

116



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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

Name of Candidate	APRAJIT		
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Center	Delhi	Date	17/08/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
- All questions are compulsory.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- 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. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
- 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.

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Mention the structure and functions of NITI Aayog. Also, comment on its contemporary relevance. (150 words) 10

NITI Aayog - the premier think tank of Government of India was formed in 2015 as a successor to the Planning Commission.

Structure → • Chairman is the Prime Minister.

- Vice Chairman decided by the Prime Minister (holding the rank of a Cabinet Minister)
- 4 ex-officio members are the Cabinet Ministers - including the Home Minister
- NITI Aayog Governing Council
 - ↳ all the CMs / Lt. Governors of states of the Andaman & Nicobar
- Various experts from multi dimensional fields.

Functions → • Decision are made on base of the data collection and analysis → i.e. evidence

based policy recommendation to the government of India.

- Special focus on vulnerable sections and inclusive growth → reducing regional disparity
- Decentralisation of power
 - ↳ cooperative and competitive federalism
 - ↳ Eg. various indices - SDG Index, etc.

Relevance in contemporary times :

- ① Transforming India into a knowledge economy
 - ↳ Innovation led growth → Eg. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
- ② Improving inter-ministerial coordination and State-center relations
 - ↳ Eg. Aspirational Districts Programme.
- ③ Transforming Human Capital (as India is very low on HDI : 118/134) → Eg. SATH.

2. Critically discuss the practice of setting up Fast Track Courts to reduce pendency of cases in the judiciary. (150 words) 10

Fast Track courts were first envisaged in 2000 to reduce the burden of cases on judiciary.

They were expected to achieve the time based targets by using their specialisation and quick investigation/prosecution for cases such as rape, terrorism, corruption, criminalization of politics, etc.

However, in the recent times, they are facing various issues:

① Lack of funds

↳ ~~center~~ ^{center} governments stopped funding them after 2014. States do not have so much fund.

↳ 14th Finance Commission increased states share

to 42% and recommended states to use it for fast track courts.

② No special procedure used

↳ same slow methods of investigation as well as trials.

③ Overburden

↳ 14th FC held that about 1600 courts must be established but the current number is only 700

④ Infrastructure → sharing it with other courts

⑤ No specialisation of judges → piling of cases

However, they have been successful. E.g. the recent Kathua Rape Case (2019), 26/11 attacks and Jessica Lal Murder Case were solved and tried in record time.

Thus, they hold the key to stop the Matsanyaya (Economic Survey 2016) given they are ~~given~~ allotted perfect working conditions

3. Highlight the challenges faced by lower judiciary in India and suggest measures for enhancing their productivity. (150 words) 10

Lower judiciary form a crucial part to establish rule of law as they are primarily responsible for enforcing the "back bones on law". The pendency has increased to 2.9 crores.

~~But~~ In recent times, they are facing following challenges:-

① Appointment / Promotion

- Nepotism / Corruption in the process.
- very low chances for promotion to high court as only $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of them are promoted, others are selected from Bar Council.
- Thus, unable to attract talent

② Infrastructure due to lack of funds

- The Delhi Tis Hazari Court was functioning without a women's toilet for last 60 years.

↳ Various judges sharing the common courtroom is a usual sight.

③ Culture of adjournments

↳ due to laxity of judges and misuse by the lawyers

④ Laxness in Criminal Justice System

↳ If the police is unable to investigate/collect evidence in time.

⑤ Vacancies → about 25% of posts are vacant
→ Way Forward →

① Fill up the vacancies: as recommended by the Economic Survey (2018) — more judges for criminal cases and others for civil

② All India Judicial Service (Law Commission in 1960 proposed it)

③ All India Judicial and Management Services (Economic Survey 2018 for better handling of cases)

④ Use of Technology (e-filing), monitoring by higher courts to curb the culture of "Chalta hai". ⑤ Increase funding.

4. Assess the need to formalise the process of post-legislative scrutiny to improve the effectiveness of laws. (150 words) 10

Various legislations enacted by the government form the basis of functioning of the state and civil society.

