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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 871)

Name of Candidate	NANDINI	Registration Number	191609
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Date	27.9.17
Center	KB.		

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- 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.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. Criticism about the judiciary should be welcomed, so long as criticisms do not hamper the "administration of justice". In this context discuss whether the power of contempt of court given to the higher judiciary limits the freedom granted by Article 19(1)(a) and whether these two can be reconciled.

जब तक आलोचनाएं "न्याय के प्रशासन" में बाधा न डालें, न्यायपालिका के संबंध में आलोचनाओं का स्वागत किया जाना चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या उच्च न्यायपालिका को दी गई न्यायालय की अवमानना की शक्ति अनुच्छेद 19 (1) (a) द्वारा प्रदत्त स्वतंत्रता को सीमित करती है और क्या इन दोनों में सामंजस्य हो सकता है?

The Constitution has bestowed the Supreme Court, and High Courts with power to punish for contempt.

This is to

- 1) Maintain dignity of the court, without which administration of justice may be hampered
- 2) Ensure that directions of the court are followed.

The clash with Art 19(1)(a),

bestowing fundamental right of speech and expression upon all citizens comes as court is empowered to punish for writing, publication, and broadcasting of words/sentiments that lower the prestige of court.

As these terms are subjective, the potential for abuse of power is wide.

The court defends its position by stating that 'contempt of court (cc) is a reasonable restriction in the constitution.

The way towards reconciliation is :

- 1) Judicial restraint in using the CoC powers.
- 2) Sensitizing judiciary to the importance and relevance of Art 19 in a democracy.
- 3) Sensitising media towards relevance of courts prestige, without which right to fair trial & speedy justice of citizens is compromised.

Perhaps repealing 'contempt of court' as a reasonable restriction can be considered. Or limiting the meaning of contempt to not following orders of court only.

2. Special rights are not privileges but they are granted to make it possible for minorities to preserve their identity, culture and traditions. Elaborate in the context of India with examples.

विशिष्ट अधिकार विशेषाधिकार नहीं हैं, बल्कि अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए अपनी पहचान, संस्कृति और परंपराओं के संरक्षण को संभव बनाने के लिए इन्हें प्रदान किया गया है। उदाहरण सहित भारत के संदर्भ में सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Privileges are ^{advantageous} conditions that accrue to certain groups due to their place in society.
eg: Privy purses of erstwhile state princes and royal families.

→ Privileges are against the spirit of Art 14.

Special rights to minorities, especially under Art 29 and Art 30 are conferred with the following intentions:

→ Recognition of minority communities right to protect their language, script & culture

→ Acknowledging that in a democracy, often majority

communities are at risk of losing their identity.

The constitution recognises 2 kinds of minorities in India:

- linguistic
- religious (protected under Art 25 - 28).

Other constitutional & statutory provisions protecting minority rights are:

- Schedule 5 & 6
- FESA Act

These provisions recognise the historically precarious position of minority groups, and the danger of them being swallowed up in majority cultures.

Eg, Art- 371 A allow Nagas to
preserve their customary laws,
arbitration mechanisms and
tradition.

3. A clear delineation of functions of local governments vis-à-vis State Governments will only strengthen the principle of subsidiarity. In this context, discuss the challenges and the reforms required for effective democratic decentralization in India.

राज्य सरकारों के साथ-साथ स्थानीय सरकारों के कार्यों के स्पष्ट आरेखण (निरूपण) से केवल अनुषंगिकता का सिद्धांत पुष्ट होगा। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में प्रभावी लोकतांत्रिक विकेंद्रीकरण के लिए आवश्यक सुधारों और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Constitutional Amendment 73rd & 74th, Schedule 11 & 12, and Part 9 & 9A of the Constitution put in place a third tier of govt. in rural & urban areas.

These provisions mandate compulsorily that PRIs & ULBs need to be created. But devolution of powers, functions, and functionaries is left upto the discretion of states.

This is the main challenge to the working of local govt.

Other challenges are :

- 1) Inability of some local bodies to fully leverage their powers : eg the ULBs of Bangalore & Jaipur only collect 20% & 5% of the prospective property tax they can collect.
- 2) State govt interference even after devolution of powers & functions.
- 3) Setting up alternate bodies to carry out functions of local govt : eg Delhi Jal Board, even though water is an item that can be devolved to local govt. This creates overlap of functions & confusion.

Suggested reforms are :

- 1) Making ~~the~~ certain devolution functions & finances compulsory for devolution to local govt.
- 2) Heeding advice of 14th Finance Commission on the proportion of state funds to be shared with local govt.
- 3) Following international best practices in local government responsibility allocation: eg Singapore.
- 4) Creating respect for local govt., and recognising their importance for achieving true democracy.

4. Despite being a welcome step, Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 fails to resolve the issue of overlapping of jurisdiction between the legislature and judiciary. Analyse.

स्वागत योग्य कदम होने के बावजूद, अंतरराज्यीय जल विवाद (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017 विधायिका और न्यायपालिका के बीच क्षेत्राधिकार के परस्पर अतिव्यापन का मुद्दा सुलझाने में विफल रहा है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Inter State Water Disputes Bill 2017 replaces the 1963 Act.

The core problems with 1963 Act were :

1) ad hoc tribunals set up for every separate riparian dispute.

→ The 2017 Act proposes setting up permanent tribunals, with benches whenever needed.

→ The 'temporary benches' solution is not radically different from the ad hoc tribunal system.

2) Problem of appeal

→ The 1963 act said decisions of the tribunal would be final & binding.

→ The SC struck this down as violative of the 'basic structure' of the constitution (Art 13, judicial review).

→ The 2017 act also proposes that decisions of its tribunals, subject to appeal to the main permanent bench, would be final and binding.

→ This is likely to be struck down again on the same ground of basic structure by the judiciary.

This is where the jurisdiction

overlaps between the legislature & the judiciary.

Suggested reforms are:

1) 2017 Act ~~suggests~~ creates an informal Disputes Resolution Mechanism, to reduce the no. of cases that go to litigation.

2) Perhaps judiciary can devolve some of its functions and jurisdiction only w.r.t. riparian disputes.

Overall method for improvement

1) Depoliticisation of riparian disputes.

2) Declaring rivers as National Property

3) Better use of water to reduce disputes.

5. Critically discuss the major reforms introduced in the area of electoral funding in Union Budget 2017. Do you think that state funding of elections is a viable idea to check misuse of money power in politics?

2017 के केंद्रीय बजट में चुनावी वित्तपोषण को लेकर प्रस्तुत किए गए प्रमुख सुधारों पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आप मानते हैं कि राजनीति में धनबल का दुरुपयोग रोकने के लिए चुनावों का राज्य द्वारा वित्त पोषण एक व्यावहारिक विचार है?

The Association for Democratic Reforms found that 70% of funding to political parties in the last decade came from informal sources.

In this context, Union Budget 2017-18 proposed the following reforms to regulate electoral funding :

1) Anonymous cash donation amount : maximum Rs 2000 (from Rs 20000)

2) There are concerns ^{about} ~~to~~ the strength of this limitation.

2) Parties to file income tax returns. Critique: there should be

punishment/consequences for not filing.

3) Businesses need not stick to 7.5% profit limit.

Pro: improves sources of clean funding.

Con: can result in corporate control over politics.

4) Businesses need not declare
name of the party to which they
are funding.

Con: concerns over transparency

Pro: Clean funds

5) Electoral bonds only in digital
cheque mode by citizens/groups
to parties.

Pro: clean funding.

Con: concerns over transparency

Many scholars have proposed state funding of elections as a solution to money power in elections as

→ corporate / ~~is~~ illegal / black money will be weeded out from politics.

But issues are

→ will favour only established parties.

→ might not block informal sources ~~into~~ of money into politics anyway.

→ Taxpayers will be forced to support parties they do not necessarily want in power.

Solution: The 2017 Budget proposals ~~are~~ have potential. They must be expanded to improve transparency & accountability.

6. The provision of 33% reservation of seats for women in urban local body elections in Nagaland has been in news for various reasons in recent times. Discuss the underlying issues in light of the constitutional provisions at stake and the social realities of the state.

हाल ही में नागालैंड में शहरी स्थानीय निकाय के चुनावों में महिलाओं के लिए 33% सीटों के आरक्षण का प्रावधान विभिन्न कारणों से सुर्खियों में रहा है। इस सन्दर्भ में राज्य की सामाजिक वास्तविकताओं तथा दाँव पर लगे संवैधानिक प्रावधानों के आलोक में अंतर्निहित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 371 A confers rights of customary law use, traditions protection upon Nagas.

Article 243T mandates 33% reservation of women in ULBs.

The issue is that Naga customary law, constitutionally protected, does not allow women to contest elections.

Realities (for Art. 243T)
1) Nagaland has accepted the 74th Constitution Amendment by passing a relevant state Act.

2) 25% reservation for women

exists in PRIs of Nagas.

Naga tribal groups suggest that

1) They are not against representation of women, only elections process. They do not want women to stand for elections.

2) They are willing to nominate women.

Many Naga women's groups contest that

1) They have the right to stand for elections.

2) Till now, only 1 women has represented Nagaland in Parliament;

3) women's literacy rates is above 80% in Nagaland.

Thus women have a desire to represent themselves, attain autonomy and agency.

Way forwards :

1) Customary law needs to be subject to basic provisions of equality.

2) SC must clearly state, for such future tussles, that discrimination cannot be protected under customary law and tradition.

3) Education into gender equality. ULBs have not been constituted yet in Nagaland. This has caused poor local governance & administration.

Nagaland gov. has agreed to hold elections, with women's reservation.

7. Enumerate the guidelines for police reforms as laid down by the Supreme Court in Prakash Singh case in 2006. In this regard, critically discuss the issues in their implementation by the States.

2006 में प्रकाश सिंह मामले में पुलिस सुधारों पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा यथा निर्धारित दिशा-निर्देशों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इस संबंध में, राज्यों द्वारा उनके कार्यान्वयन में निहित मुद्दों पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Most states follow Police Act 1861.
This colonial act perceives Indians
as subjects of a colonial empire,
and not as citizens of a
democratic state.

Thus many attempts at police reforms have been made. In the 2006 Prakash Singh Case, the SC issued 7 directives to states for reforms :

- 1) Create State Security Commission
 - a) to limit political interference
 - b) to evaluate police
 - c) create guidelines.
- 2) Minimum 2 yrs tenure for DSP.

- 3) Minimum 2 yr tenure for other Police officials.
- 4) Create Police Establishment Board
→ to look into service matters.
- 5) Create Police Complaints Boards to inquire into public complaints against police at state level (for officers above DSP rank) & district level (below DSP rank).
- 6) Separate investigation & law & order functions of police.
- 7) Create National Security Commission to select panel to appoint Chiefs of Central Police Offices, with minimum 2 yr tenure.

Problems in implementation :

- 1) State subject (Police) → every state has to implement them separately .
- 2) Police often used as instrument for political gains by parties in power . This reduces political will to create reforms .

Way forward :

- 1) Make police concurrent list subject .
- 2) Create penalties for failure to implement reform .
- 3) Civil society pressure for reform .
- 4) Judicial activism : like in the TP Senkumar case, in which DSP was reinstated on judicial orders after Kerala govt removed DSP . [This path can face opposition] .

8. While the Competition Commission of India and sector-specific regulators are required to complement each other, overlapping jurisdiction has resulted in regulatory parallelism amongst them. Comment.

जहां भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग और क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट नियामकों को एक-दूसरे का पूरक बनने की आवश्यकता है, वहीं परस्पर अतिव्यापी अधिकार क्षेत्र का परिणाम उनके बीच नियामकीय समानांतरता के रूप में सामने आया है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Recently, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) ~~issued~~ guidelines to FR admonished TRAI for not preventing monopolistic tendencies within the telecom field.

Overarching problems

- CCI meant to regulate free competition in markets.
- With specialized fields coming up, govt. mandated specialized regulators like SEBI, TRAI etc.
- This has caused confusion, overlapping functions and regulatory parallelism.

→ Intention of the govt was to create ~~so~~ complementary regulators, CII filling in general vacuums ⁱⁿ overall market regulation.

Solution :

- Create clear jurisdictions of each regulator.
- Create a body of heads of all regulators where such issues may be sorted.
- Allow specialized regulators maximum scope in their fields, with high penalties for failure.
- Make CII a guiding body, that respects the skills of specialized regulators, but is competent to fill inter -

Sectoral gaps when required .

X→X

X←X

9. There is both spatial and economic inequality with regards to access to healthcare services in India. Elaborate. How does the New Health Policy attempts to address these issues?

भारत में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुँच के संबंध में स्थानिक और आर्थिक दोनों असमानताएँ विद्यमान हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। नई स्वास्थ्य नीति कैसे इन समस्याओं का समाधान करने का प्रयास करती है?

The New National Health Policy, 2017 aims at making healthcare universal and affordable, in line with global sustainable development goals.

Spatial inequality in healthcare

- 1) Rural areas are underserved.
- 2) Some states fare better than others.

New NHP solutions:

- 1) expanding PHC networks.
- 2) encouraging pvt. sector in underserved areas.
- 3) Allocation of funds acc. to states needs → States with lesser services given more funds.

- 4) Encouraging states to spend 8% of GDP in healthcare.
- 5) Encouraging voluntary services by healthcare professionals in underserved areas.
- 6) Ensuring all districts to have secondary care hospitals.

Economic inequality :

- 1) High out of pocket expenditure (70% of total healthcare expenditure).
- 2) Limited insurance cover.
- 3) Pvt hospitals, which provide speedy services, are too expensive. Govt, which provide cheap services, are too time-consuming and tedious.
- 4) Travel to hospitals too expensive (need to expand hospital network) [point for spatial].

NHP Solutions :

- 1) free drugs, free diagnostics and free emergency care .
- 2) Reduce out-of-pocket expenditure to 25% by 2025 .
- 3) Increase Union govt. spending to 2.5% of GDP [Still considered too low to deal with the problem, but better than current 1.5% expenditure] .
- 4) PHC cards to every family .

Making healthcare a fundamental right will go a long way in ensuring equal access & affordability .

The ambitious targets for IMR, MMR, etc require govt to extend health-care to the poorest & remotest . Otherwise the targets will not be met . Thus, spatial & ~~low~~ economic equality is an ~~inbuilt~~ precondition for success of NHP .

10. Census 2011 observed that there has been a significant increase in urban homeless households in the period between 2001 and 2011. What are homeless households? Highlighting the challenges faced by them, discuss the causes for increase in such households. Suggest various measures to rehabilitate these households.

2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार वर्ष 2001 से 2011 की अवधि में शहरी बेघर परिवारों की संख्या में सार्थक वृद्धि हुई है। बेघर परिवार से क्या तात्पर्य है? उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, ऐसे परिवारों की संख्या में होने वाली वृद्धि के कारणों की चर्चा कीजिए। इन परिवारों के पुनर्वास हेतु विभिन्न उपाय सुझाएँ।

Homeless households in urban areas are families that live without shelter, or in temporary shelters.

Challenges faced by such families

- difficulty in getting identity cards, which require proof of residence.
- constant insecurity
- ~~per~~ perceived criminalization
- lack of basic necessities like bathrooms, toilets, running water, sanitation etc.

Causes for increase in such households are:

- 1) increased migration into urban areas.
- 2) ~~Many~~ destruction of temporary, but illegal structures that served as households for different utilization of the land.
- 3) Lack of adequate increase in proper residential quarters by governments.
- 4) Underutilization of government provided facilities.
- 5) Extreme poverty, disabling families from affording rent.

Measures to rehabilitate such households are:

- 1) Optimum utilization of government facilities.
- 2) Proper implementation of Housing for All, PM Awas Yojana schemes.

- 3) Reducing migration by creating employment opportunities & other necessary facilities in rural areas,
- 4) Leveraging stakeholders like NGOs to tackle the problem.
- 5) Giving recognition to temporary / illegal, but supportive structures.
[Expanding Olga Tellis case principle]
- 6) Creating awareness of the plight and magnitude of homelessness.

11. Recent judgment of the Supreme Court, amending the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has invoked varied responses. Highlighting the amendment, critically examine its likely impact on application of the law.

घरेलू हिंसा से महिलाओं का संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2005 में संशोधन हेतु सुप्रीम कोर्ट के हालिया निर्णय से विभिन्न प्रकार की प्रतिक्रियाएँ सामने आई हैं। उक्त संशोधन पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इस कानून के अनुप्रयोग पर इसके संभावित प्रभावों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Recent report by Ministry of Statistics has revealed that women face most dangers from their families. Domestic violence comprises 36% registered cases of violence against women.

Thus SC has mandated the following changes to the DV Act

1) removing term 'adult male' as only abuser

→ women and minors can also perpetrate violence.

∴ term 'adult male' against spirit of Art 14.

2) Right to residence for abused

women .

- 3) Expanding definition of women
→ mother, sister, live-in partner,
wife, widow all included .
- 4) Expanding definition of DV →
emotional, verbal, physical,
mental, sexual abuse included.
- 5) Preventing abuser from frequent-
ing places that the abused
visits (eg work place)
- 6) Mandating protection officers
for the abused .
- 7) Violation of restrictions upon
abuser → non-bailable, cogni-
zable offences .
- 8) 1yr imprisonment and/or Rs
20000 fine .

Impact Positive

→ protects wider definition of
women, from wider forms of
abuse .

- V. important - for widows, who are most abused, especially in rural areas.
- Protection officers add another layer of support.

Impact Negative

- Removing 'adult' term applies it to juveniles, but DV not included in juvenile justice code.
- Fines cannot be paid by juveniles.
- Potential for misuse by husbands who might incite cases against their wives by their mothers / sisters. [This critique is considered problematic by many].
- No recommendation for mandating gender sensitivity to police & lower judiciary -

12. Examine the steps taken by the government over the years to ensure a
 ① secure and exploitation-free childhood for its citizens. Further analyse how
 the recent ratification of the two key ILO conventions will help India's fight
 ② against child labour.

विगत वर्षों के दौरान अपने नागरिकों के लिए सुरक्षित एवं शोषण मुक्त बचपन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का परीक्षण कीजिए। पुनश्च, विश्लेषण कीजिए कि हाल ही में अनुसमर्थित किए गए दो प्रमुख ILO अभिसमयों से बाल श्रम के विरुद्ध भारत की लड़ाई में कैसे सहायता मिलेगी।

Childhood is varyingly constructed as the age between 0-14/0-18 in India, under different laws. India is committed to protection of children, as signified by its ratification of ^{international} Convention on Protection of Rights of Child.

Steps taken by gov. to ensure childhood are:

- 1) RTE Act 2010
- 2) ICDS, targets to reduce IMR, child stunting, child malnutrition etc vaccination etc.
- 3) Fundamental right to children against labour, trafficking etc.
- 4) POsCO Act, Juvenile Justice Act,

5) Eklavya Scheme, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Girl Child Protection scheme etc to ensure all children are equally protected inspite of social vulnerabilities.

India has finally signed 2 ILO conventions that further protect children from exploitation

→ convention for prevention of employment of children

→ convention against forced labour by children.

↳ This shows India's international commitment of protecting childhoods.

2) More international funding can be expected.

3) India will have a stronger say in protecting childhoods across the world.

4) The 2 conventions serve as guiding lights to states. They are legally binding, thus strengthen childrens rights.

India has recently reformed its child labour laws to reflect social realities, by allowing children to work in domestic field after school.

This shows Indias commitment to pragmatism in this field.

13. According to the World Bank, while digital technologies have spread rapidly in much of the world, resulting digital dividends have lagged behind. Analyse in the context of India.

विश्व बैंक के अनुसार, जहां डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकियों का पूरे विश्व में द्रुत गति से प्रसार हुआ है, वहीं परिणामी डिजिटल लाभांश पीछे रह गया है। भारत के संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The UN in 2015 declared right to internet access a fundamental right. The State of Kerala followed its lead.

This shows the importance of internet, and relevant digital technologies in living a full life in the 21st century.

1) The world's digital penetration has been increasing rapidly over the past 30 years, to reach 42% in 2016 (World Bank).

2) However, this spread has occurred unevenly. Some developed countries like Japan, Sweden, have over 90% digital

penetration, whereas developing countries like India are struggling to cross the 30% mark.

Within India, the distribution of digital access is skewed in favour of the prosperous, male, urban population.

Digital dividend is the advantage that an economy has because of deep internet/tech. penetration and access.

- e-commerce facilities
- Knowledge access, which improves the quality of human resource available.
- health information access
- many other intangible benefits.
- financial inclusion.

India has not been able to use digital technology to its advantage

optimally. To leverage its potential dividend, the govt has taken the following steps under its flagship Digital India programme

- 1) Bharat Net → internet connectivity in 2 lakh gram panchayats.
- 2) JAM → for optimum financial inclusion using technology
- 3) Bhim App, QR code, AEPS etc for less-cash transaction. Here, digitization gives direct dividends to the economy by making it cleaner.
- 4) GSTN → for seamless tax structure
- 5) streamlining space programme — IRNSS, NAVIC etc.

If leveraged optimally, the digital dividend can add 1-2% to the GDP in the next 3 years.

14. "Our country suffers from an excess of old and unnecessary laws which obstruct people and businesses". In light of the observation elucidate how outdated and impractical laws bring inefficiency in governance. How far is the repealing and consolidation of statutes a solution to the problem at hand?

"हमारा देश पुराने और अनावश्यक कानूनों की बहुलता से ग्रस्त है जो जनता और व्यापारों के लिए बाधक हैं"। इस टिप्पणी के आलोक में स्पष्ट कीजिए कि किस प्रकार अप्रचलित और अव्यवहारिक कानून शासन में अक्षमता लाते हैं। ऐसे कानूनों का निरसन और समेकन कहां तक इस विद्यमान समस्या का समाधान है?

In 2016, the govt repealed 1200 outdated statutes, and identified another 1800 for repeal.

These were bringing inefficiency in the following ways:

- 1) Wasting time of lawyers & courts that have to study & account for these laws in the justice process
- 2) Colonial administrative rules limiting efficiency of the bureaucracy.
- 3) Limiting personal rights: The Young persons Protection Act was being used to shut down shops

Selling Bob Marley t-shirts in efforts to prevent sale of marijuana.

4) Inefficient tax collection: The Salt cess in 2013 collected Rs 3.3 cr, and Rs 1.5 cr was spent in collection.

5) The Boilers Act mandated an inspector raj by state authorities in the industry, when the more efficient system is self-checking, as followed in Gujarat. Thus old laws were forwarding inefficiency and confusion.

6) Corruption: A 1974 law mandated compulsory sharing of water in Delhi. This was being misused by authorities to force 5star hotels to give donate water, or give bribes.

Clearly, the old statutes were a hindrance to effective administration and judicial process of our democracy.

They are a positive step, but complementary steps need to be taken to fully solve the problem:

- 1) States can repeal laws.
- 2) Make sure no contradiction in separate laws (eg → Child Marriage Act and IPC provisions regarding rape).
- 3) Update necessary laws (eg → Prevention of cruelty to animals law says fine for mutilating, beating, otherwise harming animals is only Rs 50).
- 4) Create a national repository online in different languages otherwise problem of inefficiency and delay in judicial process will remain.

15. Due to increasing consumption and changing consumption patterns, water scarcity is an emerging threat in India and thus it becomes imperative to treat water as a commodity and privatize it. Critically evaluate.

बढ़ते उपभोग और उपभोग के पैटर्न में परिवर्तन के कारण, जलाभाव भारत में एक उभरता हुआ खतरा है और इस प्रकार यह अनिवार्य हो जाता है कि जल के साथ एक वस्तु के रूप में व्यवहार किया जाए और इसका निजीकरण किया जाए। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Water scarcity is availability of less than 1000 litres of water per person per day.

Water scarcity is increasing because

- 1) Population expanding
- 2) Intensive agricultural practices
- 3) Wastefulness, inefficient use
[eg furrow flooding instead of drip irrigation]
- 4) Faulty infrastructure : leakages etc
- 5) Changing weather patterns causing unforeseen droughts.
- 6) Irrational city planning : blocking natural drainage patterns, which prevents flow of water in soil, which subsequently dries up rivers.

Many other such reasons are contributing to water scarcity. Privatizing water can help this situation by :

- 1) Efficient pricing, which will prevent wastefulness.
- 2) Efficient delivery, which will increase availability & accessibility.
- 3) Efficient infrastructure management.

But, drawbacks of privatising water are

- 1) Does not solve inefficient agricultural use, which needs behavioural change.
- 2) Rural, drought ridden areas may not seem attractive to pub. players, for lack of rural peoples ability to pay high prices.
- 3) Problems like inefficient city

planning need government-
intervention .

Private sector can perhaps best be used in research and development regarding water scarcity, and technologies to solve it. This too will need government encouragement, and partnerships with international leaders like Israel.

16. Given the mandate of the Organisation and its composition, too much should not be read into India becoming a full time member of SCO. Critically comment.

SCO के अधिदेश और इसकी संरचना को देखते हुए, भारत के SCO के पूर्णकालिक सदस्य बनने का बहुत ज्यादा अर्थ नहीं निकालना चाहिए। आलोचनात्मक टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was created in 2001 as a body for cooperating on economic and security needs of Central Asia. In 2016, India & Pakistan became full members for SCO.

The benefits of SCO's membership to India are considered constrained by the organisation and composition of SCO.

1) Potential benefit : platform for India pak relations.

Constraint → India & Pak have already almost brought SAARC to a standstill. If the same happens in SCO, no one benefits.

2) Potential benefit : counter
China's influence in Central
Asia

Constraint : Other members of
SCO support China's OBR and
China - Pakistan Economic
Corridor programme. Thus,
India might face pressure to
conform, instead of support to
assert its sovereignty.

3) Potential benefit : Role in
curbing terrorism in C. Asia,
which adversely affects India.

Constraint : The position of
China and Pakistan on
terrorism is against India's
position many times → eg
Mazoor Azhad question.

Thus, many dark spots are available in full utilisation of SCO membership.

Way forward

- 1) Mature dialogue b/w India, China and Pakistan
- 2) Learn from mistakes of SPARC.

17. India needs to utilize its technological capacity based diplomacy to strengthen relationships with the neighbours. Discuss. Also examine the significance of South Asia satellite to enhance regional cooperation.

अपने पड़ोसियों के साथ संबंधों को मजबूत बनाने के लिए भारत को अपनी प्रौद्योगिकी क्षमता आधारित कूटनीति का उपयोग करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही क्षेत्रीय सहयोग बढ़ाने में दक्षिण एशिया उपग्रह (साउथ एशिया सैटेलाइट) के महत्व का भी परीक्षण कीजिए।

India is soon emerging as a leader in different technical field, especially space tech. This can be utilized in diplomacy in the following ways :

1) People to people contacts

→ exchange programmes of students to India's prestigious IITs etc.

2) Defence technology → exporting it to countries like Vietnam

3) Disaster management → India has created highly sensitive

tsunami prediction system, and this it shares with close neighbours and the world.

Thus its technical capacity can earn India the goodwill of the world.

The most significant step has been the South Asian Satellite which will provide weather, spatial, data collection, and other relevant services to its South Asian neighbours (excluding Pakistan).

→ This gets India lucrative revenues from selling crucial data.

→ Helps other countries in vulnerability mapping for

disasters -

→ Helps them in bettering
agriculture planning, etc.

Thus, technological diplomacy
can be a gamechanger for
India.

Way forward:

1) Broaden international
partnerships, like the India -
Japan sea-link to Africa
project.

2) Leverage areas like engineering,
where Indians have excelled, esp.
by dealing with difficult terrain
in Himalayas & Western ghats.
[eg → Konkan railways].

18. Though both India and Bangladesh have been able to resolve various pending bilateral issues, solution to the Teesta Water dispute remains illusive. Discuss.

