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3 hours (+) 5 minutes

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1863)

Name of Candidate	ASHISH		
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng.	Registration Number	1010258
Center	ONLINE	Date	01/01/22

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		1. 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)।
2	10		2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3	10		3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4	10		4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5	10		5. 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।
6	10		
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Total Marks Obtained:			7. 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।
Remarks:			

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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. Parliamentary oversight of administration is not an end in itself rather it acts as a means to strengthen the efficient functioning of the administration. Discuss. (150 words) 10

प्रशासन की संसदीय निगरानी अपने आप में एक अंत नहीं है बल्कि यह प्रशासन के कुशल कामकाज को मजबूत करने के एक साधन के रूप में कार्य करता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Parliamentary Oversight of administration refers to the process of the legislature (i.e. parliament) examining the functioning of the executive (i.e. administration).

As per Article 75, the executive is responsible to the legislature.

Parliamentary Oversight → Means and not an end in itself

- ① Ensures accountability and answerability of the administration towards the people of country through the representatives (parliamentarians).

② Ensures effective use of funds through Estimates and Public Accounts Committees.

③ Prevents despotism and authoritarian tendencies of the administration.

④ Ensures that rights and principles like equality etc. are upheld.

⑤ Ensures that democratic structure remains intact. eg. through removal process of Election Commissioners, UPSC Chairman etc.

However, considering parliamentary Oversight as an end in itself results in only procedural democracy rather than substantive democracy.

Parliamentary oversight of administration is the cornerstone of the democratic structure in the representative democracy of India.

2. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution has weakened the democratic credentials of India's representative democracy. Critically discuss.

(150 words) 10

संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची ने भारत के प्रतिनिधि लोकतंत्र की लोकतांत्रिक साख को कमजोर कर दिया है। समालोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए।

Tenth schedule of the constitution contains the Anti-Defection provisions which were added by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

10th schedule contains provisions preventing defection in central and state legislatures through provisions like:
* ~~Disqualification~~ Disqualification for : ① Voluntarily giving up of

② Joining of a political party by an independent candidate or by a nominated member after 6 months

③ voting against party directives in certain elections / motions

(Weakening of democracy by 10th schedule)

① Prevents the members from exercising

individual rights.

② Prevents the elected members from working for the benefit of the constituency that elected them → in favour of voting according to Party directives

③ Dilutes the credentials of representative and substantive democracy → makes it a party centred procedural democracy

④ Prevents members from stopping anti-democratic measures advocated by party.

However, 10th Schedule was a necessary step to curtail undemocratic tendencies

in Indian democracy because:

① Prevented opportunistic moves (eg. changing of party for personal gains)

② Prevented corruption in 'trading' of elected representatives

③ Prevented loss to the exchequer through frequent elections

④ Ensured stable policies (eg. Economic Survey advocates Policy certainty)

Therefore, 10th Schedule has more benefits than problems.

3. Article 246 of the Indian Constitution is considered as the cornerstone of Centre-state legislative relations. Discuss. (150 words) 10

भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 246 को केंद्र-राज्य विधायी संबंधों की आधारशिला माना जाता है।
विवेचना कीजिए।

Article 246 contains provisions for the division of responsibilities between Centre and States in the federal structure of Indian Polity. It is associated with the 7th schedule of the Constitution.

Cornerstone of Centre-State legislative relations → ~~7th~~ Article 246

① Divides the legislative subjects into three lists: Union list, State list, Concurrent list

② Allows for clear cut demarcation of boundaries within which the levels of government have to operate.

③ Concurrent list allows flexibility in areas that are relevant for both

Centre and state. eg, labour disputes

④ Recognises the relevance of States' executive functions for implementation of projects

⑤ Written separation of legislative powers ensures that disputes are reduced to a minimum.

However, these provisions have also resulted in certain conflicts due to conflicting and often contradictory provisions (eg. water in 'state list' and 'Inter State Rivers and River Valleys' in Union list).

Also, these provisions are altered in the case of National Emergency under Article 352 when the Indian State becomes unitary.

Apart from such emergency situations, Article 246 is the shining example of the majesty of India's Centre-State cooperative federalism.

4. Although the provision of issuing ordinances amounts to the usurpation of legislative power by the Executive, both Centre and states in India have taken unrestrained course to it. Discuss. (150 words) 10

हालांकि अध्यादेश जारी करने का प्रावधान कार्यपालिका द्वारा विधायी शक्ति के अधिग्रहण के समान है, फिर भी भारत में केंद्र और राज्यों दोनों ने इसे अनियंत्रित रीति से प्रयुक्त किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 123 and Article 213 provide ordinance powers to the President and the State Governors respectively.

Usurpation of legislative power by executive through ordinances

- ① Executive can make laws despite any support from legislature which is the representative democratic body.
- ② Breach of the parliamentary process (eg. scrutiny by committees).
- ③ May be used to satisfy narrow political vested interests
- ④ Centralisation of powers within a limited Council of Ministers

However, Ordinances are used in unrestrained fashion by both Centre and states because:

- ① Often, it is the need of the hour to use Ordinance when one or both the legislative houses are not in session eg. during COVID-19 pandemics
- ② Some issues that are of urgent nature may take some time to build consensus on (especially in coalition governments) eg. Multi-state cooperatives related provisions
- ③ Vested political interests coupled with authoritarian bent

In the DC Wadhwa case, the apex court put restrictions on promulgation and unrestricted promulgations of ordinances. The guidelines can help prevent usurpation of power.

