



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1152)

Name of Candidate	ANKIT		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	25670
Center	DELHI	Date	13 TH Sept, 18

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		<ol style="list-style-type: none">Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
2	10		
3	10		
4	10		
5	10		
6	10		
7	10		
8	10		
9	10		
10	10		
11	15		
12	15		
13	15		
14	15		
15	15		
16	15		
17	15		
18	15		
19	15		
20	15		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			

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

M-1/4, Plot No-A-12/13, 1st Floor, Ansal Building, Dr. Vidya Sagar Homeopathic Clinic, 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.

1. The crucial position accorded to the Speaker in Indian legislatures, makes it imperative to protect them from undue political pressures. Examine.

(150 Words) 10

भारतीय विधान-मंडलों में अध्यक्ष को प्रदान की गई महत्वपूर्ण प्रस्थिति वस्तुतः उन्हें अनुचित राजनीतिक दबावों से सुरक्षित करना अनिवार्य बनाती है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Speaker under the Indian constitution, performs the role of a regulator of free flow of discussions & debates in the Indian Parliament.

The role performed by a Speaker is as follows:

- a) Allowing discussions, debates on government policies
- b) Enforcing decorum, discipline in legislative discussions.
- c) Deciding on discretionary matters, like anti-defection rules.
- d) Spearhead various parliamentary committees (standing & ad-hoc)

- e) Ensuring administrative efficiency of parliament with the help of Secretariat.
- f) Classification of bills as money bills
- g) Quasi-Judicial functions → action against privilege motions, contempt etc.

Thus, in light of the seriousness of the above functions, a partisan speaker, can be bad in the following ways:

- a) Disguise of legislations under money bills.
- b) Unfairness in decisions → like anti-defection
- c) Suppression of freedom of speech of parliamentarians
- d) Stalling of working of various committees that can scrutinise government.

Thus, it is necessary that speakers are protected from political pressures to faithfully discharge their duties.

2. Examine the significance of Gram Sabhas, as mentioned in Article 243A of the Indian constitution, in the development process with special reference to Fifth Schedule areas. (150 Words) 10

पांचवीं अनुसूची के क्षेत्रों के विशेष संदर्भ के साथ विकास की प्रक्रिया में, भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 243A में वर्णित ग्राम सभाओं के महत्व का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Gram Sabhas, after their constitutional validation under the 73rd Amendment, have acquired a major role in grassroots development.

Relevance of Gram Sabhas, as highlighted under article 243A are:

- a) Preparation of development proposals → which are further checked by higher agencies.
- b) Consideration of local requirements → of roads, schools, hospitals
- c) Justice and equitable society is established through discussions.
- d) Community belonging, as a feeling is developed.

- e) Women empowerment is further improved, especially through constitutional reservation.
- f) Social audit functions are performed → enhancing transparency, accountability.
- g) Empowerment of backward sections → SCs / STs through reservations & leadership.

with special reference to 5th schedule areas, Gram Sabhas:

- a) Give approval to district development plans.
- b) Are entitled to preserve their local customs, traditions.
- c) Authorised to approve land acquisition, rehabilitation, etc.
- d) have representation at higher levels of governance as well as autonomy.

Thus, the 73rd amendment has brought in a radical improvement in service delivery through Gram Sabhas.

3. On what grounds can a person be denied the right to contest elections to the Parliament in India? Will a lifetime ban on those convicted of heinous crimes address the problem of criminalization of politics? Discuss in light of recent judgments by the Supreme Court. (150 Words) 10

किसी व्यक्ति को भारत में संसद हेतु चुनाव लड़ने के अधिकार से किन आघातों पर वंचित किया जा सकता है? क्या जघन्य अपराधों के दोषी व्यक्तियों पर आजीवन प्रतिबंध से राजनीति के अपराधीकरण की समस्या हल होगी? सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा दिए गए हाल के निर्णयों के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

In India, various legislations & supreme court judgements outline the grounds, on which a person loses the right to contest elections.

