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GENERAL STUDIES (Test Code : 295)

Name of Candidate Registration No.

Schedule Module

Place Time Date

Classroom Distance Learning Classroom & Distance Learning

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1.(a)	16	
1.(b)	16	
1.(c)	16	
1.(d)	16	
2.(a)	16	
2.(b)	16	
2.(c)	16	
2.(d)	16	
3.(a)	12	
3.(b)	12	
3.(c)	12	
3.(d)	12	
4.(a)	8	
4.(b)	8	
4.(c)	8	
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5.(a)	6	
5.(b)	6	
5.(c)	6	
6.	24	

Maximum Marks : 250

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, ID Number and Test Code).
2. Candidates should attempt answer to the part/sub-part of a question strictly within the pre-defined space. Any attempt outside the pre-defined space shall not be evaluated.
3. The candidate need not write anything in his/her answer that derogates the dignity of an individual or an organization.
4. Candidates should attempt all questions strictly in accordance with the instruction given under each question.
5. The candidate should respect the instructions, given by the invigilator.

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20/10/013

GENERAL STUDIES (Test Code : 295)

Overall Macro comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

All The Best

1. Answer all four questions:

4 x 16 = 64

(a) List the salient features of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and examine whether it should be amended.

The Juvenile Justice Act was enacted in compliance with India being a signatory of UN's right of children and to bring in a reformatory character to Juvenile ~~that~~ justice.

Salient Features:-

- (i) Juvenile is identified as an individual below the age of 18.
- (ii) setting up of Juvenile remand and reformation homes as juveniles cannot be imprisoned in ~~the~~ the normal prison system.
- (iii) Identification of causes (socio-economic) that drove the child to a life of crime.
- (iv) Separate punishments ~~system~~ for crimes conducted by children.
- (v) Juvenile homes would try to ~~induce~~ induce reformation to make them productive members of the society. This would include ~~the~~ provision for education, vocational training and psychological counselling.

Does it need amendment?

- (i) The need for amendment was brought to light because of many juveniles (just under the age of 18) getting away with horrific sexual violence ~~by~~ with smaller quantum of punishment.
- (ii) The Justice Verma Committee however, opposed such amendments because the ~~number~~ % of youth involved in ~~the~~ crime is very low.
- (iii) Moreover, around the world (especially in the US & UK) where juveniles have been tried under adult court, ^{results} ~~have~~ been counter-productive.
- (iv) In India, socio-economic conditions are the usually factors for crime. eg - Violence has often been attributed to the tough conditions in slums & a result of poverty.

Conclusion - JJ system with its aim at reformation is moral legislation. It however requires proper implementation & monitoring to make it effective. Addressing the root causes of crime & violence like poverty & unemployment would go further in addressing the problem than amending the JJ Act.

1. (b) Discuss the problems that SHGs are facing and provide some suggestions for their revival. Also comment on the support provided by government agencies to SHGs.

16

Self Help Groups (SHGs) in India are a mechanism for self mobilization of relatively poor populations to empower them financially and to provide entrepreneurial support. SHGs also work intensively in women empowerment, to enable them to finance home-run businesses and provide community support structures.

Main Problems faced by SHGs

- (i) SHGs function by collecting finances from members and working collectively to obtain formal banking support for financial inclusion. However, complex banking procedures, illiteracy and low banking availability in rural areas limit this possibility.
- (ii) Formation of SHGs is usually supported by NGOs working in the region. However, lack of transparency & ~~also~~ accountability of NGOs has often resulted in exploitation or misdirection of SHGs.
- (iii) SHGs are often financed by microbanking institutions which are not very well regulated and often charge exorbitant interest rates.
- (iv) SHGs are often formed on caste and community grounds failing to mobilize marginalized populations like SC/ST/OBCs.

Methods to empower SHGs:-

- (i) Creation of formal state & national policies for SHG regulation.
- (ii) Increasing transparency & accountability mechanism of NGOs working with SHGs.
- (iii) Enhanced formal banking mechanisms for financial penetration in rural areas.
- (iv) Simple & efficient banking practices for SHGs.
- (v) Regulation of microfinance regulations & state legislations for the same.
- (vi) Involving PRIs for SHG functioning.
- (vii) Educating populations about advantages of creating SHGs.
- (viii) Improved linkages of SHGs with corporates to improve business opportunities.

Support of Govt Agencies to SHGs

- (i) NABARD functions extensively on SHG functioning. It also creates policies for functioning of RRBs & rural cooperative banks.
- (ii) SIDBI works at creating small entrepreneurial ~~institutions~~ systems that will work with SHGs.
- (iii) Microfinance legislations like in AP, aim at preventing exploitation by these institutions.
- (iv) Banking regulations by RBI to improve provisions for SHGs.
- (v) CSR in the new companies bill can strengthen NGO network.

