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20 AUG 2019
NO. 03
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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1437)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	39215
Center		Date	20-8-19

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		
7	10		
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14	15		
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17	15		
18	15		
19	15		
20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
Remarks:			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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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. Illustrate how pressure groups have emerged as a strong mechanism for making democracy participatory and responsive. (150 Words) 10 Marks

उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए समझाइए कि किस प्रकार दबाव समूह, लोकतंत्र को सहभागी और अनुक्रियाशील बनाने हेतु एक सुदृढ़ तंत्र के रूप में उभरे हैं।

Pressure groups are interest groups which seek to influence policy without taking formal part in politics.

Participatory

- ① Involve more people from Civil Society and get their demands a platform
- ② In a diverse country like India, provide possibility of representation for all
- ③ Unite people for common causes eg. India against corruption
- ④ Support minority voices.

Responsive

- ① Stop discontent against govt.
from turning violent.
- ② Lead to better accountability
of govt. eg. MKSS agitated
for RTI
- ③ Provide training in
issues and leadership at the
grassroots
- ④ Balance out various competing
interests.

Therefore pressure groups
are an essential feature
of a healthy, participative &
responsive democracy.

2. Highlight the importance of State Finance Commission in strengthening fiscal federalism in India. Do you agree with the view that they have not been provided with the necessary environment to play their rightful role?

(150 Words) 10 Marks

भारत में राजकोषीय संघवाद को सुदृढ़ करने में राज्य वित्त आयोग के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए। क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि इन्हें अपनी यथोचित भूमिका के निर्वहन हेतु आवश्यक वातावरण प्रदान नहीं किया गया है?

State Finance Commissions are provided for in Part IX A of the Constitution to give recommendations on devolution of funds to local self governments.

This was added by the 73rd & 74th amendment Act in 1992.

They have played an important role in strengthening fiscal federalism:-

- ① Provide scheme for devolution of resources to local govt, sharing taxes etc.
- ② Develop guidelines to improve financial position of local bodies
- ③ Decide taxes to be collected by local govt.
- ④ Grants from Consolidated Fund of State.

Despite their role, they have not been given the right environment to function :-

- ① They are not appointed regularly by states.
- ② Reports are not considered or discussed properly.
- ③ Not staffed by experts or local representatives but political appointees or bureaucrats.
- ④ No resources given for proper functioning.
- ⑤ No proper terms of reference set.

Therefore, for them to realise their objective, there is a need for states appoint commissions on time, give them a proper regulatory framework to function in and seriously consider their recommendations.

3. Explain the significance and controversies, if any, associated with the Article 35A of the Indian constitution. (150 Words) 10 Marks

भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 35A के महत्व और उससे संबद्ध विवादों, यदि कोई हो, की व्याख्या कीजिए।

The state of Jammu & Kashmir has special status in the Constitution by virtue of Art. 370 wherein all provisions of the Constitution apply to it through Presidential Orders with concurrence of state govt.

Art. 35A was inserted in the Constitution through Presidential Order 1954. This:-

- ① extends fundamental rights to the state
- ② Allows the state to define the permanent residents of the state and give them preference in the matter of residence, jobs etc. & none of this is considered violation of fundamental rights.

Significance

- ① It provides special rights to citizens.
- ② Preserves their autonomy as was decided during accession.

of the state.

Controversy

Recently, there has been a call for removal of this article for the following reasons:-

- ① Was not added through Constitutional amendment & is hence invalid.
- ② Against Articles 14, 15, 19. &
- ③ Discriminatory to women as a Kashmiri woman's non Kashmiri son/daughter cannot inherit property there.
- ④ Stops integration of people in mainstream.

The people of the state attach value to this article and support it to protect their autonomy & freedoms.

These are thus conflicting opinions which need to be considered while understanding any discussion & decision on the same.