Some of these are:

- a) RPA, 1951
- b) Supreme court ~~to~~ Guidelines for decriminalization & transparency of politics.

Some of the relevant grounds are:

- a) Heinous crimes, that can lead to prison sentence over 2 years (disqualifications upto 6 years under RPA, 1951).
- b) Promoting enmity among groups during elections, based on religion

Caste, gender, Creed etc.

- c) loss of citizenship
- d) Age limits (minimum 25 years of age needed)

A lifetime ban on convicted persons would have following implications:

Pros

- 1) Public image of parties will improve
- 2) Restoration of faith in electoral process
- 3) Spillover effects to economic, social, ~~para~~ administrative areas

Cons

- 1) Injustice to people who have been implicated falsely under political motivations.
- 2) Even arrests under sedition act, UAPA, 1967 etc, can lead to social activists losing the right to contest.

Thus, instead of a lifetime ban, to pursue the goal of decriminalization, increasing voter awareness, transparency of filing process and regular financial, criminal audits are necessary.

4. The Departmentally-Related Standing Committees have been referred to as mini-parliaments in India. Highlight their relevance in a democratic polity and discuss, with examples, how they improve the overall effectiveness of the Parliament. (150 Words) 10

विभागों से संबद्ध स्थायी समितियों (विभागीय स्थायी समितियों) को भारत में लघु-संसदों के रूप में संदर्भित किया गया है। लोकतांत्रिक राज्यव्यवस्था में उनकी प्रासंगिकता पर प्रकाश डालिए और उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए कि वे संसद की समग्र प्रभावकारिता में किस प्रकार वृद्धि करती हैं।

The departmentally related standing committees, due to their significant scope of work as well as diverse membership across parties, are referred to as mini-parliaments.

Their importance is highlighted by the following:

- a) Subordinate legislation:
Analyse the scope for detailed laws.
- b) Scrutiny of bills, framed by government, to look at financial, administrative or legal lacunae,
- c) seek expert help, even from industry, academia, to further the goal of democratic deliberations.

- d) Recommend opinions of opposition parties, independent members etc, who may not express them directly in parliament.

In spite of such diverse functions, they remain ineffective because:

- a) Limited time frame of work.
- b) Overburdened by legislation & deliberation process.
- c) Pressure of ruling party leads to stalling of reports.
- d) Act as a post mortem sometimes, since relevant funds are audited after expenditure.

Thus, to improve their working:

- a) Increase funds / manpower.
- b) Create specialist cells of experts
- c) Allow presentation of timely reports with dissent notes.
- d) Significant involvement even during expenditure phase.

Thus, through higher power and scrutinising role, such committees can improve democratic functioning.

5. Social audit has a crucial role in effective implementation of social sector programmes. Comment. Also, discuss its strengths and limitations.

(150 Words) 10

सामाजिक क्षेत्र के कार्यक्रमों के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में सामाजिक लेखा परीक्षण की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके मजबूत पक्षों और सीमाओं पर भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Social audits in recent times, have emerged as a new method of increasing transparency of governance at the grassroots level.

Their roles in implementation of social sector programmes, are:

- a) Ensure system of checks & balances → for transparent usage of funds.
- b) Enable gram sabhas, civil society to understand implementation process as well as legal, environmental factors that can impede progress.
- c) District administration, is comes under pressure of accountability mechanisms.
- d) CAG is supported by additional manpower, to scrutinise

funds, etc.

- e) help to the backward communities
to question governance and gather
information to assert their rights.

Strengths of Social audit are :

- a) Can be done at local level
- b) Improves communication with
district administrations.
- c) Force of Grass Scrutinising power
to local people, as done in
Meghalaya recently.

Limitations are as follows :

- a) Lack of expertise to understand
expenditure patterns.
- b) Lack of manpower/people actually
interested in involvement.
- c) Absence of whistleblower protection,
unification with RTI not elaborated.

Thus, Social audit is a transformative
tool for new age governance, but
it must be enhanced by acting
on its limitations.

