

# UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
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## GENERAL STUDIES

NAME OF CANDIDATE : DR. PRASHANTH S

MEDIUM: ENGLISH

ROLL NO. : 1910109444

DATE : 2.1.23

Q.NO.	MAX. MARKS	MARKS OBTAINED
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Total	<u>250</u>	<u>    </u>

START TIME: 9 PM

END TIME: 12 AM

MODE OF EXAM:  
ONLINE

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Time Allowed : Three Hours  
समय : तीन घंटेMaximum Marks : 250  
अधिकतम अंक : 250

## GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम			
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	Medium/माध्यम	English <input type="checkbox"/>	Hindi <input type="checkbox"/>
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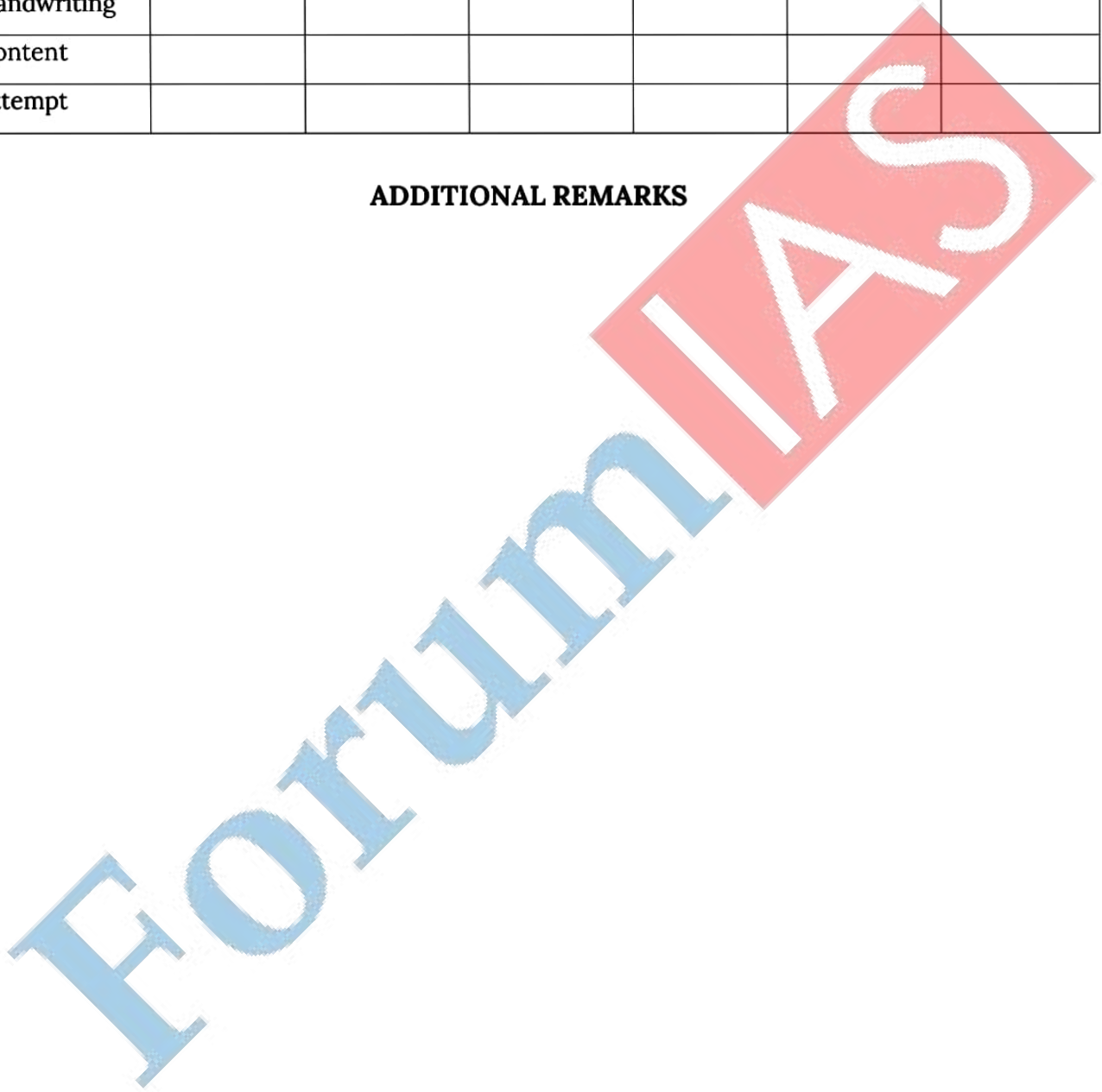
\*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश		
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।		
1			2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all questions are compulsory. उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।		
2			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।		
3			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. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।		
4			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. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।		
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Total Marks/कुल अंक :			Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>	Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>
*Evaluator's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।			For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु		
			ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :

**Note:** You can discuss your evaluated copy with the Mentor. Raise a ticket from your portal to schedule a mentor call or visit the offline centre to meet mentor (all 7 days, Timings – 11 AM to 6 PM). Further if you are unsatisfied with the evaluation, you can seek re-evaluation of the copy.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
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Structure						
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**ADDITIONAL REMARKS**



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Specimen Booklet

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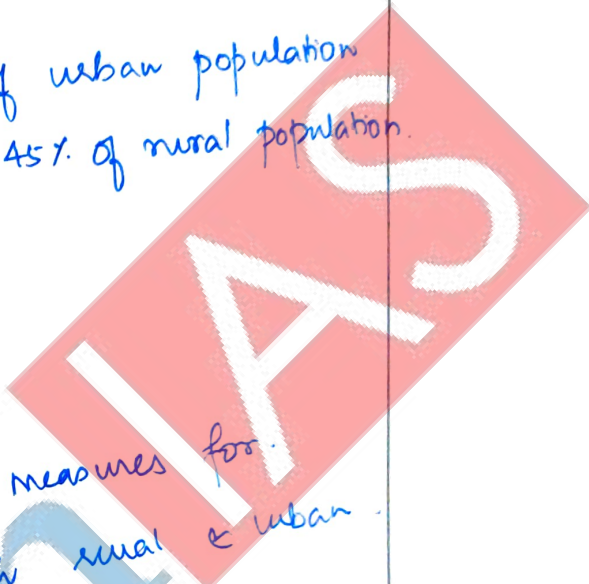
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1) Path to a digital India should traverse through the villages but seems to have bypassed the ideal trajectory. Critically examine. (10M)

In India, around 85% of urban population have access to data while only 45% of rural population have access to data.

### - [Digital India:]

- The Government has taken measures for equitable access of data to both rural & urban areas in the form of National Fibre optic Project and Digital India Mission
- The Government has enabled Common Service Centres to provide data services to the poor and in rural villages
- Free Wifi network services have been enabled in railway stations



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In spite of these measures, there seems to be a digital divide between the rural villages & urban areas due to:

- ↑ Pace of development and standard of living in urban cities
- ↑ software services and IT parks in cities compared to rural areas
- Transmigration of rural poor to urban areas in search of better opportunities.
- Increased speed of networks (5G & 4G connection) in urban areas enabled by telecom service providers against no such access currently in rural areas.

A Government working on the ideals of Minimum Government & Maximum Governance must focus on equitable distribution of resources at the rural & urban areas.

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2) Narrow understanding of disability has marginalised people suffering from mental disorder. Elucidate (10M)

The "Disabled" in the Country have been redesignated as "Differently Abled / Divyangan" in order to remove the stigma afflicting them.

### Disability:

Refers to the 29 diseases / disorders as enumerated causing handicap in physical / mental functions as compared to normal humans under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

### Narrow Understanding:

- Diseases such as Autism - a form of learning disorder is in the spectrum of Disability.

- Poor Awareness of the spectrum of such diseases leads to Exclusion from the benefits

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to be accrued under the act

- Stigmata attached around mental disorders leads to ineffective diagnosis and treatment
- External Disabilities are visible while Mental illnesses not being externally visible do not convince the general population & society of a disability.

