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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 875)

Name of Candidate	Saumya Sharma		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	95371
Center	Online	Date	5 Oct '17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
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18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
- There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI.
- All questions are compulsory.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- 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.
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

75, 3rd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar Market, Near Axis Bank, New Delhi – 110060

103, 1st Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Centralising recruitment through an All-India Judicial Service (AJS) will not address the multiple problems in the judiciary and cause new ones instead. Critically evaluate. 12.5X20=250

अखिल भारतीय न्यायिक सेवा (AIJS) के माध्यम से केंद्रीयकृत भर्ती न्यायपालिका में विद्यमान विभिन्न समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं करेगा अपितु उसके स्थान पर नई समस्याएं उत्पन्न करेगा। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Article 312 of the Constitution which provides for All India Services allows for the creation of an All India Judicial Services (AIJS)

There are multiple reasons supporting the AIJS :-

1. An all India service will attract fresh law graduates who presently do not consider the lower judiciary as an attractive career option.
2. A centralised system of recruitment by an impartial body will reduce the charges of corruption presently prevalent in the examination process.

3. It will bring greater cohesion in the judiciary -
4. Better chances of good postings and added social prestige for those selected in the AJS.

However, some have said that such a proposal does not address the root problems of the judiciary, viz.

1. poor quality of justice administered at lower levels
2. corruption within the subordinate judiciary
3. nepotism & favouritism in postings and promotions -

Further, there are problems with the idea of AJS itself:-

1. local laws & customs vary greatly across the country. The judges may face difficulty in familiarising themselves with all such laws.

2. It affects the power of the High Court to regulate & supervise the subordinate judiciary.

3. There is no evidence that the filling up of vacancies will improve efficiency, as civil services too have vacancies, yet they are efficient.

Way ahead:

- Information technology must be used to cut the case backlog presently in the judiciary.

- Better training of extant judges is needed.

Any decision on the AITS must be made with full consultation and coordination with the States.

2. The roots of the most pertinent challenges faced by Indian politics today can be traced to the lack of intra-party democracy in candidate selection and internal elections. Discuss.

वर्तमान समय में भारतीय राजनीति द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों के चिन्हों को उम्मीदवार के चयन और आंतरिक चुनावों में दलों के भीतर लोकतंत्र की कमी में देखा जा सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Political parties' healthy functioning is conducive to democracy. Yet, Indian politics today faces many challenges which are linked with political party shortcomings:-

1. Nepotism in candidate selection
2. Leadership based on hereditary lines rather than on ability
3. Misusing the 33% reservation for women by giving tickets to wives of influential leaders, who then indirectly control the women
4. Corruption in receipt of funds and poor disclosure of norms
5. Secterarian politics on communal & caste lines
6. Lack of interest of masses in

- politics due to perception that it works for a select few.

Some of these can be attributed to the lack of intra party democracy as:-

1. Members assume and internalise who the next in-charge is going to be without formal elections for the same due to a monarchy like situation within the party.

2. Members fear to speak out as they do not wish to risk their chances of getting a ticket due to not being in someone's good books

3. Seats, powers and privileges are allocated on the basis of clout within the party rather than social popularity outside the party

4. The landed elite classes do not wish to forego their

hold over prime positions, hence stagnation is rife.

This lack of internal party democracy however is not the only reason for the crisis in politics. Other reasons being

1. fake news and paid news
2. criminalisation of politics
3. lack of effective powers of the Election Commission
4. lack of any law regulating the functioning of parties.
5. ~~Anonymous~~ Ceiling less funding which breeds crony capitalism.

To conclude, there is a need for comprehensive reform in the Indian political system. The recommendations of the 255th Law Commission should be followed in this regard.

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3. While the idea behind merger of autonomous bodies in India is to curb overlapping work and reduce expenditure, it may end up doing more harm than good. Discuss.