4. It is of paramount importance to ensure that the Election Commission of India (ECI) be fully insulated from political pressure to maintain the purity of elections. In this context, discuss the need to have a relook at the process of appointment and removal of election commissioners to the ECI.

(150 Words) 10 Marks

चुनावों की शुचिता बनाए रखने के लिए यह सुनिश्चित करना सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण है कि भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) राजनीतिक दबाव से पूर्णतया मुक्त रहे। इस संदर्भ में, ECI के निर्वाचन आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति और पदच्युति की प्रक्रिया पर पुनर्विचार करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The ECI is the nodal agency to conduct elections to Parliament & state legislatures and is governed by constitutional principles under Art 324.

Appointment

- The CEC is appointed by President
- Other two ECs are appointed by President on advice of CEC.

Removal

- The CEC can be removed like that of a SC judge i.e. ~~act~~ motion passed by both houses of Parliament by special majority.
- ECs can be removed by President on advice of CEC.

This process opens up questions of neutrality of ECI :-

- ① Appointment is completely under

Control of Central government
as President would act on

③ aid & advice of Council of
Ministers.

② The removal of the 2 ECs
is under control of central
government. Since all 3 have
equal powers, The 2 ECs can
outvote the CEC on any matter.

The process has therefore led to
allegations of favouritism, going
soft on ruling party, partisan
behaviour etc.

Elections are lifeblood of democracy
& free & fair elections are a
necessity. Therefore, there
is a need to relook at the
above processes:-

- ① Appointment should be done
by a Collegium sort of body with
judicial & opposition representatives
- ② Removal of all 3 commissions
should be as that of
an SC judge.

5. By providing new pools of leadership talent, lateral entry will help in addressing the most crucial challenges that the civil services in India currently face. Critically evaluate. **(150 words) 10 Marks**

प्रतिभावान नेतृत्वकर्ताओं के नए समुच्चय प्रदान कर, पार्श्व प्रवेश भारत में सिविल सेवाओं के समक्ष वर्तमान समय में व्याप्त सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता करेगा। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

The civil services are the steelframe of India and are responsible for smooth functioning of the country.

Challenges

- ① Made of generalists with not enough focus on specific skills.
- ② Red tapism, bureaucratic attitude & environment.
- ③ Apathetic to work
- ④ Corruption

In this light, lateral entry can have numerous advantages:-

- ① Bring in specialists with expertise in various fields.

- ② Bring in a new & open work culture with newer ideas
- ③ Bring in competition leading to better work by existing bureaucrats

However, there are concerns as well :-

- ① Conflict of interest as people will go back into the private sector.
- ② Proper standards of evaluation need to be set.

In this light, along with lateral entry, other reforms should also be considered.

2nd ARC recommends utilising existing bureaucrats according to their specialisation. Also, vacancies in existing positions need to be filled up.

All this can help to comprehensively tackle the issue.

6. Public service delivery in India has long been marred by various issues leading to poor service delivery outcomes. While discussing the reasons for the same, suggest ways to make public service delivery more efficient.

(150 words) 10 Marks

भारत में सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण दीर्घकाल से विभिन्न समस्याओं से ग्रसित रहा है जिसका परिणाम निम्नस्तरीय सेवा वितरण है। इसके कारणों पर चर्चा करते हुए, सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण को अधिक कुशल बनाने के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

As a welfare state, a major responsibility of the government is public service delivery.

However, India has faced many problems in this regard.

Reasons

- ① Improper institutional mechanisms
- ② Lack of proper rules & regulations
- ③ Lack of information with citizens about their entitlements.
- ④ Corruption & apathy of public servants. Leakeges.
- ⑤ No proper grievance redressal mechanisms.
- ⑥ Denial of service on lack of documentation to ~~poor~~ poor & illiterate citizens.