6. Discuss the significance of the 268th report of the Law Commission in addressing the problems of undertrials in India. What other measures can be taken in this regard? (150 Words) 10

भारत में विचाराधीन कैदियों की समस्याओं को दूर करने में विधि आयोग की 268वीं रिपोर्ट के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। इस संबंध में अपनाए जा सकने वाले अन्य उपाय कौन-से हैं?

The Law Commission's 268th report deals with the burgeoning issue of undertrials congested in overflowing prisons across the country.

The reasons for such a problem are:

- Absence of speedy justice → backlog of cases.
- Accusation over trivial cases
- falsely implicated undertrials → especially under non-bailable offences.
- Absence of case management system → poor prioritisation methods

Significance of such an issue is:

- India as a resource starved country → difficult to handle prisons with so many undertrials.

- b) Loss of trust from judicial system → people waiting for 20-30 years even without being convicted.
- c) International disreputation → human rights issue, failure of extradition talks
- d) Absence of transparency in police's methods → false convictions for quick promotions

In order to solve the above issue:

- a) AI can be used for efficient sorting of cases
- b) Reducing judicial vacancies
- c) Using arbitration, mediation, etc. Lok adalats.
- d) Resorting to open-jails, house arrests, freeing those who finish half of the relevant sentence.

Thus, the problem of undertrials is multidimensional & hence requires a holistic solution.

7. Enumerate the major welfare schemes for the elderly in India. Examine whether their benefits are reaching the targeted population. (150 Words) 10

भारत में वृद्धजनों के लिए प्रमुख कल्याणकारी योजनाओं को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए? परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या उनके लाभ लक्षित लोगों तक पहुंच रहे हैं।

According to World Bank's statistics, the percentage of elderly (above 60) in the population of India, would cross 30% by 2050.

In light of this fact, major welfare schemes for elderly are:

a) Social safety:

i) National social assistance program → for BPL elderly

ii) Vasistha pension yojana

iii) Schemes by LIC, providing 8% interest over 10 years investment.

iv) Atal Pension Yojana

b) Medical:

i) free provision of assistive devices → hearing aids

ii) Jan Aardham Pariyojana

iii) Swaksha Bima Yojana

c) Legal :

- i) Amendment to Maintenance act, removing upper limit.
- ii) Provision in Assam, to disqualify people from elections who neglect parents' maintenance.

Though, there are a wide variety of welfare schemes, their implementation suffers as follows :

- a) Absence of awareness
- b) Regular visits to banks, offices for pension, aids etc.
- c) Need of emotional support not fulfilled by financial maintenance.
- d) Social differences among elderly of SCs, STs, disabled, etc., not effectively incorporated.

Thus, though the schemes are good in letter & spirit, their implementation can be improved through wider consultation, such as with National Council of Senior Citizens etc.

8. Demographic dividend may become demographic liability in the absence of adequate skill development. In this context, discuss the importance of National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015.

(150 Words) 10

समुचित कौशल विकास के अभाव में जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश, जनसांख्यिकीय दायित्व बन सकता है। इस संदर्भ में, राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमिता नीति, 2015 के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

With India's demographic dividend reaching its peak during the 2020s (quoted by Economic Survey), it is imperative to look at its implementation.

The National policy for Skill development & entrepreneurship, 2015, has the following relevant features:

- a) Handholding support to first time entrepreneurs, women, SCs, STs → financial, management, legal guidance.
- b) Recognition of prior learning
- c) focus on vocational training → assess industry's requirements, resort to PPP methods.

- d) focus on reskilling programs, apprenticeship, certification.
- e) reforming ITIs, training of trainers
- f) fuelling job growth, by ~~can~~ reforming labour laws.
- g) fiscal incentives to startups, etc.

Though the scheme has many efficacious solutions, to prevent the emergence of demographic

Viability:

- a) focus on providing relevant jobs to educated unemployed
- b) Improve health, education infrastructure.
- c) Regulation of training providers, ITIs → ensure quality.
- d) Easier exit options for startups.

Thus, Skill development is a critical factor in harnessing the demographic dividend for which all out efforts must be made.

9. It has been acknowledged widely that smart power is the best possible way for achieving intended foreign policy outcomes. Examine in the context of India. (150 Words) 10

यह व्यापक रूप से स्वीकार किया गया है कि स्मार्ट पावर विदेश नीति के अपेक्षित परिणामों को प्राप्त करने का सर्वोत्तम संभव तरीका है। भारत के संदर्भ में इसका परीक्षण कीजिए।

In international relations, power is often classified as hard, soft or fast power, but a rising new variety is that of smart power.

Smart power, has the following features:

- a) focus on strengths of domestic economy.
- b) identifying areas of strategic collaboration in areas of weakness.
- c) Asserting autonomy and diplomatic force (hard power) as well as cultural attraction, cordial relations (soft power) simultaneously.

In the context of India, it is relevant as follows:

- a) Indo-USA → Pursuing visa reforms, through India's IT contributions (soft power).
Protecting IPR laws for generic medicines, through international mobilization.
Reversing unilateral & swift policy changes by USA. (hard power).
- b) Indo-China → Progress after Wuhan informal summit even after Doklam crisis (delinking efforts of different topics).
- c) Indo-Pakistan → Military preparedness, even while pursuing peace talks.
- d) Indo-Israel → Delinking Palestine issue for strategic collaboration.

Thus, India must follow on the path of smart power that it has done as seen from above examples.

10. Accession to the Ashgabat agreement is valuable for connecting India to its extended neighbourhood. What is the Ashgabat Agreement? Assess its significance for India. (150 Words) 10

अश्गाबात समझौते में शामिल होना वस्तुतः भारत के लिए अपने विस्तारित पड़ोस से जुड़ने की दृष्टि से मूल्यवान है। अश्गाबात समझौता क्या है? भारत के लिए इसके महत्व का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Ashgabat agreement was signed between India, Iran and Afghanistan to allow India to trade with Afghanistan via Iran.

It has the following features:

- a) Access to Chabahar port, for transporting goods to Afghanistan via highway routes.
- b) Access to the international North-South Transit Corridor via Iran, for improved access via land route to Central Asia and Europe.

The agreement has the following significance for India:

- a) Removing the necessity of travelling via Pakistan, in light of failed peace talks.
- b) Enhanced energy security, with better Indo-Iran relations.
- c) Enhanced role of India in Afghan peace process through transfer of men, materials and services.
- d) A counter to the Belt and Road initiative, ensuring strategic advantage in Persian Gulf.

Thus, the agreement is a shining crown in India's diplomatic victories and must be pursued, taking other countries too onboard.

11. Despite long-term recognition of the problem of pendency of cases in the courts, limited progress has been made in reducing their number. What are the possible reasons for such a scenario? Suggest a framework of measures that can be taken to address this issue. (250 Words) 15

न्यायालयों में मुकदमों के लंबित रहने की समस्या की बहुत समय से पहचान होने के बाद भी इनकी संख्या को कम करने की दिशा में सीमित प्रगति ही हो पाई है। ऐसे परिदृश्य के लिए संभावित कारण क्या हैं? इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए विभिन्न उपायों की एक रूपरेखा का सुझाव दीजिए।

The judiciary in India is
overburdened by the large number
of cases (over 1 lakh as recorded
by Law Commission report).

The reasons for such a scenario
are :

a) filing of cases for petty
reasons, in higher judiciary,
which can be resolved
through mediation or lok
adalats.

b) slow progress of cases →
adjournment used
deliberately, the accused to
delay the judicial process.

- c) Judicial vacancies : Absence of National Judicial appointment Commission.
- d) Absence of case management system → Absence of data on number of cases pending, years of pendency etc.
- e) Lack of awareness of the justice seekers, who are sometimes lured by corrupt lawyers by delay of justice
- f) Appealing to higher courts, even on the presence of substantial proof against accused, etc.

