयलिंगी व्यक्ति (अधिकारों का संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 2019 सिंग के आत्मनिर्धारण के प्रति उच्चतम न्यायालय के नालसा (NALSA) निर्णय की भावना को कमजोर करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Supreme Court in its 2014 judgment in NALSA vs Union of India, had directed the State to take proactive measures to uplift the status of third gender. Right of to self-perceived gender identity was recognised as an inherent part of Right to life and Personal Liberty under Article 21.

### Transgender Persons Act 2019

- \* Formation of National Council of Transgender headed by Union Minister of Social Justice
- \* Prohibited 8 forms of discrimination.
- \* Equal access to public amenities and opportunities.
- \* District Magistrate to be the issuing authority of the Gender Certificate.

Yes, it dilutes spirit towards self-determination

↳ Gender identity need to be assessed by an expert committee.

↳ Based on that report DM issues the certificate

↳ However, a transgender person can choose to change the sex in future and apply for new certificate.

In the spirit of Article 19, 21 and the Preamble of the Constitution which assures freedom and dignity to each individual,

practical steps need to be taken to uplift

their status such as

Reservation under  
OBC quota in  
education and  
jobs

Financial  
support to start  
business of  
their own

Accord NCT  
Constitutional  
status and  
involve more  
transgenders in  
policy process.

8. The worthwhile goal of Universal Health Coverage can be achieved by declaring the right to health as a fundamental right. Comment.

(150 words) 10

स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार को एक मूल अधिकार घोषित करके सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य कवरेज के सार्थक लक्ष्य को प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Universal Health Coverage refers to 100% coverage by health insurance, healthcare services and prevent people from falling into poverty due to immense health expenditure

— It is instrumental in achieving WHO's Triple Billion Targets.

Right to Health  
Can be construed as an inherent part of Right to life and liberty under Article 21.  
It can drive us towards goal of Universal Health Coverage.

↳ Enforceability by judicial channels will infuse accountability in health systems;

↳ Benefits from government scheme and interventions will empower every citizen.

↳ Well channelised funding will reach the healthcare delivery system.

VisionIAS

9. Indian Diaspora in the Gulf countries is an asset beset with multiple challenges. Comment. (150 words) 10  
खाड़ी देशों में भारतीय डायस्पोरा अनेक चुनौतियों में घिरी एक परिमंपत्ति है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

More than 11 million diaspora live in the Gulf countries which major centres being UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar etc.

### Diaspora as an Asset

- \* Major source of remittances and inward FDI to India.
- \* India's goodwill ambassadors - essential to strengthen our relationship with the gulf countries.
- \* Easier for government to justify meaningful relation with Gulf countries, domestically.

### Challenges faced by diaspora in Gulf

- \* Global move toward self reliance - fear of losing jobs due to substitution by domestic labour.
- \* Exploitation of blue collar workers in industries

and oil fields - majority of Biharis in Gulf are  
unkilled migrants.

- \* Rising intolerance and hate discrimination for  
outside communities.

### Challenges posed to India

- \* Policy lever with Gulf countries to  
draw concessions from India in case of any  
negotiations.

- \* Integration of returning migrants into the local  
economy - affect of Pandemic.

- \* With 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Muslim population, places  
of Islam such as Mecca are of immense  
cultural importance to Indians.

India has taken proactive  
measures to support its diaspora in times of need  
such as skilling and registration of migrants through  
recent Emigration Act; Pravasi Karmchal Vikas  
Yojana; Vande Bharat Express etc.

10. Briefly outline the genesis and functioning of World Food Programme (WFP). Also highlight its contribution to India's effort in addressing the issue of hunger and malnutrition. (150 words) 10

विश्व खाद्य कार्यक्रम (WFP) की उत्पत्ति और कार्यप्रणाली की संक्षिप्त रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, भूख और कुपोषण की समस्या को दूर करने के भारत के प्रयासों में इसके योगदान पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

Recently, World Food Programme was awarded Nobel Prize for Peace for its extraordinary contribution towards eradicating global hunger and march towards SDG goal 2 (~~and~~ zero hunger) by 2030.

World Food Programme is the food security wing of the United Nations. It works among developing countries to tackle hunger and malnutrition by providing food materials, technical expertise and funding to the country.

## Contribution to India's effort

↳ Policy recommendations to tackle hunger through targeted interventions.

