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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1067)

Name of Candidate	Nihal Randhawa		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	58233
Center	NA	Date	7-Sep-2018

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 TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI बिना किसी भी शर्त पर 20 प्रश्न अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपाये गये हैं।
3	10		3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्नों का उत्तर देना अनिवार्य है।
4	10		4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रश्न/अंश के अंक उसके सामने दर्शाये गये 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 जायेंगे जो प्रवेश पत्र में उल्लेखित है और जो इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवरे पर उल्लेखित है। अन्य माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तरों के लिए अंक नहीं दिए जायेंगे।
6	10		
7	10		
8	10		
9	10		
10	10		
11	15		
12	15		
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18	15		
19	15		
20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ का कोई हिस्सा खाली छोड़ना नहीं चाहिए।
Remarks:			

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

M-1/4, Plot No-A-12/13, 1st Floor, Ansal Building, Dr. Vidya Sagar Homeopathic Clinic, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Technical Competence
2. System Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Interpersonal Competence
5. Business Communication Competence
6. Cultural Competence

Overall Score: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

1

2

3

4

5

6

All the Best

1. What is the role that opposition plays in a democracy like India? In this context, discuss whether our Parliament can benefit from a shadow cabinet. (150 words) 10

भारत जैसे लोकतंत्र में विपक्ष क्या भूमिका निभाता है? इस संदर्भ में, चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या हमारी संसद छाया मंत्रिमंडल (शैडो कैबिनेट) से लाभान्वित हो सकती है।

India has a parliamentary style democracy in which people vote for their representatives to the legislature and the party or coalition with greater than 50% seats forms the govt. and the others are in the opposition

The opposition has following roles :-

- Supervision and Scrutiny of the Executive by the legislature. Debates on bills, debates on the budget, standing committees, motions like Adjournment motion, no confidence motion, censure motion etc.

Opposition plays a key role in keeping the government in check.

- Many independent appointments like CVC members or Lokpal are done by involving Leader of Opposition

- Opposition use media and other pressure tactics to influence public interest.
- They ensure minority interests are represented
- They provide a viable alternative to voters in the next election and can even be an alternate form of govt. in case of a successful no confidence motion.

A Shadow Cabinet is a concept in UK where the opposition assign their own members to an unofficial position mirroring those of the political executive i.e. the Cabinet. They devise their own policies and challenge the govt. actions from an informed position.

The benefits are :-

- Informed debate on govt. actions.
- Experience gained by the shadow members.
- Provides an alternative to the voters and alternative policies to be considered.
- Helps voters evaluate the work of opposition and ministers more comprehensively.

The idea is a good one yet in India where there are multiple parties assigning an official opposition would be tricky -

2. Where there is a right, there is a remedy. In this context, discuss the nature and significance of writs in India with adequate examples. (150 words) 10

जहाँ अधिकार है, वहाँ उपचार भी है। इस संदर्भ में, यथोचित उदाहरणों के साथ भारत में रिटों की प्रकृति और महत्व की चर्चा कीजिए।

Rights are claims of citizens against the state and its that ^{as} Dr Ambedkar argued
Art. 32, Right to Constitutional Remedies
is the heart and soul of the Constitution.

The writs given to the higher judiciary are 5:-

- Habeas Corpus : Literally 'Bring me the body', writ against illegal detention.
Applicable against public and private parties.
- Certiorari : Literally 'To certify'.
Issued against subordinate courts who have overstepped their bounds. Court can censure them and transfer case to apt judiciary.
- Prohibition : Issued by the court prohibiting the authority if it has no locus standi to decide the case. It is a writ of a preventive nature.
- Mandamus : Literally 'We Command'
It is issued to a subordinate court, authority or public official commanding him to

carry out an act which is his duty to do so

- Quo Warranto : Literally, 'By whose warrant', questions the appointment of a person to a public position they are unqualified for.

Significance of Writs

- Powers given to SC and HC under Art 32 and 226 respectively. SC can only use these when FR are being violated and has to use them whereas HC is conditional and can use for § FR and legal rights violations.
- They give teeth and meaning to Part III of the Constitution and are crucial to FR's.
- They are checks against abuse by both executive and legislature.

The writs keep a check on the authority of state and ensure that the govt. remains within the bounds of the law.

3. Enumerate the objectives of NITI Aayog. Also, discuss the performance of this body since its inception and suggest measures to make it more effective. (150 words) 10

NITI आयोग के उद्देश्यों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। साथ ही, इसकी स्थापना के बाद से इस निकाय के प्रदर्शन की चर्चा कीजिए एवं इसे और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के उपाय सुझाइये।

NITI Aayog is a govt. think tank est. in 2015, tasked with replacing the earlier top down led development approach characterised by the 5 year Plans and the Planning Commission (which was simultaneously abolished).

