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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 632)

Name of Candidate	ANAND VARDHAN		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENG	Registration Number	12269
Center	ORN	Date	23/10/15

INDEX TABLE		
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
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14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

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

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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.

All the Best

All the questions are compulsory and carry 12.5 marks each. NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS.

1. It has been argued that if the tendency to bypass the Council of States for passing important legislation through the 'nomenclature' of money Bill is not checked legally, it can affect the very basic structure of our Constitution and functioning of the Parliament. Discuss.

यह तर्क दिया गया है कि यदि धन विधेयक के नाम पर महत्वपूर्ण विधानों को पारित करने हेतु राज्य सभा की उपेक्षा करने की प्रवृत्ति को विधिक रूप से रोका नहीं गया, तो यह संविधान की आधारभूत संरचना और संसद की कार्यप्रणाली को प्रभावित कर सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Rajya Sabha has different powers than the Lok Sabha with respect to a money bill. The Upper House may take a decision on a money bill within 14 days, after which the bill is deemed to have been passed by it. It then goes to the President for assent.

This superior position of the Lok Sabha, has however been misused recently. While it is clearly specified that a money Bill must contain exclusively items under

Article 110, this is not being adhered to. Other agendas are being smuggled into the money bill to ensure smooth passage through the Rajya Sabha. The Government of the day does not have the requisite majority in the Rajya Sabha, and hence this unhealthy trend.

This practice needs to be checked immediately as it threatens the basic structure doctrine laid out in Keshvananda Bharti. The upper House is a necessary unit in legislation and is also a part of basic structure. If not checked, it could fracture democracy and suppress the voice of states.

A few steps may be suggested in this regard:

- (i) The Speaker, while certifying a Bill as a money bill, exercises utmost propriety.
- (ii) The Judiciary must intervene if this practice continues.

2. Parliament should be an institution of discussion, debate, deliberation and dissent not of disruption. Comment.

संसद को चर्चा, बहस, विमर्श और असहमति का संस्थान होना चाहिए न कि व्यवधान उत्पन्न करने का। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

The Parliament represents the highest ideals of a civilized society. The traditions of Parliamentary democracy have been carefully crafted and nourished over the ages, for the successful functioning of Democracy.

The Constituent Assembly debates are a fine example of the culture of debate and discussion. They provide a body of literature that proves how each provision, ^{of the constitution} was debated and re-debated, to arrive at a constitution that was most suitable for India.

The Parliament is the legislative arm of the government. It is expected that it plays ~~a~~ ^{the} role of a multiple interest reconciliator, through debates and critiques. It has upheld the tradition for a good length of time after independence.

However, recent trends indicate a serious malaise in the functioning of parliament.

The 15th Lok Sabha was the least productive of all, passing under 200 legislations in its full term.

Disruptive politics have played a part in this distortion. Rather than debating with the government on important issues, opposition disrupts the proceedings or stages a walkout. There have been

instances which have shamed demo-
cracy.

Loss of productive Parliamentary time
is a huge loss to the public exchequer
and a ^{lost} opportunity in democratic
ethos. The MPs must understand
the underlying ideals of democracy and
not make defunct the Parliament. The
Speaker must take a proactive role
in dismissing erring members.

3. While much has been said about the significance of Indian ocean region, the salience of Pacific has only recently figured prominently in the Indian scheme of things. In what ways are the Pacific Island nations important from India's perspective? What challenges does India face in furthering its influence in the region?

यद्यपि हिन्द महासागरीय क्षेत्र के महत्व के संबंध में बहुत कुछ कहा गया है, किन्तु प्रशांत क्षेत्र का महत्व, हाल ही में भारतीय परियोजनाओं में प्रमुख रूप से प्रदर्शित हुआ है। प्रशांत महासागरीय क्षेत्र में स्थित द्वीपीय राष्ट्र, भारतीय परिप्रेक्ष्य में किस प्रकार महत्वपूर्ण हैं? इस क्षेत्र में अपने प्रभाव को बढ़ाने में भारत किन चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है?

The Indian ocean region has already attracted the power elites for some time. It was primarily a result of the US 'pivot to Asia' policy.

The Pacific, however, has recently figured in Indian debates. The Pacific Island nations are important from the ~~above~~ below perspectives:

- (i) The Indian government has an interest in connecting with the Indian Diaspora in the region.
- (ii) India has opportunities to engage

in hydrocarbon exploration in collaboration with these nations, strengthening its energy security.

