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GENERAL STUDIES COMMENT SHEET **1863**

Name of Candidate	Aashna Chaudhary		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	7 7 8 8 7 7
Center		Date	

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	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।
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Parliamentary oversight of administration is not an end in itself rather it acts as a means to strengthen the efficient functioning of the administration. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

प्रशासन की संसदीय निगरानी अपने आप में एक अंत नहीं है बल्कि यह प्रशासन के कुशल कामकाज को मजबूत करने के एक साधन के रूप में कार्य करता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: India follows a Parliamentary form of government where executives are responsible to the legislature.

Parliamentary oversight as a means to strengthen efficient functioning of administration

- 1) Role of Parliamentary oversight include Question Hour, Zero Hour, debate and discussion that ensure transparency and accountability.
- 2) Audit Reports by CAG and their presentation in the Parliament ensure Checks and Balances on the administration.
- 3) Effective and efficient service delivery through Recommendation

of Parliamentary committees.

4) No confidence Motion is a potent tool to ensure the administration fulfills its mandate.

Thus, Parliamentary oversight is critical to the administration and governance in India with the application of transparency, accountability and efficient service delivery.

2. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution has weakened the democratic credentials of India's representative democracy. Critically discuss.

(150 words) 10

संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची ने भारत के प्रतिनिधि लोकतंत्र की लोकतांत्रिक साख को कमजोर कर दिया है। समालोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: The Tenth Schedule was inserted in 1986 as 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act to deal with the issue of defection.

Tenth Schedule and Democracy
Weakening the Democracy

• In favour

- 1) Re-orient the viewpoints of the candidate to the viewpoints of the whips.
- 2) Criticism of one's party policies was almost ended.
- 3) Presenting party interests over the will of the people who voted for the candidate.

• Arguments Against

1) Enhances the stability of the
government leading to better
governance and escaping frequent
elections

2) Escaping the situation of
policy-paralysis and faster
implementation of policies

3) The problem of House
travelling and corruption in
politics can be curbed to some
extent.

There is a need to revise the
Tenth Schedule to include
genuine criticism of the political
parties.

3. Article 246 of the Indian Constitution is considered as the cornerstone of Centre-state legislative relations. Discuss. (150 words) 10

भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 246 को केंद्र-राज्य विधायी संबंधों की आधारशिला माना जाता है।
विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: Article 246 corresponds to the 4th Schedule of the Constitution, which has its beginnings in Govt Act, 1935.

Centre - State legislative Relations

- 1) Art. 246 comprise Union List, State List and Concurrent List as well as the mandate of the respective governments.
- 2) The residuary powers are vested in the Union.
- 3) Art. 246 strengthen India's position as a "~~Union~~" Federal set up with a strong Centre" as K.C. Wheare calls it, "a quasi-federal setup".

4) Strong constitution which is rigid
and supreme leads to the
survival of India's Federalism.

However, the recent Dam Safety
Act is criticised for Centre's
encroachment in State's legislative
domain. There is a need to
address such issues of usurpation
of power at one level.

4. Although the provision of issuing ordinances amounts to the usurpation of legislative power by the Executive, both Centre and states in India have taken unrestrained course to it. Discuss. (150 words) 10

हालांकि अध्यादेश जारी करने का प्रावधान कार्यपालिका द्वारा विधायी शक्ति के अधिग्रहण के समान है, फिर भी भारत में केंद्र और राज्यों दोनों ने इसे अनियंत्रित रीति में प्रयुक्त किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Art. 123 and Art. 213 of the Constitution encompass ordinance-making powers of the President and Governor respectively.

Ordinances as usurpation of legislative power by Executive

1) Ordinances are the exceptional power granted to the Head of State to deal in emergency circumstances when either of the House is not in session.

2) A violation of Separation of Powers concept by Montesquieu.

3) The ordinances are made on the advice of the Prime Minister followed by Council of

Ministers that belong to the Executive.

Unrestrained recourse to Ordinances

1) The recent Farm Bill controversy sparked with the passing of ordinance to that effect by the President.

2) There have been instances in Bihar where ordinances were used to bypass the legislature.

3) In 2020, due to suspension of Parliamentary proceedings, ordinances became a regular feature sparking controversy.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly debated defended ordinance "as an extraordinary weapon". It should not be made a regular feature.

5. There has been a manifold increase in the number of ministries in the central government since independence. Do you agree with the view there is a need to phase out many ministries and amalgamate others in this context?