Objectives

- To develop a shared vision between centre and states. Foster Cooperative Federalism.
- To develop credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively to higher levels.
- To maintain a repository for knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support through a collaborative community of national and international partners.
- To pay attention to those in society not equitably benefitting from economic progress.

- To design strategic and long term policy frameworks and monitor those.

Performance of NITI Aayog

- Cooperative Federalism has been enhanced. State govt. are members of the board and it has expedited dialogues and grievance redressal mechanism.
- Competitive Federalism. Various indices like Health and Education rank states on performance. This fosters healthy competition.
- Human Development. 115 worst off districts have been selected and measures to improve are underway on a mission basis.

Shortcomings

People's Participation ^{has} not been there.

It needs to take expert help from sector specific experts instead of a generalist approach. Niti Aayog also needs to bring in capacity building.

If implemented properly, Niti Aayog can metamorphose into an institution which is the key driver of India's growth.

4. In view of the political class's inability to develop and maintain conventions relating to the appropriate use of Article 356, the Supreme Court's decision in the Bommai case provided much needed clarity. Comment. (150 words) 10

अनुच्छेद 356 के उचित उपयोग से संबंधित परिपाटी विकसित करने और उसे बनाए रखने में राजनीतिक वर्ग की अक्षमता को देखते हुए, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा बोम्माई वाद में दिए गए निर्णय ने अत्यावश्यक स्पष्टता प्रदान की है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Art. 356 confers upon the President the power to remove a State government and to either directly take over the functioning of the State himself or delegate it to an agent. He does this when a Governor writes a report telling him about the breakdown of Constitutional Machinery in that state.

In the Constituent Assembly, Dr Ambedkar had hoped that this article would 'remain a dead letter' and never be used, yet it has been invoked over a 100 times often for political rather than legitimate reasons. Some of the frivolous reasons were loss of faith by public, removal of govt. without floor test etc.

The Supreme Court in SR Bommai Case

- laid down guidelines to prevent arbitrary removal. These were ÷
- The President can only suspend the assembly. Removal occurs when within 1 month both LS and RS approve of the imposition of President's Rule.
 - Presidential proclamation is subject to Judicial Review and can be overturned if reasons not found relevant.
 - The question of state govt. losing legitimacy should be decided by floor test.
 - The Court can restore a state govt.
 - If a party ruling at State does not get votes in LS elections (Like Janata Dal case) then they can't be dismissed for loss of confidence at the state level.

This judgement has helped preserve India's Federal nature and led to the deepening of democracy. In conjunction with rise of coalitions and regional parties it has largely curtailed the use of Art 365, only for legitimate reasons.
now used

5. Press freedom and good governance are not mutually exclusive. They support each other while promoting a country's economic and human development. Comment. (150 words) 10

प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता और सुशासन परस्पर अपवर्जी नहीं हैं। देश के आर्थिक और मानव विकास को प्रोत्साहित करते हुए ये एक-दूसरे को समर्थन प्रदान करते हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The Press is one of the 4 pillars holding up a democratic country. Good Governance entails Rule of Law, Transparency, Accountability etc.

A free press ensures good governance by :-

- Citizen Empowerment - Press releases information. Openness and Transparency are promoted. A free press is impartial, objective and reliable which educates the citizens who in turn hold govt. accountable.
- Accountability - Press informs ^{about} govt. actions and inactions. The citizens expectations are in turn also assessed promoting accountability.
- Transparency - Press with freedom reports about shortcomings of govt. Also informs people about their rights and entitlements. Whistleblowers are also encouraged.
- Rule of Law - Promotes adherence to RoL. Promotes openness of court proceedings, legislative deliberations and administrative decisions. Exposes wrongdoing ~~and~~ also.

Freedom of Press -

While promoting good governance, in turn good governance promotes freedom of press. Causing a virtuous cycle to form.

This cycle has many benefits like Human Rights Strengthening; Reduction in Poverty; Curbing Corruption; Inclusive Economic Growth; Reducing Crimes; Increasing Efficacy of Govt. Schemes etc. causing promotion of economic and human rights development

Independent and Free Media are like sunlight, disinfecting all the diseased parts of the system. This is reinforced by global norms where countries with a high score in Human Development Index have a high score in Press Freedom Index and vice versa for those with a low score on both.