यद्यपि भारत में स्वायत्त निकायों के विलय के पीछे निहित कारण उनके कार्यों में व्याप्त अतिव्यापन को रोकना और व्यय को कम करना है, लेकिन यह स्थिति को सुधारने के स्थान पर अधिक नुकसान कर सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Autonomous bodies affiliated to various ministries have a large presence in India. They range from cultural academies like the Sahitya Kala Academy to research bodies like Indian Council of Historical Research.

Agg Arguments in favour of their merger:-

1. A recent committee report by Ratan Watal indicated that around 600-odd bodies are a huge burden on financial resources.
2. Most of the bodies have a similar mandate and can be rationalised.
3. Some other bodies find no relevance in the present world such as the UGC which is likely

to be scrapped.

4. lesser bodies will result in better fund allocation & more efficiency in research.

Arguments against:

- The bodies play a niche role by occupying a specific field. Any merger will affect specialised research.
- Some personnel may have to face unemployment

Upon balancing the arguments, a merger seems more favourable.

↳ It will lead to efficient utilisation of resources.

→ Niche research can still be carried out by carving

various departments under one body
→ Concentration of brainpower
will result in better synergy.

Therefore, such a proposal could
be adopted after thorough
cost-benefit analysis & consultation
with various stakeholders.

4. Well-defined electoral laws and greater powers for the Election Commission of India are required as the existing laws and mechanisms are inadequate to deal with new challenges. Analyse.

सुपरिभाषित चुनावी कानूनों एवं भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के लिए अधिकाधिक शक्तियों की आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि मौजूदा कानून और तंत्र नई चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए अपर्याप्त हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Presently, the provisions of the Constitution and the Representation of Peoples' Act 1951 determine electoral offences and disqualifying factors. But, as the 255th Report of the Law Commission noted, the present laws are inadequate to deal with new challenges such as:

- fake news
- political party funding
- non-adherence to the Model Code of Conduct
- excessive time taken by High Courts to determine disqualification petitions

To rectify the issue, greater powers are being sought for the Election Commission. :-

1. The Commission lacks the power to punish for its contempt. Many question the election process

without evidence, thereby tarnishing the Commission's image.

2. The Commission lacks any power akin to a civil court to investigate.

3. The Model Code of Conduct remains ~~not~~ unenforceable & highly flouted.

4. The Commission's role in disqualifying candidates under the Representation of Peoples' Act is not expansive enough.

However, there are counter arguments to such a proposal too :-

1. The Constitution does not specify any qualification or criteria for the selection of the election commissioner. Any extra powers with the commission may lead to haunting of opposition parties.

2. Giving power of contempt will

chill free speech and restrict any democratic discussion on the Commission's working.

3. Increased powers for the ECI in the quasi-judicial sphere may interfere with the High Court's power to hear election petitions, leading to multiplicity of authorities.

To conclude, there is certainly a need to make the election laws more comprehensive in line with reports of various committees. At the same time, any increase in the powers of the Commission must be accompanied by amending the Constitution to provide for qualification of the ECI officials to ensure its neutrality.

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5. Privileges should be defined and delimited for the free and independent functioning of the legislatures. In this context, discuss whether there is a need to re-examine the balance between fundamental rights and parliamentary privileges in India.

विधानमंडलों के मुक्त और स्वतंत्र कामकाज के लिए विशेषाधिकार परिभाषित और सीमांकित होने चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में, चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या भारत में मूल अधिकारों और संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के मध्य संतुलन के पुनः परीक्षण की आवश्यकता है?

Articles 105 and 195 of the Constitution provide for parliamentary privileges. These privileges are considered essential for the proper functioning of the legislature.

Full freedom of speech in the legislature & immunity from report publications of the house are laid down by the Constitution. The other privileges and immunities are not in the Constitution but instead are part of practice. This leads to :-

1. widespread powers of the legislature to punish those who seem to question its conduct.

2. Since courts cannot inquire into working of Parliament, any abuse of privilege cannot be reviewed by the Court.

Due to such wide ranging & unlimited privilege powers, incidents like the one in Karnataka where two men were imprisoned for breaching privileges of the legislature are likely to happen.

This raises the need to have a re-look at privileges.

