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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1863)

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Medium Eng./Hindi		Date	22/Dec/21
Center	Online		

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

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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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.

1. Parliamentary oversight of administration is not an end in itself rather it acts as a means to strengthen the efficient functioning of the administration. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

प्रशासन की संसदीय निगरानी अपने आप में एक अंत नहीं है बल्कि यह प्रशासन के कुशल कामकाज को मजबूत करने के एक साधन के रूप में कार्य करता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

The hallmark of parliamentary democracy is oversight of parliament over functioning of executive. Article 75 of the constitution provides for this.

However, it is not an end in itself, rather means to ensure efficient administration:

- ① Mere oversight, without accountability serves no purpose.
- ② Efficiency in financial administration can be ensured by committees like Public accounts committee
- ③ Through Question hour, debates, etc. parliament can seek explanation from executive for their actions.

However, in recent times, parliament's role is declining:-

- ① Decline in number of bills referred to parliamentary committees
(From 71% (15th Ls) to 24% (16th Ls))
- ② Cancellation of question hour
(Example): During pandemic)
- ③ Frequent disruptions, and unruly behavior of MPs.
- ④ Laws like anti-defection law have ~~also~~ made MPs passive backbencher.

Effective functioning of administration requires effective parliamentary oversight. This can be ensured by making it mandatory to refer all bills to committees (NCRWC), and enforcement of ethical code of conduct for MPs.

2. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution has weakened the democratic credentials of India's representative democracy. Critically discuss.

(150 words) 10

संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची ने भारत के प्रतिनिधि लोकतंत्र की लोकतांत्रिक साथ को कमजोर कर दिया है। समालोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए।

10th schedule was introduced by 5th constitutional amendment to curb the evil of political defections. (Aya ram gaya ram)

It has weakened democratic credentials in following way:-

- ① No scope for dissent : members should unfailingly follow order of party whip
- ② Disincentivised need to actively participate in debate → got reduced to passive voting
- ③ Created disconnect between elected representative & interests of his constituency
- ④ Promoted high command culture in political parties.
- ⑤ It is seen as a threat to parliamentary privilege of freedom of speech [Article 105]

However, 10th schedule is needed in Indian political system due to following reasons:-

- ① Political stability: It ensures ruling party to be confident of its numbers, and allows it to take bold reforms.
- ② To prevent role of money in politics (by preventing horse trading)
- ③ To ensure that elected representatives do not breach trust of voters

Example Voter $\xrightarrow{\text{vote}}$ Party A. $\xrightarrow{\text{members join}}$ Party B.

So, problem is the need of the hour is to reform anti-defection law. As DINESH GOSWAMI COMMITTEE recommended, it can be restricted to crucial votes like no-confidence motion.

In addition, power to disqualify can be given to independent tribunal than speaker (SC in Manipur Legislative assembly case)

3. Article 246 of the Indian Constitution is considered as the cornerstone of Centre-state legislative relations. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 246 को केंद्र-राज्य विधायी संबंधों की आधारशिला माना जाता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Article 246 of the constitution (7th schedule) deals with separation of legislative power between center and state.

Union list → only union can make laws (Ex:- inter-state rivers)

State list → only state can make laws (Ex:- Police)

Concurrent list → Both union & state can make laws (Ex:- Education).

→ In case of conflict, union law prevails.

Cornerstone of legislative relations

① It protects sovereignty of states from encroachment by center.

- ② It allows centre & state to autonomously function.
- ③ By clearly demarcating subjects, it fixes responsibility on each level of govt.
- ④ It allows Supreme Court to safeguard federalism.

However, at times article 246 is seen as a source of dispute between centre & state too:

- ① Overlap: While police → state list, investigation → union list. Recently, Chhattisgarh challenged NIA law in Supreme Court.
- ② By passing states: For example, parliament passed farm laws under 'inter-state trade' of union list, while agriculture belongs to state list.

To ensure ~~that~~ centre-state legislative relations remain harmonious, there is need to update Article 246 by removing ambiguities.

4. Although the provision of issuing ordinances amounts to the usurpation of legislative power by the Executive, both Centre and states in India have taken unrestrained course to it. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

हालांकि अध्यादेश जारी करने का प्रावधान कार्यपालिका द्वारा विधायी शक्ति के अधिग्रहण के समान है, फिर भी भारत में केंद्र और राज्यों दोनों ने इसे अनियंत्रित रीति से प्रयुक्त किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 123 & 213 of the constitution enable President & Governor to issue ordinance when parliament (or) legislature is not in session.

