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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1067)

Name of Candidate	Jayant Nohata		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	247939
Center	Online	Date	4/9/18

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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3	10	
4	10	
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9	10	
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11	15	
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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
दोषाचल ि/ु गं वखत वं गं गंनह एा निस गं
- All questions are compulsory.
लहह ि/ु वं वुतः/गं
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
लरः द ि/ु वं वं द वं द ल द ल कसु न, x, गं
- 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 माधे एा ि/ु क तुस पं ग, ि ल द क मं यं द क आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक उगं िे यं कं
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना पं ग, A
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर ि/ु ल द क एा ि/ु कं नं वं क गं वं क ि "B : k ml ds vdk ds Li "V : ि ल द क वं तुक पं ग, A

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

M-1/4, Plot No-A-12/13, 1st Floor, Ansal Building, Dr. Vidya Sagar Homeopathic Clinic, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

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

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

1. What is the role that opposition plays in a democracy like India? In this context, discuss whether our Parliament can benefit from a shadow cabinet. (150 words) 10

भारत जैसे लोकतंत्र में विपक्ष क्या भूमिका निभाता है? इस संदर्भ में, चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या हमारी संसद छाया मंत्रिमंडल (शैडो कैबिनेट) से लाभान्वित हो सकती है।

Ambedkar had said that the Parliament should belong to the Opposition to hold the government accountable.

The role of opposition in democracy →

- ① Criticizes government excesses in legislative actions such as Aadhaar ~~Act~~ Act (Right to Privacy) in Question hour, zero hour.
- ② ~~It~~ Holds the Executive (Council of Ministers) actions to account eg. Corruption cases, Rafale deal etc. via Motions & Resolutions
- ③ Presents holistic & opposing view points on government bills / executive action.
- ④ Puts forward the views of minorities or sidelined classes.
- ⑤ Stops speedy & non-carefully drafted bills. ⑥ Crucial role in Parliamentary Committees

- ① Ensures that government has confidence of people via No-confidence Motions.
- ② Bring urgent issues to debate via Motions (Adjournment motion etc)

The Shadow cabinet is a feature of British Parliament in which the opposition has a counter cabinet with each member having specific ministerial issue ~~resp~~ responsibility.

India can benefit from it →

- ① Will build expertise of the opposition members.
- ② Prepares opposition for future ministerial role.
- ③ Boosts constructive criticism of government.
- ④ Provides for a stable alternative option in case the government loses confidence of House.

Thus, India can benefit from the tradition of shadow cabinet & there's need to incorporate it.

2. Where there is a right, there is a remedy. In this context, discuss the nature and significance of writs in India with adequate examples. (150 words) 10

जहाँ अधिकार है, वहाँ उपचार भी है। इस संदर्भ में, यथोचित उदाहरणों के साथ भारत में रिटों की प्रकृति और महत्व की चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 32 of the Indian Constitution provides for Constitutional remedy against violation of fundamental rights. Similarly, Article 226 provides the High Courts power to issue writs for other matters along with FR enforcement.

There are 5 type of writs →

- Habeas Corpus - to prevent illegal detention of executive
- Prohibition - to protect judicial over-reach
- Quo-Warrants - to ensure legitimacy of legislative, judicial or executive action.
- Certiorari - transfer cases from lower courts
- Mandamus - to direct fulfillment of legal duties.

The writs are / can be issued against any organ of the government for fulfillment of FR & other matters of importance.

They hold huge significance →

- The failure to issue Habeas Corpus writ during Emergency jeopardised human rights.
- Prohibition writ prevents over-reach by ^{lower} courts in deciding cases outside their mandate.
- The SC mandamus decree ^{against} for ministers forces them to fulfill their duties.
- Certiorari was issued to transfer Godhra cases outside Gujarat for a fairer probe.

Thus, the significance of writs is paramount to uphold the principles of Justice.

3. Enumerate the objectives of NITI Aayog. Also, discuss the performance of this body since its inception and suggest measures to make it more effective. (150 words) 10

NITI आयोग के उद्देश्यों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। साथ ही, इसकी स्थापना के बाद से इस निकाय के प्रदर्शन की चर्चा कीजिए एवं इसे और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के उपाय सुझाइये।

NITI Aayog as a policy making body was established replacing the erstwhile Planning Commission.

Its Objectives are →

- ① To work as a policy formulation institution & advisor to Central & State Government.
- ② To enhance Cooperative Federalism & Team India approach for holistic & inclusive development trajectory.
- ③ To bring expert opinions, civil society views & government thinking on a common platform for deliberation & action.

The body has performed very well →

- ① Released various policies like Draft Model Contract Farming Act, Land Leasing laws, Policy on AI etc.

