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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2086)

Name of Candidate	SHIVANSH SINGH	Registration Number	1153563
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Date	27-08-23
Center	Online		

### INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
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6	10	
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11	15	
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15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).  
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in HINDI & ENGLISH.  
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.  
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.  
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.  
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे 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।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Punjab & 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.

1. Contextual

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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

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

Recent debates around reforming collegium system has brought into limelight the question of judicial accountability.

### Arguments in favour of ensuring judicial accountability

- 1) Collegium is an extra-constitutional body where the Supreme Court judges themselves appoint other judges.
- 2) This creates a scope of favouritism & nepotism & lacks any objective criteria for selection.
- 3) There have been instances of judicial overreach i.e. judiciary performing executive functions. Eg - Banning liquor near highways
- 4) Judiciary is bestowed with vast powers which are required to be kept in check.

## Arguments against

- 1) Independence of judiciary is part of basic structure of constitution (SC cited in 4<sup>th</sup> judges cases declaring NJAC unconstitutional)
- 2) Independence of judiciary is essential to prevent tyranny of ~~exec~~ executive & uphold rule of law.
- 3) Judiciary is guardian & enforcer of constitution

CJI Chandrachud has rightly said that 'No institution is beyond reform'.

Thus there is need to review judicial accountability while at the same time ensuring its independence.

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

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

Fundamental Rights (FRs) are enforceable part of constitution (Part III) while DPSP (Part IV) are non-enforceable which often poses a question so as to which of them are supreme in case of a conflict.

### Conflict in FRs & DPSPs

1) 1<sup>st</sup> Constitutional amendment & addition of 9<sup>th</sup> Schedule were intended to safeguard some laws from judicial review (for violating FRs) to give effect to DPSP under Article 38 & 39

2) SC in Shankari Prasad case 1951 said that Parliament can amend FRs thus ensuring supremacy of DPSPs.

3) In Golaknath case 1967, paramountcy of FRs was restored by taking away power to amend FR

4) Finally, a compromise reached in Keshavananda Bharati case 1972 wherein SC said that FRs can be amended for DPSPs but without violating basic structure

5) In Minerva Mills case (1980), SC said that FRs & DPSPs should be implemented harmoniously & gave supremacy to Article 38, 39 over FRs under Article 14, 19.

Thus, as per Minerva Mills verdict FRs & DPSPs must not be seen as conflicting rather in harmony as both of them intend to ensure welfare of Indian citizens.

3. प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) द्वारा किए जाने वाले कार्यों और भारत में नीति-निर्माण को आकार देने में इसकी भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।  
Discuss the functions performed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and its role in shaping policy-making in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Prime Minister's office (PMO) is an executive body provided by PM with Cabinet Secretary as a member to ensure smooth functioning of government.

### Functions performed by PMO

- 1) Issuing directions to individual ministers & public servants for performing specific duties
- 2) Issuing directions & decisions taken in cabinet meetings
- 3) Important decisions regarding reshuffling of portfolio of ministers, immediate action on any emergency situation etc.

### Role in shaping policy - making

1) It brings out the decisions of cabinet in public sphere

2) Policy making through ordinance (Article 123) is announced by PMO

3) Most executive actions are issued by PMO & finally assented to by President.

Thus, PMO plays a pivotal role in policy shaping in India.

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

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

Section 124A provides for sedition law which is defined as "any words, symbols, gestures etc. which excites or attempt to excite disaffection against government established by law."

Recently, SC in S.G. Vombakere v/s Union of India (2022) case held section 124A in abeyance & asked government to reconsider its provisions.

