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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

Name of Candidate	ASHISH KUMAR		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	298400
Center	ONLINE	Date	16-9-19

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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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।

NITI Aayog was formed via an executive resolution replacing the Planning Commission.

Structure

- ~~→ Team India Wing~~
- Headed by Prime Minister, CEO is appointed by government.
- Team India Wing consisting of chief ministers and other state representatives.
- Research and Technical Wing

Function

- Provide information for evidence based decision making.
- Promote bottom up approach by progressively adding plans from village level.
- Ensuring cooperative and competitive

Federalism.

- Promote climate of innovation in the country
- Shift to 'Dhaval' approach to development

Contemporary relevance

- Hires experts to give advice on technical matters.
- Bottom up approach is in tune with people's aspirations.
- Atal India Mission has helped build innovation ecosystem.
- Reports like Healthy States, Progressive India, etc. give government vital information
- It also engages with world organisations (e.g. WHO for SATM) to ensure international inputs.
- Next step is to give it constitutional status.

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

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

Fast Track Courts (FTCs) were set up to provide speedy yet effective justice, especially for long pending cases.

ADVANTAGES

- Reduces burden on traditional courts.
- Has helped in expedition clearance of certain cases.
- Expected not to follow cumbersome procedures.

But this hasn't happened in reality as:

- They haven't followed a uniform, faster approach leading to delays.
- Depend on states for funding, thus leading to shortage.

- Don't have separate infrastructure, judges, thus leading to delays.
- Inadequate no. of FTCs set up. often 1-2 judges handle many cases.

→ Adhoc nature of functioning.

Thus steps like:

- Allocating more funds
- Providing separate infrastructure
- Using retired judges
- Using ICT, etc

are needed to make FTCs more effective.

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।

Lower Judiciary comprises the courts below the Supreme and High courts.

CHALLENGES

- Pendency of cases : 2.93 crore (as per National Judicial Data Grid)
- Fund : Mere 0.09% of GDP is spent on Judiciary
- Above leads to lack of adequate infrastructure
- Shortage of around 25% of judges.
- Allegations of corruption.
- Quality of judgements as judges get little time for a given case.

MEASURES

- Economic Survey 2018/19 recommends Indian court & Tribunal Services to

handle administrative matters.

→ Implementing e-courts in lower courts in union mode.

→ Life cycle analysis of cases to reduce pendency.

→ All India Judicial services as recommended by Shetty Committee.

→ 2nd ARC also recommends better allocation of funds by Centre and states to lower judiciary.

This will ensure speedier, more effective justice as envisioned in the DPSPs.

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 Parliament, State legislatures have been empowered by the ~~state~~ constitution to make laws for running the country.

Need for post-legislative scrutiny

→ Pre legislative scrutiny is done by various committees, parliament, public comments on draft Bill.

→ However, this needs follow up by post legislative scrutiny by parliamentary committees, citizens, NGOs.

→ will ensure continuous scrutiny of legislation

→ will give government inputs regarding implementation of the law on ground.

- Will provide responsive, people oriented governance.
- Enhance public awareness and participation regarding law.
- Prevent social conflicts that may arise. e.g. discussion on Forest Rights Act to address concerns of stakeholders.

This formalisation can be done in form of a committee with representatives from various sections of society, social audit, etc.

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 algorithms performing tasks generally assigned to humans.

Potential in improving e-governance

- Saves time : e.g. using AI to calculate land prices for compensation
- Saves cost in terms of human resource. e.g. ~~A~~
- check corruption : e.g. AI for data mining to check fraudulent transactions.
- Efficiency : e.g. AI can check shortage of funds via PFMS and inform government.
- People centric governance : e.g. auto verification of documents via Digi Locker.
- Improved verification of claims : e.g.

AI to check insurance claims in
a region .

