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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 876)

Name of Candidate	SAGAR KUMAR		
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng.	Registration Number	94447
Center	OLD RJNGR	Date	11-10-17

### INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

### INSTRUCTIONS

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)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.  
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.  
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
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।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
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।

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103, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009

## EVALUATION INDICATORS

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

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. While India has taken a number of steps in order to substantially improve its ranking in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' Index, it needs to take further action in this regard. Elaborate. Also analyse the utility of these rankings vis-a-vis India's objective of facilitating a sound entrepreneurial environment.

जहां, भारत ने विश्व बैंक के 'इज ऑफ़ डूइंग बिज़नेस' (ब्यापार करने की सुगमता) सूचकांक में अपनी रैंकिंग में सार्थक सुधार करने हेतु कई कदम उठाए हैं, वहीं भारत को इस संबंध में आगे और अधिक कार्यवाही करने की आवश्यकता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही सुदृढ़ उद्यमिता वातावरण प्रदान करने के भारत के उद्देश्य के परिप्रेक्ष्य में ऐसी रैंकिंग की उपयोगिता का भी विश्लेषण कीजिए।

India is ranked at 130<sup>th</sup> position in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. The index aims at evaluating the relative ease of setting up a business in terms of getting approvals, labour laws, environmental regulations etc.

Govt. steps in this regard :-

e-biz portal that works 24x7 and has facilitated approval of licenses online.

Invest India has been set up as a Investor facilitation cell to handhold investors.

Labour Reforms: The govt. has set up Shramen Jayate portal, issued unique Labour Identification Number (LIN), National Career Service etc.

What else needs to be done?

- (i) Faster environmental clearances with single window facility.
- (ii) Better exit norms: Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code needs to be operationalised properly.
- (iii) Mandatory EPF contributions can be made optional & left to the employees.
- (iv) Tax regime should be made more investor friendly. Tax terrorism & retrospective taxation needs to be done away with.

Way Forward:

The government should finalise the

Model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) to restore the faith of the investors with regard to international arbitration.

Utility :

Ease of Doing Business focuses on majority 2 cities: Delhi & Mumbai.

In order to make it more representative, there is a need to reform the existing criteria so as to include more number of cities in its fold.

2. In wake of the agrarian crisis that the country is witnessing, discuss the need for adopting an income-centric approach in preference to a production-centric one as the basis of agricultural policy. In this context, also highlight the steps that should be taken to achieve the goal of doubling the income of farmers by 2021-22 and the challenges that exist.

देश द्वारा सामना किए जा रहे कृषि संकट के आलोक में, कृषि नीति के आधार के रूप में उत्पादन-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण के स्थान पर आय-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण अपनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, 2021-22 तक किसानों की आय दोगुना करने का लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने के लिए जो कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए, उनके साथ-साथ विद्यमान चुनौतियों पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

India's agricultural policy aims at achieving a 4% growth rate of agricultural production (production-centric approach). India's agriculture has witnessed falling crop yield, fragmentation of land, distress sales and falling farm incomes.

Need for income-centric approach:

(i) As land titles are not properly documented, landless labourers don't get the benefit of policy support. Hence, government incentives should be pegged to farmer incomes.

- (ii) production - centric approach has led to crop losses after harvest. production - centric approach also leads to overuse of inputs
- (iii) Income - centric approach would incorporate organic agriculture, horticulture etc that would make farming more remunerative.

Steps needed for doubling farmer incomes:

- (i) Crop insurance: only 19% of farmers avail crop insurance as of now. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a good step in this direction.
- (ii) Micro-irrigation facilities that are more cost effective needs to be promoted in dryland areas.
- (iii) Crop Diversification and Agroforestry
- (iv) Organic Farming and Horticulture
- (v) Cold chain infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses and food processing.

Challenges:

- (i) Fragmented agriculture market:  
Lots of middlemen lead to farmer exploitation at mandis.
- (ii) Monsoon Dependency
- (iii) Low spending on R & D in agriculture

Way Forward:

In order to realize the vision of doubling farmer income by 2021-22, there is a need to overhaul the agricultural ecosystem from farm to fork.