↳ Technical cooperation with national agencies involved in the sector

↳ Active collaboration with relevant line ministries such as MWCs, Mo Agriculture.

↳ Data and experiment from WFP projects feeds into India's policy efforts.

Sustained cooperation is needed to lift 369 million Indian people out of poverty.

11. Action against civil society groups is seen as shrinking space for dissent by some while others point out to the imperatives of merit based action against certain groups. Examine with examples. (250 words) 15

कुछ लोगों द्वारा नागरिक समाज समूहों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई को असहमति के लिए कम होती स्वीकार्यता के रूप में देखा जाता है, जबकि अन्य लोग कतिपय समूहों के विरुद्ध गुणावगुण आधारित कार्रवाई की अनिवार्यता की ओर इंगित करते हैं। उदाहरण सहित परीक्षण कीजिए।

India was ranked low by several organisations such as PEN International, Freedom in the World Report, Reporters without Borders. This highlights a shrinking space for dissent.

Actions against CSOs ⇒ shrinking space

↳ Encroaches upon freedom of speech and expression under Article 19.

↳ Fear of anachronistic laws such as Sedition Act — LCI had recommended for its repeal.

↳ Hamper their ability to hold executive accountable

↳ Democratic participation is not meaningful.

## Prerequisites of unit based action

↳ Needed to curb violent tendencies such as extremism and insurgency.

↳ Security and integrity of the Nation is paramount :

↳ Secessionist groups such as Khalistan movement must be dealt with up front.

There is always a fine line between the real need of action and perceived need of action. Objective ~~use~~ and fair use is needed to foster fair & dissent and criticism which is necessary to foster democracy.

*[Faint handwritten notes in Hindi, mostly illegible due to bleed-through and fading.]*

12. Discuss the implications associated with the Prime Minister's Office acting as the most powerful office due to its formidable influence in policymaking in India. (250 words) 15

भारत में नीति-निर्माण में अपने अत्यधिक प्रभाव के कारण प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय के सर्वाधिक शक्तिशाली कार्यालय के रूप में कार्य करने से संबद्ध निहितार्थों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Implication of PMO as the most powerful office in policy making.

↳ Concentration of powers.

- non-consultative decision-making
- top down approach.

↳ Ministries and their secretaries and other staff have more experience in handling issues related to their field of engagement

- their motivation and engagement often get reduced.

↳ Prime Minister's Office National Security Advisor functions

↳ Visionary and future proof policies could not be brought due to ~~lack~~ coordination challenges.

