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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1021)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	28474
Center	RAJINDER NAGAR	Date	26/7/17

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	12.5		1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)। 2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं। 3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं। 5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे। 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए। 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
2	12.5		
3	12.5		
4	12.5		
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16	12.5		
17	12.5		
18	12.5		
19	12.5		
20	12.5		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

75, 3rd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar Market, Near Axis Bank, New Delhi – 110060

103, 1st Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009

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 POCSO Act, 2012 was enacted to ensure a dedicated legislation for protecting children below the age of 18 from sexual offences, as the current provisions under IPC were largely seen inadequate, despite the Protection of Child ~~Right~~ Rights Act.

The objectives of POCSO are -

- ① Prevention of sexual offences against boys & girls under 18 years.
- ② Prevention, detection and prosecution of online sexual abuse of children
- ③ Dedicated mechanism within police and special POCSO courts for

swift justice

- ④ Assuring swift prosecution and anonymity to victims through special public prosecutors, courts etc.
- ⑤ Expanding definition of sexual offences to ensure comprehensive protection.
- ⑥ Education, awareness and being in line with International Conventions

Given that the Act was passed amidst much expectation, given high rates of reported & unreported abuse, lack of awareness, social stigma & consequences of sexual predatory on children's mental & physical development.

However, some issues in the implementation of the Act have remained a cause for concern.

- ① Despite strict punishments, conviction rate is below 20%.
- ② Despite special courts and prosecutors, average time for disposal of cases has not reduced.
- ③ Police & investigative agencies remain reluctant to charge persons under POCSO. It is source of rent seeking too.
- ④ Malicious prosecution & 'fake reporting' & rent seeking rackets have reduced credibility of 'child witness's account' as evidence.
- ⑤ Loopholes within the Act despite Burden of Proof on accused have led to high acquittal rate.
- ⑥ Often, evidence is only child's account, making it difficult to convict. Therefore, there is a need for societal awareness within criminal justice system towards plight of children and swifter justice for victims.

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

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

The MGNREGA was initiated in 2005 based on Maharashtra's basic 'right to employment' model, even as it remains an assurance & not a right, given NREG Act, 2005.

~~NRE~~ MGNREGA has created over ten crore rural assets, employed women (40%+), SCs/STs (30%+) and landless and other rural households for over 10 million mandays in 10 years, creating sustainable assets for public good & infusing money in the hands of the needy.

The design of MGNREGA makes it more effective as -

①. Decentralised to Gram Panchayat,

Therefore works undertaken are of local use, unlike straitjacket CSS schemes.

- ② Funds transferred through AEPs or postal/bank account of the workforce, reducing leakages.
- ③ Social audit mechanism, which allows for transparency has also reduced scope for rent seeking.
- ④ Awareness generation & publicity is carried out through local, state & at national levels.
- ⑤ Online updation & archiving of all MGNREGS transactions on Ministry site has led to better research & identification of issues.
- ⑥ Discretion of individuals to work on demand.
- ⑦ No need for documents or identity papers beyond Job Card for jobs.

Thus, as most other schemes of the Centre for rural development suffer from -

- ① Straitjacket (One size fits all)
- ② Lack of transparency in allocation and disbursement of funds.
- ③ Centralised approach without outcome analysis.
- ④ Predominance of bureaucrats in implementation, and not a 'grassroots' approach.
- ⑤ Lack of responsiveness & result orientation for periodic modification of schemes.
- ⑥ Lack of e-governance, social audit or other transparency measures.

Thus, NREGA through its sheer efficiency of design & ~~also~~ socio-economic utility, has become a successful scheme in 10 years.

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 employment has been seen as the 'panacea' for issues of unemployment, poverty, health & nutrition, alongside bridging of rural-urban divide in India, while spurring economic growth.

The concept of 'Self Help Groups' in the 1980s, the ~~SGSY~~ SGSY, NRLM, STEP and other schemes have long focussed on generation of self employment in rural areas.

However, the most successful model for the same has been seen via Self Help Groups, with the assistance of microfinance institutions,

NABARD and increased banking & market penetration.

