

VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2364)

Name of Candidate	Shlok Waikar		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	883913
Center	Online	Date	28/07/2024

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, विनाथी 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 उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended

Strongly Recommended

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

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Punjab & Sind Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

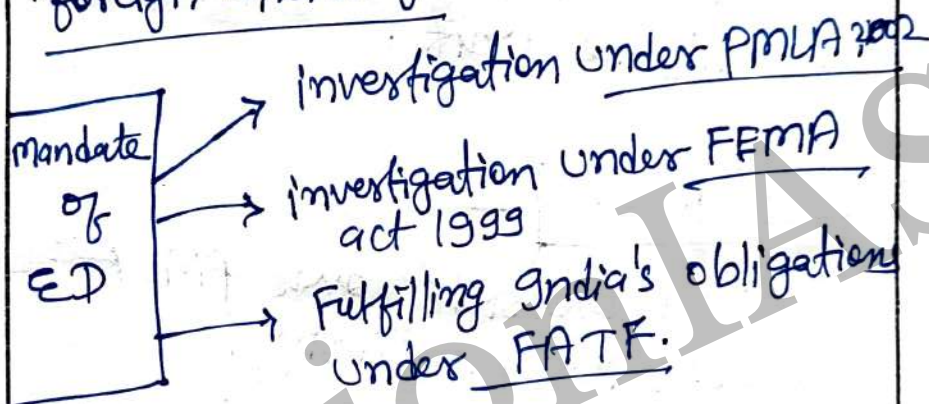
VisionIAS

All the Best

U.P.S.C.

(1)

Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a central agency for the investigation of financial crimes related to money laundering and foreign exchange.



criticisms faced by ED

- ① Arbitrary use of provisions under PMLA
- ② Allegations of partisanship role i.e. politicisation of ED.
- ③ Low conviction rate under PMLA cases
- ④ Allegation of use of PMLA against opposition parties
- ⑤ Challenge for India's federal structure. eg: FIR against ED officials in Tamil Nadu.

- ⑥ Failure to stop cross border crimes due to emerging technologies like cryptocurrencies.
- ⑦ Regulatory overlap with other bodies like RBI and Financial intelligence unit.

Steps Needed —

- ① Judicial oversight over PMLA cases for effective monitoring.
- ② Fast track Courts to take over cases of greater economic importance.
- ③ Greater independence and autonomy through legislative enactment.
- ④ Institutional overhaul through special personnel having expertise in financial matters.
- ⑤ Even appearance of partisanship hurts procedural justice hence reform of ED is urgent.

U.P.S.C.

②

"Congress in sessions is Congress at display, Congress in Committees is Congress at work" — Woodrow Wilson

This highlights the importance of parliamentary committees for effective executive accountability.

Department Related Standing Committees as mini Parliament —

- set up in 1993, has 31 members from LS and RS.
- examines bills, annual reports of ministries, ministerial demands for grant.
- Representation to various interests and deliberation.

Ineffectiveness of PRSCs —

- ① Fewer numbers of bills being referred to committees — 16% in 17th Lok Sabha

- ② Political partisanship in working of committees.
- ③ Lack of enforceability of its recommendations.
- ④ Lack of interest of MPs, declining attendance.
- ⑤ Technical nature of bills and demand for grants and lack of capacity of secretariat.
- ⑥ Lack of time and expertise

Reforming DRSCs —

- ① Presiding officers should give opportunity to members from diverse back grounds.
- ② Assistance of research bodies, think tanks and experts.
- ③ Compulsory referral of bills for important matters.
- ④ Expanding secretarial services

The above will help in closer, deeper and rigorous accountability of executive.

(3)

separation of power is functional differentiation of three organs of government, 1st propounded by Montesquieu [Spirit of the laws]

Differences in India, US and UK

① Constitution -

- India - Implicit and not explicit
- US - Explicitly mentioned in constitution.
- UK - Not a strong tradition of separation as there is no written constitution.

② Extent of separation -

- India - No strict compartmentalisation as it is parliamentary democracy.
- US - Presidential model - Strict compartmentalisation.
- UK - very loose model with parliamentary sovereignty.

③ Judiciary.

- India - Judicial review, appointment with consent of judiciary
- US - Strong judicial review, appointment by executive and Senate.
- UK - Parliament is more powerful than judiciary.

Similarities

- ① Checks and balances are institutionalised.
 - ② Functional specialisation of three organs
 - ③ Legal constitutional provisions for different set of officials, powers for three organs.
- Separation of powers is essential for maintaining Rule of law which operates through different mechanisms by ~~through~~ three different democracies

(4)

Recently, several states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka have moved supreme court, alleging violation of principle of fiscal federalism.

