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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1021)

Name of Candidate	MUKUL JAMLOKI	Registration Number	28393
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Date	30/08/17
Center	Old Rajendra Nagar		

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

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।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. Identify the key objectives of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. Also highlight the challenges in its implementation.

यौन अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण (POCSO) अधिनियम, 2012 के प्रमुख उद्देश्यों की पहचान कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके क्रियान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 is a landmark legislation enacted to safeguard children against their ~~rights~~ rights violation.

The key objectives behind this legislation were:

- protection against sexual offences, which can have a very damaging effect on the psyche of the child;
- comprehensively define all forms of sexual assaults;
- ability to render quick justice to the victim;
- special safeguards to ensure that the judicial-

legal process is aligned with the sensibilities and the innocence of the children

- enable children and their guardians to come forward pro-actively to register their complaints;

India has seen a spurt in crimes against women and marginalised sections of society, especially against children and that too heinous crimes. According to NCRB data, an approx 20 cases, ^{daily,} relevant under the POCSO, were registered between 2012 and 2014.

However, there have been numerous challenges plaguing this well-intentioned law:

- poor quality of public prosecution;
- inability of the victims to come to terms to the judicial-legal process;

- problems in successful rehabilitation of victims;
- social stigma attached to registering their cases when there are leaks (inordinate) about the identity of victims and their families;

Measures which can improve

POCSO (2012):

- an enabling environment for victims so that they can record their statements;
- taking evidence from victim, include identification of perpetrator, in the absence of letter;
- strictly protecting identity of victims;
- propping up conviction rates through quick judicial process

2. Discuss how the design of MGNREGA program makes it more successful than other rural development programmes.

चर्चा कीजिए कि मनरेगा कार्यक्रम की अभिकल्पना (डिजाईन) इसे अन्य ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रमों की तुलना में कैसे अधिक सफल बनाती है।

The landmark MGNREGA

legislation of Indian state was launched with the twin aims of boosting rural infrastructure and providing employment to those in distress. Under MGNREGA, one adult member from each family is promised/given 100 days of non-skilled labour in one financial year.

The reasons which make it more successful than other rural development programmes are:

→ target for women is minimum 33% but for the last three years the total of women beneficiaries is more than 50%; employment has a multiplier effect on women's social & economic status;

- boosting employment opportunities for poorly skilled SCs & STs;
- comprehensive definition of MGNREGA works including those related to agriculture and allied activities like dairy, poultry, etc;
- since the labourers' self interest is involved with the rural infra projects like roads, floods' control, therefore more sustainability of the projects;
- enable building of social capital to solve local problems together using local resources;

However, a few challenges remain:

- durability of projects and their repetitive nature;
- delay in payments and they are not indexed according to inflation;
- people don't learn new skills to generate sustainable livelihoods;

→ exclusion of genuine beneficiaries due to govt's ridiculous ^{over} emphasis on Aadhaar seeding.

The above problems can be solved by tailoring the issues into a revised MGNREGA scheme. LIFE-MGNREGA which entails skills development is one of the path-breaking solutions to the above problems.

— x —

3. Self-employment of the poor has been an important objective of the anti-poverty programmes and SHGs have played a significant role in this. Elucidate with examples. Also discuss the problems which plague the model of SHG micro-finance in India.

गरीबों के लिए स्व-रोजगार वस्तुतः गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रमों का एक महत्वपूर्ण उद्देश्य रहा है तथा SHGs ने इसमें एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। उदाहरण सहित स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में SHG माइक्रो-फाइनेंस (सूक्ष्म वित्त) के मॉडल को अवरुद्ध करने वाली समस्याओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are

informal associations of people, usually women, who come together to pool in their resources and engage in employment-generation activities. They save collectively, can therefore invest collected capital and act as a conduit for formal finance channels to reach them.

Some famous SHGs are SEWA

in Gujarat (Ahmedabad) and AMUL in Anand (Gujarat). Once these employment generation activities become sustainable thanks to micro finance from banking, they lead to increase in assets which can be suitable redeployed to transform into micro-entrepreneurship ventures.

In the AMUL case particularly, millions of rural women in Saurashtra region of Gujarat were organised by the pioneering efforts of Dr Varghese Kurien to unleash the white revolution. Similar successful models have been replicated at many places.

The problems plaguing this SHG microfinance model in India are:

- territorial variation, successful only in Western and southern India mostly;
- not able to take roots in urban or semi-urban areas inspite of better density of formal finance channels;
- politicisation of SHGs due to initial capital provided through political patronage;
- conflicts between SHGs and Panchayati Raj Institutions;

- failed to transform from collective employment generation to micro-entrepreneurship;
- lack of incentives for NGOs to enable hand-holding processes;
- post-1991 reforms benefits haven't been able to reach the SHGs;

The government and the civil society organisations both need to work in tandem to hand-hold the SHGs towards progress. Schemes like National Rural Livelihoods Mission are important. Corporates can help via CSR contributions and the SHGs can benefit from each other utilising each's set of competencies. Digital technologies can boost growth, such as example of Mahila e-Haats.

