

# ForumIAS

## ACADEMY

### GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	KARTIK SHROTRIYA		
Email Id.		Roll No.	1910045079
Mobile No.		Date:	7/12/20

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory.</p> <p>3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>4. 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>5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p> <p><b>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</b></p> <p><i>I'm Rank# 276, UPSC 2019. My marks in GS-2 were 90. To improve — is focus on data focusing on parts and formatting accurate?</i></p>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
<b>Total Marks:</b>			
<b>Remarks:</b>			<b>Start Time</b>   2 pm
			<b>End Time</b>   5 pm
			<b>Mode Of Examination :</b> Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>ECN CODE:</b>
			<b>Evaluation Date:</b>

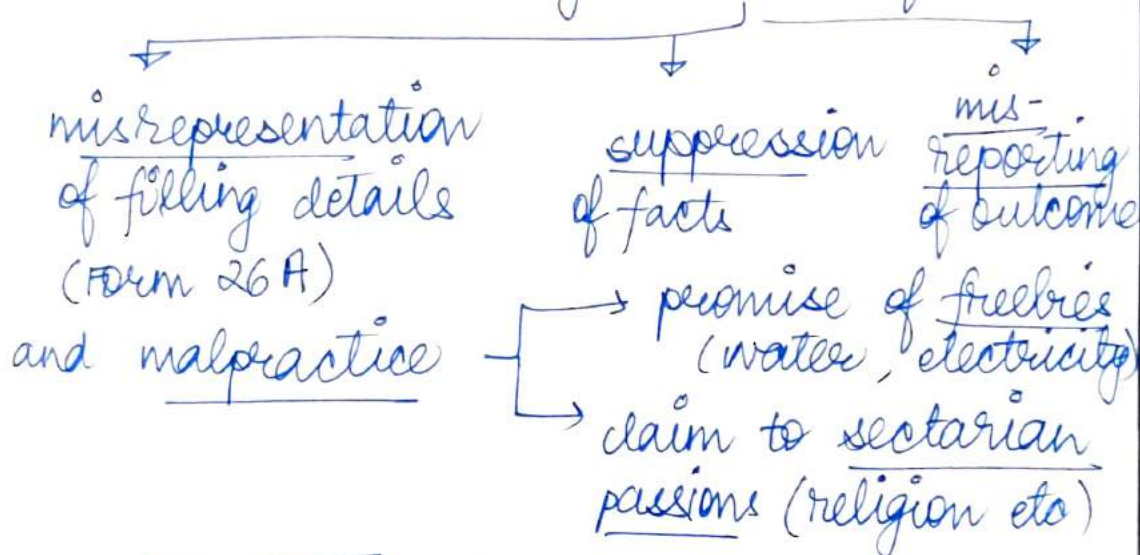
Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q.1) Electoral fraud and malpractice present threats to a free and fair election process. Do you think that legalization of Model Code of Conduct can be successful in checking these? Argue giving suitable examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Criminalisation of elections is an ongoing process, with 63% of Bihar's representatives having a criminal background (ADR).

This is backed by electoral fraud



I agree that

In this, legalisation of Model Code of Conduct can lead to:

1. Proper prosecution mechanism (referring violation to police)
2. More powers to EC for control (as argued in SC)

3. stay path to making many violations as electoral offense.  
(eg. use of dog-whistle speeches)

4. Ensure greater compliance by the corrupt parties / officials  
(eg. MP election utterances)

• On the other hand :

> there maybe loss of flexibility  
(as cases take time)

> reduced immediate impact  
(as EC right now issues rejoinders)

> will allow party control over MCC

Thus, the legalisation should be based on deliberation, people's grievance redressal, faster justice system.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.2) National Council for Transgender Persons is a much-needed step in order to prevent further marginalization of the Transgender community in India. Critically Analyse. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

National council for Transgenders is a statutory body under protection of rights of transgender Act, 2019.

It has chairmanship of Minister of women & child development, along with participation of Home, Health ministry etc.

