



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

Name of Candidate	Pavansheel Kour	Registration Number	1353871
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng.	Date	25.08.2022
Center	Online		

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

- 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)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**.
इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- 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।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- 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।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

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. The first paragraph is very good. It is clear and concise. The second paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The third paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fourth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fifth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The sixth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise.
2. The first paragraph is very good. It is clear and concise. The second paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The third paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fourth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fifth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The sixth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise.
3. The first paragraph is very good. It is clear and concise. The second paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The third paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fourth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fifth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The sixth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise.
4. The first paragraph is very good. It is clear and concise. The second paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The third paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fourth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fifth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The sixth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise.
5. The first paragraph is very good. It is clear and concise. The second paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The third paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fourth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fifth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The sixth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise.
6. The first paragraph is very good. It is clear and concise. The second paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The third paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fourth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The fifth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise. The sixth paragraph is also good. It is clear and concise.

All the Best

1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility. Discuss. (150 words) 10

एक स्वतंत्र अम्ब्रेला निकाय जो विभिन्न केंद्रीय जांच एजेंसियों को एक छत के नीचे लाता हो, उनकी विश्वसनीयता को बढ़ाने की कुंजी है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Central Bureau of Investigation, Financial Intelligence unit, Enforcement directorate, National investigation agency etc are some of the central investigative agencies in India.

Presently these agencies suffer from working in silos without any effective coordination. In this regard, concept of an

independent umbrella body to bring all under one roof is suggested. It will ensure -

- Cooperation and better coordination between them
- Effective utilization of time
- Effective utilization of revenue and resources
- Prevent duplication of same efforts
- Ensure no contradictions to prevail between various agencies.

→ will also ensure autonomy from political influence.

But provided merits, there are some concerns too.

- A single super agency may be prone to dictatorship
- Speciality for different cases (NIA for counter insurgency etc) may be lacking
- It may also lead to overburdening of a single authority
- Additionally, a lump-sum grant to one independent body may affect judicious devolution.

Thus, provided the concerns, all bodies need to be strengthened and held accountable in their own respect. Venkatachalliah reviews may be taken regarding it.

2. Discuss the significance of the Doctrines of Pith and Substance and Colourable Legislation with respect to Centre-state relations in India.

(150 words) 10

भारत में केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों के संदर्भ में तत्व एवं सार के सिद्धांत और छद्म (आभासी) विधायन के सिद्धांत के महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

Centre-state relations are covered under part 11 of Indian constitution and deals with devolution of legislative, executive and financial powers.

Doctrines of Pith and Substance -

Doctrine declares validity of any law by looking at similar laws and arriving at suitable conclusion.

Significance -

- It will prevent clashes between various dictums and ideologies.
- It will lead to same reference for all similar cases -
- It will be in line with CIT vs Bulk carriers case judgement.

Doctrine of Colourable legislature -

According to this, things that can't be done directly can also not be done indirectly.

Eg- Child labour is banned for children under 14 strictly under Prevention of child labour act and thus by no means, it could be promoted.

Significance -

- would ensure cognisance with all legislatures
- ensure doctrine of constitutionalism to prevail.

These doctrines further strengthen federalism - cooperative as well as competitive in the country.

3. Do you agree with the view that there should be simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies in India? Discuss with suitable arguments. (150 words) 10

क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत में लोक सभा और राज्य विधान सभाओं के निर्वाचन एक साथ होने चाहिए? उपयुक्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative assemblies in India are under the supervision of Election Commission of India under part-15 of constitution. Their motto is to have fairness and freeness.

Elections witness huge use of manpower, muscle power and financial burden; considering which simultaneous elections are mooted as a way. This would ensure

→ Effective utilization of resources and manpower.

→ Prevent frequent abuse ^{to} the people by political groups.

