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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 871)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	4120
Center	NEW DELHI	Date	29/08/2017

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	12.5		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।
2	12.5		
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17	12.5		
18	12.5		
19	12.5		
20	12.5		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. Criticism about the judiciary should be welcomed, so long as criticisms do not hamper the "administration of justice". In this context discuss whether the power of contempt of court given to the higher judiciary limits the freedom granted by Article 19(1)(a) and whether these two can be reconciled.

जब तक आलोचनाएं "न्याय के प्रशासन" में बाधा न डालें, न्यायपालिका के संबंध में आलोचनाओं का स्वागत किया जाना चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या उच्चतर न्यायपालिका को दी गई न्यायालय की अवमानना की शक्ति अनुच्छेद 19 (1) (a) द्वारा प्रदत्त स्वतंत्रता को सीमित करती है और क्या इन दोनों में सामंजस्य हो सकता है?

Judiciary being the third organ of the state and upholder and protector of fundamental rights of the citizens is to be given utmost importance as far as implementation of its judgements and verdicts are concerned.

The power of contempt of court enshrined under Article 129 and Article 142 are often discussed in context of limiting the freedom granted under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

However, the constitution itself has ensured a number of safeguards by categorizing contempt into civil and criminal contempt.

Also, the intention behind the statements and acts are ascertained before progressing on contempt proceedings.

2. Special rights are not privileges but they are granted to make it possible for minorities to preserve their identity, culture and traditions. Elaborate in the context of India with examples.

विशिष्ट अधिकार विशेषाधिकार नहीं हैं, बल्कि अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए अपनी पहचान, संस्कृति और परंपराओं के संरक्षण को संभव बनाने के लिए इन्हें प्रदान किया गया है। उदाहरण सहित भारत के संदर्भ में सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

The constitution provides special rights to minorities, both linguistic and religious to preserve their identity, culture and traditions.

Article 29 protects the interest of minorities by providing that any citizen or section of citizens have the right to conserve their distinct language, script or culture.

Article 30, often called Charter of Educational Rights, gives the minorities right to establish & administer educational institutions of their choice.

However, the recent controversy regarding minority status to Aligarh Muslim University and Tania Millia Islamia has brought this topic back in

debate. The centre alleges that the two universities were formed by Britishers & by an Act of Parliament respectively, & are not minority institutions.

Also, many institutions are trying to attain minority status to evade from the clause of 25% reservation of seats under the RTE Act for economically weaker section of society.

Article 29 and 30 are important tools to improve the status of minorities, esp. the Muslim community which is not in very good socio-economic state as depicted by Sachar Committee Report. Thus, these tools should be judiciously employed for mainstreaming the minority section and should not be used for political appeasement or self-aggrandizement.

There are many good examples like St. Stephen's College, Delhi, Loyala College, Chennai which are ensuring quality education for the section and contributing to nation-building. The same model should be reciprocated elsewhere too to work for an inclusively developed nation which stands on truly secular edifice.

3. A clear delineation of functions of local governments vis-à-vis State Governments will only strengthen the principle of subsidiarity. In this context, discuss the challenges and the reforms required for effective democratic decentralization in India.

राज्य सरकारों के साथ-साथ स्थानीय सरकारों के कार्यों के स्पष्ट आरेखण (निरूपण) से केवल अनुषंगिकता का सिद्धांत पुष्ट होगा। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में प्रभावी लोकतांत्रिक विकेंद्रीकरण के लिए आवश्यक सुधारों और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments have been the greatest exercise towards democratic decentralization in human history.

Though the measures have increased grass-root penetration of democratic functioning in the country, but there are a lot many challenges that the local governments face:

1. In many states still, regular elections are not being held under Article 243K to the local panchayat institutions.
2. Lack of functions, finances and functionaries has become a chronic problem with local governments as the states have

yet not devolved the subjects to them.
under the said schedules.

3.) Lack of poor infrastructure: Panchayats in many areas do not have their own buildings. There are not enough funds or sources of revenue with the rural and urban local bodies.

4.) District Planning Committees have still not been constituted as envisaged under Article 243ZD which could facilitate micro-level planning.

