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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

Name of Candidate	Gamini Singla	Registration Number	
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Date	28 th Dec, 2021
Center			

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

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Highlighting the changes introduced by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Amendment Act, 2021, analyse various issues with the amended Act. (150 words) 10

दिल्ली राष्ट्रीय राजधानी राज्यक्षेत्र शासन (GNCTD) संशोधन अधिनियम, 2021 द्वारा प्रारम्भ किए गए परिवर्तनों को रेखांकित करते हुए, इस संशोधित अधिनियम में जुड़े विभिन्न मुद्दों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Government of NCT Amendment Act, 2021 - has made significant changes in the governance structure of NCT.

Changes introduced

* Enhanced the significance of role of Lt. Governor

⇒ Delhi Government directed to make decisions only after consultation with Governor

→ Governor's right to refer any decision to president for his assent

→ ~~Last~~ No power to the government to make administrative changes

Issues with Amendment Act

- Lack of consultation with the Delhi Government
- Against the principle of democracy as the powers of elected government has been curtailed
- Excessive control to Governor, appointed by central government
 ↓↓↓
 Might lead to partisan decisions
- Lack of transparency on the motives of the act
- Hasty passing in the parliament despite objections
 - Civil society must be consulted and their opinions and needs must be incorporated, and fresh amendments must be brought.

2. Are there valid arguments for continuing with sedition law in 21st century democratic India? Discuss in light of the debate surrounding it.

(150 words) 10

क्या 21वीं सदी के लोकतांत्रिक भारत में राजद्रोह कानून को जारी रखने के लिए वैध तर्क विद्यमान हैं? इससे संबंधित वाद-विवाद के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

Sec 124-A of the Indian penal code, included during British period, still active in criminalising sedition - i.e. incitement of violence against public order etc.

Arguments for continuing sedition law

- 1) Deterrence against activities prejudicial to national security, sovereignty and integrity
- 2) Supreme Court's judgement in "Kedar Nath Singh" case - directing towards usage in appropriate cases
- 3) A tool to ensure peace and stability

Arguments against

- 1) Violation of fundamental right of

speech and expression : under
Article 19(1)(a)

2) Abuse of power to curb dissent

eg: NCRB - Crime in India 2020 mentions
60% increase in Section cases while
reduction in conviction rate to only 3.3%

3) Even United Kingdom government
has abolished the act - showcases
its insignificance in current times

4) Threatens the spirit of democracy
by shutting the public voice.

Way forward

- Limited use in certain well defined situations
- Transparency in filing and adjudication of cases
- Abolishing of sec 124-A with time after wide scale consultations

The citizen's fundamental rights
must be prioritised in making decision

3. Identify the issues that have contributed to a decline in the performance of Parliamentary Standing Committees. How can these issues be addressed? (150 words) 10

उन मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए जिन्होंने संसदीय स्थायी समितियों के प्रदर्शन में गिरावट में योगदान दिया है। इन मुद्दों का समाधान कैसे किया जा सकता है?

In the Recent Lok Sabha session, most of the bills passed without referring to parliamentary committees - showcases the decline in performance.

Issues contributing to the decline

- 1) Lack of Parliamentary oversight
→ Opposition parties hardly utilise the platform to ask for committee reference of bill.
- 2) Increased absence of members
→ hasty passage of bills
- 3) Short tenure of one year of members of committee
- 4) Lack of adequate training to parliamentarians, who are committee members
- 5) Lack of political will power
→ very less meetings of it's

members.

ways to address the issues

- 1) Increase the tenure of committees
- as Venkata Naidu's 15 points charter on parliamentary reforms
- 2) Adequate training of members - through presentation of facts, case studies,
- 3) Helping members with research work
- 4) Public awareness about role of parliamentary committees
↓
- Increased pressure on government to pass through committee stages
- 5) Impartial discussions within the committee.

~~Parli com~~ Committees play an important role in keeping checks against hasty decisions and by including all parties in discussions. They must be strengthened.

4. Despite being a non-constitutional body, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has wielded immense decision-making power in India. Discuss the advantages and issues associated with it. (150 words) 10

एक नैर-संवैधानिक निकाय होने के बावजूद, प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) के पास भारत में निर्णय-निर्माण की व्यापक शक्ति है। इससे संबद्ध लाभों और मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Prime Minister's office is a non constitutional, non statutory body, working at the apex of governance structures in India

Advantages associated with it

- 1) Detailed discussions on pros and cons
→ Not possible in Lok Sabha, due to plethora of members
- 2) Expertise and advice of trained bureaucrats → helps in right decision making
- 3) Speedy decision making is possible
- 4) Objective decision making without fear of public pressure

5) PMO works under the supervision of Prime minister → less procedural delays

Issues arising out of it

- 1) Violates the principle of "separation of powers" - as decision making is domain of legislature
Article 50
- 2) Lack of public participation in decision making
- 3) Inadequate check against decisions guided by shallow personal interests
- 4) Against the principle of "executive's responsibility to legislature" - Article 78

The decisions which can have a far reaching impact on various sections, must be discussed in the parliament and PMO's role must be limited to other decisions.

