GS-II: Why 2005 declaration on synergy between government and NGOs is still relevant.

Context

The idea of NGOs started in the 90s. It held that apart from the government agencies, corporates, the cooperative sector, and other citizens could get together for common developmental causes.

Role of NGOs:

- The development required technology, capital, and other resources.
- But above all, the motivation and capability of the concerned people to utilise their resources in an efficient, equitable, and sustainable manner.
- The decade of the 90s saw sweeping changes in the way rural development — particularly matters relating to natural resources.
- Rural communities were required to prepare and implement micro plans appropriate to local conditions and needs. Joint Forest Management (1990), watershed development (1995), participatory irrigation management (1997) and Swajaldhara (2003) are good examples.

The decision at Bhopal — 8 principles:

It prepared eight declarations based on eight principles:

- The centrality of community-based organisations (CBOs)
- Equity
- Decentralisation.
- Need of a facilitating agency
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Training and software
- Sustained momentum of development
- Organisational restructuring.

Way Forward

If we decide to plan again with the large number of new schemes that were declared after planning was abolished, we must reinvent these principles.