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Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	514134
Center	ORN	Date	21/08/19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
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. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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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 (2015) was set up as a replacement of Planning Commission to usher in new spirits in federalism.

Structure

- ① Governing Council : PM & CMs of all States, heads of UTs. + CEO. + Vice Chairman.
- ② Team India Wing - to maintain federalism
- ③ Regional Council - to tackle regional issues (includes CMs of regions' states)
- ④ Innovation Wing.
- ⑤ Knowledge & Resource Hub.

Functions → Upholds cooperative & competitive federalism

- Acts as a policy think-tank for Govt.
- Acts as a plan aggregator for states plans to streamline with national narrative.
- Create vision documents, strategy statements,
- ~~Under~~ Act as a knowledge & resource hub for the states.

- Undertakes schemes eg. Atal Innovation Mission
Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat
- Enhances accountability & evidence-based decision making through Detailed Monitoring & Evaluation Office

Contemporary Relevance

- Need to reinvigorate spirit of cooperative & competitive federalism
- Assists and assesses achievement of SDGs by states
- Reports on contemporary issues eg. Shrinking springs in Himalaya, Electric Vehicles, Judicial reforms, etc.

Vijay Kelkar recommends that Niti Aayog 2.0 must be given powers for financial allocation to improve its efficacy & support for Finance Commission

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 are special courts setup for speedy trials and disposal of cases of a particular type pending with judiciary.
eg. POCSO Act, Electoral offences etc.
offences

Positives of fast Track Courts

- On the principles of natural justice and 'justice delayed is justice denied'
- Sensitive cases require speedy trials & conviction to maintain credibility of criminal justice system.
- Acts as a deterrent as people will not bank on the judicial proceedings to be long drawn.
- Lesser adjournments, vacancies in such courts $\Rightarrow$ efficiency of courts higher.

Negatives of the practice

- FTCs themselves are overburdened, thus are no longer fast track.

- Summary trials may be careless just for faster disposal.
- Appeals ~~of~~ against FTC lies in normal courts, thus pendency is not removed it is just deferred. This causes double burden on judiciary.
- Quality of judges & justice in FTC is questioned.
- In many cases, there is laxity in setting up FTC.

⇒ The recent SC directive of setting FTC in districts with more than 100 cases of POCSO are pending, just proves the kind of faith FTCs garner as being a panacea for pendency, but this view should be qualified.

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

The lower judiciary is the first interface of the public with judicial system thus its efficiency is vital to maintain credibility of judiciary.

Challenges faced by lower judiciary

1. High vacancy (^{25%} ~~13-15%~~ of all judicial vacancy)
2. High pendency of cases : 2.93 (cases)
3. Poor infrastructure and maintenance.
 - Capacity of buildings limited by space availability. (only 0.09% of GDP spent on such infra)
4. High prevalence of corruption.
5. Quality of judicial officers and administrative force is poor.
6. Prevalence of trivial cases, take up time of judiciary.
7. Heavy dependence on paper-work & other parochial practices

