



CHROME IAS

Giving Wings To Your Dreams !!!

GENERAL STUDIES MAINS EXAMINATION TEST SERIES: 2019 (COMPREHENSIVE)

| NAME OF CANDIDATE | Amit Kumar | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| E-MAIL ID | [REDACTED] | MOBILE NO. | [REDACTED] |
| REGISTRATION NO. | | | |
| TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS | CODE : 1917 | PAPER : CT-6 GS 2 | MAX MARKS : 250 |
| INDEX TABLE | | INSTRUCTIONS | |
| Q.NO. | MARKS OBTAINED | MAX MARKS | |
| 1 | 3.5 | | |
| 2 | 4 | | |
| 3 | 3.5 | | |
| 4 | 9.5 | | |
| 5 | 2.5 | | |
| 6 | 9.5 | | |
| 7 | 2.5 | | |
| 8 | — | | |
| 9 | 3.5 | | |
| 10 | 2 | | |
| 11 | 0.5 | | |
| 12 | 9.5 | | |
| 13 | 4 | | |
| 14 | 6.5 | | |
| 15 | 6 | | |
| 16 | 6 | | |
| 17 | 6 | | |
| 18 | — | | |
| 19 | 3.5 | | |
| 20 | 5.5 | | |
| TOTAL MARKS: | | 67 | |

START TIME: 2:50 END TIME: 6:30

MODE OF EXAMINATION : ONLINE OFFLINE

REMARKS:

- ① Improve your presentation
* manage paragraphs
* underline important points
and subheadings
- ② Complete all questions
- ③ Increase diversity in
argument and content
in your answer.

keep writing..

| PARAMETERS | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Structure/Organization | | | | | |
| Language | | | | | |
| Presentation | | | | | |
| Context | | | | | |
| Content | | | | | |

1. Lateral entry in civil services can crush the steel frame of India. Elaborate.

↳ induction of domain experts at some secretarial level.
 Recently Government of India inducted nine officers at joint secretary level in various departments through lateral entry. The argument for this action was to increase efficiency in the administration and bring expertise of the private sector in the government organization. However this step was criticized by various other stakeholders.

Pros:

- Brings domain specific knowledge of private sector.
- It will increase competition among civil servants that might increase their productivity.
- Given opportunity to public interest spirited person to work with the government at a later stage of their life.

Cons:

- It can cause conflict of interest.
- The entry (assignment) is of short duration so they might not bring any long term change.
- Issue of bypassing constitutional selection procedure is an issue. It only i.e. UPSC has created discontent among various sections of the society.*
- May lead to Nepotism and can defeat the very purpose for which AIS was created.

Hence, in the view of challenges faced in governance, lateral entry can be proved fruitful or it can crush the existing structure i.e. the steel frame of India.

Also introduction of mid-career training is a possible way forward.

2. Failure of SAARC has pushed India to bring BIMSTEC to the forefront. Critically evaluate. Can BIMSTEC fill the void created by dysfunctional SAARC?

*Underline your
subheadings*

Government of India invited all the leaders of BIMSTEC in the swearing-in ceremony of the new government after 2019 general elections. This shows the increasing significance of BIMSTEC for India.

Reasons for bringing BIMSTEC to the forefront:-

→ one ~~the~~ aspect is decreasing significance of SAARC because of constant conflict between India & Pakistan. It got intensified in the wake of Uri attack as India called off its participation in the SAARC summit scheduled in Pakistan.

~~Structural inefficiencies~~ India and Pakistan are two major ~~parties~~ of SAARC and conflict between them is detrimental for the organisation.

→ BIMSTEC is in forefront because Bay of Bengal is important for India strategically and economically both.

→ Myanmar & Thailand can help India

India in its look east policy.
presence of china in the region is
another factor
There are various resources found in
Bay of Bengal

Hence, it is clear that BIMSTEC has come
to forefront to India and one of
the significant reason for this is failure
of SAARC.

