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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1523)

Name of Candidate	SARTHAK AGRAWAL		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	937212
Center	ONLINE	Date	15 th Dec '20

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registr�ation Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)। 2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं। 3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं। 5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे। 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए। 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
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20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Punjab & Sindhi Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar

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:

INDEX TABLE	
Q. No.	Maximum Marks
1	10
2	10
3	10
4	10
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9	10
10	10
11	10
12	10
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18	10
19	10
20	10
Total Marks Obtained	
Remarks:	

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?

The Office of the Central Information
(CIC)
Commission was established by the
RTI Act 2005.

Issues associated with CIC's functioning

- 1) High pendency of cases
- 2) Recently ~~its~~ ^{the CIC/ICs} terms of service, salary
etc. were transferred from Parliamentary
control to Executive control by amendment
in 2019.

↳ weakens its autonomy

- 3) Not able to enforce its decisions

↳ officials frequently delaying /
giving incomplete info.

(e.g. Aarogya Setu query)

4) Staff shortage

↳ without a Chairman for many
months.

5) Public authority defined narrowly under
Sec 2(u) → PM-CARES couldn't have been
asked questions of

6) Over-reach → CIC allowed petitioner
to access PM's flight details against IAF
desires

7) Frequent appeals to SC

Way forward

- 1) Constitutional status for CIC^s/IC^s
- 2) Appointing staff in a time-bound manner
- 3) Avoiding over-reach of powers
- 4) Increasing its powers to enforce
decisions

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।

Article 153 of the Constitution establishes the office of the Governor & the following articles discuss its powers

Discretionary powers available to President

- 1) Appoint the Prime Minister when no party / coalition has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha

↳ although Sarkaria Commission + Bommai (1994) have provided certain benchmarks.

- 2) Ask the Cabinet to reconsider its advice but once.
- 3) Pocket Veto

Discretionary powers with the Governor

- 1) The Constitution explicitly allows the Govt. the latitude 'to act on his discretion' in the article that otherwise makes the State Council of Ministers' advice binding on the Governor.
- 2) She also has powers to appoint CM when no party has clear majority
 ↳ eg. Keshizari in Maharashtra recently
- 3) Recommend for the imposition of President's rule in a State when government cannot be carried out under the provisions of the Constitution.
- 4) Sitting on certain bills (pocket veto) or not implementing concurring with Cabinet's advice in a time-bound way
 ↳ recent debate between Mahe' CM & Gov. for not approving list of 12 members to Council

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?

The 42nd amendment of 1976 added Articles 323A (administrative tribunals) & 323B (tribunals for other matters) to the Constitution, which was given force by the 1985 Act that ultimately set up CAT and other tribunals.

Objectives of tribunals

- 1) Speedy and cheap justice for certain aggrieved sections

↳ e.g. public employees

- 2) Reduce pendency in courts

↳ already over 2.95 crore cases are pending.

- 3) Provide for expertise that may not

be available within judiciary

↳ eg. Income Tax Tribunals

4) Increased opportunities for aspiring judges.

Evaluation of tribunals

Successes

- 1) Tribunals have been set up for a variety of cases.
- 2) Disposal rate is high.
- 3) Increasing recourse to tribunals by public
- 4) Many legal professionals have been trained

Conclusion

Despite challenges, tribunals have also achieved significant successes.

Failures

- 1) Violates separation of powers (Art. 50)
- 2) Dispute reg. appointment of members (Rojer Matthew 2017; divisions under Madras Bar Association 2010 not followed by Govt.
- 3) Tribunalisation of justice
- 4) Over-reach in some cases.

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।

Recently, the government allowed Ministry of I&B to regulate OTT platforms, which were earlier overseen by MeitY, raising concerns of consensorship of platforms like Netflix and Hotstar.

~~Need for Government~~
Benefits of self-regulation

- 1) Consistent with FOE under Art 19(1)(a)
- 2) Non-paternalistic approach
- 3) High competition in industry
↳ platforms cannot afford to
not cater to consumers' interests
- 4) Press Council of India / NBAI type
body can be elected by OTT platforms

themselves to oversee functioning.

