



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1418)

Name of Candidate	SALONI VERMA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	746 224
Center	online	Date	12-12-2020

### 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, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी 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।

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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.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

1. Discuss the need to strengthen the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to tackle the problems faced by the Scheduled Castes in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में अनुसूचित जातियों द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं से निपटने के लिए राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग को सशक्त बनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is established by Article 338 of the constitution.

### Need for strengthening

- 1) Crimes against SCs have been on rising trend as per NCRB report
- 2) Genuine empowerment has been elusive — Lokesh committee observes that benefits of reservation have been appropriated by few.
- 3) Culturally — Bhimia Koregaon clashes show cultural aspirations
- 4) Economic — SCs make up of 90% of manual scavengers.

5) Weakness in NCSC

advisory  
jurisdiction

overlapping jurisdiction  
with NHRC

### Measures needed

1) NCSC - while exercising powers of a civil court - should have provision of fast track courts to expedite remedy

2) Government should consult NCSC before introducing laws for SCs.

3) NCSC staff - training, capacity building and infrastructure aug-mentation

As SCs make up 16% of population (Census 2011), upholding their rights by NCSC is imperative for rule of law.

2. Does the Representation of People's Act ensure an effective mechanism against criminalization of politics in India? Discuss. (150 words) 10  
क्या लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण के विरुद्ध एक प्रभावी तंत्र सुनिश्चित करता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

The Representation of People Act 1951 was enacted under Parliament's power to control the conduct of elections (Art 327).

### Mechanism of RPA

- i) disqualified candidate convicted for
  - i) promoting enmity between groups
  - ii) committing a social crime (like rape)
  - iii) getting convicted against acts like MAFPA 1967

2) electoral offences - booth tampering, voter intimidation, fraudulent information etc.

Recently, in Lily Thomas case,

Supreme Court further reformed RPA

4) Sec 123 of RPA 1951 - non disclosure

of assets → "corrupt practice"

Effectiveness

1) criminalisation has been increasing -  
43% MB in 17th Lok Sabha have  
criminal background.

2) use of money and muscle power is  
also unabated (Lokniti survey).

Way Forward

1) ECI demands - amend RPA 1951  
to make  bribery an cognisable offence

2) include print media in section  
126 of RP act.

3) Suggestions of Suresh Goswami  
committee - state funding of  
elections.

3. Discuss the challenges that are being faced by Gram Nyayalayas in their effective functioning. (150 words) 10

ग्राम न्यायालयों द्वारा प्रभावी रूप से कार्य करने में सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

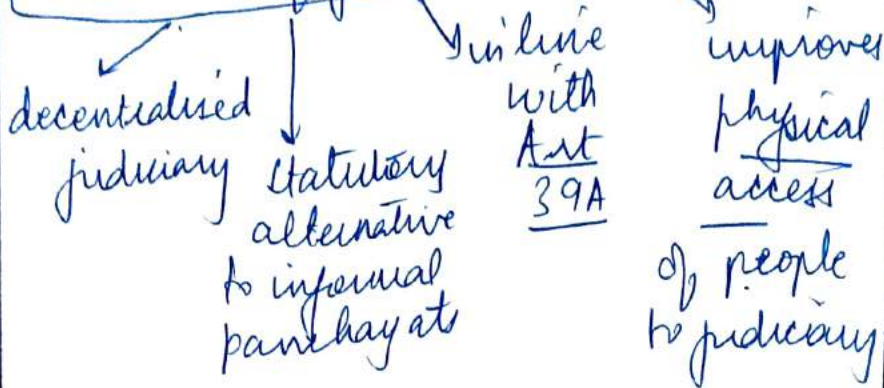
Gram Nyayalayas gain statutory backing from the Gram Nyayalaya Act 2008. They are a form of alternate dispute resolution.

### Challenges

- 1) not all states have established them:  
not a single nyayalaya in North East
- 2) 3Fs problem
  - funds - inadequate devolution of funds by states
  - ii) functions - they have been overburdened - judicial delay
  - iii) functionaries - gram nyaya-dhikaris lack training.
- 3) lack of awareness in local masses

4) low case disposal rate.

### Potential of gram nyayalayas



### Measures needed

- i) training of gram nyayadhikaris
- ii) building infrastructure - separate building
- iii) conferences, seminars to increase awareness
- iv) compulsory service as Gram Nyayadhikaris for new judicial officers.

The All India Judicial Service (Art 312) can be a good reform for gram nyayalayas.