- ② Released various benchmarks such as Livability index, Ease of doing business across states.
- ③ Working with States to transform education & health via SATH E program, Aspirational Districts Program.
- ④ Brought in experts like Bibek Debroy, ~~Aravind~~ Rajiv Kumar (Current VC)
- ⑤ Increased private sector role in planning/implementation. However issues of centralisation, scope of work/mandate, issues of elitism prevails.

Measures →

- ① More members from State Government.
- ② Incorporate members / special invites of NGOs like MKSS etc.
- ③ Coordination with think tanks like ORF, IDSA etc.
- ④ Increased financial autonomy & say in government decision making.

4. In view of the political class's inability to develop and maintain conventions relating to the appropriate use of Article 356, the Supreme Court's decision in the Bommai case provided much needed clarity. Comment. (150 words) 10

अनुच्छेद 356 के उचित उपयोग से संबंधित परिपाटी विकसित करने और उसे बनाए रखने में राजनीतिक वर्ग की अक्षमता को देखते हुए, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा बोम्मई वाद में दिए गए निर्णय ने अत्यावश्यक स्पष्टता प्रदान की है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Article 356 which was envisioned as a 'dead letter' has been used extensively to declare President's rule in States e.g. Indira Gandhi in 1980 dismissed & State Government (Non-Congress).

• It has been used more than 115 times till date in context of ideological differences, opportunism & party politics.

• Use of Governor's office to impose A356.

The S.C in Bommai case, 1994 outlined various guidelines →

• A356 to be used as a "measure of last resort".

• The confidence of government to be checked via floor test & not Governor's discretion.

• Only suspension of State Legislature can be affected until the Parliament approves

It, there can be no dissolution.

- o The Council of Ministers advise to President will not be injured but the report on which President takes decision can be demanded to prove facts & compelling circumstances.
- o ~~There~~ The action of President on A356 imposition is subject to judicial review on grounds of malafide intentions & non-application of mind.
- o The court can restore the dissolved legislature / executive in case of impropriety use of A356.
- o It declared Federalism as basic structure.
The recent restoration of the Assam Pradesh Assembly was according to Bommai judgement. Judicial activism has played a crucial role to have a stronger Indian federation in absence of political cohesion & propriety.

5. Press freedom and good governance are not mutually exclusive. They support each other while promoting a country's economic and human development. Comment. (150 words) 10

प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता और सुशासन परस्पर अपवर्जी नहीं हैं। देश के आर्थिक और मानव विकास को प्रोत्साहित करते हुए ये एक-दूसरे को समर्थन प्रदान करते हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Press freedom is enshrined under Article 19's Freedom of Speech.

Nobun said that he would prefer a free press & no government over a government with no free press. This shows the importance of press freedom.

There have been some criticism of press as anti-theoretical to good governance →

- Inhibits due justice via character assassination on media channels
- Encourages populist measures by government.
- Media ~~is~~ ^{is} critical to important foreign policy moves preventary Article 51 mandate of international peace eg. Adverse views on China, USA etc.

However, ~~they~~ good governance can be effected using press →

o To bring the viewpoints of all class of citizens like poor, marginalised.
eg. In Triple Taley debates.

o To criticize government omissions & mistakes eg. Durny Crop failure & farmer distress.

o Brings expert opinions on critical issues

o Its essential to balance Economic development with rights of the people.
eg. Narmada issue coverage in national debate.

o Criticizes government corruption eg. 2G, Coal auction etc.

o Investigative journalism. eg. By Indian Express in Panama Paper leaks.

Its rightly called as the 4th estate of the government essential to country's economic & human development.

6. SHGs have succeeded in delivering financial inclusion, but for them to evolve as viable business enterprise requires a different approach. Analyse in the context of the twin goals of rural growth and promotion of women's entrepreneurship. (150 words) 10

SHGs ने वित्तीय समावेशन प्रदान करने में सफलता प्राप्त की है, लेकिन उनके लिए व्यवहार्य व्यापार उद्यम के रूप में विकसित होने के लिए एक भिन्न दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है। ग्रामीण विकास और महिला उद्यमिता के संवर्द्धन के जुड़वाँ लक्ष्यों के संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

SHG's or Self Help Groups have come a long way since NABARD & SEWA collaborated in 1990s. They have succeeded in financial inclusion with more than 4 million SHG-bank linkages established. They provide micro loans to women entrepreneurs, improve financial literacy, saving habits, investment opportunities & pooled collateral.

However for true rural growth, there's need of transformation of SHG's into viable business entities which focus not just on financial inclusion. Their mandate should be to be profitable, have correct business plans, invest funds where there is viable rate of return, prevent consumption expenditure. Goals of viability thus needs to be pursued than mere financial access via bank linkage.