↳ Privileges should be delineated & demarkated to ensure no unconstrained power lies with the legislature.

→ Unlike England where the ~~Parliament~~ Constitution is supreme, in India the Constitution is supreme. Freedoms of ordinary citizens need

to be upheld.

→ The role and powers of the privileges committee must be made more transparent.

At the same time, any such effort must not curtail the power of legislature to work fearlessly and efficiently.

Way forward:

- Privileges may be suitably laid down to ensure the fine balancing of privileges and freedoms of citizens.
- Doing so will enhance democracy and allow Parliament to function as per ideals of the Constitution enshrined in the Preamble.

6. The principle of accountability is an essential part of the rule of law. In this context, discuss the lacunae in government's approach and judiciary's response to the phenomenon of extrajudicial killings in India.

उत्तरदायित्व का सिद्धांत विधि के शासन का एक अनिवार्य अंग है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में न्यायेतर हत्या की घटनाओं के प्रति सरकार के दृष्टिकोण एवं न्यायपालिका की प्रतिक्रिया में विद्यमान कमियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Extrajudicial killings refer to deaths in shoot outs, encounters which happen without a fair criminal trial. Laws such as the AFSPA have made extra judicial killings common in India.

The rule of law requires that there is no abuse of discretion. In absence of accountability, there is no answerability for the deaths in custody, in shootouts. This threatens the rule of law as our Constitution guarantees the right to life & liberty.

The Government's approach :-

1. Extrajudicial killings are sometimes necessary to uphold public order.

2. Most of those killed are suspected terrorists.
3. Deaths in jail mostly occur due to natural causes.
4. laws such as AFSPA allow such immediate shootings without trial.
5. A public servant is at times necessitated to act in self defence.

The Court's Approach :

1. Recently, the Supreme Court took a news report as a PIL wherein National Crime Records Bureau data showed that around 500 people had died in police custody in 4 years.
2. The Supreme Court last year ordered investigation into deaths of youth killed under AFSPA in Manipur.

3. The Court has repeatedly called for revocation of AFSPA.
4. In certain other cases, Courts have upheld extrajudicial killing as being necessary in public interest.

Way ahead :-

- To boost faith of masses in the State machinery, proper training of policemen & army jawans is necessary.
- The provisions of AFSPA and other laws should be resorted to in rare circumstances.
- Wherever there is no immediate threat, the accused must be tried by the Courts without any custodial violence.

7. Explain the rationale behind enacting the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. Discuss how it can help in revitalizing consumer confidence in the real estate market. Also highlight the hurdles that remain in implementing it.

स्थावर संपदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) कानून, 2016 (रियल एस्टेट (रेगुलेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट) एक्ट, 2016) को अधिनियमित करने के पीछे निहित तर्क की व्याख्या कीजिए। चर्चा कीजिए कि यह स्थावर संपदा बाजार में उपभोक्ताओं के विश्वास को पुनः सशक्त करने में किस प्रकार सहायता कर सकता है। साथ ही इसके क्रियान्वयन में विद्यमान बाधाओं पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The growth boom of the early 2000s spurred real estate construction activity. Developers took massive loans, yet projects got stuck due to

- regulatory hurdles
- poor finance planning

This led to non-delivery of houses, siphoning off of consumer's money.

As the existing consumer protection Act framework was found to be unsuitable for the special problem, the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2016 [RERA] was enacted.

The Act aims to boost consumer confidence with its beneficial

provisions. These include:-

1. Setting up of a Real Estate Regulation Authority. All project developers have to mandatorily register themselves with the authority.
2. All promoters have to open an escrow account in which 70% of the funds paid by the buyers have to be deposited.
3. The promoters can announce bookings only if 50% (atleast) of the project has been constructed.
4. Setting up of an association of all buyers of a particular project to increase bargaining power.
5. Precise disclosures in advertisements. Any false information to be strictly dealt with.
6. Setting up of a tribunal to deal

with complaints.

Issues in implementation: -

1. Very few states have made the Act operational by issuing rules.
2. Many states have diluted the Act in the Rules due to powerful builder lobby.
3. The authorities mandated have not been set up.
4. Small builders may be pushed out of the scene due to high costs of compliance.