4. Explain the rationale behind setting up 'Alternative Mechanisms' in ensuring effective decision making in the governance of the country. (150 words) 10

देश के शासन में प्रभावी निर्णयन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 'वैकल्पिक तंत्र' स्थापित करने का औचित्य स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Recently, alternative mechanisms like social audits, citizen charters, gram sabhas and 'jan sunwais' are gaining prominence in decision making.

### Rationale

- 1) Article 40 → village level governance → effective decentralisation
- 2) improves participative democracy
- 3) feedback from people → better grievance redressal
- 4) improves public trust in the government creating better adherence for reform.

- 1) information age - citizens aspire for greater involvement in polity
- 2) political education and empowerment of the masses

A recent example of the same is National Education Policy

2020 -

- i) Kashmirangan committee
- ii) executive cabinet oversight
- iii) Draft policy sent to public domain for feedback

to make it more effective

1) statutory incorporation of pre and post legislative scrutiny of major acts

2) regular updation of citizen charter

5. The relationship between bureaucracy and democracy is both paradoxical and complementary. Comment. (150 words) 10  
नौकरशाही और लोकतंत्र के बीच संबंध विरोधाभासी और अनुपूरक दोनों हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The bureaucracy is the permanent executive in a democracy — has primary role of policy implementation.

### Paradoxical role

- 1) License Raj of post independent India → stunted democratic growth in terms of corruption, centralisation of power etc
- 2) bureaucrats — hierarchical approach → less in touch with needs of the masses.
- 3) woy tenner approach, rigidity of rules, emphasis on process over results. are other examples.

Complementary role

1) PM Modi launched Karmayogi program to enhance the role of bureaucracy in democracy.

2) bureaucracy facilitates democracy by

effective  
policy  
implementation

grievance  
redressal

First  
line of contact  
of government  
for people.

expertise  
of local  
conditions

↓  
aids  
policy  
making

3) to further enhance this role, need for red tape → red carpet,

opacity → transparency and e governance is needed.

As Sardar Patel held,  
the bureaucracy is the steel frame  
of the world's largest democracy:  
India.

6. By transforming the way governments work and reinventing people's participation in the democratic process, e-governance empowers the citizen in multiple ways. Discuss in the context of India. (150 words) 10
- सरकारों के काम करने के तरीके में परिवर्तन और लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया में लोगों की भागीदारी का पुनर्निर्माण करके, ई-शासन अनेक प्रकार से नागरिकों को सशक्त बनाता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

E-governance refers to the usage of information and communication technologies in facilitating good governance.

Transforming the way governments work

1) National e-governance plan (2006) envisages the following -

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| i) Cloud by Default               | } State data centres,<br>m-governance portals<br>etc |
| ii) Mobile First                  |  |
| iii) ICT infrastructure on demand |  |
| iv) Integrated services           |  |

2) Examples - NREKA-SOFT, UMANG,

DigiLocker, m Kisan.

## Reinventing people's participation

- 1) decentralisation of information
- 2) faster complaint filing - online FIR
- 3) increased transparency - online RTI
- 4) democratisation of access - India has 2nd largest internet users in the world.

## Some short comings

- 1) Internet penetration - 65% in urban, 40% in rural India
- 2) need to leverage emerging technologies like AI and blockchain.

E Kranti 2.0 launched by government aims at putting citizen at the centre of governance for economic, social and political empowerment.

7. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 dilutes the spirit of Supreme Court's NALSA judgement towards self-determination of gender. Discuss. (150 words) 10

उभयलिंगी व्यक्ति (अधिकारों का संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 2019 लिंग के आत्मनिर्धारण के प्रति उच्चतम न्यायालय के नालसा (NALSA) निर्णय की भावना को कमजोर करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

### Transgender Persons Act 2019

aims at realising Article 15 (no discrimination) and Article 21 (right to dignity) for transgender.

### Dilution of NALSA judgement

1) NALSA judgement → promoted self certification as 'transgender' without need for medical certificate

2) The Act → transgender's self certification needs to be verified by a district magistrate.

3) Also, act doesn't allow identification as intersex, bisexual etc — only one category of transgender.

4) Reservation has also not been provided

### Positives of act

- 1) National transgender council with representation of the community
- 2) prohibition of discrimination against transgender in education, health, residence, employment.
- 3) Set up special screening centres for health needs of transgender
- 4) no medical certificate required for certification as transgender.