5) Allow people to consume the content that is not allowed by the ensor Board for movies.

Need for Government regulation

- 1) Anti-national content may be displayed on OTT platforms
- 2) Obscene content (IPC Section 294)
- 3) Cultural values may be compromised + exposure ^{of adult content to} to young children
- 4) Inciting religious hatred
↳ IPC Sec 153A
- 5) Blasphemous content - IPC Sec 295A
- 6) No guarantee that self-regulation will work way forward

The Govt. needs to adopt a light-touch regulation policy if it goes that way & not invite charges of ensorship.

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।

Article 16 of the Constitution allows ~~the~~ ^{a domicile} Parliament to prescribe residence as a pre-condition for getting employment with any state government. However, states like Maryana have passed laws to reserve 75% of ^{private sector} jobs (below a threshold) for locals.

Arguments for 'Jobs for Locals' in private sector

- 1) Will lead to inclusive growth and balanced regional development

↳ income growth for the bottom quartile has been very low.

- 2) Article 16 only restricts government jobs - private jobs may still be

reserved for locals

3) Local population more attuned
with local needs

4) Face fewer language barriers.

Arguments against this trend

1) Against a 'unified labour market'
in India.

2) Constitutional competence may be
examined by SC.

3) Poorer states like Bihar / UP rely on
migration to richer states like
Haryana.

4) Skill deficit in local areas

↳ doesn't allow best talent to
find a job

5) Worsens the profitability of priv. sector

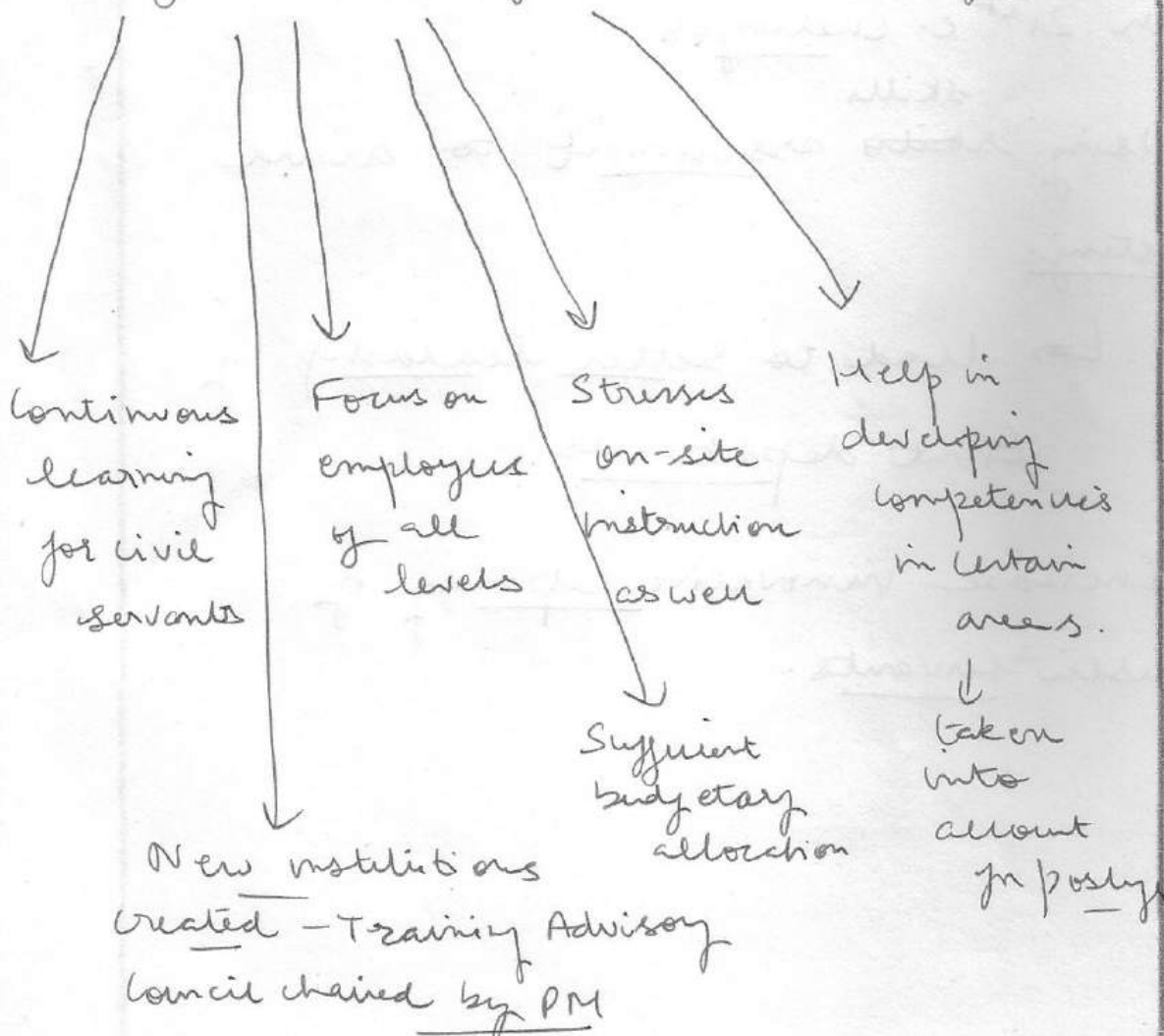
6) May lead to more discrimination
against migrant workers.