5. There has been a manifold increase in the number of ministries in the central government since independence. Do you agree with the view there is a need to phase out many ministries and amalgamate others in this context? (150 words) 10

स्वतंत्रता के बाद से केंद्र सरकार में मंत्रालयों की संख्या में कई गुना वृद्धि हुई है। क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि इस संदर्भ में कई मंत्रालयों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करने और अन्य को समामेलित करने की आवश्यकता है?

The 91st Amendment Act limited the size of Council of Ministers (at both central and state levels) to 15% of the strength of lower house.

(Manifold Increase in Central ministries)

(Causes (Need))

- ① Increasing differentiation and specialization of work eg. ~~MSME~~ MSME sector requires different approach than other commerce and industry issues
- ② Political motives → to placate many coalition partners after the breaking of 'Congress Raj'

③ Release of burden on selected ministries as India is a vast country and even small ministers have huge work load

④ Increased accountability and transparency

~~However, following problems have arisen~~ → Need for phasing out/amalgamation

① Overlapping jurisdictions have created operational inefficiencies
(one of the reasons why water related ministries were added/amalgamated in 'Jal Shakti' Ministries)

② ^{For} Policy certainty, stability and convergence of ideas

③ ^{For} Better utilization of funds

④ ^{For} Quick decision making

There is a need to balance efficiency and ~~set~~ centralisation of power in the Central government.

6. Evaluate the success of Digital India in fulfilling its vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

(150 words) 10

भारत को डिजिटल रूप से सशक्त समाज और ज्ञान आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में बदलने के अपने दृष्टिकोण को पूरा करने में डिजिटल इंडिया की सफलता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Digital India Initiative envisaged the transformation of India into a digitally empowered society and Knowledge Economy.

Data → According to Digital India dashboard, now there are more than 1 billion mobile connections in India and internet penetration is ~50%.

(Success of Digital India)

For Govt.

① Better service delivery and beneficiaries identification eg. through use of Aadhaar, e-RUPI, JAM

- ② Direct Benefit Transfer and reduction of subsidy leakages eg. PM JAY
- ③ Better tax compliance for Citizens
- ① Human Capital Improvement → eg. DISHA portal for education, e-Sanjeevani for health
- ② Grievance Redressal eg. Banking related online platforms
- ③ Welfare of MSMEs through Udyam portal

(However, Digital India's success has been dented by following limitations)

- ① Digital Divide, Urban-Rural Divide, Rich-Poor Divide
 - ② Lack of last mile connectivity (eg. Pratham's ASER report → only few rural students had internet during COVID)
 - ③ Cyber security related issues, Data Protection law still not formed
- However, Digital India has played an important role in transforming Indians from 'snake charmers' to 'mouse-charmers' according to PM Modi.

7. Examine the issues related to poverty measurement in India. Suggest measures to improve upon the existing methodologies. (150 words) 10

भारत में निर्धनता के मापन से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए। मौजूदा पद्धतियों में सुधार के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

According to Economic Survey,
poverty refers to the distribution
of assets and resources at the
bottom level of society.

Poverty Measurement

↳ Important committees / panels

- ① Atal Bihari Vajpayee Committee
- ② Lakdawala Committee
- ③ Tendulkar Committee
- ④ Rangarajan Committee

Issues related to poverty measurement

- ① Multiplicity of approaches → lack of consensus
eg. Calorie Approach,
per day expenditure approach etc.

- ② lack of all India level data
- ③ centralised approach has created many issues like 'one size fits all' approach for poverty measurement throughout India
- ④ purely economic view (eg. \$1.2/day) ignores multiple other deprivations eg. homelessness, caste discriminations etc.
- ⑤ lack of political will to counter the issue head on

Possible measures

- ① Focus on multi dimensional poverty (eg. NITI Aayog's approach) → higher chances of holistic measurement
- ② Misery Index
- ③ Socio-Economic Caste Census using modern data - analytics

Poverty alleviation is a major part of being a welfare state (Article 38) and for that a proper poverty measurement

8. As one of the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, discuss the rationale behind internationalisation of higher education in India and its associated challenges. (150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP), 2020 की सिफारिशों में से एक के रूप में, भारत में उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के लिए दिए गए तर्क और इससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

National Educational Policy (NEP) was published after 34 years of the last education policy in 1986.

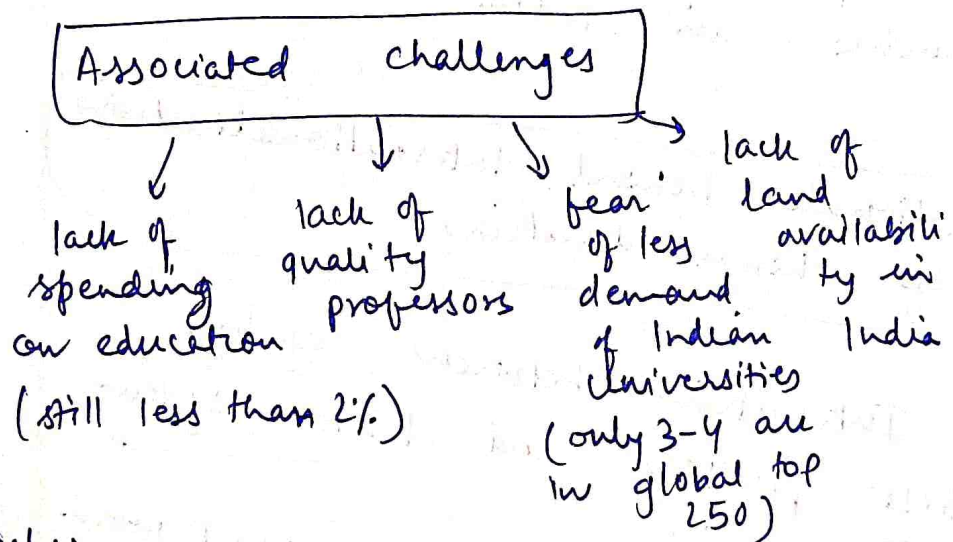
NEP 2020 recommended internationalisation of higher education i.e. Indian

Colleges setting up branches abroad and foreign colleges setting up branches in India

Rationale behind Internationalisation of higher education

- ① Interaction between Global Best practices of education and Indian system
Eg. BITS Pilani - benefitted from this synthesis

- ② Increased diversity of students as well as professors → will increase social capital in addition to human capital.
- ③ Relevant modern skills will be transferred to Indian students → Currently only 47% of graduates in India are considered employable.
- ④ chances of greater industry - academia linkages



Higher Education is the key to reap the burgeoning demographic dividend of India whose median age is only 28.