The Act is a step in the right direction. It can be complemented with provisions for sexual violence and economic employment for transgender.

8. The worthwhile goal of Universal Health Coverage can be achieved by declaring the right to health as a fundamental right. Comment. (150 words) 10

स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार को एक मूल अधिकार घोषित करके सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य कवरेज के सार्थक लक्ष्य को प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Unlike the Right to Education Act 2005 that made education a fundamental right (Art 21A), no such provision exists for health.

Universal Health coverage (UHC)

i) is a goal of National Health Policy 2017 — i) PM Jan Arogya Yojana

Primary Health Centres

Health insurance for secondary and tertiary care

ii) needs increase on budgetary allocation to health to 2.5% of GDP by 2022.

Declaration of UHC as fundamental Right

- 1) in line with Article 47 of constitution
- 2) shows political will to UHC
- 3) empowers people to avail writ remedy (Art 32/226) if UHC is not provided
- 4) will make the equity, access and affordability of health a constitutional mandate

However, mere fundamental right status may not be enough. It may also increase judicial burden.

Need of the hour is to implement schemes like eSanjivani, Indradhanush mission, SABLA etc properly to achieve UHC.

9. Indian Diaspora in the Gulf countries is an asset beset with multiple challenges. Comment. (150 words) 10

खाड़ी देशों में भारतीय डायस्पोरा अनेक चुनौतियों से घिरी एक परिमंपत्ति है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

According to world Bank, India is the recipient of the largest amount of remittances in the world; bulk of it comes from Indian diaspora in Gulf countries.

Indian diaspora → asset

- 1) remittances — improved incomes, investments eg: Kerala's GDP has major contribution from diaspora
- 2) social capital — diaspora inculcate skills and capital to promote prosperity in hometowns
- 3) soft power — cultural popularity of Bollywood in middle East.

## Challenges

- 1) Economic - lack of social security,  
low wages
- 2) COVID-19, wars etc - distress  
migration to India
- 3) trafficking of vulnerable sections  
to Gulf
- 4) Terrorist recruitments, brain  
drain are other challenges

PM Modi's Look West  
policy along with schemes like  
Pravasi Bhartiya Divas and  
Skilling returned migrants (ASER  
portal) are crucial to balance  
the benefits and constraints  
of gulf diaspora.

10. Briefly outline the genesis and functioning of World Food Programme (WFP). Also highlight its contribution to India's effort in addressing the issue of hunger and malnutrition. (150 words) 10

विश्व खाद्य कार्यक्रम (WFP) की उत्पत्ति और कार्यप्रणाली की संक्षिप्त रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, भूख और कुपोषण की समस्या को दूर करने के भारत के प्रयासों में इसके योगदान पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

Recently, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the World Food Program.

Genesis and functioning

- 1) originated in post world war II scenario → to tackle food insecurity
- 2) it is an organ of the United Nations
- 3) It is the largest humanitarian food aid initiative in the world
- 4) Multisectoral impact — tie ups with governments, civil societies, private organisations and people.

Methods - food aid, policy advocacy  
awareness campaigns etc.

### Contribution to India

- 1) food parcels in emergency times  
like 1962 Indo China war
- 2) research support on malnutrition  
and policy imperatives
- 3) best practices and global ~~pr~~  
innovations to improve India's  
food security.

As a result, India has  
improved from producing 50  
million tonnes of food in 1950 to  
275 million tonnes in 2019.

11. Action against civil society groups is seen as shrinking space for dissent by some while others point out to the imperatives of merit based action against certain groups. Examine with examples. (250 words) 15

कुछ लोगों द्वारा नागरिक समाज समूहों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई को असहमति के लिए कम होती स्वीकार्यता के रूप में देखा जाता है, जबकि अन्य लोग कतिपय समूहों के विरुद्ध गुणावगुण आधारित कार्रवाई की अनिवार्यता की ओर इंगित करते हैं। उदाहरण सहित परीक्षण कीजिए।

Civil society is called as the third organ of the state by the UN.

It includes voluntary organisations like NGOs, trade unions, think tanks, human rights advocacy groups etc.

Recent action against civil society groups

1) Cancelling Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's bid to partner with PASHAN Abhiyaan

2) FARA 2010 proceedings against Amnesty International.

3) Amended FCRA - FCRA 2019 - strict restrictions on funding of civil society organisations.

These actions - shrinking dissent?

1) civil society groups promote people's participation and expose lacunae in government policy.