6. SHGs have succeeded in delivering financial inclusion, but for them to evolve as viable business enterprise requires a different approach. Analyse in the context of the twin goals of rural growth and promotion of women's entrepreneurship. (150 words) 10

SHGs ने वित्तीय समावेशन प्रदान करने में सफलता प्राप्त की है, लेकिन उनके लिए व्यवहार्य व्यापार उद्यम के रूप में विकसित होने के लिए एक भिन्न दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है। ग्रामीण विकास और महिला उद्यमिता के संवर्द्धन के जुड़वाँ लक्ष्यों के संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Self Help Groups (SHG's) have been a huge success in India. They have transformed the lives of millions of their members esp. given the fact that most members are rural women

Successes

- Their biggest success is in the field of providing institutional credit to members. SHG Bank Linkages are promoted by NABARD and they have reported great success in promoting rural and women entrepreneurship by facilitation of loans, investments and technical help.
- These loans are often collateral free at normal interest rates, breaking the ~~up~~ hold of informal credit at exorbitant rates offered by moneylenders.
- SHG's have also promoted micro and small enterprises. Kudumbashree is karaka being best eg.
- They have graduated to providing full financial inclusion, savings, deposits, Credit and other financial instruments.

- However, to promote twin goals of women entrepreneurship and rural growth, some changes should be made:-
- SHG's should promote Capacity building of members by conducting workshops or programmes on stock
 - Skill development by tying up with Govt. initiatives like Skill India.
 - Providing Conducive Atmosphere by promoting economies of scale. Tying up and aggregating multiple initiatives and providing cheap raw material, credit, and access to markets.
 - Exploring avenues for finance from private investors to govt. schemes.
 - Fostering a close relationship with SRLM ~~SRM~~'s

Thus, a policy change by govt. educating SHG's and members via either personal interaction or media intervention on their potential is required. Successful examples should be publicised so that both complementary goals of women entrepreneurship promotion and rural growth occur simultaneously.

7. The focus of higher education in India has been on a select few Central or autonomous institutions where as the ones in states remain neglected. Commenting on the statement, highlight the significance of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in this context. (150 words) 10

भारत में उच्च शिक्षा का ध्यान कुछ चुनिंदा केंद्रीय या स्वायत्त संस्थानों पर केंद्रित रहा है, जबकि राज्यों में स्थित संस्थान उपेक्षित रहे हैं। इस कथन पर टिप्पणी करते हुए, इस संदर्भ में राष्ट्रीय उच्चतर शिक्षा अभियान (RUSA) के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए।

In India there are around 800 universities providing higher education of which around 370 are under their respective State govt. However around 94% of students study in these state universities. Yet it has been observed that ~~around 50% of~~ the major focus of funding and assistance is on central universities and even there 50% on the selected IIT's and IIM's with 50% left for the rest.

Higher education is a low priority for State govt. and this contributes to the pathetic state of higher education in India where no University reaches top 100 in global institute rankings.

To address these shortcomings, the MHRD launched RUSA. This plan is about conditional release of funds to state

Governments and then to state unis based on reforms in learning teaching outcomes, governance, infrastructure support etc.

Significance

- Conditional funding will prove efficacious in proper utilisation of funds.
- To improve learning teaching outcomes there will be focus on improving pedagogy; transparent selection of teachers; implementing a review system; regular appraisals etc.
- A performance review by IIT Bombay showed that after implementation of RUSA, faculty vacancies have reduced and outcomes of learning improved
- There has been an improvement in accreditation too

RUSA is a well thought out plan. It will make ~~to~~ fund releasing more transparent, accountable and adaptive.

Regular monitoring and adequate funding will ~~to~~ pay dividends in the form of a well educated populace.

8. Discuss the role played by PRIs in political empowerment of women. Also, suggest measures to further increase their political participation. (150 words) 10

महिलाओं के राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण में PRIs (पंचायती राज संस्थाएं) द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका की चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उनकी राजनीतिक भागीदारी को और अधिक बढ़ाने के उपाय सुझाइए।

The 73rd amendment to the Constitution set up mandatory Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in every district in every state with mandatory 33% representation for women.

This has played a major role in empowering women. There are around 13.72 lakh elected women representatives (44%) and 43% of the Sarpanchs are women.

These res. provide a sharp contrast to the Loth Sabha where the highest ever participation of women was recorded this session at only 11.7%.

The benefits of women participation have been an acceptance in society of female leaders; better outcomes in gender inequality reduction; sensitivity of state to women issues; better focus on health, children etc. issues and a better less violent political culture.

Some measures to build on this are -

- Some states have reported that women representation and sarpanchs are only there for name sake. This must be remedied.
- As the reserved constituencies change every election women report being unable to get elected twice and failing to sustain last's change.
- Some women are elected as proxies for male family members.
- Legislation for reserving 33% seats in LS and RS and state legislatures.
- Sensitisation of officials to take female reps ^{seriously}.
- Capacity building and training of EWR.
- Encouraging participation of women in politics.
- Encouraging pol. parties to nominate more women.
- Financial support for women candidates.

Only if women are given adequate space in the political arena can they truly develop. These measures should be sustained and improved upon.