• It can help prevent further marginalising through :

> duty for proper implementation of provision related to :

→ right to safe household

→ protection against discrimination

→ healthcare, other needs of transgenders

- > it brings in transgender representation (5 members)
- > brings co-operative federalism through state nominees.
- > it can take suo-moto cognisance of act violations.

• on the other hand -

- > it is currently executive dominated in structure
- > the act's issue of self-determination can't be resolved through body.

> requires sociologist to understand local socio-religious identity (eg. Aravani, Jajta)

Thus, the council can bring in more diverse voices through consultation.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.3) 'The dropping of the Question Hour goes against the grain of Democracy'.  
Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Question hour is a primary tool of enforcing parliamentary oversight on executive, in which members of house can ask verbal, written and clarifying questions.

It is mentioned in Rules of Business of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Its dropping has following detrimentous consequences :

1. unchecked actions by the government during public health emergency.  
(eg. use of ordinances for health workers)
2. no accountability for maintaining procedural correctness.  
(eg. migrant rail transport)

3. lack of authentic data, on migrants, deaths, and welfare distribution.  
(eg. PDS offake)
4. lack of public mobilisation on matters of general concern  
(eg. unemployment @ 21% in May 20)
5. lack of collaboration with civil society on the other hand :
  - > due to requirement constraint of space and time in LS/RS.
  - > possibility of COVID spread in elderly NTPs.

Thus, question how should be re-installed at the earliest possible opportunity moment, keeping in mind the pandemic.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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



Q.4) Parliamentary committees play a key role in preserving the foundational pillars of representativeness, responsiveness, and accountability in a parliamentary democracy. In this light, discuss the issue of marginalization of parliamentary committees in recent times. Suggest reforms to strengthen them.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Parliamentary committees are borne out of legislative conventions, providing focused, granular and timely oversight on executive actions.

However, they have been marginalised as seen in:

- > use of ordinance route for passing legislation.  
(eg. ordinance on Banking Regulation, Farm Bills)
- > use of money bills to by-pass Rajya Sabha committees.  
(eg. Tribunals rules in Finance Act, 2019)

> strict party discipline in informal deliberations  
(eg. IT committee on Facebook)

> increased political hue to routine committee work.  
(eg. calling Twitter over "bias")

• The suggested reforms can be :

- > increased inter-party dialogue before legislation introduction
- > increase in number of sittings by various committees
- > allowing, creating online presence for meetings.

Thus, parliamentary oversight can be deepened, taken closer to public.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.5) The Indian Constitution does not envisage the President of India to be a power centre, leave alone set himself up as a rival power centre (to the Prime Minister). Yet, there is always considerable wiggle room for a President to have his presence felt. In light of this statement discuss that Indian President is not merely a rubber stamp. Give arguments in support of your answer. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Articles 52-78 of Indian constitution form the basis of Union Executive, with President as ceremonial head.

The President is tied to cabinet advice (under 44<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment), and can not take individual decisions.

However, President is not a rubber stamp

as -

- > he/she can keep ordinary laws pending for indefinite time. (pocket veto) (eg. done by KR Narayanan)
- > can return a bill for reconsideration, having moral left. (eg. ~~Postal~~ <sup>Banks</sup> Reservation Bill)

> can refuse assent on basis of contravention of Directive Principles.

> can refuse assent if the cabinet has lost lok sabha's confidence.

◦ In case of unclear election results:

→ president can decide who to invite for government

→ ask the leader to prove their majority in house.

Thus, Indian president, although less power than in US; holds considerable power to maintain democratic balance.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.6) The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light some of the fundamental flaws in India's healthcare system. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

COVID-19 has created the conditions for requirement of rapid scaling, fast provision of services and need for protection from catastrophic costs.

