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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1418)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	137728
Center	ONLINE	Date	28/10/2020

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Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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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 (NCSC) is a constitutional body under article 338.

The powers vested with the NCSC are as follows -

- ① To inquire into the issues of SCs
- ② To act as a civil court to & ask for any evidence.
- ③ To suggest to government measures for SCs.
- ④ To send report to the Parliament

However, such powers are insufficient to deal with issues of SCs who still face problems like -

- ① Untouchability because of employment as manual scavenger

- ② lack of social mobility eg. Chazipus case study shows Manual scavengers are forced to work like that.
- ③ Honour Killings eg. Nathras case
- ④ Cow vigilantism & lynchings.

The NCSC must be strengthened not only legally but it must also focus on behavioral changes through focus on -

- 1) Inter caste marriages.
- 2) socio-economic mobility.

Only then social endosmosis is possible.

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's Act was enacted by the Parliament to create additional disqualifications under for elections to the parliament and state legislatures.

It curbs criminalisation of politics in the following ways -

① Disqualification of candidates - for contesting elections under section 8 for various crimes. There is graded period for crimes of different magnitudes. eg. heinous crimes like rape attract 6 year disqualification.

② Election expenditure - under

20C → funding of elections is checked.
Every donation above ₹ 2000 needs
to be reported.

However, the criminalisation of
politics is not being checked by
such provisions eg. ADR report
says that 43% elected MPs in
present Lok Sabha do have
criminal records.

2nd ARC suggests state funding
of elections in the form of in-kind
contribution as recommended by
Indrajit Gupta Committee.

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 are statutory bodies set up under Gram Nyayalaya Act 2005.

Issues in their functioning are -

① They are established by the state government as mobile courts at intermediate panchayat level.

So, many states have not established them in proper numbers.

② The ^{involved} ~~mediating~~ parties may not be satisfied and go for appellate mechanism.

Thus, the whole purpose of alternative dispute resolution is wasted.

The Gram Nyayalaya offer an
inexpensive and cost-effective
mechanism, ^{as envisaged} under article 39A of
the constitution. They must be
strengthened as an Institution.

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।

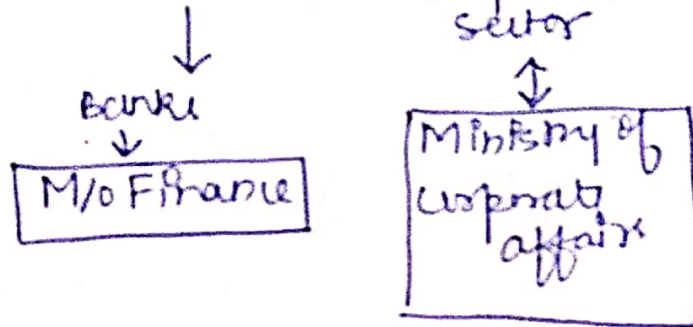
Alternative dispute resolution is out of court mediation, arbitration or conciliation. In India it is achieved through Gram Nyayalays, Lok Adalats etc.

Alternative mechanism is basically an inter-ministerial panel which is set up for a particular task eg. merger of banks.

Rationale behind setting up alternative mechanism -

- ① Inter-ministerial panel hence better synergy and convergence for a particular task eg.

for banking there are multiple
actors involved → corporate
sector



⊗ Alternative mechanism has been
set up for disinvestment in the
past.

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।

Bureaucracy was created to ensure proper implementation of policies so that ends of welfare state could be achieved.

The complementarity of bureaucracy and democracy is brought out in following ways -

① Public service delivery - bureaucracy ensures sound public service delivery
eg. Vikrant Rao and his initiative of Nam Nee in Kanakkal as a DM to revive water bodies.

② Policy Implementation eg. take help of sagpickers in waste management
eg. Garbage Cafe, Ambikapur, Chattisgarh.

③ Grievance redressal - C.P.G. P.A.M.s, Jan sunwals by DMs.

The relationship is paradoxical in following ways -

- ① Usurpation of power - due to asymmetry
 , >90% people belong to informal
sector.
- ② Command control model - more
 stress on procedure than outcomes
 which kills people's initiative.
- ③ Grievance redressal - CMS study
 shows that out of 7 on 11 departments
less than 30% knew about it.
- ④ No focus on citizen centric adminis-
tration using tools like citizen's
charters.