9. What is Strategic Autonomy? Critically examine the elements of such a policy in India's contemporary foreign policy in the context of recent developments. (150 words) 10

रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता क्या है? हाल के घटनाक्रमों के संदर्भ में भारत की समकालीन विदेश नीति में ऐसी नीति के तत्वों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Strategic Autonomy is the principle that a state is free to chart its own course in international affairs free from pressure exerted by foreign elements and other countries. Strategic Autonomy is a tool of India's foreign policy since 1947. It was earlier expressed as Non Alignment b/w the 2 poles of USSR or USA. After fall of USSR ~~the~~ NAM was largely recast as Strategic Autonomy. It manifests not as equi distance from all powers but as multiple alliances.

This can be seen in recent events :-

- India has deepened military cooperation with USA by signing LEMOA and COMASA agreements while buying weapons like S-400 from Russia.
- India is part of SCO, an Anti West Grouping and the Quad.

- o India is part of BRICS, a developing nation group while also boycotting chinese initiatives like BR I.
- o India maintains relation with IRAN and USA, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Palestine.

Such an approach ensures India has options open at all times to pursue only those initiatives with other countries that are helpful to India namely multipolarity; balancing and containing China's rise; defence strengthening; combating terrorism; keeping freedom of navigation & trade open; rules based world order etc.

While strategic autonomy is crucial for India's rise there is exceeding pressure by actions like China Pak Axis or Pak Russia Axis to commit to the West and reap the benefits of defence equipment and security.

However, India's best course of action is to grow itself to have defence, indigenous economic and military strength of a level that it doesn't need to give up its autonomy.

10. IBSA and BRICS are both examples of India's quest for multialignment, however there are key differences in their orientation. Discuss in the context of the relevance of these groupings for India. (150 words) 10

IBSA और BRICS दोनों भारत के बहुपक्षीय संरेखण (मल्टीएलाइन्मेंट) की तलाश के उदाहरण हैं, हालांकि उनके अभिविन्यास में मौलिक अंतर है। भारत के लिए इन समूहों की प्रासंगिकता के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

IBSA is a ^{consisting} dialogue forum of the countries of India, Brazil and South Africa while BRICS is a grouping of 5 major developing economies of ~~India~~ Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa.

Multialignment is the foreign policy strategy of having multiple alignments instead of aligning yourselves with a group or pole. It allows India to maintain Strategic Autonomy.

In that regard advantage of BRICS is :-

- Wide scope of engagement - Economic, Cultural, Strategic and Political
- Has institutional setup with ^{proliferation} institutions like New Development Bank.
- Significant competitor to the developed world's stands like those mooted by G-4.

Advantages of being in IBSA are :-

- As the 3 countries are democracies they can have greater synergy with each other.

- India is the most imp. country in this grouping while in ~~other~~ BRICS China & Russia are powerful too. Moreover their interests often conflict with India's.
- More concerned with UNSC reforms whereas in BRICS China & Russia already are UNSC members.
- IBSA however is smaller and less influential than BRICS

Thus, we can see the complementarities between IBSA and BRICS. If India was limited to only one of them then our range of options would be limited. But with multialignment we can have strategic autonomy. India should capitalise on the democratic nature of IBSA to push for greater democratisation of global institution like UNSC, shared economic strength of BRICS to reform IMF, WB etc. and push for BRICS credit rating agency.

11. What are the various modes of Alternate Dispute Redressal (ADR) mechanisms available in India? Identifying the problems being faced by them, provide suggestions needed to increase their effectiveness. (250 words) 15

भारत में उपलब्ध वैकल्पिक विवाद निवारण (ADR) तंत्र के विभिन्न रूप क्या हैं? इनके द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं की पहचान करते हुए, इनकी प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के लिए आवश्यक सुझाव प्रदान कीजिए।

ADR are means of settling disputes without going to courts. These are legal methods with backing of laws like Legal Services Authorities Act but the various forms differ:

- o ARBITRATION - A neutral pre decided 3rd party reviews the evidences and hears both parties. It then gives a legally binding decision.
- o MEDIATION - A neutral 3rd party mediates between the feuding parties. It helps them both reach a settlement but doesn't give its own verdict. The negotiated settlement is a consensus decision.
- o CONCILIATION - A voluntary process where a conciliator meets the parties separately and tries to resolve the dispute.

- LOK ADALAT- 2 or 3 experienced persons like Advocates or Retd. Judges sit in judgement and give Verdicts. These are binding but can be appealed against in court. Under Legal Services Act, Lok Adalats are given powers of a Civil Court.
- NYAYA PANCHAYAT- Village courts in the mould of traditional village justice. Only for cases of small import like minor fights, trespassing, stealing etc. Emphasis on conciliation.

Benefits of ADR

- Easily accessible to common men.
- Reduces burden on the already overburdened court system.
- Quick justice.
- Free from legal technicalities.

- However, there are some issues like -
- No guarantee of a verdict unlike normal cases
 - Lack of infrastructure and awareness amongst public
 - Lack of trained arbitrators and mediators.
 - Their verdicts are often challenged again in courts.
 - Not available throughout India.