Way ahead:

The states must act proactively to do justice to the progressive enactment at the earliest.

8. Moving the subject of water from state list to concurrent list will solve the issues related to governance of water resources. Comment.

जल को राज्य सूची के विषय से समवर्ती सूची में स्थानांतरित करने से जल संसाधन के प्रशासन से संबंधित मुद्दों का समाधान हो जाएगा। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Presently, inter-state water disputes are under the Union list, while water itself is under state list.

There is a growing demand to shift water in the concurrent list.

1. Water is an essential resource. The present fragmentation over water policies leads to high wastage.

2. By placing it in the concurrent list, the Union will be able to enact a pan-India law & policy on effective river basin & watershed management.

3. Holistic planning and concurrence of objectives will lead to lesser water disputes between riparian states.

4. Various committees including the Mihir Shah Committee (2016) have pressed on the need to have a National Water Authority.

Yet, the states are not too keen on this proposal :-

1. Sharing of power over water governance with the Union will curtail their ability to maximise the welfare of State residents.

2. The distribution of water resources under a combined framework may take political hues.

3. It violates the separation of center and State functions.

4. ~~Since states~~ It will affect the healthy relations between States due to increased competition to get their views heard.

Way forward:

- Sustainable development goals require judicious use of water resources and clean water for all (Goal 6)
- Many in our country still have to walk for miles to the nearest well to get water while the rich swim in their personal pools.
- Cooperative federalism is essential to promote judicious use and efficient utilisation of our vast resources.
- The Inter State Council must be used as a forum to discuss the proposal with urgency.

9. Give an account of the areas of potential conflict in the relationship between the political executive and civil servants. Also discuss why a healthy working relationship between the two is critical for good governance.

राजनीतिक कार्यकारी और सिविल सेवकों के मध्य संबंधों में संभावित संघर्ष के क्षेत्रों का विवरण दीजिए। साथ ही चर्चा कीजिए कि सुशासन के लिए दोनों के बीच स्वस्थ कार्यशील संबंध क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है।

Civil servants are the backbone for the effective functioning of the political executive. The working relationship is supposed to be one of cooperation. However, many potential conflict areas exist:-

1. Transfer: often, with the change in political executive the incumbent officers are transferred & officers seen as more 'friendly' to the regime are preferred.

2. Populism versus Constitutionalism: often, the political executive's directions may be difficult to implement by the civil servant. Since the civil servant has to

respect the Constitution, populist measures may not be enforced.

3. Special demands & favours: The political class may demand special treatment for their relatives, where - as a civil servant has to act as per neutrality.

4. Administrative Discretion: Often, use of discretion within limits by civil servants ends up with their public rebuke by the politicians. This recently happened in Agre where a young SP ordered lathi charge on certain protestors who were obstructing traffic.

Such conflicts tend to slow down good governance. This highlights the need for a healthy working relationship: -

- The political class must respect that the civil servants have to act as per Constitution.
- Certain leverage must be given to both the political class and the bureaucracy in their respective fields.
- Transfers should be decided by an independent civil services board as recommended by the 2nd ARC.

A healthy and complementary relationship between the elected class and the administration is necessary for good governance. It is vital to realise the goal of 'Sabke sath, sabka vikas' i.e. development of all.

10. Despite their location in the non-political domain of civil society, NGOs have ended up playing a key, if indirect, role in India's politics. Comment.

सिविल सोसाइटी के गैर-राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में स्थिति होने के बावजूद भी गैर-सरकारी संगठन (NGOs) भारत की राजनीति में भले ही अप्रत्यक्ष, लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण, भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

NGOs have established themselves as an important part of modern Indian democracy, despite not taking part in the direct political process.

The positive role of NGOs:-

1. NGOs such as Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan are indirectly responsible for the strong Right to Information Act.
2. NGOs give voice to the claims of tribals, poor farmers and other bodies of people who have no bargaining power to get their views heard.
3. NGOs are now increasingly being made part of Track 1.5 diplomacy to increase India's soft power.

