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M N 07 SEP 2024 No. 3
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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2368)

Name of Candidate	PRASHANT SINGH		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	613218
Center	MUKHERJEEENAGAR	Date	7/9/2024

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1	10		<p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।</p> <p>2. There are TWENTY questions printed in HINDI & ENGLISH. इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।</p> <p>3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।</p> <p>5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।</p>
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Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			
			Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?
			Recommended
			Strongly Recommended

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

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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.

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All the Best

Q1. न्यायालयों द्वारा की जा रही व्याख्या के कारण भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत प्राण और दैहिक स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार के दायरे का विस्तार हुआ है। न्यायालय के प्रासंगिक पूर्ववर्ती निर्णयों की सहायता से चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The evolving interpretation by the courts have led to the expansion of the scope of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss with the help of relevant case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Article 21 of the constitution provides for Right to life by procedure established by law and personal liberty and encompasses a whole set of rights.

Expansion of scope through judicial interpretation

- i) AK Gopalan Case - Supreme Court stuck to pedantic approach restricting liberty to personal sphere.
- ii) Mamuka Gandhi Case - widened liberty as not mere animal existence but with dignity. Also made due process of law implicit.
- iii) Included Right to education in Article 21 before making

- it a standalone right (Article 21A)
- iv) Right to sustainable environment was incorporated by the Vellore Community Welfare Case.
- v) Freedom from pollution incorporated by the MC Mehta Case.
- vi) Recently incorporated Right to be protected from adverse effects of 'climate change' in MK Ranjitsinh Case.
- vii) Right to privacy incorporated by the Puttaswamy Case 2017.
- viii) Right to information first came under Article 21.

Thus, Supreme Court has not only protected fundamental rights but also widened them by creative interpretation.

Q2. लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 8A भारत में चुनावी प्रक्रिया की अखंडता को किस प्रकार सुरक्षित रखती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Analyse how Section 8A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 preserves the integrity of the electoral process in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Representation of People act 1951 provides for qualifications, disqualifications, election machinery, process and resolution of election disputes provisions.

Section 8A of RPA 1951

- i) Provides for disqualification on various grounds
- ii) A person convicted under Dowry Act, Civil Rights Act, etc is permanently disqualified.
- iii) A person convicted for 2 years is disqualified for 6 years upon release.
- iv) List types of electoral offence
* Corrupt practises.

Role in preserving integrity of elections

- i) Provides a level playing field for all candidates.
- ii) Reduces criminalisation of politics (presently 43% MP face criminal charges)
- iii) Gives Election Commission of India powers to disqualify candidates.
- iv) ECI advises President with respect to disqualification of Members of legislature.
- v) Immediate disqualification after Lily Thomas Case ruling.

Thus, ~~RPA~~ RPA 1951 is the bulwark of free & fair elections in India, a basic structure in India.

Q3. भारतीय संविधान की नौवीं अनुसूची को प्रारंभ में किन उद्देश्यों के साथ प्रस्तुत किया गया था? क्या उच्चतम न्यायालय नौवीं अनुसूची में शामिल किए गए किसी कानून की समीक्षा कर सकता है? न्यायालय के पूर्ववर्ती निर्णयों की सहायता से चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

With what objectives was the Ninth Schedule of the Indian Constitution initially introduced? Can the Supreme Court review a legislation that has been placed in the Ninth Schedule? Discuss with the help of case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The IXth Schedule was introduced by the 1st Constitutional Amendment Act to protect certain laws especially land reform laws from judicial scrutiny under Article 13.

Objective of introduction of IXth Schedule

- i) Protect laws relating to land reforms from judicial review
- ii) Implement welfare functions under Article 39 (b) & (c) without violating Article 19 & 14
- iii) More comprehensive than Article 31A & 31C
- iv) Allow Parliament to by pass judicial review

Supreme Court's power under 1Xth schedule

- i) laws under it were immune from judicial review.
- ii) However, in IR Coelho Case 2009 Supreme Court held that judicial review is a basic structure & there cannot be blanket ban on it.
- iii) Thus laws enacted after 24th April 1973 are open to judicial review.
- iv) However, Supreme Court cannot suo moto review these laws but must be complained first.
Thus, Supreme Court has reinstated judicial review over Parliamentary sovereignty readjusting the fine balance.

