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(To be filled by candidate)

Name of Candidate : NISHCHAL JAIN

NEXT IAS Roll No.: MT23SLTON009. Date of Examination : 16/07/2023

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☐

Test Code : TC050 Program : SLT ☑ SLT+ ☐

MAIN TEST SERIES 2023

(SECTIONAL TEST-4)

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.....

SUBJECT/PAPER
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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				

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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

Social Accountability law is proposed legislation which envisages to ensure accountability of any organisation towards the society.

Social audit is its major component.

Demand raised due to
- output rather than outcome approach of existing system.
- ineffective service delivery
- Lack of connect to people

Law → Good governance

1) Transparency in decision-making.
   ↳ audit will act as deterrence for officials

2) Democratic participation → inclusively.

3) Ensure rule of law by setting standards of service delivery.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4) Grievance redressal mechanism will lead to responsiveness of the system.

Boosting citizen's participation

1) Promoting participatory democracy.
   ↳ engaging all stakeholders → citizens, service provider, private sectors
2) Accountability → third party audit (e.g. agencies such as CPR.)
3) Consensus oriented law.
   ↳ lesser social tensions and divide

Case study

Meghalaya social audit legislation
- → Third party audit
- → Feedback mechanism
- → Reward and Punishment mechanism.

Thus social accountability laws can bring about change by emphasising upon grassroot democracy.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. नागरिक समाज संगठन, 'सार्वजनिक कल्याण के लिए सामूहिक निजी कार्रवाई' को बढ़ावा देने में महत्त्वपूर्ण 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

Civil society organisations are not-for-profit bodies aimed at relieve the sufferings of weaker sections of the society by contributing in policy formulation / implementation

eg Observer's Research Foundation (ORF).

CSO – Collective private action for public good.
- Agitator (for service delivery)
- Educator (of rights).
- Service provider (complementing state)
- Watchdog (transparency).
- Advocate (of weaker section).

Challenges in Local Resource Mobilisation

1) Lack of volunteerism among youth.
   ↳ facing their own survival fight.

2) Lack of crowd funding among localised

Candidates must not write on this margin

↳ due to inefficient audit mechanism.

3) Trust-deficit among NGOs and citizens.
↳ due to poor records of NGOs.

Challenges in corporate funding (CSR).

1) CSR seen as just another tax by corporates.
↳ no personal interest in achieving objectives

2) No social audit of expenditure of CSR funds.

3) Urban-rural divide in funding through CSR.

4) FCRA norms getting stricter.

Way Forward

As per National Policy for Voluntary sector, 2007

1) Channelising legitimately financial capital.

2) government should act as interface between CSOs and corporates.

3) Encourage culture of volunteerism
eg: National Service Scheme.

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 अभिसरित 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

India fares poorly on undernourishment parameters (stunting, wasting, underweight). esp especially childrens in age group of 0-5.

Nutrition - specific interventions

1) Those interventions which aims to improve particular nutrient content in body.
   eg ⇒ iron, calcium : through mid-day-meal.

2) Under early childhood care schemes.
   eg ⇒ Matritva Suraksha Yojana., ICDS.

Nutrition sensitive intervention

1) Rice fortification – Supplementing nutrition

2) Yellow Golden rice by Indian Agriculture research institution.

3). Keeping diseases away and by ensuring healthy childhood.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Need for convergence

1) It will help in dealing with both overnutrition and undernutrition.

2) No silos - approach → improving effectiveness of the schemes.

3). Addressing the issues of individual by looking at his/her profile. → Reducing maternal/child mortality.

4) Hidden hunger could be handled through piecemeal engineering approach.

Way Forward

1) Result-oriented interventions while including ASHA workers and Aanganwadis.

2) Target based initiatives
   - National Health Policy → by 2025 → wasting ↓ by 30%
     → stunting by 40%.
   - SDG-2 (Zero hunger) by 2030.

