



GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	60279
Center	ORN	Date	02.09.19

INDEX TABLE

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

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख 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. 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।

National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog was formed by an executive resolution in 2014 replacing the erstwhile Planning Commission. It is the premier think tank of the nation.

Structure of NITI Aayog:

- i) Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Aayog
- ii) Vice-Chairman
- iii) 4 - full time members
- iv) 2 - part time members from specific fields.
- v) Cabinet ministers, people/intellectuals from specific fields may as well be invited for policy discussions.

Functions of NITI Aayog:

- ↳ act as the premier policy think tank.
- ↳ provide an essential unit of cooperative federalism between States & Centre.
- ↳ act as State of Art resources centre for good governance for States.
- ↳ conduct various rankings, studies such as

School Education Quality Index, Health Report, Composite Water Index to bring about competitiveness among States.

↳ through schemes such as Atal Innovation Mission, Aspirational Districts Program provides avenues for development.

Contemporary Relevance:

- ↳ acts as a friend, philosopher guide to states
- ↳ provides a vital link for providing a semblance in working between State & Centre
- ↳ helps in policy formulation by doing extensive research and data aggregation.

But as pointed out by Vijay Kelkar, the need now is of NITI Aayog 2.0. - which is provided with financial devolution powers to be able to convert policies into actions. Hence need is for revamping of NITI Aayog to make it more relevant to present scenario.

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

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

Economic Survey pointed out the pendency of nearly 3.5 crore cases in courts which reflects a dire state of judiciary in India. Fast track courts were setup as a panacea to shift certain cases to special courts for speedy trial and dispensation of justice.

5th five year plan proposed for setting up fast track courts.

Benefits of fast track courts:

- ↳ reduction in load over the judiciary system.
- ↳ speedy justice delivery to the applicants.
- ↳ fast track courts in economic cases - leads to improving ease of doing business.
- ↳ in deciding cases against politicians - leads to decriminalization of politics.
- ↳ in case of rape, POCSO cases leads to early remedy, providing relief to victim - prevent re-victimization.

Challenges to fast track courts:

- ↳ lack of inadequate infrastructure and personnel - the same infrastructure gets

gets overburdened without any expansion of infrastructure

↳ States do not have adequate funds to expand the infrastructure

↳ with vacancies of nearly 21% in lower judiciary, the problem is getting aggravated.

↳ the investigative and prosecution machinery i.e. the police system is ~~is~~ inadequate as well - which hampers the functioning of the fast track courts

↳ the poor judicial administration.

With huge pendency of cases (nearly 40%) in fast track courts, the rationale for its creation has been defeated. Government spends mere 0.9% (Economic Survey 2017-18) on judiciary. The need is to enhance expenditure and recruitment to augment the judicial capacity.

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।

Judiciary is the most important organ in the nation to ensure realization of the goals mentioned in Preamble of Indian Constitution - Justice for all: social, economic and political.

Lower judiciary comprises of the district and sessions court in a state.

Challenges faced by lower judiciary:

- i) with nearly 2.93 crore cases pending, the judiciary is overburdened
- ii) vacancy of nearly 21% in lower judiciary (Economic Survey (ES) 2018-19)
- iii) need of nearly 8000 additional judges in lower judiciary for clearance of all pending cases (ES 2018-19)
- iv) lack of proper infrastructural support such as buildings, courtrooms, administrative staff
- v) Poor investigative mechanism by police hampers the judicial process as well.
- vi) frequent resorting to injunctions and stays.

Measures to enhance productivity:

- i) Immediate filling up of vacancies to get a case clearance rate of 100%. (ES 2018-19)
- ii) augmenting judicial capacity by recruitment - All India Judicial Services - in line with All India Civil Services. e.g. - Odisha has such an arrangement.
- iii) Close coordination of State PSC and High Courts to ensure faster recruitment.
- iv) As per Eco-Survey 2018-19 Indian Tribunal and Administrative Council can be created in line with international practice (US, UK) for better management of courts.
- v) Usage of technology such as e-Courts, faster implementation of it in mission mode, e-filing of court cases.
- vi) States need to augment capacity of lower judiciary and enhance expenditure.

To achieve a \$5 trillion economy, we need a robust judiciary system for speedy justice. And it has to start from the lowest level.

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

Legislation is a primary instrument by use of which the legislature of a country formulates laws, policies, rules for the smooth functioning of the nation's economy and society. ~~But~~

Legislation takes place in 3 phases:

- i) Pre-legislative discussion - stakeholders views
- ii) During legislation - in parliamentary debate
- iii) Post-legislative scrutiny -

In the present scenario in India we don't have a formal mechanism for the post-legislative scrutiny. It is only through various informal modes such as petitions, protests, filing cases in courts, protest march, submitting memorandums that stakeholders express their view.

Need to formalise process of post-legislative scrutiny:

- i) To ~~assess~~ assess the legislative impact on the intended beneficiary.
- ii) To have a proper formal feedback mechanism which further helps in refining laws.

- iii) to understand the mood, demand of the stakeholders ^{through} in a proper designated forum and take remedial actions.
- iv) better policy formulation in future.
- v) prevent unnecessary costly litigation - saving of time and resources of government and judiciary.
- vi) prevent loss of life and property due to violence during protests.
- vii) responsive, accountable government enhances trust of citizen.
- viii) lets active participation of citizen in governance process - helping in promoting democracy.

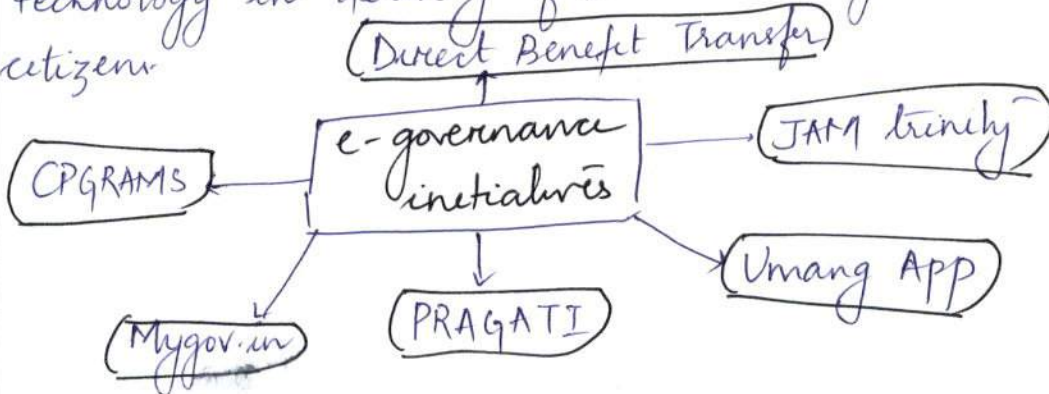
Hence making legislation is not a top-down one way process. Rather it is a consultative process. Citizens should have a proper mechanism to air their views and grievances to have functioning government which leads to the people.

5. Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving the effectiveness of e-governance in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस की प्रभावशीलता में सुधार लाने में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) की क्षमता की विवेचना कीजिए।

Artificial Intelligence refers to the mechanism by which machines think, act, behave like the way humans do by repeatedly observing ~ phenomena and acquiring the habits through learning. Today AI are the biggest part of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

E-governance refers to enhanced usage of technology in delivery of services and goods to the citizen.



Potential of AI in improving e-governance:

- i) the huge amount of data generated can be filtered and utilized constructively for policy making decisions using AI.
- ii) AI can act as citizen-interface with government for answering queries regarding any government services.

e-g - Ask DISHA in IRCTC.

- iii) In health sector, AI can be used to congregati all data from Health Management Information System and provide a better targeted Health Profile Report.
- iv) AI can be used in education sector through the new initiatives of Shala Sidhi, Shagun to analyse the outcomes of schools and provide data for further improvement in them.
- v) In delivery of services, AI can be used to reduce human-contact, reducing corruption.
- vi) ~~AI can also be utilized in automizing the~~
~~ser~~ providing of various

AI has huge potential to transform the face of governance by ensuring inclusion of all. But at the same time, privacy concerns and data protection have to be ensured to prevent any misuse.

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।

Public grievance redressal mechanism refers to the process by which general citizen/people can air their grievances regarding any government services, policies, laws and get a solution to their grievances.

Various reforms in public grievance redressal mechanism:

- i) CPGRAMS by Ministry Department of Personnel
- ii) Lokpal at Centre and Lokayukta in States.
- iii) Various initiatives by individual ministries.
e.g - POCSD e-box, SHE-BOX by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- iv) PRAGATI scheme for project management from top level.
- v) Mygov.in site for citizen feedback.

Limited effectiveness of the mechanisms:

- ↳ absence of trained personnel who are dedicated to address the problems faced by the citizens.
- ↳ lack of proper mechanism of flow of grievances from the citizen to the concerned authority.

- iii) lack of personnel to address the grievances leading to overburdening.
- iv) improper management of grievance redressal mechanisms, which are at times too weak and inadequate.
- v) proper devolution of funds not ensured as it is not considered a priority.

Need for robust mechanism:

- i) Every state and central department having a dedicated cell for grievance redressal.
- ii) Budget of departments must account for its expenditure.
- iii) Designation of specific individual for grievance redressal and ensuring his/her accountability.
- iv) Revision of penalties for failure to address grievances.

A good governance can only be ensured if the public grievance redressal system is robust. One way communication defeats the purpose of efficient governance.

7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it. (150 words)
10

भारत में महिलाओं और बच्चों की तस्करी में योगदान देने वाले कारकों की व्याख्या करते हुए, इससे निपटने के लिए हाल के दिनों में उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Trafficking of women and children is the 3rd most organised crime in the world after drug trafficking and wildlife crimes. It is one of the most dehumanizing aspect of the new world.

Factors for trafficking :

- i) Social factors: women and children most vulnerable. Marginalized group. Women treated as inferiors and a burden. Early sold for money by family. Patriarchal bias.
- ii) Economic factors: Poverty, indebtedness, landlessness makes people sell their children at times in great distress. Women in need of money also get lured.
- iii) Children are highly gullible, innocent and are easily wayed.
- iv) Political: poor implementation of laws such as Immoral trafficking Act etc; Bonded Labour Prohibition Act.
- v) Demand side - huge demand for women because of poor sex ratio, children for working in specific industries has accelerated it.
- vi) Collusion of criminals with police aggravated the situation.

Steps taken :

- i) Present POCSO Act, 2014 has clear guidelines for prevention of trafficking of children.
- ii) Government has introduced Anti-Trafficking Bill, 2018 in the Parliament to holistically address the issues of trafficking.
- iii) Khoya-Paya portal of police to trace missing childrens
- iv) Collaboration with border countries - Nepal, Bangladesh etc to enhance patrolling and prevent trafficking.
- v) awareness generation among people, families to be alert of such traffickers.
- vi) Providing schemes such as Stand Up India, Skill India, MUDRA, RTE etc to ensure reduction in poverty - so that they donot resort to trafficking - poor people.

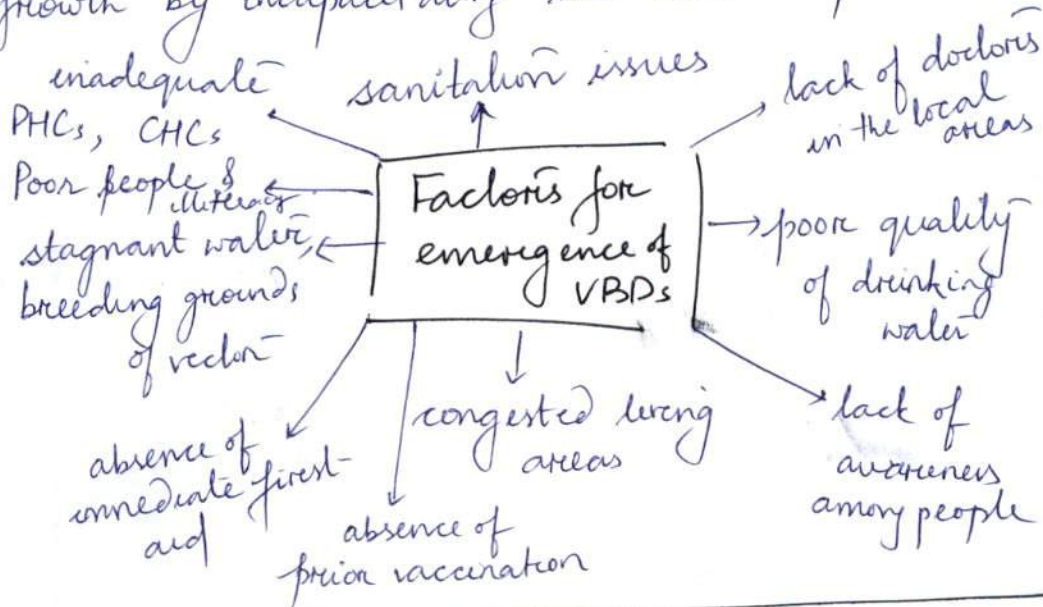
The need to ensure fulfillment of SDG-1 zero poverty which will help in addressing the supply side of trafficking. Proper implementation of laws, and early formulation of Anti trafficking Bill is the need of the hour.

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 refer to the diseases which are caused due to bacteria, parasites, fungi which are carried by certain vectors/carriers.
e.g- Malaria, Dengue, Kala-azar, Filariasis.

India is seeing enhanced vector-borne diseases which is claiming many lives and hampering growth by incapacitating the human capital.



Measures to control the diseases:

- i) Improving the sanitation conditions in the area. Swachh Bharat Mission has helped in this area to eliminate open defecation.

- ii) Provision of clean drinking water to all.
- iii) WASH initiative to be well-spread to make people aware.
- iv) taking help of ASHA workers to sensitize people of changing basic habits
e.g - covering foods, not keeping stagnant water for long.
- v) Mass-dissemination of awareness about the diseases through media, NGOs, mukhad nataks.
- vi) Schools may become a vehicle to make children aware.
- vii) Fumigation drive by municipalities. VBDs are kind of diseases which can be prevented by active support of people. Making them aware will go a long way in achieving SDG 3.

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-Indonesia relations go as far as historical trade routes of ancient times. Bali still reflects the old links. Even after Independence, Pandit Nehru with Sukarno of Indonesia and others formulated NAM. But then the initial entente has died out. Off late government has tried to resurrect it.

Reason for resurrection of ties:

- ↳ Geostrategic position - Nearby to Andaman & Nicobar island. Also has strait of Malacca through which $\frac{3}{4}$ th of world trade takes place.
- ↳ improving living standards of people - both have high poverty level
- ↳ members of Indian ocean littoral - cooperation in blue economy, sea-theft, piracy, sea-terrorism.
- ↳ Improving economic trade ties - opening up of a new market for trading.

- ↳ Regional instability - China factor - its growing assertiveness has led to bringing the two countries close.
- ↳ In WTO, both have come together to ensure the voice of developing countries are heard, resolution of Doha Amendment - Accord and subsidies issue addressed.
- ↳ Marine pollution, climate change, rise in sea level, Paris climate accord are also bringing the two nations closer who have similar viewpoints in it.

Thus with growing de-globalization and protectionist attitude of developed nations, the need of hour is South-South cooperation to ensure reciprocal development.

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।

India - Nepal have been natural allies since Independence through the India - Nepal bilateral Friendship treaty of 1950.

Bilateral ties:

- ↳ open and porous border
- ↳ no visa requirement
- ↳ job taken up by Nepalis in India.
- ↳ hydropower generation cooperation.
- ↳ economic aid and support by India.

Barrier to relation:

- ↳ recent blockade in Nepal border due to adoption of Constitution not in line with Indian desires. (alienating of Madhesis)
- ↳ Nepal has tried offlate to play the China card by elevating relation with China, accepting BRI (OBOR initiative) with China. It also recently allowed use of Mandarin in schools.
- ↳ escalations due to pricing issues of

hydropower generated in Nepal.

↳ debt burden of Nepal because of excessive dependence on India.

↳ GST and demonetization hurt Nepal economy.

Recent visit of Prime Minister, late Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj to congratulate the newly elected Prime Minister of Nepal.

Mr Oli has not resulted in very positive development.

Need :

↳ reformulate the Friendship treaty

↳ enhance bilateral talks

↳ address pricing issues.

↳ allow economic trade

↳ faster completion of projects

India China 2+1 talks is a good way to deal with neighbours. India should shed big brotherly attitude and be ~~as a~~ an aid in Nepal's development.

11. Delineate the differences between pressure groups and interest groups. Citing examples, elaborate on the ways in which pressure groups influence government decisions and policy making in India. (250 words) 15

दबाव समूहों और हित समूहों के मध्य अंतर का वर्णन कीजिए। उदाहरणों को उद्धृत करते हुए, उन तरीकों का सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए जिनके माध्यम से दबाव समूह भारत में सरकारी निर्णयों और नीति-निर्माण को प्रभावित करते हैं।

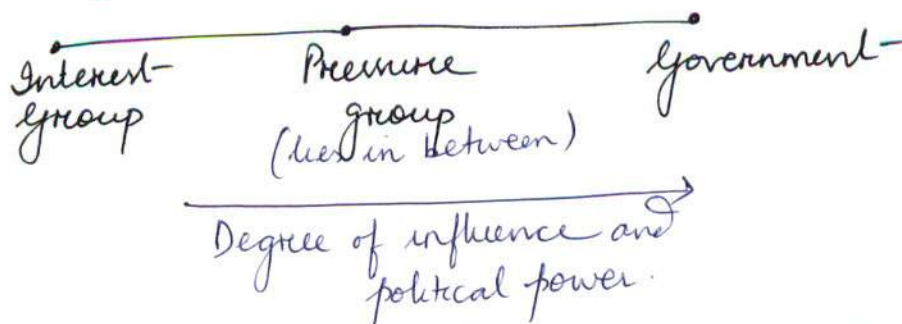
Pressure groups refers to a group of people who come together because of some inherent common interests. To realize their common interest, they try to influence the government to ensure the policies are drawn which furthers their interest.

e.g- ASSOCHAM, FICCI, trade unions etc.

An Interest group on the other hand is an association of people with common interest. They do not necessarily try to influence government policies. They come together for exchange of ideas and furthering their own interest.

e.g- various art clubs, forums etc.

Pressure group usually do not try to acquire political power. But an interest group may gradually develop to aspire for the same.



Influence of pressure groups in India:

- i) through various petitions, memorandums, lobbying, pressure groups try to influence the policy makers.
- ii) lobbying is one of main tool used by pressure groups.
e.g - FICCI, Assocham.
Recently SIAM tried to impress upon the government the need to boost the dumping auto sector.
- iii) PUCL in its case in Supreme Court, brought about NOTA in the election process.
- iv) Association for democratic reforms another civil service organization through its research exposes the criminal antecedents, political expenditure of politicians - influencing policy making.
- v) Right to Information Act was a major achievement because of the activism of various NGOs, civil society organization.

vi) Gender justice ensured by recent case in SC of Young India lawyers association to ensure temple entry for women.

vii) Trade unions ensure favourable terms by protesting against unjust rules.

e.g - divergence of unclaimed funds from EPFO to Senior Citizen Fund.

But at times pressure groups negatively affect policy making as well. Such as those involved in religious and fanatical associations.

Pressure groups are held as harbingers of democracy. But if they try to serve only narrow interest groups, it leads to non-inclusive growth. Hence policy making should take into consideration the wider good.

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।

The enactment of 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendment Act ensured the true decentralization of powers in Indian administration. Though heralded as a watershed legislation, its functioning has not been upto mark.

Issues faced by local self governance in India:

i) As pointed out by 2nd ARC, the major problem faced by them are 3F's
Funds, Functionaries and Functions.

↳ inadequate devolution of funds for their proper functioning.

e.g - States like Odisha fail to form State finance Commission for very long.

ii) Inadequate devolution of powers to the institutions because of lack of political will.

e.g - they cannot levy various taxes (local) to generate their own revenue.

- iii) Improper election to Panchayati Raj institution by State Election Commission - leading to vacancies.
- iv) Rise of Sarpanch Patis problem.
- v) Politicization of local self government serving narrow interests.
- vi) Inadequate infrastructure for functioning.
- vii) lack of professional help and inadequate training of the lower level officers to deal with complexity of government functioning.

Measures to be taken:

- i) Regular formation of State Finance Commission and its recommendation to be implemented.
- ii) Proper election schedules for local self governments by State Election Commission.
- iii) Economic Survey 2017-18 points out low fixation of property taxes. It needs to be enhanced as per market rates and local governments allowed to levy taxes.
- iv) Provision of regular training to the functionaries to understand and effectively discharge their functions.

v) Adequate infrastructural support.

vi) The local self government are the grass root-level democratic institutions. Proper functioning will ensure active citizen participation and flourishing of democracy. It will also lead to realisation of SDG-16.

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।

As pointed out by 2nd ARC Right to Information Act is a watershed legislation ensuring active participation of citizen. It marks a shift to right based legislation for citizens to access information.

Recent amendment to RTI Act, 2005:

- i) the salary, tenure, terms of conditions of the Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners to be decided by Government of India.
- ii) they are not to be equated with the same provisions of Election Commissioners - because Chief Election Commissioner is a constitutional body (Art 324) and CIC is a statutory authority.
- iii) the salary not to be charged upon Consolidated Fund of India.

Fallouts of the amendment:

- i) Letting the executive determine the terms of service, appointment process, salary ~~is~~ may lead to hampering the independence of CIC and IC.
- ii) it may act as an hindrance for proper functioning with objectivity because of conflict of interest.
- iii) it will defeat the purpose of formulation of the Act, free and fair remedy for non-access to information.
- iv) will weaken the CIC and IC's authority by placing a 'YES' man in the position.
- v) the IC's may not be able to take free, unbiased, impartial decision. Even if they do, they may be maligned by vested interest groups, because of the procedure of appointment.
- vi) the stature of the authority will be demeaned and citizen may lose faith in it.

Hence to go in for any amendments which may seem to weaken a watershed legislation will have consequences. The government needs to take in account the view of all stakeholders before diluting the provisions. The sanctity of the institution is paramount to ensure a participative democracy.

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 process by which the country is divided into various constituencies in such a way that all of them have nearly same population. The boundary demarcation is done to ensure near equal political representation - to ensure political equality.

Article 84 of Indian Constitution provides for the formation of Delimitation Commission.
Process of delimitation in India:

- i) the President appoints the Delimitation Commission.
 - ii) the award of the Delimitation Commission is final and is not to be enquired in any court of law.
 - iii) the Delimitation Commission takes into account the Census figures of previous decade to arrive at the demarcation.
- Till date 4 Delimitation Commission have been formed.

Debates surrounding delimitation:

The last delimitation process was done ^{based on} 1971 Census. And by 85th CA Act it has been frozen upto 2026. - the constituency size.

Because of the above, there has been rise of various issues:

- i) the politicians / representative represents a huge number of electors. Eg in India, ~~they~~ 1 representative represents nearly 15 lakh people which is much lesser in foreign countries.
- ii) Because of freezing of constituency size, there has been misrepresentation. Such as a constituency in UP represents more people than one in Tamil Nadu, because of rise in population.
- iii) the Representative loses connect with electors because of sheer volume of them, hence fails to address all their issues.
- iv) the marginalised, poor are the ones whose voices get drowned out the most in the cacophony.

Hence there has been a growing call to resize the constituency to address the anomalies. But some States such as the southern states have objected because of better population control achieved by them. In case of readjustment, they stand to lose representation in the national assembly affecting their interests.

Thus, a careful approach have to be adopted to delimit the constituency. At the same time, population control has to be rigorously followed in the more populous states (UP, Bihar) to prevent further strain on the resources.

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 हाशिए पर मौजूद समूहों के उत्थान में सहायता करते हैं। स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, SHGs द्वारा सामना की जा रही बाधाओं का उल्लेख कीजिए। इन बाधाओं को कैसे दूर किया जा सकता है।

Self Help groups refers to an association of group of people usually poor and marginalized. They come together to solve their problems and enhance their quality of living.

Vehicles of rural development :

- i) ensure financial inclusion of the rural people.
- ii) access to finances, increase chances of better production (especially in agriculture)
- iii) families with members in SHGs are found to have better IMR, MMR, better school attendance rates, lower dropout rates.
- iv) level of poverty gradually declines because of access to resources.
- v) enhances bargaining power of the group and thereby raising their voices.

Upliftment of marginalized groups :

- i) Women — leads to enhanced self-confidence, socio-economic development, respect in family and society, has a greater voice in making family decisions, self-sufficient.

- ii) Poor : easy access to finances, usage of same in enhancing productivity, improves living standards. Better position in societal structure. Not socially excluded any more.
- iii) Disabled : they get a renewed self confidence and economic empowerment, societal acceptance.

Constraints faced by SHGs :

- i) In spite of presence of SHG-Bank linkage, the access to funds has been quite low.
- ii) the skills of the SHGs are usually very primary, hence less remunerative.
- iii) lack of trained professional to maintain account of SHGs, administrative works.
- iv) capacity building of SHG women is not adequate and quite low.
- v) high regional disparity in presence of SHG and access to funds. Mostly concentrated in South India, while very low in North eastern states.

Ways to address :

- i) the capacity of regional rural banks and co-operative banks have to be enhanced to be able to lend to SHGs.
- ii) MISSION SHAKTI of NABARD to digitize SHG accounts is a welcome step.
- iii) Reskilling and upgradation of skills of SHG members.
- iv) More SHG formation in north-eastern states to address disparity.
- v) Provision of access to professionals to help SHG flourish.

SHGs can act as a harbinger of development especially in rural areas. They need to be nurtured to ensure inclusive growth.

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 Mission has been heralded as the biggest behavioural change campaign in the world as per WHO.

Objectives of SBM :

- ↳ construction of toilets in rural and urban areas. both private and public.
- ↳ ensure community participation.
- ↳ ensuring behavioural change to use the same.
- ↳ geotagging of toilets.
- ↳ eliminate open defecation by 2019.

But of late after the National Rural Sanitation Survey pointed out that 93.5% households have access to toilets and 96.5% use it, the concern now is just building toilets.

Other facets to be looked into are:

- i) ensuring adequate supply of water for continued usage of toilets

- ii) keeping up the momentum of the behavioural change.
- iii) Proper solid and liquid waste management.
- iv) Proper disposal, collection and treatment of sewage.
- v) not just keeping one's house clean but ensuring public place cleanliness as well.
- vi) cleaning of rivers.

Steps taken by Government:

- i) ODF+ and ODF++ tags to be given to cities and places with proper solid and liquid waste management plan. (SLWM)
 ODF+ → if no one is found urinating in open.
 ODF++ → for proper SLWM plan.
- ii) Nal se Jal campaign to ensure water supply to all.
- iii) Capacity building of swachhagrahis to keep up the momentum.

- iv) wide dissemination of sanitation mantra through school textbooks, social media, television etc.
- v) Role models to inspire people.

Hence only constructing toilet is just one aspect, the need is to ensure the other 3 factors in a SWLM plan:

- i) collection of sewage
- ii) proper disposal
- iii) treatment of same.

Along with ensuring water supply will only lead to their continued use.

Behavioural change momentum have to be preserved to extend it to clean the surrounding and the rivers and achieve SDG 6.

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 is a flagship scheme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ensure universal vaccination to children below 2 years and pregnant-mother.

Salient features :

- i) provision of vaccine to ensure prevention against 7 vaccine preventable diseases.
- ii) covering all children below 2 years and pregnant mother.
- iii) Capacity-building of Anganwadis and ASHA volunteers
- iv) ASHA volunteers to generate awareness in respective areas of posting.
- v) ensure supply of vaccine in proper storage, in adequate time and quantity for vaccination.

Challenges faced:

- i) lack of adequate amount of vaccines for vaccination process.
e.g - recently seen in Tamil Nadu.
- ii) reluctance among parents to give vaccination to their wards because of ignorance.
- iii) lack of proper storage facility for vaccines in anganwadis.
- iv) demotivated ASHA workers due to huge burden of work, inadequate staff, low remuneration.
- v) lack of infrastructure to accommodate all the wards and give vaccination.
- vi) communication and information dissemination problems.

Measures to address the same:

- i) developing adequate storage infrastructure at Anganwadis for safe keeping of vaccines.
- ii) Infrastructural expansion of anganwadis to accommodate more people, with proper toilet facilities.

- iii) Increasing staff for vaccination.
- iv) Increasing remuneration of ASHA workers, performance based incentive to motivate them.
- v) using NGOs, civil society organizations to increase the awareness of people and dispel myths associated with it.
- vi) Ensuring proper supply chain management to ensure adequate supply of vaccines.

Government recently launched Mission Intensive Indradhanush to fasttrack the vaccination process. Vaccination is a continuous process. Ensuring it will result in enhancing human capital, low disease in future, ultimately less burden of government exchequer. All leading to economic and social growth.

18. Assess the importance of skilling in light of changing economic and demographic structure in India. In this regard, how far has the Skill India Mission succeeded in its mandate. (250 words) 15

भारत में बदलती आर्थिक और जनसांख्यिकीय संरचना के आलोक में कौशल सृजन के महत्व का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। इस संबंध में, स्किल इंडिया मिशन अपने अधिदेश में कितना सफल रहा है।

The Economic Survey 2018-19 clearly reflects the huge change which India's demography is set to experience in next two decades.

Age group	2021	2041
0-19	41%	25%
20-59	32%	59%
60+	9%	16%

Hence as we can see in the next decade India is expected to reach the peak of demographic dividend. To tap into this dividend will only help in realising the \$5 trillion economy target.

Importance of skilling:

- i) Eco-Survey 2018-19 points out nearly 1 lakh people will enter work force annually. Hence in order to engage them positively, skill imparting is most necessary.
- ii) The growth of India slipped to 5% (April-June 2019). Employment level is at

lowest level since 45 years at 6.1%.

Hence skilling the youth can only help in addressing the issue by creating entrepreneurs.

iii) the biggest hindrance in the market today is skill and job requirement mismatch. Skilling the youth adequately can boost the economy.

iv) Such a huge demography divided if not positively skilled, may be prone to radicalization in absence of positive engagement.

v) the elderly population can also be utilized to provide certain knowledgeable functions, helping the youth.

vi) the children can be skilled at an early age (class 8) to ensure early skilling and vocationalization of ~~the~~ education. This may promote poor people to send their wards to school.

Skill India Mission is a flagship mission of Government of India to skill the youth through PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana

Rural and Urban

Success of
scheme

Nearly more than a million people have been skilled in various trades

Youths have shown much interest and have enrolled in large nos.