Then AI can revolutionize e-governance
but it must be fully implemented
only after ensuring proper
data security (Justice BN Srikrishna
committee)

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।

(GRMs)
Grievance redressal mechanism, are
sin qua non for people centric
governance.

Reforms in GRMs

- More laws now come with
inbuilt GRMs. e.g. new consumer
protection Act
- Easy contacts via helpline
numbers.
- Dedicating separate officials on
full time basis for GRMs.
- Putting consumer representation in
GRMs.
- Publicising them
- GRMs in vernacular languages.

However their effectiveness remains
limited:

- Inadequate GRMs.

- functioning is often delayed, unresponsive. e.g. consumer courts
- Awareness regarding CRMs is still low.
- Adhoc nature of their functioning still persists.
- Culture of responsive and accountable governance still not fully imbibed within government officials.

Steps like CPGRAMs are positive steps but more steps like institutionalizing CRMs in all a/c, bodies is needed.

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।

Article 23 prohibits trafficking
of human for any purpose.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Poverty due to which people are lured to sell their children, or fall into trap of agents.
- Vulnerability of women and children
- Improper enforcement of laws
- Booming prostitution, organ trade industry.
- Child labour is another reason
- Agents use deception and fraud to target gullible targets.
- Lack of awareness regarding rights, mechanism to tackle this menace.

RECENT STEPS

- Prohibition of Trafficking Bill
that sought to impose stringent punishments on traffickers.
 - POCSO Act against Trafficking of children Act.
 - MoUs with Neighbour, France to combat trafficking.
 - Stricter border patrols to prevent cross border trafficking.
- Trafficking Bill needs to be passed after greater consultation to stop this menace.

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।

Vector Borne Diseases are those spread by vector like mosquitoes, flies, etc. e.g. - recent outbreak of Nipah Virus in Kerala, Zika in Rajasthan, Japanese Encephalitis in UP.

FACTORS

- Unhygienic surrounding that provide breeding ground for vectors.
- Inadequate fumigation drives to kill vectors.
- low immunity due to poverty
- Lack of proper Primary Health care to tackle the menace.
- Early detection is an issue.
- Lack of awareness regarding symptoms, causes, etc among people.

MEASURES

- Proper implementation of National Vector Borne disease control programme.
- Swachh Bharat to imbibe culture of cleanliness, waste management.
- Using genetic engineering. e.g. Wolbachia bacteria to sterilise mosquitoes.
- Proper nutrition via NFSA to boost immunity.
- Opening 1.5 lac Health and Wellness Centres, Jan Aardhi to ensure quick treatment.

A 'One Health' approach is needed to ensure integrated tackling of this menace.

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 share commonalities of large Muslim population, cultural connect, demographics and aspirations to be regional powers.

YEARS of NEGLECT

→ Although Indo-Indonesia relations in the beginning had a good start as India protested against Dutch colonisation, both leaders supported NAM, but they soon stagnated.

→ while Indonesia moved to a open economy via ASEAN, we remained closed and our constant conflict with neighbours didn't bode well.

ALIGNING of Regional strategic realities

- Both are way of an increasingly connective china. e.g South China sea issue.
- With growing centrality of Indo-Pacific - both countries realise need for cooperation.
- India emerging as economic power and opening up economy, has drawn both closer.
- With growing radicalisation in both countries, cooperation is a must.

This has led to cooperation like

- ~~the~~ Sabang port in Indonesia, naval exercises
- ASEAN-India connect
- MOUs on defence, terrorism, economy.

→

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।

Indo - Nepal ties are defined by the Indo - Nepal Friendship treaty.

ATTEMPTS at resetting ties

- India has lowered its stance on Madhesi issue, telling them to follow law of land.
- We have tried to improve implementation of our projects there and extend line of credit to reduce loan dependence.
- Invited new Nepal PM for visit.
- Not using China factor ~~in~~ conditional for every discussion.

However barriers still exist:

- Perception of India acting like a big brother.