Suggestions to Increase Effectiveness

- Professionalisation of the system, trained mediators and arbitrators by increasing pay, capacity building and training.
- Building infrastructure and awareness.
- Change people's attitudes to make this the 1st form of dispute redressal.
- Expanding role of ADR's in pre litigation stage where possible for eg. In Family Disputes
- Promote legal education in this field.
- A code of ethics for arbitrators to prevent bias.
- A comprehensive legislation is needed to formalise ADR's and give it a sound legal basis.

12. While the power to punish for the contempt of court is a much needed tool to protect the administration of justice from being maligned, it is time that it be relooked into. Critically analyse. (250 words) 15

हालांकि न्यायालय की अवमानना के लिए दंडित करने की शक्ति न्याय के प्रशासन को निन्दा से बचाने के लिए बहुत ही आवश्यक उपकरण है, लेकिन समय आ गया है कि इस पर पुनर्विचार किया जाए। आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Art 19, freedom of speech, has as a limitation contempt of court. This shows how important this power is. It's required by the court to ensure full justice is done, the judiciary is not maligned and their orders obeyed.

There are 2 types ÷ (Under Contempt of Courts, Act)

- Civil Contempt - Willful disobedience of a court order.
- Criminal Contempt - Interfering with the administration of justice, maligning the court proceedings and lowering its authority.

REQUIREMENT OF POWER OF CONTEMPT

- Essential to maintain confidence in judiciary and the Rule of Law.
- Needed to maintain credibility of the court and efficiency.

- Needed to be issued against biased media reports so that public trust in judiciary remains.
- Needed to maintain ~~as~~ a fair and free justice system so that biased reports of an ongoing case don't either show a guilty person as innocent or vice versa.
- Needed for independence of judiciary and to prevent judgements from being affected by biased ~~and~~ media reports.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Goes against fundamental rights of free speech.
- Prevents judicial accountability. For eg. Recent reporting of a judge of the SC sitting on judgement on his own case has been termed as contemptuous.
- Open ended definition of contempt leaving a wide field open to the judge.
- Prevents the media from reporting on cases where grave miscarriage of justice takes place. For eg. ~~the~~ Shreya Chaudhary Case.

- There have been instances where fair criticism by media after judgements have been passed in an arbitrary manner are also charged.

This law like Sedition Law ~~and~~ is a remnant of our Colonial Past.

Where Britain itself has reformed the law, we too need to review it.

After all transparency and accountability of Court

are the sight of the public and the media exercises that sight.

However care should be taken that in curtailing the offences under this act, the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary isn't harmed.

13. Criminalisation of politics remains a key concern for the Indian political system. In this context, analyse the role played by the Supreme Court and Election Commission over the years. Also, in what ways can the media play a positive role? (250 words)

15

राजनीति का अपराधीकरण भारतीय राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के लिए चिंता का एक प्रमुख विषय बना हुआ है। इस संदर्भ में, विगत वर्षों में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय और निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा निर्भाई गई भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, किस प्रकार मीडिया एक सकारात्मक भूमिका का निर्वाह कर सकता है?

According to ADR reports around 34% of the present MP's have criminal charges against them. This is the highest no. yet and this number has been steadily increasing. This a cause for grave concern.

The SC has held that any sitting legislator convicted and sentenced to 2 years is barred from holding office loses his seat immediately. Further they have mandated that candidates have to file details of criminal convictions and pending charges along with money, wealth, marital details etc. at the time of filthy nomination.

The SC has directed setting up of fast track courts to complete trials within 1 year of sitting legislators with cases against them.

- The EC too has taken various steps :-
- Suggested debarring candidates with serious criminal charges against them like murders, rape etc.
 - Digitising the voting process by removing paper ballots and introducing EVM's. This prevents booth capturing.
 - Setting a limit on candidate expenditure.
 - Setting Model Code of Conduct for Parties.
 - Monitoring violations like usage of caste or religion to voters, over spending on paid fake news in media.

Role played by Media

- Media can highlight the criminal past of candidates to make voters aware.
- Media can put pressure on police to take up case of illegal actions committed by legislators.
- Force the political parties to field

Clean candidates .

- Keep the voters aware .
- Refuse to carry advertisements of criminals .
- Carry out Sting Operations .
- Highlight the growing criminalisation of politics , -this will make the common man aware and he might vote for clean politician .

Along with these changes like Electoral Reforms, State Funding of Elections, quicker disposal of cases, Right to Reject, Right to Recall, amendment of RPA Act to permanently debar convicted criminals from standing for elections, etc . are needed to fight this menace .

