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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2086)

Name of Candidate	Aniket Dayaneshwar Hirde		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1045939
Center	online	Date	03-09-23

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

- 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)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **HINDI & ENGLISH** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**  
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.  
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- 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।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- 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 उसका 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

Time :- 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

# 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. क्या आप इस विचार में सहमत हैं कि भारत में न्यायिक जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक नया कानून बनाने की आवश्यकता है?

Do you agree with the view that there is a need to enact a new law for ensuring judicial accountability in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Judicial Accountability

refers to answerabilities of judiciary's  
actions against set rules, laws, etc.

Currently, it is done by judiciary only internally.

Yes, new law is needed

- ① Pendency :- 4 Cr cases pending with 25-1. > 5 years old.
- ② Appointment :- Done by collegium system which is opaque to public.
- ③ Varied law interpretations :- Bombay HC in Gatish Regade case acquitted an accused because he groped a child over her clothes & there was no skin-contact as need in POCSO, 2012

- ④ Public accountability:- Judiciary currently not accountable to public as Parliament can't discuss judges conduct (Article 121)

However, it can affect Judicial Independence

- ① Executive might get power to question each & every decisions.
- ② Timelines for cases might lead to hasty decisions.
- ③ Judicial independence is basic structure of constitution.

### Way Ahead

- ① Courts can follow Orissa HC:- which by self published pendancy, reasons, etc.
  - ② Collegium discussions, criteria can be made public to bring transparency.
- While judicial accountability is needed, it should <sup>be</sup> balanced with separation of power (Article 50).

2. भारतीय मंत्रिधन के लागू होने के बाद से मूल अधिकारों और राज्य की नीति के निर्देशक तत्वों (DPSPs) में संवैधानिक रूप से सामंजस्य स्थापित करना एक कठिन कार्य रहा है। प्रारंभिक न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से चर्चा कीजिए।

Constitutionally reconciling Fundamental Rights with the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) has been a tough task since the inception of the Indian Constitution. Discuss with the help of relevant case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Article 12-35 deals with Fundamental Rights which are basic rights guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution. Article 36-51 deal with DPSPs which are "Instrument of Instruction" to state for policy making to ensure welfare state.

### Reconciling - A Tough Task

> In Minerva Mills case, 1980, Supreme Court held that balance between Fundamental Rights & DPSP is bedrock of Indian Constitution. but clashes exist:

- ① TN Godavarman Case:- Court provided

for Eco-Sensitive Zone (Article 48A)  
which hindered right to livelihood (Article 21)  
of tribals.

② While government seeks to avoid concentration of wealth (Article 39), it is against Right To Equality (Article 14).

③ While UCC (Article 44) is being proposed, it might overshadow some aspects of right to religion (Article 25-26).

④ Court provided liquor ban from 500m from highway (Article 47) which contradicts right to make own decision (Article 21)

Although, the reconciliation is tough, court rightly ruled that Fundamental Rights take precedence except Article 39 (b) (c). Going ahead, the clashes can be looked at on case-by-case basis.

3. प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) द्वारा किए जाने वाले कार्यों और भारत में नीति-निर्माण को आकार देने में इसकी भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the functions performed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and its role in shaping policy-making in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

### Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

is an office directly under the supervision of PM which is headed by Principal Secretary to PM.

### Functions of PMO

- ① Coordinating among various departments to get inputs.
- ② monitoring implementation of various schemes via PRAGATI platform.
- ③ Advising PM on the impending issues, solutions.
- ④ Also, acts as one stop clearance for urgent project implementation.

## Role in Policy Making

- ① Deciding new areas of policies.  
 Eg:- PMO has officers for infra, road, environment sector, etc.
- ② Gathering on-ground information which can hinder policy.
- ③ Can also interact with stakeholders, public for policy input.
- ④ Advising cabinet on policy draft.
- ⑤ Steering the direction of policies along PM's vision. Eg:- Swachh Bharat Mission was PM's dream to see India defecation free.

Hence, PMO acts like a central body which supervises various governance initiatives for PM.

4. भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC) की धारा 124A के प्रावधानों का पुनरीक्षण करने और उन पर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए नागरिक स्वतंत्रताओं एवं मानवाधिकार संबंधी चिंताओं तथा भारत की संप्रभुता एवं अखंडता को बनाए रखने और उसकी रक्षा करने के बीच संतुलन बनाने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Re-examination and reconsideration of the provisions of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) requires striking a balance between concerns of civil liberties and human rights, and maintaining and protecting the sovereignty and integrity of India. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Section 124A (IPC) deals with Sedition which is act which brings hatred / disaffection against government established by law.

### Need for Sovereignty & Integrity

① Tackling security threats like terrorism, insurgency, etc. - Supreme Court upheld Sedition in Kedar Nath case, 1962.

② Creating deterrence against anti-national activities.

③ Countering new issues like cyber attacks, radicalisation to ensure

integrity .

However, contradicts Civil Liberties, HR

① Low conviction rate :- at only 2.2% shows its excessive use .

② Vague terms like disaffection, hatred can lead to its misuse .

③ Government can use it to target political opponents, dissenters, etc ,

④ Reduces scope for positive criticism of government policies .

keeping in mind S.G. Vyombarkar  
(2022) judgement, new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita rightly replaced sedition with section 50, 'OF offences against state' balancing civil liberties with nation's sovereignty .

5. "ग्रामीण भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस पहलों की सफलता के लिए नागरिक भागीदारी महत्वपूर्ण है।" टिप्पणी कीजिए।

"Citizen participation is key to the success of e-governance initiatives in rural India." Comment. (Answer in 150 words)

10

E-governance refers to provision of government services by electronic means. Eg:- Direct Benefit Transfer.

### Citizen Participation As key

- ① Identification of Beneficiaries :- for e-governance needs to be done jointly with citizens. Eg:- Gram Sabha for PM-Awas.
- ② Digital literacy :- is a precondition for successful e-governance.
- ③ Feedback :- by citizens can improve e-governance. Eg:- Pura

Seva app of Andhra government,  
Mo-Saakar of Odisha government.

④ Formulating initiatives:- Need to take  
citizen's opinion on <sup>their</sup> needs. Eg:- DBT  
formulated after complaints of leakages.

⑤ Voicing grievances:- in case of failure.  
Eg:- Cancellation of Aadhar cards due  
to biometric cancellation.

⑥ Citizen enthusiasm:- Needed to ~~get~~  
fulfil e-governance needs. Eg:- Registering  
for PM-JAY digital card, giving biometric  
for Aadhar, etc.

Government should make  
e-governance, digital literacy as  
integral component of education system  
to ensure success of next generation  
of e-governance schemes.

6. आपके अनुसार आकांक्षी जिला कार्यक्रम अपनी शुरूआत के बाद से अपने उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति में कितना सफल रहा है?

How far do you think the Aspirational District Programme has been able to achieve its objectives since its inception? (Answer in 150 words) 10

### Aspirational District

Programme was launched in 2018 to improve socio-economic condition in 112 most backward districts in India.

#### Success of ADP

- ① Institutional deliveries in Rajasthan, Bihar increased from 40% → 90%.
- ② Immunisation in Odisha increased from 50% to 95%.
- ③ e-governance schemes like e-courts setup. Eg:- Osmanabad (MH).
- ④ India has lifted 13 Cr people out of Multi-dimensional Poverty (MPI) as per MPI 2019-20 over 2015-16.

## Challenges Remain

- ① Intra-district disparity :- some blocks highly developed compared to others.
- ② Delta rankings : focus more on quantity vs quality. Eg:- Tap ~~water~~ connection given, but water is contaminated.
- ③ Multiple ministries in different districts creates coordination issues.
- ④ Long-term impact not yet assessed.

However, ADP has been successful to large extent. As a next step, government has launched Aspirational Block Programme to ensure equitable development in districts.

