NEXT IAS (Head Office) : 27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar no. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro, New Delhi-110060
Bhopal Centre: Plot No. 46, ZONE-2, M.P. Nagar, Bhopal-462011
Ph: 8081300200, 8827664612 | E-mail : mts@nextias.com | Web: www.nextias.com

RECEIVED
06 AUG 2023

(To be filled by candidate)

Name of Candidate : MOHIT GUPTA

NEXT IAS Roll No.: A1M24GCRA017 Date of Examination : 05/08/2023

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☑ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

Test Code : TC050 Program : SLT ☐ SLT+ ☑

MAIN TEST SERIES 2023
(SECTIONAL TEST-4)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This Question-cum Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 56 pages. Immediately on receipt of the booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.

Candidates must read the instructions on this page and the following pages carefully before attempting the paper.

Candidates should attempt the questions strictly in accordance with the instructions specified in the question paper and in the space prescribed under each question in the booklet. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.

Question paper will be provided separately and can be taken by the candidates after conclusion of the exam.

.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. : .....


NEXT
IAS

(For filling by Examiners only)

Evaluator Code :

Q.No	Pg No.	Maximum Marks	Marks	Total
1	1			
2	3			
3	5			
4	7			
5	9			
6	11			
7	13			
8	15			
9	17			
10	19			
11	21			
12	24			
13	27			
14	30			
15	33			
16	36			
17	39			
18	42			
19	45			
20	48			
Grand Total				

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS



IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.

DONT'S

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question-cum-Answer Booklet.
2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any leaves from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

Candidates must not write on this margin

1. हाल ही में एक राज्य में सामाजिक जवाबदेही कानून बनाने को लेकर माँग उठ रही है। इस तरह का कानून किस प्रकार सुशासन की ओर ले जा सकता है और निर्णय लेने में नागरिकों की भागीदारी को कैसे बढ़ावा दे सकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Recently demand has been rising in a state regarding the enactment of Social Accountability Law. How such a law can lead to good governance and boost citizens' participation in decision-making. Comment.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Ans) Rajasthan's Guaranteed Delivery of Public Services Act, 2023 provides social accountability for all services.

Characteristics of Social Accountability Law

(1) Answerability to Community

(2) Enforceability through public & civil society monitoring

(3) Responsibility for delivery or shortcomings.

Impacts of such Social Accountability Mechanisms

(1) Good Governance : (2) Responsive to

Candidates must not write on this margin

people needs. (Ex)- Under Awas Yojana need based homes.

(i) Effectiveness & Efficiency. (Ex)- Best use of public funds & optimal solutions.

(ii) Transparency & Accountability (Ex)- Social audit of funds & work under MGNREGA

(iv) Quality of service delivery through Continuous monitoring & feedback.

(v) Boost Citizen's Participation (i) Proactive inputs in policy implementation.

(ii) Better Grievance Redressal Mechanisms.

(Ex)- CPGRAMS Portal daily resolution.

(iii) Trust & Confidence increase in public authority boosting participation.

Social Accountability Mechanisms like RTI, social audits, Jansunwais etc involve excellent Convergence of public & public officials.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. नागरिक समाज संगठन, 'सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्रवाई' को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। स्थानीय संसाधन जुटाने (एलआरएम) और निगमित सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (सीएसआर) के माध्यम से कॉर्पोरेट (निगमों द्वारा) वित्तपोषण प्राप्त करने में उन्हें किन चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है? साथ ही सार्थक उपाय भी सुझाएँ।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Civil society organizations, play a pivotal role in fostering "collective private action for the public good". What challenges do they face in local resource mobilization (LRM) and corporate funding through corporate social responsibility (CSR)? Also, suggest measures. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans)

Civil society organizations (CSOs) mobilize public & resources for community welfare but have faced several challenges.

Challenges faced by CSOs in operation

(1) Local Resource Mobilization : (i) Low membership Base or irregular membership.

(Ex) >20% SHGs are <5 members.

(ii) Inadequate Campaign collections as people's awareness is low.

(iii) Lack of manpower or financial mechanisms to operate on scale.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(Ex) - Limited reach of local NGOs.

(2) Corporate Funding through CSR: (i) Self-funding NGOs of corporate in absence of proper audit by Corporate Affairs Ministry.