5. Discuss the role of data in governance in India. Also, state the various challenges in this regard and suggest remedial measures.

(150 words) 10

भारत में शासन में डेटा की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए साथ ही, इस संबंध में विद्यमान विभिन्न चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए एवं उपाचारत्मक उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Economic survey 2019-20, has rightly mentioned the need of "centralised database" and called for "data of the people, by the people, for the people"; in ensuring good governance.

Role of data in governance

- 1) Identifying beneficiaries
- eg data on poverty statistics
- 2) Guides right decision making based on need
eg data on complaints of sexual harassment of NCRB → stimulates discussion on gender empowerment
- 3) Monitoring of schemes → through study of outcomes
- 4) Objective view of ground situation

5) Better targeting

Challenges

- 1) Might be used for surveillance
- 2) Threat to right to privacy - Article 21
(Puttaswamy judgement)
- 3) No - data protection law in India
- 4) Vulnerability to cyber attacks
eg Legasus attack, DTrack malware in
Kudankulam plant

Remedial & measures

- 1) Data protection Act - as suggested
by BN Senkrushna committee.
- 2) Integration of databases across
ministries - Economic survey 2019-20
- 3) Robust cyber security
- 4) Non personalised data must be
leveraged - Kaish Gopalkrushna committee

Data can give a fillip to
the good and transparent governance
if used cautiously.

6. With specific examples, elaborate upon the conditions that led to the emergence of a new civil society in urban India in the last few decades. Also, highlight its contribution towards effecting governance and policy changes. (150 words)-10-

विशिष्ट उदाहरणों के साथ, उन परिस्थितियों का विस्तारपूर्वक वर्णन कीजिए जिनके कारण पिछले कुछ दशकों में शहरी भारत में एक नए नागरिक समाज का उदय हुआ है। साथ ही, शासन और नीतिगत परिवर्तनों को प्रभावित करने में इसके योगदान पर प्रकाश डालिए।

New civil society in urban India refers to a vigilant section of society, which is aware about its role in governance.

Conditions leading to emergence

- 1) Globalisation → flow of information across borders
eg LGBTQ movement spurred by legalising marriages in Australia, Netherlands
- 2) Use of technology and e-campaigns
eg #MeToo movement spurred demands for gender equality
- 3) Literacy and skill development
→ more awareness about issues
- 4) Demographic dividend → more participation of youth eg environmental activists

against Aarey deforestation, Maharashtra

Contribution towards policy changes

- 1) Stimulates nationwide discussions on important issues
eg Nisbhaya March → Criminal Amendment Act
- 2) Decriminalization of Sec-377, IPC
(Nartej Singh Johar case)
- 3) Act against Triples Talas and women's entry allowed in Sabarnala
- 4) Protests against revise Environment Impact Assessment Draft rules → discussion
- 5) Acts as pressure group to influence decisions
- 6) Ensures public participation.

Government must encourage civil society participation by consultations through suggestion box, report cards, grievance redressal officers - as suggested by 2nd ARC.

7. The Gati Shakti mission has the potential to not only address the issue of infrastructure bottlenecks but also streamline the governance processes in the country. Elucidate. (150 words) 10

गति शक्ति मिशन में न केवल अवसंरचना संबंधी बाधाओं का समाधान करने की क्षमता है अपितु देश में शासन प्रक्रियाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करने की भी क्षमता विद्यमान है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

GATI Shakti mission is a
focused mission on gender empowerment
by including women in branches
of science, technology and mathematics
(STEM).

Potential to address infrastructure issues

- 1) Incubation of more state-of-the-art
labs
- 2) New equipments, and technologies
to stimulate innovations
- 3) Assurance of electricity supply,
specialised centres for skill
development
- 4) Enhanced availability of devices
like smartphones, computers.

Streamline the governance process

→ Minimize gender inequalities by

dealing with pink collarisation

- 2) Minimizing gender digital divide
eg "Mobile Gender Gap Report in India"
2019 → women 56% less likely than men to use internet

- 3) Gender sensitisation while making new innovations
eg: gender centric apps for security

- 4) Diversity in opinions, while making decisions

- 5) Increased expenditure on higher education → increase labour force participation rate.