3. It is argued that India's fiscal centre of gravity has rapidly shifted from the Centre to the States. Analyse the statement in context of the debate on fiscal discipline. Also, enumerate the key recommendations of the N.K. Singh panel on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act.

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि भारत का राजकोषीय गुरुत्वाकर्षण का केंद्र तेजी से केन्द्र से राज्यों की ओर स्थानांतरित हुआ है। राजकोषीय अनुशासन पर वाद-विवाद के संदर्भ में इस कथन का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, राजकोषीय उत्तरदायित्व एवं बजट प्रबंधन अधिनियम पर एन. के. सिंह पैनल की प्रमुख अनुशंसाओं को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Financial devolution from Centre to States has witnessed a clear shift post recommendations of fourteenth Finance Commission. The 14th FC recommended a higher devolution of 42% from existing 32% of central tax pool. The Economic Survey 2016-17 has found states to be more disciplined than states in ensuring fiscal discipline.

Shift in Centre of gravity:

(i) Rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored schemes :- The number of CSS reduced to 26.

(ii) Advancement of Budget Date in order to ensure that central advances reach to the state before the onset of their budget cycle.

(iii) Abolition of planning Commission which was an epitome of top down planning.

(iv) Niti Aayog has ensured due representation to state's views in the spirit of cooperative federalism.

(v) However, recommendations of 7<sup>th</sup> Central pay Commission (needs to be replicated at states) and UDAY scheme has stressed the finances of states.

Recommendations of N.K. Singh panel:

(i) Replacement of FRBM Act with Debt Responsibility and Management Act.

(ii) Reduction of debt-GDP ratio from 68% to 60%.

(iii) Fiscal deficit Range rather than a point target to allow flexibility.

- (iv) Escape clause to enable overshooting fiscal deficit target at times of prolonged economic slowed.
- (v) Fiscal Responsibility Council to oversee the fiscal discipline.

### Way Forward:

At a time when private investment is not picking up, there is a need to reconcile the provisions of FRBM act with the prospects of increasing public investment to bring India back on high growth trajectory.

4. Strategic sale of state-run firms is a prudent step to deal with the challenges being faced by the public sector enterprises in India. Comment. Also enumerate other measures that can be taken in light of NITI Aayog's suggestions in this regard.

भारत में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए राज्य-संचालित उद्यमों की रणनीतिक बिक्री एक विवेकपूर्ण कदम है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही इस संबंध में नीति आयोग के सुझावों के प्रकाश में उठाए जा सकने वाले अन्य उपायों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Public sector enterprises in India are characterised by politicisation of appointments, trade unionism, lack of competition, resistance to change and job tapism. Take for example, the Case of Air India.

Divestment a prudent step?

Yes Because :

- (i) It will improve state finances.
- (ii) Divestment would bring market discipline, competition.
- (iii) It will lead to a wider ownership of PSE shares.

Counter Argument :

- (i) privatisation of PSEs will hurt balanced regional development.
- (ii) Job losses
- (iii) Money raised through divestment could be diverted for unproductive revenue expenditures like subsidies and not on social sector.

Word of Caution !

Strategic sale involves liquidation of assets more than 50% as well as the management control. Strategic sale, therefore may undermine the social obligations of the government.

Niti Aayog's recommendations :

- (i) Monetizing idle assets of PSUs to garner resources.
- (ii) Reducing politicisation of appointments of board members in PSEs.
- (iii) Merger and Acquisition to consolidate sick PSEs.

Way Forward:

The National Investment Fund (NIF) should be used to revive the sick loss making PSUs.

5. Shell companies in India are neither legally defined nor properly understood. Analyse in the light of recent developments, prevalent understanding and steps required to effectively deal with shell companies.

भारत में शेल कंपनियां न तो कानूनी रूप से परिभाषित हैं और न ही उनके विषय में उचित समझ है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों, व्याप्त (प्रचलित) समझ और शेल कंपनियों से प्रभावी ढंग से निपटने हेतु आवश्यक कदमों के आलोक में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Shell companies are those that do not have active business operations, lie only on paper. Some of them are illegitimate and are used for money laundering and tax evasion.

Definition:

The shell companies are not defined under the Companies Act, 2013 and are dealt under prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and the Companies Act, 2013.

Understanding:

Shell companies are often confused with dormant companies and are misunderstood.