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 has been recently launched to transform civil servants' capabilities from being 'rule-based' to 'role-based'.

Key elements of Mission Karmayogi



Benefits

1) Fourth Industrial Revⁿ

↳ Continuous skill upgradation

2) Reduces expenditure on off-site
training

3) Creates a skilled government

workforce that can efficiently deal
with 21st c. challenges
skills

4) Using skills assessment to award
postings

↳ lead to better leadership of
Govt. departments.

5) Increase innovative capacity of
public servants.

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।

ASHA workers are part of the
National Rural Health Mission and
come under the Health Ministry

→ (25-45 yrs of age
woman, educated
until
8th class)
Role played by ASHA workers

- 1) First port-of-call for health
problems in villages
- 2) Help in guiding women on
contraception & birth control
- 3) Assist new mothers with
supplementary nutri. nutrition &
Vaccinations for new borns.
- 4) Carry out vaccination drives when
required by the Govt.

Challenges

1) low salary

↳ stipend of 1000 Rs. pm

2) Over-worked

↳ maintaining many different
registers.

3) Lack of overtime bonus

↳ eg. in COVID crisis

4) Lack of protective equipment to
deal with public health challenges.

5) Social discrimination in some
cases.

Way forward

ASHA workers must be rewarded
with better pay and other benefits
owing to their service in combating
the COVID pandemics.

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।

The New Education Policy suggests that well-performing Indian institutions be allowed to set up campuses in other countries. Similarly, it suggests that Parliament pass a law to allow foreign higher education institutions (HEI^s) to set up a campus in India subject to regulation.

Benefits of internationalisation of HEI^s

- 1) Reduce brain drain if universities like Harvard set up an India campus
- 2) Increase foreign exchange revenues
- 3) Lead to better skill development in the country
- 4) Due to competition, domestic institutions

may improve too

5) Help in taking GER in higher-ed. from 25 percent to 50 percent by 2035.

6) Build a research culture in India

(only 2013 patents filed with WIPO v/s
>53,000 for China.)

Challenges

1) Increased fees might make quality higher-ed. inaccessible to poor

2) Curriculum design, recognition of
4 year UG degrees, 1 year MBA^s

3) Less interest among foreign univs.
to enter India

4) Higher ed. becomes a commercial
venture like in West v/s public good in
India.

5) Indian univs may not be able to compete
abroad

Way forward → If challenges are addressed, this
might help more universities break into top 500

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।

India has desisted from dealing with the Taliban over the years, arguing they do not represent ~~to~~ the will of the Afghan people and underlining their support for an Afghan-led arrangement.