2) Right to speech and expression, form cooperatives and associations - fundamental right (Art 19).

However, recent actions are merit based actions as

1) scrupulous funding → money laundering

2) IB report - motivated protests by NGOs → losses of 2-3% of GDP

3) Conversely, government promotes numerous civil society groups too - i) Akshaya Patra is a partner in mid day meal scheme

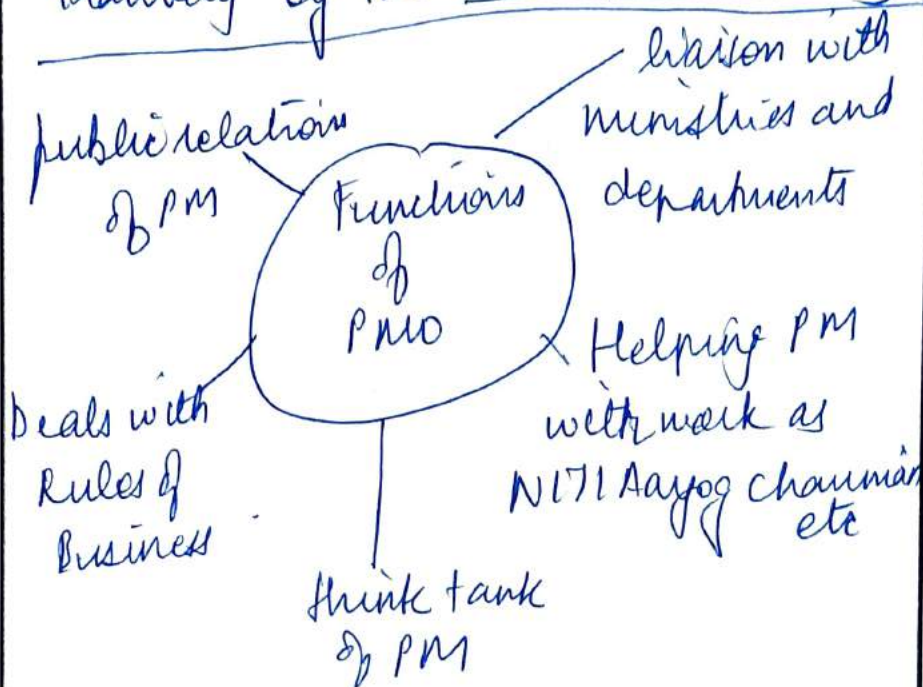
ii) Seva Bhoj Scheme - promotes religious and charitable organisations by exempting their GST.

Thus, civil society groups need to have integrity in their working. National Policy on Voluntary Sector (2007) is a step in the right direction which civil society groups should endorse.

12. Discuss the implications associated with the Prime Minister's Office acting as the most powerful office due to its formidable influence in policymaking in India. (250 words) 15

भारत में नीति-निर्माण में अपने अत्यधिक प्रभाव के कारण प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय के सर्वाधिक शक्तिशाली कार्यालय के रूप में कार्य करने से संबद्ध निहितार्थों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Prime Minister's Office is headed politically by the PM and administratively by the Principle Secretary.



PMO as most important office

- 1) PM heads Appointments Committee, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Economic Affairs,

Security etc

2) This makes PM, and by consequence Pmo in charge of vital policy functions.

3) It also varies with leadership abilities of PM.

Positive Implications

1) Pmo promotes coordination between different ministries / departments.

2) enables PM to be effective as the head of the government.

3) puts national interest at the fore-front of policy.

4) expertise of the finest bureaucrats is available to Pmo.

- Concerns
- 1) may erode separation of powers (Article 50 of Constitution)
  - 2) centralisation of power leads to lesser space for opposition.

### Current context

Concurrent steps like citizen involvement through my gov. in and mann ki Baat, Inter State Council and NITI Aayog for cooperative federalism ensure that the PMO is effectively augmenting administration and policy making in India.