(150 words) 10

स्वतंत्रता के बाद से केंद्र सरकार में मंत्रालयों की संख्या में कई गुना वृद्धि हुई है। क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि इस संदर्भ में कई मंत्रालयों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करने और अन्य को समामेलित करने की आवश्यकता है?

Ans The recent Ministry of Jal Shakti created in 2019 has sparked debate regarding multiplicity of ministries with overlapping mandate.

Need to bring down Ministries
Arguments For

- 1) Increase in costs and higher budgetary allocation to ministries.
- 2) Overlapping mandates leading to policy paralysis. Eg. mining of Coal Bed Methane with overlapping jurisdiction of Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

3) Lack of integration. Eg education and skill due to different ministries.

Arguments Against

1) An increase in specialisation and mobilisation of experts. Eg Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of The Shakti

2) Focused approach such as Ministry of Minorities appointment of Sachar Committee.

3) Checks and Balances with one Ministry overlooking the work of related Ministry.

A middle path should be followed with various departments constituted under one Ministry to gain specialisation with limited resources.

6. Evaluate the success of Digital India in fulfilling its vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

(150 words) 10

भारत को डिजिटल रूप से सशक्त समाज और ज्ञान आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में बदलने के अपने दृष्टिकोण को पूरा करने में डिजिटल इंडिया की सफलता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Ans Digital India Mission was launched in 2016 with an objective to create Digital Infrastructure, improve service delivery and digital empowerment.

Success of Digital India

1) Near completion of optical fibre services to 2.5 L Villages under National Broadband Mission

2) Unveiling schemes such as PM WAN, SVAMITVA Scheme

3) Enhanced service delivery through Common Service Centres, GeM portal

Areas of Concern

- 1) Delays in tribal areas, such as Tribal belt of Chhattisgarh not penetrated under Tata contractors.
- 2) High cost of services leading to non-utilisation of services
- 3) Corruption in Common Service Centres, where poor villagers are asked to pay great sums for the service.

Bureaucratic inefficiencies and Red Tapes needs to be addressed at the earliest to make Digital India a success very soon.

7. Examine the issues related to poverty measurement in India. Suggest measures to improve upon the existing methodologies. (150 words) 10

भारत में निर्धनता के मापन से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए। मौजूदा पद्धतियों में सुधार के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Ans Poverty measurement in India has traditionally relied upon the concept of Poverty line estimation.

Issues related to poverty estimation
1) while poverty line estimates absolute poverty, relative poverty concept gets missed out.

2) Tendulkar Committee recommendations were short-term. Thus, they miss out a longer poverty estimation stability.

3) Poverty estimation doesn't miss out a comprehensive mechanism which involves health, education, skill development.

4) Poverty estimation has been done away with and lost

estimation was made in 2011.

Measures to improve Poverty Estimation

1) Relative poverty estimation through
Poverty Gap, Gini Coefficient, etc.

2) A stable mechanism to estimate
poverty, such as one recommended
by ~~the~~ Rangarajan Committee (2011)

3) A national index based on
Multidimensional Poverty Index by
Oxford and UNDP.

There is a need to overhaul
poverty estimation for better
targeting of policies.

8. As one of the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, discuss the rationale behind internationalisation of higher education in India and its associated challenges. (150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP), 2020 की सिफारिशों में से एक के रूप में, भारत में उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के लिए दिए गए तर्क और इससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans. Internationalisation of higher education has been focused in earlier two policies as well. However, there were implementation deficits.

Rationale behind internationalisation

- 1) Education is a billion dollar industry in the developed world. Internationalisation may reach India as a Global Hub of Education.
- 2) World-quality infrastructure and foreign investments in the Higher Education.
- 3) Curricula would be restructured to deal with rising global demands and making students competition ready.

Challenges with internationalisation

- 1) The costs of higher education would skyrocket.
- 2) Lack of infrastructure not able to support 26% of enrolled students at graduate levels.
- 3) Low research capacities with 0.4% of the budgetary allocation.

There is a need to project India as a Global Education Hub after structural changes such as revision of curricula, infrastructure development in the sector.

9. Stating the significance of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), examine whether they have been as beneficial as expected for India. (150 words) 10

मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों (FTAs) के महत्व को वर्णित करते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या वे भारत के लिए अपेक्षा के अनुसार लाभदायक रहे हैं।

Ans FTAs refer to trade agreements between two countries or economic entities that aim to bring down tariffs on frequently traded commodities.

Significance of FTAs

- 1) Better market access to manufacturing companies
- 2) Increased trade opportunities and diversification of supply chain
- 3) Better engagement at the geopolitical level with the FTA countries.

