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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1863)

Name of Candidate	KANIKA		
Medium Eng./Hindi		Registration Number	1005490
Center		Date	

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		
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Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

- 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.
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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.

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.

The Constitution of India provides for Separation of Power between the Executive, the legislative and the Judiciary. To ensure this system of checks & balances, various tools have been provided to the Parliament to ensure efficient functioning of the administration.

① Debates and Discussions in both houses via means of Question Hour, Zero Hour, various motions etc.

② Financial Scrutiny → via means of Public Accounts Committee, reports of CAG, pre budgetary discussions, vote on demands of grants, cut motions etc.

③ Scrutiny over legislation via means of Parliamentary Standing Committees and Department Related Standing Committees etc.

Challenges in ensuring functionality of Parliamentary oversight

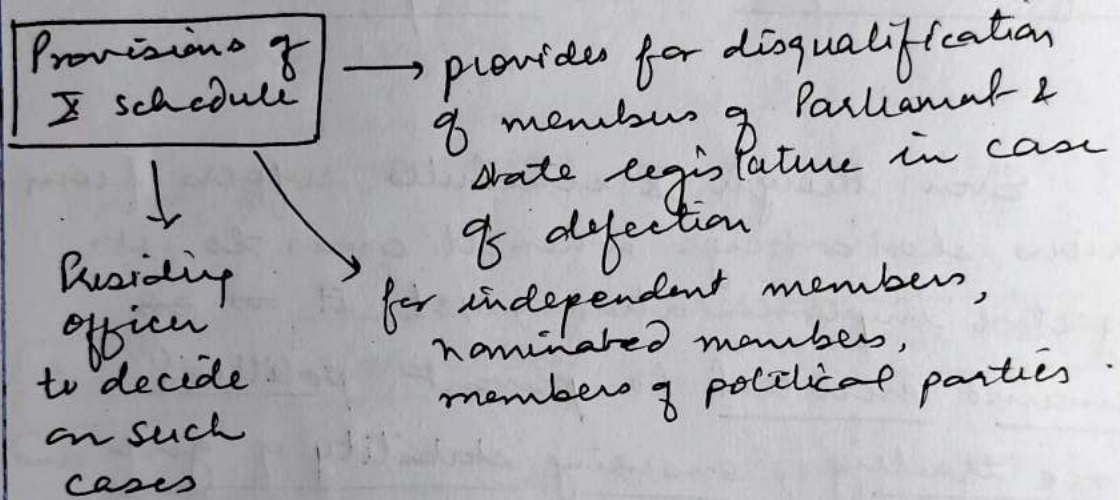
- (1) Suspension of question hour. eg: as done during times of emergency and more recently during the COVID Pandemic
- (2) Non-functionality of Parliamentary Committees in scrutinizing Parliamentary Behaviour, rules and other aspects.
- (3) The recent trends depict non passage of bills for select committees (eg In recent Mansarovar session, no bill (out of 15 passed) was sent to any committee)
- (4) Minimum amount of time spent on discussions.
- (5) Adoption of Money Bill route or ordinance route to pass important legislations

Parliamentary oversight aims at ensuring parliamentary democracy, holding the executive accountable, monitors the work of govt & ensure balance of power along with good governance.

To ensure robust system of parliamentary oversight, it is necessary for presiding officers to abide by principles of neutrality and ensure that mechanisms to ensure accountability are strictly followed in the Parliament.

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

The 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1985 introduced the X Schedule in the Indian Constitution also known as Anti Defection Law.



X Schedule vs Representative Democracy

- ① Does not distinguish between dissent and defection thus curtails freedom of speech & expressions of elected members.
- ② Differential treatment of Nominated vs Independent members.
- ③ Curbs inter-party democracy by necessitating to vote on party lines.

④ Differential treatment for individual defection vs group defection. (i.e. no disqualification in case of merger)

⑤ Since members are bound by whip, the X schedule virtually makes the executive supreme w.r.t. the legislature. i.e. kills differential opinion and viewpoint

Even though X schedule suffers from various shortcomings when it comes to its effective implementation, yet it ~~is~~ remains essential to prevent political horse trading, ensuring stability of govt and keeping a check on political luring.

various recommendations viz:-

(1) Dinesh Groswani Committee - X schedule should be invoked only when stability of govt. is in question eg: Passage of Budget / No-Confidence motion etc.

(2) Kihoto Hollohian Case → there should be some third independent party authority to deal with Anti Defection Law.

The National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution suggests that the presiding officer must function on advice of Election Commission w.r.t. X Schedule.

3. Article 246 of Indian Constitution is considered as the cornerstone of Centre-state legislative relations. Discuss.

Article 246 of Indian Constitution provides for 7th schedule which gives ~~def~~ divides various subjects of legislation in 3 lists

viz → Union list
 ↓
 State list
 ↓
 Concurrent list

The Residuary powers are left with the Union Govt.