(ii) Skewed Funding

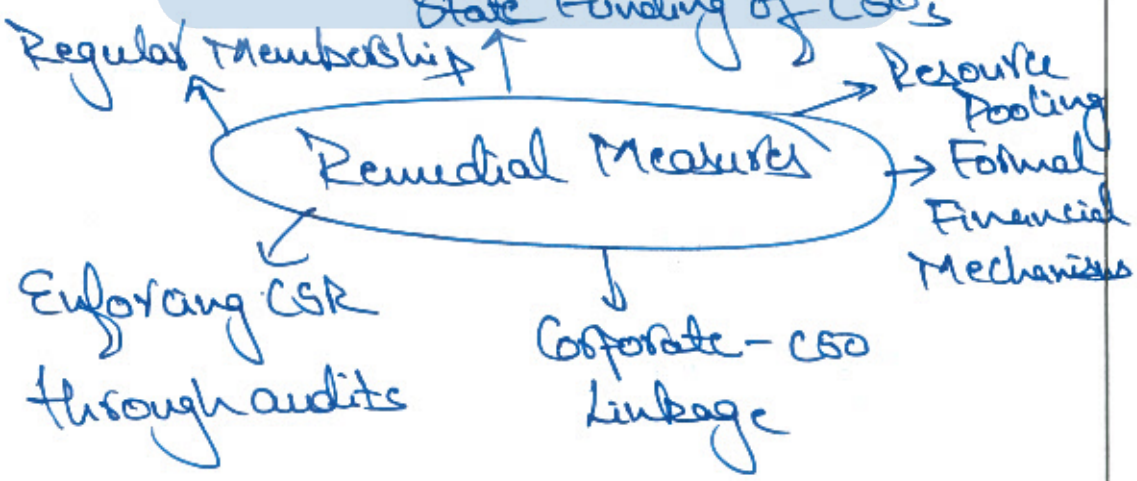
↓ Regional Imbalance

(Ex) - Highest in Mumbai, Lowest in Nagaland)

↓ Sectoral Imbalance

(Highest for 'Art' & 'Education')

(iii) Lack of sufficient funding. (Ex) Only 3% profits (that too improperly enforced)



CSOs are symbols of healthy democracy. These impairments can be resolved by collective efforts of state & public.

Candidates must not write on this margin

3. भारत में बाल कुपोषण से प्रभावी ढंग से निपटने के लिए 'पोषण–विशिष्ट' और 'पोषण–संवेदनशील' कार्यक्रमों को अभिसारित करने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

There is a need for convergence of 'nutrition-specific' and 'nutrition-sensitive' interventions to effectively tackle child undernutrition in India. Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Ans) Nutrition specific interventions include availability, accessibility & affordability of proper nutrition while nutrition sensitive include - health, education, counselling etc.

Nutrition Specific Intervention for tackling Child Undernutrition

(1) Availability of foodgrains, pulses etc.
- National Food Security Act
- PM POSHAN
- Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

(2) Proper nutritious profile: (Ex) - Supplying millets for micronutrients or fortified rice for Vit-A deficiency.

(3) Availability of nutrition to Pregnant

Candidates must not write on this margin

mothers for healthy child. (Ex) - PM Matru Vandana Yojana & Janani Suraksha.

Nutrition Sensitive Interventions

(1) Education to Children as well as parents on importance of proper nutrition

(2) Healthcare Services → Follow up through nutrition monitoring
- Preventive Healthcare
- Primary Secondary & tertiary service

(3) Water & Sanitation. (Ex) - Clean Delivery of water under Har Ghar Jal & Swachh Bharat Mission.

(4) Agricultural Interventions - (Ex) organic Crops & Proper fertilizer profile.

Holistic approach to nutrition management will fulfill the SDG (2) Zero Hunger.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4. ग्रामीण गरीबी उन्मूलन की धुरी मनरेगा, राजकोषीय उदासीनता का शिकार हो गया है।" हालिया घटनाक्रम के आलोक में कथन का आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"MGNREGA, the lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation, has become the victim of fiscal apathy." Critically analyze the statement in light of recent developments. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Ans) Recently CAG Report exposed corruption in MGNREGA funds in Kerala, reigniting debates on fiscal propriety of the core of the core scheme.

MGNREGA's Victim of Fiscal Apathy

① State governments do not regularly release their shares.

② Improper Enrollment at village level.
- Bogus Entries
- Duplicate Entries
- Lack of 100% enrollment

③ Corruption & Fiscal Mismanagement:
- Quid Pro Quo between officials & workers
- Misappropriation of Funds
- Inequitous Devolution

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Decreasing working days due to paucity of funds. (Ex) - Standing Committee report pegged average of 40-50 working days against promised 100.

(5) Substandard work leading to wastage of resources.

Despite the issues, MGNREGA has achieved success in multiple domains:

(1) Employment to poor (≥ 11 crore households)

(2) Resort in distress situations. (Ex) - High enrollment during COVID.

(3) Minimum wage even in other informal sectors like construction, household etc.

(4) Social Infrastructure. (Ex) - Schools & Amrit Sarovar Scheme.

MGNREGA 2.0 with Direct Benefit Transfer, online Attendance Monitoring etc. are need of the hour.

Candidates must not write on this margin

5. गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में पहला कदम कार्यक्रम के डिजाइन, कार्यान्वयन और निगरानी के लिए आवश्यक विश्वसनीय गरीबी मूल्यांकन करना है। इस संदर्भ में नीति आयोग के राष्ट्रीय बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक की पद्धति और महत्त्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The first step to eradicating poverty is reliable poverty assessment for program design, implementation, and monitoring. In this context discuss the methodology and significance of NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans) Reliable figures are imperative for fund allocation, beneficiary identification, policy design & policy delivery of any poverty alleviation scheme.

