

# **G|S|SCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

## **IAS TOPPER'S**

### **TEST COPY**

### **AANAND PRAKASH MEENA**

**RANK - 269**

### **GS MAINS**



**www.iasscore.in**

**GENERAL STUDIES - PAPER II**

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Name Aanand Prakash

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Aanand Prakash

1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## REMARKS

**SECTION - A**

- Q1. If India is serious about its Africa initiative, a lot will depend on how it marshals its banking and financial sector there. Analyse. (10 Marks)

Africa is a resource rich continent. India can safeguard its energy security as well as economic security by engaging more with Africa.

- To improve, its relations with Africa, Indian Banking and financial sector can play a vital role.
- It can help in providing scholarships to African students thus building soft power.
- Indian private investment should position itself to develop stake in Africa's economy, it will not only help India gain market but also help Africa have sustainable development vis-avis China.

**Remarks**

→ India's project of Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) can be complemented by Indian Banking sector as it can provide loans to African government along the project along AAGC.

thus, India can help Africa realise its true potential, at the same time realising its own political, economical goals.

- Q2. India must revise its nuclear policy and keep its strategy opaque. Critically discuss the statement. (10 Marks)

Ans

India established itself as a Nuclear weapon state with Nuclear Bomb test in Pokharan, 1998.

Features of Indian Nuclear Policy:

- NO first use → India will not use Nuclear weapons at first instance in case of war.
- No use against non-nuclear State in case of conventional war.
- focuses on minimum credible deterrence
- Develop sea, land, air capability of second Nuclear strike.

However given its two (China + Pakistan) hostile nuclear states,

Remarks

India needs to revise its Nuclear Strategy:

- > develop credible minimum deterrence
- Shelve No-first use policy as this can herald a stern warning in terrorist- supporting nations like Pakistan.

Nuclear policy should also needs to be seen in the light of recently adopted UN Treaty to ban nuclear weapon but National security should not be compromised.

Remarks

- Q3. Malabar-17 demonstrates a shared determination to safeguard a free and open Indo-Pacific along with far-reaching geo-political impact. Discuss. (10 Marks)

Malabar - 17 <sup>Naval</sup> exercise was held between USA, Japan & India in the Indian Ocean.

It's main goal were:

- To strengthen interoperability between the member countries
- To achieve common goal of freedom of navigation in international water
- This can prove to be a warning to China's unilateral and predatory actions [e.g.: Spratly islands in South China Sea]
- This Malabar - 17 can also reinforce

Remarks

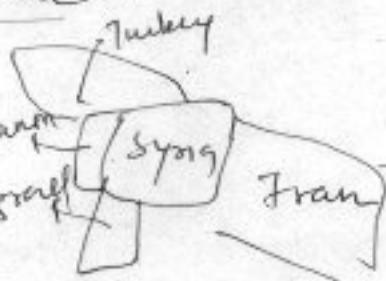
India's claim of being Net  
Security Provider in Indian  
Ocean.

- Malabar-17 exercise is also complimented by Quad alliance as can be seen in the convergence of their goals.
- It will also help in development of India's capability in securing its sea lanes of communication and keeping China's Malacca dilemma alive

—  
Remarks

- Q4. Multilateral diplomacy is the only way to resolve Syrian conflict and military action has only escalated the conflict even further. Analyze the statement. (10 Marks)

Syria is the cause of middle east crisis in which ISIS played a villainous role.



- The main stakeholders in the Syrian crisis are US; Russia, Turkey, Israel and Iran.
- The ongoing military action has led to one of largest human migration in the history and has made millions people homeless.
- The effective solution can be conceived only through multilateral diplomacy between US & Russia.
- The interest of the Syrian citizens should be the most important.

Remarks.

part of the decision.

- The ongoing conflict, if not terminated can have so domino effect. (e.g. recently Jihadis/ISIS will try to spread radicalism in their areas, like Afghanistan ISIS)
- Dialogue between the stakeholder will not only solve the problem but also prove fruitful in capacity building of locals to develop.

Remarks

- Q5. The amendment to do away with the domicile requirement for elections to the Rajya Sabha has militated against the very purpose that guided the Constituent Assembly to create the Council of States and reduced it to a mere revising chamber. Critically analyse.