Q4. ऑनलाइन विवाद समाधान (ODR) द्वारा प्रदान की जाने वाली विवादों के उचित, त्वरित और प्रभावी समाधान तक पहुंच कई चुनौतियों से घिरी हुई है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Online Dispute Resolution's (ODR) promise of access to just, speedy and effective resolution of disputes is beset with several challenges. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Online dispute Resolution (ODR) encompasses online trial to settle disputes with no need of physical presence.

Advantages of ODR

- i) Saving of cost on travel, accommodation, etc.
- ii) Faster trial as no need for self presence.
- iii) Wider territorial jurisdiction including other states too.

Yet, there are several challenges to Online Dispute Resolution —

- i) Digital illiteracy — eg: only 22% of elderly are digitally literate.
- ii) Internet connectivity especially in

rural areas & hinterlands

iii) Privacy breach by hacking, etc.

iv) Technical glitches slowing down
the trial process.

v) Replication of witnesses, evidences
etc behind cameras

vi) Forced trial on ~~to~~ blackmail
behind cameras.

vii) Physical examinations like DNA
test, exhibition of body, etc
becomes tough on online process.

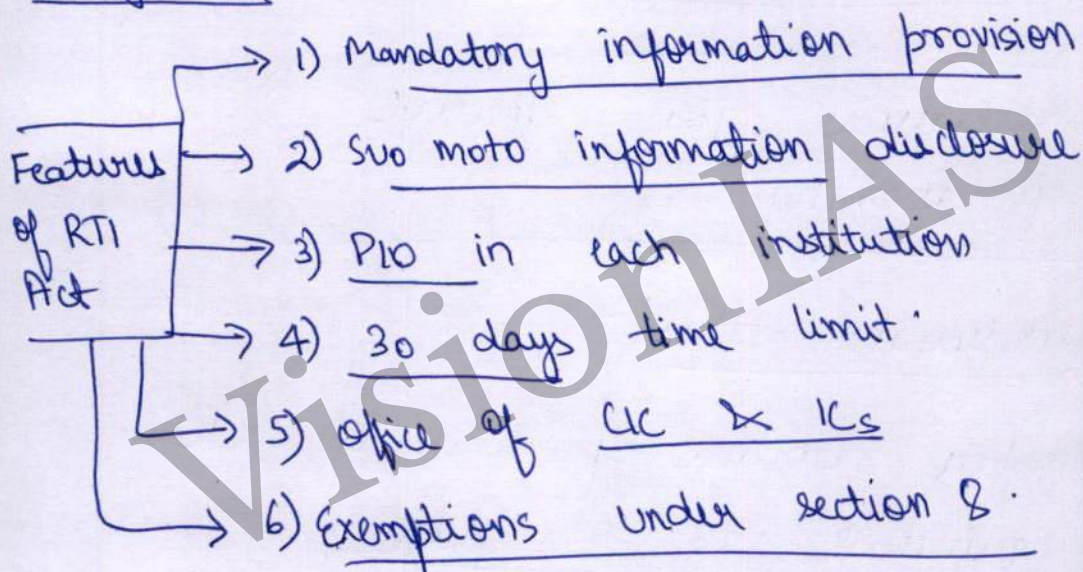
Thus, ODR may help
reduce pendencies in courts
but needs to be made fool proof
to ensure justice delivery is
not trampled.

Q5.

केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग के कार्यालय द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याओं के कारण सूचना का अधिकार (RTI) अधिनियम निरर्थक हो गया है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The Right to Information (RTI) Act has fallen into redundancy owing to the issues faced by the Office of the Central Information Commission. Analyse. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The Right to Information Act 2005 was enacted as a sunshine legislation on demands of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan.



Issues faced by Office of CIC

- i) Not a constitutional body
- ii) Working at below par manforce
- iii) 2019 amendment reduced position of CIC from that of being

equivalent to SC judge.

iv) If further made Central govt
to decide on tenure and conditions
of service for CIC & ICs.

v) Many offices & institutions still
do not have PIOs.

Recommendations for effective
functioning

i) constitutional status

ii) Reinstated earlier position of CIC
equivalent to SC judge.

iii) Tenure & condition of service
to be decided by Parliament.

iv) Mandatory appointment of PIO
by all institutions.