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

MGNREGA started in 2005 giving effect to Article 43 of Directive Principles of State Policy i.e. Right to livelihood.

Lynchpin of rural poverty alleviation

1). Ensuring minimum 100 days of work for each citizen above 18
↳ helped during seasonal unemployment.

2) Compensation, in case of refusal to give work on time.
↳ unemployment allowances.

3). Dignified life of women as more than 50% of women in rural areas registered under MNREGA → Reducing Gender Poverty.

Victim of fiscal apathy

1) Decreased layout by central govt in budget
↳ 23% reduction in funds.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2). Bureaucratic leakages.
↳ PM describing it as 'hallmark of corruption'.

3) Apathy from state government to release funds.

Still MGNREGA is effective as.

1) Helped millions during pandemic - induced lockdown.

2) Social - security net for poors during adverse times.

Way Forward

1) Digitalisation of MGNREGA → Transparency.
records
eg Bihar model.

2). Ensure participation of all sections.

3) Rational allocation of funds by Centre and state.

4) Timely payments through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Candidates must not write on this margin

5. गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में पहला कदम कार्यक्रम के डिज़ाइन, 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

Poverty is defined as lack of basic access to basic amenities like food, shelter, clothings which are required for dignified life.

In India, poverty is measured through various indices, NITI Aayog's Multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) being the one.

Need of reliable poverty assessment
- → Better policy formulation.
- → Better monitoring.
- → Result analyses for schemes.

Methodology of NITI's MPI

1) Three main parameters
- → Health
- → Education
- → standard of living.

2) Sub-parameters -

- Health → Life expectancy
  - → undernourishment (stunting, wasting, underweight)

Candidates must not write on this margin

- Education → average years of schooling
  → &
- Standards of livings → financial inclusion, electricity access, ~~taking~~ cooking fuel, food etc.

Significance:

1) Broader than World Bank's MPI.
   ↳ includes financial inclusion as parameter.

2) Covers all basic amenities for life.

3). Equal weightage to 3 parameter (@ 1/3rd each.

Lacunas

1) Doesn't take into accounts other parameters such as social inclusion, employment conditions, happiness etc, environment etc.

Way Ahead:

- Can include cultural and social aspects of poverty and wealth. Also a healthy environment could be a potential parameter

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

Recently, Rajasthan ~~beca~~ passed the 'right to health' legislation which attracted a lot of praise and criticism throughout the country.

Constitutional provisions, legal ~~precendt~~ precedents

1) Article 21 : SC recognised 'right to health' in Pamanand Katara vs Union of India case'

2). Article 42 and 43 : Secure healthy living and working ~~cod~~ conditions for all.

3) Universal declaration of human rights (UDHR) recognises right to health.

Lack of explicit legal recognition — reasons.

1) Opposition from healthcare sector.

eg Private sector protests in Rajasthan

Candidates must not write on this margin

2) Financing legal details - a big challenge
   eg: setting responsibilities, dedicated authority etc

3). No consensus at policy makers levels.
   ↳ Capitalist / Market oriented economy doesn't allow such explicit recognition.

4). • Ineffectiveness of existing pa schemes.

5). More focus on tangible infrastructure (eg. hospitals, healthcare centers etc.) than intangible rights.

Way ahead

1) Focus on existing provisions like AYUSHMAAN BHARAT - PMJAY etc. which success may urge policymakers to move in direction of ~~recognition~~ recognition for right to health.

• 2) Addressing concerns of healthcare staff such as doctors and private sector.

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 divides". How can the current geopolitical churn pave the way for India's rise to the global high table? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

India is ~~fo~~ standing at the crossroads of making history by chairing G20 in the times of geopolitical upheaval which may define its future.

