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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

Name of Candidate	PRIYANK KISHORE		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	95820
Center		Date	7/9/19

INDEX TABLE

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

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
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।

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

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

EVALUATION INDICATORS

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

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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

नीति (NITI) आयोग की संरचना और प्रकार्यों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, इसकी समकालीन प्रासंगिकता पर भी टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The NITI Aayog is a specialized think tank of the Government.

STRUCTURE :-

→ Headed by the Chairman, the PM is the ex officio Chairman of the Aayog.

→ Appointed Vice Chairman.

→ Secretary to the Aayog.

Apart from this :-

(1) Governing Council headed by PM with representation from Centre - States

(2) Team India Wing for unified policy making

(3) Regional councils may be set up from time to time.

FUNCTIONS

(1) promote Competitive Federalism

- ex - Composite water management Index .
- (2) Cooperative federalism - promote best practices between states .
- (3) Coordination and Convergence between Centre and States ex - Aspirational Districts Program .
- (4) Specialized policy inputs → ex - Niti Aayog 75 years plan
- (5) Development monitoring via the Development monitoring office .
- Contemporary Relevance :-

- (1) Replaced the Planning Commission which was RIGID
- (2) Professional and expert consultancy to Centre and States .
- (3) Improving performance of policies by continuous monitoring .
- (4) Runs schemes like SATU for health, Atal Innovation Mission, Aspirational districts etc .
- There is need for convergence between NITI and Finance Commission

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

न्यायालयों में लंबित वादों को कम करने के लिए फास्ट ट्रैक कोर्ट को स्थापित करने की कार्यप्रणाली की आलोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए।

As per National Judicial Data grid over 3.5 ~~crore~~ crore cases are currently pending in India with 780% in subordinate courts.

For reducing case backlog, Fast Track Courts are set up :-
(FTCs)

PROS

- (1) quicker delivery of results ensures timely justice.
- (2) unburdens regular judiciary.
- (3) have been successful in certain cases such as Best Bakery Case, Jessica Lal case etc.

PROBLEMS

- (1) Lack of funds with FTCs as Central government has stopped financing and State governments.

are not taking interest .

(2) Inadequate infrastructure such as digital tools .

(3) Inefficient and unskilled Judicial cadre .

(4) Lack of scientific investigation done by police leads to delays .

(5) Procedures adopted by FTCs are not different from Conventional courts and therefore consume similar time .

(6) Shortage of 6000 judges in Lower courts (Economic Survey 19)

' But , in certain cases where swift justice is needed and there is threat to witnesses FTCs are required .

Way Forward

(1) Institution plea-bargaining (Law Commission report)

(2) Court automation (3) Separate judicial cadre .

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

भारत में निचली अदालतों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और उनकी उत्पादकता को बढ़ाने हेतु उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

As per National Judicial Data grid, there are currently 3.5 crore cases pending in the judiciary with >80% cases in lower judiciary.

Challenges faced:-

- (1) Inadequate funds due to which there is poor infrastructure and lack of digital tools.
- (2) Inefficient and unskilled cadre of judicial staff.
- (3) Vacancies in subordinate judiciary (approx 5000-6000 as per Economic Survey 19)
- (4) Lack of scientific investigation done by police leading to delays.

(5) Poor case clearance ratio ($< 90\%$ in criminal cases) due to plenty of adjournments.

Way Ahead :-

(1) Increase in number of judges, especially Criminal expertise judges which has poor clearance rate.

(2) Niti Aayog recommendation :-

(a) Separate Judicial cadre for efficient working.

(b) Judges' Performance Index based on case disposal.

(c) Court automation. (ex - hawn court management system such as in UK)

(d) Increase working days.

(3) Implement Shetty committee recommendation of All India Judicial Service (A 312)

(4) Promote Alternate dispute resolution (ADR)
This will provide justice as well as improve economic productivity.

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

कानूनों की प्रभावशीलता में सुधार के लिए विधि-निर्माण पश्चात् संवीक्षा की प्रक्रिया को औपचारिक बनाने की आवश्यकता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Post legislative scrutiny refers to evaluation of outcomes and impacts of a legislation on the public. Recently Meghalaya, institutionalized post legislative scrutiny by means of SOCIAL AUDIT.