The CIC office is key
to working of RTI Act and
thus ensuring transparency & accountability

Q6. सूचना एवं संचार प्रौद्योगिकी (ICT) ने भारत में जमीनी स्तर पर शासन परिदृश्य को किस प्रकार परिवर्तित कर दिया है? इसकी पूर्ण क्षमता का लाभ उठाने में आने वाली प्रमुख बाधाएं क्या हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

How has Information and Communication Technology (ICT) transformed the governance landscape at the grassroots level in India? What are the key obstacles in leveraging its full potential? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Governance at grassroot levels is being facilitated by ICT to improve its access and effectiveness.

Role in grassroot governance

- i) Bharat net project aims to connect all 2-62 lakh Gram Panchayats with optical fibre network
- ii) Direct Benefit Transfer reduced leakages & Corruption.
- iii) Biometric authentication ensured targetted delivery.
- iv) Soil health card scheme improved agricultural productivity
- v) JAM trinity ensured financial inclusion.

vi) Smart Contracts facilitated Contract farming

Challenges in leveraging full potential

i) Digital divide eg: only 42% women own smartphone compared to 59% men

ii) Biometric authentication errors leading to exclusion errors.

iii) Digital illiteracy, especially among rural inhabitants

iv) Internet penetration still a challenge.

v) Inter operability of ICT solutions still not fully realised

However, government is taking steps like PM WAN,

Digital Shakti 4.0, etc to

improve grassroot governance through

use of ICT.

Q7. सिविल सेवाओं का राजनीतिकरण भारत में शासन के 'स्टील फ्रेम' को किस प्रकार नष्ट कर देता है? इस प्रभाव का प्रतिकार करने के लिए कौन-से उपाय अपनाए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

How does the politicization of the civil services corrode the 'steel frame' of governance in India? What measures can be implemented to counteract this effect? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Civil services were called the steel frame of India by Sardar Patel who were responsible for policy formulation, execution & service delivery.

Impact of politicisation of steel frame

- i) Increased corruption when political protection.
- ii) Transfers based on political calculus
eg: plum postings to aide & hinterlands to honest officers.
- iii) Poor service delivery when no accountability.
- iv) Misuse of public funds for electoral campaigns.
- v) Bureaucrats joining parties without cool off period.
- vi) Compromised fairness of elections.

Eg: Chandigarh Mayoral election.

Recommendations for depoliticisation

- i) Civil Services Board for appointments
transfers, etc
- ii) Minimum tenure of 3 years
at one place eg: DGP for
3 years ruled in Prakash
Singh judgment.
- iii) Promotions based on peer review
& not arbitrarily by govt.
- iv) Regular auditing of public finances.
- v) Mid career training (Yugandhar
Committee)

Civil servants form part of
permanent executive. Collapse of
bureaucracy can lead to social
revolutions & thus must be prevented.

Q8.

लैंगिकता वृद्धावस्था का एक महत्वपूर्ण आयाम है। भारत में सामाजिक अलगाव और वंचना का सामना करने वाली बुजुर्ग महिलाओं की समस्याओं का समाधान करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Gender is an important dimension of ageing. What measures can be taken to solve the problems of elderly women facing social alienation and deprivation in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Feminisation of ageing is a common phenomenon across the globe due to longer life expectancy of women. 58% of elderly in India are women.

Problems faced by elderly women

- i) 54% are widow & thus face loneliness.
- ii) Higher financial dependence on family due to lack of pension.
- iii) Higher cases of violence against elderly women than men.
- iv) Ghettoisation of elderly women more than men.
- v) Dementia, comorbidities, etc during old age.

Measures needed to prevent deprivation
& social alienation

i) Widow remarriage to be de stigmatised

ii) Old age homes eg: Jamtara
DM converted dilapidated public
buildings into old age homes.

iii) Tapping the silver economy.

iv) Pension & insurance coverage
expansion eg: Vayoshree Vandana Yojana

v) SACRED Portal to help elderly
women looking for job.

vi) Mandatory maintenance as provided
under Elderly Welfare & Maintenance
Act

Elderly women needs to
be prioritised in welfare schemes
as they are facing immense mental
health issues in rapidly changing world.