- India's attempt to manage global divide
  - → Calling for peace in Ukraine crisis — Peacemaker.
  - → Balancing western powers with Russia.
    - ↳ both are good allies.
  - → Taliban stand → dialogue and diplomacy
    - Condemning women atrocities

- Leveraging global divides
  - → Keeping 'national interest first'
  - → May emerge as peacemakers
    - ↳ improving credibility as global leaders
  - → using G20 platform to solve various issues like ~~a~~ ~~to~~ Global Minimum Tax, Environment etc.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Current Geopolitical Climate → India's rise to the global high Table

1) Emerging as a consensus-building nation
   ↳ G20 Action Plan on sustainable cities.

2) Raising voice of the voiceless
   ↳ advocating African Union entry in G20.

3) Can act as negotiator in wars.
   ↳ Mexican PM nominated PM Modi for proposed Peace committee.

4) Being in convergence between institutions like BRICS, G20, SCO etc.
   ↳ India chairing SCO and G20 simultaneously

5) Leveraging India's soft power of non-aggressor.

The world (esp. third world countries) believes in India due to its committment for 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam' (One world, one family).

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

India - Germany relationships dates back to Second World War when Germany helped India to build Azad Hind Fauj against the British. Thus it is a trustworthy partner for India to be its interface to European Union (EU) - HQ: Brussels -

Germany's significance in relation with EU

1) Trust building about India -

2) India's goodwill due to soft power can help convincing EU.

3) German companies (esp. automobile) investments in India — vibrant trade relations with EU.

4). Can help in getting concessions for Indian products

Candidates must not write on this margin

↳ getting banned in name of PSM (Phyto-Sanitary Measures).

5) Help in getting India-EU trade deal signed.

6) Advocating India's position of Ukraine Crisis on EU Platforms.

7) Using goodwill of Indian diaspora to influence policy decisions.

8) Highlighting India's committment for democratic values.

India-Germany has came a long way in their relations and have potential to travel still more.

Candidates must not write on this margin

9. ब्रिक्स राष्ट्रों की सामूहिक शक्ति असंख्य मुद्दों पर सार्थक सहयोग की अनुमति देती है, हालाँकि, 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

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) is envisioned by Goldman-Sachs in 2001 as potential economic giants of future.

Strength of BRICS → allows for meaningful cooperation on myriad issues

1) Formidable block for bargaining in G20.

2) Can call for democratisation of multilateral institutions.

3). Build consensus on issues like GMT (Global Minimum Tax), Equilisation levy.

4). Global financial framework using NDB (New Development Bank) and CRA (Contingency Reserve Arrangement).

Candidates must not write on this margin

BRICS can influence bilateral relations

(I) Yes

- Effective platform for dialogue and solving issues.
  - eg: Indo-China issues
- Trustworthy mediators in the form of Russia, Brazil and South Africa.
- Confidence building measure between countries

(II) Limitations

- Inherent contradictions between countries
  - eg: India-China
- May be seen as encroachment in bilateral issues.

Way ahead

BRICS could be potential for solving bilateral issues but it should be based on consensus by two countries.

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

Indus Water Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 was mediated by World Bank and its framework for water sharing between two countries :

Provisions
- Water of 3 western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) – to Pakistan.
- Water of 3 eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Satluj) – entirely to India

Recent demand for Amendments

1) Pakistan is using more than allocated water due to India's generosity.

2) Azad Pattan Hydropower project ~~was~~ is built in PoK – violating India's territorial sovereignty and integrity.

3) Section 4 of Indus water treaty calls for timely Amendment.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Possible implications

1) India can get its due share of water

2) Can build hydropower projects on Jhelum and Chenab (eg. Ratle and Kishanganga).
   ↳ India being the upper riparian state -

3). Pakistan's Punjab region can may get deprived of Ravi's water-

4) ~~Pakistan~~ Azad Pattan Project would be illegal.

5) Helping Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

Way Forward

India should push its 'national interest' and ask for amendments for fair and equitable sharing of water.

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

Multistakeholder partnerships refers to collaboration of various stakeholders like government, NGOs, citizen, private corporates etc. to achieve a common purpose.

Key to leveraging collective expertise and networks
- → Help in coordinating for utilisation of common resources.
- → Holistic understanding of issues.
- → Better feedback mechanism.