(iii) These nations could serve as outposts in the Pacific, securing our trade routes and commercial interests.

(iv) These nations could support India's bid for a permanent seat at UNSC.

(v) They might present an opportunity to India to be the Asian hegemon, along side China.

However, there are also challenges in this regard:

(i) Traditionally, the bilateral trades with many of these nations has been far below potential.

(ii) Engaging with them might invite

hostility with China and US, who has held influence in the region.

(iii) Engagement might also require tackling unconventional threats like piracy.

4. In spite of the importance of private sector's role in Indian higher education its performance has not been satisfactory. Discuss. What are the challenges that lie ahead in setting up high quality private institutions in the country?
भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा में निजी क्षेत्र की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होने के बाद भी इसका प्रदर्शन संतोषजनक नहीं रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। देश में उच्च गुणवत्ता युक्त निजी संस्थान स्थापित करने के मार्ग में कौन-सी चुनौतियाँ हैं?

While India has done particularly well on its Millennium Development Target of achieving universal primary enrolment, the state of the higher education sector has been dismal at best.

The private sector has been roped in to cater to this sector, but there are several shortfalls in this regard:-

- (i) In a recent report, it was pointed out that the Education sector is one of the main absorbers of ~~the~~ black money.
- (ii) Mushrooming of professional institutes like engineering colleges who operate

with only profit motive.

- (iii) A serious deficit in the curriculum and the quality of teaching.
- (iv) Non availability of teachers.
- (v) High costs and problems of accessibility.
- (vi) No Industry - Institute interface, hence churning out of lakhs of jobless graduates.

No Indian university figures in the top 200 in the world, due to these reasons. The Government must look at these challenges and provide a regulatory environment that is conducive to the sector's growth. Token affiliations like to the AICTE must be done away with and high standards ensured in teacher recruitment,

teaching and outcomes, through a
national regulator.

5. United Nations Security Council reforms should not only include its expansion but also the way it functions. Analyze.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद से संबंधित सुधारों में न केवल इसका विस्तार सम्मिलित होना चाहिए वरन् इसकी कार्यप्रणाली को भी सुधारों का विषय बनाया जाना चाहिए। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Recently, the call for reforming the United Nations Security Council has grown strong. This is in backdrop of changed political and geostrategic equations since the UN was incepted. The UN has remained a stronghold and a safehouse, imperious to change.

With multi-polarity rising, the voice ~~of~~ for security council reform is the strongest. It is opined that the global power structure is no longer reflected in the constitution of the Council, especially permanent members.

Countries like India and Germany have staked their claims to a permanent seat.

Also, there are apprehensions about how the council functions :-

- (a) The VEto power has often been abused and misused by the world powers.
- (b) Sometimes it becomes a battleground of conflicting interests, eg. Russia and US.
- (c) Improper / Inappropriate sheltering of nations like Israel by its promoters like US, even in the face of gross human rights violations.
- (d) Unjust and hard stands against weaker nations like Sri Lanka.

Hence, a comprehensive overhaul of
the UN system is mandated.

6. Passing of private member's bill has been a rarity in India's political history. Compare and contrast government bill and private member's bill. Further discuss the issues w.r.t passage of private member's bill in the Parliament along with suggesting measures to address the same.

निजी सदस्य के विधेयक को पारित करना भारत के राजनीतिक इतिहास में एक दुर्लभ घटना रही है। सरकार और निजी सदस्यों के द्वारा प्रस्तुत विधेयकों की तुलना कीजिए और अन्तर बताइए। साथ ही संसद में निजी सदस्य के विधेयक को पारित करने से संबंधित मुद्दों और इनके समाधान से संबंधित उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

A government Bill is moved by a member of the government i.e. the council of ministers. Such a bill naturally has the backing of the government and the minister has ample assistance from the secretariat in drafting the bill. Important bills like a constitutional amendment bill are usually government bills.

Private member bills, on the other hand, are introduced by those

outside government. A private member naturally has resource constraints in drafting such a bill and the bill might have certain lacunae due to this reason.

For this reason, the passage of a private member's bill in the Parliament is quite rare. He barely gets enough support to see the bill through.

This culture may be reversed by constituting study teams to fine tune the bills before introduction, referring the Bills to Parliamentary standing committees/Joint committees for their comments, and encouraging culture of private bill introduction.