13. While judiciary's efforts to infuse accountability in the functioning of government institutions and engender human rights jurisprudence demonstrate the importance of judicial governance, it also leads to concerns around judicial overreach. Discuss. (250 words) 15
- जहाँ सरकारी संस्थानों के कार्यकरण में जवाबदेही का संबन्ध करने और मानवाधिकार न्यायशास्त्र उत्पन्न करने का न्यायपालिका का प्रयास न्यायिक शासन का महत्व प्रदर्शित करता है, वहीं यह न्यायिक अतिक्रमण के चतुर्दिक विंताओं को भी जन्म देता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

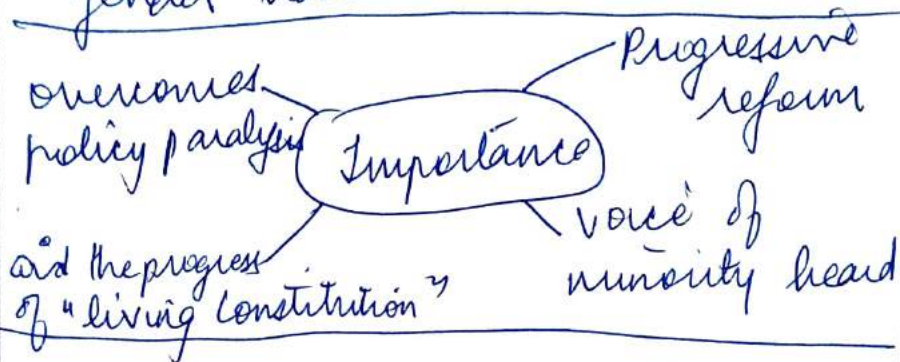
Writ petitions (Art 32, 226),  
Special leave Petitions (Art 137) and  
Complete Justice (Art 142) have  
empowered judiciary to demonstrate  
judicial governance.

Accountability in government institutions

- 1) Basic Structure doctrine (1973) —  
check on legislative
- 2) Judgements in Utiy Thomas Case  
(2013) → electoral reform
- 3) SR Bommai case (1994), Nabia  
Rebam case (2016), IR Coelho  
Case (2007) → checks on government  
and executive -

## Gender Human Rights Jurisprudence

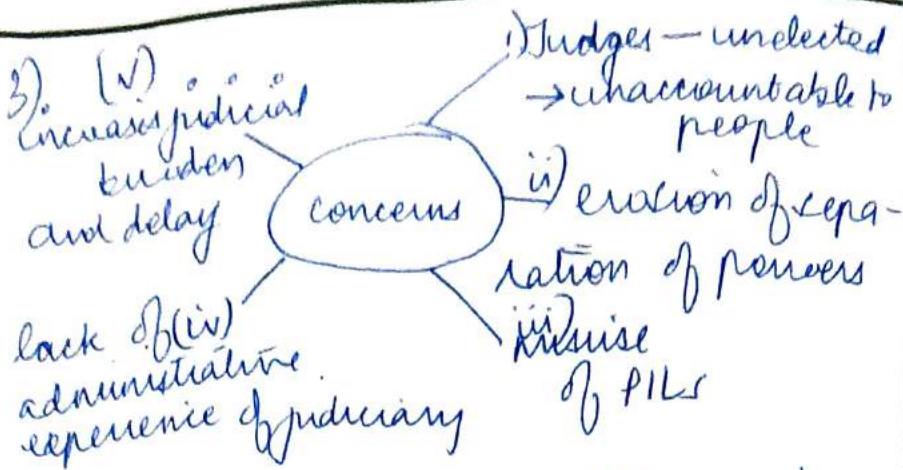
- 1) Nalsa vs UOI - decriminalisation of ~~Art~~ Sec 377 of IPC
- 2) Shafiq Jahan case - Right to marry
- 3) Vishaka guidelines (1997) - gender harassment at workplace



## Concerns of judicial overreach

When judicial activism transgresses the domains of legislative/executive → overreach

2) Examples - SC banning diesel vehicles, bursting of firecrackers for Diwali, coal auctions etc.



4) Experts like P. B. Mehta opine that it may lead to misuse of judicial remedies

Way Forward Eminent jurist Soli Sorabji suggests

1) sparing use of special leave petition

2) discarding frivolous PILs

3) upholding constitutional dictat of separation of powers (Art-50)

4) government can bring out a white paper on the efficacy of judicial activism.



from undermining judiciary for political interests

5) Ultimately, it upholds faith of common man on justice

[If orders of judiciary are not followed, mockery of justice → decreased faith of litigants]

### Criticism

1) currently, courts themselves decide on what constitutes contempt

2) muzzle free speech under Art 19 of constitution

3) misuse of contempt of court to shut down criticism

4) Even judiciary itself is not free from corruption - criticism is required

2) Internationally - modern democracies like USA and England have no such provision.

### Way forward

1) Pandit Tarkun Das Bhargava in Constituent Assembly Debates said that contempt of court should be used sparingly.