14. Highlight, in brief, the mandate of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM). Identify the different challenges that the commission faces and suggest measures to address them. (250 words) 15

संक्षेप में, राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग (NCM) के अधिदेश पर प्रकाश डालिए। आयोग द्वारा सामना की जा रही विभिन्न चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए और उनके समाधान करने के उपाय सुझाइए।

National Commission for Minorities is a statutory body set up by the centre under the NCM Act. Its mandate is :-

- Review the functioning of safeguards and laws made for promotion of minorities welfare
- Evaluation of progress of minorities at centre and state level.
- Conducting studies and research into issues pertaining to minorities.
- Making recommendations to state and centre govt. for effective implementation of existing safeguards and suggesting new ones.
- Looking into specific complaints at the centre or state level regarding deprivation of rights of minorities and safeguard of minorities.

Some challenges faced by NCM are :-

- Capacity Related Challenges : NCM is suffering from human resource challenges. It results in high case pendency, delayed action, delay in report making and lack of follow up.
- Legal and Constitutional Mandate : NCM lacks a constitutional mandate as given to National Commission for Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes. This leaves it vulnerable to be easily changed at a future date and deprives it of constitutional protection and independence.
- Financial : NCM's budget is limited. Most of the budget is spent on salaries and very little on research related tasks.

Reform Measures

- Setting baseline targets. This will provide an objective assessment of functioning and keep pendency in check.
- Human Resource reforms including better hiring, capacity building etc.
- Receiving anonymous feedback from citizens issuing complaints.
- Electronic grievance redressal mechanism through use of Video Conferencing.
- Fixed budget with outcome related budgeting.
- Delegating tasks to State Commissions for Minorities and strengthening them too.
- Giving Constitutional Mandate to this Commission too.

These steps will ensure that the FR guaranteed to minorities in a plural democracy like India are meaningfully implemented.

15. The recent decision of the government to open up positions at the senior levels in bureaucracy through lateral entry is an important but only small step in the direction of much needed reforms in the higher civil services. Analyse. (250 words) 15

पार्श्व प्रवेश के माध्यम से नौकरशाही में वरिष्ठ स्तर के पदों को खोलने का सरकार का हालिया निर्णय उच्चतर सिविल सेवाओं में अति आवश्यक सुधारों की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण, किन्तु केवल एक छोटा-सा कदम है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The DoPT has recently invited applications from private sector experts with 20 yrs of experience for 10 posts at the Joint Secretary level for a posting of 5 years contract.

This lateral entry approach has seen success in the past. For eg Sam Pitroda or Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

REASONS

- There is need for fresh blood and ideas in Indian Bureaucracy.
- These people will have experience and domain knowledge in their chosen field.
- Bringing best of private sector professionals and practices into the govt. system.
- Building competition and spurring the

permanent executive to better themselves.

However these 10 professionals by themselves aren't enough. Some other reforms are :-

- Enhancing Accountability → By increasing transparency and information to public.
- Transformation of Work Culture → By incentives based on bonuses or promotions or postings.
- Stable Tenure → Fixed tenure ~~is~~ insulated from external pressure.
- Reducing Arbitrariness → By implementing rational decisions with justifications when it comes to situations like awarding tenders or making policies.
- Disciplinary Proceedings → Fast track corruption proceedings and hearings, automatic dismissal of corrupt officials. Strengthening CVC, CBI etc.
- Better Appraisal → The new 360° appraisal should be well implemented as the holistic performance will be shown. Provision for

anonymous appraisal and complaints should also be considered.

- Private Postings → The mid and high level officers should be given option of post. postings to gain experience of pub sector.
- Social Audits → Citizens and stakeholders should be given chance to critique functioning of schemes at ground level.
- Insulation from Political Pressure → No arbitrary postings and stable tenure.

These reforms can help stem the ^{spreading} rot in civil services. Otherwise the edifice called Steel Backbone of India might just rust and fall down.

16. Identifying the broad contours of the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme, explain how it adopts a novel strategy to address backwardness. (250 words) 15

'आकांक्षी जिलों के रूपांतरण' कार्यक्रम की व्यापक रूपरेखा की पहचान करते हुए, व्याख्या कीजिए कि यह पिछड़ेपन से निपटने के लिए किस प्रकार नवीन रणनीति अपनाता है।

The Niti Aayog identified 115 most backward districts of India on the parameters like education, healthcare etc. because of reasons like Left Wing Extremism.

The 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme' aims to fast track the development of these districts through focussed action and intervention. The broad contours are :-

- Convergence : It brings together all levels of govt. State, Centre and District
- Collaboration : Collaborative effort between Centre and State as well as civil society. The programme benefits from this disparate ideas, capabilities and experiences.
- Competition : It takes principle of competitive federalism to districts. As each

district is assigned a fixed ^{groups} persons in
charge they compete with other groups.
This will foster rapid growth.