Need for formal process :-

- (1) Ensures transparency and accountability in Service Delivery.
- (2) Reduces corruption and rent seeking by keeping officials on their toes.
- (3) Focusing on OUTCOME, instead of outlay.

(4) gives a chance to individuals in participatory governance.

(5) reduces judicial legislation.

Currently, there is no formal process of postlegislative scrutiny. There is need to lay down a lay for the same. It should include mechanisms such as:-

(1) Multi stakeholder feedbacks (2nd ARC suggested)

(2) Citizen Score Cards

(3) Strengthening RTI and SOCIAL audit.

This will be beneficial in promoting GOOD GOVERNANCE.

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

भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस की प्रभावशीलता में सुधार लाने में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) की क्षमता की विवेचना कीजिए।

E-governance is the application of ICT to improve governance and quality of public service delivery.

AI is when computers acquire cognitive skills possessed by humans

Potential of AI :-

(a) Internal office administration :-

→ AI based platforms can be used for allotting and booking office spaces.

→ approving leaves of employees as per demand of work.

→ AI powered Chatbots can communicate with Citizens for grievance redressal.

(b) PLANNING

(a) Enterprise resource planning can be facilitated by AI which can look into needs of enterprise and order resources by itself.

(b) GIS can be integrated with Disaster Management planning with use of AI.

(c) Evidence based policy making.

(c) Service - delivery

(a) AI powered teachers in schools.
ex - Maharashtra has given tablets with AI instructions to school children.

(b) predict fake invoices in GST portal and block refunds.

(c) UK Government ~~can~~ tied up with Amazon Alexa to deliver common health services.

However, there is need to strengthen privacy regime for this. (BN Krishna committee suggestions)

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

लोक शिकायत निवारण प्रणाली में विभिन्न सुधारों के बावजूद, उनकी प्रभावशीलता सीमित बनी हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Public grievance redressal refers to the mechanism by which public dissatisfaction relating to quality of service delivery can be addressed.

Reforms in public grievance redressals

- (1) Mandating SOCIAL audits as part of MGNREGA.
- (2) E-governance such as AWAS-SOFT and NREGASoft for tracking of services and complaining against inadequacies.
- (3) Imp. Implementation of Citizen's charters.

Reasons for ineffectiveness :-

- (1) Frequent transfers of officials prevents continuity.
- (2) Lack of timely information available for grievance redressal.
- (3) Weaknesses of Civil Society in helping in grievance redressal due to getting CO-OPTED by governments.
- (4) As per 2nd ARC, Corruption is High-gain low risk activity.
- (5) Lack of awareness and faulty implementation of Citizen's Charters

Way Forward :-

- Providing for Local Bodies Ambudsman as suggested by 2nd ARC.
- Improving Citizen's charters by means of SEVOTTAM MODEL.
- Instituting CITIZEN SCORECARDS

7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it. (150 words)
10

भारत में महिलाओं और बच्चों की तस्करी में योगदान देने वाले कारकों की व्याख्या करते हुए, इससे निपटने के लिए हाल के दिनों में उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Recent data by NCRB states that India is slowly becoming a hub of trafficking of women and children in South Asia.

Factors

- (1) Social → (a) widespread poverty and illiteracy in society
(b) patriarchy and gender bias pushes women into prostitution (Economic Survey 2017 called this missing women)
(c) Parents selling children for gain.
- (2) INSTITUTIONAL factors (a) Police apathy
(b) Lack of coordination between Central-State agencies (c) Porous borders.
- (3) LEGISLATIVE factors (a) Lack of stringent laws for relief & rehabilitation.
(b) Lack of laws providing for livelihood.

of women

Steps taken in Recent time :-

(1) Trafficking prohibition Act, 2018 was passed which provides institutional mechanism (Anti trafficking boards and bureaus) for strengthening anti trafficking regulation. It also includes Welfare fund for Relief & Rehabilitation.

(2) Swadhan Greh Scheme for women in difficult situations.

(3) Nirbhaya fund for security of women.

(4) Mahila Shakti Kendras have been strengthened for upskilling women.

Alongside these efforts, SOCIAL changes such as changing patriarchal mindsets is the need of the hour.