— x —

4. Give an account of the issues that arise due to short tenure of civil servants in India. Critically discuss the move of setting up a Civil Services Board in order to address this problem.

भारत में सिविल सेवकों के छोटे कार्यकाल के कारण उठने वाले मुद्दों का एक विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। इस मुद्दे को संबोधित करने के लिए सिविल सेवा बोर्ड की स्थापना करने की पहल पर आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The civil services in India are one of the most important instruments of the State to enable developmental growth, democratic outputs, and the empowerment of citizens, especially the marginalised sections.

However, due to a complex 'Chakravyuha' of rules, ideologies and lacuna of legal (enforceable) provisions, the tenure of civil servants in India is gradually decreasing. For example in the last five years, the average tenure of a SP in Uttar Pradesh has been less than an year.

The issues that arise due to this pattern are:

→ status-quoist orientation of civil servants;

- gradual politicisation;
- inability to properly transform schemes into results on the ground;
- erosion of public ~~off~~ in confidence in state institutions;
- gradual break in civil servants' connect with actual ground conditions;
- developmental failures and democratic deficits;
- lack of accountability and transparency in bureaucratic processes;

In the view of the above problems, the SC of India in the TSR Subramanian Case asked the government to bring in civil services reforms, in which Civil Services Board would be the most important spoke in the wheel:

- mandatory 2 year posting on critical positions;

- tenure would be controlled by members of the board who would send their recommendations to the political executive;
- systematic analysis of performance, going beyond just the ACRs;
- no knee-jerk actions;
- ability to defend oneself in case of mishaps or accidents;

The Civil Services Board can be a radical and at the same time a very pragmatic solution to deal ^{with} the problems plaguing our civil services. However, the political will ~~to~~ required to set it up is conspicuously absent.

— X —

5. India's health system is one of the most privatised in the world, poorly regulated and accessible only to those with income levels well above the average. Comment.

भारत की स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली विश्व में सर्वाधिक निजीकृत प्रणालियों में से एक होने के साथ-साथ, अपर्याप्त रूप से विनियमित और केवल औसत आय के स्तर से ऊपर के लोगों को सुलभ है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

With the public ^{health} expenditure at just 1.4% of the ~~budget~~ GDP, according to Budget 2016-17, India ranks poorly among the community of nations. More than 75% of health expenditure is OOPE and 2/3 of it is spent on drugs and diagnostics.

According to NSSO data (2011-12), only 22% and 28% of health facilities are provided by public utilities at rural and urban level, ^{respectively} and only 11.5% below the district level. Nearly one-third posts at the level of Primary Health Care centres are lying empty.

~~India's~~

→ out of \$146 ppp spend on health, only \$44 ppp is provided by government

→ exploitation by private providers in the form of sink tests, high cost drugs due to doctors-industry nexus, high ^{number of} C-sections (40% according to NFHS-4), etc.

→ steady erosion of patient-doctor trust;

→ even where there are regulations on charges for hospitalisation and drugs, poor implementation;

The solutions to these problems are:

→ at least 4-5% of GDP spend on public health (NHP 2017's target inadequate)

→ Indian Medical Association's code of ethics should be vigorously implemented;

- focus on preventive healthcare by boosting primary health centres;
- boost the Jan Aardrahi Yojana
- boost NPPA efforts such as fixing the MRPs of heart stents and knee implants;
- ^{boost} immunisation under Mission Indradhanush;
- focus on health and nutrition of women and children;

If India wants to utilise its demographic dividend, then it must focus on investing in health of its people.

Although the NHP 2017 is promising, but health spending must increase and ^{Right to} health must become a fundamental right.

_____ x _____

6. Keeping in mind the importance of NGOs in India's development process it is imperative that adequate legal and regulatory mechanisms should be in place. Discuss in the context of recent developments.

भारत के विकास की प्रक्रिया में NGOs के महत्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए इनके लिए पर्याप्त कानूनी एवं विनियामक तंत्र का होना अत्यावश्यक हो जाता है। हाल के विकास संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

NGOs are legally constituted organisations, that are non-state and usually non-profit, and work for purposes of public interest. They may or ^{may} not be funded by the government. The 2nd ARC in its report "Social Capital: A Shared Future" highlights their importance.

- they engage in discussions with the state improving the policy designs;
- they try to bring congruence between policy design & people's needs & sensibilities;
- they spread awareness among people, catalysing good governance;
- help in find innovative solutions to local problems using local solutions;

→ help citizens in holding the state institutions accountable;

However, in recent times, NGOs in India have been engulfed in a myriad of legal & regulatory challenges.