Effective partnerships + localised implementation efforts → achieving SDGs.

(1) SDG-1 (No poverty): By better service delivery
Citizen – identify beneficiery.
NGOs state – provide benefits
NGOs – catalyst.
eg MNREGA.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) SDG-3 (Health) and SDG-4 (Education)
- Private: Hospitals + Insurance + schools
- Govt: Reimbursing + subsidising
- Citizens: Enabler of services

eg PM-Jan Aarogya Yojana.

(3) SDG-5 (Gender equality)
- Citizens: Social rights to women
- NGOs: Capacity building
- Govt: Promote SHGs.

(4) SDG-8 (Decent work and economic growth) + SDG-9 (Industry, innovation infrastructure)
- Citizens: Contribute to GDP
- Govt: Enabler for industries
- Private sector: Entrepreneurship
- Auditors: Ensuring accountability and transparency.

(5) SDG-11 (Sustainable cities)
- Citizens: Feedback for cities
- NGOs: work for slums and weaker sections
- Govt: Smart city approach
- Private: Contribute through CSR

(6) SDG-13 (Climate action)
- Citizens: Taking own responsibility for climate change
- Govt: rational policy
- Rural NGOs: Agitate for clean environment

Candidates must not write on this margin

Lacunas / Roadblocks

1) Lack of effective coordination:
2) Trust-deficit among stakeholders
3) Affected by narrow interests of corporates.
4) Working in silos.
5) Bureaucratisation of working hindering the progress and leading to red-tapism

Way Forwards

1) Building common minimum ground among stakeholders.
2) Celebrating and taking inspiration from past success through partnerships
   e.g. Renewable energy sector.

Thus SDG-17 (Partnerships of goals) can be an effective tool to achieve rest of the SHGs

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

Neo-liberal reforms and globalisation after 1991 has posed challenges and called for reforms in civil services. As it needs minimum government, maximum governance for its functioning.

New type of civil services

1) Enabler rather than provider
   ↳ role of market increased.

2) Creating business-friendly environment.
   ↳ ease of doing business.

3) Interpretation of laws for the people rather than against the people.

4) Rational and quicker scrutiny of application
   ↳ avoiding unnecessary delays and red-tapism

Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges in service delivery

1). Disconnect of bureaucracy from the people
↳ couldn't comprehend basic needs of the beneficiaries.

2). Excessive hierarchy : Takes away the zeal of service delivery.

3). Colonial hangover of the civil services
↳ 'Maai-Baap' Sarkar.

4). No constant learning : Not able to catch up with new technologies and advancements

5) Reluctance to use cutting edge technology : Inefficiency in service delivery

Reforms Needed.

1) Mid-service training of civil servants. (Hota Committee).

Candidates must not write on this margin

2) Ensure Grassroot connect of civil servants by schemes like 'Sarkar Aapke Dwar' (Govt. at your doorstep) by Rajasthan govt.

3) Robust Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)

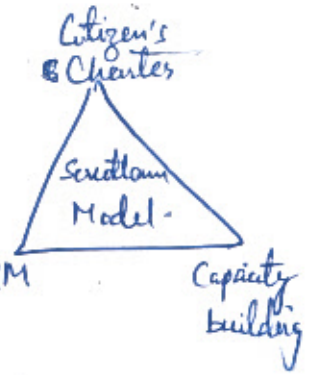
4) Training them about rights of people and citizen charter.
   - Making citizen charter legally binding.

5) Encourage them to follow the spirit of the scheme along with letter.

6) Promoting Altruistic service delivery passion.

7) Rewards and Penalties to create incentives and deterrence.

* Thus service delivery can be improved using Seva Teertham model and through Mission Karmayogi..



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

Grievance Redressal mechanism (GRM) is required to be sound and effective to instill citizens trust and belief in the functioning of an institution.