Recently, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has cancelled ~~the cancelled~~ the licenses of 1 lakh shell companies and 2 lakh dormant companies post demonetisation.

Steps Required:

- (i) Board of Directors of shell companies need to be penalised.
- (ii) Source of funding should be tracked under PMLA Act, 2002 to curb instances of money laundering.
- (iii) Some of shell companies have assets and subsidiaries abroad. Therefore, cooperation with Financial Action Task force (FATF) and other tax havens required.
- (iv) Treaty shopping and Base Erosion and profit shifting should be dealt in accordance with Multilateral conventions of OECD/G20.

Way Forward :

Shell companies ~~are a~~ drain our regulatory system. In order to restore investor confidence and to ensure ease of doing business, severe action on shell companies is called for.

6. If a larger population in India is to be involved in the economy in a big way, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are key. Elaborate. Also discuss the challenges faced by the SME sector in India and give an account of the measures taken by the government to deal with these.

यदि भारत में एक बड़ी आबादी को अर्थव्यवस्था में बड़े पैमाने पर सम्मिलित करना है, तो लघु और मध्यम उद्यम (SMEs) महत्वपूर्ण हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। इसके साथ ही, भारत में SME क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर भी चर्चा कीजिए और इनसे निपटने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का विवरण भी प्रदान कीजिए।

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs henceforth) contribute to 30% of our manufacturing GDP and 45% of employment in manufacturing. SMEs are Kamdhenu of job creation and provide an ancillary base to our large enterprises. They also employ a large women workforce.

Challenges faced by SMEs:

- (i) Lack of funds: SMEs mostly rely on informal sources of credit.
- (ii) Lack of skilled manpower.
- (iii) Competition from cheap imports.  
For ex: Chinese goods offer severe competition.

(iv) Regulatory Issues :- Labour laws, environmental clearances, taxation etc.

(v) Infrastructural Bottlenecks: Port congestion, lack of electricity, low levels of technology etc.

Government Measures:

(i) Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana to facilitate institutional credit to small borrowers.

(ii) Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) scheme to reconcile environmental costs with MSME development as well as to promote quality manufacturing.

(iii) Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small & medium Enterprises (CTMSE)

(iv) Vday Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM) for small enterprises.

(v) Labour reforms like National Career Service, Labour Identification Number.

(vi) Skill India scheme to skill 40 crore people by 2022.

(vii) Social Security: Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana for unorganised sector workers etc.

Way Forward:

In order to tackle joblessness for ensuring job led growth and to ensure women empowerment, the government needs to provide policy support to handhold ~~our~~ micro medium and small enterprises.

7. What are the reasons for the growing informalization of industrial labour in India? Discuss the issues associated with the phenomenon and reforms required to deal with them.

भारत में औद्योगिक श्रम के बढ़ते अनौपचारिकरण के क्या कारण हैं? इस परिघटना से जुड़े मुद्दों और उनसे निपटने हेतु आवश्यक सुधारों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

India's labour force is characterised by a large informal and casual workforce. More than 90% of workers are employed in informal sector. ~~Reasons for~~ Informal sector consists of these enterprises that employ less than 10 workers.

Reasons for growing informalisation:

(i) Social Security norms : Businesses evade social security norms applicable to firms with  $\geq 10$  workers. They deliberately stay and remain small.

(ii) Low skills : A large chunk of our workforce have insufficient technical knowhow.

(iii) Mandatory minimum wages : Employers prefer contract workers to hire and fire at will and evade Minimum wage provision.

Issues Associated with informalization.

- (i) Poor working conditions.
- (ii) Long working hours.
- (iii) No social security for eg: EPF (Employee provident Fund), Insurance etc.
- (iv) No job security.
- (v) paid lesser than statutory minimum wages.
- (vi) Informal workers are not represented in Trade Unions and thus lack collective Bargaining.

Re-forms :

- (i) Labour laws : It should be made more flexible in terms of working hours. The labour law regime should move away from targeted inspections to random inspections. It should move from enforcement to compliance.