Rationale behind ordinance power

- Several democratic constitutions like USA, UK do not have such power.
- Ambedkar justified as an extraordinary measure to allow executive to deal with emergency situation.

However, both Centre & States have taken unrestrained recourse to it :-

- ① The average number of ordinances have increased to 11/year in past 7 years compared to 7/year earlier (PRS)

- ② Even highly consequential bills like Farm laws were brought through ordinance route, despite there being no emergency need for them.
- ③ Centre & states had indulged in re-promulgation of ordinance against supreme court's direction.
- ④ Recently, Union govt brought ordinance extending tenure of CBI & ED director when parliament was scheduled to meet in just 2 weeks.

As supreme court in D.C. Wadhwa case noted, ordinance power is an extraordinary power and cannot be used as a substitute to legislative power. Therefore Union & state govt should resort to it only as a medicine, not staple diet.

5. There has been a manifold increase in the number of ministries in the central government since independence. Do you agree with the view there is a need to phase out many ministries and amalgamate others in this context? (150 words) 10

स्वतंत्रता के बाद से केंद्र सरकार में मंत्रालयों की संख्या में कई गुना वृद्धि हुई है। क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि इस संदर्भ में कई मंत्रालयों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करने और अन्य को समामेलित करने की आवश्यकता है?

As the complexity of governance has increased since time of independence, there is also increase in govt ministries.

Example Ministry of health → Ministry of AYUSH
Ministry of health & family welfare.

Phasing out many ministries and amalgamating may help in following ways:-

- ① Reduced working in silos → more coordination in policy making
- ② Less public expenditure on administration
- ③ Efficiency in governance due to reduced need for multiple clearances.

However, I do not agree that there is a need for reduction in

number of ministries, because:-

- ① Increasing complexity of policy making requires more nuanced approach.
- ② To allow development of expertise of officials in policy making
(Example: Ministry of skill development & entrepreneurship focuses exclusively on ways to improve skill set of our population)
- ③ It will fix responsibility among officials.
(Example: Low adoption of traditional medicine → responsibility specifically on Ministry of AYUSH, than Ministry of Health in general).

Therefore, ~~there~~ to improve effectiveness in administration, instead of reducing number of ministries, transparency and accountability can be infused through ways like e-governance, etc.

6. Evaluate the success of Digital India in fulfilling its vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

(150 words) 10

भारत को डिजिटल रूप से सशक्त समाज और ज्ञान आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में बदलने के अपने दृष्टिकोण को पूरा करने में डिजिटल इंडिया की सफलता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Digital India is a flagship programme of Govt of India to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Achievements so far :-

- ① Many fold increase in penetration of Internet, smart phones, etc.

(Example): India currently has lowest data rate in world - less than ₹ 10/GB

- ② Launch of many new e-governance initiatives like mygov.in, RTA-~~in~~ wallet, etc.

- ③ Increase in usage of technology in critical areas like justice delivery (virtual courts), smart policing, etc.

④ It gave a boost to numerous IT startups.

Shortcomings :-

- ① Digital divide : While 42% of urban India has access to internet, it is only 16% in rural areas (NSSO).
- ② Low availability of vernacular content on govt websites restricting their usage by native speakers.
- ③ Still traditional forms of governance like paper land records exist.

Along with the above shortcomings concern of data privacy and cyber security also exist.

Digital India campaign can be given a renewed push by enacting Data protection law. It can go a long way in increasing public trust and eventually realizing desired goal of knowledge society.

7. Examine the issues related to poverty measurement in India. Suggest measures to improve upon the existing methodologies. (150 words) 10
भारत में निर्धनता के मापन से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए। मौजूदा पद्धतियों में सुधार के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Poverty is a major challenge to India. UN MDPI 2021 observed that India has largest number of multidimensional poor in the world.

However, major issue in addressing poverty lies in devising poverty measurement mechanism.

Issues:-

- ① Lack of agreed criteria for defining poor:

[Alagh Committee → Calorie intake
Lakdawala committee → Education & health
Tendulkar & Rangarajan committee → daily expenditure)

- ② Lack of robust data : NBS 75th consumer

expenditure survey was not released citing data quality issues.