Q9. भारत और अफ्रीकी देशों के बीच राजनीतिक एवं आर्थिक जुड़ाव को बढ़ावा देने में भारतीय प्रवासी क्या भूमिका निभा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

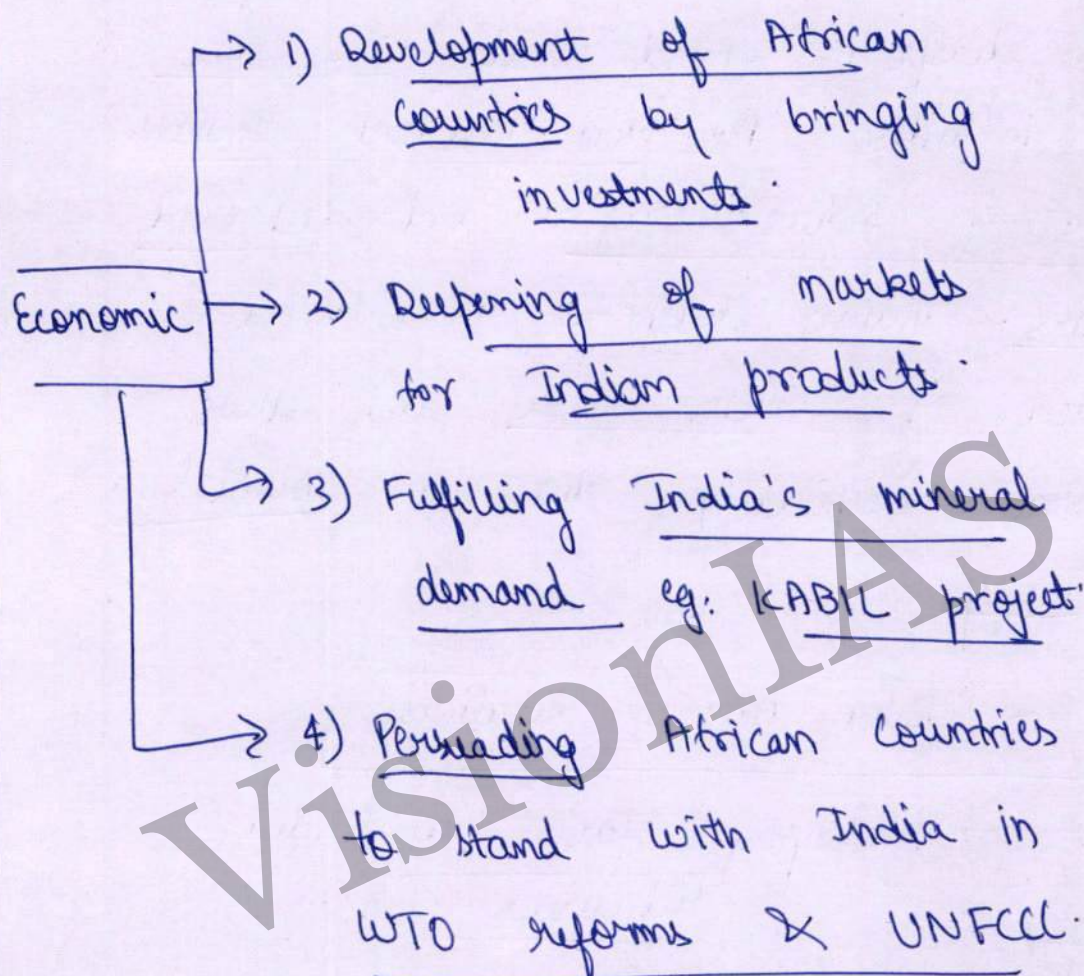
What role can the Indian diaspora play in fostering political and economic engagement between India and African countries? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Indian diaspora stands at 3.2 crore and includes ~~the~~ Non Resident Indians, Person of Indian Origin and OIC Card holders. Indian diaspora in Africa is located in South Africa and other countries especially due to colonial legacy.

Role in India Africa relations

- Political
- 1) Lobbying for pro India relations
 - 2) supporting policies that would benefit India
 - 3) Promoting Indian culture & India's support for Global South in Africa
 - 4) Persuading African governments

for UNSC reforms & permanent seat
to India.



India Africa relations are bound to widen as both share common history and are part of Global South aiming to leap forward eg: Vision Bharat 2047 & Africa Vision 2063.

Q10.

अपने प्रारंभ के एक दशक से भी अधिक समय बाद, बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव के लाभ, विशेष रूप से विकासशील देशों के लिए, भ्रामक साबित हुए हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

More than a decade after its inception, the benefits of the Belt and Road Initiative have proven to be illusory, especially for developing countries. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The Belt and Road Initiative was proposed by China as the modern Silk Route to develop infrastructure projects across Eurasia.