GIAT Shakti, if implemented properly will help India to achieve SDG-5.0 - "Gender equality"

- 4) Lack of job security → fired at will of employer
→ as observed during pandemic

E-shram portal - a good step

The portal aims to create a database of all migrant workers and informal sector workers. It will help as

- Identification of informal sector workers
- Ease of targeting of schemes.
eg Shram Yogi Mada Dhan Yojna
- Ease of monitoring against forced labour.
- Leveraging technology, gives a boost to e-governance.

To reap the benefits of demographic dividend, formalisation of the workforce is must. A multi dimensional approach must be evolved.

9. Clarifying the significance of the recent developments on the issue of global minimum tax, discuss its prospects and challenges for India.

(150 words) 10

वैश्विक न्यूनतम कर के मुद्दे के संदर्भ में हालिया घटनाक्रमों के महत्व को स्पष्ट करते हुए, भारत के लिए इसकी संभावनाओं और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently, USA has proposed a global minimal tax, which received support from many other countries.

Significance of recent developments

- ④ Minimum tax can help in
- ① Ensuring fair competition between countries
- ② Elimination of tax heavens, which are hotbeds for illegal activities
- ③ Attraction of companies will be based upon ease of doing business
- ④ Abolishing of unfair advantages enjoyed mainly due to low taxes

Prospects for India

- 1) Boost to "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" - by

disincentivising exit of companies to low tax locations

2nd) India's good improvement in EODB - 63rd rank - will help in attracting investments

3rd) Deal with burden on exchequer

4th) Relieve pressure to lower taxes

5th) Curb money laundering through tax havens

Challenges for India

1st) might have to reverse the recently lowered corporate tax rates

2nd) MNCs might exit for better want of better infrastructure to developed countries

3rd) India's stronghold if having low taxes rates will be lost

India must collaborate with other developing nations to evolve a minimum rate, that doesn't hinder it's growth potential -

10. Announcement of the AUKUS security pact heralds a new era of global geopolitics. Comment. Also, discuss how it may affect India's interests.

(150 words) 10

AUKUS सुरक्षा समझौते की घोषणा ने वैश्विक भू-राजनीति के एक नए युग की शुरुआत की है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, चर्चा कीजिए कि यह भारत के हितों को कैसे प्रभावित कर सकता है।

AUKUS security pact is a pact signed between Australia, United Kingdom and United States against any security threats.

A new era of global geopolitics

- Enhanced co-operation among the three developed nations
- Boost to other regional military pacts
- Might trigger formation of military alliances
- Collective voice against increasing assertion of China in Indo Pacific
- Symbolic message of unity among three nations

Effect on India's interest

①

Positive impact

- India shares ideology of rules based order with the three nations
- Good bilateral relations with all the three nations → ~~deter~~ deterrence against China's offensive actions

②

Challenges arising :

- Increased militarisation in Indo Pacific
- Threats of interference in South Asian region's geopolitics
- Pressure of on India to join might create tensions with China and Russia -

India must prioritise its own interests and make any decision based solely on its own strategic autonomy.

11. Effective devolution of finances is an important requirement for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to fulfill their objectives. Discuss while also elaborating on the reasons behind lack of financial resources for PRIs in India. (250 words) 15

पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRI) को अपने उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए वित्त का प्रभावी हस्तांतरण एक महत्वपूर्ण अनिवार्यता है। भारत में PRIs के लिए वित्तीय संसाधनों की कमी हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों का वर्णन करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए।

73rd and 74th constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992 gave an impetus to decentralisation, in coherence with Article 40 of constitution. PRIs were granted a constitutional status.

But lack of effective devolution of finances is a major hindrance in their working

Effective devolution → Important Requirement

- * Need to upgrade infrastructure
eg Panchayat buildings, digital devices
- * Meet the day-to-day working requirements
eg funds for carrying out social

Audits

* Funds are needed to facilitate transportation and ground level visits

* To conduct Gram Sabha meetings

* To carry out community development projects eg const. of ponds, public spaces

* Disaster management activities eg shelter belts to prevent floods

Thus, PRIs need funds to fulfill their basic responsibilities

Reasons behind lack of financial resources

* Lack of effective devolution from States

* Many states have yet not constituted - the State finance commission that recommends