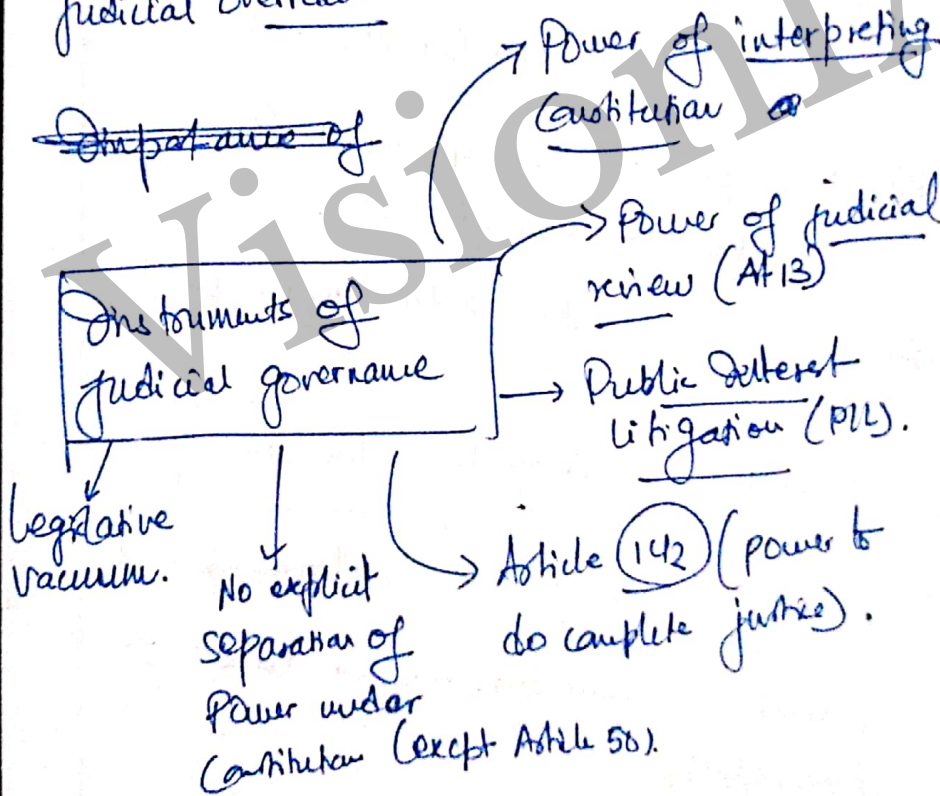
↳ Issue of personality cult - ~~where~~

VisionIAS

13. While judiciary's efforts to infuse accountability in the functioning of government institutions and engender human rights jurisprudence demonstrate the importance of judicial governance, it also leads to concerns around judicial overreach. Discuss. (250 words) 15

जहाँ सरकारी संस्थानों के कार्यकरण में जवाबदेही का मंचार करने और मानवाधिकार न्यायशास्त्र उत्पन्न करने का न्यायपालिका का प्रयास न्यायिक शासन का महत्व प्रदर्शित करता है, वहीं यह न्यायिक अतिक्रमण के चतुर्दिक चिन्ताओं को भी जन्म देता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian judiciary has played a pro-active role in strengthening of democratic credentials of the Union, but it is also criticised for its judicial overreach.



Importance of judicial governance

Pro.

## Engender Human Rights.

↳ Visaka guidelines - for protection of sexual harassment at workplaces.

↳ Right to livelihood (Olga Tellis vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation).

↳ Right to personal liberty even protection from arbitrary legislative action (~~Meneka~~)  
(Meneka Gandhi vs. UoI).

↳ Right to polluter free environment (M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India).

↳ Right to Privacy (K.S. Puttaswamy vs. UoI).

## Prepose Accountability in govt. institution

↳ Doctrine of Basic structure (Keshavananda Bharti).

↳ prevents Parliament from changing ~~to~~ certain basic structure.

↳ Recently, office of Chief Justice of India was brought under the ambit of RTI Act.

↳ State cannot perpetrate violence against citizens - accountability in police (Salwa Judum case).

### Concerns of judicial overreach

↳ Although explicit separation of powers not followed, the function of one organ must not be encroached by other organ.

↳ Tyranny of the unelected - judges are not directly responsible to the people, only the elected representatives are.

↳ Disconnect from ground realities - implementing agencies often find it hard to implement judicial orders.

↳ Creates tension between judiciary and executive.

A free system of checks and balances between various organs such that no organ encroach upon other's function is the need of the hour.

14. The power to punish for contempt of court is necessary for the administration of justice. Critically analyse. (250 words) 15  
न्यायालय की अवमानना के लिए दंडित करने की शक्ति न्याय के प्रशासन के लिए आवश्यक है। समालोचनात्मक विवेचन कीजिए।

Under the Constitution of India, Supreme Court and High Courts are vested with power to punish for their Contempt.

Contempt of Court Act clarifies procedural and technical issues regarding the same.

Contempt

Civil

- disobedience of courts' judgment

Criminal

- disrupts normal functioning of courts with an intention to obstruct justice.

Contempt Power is necessary

↳ Uphold honor and dignity of the courts and justice system.

↳ Since courts have no power of purse and sword, Contempt power is necessary to make its orders followed.

↳ Ensure rule of law to prevail as under  
Constitution of India.

↳ So that justice delivery system continue to  
function unhindered.

However, contempt of court power has certain  
limitations.

↳ Codification of what actually constitutes  
contempt not done  
- left to the discretion of judges

↳ Fear, sometimes irrational, of contempt  
affects otherwise innocent reporting of  
court cases - affects freedom of  
speech and expression

↳ Prevailing mindset that judges embody the justice rather than just an agent of justice

— Often contempt of court equated with contempt of judges.

↳ Nature and quantum of punishment left to individual discretion of judges.

When power of contempt is essential for administration of justice, certain  
creats are needed to be put in place such

as codification of contempt, delineation of  
punishment so that freedom of speech & expression  
under Article 19 are not encroached.

15. What are the legal concerns associated with custodial violence? Discuss the challenges in curbing such incidents. Also, suggest some ways to address this issue.