Methodology followed by NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MDPI)

(1) Indicators & Weights:

(i) Health ($\frac{1}{3}^{rd}$): Nutrition levels, maternal mortality etc.

(ii) Education ($\frac{1}{3}^{rd}$): Enrollment, dropouts etc.

(iii) Standard of living ($\frac{1}{3}^{rd}$): Housing, Cooking fuel, television etc.

(2) Measures state wise poverty, Rural

Candidates must not write on this margin

urban poverty, incidence & intensity among Vulnerable sections etc.

Significance of MDPI Assessment

(1) Wholistic View of poverty overcoming limitations of income/calorie scales.

(2) Policy design customisation. (Ex)- Higher allocation of foodgrains to UP & Bihar under NFSA.

(3) Capability Development Approach for poverty Removal. (Ex)- schemes like Awas Yojana, Ayushmann Bharat etc.

(4) Realising SDG Goals of Zero Hunger, No Poverty, Healthy State of population etc.

A wholistic assessment proceeds holistic delivery for maximum effectiveness & poverty alleviation.

Candidates must not write on this margin

6. भारत के संदर्भ में, संवैधानिक प्रावधानों, कानूनी पूर्व-उदाहरणों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं की उपस्थिति के बावजूद, जो स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार के लिए एक मजबूत आधार स्थापित करते हैं, इस अधिकार की स्पष्ट कानूनी मान्यता का अभाव क्यों रहा है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In the context of India, despite the presence of constitutional provisions, legal precedents, and international commitments that establish a robust foundation for a right to health, why has there been a lack of explicit legal recognition of this right? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans) Right to Health entails right to proper nutrition coupled with right to access healthcare facilities in times of need.

Reasons for lack of explicit recognition of Right to Health

(1) State will become legally responsible for any act of commission or omission of bad health. (Ex):- Increased litigations against state for lack of delivery.

(2) Low budgetary spendings leading to inaccessible healthcare. (2.1% of GDP spent in 2021).

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Huge population & limited nature of state resources -

④ Pushback from private sector for legal recognition of right to health.

Ex Rajasthan Doctors strike 2023 against State bill.

⑤ ~~###~~ Problem of Codification. Ex - Evolving nature of healthcare solutions.

⑥ Already existing schemes like Ayushman Bharat aims for universal healthcare coverage

⑦ Lack of awareness (demand from citizens).

* Health is the basic indicator of human development. Giving legal sanctification to Right to Health will be a step in right direction

Candidates must not write on this margin

7. "भारत को इसका लाभ उठाना चाहिए, यदि प्रबंधन नहीं किया गया तो वैश्विक विभाजन हो जाएगा।" वर्तमान भू-राजनीतिक मंथन वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत के उत्थान का मार्ग कैसे प्रशस्त कर सकता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"India must leverage, if not manage, the global divide". How can the current geopolitical churn pave the way for India's rise to the global high table? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Ans 7) "Converting Challenges to Opportunities" has been the guiding mantra for domestic as well as foreign policy of India.

India leveraging current geopolitical churn & global divide

(1) Economic Benefits - (i) Integrating with global supply chains - (Ex) - Attracting Companies (like Apple) leaving China for manufacturing.

(ii) Tapping best possible resources - (Ex) - Continued imports of Russian Oil.

(iii) Attracting global investments as a stable democratic business friendly nation

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Strategic Benefits : (i) Diversifying defence imports basket. (Ex) - USA Defence deals.

(ii) Aligning like minded countries.

(Ex) - BIMSTEC, QUAD etc.

(iii) Ensuring open sea lines of communication.

(3) Technological Benefits : (Ex) - Semiconductor imports from Taiwan.

(4) Emerging as mediator for resolving global conflict through good relations with all sides -

(5) Diaspora's role in shaping global policies in our favour.

India's actions are not opportunistic, but guided by national interests, pragmatism & multialignment principles.

Candidates must not write on this margin

8. "बर्लिन यूरोपीय संघ में भारत के लिए प्रवेश द्वार हो सकता है।" यूरोपीय संघ के साथ भारत के संबंधों में जर्मनी के महत्त्व के बारे में विस्तारपूर्वक वर्णन कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Berlin can be India's gateway to the European Union." Elaborate with respect to Germany's significance in India's relationship with the EU. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Ans 8) India - Germany relationship can act as gateway to EU owing to high convergences in our relations.

India - Germany Relation vis-a-vis India EU relationship

① Germany is second largest trade partner in Europe. It can help facilitate long pending Bilateral Trade & Investment Agreement with EU.

② Indo-German ~~inter Union~~ intergovernmental Coordination mechanism on techno-logy can help establish technology

Candidates must not write on this margin

transfer & codevelopment regime with EU.