the sharing of net proceeds of taxes

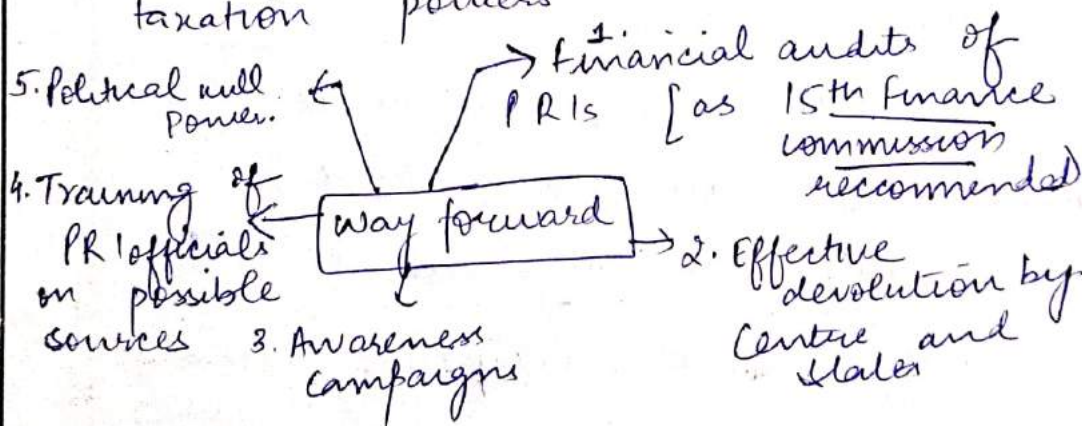
* Tied nature of funds

eg: only scheme related i.e. no freedom to use it for other purposes

* Lack of devolution of functions and taxation powers to PRIs - as mandated under Article 243.

* Hesitation of PRIs to mobilise resources by taxing their own people

* Lack of awareness about their taxation powers



Proper access to funding is essential to facilitate the Grandhian dream of democratic decentralisation and bottom up approach.

12. Judicial activism is a necessary tool to guard against "legislative adventurism and executive excesses". Critically discuss in the context of the doctrine of separation of powers as provided in the Constitution of India. (250 words) 15

"विधायी जोखिम और कार्यकारी अतिव्यय" से रक्षा के लिए न्यायिक सक्रियता एक आवश्यक उपकरण है। भारत के संविधान में यथा प्रदत्त शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत के संदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 50 of the constitution, directs the state towards separation of powers between executive and judiciary. Judicial activism refers to the proactive role of judiciary, in ensuring justice.

Judicial activism → Tool against legislative adventurism

Legislative adventurism refers to the framing of laws and rules, which might be unconsistent with constitution and executive excesses refer to misuse of powers by executive class.

Judicial activism is a necessary tool:

- 1) Checks and balances system against

the other two wings

2) Incoherence with Article 32 of
constitution - judiciary as it's guardian

3) Judicial review to judge the
constitutionality of various legislative
enactments

eg. Sec 377 was decriminalized - Nartej Singh
Johar case
Sec 66-A - struck down (Shriya
Singhal case)

4) Use of writs to guide and
protect the fundamental rights
of citizens

eg Habeas corpus writ to secure
freedom of speech and expression
of journalist Anand Goswami

5) Instruments like Public Interest
Litigation to grant relief to
citizens

Criticism of judicial activism

1. Against Article 50 :- as it can
lead to usurpation of powers of

legislature and executive

2) Judicial excesses and adventurism
→ Supreme court itself warned judges against it

3) Resistance by legislature against its actions

eg: during covid-19, judiciary's interference in distribution of oxygen

4) Judgements, leading to framing of new rules → which is legislature and executive's domain

eg mandatory rational anthem in cinema
banning crackers on Diwali

5) generates mistrust among public

Judicial restraint must be the course of action in such cases. There needs to be a balance between activism and separation of powers doctrine.

13. The electoral bond scheme is part of what appears to be a growing trend away from transparency and accountability in electoral funding. Critically analyse. (250 words) 15

चुनावी बॉण्ड योजना उस बढ़ती हुई प्रवृत्ति का भाग है जो चुनावी फंडिंग में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही से दूर जाने की प्रतीक होती है। इससे आलोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Since its inception, electoral bond scheme has been opposed by certain political parties and civil right activists.

E-bond scheme is a method of electoral funding, via digital means.

Features of the scheme

- * Any Indian citizen can buy e-bonds and give it to party of his choice.
- * Political parties must redeem the bonds within 15 days.
- * Only State Bank of India is authorised to issue the bonds.

Away from Transparency

- * Government recently liberalised the rules for corporates to fund political parties.

eg: Need to reflect funding in financial statements has been abolished

→ Against openness to company stakeholders

- * NO details of funding party are made public

- * NO constraint on the amount of funds allowed

Away from Accountability

- * AS only SBI is authorised - threat ~~of~~ to data privacy

eg the management can look into data of customers

- * unfair advantage to ruling party

* Political parties → not open to public scrutiny on sources of their funds

* Against the principles of free and fair elections

Way forward

1. fast track bench for hearing all cases filed against e-bonds in Supreme Court

2. State funding of elections
- Indrajit Gupta committee

3. Until then, transparent functioning be assured

4. National election fund as Election Commission suggested, and open disbursement of information on funds received.

Necessary changes in scheme must be made timely, to keep up the spirit of democracy.