- ③ Lack of coordination between centre & state in identifying poor.

Measures to improve existing scenario :-

- ① Defining poor in a holistic manner taking into account multiple deprivations like the UN multidimensional poverty index
- ② Increased frequency and transparency in data collection, ~~needs~~ by leveraging digital technology
- ③ A nationally agreed criteria on poverty measurement common to centres and states.

Recently, NITI Aayog has concept with national multidimensional poverty index, which captures poverty up to the district level. This is a step in the right direction towards poverty measurement. Care must be taken to ensure that there are no exclusion errors.

8. As one of the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, discuss the rationale behind internationalisation of higher education in India and its associated challenges.

(150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP), 2020 की सिफारिशों में से एक के रूप में, भारत में उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के लिए दिए गए तर्क और इससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Internationalisation of higher education implies greater participation of foreign universities in India and Indian universities abroad. Currently, India has only three universities in global top 200 rankings.

Rationale behind :

- ① To prevent brain drain from India.
- ② To improve quality of higher education in India by allowing foreign universities to come to India.
- ③ To address human resource shortage in higher education.
- ④ To enable global-linkages among Indian universities in areas of cutting edge research.

⑤ It can act as a source of forex earnings (example: education tourism)

Associated Challenges

- ① Infrastructure in India is still at nascent level → may be difficult to attract foreign universities.
- ② Curriculum mismatch may take place between Indian and foreign universities.
- ③ Cost of higher education may increase making it dearer to poor.
- ④ As it involves huge investment, it may benefit rich universities ~~resulting~~ resulting in monopoly.

While it is necessary to improve quality of higher education, it should also be ensured that internationalisation doesn't create new divide in education.

9. Stating the significance of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), examine whether they have been as beneficial as expected for India. (150 words) 10
- मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों (FTAs) के महत्व को वर्णित करते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या वे भारत के लिए अपेक्षा के अनुसार लाभदायक रहे हैं।

FTAs are trade agreements where members agree to either reduce/eliminate of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

India's experience :-

Positive

- ① India's exports saw increase with countries like Sri Lanka & ASEAN with which it has FTA (Economic Survey 2020)
- ② Access to cheap goods and services to domestic consumers
- ③ They improved competitiveness of India's economy by through access to cheap raw materials & intermediate goods.

Negative

- ① Widening of trade deficit : India's trade

deficit with ASEAN increased from \$10 bn (2010) to \$24 bn (2019).

② Competition from cheap imports posed threat to India's MSME and Farmers.

③ They resulted in net-outgo of forex.

④ Indian textile industry, which employs large no. of women was severely hit by imports from ASEAN countries.

Thus, India's experience with FTA has been mixed. India recently boycotted RCEP due to fear of its impact on farmers & dairy industry.

However, as the future of globalisation is under threat, regional & bilateral FTAs are becoming important to tap into foreign markets. Therefore, instead of shying away, India should enhance its infrastructure & logistics competitiveness and participate in more FTAs.

10. Though multilateral development banks (MDBs) are crucial for holistic development of developing nations like India, there are certain legitimate concerns about their functioning. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

यद्यपि बहुपक्षीय विकास बैंक (MDBs) भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों के समग्र विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, तथापि उनके कामकाज के बारे में कुछ वैध चिंताएं भी हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

MDBs like IDB (World Bank), Asian Development Bank, etc offer loans at generous terms and contribute to development of developing nations.

They help in other ways also like :

- Access to credit in emergency times.
(Ex:- BOP crisis, 1991)
- Providing policy advice and support
- Strengthening governance mechanism, sharing best practices, etc.

However, legitimate concerns about their functioning exist:

① Conditionality : They impose conditions like opening up of economy to alien loans, which goes against sovereignty

② They are controlled by few countries (WB-USA, Europe), who use these banks as tool to serve their foreign policy goals.

③ Non-transparent nature of their working and non-inclusive representation.

④ Some MDBs like Asian Infrastructure Bank are dominated by China, which indulges in debt-trap diplomacy.

MDBs are a key source of funding to many developing countries, however, transparency and accountability in their governance is crucial to ensure that they serve legitimate interests of developing countries.

11. Despite the legal framework to resolve inter-state river water disputes, why do they continue to exist? Also, discuss measures that can be taken to resolve such disputes in an expeditious and agreeable manner.

अंतरराज्यीय नदी जल विवादों को हल करने के लिए कानूनी ढांचे के विद्यमान होने के बावजूद, वे अभी भी जारी क्यों हैं? साथ ही, ऐसे विवादों को शीघ्र और सहमतिपूर्ण रीति से हल करने के लिए किए जा सकने वाले उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 words) 15

Due to presence of numerous cross-boundary rivers, and shifting river courses, inter-state river water disputes are among the most pressing federal disputes.

Legal framework to resolve them

- Article 262 allows parliament to devise a mechanism to resolve such disputes
- Inter-state River water disputes act 1956 (ISRWDA) - allows parliament to setup a river water tribunal to resolve disputes
- River water boards act, 1956 - allows parliament to setup water-boards involving all river-basin states to harmoniously cooperate on water sharing
- Article 131 : original jurisdiction of supreme court.

Despite the legal framework, disputes exist because :-

- ① Delay in awards : For example Ravi & Beas tribunal setup in 1986, but no award yet
- ② Appeal against awards : Despite ISRWO A prohibiting Supreme Court's jurisdiction, states have appealed under Article 136
Example : Cauvery tribunal award
- ③ Lack of authentic water data
- ④ Politicisation of river sharing disputes for political gains
- ⑤ Unilateral actions by few states
Example : Telangana's decision to ramp up hydro power from Krishna river
- ⑥ Re-drawal of state boundaries create new challenges each time
Example Krishna dispute: Telangana & Andhra

Measures to resolve the disputes in
expeditious manner :-

- ① Effective utilisation of platforms like Intra-state council, since the disputes are largely political in nature (Sarkaria Commission)
- ② Creation of a National Water Commission as a science-led body by merging CWC & CWCW to have authentic water data (MIHIR SHAH Commission)
- ③ Creating fixed-timelines for tribunals to award their judgement.
- ④ Involving local-people in managing river basins near border regions.

Smooth resolution of inter-state river water disputes is crucial for smooth functioning of cooperative federalism. States can explore voluntary arrangements like Tamil Nadu - Kerala river basin agreement 1960 to ensure peaceful resolution of such disputes.

Don't write anything in margin (इस अंश में कुछ न लिखें)

12. While use of technology is a welcome step towards improving the efficiency of the judicial system, it must be understood that technology itself comes with a set of challenges that make justice even more inaccessible. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

हालांकि न्यायिक प्रणाली की दक्षता में सुधार की दिशा में प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है, लेकिन यह भी समझा जाना चाहिए कि प्रौद्योगिकी स्वयं चुनौतियों के एक समूह को साथ लाती है जो न्याय को और भी अधिक दुर्गम बनाती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Ministry of law & justice is running various initiatives like e-courts mission mode program to effectively leverage technology in judicial system

Technology can improve efficiency in following ways :-

- ① Eliminating barriers : It can reduce geographical barrier in access to justice
- ② By streamlining processes, such as reducing paperwork, etc.
- ③ Minimising disruptions : It allowed courts to function even during pandemic
- ④ It will allow protection of witness in sensitive cases (Example : video conference)

⑤ It will enable access to real-time data on pending cases, appeal rate, etc. which will help in data analytics.

However, technology brings challenges like :-

- ① Digital divide : It may deny access to justice to digitally illiterate.
- ② Cyber threat poses challenge of leakage of sensitive judicial proceedings, evidence, etc.
- ③ Huge infrastructure costs like internet, video conferencing equipment, etc.
- ④ absence of data protection law - concern of misuse of personal data
- ⑤ requires fundamental reorientation of work culture in courts.

The challenges can be addressed in ways like :-

- ① Capacity building of judges to make them utilise modern technology effectively
- ② Using NALJA & SLJA to promote awareness among public
- ③ Putting in place robust cyber security mechanisms & data protection law.

Economic Survey 2013 pointed that due to large pendency in cases, Matsyanyaya is prevailing. Effective leverage of technology can help in speedy disposal of cases and ensure rule of law.

13. The current urban planning capacities in India are extremely skeletal and need systemic reforms and a change in mindset. Discuss. (250 words) 15
भारत में शहरी नियोजन की वर्तमान क्षमताएं अत्यंत सीमित हैं तथा प्रणालीगत सुधारों और मानसिकता में बदलाव की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

According to census 2011, cities account for 30% of total population. By 2030, it is expected to become 40%. The current rapid pace of urbanisation needs effective urban planning capacity to manage it well.