Self Help groups have increased to over 80 lac throughout India, covering over 4 crore women, largely from disadvantaged households.

eg. Lijjat Papad → Rural women created SHGs based cottage industry to make papad & sell internationally.

Effect of SHGs →

- ① Women empowerment
- ② Income increase
- ③ Better health, education & nutrition outcomes
- ④ Social integration.

eg. SHGs in Tamil Nadu now bidding for taking over tourist sites for commercial business.

Other schemes, such as the SHG Bank Linkage Programme, MUSA,

STEP, NRLM among others have also improved efficiency & capital of SHGs

Problems with SHG micro finance

① High rates $\Rightarrow$ MFIs are seen to charge 20-30% rates from SHGs, which is seen as oppressive.

② Reduced rates of pay back $\Rightarrow$ SHGs credit discipline has reduced to 85%.

③ Harassment and intimidation of SHG members once non payment eg. Andhra Pradesh.

④ SHGs now taking money for usual expenses, not capital expansion of sustainable enterprises

⑤ Lack of credit rating or platforms to bring lenders & borrowers together.

Therefore, there is a need to modify assistance to SHGs to increase self employment & increase reach of SHGs

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।

Recent & research papers by the Carnegie Endowment show the average tenure of ~~officers~~ IAS officers to be 16 months, and show this to be the 'fundamental' reason for stoppages & gaps in governance mechanisms.

The issues which arise are -

- ① More time needed to learn about job than to do job.
- ② Reluctance to take major decisions as cant carry through because of short tenure.
- ③ Reluctance to take politically sensitive decisions for fear of transfer. + Politicisation of officers.
- ④ Policies initiated are stalled as

soon as initiating officers are transferred, leading to wastage of funds & resources.

- ⑤ Authority over staff reduces as they are assured that each incumbent is not for long.
- ⑥ Schemes, policies etc can't be implemented as leadership of department doesn't have 'experience', depth or interest in matter.
- ⑦ Officer's morale goes down and motivation for work reduces.

The problem is as acute at the Centre & more so in states. Thus, the 2nd ARC has recommended a 'Civil Services Board' on the lines of the British system to 'insulate' bureaucrats from political influence & pressures. It has both pros and cons-

Pros -

- ① May ensure longer tenures
- ② Leads to picking of most technically sound officers, not politically desirable
- ③ Accountability of officers for schemes & policies under them improves
- ④ Result orientation & reduced politicisation of civil services.

Cons

- ① Need control of Political leadership over government in Parliamentary democracy.
- ② May reduce accessibility of officers
- ③ Piquant situation where civil servants have power, but the Council of Ministers is held accountable.
- ④ May lead to nepotism and also favouritism among bureaucrats.

Thus, even as it is a desirable idea, need to introduce accountability for civil servants so as to

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।

Given that ~~low~~ the State spends 1.6% of GDP on healthcare, whereas the desirable rate is 4-5%, healthcare has been 'taken over' by the private sector due to structural inadequacies of government structures.

80% of in-patient & 85% of outpatients are in private hospitals, as government PHCs, CHCs and district hospitals are understaffed, underpaid, have ~~great~~ absenteeism, low stocks of medicines & equipment and inadequacy of infrastructure.

It is also seen that as Health is a state subject, 'multiple regulators' such as MCI, Dental

Pharma Councils, State Health department, GOI etc. lead to 'overregulation' of unneeded areas, whereas 'underregulation' of private hospitals, prices, drugs, procedures and ethical practices has led to -

- ① Disease resistance.
- ② Disease induced poverty due to over-diagnosis & over-charging.
- ③ Collusion with Pharma and regulatory agencies.

~~With~~ With the breakdown of public health structures, the 'extractive' value of private sector is seen through high prices & costs, which leads many into poverty & even incentivizes 'silent suffering' without visiting

doctors, instead go to quacks & vaidys.

Therefore, there is a need to ensure a higher rate and efficiency of state & central expenditure on healthcare, while restructuring MCI to perform its desired roles of regulation.

There is also a need to continue regulation of medicines & implements under NLEM, while ensuring prescription of cheaper generic medicines via Jan Aushadhi Stores.