(10 Marks)

- > Rajya Sabha as an Upper House of Indian Parliament was provided to safeguard the interest of states in the federal set up.
- > Domicile requirement for elections to the Rajya Sabha safeguarded the interest of the state as member was from that state only.
- > However, the amendment provided that anyone can contest from any state.
- > This proved as a ~~see~~ backdoor gate for the rejected politicians in the Lok Sabha to enter into power.
- > This also curtailed the federal balance as party in power especially in

Remarks

Centre imposed it's for candidates;

- However, Supreme Court held that, India is an integrated unity, and this amendment is not against the basic structure.
- This amendment can also be useful in the entry of intellectuals who are not able to win election.

Council of States plays a significant role [Article 312 (All India Services, Art 249 etc)], It's sanctity should be preserved.

Remarks

- Q6. The role of Parliamentary Committees in upholding accountability of the executive is continuous if not close. In the light of this statement, discuss the factors that limit the effective functioning of these committees? (10 Marks)

Parliamentary Committee provides for engagement of political members across various parties to participate in the government to uphold the accountability of executives.

They help in accountability of the executives as:

The financial proposals of ministry are scrutinised by these committee, this compels the executive to abstain from unnecessary spending demand.

They work even beyond Parliament session, thus helping the members in qualitative discussion.

Yet these Parliamentary committee suffer from certain limitations:

Remarks

- o The tenure of member is only 1 year thus curtailing his serious scrutiny of executives.
- o The Parliamentary committee does not have power to enforce it's decision

Parliamentary committee act as an instrument to increase transparency and accountability of the executives. To increase it, they should also have fix tenure, so that the analysis is deep and effective

---

Remarks

- Q7. What are the provisions of 123<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2017? Does it address the issues and lacunae that existed in the statutory body- National Commission for Backward Classes? (10 Marks)

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2017 seeks to provide constitutional status to National Commission for Backward classes. (NCBC)

The main provisions are:

- It adds article 338-B which provides NCBC as constitutional body.
- NCBC will have the power to act as a civil court and acting to address the grievances of backward classes.
- It will have powers to see that constitutional provisions regarding safeguards of backward classes are properly implemented by government.

At the same time, the inherent

Remarks

flaws are :

- More bodies on the basis of NCSC or NCST will provide against the federal structure [ex: problem regarding NCBC interrupting states on suo motu basis]
- It may not be able to contain the rising demands of reservation by groups like Gujjar(Rajasthan), Patidar(Gujrat) etc as now the a particular community has to be recommended by NCBC for being backward. This will further aggravate the situation.

Although step in right direction, proper functioning of bodies like NCSC, NCST should be analysed to overcome deficiencies in NCBC

**Remarks**

- Q8. "An institution must speak with one voice, lest it loses credibility and ends up confusing people." In this context, analyse the government's current impetus on making the office of Comptroller and Auditor General a multi-member body. (10 Marks)

Article 148 of the Constitution provides for Comptroller and Auditor General which acts as a body of fiscal federalism in India.

CAG has important functions :

- It audits government policies regarding their proposals.
- It also helps Public Estimates Committee in their work.

→ CAG has become such an important body that it exposed corruption worth of lakhs of crore rupees [CAG spectrum by Vinod Rai]

- To make CAG, a multi-member body on the line of

Remarks

Election Commission has certain advantages

- It shields CAG from political influence.
- It also helps in more analysis of policies as more members will be there.

However, following things should be given due regard:

- The political neutral member should be appointed after an appointing committee consisting of PM, LoDP, speaker, Chief CAG.

-

Remarks

- Q9. What do you mean by public authority as per the provision of RTI Act 2005? Do you think that there is a need to revisit this provision of the law? Give your argument in the light of the recent developments. (10 Marks)

Public authority as per RTI Act 2005 means any authority in which public has direct/indirect stake and it serves public interest.

- Public Authority provision has been the most contested provision:
- Regarding Political Parties, the Chief Information Commissioner held that, political parties come in under the ambit of public authorities.
- On classification by Election Commission, it gave the contrasting view that, political parties do not come under the public authority.

Remarks

- This has overshadowed the vital process of Political funding in the electoral process.
- To simplify, the provision related to public authority, more amendments by parliaments can be done so that such problem does not reurface.
- At the same time, Political Parties should relent on moral grounds as they produce "Public servants", to provide information about them.

Remarks

- Q10. The regional powerhouses India and Brazil share a relationship that is gradual and progressive, however, mainly dominated by trade and commerce. This relationship needs a fillip to engage in new area of co-operation to support mutually converging interests and strengthen this relationship. Discuss. (10 Marks)

- India and Brazil have a robust trade relationship.
- Both the countries have taken their relationship further as:
- (i) The BRICS platform is used extensively to develop economical, platform stake in each other.
- (ii) IBSA (India Brazil South Africa) platform is used for further political engagement.
- Being part of G-4 group, India and Brazil converges on their demand for permanent seat in UNSC.