(250 words) 15

अभिरक्षा में हिंसा से संबद्ध विधिक चिंताएं क्या हैं? ऐसी घटनाओं पर अंकुश लगाने में सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, इस समस्या का समाधान करने हेतु कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Recently, due to many deaths in police custody including of a father-son duo from Hyderabad, has brought the issue of custodial violence into focus.

### Legal Concerns with Custodial Violence

- \* Lack of fixing accountability with the responsible police officer — virtually gives police a free hand.
- \* Overcrowding prisons — 115% average occupancy in jail.
- \* Large Number of Undertrial prisoners — 68%.
- \* No explicit law to codify rights of the prisoners and duties of the police officer in charge.

## Challenges in curbing incidents.

↳ Lack of evidence to punish the responsible officers.

↳ Social pressure for retributive justice  
— seen in Hyderabad encounter.  
— hurts in long term.

↳ Absence of cohesivity among the officers.

↳ National Human Rights Council and its  
State counterparts lack adequate manpower  
and resources to monitor custodial centres

## Ways to address

↳ Implement LCI 2004<sup>th</sup> report recommendations.

↳ that those served  $\frac{1}{3}$  sentences and  
sentenced for max 7 years be released on  
par.

↳ Strengthen NHRC to carry out its duties  
efficiently.

- ↳ Sensitiveness training for police officers.
- ↳ Accountability must be ensured among the police officers.

State has no right to  
perpetrate violence much less away it  
towards citizens (Supreme Court in Salwa Judeo  
Case) — It must be the guiding light  
for future reforms.

16. Civil society interventions, ranging from confrontation to engagement with the government, have played an important role in ushering transparency and accountability in governance in India. Discuss with examples. (250 words) 15

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

Civil society refers to citizens groups such as NGOs, Voluntary organisations, Media Houses, social groups etc.

Engagement with govt.

↳ Delivery channels for various govt. schemes such as food and medicine delivery - as seen in recent Corona pandemic.

↳ Engagement with govt. in policy formulation and implementation.

↳ NGOs such as Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) - for research activities - feeds into policy process.

## Important role in transparency

- ↳ Immense role to bring in the Right to Information Act, RTI Act 2005
- ↳ Pressure from civil society through PILs in court — had led to disclosure of several governmental records and activities
- ↳ Role of social Audit in schemes such as MGNREGA prevents corruption.
- ↳ NICs such as Association of Democratic Reform — research on criminalisation of politics and need for reform.

Widespread and meaningful participation by civil society organisations has improved the democratic credentials of the Indian Union.

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ न लिखें)

VisionIAS

17. When it comes to hunger, India faces the paradox of plenty. Discuss. Also suggest ways in which this concern can be addressed. (250 words) 15

जब भुखमरी की बात आती है, भारत को प्रचुरता के विरोधाभास का सामना करना पड़ता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए, जिनके माध्यम में हम चिंता का समाधान किया जा सकता है।

Despite overflowing godowns, a vast majority of Indian population still go to bed every night on an empty stomach.

### Paradox of Plenty

\* Storage spaces available with FCI and other state agencies are full

- due to MSP; open ended procurement policy of FCI

- lack of auto-liquidation guidelines of offloading grains in open market

- As a result food grains often rot or eaten by rodents.

- Total 88MMT storage capacity available.

\* But hunger still persist despite NFSA 2017

Cover 67% of population (75% of rural population and 50% of urban population).

## Reason for persistent hunger.

↳ Inclusion and Exclusion error in Public Distribution System.

↳ Corruption in PDS - grains often diverted to open market - black marketing.

## ↳ Hidden Hunger

↳ Ignored nutritious crops such as millets,

↳ Staple grain fundamentalism -

nutrient rich crops ignored due to annual market and price with certain cereal.

## Ways to address the challenge

↳ Universalisation of PDS benefit along with inclusion of affluent sections to give up their benefit - as seen in LP4 subsidy (PAHAL).

- Tamil Nadu implements Universal PDS.

↳ Address Hidden Hunger - shift cropping patterns in favour of coarse grains such as millets, barley etc.

- Fertilisation including bio-fertilisation.

↳ Upgrade midDay meal scheme - include other diets such as egg for meeting protein requirement.

↳ Increase accessibility, affordability, sufficiency and utilization of food grains.

Right to Food is a derived fundamental right (Supreme Court in PUC v. Union of India). Government must take proactive steps to address hunger and malnutrition on a war footing.