7. NGO क्षेत्र को आगे बढ़ाने और लाभार्थियों के लिए आउटकम्स को बेहतर बनाने में प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है। उदाहरण सहित विवेचना कीजिए।  
Technology has a crucial role to play in advancing the NGO sector and improving outcomes for beneficiaries. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Non - Governmental organisation  
(NGOs) are not-profit organisation  
Working towards a specific cause.  
Eg:- Sonu Sood Foundation helping  
migrants repatriation.

### Technology in Advancing NGO Sector

- ① Reaching out to more donors :- via  
Online modes. Eg:- Milaap crowdfunding.
- ② Improving operational efficiencies :-  
via Enterprise Resource Programmas.
- ③ Improving accountability :- Easier  
online financial filing - weeding  
out bad NGOs by government.  
Eg:- Amnesty International.

## Technology In Improving Beneficiary Outcomes

- ① Data for transparency:- Association for Democratic Reforms' reports on electoral bonds highlighted its issues.
- ② Guiding policy:- NGO Pratham's ASER has led to NIPUN Bharat scheme to improve numeracy & literacy.
- ③ Beneficiary identification:- Aadhar linkages, KYC, etc. can help weed out ghost beneficiaries.
- ④ Efficiency in operations:- Cloud kitchens by Akshaypatra helping it cater to more children.
- ⑤ Gaining global best practices:- in new sectors like environment, water, etc.

Hence, technology can make NGOs a more stable plank to ~~the~~ improve service delivery in India.

8. तकनीकी और उच्चतर शिक्षा के लिए विदेशी शिक्षण संस्थानों के भारत में प्रवेश से जुड़े निहितार्थों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the implications associated with the entry of foreign educational institutions for technical and higher education in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

University Grants Commission  
in 2023 allowed foreign educational  
institutes to set-up campuses  
in India.

### Implications - Positives

- ① Increased quality of higher education in India due to increased competition.
- ② Diverse course options in line with new-age global requirements.
- ③ Saving of FOREX outgo :- ~ \$30 Billion annually due to student migration.
- ④ Collaboration between Indian & foreign institutes for new-age R&D. Eg. - AI, Quantum computing.

## Implications - Negatives

- ① Freedom in deciding fees :- might exacerbate already existing class divide in higher education.
- ② Poaching of faculties :- from reputed HEIs in India. Eg:- IIT, IIM.
- ③ Allowing repatriation of profits means lesser financial gain for India.
- ④ Syllabus clashes :- While STEM courses are fairly uniform, British university cannot teach history justifying imperialism.

While a step in the right direction, the need is to develop a framework to ensure maximum gain to India. Eg:- % repatriation, syllabus synergies, etc.

9. भारत और लैटिन अमेरिका के देशों के बीच फलता-फूलता संबंध भारत की विदेश नीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग बन गया है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The flourishing relationship between India and countries of Latin America has become a critical element of India's foreign policy. Examine. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Latin America is a region comprising of South-American countries like Brazil, Venezuela, Chile, etc.

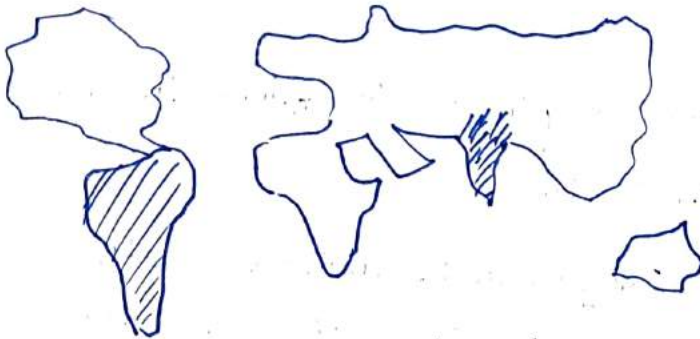


Fig 1.  
India -  
Latin  
America.

### Latin America Critical in Foreign Policy

- ① Renewed focus on Indo-Pacific :- which is bordered by Latin America.
- ② Partnerships for critical minerals :- Lithium (Bolivia, Chile), etc.
- ③ Potential Export Destination :- Eg - Tata, Mahindra popwar vehicles in

Brazil).

