

Test Code: 21099

FIAS - 2019 - GS2H/6G/10E/12D/22C/30B

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**ForumIAS**

ACADEMY

**GENERAL STUDIES**

Name Of Candidate			
Email Id.		Roll No.	
Mobile No.		Date:	

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>	
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<b>Total Marks:</b>				
<b>Remarks:</b>			<b>Start Time </b>	<b>End Time </b>
			<b>Mode Of Examination :</b>	<b>Online</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Offline</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>ECN CODE:</b>	<b>Evaluation Date:</b>

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS



Q.1) "The recent judgement of the Supreme Court on Section 377 of IPC presented a new vision of equality that is truer and more faithful to the Constitution's transformative character." Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

A

Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was a Victorian era law that criminalised 'sex against the laws of nature, including sodomy'

Features of the Navtej Singh Johar (2018) judgement:

- Read down section 377 to exclude consensual coitus between same sex partners.

Arguments put forth:

- Section 377 in the previous form is violative of Article 14 by treating LGBTQ+ persons as lesser than others.
- Violative of Article 21: sexual intercourse lies in the domain of privacy, thus the law violates privacy, & hence dignity.

by criminalising it

- violates Art 15: ~~Here~~ Here 'sex' was interpreted as 'sexual identity'. Thus the state cannot discriminate based on sexual identity.

Thus, the judgement showed that the meanings enshrined in the constitution are not static. Its intention is to expand the ambit of right & accord a life of dignity to all.

It also opens the door to greater civil rights like marriage & adoption as mentioned by Justice Chandrachud

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.2) "Gender justice, as a value, seems to have become vulnerable to pragmatic politics." In light of the recent controversy, critically evaluate the statement.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

A) India is a highly patriarchal society where this mindset permeates all spheres, including politics.

Recent controversies.

1. Rape accusation on MLA.
2. Sexual harassment accusation on former minister
3. Sexual harassment allegations on CJI
4. Gender insensitive comments by politicians

What do these cases show.

- As a first reaction, the state machinery is slow to react & protective of the accused. The victim is not believed (CJI case, MLA case)
- Many serious transgressions are seen as trivial, or not serious enough to "ruin someone's career (gender insensitive comments)

• The criminal justice system - in design & practice - works against the victim  
(in house enquiry in case of CBI case)  
↳ insensitive police & judges  
↳ 'he said vs she said' as there are no witnesses

• The reprimand only comes if there is immense backlash (EC acting against politicians, minister resigning)  
This is done, less on principle, more to avoid political fallout.

Thus, in politics gender justice is victim to political pragmatism.

However, slowly with more assertive & aware women things are changing.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.3) Special provisions given to various states and region in our constitution signifies the principle of federalism which is unique to India. Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Our model of federalism is called 'sui generis': modelled to suit our unique needs. Since our land is diverse, & different regions have different, sometimes special needs, it is also called asymmetric federalism.

Special provisions for states/regions in the Constitution

① Article 370

- For Nagaland & Mizoram: provisions to protect customary law & traditions.
- Andhra Pradesh: reservation in jobs
- For Manipur: provisions to maintain law & order (due to insurgency)
- Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat: Development boards for backward regions like Saurashtra, Vidarbha, North Karnataka.

② 6th Schedule: Tribal councils (elected) for tribal areas of Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram to protect identity, culture etc..

③ 5th Schedule: Powers to centre & governor to protect the interests of tribes in states like MP, AP etc..

④ Art 370 (~~as erstwhile~~): to accommodate the unique historical circumstances of Kashmir's accession to India.

⑤ 73rd & 74th Amendment: don't apply to 5th & 6th Sch. areas.

Thus, unity in diversity + unity without uniformity is displayed in these features

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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



Q.4) Reservations has become a mere tool for employment generation and power-sharing rather than a means of social justice as envisaged in the Constitution. Discuss with reference to reservation policy in India. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

A) Reservation in India is sanctioned by Article 15(A), 16(A), 46 and Part XVI of the Constitution in <sup>(S)</sup> public sector jobs, legislatures and public sector education for SCs, STs & OBCs.

Need - social justice

• historical injustice to lower castes & backward adivasis, leading to exclusion from govt & education - the effects of which are visible even today.

• These sections are the worst off, thus need state support

However, reservation seems to have become a tool for power sharing & employment generation.

How -

• increasing demand by ~~OBC~~ <sup>intermediate caste</sup> groups for OBC recognition & reservation. Eg: Jats, Patidars

- these are 'dominant' caste groups that are politically strong & landowners
- They, due to agrarian crisis, feel that they have been left out of the development process.
- No patience for other poverty alleviation measures.
- The logic has become about 'proportionate' share in reservation.

EWS  
 ^ made reservation a "poverty alleviation program, rather than about social justice.

- OBC reservation is cornered by a small number of jatis

Thus, India needs a new debate on reservation. urgently.

## Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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



Q.5) Do you agree that exposure to media especially social media has affected voting behaviour and political preferences in India? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

A — Today, more than 60% of Indians are connected to the internet, especially social media. This has impacted all spheres, especially political sphere.

