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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1523)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	972640
Center	ONLINE	Date	15/12/20

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. 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।
2	10		
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Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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.

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?

Information is a tool to transform citizens from subjects to agents of government. Central Information Commission is the nodal agency for democratisation of Information.

Issues

- (i) Recent Amendment and dilution of powers of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commission.
 - tenure and service conditions to be determined by the government (Executive) including remuneration.
- (ii) lack of dedicated cadre of Information officers
 - the officials appointed as PIO are overburdened due to dual responsibility
- (iii) lack of digitisation of information

- (iii) No financial independence and dependence on centre
- (iv) Delay in information disclosure by departments
- (v) lack of compilation of inter-ministerial data which exists in silos
- (vi) frequent litigation against the orders of CIC

Way forward

- (i) According constitutional status
- (ii) dedicated workforce
- (iii) Trained staff in new technologies like Big Data Analytics
- (iv) System of rewards and punishment to reduce delay in information dissemination

CIC can be a instrument of good governance if strengthened through addressing above concerns.

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।

Governor is the constitutional head of the state and appointed by the President.

While both President and Governor are ceremonial heads, their discretionary powers are different

President: only situational discretion and no constitutional discretion.

- Appointment of Prime Minister when no party has clear majority.
- dismissal of Council of Ministers if loses confidence motion
- dissolution of Lok Sabha if Council of Ministers loses majority.

Governor: → both constitutional and situational discretion.

Situational discretion → Same as that of President in case of Chief Minister

and state legislature

Constitutional discretion :-→

- Recommending the President to impose President's rule in the state
- Reserve state bills for approval of the President
- Discretion over financial matters in 6th schedule areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
- Seeking information from Chief ministers regarding legislative and administrative functioning.

discretionary
Thus, powers of Governor are wider than that of President. It is a reflection of quasi-federal nature of Indian state whereby the Governor ensures constitutional governance in state. ~~is~~ is

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?

Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies meant to adjudicate over specific subject matter. They were introduced through 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act and Parliament & state were empowered to constitute Tribunals.

Objectives :-

- (i) Speedy adjudication
- (ii) Flexible operation
 - Tribunals employ Principles of Natural Justice along with legal provisions
 - ensures amicable solutions
 - promotes negotiations as well
- (iii) Reduce burden on judiciary
- (iv) Specific needs in some matters requiring expert knowledge in subject domain.

Eg. Environmental cases require
environmental knowledge

Therefore NGT

Eg. Central Administrative Tribunal
~~there~~ requires department specific
knowledge

Assessment

- (i) Long procedural delays
- (ii) lack of adequate workforce
vacancies unfilled
- (iii) Political influence since appointment
is by Executive
- (iv) Lack of judicial members despite
Supreme Court judgement on the
matter in Fourth Judges case
- (v) lack of standard procedures
- (vi) Excessive appeal litigation

While NGT, CAT have been successful
in delivery of results, other tribunals
face above challenges which should be
speedily handled

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 has brought OTT platforms under the regulatory ambit of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Need of governmental Regulation

- (i) Increasing viewership and market in India
- (ii) May prejudice national security
 - objectionable content based on terrorism, sedition, communal tensions
 - glorifying ~~the~~ crime
- (iii) Objectification of women
 - pornography and nudity
- (iv) Foreign ownership of OTTs like Netflix, Amazon Prime - Foreign

interference over media may be misused for creating unrest

(v) OTT also offer news services and this has impact on national politics and public opinion

Thus self regulation would not serve the purpose :-

- lack of effective supervision
- no institution for ensuring accountability in case of violation.

However government regulation may lead to restricted freedom of speech and expression and artistic freedom.

There is a need to draft a code of ethics for OTT by involving various stakeholders. Instead of a strict control, a supervisory mechanism along with self regulation can balanced national interest and free speech.

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।

Recently Haryana and Telangana had created provisions for reserving jobs for locals in private sector.

Causes behind such move :-

- (i) Unemployment in the region
- (ii) Local political pressure
- (iii) Agrarian distress
- (iv) Usurping of jobs by migrant labour.

Intended Benefits

- (i) Restrict migration of locals
- (ii) Employment opportunities for working class.