7. Law Commission in its 262nd report has recommended the abolition of Death Penalty. What arguments have been put forward by the commission in order to justify its stand. Does this issue necessitate a fresh look in context of the changed socio-economic conditions in the country? Analyse.
- विधि आयोग ने अपनी 262वीं रिपोर्ट में मृत्युदण्ड को समाप्त करने की अनुशंसा की है। आयोग द्वारा अपनी अनुशंसाओं के पक्ष में कौन से तर्क प्रस्तुत किये गए हैं। क्या इस मुद्दे को देश में परिवर्तित सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थितियों के संदर्भ में नवीन प्रकार से देखे जाने की आवश्यकता है? विश्लेषण करें।

140 of the ~~20~~ 198 member countries of the UN have abolished the death penalty. There is a strong international consensus on the issue. National debates in India have also centred around this challenge. Many committees and commissions, including the 262nd report of the Law commission, which puts forward the following arguments:-

- (i) Two wrongs will not make right, i.e. a person who has killed should not be killed.
- (ii) Death penalty extinguishes the right to life. This is different from

other rights which may be restored.

It is irreversible.

(iii) Miscarriage of justice/error in judgement
is impossible to correct in case an
innocent person is given death penalty.

(iv) There is no direct relation of
awarding death penalty and reducing
crime rates, i.e. penalty does not
act as a deterrent.

In today's socio economic
context, it is essential that this
regressive practice be abandoned. •

There is a strong societal consensus
on the issue.

8. Transparency and accountability are important not only in state run enterprises but also non-governmental organizations. Discuss. Further, suggest measures on how NGOs can be made more transparent and accountable in India.

पारदर्शिता और उत्तरदायित्व न केवल राज्य द्वारा संचालित उद्यमों वरन् गैर-सरकारी संगठनों के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में गैर-सरकारी संगठनों को अधिक पारदर्शी और उत्तरदायी बनाने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

NGOs in many cases are funded partly or wholly by the government. In addition, NGOs act as partners in development as they address several weak and marginalized constituencies such as women and children.

Recently, the government apprehended several NGOs on the issue of foreign funding under FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act). This throws up serious doubts on the working of NGOs. It has also brought to light the issue of transparency mechanisms.

within NGOs, which are currently weak and need overhaul.

NGOs may take certain steps to ensure that the public and the government is aware of its activities :-

- (i) Display all meeting minutes and decisions on its website.
- (ii) Lay down the source of its funding in the public domain.
- (iii) Use e-governance mechanisms to increase outreach.
- (iv) ~~Agree to~~ Voluntarily agree to audit procedures yearly by govt appointed auditors
- (v) Receive funds ^{only} from entities registered with the government, also registering the amounts and expenditures.

9. Many of the recent exclusivist outbursts in the northeastern States, including in Manipur, can be attributed to a fear of losing ancestral land to "outsiders". In this context, what has been the role of Inner Line Permit system? Also, discuss its limitations and relevance in view of the situation prevailing in the current scenario.

मणिपुर सहित पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में हाल ही में अलगाववादी गतिविधियों में उभार के लिए, पैतृक भूमि के "बाहरी लोगों" के हाथों में चले जाने के भय को उत्तरदायी ठहराया जा सकता है। इस संदर्भ में 'इनर लाइन परमिट सिस्टम' की क्या भूमिका रही है? साथ ही, वर्तमान परिदृश्य में विद्यमान परिस्थितियों के सन्दर्भ में इसकी सीमाओं और प्रासंगिकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

The Inner Line Permit system is a colonial vestige that was applied to restrict incursion of "outsiders" into certain areas in the North East. Recently, we have seen Manipur demanding it. However, the following points need to be noted in this regard:-

- (i) People have a legitimate right to safeguard their lands and livelihoods.
- (ii) Their fears may be justified due to the militancy, changing demographic

profile of the region and private corporate interests.

(iii) However, the idea of HP might be unsustainable in a democracy.

(iv) Such a provision violates the Right to equality (Article 14) and the freedom of movement and lawful residency in India (Article 19)

(v) In the current context it is essential that the legitimate concerns of the people are addressed, without impinging on the rights of the citizens.
A solution needs to be found after deliberation.

10. The move by Assam and Odisha to create legislative councils has created a public debate on the role of upper house in states. In this context, examine the utility of legislative councils.

असम और ओडीशा द्वारा विधान परिषद सृजित किए जाने के कदम ने राज्यों में उच्च सदन की भूमिका के बारे में सार्वजनिक बहस को आरम्भ कर दिया है। इस संदर्भ में, विधान परिषदों की उपयोगिता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Constitution provides for the creation of Legislative Council for the states by the ~~Loya~~ ^{Parliament} Sabha upon a request by the states. (Art 169).

Only seven states in India currently have councils. These are usually large states in terms of area and population.

Creation of Legislative Councils in states have certain impacts:

- (i) It provides for a second level of scrutiny with respect to Legislation, though it is weaker than the Assembly.

- (ii) The Council has representation from the students, teachers and eminent persons, which make it more representative and participative.
- (iii) It also accommodates members of local bodies.
- (iv) It might lead to administrative convenience, especially in larger states.

However, there may be certain pitfalls:

- (i) It could be created for purely political reasons, to accommodate politicians.
- (ii) In such a case, it will be a massive waste of public money, without any concomitant increase in efficiency.

Thus, the requirements of

the creation of an upper house must
be carefully scrutinized and various
pros and cons balanced.

11. The Indian Police Act of 1861, a colonial relic, needs to be replaced with a law that befits a free country. In context of the above statement discuss the need for reforms to establish a professional police force in the country.

एक औपनिवेशिक अवशेष समझे जाने वाले 1861 के भारतीय पुलिस अधिनियम को नए कानून से प्रतिस्थापित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है जो एक स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र की प्रतिष्ठा के अनुरूप हो। उपर्युक्त कथन के संदर्भ में देश में एक पेशेवर पुलिस बल की स्थापना हेतु सुधारों की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

It is ironic that even after independence, we have continued with the colonial Indian Police Act of 1861, which was a reaction of the colonial state to the revolt of 1857.

The ~~re~~ Act still defines police as a 'force' without referring to it as a 'service'.

The provisions of the Act do not promote good will of the police towards the people, and has led to several problems:

- (i) Alienation of police from people.
- (ii) Grievances within the police force

of working conditions.

(iii) Top down authority, coercive measures.

(iv) Un-trained and inefficient constabulary, which forms the base of public interaction.

(v) Slow pace of reforms.

In fact, the Supreme Court has exhorted the government many a times to take action on these reforms.

It has laid down 7 pointers as a Model Police Act which states needs to absorb. The recommendations of the National Police Commission, Padmanabhaiah committee, Mallimath committee and directions in Vineeth Narain need

to be implemented. This will make the
police more responsive to the changing
needs of a democracy.

12. A view which has gained currency is that the no-detention policy under the RTE Act has led to deteriorating standards in learning outcomes. Critically examine this view and suggest measures to improve education standards in the country.

एक दृष्टिकोण जिसे व्यापक समर्थन प्राप्त हुआ है वह यह कि शिक्षा के अधिकार अधिनियम के अंतर्गत अनुत्तीर्ण न किए जाने की नीति ने अधिगम (सीखना) परिणामों से संबंधित स्तर को गिरा दिया है। इस दृष्टिकोण का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण करें और देश में शिक्षा के स्तर में सुधार के लिए किये जाने वाले उपायों से संबंधित सुझाव दें।

The learning outcomes in education are clearly brought out by the Annual State of Education Report, the findings of which mandate a rethinking of the education strategy. According of one finding of this report, only 50% of the children in class V are able to read a class II text, and many are unable to perform divisions.

Many factors may be attributed to this, one of which is the no-detention policy. Children are not

detained or punished in case of failure
to complete assignments or score well.

This augurs well for the child, except
that he might get lax and not take
things seriously. However, ~~capital~~
corporal punishment or detention is against
the rights of the child. This method
should not be resorted to, to achieve
learning outcomes.

Certain other measures, however, will
improve this state of affairs : -

- (i) Incessant stress on pedagogic learning
must be discouraged.
- (ii) Examination based outcomes should
be replaced with dynamic learning
by extra-curriculars.
- (iii) International best practices must be

adopted to achieve outcomes.

(iv) Teachers play a vital role in learning,
hence they must be competent and
flexible.

13. PRAGATI is a unique blend of e-governance and e-transparency, which seeks to promote a culture of proactive governance and timely implementation involving realtime presence and exchange among key stakeholders. Illustrate.

प्रगति (PRAGATI) ई-शासन और ई-पारदर्शिता का एक अद्वितीय मिश्रण है, जिसके माध्यम से रियलटाइम (तात्कालिक) उपस्थिति और प्रमुख हितधारकों के बीच आदान-प्रदान को समाहित करने वाली, सक्रिय शासन तथा समय पर कार्यान्वयन की संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने का प्रयास किया गया है। स्पष्ट करें।

14. Discuss how Directive Principle of State Policy have shaped the policy making process in India. Do you think it has been successful in achieving its objective. Analyse.

राज्य के नीति निर्देशक तत्वों ने भारत में नीति-निर्माण की प्रक्रिया को किस प्रकार आकार प्रदान किया है? चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि यह अपने उद्देश्य को प्राप्त करने में सफल रहा है? विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Directive Principles of state policy have been specified in part IV of our constitution. The purpose of laying down these non-justiciable high ideals for the State to follow was the establishment of an equal, just, egalitarian and socialistic pattern of society.

The DSPs have had significant impact on the policy making in India, illustrated with the examples below:-

- (i) The establishment of Panchayats under 73rd and 74th Amendment. (Article 40)

- (ii) Ensuring participation of workers in Industry by forming trade unions and cooperatives. (Article 43)
- (iii) Ensuring public health and ban on intoxicating drinks. Eg. Liquor ban in states, schemes like NRHM.
- (iv) Protecting the natural environment (Article 48) by legislations such as Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- (v) Separating Judiciary from Executive (Article 50) by ensuring independent judiciary.

The achievements of the state in these respects have been a mixed bag. Though we are progressively moving towards a just society, several inequities remain and several outcomes

are wanting. The government needs
to ensure effectiveness of social sector
schemes for speedy socio-economic
transformation.

15. India's participation in bilateral and multilateral naval and military exercises represent India's desire to safeguard its sphere of influence and is also a response to changing geo-strategic scenario. Comment.

द्विपक्षीय और बहुपक्षीय नौसेना तथा थल सेना अभ्यासों में भारत की भागीदारी अपने प्रभाव क्षेत्र की रक्षा करने हेतु भारत की इच्छा को प्रदर्शित करने के साथ परिवर्तनशील भू-रणनीतिक परिदृश्य के प्रति एक अनुक्रिया भी है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Today, geo-strategic interests in the sea are as important as they are on land. Several world powers are asserting their strength in the sea and several challenges are likely to come up for India, a few of which could be:-

- (i) Safeguarding sea lanes of communication (SLOC).
- (ii) Tackling piracy.
- (iii) Securing trade share in multilateral arrangements.
- (iv) Addressing energy and economic needs, etc.

In this respect, India's participation

in naval and military exercises with Australia, Japan, Mongolia, etc. will not only give a filip to the bilateral relations ^{with} ~~of~~ these countries and breathe life into the defence sector, but also address several of the above mentioned concerns.

In the South China Sea, for example, India needs to safeguard its interest in face of an emerging China. It must collaborate with countries like Vietnam who are also looking to enhance their capacities.

16. Despite complementarity of interests and needs, India and Central Asia have remained distant for a long time. Explain why. In what ways can the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) help in expanding India's trade and investment links with Central Asia?

हिंदी और आवश्यकताओं के पूरक होने के उपरांत भी, भारत और मध्य एशिया के बीच संबंधों में एक दूरी रही है। व्याख्या कीजिए कि ऐसा क्यों है? अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उत्तर-दक्षिण परिवहन गलियारा (INSTC) मध्य एशिया के साथ भारत के व्यापार और निवेश संबंधों के विस्तार में किस प्रकार सहयोग कर सकता है?

Central Asia is part of India's extended neighborhood. However, engagement with Central Asia has been shallow and unproductive. Several factors may be attributed to this:-

- (i) Political instability in the proximate region.
- (ii) Threats from Taliban and other militant organisations.
- (iii) Discontinuity in dialogue with successive regimes.
- (iv) Presence of influence of players

like China and Russia.

- (v) Lack of active engagement and failure to make good on promises.

This trend, is however set to reverse with the Prime Minister's recent visit to the five central Asian countries. India has a deep interest in the shared prosperity of the region.

A case in point is the development of the International North-South Transport corridor, which when developed will have a multiplier effect on Indian economy and economy of the region:

- (a) access to markets.
- (b) rise in bilateral trade.
- (c) Easy movement of goods and lowering of tariffs

(d) people to people contact and boost
to tourism.