9. Stating the significance of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), examine whether they have been as beneficial as expected for India. (150 words) 10

मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों (FTAs) के महत्व को वर्णित करते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या वे भारत के लिए अपेक्षा के अनुसार लाभदायक रहे हैं।

Free Trade Agreements refer to bilateral or multilateral agreements between countries and groupings to facilitate trade between them at certain favorable conditions.

eg. India - Sri Lanka FTA was 1st such FTA

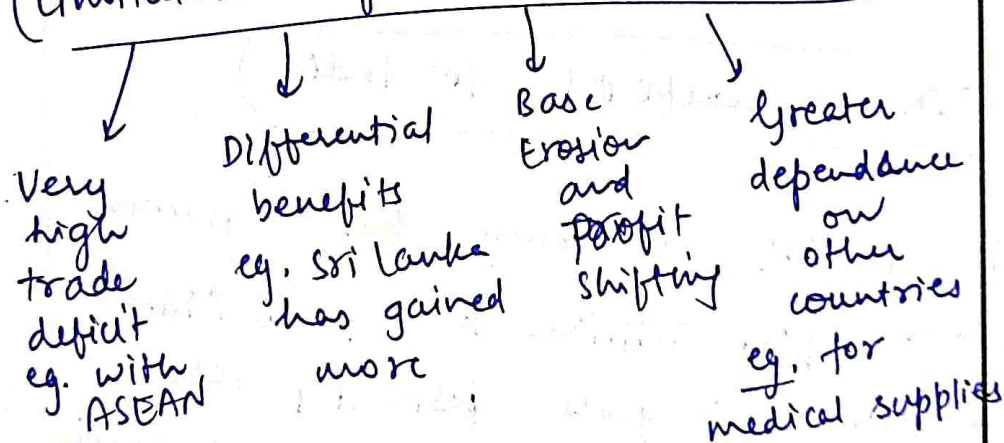
(FTAs → Beneficial to India)

① India's economy has grown from \$0.6 Trillion to \$2.6 Trillion in the 30 years post-LPG reforms when FTAs started in vigorous fashion

② India has become part of global value chain, eg. Samsung and Apple both produce phones in India

- ③ Greater regional connectivity → eg. with ASEAN through IMT, Kaladan Multimodal transit corridor
- ④ Better people to people relations due to diaspora movement and engagement
- ⑤ Reduced wars and conflicts (It is often said that where goods can't pass, armies often do).

Limitations of FTAs for India

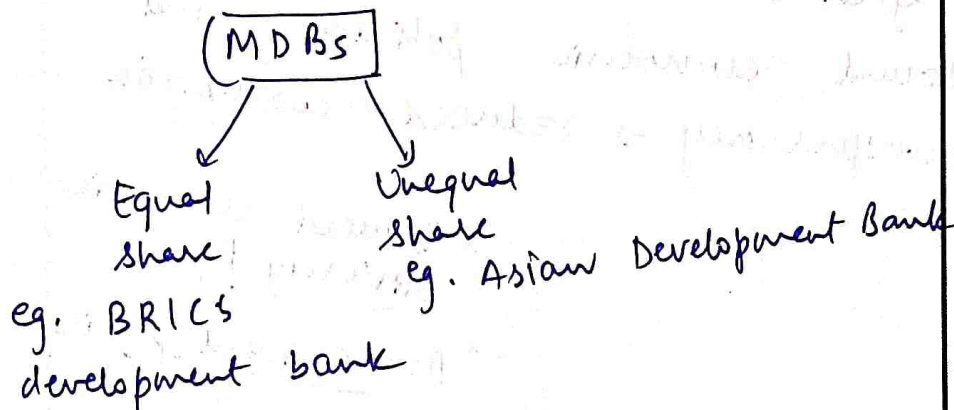


However, the reintensification of FTA talks with USA, UK and EU indicate that India wants to take benefit of 'China+1' policy of major anchor firms.

10. Though multilateral development banks (MDBs) are crucial for holistic development of developing nations like India, there are certain legitimate concerns about their functioning. Discuss. (150 words) 10

यद्यपि बहुपक्षीय विकास बैंक (MDBs) भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों के समग्र विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, तथापि उनके कामकाज के बारे में कुछ वैध चिंताएं भी हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

Multilateral development Banks (MDBs) refer to the financial institution of ~~for~~ development bank being formed by collaboration of multiple countries. ~~with~~ eg. ADB etc.



MDBs → crucial for holistic development of developing nations like India

① Development funds at low interest rates help in undertaking long-gestation infrastructure projects.