Problems Associated

- (i) Less likely to pass judicial scrutiny

Under Article 16 of the constitution only Parliament (and not state) can create 'Residence' as a condition for employment

(ii) Discourage investors

→ they look for cheap labour and usually migrant labour serves the need.

→ local labour restricts their options for workforce

(iii) Creates secessionism and narrow regionalism

(iv) Diverts attention from core issue of unemployment and rural distress.

The need is to improve Ease of Doing Business in state, skilling of local labour force and promote local entrepreneurship. This is a sustainable solution to unemployment rather than narrowly utilitarian reservation provisions.

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।

Civil services are the bedrock of governance and administration in the country. Mission Karmayogi seeks at Civil Services Reforms through capacity building of Civil Servants.

Key elements

- (i) Rules based to Roles based Human Resource Management to identify capacity of civil servants and accordingly allocate the job
- (ii) Inter-ministerial convergence in utilisation of resources towards training of officials
- (iii) I407- Karmayogi platform for continuous information and expertise building ; On-site training
- (iv) Prime Minister Human Resource Council to give strategic

guidance

- (v) Special Purpose Vehicle to effectively utilise funds

Benefits

- (i) holistic development of capacities
- (ii) a framework of competencies would streamline the training procedures
- (iii) On-site training would lead to better knowledge of citizen needs.
Creating a citizen-centric Civil Services.
- (iv) Bridge gap between generalisation and specialisation through continuous monitoring.

Provided that the training is not limited to mere course and seminars, Mission Karmayogi can realign Civil Services to the new needs of the emerging technologies, challenges and opportunities.

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 (Accredited Social Healthcare Agents) are grassroot healthcare providers in India and act as footsoldiers of Primary Health Care.

Importance

(i) Effective Surveillance

- they are part of community and well accepted in local society enabling surveillance of diseases

(ii) Awareness regarding diseases, hygiene and vaccination drives

(iii) Women: → help in spreading awareness regarding pregnancy

→ Menstrual hygiene care

→ Ensure Institutional Delivery through incentives under Janani Suraksha Yojana

→ Nutritional needs of lactating women

- (iv) Medicine distribution
- (v) Door to door service delivery regarding medicines, immunisation, etc

Challenges

- (i) lack of adequate training
 - most are 8th pass and lack technical know how
- (ii) lack of innovative technology like use of mobile phones for connecting with people
- (iii) Poorly paid
- (iv) Overburdened
- (v) Usually women are ASHA workers, less acceptability among men
- (vi) Mostly contractual terms, no security of tenure.

COVID-19 underlined the importance of ASHAs as first line of defence against any health care issue. They should be financially empowered and adequately trained

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।

Internationalisation of higher education has been proposed by the New Education Policy, 2020 to improve the education ecosystem in India.

Potential Benefits

- (i) Filling the gap in shortage of higher education institutions
- (ii) Bring-in the best practices in education
- (iii) Infuse competition among the local institutions
- (iv) India is a big market for educational institution. It is in the phase of demographic dividend. There is a need for best educational ecosystem to realise its potential

(v) Top educational institutions in India will reduce emigration of Indian students abroad

→ this will reduce Current Account deficit

(vi) India can emerge as an educational hub in South Asia and invite other country students

Challenges

(i) Excessive commercialisation of education making it a monopoly of the rich.

(ii) Higher educational institutions need to be complemented by good quality primary education missing in India

(iii) Need to regulate fee by the government to ensure equity. This may discourage foreign institution

(iv) Curriculum mismatch.

Only after due consultation with all stakeholders any decision be taken.

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-अफ़ग़ान बातचीत के संदर्भ में अधिक व्यावहारिक दखल अफ़ग़ानिस्तान के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव के अलावा में चर्चा कीजिए।

Post the USA-Afghan deal and signing of Doha accord, India needs to realign its foreign policy towards Afghanistan.