- ④ Oil Reserves :- Venezuela has one of the largest. India looking to diversify.
- ⑤ New challenges collaboration :- Environment Brazil's Amazon, India's tropical forest.

### Flourishing Relations

- ① Expanding grouping :- Argentina included in BRICS in 2023.
- ② New bonding :- India invited Latin America countries in 'Voice of Global South' Summit.
- ③ New collaborations :- International Solar Alliance, Mineral Strategic Partnerships, etc

India can further setup a separate division in External Affairs Ministry for focused engagement with the resource rich & huge market potential region.

10. ऋण-जाल कूटनीति क्या है? चीन की ऋण-जाल कूटनीति भारत के पड़ोस में भारतीय हितों को कैसे प्रभावित करती है?

What is debt-trap diplomacy? How does China's debt-trap diplomacy impact India's interests in its neighbourhood? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Debt-trap diplomacy is a policy tool in which country A gives huge loans to country B for unsustainable projects, failing to pay which leads to forcing of diplomatic favours. Eg: China taking control of Sri-Lanka's Hambantota port.

Impact on India due to China's Debt Trap

① Social unrest in neighborhood: Pakistan's forex crisis (10% debt to China), Sri-Lankan crisis, etc.

② Security issues:- After taking control of Hambantota port, China placed reconnaissance vessel in it.

- ③ Regional development is hindered.  
China forcing its own initiatives.
- ④ Threatens India's Sovereignty :- CPEC passing through Pok.
- ⑤ Limits India's influence :- in helping aid, development initiatives, etc.  
Eg.:- Nepal's reduced inclination to India.

### What is Needed

- ① India's own initiatives :- Like soft-loan, infra projects like Kaladan to counter China.
- ② Partnering with like minded countries :-  
India can provide technical, manpower support to implement G7's Partnership for Global Infrastructure & Innovation (PGII).  
Considering fate of Pakistan, Sri-Lanka; India's efforts in reaching out will be highly appreciated by other countries to counter deft-diplomacy.

11. विश्व भर के विभिन्न संविधानों का मिश्रण होने के बावजूद, भारतीय संविधान अपने विभिन्न प्रावधानों के माध्यम से सामाजिक न्याय, बहुलवाद और समानता को आत्मगत किए हुए है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Despite being an amalgamation of various constitutions from across the world, the Indian Constitution imbibes social justice, pluralism, and equality through its various provisions. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The Indian Constitution has borrowed the best practices from various constitutions to become one of the most robust constitution in the world. For example,

- ① UK :- Parliamentary system, cabinet
- ② US :- Fundamental rights, Vice-President
- ③ Australia :- Joint sitting, Concurrent list

Imbibes Social Justice, Pluralism, Equality

- ① Social Justice :- Refers to just distribution of wealth, opportunity & privileges. Ensured through :-

- ① Article 15 (4) :- State can make special provision for socially backward class in educational institutes.
  - ② Article 16 (4) :- Allows reservation in jobs.
  - ③ Article 330 :- Reservation for SC/ST in Parliament.
- Ⓑ Pluralism :- Multitude of thoughts, opinions, etc.
- ① Article 25 :- Freedom of religion.
  - ② Article 29 :- Upholds interest of minority by protecting language, culture, script.
  - ③ Article 46 :- Requires state to preserve tribal culture while improving their economic, education condition.

- (C) Equality :- Same treatment
- (1) Article 14 :- Equal protection by law to all people.
- (2) Article 44 :- Seeks to ensure common Uniform Civil Code across religions.
- (3) Article 19 :- Any person can carry out any profession, form assembly, etc.

Hence, Indian constitution has borrowed the best practices to uphold pluralistic Indian society while ensuring social justice & equality.