1. (c) Though the 52nd Amendment to the Constitution of India was intended to strengthen parliamentary democracy, it has failed to curb unethical political defections. Critically evaluate. 16

The 52nd Amendment established the Anti-Defection law to strengthen parliamentary democracy. However, it has been ineffective.

Major Issues

- (i) Loss of an MPs/MLAs independence in ~~choosing~~ ~~to~~ approving laws based on personal assessment. They are forced to follow diktat of party's high command.
- (ii) Many parties especially with small numbers of MPs use their votes to gain prominence in government or get special provisions defeating the purpose of careful voting. eg - RLD joined the govt with its 5 MP strength to gain favours.
- (iii) Defections have still occurred. (eg - Narsimha Rao case) because the financial benefit accrued by the MP may be very high. Moreover, the SC ruling the vote on the parliament floor is protected by privilege has undermined

the anti-defection law.

(iv) The election commission ~~does not~~ performs only on advisory capacity with relation to defection.

(v) Though this law is only supposed to work for ^{no -} confidence motions & special or important legislations, it has now been ~~is~~ used for all laws, making law making a purely numbers game and not that of careful assessment of laws.

Conclusion

Though the Anti-defection law was passed to reduce corruption & vote buying, it has not been successful in ^{ensuring} good legislation. Parliament's representative character has been reduced to a numbers game & exploitation of parliamentary privilege has resulted in no punishment to defectors.

1. (d) "With the emerging political undertones over the sharing of Transboundary Rivers, negotiations and engagement over water resources is likely to find a prominent place in Indian diplomacy." In the context of this statement, examine India's water diplomacy in the sub-continent. 16

'water security' is one of the key challenges along with 'Food & Energy' security that will be faced by India in the coming future. In this context water treaties like the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan & Ganga-Brahmaputra water sharing agreements with Bangladesh would require renewed interest by all key players.

Water Diplomacy: India-Pakistan

- (i) when the Indus water treaty was signed in the early 1960 it had basically been formulated ~~to~~ by ~~the~~ engineers keeping in view irrigation requirements. The bifurcation had been done geographically, not taking into account the behaviour of Indus & its tributaries as an organic whole.
- (ii) The recent Kishanganga dam controversy highlights how the Indus water treaty needs review. Kashmir's 'energy deficient' situation contrasts with Pakistan's worries that this dam would affect water availability for its fertile Punjab plains.
- (iii) Moreover, effects of water supply bifurcations on the environments are a cause of concern.
- (iv) With the importance of these river systems both in India & Pakistan, political overtones are obvious. These occur both in the form of state

objections like that by Kashmir and national political voices from the Pakistan as this is ~~a major~~ the only river system.

India-Bangladesh

- i) The major river systems of Ganga & Brahmaputra are shared by India & Bangladesh.
- ii) The recent state protests by West Bengal on Tessta water sharing and Bangladesh's objection to damming of Barak river are case in point that the water diplomacy is not restricted to major rivers.
- iii) India has to manage its diplomatic status not only with Bangladesh but also handle internal objections in our federal democracy.
- iv) Moreover with increased economic & geo-strategic diplomatic relations with Bangladesh, handling water diplomacy is essential.

India Nepal

- i) With many tributaries of Ganga coming through Nepal, India has historically played an important role in constructing dams for energy & flood control. The politically fragile situation in Nepal requires efficient diplomatic handling to securing India's interests.

2. Answer all four questions:

4 x 16 = 64

(a) Analyze the challenges that are being encountered in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). Suggest some solutions to address these challenges.

MGNREGA is the major employment initiative taken up with Centre-state support through a CSS. However inefficiencies & ^{variation} ~~different~~ in methods of practice of NREGA in different states highlights many challenges with implementation.

- (i) NREGA guarantees 100 days of work in an year. However, this 100 day work availability has been rare.
- (ii) Payment for NREGA work has been fraught with difficulties. late payments, irregular wages, incomplete wages has been common.
- (iii) Capacity building from NREGA work has been sub-optimal. With majority of NREGA funds (almost 80%) allocated for wages no actual infrastructure challenges have been addressed.
- (iv) leakages and corruption by lower functionaries in NREGA have been rampant in some states like UP, WB, Maharashtra.
- (v) NREGA only provides non-skilled work. This has led to little or no skill development, which would be harmful in the long term.
- (vi) In agriculture, especially during sowing & harvest season, NREGA has led to decrease in available farm/agricultural labour, which is an

contributing factor in food inflation.