5.) Digitalisation has not yet happened. Bharat Net progress has been real slow & yet 1.5 lakh Panchayats remain unconnected.

Major reforms are needed in this context.

1.) Women representation should be statutorily increased to 50% to change gender relations & stereotypes & empower the women.

2.) Initiatives like PEAS by Ministry of Panchayat should be implemented properly

and best performing urban & local bodies should be incentivised & publicised.

3.) Greater co-ordination with SHGs, NGOs and community based organisations will help local governments improve their performance & people participation.

4.) Recommendations of 14th FC should be implemented owing to which performance linked grant component would improve their efficiency.

5.) Programmes like PM DISHA, Panchayat Darpan, e-Panchayat, Common Service Centre should be expedited.

6.) A district cadre of public servants should be created so that problem of functionaries for local bodies could be solved.

7. Principle of subsidiarity should be followed and states should be encouraged to devolve required subjects & functions to the local bodies.

4. Despite being a welcome step, Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 fails to resolve the issue of overlapping of jurisdiction between the legislature and judiciary. Analyse.

स्वागत योग्य कदम होने के बावजूद, अंतरराज्यीय जल विवाद (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2017 विधायिका और न्यायपालिका के बीच क्षेत्राधिकार के परस्पर अतिव्यापन का मुद्दा सुलझाने में विफल रहा है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Inter-State water disputes have evolved gradually as major hurdles in water sharing and river basin management in the country.

1) The proposed Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 proposes to set up a Dispute Redressal Committee (DRC) to settle disputes between states.

2) The Bill also proposes the Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunal which will be handling the disputes if DRC fails to solve the issue & all such other existing disputes.

However, there are certain aspects that the Bill has yet failed to address.

1. The existing provision under the Act of forwarding of report by Tribunal to

the centre in case of request of reconsideration by the state remains albeit with reduced time lines. This provision may again lead to litigation & unresolution of problems.

2. The bill also gives power to centre in which water will be distributed to the states in stress situations. It is to be seen, given the federal structure & the fact that water comes in the state list, how much the states are ready to relent and accept centre's words.

3. Tribunalisation has always been a problem of overlapping jurisdiction between legislature and judiciary. This issue still persists in the present Bill.

The Bill is a welcome step & a novel endeavour in situation where many awards in respect to Inter-State Water disputes have remained under-litigation.

The same needs to be addressed in a holistic manner. The National Water Framework Bill, 2016 also calls for setting up of River Basin Authorities for all inter-state rivers to ensure better river basin management.

States should realise that they are 'public trustees' and not owners of river basin & hence, should co-operate with centre in its efforts to address these issues.

5. Critically discuss the major reforms introduced in the area of electoral funding in Union Budget 2017. Do you think that state funding of elections is a viable idea to check misuse of money power in politics?

2017 के केंद्रीय बजट में चुनावी वित्तपोषण को लेकर प्रस्तुत किए गए प्रमुख सुधारों पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आप मानते हैं कि राजनीति में धनबल का दुरुपयोग रोकने के लिए चुनावों का राज्य द्वारा वित्त पोषण एक व्यावहारिक विचार है?

Political funding has remained one of the biggest seed of corruption and money laundering in the country.

There are a number of measures that have been taken this budget to address it.

1. There is now a cap of Rs. 2000 on any cash donation to political parties as against cap of Rs 20,000 earlier.
2. Budget has proposed making Electoral Bonds as means of funding political parties to ensure digital transparency.
3. The cap on corporate sector, who could earlier donate a maximum of 7.5% of their profits to political parties, has been done away with.

These reforms though well-intentioned can have serious loopholes:

- 1.) Capping of cash donation of Rs. 2000 may not be really effective wherein contributions can be made unpten times in similar denomination.
- 2.) With alleged anonymity being maintained in electoral bond buying and funding, tracking black money or money laundering tactics could still remain difficult.
- 3.) Removing the cap on corporate may give air to corporate lobbying.

There are other ways & means too to check political funding. However, state funding of elections remain a prominent one in this.

1. Complete state funding of elections may be huge burden of public exchequer.
2. Also, with frequent elections happening, it will amount to terrible misuse of

tax payers money.