12. हाल के कुछ घटनाक्रमों ने भारत में वैवाहिक बलात्कार को अपराध घोषित करने के मुद्दे को प्रकाश में लाया है। देश में वैवाहिक बलात्कार के पीड़ितों के लिए कानूनी संरक्षण मुनिश्चित करने के निहितार्थों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Recent developments have brought to light the issue of criminalizing marital rape in India. Analyse the implications of ensuring legal protection for victims of marital rape in the country. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Exception 2 to IPC 375  
provides exception to Marital Rape i.e.  
non-consensual sexual intercourse  
between husband - wife will not  
amount to rape provided wife is  
older than 18 years.

### Positives of Criminalizing Marital Rape

- ① Providing more bodily autonomy to women.
- ② Developing awareness about consent → moving towards more egalitarian society.
- ③ Reduction in instances of domestic

violence as women won't be seen as property of husband.

④ More sexual autonomy → better planned pregnancies → better maternal, child health outcomes.

⑤ women empowerment to stand-up to their husbands

### Certain Issues

① Verification of the charge might be difficult.

② Can be used as a tool to blackmail husbands

③ Criminalizing marital rape won't automatically empower women — might be under-reported.

- ④ Criminalizing without changing male mindset might lead to large number of cases adding to already judicial pendency.
- ⑤ Providing definition for 'consent' might be difficult.

### Way Ahead

- ④ Marital rape criminalization can be a first step but should be accompanied by :-
- ① Changing male mindset via education system
  - ② Empowering women via SHG, ASHA, Anganwadi workers, etc.

Reduction in marital rape can lead to improvement in female LFR, better health outcomes

13. "गंधवाद के भारतीय मॉडल की अत्यधिक केंद्रीकृत होने के कारण आलोचना की जाती है, लेकिन यह राज्यों को पर्याप्त अवसर और स्वायत्तता भी प्रदान करता है।" विश्लेषण कीजिए।

"The Indian model of federalism has been criticized for being too centralized, but it also provides adequate space and autonomy to the states." Analyse. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Federalism refers to sharing of power between national & regional government by the constitution itself. The Indian model is quasi-federal.

### Centralized Indian Federalism

- ① Article 356:- Central government can dissolve state governments.
- ② Article 3:- Parliament empowered to alter area, border, name of state.
- ③ Fiscal federalism:- Eroding of state's taxation power, veto to central government with 33% vote share in GST council.

④ Governor's interference :- West Bengal CM & governor both trying to control officers, schemes leading to tussle.

⑤ Administrative :- Center exerting control on officers of All-India Service assigned to states. Eg. - Former West Bengal Chief Secretary's deputation

However, States have Autonomy

① Article 246 :- Provides states power on regionally important subjects like Health, Police, etc.

② Fiscal autonomy :- Complete control on distribution of divisible pool among districts / local bodies.

③ Article 368(2) :- States need to

satisfy amendments like amendments  
in Article 368, 246, etc.

④ Assembly is empowered to form laws  
as per state requirement. Eg:- MCOCA  
in Maharashtra.

⑤ States can provide own schemes.  
Eg:- Free electricity, water (Punjab),  
Mid-Day meal was started by Tamil Nadu.

Hence, Indian constitution  
ensures Federalism while ensuring  
India remains an indestructible  
union.

14. भारतीय निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) में नियुक्तियों को लेकर उच्चतम न्यायालय के हालिया निर्णय ने नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को मूल रूप से बदल दिया है और इसके संभावित दूरगामी निहितार्थ भी हो सकते हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

The recent judgment of the Supreme Court on appointments to the Election Commission of India (ECI) has fundamentally changed the appointment process and can have potentially far-reaching implications. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

15

Supreme Court recently held that Election Commissioners would be appointed by a collegium of PM, Leader of Opposition & Chief Justice of India.

### Far Reaching Effect - Positive

- ① Impartiality in EC appointment v/s solely appointed by executive currently
- ② Consensus among different political parties to ensure fairness.
- ③ Protection of tenure to other 2 EC apart from CEC will lead

to lesser fear-favour.

④ Impartiality by officers :- during job (IAS, IPS, etc.) as they won't be ~~pliant~~ pliant to get appointed as EC.

⑤ Election Reforms :- Can be undertaken by ECI in faster way as there won't be any favouring, decision would be via consensus.