→ Prevent wastage of human capital
(Teachers spent 20% of their time in

teaching effectively, rest for elections and deputations etc)

- Politicians would stay in office and thus prevent crucial hours which are often spent in campaigning.
- Model code of conduct restrict to few days.

But there are also concerns

- People may get confused among national and state agendas
- Instability of either can spill over to other, despite other being stable.
- No one to frequently visit to people and take their grievances.

Law commission recommendation and international examples (South Africa) may be considered as way forward in our election drive.

4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (150 words) 10
भारत में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के बारे में अनिश्चितता और अस्पष्टता के आलोक में, उनके संहिताकरण की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Parliamentary privileges are the set of individual as well as collective rights enjoyed by the members of parliament. They have been stated under Rules of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and established Convention.

Incidents like ragging of meetings, shouting, paper throwing, use of abusive words etc have surfaced in country in near time in temple of democracy, it is in this regard proposal of codification of parliamentary privileges is suggested. This will

- Ensure responsible behaviour from MPs
- Prevent abuse of power and authority from MPs.

- Ensure that mandate of people are served.
- would save valuable time (last Lok Sabha session prorogated 2 days ahead due to it)
- With this, an example would be set how law makers could be made to obey law of land.

But provided this, there are concerns also -

- This may stifle free speech of MPs
- Since MPs act as protectors of people's interest, strict codification may hinder their ability to question government.

Thus, parliamentary privileges does not need strict codification of law but ethical obedience as a way ahead.

5. While the Civil Services Board can be a step forward in making the Indian bureaucracy more effective, it has its own issues which need to be addressed. Analyse. (150 words) 10

हालांकि, सिविल सेवा बोर्ड भारतीय नौकरशाही को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने की दिशा में एक अग्रणी कदम हो सकता है, लेकिन इसके अपने मुद्दे हैं जिन्हें हल करने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Civil services board are state level agencies meant for oversight of recruitment, service condition, transfer and grievance redressal of civil servants. Concept was given by Hota committee.

Officials like Ashok Khemka transferred 45 times in 27 years points out to need of civil services board as a tool to make bureaucracy more effective. It is because

- It would ensure bureaucracy to be insulated from political influence.
- Will prevent disproportionate transfers of civil servants
- Would act as platform to assure atleast 18 months fixed tenure in a place.
- Would ensure bureaucrats with adequate

power to cope up with any problem.

- Ensure accountability, transparency, objectivity and rationality in governance.

But civil service board also has related concerns

- Not all the states have established this body.
- Vacancies to the tune of 27% in existing bodies where ever established
- Political influence in appointment of chairperson and staff.
- Lack of strict enforcing powers at disposal.

Considering civil services to be steel framework of country, civil service board need to be strengthened by cooperation, coordination and collaboration of all stake-holders.

6. Highlight the potential of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 in transforming the ecosystem of service delivery in India. (150 words) 10
भारत में सेवा वितरण के पारितंत्र को रूपांतरित करने में इंडिया डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) 2.0 की क्षमता पर प्रकाश डालिए।

McKinsey has reported India's internet users to grow by 800 million by 2023 and that India is currently second largest broadband subscriber. This illustrates digital infrastructure strength in India.

Very recently, Meghalaya has become first to come up with digital ecosystem architecture to transform the ecosystem of service delivery in India. It has following potentials

- It would promote digitalization of services and thus a step forward to Digital India
- will promote ease of doing business in the country
- will enhance connectivity and accessibility to services.

- Can be used as a means to attract more FDI and FPI.
- Address bureaucratic delays and red-tapism in the country.
- Will be a step to push start up ecosystem in the country (currently 3rd largest)
- will also promote private investments in service sector.

But still there are concerns regarding language, affordability, accessibility of high speed connection, low manpower and absence of data protection bill.

Concerns need to be addressed by taking reference from nation like Estonia who excel in digital service delivery for digital prospects of India.

7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it.

(150 words) 10

नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली क्या है? इसके महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए और इसमें सुधार करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Civil registration system refers to recording and updating the information regarding citizens and usual residences of country. It is essential to avoid the Syndrome of Invisibility.

Schemes like PDS, Ujjwala etc have pointed out huge lacunae in results and faulty registration has been a key reason. Civil registration system is important as

- It would help to map the demography of the country.
- It would also help to know the standard of human capital.
- It would help in better utilization of resources and time.

- It would also ensure all intended benefits reach the beneficiaries.
- It would prevent siphoning of funds.
- would also address concerns of fake registration, double accounts and corruption etc.

Government has taken number of measures to bring about improvements in it

- Initiatives like Aadhar serve as biometric registration systems
- Similarly portals like e-Shram, antodaya etc also serve same purpose.

Provided demography of 121 crore, efficient civil registration system is key to good governance.

8. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, provides an effective mechanism for empowerment of the intended beneficiaries in the society. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

हाथ से मैला उठाने वाले कर्मियों के नियोजन का प्रतिषेध एवं उनका पुनर्वास अधिनियम, 2013 समाज में इच्छित लाभार्थियों के सशक्तीकरण के लिए एक प्रभावी तंत्र प्रदान करता है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Manual scavengers are those who remove human excreta manually either by carrying it on head or in hands. It is a sad demise of humanity and reason.

Incidents of repeated deaths in manholes promoted implementation of Prohibition of employment as manual scavengers and their rehabilitation act, 2013. It act as effective mechanism for empowerment of intended beneficiaries as

- It prevent inhumane employment of people
- Promote mechanical cleaning of septic holes.
- If demand is necessary, ensure safety

gear like mask, gloves, helmet to manual scavengers

- Ensure adequate payment to manual scavengers
- Also contain penal provisions for violators of the regulations

But act also has dark side

- Maximum number of workers still paid only ₹10-₹15
- Against reports maximum unpaid cases.
- Tamil Nadu still reports number of related deaths.
- no clear definition of standard of safety gear.
- Responsibility with municipalities than a dedicated body.

Concerns need to be addressed to uplift society from curse of manual scavenging.

9. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system. (150 words) 10

वर्तमान वैश्विक व्यापार प्रणाली में विद्यमान कमियों को दूर करने के लिए विश्व व्यापार संगठन को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु उस पर किए जाने वाले सुधारों की विवेचना कीजिए।

World Trade Organisation was set up in Geneva in 1995 post Uruguay rounds as a successor of GATT. It is supreme body to look after international trade and ensure its fair and free nature.

Present global trading system suffer from vulnerabilities like protectionism, trade wars, tariffs and non-tariff barriers, global slowdown etc. In this scenario, WTO is expected to have certain reforms that would address these vulnerability

(I) Dispute Settlement body - out of existence for nearly 2 years since no new appointment occurred. It needs to be re-settled.

(II) Division of power - currently WTO show outdated favour towards west. It needs to take a rethink to give greater importance to emerging economies like India.

(III) Funding - About $\frac{3}{4}$ of it comes from voluntary route that affect its operability. Need is to increase the quota of assessed share.

(IV) Trade policy review - Currently it occurs after 2, 4 and 16 years for different nations. This distribution especially for 3rd category needs to be brought down to about 6 years.

(V) Global trade also suffer from tariff and non-tariff barriers and need is to bring rules to introduce slab rates for each category.

with changing time, WTO has to be progressive and these reforms are much needed to ascertain its global position in changing dynamics.

10. State the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Also, discuss the need for a legally binding Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement.

(150 words) 10

संयुक्त राष्ट्र समुद्री कानून संधि (UNCLOS) के महत्व का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी राष्ट्रीय अधिकार से परे क्षेत्रों की समुद्री जैव विविधता (BBNJ) समझौते की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

UNCLOS is an international agreement under aegis of UN to look after sea and ensure its equitable and fair benefits to all nation.

Significance

- Ensure just distribution of marine resources
- Ensure welfare of marine community and marine state
- Settle disputes related to sea by international tribunal.
- Also allocate resources of continental shelf to nation (eg- PMN to India)
- Ensure "Rules based Order" to prevail in marine domain.