2) amend Contempt of Court Act 1971 to incorporate 'Mens Rea' as a ground for assessing contempt.

3) the Act has provision for exception → fair and accurate reporting or fair criticism - this should be adhered to by the judiciary.

15. What are the legal concerns associated with custodial violence? Discuss the challenges in curbing such incidents. Also, suggest some ways to address this issue. (250 words) 15

अभिरक्षा में हिंसा से संबद्ध विधिक चिंताएं क्या हैं? ऐसी घटनाओं पर अंकुश लगाने में सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, इस समस्या का समाधान करने हेतु कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

As per India Annual Report on Torture 2019, an average of 5 people die due to custodial violence every day in India.

Custodial violence refers to extra legal, extrajudicial usage of brute force against a suspect/convict by law enforcement agencies.

Legal concerns

- 1) In Δ K Basu case (1996), Supreme Court held that custodial violence is against the rule of law
- 2) legal impunity to associated police staff — extremely slow

rate of conviction

3) Torture is not defined in the  
IPC 1860

4) India has not ~~defeated~~ <sup>ratified</sup> the  
UN Convention Against Torture 1984

5) Law Commission's Prevention of  
Torture Bill 2016 was not paid  
adequate consideration

Challenges in curbing such incidents

1) public morality — retribution/  
vengeance may be desired

2) slow legal process — custodial  
violence seems to be easy way to  
extract confession

3) difficult to gather witnesses against  
police

4) Lack of ethical training of police force  
 of lack of modern infrastructure,  
inadequate personnel and poor  
working conditions of police

Ways to address this

1) Legal - ratify UN torture convention  
 and codify a law

2) administrative - implement Prakash  
Singh (2006) reforms for upgrading  
 the police - modern forensics.

3) Human Rights courts can fast  
 track such cases

Curbing custodial violence  
 is imperative to uphold Art  
14 (equal protection of laws) and  
 protection to convicts under Art 20 and 22.

16. Civil society interventions, ranging from confrontation to engagement with the government, have played an important role in ushering transparency and accountability in governance in India. Discuss with examples.

(250 words) 15

सरकार के साथ टकराव से लेकर जुड़ाव तक सिविल सोसाइटी के हस्तक्षेपों ने भारत में शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही का सूत्रपात करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

The World Bank defines civil society as a wide range of formal and informal organisations dedicated to improving economic, social and administrative aspects of society.

### Confrontational interventions

1) Protests - Narmada Bachao Andolan and Chipko movement lead to greater stress on environmental impact assessments in environmental governance.

2) Legal - Vishakha and others  
vs. State of Rajasthan (1997) →  
civil society groups fought the law →  
Vishakha guidelines and Sexual  
Harassment at workplace Act 2013

3) Dissent - Mazdoor Kisan Shakti  
Sangathan of Rajasthan lead to  
the Right to Information Act 2005

### Engagement with government

1) women's rights - Bhartiya Muslimin  
Mahila Andolan worked with government  
→ Triple Talag Act (2020)

2) Business - FICCI and CII → inputs  
to government on more transparent  
Corporate Governance rules

However, sometimes civil society organisations have harmed governance too —

- 1) Kundalukam protests in Tamil Nadu were allegedly orchestrated by Greenpeace
- 2) IB Report → fraudulent activities of NGOs lead to losses of 2-3% of GDP every year.

3) Civil society organisations flout FCRA (2010) guidelines

inadequate transparency and accountability of civil society organisations

Way Forward As seen in COVID-19 pandemic, civil society support is vital; however, it should also adhere to relevant regulations.

17. When it comes to hunger, India faces the paradox of plenty. Discuss. Also suggest ways in which this concern can be addressed. (250 words) 15

जब भूखमरी की बात आती है, भारत को प्रचुरता के विरोधामाम का सामना करना पड़ता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए, जिनके माध्यम से इस चिंता का समाधान किया जा सकता है।

India's food production has increased from 50 MT in 1950 to 275 MT in 2019. Despite plenty produce, India ranks 94/107 countries in Global Hunger Index; hunger levels termed as 'serious'.

Reasons for this paradox

1) poverty - 20% according to Tendulkar line → thwarts access to food

2) illiteracy - women lack knowledge about importance of good dietary practices

3) Administrative - leakages in PDS,

lack of diversified meals in midday meal

4) Affordability — good quality food is unaffordable for the urban poor (17%, as per census 2011)

5) social — marginalisation of tribes, manual scavengers from food shops in some villages

6) Agriculture — emphasis on cereals  
→ stagnant/reducing farm income  
→ less income for food

7) Hidden hunger — eg: 250% women are anaemic

8) climate change, Out of pocket expenditure on health are other reasons with ancillary effect.