Remarks

yet there are many hindrances :-

- Although Indian embassy and direct flight has been established, but the connectivity has to be improved further.
- India need to further utilise its IT sector in providing services to the Brazil.

Both countries can complement each other. India can get support in UN as well as in NSG while Brazil can gain from Indian IT services.

**Remarks**

## SECTION - B

Q11. Human trafficking the third largest organized crime violating basic human rights. Why has this menace been on rise? Do you think the trafficking of persons (prevention, protection and rehabilitation) bill, 2018 can help in tackling trafficking in India? Critically examine. (15 Marks)

Article 23 and 24 provides for ban on child labour and human trafficking.

Human trafficking compounds the situations of humans as:

- ” It exploit the victims (if they are forced into forced labour, or sexual exploitation)
- ” It gives rise to parallel economy which can be used to finance terrorism.

Trafficking of persons (prevention, protection and rehabilitation) Bill, seeks to counter these exploitation.

- It provides for steep punishment

Remarks

- to the guilty persons
  - Rehabilitation authority will provide proper rehabilitation.
  - International cooperations between different countries international organisation like Interpol would be strengthened.
  - This will not only tackle internal trafficking but also Trans-national trafficking.
- However, it falls behind on various criterias to effectively tackle the menace of trafficking.
- ~~lack~~ There is a lack of co-ordination between state and national authorities [NIA is made the implementing agencies]
  - Rehabilitation should not be

Remarks

limited to Rehabilitation camps.

Post-rehabilitatory approach in the form of employment should also be part of this Bill.

Trafficking of Person diminishes India's credential of being largest democracy as it dilutes Equality, liberty. This Bill should be further streamlined to provide freedom to Indian exploited citizens.

Remarks

Q12. "Anti-defection law was enacted to enhance the credibility of Indian polity. While this enactment brought about some order in the system, some politicians found ways of circumventing it over the years." Critically comment on the statement in the light of the recent disqualification of two leaders by the Vice President. (15 Marks)

52<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act provided for Anti-Defection law to curb the Aaya Ram Gaya Ram phenomena in Indian politics.

- Aaya Ram Gaya Ram phenomena helps in the instability in the government.
- To check the opportunist political leaders, Anti deflection law provided for following :
- Immediate disqualification of an independent member joins a party.
- A nominated member he can join a party within 6 months, beyond which he is liable to be disqualified.
- In case of <sup>split</sup> merger of parties with

Remarks

$\frac{2}{3}^{\text{rd}}$  of members, they will not be disqualified.

- Going against whip of party
- Speaker in the Lok Sabha and Chairman in the Rajya Sabha also ~~Speaker~~ same in state will be the final authority deciding the disqualification.

- Recently JD member Sharad Yadav was disqualified for not observing the whip.

- The problem arising in anti-defection law was the adjudication power with Speaker in which Government used this law in its favour.

- Also it curbed free dissent in democracy by whip.

- In Killahat Kiloto Holloman case

SC held that Speaker adjudicatory power comes within the scope of Judicial power of SC.

The virtue of Anti-defection law is stability and curbing of Horse trading, however to make it more democratic, more the recommendation of Election Commission that, the members to be disqualified should be done after consulting Election Commission by Speaker.

Remarks

- Q13. Discrimination in health insurance against individuals based on their genetic disposition or genetic heritage, in the absence of appropriate genetic testing and laying down of intelligible differentia is unconstitutional. Analyse the statement in the context of genetic discrimination in India. (15 Marks)

Indian citizens <sup>incur</sup> spend more than 70% of their net health expenditure on Out of pocket Expenditure<sup>(OOPE)</sup> as per Niti Ayog.

- The OOPE can be effectively tackled by effective health insurance policies.
- \* However due to genetic discrimination, the health insurance companies are wary of providing health coverage to the patients who suffer from genetical diseases like AIDS etc.

Remarks

- This also goes against the provision of Indian Constitution which under Article 15 provides that state shall not discriminate on the ground of religion, race, birth etc.
- To counter genetic discrimination, steps needed are :
- Inclusion of genetic privacy under Data Privacy Bill as recommended by Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee
- Incentives to the health insurance companies by the state so that private players show interests
- Ayushman Bharat which seeks to

Remarks

provide health insurance to 10 more families can be expanded to such families suffering from genetic diseases.

Discrimination goes against the constitution as well as humanity. To effectively tackle genetic discrimination, stringent criteria to maintain the date of public is required.