(3) Partnership of Renewable Energy & Green Technology integrating Indian & EU Carbon markets.

(4) Germany can help negotiate relaxed provisions under Carbon Border Adjustment Tax.

(5) High number of Indian students in German Universities. This can help open up visa restrictions to students & professionals in other European Countries.

(6) Collaboration of Peace & Global Security.

Strong bonds with Germany can help us with better negotiations in India – EU relationship.

Candidates must not write on this margin

9. ब्रिक्स राष्ट्रों की सामूहिक शक्ति असंख्य मुद्दों पर सार्थक सहयोग की अनुमति देती है, हालांकि, द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के प्रक्षेप पथ को प्रभावित करने की मंच की क्षमता सीमित है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The collective strength of BRICS nations allows for meaningful cooperation on myriad issues, however, the platform's ability to influence the trajectory of bilateral relationships remains limited. Do you agree? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans 9) BRICS - a partnership of fastest developing economies offer huge potential economically, strategically, technologically etc. subject to it's internal contradictions.

BRICS potential on myriad of issues

① Economic Significance & Viable alternative for dedollarisation as BRICS Combined GDP is greater than USA.

② Rapidly growing markets offering steady global growth.

③ High population & resource potential of member countries

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Spread over 4 continents - can kickstart strategic global cooperation

However, it has limited ability to influence bilateral relationships

① Strained ties among members.

Ex India - China issues.

② High inequality (economically & militarily) among members.

③ Low trade due to poor connectivity among members.

④ Competing bilateral interests.

Ex: Sugar exports of India & Brazil.

⑤ Lack of consensus & coordination.

BRICS offer a viable alternative for global governance, however harmony among members is a prerequisite.

Candidates must not write on this margin

10. सिंधु जल संधि में संशोधन की हालिया माँगों के आलोक में, भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच जल–बंटवारा व्यवस्था पर पड़ने वाले इसके संभावित प्रभावों की चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In light of the recent demands to amend the Indus Waters Treaty, discuss the possible implications it could have on the water-sharing mechanism between India and Pakistan.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Ans (10) Indus Water Treaty (1960) (IWT) serves as global example of collaboration over basic human resources.

Absence of unilateral exit clause → Changed Population Dynamics

Demands for Amending Treaty → Absence of Graded Dispute Redressal Mechanism

→ Changed volume & flow of rivers

→ Evolved nature of technology

Implications on water-sharing mechanism between India & Pakistan

(1) Higher Allocation of Indus, Jhelum & Chenab water to India on account of higher population.

(2) Establishing graded 3tier dispute

Candidates must not write on this margin

resolution mechanism to resolve ambiguities & conflict.

(3) Approval to newer run-of-river water projects. (Ex)- Kishenganga & Ratle Projects

(4) Bridging developmental deficit in J & K region.

(5) Resolving pending issues on water sharing & water storage.

(6) ~~(5)~~ Introducing clause for common responsibility to maintain river health & minimum ecological flow.

(7) Clarifying third party role (Ex)-China in Indus river water sharing.

Changed dynamics & evolving technology demands corresponding amendments in IWT.

Candidates must not write on this margin

11. सामूहिक विशेषज्ञता और नेटवर्क (संजाल) का लाभ उठाने के लिए बहु–हितधारक साझेदारी महत्त्वपूर्ण है। भारत में सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (एसडीजी) की प्राप्ति में तेजी लाने के लिए प्रभावी साझेदारी और स्थानीयकृत कार्यान्वयन प्रयासों को कैसे बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are the key to leveraging collective expertise and networks. How can effective partnership and localized implementation efforts be fostered to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Ans 1) Multi-stakeholder partnership involve engaging governments, Corporate, Civil society, Citizenry & social activists in the process of policy design & service delivery.

Significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships

(1) Diverse inputs leading to better design of policies - (Ex) - Public Comments before introduction of Bill.

(2) Ensuring correct implementation & awareness among beneficiaries.

(3) Accountability & quicker grievance redressal.

(4) Public Participation for proactive governance.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Effective Partnerships for realising SDGs

(1) Coordination among all 3 tiers of governments · (Ex) - Implementation of Grameen Awaas Yojana for Universal Housing.

(2) Engaging Corporates as development partners - (Ex) - Tata Cancer Charitable Hospital & CSR Funding.

(3) Engaging civil society at state, national & local levels (Ex) - NGOs, SHGs etc. in the process of service delivery.

(4) Inviting expertise opinions · (Ex) - Naz Foundations input for LGBTQ Policy.

(5) Addressing shortcomings at local level · (Ex) - NGOs involved for Aadhar enrolment to avail benefits of NFSA.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Localized implementation for SDGs

(1) Hunger :- Custom nutritional profile according to geo-climatic requirements.

(2) Health :- District/City Health Policies according to local disease profile (Ex) - More focus on vector borne diseases in floods.