- ② Creation of physical infrastructure whereas the non-debt creating revenue can be used for creation of social infrastructure eg. schools
- ③ Emergency and Urgent Situations can be dealt with eg. loans by ~~MDBs~~ MDBs during pandemic
- ④ Greater international pressure for sound economic policies and transparency → reduced corruption
- Legitimate concerns
- Reduced economic sovereignty
 - Donor-based policies
 - Greater area for conflict in future
 - Hegemony of larger powers eg. USA in ADB

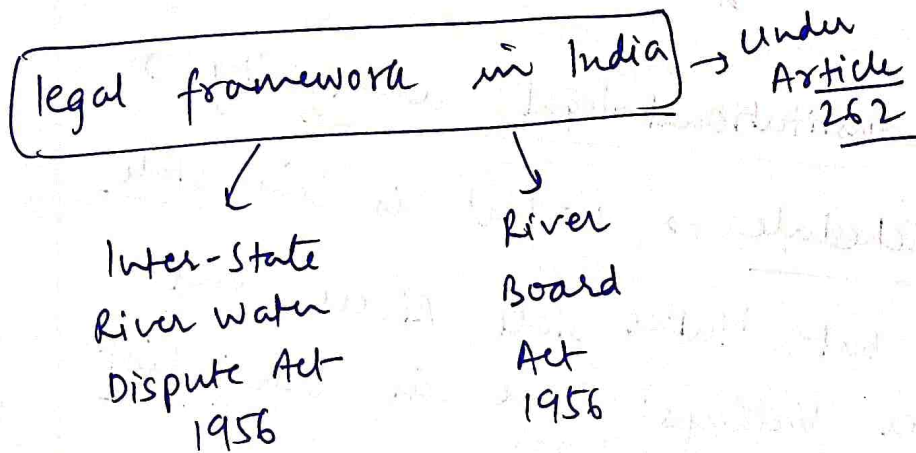
According to PM Modi, only reformed multilateralism with reformed UN can meet aspirations of humanity.

11. Despite the legal framework to resolve Inter-state river water disputes, why do they continue to exist? Also, discuss measures that can be taken to resolve such disputes in an expeditious and agreeable manner.

(250 words) 15

अंतर्राज्यीय नदी जल विवादों को हल करने के लिए कानूनी ढांचे के विद्यमान होने के बावजूद, वे अभी भी जारी क्यों हैं? साथ ही, ऐसे विवादों को शीघ्र और सहमतिपूर्ण रीति से हल करने के लिए किए जा सकने वाले उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 262 empowers the Parliament to create institutional framework like ~~tribunals~~ tribunals to resolve inter-state river water disputes.



Persistence of such disputes → can be attributed to three ambiguities:

① Historical geographical ambiguity:
Formation of states based on linguistic

rather than geographical principles
such as river boundaries (natural)

② Institutional
~~Constitutional~~ - legal ambiguities →

Article 282 prohibits the jurisdiction of
Supreme Court from such disputes
but Article 131 gives original jurisdiction
to resolve inter-state disputes. Also,
Supreme Court is a court of appeal
and thus all cases reach there even
after rulings of tribunals.

③ Constitutional-legal ambiguity →

7th Schedule → 'Water' is in State
list but 'Inter State Rivers and
River Valleys' are in Union list

Measures to be taken

① Use of existing constitutional
mechanisms eg. Article 263 → Inter
State Council

- ② consultative and cooperative federalism → eg. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu previously resolved disputes due to consultations and deliberations
- ③ Political Will → to finalise the constitutional and legal frameworks and jurisdictions
- ④ Moving away from arithmetic approach of resolving such disputes → and looking for more visionary and holistic solutions
- ⑤ River Basin Management Bill and Dam Safety Bill → to remove minor apprehensions eg. Kerala with respect to Mullaperiyar Dam

In the era of shifting paradigm of water (from supply based to demand side based solutions), Inter State River Water Disputes must be ensured to provide SDG 6 to future generations

12. While use of technology is a welcome step towards improving the efficiency of the judicial system, it must be understood that technology itself comes with a set of challenges that make justice even more inaccessible. Discuss. (250 words) 15

हालांकि न्यायिक प्रणाली की दक्षता में सुधार की दिशा में प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है, लेकिन यह भी समझा जाना चाहिए कि प्रौद्योगिकी स्वयं चुनौतियों के एक समूह को साथ लाती है जो न्याय को और भी अधिक दुर्गम बनाती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

~~Answer~~ The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of technology in judicial system eg. Virtual Courts, e-challans etc.

Technology → welcome step towards improving the efficiency of the judicial system

→ According to NITI Aayog, if drastic measures are not taken, the current rate of pendency will take 329 years to be solved by the prevalent judicial system. ⇒ Thus, there is urgent need of technology in judicial system

→ Access to justice (Article 39 A) → Technology will enhance access to justice

through e-courts, Virtual Courts etc. →
Remote corners of India that are far
away from New Delhi (seat of the SC)
lack access to justice

→ Will ensure that India becomes
a hub of arbitration eg. through

Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)

→ Will make justice more affordable
for the poor

→ large number of industrial will
get justice (Supreme Court → Right to
life is available even to prisoners)

Challenges associated with use of
technology in judicial system

① lack of data protection law in
India → technology can cause large
data breaches and judicial cases involve
sensitive and critical personal data
eg. Dominos data leak

- ② Will increase the divide between rich and poor and urban and rural
- ③ Even judges are not properly technologically literate
- ④ Cyber security related threats - outside forces can hinder the process of justice eg. Evidence tampering
- ⑤ The separation between judiciary and executive (Article 50) may be threatened as executive controls the use of technology

The report of Joint Parliamentary Committee with regards to use of technology in judicial system contains important provisions for better implementation.

But first, last mile connectivity through BharatNET, optical fibre networks, PM-WANI must gulf the digital divide.