Need for sedition law

- 1) Protecting sovereignty & integrity of India
- 2) Ensuring security of state

- 3) Fighting covert terrorism
- 4) Reasonable restrictions allowed under Article 19(2)

### Concerns with sedition law

- 1) Infringing upon the fundamental right of freedom of speech & expression
- 2) Endangers personal liberty (Article 21)
- 3) Ambiguous definition of 'sedition'
- 4) Prone to misuse for executive interests

### Way ahead

- 1) SC in Kedarnath Singh case (1962), suggested replacing the word 'disaffection' with 'violence'
- 2) Law commission recommendations —
  - i) Mandatory preliminary enquiry by inspector
  - ii) Increasing punishment from 3 to 7 years
  - iii) Implement suggestion of Kedarnath

CJI says 'Dissent is safety value of democracy' thus there is need to balance civil rights & national security

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

"Citizen participation is key to the success of e-governance initiatives in rural India." Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

As per 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC, e-governance refers to use of ICT in governance in order to enhance the effectiveness & productivity of public service delivery.

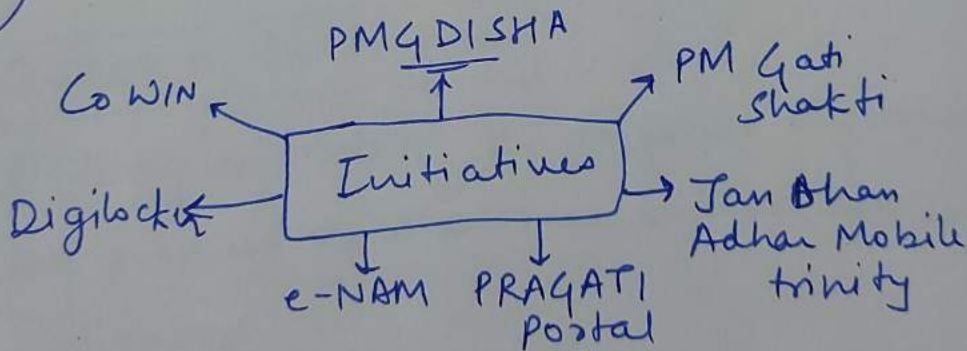
### Importance of citizen participation

- 1) Awareness of citizens is necessary to ensure effective utilisation of online resources.
- 2) As citizens are the ultimate beneficiaries, their acceptance of technology is vital for public service delivery.
- 3) It ensures best with delivery of services.
- 4) Cost effective & efficient implementation of schemes.
- 5) It ensures regular feedback from

citizens & swift action on grievances.

### Challenges

- 1) low internet access (around 40% population do not have access)
- 2) Digital divide on gender basis [46% women have internet as against 65% men as per NFHS-5]
- 3) Non-standardisation of e-governance
- 4) Siloisation of govt. departments
- 5) low awareness & digital literacy



Thus, e-governance holds the key to citizen centric administration.

6. आपके अनुसार आकांक्षी जिला कार्यक्रम अपनी शुरुआत के बाद से अपने उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति में कितना सफल रहा है?  
 How far do you think the Aspirational District Programme has been able to achieve its objectives since its inception? (Answer in 150 words) 10

NITI Aayog formulated the Aspirational Districts Programme currently covering 112 backward districts of the country.

### Objective

- 1) Ensuring the development of these districts is at par with other districts of the state
- 2) Ensuring progress w.r.t education, health, nutrition, agriculture & basic infrastructure

### Success of the Program

- 1) Many districts of the program reported improvement on most human development indicators
- 2) Some of the districts even emerged as models for neighbouring districts.

## Challenges

- 1) 90% of the districts covered under it are Naxal affected areas & most of them still remain underdeveloped due to Left Wing Extremism
- 2) Delayed devolution of funds is an issue.
- 3) Non-convergence with other development schemes
- 4) Private sector participation is very less.

Recently, aspirational block program was launched covering 500 most backward blocks in these districts thus providing fresh & targeted impetus to regional development.

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

NGO refers to any organization outside the government, which is a Not for profit organization & also not simply a political party as per UN.

Technology advancing the NGO sector

1) Mrida Education & Welfare actively uses digital platform to provide informal education to underprivileged children.

2) NGO Kruthi helped Koya tribe in devising textbooks in vernacular language using AI

3) Sikshasandhan NGO provides online education to tribal children

of Lodha & Dongaria Khurd community in naxal affected regions of Odisha.