(3) Gender Equality :- Dealing with regional issues - (Ex) Rajasthan - Child Marriage.

(4) Sanitation :- Involving NGOs & civil societies in Swachh Bharat Mission

(5) Sustainable Cities :- Individual Urban Master Plans for 30 years of cities.

Partnerships & local implementation will build trust in public service delivery creating positive feedback of development

Candidates must not write on this margin

12. 'नव–उदारवादी सुधारों और वैश्वीकरण ने कल्याणकारी राज्य की संस्थाओं को गहराई से बदल दिया है और एक नई प्रकार की सिविल सेवाओं के लिए आधार तैयार किया है।' इस संदर्भ में सेवा वितरण के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए और पर्याप्त सुधारों हेतु सुझाव दीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Neo-liberal reforms and globalization have deeply transformed the institutions of the welfare state and set the ground for a new type of civil services.' In this context examine the challenges faced in service delivery and suggest adequate reforms. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Ans) Change in the characteristics of state from Total Service Provider to Service Facilitator & Service Enabler has occured in wake of neo-liberal shift - New profile for Civil Services.

① Decreased direct delivery & increased role as regulators -

② More responsibility towards vulnerable & marginalized sections -

③ Dynamism & Flexibility due to quickly changing technological front.

④ Aware & Empowered Citizenry demanding accountability.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges faced in public service delivery

① Beneficiary Identification issues
- Digital Divide
- Digital Illiteracy
- Bogus Beneficiaries

② Quickly evolving needs & demands.

Ex - Transformed nature of environmental compliances.

③ More responsibilities, less manpower.

Ex - High Vacancy in higher bureaucracy.

④ Neo-liberal regime challenges
- Rising inequalities
- Rapid industrialization & urbanisation
- High informatisation

⑤ Lack of quick approvals & lengthy procedural formalities creating delay & dissatisfaction.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Reforms in Public Service to meet evolving demands

(1) Self Identification & of beneficiaries & delegation of responsibilities to private sector reducing burden. (Outsourcing)

(2) Second ARC recommendations: (i) Public Private Partnership & Bureaucratic deregulation.

(ii) Performance Management Systems.

(iii) Policy Evaluation & Regulatory impact assessments

(iv) e-governance & citizen empowerment.

(3) Mandating expert advice for newer policy implementation & design.

(4) Lateral Entry in higher bureaucracy.

Mission Karmyogi aims to build future-ready civil services for good governance.

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. 'शिकायतों का संतोषजनक और समयबद्ध निवारण 'न्यूनतम सरकार, अधिकतम शासन' की आधारशिला है।' इस संदर्भ में मौजूदा शिकायत निवारण तंत्र से जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए और इस प्रक्रिया को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए उपाय सुझाएँ।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Satisfactory and timely redressal of grievances is the cornerstone of 'minimum government, maximum governance.' In this context discuss the challenges associated with current grievance redress mechanisms and suggest measures to strengthen the process.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans(13)

Grievance Redressal Mechanisms (GRM) serve dual purpose of resolving Complaints as well as feedback loop for public officials.

Challenges associated with current GRMs

(1) Inoperational or ineffective functioning.

(Ex) - Most GRM chatbots have software issues (KPMG Report)

(2) Delayed response
- Flooding of RTIs
- Frivolous Complaints
- Lack of Manpowers.

(3) Absence of legal mandate for time

Candidates must not write on this margin

bound resolution. (Ex):- No time limit for SIO of CIOs under RTI Act.

(4) Lack of public awareness & participation. (Ex)- Most cyber crimes / frauds go unreported.

(5) Lack of accessibility to digital GRMs; Owing to digital divide, digital illiteracy etc.

Measures to strengthen the process

(1) Reform Legal Structure. (Ex)- Amending flawed sections of RTI Act.

(2) Citizen Charter of every department clearly outlining deadlines for dispute/grievance resolution.

(3) Employing manpower specially

Candidates must not write on this margin

in GRM Cells. (Ex) - Consumer Complaint Cell of every department.

(4) Availability of Digital GRMs with appointment of Ombudsman at District or Sub-district level.

(5) Awareness Campaigns for rights of citizen to grievance redressal. (Ex) - 'Jaago Grahak Jaago' of Consumer Affairs Ministry.

(6) Social Accountability laws (Ex) - Rajasthan's proposed Public service delivery Bill.

To improve citizens trust & confidence in governance mechanisms, their complaints must be resolved in time bound manner & to their satisfaction.