## Reforms:

- "Accessible India" Campaign for their accomodation into society
- Divyangan toilets & coaches in Railways
- Amendments to the Mental Healthcare Act, 2019 for the inclusion of Autism, Schizophrenia- psychiatric & learning disorders under Disabilities.

A better understanding of their difficulties & their inclusion into the society leads to a harmonious & productive growth for all.

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3) The Election Commission of India has a vital role in building a robust framework of electoral democracy. Highlighting challenges associated with functioning of ECI, suggest measures to reform the body. (10M)

The Election Commission of India is a Constitutional body under Articles 324-329 of the Constitution and hence, a bulwark of democracy.

### Vital Role :

- Conducting free & fair elections for the Parliament & State Assemblies
- Advisory role in cases of Disqualification of Elected members
- Recognition of Political parties, registration and inclusion of electoral base in the form of voters
- Enforcing Model Code of Conduct, prevention of rigging, checking money & muscle power





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4) Fair competition is the cardinal principle of free market economy. In this context, explain role of Competition Commission of India and compare its position with anti-trust institutions of other countries (10M)

The Competition Commission of India, is a statutory authority to ensure fair trade & competition including market dealings.

### Role:

- To check malpractices in competitive practices

Eg: Recently CCI conducted enquiry on practices undertaken by Google.

- Impose monetary fines as punishments if proven guilty.

Eg: Fines imposed on Facebook

- To check if mergers of companies lead to distortion of trade practices

Eg: Sony TV channel merger.

- Role of National Anti-Profiteering Authority subsumed by CCI under GST laws

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## Global Anti-Trust Institutions:

- The World Trade Organization carries surveillance activities to check for trade distorting practices including subsidies.

Eg: WTO considers POS system of India as a trade distorting practice.

Thus, the Competition Commission of India, under the CCI Act acts as a guarantor of fair rights and market practices in a globally competitive economy.

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5) Securities and Exchange Board of India protects the interest of investors as well as ensures development and regulation of financial markets. Discuss how far SEBI has been successful in performing its envisaged role. (10M)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India acts as the supervisory and regulatory financial authority over the capital market including Bonds, shares & equities.

### - Role:

- Investor protection & education :  
Information, Education & Communication activities on Market risks & investment tools

- Regulation: SEBI regulates the financial capital market & imposes rules & regulations on Bonds, mutual funds and equities

- Prevention: SEBI prevents Insider trading

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leading to regulation of financial markets & prevents distortion.

- Effectiveness:

SEBI has been able to protect markets from crashing by ensuring free & fair capital markets

- Exposing Hawala Scams Eg: Harshad Mehta Scam. thus preventing collapse of markets

- The subsumption of PFRDA & IRDA - a proposal mooted in 2019, into the SEBI shows the trust and confidence of the Government.

Thus, the SECURITIES & EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA has served its role as the Apex financial regulator of the capital market.

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b) Lokpal & Lokayuktas were envisaged to strengthen legal & institutional mechanism to ensure cleanliness in public life. Critically examine their role as anti-corruption watchdogs. (10M)

Lokpal & Lokayuktas are the Central & State statutory bodies created under the respective acts to act as anti-corruption agencies.

Role:

- Lokpal & Lokayuktas have been envisaged to act upon the Group A & B officers of the Central & State Government
- Supervisory Jurisdiction over the cases handled by the Central Vigilance Commission in case of Group C & D officers
- All officers of the Government including the Ministers in office except the Prime Minister & Chief Minister are under the Lokpal & Lokayukta

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## Challenges:

- Exclusion of the Chief Minister / Pronic Ministers
- Non-Creation of Lokayuktas in multiple States  
Eg: Tamilnadu
- Appointments of officers to the Lokpal / Lokayuktas by the Government instead of the Collegium by the Court.
- Non-establishment of Jan Lokpal as originally envisaged.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas must be brought into the Constitutional ambit to enable an effective role for the anti-corruption watchdog.