The deficiencies can be removed
 by training (365 days, 360°),
profiling incompetent officers, reward
 for good efforts (2nd ARC)

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 can be defined as the use of ICT based solution for G2G, G2C and G2B interactions.

e-governance transforms the way governments work in the following ways-

- ① Financial transactions - in a digital way using PFMS to increase transparency.
- ② Procurements - using GEM portal for transparency.
- ③ Grievance redressal - using online RTI, CPGRAMS.
- ④ Citizen feedback - using myGov.in
- ⑤ Policy making - eg. whitepapers

consultation on Data protection bill :

⑥ Govern Public source delivery using UMANG app.

Reinvents people's participation in three ways

→ through social media eg.

Sushma Swaraj >

Piyush Goyal

replying on twitter.

→ MeeSadarak app - click the pictures & send to government

→ election process - click the picture of irregularity and send to election commission.

It empowers the citizen because

→ promote declaration of data and hence transparency

→ citizens can participate in policy making > implementation & monitoring

→ It helps achieve citizen centric administration via principle of subsidiarity.

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।

The supreme court in the NALSA judgement had given certain safeguards to the transgender community. like - right to self determination, affirmative action etc.

The Transgender Person act 2019 provides for -

- ① definition of transgender.
- ② penalty for their rights violation.
- ③ provision for various public goods like health, education etc.
- ④ right to self determination.

However, the right to self-determination comes with a rider

that the district authorities will issue a certificate to the transgender person.

while this provision exists to prevent misuse but it is against human dignity and falls short of the NALSA spirit.

Kerala recently became the first state to come up with transgender policy.

The government should have followed the Yogyakautya principles on right to self determination.

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।

Health can be defined as physical, mental & social well being and not mere absence of diseases (WHO).

Universal health coverage ^(UHC) is a goal of WHO, part of SDG 3, and our national health policy 2017.

However, just by declaring right to health as a fundamental right a transformational change cannot happen. because -

① The pre-requisite for UHC is state's capacity to provide for it.

② Further, the policy implementation must be aligned eg. in India PMJAY aims for UHC. However, in the absence of point of care at functional primary health care centres it isn't possible.

③ Right to food, livelihood in India are declared as fundamental rights by Supreme Court in Chameli Singh & Olga Tellis case.

However, we are performing poorly in hunger (GMH-102/119) & a 45 year high unemployment (PLFS)

Hence, an overall change in health setup backed by a 2.5% expenditure of GDP will help in creating universal health coverage rather than just declaring it as a right.

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।

The Indian diaspora found employment opportunities in Gulf countries because of their riding on the back of a booming oil economy.

States like Kerala witness many such migrants and the Kerala model of growth is based on remittance.

However, the diaspora is facing a no. of challenges -

- ① Oil price fluctuation - recently oil prices went into negative territory. Hence, the eclipse on employment.
- ② Kafala system and other protectionist tendencies to give livelihoods to own countrymen eg. in Kuwait
- ③ Political instability and role of

extra-territorial powers like, US, Russia
in Iraq etc. puts their safety at
risk.

④ The current COVID pandemic put
their lives on risk.

⑤ There are instances of radicalisation
of Indian youth in Syria.

The Indian government is prompt
in responding to the needs of the
diaspora eg. Setu Samudram.

Vande Bharat to bring them back
to India during COVID-crisis.

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।

WFP is a UN specialised agency which was formed in the 1960s after the formation of FAO.

WFP is functional in the area of-

- 1) food security.
- 2) meeting nutritional requirements.
- 3) special focus on least developed countries.
- 4) research and development.