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. 'भ्रष्टाचार शासन के ताने-बाने को जर्जर कर देता है, जिससे लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं में जनता का विश्वास कम हो जाता है।' भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी शासन या व्यवस्था की प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम, व्हिसलब्लोअर संरक्षण अधिनियम (डब्ल्यूबीपीए), और लोकपाल और लोकायुक्त अधिनियम, 2013 के बीच समन्वय स्थापित करने के सामर्थ्य का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'Corruption corrodes the fabric of governance, eroding the public's faith in democratic institutions.' Examine the potential for harmonizing the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act (WBI'A), and the Lokpal & Lokayukta Act, 2013, to enhance the effectiveness of the anticorruption regime. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans/ Former PM Vajpayee's statement, "There can be no Compromise against Corruption" Reflects the magnitude of threat posed by it in governance process.

Corruption Corroding governance framework

(1) Misappropriation of resources.

(2) Cost paid by citizens & particularly the vulnerable sections.

(3) Trust Deficit between authority & public.

(4) Rising socio-economic inequalities.

(5) Dysfunctional Governance.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Potential for harmonizing RTI, Lokpal Act & WBPA

(1) Ecosystem (end-to-end) from exposing to prosecuting corruption.

(2) Ease of identification of corrupt practices in administration, political corruption or collaborative corruption.

(3) Convergence of officials (whistleblower) citizens & judiciary.

(4) lacunas of each act can be resolved.

(i) Information denied under RTI can be exposed by internal official aware of corrupt practices.

(ii) lack of investigative potential of

Candidates must not write on this margin

Lokpal complemented by citizenry & whistleblowers.

(iii) Judiciary ensuring protection to RTI Activists & whistleblowers.

(5) Quicker resolution & disposition through end-to-end ecosystem.

Possible limitations :- (1) lack of political will.

(2) Excess surveillance leading to policy paralysis.

(3) Threat of breakdown of confidentiality.

(4) Flooding of Lokpals & Lokayukta with frivolous complaints.

Harmonizing these 3 acts promise stronger transparency regime, however all stakeholder must be consulted in the process.

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. पी.ओ.एस.एच. अधिनियम के कार्यान्वयन से यौन उत्पीड़न के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने में सीमित सफलता ही क्यों मिली है, और किन कारकों ने असंगठित क्षेत्र में कार्यरत महिलाओं तक इसकी प्रभावी पहुँच में बाधा उत्पन्न की है? इस अंतर का पाटने और असंगठित क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के लिए कार्यस्थल पर उत्पीड़न के विरुद्ध व्यापक सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए रणनीतियाँ प्रस्तावित कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

How has the implementation of the POSH Act resulted in limited success in raising awareness about sexual harassment, and what factors have hindered its effective outreach to women employed in the unorganized sector? Propose strategies to bridge this gap and ensure comprehensive protection for women in the unorganized sector against workplace harassment. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Ans 15) VISAKHA Guidelines were the bedrock of POSH Act. However, organizational, legal & information impairments have resulted in limited success.

Limited success of Act in raising awareness

① Absence of Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in most organization.

② lack of awareness to employees in absence of lack of management's support.

③ Economic considerations like job loss hindering use of POSH Act.

④ Lack of legal awareness as to what constitutes sexual misconduct.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Factors inhibiting effective outreach in Unorganized sector

(1) Informal nature of organizations. No structure such as ICC is in place.

(2) Lack of effective monitoring by government in unorganized sector. Ex- Self Employed Unorganized female-

(3) Diffused nature of employer & workspace.

Ex - Housemaids working in multiple homes facing sexual misconduct.

(4) Higher financial dependence as workforce is highly marginalized.

(5) 'Quick Hire & Fire Policy' as effective tool to silence female employees.

(6) Lack of awareness of legal rights

- Illiteracy
- Digital Divide
- Low NGO or CSO Penetration.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Strategies to reform PoSH & bridge this gap

(1) Proper databasing of all informal & unorganized workers & businesses.

(Ex) – Harmonizing eSHRAM with PoSH Act

(2) Scrutiny by inter-ministerial & inter-departmental Convergence to put ICC in play in every workspace.

(3) Anonymous Complaints helpline with quick processing of Complaints (for informal workers)

(4) Involving civil society for awareness of legal rights.

(5) Time limits for action on complaints.

By securing inclusive & safe workspaces for women, India can add 2-3% to its GDP (Mckinsey Report, 2021).

Candidates must not write on this margin

16. गरीबी का प्रभावी ढंग से मुकाबला करने के लिए हाशिए पर रहने वाले समुदायों के बीच कौशल विकास, उद्यमिता और आय सृजन के लिए एसएचजी का लाभ एक मंच के रूप में उठाने में शामिल संभावित चुनौतियों और लाभों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Analyze the potential challenges and benefits involved in leveraging SHGs as platforms for skill development, entrepreneurship, and income generation among marginalized communities to effectively counter poverty. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans(b) Self Help Groups are informal organization of weaker sections (specially women) who pool resources & engage in productive economic activity.

SHGs as platforms for skill development

(1) Benefits :- (i) Mobilising unskilled youth & women through Community outreach. (Ex)- Through UP TAAD scheme or Seekho aur Kamao

(ii) Easier Connect between SHGs & Skill Development Initiatives - (Ex)- National Rural Livelihood Mission → 1 women per household.