To increase efficiency

- ① Public Service Guarantee Acts need to be ~~passed~~^{enacted} by all states on line of MP and Rajasthan acts providing for fixed time delivery & fines for delays.
- ② Adoption of citizens charter by organizations.
- ③ E governance & e-delivery initiatives.
- ④ Strict enforcement of anti-corruption mechanism.
- ⑤ Reducing official interface.
- ⑥ Conducting documentation drives.
- ⑦ Training officials for responsive and efficient delivery.

7. The changing employment landscape across the globe makes it imperative that vocational education be integrated with the school curriculum in India. Discuss. (150 words) 10 Marks

सम्पूर्ण विश्व में परिवर्तित होता रोजगार परिदृश्य भारत में स्कूली पाठ्यक्रम के साथ व्यावसायिक शिक्षा के समेकन को अनिवार्य बनाता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The world is fast moving towards development and the 4th industrial revolution is changing the nature of employment.

New Developments

- ① Automation. The ILO says 2/3rd of jobs in developing world susceptible to automation.
- ② New technologies like AI, blockchain etc.
- ③ Rise of startups
- ④ Focus on technical and advanced learning.
- ⑤ Increased resentment against international movement of labour and protectionist tendencies.
- ⑥ Focus on soft skills. All this would require changes to be made in

School Curriculum in India as:-

- ① It focuses on rote learning rather than critical thinking.
- ② Outdated concepts are taught.
- ③ No focus on newer developments.
- ④ Limited use of technology.

As children have to be prepared to face the job market they are going to go into, there is a need to introduce vocational training in schools:-

- ① Courses on AI, machine learning, use of technology.
- ② Increasing practical and lab work.
- ③ Increasing discussion on new developments.
- ④ Focus on language & communication skills.

This would help them meet new challenges.

8. There is need for a more effective implementation of the existing provisions, as well as strengthening the current legal and institutional frameworks for addressing issues related to sexual harassment at workplace. Discuss. (150 words) 10 Marks

कार्यस्थल पर यौन उत्पीड़न से संबंधित मुद्दों को संबोधित करने के लिए वर्तमान प्रावधानों के अधिक प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन के साथ ही, मौजूदा कानूनी और संस्थागत ढांचे को सुदृढ़ बनाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Sexual harassment at the workplace is one of the ~~major~~ major causes of low female employment. and It is tackled under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act 2013, modeled after Vishakha Guidelines of Supreme Court.

Need for Effective Implementation

- ① The Internal Complaints Committee is not set up in workplaces. which needs to be addressed.
- ② Lack of female members in these committees.
- ③ Proper information needs to be provided to employees about mechanisms in act.

- ④ Reports & penalties given by ICC need to be adopted by employers.

Strengthening Legal & Institutional Framework

- ① Time limit on complaints of harassment need to be removed as women ~~to~~ may take time to report issues.
- ② Provision for complaints to NCW needs to be added as women may not favour complaining within organization.
- ③ Gender sensitisation workshops should be made compulsory in organizations.

Thus, dealing with workplace sexual harassment requires a comprehensive policy to ~~struck~~ tackle all issues.

9. Discuss the challenges that India may face in the eventuality of withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. What options does India have to safeguard its interests in the context of the changing situation?

(150 words) 10 Marks

अफगानिस्तान से अमेरिकी सैनिकों की वापसी की स्थिति में भारत के समक्ष आ सकने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। परिवर्तित होती परिस्थितियों के संदर्भ में भारत के पास अपने हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए कौन-से विकल्प हैं?

As a consequence of the Doha Dialogue between the US and Taliban, the US has agreed to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan provided the Taliban does not use the territory for carrying out terrorist attacks. The modalities are being worked out.

Challenges to India

- ① Militants moving focus to Kashmir & creating security problem.
- ② India has huge investment in Afghanistan worth \$3 billion. Their security comes into question.

- ③ Domination of Taliban in Afghan politics and sidelining of existing govt.

Options for India

- ① Should take active part in Moscow talks & ~~DD~~ and other initiatives in Afghan peace process to advance its views.
- ② Build international support for its idea of Afghan led, owned & controlled peace process.
- ③ Capitalize on its goodwill in Afghanistan to secure more developmental projects and becoming an essential part of Afghanistan economy.

