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INSPIRING INNOVATION
ABHYAAS MAINS

सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)/GENERAL STUDIES (Paper-II) (2423)

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time Allowed: Three Hours

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

सामान्य अनुदेश

इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका में 55+1 पृष्ठ हैं। प्रश्न-पत्र, क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका के अंत में संलग्न है, जो अलग (वियोज्य) किया जा सकता है और उम्मीदवार परीक्षा के उपरांत अपने साथ ले जा सकते हैं।

रफ कार्य के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंत में खाली पृष्ठ दिया गया है।

पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर, कृपया यह जांच कर लें कि इस क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका में कोई कमी न हो, फटा हुआ पृष्ठ न हो अथवा कोई पृष्ठ गायब न हो इत्यादि। यदि ऐसा हो, तो इसके बदले नई क्यू.सी.ए. पुस्तिका प्राप्त कर लें।

General Instructions

This Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 55+1 pages. Question Paper in detachable form is available at the end of the QCA Booklet which can be taken away by the candidate after examination.

For rough work, blank page has been provided at the end of this Booklet.

On receipt of the Booklet, please check that this QCA Booklet does not have any shortcomings, torn or missing pages etc. If, so, get it replaced with a fresh QCA Booklet.

(उम्मीदवार द्वारा भरा जाएगा/To be filled by the Candidate)

पंजीकरण सं./Registration No. : 0615676

अभ्यर्थी का नाम/Name of Student : Prajnanandan Giri

माध्यम: हिंदी/अंग्रेजी
Medium: Hindi/English

English

तारीख
Date

26/08/2023

**सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)
GENERAL STUDIES (Paper II)**

केंद्र
Centre

NIAT computer
education,
Bhubaneswar

Biswajit Sahas

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर
Invigilator's Signature

	महत्वपूर्ण अनुदेश उम्मीदवारों को नीचे उल्लिखित निर्देश सावधानी से पढ़ लेने चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर उम्मीदवारों को मिलने वाले अंकों में कटौती, उम्मीदवारी रद्द या आयोग के परवर्ती परीक्षाओं के लिए वर्जित करने इत्यादि के रूप में दण्डित किया जा सकता है।	Important Instructions Candidates should read the undermentioned instructions carefully. Violation of any of the following instructions may entail penalty in the form of deduction of marks, cancellation of candidature, debarment from further Examination of the Commission etc.
1	(क) अपना पंजीकरण सं. एवं अन्य विवरण केवल प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) में उम्मीदवार के लिए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें। (ख) इस पुस्तिका में अन्यत्र कहीं भी अपना नाम, पंजीकरण सं., मोबाइल नं., पता अथवा प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका (क्यू.सी.ए.) संख्या न लिखें जिससे आपकी पहचान का खुलासा हो।	(a) Write your Registration Number and other details only in the space provided in the Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet for candidates. (b) Do not disclose your identity in any manner such as, by writing your Name, Registration number, Mobile number, Address, Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet No. etc. elsewhere in the Booklet
2	अपनी प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तर के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें जैसे कि कोई कविता/दोहा, अभद्र या अपमानजनक अभिव्यक्ति इत्यादि और न ही कोई ऐसा चिन्ह/निशान बनाएं जिसका उत्तर से सम्बन्ध न हो।	Do not write in the QCA Booklet anything other than the actual answer such as couplet, obscene, abusive expression etc., nor put any sign/mark having no relevance to the answer.
3	परीक्षक को प्रत्यक्ष/अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कोई भी प्रार्थना/धमकी भरी बातें न लिखें।	Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.
4	उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गंदी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।	Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.
5	उत्तर स्याही में ही लिखें। उत्तर लिखने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग न करें, हालांकि आरेख, चित्र इत्यादि बनाने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।	Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.
6	प्रवेश पत्र में उल्लेख किए गए माध्यम के अलावा अन्य किसी माध्यम में उत्तर न लिखें। अधिकृत और अनधिकृत की मिली जुली भाषा का भी उपयोग न करें।	Do not write answers in medium other than the authorized medium in the Admission Certificate. Do not use mixed language either i.e. authorize and unauthorized media together for writing answers.
7	प्रश्नों के उत्तर ठीक उसके नीचे दिए गए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें। निर्धारित स्थान के अलावा किसी अन्य स्थान पर लिखे गए उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जाएगा।	Write answer at the specific space (right below the question) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified places in the booklet shall not be evaluated.
8	यदि आप अपने किसी उत्तर को रद्द करना चाहते हैं तो उसे पेन से काट दें तथा उस पर "रद्द" लिख दें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है।	If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it and write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.