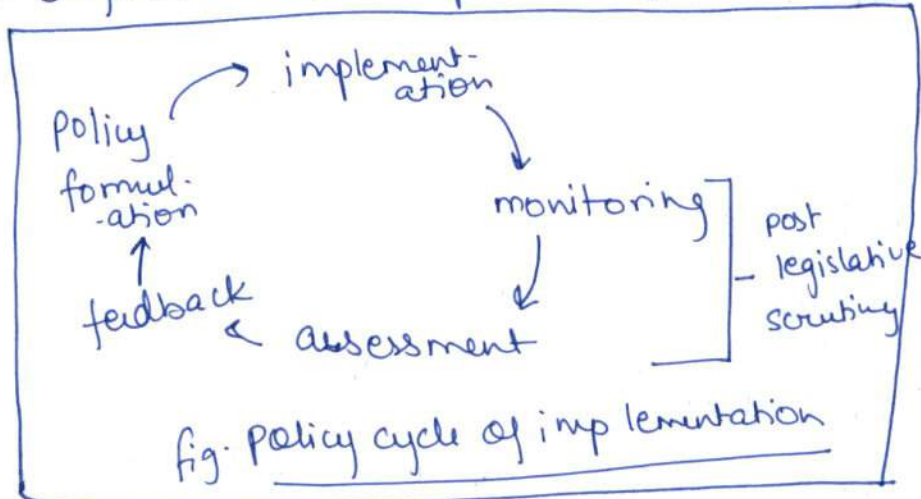
Measures to enhance productivity

1. All India Judicial Services to be instituted to maintain quality of judges & reduce vacancy
2. Institutionalising e-Courts and other e-governance mechanism.
3. Infrastructure upgradation, vertical expansion wherever needed.
4. Niti Aayog's Judicial Performance Index to be followed to create accountability.
5. Reduce vacations of judges, and the number of adjournments to reduce pendency of cases.
6. Repealing ~~old~~ ^{redundant} laws to reduce pressure on lower judiciary.

⇒ Thus, judicial efficiency has to be built from bottom up as it has a direct bearing on the ease of doing business as well.

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

Post-legislative scrutiny entails assessing the effectiveness of a legislation in fulfilling its objectives & in providing necessary changes



Post-legislative scrutiny is needed because:

- ① Recognition of implementation bottlenecks
- ② Check for any negative externalities.
eg. LPG subsidies affecting push for bio-ethanol.
- ③ Stakeholder responses received & effective grievance redressal.
- ④ Policy suggestions can lead to policy improvement.
- ⑤ Redundant & ineffective policy can be curtailed or taken back.

- ⑥ Prevents arm-chair legislation.
- ⑦ Enhances accountability of legislators.
- ⑧ Reduces scope of misuse of delegated legislation.

The formal set up must include:

- ① Social audits.
- ② Independent audits.
- ③ Wide public consultations
- ④ Expert & academic consultation.

The effectiveness of law depends on its implementation & not its intent, thus a formal channel for post-legislative scrutiny is necessary as is mandated in UK & Canada.

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

Niti Aayog's paper on AI in different sectors missed out on e-governance as a key area where AI can ~~be~~ bring in a paradigm shift.

Potential of AI in improving effectiveness of e-gov.

- * fore-casting problems while creating governance models. even at back-end
- * Reducing human interface, thus curbing discretion & corruption
- * Creating flatter structures & reducing bureaucratic red-tapism.
- * Greater synchronisation between various nodes & modes of e-governance
- * Effective learning on the go while monitoring governance, thus reducing time required in improvements.

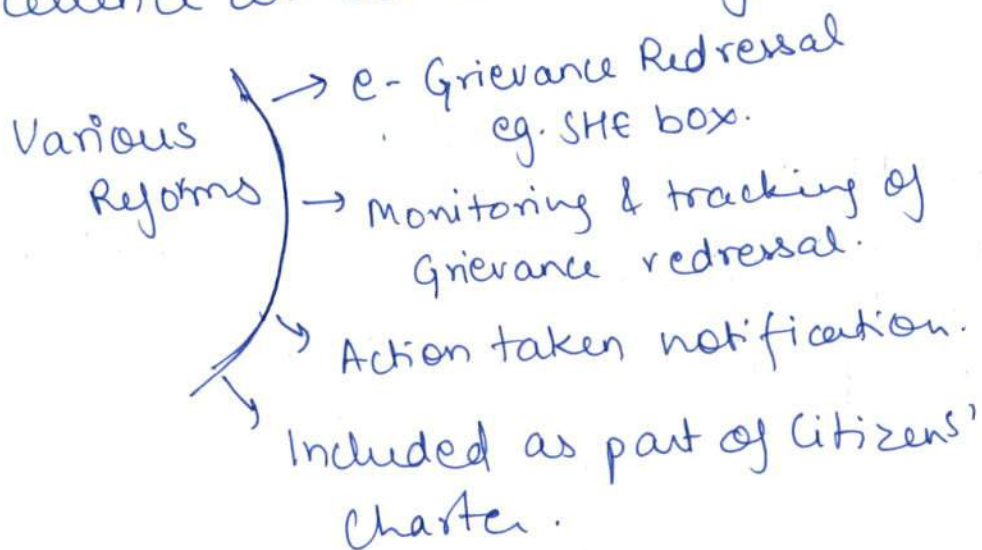
However, the drawbacks of AI in e-govt should also be taken into account:

- ① Value component of human interaction missing.
- ② Ethical decision making & emotional intelligence lacking.
- ③ May develop own system that would preclude human intervention.
- ④ Accountability and responsibility of AI is a cause of concern.

⇒ Thus, effective research on the use of AI in e-governance must be undertaken to use the same while minimising concerns.

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

India became the 1st country to release the Sevottam model which envisioned Grievance Redressal as a precursor for excellence in service delivery.



Limited Effectiveness because:

- ① Poor awareness among citizens, apathy of citizens.
- ② e-Grievance Redressal is ineffective until populace is digitally literate.
- ③ Grievance Redressal remains top-down & does not include behavioral change for redressal in low level worker.

- ④ Bureaucratic red tapism makes GRM a long process.
 - ⑤ Use of informal means eg. protests, personal complaints etc. is resorted to.
 - ⑥ Lack of coordination between back-end & interface.
 - ⑦ GR not included in performance appraisal.
 - ⑧ Poor sensitivity training of govt. officials.
- The 360° appraisal system will be a game-changer in enhancing effectiveness of GRM.

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

Women and children are trafficked both within & outside borders for labour, sexual work, marriage, etc.

Factors that contribute to trafficking

WOMEN

- Economic dependence
- Seen as burden of family
- Poor education & confidence
- Violence within homes
- Flesh trade rampant in both urban & rural areas
- Act as cheap labour, bonded labour.

CHILDREN

- Poverty.
- Lack of education, failure of RTE.
- Cheap & bonded labour.
- Paedophilic tendencies in sex markets.
- For extortion, kidnapping, begging, etc.

cyber vulnerabilities

Steps taken in recent times

- Ujjwala scheme for rehabilitation of ~~too~~ trafficked women.
- Anti-Trafficking Bill passed to tackle trafficking at source, destination & travel.

- Women & child helpline
 - Reduce cyber vulnerability of women & children through CCPWOC.
 - Swayam Siddha scheme by West Bengal Govt. which has highest burden of trafficking.
 - Effective enforcement of RTE & tracking children through apps by Bachpan Bachao Andolan.
 - MLAT with Myanmar
- The duty of the govt. to prevent women & children is immense due to their vulnerability which is perpetuated by power, impunity & silence

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 Disease (VBDs) are diseases that are carried & spread & transmitted through vectors like animals, insects, etc. Recent cases of swine flu, Nipah, etc. raises concerns about India's preparedness to handle such diseases.

Factors leading to emergence

- Tropical climate of India is conducive.
- Higher man-animal interactions.
- Vectors are usually common pollinators, ^(mosquitoes) insects that have wide prevalence in India.
- Unhygienic conditions leads to breeding of such infected vectors.
eg. water-logging.
- Poor awareness & late diagnosis leads to ~~in~~ ineffective treatment.

- Hospitals are unhygienic.

Measures for control & management

- Prevent breeding of vectors like mosquitoes etc using pesticides.
- Maintain hygienic living conditions.
- Hospitals' hygiene to be enhanced
— Kayakalp scheme.
- Invest in R&D because tropical diseases are neglected thus needs to be tackled with indigenisation.
- Prevent spread of false rumours & panic.
- fumigation, isolation wards, capacity building etc. will go a long way in preparedness against VBD.

↳ The burden ~~for~~ of VBD needs to be tackled for harnessing demographic dividend & fulfilling SDG 3- Health for All.

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

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

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 and interest groups influence policy-making to further their own interest, or interest of society at large. They are important non-institutional determinants of decision making.