II ARC has also recommended partial state funding of elections which can be a better option. Along with it asking political parties to submit their annual statements regularly along with sources of funds could help ensuring transparency.

6. The provision of 33% reservation of seats for women in urban local body elections in Nagaland has been in news for various reasons in recent times. Discuss the underlying issues in light of the constitutional provisions at stake and the social realities of the state.

हाल ही में नागालैंड में शहरी स्थानीय निकाय के चुनावों में महिलाओं के लिए 33% सीटों के आरक्षण का प्रावधान विभिन्न कारणों से सुर्खियों में रहा है। इस सन्दर्भ में राज्य की सामाजिक वास्तविकताओं तथा दौव पर लगे संवैधानिक प्रावधानों के आलोक में अंतर्निहित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The 73rd & 74th Amendment Act have called for reservation of 33% of seats in urban & local bodies in rural areas.

This provision has become a point of contention in Nagaland though.

1) There has not been a single women political representative in the state at any level except for one MP in 1977.

2) Supreme Court's verdict in the Naga Mothers' Association case in 2016 supporting implementation of reservation provisions under Article 243D have been protested against in the state.

The reasons for the same can be ascertained looking at the ground realities!

1. The prominent groups led by Naga Hoho group allege that this judgement infringes upon customary laws of the Naga people.
2. They also argue that provisions under Article 243D & the Supreme Court's verdict are in contravention to Article 371A which clearly says that no Parliamentary or Supreme Court directive would extend to Nagaland if it is in contravention to the state's customary laws.
3. The elections to the urban local bodies there have not taken place for over 15 years now.

These issues are of sentimental nature for the tribal group & any enforced implementation could be counter-productive. The best way forward would be to strengthen governmental & administrative machinery in the state which is not in a very firm state & to educate the

the people with help of NGOs and
community-based organisations.

Also, the state CM has said that
33% reservation in urban local bodies
should not be threatening customary
laws as cities themselves are modern
concepts & its about their better adminis-
-tration.

Better awareness & greater education
can yield the desired outcome in a
better way.

7. Enumerate the guidelines for police reforms as laid down by the Supreme Court in Prakash Singh case in 2006. In this regard, critically discuss the issues in their implementation by the States.

2006 में प्रकाश सिंह मामले में पुलिस सुधारों पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा यथा निर्धारित दिशा-निर्देशों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इस संबंध में, राज्यों द्वारा उनके कार्यान्वयन में निहित मुद्दों पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The Supreme Court in its guidelines in the Prakash Singh PIL case has ruled a number of measures to increase the autonomy as well as accountability in the police organisation.

1. It recommended setting up of State Security Commission to minimise political interference in policing matters.
2. It also recommended that the DGP should be selected on merit & should be provided minimum 2 years' tenure.
3. It also called for ensuring that all other officials including SP, Station House Officer should be provided with security of tenure of minimum 2 years.
4. Separating investigation from law & order

5.) National Security Commission should be set up at national level for selection & placements of chiefs of central police organisation.

6.) State Police Establishment Board should decide transfers, promotions & other such issues of officers below the rank of Deputy Sp.

7.) Setting up of State Police Complaints Authority to look into complaints against officers of & above the rank of Deputy Sp.

All the seven recommendations of the IC in this case would have increased the effectiveness of the police as an organisation but these have not been implemented.

1. Police being a State subject, states have not shown willingness to abide by the Model Police Act et al.

2. Strong political resistance against same as the police is used as the right arm by men in power as much as possible.

Reforms, in absence of support from political machinery, should be initiated at the police organisational level starting from the lower rung and district level to enhance efficiency of the organisation and transfer it from police force to police service in true spirit.

8. While the Competition Commission of India and sector-specific regulators are required to complement each other, overlapping jurisdiction has resulted in regulatory parallelism amongst them. Comment.

जहां भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग और क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट नियामकों को एक-दूसरे का पूरक बनने की आवश्यकता है, वहीं परस्पर अतिव्यापी अधिकार क्षेत्र का परिणाम उनके बीच नियामकीय समानांतरता के रूप में सामने आया है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

India is known for being an overregulated economy with overlapping jurisdiction which has resulted in controversies like one surrounding UUPS case.

The present government has taken a no. of initiatives in this context like enabling NCLAT to look into company laws and insolvency. A number of tribunals are being made to club the sectoral jurisdictions.

There have also been talks about having a unified regulatory authority to do away with the overlapping jurisdiction.

9. There is both spatial and economic inequality with regards to access to healthcare services in India. Elaborate. How does the New Health Policy attempts to address these issues?

भारत में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुँच के संबंध में स्थानिक और आर्थिक दोनों असमानताएँ विद्यमान हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। नई स्वास्थ्य नीति कैसे इन समस्याओं का समाधान करने का प्रयास करती है?

With only 1.3% GDP public spending in health sector, both spatial & economic inequality exists in healthcare services.

[Spatial inequality]:

1. 80% of health services & doctors are concentrated in urban areas while 68% of country's population lives in rural areas.

2. Secondary & tertiary care is almost completely missing in rural areas.

[Economic Inequality]:

1. Healthcare sector reports 70% of out-of-pocket expenditure.
2. It is one of the prime reason for people falling back in poverty.
3. 70% of rural and 80% urban people prefer

private health sector services over public care.

The New Health Policy 2017 aims to address by :

1. enhancing healthcare expenditure to 2.5% GDP bracket.
2. focussing on enabling greater access to primary healthcare & expanding their services.
3. Emphasising on lifestyle diseases like cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease which would allow easier & affordable access to poor & needy people.
4. It also talks about state cadre of public healthcare personnels.
5. It aims for shift in strategy from 'sick care' to 'wellness' & well being, so emphasise on protection & prevention.

6. It also aims to achieve the targets of MMR as 100 deaths/1 lakh livebirths and of IMR as not more than 28/1000 births.

These efforts would lay a greater thrust on affordable access to healthcare for the poor & deprived. More emphasis on primary health centres would help in strengthening the rural infrastructure and working on addressing the spatial inequality. With greater emphasis on private sector involvement, capping of drug prices, etc. economic inequality too could be worked upon.

10. Census 2011 observed that there has been a significant increase in urban homeless households in the period between 2001 and 2011. What are homeless households? Highlighting the challenges faced by them, discuss the causes for increase in such households. Suggest various measures to rehabilitate these households.

2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार वर्ष 2001 से 2011 की अवधि में शहरी बेघर परिवारों की संख्या में सार्थक वृद्धि हुई है। बेघर परिवार से क्या तात्पर्य है? उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, ऐसे परिवारों की संख्या में होने वाली वृद्धि के कारणों की चर्चा कीजिए। इन परिवारों के पुनर्वास हेतु विभिन्न उपाय सुझाएँ।

Distress migration from rural and other adjoining areas have led to homeless population in urban areas. These homeless households living in slums have considerably increased. Slum dwellers & other homeless people have increased to around 65 million in the country.

The challenges faced by them:

1. They are forced to stay in unhygienic inhumane conditions.
2. They have little access to sanitation, safe water, etc.
3. Without proper residential identity, they

can also not get benefits out of various governmental schemes.

4. There are many unregistered, & un-notified slums, whose inhabitants have no claim to benefits.

5. They are socially discriminated against & have no fixed means of livelihood.

The recent incident in Noida apartments brought to the fore, the problems faced by Bengali migrants.

There could be various measures to rehabilitate these households:

1. Prime Minister's Housing for All by 2022 programme is aimed at providing assistance in affordable housing.

2. The household members can be skilled under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana so that they can take up gainful employment to support themselves.

3. Various other social security scheme can be extended to them through schemes like Atal Pension Yojana.

4. Children can be enrolled in schools & can be given benefits under Mid Day Meal Scheme. Also, taking proper other measures, options could be looked into for enrolling them under EWS quota in schools under the RTE Act.

Food, housing, education are basic essentials that need to be ensured for all its citizens if the country wants to attain a better ranking in HDI and if it wants to ensure better socio-economic progress of the country.

11. Recent judgment of the Supreme Court, amending the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has invoked varied responses. Highlighting the amendment, critically examine its likely impact on application of the law.

घरेलू हिंसा से महिलाओं का संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2005 में संशोधन हेतु सुप्रीम कोर्ट के हालिया निर्णय से विभिन्न प्रकार की प्रतिक्रियाएँ सामने आई हैं। उक्त संशोधन पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इस कानून के अनुप्रयोग पर इसके संभावित प्रभावों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Supreme Court in its recent judgement struck down 'adult male' in Section 2 of the Domestic Violence (Protection) Act, 2005. It said it was against the doctrine of equality as a woman should be also be ^{complaint} able to lodge domestic violence against a woman, if she is the perpetrator or accomplice in crime.

The judgement has invoked varied responses :

1. Critics allege that it might lead to false accusations as in fit of anger, the entire in-laws family may be targetted.

12. Examine the steps taken by the government over the years to ensure a secure and exploitation-free childhood for its citizens. Further analyse how the recent ratification of the two key ILO conventions will help India's fight against child labour.

विगत वर्षों के दौरान अपने नागरिकों के लिए सुरक्षित एवं शोषण मुक्त बचपन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का परीक्षण कीजिए। पुनश्च, विश्लेषण कीजिए कि हाल ही में अनुसमर्थित किए गए दो प्रमुख ILO अभिसमयों से बाल श्रम के विरुद्ध भारत की लड़ाई में कैसे सहायता मिलेगी।

The government and the constitution makers have taken measures since the very start to ensure a secure & exploitation-free childhood for the citizens.

1. Article 24 of the Indian Constitution prohibits child labour.
2. Child Labour (Prohibition) Act was passed in 1986 which was recently amended in the year 2016 ensuring complete prohibition on employment of child labour except in family enterprise or as child artist.
3. 11th Fundamental Duty was added in Part IV A of the constitution to make educating their ward, a fundamental duty.
4. Right To Education Act, 2009 had been

passed to ensure each and every child gets elementary education as a matter of right.

5. Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children)

Act 2000 was amended in 2016 to effectively deal with juveniles in conflict with law.

6. Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse Offences Act, 2012 [POCSO Act] was passed to protect children from sexual offences.

13. According to the World Bank, while digital technologies have spread rapidly in much of the world, resulting digital dividends have lagged behind. Analyse in the context of India.

विश्व बैंक के अनुसार, जहां डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकियों का पूरे विश्व में द्रुत गति से प्रसार हुआ है, वहीं परिणामी डिजिटल लाभांश पीछे रह गया है। भारत के संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Digital technologies have progressed much in the decade gone by which have already made us land in the era of Fourth Industrial Revolution. However, digital dividends are yet to match the pace, esp. in context of India.

1. India may be a global leader in IT and ITES, but there is a substantial digital divide existing in the society esp. the deepened urban-rural divide.
2. With around 450 million Internet users in the country, over 1.5 lakh Panchayats remain still disconnected with the rural highway of information through BharatNet.
3. Digital literacy is still very weak in the country and trust in digital system

even weaker. Recent data breaches which include comprise of 32 lakh debit cards, and the more recently, compromise of users' data of Reliance Jio are testimonies enough.

However, Indian government has taken a number of steps to improve digital access & also to increase use of digital services.

1. Digital India has provided renewed access to initiatives like e-Panchayat. Common Service Centres (CSC) are being set-up as 'one stop centres' for all govt. services.
2. PM DISHA programme has been launched to digitally educate 6 crore households in rural India.
3. Real-time mobile monitoring of MNREGA and initiatives like Geo-MNREGA are ways forward to ensure accountability in policy implementation.

4) Setting up platforms like e-Biz, Company Registration Centre (CRC) for Registrar of Companies at IICA are other such initiatives to ensure Ease of Doing Business in the country.

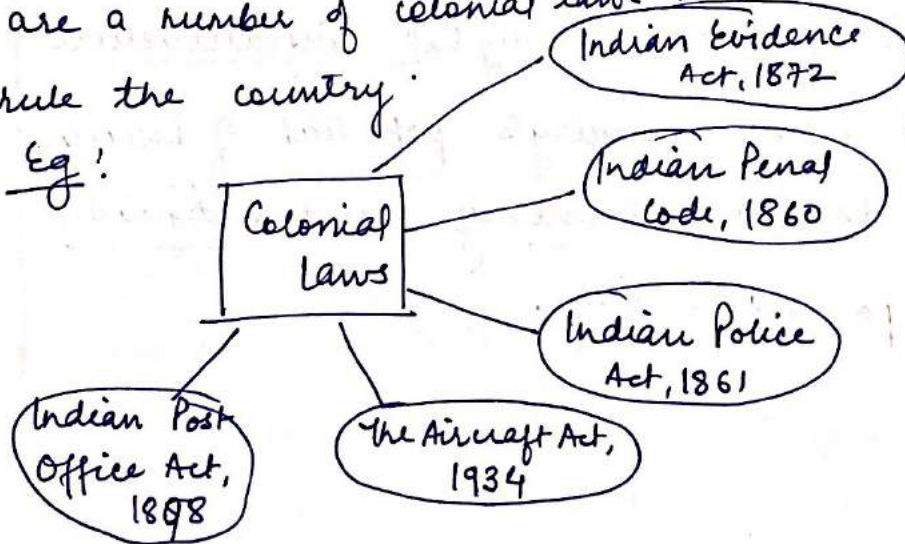
The country should pace up its implementation of Digital India programme, arrange adequate digital infrastructure to enable country's potential of becoming a knowledge economy and a digitally empowered society.

14. "Our country suffers from an excess of old and unnecessary laws which obstruct people and businesses". In light of the observation elucidate how outdated and impractical laws bring inefficiency in governance. How far is the repealing and consolidation of statutes a solution to the problem at hand?

"हमारा देश पुराने और अनावश्यक कानूनों की बहुलता से ग्रस्त है जो जनता और व्यापारों के लिए बाधक हैं। इस टिप्पणी के आलोक में स्पष्ट कीजिए कि किस प्रकार अप्रचलित और अव्यवहारिक कानून शासन में अक्षमता लाते हैं। ऐसे कानूनों का निरसन और समेकन कहाँ तक इस विद्यमान समस्या का समाधान है?

Independent India is still being ruled by colonial, archaic laws. There are a number of colonial laws that still rule the country.

Eg:



There are other laws that impose redundant taxes that give little but cost a lot to collect.

- ① These archaic laws are burdensome & many a times outdated to suit present situation. Ex: The Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950 still exists where telegraph services have been stopped in 2013 itself.
- ② Many circumventions have to be invented to allow private sector to participate. For ex: The Indian Post Office Act, 1898 provides only federal govt. privilege of posting letters. The courier services, hence, post documents, & not letters.
- ③ The Sarais Act, 1867 is misused to trouble hotel owners, many a times.

The government should work upon to repeal them, or replace them with modern more suited laws, and amend them wherever required.

This would help in checking over regulation, and also discretionary

use of power by govt. officials in their
exercise of work implementation and will
also ensure the vision of minimum
govt, maximum governance ∴

15. Due to increasing consumption and changing consumption patterns, water scarcity is an emerging threat in India and thus it becomes imperative to treat water as a commodity and privatize it. Critically evaluate.

बढ़ते उपभोग और उपभोग के पैटर्न में परिवर्तन के कारण, जलाभाव भारत में एक उभरता हुआ खतरा है और इस प्रकार यह अनिवार्य हो जाता है कि जल के साथ एक वस्तु के रूप में व्यवहार किया जाए और इसका निजीकरण किया जाए। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Illegitimate usage of water & exploitation of water resources have made water suffer the 'Tragedy of Commons'.
Water scarcity has become an emerging threat in India.

- 1) 8 states were declared drought affected in India in the summer gone by.
- 2) Cropping water guzzler crops like sugar-cane & rice has further lowered the water table & used the available water sources.
- 3) Districts in states like Maharashtra suffered acute water crises including unavailability of drinking water.

It is hence important to treat water as an essential resource & commodity.

It is in this respect that Dr Mihir Shah Committee recommendations have found shape in the National Water Framework Bill, 2017.

1. This bill takes 'water for life' approach ensuring minimum amount of water for every household.
2. It also prepares a usage priority of water according highest priority to human need & then to others like agriculture, industry, etc.
3. The Bill propose to ensure "optimal and sustainable" development of river basins & also setting up of River Basin Authority for all inter-state rivers.
4. It also makes obligatory for state to use water judiciously & to consider it as 'public trustee'.

However, privatising water as a commodity would not be a sensible idea.

The same has been tried on a pilot basis in Nagpur, but international experience show that it is not the best practice as can be seen in Nigeria also.

1. It would escalate user cost, which can make it unaffordable to poor people.
2. Also, private sector may use the resource for its own profit, rather than for people's welfare.

Thus, govt. should work towards passage of bill after improving its clauses & not think of privatising such an important resource which would go ~~the~~ against the nature of a welfare state, where 240 million people are still below poverty line.

16. Given the mandate of the Organisation and its composition, too much should not be read into India becoming a full time member of SCO. Critically comment.

SCO के अधिदेश और इसकी संरचना को देखते हुए, भारत के SCO के पूर्णकालिक सदस्य बनने का बहुत ज्यादा अर्थ नहीं निकालना चाहिए। आलोचनात्मक टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation envisioned as a security & military cooperation organisation of the central Asian countries along with China & Russia has emerged as a strong regional entity.

India, becoming a member of SCO, can have following underpinnings:

- 1) It will provide platform for India to strengthen its relation with Central Asia & to thereon augment its trade & connectivity.
- 2) India can also garner support of SCO to pressurise China over issues like

NSG entry, JeM sanction, etc.

However, there are issues too associated with it:

- 1) Pakistan is also now a member of SCO which will equally try to use the platform for its own interest.
- 2) With China & Pakistan, already "all-weather friends", it would be difficult to yield much out of the org., given China's weight & hegemony.

However, India should try & make the best use of all opportunities. Also, with strong regional groupings shadowing individual nation's diplomacy, it will not be wise for India to remain aloof of any multilateral forum that

opening its door for it .

17. India needs to utilize its technological capacity based diplomacy to strengthen relationships with the neighbours. Discuss. Also examine the significance of South Asia satellite to enhance regional cooperation.

अपने पड़ोसियों के साथ संबंधों को मजबूत बनाने के लिए भारत को अपनी प्रौद्योगिकी क्षमता आधारित कूटनीति का उपयोग करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही क्षेत्रीय सहयोग बढ़ाने में दक्षिण एशिया उपग्रह (साउथ एशिया सैटेलाइट) के महत्व का भी परीक्षण कीजिए।

India has already been doing well in IT & ITCES sector. Its time India utilises its technological capacity based diplomacy in its relations with its neighbours.

1) India can incentivise its private sector for greater investments in neighbouring countries like it has already done with Airtel and Tata in Bangladesh, Myanmar.

2) With India achieving greater reliance in space technology, it should offer to manufacture/place satellites for neighbour countries using its PSLV's.

3) India should also collaborate with neighbour countries in research in medicine, etc. with convergence in similar diseases affecting South, South East Asia. Its research in indigenous vaccine for JE, rotaviruses can be taken as testimony for same.

South Asia satellite, initially envisioned as SAARC satellite can enhance regional cooperation in :

- 1) increasing crop assessment surveillance
- 2) co-operating in disaster resilience & management capacity building
- 3) It can be augmented to provide a GPS like service for South Asia to reduce dependence of the region on US' system.

South Asia satellite can become
important tool for establishing technological
leadership of India in the region.

18. Though both India and Bangladesh have been able to resolve various pending bilateral issues, solution to the Teesta Water dispute remains illusive. Discuss.

यद्यपि भारत और बांग्लादेश विभिन्न लंबित द्विपक्षीय मुद्दों का समाधान करने में सफल रहे हैं, फिर भी तीस्ता जल विवाद का समाधान भ्रामक बना हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए।

India and Bangladesh have resolved a number of bilateral issues including the Land Boundary Agreement, but Teesta Water dispute remains a litmus test between the two nations' relation.