Current planning capacity - extremely skeletal

→ 74th constitutional amendment act provided for skeleton and left to states to give flesh & blood.

→ Many states have not devolved enough funds, functions & functionaries

→ Weak Finance: Despite cities accounting for 70% of GDP, yet municipal revenue is only 0.45% GDP (15th FINANCE COMMISSION)

- Ceremonial head : Democratically elected Mayor has no real power
- Usurping of power & role of urban bodies by special purpose vehicles
- Example : Smart cities SPV.

Therefore, there is a need for systematic reforms and change in mindset

- ① Augmenting finances by encouraging local bodies to tap into municipal bonds, more devolution by centre & state, etc.
[15th FC made landmark recommendations: increased allotment to local bodies by 52% compared to 14th FC]
- ② Capacity building of local body representatives to enable them to effectively plan local development

- ③ Shortage of staff can be addressed through program like TULIP
- ④ Mandatory constitutional powers (PUNCHHI COMMISSION)
- ⑤ Leveraging spatial planning technology for effective utilisation of land resources
- ⑥ Involving urban residents in urban local governance by creating Mohalla Sabhas in line of Gram Sabha.

The effectiveness of BMC Mumbai municipal corporation in controlling covid pandemic shows what empowered local bodies can achieve. Therefore, there is need for change in mindset and more political will to enable urban local bodies as enablers of growth & prosperity.

14. Reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has not translated into corresponding increase in women's representation in India's state legislatures. Bringing out the reasons for the same, discuss how under-representation of women in the state legislatures can be corrected.

(250 words) 15

पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRIs) में महिलाओं के लिए प्रदत्त आरक्षण उसी अनुपात में भारत की राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के प्रतिनिधित्व में वृद्धि में परिवर्तित नहीं हुआ है। इसके कारणों को वर्णित करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के कम प्रतिनिधित्व में कैसे सुधार किया जा सकता है।

73rd Constitutional amendment act has introduced 1/3rd reservations to women in panchayats. Consequently, there are about 1.4 million women panchayat representatives.

However, it has not translated to corresponding increase in women representation in state legislatures. In many states, share of women MLAs is less than 20%.

Reasons

- ① Patriarchal mindset in society - perception that male MLAs can fight

for their problems strongly

- ② Lack of intra-party democracy: Parties field candidates based on winnability → perception that women are weak choice.
- ③ Increasing participation of criminals in politics [AOR - 43% MPs with criminal background in 17th LS] → perception that politics is not safe for women.
- ④ Traditionally women are deprived of access to financial resources. This coupled with increasing role of money in politics
Example: Between 1999 & 2019, election expenditure increased by 6 times - Centre for media studies
- ⑤ Dual burden of domestic care & highly demanding political job
- ⑥ Lack of literacy & leadership training to women.

It can be corrected through :-

- ① Transparency in functioning of political parties → more intra-party democracy
- ② Promoting awareness among voters about women perspective in law making
- ③ Curbing money & muscle power in politics by giving more teeth to ECI
- ④ Govt can undertake leadership orientation programmes to women panchayat representatives to increase their confidence to contest in state elections.
- ⑤ Reservations can be introduced
(Example) BJD & TMC → 50% seats to women)

SDG goal of 5 requires more women participation in politics. India has seen powerful women leaders like Janjani Naidu, Indira Gandhi, Mamta Banerjee, etc. India needs more such leaders.

15. For effective public service delivery, there is need to shift from traditional accountability mechanisms to social accountability mechanisms. In this context, discuss the pre-conditions for the success of social accountability efforts and challenges associated with them.

(250 words) 15

प्रभावी सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण के लिए, पारंपरिक जवाबदेही तंत्र से सामाजिक जवाबदेही तंत्र में स्थानांतरित करने की आवश्यकता है। इस संदर्भ में, सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व के प्रयासों की सफलता के लिए पूर्व-शर्तों और उनसे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Social accountability is a type of public vigilance mechanism where beneficiaries of a public scheme (or common public) hold govt accountable.

Examples of social accountability —
Social audit, Citizen Charter, RTI, Gram Sabha, etc.

Problem with traditional accountability:

- 1) Less effective due to huge work load
(Example): CAH - shortage of staff
- 2) Huge pendency of cases - delay in action against erring officials.
- 3) Conflict of interest - govt itself is the appointing agency for CVC, CAG, etc.

Social accountability can ensure effective public service delivery by making officials directly accountable to public.

However, pre-conditions for its success ^{both} require

- ① Well-educated and ass. informed citizenry
- ② Easy to understand public documents
(Complex audit documents - difficult for public to understand)
- ③ Clearly defined areas and extent to which accountability is required
(Example : Defense procurements - sensitive issue)
- ④ Such accountability mechanisms should be complemented with grievance redressal mechanisms.
(Accountability w/o punishments means no accountability).

Challenges in social accountability:-

- ① Large number of poor people & low literacy levels.
(Example) Target beneficiaries of MGNREGS
- ② Lack of transparency in govt functioning
- ③ Chances of misuse - Bogus Gram Sabha meetings (MANISHANKAR AIYER COMMITTEE)
- ④ May delay govt working due to lengthy and time-consuming nature of social audit
- ⑤ It may make public officers fearful to take bold decisions due to fear of public criticism

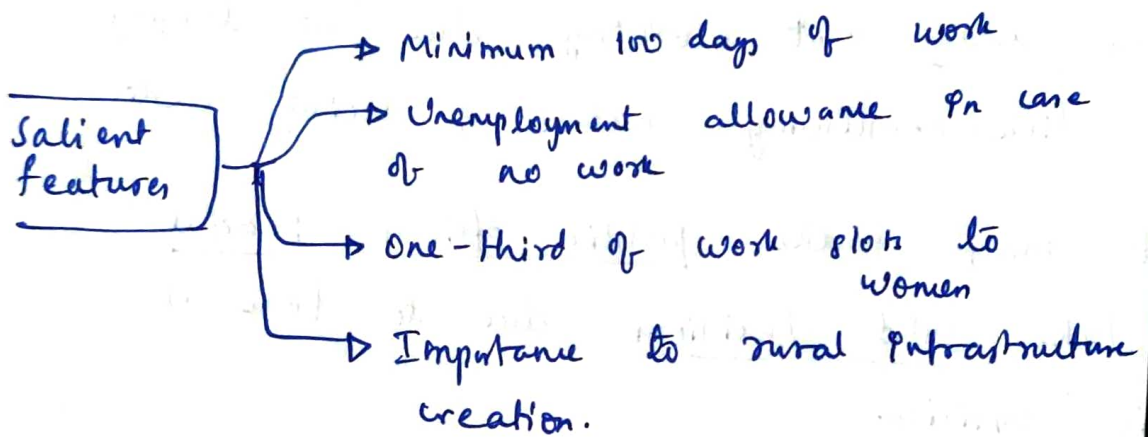
Success of social accountability in countries like El Salvador holds immense significance for India. However, it is not a replacement rather complementary to institutional accountability mechanism. Both of them can be fused together through means like Citizen Card.

16. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) remains one of the most ambitious programmes for public welfare and rural development, but its objectives cannot be achieved without strong and capable Panchayati Raj Institutions. Elucidate.

(250 words) 15

महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम (मनरेगा) अभी भी लोक कल्याण और ग्रामीण विकास के लिए सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रमों में से एक है, लेकिन इसके उद्देश्यों को मजबूत और सक्षम पंचायती राज संस्थानों के बिना हासिल नहीं किया जा सकता है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

MANREGA is world's largest employment generation programme. It was launched in 2005 to achieve twin goals of public welfare and rural development.



MANREGA benefitted more than 10 crore rural citizens during pandemic.

However, its desired objectives cannot be realized without strong PRIs, because-

① Identification of work : To ensure

that MGNREGA resources are productively spent, it requires PRI to identify priority work like community assets, repair of drains, roads, etc.

② Identification of beneficiaries : To ensure that there is no discrimination in work allotment, strong & capable PRIs are needed.

③ Prevent corruption : Gramsabhas play key role in ensuring non-diversion of funds, bogus assets, through social audit.

④ Poverty alleviation & rural development are items of 11th schedule, which puts onus on PRI for their effective achievement.

⑤ Delay in payments : Strong PRIs are required to put pressure on govt to release funds timely manner.

Therefore, effective implementation of
MANREHA & strong PRIs are issues
which are closely related.