(i) Greater legitimacy to Taliban in the talks. India has historically not recognised Taliban and rejected its fundamentalist lines

- need to engage with Taliban as it is a key player in Afghan politics.
- Pakistan enjoys close cooperation with Taliban and this can jeopardise India's interests

(ii) The elected Afghan government has been sidelined during the talks

- India has supported the elected government throughout history

• India must engage to ensure that the elected government has significant say in policies formulation and ensure of liberal order

(iii) India has made huge investments in the region

- Garland Highway. Salma dam, Parliament building, library, etc

- need to secure these investments by engaging with all Afghan stakeholders

(iv) Energy rich resources rich region is essential for India's energy needs

India needs to drop its tough stance towards Taliban and engage with it in all possible sectors. Three redlines as given by India - respecting the mandate of elected government, ensure rights of all stakeholders and not letting use of Afghan land for terrorism - can be the basis of engagement.

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।

Recently Israel and UAE established formal diplomatic relations with each other. This is a step-towards diffusion of historic rivalry between Israel and Arab nations

Possibilities for India

(i) Easier balancing between the different countries of West Asia as the interests of the poles of power in the region converge

(ii) UAE is India's important oil exporter, important destination for migrants (thus a source of remittance).

Israel is India's defence exporter

Balance of power between the two satisfies India's Energy and Security Interests

- (iii) India can engage with the two countries to further the development of Connectivity Infrastructure in the region and counter China's Belt and Road
- (iv) Stability in West Asia is essential for India's energy security and stability of Forex reserves.
- (v) May lead to amicable solution to Palestine issue which is an irritant in India-Israel and India-Arab engagement.

With growing multilateralism in the region of West Asia, India should actively engage with multiple countries to ensure energy security, investment from West Asia to India and also the well being of Diaspora there.

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।

Election manifestos are a framework of policies and governance that a voter can expect from a political party if it comes to power.

Need to Regulate election Manifestos

- (i) Usually released just before the actual elections and little time is left for the voter to discuss the manifesto
- (ii) Contain promises related to freebies to the people. According to Supreme Court judgement, such freebies impact the choice of voters and undermine free and fair elections
- (iii) Do not provide rational means to achieve the lofty promises made

(iv) Sometimes target particular communities for welfare programmes which creates tensions in society

Regulating past performance on election manifesto

- (i) To evaluate whether political parties sincerely adhere to their manifesto or it is a tool for voter manipulation
- (ii) To ensure accountability of political parties towards providing genuine information to voters
- (iii) Creates awareness amongst citizens regarding voting choices based on issues and not pre-election rhetorics

Existing Mechanism

Election Commission of India has added the guidelines regarding manifesto in the Model Code of Conduct

- should not violate any constitutional ideals

- DPSP allow welfare measures and thus policies for poverty removal, reducing inequalities are legitimate
- No manifesto during campaign-free period of 48 hours ending with the day of poll as per RPA, 1951

While there should be enough flexibility for political parties to create innovative policy framework in manifesto; there should be focus on also including rational means that party would use to achieve them.

Manifesto can be a tool for transforming the nature of elections to issue based and infuse accountability

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
- लंबितवादों 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।

Supreme Court sits at the pinnacle of integrated judiciary in India. It has both original and appellate jurisdiction.

Recently a National Court of Appeal has been suggested to reduce case burden on Supreme court

- (i) Supreme court can focus on its exclusive jurisdiction regarding Fundamental Rights and federal disputes. These often get delayed due to burden of appellate jurisdiction.
- (ii) Multiple branches of Court of Appeal can improve access to justice around the country.
- (iii) Better case management as High Courts and lower judiciary can be integrated on

a single platform with Court of Appeal

- (iv) Greater efficiency of Supreme court original jurisdiction as well as appellate due to division of cases.

Problems

- (i) Constitutional position of Supreme Court can be eroded.
- (ii) Lack of trained judges to be deployed to such Court of Appeal
- (iii) Extra cost of exchequer regarding salaries, pensions and operational expenses
- (iv) Logistics challenges in case of multiple benches
- (v) Building consensus among states for passing an amendment.

Way forward :-

- (1) As of now the government has reject idea of separate court of appeal owing to challenges
- (2) Reforming the judiciary through other measures
 - e-courts Mission Mode Project
 - strengthen National Judicial Data grid
 - filling vacancies in lower judiciary
 - increasing work-days

Any decision regarding court of Appeal should involve all stakeholders - state, Union and Judiciary and must consider constitutional and financial feasibility

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 is an evolutionary document build upon experiences of colonial administration & legacy of Indian freedom struggle and draws from other constitutions across the world.