Ways to address concern

1) Indigenous, local solutions — eg:

Breast milk bank in Tamil Nadu

2) Awareness campaigns on the lines  
of "Roz Khao Ande (Eggs everyday)"

3) Digitisation, JAM trinity for  
proper implementation of government  
schemes.

4) Skill development, promoting  
non-farm employment to increase  
incomes of people.

5) Community kitchens at Gram  
Panchayat level with SHG  
involvement.

Government measures like  
PM Garib Kalyan, Food fortification,  
Fair Price Shops, One Nation One  
Ration Card are steps in the Right  
Direction to achieve Sustainable  
Development goal 2 (zero hunger)

18. What is the role of wage employment in alleviating poverty? How is the MGNREGA different from the earlier Wage Employment Programmes in India? (250 words) 15

निर्धनता उन्मूलन में मजदूरी रोजगार की क्या भूमिका है? मनरेगा (MGNREGA) भारत में पहले के मजदूरी रोजगार कार्यक्रमों से कैसे भिन्न है?

In its Human Development Index (2019), United Nations lauded the role of wage employment (MGNREGA) in alleviating poverty in India.

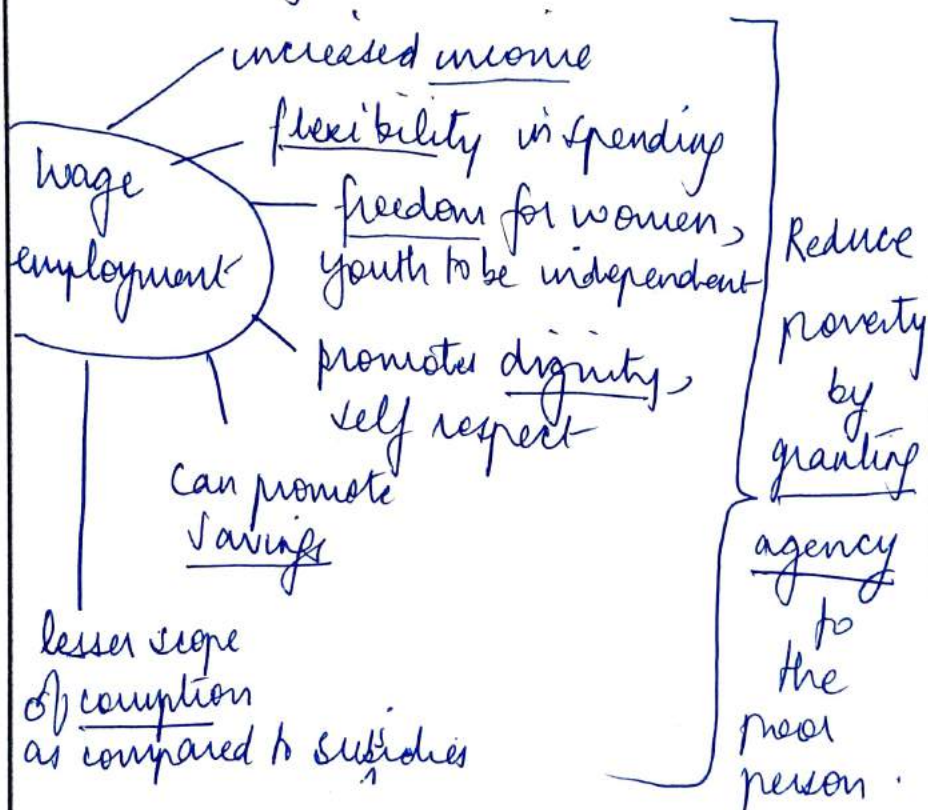


Fig 1: How wage employment alleviates poverty

**MGNREGA** — food for work programme,  
introduced under MGNREGA act 2005

Earlier wage employment programs	MGNREGA
1) <u>ad hoc</u> , executive measures	<u>statutory</u> <u>backing</u>
2) work on the basis of <u>availability</u>	work on <u>demand</u>
3) no stipulated <u>working days</u>	<u>Guaranteed</u> 100 days of work
4) no provision of <u>delay allowance</u>	state government to pay <u>compensation</u> if work not given
5) wages decided arbitrarily	wages linked to CPI - AL
6) relatively <u>centralised</u>	wage to material ratio maintained at <u>district level</u>

However, MANREGA has lacunae like

- 1) delayed wage payment
- 2) wage lesser than national minimum pay in many states
- 3) average days a worker is employed is 44 [less than stipulated 100]
- 4) CPI-AL → outdated index for determining wage

Economic Survey 2019-20 recommends linking MANREGA wage to ~~CPI-U~~ CPI-R for better wage realisation. Other government steps like DBT payment, infrastructure assets development make MANREGA distinct and more impactful than predecessors.