10. Highlight the role and significance of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the peaceful settlement of international disputes. Also, discuss some limitations with regard to functioning of ICJ. (150 words) 10 Marks

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विवादों के शांतिपूर्ण निपटारे में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय (ICJ) की भूमिका और महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, ICJ की कार्यप्रणाली से संबंधित कुछ सीमाओं पर भी चर्चा कीजिए।

The ICJ, established in 1945 is the dispute resolution mechanism of the UN. As per the UN Charter, it ~~looks after~~ ^{admits} two types of cases:-

- ① Contentious - Disputes between parties
- ② Advisory opinions - Referred by organs of UN & specialized agencies.

Role

- ① Has ~~not~~ implemented & enforced principles of international law
- ② Resolved territorial disputes
- ③ Evolved principles of int. law
eg. Nuclear weapons case.

- ④ Protected sovereignty of weaker countries from world powers. eg. Nicaragua case.

Limitations

- ① It only gets jurisdiction to decide on issues if states agree to its jurisdiction.
- ② The representation of developed countries is more on the bench.
- ③ Lack of proper enforcement mechanisms as states can choose to ignore its orders.

Nevertheless, it has helped in resolving some important conflicts & maintaining peace & security.

11. Indian Constitution displays multiple features adopted from the practices around the world. Explain. How did the Government of India Act 1935 influence the constitution of independent India? **(250 Words) 15 Marks**
- भारतीय संविधान विश्व भर की परिपाटियों से अंगीकृत किए गए कई लक्षणों को प्रदर्शित करता है। व्याख्या कीजिए। भारत सरकार अधिनियम, 1935 ने किस प्रकार स्वतंत्र भारत के संविधान को प्रभावित किया?

The Indian Constitution adopted in 1950, is referred to as a cut & paste constitution as it incorporates many principles from other countries. This was not a blind imitation but a careful assessment to adopt what is best suited for India.

Some instances are as follows.

① UK

- ② - Parliamentary form of govt.
- Rule of law
- Cabinet system
- Writs
- Legislative process

② USA

- President & Vice President
- Judicial Review

- Independence of Judiciary
- Fundamental Rights

③ Ireland

- DPSP
- Election to Rajya Sabha

④ Australia

- Concurrent List
- Trade & Commerce provisions

⑤ Germany

- Emergency provisions

⑥ Canada

- Federation with strong centre

⑦ South Africa

- Amendment procedure.

These show the extensive research & discussion by makers of Constitution.

Govt Act 1935

This was the major influence on the Constitution as more than 80% of the provisions are taken from it :-

- ① Federal Structure - Division of power into Union, State, Concurrent List.
- ② Two houses of Parliament
- ③ Supreme Court
- ④ Public Service Commissions
- ⑤ Emergency provisions.

Therefore, the Indian Constitution has had numerous inspirations which were adopted as per India's needs.

12. Highlighting different Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms available in India, explain their importance. Also, mention different measures that have been adopted to further improve the framework of ADR in India. **(250 Words) 15 Marks**

भारत में उपलब्ध विभिन्न वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (ADR) तंत्रों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनके महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में ADR के ढांचे में आगे और सुधार लाने के लिए अपनाए गए विभिन्न उपायों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

ADR mechanisms function as an alternative to formal court system of the country.

Various Mechanisms

- ① Arbitration - Adversarial system where parties appoint arbitrator who is specialist who decides disputes.
- ② Conciliation - Conciliator provides possible solutions to parties who discuss these & solve disputes.
- ③ Mediation - ~~mediator~~ Mediator acts only as a facilitator, parties decide solutions themselves.

- ④ LoK Adalats — District judge & other persons appointed resolve ~~some~~ small disputes between parties without strict procedure, use of lawyers etc.
- ⑤ Nyay Panchayats — Resolve small criminal cases.

Importance

- ① Reduce time of dispute resolution
- ② Lower costs
- ③ Reduce burden on formal court system & tendency.
- ④ Provide for a more cooperative and collaborative approach, reducing acrimony.
- ⑤ Do not follow strict procedure & hence helpful

for poor & illiterate population

- ⑥ Reduce monopoly of lawyers.

Different measures adopted

- ① Section 96 i- CPC provides for ADR.
- ② Changes made to Arbitration & Conciliation Act.
- ③ Courts have started referring cases to ADR processes.
- ④ Establishment of New Delhi Arbitration Centre.
- ⑤ Mediation Complexes attached to Courts.
- ⑥ Awareness campaigns about ADR.

13. Success of the institutions of local self-governance depends largely on the attitude of state governments. Discuss in the context of constitutional provisions and recent experience of the working of these institutions in India. (250 Words) 15 Marks

स्थानीय स्व-शासन की संस्थाओं की सफलता मुख्य रूप से राज्य सरकारों की प्रवृत्ति पर निर्भर करती है। संवैधानिक प्रावधानों और भारत में इन संस्थानों के कामकाज संबंधी हालिया अनुभव के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Local governments were brought in by 73rd & 74th amendment Acts in 1992 to provide for Panchayats & municipalities respectively by adding parts IX & IX A.

The overall scheme of control has largely been given to state governments:-

- ① States have to devolve power. ~~As per~~ ~~to~~ items mentioned in 11th & 12th Schedule.
- ② States have to provide resources, finances etc.

⑤ States have to prepare plans.

It has been seen that states have not fully undertaken these functions:-

- ① No devolution of power.
- ② ^{Limited} ~~Pro~~ finances have been shared.
- ③ State Finance Commissions have not been appointed.
- ④ Elections are not held regularly.
- ⑤ No developmental plans made for progress.
- ⑥ No input taken from these bodies in creating area plans.
- ⑦ Inadequate staff.

For local governments to reach their full potential, there is a need for states to play their role effectively:-

- ① Tax & early plans need to be made for advancement of local govt.
- ② Legislations should be passed mandating specific revenue heads to local govt.
- ③ Trained & adequate staff to be provided.
- ④ Proper functioning of state finance and state election commissions.

14. Explain why the doctrine of separation of powers is considered as an indispensable part of a democratic setup. Also, discussing this doctrine in the context of India, explain the principle of 'checks and balances'.

(250 words) 15 Marks

व्याख्या कीजिए कि शक्ति के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत को लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था का एक अनिवार्य घटक क्यों माना जाता है। साथ ही, भारत के संदर्भ में इस सिद्धांत पर चर्चा करते हुए, 'नियंत्रण और संतुलन' के सिद्धांत की भी व्याख्या कीजिए।

Separation of powers is
a concept advocated by
French philosopher Montesque.

According to this, the powers
of governance should be separated
& provided to different branches
of government, as in:-

- ① Legislature - Law making.
- ② Executive - Law enforcement
- ③ Judiciary - Dispute resolution.

This is done as ~~concept~~
all powers being performed by
one person or entity would
lead to concentration of
power and arbitrariness.

This is why separation is

an indispensable part of democracy
It leads to checks & balances.

India

India is not following a strict separation of power as

- ② Executive is chosen from legislature, judiciary can ~~not~~ evolve principles and laws [~~was~~ enhancing scope of Art. 21, etc. delegated legislation by executive etc.

However, there is a proper System of Checks and Balances in place with each Organ exercising some Control over the other:-

I) Legislature

- ① The ministers are members of Parliament and are collectively responsible to it.
- ② The judges of SC & HC can be impeached by motion

in Parliament.

I) Executive

- ① Government enforces all laws. and
- ② Can reject legislations through the President's pocket veto.
- ③ Can take control of state ~~govt~~ legislatures through Art. 356.

