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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

Name of Candidate	chaitanya khemani		
Medium Eng./Hindi	eng	Registration Number	746087
Center	online	Date	30aug

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2	10		2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3	10		3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4	10		4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5	10		5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6	10		6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7	10		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।
8	10		
9	10		
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20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility. Discuss.

①

India's investigative agencies include the CBI, ED, NIA and so on.

Recently, the CJI had called upon the merging of various investigative agencies into a single independent body.

Need for an independent umbrella body

① Lack of credibility among them.
eg: ~~RTI~~ RTI doesn't cover CBI.

② Erosion of public trust due to increased politicisation
eg: Supreme Court calling CBI a "caged parrot"

③ Issues with federal relation.
eg: West Bengal withdrawing the

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general consent

- ① Lack of credible, dedicated cadre with considerable financial autonomy.

Way forward

- ① Increasing synergies among the investigative bodies to ensure Credibility.
- ② Establishment of independent ~~statutory~~ constitutional to umbrella body to ensure independence.
- ③ Adequate consultation with the states, for, the issue of "general consent"

Establishing an independent umbrella body will facilitate in creation of credible investigative body.

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

2

The doctrine of "pith" & substance" states that the fundamental core issue of the legislation determines the constitutionality of the law.

The doctrine of ~~for~~ "colourable legislation" states that a law/principle which cannot be attained/established directly, cannot, be granted constitutional status indirectly.

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Significance with respect to Centre-state relations

① These principles were first established when the State of West Bengal had a case with Indian Union in the Supreme Court.

② The State of Haryana couldn't provide reservation for locals in jobs on article 16, as it was violative, of the article 14.

③ The provisions have helped in establishment of the Niti Aayog and the concept of "cooperative federalism" by providing for jurisdiction of Supreme Court under Article 131.

Thus, we can say, that these principles have established "rule of law" and "due process of law" in India, to establish a smooth federal structure.

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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.

③

Simultaneous elections in Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies have recently being proposed by many civil society organisations

Arguments in favour of simultaneous election

① It provides continuity in governance as, the, model code of conduct hampers governance.

② It provides curb on election expenditure. Article 77 of RPA 1951, has figured ~~that~~ exponential rise in election expenditure.

③ Synergies in election process, as, the officers in charge of conducting

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the election under RPA 1950, attain, economies of scale.

Arguments against Simultaneous Elections

- ① Regular elections help check the ~~gov~~ political parties and make them sensitive to the issues of the people.
- ② Simultaneous elections will lead to predominance of national issues and ignoring the local issues.
- ③ Limited capacity of the Election Commission of India (Article 324) to conduct such elections due, to limited EVM machines, officers etc.
- ④ Difficulty in co-ordination between the states Simultaneous elections or, should be, implemented only with partial state funding as suggested in 2nd ARC Report to help reform the elections

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4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them.

(4)

Article 105 of the constitution provides for individual and Collective privileges to the members of parliament.

Need for codifications of the privileges

① Some of the privileges are in contradiction with Article 19.
eg: Freedom of speech and expression with reasonable restriction, subverted, by blanket immunity on speeches given on floor of parliament.

② Parliamentary privileges are in contradiction with the Indian Judiciary system. eg: freedom from

Jury duty and appearing as witness leads, to delay in justice delivery.

③ Few parliamentary privileges are too broad, and, provide large excess freedom. eg: freedom from arrest 40 days prior to commencement of session.

Way forward

① The parliamentary privileges ~~may~~ must be relooked upon with adequate consultation with all stakeholders.

② The privileges must be codified to remove ambiguity and confusion.

③ Judiciary must ensure that these privileges are consistent with fundamental rights.

Parliamentary privileges must strike right balance to ensure smooth functioning of the parliament and protection of individual rights.

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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.

5

The Article 312 provides for a civil service bureaucracy in India, and the institution of Civil Services Board was created to regulate it.

Civil Services board - Role in effectiveness

- ① Civil Services board, help, in determining the postings, transfers, promotions of the bureaucracy.
- ② Its recommendations help in determining the central deputation of the all India services.
- ③ Thus, they contribute to effectiveness of the bureaucracy, by proper placement as stated by Pigou.