7th schedule as Cornerstone of Centre State Relations

- (1) Federalism → The three lists provide for definite subjects upon which the Central & State Govt. can legislate. i.e. Cooperative federalism.
- (2) Exhaustive list → 100 subjects in Union list, 61 in state and 52 in concurrent list.
- (3) Provides for clear separation ~~division~~ of power and reduces ambiguity in legislation.

(4) The concurrent list provides adequate flexibility ~~with~~ to states while otherwise adhering to standardisation. eg Education, Forest.

(5) The Union list contains subjects of national importance and also checks upon inter-state dispute avoidance. eg: Inter state rivers, national security etc.

Challenges & shortfalls

(1) The Central govt. is often accused of interfering in state list eg: Recent Farm Bills (as agriculture is a state subject)

(2) Parliamentary legislation on state subject if Rajya Sabha passes resolution for the same.

(3) Some ~~redundant~~ subjects Centralisation attempts eg: 42nd Const - amendment Act added 5 subjects to Concurrent list.

Though the Seventh schedule forms the backbone of Indian federal system, it is important that Inter-State relations be strengthened via more coordination & communication to reduce ambiguity & distrust.

4. Although the provision of issuing ordinances amounts to the usurpation of legislative power by the Executive, both Centre & states in India have taken unrestrained course to it. Discuss.

Article 123 of Constitution of India provides the President the power to pass Ordinances to give effect to legislation when either or both houses of Parliament are not in session. (Similar for Governor Art 213)

Ordinance route taken up by Centre & States

- (1) The recently brought out Agricultural laws were passed by means of ordinance.
- (2) Bihar Govt in 1980s & 90s used passed repeated ordinances on same subjects.
- (3) Central Govt often uses ordinance route to pass sensitive and controversial laws that infringe upon state subjects.

Concerns regarding issuing ordinances

- ① Against Separation of Power i.e. the Executive takes up the role of passing legislation.

- ② Parliamentary Scrutiny is By-passed by avoiding debates and discussions
- ③ Ordinance making power is ~~no~~ co-existent but not a parallel law making power.
- ④ The reasons that render necessary the passage of ordinance may be mala fide.
- ⑤ Ordinance route must be taken only when either or both houses are not in session & situation renders it necessary due to some ~~use~~ immediate necessity.

Various judgements made by Supreme Court in R.C Cooper Case, D.C Wadhwa case & Krishna Kumar case provide adequate guidelines for use of ordinance power by President & Governor.

Unnecessary use of ordinance power is adjudged as unconstitutional. Hence ordinance must not be ~~passed~~ ^{passed} arbitrarily, rather responsibly.

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

At the time of independence, there existed roughly 20 ministries in the Central Govt. This has increased to over 70 ministries presently.

- Article 75 provides for existence of Council of Ministers (COM) → Cabinet ministers
→ Minister of state
→ Independent charge

- 9th Constitution Amendment Act limited the strength of COM to not more than 15% of the strength of Lok Sabha

Reasons for increasing no. of ministries

(1) Increasing complexity and sepa specialisation of work requires constituting separate ministries.

(2) Emergence of coalition govt required accomodating various political party members as ministers.

(3) To increase regional representation of and religious representation.

Drawbacks of various ministries

- (1) Overlapping work (2) Lack of coordination
(3) Inter ministry competition to get hold of larger grants (4) Decision making gets slowed.

Need for amalgamation / phasing out

- (1) To increase coordination and quick decision making
(2) To ensure minimum government & maximum governance.
(3) To give effect to coordinated planning and execution.

Various related ministries can be clubbed together to ensure master planning eg: M/o Roads, M/o Railway etc can be clubbed to form M/o Logistics. etc

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

Digital India programme of Govt. of India envisaged building upon 3 pillars of viz

- Digital Infrastructure & network of Common Service Centres
- Digital Service Delivery System
- Digital empowerment of citizens.

Success of Digital India

(1) E governance : The rapid transformation of governance using ICT tools at all levels

ie G to G → PRAAGTI portal, eKRANTI
G to B → SPICE portal, SRIDAN etc
G to E → pension portals, online grievance sections etc.

(2) Economy → Digital India has enabled financial inclusion, online payment systems, e-banking, e-commerce etc.

(3) Service Delivery → via online platforms has eased the constraints of time & resources.
eg: Bhuvan Panchayat

(4) Education → Digital India + Covid pandemic
= Boon in EdTech sector
and online education.

(5) Mobile & Internet services → India has the fastest
growing population that ~~was~~ has access to
internet services.

(6) Empowered Society → Access to online platform
enables door step delivery of freedom of
speech expression & information.

Challenges that remain

(1) Hurdles related to internet penetration in
remote areas, access to poor etc.

(2) Emergence of monopolistic Big Tech companies
controlling Indian online marketing business
ie Power without Responsibility.