This has shed light on the following flaws -

1. Lack of healthcare staff at only 1:1456 doctor-to-patient; 1.8:1000 nurse-to-population.

(recommended  $\rightarrow$  1:1000, 3:1000 (WHO))

2. Lack of critical healthcare infrastructure - ventilators, oxygen cylinders ( $\sim$  2000 per annum capacity)

3. Foreign dependence for medicines manufacture  
(68% API from China)
  4. Urban - Rural divide in healthcare  
( $\sim 3$  to  $4$  times more doctors in urban than rural areas)
  5. Lack of government expenditure  
@  $\sim 1.7\%$  of GDP combined.
  6. Lack of focus on preventive  
hygiene, public health
  7. Constraints of private sector with  $62\%$  beds, but  $> 20\%$  COVID admissions
- These issues can be dealt with by increasing expenditure to  $\sim 4\%$  of GDP, upgraded PHCs, focus on public health as in Niti Aayog's "India@75"

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.7) Media has now reincarnated itself into a 'public court' (Janta Adalat) and has started interfering in to court proceedings. Analyse the statement in the light of frequent instances of media trials. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Media is termed as 4<sup>th</sup> Pillar of a healthy democracy, but has transformed itself to cope-up with the "Attention Economy" of the globalised world.

In need to capture "breaking news", some media houses -

- > create narratives to drive stories in required directions,
- > run mass campaigns for pressuring arrests. (eg. #ArrestRhea)
- > run speculative, biased reportage to indict "villains"  
(as seen in Sushant Rajput case)

• This has led to <sup>to</sup> inference in justice delivery through :

- > creating public opinion of guilt before actual trial (eg. Hyderabad rape case)
- > create biased notions in minds of justices, lawyers (eg. #UPSC Jihad)
- > goes against principle of natural justice (eg. Bollywood termed as "drug capital")
- > makes actual justice arrival harder (eg. suicide case turned into drugs case)

Thus, through proper use of Broadcasting code rules, orders by Ministry of IB, such sham trials can be controlled

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.8) The sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution plays a vital role in preserving tribal autonomy. Discuss in the light of recent demands from Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh for inclusion in the schedule. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The 6<sup>th</sup> schedule of Indian constitution under Article 244, provides specific protections to tribal populations



It plays a vital role in tribal autonomy through:

- > provision of autonomous tribal district councils (eg. BTAD in Assam)
- > provision of legislative powers to tribal areas, through suffrage in council vote.

> control over social infrastructure, school, hospitals, ponds, agriculture in these areas.

> specific judicial autonomy for tribal customs, land alienation (eg. Mera Autonomous Council)

> limitation of application of parliament, state legislature laws according to social needs.

- In Sadakh & Arunachal, the push is due to
  - ↳ closeness to chinese expansion
  - ↳ lack of development
  - ↳ secessionist tendency (Patkai region)

Thus, this asymmetric federal arrangement is helpful in maintaining unity of nation

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.9) "Changing to a presidential system is the best way of ensuring a democracy that works." Critically analyse the statement in the light of issues in the current setup of our parliamentary democracy. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The presidential system arrogates power in a single - popularly elected individuals - with separation from legislature. The government is thus technocratic.

change to presidential system maybe desired as :

1. Positive -

→ logical conclusion of strong-man politics in India

→ allows technocrats as ministers, bringing expertise (against current political games)

- reduction in span of accountability as accountability is evaded in parliamentary form
- avoiding constant government - parliament tussles.

## 2. Negatives -

- reduces the representation of large diversity
- power can turn dictatorial.
- issues of political accountability
- imbalance of checks & balances

Thus focus should be on improving parliamentary dialogue, cohesion instead of abandoning.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.10) In order to ensure impeccable accountability, the need is to strengthen the RTI Act, not dilute or evade it'. Elucidate. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The RTI Act, 2004 provided a "rights based approach" to transparency in government functioning, as enshrined in Art. 19.

Recent amendments of -

- > reducing parity between CICs, ICs and election commission
- > government decided tenure, perks
- > executive dominated selection process
- can cause dilution in RTI regime

- To ensure accountability, there is need of -
  - > proper, timely filling of vacancies in state ICs.
  - > cross-party selection panel for CICs and ICs
  - > restoring parity with constitutional bodies.
  - > improved ICT use to reduce huge pendency.