II) Judiciary

- ① Through judicial review, has the power to invalidate any law or executive order.
- ② Can provide guidelines on how functioning is to be carried out. Issue writs etc.

Therefore, India follows a system of checks & balances to promote better governance.

15. Focusing on technology without realizing that e-Governance is basically about ushering reforms in governance has meant that the potential of e-governance has not been realized. Discussing the statement, suggest what should be done to address this situation. **(250 words) 15 Marks**

ई-गवर्नेंस मूलतः शासन में सुधारों का सूत्रपात करने के लिए है, यह समझे बिना प्रौद्योगिकी पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने का अर्थ यह हुआ कि ई-गवर्नेंस की क्षमता का दोहन नहीं हो पाया है। इस कथन पर चर्चा करते हुए, सुझाव दीजिए कि इस स्थिति से निपटने हेतु क्या किया जाना चाहिए।

E-governance refers to the use of information & communication technology for delivery of services & other functions of the state.

In India, the focus has been towards providing e-government but not e-governance. The latter stands for open, transparent, and simplified governance which includes a change in the entire ecosystem. However, this has not been the case with ~~one~~ same structures shifting Online.

Issues

- ① Complex regulations & rules even for use of e-governance facilities.
- ② Lack of digital literacy of population.
- ③ Low penetration of technology in rural areas, remote areas etc.
- ④ E-governance initiatives being city centric and not pro-poor.
- ⑤ Privacy & Surveillance concerns.
- ⑥ Considerable human interface even in e-governance leading to corruption.
- ⑦ High costs of using technology.

In this light, there is a need to comprehensively Overhaul the System:-

- ① Simplify procedures ~~an~~ for use of e-governance measures.
- ② Single Window clearances.
- ③ Spread digital education.
eg. programmes like ~~VDA~~ PM DIGISHA.
- ④ Incentivize private companies to provide digital services in rural & remote areas.
- ⑤ Developing targeted e-governance solutions for different sections of population.
- ⑥ Develop proper legal framework to promote data security.

16. Discuss briefly why the definition of 'public authorities' under the Right to Information Act, 2005 has been a contentious issue. Also, explain the rationale behind Central Information Commission's directive that national political parties be covered under the purview of RTI Act.

(250 words) 15 Marks

संक्षेप में चर्चा कीजिए कि क्यों सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत 'लोक प्राधिकरणों' की परिभाषा एक विवादित मुद्दा रहा है। साथ ही, केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग के इस निर्देश के पीछे के तर्क की व्याख्या कीजिए कि राष्ट्रीय राजनीतिक दलों को भी RTI अधिनियम के दायरे में लाया जाना चाहिए।

As per the RTI Act, a public authority is one which:-

- ① Established under Constitution, Law or any order of govt.
- ② Bodies owned & controlled by govt.
- ③ NGO's financed by govt.

There have been various issues of contention over this:-

- ① The incorporation of a body by order or law would not render it a public.

authority. There have to be other issues considered.

- ② There are different opinions on what constitutes ownership, control or substantial financing to decide what is a public authority.

Political Parties

The CIC had declared national parties as public authorities but this was not accepted by the former.

~~It~~ These ~~are~~ were considered public authorities due to following reasons:

- ① They were substantially financed by Central ~~to~~

government through land,
tax exemptions, provision to
secure funds etc.

② They play an important
role in public life and
~~are~~ are essential for
democratic politics.

③ Citizens have a right
to know about finances
& functioning of political
parties in public interest.

Therefore, political
parties should be
covered under public
authorities in RTI
Act.

17. Universal Health Coverage is a worthwhile goal, however achieving this in a country like India is a challenging task. Analyse. In this context, discuss the significance of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. **(250 words) 15 Marks**

सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य कवरेज एक सार्थक लक्ष्य है, यद्यपि भारत जैसे देश में इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करना एक चुनौतीपूर्ण कार्य है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, आयुष्मान भारत योजना के महत्व की चर्चा कीजिए।

Universal Health Coverage
is defined as all individuals
and communities receiving the
healthcare services they need
without suffering financial
hardship. Includes full
spectrum of promotion, prevention,
treatment, rehabilitation &
palliative care.