(3) Issues related to Data Privacy & Cyber security

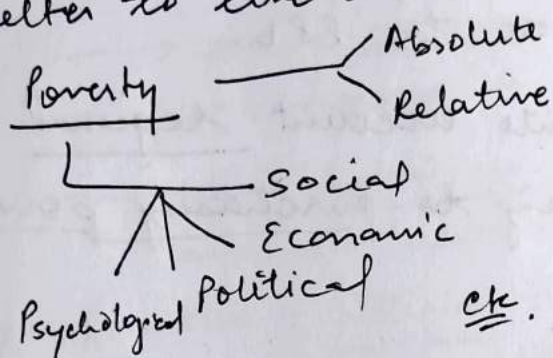
(4) Online education seems Low to Poor internet
& speeds

(5) Large section of population remains digitally
illiterate.

Even though Digital India has transformed
the public service delivery scenario in the
country, yet a lot needs to be achieved
in making it more affordable, available &
accessible.

7. Examine the issues related to poverty measurement in India. Suggest measures to improve upon the existing methodologies.

Poverty in a general sense refers to absence of lack of basic resources like food, clothing shelter to live a decent life.



Poverty measurement in India

Various committees have been formed since independence to suggest criteria for poverty measurement.

eg: Dandekar & Rath Committee - Calorie Consumption
Tendulkar Committee - nutritional requirement
Rangarajan Committee - nutritional requirement plus other basic necessities like health, insurance etc.

Presently; poverty in India is measured as Below Poverty line which is $\sim \text{Rs } 27$ for rural
 $\sim \text{Rs } 33$ for urban

Issues with poverty measurement

(1) Poverty line criteria is redundant, given the present inflation and is hardly revised.

(2) Only measures absolute poverty, and gives no ~~data~~ credence to social & political poverty which comes along.

(3) Various schemes which use BPL criteria often exclude a vast population that is above but very close to BPL.

(4) Does not take into account regional variations pertaining to purchasing power.

Measures To Improve

(1) Instead of poverty line, various other criteria available in recently concluded SECC 2011 can be taken up for consideration.

(2) Amartya Sen's $\rightarrow$ welfare economics and capability building approach can be taken into account.

(3) World Bank's 2008 poverty line $\rightarrow$ \$1.25 per day or Human Development Index can be taken into account.

The Economic Survey of 2020-21 had suggested that India is a peculiar case where economic growth brings more people out of poverty in comparison of redistributive policies of a welfare state.

8. As one of the recommendations of the NEP 2020, discuss the rationale behind internationalisation of higher education in India and its associated challenges.

The NEP 2020 has set ambitious targets for internationalisation of higher education viz

- getting 100 top universities to set up campuses in India
- taking Indian universities to set campuses abroad.
- formation of National Higher Education Commission of India tasked with achievement of these goals.

Rationale behind Internationalisation of Higher Education

- (1) Taking Indian education to meet the demands and standards of international education system.
- (2) To enable Indian students to remain within the country yet get access to foreign faculty.
- (3) To meet the demands of increasing number of foreign national students who arrive in India for higher education.

(4) To fill in the academia - industry mismatch.

(5) To enable an atmosphere of competition and collaboration among Indian & foreign universities.

(6) To achieve the aim of skilling India's demographic dividend and build on India's existing advantages of service sector.

(7) To inculcate an academic culture of entrepreneurship and innovation taking the best practices of foreign universities' education system.

Associated Challenges

(1) Commercialisation of an already expensive education system.

(2) Expensive education system can further build upon existing class divide.

(3) Problems of capital and accreditation of colleges & universities.

(4) Excessive westernisation might not be able to cater to local requirements.

Only 3 Indian universities feature in the list of QS Top 100. Hence it is essential that India builds on global market standards for education.

9. Stating the significance of FTAs examine whether they have been as beneficial as expected for India.

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) refers to an agreement between two or more nations wherein countries reduce or eliminate tariff and non tariff restrictions on certain or all products and services.

Some important FTA of India & other countries

- SAFTA
- FTA with ASEAN
- APTA
- CECA with Singapore Thailand
- CEPA with Sri Lanka
- CECTA with Mauritius

How has India benefitted

- (1) India's trade with FTA countries has increased in both imports & exports.
- (2) India's exports to SAFTA countries have expanded quicker than imports
- (3) Signing FTA has ~~increased~~ reduced duties on Indian exports to foreign market significantly.

Benefits not as expected: Reasons

- (1) Indian exports to FTA have not increased more than its exports to non FTA countries. Low manufacturing sector is one of the reasons.
- (2) Trade deficit with ASEAN countries has rather increased.
India exports goods with minimal or no value addition.
- (3) Rules of origin, Sanitary & phytosanitary measures have also played against India.

Recent steps taken by India

- eg.:
- Amendments to Bilateral Investment Treaty
 - changes made to CAROTAR pertaining to certificate of origin etc.
 - Automatic Trigger clause in CECPA with Maldives.

India has remained away from larger FTAs like RCEP given its significant trade deficit. However, India must develop on its capabilities to not remain on the losing end.