Thus, through RTI we can ensure that democracy doesn't "die in darkness".

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.11) UAPA, an anti-terror legislation intended for exceptional circumstances, is becoming routinized. Comment in the light of amendments and repeated invocations of UAPA in recent times. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1968 has become de-facto anti-terror law after the lapse/repeal of FOTA and TADA bills.

It has provisions for :

punishing proscribed membership  
 aiding international co-operation  
 enhanced burden of proof  
 bias against bail

There have been arguments that it is being routinized; as -

### 1. Amendments

> UAPA amendment in 2020 gives powers to proscribe individuals as terrorist.

- > enhanced powers over confiscation of incriminating materials.
- > allow normally inadmissible material as evidence for crime.
- > enhance powers of NIA inspectors to search, investigate under VAPA.

## 2. Repeated Invocations -

- > against peaceful protests against controversial laws (CAA, NRC protests)
- > in case of journalists, reportage of sensitive cases (in UP)
- > in use of cartoons, photographs deemed inappropriate (in Gujarat)
- > against "unknown" persons, later used



in arrests of individuals  
(eg. in aftermath of delhi riots)

However, there is an increased need -  
→ to uncover terrorist plots before  
execution

[eg. in Nagrota, J&K (UT)]

→ to reduce over ground workers  
of prescribed organisations  
(eg. Jamat-e-Islami)

→ to damp on social, economic support  
for riots/tensions.

(eg. in Assam 2013)

Thus, VADA should be clarified, with  
reduced ambiguity over "evidence",  
"membership" etc - along with mental  
application in bail cases.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.12) Autonomous bodies are a major stakeholder in the government's functioning. However, they face a number of issues which need to be reviewed and dealt with. Identify these issues and suggest suitable measures to streamline these bodies. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Autonomous bodies such as Central Water Commission, NHRC, National Commission for Women, Minority educational institutions (NMEI) provide much required administrative support, quasi-judicial function and continuous measure of control over various government functioning.

- However, they have dealing with issues of:
  - lack of full capacity, due to retirements and non-appointments.  
(eg. CIC has >50% empty seats)

- lack of proper funding for carrying out regular function, paying salaries (eg. National commission for safai karmacharis)
- procedural infirmities, lack of following flexible judicial functioning.
- lack of infrastructure, proper place of functioning.
- incorporation, overbroadening functions. (eg. NMEI sees across all India religious institutes)
- lack of grievance redressal sometimes, except supreme court.
- The measures to streamline functioning -
  - I. Provide regular, proper fund

- disbursal to bodies
- regular, auto-invoking appointments to empty seats.
  - simplification of rules of procedure and conduct.
  - instituting social audit for outcomes, functions.
  - use of citizen charter updation and matching capacities

Thus, autonomous bodies can meaningfully contribute to governance, partnership with government as under SDG-17.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.13) The rising tensions between the U.S and China indicate the re-emergence of a New Cold War (Cold War 2.0). Do you agree? How is it different from the earlier one? What role should India play in the Cold War 2.0? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The rise of china post-2010 and its unique "middle kingdom" approach to global affairs - has sparked fundamental tussle with US, the current hegemon.

Yes, I agree that there are signs of Cold War 2.0 as :

- > fundamental ideological tussle  
(eg. communist party vs. US liberalism)
- > involvement of global actors  
(eg. ASEAN fulcrum vs. SCO organisation)
- > rising weaponisation in countries  
(eg. non negotiation of NEW START treaty)

> impact of war on other countries  
(eg: "maximum pressure" vs.  
\$400 billion deal with Iran)

It is different from earlier as -

→ this is based more on trade  
related measures  
(US - China trade ~ \$800 billion)

→ greater economic interdependence  
in investment, trade.