However SAARC being an organization
of countries which have geographical &
cultural ties can not be replaced by
any other organization for our prosperity,
good relation and cooperation with
all the neighbours is sine qua non.
However unless relation b/w India and
Pakistan improves BIMSTEC can be seen
as the substitute of SAARC.

3. Discuss the significance of the Fifth and Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the administration in scheduled areas spread in ten states i.e. odisha, Manipur, chhattisgarh etc.

Special provisions for fifth schedule areas:

- The president is empowered to change any law of the parliament in relation to these areas.
- There must be a tribal affairs minister in the state government. This is ensured by governor.
- Gram panchayats of those areas will have more power under PESA act 1996.
- The provisions for these areas are such as to administer these areas according to their local customs as far as possible.
- Due representation is given to people from these communities in state legislature or any body meant to govern them.

The significance is

① Caters to the local demand

② maintains a distinct identity and welfare

③ make people stakeholders

in development

④ safeguard the interest of tribal population

- Assam
Tripura
Meghalaya
Mizoram

Sixth Schedule deal with ~~Tribal area~~.
They are different from fifth Schedule areas in the sense they have been more isolated. These areas are found in four states i.e. Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram. More autonomy has been provided to these areas in terms of administration, development etc.

in Sixth Schedule areas
autonomous
district councils
are
set up which
have legislative
judicial
and executive power.

4. Right to information has been seen as the key to strengthen participatory democracy and ushering in people centred governance. Discuss the need to empower Information Commission and State Information Commission, for effective implementation of the RTI.

*Enacted through
RTI Act 2005*

Right to information has been revolutionary in bringing participatory democracy to the people and making the governments more accountable towards the citizen.

Benefits of Right to Information!

- It has helped in curbing corruption among different organs of government.
- People have become more aware about the functioning of the government and ultimately their entitlements.
- Helping government in targeted delivery of services.
- Forcing government and its official to be more ethical and manage the expenses rationally.

*Keep it brief
Focus on main demand of the question*

→ ushered in better governance.

As there are so many benefits of RTI, it must be implemented letter and spirit. For this we need empowered Information Commission Capable of implementing the provisions effectively and efficiently.

Also discuss how recent Amendments to RTI Act can impact the independence.

5. Compare the concept of Freedom of Speech in Indian constitution vis-à-vis other developed countries. What are the issues associated with the freedom of Speech and Expression in India?

Indian Constitution has provided us with freedom of speech and expression through Article 19(1). The depth of this freedom is second to no other country in the world. However ~~this~~ freedom is restricted due to various reasons which are as follows:

- i) government can impose reasonable restriction on various grounds e.g. threat to public order.
- ii) section 66A & 69 of IT act [What are these sections explain briefly.]
- iii) sedition law i.e. IPC 124 curbs freedom of speech as this can be used to curb dissent.
- iv) criminal defamation law i.e. IPC 499 & 500. Recently Prashant Kanojia, a journalist was ~~busted~~ under this law.

- v) pre-censorship of films.
- vi) issue of hate speech
- vii) issue of fake news.

~~Issues~~
⑥ Reasonable restrictions not defined objectively.

Also in other countries freedom of speech forms the basis of liberty and is considered garant.

6. In the background of strong emerging India-US relationship, there is an emergent need to re-invent and rejuvenate India-Russia ties. Critically examine.

Russia has been our historical friend right from the time we got freedom in 1947. From establishing steel plants to nuclear power plant, Russian government has always extended their help for us. However for the past two decades, we have moved heavily towards USA in all fields be it economy, security, science & tech. Meanwhile we have maintained cordial relationship with Russia also.

Difficulties in having good relationship with Russia:

→ Russia is USA's one of the most known adversary since the end of Second world war.

→ USA has enacted an act called "CAATSA" to deal with those who engage with its adversaries (Russia, Iran) favourably.

Keep
your
introduction
short
and
brief

Avoid
overcutting
margins

Avoid
such
cutting

* Russia is instrumental for our Central Asia Strategy.