Sea currently suffers from issues of plastic pollution, biodiversity loss

etc. In this regard, it is suggested for a legally binding marine biodiversity area beyond national jurisdiction agreement - this is needed

- As it would ensure strict actions from states to protect biodiversity of marine areas
- Needed finance for marine protection could be mobilized by this approach.
- Would ensure that responsibility of global common is shared by common shoulders.
- Would be a step needed to ensure UNSDG 14 to be achieved.

Along with this, more R&D, awareness and political will is needed to conserve marine biodiversity.

11. Critically assess the role played by the National Human Rights Commission as a watchdog of human rights violations in India. (250 words) 15

भारत में मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के प्रहरी के रूप में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

National human rights commission was established in 1993 after Paris principles.

It comes under supreme command of Ministry of home affairs.

Incidents like supporting the people of North-east against mainland discrimination etc show that NHRC has played role of a watchdog of human rights violation in India. This has been done as-

- It has the authority to summon evidences like a civil court.
- It also has taken number of suo-motto cases of human rights violation.
- In the meantime, NHRC representatives

have also visited remand houses, prisons etc to look after their concerns.

→ NHRC has also ensured that all the culprits of human right violation are punished by law.

→ It has also ensured due compensation for the victims of human rights violation.

But there are some cases where NHRC has been a failure eg. Father Stan Swamy and demand of straw in prison etc. This has been primarily because

→ NHRC is a statutory body lacking command of constitutional authority.

→ limited financial set up that at maximum

fulfill its administrative expenses.

→ multiplicity of organisation leading to
duplication and ineffective functioning
eg:- often overlap with NCST or NCSC etc.

Thus, what is needed is to
strengthen NHRC further by giving
constitutional status and taking reference
from 2nd ARC report, Nelson Mandela
guidelines etc as a way forward.

12. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. (250 words) 15

बिबेचना कीजिए कि विवाद समाधान प्रक्रियाओं में सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी (ICT) का एकीकरण अदालतों एवं वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (ADR) मंचों के कामकाज में जुड़ी चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में किस प्रकार सहायता करेगा।

Courts and alternative dispute resolution forms are established institutions to settle disputes and address grievances of public.

Currently courts and ADR forms suffer from huge pendency of case (4.4 crore), cases stretching for years etc. In this light, it is suggested that integration of ICT in dispute resolution processes will address these challenges as -

- It will ensure fast disposal of cases
- Reduce pendency and backlog of cases.
- Help in conducting proceedings in odd

hours (like very early morning also)

→ will also increase the speed at which evidences could be collected (about 70% delay due to it)

→ Additionally, ICT would help the authorities to get information of similar precedences in the world and arrive at similar conclusions.

→ Additionally, ICT will help each party to get update of case quickly rather than manual process after which they can take case accordingly.

→ Also ICT would enable quick and instant flow of capital between parties in dispute and ~~gover~~ authorities.

Initiatives like Supan, Surass, e-Pay,
NSTEP, LIMBS are all in line to
integrate ICT into dispute resolution
process.

Concerns of language barrier, affordability,
accessibility, digital literacy and data
protection need to be addressed to make
this drive successful.

13. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत विधायकों की निर्दोषता से संबंधित विभिन्न प्रावधानों के बावजूद, भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण का मुद्दा अभी भी काफी हद तक अनसुलझा है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Representation of people act 1951 is an overarching legislature meant for determining qualification of candidates and voters, rules of conduct of election etc. It is a successor of Representation of people act 1950.

Provisions for disqualification of legislatures under act

- If the legislator holds an office of profit
- If he/she is involved in corruption act
- If he/she is charged under UAPA,
Narcotic and psychotropic drugs act

- If legislators is involved in an organisation with 25% government funding.
- If legislature is consisted of corrupt electoral processes - like use of muscle power
- If legislature has surpassed the allotted expenditure limits of 95 lakh and 25 lakh
- If legislator fails to file his election expenditure within stipulated time (30 days) with election commissioner.

Still issue of criminalization

continues →

Lok Sabha	2004	24%	Criminalization
	2009	30%	
	2014	34%	
	2019	43%	

This is due to

- Growing politicisation of crime

- Tendency of political parties to give election tickets to criminals (have twice winability than clean chits)
- Lack of awareness among voters about background of candidates.
- Concept of loyal voters prevailing in India
- Problem of casteism, communalism and regionalism also promote rationality to be divorced for criminality.

All this lead to law breakers turning law makers. Recommendation of Indrajit Gupta committee, Vohra committee may be taken as way ahead for clean and fair elections.

14. It is time for reforms, which recognise that urban local bodies (ULBs) need permanent, buoyant revenue sources to match the growing demands of an increasing urban population. Discuss. (250 words) 15

यह सुधारों का समय है जो यह पहचान करता है कि शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) को बढ़ती शहरी आबादी की बढ़ती मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए स्थायी, वृद्धिशील राजस्व स्रोतों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

74th constitutional amendment herald an era of urban local governance by giving constitutional status to urban local bodies. It followed recommendation of Radgill committee

currently it is projected that urban population will grow to 42% by 2040 and by 50% by 2050. But urban local bodies continue to suffer from revenue shortfall (only 1/2 of required amount at disposal). Thus, there are time needed reforms

→ This would ensure steady supply of needed capital to ULBs.

- Effective use of revenue for public welfare.
- would realise the ultimate goals of 74th amendment regarding democratic decentralization
- would make Indian cities at par with global cities like New York and London.

For this, following reforms can be undertaken

- State governments to devolve more taxation powers to ULBs
- State governments to commit themselves to give atleast 40% of budget to ULBs functioning.
- Recommendations of 15th finance

commission regarding credit devolution to local bodies to be implemented in letter and spirit.

- schemes like MPLADS to be further developed
- ULBs to be given right to issue bonds at stock exchanges to raise revenue (eg- like Muni bonds of Lucknow municipal body)

Recommendations of 2nd ARC related to governance can be further taken to strengthen ULBs.

15. The role of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in India is changing in contemporary times and has become increasingly more complex. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

समकालीन समय में भारत में नागरिक समाज संगठनों (CSOs) की भूमिका बदल रही है और निरंतर अधिक जटिल होती जा रही है। वर्णन कीजिए।

Civil society organisations (CSOs) is a collective term for all NGOs, SHGs, pressure groups that work for the sake of public welfare and to address lacunae in governance.

Eg - Kudumbashree

Help age NGO

Bharhiya Kisan Sangh etc

India is rapidly transforming today and it is alleged that CSOs have to change to adapt and suit to these changing needs of a complex society. This change in their role is a witnessed

→ They have to now cater to the demand of a much larger public

(SHGs already mobilizing 46 million females)

→ They are moving from traditional role of giving services (eg. health: Babe Amte foundation) to activist role (Narmada bachao NGO)

→ CSOs are also now involved in research and development (eg- Centre for Science and Environment)

→ CSOs are moving away from just persuading government to create jobs to self creating jobs

eg- Roema devi of Barmar and her mobilization of 25000 women in a handicraft workshop

→ CSOs are also actively moving from traditional way of protests like rallying to novel methods like

throwing potatoes on roads eg - in
Punjab to persuade government to hear
the hue and cry of the people.

→ Traditionally, CSOs used to fight
against child marriage but today they
are fighting against child pornography
and child trade (eg - Kailash Satyarthi
children foundation rescuing about 10,000 kids)

Thus, CSOs are changing with
changing winds. Need is to further tap
them as agents of growth and progress
of society.

16. Though the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) aims to address the inequity in development in India, there are a number of issues which plague the scheme. Discuss. (250 words) 15

वैधीकरण के युग में, विकेंद्रीकरण आधारभूत प्रतिकारी प्रवृत्ति है, जो भारत में विकास प्रक्रिया का समावेशी होना सुनिश्चित कर सकती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

MPLADS was introduced in 1999 under
Ministry of rural development to promote

local level development in India. At present,
it enjoys a credit of annual ₹ 5 crore budget.

Development exercise in India
suffered from funds shortage, long gestation
etc. To address many of the concerns,
MPLADS was introduced

- It aimed to build demand driven infrastructure
- It aimed at constructing infrastructure according to local geography.
- It aimed at extending social and welfare democracy to all the people

→ By introducing the clause of yearly investigation, it ensured development along with quality not against quality.

→ By keeping the ultimate financial authority to ministry of statistics (currently), it ensured progressive use of tax payers money.

But still there are issue regarding scheme

→ Law commission had pointed out scheme to be biased and favouring few projects more than other

→ Quota requisite for development of sc/st area seldom met.

→ Issue of quality of the project completed.

→ Opaque method of investigation of project.

- Delays in implementation of projects due to land acquisition issues in country.
- Transformed from demand driven to supply driven motive
- Siphoning off funds has been flagged out by CAG.

National commission to review the functioning of constitution had remarked scheme to be outdated and ineffective

Supreme court yet has upheld constitutionality of the scheme. Thus scheme is bag of mixed results. Focus should be on strengthening positives and deleting negatives.

17. Highlighting the factors responsible for the growth of EdTech sector in India in recent times, discuss its benefits. Also, state the concerns associated with it. (250 words) 15

हाल के दिनों में भारत में एडटेक क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर प्रकाश डालने हुए, इसके लाभों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इसमें जुड़ी चिंताओं का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

India's EdTech sector is expected to grow to \$111 million by 2025, presenting a glorious image of digital infrastructure in country.

EdTech giants like Byjus, Unacademy, Vedantu etc have grown rapidly in the recent times and many reasons are responsible for it

→ Growth of internet accessibility (cybergram, Tio in market etc)

→ Internet penetration increase in country (National broadband mission)

→ Increase in affordability to smart phones (2 in every 3 has it)

→ Cheaper internet cost (one of lowest in world)

→ More private sector and foreign investment in sector.

→ Influence of global tech. revolution also has played a vital factor role.

This EdTech revolution has resulted in following benefits

- It has helped in accessibility of quality education to children of remote areas.
- It has helped to bridge knowledge gap and learning gap
- It has helped to transform Indian education from rote learning to experience based digital learning
- Has played vital role in continuation of education during covid pandemic also
- Has given employment to number of talented people of the country
- Helped to fulfil constitutional ideals of education to all.

But there are related concerns

- content is in english language - not easy to understand by all.
- High speed internet not accessible for all.
- Even though almost all households have smartphones, only 1/4th of children can use it for study.
- Heavy fee-structure of Ed-Tech giants keeps their reach limited to well off section of society.
- Issue of data safety, online frauds etc is also matter of concern.
- NO substitute to class-room and offline learning.

This EdTech sector can be used as better supplement to traditional education rather than alternative.

18. Bring out the role of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in delivering health services in rural India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken to overcome the challenges faced by them. (250 words) 15

ग्रामीण भारत में स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं प्रदान करने में मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (आशा) की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों को दूर करने के उपाय भी सुझाएं।

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers have recently been awarded WHO director general's world health leaders award. This denotes their significance in realization of UNSDG 03.

Role ASHA workers play in delivering health services in rural India are -

- They give awareness to the people of rural areas about various diseases
- They also spread the message of family planning in rural areas
- They are agents of collecting data under National family health survey.
- They are used as agents to distribute

medicines to the rural areas.

→ They also supply articles under PM

Kishor Swasthya Karyakaram to rural areas

→ Asha workers also have played vital role in removing the concerns of people regarding vaccine drive and mobilizing them.

ASHA workers job suffer from many challenges like low salary, adhoc nature, threat of assault from public, lack of respect etc. Following measures may be taken to address this

→ salary of ASHA workers to be linked upward as recommended by 7th pay commission.

→ Adhoc nature of job should be shifted by full time contract with security of

employment.

→ Penal provisions should be introduced (as under recent amendment of Epidemic disease act for doctors and paramedics) to protect them from any assault.

→ Policy of perks and incentives be used to encourage ASHA workers.

→ In addition, age quota of current 25-45 years be relaxed to 20-55 years to involve more human capital in this field.

Strengthening of ASHA workers would be key for health to all motto and steps in right direction are thus demanding

19. Discuss the various concerns that have arisen for India after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Also, suggest the measures that India should take in the given context. (250 words) 15

तालिबान द्वारा अफगानिस्तान पर अधिकार करने के बाद भारत के लिए उत्पन्न विभिन्न चिंताओं की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए जो इस संदर्भ में भारत द्वारा अपनाए जाने चाहिए।

Dehla agreement between US and Taliban led to phased exit of US from Afghan soil and phased incoming of Taliban, an organization set up by Mullah Omar.

India, as one of the shining democracy of South Asia, has faced some concerns due to takeover of Afghanistan by Taliban. They are as -

- Issue of democracy that was just in infancy in Afghanistan and its survival
- Issue of extremism in Afghanistan and terrorism in India.
- Covert support of Pakistan to Afghanistan's

Taliban may lead to militancy in India

- Fear of incidents like highjacking of 9C-814 that had landed on Afghan soil.
- Concern of India's embassy in Afghanistan and its safety
- Safety of Indian investments like Salma dam, Pull-e-dubri etc.
- Human right violation concern - attack on a Gurdwara in Kabul.

Given the evidence that Taliban is going to be future of Afghanistan,

India has to take following measures

- Get into direct talks with Taliban rather than using intermediaries.

- Recognizing the legitimacy of Taliban and establishing diplomatic ties.
- working on an agreement similar like USN to forbade Taliban to use Afghan soil against India.
- Revive relations with Taliban with power of culture - focus on silk route, Bamayan Buddhas etc.
- Direct talks with Taliban authority regarding safety of Indian investments.

In international relations, there are only permanent interests and it is high time for India to realise it

20. Bangladesh is not only a key part of India's "Neighbourhood First policy" but also crucial for the "Act East policy". In this context, discuss the steps taken by the two countries to strengthen their relationship.

(250 words) 15

बांग्लादेश न केवल भारत की "नेबरहुड फर्स्ट पॉलिसी" का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, बल्कि "एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी" के लिए भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस संदर्भ में, दोनों देशों द्वारा अपने संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना की जाए।

With a border of 4094 km, India and Bangladesh share one of the largest borders of world. Recent visit of Sheikh Hasina to India, President Ram Nath Kovind to Bangladesh is testimony of close relations.

Bangladesh is a key part of India's 'Neighbourhood first policy'. Under this, India has made huge investments in Bangladesh (eg- Rehanie in 750 GW telecommunication network). Also India has abstained from any interference in personal matters of Bangladesh (Rohingya issue between Myanmar and Bangladesh).

It is also an important part for our 'Act East Policy'. This is because both India and Bangladesh share common topographical border with similar concerns with Myanmar, a part of our Act east policy.

Considering such proximities, both have taken a number of steps to strengthen their relationships

- Joint exercises like Sampati and Saundubam maitri.
- Joint participation in grouping like BIMSTEC, SAARC, NAM etc.
- Bangladesh is also largest trade partner for India in South-Asia.
and annual trade reaches to billions.

- Both are part of Bangladesh- Myanmar- China-India corridor to promote trade - tourism - transport
- India has also extended line of credit of several dollars to help Bangladesh
- Bangladesh has also helped India to control North-East insurgency under Operation all clear.

Thus, both share good people to people and government ties.

Platforms like Colombo security dialogue, etc can be further used to strengthen ties.