### Benefits of using technology

- 1) Reaching the last mile delivery
- 2) Greater penetration of government schemes with help from NGOs
- 3) Ensure equitable development of under developed regions

Thus, technology in NGO sector promotes the Saptrishi goal of Reaching the last mile.

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

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

Recently, Deakin University of Australia announced that it will set up an overseas campus in India.

### Benefits of foreign educational institution

- 1) Provides world class education to Indian population
- 2) Saves cost of accessing the education in host country
- 3) Easy ~~in~~ integration of the workforce in global employment opportunities
- 4) Promotes collaboration among the partnering nations.

5) Development of new technology in collaboration with domestic institutions

6) Learning from best practices around the world.

### Challenges

- 1) Lack of access to a large population
- 2) Further exacerbate inequalities
- 3) Foreign education may not align with indian requirements.

Despite the challenges, these institutions provides an opportunity for educating versatile & future ready Indians.

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

The flourishing relationship between India and countries of Latin America has become a critical element of India's foreign policy. Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Relationship between India & Latin countries has flourished in recent times which provides opportunity for multifaceted development.

Importance of Latin American countries

1) Crucial supplier of crude oil

Eg - Venezuela

2) Necessary for cooperating on international fora as voice of global south.

3) Shared concerns of developing economy, climate change, maritime security etc.

4) Shared principles of democracy  
of rule based world order - Eg - Brazil

5) Important from the perspective  
of Indian diaspora residing in  
the countries.

Thus, the mutual cooperation will  
further boost the prosperity of  
economy of India.

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

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

Debt trap diplomacy refers to giving large unsustainable loans with a ulterior intention to trap the smaller nation as <sup>it</sup> would be unable to repay & infringing upon its sovereignty.

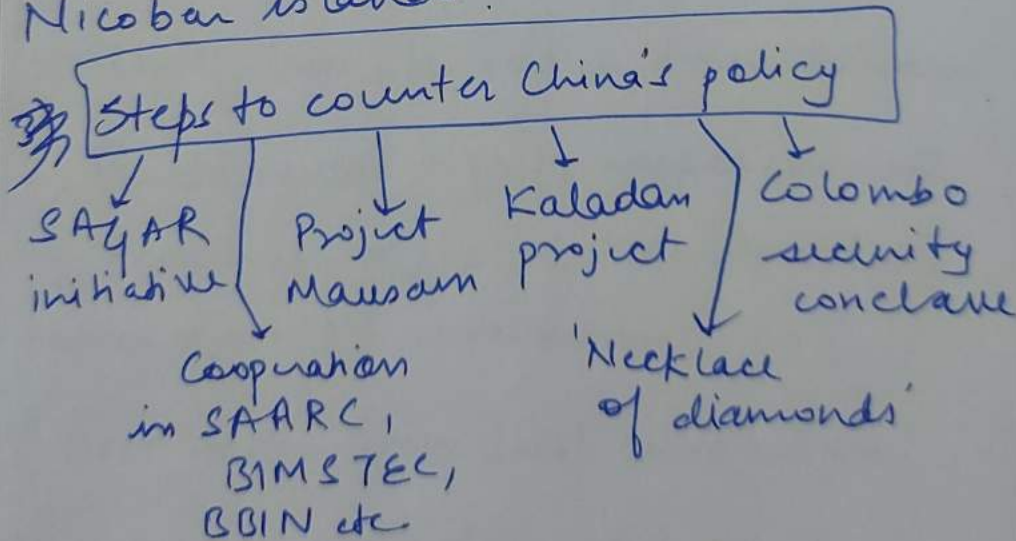
### China's debt trap diplomacy

- 1) Unsustainable loans to Sri Lanka & subsequently taking over its Hambantota port on lease for 99 yrs.
- 2) Control over Sittwe port & Chittagong port by investing in their development.
- 3) Taking over military base in Djibouti using debt trap diplomacy.

4) Creating a 'string of pearls'  
in Indian Ocean Region around  
India

### Implications for India

- 1) Neighbours dependent on China
- 2) Ports near India used for strategi-  
cally spying on India. Eg - In  
cocos island close to Andaman &  
Nicobar islands.