(iii) Capability Enhancement through human resource development.

(2) Challenges :- (i) Irregular attendance

Candidates must not write on this margin

hindering scheduling of workshops -
(ii) Lack of uniformity in Constituents of SHGs - One Size Fits All might be detrimental.

SHGs as Platform for Entrepreneurship

(1) Benefits :- (i) Pooling of resources leading to higher capital availability.
(ii) Empowering women entrepreneurs.
(Ex) :- Success of Mahila Grihu Udyog.
(iii) SHGs can identify local demands & run profitable businesses - (Ex) - Kudumbashree model.

(2) Limitations :- (i) Insufficient experience of skill profile.
(ii) Lack of technical resources. (Ex) - Online marketing mechanisms -

Candidates must not write on this margin

(iii) Irregularity of SHGs affecting order fulfillment potential.

SHG as Platform for income generation

(1) Benefits ° (i) Business Activities, Revolving funds etc. for income.

(ii) Access to formal credit mechanisms

(Ex): SHG Bank Linkage Program.

(iii) Availing benefits of government schemes. (Ex) - Order Quotas on GeM portal for SHG businesses.

(2) Limitations ° (i) Trust deficit among members.

(ii) Collective responsibility clause deterring credit avail.

SHGs have been fairly successful experiment particular to empower vulnerable sections, practice inclusive development & sustainable growth.

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. चीन भारत को अपने "एशियाई प्रतिद्वंद्वी" के रूप में देखता है जिसमें एशिया में उसके वर्चस्ववादी लक्ष्यों का मुकाबला करने की जन्मजात क्षमता है। भारत–चीन संबंधों में इन कठिनाइयों के बावजूद, अभिसरण के भी कई क्षेत्र हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

China views India as its "Asian Rival" with an innate ability to counter its hegemonistic goals in Asia. Despite these difficulties in India-China relations, there are also many areas of convergence. Discuss.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Ans 17) Democratic state, growing economic strength, rising geopolitical stature and 'National Interest First' policy of India has ~~made~~ shaped China's perception towards India.

India's innate ability to counter hegemonistic goals of China

(1) Regional leader in South Asia.

(2) Global Partnerships. (Ex) QUAD advocating free & open Indo-Pacific.

(3) Military & Technological Capabilities.

(4) Biggest human resource base.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Difficulties in India – China Relations

1. Economic Issues → Trade Imbalance
   - Chinese Opaque Investments
   - Unequal Market Access
   - Manufacting Dependence
2. Strategic Issues → Border Issues at Ladakh, Arunachal etc.
   - Cyber attacks by China (Eg – Mumbai Power outage, 2020)
   - Chinese activity in Indian Ocean Region
3. Geopolitical Issues : China denying India's Claim to Permanent Membership & Russia – China – North Korea Axis.
4. Chinese Debt Trap Diplomacy instabilizing neighbours like Sri Lanka, Maldives etc.
5. Belt & Road Initiative – China Pakistan Economic Corridor
6. Higher military & technical strength.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Multiple Areas of Convergence

(1) Economic :- 2nd Biggest trade partner with more than 100 bn USD trade.

(2) Cultural :- Buddhist connect, Bollywood films etc.

(3) Multilateral Cooperation at WTO, UNFCCC for relaxations to developing countries.

(4) Common demographic issues, urbanizations & industrialization issues.

(5) Geostrategic interests like stability in Afghanistan.

(6) Resolving border disputes. (Ex) - Joint Commander level Meet for De-escalation.

EAM S. Jaishankar rightly remarked India-China cooperation should be backed by "mutual respect, mutual sensitivities & mutual interests"

Candidates must not write on this margin

18. हालिया दिनों में हिंद–प्रशांत क्षेत्र अलग–अलग हितों और प्राथमिकताओं वाले क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है। चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि वैश्विक सुरक्षा पहल (GSI) इस क्षेत्र में क्वाड (QUAD) का स्थान ले लेगी?

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Indo-Pacific region in recent times has emerged as a zone of diverging interests and priorities. Discuss. Do you think the Global Security Initiative will supersede QUAD in the region?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Ans18) Indo-Pacific region has become arena of intense geopolitical contestation due to it's economic & strategic significance.

Diverging Interests & Priorities in Indo-Pacific Region

① Economic Interests as 4 out of 7 global maritime trade chokepoints lie here. Ex: Malacca Dilemma.

② Countering Chinese hegemonic tendencies through global partnership like QUAD who advocate for free & open Indo-Pacific.

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Geo-strategic interests as it affects security of America to Africa. (Ex)- Chinese hegemony in South China Sea can render Japan & South Korea vulnerable.

④ Rising military bases & entry of more global powers. (Ex): Djibouti (China), Diego Garcia (USA), Reunion Islands (France).