India's contribution to peace in Afg.

- 1) Salma Dam construction
- 2) Parliamentary building
- 3) Road construction + Chabahan port + Chabahan-Zahedan Rly. link to allow Afg. exports to India through sea.
- 4) Cultural contributions - Training Afg. cricket team.
- 5) Support for Ashraf Ghani over the Taliban.

Problems with current approach

- 1) Not accepting reality
 ↳ Taliban controls >50% of area
- 2) Left out of talks due to this
 stubbornness
- 3) Pak. getting increasing hold +
 Ashraf Ghani not asking for greater
 Indian involvement
- 4) Ungoverned spaces → threat of terror
- 5) Drugs inflow into India - Golden
 Brescent

Way forward

As suggested by many experts, India must recalibrate its stance, ensure that no ungoverned spaces are left, women & minority rights are secured, and peace returns to Afg. after US withdrawal.

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. Analyse. (150 words) 10

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। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Abraham Accords brokered by the USA help resolve some of India's perennial middle East conundrum - balancing between Iran, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Positive implications for India

- 1) Can build its growing relationship with Israel while maintaining close ties with Gulf countries like UAE.
- 2) Better safety for 3m Indian migrants in UAE and 8.5m overall in Gulf.
- 3) Peace in Middle East $\Rightarrow$ oil prices might remain low $\Rightarrow$ helps with our CAD.

- 4) India can now support both
Israel and Palestine (techno park)
with ~~less~~ fewer contradictions

Challenges

- 1) Growing US-led coalition against
Iran

↳ also a partner of India
(Uhabhar port)

- 2) Greater chance of conflict between
Saudi-US led forces & Iran
(developing nuclear weapons)

↳ instability in West Asia

- 3) Saudi has not normalised relations
yet.

India has expressed satisfaction at
this agreement and must continue to
engage with all its partners in the
region.

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।

Under the Model Code of Conduct, the Election Commission implores political parties to not make extravagant promises they won't be able to keep due to lack of funding.

Need for regulating progress w.r.t past promises

1) Will lead to a more informed citizenry and better voting chances of voting judiciously.

↳ SC has described information as fundamental to Art. 21.

2) Make parties more accountable

↳ can be challenged if promises aren't kept.

3) An impartial agency can conduct
such an analysis before each election

↳ eg. PRS Legislative

4) Voters may not have the time and
skill to check past promises against
performance

5) Might reduce voting on caste or
communal lines

6) Encourage parties to put only actionable items
Limitations in the manifestos

1) The manifesto has no legal
standing.

2) Paternalistic approach

↳ voters can judge for themselves
if promises are kept or vote on
other lines as they deem fit

3) Concern around biased regulation

4) Not all promises are spelled clearly

5) Crisis might vipart performance on
some items

↳ eg. Covid crisis thrown a
spanner into Gout's infrastructure
push

6) Not all promises are desirable

↳ BJP had UCC in its manifesto
but Law Commission has advised
against it.

7) Might lead to charges of over-regulation
of political parties - unlikely to attack the
real challenges of criminalisation & money
power in elections. & media

8) Already opposition, scrutinises past manifesto
Way forward

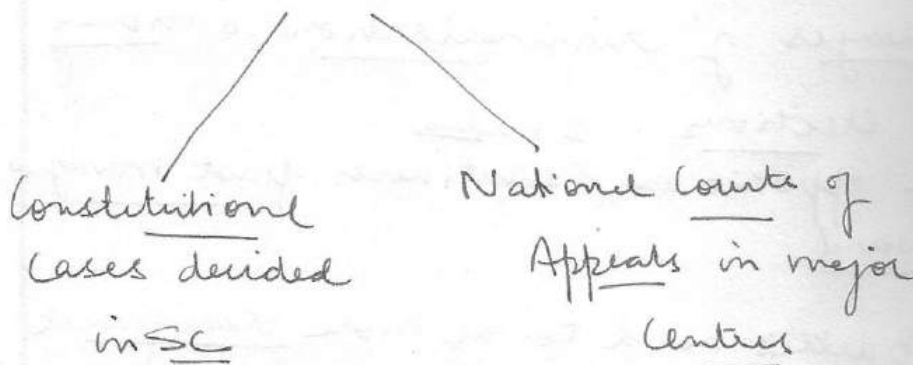
Political parties need to be more transparent
as reflected in 2nd ARC reports & various SC
judgments. Perhaps having them under the
ambit of Sec 2(u) of RTI Act 2005 (public
authority) might make them more accountable
for their manifesto promises.