Features of a robust Grievance Redressal Mechanism
- → codified
- → Time-bound
- → Satisfactory
- → Contains penalising provisions in case of ineffectiveness.

GRM - cornerstone of minimum govt - maximum governance

1) Help in identifying gaps in policy implementation
   - eg > Smart city portal GRM window highlighting gaps.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2) Empowers citizens to participate in the policy design as well as implementation.

3) Better and quick monitoring of results and outcomes.

Eg e-Gram Swaraj portal.

4) Help in removing structural roadblocks.

Eg Red Tapism, leakages etc.

Challenges with current GRM.

1) No accountability in case of delayed response.

2) High-headedness of bureaucracy making its mockery.

3) No separate legislation or authority for its centralised monitoring.

4) GRM is dependent on the organisation itself — violating principle of natural justice.

5) No third party audit of GRM.

Candidates must not write on this margin

6) No remedy in case of ~~a~~ failed by GRM.

Measures needed:

1) Set up independent authority apart from internal mechanisms of institutions.

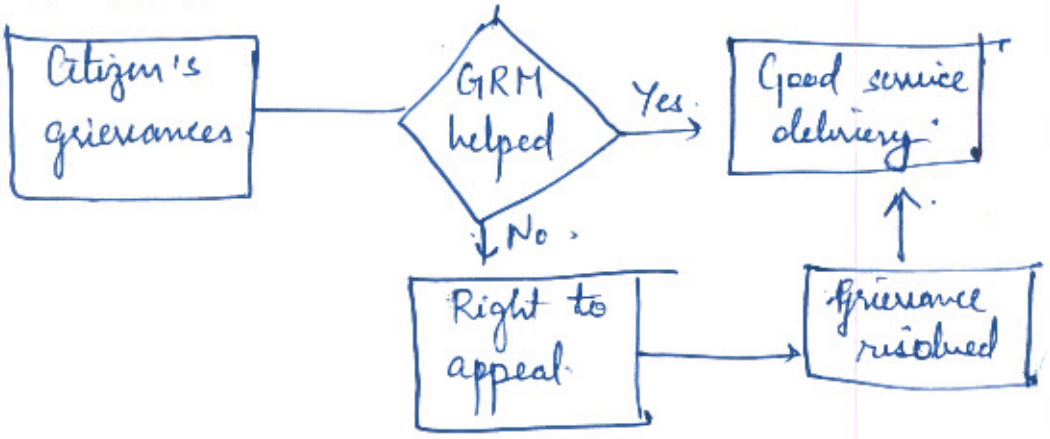
2) Right to appeal to citizens in case of ineffective GRM.

3) Constant monitoring of GRM by third party

4) List out specifics of GRM in Citizen's charter.

5). Empowering higher authorities to take action against inefficient civil servants.

~~to reboot~~



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 (WBPA), and the Lokpal & Lokayukta Act, 2013, to enhance the effectiveness of the anticorruption regime. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Corruption acts as termite for the system which effectively eats out all the substance and purpose of an institution & and leave it resource-less.

Corruption erodes public faith
- Renders people hopeless.
- Violate person their fundamental rights and liberty.
- Channelising hard-earned money into black market.

Right to Information Act, 2005
- Cornerstone of transparency
- Accountability of officials and politicians.
- Tool to keep watch on public institutions
- Helped in exposing various cases of corruption

Candidates must not write on this margin

Whistle Blower's Protection Act, 2014
- → Empowering whistle blowers.
- → Prevent their victimisation.
- → Penalising false and frivolous complaints.

Lokpal and Lokayukta's Act, 2013
- → Keeping higher political executive under watch
- → independent statutory body.
- → Power to orders investigation and punishing corrupt bureaucrats and politicians.

Need to

Potential of harmonizing above three legislations

1) Removing multiplicity of authority.
   - L, Lokpal and Courts.

2) Inter-legislation checks and balances.
   - L, Lokpal could suo-moto take cognizance of reports of RTI.