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

भारत में रोगाणुवाहक-जनित रोग (VBDs) महामारी की तरह उभरकर सामने आये हैं, अतः उन कारकों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिनके कारण इनका उद्भव हुआ है। साथ ही, इनके प्रभावी नियंत्रण और प्रबंधन हेतु कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

VBDs are diseases spread by a harmful living carrier such as malaria caused by mosquitoes, other vector borne diseases - dengue, filariasis etc.

VBDs have reached epidemic proportion with 780% malaria cases from South Asia reported from India.

Factors behind emergence:-

→ Natural factors such as Rising temperatures have built conducive conditions for pathogens.

→ Rising extremity and variability in rainfall.

→ Deforestation and land use changes because of which they have spread to cities.

→ Lack of availability of vaccines for VBDs. ex - dengue and malaria have no vaccines.

→ Lack of surveillance networks.

→ Improper Solid Waste management has built breeding grounds for vectors.

Way Forward:-

- (1) Improving Solid Waste Management
- (2) Involve Civil Society and Resident associations for improving cleanliness.
- (3) Strengthen PHCs' transformation into Health and Wellness Centers. Timely referral will reduce chances of epidemic turning to pandemic.
- (4) Separate disease surveillance network in health Ministry.
- (5) Invest in vaccine research. ex - Mosquito x developed against malaria.

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

वर्षों की उपेक्षा के बाद, तेजी से विकसित हो रही क्षेत्रीय रणनीतिक वास्तविकताएं अब भारत और इंडोनेशिया को और अधिक घनिष्ठता से अपनी नीतियों को समन्वित करने के लिए बाध्य कर रही हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

India and Indonesia are 2 countries in South Asia facing similar potential (demographic dividend, economic growth etc) as well as similar threats (terrorism, piracy, assertive China etc).

The 2 have come closer owing to emerging realities such as :-

(1) Hard Military posture adopted by China in the South China sea.

(2) Non traditional threats such as piracy, terrorism and drug smuggling emerging in the area.

(3) Importance of Indian Ocean region has increased due to shifted power balance from the Pacific.

(4) Presence of economic potential and resources such as Poly metallic nodules in the IOR.

COORDINATION IN POLICIES

(1) India has gained access to Sabang port of Indonesia.

(2) Both are members of IORA, IONS etc.

(3) Indian policy of SAGAR has convergence with Indonesia's Maritime strategy.

(4) Coordinated stance in UNSC reforms, WTO etc.

(5) Members of RCEP

Both countries need to further increase their trade and tourism potential with each other.

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

(150 words) 10

संबंधों को पुनः स्थापित करने के कई प्रयासों के बावजूद, भारत-नेपाल द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में विभिन्न अवरोध निरंतर चिंता का कारण बने हुए हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

India Nepal share a very close historical and cultural relationship driven by the Treaty of Peace & Friendship signed in 1950.

Attempts at resetting ties :-

- (1) India has supported Nepal's rising autonomy.
- (2) Backed out of Madhesi blockade.
- (3) Launched Operation Maiti for building irrigation connectivity.
- (4) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster response during Earthquake.
- (5) Increased lines of credit and investment.

Various barriers :-

- (1) Nepal inching towards China which has now become the largest foreign investor in China.
- (2) KP & Li government forging closer ties with China.
- (3) Support to DBOR and proposed Rail connectivity between China - Kathmandu.
- (4) Nepal wanting to exercise autonomy and resenting India's Big-brotherly attitude.
- (5) HE Projects are not being completed on time by India.

India should adopt PANCHSHEEL and Guiral Doctrine in dealing with Nepal and allow it to exercise its autonomy.

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

दबाव समूहों और हित समूहों के मध्य अंतर का वर्णन कीजिए। उदाहरणों को उद्धृत करते हुए, उन तरीकों का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए जिनके माध्यम से दबाव समूह भारत में सरकारी निर्णयों और नीति-निर्माण को प्रभावित करते हैं।

Pressure groups and Interest groups are voluntary associations seeking to advance specific interests without getting involved by party politics.

Differences :- (1) Pressure groups are for both Socio - Economic interests.

Interest groups are mainly Economic.

Pressure groups use various techniques including Sloganeering and bandhs.

Interest groups do not normally resort to unconstitutional means and normally use lobbying.

Pressure groups can be anomic.

Less chances of Interest groups to be anomic.