- (ii) Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Prasthhan Yojana : Govt. to contribute 8.33% percent of EPF contribution.
- (iii) EPF Contributions should be made optional for employers.
- (iv) Consolidation of existing labour laws For ex: ~~Nati~~ payment of Wages Act, 1936 and Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Way Forward:

Given the fact that Labour is a Concurrent Subject, the Centre should take States on board and bring meaningful reforms to ensure a better work-life balance and wages for the labour class.

8. A number of far-reaching developments have taken place in the local and global energy space which have to be reflected in our own energy policy framework. Discuss.

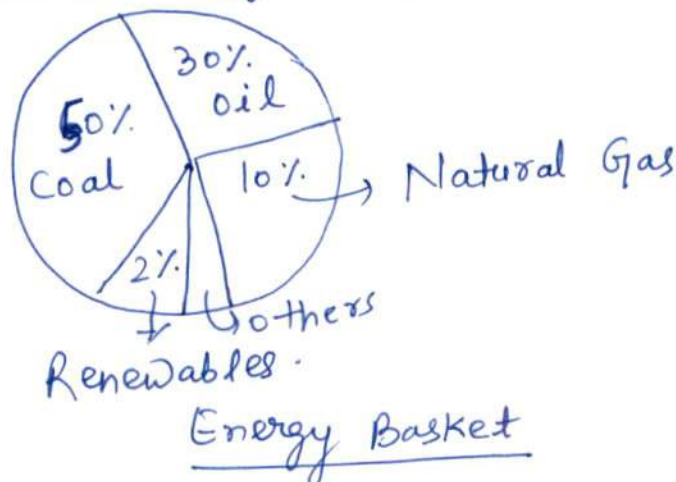
स्थानीय और वैश्विक ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कई दूरगामी घटनाएं घटित हुई हैं, जिन्हें हमारी अपनी ऊर्जा नीति के ढांचे में प्रतिबिंबित होना है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Two important developments that have far reaching implications for India's energy security include:

- Falling oil prices in the Gulf and hydraulic fracturing technique that has increased shale gas production in US.

- Paris climate Deal and India's ambitious Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) & Fall of price of renewables.

India's energy policy:



In keeping with the falling global crude prices, India has built Strategic oil reserves at Padur, Vishakhapatnam, Bikaner, Chandikhole etc., which is a good step towards energy security in future.

India has signed bilateral agreements to procure shale gas from US.

Investment in Renewables:  
To honour our commitments at Paris climate Deal, India has scaled up creation of solar parks, National Energy Conservation Code for Buildings, Domestic Efficient LED programme (DELP) etc. have been launched.

Way Forward:

As a developing ~~country~~ economy with her growth imperatives, India needs to reconcile the usage of fossils with renewables and arrive at an optimal energy mix in our energy policy.

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# VISION IAS™

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(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

9. The Indian IT-BPM (Information Technology-Business Process Management) industry is a global powerhouse today and its impact on India and the world has been unprecedented. Comment. Also, mention the challenges being faced by India's IT-BPM sector.

भारतीय IT-BPM (Information Technology-Business Process Management या सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी-व्यापार प्रक्रिया प्रबंधन) उद्योग आज एक वैश्विक शक्ति का केंद्र है और भारत एवं विश्व पर इसका प्रभाव अभूतपूर्व रहा है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत के IT-BPM क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

After 1991 LPG reforms, India's service sector grew at a rate of more than 10% on the back of an IT revolution. Today, our service exports constitute a large chunk of global service exports.

Impact on India:

- (i) Emergence of India as IT leader.

Indian graduates rule the roost in the Silicon Valley. Ex: CEOs of Microsoft, Google etc. are of Indian Origin.

- (ii) Stable Foreign Exchange: Due to rising software exports.

- (iii) proliferation of Business process outsourcing (BPO) in mid tier cities have created jobs in all centres.

Impact on the world: Human Capital

• Graduates from top universities contributed in the success of software industry. Ex: CEO of ~~Pepp~~ Microsoft, Satya Nadella.

• Integration of economies: India's prowess in software got complimented with say, Japan's proficiency in low-cost manufacturing.

• Boosted diplomatic relations with India.

Challenges:

(i) Rising protectionism: The rhetoric of bringing jobs back to America, for eg: may cause job losses in BPO sector.

(ii) Restrictions on visa and movement of persons: H1B regulations of US, 457 visa programmes of Australia can hinder growth prospects of IT-BPM sector.

Way Forward :

Given our large English speaking  
Indian population and proficiency  
in software as a service (SAAS),  
India should push forward WTO  
negotiations on TFS (Trade facilitation  
in services) to liberalise service trade  
in IT-BPM sector.

10. An effective multi-modal logistics and transport sector will make the Indian economy more competitive. Analyse.

एक प्रभावी मल्टी-मॉडल लॉजिस्टिक्स (बहु-रूपात्मक संभरण) और परिवहन क्षेत्रक भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को और अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

India continues to fare badly in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index. Though India has made rapid strides in developing transport infrastructure, last mile connectivity and multi-modal integration remains a policy concern.

Making India competitive :

(i) Cargo Turnaround Time : Due to lack of hinterland connectivity, cargo turnaround time increases, which impacts competitiveness.

(ii) Fragmented supply chain hinders competitiveness.

(iii) Lack of inland water vessels is a major hindrance to inland navigation.

(iv) Absence of night vision capabilities in shipping and lack of River Information System.

(v) High operating ratios of Railways and cross subsidization of passenger and freight fares impacts trade competitiveness.

(vi) Lack of feeder transport services in villages hit ~~our~~ agricultural exports and cause post harvest losses.

Way forward :

(i) Merger of ministries for coordinated and integrated development of the transport sector.

The merger of Railway Budget is a good step in this direction.

(ii) UDAN scheme to facilitate regional connectivity. privatisation of Air India will make the air transportation more competitive and cost effective.

Transportation is the backbone of a nation's economy. The govt. of India should speed up the implementation of Dedicated Freight Corridors, Rapid Transit systems so as to improve the Ease of Doing Business in India and make the Indian economy more competitive.

11. Climate change threatens sustainable development, impairs socio-economic development and reinforces cycles of poverty across the globe. In this context, discuss the utility of climate risk insurance as an instrument within a comprehensive climate risk management system.

जलवायु परिवर्तन पूरे विश्व में संधारणीय विकास को जोखिम में डालता है, सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास को क्षीण करता है और गरीबी के चक्र को मजबूत बनाता है। इस संदर्भ में, व्यापक जलवायु जोखिम प्रबंधन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत एक साधन के रूप में जलवायु जोखिम बीमा की उपयोगिता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Climate change is characterised by rising global temperatures, rising sea levels. Climate change would cause extreme weather events like unseasonal rainfall, prolonged drought, severe heat waves etc.

Impact on Development:

(i) Low crop yields: Acid Rain and soil degradation coupled with rising global temperatures can potential impact food security.

(ii) Tropical Diseases: Bacteria and fungi thrive under warmer conditions. New forms of diseases <sup>are</sup> likely to show their ugly heads, thereby impacting socio-economic development.

(iii) Loss of biodiversity: Many species may be lost forever due to climate change, thereby impacting sustainable development.

(iv) Poor to face the fury of nature:

Due to vulnerability, the poor are most likely to face the brunt of climate change.

Climate Risk insurance:

- Investing early in securing future.

By adopting climate friendly technologies we can ensure climate risks

- Adaptation and Mitigation Fund to act as insurance.

- Integrating climate risk reduction in developmental strategies: for eg. settlements in coastal areas prone to sea level rise can be the best form of insurance.

Way forward:

The developing and developed nations must iron out their differences and put up a strong fight to address issues related to climate change to ensure sustainable development.

12. Why are women particularly vulnerable to the impact of natural disasters? Also analyse, with adequate examples, how women can play a more effective role in disaster risk management cycle.

प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के प्रभावों के प्रति महिलाएं विशेष रूप से सुभेद्य क्यों होती हैं? साथ ही, समुचित उदाहरणों के साथ विश्लेषण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार महिलाएं आपदा जोखिम प्रबंधन चक्र में अधिक प्रभावी भूमिका निभा सकती हैं।

Vulnerability means a set of conditions that determine the impact of a disaster. Natural disasters take a heavy toll on all forms of life and property. But it is often the poor, disabled, women etc. that are at the receiving end of natural disasters.

Why women are more vulnerable?

(i) More household responsibilities. For instance, women collect water in rural households. If a drought like situation occurs, women have to go farther.