Thus, enhanced cooperation with  
neighbours is essential for countering  
China in ~~the~~ Indian Ocean Region.

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

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

15

Dr. BR Ambedkar proudly said in Constituent Assembly that our Constitution was framed after savoring about 60 constitutions of the world.

How our constitution is an amalgamation

- 1) Parliamentary form of government, rule of law etc taken from Britain
- 2) Fundamental Rights, impeachment of President, office of Vice President taken from US constitution
- 3) DPSP taken from Irish constitution
- 4) Unitary bias in federal polity from Canadian constitution.

- 5) Procedure established by law from Japanese constitution
- 6) Constitutional amendment procedure from South African constitution.

Various provisions highlighting core ideals of constitution

1) Social justice - largely by DPSP (Part IV) under Article 38 (govt must ensure social, economic & political justice) & Article 39 (equal opportunities for all). Further, Article 41 (public assistance), Article 42 (maternity benefit) etc. also promote social justice.

2) Pluralism - By promising Right to Freedom of Religion as a Fundamental Right (Article 25-28), respecting minorities (Article 29-30), prohibiting

discrimination (Article 15 & 16).

3) Equality - Article 14 [Equality before law & equal protection of laws] ensuring equal protection of rights along with positive discrimination.

Further Article 15 & 16 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth.

Thus, although <sup>our</sup> constitution is amalgamation of various other constitution yet socialistic, <sup>equality</sup> federal, secular principles are deeply imbibed in it as also declared by our preamble.

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

Recent developments have brought to light the issue of criminalizing marital rape in India. Analyse the implications of ensuring legal protection for victims of marital rape in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Marital rape refers to unconsensual sexual relationship between husband & wife on the pretext of marriage.

12. प्रश्न

Positives of legal protection for victims of marital rape

- 1) It ensures right to equality (Article 14) before law as difference on the basis of marriage is an arbitrary classification
- 2) It ensure bodily autonomy to females thus respecting their right to life & personal liberty (Article 21)
- 3) Rape must be construed as rape no matter what the context
- 4) Strengthens existing legislations like

Prohibition of dowry act 1961, Domestic violence act 2005 etc

5) Ensures sustainable population growth as women are empowered w.r.t to their body.

### Challenges of legal protection

- 1) Threatens to disrupt the social fabric of marriage which is a part of personal sphere.
- 2) Prone to misuse by filing false cases to extort money
- 3) Whether or not live-in relationships be a part of marriage under the legislation.
- 4) Political backlash as it could be seen as intrusion in personal laws

of various religions. Eg - Islamic laws prescribes 15 yrs as age of marriage

5) Whether or not the legislation should be gender neutral as traditionally only females are seen as victims of marital rape.

### Way ahead

- 1) Balancing between bodily autonomy & personal liberty along with sanctity of institution of marriage
- 2) Debates & discussion on the issue along with public consultation
- 3) Recently, Kerala high court declared marital rape as a ground for filing for divorce

Thus, the issue of marital rape must be dealt with utmost caution.

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

"The Indian model of federalism has been criticized for being too centralized, but it also provides adequate space and autonomy to the states." Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indian model of federalism has often been referred to as 'quasi-federal', 'federal with unitary bias' & 'semi-gemis'.

### Unitary features of Indian federalism

- 1) Single citizenship (dual in USA)
- 2) Office of Governor (appointed by centre but heads the state)
- 3) Emergency provisions (Article 352-360) where the ~~constituti~~ polity becomes completely unitary which is a unique feature of India.
- 4) Creation & abolition of states by simple majority in Parliament

under Article 2 & 3 .

5) Office of CAG (appointed by centre but audits accounts of both centre & states)

6) Integrated judiciary (SC at apex)

7) Residuary powers part of Union list (Entry 97)

Federal features respecting autonomy & space of states

1) Federal polity where states also derive their ~~constituta~~ powers from constitution

2) Relatively rigid constitution & assent of half states necessary for amending federal provisions

3) Finance Commission of India (FCI) acting as balancing wheel of fiscal federalism (Article 280) .

- 4) Article 263 provides for Inter State Council for active cooperation between centre & states
- 5) GST council with representation from each state
- 6) Consultation with state prior to changing its boundary
- 7) Zonal councils for 5 regions & NE council chaired by Home Minister to ensure collaboration among states.

### Way forward

- 1) Sarkaria commission → Security of ~~Fixed~~ tenure of governor  
→ President to mandatorily consult CM for appointment of governor
- 2) Punchhi commission → Impeachment procedure for governor as well  
↓  
Fixed time to assent to state bills (60 days)

Thus, we need to balance autonomy of states with national sovereignty & unity

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

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

15

Election Commission of India is a constitutional body formed under Article 324 for conducting & superintendence of elections to Parliament & State legislative assemblies.

Issues with current appointment system in Election Commission

1) The appointment was done unilaterally by executive wherein law minister recommended names to PM & he finally recommends one of them to President

2) Security of tenure was there only for Chief EC & not ECs.  
(5yrs/65yrs)

- 3) Reappointment by GoI hampers transparency of ECI
- 4) Appointment of senior bureaucrats in election commission.
- 5) No power to deregister political parties.

Supreme Court in 2022 directed the government in its judgement that henceforth the appointment of CEC & ECs will be done on recommendation of a committee consisting of —

- i) Prime Minister
- ii) Leader of Opposition
- iii) Chief Justice of India

Supreme Court cited the reason for verdict as —

- i) To fill 'legislative lacunae' as constitution empowers Parliament but no law made in this regard.

ii) Parliament is free to bring in a legislation for a proper appointment procedure for Election Commissioners.

### Implications of judgement

- 1) Transparency of ECI is ensured
- 2) Reinforcing the role of ECI as watchdog of democracy in India
- 3) Promoting checks & balances to check undue influence of executive
- 4) Participative procedure of selection

Recently, government tabled a bill in Rajya Sabha changing committee composition as —

- i) Prime Minister
- ii) Leader of Opposition
- iii) Cabinet Minister appointed by PM

Thus, the bill should be subjected to due deliberations before reaching a final law.

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

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

Civil services in India have often been referred to as a 'steel frame' but with opening up of economy, the civil services face unprecedented challenges.

Diversified challenges due to globalisation

- 1) Advent of modern technology - Civil servants are required to be well-versed with upcoming technologies to ensure effective governance
- 2) New & emerging threats - Opening of economy leads to threats of money laundering & cyber attacks.

- 3) Cross border terrorism - opening up of borders also leads to infiltration of terrorists in the country
- 4) Threats of radicalisation & disrupting public order by hosting misinformation on social media. Eg - Manipur crisis
- 5) Challenges to national economy due to global headwinds & volatile exchange rate
- 6) Prevailing corruption, red-tapism, bureaucratic delays, favoursitism, opaqueness etc. in the civil services

### Ahead of holistic reforms

- 1) To make the civil servants more agile & efficient, 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC suggests reducing maximum & attempts of age
- 2) Mid-career training to catch up with new technologies (2<sup>nd</sup> ARC)

3) Induction into services for 10 yrs followed by retaining a certain percentage purely on basis of performance (2<sup>nd</sup> ARC)

4) Civil Services Board to ensure transparency in posting & transfer of civil servants (TSR Subramanian case).

5) Compulsory retirement for underperforming civil servants (2<sup>nd</sup> ARC)

6) Recently government launched Mission Karmayogi to holistically train the civil servants for tackling modern day challenges (through its online platform iGOT)

Thus, all these steps are needed to prevent the ~~steel~~ steel frame from rusting.

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

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

Transparency & accountability are the primary facets for ensuring effective e-governance & open data plays a pivotal role to ensure it.

### Role of open data

- 1) It leads to public scrutiny of public policies & programs. Eg - PRAKATI portal
- 2) Provides government with accurate data for effective implementation of schemes. Eg - land records in SVAMITVA
- 3) Citizens can verify their data easily & as per requirement thus reducing discrepancies.

