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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	262678
Center		Date	

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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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 आपका प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. 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 Ayog was established by the 16th Lok Sabha government in 2015, replacing the old Planning Commission.

STRUCTURE :

- NITI Ayog consists of Prime Minister as the Chairman and 4 ex-officio Cabinet Ministers.
- It consists of 2 full-time and 2 part time members each.
- Governing Council consists of chief ministers of all states, governors of states under President rule, administrators of union territories.
- Regional council consists of local regional ministers to look after local issues.
- Innovation Hub and Team India Hub are 2 parts of NITI Ayog.

Functions:

- It is an advisory body which looks after the overall planning for economic, political and social development.
- Ensures cooperative as well as competitive federalism
- Checks performance of states through its various indices like ease of doing business, farmers reforms index, logistics index etc.

Contemporary Relevance

- Its approach is better than erstwhile Planning Commission as it focuses on bottom-up approach.
- It is only an advisory body, so it should also take some financial powers to strengthen its presence.
- Overall, it has catered objectively ensuring inclusive development through equal participation of every state.

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।

In India, more than 3.5 crore cases are pending as per the latest studies.

The Supreme Court of India has emphasized upon setting up of 'Fast Track' courts in order to give quick and timely justice to citizens.

~~Though~~ a Fast Track Court can reduce the burden of existing judicial system. It can also incorporate experts from related fields in order to make in-depth analysis of case and better judgement consequently.

The establishment of Fast Track Courts like tax benches is though a good step in reducing pendency but it has not been

able to achieve its objectives as such.

Even after the introduction of Fast Track Courts, the speed of delivering justice has not improved much. This is evident from the case clearance rate of 88 as per the economic survey.

This shows that number of pending cases is still rising every year.

In order to make the concept of 'Fast Track Courts' successful, focus should be on adequate infrastructure, good appointment criteria, time bound judgement and less cases of appeals.

These steps are important to ensure genuine justice to the victimised as under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

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।

According to Economic Survey, more than 85% of the ~~total~~ ~~are~~ pending cases belong to lower judiciary.

Challenges faced by lower judiciary:

- i) Lack of adequate infrastructure to carry out proceedings
- ii) Large number of vacancies.
- iii) Slower rate of case disposal.
- iv) Administrative inefficiencies of lower court
- v) Frequent appeals against their judgements
- vi) Poor investigation and low conviction rate.

All the above challenges create hindrances in providing quick, timely and genuine justice to citizens.

Measures to enhance Productivity:

- i) Fill out the vacancies (more than 8000 as per economic survey)
- ii) ~~the~~ All India Courts and Tribunal Service - to carry out administrative functions
- iii) Investing on lower court infrastructure
- iv) Use of technology - going digital to quicken out the court processes.
- v) Faster delivery of cases so as to have a case clearance rate of above hundred.
- vi) Appointing experts to give quick and analytically correct judgements.

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 मंवीक्षा की प्रक्रिया को औपचारिक बनाने की आवश्यकता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

The Supreme Court of India has established 'Rule of Law' as the basic structure which is very important to uphold good democratic principles.

'Rule of Law' vs 'Rule by the Law' :

The 'Rule of Law' aims at establishing just and fair laws to protect the liberty and rights of the citizens.

Whereas 'Rule by the Law' means laws which can be arbitrary and opposed to democracy.

NEED : The aim of post-legislative scrutiny is to eliminate 'Rule by the Law' so as to ensure that

there is no scope of arbitrariness.

The fundamental law is to ensure democratic rights of citizens and to check that such ~~it~~ rules follow the principles of natural justice also (Due Process of Law).

Post-legislative scrutiny will enhance the accountability of Parliament and will also bring detailed analysis and expertise and hence will ensure people's rights.

Various tools like people's opinions, experts discussions, Parliamentary committees, etc. can be used to facilitate post-legislative scrutiny.

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।

Artificial Intelligence refers to the various cognitive functions performed by a machine like thinking, processing information and decision making.