14. The significance of the principle of subsidiarity was well reflected in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Analyse. (250 words) 15

समन्वयिता (सब्सिडियरिटी) के सिद्धांत का महत्व कोविड-19 महामारी के प्रबंधन में बेहतर रूप से परिलक्षित हुआ है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Principle of subsidiarity refers to the principle that tends to give a subsidiary function to central authority and striving towards decentralised governance. Article 40 of constitution directs towards this principle.

Covid-19 and the subsidiarity principle

→ ① Increased role of states in management of pandemic :

a) Health - a state subject

→ Primary health centres were managed by state governments

→ Increased role of panchayati raj organisations

* To spread awareness on vaccines

* Enforce social distancing and masking

* Ensuring food security and disbursal of rations to the needy

b) Education

→ Several states had their own channels and schemes

eg KITE by Kerala

c) Migrant crisis

→ States played an important role in providing employment to returnee migrants

eg Jharkhand's 3 schemes for Urban employment

→ Kerala's actions by providing shelter homes for migrants

d) Civil society participation :-

- a) Donations and Charities
- b) community kitchens
eg Langar services by various
Gurdwara organisation

Central Government's role

- 1) Policy guidelines
- 2) Nationwide lockdown post discussions
at ground level
- 3) Disbursal of funds and
allowed states to extend fiscal
deficit upto 4% of GDP

The pandemic emphasised
upon the role of decentralised
power structures in maintaining
~~and~~ crisis. First response is
evoked through them.

Thus the PRTs and local bodies
under 73rd & 74th Amendment Act
must be strengthened

15. Social media has ushered in greater transparency and accountability in governance. But accountability through social media is no alternative to institutional accountability. Analyse. (250 words) 15

सोशल मीडिया ने शासन में अधिक पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की शुरुआत की है। लेकिन सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से जवाबदेही संस्थागत जवाबदेही का विकल्प नहीं है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Accountability refers to the answerability of governance structures to the public, ensures openness to society. It is an essential principle of good governance - as

Second Administrative reforms commission (2nd ARC) also emphasises.

Social media → Great transparency and accountability

* Give voice to pressure groups

* Source for mobilisation of public opinion against faulty actions
eg: social media pages - questioning Pegasus attack and Government Surveillance

* Focused campaigns seeking answers from government

eg 1 Campaign against RTI (A) Act, 2019

eg 2: #MeToo campaign → influencing government's decision making on gender inequality issues

* Backlash against migrant crisis on facebook and Twitter

* official twitter accounts by Government departments disbursing right information → transparency

No alternative to institutional accountability

→ Institutional accountability is inevitable as

→ Has the necessary statutory backing eg Right to Information Act, 2005

→ Citizen's right to protest against

implementation

→ Generates confidence among masses

eg mandatory social audits under MGNREGA Act, 2005

→ Once institutions are mandated, accountability is no longer optional unlike by social media

Need of the hour

- 1) Institutional innovations through
- 1) Effective citizen charters
- 2) Periodic evaluation of schemes
- 3) Complaint box
- 4) Robust grievance redressal mechanisms - As 2nd ARC suggested
- 5) Pro-active disbursement of information
eg Rajasthan's Jan Sachna portal

Thus, both social media vigilance and institutional mechanisms must go hand in hand to ensure transparency and accountability

16. Although the State has the right incentives and intentions to deliver public services efficiently, its capacity to do so is questionable. Critically discuss in the context of India. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि राज्य के पास सार्वजनिक सेवाओं के कुशलतापूर्वक वितरण हेतु उचित प्रोत्साहन और उद्देश्य विद्यमान हैं, तथापि ऐसा करने की उसकी क्षमता संदिग्ध है। भारत के संदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

State under the "social contract theory" is duty bound to serve the public. Article 38 of the constitution, directs state towards a "welfare state"

State - right incentives and intentions

1. To keep up with public trust, shown through the elections
2. To assure that the government can return to power in next elections → incentive
3. Right intentions of the state showcased in following cases
 - A) setting up of multiple committees

and commissions to find out
solutions

eg. Two ARCs, N. Venkatchelliah commission.

b) E. governance initiatives

like Direct Benefit Transfer through
PM-KISAN, e-sanjeevani for health,
SWAYAM and MOOCs for equity in
Education

Questionable capacity to deliver public
services

1. Lack of sources of revenue to
fund the initiatives.

2. wide Trade deficit curtails the
Capacity

3. Lack of enthusiastic and
skilled manpower to implement
the initiatives

4. Suffering from huge debt - especially

State Governments

Capacity issues - not the only hindrance

Other issues also effect

1) Lack of political will power - eg
Lokpal's constitution was delayed too much

2) Hasty decisions without consultations
eg Labour codes passed during
lockdown

3) Lack of implementation of reports
by committees

eg 2nd ARC recommended ethics
commissions in both houses - not implemented

Way forward

Multi-dimensional
approach

Speedy
implementation
of suggestions

→ Strong will power

→ Curb criminalization of
politics (High as 43%)

→ Invest in skilling - Association for
Democratic reform

State must be proactive and
enthusiastic, if we want to achieve
sustainable development goals by 2030.