19. China's aggressiveness in recent times presents not only challenges to India but also opportunities to strengthen itself internationally and domestically. Discuss. (250 words) 15

हाल के दिनों में चीनी आक्रामकता न केवल भारत के लिए चुनौतियाँ खड़ी करती है बल्कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और घरेलू स्तर पर अपने आपको सशक्त बनाने का अवसर भी प्रदान करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Xi Jinping's 'Chinese Dream' and assertive 'middle kingdom complex' presents opportunities and challenges for India.

Recent aggressiveness

- 1) incursion into Ladakh, Doklam standoff
- 2) expansion of China Pakistan economic corridor through Indian territory
- 3) String of Pearls around India : eg: Hambantota airport Sri Lanka
- 4) Refusal to let India join NPT
- 5) ~~for~~ mobilising neighbours like Nepal and Maldives to become pro China
- 6) Trade - aggressive takeovers, spying etc.

Challenges

- 1) territorial sovereignty, maintain safety
- 2) economic strength - dependence on China for Rare earth materials
- 3) Health - medical device and active pharmaceutical ingredient imports
- 4) political - China meddling in North East insurgency
- 5) International - South China Sea dispute has trade repercussions for India.

Opportunities for international strengthening

- 1) Strategic partnerships - QUAD, blue dot network to ensure united response
- 2) bilateral - increasing outreach to Africa and Latin America;
- 3) International - As WHO Executive Board Chairman, India can push

for fair investigation into origins of COVID 19

Opportunities for domestic strengthening

- 1) Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan - to self dependence and play lead role in global value chains
- 2) Strengthen military infrastructure  
- SOI & IT ~~&~~ CIBMS are good steps and
- 3) ban on Chinese mobile apps - space for Indian tech startups to generate alternatives like JioMart
- 4) incentives to Indian industry and agriculture through GI tags to give India exports edge.

As a rising great power, India should balance domestic and international strengths to be unparalleled leader of Indo Pacific and resist Chinese aggression.

20. Trade and connectivity hold the key for India to better engage its neighbours. Examine the opportunities and challenges in South Asia in this context. **(250 words) 15**

व्यापार और कनेक्टिविटी, भारत के लिए अपने पड़ोसियों से बेहतर तरीके से जुड़ने का सामर्थ्य रखती है। इस संदर्भ में दक्षिण एशिया में अवसरों और चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

In a globalising world of complex interdependence, trade and connectivity are the best ways to strengthen relations.

### Opportunities

1) South Asia — politically and militarily fragmented but economic compulsions can drive closeness.

2) BIMSTEC — along with BBIN, India Myanmar Thailand Highway — improve physical connectivity

3) Trade → as the AECAN model shows, trade can harness compli-  
mentarities.

For eg: — jute from Bangladesh,

Processing in India, Cheap labour from Nepal → Synergies in export market.

- 4) India's novel opportunities
- ↳ largest economy in the region
  - ↳ neighbourhood first vision
  - ↳ demographic dividend
  - ↳ has technological, industrial strength to lead the way
  - ↳ new challenges like need for renewable energy

### Challenges

- 1) Pakistan issue — puts initiatives in limbo like SARIC
- 2) unaid looking, rivalrous nature of South Asian economies — Bhutan is yet to give consent to BRIN
- 3) multifaceted challenges — poverty,

hunger, migrant issue (Rohingyas),  
social divides etc hinders a unified  
outlook

4) Smaller neighbours fear the 'big  
brother syndrome' of India.

5) Inadequate Finance network,  
red tapism and slow progress on  
existing projects like Mangdechhu  
project of Bhutan.

Way Forward 1) India should  
harness soft power - Buddhism,  
Hinduism, literature to generate  
goodwill and cooperation

2) confidence building measures  
like military exercises, diplomatic  
summits and fast implementation  
of projects is the need of the hour.