Steps in this regard can include →

- ① Financial training of women entrepreneurs.
- ② Skill training under NSDC, National Apprenticeship Program of government.
- ③ Viable micro enterprise creation in apparel, leather, footwear etc.
- ④ Prevent membership in more than 1 SHGs.
- ⑤ Audit of expenditure of loans sanctioned.
- ⑥ Prevent politicisation of SHG movement staying true to Grameen Bank led model of Bangladesh

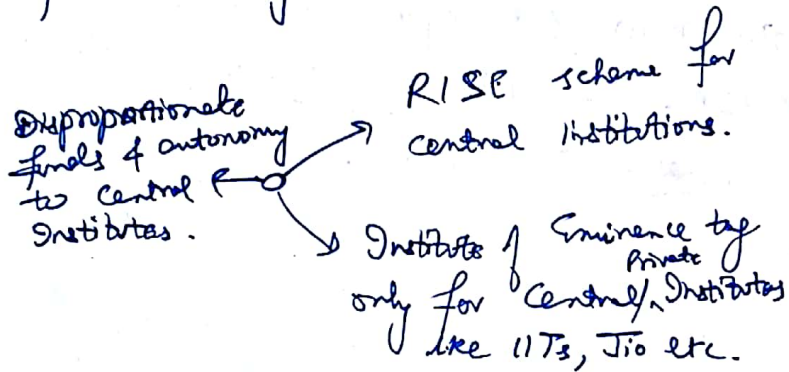
All these steps would help sustain the SHGs & balance rural growth & women entrepreneurship!

7. The focus of higher education in India has been on a select few Central or autonomous institutions where as the ones in states remain neglected. Commenting on the statement, highlight the significance of Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in this context. (150 words) 10

भारत में उच्च शिक्षा का ध्यान कुछ चुनिंदा केंद्रीय या स्वायत्त संस्थानों पर केंद्रित रहा है, जबकि राज्यों में स्थित संस्थान उपेक्षित रहे हैं। इस कथन पर टिप्पणी करते हुए, इस संदर्भ में राष्ट्रीय उच्चतर शिक्षा अभियान (RUSA) के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Higher education is important to develop the human capital in India.

The focus lately has been inequal.



The RUSA in this regard aims to strengthen both Central & State institutions →

- ① Upgrade infrastructure viz buildings, libraries etc.
- ② Provision of scholarships to students.

- ① Provision of vocational training in State Institutions.
- ② Greater funds to State Institutions like Mohargya Agrasen College in Delhi.

The States which have erstwhile lacked proper funds & infrastructure will now get equal benefits under RUSA. This will democratize higher education in India.

8. Discuss the role played by PRIs in political empowerment of women. Also, suggest measures to further increase their political participation. (150 words)

10

महिलाओं के राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण में PRIs (पंचायती राज संस्थाएं) द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका की चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उनकी राजनीतिक भागीदारी को और अधिक बढ़ाने के उपाय सुझाइए।

The Panchayati Raj Institutions established under Article 243 have been transformational for women via provision of 33% reservation.

Role played

- ① Ministry of Panchayati Raj Study, 2007 indicated that women have gained immense political & social dividends from PRIs.
- ① They have gained economic empowerment on getting ~~to~~ elected (salary) & political empowerment.
- ① Cases of domestic violence has reduced.
- ① Attracted more women to PRIs meetings.
- ① PRIs act as platform for emergence of women political leaders at State & National

level.

eg. Chhavi Rajawat of Soda village, Rajasthan
(Sarpanch)

Measures

- ① Capacity building of women PRT
representatives.
Recently, MoWCD has started such a
program.
- ② Greater awareness about reservation
- ③ Curbing the issue of proxy women
where men dictate ~~for~~ actions to women.
- ④ 33% reservation in Parliament + State
legislatures. Currently only 11.3% in Lok Sabha.
- ⑤ Recent, Ujjwala scheme for LPG give
women more time to engage in political
affairs.
- ⑥ All these steps would increase women
political voice + participation.

9. What is Strategic Autonomy? Critically examine the elements of such a policy in India's contemporary foreign policy in the context of recent developments. (150 words) 10

रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता क्या है? हाल के घटनाक्रमों के संदर्भ में भारत की समकालीन विदेश नीति में ऐसी नीति के तत्वों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Strategic autonomy implies that a nation pursues its long term goals without getting sided in a particular military bloc (like NATO) or an alliance to ~~serve~~ serve its interests & take principled stance on various issues.

Strategic autonomy is just a new phrase for Non-Alignment that India has been pursuing since the Bandung Conference in 1955.

Elements

① Principled stand: India voted against USA ^{& Israel} in UNGA resolution regarding ~~to~~ USA's acceptance of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. This despite India being major defence partner of both.

- ② Indo-Pacific strategy: PM Modi at Shangri La said ~~is~~ India's strategy is a positive one & not directed against a alliance or a particular nation (China).
- ③ Non-Militarisation of QUAD & refusal of Australia's accession in Malabar Exercise.
- ④ Maintaining Russia & US ties: Opposing CAATSA mandate of USA & going ahead with S-400 purchase.
- ⑤ Defying USA's Paris ^{agreement} exist & JCPOA
- ⑥ Despite West pressure, sided with Myanmar on Rohingya issue for its own interests.
- ⑦ Aligning with both Global South & Global North simultaneously.

~~Thus~~ Strategic autonomy by India has had certain failures such as non-commitment of support by West on Doklam crisis, tariffs on steel by USA, lack of waiver by USA.

10. IBSA and BRICS are both examples of India's quest for multialignment, however there are key differences in their orientation. Discuss in the context of the relevance of these groupings for India. (150 words) 10

IBSA और BRICS दोनों भारत के बहुपक्षीय संरेखण (मल्टीएलाइन्मेंट) की तलाश के उदाहरण हैं, हालांकि उनके अभिविन्यास में मौलिक अंतर है। भारत के लिए इन समूहों की प्रासंगिकता के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

IBSA excluded China & Russia
has ~~Brazil~~, India, Russia, China apart
from Brazil & S. Africa.

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(इस अंतर में
कुछ भी लिखें)

11. What are the various modes of Alternate Dispute Redressal (ADR) mechanisms available in India? Identifying the problems being faced by them, provide suggestions needed to increase their effectiveness. (250 words) 15

भारत में उपलब्ध वैकल्पिक विवाद निवारण (ADR) तंत्र के विभिन्न रूप क्या हैं? इनके द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं की पहचान करते हुए, इनकी प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के लिए आवश्यक सुझाव प्रदान कीजिए।

Alternative Dispute ~~Resol~~ Redressal (ADR) is recommended by 2nd ARC & NITI 3 year action agenda for addressing the 3 crore cases backlog in the Judiciary.

Various Modes of ADR (to bypass the formal SC/HC/Subordinate Courts hierarchy) are →

- ① Lok Adalats to deal with issues such as labour disputes, matrimony etc.
- ② Family Courts to deal with divorces, alimony issues etc.
- ③ Gram Nyayalaya Act for cases at the level of villages.
- ④ Arbitration & Conciliation Act for corporate cases.

⑤ Judicial remedies under 6th schedule
areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram.

However, there are various issues being
faced by them →

- ① Lack of personnel & dependence on
State Government.
- ② Inadequate infrastructure of courtrooms,
land etc. ③ Increased pendency due to backlog
- ③ Financial dependence on governments.
- ④ Lack of awareness by people.
- ⑤ Limited mandate under acts for
cases upto certain monetary threshold,
only non-criminal cases etc.
- ⑥ Lack of political will & judicial enthusiasm.
- ⑦ Judicial activism of transfer of cases from
ADR courts to themselves using writs of
certiorari, prohibition etc.

Steps

- ① Increased financial autonomy.
- ② Increase awareness via radio campaigns, ads etc.
- ③ ^{make it} Mandatory for certain class of cases to be filed in ADR courts first.
- ④ Enhance mandate of these mechanism increasing monetary/legal thresholds.
- ⑤ Appropriate infrastructure creation
- ⑥ Use of ICT to reduce pendency.

All these steps would help revive ADR methods & decrease burden on higher judiciary to have access to ^{timely} justice to all!

12. While the power to punish for the contempt of court is a much needed tool to protect the administration of justice from being maligned, it is time that it be relooked into. Critically analyse. (250 words) 15

हालांकि न्यायालय की अवमानना के लिए दंडित करने की शक्ति न्याय के प्रशासन को निन्दा से बचाने के लिए बहुत ही आवश्यक उपकरण है, लेकिन समय आ गया है कि इस पर पुनर्विचार किया जाए। आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Judicial independence is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

→ Contempt of Court punishments form an important tool to deter malign statements & non-adherence to Court's orders.

→ It includes civil as well as criminal punishments for its contempt.

→ It serves the purpose of maintaining the integrity, dignity & honour of the Courts along with preventing obstructions in the delivery of Justice & procedures of the Court.

→ It prevents politically motivated statements, journalistic over-reach that undermines the functioning of the Court.

However, there are issues involved →

→ Popular sovereignty enshrined in Preamble gets harmed if ordinary citizens are punished & rights of unelected judges gain supremacy!

→ The freedom of speech ~~especially~~ guaranteed in Article 19 gets violated.

→ Press freedom is curtailed.

PM Nixon said he would prefer press without government than a government without free press.

→ Cases of Judicial Over-reach barring publishing genuine reports of corruption
eg. Ghazalabad Provident Fund Scam.

→ Independence & Accountability has to go hand in hand. Contempt provisions militates against accountability.

Thus, there is a need to relook into the issue to balance fundamental rights & popular sovereignty along with judicial independence & accountability.

Steps can be taken such as →

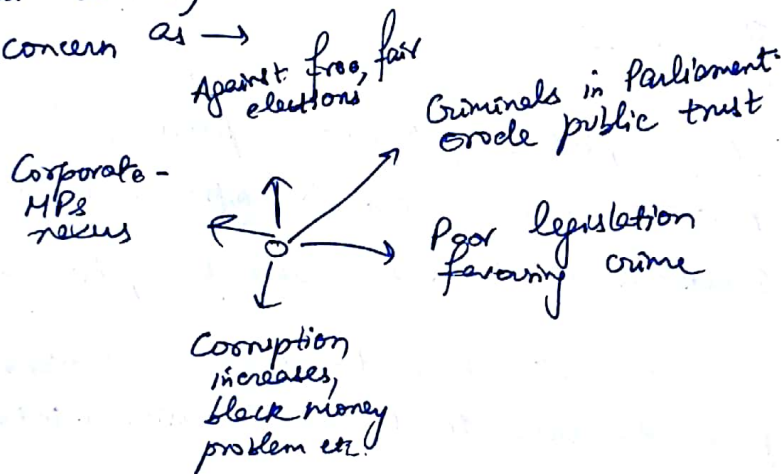
- o Judicial Standards & Accountability Bill to have provisions that allows free press & opinions.
- o Punishments only in the nature of civil cases & not criminal cases.
- o Allowing truthful reports of judicial corruption, genuine issues etc.

13. Criminalisation of politics remains a key concern for the Indian political system. In this context, analyse the role played by the Supreme Court and Election Commission over the years. Also, in what ways can the media play a positive role? (250 words) 15

राजनीति का अपराधीकरण भारतीय राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के लिए चिंता का एक प्रमुख विषय बना हुआ है। इस संदर्भ में, विगत वर्षों में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय और निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, किस प्रकार मीडिया एक सकारात्मक भूमिका का निर्वाह कर सकता है?

The Association for Democratic Reforms says that 34% of all MP's in current Lok Sabha have criminal charges against them.

In this context, criminalisation remains a key concern as →



Due to the above issues, ~~sup~~ numerous steps have been taken →.

Supreme Court (SC)① ADR vs UoI Case, 2002

SC made it mandatory to file affidavits by candidates revealing their criminal cases, convictions etc.

② Lily Thomas Case

Automatic disqualification of sitting MPs in case of conviction for a minimum 2 years.

③ NOTA, 2013 judgement providing for NOTA (None of above) option in all elections of legislative assemblies, Lok Sabha.

④ Recent deliberations to cancel memberships, poll symbols to candidates with criminal charges.

Election Commission

① Introduction of NOTA, VVPATs etc.

② Transparency in political funding →
- Upper limits on expenditure (70 lakh / 28 lakh for Parliament / SLA)

- Rs. 20,000 limit for cash donations

③ Strengthening of poll booth management
with strong rooms etc.

④ Disqualification as in RPA, 1951 act
- for conviction in corruption, bribery, social
enmity etc.

⑤ EVMs to prevent to bogus votes.

Media can play a huge role →

◦ Highlight the pending cases / convictions of
all parties before elections.

◦ Mention conflicts of interest on ownership of
channel.

◦ Curb / self regulate the paid news

◦ Name & shame politicians / candidates with
charges.

Thus, with the effort of all stakeholders,
the criminalisation of politics can be minimized.

14. Highlight, in brief, the mandate of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM). Identify the different challenges that the commission faces and suggest measures to address them. (250 words) 15

संक्षेप में, राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग (NCM) के अधिदेश पर प्रकाश डालिए। आयोग द्वारा सामना की जा रही विभिन्न चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए और उनके समाधान करने के उपाय सुझाइए।

The National Commission of Minorities Act, 1993 established NCM for safeguard of minorities interests.

Mandate

- ① To look into complaints of injustice against minorities.
- ② To monitor the development of the minorities.
- ③ Monitor safeguards (Constitutional & Statutory) & recommend additional step.
- ④ Prepare & submit reports
- ⑤ Promotional/ Legal & Research work.