यद्यपि भारत और बांग्लादेश विभिन्न लंबित द्विपक्षीय मुद्दों का समाधान करने में सफल रहे हैं, फिर भी तीस्ता जल विवाद का समाधान भ्रामक बना हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए।

India and Bangladesh have a positive history of dispute resolution and cooperation.

Eg → 2015 Land Boundary Agreement, Ganga Waters Treaty

However, resolution on Teesta Waters has been constantly delayed since 1983, when an ad-hoc arrangement was created.

The confusion is because,

1) Under Article 243, the Union can undertake international transboundary rivers water settlements

— while keeping socio-economic and needs of Indians affected

in mind .

2) Water is a state subject in the 7th Schedule . Thus West Bengal (WB) ~~is~~ is not willing the relinquish its rights, for fears that 5 districts in North Bengal will face water scarcity .

Bangladesh's Rangpur region relies on Teesta waters for rice cultivation .

The 2011 agreement proposed 37.5% water to Bangladesh, which is more than what the 1983 agreement promised . WB wants to revert to the 1983 decision, but Bangladesh wants to follow 2011 . Thus, dead lock is reached .

Way forward

- 1) Trilateral dialogue b/w Centre, WB & Bangladesh,
- 2) More efficient use of Teesta waters by both countries.

19. Discuss the important provisions and significance of the recent proposal by India for Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS) Agreement under WTO.

विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) के अंतर्गत ट्रेड फैसिलिटेशन इन सर्विसेज (TFS) (सेवा में व्यापार सुविधा) समझौते के लिए भारत के हालिया प्रस्ताव के महत्वपूर्ण प्रावधानों और महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Trade Facilitation in Services is important for developing countries like India which can capitalize on their highly skilled demographic dividend for provision of services across the world.

The Significance of TFS is

- 1) Balances the goods trade agreement in favour of developing countries.
- 2) Provides cheap services across the world leveraging ICT & digital penetration.
- 3) Allows best talent of the world to emerge.

4) Necessary part of the
Doha Development Agenda

5) India, which earns maximum
GDP from its service sector,
will benefit immensely.

6) Necessary services like health, education,
finance will be better provided.
Provisions of TFS

→ loosening the visa regime

→ national treatment of
foreign service providers

→ facilitating movement of
people.

→ allowing flow of capital
for provision of services, creation
of infrastructure for service
provision.

→ Allowing private companies
in necessary services like health.

20. BIMSTEC has the potential to become a distinctive link between South and Southeast Asia. Elaborate. Also discuss the factors hindering the potential of BIMSTEC over the years. Highlight the key initiatives in recent times and further measures required to make the grouping more effective.

BIMSTEC (बिम्स्टेक) में दक्षिण और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया के बीच एक विशिष्ट कड़ी बनने की क्षमता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, पिछले कुछ वर्षों के दौरान BIMSTEC के सामर्थ्य (क्षमता) में बाधक बनने वाले कारकों पर भी चर्चा कीजिए। इस समूह को अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के लिए हाल के दिनों में की गई प्रमुख पहलों एवं और आवश्यक उपायों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

BIMSTEC members are divided b/w SAARC & ASEAN members :

SAARC : India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh .

ASEAN : Thailand, Myanmar .

Thus BIMSTEC has the potential to connect South & Southeast Asia deeply ~~to~~ through sector specific cooperations, eg in tourism, infrastructure, etc.

Factors hindering potential of BIMSTEC

1) Infrequent meetings → met only four times in last 2 decades .

2) Lack of org. structure → only in 2014 was a permanent secretariat created (Bhaka).

Thus, the high level meetings need to take place frequently.

3) Delayed decisions → the regional FTAs being negotiated have not materialized.

Key Recent Initiatives are:

- 1) India Myanmar Thailand road corridor.
- 2) Kaladani highway.
- 3) Open tourism visa policies among many states.
- 4) Participation in BRICS 2016 meet, which resulted in Goa Declaration.

Further measures :

- creation of proper secretarial organisation
- regular meetings
- speeding up decision making process.
- ⇒ utilizing its place as org. of some of the fastest developing countries of the world, and banding in international forums like WTO to secure its concerns.