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परीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर Signature of Examiner(s)	

प्राप्तांक के विवरण (परीक्षक द्वारा भरा जाए)/ Marks Details (To be filled by the Examiner(s))

प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks		प्रश्न सं. Q. No.	अंक Marks	
1			11		
2			12		
3			13		
4			14		
5			15		
6			16		
7			17		
8			18		
9			19		
10			20		
उप-योग (A) Subtotal (A)			उप-योग (B) Subtotal (B)		
सकल योग (A+B) / GRAND TOTAL (A+B)					



सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रश्न पत्र-II)/GENERAL STUDIES (Paper-II) (2423)

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे

Time Allowed: **Three Hours**

अधिकतम अंक: **250**

Maximum Marks: **250**

प्रश्न-पत्र संबंधी विशेष अनुदेश

कृपया प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें:

कुल बीस प्रश्न दिए गए हैं जो हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।

सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए नियत अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुख-पृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

प्रश्न संख्या 1 से 10 तक का उत्तर 150 शब्दों में तथा प्रश्न संख्या 11 से 20 तक का उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए।

प्रश्नों में इंगित शब्द सीमा को ध्यान में रखिए।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए कोई पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिए।

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions.

There are **TWENTY** questions printed both in **HINDI** and 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 a medium other than the authorized one.

Answers to Questions No. 1 to 10 should be in 150 words, whereas answers to Questions No. 11 to 20 should be in 250 words.

Keep the word limit indicated in the questions in mind.

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

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.

उपयुक्त उदाहरणों की सहायता से, चर्चा कीजिए कि पर्यावरणीय दबाव समूह भारत में पर्यावरण नीतियों के संबंध में सार्वजनिक भागीदारी और अनुक्रियाशीलता को कैसे बढ़ाते हैं। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

With suitable examples, discuss how environmental pressure groups enhance public participation and responsiveness with regard to environmental policies in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारों को इस कक्ष में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Pressure groups are group of voluntary individuals coming together to achieve a particular interest, by ~~the~~ pressurizing Government in various ways. Here environmental pressure groups aim for environment-friendly policy formulation.

Environmental pressure groups - enhance public participation & responsiveness →

1. Through awareness campaigns, they create public opinion for environment.

[e.g] Friday for Future groups

2. They create propaganda against govt policies that may negatively impact environment.

[e.g] Narmada Bachao Andolan

3. Through large-scale protest against infrastructure projects affecting environment

[eg] Aarey forest protests against Mumbai Metro expansion.

4. They create electioneering by supporting a party that may promise environment conservation.

5. Through online campaign - with publishing research data on impact on environment

[eg] CSE group - Down To Earth magazine.

Challenges -

1. Oppose development with vested interest [eg] Greenpeace against Kundalkulam nuclear project
2. Potential foreign involvement

However, overall Pressure Groups ensure mass participation in environmental policy formulation, that leads to participatory governance.

2.

हाल ही में, उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा सेक्स वर्क को एक 'पेशे' के रूप में स्वीकार किया जाना, भारत में सेक्स वर्कर्स के लिए बुनियादी अधिकार और समानता सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में पहला कदम है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The recent acknowledgment of sex work as a 'profession' by the Supreme Court is merely the first step in ensuring basic rights and equality for sex workers in India. Examine. (Answer in 150 words)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हशिप में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

10

'Sex work' was acknowledged as a 'profession' by Supreme Court in a recent 'Public Interest Litigation' case to protect their rights under Article 21 to live with dignity.

Merely the first step in ensuring basic rights and equality →

1. It will ensure them get benefits of various employment schemes
eg EPFO & ESIC benefits
2. Give human dignity necessary for anyone's survival.
3. In line with right to profession under Article 19(1)(g).
4. Ensures that they don't face discrimination in various stages of their life.

Challenges remain :

1. Need legal backing to incorporate 'sex work' as profession.
2. Address the moral & ethical issues in legalizing this for a conservative Indian society.
3. Need to complement this with dedicated government schemes and coverage under welfare measures.
4. Confusion regarding formalisation of 'sex work' as a profession and ~~tax~~ related challenge

Way forward -

1. Comprehensive policy by legislature after due deliberation
2. Uphold Article 21 's spirit to ensure social, economic and overall welfare of sex workers.

Though SC's decision is a welcome step, but not enough. A holistic solution lies in comprehensive efforts by executive, legislature as well as civil societies.

3.

भारत में निःशुल्क कानूनी सहायता प्रदान करने और कानूनी जागरूकता फैलाने में जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरणों (DLSAs) द्वारा निभाई जाने वाली भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
Discuss the role played by District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) in providing free legal aid and disseminating legal awareness in India. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हिसाब में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए
Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

DLSAs were formulated
as per NALSA Act of 1989
to fulfill the constitutional objective
of Free Legal Aid to poor under
Article 39A under DPSPs.