Challenges faced by NCM

- ① It is not a Constitutional body unlike NCSC or NCST thus has various handicaps

- ② No power to investigate into specific
- ③ ^{Complain} ~~lacks power~~ to participate in planning for development of minorities.
- ③ No power to take up suo moto inquiries.
- ④ Lacks power of civil courts (unlike NCSC/ST) to summon officials, have evidences, enforce attendance.
- ⑤ Its reports are not tabled timely.
eg. Last report tabled in Parliament was in 1996.
- ⑥ Only advisory powers.
- ⑦ Dependent on finances & administrative support from government.
- ⑧ Lacks appropriate strength & appointments by government.

Measures to address the challenges →

- ① Giving a constitutional status to have minorities faith in the body.
- ② Giving powers of civil court.
- ③ Inclusion in the planning process for minorities in State & Central levels.

- ④ Amendment in NCM Act to have time mentioned for tabling its reports.
- ⑤ Independent staff & powers of appointment.
- ⑥ Requisite funds to be provided.
- ⑦ Make its recommendations binding in certain civil cases.

In the light of rising majoritarianism & vigilantism against Muslims, Christians etc. rising mob violence, there's need to strengthen the NCM upholding the secular credentials mentioned in Article 21, 25-30 & the Preamble!

15. The recent decision of the government to open up positions at the senior levels in bureaucracy through lateral entry is an important but only small step in the direction of much needed reforms in the higher civil services. Analyse. (250 words) 15

पार्श्व प्रवेश के माध्यम से नौकरशाही में वरिष्ठ स्तर के पदों को खोलने का सरकार का हालिया निर्णय उच्चतर सिविल सेवाओं में अति आवश्यक सुधारों की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण, किन्तु केवल एक छोटा-सा कदम है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Ministry of Personnel recently invited Lateral Entries for post of Joint Secretaries.

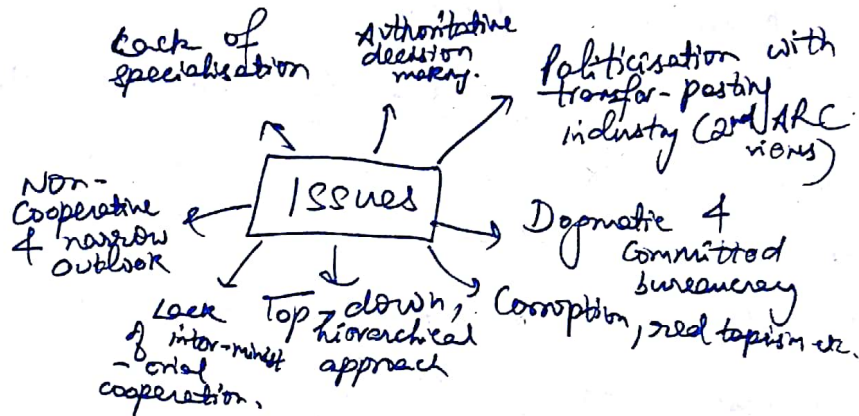
However, it's not unique to India & not happening for 1st time as Montok Singh, Manmohan Singh (former finance Secretary & PM) were also lateral entrants.

Lateral Entry is important step because →

- ① Infuses specialized talent and as per recommendations of 2nd ARC
- ② Generalist IAS officers find difficult to draft policies in increasingly complex matters of trade, security etc.
- ③ Infuse competition among administrators.
- ④ New ideas & viewpoints in ministries.
- ⑤ Professionalisation of civil services.

- ⑥ Broader outlook & expertise in fields like nuclear disarmament, agriculture, biotechnology etc.

However, it's only a small step as there are other ^{layer} issues in the civil services.



In light of these issues, there is need for reforms as suggested by Hota Committee, Santaman Committee & 2nd ARC like →

- ① Establishment of Civil Services Board for transfer posting.
- ② NCRCW recommends generalising some of specialists & specialising some of generalists.
- ③ Breaking of silos via Group of Secretaries.
- ④ E-Governance to cut red tape eg. PRAGATI initiative.

- ⑤ Tradition of field visits to replace idea of committees & meetings.
- ⑥ Amendment in Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) to protect honest officials.

The government has taken steps such as 360° performance appraisal, amendments in PCA act to have prior sanction & collusion bribery punished, E-Governance tools like PRAGATI etc.

Thus, following all the steps, the steal frame of the government can be further strengthened.

16. Identifying the broad contours of the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme, explain how it adopts a novel strategy to address backwardness. (250 words) 15

'आकांक्षी जिलों के रूपांतरण' कार्यक्रम की व्यापक रूपरेखा की पहचान करते हुए, व्याख्या कीजिए कि यह पिछड़ेपन से निपटने के लिए किस प्रकार नवीन रणनीति अपनाता है।

The Aspirational Districts Program by NITI Aayog is a unique & transformative approach to targeted development of backward areas.

It comes in the backdrop of less than potential growth $< 8\%$, poverty & hunger issues criticality in few districts, development dragged down ^{by few districts} & failure of trickle down approach to development.

The broad contours of the program →

- ① 115 districts across the country chosen
- ② Minimum 1 district from each state to have inclusive strategy.
- ③ Having a targeted approach with

Complimentarity among various schemes
of the government.

(4) All the 35 LWE affected districts
included. ^(with Wipro Extremism)

(5) To produce tangible benefits in the
field of Education, Health (especially nutrition),
poverty, hunger.

(6) Having a Pradhan Officer of Centre attached
to each district

The Novelty of the program lies in →

(1) Monitoring: following a 'Delta' or
incremental change approach to measure
performance rather than the conventional
absolute performance benchmarks.

(2) Tying up with private sector for
CSR funds, technology, supply chain support,
consultation.

(3) Ranking of all districts across various
parameters in Education, Health etc.

- ④ Complimentarity of schemes to produce holistic outcomes
- ⑤
- ⑤ Prabhuji officers (from Central Government) to coordinate with local level bureaucrats, state secretariat, DMs ~~for~~ → Federalism being co-operative!

Thus, the scheme is ambitious & has a unique approach. It would be prudent to ~~to~~ allocate sufficient funds & political will to truly make it a success for New India by 2022.

17. How did India fare on the Millennium Development Goals related to health? In this regard, identify the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and evaluate India's capacity to meet them. (250 words) 15

स्वास्थ्य से संबंधित सहस्राब्दी विकास लक्ष्यों पर भारत का प्रदर्शन कैसा रहा? इस संबंध में, प्रासंगिक संधारणीय विकास लक्ष्यों की पहचान कीजिए और उन्हें पूरा करने में भारत की क्षमता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

India had an active participation in the planning of Millennium Development Goals & took various implementation activity/policies.

However, India's performance on health front remained dismal →

- 1/4th of Global Hunger population lives in India (Global Hunger Report)
- 50% of women & adolescent girls are anemic.
- 62% out of pocket expenditures.
- Crippled primary health care infrastructure.
- Food Security absent despite surplus food production, PDS system, Mid-Day Meal etc.

The Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the objectives of health are →

o SDG 1 - End poverty

Since poverty & hunger are connected issues, India should create well paid, formal job, ^{undertake} targeted approach via MGNREGA DBT transfers for insurance schemes to end poverty & improve health.

o SDG 2 → To End hunger & ensure food security

o SDG 3 → To improve health with focus on communicable & non-communicable diseases, disease surveillance, AIDS 90:90:90 mission etc.

India has the capacity needed →

o Targeted welfare schemes such as ^{MG} NREGA, PDS, Mid-Day Meal scheme.

o ~~Targeted~~ o Progressive Legislations like NFSA, 2013 (Food security).

- o Recent, Ayushman Bharat for National Health Protection via Insurance.
- o Aspirational Districts Program in 115 districts
- o Leveraging powers of ICT using its IT sector capacity in Tele-Health initiatives.
- o Large growth rates greater than 7% give adequate funds to invest in health.
- o National Health Policy, 2017 aims to increase funds from 1.4% to 2.5% gradually.

Thus, leveraging India's capacity, we can surely meet the SDGs by 2030.
This will need additional funds, inter-ministerial cooperation & political will!

18. What are the different rights recognized under the Forest Rights Act, 2006? Highlight the gaps in the implementation of community forest rights and community forest resource rights granted under the Forest Rights Act. Also, suggest measures to address the current scenario. (250 words) 15

वन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2006 के अंतर्गत मान्यता प्राप्त विभिन्न अधिकार क्या हैं? वन अधिकार अधिनियम के अंतर्गत प्रदान किए गए सामुदायिक वन अधिकारों और सामुदायिक वन संसाधन अधिकारों के कार्यान्वयन में अंतरालों पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, वर्तमान परिदृश्य को संबोधित करने के उपाय भी सुझाइए।

The Forest Rights Act, 2006 was a landmark legislative act for the welfare of tribals in the country.

It recognized different rights →

- ① Community rights over the forest land.
- ② Prevention of alienation of land.
- ③ Strengthening the Gram Sabha with powers over minor forest produce to locals.
- ④ Permission ^{by outsiders} to utilize water bodies or for ~~business~~ mining activities.
- ⑤ Right of livelihood dependant on forests.

However there are various gaps in its implementation →

- ① The forest bureaucracy is less than enthusiastic about FRA & violates its provisions.
- ② The governments in name of protection to forests & wildlife undertake tribals alienation from their land.
- ③ Lack of legal awareness among tribals & illiteracy.
- ④ Role of moneylenders who take away tribals lands.
- ⑤ Encroachment on forest land by outsiders due to rapid urbanization.
- ⑥ Mining leases, other developmental activities by government.

Measures to remedy current gaps →

- ① Strengthen Gram Sabha under PESA Act with additional powers of legislation & enforcement of penalties.

- ② Increase awareness of rights under FRA, 2006; PESA, 5th & 6th scheduled areas.
 - ③ Bureaucracy's recruitment to be from local population
 - ④ Prevent over-bureaucratization.
 - ⑤ Follow the ideals enshrined in Art 46 (Economic & Educational development of ST/SC), Article 39(b) & (c) to have favor distribution of natural resources.
 - ⑥ Local NGO's to help the tribals enforce rights.
- All the above steps would help in the development of tribals & rights under FRA!

19. Progress in India-US ties has been accompanied by equally significant divergences on important issues. Examine in the context of recent developments. (250 words) 15

भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों में प्रगति समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर उल्लेखनीय असहमति के साथ हुई है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों के संदर्भ में परीक्षण कीजिए।

from 'estranged democracies' pre-2000 era to engaged partnership, Indo-US ties have come a long way!

There has been fundamental progress on various issues →

- ① The Indo-US Civil Nuclear deal & US's role in waiver from NSG.
- ② US's support for membership to Wassenaar, MTCR, NSG etc.
- ③ Strategic partnership in Indo-Pacific via Malabar exercises, QUAD formation etc.
- ④ ~~US's~~ US's cutting of aid & training to Pakistan
- ⑤ Similar strategic policies in Afghanistan & against China.
- ⑥ Defence Technology & Trade Initiative (DTII)

- ⑦ Recent STA-1 status to India (Exemption from ^{sensitive} export restrictions)
- ⑧ Sale of Guardian Drones, C-130Js etc.
- ⑨ Supply of US LNG gas.

But, there are glaring divergences on crucial issues too →

- ① Opposite stands in WTO on Doha Development Round → Agreement on Agriculture where US wants India to end food stockholding, MSP/subsidies, ending fishery subsidies etc.
- ② Recent, US trade tariffs against steel & aluminium costing \$290 mn to India.
- ③ US withdrawal from JCPOA with Iran & sanction threat on India by Trump
- ④ CAATSA act to prevent India's acquisition of S-400 ~~by~~ from Russia.

- (5) USA withdrawal from Paris agreement on climate change despite India's resistance.
- (6) Inclusive agreements on COMCASA, BECA (for military cooperation).
- (7) India's vision of multipolar world against US interest.
- Thus, even though our broader strategic outlook for the world remains aligned in the near future, there are urgent tactical issues to be solved. The 2+2 dialogue mechanism is a good way to deal with such issues!

20. Despite bonhomie, the structural differences between Indian and Israeli national security situations, their worldviews and absence of explicitly shared enemies limit stronger strategic rapprochement. Critically discuss.

(250 words) 15

सौहार्दपूर्ण संबंधों के बावजूद, भारतीय और इज़राइली राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिस्थितियों के मध्य संरचनात्मक अंतर, उनके वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण और स्पष्ट रूप से साम्रा शत्रुओं की अनुपस्थिति मजबूत रणनीतिक मैत्री को सीमित करती है। आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Benjamin Netanyahu on PM Modi's visit to Israel said that these relations between India & Israel are made in heaven & they are just executing it on Earth!

India established formal diplomatic ties with Israel in 1992 after years of ~~is~~ estrangement because of Palestine issue.

The recent bonhomie is evident in →

- ① First ever visit of any Indian PM to Israel in 2017
- ② ^{De-}hyphenation of Israel & Palestine diplomacy.
- ③ Agreements in Space, defence, drip irrigation, iCreate centre in Gujarat, \$5 mn startup fund etc.

However there are ~~structural~~ differences →

- Israel of the Arab world is estranged because of Israeli occupation of Palestine in 1947. Whereas, India has deep ties with West Asian Countries.
- ~~India~~ Israel views Iran as existential threat whereas India has Chabahar projects, oil dependence on Iran.
- Israel has Saudi Arabia, UAE, etc. as enemies.
- Israel is against two state formulae whereas India insists on it for resolution of Palestine issue
- Israel's pronouncement of Jerusalem as its capital is opposed by India in UNGA.
- India's main adversary is Pakistan & China whereas Israel has partnerships with China & limited relations with Pakistan.

However, there are areas of convergence →

o Defence ties → Israel supplied arms to India even during Kargil War! (1999)
- There are hi-tech sales of Spyder system, Barak missiles etc.

o Water security & food security via drip irrigation, Centre of Excellence in dryland farming by Israel in India etc.

We should exploit these ~~short too~~ opportunities via gradually aligning strategic interest to boost our partnership!