Civil Services Boards — Issues & Challenges

- ① The board is plagued by politicisation and central-state conflict related to central deputation. eg: State of West Bengal prevented its officers from taking up central deputation.
 - ② Limited State Standard Operation procedure to determine rules of transfer, promotions and so on.
 - ③ Frequent transfers of few officers raises questions on its impartiality. eg: Ashok Khemka, IAS transferred multiple times in few years.
- ### Way forward
- ① Kulmarumiam ~~Case~~ case judicial pronouncement which ensures political neutrality must be adopted.
 - ② Civil services board must be revamped to make a autonomous body.
- Civil Service board, when revamped, will help establish transformative new age bureaucracy.

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6. Highlight the potential of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 in transforming the ecosystem of service delivery in India.

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

Q2

The Indian Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 was recently adopted by state of Meghalaya to transform service delivery.

Potential of IndEA 2.0

① It will help transform service delivery by establishing "Sevottam" model, and, "e-Vranti model".

② Focusing on "last-mile delivery" will help establish new age governance, as proposed, by ^{2nd} ARC report on E-governance.

③ It will transform public infrastructure development by

ensuring transparency, accountability and responsibility.

④ It will ensure better public fund management by establishing Digital public fund information management system.

Challenges in IndEA 2.0

- ① Issues with regards to data breaches and potential misuse due to malwares, trojan attacks, phishing.
- ② Concerns regarding digital privacy and "right to be forgotten".
- ③ Lack of consistent application across states has led to creation of digital divide.

Way forward

- ① Focus on "Data privacy laws" must be made.
- ② Cybersecurity norms must be revamped
- ③ Digital literacy, viz, schemes like PM Disha must be implemented.

IndEA 2.0 will help in providing modern age service delivery to the citizens

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

⑦ Civil Registration System refers to the procedure to recording live births and providing identity to the new borns.
Recently, the government has proposed immediate "Civil registration system" via Online system.

Importance of the System

- ① It provides identity and a legal status to the new born.
- ② It ensures better record maintenance of new borns, which, help the government formulate new policies and schemes.
- ③ Civil registration helps the child, the mother and the family avail

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government facilities and welfare schemes-
eg: PM Suman provides monetary grant on registration of the child.

Measures taken by the government

- ① It has proposed development of Online System of registration.
- ② It has facilitated offline registration by providing immediate single window services as well.

Challenges associated with the measures

- ① Online registration might not be helpful in rural areas, as, only 38% are digitally literate as per MeitY report.
- ② offline registration is not hassle-free in the rural areas, as, cases of corruption is observed.

Way forward

- ① Online registration must be promoted to via awareness sessions.
- ② Gartner Model on service delivery to be adopted.

Civil Registration System will help India attain demographic potential and dividend

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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.

8

Ban Dry latrines and collection of night soil was banned in India under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act, 2013 for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes, especially the Valmiki Caste -

Effective Mechanism for Empowerment

- ① It has helped in health and sanitation of the Safai Karamcharis
- ② It has helped removed prejudices and existing taboos in the society.
- ③ It provides for alternate professions for the Safai Karamcharis.
eg: National Safai Karamchari-finance & development corporation established.

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(4) The National Commission of Scheduled Castes (under Article 338A) ensures effective implementation of the law.

(5) The law has facilitated introduction of robots like Bandicoot to clean manholes & sewers.

Issues with the Law

① Continuous deaths continue to occur of the Safai Karamcharies while cleaning the septic tanks.

② Continued prejudice against Safai Karamcharies is prevalent in the society.
eg: National Crime Record Bureau had reported more than 5 lakh cases of Dalit atrocity in the last decade.

Way forward

① Focus on societal reforms via reservation for Safai Karamcharies must be made.

② Education, skill development among the members to be promoted.

Emancipation of Manual Scavengers will help India attain Objectives of Civil Rights Act 1955.

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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.

9

The World Trade Organisation is a multilateral organisation established by the Uruguay Rounds and Doha Negotiation.

Vulnerabilities existing in present global trade

- ① Covid-19 exposed the high vulnerability of the global supply chains.
- ② Developed countries are prejudiced against developing countries, with, the use of sanitary and phytosanitary measures against agriculture commodity.
- ③ Covid19 vaccines faced hurdles with regards to IP rights of WTO.
- ④ Bali peace Clause, and, the De-minimis clause leads to excessive interference.

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5) Reforms needed in the WTO for supply chains

- ① E-Commerce rules must be revamped to ensure prejudice free trades.
- ② Geneva package must be implemented to reform fishing subsidies.
- ③ WTO must prevent usage of ~~tariffs~~ non tariff barriers like Sanitary Measures against the developing countries.
- ④ Establishment of rules based "Country-of-origin" norms must be established.
- ⑤ WTO appellate tribunal for grievance redressal must be made operational.
- ⑥ "Smoker ban" system to be banned. WTO must be reformed to ensure development of rules-based global trade.

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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.

10.

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was established with the objective of the freedom of the seas, and, establishing rules-based high seas and international waters.

Significance of UNCLOS

- ① It has prevented rise in piracy, smuggling and organised crimes in the high seas.
- ② It has helped settle international maritime disputes across nations.
- ③ It strives to prevent environmental protection by preventing dredging, release of toxic fuel in the Ocean waters, dumping of wastages.
- ④ UNCLOS strives to est establish rule

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based international transit of trades and people

Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction - need

- ① The BBNJ Agreement ~~was~~ ^{strives} to protect marine flora and fauna, from extinction due to climate change and excessive human intervention.
- ② It ~~strives~~ ^{strives} to ban unethical fishing such as, seafloor dredging and whaling being done by Japan.
- ③ It ~~strives~~ ^{strives} to promote clean fuel among the ships and vessels; and, also prevent oil spills.
- ④ Making, the agreement legally binding will help achieve SDG 14 (Life underwater)

The high seas must be conserved and protected. BBNJ Agreement will help support the London and the MARPOL convention

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

11

The Protection of Human Rights Act 1993 established the National Human Rights Commission to act as watchdog of human rights in India. Recently, NHRC investigated on the Post Poll violence in West Bengal.

NHRC - Positive Role played

① NHRC has played pivotal role in protecting rights of prisoners, traffic victims, women, and, other vulnerable members.

② It has the power of civil court to help play the role of watchdog.

③ It has also promoted research into protecting and preventing human rights violations in India; It also visits prisons to ensure well-being of prisoners.

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4) NHRC can take up suo-moto cases in cases, where, it feels human rights were violated.

5) NHRC ensures India upholds the United Nations Conventions on human rights

6) NHRC acts as the watchdog by recommending ~~pro~~ solutions to the government for emancipation of the aggrieved.

7) NHRC submits to the parliament an annual report, with suggestions for ~~pro~~ promotion of human rights.

NHRC - Issues & Challenges

1) limited jurisdiction - as it cannot take up cases beyond one year.

2) It's power is merely "recomendatory" hence, it cannot serve the role of Effective watchdog.

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③ Lack of dedicated cadres of professions to improve efficiency of the commission to prevent human rights violation.

Way forward

- ① NHRC must be made a constitutional body
- ② It should be granted powers to investigate matters beyond one year.
- ③ The report that it submits to the parliament, must, be careful evaluated ^{by Parliamentary Committees}, and, explanations for non-adherence to its recommendations must be provided and published on national portal.
- ④ Financial autonomy and dedicated cadre must be raised.

That NHRC will help provide "rights-based" environment for development of the Indian people.

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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.

12

The Swapnil Tripathi Case provided for use of ICT in the ~~developm~~ dispute resolution processes.

Integration of ICT in dispute Resolution

- ① It will provide and further the Article 21 — right to justice.
- ② It will help ease burden on the overburdened physical judicial infrastructure.
- ③ Provide for faster delivery of justice, via, tools like SUPACE which uses artificial intelligence to expediate justice.
- ④ Live streaming of court cases will help in promoting and raising awareness among the backward classes -

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⑤ E-Court Mission mode project will further the cause of judicial accountability and transparency.

⑥ ICT will help in promoting the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms like arbitration, mediation, conciliations. ICT is a prominent component of Singapore Convention on mediation.

Challenges in ~~statutory~~ integration of ICT in dispute resolution

① There is stark digital divide (approx. 38:1. rural population is only digitally literate). ICT might lead to further divide and distrust in judicial process.

② Lack of adequate digital governance laws in India, which, might lead to potential cyber breaches and data leakages.

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③ Cyber attacks, espionage across border by enemy state may cripple judicial system of the country.

④ Lack of adequate financial resources, limited technology available is preventing effective delivery ^{implementation} of the ICT in the dispute resolution process.

Way forward

① Cybersecurity laws must be made effective, as recommended by Srikrishna Committee.

② Govt. must promote online dispute resolutions especially in lower courts under Article 233 & 234.

③ Focus on building digital infrastructure like PM WAN scheme ^{to be done} ICT in dispute resolution will help ~~ful~~ fulfil the article 39A, i.e., equal justice for all.

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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.

13

The current Lok Sabha has 43% of its members with pending cases, and, 29% MPs having serious crime cases pending.

RPA 1951 - Resolving the rise in Crimes

① Provisions of RPA 1951 like, Article 8, prevents, ~~acc~~ convicts from contesting the elections.

② RPA, 1951 aims to break nexus of between finance between politicians and criminals. eg: Article 75 mentions that winning candidates must file expenditure they incurred on fighting elections.

③ Article 29(C) prevents hate speeches, inciting violence to prevent criminalization of the elections.

④ RPA 1951, follows, adequate norms for Media to help fight criminalization in elections, eg: Media handouts, bar on exit polls etc.

⑤ RPA 1951 provides elaborate list for criminal offences and election malpractices like distribution of alcohol, money, removal of ballot from polling booths; corrupt practices of polling agents

Issues at hand - continuity in criminalization

① ~~Cases~~ Undertrial / Cases pending accused can still continue to fight elections.

② Lack of transparency in electoral bonds. eg: Section 13(C) of IT Act 1961 leads to opaqueness in the process.

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③ Inability of ECI under Article 324 to prevent hate speeches, & Canvassing of votes in name of castes, religions etc.

Way forward

① The Election Commission must be revamped to provide powers for disqualification of corrupt candidates.

② Tankha Committee recommendations like audit of candidates must be made.

③ Indrajit Kohra Commission Recommendations like, providing transparency in finance of political parties to be implemented.

④ 2nd ARC report proposed partial funding of elections.

Preventing criminalization of politics will help Indian democracy mature and establish rule of law.

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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.

(14) The 15th finance commission had highlighted the need for the Urban local bodies to be financially buoyant.

ULBS - Need for permanent, buoyant revenues

① Due Census 2011, opines that roughly 30% of the Indian population reside in Urban areas. UNC World Population Prospect suggests that more than 50% will reside in Urban areas by 2050.

② To support the growing population, provide better, new age service delivery, sustainable source of finance must be created for the ULBS under article 243.

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③ Current sources of Revenue :

- ① Own revenues, via, municipal taxes, providing services like water, Sanitation
- ② From State, via, state finance Commission recommendations
- ③ Grants from Centre in the form of tied nature for specific schemes.

Way forward

① The 15th finance commission had suggested the following :

- ① Increase in untied nature of funds & grants from the Center.
- ② The states must provide regular streams of revenue, as recommended by the state F.C.s.
- ③ The ULBs, too, must be able to raise its own funds, via:

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- i) Municipal levies, taxes
- ii) Octroi, freight fees
- iii) Municipal bonds

② The Central government must extend the ambit of the FRBM Act to the local bodies to ensure sustainability of revenues generated.

③ CAG (under Article 148), must, Careful ~~audit~~ audit the books of accounts to ensure sound financial prudence is applied.

④ Use of ICT, like, Online financial information system must be implemented by the ULBs.

Regular revenue services will help the ULBs provide decentralized services to the residents.

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

15-

The recently passed Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Act 2021 has highlighted the changing increasingly complex role played by Civil Society in India.

Role of CSOs in contemporary Act

① NGOs, voluntary groups, have, increasingly played the role of providing service delivery in arenas where govt. is reluctant to approach.
eg. Naz foundation advocated for LGBT rights.

② Civil society is helping the poor members get essential services
eg. SPARC, Mumbai helped poor people get homes.

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③ However, the civil society is increasingly playing the role of agitator in the country, as, highlighted in the Right to Mobility Case.

④ Increased foreign interferences has been observed, which, is leading to domestic disturbances. Eg: Govt had to ban funding from Compassion International as it, was accused of proselytizing in north east India.

⑤ The World Bank has stated that India loses roughly 2% of GDP due to protests from civil society.

⑥ Thus, we can fairly opine that the role of civil society organizations has been rapidly evolving and getting complicated with the passage of time.

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Way forward

- ① National Accreditation Rating Council for registration of NGOs must be implemented.
- ② National Policy on Volunteering must be developed to reform the civil society organisations.
- ③ Foreign funding of NGOs must be monitored via FCRA Act.
- ④ Civil Society Organisations must be, trained to promote role of facilitator in the country.

Civil Society Organisations can help, the government in fulfilling the objectives of promotion of welfare of the people.

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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.

16. On account of Covid-19 reforms, the government of India, suspended, the MP Local area development scheme for two years.

MPLADS — Addressing inequity in development

① MPLADS provides ₹ 5 crores to every MP for undertaking development activities in his constituency based on Sec approval by the DM.

② MPLADS help MP in contributing to local decentralized development.
eg: Development of sanitation in an unauthorized Colony in his constituency.

③ MPLADS, thus, help the members of parliament to serve as guardian and fulfil role of 'representative of the people'.

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MPLADS - Issues in the Scheme

① MPLADS led to disparity in the developmental activities, as, ~~most~~ most MPs didn't utilize the funds fully.
eg. MP of Philibit, Karun Gandhi, was the only MP to utilize the funds fully before time.

② Financial irregularities in the usage of funds as highlighted by the CAG.

③ Conflict between district magistrate & MP with regards to approval of funds, led to upset of ties.

④ The incumbent MPs got an undue advantage in financial resources, over, the prospective contestants in the upcoming elections, thus, eroding the principle of fair elections.

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⑤ The funds of MPLADS was often diverted to unnecessary, unproductive work.

Way forward

①. The 2nd ARC report had suggested permanent suspension of the MPLADS scheme.

② Instead, scheme for decentralized development must be implemented, by, strengthening Resources of PRIs & ULBs.

③ Public fund management system, must, be implemented, with, components of ICT.
Eg. laas public fund management system can be the international best practice, which we can emulate.

Equity in development in India, can, be achieved, via, a bottom up approach and not top-down system of MPLADS.

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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.

17 The lockdown imposed, and, the subsequent closure of schools and colleges, led to, emergence of Ed-tech sectors, which combines education, with, the latest information - communication technology.

Factors for growth of Ed-tech sector

- ① Increase in growth of ICT penetration among the youth population, and, growth of startups like Unacademy, Byjus, White hat Jr
- ② Covid-19 lockdown, led to, closure of physical spaces.
- ③ Rise in population among tier II, III & IV cities, and, the desire to achieve facilities existing in the Tier I cities, while,

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staying at the comfort of home. eg: Kota coaching institutes are highly stressful for students

Benefits of Ed Tech Sector

- ① It has led to democratization of the education system, by allowing, ~~too~~ students in ~~also~~ towns and villages get access to world class facilities
- ② It has led to better education quality by combining innovation and spirit of science, which, is helping improve pedagogy
- ③ It has provided employment to lakhs, by employing teachers, software developers and other support staff.
- ④ It has led to growth in wealth of the founders, and, increase in revenue avenues of shareholders. eg: Unacademy will be launching an IPO
- ⑤ Ed-tech sector is comparatively cheaper as compared to conventional coaching classes.

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Concerns with Edtech sector

- ① Technology divide : Rural areas have poor technology penetration as compared to urban centres.
- ② Rich - Poor gap : The poor people have limited access to internet connections, laptops, smart phones.
- ③ Harmful for physical & mental health : Staring at the bluescreen for hours harms the health of the students.
- ④ Edtech sector might be "bubble" like the dotcom bubble, which when burst will harm the investors.

Way forward

- ① Govt. must promote channels like Swayam Prabha to promote free Edtech classes.
- ② New Education Policy must be implemented in letter and spirit.

Edtech sector will help the youth of India usher in Amrit Kaal by attaining demographic dividend.

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.

18. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, are, dedicated grassroot health service providers under the National Rural Health Mission.

Role played by ASHA workers

- ① They help provide primary healthcare facilities to the rural families. eg: First aids for injuries.
- ② They promote healthy upbringing of expectant mothers, lactating mothers by providing rations, health supplements under Schemes like PM Juman.
- ③ They ensure health of new-born babies by ensuring proper immunisation schedule, ~~prop~~ adequate

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breastfeeding is being provided.

④ They promote sanitation in the villages by promoting awareness about toilets & risks of open defecation.

⑤ They promote menstrual hygiene by distributing pads.

Challenges to ASHA workers

① They aren't considered as permant employees of the government.

② They receive a meagre ₹ 5000 to ₹ 8000 based on performance.

③ ASHA workers face prejudice and discrimination from the villagers and community members.

④ ASHA workers are poorly trained and lack proper skills to manage primary treatment.

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⑤ Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the pains faced by Asha workers, as, they weren't declared front-line workers

Wayforward

- ① Asha workers must be made regular employees of the government.
- ② Proper training, skill formation must be imparted.
- ③ Regular salary, pensions must be provided to the Asha workers.
- ④ Awareness about the importance of Asha workers must be Created in the society.

Asha workers will help in bringing healthy life conditions in the rural areas.

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.

19

August 2021 witnessed the Taliban capturing Kabul, after, the subsequent, withdrawal over the US forces from Afghanistan, after, the war on Terror since 2001.



Concerns of Taliban Takeover for India

① Security Concern: Taliban harboured Al-Qaeda Terrorists, Haqqani networks. It had facilitated the Kandahar hijacking in 1991.

② Economic Concern (a) India had invested billions in physical infrastructure, like, the Tarbela Dam,

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Afghanistan parliament building, numerous highway, and so.

(b) The Chabahar port, which connected India to Central Asia and Afghanistan lost its relevance due to rise of unfriendly regime.

(c) Indian lost access to road routes to Eur Asia, Central Asia, due to Pakistan-Taliban collaborations.

③ Geopolitical Concern : Beijing recognizing the Taliban government, implied, an unfriendly axis in the northern and western front for India

④ Humanitarian Concern : India always stood for the Afghan people, and, the Taliban Regime, could inflict, sufferings for Afghans, especially women & minorities.

India's course of action !

① India, could, recognize the Taliban

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regime, and, ensure protection of its investments and the afghan people.

② India should engage with western powers to ensure safety of the afghan people.

③ Multilateral organisations like the SCO, SAARC must be engaged by India to ensure safety of Indian concerns with respect to Taliban Regime.

④ Suspension of ties, and, not involving in communication with Taliban should, be prevented, as, it doesn't help the concern of Indian government and people.

The Taliban regime provides complex geo-political challenge to the Indian government, which, must be wisely dealt with.

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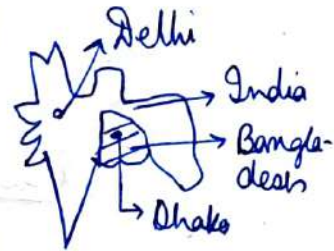
20. Bangladesh is not only a key part of India's "Neighbourhood First policy" but also crucial for the "Act East policy". In this context, discuss the steps taken by the two countries to strengthen their relationship.

Recently India - Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of diplomatic ties.

20

Bangladesh was liberated post 1971 war,

with the active involvement of Indian armed forces, helping, the Mukti-Bahini of Bangladesh.



Bangladesh, shares, a porous border with India ranging over rivers, delta, swamps and hills.

India - Neighbourhood First & Act East Policy

① Under the Trizal doctrines,

Bangladesh is Key component of Neighbourhood policies first policies.

② Bangladesh, sharing, a long border with North East India, and, a land border with Myanmar is also Key part of Act-East policy of the current government.

Steps Taken by countries to strengthen ties

① Economic ties: Numerous land borders across West Bengal, Meghalaya and Tripura opened up to facilitate ties. eg: Changrabandha border outpost.

② Logistic ties: Launching of BBIN Motor Vehicle Initiative & Kaladan Multi modal hub to boost logistic ties.

③ Energy ties: India has helped develop Rooppur power plant in Bangladesh.

④ Military ties: Joint military exercises like Sampriti to boost military relations.

⑤ Cultural ties: Bongabandhu Bhavan in Shantiniketan, ICCR programmes to help integrate cultural ties between people.

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⑥ Geo-political ties: Paradiplomacy launched, Hiba diplomacy, Mango diplomacy to bolster ties between the leaders of the countries launched.

Challenges

- ① Teesta River water sharing issues
- ② Farakka Barrage leading to siltation
- ③ Big brother image of India
- ④ Cattle smuggling - fake currency issue
- ⑤ Bangladesh - A safe haven for Anti-Indian activities

} Bone of contention between Ties

Wayforward

- ① India - Bangladesh should foster close economic integration via BIMSTEC and SASEC
- ② People to people connect via tourism and cultural cooperation.

India - Bangladesh close cooperation will help South Asia develop as a super power in global affairs.