Differences between the two

- Pressure groups are more formalised with their agenda than interest groups.
- Pressure groups usually further their own objectives as opposed to interest groups that may further other voicelers groups' objectives.
- Pressure groups ~~are~~ use formal channels like lobbying as well as non-formal methods eg. protests.
- Pressure groups are more successful in guiding policy than pressure groups. interest

Pressure Groups influence govt. decision making & policies by:

① Lobbying with the Govt.

eg. FICCI acts as an industrial pressure group for the govt.

② Using public fora & awareness

- Press releases, editorials in newspapers to create public narrative for policy.
- eg. India Against Corruption Campaign.

③ Protests & andolans

Leads to governance paralysis to grab attention.

eg. Silent march by farmers' groups in Mumbai & Delhi highlighting farmer distress.

④ Legal route

PLs etc. are filed against govt. policy by pressure groups for judicial review

of policy. eg. ~~ADAR~~ Naz Foundation for LGBT against Sec. 377.

(5) Use of global pressure by creating cross-border person-to-person connects, NRI, diaspora pressure, etc.

→ Thus, pressure groups are an important component of policy making such that Govt. holds formal consultations with these groups before releasing most policies.

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

Ans. The institutions of local self-governance were envisaged to give teeth to PRINCIPLE of SUBSIDIARITY through 73rd & 74th Amendment Act, 1992.

Though the set up has constitutional status its efficacy is questioned due to the challenges it faces.

2nd ARC in its 6th Report of Local Governance highlighted many challenges faced:

- ① Lack of transfer of functions from art. state governments (243-G & 243-W)
- ② Lack of skilled functionaries due to absence of dedicated cadre.
- ③ Crunch for funds due to poor devolution & inability to generate own revenue (only 3% of total revenue)

- ④ Elections to these bodies are not regularised due to poor functioning of state Election Commission (art. 243-K)
- ⑤ State finance Commissions (^{art} 243-1 & 4) are largely dysfunctional in recommendation.
- ⑥ Lack of coherence between rural & urban bodies due to poor functioning of District Planning Councils (^{art} 243-2D)
- ⑦ Poor citizen participation in local governance due to apathy / poor awareness.
- ⑧ Poor representation of local bodies in State legislatures.

Measures to improve effectiveness

- ① Ensure devolution of funds, functions, functionaries & framework (4F's) to clear operational bottlenecks.
- ② 2nd ARC recommends creating State Legislative Councils in every state

to enhance representation of local bodies in legislatures.

- ③ Capacity building of PRIs & ^{ULBs} by creating platform for interaction with ^(RWA) SHGs & Resident Welfare Associations, etc.
- ④ Involve private sector as PPP models to handle issues of local governance eg. waste management & disposal.
- ⑤ Effective public outreach & grievance redressal mechanism to be in place. (eg. ~~Sab~~ GP Development Plan)
- ⑥ Incorporating e-governance in local governance (eg. e-Office)
- ⑦ Institutionalise Local Body Ombudsman to enhance accountability.

For effective functioning of local governance political will & citizen centricity is vital for example Bhagidari system in Delhi.

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

Ans. The RTI Act, 2005 envisaged an independent set up to ensure transparency, accountability & democratisation of information. The recent amendments to the Act have faced flak for increased government interference in the functioning of Information Commissions.

Key Changes in the Amendment

- Central govt. to decide the tenure of the Information Commissions (including states) as opposed to present 5 years.
- Central Govt. to determine salaries & service conditions of the Information Commissioners & removing present parity with Election Commissioners & Chief Secretaries (for SICs).

Need

- It was brought to correct the anomaly ⁱⁿ between equating a constitutional & non-constitutional position and of appeals to

High Courts, when CJC status is on par with SC judges.

Weakening of act & undermining IC's authority

- Concerns that ^{tenure} term & conditions will affect the independence of the ICs.
- Concerns regarding usurping states' powers.
- IC's may give verdicts favourable to the govt.

However, the amendment, on closer examination allays such fears because:

- ① Appointment of ICs is not tweaked, and is still through collegium.
- ② ^{Tenure} ~~Terms~~ will be fixed before appointment which will not influence ICs in service.
- ③ The success of the Act remains in suo moto declarations which has not been weakened.
- ④ The authority of CJC is still supreme when it comes to disputes regarding RTI, and has to be appealed in designated.

courts only.

⑧ The salaries, service condition should not affect people with such moral turpitude who are appointed as IAs.

⇒ Thus, prima facie the amendment does increase scope for misuse, but it does not undermine the Act & its cause for transparency by mere technical changes.

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

Delimitation is the demarkation of constituencies Seats to states and constituencies within States such that the proportion of population to elected representatives remains the same throughout the country.

It is guaranteed by art 81 and 82 of the Constitution, and the Delimitation Commission is the designated authority for this function.

The decision of the Commission is final & cannot be challenged in any courts.

Process of Delimitation in India

- It is ideally conducted after every census as population patterns & rates are known.
- In India allocation of seats to states is frozen to 1971 level so that population explosion for political considerations can be curbed.

- The constituencies are demarcated & modified if the Delimitation Commission sees merit in doing so.

Debates surrounding the process

- India has very poor number of representatives per population numbers of the country.
- Thus, there is a call for increasing the number of representatives proportionally.
- Further, there is concern that 1971 population cap, does not do justice to present situation of population in states.
- Thus, there is a call for relook in this delimitation moratorium.
- Further, the 10 year wait for delimitation is also questioned as it deteriorates the population-representation dynamism that must

prevail.

Thus, the Govt. must set up a commission to go into the merits of the debate such that a fine balance between representation principles & population control measures can be maintained

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

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are groupings of people with homogenous economic conditions who come together to accrue benefits of thrift, synergy & contributions.

It was envisaged as a driver for rural development that help marginalised groups because:

- ① Enhances availability of credit
 - from within the group.
 - from banks through SHG-Bank Linkage Programme
- ② Platform to discuss common issues due to mandatory meetings.
eg. women related abuse etc.
- ③ Creates a culture of savings amongst marginalised.
- ④ Creates entrepreneurship opportunity.
eg. SEVA
- ⑤ Creates employment. eg. Kudumbashree in Kerala.
- ⑥ May take up developmental activities.
eg. Social audit of PRIs, waste management, etc.

- ⑦ Reduces indebtedness & distress debt trap sales, bonded labour, etc.
- ⑧ Skill development through SHGs.

Constraints faced by SHGs

- ① Inter-state disparities due to differential recognition by states. eg. Kerala v/s Bihar.
- ② Bank loans require collateral that SHGs do not possess.
- ③ Default on loans leading to disintegration of SHGs eg. in Tamil Nadu.
- ④ Benefits accrued by relatively well-off in the areas, thus benefits don't percolate to needy.
- ⑤ Ascriptive values and social discrimination prevalent.
- ⑥ Discussions of trivial issues overshadow real potential of SHGs for rural development.
- ⑦ Money spent on normative aspects (eg. marriage etc.) rather than developmental aspects.

Addressing Constraints ① Database creation

- ① Capacity building of SHG members through NGOs or schemes like ^{DDU- (NRLM)} National Rural Livelihood Mission.
- ② Setting agendas for meeting through member-participation.
- ③ forming SHG - Gram Panchayat linkages for effective problem solving.
- ④ Enhance capacity through commercial models - eg. higher size, multiple villages etc.
- ⑤ Use e-governance portals & apps to interact with & monitor SHGs.
- ⑥ NABARD should cater to banking problems of SHGs.

⇒ The utmost potential of SHGs should be utilised by integrating them with local governance & banks and efficient monitoring

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

Swachh Bharat Mission has been a stellar success for sanitation with a jump from ⁽²⁰¹⁴⁾ 38% to ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾ 93%. The push for toilet construction has resulted in creation of 9.61 toilets. The Mission now require a major push in other domains as well.
 Cr Toilets, only one part of solution

- * Use of toilets should be monitored.
- * Maintenance of toilets questioned.
- * Need to sustain behavioral change

Clean India, however, entails much more than an open-defecation free India.