Reducing absenteeism, vacancies while increasing capacity of government hospitals will ensure an affordable, accessible and an equitable system, which is needed to stop pushing people into poverty due to health expenses.

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।

Non Governmental Organisations is seen to refer to those societies, Trusts or non profit (8.25) Companies which are primarily engaged in socio-economic, political ~~or~~ cultural or regional growth & development.

Such organisations have played an instrumental role in ~~so~~ aiding, advising, criticising & even in reforming government policy. eg. RTI Act, NREGA, Time bound service delivery..

Additionally, they provide evidence based feedback, assist implementation of schemes and even act as beneficiaries and channels for the

effective penetration of schemes to the 'Antodaya'.

Thus, taxation (ul IT Act), investment (FCRA) and regulatory mechanisms need to be built in a manner so as to better regulate & channel NGOs towards a public oriented & transparent mechanism.

Recently, the probes into Foreign Contributions, removal of FCRA license of 'delinquent' organisations along with reduction in government aid has affected NGOs adversely.

This has had the effect of removing NGOs which worked as 'conduits' of black money and government largesse without working on the

ground. However, given the instrumental & indispensable role of NGOs in advising, reporting, implementing, auditing giving feedback & popularising initiatives of government, There is a need to 'regulate', not 'restrict'.

- ① Need cancellation of 'shell' NGOs so that burden of regulator can be shifted to working NGOs.
- ② Rating system to judge efficient use of funds, ground impact etc. for funding. eg. Akshaye Patra.
- ③ Build database of NGOs which specialise in sectors to utilise them fully.
- ④ Reduce harassment via online mechanisms for reporting FCR A etc.

∴ Under Principle of Subsidiarity, must include NGOs for

efficient delivery of schemes on ground.

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 Technology has increased manifold in its extent & magnitude of penetration into daily lives through ease of access, efficiency, low costs and government initiatives, such as Digital India.

It is expected that India will 'leapfrog' into the 'Digital Age' with the first mover advantage to capture digital services, manufacturing and skilling.

~~However~~ It is seen that an emphasis on digital infrastructure expansion, digital literacy and digital services will positively impact education, health, agriculture, public administration, transparency, manufacturing

cost efficiencies & shall affect all spheres of living.

However, the response to and the effect of such technologies has not been very forthcoming. →

Positives

- ① MOOCs, digital repositories and e-books have improved learning outcomes.
- ② DBT-JAM has increased cost efficiency & reduced leakages.
- ③ m-Kisan, Fasal Bino Yojana & KisanTV has been seen to improve awareness & responsiveness.
- ④ Increased connectivity, transparency etc via mobiles, internet etc.

Negatives

- ① 'Digital Divide', wherein 40% of population has no literacy or access to digital devices,

- ② 'Digital products are foreign produced as domestic digital hardware is not present. Leading to reduction in employment & foreign exchange.
- ③ Digitisation has reduced opportunities for employment via computerisation, AI & robotics.
- ④ Efficiency & effectiveness of digital schemes not conclusive.
- ⑤ Dividend in terms of foreign employment or export opportunities remain restricted.
- ⑥ Increased risk of cyber attacks on systems.

Therefore, the creation of a 'Digital India' will only result in increased equitable growth if a comprehensive view is taken, including R&D, domestic industry, employment, digital literacy etc.

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।

Public Policy requirements refer to the perceived role of the state in socio-economic, cultural, infrastructural & legal & administrative spheres so as to equitably provide better living conditions to citizens.

It has often been argued that civilservants at the 'cutting edge' policy making & implementation levels remain 'generalists', where in their responsibilities & duties are not based on their areas of technical or operational expertise.

Given the increasing integration of Indian society, increasingly complex

economic structures & infrastructural ~~also~~ issues, the Indian state is faced with novel challenges which require 'specialisation' & 'in depth' study aside from a broad multidisciplinary approach.

The Indian Civil Services comprise of two types ⇒

① Generalists Administrators & Generalists
IAS, State Civil Services & Secretarial services are 'generalists', although they have unmatched multidisciplinary understanding & expertise in administration.

② Specialists
IPS, Trade Service, Railway services, Revenue service, Economic services along with State Irrigation, power & agricultural services etc.

The ~~was~~ need for 'specialisation' is as -

- ① Issues have become complex
eg. Biotechnology, Statistics
- ② Economy & polity are changing,
thus needing in-depth study &
analysis.

Therefore, it is seen that specialisation would lead to a better understanding of issues & a more efficient delivery & policy system can be created with specialisation.

Routes → ① Compulsory specialisation
for IAS/PCS officers

- ② Larger role to specialist services
- ③ Lateral entry of experts.

Thus, through recent attempts at getting lateral entrants at mid & to p levels in Government of India & posting specialist officers in ministries, the Government has

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।

National Digital Library refers to a public ~~app~~ repository of all educational publications of Government of India which can be remotely accessed via mobile or ~~any~~ other digital means via internet.

The NDL has been envisaged to -

- ① Improve access to credible publications for rural & remote areas
- ② Broaden access from students to all persons for reference and self education.
- ③ Solve issue of 'affordability' of multiple books

- ④ Presence of public funded research papers will broaden access of persons for further studies.
- ⑤ makes available different types of interdisciplinary material.

Thus, the NDL is seen to solve challenges of Access, affordability and availability of material & resources for all persons, while reducing weight load off school backpacks.

However, in the absence of viable multi-lingual, multi-platform, fast & low data usage applications, it may remain a challenge to popularise NDL.

The challenges to the sustainability of NDL Are -

- ① Digital Divide $\Rightarrow$ 40% of Indians lack digital access or literacy
- ② Literacy $\Rightarrow$ ~~only~~ more than 25% of the population lacks literacy, while basic education outcomes have gone down drastically
- ③ Awareness $\Rightarrow$ NDL needs to be popularised at community level.
- ④ Language $\Rightarrow$ The material has to remain competently multilingual for full access
- ⑤ Cost of Data $\Rightarrow$ Must also provide internet in schools, public libraries & village CSCs.

Thus, NDL is a progressive step towards better educational & research outcomes if a holistic approach is taken.

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।

Urban Homeless households refer to families or household units who don't have a ~~dwelling~~ permanent dwelling unit, and are forced to periodically relocate or seek shelter in hazardous locations. eg. public streets, rail lines.

Therefore, Urban homeless are those who's ~~do not have~~ dwelling units do not qualify as 'slum areas' or permanent units.

Urban homeless have risen to 3% of urban population, owing to 'organic' & non-planned expansion of cities, absence of

affordable housing & land, lack of employment & sustenance along with social & persecution of certain groups. eg. Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

These households remain the most vulnerable to lack of education, lack of identity or benefits from government (PDS, Kerosolek), sexual exploitation, diseases & absence of sanitation.

Challenges -

Sexual exploitation, sanitation, health, drinking water, education, entitlement benefits, law enforcement authorities, absence of identity or access to sustainable means of adequate income, weather & climate.

Even as housing is not a panacea for some ills, the lack of housing gives rise to most issues.

The reason for increase has been lack of non farm jobs & landless workers in rural areas, along with un planned growth of urban areas which shows lack of affordable, safe housing.

The 'Housing for All' mission aims to rehabilitate such persons. However, a 'holistic' approach is needed to provide them sustainable access to better conditions-

- ① Skills under PMKVY which is linked with placements.
- ② Admission to local schools of children.
- ③ Toilets under Swachh Bharat
- ④ Aadhaar card & attendant benefits.

Thus, to fully utilise labour force for comprehensive economic upliftment, conditions of homeless

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 used by the Central Electricity Authority for electrification of villages is as follows.

- ① ~~Electricity~~ Electricity poles go to village
- ② 10% houses electrified.
- ③ Dalit 'basti' of village has poles of electricity.
- ④ School / Public meeting place of village has electricity

As the definition is seen 'restrictive' given that despite 18000 villages left for electrification, electricity uptake by 'electrified' villages remains very low.