Failure/
Shortcomings

The placement rate of the skilled people has been at best abysmal.

Proliferation of private ITIs has degraded the quality of skill employed.

The committee recommends to rationalise Skill Sector Councils need to be worked on and implemented. Skills need to be aligned with the market demand. Industry stakeholders need to play a more active role to make skill India a success.

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।

India recently created a Indo-Pacific division in MEA which showcases the importance India attaches to the greater region. Indo-Pacific comprises of the region extending from the Indian Ocean till the Pacific Ocean.

Reasons for creating Indo Pacific division.

- i) Growing importance being accorded to the region.

e.g - US renamed its PACOM division as Indo-Pacific division.

Quad grouping calls for a prosperous, open Indo-Pacific.

- ii) Growing assertiveness of China in the region needs to be balanced through a coherent strategy. China's maritime silk road traverses through whole of Indo-Pacific.

- iii) To bring about a synergy in policy making comprising of Indian Ocean region and Pacific region -
 - iv) To act as a single point contact for all the littoral nations to address their queries.
 - v) To maintain a continuity in policy making which can now take a bird's eye view of the whole region.
 - vi) Capture the importance of blue economy in the region.
- Challenges in Indo - Pacific region:
- i) Geographical distance from the Pacific region may limit India's interaction.
 - ii) Check book diplomacy of China and its growing clout in the area.
 - iii) Divergised viewpoints and struggles of various littoral nations in the region may hinder a cohesive strategy development.
- e.g - North Korea's ~~hagemony~~ missile tests.
Japan-China tussle

South China dispute

- iv) Role of external actors in the region
even has disrupting effect.

e.g - Presence of military establishments
of France (Chagos)
US (Diego Garcia)

- v) Many nations in the region are heavily
dependent on China (Debt trap diplomacy)

e.g - Sri Lanka, Maldives.

- vi) Sea thefts, piracy, sea terrorism.

Hence, ensuring a free, open, prosperous
Indo-Pacific will be in the best interests of
the nation. It would lead to better connect
and enhanced trade ensuring economic growth.
Synergy of all members would lead to a
sustainable development of the region.

20. For SCO to become a successful regional grouping, it has to overcome bilateral differences between its members and their respective geopolitical calculations. Comment. Also, discuss the role that SCO can play in enhancing India's interest in the Eurasian region. **(250 words) 15**

SCO को एक सफल क्षेत्रीय समूह बनने हेतु, अपने सदस्यों के मध्य के द्विपक्षीय मतभेदों और उनके संबंधित भू-राजनीतिक अपेक्षाओं से उबरना होगा। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, यूरेशियाई क्षेत्र में भारत के हितों को बढ़ाने में SCO द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका की भी विवेचना कीजिए।

SCO is a Eurasian political, economical and military organization. It comprises of 8 member states, 4 observer states and 6 dialogue partners.

Issues in SCO:

Bilateral differences between:

- i) India - Pakistan - over border dispute, terrorism, water sharing.
- ii) India - China - border disputes, CPEC, border incursions, high trade deficit, deadlock in RCEP, prevention of India's membership in NSG.
- iii) India - Russia - though not overtly clear, but growing proximity of India towards US, US sponsoring of CAATSA, India signing of agreements such as COMCASA may be an irritant to Indo-Russia relation.

Need to overcome this.

- i) SCO is a important organisation devoid any Western influence which appears to challenge the Western domination in many spheres.
- ii) Central Asia is a rich source of energy (Kazakhstan- uranium, Turkmenistan- natural gas), hence essentially for economic trade and energy security.
- iii) RATS mechanism is a great way to counter terrorism in the region. Help fight the Golden crescent menace as well.
- iv) India- Pakistan can come together in the forum mediated by China, Russia to improve bilateral ties.
- v) Connectively to Central Asia through INSTC, Ashgabat agreement will open many avenues of trade.

Role of SCO in enhancing India's interest:

- ↳ Economy - opening up of Central Asian markets for trade and investment.
Huge opportunity.
- ↳ Energy security & minerals - Uranium (Kazakhstan)
Gold (Uzbekistan)
Hydropower (Tajikistan)
Natural gas (Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan)
- ↳ Security - RATS arrangement - India-Pakistan bilateral talks.
- ↳ Connectivity - INSTC, Chabahar Port, access to Afghanistan.

India's membership to SCO can have great win-win situation for both. Hence India needs to engage completely in SCO to ensure the best out ^{come from} of the forum.