13. The current urban planning capacities in India are extremely skeletal and need systemic reforms and a change in mindset. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत में शहरी नियोजन की वर्तमान क्षमताएं अत्यंत सीमित हैं तथा प्रणालीगत सुधारों और मानसिकता में बदलाव की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Urban planning refers to the process through which urbanization is controlled and regulated through proper planning, data analytics, multi-stakeholder approach etc.

(Current 'skeletal' urban planning capacities in India)

- ① Centralisation of capacities in Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA)
- ② Lack of powers to urban local bodies
- ③ Functions and Functionaries and funds are all lacking in the urban planning skeleton of India

④ 74th Amendment → District Planning Committees have been unable to turn the tide of unplanned urbanisation in India

⑤ States have little fiscal space to manoeuvre and plan urban development

⑥ Finance Commission (Article 280) grants in this regard are usually limited and conditional (eg. 15th FC)

(Need Systemic Reforms and change of mindset)

① Awareness is needed about the benefits of planned urbanization.
eg. 'Chandigarh' gained due to planning

② To resolve water stress → Planned Urban development helped London to cleanse River Thames

③ India is the only G20 country which doesn't have functional mayors in major cities who are responsible

④ ~~lack of~~ R&D in research institutions like IISc Bangalore and IIT Delhi
→ In the field of 'urban planning'
→ must be used by the govt.

⑤ Increasing instances of urban flash floods, heat island phenomena etc. can be resolved only by proper urban planning

⑥ Olga Tellis case → Right of livelihood, residence etc. are part of Article 21
→ urban planning can help ensure these rights

The current emphasis on urban planning through schemes like PM Awas Yojana, AMRUT, Smart Cities Mission etc. represent the necessity of imminent change.

14. Reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has not translated into corresponding increase in women's representation in India's state legislatures. Bringing out the reasons for the same, discuss how under-representation of women in the state legislatures can be corrected.

(250 words) 15

पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRIs) में महिलाओं के लिए प्रदत्त आरक्षण उसी अनुपात में भारत की राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के प्रतिनिधित्व में वृद्धि में परिवर्तित नहीं हुआ है। इसके कारणों को वर्णित करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के कम प्रतिनिधित्व में कैसे सुधार किया जा सकता है।

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment institutionalised reservation for women ^(one-third) in the PRIs and also added the 11th Schedule to the Constitution.

However, it has not translated into corresponding increase in women's representation in state legislature.

This is because:

- ① Women used as 'proxy' representatives of their husbands in PRIs
eg. 'Sarpanch Pati' syndrome

- ② Improper devolution of funds and functions to PRIs by state governments
→ this has resulted in ~~per~~ persistence of 'capacity gap' of women representatives
- ③ Prevailing patriarchal norms in most of the states → women are seen as inferior and unsuited for state legislatures
- ④ Lack of reservation for women in State and Central legislatures → less than 15% representatives are women in Parliament and ~10% in State legislatures
- ⑤ Education and Health related issues of women → NFHS-5 survey → More than 30% pregnant women are still anaemic.
- ⑥ Domestic Violence due to 'domestication' of women → as witnessed by the 'Silent Pandemic' during COVID-19 induced lockdown

Steps to increase representation of women in state legislatures

- ① Reservation provision for women even in state legislatures
- ② Increasing the 'human capital' of women by targeted education and health measures eg. 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', 'Sukanya Samriddhi'
- ③ Raising awareness regarding child marriage, dowry laws, infanticide etc.
- ④ Preventive steps to protect women from domestic violence
- ⑤ Political Will → to recognise women as equal stakeholders in the political realm as well
- ⑥ Sensitization of male legislators
 Bhakti Sharma of Barkhed, Abdullah Village, Women panchayat in Latur Village (Maharashtra) etc. are examples of how women can lead by example if given the proper opportunity.

15. For effective public service delivery, there is need to shift from traditional accountability mechanisms to social accountability mechanisms. In this context, discuss the pre-conditions for the success of social accountability efforts and challenges associated with them. (250 words) 15

प्रभावी सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण के लिए, पारंपरिक जवाबदेही तंत्र से सामाजिक जवाबदेही तंत्र में स्थानांतरित करने की आवश्यकता है। इस संदर्भ में, सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व के प्रयासों की सफलता के लिए पूर्व-शर्तों और उनसे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा की जाए।

Public service delivery refers to the process via which the government provides essential 'public goods and services' along with other services to the citizens.

Traditional Accountability Mechanisms

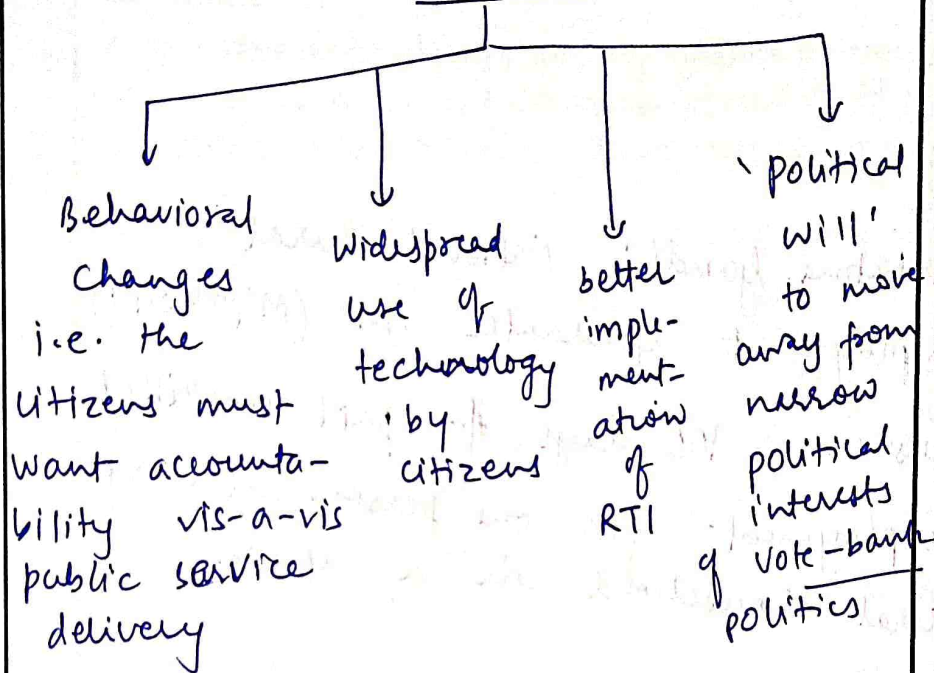
- Institutional framework: CAG, CBI, CVC, Lokpal & Lokayuktas
- legal framework: Prevention of Corruption Act
- Free and fair elections
- Committees of legislatures (eg. Public Accounts Committee)
- Audit mechanisms eg. Indian Audit and Accounts services