- 4) Resolves inclusion/exclusion errors & accurate inclusion of beneficiaries. Eg - PDS
- 5) Publicly available information regarding financial assets & interests of politicians & civil servants promotes accountability
- 6) Ensures citizen centric governance

### Challenges

- 1) Open data may be prone to ~~use~~ <sup>misuse</sup> by criminals.
- 2) False claims over the ~~data~~ details will lead more burdening of already overburdened judiciary.
- 3) Lack of access to internet (48% population do not have access) hampers quality & accuracy of data
- 4) Low digital literacy & awareness among the masses.

5) Balancing between transparency & accountability of government along with national security & public order.

### Way Ahead

- 1) Educating the masses in digital technology (PMGDISHA)
- 2) Public Wi Fi by government to ensure digital inclusivity
- 3) Proactively notifying citizens to confirm the open available data
- 4) ICT infrastructure & proper cyber security.

These steps will ensure that our e-governance will fulfill the vision of Amritkaal.

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

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

India ranked 107/121 on Global Hunger Index which highlights the issue of food security in India especially among children.

### Prevalence of 'zero food' children

1) As per NFHS-5, 32% children are underweight, 35% children are wasted & 19% children are stunted.

2) NFHS-5 also highlighted the issue of nutritional deficiency among children especially anaemia which has worsened.

3) 'zero food' refers to a situation where children are unable to get any meal for one or more time.

## Importance of maternal nutrition

- 1) Most of the physical & mental development takes place in womb of the mother
- 2) Maternal nutrition ensures proper nutrition of breastfeeding children.
- 3) Poor maternal nutrition is often associated high IMR & MMR
- 4) It also serves the purpose of fulfilling of nutritional need of women in India
- 5) As per NFHS-5, 59% women are anaemic India.

## Measures to ensure maternal nutrition

- 1) Maternal nutrition is an essential component of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

- 2) Inclusion of millets in POSHAN 2.0
- 3) PM Matru Vandana Yojana provides ₹ 5000 cash benefit to mothers on birth of 1<sup>st</sup> child.
- 4) PM Janani ~~Suraksha~~ Suraksha Yojana
- 5) Maintaining a real time database of all pregnant <sup>women</sup> mothers & <sup>recent</sup> pregnant mothers to ensure targetted delivery & better identification of beneficiary.
- 6) Digital inclusion & role of e-governance for monitoring implementation of schemes via social audit.

Thus, nutritional security of mothers will have cascading effect & will lead to nutritional security of entire India (SDG-2).

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

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

15

As per WHO, a rare disease is a disease whose prevalence ~~two~~ is less than 0.5% in a population.

### Concerns related to rare diseases

- 1) Lack of proper healthcare infrastructure to provide treatment for such diseases.
- 2) Expensive medicines due to its rare nature
- 3) Unavailability of drugs & medicines in domestic market
- 4) Large out of pocket expenditure on treatment of rare diseases which a normal citizen cannot afford
- 5) Low expertise among healthcare

professionals about the symptoms & diagnosis of such diseases.

6) Difficult to eradicate as many of them are genetic in nature & thus persists in generations.

7) Lack of standard guidelines to deal with such diseases.

### Steps to resolve these issues

- 1) Removal of custom duty on their import is a commendable step
- 2) Providing benefits to such patients under a separate category of government sharing a part of their expenditure based on their economic condition.
- 3) Incentivising pharmaceutical industry to produce such drugs domestically

4) Cooperation with other nations for easy import of the drugs.

5) Specialisation in rare diseases can be created on MD level of education.

These steps would ensure inclusive development & further the Saptrishi goal of inclusive growth.

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

Indo-Pacific region is often debated but generally agreed to extend from Eastern coast of West East Africa to Western Pacific.

