

TEST CODE : 3 2 0 3 5

FIAS - 2020 - EGP Test #5

# ForumIAS

ACADEMY

## GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	SUCHITER SHARMA		
Email Id.		Roll No.	1910077464
Mobile No.		Date:	17 Dec 2020

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile). 2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has TWO topics printed in English and Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part. 3. One question in each part is compulsory. 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. 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. 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.
Q.1			
Q.2			
<b>Total Marks:</b>			
<b>Remarks:</b>			
<b>Start Time </b>		<b>End Time </b>	
<b>Mode Of Examination :</b>		Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>ECN CODE:</b>		<b>Evaluation Date:</b>	

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### MARKING SCHEME

<i>Parameter/Criteria</i>	<i>Aspects Considered</i>	<i>Total Marks</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
<i>Basic Format</i>	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
<i>Content</i>	Data/Facts/Interpretation/ Analysis	25		
<i>Organisation</i>	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
<i>Language Skills</i>	Punctuation/Grammar/ Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
<i>Examiner's Discretion</i>	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

<i>Parameters</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>
<i>Coherence</i>				
<i>Language</i>				
<i>Handwriting</i>				
<i>Pre-writing</i>				

<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>
120 and above	100-120	Below 100

## SECTION - A

1. Changing dynamics of fiscal federalism in India.
2. The myth of local democracy - the Indian Experience with Panchayati Raj

Dr Nagaswamy - author of the book "Uttaramerur - The historical village of Tamil Nadu", mentions about inscription dated 920 A.D, patronised by Puantsaka Chola, which mentions about constitution of wards, mode of election, qualifications and disqualification of contesting candidates. This inscription also mentions about secular transactions such as transportation, education, health and sanitation of village. This clearly shows the presence of local democracy in India. The time when whole world was under the rule of tyranny, these villagers

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had right to recall candidates or representatives not worthy of position.

Even during Rigvedic period, Sabhas and Samitis played important role in election of representatives. Mahabharata, Jatakas, stories etc mentioned about local democracy. Gautam Buddha and Mahavira, belonged to republicans, having democracy.

But with the advent of Britishers, things changed. Slowly and gradually, these local democracies disappeared from the Indian context and there was emergence of centralised system.

But after decades of their rule, Britishers realised that it is not easy to rule with centralised command. Various Governor Generals or Viceroy examined ground situations and reported to

British Parliament, but their views were not taken into account.

Finally in 1870, comes Mayo resolution on decentralisation which aimed to give local bodies power, to ease British administration. Later in 1880, Lord Ripon issued a resolution to reorganise local bodies. Again in 1882, Lord Ripon passed a resolution, came to be known as "Magna Carta of local governance" and Lord Ripon came to be known as "father of local self governance". This led to revival of local bodies.

In 1915, Royal commission on decentralisation was setup to examine the working of local bodies, but it was hailed as complete failure. In the same year Lord Harding passed a resolution to improve the plight of

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Local self governance.

In 1919, Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, placed local self governance under transferred subject. Simon Commission blamed communal politics as cause of failure of local self governance.

In 1935, Government of India Act of 1935 placed local self governance as Provincial subject. In 1937 Provincial autonomy was granted to provinces, which aroused the hope for improvement of local self government. But nothing concrete happened because Congress ministry resigned due to war.

Post Independence in 1949, a committee was formed which discussed the plight of local self governance. Article 40, as "Directive Principle of

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State Policy, was presented which said that "state must try to organise Panchayats and give them powers to let them function as organs of self government."

To revitalise, revive and consolidate the position of Panchayats Raj institutions various committees were formed. Balwant Rai Mehta committee, Ashok Mehta committee, G.V.K. Rao committee and L.M. Singhvi committee.

Recommendations of all these committees over the period of perio time evolved into 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in 1993. It presented new, Part XI and Part XII, in Indian Constitution. The mode of elections, qualification, dis-qualification etc all were laid down. State Election Commission was constituted for election of Panchayats and Municip-

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alities. The aim was to take democracy to the grassroot level, empower citizens, give unvoiced the voice and women empowerment.

But over the time, Panchayats have encountered several challenges, pointing towards the thing that local self government has remained a myth in India.

There is lack of standardization in hierarchy and functioning of Panchayats because it fall under state list in Seventh schedule. Some states have 2+level hierarchy while some have three+level hierarchy. Example is Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh model, which are different.