Need for shift towards social accountability measures

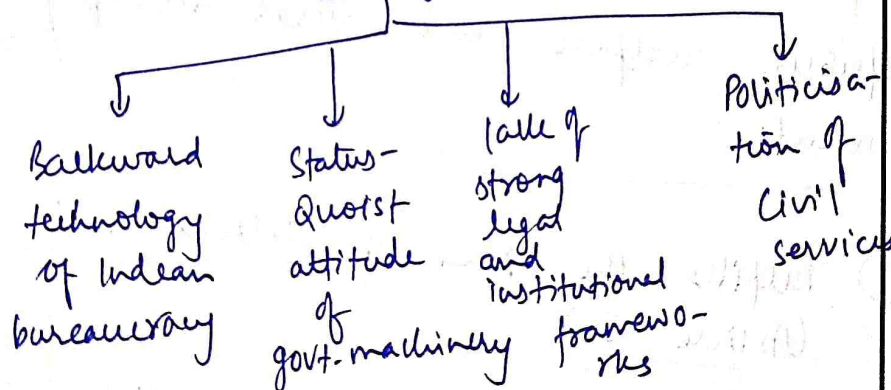
- ① 'Social Accountability' refers to the ~~as~~ answerability of administrators (providers of public service delivery) towards the citizens who are entitled for that public service
- ② Failure of traditional accountability measures eg. Corruption Perception Index → India has low rank
- ③ Rigid bureaucratization has prevented the success of accountability measures
- ④ 'Social Accountability' will nudge the public service providers towards better service
- ⑤ 'Citizen Charter' has been a success in Britain and other countries
- ⑥ Substantive Democracy and Deliberative Democracy entails ideas of social accountability.

Success of Social Accountability

* Pre-Conditions



* Challenges



Social Accountability can go a long way in making India a truly welfare state.

16. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) remains one of the most ambitious programmes for public welfare and rural development, but its objectives cannot be achieved without strong and capable Panchayati Raj Institutions. Elucidate.

(250 words) 15

महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम (मनरेगा) अभी भी लोक कल्याण और ग्रामीण विकास के लिए सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रमों में से एक है, लेकिन इसके उद्देश्यों को मजबूत और सक्षम पंचायती राज संस्थानों के बिना हासिल नहीं किया जा सकता है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural
Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
ensures 100 days of paid unskilled
employment for one person in every
rural household in a year.

Importance of MGNREGA for
public welfare and rural develop-
ment

- ① Fulfills the idea of welfare state (Article 38)
- ② Provides right to work (Article 41)
- ③ Ensures ~~that~~ right to life and decent living (Article 21)

- ④ Prevents bondage and indebtedness in the rural areas (Article 23)
- ⑤ Empowerment of women
- ⑥ Rural development through creation of infrastructure &
- ⑦ Protection of environment through work on watershed management, rejuvenation of local water bodies
eg. 'Johads' in Haryana, 'Taalabs' in Bihar etc.

Need for strong PRIs for success of MGNREGA

- ① PRIs are best suited for beneficiary identification
- ② Strong PRIs can determine priority areas (eg. rural infrastructure) which can be developed through labour under MGNREGA
- ③ Functional women in PRIs can take

Relevant steps for betterment of conditions of work for women under MGNREGA eg. Creche facilities

④ State Finance Commission, if empowered, can ensure better devolution of fund to bridge intra-state divide under MGNREGA

⑤ Payment of wages on time is a major issue that can be solved by strong and adequately funded PRIs

MKSS fought for MGNREGA because of its inherent benefits. Although, MGNREGA has been successful to some extent in fulfilling its lofty ambitions, strong PRIs can transform rural development paradigm through MGNREGA.

17. Despite legal safeguards and international conventions, the State has failed to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities in general and those with psychosocial disabilities in particular. Discuss in the context of India,

(250 words) 15

कानूनी सुरक्षोपायों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अभिसमयों के बावजूद, राज्य सामान्य रूप से दिव्यांगजनों और विशेष रूप से मनोसामाजिक दिव्यांगजनों के अधिकारों को बनाए रखने में विफल रहा है। भारत के संदर्भ में विवेचना कीजिए।

India is party to the UN convention on Right of people with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and also has enacted a law i.e. Right of persons with Disabilities Act.

Despite these acts and international conventions, State has failed to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities.

General failures

- ① Lack of inclusive infrastructure development → most of government facilities still lack infrastructure like ramps etc.

- ② lack of awareness and sensitization regarding rights of persons with disabilities
- ③ very miniscule number of ~~dis~~ persons with disabilities are in state and ~~leg~~ central legislatures
- ④ schools, colleges etc. still discriminate against the persons with disabilities
- ⑤ 'lack of capabilities' for persons with disabilities → very few programs to skill, upskill, reskill them.