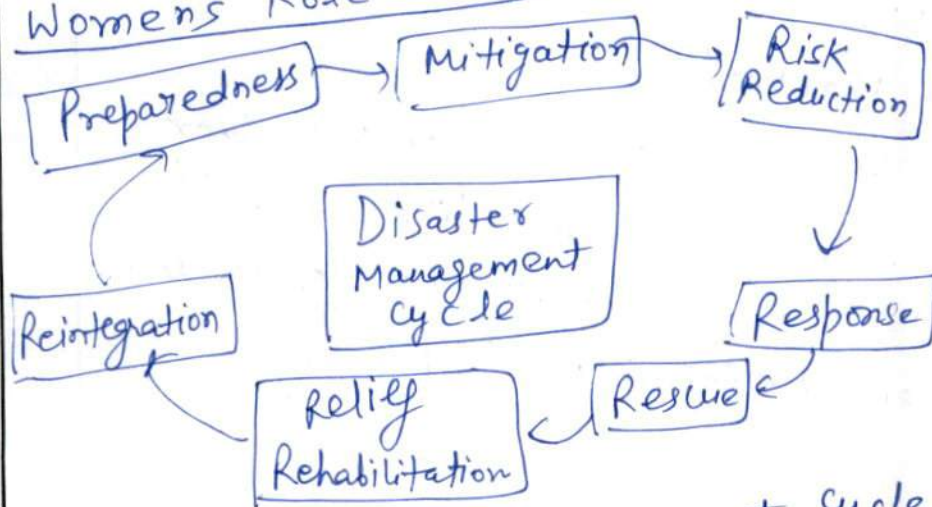
(ii) Biological Differentiation: Women are physically less powerful to fend themselves in case of say, building collapse.

(iii) Sanitation issues: Disaster Causes problems of health and Sanitation, which impacts women more.

(iv) Nutrition: Women face the problem of lack of nutrition in the aftermath of a natural disaster and are more prone to anaemia.

(v) Social Attitude: Due to patriarchal notions, it is more likely that a girl child would be left to fend for themselves while disaster occurs.

### Women's Role in Disaster Management



### Disaster Management cycle.

Pre Disaster:

Women can vouch for creation of

individual and community toilets, health and hygiene, ensure food supplies before the upcoming disaster.

During disaster:

They can help pool funds (for eg: SHG (self help groups, women cooperatives to raise resources), Community kitchens etc.

After disaster:

Women are ideally suited to counsel and provide psycho-social care after disaster.

Way forward:

At times of disaster, rich & poor alike, men & women alike should show immense cooperation, for instance, as seen during Chennai floods.

13. In view of the seriousness of heat waves and its consequences, greater attention is required for dealing with it as a natural disaster. Analyse in the context of recent developments and the actions taken by relevant government bodies.

हीट वेव (ग्रीष्म लहर) और उसके परिणामों की गंभीरता के आलोक में, एक प्राकृतिक आपदा के रूप में इससे निपटने हेतु अधिक ध्यान दिए जाने की आवश्यकता है। हाल के घटनाक्रमों और संबद्ध सरकारी निकायों द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों के संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Indian Meteorological Department defines heat waves as conditions when the average temperatures rise more than 5 degrees in plain areas. In the wake of rising global temperatures due to climate change, there is a need to respond to heat waves with greater alacrity.

Recently, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) came out with a series of guidelines to tackle heat waves:

- (i) Stay indoors during heat waves.
- (ii) Staying hydrated and carry water along.

(iii) Symptoms of heat stroke have been put out in public domain. For ex: Light headedness, mild fever etc.

(iv) Revamping public infrastructure: During heat waves, public hospitals are found lacking in terms of Capacity.

(v) Capacity Building and Awareness generation :- Community members are the first responders to heat waves.