Role played by DLSAs —

1. Free legal aid to SCs, STs
& OBCs, transgender etc
based on various income criteria.
2. Organise Lok Adalats for
Alternate Dispute Redressal (ADR)
3. Support through pro-bono
services by lawyers for poor.
4. Helps in filing petitions,
hearing and disposal of case.

Limitations in DLAs' role

1. Limited functionalities in ground
2. Lack of human resources in DLAs
3. Lack of awareness among poor
4. Collusive interest by lawyers to extract money by lengthening the hearing.
5. Absence of DLAs formation in every districts.

Way forward -

1. Adequate monitoring by NALSA/SALSA
2. Funding by state govt for efficient functioning
3. Awareness generation about DLAs through adequate advertisements.

DLAs have a key role to play in regard to ensure social, economic & political justice at grassroot level.

4.

"कुछ लोगों के हाथों में शक्ति के संकेंद्रण के कारण, कॉलेजियम प्रणाली अपनी ही सफलता का शिकार हो गई है, जिससे इसकी वैधता पर सवाल उठने लगे हैं।" टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
 "The collegium system has become a victim of its own success, with the concentration of power in the hands of a few, leading to questions about its legitimacy." Comment. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
 Candidates must not write on this margin

Collegium system has evolved through four landmark judgements and present form arised out of Third Judges case (1997), where five seniormost judges including CJI will decide on appointment and transfer of judges.

Collegium system's success :

1. Upheld Independence of judiciary
2. Prevented interference of executive.
 [e.g] NJAC judgement → NJAC as unconstitutional.
3. Upheld seniority, merit in most of the appointment.

However, they have become a victim of their own success.

Reasons :

1. Led to opaqueness → No RTI

cover ~~can~~ over collegium decision making process.

2. Concentration of power over 5 judges → Potential favoritism & nepotism chances in appointment.
3. No other country follows this practice.
[eg] UK - a judicial appointment commission appoints
4. Against the spirit of checks and balances

Way forward -

1. An appointment committee with Judicial majority.
2. Collegium under RTI
3. Voluntary disclosure of reasons of selection or rejection.

The Memorandum of Procedure 2016 needs to be implemented which focused on seniority, merit and integrity as well as transparency in appointment

5.

"सिविल सेवा सुधारों को वर्तमान दौर की चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए भर्ती और मानकीकृत प्रशिक्षण से आगे बढ़ाया जाना अनिवार्य है।" विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

"Civil services reforms must go beyond recruitment and standardised training to cope with the present day challenges." Analyse. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को इस छवि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Civil services reform are necessary looking at the challenges of 21st century to transform it ~~into~~ from a colonial legacy to a democratic institution.

Civil Services Reform -

Must go beyond recruitment and standardised training →

Challenges faced by today's bureaucracy are not just recruitment and training. They are as follow:

1. Lack of specialisation
2. Learning gap in using technology for governance.
3. Need of time-based service delivery.
4. Need of attitudinal transformation.

Reforms needed -

1. On-job, On-site training
2. Specialisation of domain after 12 to 15 years of service (Hota committee)
3. Behavioral change through addressing the colonial attitude.
4. Performance based promotion & not ~~so~~ just seniority based
5. 360° - Appraisal with focus on efficiency, adherence to ethics etc.
6. ↳ Star ratings of public officers as suggested by 2nd ARC
6. Lateral Entry at various level based on need.

‘Civil servants are steel-frame of the nation’. To strengthen the steel frame, adequate reform must be taken to make them relevant & efficient towards 21st century challenges.

6.

सामाजिक प्रभाव बॉण्ड्स जैसे परिणाम-आधारित वित्त मॉडल में वास्तविक रूप से परिवर्तन लाने और बड़े पैमाने पर सामाजिक-आर्थिक प्रभाव उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता विद्यमान है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Outcome-based finance models such as social impact bonds have the potential to truly catalyse change and deliver socio-economic impact at scale. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारों को इस छवि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Q Social Impact bonds are financial instruments which tries to raise fund for social causes, like health, education, poverty etc.

Social Impact bonds :-

↳ Potential to truly catalyse change & deliver socio-economic impact.

1. Address the gap in financing of various developmental needs
[eg] Education - needs to be 6% of GDP (but remain = 4%)
2. Target rich capitalists for funding [eg] Part of CSR money can be invested in there.
3. Transparency in utilising the funds can be ensured.

4. It will ensure accountability
towards the investors.

↳ Corporate method of
social development can be done.

5. Complement govt efforts

Challenges

1. Lack of investor interest.
2. Success is not exemplified yet in India
3. Challenge of initial boost to
adopt social impact bond
4. Profitability is less than traditional bond,
↳ May prevent investment,

Overall, Outcome based
finance models like these should be
promoted with creation of

Social Stock Exchange, as suggested
by SEBI to further reap
the benefits.

7.