As 2nd ARE recommendal,
with devolution of power based on
principle of subsidiarity, both the
objectives can be achieved.

17. Despite legal safeguards and international conventions, the State has failed to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities in general and those with psychosocial disabilities in particular. Discuss in the context of India.

कानूनी सुरक्षोपायों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अभिसमयों के बावजूद, राज्य सामान्य रूप से दिव्यांगजनों और विशेष रूप से मनोसामाजिक दिव्यांगजनों के अधिकारों को बनाए रखने में विफल रहा है। भारत के संदर्भ में विवेचना कीजिए।

(250 words) 15

Article 41 of Dpsr puts obligation on state to look after people with disabilities. India has also signed numerous conventions like UN convention on rights of persons with (PWD) disabilities to commit itself to welfare of PwD.

How- However, there are certain shortcomings in upholding the

Rights of PwD:

- ① They are frequently subjected to discrimination, violence, etc
- ② Lack of accessible public spaces
- ③ Low sensitisation of public about PwD resulting in pre-judice against them

④ Denial of public services like food, housing, etc. on account of their lack of identity cards

Rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities:

⑤ Poor access to mental health care services

(Example) Only 0.3 psychiatrists per 1 lakh population)

⑥ Low priority accorded in health budget ($< 0.1\%$ of health budget)

⑦ Lack of sensitisation of police personnel about mental health issues

(Example): Use of cruel methods of investigation against people with mental health issues).

However, in recent times, govt has undertaken numerous steps to change the state of affairs, like:-

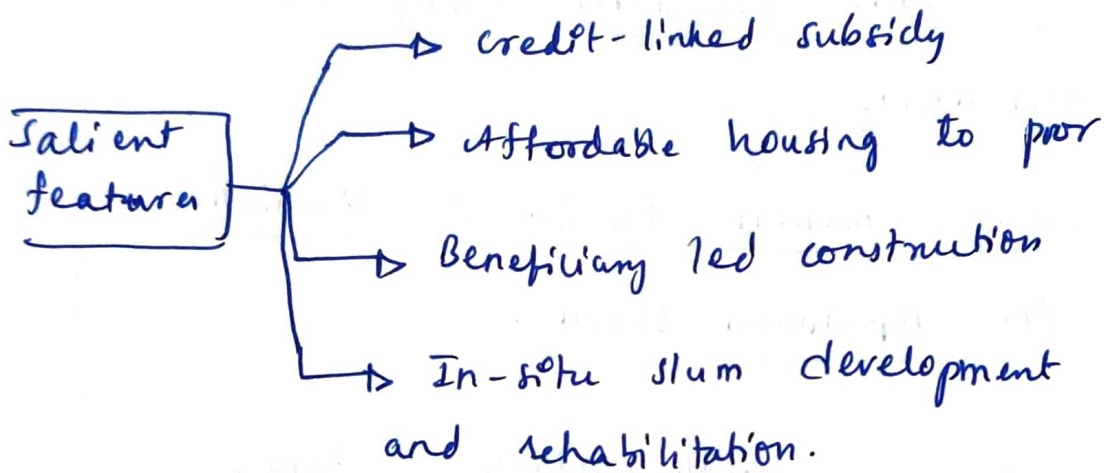
- ① Passage of rights of persons with disabilities act, 2019 - which criminalises discrimination
- ② Accessible India campaign to improve accessibility of public health spaces.
- ③ Promoting tele-psychiatry using institutions like NIMHANS
- ④ Including mental health & disabilities under PM-Ayushman Bharat.

Along with above steps, public awareness should be improved through TV-ads, social media campaigns, etc. on sensitivity of disability & psychosocial issues. It will ensure 'sarvodaya' - development of all.

18. To what extent has the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) been successful in solving the problem of rural housing in India? Discuss with adequate arguments. (250 words) 15

भारत में ग्रामीण आवास की समस्या को सुलझाने में प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) किस सीमा तक सफल रही है? पर्याप्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

PM Awas Yojana is a flagship scheme of GoI to achieve the goal of housing for all.



Achievements include :-

- ① Identification of rural poor who lack pucca houses.
- ② More than 1 crore houses have been sanctioned so far and many have been finished and handed over.