Challenges in Rural Electrification -

- ① Cost of laying transmission, feeders & transformers is uneconomical for smaller villages.
- ② Revenue realisation from villages is very low due to 'Katis' or illegal connections.
- ③ Uptake is majorly for agriculture & borewells. Domestic uptake is low as electricity is erratic.
- ④ Differential subsidies for different uses of electricity without feeder separation reduces revenue.
- ⑤ Corruption in electricity provision & revenue realisation.
- ⑥ Far flung areas can only get microgrids which are 'off grid'.

Thus, the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Vidutikaran Yojana aims to 'electrify' all villages by 2019 & provide sustainable access to 24x7 electricity.

The Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) will provide for feeder separation, sub stations & feeders for better provision and accounting of electricity.

The National Solar Mission, Wind Energy Policy, Geothermal Energy & Etc can also spur 'off grid' & surplus electricity feeder projects for far flung areas to allow ~~for~~ locals to 'gain' revenue from renewable power generation.

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 2009 operationalised Article 21A to provide compulsory education to all ~~stud~~ children (6-14 years) with entitlements to books, mid day meals, quality education and 'student mapping', to provide equity, access, affordability and availability of education to all students, especially from remote or disadvantaged communities & areas.

The Act succeeded in increasing primary enrolment to near 100% while granting access through school infrastructure & teachers.

to all.

However, a number of structural issues, identified by Jeeta Bhukkal ~~and~~ TS R Subramanian committees have constrained 'RTE'. →

- ① No failing policy till Class 8 fails to improve outcomes.
- ② Student mapping has led to many 'small schools' with <50 students or single teacher schools.
- ③ Absence of teacher training or qualification criterion in the Act, ~~or~~ while increasing burden on ~~the~~ under-equipped teachers has reduced outcomes.
- ④ Absence of provisions to deal with different types of disabilities.
- ⑤ Stringent provisions for infra-structure has led to closing down

of many private schools

- ⑥ Lack of focus on 'outcomes' has resulted in dismal learning as seen in ASER Reports., resulting in reduced employability.

Therefore, there is a need to review the RTE Act, and the mechanisms of implementation thereof.

The RTE has achieved 'quantity' by providing access, & now must focus on 'quality' improvements through ICT, teacher training, MOOCs, library access and vocational training & assessment.

13. Critically examining the key provisions of The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016, discuss whether a complete ban on commercial surrogacy is justified.

सुरोगेसी (विनियमन) विधेयक 2016 के प्रमुख प्रावधानों का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए, साथ ही इस पर चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या वाणिज्यिक सुरोगेसी पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध न्यायोचित है?

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill aims to 'regulate' the hitherto unregulated surrogacy industry which had sprouted c. ₹35000 crore domestic & international market for largely poor surrogates ('rent a womb') mothers.

The provisions are as follows -

- ① Ban on commercial surrogacy.
- ② Penalty & punishment for doctors, clinics & participants of commercial surrogacy.
- ③ Only altruistic surrogacy allowed -
For couple married ≥ 5 yrs.
By close family, only if

They have no children.

- ④ Setting up of Surrogacy Boards to regulate and enforce
- ⑤ Outlaws adoption and surrogacy by foreigners and non married, single or homosexuals.

It is seen that the commercial Surrogacy 'market' was both a boon and a bane -

Boon

- ① Income support & respect for largely poor & rural women.
- ② Spurs economy, utilises services of housewives.
- ③ Article 21 ~~is~~ implied right to have children despite to medical issues.

- ④ Ethically benign, as one does for others, what one would expect them to do.

Cons

- ① Exploitation of women by clinics, middlemen & renters,
- ② Legal issues with Japan, Australia & Germany when parents refused to take babies.
- ③ No regulations implied women's health suffered, & 'commodification' of womb took place.

Therefore, as 'bans' of socially desirable objects often result in them going underground, it is desirable if the commercial surrogacy industry is regulated over board to ensure women's & child's health & income support.

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?

Overall government education expenditure has consistently remained at 1.6% of GDP despite the RTE & massive school expansion.

However, as 'education' is a concurrent subject, the primary responsibility for school education has been left to states, with grants from the Centre, while the setting up of universities, funding through UGC & professionalising has been taken over by sectoral central regulators (AICTE, BCI, MCI) and UGC.

A large portion of education budget

of Centre is allotted largely to 'few' universities, at the expense of primary and secondary education.

Even as the overall aim should be-

- ① Expansion of education expenditure
- ② Regulation of private sector
- ③ State government led education spending.

It is seen shifting of funds from higher to primary education has pros & cons-

④. Pros

- ① Learning outcomes will improve & result in fully competent & literate society.
- ② As 'skilling' of majority is more essential than higher education of few, it will improve employability.

③ Social inclusion, as disadvantaged would be most empowered, as only few SC/ST/Muslims/OBCs in overall teams get higher education

Cons

- ① High value employment, services sector ~~and~~ high tech investment will stall
 - ② R&D, banking financial services & IT, which constitute majority of GDP growth, will stall.
 - ③ Lack of teachers at all levels.
 - ④ Disadvantaged ~~with~~ sections will be at mercy of high cost private institutions.
 - ⑤ Cutting edge research will be stalled.
- 'Brain Drain'

Thus, even as it would achieve equity, it will result in richer sections accessing higher

education & taking high value jobs.
The ~~an~~ ~~can~~ increase & optimise expenditure.

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।

Accessibility for disabled
has been at the forefront with
the passing of the Disability Act,
2013 recently, along with the
Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan.

It is seen that 'disabled', before
signing UN Convention on Disability
& passing of the new Act, -

- ① were narrowly defined
- ② Suffer from social stigma
- ③ Social & economic exclusion.
- ④ Lack of access to health & education
- ⑤ Specialised needs are not catered
for, resulting in mental & physical
distress & emotional trouble.

The main points of issue are -

- ① Access to public buildings
- ② Access to health, education, sanitation, medicines and ~~society~~
- ③ Lack of awareness & knowledge, resulting in stigma & exclusion
- ④ Transport infrastructure not geared to their needs.

Thus, Suganya Bheerat Abhiyan, launched in 2016 called 'Accessible India Campaign' will attempt to holistically convert 'viklang' into 'dhang' through three pronged strategy -

① Access to Buildings

Funding & construction of disabled friendly public buildings, schools

colleges & hospitals.
Special teaching & hospital staff
for disabled.

② Transport Infrastructure

'Inclusive' & Intelligent buses,
Metros, Trains and vehicles
are being procured & designed
for government use & Through
states rules.

③ Awareness & Knowledge

Among general public via
social media, television and
road shows, to sensitized
make aware of special
needs

will include inclusive TV channels
& internet videos.

Thus, this is a progressive
step for disabled, however the
implementation, funding and change

in attitude will result in sustainable
... movement.

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 प्रतिस्पर्धाओं में भारत के प्रदर्शन को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अन्य वांछित पहलों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Given the historically underwhelming performance of Indian athletes in Olympics & the recent sports & breakthroughs in shooting, badminton and wrestling among others, India is faced with 'promising talent' rising without government support as SAI, state departments & federations suffer from structural issues.

The Ministry of Sports has initiated Mission Olympic Podium, wherein an 'Olympic Task Force' under Abhinav Bindra has been

constituted with the following objectives -

- ① Select sports, geographical areas and coaches specifically
- ② Dual Approach
 - ① Support to all Olympic hopefuls & infrastructure improvement
 - ② Pick 'winners' in academies and individuals to concentrate on.
- ③ Advise & coordinate between Governments of India & States along with federations, in tune with international event calendar.
- ④ Periodic review, assessment & modifications.

The Task Force removes some of the structural ills of Indian Sports administration, such

- as $\Rightarrow$
- ① Multiple authorities
 - ② Red Tape
 - ③ Lack of expertise
 - ④ Presence of professionals.
 - ⑤ Time specific, goal oriented mandates
 - ⑥ Accountability, funds & political support.

Additionally, India has built world class training centres & stadiums under SAI, while initiating 'Khelo India'

to popularise sports.

Holding international events such as South Asian Games, CWG and FIFA Youth World Cup have also bolstered awareness & support

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 से 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।

The Supreme Court has recently factored in social realities and situational necessity to re-interpret the scope of laws under PWDVA, 2005 by expanding scope from 'Adult Male' as a sole source of abuse & violence to ⇒

- ① Non males ⇒ Females
- ② Non adults ⇒ Minors, elderly.

This has come amidst an expansion of definition of 'Domestic violence' to include that against househelps, family members

or other household residents.

Benefit of amendment

① Children & women will also be held guilty.

e.g. Mother in law accused of dowry charges also under Domestic violence.

② Will increase rates of protection to women where law enforcement cannot enter.

③ Holistically covers scope of Act's Preamble, as comprehensive security & legal redress provided.

However, the victims of DV also have to be factored in, and definition of 'victim' may also be looked at so as to

make it gender neutral
Also, in line with Supreme
Court judgements on Dowry
case- based harassment, this
increases scope for harassing,
blackmailing or coercing other
members of household with
a case under a stringent Act.

Thus, need exists to stall
procedures of automatic
arrests & reversed burden of
proof, as the victim must
make a credible 'prima facie'
case.

A strict penalty for misuse
must also be given to ensure
gender equality & comprehensive
protection of women in households.

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 has emerged as a tool for empowerment, improved responsiveness & service delivery in government, while increasing transparency & accountability through its mechanisms of appeals and penalties.

Despite 95% responsiveness of public authorities according to CIC, some structural issues have led to the misuse of the Act -

① 'Any Citizen' ⇒ The Act does

not need 'reasons' for
~~giving~~ asking for information.
Thus, frivolous requests filed.

② Government functionaries or
their proxies often demand infor-
mation to strengthen litigation
against colleagues or department.

③ Contractors & private parties -
misuse RTI to discredit other
parties and persons, whilst
stalling projects

④ ~~Repetitive~~ Doubtful decisions
of public servants are demanded
to 'blackmail' bureaucrats
for money or other favours.

⑤ Act allows persons to file
information which may be
3rd party, but PIOs often give

make fide in 'public interest.'

Therefore, there is a need to
ask for reasons for information,
disallow department officers
from frivolous information
and to strengthen disclosure
without stalling governance.

~~Therefore,~~

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?

Transgenders have remained culturally, socially, economically and legally excluded for centuries, however their rights & empowerment along with increased awareness has resulted in many transgenders in politics & leadership roles.

The NALSA v. UoI judgement granted transgenders rights of 'third gender' and to allow recognition of their status &

allow socio-economic growth & development.

The Transgender Bill 2016 was a Private Members Bill passed in Rajya Sabha which aimed to -

- ① provides rights of recognition of gender
- ② Allow inclusion in education, healthcare & social services
- ③ Specialised schemes for their skill development & upliftment
- ④ Penalty for atrocities against transgender on lines of M S/ST PoA Act.
- ⑤ Traditional & cultural rights & practices of transgender be maintained & recognised.

The Bill addresses issues of exploitation, recognition, discrimination, economic opportunities and social exclusion.

However, implementation & enactment of Bill would require change in mindsets and attitudes, which has to occur through political leadership, awareness and education.

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।

The Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act 2006 -

- ① Recognises historical injustice & rights of forest dwellers over forest resources
- ② Grants community rights to minor forest produce, village land, grazing areas, ponds and right of consent over usage of forest land
- ③ Consent of Gram Sabha for utilisation & acquisition of land

④ Individual rights to dwelling and agricultural land,

Therefore, PESA Act aimed to economically & legally empower tribals to improve social integration and forest conservation, while recognising rights.

However, implementation issues have paralysed the Act -

① Gram Sabha Consent & public hearing are not seen as legitimate by many protesting tribal groups against acquisition.

② Non tribal 'Other traditional Forest Dwellers' don't share historic & religious relationship with forests, & therefore ~~at~~ ~~down forest are not~~ often hurt local ecology

- ③ Forest Departments often monopolise rights of sale over Minor Forest Produce
- ④ Narrow definitions of MFP to exclude locals.
- ⑤ ~~the~~ Linear projects such as roads & railways were exempted from Gram Sabha nod.

Therefore, to achieve goals of preamble of FRA Act, there is a need to follow 'spirit' of the Act and allow freedom & limited regulation of such communities to sustainable use of resources, along with benefits of development to such persons.