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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

Name of Candidate	NAVNEET MANN		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG	Registration Number	36473
Center	ORN	Date	17/08/2019

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).
2	10		2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH
3	10		3. All questions are compulsory.
4	10		4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
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.
6	10		6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7	10		7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
8	10		
9	10		
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11	15		
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18	15		
19	15		
20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

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

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

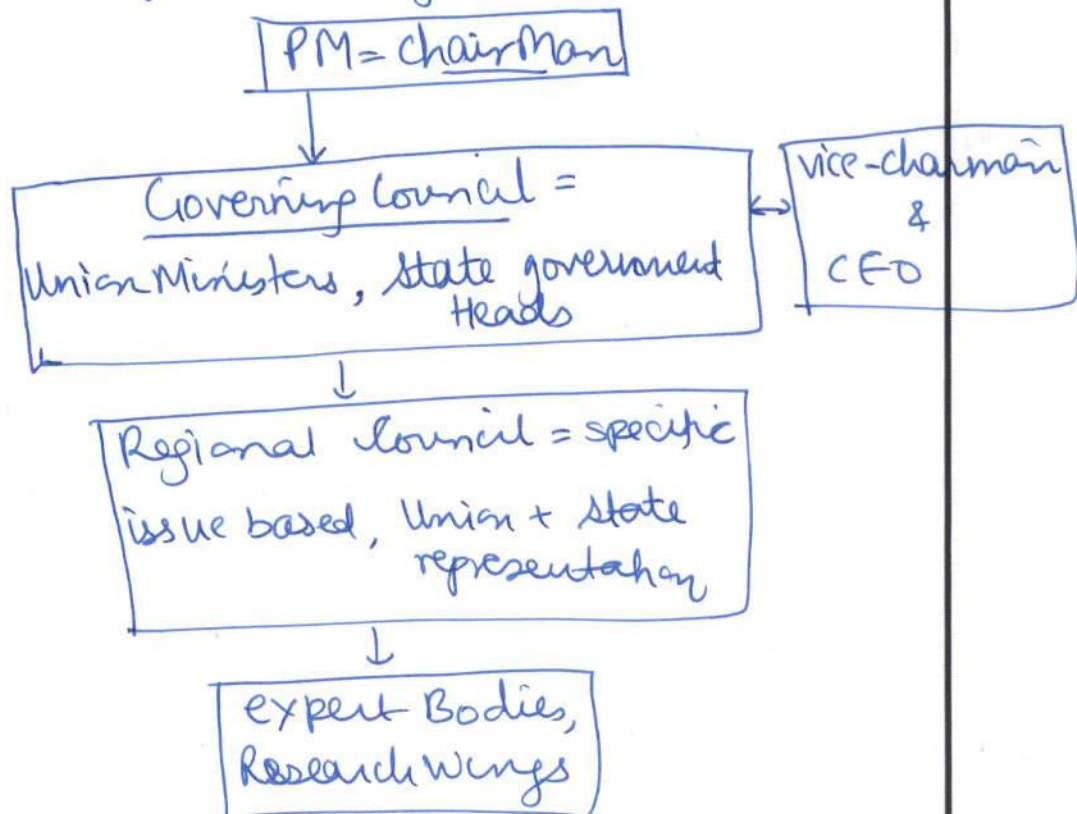
6.

All the Best

1. Mention the structure and functions of NITI Aayog. Also, comment on its contemporary relevance. (150 words) 10

Niti Aayog serves as the premier think tank for the government of India. It is a non-constitutional, non-statutory body which replaced the erstwhile Planning Commission of India.

Structure of Niti Aayog



Functions

1) Primary Objective = "shared vision of national development goals with active cooperation of states."

2) Guiding Principles :

- village
- inclusion
- governance
- demographic dividend
- people participation
- antyodaya
- sustainability

3) Continued Relevance

- 1) Pillar of Cooperative federalism
- 2) Competitive federalism (eg → Health Progressive States Index Report)
- 3) Accountability (eg Development Evaluation & Monitoring office)
- 4) Research and innovation (eg AI, Renewable energy)
- 5) Platform to discuss collective concerns

Thus, Niti Aayog is the premier platform for Centre-State Cooperation. By ^{some} minimum fund dispersal, greater stakeholder involvement, Niti Aayog 2.0 can be further augmented.