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

Multi lateral Development Banks (MDB) refer to ^{international} ~~refer to~~ financial institutions that provide development and other assistance to nations of the world. viz

- Bretton Woods Twins → World Bank
IMF
 - BRICS Development Bank
 - Asian Development Bank
 - European Bank for Reconstruction & Development
 - Asian Infrastructure & Investment Bank
- etc.

Why are MDBs crucial for development?

- (1) Provide long term soft loans for capital intensive infrastructure sector for developing countries. eg: World Bank assistance to India.
- (2) Provide immediate assistance to countries facing Balance of Payment crises.
eg: IMF loans to India on various occasions.

- (3) Provide assistance to deal with humanitarian crises amidst war zones.
- (4) Fulfill the heavy investment needs for climate financing, environmental development etc.
- (5) Help assist nations to build capacity for resources generation and exploration etc.
eg: India is largest borrower from AIIB.

Associated concerns

- (1) The one size fits all conditionalities imposed by MDB on borrowing countries are not always justified.
- (2) Heavily increase debt to GDP ratio of developing countries.
- (3) Western dominance eg: World Bank president comes from U.S.A and IMF President is always a European national.
- (4) Countries are prone to fall in debt trap situations

Multilateral Development Assistance must therefore be used for capacity building and trade development instead to make it a sustainable model of finance.

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.

Article 262 of the Constitution of India provides that the Parliament may by law provide for resolution of inter state water disputes. Also, the parliament may stipulate that no court has jurisdiction over the same.

Legal framework to resolve inter state water disputes

① Inter state river water disputes Act 1956 provides for establishment of tribunals for resolution of such disputes eg: Godavari River Trrps Tribunal, Krishna River Dispute Tribunal etc.

② River Boards Act 1956 was also promulgated for amicable management of river waters.

③ Inter-State Council was formed on the recommendations of Sarkaria commission also.

provide a platform for cooperative federalism and inter state communication and cooperation.

Why Inter state River Water Disputes continue

- (1) The flow of river through various states cutting across territorial boundaries.
eg: Krishna river dispute between Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry.
- (2) Some states were formed later and this gave rise to new disputes. eg: Water sharing between Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu, Satluj river dispute between Punjab & Haryana.
- (3) Heavy dependence on river water for agricultural irrigation, drinking water etc.
- (4) River water disputes have turned more into politically motivated disputes of late.
- (5) Center-state clashes also add fuel to the fire with respect to water being a state subject but interstate water management comes under Central list under Schedule 7

Measures to be taken to resolve riverwater disputes

- (1) Increasing engagement at the level of Governing Council of NITI Aayog which is the flag bearer of federalism based on cooperation, collaboration & competition.
- (2) Improve the functioning of Inter State Council with more frequent meetings.
- (3) Increasing the speed and efficiency of River Water Dispute Tribunals.
- (4) Enhanced water data collection via remote sensing, mapping, surveying & mapping.
- (5) Increasing financial support to water deficit state to invest in technologies to improve water harvesting & grey water recycling.

Various steps taken by the Government like Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Shakti Jeevan Mission, AMRUT etc which aim at improving water availability need ground level, community led engagement.

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.

The two year long COVID pandemic led physical delivery of justice to come at a standstill. This led the judiciary to resort to various technology led solutions.

Use of Technology in Judicial System

- (1) Virtual Court hearings
- (2) e-Adalat mission mode
- (3) Virtual lok adalats in Chattisgarh
- (4) Online Dispute Resolution
- (5) Online arbitration
- (6) Online availability of data related to lawyers up for pro-bono cases etc.
- (7) Virtual delivery of decrees, judgements, guidelines etc.

Use of Technology improves Judicial System

- (1) Online court hearings reduce the barriers that came with human engagement and biases eg: caste & class barriers.
- (2) Use of ICT tools ~~so~~ help save resources, both time and cost.
- (3) Improve accessibility, availability and affordability of justice delivery.
- (4) Technology provides sustainable mode of for working for judicial system ~~in~~ even in times of pandemic.
- (5) Online Dispute Resolution mechanisms like Negotiation, Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration also open avenue for alternative dispute resolution.
- (6) Lok adalats for dispute resolution for public services can provide huge scope for working individuals to access justice online.

Challenges that come with use of technology in judicial system

- (1) Technology may increase inaccessibility :-
According to recent survey conducted by ^{Association} ~~Centre~~ for Democratic Reforms, only 27% of subordinate courts in India have a functional computer.
- (2) Accessibility bias created based on for poor and vulnerable who not only lack awareness but also have social-psychological skepticism towards use of online modes.
- (3) Digital illiteracy of complex public prosecutors, advocates & lawyers.
- (4) Indian laws only permit offline notarisation etc.
- (5) Threat of cyber crime, privacy and cyber misbehaviour.

While use of technology can definitely solve the problem of delayed justice however, its implementation needs to start from a bottom-up approach.

13.

The current urban planning capacities in India are extremely skeletal and need systemic reforms and a change in mindset.
Discuss.

Currently, approximately 30% of Indian population lives in urban spaces. This is set to increase exponentially in coming years.