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7) Subordination of investigative agencies to the executive is fraught with disastrous consequences. Discuss the statement in light of the criticism of CBI as a caged parrot. (10M)

The CBI - Central Bureau of Investigation is a statutory organization established under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

### Subordination of Agencies:

- Investigative agencies such as the CBI, NIA are non-autonomous under the Ministry of Personnel & Ministry of Home Affairs respectively.
- Political appointments as heads of investigative agencies
- Political vendetta leading to filing of unnecessary cases by the agencies (Eg: Claims of TMC in West Bengal allegedly)
- Recently, CBI was criticised as a caged parrot speaking in the words of its master by the Supreme Court of India.



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- Independence of the Organization is lost leading to ↓ efficiency
- Loss of faith & trust reposed on the CBI as the apex investigative agency.

## Reforms:

- Constitutional mandate to the CBI.
- Heads of investigative agencies to be appointed by a panel consisting of leader of opposition & CJI
- Financial autonomy over its functioning
- Establishment as an Autonomous Investigative institution.

Thus, the CBI must act in its capacity as the apex investigative agency as a neutral body and not come under the influence of the political executive.

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8) Vocational training needs to be blended with mainstream education in order to bridge the wide skills gap. Highlight the status of vocational training in the country. How does NEP Policy, 2020 promote vocational education? (10M)

The National Educational Policy, 2020 has ushered in reforms in the sphere of education in India.

Status of Vocational Education:

While countries such as Taiwan have 97% of their population under formal skill training, India has a meagre 4%.

Role of NEP:

- Majority of the population in India undertake informal skill training

- National Educational Policy, 2020 envisages formal vocational skill training along with education.

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- Formal skill training along with diploma  
courses in technical & engineering matters will be  
provided Eg: Handicraft production.

- "Work while you Earn" Scheme and Schemes like  
"Nai Talim" under Ministry of Skill Development &  
Entrepreneurship promote vocational skill training

Thus, the National Educational Policy, 2020 is a  
welcome move towards bringing the informal  
training into formal education sector.

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9) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) addresses the need for interoperability in health services through a unified health interface. Elaborate its significance in digitising the health care ecosystem (10M)

Ayushman Bharat Mission is the nationwide healthcare program of the Government to ensure targets of SDG 3 - "Healthcare for All".

Unified Health Interface:

- ABDM has institutionalised the health interface under the Health Management & Information System (HMIS)
- E-Sanjeerani Portal for online consultation of doctors through digital appointments
- E-pharmacis supplying medicines to doorstep based on medical prescriptions
- Compilation of health reports date wise & treatment rendered under one source.

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- National Health Stack (compiled reports accessible anywhere in India) may be operational through the ABDM project.

- E-processing of PMJAY health insurance until 5 lakhs / family for a year.

## Challenges:

- Access to data is skewed in rural areas  
vs urban areas

- Data Protection Eg: Recently AIIMS was attacked by Ransomware

- Skill training of doctors & healthcare workers to operate technical services

Thus, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is a welcome move to revolutionize healthcare access for All.

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10) Objectives of a welfare government remains incomplete without a progressive ecosystem for the children's development. Discuss with special emphasis to recently passed Juvenile Justice Amendment Act, 2021 (10M)

The Juvenile Justice Amendment Act, 2021 brought in legislative changes on the trial process and reformatory action to be taken for child offenders.

Progressive Ecosystem:

- Acts of children to be dealt with reformation rather than retribution
- Raising age to inculcate values and future of the society

Amendments:

- Trial of children on par with adults for offences involving punishment greater than 7 years

- Acts of rape committed by children between 16-18 years treated on par with adults

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- Adoption of children to be authorized by district magistrates rather than district courts
- Offences between 14-16 yrs of age to be tried after a mental state examination.

### Way Ahead:

The Government must involve all stakeholders before bringing in wider changes in the Act. Debates and Dialogue leading to deliberation are a must for deciding the future of the society.