British Rule and its Aste Influences

the Government of India Act, 1935 was heavily incorporated

- bicameral legislation
- federal structure → PM as the real head
- High Courts and Supreme court
- Division of Power between state and Union through State, Union and Concurrent list inspired by Federal, Provincial and Concurrent list Act

- Office of Speaker and Chairman of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively
- System of elections

Spirit of Indian Freedom Struggle

While provisions of colonial acts provided letter of constitution, its spirit was drawn from freedom struggle

- Equality of all citizens reflected in Universal Adult Franchise
- Socialist Character to ensure welfare for all
 - DPSPs were drawn from Irish Constitution and modified to reflect India's Gandhian and Agrarian ideals
- Fundamental rights to individuals and declare individual as sovereign

to ensure dignity of all citizens

→ Provisions related to Cooperative Societies, local bodies and cottage industry to reflect spirit of democratic and economic decentralisation.

→ Republican character where all political offices are held in trust of public without any special privileges.

Thus Constitution is an organic document and is still evolving with changing times. Internalisation of its ideals is a sine qua non for a vibrant India.

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।

Recently Ministry of Rural Development has launched SVAMITVA scheme to map land resources in rural India.

Components :

- Survey of land resources using technology, drone mapping
- Updating ownership record of land resources
- Granting land ownership cards to rural citizens

Benefits :-

- (i) Improved land records can help in streamlining revenue collection
- (ii) Some land dispute cases

- (iii) Easier to identify vulnerable sections like sharecroppers and landless labour for welfare measure
- (iv) Designing agricultural and land use policies
- (v) Help in implementation of land reforms in future
- (vi) Help in consolidation of rural land for infrastructural development

Issues

- (i) Lack of land ownership records especially amongst poor and SC, STs
- (ii) Most land owned by males and women may be neglected if such ownership is mapped only on male names.
- (iii) Lack of trained ~~work shop~~ workforce to conduct exercise at such scale

- (iv) Disputed lands difficult to be precisely mapped to owners
- (v) lack of capability in big data analytics
- (vi) Fear of collusive corruption between dominant land owners and officials which may alienate poor from their land

The need of the hour is to adequately manage the rural land resource and SVAMITVA scheme is a step in right direction. Care should be taken to prevent any inclusion - exclusion errors and good use of data tools.

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।

Information is the currency of democracy and an enabler of good governance. It is a harbinger of transparency and accountability.

Stakeholders involved

(i) Citizens

- Right to Information of citizens
- transparency around government functions
- Citizen participation through RTI
- Active-involvement in schemes and welfare programmes

Ex Jan Soochana Portal of Rajasthan government has streamlined the delivery of essential public services. It provides information regarding

services, beneficiaries and allocations

- Improves accountability of government towards citizens

(ii) Inter-ministerial Information sharing

- Prevents 'silo' of information
- ensures convergence and synergy

(iii) Regulatory Bodies

- Reduces information asymmetry in conducting inquiries
- prevents chances of corruption

General Benefits

- (i) Sin and secrecy have a nexus, open information sharing ensures vigilance over government actions
- (ii) Improves democratic character by empowering citizens
- (iii) Helps improving public trust in government

(v) Culture of openness with maximum ~~disclosure~~ disclosure

(v) Improves accountability as services can be judged

(vi) Evidence based decision making,
Information based public research

~~Challenges~~

Eg IRCTC online ticketing and open information around seat availability has reduced corruption and improved transparency. Citizens are actively engaging.

Challenges:- Lack of awareness

- RTI Act time-lines are not followed
- withholding information
- lack of digitisation.

Open information resources help in creating an atmosphere of trust, transparency and accountability and improve 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।

The Prime Minister and NITI Aayog have mooted the idea of minimum government and maximum governance to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

Problems of oversized government

① Executive - large cabinet size

- artificial division of subjects to satisfy political interest creates issues of coordination.
- lack of consensus building amongst members
- higher administrative expenses
- time-taking meetings, difficult to ensure quorum
- Synergistic departments are shared between different members and

result in poor coordination

e.g. Power and Renewable Energy are synergistic but still compartmentalised

- Overlapping functions, conflicts and wastage of resources

(ii) Administrative Workforce

- Red-tapism due to multiple intermediaries causing delays
- difficult to precisely hold officials responsible due to diffused responsibilities and duties.
- High cost of salaries and pensions.