⑥ Electoral Faith :- in the process will increase.

### Far Reaching Effect - Negatives

① Consensus building might be time taking leading to deadlock.

② Clash between PM & opposition leader will give virtual veto to CJI.

- ③ Inclusion of CJI doesn't automatically lead to impartiality. Eg:- CBI.

### Way Ahead

Implementing other suggestions by Court along with collegium as:-

- ① Security of tenure to all ECs.
- ② Separate Secretarial staff for ECI
- ③ No reappointments after tenure as EC.

An independent & impartial election commission is sine-quo-non for democracy. While Supreme Court has set the ball rolling, Parliament should further strengthen ECI as per reforms discussed.

15. वैश्विक बदलावों के साथ समेकन और अर्थव्यवस्था के खुलने के परिणामस्वरूप लोक सेवाओं के लिए विविध चुनौतियां उत्पन्न हो गई हैं, जिनके कारण कुशल सेवा वितरण के लिए उनमें समग्र सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Integration with the global trends and opening up of the economy has resulted in diversified challenges for the civil services, which require holistic reforms for efficient service delivery. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

### Civil Services in India

has seen huge change in their working with changing global trends & opening up of economy post 1991.

#### Diversified Challenges

- ① More private sector :- which needs to be facilitated rather than regulated.  
Eg:- Emerging startups.
- ② New focus areas :- like environment.  
Eg:- Civil servants needing to develop & implement Carbon Trading Scheme.
- ③ Increased citizen awareness :- Need higher standards of service delivery.

④ Use of technology :- Like PFMS, PRAGATI, GATI-SHAKTI, etc. with which civil servants have to adopt.

⑤ Global focus :- World keeps a watch on happening in India. Eg:- Global Hunger Index.

⑥ New threats :- Cyber frauds, drones, etc. to law & order.

### Holistic Reform Needed

① Matching competencies :- Of civil servants to job. Eg:- Energy engineer as energy secretary.

② Use of Technology :- Training civil servants of using National Data Analytics Platform, geospatial data, etc.

- ③ Less formal, more professional civil services :- for better coordination along hierarchies, faster clearances.
- ④ Speeding service delivery :- by breaking silos, more inter-ministerial coordination. Eg:- Special Secretary for 2-3 ministries.
- ⑤ Public interface :- Increasing public access points (apps, helpline numbers) & improving public-friendly behaviour via on-site learning.

Government has rightly taken multiple steps like Mission Karmayogi, 360° Appraisal, etc. to keep service delivery in line with current needs.

16. भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेहिता को बढ़ावा देने में ओपन डेटा क्या भूमिका निभा सकता है? देश में ओपन डेटा की गुणवत्ता और विश्वसनीयता सुनिश्चित करने में कौन-सी चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं?

What role can open data play in promoting transparency and accountability in e-governance in India? What are the challenges in ensuring the quality and reliability of open data in the country? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Open data refers to information set which is accessible by all the people. Eg:- NFHS-5, PLFS, Census, etc. are some examples of open data.

### Promoting Transparency

① Provides information on metrics India is lagging in. Eg:- NFHS-5 showed increase in Anemia prevalence from 58% → 65%.

② Accessibility :- open-data can be accessed by respective ministries to formulate policies.

- ③ Public scrutiny :- is possible with data being widely available.

### Promoting Accountability

- ① Beneficiary identification :- Eg. - SECC 2011 is used to identify beneficiaries of PM-JAY, PM-Awas Yojana, etc.

- ② Questioning government claims :-  
Eg. - wide variation in LFPR between government claims & that by CMIE.

- ③ Optimized decisions :- as government will be under constant scrutiny.

### Challenges of Quality & Reliability

- ① Sample size :- Often not representative of country. Eg. - Global Hunger Index samples only 3000 households

- ② Utility of parameters :- not always in-line with the need.
- ③ Rural data :- Often lacking as compared to urban data.
- ④ Cyber manipulation :- Easily possible leading to mistaken decisions.
- ⑤ Country specific bias :- Some datasets might want to show India in poor light for personal gains.