Way Forward:

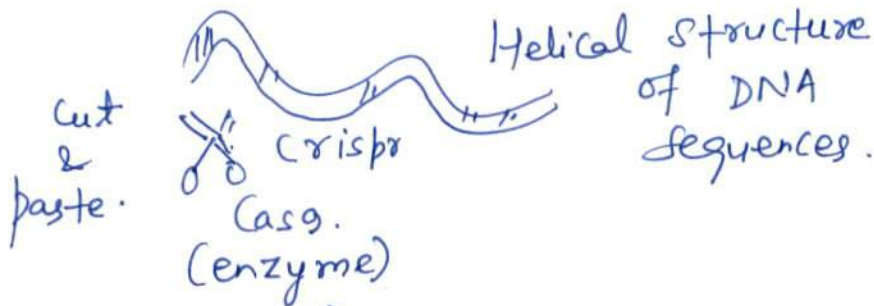
Preventive measures to tackle heat waves is more cost effective. Precious lives can be saved by being aware and following NDMA guidelines in this regard.

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14. While genome editing offers immense potential benefits in the area of healthcare, there are a lot of apprehensions regarding its use. Discuss.

जहां, जीनोम एडिटिंग स्वास्थ्य सेवा के क्षेत्र में बहुत अधिक लाभ की संभावना प्रस्तुत करता है, वहीं इसके उपयोग के संबंध में काफी आशंकाएं भी मौजूद हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Genome editing means manipulating certain genes in a set of chromosomes. Recently, china has achieved success in genome editing using CRISPR-Cas9 technique.



Potential Benefits:

(i) Mitochondrial Replacement Therapy (MRT) to help treat mitochondrial diseases.

(ii) Stem Cell Research: Genome editing can help in differentiation of embryonic and pluripotent stem cells.

(iii) DNA sequencing and ~~its~~ its applications in forensic sequencing.

Apprehensions:

(i) Designer Babies:

Genome Editing may lead to selection of desired characteristics in babies.

(ii) Lack of regulations:

Cross-country jurisdiction and lack of laws regulating genome editing.

(iii) Human Trial:

Raises issues of Bio ethics.

Way Forward:

Given the fact that impact of genome editing may get transcended across generations and its consequences may show its ugly head centuries later, there is

a need to ensure transparency  
in the process by releasing field  
trials data in public domain.

15. Discuss various ways in which supercomputers have benefitted mankind over the years. Also enumerate the objectives of the National Supercomputing Mission and the mechanism for its implementation.

उन विभिन्न तरीकों पर चर्चा कीजिए जिसके माध्यम से विगत वर्षों में सुपर कंप्यूटरों ने मानव जाति को लाभान्वित किया है। इसके साथ ही राष्ट्रीय सुपरकंप्यूटिंग मिशन के उद्देश्यों और इसके कार्यान्वयन के तंत्र को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Supercomputers are those computers that can perform very complicated calculations in a very limited time. For instance, China's Sunway Taihulight can outperform any other computing device in terms of speed and accuracy.

Applications:

(i) Weather Forecasting: Indian Meteorological Department uses supercomputers to decipher data from remote sensing satellites.

(ii) Space Research: NASA uses supercomputers in finding out satellite trajectories.

(ii) Stock markets and Algorithmic trading etc. to perform trading at a speed impossible manually.

National SuperComputing Mission:

Aims to develop faster Super-Computers for Space and medical use applications.

It has a special focus on Collaboration with international scientists.

It has an aim to boost indigenous Capacity in terms of electronics manufacturing.

Way Forward:

Given the long term potential of Supercomputers, the govt. must ramp up R&D spending on developing faster supercomputers in India.



16. Widely seen as a disruption for the traditional banking and financial institutions, cryptocurrencies have gained significant traction lately, at the same time creating a regulatory nightmare for regulators across the globe. Discuss.

पारंपरिक बैंकिंग और वित्तीय संस्थानों के लिए व्यापक रूप से व्यवधान के रूप में देखी जाने वाली, साथ ही विश्व भर में नियामकों के लिए एक नियामकीय दुःस्वप्न का निर्माण करने वाली, क्रिप्टोकॉरेसीने हाल ही में महत्वपूर्ण पकड़ स्थापित की है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Cryptocurrencies are a form of virtual currency that ensures anonymity in digital transactions. It uses cryptography as a tool to make the transaction hackproof and anonymous. Ex: Bitcoin, peercoin. They work using Blockchain technology.  
Recent Developments:

Japan has declared Bitcoins as an official currency.

Regulation:

Different countries have varying regulatory regime for bitcoins. In India, it is outside the regulation of the central bank.

Why nightmare?