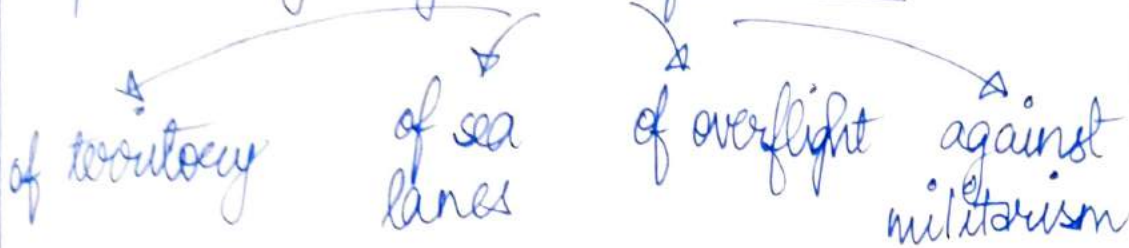
→ pre-existing nuclear deterrence

→ lack of "warshaw pact" like block  
on china's side.

→ china is land neighbour of India,  
having much direct impact of the  
cold war 2.0

Role that India should play :

→ as the conversational fulcrum for protecting regional freedoms.



→ act as a major swing power, allying on issue basis with the two powers (eg. security - US, environment - china)

→ reduce possible dialogue frictions (eg. on trade, technology transfer)

→ build its own capacities to counter-balance

Thus, as the cold war 2.0 starts taking shape - India should enter with own peace-building, regionally sensitive view

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.14) "The corruption begins not after coming to power but before it." Elucidate in the light of opacity in electoral funding. Suggest practical steps to deal with the issue. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

## II Administrative Reforms Commission

points to decreasing ethics in public life as a major cause of overall issues and decay in governance of India.

The stard of corruption exists from election days itself in -

- > use of freebies, contrabands to lure voters (eg. free alcohol, cash)
- > use of intimidation tactics
- > use of hidden phrases, speeches to convey communal, sectarian meaning
- > use of large amount of black money (eg. ~60,000 crore in 2019 election)



In this, electoral bonds add another layer of opacity -

- > removal of 7.5% of profit limit over businesses on political donation.
- > removal of reporting requirements for both - corporates under IT Act, 1961 and parties under RPA, 1951.
- > allowing foreign funding to political party.
- > no requirement of fund disclosure to Election Commission.

In this practical steps to deal with issue -

1. Enhance number of election finance observers.

2. Rationalise spending limits per constituency (from ₹70 to ₹20 lakh currently) [Law commission report]
3. Incorporate disclosure requirement to election commission on annual/semi-annual basis.
4. Put limit (in % terms) on foreign funding, enhance FCRA disclosure.
5. Greater enforcement power during elections — to countermand, conduct raids etc.

Thus, the quality of democracy is directly proportional to election quality which should be preserved.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.15) With US announcing its plans to leave Afghanistan, the politics in the region has becomes unstable with the involvement of the various super powers in the region. In this context, should India align with other actors or tread its path of strategic autonomy. Give arguments to support your answer. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

The recent agreement between US-Taliban and start of Intra-Afghan dialogue has triggered new unrest, violence and uncertainty in the jihadist-hit region.

The region has been unstable due to foreign interference as in -

- > support to Taliban, Haggani Network by Pakistan.
- > support to Northern Alliance by Iran, Russia
- > NATO missions by US, France, UK among others.

- In this situation, India should align with regional actors as -
  - > there is requirement to safeguard economic, physical infrastructure.  
(eg. Salma Dam, Taranj - Belaram Highway)
  - > there is increased legitimacy of Taliban due to US agreement, concessions.
  - > there are concerns of instability with other countries - China and Iran etc
  - > requirement of support of Afghan government engaging with stronger Taliban.
  - > to neutralise Pakistan's "great game" and "depth" in Afghan affairs.
  - > to explain to US, western countries over reurgence chances of unreformed

taliban .

- > protection of minority (Sikh, Hazara) liberties in Afghanistan .