(e) Further assertation of India's cultural
hegemony and soft power

17. The fourteenth finance commission is advancement over the previous finance commission in terms of improving the federal relations of the country. Discuss.

देश में संघीय संबंधों के सुधार की दृष्टि से चौदहवाँ वित्त आयोग, पूर्ववर्ती वित्त आयोग की तुलना में अग्रवर्ती कदम है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Fourteenth Finance Commission has increased the devolution from the central sharable pool from the earlier 32% to 42%. This is the highest ever increase in devolution to states. Several other factors and measures are listed ~~the~~ below :-

- (a) It will lead to enhanced fiscal space to the states.
- (b) The FFC has also called for restructuring and reforming the centrally sponsored schemes (CSS).
- (c) This will avoid the 'one size fits all' approach to development and

the states to prioritize spending. Eg. Kerala might not want to spend on Sarva Siksha Abhiyan

① It has, however, done away with the distinction given to special category states. This has raised concerns in certain quarters.

Overall, the FFC has given a filip to fiscal federalism by enhancing the financial devolution. However, the central government must look into issues of special category states and discontinuation of funds such as the Backward Region Grant Fund. How the states will be compensated

*in a true spirit of cooperative
federalism remains to be seen.*

18. "The Right to Privacy is not a guaranteed constitutional right." Critically discuss this statement in the light of recent controversy around the Aadhar Scheme.

"निजता का अधिकार संविधान से प्रत्याभूत अधिकार नहीं है।" हाल ही में आधार योजना से संबंधित उत्पन्न विवाद के सन्दर्भ में इस कथन पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा करें।

The Right to Privacy has been read along with Article 21 by the Supreme Court in cases such as Kharak Singh. Within the right to liberty lies the right to privacy, the court has held.

The recent controversy with regard to biometric data collection for Aadhar cards is based on this right. The arguments against such a large scale collection of biometrics can be:

- (a) Government will become all powerful
- (b) Surveillance, both legal and illegal, will be possible.

- (c) Issues of data security and propriety
- (d) In case of theft or mishandling,
security concerns for the citizens.
- (e) Violation of right to privacy.

However, it has to be understood that the purpose of this exercise is not surveillance but welfare. Aadhar has already allowed successful linking of about 12 crore accounts by NPCI. The banking services, social security, wage payments and Direct Benefits transfer are intrinsically empowering the citizens.

The government needs to address the valid concerns of the civil society with respect to data security architecture and preventing misuse.

19. India's inability to join APEC is not because of lack of interest on her part but due to a variety of other reasons. Explain. What are the expected benefits of such a membership for India?

ए.पी.ई.सी. में भारत के सम्मिलित न हो पाना, भारत की ओर से ए.पी.ई.सी. में रूचि के अभाव के कारण नहीं है, अपितु इसकी पृष्ठभूमि में विविध कारण निहित हैं। व्याख्या कीजिए। भारत के लिए इस प्रकार की सदस्यता के अपेक्षित लाभ क्या हैं?

20. That the recognition of transgender rights could open up a Pandora's Box on the issue of decriminalization of homosexuality amounts to taking a narrow view on an important question of social justice. Discuss.

यह तर्क कि ट्रांसजेंडर के अधिकारों को मान्यता दिया जाना समलैंगिकता को अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर करने के मुद्दे पर समस्याओं का पिटारा खोल सकता है, सामाजिक न्याय के एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न पर संकीर्ण दृष्टिकोण अपनाने को बाध्य कर रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Supreme Court in a final judgement (in response to a PIL by NALSA) has recognised transgenders as the third gender; asserting that gender was not an issue of biological sex but a question of identity.

Of course, this judgement will have far reaching implications. However, restricting the impact to ~~the~~ repeal of section 377 in due course of time, is a narrow view. The judgement in itself will cater to several

aspects of a transgender's life. One only needs to look at the judgement to understand :-

- (a) SC has also talked about prohibition of discrimination, which transgenders face throughout life.
- (b) It has asked the government to consider them as socially and educationally backward, and extend reservation to them.
- (c) Separate public infrastructure like separate toilets has been mandated. This will enable social mobility of transgenders.
- (d) Section 377 is being used against them, as observed by SC. This will open gates of repeal.

Transgenders are part and parcel
of society and mainstreaming them
is the State's responsibility.