प्रत्येक वर्ष ग्रेजुएट होने वाली और कार्यक्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या के मध्य का व्यापक अंतराल एक गंभीर समस्या है जिसे हल किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The wide gap between the number of females graduating every year and those entering the workspace is an issue of paramount importance that needs to be addressed. Discuss in the context of India. (Answer in 150 words)

उम्मीदवारों को इस दृष्टि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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The wide gap of female graduating and entering workspace shows the female labour participation (FLPR) rate that remained around 30% for last few years.

Reasons for low FLPR →

1. Early marriage - Prevents entrance into workforce.
2. Patriarchal set-up - prevents female to work outside their native town → Prevents employment.
3. Lack of skills and employability even after graduation.
4. STEM still remains a low attraction for women due to lack of friendly environment.

5. Security challenges - Creates 1L sexual harassment at workplace & outside.

Solutions to increase FLFPR →

1. Enables environment → Maternity leaves, care economy
2. Focus on work from home, platform economy for women.
3. Upgradation of skills to current demands [es] PMGDISHA scheme
4. Security aspect → Implement POSH Act in letter & spirit, adequate steps like Mahila Police Volunteer, One stop centre etc



Increase conviction rate to create deterrence.

A multi-stakeholder approach with civil society participation can increase FLFPR. It will help growth in GDP by 27% (IMF), if all women take part in economy.

8. भारत में सामाजिक-आर्थिक नियोजन के लिए एक अद्यतित और कार्यात्मक नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली (CRS) अनिवार्य है। देश में CRS प्रणाली में सुधार हेतु केंद्र सरकार के हालिया कदम के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

An up to date and functional Civil Registration System (CRS) is essential to the socio-economic planning in India. Discuss in the light of the recent move of the Central government in revamping the CRS system in the country. (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हार्शिए में
नहीं लिखना
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9. यदि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) को वर्तमान आर्थिक वास्तविकताओं के साथ समायोजित होना है तो इसमें सुधार के प्रमुख क्षेत्र कौन-से होंगे? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
- What are the key areas of reform if the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has to align with the current economic realities? (Answer in 150 words)

10

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हार्शिए में
नहीं लिखना
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Key areas of reform of IMF

1. Democratic control over IMF leadership.
2. Widen SDR & RTP
to include Rupee and other
currencies.
3. Changes in conditionalities
to give loan → Not
being too harsh.
4. Reform in loan process
5. More focus on Least Developed Countries.
6. Balance of dollars with other currencies



10.

हाल के वर्षों में, पश्चिम एशिया के साथ भारत के संबंध भू-राजनीति के दायरे से आगे निकलकर भू-अर्थशास्त्र के आयाम तक पहुंच गए हैं। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

In recent years, India's relationship with West Asia has evolved from the confines of geopolitics to expanse of geoeconomics. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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West Asia's relationship with India had been a roller-coaster with use of hyphenation policy with respect to Pakistan. However post-1991, the relationship improved with 'Look West' and 'Extended Neighbourhood' policy.

Relationship evolved from geopolitics to geoeconomics

Geo-politics —

1. West Asia as a Muslim region — interference of Pakistan in India-West Asia dynamics.
2. India used to balance Shia-Sunni narrative of Saudi-Iran.
3. India's stand for two-state policy of Israel-Palestine



All these shaped India's west Asia approach

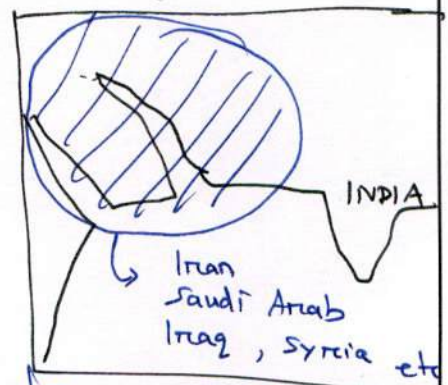


Fig: West Asia

Geo-economics :

1. Energy - 85% of India's oil import from UAE, Iraq & Saudi.
2. FDI - UAE, Qatar as major FDI source.
3. Market - for Indian exports.
[ES] UAE - 2nd largest trade partner
4. Connectivity - Chabahar port & INSTC through Iran to Russia.
5. Diaspora - who are major source of remittance.

With shift to green energy, there is a rising geo-economics ties with West Asia & India

11.

हितधारकों को नवाचार और प्रभावशीलता में वृद्धि हेतु प्रेरित करने के लिए स्वस्थ प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को बढ़ावा देने में भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The role of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) is significant in furthering healthy competitiveness aimed at inspiring stakeholders to innovate and augment effectiveness.
Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been formulated as a statutory body in 2002 by Parliament to ensure a level playing field in the private sector in India.

Role of CCI is significant in furthering healthy competitiveness →

1. It prevents anti-competitive practices like tendency of monopolisation among companies.
 2. It prevents predatory pricing among companies to attract more customers and damage to rivalries.
- [e.g.] By aviation sector

3. It ensures healthy competition
by preventing business deals
between intermediaries and manufacturers
to create a patent-like selling.