Pressure groups (PGs) are less professionally managed than interest groups due to more funds with the latter.

Influence of PGs on government

- (1) Drive agenda of groups into policies. ex - protesting against recent industrial codes by trade unions.
- (2) Coerces government into taking a particular legislative decision.
ex - India against Corruption Campaign leading to the Jan Lokpal Bill.
- (3) provides inputs that are technical and specialized for policy making.
ex - Vidhi, provides legal research inputs to Law Ministry.
- (4) increase bargaining power of groups
ex - All India Kisan Sangharsh Committee coerced government into increasing MSP.

Ways in which this is done

- (1) Propaganda - being done by anti nuclear protestors against nuclear plants in India.
 - (2) Narmada Bachao Andolan.
 - (2) LOBBYING → behind the scene push to Government agenda.
ex - Greenpeace, lobbying for quickly switching to Bharat VI fuels.
 - (3) Electioneering → or helping candidates with similar interests.
ex - Coordination between farmer groups and political parties like INLD in UP.
 - (4) Bandhs, chakka jams etc → forms of coercion.
- PGs even though weakened by vested interests and violence have played a significant role in strengthening democracy.

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

(250 words) 15

भारत में स्थानीय स्व-शासन की संस्थाओं द्वारा समाना की जा रही समस्याओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, जमीनी स्तर पर सार्वजनिक वस्तुओं और सेवाओं के वितरण की प्रभावशीलता में सुधार लाने हेतु किए जा सकने वाले उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Local self governance was Institutionalized in India by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, which added Part IX and IX A to the Indian Constitution.

PROBLEMS faced by them

(1) Funds → (a) Lack of devolution of taxation sources, even where taxes are available, they are reluctant in taxing.

(b) Undercollection of taxes due to archaic property rates, ceiling of ₹ 2500 on professional taxes etc.

(c) Failure to appoint State Finance Commission by State.

(2) FUNCTIONS

- (a) Lack of devolution of functions listed in Parts IX and IX A.
- (b) Lack of importance given to socio-economic plans given by L.Bs. (Local bodies)
- (c) As per Janaagrahi's City Survey 8 out of 18 cities with population greater than 10 million have not appointed Metropolitan planning Committees

(3) Functionaries

- (a) Understaffed and lack of skill availability to undertake modern spatial planning.
- (b) Elected mayors' powers are usurped by appointed bureaucracy.

Other problems :-

- (1) Overlapping powers with parastatals, SPVs etc.
- (2) Static master plans & land zoning plans.

IMPROVEMENT

- (1) Devolution of functions as per Principle of Subsidiarity following Kerala Model
- (2) Implement Venkatiahiah committee recommendations
 - (a) Separate Local government List in Schedule 7
 - (b) Removing ceiling on professional taxes.
- (3) Implement NITI Aayog 75 year plan's suggestions :-
 - (a) Form City Economic Councils as in London for attracting investments.
 - (b) Strengthen office of Mayor by designating him as Chief Coordinator as in London.
 - (c) Separate Municipal cadre especially trained in PROJECT MANAGEMENT and planning.
 - (d) Improve financing options such as Municipal bonds (take cue from Surat), Value Capture financing, Betterment levy etc.
 - (e) PURA or provision of urban amenities in rural areas. This will lead to democratic decentralisation.

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

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 में हालिया संशोधन इस अधिनियम को कमजोर बनाएगा और सूचना आयुक्तों के प्राधिकार को क्षीण करेगा। चर्चा कीजिए।

RTI Act, 2005 gives all Indian citizens the statutory right of demanding unclassified information from PUBLIC authorities who are required to respond expeditiously.

Changes brought about by Recent Amendment :-

(1) Does away with SECURITY of TENURE of Central and State Information Commissioners, which will now be decided by the Central Government.

(2) Salaries which were earlier at par with Chief Election Commissioner will now be decided by Centre.

(3) Service conditions will also be

decided by Central government.

ISSUES in amendment

- (1) infringes autonomy of Commissions, which will now be OBLIGED towards the Central government.
- (2) This can reduce transparency and accountability in governance.
- (3) Infringes STATE SOVEREIGNTY, and is a threat to Federal structure of the Country, as Central government can lay down salaries and service conditions of State Information Commissioners.
- (4) was done without Policy inputs from Civil Society or referral to Parliamentary Committees.