- ③ It has increased access to finance
to rural housing sector
- ④ It has encouraged many NGOs and
private agencies to work towards rural
housing as part of Corporate social responsi-
bility

However, there are Certain challenges
too:

- ① Delay in release of funds, and
slow pace of construction
- ② Exclusion errors: many beneficiaries
have been excluded due to lack of
documents
- ③ Corruption: poor quality construction
material, discrepancies in tendering,
diversion of constructed houses, etc.

④ Lack of robust monitoring mechanism

The above challenges have to be addressed to achieve the goal of housing for all. Private sector can also be involved in PPP arrangements to expedite construction and bring innovation in low-cost housing technology.

19. Despite the potential of India's Neighbourhood First policy, there have been several impediments to regional cooperation in South Asia. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत की नेबरहुड फर्स्ट नीति में क्षमता होने के बावजूद, दक्षिण एशिया में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग के लिए कई बाधाएं विद्यमान हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

GOI launched neighbourhood first policy in 2014. It is a major diplomatic initiative to ensure peaceful & prosperous neighbourhood.

Potential of neighbourhood first policy :-

① Geo-political

- ① It can help in revival of SAARC
- ② It can help in successful realisation other foreign policies like 'Act East'
- ③ It can bridge trust deficit between India and its small neighbours.

Geo-strategic

- ④ It can help in offsetting China's influence in India's neighbourhood by

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(इस जगह में कुछ न लिखें)

Strengthening India's own relations with its neighbours.

⑤ It can foster strong cooperation among countries to deal effectively with cross-border terrorism, organized crime, etc.

⑥ A United South Asia can be more secure from negative implications from Taliban takeovers of Afghanistan.

Geo-economic

⑦ It can enable development of cross-border supply chains (Example: Textiles)

⑧ It can reduce logistic cost by improving connectivity (Example: India's North East can use ports of Bangladesh).

However, despite potential, several impediments exist, like

① Terrorism: After 2016 UN attack, India

- boycotted SAARC in protest against Pakistan's state-sponsored terrorism.
- ② Lack of infrastructure and regional connectivity
 - ③ Economies in the region are protectionist (SAARC FTA remained ineffective).
 - ④ Huge distrust against India in countries like Nepal (anti-India card by ruling party)
 - ⑤ Slow implementation of India's development policies (Perception that "India promises, China delivers")
 - ⑥ Role of China: Countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, & Sri Lanka, and Pakistan are increasingly becoming pro-China due to its economic diplomacy.

India needs to give renewed impetus to ~~its~~ its neighbourhood first policy. It can adopt Aujaz doctrine of non-reciprocity. The recent Covid-maitri initiative was a step in right direction.

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20. It is argued that China's Belt and Road Initiative has resulted in unsustainable debt-for-infrastructure deals in several countries across continents and it is a part of debt trap diplomacy. Discuss. (250 words) 15

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि चीन का बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव महाद्वीपों के कई देशों में गैर-संभारणीय अवसंरचना के लिए ऋण आधारित सौदों में परिणत हुआ है और यह ऋण जाल कूटनीति का एक हिस्सा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a grand foreign policy initiative of China. Through BRI, China aims to expand its strategic influence across globe by infrastructure cooperation.

Rationale behind BRI

- ① To create a Sino-centric world order by displacing US hegemony
- ② To gain access to strategic ports at key sea lanes of ~~connectivity~~ connectivity
- ③ To keep its economy running (concern of growing old-age population)

However, critics consider it as part of China's debt trap diplomacy.

- ① Deceptive loan terms : China offers

loan at unsustainably cheap rates, which increase their attractiveness. When countries fail to repay, it doesn't renegotiate, instead secures access to strategic infra.

Example: Sri Lanka Hambantota port - 99 year lease

② Loss of sovereignty: Many small countries like Montenegro, Maldives, etc. for whom Chinese loans account for about 25% of GDP, see Chinese interference in domestic affairs.

Concerns of other countries w.r.t China's BRI :-

① Expanding geo-political clout of China reflecting in Chinese assertive actions in South China Sea.

② Territorial integrity: ~~Chinese~~ CPEC, which part of BRI passes through Pok, which India sees a violation of its territorial integrity.

③ Coercive diplomacy: China is forcing small debt-laden African countries to vote in its favour in international platform like WHO, UNHCR, etc.

There is need for transparency and sustainability in infrastructure initiatives, especially that which concern poor countries. Some recent initiatives like Blue dot network by USA and 'Build back better' initiative of G7 aim to counter China's BRI.