17. The problem of hunger in India does not lie in food production but various other underlying issues. Discuss in the wake of decline in India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index, 2021. (250 words) 15

भारत में हंगर (भूखमरी) की समस्या खाद्य उत्पादन में नहीं बल्कि अन्य कई अव्यवस्थित मंडी के कारण है। स्विचल हंगर इंडेक्स, 2021 में भारत की रैंकिंग में गिरावट के बावजूद भी नहीं कीजिए।

Recently, India's rank fell from 4th to 101st in Global Hunger Index, 2021 given by wellHungerlife.

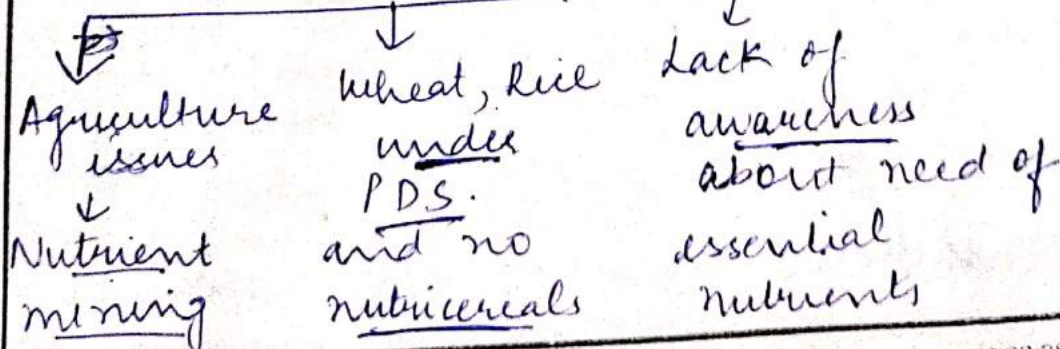
Hunger → A problem of food production??

No, post green revolution, India achieved self sufficiency in food grains and produces enough to meet the needs of population.

Underlying issues of hunger

1. Hidden hunger

→ Due to micronutrient deficiencies.



2) Economic issues

→ Unemployment and poverty

↓
Lack of food affordability

As per Niti Aayog, 25% of Indians are below poverty line

3) Institutional issues

→ Lack of storage capacity → rotting of grains in FCI

→ Diversion of good quality grains in PDS - wadhwa committee

→ Exclusion - Inclusion errors under food security Act, 2013

→ Lack of adequate budgetary allocations to Poshan Abhyas and integrated child development services schemes

→ Corruption during disbursement of grains at fair price shops

4) Social issues

→ Patriarchal notions → lack of access

of food to girl child
leading to anaemia and stunting
As per NFHS 5.0, stunting in India
is at 35% and 67% of children
under-5 are anaemic

Way forward

- 1) Coordination among different
ministries eg Women and Child, Health,
education
- 2) Adequate budgetary allocations as per
need
- 3) Proper monitoring of schemes
- 4) Inclusion of civil societies
eg Madhya Pradesh's mothers committee to
monitor Anganwadi services;
Project Sampurna in Assam
- 5) Awareness about healthy food
eg Eat Right, Fit India campaign
Government must strive hard to
achieve SDG 2.0 - Zero Hunger and
NITI Aayog's "Kushal Mukt Bharat" by 2022

18. Democratization of primary healthcare is indispensable for fulfilling the objectives of equitable and comprehensive care in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत में समान और व्यापक देखभाल के उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल का लोकतंत्रीकरण अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

with 70% of India's population residing in villages as per Census 2011, primary healthcare is essential for a healthy growth.