The SDGs target UHC for
all by 2030.

Issues in India

- ① High out of pocket expenditure.
- ② Lack of trained professionals.
India has 1 doctor per 1600
people as opposed to ~~1000~~

WHO recommended 1/1000.

- ③ Lack of proper infrastructure in hospitals.
- ④ Regional as well as rural urban divide in healthcare.
- ⑤ ~~B~~ Lack of sufficient health expenditure
- ⑥ Rise of non-communicable diseases.

Ayushman Bharat

-This has 2 components:-

- ① Upgradation of Health / Wellness Centres
- ② 5 lakh / year insurance per family; covering 10 crore families for secondary & tertiary care.

Benefits

- ① Would reduce cost of healthcare.

- ② Provide for investment in health infrastructure.
- ③ Provide effective mechanism to tackle non-communicable diseases.
- ④ Providing interoperability of benefits.

Concerns

- ① Not enough expenditure.
- ② Would not focus on primary healthcare as much.
- ③ Package rates set too low → possibility of fraud by hospitals.

There is a need to develop a proper framework of regulation, grievance redressal etc. so as to provide a mechanism to promote Universal Health Care.

18. The strategy for combating poverty in India must rest on both effective implementation of anti-poverty programmes and employment intensive economic growth. Discuss.

(250 words) 15 Marks

भारत में निर्धनता से मुकाबला करने की रणनीति निर्धनता-रोधी कार्यक्रमों के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन और रोजगार गहन आर्थिक संवृद्धि, दोनों पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। चर्चा कीजिए।

India has taken great strides in reduction of poverty. The Multidimensional Poverty Index Report provides that between 2005-06 to 2015-16, India's MPI level reduced to 27.9%, lifting 271 million people out of poverty.

However, 369 million people still face poverty.

An effective strategy for reduction of poverty as per Niti Aayog focuses on both effective implementation of programmes as well as economic growth. as it would provide support as well as provide opportunity for people to get out of poverty.

Implementation of Programmes

India has undertaken many anti-poverty programmes but they face many issues:-

- ① Overlapping of measures
- ② Corruption
- ③ Improper targeting
- ④ Lack of specific guidelines

measures for effective implementation

- ① Provide & expand various social security measures like Atal Pension Yojna, PM Suksha Bima Yojna etc.
- ② Proper implementation of MGNREGS, Awas Yojna etc along with social audits
- ③ Sector and population specific programmes.
- ④ Use of Adhaar to fa proper

identification.

Employment Intensive Growth

India has become the 6th largest economy of \$2.7 trillion. but ~~India~~ is also facing 6.1% of unemployment.

Issues

- ① Growth in non-labour intensive sectors like IT.
- ② Lack of low cost manufacturing.
- ③ Lack of skilling.
- ④ Less support to business & entrepreneurship.

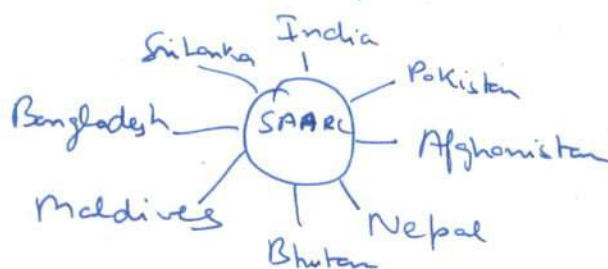
To do :-

- ① Expand & implement measures like MUORA, Standup India etc.
- ② Promote skill development & vocational training.
- ③ Simplify laws & procedures to promote ease of doing business.