Challenges posed by rapid & unchecked urbanisation

- (1) Unplanned concrete blocks have led to problems of unhygienic and unsanitary living.
- (2) Has increased disaster vulnerabilities
eg: Flash flood, Flash draughts etc.
- (3) World Risk Filter reports that 30 Indian cities are set to face water crises very soon.
- (4) Usurping of slums and jhuggi jhopri colonies.
- (5) Problems linked with electricity, mobility, pollution, waste management etc.

Urban Planning in India → extremely skeletal

- (1) Housing availability → Demand for houses

remains always higher than availability.
eg: Migrants are forced to live on the streets & the slums. (despite AMRUT 2.0)

(2) Disaster vulnerability → Absence of separate drainage pipelines and storm water pipelines

(3) Waste management & recycling plans → Despite increased recycling of waste, land fills and incineration dominate the methods involved.

(4) Toilet facility maintenance remains abysmal even after Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

(5) Tap water availability is not universal.

(6) Skewed attention to rejuvenation of urban water bodies, flood zones swetlands.

(7) Transportation and mobility plans remain delayed and do not emphasise on pollution free and cost effective modeling (despite Smart City Mission)

(8)

Urban Planning requires systematic Reforms

(1) Housing → Focus on slum rehabilitation via "Housing for All by 2022" under

AMRUT mission rather than slum clearance.

(2) Immediate focus on increasing water use efficiency, eco-zones development, drinking water availability (via Groundwater Rules 2021, Jal Jeevan Mission)

(3) Ground level & community led implementation on Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 for making 100% cities ODF+ & ODF++ and at least 50% cities water +.

(4) Ecosystem restorative planning, implementation of Nagar Van Schemes, urban forestry etc.

Urban Planning require change in mindset

(1) Community led and civil society engagement to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility is the need of the hour.

(2) Improving people's perception towards urban governance needs to be also improved (eg: Participation in Swachhta Survekshan).

Using tools to improve social accountability eg Social Audits, Citizen's reportcards etc can go a long way to improve urban planning outcomes.

14.

Reservation for women in the P.R.I.s has not translated into corresponding increase in women's representation in India's status state legislatures. Bringing out the reasons for the same, discuss how under-representation of women in state legislatures can be corrected.

73rd Constitutional Amendment Act made it mandatory for the states to provide at least 33% reservation for women in P.R.I.s. Some states like Bihar have increased it to 50% as well.

Women in state legislature constitute a mere 10% of total, where states like Bihar have ~14%. And those like Mizoram, Nagaland have none.

Reasons for skewed representation of women in state legislature

- (1) State legislatures provide for no compulsory representation for women
- (2) Existence of sarpanch patis or pseudo representatives at P.R.I does not help

translate women's participation at state legislature.

- (3) Patriarchal mindsets and stereotypes related Politics being the game for men still remain deeply penetrated in society
- (4) Stigmatization of women in politics ~~means~~ demeans their self esteem. (Unfriendly environment)
- (5) Caste and class barriers and excessive use of money and muscle power also inhibit women's representation.
- (6) The criminal - bureaucrat - politician nexus all the more plays against women at large.

Measures to improve women's representation at state legislature

- (1) A minimum percentage of seats can be reserved for women in state legislature.
- (2) Taking stringent action against pseudo representatives at PRI level.