Achievement of BRI

- i) Development of naval bases eg: Djibouti, Gwadar, etc
- ii) Expansion of Chinese trade through the Silk route.
- iii) Development of the CPEC corridor.
- iv) China being able to resolve Malacca dilemma to some extent.

However, the BRI has been illusory especially for developing countries—

- i) Debt trap diplomacy of China eg:

Sri Lanka had to sell Hambantota
port

ii) Even in Pakistan there is
resentment against CPEC.

iii) Poor cost forecasting of projects.

iv) China led banks like AIIB to
fund projects \Rightarrow Chinese monopoly.

v) Even labours being brought
from China, thus no employment
creation.

vi) Many projects have huge
cost overruns due to delays.

Thus, India's stakeholder
approach as shown in Asia
Africa Growth Corridor is better
for developing countries.

Q11.

भारत में पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRIs) के समक्ष आने वाली वित्तीय बाधाओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। उनके राजस्व संसाधनों में वृद्धि करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the financial constraints faced by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. What measures can be taken to augment their revenue resources? (Answer in 250 words) 15

The Panchayati Raj Institutions were constitutionalized by the 73rd amendment act. However, voluntary provisions especially with respect to finances have made them dys-functional.

Financial constraints faced by PRIs

- i) Own resources account for only 3-5% of revenues.
- ii) Depend on Centre & States for devolution & grants.
- iii) These devolution often come tied thus constraining autonomy of PRIs.
- iv) PRIs are not allowed to borrow from markets unlike Urban local bodies (Muni bonds).
- v) PRIs are reluctant to impose taxes on local subjects.

vi) State Finance Commissions have not been established. Only 9 states have established it, while only 2 are working.

vii) Reducing elasticity of taxes imposed by PRTs.

Measures to augment PRI resources

i) Allowing PRTs to borrow from markets through Panchayat bonds.

ii) Mandatory establishment of State Finance Commission (15th Finance Commission tied devolution of grants to state on this condition.)

iii) Increasing the tax base & tax pool for PRTs.

iv) Pooling common resources to uptake credit from market eg: 2-3 villages can provide common

guarantee.

v) Social auditing by Gram Sabha to ensure misutilisation of available resources is curbed.

vi) Proper Cash Management System and Auditing of PRI accounts to curb leakages.

PRIs were based on the concept of popular sovereignty. However, without financial backing they won't be able to function. Thus ensuring financial independence is important.

Q12. भारत में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव सुनिश्चित करने में भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त और अन्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त अधिनियम, 2023 ECI की स्वतंत्रता को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करेगा? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in ensuring free and fair elections in India. How will the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 impact the independence of the ECI? (Answer in 250 words) 15

The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body established under Article 324 to conduct free & fair elections (basic structure).

Role of ECI in ensuring free & fair elections

i) Conducting elections to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State legislatures, President & Vice President.

ii) Enforcing Model Code of Conduct to ensure level playing field.

iii) Registering political parties to ensure accountability.

iv) Recognising National & State Parties eligible for special benefits.

v) Ensuring candidates stick to

Expenditure limits set by Parliament.

vi) Appointing Observers to maintain
sanctity of elections.

vii) Advising President with respect to
disqualification of members.

viii) Taking punitive actions ~~at~~ against
candidates on violation of RPA 1951
including electoral offence or corrupt
practise.

CEC and other EC Act 2023

i) Provides for Collegium for appointment
of CEC & EC.

ii) Collegium includes PM, leader of
opposition in Lok Sabha and a
Cabinet Minister.

iii) Person must have experience in
conduct of elections.

iv) Base from reappointment.

v) CEC is equal to Supreme Court
judge.

Role in ensuring independence

i) Brings Leader of opposition too into collegium. However excludes CTI as ruled in Anoop Baranwal case. Thus Centre has de facto veto.

ii) Provides for an eligibility. Thus less chances of spoils system.

iii) Bars from reappointment. However allows further appointment. Thus chances of politicisation.

iv) Reinstates position of CEC as being equal to Supreme Court judge. Thus, makes it firmly autonomous.

v) However, removal of EC still on advice of CEC.

Election Commission of India is a bulwark of Democracy in India & thus needs to be made immune from politics of the day.

Q13.

अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति (अत्याचार निवारण) अधिनियम, 1989 ने भारत में वंचित समुदायों पर होने वाले अत्याचारों को रोकने और उन्हें भेदभाव के विरुद्ध संरक्षण प्रदान करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has played a significant role in preventing atrocities and providing protection against discrimination of marginalized communities in India. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe
Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989 provides
for punishment to those committing
atrocities against SC/ST.

Salient features of SC/ST Act 1989

- i) Defines types of atrocities committed against SC/ST
eg. derogatory remarks.
- ii) Makes it a cognizable offence. Thus person can be arrested without warrant.
- iii) Prescribes penalties for committing atrocities against SC/ST.
- iv) Protects SC/ST from violence & discrimination.

However, the Act has not been able to reduce cases of atrocities committed against SC/ST due to —

- i) Power given to District Magistrate to register cases. Other fails to register them.
- ii) Inquiry against DM for failing to register cases only on permission from the Central govt.
- iii) Number of false cases registered under the case diluting effectiveness of the Act.
- iv) Slow judicial process leading to huge pendencies in the SC/ST Act cases.
- v) Poor conviction rate in the SC/ST Act cases.

To improve effectiveness of SC/ST Act, it is advised to —

- i) Establish fast track courts to deal with SC/ST cases.
- ii) Need to take permission from central govt to initiate inquiry against DM be done away with.
- iii) Punishment to ~~be~~ be made stringent for filing of false cases.

SC/ST Act 1989 is the base of enforcing constitutional guarantee of non discrimination (Article 15) & thus needs to be strengthened.

Q14.

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग (NCW) के कार्यों पर चर्चा कीजिए। महिलाओं की समस्याओं से निपटने में सिविल न्यायालय की शक्तियां प्राप्त होने से आयोग को क्या लाभ होता है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the functions of the National Commission for Women (NCW). How does the Commission benefit from having the powers of a civil court in dealing with women's issues? (Answer in 250 words) 15

The National Commission of Women is a statutory body established in 1993 to act as an autonomous body for women rights.

Functions of NCW

i) Monitoring implementation of various safeguards & schemes for women protection.

ii) Investigating in cases of women rights violation eg: Bodhisattva Gauram Case

iii) Power of civil court

iv) Advising central govt on women related policy formulation.

- v) Internal complaint cell act as a grievance redressal body for women.
- vi) Legislative cell have helped in promoting women centric legislation eg: Surrogacy Act
- vii) Digital Shakti 4.0 to promote digital literacy among women.

Benefits from power of civil court

- i) Can summon any ~~per~~ person to try cases.
- ii) Can ask for evidences and other documents related to cases.
- iii) Can prescribe punishments in some cases.
- iv) Not bound by Indian Evidence Act & but principles of Natural justice.
- v) Its orders have powers as of decree of courts.

Limitations of NCW

- i) Not a constitutional body.
- ii) Only recommandatory role. Advice not binding on Govt.
- iii) Anti women stand taken several times eg: Banglore Pub Case.
- iv) Slow to respond eg: Manipur Violence Case.

Recommendations

- i) Constitutional status (Pam Rajput Committee)
- ii) Binding recommendations
- iii) Financial independence from Ministry of Women & Child development
NCW's role would become very important in light of recent Kolkata rape murder case.

Q15.

भारत में बाल यौन शोषण के मुद्दे का समाधान करने में POCSO अधिनियम, 2012 की प्रभावशीलता का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Critically analyse the effectiveness of the POCSO Act, 2012 in addressing the issue of child sexual abuse in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The POCSO Act 2012 was enacted on the recommendations of Justice Verma committee to protect children from sexual abuse.

Salient features of POCSO Act 2012

- i) child friendly investigation process
eg: concealing identity, non coercive questioning, etc
- ii) Refines various types of child abuse, good vs bad touch, etc
- iii) Refines child as anyone below 18 years of age
- iv) Burden of proof on accused
thus pro child trial
- v) Bans child pornography

Effectiveness of POCSO Act 2012

Achievements

- i) Ensured child friendly investigation & trial.
- ii) Special courts established under the POCSO Act.
- iii) Awareness generation on child sexual abuse cases.

Limitations

- i) Consensual romantic relationship attracts stringent provisions of POCSO Act.
- ii) Number of child abuse cases have not declined. Infact increased since 2012 (NCRB Report)
- iii) Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) content has increased 250-300%.

in last 5 years .

iv) Differences in definition of child
in various Acts leads to
ambiguity eg: Juvenile Justice Act,
Child Labour Abolition Act, etc

v) 22nd Law Commission advised against
reducing age of consent from
18 years . While in many
European countries, it is 15-16
years .