- (vii) Some critics of NREGA also say that, NREGA has led to decrease in entrepreneurial initiatives in rural India. Though this point is debatable.

Suggestions for improvement

- (i) e-governance can help improve address issues of corruption, wages etc eg: e-Mitra in Raj
- (ii) Social audits like that in AP can expose operational inefficiencies. Recently, many NREGA govt functionaries in AP had to pay fines for late payment of wages.
- (iii) NREGA could be clubbed with skill-development training for capacity building.
- (iv) Strengthening PRIS to look into NREGA functioning. Capacity building of local elected representatives through Gram Swaraj Yojana can be contributive to operational efficiency.
- (v) Fixing NREGA work to non-farming / lean period can help in creating year round employment opportunities to ^{the} rural workforce.
- (vi) NREGA is also a severe burden on fiscal health, ~~the~~ strengthening SHGs & promoting cottage industries can help improve national and state finances.

2. (b) Settlement of cases by mutual compromise is much better than seeking adjudication in the adversary system. With reference to this statement discuss various ADR mechanisms available in India. 16

2. (c) Discuss the roles and functions played by the Zonal Council and Interstate Council in promoting cooperative federalism in India. 16

The Indian Constitution has often been described to have a unitary bias. Zonal councils & Inter-state Councils however aim to increase influence of states to promote cooperative federalism.

Inter-state Council

- (i) It has been created under Art 263.
- (ii) It aims at resolving inter-state disputes with little intervention of the Union.
- (iii) It is composed of the PM, Home minister and CMs of all the states.
- (iv) Even though it has been formally created it has not played any major role in regulating inter-state issues.
- (v) It play a mere advisory role & does not have adequate power for implementation.
- (vi) Thus, this council has often been described as an ineffective constitutional body.

Zonal Councils

- (i) Taking into account the geographic & demographic diversity of India, India is divided into 5 zones, North, South, East, West, Central and N-E zones.
- (ii) Zonal Councils are composed of CMs of each state & the home minister.
- (iii) Zonal Council functions like Inter-state councils but is more focussed on issues of the zone.
- (iv) They have more functional autonomy & their effectiveness is determined by participation by member states.
- (v) They also take up developmental initiatives.

Conclusion

ISC & zonal councils if made more autonomous & structurally strengthened can effectively contribute in promoting cooperative federalism. This is more-so required with the general trend on centralization.

2. (d) What does NSA PRISM Program mean to India? As a nation affected by it what should we do now? 16

NSA's PRISM program has been used by USA for cyber-snooping on many nations in the world. India has been a prime target of PRISM, with Edward Snowden's revelation that PRISM not only analysed metadata, ~~but~~ but even accessed private and confidential correspondences of key functionaries and strategic institutions.

Effect of PRISM Program on India

(i) India uses the help of NSA in running its own cyber-tracking institution Centrex Monitoring System (CMS) and for information sharing on many security issues like terrorism. This places India in a peculiar position as ~~for~~ it is affronted by cyber-monitoring by its key ally and at the same time requiring USA's assistance.

(ii) As a part of the emerging nations group BRICS, India needs to formalize its stand. Russia has condemned the PRISM program & the Brazilian President cancelled her US state visit on ~~know~~ finding out that NSA was monitoring her correspondence.

- (iii) US is also a key ally of Pakistan, and monitoring ~~of~~ by ~~PRISM~~ PRISM of India Nucleon & other strategic institutions is a matter of concern. This is more so with US's withdrawal from Afghanistan next year.
- (iv) Finally, invasion of Indian cyber-space is disrespectful to India's sovereignty and can harm India's international position, especially when it is looking for ^{international} support on key issues like its Security Council seat.

What India can do now:

- (i) India must ~~join the international~~ use its multilateral platforms like BRICS or G-20 in condemning cyber-snooping programs like PRISM.
- (ii) On the bilateral ~~front~~ front, India's engagement with US must formulate formal international agreement systems to ensure security of cyber space at the same time not losing its bilateral security engagement.
- (iii) India ~~that~~ could also play a leading role in formulating ~~an~~ international laws & policies in regulating govt. cyber actions.

3. **Answer all four questions:**

4 x 12 = 48

(a) Critically evaluate UNICEF's policy of preferring that children stay in orphanages in their countries of birth rather than being adopted by foreign parents.

3. (b) Discuss the conditions under which an ordinance can be promulgated and evaluate its impact on democratic spirit. 12

Ordinances are legal provisions which help in enacting a law temporarily ~~at~~ by the government, because of its emergency immediate need because the legislature is not in session.

