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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1523)

Name of Candidate	Simrandeep Singh		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	633402
Center	Online	Date	24/12/2020

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		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	10		2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3	10		3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4	10		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	10		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	10		6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7	10		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।
8	10		
9	10		
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20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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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. Enumerate the issues associated with functioning of the Central Information Commission. How can these issues be addressed? (150 words) 10

केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग की कार्य प्रणाली से संबद्ध मुद्दों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इन मुद्दों का कैसे समाधान किया जा सकता है?

Central Information Commission (CIC) was setup under the Right to Information Act, 2005, considered as a watershed moment in the fight for transparent governance.

However overtime, CIC has been mired with various issues, which hamper its credibility as a bulwark of transparency. Some of these are mentioned below:

1. Appointment process - The committee responsible for appointing CIC & 10 other Information Commissioners consists of Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and a Union Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. With no leader of opposition recognised, appointment process suffers.

2. RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for the salary and allowances of CICs and ICs to be decided by Union Executive. This ~~is~~ affects its independent nature.
3. Tenure of information commissioners has been reduced to 3 years. This is considerably short compared to other bodies.
4. CICs & ICs have been made eligible for reappointment. This leads to politicisation of the body.
5. Staff crunch, dependency on CBI for investigation are other issues being faced.

Steps to be taken

1. Provide Constitutional status to CIC.
2. Make the appointment committee more broad based. (involving CJI in it)
3. Instituting an investigation wing under CIC.
4. Making the expenses of CIC charged on ~~Constitution~~ of Consolidated Fund of India.

2. In India, Governor's discretionary powers are wider than those of the President. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

भारत में, राज्यपाल की विवेकाधीन शक्तियाँ राष्ट्रपति की तुलना में अधिक व्यापक हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Although Governor holds a position with respect to state, which is analogous to President's position to Centre, she still has more discretionary powers.

Constitutional Provisions

President

- The Constitution of India provides for a Council of Ministers under Article 74, to aid & advice the President. It has been accepted that President has to always act according to the advice of COM.
- No explicit discretionary powers have been mentioned.

Governor

- Constitution provides discretionary powers for Governor of following types ÷

(a) Explicit Discretionary Powers

- (i) When Governor is appointed as administrator of an adjoining UT.
- (ii) Reserving a bill for Presidential assent.
- (iii) Forwarding a report under Art. 356 to President

(b) Implicit discretionary powers

- (i) In case of a hung assembly
- (ii) Requesting for an information about business of the house or decision of Council of Ministers
- (iii) Sending an advice of Council of Ministers back for reconsideration

In this way, Constitution envisages no other role of the President other than acting as per advice of Council of Minister. This is the basis of Parliamentary form of Government in India, However, Governor's dual role of centre's nominee as well as state executive's head provides for greater discretionary powers.

3. Highlight the objectives that were sought to be achieved through tribunals.
How successful have they been in meeting them? (150 words) 10
उन उद्देश्यों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिन्हें अधिकरणों के माध्यम से प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया गया था। वे उन्हें पूर्ण करने में कितने सफल रहे हैं?

42nd Constitutional Amendment Act provided for setting up of tribunals for administrative and other purposes under the Article 323A and 323B.

Objectives of Tribunals

1. Need of technical adjudication, which was difficult for ordinary courts.
2. Expedite the process of disputes resolution.
3. Reduce the burden of judiciary which has 3.5 crore pending cases.
4. Improve the ease of doing business by enforcing contracts in a transparent manner.
5. Providing a platform for civil servants for resolution of their service disputes in a time bound manner.

Three decades hence, their success can be measured from following observations:

1. The pace of adjudication through tribunals has been recognised satisfactorily by NCRWC.
2. Important tribunals like Telecom Dispute Settlement Appellate Tribunal, Airports & Tariffs Appellate Tribunals, etc. have provided quick resolutions for cases like Adjusted Gross Revenues.
3. Judicial burden for such cases has been reduced.

But following lacunae are still observed:

1. Apex Court has allowed appeals against tribunals to be heard by it. This defeats the whole purpose.
2. Appointments to various tribunals are held back.
3. Finance Bill, 2017 merged many tribunals. Some of these mergers contradict their previous roles envisaged for them.

Thus, the tribunals have had a mixed success so far. Removing the shortcomings would help.