Candidates must not write on this margin

3). Helping whistle-blowers in filing RTI and highlighting corruption:

e.g. many whistleblowers expose incidents using RTI.

4). Lokpal may order enhanced protection to whistleblowers. Considering the ~~threat~~ threat.

5). Harmonising may reduce the burden on judiciary → 4.7 Crore case pending.

6) Section 20 of RTI allows suo-moto-disclosure by PIOs (Public Information Officer) — they may be treated as whistle blowers.

Way forward

Before harmonising these legislations, we should first reforms these laws to ensure better functioning

e.g.
- RTI Act: Mandatory filling of vacancy
- Whistle-blowers Act: Rationalise penalty on false complaint
- Lokpal act: Quicker appointment of Lokpal.

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 को 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

Sexual Harasement of women at workplace (Prevention, protection and redressal) Act, 2013 was enacted to implement Vishakha guidelines of Supreme Court.

POSH Act Features:
- Internal Complaints Committee (≥10 workers/employees) (ICC)
- Local complaints committee (LCC)
- Power of civil court to ICC and LCC.
- Power to investigate

Implementation of POSH resulted in limited success → raising → awareness.

(I) Success.

1) Resulted in deterrence for many.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2) Enhancing confidence among women to work
↳ Rising ♀ Labour force Participation of women

(II) Failure

1). Internal complaints committee not formed in many organisation (ICC).

2). Fear of losing jobs.

3) Sexual harassment still continues.
↳ 45% of women admitted sexual harassment at workplace.

Factors hindering outreach to unorganised sector

---

1) Lack of government regulation in unorganised sector.

2). Unorganised sector → Less educated women. → unaware of their rights.

↳ Reflection of patriarchy → Male dominates and oppress female.

3) Lack of social security for women in unorganised sectors.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4). Unorganised sector largely run by families which ~~and~~ hinders female's voice.

Strategies to bridge this gap.

1) Extend the scope of POSH to all sectors and universalise
   ↳ Universalisation of redressal mechanism

2) Effective information dissemination
   ↳ using social media
   ↳ using role models and celebrities

3) Encourage movements like #Metoo which bring out genuine case and give confidence to raise voice

4) Strengthen Local Complaints Committees to take suo-motu cognizance in case of reluctance of women to file case

Hence, POSH can be effective tools to implement Vishakha Guidelines and prevent any other Bhanwari Devi incident.

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

SHGs (Self Help groups) are self-governed, peer-controlled groups of people hailing from similar socio-economic background working collectively to channelise their potential to generate collective good.

Role of SHGs in:

(I) Skill development

BENEFITS:
- Transfering skills to each other
- Apply those skills to generate monetary benefits
- Compete in job markets
- Upskilling and re-skilling through govt support

CHALLENGES:
- Poor finances to investing in skills for marginalised section
- Lack of guidance
- Lack of skill trainers
- No access for SCs, STs, women

Candidates must not write on this margin

(II) Entrepreneurship

BENEFITS
- Channelised capital of people can finance an startup
- give good bargain against DICCI (Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries).
- Instill self-confidence among women, SCs, STs

CHALLENGES
- High initial capital required
- Competing against giants (well established)
- Lack of coordination and support from govt.

(III) Income-generation

BENEFITS
- gives financial autonomy to section like women
- participate in workforce and contribute to GDP
  (If LFPR of women = men, GDP increase by 27%, IMF)
- Bridging inequality and poverty gaps in society → social cohesion.

Candidates must not write on this margin

CHALLENGES

- No initial headstart to marginalised section
- sustainability of income.
- Poor accounting practices of SHGs

Way Forward

1) Government policies like Stand-up India (→ Easier access to finance) schemes can contribute to build an entrepreneurship architecture of self Help groups for marginalised section. [Financial Inclusion].

2) Support to SHGs in training and accounting practices - ↳ improve savings and income generation.

3) Align SHGs with Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) for upskilling and Reskilling.