FTAs in India

NITI Aayog has recently published a report on FTA performance in India. This includes:

- 1) No significant export gain for India
 - 2) Trade deficit increased from \$6 bn to \$109 bn between 2011 and 2021
 - 3) FTA utilisation in India is as low as 25%.
- Thus, various strategic reforms are required before concluding other FTAs by the country.

10. Though multilateral development banks (MDBs) are crucial for holistic development of developing nations like India, there are certain legitimate concerns about their functioning. Discuss. (150 words) 10

यद्यपि बहुपक्षीय विकास बैंक (MDBs) भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों के समग्र विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, तथापि उनके कामकाज के बारे में कुछ वैध चिंताएं भी हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) refer to global or regional financial institutions that aim at development across the world. Eg. World Bank, Asian Development Bank.

Need for MDBs in Developing World

- 1) Transfer of technology and developmental grants by World Bank
- 2) Dealing with BoP crisis, eg. 1991 Crisis in India.
- 3) Loans raised in case of emergencies, eg. India from ADB during COVID 19 crisis
- 4) Infrastructural loans for railways, roads, etc. at concession.

states by APB.

5) Reserve tranche in case of emergency situations.

Concerns regarding MDBs

- 1) Bretton Woods Institutions are more inclined towards the interests of developed world, eg. USA.
 - 2) Various dictations are imposed on the borrowing countries in the form of Washington Consensus.
 - 3) Loss of relevance with a rise of private credit agencies.
 - 4) Source of geopolitical tensions leading to rise of alternative banks such as NDB and APB.
- There is a need for reformed multilateralism as voiced by Indian PM.

11. Despite the legal framework to resolve inter-state river water disputes, why do they continue to exist? Also, discuss measures that can be taken to resolve such disputes in an expeditious and agreeable manner.

(250 words) 15

अंतर्राज्यीय नदी जल विवादों को हल करने के लिए कानूनी ढांचे के विद्यमान होने के बावजूद, वे अभी भी जारी क्यों हैं? साथ ही, ऐसे विवादों को शीघ्र और सहमतिपूर्ण रीति से हल करने के लिए किए जा सकने वाले उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Art. 264 of the Indian Constitution has provisions on Inter-State River Water Disputes in the country.

Legal Framework to solve Disputes

1) Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 by the Parliament to deal with inter-state disputes over river water.

2) Various tribunals with binding awards have been created such as any Water Dispute Tribunal.

3) Recently, a Bill has been proposed to amend the 1956 Act.

Reasons for existence of River Water Disputes

1) Delays in granting awards, eg 10 years by Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

2) Non-monitoring of the awards leading to an unchanged situation on ground.

3) Reluctance by states as they consider such intervention as a blot on federalism

Measures that can be taken

1) A single tribunal with multiple benches for more legitimacy.

2) Time-bound and expeditious awards, eg within 3 years.

3) An expert monitoring committee to check the implementation.

12. While use of technology is a welcome step towards improving the efficiency of the judicial system, it must be understood that technology itself comes with a set of challenges that make justice even more inaccessible. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

हालांकि न्यायिक प्रणाली की दक्षता में सुधार की दिशा में प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है, लेकिन यह भी समझा जाना चाहिए कि प्रौद्योगिकी स्वयं चुनौतियों के एक समूह को साथ लाती है जो न्याय को और भी अधिक दुर्गम बनाती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans: COVID 19 has expanded the scope of the use of technology by the judiciary.

Technology and efficiency of Judicial systems

- 1) Less expensive e-courts
- 2) Geographical limitations can be overcome. Eg. Person in Chennai doesn't have to travel to Delhi for a case in Supreme Court.
- 3) Time saving for the judges as well as the parties.
- 4) Better data keeping in line with Art. 129

Challenges with use of technology in Judicial systems

1) Digital Divide with only 14% internet users in the rural areas

2) Privacy and security concerns

3) Lack of human touch

4) Reluctance on the part of lawyers in switching to a new mode where senior lawyers may be at a disadvantage.

Thus, technology is rightly called a "double edged sword" which should be dealt with carefully after proper cost-benefit analysis.

13. The current urban planning capacities in India are extremely skeletal and need systemic reforms and a change in mindset. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत में शहरी नियोजन की वर्तमान क्षमताएं अत्यंत सीमित हैं तथा प्रणालीगत सुधारों और मानसिकता में बदलाव की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans Almost 30% of the Indian population lives in urban areas, as per a report by MoHWA in 2020.