Though the POCSO Act was
brought in the right spirit
but enforcement has been a
challenge . Thus, revamping the
Act is needed .

Q16.

भारत में स्मार्ट सिटी मिशन के कार्यान्वयन का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Critically evaluate the implementation of the Smart Cities Mission in India.
(Answer in 250 words)

15

Smart Cities Mission was launched in 100 cities to make them technology driven for urban solutions.

Salient features of Smart Cities Mission

i) Incorporating of internet and Artificial Intelligence for urban solutions.

ii) Smart traffic lighting.

iii) Technology driven solid waste management.

iv) Data collection on urban migrant population

v) Dynamic groundwater assessment using Lidar, etc

Achievements of Smart Cities Mission

i) 100 cities included in the scheme.
Thus many tier II cities also included.

ii) ICT driven solutions thus reducing manual errors.

iii) Data driven policy making thus saving resources & targetted delivery.

Limitations of the scheme

i) While Centre has released 86% of its funds, States have released only 46 - 67% funds across cities.

ii) Madurai is the only city with 100% project completion despite

deadline of 2022

iii) Special Purpose Vehicle created

Under the scheme is a parallel Agency to Urban Local government bodies.

iv) Poor quality of products installed in various cities eg: dysfunctional traffic lights, poor incineration system.

Smart Cities Mission is aimed at making Indian cities ready for 21st Century challenges and achieve SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities)

Q17. भारत में चरम निर्धनता में काफी कमी आई है, लेकिन स्वस्थ भोजन तक पहुंच अभी भी एक विलासिता का विषय बनी हुई है। स्वस्थ भोजन तक अपर्याप्त पहुंच के कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए और उनका समाधान करने के उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

While extreme poverty has declined considerably in India, access to healthy food still remains a luxury. Discuss the reasons for poor access to healthy food and suggest measures to overcome the same. (Answer in 250 words) 15

According to recently released National Multidimensional Poverty Index, India has now only 11.26% people ~~is~~ multidimensionally poor. Yet, India ranked 111 in Global Hunger Index.

Reasons for poor access to healthy food

i) Availability - Though India produced 323 million tonnes of foodgrains

yet it is not available in some regions

ii) Accessibility - due to centralised procurement, lack of food processing industry, logistical challenges.

iii) Affordability - despite free foodgrains

under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, many families are not able to avail them due to biometric authentication challenges.

iv) Nutritional security - MSP promotes rice-wheat monoculture, lack of nutridiets, prevalence of junk foods leading to obesity even in slum dwellers.

v) High post harvest losses - upto 40% between farm to fork.

Measures to overcome healthy food access

i) Inclusion of nutri foods in Mid day meal scheme
eg: Milk, Egg, Millets

ii) Food fortification with Iron & Folic Acid.

- iii) Decentralised storage eg: Cooperative
Grain storage scheme
- iv) Community fridges concept. ~~to~~ to
reduce wastage.
- v) Project Sulaimani in Khozi Kodl reduced
hunger.
- vi) Shifting to millets through pruning
of the MSP policy.
- vii) Deepening of Food processing industry
to increase shelf life eg: Tomato
puree.
- viii) Star labelling of foods (proposed by
FSSAI) to reduce ultra processed
food prevalence.

For achievement of SDG 2
it is important to delve deeper
from ~~food~~ hunger to hidden hunger.

Q18.

भारत में स्वास्थ्य संबंधी परिणामों को बेहतर बनाने में सार्वजनिक रूप से वित्तपोषित स्वास्थ्य बीमा की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Examine the role of publicly funded health insurance in improving health outcomes in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Health insurance density in India

Reached to \$ 67 in 2023 accounting

for nearly 63% of total

insurance cover in India. However,

a major section is provided by

Public sector through schemes like

Ayushman Bharat, PM Vayo Vandana Yojana

Role of publicly funded health insurance schemes

i) Increased penetration of health insurance eg: upto 4.2% of GDP.

ii) Increased density of health insurance upto \$ 67.

iii) Affordable tertiary health care access eg: Ayushman Bharat.

- iv) ~~Decline~~ Decline in mortality rates from
Cancer, Tuberculosis, etc
- v) Reduced out of pocket expenditure
currently at 46%.
- vi) Improved Geriatric care in India
which is greatly neglected by the
private sector.