(Failures with respect to persons with psychological disabilities)

- ① lack of psychiatrists in India (only 5000-10000 psychiatrists) in India.

② lack of institutional correction facilities

③ stigmatisation of persons with psychological disabilities is still prevalent.

Amartya Sen's 'Capability approach' should be followed to ensure that persons with disabilities get their rights in due time and Supreme Court guidelines must be followed.

18. To what extent has the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) been successful in solving the problem of rural housing in India? Discuss with adequate arguments.

(250 words) 15

भारत में ग्रामीण आवास की समस्या को सुलझाने में प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) किस सीमा तक सफल रही है? पर्याप्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

PM Awas Yojana is a flagship scheme of Indian government to ensure 'Housing for all' in India.

PMAY (Gramin) is the rural component of this program.

(PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) → Objectives)

- ① Building of housing facilities for all Indians living in rural areas
- ② making housing available for rent at affordable prices by creating a rent market
- ③ Enhancing quality of life of Indians in rural areas (Article 21 → Right to live with dignity)

PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) - Successes

- ① More than 50 lakh houses have already been built
- ② It has brought down the rate of housing in rural areas.
- ③ Protected rural Indians from social ills like crime, theft and many diseases and accidents
- ④ Empowerment of women and also dignity for them as they had to face harassment when living outside
- ⑤ Fulfilled Right to equality (Article 14) and Right to decent living conditions.

PM Awas Yojana → Failures

- ① Still more than 5 lakh homeless people in rural areas (by extrapolation)

of census 2011 data).

- ② Project is behind schedule due to funding issues especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic
- ③ Vacant houses have still not been used by govt. to house the rural people.
- ④ Slow pace of rehabilitation and resettlement
- ⑤ Bureaucratic hurdles and other implementation challenges has led to exclusion of many deserving rural citizens.

PM Awas Yojana is an essential project for improving quality of life of Indians and it is on the right track to fulfill the aspirations of modern India.

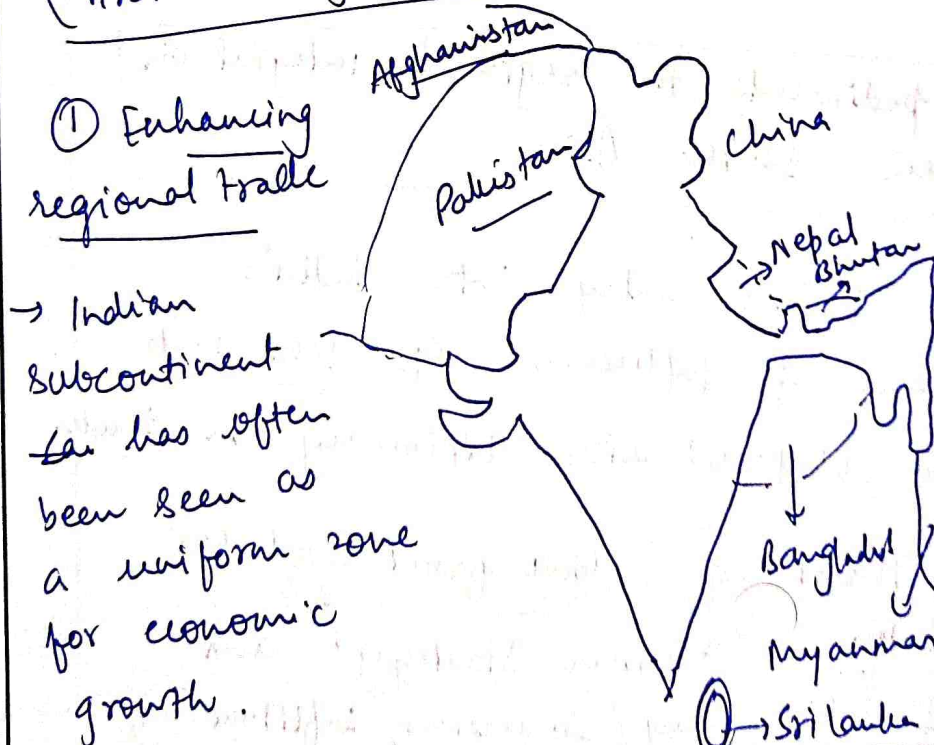
19. Despite the potential of India's Neighbourhood First policy, there have been several impediments to regional cooperation in South Asia. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत की नेबरहुड फर्स्ट नीति में क्षमता होने के बावजूद, दक्षिण एशिया में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग के लिए कई बाधाएं विद्यमान हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

India's Neighbourhood First Policy is an extension of its Global Doctrine which envisaged India taking a leadership role in its immediate neighbourhood.

Potential of India's Neighbourhood First Policy



- ② Ensuring safety and security in the region eg. Maritime Piracy threat can be dealt with through India's Neighbourhood First (NFP) Policy.
- ③ Energy Security → through multiple hydro power projects eg. with Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh
- ④ Regional Integration through Connectivity eg. Kaladan Multimodal Project, India-Bangladesh railway line

Impediments to regional integration in South Asia

- ① China's entry into India's sphere of influence eg. Debt-trap and Wolf warrior Diplomacy in Sri Lanka
- ② Threat of 'two front war' for India → 'Pincer Strategy' and I2 diplomacy (Incursion, Infiltration)

- by China and Pakistan
- ③ Failure of SAARC
 - ④ Failure of democratic government in Myanmar
 - ⑤ Dwindling economy and social fabric in Sri Lanka eg. forex issue, leasing of Hambantota port, Tamil-Sinhalese dispute
 - ⑥ Afghanistan becoming a narco-terrorist state
 - ⑦ CPEC and BRI leading to exclusion of India from connectivity projects

However, India's NFP has adapted to the challenges and still aims for regional integration. eg.