Potential of AI :

- India is a diverse country, socially as well as geographically.
- Different people have different aspirations and requirements and hence it is important for government to consider all such factors while formulating policies.
- Such policy formulation is only possible with AI which can process such a diverse information and can help to develop different policies for different regions.

E-governance and AI:

- i) Selection of beneficiaries for different schemes based on historical data
- ii) Check even project implementation and funding leakages from head offices only.
- iii) Establish a huge database for policy formulation.
- iv) Combine data from different ministries (data analytics) e.g. Samagra Vedika Abhiyan of Telangana
- v) Quicker and better decision making.
- vi) Sector specific benefits like agricultural knowledge, monsoon prediction, water management etc.

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।

With the increase in socio-economic legislations, citizens' rights over government services has increased manifold times.

But such services are of limited benefits if the grievance redressal mechanism is not appropriate.

Various Reforms Introduced :

- i) Introduction of concept of citizen Charter.
- ii) Social audit
- iii) Right to Information Act
- iv) Establishment of various tribunals under Article 323 A and 323 B.
- v) Fast Track Courts
- vii) Various appellate tribunals.

Limited Effectiveness :

- Number of pending cases is more than 3.5 crore (~85% in lower courts)
- Delayed justice
- Poor alternate dispute settlement system and its awareness. (ADRs)
- Government as the largest litigant.
- Non-adherence to RTI, social audit etc.

In order to enhance good governance, quick redressal mechanisms should be emphasized upon along with the maximum use of ADRs.

Sevottam Model of ARC II also calls for redressal mechanism as one of the major pillars of good governance.

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।

In India, human trafficking as an organised crime business is still prevalent at high rates and government has failed to curb it besides Constitution strongly opposing it under Article 23.

Factors responsible for trafficking :

- i) Porous borders which makes it easy for traffickers to take them away.
- ii) Poor governance or local instability which favours such organised crime.
- iii) High Demand for trafficked people within as well as outside the country.
- iv) Lack of awareness amongst innocents who easily get lured by traffickers.

Steps taken by government :

- i) legislations such as Anti-Trafficking acts which prohibit such practices and provides for strict punishments.
- iii) Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) to keep a check over the movement of traffickers on porous borders.
- iii) Spreading of awareness with the help of various civil society elements.
- iv) Check over money laundering through international collaborations (Financial Action Task Force).

Government should use Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence to curb this menace in the long run.

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।

Every year, we witness a variety of vector borne diseases like dengue, malaria, chikungunya etc. which are basically related to water and hygiene factors.

Factors for their emergence :

- i) Poor hygiene practices.
- ii) Open defecation especially in rural areas
- iii) Standstill water - host for mosquitoes
- iv) Poor diagnosis or surveillance facilities
- v) Lack of health professionals in remote areas to make people aware about the problem
- vi) Hospital acquired infections in certain cases.

Measures for effective control.

- i) Use of technology - big data analytics to find out 'hot areas' of epidemics
- ii) Dedicated health cadre in remote areas for knowledge dissemination.
- iii) Timely diagnostic facilities
- iv) Covering body to the extent possible and maintaining good hygiene practices.
- v) Change water in 'coolers' and use of mosquito repellent creams.

Strategies like 'National Mission on Malaria Elimination' will only be successful if awareness as well as hygiene is maintained especially in rural areas.

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।

During Cold War era, India was inclined more towards USSR and Indonesia towards US, which actually resulted in bleak relations between the two countries.

NEW REGIONAL REALITIES :

- i) Dominance of China through its cheque book diplomacy.
- ii) Increased focus on development of Indo-Pacific region.
- iii) Japan's initiative of 'Asia-Africa Growth Corridor'.
- iv) China's forced rule over South China Sea.
- v) ~~Withdrawal~~ Withdrawal of US from global footprint.

Importance of India-Indonesia relations:

- i) Limited trade till now — great scope to improve in future.
 - ii) Increased connectivity to boost tourism in both countries.
 - iii) Ensuring sea lines of communication and regional stability.
 - iv) Indonesia as a part of 'Act East' policy and the corridor towards Pacific countries.
- India aims for SAHAR (Security and Growth of AU in the region) and this is ensured through various exercises like Indian Ocean Rim Association, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium etc.
 - Indonesia has recently granted access to Sabang island to India which is a great strategic location and shows the level of trust, the two countries are showing and should continue in future.

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।

Since Independence, India and Nepal have always shown positive relations, latter resorting to former in various global issues and increased trust level between the two.

Barriers in Indo-Nepal relations:

- i) China factor - Increased involvement of China and its investment in Nepal.
- ii) Treaty of Peace and Friendship - Nepal wants to bring changes to this treaty.
- iii) Constitutional crisis - Blockade by Madhesia lead to negative sentiments amongst Nepalese for Indians.
- iv) Border Issues - Change in the course of river Kalapani which

leads to border issues.

v) Perous borders - resulting in infiltration and organised crime.

- It is important for India to stop looking Nepal from China's lens and respect its sovereignty to engage with other countries.
- India should continue to use soft power through high level leadership visits and use of ~~the~~ platforms like BIMSTEC, SAARC etc.
- Disaster relief of 750m\$ was a good move in the process of 'Net Development Assistance' and such moves will continue to bring results in the long run.

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।

The major part of any civil society is various pressure groups and interest groups which try to keep a check on government and influence its policies in their own favour.

Difference: Interest groups refers to people who want to maximize their own interest through interventions in government decision making process.

Pressure groups are ~~the~~ larger ones and have broad scope comparatively. They need not work for their own interest but for the overall welfare of society.

Ways to influence government policies:

- i) Propagandizing of their interests through media and social sites to make people talk in their favour. This leads to government eventually hearing their voices and meeting to their needs.
- ii) lobbying - This means making ~~not~~ use of internal contacts and use of power to make legislators make policies in their favours (done majority through financial support)
- iii) Electioneering - It means pooling out fund and resources to make the candidate of your choice to win the elections, whom

you believe could make policies in
your favour.

Examples.

- Propaganda technique is majenily used by social activists like Chipko Movement, Narmada Bachao Andolan etc.
- Lobbying is done by big business giants like Reliance support to BJP.
- Electioneering biggest example is Bal Thackeray who never contested an election himself but always ~~made~~ tried to make his candidate win. Other examples are again big industrialists like Birsa Advani group.

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।

73rd and 74th Amendment of Indian Constitution aimed to bring grassroot democracy in India which today is going through certain issues.

ISSUES :

- i) Devolution of power - Lack of power devoluted by state governments has not led these institutions to work to their full potential.
- ii) Ambiguity over functional aspects
- iii) Lack of skilled human resources to carry out local functions efficiently.
- iv) Lack of funds and other resources

- v) Power in the hands of few rich local people - which is against the concept of grassroot democracy.
- vi) No outcome check or feedback system
- vii) hegemony of bureaucrats towards state departments and lack of dedication to local government institutions.
- viii) Overlapping of functions of state departments and local institutions.

MEASURES :

- i) Proper devolution of powers by the state government and establishing clear specific goals for local institutions
- ii) Financial stability through better revenue collection by local bodies like property tax. Currently rural bodies collect less than 10% of potential

tax revenue.

- iii) Training of local service providers
- iv) Feedback mechanism through social audit or citizen's charter.
- v) Outcome based rewards as proposed by Sumit Base Committee.
- vi) More powers to Gram Sabha rather than just a rubber stamp

It is important to undertake above reforms to strengthen local institutional framework and better service delivery to the remotest areas.

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।

India ranks 6th ~~top~~ in global RTI ranking and this was possible only due to the autonomy and the transparency of this institution.

The recent amendment of RTI act 2005, which provides for appointment of public information commissioners by the central government.

The amendment also gives power to central government to alter the terms of service including salary and removal.

UNDERMINING THE AUTHORITY :

- The amendment will encroach the independence of information

Commissioners.

- The fear of removal or transfers will not allow them to perform their duty with efficiency.
- This creates scope for corruption and hiding information from the public which is against the very objective of the Act.
- The amendment is also against the federal democratic principles.

On the other side, it is also possible that mere power to Central government might not affect the overall functioning as it has nothing to do with daily operations.