⑤ Contesting geo-economic interests. (Ex): RCEP against Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

⑥ Control over global supply chains & their resilience lies on stability in Indo-Pacific.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Global Security Initiative (GSI) against Quad in the region

(1) Chinese led GSI is to increase political clout in region & assert dominance militarily.

(2) However, China is only dominant player in GSI against combined strength of India, Japan, Australia & USA reflecting higher economic & military might.

(3) GSI is self-serving while QUAD aims at empowering Small Island States (like Kiribati, Tuvalu etc) in the region.

Limited membership & ambiguous strategic goals limit GSI's potential against broad based consensus & resource base of QUAD.

Candidates must not write on this margin

19. भारत अपनी समृद्ध संस्कृति के लिए विश्व मानचित्र पर अद्वितीय स्थान रखता है। इस संदर्भ में भारत की सॉफ्ट पावर कूटनीति के साधन के रूप में संस्कृति, प्रवासी और लोकतंत्र की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। भारत किस हद तक खुद को 'स्मार्ट पावर' के रूप में स्थापित करने में सक्षम हो पाया है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'India is uniquely positioned on the world map for its rich culture.' In this context discuss the role of culture, diaspora, and democracy as instruments of India's soft power diplomacy. To what extent India has been able to position itself as a 'smart power'? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans(19) Indian civilization has deeply embedded values & cultural roots which today serve as tool for foreign policy goals.

Instruments of India's soft power diplomacy

(i) Role of Culture :- In Establishing bilateral partnerships around shared culture. (Ex) - Hinduism :- India-Nepal, Buddhism :- India-Japan, Ind.-Sri Lanka etc.

(ii) Establishing cultural centres & organizing cultural programs worldwide. (Ex) :- Spic Macay initiative of India.

(iii) Uniting global powers around cultural elements. (Ex) International

Candidates must not write on this margin

Yoga Day Celebrations.

(2) Role of Diaspora :- (i) Shaping public policies in India's favour - (Ex) - High number of Indians in Silicon Valley.

(ii) Act as point of contacts for foreign outreach. (Ex) - Project Vaishav.

(iii) Building global partnerships, boosting Indian exports & increasing geopolitical leverage.

(3) Role of Democracy :- (i) Building global partnerships - (Ex) - QUAD

(ii) Helping other countries in their election bodies - (Ex) :- EC aiding Nepal's election body.

(iii) Spreading message of peace & democracy as values - (Ex) - Afghan crisis

Candidates must not write on this margin

India's positioning as smart power

① Successes :- (i) Growing military size as well as economic clout.

(ii) Providing customized assistance according to need - Ex :- Foreign Army Deployment during relief ops (Turkey Earthquake) as well as providing monetary assistance like in Sri Lankan Crisis.

(iii) Success of HADR operations, Vaccine Maitriyet, Multilateral exercise like Exercise-Malabar.

② Limitations → Low Economic Aid Potential
→ Delayed Projects
→ Allegations of internal interference (Big Brother)

India's foreign policy has adopted judicious mix of economic, culturally technological etc. (soft) & hard power.

Candidates must not write on this margin

20. भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझा मूल्यों और जीवंत लोगों से लोगों के बीच संबंधों का साहचर्य दोनों देशों के बीच दीर्घकालिक व्यापार संबंधों और रणनीतिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उपजाऊ जमीन तैयार करता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The synergy of shared values and vibrant people-to-people connections between India and Australia creates a fertile ground for fostering long-lasting trade relations and strategic collaboration between the two nations. Analyse.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Ans) India - Australia relations have moved beyond "Commonwealth, Curry & Cricket" & now focus on cooperation, collaboration & codevelopment.

~~Intro~~ Factors contributing to ~~their~~ strong India - Australia ties

① Shared Values : Democracy, Sovereignty, Democratic World Order, Open Sea Lanes of Communication & Liberal Polity -

② Economic Engagements : Growing bilateral trade bolstered by recent

Candidates must not write on this margin

Ratification of Economic Cooperation & Trade Agreement (ECTA)

(3) Strategic Collaboration :- Free & open Indo Pacific. (Ex) - Military Exercises like Pitch Black, Austra-Hind etc.

(4) Geo-political Collaboration :- QUAD, IPEF, Supply Chain Resilience Initiative etc.

(5) People to People Contacts :- (i) Huge Indian Diaspora in Australia.

(ii) Connect over Cricket - (Ex) - Border Gavaskar Trophy

(iii) Demand of Indian Chefs & Cultural - trainers like Bharatnatyam trainers.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(b) Strategic Collaboration:- (i) Resource Collaboration for critical minerals & nuclear fuel of Uranium.

(ii) Exercise Malabar for ensuring freedom of navigation.

(iii) Blue Water Navy Aspirations

Due to similar foreign outlook & complementary potentials few friction points exist in our relationship Some of these are racial attack on Indians, Australia-China trade relations etc.

However, as Hon'ble Recently emphasized Australia is a natural & partner with shared values & Co developmental aspirations.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS