



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1071)

Name of Candidate	Praveen chand 611		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	30586
Center	ONLINE	Date	12 SEP 2018

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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)।</li><li>There are <b>TWENTY</b> questions printed in <b>ENGLISH &amp; HINDI</b> इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।</li><li><b>All questions are compulsory.</b> सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।</li><li>The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।</li><li>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।</li><li>Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।</li><li>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।</li></ol>
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<b>Total Marks Obtained:</b>			
<b>Remarks:</b>			

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# 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.

(A)

2.

3.

(D)

4.

(2)

5.

(A)

6.

1. It has been argued that over the years there has been a steady decline in the efficacy of Parliament as an institution of accountability. Analyse and also suggest appropriate measures to address the relevant concerns.

(150 words) 10

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि वर्षों से एक जवाबदेह संस्था के रूप में संसद की प्रभावकारिता में निरंतर गिरावट आई है। विश्लेषण कीजिए और साथ ही, प्रासंगिक चिंताओं का समाधान करने हेतु उचित उपाय भी सुझाइए।

- (A) On an average parliament functioned for more than 100 days during 1950's. However, recently this precedent is reversed.

### Reasons for declining parliament efficacy

- ① Disruptions: By opposition parties over disagree-ments with government agenda/policies.
  - ② Lack of technical expertise: among members over increasing complex policy matters.  
 eg: GST, climate change, etc
  - ③ Politicization of parliament: where in parochial items are preferred on regional/party lines.  
 Along with decline in efficacy, it hinders its role of accountability too.
- Collective responsibility: of executive to

Lok Sabha would be weakened by a dysfunctional institution

→ Issues of defection: like anti-defection bill,

though preserves voter will, yet it leads to deindividuation of parliament members.

Thus following party commands instead of people's will. Which will inadvertently lead to decline of accountability

→ Misuse of ordinance / money bill: AS an

land ordinance and Aadhaar robs Parliament and Rajya Sabha of their roles.

measures required!

Along with these, internal-democracy, de-criminalization of politics is also need of the hour

to restore public faith in parliamentary democracy

- Compulsory minimum working days
- Amendments to anti-defection bill
- providing research secretariat to provide technical assistance.

(A)

①

②

③

2. Panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) are simultaneously a remarkable success and a staggering failure, depending on the goalposts against which they are evaluated. Discuss. (150 words) 10

पंचायती राज संस्थाएं (PRIs) एक उल्लेखनीय सफलता होने के साथ-साथ स्तब्धकारी विफलता भी हैं, यह केवल इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि इनका मूल्यांकन किन लक्ष्यों के आधार पर किया जा रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

(A) 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment ushered era of democratic decentralization in India. This led to remarkable success over items like.

① Grass root representation: Through Gram Sabha enabled people to become stakeholders in governance.

② Empowerment: Reservation of 33% seats to women, and population proportional share of seats to SC/STs created political Empowerment. Rajasthan is a clear example, where women political role lead to social C.I.M.R, M.M.R, and fertility reduction) and Economic (S.H.G) roles.

③ Accountability: by social audits, as in MGNREGS fixed accountability and reduced governance errors.

Yet, all is not well with P.R.I's.

- ① self-governance: as promised by Article 40 in villages can't be true, if it doesn't have necessary funds, functions and functionaries.

\* Role of local elites and women leaders' husband in control of these institutions is still prevalent [Panchayat Raj Ministry's report]

- ② State governments are wary about truly giving roles laid down under 11th schedule. Further, state finance Commission (SFC) reports are seldom implemented in spirit.

Due to these concerns, P.R.I's are not able to reap their rights. Need of the hour is true democratic decentralization with strong political will.

3. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is more than just the keeper of our national accounts; it is also a conscience-keeper and a watchdog. Examine the statement in light of making the auditing process more effective.  
(150 words) 10

भारत का नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) केवल हमारे राष्ट्रीय खातों के रक्षक से कहीं अधिक है; यह अंतःकरण का संरक्षक और वॉचडॉग (प्रहरी) भी है। लेखापरीक्षा प्रक्रिया को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के आलोक में इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(A) Article 148 of the constitution provides for independent CAG institution. It is mandated to audit state, central and PSU's finances.

By validating expenditure against the legislative sanctions in budget, it ensures spendings are according to law.

Further, it submits various reports to parliament via president. These helps Public Account's committee (PAC) and various standing committees. They read them and discuss emerging in parliament to hold executive accountable.

Thus, CAG is more than auditor, it is also conscience keeper and watchdog.

against misuse of authority and public  
purse. To make its role more effective,  
CAG took following steps.

- ① Audit of policy and suggestions: So as  
to equip parliament with policy deficiencies  
and alternatives
- ② Dissemination of audit reports via ICT  
medium to enhance public awareness.
- ③ Utilization of best practices and Big Data  
techniques from around the world. To  
plug loopholes in auditing.

Further, steps that can be considered are

- Auditing of local bodies, to enforce  
accountable here.
- wider engagement with public in  
social audit strengthening.

against  
CAG is crucial institution to guard misuse  
of public authority. It has been doing its  
duty to the letter & spirit of Art. 148.

4. The concern for transparency in political funding is at odds with the Electoral Bond Scheme notified by the government. Critically discuss.

(150 words) 10

राजनीतिक वित्तपोषण में पारदर्शिता की चिंता सरकार द्वारा अधिसूचित चुनावी बॉण्ड योजना से असंगत है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

(A) Government introduced Electoral bonds in last year's budget. (EBs)

Features of EBs:

1. Maintains anonymity of donor. They need not report in companies accounts in case of corporations.

2. They can be brought in digital payments mode at certain banks (SBI mostly)

Advantages of EBs:

① Anonymity protects corporations: against 'vengeance' in case of a party changes in powers.

② It ushers digital payments: as currently, parties receive largely in cash mode.

however, Eminent persons raised concerns regarding this

Scheme. These are

- ① Non disclosure of donation details could be misused for crony capitalism.
- ② EBs along with removal of donation limits of companies to political parties under Companies Act, could be used to route corrupt money to politics.
- ③ It might benefit party in power.
- ④ People have right to know about political parties' finances, as it forms base of freedom of expression in democracy.
- ⑤ Further, scope of Election Commission to know about EBs is also restricted.

As parties need not submit such EBs/names to EC

Hence, after debates and working of EBs scheme after certain time, they need to be reviewed on larger public interest.

5. Lobbying in India exists in a perennially grey legal and policy arena. In this context, discuss the need to formally recognize and regulate lobbying in India.

(150 words) 10

भारत में लॉबिंग हमेशा से ही विधिक और नीतिगत क्षेत्र में अपरिभाषित रूप से विद्यमान रही है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में लॉबिंग को औपचारिक रूप से मान्यता प्रदान करने और विनियमित करने की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

(A) Lobbying is a process in which certain groups/sections put forth their interests to political institutions.

Advantages of lobbying:

→ To know aspirations: of different groups: business, deprived sections, <sup>and</sup> political organisations.

So that their concerns could be responsively addressed by Executive and legislatures.

EG: certain groups lobbied for RTI, GST etc.

→ It acts as conduit between people and Executive. EG: MSME's lobbying against FDI in Multibrand retail

however, lobbying, if it is misused can turn into grey area - legally and

Politically.

→ Lobbying for financial grants, tax-incentives, etc goes against parliament's free will

→ Lobbying is generally skewed towards well-off and networked persons and groups

eg: 2G scam, Nera Padia tapes.

→ ~~lets~~ It also provide scope for corruption.  
eg: Cash for vote scam in parliament

however, in U.S.A lobbying is allowed and made transparent, which gives equal opportunity to lobby as well as scrutinize the process.

India's informal lobbying process need to be formalized with regulation and legal structures.

6. More than a decade after it was passed, the implementation of the RTI Act leaves much to be desired. Comment. Also discuss the issues associated with the recent proposals to amend the RTI Act. (150 words) 10

पारित होने के एक दशक से भी अधिक समय बाद, RTI अधिनियम के कार्यान्वयन में काफी कुछ वांछित है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। RTI अधिनियम में संशोधन के हालिया प्रस्तावों से जुड़े मुद्दों की भी चर्चा कीजिए।

(A) RTI Act recognized citizen's right to free information from government. It was a milestone for framework of accountability and transparency. However, various challenges still exist.

→ Implementation: Undertraining of PIOs, lack of proper infrastructure (IT, scanner, printers etc) and awareness are creating hurdles to proper implementation.

→ Pro-active disclosures: [Sec 4: RTI] are still not realized fully.

↪ Work culture: Still prefer opacity. There is inertia towards disclosures.

→ Per dency: Above challenges lead to huge

Easing of above bottlenecks is key to realize true objectives of RTI Act.

However, recent proposed changes raised certain issues.

⊗ Regarding service conditions CIC's, SIC's :

✓ Till now CIC's enjoys similar service conditions akin to Election Commission.

✓ With the proposed changes, Government may change salary, emoluments and removal as per its decisions.

✓ These changes were criticized based on 'independence/autonomy' dilution changes

Proper implementation of RTI Act need an independent and impartial CICs.

Therefore, it is crucial not to dilute CICs position, rather strengthening would serve the intended purpose.

7. Critically discuss the evolving policy on reservation in promotions in India with special focus on its ability to meet the objectives of social justice.

(150 words) 10

सामाजिक न्याय के उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने की इसकी क्षमता पर विशेष बल देते हुए भारत में प्रोन्नति में आरक्षण पर विकसित हो रही नीति की समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

(A) Reservation is a tool of social justice to correct 'historic discrimination' meted out to certain communities in India

Rationale for reservation in promotion

① Lack of adequate representation of socially and educationally backward classes SEBCs in state services.

② Through this opportunities to SEBCs in policy formulation and implementation would improve.

Towards this, various constitutional amendments changed Article 16(4). These changes meant for providing reservation in promotion to SC/STs.

However, Supreme Court in Nagraj case ruled that any such

reservation need to be based on:

- ① Adequate data to prove lack of representation.
- ② without effecting efficiency in services as mandated under Article . 335.

Further, some experts criticized this policy as it could demoralize public servants in cases related to promotions.

However, various surveys and estimates show that in positions of Joint Secretary and higher ones, SEBs are not adequately represented.

Equity demands that SEBs must be provided with adequate opportunity in all matters. At the same time, there will also need to ensure <sup>that</sup> reservation in promotion translates into true objectives of social justice through impartial outcome evaluation.

8. India produces enough food for its people, but not all people get enough food to eat. Discussing this paradox, highlight some of the major interventions taken in the past few years in this regard. (150 words) 10

भारत अपने लोगों के लिए पर्याप्त खाद्यान्न उत्पादित करता है, फिर भी सभी लोगों को खाने के लिए पर्याप्त भोजन नहीं मिलता है। इस विरोधाभास की चर्चा करते हुए, इस संबंध में विगत कुछ वर्षों में उठाए गए कुछ प्रमुख कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

(A) Despite being one of the largest food producers, 170 million people sleep hungry in India.

Reasons for this paradox are

- ① Affordability, Accessibility to food! Food prices are low due to low incomes.
- ② Leakages in public distribution systems:  
✓ These including Mid Day meals, ICDS and TPDS schemes.
- ③ wastage of food! More than 30% of food wastage in India (FAO report)
- ④ Lack of knowledge! that hampers diet diversity and intake of adequate quantity of micro and macro nutrients. This lead to phenomena of hidden hunger.

③ Social discrimination: towards women, who get less nutrition in families.

To ensure food security, we need a multi-pronged approach, Government took right steps like

→ National Nutrition Mission: (Poshan Abhiyan)

This focuses on: outcomes, tracking and convergence of schemes and implementation.

→ Public Entitlements: under PDS, MDM and TPDS

→ Livelihood Support: MGNREGA and Employment guarantee schemes.

→ Food processing: PM-SAMPADA schemes seeks to reduce food wastage and improve food quality.

→ Awareness Campaigns such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to address social attitudes.

These initiative through effective implementation and auditing could break the paradox of food security in India.

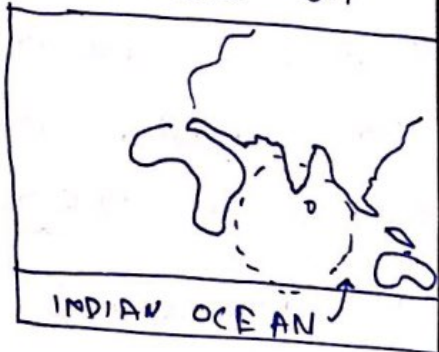
9. India sees Indian Ocean as not just a water body, but a global stage for continued economic, social, and cultural dialogue. Elaborate. (150 words) 10  
भारत, हिंद महासागर को मात्र एक जल निकाय के रूप में ही नहीं, बल्कि निरंतर आर्थिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक संवाद के एक वैश्विक मंच के रूप में भी देखता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

(A) Due to India's key strategic location combined with Economic and strategic interests India seeks widest role in Indian Ocean.

① Economic Objectives:

✓ with 7,500 km coast and huge EEZ India

has Economic imperatives here. Further 95% of our trade by value goes through this region



✓ India, thus, needs security of sea lanes of communication and overflight.

✓ India also seeks to combine its own Economic imperatives with prosperity of the region. Towards it, it is willing to be a net security provider.

- Thus Indian Ocean Regional Association (IORA), Indian Ocean Naval

Symposium (IGNS), Act East Policy and recent QUAD (Australia, Japan, U.S.A) are such towards towards economic and strategic dialogue.

②

social and cultural dialogue:

- ✓ Towards strengthening civilizational links with countries in this region, India is focusing on tourism, people-people ties, and cultural and religious exchanges (Buddhism mainly)
- ✓ 'Project Mausam' is such a step to improve cultural ties.

With, increasing Chinese influence in Indian ocean, India need more pro-active diplomacy in this region.

(A)

10. In the context of India taking greater responsibility in management of the global commons, there has been a shift in India's climate change negotiation stance. In this context, analyze the evolution of India's climate policy. (150 words) 10

भारत द्वारा ग्लोबल कॉमंस के प्रबंधन में बृहत्तर दायित्व ग्रहण करने के परिप्रेक्ष्य में, भारत के जलवायु परिवर्तन संबंधित वार्ता दृष्टिकोण में, परिवर्तन आया है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत की जलवायु नीति के विकास का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

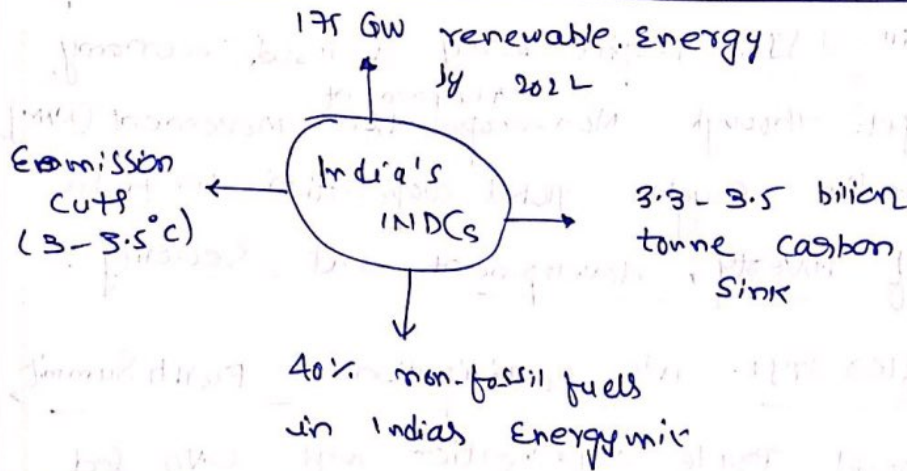
(A) Global commons are considered as property of humanity. It is incumbent on all countries to protect them and exploit them in inclusive and sustainable way.

In this light, India's approach towards Global commons:

- Till 1991, despite being a closed economy, yet through Non-cooperation <sup>alignment</sup> Movement (NCM) India sought global cooperation in fields of poverty, development and security.
- After 1991: It's participation in Earth Summit, World Trade Organization and UNO led to focus on climate and biodiversity.
- After climate agreement (Paris): Earlier India demanded for action from developed

Countries, as they have historic responsibility.  
However, in Paris, India <sup>is</sup> committed  
to Intended Nationally Determined Contribu-  
-tions (INDCs) and also started  
International Solar Alliance (ISA).

This change in stance, shows its  
→ responsibility towards global common.  
→ Determination towards mitigation  
and adaptation strategies.



National Action plan on climate change [NAPCC] clearly reflects India's commitment towards global common.

11. Highlighting the constitutional role of the Finance Commission (FC), discuss the issues which are being debated w.r.t. terms of reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission. (250 words) 15

वित्त आयोग (FC) की संवैधानिक भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उन मुद्दों की चर्चा कीजिए जिनपर 15वें वित्त आयोग के विचारार्थ विषयों (ToR) के संदर्भ में बहस की जा रही है।

(A) Article. 280 of Indian Constitution provides for a Finance Commission [FC]. It is constituted for every 5 years by President of India.

Following is its broad mandate

- ① Distribution of net tax proceeds between Centre and States and among states.
- ② Principles concerning 'revenue deficit' grant to states.
- ③ Grants to local bodies as per reports of State Finance Commission.
- ④ Any matters referred to it by president.

Due to above, its role is crucial

→ It is key pillar in fiscal federalism.

- It is key to fiscal autonomy and strong federalism.
- It is also equalized by providing equitable resources to less developing states (Income distance]
- It strengthens sub-federalism, as it provides funds to local bodies

Recently, 15<sup>th</sup> FC was appointed under chairmanship of N.K. Singh. Issues with its terms of reference are!

- Criteria for population data: 14<sup>th</sup> FC gave 17.5% weightage to 1971 figures and 10% to 2001 figure. However, 15<sup>th</sup> FC terms seem to give total preference to 2011 census. This caused concerns among states (mostly southern) that reduced fertility rates.
- Regarding grants to states: TOR (terms of reference) wants to subject these grants

to certain conditionalities. Such as state's financial prudence, no populist measures like loan waivers.

However, due to lack of proper definition of populist measures it became debatable.

Further, ToR hints at completely doing away with grant component, which could impact interests of less developed states.

Nevertheless, FC, in past months has been holding stakeholder meetings to address above concerns.

→ Reviewing 42% share to stake: as it is

impinging of nation's capabilities in defence:

which means going back on 17th FC recommendation of 42% state shares that led to opposition from various states

Nevertheless, FC in past months has been holding stakeholder meetings to address above concerns

12. The spirit of the constitution of India represents a synthesis of Indian values, democratic and socialist movements in west and our independence movement. Elucidate. (250 words) 15

भारतीय संविधान की भावना भारतीय मूल्यों, पश्चिम के लोकतांत्रिक व समाजवादी आंदोलनों एवं हमारे स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के संश्लेषण को निरूपित करती है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

(4) Indian constitution was crafted by bringing ideas from other countries and merging them with India's own values during its national movement.

Ideas from west:

① Westminster system: was familiar to Indians due to British rule and Government of India Acts (1949, 1955). Hence, India adopted this from British.

② Preambular values: like equality, fraternity and liberty were inspired by French revolution.

③ Fundamental rights: Spirit of rule of law and fundamental rights took light from American revolution and civil rights movements in U.S.A.

④ Socialist ideas: Such as welfare state emphasised in directive principles and preamble could be ascribed to Russian revolution.

⑤ Safeguards against forced labour, child labour, maternity benefits (DPSP), etc were shaped by labour movement since Industrial revolution.

Ideas from Indian values and national movement

① Spirit of tolerance: Reflected under secularism, liberty principle owed to long standing cultural pluralism and argumentative tradition in India.

② Democracy: In India was practised even during Mahajanapadas (rudimentary form). Under national movement, Gandhiji took along all sections and forged

democratic bonding.

Swadeshi, Non-cooperation and Civil disobedience movements also fought for democratic ideals, as well as freedom.

③ Federalism: As early as 1920s, <sup>in</sup> Nagpur session of Congress, many leaders pitched for linguistic states and federal setup.

④ Local governance: principle of self-governance left down under Art. 46 can be credited to Gandhian ideal of Swaraj.

⑤ Measures of affirmative action (Art 15, 16) were result of Harijan movements (under Gandhiji) as well as struggles of depressed classes (under Ambedkar).

Thus, in the spirit of Rigveda -  
"Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides" - Indian constitution is shaped by best ideas from internal and external source.

13. What is the importance of an independent judiciary in a democracy? Highlight the safeguards in our political-constitutional setup to ensure the independence of judiciary. (250 words) 15

लोकतंत्र में स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका का क्या महत्व है? न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने हेतु हमारी राजनीतिक-संवैधानिक व्यवस्था में निहित रक्षोपायों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

(A) Article 124 and 217 of Indian constitution - provide for independent and integrated judiciary for India.

## Importance of Independent Judiciary

① For constitutional remedies: Art. 32 and 226

guarantee fundamental rights protected by constitutional remedies and writs.

② Impassionate interpretation of constitution:

could only be possible with an independent judiciary. Rights expansion like privacy (K.S. Puttaswamy) are result of such independence.

③ To protect character of constitution: against

abridgement of fundamental rights. For example, 'Basic features' doctrine as laid down under 'Keshavananda', [Art. 13]

④ To protect interests of federalism:

under Article 131 apex court has original jurisdiction to deal with federal disputes. Independent Judiciary is imperative to safeguard rights of states and federal setup.

Towards, securing an independent judiciary following safeguards were provided.

→ Appointment of Judges and their removal:

- ✓ are to be appointed by president on recommendation of collegium (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Judges case).
- ✓ Service conditions, Emolument can't be reduced to their disadvantage, except during financial emergency.
- ✓ Judges can only be removed through an 'impeachment process' under special majority voting in parliament.

- 'Independence of Judiciary' - is a basic feature now (Supreme Court Judgment).
- 'Judicial review' matter is now settled after 'Minerva Mills'. With this, Judiciary can review any laws/ amendment that might infringe its independence.  
Eg: NJAC was invalidated due to this.
- Conduct of Judges can't be discussed in legislatures except during impeachment.
- Contempt of Court (Art 19(2)) - reasonable restrictions to enforce its orders.
- Art. 142 also provides Judiciary with special powers to do complete justice.

Judiciary is the light when darkness of injustice prevails. This must be protected by all stakeholders of State.

14. Even though Indian federalism has matured quite a bit, with states having far greater control of their economic and political management, serious structural problems still remain. Discuss. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि भारतीय संघवाद काफ़ी हद तक परिपक्वता प्राप्त कर चुका है जहाँ राज्यों को अपने आर्थिक और राजनीतिक प्रबंधन पर पर्याप्त नियंत्रण है, तथापि गंभीर संरचनात्मक समस्याएँ अब भी विद्यमान हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

(A) India is an union of states (Art. 1). Indian union has come long way in its economic and political management.

→ Federalism: became basic feature after S.P. Bommai case. Indiscriminate president rules (under Article-356) have reduced.

→ Fiscal federalism: is strengthened following 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission's increased devolution to states (now 42%).

→ Cooperative and Competitive federalism: is becoming reality with NITI Aayog's efforts (eg: regional councils, various indices).

However, some structural problems are impeding the cause of federalism.

①

②

③

④

① Emerging new state demands:

- Even after linguistic reorganisation (1956) and subsequent new state creations, there are demands like Gorkhaland, Coorg etc.

② Disputes in federalism: ~~are~~ still pestering

like: water disputes (Coover, Yamuna)  
- we are yet to develop long standing dispute resolution mechanism.

③ Governor's role became controversial even recently during Karnataka election. Friction between Delhi C.M and Lt. Governor is also a case in point.

④ Regional disparities: Despite converging forces of (FC, special category states and globalization), many Indian states are backward. eg: North East, Bihar, Odisha etc.

⑤ Low priority to fiscal subfederalism:

States are still wary of conceding greater role to local bodies.

Addressing this issue is crucial for strengthening Indian federalism.

→ Inter-state Council (Art-263): Could be effectively used for policy coordination, as well as dispute discussions. This could be merged with NITI Aayog.

→ Push to less developed states: by convergence of schemes, real time monitoring and accountability is key to reduce regional disparities.

Recently proposed Inter-state water Disputes Bill (with permanent Tribunal), Aspirational districts schemes are some timely steps

15. The recent amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 strike a balance between enforcement overzealousness and the need for stringent action against corrupt public servants. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1988 में हालिया मंशोधन प्रवर्तन के प्रति अतिउत्साह और भ्रष्ट लोक सेवकों के विरुद्ध कठोर कार्यवाही की आवश्यकता के बीच एक संतुलन कायम करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

(A) As per Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index [CPI], India is placed at 81<sup>th</sup> position. Corruption is serious menace for Indian polity.

In this light, recently proposed amendment to Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is [PCA] timely, because:

→ stringent action against corrupt

- ① Now, both bribe givers and takers would be liable for corruption.
- ② provides for fast-tracking of cases related to public servants.
- ③ Penalties, confiscation of properties and punishment are increased in line with United Nation Convention Against Corruption.

① It mandates strict disclosure norms for personal properties of public servants. Thus helping in catching disproportionate asset cases at early stages.

Simultaneously, it guards honest officers against enforcement overzealousness

① It clearly defines corruption related case with respect to only  
→ Disproportionate assets.  
→ Causing involving illegal monetary transactions.

Thus reforms Sec 13(1)(d) - that was earlier wide and vague.

② Need for permission: for prosecuting government servants including retired officers helps honest officers against harassment

however, it keeps timelines for  
permission so that evidence is not  
destroyed.

Nevertheless, provisions like permitting  
bribe given is criticized for lacking  
social context of India.

Yet, to weed out menace of corruption  
such measures will help in de-socialization  
of corruption.

16. Identifying the various issues plaguing the voluntary sector in India, discuss the need for a national accreditation agency to overcome them. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत में स्वैच्छिक क्षेत्र को अवरुद्ध करने वाले विभिन्न मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए एवं इन पर काबू पाने हेतु एक राष्ट्रीय प्रमाणन एजेंसी की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

(A) Voluntary Sector comprised of individuals, donors, NGOs, charities, etc. they play important role in development.

However, this sector is plagued by various issues

→ Compliance: multiplicity of legislations under which they are registered  
Sg: Societies Registration Act, some labour Act.

→ Access to funds: - lack of integration between CSR and voluntary sector.  
- Regulations under Foreign Contributions Regulation Act became stringent after 2015 amendment.

- that they are mainly dependent on individuals and government sources.

→ Issues related to their activities

- Some of them are alleged to force religious conversions, supporting Extremism and inciting protests against national development projects.

eg: Kundakulam protests.

- Due to these illicit activities, Intelligence Bureau estimated loss to GDP is

2%.

→ Bogus NGOs setup to evade taxes and gain access to funds.

Due to these issues, there is an urgent need to bring them under holistic framework as suggested by S. Vijay Kumar committee.

→ A unified portal: for registration and disclosures is must.

- present 'Darpan Portal' under NITI Aayog could serve this purpose.

- National NGO accreditation <sup>to agency</sup> ~~committee~~: should be setup as per and AAC suggestions.
- Provide guidance of best practices and integration with CSR activities to reap their contributions.
- National accreditation <sup>to</sup> agency:- will hear complaints and grievances
  - Rating by this agency will improve channelizing legitimate funds to them.
  - As number of NGOs are increasing at exponential rate, we need specialized body
  - It will also away fears of government curbs on dissent, as this body would function independently

thus, clearly need of the hour is this agency, along with a holistic framework to regulate this sector.

(A)

17. Given the importance of a teacher in affecting the learning outcomes of children, discuss the problems in the present system of teacher training in India. How can these be addressed? (250 words) 15

बच्चों के अधिगम परिणाम को प्रभावित करने में शिक्षकों के महत्व को देखते हुए, भारत में शिक्षक प्रशिक्षण की वर्तमान प्रणाली में विद्यमान समस्याओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। इनसे कैसे निगटा जा सकता है?

(A) Teacher is keystone in education ecosystem. (s)he helps students to gain knowledge, skills and character.

however, as per National achievement survey learning outcomes in india are dismal. Important reason for this is issues with teacher education.

→ Outdated training Curriculums: many teacher

training institutions haven't updated to National framework curriculum.

→ Teacher education is dominated by private training institutes. where there is

lack of infrastructure, trained and attitude to produce best teachers.

further, they are marred with

corruption charges (JS Verma Committee)

- Lack of multi-disciplinary approach in the age of fast-paced changes.
- Lack of standardization in certificates.
- In-between trainings while in career are happening for name sake.

Though, government established National Council of Teacher Education, national curriculum framework and qualification norms, yet there is more to be done. These changes could be

- National teacher training university to produce best quality teachers.
- Multi-disciplinary approach in integration with technology and university Education.
- Stringent norms for teacher certification

along with entry-examination as per  
T.S.P. Subramanian committee.

- Life long learning and training must be given priority.
- utilization of SWAYAM and other MOOCs portal to train them.
- Emulation of best training norms from Finland and South Korea.
- frequent updation of National Curriculum Framework.

Recent initiative of merging teacher education into Samagra Shiksha abhiyan is timely one. Along with these, societal value towards teaching career need to be improved.

18. The implementation of a scheme with such scale and benefit as Ayushman Bharat is likely to face many obstacles. Critically discuss. (250 words) 15  
 आयुष्मान भारत जैसी अति व्यापक और लाभकारी योजना के कार्यान्वयन में कई बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

- (A) Ayushman Bharat comprises of two components
- ① National Health Protection Scheme (NHS)
  - ② Health and Wellness Centres

a) NHS and challenges

- NHS provides for
- Insurance cover for secondary and tertiary care.
  - covers 10 crore poor households (By SECC data)
  - Treatment would be provided in empanelled hospitals
  - covers illness as government decided (N1350 packages)

This would help poor households in accessing quality health care. Thereby preventing chronic poverty and inequality in our country.

however, mere scale of the scheme would face some hurdles.

- ① Accessibility : ✓ Rural and remote corners need to travel to cities to get treatment  
✓ farther, skewed distribution of quality and quantity care among Indian states  
It also an issue.
- ② Misuse due to information asymmetry:  
- Some greedy hospitals might misuse it by over diagnosis or unnecessary operations.
- ③ Creating awareness and eliminating inclusion and exclusion error among targeted households would be a challenge.
- ④ Robust IT infrastructure: setup for portability across states, along with human resource training need to be overcome
- ⑤ Lack of doctors: human resource deficiency in public and private hospitals is a major issue. (low doctor to patient ratio)  
These challenges could be overcome with periodic monitoring and evaluation.