Information officers can

continue to perform their duty as
earlier and chances are they might
perform better due to lack of political
interference by state governments.

The Centre should focus on
upholding the true motive of the
Act and aim at complete transparency
and enhancing accountability rather
than pithy political motives.

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।

At the time of framing of constitution, it was decided that each state would have proportionate number of seats to Lok Sabha as per its population (one seat for one million population)

Delimitation in India is done by Delimitation Commission which has been established four times till now. The Commission's task is to provide proportionate seats to Lok Sabha.

But the census of 1971 has been frozen as the basis for ~~the~~ seat allocations. This was done to control population explosion.

Similarly, census of 2001 is

used to delimitate constituencies in State Legislative Assemblies.

But such freezing of 1971 Census is not a true representation of Indian population in today's time.

CURRENT DEBATE :

- i) The debate is whether the time has come to reconstitute seats for Lok Sabha as per the current population.
- ii) ~~The~~ Currently, there is a huge gap in the extremes of population under one constituency (from 50,000 to 30 lacs).
- iii) Delimitation means punishing those states who have controlled population.
- iv) Delimitation means more legislators which can also lead to difficulty.

in Lok Sabha functioning.

- v) Today's population is around 1.4 billion as against 54 crores (1971 census)

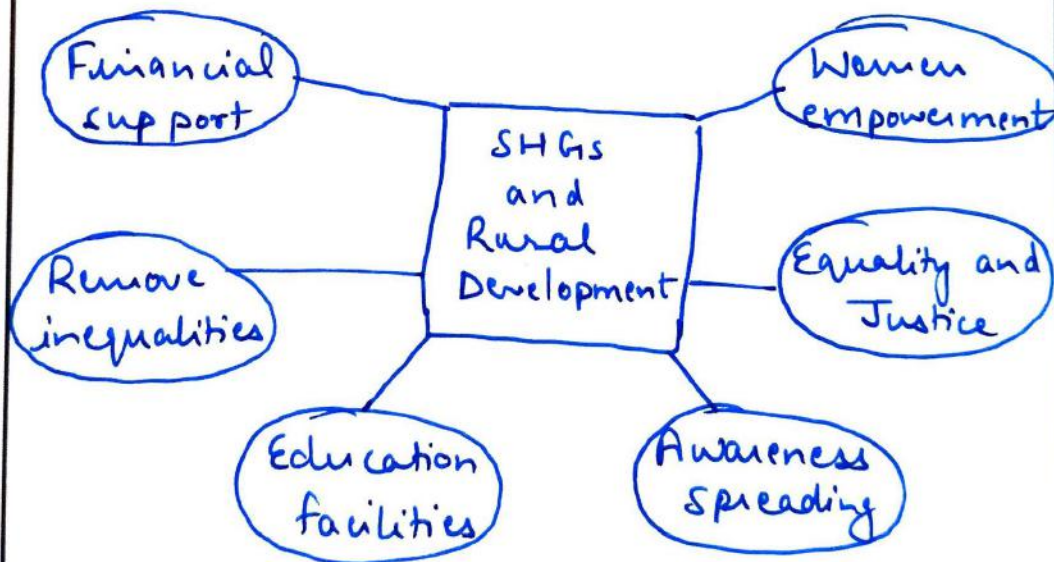
It is necessary to bring true democracy into picture and value of vote of every citizens should be made equal.

2026 is the last year of current freezing and reconstitution of seats should be done after that as per the latest population numbers -

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 हाथिए 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।

Self Help groups means the association of people who pool resources for a common objective and involve in productive activities plus assist each other during time of distress.



The biggest benefit of SHGs has been the upliftment of

downtrodden especially women

EXAMPLES - success story of Lijjat Poojapad
and Rural Education and Action Development
(READ) program of Ariyalur district
Tamil Nadu

Constraints faced by SHGs:

- i) Lack of skills and appropriate knowledge
- ii) Lack of financial resources to expand their activities.
- iii) Lack of government as well as local support.
- iv) low institutional credit. ~~and~~

MEASURES REQUIRED :

- It is important for government to provide materialistic assistance

to SHGs so as to enhance their productivity.