4. By taking up wide ranging cause ranging from environment to rights of homeless persons in Court, NGOs have helped develop a rich rights - based jurisprudence by utilising the Public Interest litigation.

5. NGOs help spread awareness of government initiatives and help the government in service delivery.
Example: The role of Pratham in the education sector

At the same time, their role has a few grey shades:-

1. Since they can receive foreign funding, at times it is claimed that some NGOs thwart development in India by furthering foreign interests.

2. Many NGOs recently had their licenses cancelled as they could not

account for the use of public funds.

3. Some NGOs act as vehicles of tax evasion, since NGOs are not taxed.
4. NGOs can also promote sectarian and parochial politics.

To conclude, while the role of NGOs is vital in a democracy, they need to be regulated too.

↳ They should work in accordance with the National Policy on Voluntary Sector, 2007.

→ ~~They~~ All NGOs should be brought under the ambit of RTI for better monitoring & social audit.

11. Magnitude of India's urbanisation is not unusual but the pattern is. In this context, examine the issues in the governance of cities in India. Also suggest the reforms required to make Indian cities dynamos of competitive sub-federalism.

भारत के शहरीकरण का विस्तार असामान्य नहीं है लेकिन पैटर्न असामान्य है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरों के प्रशासन से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही भारतीय शहरों को प्रतिस्पर्धी उप-संघवाद के डायनेमो बनाने के लिए आवश्यक सुधारों हेतु सुझाव दीजिए।

India's landscape entails a wide disparity between villages and cities. Due to lack of opportunities in villages, millions migrate to cities as the Economic Survey 2016-17 calculated.

While the magnitude of urbanisation is in consonance with the 1.2 Billion strong population, the pattern is skewed:-

1. The limits of cities are ever growing due to sub-urbanisation.
2. Efficient service delivery is available only in the core pockets of cities.
3. The unplanned expansion provides unsustainable growth in the form of poor waste management, slum development, poor transport linkages.

4. Only certain states are progressively urbanising. The Bi-Maru states still have majority rural population.

This brings us to issues in governance of cities :-

1. Multiple authorities → State government and local body tussle is common over jurisdiction
2. Funding crunch → States are unable to transfer enough funds due to their fiscal management obligations. The powers of municipalities to tax is low
3. Lack of personnel → The existing workforce is lesser to cater to an ever increasing population.
4. Central government and State Legislative Assembly conflict in Union Territories of Delhi & Pondicherry.

The need of the hour is to make

cities self sufficient :

- As the Economic Survey recommends sub-federalism among cities with competitive sub federalism is required.

- Cities should use their credit ratings as awarded by NITI Aayog to raise municipal bonds. Pune has taken the lead in this.

- More powers to tax should be given to urban local bodies by States.

- Rationalisation of multiple authorities should be done.

Way forward :

→ The Smart Cities Mission and Atal Yojana should be given a push and implemented effectively to ensure our cities are able to satisfy the aspirations of all.

12. Social boycott should be treated as a criminal offence, rather than being considered as just another form of social evil plaguing the Indian society. Examine.

सामाजिक बहिष्कार को वस्तुतः भारतीय समाज को अभिशास करने वाली सामाजिक बुराई का केवल एक अन्य रूप मानने के बजाय, एक आपराधिक कृत्य माना जाना चाहिए। परीक्षण कीजिए।

Recently, the Maharashtra government took a progressive step by enacting an Act prohibiting social boycott. By doing so, it became the first State to do so.

Social boycott is not just another evil plaguing the society. It has a different nature :-

1. Boycott occurs when an individual acts in a manner that is inconsistent with his or her membership to a social group, even if the act is otherwise legal.
2. A person cannot choose the social group he or she is born into, but can certainly choose to exercise freedoms as guaranteed

by the Constitution.

3. Boycott ostracises the individual and the person loses rights over ancestral property without any formal determination, by the Court.

4. Social boycott strikes the heart of social progress. Abolition of soti would not have been possible if the reformers were actively cut-off and isolated by all.