This has brought into focus the ^{Financial} challenges faced by many states.

Impact of measures by Central Government.

① Concentration of taxation powers by centre.

→ Power to tax mines and minerals [MMR Act 1957]

→ GST [101st amendment]

② Tax and surcharges - 133%

increase in last three years, not shared with states.

③ Centrally sponsored schemes increasing states share.

- ④ decrease in Grants in aid
under Article 275.
- ⑤ Restrictions on state's fiscal
deficits at 3% of GSDP

Role of state governments

- ① Fiscal indiscipline due to freebies,
loan waivers etc. [ex] - Free bus
rides in Delhi and Karnataka
- ② Poor state of state PSUs
- ③ Irregular in setting up state
Finance commissions. [Art 243k]
- ④ Duplication of govt schemes
- ⑤ Reluctance to implement taxes
especially at local level.

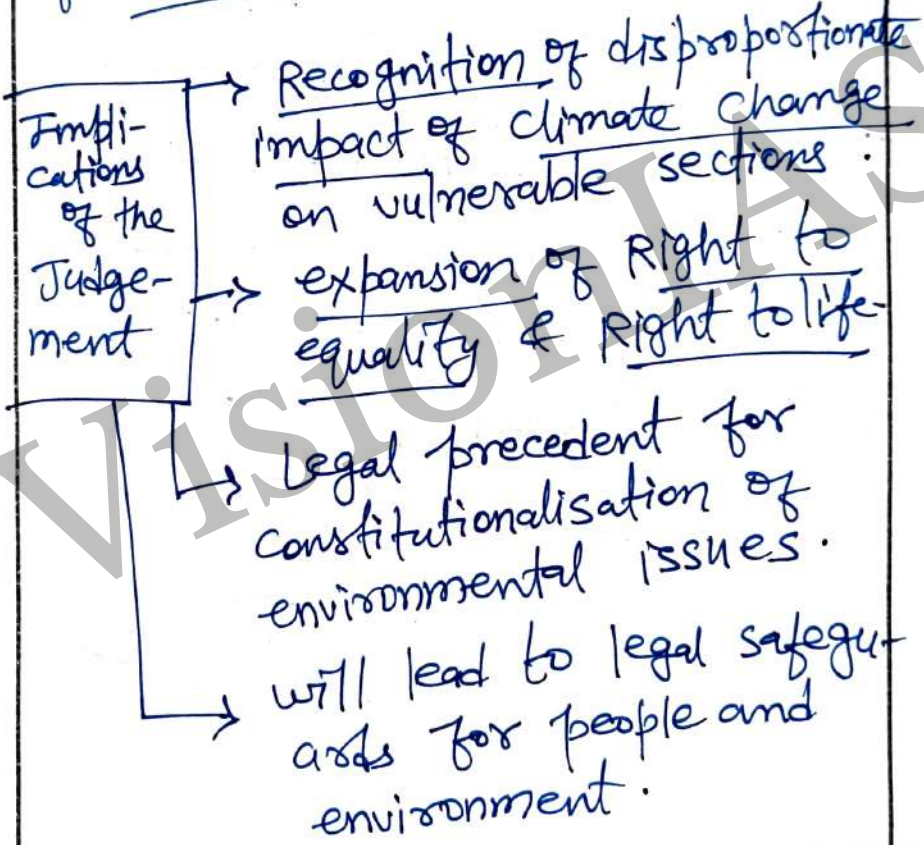
Way Forward

- ① 16th Finance Commission should
ensure fairness and equity.
- ② Devolution of power of taxation
to Panchayats.
Cooperative federalism demands Fiscal
Cooperation

U.P.S.C.

5

Recently, Supreme Court
in Mk Ranjit Singh vs UOI has
recognised Right against adverse
impact of climate change as part
of Article 14 and 21.



Role of SC in constitutionalising environmental issues.

- ① Expansion of Right to life [Art 21]
- Vellore citizen welfare forum case 1996 -

② Innovation in environmental jurisprudence.

→ Mc Menta case 1998 - Polluter pays principle.

③ Executive directions using power of Article 142.

→ Ganga pollution case.

→ Graded Response action Plan for Delhi NCR.

④ Protection of forest and reinterpretation of laws

→ TN Godavarman case - Forest Conservation act reinterpreted.

⑤ Upheld DPSP [Art 48A] and Fundamental Duties [Art 51A(g)]

↳ The supreme court's positive act of environmental activism puts the onus on executive and legislature for protection of environment in India's pursuit of its "Panchamrit targets"

6

India has more than 3.2 million SHGs which have emerged as vehicles of financial inclusion and poverty alleviation.

SHG Federations are important institutions to sustain SHGs in India

Importance of SHG Federations

- ① For institutionalising and consolidation of SHGs.
↳ Ajeevika Prog in Bihar.
- ② In providing funds for credit mobilisation.
- ③ For improving access to market by consolidating SHGs.
- ④ Improving technology incorp oration.
- ⑤ Greater exposure to women SHGs. [eg] saras melas by Kudumshree [Kerala].

Inadequacies hampering their functioning

- ① Duplication of programs and Schemes like DAY-NULM
- ② Bureaucratisation of SHG federations
- ③ Top-down approach and lack of participation by smaller SHGs
- ④ Regional disparity - Lack of presence in East, Central India and rainfed regions.
- ⑤ Lack of support of Panchayats and civil society groups.
- ⑥ Access to credit is limited as banks find it riskier.

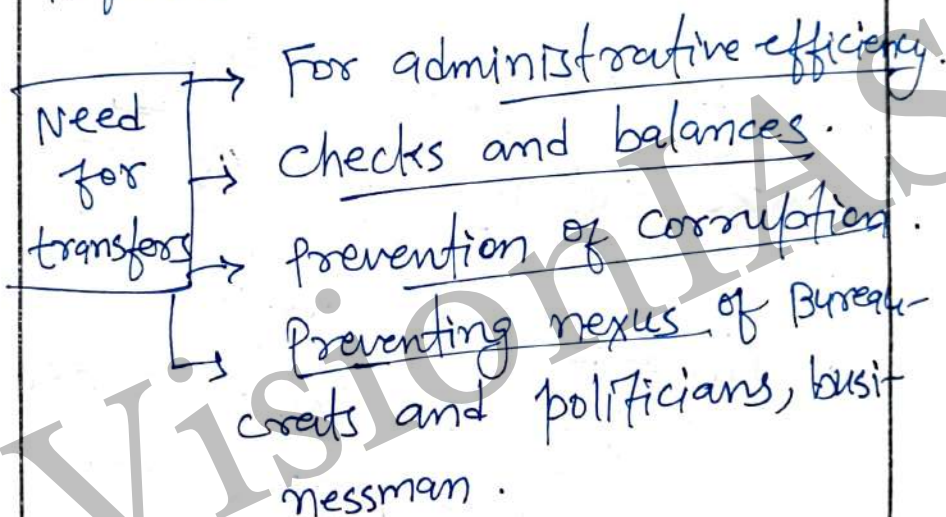
Way Ahead

- ① Convergence of stakeholders, - state's cooperative, banks
- ② Expansion in backward regions
- ③ Institutionalising smaller SHGs

SHG federation are important stakeholders to achieve SDG 1 [No Poverty] SDG 5 [Gender Justice]

(7)

Frequent transfer of higher civil services is a pervasive administrative challenge that erodes the "steel frame" of India. Reforms are needed to address it.



Drawbacks of frequent transfers

- ① Undermines the independence of civil service.
- ② Against non-partisanship towards political parties.
- ③ Honest civil servants are often given "punishment transfer", while corrupt are rewarded with "plump posting" (2nd ARC)

- ④ Goes against principles of efficient personnel management
- ⑤ Politicisation of civil services.
- ⑥ Breeds corruption and dillutes accountability.

Reforms Needed to Overcome

① TSR Subramanyam vs UOI
2013 ..

- ↳ Independent civil services board for posting, promotion & transfers
- ↳ minimum three years of tenure
- ↳ No interference from ministers except CM.

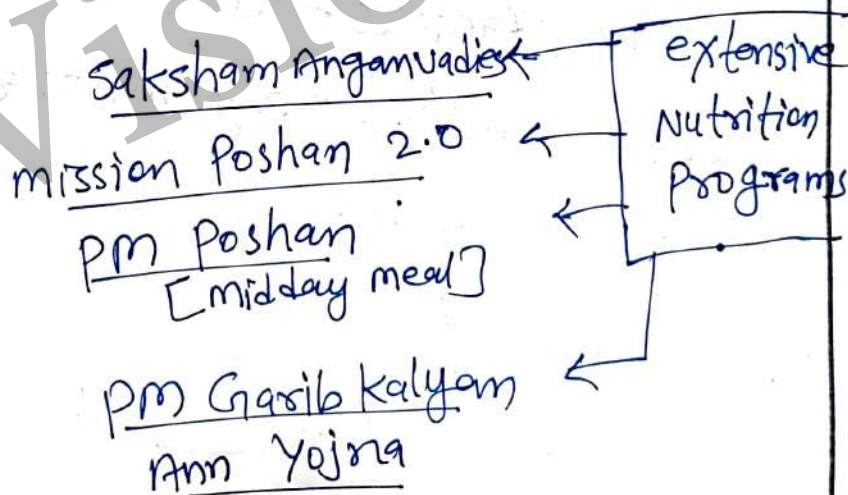
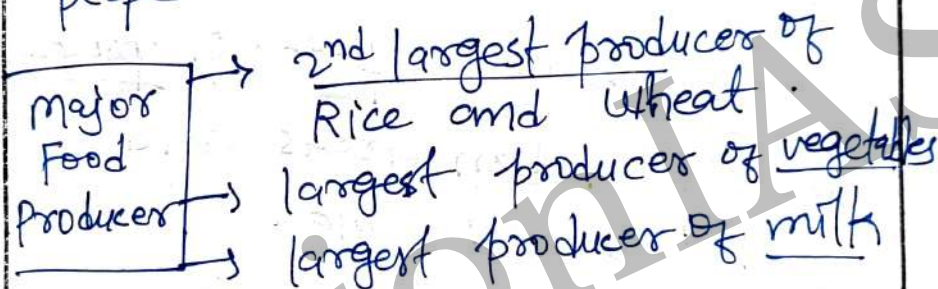
② Prakash Singh Case, 2006 -

- ↳ minimum two years of tenure for IGPs.
- ↳ This could be extended to Chief secretaries & secretaries.

Above reforms will help in transforming civil servants from karmcharies to karmyogies.

(8)

According to Global Nutrition Report, India has the highest number of undernourished children in the world, it has the 3rd largest number of obese people.



Causes of malnutrition crisis

- ① Excessive reliance on wheat and Rice due to procurement at MSP.

(9)

- ② Lack of dietary diversity, like coarse grains, fruits, eggs
- ③ Monoculture agriculture practices
- ④ micro nutrient deficiency, [Fe, I, Vitamin A etc] causing "hidden hunger"
- ⑤ Excessive consumption of processed food in urban areas and sedentary lifestyle.
- ⑥ Other factors — (a) poor sanitation, water quality, early marriage, women anemia

Way Ahead

- ① Promotion of millets in PDS like Odisha.
- ② Including SHGs in nutritional security. Ex - Nutrition gardens.
- ③ Better targeting of govt schemes.
There is a need to transition from food security to nutrition security.

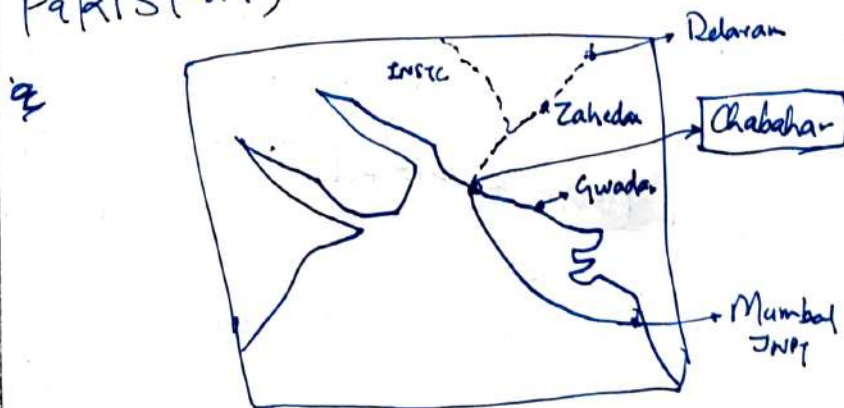
9

India and Iran share a close relationship rooted in historical and civilisational ties.

In context of India's growing ties with the West, India's ability to walk the tight rope is under test.

Significance of Iran for India

① Connectivity - Chabahar port allows connecting with central Asia and Europe, bypassing Pakistan, under INSTC



② Energy security - Historically Iran has provided accessibility, affordability

and certainty in crude oil.

- ③ Balancing other powers in West-Asia like Saudis and Israel
- ④ People to People ties - Large number of students from Shia Community go to Iran
- ⑤ Strategic location - Close to Strait of Hormuz
- ⑥ Maritime security in context of Houthi's attacks in Red sea.

Challenges -

- ① Iran's support to Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthies in on-going Israel-Palentine conflict
- ② India has stopped Iranian oil purchase due to US sanction.
- ③ Emergence of Bi-polarity - Iran, China, Russia axis against West.

multiple alignments in the region is the best way to 'navigate' the choppy waters of West Asian geopolitics.

(10)

The relations between India and China reached a rock bottom due to ongoing border conflict in eastern Ladakh.

Chinese aggression has challenged the status quo established by the India-China border peace and tranquillity agreement (BPTA)

Role of BPTA

It was signed in 1993 after five years of diplomatic negotiations post Rajiv Gandhi's historic visit to China in 1988.

- ① Provides a framework for dialogue
- ② Provides protocols to prevent military clashes.
- ③ Based on the principle of non use of arms, non aggression and peaceful resolution of disputes.

- ④ Effective instrument for Commander level talks for dis-
engagement.
- ⑤ Institutional mechanism to
prevent escalation.

Challenges

- ① Chinese violation after Galwan
clashes.
- ② Trust deficit between the
two countries.
- ③ Failure of agreements and
protocols due to unspecified
undemarcated LAC.
- ④ Violation of borders is a part
of larger Chinese policy of
confrontation also seen in south
China sea.

India and Chinese
foreign ~~para~~ ministers have met
on sidelines of SCO to resolve
the conflict. The state of the
borders will determine the state of
relations.

(11)

One Nation, One election
is proposed as a method of
simultaneously conducting central
and state elections. Recently
Ramnath Kovind Committee has
made recommendations to implement
it.

Simultaneous elections to augment
overall governance

① Frequent elections postpone im-
portant programmes implementation
and inauguration of new projects.

② Model code of conduct (MCC)
inhibits day to day functioning
of governments

③ Diversion of administrative
resources including officials
towards election duty.

④ Teachers and security personnel
are diverted away from core

responsibilities.

(5) Fund allocation for conduct of elections. [eg] 5000 cr was spent on 2014 general election. [ECI].

(6) Ministers and elected representatives are always in electing mode and not governance.

(7) Simultaneous election may enhance voter turnout.

Limitations

(1) Regional issues may get overshadowed by national issues.

(2) Regional parties may lose relevance

(3) Dilutes accountability as the representatives only need to visit electors once in five years.

(4) Institutional challenges — Problem of early dissolution of assemblies

U.P.S.C.

- ⑤ Lack of consensus over simultaneous elections.
- ⑥ May undermine the federal structure of India, thereby compromising overall governance.
- ⑦ Does not guarantee improvement in governance, as it depends on other factors like
 - ↳ People's participation
 - ↳ efficiency and effectiveness of civil services.
 - ↳ Accountability and transparency

Way Forward -

- ① National consensus through deliberation in bodies like Inter state Councils.
- ② Other electoral reforms like reducing criminalisation; state funding [Indrajeet Gupta comm.]
Government needs to follow
- ③ the consultative approach keeping will of the people at the centre.

(12)

Indian Constitution is called as the cornerstone of the nation. Various provisions like amendments [Article 368] and independent judiciary make it a living, vibrant, pulsating document.

How Indian Constitution has evolved?

① Social Justice :-

↳ Reservation by amending Article 14, 15 and 16.

↳ 1st constitutional amendment for Land reforms [Art 31A]

② Evolution of Fundamental Rights :-

↳ Article 21 - due process of law by Menaka Gandhi case 1978.

↳ Right to Privacy [K.S. Puttaswamy]

↳ Right to Education [Art 21A]

③ Recognition of Fundamental Duties :-

Article 51-A, by 42nd amendment.

U.P.S.C.

4) Evolution of Environmental Rights

↳ Mk Ranjeet Singh case - Right against adverse impact of climate change.

↳ mc menta case, 1988 - Polluter Pays principle

↳ Recognition of absolute liability [Union Carbide case]

5) Evolution of DPSPs

↳ Environmental obligations under Article 48A

↳ Protection of vulnerable sections Art 39A and reduction of inequalities by 39b & 39c using Article 31C.

6) Interpretation by Supreme Court

↳ doctrine of Basic structure to promote supremacy of constitution.

↳ Appointment in higher judiciary by Three Judges cases.

Challenges to Constitution as a living document:-

- ① Article 368 - Difficult to amend issues pertaining to federal structure.
- ② separation of power not codified.
- ③ Institutions like Parliament have failed to evolve make laws as per changing socio-economic and technological environment.
- ④ Constitution undermined by over-centralisation, political corruption and inactivity of legislatures.

For maintaining Constitutional supremacy there is a need to for adherence to Constitutional morality [SC in Naz Foundation Case] The dry bones of law need to be filled with rich conventions as flesh in muscles.

(13)

According to NCRB, there are 77% undertrials in Indian Prisons. This goes against the principles of human rights as per Indian Constitution [Art 14, 15, 20 & 21], natural justice and UDHR [Universal Declaration of Human Rights]

Deficiencies in Indian Criminal system:-

- ① Poor Conditions of Prisons with 120% occupancy rate [NCRB]
- ② Inadequate provisions for clothing, food, sanitation in prisons.
- ③ Women prisoners face sexual harassment and debilitating conditions with respect to health.
- ④ Policies for children born in prisons not implemented uniformly.

- (5) Criminal laws had not been changed for decades [IPC, CrPc, Indian evidence act only replaced recently]
- (6) many archaic rules related to criminal investigation at state level.
- (7) Custodial torture and deaths in police stations.
- (8) Forensic investigations not upto international standards.
- (9) Lack of police accountability and abuse of power by police.
- (10) Judicial delays especially at subordinate courts [4.5 cr cases pending nationwide - NJDG]
- (11) Human rights bodies like NHRC and SHRC face structural challenges.

Reforms Necessary —

- ① New Criminal laws [BNS, BNSS] need to be implemented by extensive training.
- ② Model Prison Act needs to be adopted enacted by state governments.
- ③ JK Basu judgement against custodial torture needs to be adhered to.
- ④ Police reforms as suggested in Poakash Singh case — Police accountability Commission
- ⑤ Judicial accountability, impact assessment, technology adoption needed.
- ⑥ NHRC to be equipped with independence, resources.

The criminal justice system needs to change its approach from primacy of punishment to primacy of justice.

14

National Human Rights Commission was setup as a statutory body under protection of Human Rights act 1993.

Former CJI had famously called it a 'footless tiger'. It has failed to get accredited UNHRC.

Failure of NHRC

- ① It doesnot have the power to investigate the cases of violation of human rights (HR) that occurred one year earlier.
- ② It doesnot have power to grant any monetary relief or prosecute.
- ③ Its powers are limited for violation of human rights by armed forces.

- ④ Appointments are not independent of political interference.
- ⑤ It doesnot have enough experts in human rights.
- ⑥ Representation from women is lacking.
- ⑦ Investigations are not free from public pressure and political influence.

Reasons for Non Accreditation

- ① NHRC is dependent on police force in its investigation.
- ② It doesnot adhere to highest principle of human rights as prescribed in UDHR and its covenants.
- ③ Appointments are controlled by executive, hence based on distribution of political patronage.

- (4) Growing perception of declining status of human rights in India like large number of under trials, instances of hunger deaths, violation of minority rights etc.

Reforms needed in NHRC

- ① Remove restrictions of one year for investigating cases
- ② Constitutional status to NHRC
- ③ Appointments by collegium system and wide circulation of advertisements.
- ④ Power to investigate HRs violation by armed forces on case to case basis.

The above reforms will help regain CIANHRI accreditation and prevent NHRC from being India's "teasing illusion".

(15)

Sexual harassment of women at workplace [Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal] act 2013 also called as POSH act, provides for institutional mechanism to prevent sexual harassment and ensure timely justice.

Background and Key Provisions

- ↳ Visakha guidelines by SC in visakha vs state of Ray are precursor to POSH.
- ↳ Nirbhaya case of Delhi (2012) led to adoption of various laws including POSH 2013.
- ↳ It includes women at workplace including extended workplace environment.
- ↳ Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) for establishments with

more than 10 employees.

↳ District Complaints Committee
for less than 10 employees.

↳ Timelines for various procedures
like investigation, chargesheet,
punishments.

↳ Provisions for awareness is
built into the act.

Implementation Challenges

- ① Uneven Constitution of ICC
across organisations
- ② Lack of Conducive environment
for filing a complaint.
- ③ Difficult to establish evidence
of harassment.
- ④ Remote work has blurred the
line between workplace and
home.
- ⑤ Lack of monitoring mechanism
to track status of implementa-
tion -

U.P.S.C.

- ⑥ Low conviction rate
- ⑦ Inadequate victim protection and witness protection provisions
- ⑧ Inadequate support and backlash by male superiors.

Measures to improve effectiveness

- ① Large scale ICE measures for awareness.
- ② Simplification of procedures to make it victim centric.
- ③ Transferring pending cases to fast track courts setup under criminal amendment act 2013
- ④ Inbuilt monitoring and feedback mechanism over implementation

Reforms in implementation of POSH 2013 is important to uphold fundamental duty under Article 51A (e) (Renounce practices derogatory to women) and achieving SDG 5 i.e. Gender justice.

(16)

Anti Defection law was added by 52nd amendment act 1985 by ~~at~~ 10th schedule and Article 102(2) and 191(2).

It has brought the role of speakers under the lens.

Issues of Prejudice & Partisanship

- ① Conflict of interest as speaker belongs to the ruling party often.
- ② while acting as adjudicating authority procedures are ignored
[eg] Karnataka assembly 2019,
Maharashtra assembly 2020.
- ③ Delays in deciding the questions of disqualification,
[eg] Manipure speaker -
- ④ Under 10th schedule appeal can be done to courts only after the decision made by speaker =
Leading to misuse.

Powers of Speaker under 10th sch
should be taken away

- ① Kihoto Hollohan case - SC held that speaker's decision is subject to judicial review. This leads to excessive litigations.
- ② To preserve the sanctity of constitutional office of speaker
- ③ To preserve the non partisanship and fairness in decision making
- ④ To ensure checks & balances

Powers should not be taken away

- ① Amending the 10th schedule
 - ↳ whip only for money bill and Constitutional amendment bill. [NCRWC]
 - ↳ Removal of mergers of $\frac{2}{3}$ rd members
- These provisions are better than changing nature of Post of Speaker.

② Clear timelines over disqualification procedure should be added to legislative rules

Way Ahead -

* The 10th schedule has politicised post of speaker. Election Commission's recommendation of ~~a collective~~ decision by Governor/President on advise of ECI could be adopted.

Further British practice of "once a speaker, always a speaker" could be adopted with speaker resigning from party after taking oath as speaker. He should not be eligible for future office except President.

(17)

No Indian institute finds a place among top 100 universities of the world [QS world Rankings], this reflects declining status of higher education in India.

Reasons for allowing FHEI's

- ① Raising the level and quality of teaching
- ② Exchange of knowledge and best practices
- ③ opportunities for domestic students to get world class education without migrating
- ④ ~~Attended~~ Elevating status of research and development.
- Public investment in R&D in India is 0.67% of GDP.

- ⑤ Opportunity for domestic faculties to learn from global universities
- ⑥ Spill over effect of excellence in higher education may help Indian universities.
- ⑦ Create opportunities to achieve NEP 2020 target of enrollment ratio of 50% in HEI by 2035
- ⑧ Give impetus to human resource development for adopting to fourth industrial revolution.

Obstacles to smooth entry -

- ① Bureaucratic hurdles and red tapism.
- ② Institutional jungle of regulators. (eg) UGC, AICTE, NMC etc.
- ③ Questions over autonomy with respect to curriculum & hiring.

U.P.S.C.

- ④ Balancing investments and Student fee.
- ⑤ Academic bank of credit does not have flexibility to include credit from foreign universities.
- ⑥ Lack of interest and awareness among students.

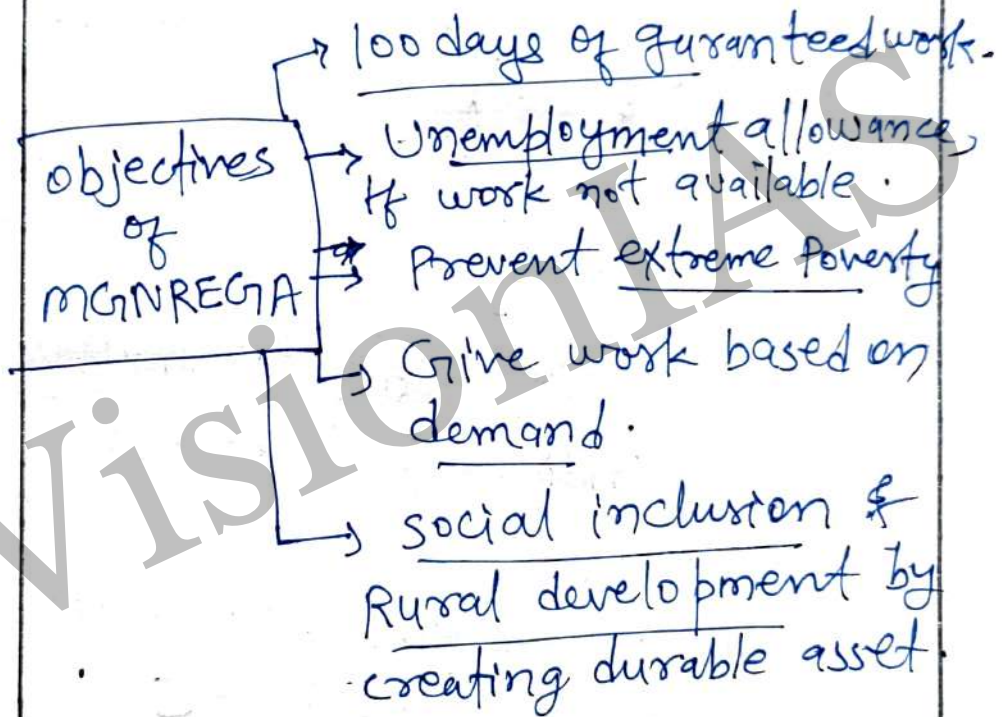
Way Forward —

- ① Student exchange for healthy mix of Indian and foreign students.
- ② Collaborations with domestic universities. [eg] SPARK scheme.
- ③ Cap on maximum fee and provision for reservation to ensure accessibility & affordability.