However, open-data has many benefits. India needs to ensure robust in-house data collection through its existing channels like teachers, AASHA workers, etc. while ensuring data security via Data Protection Law.

17. भारत में 'जीरो फूड' बच्चों की व्यापकता को कम करने के लिए मातृ पोषण को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

To reduce the prevalence of 'zero food' children in India, maternal nutrition needs to be made a priority. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

'Zero food' children shows the problem of malnourishment in India which leads to loss of 3% of India's GDP (Lancet)

Maternal Nutrition: key to Malnourishment in Children.

- ① Breast-feeding children:- Better nourished ~~child~~ mother → better nourished children.
- ② During pregnancy:- Better maternal nutrition — healthier children — better food assimilation when born.

③ After childbirth :- Better nourished mother - more capable to work - better food earning for children.

④ Nourished mothers will be more capable to undertake holistic care of their children against diseases, unhygienic condition, etc.

⑤ Awareness on nourishment for mothers → translate into awareness for children. Eg:- Providing micro-nutrients like Zn, Mg, Calcium, etc.

### Issues in Solely Focusing on Maternal Nourishment

① Doesn't cater to auxiliary issues like disease prevention. Eg:- Cholera, Diarrhoea, etc.

- ② After breast-feeding phase, direct child nourishment also needed.

### Way Ahead

- ① Community led nourishment:-  
identifying local children, providing local nourishments. Eg:- Nanded mode.
- ② Forming local mother's committees  
Eg:- Mission Sampurna (Assam).

Maternal nourishment  
along with other measures can  
ensure India achieves SDG 2  
(Hunger) soon.

18. हाल ही में, केंद्र सरकार ने दुर्लभ रोगों के उपचार हेतु व्यक्तिगत उपयोग के लिए आयातित सभी खाद्य सामग्रियों और दवाओं को सीमा शुल्क से छूट प्रदान की है। भारत में लोक स्वास्थ्य के मुद्दे के रूप में दुर्लभ रोगों से संबंधित चिंताएं क्या हैं? इनका किस प्रकार समाधान किया जा सकता है?

Recently, the Central government exempted all foods and drugs for rare diseases imported by people for personal use from customs duty. What are the concerns related to rare diseases as a public health issue in India? How can these be resolved? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Rare diseases refer to diseases which have very low prevalence in population. Although definition varies, usually prevalence of 6-7 cases / lakh population is considered rare. Eg:- Muscular Atrophy.

### Concerns of Rare Diseases

- ① Diagnosis :- very less given Primary Health Clinics are not equipped to diagnose it.
- ② Awareness :- lacking in parents to note symptoms.

- ③ Costly drugs :- Can range from 10L to 10Cr
- ④ Concentrated treatment :- to few hospitals only in urban areas.
- ⑤ Cure rates :- Very low creating long term burden on families.
- ⑥ Effect on individual :- Very high as usually rare diseases render the patient disabled.

### Resolving The Issues

- ① Creating repository of rare diseases.
- ② Equipping PHCs with knowledge to identify early symptoms, district hospitals with infrastructure

For necessary tests. Eg. - Genome sequencing.

③ Centralized platform :- (like organ donation) where patients will be registered, crowd funding allowed, connecting companies for CSR.

④ Increasing number of tests at childbirth, at 5<sup>th</sup> year of age for early detection.

⑤ Encouraging R&D in pharma companies via PLI scheme to reduce drug cost.

India has rightly  
Formulated National Policy for  
Rare Diseases 2021 to make the  
treatment more equitable.

19. हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में यथार्थवादी और प्रभावी सहयोग के लिए, इस क्षेत्र से संबंधित विभिन्न देशों के प्रमुख हितों को स्वीकार करने और उनकी पहचान करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।  
For realistic and effective collaborations to take place in the Indo-Pacific region, there is a need to acknowledge and recognize the underlining intention of the various countries with stakes in the region. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indo-Pacific region is  
a new global time-light accounting  
for ~ 65% world trade.