- Expansion of SHG-bank linkage scheme to provide financial resources at cheaper rates
- Use of NGOs to enhance such groups in backward areas.

Success story : Dungarpur district, Rajasthan
- the local DC turned tribal women into green entrepreneurs through training and selling of solar lamps.

Such efforts should be replicated in other districts in order to leverage the benefits of such groups.

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।

As per the studies, the use of toilets have increased from mere 40% in 2014 to more than 90% in 2018.

This has been made possible through the construction of more than 9.5 crore toilets in the past five years.

As per the study in India, there has been a reduction of 70% vector borne diseases due to Swachh Bharat interventions.

UNICEF also claims that ODF villages save around 50000/- rupees annually on health expenses.

But this is just the one

side of the picture.

SOME NEGATIVE FACTS:

- According to CPCB, 63% of toilet waste goes untreated into rivers.
- In Uttar Pradesh, only 28% of toilets ~~have~~ ~~sewage~~ were attached to a sewage system and remaining fecal sludge has nowhere to go.
- Around 3000 million litres of untreated waste goes into Ganga on daily basis.
- Apprehensions exist that people still continue to defecate in open besides construction of toilets due to behavioral issues.

MEASURES REQUIRED

- Mere construction of toilets is not enough. It is important to make use of nudge economics and promote behavioral change (Darwaza Band Campaign)
- Connectivity of toilets to proper sewage systems.
- Treatment plants to ensure that untreated waste is not disposed into rivers.
- Waste to energy plants in order to make profits out of waste.

It is important for government to focus on disposal of waste aspect and bring necessary regulatory and institutional changes accordingly.

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।

In order to reduce infant mortality or child mortality, government of India introduced Mission Indradhanush.

FEATURES :

- It aims at complete immunization of children below two years of age and pregnant ladies.
- It covers vaccination for various diseases like measles, rubella virus, Hepatitis B, polio, diphtheria etc.

SUCCESS SO FAR : The mission has been successful in reducing mortalities to some extent and has

increased full immunization from 50% to 70% of children.

CHALLENGES:

- The mission faces the issue of lack of health professionals which can serve in remote areas.
- Lack of government spending (1.15% health expenditure of total GDP)
- No evidence based health policy and lack of data over different regions.
- Poor immunization practices due to ignorance of health professionals.

MEASURES REQUIRED :

- Government should increase its overall spending on this programme as it can help to

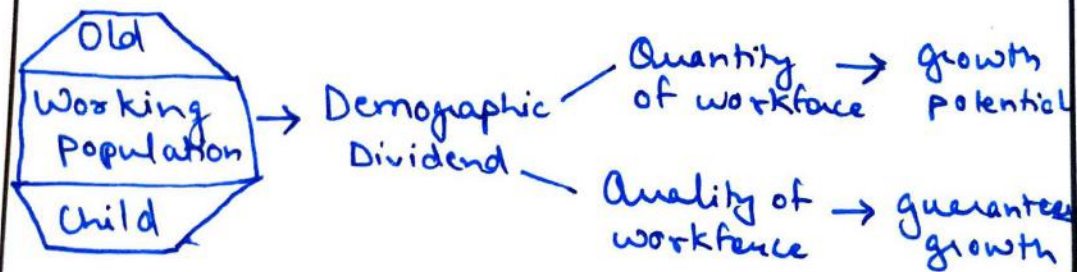
produce healthy ~~brother~~ children which is the biggest asset of the country.

- Proper health cadre who are professional enough to vaccinate people with utmost care. This can be done through proper training also.
- Health and Wellness Centres in remote areas.
- National Health Data to make evidence based policies.
- Use of digital technology to reach remote areas.

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 the Economic Survey, India is undergoing a demographic dividend which will peak in 2041 (59% workforce).



The above chart shows how it is important to have a demography which ~~has~~ is skilled enough to undertake technical jobs.