Remarks

Q14. Citizen's charter are "expression of an ethical governance", but their real utility is questionable. Discuss. (15 Marks)

Citizen's charter (u) is a document of a body in which it's vision, goal and grievance redressal mechanism are provided to the citizens.

- Citizen Charter is an ethical governance feature as:-
  - It helps to ease the procedures for citizens thus providing them better service.
  - It also provides for accountability of authorities.
  - Grievance redressal instructions helps in the development of people's faith in the body.

Remarks

yet there are some concerns regarding CC:

- Most of the authorities do not follow what they aspire to follow via CC.
- Most of the times, the rules once changed are not updated on CC which makes CC such doubtful in citizen's eyes.
- The CC are merely formality to comply with higher hierarchical order, on the ground level, citizens are not able to address their problems as smoothly as provided in CC.

In order to make the

Remarks

public service delivery more efficient and faster, cc should have following features:

- Mandatory for the authority to follow cc, contradiction to cc, the authority should be <sup>held</sup> liable. (presently it is not so)

Remarks

- Q15. More than a decade after the Right to Information Act was passed by Parliament, its implementation remains inefficient. Examine the various structural, procedural and logistical issues with the act. What are the reforms needed to turn RTI into a true "master key to good governance?" (15 Marks)

The RTI Act seeks to provide information to citizens of India to increase transparency, accountability and responsibility in the administration.

However, many flaws have hampered its functioning:

- ⇒ Lack of appointment of Public Information Officers (PIO) by authorities which is violation of this act.
- ⇒ Lack of awareness among the citizens on the way to file application of RTI.
- ⇒ Various grounds like National

Remarks

security, personal grounds although right in true sense but compromises the information

- Political parties are not considered as Public Authorities.

To overcome these problems following reforms are needed :

- Make Information commission a constitutional body, so that it can have requisite authority for further its agenda.
- Make RTI as a part of educational curriculum so that citizens get to know about this better.
- Better awareness programmes, like

Remarks

Bihar has 24-hour service in which a person can call the telephone number and seek clarifications.

- But PIO should be assigned strictly in a public body.
- Information regarding Frequently Asked Questions can be put on websites to reduce the information applications.

RTI Act helps in improving the governance in the country by helping to curb opaqueness, corruption and increase transparency. It should be reformed to make it more people friendly.

---

Remarks

Q16. Do you think strong India- Japan relations would help preserve a stable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific? Support your arguments. Also analyse, to what extent Japan and India made significant changes to their foreign and national security policies.

(15 Marks)

India and Japan, both favours for the freedom of navigation and overflight in the international waters.

- India - Japan partnership to counter China's predatory approach in Indo-Pacific region.
- Asia - Africa growth corridor will connect Africa - Asia - East Asia. This will also be more flexible than China's maritime silk Road project.
- Quad alliance can also prove to improve engagement within US, India, Japan and Australia to maintain democracy in Indo-Pacific

Remarks

- These projects would balance China's presence in Indo-Pacific (eg: China has Djibouti military base, Hambantota Port etc.)
- To safeguard their security implications, China & India had agreed to adopt flexible policy with regard to each other:-
- India - Japan Civil Nuclear deal, is the first to be signed by Japan with a non- NPT country.
- India has also granted Japan access to its sensitive North-East part for manufacturing projects.
- In diplomacy also, Japan was the first to support India in the wake of Doklam crisis.

Remarks

- Both countries are member of G-4 group which would seek permanent membership in UNSC to safeguard its interest (especially in Indo-Pacific)
- India has embarked on Act East policy of which Japan is a vital part.

India and Japan both can reinforce each other's security imperatives. Japan also helps India through its Official Development Assistance programme. However trade ties have to improve, (e.g.: Japan bilateral trade with China is \$ 300 billion, with India it is mere \$ 15 billion)

Remarks

Q17. Recently, America withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal with Iran. Is this the right move? Highlight the implications on India and the world. (15 Marks)

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed with Iran and P5+1 (US, UK, France, China, Russia + Germany). It lifted economic sanctions against Iran for halting its nuclear programme.