There is emergence of concept of Mukhiyapati or Sarpanchpati, where male take over the role of Sarpanch or Panch from women who are elected for that



position. It is very much prevalent in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. "Panchayat" - Amazon websites showed the concept of Sampanchayat in rural India.

Panchayats are mostly not given powers to let them function as institutions of self governance due to discretion of states.

In many cases, elections are delayed for years, which is flagrant violation of constitution. Gram Sabha in most of the cases have remain defunct due to low awareness among people, illiteracy etc.

In many cases, it has been observed that these Panchayats are dominated by upper class elites and there is little scope for vulnerable sections to come up and be a part of the process. These challenges point out how local self governance is still a dream for India.

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Apart from various challenges, there is not doubt that in some states, Panchayats are functioning beyond imagination. The best example comes from Kerala, where it was all due to Panchayats that state was able to control pandemic when most of the states were unable to control the pandemic.

In Kerala, Primary health centres are managed by Panchayats and how effectively Kerala fought with pandemic is global example. Moreover, the concept of "Kudumbshree" has led to women empowerment. Kudumbshree acts as launching pad for female candidates for elections.

It was seen that in Kerala, women who hold political positions, most were at some time were part of Kudumbshree. Example of Kerala shows how devolution of powers to local institutions can

effectively contribute towards nation's growth.

During Pandemic, Pune Minister in "Man Ki Bat", mentioned about Smt Balbir Kaur of village Tuema (border village in UT Jammu + Kashmir). Balbir Kaur transformed "Panchayat Ghar" into "Isolation ward" which helped district level authorities to fight pandemic in more robust manner.

Reservation for Women, SC+ST has helped a lot in improving the plight of local bodies and of vulnerable sections. It has given voice to the unvoiced, has led to increased political awareness, and on an whole promoted the concept of "Sbka Saath, Sbka Vikas".

Panchayat (Extension in Schedule Area) Act, 1996 (PESA) has led to upliftment of <sup>most</sup> backward ~~of~~ among the backward. This has led to decrease

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In the activities of Naxalites, Panchayat in these areas has turned into beacon light of development.

The Indian experience of Panchayati Raj institutions is somewhat mixed. There is need to plug the loopholes from the side of State to ensure better functioning of Panchayats. There is also need to address the challenges associated with Panchayats.

There is need to bring standardisation in functioning of Panchayats. There is need to increase devolution of powers so that Panchayats can function autonomously as conceived by Mahatma Gandhi. Increasing women awareness so to counter the concept of Sarpanch-beti.

Further State election commission should be empowered with more

powers so that elections are held in transparent manner. There is a need to separate local elections from national elections, so that local elections are fought on local matter.

Replication of Kerala model with some local level changes throughout India can help in realising local Pstitution as drivers of nation's growth.

Strong Political will, along with empowered citizens and determined representatives can help India to realise the goal of local self governance Pstitution as enabler of 'Grassroot democracy'

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Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading





## SECTION - B

1. The greatest minds are capable of the greatest vices as well as of the greatest virtues.
2. The whole world is more than the sum of its parts.

Till 2015, Jalgaon village faced water scarcity. This village was also known as "tanker village" because of local trucks due to water. But after 2015 situation changed drastically. Villagers decided to go for water management by means of "shramdan" (Voluntary labour) and this changed whole scenario. This summer village received, 24x7 water supply all due to combined efforts of all villagers.

Therefore it is rightly said by Aristotle that - "The whole world is more than sum of its parts".  
Meaning of this quote can further be understood by lines quoted by Prime

Minister "Narendra Modi" -

"Individual actions can bring excellence but only combined efforts can deliver it effectively".

This means that alone individual cannot achieve that performance which can be achieved by means of Teamwork whether it is sports, or organisations only teamwork can help both of them to achieve excellence.

"Gestalt Principle" is a german principle which validates the concept of whole would be more than some of its parts. A car is made up of engine, tires, Metal, Leather etc. when material is procured as raw material it has no value but when all parts are brought together car is generated which has its unique properties.

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Similarly, "concept of Emergence" says that when two analytical objects are combined to form a higher order object, it shows properties different from lower order but very much dependent on them. Example - Hydrogen and Oxygen when are apart can inflame fire but when they come together to form water - it is used to extinguish the flame. This proves that sum is more than individual parts or whole would be more than sum of its parts.

It is well said that - "None of us can be smarter than all of us".

It is all because of combinations of individual excellence, a whole is generated which is much more than all excellences combined together. This can be proved when ISRO (Indian Space and Research Organisation) is taken into account.