Thus, India's engagement may be through -

- > maintaining back channel interactions with Taliban
- > provide support, strengthen National unity government
- > participate informally in soha dialogue .
- > create consensus on rise of terror with China, Russia .

As the retreat of US unfolds, the Indian demands of "3 red lines" should be safeguarded .

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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



Q.16) "The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 heralds the beginning of a new era of consumer rights in India that are in sync with new-age consumer expectations." Elucidate while enumerating the provisions of the new Consumer Protection Act. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Consumer Protection Act, 2019 provides an updated, flexible way of ensuring citizen rights, both online as well as offline.

It heralds a new era of consumer rights as -

1. Provides consumer ease/flexibility -

- now cases can be filed from consumers' place of residence,
- earlier only filing could be in evant firm's place.

2. Improves consumer court capacity:

- increasing quantum of complaint value to ~~₹10 lakh~~ <sup>₹1 crore</sup>, ₹10 crore & > ₹10 crore

for district, state and national consumer courts

2. enhanced consumer protection -

→ through establishment of consumer protection council, and giving

→ review powers to courts on their own decision

3. Better enforcement -

→ establishment of central consumer protection authority, to take up cases of harm, non-compliance

→ and introduction of product liability.

4. Improved control over malpractices

→ CCPA can take suo-moto cognisance

→ order product recall

5. Online protection extension -

→ through bringing e-commerce sites under surveillance

→ mandatory 'source of origin' disclosure

→ check on predatory pricing, exclusive deals

6. ease of consumer behaviour

→ through mandatory return policy

→ disclosure of product ingredients

Thus, with sectoral, granular approach - the new CPA, 2019 can enhance consumer rights realisation

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

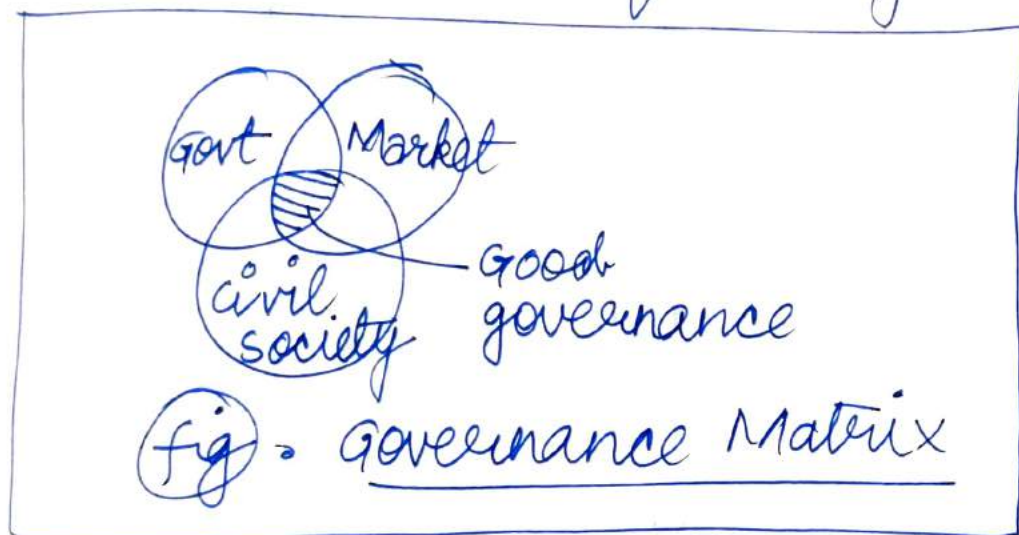
Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q17) NGOs have been providing and enabling access to social services for those in need. However, their repeated and over-regulation is gradually sounding death knell for them. Comment in the light of the recent amendments to the FCRA Act.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Non-Governmental organisations act as the third set of governance matrix by extending services to untouched, underserved section of society.