RATIONALE

(1) Central government says work done by CICs and CECs are very different and therefore similarity is not required.

(2) CIC's equivalence to CEC was at par with High Court Judges, which was not required as High Court judges have power of appeal over orders of CIC.

Way Forward :-

(1) The legislation should be reconsidered, by means of greater scrutiny at a Parliamentary Committee level.

Information — Transparency — Good governance

Therefore, retaining strength of the act is CRITICAL.

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

भारत में परिसीमन की प्रक्रिया को रेखांकित कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में परिसीमन की प्रक्रिया को लेकर होने वाले वाद-विवादों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

Delimitation is an exercise of re-drawing territorial boundaries of Constituencies so as to ensure that number of voters, is as far as possible same in each Constituency of Parliament and State legislature.

Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution deal with Delimitation exercise of Parliament and State Legislatures respectively.

PROCESS

(1) Delimitation exercise is to be conducted after every census, however total number of seats in houses of Parliament & States has been frozen till 2026.

- (2) Internal adjustment of boundaries of seats and seats of SC-STs is being done on basis of 2001 Census.
- (3) Ministry of Home affairs appoints Delimitation Commission, which has STATUTORY powers under the Act.
- (4) Orders of Delimitation Commission cannot be challenged in any Court of Law.
- (5) Chief Election Commissioner is an ex-officio member of the Commission and the ECI implements its recommendations.

DEBATE SURROUNDING DELIMITATION for defreezing of seats :-

- (1) Population has changed multi fold from the 1970s.

(2) Principle of 1 citizen - 1 Vote is not being realized, as in certain states like UP and Rajasthan an MP represents 40 lakh citizens, in states like Kerala 18 lakh.

(3) Lack of time and resources available with MPs for catering to such large populations.

Against defreezing :-

(1) States will have no incentive to engage in FAMILY planning.

(2) may penalize certain Southern states that have engaged in population control.

(3) political representation is an emotive issue and may flare up sentiments.

(4) may make job of Speaker difficult and House unwieldy due to large size.

Therefore a balance should be there and Delimitation changes ought to be driven by Consensus.

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

स्वयं सहायता समूह (SHGs) ग्रामीण विकास के वाहक हैं तथा ये हाशिए पर मौजूद समूहों के उत्थान में सहायता करते हैं। स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, SHGs द्वारा सामना की जा रही बाधाओं का उल्लेख कीजिए। इन बाधाओं को कैसे दूर किया जा सकता है।

SHGs are a voluntary association of people with similar socio-economic backgrounds for social and economic upliftment of its members using common efforts.

ex - Pradaan NGO was earlier an NGO in Jharkhand.

Vehicles of Rural development :-

- (1) Set up Micro enterprises in rural areas and promote agri-preneurship ex - Lichhad papad.
- (2) Increase bargaining power of a group of people.
- (3) Tool to share resources and advance credit for investment.

in PRODUCTIVE assets. This increases employment as well.

(4) Helps Gram Sabha in Implementation of programs, identification of beneficiaries and also inputs for policy formulation.

UPLIFTMENT OF MARGINALIZED groups

(1) upliftment of women by mobilisation of savings and making common investments.

(2) increases bargaining potential vis-a-vis dominant classes and castes. ex - SHGs for landless laborers negotiate for fair wages.

(3) Certain Marginalized groups such as Manual Scavengers - Transgenders etc launch enterprises after SHG formation.

PROBLEMS

- (1) Lack of professional help owing to shortage of funds
- (2) Funds shortage due to financial and digital illiteracy in members.
- (3) NABARD Bank Linkage programme for SHG has under performed.
- (4) Manipulation by middlemen who disintermediate SHGs from end consumers.
- (5) Lack of coordination and convergence with Gram Sabhas due to own problems being faced by it.

Way Forward

- (1) Implementation of suggestions of Vijay K committee on regulation of SHGs.
- (2) Providing Banking Linkage for SHGs (ex Panchayat Banks - Thakurand)
- (3) Connecting them with e-commerce giants like Amazon.