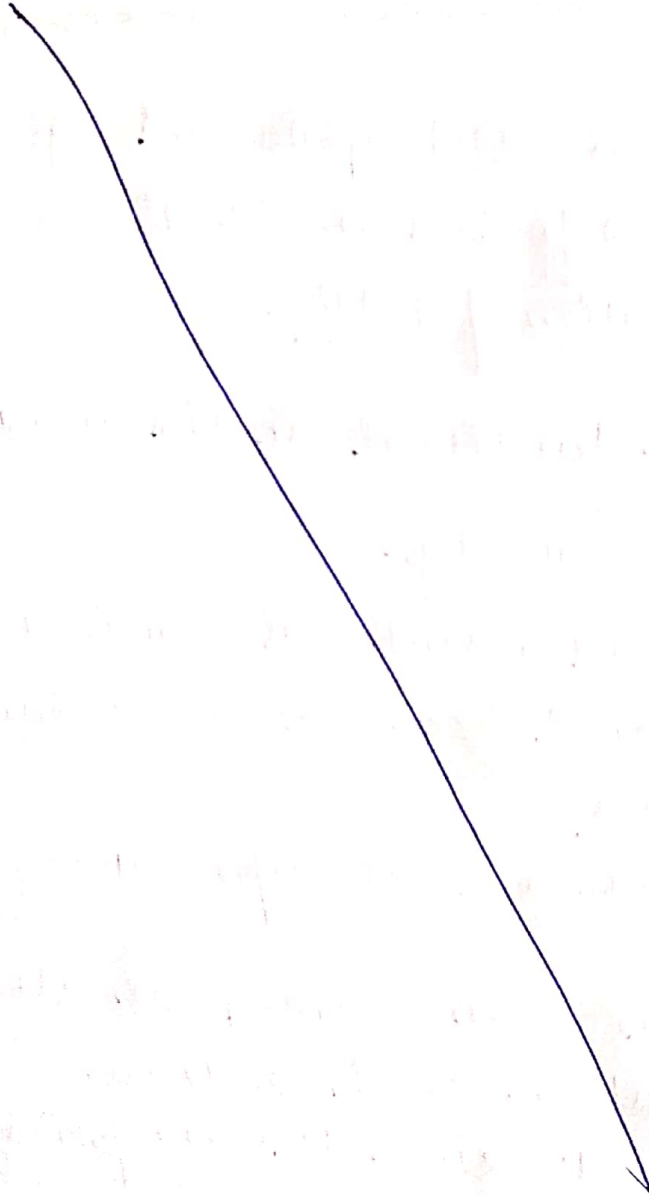
WFP has been working in close coordination with Indian government since its inception.

It is associated with the PDS and other food programmes of Indian government.

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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 groups are seen as an essential tool for citizen centric administration. They often act as coordinator as well as competitor with the government regarding public mobilisation & public service delivery.

Certain actions taken against the civil society groups -

- ① DAV trust case - all NGOs who are substantially funded by the government would come under RTI.
- ② Many licenses of NGOs were cancelled.
- ③ NGOs are brought under the FCRA act to curb their foreign funding.

Such webs amount to shrinking the space for dissent because -

- ① The registration process of NGOs is stringent.
- ② Without funds, these organisations cannot function properly and various areas like human rights, environment etc will be affected.
- ③ The vulnerable sections won't be able to voice their concerns eg. the tribals.

However, there's a need to check the NGOs/civil society

- ① Less than 2% of the NGOs file returns. are registered.
- ② Those who are registered do not file annual returns.

③ Intelligence bureau has pointed out the anti India activities of Greenpeace with respect to mining, GDP etc.

④ Extremist activities by groups like Maoists (US Based) has been reported by Intelligence bureau in Jammu & Kashmir & North East

The Constitution does provide a fundamental right of association under article 19 however it also restricts it reasonably in the interests of sovereignty, integrity & security of India.

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।

The Prime Minister's office comes directly under him and is an extraconstitutional executive body.

Positive implications

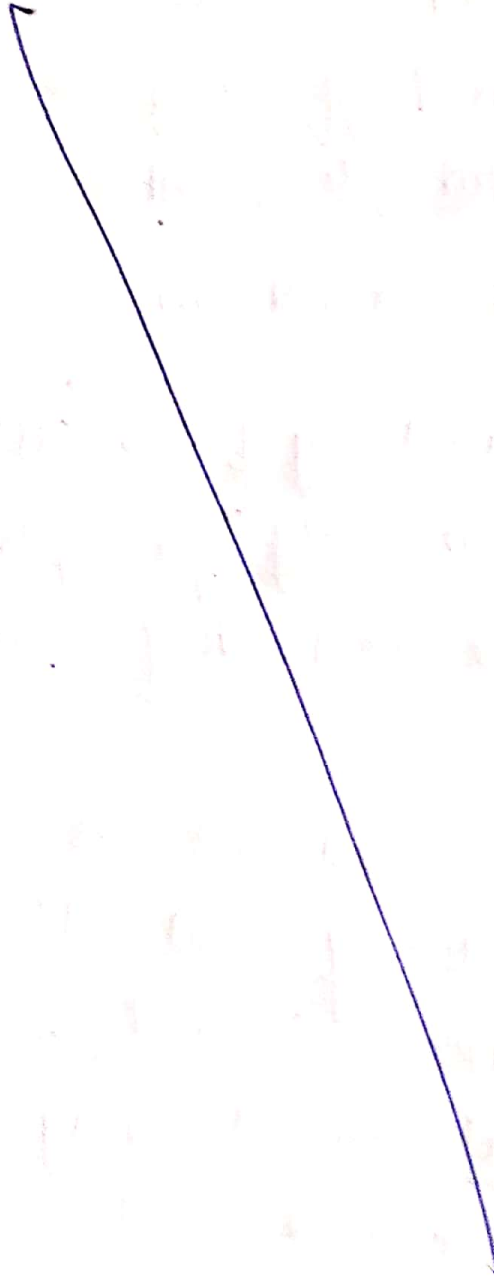
- Quick decision making
- Quick checks on the ministers in charge of various departments.
- Reduce the ^{burden} ~~role~~ of Cabinet Secretariat

eh.

Negative Implications

- over centralisation
- reduced efficiency due to lack of principle of subsidiarity
- Authoritarianism
- redundancy of the collective responsibility principle which is the bedrock of democracy.

The PMO must act as a facilitating body. but other bodies like Cabinet, Cabinet Secretariat must play a more major role.



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 संचार करने और मानवाधिकार न्यायशास्त्र उत्पन्न करने का न्यायपालिका का प्रयास न्यायिक शासन का महत्व प्रदर्शित करता है, वहीं यह न्यायिक अतिक्रमण के चतुर्दिक चिंताओं को भी जन्म देता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Judiciary often under the powers vested upon it under article 142 to do complete justice steps into the legislative domain.

This Judicial activism has become necessary due to following reasons-

① Legislative gap -

often it happens that there's no law to protect the vulnerable sections of the society. So, Judiciary takes charge eg. Vishakha guidelines

② Compensate for injustices - eg.

Judiciary went against the law to compensate the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy.

③ Protect fundamental rights - the judiciary has expanded the meanings to include various rights eg.

① Right to privacy under article 21
(Putaswamy case)

② Right to food (Pucl case) etc

④ Uphold democracy - eg. declare free and fair elections as basic structure & in ADR case 2001 make debaration of criminal antecedents compulsory.

However, these actions of an amount to Judicial overreach. -

① The judiciary is unelected.

② The judiciary has no expertise of in executive matters eg.

(a) liquor ban led to lot of resentment

(b) banning of fire crackers led to bad implications on livelihoods of poor people.

③ Judiciary itself has ruled in Deshi Nandan Agrawal case that it's for the Parliament and the State legislature to make laws.

The Judiciary has observed Judicial restraint on multiple accounts eg. regarding the triple talaq.

Separation of power is a basic structure of the Constitution. All the branches must work towards reinforcing each other's legitimacy rather than competing for it.

14. The power to punish for contempt of court is necessary for the administration of justice. Critically analyse. (250 words) 15

न्यायालय की अवमानना के लिए दंडित करने की शक्ति न्याय के प्रशासन के लिए आवश्यक है। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The power of Contempt of Court is given to the Supreme Court under article 137 and 142. This power was exercised recently against senior lawyer Parashant Bhushan for taking a personal dig at the Chief Justice of India.

The Higher Courts can also punish for contempt of subordinate courts under Contempt of Courts Act 1971.

The power to punish for contempt of court is deemed necessary because -

- ① Civil contempt - many a times people wilfully disobey court's orders
- ② Criminal contempt - many a times

people tend to trivially or orally try to scandalise the authority of court or try to obstruct administration of justice.