Fig 1. Indo-Pacific Region

### Intentions of Various Countries

- ① India :- keeping sea lanes of communication,  
Free & open trade.

- ② China:- Gain as much control as possible (9 dash line) for oil & gas, tuna, etc.
- ③ Small Island Developing States:-  
Protect themselves against sea level rise.  
Eg:- Vanutu, Fiji, etc.
- ④ Australia:- Resilient supply chains,  
-environmental conservation, -coral reefs.
- ⑤ West (US, Europe):- Countering China's  
domination, resource exploration. Eg:-  
France's 93% OF EEZ in Indo-Pacific.

### Acknowledging Intentions - Effective Collaboration

- ① Bringing Synergies:- Eg:- India  
setting up IRIS for SIDS to  
build resilient infra.

② Grouping of like minded countries:-  
Quad, Aukus, etc.

③ Countering hegemonistic ambition Eg:-  
India supporting 9-dash line in return  
of oil exploration in Vietnam's EEZ.

④ Balancing economy with environment:-  
Planning of green shipping routes, Marine  
Protected Areas under High Seas  
Treaty (for SIDS, Australia).

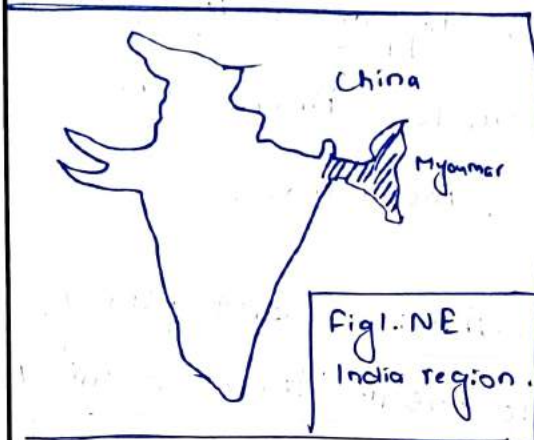
⑤ Global coordination:- against piracy,  
dark-shipping to ensure trade security.

Hence, by clearly  
understanding intentions, countries  
can work to foster a common  
rule-based framework for Indo-  
Pacific.

20. भारत और उसके पड़ोसियों के बीच एक महत्वपूर्ण संपर्क स्थल के रूप में स्थापित होने से पहले, भारत को अपने पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र की आंतरिक और बाह्य दोनों तरह की अंतर्निहित चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

There is a need to address the underlying challenges, both internal and external, in the North-Eastern region of India before it can serve as a pivotal connecting space between India and its neighbours. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

North-East India is a region of 7 states sharing its border with ASEAN nations, China. It is considered as gateway to east



if the underlying challenges in the region are addressed.

### Internal Challenges

- ① Political:- Secessionism (Nagaland), regionalism (Bodoland) issues.
- ② Economic:- Relatively low economic development due to connectivity issues

(Chicken's neck corridors).

- ③ Social :- Internal strife. Eg:- Kuki-Meitei clash in Manipur.
- ④ Infrastructure :- Lacking. Eg:- Dima-Hassao only rail-line connecting Assam.

### External Challenges

- ① Refugee influx :- Eg:- Increased in Mizoram post Myanmar coup.
- ② China's role :- in providing arms to insurgents, need to be curtailed.
- ③ External unrest :- caused via social media, radicalisation, etc.

If these issues are addressed, it can serve as pivotal connecting space as :-

- ① More connect with ASEAN countries.
- ② Social connection. Eg:- Myanmar -  
Zo ethnicity (Mizoram).
- ③ Multi-modal hub:- Will be a centre  
point for West-India & ASEAN  
for trade of goods.
- ④ Relatively high level of HDI in  
North-East - job opportunities in  
ASEAN can be utilized.
- ⑤ Countering China's belligerence via  
sub-regional markets, <sup>electricity</sup> grid, etc.

Government has taken  
various steps like Vibrant Village,  
setting up ITIs, 10% ministry budget, etc.  
to make North East a pivot in  
India's Act East Policy.