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- 1) What do you understand by the First Past the Post system? Why was FPPS preferred over the Proportional Representation system for elections to the Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha? Also, critically examine consequences of this preference (15M)

India follows the system of First Past the Post for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies & Proportional Representation for election to the offices of President, Vice-President and the Rajya Sabha.

## First Past the Post System:

First Past the Post system refers to the candidate who scores the maximum number of votes in a constituency being declared the winner amongst the competing candidates.

## Reasons for Preference:

First Past the Post system was preferred to Proportional Representation for the following

- Reasons:
- 1) Influence of the Government of India Act, 1935



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The system of First Past the Post was prevalent during the elections & the Govt. of India Act, 1919 & 1935 & constitution for India was heavily borrowed from it

- 2) Existing knowledge of system - easier to practise than adopting a new system like Proportional Representation
- 3) Convenience to declare results \* for easy understanding
- 4) Prevalent and widespread success across different countries Eg: Britain, Japan

## Consequences:

- People could elect only one person for a constituency
- Difference in margins between candidates may be minor (1 vote) or very large.

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- System of Proportional Representation assures representation to political parties based on the mandate of a wide electoral base lacking in First Past the Post System

- The candidates elected through First Past the Post system may not represent the electoral mandate of the constituency

Eg: NOTA polling more votes than candidates of some parties

The Working Committee to review the Working of the Constitution examined the First Past the Post system model & agreed for its continuance (Justice Venkataswami) Committee. The Election Commission of India based on the First Past the Post System has thus conducted elections in a free & fair manner.

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12) Examine the role of the Finance Commission in maintaining the fiscal equilibrium in the country. Also, compare the recommendation of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission with its predecessor & implications of its recommendations (10M)

The Finance Commission has been constituted under Article 280 by the President once in 5 years & the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission under Dr. N.K. Singh is currently underway.

Role of Finance Commission:

- Recommendations on the tax devolution. Proportion between the Centre and States
- Recommendations on the Fiscal federalism. Policy to be adopted by the Union Government
- Discretionary grants to be accorded to the states (Article 282) and Grants-in-aid to be proportioned to the states (Article 275)

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The Government of India had instituted Terms of Reference to the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission :

- Whether discretionary grants are to be awarded to states
- Whether grants may be awarded based on the performance of certain states in key indicators such as health, education
- Proportion of tax devolution between the Centre & the states on the aftermath of the GST Taxes

### Comparison:

- The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has not undertaken analysis of the provisions based on the reports of the previous Finance Commission.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has recommended discretionary grants based on performance.
- Necessity to ↑ Tax: GDP ratio from 17% has been stressed.

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- GDP: Debt ratio from 60% to be brought down to 40%.

## Implications:

The recommendations of the Finance Commission are only advisory in nature and the Government must take steps after analysis and wider consultation with the states based on a consensus approach.

Thus, Fiscal federalism as envisaged by the Constitution of India under the Finance Commission is its most important role.

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- 13) A polity perennially in election mode is not well suited for effective governance. In light of the statement, discuss how far simultaneous elections can solve this problem. Also, highlight challenges of conducting simultaneous elections? (15m)

The Election Commission of India, a Constitutional Body based on powers under Article 324 conducts free & fair elections in India.

### Current Model:

Elections are conducted once in 5 years for the Lok Sabha & State Legislative Assemblies. Diff. states are in election mode in different years.

### Proposal:

The Prime Minister and the Election Commission of India have mooted the proposal of "ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION" - i.e. simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha & State Legislative Assemblies.

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Advantages:

- 1) Reduces cost of expenditure in conducting multiple state elections throughout the year.
- 2) Reduces the period of elections and hence, decreases the period of Implementation of Model code of Conduct.
- 3) Better Governance, due to decreased election periods where elected members concentrate on the issues than campaigning for elections.
- 4) Law Commission of India had recommended previously

Challenges & Disadvantages:

Demerits include: 1) Effect of simultaneous election waves on the Parliament & State Assemblies may influence popular mandate leading to the same party chosen

2) Multiple elections & By-elections serve as a mid-term mandate to the party in power & its performance.