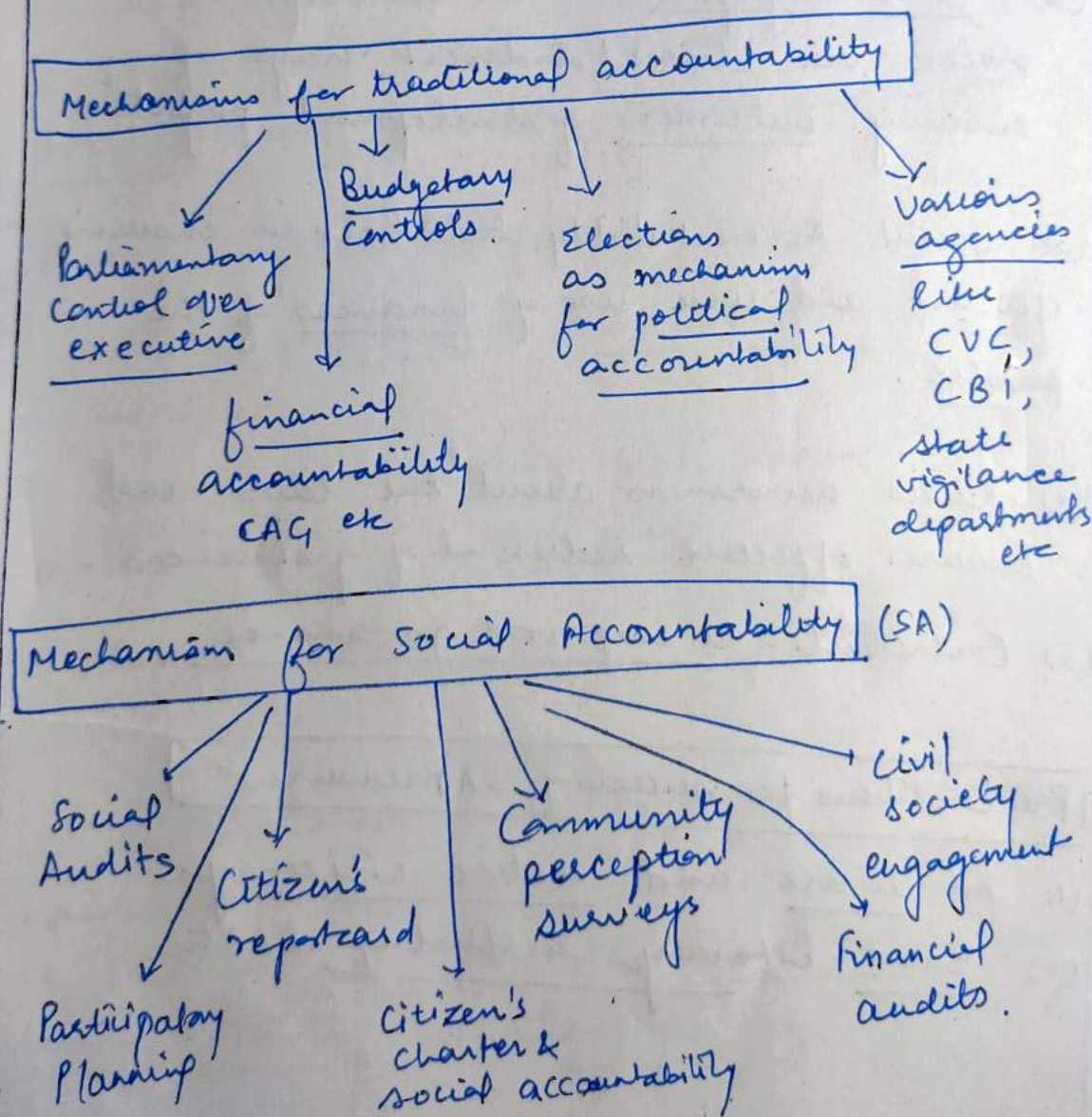
- (3) Increasing and encouraging women's participation in electoral process at college level.
- (4) Election Commission of India can ensure free and fair election via checking the use of money-muscle power.
- (5) Fundamental reforms at the party level will serve as a necessary complement.
- (6) Deconstructing the stereotypes associated with women's participation in politics & overall de-criminalisation of politics

Recently, there has been a demand for compulsory ~~seps~~ reservation of women in Lok Sabha (Women's Reservation Bill) for ~~up to~~ at least $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ seats.

- However, it must be noted that overall societal upliftment and change in mind set, complemented with education and financial independence is the key.

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.

Effective public service delivery involves active engagement, participation, inclusivity, efficient resource utilisation and aimed at larged public welfare.



Social Accountability for effective Public Service Delivery (SA)

- (1) Social audits are based on the principles of participation & engagement ensuring Jan Bhagidari, Jan Jankari, Suraksha, Prasar, Janta ka Manch, Karyawahi etc
- (2) Civic engagement in development process via direct / indirect ways of ensuring outcomes of development projects.
- (3) Social Accountability tools help in ensuring efficient and wise use of finances of the public.
- (4) Raises awareness about the laws and ensures effective redressal of grievances.
- (5) Contribute to improved governance.

Pre conditions for success of SA measures

- (1) An aware and active citizenry
- (2) Basic literacy including both

digital and financial understanding.

- (3) Presence of NGOs and other organisations to help in auditing mechanism.
- (4) Availability of online data related to government officials engaged, planning process and finances.

Challenges associated with SA mechanisms

- (1) Social Audit tools might be used as political tools to create by the opposition.
- (2) Non-availability of auditors.
- (3) Lack of awareness about existence of such mechanisms.
- (4) Data provided by the govt bodies and websites is often incomplete.
- (5) Passive citizenry and disenchanted youth engagement.

Various states have brought out laws mandating social audits of various schemes at PRI level of Rajasthan. Sensitisation and legal backing remains the key.

16. The MANREGA remains one of the most ambitious programmes for public welfare & rural development, but its objectives cannot be achieved without strong & capable PRI. Elucidate

MANREGA is the flagship scheme of M/o Rural Development that is driven by demand based employment generation ensuring right to work.

Objectives of MANREGA

- (1) Guarantees 100 days of work to rural households willing to do unskilled manual work.
- (2) Unemployment allowance in case of not availability of work
- (3) Mandatory allocation of funds for SC & ST labourers.
- (4) Travel allowance if work is not available within 5 km radius.
- (5) Social audit mechanisms for accountability.
- (6) Data available online on Management Information System.