18. What is the role of wage employment in alleviating poverty? How is the MGNREGA different from the earlier Wage Employment Programmes in India? (250 words) 15

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

India lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006-2016. In this task, the wage employment has played an important role.

But still around 869 million live in poverty.

Wage employment refers to job opportunities with salaries and other monetary benefits. E.g. MGNREGA.

Role of wage employment

↳ Assured source of income - income security

↳ Creates demand at the bottom - essential to drive the engine of growth

↳ Essential to eliminate income poverty.

↳ Additional source of revenue due to indirect taxes — could in turn be utilised for poverty alleviation programmes.

MGNREGA

Guaranteed 100-days wage employment to each household.

build rural amenities and other infrastructure.

MGNREGA is different

↳ Unemployment allowance is provided if suitable work could not be allocated.

↳ 60:40 wage to material ratio is maintained.

↳ Work provided in a certain radius from the place of residence.

↳ legal sanction ~~under~~ behind MGNREGA

Besides wage employment,

self-employment generation activities like

that under DAY-NRLM, DAY-NULM, Stand-up

India Mission as well as training mission

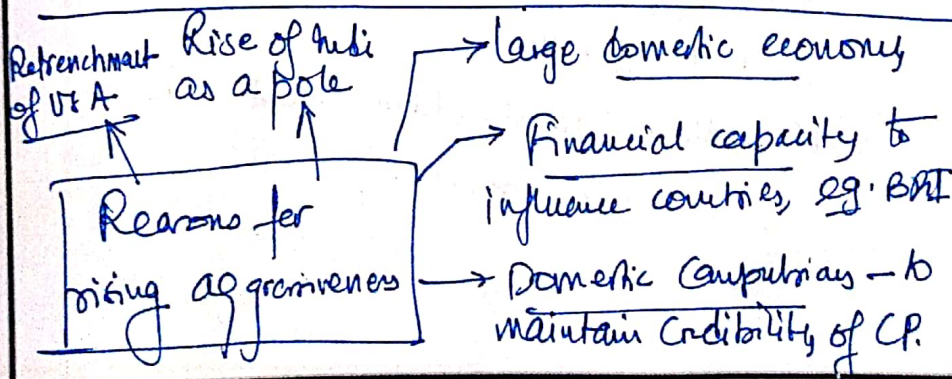
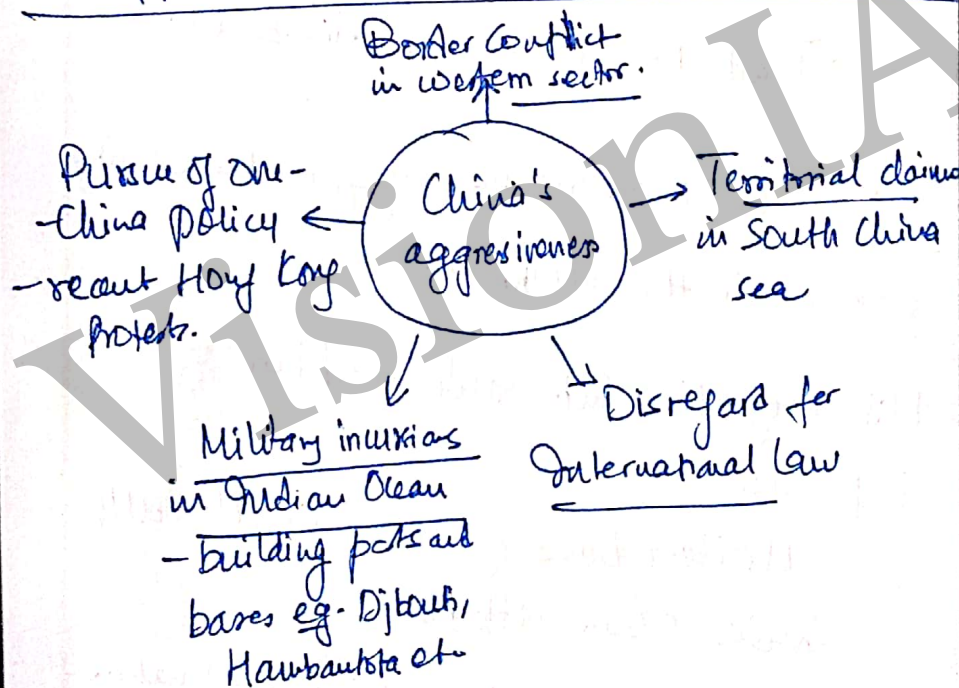
Such as DDU-GKY, Skill India are also important for sustained fight against poverty.