3) Attempt to bring uniformity without political consensus is tough.

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## Challenges:

- 1) Election machinery for conducting simultaneous elections is inadequate
- 2) Principle of hung assembly / Dissolved assembly may break the synchrony.
- 3) Death of candidates / widespread rigging / electoral malpractices may increase \* postponement of elections in such cases necessitated

The Election Commission of India and the Government must involve all stakeholders and bring in consensus through negotiation & deliberation before widespread reforms.



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# UPSC

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14) The Representation of People Act, the bedrock of free & fair elections in the Country, has failed to keep pace with contemporary challenges. Highlighting the shortcomings in the legislation, suggest reforms to make it more effective. (15M)

The Representation of People Act, 1950 & 1951 enumerate the process of free & fair elections and the various criteria for qualification & disqualification of candidates.

Challenges & Shortcomings:

- No definition of Office of Profit under the RPA Act, 1951
- Section 8A of RPA Act enumerates criteria for disqualification but authorises the ECJ to revoke disqualification except in cases of corruption.

Eg: Sikkim on Prem Tamang.

## UPSC

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- The RPA Act under section 25 cites offences such as involving caste / religion in the name of seeking votes - but does not term punitive criminal action for the same & stipulates meagre fine.

- Social media violations & its regulations do not come under the ambit of the RPA Act

- No special courts for election matters under the RPA Act, 1950 & 51 have been created

- Only offences entailing punishment greater than 2 years entail disqualification under the RPA Act, 1951

Reforms:

- Constitutional Backing for the RPA Act, 1951
- Special trial courts for election related offences & disputes under RPA Act, 1951

# UPSC

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- Inclusion of social media account violations under the RPA Act, 1951
  - Punitive criminal action for election related offences instead of outdated fines
  - Prevention of criminalization of politics (Vohra Centre) by barring offenders from contesting elections.
  - Any convict must not be pardoned by the EC. Revoking disqualification & the same must be vested only in a Court of law.
- The RPA Act, 1951 is an effective tool to prevent criminalization of politics and ensure free & fair elections for a vibrant democracy.

# UPSC

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- 15) Dr Ambedkar called the Comptroller & Auditor General the most important office under the Constitution. How does the Constitution ensure effective functioning of CAG as the guardian of public purse? What reforms would you suggest to further strengthen the office of CAG? (15M)

Articles 148 - 151 under the Constitution of India provide for the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

### Constitutional Protection:

- The CAG is appointed by the President for a term of 6 years with security of tenure.

- The salary, allowances and perquisites are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India and not by a vote of the Parliament.

## UPSC

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- The CAG cannot be removed from office except for reasons as stipulated in the Constitution - judged an insolvent, misbehaviour as judged by an enquiry of the Supreme Court or unsound mind

- The CAG cannot be reappointed to the same office / any other office of the Government of India

- Functions as stipulated in the Constitution:

a) Acts as the Chief Auditor General & analyses the expenditure & its sources

Eg: Revelation of 2G scam, Coalgate scam.

b) Acts as the guardian & philosopher to the Public Accounts Committee.

## UPSC

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c) CAG may audit the accounts of any body.  
as may be stipulated by the President

Reforms to strengthen:

- Appleby's criticism: CAG acts as the Auditor General & not the Accountant as in the case of Britain: hence, both services must be brought for effective role
- Conducts Post-Mortem of Expenditure: Role must be brought in before expenditure is made.
- Collegium Based Appointment involving leader of Opposition.

The office of the CAG is a bulwark to the democracy and the guardian of the public purse must be duly strengthened.

# UPSC

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1b) To ensure effective implementation of policies, addressing socio-economic challenges, behavioural changes are as important as government intervention. Comment with relevant illustrations. (15M)

The public behavioural mindset in accepting government interventions and policies in our polity influences major policy decisions.