The history of enabling access can be seen in -

1. Pratham in learning outcomes
2. PUDR in civil rights action
3. Kudumbashree in women empowerment

- However, they have faced repeated, over-regulations :
  - > in form of licensing requirements in specific sectors (eg. NGOs for child labour)
  - > lack of legitimacy by government, provisions under NGO DARPAN by Niti Aayog.
  - > Amendment to FCRA Act, 2020 :
    - reduction in share of administrative expenses from 50% to 20% of total funding
    - non-transfer of foreign funds by an eligible to non-registered entity.

→ opening special escrow account in PSBs (esp. SBI) to use foreign funds.

→ strict renewal procedure, provision of stoppage during enquiry.

→ mandation of Aadhar details of post-holders for foreign funds.

This can lead to :

↳ stoppage of NGO functions (Amnesty Intl.)

↳ loss of jobs in NGO

↳ high barrier to entry.

Thus, as suggested in II ARC - a streamlined verification process, decentralised rules, and local support are need of the hour

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

Q.18) "Capacity of Civil Services plays a vital role in rendering a wide variety of services, implementing welfare programs and performing core governance functions." In this light, comment on the importance and utility of 'Mission Karmayogi'.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Civil servant capacity to ensure proper convergence in output - outcome, regular check over funding, innovative resource use. — forms bedrock of public service delivery.

- Various vital roles can be seen in -
  - > provision of DM-level committees for → scheme verification
    - disaster management
    - district plan preparation (eg. Swachh Bharat, Jal Shakti Abhiyan)
  - > provision of core function in Aspirational district program.

In this "Mission Karmayogi" aims to enhance civil services capacity through:

1. Importance -

- aims at overall re-orientation of civil services from "rules-based" to "role" based.
- provides proper arena for development of functional roles, approaches and competencies (FRACs)
- synergises various central training institutional efforts
- allows "right person" - "right job" matched based on competency development and matching.

## 2. Utility -

- > to allow life-long ~~and~~ learning during civil services career.
- > to allow "living university" approach through flexible course and evaluation
- > to re-orient civil servants towards public service values and updates
- > to allow centralised guidance, direction by PM - HR council, cabinet secretary guided committee.

Thus, "Mission Karmayogi" can provide HR value to "minimum government" idea.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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

69498310341910045079 (2020-12-10 16:40:09)

Q.19) In the recent years, there is a renewed vigour in the Indo-Japan relationship. This partnership can promote stability and security in the South Asian region. Elucidate. Also discuss some key challenges associated with Indo-Japan relation.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Indo-Japan relations are now guided by political guidance, economic congruence and strategic concern for the Indo Pacific.

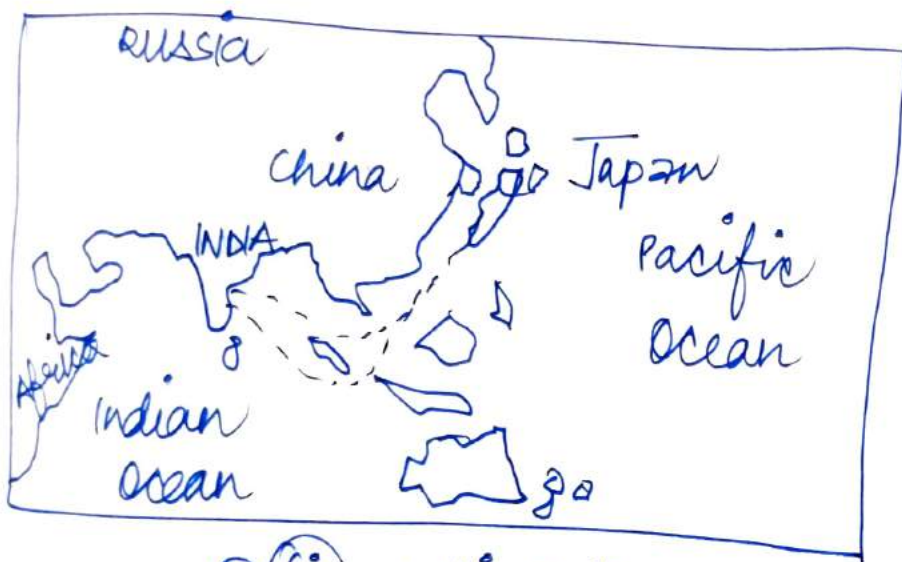


Fig. India & Japan

There has been renewed vigour as :

→ increased leader-level economic between PM Modi & Shinzo Abe

→ growth of China as regional rival

→ common territorial threats to countries from China.  
(eg. Aksai Chin & Senkaku Islands)

→ formation of QUAD nations - US, India, Japan and Australia.