- * Also diversification of foreign relations is in line with policy of multi-alignment.
- * However there are challenges like
 - ① growing Russia-China ties
 - ② growing Russia-Pak ties

7. Electoral bonds are a double-edged weapon. Comment.

Pros:-

- Brings legal money into political funding as money from SBI account can only be used which can be tracked by Tax officials if needed.
- Reduces the scope of Political vendetta. As it is very difficult to ascertain identity of the donor.
- Provides for tax benefits under IT Act

Cons:-

- Election Commission data shows that more than 90% of the funding went to the party in power.
- Not enough transparency.
- Can increase government-business nexus. As a businessman will get contract from the government and sends money through electoral bond as quid pro quo.

Explaining
bit
more

Since the removal
of 7.5% of net cap

Hence, it is clear that though electoral bond scheme is a good initiative taken by the government, however the concessions associated with it must be addressed. As of now it is a double-edged weapon.

→ Recommendation of Indrajit M.P. to Committee on State funding and discuss other measures to deal with the short comings of Electoral bonds.

8. The P-5 and the United Nations have been ineffective in ensuring a nuclear weapons free world and there seems to be a serious legal gap in the existing framework dealing with nuclear weapons and non-proliferation. Comment in the context of "Geneva Convention on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.



9. The concerns raised at certain global platforms regarding the plight of Human rights in India, necessitated effective action. In this light, bring out the key changes brought about by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Issue
of
human
rights
violation

Human rights are rights entitled to people by virtue of being human.

key changes brought about by the protection of human rights (Amendment) bill, 2019! —

- i) It provided for inclusion of ~~National Commission for Backward classes, National Commission for protection of child Rights and Commission for linguistic minority~~ into the National human rights commission.
- ii) Not only Chief Justice of India but any Supreme Court Judge can become the chairman of NHR & similarly any High Court Judge can become chairman of SITRC.
- iii) It provides for a mechanism to deal with ~~human rights~~ cases in union territories.

iv) It provides for inclusion of a women member into the commission.

Hence, India has tried to incorporate the best practices followed worldwide into this amendment bill.

- ① Also discusses the impacts of these changes.
- ② Give a way forward to civil society activists is a key for sustained focus on protection of human rights

10. Federalism in the Indian constitution is a reflection of India's historical regional experience. Elucidate.

Federalism means division of power between centre and states. The question arises is why federalism is sought after? The reasons are as follows:

- one size does not fit all.
 - different issues at National level and state level.
 - usher in Participatory democracy.
- India's historical regional experience:**
- Centralization started in British India with Pitt's India act 1784. This could only be reversed by Indian Council act 1861.
 - devolution of powers took place after every act i.e. 1892, 1909 etc.
 - Through Govt of India act 1919, a substantial amount of autonomy was given to states.
 - Govt of India act sought to run many units together.

establish a federation.

The importance of voluntary
laissez faire needs to
be discussed which gave the
concept of federation to India.

Hence, we see through out
British rule, our polity went towards
greater de-centralization. This is reflected
in our Constitution also.

11. The CCI has successfully shaped the competition environment in India, but there are several challenges ahead for the regulator in tackling the antitrust issues in the internet space. Discuss. Do you think that the CCI's approach of handling mergers in the wake of consumer welfare principle is a right step? Analyse.

Established under competition Act, 2002

CCI i.e. Competition Commission of India is a statutory body working under Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Its mandate is to take necessary steps to ensure healthy competitions among various service, product providers.

Structure

- ① Challenges to tackle antitrust issues
- ② Need to regulate merger and its impact on business sentiments.



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12. 'The Speaker's functioning must be effectively regulated to ensure impartiality and prevent constitutional crisis in India'. Discuss the statement in light of recent cases and events.

The speaker has a high place in our parliamentary system. The speaker of the Lok Sabha has been placed at 6th position along with chief Justice of India in the order of precedence. This shows the high status accorded to the office of speaker.

Powers of the speaker:

- He/she is the final interpreter of Constitution in its respective legislature.
- He is the protector of privileges of the house.
- He is responsible for conducting sound business in the house.
- He decides upon the disqualification of members under anti defection law.
- He constitutes various committees of the house.