SHGs success stories like Lijjat Papad, SEWA, Baba Taleshwar (Odisha) can be guiding light for marginalised section esp. women, STs and SCs.

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

China and India, despite sharing a common history of colonialism and oppression, finding it tough to zero-in on common ground to resolve many issues.

China viewing 'India' as rival as both are
- → Rapid developing economies
- → Huge demographic potential
- → Formidable economic forces
- → Huge militaries

China's Hegemonistic goals (Glance).
- → Debt trap diplomacy in South Asia. eg Sri Lanka.
- → Interfering in internal matters eg Nepal.
- → Disrespecting territorial integrity eg CPEC through P.K.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Difficulties in Indo-China Relation

1) Border issue
   - ↓ Aksai Chin issue.
   - Unilateral land grabbing by China. eg Galwan (Ladakh).
   - Aggression on Borders eg Doklam.

2) Economic issues.
   - China India leveraging China Plus 1 strategy of west.
   - diverging investments from China to India.
   - India banning Chinese apps for violating privacy norms.

3) Geopolitical
   - Indian ocean interest of China.
   - Quad grouping embarrassing them.

Convergence in Indo-China relation

1) Economic.
   - Trade: China is India's biggest import partner.
   - Tourism exchange between two countries is high
   - Developing Mumbai on the lines of Shanghai.
   - Cooperation in Rare Earth Elements and semiconductor chips.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2) Culture : Share common cultural history.
   ↳ 'India dominated China for 20 centuries without sending one soldier' : Hu Shih
   ↳ Above quote highlights role of Buddhism

3) Student - exchange programs and ~~media~~ Indian medical students in China highlights convergence in education.

4) Geopolitical convergence (Multilateralism)
   → G20 -
   → SCO - against hegemony of west
   → BRICS - voice of potential economic giants.

5) Strategic convergence → Peaceful Indo-Pacific satisfies trade interests of both the countries.

Way Forward →

Panchsheel
- → Mutual non-interference
- → Mutual respect for sovereignty
- → Mutual non-agression.
- → equal cooperation for growth
- → Peaceful co-existence

~~Prior~~ Nehru's Panchsheel can be way forward for both the countries given that China shed its policy of hegemony and disturbance in the region.

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

- Global Security Initiative by China is viewed as a counter to ambitions of QUAD grouping and China's attempt to ~~secure~~ distort the balance of power in Indo-pacific region.

Indo-Pacific region → zone of diverging interests and priorities

---

1) Unilateral aggression by China.
   ↳ activities in South China Sea – island grabbing.

2) Free and rule-based Indo-pacific ~~bag~~ envisaged by India and other western powers.

3) ~~Leverage~~ Leveraging the trade potential of Indo-Pacific – Hindered by China.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4) Small groupings like Quad, Supply Chain Resilience initiative (SCRI) hurting China's ambitions

5) Increasing activities of USA and China in Pacific is viewed as threat to each other.

6) Importance of Taiwan strait – crucial for semiconductor industry – zone of confrontation.

Global Security Initiative superseding Quad.

(I) No.

1) Quad is non-military alliance of India, USA, Japan and Australia which do never desire any direct face-off with China.

2) Ethical standpoint of Quad attracting small island countries (SIDS) support.

3) China's increasing adversaries in the region due to its aggressive policies ↳ erosion of credibility

Candidates must not write on this margin

(II) Concerns-

1) China's debt-trap diplomacy in Indo-pacific
↳ helping it setting up naval bases
Eg Honiara - Solomon Island.

2). Totalitarian regime of China — not bothered about people's opinion — could be dangerous.

3). China's dream projects like BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) — threat to sovereignty on many countries

Way ahead

Global Security Initiative will die its own death if China continues to ignore the pragmatism for Indo-Pacific & and Quad would be a apt answer for it.

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

India has earned a lot of respect due to its commitment for non-violence and dialogue based dispute resolution and thus considered as soft power.