• This partnership can promote stability

as -

> underwrite Indo-Pacific rule of law, freedom of navigation.

> net security provider in high-sea patrolling. (eg. increasing piracy near Malacca)

> provide alternative to south asian countries against OBOR  
(eg. Indo-Japan joint Senkaku port development)



- > provide soft support, bottoms-up growth.  
(similar to Asia - Africa growth corridors)

Some key challenges in relations are-

- > issues of continuity in engagement (as Shinzo Abe retires)
- > military projects related distrust (refusal of Japan to share P-8I plane plans)
- > delay in joint development projects (eg. Indian bullet train project)

Thus, as China rises and India-Japan pass through transition - a process based approach against episodic approach is better.

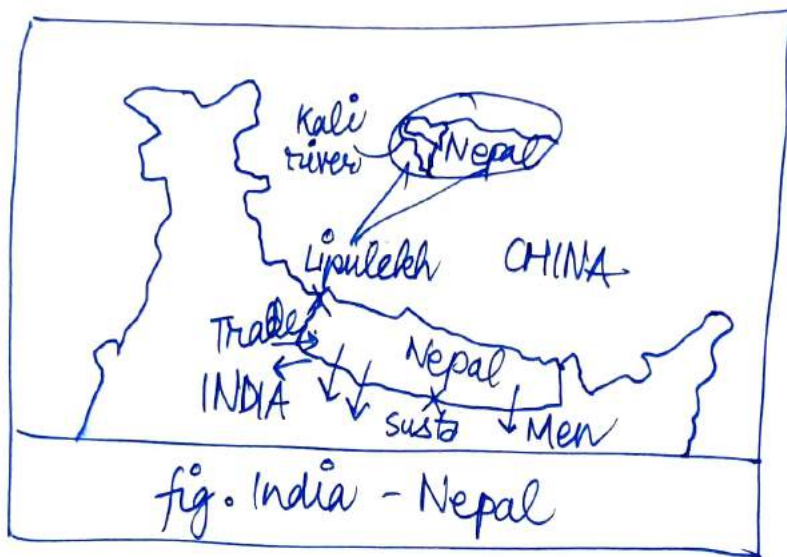
Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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



Q.20) "The exemplary friendship between India and Nepal has been recently put to test." Comment while suggesting a roadmap to reinvigorate the bilateral relations. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Indo-Nepal relations <sup>are</sup> underwritten by Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950, along with civilisational, cultural and economic ties.



- The exemplary friendship can be seen in
  - free movement regime of people between nations
  - "roti-beli" (food-marriage) relations with Terai region.

69498\_31034\_1910045079\_(2020-12-10 16:40:09)

→ common customs over Lord Ram, Sita — pilgrimage.

→ large number of expat population (~3 million) of Nepalese.

It has recently been put to test:

> issue of Sipulekh - limpyadhura trijunction (claimed by Nepal)

> no clarity over susta (Bihar) demarkation, leading to violence

> increased chinese intervention in Nepalese politics

> non-agreement over Treaty of Sagauli, 1826 given riparian lines

> Mahakali water treaty tensions

- A roadmap for re-invigorating ties :
  - > reduction in political grand-standing, especially by Nepalese cabinet.
  - > improving border trade infrastructure (land custom zones, check points)
  - > engaging in modern people to people ties (eg. Ramayan tourism circuit)
  - > improved back-channel conversation

Thus, Indo-Nepal ties should not be left to weather over small mis-understandings.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

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