Corruption scandals

Why in news?

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The conviction and sentencing of H C Gupta, former coal secretary, by a CBI court for corruption has upset the IAS greatly.

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How can IAS be reformed?

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- IAS has distinct two parts to it- One is its original and core function, to manage the districts; the other is an add-on function, to manage the ministries and policy.
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- Both needs different skill set which is still not recognised.
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- Amazingly, the core district management function is performed by the least experienced officers.
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- The non-core function, on the other hand, is performed by the seniors, regardless of their competence to do so.
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- Along with it the youngest officers are asked to do the hardest job of managing local politicians.
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- Two things need to be done to fix this mismatch problem.
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- One is to build a firewall between the two functions.
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- The other is to stop the act of the centre “borrowing” officers from the states.
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- It should have its own permanent cadre – not the central secretariat service which is a servicing force – instead of floaters from the states.
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Source: Business Standard

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