Therefore, it should be treated as a separate offence. However,

→ while the constitution guarantees group rights, these rights cannot be used so as to punish an individual.

→ groups must be accommodative of the heterogeneous views of their members.

To conclude, social boycott is a special degree of social evil as it cuts off a person from his or her society merely for thinking or speaking differently. Other states must follow the example of Maharashtra ..

13. Human Trafficking in India has emerged as a serious issue, which calls for understanding the complexity of the problem and devising an effective strategy to combat it. Discuss.

भारत में मानव दुर्व्यापार एक गंभीर समस्या के रूप में उभरा है, जो समस्या की जटिलता समझने एवं इससे मुकाबला करने के लिए एक प्रभावी रणनीति तैयार करने का आह्वान करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 23 of the Constitution outlaws human trafficking. We have laws to combat the same. Yet, controlling the problem is still far from being achieved.

A complex problem:

→ Trafficking often involves women and children from Nepal & Bangladesh. It therefore is a cross-country issue.

→ Some children willingly run away from their homes.

Similarly, some women willingly take part in flesh trade.

→ Human trafficking often has a nexus with forced organ donations and the begging mafia.

→ Many of those trafficked end up as maids in households or workers in factories.

A recent International Labour Organisation backed report described this as a form of 'modern slavery', noting that the problem is acute in India.

To deal with the issue, an effective strategy is required :-

1. Shelter homes must be revamped to provide meaningful education and skills for those rescued. linkages with skill India Mission could be made.
2. The success of operation Smile for rescuing missing children must be replicated for missing women.
3. Better opportunities should be

provided for women who engage in sex trade for quick money.

4. Effective police coordination with police of other countries should be provided.
5. Border posts should be made more foolproof to breach.
6. Use of Aadhar biometric data should be used to reunite children with their families.

Way ahead:

Urgent policy intervention is required to realise the mandate of our constitution.

14. A weak teacher education system is at the core of India's problems in school education. Evaluate. In this context, also enumerate the recommendations of the High-Powered Commission on Teacher Education constituted by the Supreme Court of India.

कमजोर शिक्षक शिक्षा प्रणाली स्कूली शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भारत की समस्याओं के मूल में है। मूल्यांकन कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा गठित शिक्षक शिक्षा पर उच्च-स्तरीय आयोग की अनुशंसाओं को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

The recent decision of the Government giving teachers who were appointed under the Right to Education Act a deadline to acquire necessary qualifications speaks volumes.

↳ To fulfill the 1:30 teacher student ratio, unqualified & poorly trained teachers have been appointed.

→ The lack of a credible teacher training system leads to poor education outcomes.

→ The problem is exacerbated by the fact that most primary level teachers are there out of

compulsion and not by choice. This leads to poor base development of young children.

→ Unenthusiastic teachers further make education feel like a burden for first generation schoolgoers.

→ A weak Teacher education also leads to non-uniformity in standards of education imparted.

→ This further widens the public-private school divide.

To cure the problem, a High powered commission in 2012 gave its report citing various measures, including but not limited to :-

1. A teacher assessment & accreditation center to be set up.
2. Overhauling the National Council of Teacher Education

However, not much progress has been seen on this front.

Way ahead:

- A strong teacher training is essential for better human resource development.
- As teachers are highly paid in government schools, it is essential that quality is maintained.
- The politisation of education should be stopped. Article 171 which provides for teachers in legislative councils must be reviewed, as this leads to corruption in teacher selection.

15. It has been argued that the recent order of the Supreme Court to prevent the misuse of Section 498A institutionalises the prejudices and rehabilitates the myths, which the women's movement in India has battled over decades. Discuss.

यह तर्क दिया जा रहा है कि धारा 498A के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट का हालिया आदेश वस्तुतः उन पूर्वाग्रहों को संस्थागत एवं उन मितकों को पुनर्स्थापित करता है, जिनसे भारत में महिला आंदोलन ने कई दशकों तक संघर्ष किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently, the Supreme Court in a case observed that s. 498A has become a weapon to harass the husband and in-laws as it provides for immediate arrest in case of cruelty with a married woman.