Before their formation, a wide consultation is done through parliamentary committees, think tanks, specialised commissions, public, etc. but the same must be formalised for post-legislative process also due to following reasons :-

- ① No law is permanent →
↳ Nehru - "to fix a law/rule/policy means to stop the growth of nation".
- ② Must be acceptable to change as per the need of society.
- ③ Can never be sure of output/outcome of the law before it is implemented - thus,

a feedback loop is necessary for its smooth transformation and functioning.

↳ E.g. Official Secrets Act or the IT Act (2000) has become redundant in age of cyber world.

④ Popular sovereignty

↳ not all people can write to ministries at pre-legislative stage.

↳ They either do not have time or capability to analyse the outcomes with experiencing it practically.

↳ Thus, it becomes necessary to have grass root post legislative view.

Aristotle: "Law is fixed for a barbarian society. It must change for an organic one and organic elements must be the source of all change".

5. Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving the effectiveness of e-governance in India. (150 words) 10

Artificial Intelligence - the major pillar of the 4th Industrial Revolution and Digital India Mission - has multiple objectives & advantages. One such major area where it can bring revolutionary changes is the e-governance :-

- ① Minimal human interference would become possible for public service delivery.
- ② Streamline the whole supply chain in various sectors for optimal results
 ↳ e.g. PDS, Mid Day Meal Scheme, etc.
- ③ Transform tele-education and tele-medicine
 ↳ replace the teachers/doctors from the day to day routine non-productive tasks

④ Better monitoring

↳ Eg. POSAN Abhiyan → the beneficiaries can be sent periodic messages by use of AI so that its goal is achieved.

However, it also have raised various issues:-

① No emotional intelligence in AI

↳ Eg. Complete exclusion of humans from the welfare schemes would leave vulnerable sections worse off. Their digital illiteracy would add to more issues.

② Loss of jobs → need for skilling③ Not feasible in current situation

↳ Lack of funding

↳ Lack of awareness in both

• the citizens

• the public servants

★ Start it on pilot basis and escalate gradually

6. Despite various reforms in the public grievance redressal mechanisms, their effectiveness remain limited. Discuss. (150 words) 10

Public grievance redressal mechanisms (GRMs) form the backbone of the public service delivery as the efficiency, effectiveness and outcomes of all schemes depend on how fast the grievances are addressed.

Thus, government brought various reforms such as —

① Use of technology

- Apps such as SAMADHAN for railways, SAM PARK for MSMEs, etc.
- 24x7 hours call centers for farmers regarding various schemes, etc.

② Rationalisation and consolidation of the ministries and more autonomy to the regulatory bodies → Eg. the Competition

Commission of India, RBI, SBBI, etc.

- ③ Tools such as RTI (to ensure transparency) and Citizen Charter (to ensure accountability).
 - ④ Physical outreach by ministers to various villages eg. the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.
 - ⑤ Flexibility to the Panchayati Raj / State governments to ensure "principle of subsidiarity" (2nd ARC).
- However, they suffer from following limitations:-
- ① Bureaucratic Apathy → elitist attitude, neglect of 'service' attitude.
 - ② Weak trade unions / social movements
↳ not active citizenry.
 - ③ Digital illiteracy and lack of awareness along with infrastructural hurdles led to failure of the e-governance models.
 - ④ Lack of political will.

7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it.

(150 words) 10

Factors responsible for trafficking of women and children:—

① Societal mindset (Patriarchy)

- lack of morality
- 'broken window theory' → casual sexism leading to bigger crimes
- women considered as man's property.

② Poverty

- forced to sell girls / children
- forced beggary / sex trade

③ Lacuna in intelligence / police agencies

- coupled with judicial laxity
- long trials → no persistence to the criminal and no justice to the victims.

Recent steps taken :-

- Special division in Ministry of Home Affairs
- One stop centers for women in need of help
- Rehabilitation programmes for victims
- Monitoring of the Orphanages increased after the Bihar's scandal (2018).