In spirit of Article 39 of Constitution, multi-dimensional steps must be taken to eliminate all forms of poverty —  
Crucial to achieve \$5 trillion economy by 2024.

19. China's aggressiveness in recent times presents not only challenges to India but also opportunities to strengthen itself internationally and domestically. Discuss. (250 words) 15

हाल के दिनों में चीनी आक्रामकता न केवल भारत के लिए चुनौतियां खड़ी करती है बल्कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और घरेलू स्तर पर अपने आपको सशक्त बनाने का अवसर भी प्रदान करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Rise of China and its muscular posture globally is both a challenge and an opportunity for India.



## Challenges to India

- ↳ Threatened territorial sovereignty - recent clashes in Galwan valley.
- ↳ Economic import dependence on China - especially for APIs for pharma industry.
  - Trade deficit skewed towards China.
- ↳ China-Pakistan nexus aggravates security problem in the neighbour.
- ↳ Hi-jack of China into India's sphere of influence
  - Military bases of China in all south India Ocean littoral.
  - BRI projects and technical cooperation with neighbour.
  - Recently, Nepal-China linked rail connectivity project.

Opportunities

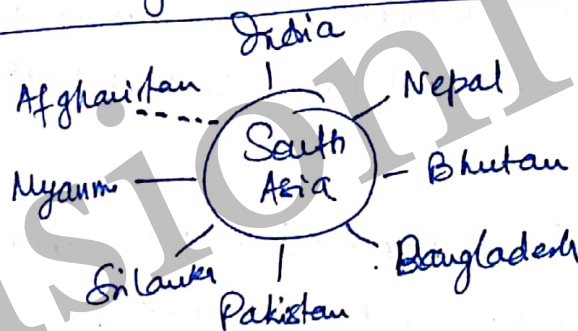
- Build domestic manufacturing capacity -  
through ~~reinsuring~~ Atmanirbhar Bharat  
Abhiyan
- Attract companies relocating from China  
- Participate in global and regional supply  
chains
- Project itself internationally as an international  
player - build regard for  $\otimes$  international  
law.
- Augment its strategic and military capacity  
(Threat of two-front war scenario).

India believes that the world has enough space for both India and China. But our policies must be rooted in realpolitik and handle China accordingly. India must also take its terms in United National Security Council and WHO, WTO as chairman wisely.

20. Trade and connectivity hold the key for India to better engage its neighbours. Examine the opportunities and challenges in South Asia in this context. (250 words) 15

व्यापार और कनेक्टिविटी, भारत के लिए अपने पड़ोसियों से बेहतर तरीके से जुड़ने का सामर्थ्य रखती है। इस संदर्भ में दक्षिण एशिया में अवसरों और चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Despite considerable potential due to large population, similar demographic and social profile, South Asia is considered one of the least integrated regions of the world.



### Opportunities in South Asia.

↳ Cross Border Trade in goods, services,

electricity

- SAARC is a relevant platform;
- South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA).
- Full potential could not be tapped due

to mutual suspicion among neighbours; State sponsored terrorism by Pakistan.

↳ Connectivity projects. - all the countries are geographically connected by land except Sri Lanka.

- Trade and Connectivity go hand in hand.
- Due to suboptimal engagement in Trade and Connectivity, bilateral relations not reaching full potential.
- Potential for development of India's North East region due to Connectivity projects.

### Challenges in South Asia.

- \* Mutual hostility and suspicion biggest factor for lack of holistic cooperation.
- \* Chinese interference in India's sphere of influence through BRI projects - CPEC issue.
- \* A SAARC motor vehicle Agreement was called off by Pakistan.

\* Developing countries in the region lack technical and financial wherewithal to carry out connectivity and trade projects.

\* Technical and Regulatory issues for cross-border trade in electricity which holds huge potential.

\* Trade Agreements like those with Sri Lanka have not reached its full potential.

\* Poverty and Hunger is widespread in the region (Global Hunger Index).

India must take the leading role in engaging with like-minded neighbours to boost trade and connectivity. It must quickly finalise pending projects and find alternative source of financing regional infrastructure such as utilize Blue Dot Network of the QUAD by participating in it.