- 1.) 1972 saw formation of India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission.
- 2.) Year 1983 saw an ad hoc solution to Teesta water sharing with 39% share being kept for India, 36% for Bangladesh and 25% was kept undecided.
- 3.) Signing of Ganga Water Treaty in 1996, brought Teesta back in focus.
- 4.) Bangladesh presented its draft proposal on Teesta in 2000 which was finally accepted by India in 2010, but

state politics came in to disrupt the solution path.

→ In Bangladesh, over 14% of crop production depends on Teesta water. Thus, an amiable solution would reap good for those who are dependent with their livelihood on Teesta.

→ Also, the opposition parties have been criticizing the Awami League in govt, to be pro-India. Teesta River dispute settlement could just be the right shot in the arm for Bangladesh's PM to reaffirm peoples' faith in the govt.

→ India's Act East Policy as well as North-East connectivity is much dependent on Bangladesh's cooperation as well.

Hence, it is the right interest of both countries to solve this accord properly.

19. Discuss the important provisions and significance of the recent proposal by India for Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS) Agreement under WTO.

विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) के अंतर्गत ट्रेड फैसिलिटेशन इन सर्विसेज (TFS) (सेवा में व्यापार सुविधा) समझौते के लिए भारत के हालिया प्रस्ताव के महत्वपूर्ण प्रावधानों और महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

India has proposed for Trade Facilitation in Services in line with TFA in Goods under WTO.

The important provisions in this respect are:

- Facilitating movement of business and persons across border.
- Addressing protectionist measures cited by governments across eg: US, UK in visa quota for service people.
- Outsourcing of services should be provided with a different new approach under Trade Facilitation in Services.

Trade Facilitation in Services is

of significance, esp. for India, which has
a great dependence on service sector
& is a global leader in IT and
ITES sector.

Also, TFS would help India in
gathering investments, creating businesses
which would add to its capital account.

20. BIMSTEC has the potential to become a distinctive link between South and Southeast Asia. Elaborate. Also discuss the factors hindering the potential of BIMSTEC over the years. Highlight the key initiatives in recent times and further measures required to make the grouping more effective.

BIMSTEC (बिम्सटेक) में दक्षिण और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया के बीच एक विशिष्ट कड़ी बनने की क्षमता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, पिछले कुछ वर्षों के दौरान BIMSTEC के सामर्थ्य (क्षमता) में बाधक बनने वाले कारकों पर भी चर्चा कीजिए। इस समूह को अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के लिए हाल के दिनों में की गई प्रमुख पहलों एवं और आवश्यक उपायों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

BIMSTEC, formed in 1997 provides an apt platform for India to increase its South-South cooperation and built itself as a strong regional power, to start with.

It has potential in many sectors:

- 1) Economic sector: India can increase its trade relations in the region & shed its image of big brother in trade sector.
- 2) Energy security: Bhutan can offer lot in hydropower potential, Myanmar too can offer a lot in this sector.
- 3) Connectivity to the North-East & South East

Asia : India should expedite India Myanmar Thailand trilateral corridor, Kaladan Multimodal project.

4) India can have a co-operative mechanism to fight against terrorism & support its Convention on Terrorism at UN platform with BIMSTEC support.

Key challenges that it has faced:

- 1) It was formed in 1997, but got focus only in recent times.
- 2) India's image as that of big brother should not play spoilsport.
- 3) It should not be exercised as a platform for sorting bilateral issues.

The key initiatives in recent times:

- 1) India held a combined summit of BRICS grouping by inviting BIMSTEC members to show its renewed focus.

2) India has progressed with its BBIN (Bhutan Bangladesh India Nepal) corridor, though Bhutan has withdrawn its reservations.

3) Talks have been renewed to expedite the ongoing projects & increase people-to-people interactions.

Under its 'Neighbourhood First' Policy, India should give due impetus to BIMSTEC. It should address reservations cited by Bhutan for successful launch of BBIN corridor. BIMSTEC has huge potential for India & -the same should not be overlooked in the time when SAARC has taken a backseat with Pakistan creating hurdles.