The situation, can be addressed in the following ways :

- a) Clear definition of each courts jurisdiction, especially the pecuniary amounts involved.
- b) fast track courts, especially for sensitive cases of gender violence, caste discrimination
- c) finalisation of judicial appointments process with transparency
- d) use of AI to establish advanced prioritisation algorithms for long pending cases.
- e) Establishment of separate grievance redressal mechanism
- f) awareness campaign for judicial reforms

With the above mentioned selections, the burden of cases can be reduced without hampering the quality of justice delivery.

12. Despite the phrase 'due process of law' not being mentioned in the Constitution, the Supreme Court, over the years, has adopted the doctrines of 'procedural due process' and 'substantive due process' into Indian constitutional law. Comment. (250 Words) 15

संविधान में 'विधि की सम्यक् प्रक्रिया' पद का उल्लेख नहीं होने के बावजूद, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने विगत वर्षों में भारतीय संवैधानिक कानून में 'प्रक्रियान्मक सम्यक् प्रक्रिया' और 'भारतान सम्यक् प्रक्रिया' का सिद्धांत अपनाया है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

'Due process of law' is a feature of the American Constitution. The Indian Constitution on the other hand, established the British system of 'procedure established by law'.

Over the years, this doctrine which proscribes the checking of validity of the procedure as enumerated in laws, has been widened in spirit by Supreme Court judgments as follows:

- a) The Basic Structure doctrine: As established in

the Keshavananda Bharati case.
It enables the court to overrule
those laws which affect the
basic structure of constitution
as defined by various judgements,
even if the legislation process
follows valid procedures.

b) Doctrine of non retrogression:
As defined recently in the
overruling of Section 377, wherein
laws cannot reduce the level
of freedom & other rights
already granted to citizens.

c) Modern interpretation of
rights: Article 21 with respect
to privacy, or Article 25 in
the Sabarimala case or the
Triple Taluk case. These enable
the courts to widen their

interpretation & prevent
encroachment even by ~~state~~ procedurally
established laws.

Thus, the Supreme court has
established 2 doctrines:

a) Procedural due process: which,
as explicitly mentioned by the
constitution, checks validity
of only the procedure of
law making.

b) Substantive due process:
checks the substance or
essence of the law in light
of the modern interpretation
of constitutional rights.

Thus, the 2 doctrines help
significantly in the development
of a modern, liberal society
on the path of progress.

13. Mention the constitutional provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the UPSC. Further, assess the limitations of UPSC in effectively performing its role as the 'watchdog of merit system' in India as envisioned by the Constitution. (250 Words) 15

UPSC की स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष कार्य पद्धति को सुरक्षित रखने और सुनिश्चित करने हेतु संवैधानिक प्रावधानों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, संविधान द्वारा प्रकल्पित 'योग्यता प्रणाली के संरक्षक' के रूप में अपनी भूमिका को प्रभावी रूप से निष्पादित करने में UPSC की सीमाओं का आकलन कीजिए।

Union Public Service Commission has been the epitome of transparent, accountable and rule based recruitment processes over the years.

Constitutional provisions related to its independence are:

- a) fixed term of members & chairman
- b) salaries, allowances charged on consolidated fund of India → can't be reduced after appointment.

- c) Role of recruitment of central service officers without any political interference.
- d) Performs Quasi-judicial functions through departmental enquiries, etc., with respect to civil servants.

In spite of the above provisions for independence, the real situation is not as expected because:

- a) Overtaking of recruitment role by ordinances or executive order, as recently done in the lateral entry decision.
- b) It only performs the role of recruitment, whereas training and service conduct rules handled by

separate departments.

- c) Since transfers of the officials are decided by Central government, it affects UPSC's autonomy.
- d) Limited involvement of UPSC in State civil services, marks a dent on the merit system especially at grass roots.

In order to tackle the above challenges:

- a) Provide authority to UPSC to oversee functions of SPSCs.
- b) fixed tenure of officials
- c) Authority to take actions even during training/service period
- d) Involvement in the reformation of recruitment process.

The above steps can restore the independence of UPSC as swiftly.

14. Faulty regulatory policies can have a severe adverse effect on the efficient interplay of market forces and end up harming public interest. Examine in the context of systemic issues pertaining to regulatory environment in India. (250 Words) 15

दोषपूर्ण नियामकीय नीतियों का बाजार बलों की कुशल अंतःक्रिया पर गंभीर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ सकता है और सार्वजनिक हित की क्षति हो सकती है। भारत में नियामकीय वातावरण से संबंधित प्रणालीगत मुद्दों के संदर्भ में परीक्षण कीजिए।

The period before 1991 was marked by a faulty licensing regime whose shadows lurk even today in the form of faulty regulatory policies.

Systemic issues regarding regulatory policies are:

- a) Too much paperwork, complex of licensing laws, and separate licences for electricity, raw material import, etc, have business sentiment.
- b) Overregulation of labour laws, end up harming the

job market by leading to
increased contractualisation of
workforce, or shifting of
facilities to less restrictive
countries.

- c) Laws & regulations whose
unintended consequences are
not properly contemplated
can significantly harm the
economy as well as social
sectors like health, education.

Recent HECI bill hampers
finances of universities, SEBI
rules for regulation of NRI
ownership of mutual funds, etc.

- d) Even with a well intentioned
regulation, poor implementation
or significant scope for corruption

can hampers the intended
benefits. Example → protests
by displaced people against
private sector manufacturing
plants in West Bengal, Tamil
Nadu etc.

e) Usually, to compensate for the
time & cost overruns due to faulty
regulations, consumers are charged
higher prices. In some cases,
the services / goods may even be
limited to specific businessfriendly
areas. ~~hence~~

hence we find that faulty
regulatory policies don't just
have a direct impact on market
forces, the effects are further
transferred to the consumers,
hampering public interests.

15. There is a need to introduce urgent reforms in the Cooperative sector to deal with the challenges that it has been facing. Discuss. (250 Words) 15

सहकारी क्षेत्र द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याओं से निपटने के लिए इसमें तत्काल सुधार लाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The cooperative sector, backed by the constitution under article 43A, is has revolutionised the welfare of farmers across the country.

The sector, though faces certain systemic issues as follows:

- a) Lack of accountability of the managers of large scale cooperatives, towards the small farmers.
- b) Irregular auditing of cooperatives, provides scope for corruption, misinformation at the grassroot level.
- c) Diverse laws across the country, since cooperatives

come under the state list, in
7th schedule of the constitution.

- d) Absence of handholding for
budding social entrepreneurs
of the cooperative sector
- e) Lack of adequate financing
mechanism, especially in
light of unreliability of
agricultural / dairy output,
due to monsoon failures,
zoonotic diseases etc.
- f) Mismanagement of cooperative
governance boards → lack
of experience among
farmers to manage
organisations professionally.

The above issues can be resolved as follows:

- a) Proper streamlining of various state laws under a central guideline.
- b) Regular social audits done by NGOs, private sector to provide regular, accurate information to farmers.
- c) financing and guidance to cooperative entrepreneurs under MUDRA scheme, Startup India etc.
- d) hiring of professional managers from private sector.

Thus, the cooperative sector requires wide ranging reforms to realise the goal of a prosperous agricultural community.

16. Explain the features and significance of the recently launched National Nutrition Mission. Also, discuss with examples, the role that local self governments can play in promoting, monitoring and sustaining nutrition Initiatives. (250 Words) 15

हाल ही में आरंभ किये गए राष्ट्रीय पोषण मिशन की विशेषताओं और महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए। साथ ही, पोषण से संबद्ध पहलों को बढ़ावा देने, उनकी निगरानी करने और उनकी सततता बनाए रखने में स्थानीय स्व-शासन द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका पर उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए।

The National Nutrition Mission was launched by the PM in Imunghumy Rajasthan, and provides a holistic approach to tackle malnutrition.

It has the following features:

- a) Digitisation of registers maintained by ANM, ASHA workers regarding child health.
- b) Clearly defined targets.
 - Reduce stunting to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25)
 - Reduce stunting, wasting, underweight → 2% per year
 - Reduce anaemia in women
 - ↳ 3% per year.

- c) financial incentives to well performing districts & detailed analysis for low performing regions → establishment of separate monitoring systems with detailed analysis reports prepared for monitoring at Central, State levels.
- d) focus on backward districts, with higher malnutrition, disease prevalence and low sanitation.
- e) Collaborative approach by bringing together health (preventive care), education (mid day meal, learning outcomes), etc, together under the mission.

Local Self governments, in particular can play the following roles:

- a) Ensuring accountability of interventions → social audits.
- b) Adapting interventions to local conditions → local foods in diet plans.
- c) Awareness campaigns upto household levels → holding parents responsible for child's nutrition.
- d) Provision of special requests to tackle specific challenges → higher iodine deficiency through supply of more iodized salts, etc.

thus, local self governments can help in the local adaptation of the mission, thus enhancing its universality & outreach to the needy.

17. While many people have been able to rise above poverty line, India is still home to the largest number of poor. Briefly discuss the factors responsible for the prevalence of poverty in India. What are the areas in which focused efforts need to be made in order to accelerate poverty eradication in a sustainable manner? (250 Words) 15

जहाँ, कई लोग गरीबी रेखा से ऊपर आने में सफल रहे हैं, वहीं भारत में अभी भी सर्वाधिक संख्या में गरीब निवास करते हैं। भारत में गरीबी की व्यापकता के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर संक्षेप में चर्चा कीजिए। गरीबी उन्मूलन की गति को संघारणीय तरीके से तीव्र करने के लिए किन क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

According to the poverty line estimate under Tendulkar committee, around 10% people in the country are below the poverty line.

The reasons for poverty prevalence are:

a) Lack of social safety net
→ especially for the unorganised sector
→ lack of awareness of Atal Pension Yojana, etc.

b) Out of pocket health expenditure → covering 70% of total health expenditure

thus pushing households into poverty.

c) Lack of Skilling and employment opportunities:

Agriculture sector overburdened by disguised employment.

* Decreasing demand for low skilled jobs.

d) Neglect of affected people due to lesser outreach of government schemes, especially in tribal, north east areas.

In order to accelerate poverty eradication, as outlined under SDG 1, following areas can be focussed upon:

- a) Introducing Universal Basic income, in place of various subsidies for BPL families
↳ more freedom on expenditure.
- b) Awareness campaigns of government pension, social assistance schemes
- c) Skilling programmes, vocational training under Skill India.
- d) Decriminalization of Begging & proper rehabilitation.
- e) Outreach of Ayushman Bharat to reduce out of pocket health expenditure.

Thus, through the above focussed efforts, poverty reduction as a dream can be sustainably realized.

18. Several issues related to adopting new technologies, transforming processes and improving implementation of NeGP need to be addressed. Discuss. Also, enumerate the set of principles guiding the design and implementation of the e-Kranti Program (NeGP 2.0). (250 Words) 15

नई प्रौद्योगिकियों को अपनाने, प्रक्रियाओं को रूपांतरित करने और एनईजीपी (NeGP) के कार्यान्वयन में सुधार लाने से संबंधित कई मुद्दों से निपटने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, ई-क्रांति कार्यक्रम (NeGP 2.0) के डिजाइन (रूप-रेखा) और कार्यान्वयन का मार्गदर्शन करने वाले सिद्धांतों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

The government has embarked on a journey of digitalisation, and the National e-Governance plan is a prominent feature under its implementation.

The NeGP, though suffers from a few systemic concerns, such as:

- a) Absence of privacy legislations
→ in light of high data storage under Aadhar, privacy judgement etc.
- b) Lack of effective laws to tackle cybersecurity issues

→ IT act, 2000 & amended act 2008, still tackle issues in patches.

c) Lack of skills of IT officers, government employees to effectively promote schemes under NEGP & enhance work efficiency.

d) Presence of mistrust among majority population towards usage of digital services
→ like bill payments, etc.

e) Ethical issues of using Big data, AI etc, → profiling of identities, privacy issues.

f) Absence of robust Telecommunication networks → delay in Bharatnet project.