19. Critically assess the performance of SAARC as a regional grouping. Examine whether India needs to shift its focus towards BIMSTEC as an alternative to SAARC. (250 words) 15 Marks

एक क्षेत्रीय समूह के रूप में सार्क (SAARC) के प्रदर्शन का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए। परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या भारत को सार्क के एक विकल्प के तौर पर बिमस्टेक (BIMSTEC) पर अपना ध्यान केन्द्रित करना चाहिए।

SAARC was established in 1985 to promote South Asian interests & cooperation.



There have been some achievements of the SAARC grouping:-

- ① Negotiation of ~~SAFTA~~ SAFTA.
- ② Establishment of SAARC ~~Secret~~ Secretariat.
- ③ SAARC University.
- ④ Mechanisms for visa exemption, disaster management.

However, the potential has not been reached :-

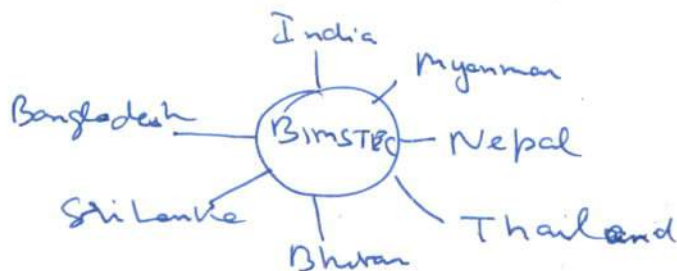
- ① Low inter-region trade [5%] of total trade in South Asia.
- ② Least integrated region
- ③ Summits are irregular
- ④ No common outlook like ASEAN.

Reasons

- ① India-Pakistan issues
- ② Instability in region
- ③ Lack of resources.

BIMSTEC

- Established in 1997



Littoral states of Bay of Bengal region.

Focusing on BIMSTEC provides many benefits :-

- ① Bridge towards South East Asia.
- ② Impetus to Act East Policy.
- ③ Trade and free trade can be increased without issues of security dominating talks.
- ④ Help in developing north east in India.

Concerns

- ① Not many summits.
- ② Issues of cheap goods being imported from the south east asian region.
- ③ Not enough resources.

For India, BIMSTEC provides a great opportunity and efforts should be made to promote it.

Out. ID SAARC should not be left redundant and efforts should be made to revive it, opening more avenues of cooperation in region.

20. Highlight the reasons behind proliferation of multilateral preferential trade agreements. Do they violate WTO's MFN principle? Do you think that such trade groupings present an existential threat to WTO?

(250 words) 15 Marks

बहुपक्षीय अधिमान्य व्यापार समझौतों के तीव्र वृद्धि के पीछे निहित कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। क्या वे WTO के MFN सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन करते हैं? क्या आपको ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि इस प्रकार के व्यापार समूह, WTO के समक्ष अस्तित्वपरक खतरा प्रस्तुत करते हैं?

There has been increasing proliferation of trade agreements between countries or groups of countries, providing preferential terms within the group as opposed to multilaterally under WTO.

e.g. ~~CER~~, CPTPP, RCEP etc

Reasons

- ① Failure of WTO to reach consensus
- ② Similar economic, social & cultural aspects of grouping countries

- ③ Similar Trade Aims
- ④ Dominance of a few nations
in multilateral negotiations.

MFN

MFN is the mechanism which provides that country's must provide all nations terms same as what they provide to their most favoured partner. It is a rule of non-discrimination.

PTAs are an exception under MFN and hence do not violate it.

Threat to WTO?

The WTO mechanism could be sidelined by then as:-

- ① Countries would prefer working
in the groups, abandoning
complex negotiations.

- ② Rise of protectionism would promote a move inward, within group policy.

However, these PTA's also facilitate the WTO in many ways:-

- ① They provide room for negotiation of new issues like IPR, e-commerce which can later be adopted by WTO.
- ② Help build framework and consensus on issues prior to WTO discussions.

PTA's cannot replace WTO as ~~matter~~ global trade issues would require a multilateral body. These PTA's should therefore be utilized to ~~a~~ complement WTO processes.