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।

As of date the Supreme Court has over 59,000 pending cases, many of which are writ petitions under Article 32 and other appeals under Article 136.

Need for setting up a National Court of Appeal

1) Split the SC's functions



2) Long pending appeal cases will be resolved quickly

↳ e.g. Ram Mandir case took over 7 years

3) Economic governance suffers with
long delays in appellate decisions on appeals

↳ e.g. bankruptcy cases

4) Under Article 136 the SC can provide
leave to hear any case

↳ this has vastly increased
pendency

5) Overuse of PIL and Article 142 have
increased workload for judges & reduced
efficiency

↳ recently, judges were increased

30 to 33 (+2 CJI) to meet

this need.

Concerns with National Court of Appeal

2) Might weaken the Supreme Court's
institutional standing in India's
polity

↳ still one of the most respected

Institutions for the public

2) Concern regarding what happens to the SC's other functions?

↳ original jurisdiction under A-131

↳ writ under A-32

↳ advisory under A-143

↳ PIL + A-142 - led to

improvements in environment & increased focus on reducing criminalisation of politics

3) Additional expenditure on salaries & infrastructure

4) If cases increase due to better efficiency, problem will still stand (Court has a very wide & expanding jurisdiction)

Way forward

Ultimately the CJI can decide the seat of the SC under the Constitution. A full bench rejected this proposal earlier but it deserves more thought given the contemporary challenges.

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।

The Constitution of India builds upon the structure bequeathed by the GOI Act 1935 and yet includes provisions guaranteeing the most extensive rights available in the world under Part III.

How the Constitution reflects the ideals of the freedom struggle

- 1) Articles 13-35 in Part III - Fundamental Rights:

↳ Article 21, safeguards under 22

• provided with memory of British police state & to avoid that outcome

- 2) Six rights under Art 19(1)

↳ 19(1)(a) → FOE, fought for by nationalists

↳ 19(1)(b) → right to protest

3) Communal harmony was a common thread in the freedom struggle

↳ Arts: 25-28 for that.

4) Protecting minority rights in the face of British divide and rule

↳ Art: 29 & 30

5) Right to equality (A-14), special provisions for SCs/STs (15(4)) after being denied by British.

6) Empowering Panchayats through 73rd amend

↳ British placed powers in the hands of officials instead of elected leaders.

7) Universal adult franchise - denied under British rule.

Inspiration from British provisions

1) 7th Schedule based on Montague - Chelmsford

- 2) Parliamentary system with President as nominal head (A-52)
- 3) Governors appointed by Centre (A-153)
- 4) UPSC, CAG and other constitutional bodies → GOI Act 1935
- 5) Reservation ^{→ 15(4) & 16(4)} partly inspired by communal electorates ^{under} by Morley-Minto (1909) & Montague-Chelmsford (1919)

Conclusion

The Constitution is thus a healthy mix between its different inspirations as reflected in Dr. Ambedkar's response when he was accused of 'copying' the 1935 GOI Act.

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।

The SVAMITVA Scheme was launched recently to use technology to better compile land records in rural India.

Components of SVAMITVA

- 1) Integrated solution
- 2) Uses drone technology, Survey of India's capabilities & leverages other stakeholders' expertise to digitally prepare accurate land records in rural India.
- 3) Started off in a few states - plan to expand to rest of India in the future.

Intended benefits of the Scheme

- 1) Poor landowners will get accurate land titles, helping build up their legal assets. (reduces MPI poverty which also takes into account assets owned)
- 2) Can use as collateral to avail credit.
- 3) Property rights regime will allow hassle-free trade of land
- 4) Eases land dispute cases which have clogged up lower courts - 2.94 crore cases are pending.
- 5) Government will have up-to-date records of each land-holding
 ↳ will help in designing poverty-alleviation schemes, land records modernisation scheme, land consolidation and even land reforms in pursuit of Articles 39(b) and 39(c).

Potential issues

1) Ambiguous as to who owns the land
in the presence of many disputes

↳ cannot easily assign a parcel of
land to a household.

2) Concern among local landowners that
this is a guise for land alienation

3) Technology portals and equipment

(e.g. camera-equipped drones) may be
costly to roll out over 6.6 ^{lakh} villages in
India

4) Need collaboration among many
stakeholders

↳ land a state issue under 74th

Schedule + Survey of India +

4P^s under 73rd amend.

Way forward

SVAMITVA should be taken forward in
mission-mode to realise its potential for
inclusive growth & property rights regime.

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।

The RTI Act 2005 and the Jan Sookse Portal launched by the Rajasthan government are examples of increased information sharing by Govt. among the public and other key stakeholders.

Role of information sharing in good governance

1) Better sharing of information

↳ more transparency ↓

greater ← more accountability
possibility of
good governance.

2) Can lead to new ideas and solutions to existing challenges if various stakeholders are allowed to contribute ideas

↳ eg: in pre-Budget consultation, the FM meets stakeholders from industry, labour unions, farmer groups and even ordinary people.

3) ~~With better~~ Leads people to think they are also a part of nation-building

↳ eg: NITI Aayog met thousands of people before formulating its 2022 strategy document

4) Inspires committed young people to aspire for a career in the Govt.

↳ eg: Arvind Susramanian's

lectures on Economic Survey
increased interest in the IES
profession

- 5) Media interviews, press conferences
by PM & Ministers allows media to
scrutinise their claims in public interest
- 6) Covid During Covid, daily press
conference by Min govt. officials so that
fake news is replaced by official news.

Way forward

More measures of information sharing
by govt. functionaries among all
stakeholders must be institutionalised
for the sake of better 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।

According to some reports, India has over 16 million people working in the government (State or Centre) with around 3.6 million employed by the Union Govt. alone.

Need for scaling down government

- 1) Modern, 21st century India → most activities left to the private sector

↳ less need for Govt. to employ thousands of employees in the 250+ CPSE^s across 38 ministries.

- 2) Despite reforms, share of public sector workers hasn't decreased by much (Nagaraj, 2015)

- 3) Artificially high wages in government
 ↳ makes it difficult for corporates
 to attract talent
- 4) Fewer accountability & incentive
mechanisms for Govt. employees
 ↳ productivity & efficiency is low
- 5) Even at political level, despite 91st
Amendment of 2003, 15 percent of ministers
 from total MPS/MCA's comes out to be a
large figure.
- 6) Share of Govt. in GDP is 23 percent -
 only 2 pp smaller than in 1990.
 ↳ private sector is facing unfair
competition.

Benefits of current Govt. size

- 1) Articles 38, 39, 41, 46, 47 & others
 involve the Govt. to take an active
 part in country's affairs → Welfare State

Orientation

- 2) Out of total employment of >400m,
Govt's share is small.
- 3) Other, richer countries also have
large sizes of government (eg. Sweden)
- 4) More than size, accountability &
incentive mechanisms are important.
- 5) Chronically understaffed across some
verticals
 - ↳ 1 doctor per 1756 popⁿ → WHO
says 1 per 1000
 - ↳ 25% deficiency in police
 - ↳ 20/1L judges (LC says
50/1L judges).

Way forward

More than the size, the distribution
of Govt. workforce can be altered. Staffing
should improve in health, education &
police while PSBs and other CPSUs can
be disinvested as also recommended by NITI's
2022 Strategy.

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।

The National Digital Health Mission ^{→ NDHM} was announced on 15th August this year. It has emerged from the work NITI Aayog has done on a National Health Stack in recent years.

Benefits of NDHM for ~~patients~~ patients

1) No need to carry prescriptions

↳ all data stored online

2) Can compare hospitals from the aggregated data

↳ spurs competition ⇒ improved service for patients.

3) Better knowledge of location of pharmacies - lowers drug cost

(OoP on health 62% at present
(14% elsewhere).

Benefits of NDHM for hospitals.

- 1) Less expenditure on prescriptions & record keeping
↳ all data stored online
- 2) Can look up a patient's entire medical history very easily
↳ improves diagnosis
- 3) Insurance companies can price their products better.
- 4) Government hospitals can aggregate data from NDHM to spot patterns.

Concerns around data privacy

- 1) No law to protect this sensitive data.
- 2) Personal Data Protection Bill not passed yet.

3) Enormous commercial opportunity for intermediaries to exploit.

↳ if without consent, violates
Right to Privacy (Puttuswamy)

4) Targeting of ads + overpricing of insurance
based on health conditions

Way forward

The government has assured the public that adequate safeguards will be built in. In this system, no data will be shared unless explicit consent is given.

Finally, a health data protection law is also promised - these are all necessary measures that will obviate concerns & increase its uptake.

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।

'One Nation, One Ration Card' was a recommendation made by the Partha Mukhopadhyay Working group on migration (2015) considering the needs of India's 65 million migrants (33% workers; census 2011 says 450m migrants).

One Nation One Ration Card Scheme (ONOR)

- 1) Uses the IM-PDS scheme portal
- 2) Aadhaar card linked to ration card.
- 3) Migrant workers can avail ration anywhere in India (<50% of family allocation).
- 4) Only central PDS is covered
 ↳ not state top-ups or subsidies, e.g. in Telangana.

Benefits of ONOR

- 1) We saw in Covid crisis that migrants' economic situation is precarious
↳ will at least be guaranteed food grain wherever they go.
- 2) Spur competition between rational shops
↳ improve service delivery & reduce corruption for migrant workers.
- 3) Aadhaar linked so less chance of leakage.
- 4) Data collection using biometric portal
↳ this 'big data' can lead to further innovations in PDS in India

Challenges

1) No common food diet

↳ What will a UP migrant in Chennai get since diets are so different?

2) Aardhaar linkage may generate problems if POS machines do not work.

3) State food subsidies not covered

↳ e.g. TN offers some grain for free.

4) Method of enforcing ONOR - through tying up state borrowings (0.5% of GDP) with ONOR against federalism

5) Migrant workers face other major challenges - discrimination, unemployment etc.

Way Forward

The ONOR is a positive step - Govt. must incorporate NITI Aayog's & Economic Survey's recommendation on PDS reforms to make it a big success.

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। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The World Trade Organisation emerged as a successor the Bretton Woods' creation GATT. However, it has been in a paralysed state lately with the US blocking appointments of members to its appellate body.

Challenges faced by WTO

1) Countries openly flouting WTO rulings

↳ China-US trade war

↳ India solar panel dispute with USA.

2) Blocking of appointments to the dispute settlement body's (DSB) appellate body

↳ has left it with no teeth.

- 3) Developing countries feel and accuse WTO of being biased against them
 ↳ e.g. Doha Development Agenda (2001) is still stuck
- 4) Slowing global trade, inward & protectionist turns, and rise of plurilateral (RCEP) & bilateral trading agreements
 ↳ e.g. Indo-US trade deal in the wraps.
- 5) Accused by US of being pro-China
- 6) Any country can designate itself as developing country & avail benefits
- 7) Institutional paralysis: relies on consensus rather than majority

How WTO can uphold its credibility

1) Amending its provisions

↳ allowing decisions by majority
vote

2) Paying greater attention to low-income
countries' concerns

↳ Doha Development Agenda to
be revived

3) Take a stand against US bullying

4) Have an impartial body designate
countries as developing countries & LDCs for
the sake of benefits under WTO's agreements

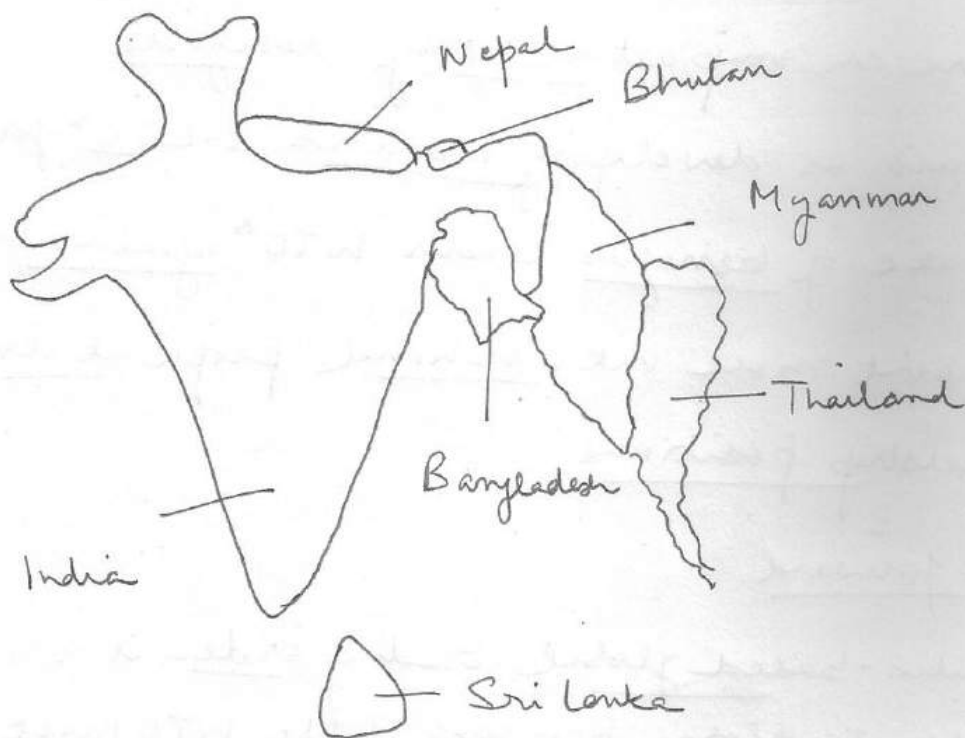
5) Appoint more international people at its
leadership positions.

Way forward

A rules-based global trading order is
the key to global progress & the WTO must
reinvent itself to restore its credibility.

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।

The Bangkok Charter gave rise to the BIMSTEC we see today. Although it was initially more of a substitute for SAARC sans Pakistan, it has acquired a character of its own in light of India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' strategies.



BIMSTEC

BIMSTEC's potential for regional cooperation and integration

- 1) Grouping of economically dynamic countries - Thailand & B'desh fast becoming major exporters of apparel.
- 2) Less concern of cross-border terror sponsorship with Pakistan out of the way.
- 3) Increased possibility of agreements
 $\frac{1}{2}$ SAARC
 $\hookrightarrow$ e.g. South Asian Motor Vehicles Agreement $\rightarrow$ BBIN corridor
South Asian Satellite $\rightarrow$ cooperation with BIMSTEC countries on space.
- 4) Indo-Pacific dimension
 $\hookrightarrow$ Bangladesh & Thailand are players in the Indian Ocean.
- 5) Cultural connect $\rightarrow$ Thailand (Hinduism, Buddhism), Myanmar (Buddhism)
- 6) Due to defining of vijra in heights swimming

Countries, potential for cooperation on
connectivity.

Challenges faced by BIMSTEC

1) less institutionalised compared to
SAARC.

2) Chinese shadow & cheque-book
diplomacy

↳ other countries active in China's
BRI plan.

3) Slow progress in connectivity projects

↳ e.g. Bhutan balking out of BBIN

4) Indo-Nepal disputes | Cross-border
support for militants & drugs (Myanmar) |
Water sharing dispute (B'desh)

5) lesser cultural convergence v/c SAARC

Way Forward

Countries in BIMSTEC must enhance cooperation.
Indeed the PM has referred to it as the
natural platform for India's Act East Strategy.