Impact of media & social media on voting behaviour + political preference

### 1. Polarization

- Algorithm of social media platform is designed to feed people more of what they would like to see
- Thus, people are exposed to only one view point.
- Greater corporate ownership of mass media → biased reporting → one sided view

### 2. Fake news

- Propagated with ease on social media
- People newly introduced to the internet — are trusting of these sources

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- Thus, voting is distorted
3. Greater use of ~~ret~~ rhetoric & emotional content
- Easy to incite people based on videos & pictures (eg: fake pictures of body part of Pulwana soldiers displayed)
  - Thus, voting based on emotions
  - Low attention spans = people rely on ~~#~~ rhetoric more.
  - Thus, voting less on facts

4. Greater reach of political parties: people have direct access to their leaders & their views - more informed voting

5. Democratisation of news: low cost websites & youtube channels can produce news. (more informed public)

Thus, social media <sup>media</sup> exposure has had both good & bad effects

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.6) A special emphasis has been given to the private sector in the major health programs in India. Examine the role of the private sector in achieving the goal of a healthy India. What are the steps taken by the government in this regard?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Part IV of the Constitution (DPSPs) encourage the govt. to ensure good health of citizens. Since LPG reforms, the role of the private sector is increasing.

Role of the private sector

- The private sector has 760% of the capacity in the health ~~sector~~ sector.
- Thus it is natural for it to play a role.
- It produces doctors, delivers drugs, conducts diagnosis's, operates super speciality hospitals.
- It is considered more efficient & accountable (to paying patients).

However, there are drawbacks:

- information asymmetry between patient & doctor - can lead to fraud.
- High OOP (60% - 70%) → leads to >6m people falling into poverty.
- Prevalence of quacks → ~40% of doctors in urban areas don't have degrees

- Rising cases of medical negligence.
  - Low investment in primary care
- Thus, while involving the private sector, the govt. also has to ensure regulation & public provision -

### Steps taken.

- Ayushman Bharat (Nation Health Protection mission) empowers private hospitals for tertiary insurance
- PPP in govt hospitals proposed by NITA Nayog (Adani Hospital in Gujarat)
- National Medical Council Act 2019 → allows for fee restriction in 50% of the seats.
- Clinical Establishment Act to regulate.
- Capping of prices of essential medicines by NPPA

#### Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.7) The recently amended the Motor Vehicle Act prioritises road safety by fixing accountability for not just an individual driving the vehicle but all the stakeholders involved in road safety. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Ⓐ The Motor Vehicle Act 2019 was a <sup>urgent</sup> requirement as the previous Act was almost 30 years old.

### Provisions

- Individual accountability.
- All aggregative transport services (Uber) have to get registered
- Steep increase in fines for ~~the~~ road rules violation.
- In case of minor involved in accidents, ~~only~~ culpability is on the owner of the car
- Stakeholder accountability.
- In case of road accident, road developer will have to pay fines if engineering is the cause of accident.

- Good Samaritan law → to ensure help to accident victims.
- Car manufacturers will have to compulsarily recall & pay compensation if so directed (faulty cars)
- Provision for compulsory insurance.

Thus the Act is a positive step in the right direction. Care should be taken to not encroach on states' domain & to have a participative approach.

## Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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



Q.8) India's need for energy security and connectivity to Eurasia, requires India's engagement in the Central Asia region not only at the bilateral level but also at a collective level. Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

India's Connect Central Asia Policy 2012 aims for greater engagement with central Asian countries.

Aims of policy.

- Access to natural resources, especially energy in the region
- Access to Eurasia, overland.
- Access to Afghanistan.

Why need for engagement at collective level -

1. connectivity: Aims to benefit countries like Iran, Afghanistan, Russia also. Thus, initiatives like INSTC have to be collaborative.
2. Energy security: Pipelines will have to pass through territories of various countries. Thus, initiatives like

Ashgabat agreement, TAPI pipeline are required

3. Integration in Central Asia: Central Asian countries are insufficiently integrated, as they were embroiled in border disputes till recently. They are also in dire need of economic investment. India must engage with the collectively to improve connectivity & infrastructure, perhaps by roping in like minded countries like Iran, Russia, China.

Central Asia is an ~~is~~ unexplored avenue with great potential & goodwill for India.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.9) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation with China and Russia as dominant powers have different views on defining terrorism, views about India - Pakistan bilateral issue and engagement with western countries. In this context, discuss how India can use SCO as an effective platform to address her needs.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

A India became a permanent member of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in 2018, along with Pakistan.

Importance of SCO for India :

- Allows India to pursue strategic autonomy from USA.
- intelligence sharing & counter-terror operations under RATS
- engagement with Central Asian countries
- Platform to engage with China & Russia.
- scope for greater energy security in Central Asia.

However, there are certain contradictions -

- India recognises cross-border terrorism as the largest threat emanating from Pakistan, but for SCO, terrorism is defined by 'regime destabilising' force.
- China also asserts territorial integrity in Aksai Chin & recognises Pakistan's claim to Pok & Baltistan (CPEC)
- Relations with West are highly acrimonious.

Way forward

India is a great power straddling both Indian Ocean & Eurasian landmass & must learn to balance in a multipolar world.

- Engage with countries bilaterally for economic & energy needs.
- Try to convince Russia China etc. that Islamist terror might have adverse impacts in Caucasus & Uighur regions.
- Pursue the Wuhan spirit with China.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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