Conditions for promulgating Ordinance:-

- (i) Promulgated by President, ^{Governor} on advise of CoMs.
- (ii) Both house of Parliament / State legislature are not in session.
- (iii) There is immediate need of such a law. Thus, it's an emergency provision.
- (iv) It lasts only temporarily (6 months) & must be approved by the legislature when it comes for a session.
- (v) It may be re-promulgated.

Impact on Democratic spirit :-

- (i) In a liberal democracy, checks & balances ensure that ~~the~~ rule does not become authoritarian. Thus, law can only be enacted by the legislature, which is a representative institution of a republic.
- (ii) Ordinances by-pass the legislature and thus, undermine democratic ideals.
- (iii) Moreover, frequent use of the ordinance route, to by-pass a hostile legislature can be construed as undemocratic. eg - the recent ordinance to amend RPA (though later cancelled) to protect politicians is a case in point.
- (iv) Similarly, use of ordinance to create important government bodies without legislative discussion can lead to implementation of executive diktat. eg:- UID & Pension authorities was established through ordinance route. Aadhar card now has been widely distributed but does not have legislative backing.
- (v) Re-promulgation of ordinances also require checks to prevent their misuse. This however, can only be ensured if a fully functional legislature can be guaranteed.

3. (c) 'Citizen report cards' provide a simple and widely replicable tool for improving transparency and public accountability. Elucidate. 12

- (i) 'Citizen Report Cards' work as instruments of public accountability as citizens provide feedback on effectiveness & functioning of many government policies & schemes.
- (ii) They help identify shortcomings & bottlenecks which can be rectified.
- (iii) By ~~pro~~ providing for such a feedback (which is an executive action & not through electoral process) ~~account~~ accountability of government functionaries would improve. eg:- social audits like ~~SCA~~ that ~~is~~ NREGA in AP identified leakages & late payments, which resulted in fines being imposed on government ~~at~~ functionaries.
- (iv) Because such a feedback would require the citizen knowing what and how policies have been implemented, it would lead to need for enhanced

transparency by government institutions.

(v) It would simplify citizen participation making for a more conducive democratic system.

(vi) Will allow formal mechanisms for interaction of government with civil society groups, pressure groups etc.

3. (d) In what ways could the outcome of G-20 Summit in Petersburg help in addressing the world's most important and difficult economic challenges? 12

4. Answer all four questions:

4 x 8 = 32

(a) Examine the structural problems that exist in the mid-day meals scheme.

- (i) The mid-day meal scheme was implemented to supplement child nutrition requirement and increase attendance rates in schools. However, MDM faces many structural problems.
- (ii) There is no formal policy in procurement of raw-materials for meals.
- (iii) There is no regulatory system to ensure nutritional compliance & sanitation requirements.
- (iv) In many states, ~~the~~ teachers are responsible for providing MDM, taking away time from teaching. eg - Tamil Nadu's example of separate cooks can alter this situation.
- (v) leakages and corruption in MDM leads to lower food standards.
- (vi) Infrastructure for cooking, kitchens and store-houses are often absent in primary schools.
- (vii) In urban areas where many NGOs function in MDM ~~have~~ also, do not have a formal oversight mechanism.
- (viii) Provisions of providing hot meals has overlooked what packaged food can provide.

Conclusion - The recent MDM tragedy in Bihar has highlighted many structural deficiency which need to be

4. (b) Discuss the provisions of the Securities Law (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and its likely impact on the powers of SEBI. 8

4. (c) What role did the nationalist movement play in determining the fundamental principles of the Indian Constitution? 8

The nationalist movement laid down ~~the~~ many principles which were later adopted in our constitution.

- (i) Universal Adult Franchise was an outcome of a mass struggle for freedom.
- (ii) Fundamental Rights were first considered in the Nehru Report & were essentially incorporated.
- (iii) Gandhi's Harijan movement, led to 'Abolition of ~~that~~ Untouchability' being made a FR.
- (iv) Many DPRs were a result of the nationalist movement, such as 'identification of composite culture of India', ~~the~~ establishing local bodies (73rd & 74th amendment), support for cottage industries etc.
- (v) Freedom of Religion & religious expression was a direct consequence of the national movement being multi-religious.
- (vi) Reservations for SC/ST ~~could be~~ was a result of the Poona Pact.

Conclusion - Majority of the Constituent Assembly was of members of the nationalist movement. This ~~had~~ had an immense impact on the ethos of our constitution.

4. (d) Analyse the role of NGOs as active watchdogs in the Indian society. 8

NGOs and civil society organizations can play a key role in ~~ing~~ empowering Indian society.

Social Roles

- (i) NGOs can function in ~~to~~ bringing to light social mal-practices like exploitation and discrimination of SC/ST/ disabled & women.
- (ii) Demanding government action against social ills. eg - Recent uprising against sexual exploitation.
- (iii) Exposing socially immoral government practices. eg - Caste based selections for govt ~~post~~ contracts.

Political Role

- (i) Watchdog on ~~key~~ policies ~~and~~ and legislations enacted by government. eg - Recent protest over use of the ordinance route for enacting laws.
- (ii) Correcting & empowering implementational problems like corruption eg - Lokpal movement.
- (iii) Using PIL to challenge inefficient implementation or bring political reforms. eg - Lily Thomas vs GOI case to prevent ~~the~~ criminalization of politics.

Economic Role

- (i) Performing social audits like that by activists like Nikhil Dey, which exposed many fraudulent names in Rajasthan's NREGA list.
- (ii) NGOs in financial inclusion & education to inform citizens of government policies & schemes.

5. Answer all three questions:

3 x 6 = 18

(a) India-Latin America Economic ties.

- (i) India's increased interaction with multilateral organizations like MERCOSUR, BRICS to strengthen economic ties.
- (ii) Development ~~to develop~~ ^{of} new markets for Indian goods and services in Latin America.
- (iii) Increased business & corporate interaction ~~for~~ through organizations like FICCI & CII.
- (iv) Energy security ties with Brazil to share knowledge on ethanol production & to ~~utilized~~ diversify oil imports ~~to~~ by talks with Petrobras.
- (v) Increased diplomatic visits by Latin American leaders like the recent visits by Uruguay & Paraguayan PM & finance ministers.

5. (b) Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2012. 6

- (i) The Bill aims at institutionalizing rights of street vendor to protect them from exploitation by police & others.
- (ii) Street vendors would have to register themselves through their local market bodies for which they would be provided with a specific card.

(iii) This registration would enable them to formally carry out their business. They may then also have to pay certain taxes imposed to vend in a particular area, but may also be able to ~~avail~~ avail pension & health schemes.

5. (c) Difference between SHGs and Cooperative Societies.

6

SHGs are basically financial collectives, where members pool their resources to enable its individuals to take entrepreneurial or personal initiatives. It also strengthens financial inclusion as SHGs may open collective bank accounts & provide collective guarantees to avail loans.

Cooperative Societies usually run businesses or enterprises by pooling resources & man power, to improve marketing & to enable them to make larger machinery investment.

eg - AMUL is a ^{milk} cooperative

The planning commission has also suggested agri-coops to bring about farm mechanization

6. Answer all six questions:

6 x 4 = 24

(a) Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

- Ethiopia is planning to construct a large dam to the White Nile (which is a major tributary of the Nile) to provide for irrigation and solve its electricity deficiencies.
- Egypt is a major opposer of this dam as it thinks that it would affect the flow of the Nile which is a major lifeline of its economy. Moreover, being a lower riparian state it may also face environmental ~~economic~~ consequences.

6. (b) Senkaku Islands.

4

These are the disputed islands in the East China sea claimed by both Japan and China. It is also called Daikaku Islands.

Senkaku Islands extend the territorial waters of both countries and provides geo-strategic advantage to the claimant.

6. (c) Special Category States

4

These are the economically backward states identified to receive central assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for carrying out major developmental activities. Earlier they were identified on the basis of hill/desert, SC/ST population & GDP & N-E category. Bihar & Orissa have asked for this identification. ~~This has now been~~ Mechanism for this identification has now been challenged by the Composite Index.

6. (d) National Green Tribunal

4

It is a special judicial tribunal created by the National Green Tribunal Act to look into specifically environmental concerns.

- Because of the multi-dimensional-economic, scientific, social, demographic nature of cases this tribunal allows for efficient ~~use~~ handling of the cases.
- MoEF has recently complained of judicial overreach by the tribunal.

6. (e) Section 62(5) of RPA

4

6. (f) Judicial Appointments Commission Bill

4

Aims at replacing the collegiate system of judicial appointments & replacing it with a special commission which would have Judicial (CJI + 2 Judges), Legislative (2 Law Ministers, + 2 special

appointees) and executive (Law Secy will be convenor) members.

Judicial bodies like the Bar Association of India & many retired judges have argued that it will undermine Judicial Independence. Though, this bill has been formulated to address issues of favouritism & nepotism with the collegial system.