[e.g] Flipkart / Amazon deals with
with mobile manufacturers for
exclusive sells

4. CCI ensures competition →
It further promotes innovation
through motivating companies for
improvement in their product

5. CCI has authority to penalize
companies for non-compliance.

6. It helps achieve the
spirit of economic justice
within a free-market economy.

Concerns regarding CCI →

1. Not operational at full potential.
a.
 - Lack of human resource
 - Limited financial power
2. Extreme regulations also prevent foreign investments.
3. Compliance measures increase cost of production and reduces profitability.
4. Also delay in adjudication of cases → High pendency.

Overall CCI is a quasi-judicial body with very important function in a free market economy like India to further promote GDP growth.

"पेड न्यूज का खतरा अक्सर चुनावों के दौरान अपना भयावह रूप दिखाता है।" भारत में पेड न्यूज को एक चुनावी अपराध बनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

"The menace of paid news often rears its ugly head during elections." Discuss the need for making paid news an electoral offence in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को
इस ह्रासिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए
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Paid news refers to the method of manipulation of the news through illegal gratification in order to further a particular agenda in support or oppose of a person, policy or ideology.

Need for making paid news an electoral offence in India :

1. Rise in paid news seen in election time — which violates the spirit of Model Code of Conduct.
2. It provides undue influence on voters in support or oppose of a candidate.
3. Takes away level-playing field for candidate.

4. It violates the very basic foundation of a democracy i.e. free and fair elections.

5. The process of paid news also hampers the ability of Election Commission to keep a check on malpractices.

Arguments against the need to ^{make} ~~keep~~ paid news an electoral offence →

1. It is difficult to prove whether a news is paid or genuine.

2. It will increase litigation during election demanding more disqualifications of candidates for involvement in paid news.

3. Critics argue that paid news like paid advertisement is not unethical.

4. Also, there is a demand to allow paid news as part of election campaign.
5. Keeping track of political expenses is itself a challenge for ECI.

However, the need of the hour is →

1. To self-regulate media by BCCC, PCI like institutions.
2. Paid news must ~~not~~ be tackled by balancing approach.
↳ Making it part of affidavit of candidates that they will not engage in paid news.

To uphold the free and fair election, paid news should be made electoral offence as suggested by Dinesh Goswami Committee.

13.

भारत में धार्मिक प्रथाओं के संदर्भ में, न्यायालयों द्वारा उद्धृत 'अनिवार्यता के सिद्धांत' पर चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the 'Doctrine of Essentiality' referred to by the courts in the context of religious practices in India. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाथिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Doctrine of essentiality was provided in the Shirur Math case by Supreme Court. This doctrine refers to the power of courts to decide what is essential for a religion and what is not.

Doctrine of Essentiality - Positives

1. It ensures the balance between fundamental rights like equality vs religious freedom under Article 25.
2. It provides SC power to declare social evils present within a religion as non-essential part and therefore banning it.

e.g. Practices like Sati

3. It ensures Gender Justice and upholds public morality over religious freedom

[eg] Shayara Bano case → SC
declared Triple Talag as unconstitutional,
as it is not essential part of religion.

4. At the same time, it ensures
diversity. [eg] The wearing of Turban
is allowed in Army ~~as~~ by Sikh soldier
as it is part of essentiality.

5. Overall, it provides judiciary a
role in social reforms.

[eg] Cases under pendency →
→ to ban female genital mutilation
→ to ban polygamy etc.

Concerns regarding the doctrine

1. Asymmetric power balance →
Gives courts discretion over
religions compared to legislative
and executive.

2. ~~May~~ Creates discontent among
religious communities with
alleged interferences.

3. There is no exhaustive and detailed list of essential religious practices with Judiciary.
4. Brings subjectivity in judgement as various judges may lack the expertise in religions.

[eg] Sabarimala judgement → led to huge protest → again recommended to higher ~~judicial~~ bench.

5. Against the spirit of secularism as envisaged in Preamble of the constitution.

However, doctrine of essentiality provided a necessary tool to judiciary for social reforms as religions need to evolve with modernisation and human rights must be upheld as before religious rights.

14.

प्रधान मंत्री की आर्थिक सलाहकार परिषद (EAC-PM) की हाल ही में जारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में सरकार के आकार को सीमित करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

As per the recently released report of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), there is an urgent need to limit the size of the government in India. Do you agree? (Answer in 250 words)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

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As per the report of EAC to PM, the urgent need to limit the size of the government refers to keeping the size of council of ministers to a lower level than present system of 15% of total membership of Lok Sabha.