Role of Soft Power
- Culture (eg Yoga day)
- Sports (eg cricket)
- diaspora
- Values (eg democracy)

Role in India's soft power diplomacy

(I) Culture:

1) Diverse and vibrant ancient culture attracts lot of tourists.

2) Unity in diversity
- language
- religion
- states
- ethnicity.

3) Culture of Atithi Devo Bhavah. (Guests are gods)

4) Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam (G20 Motto)

Candidates must not write on this margin

(II) Diaspora

1) India has biggest diaspora in the world. (3 Crore people)

2) Lobbying ~~with~~ for India's interests

eg lobbied for civil nuclear deal in 2008

3). Provide connectivity interface for two countries

eg Track II diplomacy

4) Promote Indian cultural richness in foreign land. eg Diwali in White House.

5) Respecting their roots and their leaders

eg Howdy Modi in USA.

6) Prosperous communities exercising their contribution in growth story

eg Indian businessmen in UK, UAE etc.

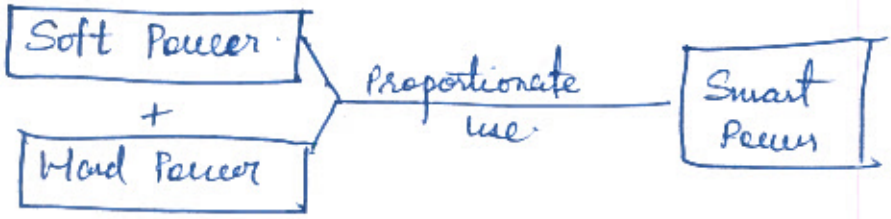
(III) Democracy.

1) Provide converging ground to connect with many countries eg Quad.

2) Enhances India's credibility.

Candidates must not write on this margin

India's positioning as smart power.



Yes.

1) Raising voice of African countries in G20.
2) Intimidating / Creating pressure over Pakistan (FATF).
3) Succesfully conducting G20 meeting in Kashmir despite opposition.
4) Vaccine Maitri initiative.

Limitations

1). Not enough military power to counter Chinese ambitions

2). Couldn't convince COP of UNFCCC to give generous concession to developing countries

Way ahead

India's smart power could be driven only by ~~slow~~ proportionate strengthening of soft and 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

India and Australia are two important components of 'diamond of democracies' i.e. Quad. However they share much larger rapport than just being the ~~non~~ member of Quad.

- Shared - values
  - democracy
  - respect for liberty
  - Federalism
  - Peaceful Indo-Pacific region
- People-to-people connection
  - Indian diaspora in Australia (1 ~~million~~ people)
  - Cricket diplomacy (Ind - Aus Rivalry).

Fertile ground for long lasting trade relations

1) Both are proponent of optimum barrier-free trade : supported goods and services exchange

Candidates must not write on this margin

2) Supply Chain Resilience initiative (SCRI): India, Japan and Australia are part of SCRI to enable constant supply of raw materials and goods.

3) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): Indian companies investing in Australia's coal sector.

4) Remittances: Huge diaspora sending considerably big amount to enhance domestic economy.

5) Large number of Indian students in Australia for study purpose.

6) Free trade agreement

Strategic Collaboration

1) Quad grouping.

2) Ensuring rule-based global order as well as Indo-pacific.

3) Joint demand for democratisation of global institutions like UNSC.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4). Countering China's hegemony in Pacific ocean

5). Countering terrorist activities

Roadblocks.

1). Prospering extremism ~~and~~ hate in Australia
   Eg → Khalistan issues

2) Hate crimes against Indians.

3). China's asntiuting of Australia.

4) Australia's priorities to other groupings like
   Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP.)
   ↳ India didn't join it.

Way Forward

1) Harnessing potential of ~~the~~ recently signed Free Trade agreement.

2) Cricket diplomacy.

3) Strengthening bargain for multilateral org. reforms.

India-Australia forms a formidable partners to channelised support in their favour on burning global issues

Candidates must not write on this margin

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS