

**ForumIAS**

ACADEMY

**GENERAL STUDIES**

Name Of Candidate	DEEPESH KEDIA		
Email Id.	[REDACTED]	Roll No.	[REDACTED]
Mobile No.	[REDACTED]	Date:	2-9-18

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile).</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH.</p> <p>3. All questions are compulsory.</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
Total Marks:			
Remarks:			Start Time   10:00 am.
			End Time   1:02 pm
			Mode Of Examination : Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
			ECN CODE: Evaluation Date:

ForumIAS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, IAPL House, #19, Pusa Road, Opposite Metro Pillar 95-96, Karol Bagh,  
New Delhi- 110005 | Ph: 011-49878625/ 9821711605 | Email: student@forumias.academy



10274\_11073\_1910016448\_(2018-09-06 17:54:18)

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Innovation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS



Q.1) "Though Supreme Court's use of its vast powers under the Article 142 has done tremendous good to many deprived sections, however, it is time to institute checks and balances". Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Supreme court through 142 can do complete justice, & take up any case suo moto & pass orders.

Tremendous goods:

- Vishaka guidelines ⇒ led to Sexual harassment law.
  - Environmental protection ⇒ e.g. bans on firecrackers in Delhi
  - PILs for poor sections of people.
  - Constantly reprimands the executive for its failure to act.
- Thus, estab. checks upon executive

Concerns:

- Often judicial activism turned to over-reach.
- e.g. policy decisions s.a. alcohol

sale ban on highways, announced rights w/o adequate capability.

### Checks & Balances:

- To prevent over-reach & streamline the authority

### Concerns:

- Can curb independence of judiciary, if checks through any mechanism.
- Not other alternative available with people if executive doesn't perform.

checks shouldn't be imposed externally but judiciary should restrain its use.

### Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
<b>Total</b>	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
Blog : [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us : [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)  
Email : [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



10274 11073 1910016448 (2018-09-06 17:54:18)  
 Q.21 Is there a need for a balance between Fundamental Rights and Parliamentary Privileges to be re-examined? Discuss giving suitable arguments in support of your answer.

Conflict:

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Fundamental rights of:

- (i) Freedom of speech & expression (Art 19)
- (ii) ~~Free~~ Right to information (Art 21)
- (iii) Right to equality (14)

come in conflict with the parliamentary privileges through-

- (i) Limitations on publication against parliamentarians e.g. recent Kamataka assembly privilege motion.
- (ii) Secret meetings. - (Art 21)
- (iii) Excess protection from arrest (Art. 14)

Need to re-visit?

- Above conflicts create representatives as special class of people.
- Prevent free flow of information & misused to curb criticism.



Concerns:

- Privileges are also necessary because  
 eg. arrest - to ensure smooth conduct of house.  
 secret meeting - protect confidentiality

Way ahead:

- o Codification of privileges can be done into a law (as done in UK, Australia).
- o Also, some limitations may be established through committee on privileges.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	



Q.3) 'Changing to a presidential system is the best way of ensuring a democracy that works' Do you agree? Give suitable arguments in support of your answer.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Current Parliamentary system ~~benefits~~:

Benefits

Concerns

- ensures cooperation b/w executive & legislature

- Cooperation results from weak checks & balances.

- This ensures min. logjamming on key issues

- Still logjamming occurs due to coalition politics

- Opportunity to pass no-confidence → constant accountability of govt

- Prevents the govt from taking bold decisions e.g. delay in GST.

In this context presidential system proposed:

Benefits:

- Accountability proper through checks & balance.



- Strong executive decisions possible.
- Can even have ministers who are experts e.g. In US.

## Limitations

- Logjamming for passage of bills.
- May lead to supreme power in president.

Overall, both systems offer some pros & cons.

Either way, the effectiveness will depend on the ethical conduct, checks from public.

Broader discussions could be done to further explore.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)	
Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
Blog: [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us: [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)  
Email: [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



Q.4) How Wuhan Summit was an important signal of intent by India & China to revive the relationship and better understand areas of convergence. Explain with suitable arguments.

Wuhan Summit recently, <sup>on the</sup> (10 Marks, 150 Words)  
 sidelines of ~~BRICS~~ SCO meet, saw important signals:

- statement against terrorism: refrained in past
- promote free trade globally.
- Address bilateral trade deficit (currently > \$60 Bn).
- India showed willingness towards Tibet issue - cancellation of meet.
- Border concerns: referred to 'All India-China Border concerns' - indicator to Doklam.
- Talks for moving towards RCEP.
- Respect to each other's core concerns e.g. string of pearls & freedom of navigation, Taiwan



issue.

Thus, hints were positive.  
 Need to take fwd through  
 better dialogue, address concerns  
 & cooperation on global issues -  
 trade, climate change, terror,  
 governance bodies, south-south  
 cooperation

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
<b>Total</b>	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
 Blog : [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us : [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)  
 Email : [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



Q.5) How scrapping of the Joint comprehensive plan of action by the U.S would affect India? Analyse. Also, discuss measures that could help India buffer the consequences of such a move.

JCOPA was signed b/w EUST (10 Marks, 150 Words)

and Iran, which:

- curb on Iran's nuclear programme.
- frees sanctions from it →
- allows global trade & autonomy.

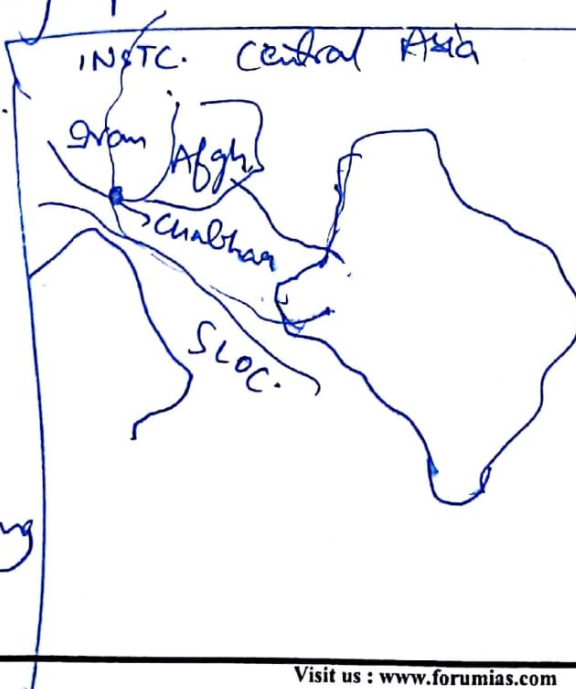
Recently, US announced scrapping.

Impact on India:

- Iran is major energy source for India: oil & gas.
- gives increasing prices, critical to energy security.

• Fozard B: gas project also planned.

Chabahar port: India constructing it & as a



Gateway to Afghanistan & Central Asia through INSTC.

- Exports from India: Pharma, services.
- Further alienation of Iran  $\Rightarrow$  tilt towards China further  $\Rightarrow$  harmful for India.
- Increase divide b/w UAE, Saudi vs. Iran  $\Rightarrow$  tough to balance.

Measures:

- Negotiation with US for concession (like earlier).
- Energy partners elsewhere - Vietnam, etc.
- Connectivity to Central Asia: aim for resolution in Afghan in return (through pressure on Pak).

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	



Q.6) How can NGOs have an impact, on women capacities and their empowerment? Discuss with suitable examples. Also, in brief, explain some of the major roadblocks confronted by NGOs in India.

## NGOs impact on women capacities:

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

- Capacity building: e.g. done through NGOs by providing training.
- Highlight problems: e.g. gaps in education (Pratham).
- Financial inclusion: through penetration of services & awareness.
- Collaboration - e.g. SEWA

## Empowerment:

- Bring out women right's issues in public domain.
- Act as agent for social change through plays, awareness campaigns.

## Major roadblocks:

- Lack of trust: as several NGOs fraud (IB report)

- lack of financing.
- lack of transparency & accountability in performance
- Inadequate accommodation by govt of their inputs.

NITI regulation, Darpan portal & more transparency & database for collaboration can help.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
<b>Total</b>	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
 Blog : [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us : [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)  
 Email : [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



Q.7) How can civil society activities and public participation in governments' decision-making, reduce corruption?

Civil society role:

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

- Transparency through RTI.
- Demand adequate laws e.g. Mazdoor Kisan Sangathan  $\Rightarrow$  RTI act; Lokpal act by IAC mount
- Present analysis of work to ~~go~~ people.
- Track record of politicians e.g. ADR.
- Constant public pressure on key issues e.g. farmers' mount.

Public participation:

- through channels for discussion on laws  $\Rightarrow$  better provisions e.g. HECI bill made more democratic
- Execution: through Gram Panchayats.

& local bodies.

- Through social audits, check on govt decisions.

- Collaboration & awareness

campaigns; <sup>decentralized</sup> planning → "led group"  
NREGA & NAFSA

Thus, social audit laws, citizens charter, right to public service delivery bill needed

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
<b>Total</b>	

Call us : 011-49878625, 9821711605  
Blog : [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us : [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)  
Email : [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



Q.8) Evaluate the problems and prospects of 'Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018'.

Prevention of Corruption Bill 2018 passed recently. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Prospects:

- ① To provide punishment to both bribe giver & taker.
- ② Corporate corruption - might made accountable.
- ③ Sanction needed to prosecute the retired civil servants [to prevent action for justice decisions].
- ④ Permission for investigation against current ones too.
- ⑤ Banking sector employees - under fear of police for loans will be saved.
- ⑥ Def - expanded to other than

gifts.

Also, intention needn't be proved.

Problems:

- o only 7 day window -  $\Rightarrow$  not enough for coercive corruption.
- o Sanction clause - already removed by SC earlier.

Overall, it's a good bill. will allow quicker decision-making.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
<b>Total</b>	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
Blog : [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us : [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)  
Email : [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



Q.9) What do you understand by civil services' activism? Analyze its implications on the functioning of democracy?

Civil service activism represents civil servants acting beyond the legal mandate & rules for the development : e.g. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

- ① Starting new ventures - e.g. project Sulaemani in Kerala for food.
- ② Bring out opinions & information to public.
- ③ Comment on wrongdoings, whistleblowing & disclosing difference of opinions in public.
- ④ Act as committed bureaucracy (to dent), shedding political non-partisanship at times - defending public policies.

Implications:

Pros	Cons.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>more proactive, effective &amp; efficient governance</li> <li>Accountability of <del>the</del> political class</li> <li>more information to public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>violation of rules @Ames-</li> <li>slippery slope</li> <li>may lead to political partisanship</li> </ul>

Way ahead:

Act within rules.



Q.10) Technology helps in reducing discretion and thus brings in objectivity, but there are obstacles in use of modern technology in governance, which needs to be overcome. Discuss.

Technology reduces discretion (10 Marks, 150 Words)  
e.g. Income tax return - select of applicants, passport, & DL formalization of process.

### Obstacles:

- Dehumanization of governance e.g. benefit under DBT denied (finger prints)
- Genuine concerns overlooked.
- lack of usability by masses & officials -
- language barriers.
- improper integration with systems
- poorly designed interfaces.
- Inadequate access to internet
- privacy issues e.g. aadhar.

## Suggestions:

- Overall integration
- Process re-orgg,
- Awareness, Training.
- all languages
- Grievance System.

### Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
<b>Total</b>	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
 Blog : [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us : [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)  
 Email : [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



Q.11) "Feminism" has evolved as a movement with agenda, organization and means to protest. Comment. How far do you think "Draft National Policy for Women, 2016" will strengthen the cause of women empowerment in India?

'Feminism' refers to modern movement for equal rights and bring gender equality w.t. women. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

### Agenda:

- Political rights: equal participation & opportunities, including 33% reservation in parliament (currently, only 11%).  
Rights also at local level.

- Economic rights: declining labor force participation (from 35% to 25%); - demand for job protection, financial inclusion, property inheritance - as seen through judicial support.

- Social rights: - equal treatment, education opportunities, right to access public space, freedom of choice etc.

### Organization:

- Several women organizations: both rural & urban e.g. SEWA, AIWA, etc

- Judiciary: at forefront of right protection  
eg. triple taluk judgement, right to life expansion, Vishaka guidelines.
- Parliament & govt. = through gender budgeting, Maternity Benefits Act.
- Masses - through social media support  
#MeToo movement.
- corporates - CSR e.g. Anjrata campaign.

### Means to protect:

- Social Media - #MeToo.
- Cinema - movies e.g. Lipstick under Burma.
- Mass mobilization - eg. Nirbhaya protests, Chipko movement, anti-attack movement.

### Draft National Policy for women

2016 aims to strengthen the cause through following ways:

- ① Political - aims at 33% reservation, & target Sarpanchpati etc. concepts.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
Blog: [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us: [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)  
Email: [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



② Economic - through more labor force participation e.g. mega factories in garments, etc.; land ownership in agriculture, financial inclusion.

③ Social:- improved child sex ratio via strong enforcement of PCPNDT, provide safety, attitudinal change.

However, for real empowerment, some other necessary changes needed are:-

① quickly bring necessary legal changes

② Economic empowerment - address social security & protection in unorganized sector, encourage corporates to recruit more females, & give equal pay.

③ Social - major attitudinal change, through quality education, empowerment, repeal of unjust laws e.g. adultery. improved women empowerment can transfer nation's fortunes.

Q.12) Explain why India faces a severe shortage of medical specialists both for its rural and urban health services. Do you think 'National Medical Commission Bill, 2017' could help plug critical gaps of the health sector of India? Give suitable arguments in support of your answer.

India faces severe shortage - (15 Marks, 250 Words)  
 in rural areas, more than 70% are unqualified doctors, & still the doctor-to-citizen ratios well below WHO recommendation.

Causes:

- ① ~~Rural~~ limited number of good quality hospitals.
- ② High fees in private colleges - restricts access.
- ③ Inadequate research opportunities in India - doctors go abroad.
- ④ Weak regulatory system which causes unqualified doctors.
- ⑤ Govt hospitals: low level of salary & high workload  $\Rightarrow$  low availability of good doctors.

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605

Blog: [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us: [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)

Email: [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



(6) Rural areas - additional issue of poor quality of life & services => as deterrence.  
 (7) low acceptance of AYUSH doctors.  
 Thus, despite more than 10 lakh students applying for NEET annually huge shortage.

NMC Bill, 2017:

Can plug the gap:

- 1) Structural changes at top to replace MCI (marred with corruption).
- 2) Composition & election process changed - should bring accountability.
- 3) Division into 4 categories for separate roles => expertise & accountability.
- 4) Strict performance & standards with penalties & incentives for govt hospitals.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	

(5) AYUSH doctors can be streamlined through bridge course.

Thus, it has potential to improve situation.

however, following important concerns.

(1) Govt funding to colleges & speed of establishment e.g. new AIIMS.

(2) Leadership, accountability & autonomy of the colleges.

(3) Rural participation may need compulsory provisions.

(4) Career progression & training to ASHAs, AWWs, needed - NITI agenda.

(5) Broaden the scope of human resources for preventive healthcare.

(6) Increased financial mobilization by state universities & banking needed.

Quality healthcare acts of human resources.



**Q.13)** Higher education in India has expanded very rapidly in the last seven decades yet it is not equally accessible, available and affordable to all. Elucidate. Also, analyse the significance of 'Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2018' in transforming the higher education of India.

Expansion since LPG reforms particularly GER increased to 21% (four fold in four decades). (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Issues:

Accessibility:

- limited to urban areas & forward states.
- Tribal people: far off from them.
- unequal opportunities at lower levels limits scope of admission, especially poor.

Available:

- Unavailable for women, & backward classes - as per report, their participation very low. (social causes)
- poor quality without job prospects makes availability a farce.
- low share of govt colleges that offer

Reservation

site for unmarketable courses e.g. arts.

Affordable:

- private colleges charge exorbitant fees
- likely to become further unaffordable after HEFA.

Thus, the actual presence has more scope.

HECI 2018:

Significance:

- ① Replaces UEC to form a more leaner and accountable body.
- ② Powers to take quick decisions, wth. penal actions to enforce order.
- ③ Power to provide autonomy at graded levels - e.g. 3-tier university structure.

Feedback( For OFFICE use only )

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
Blog: blog.forumias.com

Visit us: www.forumias.com  
Email: student@forumias.academy



④ Financial powers retained in latest draft - can bring accountability.

Thus, HECI, along with recent provisions for 20 world class universities, 3 tier structure can be game changer.

Concerns:

- Bureaucratic heavy body, devoid of technocrats.
- Strong leadership with clear alignment of objectives needed.
- Need autonomy from HRD ministry.
- must also look to explicitly focus on continuous learning, women empowerment, financial affordability (given HECI).

Higher education requires broad-based action plan, with HECI as part of it.

**Q.14)** Giving a brief comparative analysis of Fifth and Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, examine major issues that render provisions of both the schedules inefficient and less effective. Do you think that Sixth Schedule must now be replaced with Panchayati Raj Institutions? Justify

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> schedules are meant for administration of tribal areas. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

5 <sup>th</sup> schedule	6 <sup>th</sup> schedule
Covers several states of India with smallest tribal popula <sup>n</sup> .	Only 4 NE states: Assam, Mizoram, Tripura
Main purpose is to provide better admin <sup>str</sup> in line with tribal customs & expectations.	Purpose is to provide autonomy & address the demand of separate state.
Provision for 'Tribal Advisory Council' for admin. with legislature's role.	Provision of Autonomous district council with limited role of legislature of state.
limited legislative & judicial powers.	substantial executive, legislative, & judicial powers.



## Major issues:

- ① Inadequate capacity building of top bodies and local administration.
- ② Huge corruption and collusion.
- ③ Low education levels ~~to~~ among people to extract accountability.
- ④ weak implementation of FRA, 2006 & PESA, 1996 - leads to deprivation of rights of locals.
- ⑤ Inadequate devolution of powers by state govt (esp. Schedule 5).
- ⑥ Role of forest bureaucracy
- ⑦ Insurgency in these regions prevents development of trust and admin structures.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only.)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
Blog: [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us: [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)  
Email: [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)

Replacement of 5th schedule:

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can lead to more accountable structures with greater power to people - through social audits, <del>etc</del>, Gram Panchayat meets.</li> <li>- State governments can also intervene to enforce accountability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PRIs themselves haven't succeeded that much elsewhere - lead to resistance &amp; thus, promote ineffectiveness.</li> <li>- Root causes are weak accountability &amp; lack of education, not PRIs.</li> </ul>

Thus, attempts to make the structures more accountable is needed.

President & Governor can play key role. Annual reports should be sent. Besides awareness about rights & educational structures need to be created.



Q.15) "Representation of People Act in its original form does not meet the changing needs to conduct elections". Examine (the major judicial pronouncements) made in relevance to RPA in recent years. Also, discuss the (need to further amend) the act if any.

RPA, a result of article 103 of the constitution, regulates the election of representatives to parliament. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

- Changing needs occurring, such as-
- increased flow of black money with deteriorating political ethics.
  - need for voting remotely: given increased migration.
  - risk of fraud in voting. Both manipulation of voters (e.g. Cambridge Analytica) & booth capture / machine fraud.
  - social media: need to monitor it.

RPA doesn't meet these changing demands.

Major Judicial pronouncements:

① In Lily Thomson case, SC declared section 8(u) of RPA null & void,

which gave special status for proceedings - brings greater equality.

(2) Recently, SC declared that even use of the religion <sup>/caste</sup> of voter or oneself by the candidate / someone else amounts to electoral fraud - can reduce role of religion & caste politics, however limited enforcement of the provision so far!

(3) SC called for fasttracking of cases against politicians through special courts.

(4) Recently, in a paid news case, SC declared null the candidature of a candidate.

Need for further amendments:

Feedback (For OFFICE use only.)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	



- ① Greater power to ECI to act against candidates for violation of electoral offences.
- ② Paid news should be made a separate electoral offence.
- ③ Enforcement of MCE should be explored.
- ④ For criminalization, stricter clauses need e.g. framing of charges  $\Rightarrow$  disqualification.
- ⑤ Stricter rules for use of money - with curbs on party expenditure too.
- ⑥ Increase the range of electoral offences to prevent spread of hatred, communalization.

Politics decides the course of governance in a country. Need to strengthen & clean it.

Q.16) "Maintaining the purity and transparency of election process is a very challenging job and involves a lot of inherent complexities." In this context, discuss the major existing issues and challenges faced by ECI while suggesting measures to make ECI more robust and effective.

Sandity of electoral process is the crux of democracy. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

### Challenges:

- Numerous candidates: accommodating their rights.
- Enforce electoral laws: check black money.
- Create awareness among voters.
- Social Media & Media

### Major existing issues & challenges:

ECI's role: curb criminalization, maintain transparency about candidate, enforce laws - and model code of conduct.

In this context,

- ① Inadequate powers to take action against errants, e.g. enforcement of MCC.
- ② Inadequate capacity/force to



investigate offences, given pilferage of social media activities.

- (3) Interference by politicians in administrative domains - e.g. transfer post of officials post elections.
- (4) Limited independence of Election Commission -
  - ECs removed on advice of CEC
  - weak protection compared to CAG (salary etc).
- (5) Inadequate legal powers to enforce orders: recent demand by EC for contempt powers.
- (6) Appointment of CCI - done by executive alone.
- (7) Inadequate financial independence.
- (8) Powers w.r.t anti-defection etc. not available with EC.

Following measures are needed to make it more robust:

① Independence:

- through broad-based appointment
- financial independence.

② Empowerment:

- through changes in EC1 & RPA acts.
- enforcement power for MCC.

③ These will ensure free & fair elections.

Feedback( For OFFICE use only )

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	



Q.17) What is the significance of Parliamentary committees? Highlighting their major limitations, suggest measures to make them more meaningful, citing recent examples.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Parliamentary committees are organs of the legislature, which have following significance:

- ① Establish accountability on executive -  
e.g. Estimates committee, committee on public sector
- ② Decide conduct of house - e.g. Business advisory committee.
- ③ Rights of legislators - e.g. privilege committees, committee on housing etc.

Besides there are several Departmental committees & parliamentary standing committees, which deliberate on matters in parliament e.g. take opposition's advise inputs, experts inputs for laws etc.

Parliament functions through these

temporary & ad-hoc committees, as otherwise, it would become too bulky for discussions.

### Major limitations:

- Estimates, Public Accounts committee: Both post-facto analysis only  $\Rightarrow$  limited checks.
- Dominated by ruling party - as often speaker decides the head.
- Inadequate expertise - because of MPs' limited expertise.
- Focus on blame game, politicization rather than constructive work. e.g. Rafale deal.
- Inadequate attitude of MPs.
- Inadequate publicization of the results/findings  $\Rightarrow$  purpose failed.
- Weak answerability mechanisms for the government



Suggestions:

- Have a broad expert panel for assistance - broad based selection to it.
- Present findings through a platform in understandable terms.
- Codify some powers e.g. privilege powers etc. through law.
- Give opportunity for public to participate somehow.
- Act more constructively.

It's a critical tool in governance & must use full potential

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
<b>Total</b>	

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711605  
Blog: blog.forumias.com

Visit us: www.forumias.com  
Email: student@forumias.academy



Q.18) "Parliament should be a space for Policy and not for Politics". Comment. Also, suggest reforms needed to make Parliament more productive, efficient and responsive.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)  
Parliament - termed as temple of democracy, is often suffering from low politicization.

Role - space for Policy:

- Top decision-makers of country: decide upon people's demands.
- Address both short term problems & long term policies - women, child, economic etc.
- Frame laws from broad-based discussions.
- Establish accountability upon executive.
- raise local issues.
- Establish check upon government.

Reality - politicization:

- low productivity: recent washout of budget session
- Inadequate discussions on laws/bills.
- Accountability in populist terms ~~is~~  
→ prevents long term measures



- e.g. ruckus wrt GST implementation.
- Religion & caste politics: e.g. SC/ST act.
- Deterioration of international image - e.g. unmounted comments in foreign countries.
- Role of speaker: - prevent deliberations & walkouts.
- Parliamentary secretariat - office of profit created. Thus, inadequate accountability
- Defections on actual ground-level issues & huge monetary spending results ⇒ causes erosion of faith.

### Measures needed:

- MP performance Index - to assess questions asked etc. - put in public domain, via a parliamentary secretariat.
- Speaker - assessment of performance.
- Role of govt - more responsibility to act constructively & accommodate concerns.
- Empower ECI to take action against violative actions (not RPA).

- President: as link b/w executive & parliament - must take more onus.

Call us: 011-49878625, 9821711608

Blog : [blog.forumias.com](http://blog.forumias.com)

Visit us : [www.forumias.com](http://www.forumias.com)

Email : [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)



Q.19] Today, the India-US relationship encompasses a large variety of activities, from information sharing and joint exercises to emerging industrial cooperation. Despite this convergence, India-US relations have been the subject of constant criticism, a combination of unrealistic expectations and doubt. Analyse.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

India-US relationship has grown since 1998 bottom-point in following ways ..

### Information sharing:

- e.g. LEMOA signed & COMCOSA planned.
- intelligence sharing to counter terrorism.
- corporate information sharing e.g. FB.
- e.g. during surgical strike, Indian PM supposedly informed US President.

### Joint exercises:

- Quad established.
- Malabar exercise.
- Declaration of Indo-Pacific.
- Greater role for India in US' Afghan policy.

Industrial cooperation:

- huge diaspora, trade.
- defence relations, nuclear trade also.
- huge service, pharma & automobile sector.

Overall convergence:

- China as common threat.
- Peace in west Asia common goal. (& Afghan)
- Common partners - e.g. Japan, S. Korea.
- Maintain SLOC freedom.
- Target terrorism.

Constant criticism:

lack of trust, and inability to be all weather friends e.g. recently, ~~then~~ <sup>postpone-</sup>ment of 2+2 dialogue.

Unrealistic expectations:

- | By India  | By US  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concessions at WTO e.g. export subsidies, solar panels.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e.g. curb of Iran trade</li> <li>• Imposition of CAATSA on Russia.</li> </ul> |



- Directly take on Pakistan.
- Afghan: expect of funding
- Climate change: curb on climate
- IP: override of Evergreening clause.

Doubt:

- Due to past baggage e.g. Cold war, 1998 sanctions (nuclear).
- Mr. Trump's uncertain policies e.g. climate change pullout, WTO sabotage & protectionism, visa curbs.
- Inadequate response e.g. Afghanistan: no harsh action.

Way forward:

These doubts will remain in any bilateral relation. We must find common points of cooperation & address common threat.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
<b>Total</b>	

Q.20) While other geopolitical issues are important, India must give South Asia its fullest attention. Do you agree? Discuss in light of the problems and prospects of Neighbourhood First Policy of India.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

India adopts a Neighborhood First policy.

Broad geopolitical issues - South China Sea, Indo-Pacific region cooperation of Quad, North-Korean crisis, West Asian turmoil.

- All affect India e.g. SLOC freedom, tackling China, nuclear threat, oil security.

However, South Asia should be the priority (as it is) because:

- ① Direct affect on our security - e.g. terrorism via Pak, North East insurgency, trafficking & smuggling via Nepal, Bhutan & Bangladesh borders.  $\Rightarrow$  causes a loss of 9% of our GDP.
- ② low economic activity - South Asia is the least economically integrated region of world with poor connectivity.
- ③ increasing assertion of China in region



& gradual loss of our hold - e.g. SL: Hambantota port, Nepal: railway & tilt; Pakistan: CPEC, Gwadar port; Maldives: declined India's requests, etc.

(4) Connect with domestic population - e.g. S Tamils with Indians, Bangladeshi ~~to~~ Hindus, with Assam/Bengal, Nepalese Madhesis with ~~Gorkha~~ <sup>Gorkha</sup> belt

(5) Common threat of disasters - e.g. earthquakes, tsunami, climate change, rivers management & floods.

Considering above challenges & problems, Neighborhood first given.

### Prospects:

Economic: SAACEP, BCIM, SESAC, BIMSTEC should allow more integration & economic activity.

if Pakistan allows access to Afghan, it will improve further.

- Security - bilateral agreements, strong checks on border being established.
- China - Can't stop its assertion, but keep maintaining neighbor's dependence on us through project completions, aid etc.
- Disasters: tech development e.g. SARCS satellite sharing.

Continuation of Gaural doctrine (with small neighbors) & Panchsheel with China, along with economic cooperation & capacity building needed.



**Mentor Feedback Questions**

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

**Test Goal**

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....

**Outcomes**

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

**ForumIAS**

Please email scanned PDF copy to [mgp@forumias.academy](mailto:mgp@forumias.academy)

For any help, email us at [student@forumias.academy](mailto:student@forumias.academy)

In case your issue is not resolved, you can reach us at [vinay@forumias.academy](mailto:vinay@forumias.academy).