- Overreliance of India leads to insecurity.
- China Factor .. Recently China's ~~in~~ rail link to China, road construction, Nepal supporting BRI are issues.
- Debt burden to India.
- Events of racism against Nepali nation have sullied Indian image.
- Blockade during Madhesi issue is still a thorn in relations.
- Allegation of Indian interference in election by opposition.

India must follow the Neighbourhood first doctrine to ensure a politically stable, harmonious relations.

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 सविस्तर वर्णन कीजिए जिनके माध्यम से दबाव समूह भारत में सरकारी निर्णयों और नीति-निर्माण को प्रभावित करते हैं।

Pressure groups (PG) refer to an organised group of people that seek to influence public opinion on government action. e.g. ADR

Interest group (IG) refers to groups that promote certain 'interests' of a set of people. e.g. FICCI

PGs	IGs
- Organised / less organised - can have broad objectives e.g. Indis against corruption - All PGs are not IGs - May seek to mobilise public opinion on an issue	- Organised - Narrow objectives - All IGs are PGs - Not necessarily

WAYS in which PCs influence policy making

- Influencing public opinion to put pressure on the government.
e.g. India against corruption
- Influencing administrators
- Influencing MPs via lobbying.
e.g. FICCI is consulted while policy making.
- Influencing parliamentarians
- Provide vital information that helps in evidence based policy making.
e.g. Ashoka Research Foundation provides information on foreign policy issues
- Raised awareness among people regarding rights. e.g. MKSS for RTI
- PCs may also contest elections not to win, but just increase

their popularity.

→ Influential pressure groups like business ones may even use money power to influence policy.

Pressure groups are a vital way for groups to get their views across in a democracy. However better accountability is needed.

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 government institutions were established by the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts to bring democracy at the grass roots.

ISSUES

- Funds :
 - Depend on devolution
 - Grants are usually of h/d nature
 - Thin resource generating domain
- Functions :
 - States don't devolve enough power
 - political and bureaucratic interference in functioning
- functionaries : ill trained
- Conceptual vagueness : as to whether they represent democracy at grass

root level, an institution of LSC or administrative divisions

→ Multiplicity of agencies especially in case of urban LSCs (municipality, corporation boards, etc.)

→ Parastatal often undermine their authority.

→ Improper aggregation of local plans then no proper district development plan can come up.

MEASURES to improve PSD

→ Fund { widening tax domain
Rational user charges
innovative financing
mechanisms like municipal
bonds, tourist fees

→ Devolution of new functions.

→ Training modules for LSC functionaries

→ 2nd ARC recommended co production of community services like waste management to improve PSD.

- NITI Aayog recommends giving
change of power, water to urban
LSGs.
- Outcome audits to be institutionalized
to check performance of LSG
bodies.
- District admin can help in
capacity building of LSGs.
- Grievance redressal mechanism
with Gram Panchayats

This will ensure responsive,
people centric PSD transforming
citizens into demanding citizens.

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 was passed to bring 'sunshine' to administration and bring a new age of transparency.

RECENT AMENDMENT

- Information commissioners not to be equal to election commissioners in stature.
- Their pay ~~and~~ to be decided completely by government.
- Their term also by government.

How it undermines authority and weakens Act

- Affects security of tenure.
- Independence of Information commissioners will be affected as they will be at mercy of ~~election~~

government.

→ Right to Information may be delegated to governments wherein.