(i) prone to Fraud: In the absence of a regulatory regime, victims of fraud have nowhere to approach to

(ii) Cross-country jurisdiction: Bitcoins don't fall under per se, under any country's jurisdiction & operates under legal vacuum.

(iii) Price fluctuations: Cryptocurrencies show large price variations over a short period of time.

(iv) Complicated: Lack of capacity in regulatory bodies to understand the mechanism of cryptocurrencies.

(v) No backing by gold: Unlike other currencies, cryptocurrencies are not backed by bullion, which makes them all the more vulnerable to stockouts.

Way Forward:

There is a need to evolve a global consensus on regulating cryptocurrencies through forums like FATF as bitcoins may become a conduit for money laundering because of its anonymity.

17. An internationally-binding agreement to strengthen the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 is both desirable and increasingly a necessity. Analyse in view of the traditional and emerging challenges in this arena.

1967 की बाह्य अंतरिक्ष संधि को मजबूत बनाने हेतु एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाध्यकारी समझौता वांछनीय और साथ ही एक आवश्यकता दोनों है। इस क्षेत्र में पारंपरिक और उभरती हुई चुनौतियों के आलोक में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Since the end of World War II, a race to send satellites to space began during the cold war. It is believed that the next world war would be fought in space.

Shortfalls of Outer space Treaty:

- Not legally binding
- Doesn't have universal membership

Necessity:

- Debris in outer space
- Vulnerable to weaponisation and hacking of satellite communications by state and non-state actors.

### Emerging Challenges :-

- (i) More number of Satellites may lead to collision among satellites or debris.
- (ii) Advances in cybertechnology have made hacking a near possibility.
- (iii) Geostatic conflicts may snowball into a conflict at outer space.

### Way Forward:

There is a need to distinguish the civilian and military uses of outer space. India must develop Quantum Communications Capability to make communications hack proof.



18. Even after nearly 60 years in existence, AFSPA remains at the centre of debates with respect to countering violent insurgencies, role of the states and local communities. Discuss.

अस्तित्व में आने के लगभग 60 वर्षों के बाद भी, हिंसक उग्रवाद का मुकाबला करने और राज्यों व स्थानीय समुदायों की भूमिका को लेकर AFSPA वाद-विवाद के केंद्र में बना हुआ है। चर्चा कीजिए।

AFSPA was enacted in 1958 to curb Naga militancy and secessionism. It has come under debate after instances of encounter killings in Manipur, human rights violations surfaced in Kashmir. It provides immunity to armed forces from persecution in these areas.

Its merits:  
→ Ensuring law and order in conflict prone areas.

Way Forward:

AFSPA is a relic of the colonial era. In line with recommendations of Reddy Committee and JS Verma Committee, AFSPA must be gradually phased out.

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19. Analyse the challenges and opportunities inherent in the push for indigenisation of defence production in India. Also, identify the measures through which indigenous manufacturing of defence equipments is being encouraged by the Government.

भारत में रक्षा उत्पादन के स्वदेशीकरण की दिशा में निहित चुनौतियों और अवसरों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों की भी पहचान कीजिए जिनके माध्यम से रक्षा उपकरणों का स्वदेशी निर्माण सरकार द्वारा प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है।

India imports 60% of her defence equipments from abroad. In the latest defence procurement procedure, emphasis has been laid on indigenous defence production.

Challenges:

- (i) Lack of capacity and skilled man power.
- (ii) Lack of technology.

Opportunities:

- (i) Employment generation.
- (ii) Save foreign exchange reserves.

Measures :

- (i) Relax FDI norms to bring in investment.
- (ii) Transfer of Technology in bilateral deals.
- (iii) Joint production instead of import.
- (iv) Changes in procurement norms to give priority to local procurement.

Way Forward :

Indigenous manufacturing is a prerequisite for India to emerge as a superpower.



20. India's ability to pursue a clear-cut strategic vision depends on its ability to improve institutional cooperation and coordination between the armed forces and civilian bureaucracy. Discuss.

भारत द्वारा एक सुस्पष्ट रणनीतिक दृष्टि का अनुसरण करने की क्षमता वस्तुतः सशस्त्र बलों और सिविल नौकरशाही के बीच संस्थागत सहयोग और समन्वय में सुधार करने की क्षमता पर निर्भर करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

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