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It is due to consistent effort of all scientists that ISRO has achieved such an excellence.

Historically, Indian National Movement is another example. India was denied by Britishers many times from achieving independence because of lack of coordination between Moderates, Extremists and Revolutionaries. But with the advent of Gandhi ji, all these factions worked in coherence to get independence and we achieved it.

At societal level, India is able to contain this pandemic due to synergy in efforts of all citizens. If all citizens are wearing mask then only community transmission can be prevented. Similarly, success of campaigns like swachh Bharat Abhiyan is all because of participation of all

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stakeholders.

Self help groups like Kudumbashree are able to outperform it's objectives all because of coherence among all participants. This convergence helped in tackling pandemic in better way, where SHGs in Kerala formed "Community Kitchens" to feed the vulnerable.

Farmers Producer Organisations (FPO) helped in delivering fruits, vegetables etc at doorsteps due to collective functioning of all farmers. "Amul" - one of the most successful cooperative ventures, is able to achieve this milestone because farmers realised that the whole world is more than sum of it's parts.

At national level, when Bill is passed and when ordinance is passed, farmers receive more acceptance due to the fact that Bill is formed after many deliberations and discussion.

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whereas ordinance is passed after bypassing the Parliament. Democracy is known for dissenting voices and accommodating differences. Success of Indian democracy points to the fact that whole is more than sum of its parts.

Even if seen at the level of individual, it is made up of organ system, which further are made up of organs, organs are collective tissues whereas tissues are made up of cell. Cell is basic functional unit which alone cannot do much as an organism can do. This validates concept of emergence and also Aristotle principle - whole being more than sum of its part.

Convergence is necessary at every level and it is due to convergence, cooperation and coordination among nations that various Internat-

ional treaties were successful. Montreal Protocol was able to eliminate "Ozone Depleting substances" because of universal ratifications. "Paris Agreement" is also hailed as successful agreement after Montreal Protocol due to several nations coming together.

Therefore when different units come together, their convergence generates a unique character, not found in single entities, because of which instead of whole being equal to sum of its parts, whole become more than sum of its part due to unique character achieved.

There are always two sides of a coin. If above concept holds benefit it will also have some cons. Not all humans are alike, they are different. Extraverts can benefit

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Immensely in an organisation but when it comes to Introverts, <sup>they</sup> may not benefit. Their shyness prevent them from taking benefit of cooperation, coordination and convergence.

Even before when Gautam Buddha, has to achieve enlightenment, he held discussions with various scholars but he was unable to satisfy and finally he left everything and preached alone in order to become enlightened. Similarly, Steve Jobs went to Himalayas before "Apple" emerged as his successful venture.

Even Picasso said that for great innovations, solitude is required. Scientists like Einstein, Newton etc worked in solitude and alone and after all that they emerged successful.



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Togetherness is not always beneficial as it can be seen during Parliamentary sessions, when many times Parliamentarians are able to disrupt functioning of Parliament. This has led to reduction in the efficiency of law making body of the country and because of this government resorts to pass ordinances.

Similarly in case of Organised crimes which function in hierarchies and <sup>with</sup> efficiency create law and order problem for a country. "D-company" responsible for terrorism in Bombay and 1993 blast was able to achieve this due to highest degree of convergence and synergy.

U.S.A is unable to eliminate Taliban from Afghanistan will because of high level of organisation. This also holds

True for ISIS which couldn't had ~~increased~~ much control in Libya, Iraq and other countries.

Survival of left wing Extremism, Northeast Emergency and Terrorism in J+K is all because of organizational efficiency. This pose threat to nations security and prevent a nation to realise the goal of development.

"Ekta main Bad hai" - This quote in real sense reflects the power of synergy. A Nation cannot function without its organs, Political system cannot function without legislative and Executive part, Organisations cannot function without employees and Body cannot function without organ.

Therefore without synergy nothing can be achieved and it

may promote stability. It can be rightly cited that -

"Chaman mai iktelate rang-e-bu se  
baat bnti hai, vauna tumhi-tum ho to  
kya tum ho, hum-hi-hum hai to kya  
hum hai" — Urdu poetry

It means that it is diversity and  
variance in colour and fragrance which  
signifies the beauty of the garden,  
otherwise in isolation, neither you mean  
anything nor I. And this quote rightfully  
validates that "Whole world is more  
than sum of its parts."

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Feedback

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