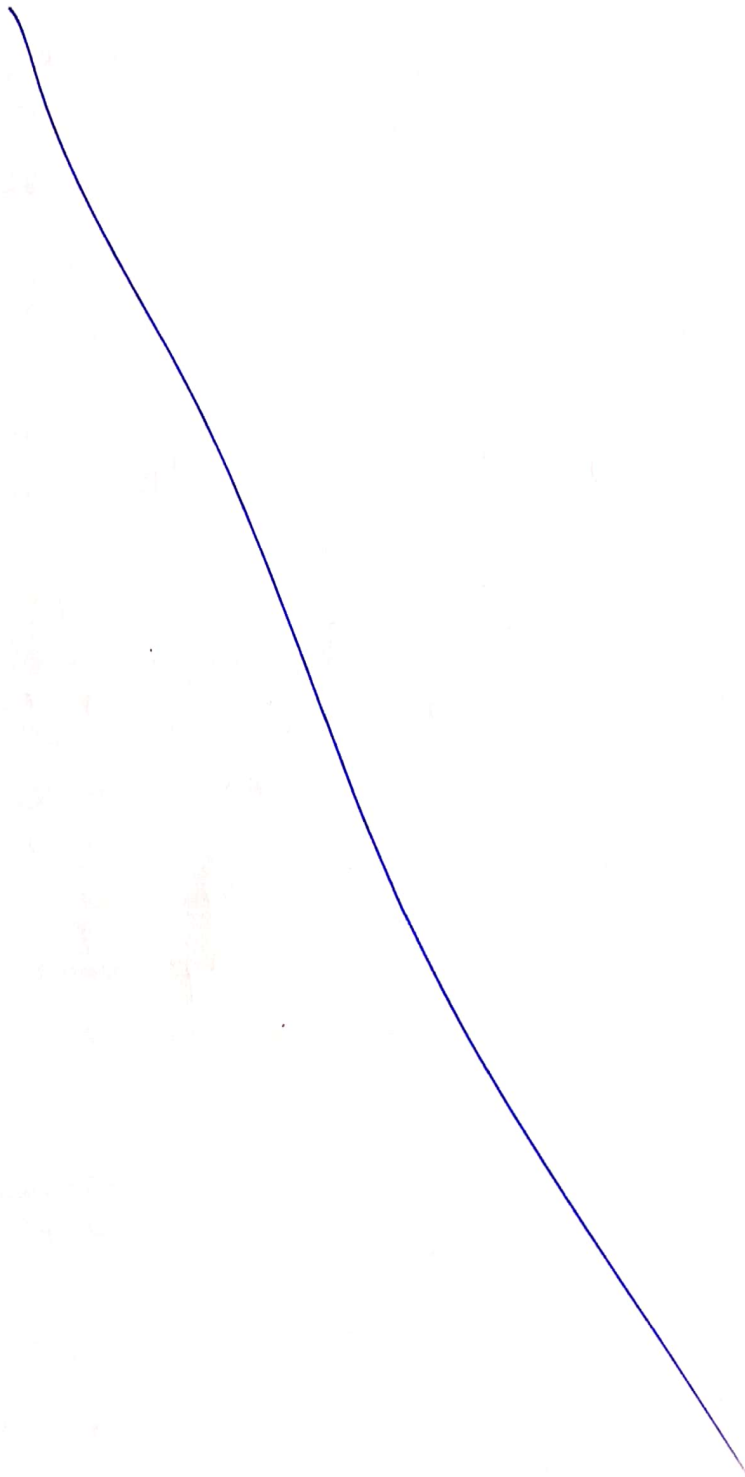
Then a holistic discussion is needed in order to strengthen RTI by:

→ Giving constitutional status to Information Commission.

→ Regular appointments

→ ~~For~~ Stringent punishments for non disclosure

→ Removal process should be by appointment committee



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 refers to the act of reorganizing constituencies such that :

→ Ratio between No of seats in state and population remains same throughout country.

→ Ratio between seats and population in each constituency remains same throughout state.

This is done by the commission as established by delimitation act as per power of Parliament under Article 327.

DEBATES

→ Outdated : Some argue that freezing population at 1971 levels is unrepresentative of present levels.

→ It goes against principle of
1 person 1 vote 1 value. e.g. ~~a~~
a value of vote in Chandni
chowk may be lesser than one in
Daryaveh.