→ according to a CBI report produced in supreme court, only 8-10% of nearly 31 lakh NGOs file their annual returns;

→ NGOs like Compassionate International have been accused of inducing conversions;

→ allegations of money laundering & helping terrorists;

→ allegations of pursuing interests detrimental to national interests, eg. evoking protest movements against atomic plants;

The solutions possible:

→ NGOs must evolve a credible legal & regulatory framework of their functioning,

together with performance & financial audits,
to ensure transparency & accountability;

→ even if they're not mandated to pay
Income Tax, IT returns should be filed;

→ draconian provisions in the FCRA should
be repealed, because the govt can curb
dissent through it;

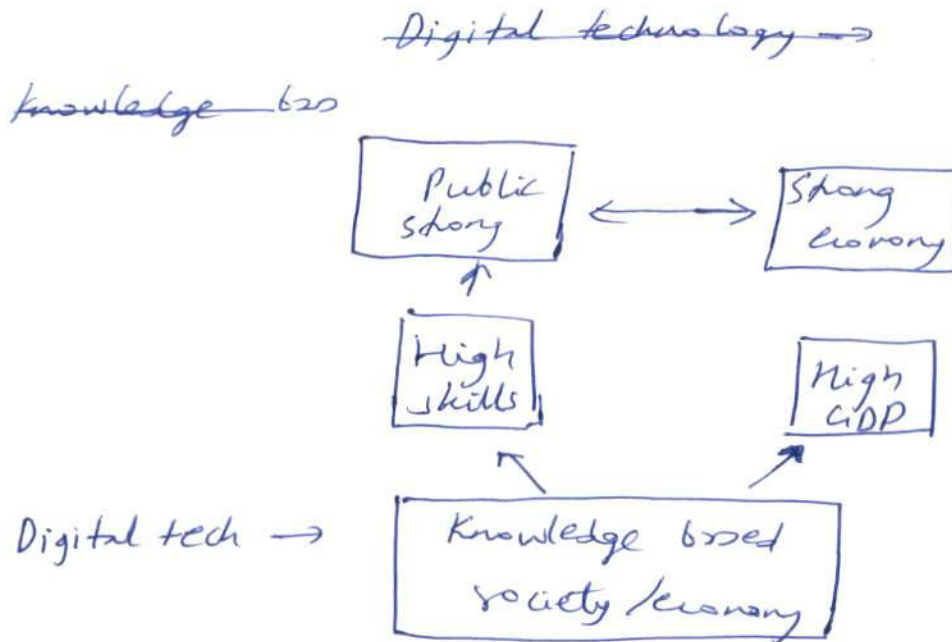
→ the govt must practise what it preaches,
transparency in NGO funding without transparency
in political funding won't find many ~~takers~~ ^{takers};

The NGOs can help in bridging
~~developing~~ developmental gaps & democratic
deficits in a developing country like ours
in an incredible way.

— x —

7. While on one hand, there has been proliferation of use of digital technology, on the other hand, resulting digital dividends have not been forthcoming. Analyse.

जहाँ एक ओर डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी के उपयोग का प्रसार बढ़ रहा है, वहीं दूसरी ओर परिणामी डिजिटल लाभांश प्राप्त नहीं हो रहे हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।



Digital India

→ Finance: PMJDY,
eFMS, Aadhar, PAHAL,
DBT,

→ Edu: Swayam,
Swayam Prabha

→ Gov: my gov,
DigitLocker

e-kranti →

44 MMPs

3300 e-services

eg

Tele-law
initiative

Drawbacks:

- problems of under-exclusion;
- digital divide across social & economic strata;
- cyber threats;
- lack of digital literacy;
- women & marginalised sections excluded;
- budgetary constraints;
- interoperability of platforms;
- status-quoist orientation of bureaucracy;
- opaque decision-making;
- top-down approach;

Govt schemes →

- Aardham
- DBT
- Digital Saksharta Abhiyan
- Digi Dhan Mela
- MOOCs

_____ x _____

8. The public policy requirements of the 21st century demand a bureaucracy less generalist in nature. Analyse in the context of Indian civil services.

21वीं सदी की सार्वजनिक नीति वस्तुतः एक कम सामान्यज्ञ नौकरशाही की मांग करती है। भारतीय सिविल सेवा के संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The structure of the Indian bureaucracy is a colonial legacy. It was constituted to serve the colonial interests →

- exploitation of resources,
- suppress people's aspirations,
- opaque policy-making;
- manipulation of civil society activism.

As a result, what we had was a generalist service, and the IAS being among them a generalist service par excellence. However, the public policy requirements of the 21st century require:

- functional civil services due to increased technicality of govt processes;
- adding efficiency & quickness to decision-making;

- involving relevant civil society orgs to bring about changes on ground;
- need for specialisation;
- tackle mults-dimensional nature of problems like pollution, traffic managements, etc;
- moving from state socialism to market initiatives;
- regulator → facilitator;

Solutions :

- making civil servants compulsorily choose a ~~set~~ specialisation;
- regular training & performance appraisal;
- lateral entry;
- weaken cadre-based civil services;
- break the monopolisation of IAS;

→ civil services reforms;

The public policy requirements of
bridging democratic deficits & developmental
gaps require a more specialist civil service.
Today we need more technocrats than
bureaucrats.

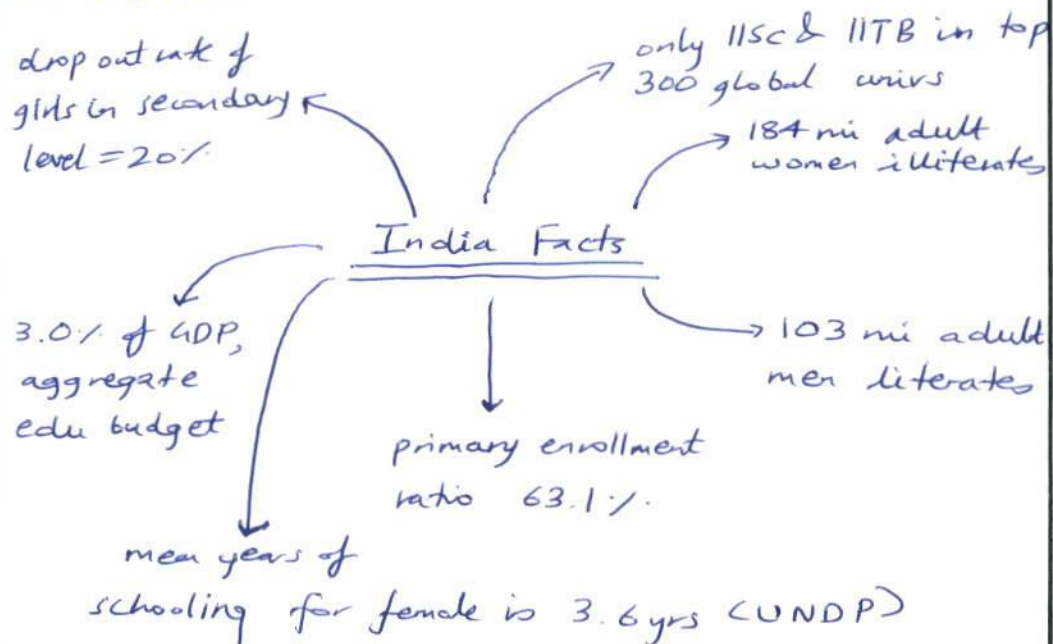
— x —

9. Explain how the National Digital Library (NDL) can bring a fundamental shift in the paradigm of education and research. Also highlight the challenges that need to be addressed to make NDL self-sustainable.

ब्याख्या कीजिए कि राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल लाइब्रेरी (NDL) किस प्रकार शिक्षा व अनुसंधान के चिंतनफलक में एक आधारभूत परिवर्तन ला सकता है। साथ ही, NDL को आत्म-धारणीय (सेल्फ-सस्टेनेबल) बनाने हेतु उन चुनौतियों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिन्हें संबोधित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

The National Digital Library

is a pioneer effort of the GoI under the Digital India Mission which can bring about an outstanding revolution in the field of education and research.



The above facts highlight the plethora of challenges facing the Indian education & research sector. In light of

these problems, the NDL promises 2 radical shift through:

- boosting the quality of material available;
- reducing expenditure on human resources & shifting it to quality of education;
- universalising education & research;
- bridging rural & urban gaps;
- bringing marginalised section into mainstream;
- effective utilisation of budget;
- enabling researches to collaborate on digital platforms;
- plug administrative delays & inefficiencies;

Although the NDL promises a lot of benefits, there are challenges to be addressed to make it self-sustainable;

- bridging the digital divide across ^{various} social and economic strata;
- adequate funding for digital infra to host such an ambitious project;
- proper safeguards against cyber threats;
- interoperability among various digital platforms;

The Digital India Programme can be adequately utilised to promote & boost the NDL. It'd help India bridge its learning & research deficits and properly utilise its demographic dividend.

— x —

10. Census 2011 observed that there has been a significant increase in urban homeless households in the period between 2001 and 2011. What are homeless households? Highlighting the challenges faced by them, discuss the causes for increase in such households. Suggest various measures to rehabilitate these households.

2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार वर्ष 2001 से 2011 की अवधि में शहरी बेघर परिवारों की संख्या में सार्थक वृद्धि हुई है। बेघर परिवार से क्या तात्पर्य है? उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, ऐसे परिवारों की संख्या में होने वाली वृद्धि के कारणों की चर्चा कीजिए। इन परिवारों के पुनर्वास हेतु विभिन्न उपाय सुझाएँ।

According to Census 2011, there's been a 9.4% increase in homeless households to approx 3 million. These are those households that lack any adequate housing facilities and live by the roadsides, public parks, etc.

The challenges faced by them:

- food insecurity, due to non inter-state transferability of ~~the~~ PDS;
- education insecurity, due to identity problems;
- health & sanitation;
- exploitation by anti-social elements such as begging, prostitution, begar, etc.

The reasons for their increase are:

- failure of trickle down model of GDP growth;
- climate refugees, such as those from floods & earthquakes;
- rural agrarian distress, and therefore forced to migrate to cities;
- catastrophic situations such as health or financial emergencies;

The various measures to rehabilitate them are :

- draft People in Distillation (Model) Bill, 2016 by MSJE;
- inter-state transferability of PDS and Aardhan seeding;
- MGNREGA in urban areas;
- PM Awas Yojana's sub-mission to provide cheap, ecologically fit homes;
- registration of such people & protection

provided by law enforcement agencies;
→ Swachhe Bharat (Urban) implementation;

If we want to accomplish
handhiji's aim of wiping every tear from every
eye, we need to rehabilitate these poor
and destitute homeless households.

— x —

11. What is the criteria for a village being recognized as electrified? Examine the challenges present in rural electrification in India. Elaborate upon some of the recent initiatives of the government with a special emphasis on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana.

एक गाँव को विद्युतीकृत गाँव के रूप में मान्यता प्रदान करने के लिए क्या मानदंड हैं? भारत में ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण में विद्यमान चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए। इसके अतिरिक्त, दीन दयाल उपाध्याय ग्राम ज्योति योजना पर विशेष बल देते हुए इस दिशा में सरकार द्वारा हाल में उठाए गए कुछ कदमों पर सविस्तार चर्चा कीजिए।

The criteria for a village being recognised as electrified are:

- 10% of village households having electricity connection, including the 'dalit bhoji' in the village;
- village ~~offices~~ ^{infra} such as schools & panchayat office electrified;
- distribution transformer & associated infra in the village premises;

According to latest reports from Ministry of Power, more than 95% of villages in India are electrified.

Challenges faced in rural electrification:

- budgetary constraints;
- lack of adequate Right of Way;
- lack of trained personnel;
- administrative lapses & leakages;
- problems of over-inclusion and under-inclusion;

Some of the recent initiatives
of GoI in this regard are:

- boost to renewables with a target of
175 GW by 2022;
- Integrated Power Distribution Scheme;
- improving delays in supply of coal
to thermal power plants;
- new hydro projects;

→ Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Nyas Yojana

- emphasis on fede separation between agricultural & personal uses;
- target of 100% rural electrification;
- improving rural electricity infra to reduce transmission & distribution losses;
- GARV mobile app to track live updates

Although the government's initiatives are promising, what's needed in the 21st century to make Digital India a success is to shift the goalpost, from 10% of households to atleast 50%.

_____ x _____

12. While the Right to Education (RTE) Act was based on noble intentions, implementation of many of its provisions remain ridden with problems. Discuss.

यद्यपि शिक्षा का अधिकार (RTE) अधिनियम महान उद्देश्यों पर आधारित था, फिर भी इसके कई प्रावधानों का क्रियान्वयन समस्याओं से भरा हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Right to Education Act

was enacted to guarantee free and fair education to all children between the ages 6 to 14, so as to invest in the demographic dividend of the future. Moreover, RTE isn't just a means to an end, but an end in itself because primary education is a fundamental right, enunciated as long back as in 1931 Congress Karachi session.

It led to:

- sharp increase in enrollment levels;
- sharp increase in expected years of schooling & mean years of schooling according to UNDP reports;

- exposure of children to innovative thoughts and free thinking;
- building a solid base on which proper skilling can make the person engage in gainful employment;
- remedy against social evils, superstitions, prejudices, and helping building a secular, democratic & plural society;

However many of its provisions have remained riddled with problem:

- Lack of adequate infra for school;
- lack of adequate manpower in terms of both ~~man~~ quality & quantity;
- declining quality of mid-day meals;
- low retention ratios;
- steadily declining enrollment rate & proliferation of private schools;

The solutions to these problems are:

- increasing edu spending from 3% to atleast 6% of GDP;
- teacher qualifications/standards must be adequate;
- use Aadhaar/biometric to tackle teacher absenteeism;
- boost quality of Midday meals;

Proper implementation of RTE
can help in utilising our demographic dividend.

— x —

13. Critically examining the key provisions of The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016, discuss whether a complete ban on commercial surrogacy is justified. सरोगेसी (विनियमन) विधेयक 2016 के प्रमुख प्रावधानों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए, साथ ही इस पर चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या वाणिज्यिक सरोगेसी पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध न्यायोचित है?

The Surrogacy (Regulation)

Bill's key provisions are:

- completely banning commercial surrogacy & allowing only ethical, altruistic surrogacy;
- allowing only ^{childless} married Indian citizens who are infertile for more than 5 years;
- setting up boards at ~~national~~ & state & district levels to monitor the ethical surrogacy processes & cases;

The provisions are based on the law commission's 228th report →

- ban all forms of commercial surrogacy;
- ban all foreigners & PIOs;
- ban single parents;

- ban people in live-in-relationships or same sex relationships;
- regulation of ethical surrogacy;
- ban couples with one child, whether biological or adopted

However, there are a few questions which arise due to the above provisions:

- denial of a woman of control over her bodily integrity and reproductive rights;
- whether banning single parents or couples who are not married will stand legal scrutiny under reasonable classification of Article 14(2);
- problems of ^{business of} commercial surrogacy going underground;
- surge in private clinical health facilities may ~~get~~ take step back;

However in sum, a complete ban on commercial surrogacy is justified if implemented vigorously because:

- exploitation of women for her womb;
- doubts about citizenship of child in case commissioning parents get divorced ~~during~~ before birth;
- high MMR in India;
- global tendency towards abolishing it;

—————X—————

14. It is often strongly suggested that scarce government resources should be redirected in favour of primary education rather than higher education. In this context, analyse whether curtailing public spending in higher education would help in achieving the principle of equity.

प्रायः मजबूती से यह तर्क प्रस्तुत किया जाता है कि अत्यल्प सरकारी संसाधनों को उच्च शिक्षा के बजाय प्राथमिक शिक्षा की ओर पुनर्निर्देशित किया जाना चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए कि क्या उच्च शिक्षा पर होने वाले सार्वजनिक खर्च में कटौती करने से समता के सिद्धांत को प्राप्त करने में सहायता मिलेगी?

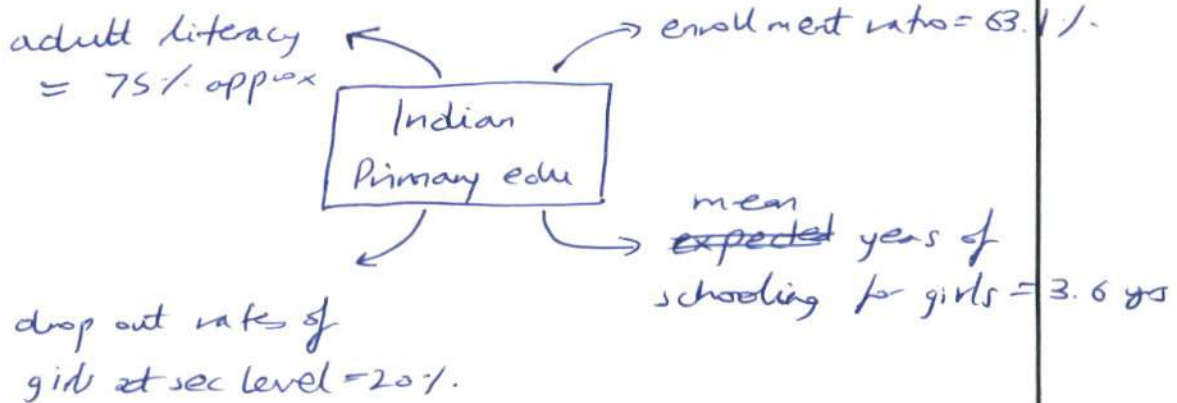
The recent TSR Subramanian Committee's report on Education Reforms in India have reiterated the already existing suggestions that the scarce govt resources should be redicated in favour of primary education than higher education.

The reasons are:

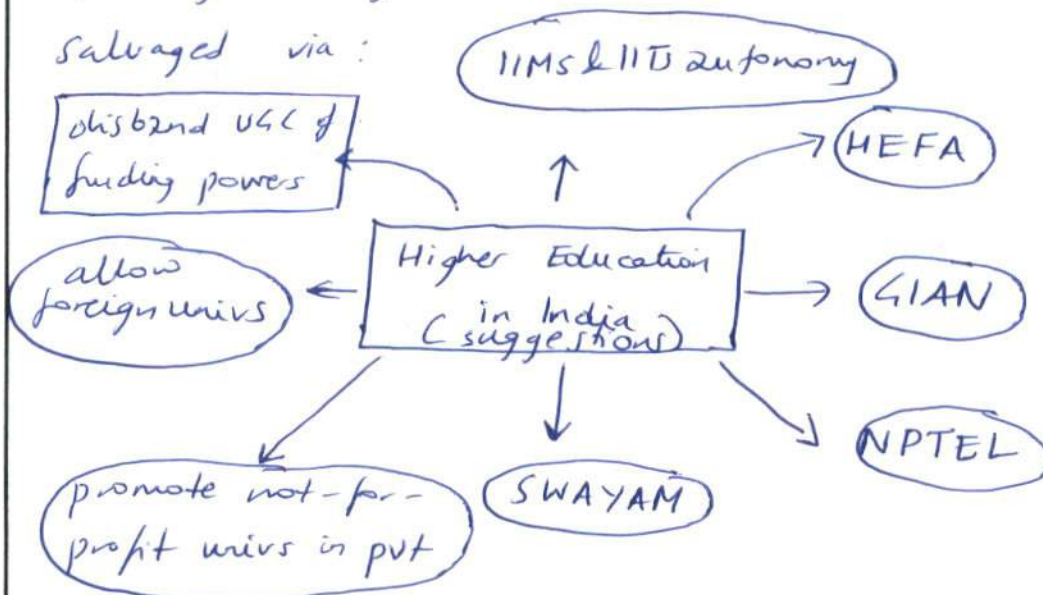
- extremely inadequate infra at primary level;
- poor manpower ~~because of~~ in quantity & quality;
- poor enrollment ratios, poor retention & poor outcomes;
- the Right to Primary education is a Fundamental Right, not Right to

Higher education;

→ the foundation of a child's career needs to be strong which can be achieved only through quality education;



Given the above arguments & facts, there's a ^{genuine} case for curtailng public spending in higher edu which can be salvaged via:



The govt can also:

- ^{attract} ~~ask~~ Punjabi Bhatiya community to contribute through alumni n/w;
- use of bond market;
- salvage IPRs & patents;
- boost startups;
- move from role of regulator to facilitator;
- allow for-profit corps but actively promote non-profit ones;
- increase spending on edu to at least ^A 8-1% of GDP;

A strong foundation via primary edu & a market linked higher edu shall help us utilise our demographic dividend;

_____ x _____

15. Accessibility is the key to inclusion and equal access for people with disabilities. Analyse. Also discuss the objectives and components of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan with a special emphasis on inclusiveness and accessibility index.

निःशक्त जनों के समावेशन एवं समान पहुंच के लिए सुगम्यता (प्रवेशयोग्यता) एक महत्वपूर्ण कुंजी है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, समावेशन और सुगम्यता सूचकांक पर विशेष बल देते हुए हाल ही में आरंभ सुगम्य भारत अभियान के उद्देश्यों और घटकों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

According to Census 2011, there are approx 26 million PwDs in India, with 17m males & 9m females, and 70% residing in rural areas.

Although there have been schemes & progs for PwDs to lead hassle-free, inclusive lives with dignity & self-confidence, the Accessibility component is starkly missing from the trinity of Availability & Affordability. The problem is stark for rural PwDs. For example, we have RTE, NFSA, National Handicapped Finance & Dev Corp, MUDRA Yojana, etc but the PwDs lack the accessibility to these provisions, due to administrative leakages, problems of under-inclusion and lack of an enabling environment.

In this regard, the GoI launched the Suganya Bhord Abhiyaan with the following components:

- banier free public infrastructure;
- accessible ICT technologies & digital services;
- access to public transport facilities without any hassles.

The objective is to enable PWDs lead a life of dignity & self-confidence & socio-economically empower them & integrate them with the society.

The accessibility index is an transformatory instrument that'd rank organisations based on:

- proportion of PWDs employed;
- inclusive HR policies;
- inclusive work ~~at~~ environment & office infra;
- projects & office dynamics which are inclusive;

This accessibility index will be popularised
& publicised so that a healthy competition
can take place b/w organisations leading to
eventual benefit of the PWDs.

— x —

16. The Olympic Task Force constituted to prepare an action plan for the next three Olympic Games is a step in the right direction. Comment. Also highlight other initiatives required to augment India's performance in the sporting arena internationally.

आगामी तीन ओलंपिक खेलों के लिए कार्य योजना (एक्शन प्लान) तैयार करने हेतु गठित ओलंपिक टास्क फोर्स सही दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिताओं में भारत के प्रदर्शन को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अन्य वांछित पहलों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

India's 88-member squad for the 2012 London Olympics got 6 medals while the 120 member squad for the 2016 Rio Olympics got just 2 medals, thanks to PV Sindhu & Sakshi Malik. Given the urgent need for improve ^{sports} ~~sporting~~ performances at the int'l levels, PM N. Modi constituted an Olympic Task Force to prepare an action plan for the next 3 olympics:

The mandate given to the OTF includes:

- procedure to identify & ~~group~~ groom talent;
- identify infra constraints;

- identify weak spots in talent grooming;
- devise a dynamic & impactful budgetary formula;
- attract talent from other fields into sports;
- popularise sports for the masses;

The OTF is chaired by Mr Abhinav Bindra, India's only ~~go~~ individual gold medallist in the Olympics.

The other initiatives required to augment India's performance in the sporting arena internationally are:

- transform image of sports from one of the classes to one for the masses;
- health & nutrition focus;
- better int'l exposure;
- bridge infra deficits;

- rewarding performances suitably;
- de-politicisation of sports federations;
- a sports bill with ethical & legal safeguards;
- linking sports with markets to boost investments

If India wants to attain an image equal to its capabilities among the community of nations, there needs to be transformative changes in India's ~~sports~~ sports mechanisms

— x —

17. Recent judgment of the Supreme Court, amending the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has invoked varied responses. Highlighting the amendment, critically examine its likely impact on the application of the law.

घरेलू हिंसा से महिलाओं का संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2005 में संशोधन हेतु सुप्रीम कोर्ट के हालिया निर्णय में विभिन्न प्रकार की प्रतिक्रियाएँ सामने आई हैं। उक्त संशोधन पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इस कानून के अनुप्रयोग पर इसके संभावित प्रभावों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

From 2012 to 2014, nearly 48000 dowry-related deaths in India and FIRs filed in 93.1% cases under section 498A of IPC. However conviction rate of barely 14% made the Supreme Court inquire into effectiveness of PWDVA, 2005.

Provisions of new amendments:

- formation of district welfare committees who'd examine complaints under Sec 498A and whose recommendations should be used by police to file case;
- 2014 judgement had introduced 9-point checklist before making an arrest;
- penalty for false cases filed;

Issues involved:

- perception of alleged misuse among patriarchal society;
- arbitrary arrests, with a motive of extortion, and possibility of reconciliation;
- genuine need to make it a ~~top~~ bailable event;
- custodial interrogation vs arrest;
- social stigma of arrest, esp for unmarried women members of accused's family;
- small but genuine cases of misuse;
- protection & remedy for millions of genuine victims;
- slow moving judicial-legal process;

Solutions:

- the low conviction rate is due to slow-moving judicial process & we'd need fast track courts;

- it needs a legally trained mind to be appointed to district welfare committees, not arbitrary appointments;
- 2014 judgement was progressive enough, 2017 judgement is very harmful for genuine victims;
- need to move forward to custodial interrogation & ~~torture~~ preventive detention;

With more than 20 dowry related deaths alone, there's no need to weaken the legislation. Perceived sense of alleged misuse & small ~~pergo~~ percentage of genuine misuse cannot simply overshadow the protection provided to millions of genuine victims.

_____ X _____

18. In spite of its usefulness as a tool of transparency and accountability, the RTI Act needs to be amended as it is being widely misused, especially to blackmail public functionaries. Critically examine.

पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही के एक उपकरण के रूप RTI की उपयोगिता के बावजूद, इस कानून को संशोधित करने की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि इसका व्यापक दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है, वह भी विशेष रूप से सार्वजनिक पदाधिकारियों को ब्लैकमेल करने के लिए। आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

The RTI Act was a landmark legislation that provided common citizens to become active collaborators in policy making & policy implementation, ushering an era of transparency & accountability.

Positives →

- expose corruption;
- improve transfer of benefits through accountability;
- improvement in democratic deficits & developmental gaps;
- congruence between plans & people's aspirations & urges;

Negatives:

- Loss of man-hours due to inundation with vexatious RTI appeals;
- genuine cases of bureaucratic mistakes now prone to victimisation on account of corruption;
- causing administrative delays;
- judicial involvement chances have increased;

Critical evaluation of negatives:

- blackmail of public functionaries who are genuine victims can be safeguards under relevant provisions of PCA, 1988;
- adequate resources must be deployed to tackle RTI load;
- need for pro-active suo motu disclosures;

→ judicial activism needs to be curbed

There's absolutely no case for
diluting the RTI law, as proposed in the
draft RTI law, 2017. There's need to rather
strengthen it. Until political financing
reforms & bureaucratic reforms ~~too~~ don't come,
RTI is the most imp tool against corruption.

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19. The transgender community has been among one of the most marginalized communities in India. Discuss. How does the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016 seek to protect transgenders from discrimination and address the problems faced by them?

ट्रांसजेंडर समुदाय भारत में सर्वाधिक वंचित समुदायों में से एक रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। दि ट्रांसजेंडर पर्सन (प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ राइट) बिल 2016 {ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्ति (अधिकारों का संरक्षण) विधेयक-2016} ट्रांसजेंडरों के साथ होने वाले भेदभाव से संरक्षण एवं उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याओं को किस प्रकार संबोधित करने का प्रयास करता है?

The transgender community is the most marginalised in India due to :

- ~~social~~
- social stigma;
- identity crisis;
- lack of inclusive edu & employment;

There's need for their integration into society through qualitative & quantitative means, such as the example of Kerala recently organising a Transgender Sports meet.

Provisions of the 2016 Bill:

→ ~~pro~~ edu & employment opportunities;

- rehabilitation schemes;
- health & nutrition;
- discrimination in spheres of public life;
- identity issue addressed;

Shortcomings →

- narrow definition of "transgender";
- no self identification, opposed to NALSA judgment of 2014;
- no guaranteed edu & employment & rehabilitation process;
- restrictions on dressing patterns & freedom of movement;
- lack of adequate legal remedies;
- no provisions for affirmative discrimination;

Although the Bill is a welcome development but it suffers from many loopholes. Need to implement

it vigorously & if possible, borrow from
the much progressive RS put member's
Transgender's Bill, 2015.

— x —

20. Though the Forest Rights Act 2006 tries to undo the historic injustice done to the forest dweller and tribals, it has been argued that it is being misused. Critically analyse.

यद्यपि वन अधिकार अधिनियम 2006 वनवासियों और आदिवासियों के साथ हुए ऐतिहासिक अन्याय को समाप्त करने का प्रयास करता है, लेकिन यह तर्क दिया जा रहा है कि इसका दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है। आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