* IITs have opened campuses in UAE and Zambia. This bodes well for integrating into global knowledge economy.

18

MGNREGA was adopted
under MGNREGA act 2005
for poverty alleviation using
rights based approach.



Achievements of MGNREGA

- ① Contributed to reduction of multi-dimensional poverty - 25 crore people came out of poverty in last 9 years.
- ② created assets like Farm ponds, Rural roads

- ③ Innovative e-governance solution like MGNREGAsoft and DBT by Aadhar seeding of job cards.
- ④ Social inclusion. [eg] women labour force participation in rural areas has gone upto 27%. [2021].
- ⑤ Absorbed returning migrant labourers during Covid-19 pandemic and prevented 'acute poverty'.
- ⑥ Introduced social audit at Panchayat level.

Limitations of MGNREGA -

- ① very low daily wages ranging from 200-300 days
- ② Delay in payments
- ③ Discrepancy reported in DBT based payments.

- ④ Lack of durable asset creation
- ⑤ Lack of effective integration of skill development initiative like UNNATI Program.
- ⑥ Low budgetary provisions
ex 60000 crore in FY24.

Way Forward

- ① Integration with other schemes like Pm Gram Sadak Yojna.
- ② Increasing the wages.
- ③ skill development initiative
- ④ Panchayats to ensure the integrity of job cards.
- ⑤ Expansion of MGNREGA to urban areas.

Thus MGNREGA has played an important role in ensuring poverty alleviation in rural areas to achieve SDG 2.

(19)

Bay of Bengal is strategically located as a bridge between Indian ocean and Pacific ocean. BIMSTEC is a plurilateral regional mechanism to secure regional cooperation and stability.

The geopolitical realities have been in a state of flux. We witness an aggressive rise of China that follows 'Grey-zone tactics' in the South China sea.

While the west stays occupied with wars in Gaza and Ukraine, BIMSTEC led by India has emerged as a beacon of hope for maintaining stability in Indo-Pacific region.

Role of BIMSTEC -

- ① Regional connectivity through maritime linkages, Road networks and electricity grid.
- ② Against organised crime, Piracy, ~~Smuggling~~ Smuggling since Golden triangle remains a source of illegal narcotics.
- ③ Trade and economic cooperation due to presence of emerging economies of India - Bangladesh and Thailand.
- ④ Alternative model of regionalism as SAARC remains in a limbo.
- ⑤ Resolving political crisis like civil war situation in Myanmar.
- ⑥ Countering China's presence [String of Pearls]

U.P.S.C.

Challenges for BIMSTEC

- ① Appearance of India as a hegemonic power ~~to~~
- ② Lack of strategic initiatives like military exercise or defence cooperation.
- ③ Presence of ASEAN - BIMSTEC should not be seen as an alternative.
- ④ Connectivity projects under strain due to ethnic strife in Myanmar.

BIMSTEC is like a bridge between South Asia and South East Asia. It is crucial for India's diplomacy as it lies at the junction of India's Act East policy, Neighbourhood 1st Policy and SAGAR vision.

(20)

Defence diplomacy implies the use of military cooperation, joint defence manufacturing, defence imports and exports to strengthen bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

Influence of India's defence diplomacy!

- ① Bilateral and multilateral exercises like MILAN, Malabar used to enhance military to military relations.
- ② Joint development of military equipment help support domestic manufacture. [eg] Brahmos, AK-203 between India and Russia.
- ③ Promotes defence exports and strengthens self reliance.
[eg] Export of equipment and Brahmos missile to Phillipians

(4) Training to defame personnel helps in exchange of goodwill
[eg] Afghani, Bhutanese officers
trained in IMA, NDA.

(5) HADR initiatives to emerge
as 'humanitarian', 1st responder.

[eg] - Indian Navy during
Tsunami, 2004.

(6) maintaining stability and
ensuring capacity building
in smaller neighbours.

[eg] India donated Dornier
aircrafts to Maldives.

Limitations

(1) Appearance of violation of
sovereignty of smaller neigh-
bours. [eg] Maldives.

(2) Limited capacity of domestic
industries.

- ③ Delays in production of equipments. [eg] Tejas.
- ④ High bargaining power to the neighbouring countries due to the influence of China.
- ⑤ Economic limitations of union defence budget.

India's defence diplomacy has seen an uptake, catalysed by defence exports of more than 32000 crore in 2023-24. This could be further enhanced by domestic R&D, liberalisation of defence sector to private companies and joint development of advanced technologies under initiatives like INDIA.