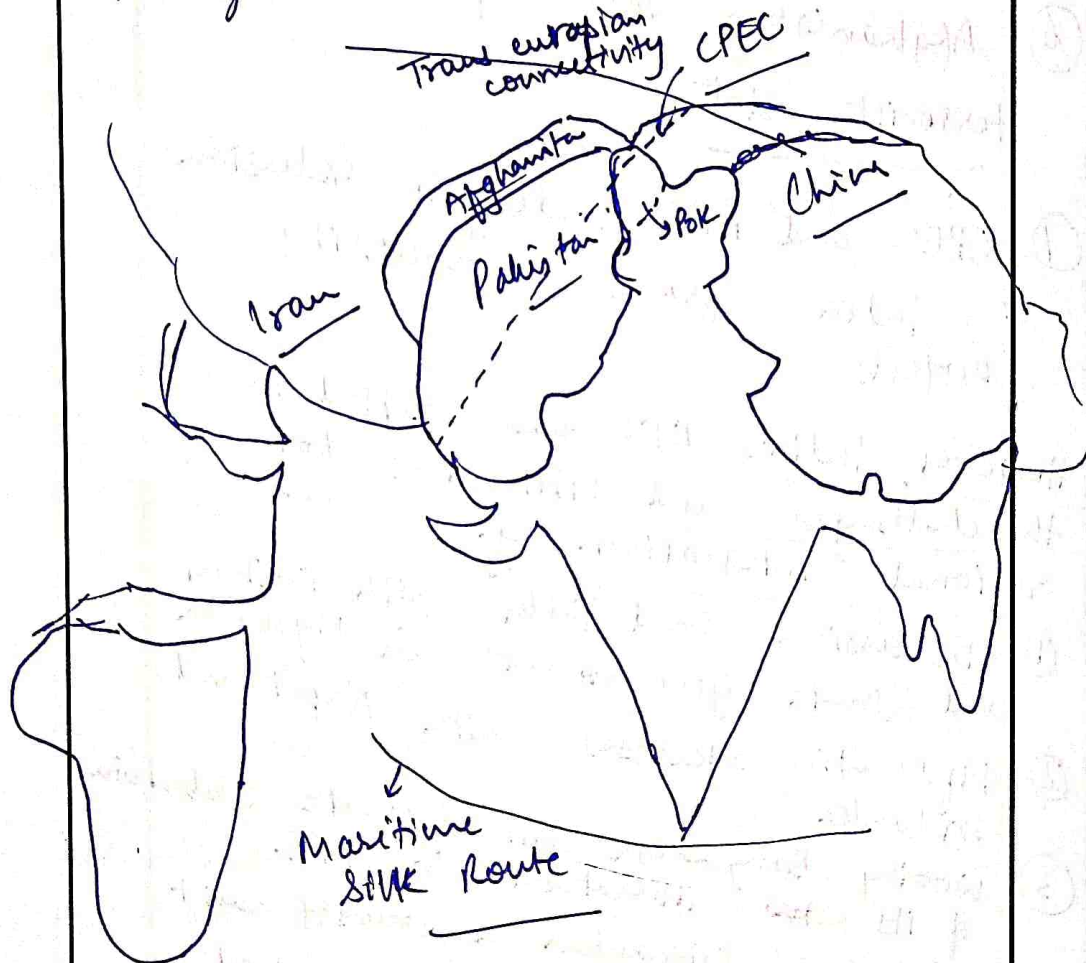
- ① Discussions and Talks with Taliban and Junta Government in Myanmar
- ② Diplomatic successes with Nepal and Sri Lanka
- ③ wooing Bangladesh will elaborate celebrations of its ~~liberation~~ liberation in 1971.

According to S. Jaishankar, a country can't become a leading power with unresolved

20. It is argued that China's Belt and Road Initiative has resulted in unsustainable debt-for-infrastructure deals in several countries across continents and it is a part of debt trap diplomacy. Discuss. (250 words) 15

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि चीन का बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव महाद्वीपों के कई देशों में गैर-संभारणीय अवसंरचना के लिए-ऋण आधारित सौदों में परिणत हुआ है और यह ऋण जाल कूटनीति का एक हिस्सा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

China's Belt and Road Initiative is a part of its 'cheque-book' and 'debt-trap' diplomacy aiming towards infrastructure and connectivity projects through unsustainable loans.



Unsustainable debt-for-infrastructure deals → Debt-Trap Diplomacy

- ① Sri Lanka had to lease its 'Hambantota' port to China after it failed on its payment → clear example of unsustainable loan
- ② India balked out of such deals due to the unsustainable economic nature of such projects
- ③ China has 'deep pockets' and 'state led' market model → gives ample scope for financing such projects
- ④ China → expansionist and revisionist power → aims at occupying these areas who default on payments
- ⑤ Pakistan is facing burgeoning debts due to CPEC and loans from China at exorbitant rates

⑥ BRI is also a manifestation of China's idea of 'String of Pearls' to encircle India. (eg. Hambantota Port, Djibouti Port, Gwadar Port → militarisation in future)

India, along with G7 countries has initiated projects to counter China's BRI with sustainable infrastructure creation eg. G7's B3W (Build Back Better world) through Cornwall Consensus.

India has also partnered with South Korea, Japan and others for 'Supply Chain Resilience Initiative' to counter China's weaponisation of supply chain.

China debt trap diplomacy legitimises Mrs. Indira Gandhi's quote vis-a-vis China, i.e. "Verify but never trust".