*If speaker is not impartial
it can lead to violation of trust
of people and can result in
constitutional crisis.*

- He presides over the joint sitting of the parliament.
- He ascertains whether a bill is money in bill or not.
- Speaker has got vast power, so his impartiality becomes sine qua non.*

Recently, the role of governor of Karnataka legislative assembly has come under the scanner about his role in dealing with anti-defection law.

India needs to replicate best practices followed in UK (Speaker resigns from party post and her seat goes uncontested).

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13. India's engagements in the Indian Ocean reveal a tactically proactive but strategically defensive mindset . Analyse.

*Mediterranean
geographic mind
position
in Indian
Ocean
requires
India to be
Strategically
proactive*

India's engagements in the Indian ocean has assumed a greater significance because of changing geopolitical order due to following reasons:

- security of India (Piracy in the highs)
- Safety of India (Disaster like Tsunami)
- Presence of China and its policy "string of pearls"
- China's involvement with gowadar port
- Pakistan and Hambantotta port in Sri Lanka
- Donald Trump's America first policy which has led Retrenchment of US from the region.
- Presence of enormous natural Resources in the Indian ocean region. e.g. India has got the licence to extract Polymetallic nodules from the sea.

→ Indian oceans facilitates huge trade volume.

India's engagements in IOR:-

→ India's SAGAR (Security and growth for all in the region) approach.

→ Different military exercises like MALABAR, RIMPAC etc.

→ engaging with various international fora in the region e.g. IORA, BIMSTEC etc.

→ Different exercises to prevent Piracy. e.g. exercise with Singapore navy.

→ Strengthening its Navy & Coast guard.

→ Developing and Deploying early warning system for Tsunami or other disasters.

→ Engaging various other countries surrounding Indian ocean region for productive outcomes.

→ Project Mausam

→ Developing Chabahar port in Iran

Hence, Above facts clearly throw light on the significance of India's role in the Indian ocean region and the activities that India has indulged herself to ~~ensure~~ its safety, security and prosperity and ensuring the same for other stakeholders. So, India's engagement in Indian ocean is proactive.

~~we~~ India needs to take proactive steps through improved cooperation with island nations.

- malaria from dengue*
- suffering burden of - undernourishment obesity*
14. Despite multiple efforts at reducing Malnutrition in India, the recent trends show a dismal picture. Analysing this trend, discuss the factors contributing to Malnutrition in India and the steps needed to improve its status.

Various parameters of malnutrition are:

→ Stunting: low height against age

→ wasting: low weight against height

→ IMR: infant mortality rate

→ CMR: child mortality rate

→ MMR: Mother mortality rate

According to world bank & UNDP

report, India has progressed in all the above parameters but still more than

40% of malnutrition people reside in India.

This shows despite multiple efforts at reducing malnutrition in India, the results

have not been very satisfactory i.e. much more needs to be done.

Factors Contributing to Malnutrition:-

→ widely prevalent poverty

→ Huge Population

→ Poor medical (Health) infrastructure.

- inadequate awareness regarding health and hygiene.
- ① **Less focus on food fortification workers**
 - Less efficient administrative machinery
 - Poor training provided to primary health workers (ANM, ASHA workers)
 - Corruption at the grassroots level (in Anganwadi and mid-day meal scheme)
 - Lack of proper monitoring.
- ② **Second aspect**
 - Lack of coordination between different ministries and departments of government. e.g. Recent controversy between NITI Aayog and women and child ministry.
- ③ **Problems in diet**

Steps needed to improve the stats] :-

- Implementation of government schemes (Mid day meal, Janani suraksha yojana, National nutrition mission, PMMVY) effectively with quantifiable and measurable outcomes.
- Health workers should be given target based incentives to spread awareness & to do whatever he/she can to combat malnutrition.

Inwease
 four or
 protein
 rich
 diet
 Nutritional
 Secury.
 (4) Real
 time
 data
 collection.

- spread awareness through T.V., newspaper, and other modes.
- involve gram panchayats in implementation and auditing.
- improve health infrastructure.