8. With Vector-Borne Diseases (VBDs) reaching epidemic proportions in India, highlight the factors that have led to their emergence. Also, suggest some measures for their effective control and management. (150 words) 10

Vector Borne diseases

↳ spread by the bite of vectors of the mosquitoes, etc.

• Recently increased upto the epidemic proportions due to following factors:-

- ① Lack of Sanitation → water collected in potholes as neglected by the municipal authorities.
- ② Lack of primary healthcare
- ③ → Lack of funds
→ Lack of human resources
- ④ Lack of Awareness in citizens
- ⑤ Weak health/immunity of children of malnutrition

Measures to control them:

- proactive government support to the ULBs and municipal bodies
- better supply chain management for medicine at the Ayushman Bharat centers and incentivize the human resources.
- Awareness to the people/citizens with more focus on the most vulnerable sections such as slums, etc.

9. After years of neglect, rapidly evolving regional strategic realities are now forcing India and Indonesia to coordinate their policies ever more closely. Discuss. (150 words) 10

India - Indonesia relations, though have been highly connected by civilizational ties of Buddhism, Chola empire, etc., the past colonial ties of nations were never exploited upto its potential due to neglect from both sides.

In recent times they have come closer due to:

① Rapidly evolving strategic realities:

- China becoming more assertive in IOR
- India Ocean Region becoming a new area of 'great games'.
- Many ASEAN members looking to bandwagon with China → forcing Indonesia to look for new partners.

→ India too focussing on its aim of being a net security provider and SA CAR in IOR is looking for partners and Indonesia is a natural ally due to close ties with India's Andaman & Nicobar Islands and away from China's sphere of influence.

→ The closeness of relations is seen in following examples:

- ① Indonesia accepting India's proposal of developing Sabang naval base (on the strategic location of Strait of Malacca - the major choke point).
- ② Indonesian PM supporting India's cause at RCEP negotiations.
- ③ India supplying the humanitarian aid and assistance against the terrorist occupy ^{Indonesian} islands.

10. Despite several attempts at resetting the ties, various barriers continue to be a cause of concern in the India-Nepal bilateral relations. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

Shyam Saran calls India-Nepal relations as the "roti beti ka rishta" due to the close civilizational and people to people contacts.

The ties saw a downturn due to the alleged blockade on borders by India in 2015, not accepting the Nepali constitution and allegation of big brotherly attitude e.g. political meddling and not negotiating the asymmetric friendship treaty.

The rise of China has further complicated the situation.

Thus, India-Nepal took following steps to reset the ties:-

- ① PM Modi's visit in 2017 saw signing of

Molls on • hydroelectricity joint production
 • renegotiation of treaties
 • Line of Credits increased
 • removal of non-trade barriers
 • increased connectivity eg. the
 "Twin city" projects.

⇒ However, the warmth in relations is not up to the potential.

- Scholars suggest the India must stop looking at Nepal via China's prism and not forcing it follow India first policy.

- India must follow the Jugal doctrine and Neighborhood First policy to allay any fear/trust deficit. First steps should be to pro actively renegotiate the Friendship treaty to close the issue at once.

- China's proposed '2+1' strategy too can be studied and used.

11. Delineate the differences between pressure groups and interest groups. Citing examples, elaborate on the ways in which pressure groups influence government decisions and policy making in India. (250 words) 15

Marcus Olson in the book "Theory of Collective Action" has called pressure groups and interest groups as the most "dynamic features of a vibrant democracy".

Both of them are less institutionalised versions of political parties and aim to achieve some goals without participating directly into electoral politics.

However, there are some minor differences between them such as:-

<u>Pressure Group (PG)</u>	<u>Interest Group</u>
* Wider term eg. it has 3 types - → Associational → Non associational → Ad hoc	* Subset of pressure group (i.e. the associational type of PGs)

* Can be continuous or temporary

* E.g. Anti Corruption or Anti-Rape campaigns - candle marches, etc.

* May or may not be hierarchical or organised.

↳ E.g. violent protests for demonstrations, etc.

* Usually continuous as their interests are permanent.

* E.g. economic interest groups

→ FICCI

→ ASSOCHAM

→ Kisan Morcha

* Usually hierarchical and more organised

Duverger has called them the "anonymous empires" or the "invisible powerhouses"

as they influence decision making/policies of government in big way. For e.g. →

① The important policy decisions related to economic sector e.g. Import - Export duties,

GST rationalisation, etc. are never taken without due consultation with FICCI or ASSOCHAM.

- ② Pressure groups such as trade unions were widely consulted before the labor Code Bills were presented.
- ③ Opposition uses them to articulate their demands and for better understanding of issues in government policies.
- ④ Lokpal Bill was a direct result of "India Against Corruption" campaign while the Verma Committee after Delhi Rape Case (2012) was set up on the pressure by various women empowerment pressure groups.

Thus PLs/IGs are key tools to fulfill the vision of Gandhiji for a participatory democracy.

12. Highlighting the issues faced by the institutions of local self governance in India, suggest measures that can be taken to improve their effectiveness in the delivery of public goods and services at the grassroot level.

(250 words) 15

The local self government institutions were given constitutional status by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992.

However, due to reluctance of state governments, the acts were diluted by dividing its provisions into

- Compulsory provisions
- Voluntary provisions

Thus, Mamankar Iyer Committee has pointed towards following lacuna:-

① "Not decentralisation of power but decentralisation of corruption"

- Permanent executive overpower elected ones
- Political will is lacking in state governments
- Do not involve adequate powers mentioned in Schedule 11 and 12 of the Constitution

② Funds

- Either not allotted funds by state governments, ^{or} are highly delayed
- State governments not accepting recommendations of the Finance Commission
- Central funds are tied → no flexibility
- Even when PRIs/ULBs are allotted ~~provision~~ powers, they do not utilize it.

③ Functionaries

- illiterate, low awareness, lack of capacity and skills
- become partner in corruption
- no permanent secretariat
- no book keeping / record management
- neglect of the gram sabha
- Sarpanchpati Syndrome → no empowerment of women.

Following steps can be taken to improve the functioning:-

① NCRWC (Venkatchalliah Commission)

- Social audits for all grass root schemes
- Compulsory meeting with Gram Sabha
- Capacity building programmes for the elected members

② Manmohan Singh Committee

- Central Finance Commission and the Election Commission of India to perform handholding task of State FCO and ECs
- lessen the influence of district commissioners and devolve adequate powers.

③ NITI Aayog

- Establish a permanent secretariat for digital bookkeeping to increase their financial self sufficiency through bonds from formal markets.

13. The recent amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005 will weaken the act and undermine the authority of Information Commissioners. Discuss. (250 words) 15

Right to Information Act (2005) is a revolutionary legislation that empowered the people and transformed the 'culture of secrecy' to 'culture of openness'.

It established the Central Information Commission (with 1 CIC and 10 ICs) along with state counterparts. The officials were to be held personally accountable if the lacuna is found in public disclosure and that too suo moto disclosures were made compulsory.

The CIC was given the status of Chief Election Commissioner while other ICs were given the EC status. Moreover, their salaries and other charges are charged on consolidated

fund of India.

But recently, the government proposed the RTI (Amendment) Bill, 2018 which reduces the status of CIC/IC to the secretary of government of India.

This, according to civil society activists, is a tool to dimute the authority of RTI (which was now is weak, eg. political parties not accepting its orders) and CIC/IC would be reduced to the government employees → non-independent and non-autonomous

However, goI has argued that these are statutory posts and cannot be equated with a constitutional post of the Election Commission.

Also, the government has proposed to enlarge the list of exemptions (Section 2(k))

which would further weaken the control of Central Information Commission.

Even the CIC (former) has responded to such moves claiming that rather than repealing the exemption list, government has enlarged it. RTI has an inbuilt provision to respect the secrecy when the danger of security / integrity / public order is imminent.

Even law commission had suggested to gradually shorten the list of exemptions to include Army, CBI, NIA, etc.

Thus, it can be concluded that RTI is a very powerful tool in hands of people which must be protected at all costs. Government should also follow the dictum of constitutional morality and popular sovereignty.

14. Highlight the process of delimitation in India. Also, throw light on the debates surrounding the delimitation exercise in India. (250 words) 15

Delimitation can be defined as the process of adjusting the number of seats for the Parliament / State legislature as well as their distribution, areas/boundaries of constituencies, etc.

For this purpose, constitution proposed the ~~Parliament~~ President to set up a Delimitation Commission after every ^(10 years) census. However, the population growth of northern India was way higher than the southern states in 1970s due to which there were huge protests as it would have kept them at backfoot and punished them for effectively controlling the population burst through efficient family planning.

Also, the Delimitation Commission's decision is final and binding. Thus, Parliament by the Delimitation Act, 1971 fixed the distribution of seats among states on the basis of 1971 Census upto 2001 — gradually extended upto 2025.

The Delimitation Commission Act 2002 also, only refined the areas of constituencies with changing the distribution of seats.

But such situation has led to issues

① Outdated population data

- difficulty in policy making as per the present times.
- 14th Finance Commission has also used a 10% weightage for Census 2011.
- 15th FC's Terms of Reference consists of moving to Census 2011 completely/partially.

② Increased regional disparity

↳ lesser funds allocation to the more populated state have led to fund crunch and low growth while others with the lesser population have prospered.

Way Forward → The Chairman of 15th F.C. has assured the Southern states of equitable fund allocation by taking new parameters into account such as "effective family planning" and also proposed special packages for the weaker states.

NITI Aayog has also argued that "moving towards current data is inevitable" for effective evidence based policy making. However, this must be in ways that are equitable and acceptable to all.

15. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are vehicles of rural development, which help in the upliftment of marginalized groups. Elucidate. Further, mention the constraints faced by SHGs and how they can be addressed. (250 words) 15

Self Help groups can be defined as the groups formed by people generally of same socio economic background and pursuing common interests.

They have emerged as the major tool for achieving the Gandhian dream of self sufficient villages and inclusive/pro-poor growth with special focus on the marginalised groups - SC/ST and women.

They have achieved following successes:

① Self Sufficiency / Self Help

- ↳ better collective bargaining power
- ↳ less dependence on informal sources of credit / moneylenders

→ Increased financial inclusion
→ better information exchange and sharing
→ of technology has led to increase in
productivity and incomes.

② Almost 74% of the SHGs compose
of women and this has increased the
overall income of family as well as the
human capital — focusing on children's
health and education. E.g. Kudambashree

③ Economic prosperity of the SC/ST SHGs
have led to increased social status,
more political power (eg. in recent
Himachal Pradesh elections 20% of PVI
seats were won by SHG members).

However they face various challenges such as:

① Economic constraint
↳ despite schemes such as the SHG-Bank

Entire programme, most SNGs depend on the money lenders due to red tapism, corruption, delay in transfers, etc.

- ② Issues in Grievance Redressal system
 → delayed procurement/payment
- ③ Competitive attitude by the PRIs → do not allow SNGs to work independently
- ④ Regional disparity → E.g. SNGs has succeeded mainly in Southern states. NE SNGs remain vulnerable.
- ⑤ Increased family/male income has pushed women back to homes → breaking down SNGs

- Way Forward →
- ① Handholding task must be performed by the state government to make SNGs achieve economies of scale by better funds, technology, expertise from NGOs
 - ② Close coordination and cooperation between PRIs / SNGs is the need of the hour
 - ③ Assured markets and better price realization

16. With construction of toilets being only one part of the solution for a clean India, it is time that the Swachh Bharat Mission puts more emphasis on the other facets as well. Discuss. (250 words) 15

Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014 to achieve the primary aim of making India Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2019 through building of toilets — both public and private as well as bring a behavioral change by making it a Jan Andolan by use of media / social media and grass root workers.

The Swachh Bharat Survekshan Survey (2018) and Economic Survey (2019) clearly show that government has registered huge success in this area

- 28 states (out of 29) have achieved the ODF status
- 96% of people who have toilets, also use it

↳ Lakhs of toilets have built, either through subsidy or by rehabilitation of existing public toilets.

However, SBM also had other objectives which remain far from success :-

① Elimination of manual scavenging

↳ According to Safai Karamchari Commission, 1 death was registered every 4 days since 2015.

② Solid Waste Management

↳ the plants remain in dilapidated conditions due to lack of funds.

↳ No awareness of segregation at home

③ Economic Survey (2019) has proposed

to expand the SBM objectives to include

- Cleaning of rivers.

↳ addressing the industrial waste effluents

- Afforestation of trees in public places
- Ensure that not only the homes are cleaned but also the public utilities such as airports, railway stations, etc. by taking the "Jan Andolan out of the homes" of people.
- It also suggested that continuous monitoring and utilisation of "economics of nudge" would be able to achieve the sustainable results ⇒

"Swachh to Sunder" Bharat to Bharat
--

④ The Ban on single use plastic must be implemented pro actively (as mentioned by the PM in August 15 speech at the Red fort).

⑤ The toilets built must also be ensured to have safe disposal, effective water supply and management of sludge e.g. as Biogas.

17. Highlight the salient features of Mission Indradhanush. What are the challenges that the mission is facing in its implementation? Suggest measures to address these challenges for progressing towards full immunization coverage. (250 words) 15

Mission Indradhanush has been awarded as the one of the best global health practices by the British Council of Health.

It aims at immunization of the 7 deadly diseases on a universal level to the children of polio, measles, etc. while some state governments have expanded the scope as well. The vaccination is provided free of cost and the schedule is monitored for each infant by the Auxiliary Nurses (ANMs).

Thus, it aims to achieve the sustainable development goal 3 of universal health care, decreasing the infant mortality rate and deaths under age of 5 years.

However, the government is facing various Challenges in achieving the goal because:-

① Anti-vaccination campaigns/leaders with orthodox beliefs

↳ they influence the illiterate parents as vaccination involves injecting of a weakened microbe.

② Carelessnessness of ANMs / lack of training and skills contribute to the apathetic belief.

↳ moreover, the ANMs/doctors have faced violence of children usually fall sick after vaccination for some days/time.

↳ This demoralises them further.

③ Lack of supply of vaccines at public hospitals and high rates at privates.

- ④ Lack of book keeping / data collection
↳ makes it difficult to monitor the full schedule of immunization.

The government can take following steps →

- ① Increase funding to increase supply of vaccines and other equipments
- ② Incentivize the ANMs and take help of other grass roots workers eg. the Angewadi by increased ministerial coordination.
- ③ MBBS students of Community medicine departments must be trained and motivated to work in rural areas as well as make the general population aware by use of posters / mikkad natak, etc.

18. Assess the importance of skilling in light of changing economic and demographic structure in India. In this regard, how far has the Skill India Mission succeeded in its mandate. (250 words) 15

The National Health Survey (2015-16) and Economic Survey (2019) point out the fact that

- ⊛ India is aging much faster than expected

→ Total Fertility rate has gone below the replacement level of 2.1 in 13 states.

→ This means by 2042, India will reach the highest population of youth in its demography.

→ Thus, we have a smaller window to usefully exploit the opportunity to prevent it from becoming demographic disaster. This is possible only by skills.

- ⊛ Moreover, the changing economic structure

by coming up of Information Communication Technology - internet, digital world, AI, big data analytics, 4th Industrial Revolution, etc., IMF points out that more than 40% of India's current workforce will become outdated due to lack of skills by 2040.

It argues that only 5% of workforce in India is sketched as compared to 80% in USA/Japan.

Thus, understanding the gravity of the issue, government of India launched the Skill India Mission with the aim of

- skilling 100 Million people every year
- integrating vocational training as part of educational curriculum as well as in the continuous training at the work.