Quality of Workforce — Health
Education
Skill Development

Developing skills is one of the pillars of workforce quality.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES :

- Skill India mission
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- National Council for skill development
- ~~Start up India~~ Global Skills Park
- Indian Institute of Skills

IMPORTANCE OF SKILLING :

- Technical expertise is established
- Ground for research and innovation
- High paid jobs
- Use of technology
- Easy absorption by Market.

SKILL INDIA MISSION

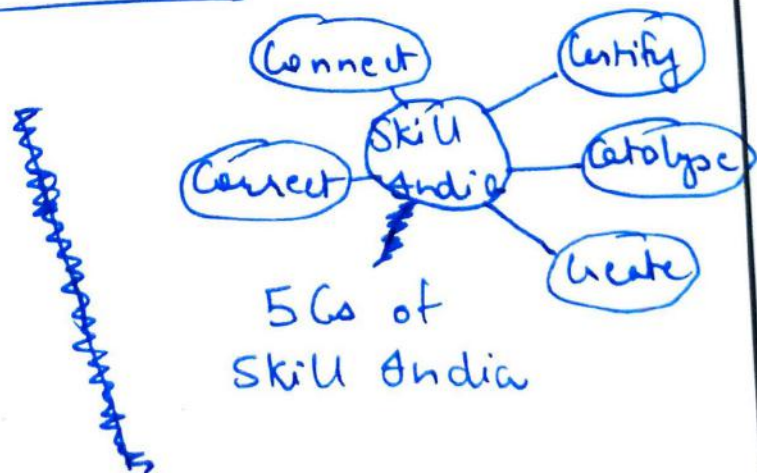
- The mission aims to skill around 100 ~~crore~~ million people by 2022.
- Institutional measures like National

Council for skill development.

Some facts - According to Indian Skills Institute, ^{only} 46% ~~only~~ of higher education graduates are employable.

- Around 4% of Indian workforce has undergone formal skill training.

In order to achieve the true objectives of 'Skill India' mission, a pool of strategies should be developed by experts, ~~cutting~~ integrating cross sector efforts and linking academia and industry.



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 गृहित करने के लिए प्रेरित किया? साथ ही, भारत-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत के समक्ष चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

The US Pentagon from recent times has started to use the term 'Indo-Pacific' which shows its importance in today's geopolitical era.

Importance of Indo-Pacific:

- Ensuring a check over China's aggressive policy (string of pearls and OBOR)
- Opportunities in terms of trade and enhanced regional stability
- Protecting sea lines of communication and access to strategic points (Malacca strait)
- Extension of 'Act East' policy.

- Linked to other initiatives like 'Asia Africa Growth Corridor' and SAGAR (security and growth of all in the region)
- ~~And~~ QUAD group (Australia, Japan, US, India) to keep a check on China.
- India's increased involvement with countries like US and Japan (Malabar exercise).

Challenges :

- i) Connectivity issues and less links with the 'Connecting country' i.e. Indonesia.
- ii) Withdrawal of US from global footprint
- iii) Lack of bilateral relations with Pacific countries

India should focus on establishing
a rule based, peaceful, prosperous
and transparent Indo-Pacific
region and continue to embrace
its objectives through the use of
different multilateral platforms.

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 countries aims to embrace a common Eurasian identity and it also provides a platform where countries can settle bilateral issues.

- Bishkek Declaration (2014) aimed at converging interests of reducing terrorism, peace in Afghanistan etc.
- Last year, Quindao was also a success and Indian prime minister introduced a 'SECURE' strategy for SCO region.
- SECURE - security of citizens, environmental concerns, connectivity,

respecting sovereignty, establishing peace.

This SECURE strategy tells that in order to be a successful group it is important to set aside bilateral issues and focus on common interests.

Role of SCO in enhancing India's interest:

- Bilateral talks with China and our concerns about OBOR.
- Better relations with Central Asian countries and access to their energy resources.
- Better connectivity (International North South Transport Corridor)
- Platform to reduce issues with Pakistan also.
- SCO can act as a platform

to increase India's presence in Central Asian region which has been limited till now.

- Platform to discuss on Afghan peace.

The above benefits show how SCO can play an important role in establishing better economic as well as political ties especially during the time when US is withdrawing from global footprint.