Need to limit the size of the government

1. To curb duplication of efforts due to overlapping nature of ministries.

[eg] Ministry of Earth science and Ministry of Environment

2. It increases cost of operation of multiple ministries, their maintenance and the facilities for ministers.

3. It is necessary to ensure fiscal prudence — to divert the extra fund in more productive way.

4. It will also tackle Red-tapism with multiple level of bureaucratic hurdle. [e.g]

2nd ARC suggested to remove Joint Secretary post.

5. It will ensure efficiency and effectiveness of govt's schemes as there will be single nodal ministry for a single subject like Women.

[e.g] Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women, Ministry of social justice

↓
All deals with women.

However, there is a opposite perspective against the reduction in size of ministries or government.

Need for larger Govt -

1. Effective division of labour.
2. Principle of subsidiarity
3. Effective monitoring on few topics by a ministry
4. Reduce work-load on bureaucracy.
5. Proper accountability at Parliament with more opportunity for members
[eg] DRSCs for every department.

Way forward -

1. Rational reduction in size
2. Thorough review of the work of various ministries & their domains
3. Study various governments of other nations.

Reduction in size of the government need to be implemented after due review and analysis at the best public interest of economy and efficiency

15.

इंस्टीट्यूशंस ऑफ एमिनेंस (IoE) योजना की कल्पना भारत में उच्चतर शिक्षा के 'विश्व स्तरीय' केंद्र विकसित करने के लिए की गई थी, लेकिन छह साल बाद भी, यह अभी तक गेम चेंजर नहीं बन पाई है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme was conceived to develop 'world-class' centres of higher education in India but six years later, it is yet to become the game changer it was intended to be. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाथिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Institutions of Eminence (IoE)

scheme was conceptualised to transform higher education by creating centre of excellence, after recommendation of Kasturirangan committee.

However, as per QS World University Rankings 2023, not even a single Indian institution is under top 100 global university.

Institutions of Eminence Scheme (IoE)

1. Greater funding
2. More Autonomy in course designing and curriculum
3. Greater opportunities for international collaboration



Target → IITs, IIMs, IISEs
and central universities

Yet to become a game changer

Issues faced by IoE

1. Lack of Industry - academia collaboration for better research output.
2. Limited investment in core problems like shortage of trained faculty etc.
3. Failure to develop a balance between teaching and research
4. No significant step in designing of curriculum as per global standard.
5. Low employability of students still remain a major challenge.

Slow progress in recent time

1. IISc Bengaluru has significantly improved its rank, to be in top 150.
2. NRI scientists are being collaborated by IoE Institutes
[eg] VAIBHAV summit

3. National Research Fund (NRF) will further streamline funding aspects of these institutes.

4. Foreign branches of Indian Institutes

[eg] IIT Madras in Arab region
IIT Bombay in Africa

There showed ↓ slow progress of
IoE institutes

Way forward -

1. Engaging with private sector
2. Focus on infrastructure with state-of-the-art technology.
3. More collaboration among IoEs, as well as outside universities.

Overall, India needs to increase its funding in research (only 0.65% of GDP now). And implementation of NEP 2020 can further boost to IoE scheme to realise its potential.

16.

डिजिटल पब्लिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर (DPI) नवोन्मेषी और सुविधाजनक सार्वजनिक सेवाओं की अनुमति देता है, समावेशन या पहुंच संबंधी बाधाओं को दूर करने में मदद करता है तथा रियल-टाइम डेटा की मदद से पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही बढ़ाता है। उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) allows for innovative and convenient public services, help overcome inclusion or accessibility barriers, and increase transparency and accountability with real-time data. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Digital public Infrastructure (DPI) refers to the use of ICT tools in public infrastructure as well as availability digital infrastructure for public.

DPI - allows for innovative and convenient public services →

1. It helps reach larger number of people and ensures faster access to public service.

[eg] CPGRAMS for grievance redressal.

2. It helps in single-window availability of multiple services.

[eg] UMANG portal

Help overcome inclusion / accessibility barriers

1. Traditional methods prevent lower caste to avail services, however DPIs provides universal access.

[eg] e-Sanjeevani OPD for healthcare

2. It democratised the ~~access~~ access to education, skill development and employment.

[eg] SWAYAM portal

DPI, increase transparency and accountability with real time data →

1. Ensures real-time data availability

[eg] UDISE+ - live data on various educational outcome.

2. It help managed COVID-19 pandemic in India.

[eg] COWIN portal — real time data on slot availability etc.

3. It helps government monitor various projects implementation.

[eg] PRAGATI platform

4. It strengthened RTI Act with more transparency of ~~it~~ information.

[eg] Jan Sookha portal

Challenges still remain : →

1. High digital divide [eg] 31% of women have access to Internet, where as 71% for men.
2. Similarly rural areas still don't have 5G - coverage. [eg] penetration rate remains 85%.
3. Digital illiteracy among senior citizens, illiterates etc.
↳ Prevents accessibility to data.
4. Financial Inclusion is at 56% as per RBI.