Hence, it can be said that a more serious effort is required to have a satisfactory outcome in combating malnutrition in India.

Discuss how
 malnutrition
 reduced HCI (Human
 Capital Index to 40%)
 in India and how
 its effects
 / - Human
 resource.
 Economy

15. NITI Aayog, which was visualised as a funnel through which new and innovative ideas would flow into the government system for implementation, is being criticized for missing opportunities for initiating transformative change in India. In this regard, bring out the concerns with NITI Aayog and the measures to strengthen this Institution.

NITI Aayog

A premier think tank started functioning since ~~transform~~ to 1st January 2015 replacing erstwhile Planning Commission to promote cooperative federalism and competitive federalism. Arguments given by the government to replace PC and establishing NITI Aayog!

improve presentation

- NITI Aayog will work on bottom up approach rather than top down approach of erstwhile Planning Commission.
- In the current scenario as economy has been opened up (particularly after LPG reforms of 1991), PC has outlined its utility.
- NITI was seen as a platform where different stakeholders (central govt., state govt., experts) will deliberate and decide upon the future course of action. However, it is now being criticized for missing opportunities for initiating transform

-native change in India.

Concerns with NITI Aayog] :-

- It is a deliberative body which leads to no financial power.
- State govt officials are clueless as to whom to approach for a new scheme.
- It acts as a facilitator rather than provider of something.
- Its mandate is not clear.
- Its meeting is not held regularly and effectively.

Measures to strengthen this : —

- ① ~~Ensuring~~ ~~power~~ ~~constitution~~ ~~states~~ ~~from India~~ ~~to be strengthened~~ → It should have a say right from policy making to its implementation.
- ② ~~Cooperation with~~ ~~inter-state~~ ~~council~~ → It should be made more inclusive by developing trust in other stakeholders.
- ③ ~~and effectively.~~ → Its meeting should be held regularly and effectively.
- ④ ~~should be made clear.~~ → Its mandate should be made clear.

Although NITI Aayog has done many commendable job since its inception but Country expects more from it as it is an apex think tank of the government.

NITI Aayog was envisaged to bring a paradigm shift to people centric policy making.

16. The RCEP agreement would complement India's existing free trade agreements and further aid in its integration with Asia-Pacific economies. However, many of India's concerns remain to be addressed including surge in cheaper imports of goods, and issues related to IPR and data localisation. Discuss.

RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) is an agreement among 10 ASEAN nations plus six countries including India.

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| Pros. for India :- | New Zealand Japan | China South Korea India Australia |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|

→ would complement India's existing free trade agreements.

→ further aids in its integration with Asia-Pacific economies.

* ~~Seamless integration, increased prosperity in the region~~ → Indian export and import will get diversified.

→ Relations with these countries will improve

~~India will gain from the best practices prevalent in other countries.~~

~~Indian people will get diversified options as customers.~~

- our service sector will gain immensely.
- will help improve cooperation among the countries.

Cons. for India:-

- surge in cheaper imports of goods (especially from China) due to high tariffs reduction.
 - This will hurt our manufacturing sector and will aggravate unemployment.
 - India has comparative advantage in service sector. If India is not able to conclude favourable terms in ~~sector~~ service sector, we will lose a lot.
 - intellectual property rights issues.
 - issue of data localization. Today data is considered to be new oil; so data protection is threatened.
- Issues with
ModI's (service)
liberalization

Hence, India must address all of its concerns before concluding RCEP agreements.

Drews How to address all these concerns.

17. It is generally believed PRIs can be an effective facilitator in enhancing effectiveness of health care delivery services while in general the situation is opposite on the ground. What are the common impediments encountered by the PRIs and also recommend steps to be taken to improve their effectiveness.

→ PRIs are local level institutions. It is true that PRIs and are more suitable to tackle the issue of health care delivery.

facilitator in enhancing effectiveness of health care delivery services provided they be provided with the conducive environment to do so.

Impediments encountered by the PRIs !

- Lack of awareness
 - Poor infrastructure
 - There is no clear devolution of power to the PRIs.
 - Role played by government officers.
 - Reluctance of state government to devolve power.
 - Health care is also a primary responsibility of state. It prefers to focus on preventive care.
- High vacancies of doctors
- Lack of standardization

provide it through the government machinery.

- Lack of financial resources to take initiatives on their own.
- Financial Constraints.
- Expertise Constraints.

Steps to be taken to improve their effectiveness : —

→ The role of PRIs should be well defined in the law itself focused on providing health care delivery.

→ PRIs should be provided with adequate resources, training.

→ PRIs can be effective in spreading awareness through various activities like Gram Sabha meetings, Nukkad-Nataks etc.

→ They should be provided with proper funding to do this.

Increased infrastructural and legal power and support



→ State governments must devolve some of its power in a sector like this where grass root level participation is essential.

73rd Constitutional amendment was enacted to achieve the objective of enabling the PRIs to perform certain functions hitherto performed only by the governments. The govt must push PRIs top in this direction.

18. It is more than six decades ago that India embarked on the task of transforming the elitist system of education inherited from the colonial past into one that is mass based and built on principles of equality and social justice. The task has not been an easy one. Analyse the various issue in the Education Sector in India and suggest the way forward.

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19. India is home to a large number of refugees yet it has not signed United Nations Refugee Convention 1951. Discuss the various provisions under which India provides shelter to refugees and factors preventing India from signing this convention?

It is true that India is home to large number refugees be it Bangladeshi, Tibetans, Pashto or Nepalese yet it has not signed United nations Refugee Convention 1951.

- India's stand on UN Refugee Convention 1951: It was formulated to address the Refugee crisis arising due to second world war suited to European & conditions of that time.
- However India has signed New York ^{Alex} ^{million} declaration on Human rights.
- India has signed UN Convention on ^{Under} ^{Citizenship} ^{Chair} ^{available} ^{help to} ^{refugees} human rights and is present chair ^(Amendment) of its council. This ^{convention} also has a component to deal with Refugees.
- It is cultural tradition of India that it has assimilated various culturally ^{from} ^{Afghanistan,} ^{Bangladesh,} ^{Pak's} ⁴⁷



different people into its fold.

- India provides shelter to many refugees on humanitarian ground. E.g. There has been a continuous influx from the Bangladesh side particularly after 1971. India has assimilated them to some extent or to say to a larger extent through Assam Accord.

Discuss factors preventing signing -

① India is already a resource stressed nation

② issue of national security

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20. There have been concerns with respect to rising no. of candidates in the Parliament as well as state legislature, having criminal background. Suggest some reforms you think can bring an end to criminalization of politics in India.

According to the ADR report, ~~34%~~ ^{new data 13} of the total MPs in present Lok Sabha have cases registered against them and ~~21%~~ ^{43%} of them have cases like murder, rape, kidnapping etc. This shows the grave situation that ~~we~~ are facing. This has created a situation where law breakers are becoming law makers. This will definitely have an ~~ad~~ effect on functioning of the government and unfortunately it will trickle-down. So, concerns have been raised by civil society and judiciary has taken some proactive action to curb ~~criminalization~~ of politics.

Steps taken by Supreme Court :-

→ SC has directed all the political parties and candidates to advertise all the cases registered against them and put them on the website also

→ Discuss Impact of criminalization of politics → Violation of public trust → Lack of policy making

so that voters could take informed decision.

- on the direction of Supreme Court, central government has established special court to deal with charges (Cases) against elected representative.
- Any person convicted for more than two years for an offence can not contest an election.

Some other Reforms suggested! —

- First of all, Political parties should not give tickets to alleged criminals.
- special court must give verdict in a time bound manner and in least Expedite hearing.
- Citizens should be made aware about the adverse effect of criminalization of politics through T.V., newspapers, Babhos etc.
- Government machinery should be made efficient so that people do not debate Candidate

go to a ~~muscle man~~ to get their work done.

→ Laws should be made in this regard after due consultation.

Criminalization of politics is dangerous to any democracy. steps must be taken to end this.

A more effective measure NOT as a right to reject