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

शौचालयों का निर्माण स्वच्छ भारत के समाधान का केवल एक भाग है, अतः अब समय आ गया है कि स्वच्छ भारत मिशन अन्य पहलुओं पर भी अधिक बल दे। चर्चा कीजिए।

Swachh Bharat Mission was a Behavioral change campaign launched in 2014, for establishing an Open Defecation free India by 2019.

To achieve this, there was extensive focus on individual and community toilet construction. This has happened at a frenzy with more than 1cr toilets, constructed in the 5 years and 30 states and UTs declared ODF by now. The mission has been called successful and a model for emulation by Economic Survey(19) and also UNICEF and WHO.

However, it is time to extend the scope of this mission :-

(1) Use Behavioral Economics to nudge people from Swachh-Sundar-Swasth Bharat (ES 2019)

(2) Focus on Solid Waste management in cities.

(3) Plastic pollution is another problem leading to spread of vector-borne diseases and urban flooding.

(4) Continued usage of toilets has to be ensured by investing in maintenance of toilets.

(5) Completely phasing out 2.6 million insanitary latrines because of which Manual scavenging continues unabated.

(6) Look into river pollution.

CAG report has pointed out that despite Namami Gange, Ganga is as polluted as before. CPCB has also said recently that 351 river stretches in India are heavily polluted.

(7) Address issue of GROUNDWATER pollution.

(8) Extend success of scheme to providing clean-piped drinking water supply to all households.

(9) Address under-nutrition as it is a multifaceted problem with linkages to Health - Sanitation - Water supply.

As suggested by NITI Aayog 3 year Action Agenda, COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION should be promoted.

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

मिशन इन्द्रधनुष की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालिए। इसके कार्यान्वयन में मिशन को किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है? संपूर्ण टीकाकरण प्राप्ति की दिशा में प्रगति करने हेतु इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Mission Indradhanush was launched by the Ministry of Health to intensify efforts towards vaccination for 7 vaccine preventable diseases with the eventual goal of reaching FULL IMMUNIZATION.

Salient features :-

- (1) covers 7 vaccine preventable diseases like DPT, tuberculosis, measles-rubella etc.
- (2) Concentration on districts that have UNDERPERFORMED in previous vaccination drives.
- (3) Covers children <2 years and pregnant & lactating women nat.

covered under earlier schemes.

(4) target of achieving full immunization coverage.

CHALLENGES

(1) Lack of data present on immunization coverage, untouched population etc.

(2) Weak immunization surveillance networks.

(3) Poor infrastructure for immunization delivery due to WEAK Primary health centers.

(4) Lack of doctors and qualified medical professionals in rural-areas.

(5) Lack of awareness in population about importance of Immunization.

(6) Superstitions and Religious norms are the cause of resistance in

certain sections of population.
Measures to Address :-

- (1) Intensive IEC campaign to nudge people towards voluntary Immunization.
- (2) Make Immunization campaign a JAN ANDOLAN. (also suggested by Economic Survey's 19 Chapter on Nudge policies).
- (3) Separate disease surveillance network in the Health Ministry.
- (4) electronic management of supply chain of vaccines (strengthen e-Vin)
- (5) Improve medical infrastructure by expediting setting up of Health & Wellness Centers.

One can be taken from Haryana's Indira Bal Swasthya Yojana which provides immunization at schools, anganwadis etc.

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

भारत में बदलती आर्थिक और जनसांख्यिकीय संरचना के आलोक में कौशल सृजन के महत्व का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। इस संबंध में, स्किल इंडिया मिशन अपने अधिदेश में कितना सफल रहा है।

As per a NSSO survey less than 5% of Indian youth are formally skilled, whereas in Japan it is as high as 80%.

Importance :- Changing Economic structure :-

(1) Technological disruptions like AI and Machine Learning has produced the need for HYPER-SPECIALISATION and NICHE SKILLS.

(2) Less than 20% engineers can be placed on job without skilling (NR Murthy) and lack of Academic-Industry connect.

(3) H-1-B issue and increasing protectionism demands highly skilled people abroad and not people

with normal skills.
(4) Less HR present in high performance work
Changing Demographic Structure :-

(1) With a bulge in working age population, it is important for upskilling people to prevent underemployment.

(2) Provide shift from Agriculture sector.

(3) Likely increase in urbanisation has increased demand for skilled population.

Skill India Mission was launched in 2015 to upskill 40 million youth. It's sub-components were the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana and DD Grams Kaushalya Yojana.