Cleanliness should percolate to:

- ① Street & surrounding cleanliness.
- ② Cleanliness of waterbodies.
- ③ Cleaner thoughts & removal of social evils.
- ④ Clean transport that is environment friendly.

⑤ Green surroundings

The success of SBM is acting as a Jan Andolan should extend to following facets:

- ① Waste disposal and responsible waste segregation by citizens, industries, etc.
- ② Effective solid waste management by local bodies.
- ③ Cleanliness of Rivers through citizen participation in River rejuvenation committees.
- ④ Clean surroundings by installment, maintenance and use of dustbins in public places.
- ⑤ Responsible tourism to clean tourist destinations eg. Swachh Iconic Mission.
- ⑥ Look for alternative fuels, push for e-Vehicles, public transport for Clean Environment

- ⑦ Clean cyber space eg. e-Swacchta botnets.
- ⑧ Push for hygiene in the form of WASH campaign to prevent communicable & vector-borne diseases.

⇒ Thus, a Clean India is an aspirational one which is sustainable and cognisant of the risks to cleanliness. A Jan Andolan for such a Swachh Bharat is vital in New India.

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 a Universal Immunisation Programme aimed to fulfill universal immunization by 2019.

It involves providing vaccinations against 12 diseases including diphtheria, TB, Hepatitis B, etc.

Salient features

- * Targetted pregnant mothers & new borns and infant children.
- * Ensures vaccination through utilising services of Anganwadi & ASHA workers
- * Curb 12 deadly diseases that India faces a high burden of.
- * Scope for expanding the vaccinations as was done from 8 to 12.
- * Helps fulfill overall target of lowering infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

Challenges in Implementation

- Mindset of beneficiaries against vaccinations due to tabboos & rumours.
- Diseases becoming drug resistant, thus vaccination becomes ineffective.
- AGW & ASHA workers are overworked and under^{paid}~~priced~~.
- Cost of vaccinations is high, fiscal burden.
- Poor awareness about the scheme.
- Large number of children out of the ambit of its implementation (exclusion).
- Hygiene of vaccination in ^{backward} areas is questioned.
- Incompletion of courses / dosage, etc.

Measures to address challenges

- Database creation & evidence-based monitoring.
- Involving Gram Panchayats, SHGs for successful awareness & implementation of scheme.

- Wages & amenities to AGW & ASHA workers must be periodically upgraded.
- Promotion of institutional delivery (JSY) & corresponding immunisation
- Invest in R&D to reduce prices of such vaccines.

Mission Indradhanush is vital for a Healthy India to fulfill SDG no. 3 Health for All.

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

According to NSSO report around 3% of Indians have undergone ~~a~~ formal skilling. This dismal picture explains the fall in employability, wages and the rise in demographic crisis

Importance of skilling & ^①changing economic

Structure :

- ① Shift towards service sector led growth that is highly skill sensitive
- ② Rise in urbanisation (31% - 2011 to 50% - 2030) which requires skills for healthy lifestyle
- ③ Need to make exports more competitive & value-added which will require skilled work force
- ④ Need to compete with highly skilled countries - USA, South Korea, etc. to get out of Middle Income Trap
- ⑤ formalisation of economy demands skilling

II) Changing demographic Structure

- Demographic peak in 2027 with 64% of Indians in working age group.
- This will lead to competition in jobs, wages, etc., thus greater need for skilling.
- Rise in automation, leading to loss of unskilled & replaceable jobs, thus skilling enhances labour's vitality.

Skill India Mission

- Aimed to ~~create~~ skill youth by 2022.
- Aimed to create industry-academia coordination. — Sector Skill Councils
- Effective recognition & accreditation mechanism.
- 25% of Higher Education Inst. to incorporate skilling.

Success

- Enhanced skills in certain sectors eg. hospitality, services, etc.
- Setting up of Sector Skill Councils, greater industry participation.
- Use of technology was widespread.