Gram Sabhas and local bodies, NGOs could be roped in for IEC campaigns. Setting up an ombudsman is imperative to hear grievances and prevent misuse.

Further, gathering funds issue could be overcome by health cess (in recent) budget.

b

Health and Wellness Centres: Challenges

They will promote preventive and promotive health care. Hence, they will enable better living standards and reduce disease burden.

However, skewed distribution of population - health care infrastructure among rural - urban areas (Rural: 69% population, 33% health care facilities) is a big challenge.

IT and tele-medicine initiatives could be leveraged to overcome human resource challenges.

Nevertheless, sheer scale of benefits of Ayushman Bharat will help India to attain SDG 3

19. Given the fact that India cannot match China's financial clout, it is seen to be diversifying the ways in which it can enhance cooperation and promote its diplomatic profile in Africa. Discuss. (250 words) 15

इस तथ्य को देखते हुए कि भारत, चीन के वित्तीय प्रभुत्व की बराबरी नहीं कर सकता, यह देखा जा रहा है कि भारत ऐसे विविध तरीके अपना रहा है जिसके तहत यह अफ्रीका में सहयोग में वृद्धि और अपनी कूटनीतिक सक्रियता को बढ़ावा दे सके। चर्चा कीजिए।

① India - Africa cooperation goes back to history of colonization. In modern times, cooperation with Africa became key first multitude of common interests between India - Africa.

However, due to low on deep pockets, unlike China, India faces certain obstacles in

- Project delivery and implementation.
- Financing big infrastructure projects.
- Creating strong security architecture.

Nevertheless India is overcoming these hurdles through a multi-pronged approach

② Multilateral cooperation:

- under India-Africa Forum Summit to identify immediate goals of partnership

→ Via platforms like IBSA, UNO where India and Africa shows similar policy and development concerns.

→ Partnership with like minded countries: like Japan in Africa-Asia Growth Corridor.

② Capacity building: activities in education, health and Energy are giving positive dimension. Eg: Scholarship under India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and, Solar mamas, and International Solar Alliance (ISA).

③ Soft power deployment: India recognised role of this in shaping positive influence. Bollywood, yoga, and Tourism are shaping this perspective.

④ Non-aggressive posture: of India in Project delivery and recruitment of local

in development projects is segregating  
India from aggressive tactics of China. Thus,  
giving edge to India.

However, China has already made deep  
inroads into China. eg: Djibouti port:

So, India need to hasten its  
project delivery mechanisms as well  
as cut red tapism.

20. Discuss how American sanctions on its adversaries affect India. Taking the example of CAATSA, analyse how India can shield its strategic interests in face of such sanctions. (250 words) 15

चर्चा कीजिए कि अमेरिका द्वारा अपने विरोधियों पर लगाए जाने वाले प्रतिबंध भारत को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करते हैं। CAATSA का उदाहरण लेते हुए, विश्लेषण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार भारत ऐसे प्रतिबंधों की स्थिति में अपने रणनीतिक हितों की रक्षा कर सकता है।

(A)

Countering American Adversaries through Sanctions Act [CAATSA] is an American legislation targeting Iran, Russia and North Korea. This act imposes sanctions on these countries.

Though, this act doesn't have UN approval, yet it impacts India's interests

→ America is pressurising India to comply with the Act.

→ particularly, USA <sup>is</sup> opposing S-400 deal with Russia and forcing India to cut oil trade with Iran.

→ Further, India's Chabahar port project also came under pressure of U.S.A.

These items will affect India's

defence needs and Energy security.

hence, India clearly clarified to U.S.A that non-UN acts doesn't extend to India. India also underscored its strategic interests at recent 2+2 meeting.

India need to device an appropriate strategy to shield itself from such pressures. Elements of such policy could be

→ clearly stating <sup>that</sup> India's strategic autonomy ~~that~~ is paramount.

→ No non-UN acts, policies should be applied directly or indirectly to India.

→ persuading such ~~sa~~ countries, like U.S.A, by diplomatic means and utilizing lobbying power of Indian diaspora.

→ creating an 'hot-line' between key departments in order to clarify confusions.

→ Diversifying India's diplomatic outreach, as recently done at Wuhan Summit, Sochi Summit and Shangri la dialogue.

At these places India clearly focused on 'multi-alignment' approach.

→ strengthening our defence indigenisation and renewable energy programmes.

[Recent defence procurement policy clearly lays the path for indigenisation]

As international relations are becoming more transactional, India need to

focus on multi-alignment.