Why downsizing is not a panacea

- (i) given the scale of country's population and development needs, large government is a requirement
- (ii) Effective Division of Responsibility creates specialised functions.

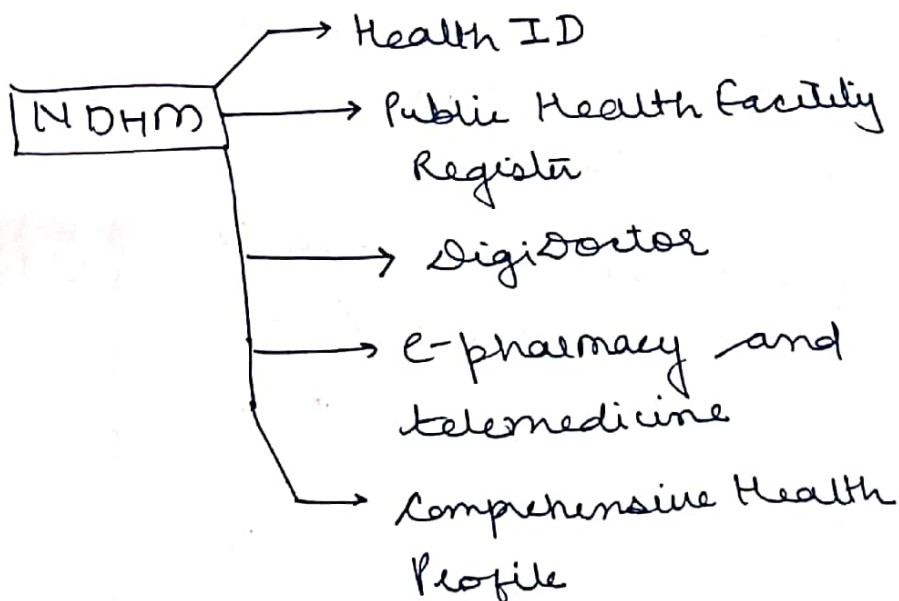
- (iii) Reduces burden on single ministry or department
- (iv) Prevents concentration of power in a few hands
- (v) Creates a system of checks and balancing among different components.

The need is to streamline the government and align it with the needs of the developmental framework. Use of technology, citizen engagement, training of government officials is needed to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

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 (NDHM) aims to create digital healthcare ecosystem in the country to complement existing infrastructure and improve services.



National Health Authority as the central nodal body for implementation

Benefits

- (1) Address the shortage of healthcare

workers and physical infrastructure

- (ii) Availability of healthcare in remote areas
- (iii) Health Records improve diagnostics as availability of past medical history, medications is accessible. $\Rightarrow$ during accident
- (iv) Reduce cost of delivery of healthcare services
- (v) Integrating the fragmented healthcare elements to improve effectiveness including private sector.

Concerns around Data Privacy

- (i) Medical data at such scale is difficult to be securely stored
 - (ii) limited capabilities for cyber security
 - (iii) Breach of data can lead to severe social consequences
- $\Rightarrow$ leaking of information regarding diseases like HIV, TB creates stigma in society

- (v) Misuse of data to target specific communities

framework in place

- (i) Data to be stored in federal manner at each individual hospital server. Thus effective decentralisation
- (ii) Stringent provision in case of breach of privacy

Other concerns

- (i) Lack of training to healthcare workers
- (ii) Digital divide and rural-urban divide
- (iii) Cannot be an alternative to personal healthcare
- (iv) Poor condition of primary healthcare

NDHM should be complementary to existing services. Concerns around privacy should be addressed. There is a need to ensure that all citizens can democratically benefit from such measures

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 Ministry of Food Processing and Consumer Affairs has launched scheme for Integrated Management of Public Distribution system to ensure nation-wide portability of Ration cards under National Food Security Act, 2013.

(ONOR)
One Nation One Ration Card is the component of such scheme

Benefits for migrant workers

- (i) Ensure accessibility to subsidised food grains across the country. Address hunger and malnutrition issues among migrant workers
- (ii) Lack of local identity documents and frequent movement leads to their exclusion from the

food related services

- (iii) Helps in diversifying destination of migration due to flexibility in receiving food resources
- (iv) ONOR has mechanism for splitting the food grain quota between migrant workers and their families who stay back. This helps in inclusive food resource distribution
- (v) Reduced cost of procuring food-grains leaves better income in the hands of migrants which can be utilised for education of their children or healthcare needs.

Challenges

- (i) Inclusion and exclusion error especially Biometric related discrepancies
- (ii) Difficult for state to plan food procurement precisely due to

(iii) Technical expertise to handle data on such scale

ONOR is a step in right direction but needs to be supplemented by robust technical framework, generate awareness among migrants.

Big data analytics and real time monitoring can help in planning the food procurement requirements of the state

Further it has to be supported by additional measures related to food storage and transparent operation of Ration shops.

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।

WTO was born in 1995 and stood as the face of neo-liberal multilateral world order. It facilitated global trade and significantly integrated the world economy.

Challenges

(1) Dysfunctional Appellate Body

- USA has blocked appointment to the appellate body and with only 1 member left it is unable to ensure quorum of 3 members
- this has severely handicapped the trust of small nations and developing countries
- May result in misbehaviour of larger countries as there is no recourse to remedial measures

- (ii) Growing importance of bilateral FTAs outside WTO
- (iii) Emergence of alternate Trade Blocs with better converging interests and addressing the new geo-politics
 E.g. RCEP, ASEAN, MERCOSUR, etc
- (iv) Misbehaviour of US and its denouncement of multilateralism
- (v) Issues regarding defining of Developing countries
 - India's, Korea's and China's classification has been challenged at WTO as Developing countries.
- (vi) Growing Protectionism
 - Unilateral tariffs and trade wars
 - Misuse of Phytosanitary measures against developing countries
- (vii) Stagnation of discussions on

Nairobi Accord. Peace-clause has been extended as an Ad-hoc mechanism

(vii) Issues around TRIPS

- developed countries have been advocating a more stringent TRIPS-Plus
- Developing countries oppose such measures

Thus WTO is going through a period of unprecedented decline. Like minded nations can come together to rejuvenate the body.

India can play an important role in arresting the decline of WTO. It can cooperate with several ~~to~~ developing countries to use WTO as a global legal framework for fair trade.

WTO should be reformed and in a world marred by growing de-globalisation, it is all the more important.

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।

BIMSTEC was established in 1997 via Bangkok Declaration. Its members include India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

Importance of BIMSTEC

- (i) Alternative to Stagnant SAARC.
India has bypassed Pakistan to engage with its neighbourhood
- (ii) Counter Chinese influence in its neighbourhood
 - E, IMT bilateral highway, BBIN corridor, Kaladan multimodal transit corridor are Indian investment in the region to counter Chinese Belt and Road
- (iii) Strategic location
 - Bay of Bengal region is necessary

for India's economic and naval security

- Thailand's location near Strait of Malacca, Sri Lanka near Palk Strait are geo-politically crucial.

(iv) BIMSTEC exercise for multilateral military cooperation and capacity building

(v) BIMSTEC is a bridge to India's Act East policy.

(vi) BIMSTEC countries Myanmar and Bangladesh are needed for development for North East

(vii) Inculcate a South Asian identity based on common political and economic interests.

(viii) Recently a draft charter has been prepared to provide strategic guidance to the regional integration.

Limitations :-

- (i) Absence of Afghanistan and Maldives reduces scope of BIMSTEC in regional integration
- (ii) Limited financial resources
- (iii) Lack of coordination amongst members
 - Nepal and Sri Lanka support revival of SAARC
 - Nepal did not participate in BIMSTEC exercise
- (iv) ~~lack of~~ lack of institutional framework of economic integration like FTA
- (v) Slow pace of infrastructure development.

BIMSTEC can be a complementary mechanism to stagnant SAARC. There is a need to ensure regular meetings, enough monetary support and reduce apprehensions around India's hegemony.