Behavioural changes:

- Inclusion and exclusion into appropriate schemes  
 Eg: Reservation schemes meant for SC's & ST's
- Belief on the Government & honesty  
 Eg: Tax evaders pay back money through Virad se Vishwas scheme.
- Cooperation with the Government  
 Eg: COVID lockdown. People cooperated by staying indoors - Disaster Management Act, 2005 invoked.

## UPSC

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- Being responsible taxpayers supporting Government welfare scheme.  
Eg: Early/Advance Income tax Payment
- Affluent donation schemes for the poor.  
Eg: Voluntary surrender of FB subsidy ↓  
Delhi Government
- Social Audit by the society  
Eg: MNRGA Social Audit
- Attitudinal change in preventing corruption  
Eg: Not supporting bribery - Whistleblowers Protection Act.
- Ensuring compliance.  
Eg: Jan Dhan - Aadhar - Mobile phone ensures record compliance of schemes
- Data driven Approach by citizens.  
Eg: E-governance grievance redressal through CPGRAMS



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- Prevention of red-tapism in bureaucracy.  
Eg: Booking tickets through IRCTC than  
in railway counters

The Government of India has the policy of  
instituting a welfare state under Article 38  
for the care and socio-economic well-being  
of the general population and society at large.

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(7) Compromised health infrastructure has led to a situation where the marginalised are "One illness away" from falling into poverty. Highlight the issues with country's health infrastructure giving a suitable framework for reforms. (15m)

India's healthcare system serves as a hub for medical tourism on one hand, while on the other hand, majority of the population are deprived from access.

Issues with Healthcare Sector:

- High cost of healthcare services in private hospitals and expenses involved even in Government hospitals. Eg: Rs 50/- for X-ray in GH

Reform: Include more people in schemes like PMJAY.

- Access to healthcare being varied and skewed.

Eg: 1:1400 doctors in Bihar while 1:800 in Tamilnadu

# UPSC

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- Availability of emergency healthcare services in tribal & hilly areas is poor.
- Most of the private hospitals have not been enrolled under Health Insurance Schemes like PMJAY.
- Less number of qualified & skilled working personnel in Primary Health Centres / Health & Wellness Centres
- Spread of Non-Communicable Diseases has ↑ in the society → end-stage diseases like Cancer causing ↑ expenditure leading to poverty
- Nutritional Deficit & Hidden Hunger prevalent in patients - not addressed by the food provided in ICDS & Anganwadi centres

## UPSC

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- Inclusion & Exclusion errors in PMJAY card holders under Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

Reforms:

- Include all hospitals under PMJAY scheme.
- Overlap between CMCHIS (state) & PMJAY must be removed
- ↑ health Budget expenditure (National Health Account Estimates - 1.25% of GDP)
- National Health Stack (Digitalization of records)
- Accessible Healthcare without risks (Makkalai Thedi Manuthuram Scheme of TN)
- Mobile ambulances for screening - health camps under AASK, NPPNCD programs

Healthcare sector is an important platform for the Government to concentrate under SDG 5 and to build a healthy, happy society.

## UPSC

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18)

How far have Forest Rights Act, 2006 & Panchayat (Extension of Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 been successful in attaining their desired objectives? What needs to be done to improve their implementation on ground? (15m)

The Forest Rights Act, 2006 & Panchayat (Extension of Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 have ensured the rights of the local tribals in the post-independence era.

Objectives:

- Forest Rights Act, 2006 has ensured:

- i) Minor forest produce (timber) rights have been provided to the local tribals.
- ii) Rights of tribals for residence in protected areas and unrestricted entry & movement.
- iii) Use of forest resources for shelter, food and commerce including Agriculture.
- iv) Rights over mining & other industrial activity

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### PESA Act, 1996:

- i) Right of self-governance in the Scheduled areas
- ii) Acts of Parliament and its applicability to be determined by the respective state councils
- iii) Autonomous District Councils consisting of Scheduled tribes appointed/elected with complete autonomy
- iv) Restricted movement of outsiders for tourism/residence over scheduled areas

### Challenges:

- Decreased awareness on rights and objectives of the legislations
- Lack of effective communication network.  
Eg: Railways in North East States, internet in forest areas

## UPSC

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Steps:

- Increased financial independence & autonomy
- Accessible & availability of socio economic schemes.
- Enhance Connectivity through implementation of Digital India & Railways across N-E states
- Consensus Building Approach with consultation of wider stakeholders.