Drawbacks

- Accreditation process was taxing and not standardised.
- Regular monitoring of skill upgradation was lacking.
- Wages of "skilled" labour not commensurate with expectations.
- few sectors were successful - skewed.

Way forward

- PPP model in Skilling.
- Sharda Prasad Committee recommendation for Sector Skill Councils
- Promote Skill Vouchers to make it a financial tool.

→ The success of harnessing the demographic dividend is dependent on the success of Skill India Mission such that Vocationalisation becomes an aspirational choice.

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

The recent step by the MEA to carve out a dedicated Indo-Pacific division throws light on the traction gained by this region in geo-political discourse.

Reasons for Creation

- 1° Most countries were releasing dedicated policy towards this region.
eg. Australia, Japan, ASEAN countries.
- 2° for better coordination amongst various missions dedicated to countries in this region.
3. To showcase the importance of Indian ocean as a part of the greater ~~and~~ Asia-Pacific region.
4. To have a concerted strategy to tackle challenges of the region
- piracy, maritime security, etc.
5. To explore the various resources of

the Indo-Pacific eg. poly metallic Nodule.

6. To showcase itself as a Net-security provider in this region.
7. To effectively cooperate with other countries —
 - security: MALABAR, RIMPAC
 - economic: Asia-Africa Growth Corridor.
8. Push for importance of ports & island nations.

Challenges for India in Indo-Pacific

1. Rise in presence of China due to BRI, String of pearls, etc.
2. Challenges of trafficking, piracy, naval terrorism, etc.
3. Concerns of Climate change for own Islands (L'dweep, A&N) and of other small nations.
4. Increase in presence of global powers in the region.
 - USA - Diego Garcia
 - France - Reunion Island.
5. Threats to strategic choke points by countries may harm our trade &

Energy security (Bab-Al Mandeb, Hormuz, Malacca.)

6. Competition with China for development of Africa.

7. Enhance defence indigenisation to gain credibility as a net security provider.

8. Exploration of resources requires technical competence.

9. Rise in anti-India feelings eg. Agalege.

→ India in the Shanghai dialogue showed its commitment for a free, open & inclusive Indo-Pacific which is seen by its policies like SAGAR, Proj. Mausam & 10 Naval Symposium.

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 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

is viewed as an Eurasian Grouping of 8 member countries for economic and military purposes.

It is a unique grouping including heavy weights like Russia & China and Central Asian Republics ^(CARs) which has gained prominence with addition of India and Pakistan.

Overcoming bilateral Differences

- * The platform may become sabotaged by the India-Pakistan concerns.
- * Bilateral problems between India & China should also be mitigated
- * The differences between Russia & China should also be ironed out.

Overcoming Geopolitical calculations

- * The definition of "terrorism" by each country should be aligned for success of RATS.
- * Pakistan would want to prevent Indian interactions with CARs
- * India's concerns about China's BRI as a geopolitical strategy.
- * Russia considers CAR as its backyard & is wary of growing Chinese presence.
- * CAR would want to maintain autonomy & not get boiled down by geopolitical games of heavy-weights.

Role that SCO can play to enhance India's Interest in Eurasian region

- * Acts as platform for interaction with heads of CAR.
- * Transport treaties like INSTC, Ashgabat agreement can be furthered to SCO.
- * Tackles common concern of terrorism.

affecting India & the Eurasian region.

- * Push to resource agreements with Uzbek. (uranium), Tashkent (hydro) and TAPI pipeline.
- * Reduces Pakistan's role in India's interactions with Islamic Eurasia.
- * Tackle problem of drugs emanating from Golden Crescent.

→ Thus, India's membership to SCO 2018 is a diplomatic success which will reap geo-political & economic benefits provided SCO is not marred by bilateral issues of member countries, and fulfill PM's cooperation for

- H - Health
- E - Economy
- A - Alternate Energy
- L - Literature & Culture
- T - Tourism
- H - Humanitarian.