Role of PRIs

- (1) Gram Sabha is entrusted with prioritising work related to rural development
- (2) Village Panchayat → responsible for awareness generation, monitoring and social audits.
- (3) Intermediate Panchayats → responsible for approving the work and have other supervisory role.
- (4) District Panchayats → consolidate annual block plans into a district plan.

Thus, efficient execution of right based, bottom up, people-centred scheme i.e. MGNREGA requires a strong and capable PRI.

Concerns related to implementation of MGNREGS

- (1) Genuine jobs cards are often deleted to meet 100% DBT targets.
- (2) The work allocated and taken up ~~it~~ does not result in asset building for rural areas.
- (3) The centralised payment system has further left the representatives of PRI with no role in implementation, monitoring and grievance redress of MGNREGS schemes.
- (4) The Administration almost dictates the implementation process, burdens the local elected representatives.

Improvement in the MIS data to give true measure of performance and equipping PRIs to ensure leakage control can hopefully enhance the execution of MGNREGS for public welfare.

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.

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) means people with physical, mental, intellectual impairment which hinders their full and effective participation in society equally with others.

According to Census 2011, India's 2.21% of population suffers some kind of disability.

Legal and International safeguards for PwDs

- (1) Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016
 - ↳ Reservation in jobs (4%)
 - ↳ " " in educational institutions (5%)
 - ↳ Identifies 21 disabilities including mental illness
- (2) Rehabilitation Council of India Act 1992
- (3) Mental Health Care Act 2017

(4) India has ratified UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

(5) Adoption of Incheon Strategy to make the Right Real for PwDs in Asian and Pacific.

Challenges faced by PwDs despite available safeguards

1) Social Barriers → only 55% PwDs are literate
→ only 36% disabled are workers.

2) Attitudinal barriers

→ stereotyping, stigma
prejudice & discrimination.

(3) Poverty and disability reinforce each other.

(4) Policy Barriers → lack of awareness & enforcement.

(5) Accessibility barriers → with respect to design and construction of buildings, roads etc.

(6) Socio Psycho-social disabilities like Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Depression, Anxiety are still not acknowledged as disability in majority of Indian social setup.

Causes of failure of state in upholding rights of PwDs

- (1) Disabled are considered liabilities.
- (2) Lack of adequate data with the state for proper inclusion in various schemes.
- (3) Poor implementation of mental health services, absence of evidence based treatment
- (4) Social stigma associated with PwDs, keeps families from coming out for help & assistance.

India needs to take various reforms in line with the aims and objectives of Saujanya Bharat Abhiyan, making infrastructure and services more accessible & inclusive for PwDs.

18.

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

PMAY (Gramin) was launched to achieve the objective of "Housing for All" by 2022 by Ministry of Rural Development. The programme provides financial assistance based on SFCC 2011 data.

Success of the scheme

- (1) 92% of the target of 1st phase (1 crore houses) i.e. from 2016-17 to 2018-19 has been achieved.
- (2) Awaas App - to monitor real time progress of houses under construction.
- (3) Convergence with other schemes i.e. PM. MGNREGA, MANREGA, SBM-G, NRDWP etc.
- (4) Evidence based monitoring by Geo Tagging of photographs.

Concerns with PMAY-G

- (1) Impact of pandemic - In FY 20-24 only about 5% target could be completed.
- (2) Lack of funding by non-releasing of funds by state governments.
- (3) Labour unavailability, construction material and delays in inspection.
- (4) Delays in implementation due to unwillingness of beneficiaries, migration, death without legal heir etc.

Initiatives for ensuring proper functioning

- (1) Regular review of progress at the level of M/o Rural development to ensure timely completion.

(2) Regular follow ups with the States to ensure provision of land to landless

(3) Automation of registration of beneficiaries excluded from STCC by making changes to management information system

(4) Training the Rural Mason to increase their availability and for construction of quality houses.

Rural housing remains the cornerstone of rural development.

Adequate convergence with other schemes to make the model sustainable and by enhancing active civil engagement at all level can ensure more transparency and accountability in implementation.

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

India's Neighbourhood First Policy has been guided by the principles of South-South cooperation, mutual respect and non-interference.

Potential of India's Neighbourhood First Policy

- (1) India's Act East policy has resulted in enhanced harmony and cooperation with countries of South East Asia.
- (2) BIMSTEC as a regional cooperation keeps huge potential for India in terms of development in tourism, trade, infrastructure, anti-terrorism, etc.
- (3) India and Bangladesh ties have taken huge depth in recent times eg: Connectivity - Akhaura Agartala railway line, Haldibari-Chilkhati, BBIN corridor etc.
- (4) Completion of India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway shall boost connectivity to South East Asia.

- (5) SAARC, SAFTA and SASEC have huge potential for amicable dispute resolution, energy cooperation and trade development.
- (6) Vaccine Maitri has also been as a part of India's Neighbourhood first policy.
- (7) India - Japan pact to build Jaffna & Mattala airport at in Sri Lanka also flaunts India's cooperation in South Asia

Impediments to Regional Cooperation in South Asia

- (1) With withdrawal of Pakistan, SAARC has since then remained non-functional.
- (2) Various connectivity projects like BBIN, IMT highway project remain incomplete and delayed.
- (3) India suffers from the problem of "Over promising and under-delivering".