Ø

NOVELTY

- Real Time Data Collection → Niti Aayog
has created a dashboard where all the
relevant data is uploaded in real time.
This data can be compared, analysed to
show performance versus either time or
other districts.
- More Autonomy to Local Govt. →
Autonomy granted as each district has
special problems. So autonomy given is
what plans to follow and how to allocate funds
- Collaborative Approach → 3 tiers of
govt. come together who work in tandem
to design, drive and implement targeted
policies.
- Partnering with Civil Society → leverages
their unique approach and insight. Also

used CSR funding.

◦ Change in Attitude → Districts called aspirational rather than backward.

◦ Focus on outcome → The focus on improvement of socio economic indicators.

No special funds allocated rather creative usage of existing funds and schemes.

These districts are in need of focussed care.

This programme is necessary to ensure truly equitable and inclusive growth in India and to prevent only corridors of prosperity surrounded by regions of darkness.

17. How did India fare on the Millennium Development Goals related to health? In this regard, identify the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and evaluate India's capacity to meet them. (250 words) 15

स्वास्थ्य से संबंधित सहस्राब्दी विकास लक्ष्यों पर भारत का प्रदर्शन कैसा रहा? इस संबंध में, प्रासंगिक संधारणीय विकास लक्ष्यों की पहचान कीजिए और उन्हें पूरा करने में भारत की क्षमता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

4 out of 8 MDGs directly focussed on health while the others had an indirect bearing. In 2015 India laid out its final report on its performance :-

- Reducing poverty head count ratio →

India had succeeded in nearly 50% reduction at urban and rural areas.

- Successfully halted and reversed the spread of HIV and Malaria.

- Ensuring Environmental Sustainability →

Households were provided with clean water.

- Missed imp. targets like MDR ^(Maternal Mortality Rate) ~~under 5~~, IMR (Infant Mortality Rate), mortality rate under 5 and immunisation targets.

The MDG's were succeeded by Sustainable Developmental Goals which were to run for a period of 15 yrs (2015-2030).

The SDG's focussed on health are -

- SDG 1 → End poverty in all forms ~~everywhere~~
- SDG 2 → End hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture
- SDG 3 → Ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all ages.
- SDG 6 → Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.
- SDG 8 → Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment for all
- SDG 10 → Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Broad steps taken by India are

MGNREGA, AMJDY, NSAP

ICDS, NFSA, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture.

Sarva Shiksha Bharat, Clean Ganga.

NHFS - Ayushman Bharat.

Issues Faced

- Tracking Progress of SDGs → Surveys are not periodically conducted. Difficulty because of vastness, terrain and socio cultural factor. Remedy is development of indicators, use of ICT by Niti Aayog and Ministry of Health.
- Financial Concerns → Budgetary deficit, less than 2% of GDP spent on health. Remedy is spending raised to 2.5% by 2025 of GDP and raising funding from international grants.
- Capacity Building → Lack of hospitals, trained staff (doctors and nurses), lack of medical colleges brain drain, vaccines etc. Remedy is budgetary allocations for increasing capacity. Reforming education through National Medical Commission being set up. Allowing FDI in higher education sector and setting up of priv. medical institutions. Min. of AYUSH to add ~~new~~ traditional practitioners to the roster.

18. What are the different rights recognized under the Forest Rights Act, 2006? Highlight the gaps in the implementation of community forest rights and community forest resource rights granted under the Forest Rights Act. Also, suggest measures to address the current scenario. (250 words) 15

वन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2006 के अंतर्गत मान्यता प्राप्त विभिन्न अधिकार क्या हैं? वन अधिकार अधिनियम के अंतर्गत प्रदान किए गए सामुदायिक वन अधिकारों और सामुदायिक वन संसाधन अधिकारों के कार्यान्वयन में अंतरालों पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, वर्तमान परिदृश्य को संबोधित करने के उपाय भी सुझाइए।

The FRA, 2006 recognised the unique nature of the relationship between certain tribal communities and the forests they lived in.

It aimed to balance their claims of ecological sustainability and food and livelihood concerns.

Rights

RIGHTS GRANTED

- Right to live in the forest.
- Community Rights → Over Minor Forest Produce; recognition of forests as community forests to be protected by the community.
- Individual Rights → 2 hectares of land granted to those who had been traditional cultivators.
- Gram Sabha has role of giving permission to projects like diversion of land, building minor dams etc.

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

- Conflict with Forest Dept. They question ability of community to maintain forests and often try to circumvent this law.
- Inter State Disparity in implementation.
- Lack of knowledge about act amongst forest dwellers.
- Huge tendency of claims because of difficulty of verification.
- Vested interests exploiting the law to use forest produce for unintended purposes or to grab forest land.
- Gorans Sabha ineffectiveness → Either ignored, not consulted, subsidy stamped, or not even concerned.
- Conflicts in laws for forest and wildlife protection and FRA.
- Claims from forest dwellers not mentioned in act, not recognised.
→ schedule

Recommendation for Improvement

- Harmonisation of protection/conservation laws and FRA. Activities allowed in FRA shouldn't be prohibited (For eg. Grazing)
- Capacity building and training of forest dwellers to enhance income from MFP while protecting forest and ecosystems.
- Sensitisation and awareness spreading of act amongst both forest dwellers and the forest dept. officials.
- Forcing states to implement all the provisions of this act like conveying gram sabhas and assigning land deeds.
- Monitoring of the implementation by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Clearing the claims pending at the earliest.