However, the current statistics presented by the Minister of Skill recently, the objectives remain far from being achieved:-

- ① The ITIs have become hub of corruption, lack of teachers/trainers and low level of accreditation has made only marginal increase in the employability.
- ② The skilled workforce in past 4 years is about 35 million, way less than the target of 100 million per year.
- ③ Lack of private participation has been majorly responsible for the failure.

Way Forward → India is facing the most dangerous trend and the biggest opportunity it will ever get at the same time. Only a continuous and practical focus of government/private sector can put India towards prosperity.

19. What according to you are the reasons that motivated India to create a dedicated Indo-Pacific division in the MEA recently? Also, highlight the challenges for India in the Indo-Pacific region. (250 words) 15

MEA recently created a dedicated division for Indo-Pacific region. C. Rajamohan appreciate the step as "India coming out of its continental mentality and full pledged working towards the aim of net security provider".

Following reasons are responsible for such a crucial steps:-

- ① Growing influence/assertiveness of China in South China Sea and even expanding to the Arabian Sea / Bay of Bengal.
E.g. Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Gwadar in Pak (Arabian Sea) and Kra Canal in Thailand (Bay of Bengal) shows its Pearl of Strings strategy.

② Alfred T. Mahan's Theory of Ocean power → one who controls the oceans will dominate the changing world order.

→ and as per Shri Shankar Menon:

"new world order will smedge in the Indian ocean region".

→ Thus, India will have huge stake in it.

③ Better and deepening relations with the IOR rim nations.

→ IONS, IORA as multilateral groups

→ Maldive's security ties, India-France to launch surveillance satellites to track movement in IOR.

④ Threat of non-conventional threats has increased: Ex. terrorism (26/11), piracy,

climate change, etc.

Thus, with so much happening in the IOR it is imperative for Indian government to have dedicated division for quick decision making, long term policy formulation and strategic/tactical goals to achieve the aims of foreign policy.

Also, as the threats and opportunities (e.g. blue economy) are growing rapidly and multi-dimensionally, a division is must for inter-ministerial coordination and transforming India into a Smart and Fast power.

20. For SCO to become a successful regional grouping, it has to overcome bilateral differences between its members and their respective geopolitical calculations. Comment. Also, discuss the role that SCO can play in enhancing India's interest in the Eurasian region. (250 words) 15

India recently got admission to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as a full time member.

It can play a crucial role for enhancing India's interest in following ways :-

① Ties with Russia

↳ Russia is insecure about China's growing influence in its backyard, it can utilize India as a competitor to China.

② Connect Central Asia Policy (2012)

↳ Chabahar port

↳ INSTC corridor, TAPI

③ Ashgabat Agreement

↳ Increased connectivity by road/air corridors

④ Counter Terrorism → use of RATS by

Collaborative military exercises.

⑤ Rejuvenating the civilizational ties with Central Asia

⑥ India can finally negotiate the FTA with Eurasian nations which has been pending for long

⑦ Economic interests

→ energy security e.g. Nuclear Civil Agreement with Kazakhstan

→ raw material

↳ e.g. Gold from Uzbekistan

⑧ Stability in Afghanistan and Iran

↳ by proposing their membership to SCO

However, for SCO to function as a successful regional grouping, it has to tackle the following challenges:-

① Bilateral Differences

- India - Pakistan rivalry and the China
-Pak nexus (all weather allies and Iron
Brothers) might push India into corner
- This is more worrisome as India is seen
moving closer to USA and Russia towards
China and Pakistan.
- Territorial disputes between the Central
Asian nations → lead to their instability

- ② Convergence in geopolitical calculations
is also must → US and west → major bone
of contention
- India → not supporting OBOR of China
(the only one in SCO grouping).
 - India's interest in India Ocean region,
clashing with China's.
 - India looking for a multipolar world as
"one of the four petals" while China at
a "sino centric world" order by Chinese dream
 - Diverging views of members for Afghanistan