Accordingly, it suggested :-

- Setting up district committees who will examine the merits of the complaint and submit a report to the police.
- Police cannot arrest without the report, but can arrest if the woman has been harmed.

This order has faced a lot of

criticism :-

1. It promotes vigilantism as the welfare committees will consist of members of society.
2. The delay in arrest will allow the in-laws to abscond.
3. It is an abdication of the state's duty to administer justice as it is delegated to a non-statutory body.
4. Waiting for the woman to be actually harmed exposes the woman to great threat to life.
5. It perpetuates the patriarchal view that women cry wolf and wreck homes. It does not take into account the rationale of the section to help women who are abused & not subject to violence.

At the same time,

- Husbands and in-laws have been harassed in some instances.
- The immediate arrest brings irreparable harm to reputation even if the case is subsequently found false.

Way ahead:

- The judicial overreach in creating the committees should be reviewed.
- Better mechanisms must exist within the formal machinery to cull out false cases. Eg: Having better investigations by police.
- Misuse of the law by a few should not lead to fundamentally changing the scope of the law for those it seeks to protect.

16. As strategic interests between India and US continue to converge, defence has emerged as a major area of cooperation between the two. Discuss the significance and possible implications of this development.

जैसा कि भारत और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के बीच रणनीतिक हितों का एकीकरण जारी है, रक्षा दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग के एक प्रमुख क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है। इस विकास के महत्व और संभावित निहितार्थों की चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently, the United States gave India the title of a 'major defence partner'. with this:

- India has access to US military technology and tact on par with US' allies.

Strategic interests between US and India continue to converge :-

1. The recent admonition of Pakistan harbouring terrorists by the USA.

2. Both US and India want to control the Afghanistan conflict, where Russia supports the Taliban.

US sees India as a 'leveller' in the region.

3. Both US and India are threatened

by the meteoric rise of China.

4. Both stand against increasing radicalization by terrorist groups

This has led to defence emerging as a major cooperation area:-

1. The malabar exercise involving US, India and Japan.
2. USA led training for Indian armed forces
3. The recent Strategic Partnership model in Indian defence procurement may see participation of US based original equipment manufacturers.

* Implications of this development:

- USA has traditionally aligned itself with Pakistan. The current

situation marks a change in the trend.

2. The defence cooperation marks de-hyphenation in sectoral interests, since India and USA have issues with IPR policy & agriculture subsidies of India.
3. A US-India defence partnership augurs well for the important role of India in the sub-continent.

To conclude, India must utilise this opportunity well. At the same time, India must remain on guard and enter into partnerships with other countries as well.

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17. India's contribution to peacekeeping missions of the United Nations has remained steadfast despite changes in the nature, form and variety of UN peace keeping missions. Examine.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति स्थापना अभियानों (UN peace keeping missions) की प्रकृति, ढाँचे और आयामों में परिवर्तन के बावजूद संयुक्त राष्ट्र के शांति स्थापना अभियानों में भारत का योगदान निरंतर बना हुआ है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The United Nations does not allow countries to intervene in each other's internal affairs. Any interference can be done only through Peace keeping missions sanctioned by the UN security council.

- India has been one of the largest contributors of armed personnel to US peacekeeping missions.

- The peacekeeping missions initially occurred after the 2nd world war to rebuild damaged nations.

- over time, involvement was in Korean war, Vietnam war.

- Presently, we have peacekeeping missions in Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan where they fight rebels.
- Despite the changing nature of the peacekeeping missions, India has constantly contributed.
- The rationale behind this can be seen in Article 51 of the Constitution which states that India must act towards international peace and harmony.

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18. India's partnership with Africa is an amalgam of African development priorities as well as India's development objectives. Discuss. Also highlight the initiatives taken by India in this context.