This law is a much needed law to allow the development of neglected tribals in our society. Historically It must be implemented in the full spirit of the law.

19. Progress in India-US ties has been accompanied by equally significant divergences on important issues. Examine in the context of recent developments. (250 words) 15

भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों में प्रगति समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर उल्लेखनीय असहमति के साथ हुई है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों के संदर्भ में परीक्षण कीजिए।

Indo US ties have had a lot of momentous events happening in the past few years :-

- Defence Cooperation → India is now a 'Major Defence Partner'. India buys weapons, missile, drones etc. from USA and conducts exercises like Malabar Naval Exercises.

India has also signed Logistics Agreement (LEMOA) and intelligence sharing agreement (ComCASA)

- Civil Nuclear Deal → After sanctioning India in 1998 for Pokhran-II nuclear tests USA had in 2008 ~~also~~ gotten India a waiver from NSG rules. This has secured India ability to get nuclear tech. and fuel and enter into such agreements with other nations.

- Strategic Issues → With shared interests like containing and managing China's growth, open sea lanes of communication,

peace in Afghanistan, etc. India and US share a lot of common strategic goals. The Quad and formulation of Indo Pacific; Pivot to Asia; Sanctioning Pakistan in FATF Grey and now Black List; cutting military aid to Pakistan are some events which showcase this.

- Counter Terrorism ↔ Peace in Afghanistan is desired. India and US share intelligence on terrorist activities. USA has also been interested in counter insurgency ops done by India at high altitudes.

Other than these India and USA have a booming trade business, cooperation on technology, science, space, education etc.

Indian Americans are also the most well off minority in USA.

DIVERGENCES

- The growing protectionism of Trump's USA. He is starting trade wars - raising tariff barriers which hurt India as it enjoys

- a trade surplus.
- USA has raised issue of high tariffs on Harley Davidson bike by India. Compulsory pricing of medical equipment like Stents and India's agricultural import barriers.
 - To protect jobs USA has proposed cuts in H-1B visas.
 - USA's worsening relations with Russia and Iran and the CAATSA act which sanctions companies dealing with them. This hurts India's deals like S-400 with Russia or ~~Chabahar~~ ^{may have} Chabahar port in Iran. Even though USA ~~has~~ ^{may have} allowed waiver to India.
 - IPR issue, agricultural subsidies issue at WTO is a source of disagreement.
 - 2+2 dialogue was cancelled.

India should be sensitive to US concerns as its preeminent global status makes good deals essential if India is to fulfill its national interest. Though India should continue trade with Russia to maintain Strategic Autonomy.

20. Despite bonhomie, the structural differences between Indian and Israeli national security situations, their worldviews and absence of explicitly shared enemies limit stronger strategic rapprochement. Critically discuss.

(250 words) 15

सौहार्दपूर्ण संबंधों के बावजूद, भारतीय और इजराइली राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिस्थितियों के मध्य संरचनात्मक अंतर, उनके वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण और स्पष्ट रूप से साझा शत्रुओं की अनुपस्थिति मजबूत रणनीतिक मैत्री को सीमित करती है। आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

India - Israel relations are a paradoxical nature. While elements in Indian polity favours the relationship largely because of its anti Palestine nature others abhor it because of the same. However, the relationship is largely transactional as each country understand the gains it can get from it.

Even recently post PM Modi's historical visit to Israel India voted in UNGA in favour of a motion condemning USA shifting its embassy to the contested city of Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

The 3 pillars of the relationship are →

- Trade → Israel manufactures high end weapons and is technologically advanced. India is its major buyer.

- With the proposed FTA trade is expected to double.
- Cooperation in defence sector with tech transfer.
- Cooperation in sustainable agriculture.
- Possibility of strategic convergence.

Limitations

- India has close ties with West Asian Arab nations with interest in energy, investment and a huge diaspora and immigration there. They are in turn not in favour of India Israel ties.
- Indo Iran ties are on the rise, this too is an issue as Iran and Israel are fighting proxy wars.
- India supports the Palestine Cause, usually condemns Israeli actions in UN assembly meetings and this is a huge irritant in the relationship.

- Both these countries differ in counter terrorism strategies.

These differences need not be present deepening of ties. India can gain much from Israeli cooperation. For instance, after compulsory military service India is the top tourism destination of Israel. Cooperation in cyber space, missile tech, defence, counter terrorism, intelligence, agriculture, investment, water desalination etc. can drive the relationship.