Various countries & their stakes in the region

1) India - located almost strategically at the centre of Indian ocean our interests in the region include:

i) 90% of our international trade passes through the IOR

ii) It is essential for our maritime security

iii) Presence of manganese rich polymetallic nodules & India recently

got right from ISA to mine them.

iv) Many of our steel industries, power plants are located in coastal region

2) China is trying to exert its influence in IOR through policies like String of Pearls & BRI undermining the interests

of India. Moreover, it claims 90% of South China through its 9 dash line

3) Eastern African countries like Somalia & islands like Mauritius want to ensure maritime security & curb illegal trade.

4) South Asian countries are largely affected by climate change & assertion of China.

5) South East Asian nations are concerned over Strait of Malacca as it is a strategic corridor for passage of most of international trade.

### Collaborations among IOR countries

- 1) Security & growth for all in the Region (SAGAR) initiative by India to ensure maritime & trade security
- 2) Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) - Indian, Sri Lanka, Maldives & Mauritius
- 3) Groupings like SAARC, BIMSTEC & ASEAN
- 4) RCEP & IPEF for economic cooperation in IOR
- 5) Project Mausam for cultural connection.

Thus, balancing the interest of various stakeholders is necessary for equitable development of IOR.

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

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

North-Eastern region of India shares 99% of its borders with other nations which provides an opportunity to connect <sup>with</sup> neighbours but it has security implications as well.

Internal & external challenges in NE India

i) Internal - i) Ethnic conflict among different tribes. Eg - Kuki - Meitei conflict

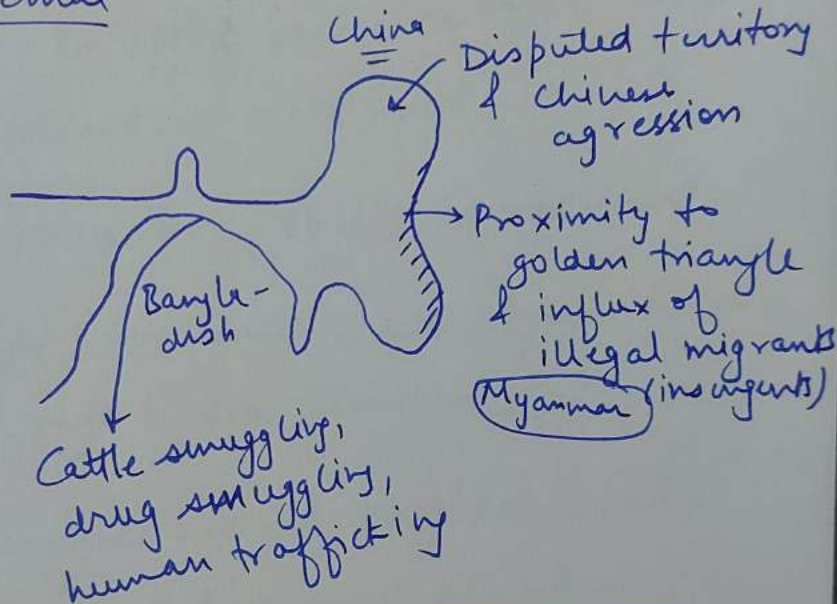
ii) Organized crime in the region like drug cartels in Tripura, Meghalaya

iii) Difficult terrain & porous borders act as impediment for development activities.

iv) Nexus between politicians & organized criminals & also with insurgents

v) low penetration of industries (20%) and less employment opportunities

## 2) External



## Initiatives to address the challenges

1) Operation All Clear with Bangladesh & Operation Sun Rise with Myanmar to drive out insurgents

2) Kaladan multimodal project connecting Kolkata to Sittwe port

in Myanmar & to Mizoram via  
Kaladan river

3) India Myanmar Thailand trilateral  
highway from Moreh in Manipur  
to Maesot in Thailand

4) PM-DEVINE scheme for holistic  
development of northeast

5) BBIN motor vehicle agreement

6) Ganga Vides river cruise from Varanasi  
to Dibrugarh via Bangladesh

These connectivity & development  
initiatives will ensure holistic  
development of NE & fresh impetus  
to our Act East Policy .