4. Instead of the government regulating Over-the-top (OTT) platforms, there have been calls for a self-regulating mechanism for such platforms, as in the case of print media. Discuss. (150 words) 10

सरकार द्वारा ओवर-द-टॉप (ओ.टी.टी.) प्लेटफॉर्म को विनियमित करने के स्थान पर, ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म के लिए एक स्व-विनियमन तंत्र हेतु आह्वान किया गया है, जैसे कि प्रिंट मीडिया के मामले में किया गया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Over-the-top (OTT) platforms refer to those platforms which provide digital content (like movies, serials, documentaries) through the internet service providers. Netflix, Amazon Prime are some of the examples.

Need to Current Regulation

OTT platforms are not needed to get CBFC certification as they provide personal viewing experience to the viewers.

Need for regulation

1. OTT platforms have far greater reach than traditional entertainment media.
2. With a large pool of young population, India has a moral responsibility to regulate such content.

3. The nature of OTTs being personalised, has far greater impact on viewers.

In favour of self-regulation

1. Would balance the freedom of speech and expression (Article 19(1)(a)) and the moral responsibility of disseminating content of considerable standards.
2. Government regulation is often based more on public sentiments, which can occasionally lead to poor development in arts field.
3. Govt. regulation for such OTTs is difficult to be enforced due to multiplicity of such platforms.

A judicious mix of regulation by government and OTTs is the best course of action. Providing basic minimum regulations for OTTs by the government can be complemented with OTTs bringing up their own media policy for overall societal benefit.

5. Bring out the arguments surrounding the issue of some states reserving jobs for locals in the private sector. (150 words) 10

कुछ राज्यों द्वारा निजी क्षेत्र में नौकरियों को स्थानीय लोगों के लिए आरक्षित किए जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे के चतुर्दिक तर्कों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Haryana Government recently reserved 75 percent of the private jobs in the state for locals. Such demands have also been witnessed in Gujarat, Maharashtra, etc.

Reasons for such demands

1. Unemployment has been at 45 year high.
2. Shift of manpower from agriculture to manufacturing sector has further aggravated the problem.
3. Sons of the soil movement
4. Increased deprivation due to lockdown induced by COVID-19 pandemic.

Issues related to reservation

1. Constitutional Provision - Article 16(4) provides for reservation in jobs. Two aspects need to be observed ÷

- 1.1 Jobs reservation can be provided only by Parliament
 - 1.2 Reservation can only be provided for public sector, not private sector.
- Thus such reservations are unconstitutional.
2. It would be detrimental to the unity of the country.
 3. India has 65 million internal migrants. Such demands would result in their livelihood being endangered.
 4. Industries like chemical industry, Petroleum Industry would find it difficult to get skilled workforce locally.
 5. Responsibility of skilling would fall on private sector.

Thus, skill development and inclusive policies are the solution. Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kausthal Vikas Yojana need to be strengthened further.

6. Identifying the key elements of Mission Karmayogi, briefly explain how it can lead to holistic development of the human resources and state's capacity. (150 words) 10

मिशन कर्मयोगी के प्रमुख तत्वों की पहचान करते हुए, संक्षेप में स्पष्ट कीजिए कि इससे मानव संसाधन और राज्य की क्षमता का समग्र विकास कैसे हो सकता है।

Mission Karmayogi, or National Programme for Civil Services Capability Building has been envisaged as a human resources development scheme by the Government of India.

Key elements of Mission Karmayogi

1. Ensuring mid-career level training for all civil servants.
2. Special training sessions focussed on soft-skills and personality development.
3. Focus on inculcating values like service orientation, empathy for better public service.
4. Feedback and regular monitoring of training outcomes has also been envisaged.

The mission is expected to help in better human resources and states capacity in following ways:

1. Continuous learning process would help the administration remain in touch with latest developments in public service delivery field.
2. Focus on values like compassion, empathy, transparency, neutrality, etc. would provide humane face to the administration.
3. Feedback mechanism ~~has~~ would provide a benefit to future trainees with better training modules.

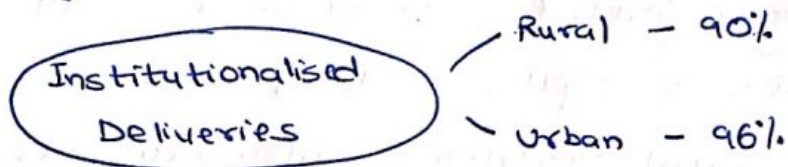
In this way, a ~~good~~ administration manned by better civil servants would provide an excellent public service delivery through this mission.

7. Highlighting the role played by ASHA workers in public health system of India, discuss the challenges faced by them. (150 words) 10
- भारत की सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में आशा कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Accredited Social Health workers (ASHAs) are the last mile connectors of the Indian public health sector.

Role played by ASHA workers

1. Incentives provided to ASHA workers for institutionalised deliveries has paid good returns. Current data is:



2. Important schemes where ASHA workers play major role are:

2.1 Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

2.2 Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

2.3 Pradhan Mantri Matritva Suraksha Abhyaan.

2.4 POSHAN Abhyaan

3. They have increased the vaccination coverage, with atleast 98% children undergoing atleast one vaccination.

Challenges faced by ASHA workers

1. Remuneration is insufficient compared to the workload.
2. States engage them in other activities, like census data collection.
3. Lack of social acceptance due to lower literacy level. (Qualification of ASHA worker is eighth standard)
4. Poor rural healthcare infrastructure hampers their functioning.
5. Lack of training in providing essential first aid in Primary Healthcare centres.

The importance of ASHA workers has been highlighted by recent COVID crisis where they helped distributing PPEs at village level. Thus better salaries, training programmes, improving medical literacy can further strengthen their roles.

8. While internationalisation of higher education has many potential benefits for India, certain challenges will need to be addressed in this regard. Discuss. (150 words) 10

यद्यपि उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के भारत के लिए कई संभावित लाभ हैं, तथापि इस संबंध में कुछ चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता होगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

National Education Policy, 2020 provides ample guidelines for internationalisation of higher education, for improving the educational standards.

Potential benefits

1. Tieups by Indian Universities with international institutes would bring best talent from the world.
2. Bringing Indian education curriculum inline with international standards.
3. Better faculty that can be sourced from major institutes like Harvard, Oxford, etc.
4. Attracting foreign students for education
5. Building India as a knowledge economy
6. Increasing research activities in the universities.

Challenges which should be addressed

1. India has a large number of universities which lack even basic research facilities.
2. Inbreeding culture, where Phd. students start working as Professors in same institutes harms the research culture.
3. No Indian university is in top 100 of world rankings. Thus foreign institutes would be reluctant to have collaborations.
4. Patents filed by Indian researchers are miniscule as compared to China or US.
5. Only 40% of Indian graduates were employable in 2018, reflecting lack of skills.

Building research universities and institutes of national importance are steps in the right direction. Initiatives providing more autonomy, strengthening research culture, remodelling education courses is need of the hour.

9. India needs to adopt a more pragmatic stance in the context of the ongoing intra-Afghan talks. Discuss, in the light of India's engagement with Afghanistan. (150 words) 10

भारत को वर्तमान में जारी अंतरा-अफगान वार्ताओं के संदर्भ में अधिक व्यावहारिक रुख अपनाने की आवश्यकता है। अफगानिस्तान के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

The announcement of US withdrawal from Afghanistan and initiation of intra-Afghan talks have posed a new challenge for India.

India's ~~po~~Afghan Policy

1. Views Taliban as a threat to regional peace and security.
2. Apprehensions about Taliban being funded by Pakistan's ISI.
3. Any Afghan peace process should be Afghan owned, Afghan led.

Recent changes

1. Taliban has been accepted as an important stakeholder for peace talks.
2. Even countries like US, Afghan which earlier led a fight against Taliban are engaging with it.

3. Afghan Government has recently agreed for prisoner swap agreement with Taliban.

Thus, this calls for a change in India's Afghan policy. Some of the important aspects are mentioned below:-

1. Taliban already owns more than 40% of Afghanistan
2. Advancements made in setting democratic institutions can be preserved by engaging with Taliban
3. A distanced engagement can help reduce Pakistan's influence in Afghanistan.

Thus, peace in Afghanistan is important for India's regional prosperity. Changing geopolitics, withdrawal of US from world order signals for India to gear up its foreign policy so that it can emerge as an independent pole in post-COVID world order.

10. In the geo-strategic context of West Asia, the recent efforts to normalise relations between Israel and UAE may open new possibilities for India. (150 words) 10
Analyse.

पश्चिम एशिया के भू-रणनीतिक संदर्भ में, इजरायल और यू.ए.ई. के मध्य संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के लिए हाल ही में किए गए प्रयासों से भारत हेतु नई संभावनाएं उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं।
विक्षेपण कीजिए।

Abraham Accord, signed between Israel and UAE signals a new normalisation trend in West Asia politics.

Geo-strategic importance of West Asia for India

1. West Asian countries are a major source of crude oil for India. (Iraq being the highest)
2. Important ~~ports~~ ~~the~~ sea-lines of communication, including strategic locations like Bab-al-Mandeb are important for Indian trade.
3. Three poles of West Asia - Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran have their respective importance in India's foreign relations.

New possibilities for India

1. Balancing the ~~&~~ walk on tight rope between three poles was main challenge. This has been eased due to normalisation of relations.
2. India's interests in UAE (rich diaspora, largest remittance source) and dependence on Israel's technology can be streamlined.
3. This can pave way for two state solution of Israel-Palestine which was India's stand.
4. This can pave way for Israel's further ties with Saudi Arabia, which is already shedding its conservative policies.

A stable west Asia can have multiplying effect on peace in the neighbourhood Afghanistan. Thus the time is ripe to engage collectively with west Asian countries to secure India's position among new world order.

11. It is not only the content of election manifestos but also the past performance with respect to promises made in election manifestos that need to be regulated. Discuss. (250 words) 15

केवल चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों की विषयवस्तु को ही नहीं, बल्कि चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों में किए गए वादों से संबंधित विगत निष्पादन को भी विनियमित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Elections are the bedrock of democracy and election manifestos form an important part of it. It outlines the policies of the political party, which it promises to pursue once in power.

Issues with election manifestos

1. Focus on populist agendas
2. Unrealistic promises made during elections result in voter apathy to election process.
3. Promises involving large financial impact, like farm loan waivers result in considerable impact on state finances.
4. No legal mechanism about ~~legal action~~ holding political parties accountable for fulfilling election manifestos.

5. Similar election manifestos of all competing political parties with difference only in decorative language reduces the choice of voters.
6. The losing party/party in opposition later opposes same policies which it had earlier promised.
Examples of Farm bills being protested by opposition parties.

Election Commission's directives

1. Election Commission has issued guidelines for political parties to ~~refer~~ highlight their plans of sourcing required finances to fulfill poll promises.
2. Wide publicity by Election Commission among the voters about their value of vote and making informed choice helps them analyse election manifestos objectively.

Although no legal mechanism can be introduced for holding political parties accountable for not fulfilling past promises, following steps can be taken:

1. Educating voters to compare past manifestos
2. Political parties to focus on issues of public concern and progressive nature.
3. Dissuade from populist measures.

Tweaks in Model Code of Conduct, RPA 1951 and better voter awareness are important steps to fulfill the democratic role of elections.

12. In order to achieve a reduction in the pendency of cases and a return to the Supreme Court's original role as a final appellate court, setting up of a National Court of Appeal is the need of the hour. Discuss. (250 words) 15
- लंबित वादों की संख्या में कमी लाने और उच्चतम न्यायालय को अंतिम अपील न्यायालय के रूप में उसकी मूल भूमिका में पुनः स्थापित करने के लिए, एक राष्ट्रीय अपील न्यायालय स्थापित करना समय की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian Judiciary, with 3.5 crore pending cases, is considered a dilatory chamber of democracy.

Reason for pendency

1. Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) form more than 60% of pending cases. Its liberal use has increased the workload of apex court.
2. Wide interpretation of Article 21 and Article 19 have increased the number of writ petitions under Article 32.
3. Number of judges in Supreme Court compared to 1.3 billion population is very small.
4. Retirement age of 65 years (against no retirement age in US) results in considerable talent being unused.

Consequences of pendency

1. In 1950s, it was common for Supreme Court to constitute more than 100 Constitutional benches in a year. This has reduced to less than ten today.
2. Apex court is burdened with questions of law and facts already settled.
3. Judiciary's role as final interpreter of Constitution is effected.

National Court of Appeal: A solution

Proposed solution is :-

1. Setting a Constitutional bench of Supreme Court at Delhi, dealing with only constitutional matters.
2. National Court of Appeal, with four chambers in Delhi, Mumbai, Madras and Calcutta — to deal with appeals from High Courts.

Proposed benefits

1. Wider public reach and increased access to justice due to regional benches.
2. Constitutional Court, being solely focussed on wider questions of Constitution interpretation would help it evolve in contemporary circumstances.
3. Greater number of judges would help reduce the pendency.

Issues involved

1. ~~Certain~~ Supreme Court has raised an objection of such step effecting the integrated nature of judiciary.
2. Parallel adjudications by National court of Appeals ~~and~~ benches may result in interpretational challenges.

Digitizing the judicial processes, incorporating IT infrastructure alongwith setting up National Court of Appeals are steps to strengthen Indian Judiciary.

13. The Constitution of India reflects an amalgamation of spirit of Indian freedom struggle and various administrative provisions of different acts of British rule in India. Explain. (250 words) 15

भारत का संविधान भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष की भावना और भारत में ब्रिटिश शासन के विभिन्न अधिनियमों के अनेक प्रशासनिक प्रावधानों के मिश्रण को दर्शाता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

Indian Constitution is the result of detailed ransacking all constitutions of the world. Even greater role is played by the values ingrained during freedom struggle as well as the administrative experience of different acts under British rule.

Spirit of Indian freedom struggle reflected in Indian Constitution

1. Values of secularism, fraternity were enshrined in all movements during freedom struggle.
2. Nehru Report, 1928 included demand for fundamental rights, which have been incorporated in Part-III.
3. Weakness of strong centre led to British occupation of India. Hence,

federal structure with unitary bias has been envisaged through the provisions like :-

- (i) Appointment of Governor by Centre
- (ii) Emergency Provisions (Article 352, 356, 360)
- (iii) Important ~~parts~~ subjects of legislation under Union list of Schedule - VII.
- (iv) Provisions allowing Rajya Sabha to pass resolution to allow Parliament legislate on state list subjects.

4. Gandhian principles of decentralised local government and importance of khadi have been incorporated in Directive Principles of State Policy.

Borrowing from British period Acts

1. 2/3rd of Indian Constitution is based on the Government of India Act, 1935. ~~Some~~ Important provisions are:
 - (i) Federal character of nation
 - (ii) Bicameral legislature

- (iii) Manner of elections for state legislatures
- (iv) Division of powers on basis of Union list, State list & Concurrent list.
- 2x (v) Provision of a federal Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission

2. Other Acts and resolutions of British period, reflected in Indian Constitution are mentioned below:-

- (i) Lord Rippon's Resolution on Local Self Government - in DPSP of original constitution.
- (ii) Indian Councils Act, 1909 provided for direct elections for first time.
- (iii) Question Hour was introduced in Indian Councils Act, 1892.
- (iv) Portfolio System through Indian Councils Act, 1862.

Thus Indian Constitution is an example of intelligent amalgamation of values of freedom struggle and different acts of British rule.

14. Mention the key components of the SVAMITVA scheme. Also, highlight its intended benefits and discuss the potential issues in its implementation.
(250 words) 15

स्वामित्व (SVAMITVA) योजना के प्रमुख अवयवों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके अपेक्षित लाभों को रेखांकित कीजिए तथा इसके कार्यान्वयन में संभावित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

SVAMITVA scheme aims at providing integrated property validation solution for rural India.

Key Components

1. Digitisation of all land records in rural areas.
2. Use of drone technology for property mapping.
3. Geo tagging of properties for better digital records.
4. Consolidation of panchayat land records of all villages in a district for better project management.
5. Publishing of records generated during the scheme with village panchayats

and District Development Authorities.

Intended Benefits

1. Digital record of all land held by panchayats can help in better land utilisation.
2. Encroachments on public land can be brought to light.
3. Increased avenues for rent and tax collection for Panchayats.
4. Better developmental plans with land data on hand for better utilisation.

Issues in Implementation

1. Lack of land titles to most of rural economy would be an obstacle.
2. Expanding the scheme to such large rural population throws infrastructural challenges.

3. Lack of digital literacy in most rural areas hinders their ability to use scheme benefits.

The scheme posts a tall order but there is no alternative to begin. Piloting the scheme in selected states and then expanding the same pan India is a wise step.

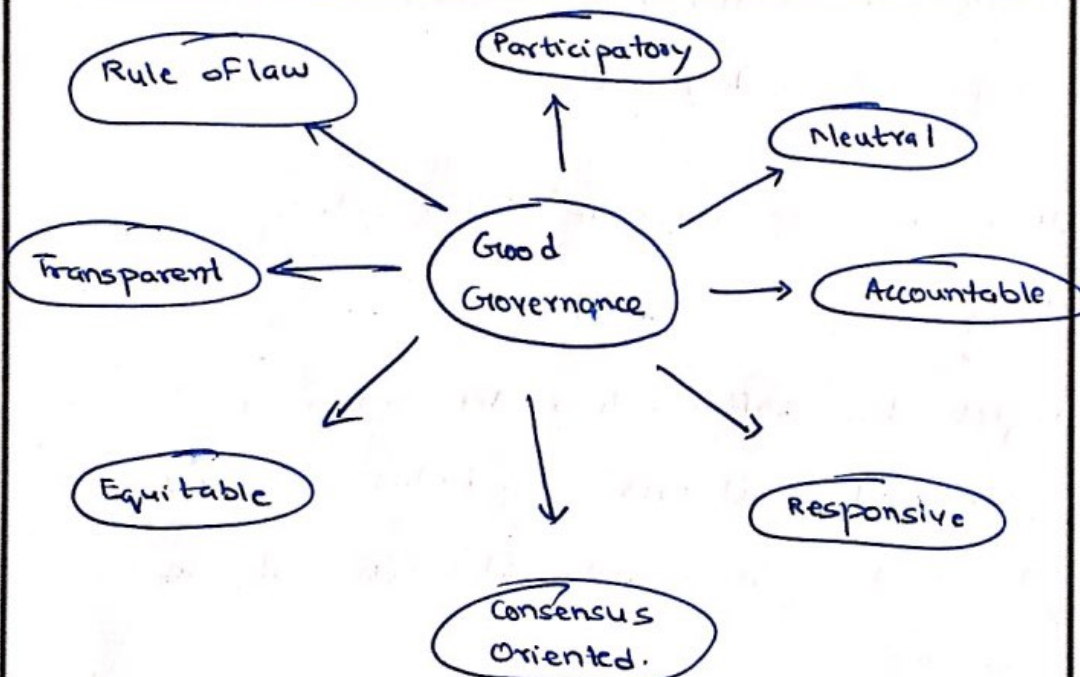
15. Sharing of information among all stakeholders in government functioning is a leading practice towards good governance. Discuss with examples.

(250 words) 15

सरकारी कार्यप्रणाली में सभी हितधारकों के मध्य सूचना को साझा करना सुशासन के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण परिपाटी है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Good Governance refers to the act which comprises of the existence of effective mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.

UNDP - Essential elements of Good Governance



Among all these values, transparency is considered the key to all other values.

Transparency & Good Governance linkage

1. The citizens can make informed decisions
2. Better information flow would create awareness among citizens.
3. Grievance Redressal Mechanisms can be utilised properly.
4. Information availability with policy makers can help them ~~be~~ formulate better implementable policies.
5. Scope of policy reforms increase.

Mechanisms to improve informing sharing

1. Right to Information Act, 2005 is considered bulwark of India's journey to good governance. It's ~~the~~ outcomes involve:

- (i) Better access to information
- (ii) Suo moto disclosures by government functionaries improves responsiveness
- (iii) Many scams have been unearthed
example - Commonwealth Scam, 2G Scam
- (iv) Citizen empowerment with better knowledge.

2. Citizen's Charter - based on Sevottam model has increased service delivery in government institutions.

3. Social Audits involve access to information to beneficiaries of schemes who scrutinize the account statements of public servants.

Thus transparency and better information access forms bedrock of good governance.

16. India has an oversized and bloated government which acts as a drag on economic efficiency and growth. Critically evaluate. (250 words) 15

भारत में आवश्यकता से अधिक आकार और अतिशय दायित्वों को वहन करने वाली सरकार है, जो आर्थिक दक्षता एवं वृद्धि के संबंध में एक अवरोध के रूप में कार्य करती है। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Too much government may be harmful for good governance. This has been amply exemplified by the effect of Indian oversized government on its economic efficiency and growth.

Effects of bloated government

1. Over-regulation - A single subject is looked after by many ministries.
Example - Transportation is handled by five separate ministries.
2. Increase in red-tapism.
3. Ease of doing business is hampered.
4. Poor service delivery due to lack of clarity about final responsibility among service providers.

Viewing these limitations, the motto of new government formed in 2014 was -
Minimum Government Maximum Governance

Some of the initiatives taken were:

1. Reducing the number of empowered group of ministers.
2. Combining ministries with similar responsibilities.
Example - Recent formation of Jal Shakti ministry.
3. Digitising maximum dealings with public to reduce human contact and improving transparency.
4. Establishing a robust grievance redressal mechanism to report about any discrepancies in government functioning.
5. Introduction of economic reforms

like GST, e-way bill, ease of online tax filing, etc have helped improve ease of doing business.

b. Corruption Perception Index, released by Transparency International has improved

In this way, minimum government but better governance can provide better service delivery and lead to overall economic growth of the nation,

17. Though the National Digital Health Mission is a step in the right direction for both patients and the healthcare system, concerns around data privacy need to be addressed. Examine. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन रोगियों और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली, दोनों के लिए उचित दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है, तथापि डेटा गोपनीयता से जुड़ी चिंताओं का समाधान किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

National Digital Health Mission envisages exploiting the advances in information and technology for furthering health security for vast population of India.

Components of National Digital Health Mission

1. Digiealth ID
2. Patient Medical Record Systems
3. Digital Infrastructure Registry
4. Oversight mechanism for data sharing protocol.

Benefits of NDHM

1. Ensuring last mile health services delivery using IT tools like telemedicine, online consultations.

Example - eSanjeevani app connects

1. Connect to unserved rural population with doctors of their choice.
2. Creating digital identification for all consenting patients, which can be used in all hospitals.
3. Integration of health records scattered in various place to chart a medical history for better diagnosis.
4. Rationalisation of available health infrastructure by creating infrastructure database.

Although these seem steps in the right direction, following issues remain.

Issues

1. Lack of digital infrastructure in rural areas where only 13% population has internet connection.
2. Collection of huge data would increase data security concerns.

3. Making digihealth id would violate Right to Privacy under Article 21.
4. Puttaswamy Judgement outlined the criteria for limiting the data collection & use that can negatively affect a person's privacy.
5. Absence of robust data protection regime. ~~But~~ The bill for digital privacy tabled in 2019 is still pending.

Industry 4.0 has huge potential for providing health services to every nook and corner. Legislating a strong privacy law is thus a precondition to balance individual fundamental rights and basic service delivery.

18. One Nation One Ration card has the potential to significantly transform the lives of migrant workers in India. Analyse. (250 words) 15
वन नेशन वन राशन कार्ड में भारत में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के जीवन को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The plight of migrant labourers during lockdown imposed by COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the importance of One Nation One Ration Card.

About the scheme

One Nation One Ration card would allow nationwide portability for a ration card holder, without being bound to one fair price shop.

Issues with current system

1. A person is bound to procure ration from single fair price shop. This reduces any competition for fair price shops to improve service delivery.
2. Migrant labourers are left out of the scheme as their ration card

is of no value in place of immigration.

3. Unutilised ration leads to two kinds of problems:-

(i) wastage and rotting in government godowns

(ii) Black marketing of undistributed rations by FPS owners.

4. Food security of vast population remains at risk.

Benefits of One Nation One Ration Card

1. A person can get his ration from any fair price shop in the country.
2. A migrant labourer would be able to withdraw 50% of the ration, thus keeping the family members safe from any misuse.
3. The beneficiary would be entitled to subsidised grains provided by Union government only. State specific subsidies would not be provided.

4. Will allow greater mobility to the migrant workers.
5. The unaccounted public distribution rations would reduce
6. Huge stocks with government godowns can be liquidated, thus reducing storage costs as well as wastages.

Census 2011 showed India having 65 million internal migrants in India.

One Nation One Ration Card is a step forward for ensuring food security for such a large population. Further steps like digitisation and seeding with Aadhar card would go a long way towards serving basic needs of society.

19. The World Trade Organization is buffeted by multiple challenges which have eroded the credibility of the organization. Analyse. (250 words) 15
विश्व व्यापार संगठन कई चुनौतियों से ग्रस्त है, जिसने संगठन की विश्वसनीयता को समाप्त कर दिया है। विवेचन कीजिए।

World Trade Organisation was established in 1995 under the Marrakesh Treaty, as a successor to General Agreement on Trades and Tariffs (GATT).

After more than two decades of existence, WTO is facing several challenges :

1. Increasing protectionist policies by developed countries, like :
 - 1.1 India removed from Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) by United States
 - 1.2 Heavy import duty on imports of steel, aluminium products by United States
2. The trade wars between countries (mainly United States and China) is

questioning the trade liberalisation regime.

3. Appointments to Appellate body of WTO have been held back by advanced countries
4. Increasing reliance on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) has created new hindrances to liberal trade.
5. ~~Non-technical~~ Technical and non-tariff barriers to trade have increased considerably.
6. Doha Round of WTO has been unable to be concluded since 2001.

Given these circumstances, it seems that the WTO as a body to ensure free world trade has failed. However a closer look signifies its importance even today :

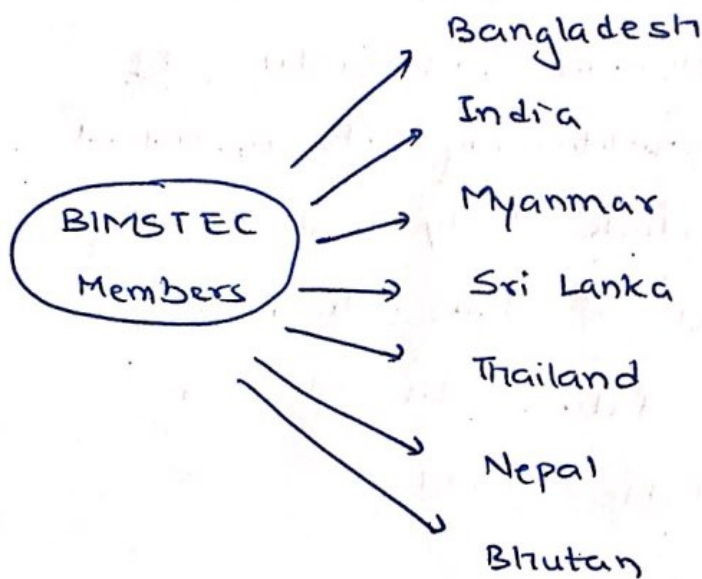
1. Tariff barriers have come down by 80% as compared to 1960s.

2. Developing countries have been able to increase their national incomes due to favourable policies by developed nations.
3. WTO provides an international platform to discuss emerging challenges as data localisation, e-commerce, etc

World Trade Organisation's contemporary relevance can further be improved by de-politicizing its appointment process to Appellate body and concluding the Doha round of talks to provide a sustainable future through an integrated, equitable world.

20. BIMSTEC is indispensable for India's efforts in promoting regional cooperation and integration in the neighbourhood. Discuss. (250 words) 15
बिम्स्टेक (BIMSTEC) पड़ोस में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग और एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में किए जाने वाले भारत के प्रयासों हेतु अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Technical and Economic Cooperation is a regional group of seven countries sharing borders with Bay of Bengal and two other regional members.



Importance of BIMSTEC for regional cooperation

1. BIMSTEC provides an opportunity for leveraging ties with neighbouring

- countries for development of north-east India. Projects like Kaladan multimodal project can be streamlined.
2. An important component of Act East policy. Myanmar and Thailand can be our gateways to ASEAN countries.
 3. The poor performance of SAARC due to India Pakistan rivalry increases the relevance of BIMSTEC further.
 4. Initiatives like BBIN Motor vehicle agreement can help in improving international trade.
 5. Increasing influence of China in India's neighbourhood can be countered.
 6. Fulfilling India's ambition as a regional net security provider.
 7. Better integration to prevent rise of extremism and terrorist activities through joint operations.

Although being indispensable, BIMSTEC faces several issues :-

1. India unable to balance cheque book diplomacy of China.
2. BIMSTEC members consider it to be an India dominated grouping, and fear of big brotherly attitude of India.
3. Delay in important project implementation through BIMSTEC has hampered India's image.

BIMSTEC is a relatively younger grouping and it is too soon to judge its success or failure. India must balance its regional concerns, national security and international trade to get the best out of such regional cooperation.