Problems with Urban Planning

- 1) Lack of well-trained contractors in Urban India
- 2) Lack of formal credit services, especially after the fall of NBFC sector and IL&FS crisis.
- 3) Haphazard urban development leading to problems such as flash floods.

Need for systemic reforms

- 1) Sustainable city-level plans taking in account expansion of population.

- 2) Generating technological capacities in the city.
- 3) Community centres and health-care professionals in the localities.
- 4) Separate walking areas for pedestrians and cycling roads.

Need of a change in mindset

- 1) Environmental consciousness leading to development of rainwater harvesting structures, opting for Green Buildings and energy-efficient behaviour.
- 2) Community preparedness for a disaster.
- 3) Change in social attitude, aimed through ANALAKAR campaign.

Thus, a responsible mindset is required for better urban development.

14. Reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has not translated into corresponding increase in women's representation in India's state legislatures. Bringing out the reasons for the same, discuss how under-representation of women in the state legislatures can be corrected.

(250 words) 15

पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRIs) में महिलाओं के लिए प्रदत्त आरक्षण उसी अनुपात में भारत की राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के प्रतिनिधित्व में वृद्धि में परिवर्तित नहीं हुआ है। इसके कारणों को वर्णित करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के कम प्रतिनिधित्व में कैसे सुधार किया जा सकता है।

Ans: Articles 243 & 3rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993 mandate one-third reservation of seats for women at all levels.

However, this did not impact the State legislature as:

- 1) No legal provision for mandatory representation of women in State legislatures
- 2) Patriarchal mindset resulting in the phenomena of Sarpanch Pati at the local level
- 3) Lack of education and empowerment of women.

The under-representation can be corrected by following measures :

- 1) Legal mandate for women reservation under Art. 15(3).
- 2) Incentives to political parties for one-third contestation by women
- 3) Empowerment of women and awareness campaigns

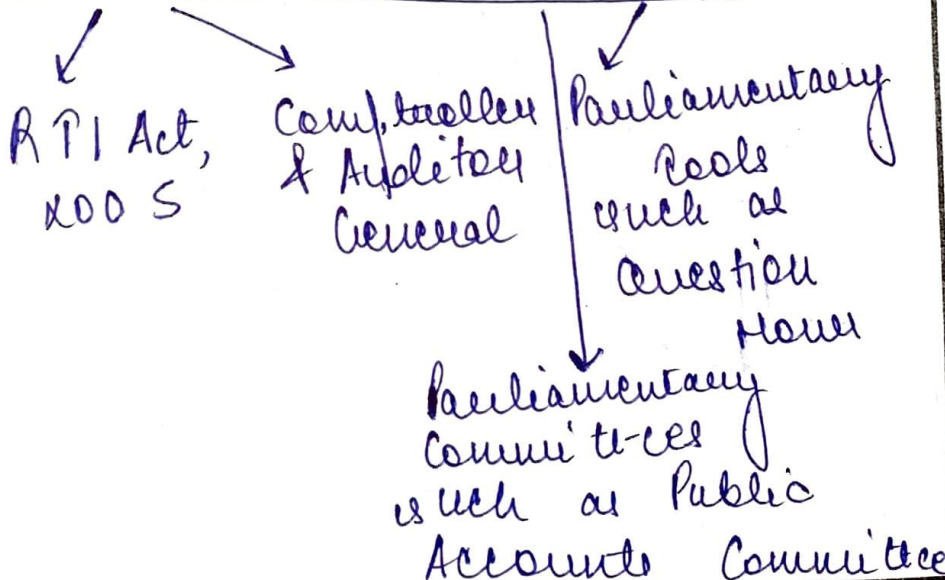
The same measures should be initiated at the Centre to increase representation of women from the present 14.8% women in Lok Sabha.

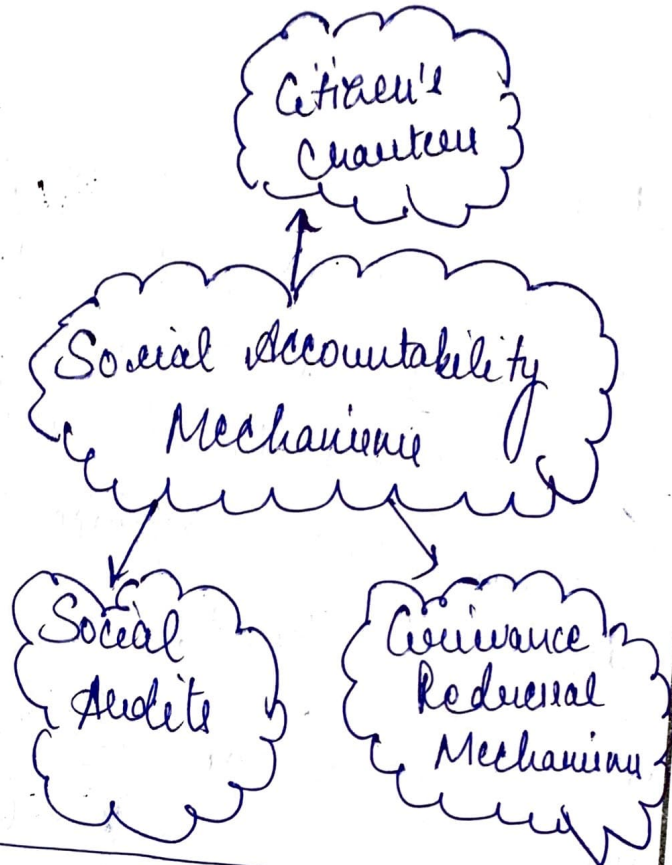
15. For effective public service delivery, there is need to shift from traditional accountability mechanisms to social accountability mechanisms. In this context, discuss the pre-conditions for the success of social accountability efforts and challenges associated with them. (250 words) 15

प्रभावी सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण के लिए, पारंपरिक जवाबदेही तंत्र से सामाजिक जवाबदेही तंत्र में स्थानान्तरित करने की आवश्यकता है। इस संदर्भ में, सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व के प्रयासों की सफलता के लिए पूर्व-शर्तों और उनसे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans Public service delivery is a major goal/objective of a welfare state. There is a need for accountability mechanisms to ensure public service delivery is efficient.

Traditional Accountability Mechanisms





Need to shift to Social Accountability Mechanisms

- 1) Power emanates from Citizens of India as the preamble reads "We the People of India..."
- 2) Lack of independence of the bodies such as CEC
- 3) Rising awareness and education penetration in the people

Five conditions for success of social accountability

- 1) Representative bodies such as comprising women, tribals, S.C. etc.
- 2) Tools of accountability such as data collection, statistical analysis
- 3) Role of media in popularising such audits and accountability measures.

Challenges with Social Accountability

- 1) Lack of representation, esp. women.
- 2) Lack of background research involving mission and vision statement.
- 3) Lack of political support with government officials championing such an exercise.

There is a need for effective check on the government bodies at the citizens level.

16. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) remains one of the most ambitious programmes for public welfare and rural development, but its objectives cannot be achieved without strong and capable Panchayati Raj Institutions. Elucidate.

(250 words) 15

महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम (मनरेगा) अभी भी लोक कल्याण और ग्रामीण विकास के लिए सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रमों में से एक है, लेकिन इसके उद्देश्यों को मजबूत और सक्षम पंचायती राज संस्थानों के बिना हासिल नहीं किया जा सकता है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Ans. MGNREGA was statutorily introduced in 2008 to provide guaranteed employment to the rural families.

MGNREGA for rural development and public welfare

1) As an alternative to Right to Work, MGNREGA provides 100 days of assured work to the rural families.

2) Upliftment of women with one-third of the jobs being given to women.

3) With guaranteed employment for adults, children are brought out of child labour and directed forwards schools.

4) Development of community assets for rural development.

Role of strong PRI in MGNREGA

1) High correlation with success in MGNREGA and strong PRIs, as seen through success in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, etc.

2) Participatory Rural Appraisal for determining community assets to be developed.

3) MGNREGA as a village-oriented scheme requires to be implemented by a village-specific body

7) Social audits conducted by
Gram Sabha under strong PRA.

Thus, democratic decentralisation
is a prerequisite for the efficient
implementation of welfare schemes.

17. Despite legal safeguards and international conventions, the State has failed to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities in general and those with psychosocial disabilities in particular. Discuss in the context of India.

(250 words) 15

कानूनी सुरक्षोपायों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अभिसमयों के बावजूद, राज्य सामान्य रूप से दिव्यांगजनों और विशेष रूप से मनोसामाजिक दिव्यांगजनों के अधिकारों को बनाए रखने में विफल रहा है। भारत के संदर्भ में विवेचना कीजिए।

Ans: Persons with Disabilities account for more than 2% of the Indian population (Census 2011).

Legal Safeguards and International Conventions

- 1) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights
- 2) Art. 24 of the Indian Constitution that deals with exploitation / Rights against exploitation
- 3) Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
- 4) Accessible India Campaign for physical, digital and social accessibility.

Failure of the State

1) In General

- Lack of ramping facilities in various govt. institutions
- Public transportation has not been aligned to the needs of PwDs.
- Lack of sensitivity among govt. servants in dealing with PwDs.

2) In psychosocial disabilities

90% of PwDs have been identified to have psycho-social disabilities.

- Curricula not sensitive to the demands of such children
- No specialised education institutions for such children
- Care and psychosocial needs are ignored leading to

Lack of access to treatment.

India needs to ramp up its digital, social and physical capabilities in tune with the need of PwDs.

18. To what extent has the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) been successful in solving the problem of rural housing in India? Discuss with adequate arguments.

(250 words) 15

भारत में ग्रामीण आवास की समस्या को सुलझाने में प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) किस सीमा तक सफल रही है? पर्याप्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) is a dedicated time-bound centrally sponsored scheme with an objective of 'Housing for All' by 2022.

Success of PMAY(G)

- 1) Successful delivery of more than 8.5 lakh houses in the rural areas
- 2) These houses have an in-built toilet system in line with Swachh Bharat Mission.
- 3) Positive fallouts in the form of resilience during pandemic.

Problems with PMAY(G)

- 1) Quality issues with the houses; leaking roofs, cheap materials and compromised sanitation.
- 2) Water fitted households but an expensive water supply a drawback for poor people.
- 3) corruption in allotment of houses and exclusion of various deficiencies.

An audit by CAG of India is pending, post which the real situation of PMAY(G) would be revealed.

19. Despite the potential of India's Neighbourhood First policy, there have been several impediments to regional cooperation in South Asia. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत की नेबरहुड फर्स्ट नीति में क्षमता होने के बावजूद, दक्षिण एशिया में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग के लिए कई बाधाएं विद्यमान हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans. Neighbourhood First Policy is a policy development in line with China's Doctrine during Regional Autonomy phase of India's Foreign Policy.

Potential of Neighbourhood First Policy

1) Economic cooperation with trade and infrastructure projects such as Kaladan Multi-Modal Project, IMT unilateral Highway.

2) Strategic location close to Strait of Malacca and Palk Strait.

3) Security arrangements with SKINEX, SANDRITI exercise.

4) Cultural cooperation in the form of tourism, cultural exchange, Project Museum, etc.

5) Multilateral cooperation through arrangements like SAARC, SAFTA.

Impediments in regional cooperation in S. Asia

1) India - Pakistan rivalry in the region responsible for SAARC meeting suspension since 2014

2) SAFTA could not materialise due to trade restrictions between countries.

3) Rise of China in the region with its control over Humbanta Port, Awabar Port and CPEC initiative.

4) Alleged Big Brother attitude by India in Economic Blockade of Nepal (2015)

5) Border disputes between India-Pakistan, India-Nepal

There is a need for a successful regional forum such as BIMSTEC and the need to address the issue of terrorism sponsoring before peace and stability can be brought to the region.

20. It is argued that China's Belt and Road Initiative has resulted in unsustainable debt-for-infrastructure deals in several countries across continents and it is a part of debt trap diplomacy. Discuss. (250 words) 15

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि चीन का बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव महाद्वीपों के कई देशों में गैर-संभारणीय अवसंरचना के लिए ऋण आधारित सौदों में परिणत हुआ है और यह ऋण जाल कूटनीति का एक हिस्सा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ans The term 'Debt Trap Diplomacy' was coined in India in 2014 to refer the policy where a country grants loans at cheaper rates to other countries with such conditions that it becomes impossible for the country to repay these loans and it has to leverage its assets in lieu of loan.

ORI as a part of Debt Trap Diplomacy
Arguments For

Various instances such Hambantota Port, Djibouti naval base, Cuadacei Point point towards Debt Trap Diplomacy.

- 2) China's expansionist policies revealed by Seven Dash Line controversy.
- 3) Complementary to its Cheque Book Diplomacy, 'String of Pearl' initiative.

Arguments Against

- 1) Genuine loans with Sri Lanka government reaching out to China, not China reaching to Sri Lanka.
- 2) Traditionally, China has been providing such loans in good faith pointing to Debt Trap policy being a myth.
- 3) China has exempted loans for 42 countries without leveraging infrastructure.

Though India needs to be cognizant of the BRI policy of China, it

cannot be conclusively stated that
it is a part of Debt Serv Policy