Performance :-

There has been significant improvement in the Quantity of people skilled. However there are problems :-

- (1) Lack of placement for skilled people.
- (2) Lack of importance given to vocational education, as society continues to look down upon manual work.
- (3) Regional and gender disparities
- (4) Lack of integration with industrial requirements.

Way Forward :-

- (1) Implement Sharda PRASAD committee recommendations of strengthening SECTOR SKILL COUNCILS and closing Redundant Councils.
- (2) Convergence between PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana and MUDRA to provide loans for entrepreneurship to skilled youth.
- (3) Innovative financing such as SKILL VOUCHERS

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

आपके अनुसार वे कौन-से कारण हैं जिन्होंने हाल ही में भारत को MEA के तहत एक समर्पित भारत-प्रशांत प्रभाग सृजित करने के लिए प्रेरित किया? साथ ही, भारत-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत के समक्ष चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

Recently, a dedicated division for Indo-Pacific was created in the MEA, displaying the importance of the region to India.

Economic Reasons → for synergistic and dedicated planning for India's involvement in the region.

- (1) more than 90% of oil trade of India passes through the Indo-Pacific
- (2) potential for trade between India and other countries of the region. ex - Australia, Indonesia etc.
- (3) gaining membership of the APEC.

Strategic Reasons

- (1) unified planning for the region

that is gaining prominence.

(2) counter to China which has engaged in cheque book diplomacy in the region.

(3) to act as Net Security provider in the region.

(4) coordinated with USA's Indo-Pacific Command and other groupings of the region such as QUAD.

Other Reasons

(1) coordinate HADR (Humanitarian response and disaster relief) activities in the region.

(2) Coordination for climate change as this region is likely to be most affected.

CHALLENGES

(1) Uncertainty and divergences in

US Foreign policy. ex - Renewed US-Pakistan relationship.

(2) Assertiveness of China in the region is increasing. ex - posturing in the South China Sea and STRICA of pearls.

(3) Increasing traditional security threats such as Nuclearisation of North Korea, and non-traditional threats such as maritime security-piracy and smuggling.

(4) India is not a member of APEC.

(5) Climate change likely to increase tensions.

Way Forward

(1) Modernization of Indian NAVY.

INS Arihant is a step in the right direction.

(2) Strengthening the QUAD, and 2+2 Ministerial dialogue between US & Japan.

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

SCO को एक सफल क्षेत्रीय समूह बनने हेतु, अपने सदस्यों के मध्य के द्विपक्षीय मतभेदों और उनके संबंधित भू-राजनीतिक अपेक्षाओं से उबरना होगा। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, यूरेशियाई क्षेत्र में भारत के हितों को बढ़ाने में SCO द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका की भी विवेचना कीजिए।

SCO is a Eurasian economic, military and cultural grouping to provide an alternative to Western dominated NATO.

However, it's effective performance is mixed by :-

BILATERAL differences :-

Between India - Pakistan over Pakistan's alleged involvement in terrorism.

India - China - trade issues, border issues, water issues pertaining to Brahmaputra.

India - Russia → with regard to India diversifying its defense imports.

There is also differences with regard to STRATEGIC BALANCING

being done by India with membership of QUAD and closer relations with USA. Both Russia and China have strategic differences with the US.

GEOPOLITICAL Calculations

- (1) China's (1) CPEC passing through PoK - a threat to our sovereignty.
- (2) Chinese String of pearls under which it has invested in Hambantota, Chittagong ports etc for encircling India.
- (2) Differences between India - other countries with regard to DEFINITION of terrorism.
- (3) Differences with regard to stability and security of Afghanistan. While India is not in favor of talking with Taliban, others are less hesitant.

Role SCO can play :-

Economics → (1) tap into resource rich region. ex - Kazakhstan has one of World's largest uranium reserve.

(2) as gateway to Europe

(3) Investment potential in rapidly growing countries in Central Asia.

STRATEGIC → (1) counter terrorism using the RATS architecture.

(2) advancing India's interests in a platform where both China and Pakistan are present.

(3) Stability and security of Afghanistan can be an agenda of discussion as most important players are therein grouping.

The SCO relationship can be better leveraged if India uses its SOFT power in the region; dance, music, yoga etc