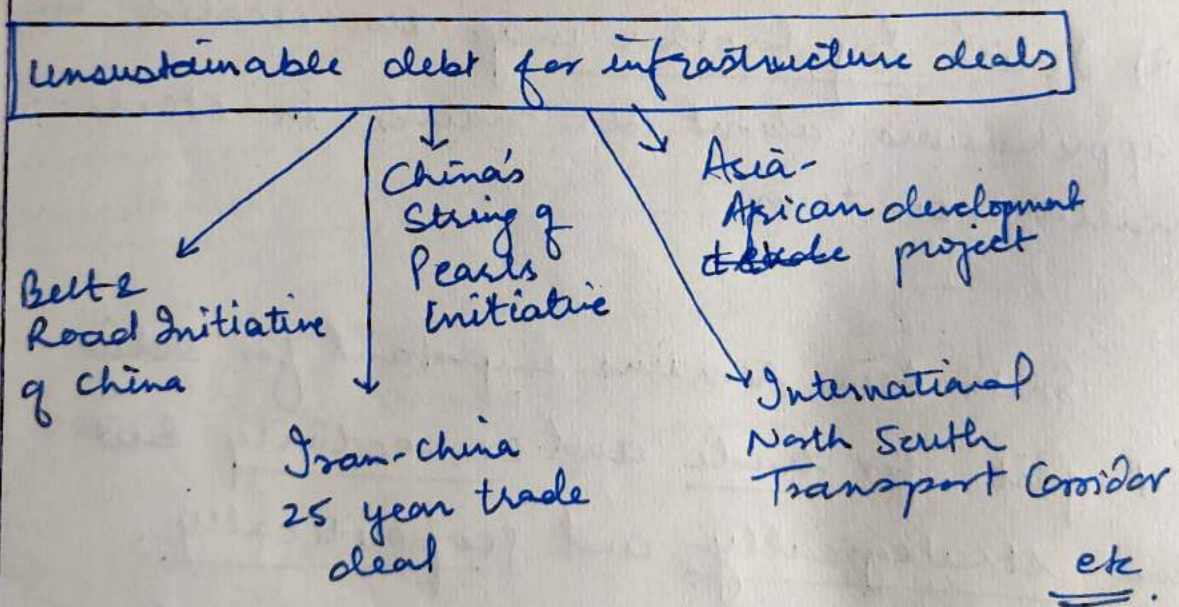
- (4) India's biased cooperation towards Bangladesh and Nepal with respect to Sri Lanka.
- (5) Increasing radicalisation and Nepal's recent tilt towards China.
- (6) Formation of QUAD has led to apprehensions in other regional nations.
- (7) Regional trade in South Asia remains skewed in comparison to several other global cooperations.
- (8) India's Big Brother image also creates an apprehensions about her motives in other smaller countries.

South Asia remains important for India not just for trade and connectivity but also strategically and geopolitically.

Enhanced cooperation and summit level talks complemented with Back channel diplomacy and technological engagements can go a long way.

20. It is argued that China's BRI has resulted in unsustainable debt for infrastructure deals ~~deals~~ in several ~~countries~~ continents countries across continents and it is a part of debt trap diplomacy. Discuss.

Debt trap diplomacy refers to practices of giving loans, extending financial grants to developing and least developed countries at terms which makes them it unviable to pay back, thus forcing such countries to fall in debt traps.



BRI and debt trap diplomacy

(1) China has been taking up infrastructure development projects across countries which

are relatively in dire needs for infrastructure financing. eg: Recent Montenegro crisis

(2) These loans are extended for unviable projects which makes it difficult for countries to pay back on harsh terms.

(3) Often in case of default, China takes control of various strategic points within these countries eg: areas of Pamir's knot in Tajikistan, Hambantota port in Sri Lanka etc.

(4) Such infrastructure financing is also at times aimed at targeting India's projects and ties eg: India lost Chabahar port and Farzad Gas Block deals with Iran while China extended 25 year trade deal with Iran.

(5) Infrastructure deals of this kind also lead to increase in hidden debt in the world economy and virtual domination of China over other countries.

(6) Debt trap diplomacy of China has also

been attacking various of India's strategic concerns eg: BRI project through PoK.

Alternatives available for sustainable financing

- (1) Instead of unequal bilateral financing, countries should shift their focus towards getting access to multilateral bank's finance eg ADB, WB, AIIB, NDB etc.
- (2) Blue Dot Network and Paris Club for infrastructure financial should come up with more affordable & accessible finance model.
- (3) Focus should be towards capacity building instead of distribution of freebies when it comes to infrastructure projects.

In the current scenario where there exist heavy focus on multi-lateralism and free trade agreements, countries of the world need to remain conscious of debt trap diplomacy taken up China and others in the name of financing.