(3) Lower faith in judiciary - Judiciary is the guarantor of fundamental rights and hence any act of contempt can lower the faith in judicial fair play etc.

(4) Independence of Judiciary which is the basic structure can be affected.

(5) Further it's argued that it's a reasonable restriction on freedom of speech and expression under article 19.

However, there are concerns regarding the contempt powers-

(1) Too widely worded - as pointed out by Justice V. Krishna Rao

It's boundaries are too vague.

② chilling effect on freedom of speech and expression which tamples upon civil liberties.

③ Truth as a valid defence post 2006 amendment is there. Further, personal attacks on Judges is excluded.

④ Western democracies like UK for eg. in Brexit case, judiciary abstained from invoking contempt proceedings. despite being called "evil".

There's a need to strike a balance between freedom of speech and contempt powers of the Court as the Law Commission has observed.

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।

Few months back Tamil Nadu witnessed the custodial death of father son duo. This puts forth the deficiencies of our criminal justice system.

There are certain legal concerns in custodial deaths -

- ① Innocent until proven guilty - hence custodial torture/killing is against fundamental rights to life
- ② In such a case due process isn't followed.
- ③ The Police is convicted in very few cases and hence their wrong attitude is getting stronger.

④ It is against the D.K Basu v/s West Bengal Case guidelines by Supreme Court.

⑤ It is against the UDHR & ICCPR and also against UN convention against torture.

⑥ Such incidents will prevent extradition of serious economic offenders like Mallya due to principle of non-refoulment under UNCAT.

Challenges in curbing such incidents-

① Low conviction of the police officials who are responsible.

② Societal sanction in many cases like extra-judicial killings eg. encounter of Vikas Dubey.

- (3) lack of awareness among police officials
- (4) lack of enforcement power with Judiciary regarding DK Basu guidelines.

Certain methods to curb such incidents are -

- (1) The police must follow the DK Basu guidelines eg.
- a) present the accused to Judicial magistrates within 48 hours.
 - b) periodic check up of accused by doctors
- (2) Police reforms to make them more empathetic
- (3) Increased conviction of police.

The accused and undertrials also have right to dignified life as ruled by Supreme Court.

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 Planning Commission in 6th plan recognised the role of civil society in development of the country..

However, in 1975 emergency a tussle was seen between the government and the civil society & finally in 1976 FERA was brought.

Hence, the relationship between the civil society and government has been both of confrontation and engagement.

Transparency and accountability
via confrontation-

① Election process - various cases by civil society organisations like

ADR, PuCL etc. have led to transparency in election process eg. declaration of criminal antecedents of candidates (CADR case 2009)

② Corruption eradication - the India against corruption campaign was pivotal in formulation of LOKpau bill & its passage.

③ Transparency - direct transparency by providing people with Right to information due to campaigning by Mkss.

Transparency and accountability
via cooperation -

① Legislative process - The PRS legislative helps the government to notice the deficiencies via

various data that it compiles.

② Policy Implementation - the

civil society PRARTHANA brings ASER report to help government know about the situation of education.

③ Policy formulation - civil society groups like obscura research foundation help in this way.

Civil society is necessary for a citizen centric administration. which in turn is the core of good governance as the 2nd ARC says.

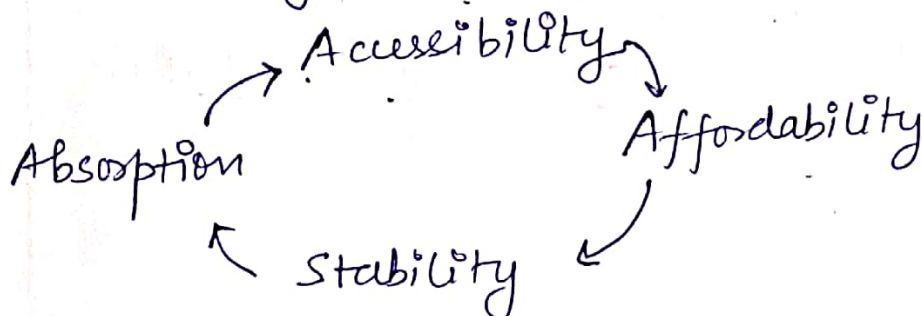
17. When it comes to hunger, India faces the paradox of plenty. Discuss. Also suggest ways in which this concern can be addressed. (250 words) 15

जब भुखमरी की बात आती है, भारत को प्रचुरता के विरोधाभास 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।

According to economic survey 2018-19, India's food grain production touched a maximum of 275 million tonnes. However, the Global hunger index 2019 puts India at 102 on 119 countries even behind Pakistan.

This shows the paradox of plenty. Though there is plenty of grain and food, there is plenty hunger as well.

There are four pillars of food security -



India is affected on all the fronts-

- ① Though the PDS ration shops are available there are accessibility barriers eg. Jharkhand starvation deaths. due to non Aadhar non-seeded ration card.
- ② Affordability - certain sections are so poor that they can't even afford the cheap PDS grains.
- ③ Stability - there's no stability due to supply chain issues eg. during COVID-19 pandemic.
- ④ Absorption - the WASH conditions are poor and hence low absorption in areas like those near Deonar sanitary landfill in Mumbai.

Ways in which it can be addressed

- ① A One nation one ration card for migrants.
- ② Diversified food basket eg pulses in Chattisgarh PDS to curb hidden hunger.
- ③ Legislative impact assessment eg. Aadhar's ABBA at PDS shops
- ④ MID day meal plan be reinforced
- ⑤ Local initiatives like Operational Sulaimani in Kerala and Crabapple Cafe in Ambikapur, Chattisgarh.

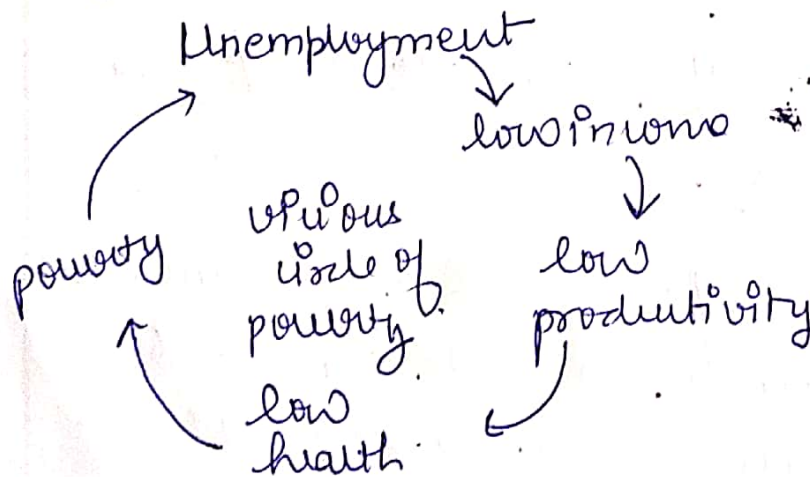
Right to food is a fundamental right under article 21 and the state must ensure that no one goes hungry (Supreme Court in Pucl case, right to food case)

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?

Article 39 (a) of the constitution says that all citizens shall be provided adequate means of livelihood by the state. Last year's PLFS ~~Exer~~ report showed that India was suffering from a 45 year high unemployment.

This has a direct impact on poverty.



Wage employment has an important role in alleviating poverty. —

- ① It helps those willing to work gain some employment and make their ends meet.
- ② It helps casual labour who are out of work due to slump in construction sector gain some work.
- ③ It will help control the dropping female labour force participation rate and control feminisation of poverty.
- ④ It helps the sharecroppers, tenants etc gain some work in agriculture — 1 lean season.

The MGNREGA is a wage employment programme which guarantees 100 days of work to those who are willing in

several areas.

It is different from earlier schemes like Jawahar Rojgar Yojana because

① It's a rights based scheme which in a way implements the Supreme Court's judgement in Oga Zell's case.

② It guarantees a 100 day work

③ In case of inability to provide work it gives unemployment allowance.

MANREGA ~~allow~~ allocation has been strengthened recently to fight against the additional poverty created by COVID-19.

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 चुनौतियां खड़ी करती है बल्कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और घरेलू स्तर पर अपने आपको सशक्त बनाने का अवसर भी प्रदान करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

China's assertiveness can be seen clearly in the recent violations of territorial sovereignty of India in the Galwan valley.

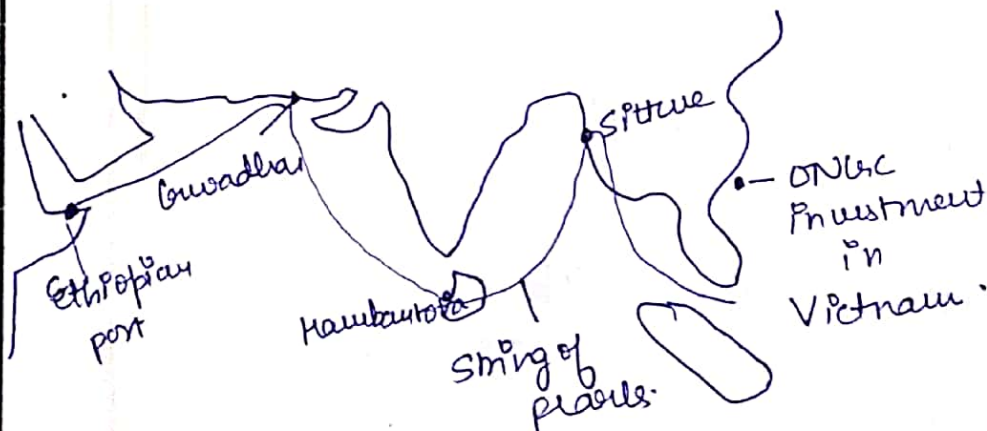
It's also evident in drowning the Vietnamese ships in South China sea.

Chinese assertiveness poses challenges to India in the following ways -

- ① Encircling India - through it's string of the pearl police which has security implications for India. Building CPEC is another issue.
- ② Global power - China want India to acknowledge that China is a global power and hence it is using muscle power along LAC.

③ Energy security - China's anti access area denial in South China sea has implications of for investment of ONGC vessels in Vietnamese EEZ.

④ Data security - there is constant threat of china using its state backed violations of data sovereignty of India.



⑤ Geopolitical forums - China vehemently opposes India's inclusion into NSG; UNSC ~~PS~~ ^{reformed} which makes India suffer on multiple fronts.

Chinese assertiveness as an opportunity
for domestic dividends-

There's growing discontent against the
government regarding COVID-pandemic
The increased assertiveness is seen as
a diversionary tactic.

Chinese assertiveness to make international
gains-

① Flexing muscle in S. Asia shows that
China wants to demonstrate its power
as a global power.

② Trade War and Weaponisation of
global supply chain through its
BR1 (Chinese Marshall plan) will
help it control markets.

Confucius said, "Two tigers cannot
reside the same Himalayas" Thus,
the ^{relationship} ~~issue~~ between India and China.
- conflict, cooperate and compete remains.

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।

The overall trade in South Asian region is less than five percent when compared to 25% of ASEAN.

The overall connectivity between the countries is also sub optimal.

Trade and connectivity can increase engagement because -

- ① People to people ties will increase.
- ② Economic enmeshing will prevent or hostility between the two largest members India & Pakistan.
- ③ Equal stakeholder ship towards the infrastructure would decrease the conflicts.
- ④ Overall development of S. Asia due to horizontal applicability.

of best practice eg. Grameen bank of Md. Yunus replicated in India for SHG bank linkage program.

opportunities of trade and connectivity
in South Asia -

- ① Most of the countries are agrarian and have that as comparative advantage. They could sell it to India which is a huge market.
- ② The smaller countries can benefit from the information technology capabilities of India.
- ③ India's ITEC and developmental initiatives like Tricomalee port, Afghanistan's parliament show how South-South cooperation can be fruitful.
- ④ India's North-East can benefit due to connectivity like Akhawea-Agartala

link , BBIN etc.

Challenges towards trade and connectivity -

- ① Security concerns - Pakistan's ~~is~~ primary strategy of incursions & infiltration along with China is a major impediment.
- ② Fear among small states like Nepal, who deal with India in pairs often using China as counterweight.
- ③ Limited capacity of India - as compared to China who goes for cheque book diplomacy eg. Hambantota port.

India's neighbourhood first policy and initiatives like BBIN, developmental activity like Chukha dam, Amlekhgunj pipeline are good initiatives. However, deeper diplomatic outreach is needed.