2. Critically discuss the practice of setting up Fast Track Courts to reduce pendency of cases in the judiciary. (150 words) 10

fast track courts (FTCs) are special courts constituted to reduce pendency of cases at the level of district and subordinate courts. In the recent times, the 14th Finance Commission called for formation of more FTCs at cost of Rs 4100 cr.

Need of FTCs

- fast track disposal of cases
- to reduce pendency, arrears in courts
- lower burden to increasing cases on the judiciary
- to deal with sensitive cases on priority basis
(eg → Jessica Lal Murder case)

Issues with FTCs

- Rising pendency of cases

- lack of adequate infrastructure,
absence of proper video/voice conferencing
- shortage of funds, especially since state
governments have been given primary
responsibility
- increasing workload of cases
- no special mechanism to fast track cases,
functioning is same as ordinary courts

Measures Required

- increase state government's awareness
to contribute to FTCs
- creation of proper structure of judiciary
especially FTCs. SC states that FTCs
should be either abolished or made permanent
- special guidelines to create fast track procedure
- reforms in investigation

Thus, FTCs need to be reformed as they
are key to speedy justice, a fundamental right

3. Highlight the challenges faced by lower judiciary in India and suggest measures for enhancing their productivity. (150 words) 10

The lower judiciary - district and subordinate courts - form the foundation of the Indian judicial system. These are responsible for adjudicating the base bones of the law at the ground level.

Challenges for lower judiciary

- 1) Rising pendency of cases : Out of 3.5 crore pending cases, 87.5% are in subordinate courts.
- 2) Slow and staggered process of appointment
- 3) Suboptimal levels of investigation
- 4) lack of adequate infrastructure and finances
- 5) lack of efficiency in disposal of cases.
Economic Survey 2018-19 : needs to be increased by 24.5%.
- 6) unequal frequencies of disposal and settling of cases (depends on state, case type).
- 7) Rising vacancies (>25%)

Measures Required

- 1) Streamline appointment process with active coordination between Governor, State PSC and the concerned High Court.
- 2) Appointment of more no. of Judges
- Economic Survey 2018-19: should depend on case type (more in criminal), state (like Bihar - case clearance rate = 55%.)
- 3) Increased spending on infrastructure
- 4) All India Judicial Service to attract talent
- 5) Use of ICT to enhance productivity (National Judicial Data Grid)
- 6) Address specific stages of backlog like 'Evidence' stage and 'framing of charge' stage

Right to access to fair and speedy justice is a fundamental right under Art 21. The subordinate is the first level of judiciary to uphold this right.

4. Assess the need to formalise the process of post-legislative scrutiny to improve the effectiveness of laws. (150 words) 10

Post - legislative scrutiny is a form of legislative impact assessment. It is aimed at assessing the impact of a given law in multiple ways.

Need of Post-legislative Scrutiny

- 1) Economic Need : to assess the expenditure incurred in implementing the law
- 2) Administrative Need : to assess the degree to which administrative machinery needs to be dedicated for its implementation.
- 3) Social Need : to assess whether the law is in favour or against the larger sections of the society especially the vulnerable sections

4) Judicial Impact : to assess the impact of law on litigation process given that Indian government is the largest litigant in Indian courts.

Measures Required

- 1) earmark extra funds to assess post-legislative impact
- 2) Capacity building of public servants to ~~do~~ do post-legislative scrutiny
- 3) involve citizen participation through social audits
- 4) promotion of collaborative approach by Law Ministry by involving multiple stakeholders
- 5) Use of ICT platforms like LIMBS, National Judicial DataGrid to coordinate on judicial impact.

Thus, in today's age ~~law~~ post-law scrutiny is necessary to shift from output orientation

5. Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving the effectiveness of e-governance in India. (150 words) 10

e-governance involves the application of ICT in governance mechanisms. The purpose is to make governance 'SMART' = ~~Simple~~ ^{Simple}, Moral, Accountable, Reliable and transparent.

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is a form of machine learning in which machines can take decisions like humans do.

[AI and G2B e-gov]

- AI can help predict stock market trends, prevent foreign investment outflow. Thus aiding in monetary policy.
- can help predict and prevent bottlenecks in the ease of doing business.
- efficient ^{transparent} allocation of natural resources like coal, iron, etc and spectrum.

A-I. and G2G eGov.

- effective coordination between governmental departments
- preempt delays in policy implementation
- better information management systems

AI and G2C eGov

- aids in providing effective service delivery in various sectors like health, education, food, etc.
- creation of a national database by linking key ministries' data sets to citizens' need at ground level.

Way forward

- The recently announced National Mission on Artificial Intelligence can help augment e-governance using A-I.
- However, privacy concerns too should be heard by legislating a proper Data Protection under the Srikrishna Report.

6. Despite various reforms in the public grievance redressal mechanisms, their effectiveness remain limited. Discuss. (150 words) 10

Public grievance redressal mechanisms (GRMs) are avenues for the citizenry to hold the service provider accountable in case of inadequate delivery of services.

Reforms in GRMs

- 1) formation of CPARAMS, mygov.in
- 2) use of RTI Route
- 3) Consumer Courts
- 4) Alternate dispute settlement mechanisms like Lok Adalats, Gram Nyayalas

Limitations of GRMs

- 1) lack of political and administrative goodwill

- 2) inadequate allocation of funds for implementation of GRMs
- 3) lack of awareness among citizenry
- 4) long pendency of cases
- 5) lack of ~~monetary~~ punitive action, inadequate monetary compensation.

Measures Required

- 1) Single Window GRM system for all public services as introduced in Delhi
- 2) 2nd ARC recommends creation of Public Grievance Officers at lines of PIOs of RTI Act
- 3) Use of citizen charters to enhance awareness about GRMs both in public and department.

Thus, GRMs require urgent reforms as GRMs form one of the last but most important steps in effective, transparent public service delivery.

7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it.

(150 words) 10

Art 23 of the Indian Constitution provides the fundamental rights against exploitation arising from trafficking to women and children.

Factors contributing to trafficking

- 1) economic deprivation especially among vulnerable and poor sections like women and children
- 2) lack of effective governance and enforcement mechanisms : especially in tribal areas which maximum of such cases
- 3) presence of networks of transnational organised crime
- 4) lack of education and awareness among victims making gullible to be lured by traffickers
- 5) areas of insurgency are prone to trafficking as latter generates funds to promote former

Recent Measures taken

- 1) Human trafficking (Prohibition and Rehabilitation) Bill 2019:
 - provides for stiffer penalties
 - rehabilitation homes for victims
- 2) VJWALLA scheme to aid women suffering from trafficking
- 3) Choking networks of money laundering & organised crime which sustain trafficking
- 4) Protection of children using PENCIL Portal, amendments to POSCO Act

Way forward

Human trafficking is a threat to society and internal security. Thus, concerted effort is required to eradicate it with active coordination with state and neighbouring countries.

8. With Vector-Borne Diseases (VBDs) reaching epidemic proportions in India, highlight the factors that have led to their emergence. Also, suggest some measures for their effective control and management. (150 words) 10

Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) includes diseases which are communicable and are spread by a vector like a fly, mosquito. These include diseases like dengue, chikungunya, etc.

Status of VBDs in India

- India one of the most affected countries by VBDs.
- VBDs = a new normal in season transitions especially monsoon.

Factors of emergence of VBDs

- 1) lack of effective drainage system, especially cities, leading to water-logging

- 2) reduced level of santahai and cleanliness especially in slums
- 3) overcrowdedness
- 4) more potent in hot and humid weather, which will rise due to global warming
- 5) lack of proper disposal of wastes and sludge

Measures Required

- 1) efficient sludge waste management systems (under Swachh Bharat Mission)
- 2) modernise drainage systems
- 3) vaccinations against VBDs
- 4) international cooperation to deal with Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)
- 5) encourage RWAs to go for regular fumigation drives

Thus, by sanitation-based interventions the very root cause of VBDs can be effectively tackled.

9. After years of neglect, rapidly evolving regional strategic realities are now forcing India and Indonesia to coordinate their policies ever more closely. Discuss. (150 words) 10

India - Indonesia cooperation arises from the fact that both represents the largest, most dominant players in their respective regions, former in South Asia and latter in South East Asia.

Evolving Regional Strategic Realities

- 1) Rise of China : increased assertion in the South China Sea and through BRI project
- 2) Uncertainty about USA's Role
- 3) shifting of global centre of strategic power towards the East in Asia
- 4) Increased salience of the Indo-Pacific Region as a strategic space

India - Indonesia Cooperation

- 1) Historical and cultural ties which date back to ancient times
- 2) Economic partnership
- Both are large markets for another.
- 3) Maritime security cooperation ~~Alquenter~~ ^{Forum}
(Andaman & Nicobar Command, IORA, MILAN Exercise)
- 4) Strategic Cooperation : in Indo Pacific through ASEAN
- 5) Connectivity : through air service agreement
- 6) Soft power : rising interest of Bollywood in Indonesia.

Way forward : Given that Indonesia is the largest member of the ASEAN, it will always feature as an important pillar in India's 'Act East Policy'.

10. Despite several attempts at resetting the ties, various barriers continue to be a cause of concern in the India-Nepal bilateral relations. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

It is said that no two countries share such stronger ties than India and Nepal. Ties are woven not just in history but in culture, society and even family.

Previous Attempts to reset ties

- 1) Sending Dr. S. Jaishankar as envoy after promulgation of new constitution in India.
- 2) Summit with the coming of power of new political dispensation in Nepal
- 3) Humanitarian Assistance during Nepal Earthquakes
- 5) PM Modi visit especially most recently on sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit

Continuing Barriers

- 1) Perception of "Big Brother" image of India in Nepal

- 2) perception in Nepal about India's
lack of support to present Maoist led
government
- 3) China factor : linking of Tibet with
Nepal, rail networks
- 4) Territorial disputes (Kalapani)
- 5) lack of movement of ~~renegia~~
renegotiating the friendship Treaty

Way forward

- India needs to effectively use its
soft power and goodwill to express its
clear ~~attentions~~ intentions.
- India should contribute to Nepal's
development through mechanisms like
Asia Africa Growth Corridor.

11. Delineate the differences between pressure groups and interest groups. Citing examples, elaborate on the ways in which pressure groups influence government decisions and policy making in India. (250 words) 15

Pressure groups are groups of people with common interests who come together to direct public policy and opinion in favour of their objectives. Unlike political parties, they do not aim at occupying political offices.

Pressure Groups

- focus more on the technique: increasing pressure on government
- ambiguity in defining of specific aim/interest, can change with time
- scope: wider, can serve multiple sections

Interest Groups

- action can be more broad based: involving petition, protests, lobbying, mobilisation of public.
- greater clarity in interests and objectives
- generally serves interests of particular class (eg FIICI), narrower scope

Ways of Pressure Groups influencing Government

1) increased public awareness and public mobilisation about pertinent issues

(eg → Jan Lokpal movement for Lokpal Bill)

2) source of expert opinions and policy making

(eg → National Security Council, Nih Aayog, Raisina Dialogue by MEA & ORF)

3) effective implementation of existing government programmes

(eg - NREGA, Mid Day Meal schemes)

4) voice for vulnerable sections like tribals

(eg → Narmada Bachao Andolan)

5) collaborating with bodies like
NHRC to strengthen human rights
Regime
(eg → Ranjana Foundation for jail inmates)

6) source of inspiration for government
functionaries

(eg - Jan Sunwais by Mazdoor Krishi
Shakti Sangathan)

Therefore, pressure groups as part of
the 'non party political process' aid in
effective government policy formulation
and implementation.

12. Highlighting the issues faced by the institutions of local self governance in India, suggest measures that can be taken to improve their effectiveness in the delivery of public goods and services at the grassroot level.

(250 words) 15

Institutions of local self governance were given constitutional status in India under the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts.

Issues faced by local government

- 1) lack of effective power delegation by state governments
- 2) Panchayats → Gram Sabhas meetings ineffective
ULBs → no Gram Sabha-like body
- 3) lack of adequate financing for grassroot level development
- 4) lack of audit facilities to enhance accountability of public service delivery.

- 5) lack of effective citizen engagement especially due to lack of capacity
- 6) inadequate cooperation by local level bureaucracy and administration.
- 7) ineffective use of District Planning Committees and Metropolitan Planning Committees.

Measures Required

- 1) code of conduct for Bureaucracy to enhance cooperation (like in Kerala)
- 2) State should devolve more powers, finances to local governments
- 3) capacity building of masses at grass root levels through ICT
- 4) Punchhi Commission recommends:
 - ↳ National Commission and State

Commissions for local government

↳ State Legislative Council with representation of local government.

5) 2nd ARC:

↳ Activity Based Mapping to define role of each level of local government

↳ community policing

6) increase power of State Finance Commission to augment finances of PRIs & ULBs

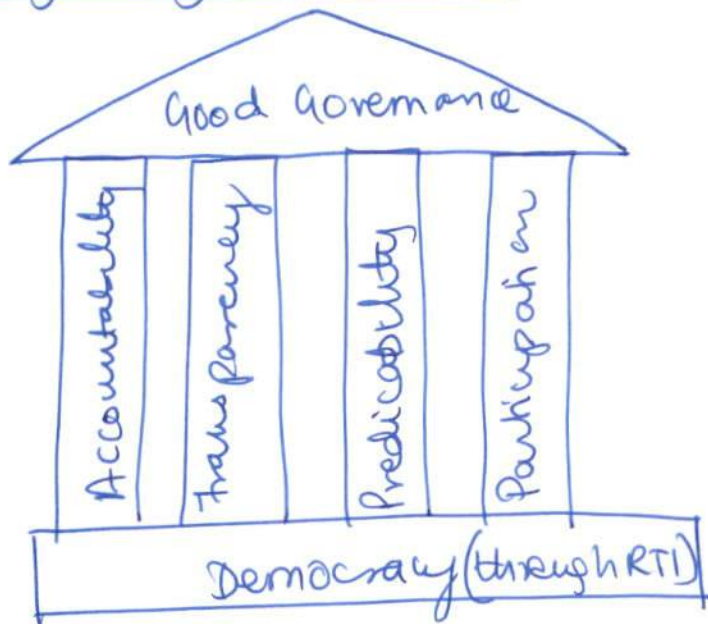
7) increase citizen engagement through social audits, citizen report cards

~~For~~ for inclusive development in today's time, a bottom up approach is required. Thus the subsidiarity principle which recognises local governance as means of development, needs to be strengthened.

13. The recent amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005 will weaken the act and undermine the authority of Information Commissioners. Discuss. (250 words) 15

Under the RTI Act 2005, any citizen of India can seek information from a 'public authority' who needs to reply expeditiously within 30 days. In the Raj Narain vs. So VP case (1976), the Supreme Court recognised the right to seek information as a right under Art 19(1)(a).

RTI & good governance



[RTI (Amendment) Bill 2019][THEN]

1) Tenure : 5 years for
Central - CIC & ICs
State levels ICs

2) Salary & service conditions

CIC - equal to Chief
Electoral Commr.

ICs - equal to ECs

State CIC - equal to ECs

State ICs - " to Chief
Secretary.

3) Reductions

When ICs/CIC receive
post-retirement / pensions

[Now]

1) to be ~~do~~ notified
by government

2) will be
determined by
government

3) removal of
provision

[Issues with the Amendment Bill]

1) weakens independence of CICs, etc.
by increasing power of Central government
to determine tenure, salary, service
conditions.

- 2) Reduction of status below Supreme Court judge: will make compliance of orders more difficult in case of higher government functionaries
- 3) Other statutory bodies like CVC continue to enjoy extensive powers.

Justification of Amendment

- 1) By removing anomalies in the Act, the overall governance structure of the RTI will be strengthened
- 2) Need to rationalise powers given that CII is a statutory body and ECI a constitutional one.
- 3) Treating their status as SC judge creates legal hindrances as cases can be filed against their orders in high court.

Thus, given that RTI Act has led to a paradigm shift from culture of secrecy to culture of openness, the Act should only be further strengthened in

14. Highlight the process of delimitation in India. Also, throw light on the debates surrounding the delimitation exercise in India. (250 words) 15

Delimitation refers to the practice of redrawing of electoral constituencies as per the latest census figures. Art 87 and Art 176 provide for the delimitation of Parliament and State legislative constituencies respectively.

Process of Delimitation

- 1) formation of Delimitation Commission by Parliament
- 2) Delimitation Commission recommends redrawing of constituencies based on latest census figures
- 3) publication in Official Gazette
- 4) tabling of recommendations in Parliament and/or State legislature
- 5) Courts cannot enquire into this exercise under Art 32(a).

6) President notifies the delimitation order.

7) Previous instances - 1952, 1962,
1976, 2000

Debates on Delimitation

1) India has one of the largest
population per MP's ratio in the
world.

2) Population has expanded multiple
times since last delimitation.

3) Shift of population to cities - which have
inadequate representation

4) Most conflictual - political equality
among North & South States as
delimitation will increase seats of
former and reduce of latter

eg	state	LS Seats (Present)	C.S. Seats (2070s)
	UP	~80	>100
	Tamil Nadu	39	<25

Way forward

The next delimitation exercise is due post-2026 Census. Given the rising population is a reality, delimitation exercise should ensure adequate representation to all. But it should also ensure that the present efforts at population stabilisation are not stalled.

15. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are vehicles of rural development, which help in the upliftment of marginalized groups. Elucidate. Further, mention the constraints faced by SHGs and how they can be addressed. (250 words) 15

SHGs are voluntary associations comprising of self governed, peer controlled informal group of people with similar socio economic background and common objectives.

Significance of SHGs in Development

- 1) promote financial literacy and inclusion
- 2) aids in community development through access to funds, technical assistance
- 3) provides for village level development (eg - Jeliya Village in Charkhand with SHG support by PRADHAN & Food Foundation)

4) empowerment of vulnerable sections like women:

- 46 mn women connected to SHG network
- Kudumbashree in Kerala

5) strengthens democratic decentralisation with greater cooperation with PRIs.

(eg- SHG linkages with Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh)

6) address concerns of socially marginalised like caste discrimination, health and educational upliftment

Constraints faced

- 1) Unequal strengths of SHG networks (more strong in South India than North)
- 2) less than average loan size from banks
- 3) lack of adequate support from SHG federations

- 4) increasing NPA of SHGs
- 5) lack of adequate awareness, financial capacity to sustain in long run.
- 6) issues in coordination.
- 7) Bottlenecks in rural areas - lack of access to infrastructure, power linkages
- 8) lack of adequate support from industry.

Measures Required

- implement government schemes through SHGs

- promote digital literacy among SHGs

- adopt best practices like

Keedumbashree Model (Kerala) and

Jeenuka (Bihar) -

- Rural Deptt.: awareness drive for SHG promotion

- structural support by handholding by SHG promoting institutes

Thus, SHGs are keys to provide for inclusive growth at grass root level. By active state support, SHGs can develop as models of inclusive development.

16. With construction of toilets being only one part of the solution for a clean India, it is time that the Swachh Bharat Mission puts more emphasis on the other facets as well. Discuss. (250 words) 15

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)
aimed at an open defecation free (ODF)
India completes five years this
October 2019.

Objectives of SBM

- ODF India by 2019
- Scientific sludge management
- behavioural change through ICE (Information Communication & Education)
- use of ICT to achieve objectives
- augment capacity of local bodies for implementation
- private sector participation

Progress Made

- 1) As of now, 98.9% of Indian households have toilets.
- 2) 93.4% villages get ODF status
- 3) 96.5% village households with toilets use them. (National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey 2018-19).

4) Health Impact

- WHO study & prevents deaths of 50,000 children in 2018

5) Economic Impact

- UNICEF study : saved Rs 50,000 in 2018 for every rural household due to presence of a toilet

6) women empowermentRemaining challenges

- 1) scientific management of sludge
- 2) eradication of manual scavenging
- 3) lack of adequate funding to ensure sustainability
- 4) unequal progress in states: Out of 1.5 crore still to be built, 0.9 cr. are needed in UP & Bihar
- 5) lack of adequate water, operation and maintenance for community toilets

Measures Required1) widen scope of SBM

- move from ODF to ODF+ (no public urination)
4 ODF++ (scientific waste management)
- decentralised waste to energy plants
- ensure that all sewage is treated before
being sent to rivers.

2) Behavioural change

- School curriculum: "Cleanliness is next to
Godliness" motto, learn
early
- Behavioural Economics to transform
default rules, to incentives & reinforce good
practices

3) Use of technology

- Bandicoot for automated sewage cleaning
- use of ~~biogas~~ ^{biogas} & twin pits

4) Policy measures

- amendments in ACT for biogas plants
- 5yr plan for scientific waste disposal systems.

Thus, Swachh Bharat needs to go beyond toilet construction in order to achieve the vision of 'Sunder Bharat'.

17. Highlight the salient features of Mission Indradhanush. What are the challenges that the mission is facing in its implementation? Suggest measures to address these challenges for progressing towards full immunization coverage. (250 words) 15

- Mission Indradhanush is aimed at providing full immunisation for children below the age of 5 years.
- It provides for free vaccination for all the 7 diseases like Polio, etc.
 - It also provides for a national dashboard to tackle progress.

Progress Made

- recognised as one of the best health initiatives across the world.
- >90% target achieved.

Challenges

- ~~poor~~ inadequate targeting at frontline.

- challenge of funding
- inadequate monetary mechanism
- issue of sustaining success over long term

Measures Required

- Prevention
 - CATCH; by Sikkim
- Increasing funding support by CSR
- use of ICT
 - + Telemedicine
 - District level dashboard
- augmenting decentralised mechanisms
(through mohalla clinics & mobile vans)

Mission Indradhanush has achieved much success in its goal of achieving immunisation. The next step is to ensure its sustainability in the long term.

18. Assess the importance of skilling in light of changing economic and demographic structure in India. In this regard, how far has the Skill India Mission succeeded in its mandate. (250 words) 15

Skill Development is one of the primary pillars for India to reap its demographic dividend.

Changing economic structure

- Shift to knowledge economy
- reduced dependence on agriculture for employment
- emergence of new technologies like AI, automation,

Changing demographic structure

- 65% population under 35 years of age
 - increasing gap between ~~simple~~ education and employability.
- (eg- Niti Aayog study - <18% of engineers are employable at graduation).

Skill India Mission

- aimed at increasing the skill knowledge of Indian youth.
- Initiatives taken ◦
 - PM Kaushal Vikas Yojna
 - formation of NCVET
 - Indian Institute of Skills

Progress Made : > 1 crore youth skilled at present.

Further Measures Required

- Skill development at level of higher education sector
(as per Draft Education Policy 2019)
- Best Practices
 - ↳ Unruhored colleges (Chattisgarh)
 - ↳ CPYTE (Punjab)

19. What according to you are the reasons that motivated India to create a dedicated Indo-Pacific division in the MEA recently? Also, highlight the challenges for India in the Indo-Pacific region. (250 words) 15

Indo Pacific is a newly emerged concept. It recognises the Indian Ocean waters from East coast of Africa to Pacific waters at west coast of US as a single strategic space. This was recognised by India by creation of a Indo Pacific Division in the MEA.



Reasons & Motivations for India

1) Economic Potential :

- carries >90% trade of India
- source of >30% oil and energy exports

- source of precious resource like polymetallic nodules (PMN)

2) Symbolic Importance :

- US recognises India as centre of Indo-Pacific
- increasing position of India as net security provider in IOR

3) Security Importance :

- protect SLOCs - freedom of navigation
- address piracy concerns

4) Strategic Concerns :

- Address Rise of China (BRI Project, assertion in South China Sea)

Steps taken by India

- Maritime security strategy 2015
- Port Development at Chabahar (Iran), Agalega (Mauritius), Duqm (Oman), Changi (Singapore).

- Strategic coordination with formation of QUAD and JAI trilateral
- coordination with ASEAN under Act East Policy
- SAGAR Approach - partnership in IORA, IONS, etc.
- Maritime exercises like MILAN
- HADR initiatives

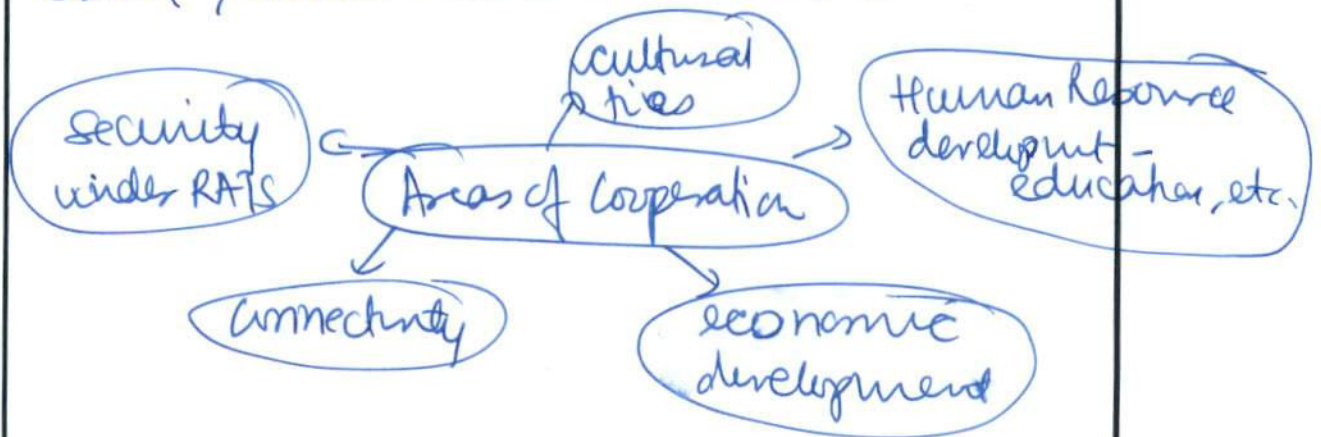
Challenges for India

- 1) lack of adequate capacity to match clout of bigger players
- 2) China's rising clout in Indo Pacific Region
- 3) Uncertainty over USA's role
- 4) Internal disputes / conflicts among members
- 5) Different expectations from QUAD
US - counter China India - Inclusion Development

In this regard, India should continue its concerted efforts to increase its presence in the Indo Pacific Region. Its vision can be summed up as SSs - samman, sambhavad, sahyog, Shanti & Samridhi (Shangri La Dialogue 2018).

20. For SCO to become a successful regional grouping, it has to overcome bilateral differences between its members and their respective geopolitical calculations. Comment. Also, discuss the role that SCO can play in enhancing India's interest in the Eurasian region. (250 words) 15

The SCO is a regional inter-governmental organisation comprising of the 5 Central Asian Republics, Russia, China, India and Pakistan.



Challenges for SCO

1) Bilateral Differences

- India - Pakistan tensions
- India - China differences (eg BRI)
- China - Pakistan Axis
- internal dispute among CARs.

2) Geopolitical calculations

- Pakistan → use of SCO to limit India's presence, increase cooperation with Russia & China
- China → promote BRI & thus increase its hegemony
- Russia → maintain its historical clout over the regions
- The Region continues to be a hub of trafficking, extremism and political instability.

Role of SCO for India

1) Connectivity

- Increased cooperation on promotion of connectivity through INSTC, Ashgabat Agreement

2) Energy security

- promote India's access to energy potential of member states - like oil/gas resources, uranium, hydropower

- 3) CARs emerging market for Indian products like generic medicines
- 4) Development assistance
(in IT sector, medicine & Education sector)
- 5) to tackle challenge of terrorism
- 6) cooperation on issue of Afghan conflict

Way forward

Given that an emerging Pak-China-Russia Axis is a harsh reality,

SCO offers India a platform to directly counter such tendencies.

This not only in the benefit of India but for the overall development of Eurasia