⇒ Especially after 61st amendment,
1985, number of voters have increased
dramatically.

→ Other say freezing at 1971
level is valid and helps incentivise
states that have taken population
control measures.
e.g. Kerala, Tamil Nadu

→ Another debate is regarding size
of house after delimitation.
It is argued that the Lok Sabha
is already unmanageable, and
may become more so.

→ A debate is there regarding
how delimitation of constituencies
among states - how SECs have

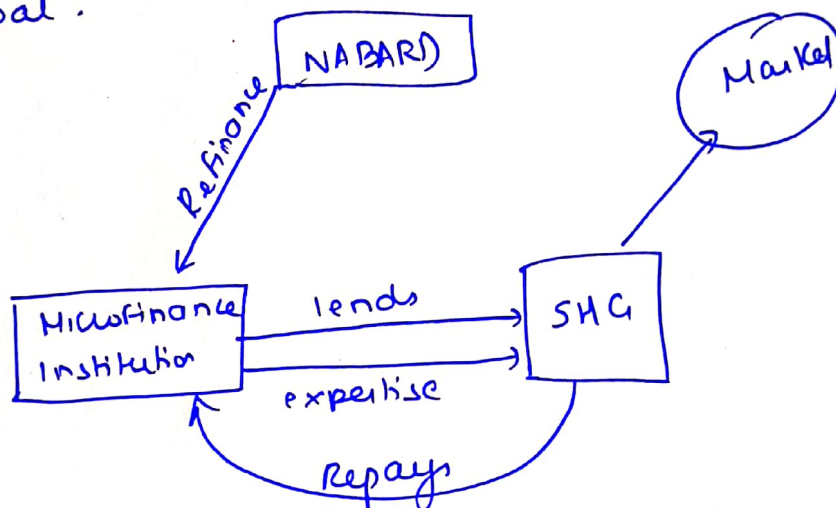
no say in it.

Delimitation should then be done
only after taking into consideration
interests of all stakeholders.

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।

SHGs refer to self governed groups of people with similar socio economic background who have come together for a common goal.



VEHICLES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- SHGs are heavily involved in agri activities, selling products. (e.g. Lijjat Papad)
- Help in financial inclusion
- Improve bargaining power

- Help in fulfilling economic (entrepreneurs), social (education, health) needs of members.

UPLIFTMENT OF MARGINALIZED

- Usually women are members.
→ financially empowers women, reducing patriarchy.
→ SCs, STs also form major part
→ Gives unbanked access to formal credit.
→ ~~SHGs~~ SHGs are in large quantities in rural areas then giving them access to local economic chain.

PROBLEMS

- Often credit is inadequate and they still need to depend on informal sources.
→ Lack of product diversification in form of micro insurance.
→ Most SHGs (48%) are in South India.

- Most SHGs are in agricultural activities
- SHGs may still be dominated by influential group.
- Politicization of SHGs

MEASURES

- Training of members in financial account maintenance, etc
- Gender sensitization of officials dealing with women SHGs
- Product diversification
- Increasing awareness regarding SHGs as a tool of economic empowerment.

SHGs are a monumental step in empowering the lower rung of society and achieving multiple SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.

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 Abhiyan was launched to fulfill Gandhi's dream of a clean India.

CONSTRUCTION OF TOILETS

- 7 crore toilets have been built till now.
- Twin pit toilets are being promoted.

How toilets are a solution

- Gender empowerment as women don't need to risk their dignity to go out to relieve at night
- Removing open defecation reduces chances of diseases, aesthetical spoilage of landscape.

However toilets are merely one

part of the solution and equal emphasis is needed on other facets like:

→ Solid Waste management:

Although 100% collection in 1/5th wards is done, more action is needed. (also processing needed)

→ Eradicating Manual scavenging:

Recent death of 5 scavengers in Delhi shows work needs to be done

→ Sustaining behaviour change

Although 94% of people that have toilets use them, continued efforts are needed to guarantee usage.