The e-Kranti (NeGP 2.0) focusses on the following:

- a) Provision of all services by default through digital medium → payment of salaries, procurements, fund transfers.
- b) Cybersecurity enhancement → e-swachta kendras, Critical system protection, Cyber coordination centres.
- c) E-Resource centres in villages with ISRO
- d) Provision of Telemedicine, Tele education, Tele law
- e) Grievance redressal for digital services

Thus, the e-Kranti tackles some of the issues of the NeGP and is therefore a progressive step towards digitisation

19. India-China ties, marked by a broad convergence on transnational issues, on one hand and geostrategic rivalry on the other, have profound implications not only for the two countries but also the current international system. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत-चीन संबंध, जो एक ओर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों पर व्यापक अभिसरण और दूसरी तरफ भू-रणनीतिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता द्वारा चिन्हित होते हैं, इनका न केवल इन दोनों देशों के लिए बल्कि वर्तमान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रणाली के लिए भी गंभीर निहितार्थ हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indo-China relationship in recent times has evolved from that of a protracted conflict to that of engagement (containment + engagement)

The Synergy of Indo-China friendship is seen in :

- a) Collaboration to reform WTO, financial institutions like IMF, WB, by creating parallel institutions like New Development Bank in Asia.
- b) Support for development of neighbourhood → 2+1 dialogue mechanism

initiated with Nepal.

c) Support in climate change negotiations → to ensure accountability of & funding by developed nations.

d) Counter terrorism operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief.

On the other hand, the relationship suffers from the following theory issues:

a) Border disputes in Doklam, Aksai Chin, Arunachal etc.

b) String of pearls theory of China → a threat to Indian Maritime Security → implications for South east Asian nations as

Economic indebtedness of African countries.

c) Increased leverage to smaller nations to decide on which country (India or China) to collaborate with
→ more choices available.

d) Water sharing issues → Bangladesh getting embroiled in rivalry over Brahmaputra water distribution.

e) Involvement of India in Quad, brings extra regional actors in the perimeter of Indo-China rivalry.

Thus, the long & complicated differences between India-China have in recent times acquired a transnational character.

20. India's expanding interests rather than endorsement by others should be the basis of its engagement with what is being termed as the Indo-Pacific. Analyse. (250 Words) 15

हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत की संलग्नता अन्य देशों को समर्थन के स्थान पर भारत के विस्तृत होते हितों पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। विवेचन कीजिए।

The recent establishment of Quad group, as well as USA's Indo-Pacific strategy, has brought the focus on the autonomy of India's foreign policy.

Some of the recent Indo-Pacific related endorsements for India were:

- a) USA's renaming of Pacific command to Indo-Pacific command → increased focus on Indian Ocean where India is a leader.
- b) Quad group: As a challenge to China's adventures in South China Sea,

against the UNCLOS.

- c) Bilateral support from
countries like Myanmar,
Vietnam etc, to actively
engage with Indo-Pacific,
enter trade negotiations,
explore resources & tackle
China as it did at Doklam.

Though such endorsements
highlight India's hard & soft
power, they bring up the
following concerns:

- a) Direct confrontation with
China not feasible →
Economic & military
superiority of China.
- b) India's policy priorities are
to ensure peace in
neighbourhood, and enhance

trust among smaller nations.

c) RCEP negotiations for example, are relevant to its participation with Indo-Pacific but will force liberalisation towards Chinese goals.

d) Domestic concerns for access to resources limit India's capability to provide large scale funding internationally, as China can.

e) India & also understands the relevance of collaborating with China, especially at WTO, IMF etc., & hence entering its regional domain in Indo-Pacific can dent the relations.

Thus, in light of the above concerns, India must actively engage in Indo-Pacific talking China on-board & focus on its interests.