- However, Trump administration withdrew with this deal terming it as worst deal ever despite of IAEA certifying Iran's compliance to this deal.
- This move can prove to be a catalyst in de-stabilising already troubled middle east.
- It has already caused economic hardship in Iran.
- The implication on India can be a threat to its energy

Remarks

security. [Iran is 3<sup>rd</sup> largest oil supplier)

- USA has compounded the situation by CAATSA Act (Countering American Adversaries through Sanctions Act).
- India's plan to connect to Central Asia through Chabahar Port can also take a halt.
- Implications for world!
- Nuclear proliferation, as Iran will pursue nuclear technology to maintain its security.
- more chances of world plunging into Trade war. [US & China has already imposed sanctions against each other, with other countries of JCPOA favouring Iran]

Remarks

can lead to USA's unilateral actions)

The JCPOA has to be the fulcrum around which the US-Iran talks should rotate. USA has proposed dialogue for re-negotiating the deal. This will be in the interest of whole world.

---

Remarks

Q18. Elaborate the unique strengths of India and the Nordic countries. Discuss whether the relationship offers immense opportunities for trade and investment diversification and mutually beneficial collaboration. (15 Marks)

Nordic countries are (~~Iceland~~, Norway, Sweden) are having high level human capital along with developed social indicators (health, education).

Indian partnership and engagement with Nordic Countries can be seen from:

- Arctic Council: India is an observer state while Nordic countries are member state. Arctic Council can be used to develop understanding between the countries.
- G-20, UN → These platforms can be utilised effectively to generate support. e.g. In favour of NSG, CCLTC

Remarks

Capitalising on the Nordic countries performance on human development and India's market, there is enough scope for trade & investment.

- India has invested it's scientific knowledge in Arctic Ocean by establishing observatory. scientific collaboration can yield results.
- India's IT sector powers can be handy in Nordic countries while Nordic countries can share their health, educational model with India.
- Nordic countries women empowerment policies can be beneficial to patriarchal society like India.  
eg: Sweden has come with first feminist foreign policy.

Remarks

There are certain challenges in the relationships:

- Lack of engagement at political level. They start with ministerial dialogue.
- The needs of both the markets are quite different. e.g.: India needs to improve its ease of doing business further. e.g.: It ranked one of the last countries in enforcing contracts.

Nordic Countries can help in solving problems related to Hunger, poverty, Health & Education which can help India reap its demographic dividend effectively.

Remarks

- Q19. The older parameters, traditional variables and orthodox institutional thinking of the special relationship are now outdated and ineffective with respect to India-Nepal relationship. Analyze the issues and the opportunities on which both the nations need to work.

(15 Marks)

India and Nepal have been linked geographically and culturally which was reinforced by Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1949.

Due to certain conditions, India - Nepal relations deteriorated :

- Blockade Economic Blockade of Nepal following Madhesi community demand for amending the constitution.
- Nepal playing china card against India (e.g. Lhasa - Kathmandu Railway line)
- Nepal's grievance of overdependence on India for Hydroelectric project.

These things can have greater

Remarks

Implications on India as well as on Nepal like:

- Nepal is traditionally in India's sphere of influence, Nepal's proximity to China can have security implications to India [eg: India-Nepal have porous border, China can take advantage of this]
- As seen in Sri Lanka & Maldives, Nepal can fall into debt trap of China.
- India's neighbourhood first policy can derail. eg [It will lead to disfunctioning of SAARC, BIMSTEC etc]

However, these issues have blessing in disguise :-

- 2+1 dialogue platform has been

Remarks

proposed, where china + India along with 1 other country in Indian subcontinent can talk. This can lead to confidence building measures

- More engagement in Nepal + India.  
eg: recently bus service from Ayodhya to Lumbini)
- To realize these goals, India need to follow the path of integrated connectivity [air, land, sea] to make Nepal landlocked to land linked as well maintain India's good will in Himalayan state.

Q20. What were the objectives of passing the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016 which sought to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002 and the Representation of the People Act, 1950? Also discuss the process involved in delimitation of constituencies and issues arising out of delimitation. (15 Marks)

Delimitation Act, 2002 provides for the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of state Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, according to

Objectives of passing Election laws Bill, 2016 are :

- To strengthen the election process for more transparent democratic process
  - To
- Process involved in delimitation of constituencies is :
- Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President.
  - Delimitation commission decides the

Remarks

boundaries of various constituencies based on criteria like population, Reservation of seats for SC's & ST's

- Delimitation commission report is laid down in the parliament where it can be discussed but can not be altered.
- 91<sup>st</sup> amendment act provides for constituencies to be fixed by 2026.
- There are various issues in delimitation process :
  - It goes against the federal structure as it does not consult states.
  - Constitution provides for delimitation after every census, however it has been done 4 times only (1952, 1962, 1972, 2002)
  - Parliament does not have power

Remarks

To suggest amendments to it.

To overcome these, following can be done-

- o A Delimitation Body on the lines of Election commission, which can take regular delimitation exercise

Remarks