Thus, the Forest Rights Act, 2006 & PESA Act, 1996 have been built upon the confidence of the tribal people and their success depends on increasing the confidence of various stakeholders.

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# UPSC

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19) Enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated existing issues of poverty and hunger. Explain (15m)

The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed an estimated 125 million people into poverty and hunger, based on 2021 Data.

Affects:

- COVID-19 pandemic has orphaned kids with the loss of one or more parents  $\Rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  chance of child labour, child trafficking with loss of Breadwinners

- COVID-19 pandemic has caused loss of jobs and widespread unemployment with current rates at 8.5%. (CMIE data)

- COVID-19 pandemic has caused loss of wages to the informal economy and a loss of earnings and decrease in savings of families.



## UPSC

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- The healthcare expenditure incurred during the COVID pandemic by infected patients and the follow-up expenses of post-hospitalisation care pushed people into dire poverty

- Access to food and foodgrains decreased due to decreased wages, increasing inflation and decreased availability of access to food crops (loss of mid-day meals)

- Loss of immunisation with vaccines as per schedule to newborn & infants → ↑ propensity to diseases → Malnutrition → ↑ Expenditure  
↓  
↑ Poverty

### Reforms & Measures by the Government:

- PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana under National Food Security Act, 2013 - 35kgs of foodgrains

# UPSC

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for cardholders per family

- PM Svanidhi Scheme for loans of Rs 10 lakh \*

below for streetvendors

- Schemes like Startup India, Standup India \*

Atmanirbhar Bharat

- PM Care fund utilisation for care of children < 18yrs orphaned.

- MSME sector loans provided free of interest \* for SHGs (MUDRA loans at concessional rates)

Thus, the Governmental measures have alleviated the acute exacerbation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic & it will take years to achieve.

SDG 1 and SDG 3 goals due to the aftereffects of the pandemic

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20) Despite the presence of a plethora of development schemes, India lags behind in creating a prosperous society. Is it a design issue or an implementation bottleneck? What suggestions would you make to improve the performance of developmental schemes? (15m)

The Government of India and states have been mandated under Article 35 of the Constitution in forming and envisaging a welfare state.

### Plethora of Schemes:

- The Central Government and the State Governments have created multiple schemes for various purposes

### Design Issues:

- Overlapping schemes of Central & State Governments  
Eg: Aarogya Saksham Kalyan (ASK) & PM-JAY Health Scheme.
- Inclusion of multiple populations in the same scheme decreasing exclusivity.  $\leftarrow \uparrow$  diversity  
Eg: ICDS targets neonates, adolescents, adults - Pregnant mothers.

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## Implementation Bottleneck:

- Inclusion & Exclusion errors in Schemes.  
Eg: Wide number of people still do not get the Benefit of reservation - Transgender & Disabled
- ↓ awareness about existing schemes.  
Eg: Tribals are unaware of the schemes in the NE states
- Data disparity in rural vs urban areas & between male vs female  
Eg: 85% data coverage in urban areas vs 45% data coverage in rural areas.
- Coverage of schemes inappropriate to their respective needs
- Redtapism in accessing and implementation of schemes.

# UPSC

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## Suggestions:

- Subsumption of overlapping schemes  
Eg: Recently Ministry of Minority Affairs subsumed overlapping scholarship schemes.

- Prevent red tapism in bureaucracy  
Eg: E-governance portals such as E-SEVAI (TN)

- Inclusion & Exclusion errors to be uprooted through Role based approach than rule based and by employing JAM trinity

- Increased awareness initiatives through self-governing Panchayats & Local Bodies

- Data access equitably in rural & tribal areas  
Eg: Digital India Mission

Targetting the vulnerable groups in reaching the schemes is essential for the success of the schemes and programs initiated by the Government.