ODF+ and ODF++ are to incentivise sustained change.

→ ~~Excess~~ Sewer networks need to be built. e.g. recently built in PPP mode at Varanasi

→ Bringing a culture of Swachhata among government departments, private

organisations, people.

- Waste to energy to incentivise
Swachhata.

Moreover as Economic Survey 2018/19
recommends we must move towards
Sudai, Swastha and Swachha Bharat
to achieve SDG 6, 4.

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 refers to an evidence based vaccine intervention to prevent 12 vaccine preventable diseases. (e.g. Diphtheria, Tetanus)

Salient Features

- Aim at eliminating the disease threat by 90% by 2020.
- Action against 12 vaccine preventable diseases.
- Engagement with ASHA workers, local officials to ensure coverage.
- Monitoring vaccination coverage.
- Aim at demand creation for vaccination.

Challenges in implementation

- Resistance to vaccination among some groups. e.g. Tribals
- Lack of awareness regarding benefits of vaccination.
- Ill trained officials at local levels
- Lack of proper monitoring mechanism to check vaccination coverage.
- Improper supply of vaccines especially in remote areas.

MEASURES

- Improving awareness regarding benefits of vaccination through mass media, gram panchayats.
- Training modules for capacity building at local level officials.
- Making available vaccines via Jan Aarogya centres, Health and Wellness Centres.

- Using mechanism like MCTS
(Mother Child Tracking Mechanism)
for better monitoring.
- Greater R&D on vaccines and
increasing coverage of diseases.
- Progress has been made as vaccine
coverage has increased to 68% (2018)
but more steps like above are
needed to ensure Article 47 of
saving health of people.

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 मृजन के महत्व का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। इस संबंध में, स्किल इंडिया मिशन अपने अधिदेश में कितना सफल रहा है।

skilling refers to equipping a person with certain skillset to perform a particular task.

IMPORTANCE

→ In light of changing demographic structure

- India's population has highest number of youth, thus their skilling is essential to realise demographic dividend.

- Number of dependents will increase, thus skilling can prevent them from being an economic burden. 12 million enter labor ^{force} every year.

→ changing economic structure

- With our service sector dominated economy, skilling essential.
- With our target of Make in India, skilling is needed to propel manufacturing.

- With people moving away from agriculture, skilling is necessary to maintain food security

SKILL INDIA'S SUCCESS

→ Aimed at skilling 500 million people by 2022, building more skilling centres, recognition of prior learning, employment oriented skilling.

→ Achievements

- Skilled 7 million people every year on average
- Many ITIs, SSCs have been set up.
- Has organized Skill Melas, opened online skilling modules.
- Skilling minorities via schemes like USTAD, Nai Roshni have helped in empowerment.

However more needs to be done:

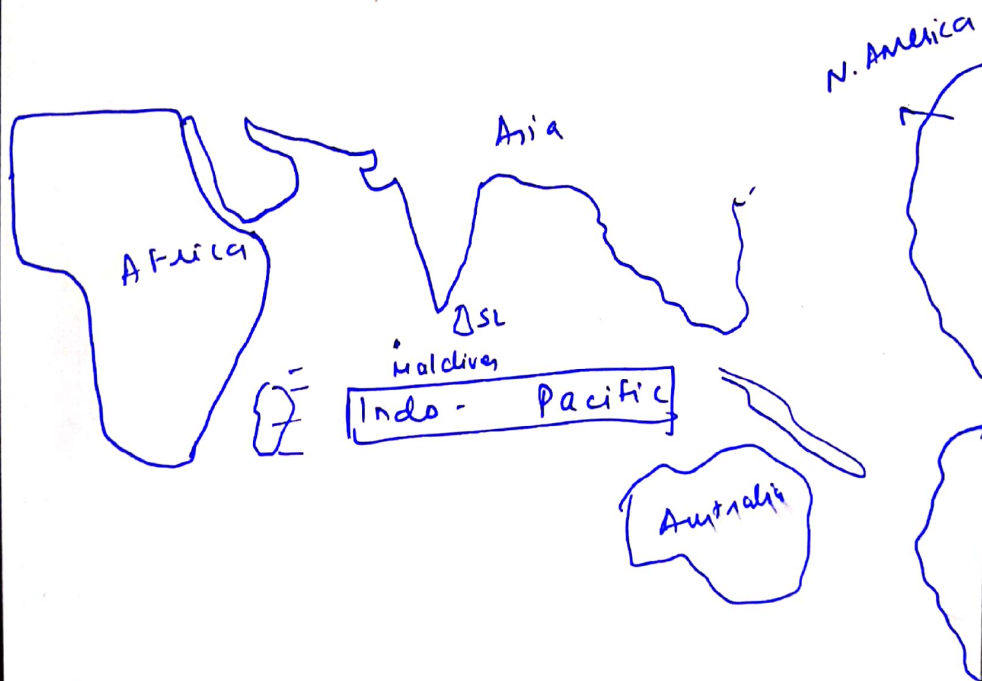
- Pace of skilling inadequate
- ~~the~~ Incentivising private sector in skilling.
- Reforming SSCs as per Sharda Panel Committee
- Skills on wheels initiative (like in Brazil) to ensure skilling in remote areas.

This can ensure achievement of SDG 1 and 8.

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।

The Asia Pacific has recently been named the Indo Pacific signalling a shift in geo political construct.



Reason why India created a dedicated Indo-Pacific division:

- Realizes centrality of the Indo Pacific geopolitical construct.
- will ensure a convergent approach to the Indo-Pacific.
- Can better reply to documents/statements regarding Indo-Pacific by other nations.
- Indicates our vision of being a global power.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of coherent strategy by countries regarding Indo-Pacific
It is seen more as a western construct to counter China.
- China Factor: China's activities in form of String of Pearls (bases at Sri Lanka, ~~state~~ Pakistan, etc.) ~~South~~ pose a threat.
- India's weaknesses to become a credible power and net security

providers in the region because of constrained finance, unwilling neighbour.

→ Island states : strained relations with Seychelles (Annapurna Island), Maldives as a threat in Indo Pacific.

→ Non traditional threats like piracy, smuggling, sea terrorism

→ India isn't part of vital groupings to engage with countries in the region. e.g. APEC

→ Domestic politics whereby the notion of India as a 'junior' partner to the USA isn't liked.

Despite the significance of the construct, India needs to tread cautiously to ensure that it results in benefits to India and doesn't become a tool for western interests.

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।

India got admission to the SCO in 2018 thereby allowing it to better engage with Eurasia.

CHALLENGES - Bilateral

- Differences between India and Pakistan can hampering the organisation.
- Differences between India and China especially over BRI issue.
- Difference may arise between Iran and India over in reducing Iranian oil imports.

Various geopolitical calculations

- Russia aims to use the group to show the west that it still has powerful friends like India and China and at same time

have greater influence over Central Asia.

→ China : to counter West + engage with Central Asia + with India

→ India : engage with Pakistan regarding terrorism + advocate concerns regarding BRI + engage with Russia and with Central Asia.

How SCO can enhance India's interest in Russian region?

→ Platform to engage with Russia especially for diversifying our economic cooperation.

→ with China, Russia, C. Asia to ensure security via mechanism like RATS (Regional Anti Terrorism structure)

→ Countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan etc have vital resources like uranium, gold, rare earth minerals that are of Indian interest.

→ India can promote its participation especially in the development of Central Asian nations, Russia, China via its construction companies, banking and IT sector.

→ SCO Peace Mission (military exercise) can enhance India's role in stabilising the Eurasian region.

Thus SCO has the potential to promote sustained and convergent engagements of India with Eurasia.