Therefore, more steps in line with improvement in literacy through PMGDISHA scheme and improve DPIs through dedicated development fund is need of the hour. This will help achieve the objectives of Digital India holistically.

17.

कानून के अलावा, भारत में 'सभी के लिए स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार' की पूर्ण प्राप्ति हेतु सामाजिक, वित्तीय और बुनियादी ढांचे की कमियों को दूर करने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)
 Besides legislation, the full realisation of the 'right to health for all' in India demands plugging of social, financial, and infrastructural gaps. Examine. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को
 इस दृष्टि में
 नहीं लिखना
 चाहिए
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Right to health for all
 is a fundamental right as observed
 by Supreme Court in Paramananda
Katara case. To achieve this,
Rajasthan has enacted Right to Health
bill recently.

Right to health for all -

1. Gives universal access to primary,
secondary and tertiary healthcare
 of any public hospital to anyone.
2. Prevents out-of-pocket expenditure
 which is now 48.2%. (NFHS 5.0)
3. Ensures achievement of SDG 3.0
 (Health for all).

However, full realisation
 of this demands plugging of various gaps.



Social gaps :

1. Inequal access to healthcare →
eg 75% of health facilities located
in urban areas for 31% population.
2. Lack of human resources →
eg 1 doctor for 1445 population
1.7 nurse for 1000 population
3. Social divides like caste issues →
untouchability practices leading to
poor sanitation, malnutrition etc.

Financial gaps :

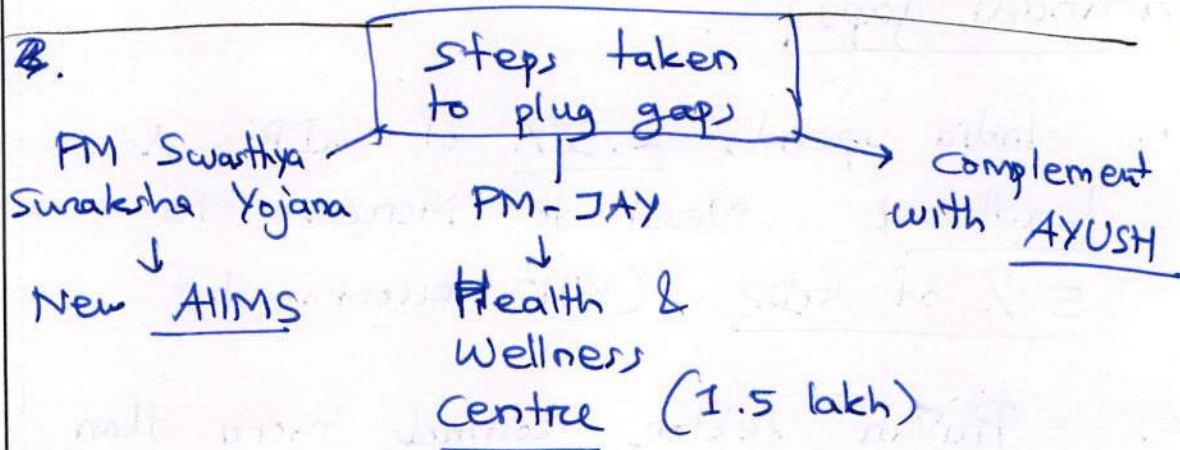
1. India spends 2.5% of GDP on
healthcare. Need to increase to
5% of GDP (WHO recommends)
2. Private sector controls more than
70% of tertiary care →
High prices → limits accessibility.
3. Low investment in health insurance
→

eg Missing Middle → More than 50 crore middle class individuals don't have any health insurance (NITI Aayog)

Infrastructural gaps :

1. Lack of adequate beds
eg 2.7 beds for 1000 population (NHEFS 5.0)
2. Primary health centres lack basic diagnostic tools for treatment.
eg Malaria detection kits, X-rays etc.

B.



Health ensures quality of human development. Unfore India must ensure universalisation of health sector to achieve SDG 3.0
Health for all objective.

18.

विधायी समर्थन के बावजूद 'थर्ड जेंडर' को अभी तक भारतीय समाज में मान्यता नहीं मिली है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The 'third gender' has not yet been engendered in the Indian society despite legislative nudge. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाथिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Supreme Court in NALSA case recognised 'Transgender' as third gender. Based on this judgement, Government has formulated Transgender (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 to ensure engenderation of third gender through a rights-based approach.

'Third Gender' has not yet been engendered →

1. With around 10 lakhs third gender around India, they still lack basic fundamental rights.

2. Various issues faced by them →

I. Social issues -

(i) Social discrimination - Treated virtually as untouchables.

(ii) Housing facilities not provided in common society → forced ghettoisation

- (iii) Many of them earn livelihood through sex-work (prostitution).
↳ Suffered with HIV like diseases.

Economic issues -

- (i) Very low participation in formal workforce due to continuous discrimination.
(ii) Live in absolute poverty in slums.

Political issues -

- (i) Lack of political representation
(ii) Limitation of Transgender (Right Act 2019 →
↳ Makes identity certificate mandatory to be approved from District Magistrate
↳ External interventions measures
↳ Internal issues like awareness, horizontal reservation etc are not addressed.

Way forward:

1. Need to ~~bring~~ change in social attitude towards third gender
2. eg Padma Shri Manjamma Jagati recognised for her work being a transgender
3. Start from schools — Education about third gender, separate washrooms and basic infrastructure.
4. Through IEC campaigns for inclusive society.
5. Give representation in Parliament, State Legislature and Local Governments
6. Horizontal reservation on under OBC as observed by SC in Ram Singh case.

A multi-pronged approach is required to ensure ~~the~~ social acceptance of ~~trans~~ 'third gender' to uphold their fundamental rights — ~~and~~

19.

अन्य कारकों के अलावा, चीन और पाकिस्तान के साथ तनावपूर्ण संबंधों ने भारत के लिए शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) से अपनी अपेक्षाओं को पूरा करना कठिन बना दिया है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)
 Among other factors, strained ties with China and Pakistan make it difficult for India to fulfill its expectations from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Discuss. (Answer in 250 words)

15

उम्मीदवारों को इस हिसाब में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a regional social, political and military organisation with following members — India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and newly joined Iran.

India's expectations from SCO -

Economic :

- Central Asian market for Indian goods
- Source energy resources from there region [eg] Kazakhstan's Uranium reserve

Strategic :

- To implement INSTC corridor and Ashgabat agreement
- To balance relations with Russia with respect to USA.

Security

- To tackle regional terrorism
through RATS mechanism
- Consensus creation against Pakistan's
cross-border terrorism
- Overall regional stability

Factors that make India difficult for
fulfilling its expectations →

Major reasons being strained ties
with China - Pakistan →

- (i) Border stand-off at Depsang plains,
Pangong Tso, Gogra etc regions
with China
- (ii) China's claim over Arunachal &
intrusion activities
- (iii) Pakistan's cross border terrorism
- (iv) CPEC corridor violating India's
sovereignty over Gilgit region
- (v) China - Pakistan axis →
blocking of UN resolution against
terrorists

Other factors -

1. Slow implementation of Chabahar project → Strengthens the idea that 'India promises, China delivers'
2. China's effort to create SCO as China-led bloc against west
3. Russia - Pakistan - China axis — after Ukraine war

Way forward -

1. De-escalation process with China
2. Utilize RATS to bring consensus against Pakistan's terror activity.
3. Increase direct engagement with central Asia (Connect Central Asia policy).

SCO's potential can only be realised after addressing the internal disputes among members.

Therefore, a consensus must be built in this regard for the SCO to succeed in its endeavour.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और भारत के बीच महत्वपूर्ण एवं उभरती प्रौद्योगिकी (iCET) पर हाल ही में संपन्न पहल, प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में इनकी साझेदारी में लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित परिवर्तन का वादा करती है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The recently concluded initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) between the United States and India promises a long overdue transformation of their partnership in the field of technology. Examine. (Answer in 250 words)

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Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) was concluded recently with state visit of honorable PM to USA. iCET refers to the mutual agreement on cooperation in emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, IoT, 5G, biotech, space, drone etc.

iCET - a long overdue transformation of India-USA partnership:

1. India-USA focused on defence ties earlier with signing of COMCASA, BECA, GSMOIA etc.
2. Technology collaboration limited to space sector with missions like NISAR.
3. India-USA used to focus more on trade ties and economic relations. eg 130 billion \$

Potential of iCET -

1. India possess human resources,
USA possess financial capabilities
↓
combined effort needed to
develop critical technologies.
2. To protect ^{from} Chinese hegemony
on emerging tech like -
↳ semiconductor monopoly
↳ control over Lithium value chain
3. USA - India shares democratic
values and rule-based world order
↓
supports democratic use of
new tech like 5G/6G / AI
4. It will serve national interest
of both [eg] India's economic
development and USA's revival
as tech power.
5. It will further boost research
collaboration → leading to
people-to-people ties.

6. After Chandrayan-3 success,
India has proved itself to be a
technology-based super power

↓
USA's collaboration will further
transform space ambitions of mankind.

Challenges of iCET -

1. Exact method of cooperation yet to be finalised.
2. May make India dependent on USA for emerging tech
3. Create global race for occupying control over supply chain of emerging tech ~~at~~ vs China.

However, overall iCET proves to be a transformation of India-USA relationship that ~~however~~, was transformed from trade-centric relation to technology-driven one.

— x —

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

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