However, there are limitations
to publicly funded health insurance
schemes

- i) High burden on public exchequer
eg: ₹ 5 lakh to 10 crore
households under AB PM JAY.
- ii) Reduced focus on preventive
and primary healthcare
eg: investments in sanitation.

iii) ● Claim settlement issues with
private companies tied up
with public sector.

iv) Not all hospitals empanelled
under the scheme.

Recommendations

i) Focus on One Health Approach
thus integrating primary &
preventive healthcare with
secondary & tertiary care.

ii) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
to allow inter operability of
benefits across states.

Health insurance coverage
is vital to achieve SDG 3 but
needs to be complimented with other
healthcare interventions.

Q19. भारत की 'पड़ोस प्रथम (Neighbourhood First)' नीति पड़ोसी देशों के साथ संबंधों को बेहतर करने में किस हद तक सफल रही है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

To what extent has India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy been successful in enhancing its relations with the neighbouring countries? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Neighbourhood First Policy was proposed by JK Gujral under the Gujral doctrine to prioritise neighbourhood in relations & adopt non reciprocal approach with neighbours.

Achievements of Neighbourhood First policy

- i) Deepening of relations with neighbours eg: Bhutan
- ii) India extended lines of credit to neighbours eg: Sri Lanka during BOP crisis
- iii) Connectivity projects could be initiated eg: Kaladan Multimodal project
- iv) South Asia Free Trade Agreement could come into force.

v) India could base its ~~na~~ naval bases in neighbouring countries

eg: Maldives.

vi) Non reciprocal approach led to infrastructure development in countries eg: Uthuru Thilafalu in Maldives, Vaccine Maitri.

vii) Earned goodwill of neighbours eg: Sheikh Hasina.

Limitations of Neighbourhood First Policy

i) Anti India sentiments in several countries eg: India Out Campaign in Maldives.

ii) Pro Chinese policy of neighbours despite Indian support - eg: Bangladesh Defence pact with China

- iii) Big Brotherly attitude of India
Sometimes eg: Nepal Blockade 2016.
- iv) Relations with Pakistan have reached
new lows especially after Uri
~~attacks~~ attacks.
- v) SAARC has become a jammed
vehicle.
- vi) Political crises in several South
Asian countries eg: Sri Lanka,
Bangladesh.
- vii) Low intra regional trade (5%)
despite SAFTA in place.

Thus, there is a need
to revive the policy in the
form of Neighbourhood First 2.0
based on the philosophy of "one
can change ones allies but not
neighbours"

Q20.

पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते संघर्षों के भारत पर पड़ने वाले उल्लेखनीय प्रभावों को रेखांकित करते हुए इसके क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक स्थिरता पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों का परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Examine the effects of escalating conflicts in West Asia on regional and global stability, highlighting the significant repercussions for India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

~~Israel~~ Israel Hamas war began on October 7 and has destabilised the region since then. There seems no end to the war at present.

Impact on regional stability

- i) Abraham Accords thrown out of context as Israel - Arab schism has widened.
- ii) Iran's active support to Hamas Hezbollah & Houthis deepening the conflict.
- iii) Iran's nuclear adventurism can destabilise it further.
- iv) Use of non state actors with no regard to war ethics
- v) Israel adamant on annihilation of Hamas.

Impact on global stability

- i) Deepening divide between West supporting Israel & , Russia & China supporting Iran.
- ii) Houthi attacks in Red Sea impacting global trade.
- iii) Dysfunctionality of global institutions like UN & ICC laid bare.
- iv) Huge humanitarian cost in terms of lives lost & food demand.
- v) Chances of war escalating including Hezbollah & Iran directly.

Repercussions for India

- i) India imports 80% of its oil demands . war hiked oil prices .
- ii) India's trade through Red Sea

region is jeopardised.

iii) Indian diaspora in West Asia
under direct threat.

iv) Connectivity projects like INSTC,
IMEC Corridor jeopardised.

v) Abraham - Indic accords prospects
nullified.

vi) Future of IZUZ perilous.

Suggestions to deal with the conflict

Short term

- Immediate ceasefire
- Sustainable Humanitarian corridor
- Sanctions

Long term

- Two State Solution
- Gaza Strip to be under
Palestinian authority

Israel Hamas war is causing
great damage to civilians & thus
needs to be immediately stopped.