अफ्रीका के साथ भारत की साझेदारी अफ्रीका के विकास की प्राथमिकताओं के साथ-साथ भारत के विकास लक्ष्यों का सम्मिश्रण है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही भारत द्वारा इस संदर्भ में की गई पहलों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

That the first Presidential visit of Ram Nath Kovind was to ~~the~~ Djibouti & Ethiopia speaks volumes on the important role given to Africa by India :-

1. India's initiatives are in line with African development priorities as seen in Agenda 2063.

2. India's own development objectives too play a role here :-

↳ The theory of string of pearls, of Chinese geo-encirclement of India with naval ports and bases is alarming.

→ To counter the billion dollar investments by China in

Africa under its one belt one road project is alarming for India & Africa by getting involved in African development.

→ India has historical and cultural ties in Africa

- Indian diaspora in Africa
- Soft power of Gandhiji in Africa
- Non Aligned Movement.

To build on this relationship, India has taken the following steps :-

- Development of Asia - Africa Development Corridor with Japan
- Extending lines of credit to the African Development Bank
- Giving strategic partnership status to Rwanda
- Training 'solar nannies' in

Kenya ~~to~~ to harness solar power

- Hosting the African conference in India in 2015.
- Exporting cheap medicines to Africa

To conclude, India rightly recognises the important role of Africa. African support is also crucial for India to get permanent membership in the security council of the UN.

19. Comment on the role of International Court of Justice in upholding the values of international law. In this context, also highlight the association of India with the ICJ over the years.

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अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विधि के मूल्यों को बनाए रखने में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय की भूमिका पर टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, विगत वर्षों में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय के साथ भारत के संबंध को भी प्रकाशित कीजिये।

The International Court of Justice was established by UN Charter post World War II. It promotes adherence of international law by

1. Deciding contentious cases between nations under treaties
2. Deciding on questions referred to it by the UN.

Its role is important as:-

- It acts as a world court and enables nations to resolve their disputes peacefully.

- It has helped in the adherence of treaties by nations.

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• Its judges are from diverse parts of the world. This gives its opinions legitimacy.

Yet, it is not a fully effective system as:-

• only nation states can bring disputes. Non-state actors cannot approach it.

• There is no foolproof enforcement mechanism.

Despite these shortcomings, its role has been vital in keeping international peace.

India's association with the Court

→ India has taken disputes to the Court, the most recent being the Kulbhushan Jadhav case which was decided in India's

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favour.

→ Presently, an Indian, Justice Dalveer Bhandari occupies a seat on the 9 member bench of the Court.

→ India was a founding member of the UN Charter and its association with the Court has stood the tests of time.

Continued association with the ICT along with following its decisions by all member countries is conducive to world peace in today's multipolar world.

20. In view of the focus on trans-regional economic corridors and changing regional geo-politics and geo-economics, critically discuss the idea of an Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor.

पार-क्षेत्रीय आर्थिक गलियारों एवं बदलती क्षेत्रीय भू-राजनीति और भू-अर्थनीति को ध्यान में रखते हुए, भारत-प्रशांत आर्थिक गलियारे के विचार पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

With the fallout of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, the Indo-Pacific region seems to be in an ideal position to work towards the idea of an economic corridor.

Changing regional geo-politics -

- The meteoric rise of China with its OBOR project dominates the scene
- Its aggression in South China Sea, Doklam and Tibet makes Indo-Pacific countries wary of its intention
- North Korea's nuclear weapons pose a risk to regional stability.
- Noodle-bowl multilateralism is seen with groups such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Mekong Ganga Cooperation

along with many bilateral partnerships.

Geoeconomics

- The fall of TPP leaves a vacuum.
- The RCEP [Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership] should be pushed, and more countries should be added to the loop.
- In the alternative, a China-less partnership of the Indo Pacific states including the Americas can be forged.
- With important sea lanes of commerce, rich resources & endowed fishing grounds, the Indo Pacific region is an apt candidate for regional

economic corridors .

To conclude,

- the idea of an Indo Pacific partnership is ripe. A shift from bilateral free trade agreements to more comprehensive regional agreements is necessary for a more secure world.
- Contentious issues such as intellectual property rights and disparities between the developed and developing countries of the region must be kept in mind.