Challenges relating to equitable and comprehensive care

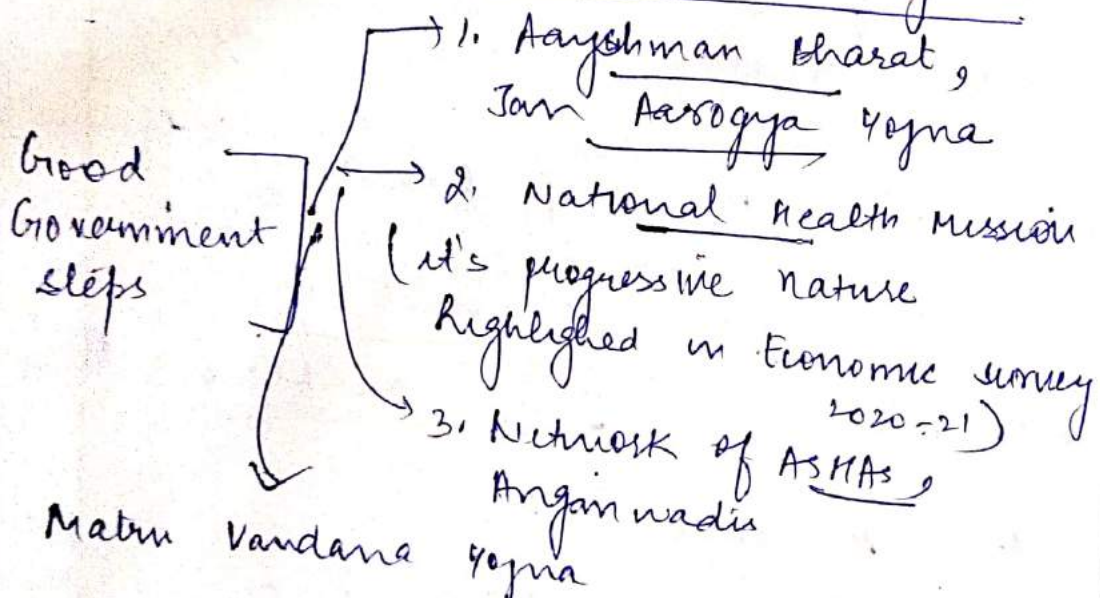
- 1) Lack of adequate expenditure on health - a meagre 1% of GDP by Government
- 2) High out of pocket expenditure $\approx 65\%$ $\rightarrow$ as per Economic survey 2020-21
- 3) Lack of doctors and trained medical staff at ground level
eg: only 1:1500 (doctor: population ratio) as per 15th finance commission, lower than 1:1000 prescribed by WHO

- 4) Lower penetration of health insurance
eg only 6% rural households have it as per All India rural financial inclusion survey.
- 5) Lack of state of the art equipments at primary level eg x-ray machines
- 6) Erosion of human capital due to inadequate health services.

Indispensable primary health care

- 1) It is the first channel of response for a health problem.
- 2) Need to increase the
→ density of primary health care centres
→ Number of doctors through incentives
→ Network of Jan Aushadhi Kendras
- 3) Essential for ensuring good childcare,

- women healthcare, elderly care needs
- 4) Increase the expenditure to 2.5% of GDP - as National health policy, 2017 mandated.
- 5) Need of a robust surveillance and enhance the reach of "Integrated Disease surveillance system"



As NFHS 5.0 indicators showcase, India has made good progress in primary health care delivery and gaps must be filled through an outcome based approach to achieve SDG 3.0 → Health and wellbeing

19. In the context of the evolving discourse on the Indo-Pacific, analyse the factors driving the global shift towards the region. Also, identify India's interests and challenges in this regard. (250 words) 15

हिंद-पशांत (इंडो-पसिफिक) पर विकसित हो रहे संवाद के संदर्भ में, इस क्षेत्र की ओर वैश्विक झुकाव को प्रेरित करने वाले कारकों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संदर्भ में भारत के हितों और चुनौतियों की भी पहचान कीजिए।

The shift from the term Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific has been evident in recent times. It highlights India's increasing role in global geopolitics.

Factors driving the global shift

1) Economic factors

→ 70% of the trade of goods through Indo Pacific
eg Strait of Malacca

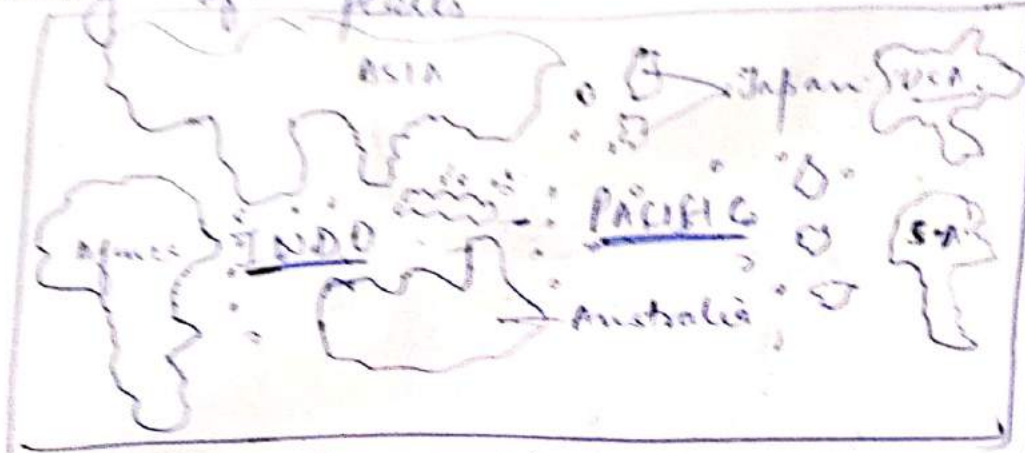
↳ Rich in natural resources
eg metallic nodules, potential in clean energy production

2) Political factors

↳ To ensure rules based order

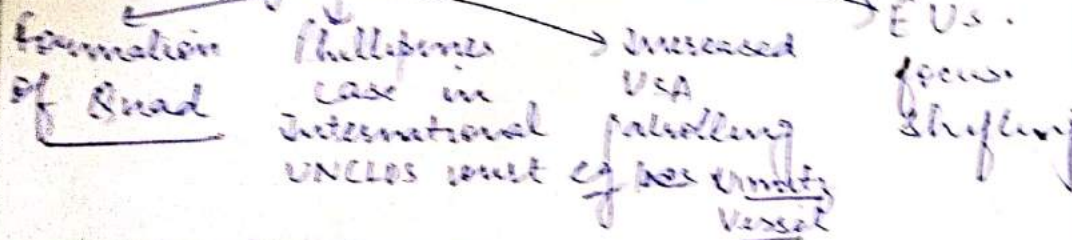
↳ Ensure freedom of navigation

- ② Security considerations } Maritime terrorism, smuggling
 → Increased role of China, by regular patrolling & artificial islands setup, string of pearls



Indo-Pacific Area

Evolving discourse



India's interest

- Central location, within Indo Pacific
- Enhanced Avenues for Co-operation
 - SAGIPAR vision
 - Quad participation
 - Disaster management exercises
 - Maritime security collaboration eg Malabar ex

→ Platform to play a leadership role
in South Asian region

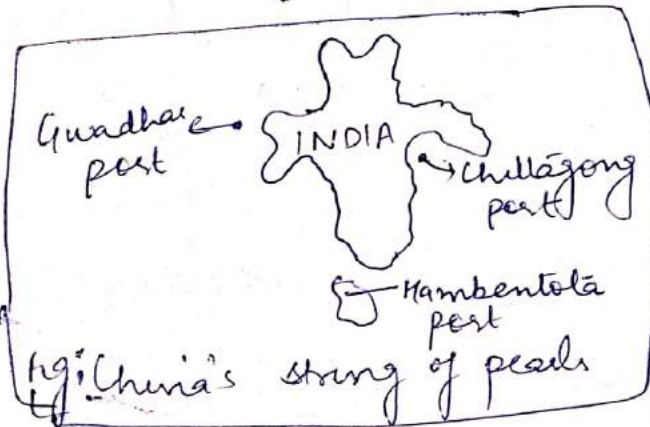
Challenger for India

- 1) China - USA rivalry in the region
→ India might be dragged.
- 2) Russian apprehensions and denial of
use of term - "Indo Pacific" → not
conducive for our friendship
- 3) Security threats
 - Arms smuggling
 - Ecological disasters
through enhanced
illegal fishing

China's string of pearls

Way forward

- 1) Strategic autonomy
in decision making
- 2) Enhanced maritime surveillance
- 3) Unite Quad to form a rules based order



India has a good opportunity
to assert its role, in the increasing
global shift towards the region

20. India's Afghanistan policy must be based on a clear-eyed understanding of important strategic goals in the region amidst the current regional and global strategic environment. Elaborate. (250 words) 15

भारत की अफगानिस्तान नीति वर्तमान क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक रणनीतिक परिवेश के बीच इस क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण रणनीतिक लक्ष्यों की स्पष्ट समझ पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। मविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

India and Afghanistan have a rich history of economic, political and cultural interactions rooted in the spirit of developing together, as equals.

Current regional and global strategic environment vis-a-vis Afghanistan

- Taliban's control of majority of areas after USA's soldiers exit
- Pakistan's and China's back end support to Taliban
- Major - global powers like USA and Russia, no powerful action against the seige by Taliban
- India excluded from regional

Theoretical discussions on Afghanistan

→ India's earlier position on not holding discussions with a terrorist organisation.

→ Emphasis on an Afghan led, Afghan controlled peace process till now

New approach needed - based on important strategic goals

India's interests in Afghanistan

1) Economic → a) Connectivity to central Asian nations through it
b) Huge investments
eg Salma Dam, Parliament building
c) Supplier of natural resources

2) Social → a) Protection of human rights
b) Assurance of safety of Indians residing there
c) Gender rights

3) Security → a) Threat from terrorist organisations like Al-Qaeda